Quiet Form

(after the sculpture by Barbara Hepworth)

For alto flute in G, electric piano and double bass

Poem by Margaret Morgan

Music by Nigel Morgan

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ISMN 979-0-57043-062-8 (Performance Score)

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About the music

This composition forms part of the series *Music for Sculptures* commissioned by Yorkshire Sculpture Park for the Barbara Hepworth Centenary Exhibition.

Quiet Form provides a still centre to a sequence of intensely rhythmic and contrapuntal music. Whilst no precise dynamics or articulations are marked the electric keyboard part in particular is made up of harmonic blocks whose resonance should ebb and flow. The alto flute part should be quietly expressive, savouring opportunities for colourful vibrato and articulation at a dynamic between *pianissimo* and *mezzo-piano*. The double bass part may be played *arco* or *pizz* or a mixture of the two, but predominantly *sul tasto*.

Where possible, particularly in live performance, the performers might experiment with ghosting notes, even short phrases, so that the music appears to suddenly disappear in random moments between each part, although each player might 'appear' to be sounding it.

Quiet Form was first performed by musicians from the BBC National Orchestra of Wales in 2003. Their studio recording, available to download from the composer's website, is a reliable reference for musician's seeking guidance on the possible interpretation of this piece.

More information about the *Music for Sculptures* series can be found at http://www.nigel-morgan.co.uk.

Quiet Form

If I were quiet,
my form timeless
as polished marble
but fecund still,

between breast
and belly folded
arms would hide
my pierced body

where life lurks
to quicken, coiled
in shine and shiver
around the hole

through which spirit
must catch aquatic
air in mid-swim.
So quiet waits

life, quilted
in polished glow
of a stone torso,
for birth qualms.

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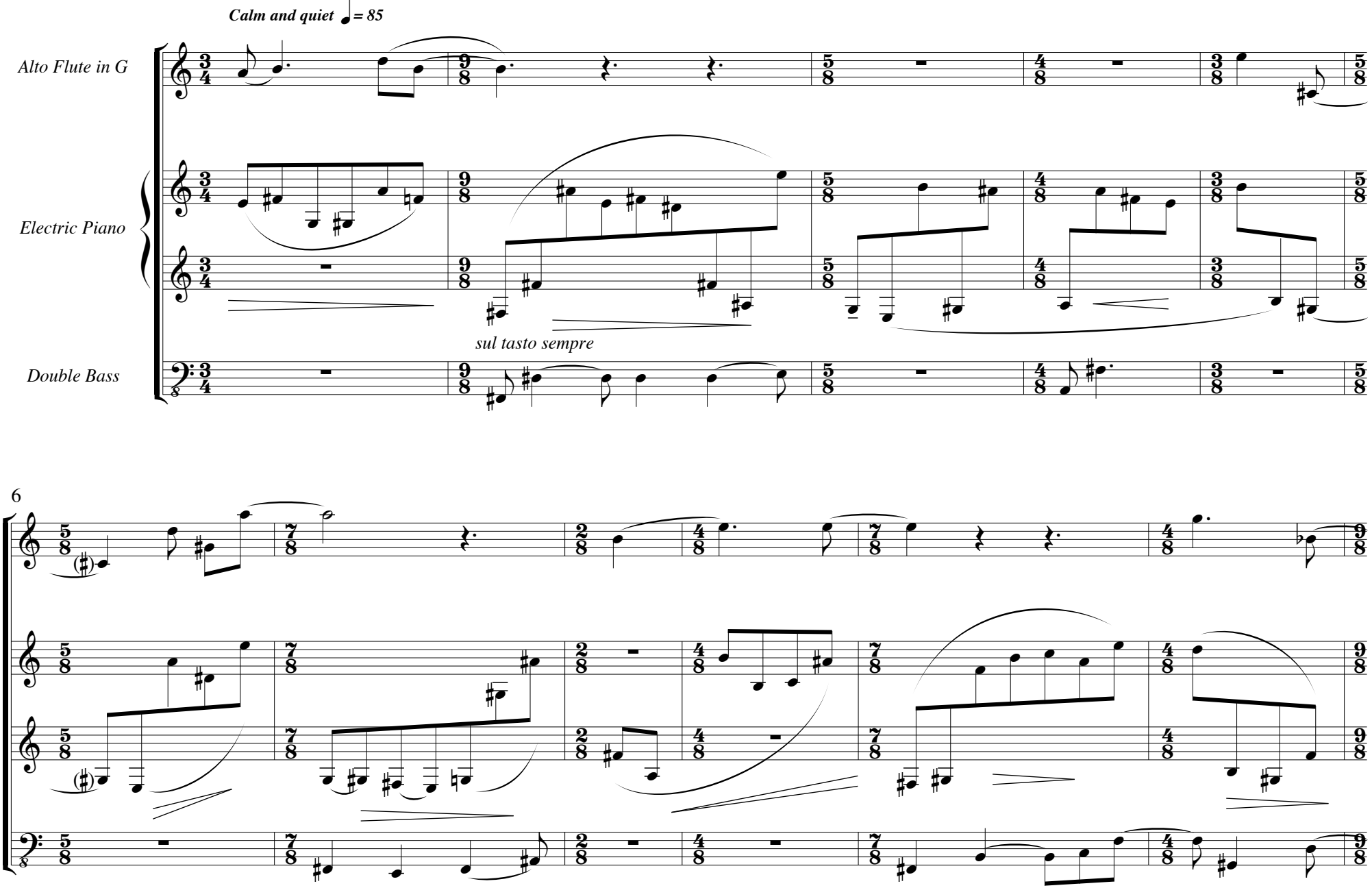
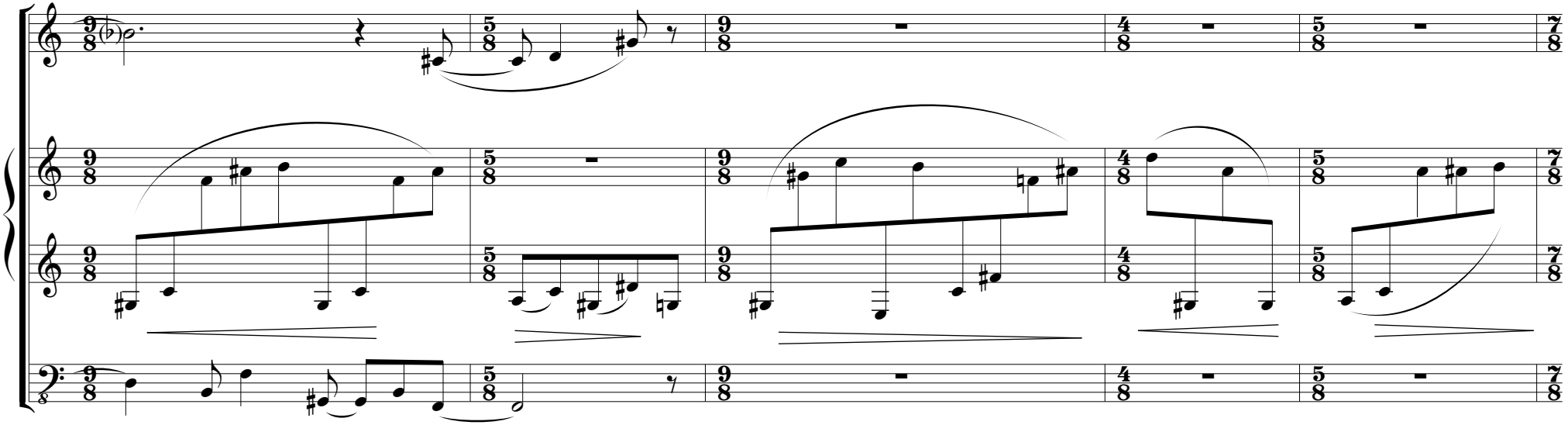
Quiet Form


Calm and quiet ♩= 85
Alto Flute in G
Electric Piano
Double Bass
sul tasto sempre
6

12



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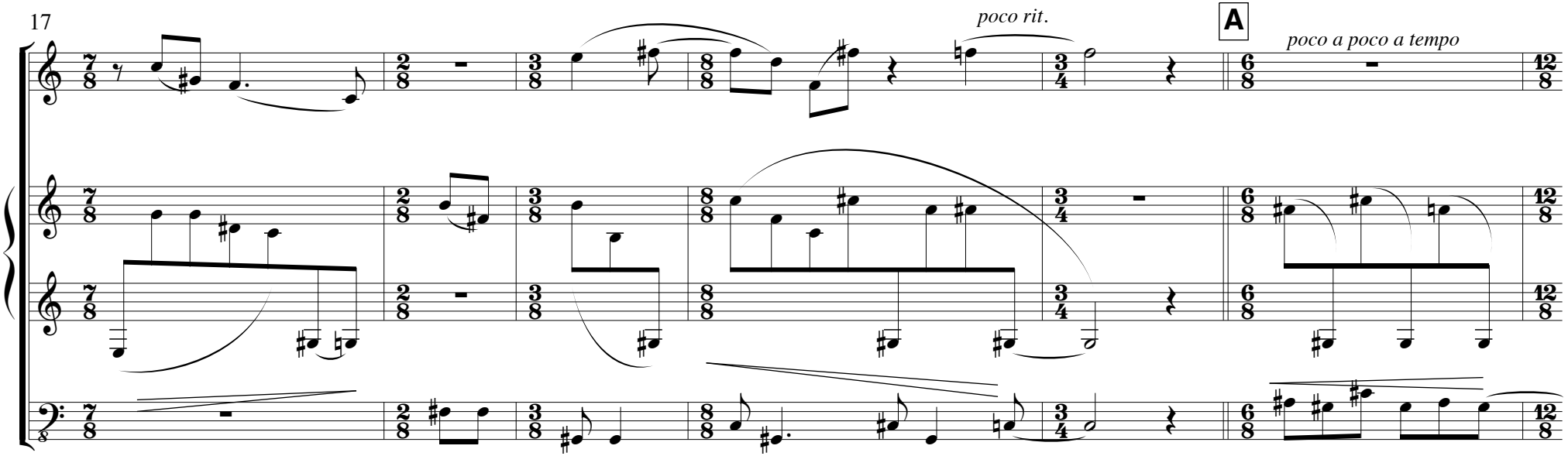

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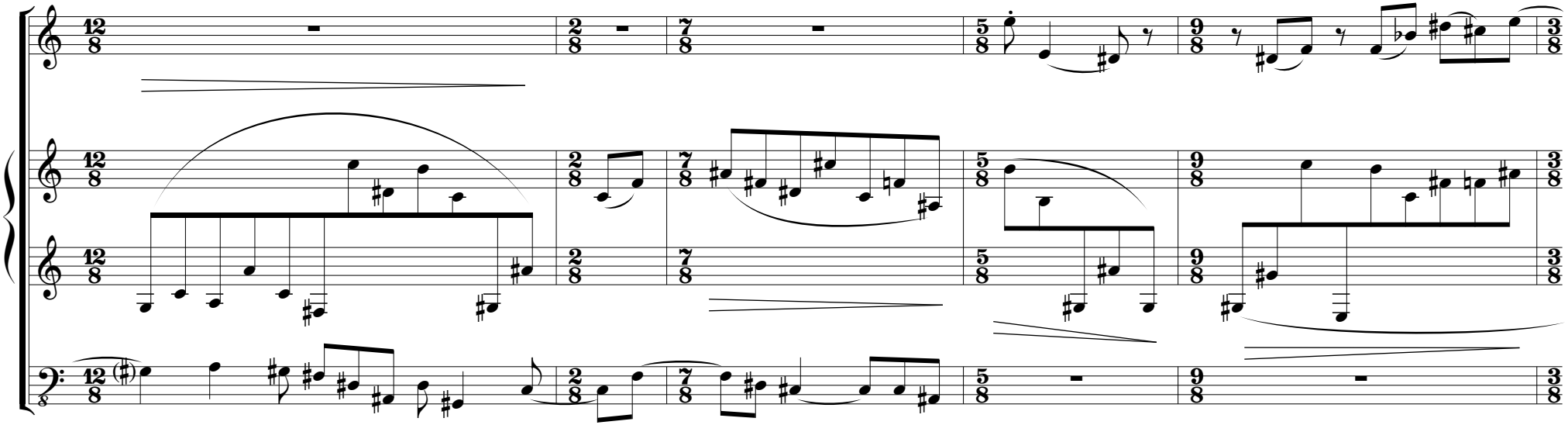

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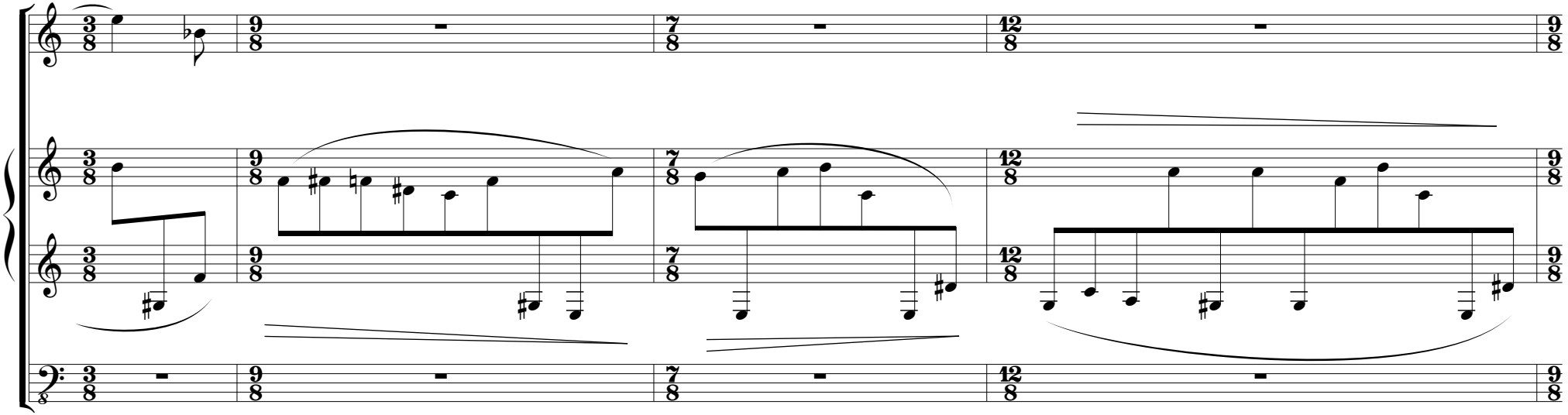
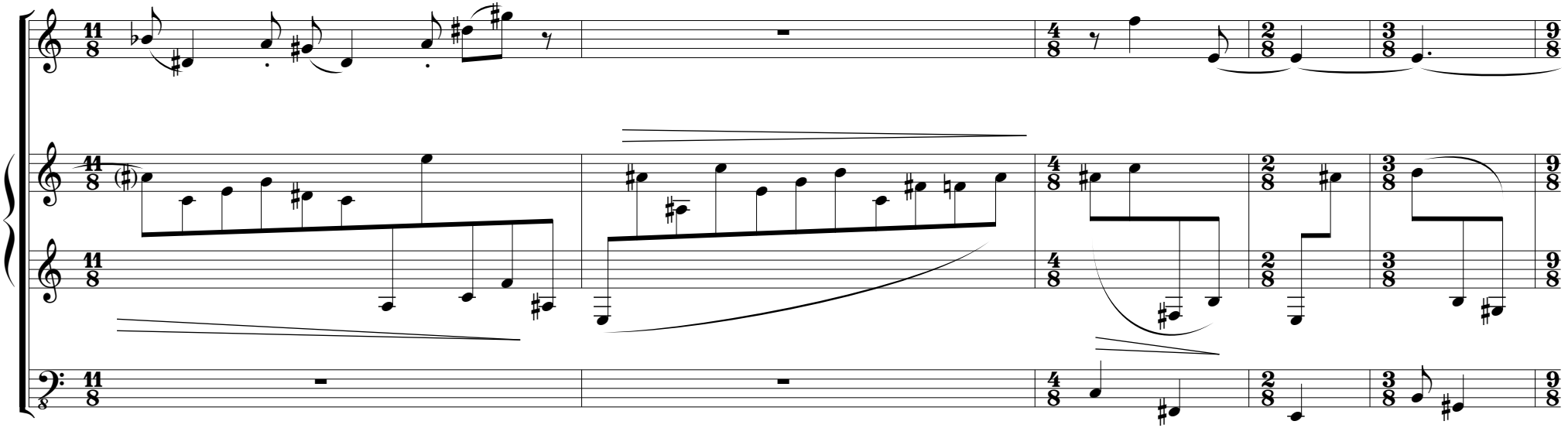


32
37

41



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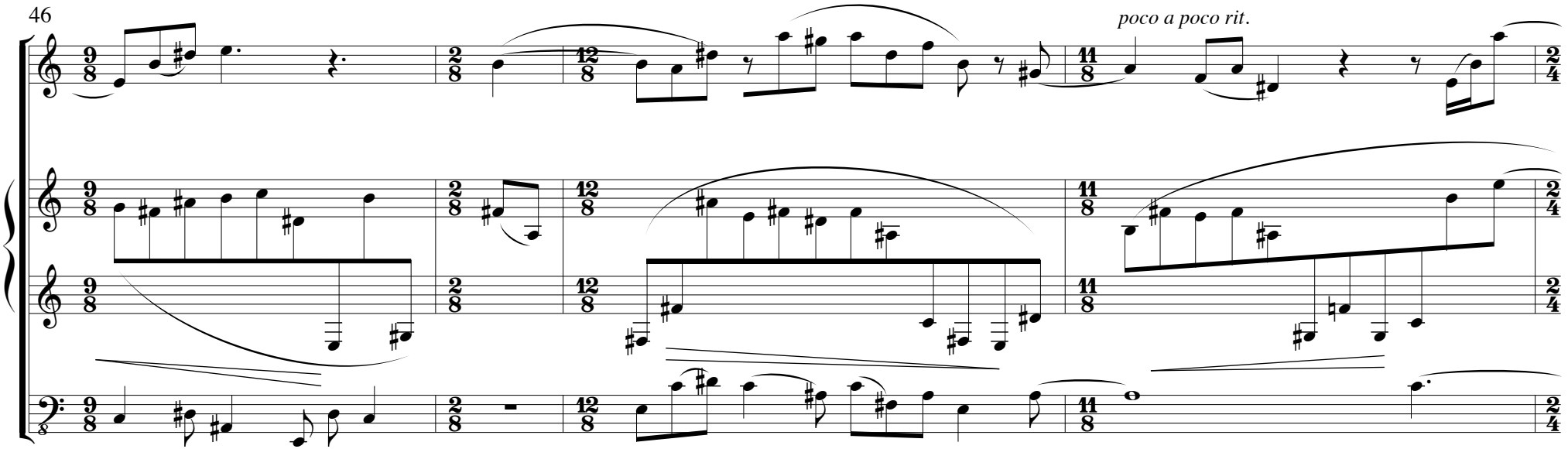
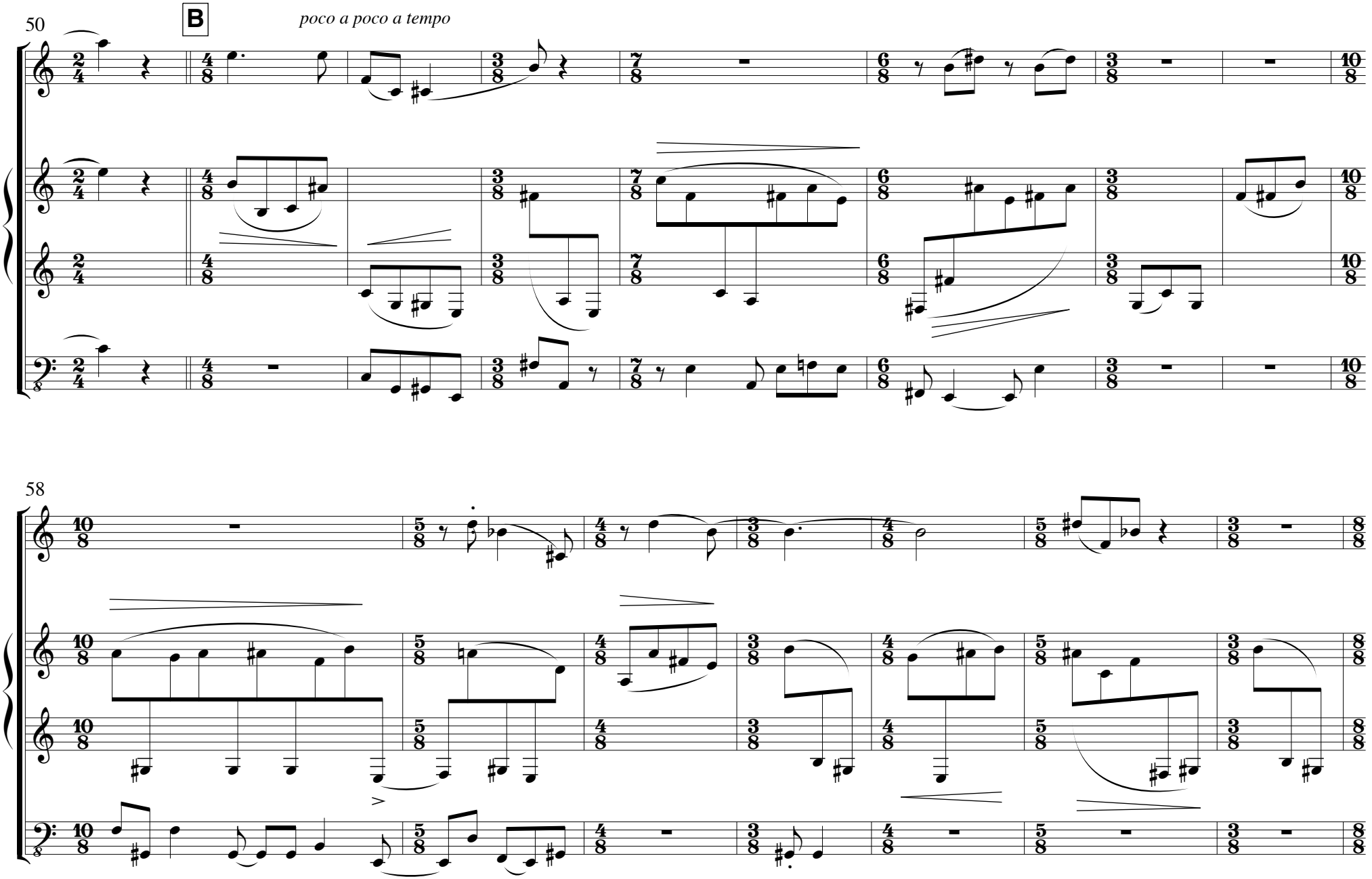
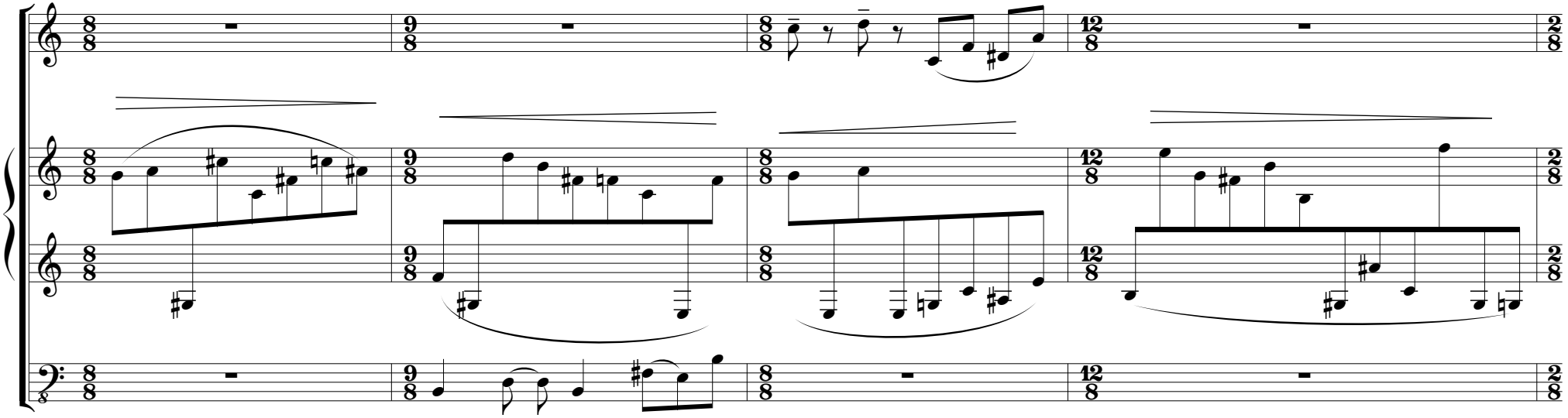


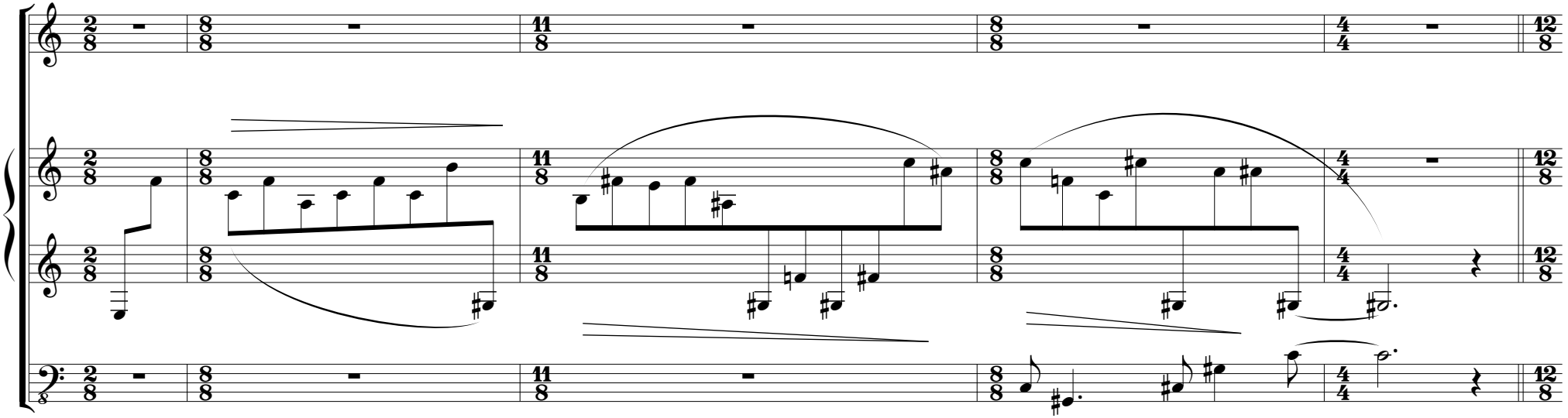

50
B
poco a poco a tempo
58

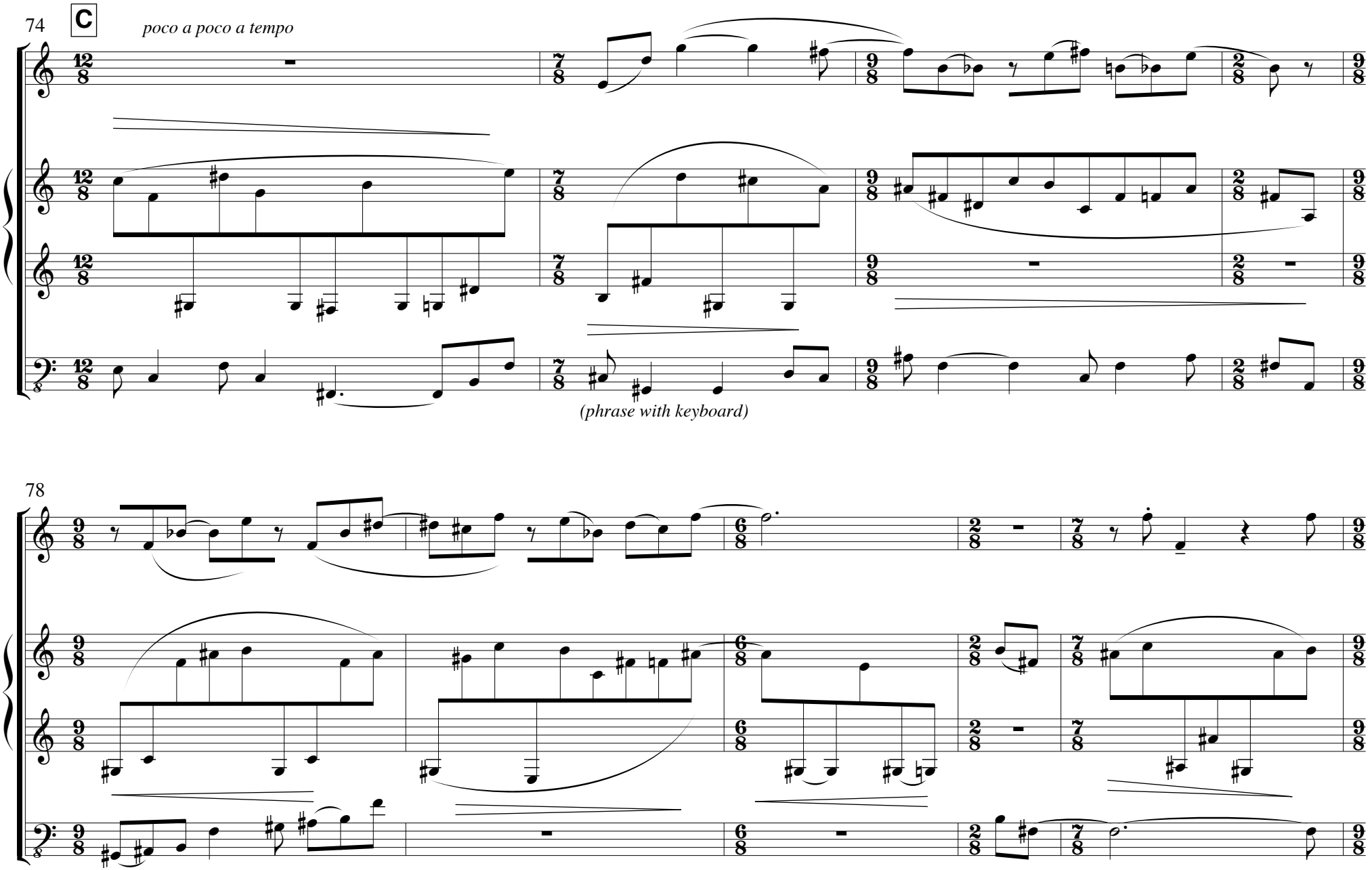
65

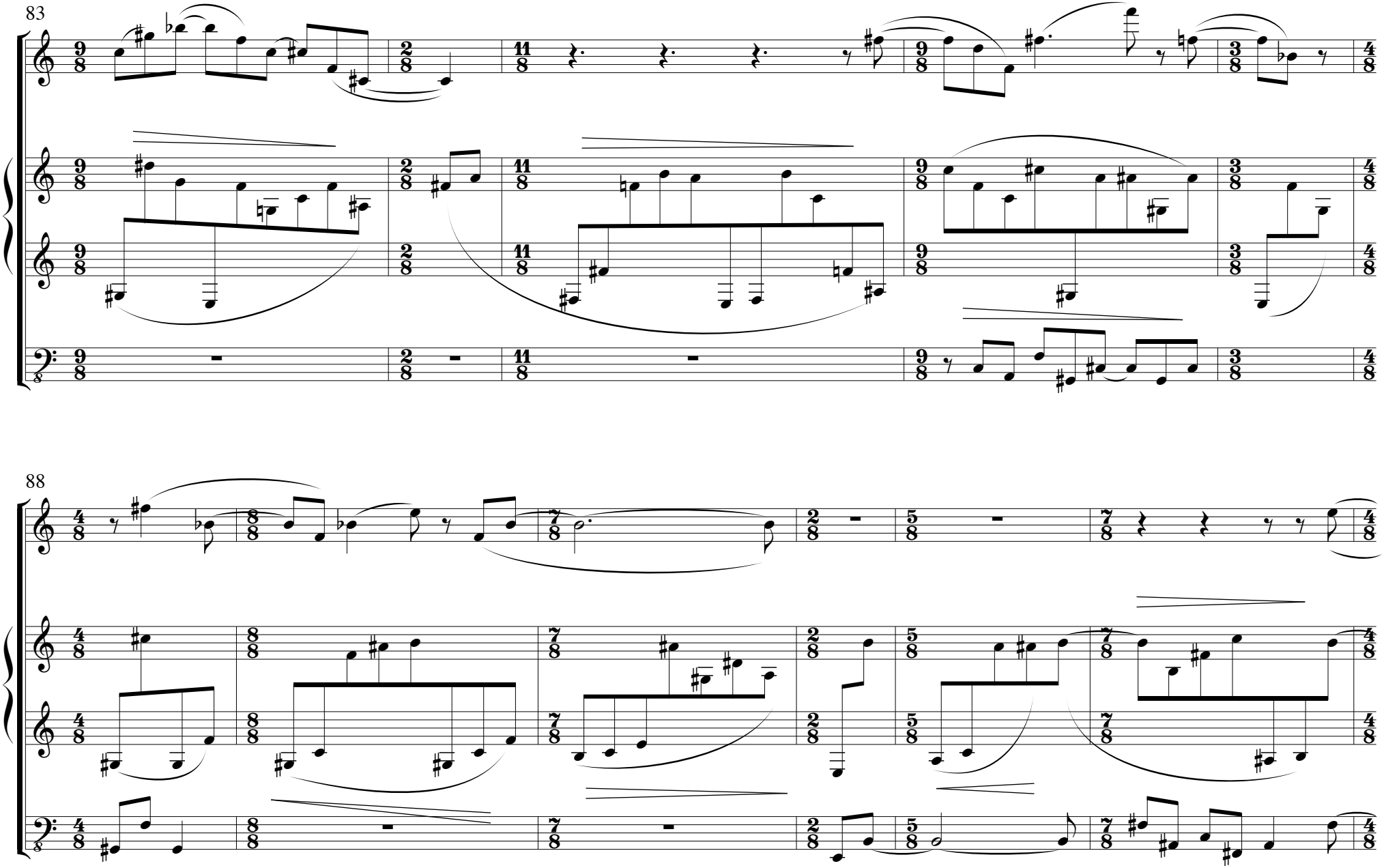


69

poco a poco rit.

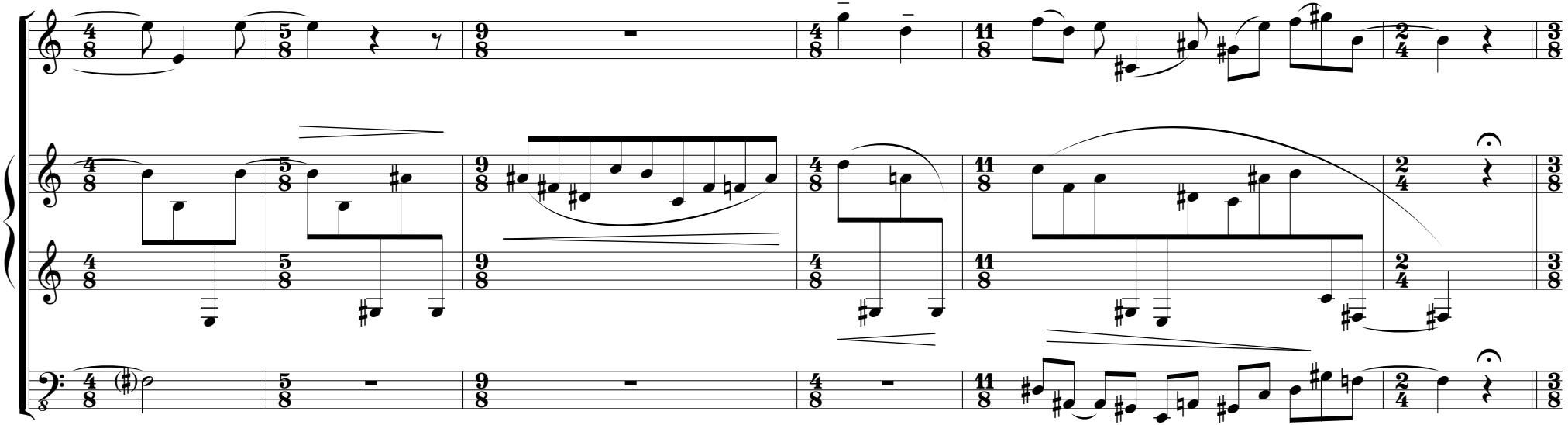



74
C
poco a poco a tempo
(phrase with keyboard)
78


83
88

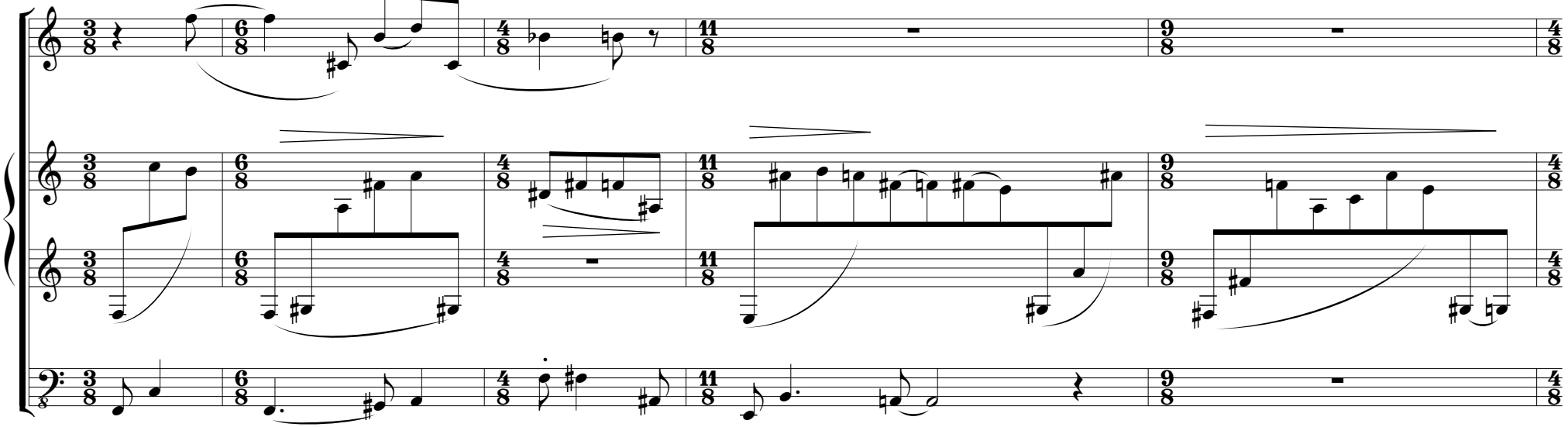
94

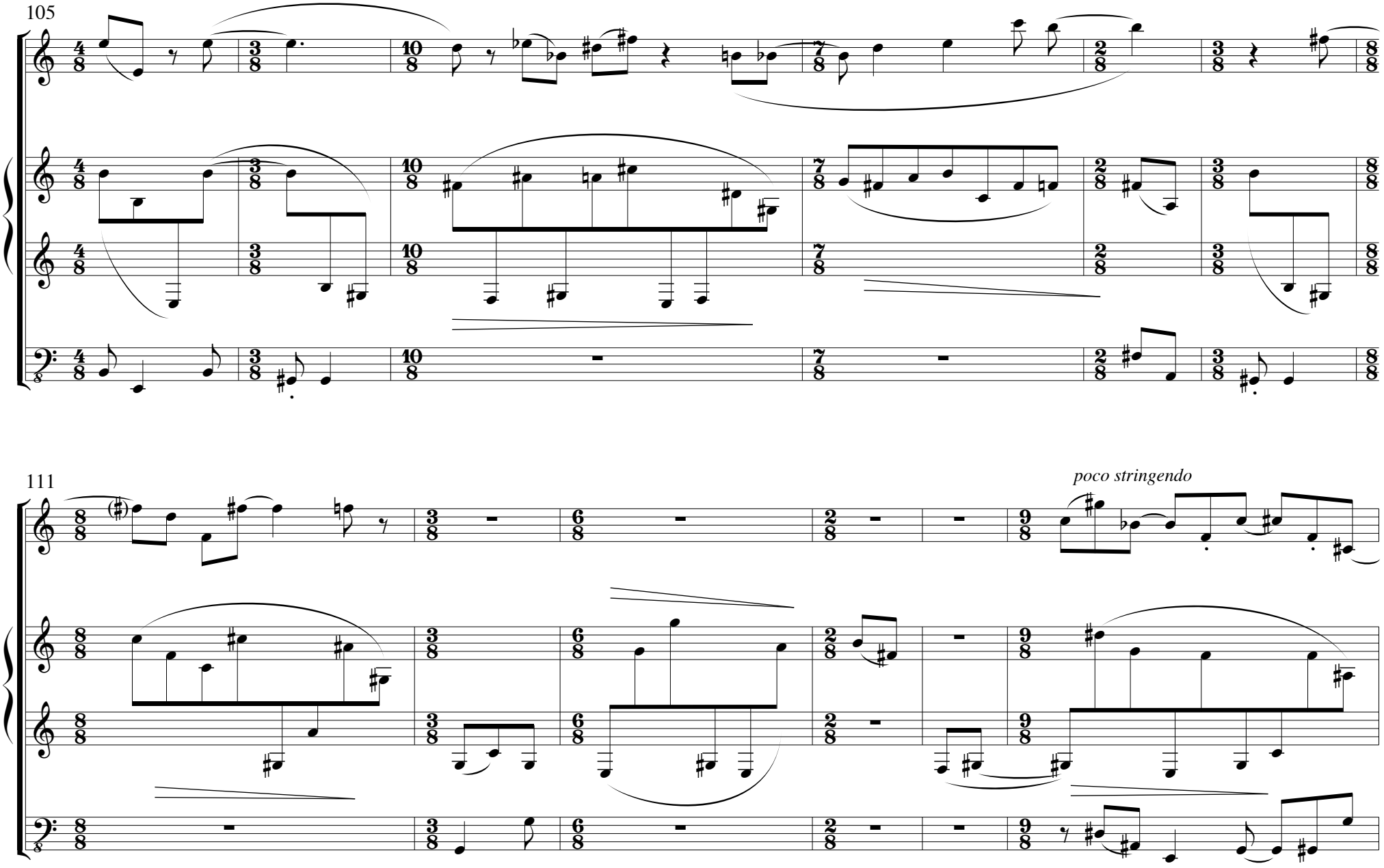
poco a poco stringendo



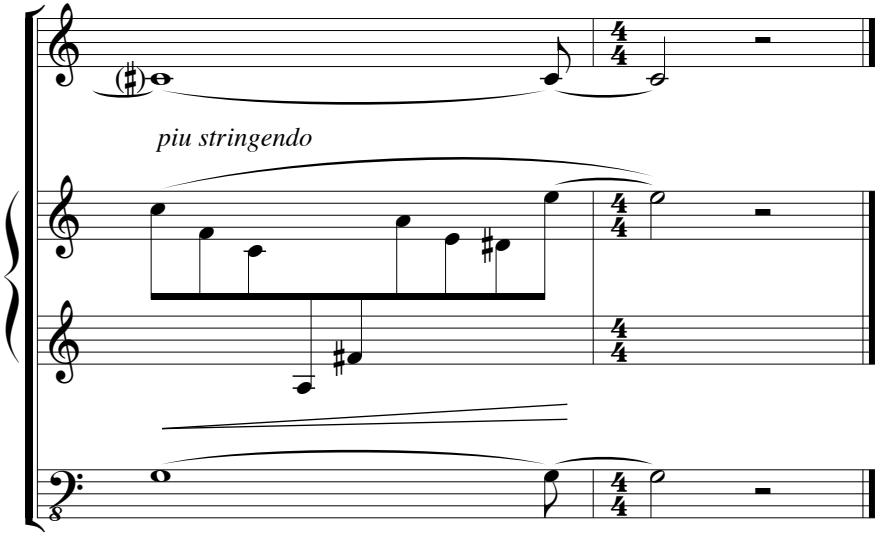
100

D *poco a poco a tempo*




105
111
poco stringendo

117



for Eva