THE BREMEN TOWN MUSICIANS

for narrator and small orchestra

KILE SMITH

TAU.IMPRINTS

The Bremen Town Musicians

for narrator and small orchestra

Kile Smith

Flute
Oboe
Clarinet in B♭
Bassoon

Horn in F
Trumpet in B♭
Trombone

Percussion (one player: Triangle, Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbals, Snare Drum, Bass Drum)

Narrator

Strings

Duration: 8'

Composed in 2008 for violin, cello, and narrator, the text from a Brothers Grimm story. Commissioned by Auricolae, premiered 9 Jun 2008 at the Media Elementary School, Media, Pa., and performed many times since. The commission was funded by Musicopia through a grant by the American Composers Forum, Philadelphia Chapter. The narrator at the premiere was David Yang, founder and director of Auricolae, the violinist was Julie Kang, and the cellist was Thomas Kraines.

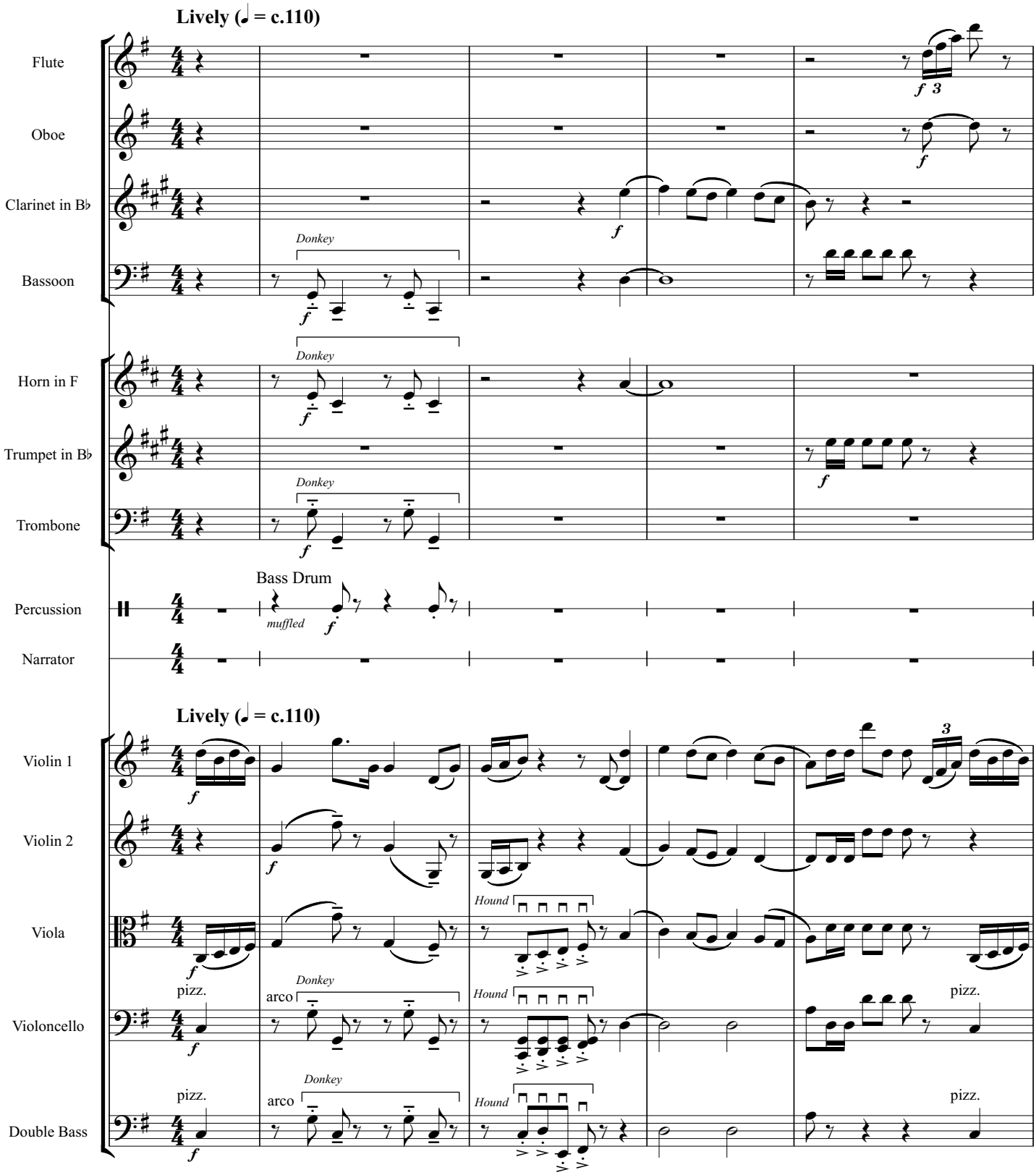
This orchestration, 2016, premiered 10 July 2016 by the English Symphony Orchestra at the Hereford Shirehall, Hereford, U.K. with Matthew Sharp, narrator, and Kenneth Woods, conductor.

The Bremen Town Musicians

for narrator and small orchestra

from a tale collected by the Brothers Grimm,
adapted by K.S.

Kile Smith



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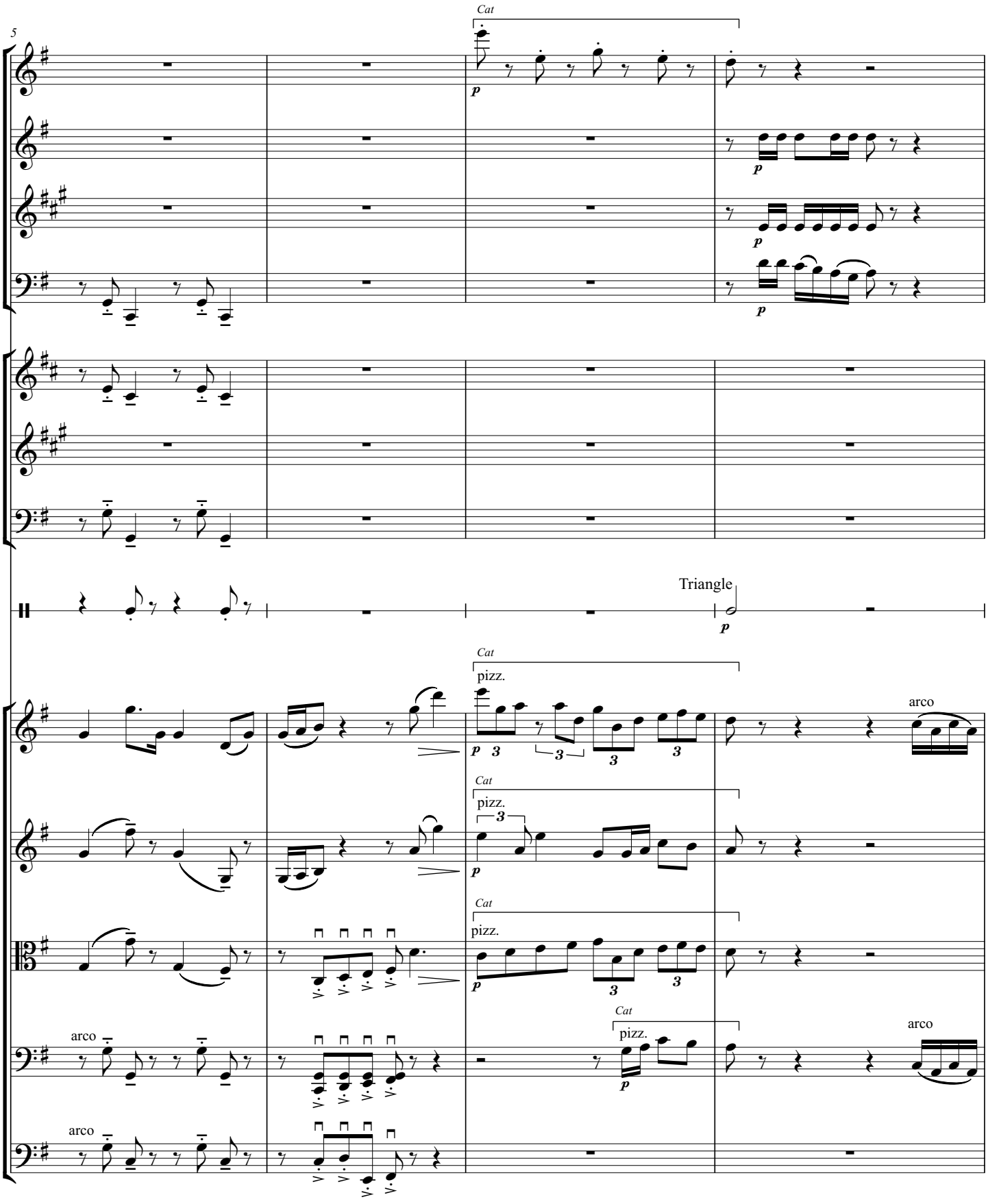
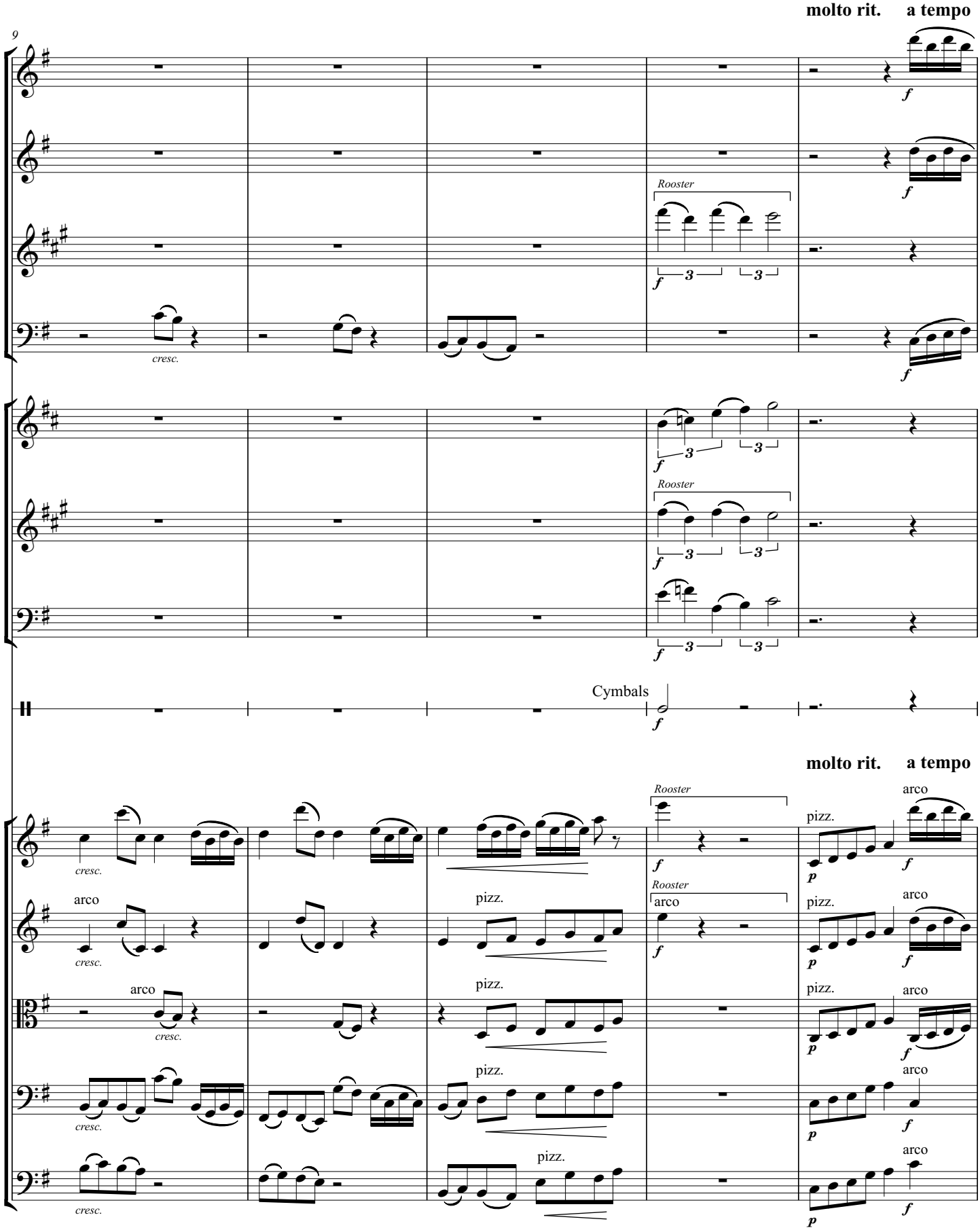
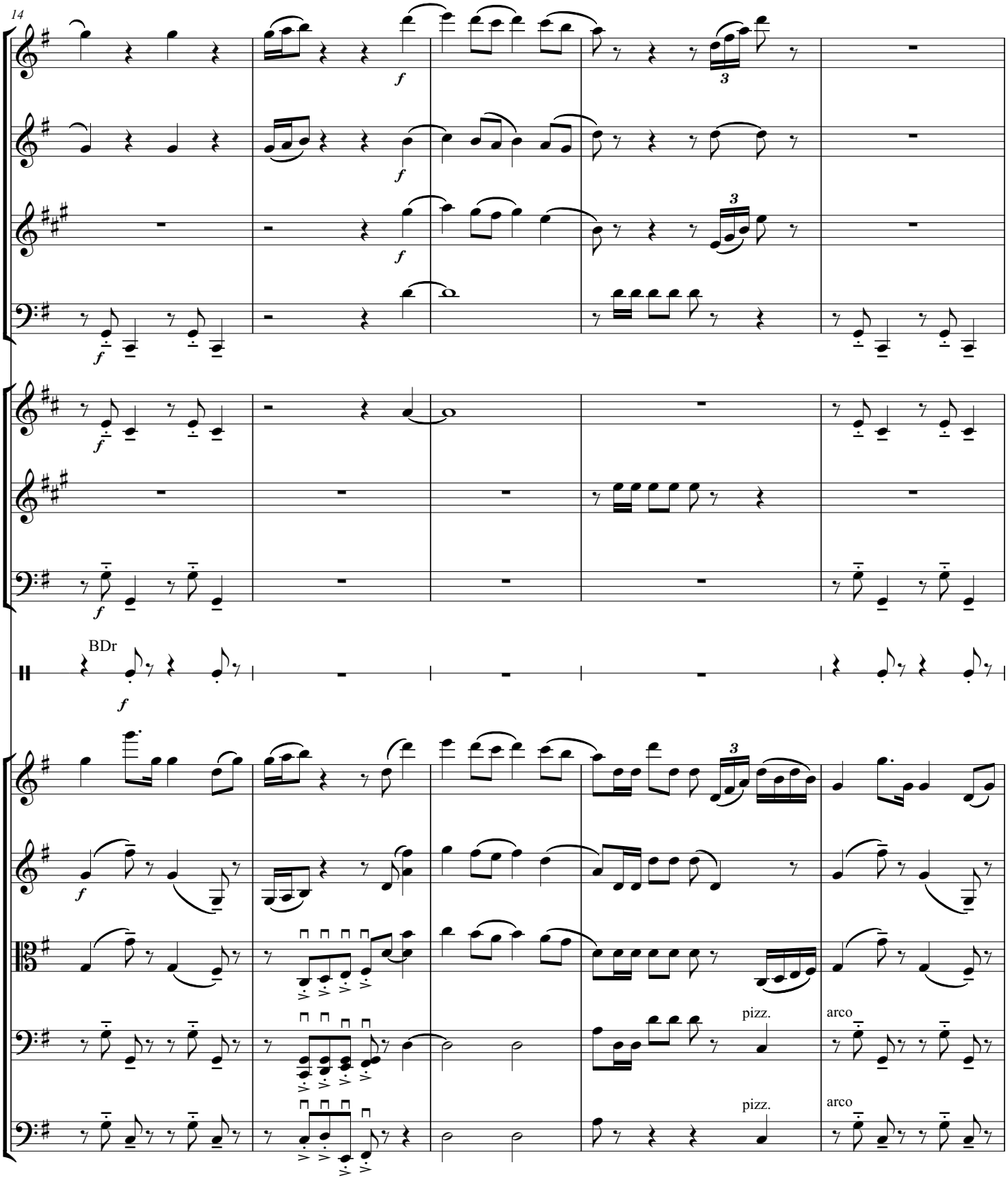
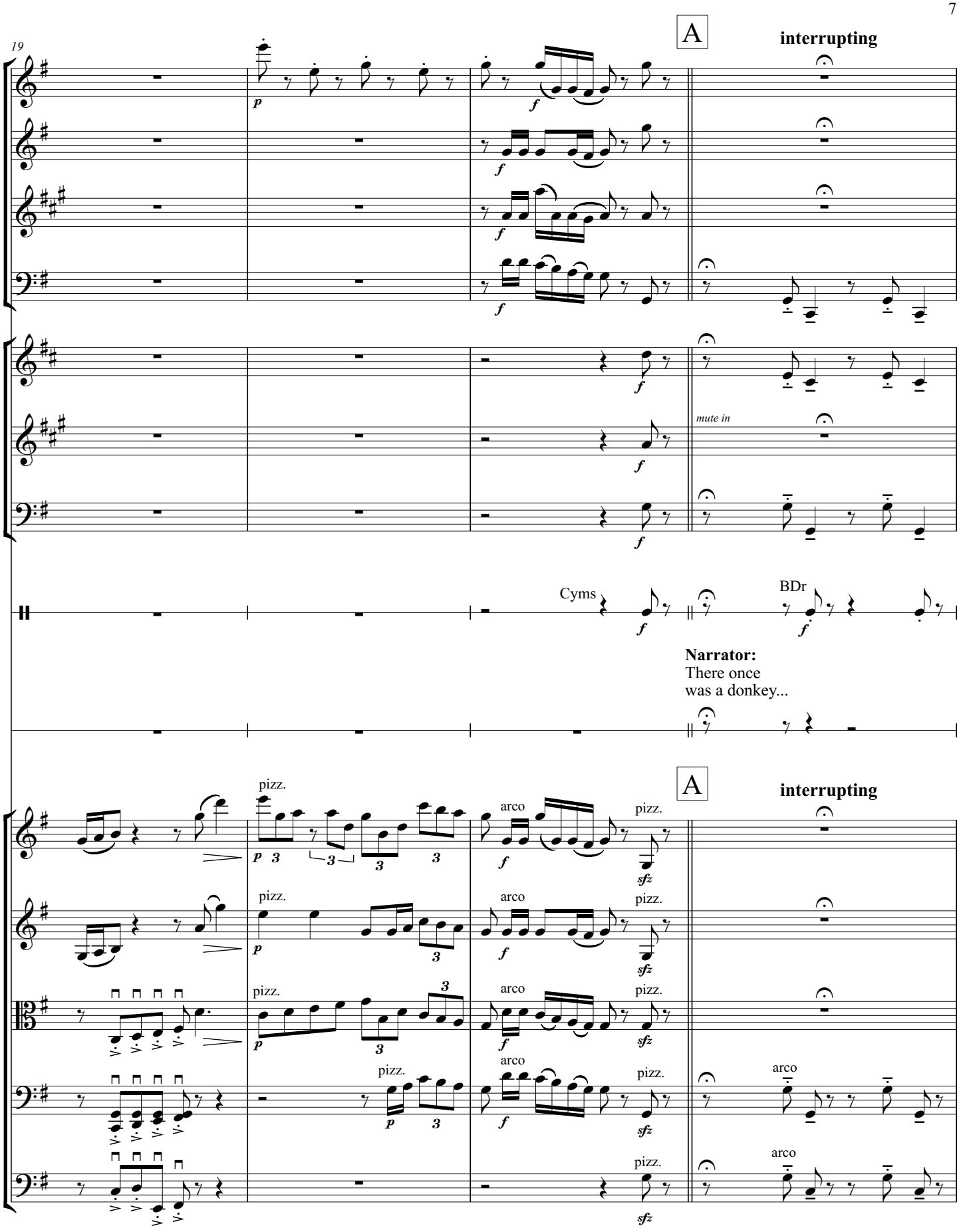
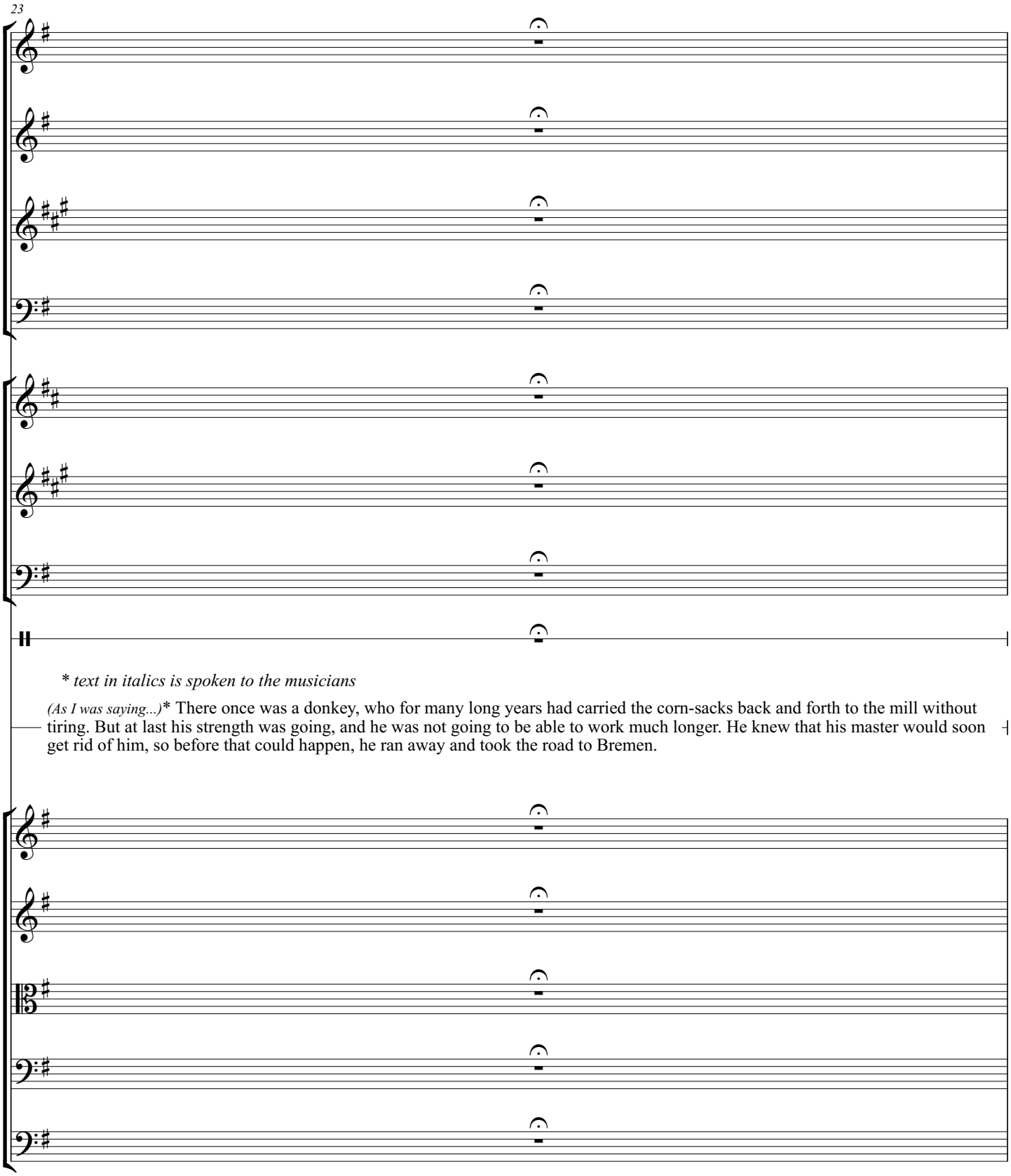
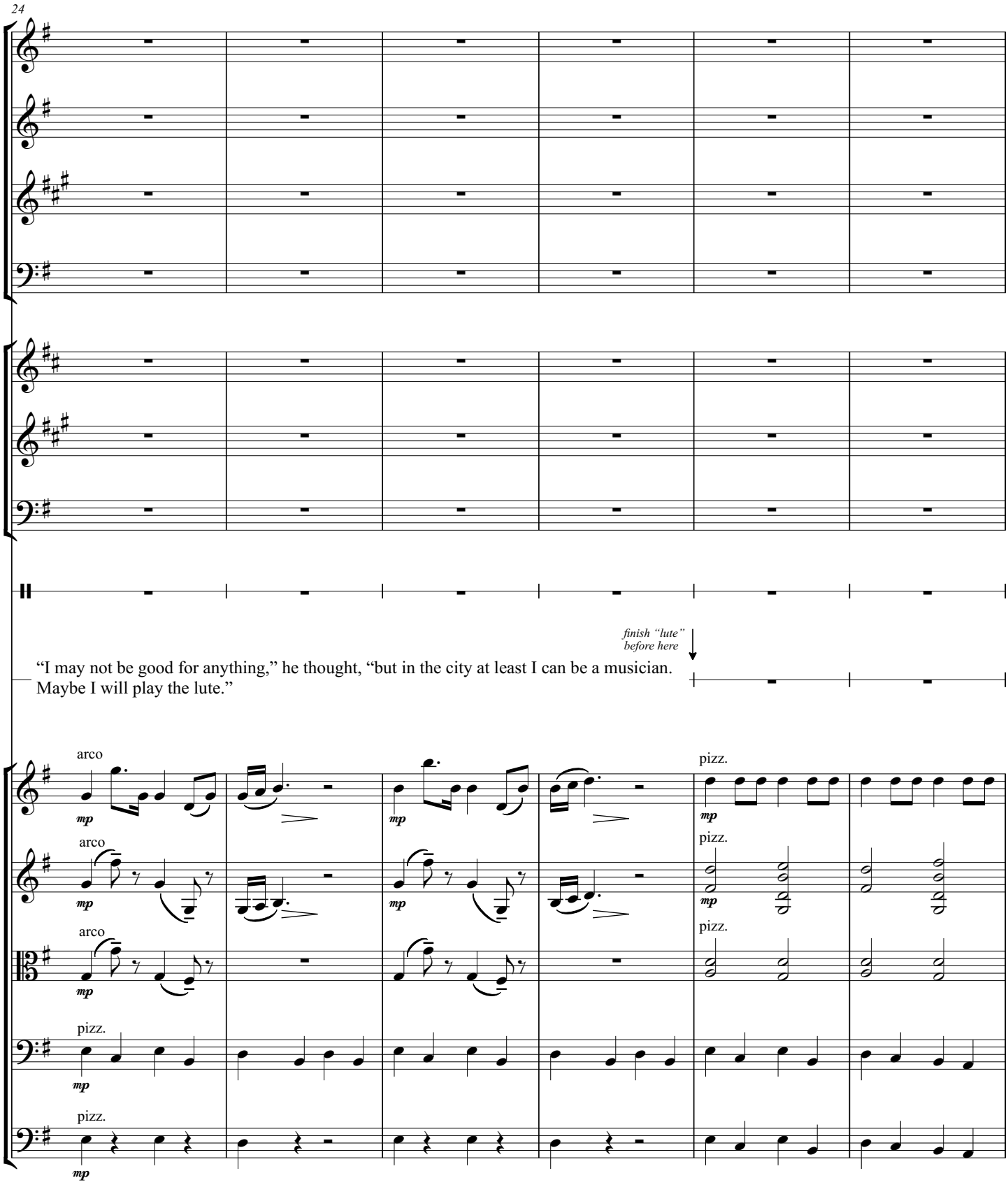

5
Cat
p
Triangle
pizz.
arco

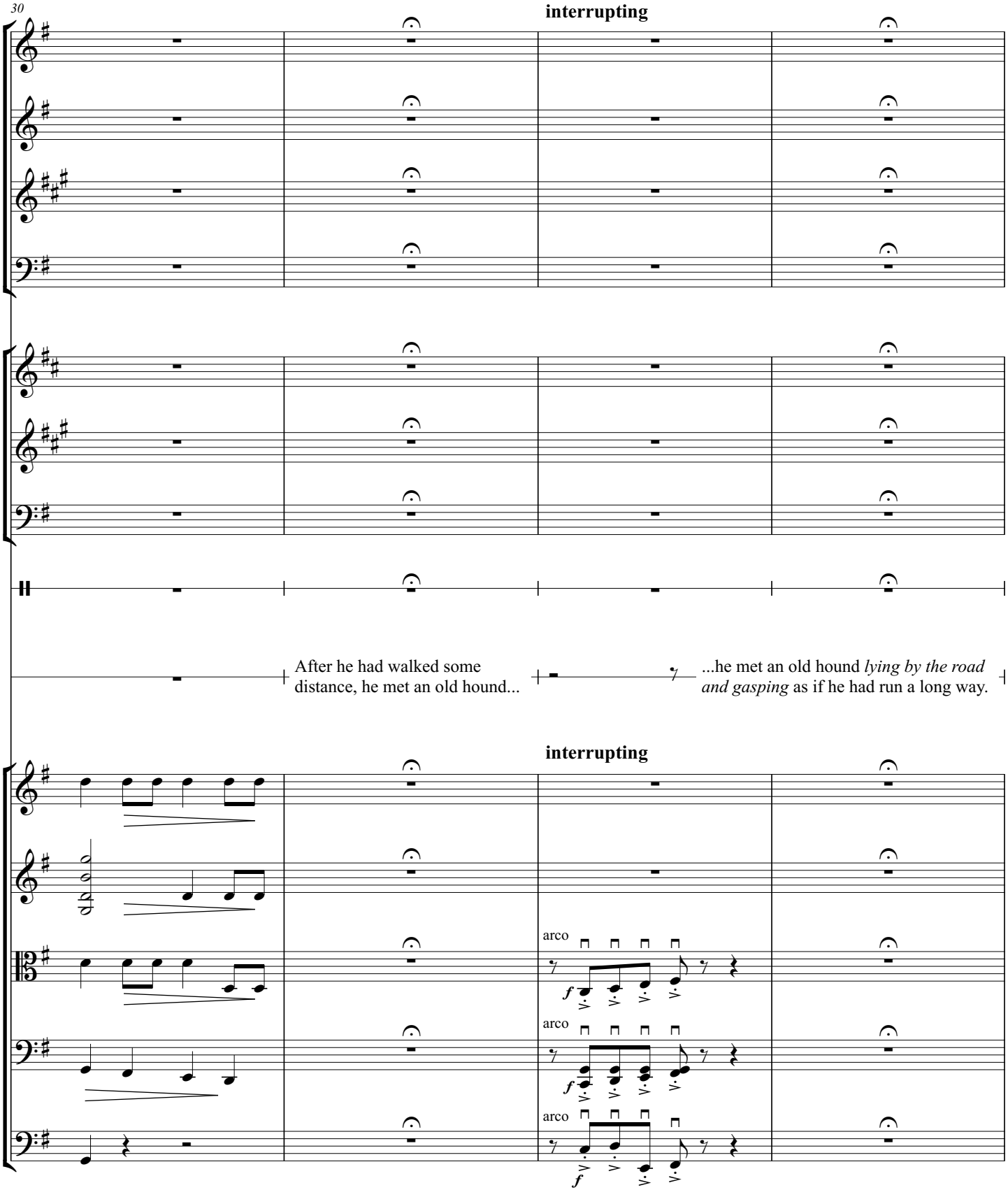

molto rit.
a tempo
9
Rooster
cresc.
Cymbals
arco
pizz.
p
f

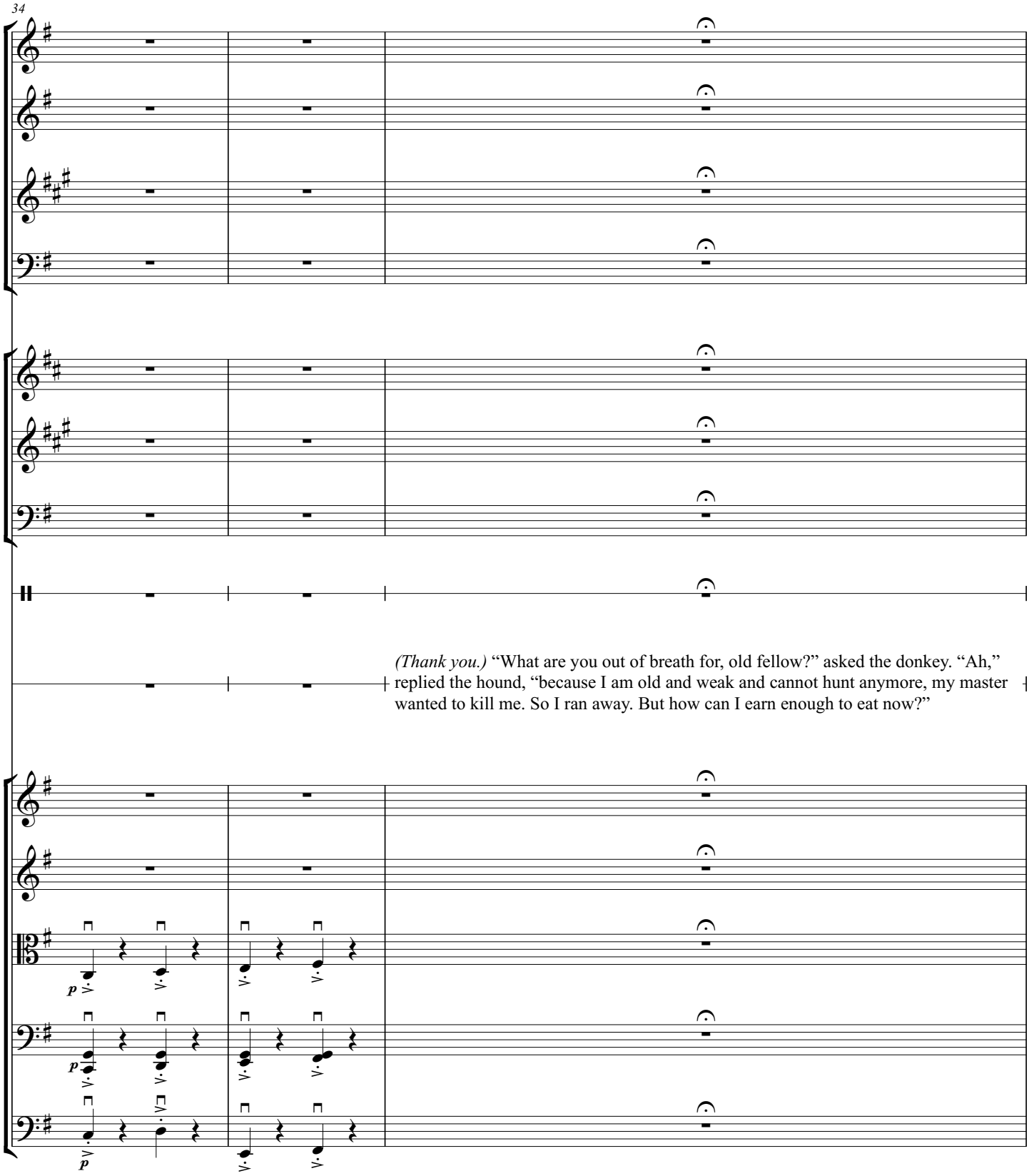

14
BDr
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco

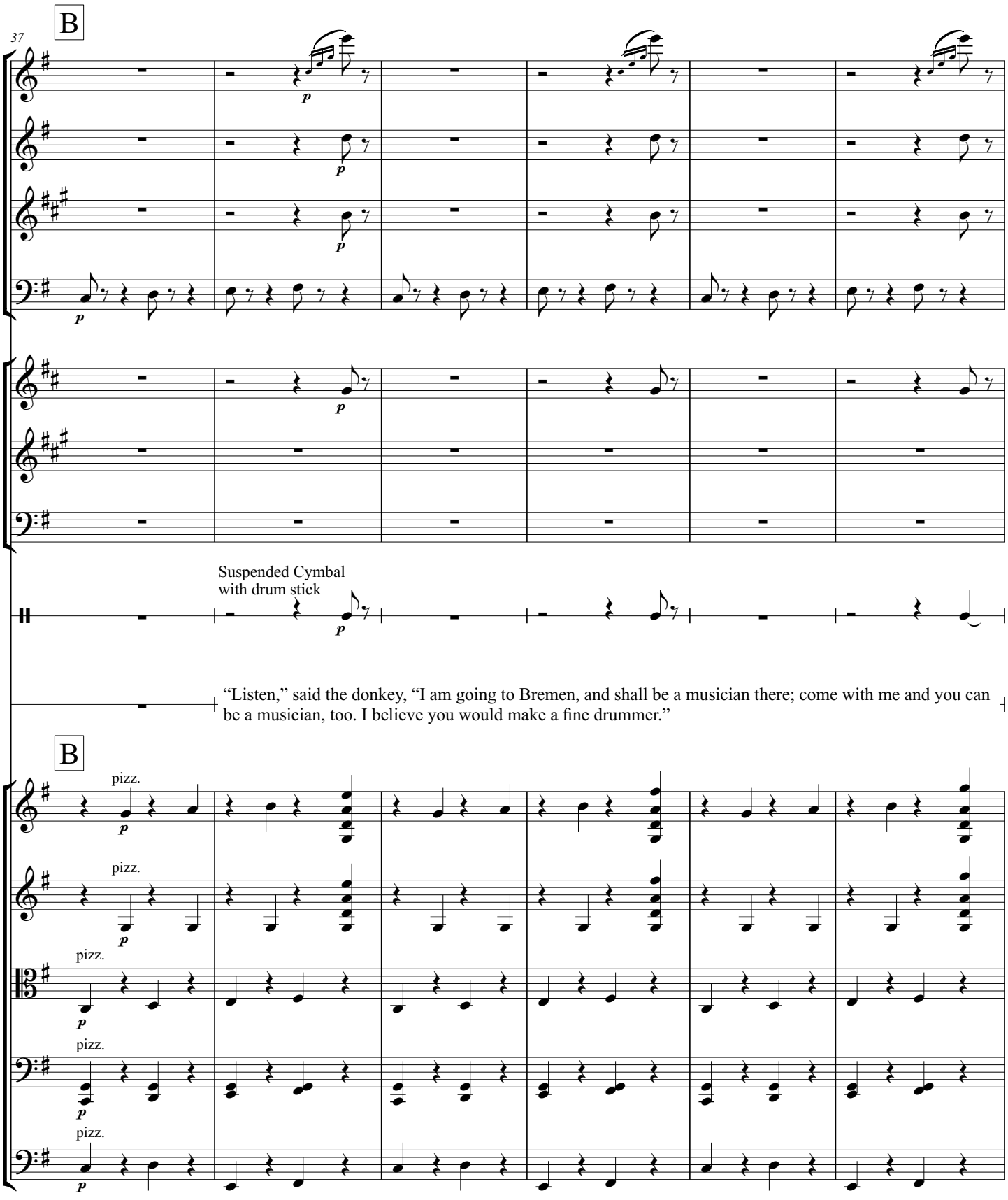

19
A
interrupting
mute in
Cyms
BDr
Narrator:
There once
was a donkey...
A
interrupting
pizz.
arco

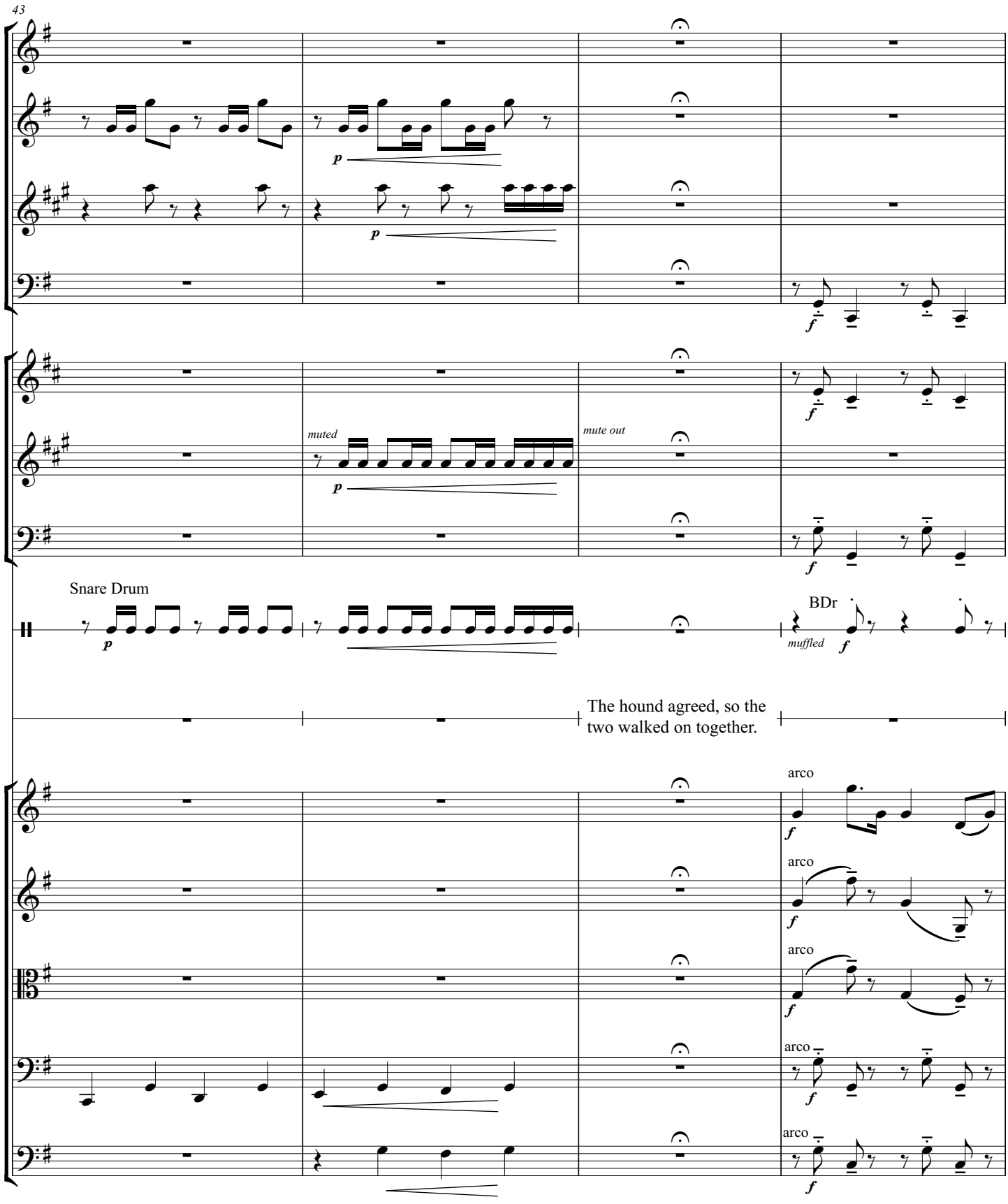

23
* text in italics is spoken to the musicians
(As I was saying...)* There once was a donkey, who for many long years had carried the corn-sacks back and forth to the mill without tiring. But at last his strength was going, and he was not going to be able to work much longer. He knew that his master would soon get rid of him, so before that could happen, he ran away and took the road to Bremen.

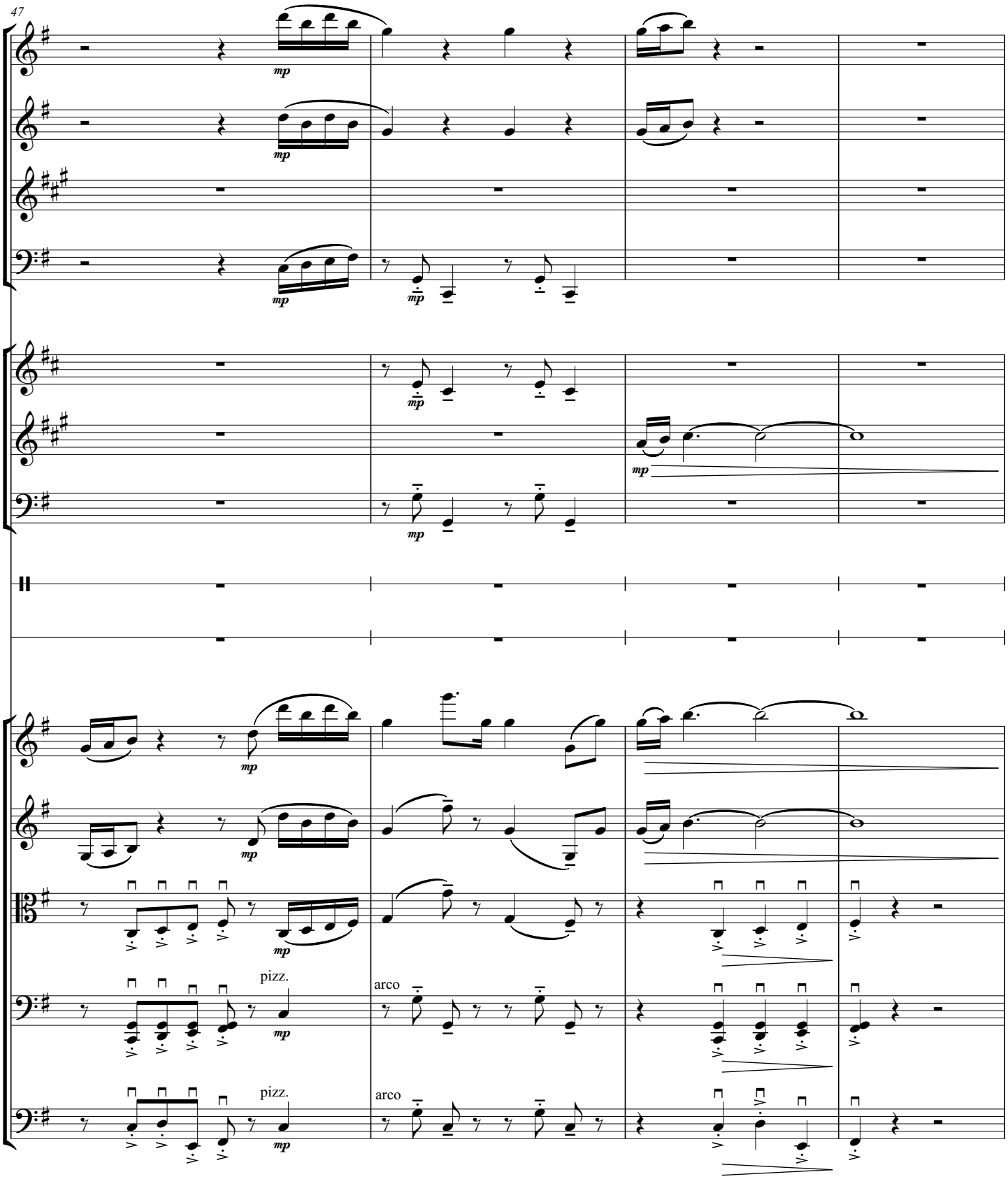

24
finish "lute" before here
"I may not be good for anything," he thought, "but in the city at least I can be a musician. Maybe I will play the lute."
arco
mp
pizz.

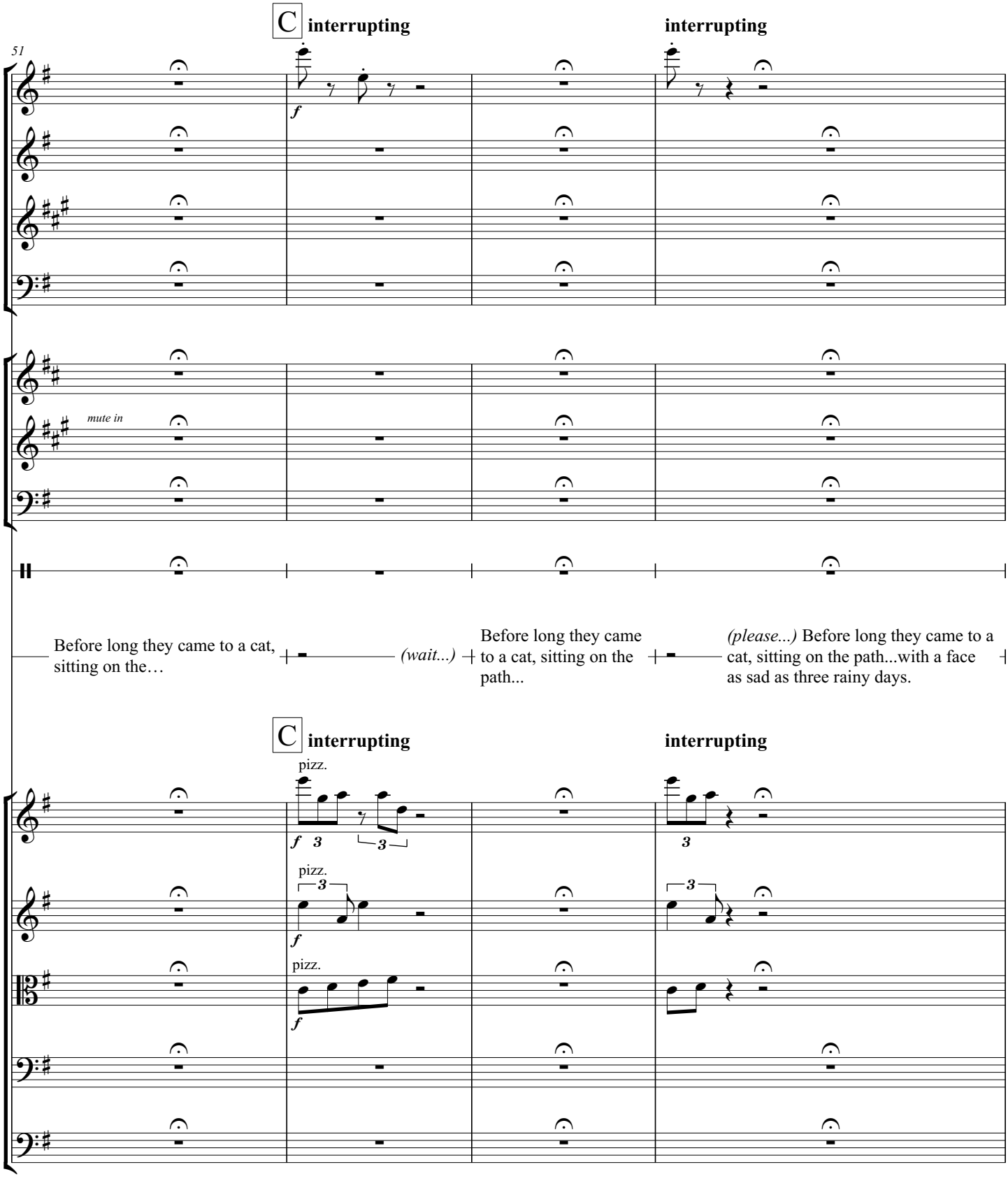

30
interrupting
After he had walked some distance, he met an old hound...
...he met an old hound *lying by the road and gasping* as if he had run a long way.
interrupting
arco
arco
arco

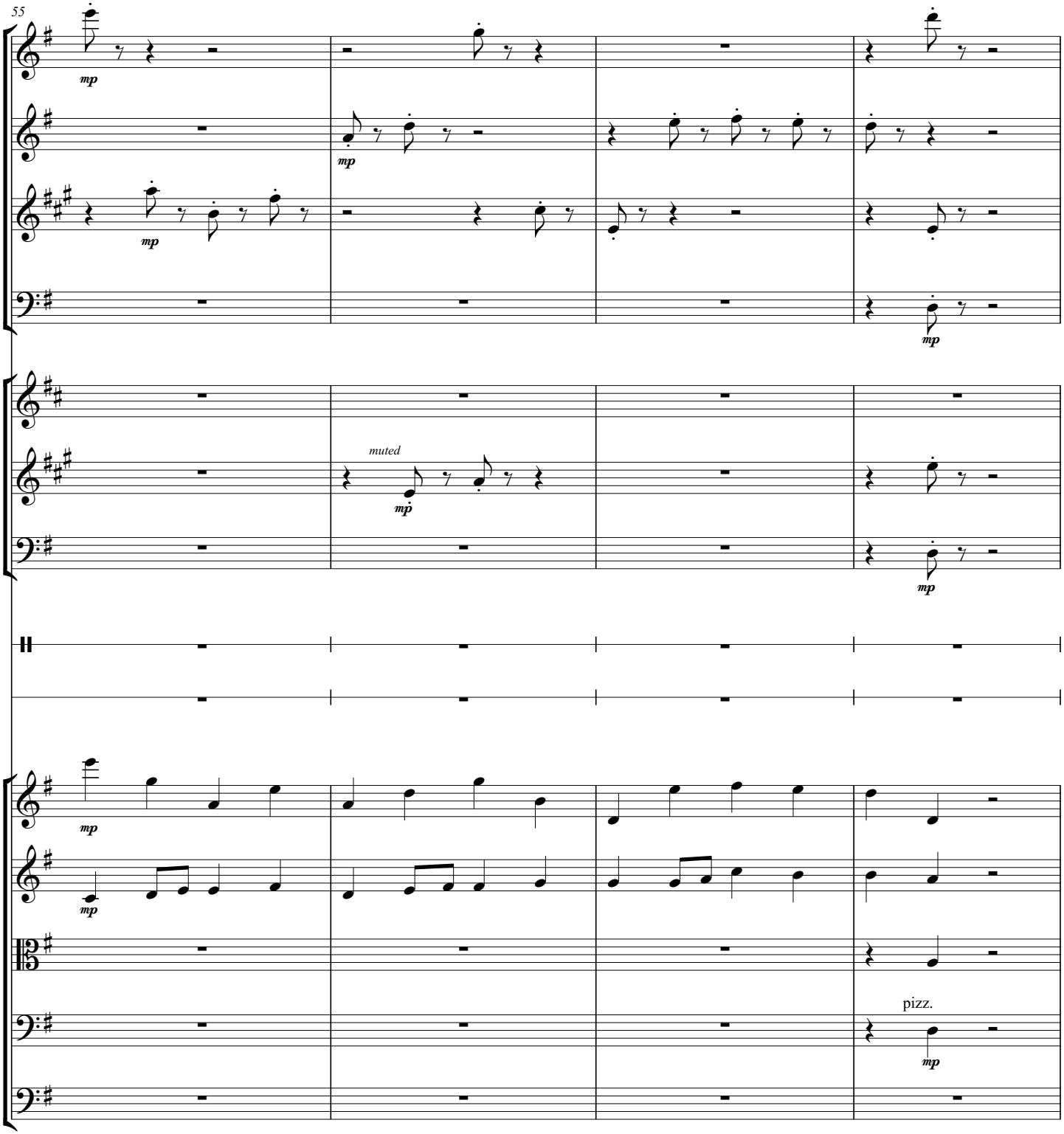

34
(Thank you.) "What are you out of breath for, old fellow?" asked the donkey. "Ah," replied the hound, "because I am old and weak and cannot hunt anymore, my master wanted to kill me. So I ran away. But how can I earn enough to eat now?"

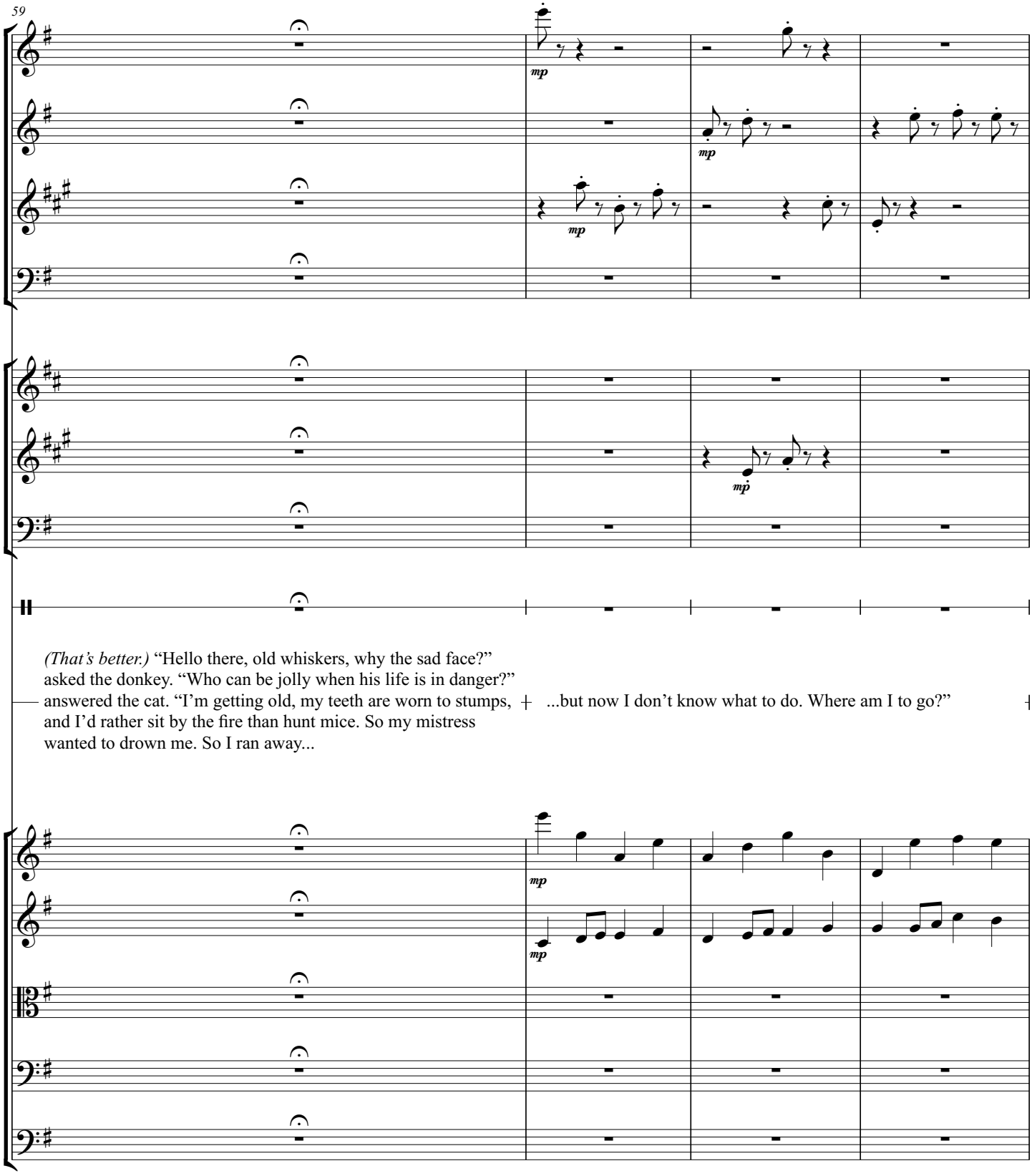

37
B
p
Suspended Cymbal
with drum stick
"Listen," said the donkey, "I am going to Bremen, and shall be a musician there; come with me and you can be a musician, too. I believe you would make a fine drummer."
B
pizz.

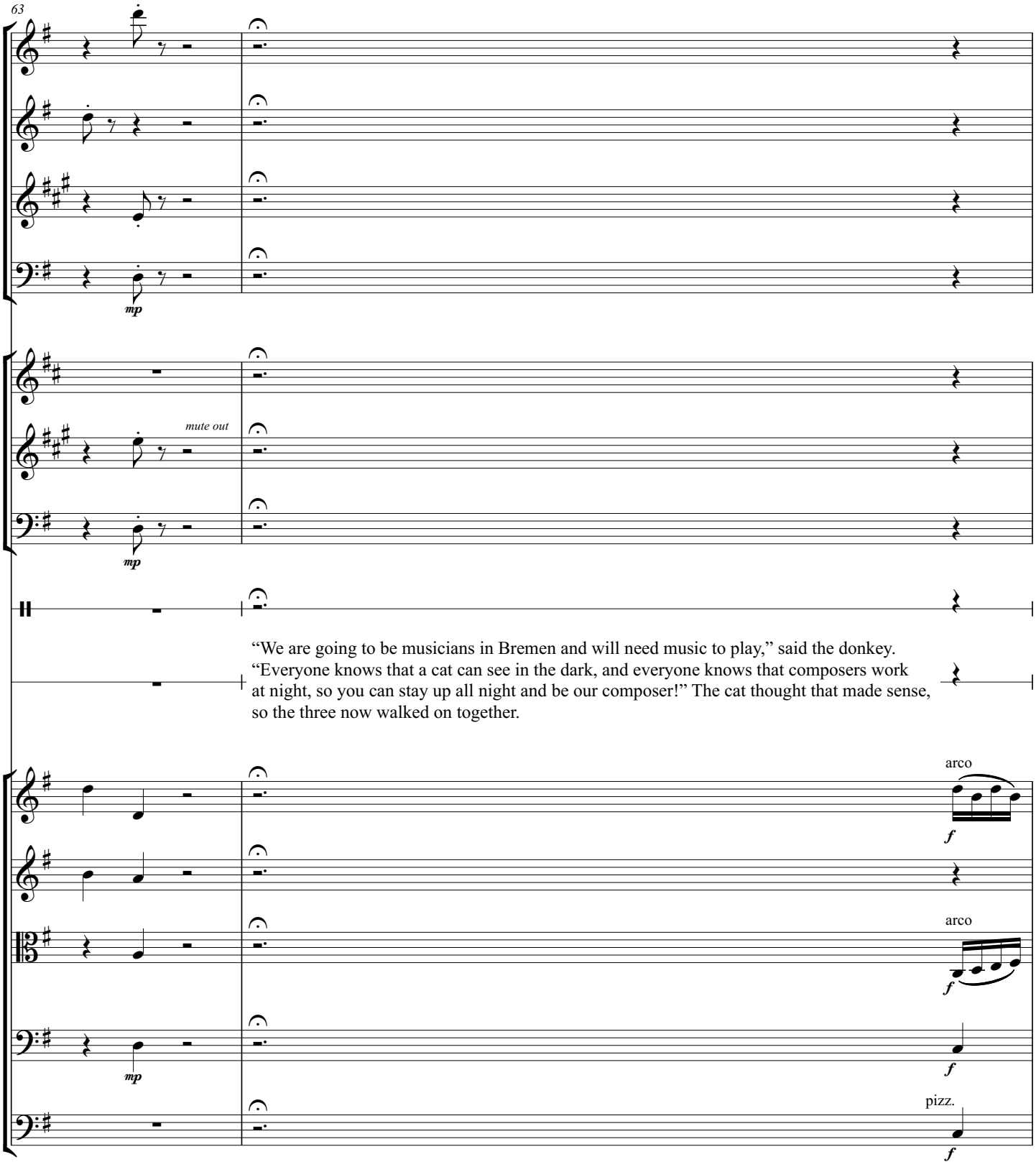

43
p
p
f
muted
p
mute out
f
Snare Drum
p
BDr
muffled
f
The hound agreed, so the
two walked on together.
arco
f
arco
f
arco
f
arco
f
arco
f

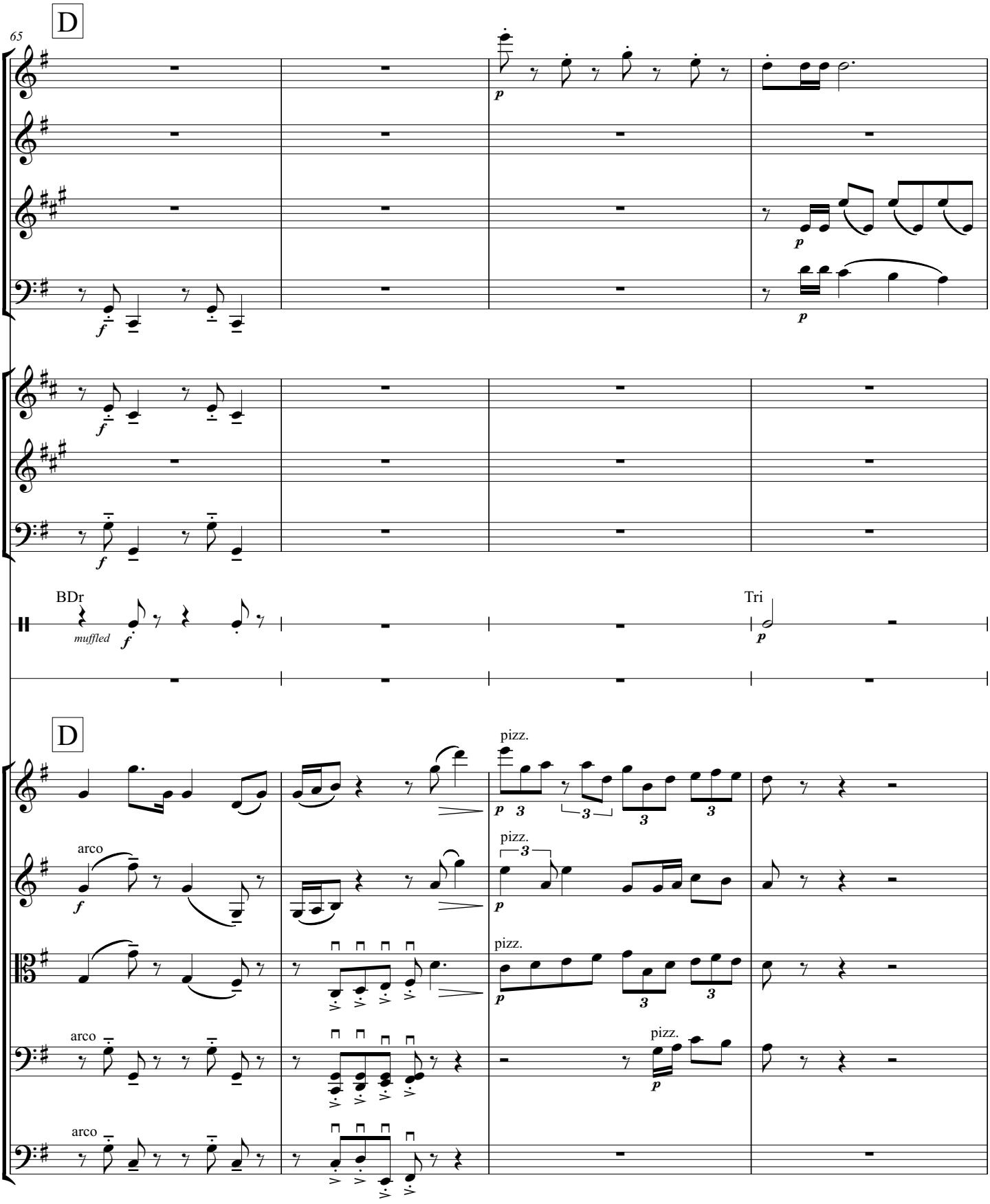

47
mp
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco

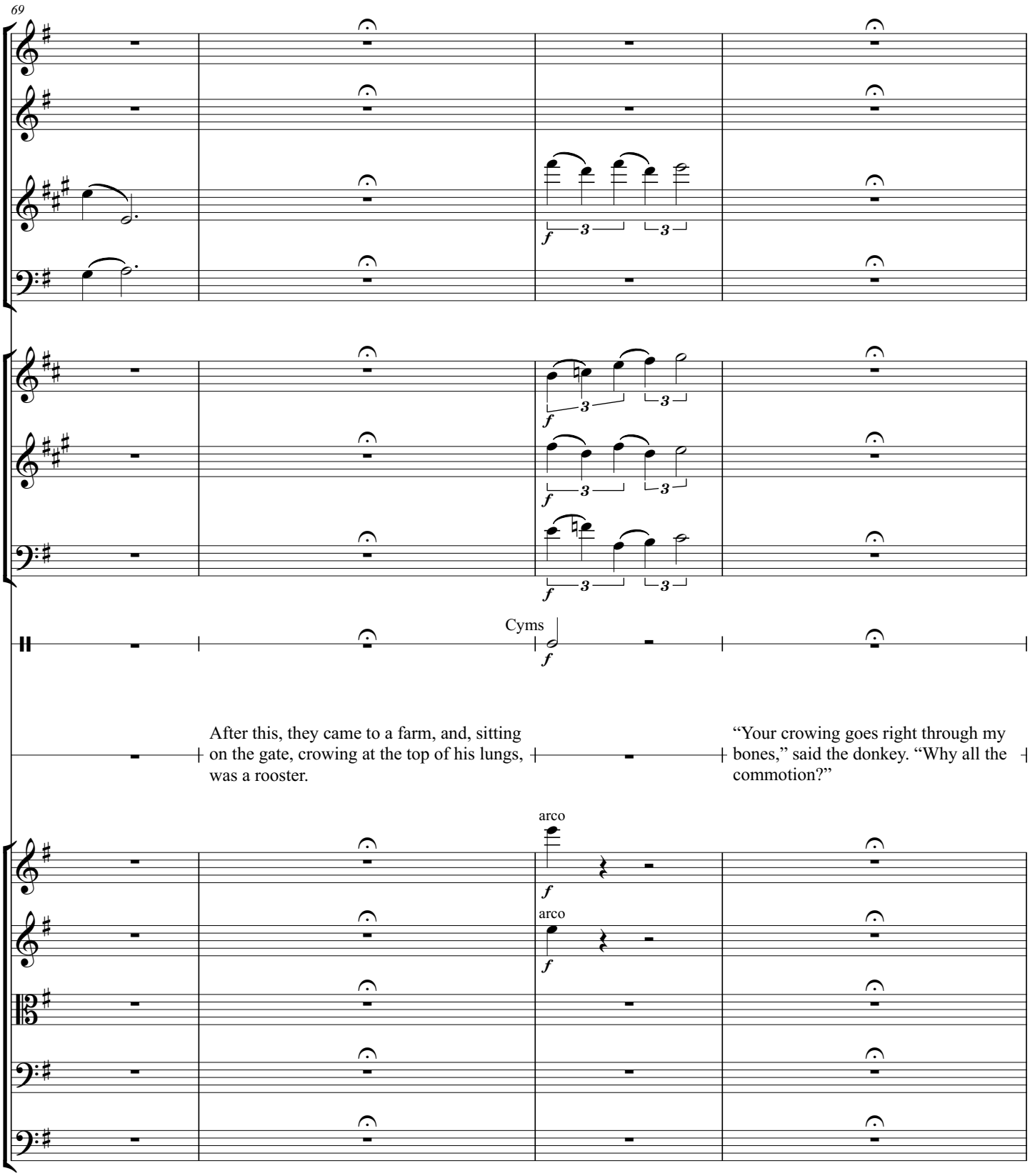

C interrupting
interrupting
51
f
mute in
Before long they came to a cat, sitting on the…
(wait...)
Before long they came to a cat, sitting on the path...
(please...) Before long they came to a cat, sitting on the path...with a face as sad as three rainy days.
C interrupting
interrupting
pizz.
f
3
pizz.
f
3
pizz.
f

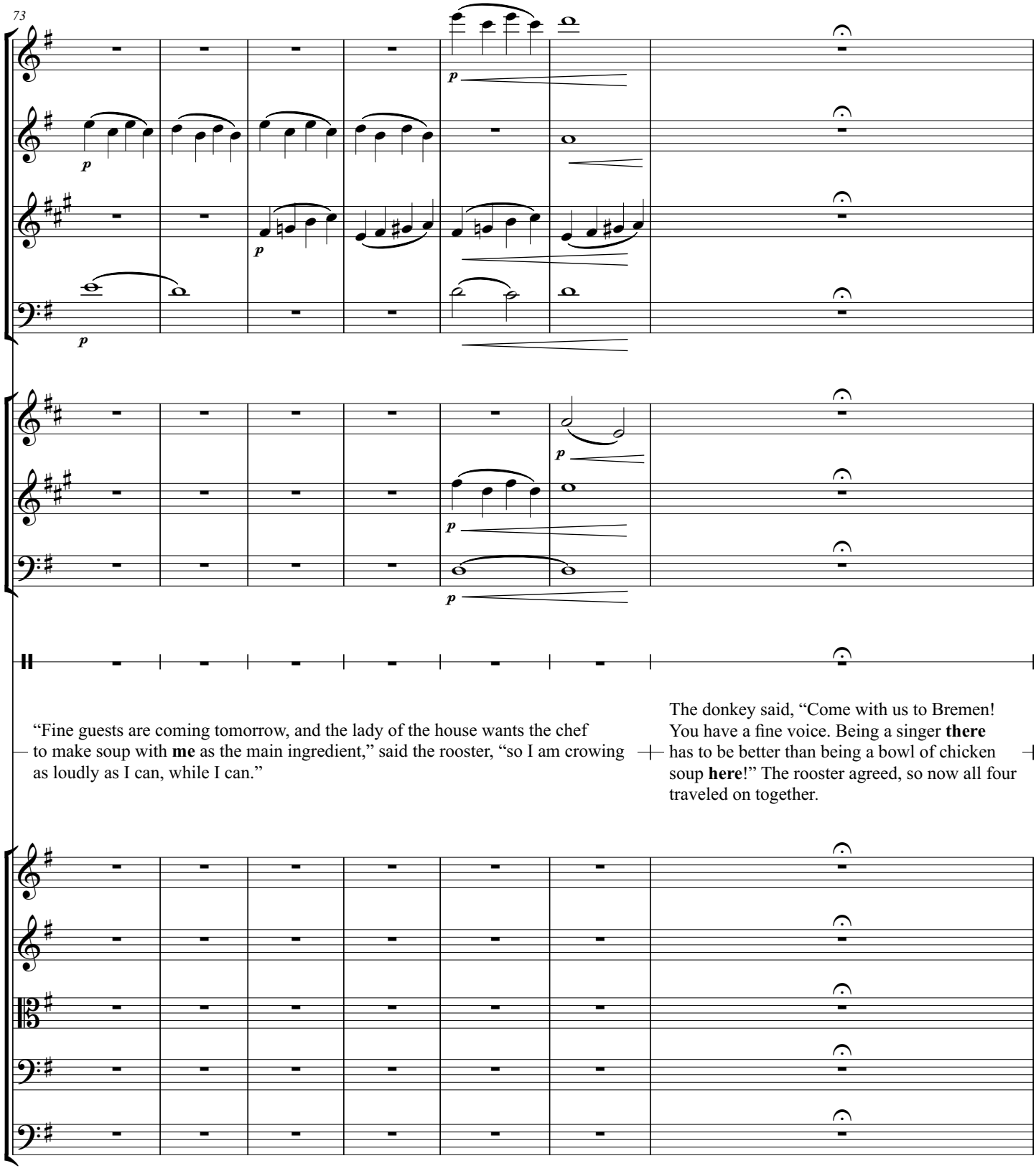

55
mp
mp
mp
mp
muted
mp
mp
mp
mp
pizz.
mp

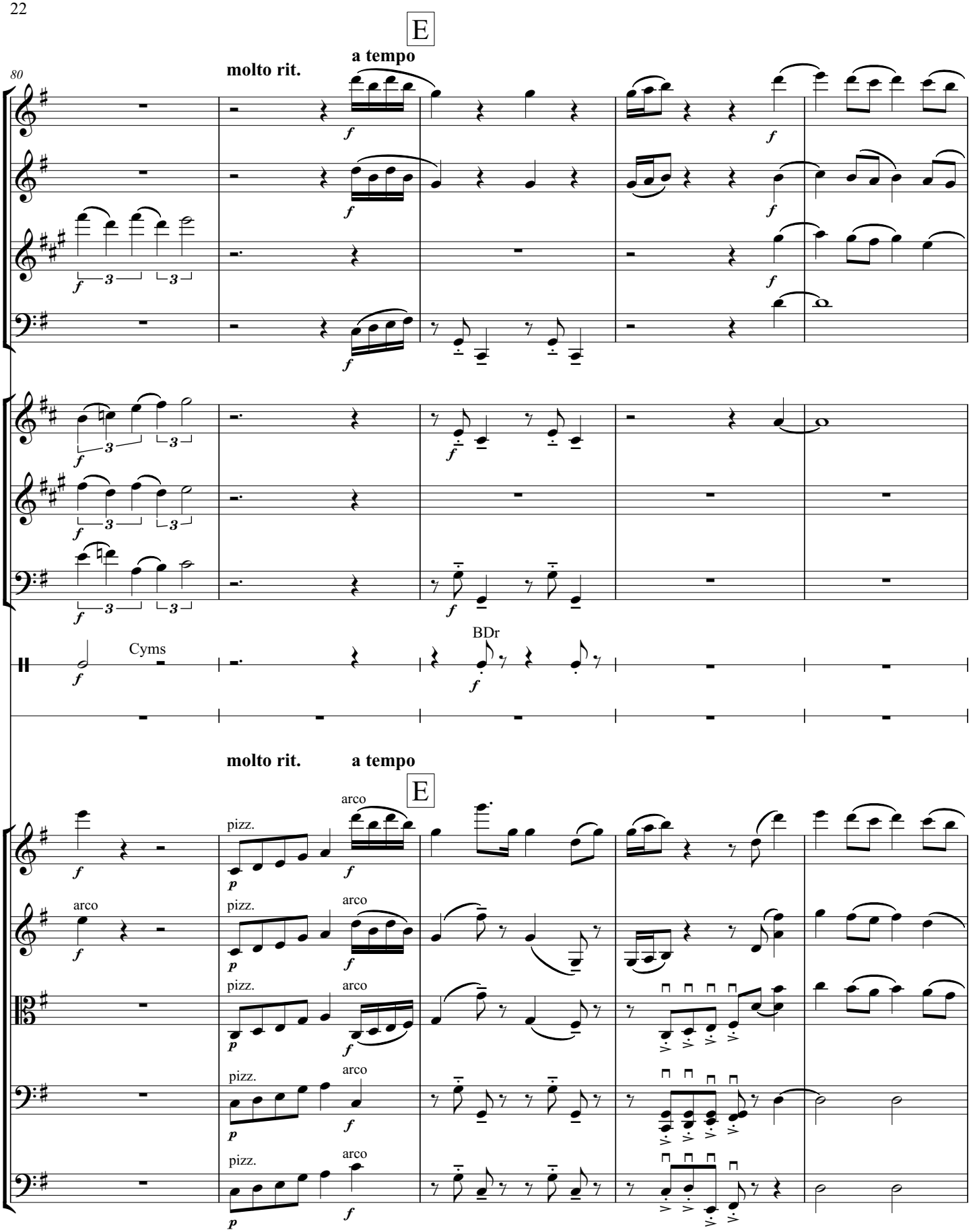

59
mp
mp
mp
mp
(That's better.) "Hello there, old whiskers, why the sad face?"
asked the donkey. "Who can be jolly when his life is in danger?"
answered the cat. "I'm getting old, my teeth are worn to stumps,
and I'd rather sit by the fire than hunt mice. So my mistress
wanted to drown me. So I ran away...
...but now I don't know what to do. Where am I to go?"
mp
mp

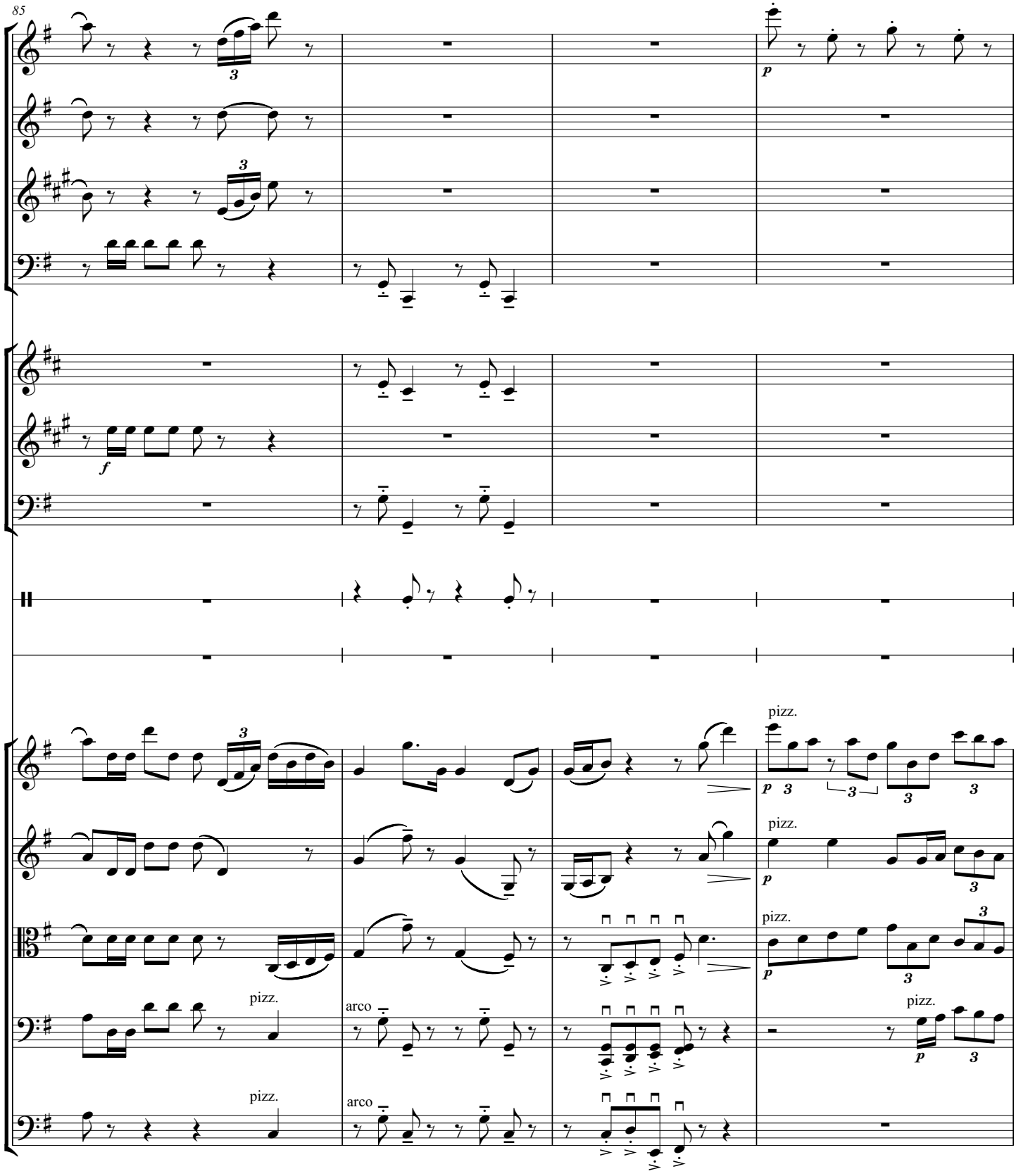

63
mp
mute out
mp
"We are going to be musicians in Bremen and will need music to play," said the donkey. "Everyone knows that a cat can see in the dark, and everyone knows that composers work at night, so you can stay up all night and be our composer!" The cat thought that made sense, so the three now walked on together.
arco
f
arco
f
mp
f
pizz.
f

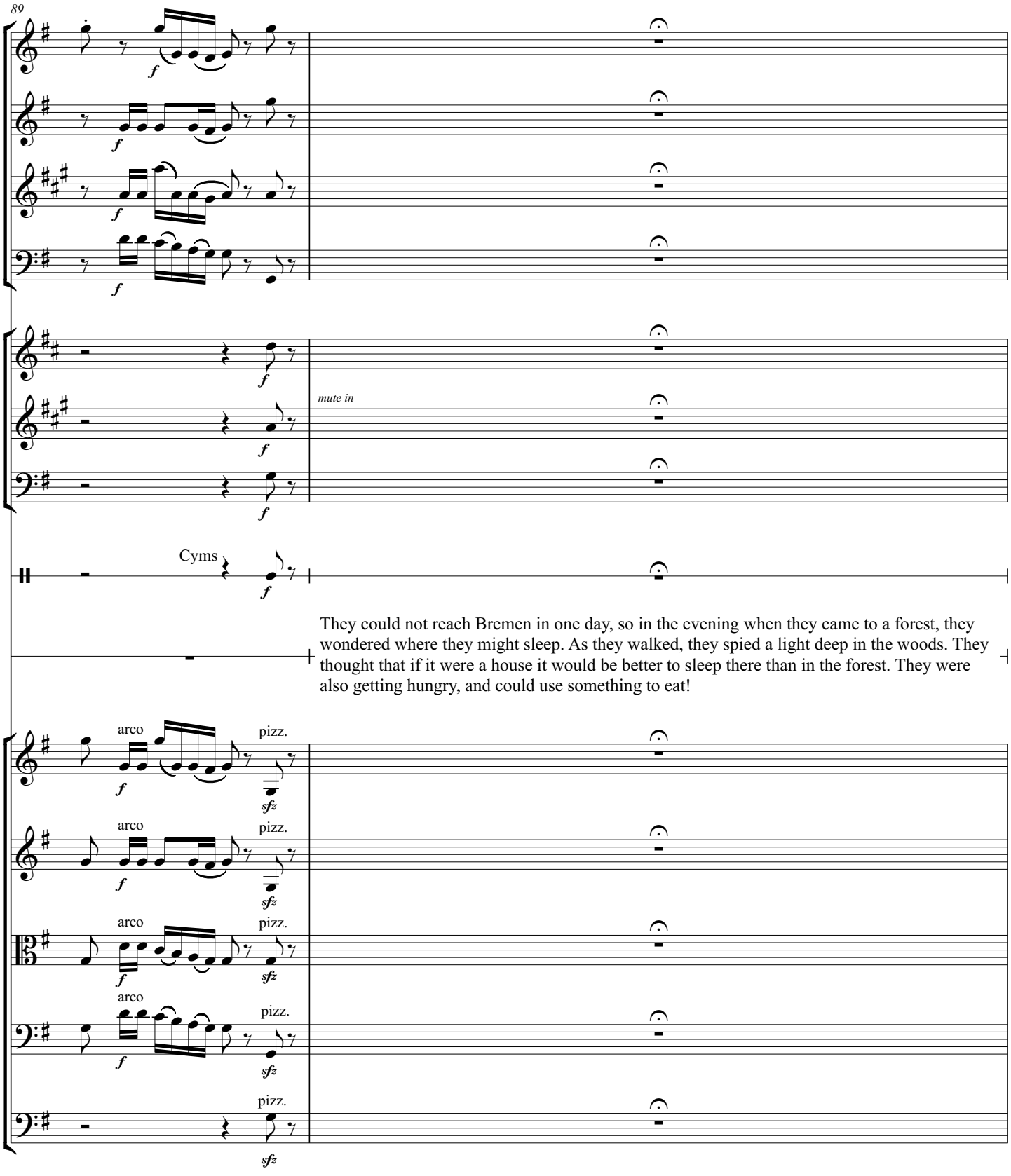

65
D
BDr
muffled
Tri
D
pizz.
arco
pizz.
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco

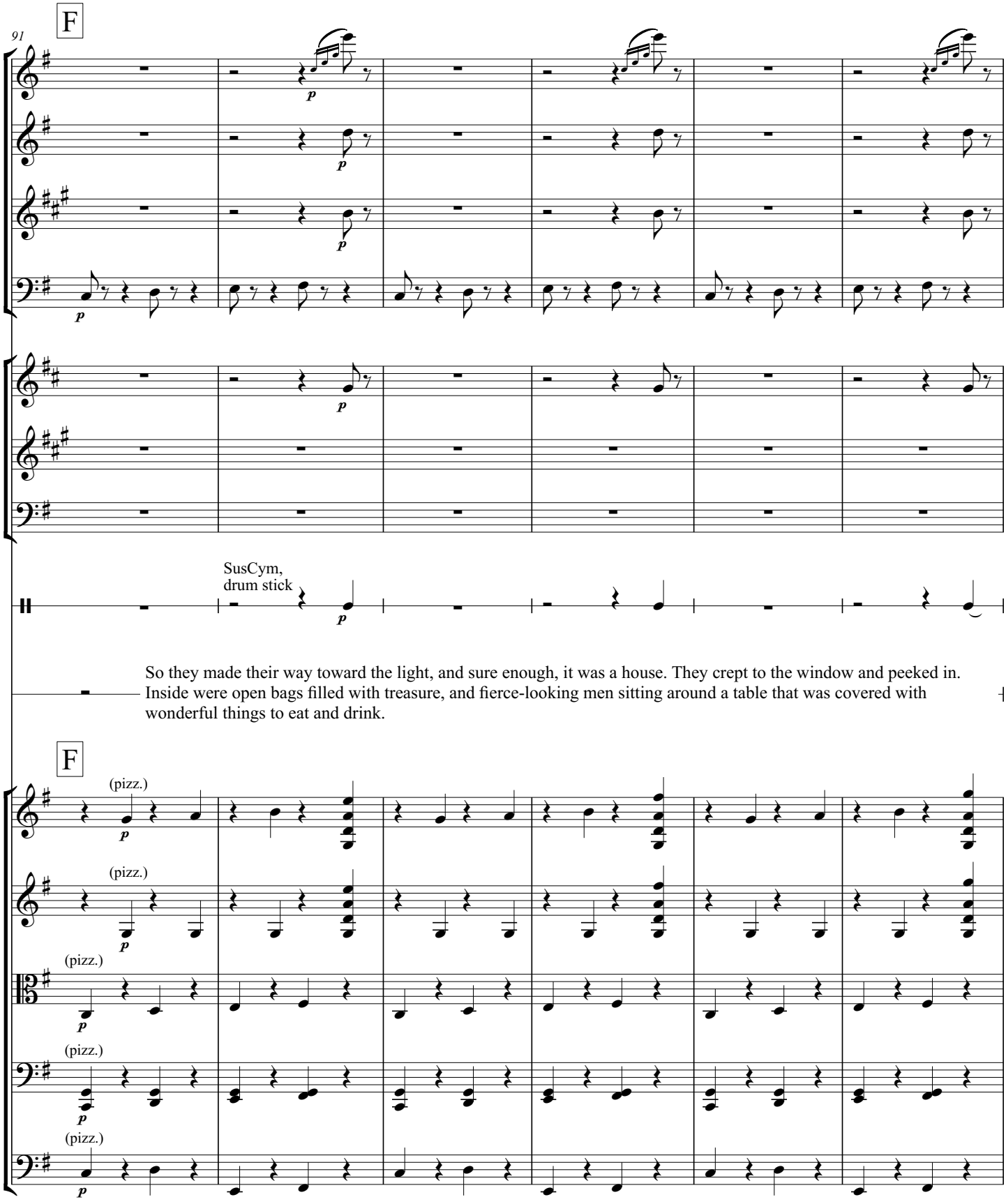

69
Cyms
After this, they came to a farm, and, sitting on the gate, crowing at the top of his lungs, was a rooster.
"Your crowing goes right through my bones," said the donkey. "Why all the commotion?"
arco
arco

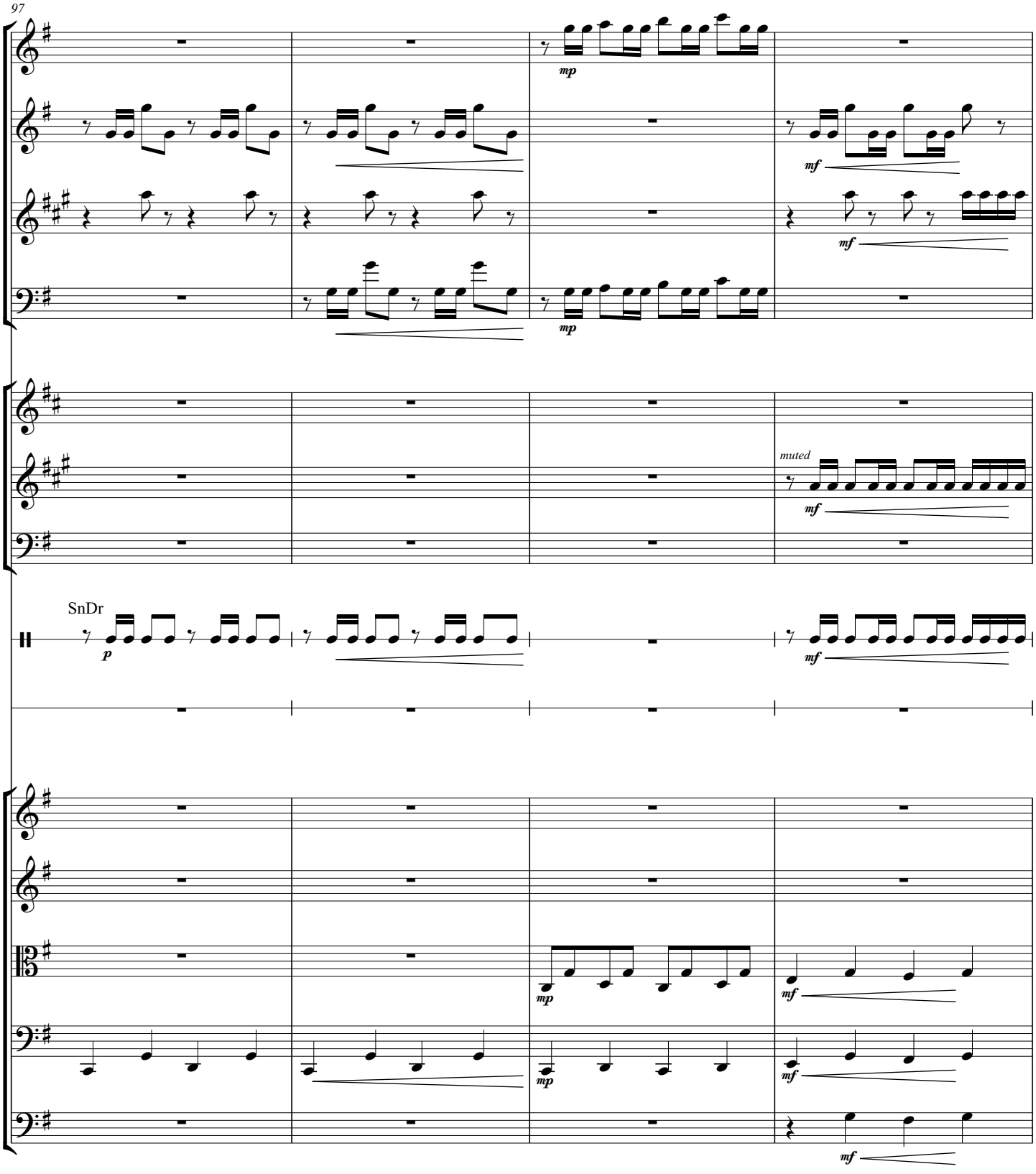

73
p
p
p
p
p
p
p
"Fine guests are coming tomorrow, and the lady of the house wants the chef to make soup with **me** as the main ingredient," said the rooster, "so I am crowing as loudly as I can, while I can."
The donkey said, "Come with us to Bremen! You have a fine voice. Being a singer **there** has to be better than being a bowl of chicken soup **here**!" The rooster agreed, so now all four traveled on together.

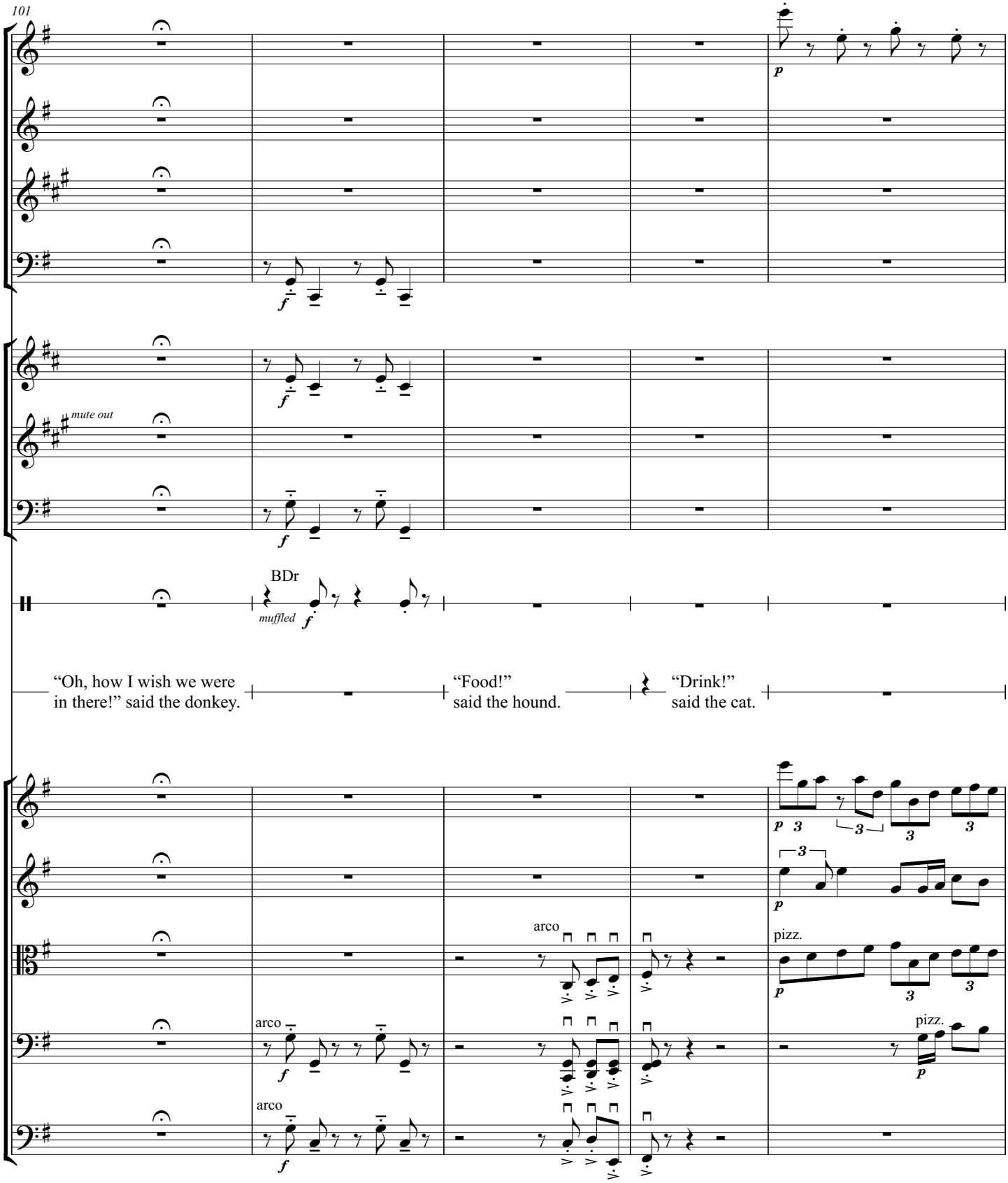

E
80
molto rit.
a tempo
Cyms
BDr
molto rit.
a tempo
E
arco
pizz.

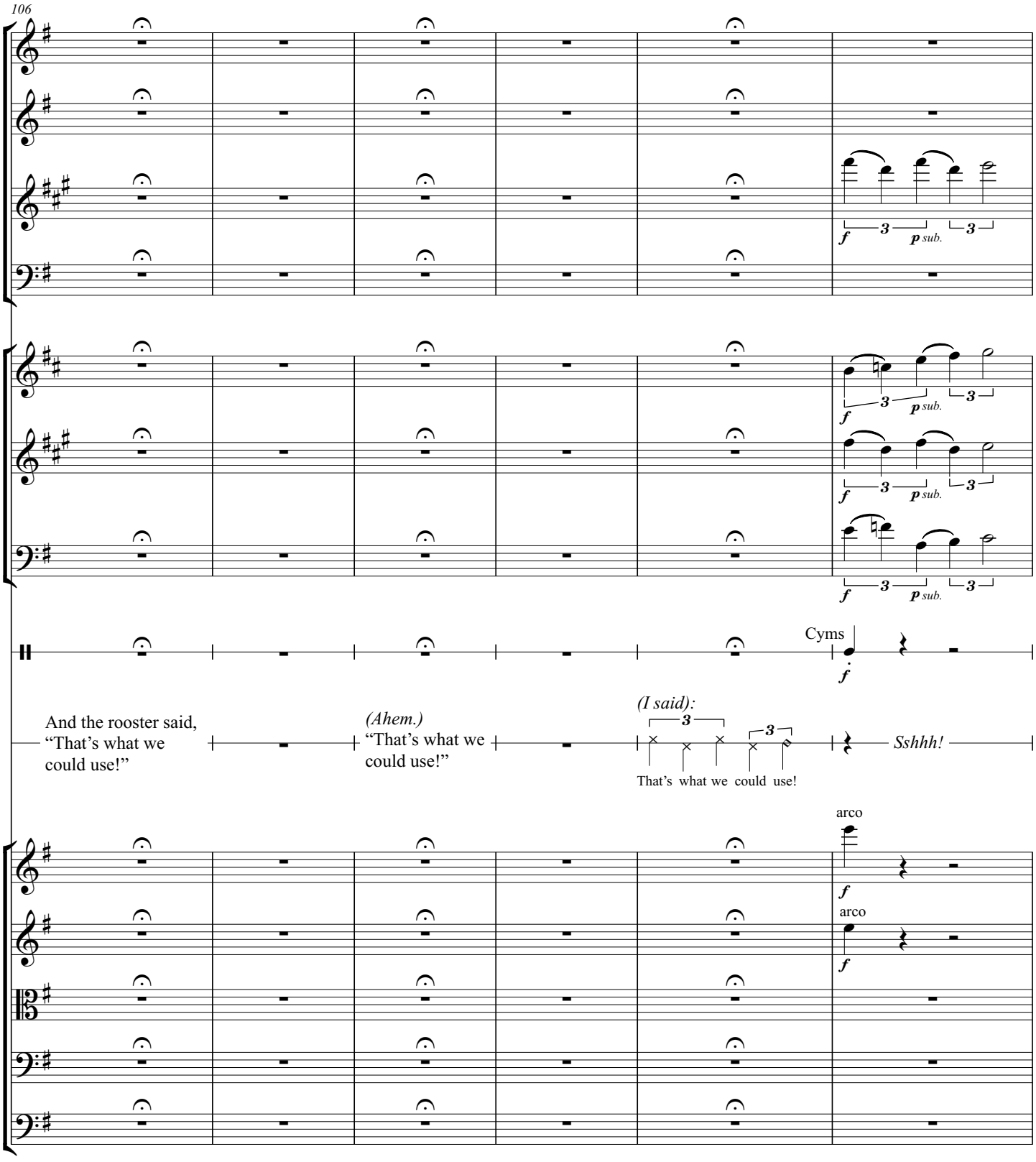

85
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.


89
mute in
Cyms
They could not reach Bremen in one day, so in the evening when they came to a forest, they wondered where they might sleep. As they walked, they spied a light deep in the woods. They thought that if it were a house it would be better to sleep there than in the forest. They were also getting hungry, and could use something to eat!
arco
pizz.

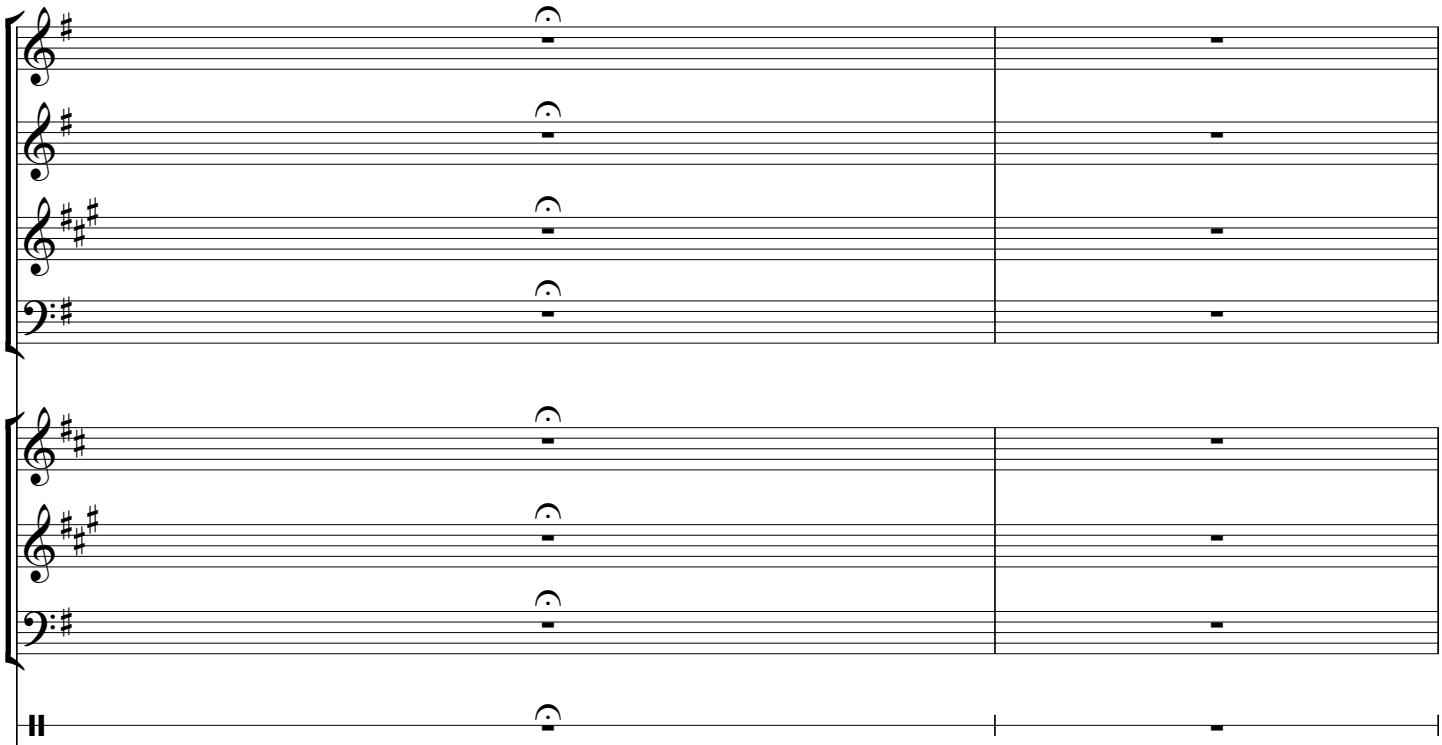

91
F
p
SusCym,
drum stick
So they made their way toward the light, and sure enough, it was a house. They crept to the window and peeked in. Inside were open bags filled with treasure, and fierce-looking men sitting around a table that was covered with wonderful things to eat and drink.
F
(pizz.)


97
mp
mf
mf
mp
muted
mf
SnDr
p
mf
mp
mf
mp
mf
mf


101
mute out
BDr
muffled
"Oh, how I wish we were in there!" said the donkey.
"Food!" said the hound.
"Drink!" said the cat.
arco
pizz.

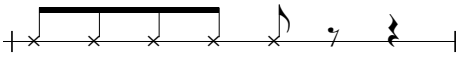

106
f
3
p sub.
Cyms
And the rooster said, "That's what we could use!"
(Ahem.) "That's what we could use!"
(I said):
That's what we could use!
Sshhh!
arco

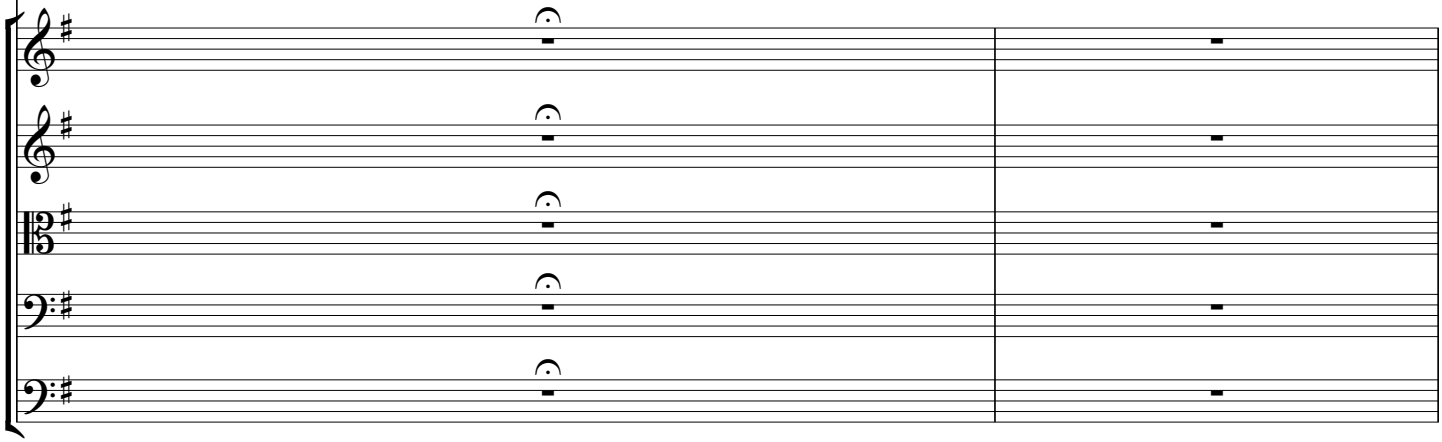
112

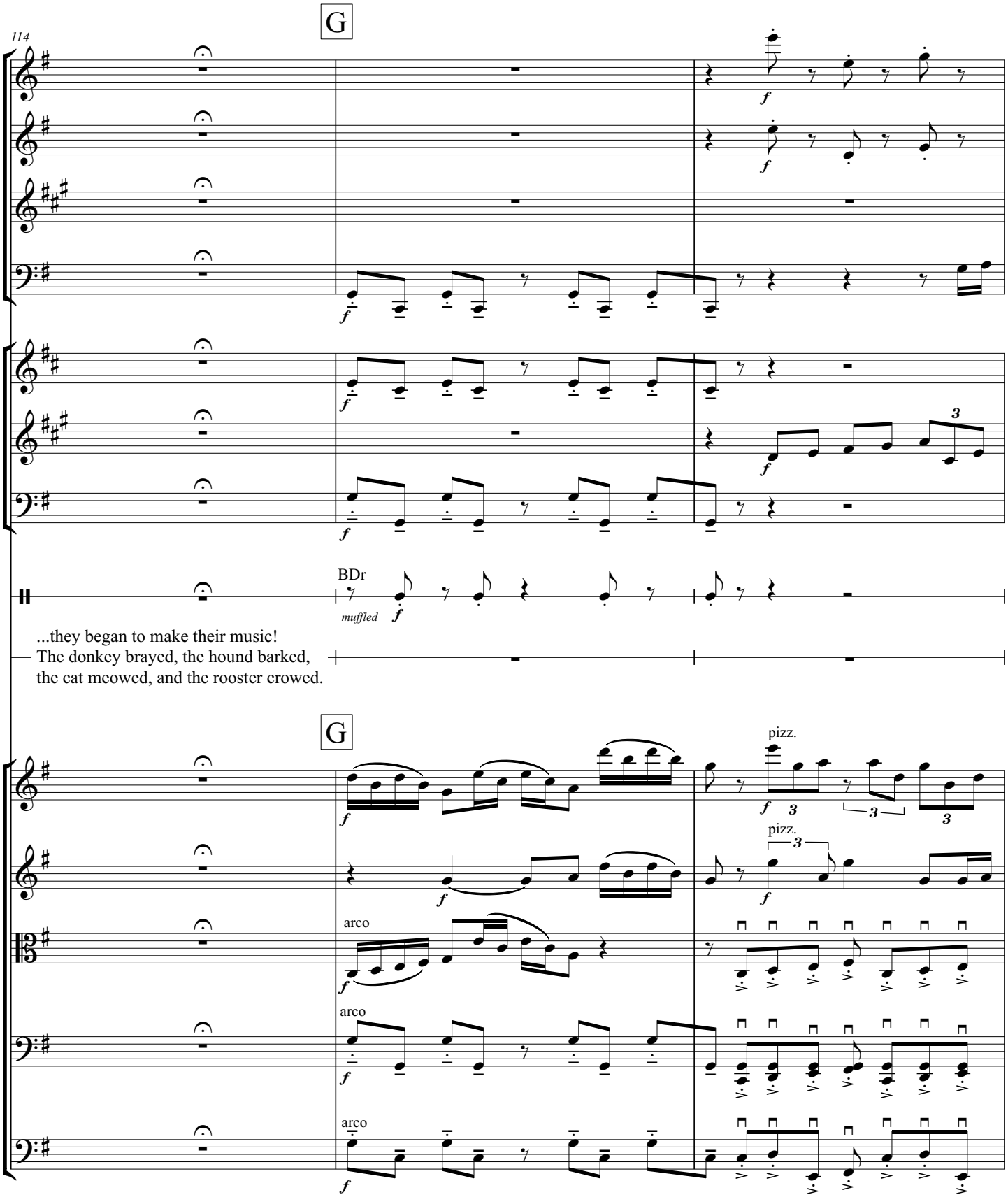


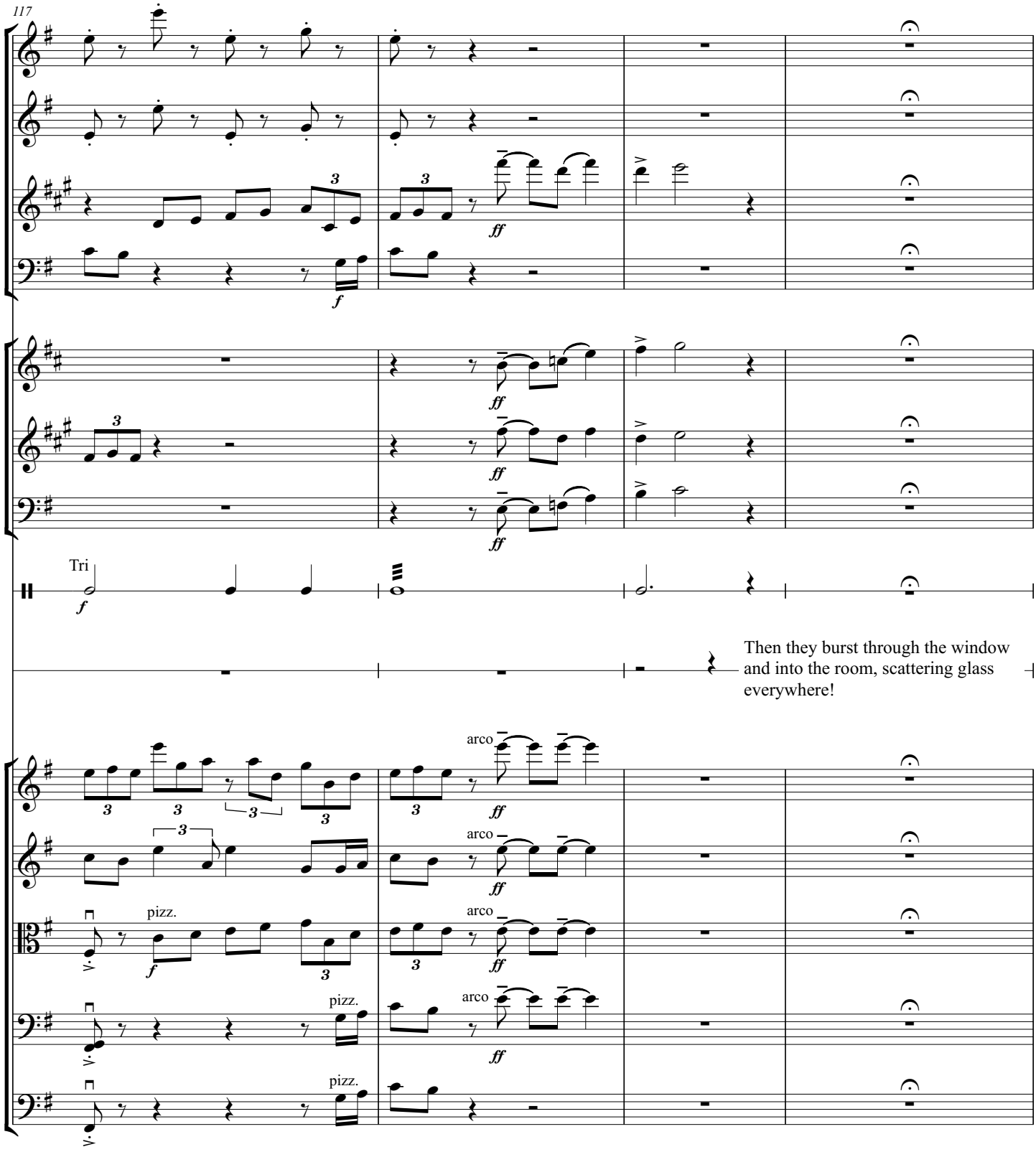
So they put their heads together to think how they might drive the robbers away, and at last they came up with a plan. The donkey would place his front feet on the windowsill, the hound would jump on his back, the cat would leap on *his* back, and finally the rooster would fly up and perch on the cat's head! When they were ready...

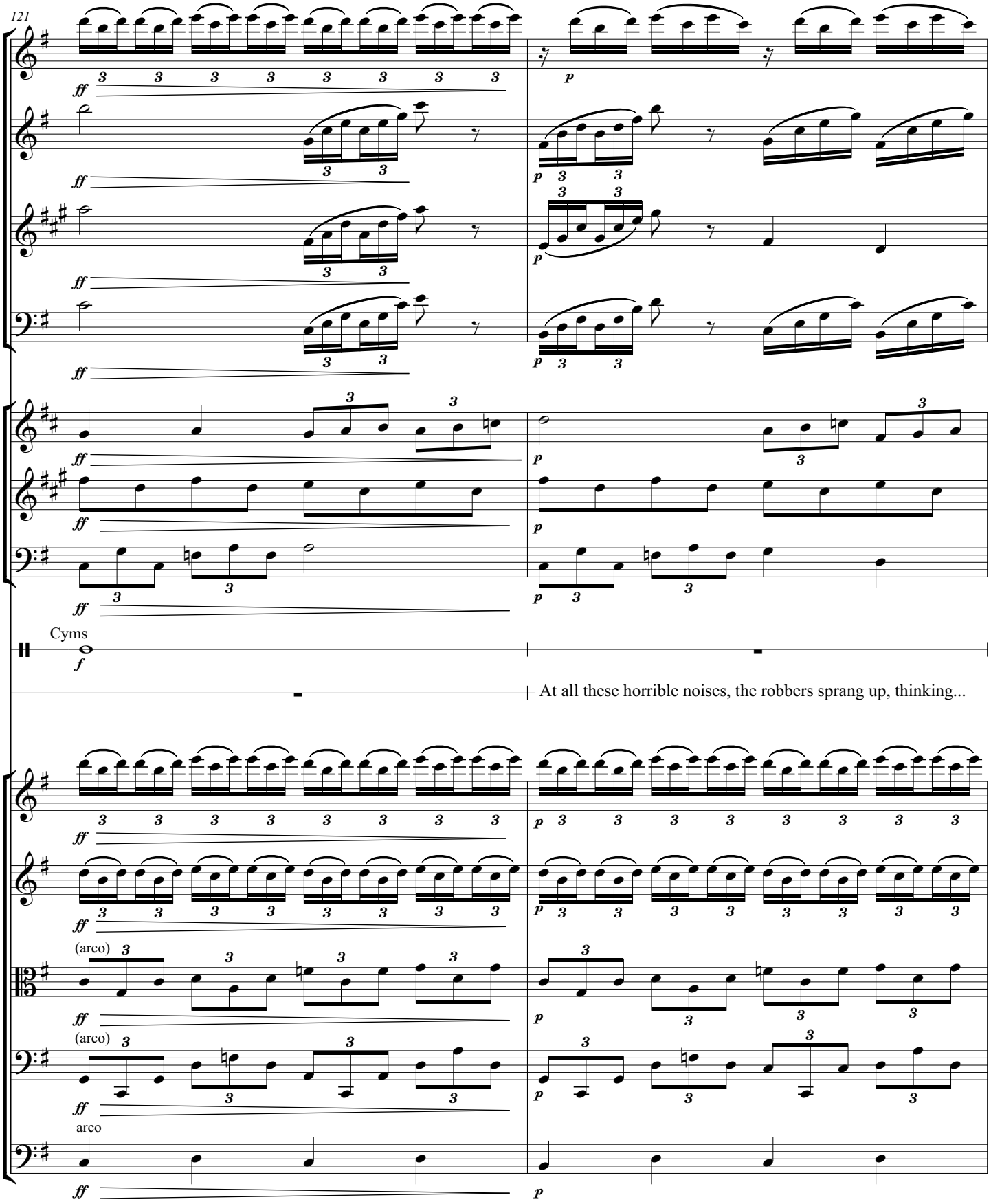
[Narrator taps a pencil on the music stand or lectern:]

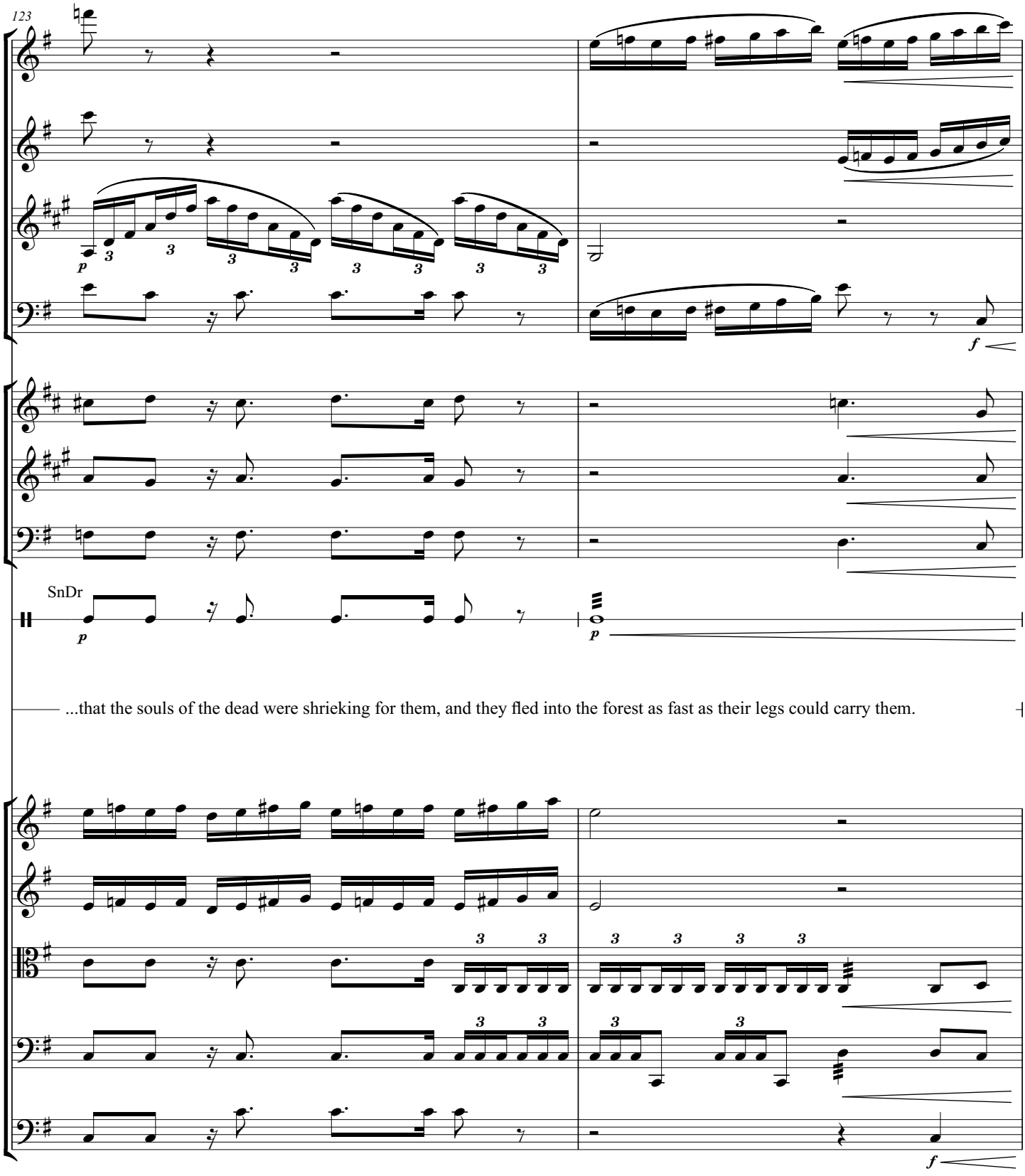


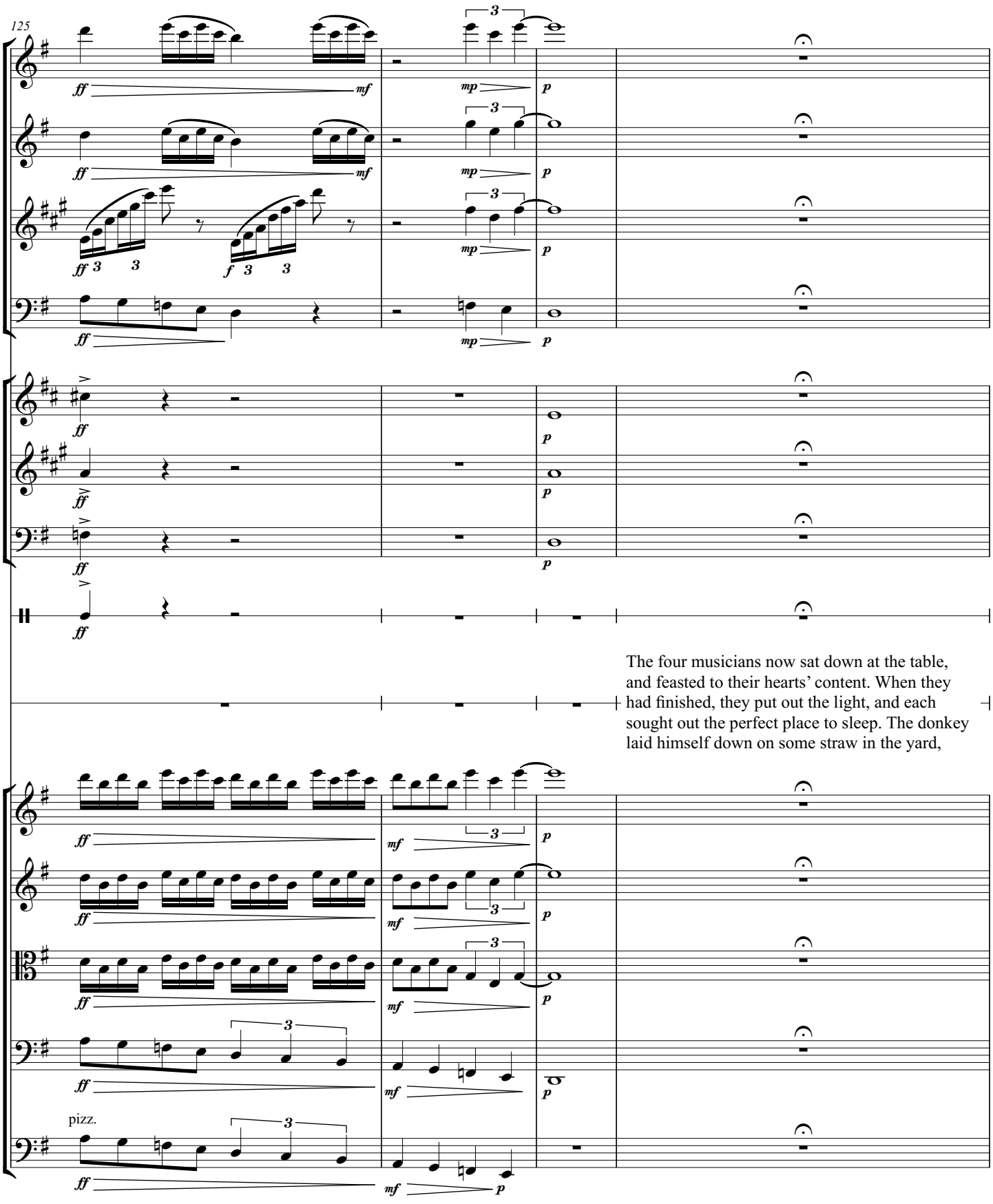



G
114
BDr
muffled
...they began to make their music!
The donkey brayed, the hound barked,
the cat meowed, and the rooster crowed.
G
pizz.
pizz.
arco
arco
arco

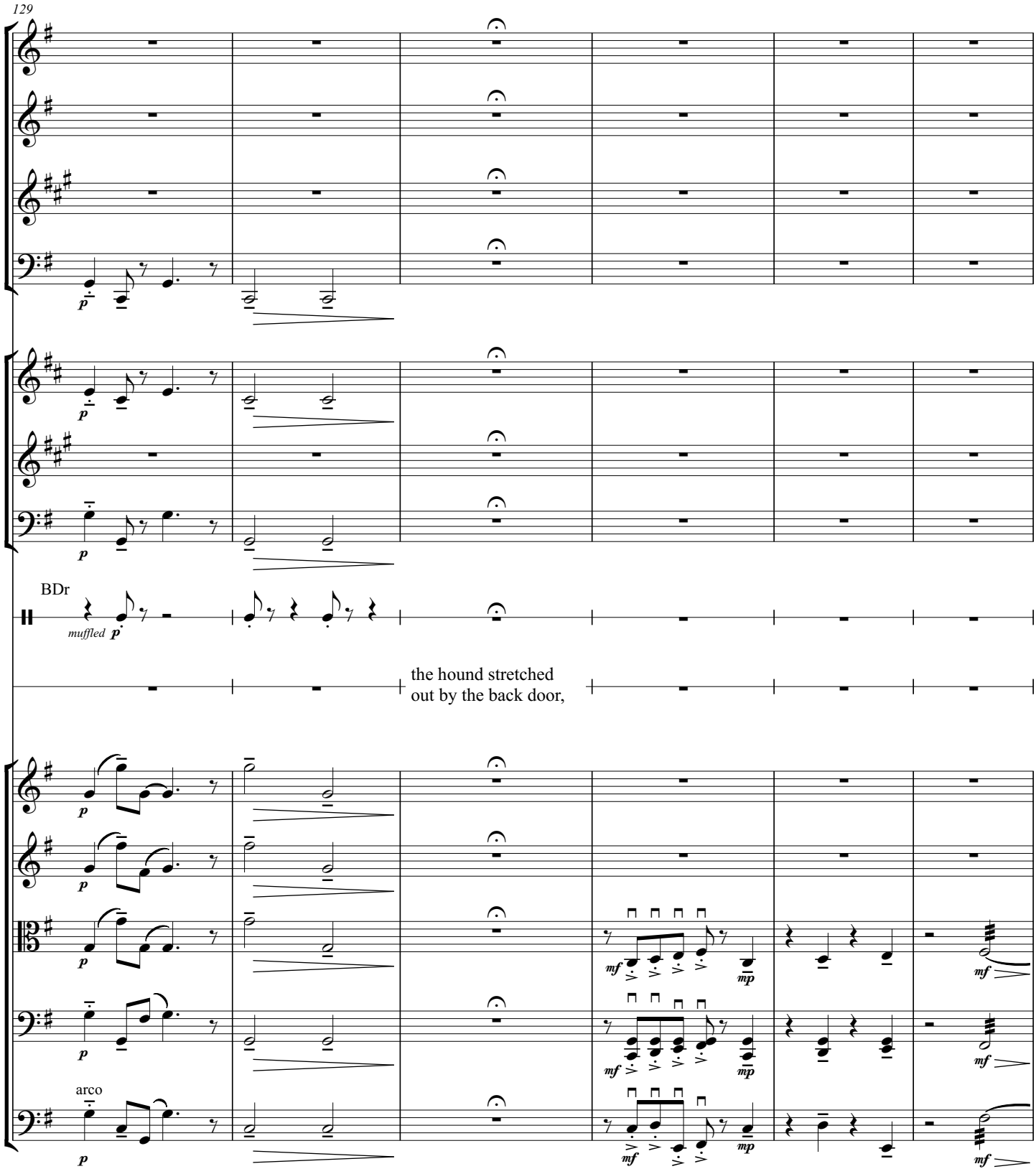

117
Tri
Then they burst through the window and into the room, scattering glass everywhere!
arco
pizz.

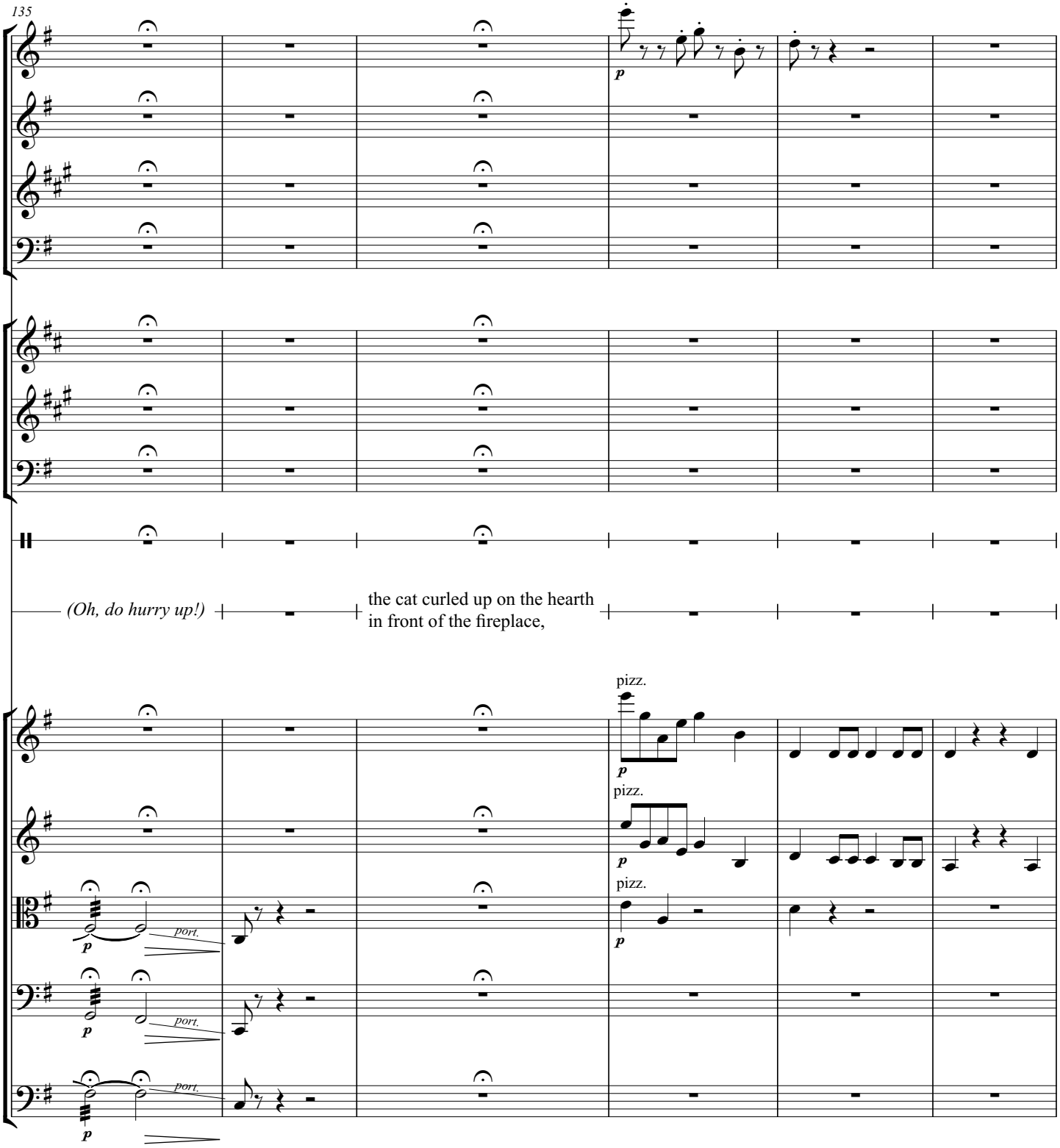

121
Cyms
At all these horrible noises, the robbers sprang up, thinking...
(arco)
(arco)
arco

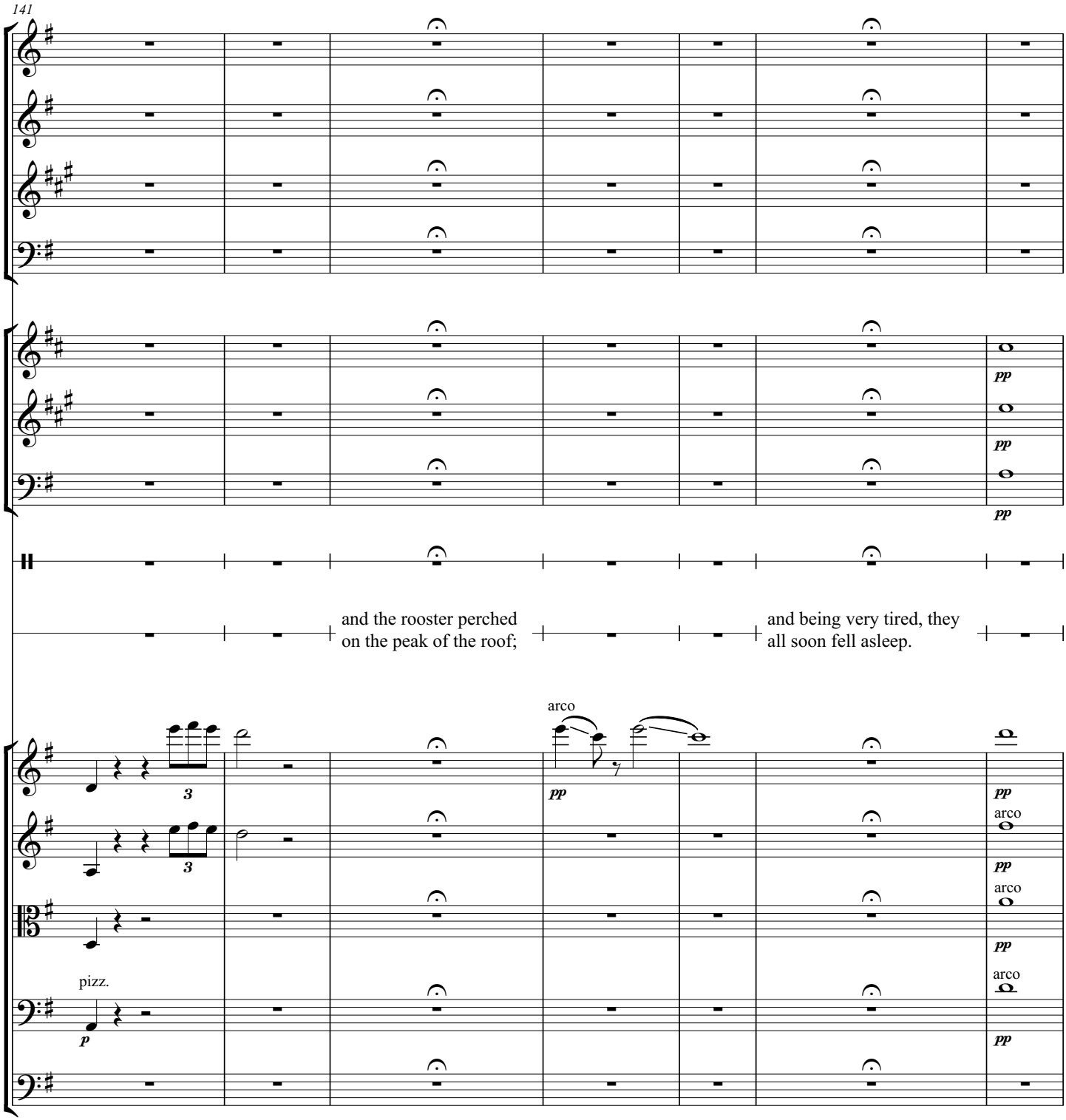

123
SnDr
...that the souls of the dead were shrieking for them, and they fled into the forest as fast as their legs could carry them.

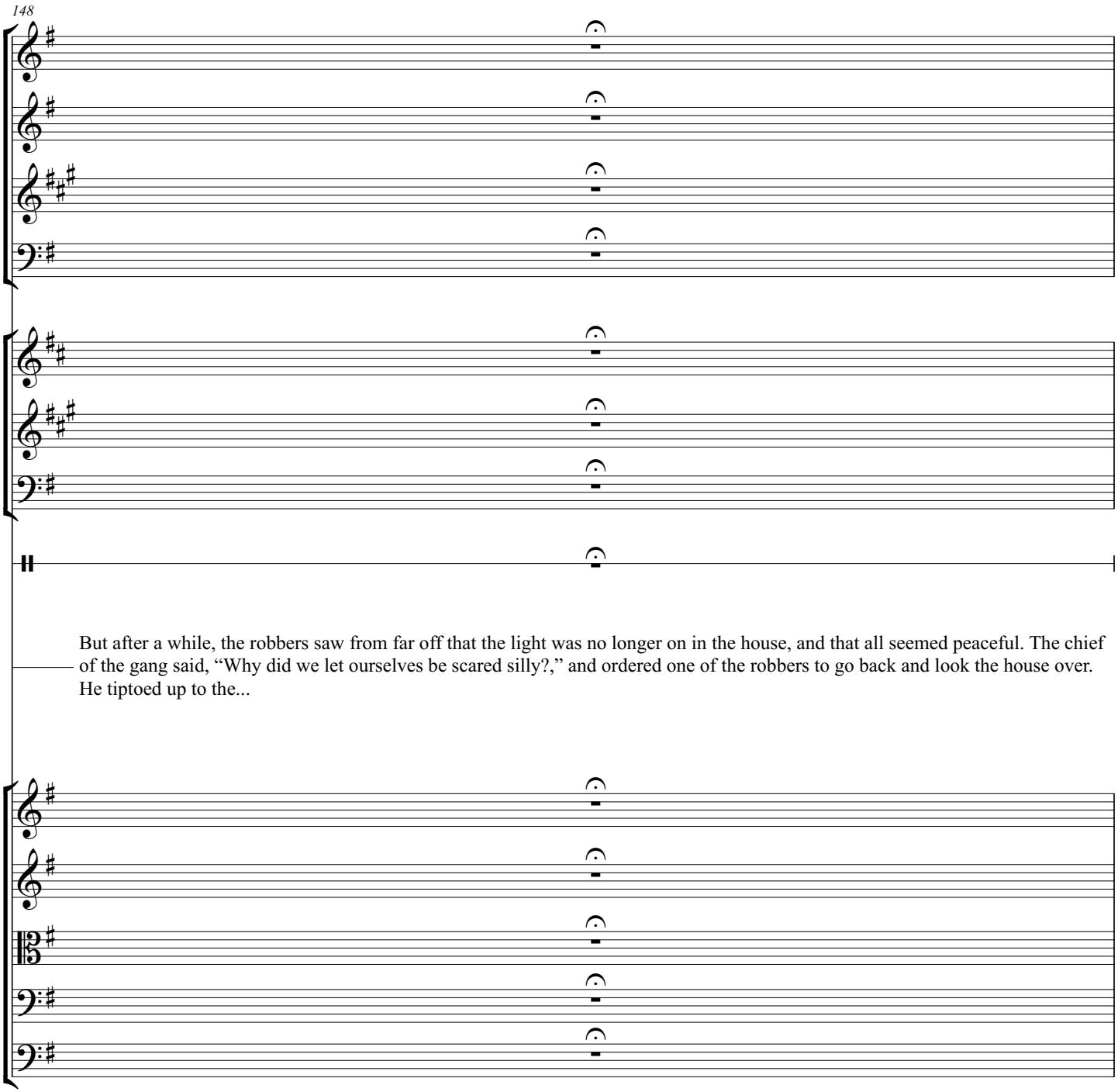


The four musicians now sat down at the table, and feasted to their hearts' content. When they had finished, they put out the light, and each sought out the perfect place to sleep. The donkey laid himself down on some straw in the yard,

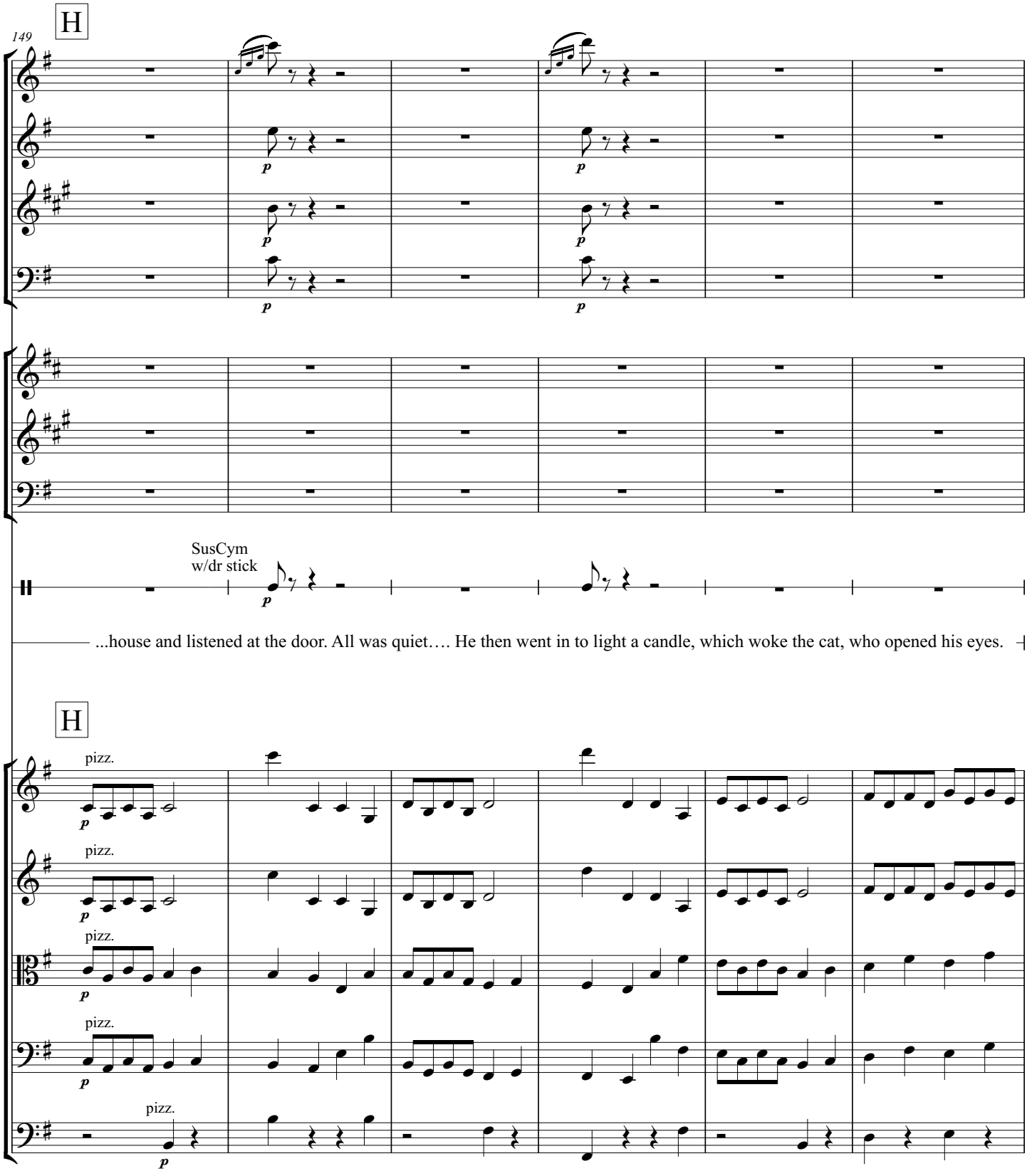

129
BDr
muffled
the hound stretched
out by the back door,
arco

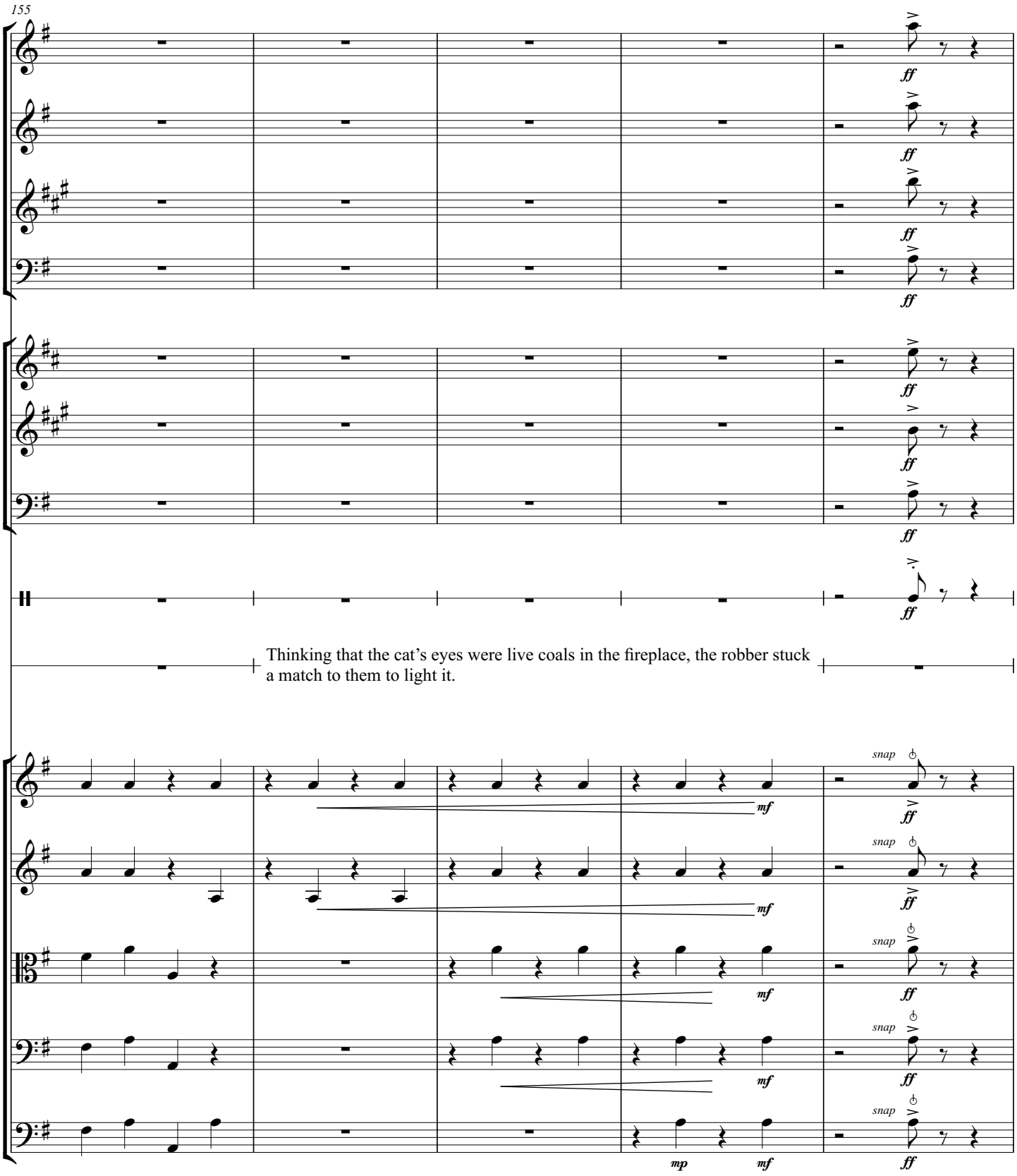

135
p
(Oh, do hurry up!)
the cat curled up on the hearth
in front of the fireplace,
pizz.
p
pizz.
p
pizz.
p
port.
p
port.
p
port.
p

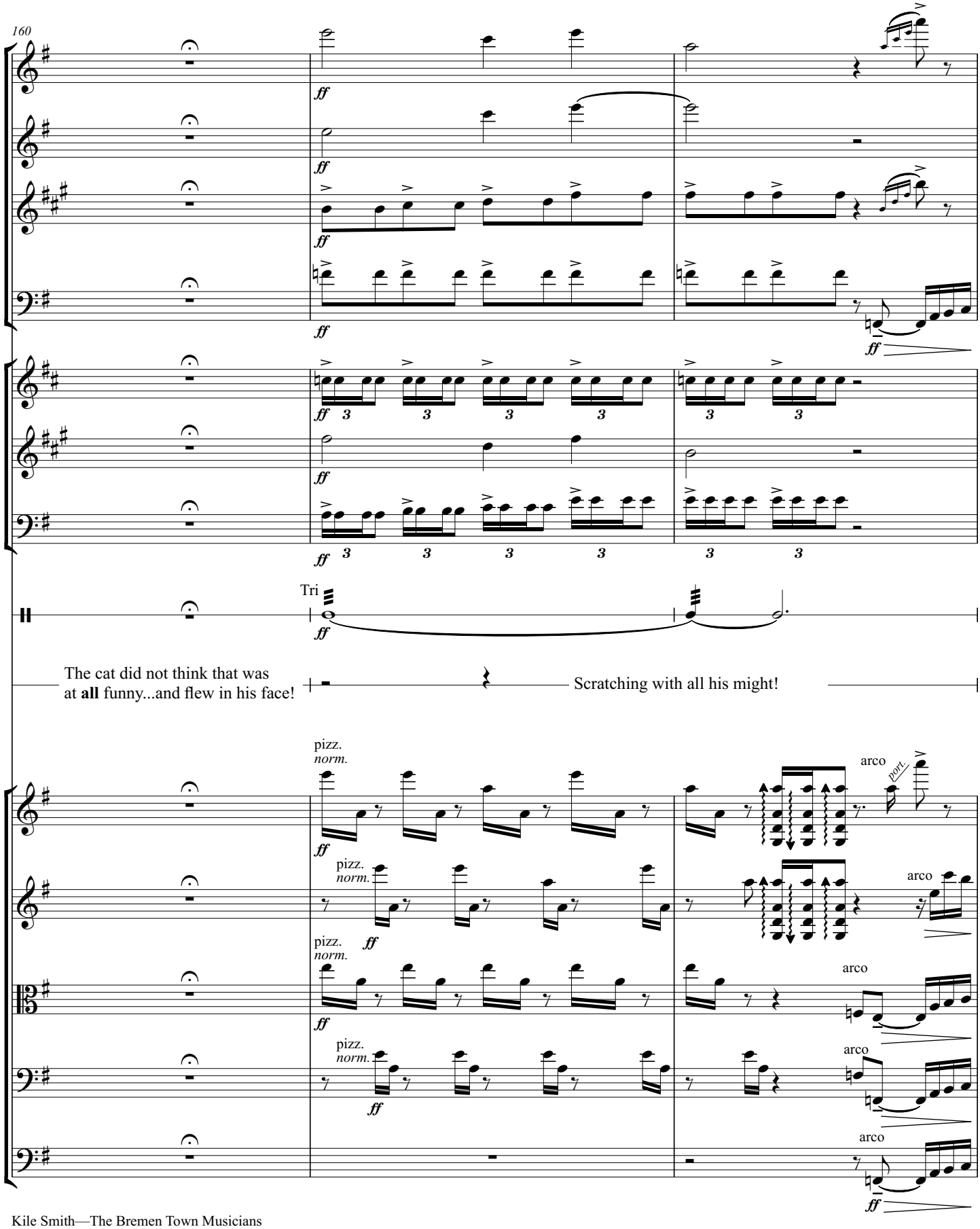

141
and the rooster perched
on the peak of the roof;
and being very tired, they
all soon fell asleep.
arco
pizz.
arco
arco
arco

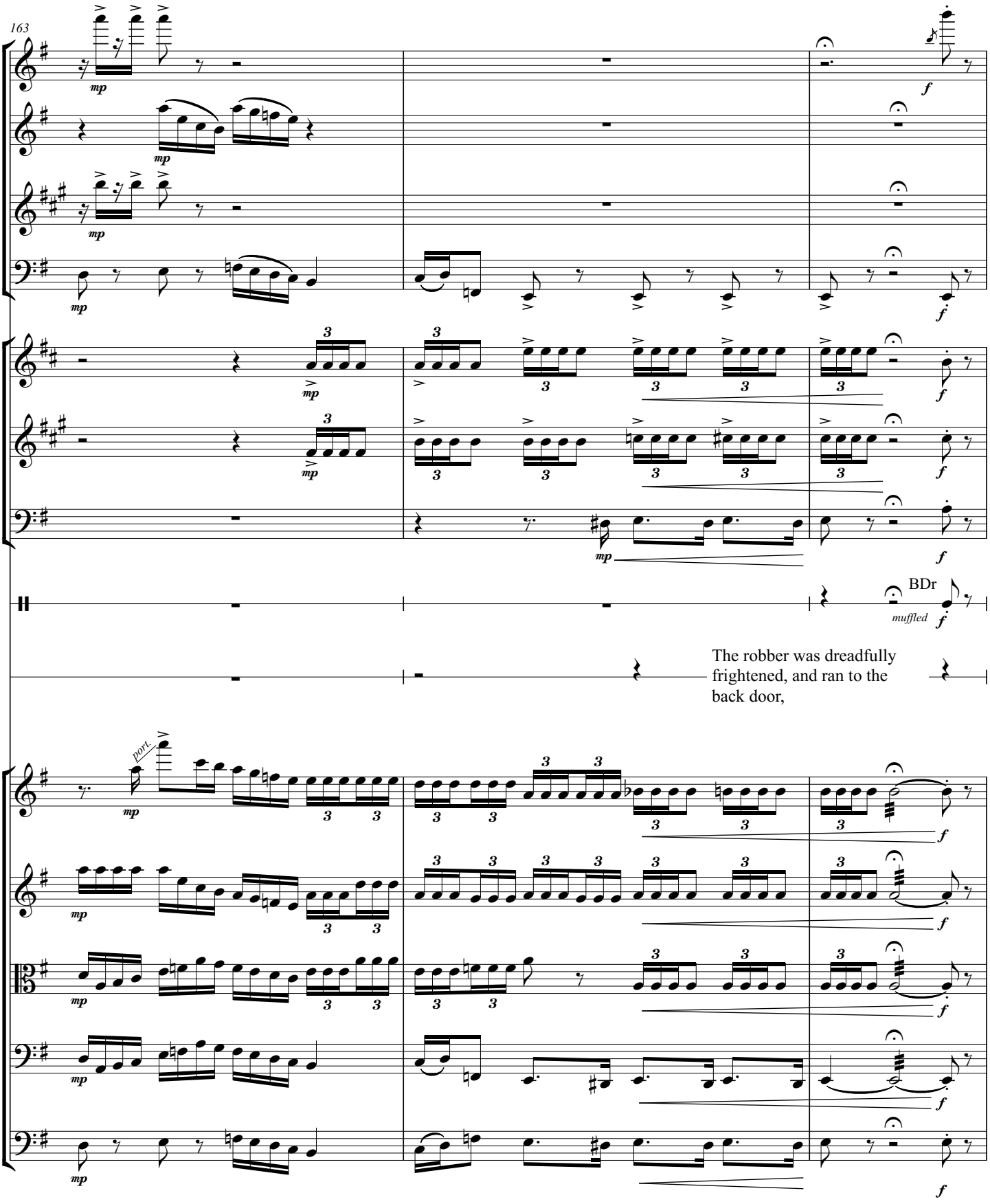


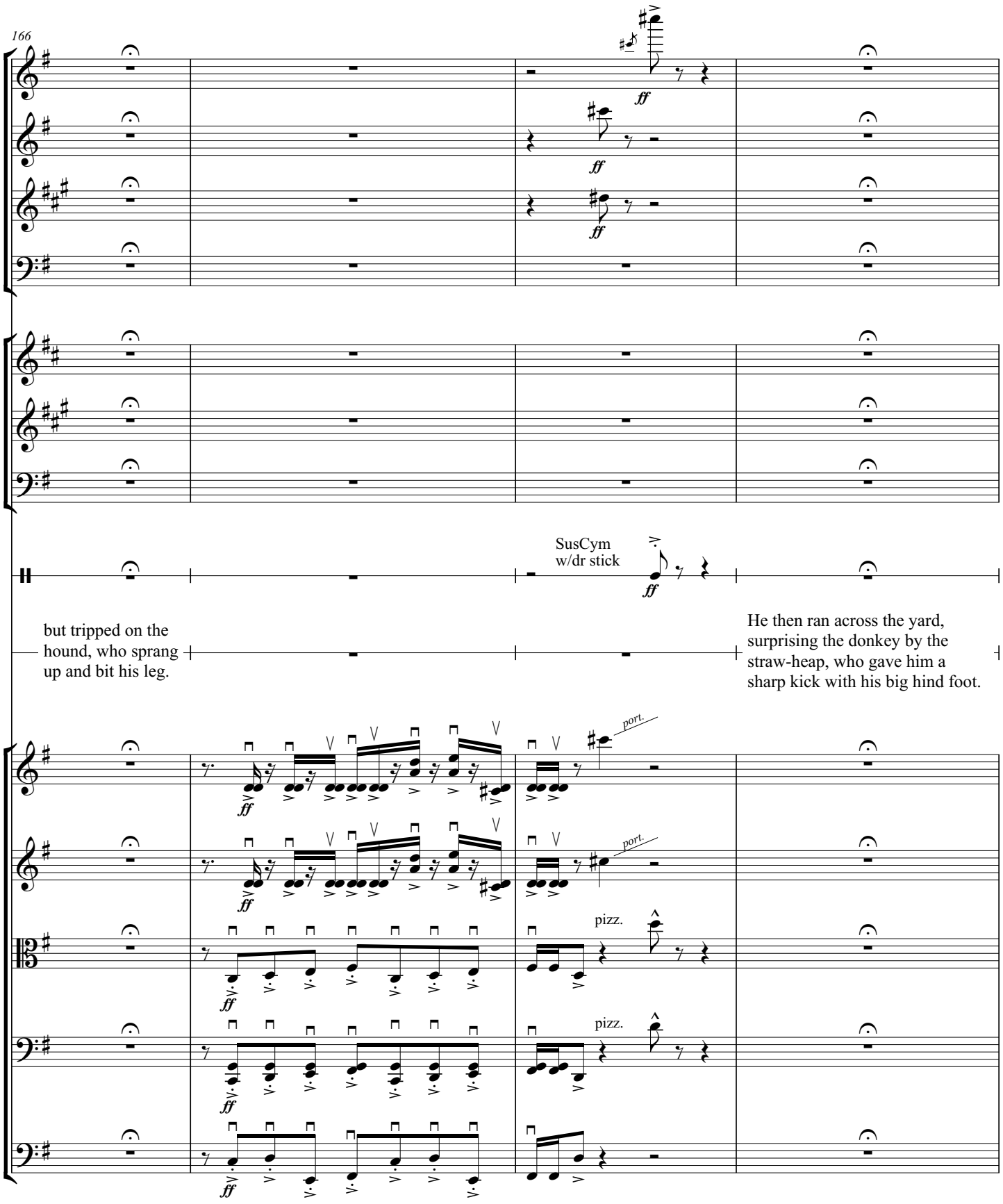
But after a while, the robbers saw from far off that the light was no longer on in the house, and that all seemed peaceful. The chief of the gang said, “Why did we let ourselves be scared silly?,” and ordered one of the robbers to go back and look the house over. He tiptoed up to the...

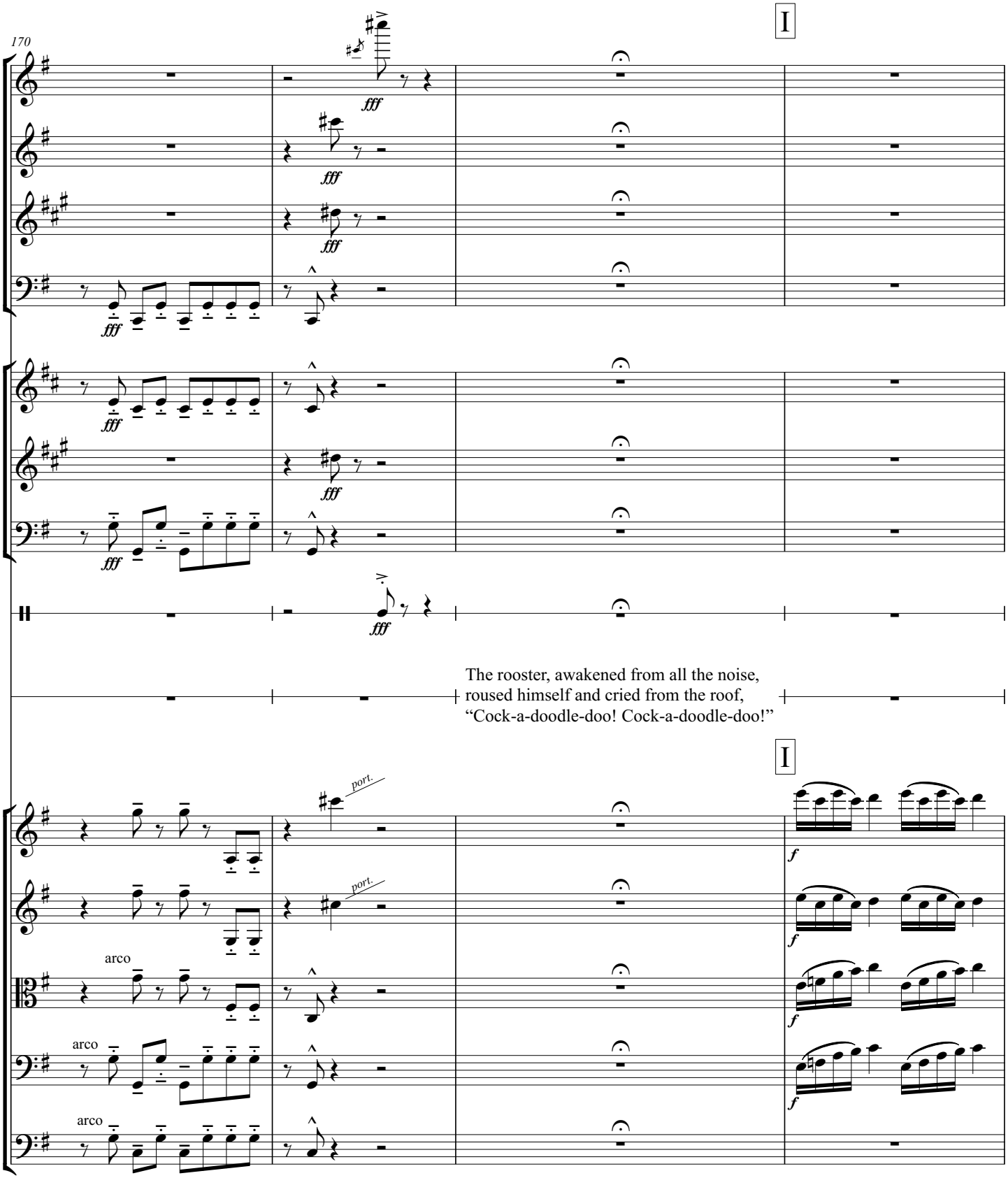

149
H
p
SusCym
w/dr stick
...house and listened at the door. All was quiet…. He then went in to light a candle, which woke the cat, who opened his eyes.
H
pizz.

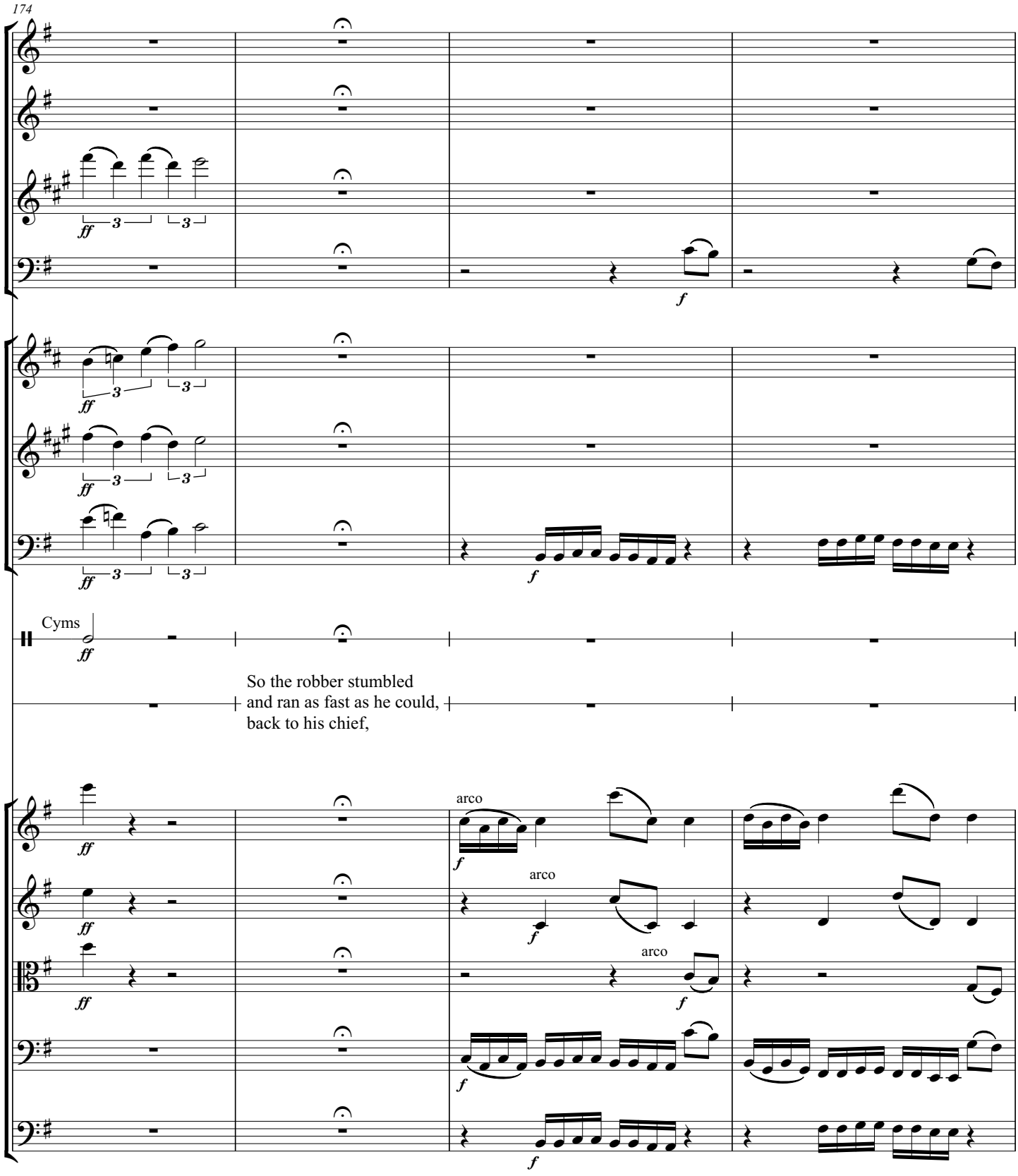

155
ff
Thinking that the cat's eyes were live coals in the fireplace, the robber stuck a match to them to light it.
mf
mp
snap

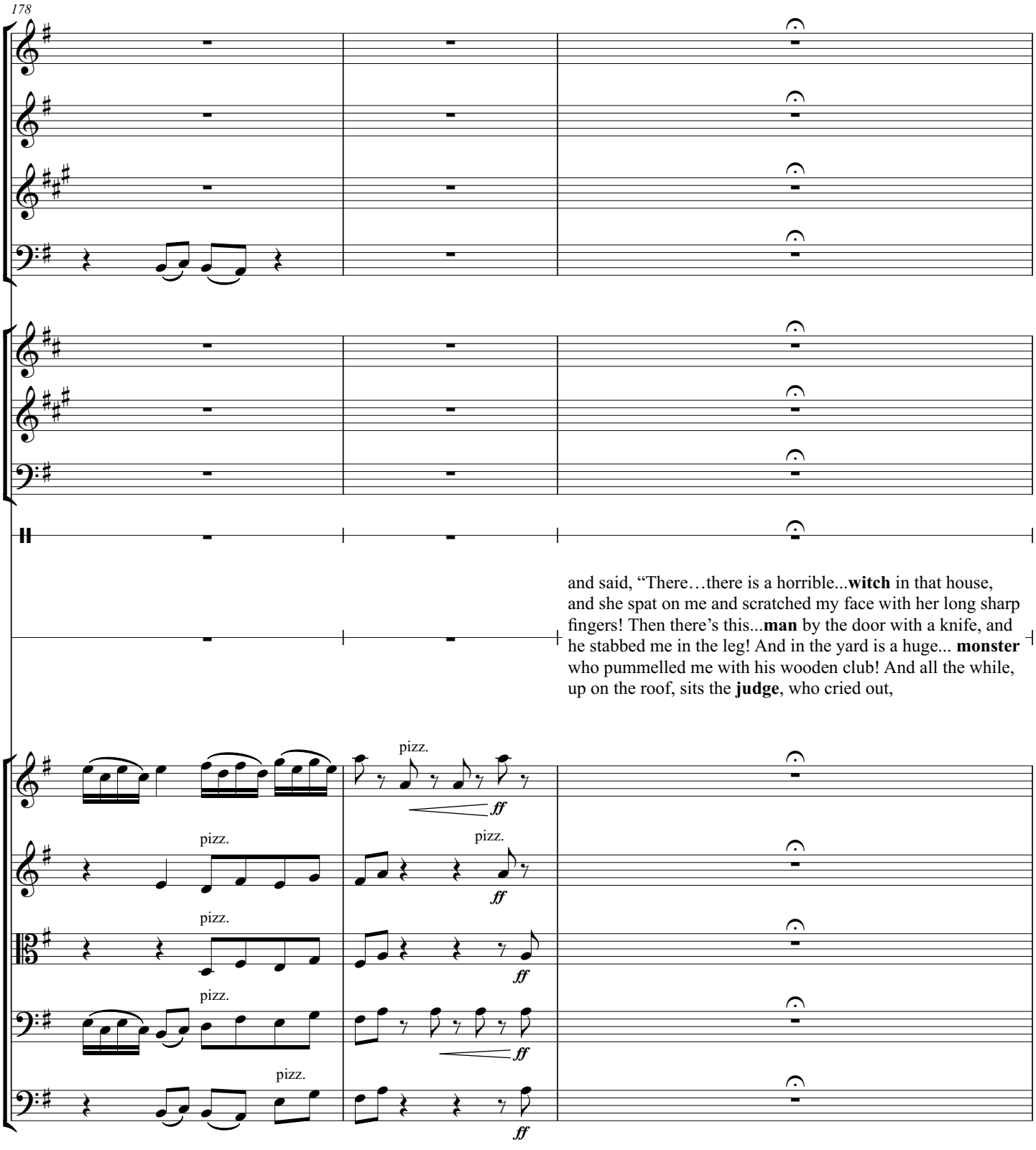

160
ff
Tri
The cat did not think that was
at **all** funny...and flew in his face!
Scratching with all his might!
pizz.
norm.
arco
port.

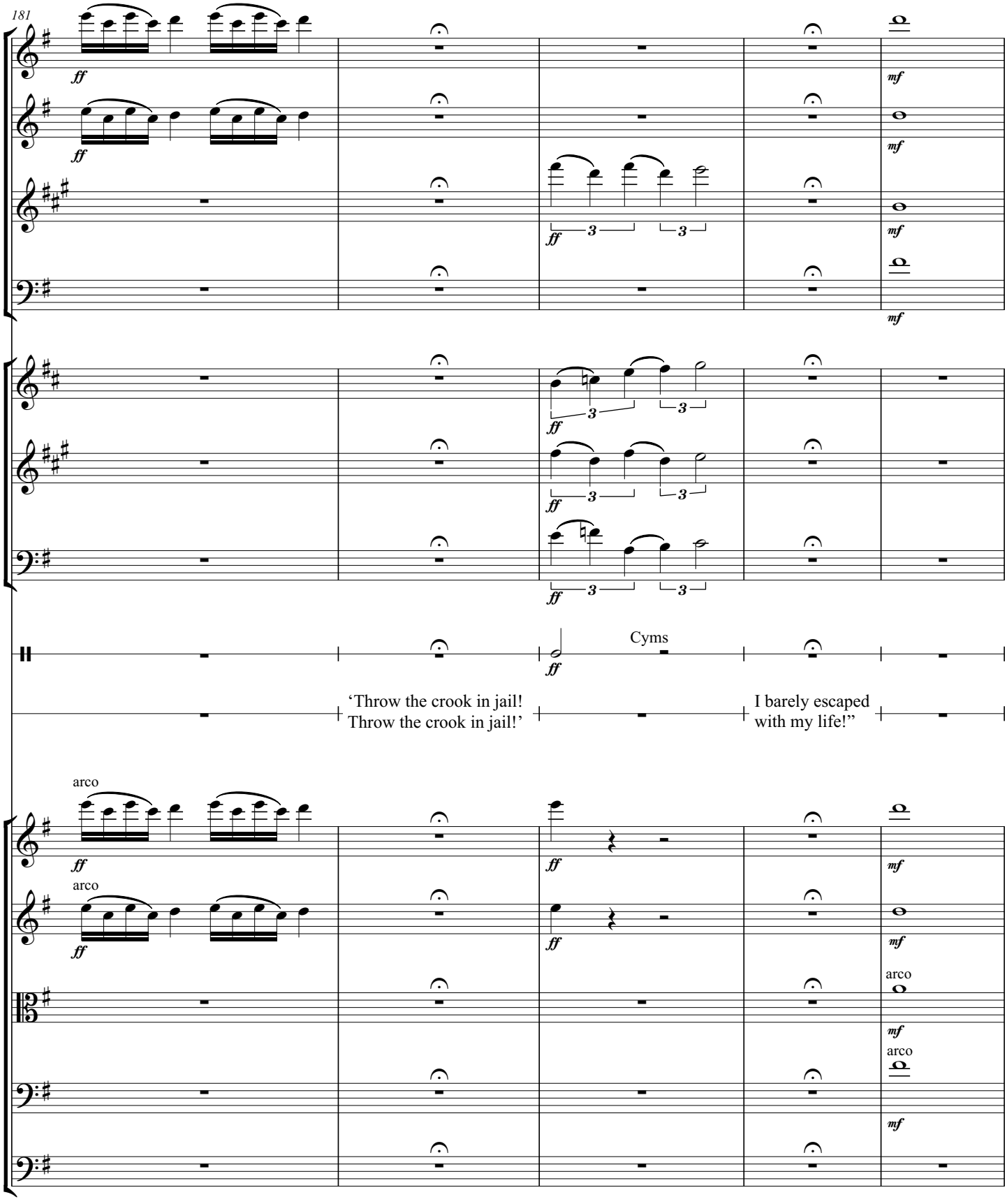

163
BDr
muffled
The robber was dreadfully frightened, and ran to the back door,
port.

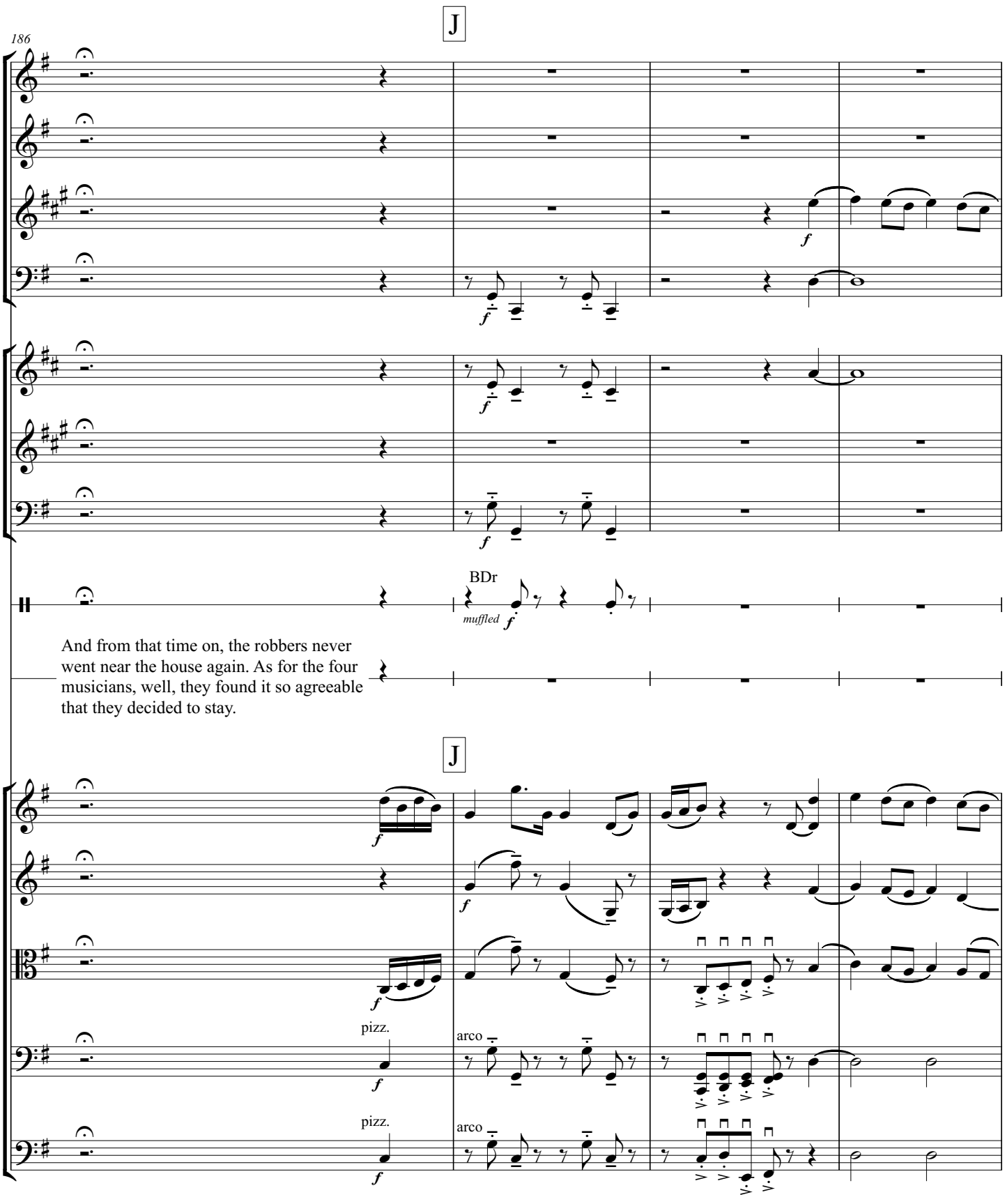

166
ff
SusCym
w/dr stick
but tripped on the hound, who sprang up and bit his leg.
He then ran across the yard, surprising the donkey by the straw-heap, who gave him a sharp kick with his big hind foot.
port.
pizz.

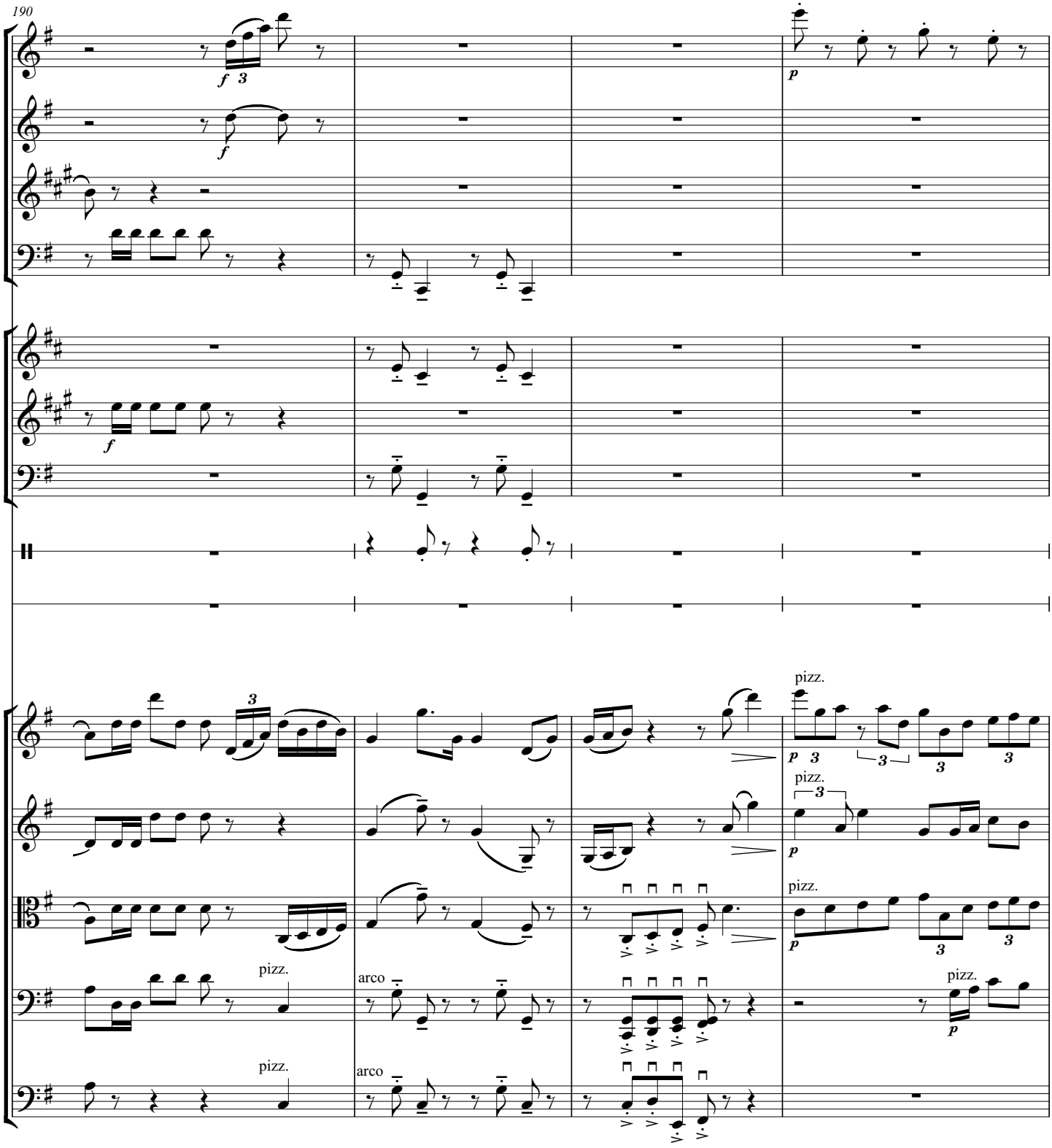

170
I
fff
The rooster, awakened from all the noise,
roused himself and cried from the roof,
“Cock-a-doodle-doo! Cock-a-doodle-doo!”
I
port.
arco
f

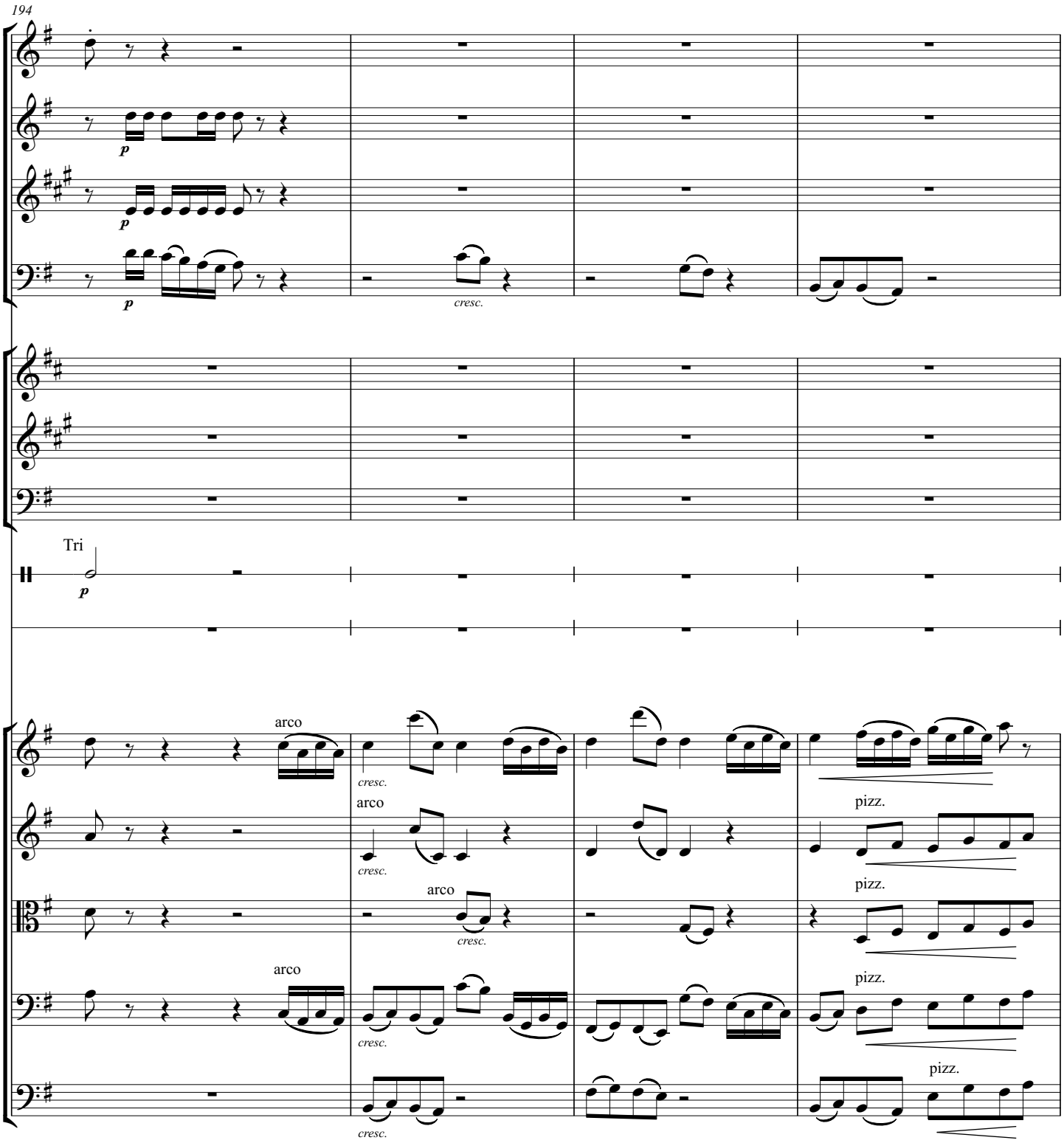

174
ff
f
Cyms
So the robber stumbled
and ran as fast as he could,
back to his chief,
arco
arco
arco

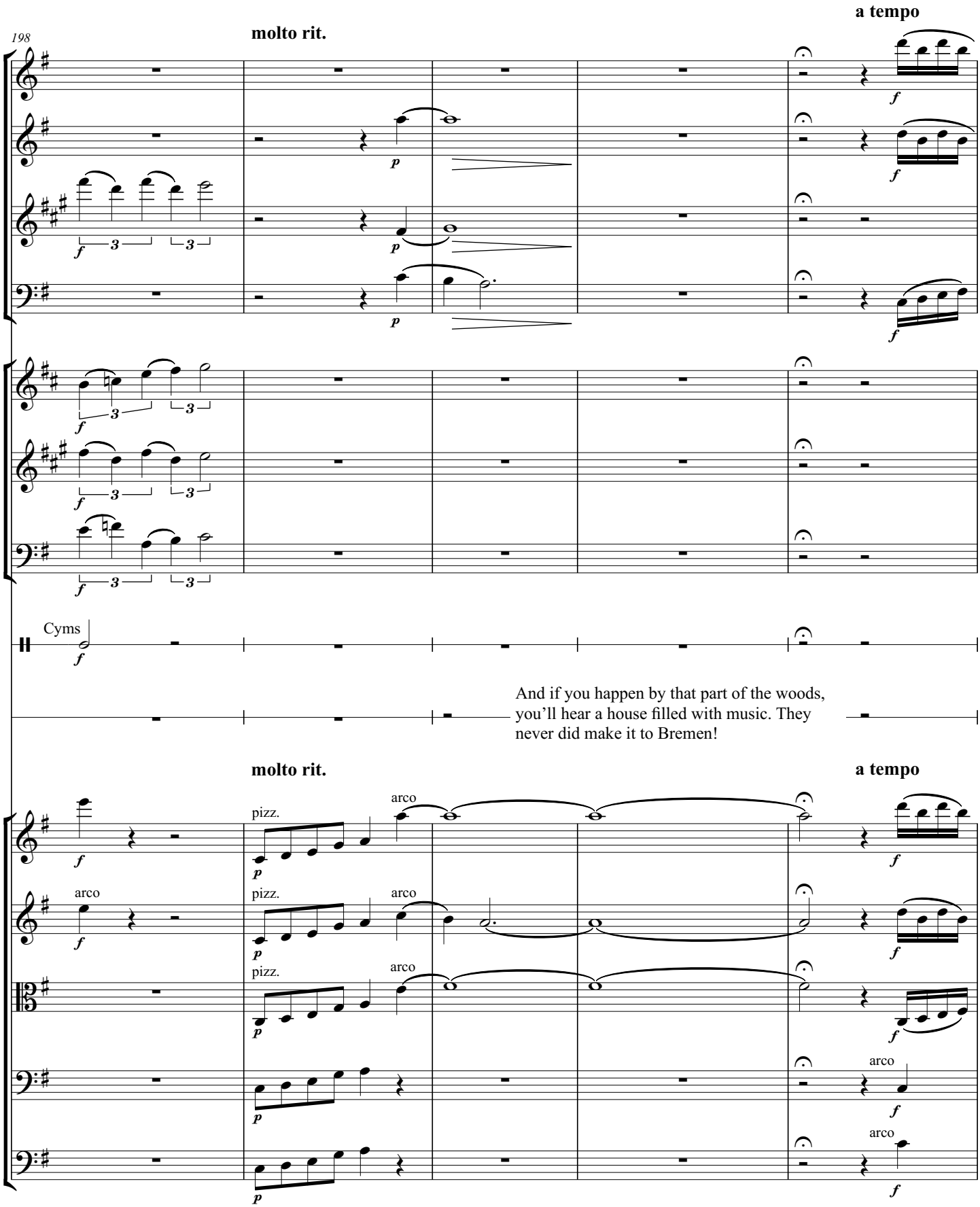

178
and said, “There…there is a horrible...**witch** in that house, and she spat on me and scratched my face with her long sharp fingers! Then there’s this...**man** by the door with a knife, and he stabbed me in the leg! And in the yard is a huge... **monster** who pummelled me with his wooden club! And all the while, up on the roof, sits the **judge**, who cried out,
pizz.
ff
pizz.
ff
pizz.
ff
pizz.
ff
pizz.
ff

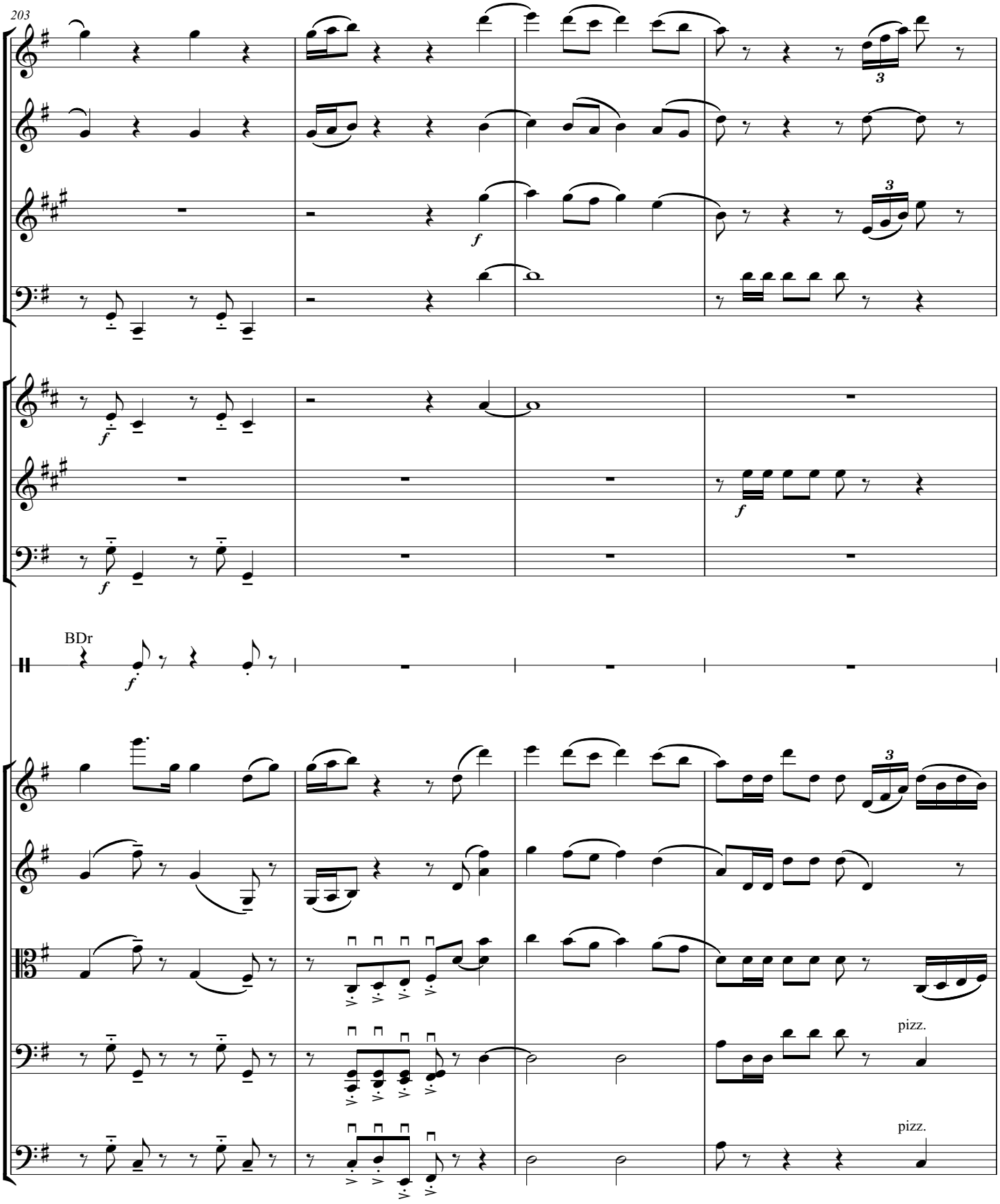

181
Cyms
'Throw the crook in jail!
Throw the crook in jail!'
I barely escaped
with my life!"
arco
arco
arco
arco

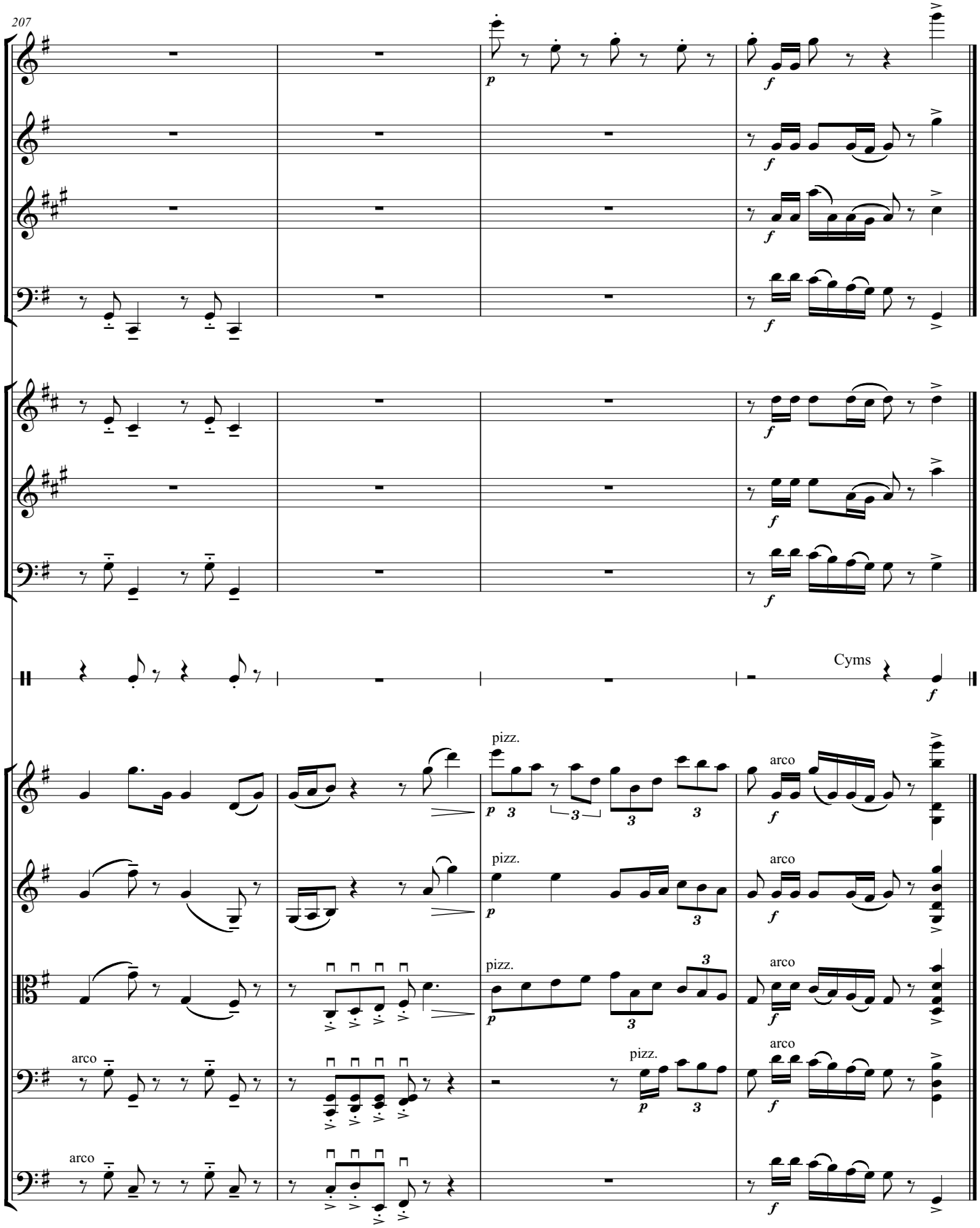

J
186
f
BDr
muffled f
And from that time on, the robbers never went near the house again. As for the four musicians, well, they found it so agreeable that they decided to stay.
J
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco


190
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco


194
p
cresc.
Tri
arco
pizz.


198
molto rit.
a tempo
Cyms
And if you happen by that part of the woods, you'll hear a house filled with music. They never did make it to Bremen!
molto rit.
a tempo
pizz.
arco


203
BDr
pizz.
pizz.


207
Cyms
pizz.
arco