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Suite for Cello

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GEORGE LAM

SUITE

for cello

MANCHESTER LIGHTHOUSE MUSIC

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Preface

Suite for Cello was commissioned by Sara Sitzer for the inaugural Gesher Music Festival of Emerging Artists, which featured music that connects classical chamber music and the Jewish perspective. As my contribution to the festival's program, this suite is both a conversation with my favorite solo cello repertoire (including music by Bach, Britten and Ligeti) as well as a conversation with the Jewish tradition itself.

The suite contains four movements. The *Nocturne* and *Serenade* – two "night-songs" – open and close the work, recalling the cycles of sunrise and sunset, natural events that both begin and end a day of ritual and worship. The second movement retells a story where Elijah and Rabbi Baroka of Hoza'a discuss various people destined for the World To Come, where the cello portrays the many different characters in the scene. The third movement is a set of variations on the shofar's sound, and is based on the natural harmonic series of the cello.

Duration: approximately 11 minutes.

Suite for cello was commissioned by Sara Sitzer and the Gesher Music Festival of Emerging Artists. The work was first performed by Sara Sitzer on June 24, 2011, at the St. Louis Jewish Community Center.

Special thanks to Brian Howard.

An electronic copy of the score is available as a free download at www.gtlam.com.

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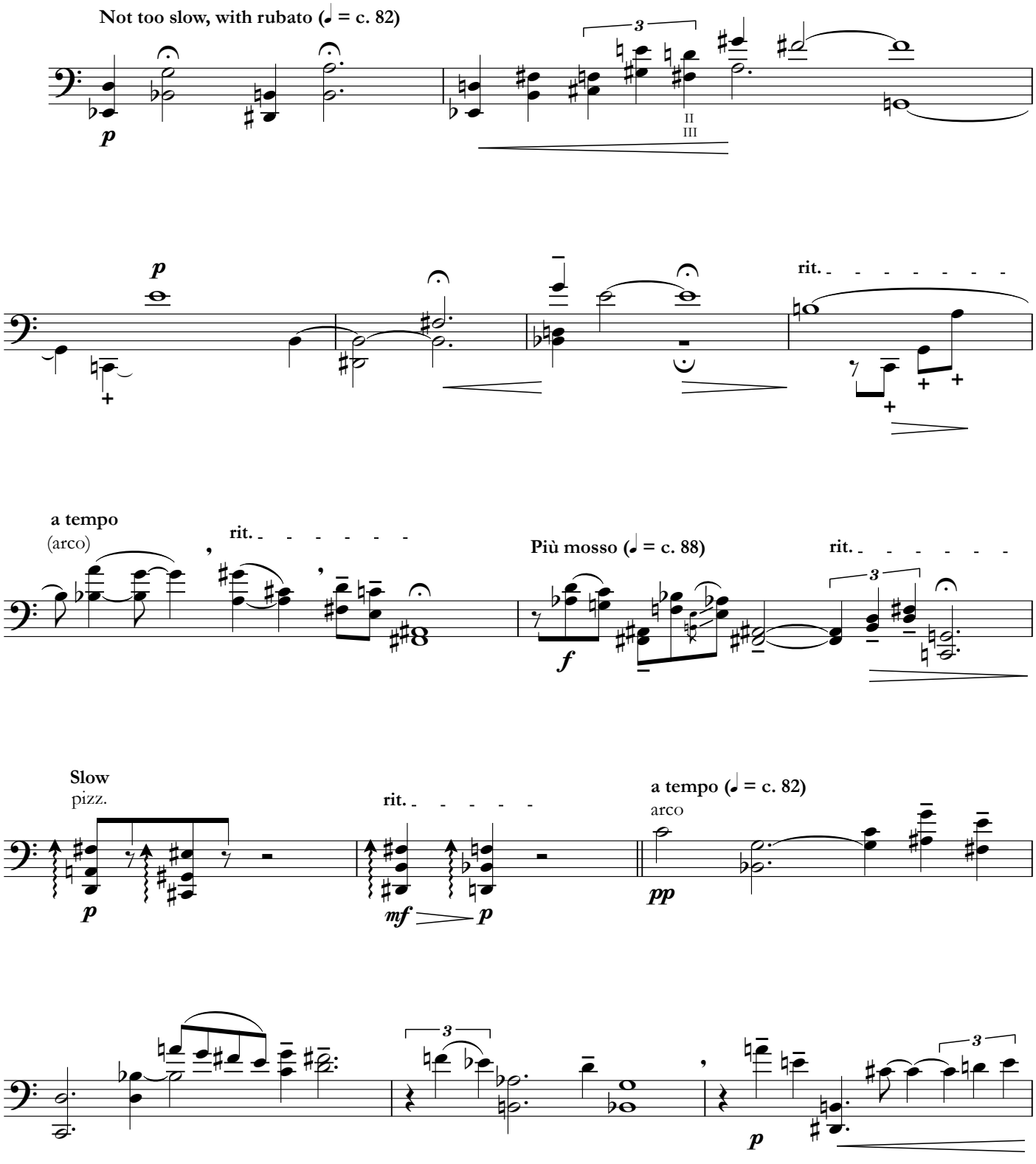
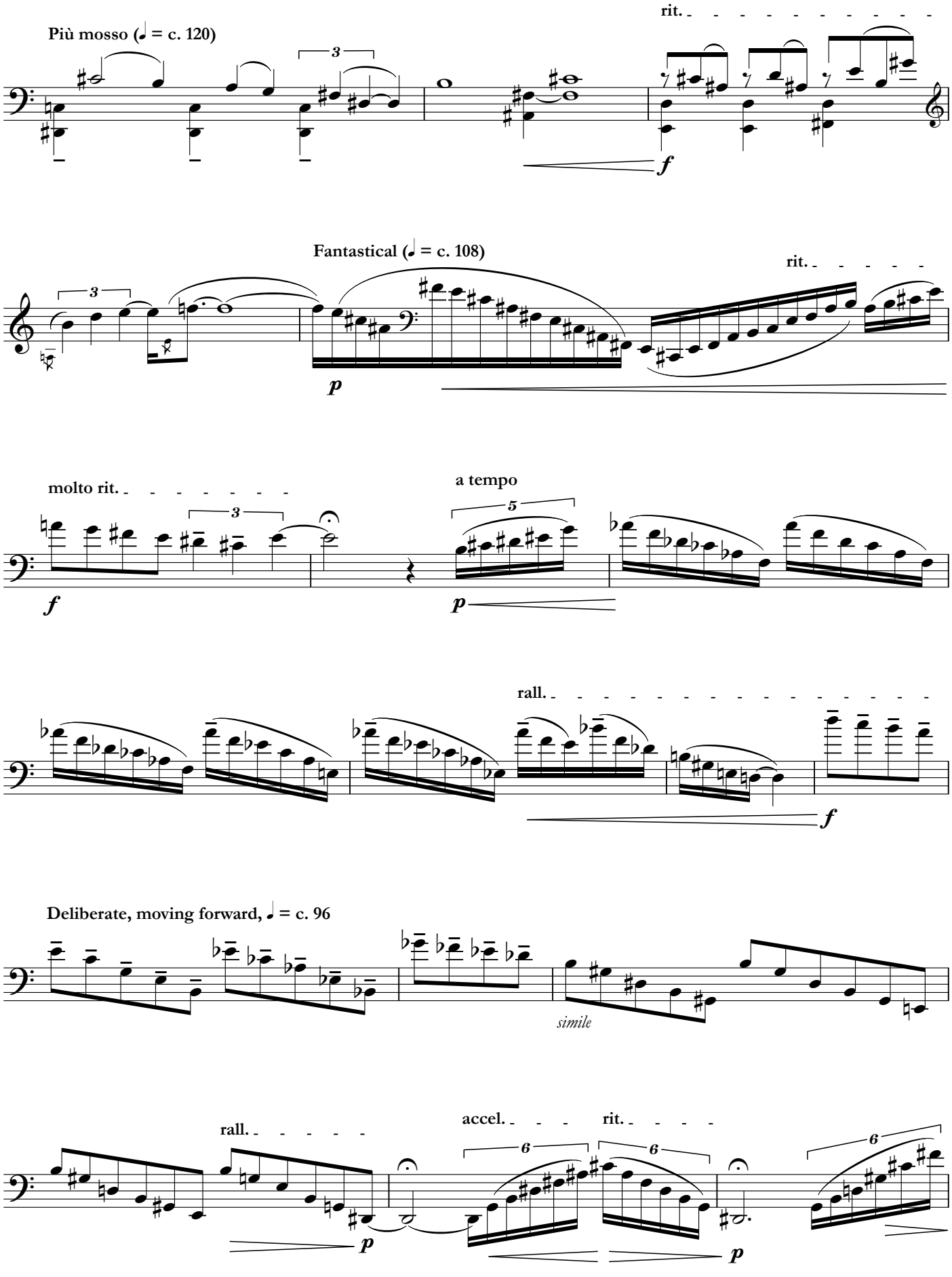
for Sara Sitzer

SUITE FOR CELLO

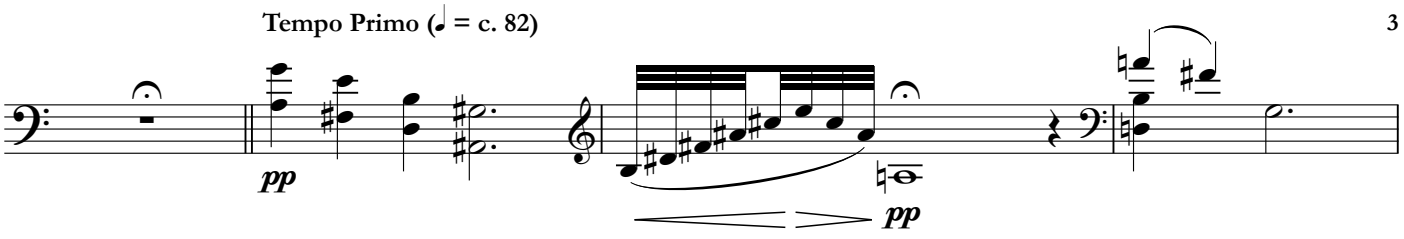
GEORGE LAM (2011)

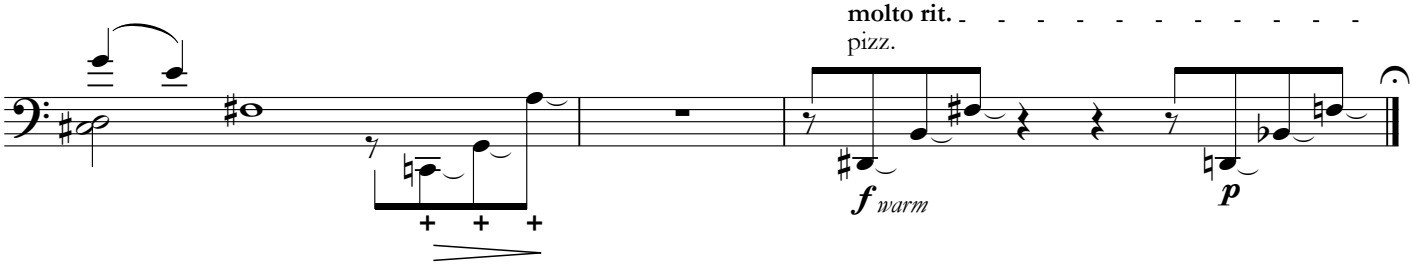
Nocturne




Più mosso (♩ = c. 120)
rit.
Fantastical (♩ = c. 108)
rit.
molto rit.
a tempo
rall.
Deliberate, moving forward, ♩ = c. 96
simile
rall.
accel.
rit.

Tempo Primo (♩ = c. 82)



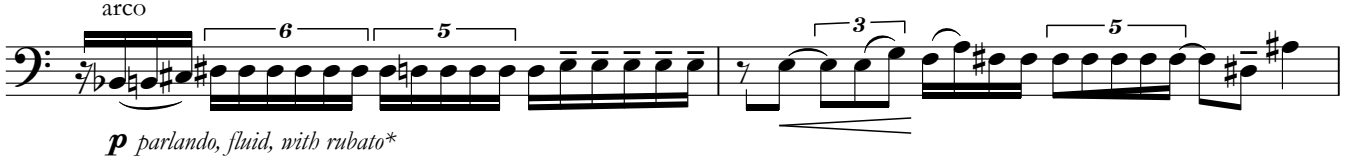


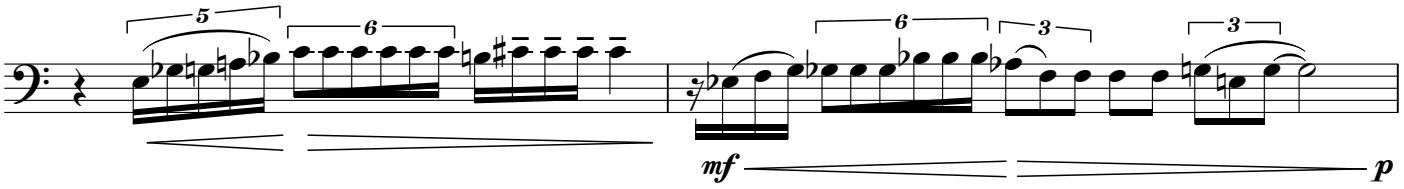
Elijah and the Rabbi on the World To Come

Always moving forward, ♩ = c. 88

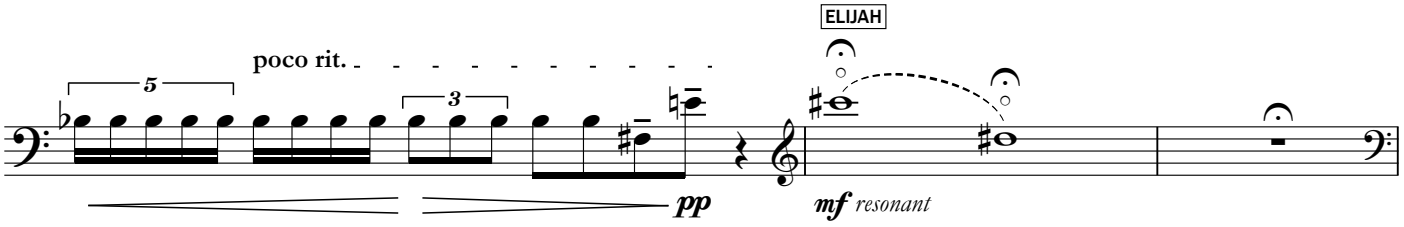
RABBI

arco

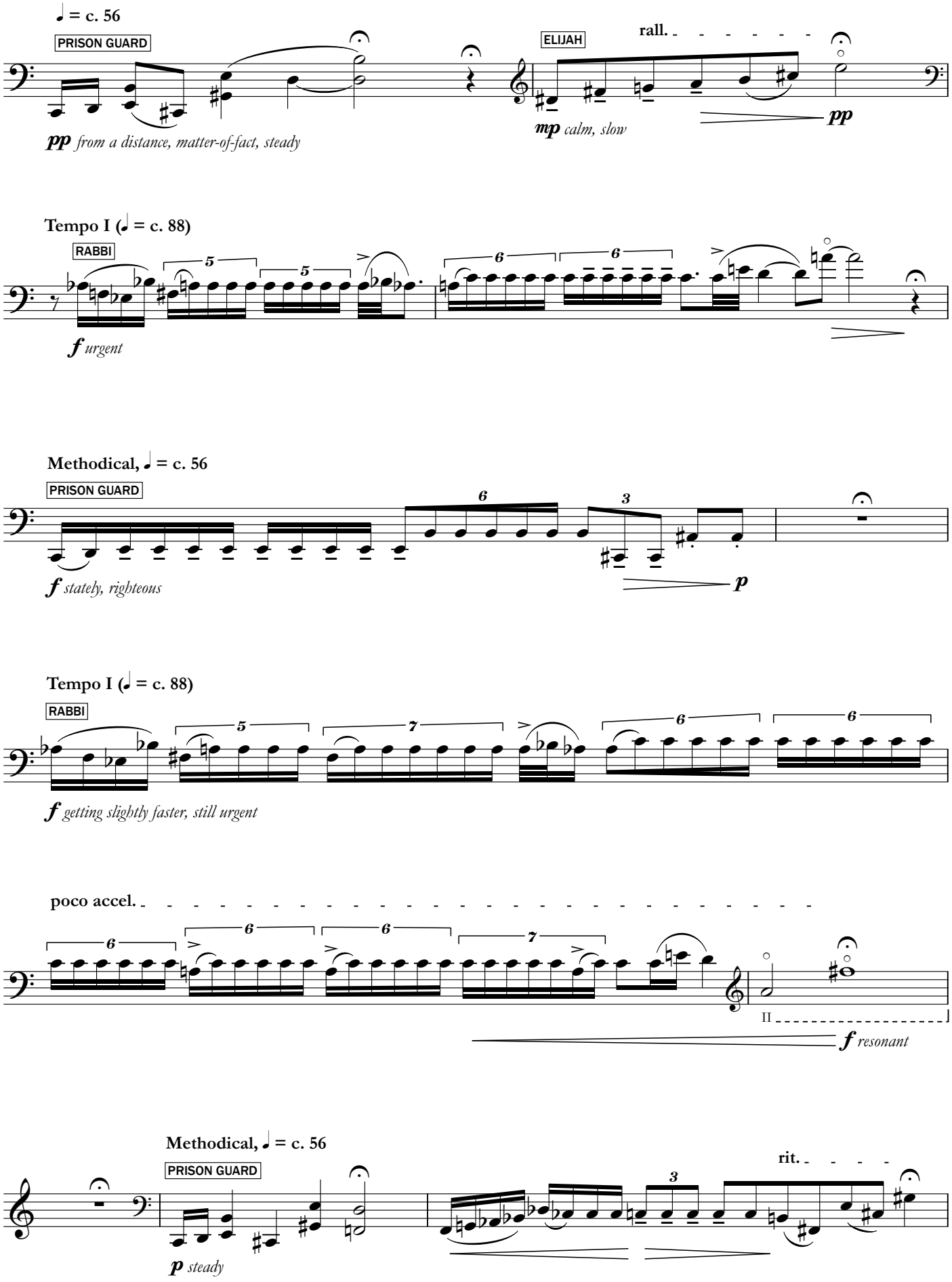


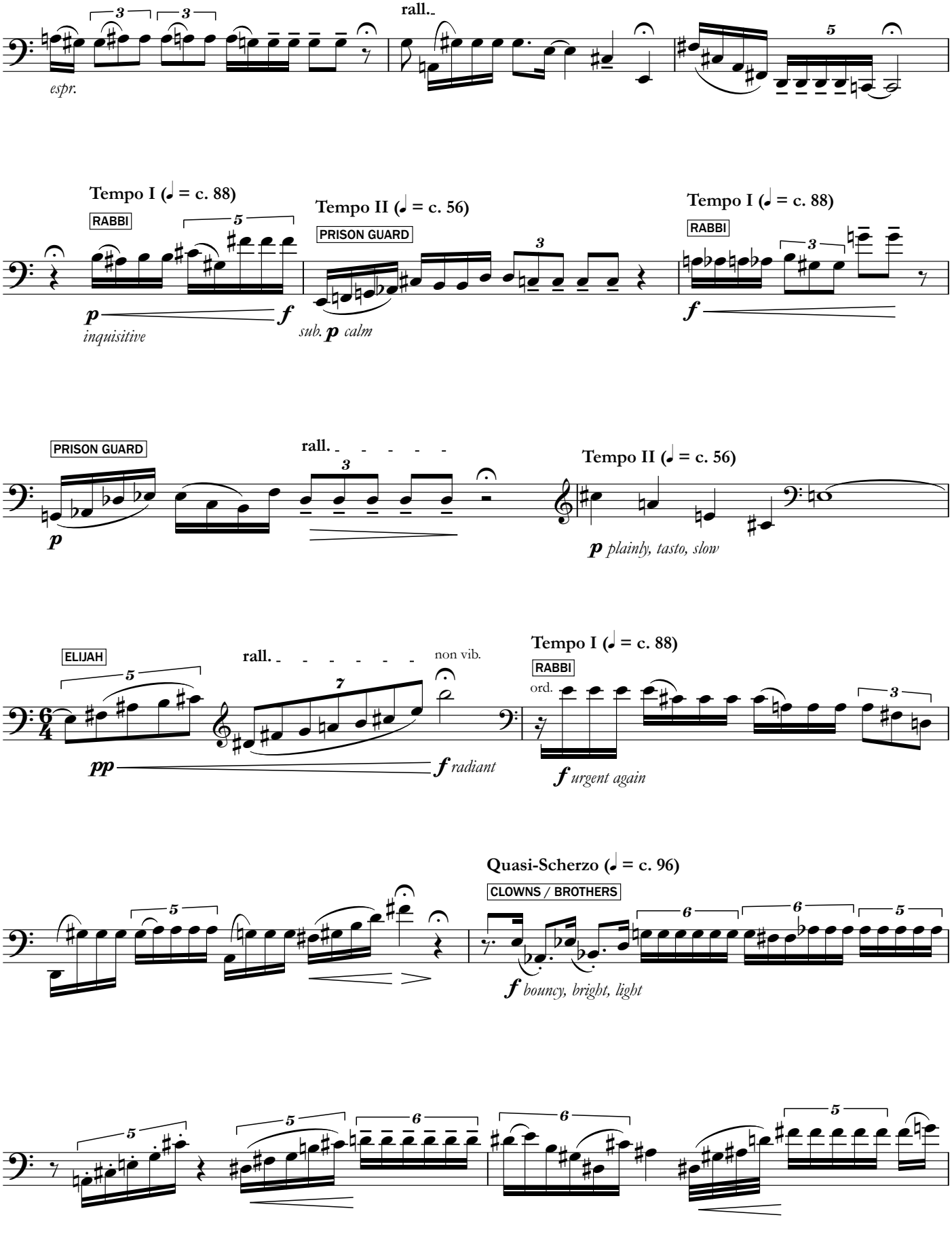


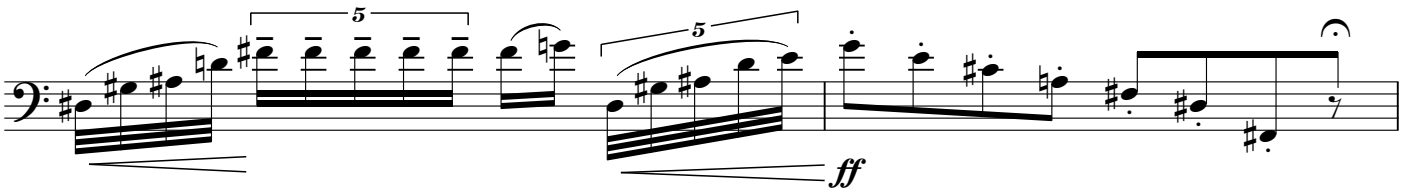
ELIJAH

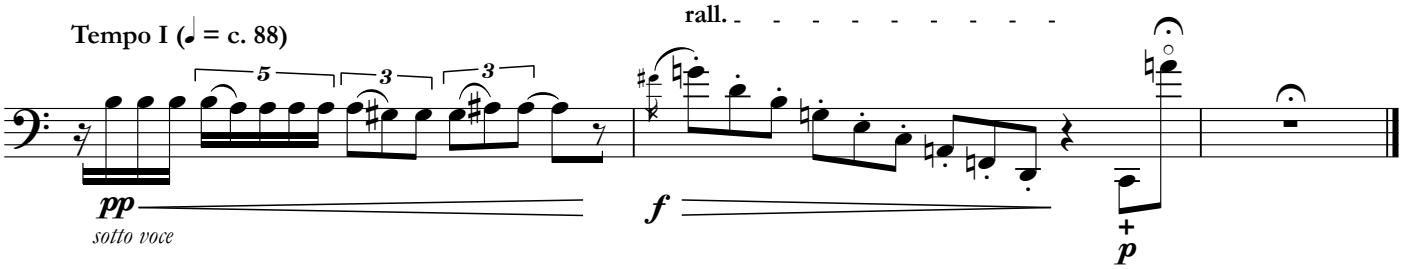


* Move between 5-, 6- and 7-tuplets smoothly; rubato ad lib. throughout, as in speech.

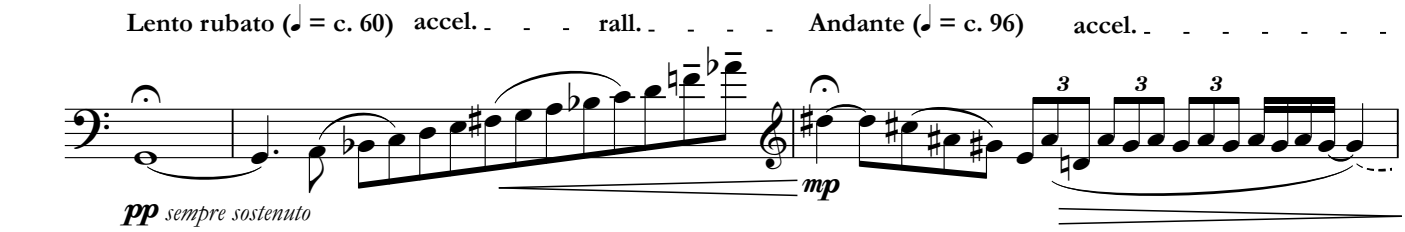

♩ = c. 56
PRISON GUARD
ELIJAH
rall.
pp from a distance, matter-of-fact, steady
mp calm, slow
pp
Tempo I (♩ = c. 88)
RABBI
f urgent
Methodical, ♩ = c. 56
PRISON GUARD
f stately, righteous
p
Tempo I (♩ = c. 88)
RABBI
f getting slightly faster, still urgent
poco accel.
II
f resonant
Methodical, ♩ = c. 56
PRISON GUARD
p steady
rit.

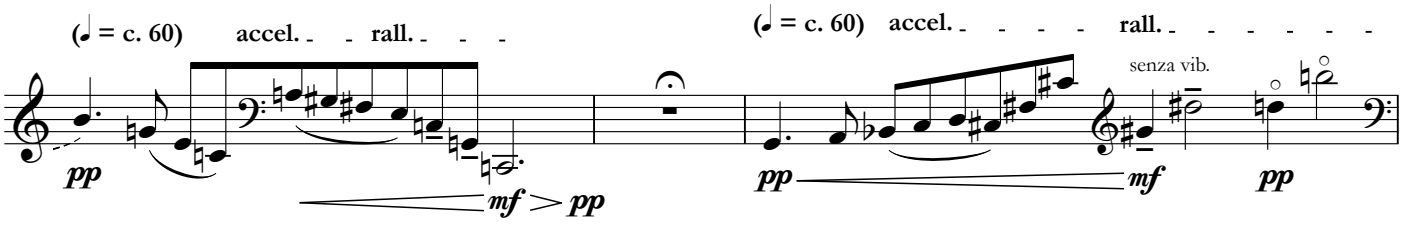

rall.
espr.
Tempo I (♩ = c. 88)
RABBI
p
f
inquisitive
Tempo II (♩ = c. 56)
PRISON GUARD
sub. p calm
Tempo I (♩ = c. 88)
RABBI
f
PRISON GUARD
p
rall.
Tempo II (♩ = c. 56)
p plainly, tasto, slow
ELIJAH
rall.
non vib.
pp
f radiant
Tempo I (♩ = c. 88)
RABBI
ord.
f urgent again
Quasi-Scherzo (♩ = c. 96)
CLOWNS / BROTHERS
f bouncy, bright, light

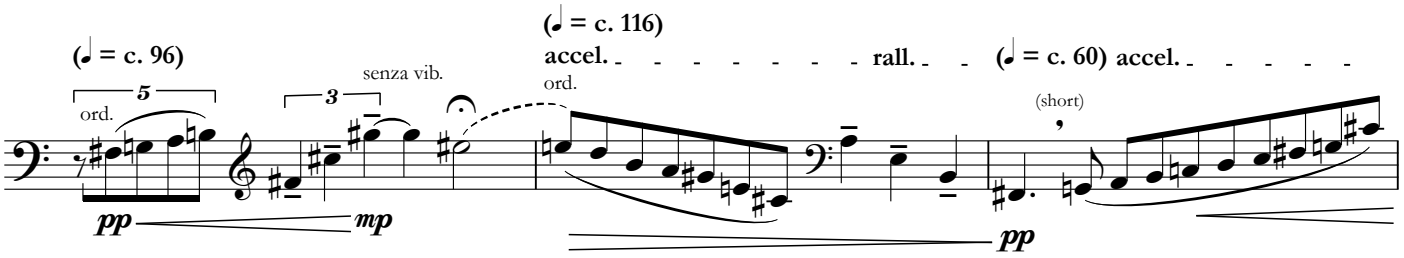




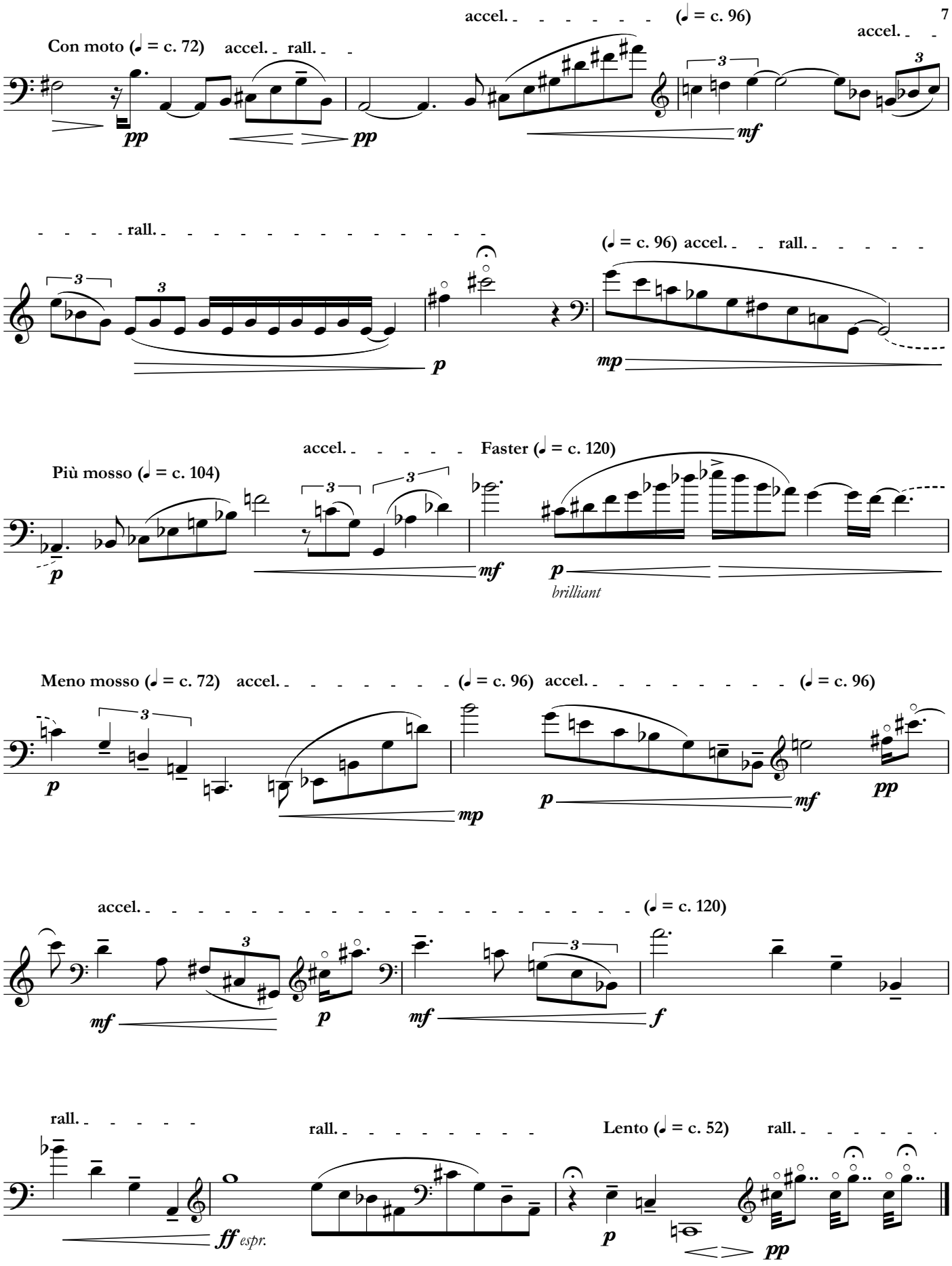
Shall the horn sound and the people not tremble



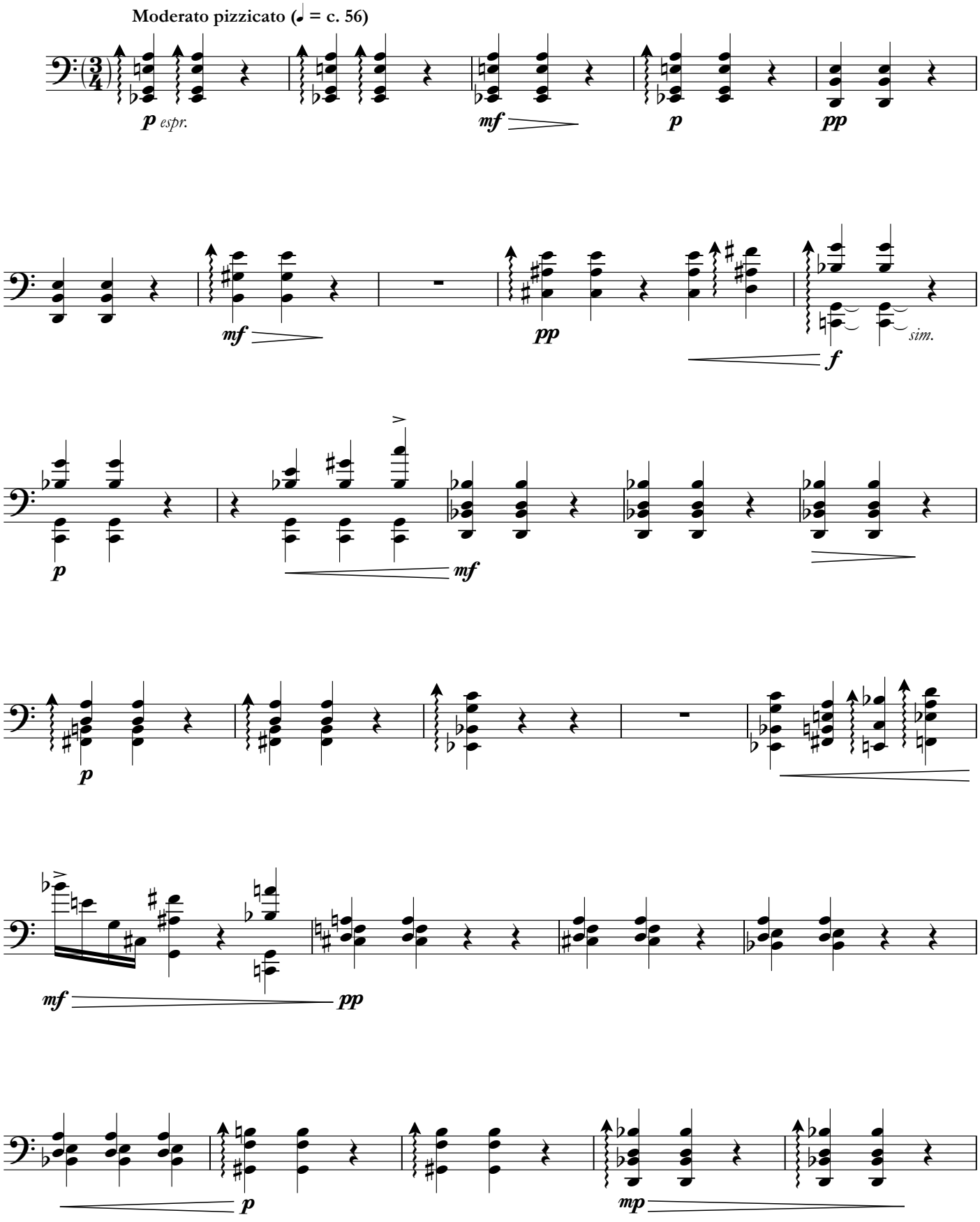


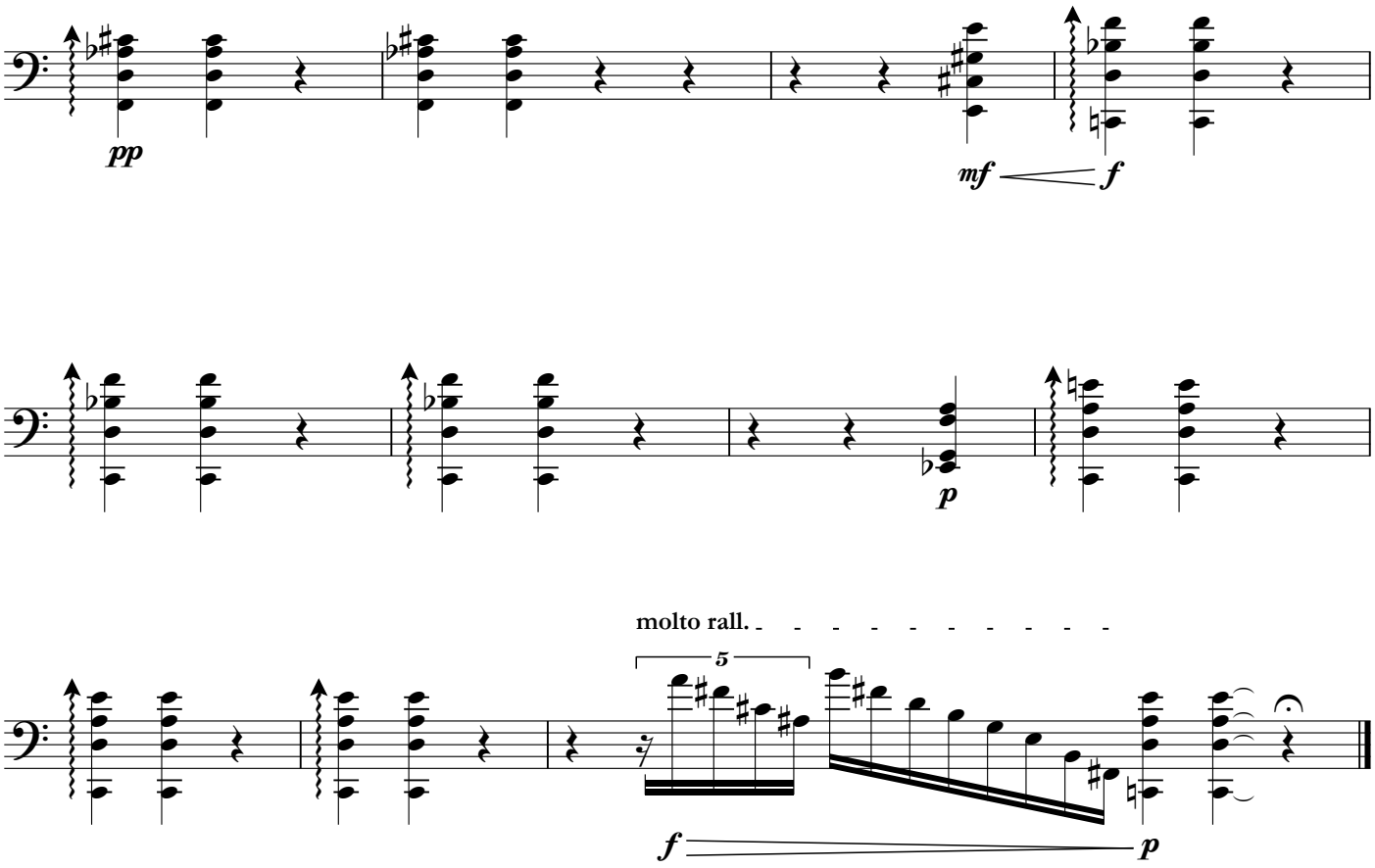


* The "dotted slur" denotes no breath (break) between the two notes.


Con moto (♩ = c. 72)
accel.
rall.
pp
pp
accel.
(♩ = c. 96)
accel.
mf
rall.
p
(♩ = c. 96)
accel.
rall.
mp
Più mosso (♩ = c. 104)
p
accel.
mf
Faster (♩ = c. 120)
p
brilliant
Meno mosso (♩ = c. 72)
accel.
(♩ = c. 96)
p
mp
accel.
(♩ = c. 96)
p
mf
pp
accel.
(♩ = c. 120)
mf
p
mf
f
rall.
ff espr.
rall.
Lento (♩ = c. 52)
rall.
p
pp

Serenade





May 31, 2011
Somerville, Massachusetts