# Les Biches

## mov. 4: Andantino

Francis Poulenc

*arranged by Paul De Bra for*
*accordion orchestra*
*(1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b, 4, bass, timpani)*

Les Biches is a one-act ballet to music by Francis Poulenc. From the ballet he extracted a five movements suite. The arrangement is of movement 4: Andantino. Literally the title means “The Does” (female deer) but the term is sometimes also used to indicate women with dubious sexual intentions.
The composition uses many different instruments, alternating quickly, and this is reflected in the arrangement for accordion orchestra which not only contains seven accordion parts but also requires fast register changes, potentially requiring diviso such that in the same voice one player can omit a few notes before and another a few notes after a register change.
As this is Poulenc, classical harmony does not really apply: there are dissonances, parallel fifths and many other “forbidden” recipes that are used… Still, it never really becomes a cacophony.

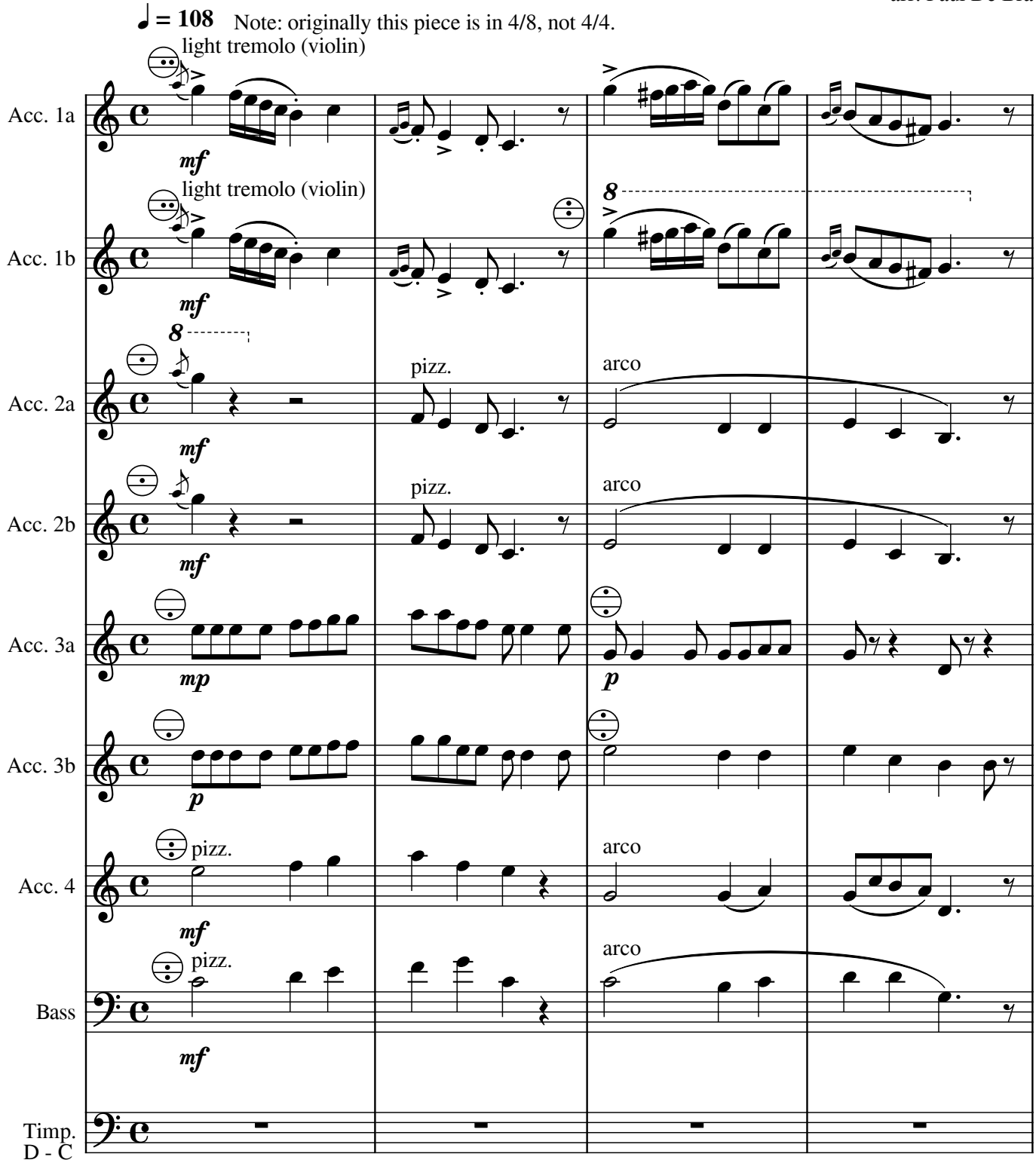
Note that as Poulenc died in 1963 this work is in the public domain in countries like Canada, but Europe has to wait until 2034.

A recording by Professor P is available on YouTube.

This arrangement is provided under the Creative Commons Attribution license (and so is the recording).

# Les Biches: Andantino

Francis Poulenc
arr. Paul De Bra

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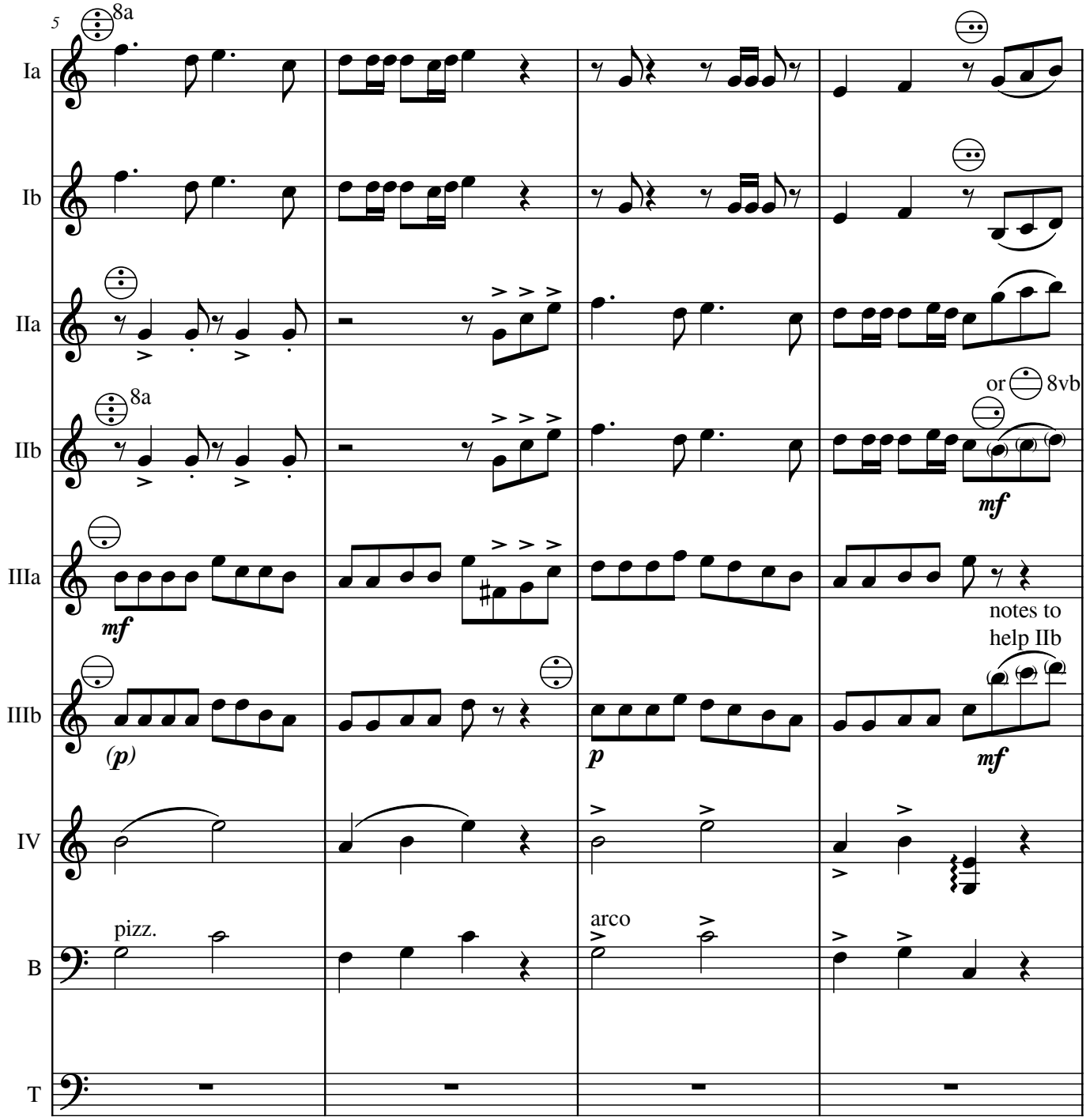


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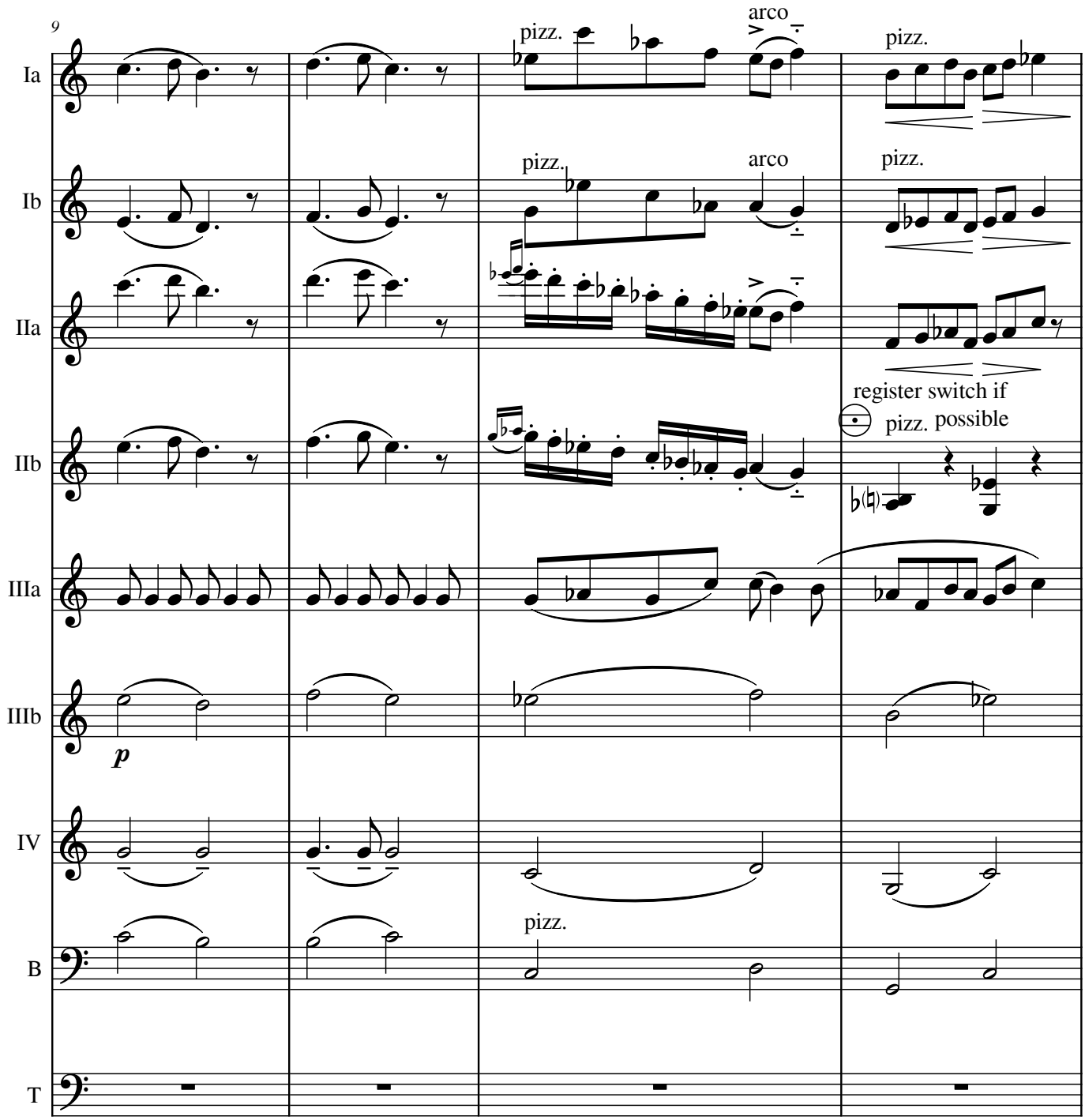


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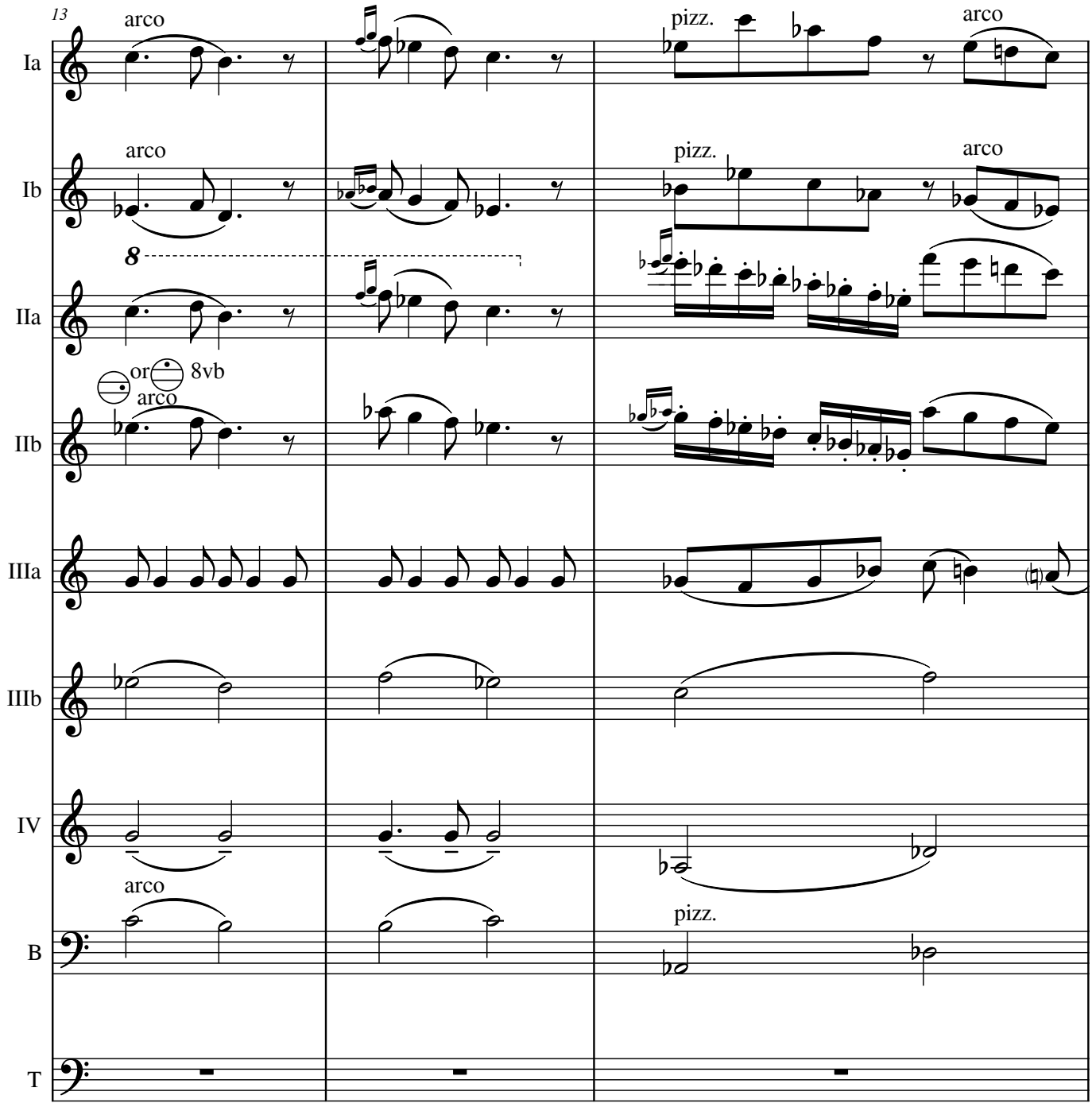


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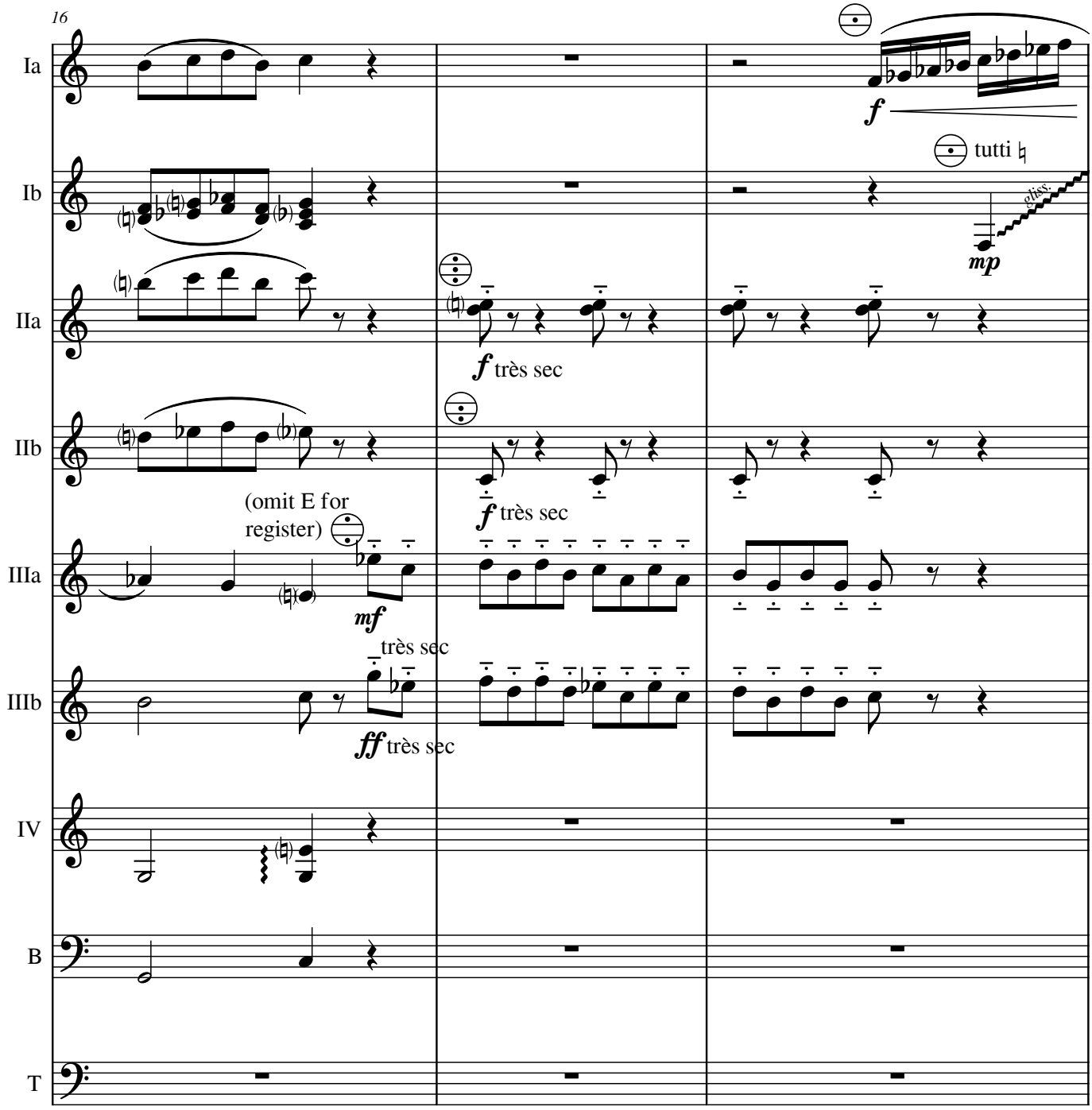


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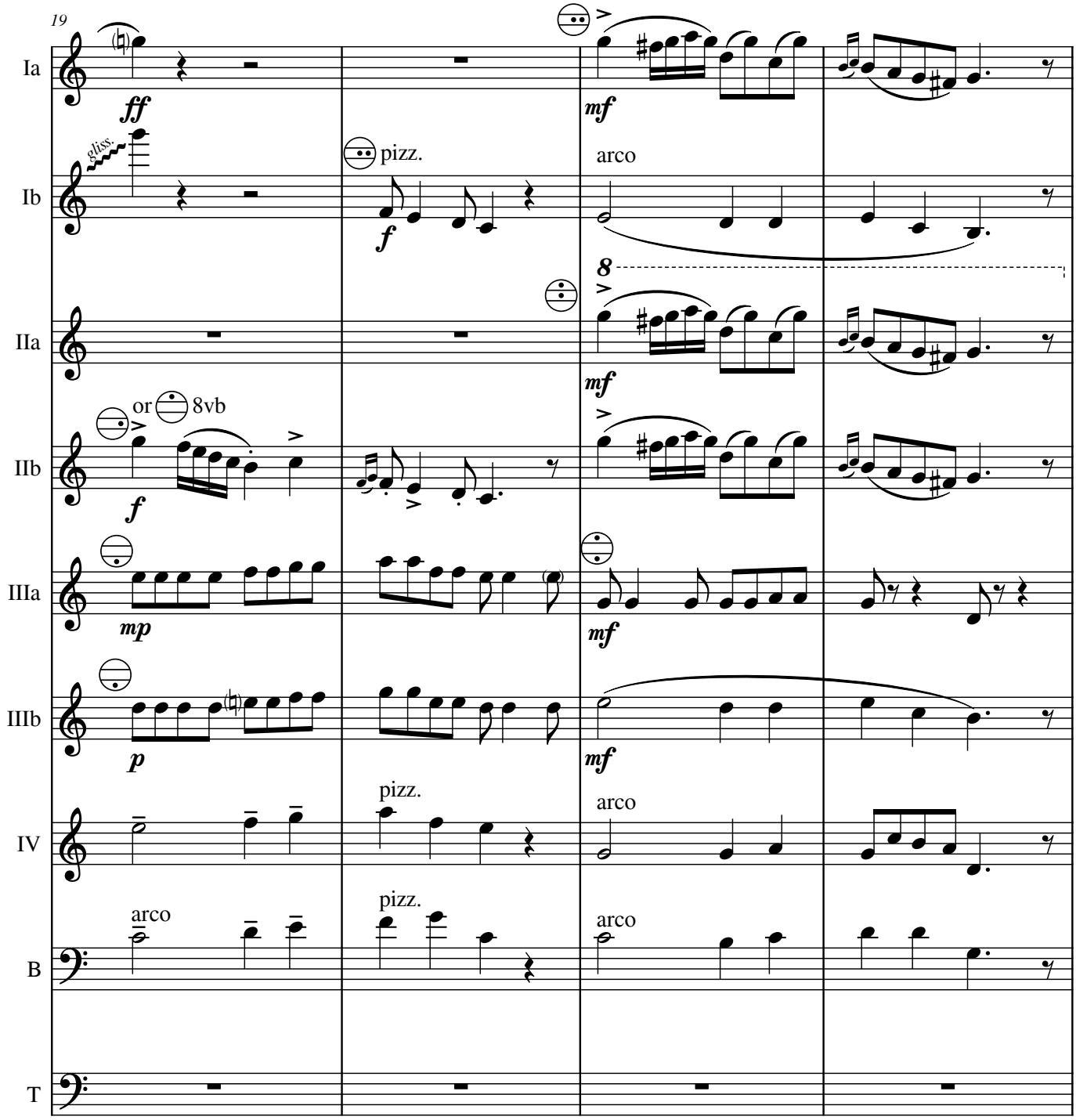


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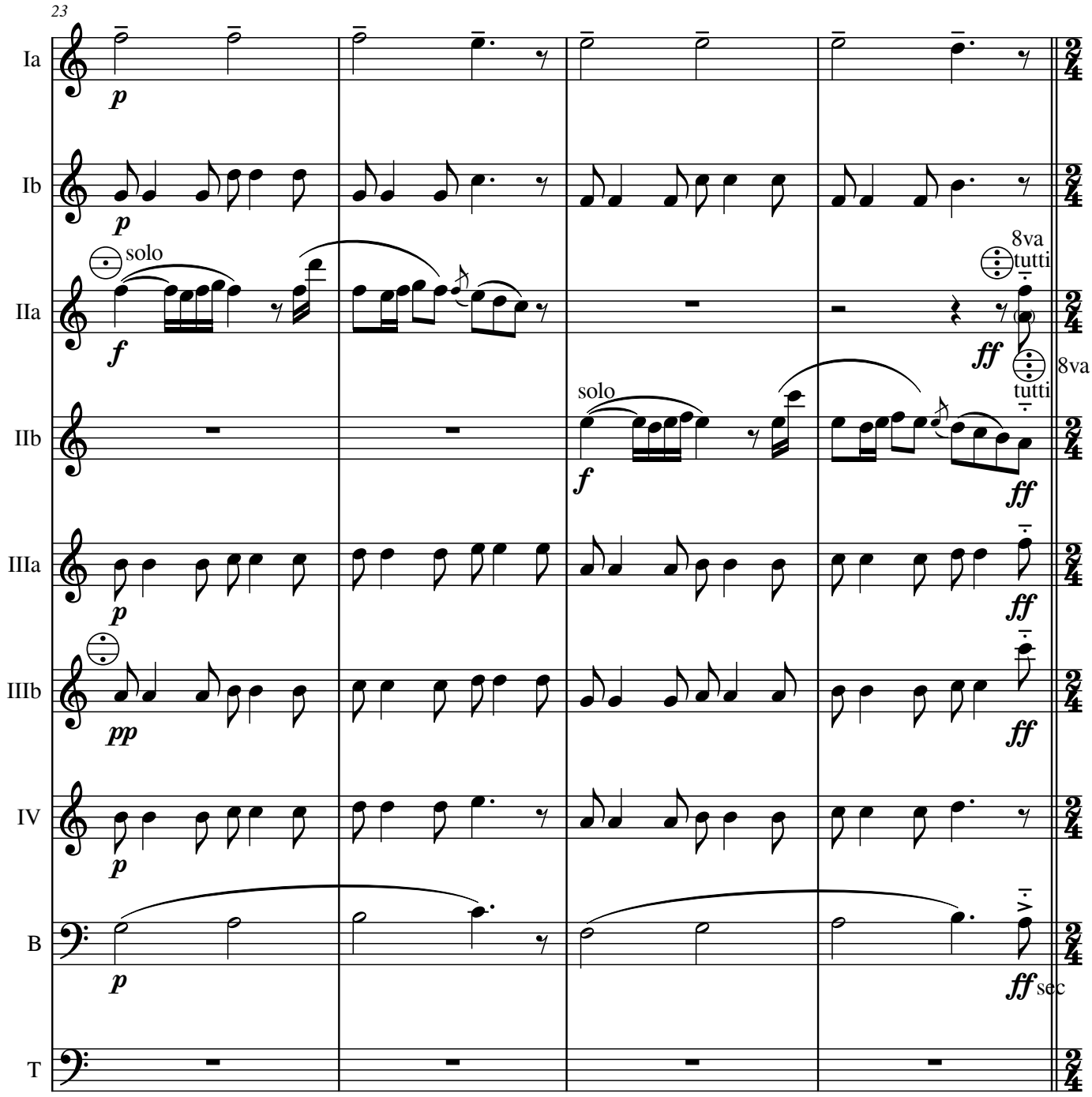


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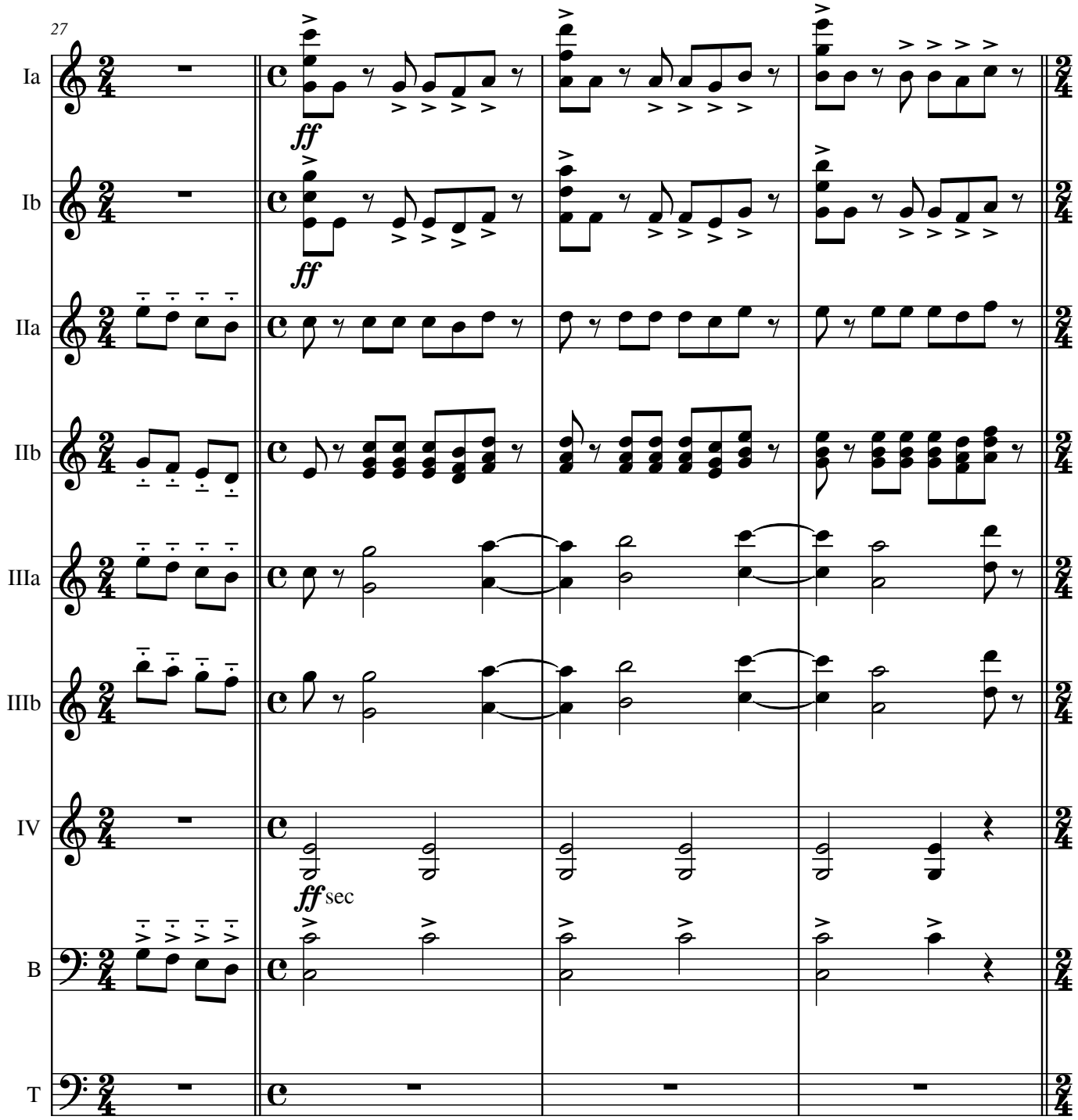


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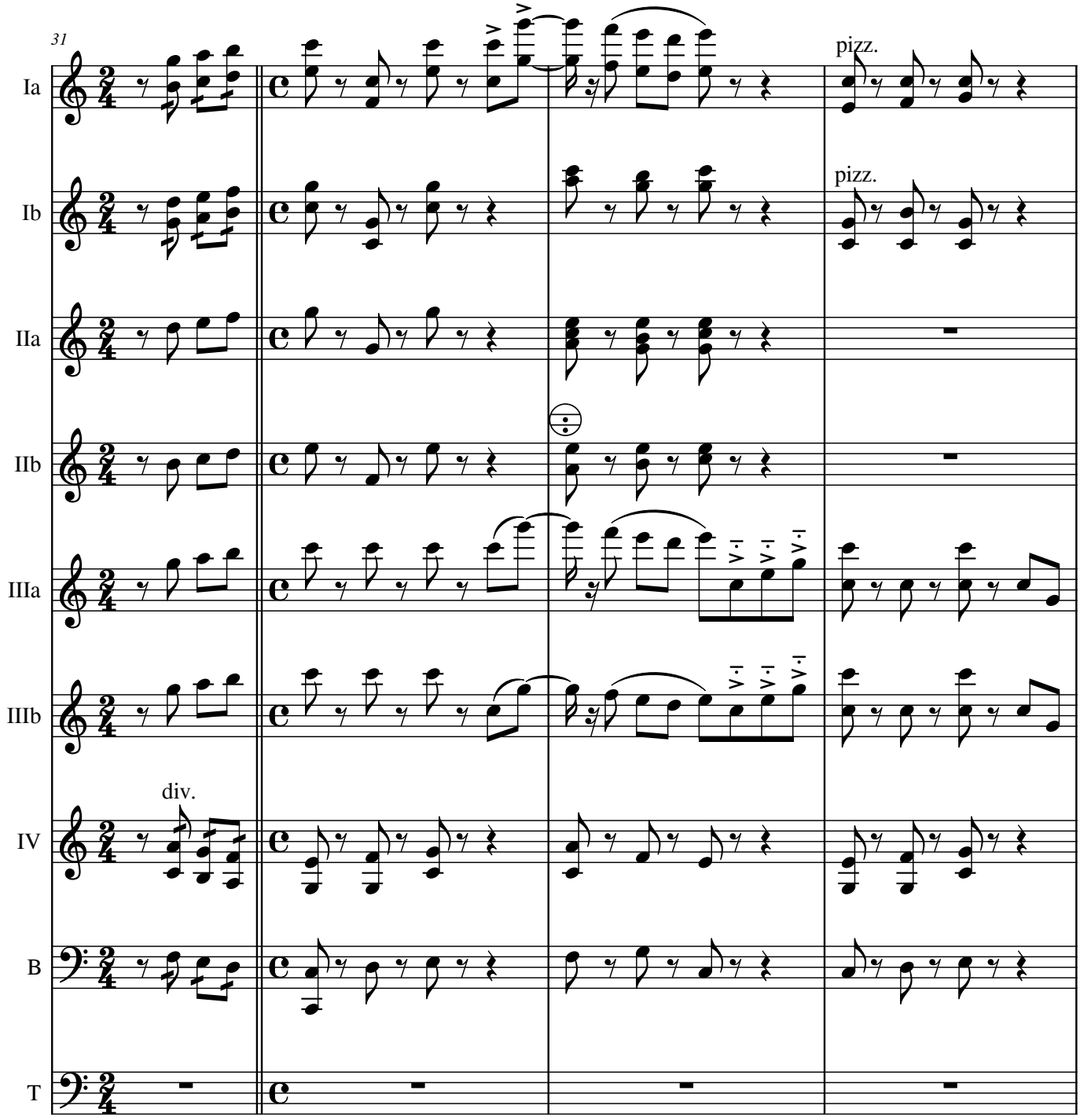


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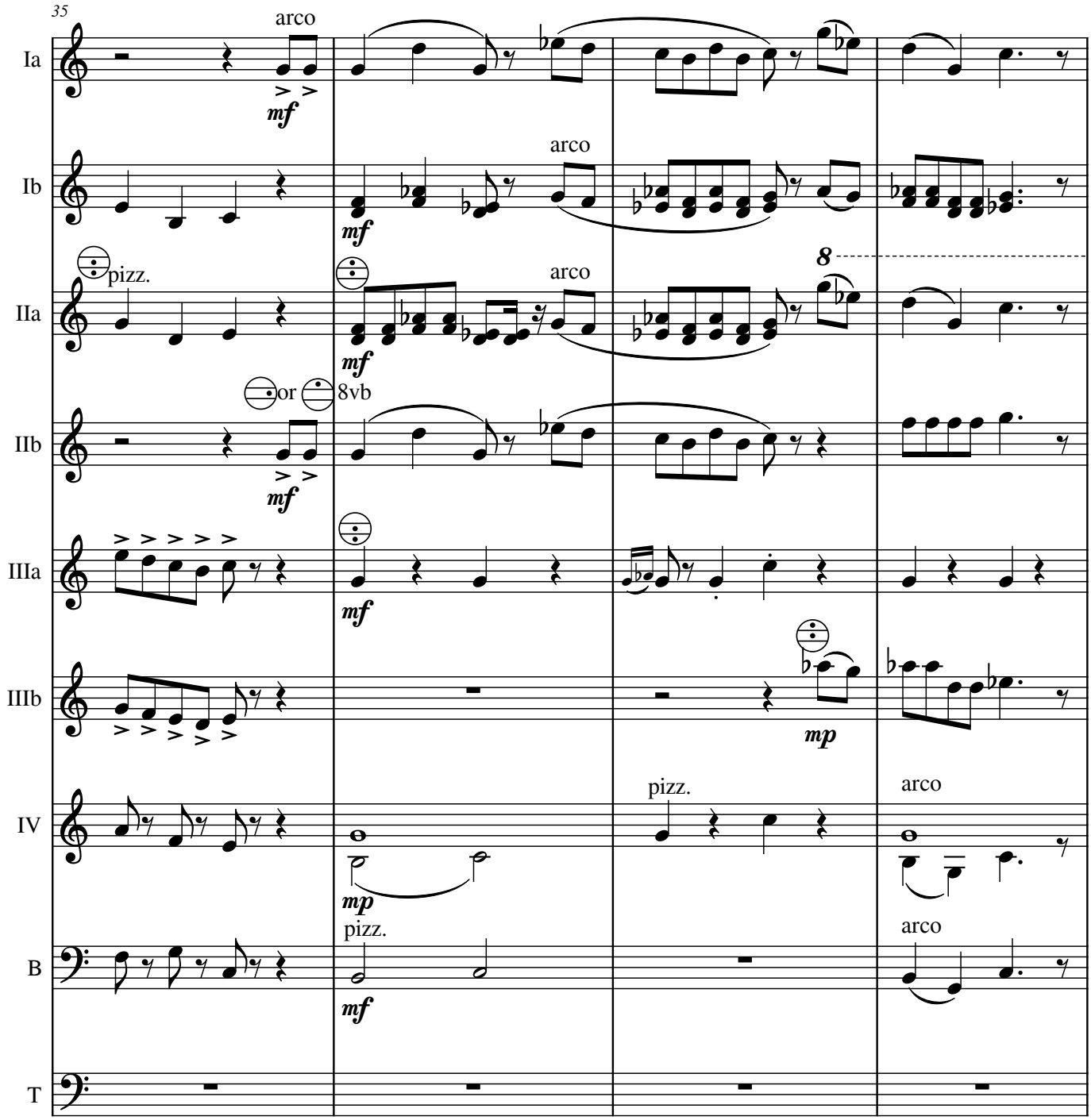


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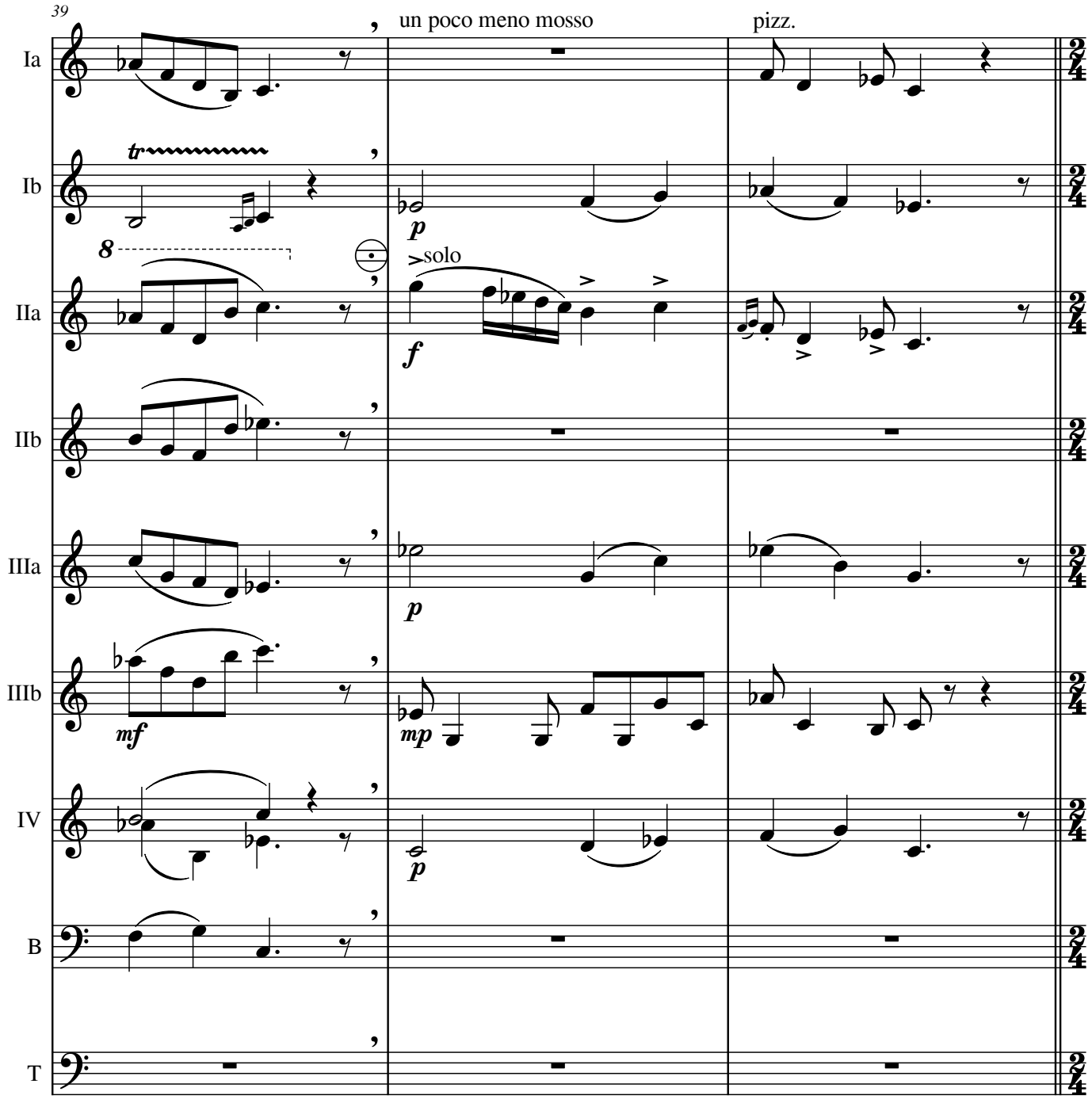


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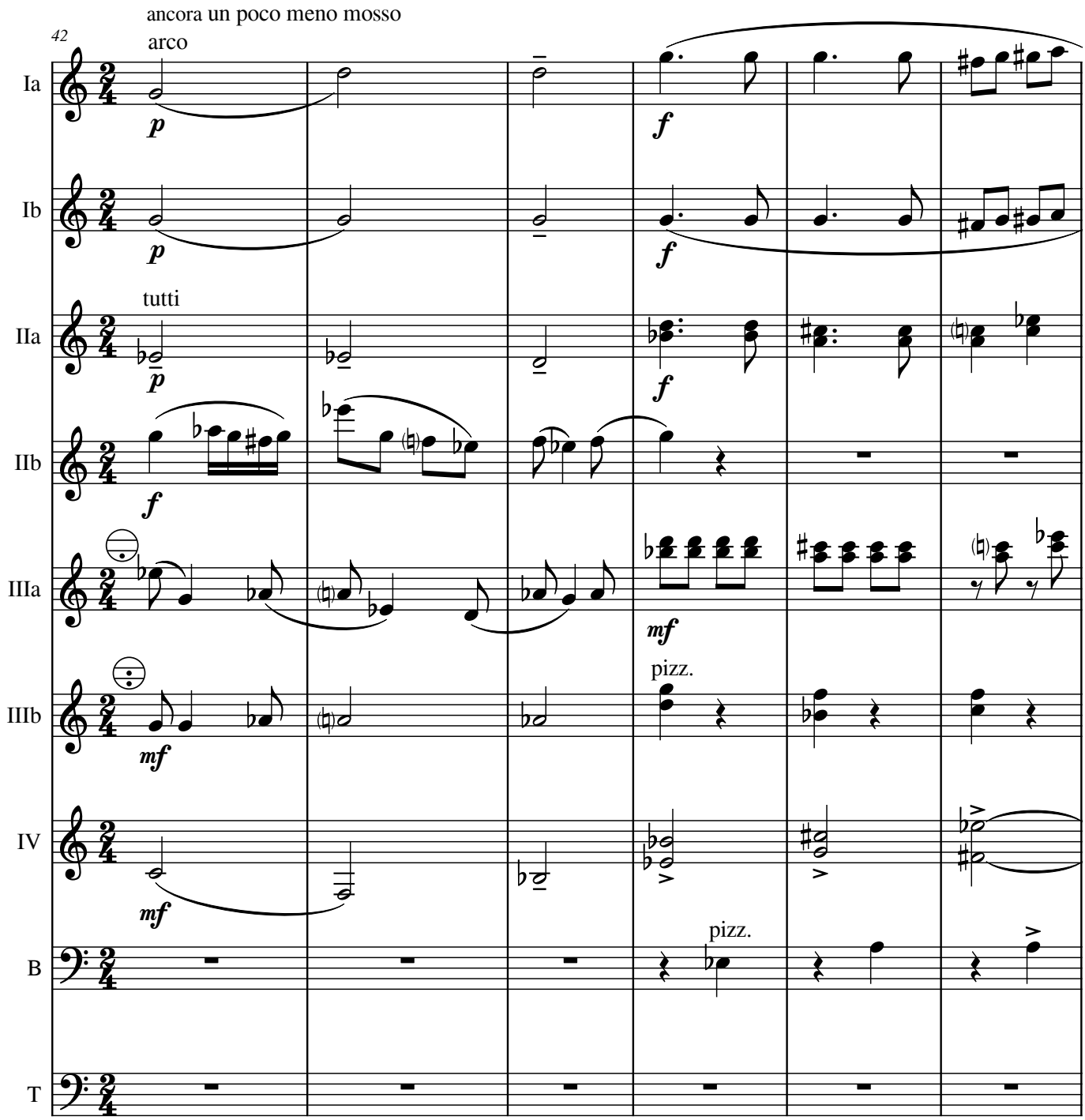


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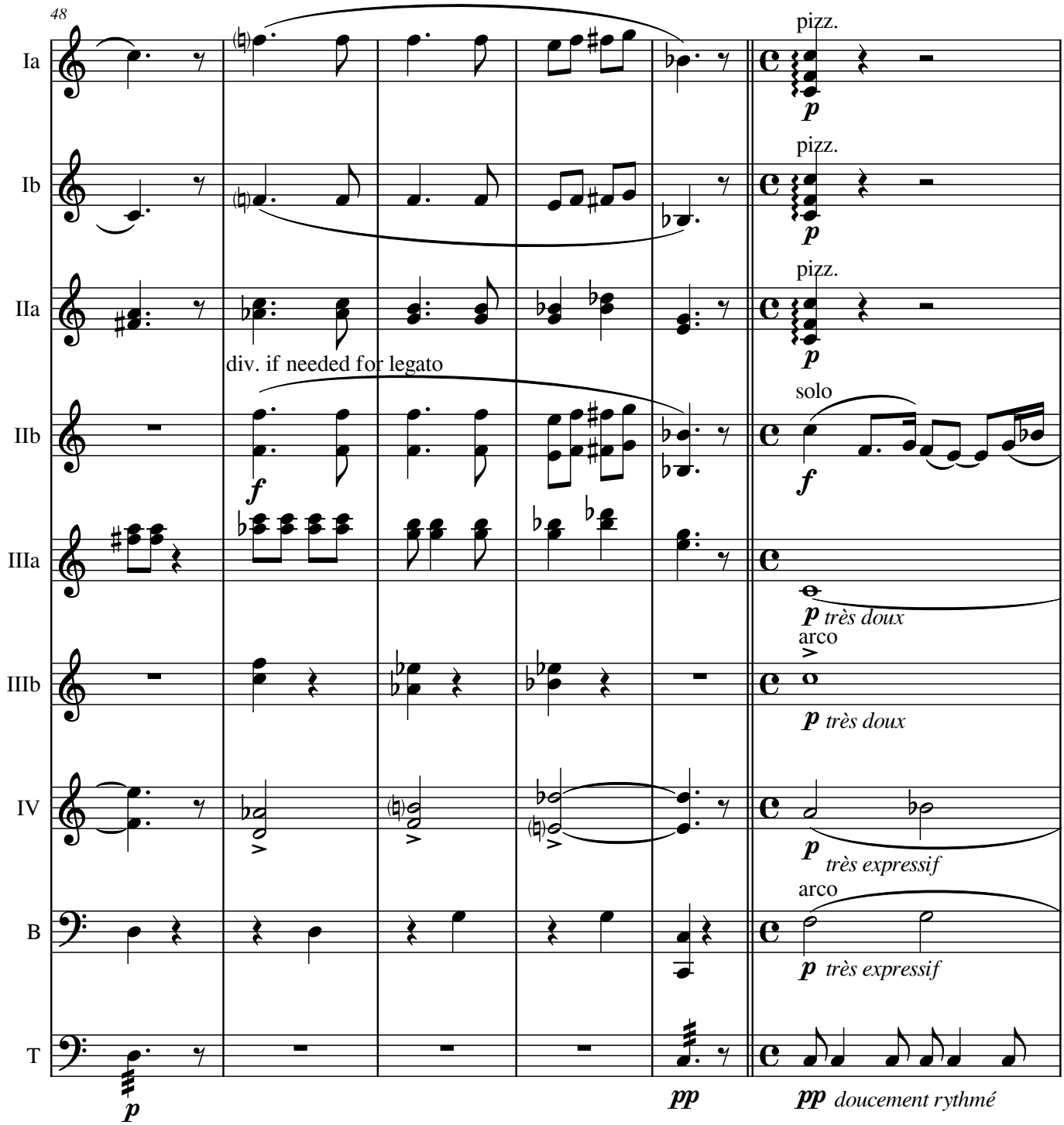


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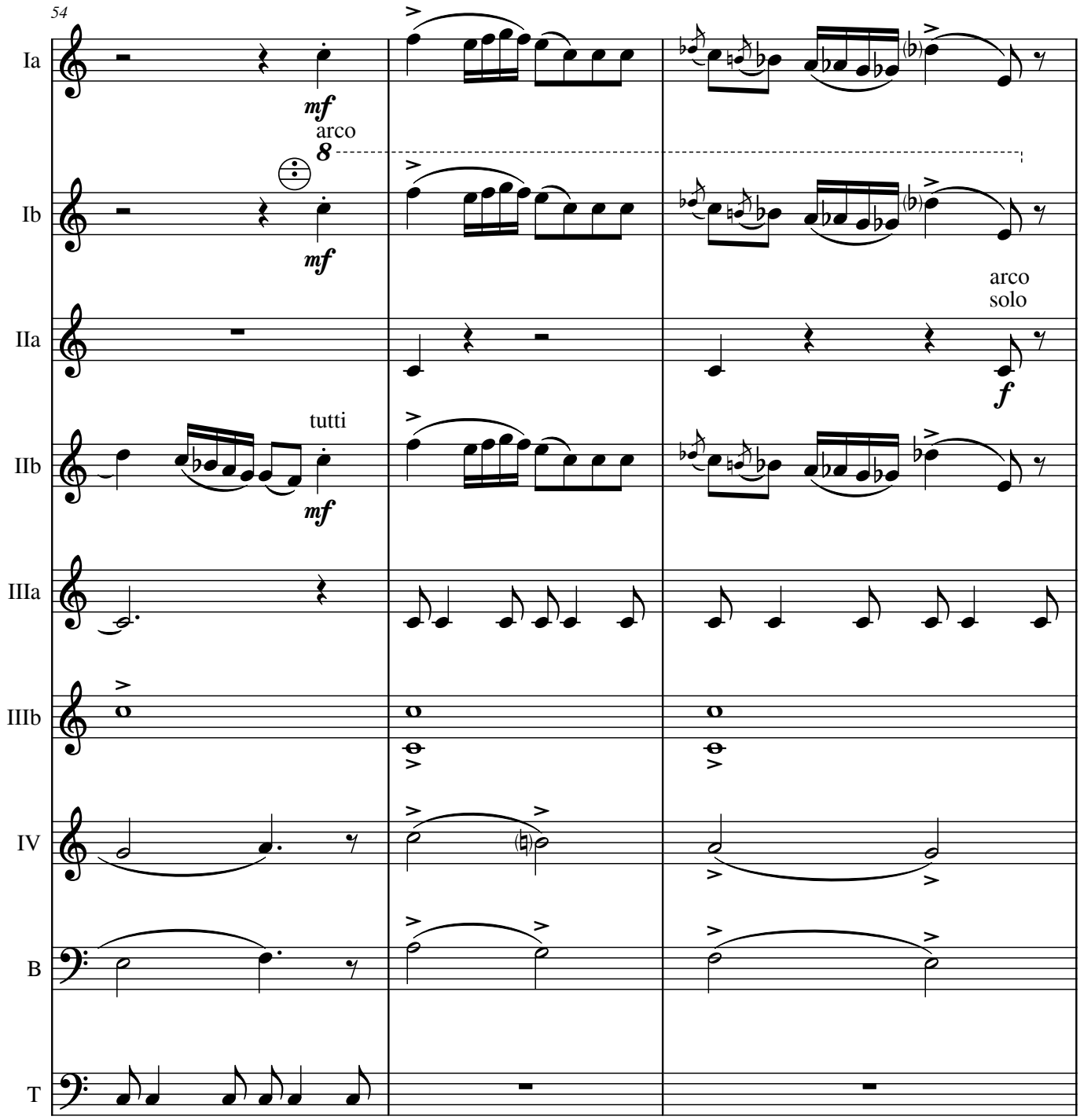


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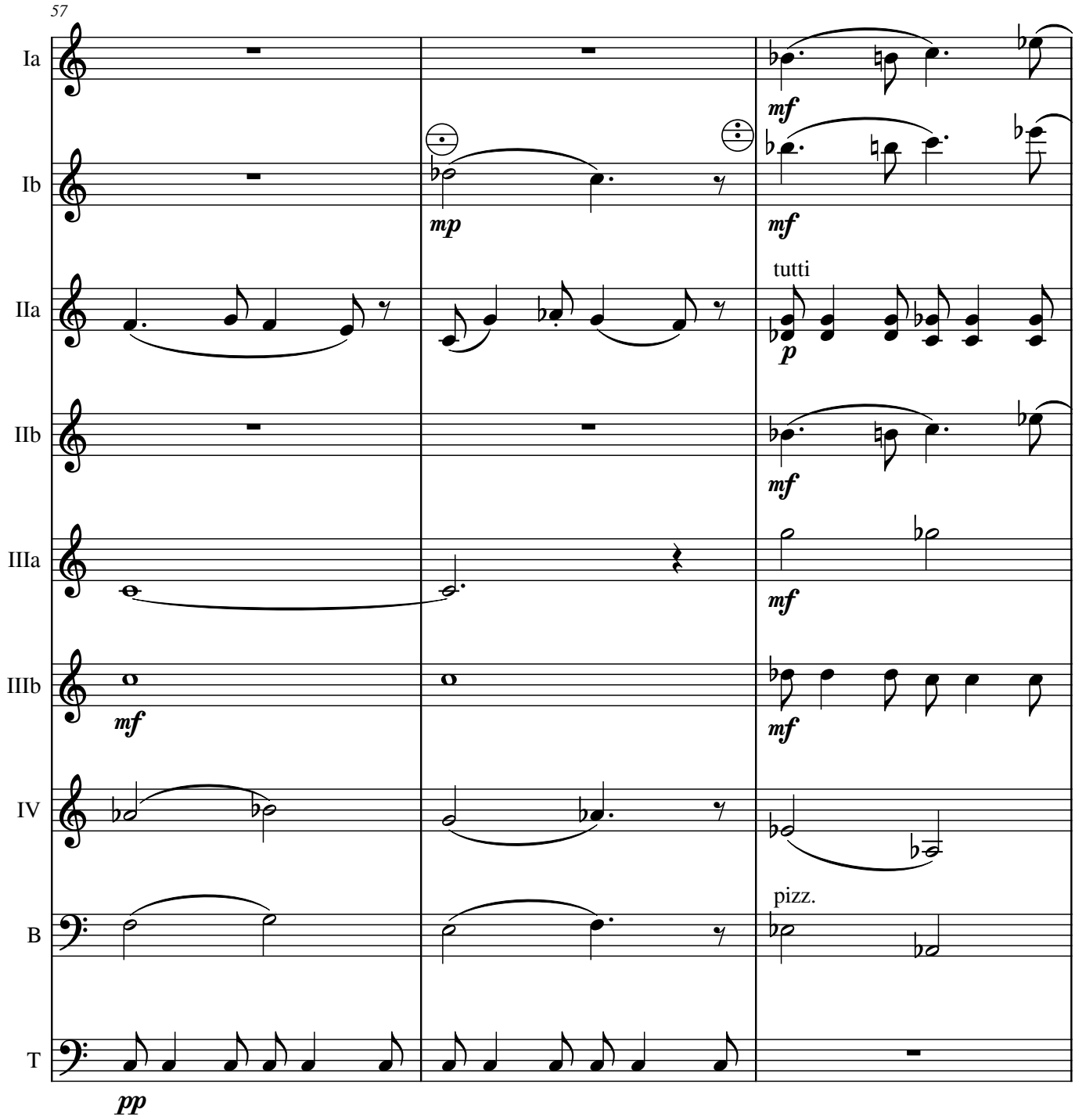


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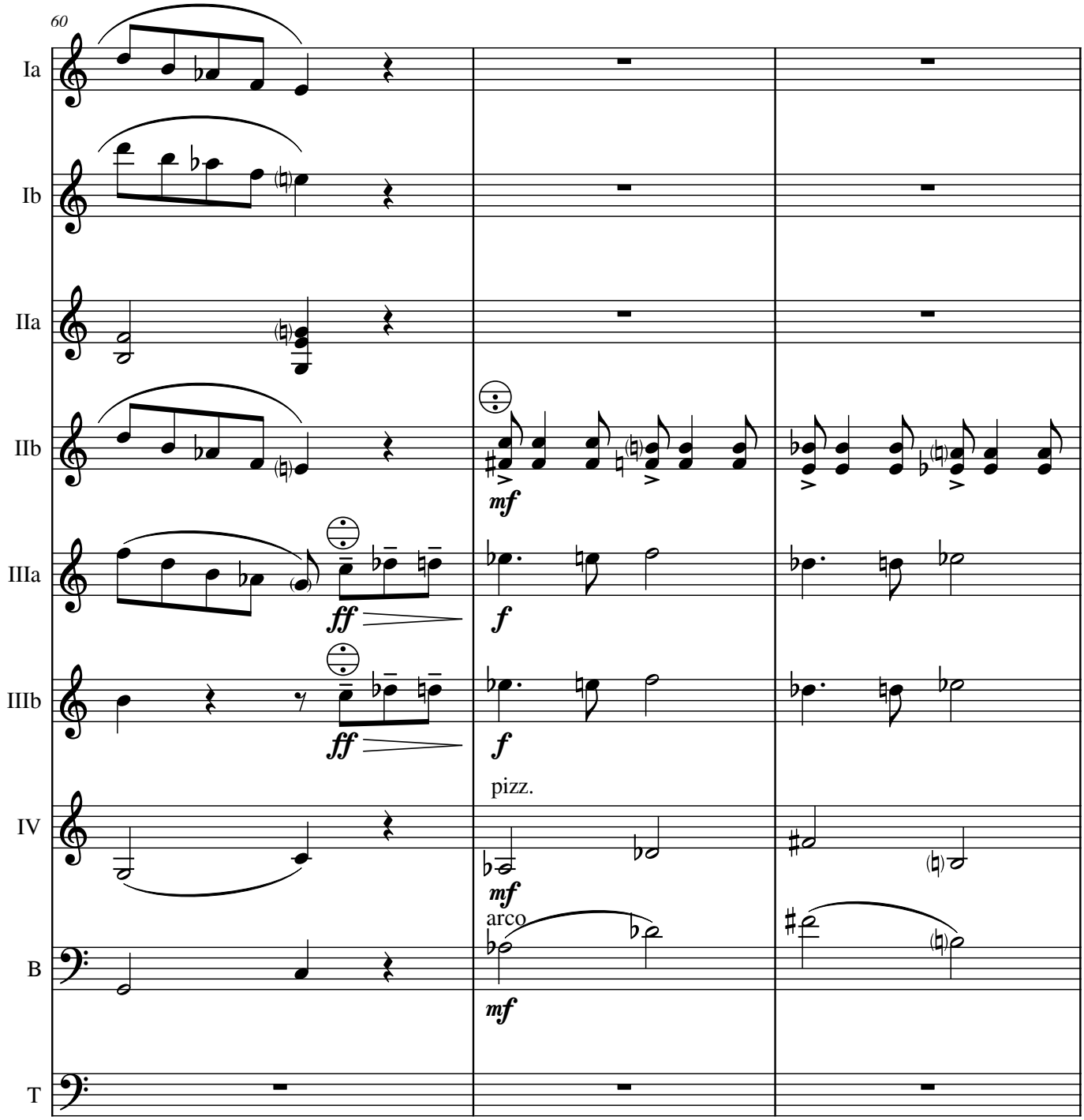


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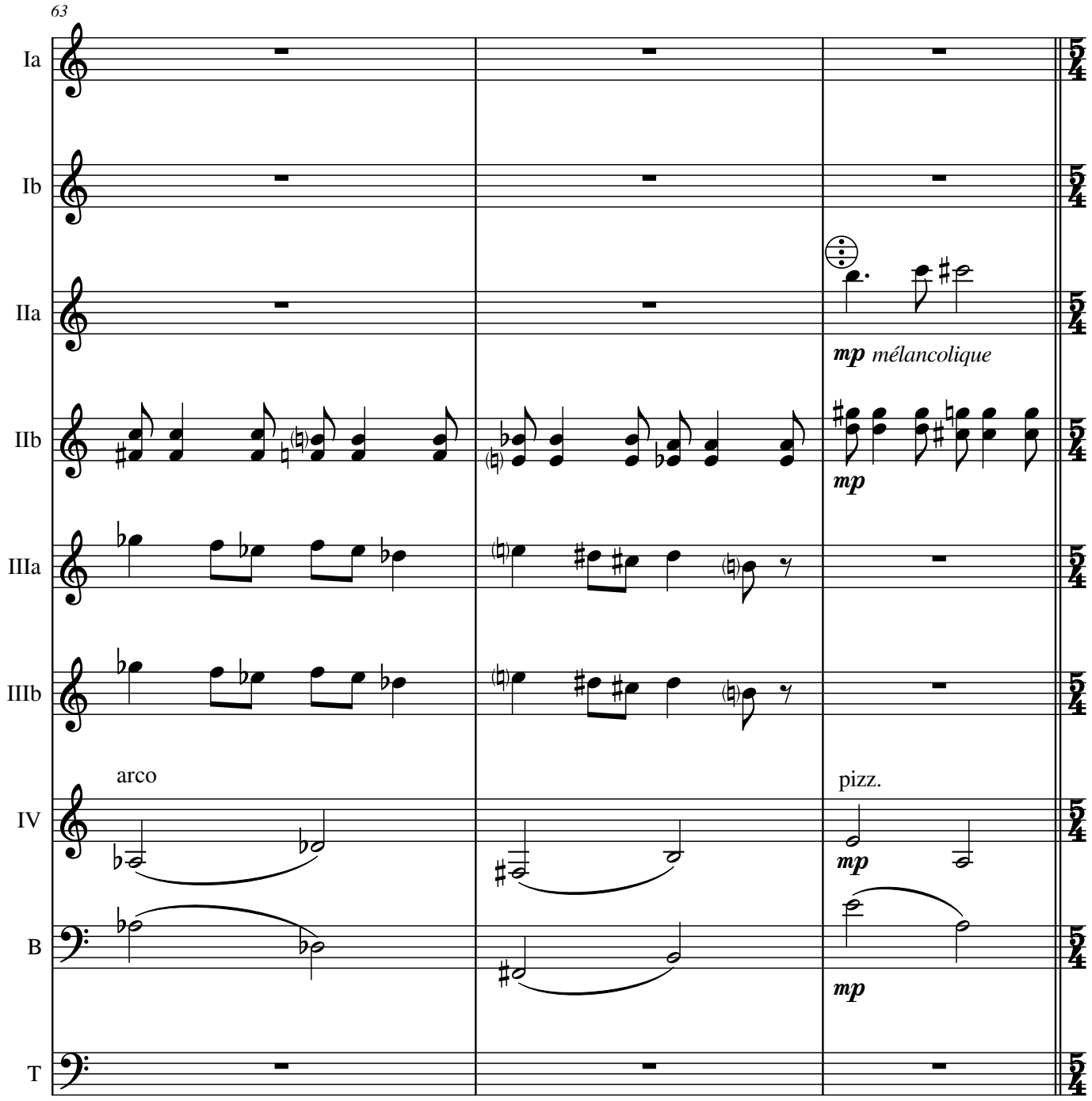


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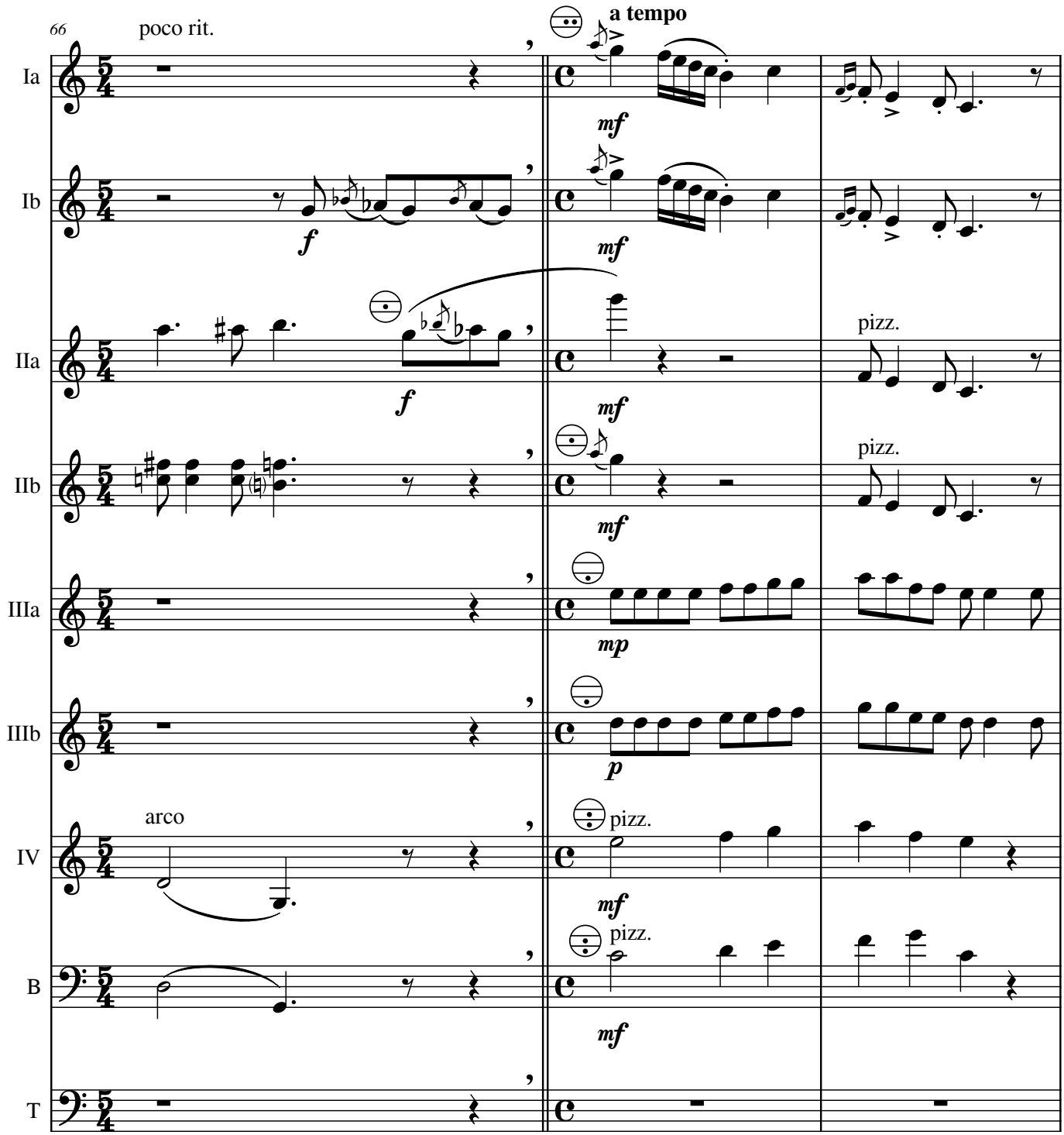


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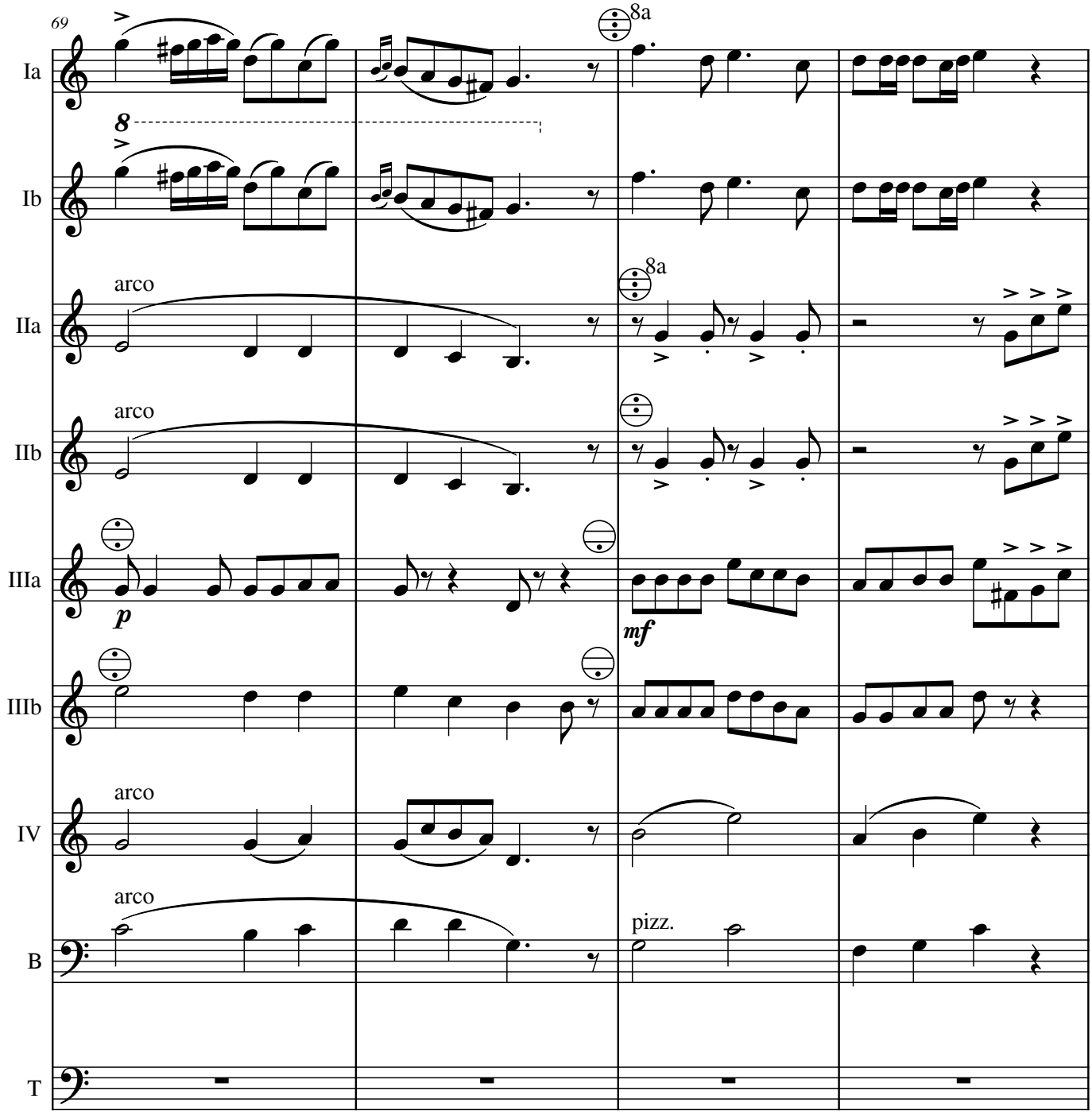


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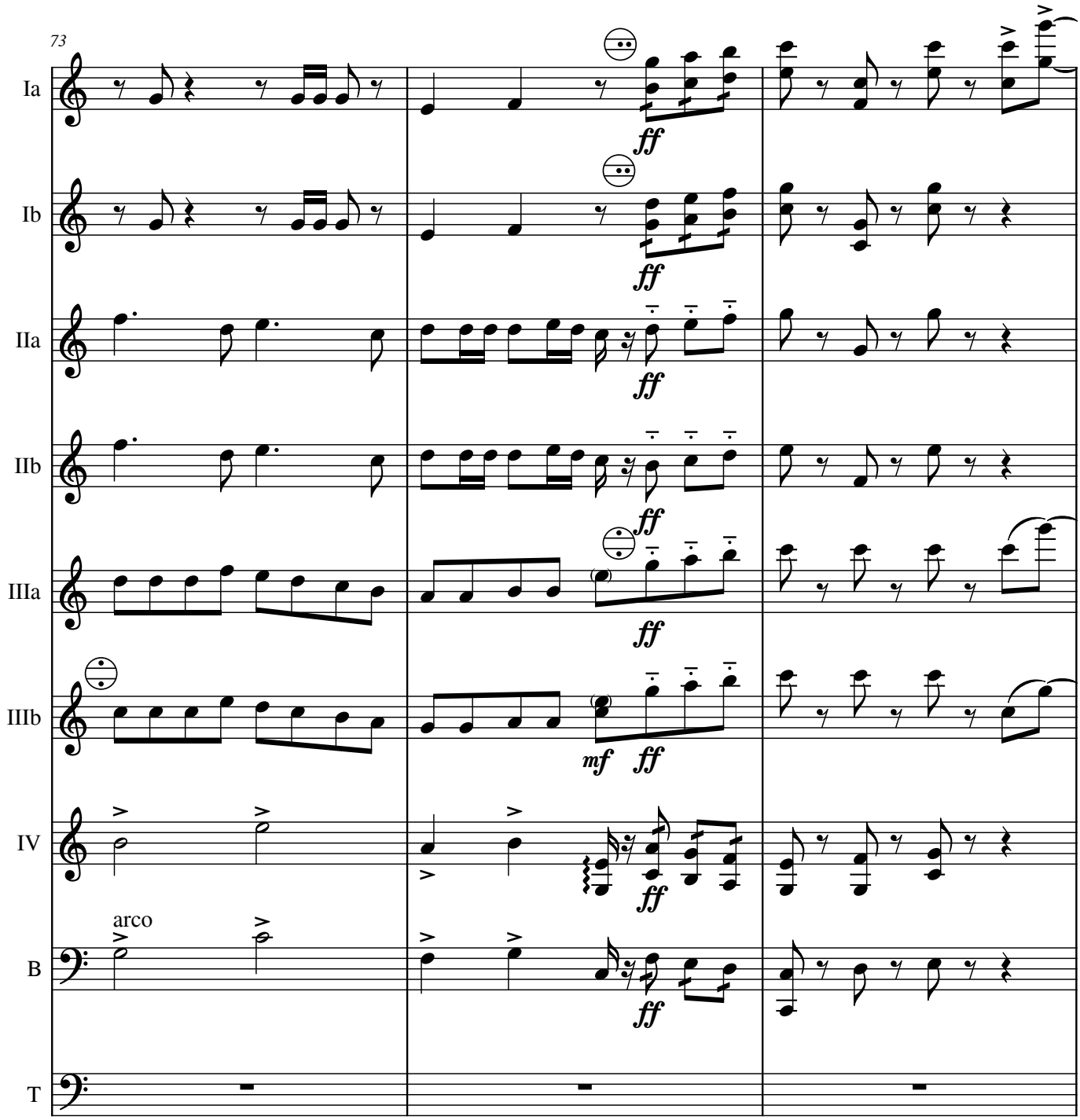


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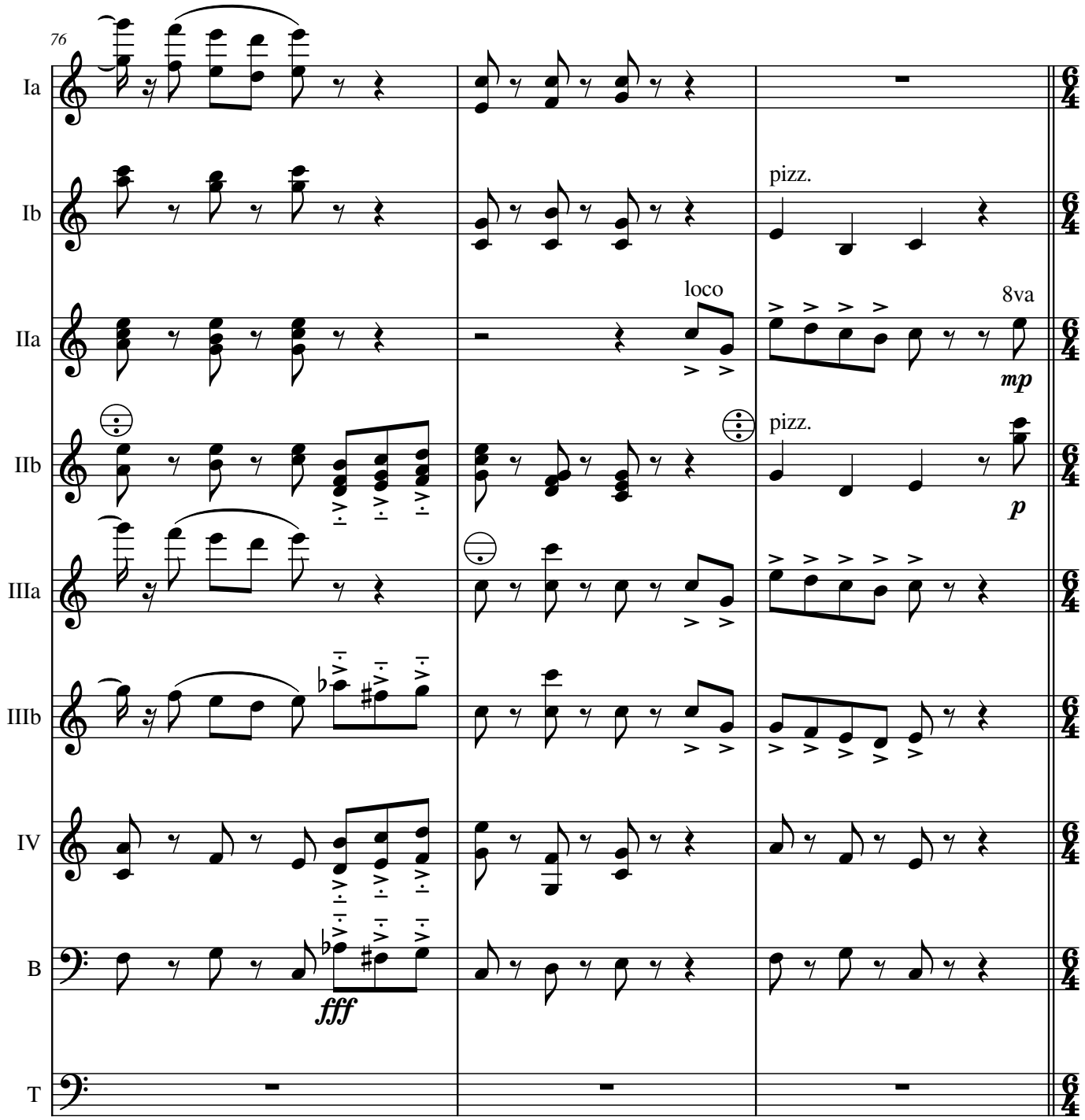


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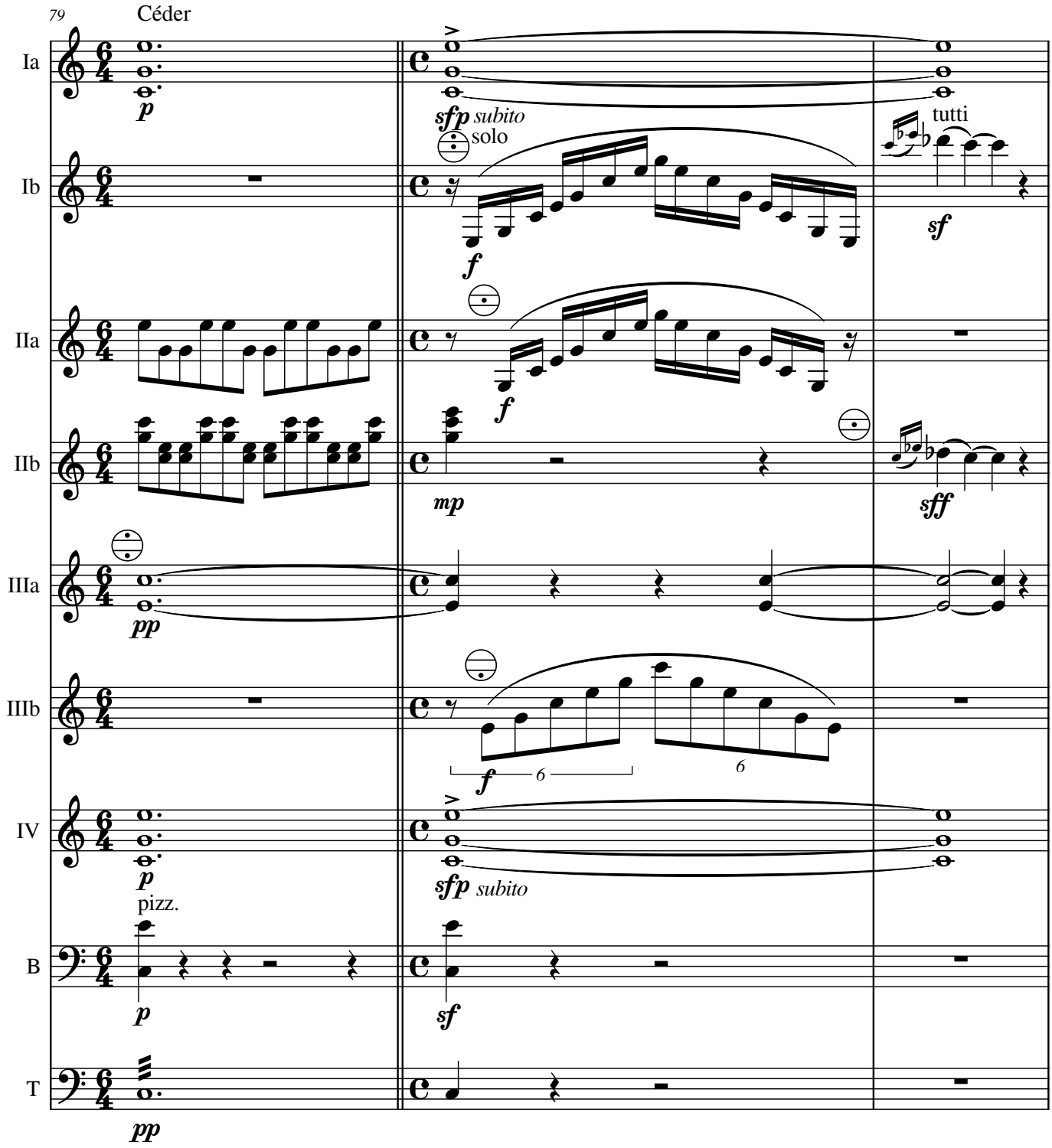


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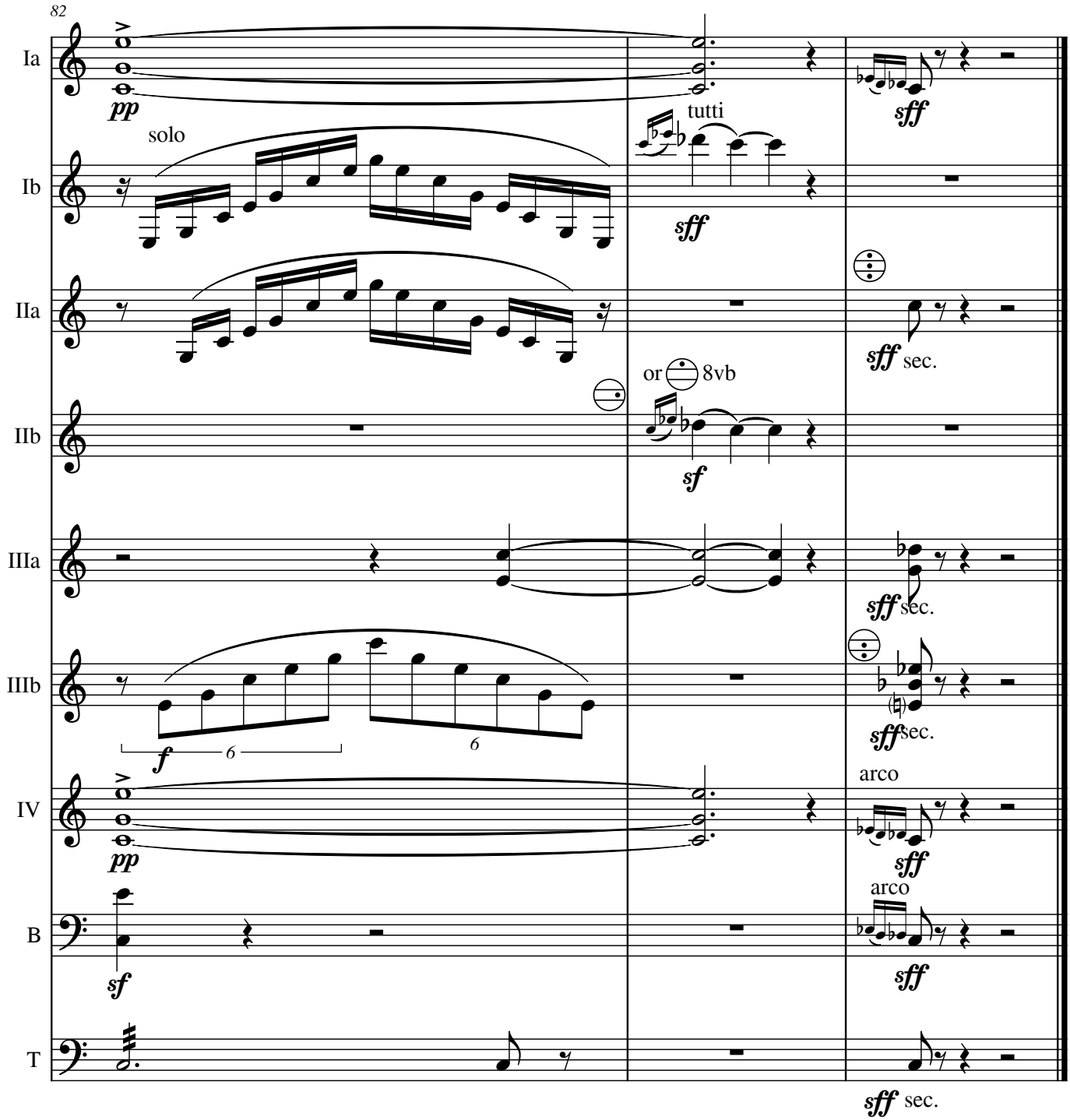


PDB 08/2/21

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