Christopher Best

Moonlighting

Homages quasi una fantasia

Op.39 no.3

for Bb clarinet and piano

2023

Performance notes

1. The performers should carefully observe instructions regarding pauses after movements. Where marked attacca, there should be only the briefest of breaks; where marked lunga, there should be a substantial pause, and where no marking is given, there should be a short silence as though mentally preparing the next phrase.

2. The desired blurring effect in the last movement should be achieved by 'late' pedalling, allowing a triplet quaver overlap between chord changes (as indicated).

3. Movements 3 and 5 may be swapped around as an alternative playing order.

4. The homage to Schoenberg section of the third movement (bars 87-111 and 153-177) follows Schoenberg's practice of giving all notes accidentals. Elsewhere, accidentals should be assumed to last for the duration of the bar, though cautionaries are generously deployed.

Composer's Note

Whilst drawing extensively upon the slow movement of **Beethoven's Sonata Opus 27. No. 2**, this work pays additional homage to Igor Stravinsky (Petrouchka, The Rite of Spring and The Symphony of Psalms), to Béla Bartók (Music for Strings, Percussion and Celeste), to Arnold Schoenberg (Piano Suite Opus 25), to Steve Reich (Piano Phase), to Arvo Pärt (Spiegel Im Spiegel) and briefly to Serge Prokofiev (Symphony No. 5). While the individual voices of these composers can be heard in the music, *Moonlighting* remains essentially an expression of my own aesthetic.

The score was originally conceived and recorded for Scottish Dance Theatre's contemporary dance piece **Playfall** (with funds generously provided by the Arts Council of Scotland and The National Lottery). Choreography was by Janet Smith (to whom credit is gladly given for the original idea of using Beethoven's music) and music recorded by Julian Hellaby and Catherine Laws. The premiere took place at Dundee Repertory Theatre on 25th February 1998, followed by an extensive UK tour.

The piece was subsequently re-worked for concert performance as *Moonlighting* (Opus 39 No.1), including music that was written for but never used in the dance. An arrangement for flute and piano (Opus 39 No.2) followed in 2022, adding further material and offering an entirely new last movement, *Mirrored Moonlight*, which also functions as a standalone work. This arrangement for Bb clarinet and piano (Opus 39 No.3) contains further changes and additions to accommodate the instrument's lower register and bring out its particular qualities.

Duration

c.31 minutes

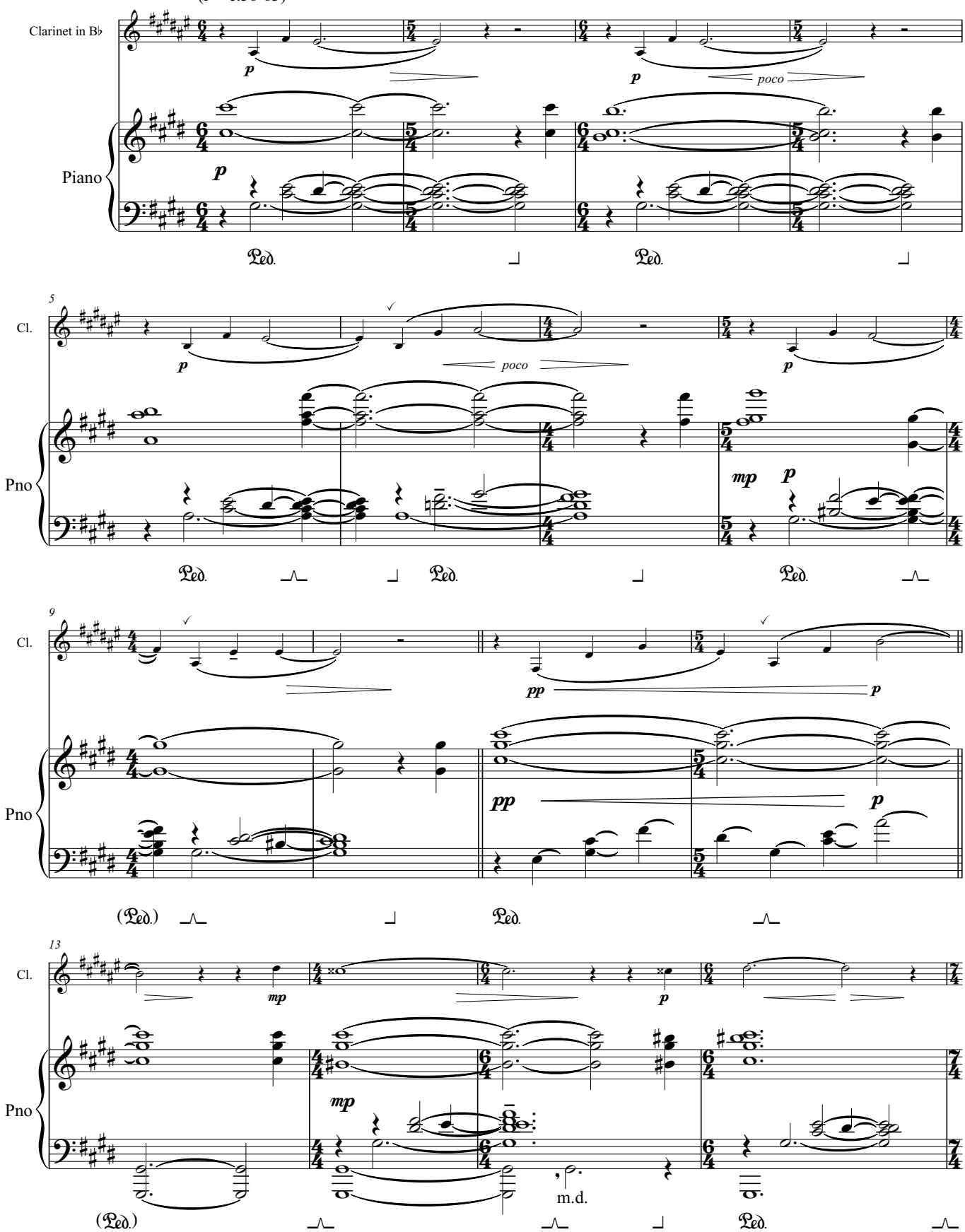
Moonlighting

Homages quasi una fantasia
for B♭ clarinet and piano

1: Mondschein (auf stillem Wasser)

Christopher Best

Adagio
(♩ = c.56-63)



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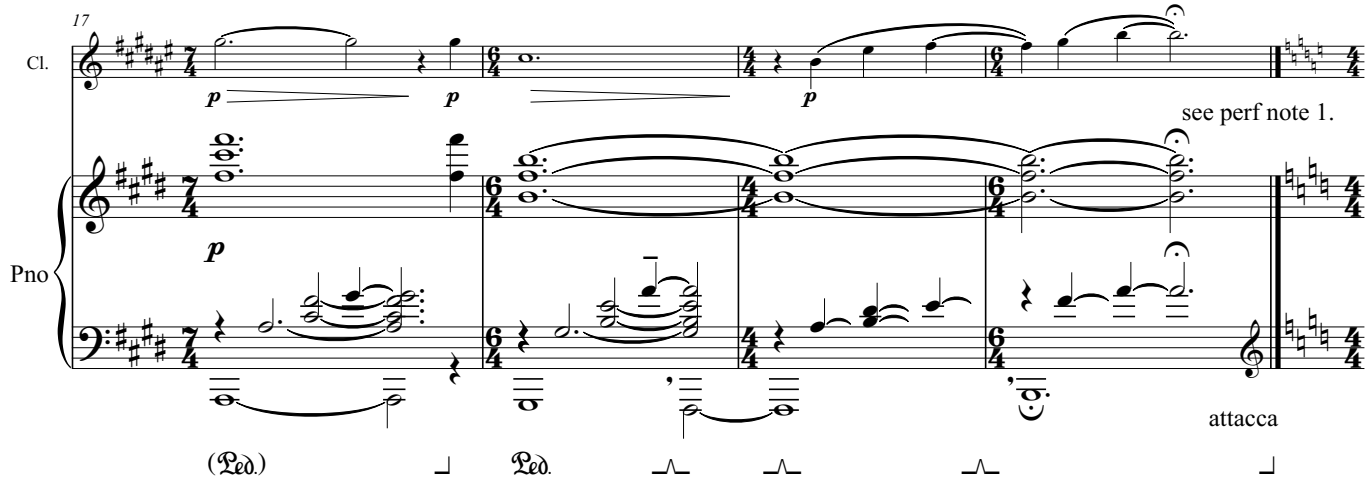
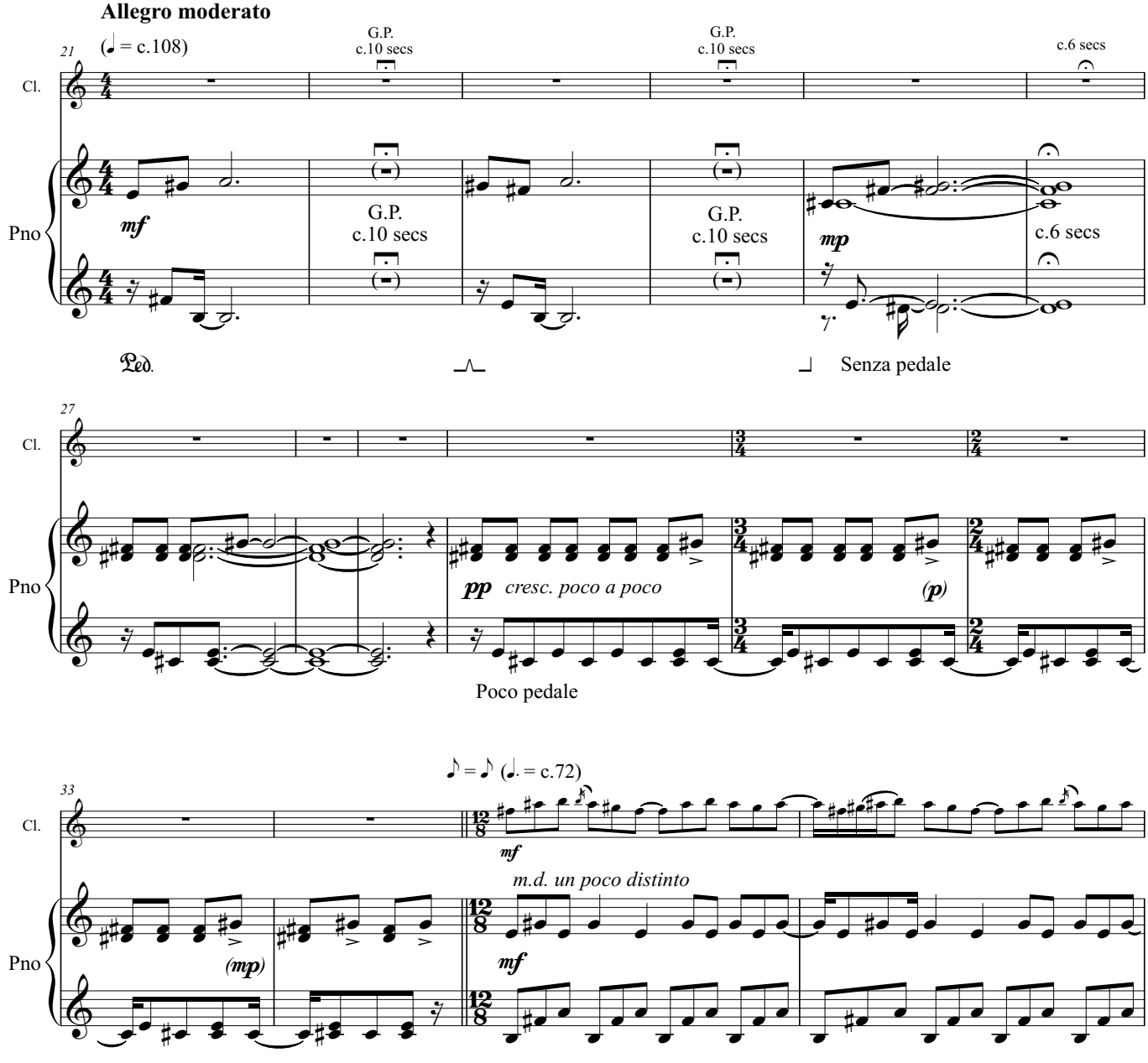
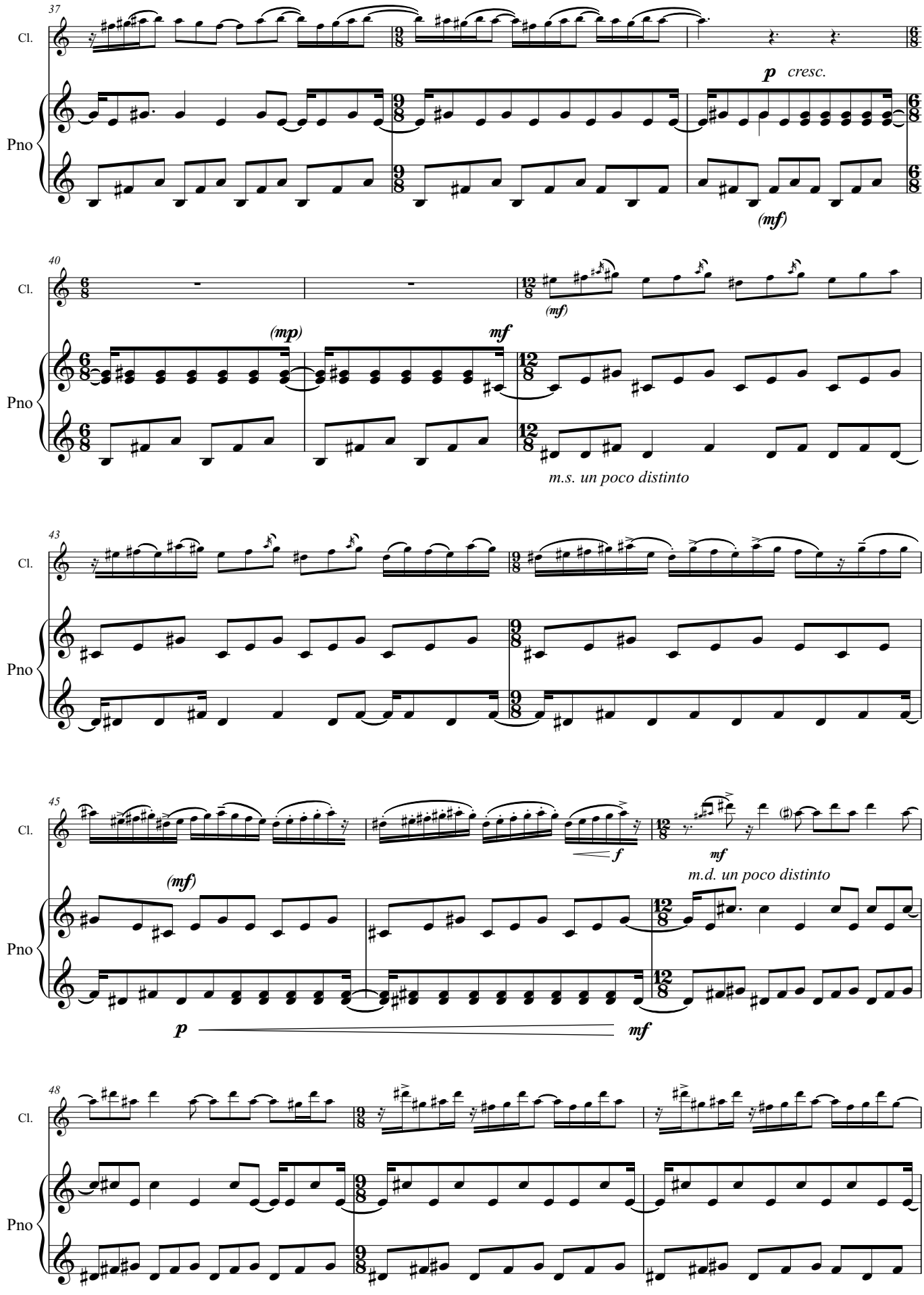
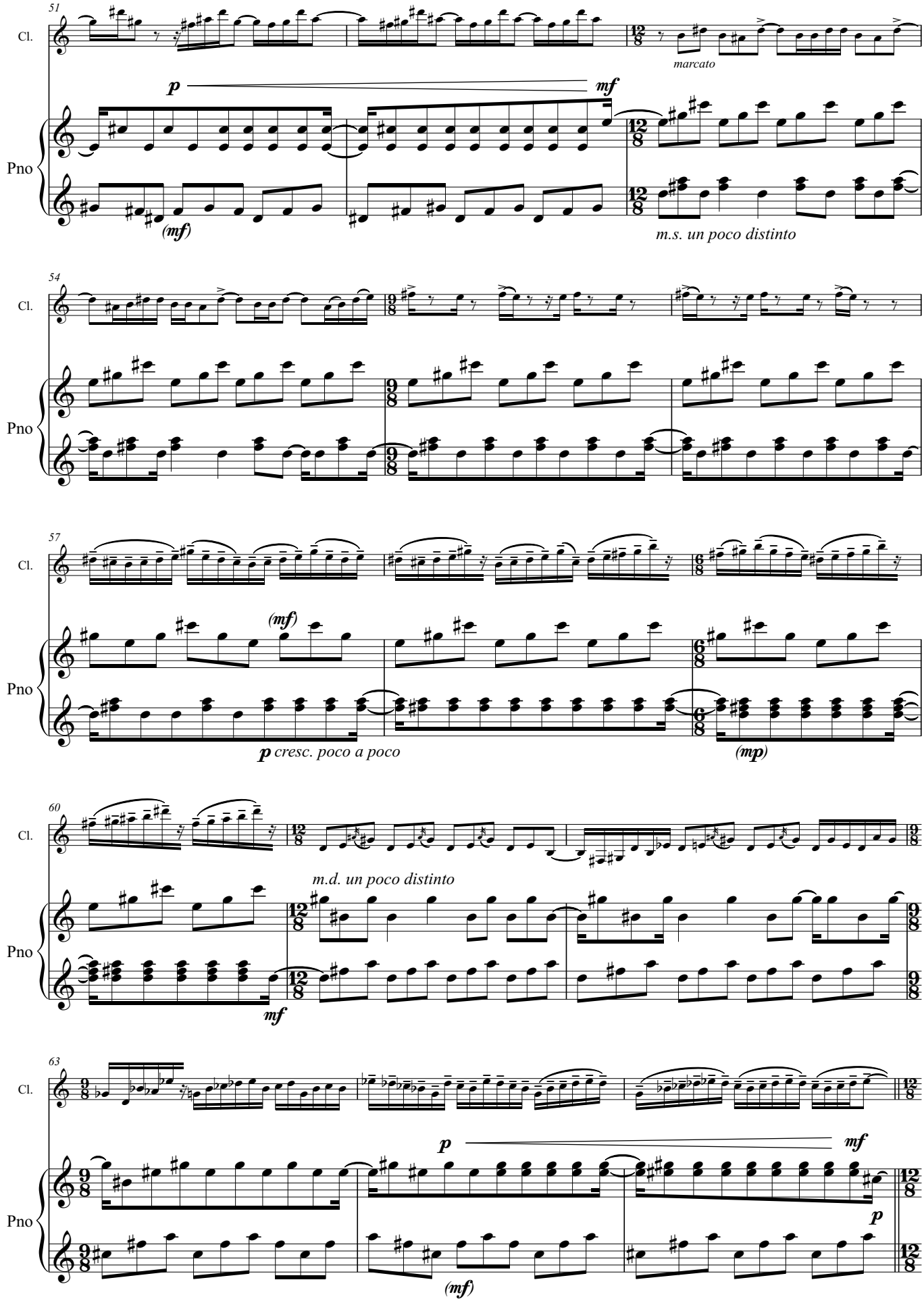


2: Moon-Phase

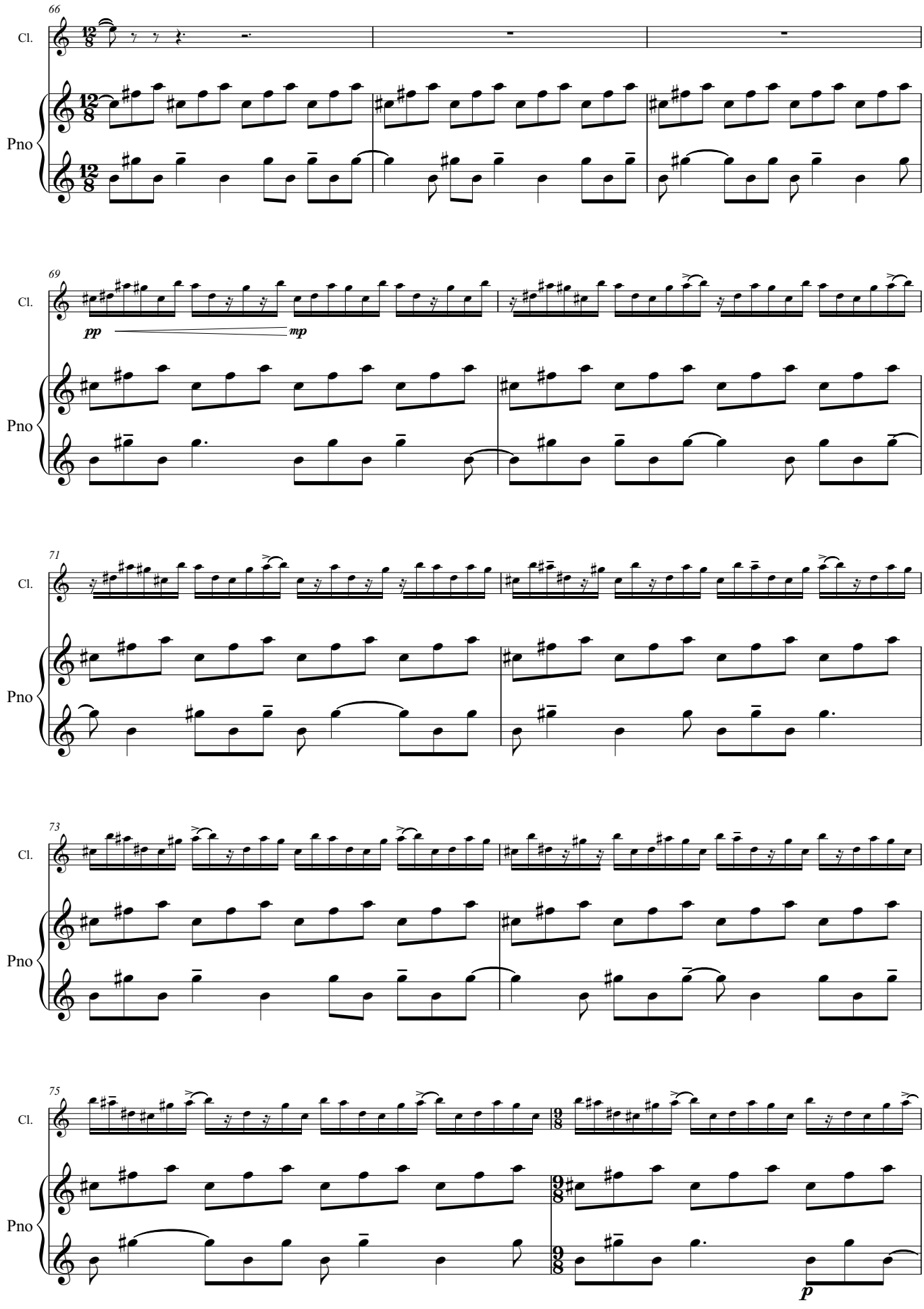
(after Reich)

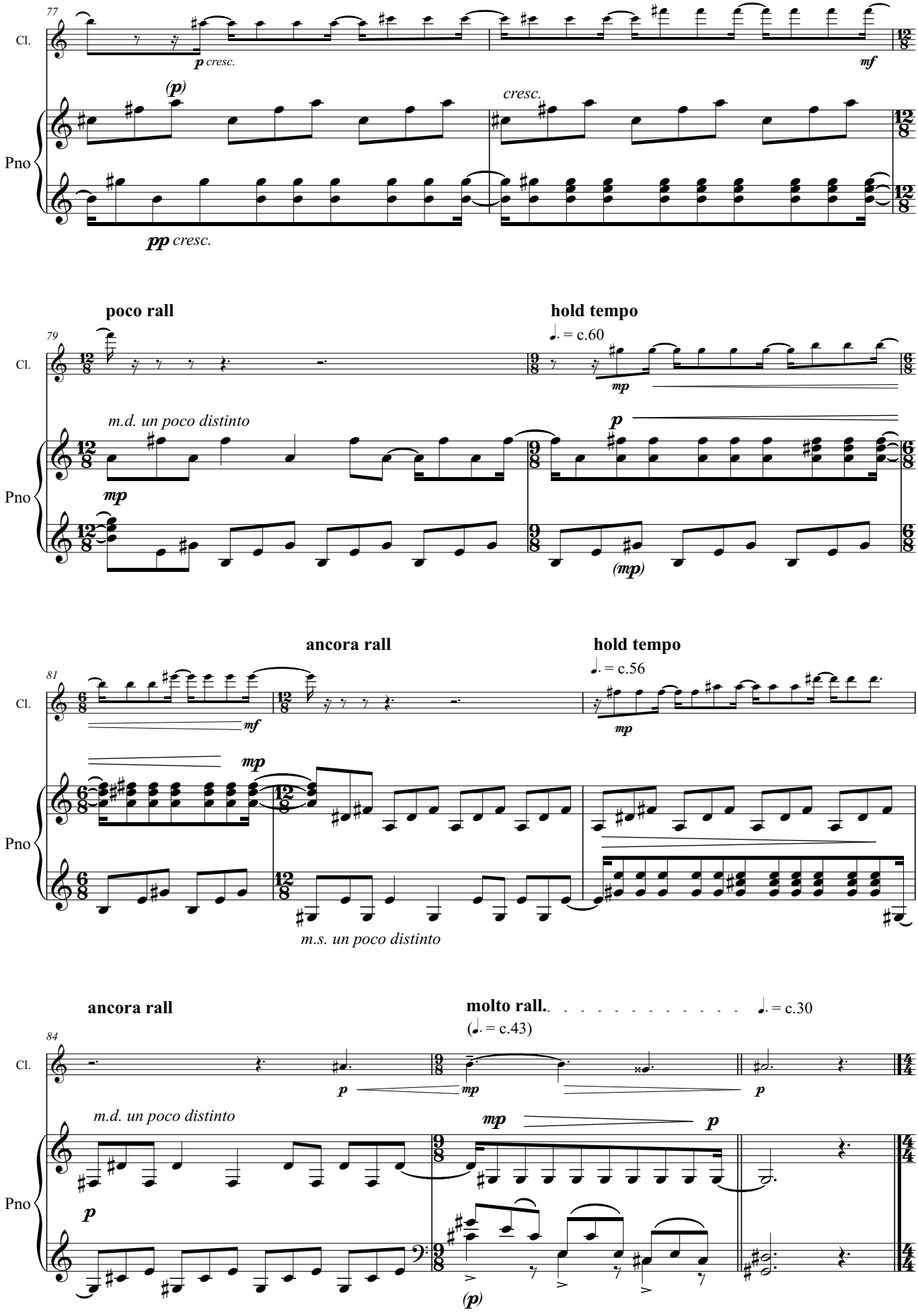



37
Cl.
Pno
p cresc.
(mf)
40
Cl.
Pno
(mp)
mf
(mf)
m.s. un poco distinto
43
Cl.
Pno
45
Cl.
Pno
(mf)
f
mf
m.d. un poco distinto
p
mf
48
Cl.
Pno


51
Cl.
Pno
marcato
p
mf
(mf)
m.s. un poco distinto
54
57
(mf)
p cresc. poco a poco
(mp)
60
m.d. un poco distinto
mf
63
p
mf
(mf)
p

Poco meno mosso

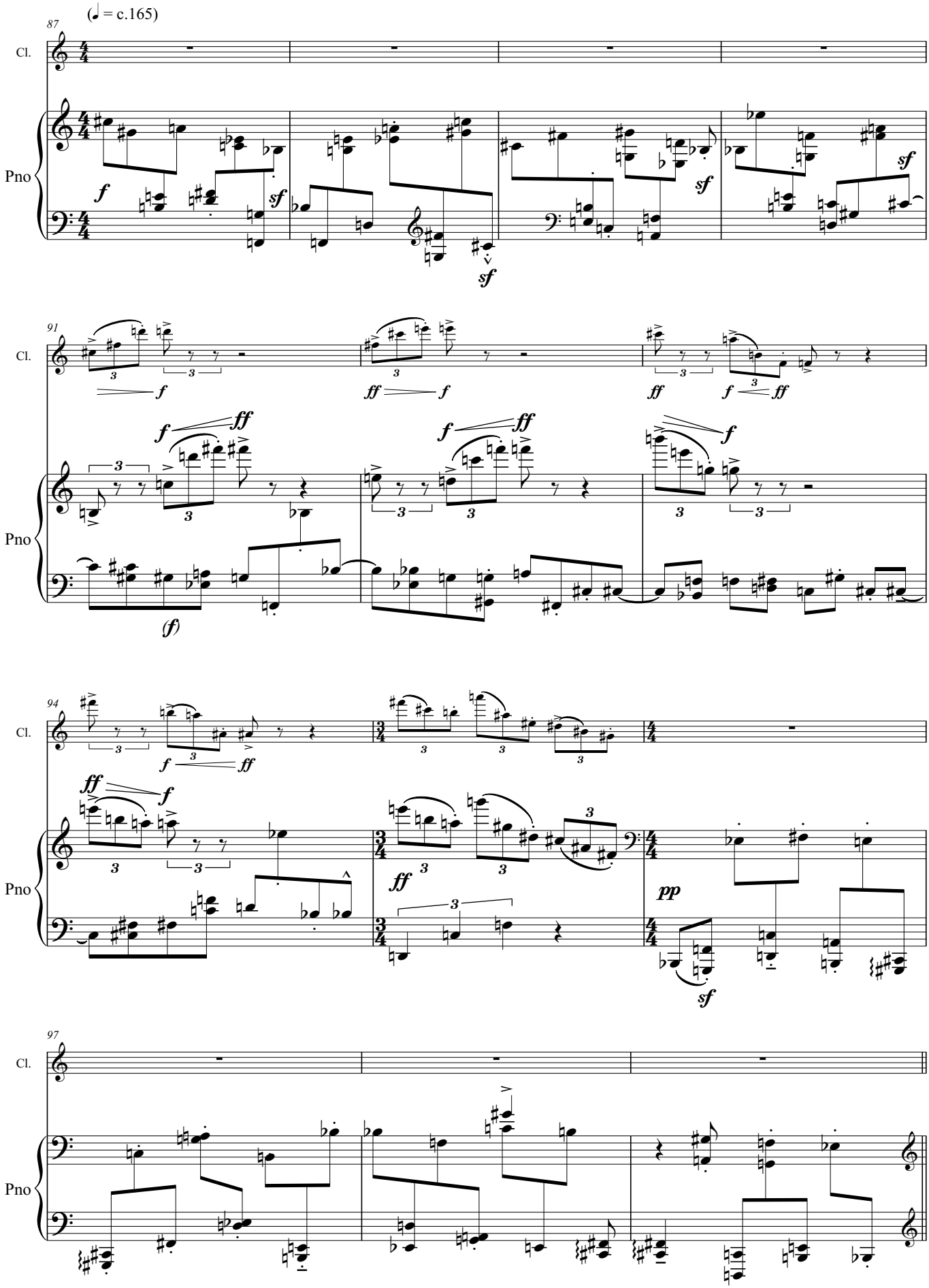


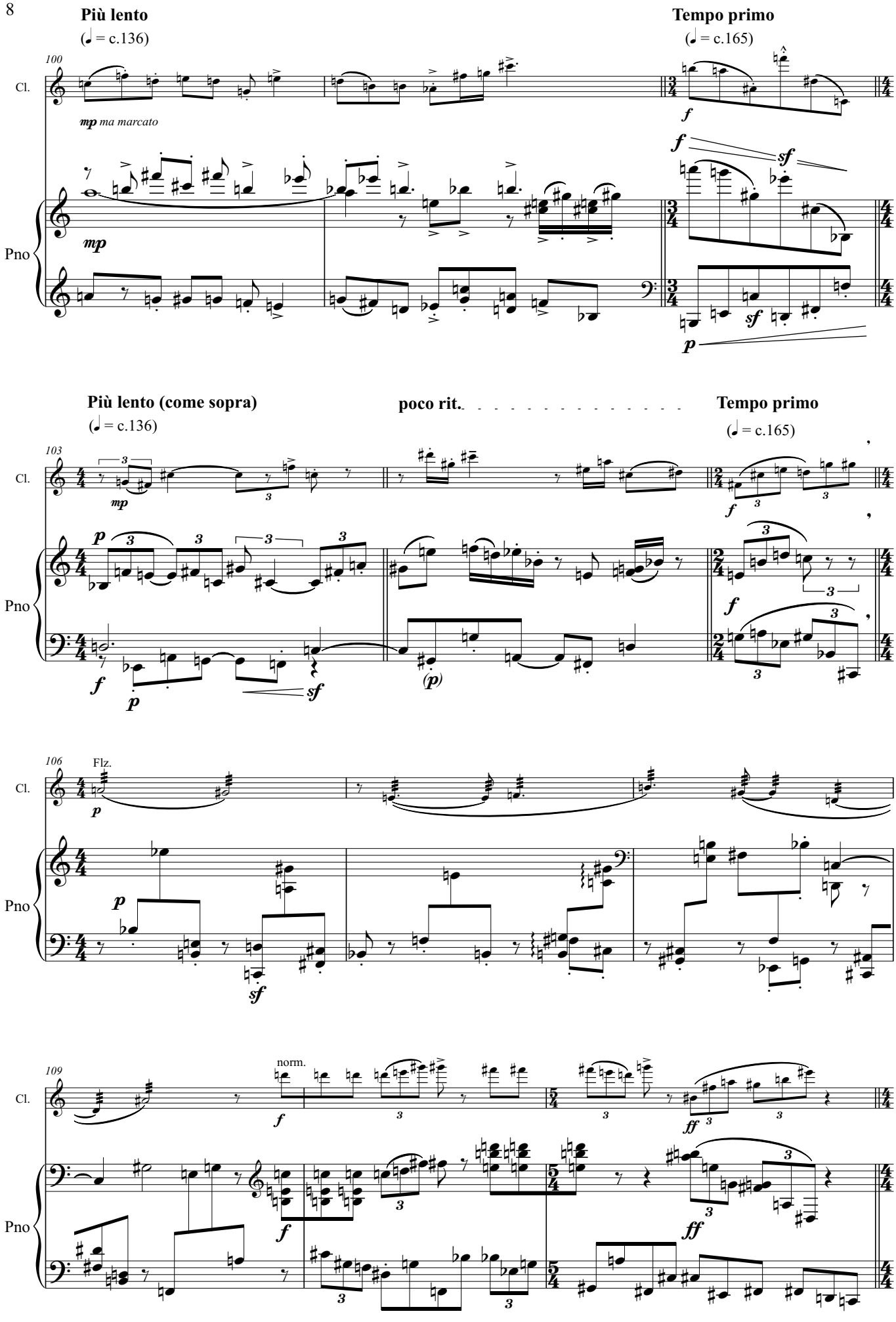

77
Cl.
Pno
p cresc.
mf
(p)
cresc.
pp cresc.
poco rall
hold tempo
79
♩. = c.60
m.d. un poco distinto
mp
p
(mp)
ancora rall
hold tempo
81
♩. = c.56
mf
mp
m.s. un poco distinto
ancora rall
molto rall.
(♩. = c.43)
♩. = c.30
84
m.d. un poco distinto
p
(p)

3: Serial Lunacy
(after Schoenberg)

Presto

(♩ = c.165)




Più lento
(♩ = c.136)
Tempo primo
(♩ = c.165)
100
Cl.
mp ma marcato
Pno
Più lento (come sopra)
(♩ = c.136)
poco rit.
Tempo primo
(♩ = c.165)
103
106
Flz.
109
norm.

Con fuoco (un poco meno mosso)

(♩ = c.156)

112

Cl.

Pno

(ff)

senza ped.

116

Cl.

(ff)

Pno

m.d.

119

Cl.

f

Pno

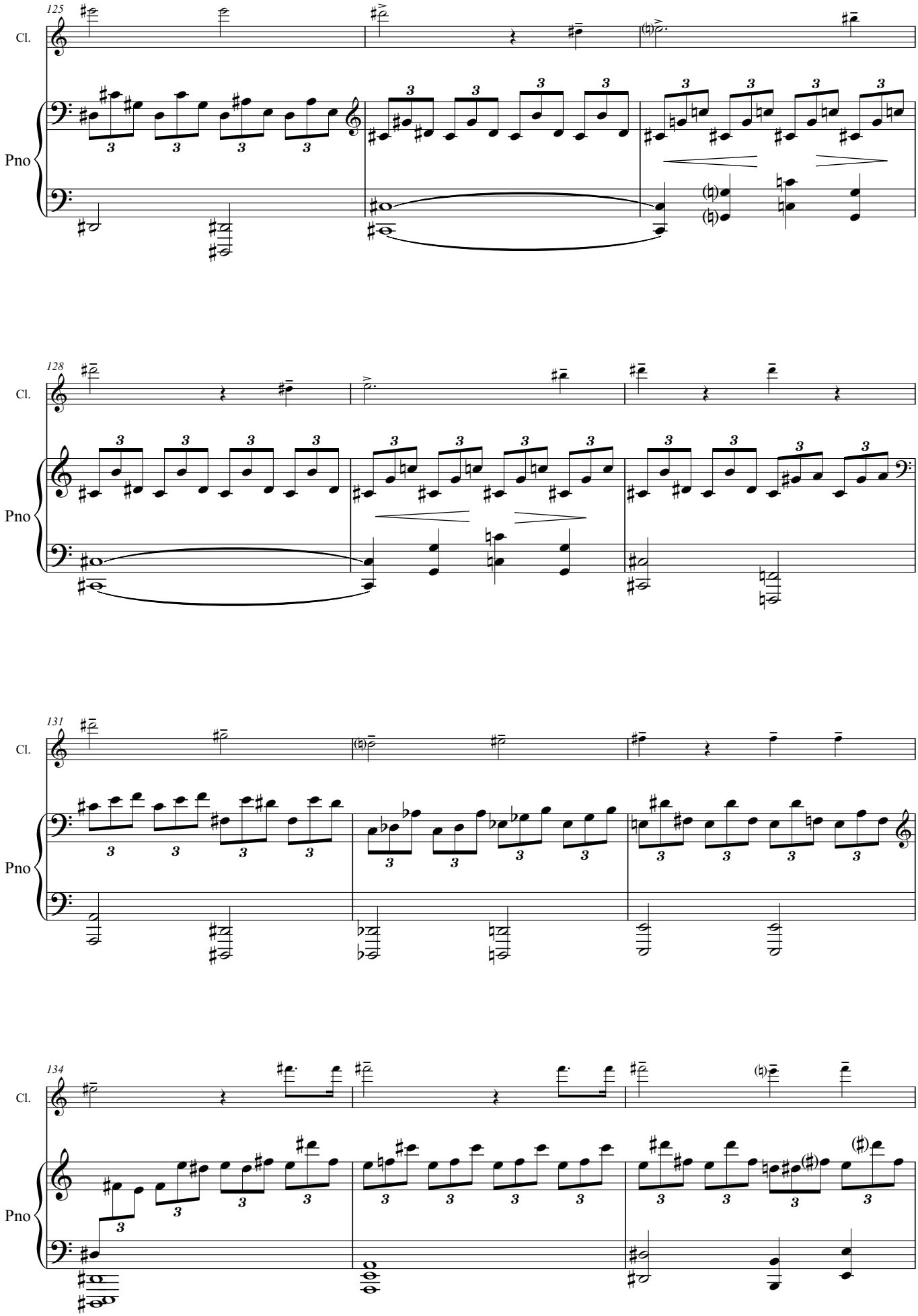
mf

122

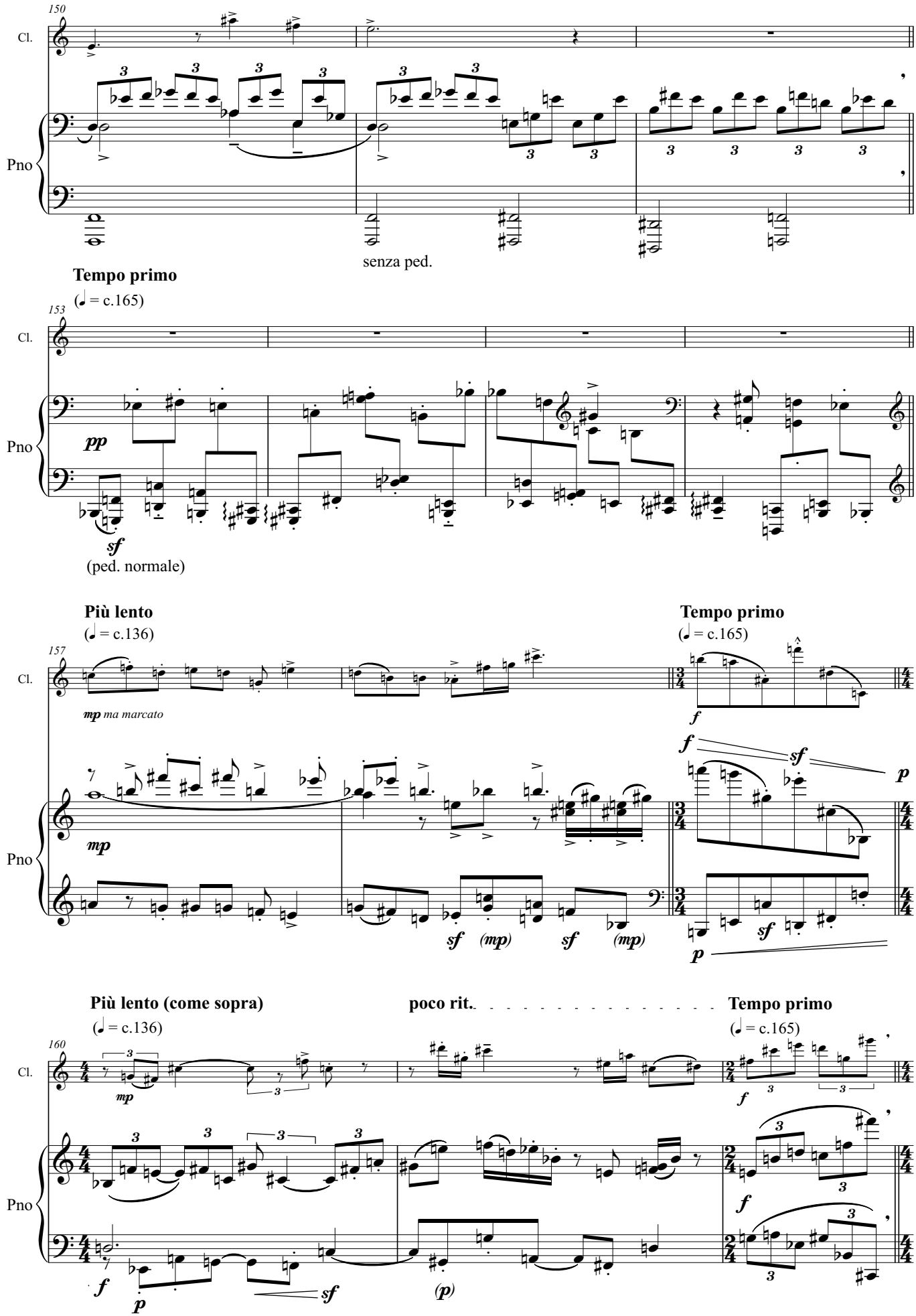
Cl.

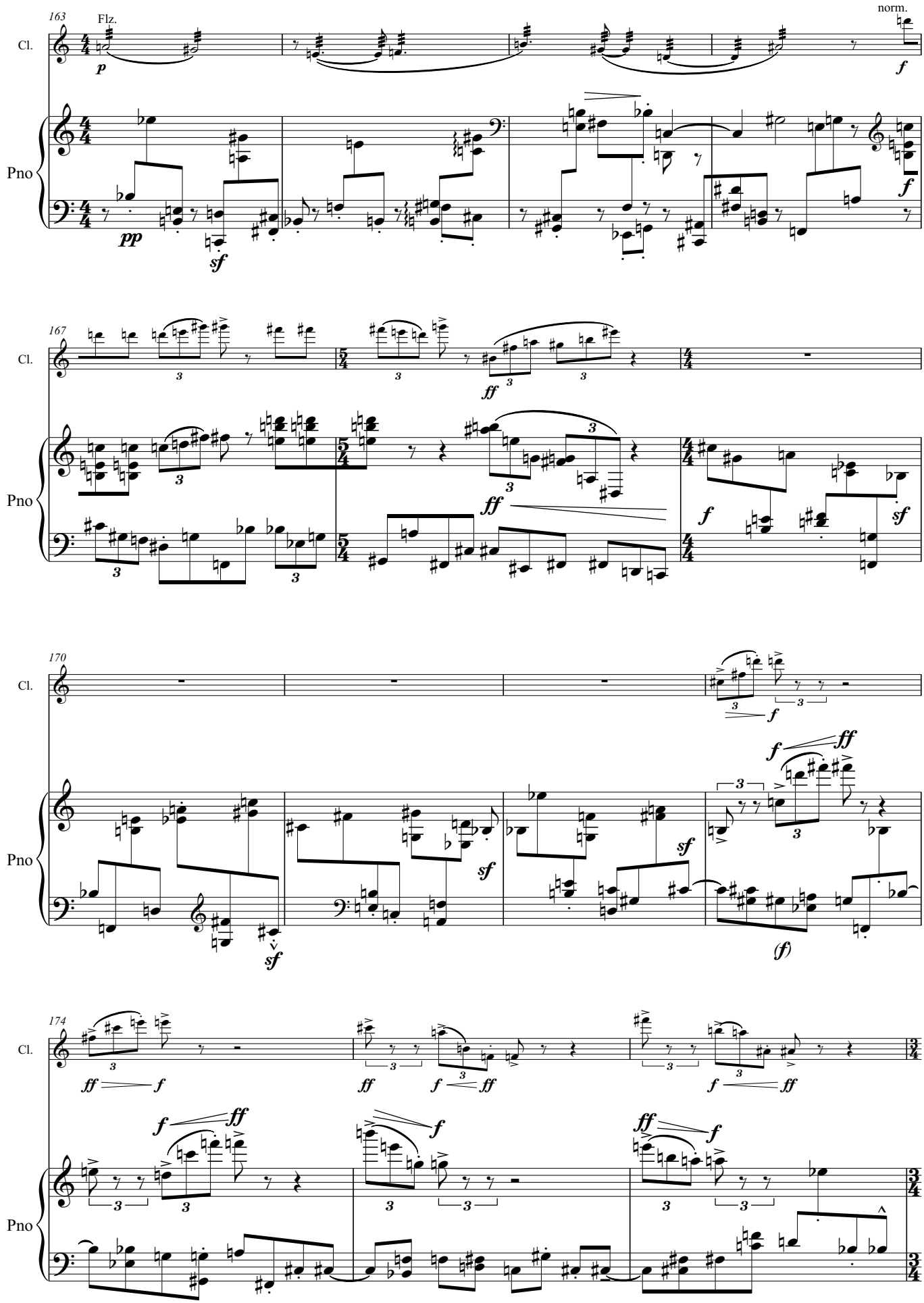
Pno

f


125
Cl.
Pno
128
Cl.
Pno
131
Cl.
Pno
134
Cl.
Pno

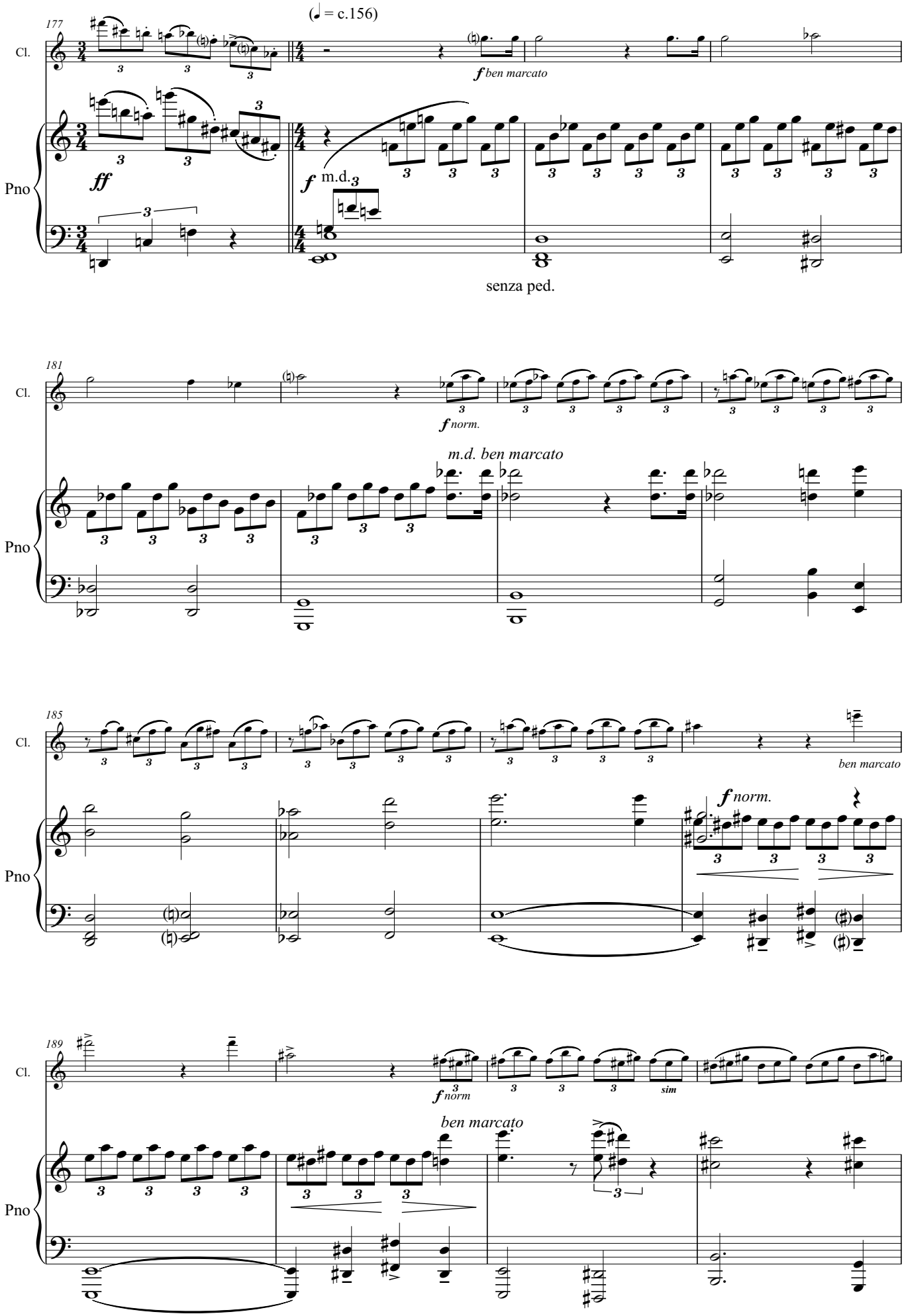
137
Cl.
Pno
140
mf
f
mf
poco ped.
144
f
ff
f
ff
147

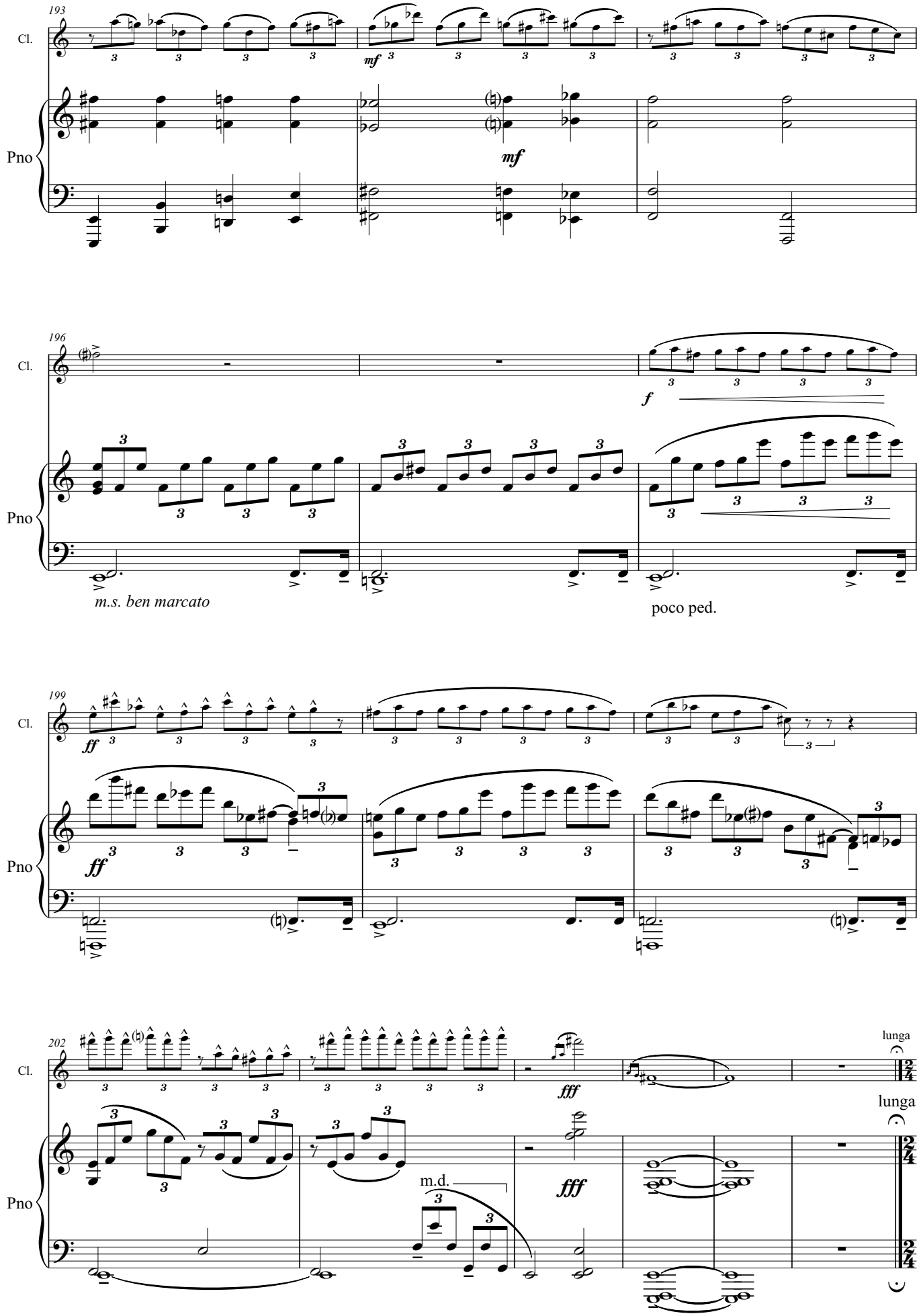

150
Cl.
Pno
senza ped.
Tempo primo
(♩ = c.165)
153
Cl.
Pno
pp
sf
(ped. normale)
Più lento
(♩ = c.136)
Tempo primo
(♩ = c.165)
157
Cl.
mp ma marcato
f
Pno
mp
sf (mp) sf (mp)
f sf p
p
Più lento (come sopra)
(♩ = c.136)
poco rit.
Tempo primo
(♩ = c.165)
160
Cl.
mp
f
Pno
f p sf
(p)
f


163
Flz.
norm.
Cl.
Pno
167
170
174

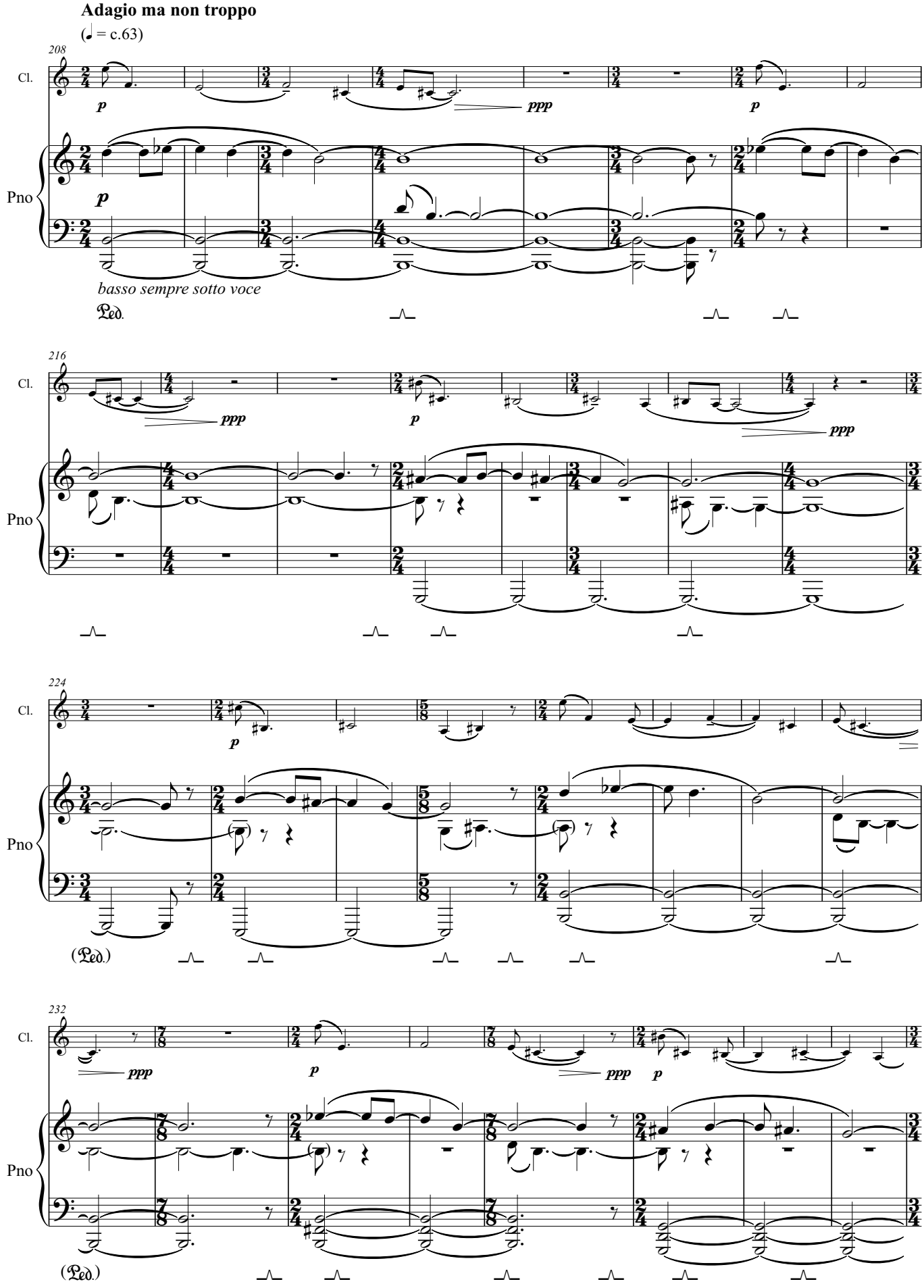
Con fuoco (un poco meno mosso)

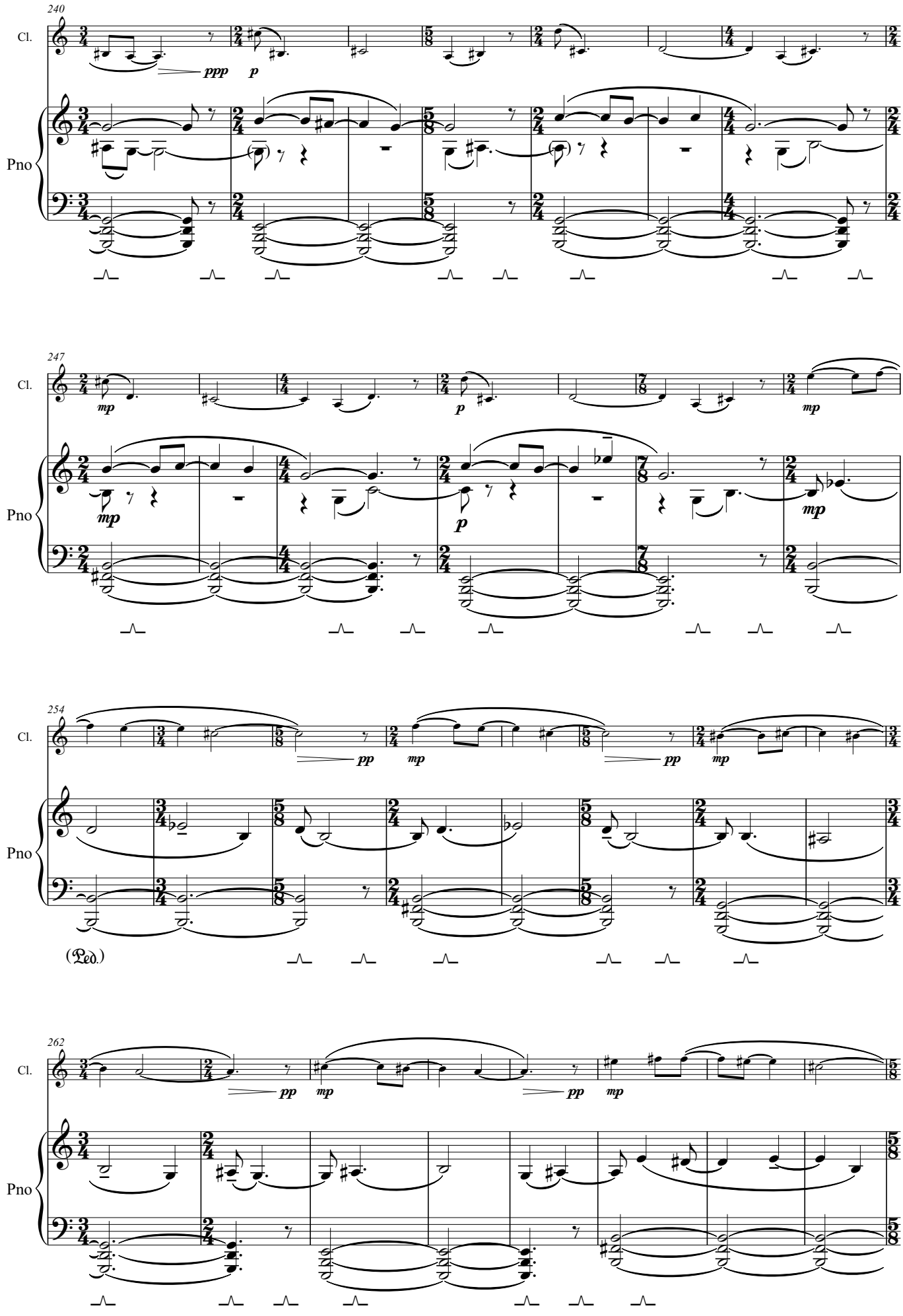
(♩ = c.156)

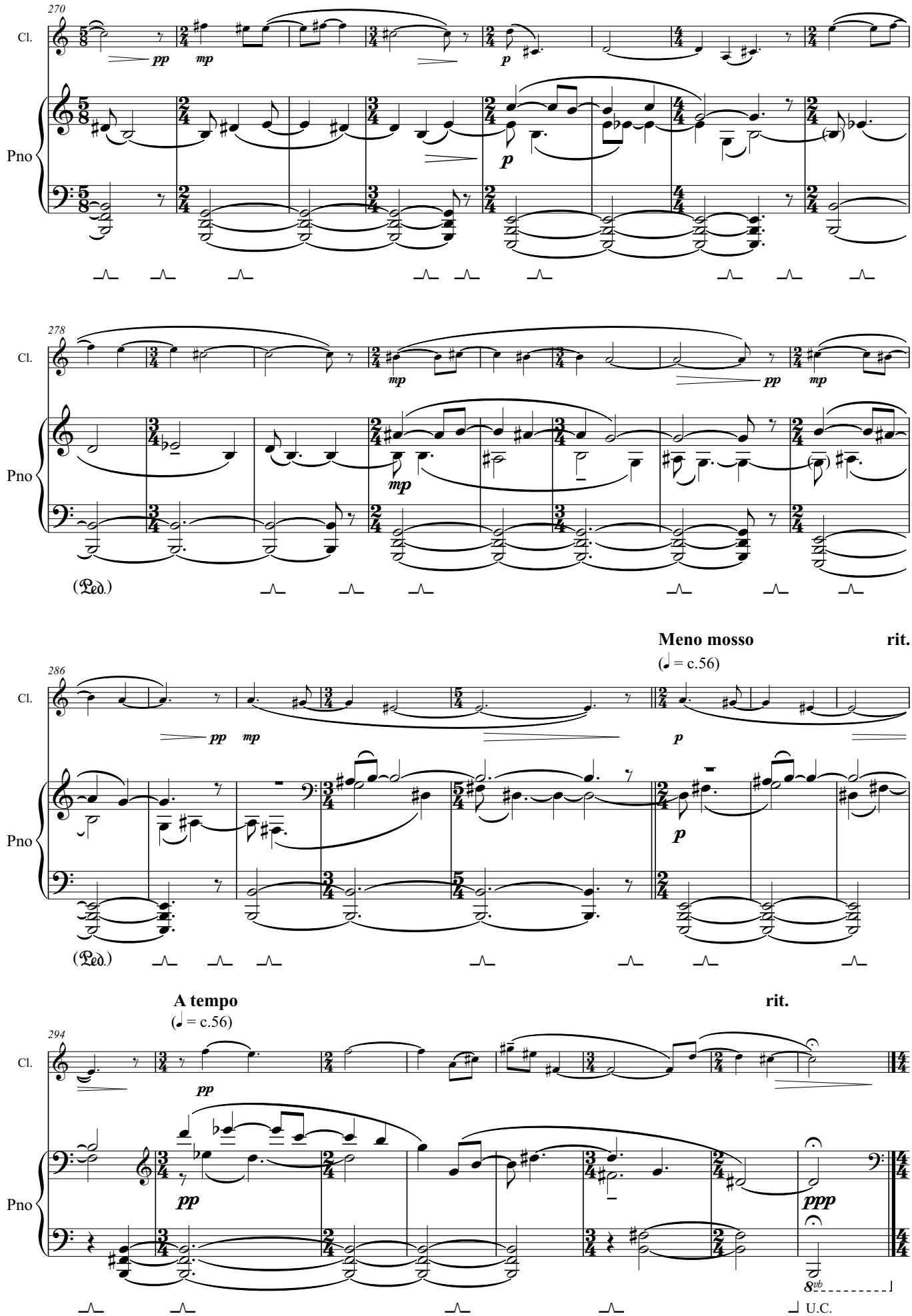



193
Cl.
Pno
mf
mf
196
Cl.
Pno
f
m.s. ben marcato
poco ped.
199
Cl.
Pno
ff
ff
202
Cl.
Pno
fff
fff
m.d.
lunga
lunga

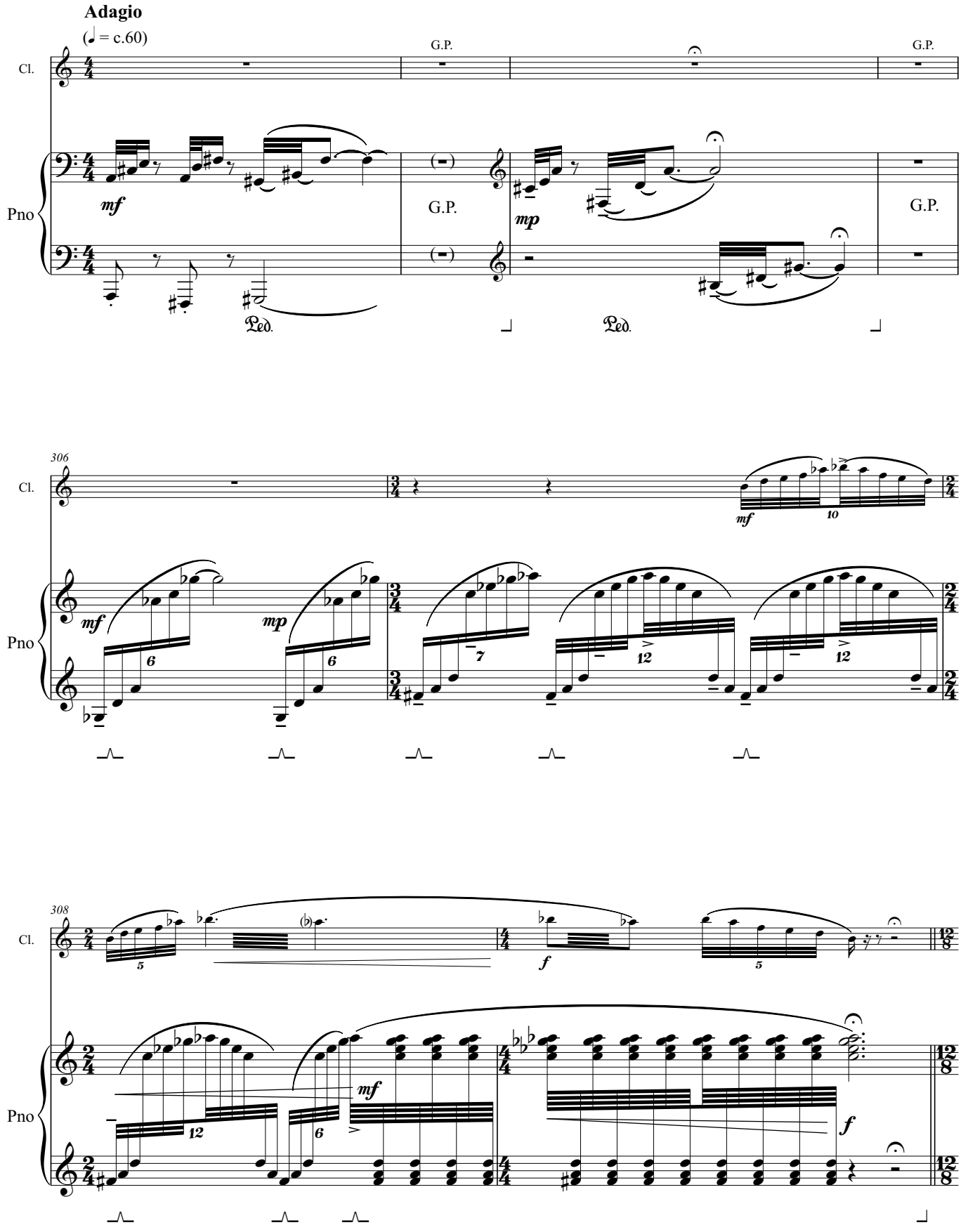
4: Solar Winds in Lunar Hollows
(Ventus Per Clavium)




240
Cl.
Pno
ppp
p
247
mp
p
mp
254
pp
mp
(Ped.)
262

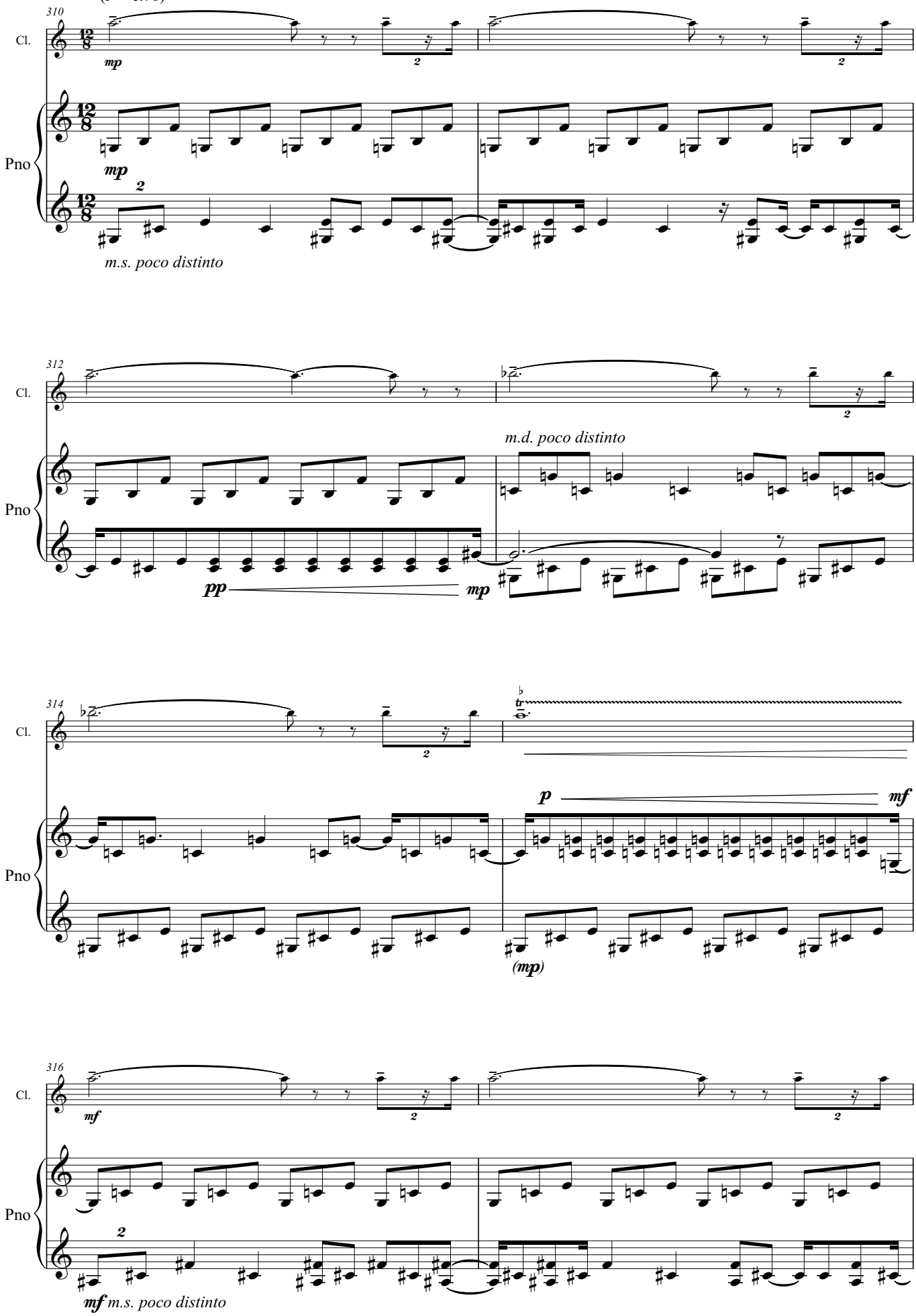

270
Cl.
Pno
pp
mp
p
278
mp
pp
(Ped.)
Meno mosso
(♩ = c.56)
rit.
286
A tempo
(♩ = c.56)
294
ppp
8vb
U.C.

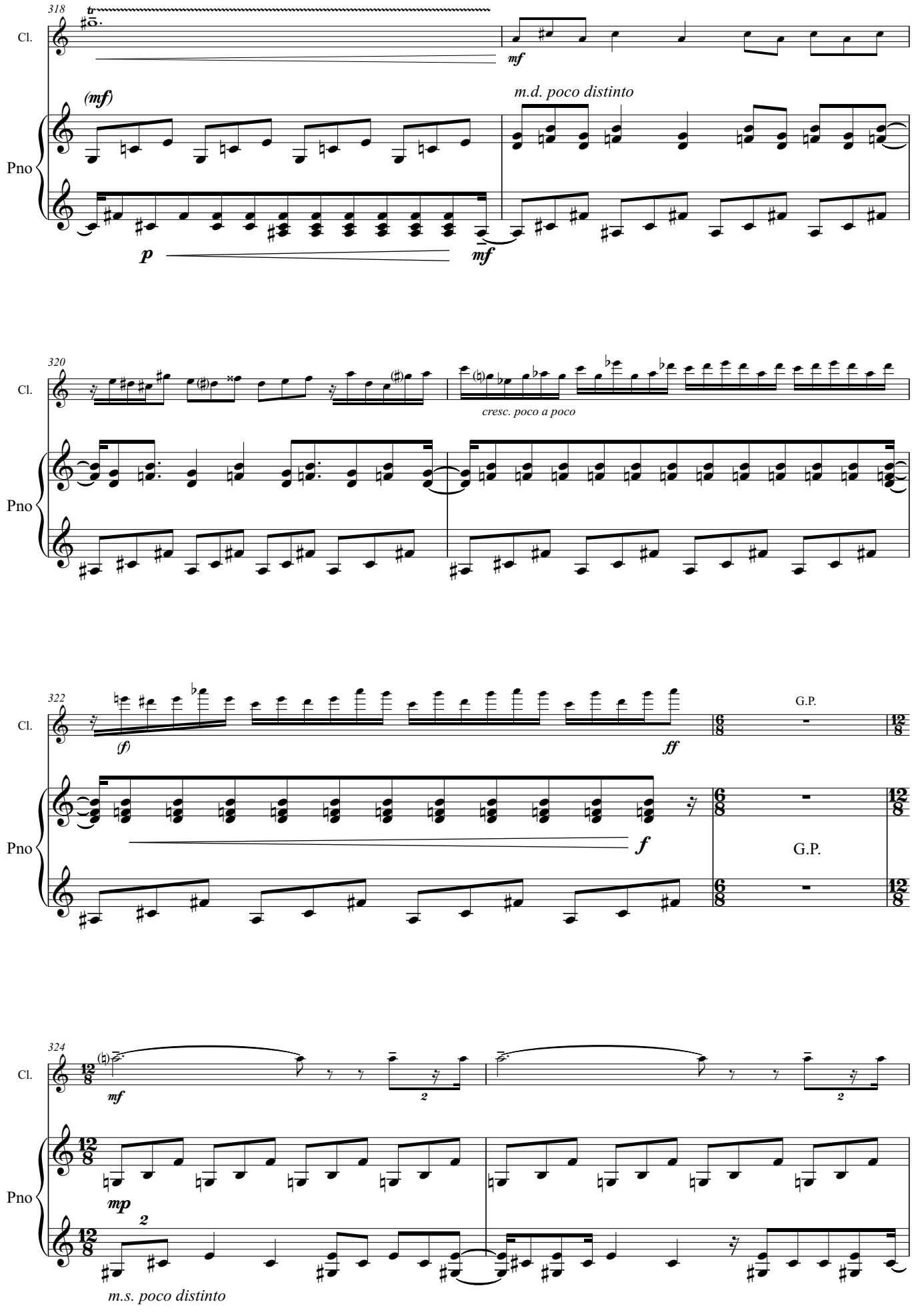
5: Lune Sacrée I
(after Stravinsky)

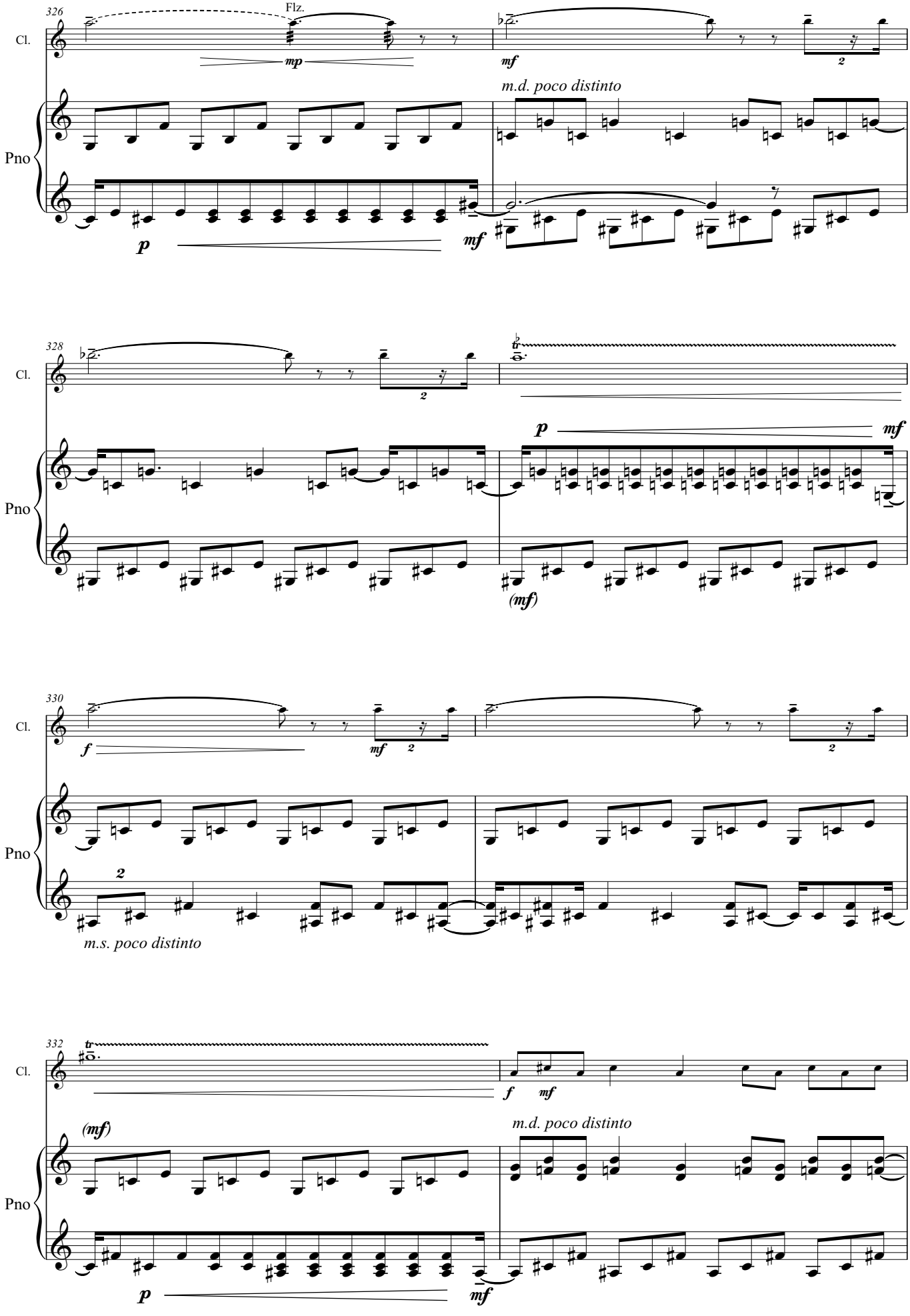


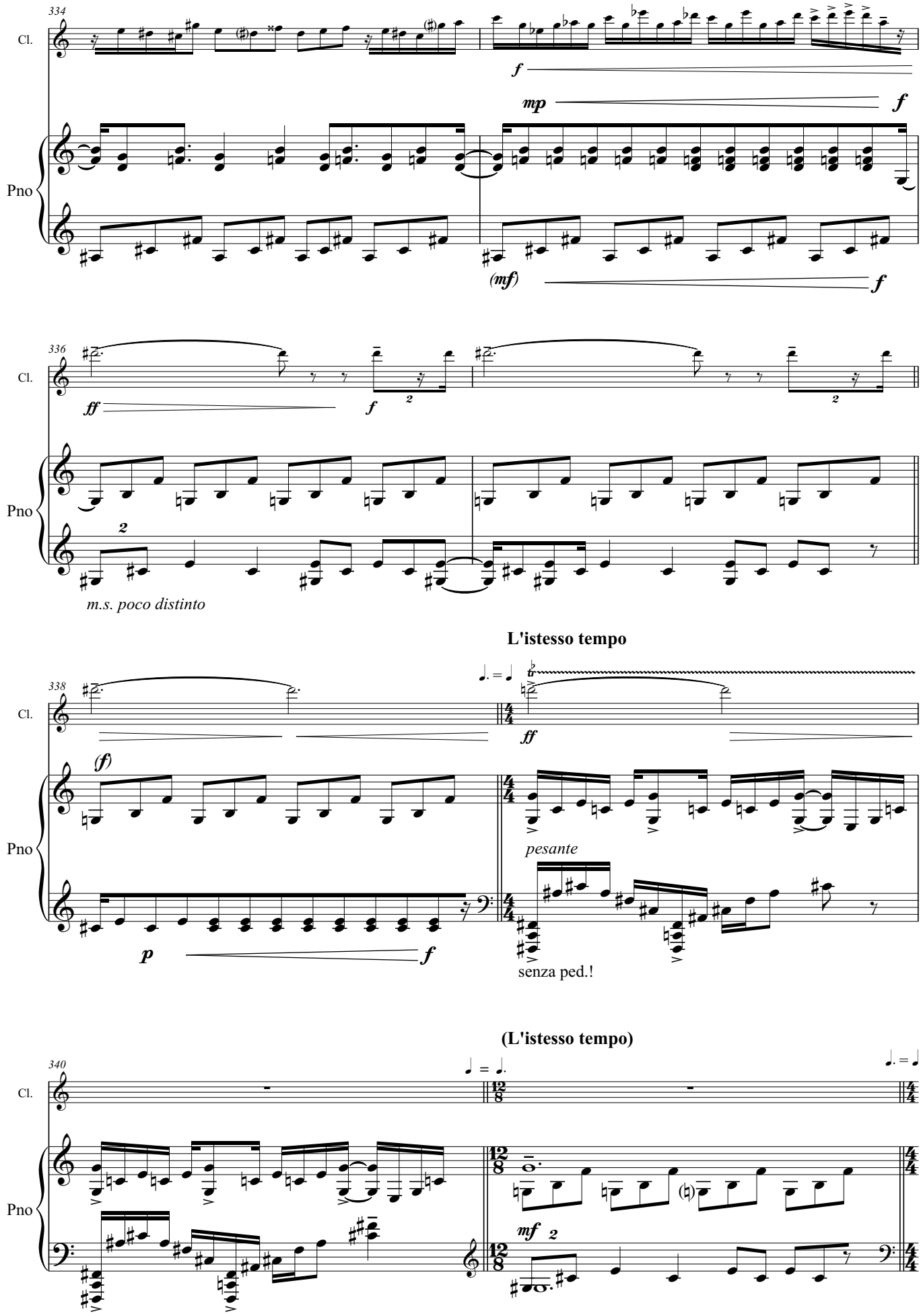
Andante ma con moto

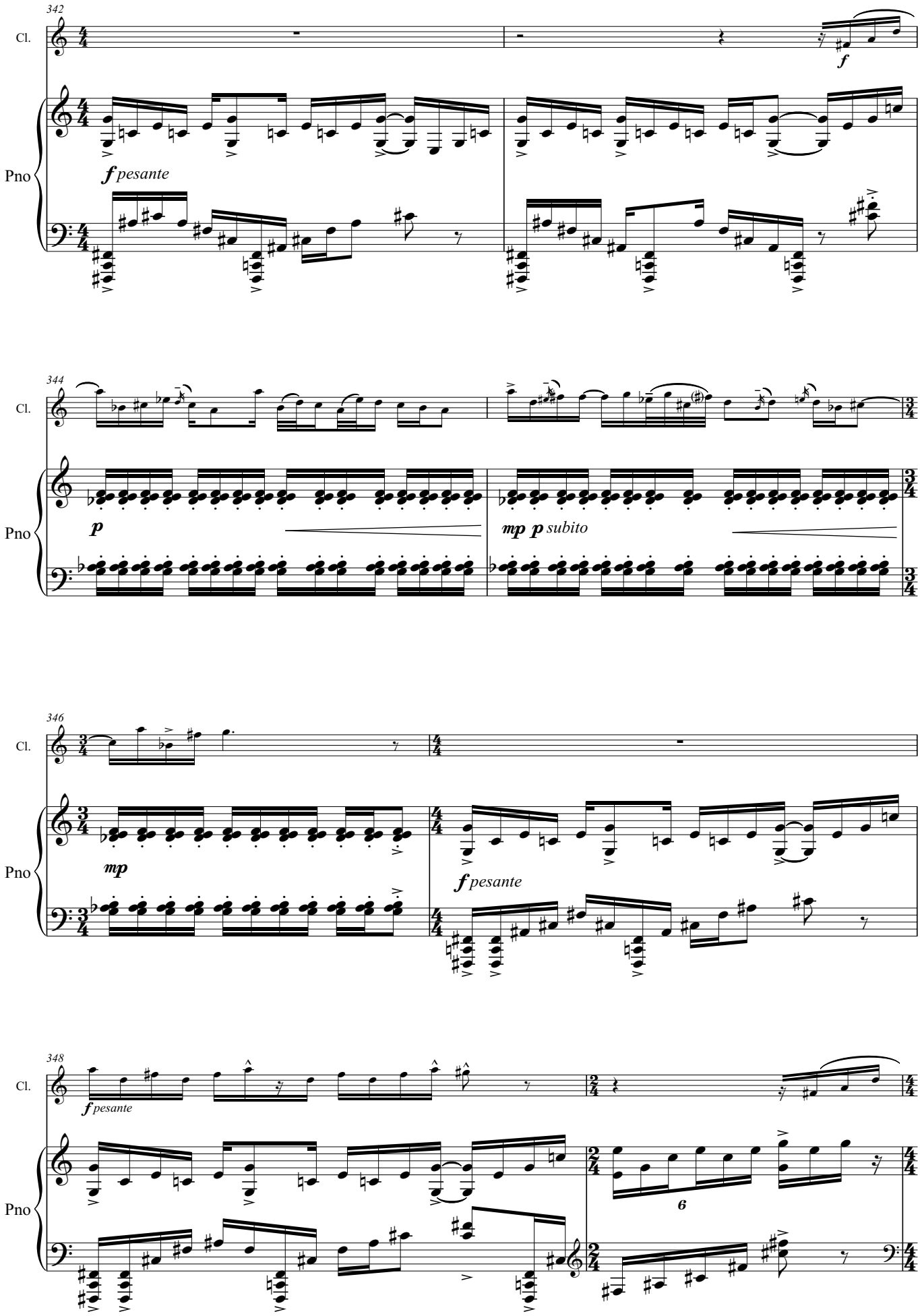
(♩. = c.76)

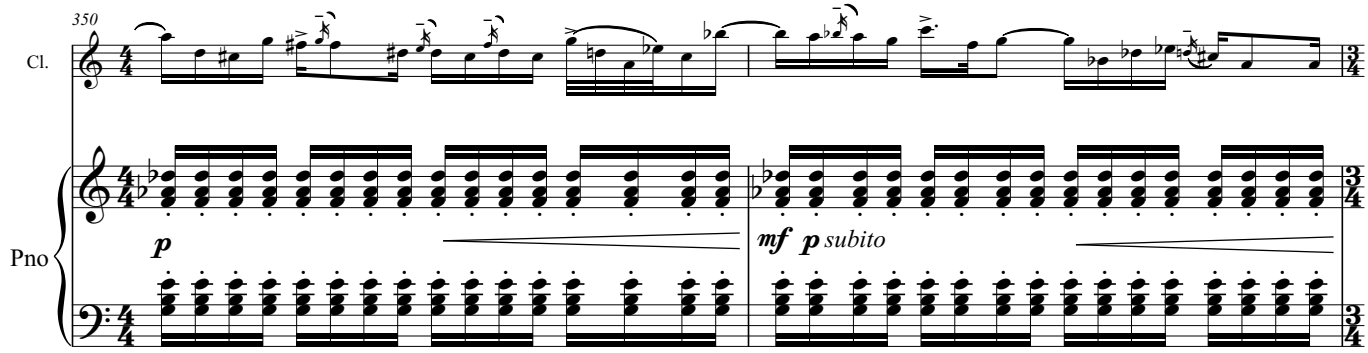


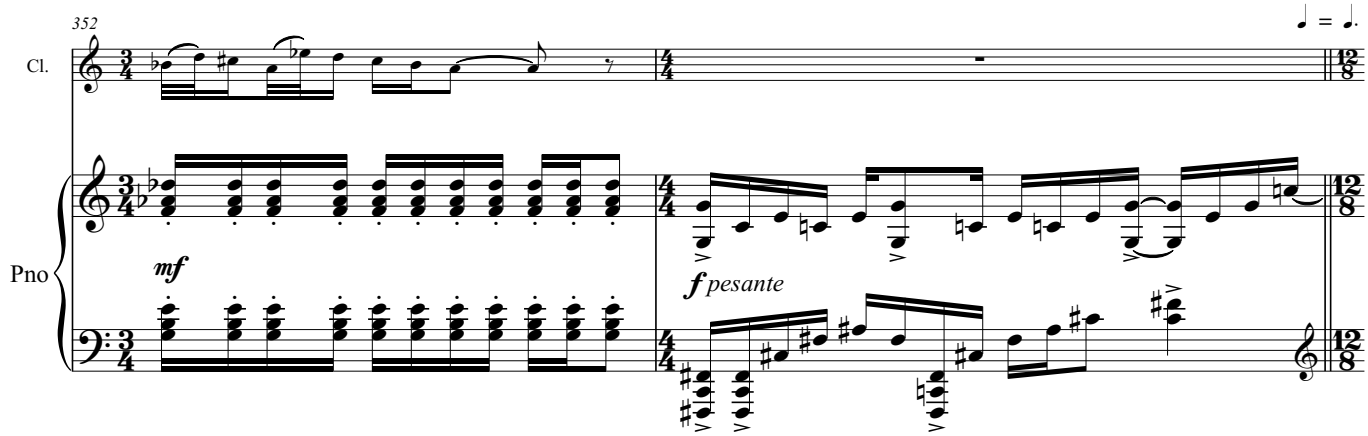

318
Cl.
Pno
(mf)
mf
m.d. poco distinto
p
mf
320
Cl.
Pno
cresc. poco a poco
322
Cl.
Pno
(f)
ff
f
G.P.
G.P.
324
Cl.
Pno
mf
mp
2
m.s. poco distinto


326
Cl.
Flz.
mp
mf
m.d. poco distinto
Pno
p
mf
328
Cl.
2
tr
p
mf
Pno
(mf)
330
Cl.
f
mf
2
2
Pno
2
m.s. poco distinto
332
Cl.
tr
f
mf
(mf)
m.d. poco distinto
Pno
p
mf


334
Cl.
Pno
f
mp
f
(mf)
f
336
Cl.
Pno
ff
f
2
2
2
m.s. poco distinto
L'istesso tempo
338
Cl.
Pno
(f)
ff
pesante
p
f
senza ped.!
(L'istesso tempo)
340
Cl.
Pno
mf
2

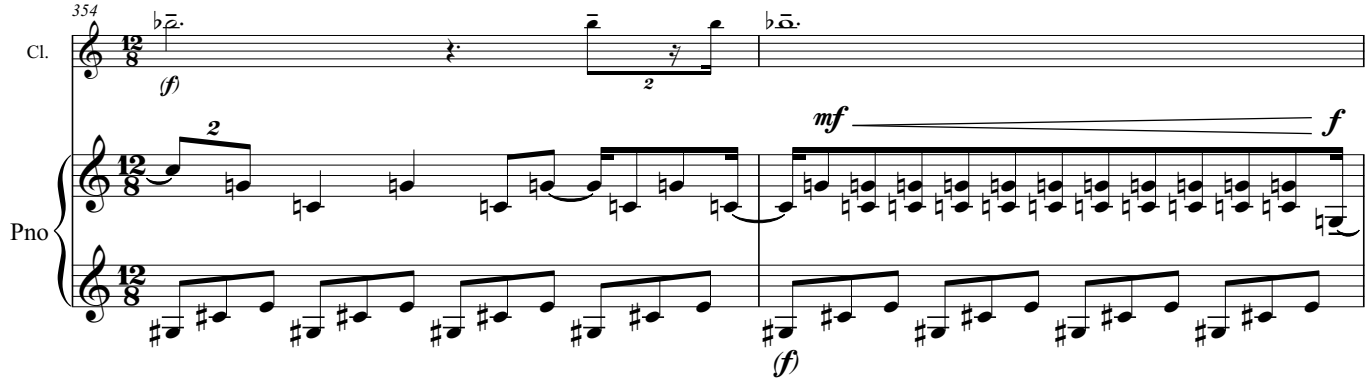

342
Cl.
Pno
f
f pesante
344
Cl.
Pno
p
mp p subito
346
Cl.
Pno
mp
f pesante
348
Cl.
Pno
f pesante
6

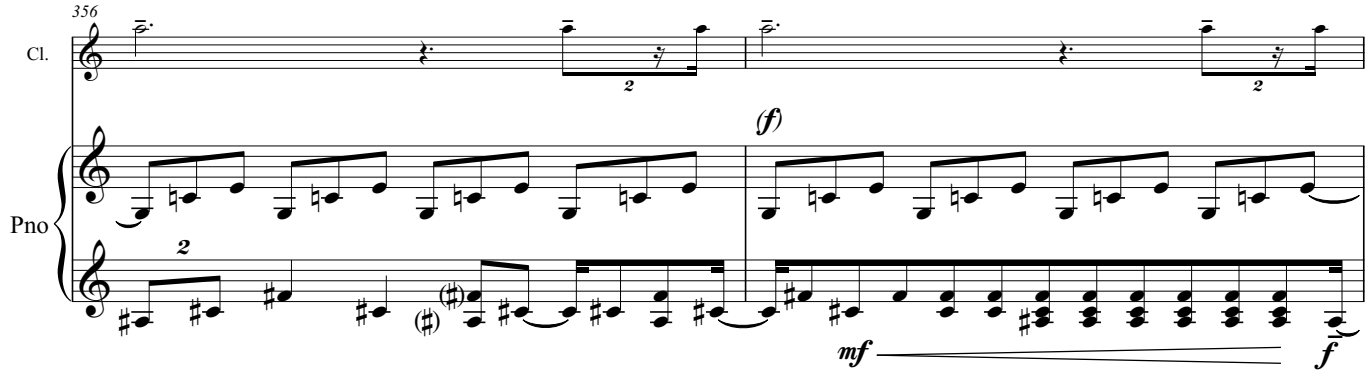


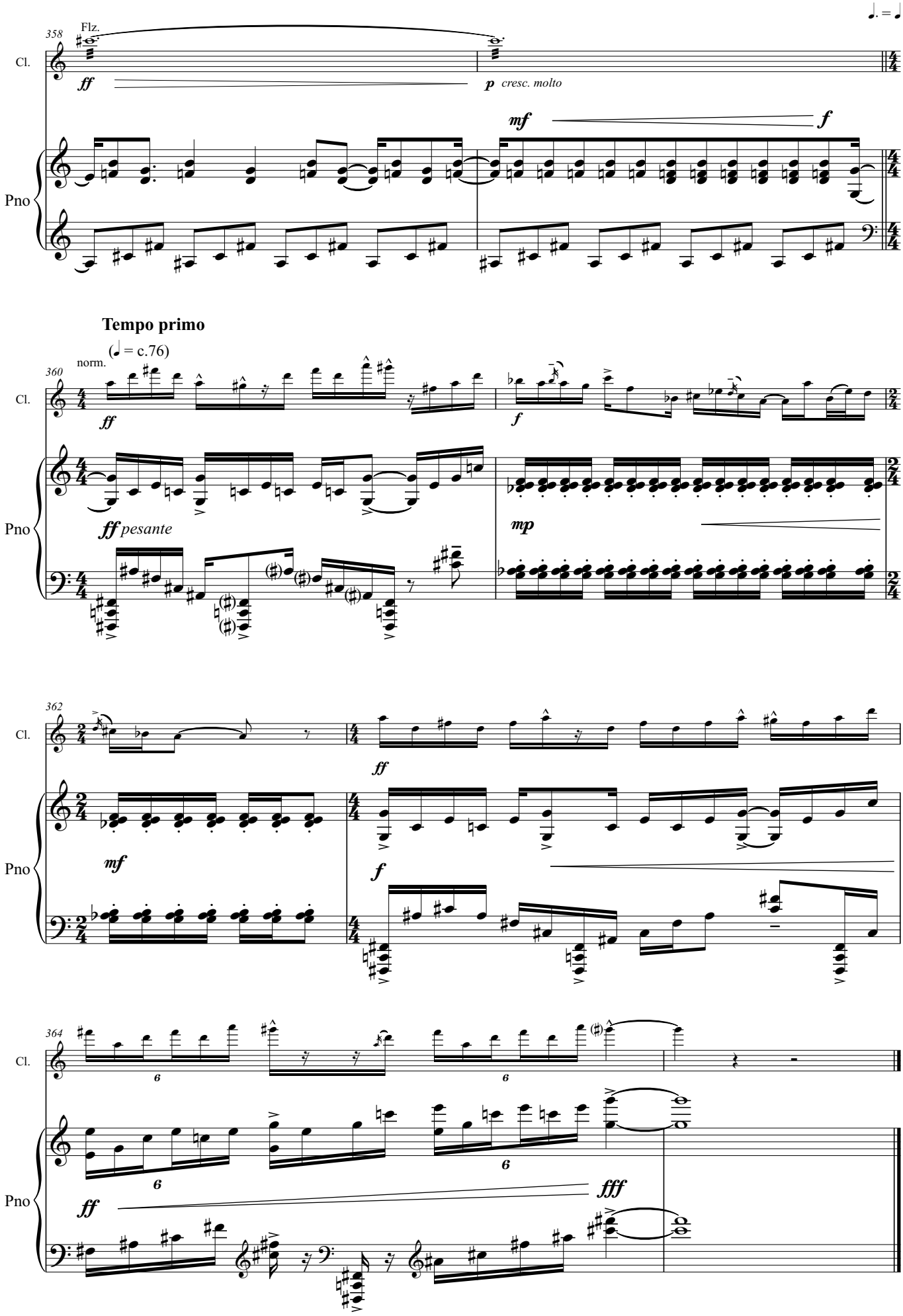


Poco più mosso

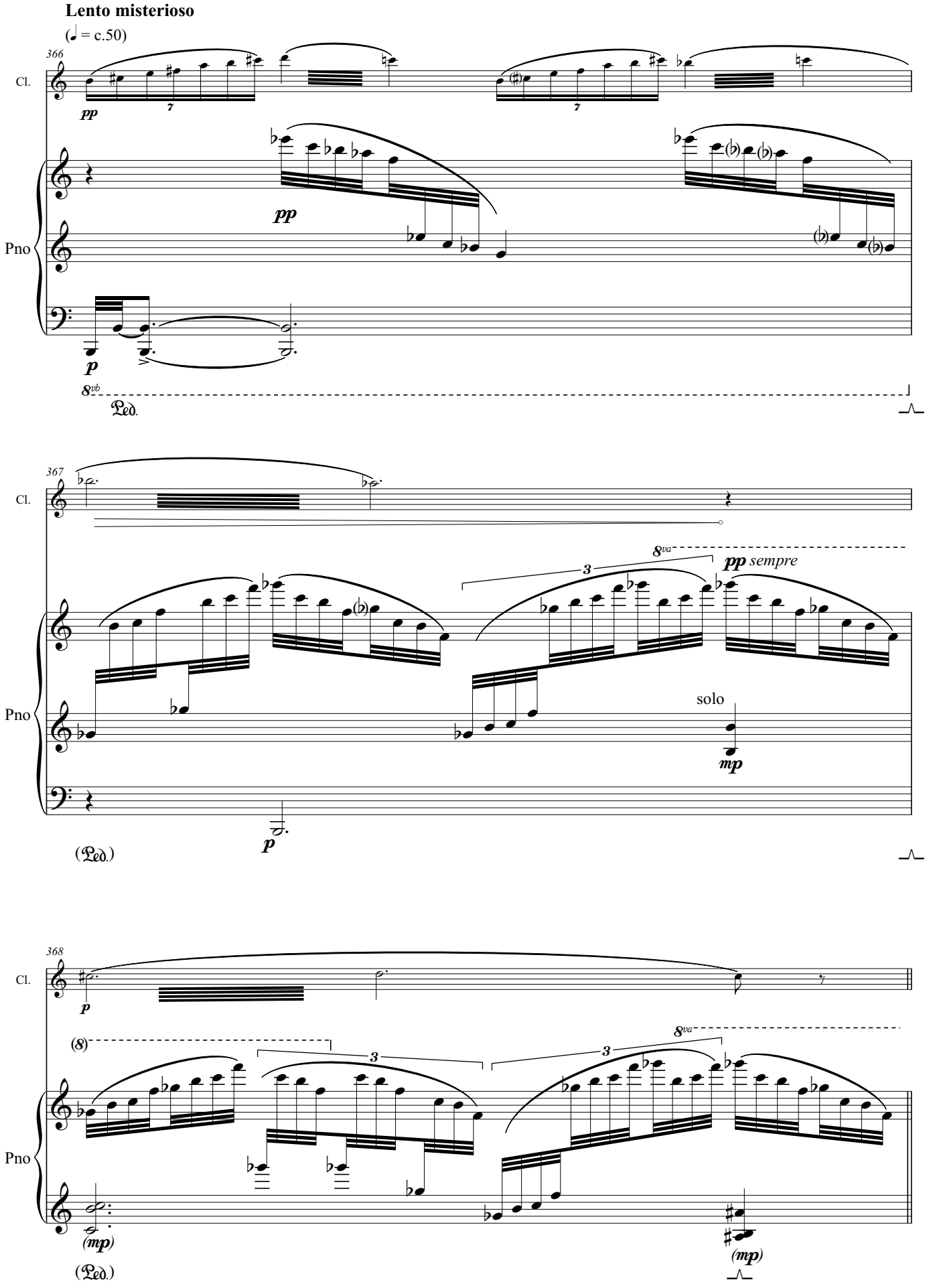
(♩. = c.82)





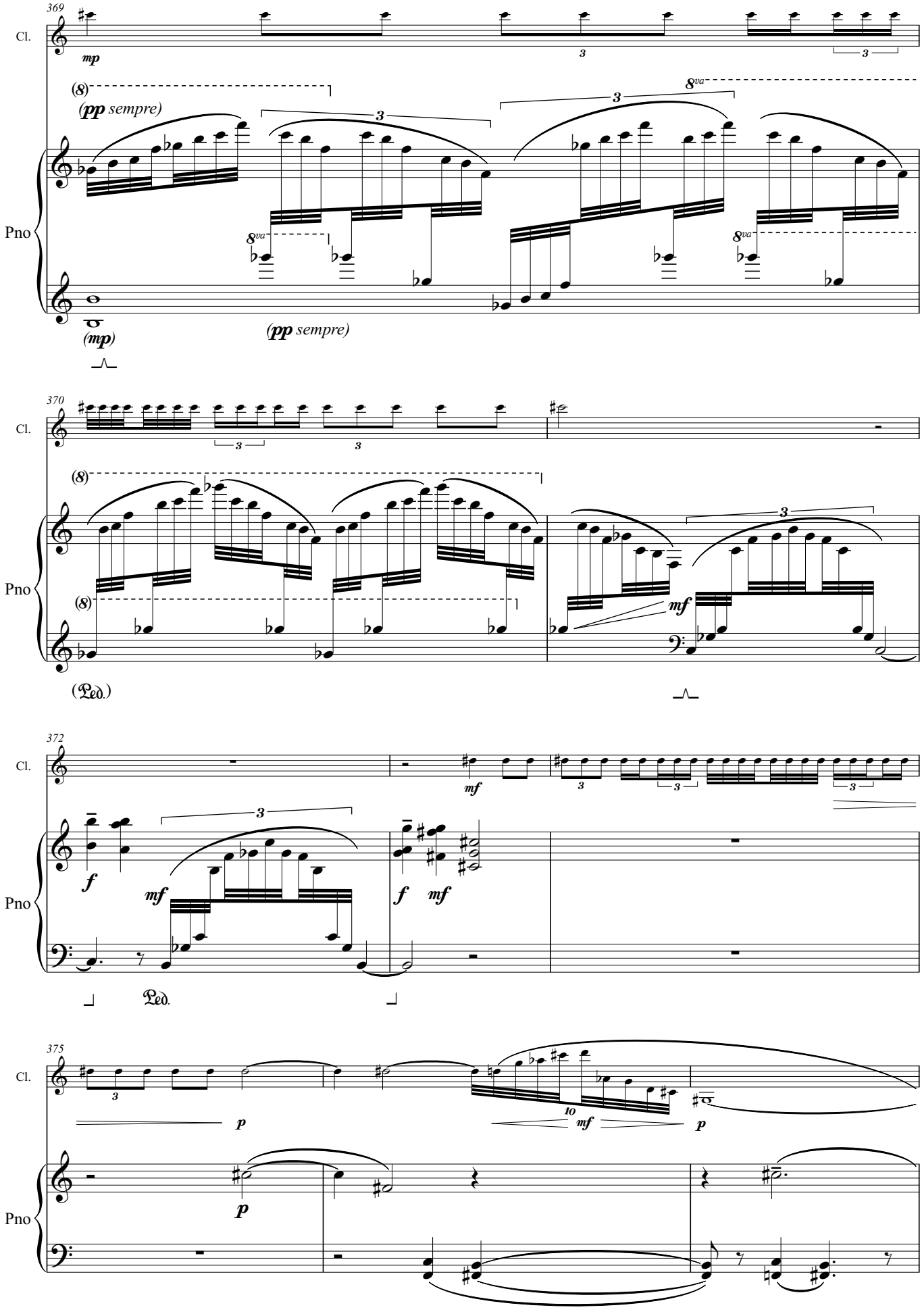

♩. = ♩
358
Flz.
Cl.
ff
p cresc. molto
mf
f
Pno
Tempo primo
(♩ = c.76)
norm.
360
ff
f
ff pesante
mp
362
mf
f
364
6
fff

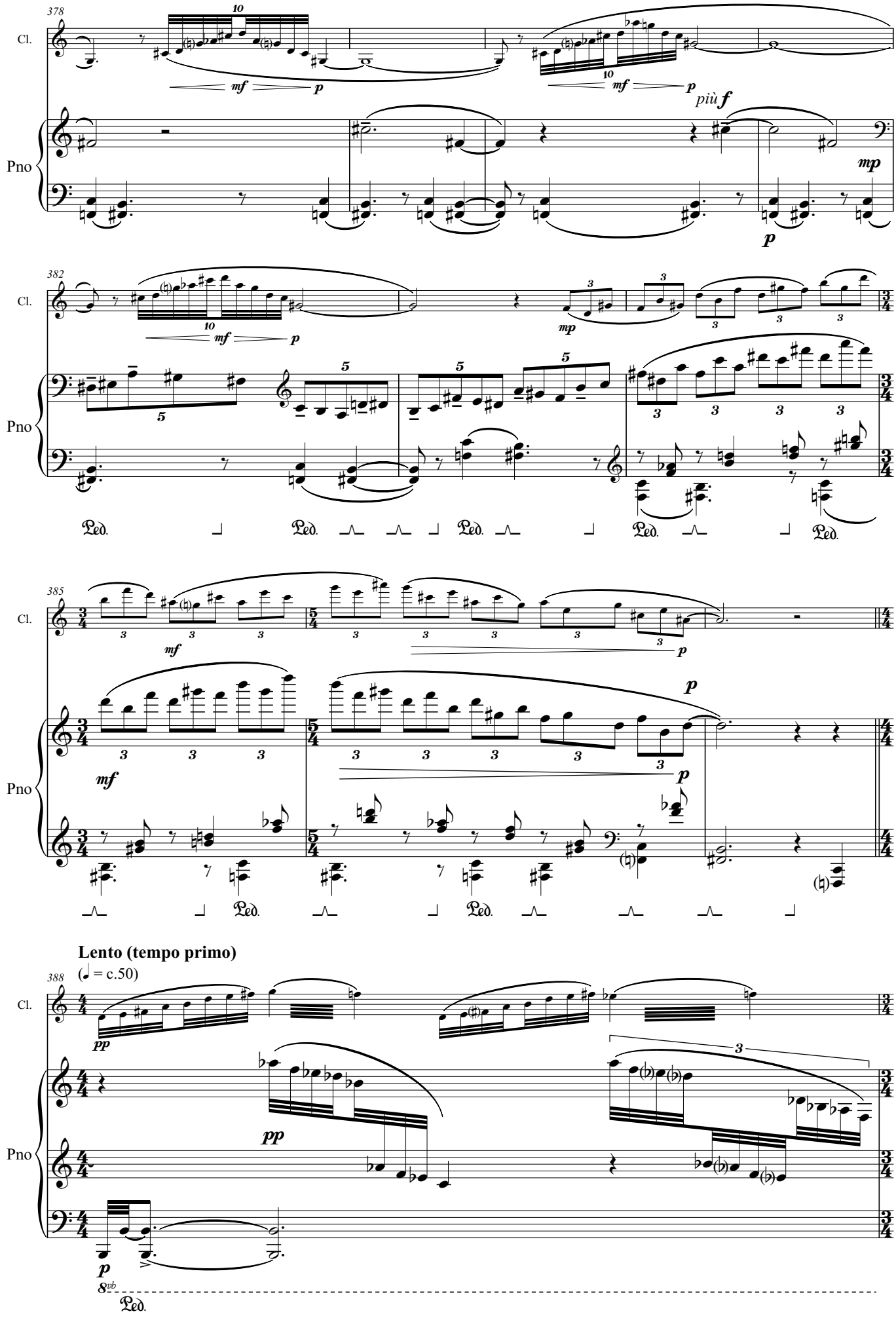
6: Night Celestial
(after Bartók)

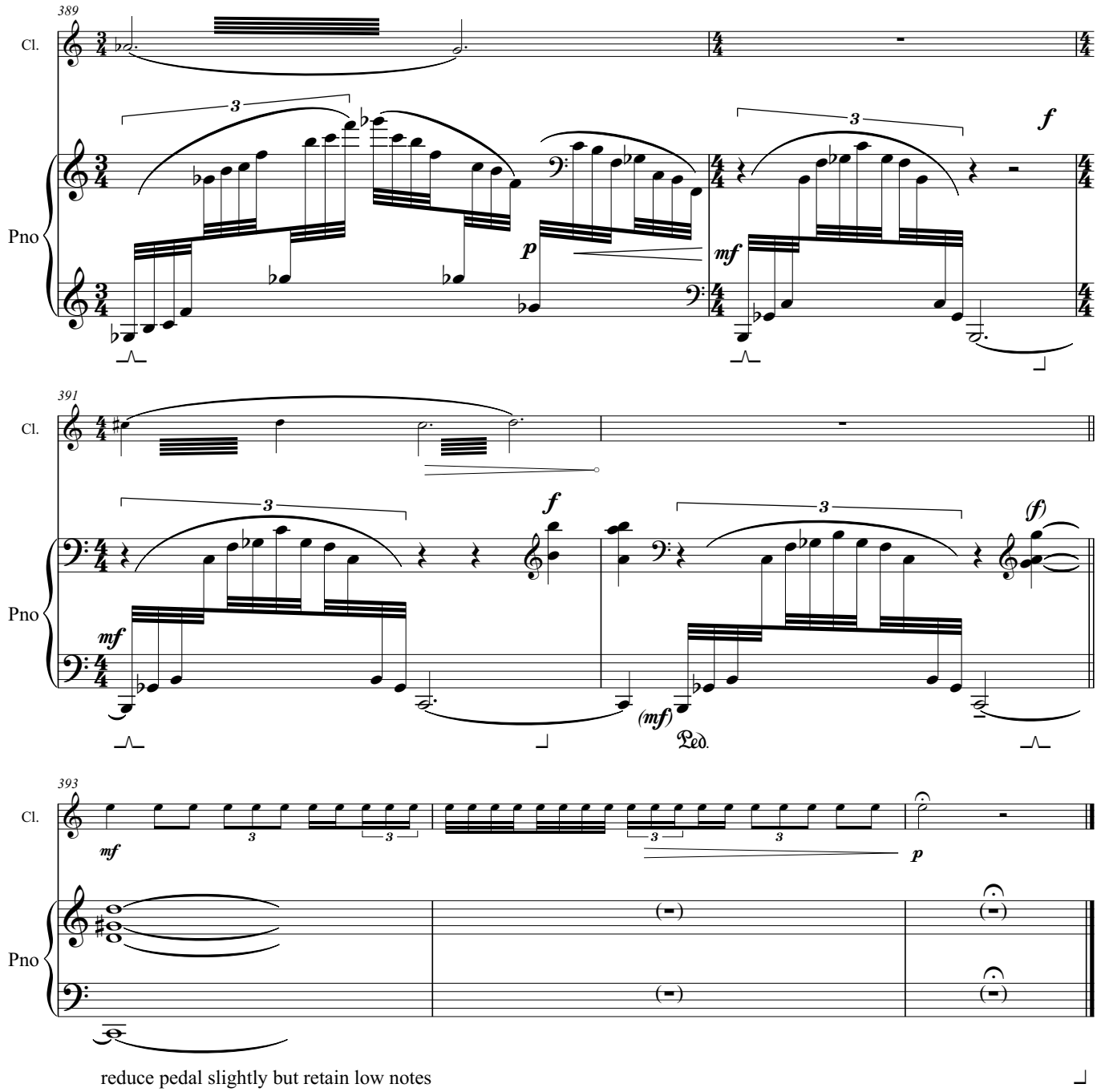


Poco più mosso

(♩ = c.58)

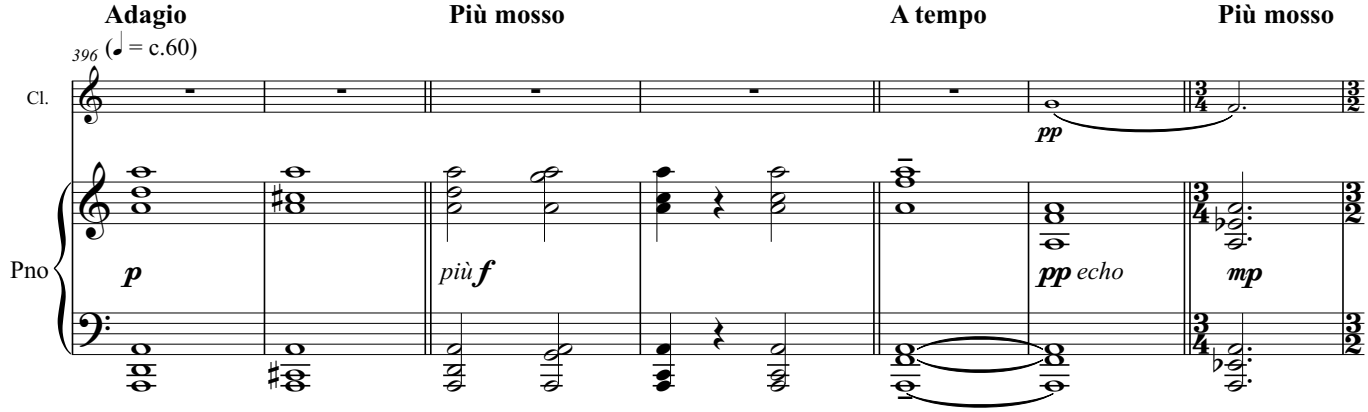


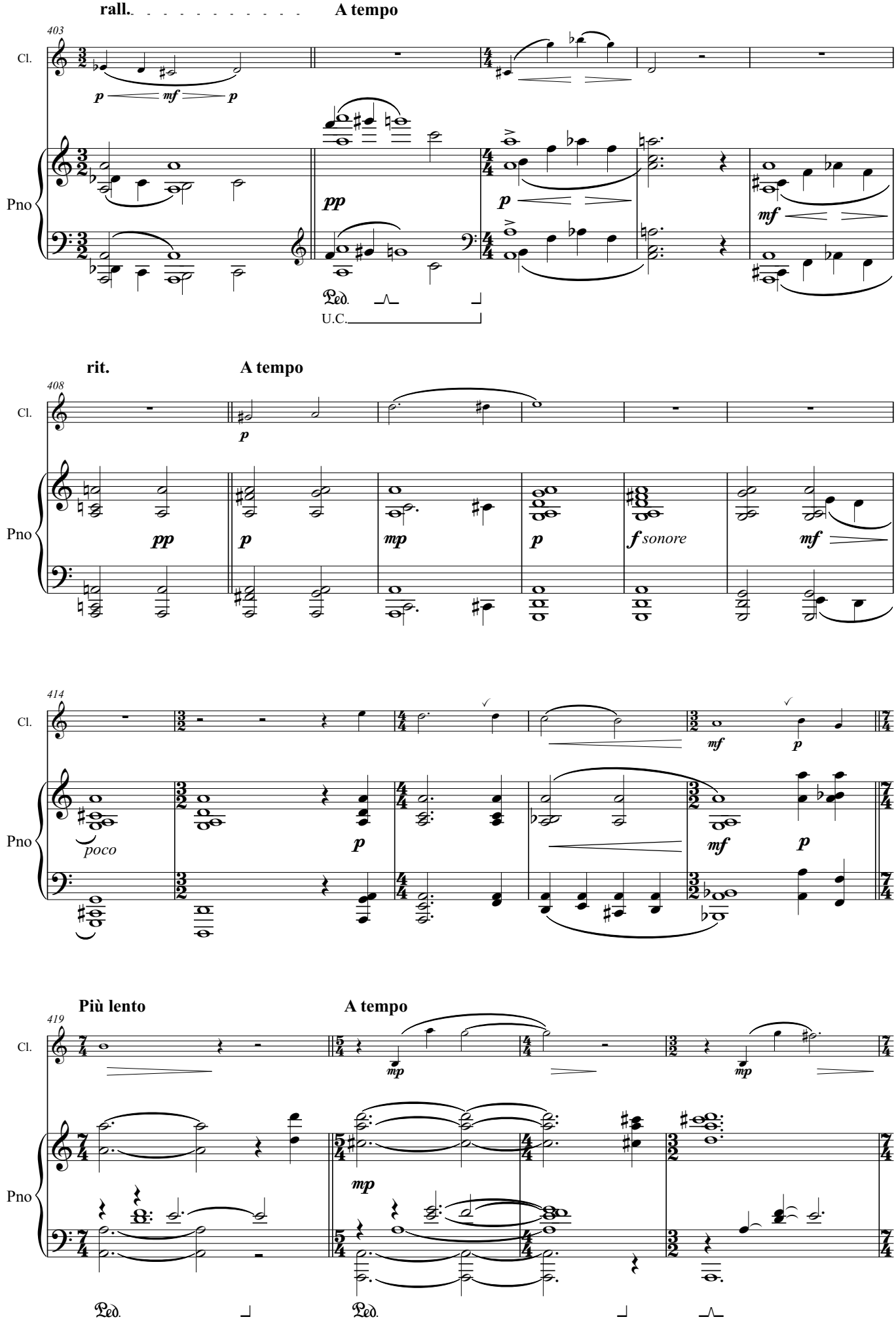

378
Cl.
Pno
mf
p
più f
mp
382
385
Lento (tempo primo)
(♩ = c.50)
388
pp
8vb
Ped.

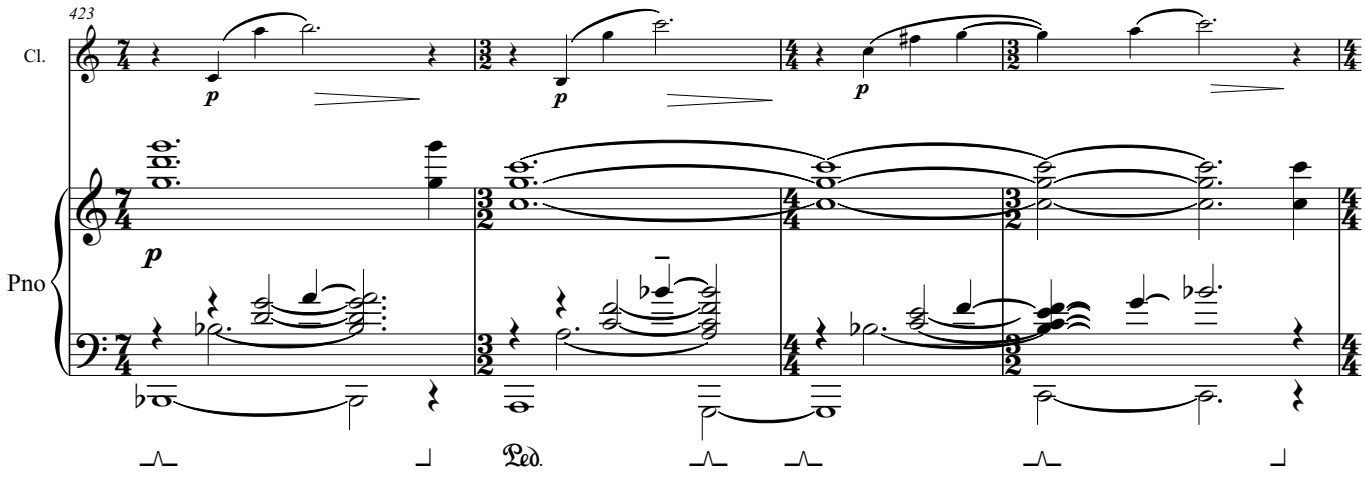


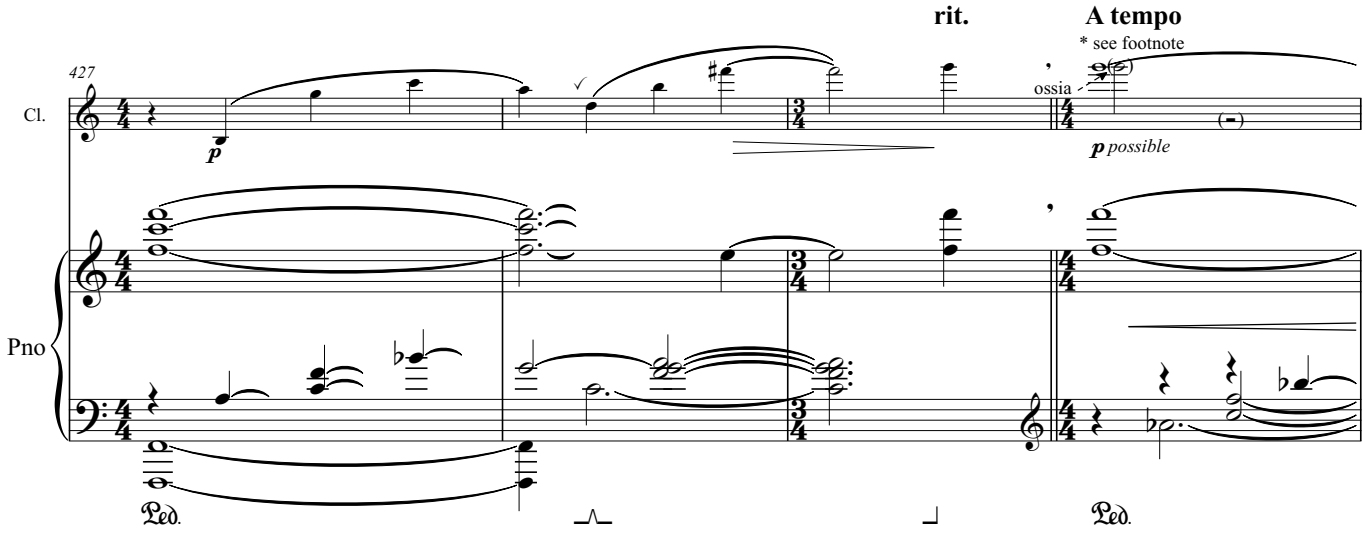
7: Lune Sacrée II

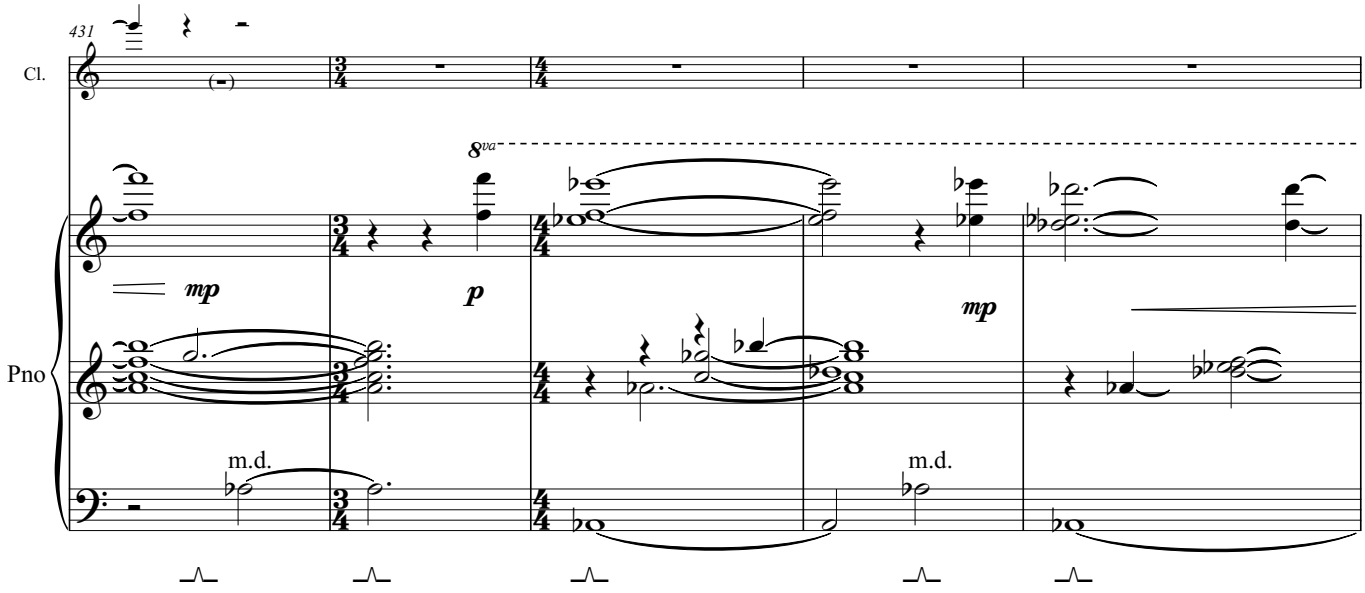
(after Stravinsky, Prokofiev looking on)



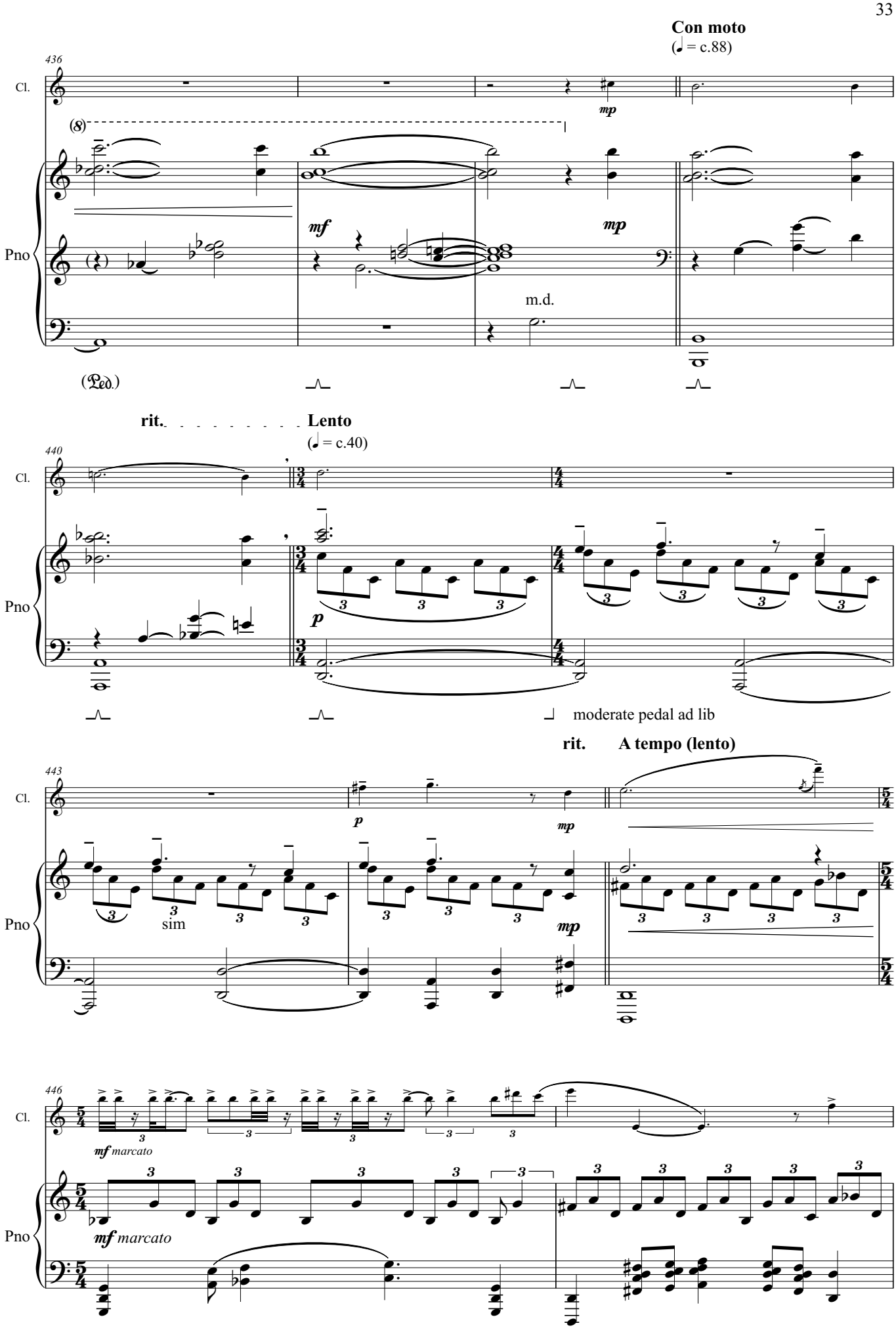

rall.
A tempo
403
Cl.
Pno
p
mf
p
pp
p
mf
Ped.
U.C.
rit.
A tempo
408
Cl.
Pno
p
pp
p
mp
p
f sonore
mf
414
Cl.
Pno
poco
p
mf
p
mf
p
Più lento
A tempo
419
Cl.
Pno
mp
mp
mp
Ped.
Ped.

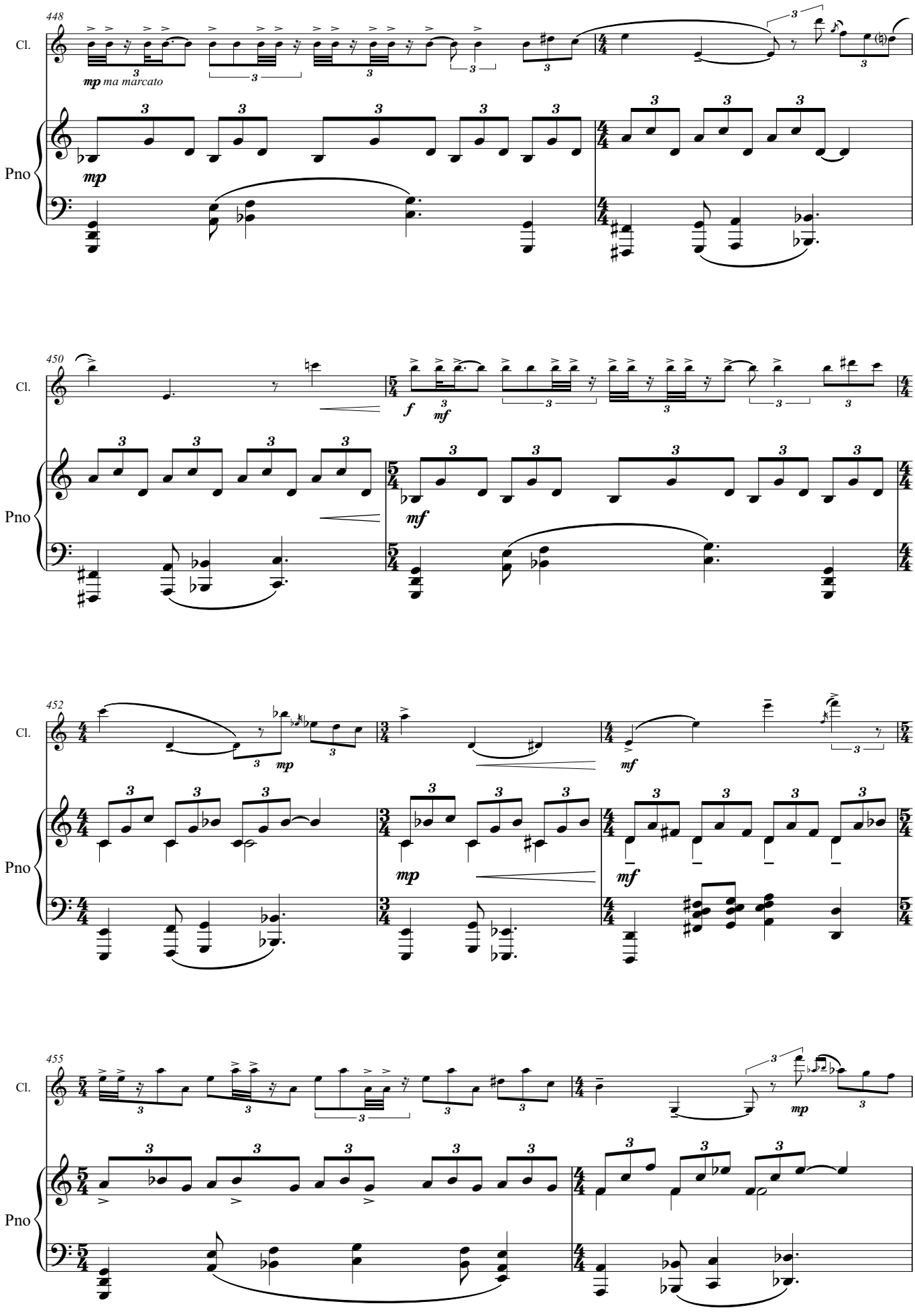


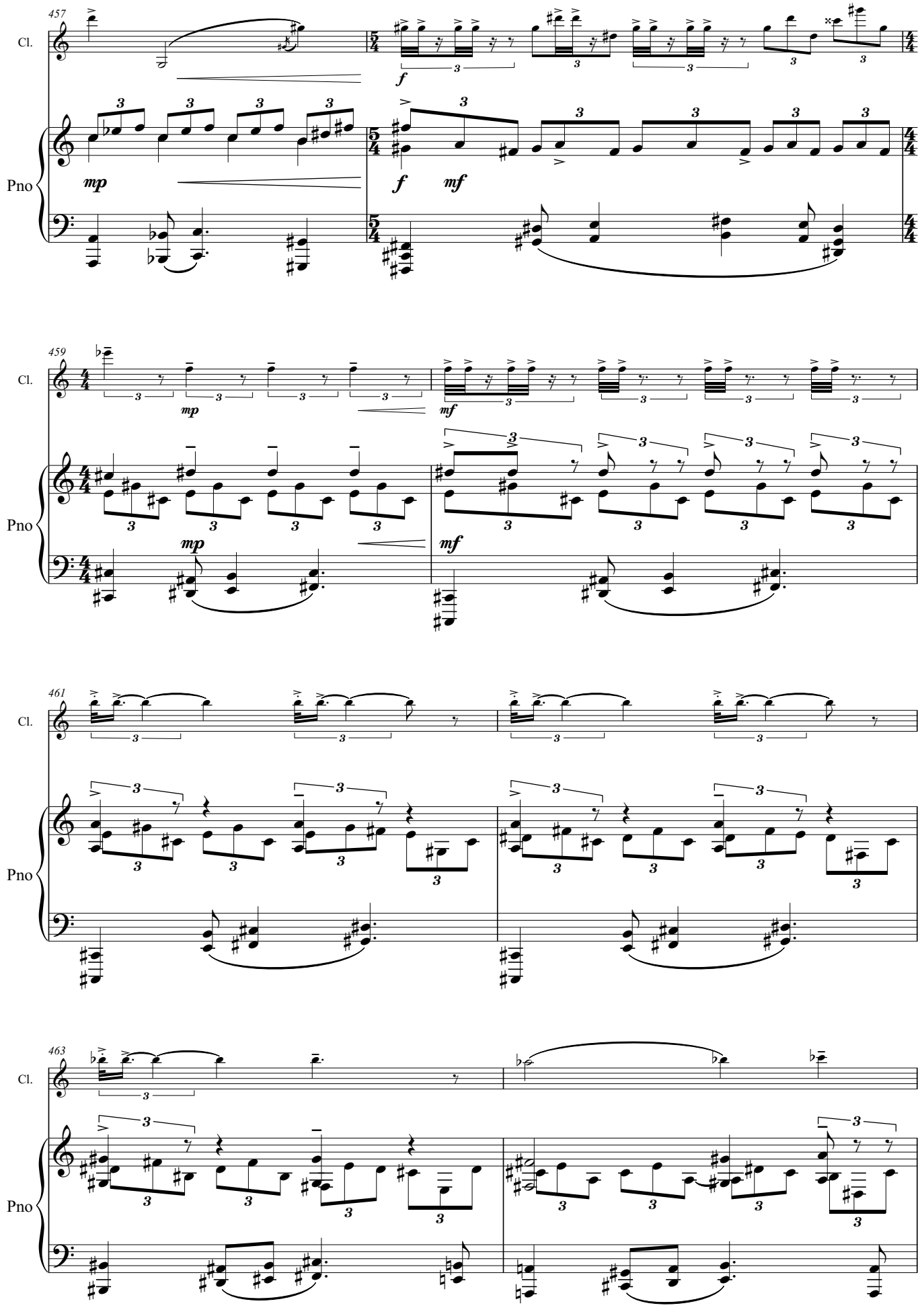


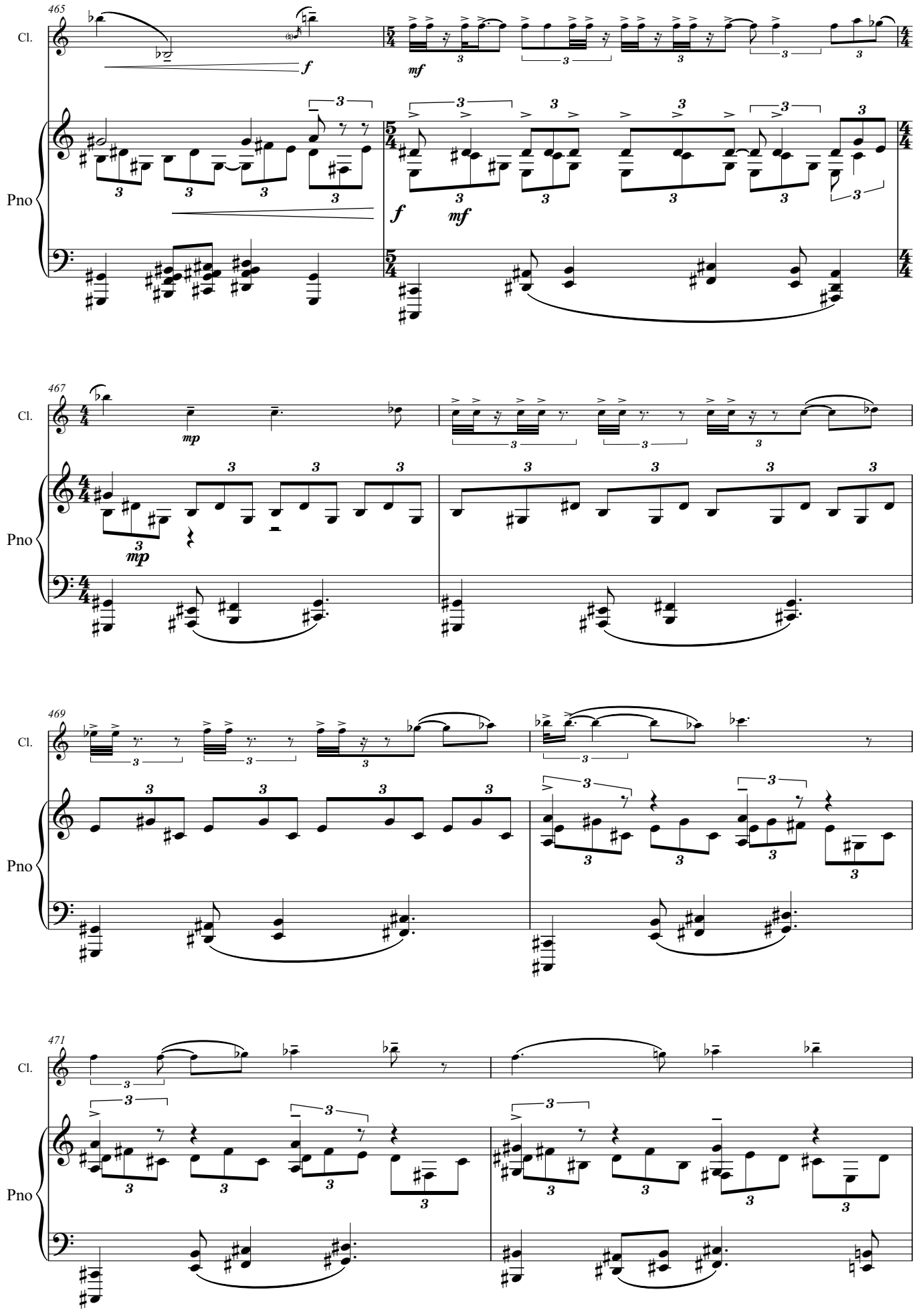


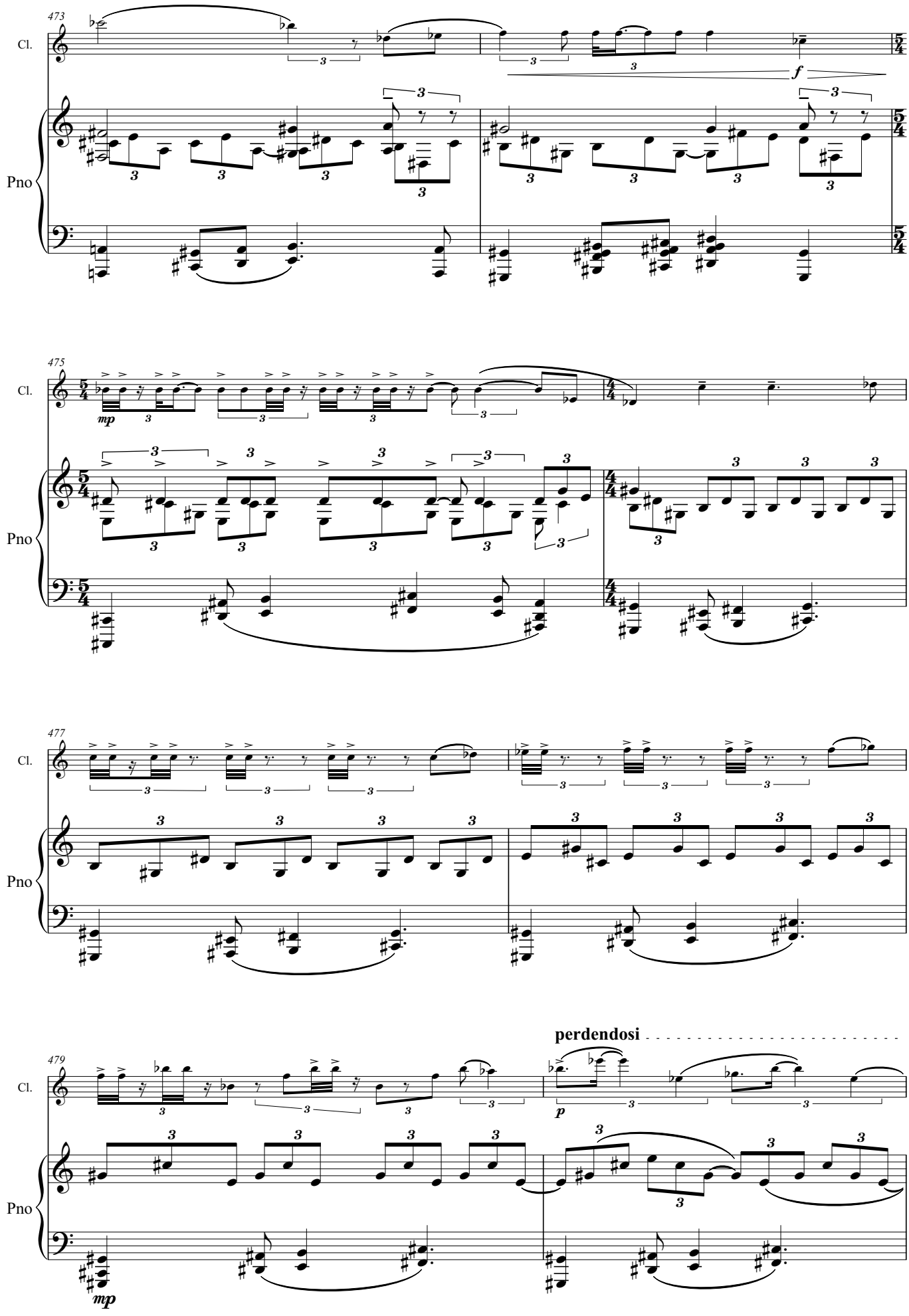
*play ossia if not possible to play extremely softly

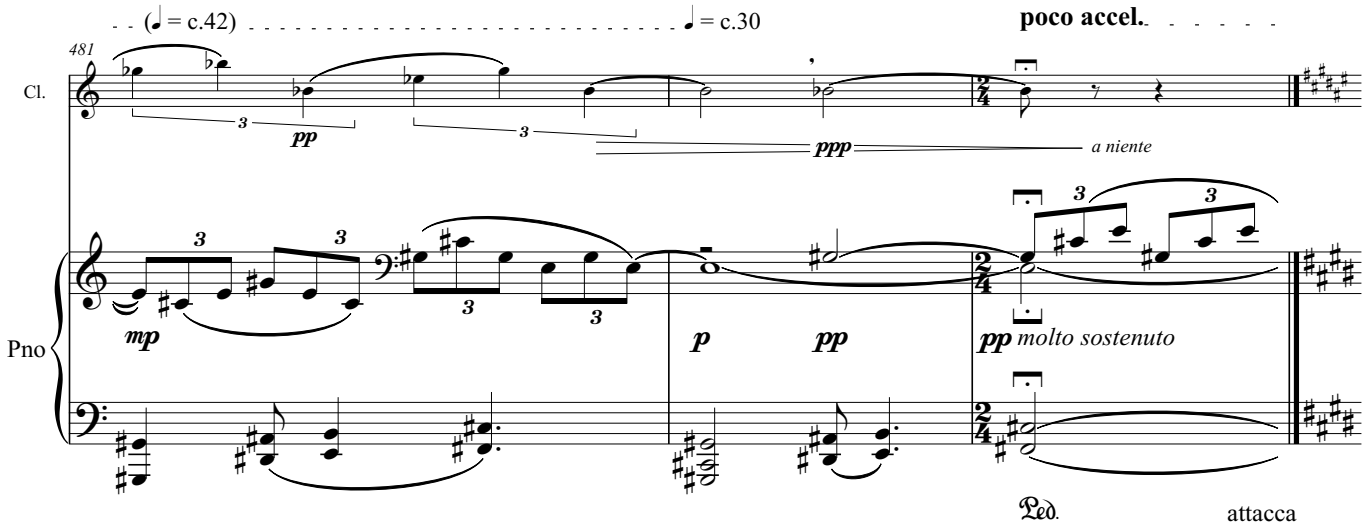

Con moto
(♩ = c.88)
436
Cl.
Pno
(8)
mp
mf
mp
m.d.
(Ped.)
rit.
Lento
(♩ = c.40)
440
Cl.
Pno
p
moderate pedal ad lib
rit.
A tempo (lento)
443
Cl.
Pno
p
mp
sim
mp
446
Cl.
Pno
mf marcato
mf marcato


448
Cl.
mp ma marcato
Pno
mp
450
Cl.
f
mf
Pno
mf
452
Cl.
mp
mf
Pno
mp
mf
455
Cl.
mp
Pno

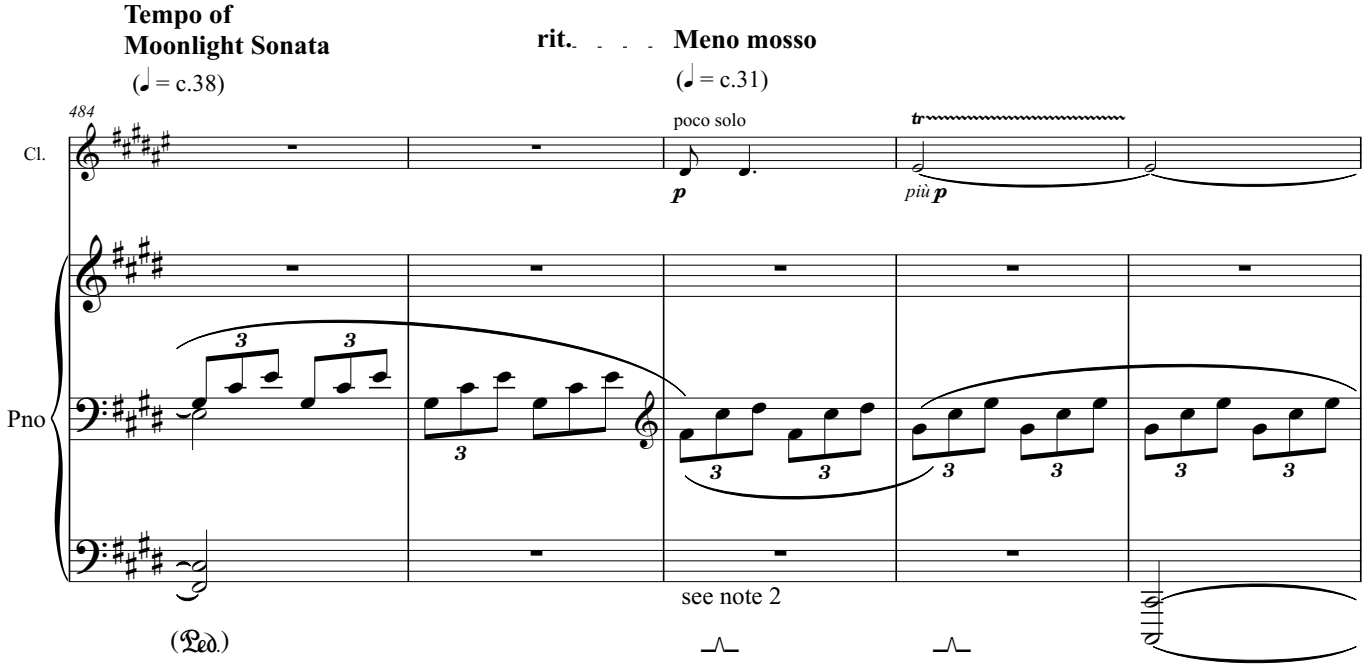

457
Cl.
Pno
mp
f
mf
459
461
463

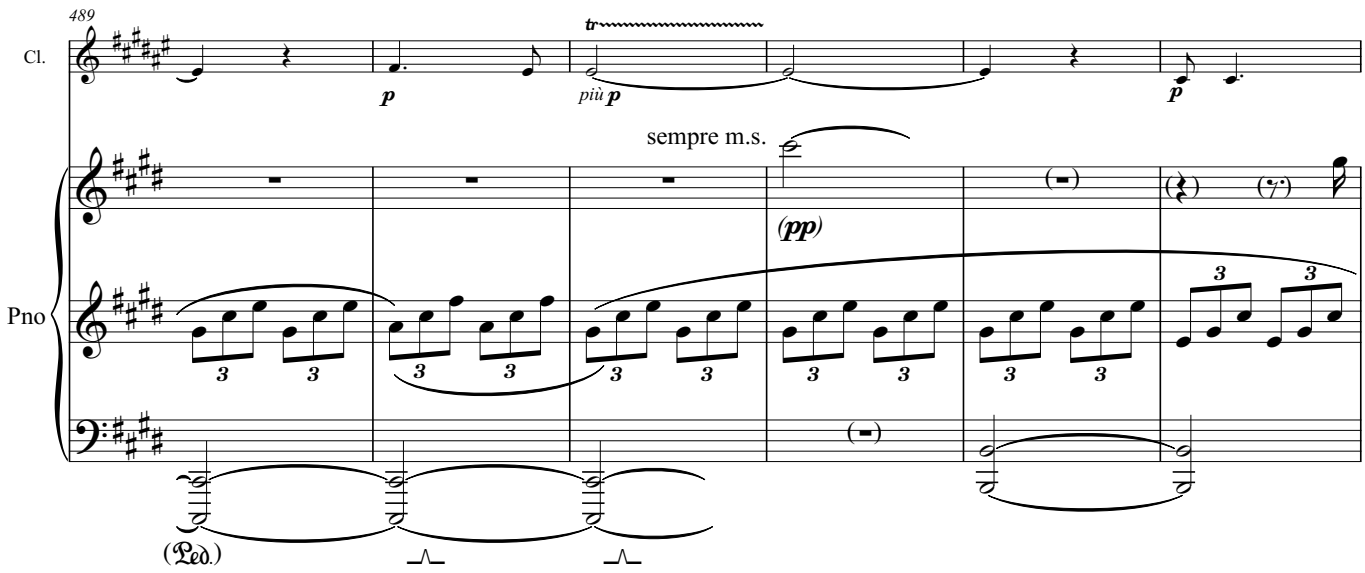

465
Cl.
Pno
f
mf
f
mf
467
Cl.
Pno
mp
mp
469
Cl.
Pno
471
Cl.
Pno


473
Cl.
Pno
f
475
mp
477
479
perdendosi
p
mp

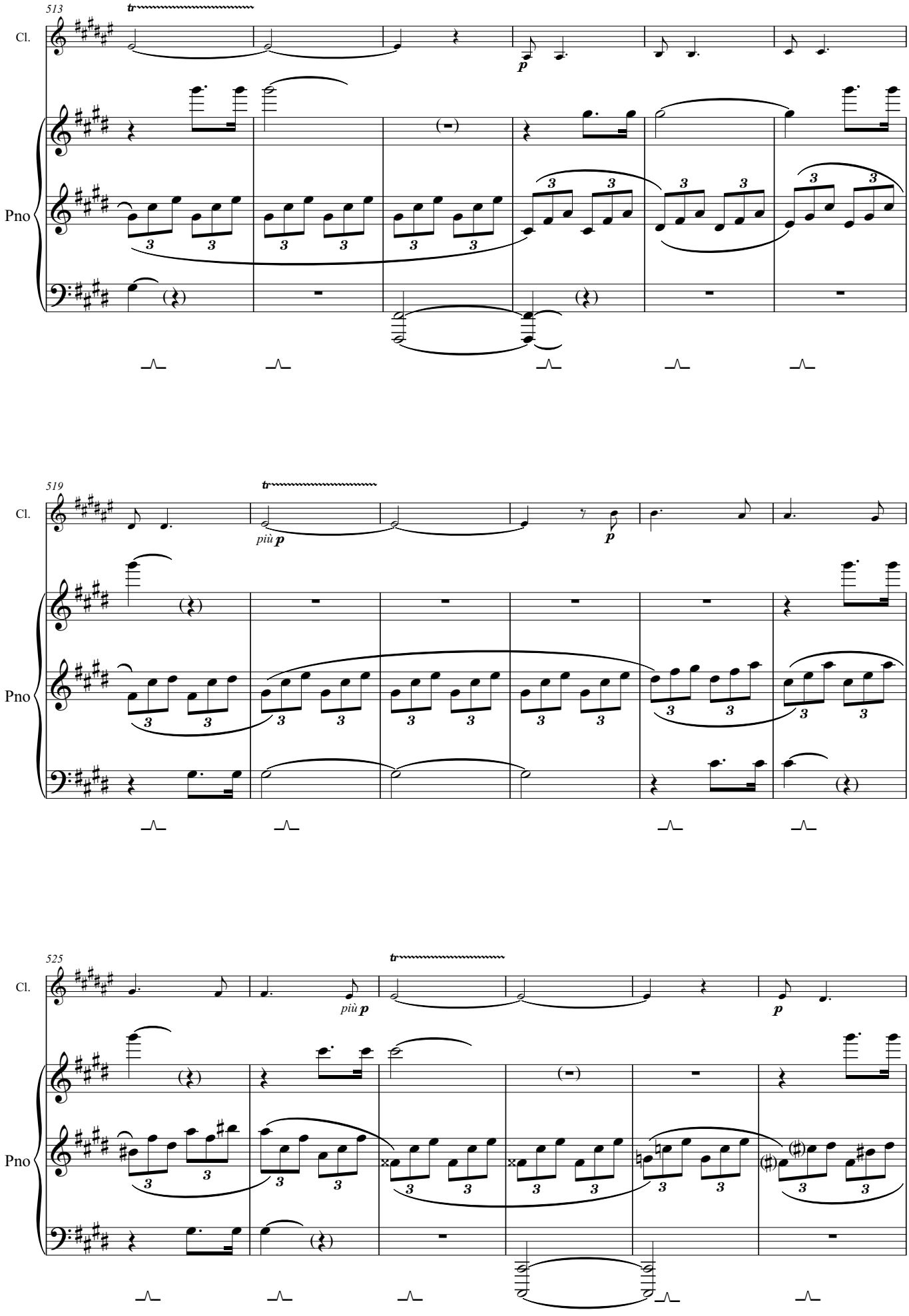


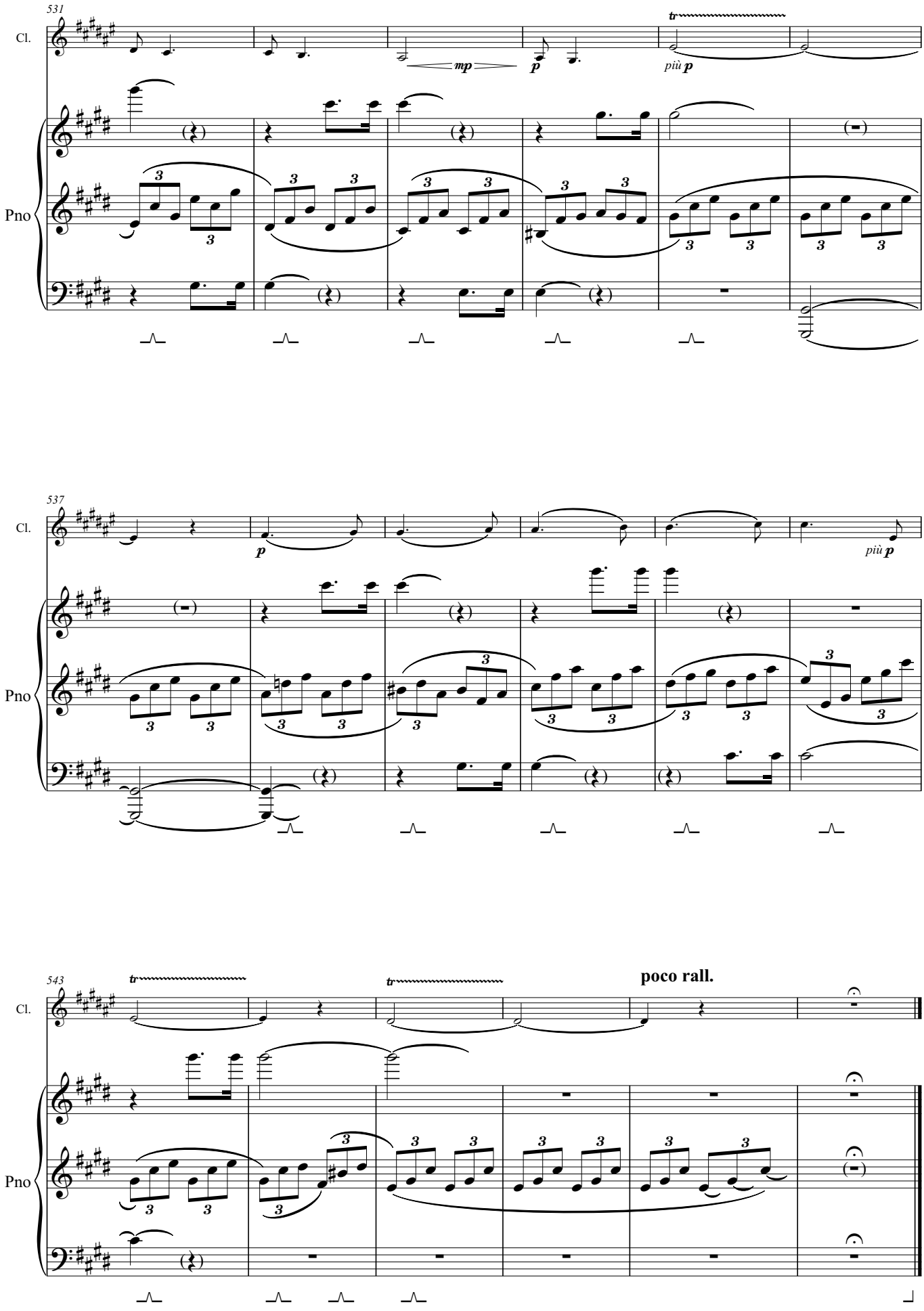
8: Mirrored Moonlight
(after Pärt)





495
Cl.
tr
più p
p
Pno
501
Cl.
tr
più p
p
Pno
507
Cl.
tr
più p
p
più p
Pno


513
Cl.
Pno
519
più p
525
più p


531
Cl.
Pno
mp
p
tr
più p
537
Cl.
Pno
p
più p
543
Cl.
Pno
tr
tr
poco rall.

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