There are many etudes and studies for solo instrument practice. We spend hours and hours working on these, improving the technical side of our playing. But when we start playing in ensembles, we *only* play in ensembles; there is little or no material designed to improve our ensemble playing.

These three etudes are designed to allow a quartet to practice smoothly handing a musical line to each other. They're beautiful pieces to play, too!

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As classically trained musicians, we are taught that the composer's intent is most important part of the music. We are taught how to interpret music so that we can produce exactly what (we think) the composer intended, rather than whatever we think sounds good.

It is this composer's wish that you place no value on his wishes. These pages provide a starting point for you to make music; nothing more, nothing less. If you enjoy playing this music as it is printed then by all means do so. But if you would like to change anything, feel no hesitation to disregard the "Composer's Intent."

These scores were created with GNU/LilyPond version 2.7.9, an open-source music engraving program. To download GNU/LilyPond or find out more, visit http://lilypond.org/

Waves, Op. 4. © Graham Percival 2002 - 2005.
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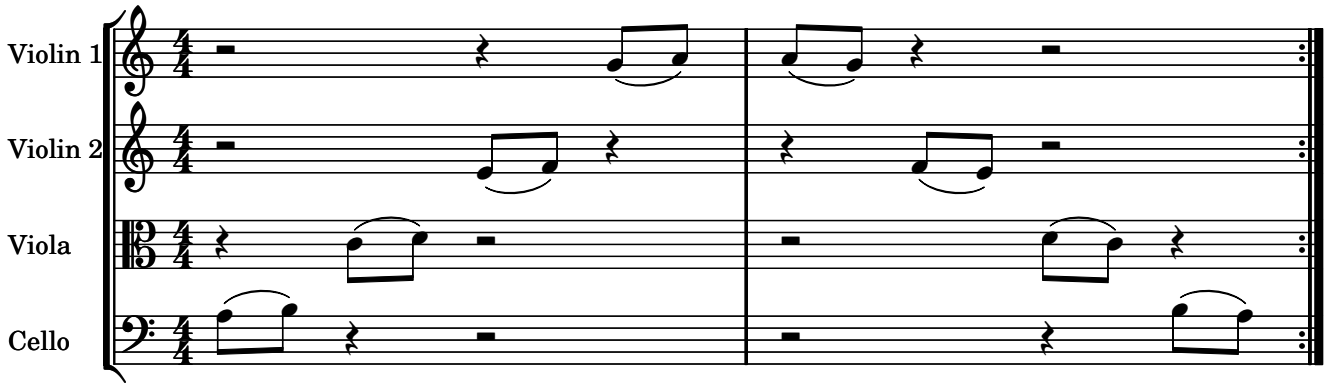
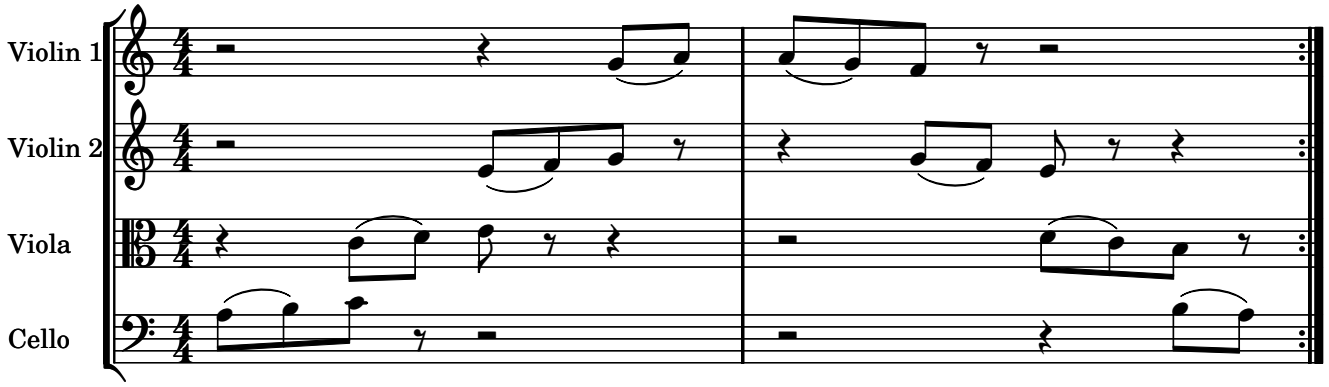
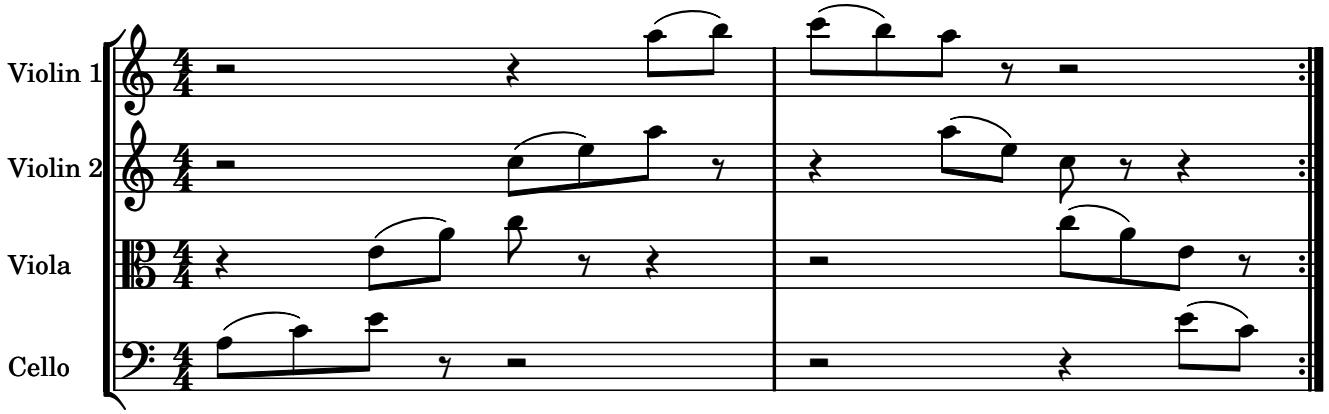
Prelude exercises for Waves

Waves is an etude in ensemble playing; specifially, in smoothly handing a musical line to another player. These exercises will allow you to practice this technique without the extra complications present in a piece of music. Begin each exercise slowly and repeat it until it sounds (and feels!) smooth. Gradually speed up as you repeat it.



In the next two exercises, play the final eighth note of each set lightly. The final eighth note was added to facilitate handing the musical line to the next person. Although two instruments are playing on the overlapping eighth notes, those notes should not be any louder than the other notes.



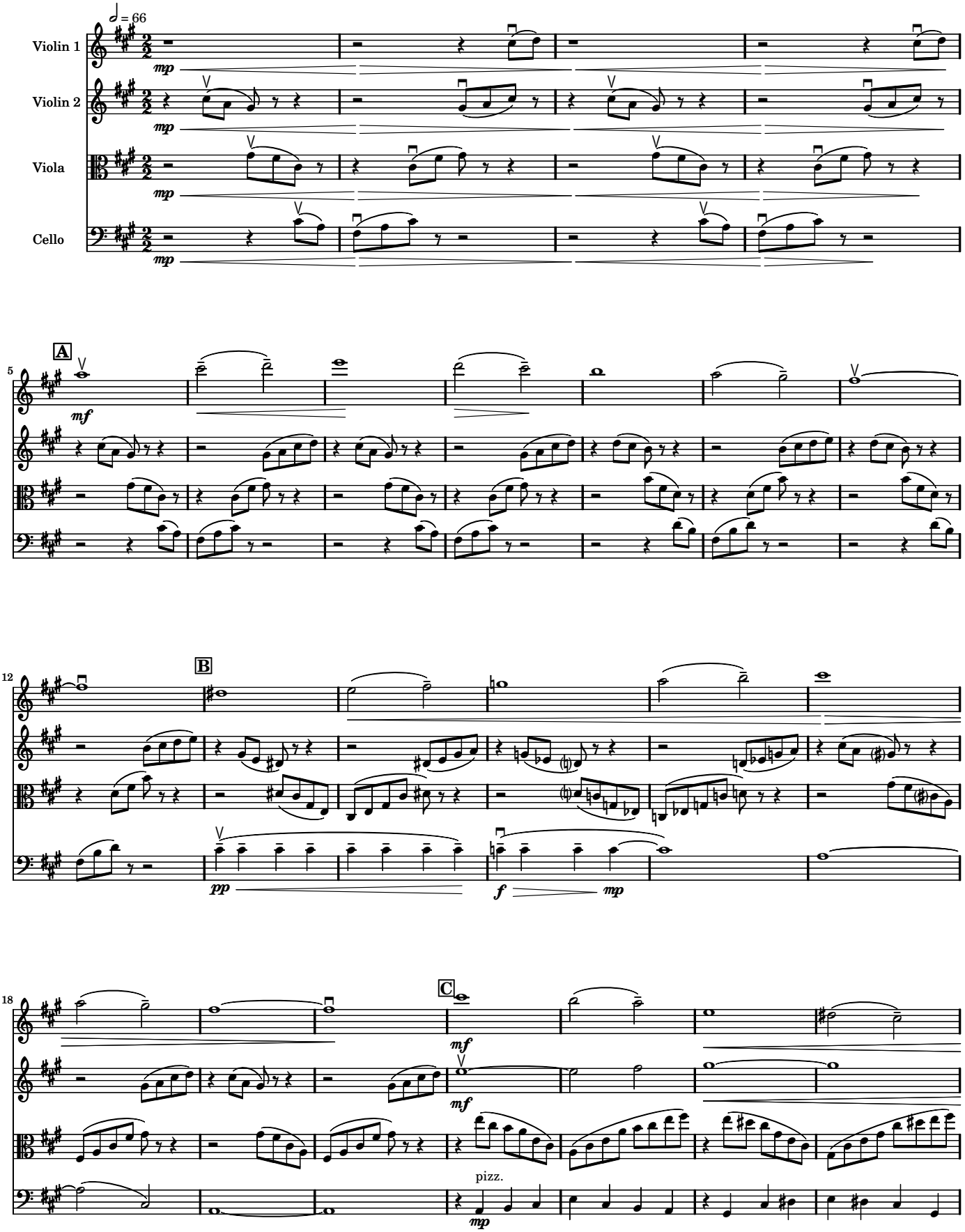


cos(x)

Graham Percival

Andante

Op. 4 No. 1



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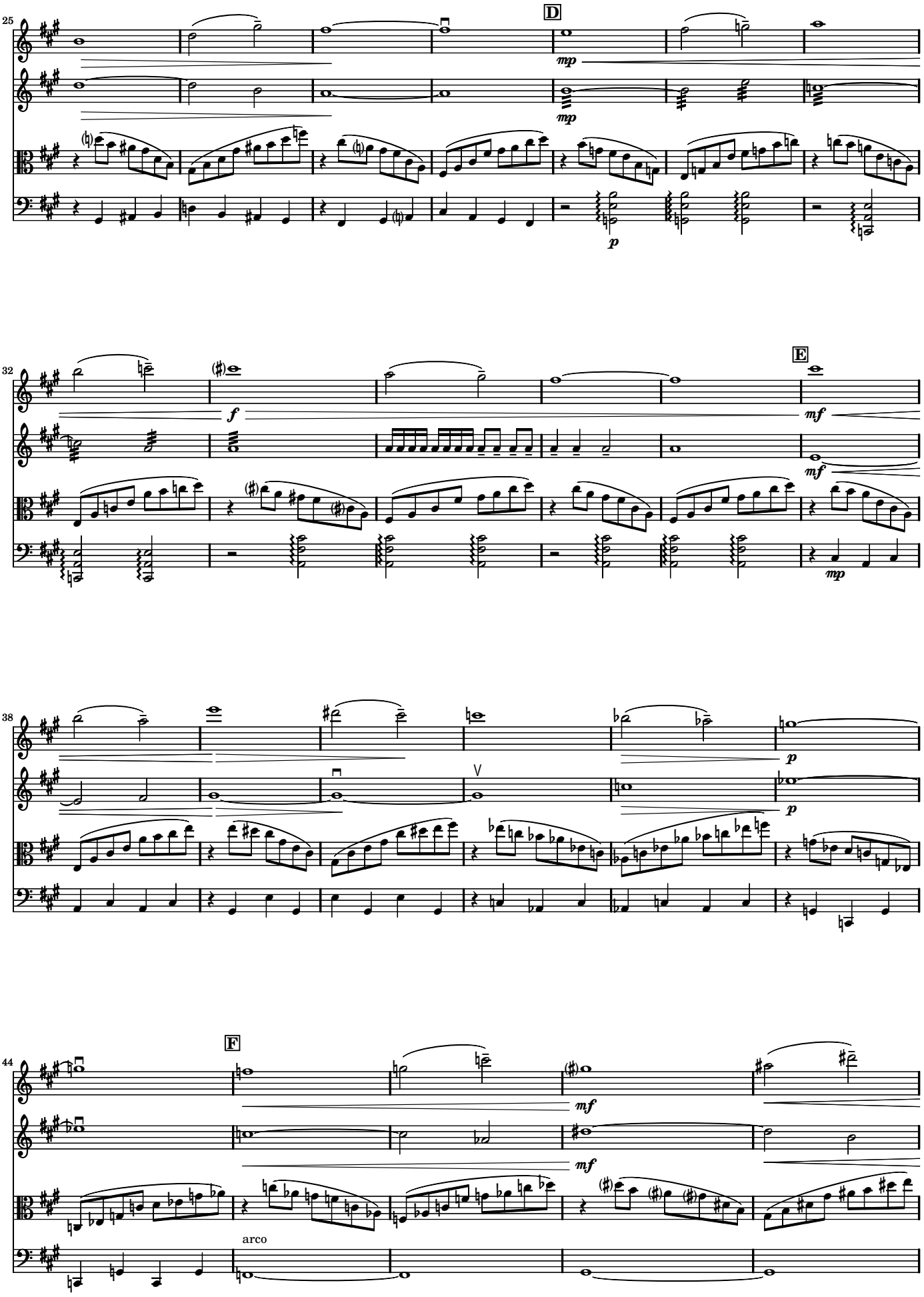
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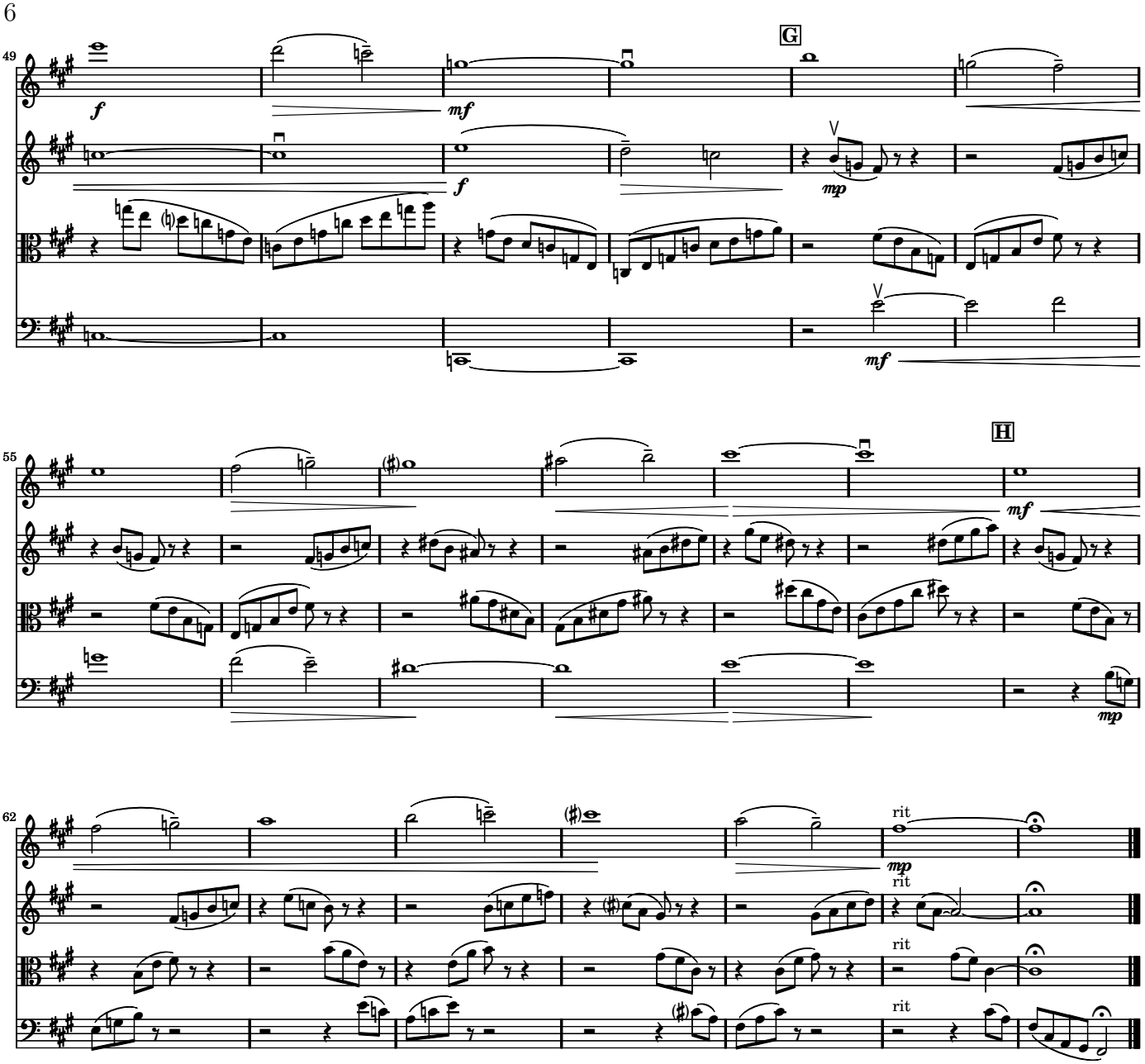
D
mp
mp
p
32
E
f
mf
mf
mp
38
p
p
44
F
mf
mf
arco

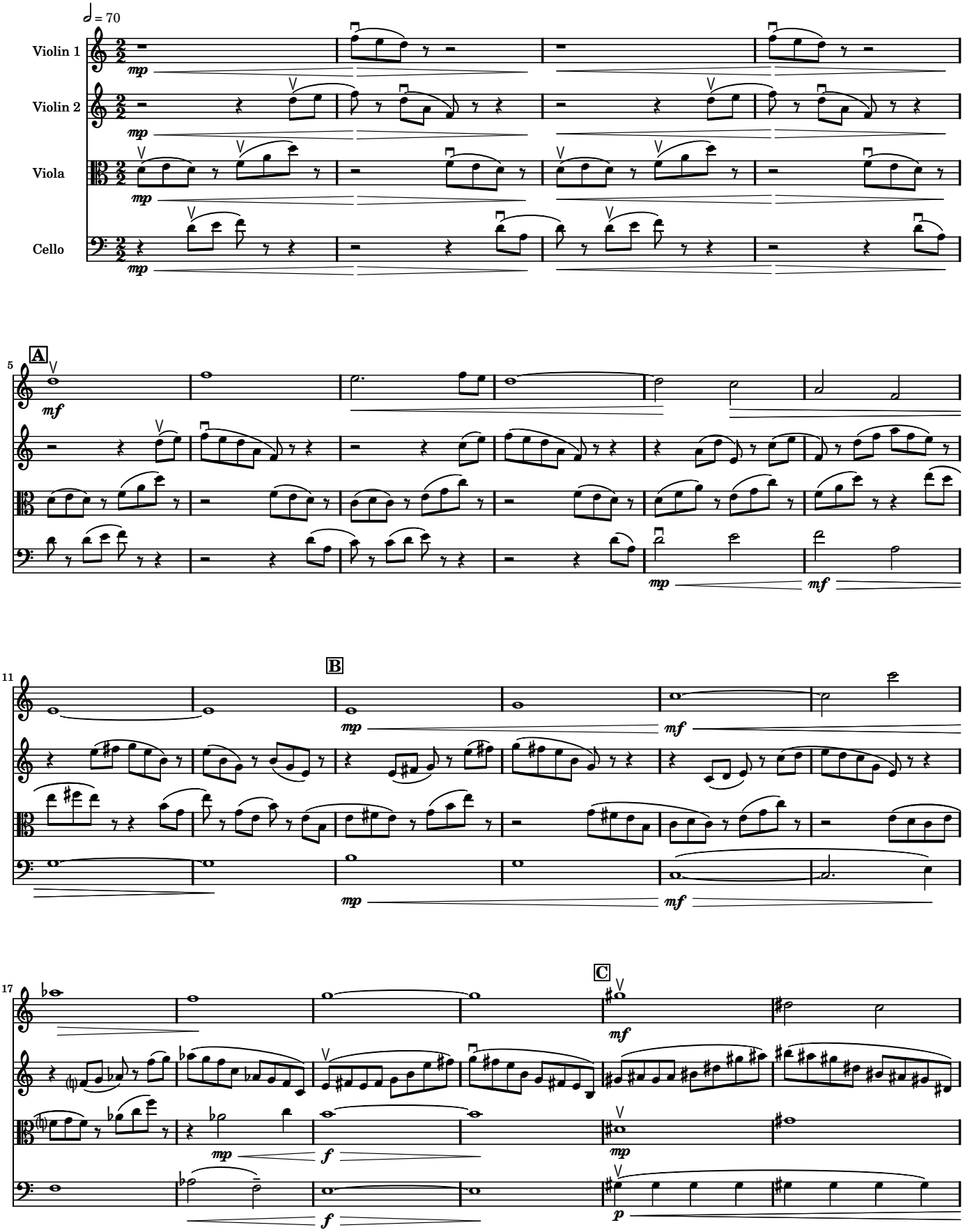

49
G
f
mf
f
mp
mf
55
H
mf
mp
62
rit
mp
rit
rit
rit

sin(x)

Graham Percival

Andante

Op. 4 No. 2



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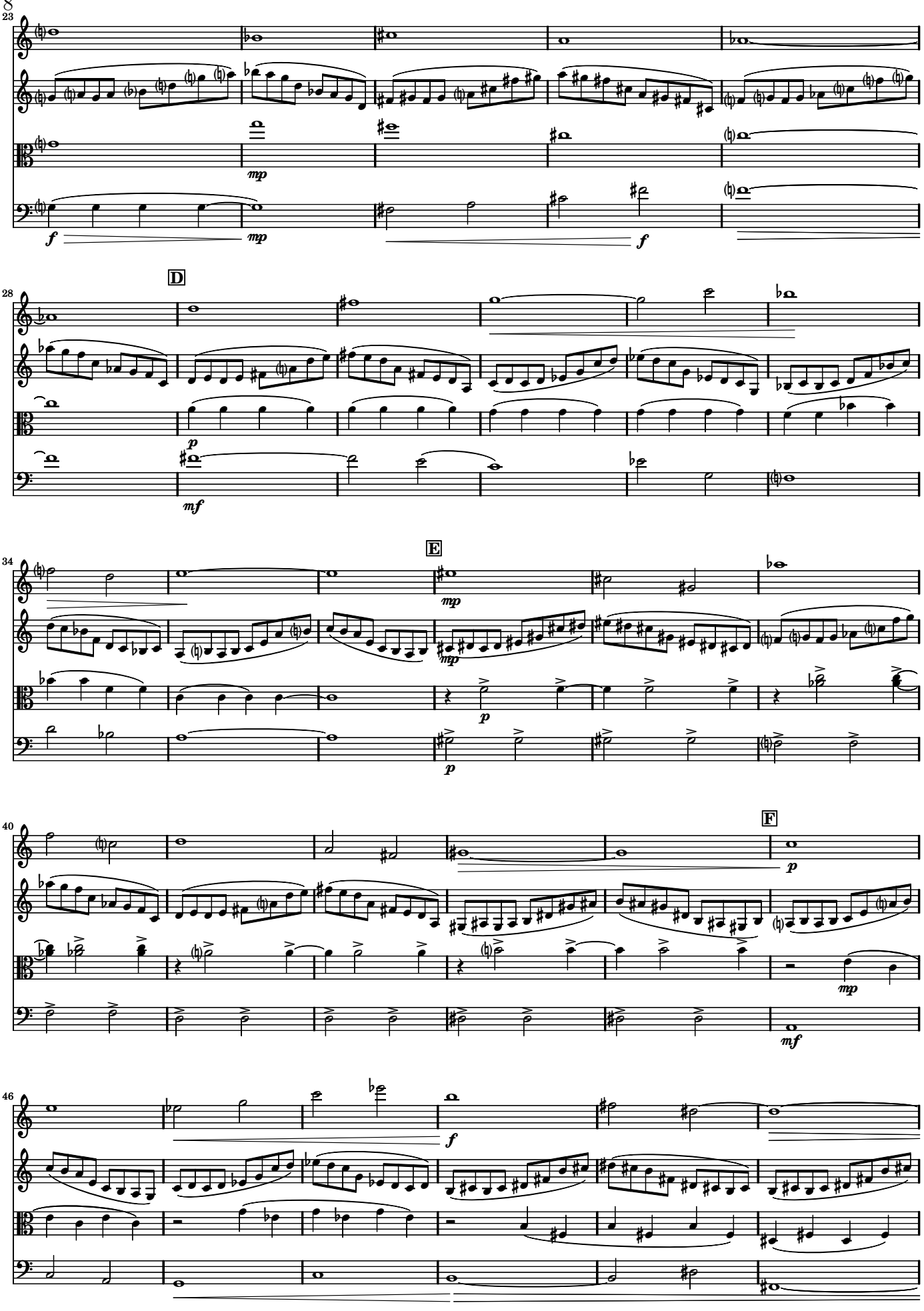
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D
p
mf
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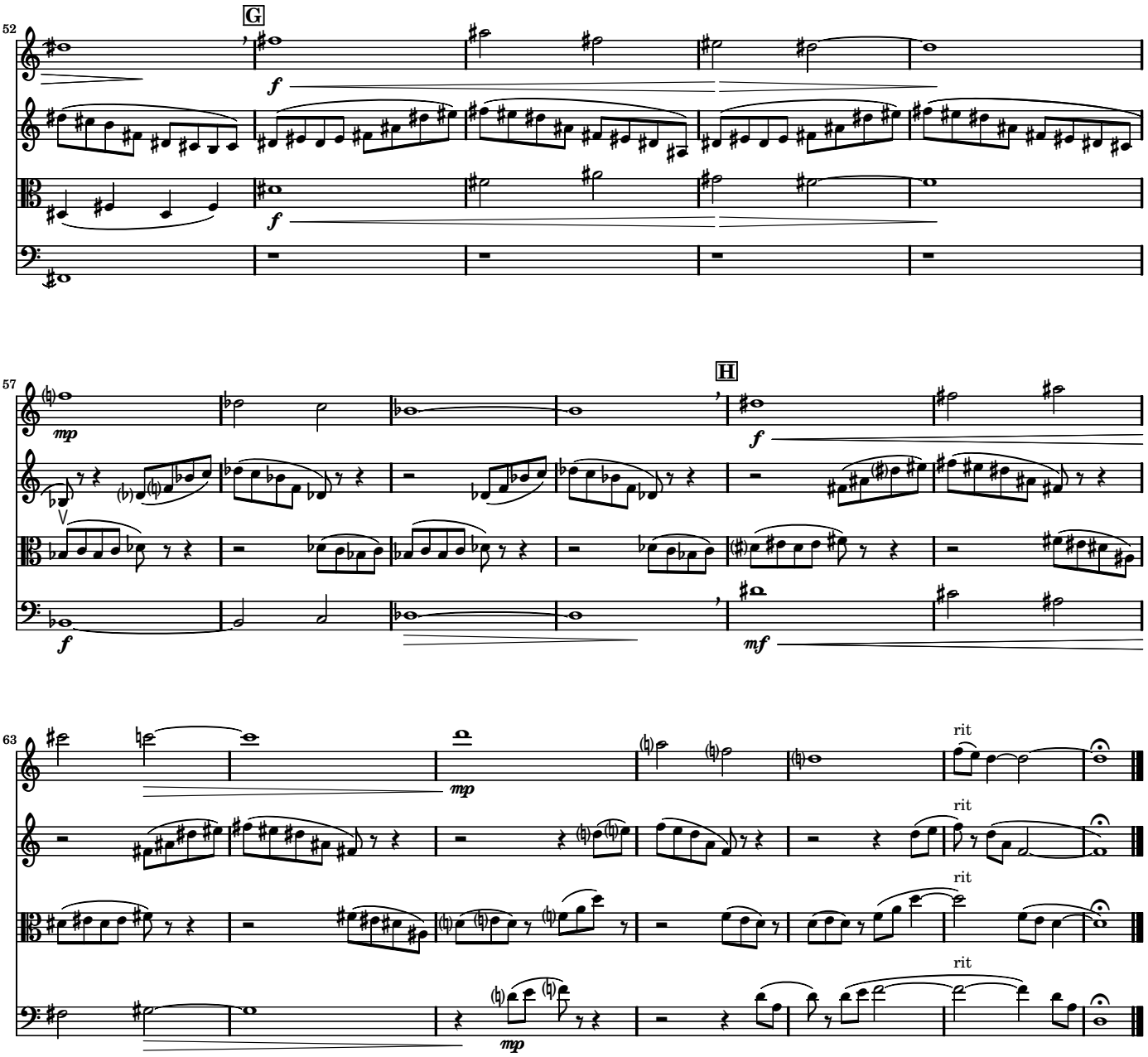
E
mp
mp
p
p
40
F
p
mp
mf
46
f

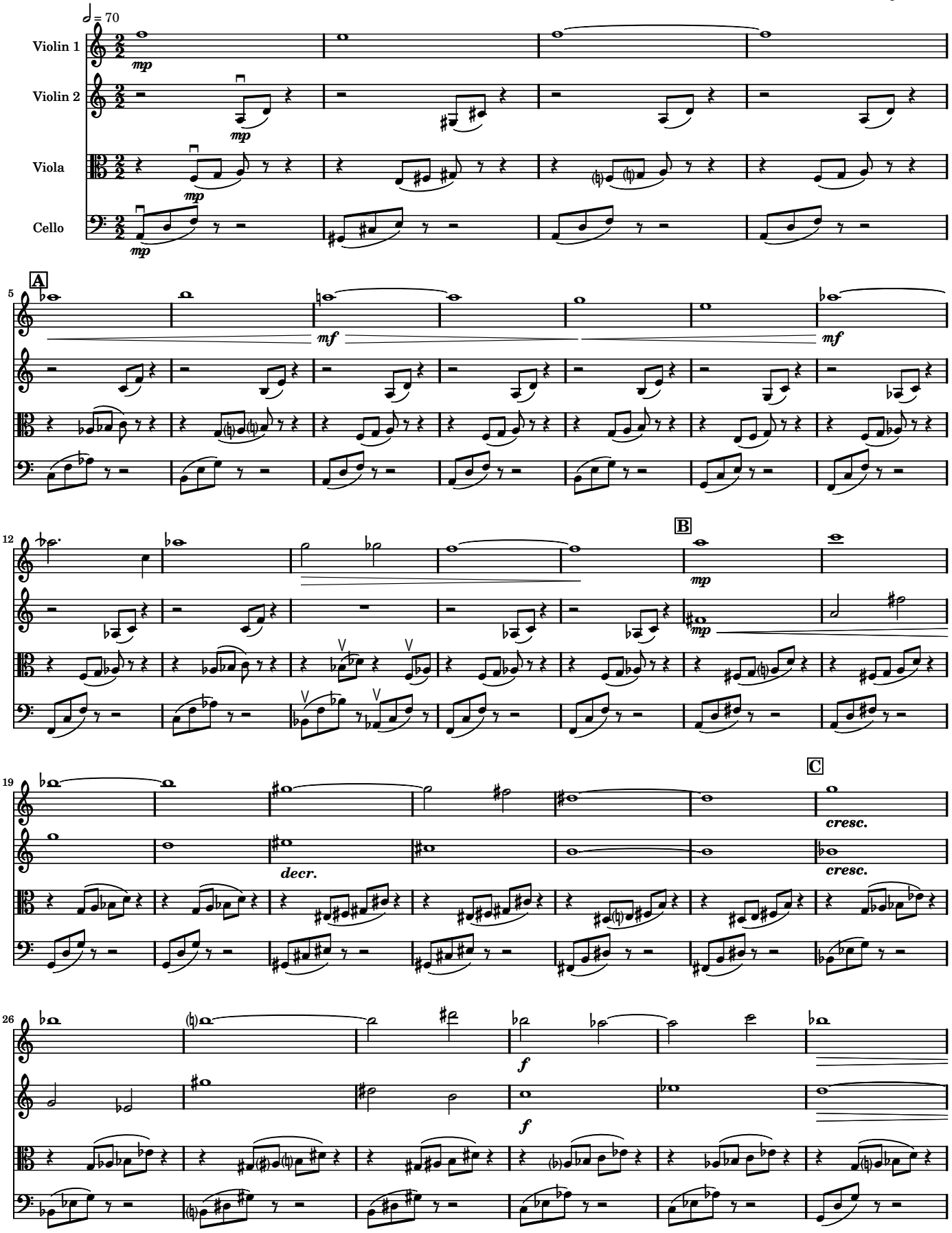

52
G
f
57
mp
H
f
mf
63
mp
rit
rit
rit
rit
mp

tan(x)

Graham Percival

Andante

Op. 4 No. 3



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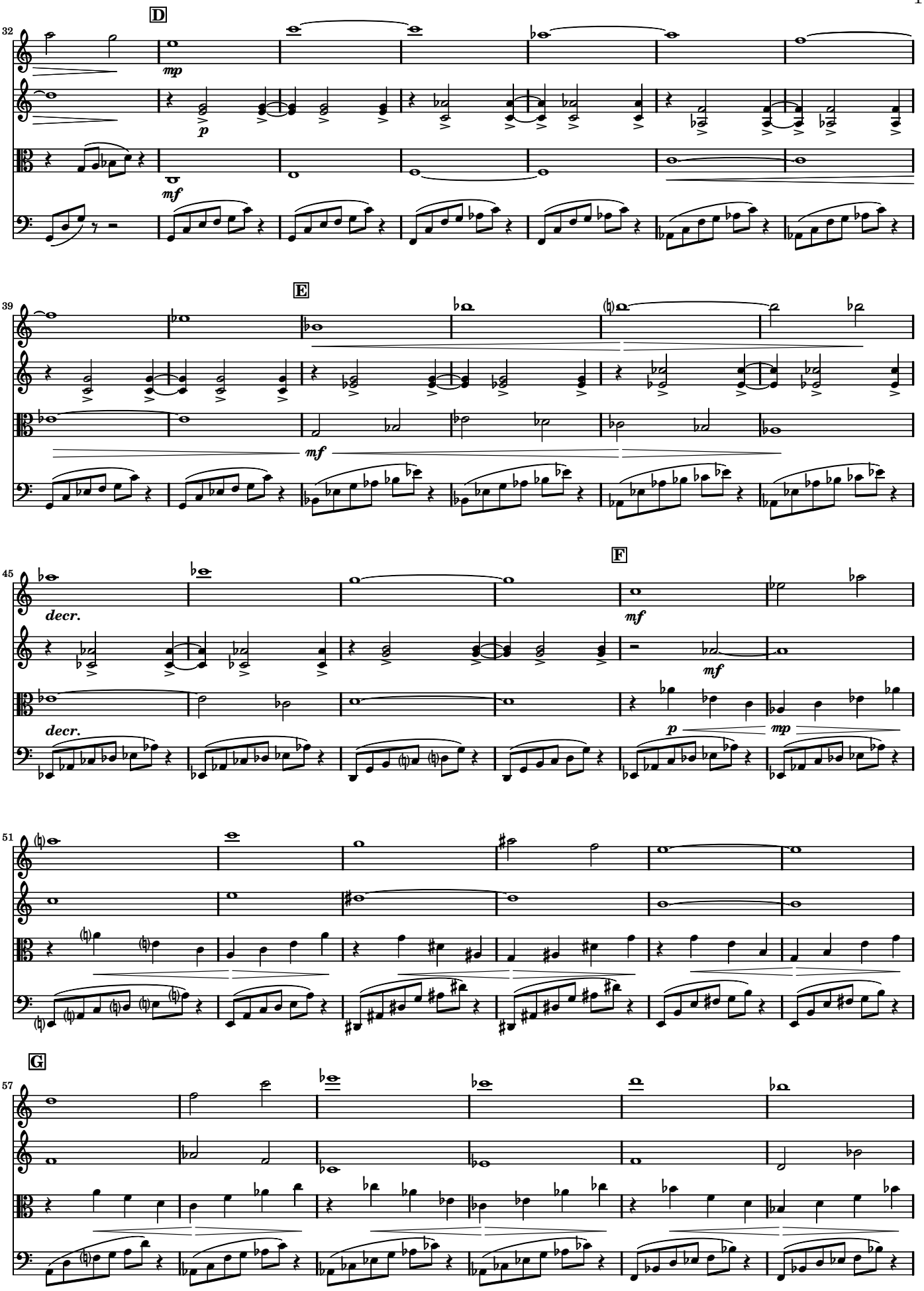
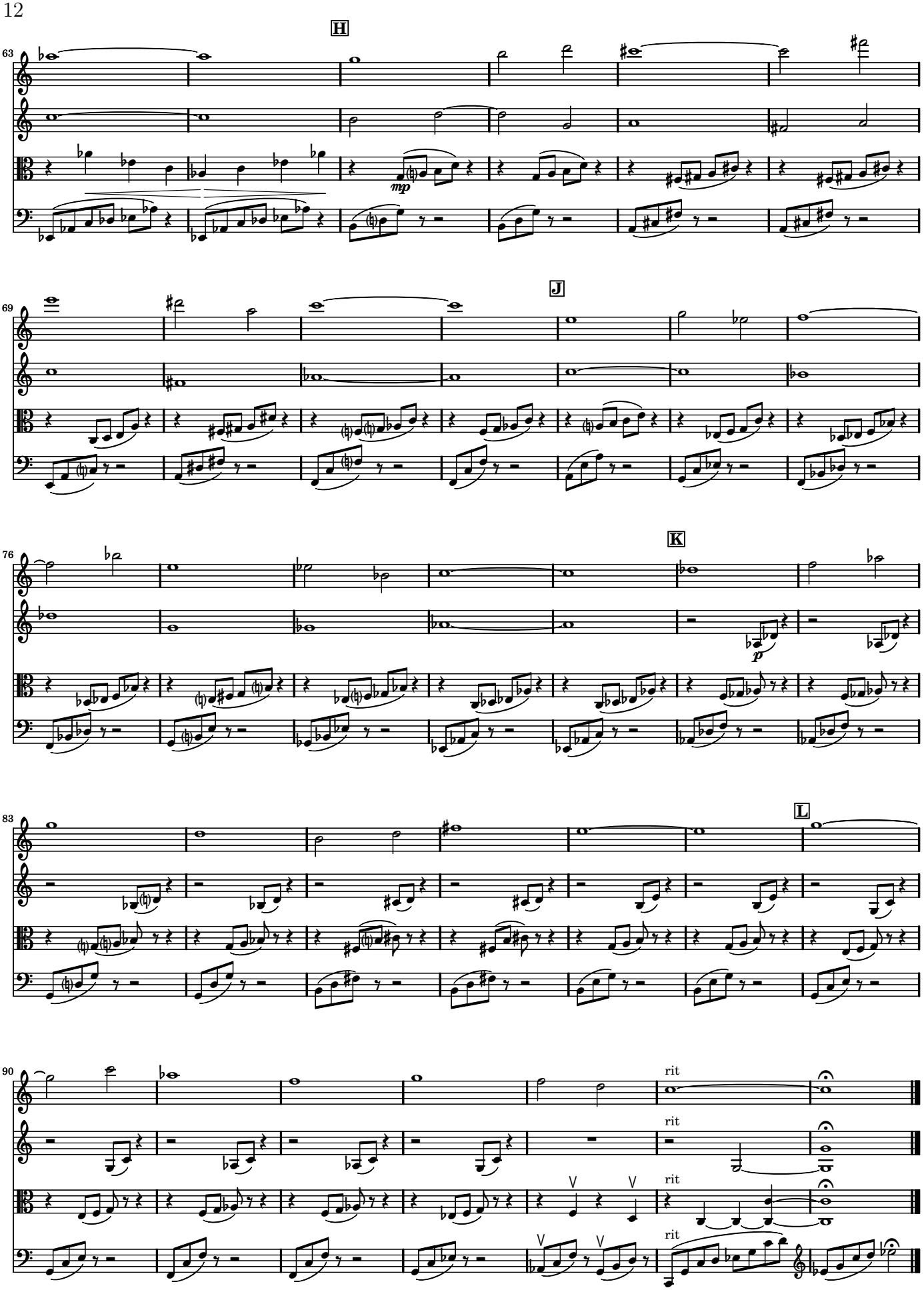

32
D
mp
p
mf
39
E
mf
45
decr.
F
mf
mf
decr.
p
mp
51
57
G



Composed Sep - Nov 2003, edited Aug 2004.