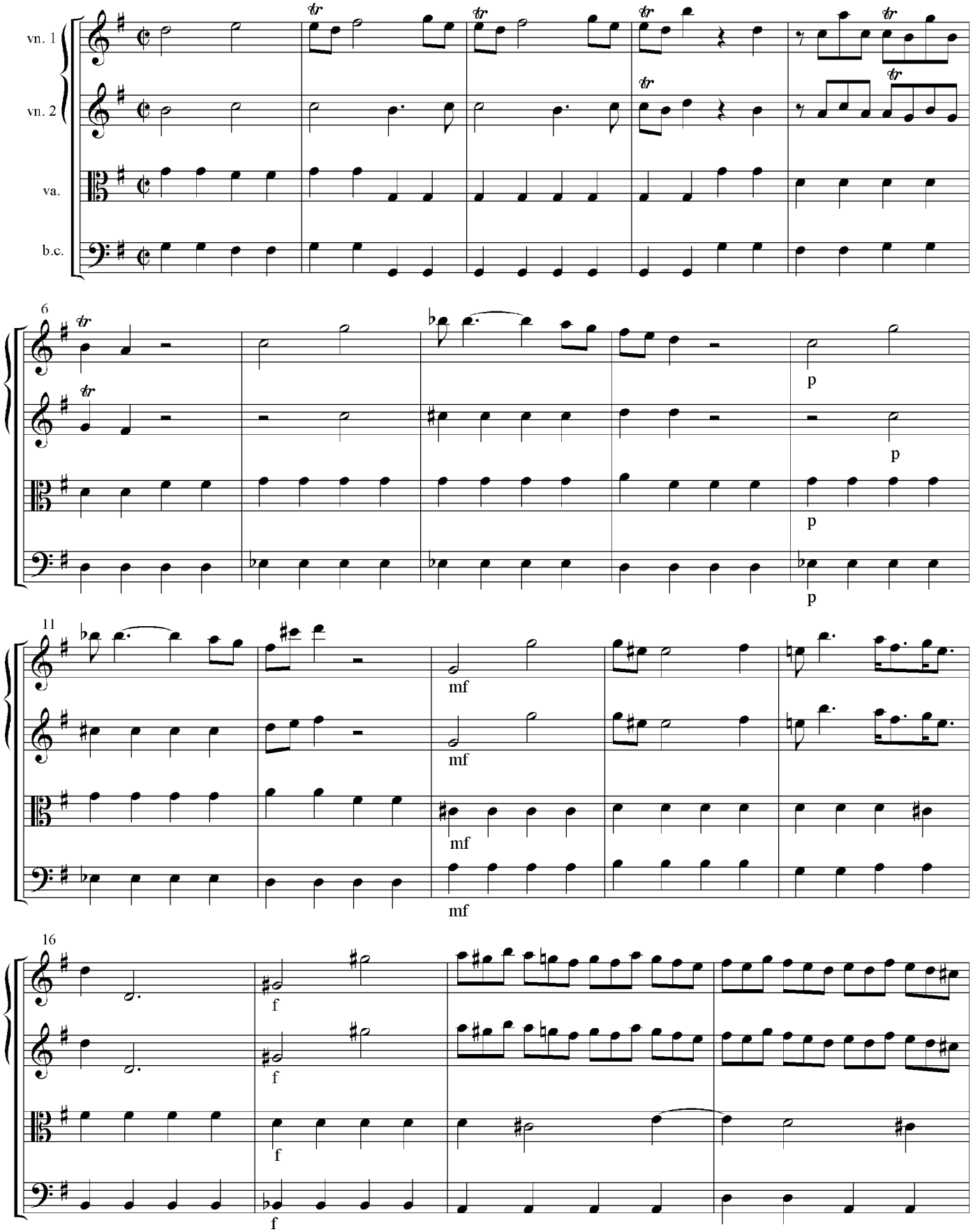
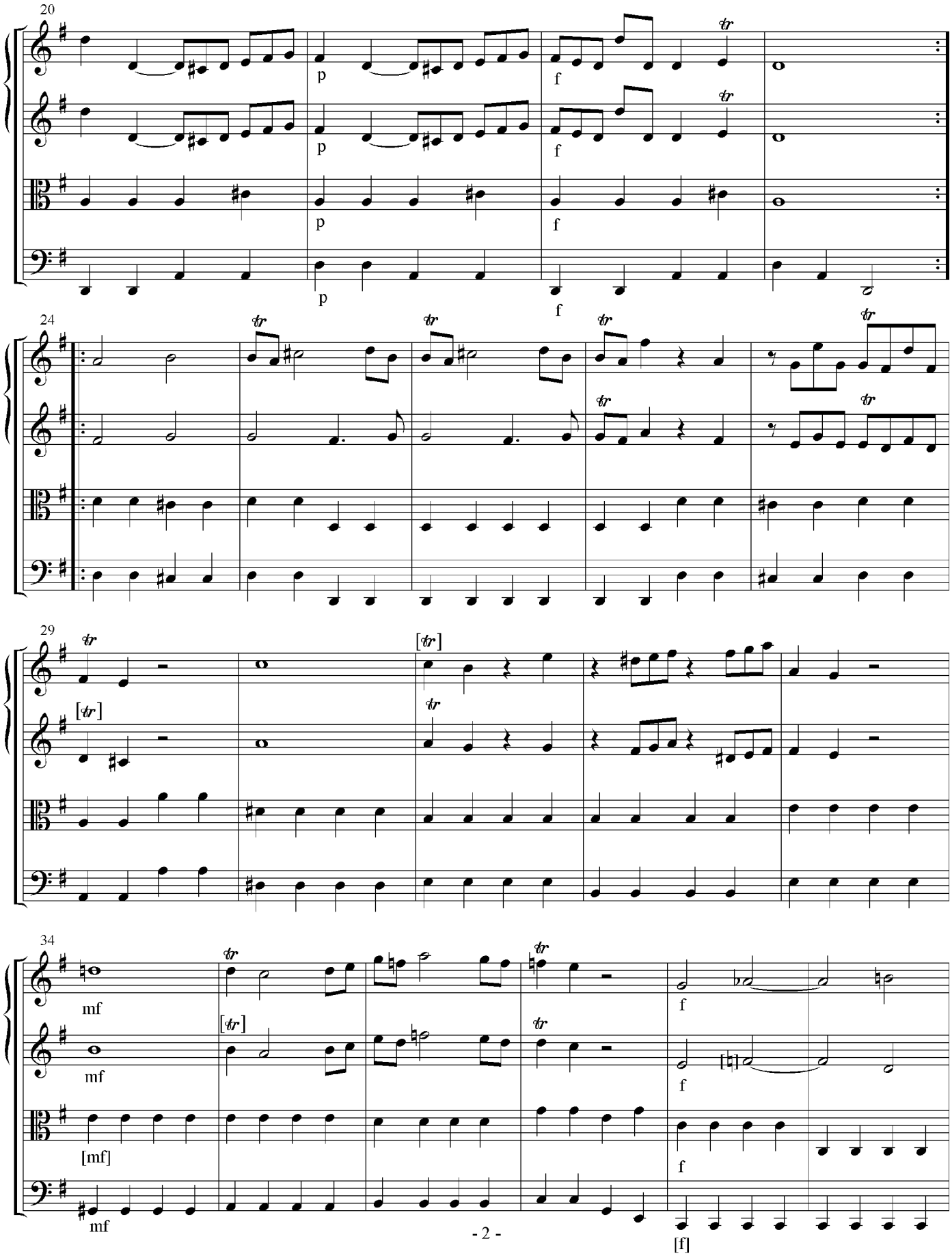
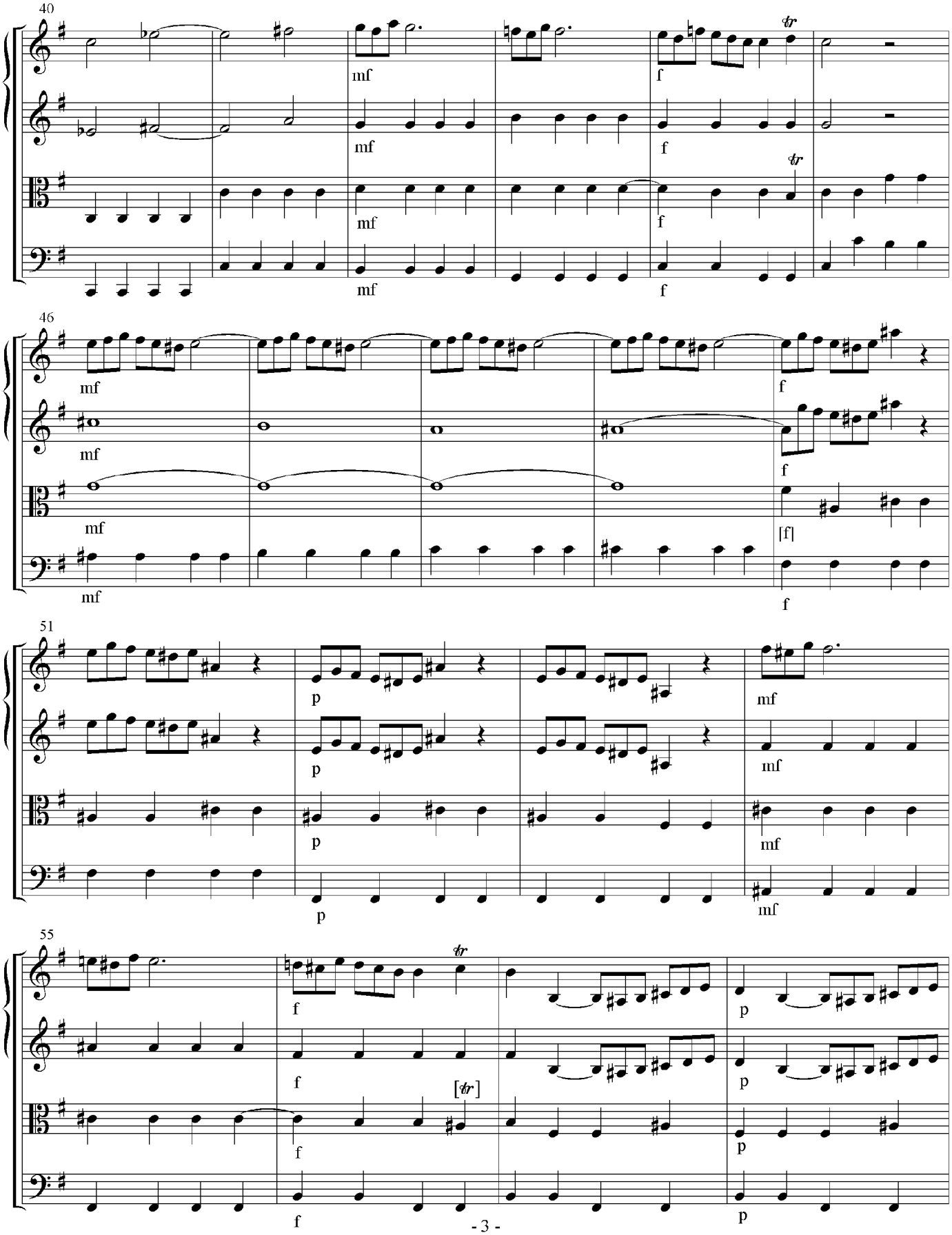
Sinfonia

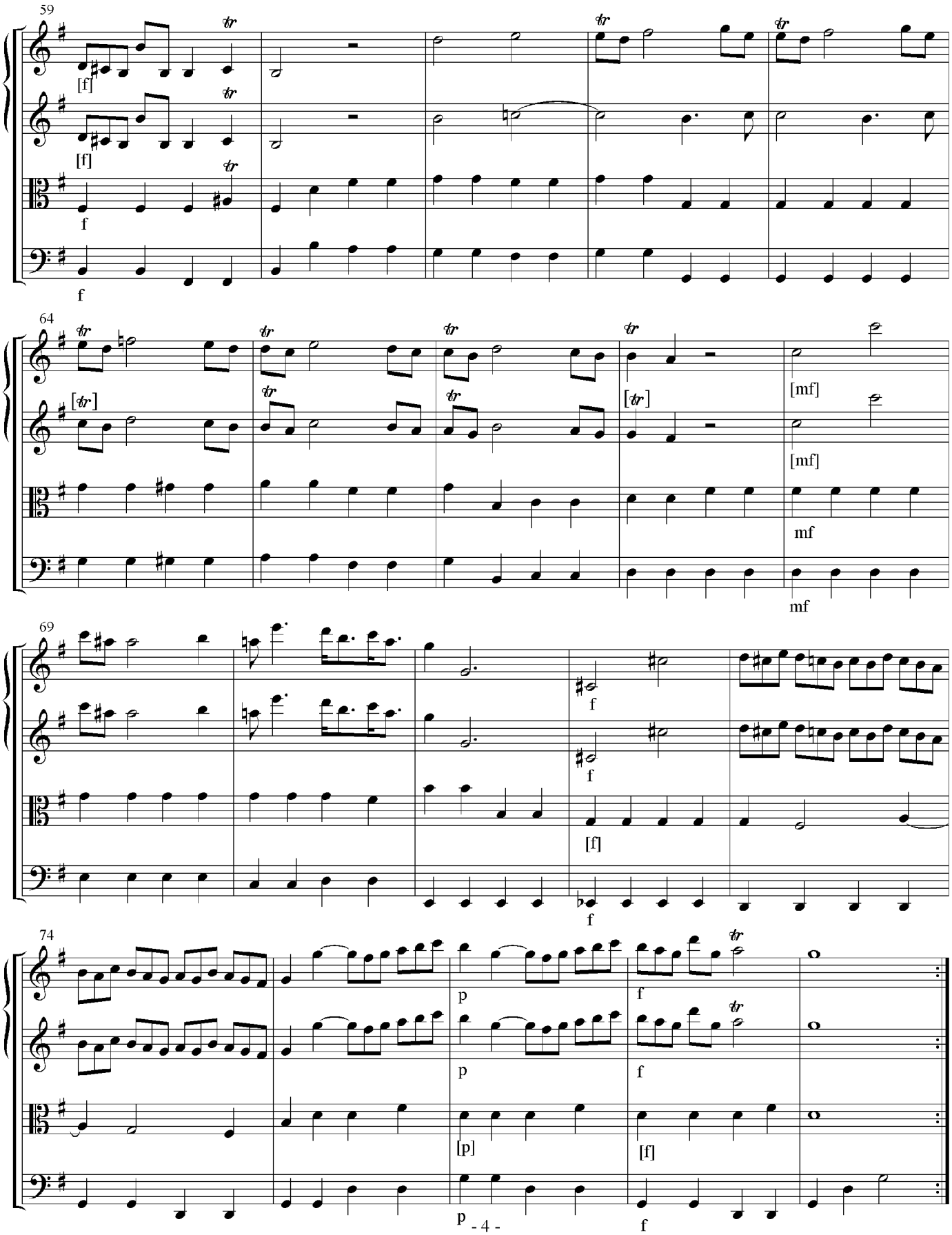
attr. to C. P. E. Bach (Wq. n.v. 69)
from D B St 228

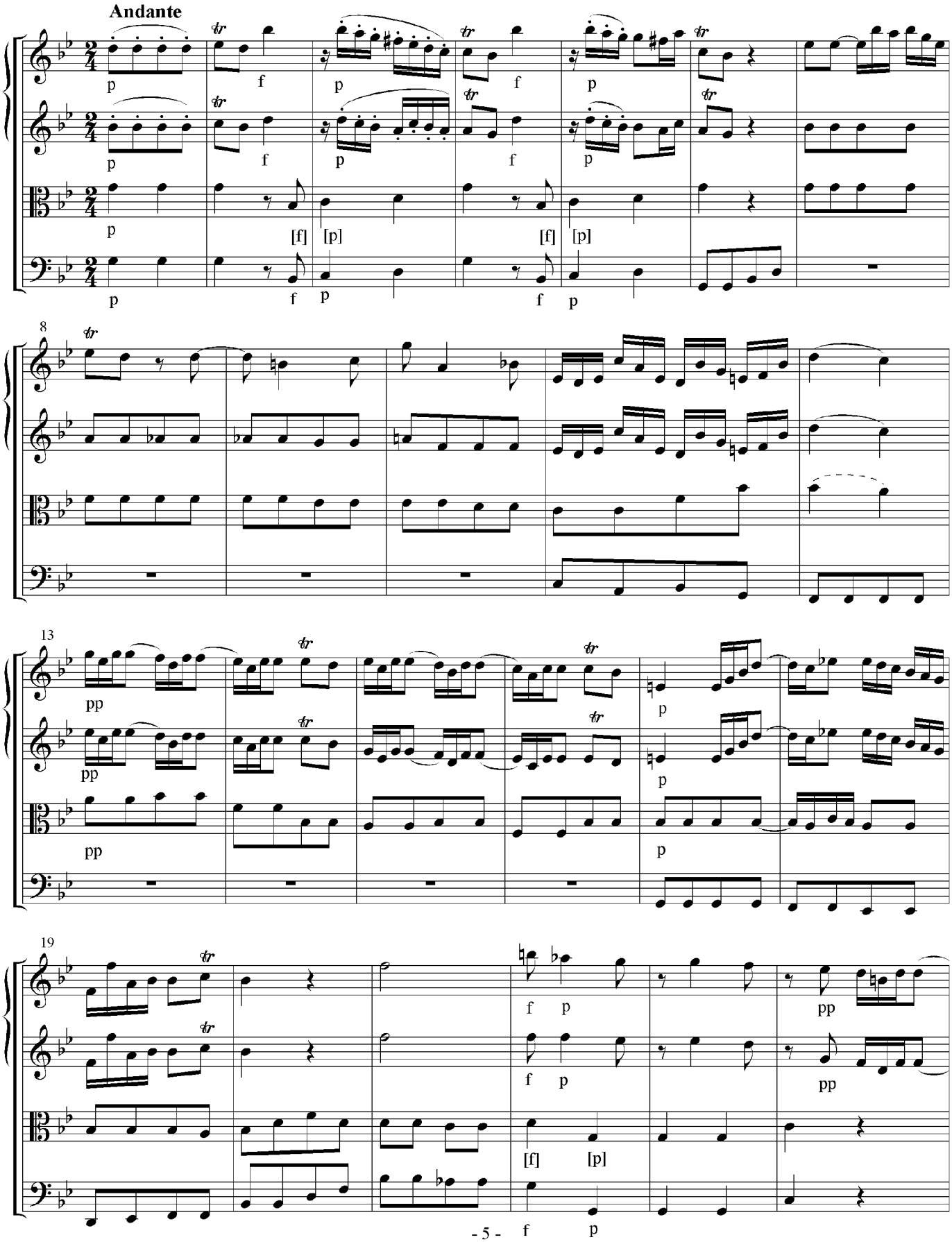


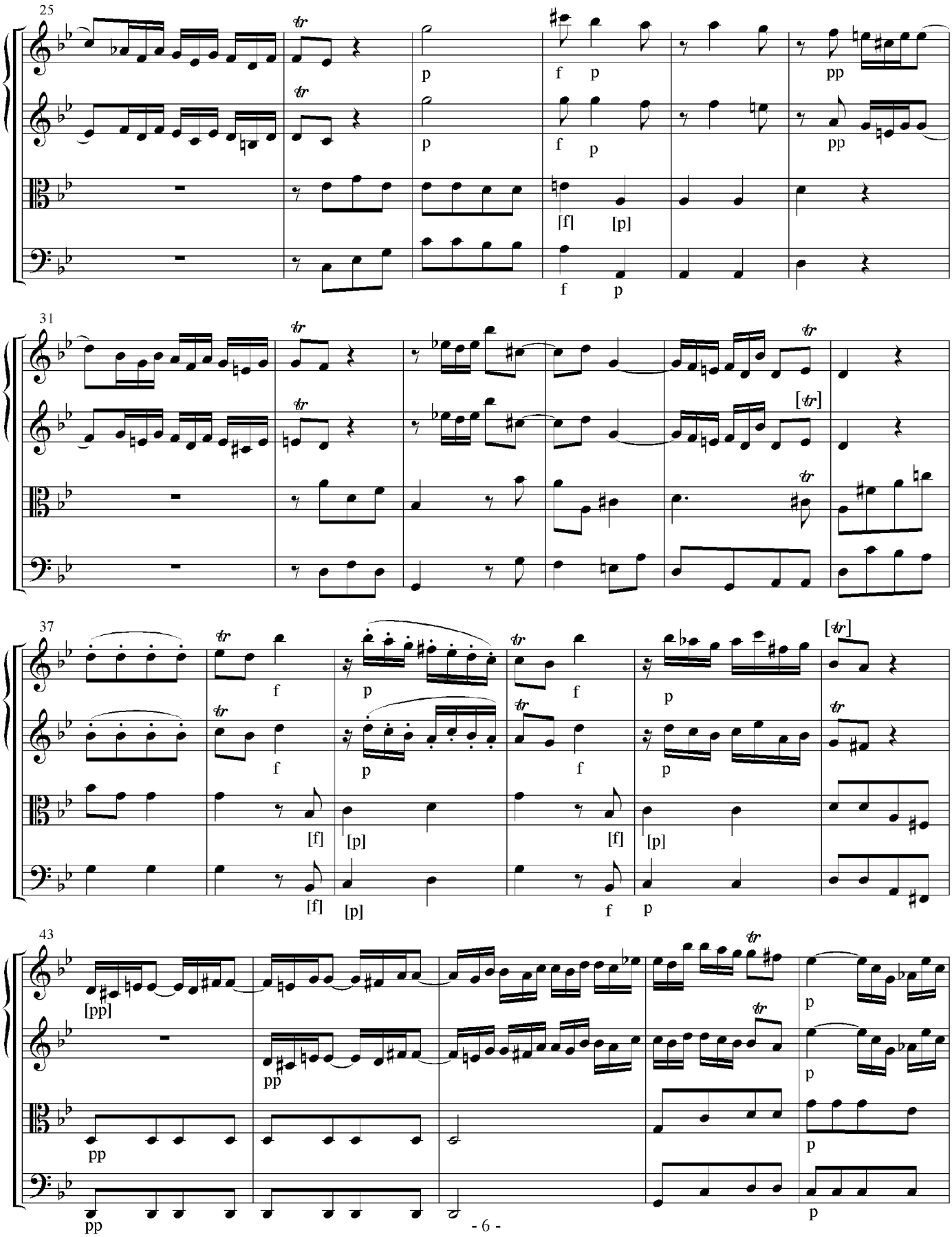
File created 4/8/12, completed 4/9/12.
This is the sinfonia that Suchalla believes was composed jointly by C.P.E. Bach and Count Lobkowitz.

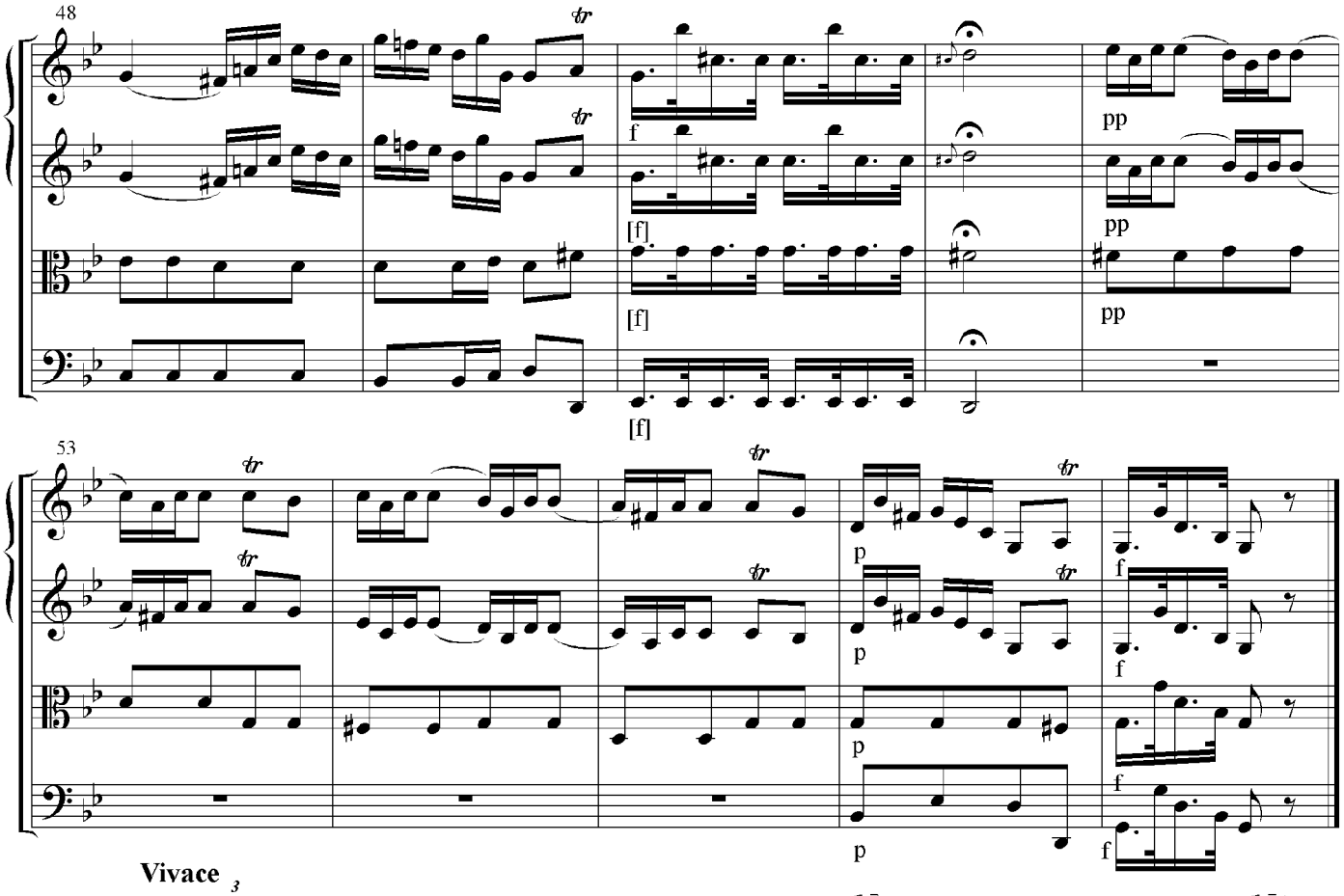

20
p
f
24
29
34
mf
[mf]
[f]


40
mf
f
46
mf
f
[f]
51
p
mf
55
f
[tr]
p

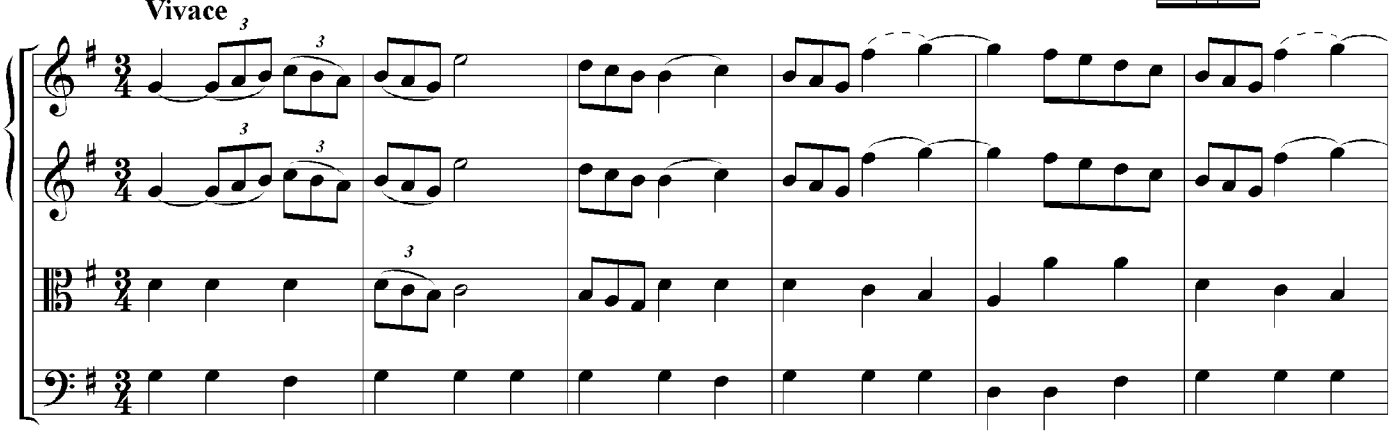

59
[f]
[f]
f
f
64
[tr]
[mf]
[mf]
mf
mf
69
f
f
[f]
f
74
p
f
p
f
[p]
[f]
p
f

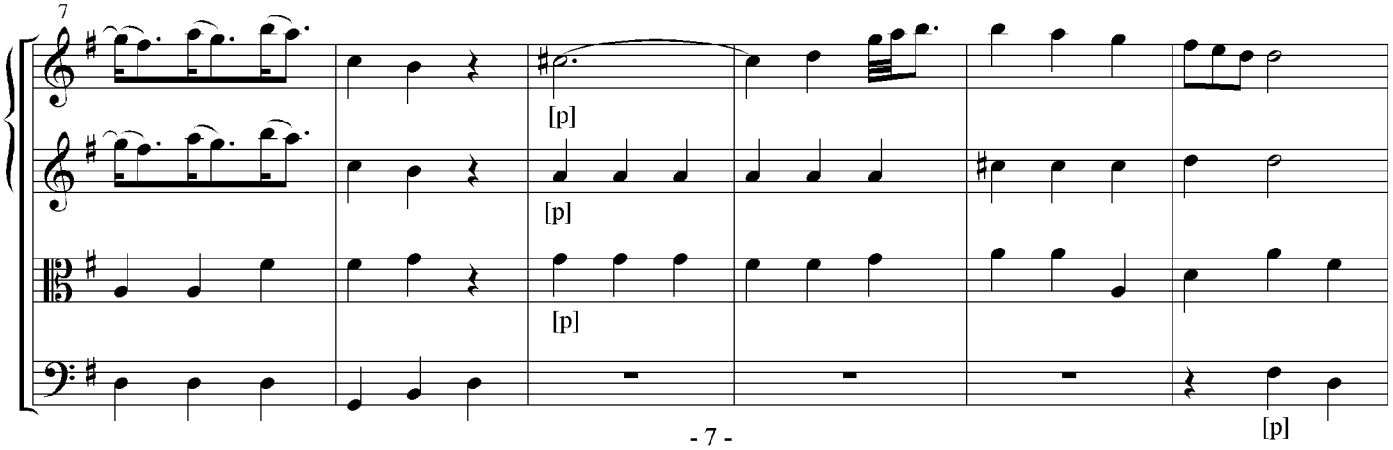

Andante
8
13
19

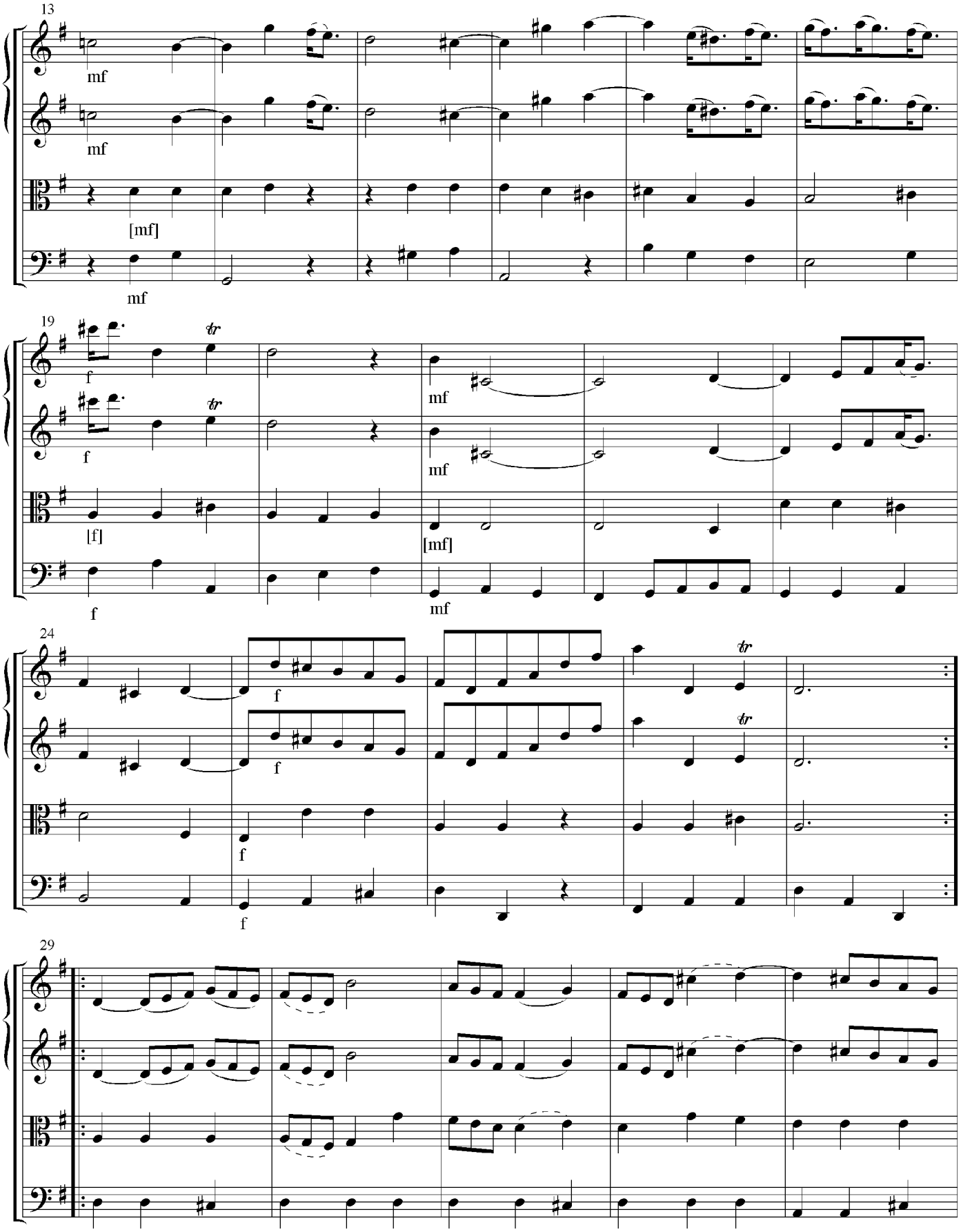

25
31
37
43

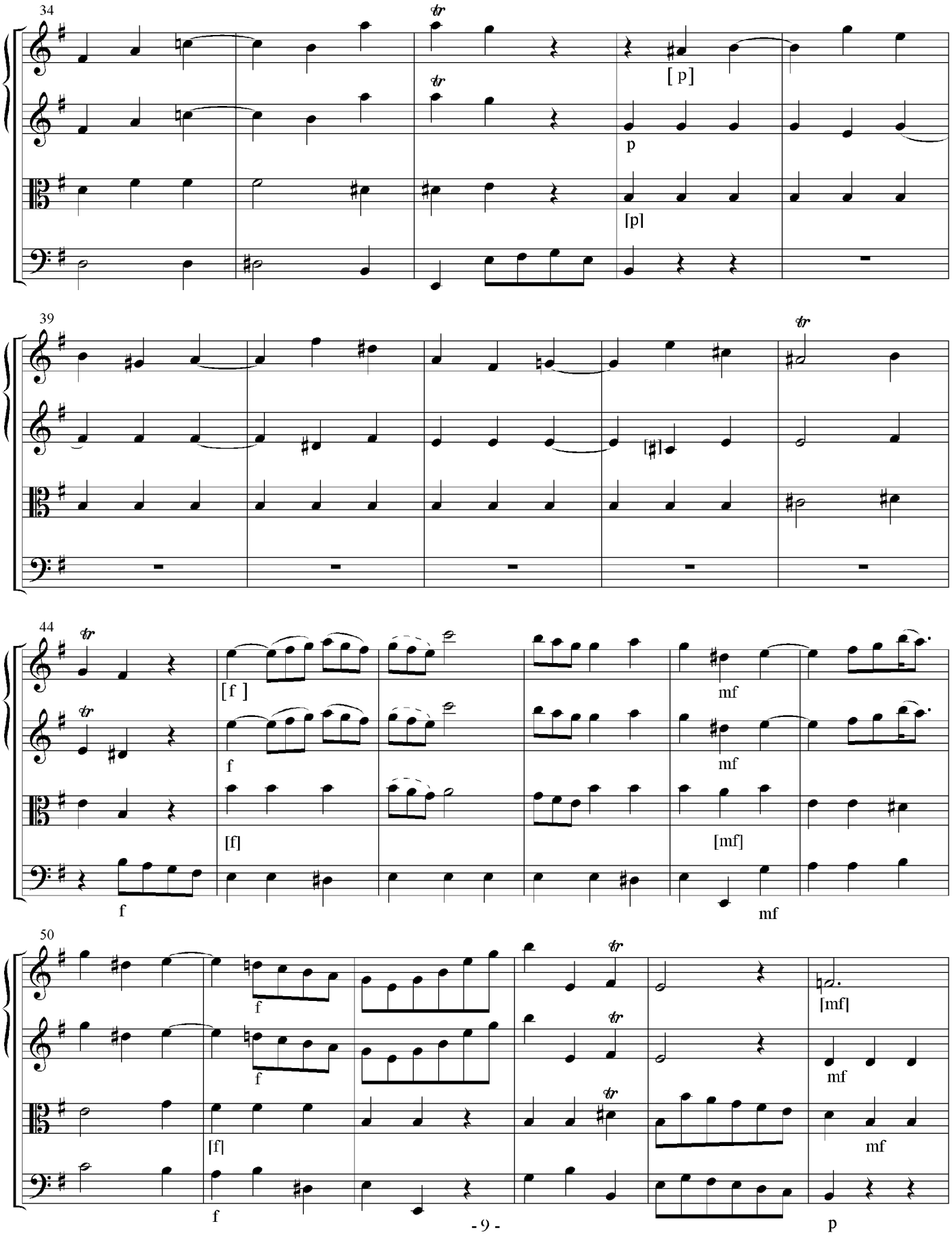

48
f
[f]
[f]
[f]
pp
pp
pp

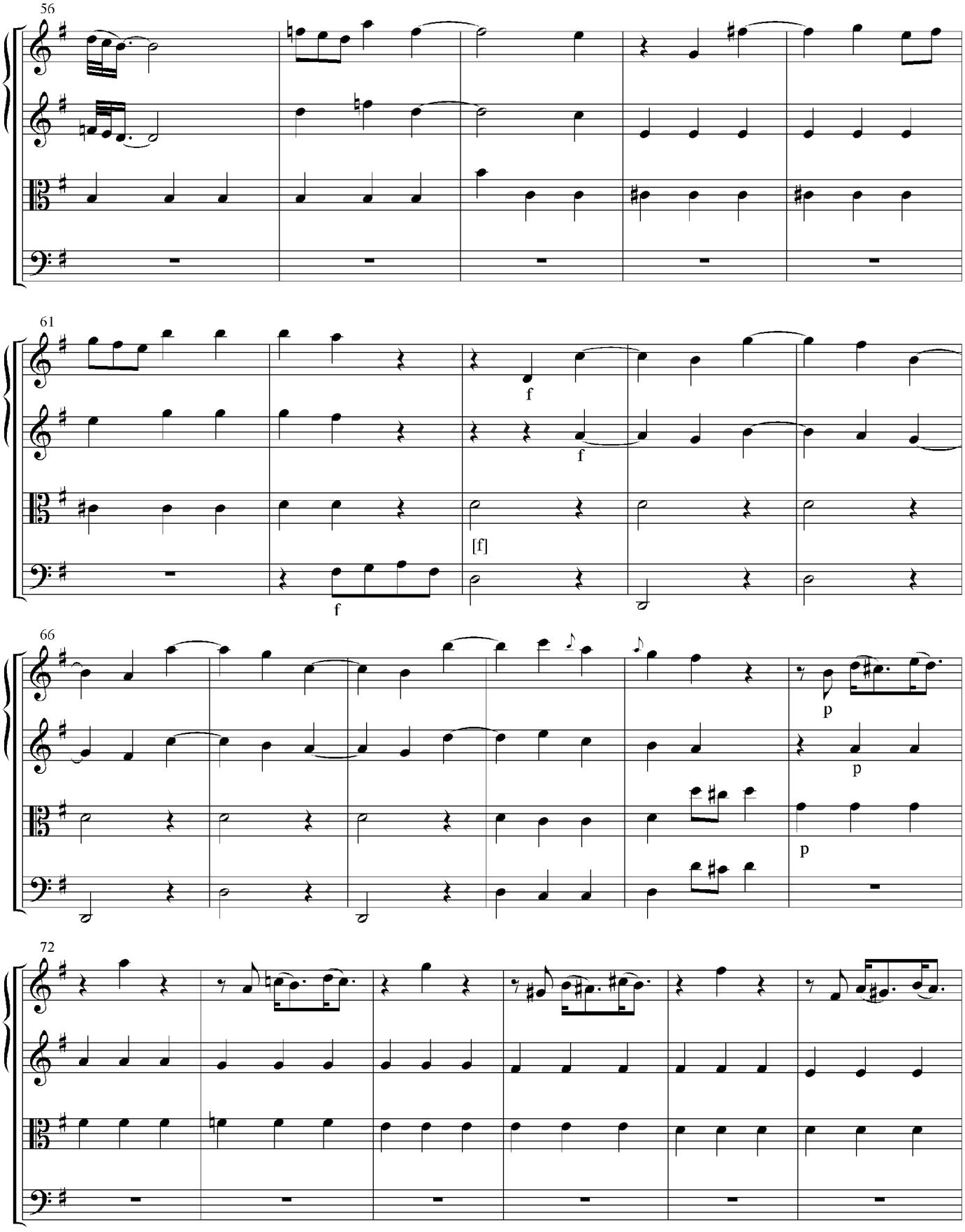
53
p
p
p
p
f
f
f
f

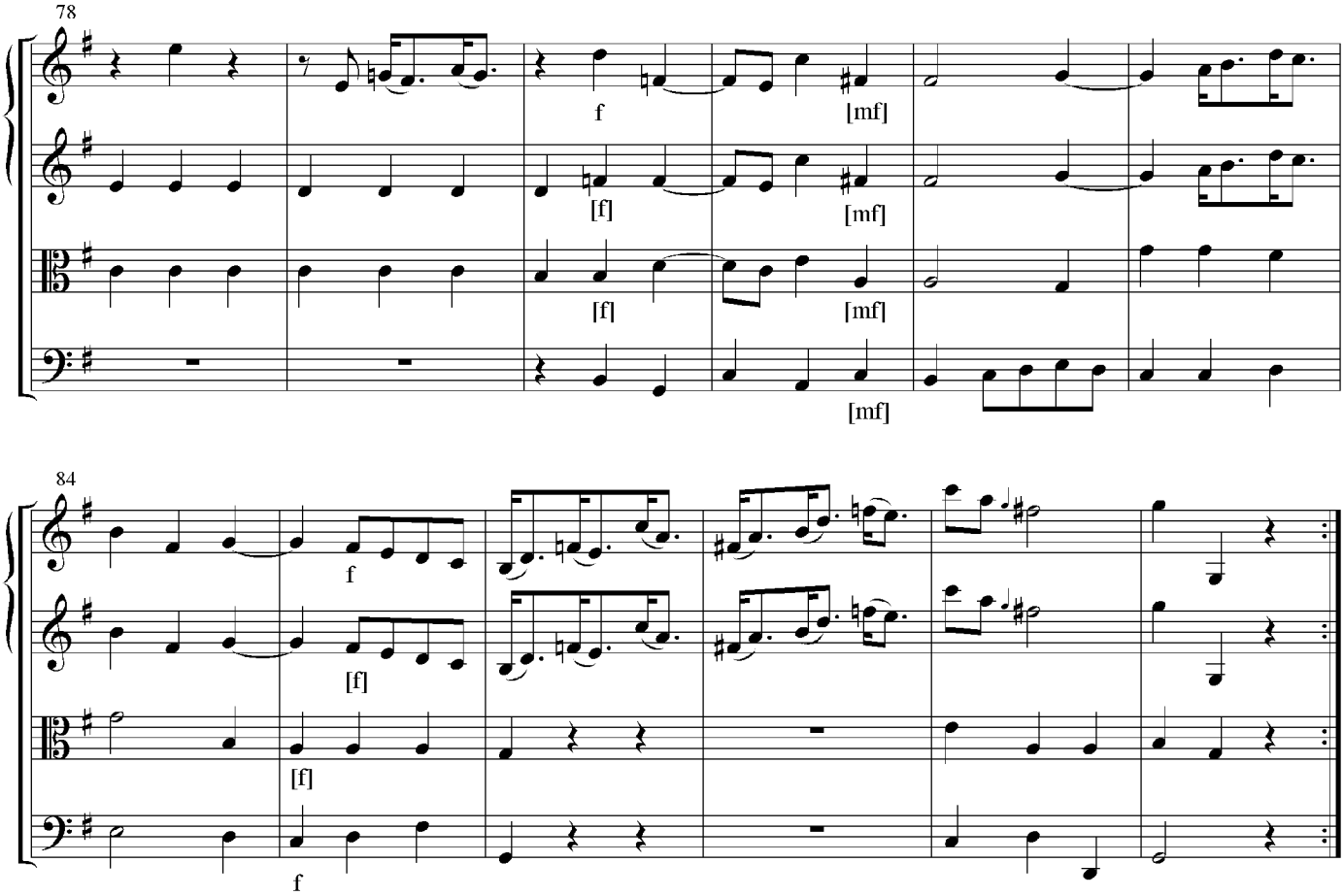

Vivace


7
[p]
[p]
[p]
[p]


13
mf
mf
[mf]
mf
19
f
tr
f
tr
[f]
f
mf
mf
[mf]
mf
24
f
f
tr
tr
f
f
29


34
[p]
p
[p]
39
[♯]
44
[f]
f
mf
[f]
[mf]
50
[mf]
[f]


56
61
f
f
[f]
f
66
p
p
p
72


78
f
[mf]
[f]
[mf]
[f]
[mf]
[mf]

84
f
[f]
[f]
f

Sinfonia in G (Wq. n.v. 69)

The catalog of the estate of C. P. E. Bach (*Verzeichniß des musikalischen Nachlasses des verstorbenen Capellmeisters Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach*, Hamburg: Schniebes, 1790), p. 65, describes a sinfonia that he composed jointly with his pupil Ferdinand von Lobkowitz, each one writing a measure at a time in alternation. The present work was identified as the sinfonia in question by Ernst Suchalla, *Die Orchestersinfonien Carl Philipp Emanuel Bachs* (Augsburg: Blasaditsch, 1968), 127–34.

Although Suchalla's identification cannot be confirmed, the present transcription contains nothing that would rule it out either. As Suchalla notes, the absence here of wind parts, mentioned in the entry in Bach's *Nachlassverzeichnis*, could mean that the present work is an early or alternate version of the one composed with Lobkowitz.On the other hand, the numerous "mf" dynamic markings as well as open fifths and other details of the harmony are atypical of Bach, and there are no discontinuities between measures such as one might expect if they had been written by alternating composers. Yet we cannot know how thoroughly a work composed in such a manner would have been edited, and a few modulations in the first two movements could be the sorts of things Bach would have introduced into what is otherwise a quite conventional if pleasant enough little sinfonia in a fairly generic mid-century northern European style.

The sole source is D B Mus. ms. Bach St 228, a set of four parts for two violins, viola, and "basso." The title page shows numerous later markings, one of which ("R. II. No. 2") corresponds with the listing of the work in the 1766 supplement to the catalog of the publisher Breitkopf ("Raccolta II. II Sinf.del Sigr. C. P. E. Bach," p. 2); the incipit for the first work listed, a sinfonia in F, is like that of the present work not found among Bach's known works.

Original entries on the title page, which comprises the first page of the basso part, are: "SINFONIA Ex G.# / a / Violino Primo. / Violino Secondo. / Viola / è / Basso // de Bach de Berlin" / [incipit]. The words "de Berlin" are in smaller letters and may have been a later addition, but probably by the same hand. The four parts are labeled as on the title page. They are generally accurate, although many dynamic markings are missing and there are minor inconsistencies in slurs and ornaments, as noted below. There are no signs of revision; a few corrections probably are due to copying errors.

Readings:

mvt. 1

m.	pt.	reading
30–1	v1	tie (c")
31	va	d#' (four times) not b
32	v1	last three notes: e"–f#"–g" not f#"–g"–a"
34	bs	G (four times) not G#
57	v1	notes 2–3: no tie (b)

58	vn	notes 2–3: no tie (b)
75	v1	no tie (g'')

mvt. 2

m.	pt.	reading
44–5	v1	no tie (a')

mvt. 3

m.	pt.	reading
21	va	note 1: g not e
35	bs	no sharp (d)
37–8	v2	corrections in ms, letter names written beneath notes but reading of notes 1–2 in m. 38 is uncertain; the slur in mm. 38–9 may originaly have been meant as a tie that should now be cancelled
49	v2	notes 2–3: 16th–8th (no dot, no slur)
62		“f” in va (note 1) not bs
80	v1	“f” on note 2 (f') not 1 (d'')
81–3		parts suggest uncertainty as to where to place “mf,” due to inexact recapitulation of the parallel passage in mm. 21ff.; in m. 83, note 2 (a') in vn, and in m. 82, note 2 (c) in bs (no dyn. in va)
81	bs	note 3: d not c
82	va	a (dotted half) not a (half), g (quarter)
88	v2	note 3 (app.): 8th not quarter