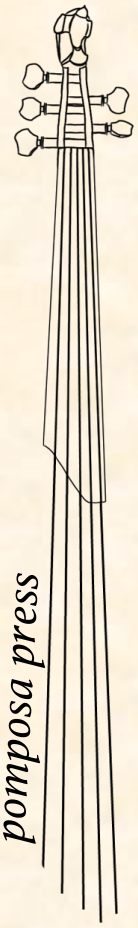
RUDOLF HAKEN

TAO SUITE

for violin, viola, and harpsichord
with optional narration



1987

HARPSICHORD

pomposa press

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RUDOLF HAKEN - TAO SUITE

based on the "Tao te ching" of Lao Tsu, 6th century BC

NARRATION

May be performed with a narrator speaking before each movement, as follows:

measure 1: "A victory in war should be observed like a funeral"

measure 55: "He who stands on tiptoe is not steady"

measure 120: "The five tones deafen the ear, the five colors blind the eye, the five flavors dull the taste"

measure 202: "Tao in the world is like a river flowing home to the sea"

measure 255: "Stillness and tranquility set things in order in the universe"

measure 319: "To talk little is natural. If heaven and earth cannot make things eternal, how is it possible for man?"

"Tao Suite" has been published in the following configurations:

flute, cello, harpsichord
flute, cello, piano
flute, viola, harpsichord
flute, viola, piano
clarinet, cello, piano
clarinet, viola, piano
soprano saxophone, cello, piano
soprano saxophone, viola, piano
violin, cello, harpsichord
violin, cello, piano
violin, viola, harpsichord
violin, viola, piano

PROGRAM NOTES

Tao Suite is based on the “Tao te ching” of Lao Tsu, compiled in the 6th century BC. It was composed in 1987 at age 21. The suite is in six movements, as follows:

Lesson 31: "A victory in war should be observed like a funeral"
A steady, deliberate rhythm
Accompanied by a simple, plaintive melody
A final major chord - a ray of sunlight

Lesson 24: "He who stands on tiptoe is not steady"
The violin stands on tiptoe, brags, dances, and boasts
The viola answers with a stately theme
The violin falls behind, as do all who boast and strive
Sputtering a few last disjoint, aimless notes

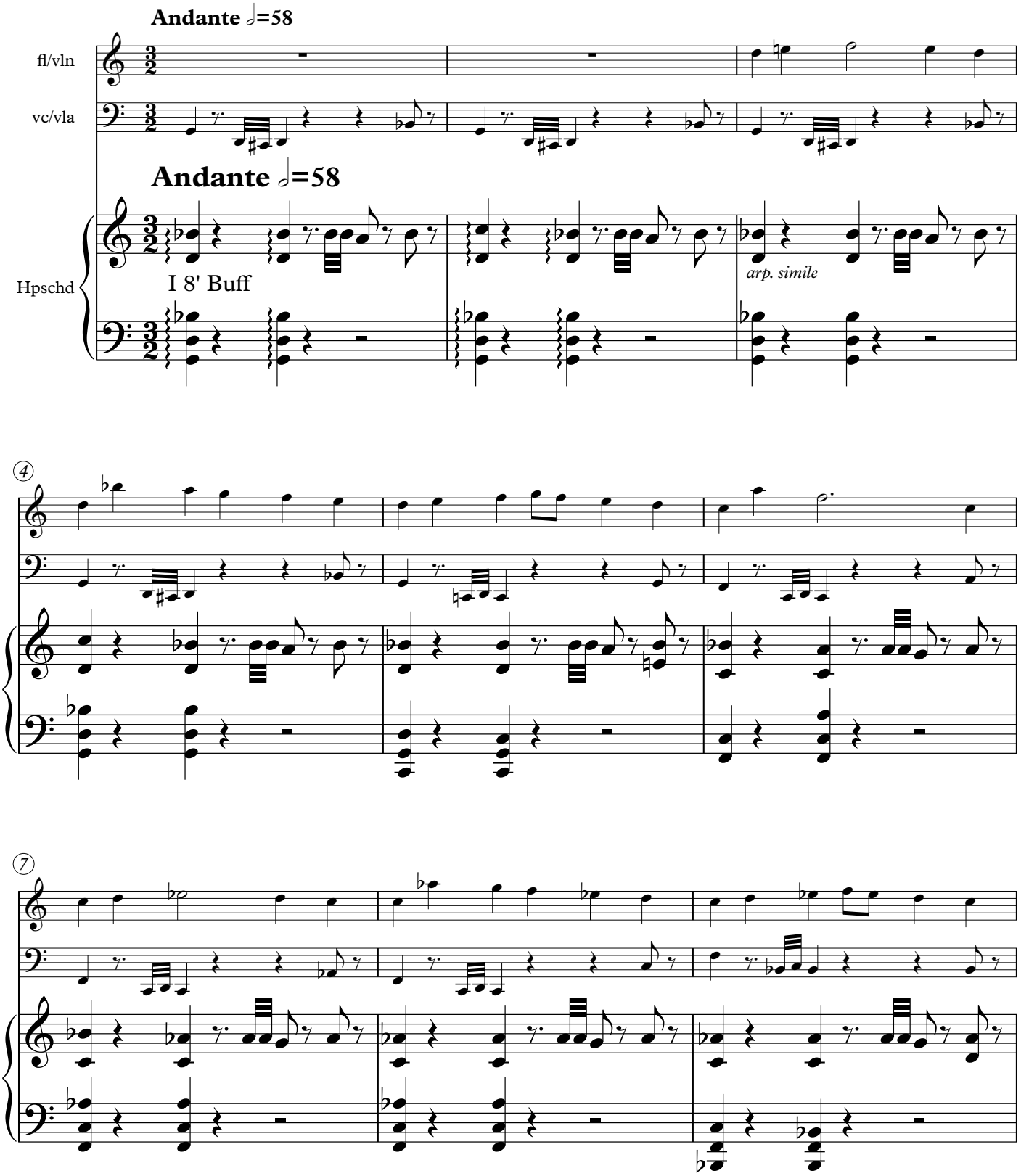
Lesson 12: "The five tones deafen the ear, the five colors blind the eye, the five flavors dull the taste"
A noisy pentatonic theme, overloading the senses
Variations
Working their way down to calmness and quietude

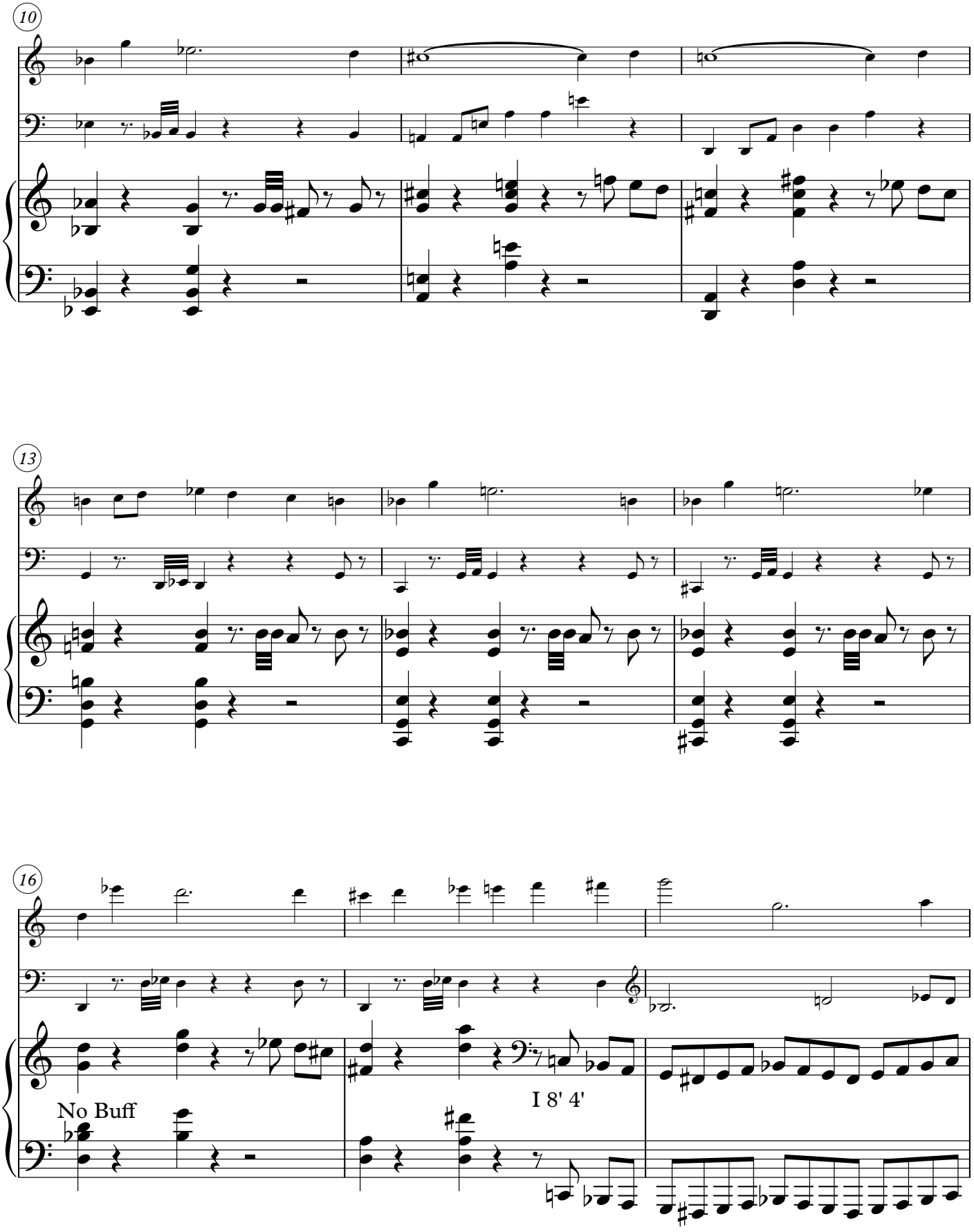
Lesson 32: "Tao in the world is like a river flowing home to the sea"
The three instruments represent the river:
The viola is the water
The harpsichord is the current
The violin, the waves
All these give themselves to the force of the ocean
Overtaken by its vastness

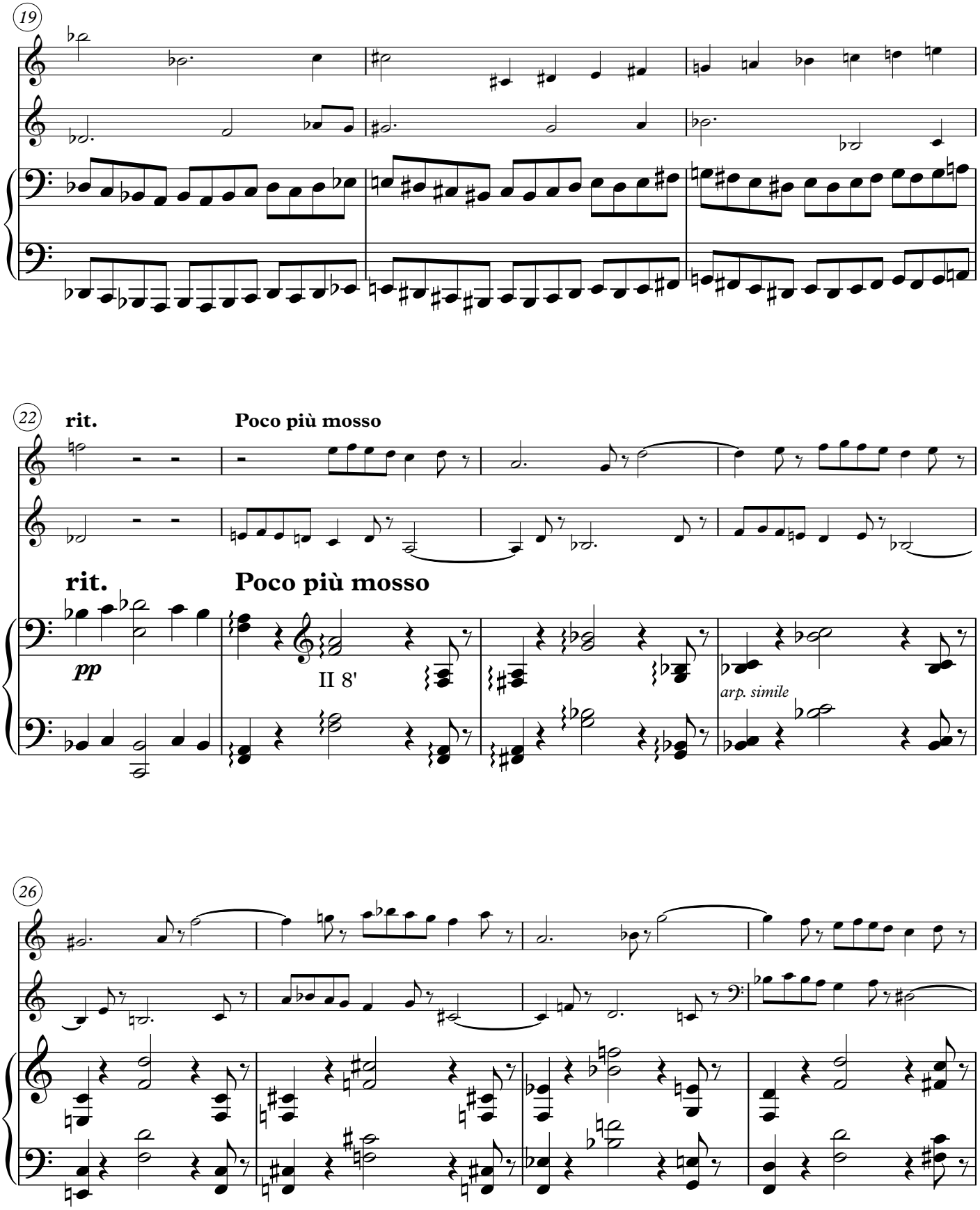
Lesson 45: "Stillness and tranquility set things in order in the universe"
Only fleeting dissonances disturb
the clarity, the calm, the simplicity

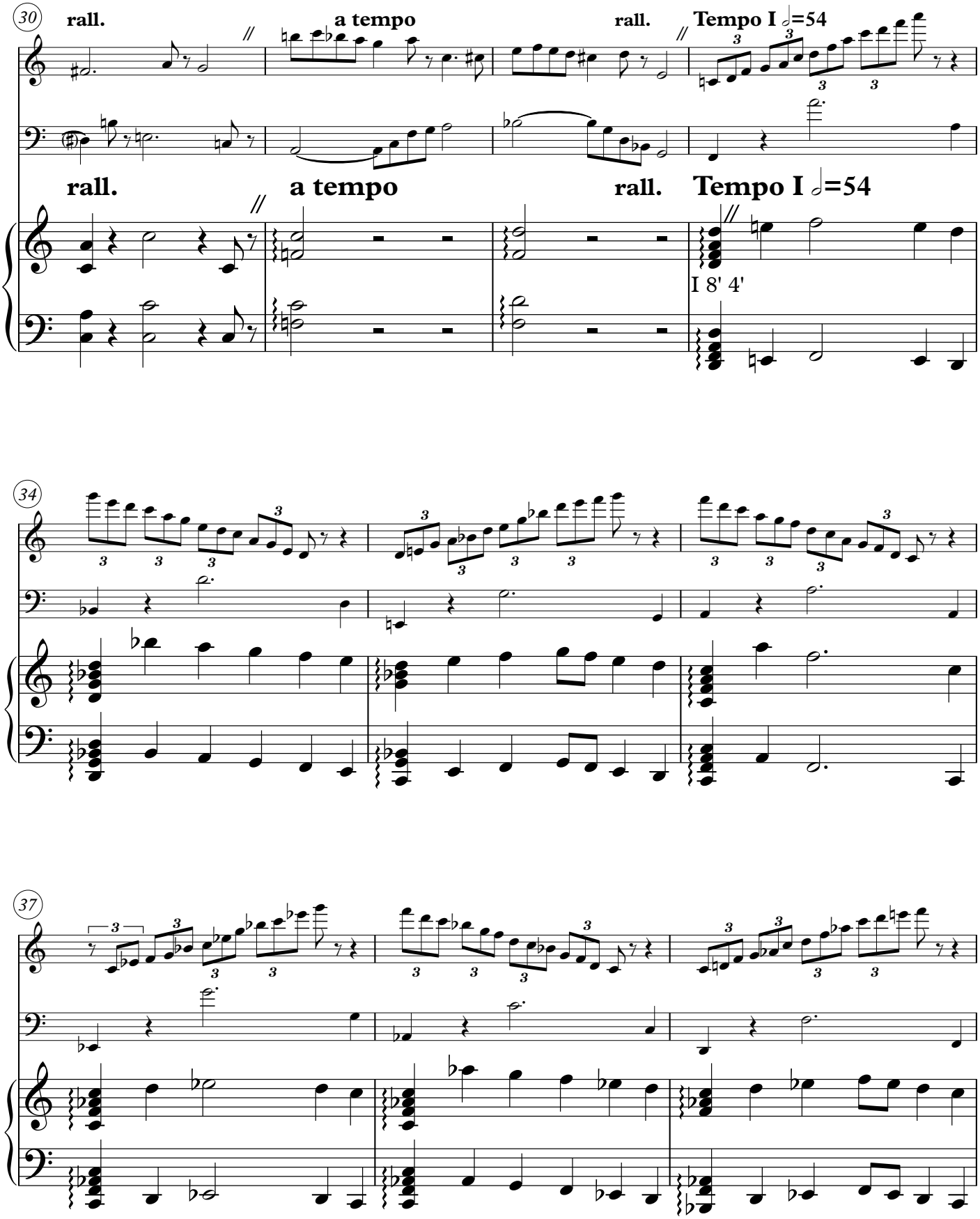
Lesson 23: "To talk little is natural. If heaven and earth cannot make things eternal, how is it possible for man?"
Only a few seconds
A brief conversation between three instruments
Enough said

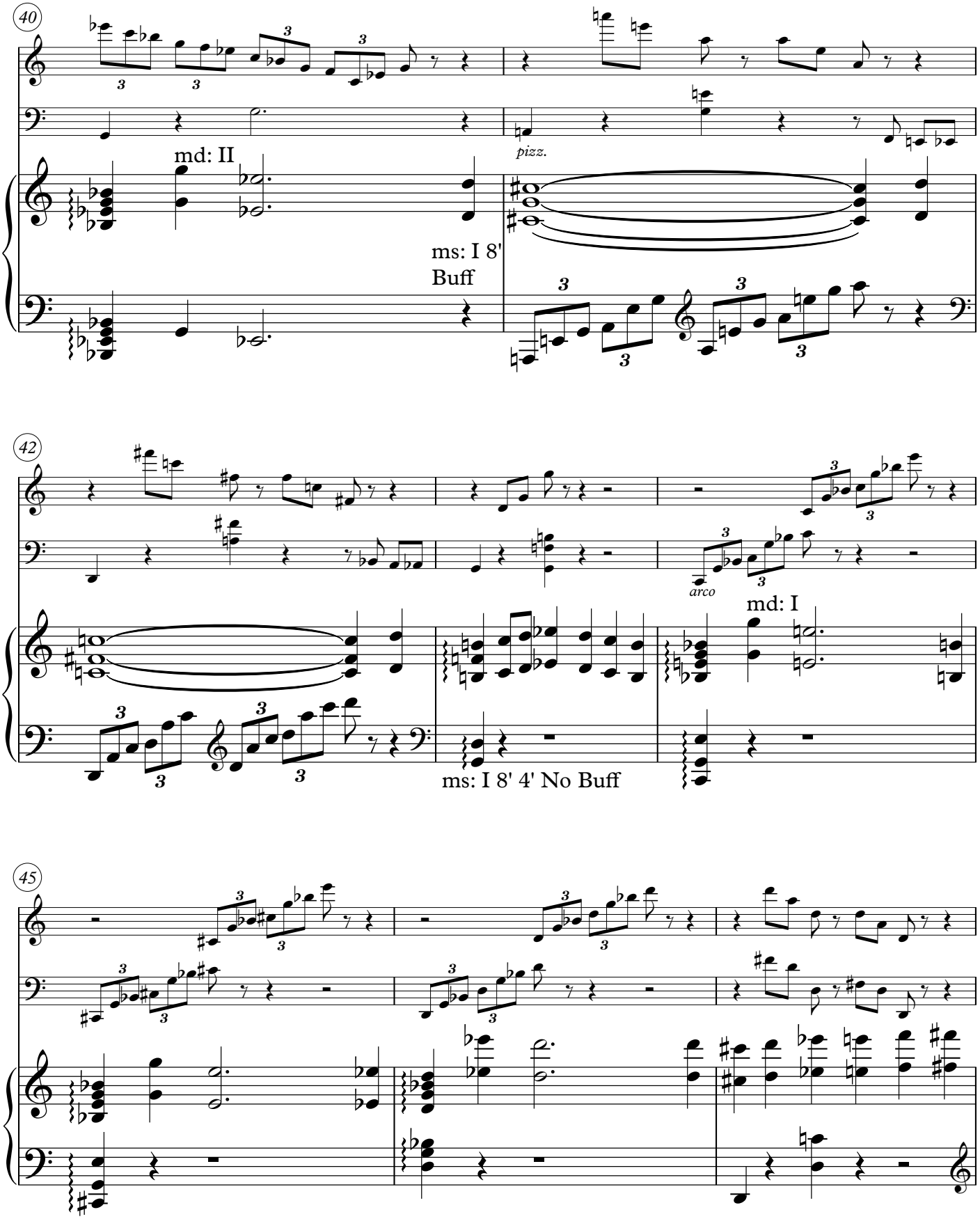
I. "A victory in war should be observed like a funeral." *(lesson 31)*

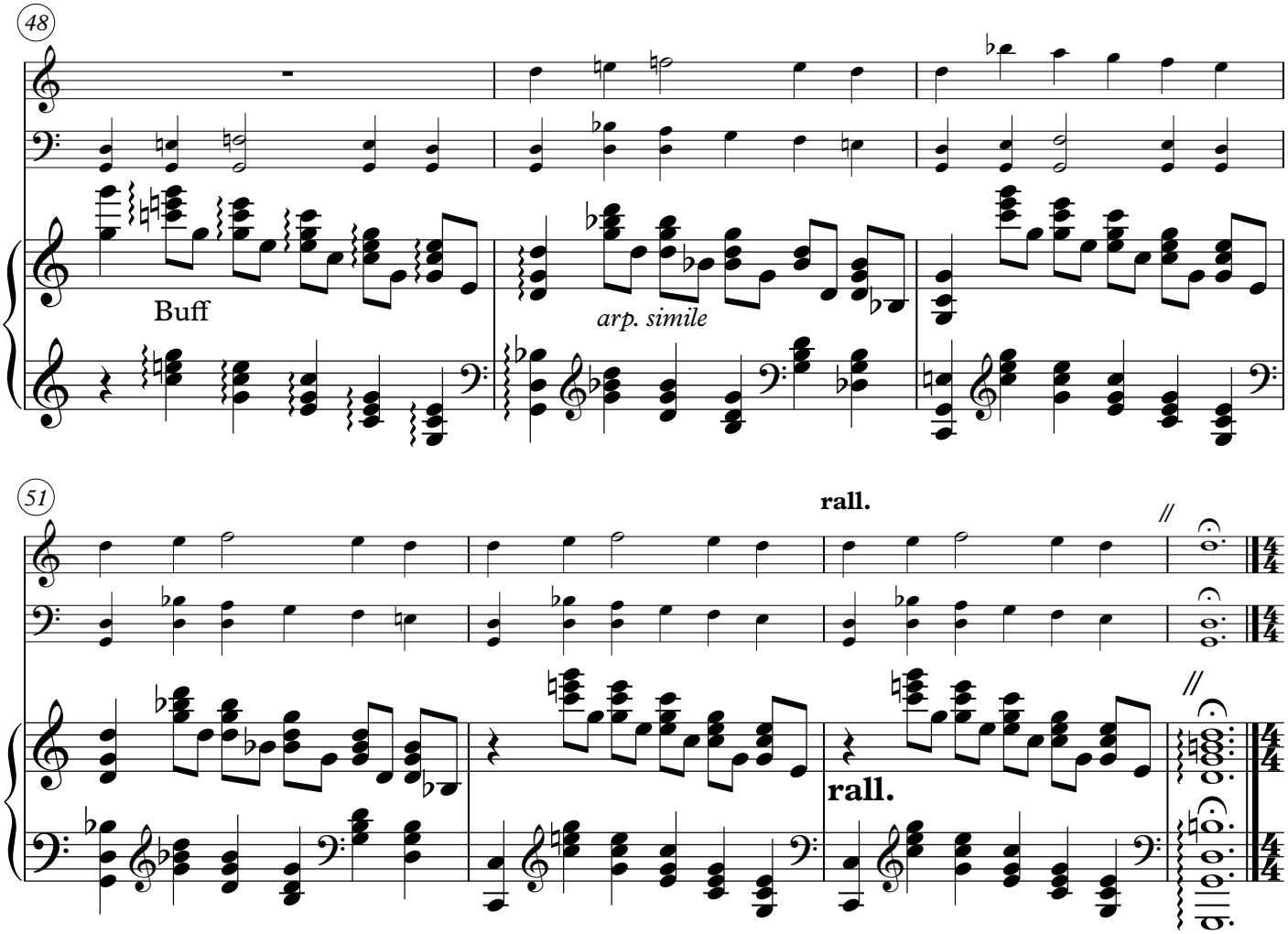



10
13
16
No Buff
I 8' 4'

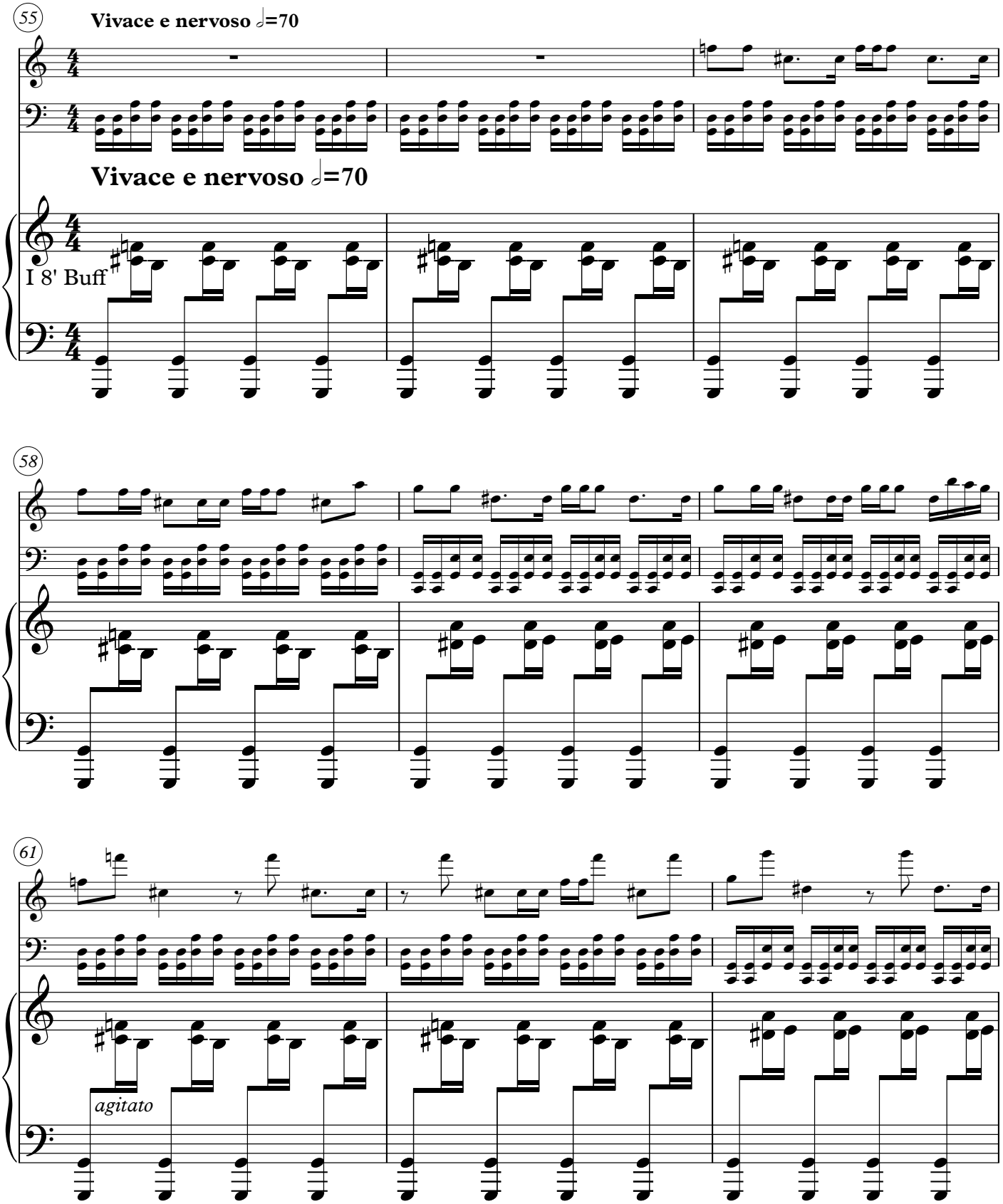

19
22
rit.
Poco più mosso
rit.
Poco più mosso
pp
II 8'
arp. simile
26

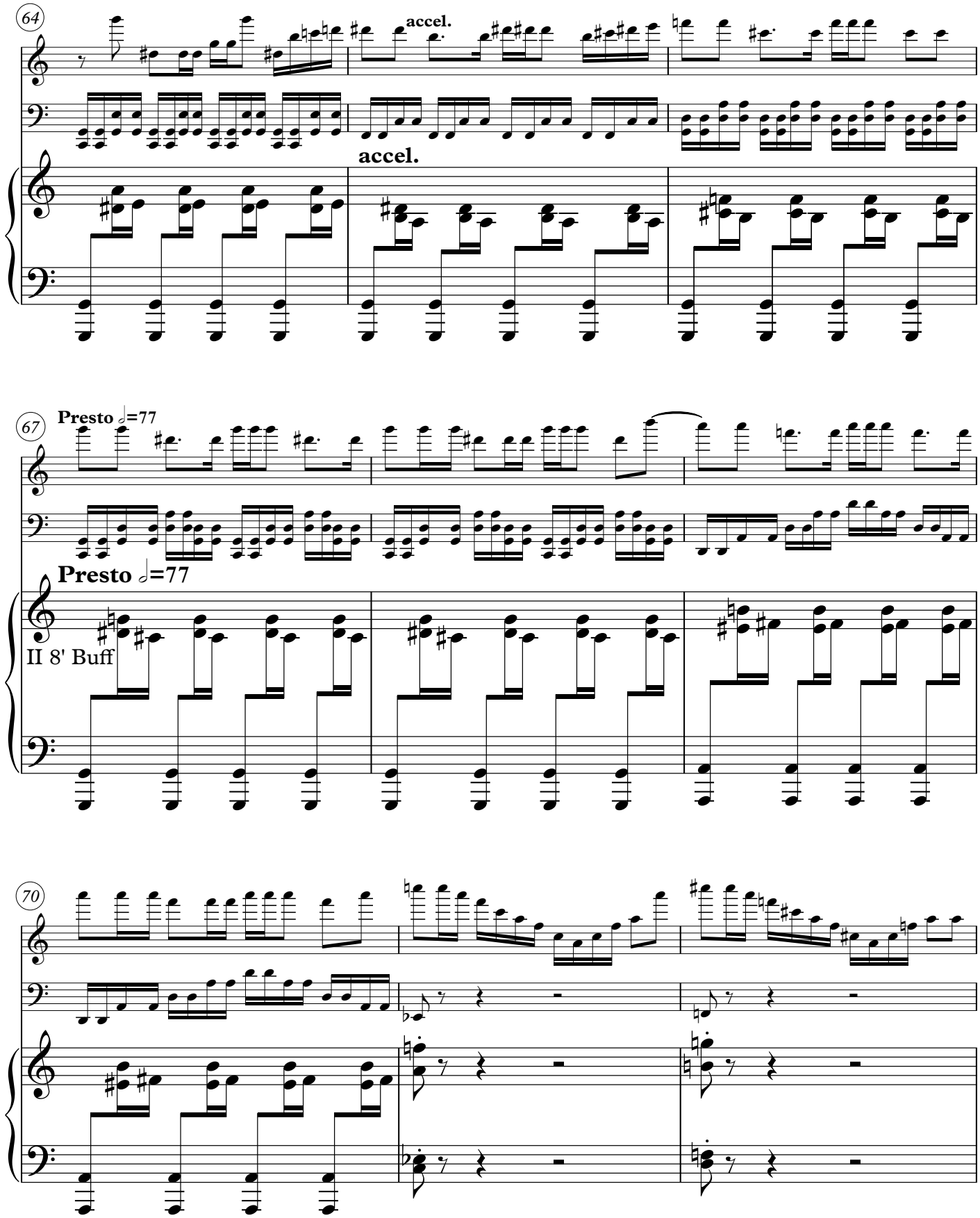

30
rall.
a tempo
rall.
Tempo I 𝅗𝅥=54
I 8' 4'
34
37

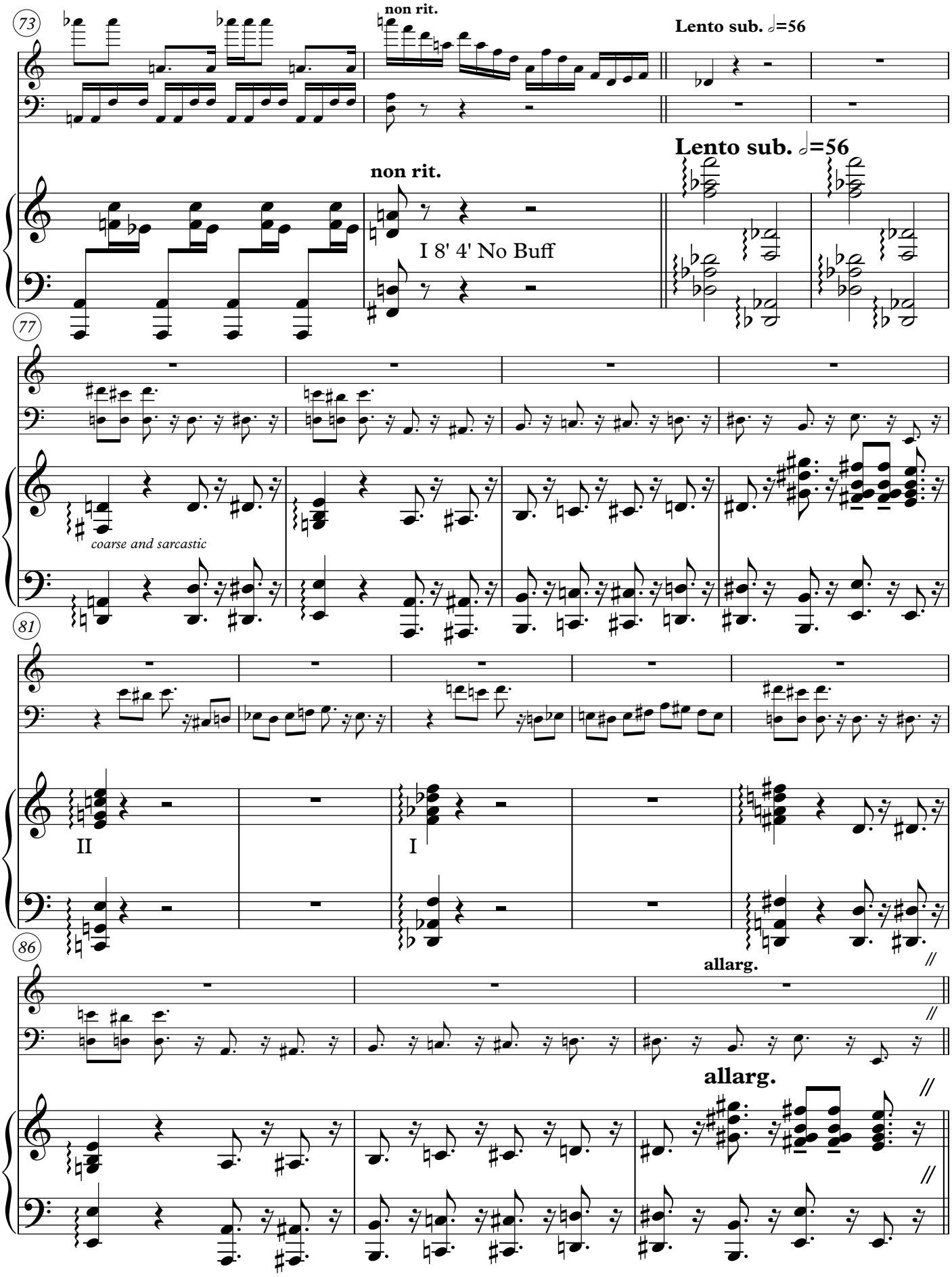

40
md: II
pizz.
ms: I 8'
Buff
42
arco
md: I
ms: I 8' 4' No Buff
45

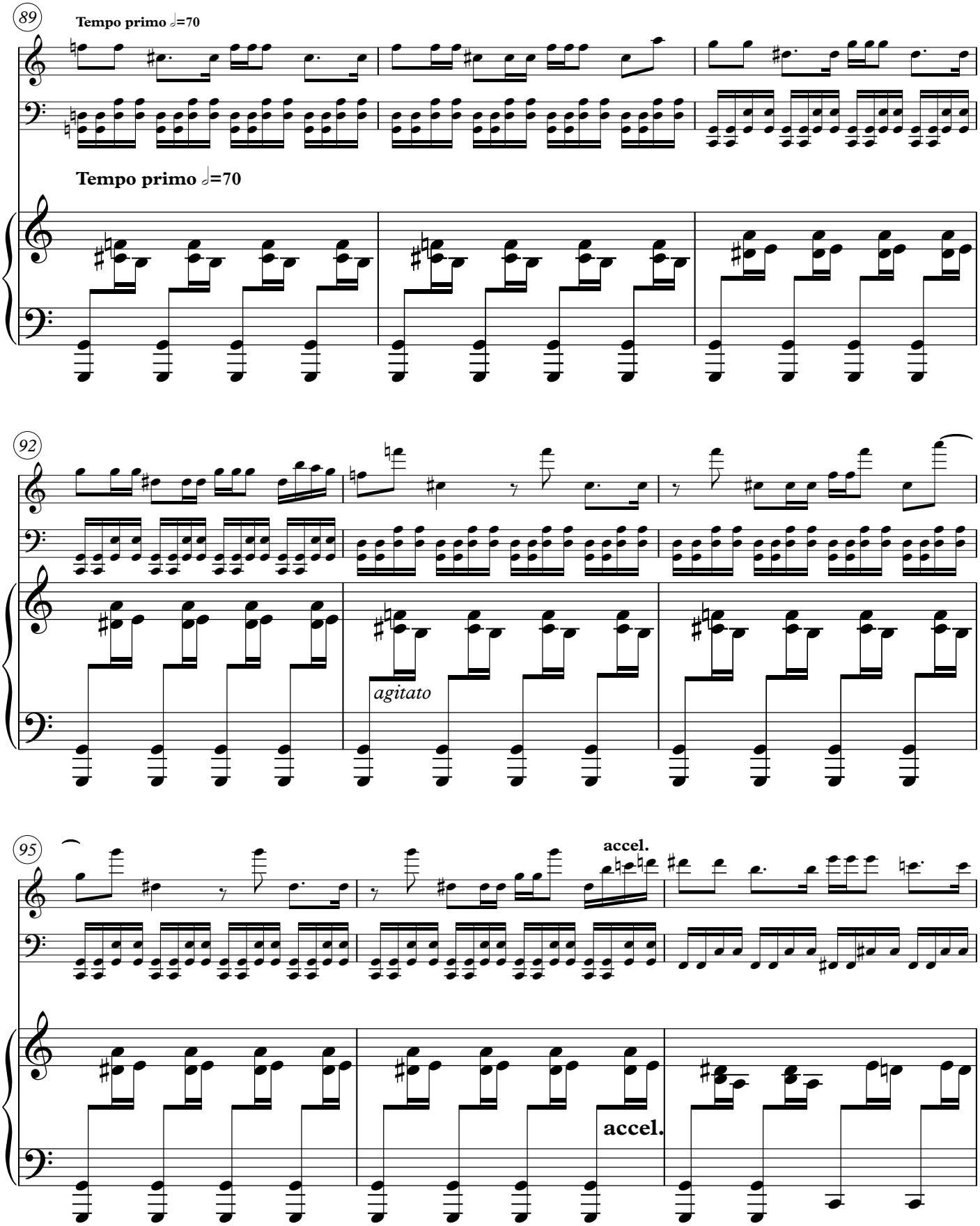

48
Buff
arp. simile
51
rall.
rall.

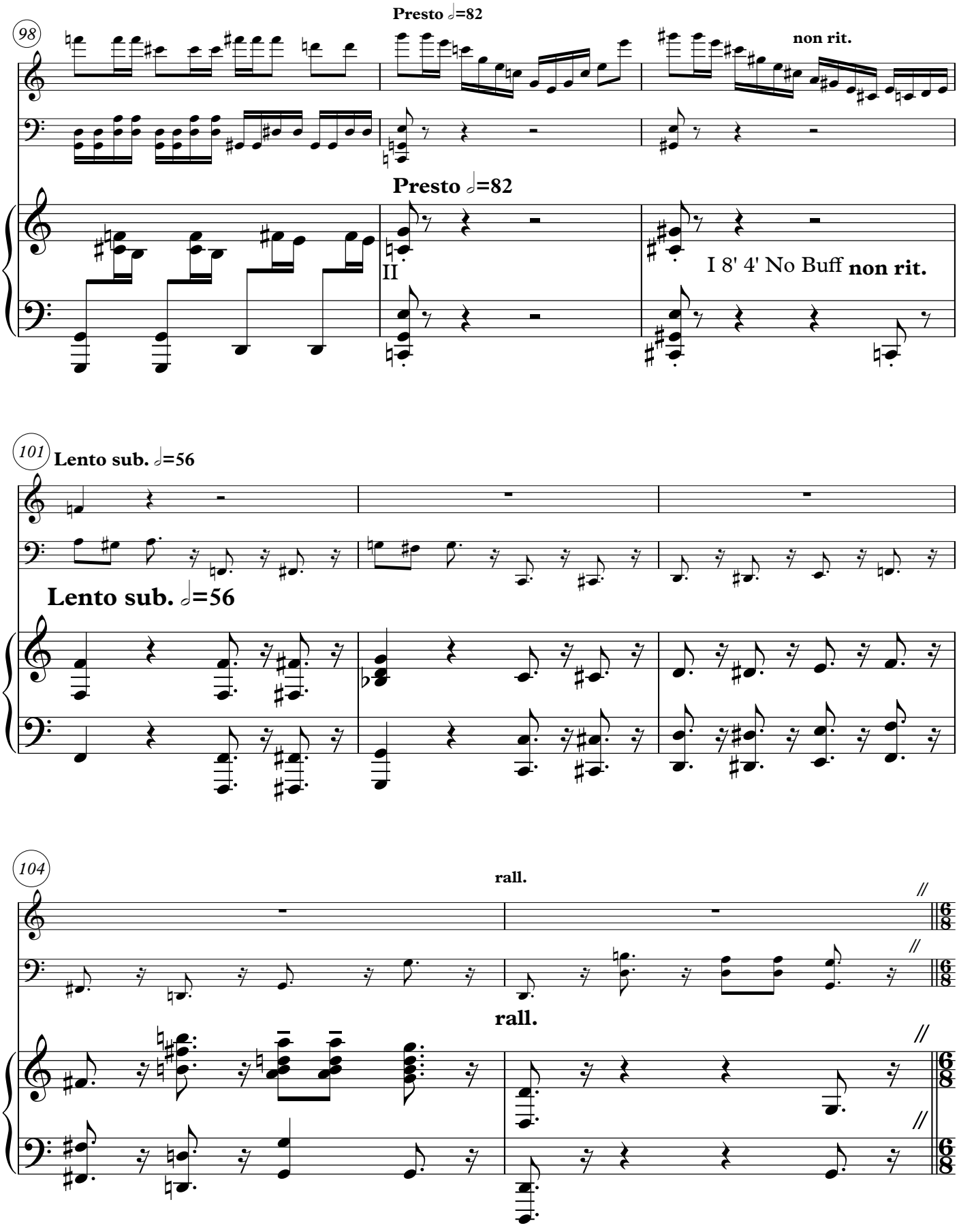
II. "He who stands on tiptoe is not steady." *(lesson 24)*

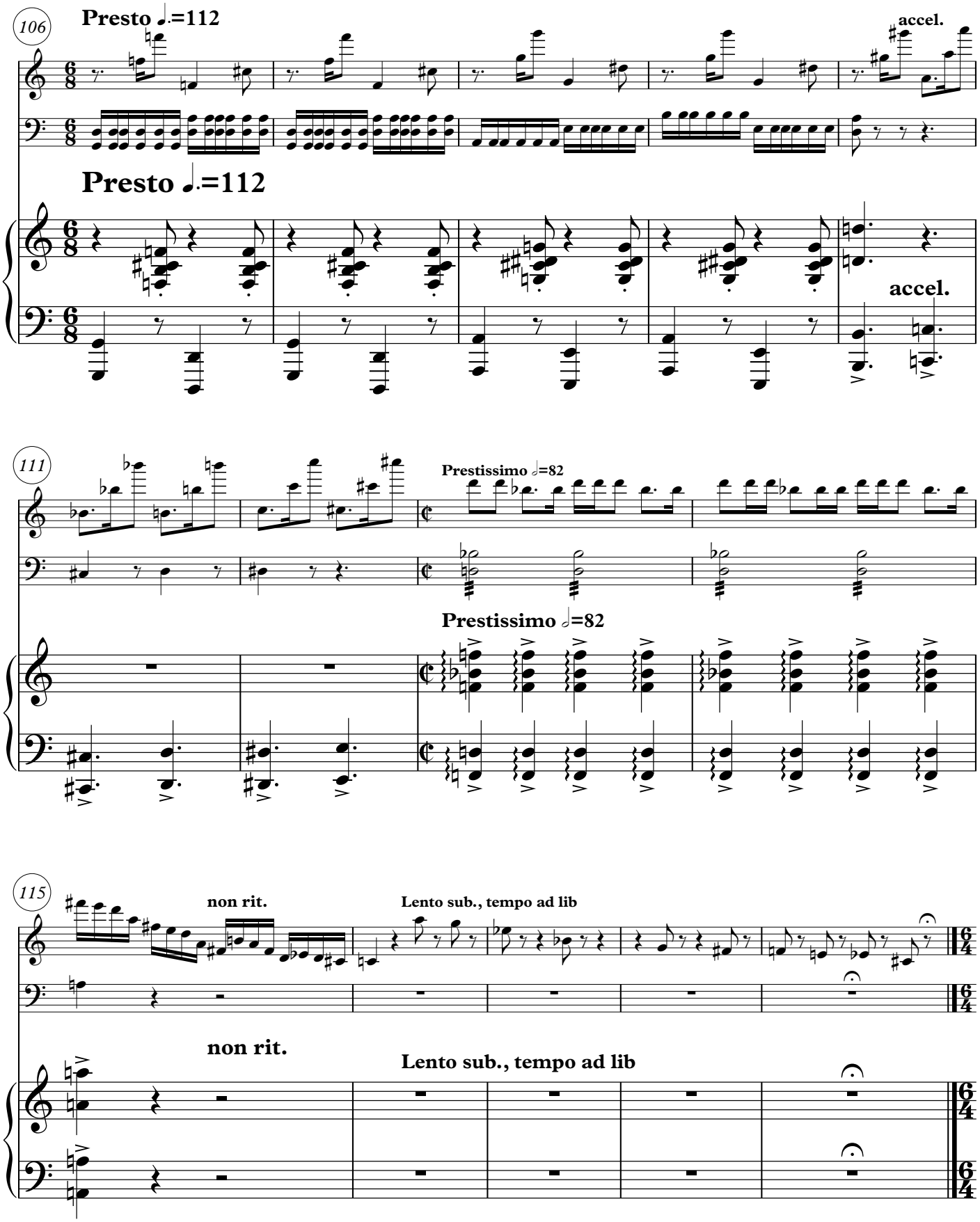



64
accel.
accel.
67
Presto ♩=77
Presto ♩=77
II 8' Buff
70


73
non rit.
Lento sub. 𝅗𝅥=56
Lento sub. 𝅗𝅥=56
non rit.
I 8' 4' No Buff
77
coarse and sarcastic
81
II
I
86
allarg.
allarg.


89
Tempo primo ♩=70
Tempo primo ♩=70
92
agitato
95
accel.
accel.


Presto ♩=82
98
non rit.
Presto ♩=82
II
I 8' 4' No Buff non rit.
101
Lento sub. ♩=56
Lento sub. ♩=56
104
rall.
rall.


106
Presto ♩.=112
accel.
Presto ♩.=112
accel.
111
Prestissimo 𝅗𝅥=82
Prestissimo 𝅗𝅥=82
115
non rit.
Lento sub., tempo ad lib
non rit.
Lento sub., tempo ad lib

III. "The five tones deafen the ear, the five colors blind the eye, the five flavors dull the taste." *(lesson 12)*

120

Maestoso ♩=132 sempre

I,II 8' 4'

126

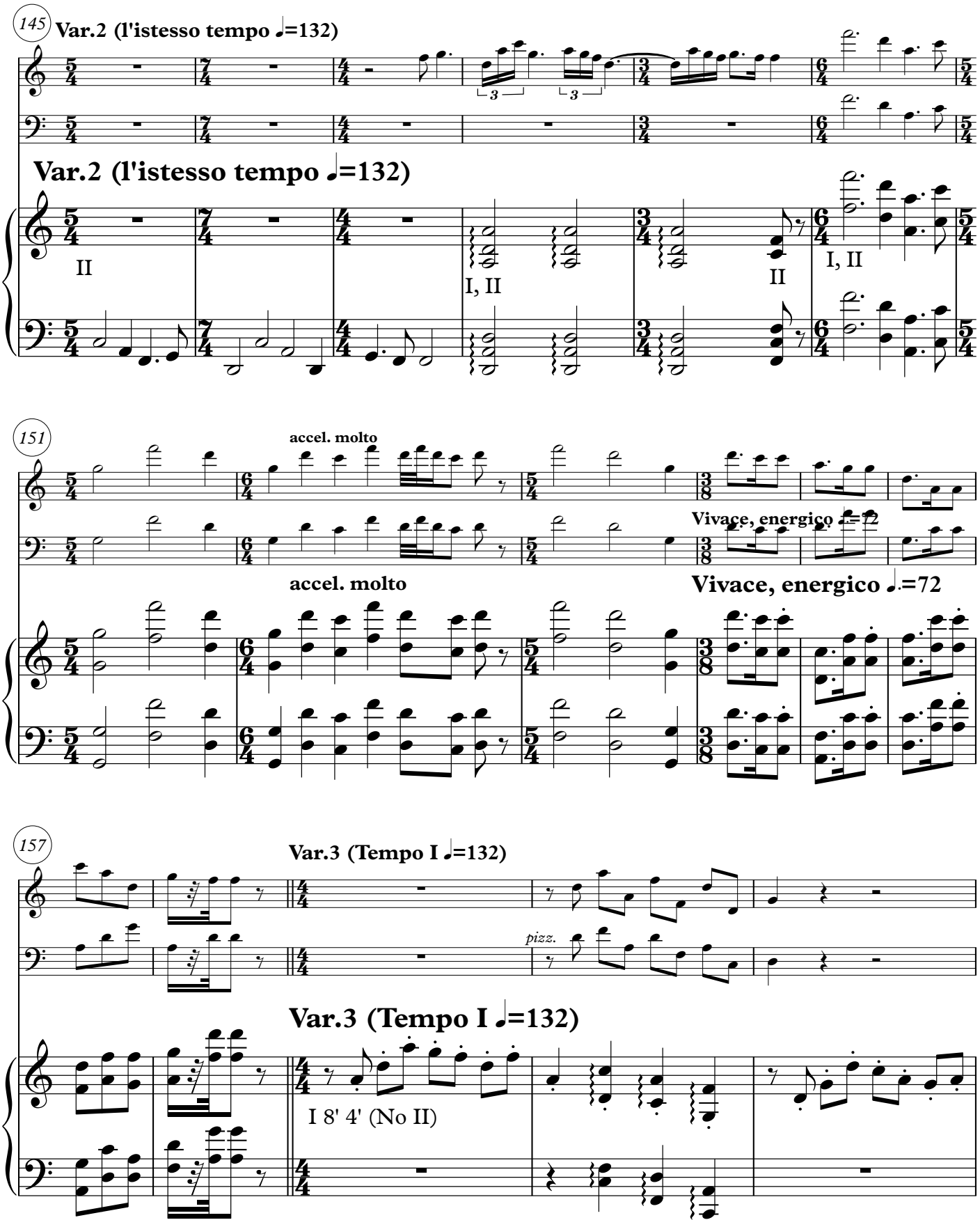
Var.1

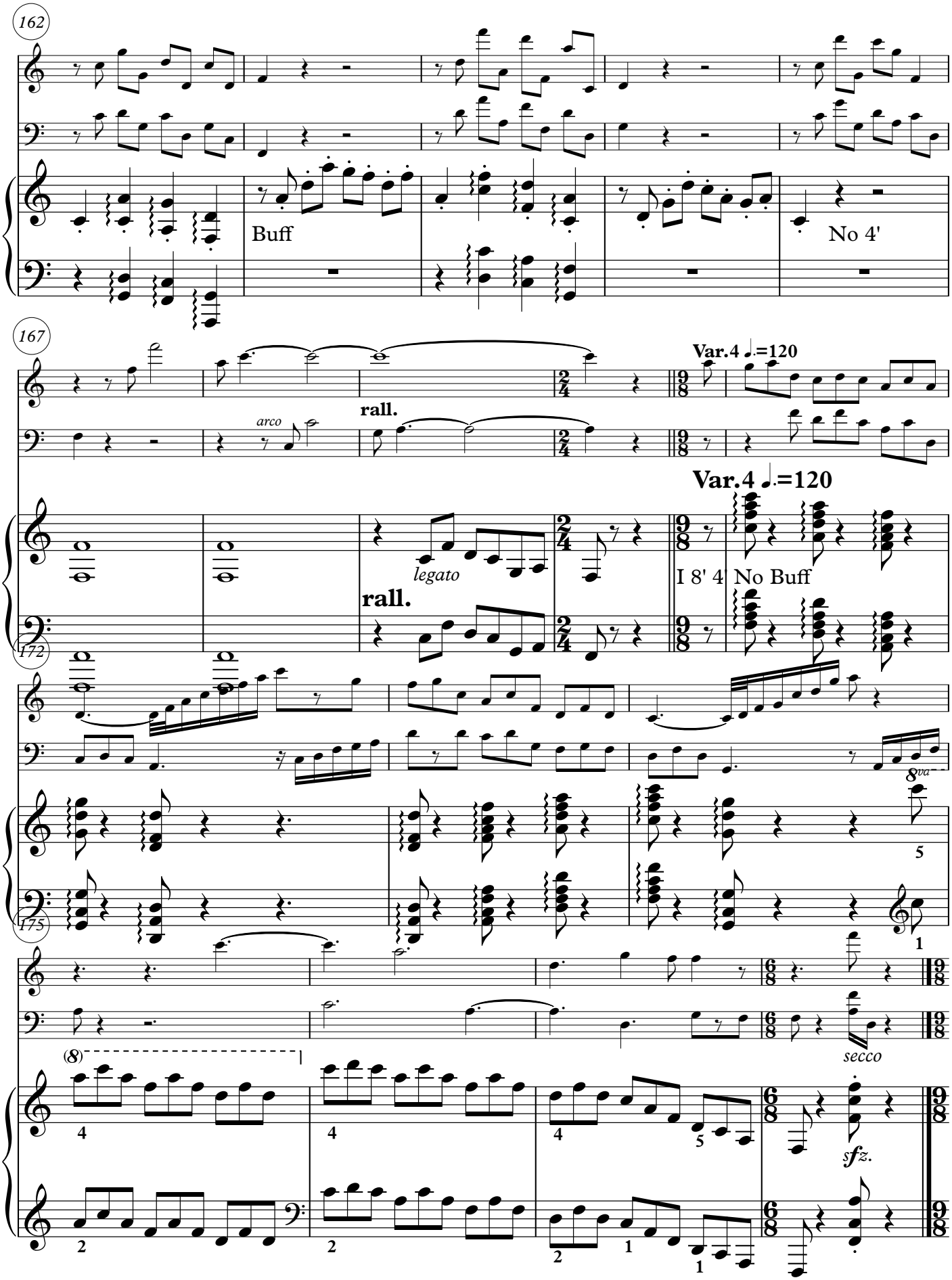
Var.1

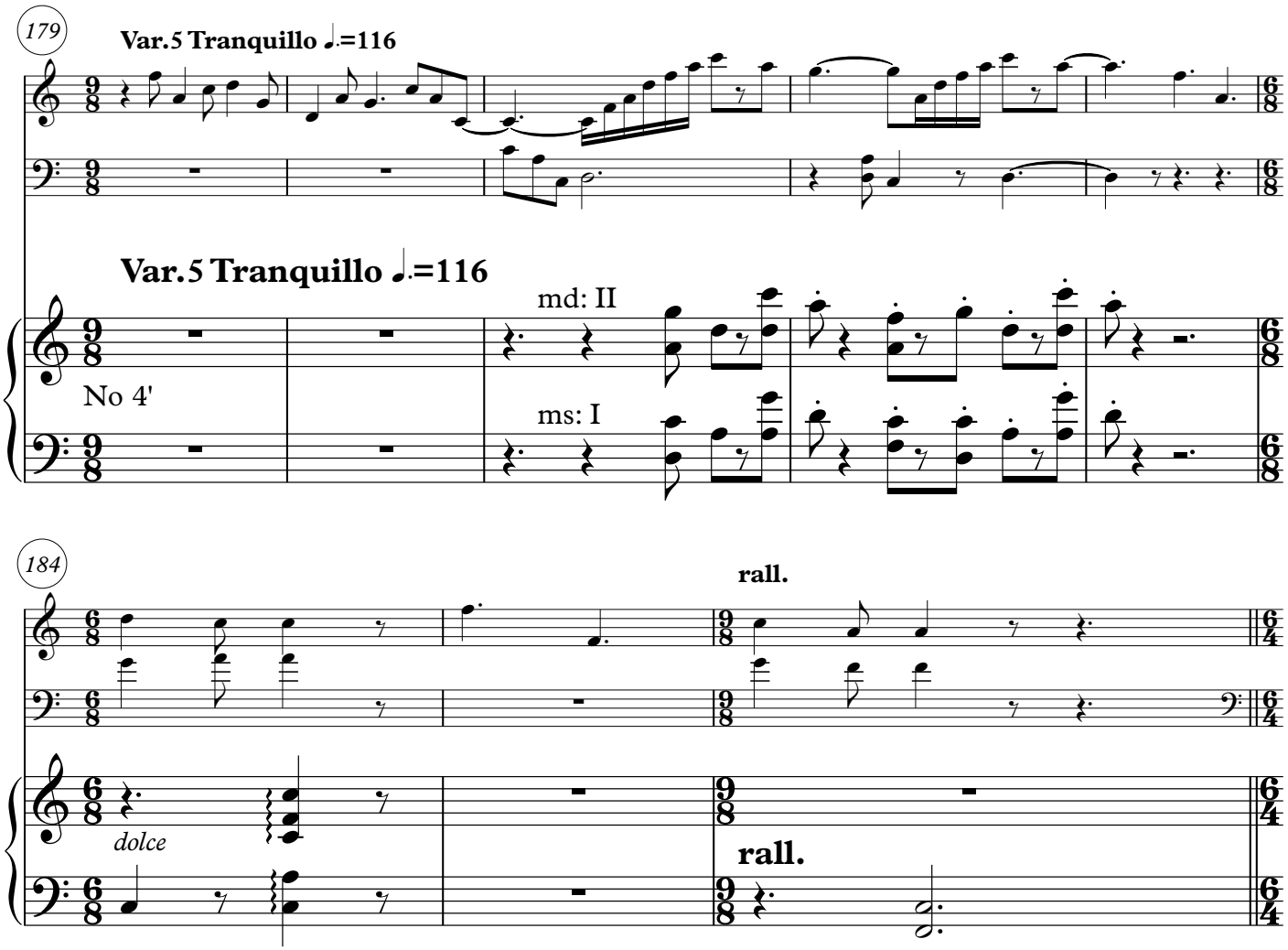
131

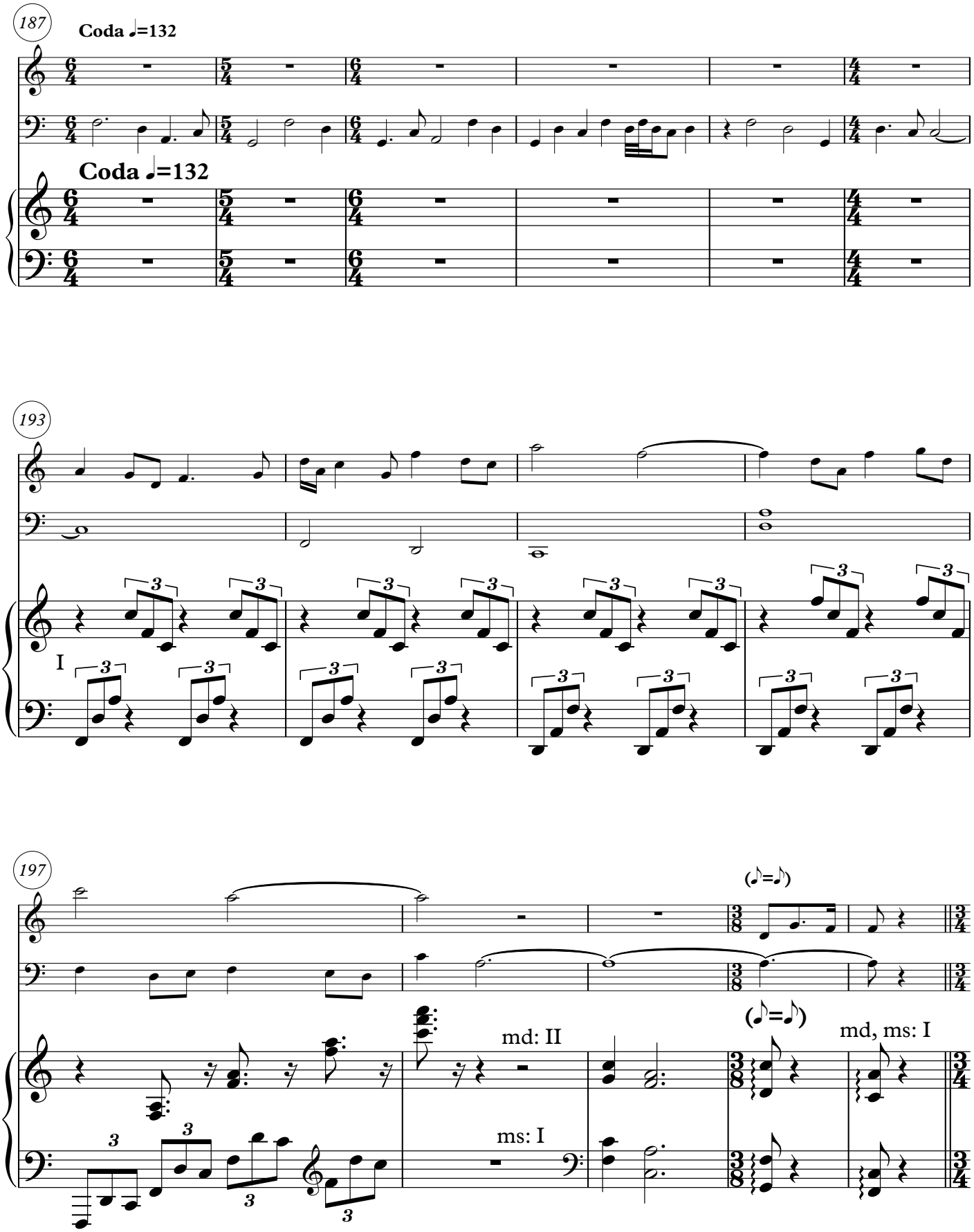
138

II 8'


145
Var.2 (l'istesso tempo ♩=132)
II
I, II
II
I, II
151
accel. molto
Vivace, energico ♩.=72
157
Var.3 (Tempo I ♩=132)
pizz.
I 8' 4' (No II)

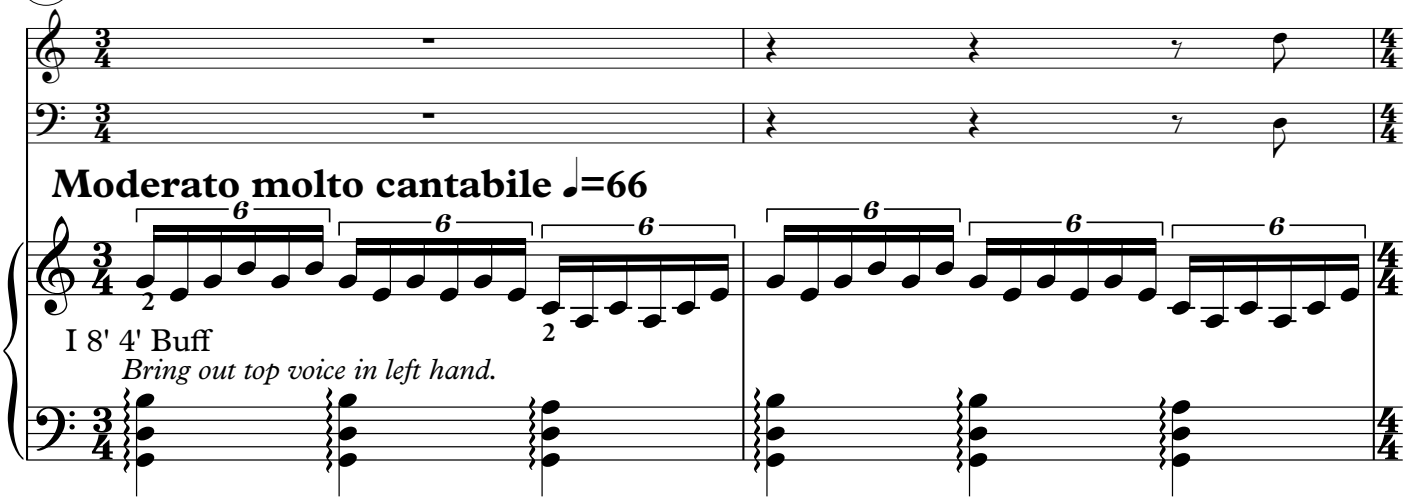

162
Buff
No 4'
167
Var.4 ♩.=120
rall.
arco
Var.4 ♩.=120
legato
rall.
I 8' 4
No Buff
172
8va
5
175
1
secco
(8)
4
4
4
5
sfz.
2
2
2
1
1


179
Var.5 Tranquillo ♩.=116
Var.5 Tranquillo ♩.=116
md: II
No 4'
ms: I
184
rall.
dolce
rall.


187
Coda ♩=132
Coda ♩=132
193
I
197
(♪=♪)
md: II
ms: I
(♪=♪)
md, ms: I

IV. "Tao in the world is like the river flowing home to the sea." *(lesson 32)*

202 **Moderato molto cantabile ♩=66**



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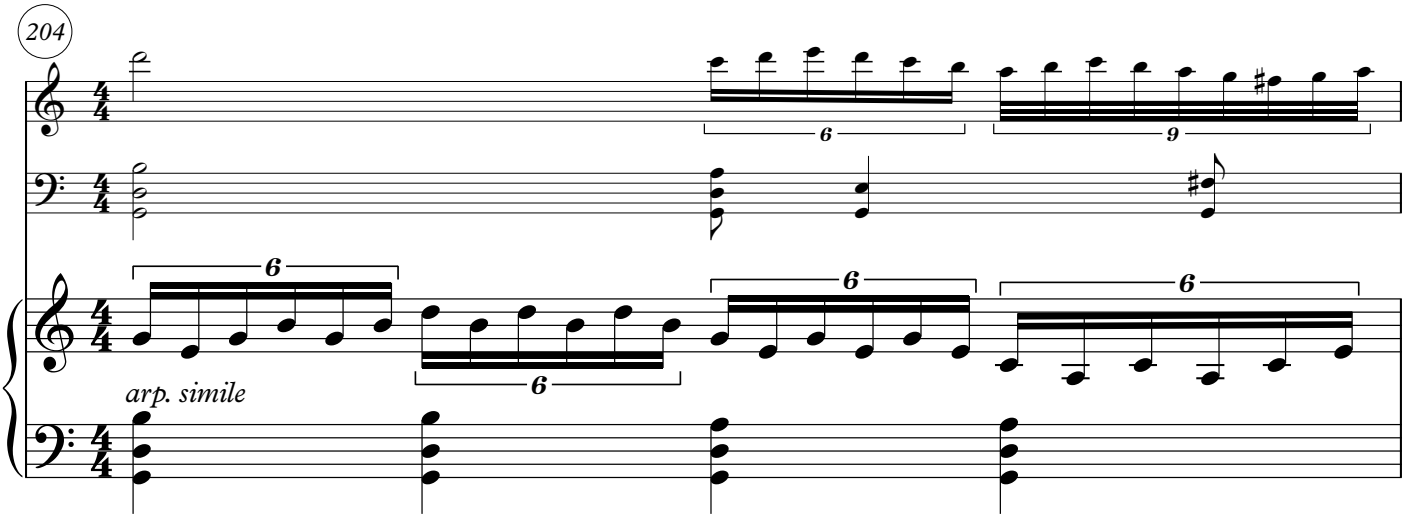

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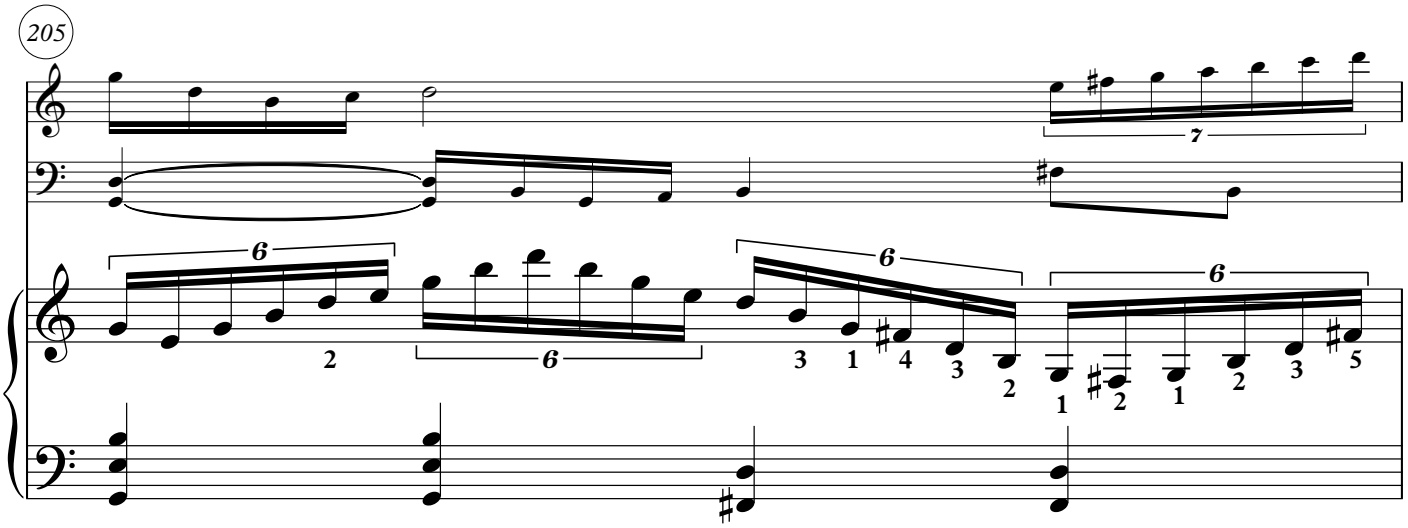
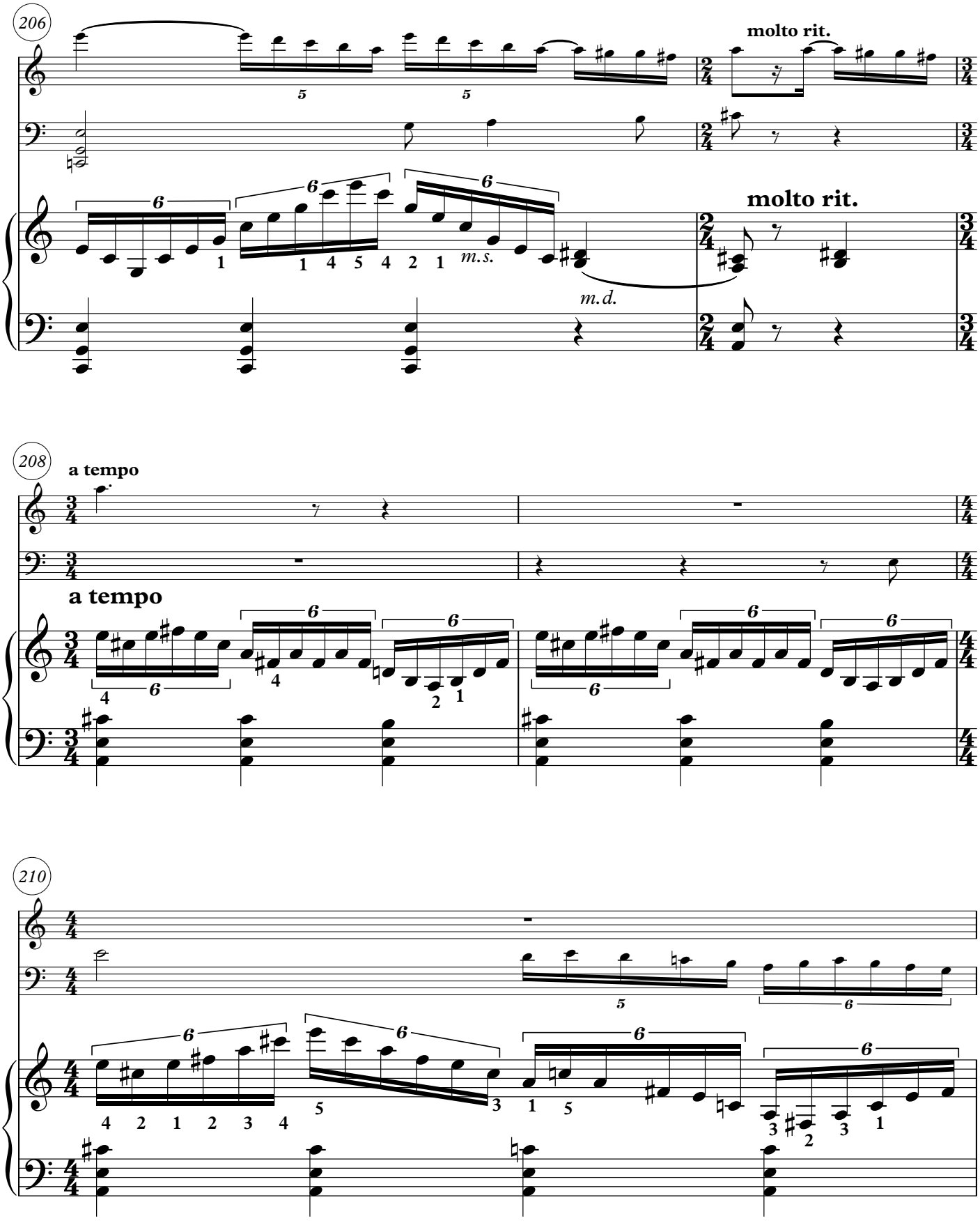
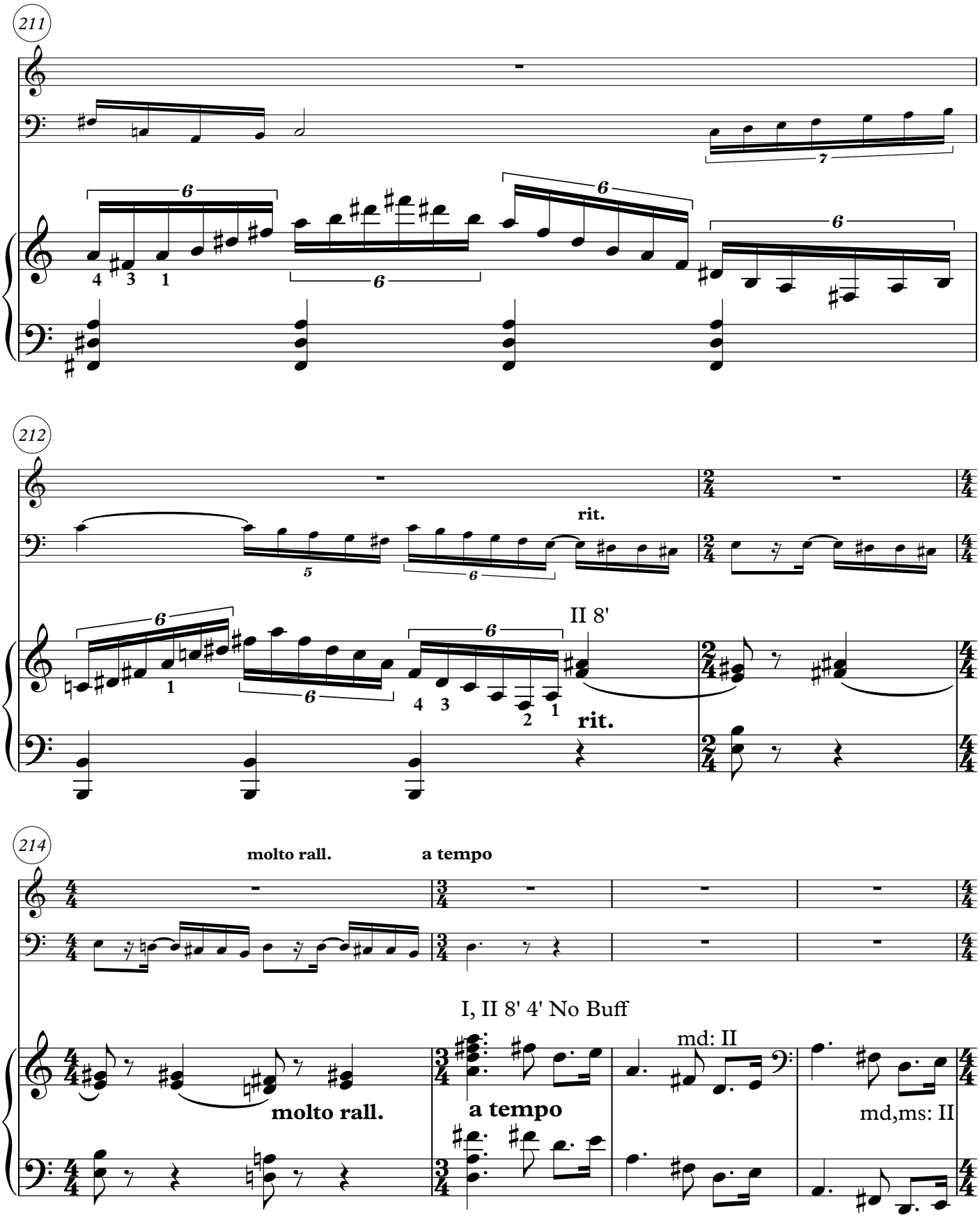
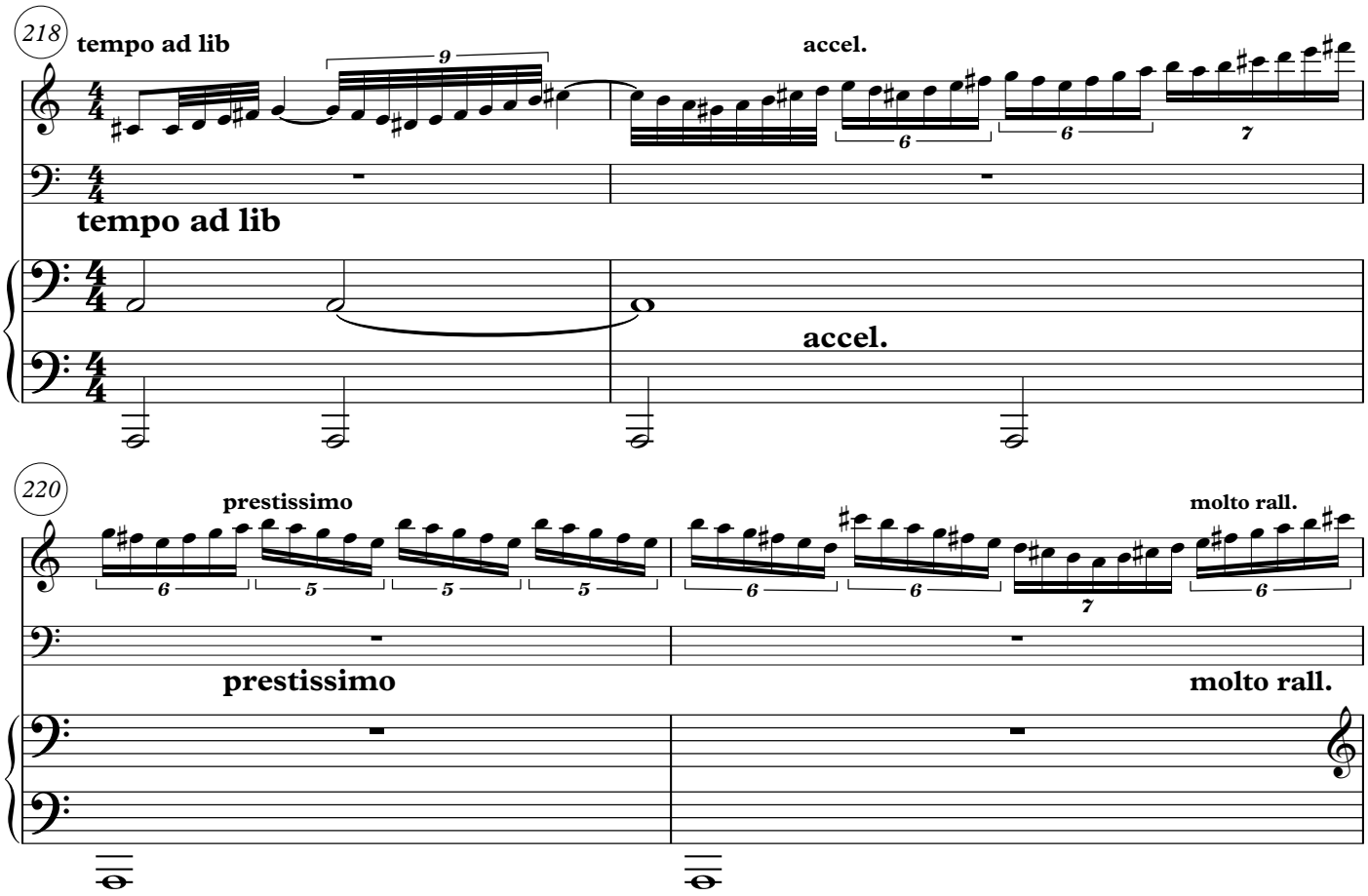
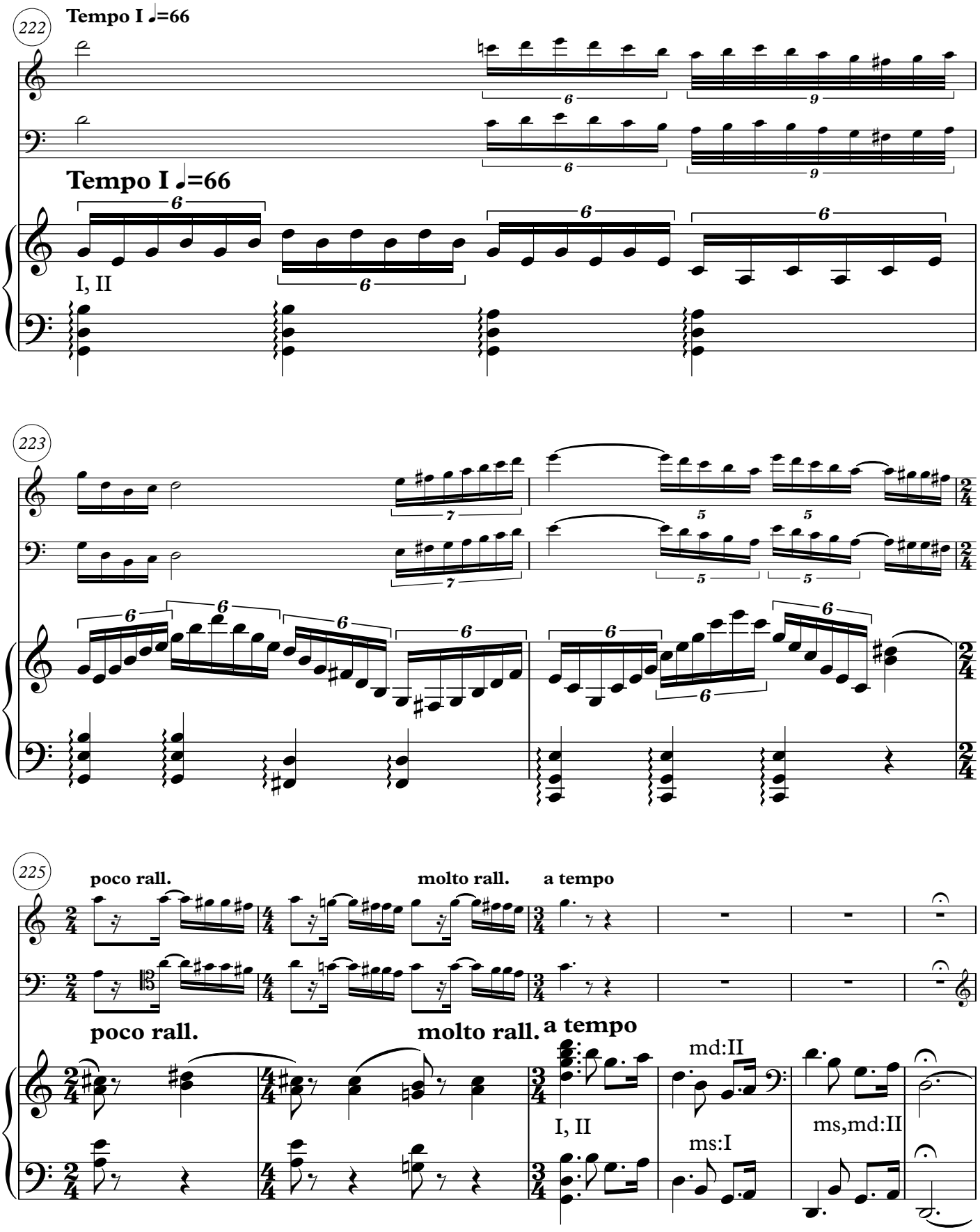
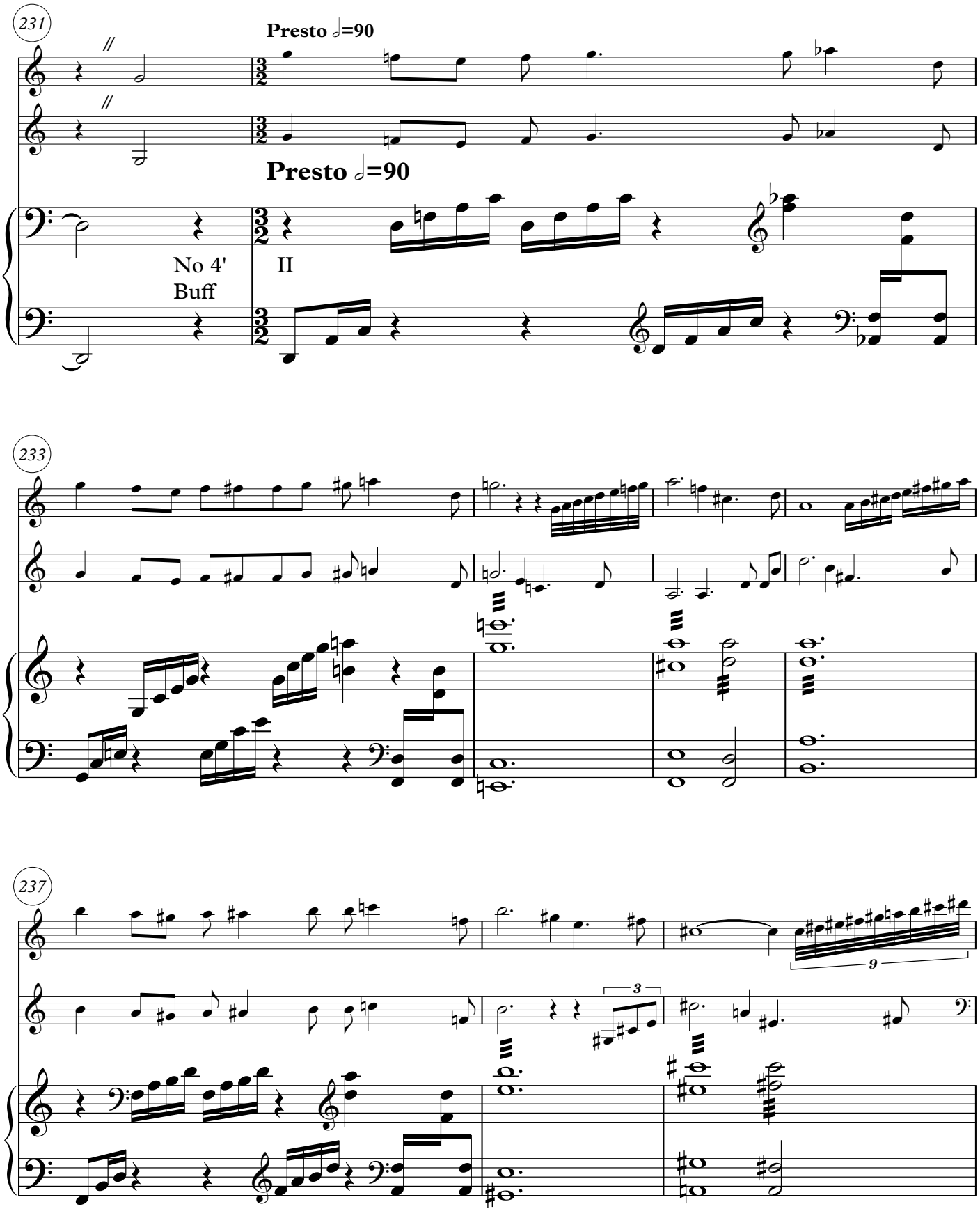


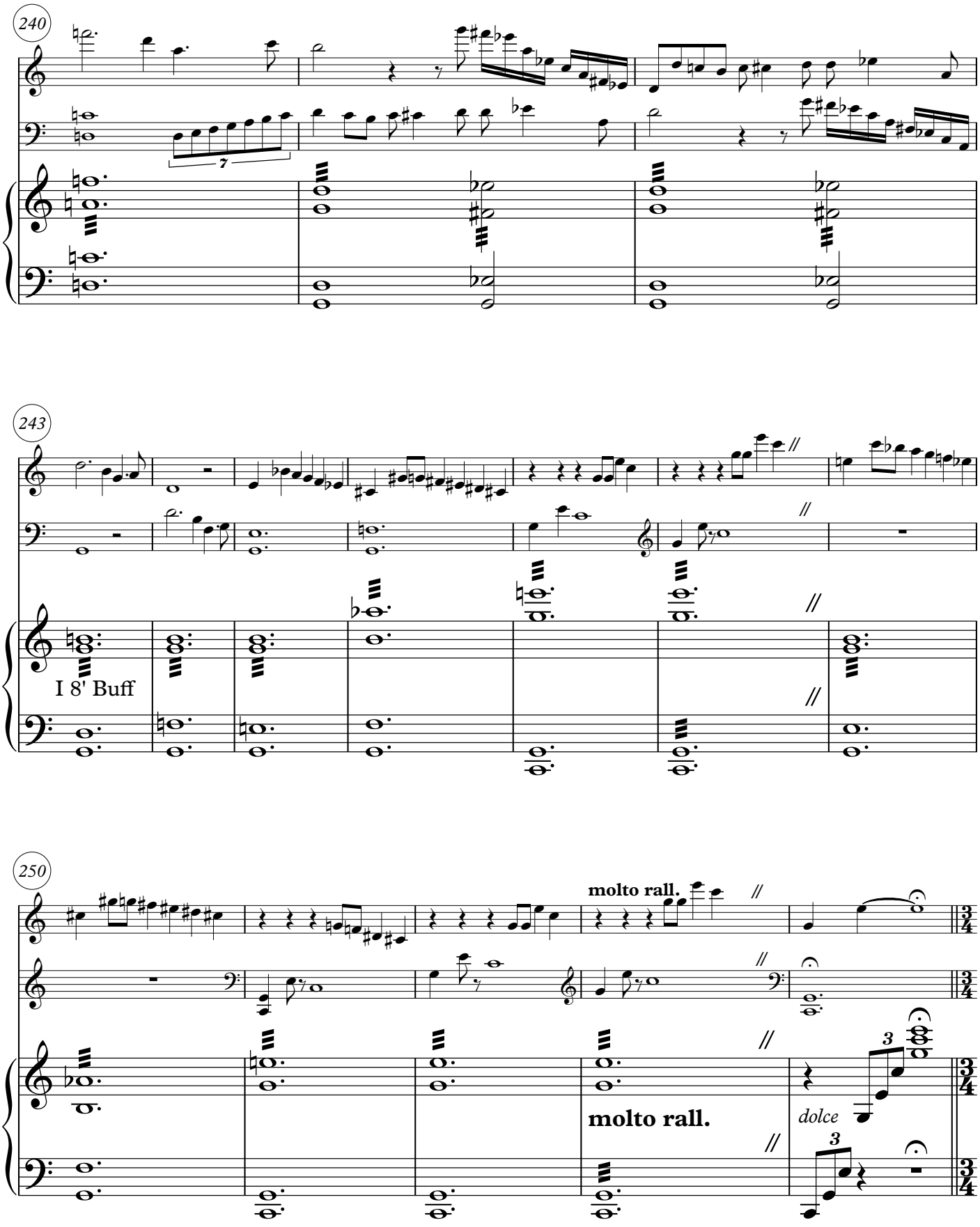

206
molto rit.
molto rit.
m.s.
m.d.
208
a tempo
a tempo
210


211
212
rit.
II 8'
rit.
214
molto rall.
a tempo
I, II 8' 4' No Buff
md: II
molto rall.
a tempo
md,ms: II

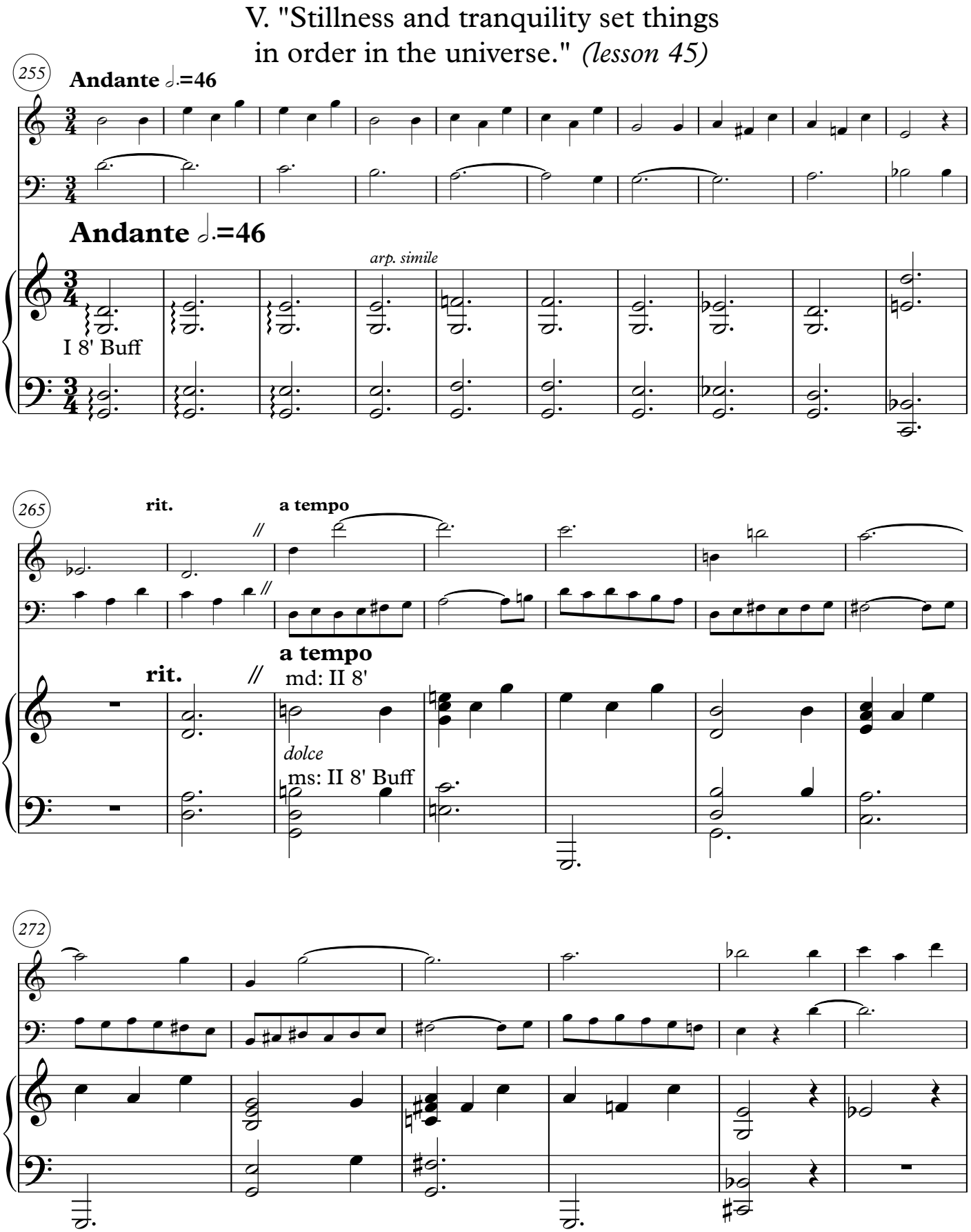

218
tempo ad lib
accel.
tempo ad lib
accel.
220
prestissimo
molto rall.
prestissimo
molto rall.

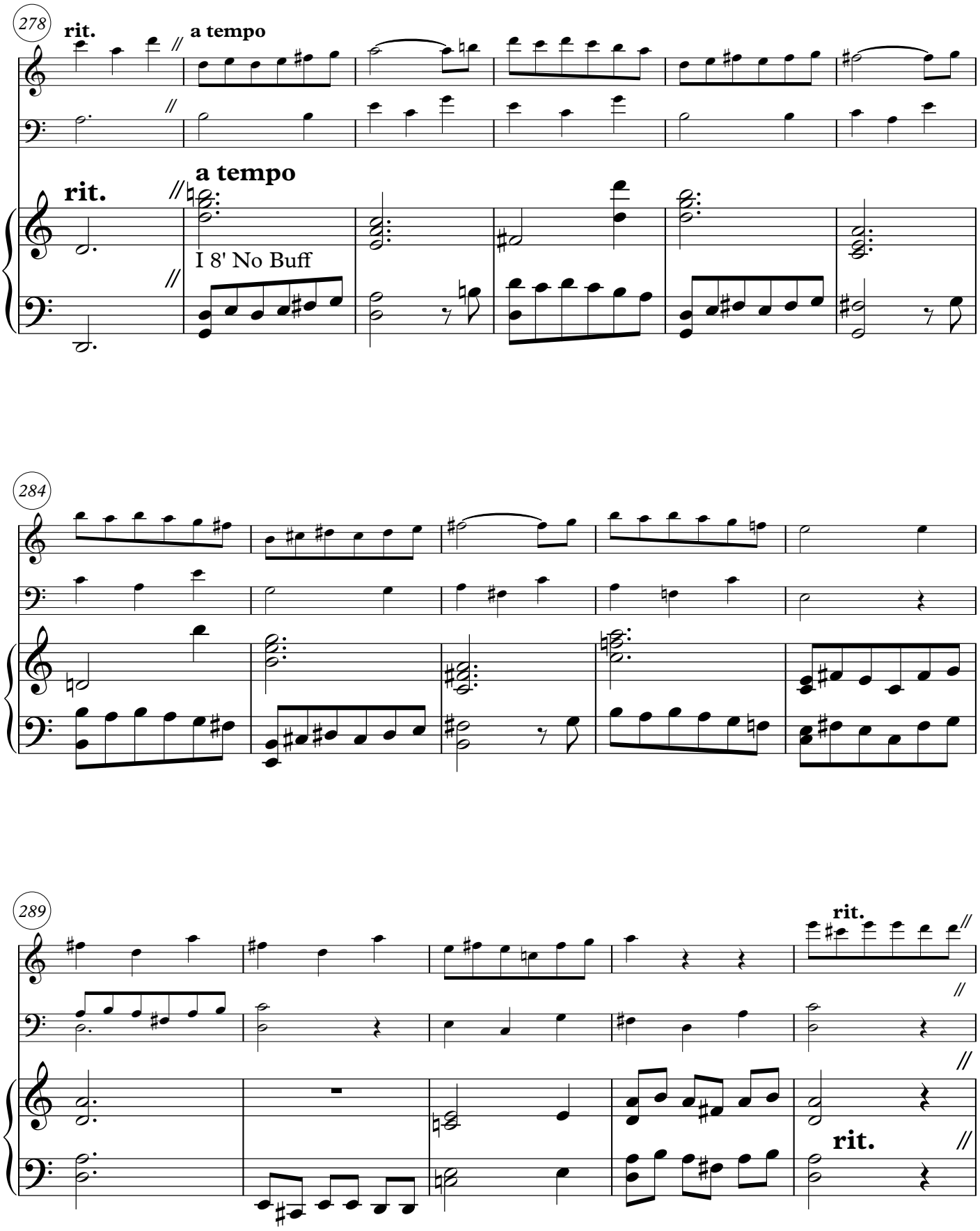

222
Tempo I ♩=66
Tempo I ♩=66
I, II
223
225
poco rall.
molto rall.
a tempo
poco rall.
molto rall.
a tempo
md:II
I, II
ms:I
ms,md:II

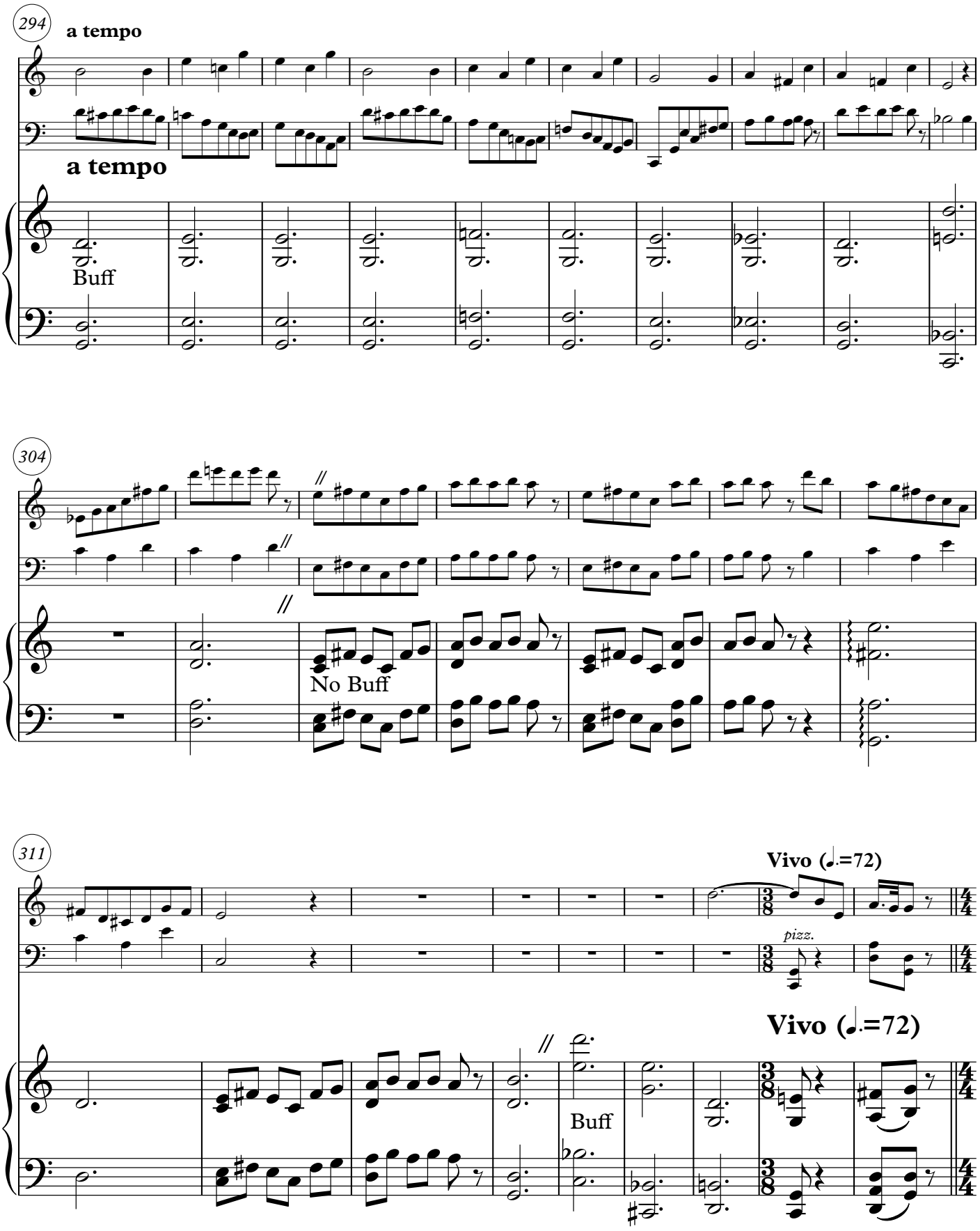
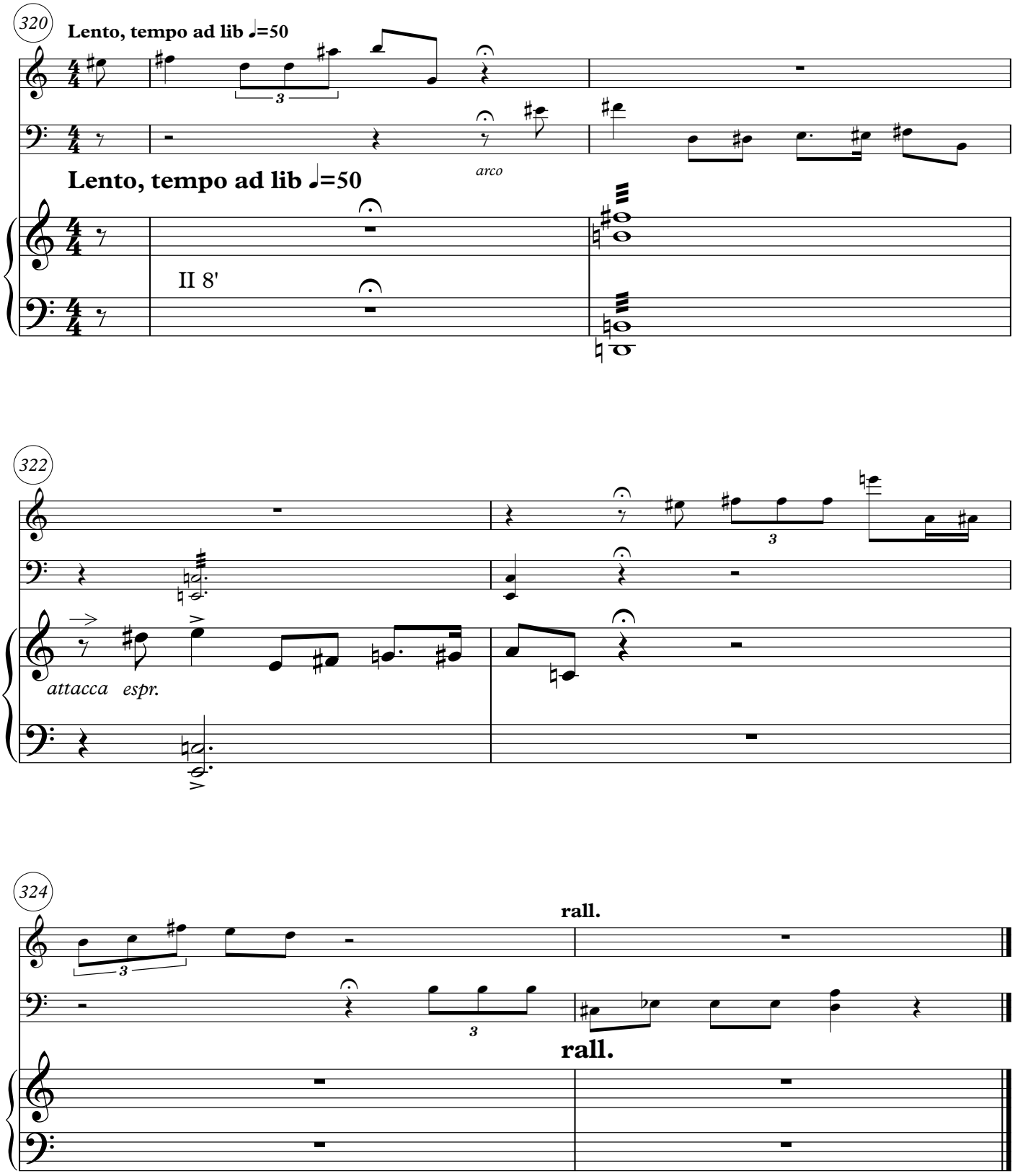

231
Presto ♩=90
Presto ♩=90
No 4'
Buff
II
233
237
9
3


240
243
I 8' Buff
250
molto rall.
molto rall.
dolce

V. "Stillness and tranquility set things in order in the universe." *(lesson 45)*




278
rit.
a tempo
rit.
a tempo
I 8' No Buff
284
289
rit.
rit.


294
a tempo
a tempo
Buff
304
No Buff
311
Vivo (♩.=72)
pizz.
Vivo (♩.=72)
Buff

VI. "To talk little is natural. If heaven and earth cannot make things eternal, how is it possible for man?" *(lesson 23)*