***Sinfonietta for String Orchestra* – Barbara Harbach**

Sinfonietta for String Orchestra is a petite symphony in three movements. The first movement, *Hommage*, is dedicated to all lost love and loved ones. The form is a loose rondo in six sections (ABACBA). The first section opens with a mournful descending line in the first violins, and this motive is soon taken up by all the strings but the double bass. Each entrance is a third apart with the bass adding harmonic support. The next section reveals the entire theme that is partially quoted at the beginning of the piece with murmurings in the viola and second violins, but now in a faster tempo. This material is developed with imitations and a key change. The melodic motive of the opening section returns, and in a new key before leading into the third section. The theme of this section is reminiscent of "In the Cold in the Deep in the Dark," Alexandra's aria from Harbach's *O Pioneers!* (libretto by Jonathan Yordy). In this aria, Alexandra mourns the death of her murdered brother, Emil.

Where should I look for goodness,
After all reason has fled?
Where should I look for love and hope,
After such feelings are dead?

Where can I seek forgiveness?
What is the use of prayer?
What should I do with memories
That are too painful to bear?

> In the cold in the deep in the dark
> In the silence of the grave
> In the cold of my deep unknowing
> I must find the cold strength to be brave.

The cello begins the aria melody accompanied by pizzicato strings. Then the first violins take their turn with the theme, but change the mode of the melody from minor to major. The movement rounds out by bringing back the melodic material of the opening, ending quietly with acquiescence to fate.

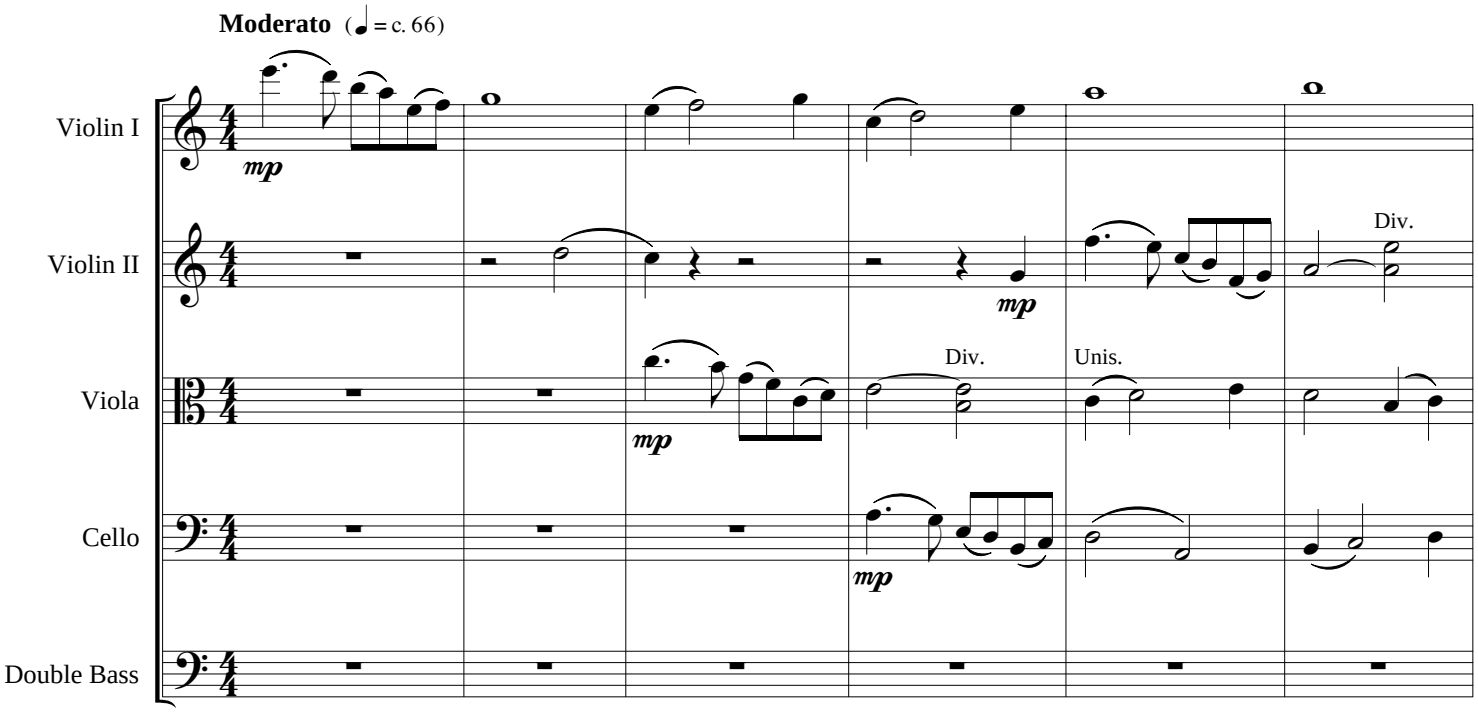
Beginning with imitation based on a two-measure motive, *Jeu Jeu,* plays with rests, slurs and staccatos in a five-part form (ABACA). The first violins have their own theme, also punctuated with rests before morphing into a new treatment of Marie's "Moon Waltz" from *O Pioneers!*, still with the same ostinato opening motive accompanying.

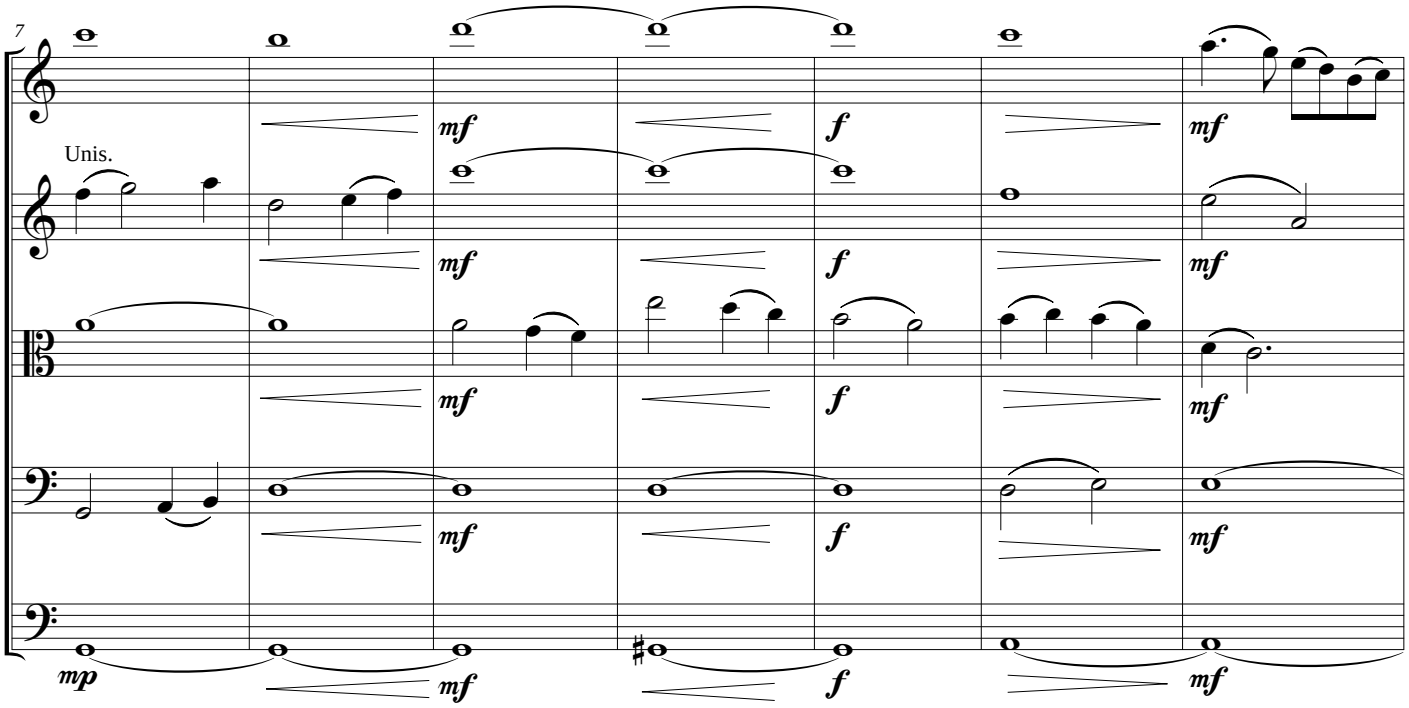
A child gazes at the moon
Rising in the sky.
She hangs her dreams upon that moon
And dreams
And dreams
And dreams as the years go by.
And this becomes her moon-watch,
When she is filled with moon-thoughts,

Sinfonietta for String Orchestra

I. Hommage

BARBARA HARBACH





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14

accel.

Div.

Unis.

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mp

Moderato (♩ = c. 88)

20

f

II. Jeu Jeu

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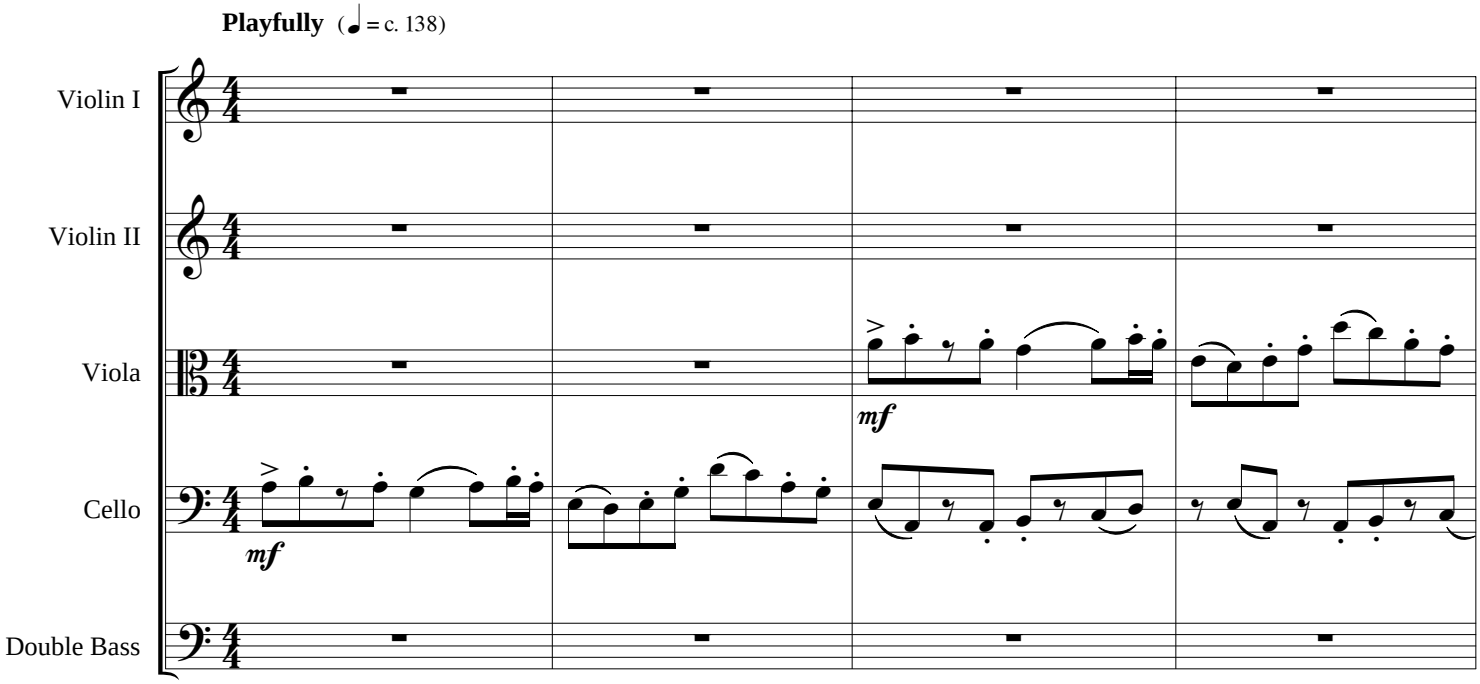

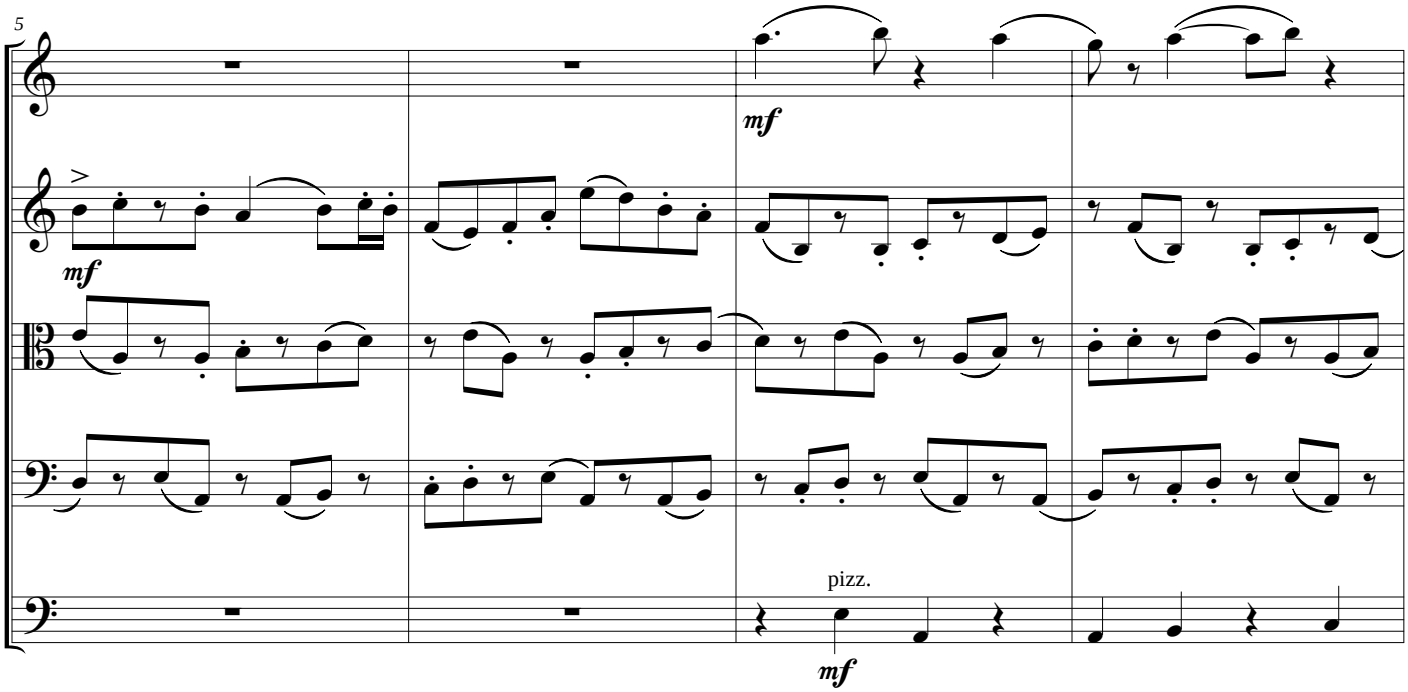

In the passages with pizzicato, the slurs and articulation marks only demonstrate the gesture of the music and are not to interfere with the execution of the pizzicato.

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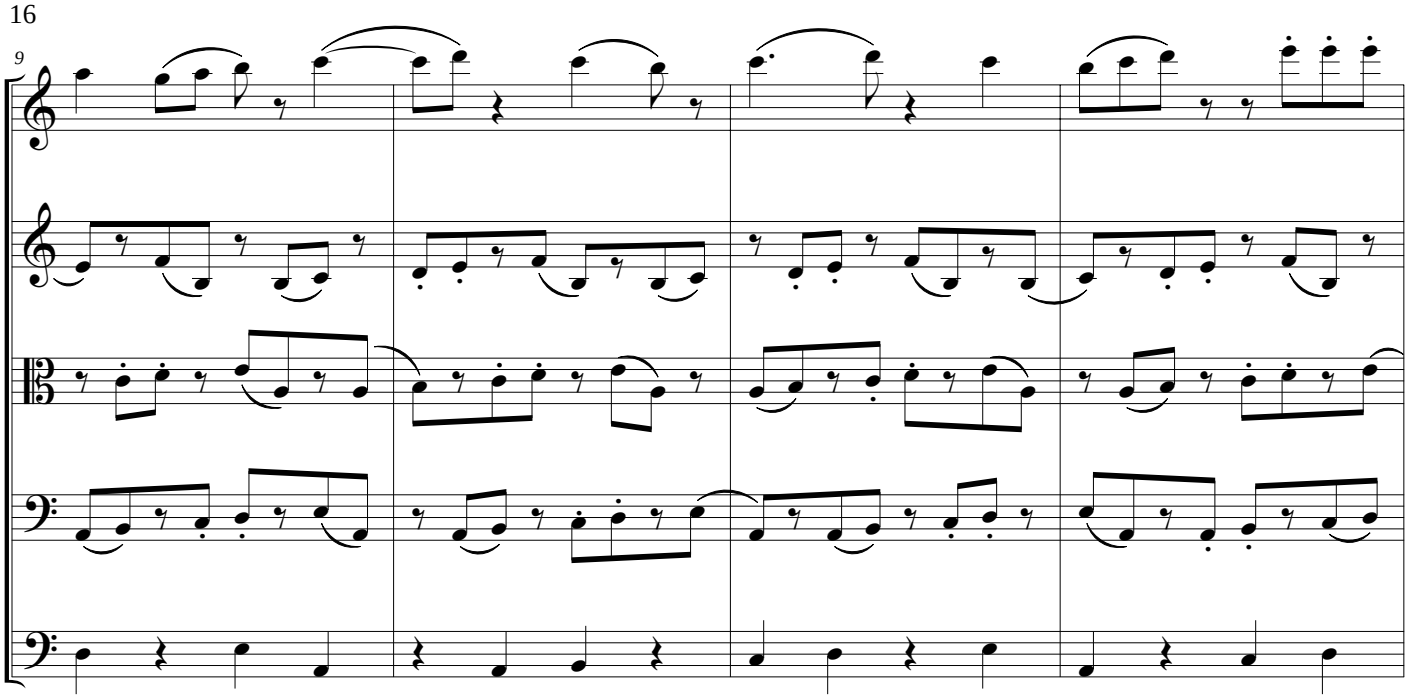

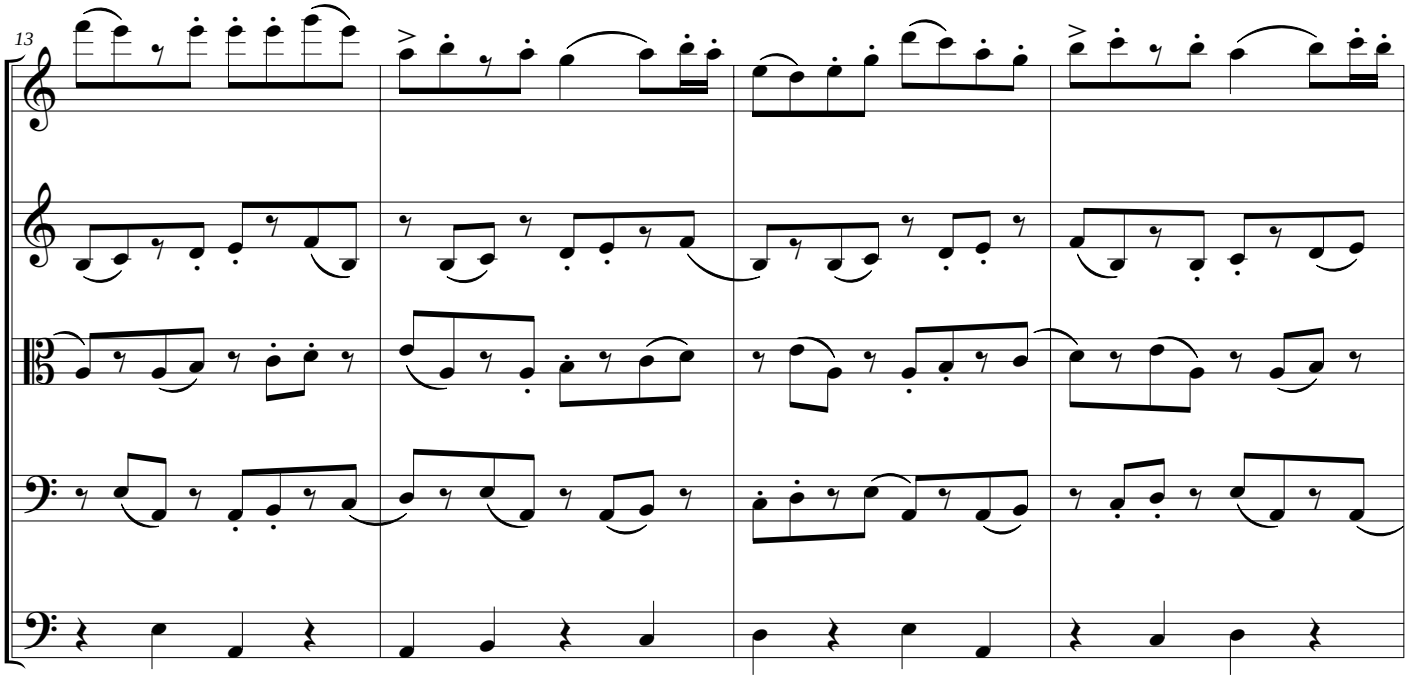

III. Pastiche

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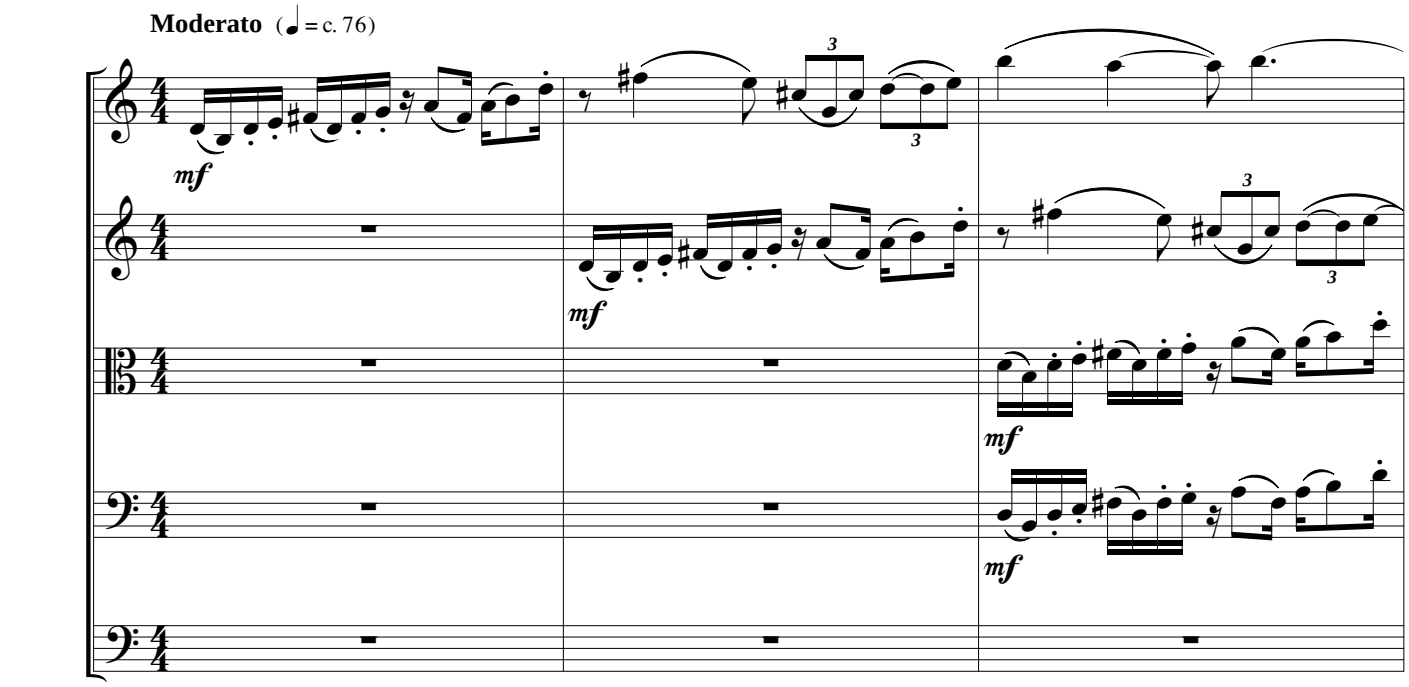

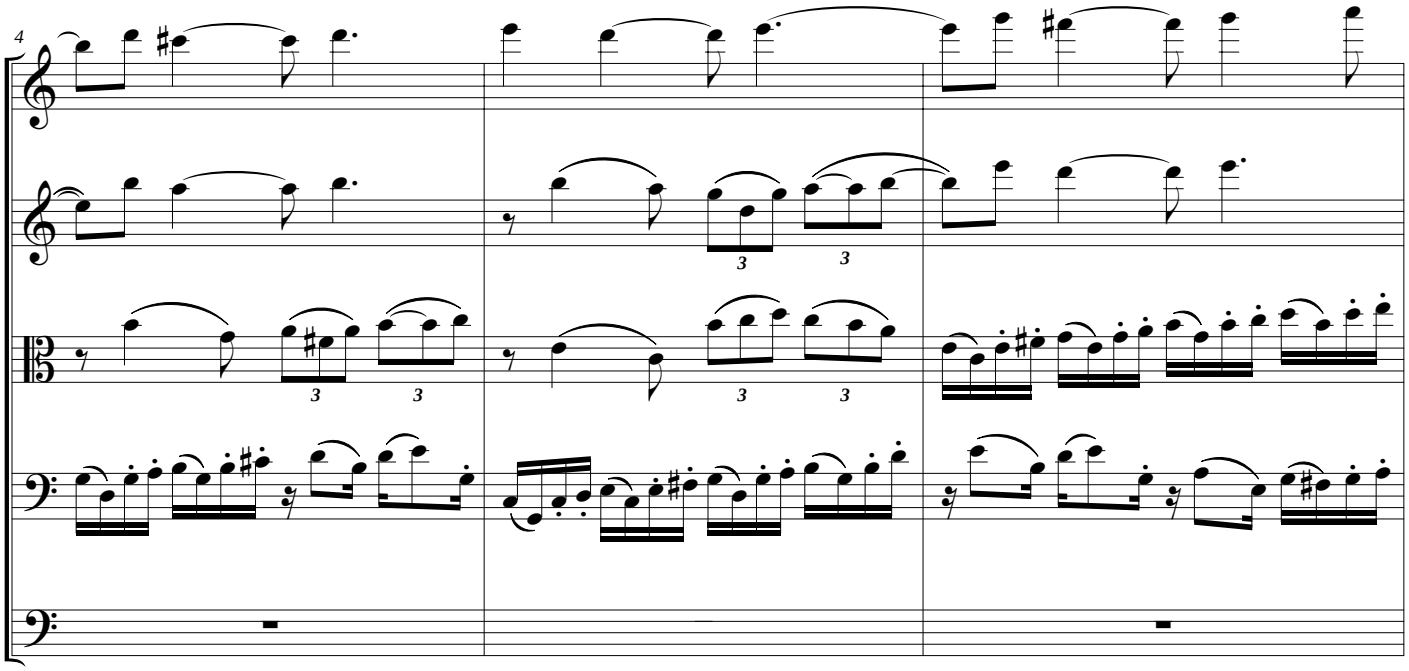

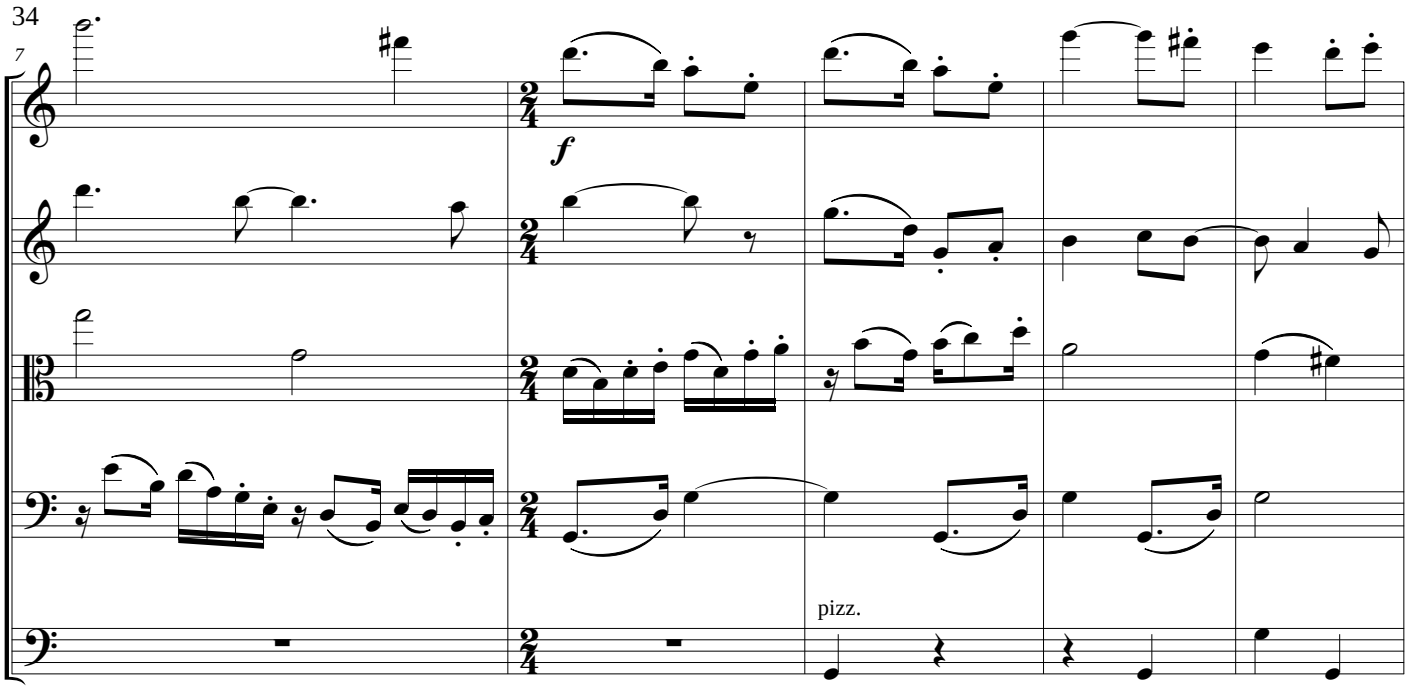
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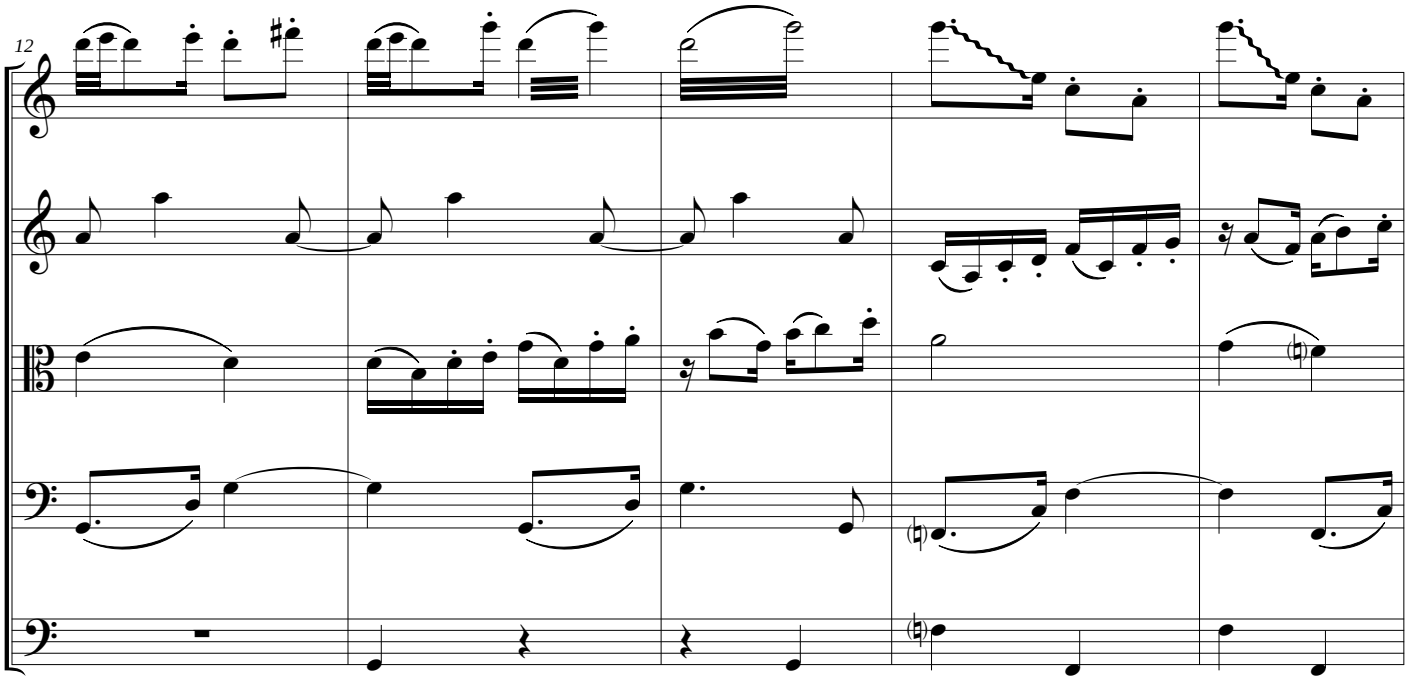
pizz.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