Max and Millie's amazing undersea adventure

An exciting musical story for
flexible beginner string ensemble,
string soloist and piano

Samantha Jellett

Max and Millie's Amazing Undersea Adventure: A Guide

This is a flexible work for beginner string orchestra and violin/viola/cello soloist, who may be a local professional player, a teacher or even an advanced teenager. It could be learnt over a period of weeks in a school or music centre ensemble, leading up to a concert performance, or it would make a wonderful workshop with themed activities and an informal performance at the end of the day. In either case, the narration is a vital part of the whole, and has been pre-divided into lines for each child; these can be printed on to card and cut out if required. Acting the story out alongside the narration is encouraged: in addition to the main characters of Max, Millie, Pearl the mermaid and Shimmer the dolphin, several children together could portray the twisting form of the Bronaca (or control the paper sea monster, if one has been made as described below).

Workshop ideas:

- Children could dress up in an undersea theme
- Warm up activity: children say their names in turn and then think of an item they would take to the seaside and play its rhythm on their instrument
- Make two cardboard dolphins, marking one with a large 'p' and the other with 'f'. These are the dynamic dolphins! As well as utilising them within the performance, with a helper making the correct dolphin 'jump' out of the water as the children play, they can be used for games to teach forte and piano playing- ie child

chooses which to hold up and orchestra responds by playing at that dynamic.
- Dolphin/mermaid colouring/craft
- Group activity: make a giant Bronaca! Draw the outline of the sea monster on the back of a roll of wallpaper, following the description in the story. The children can then glue collage material (tissue paper, shiny shapes etc) on to the Bronaca to bring it to life, and use it in their performance.

The music:

Three very contrasting pieces of music are used to tell the story; each has a very different mood and introduces children to new technical and musical challenges along the way.

Dolphin Ride:

The opening rhythms in this energetic piece clearly convey the words 'Dolphin Ride'; children can clap/stamp this rhythm out while piano and soloist play, being sure to follow the dynamic markings. Then they can play it on their instruments; the double stopping can be played divisi if required. The middle section portrays the dolphin leaping out of the water; children will have fun leaping their bows off the string, and the second violins will relish their glissandi! Bow direction is important throughout- the bow retakes will assure a strong sound in the first section, and the subsequent up bows for the leaping dolphin will look as well as sound fabulous!

The Mermaid's Song:

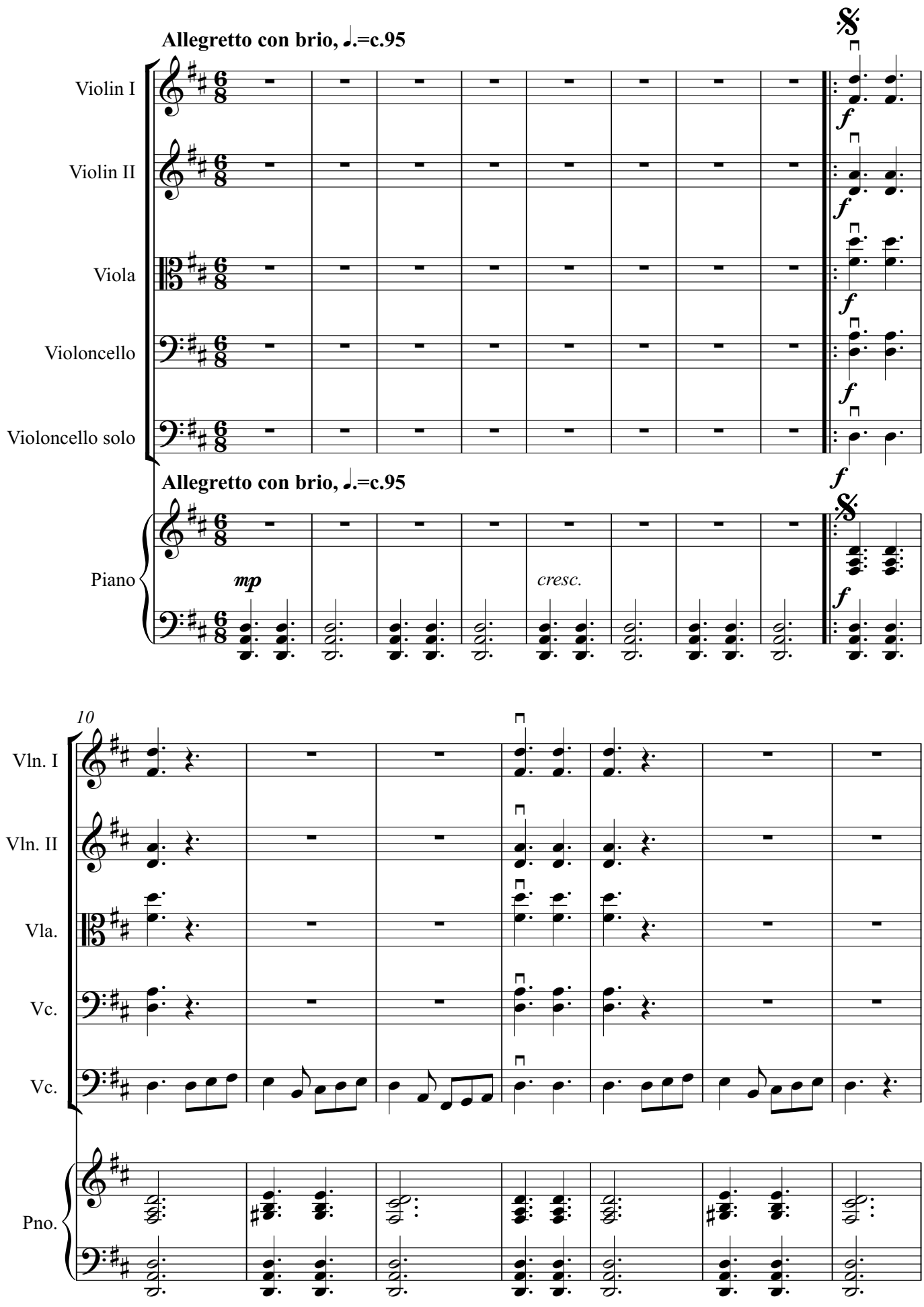
This gentle song with a mini-cadenza for the soloist presents children with the opportunity for expressive legato playing whilst exploring new skills such as harmonics and optional third position. Even the newest beginner can be given a sticker to mark the harmonic and enjoy the sound. The addition of some gentle percussion such as hanging chimes during the introduction/cadenza would be very effective.

The Chase:

Unusually, this is written almost entirely using the whole-tone scale. Here is an opportunity to stretch pupils within the workshop setting by discussing and demonstrating diatonic scales and then the whole tone scale, with the opportunity for children to have a go at playing both forms. But there is something for everyone here, with every child able to enjoy the contrast between pizzicato, arco and tremolo. A drum or tambourine could be used to enhance the driving rhythms, whether in the introduction/solo passages or throughout.

Dolphin Ride

Samantha Jellett



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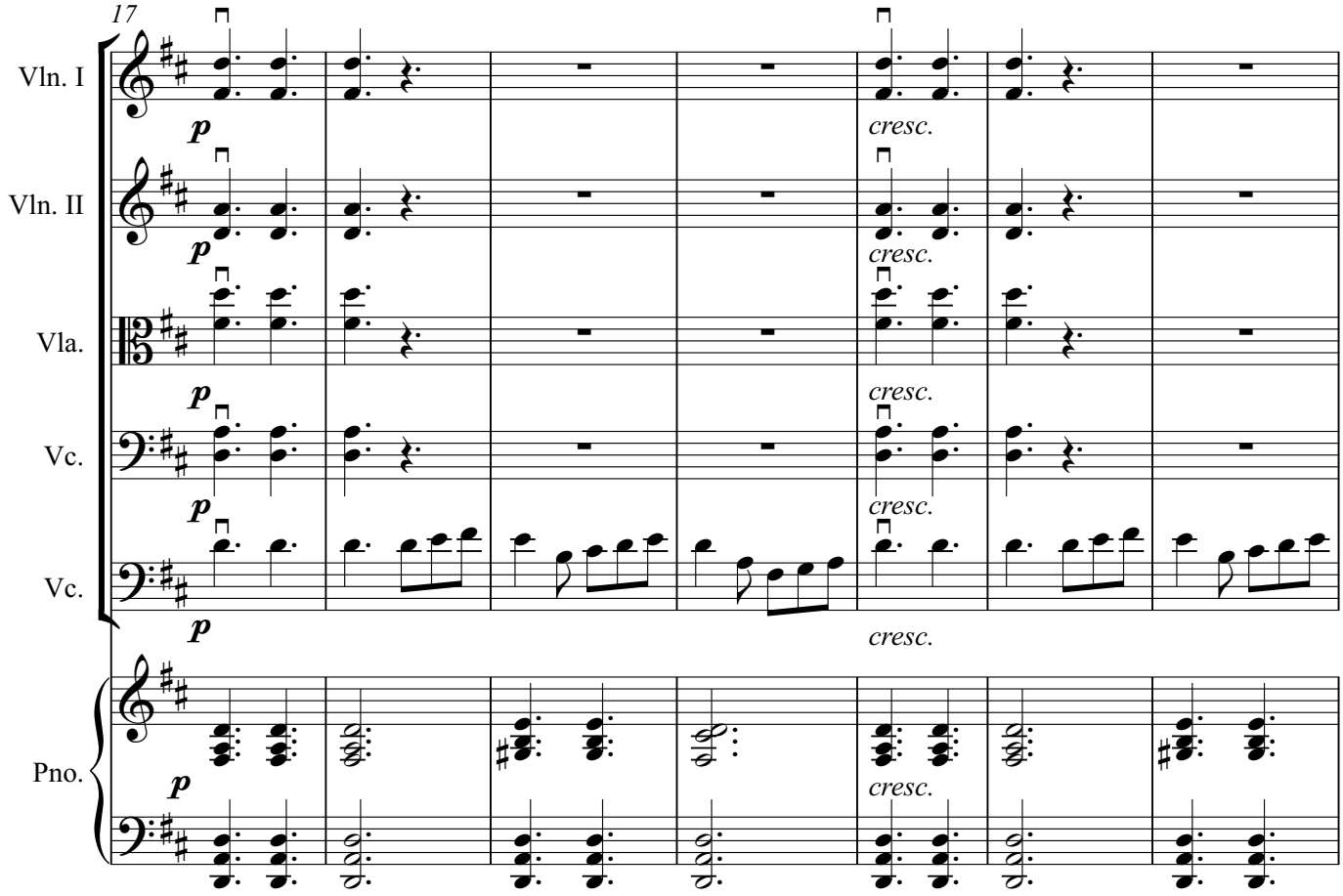
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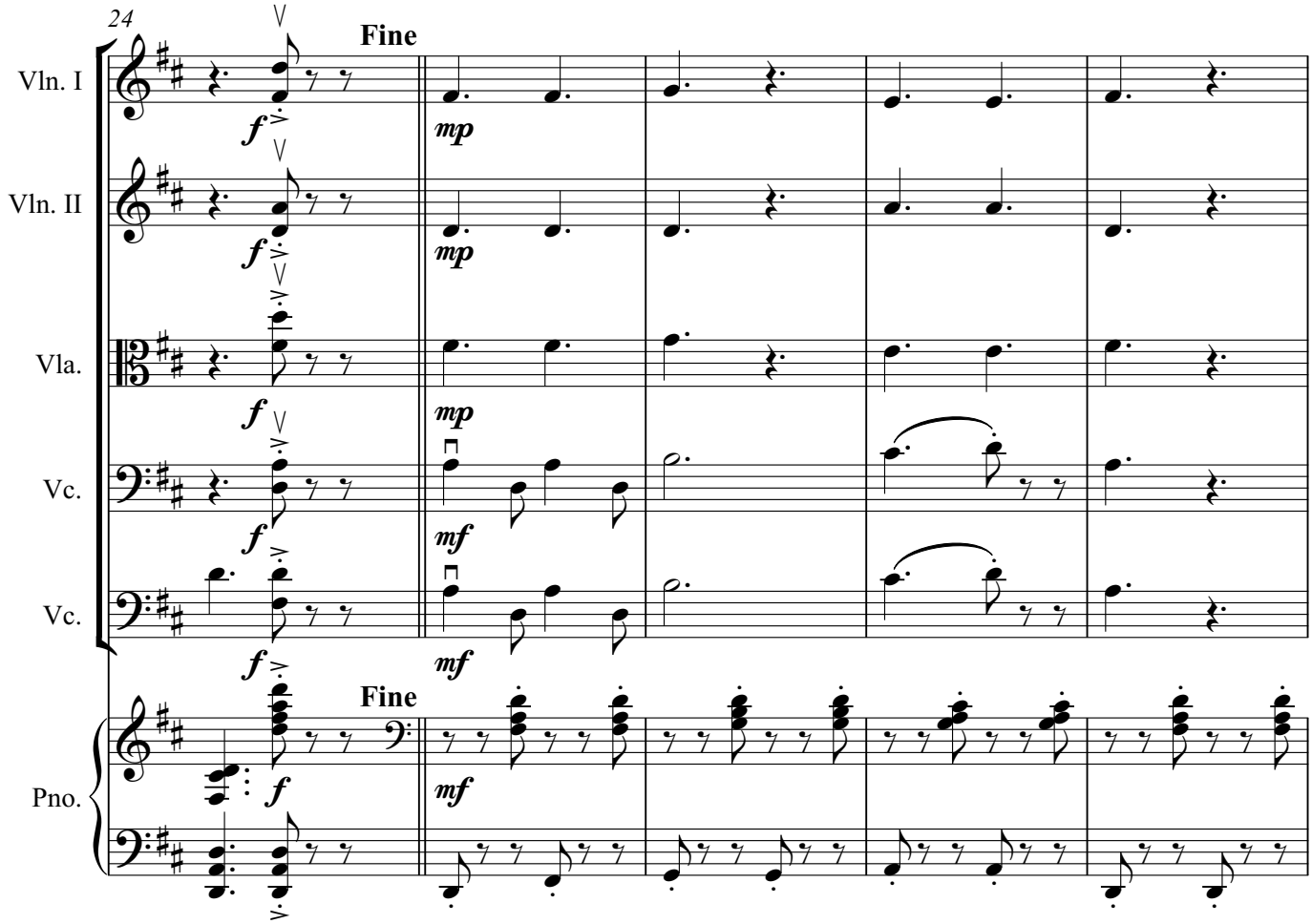
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Vc.
Pno.
p
cresc.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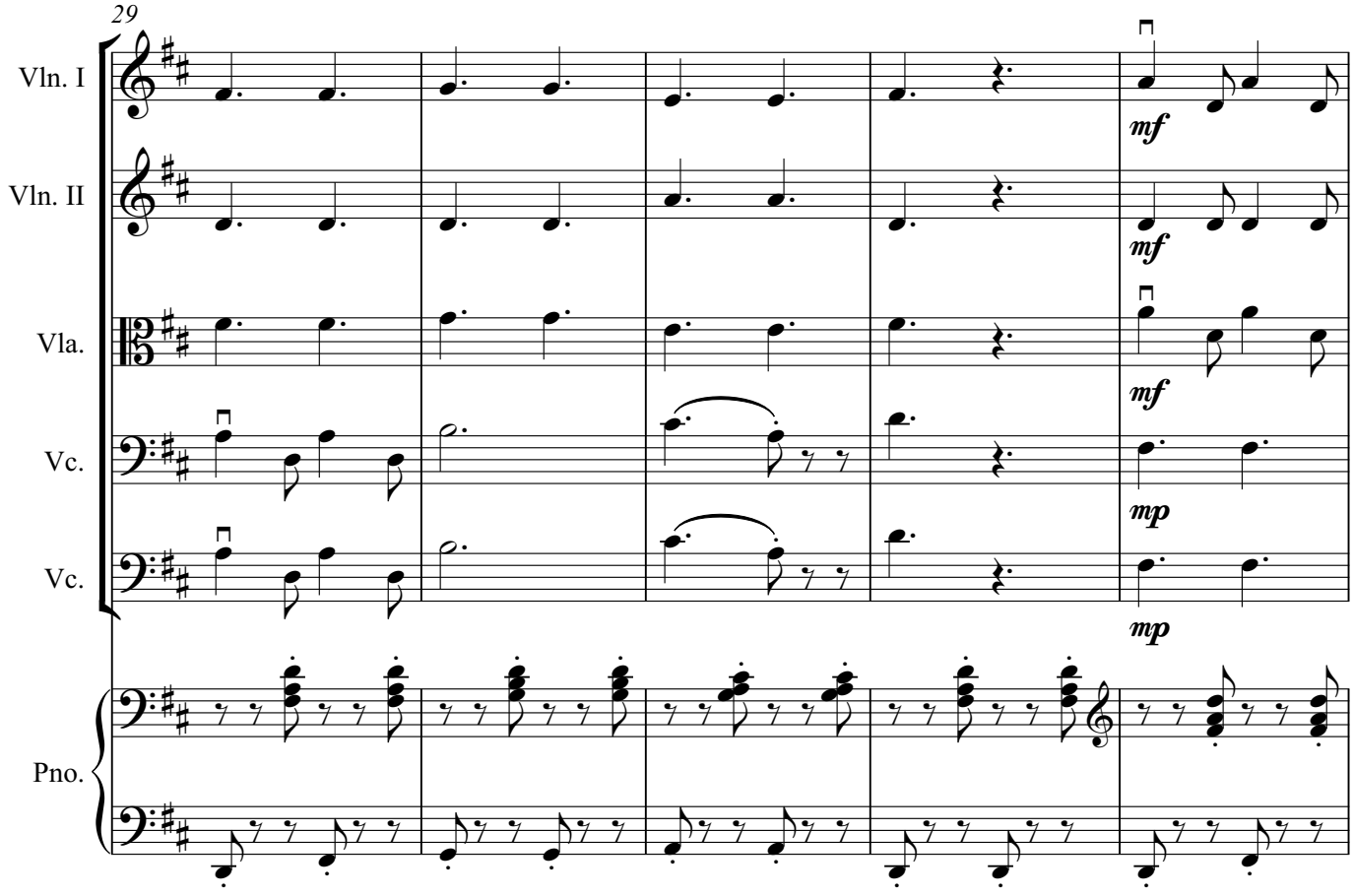
Vla.
Vc.
Vc.
Pno.
f
mp
mf
Fine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Vc.
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mf
mf
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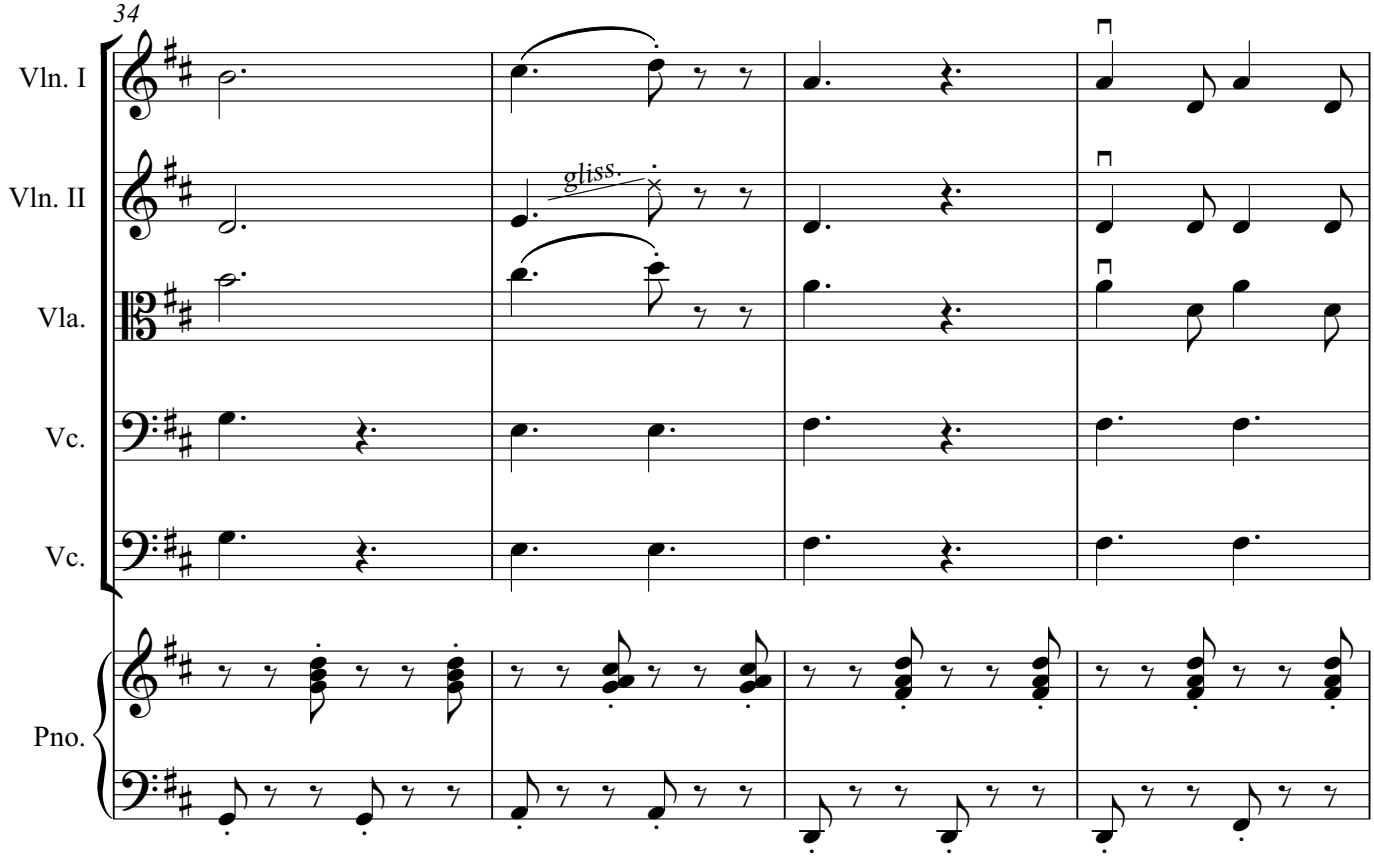
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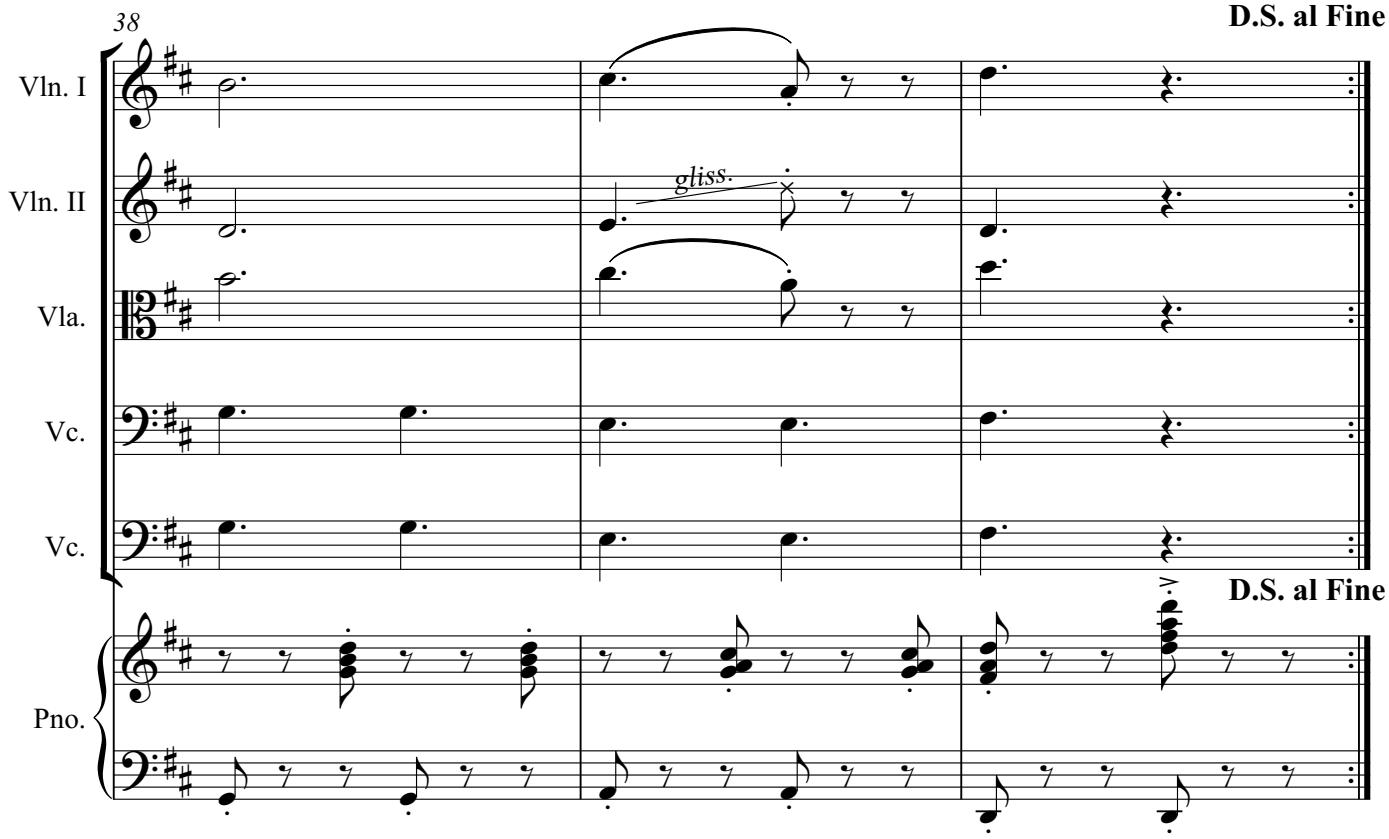
Vc.
Pno.
gliss.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D.S. al Fine
Vln. I
Vln. II
gliss.
Vla.
Vc.
Vc.
D.S. al Fine
Pno.

The Mermaid's Song

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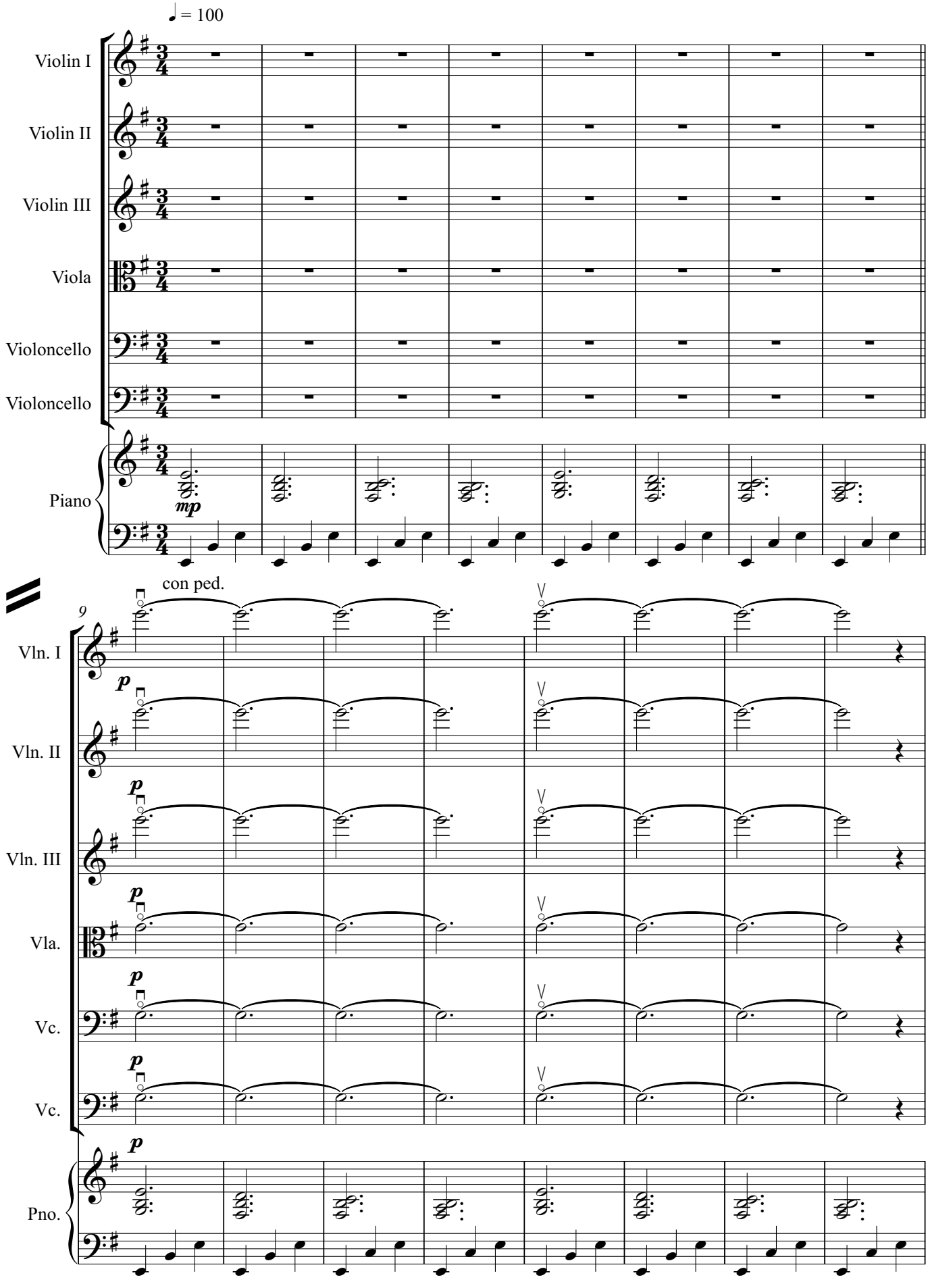

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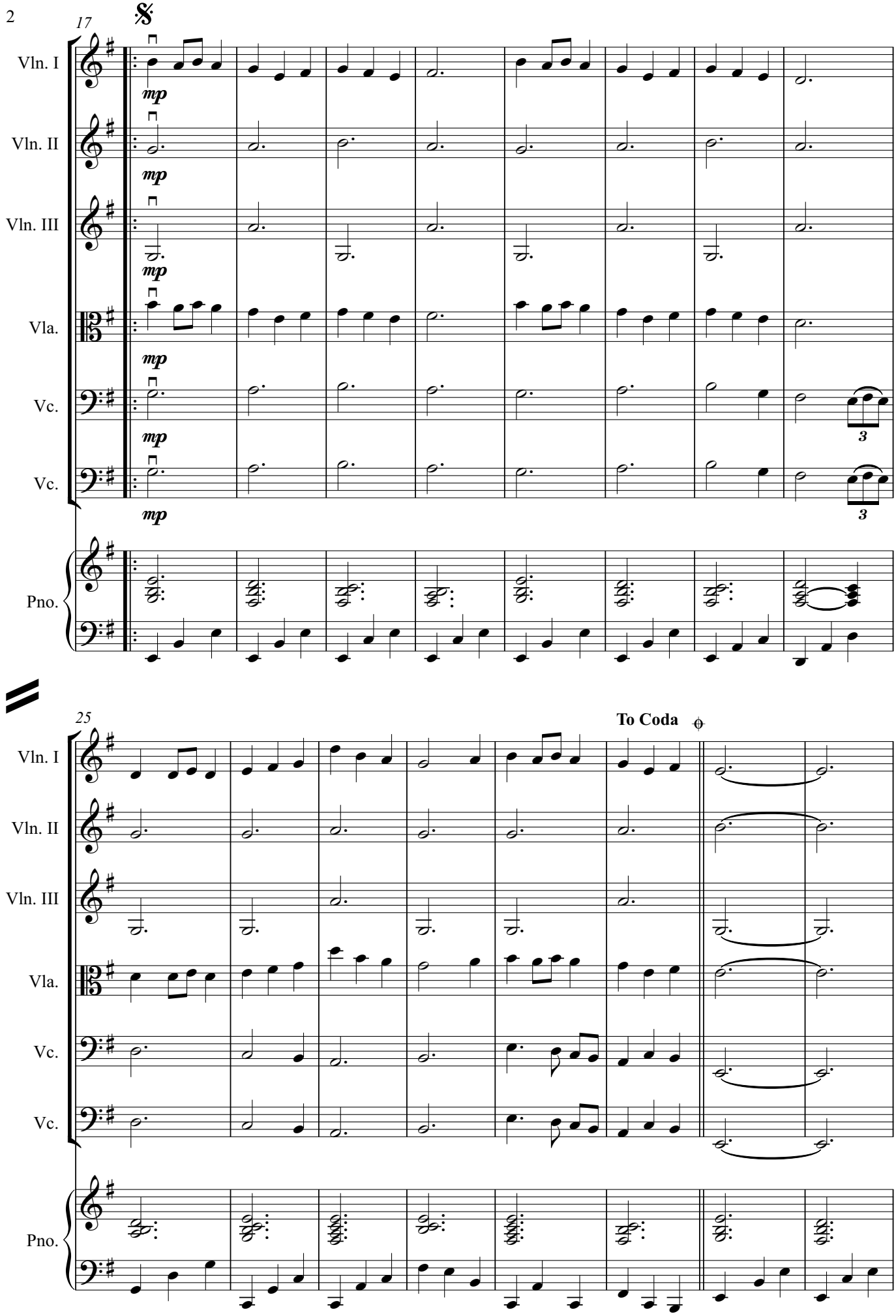
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Vln. III
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Vc.
Vc.
Pno.
mp
3
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To Coda
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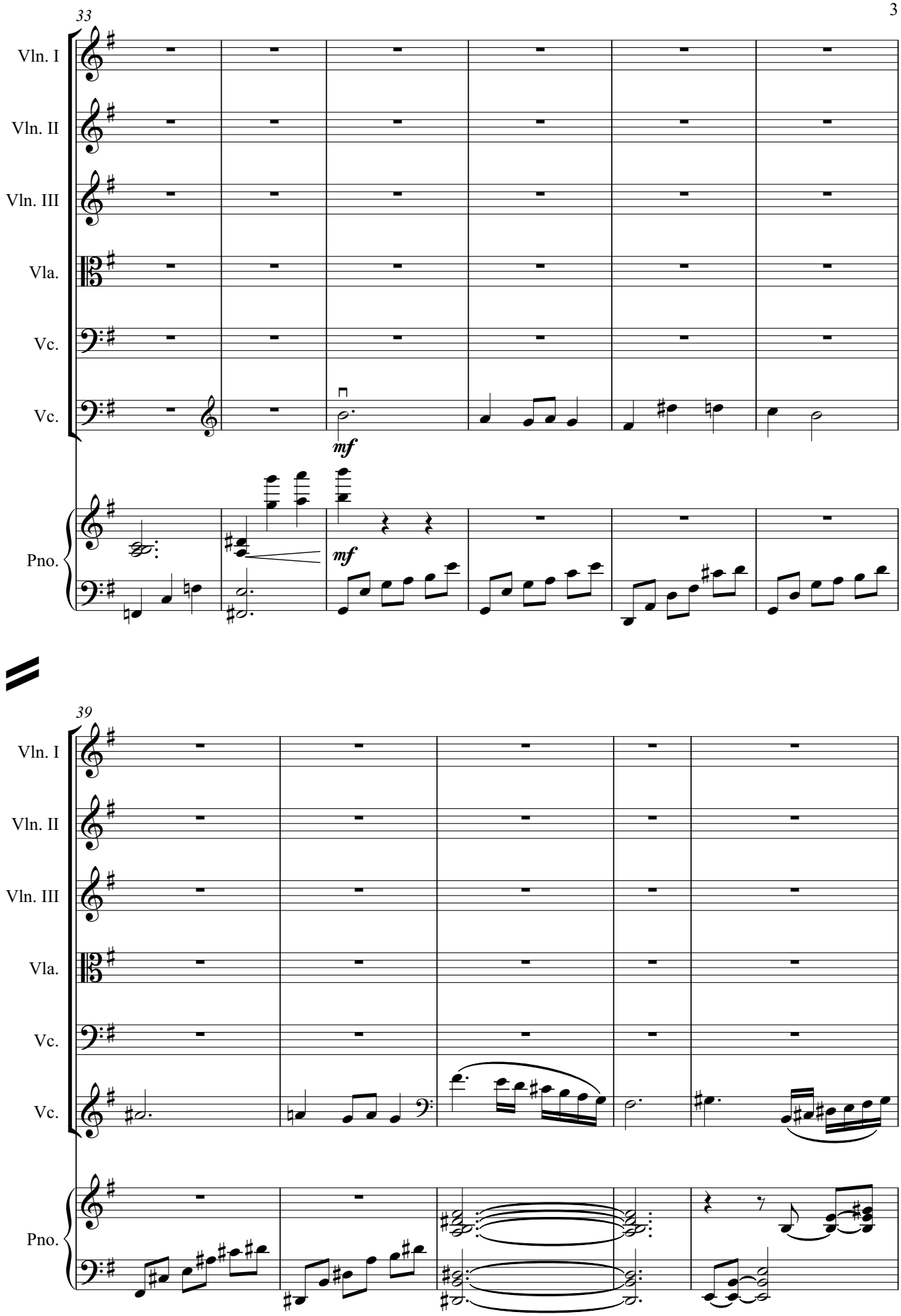
Vln. II
Vln. III
Vla.
Vc.
Vc.
Pno.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Vln. I
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Vln. III
Vla.
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Vc.
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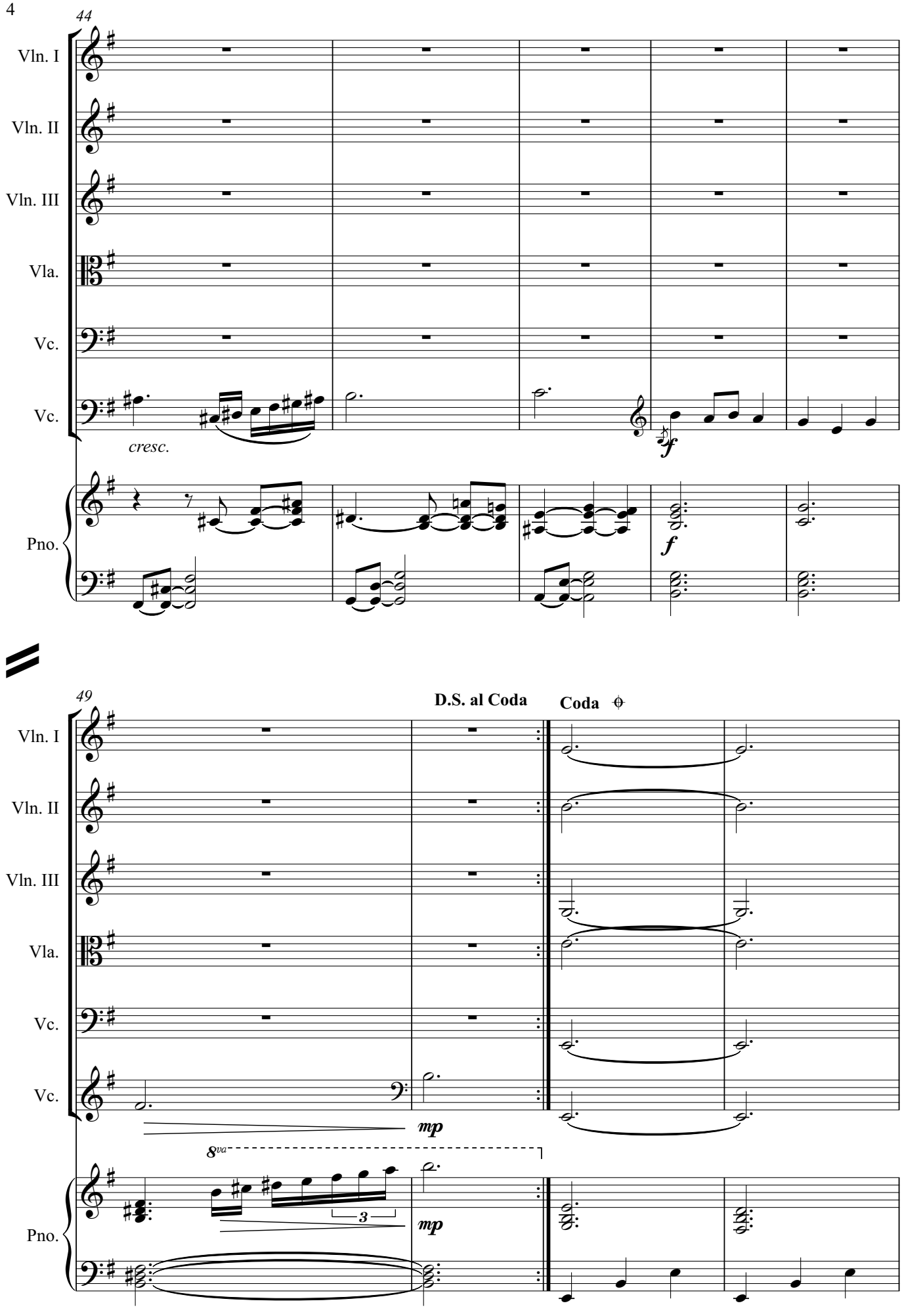
Vc.
Vc.
Pno.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Vln. I
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Vln. III
Vla.
Vc.
Vc.
cresc.
f
Pno.
f
49
D.S. al Coda
Coda
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Vln. III
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Vc.
mp
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3
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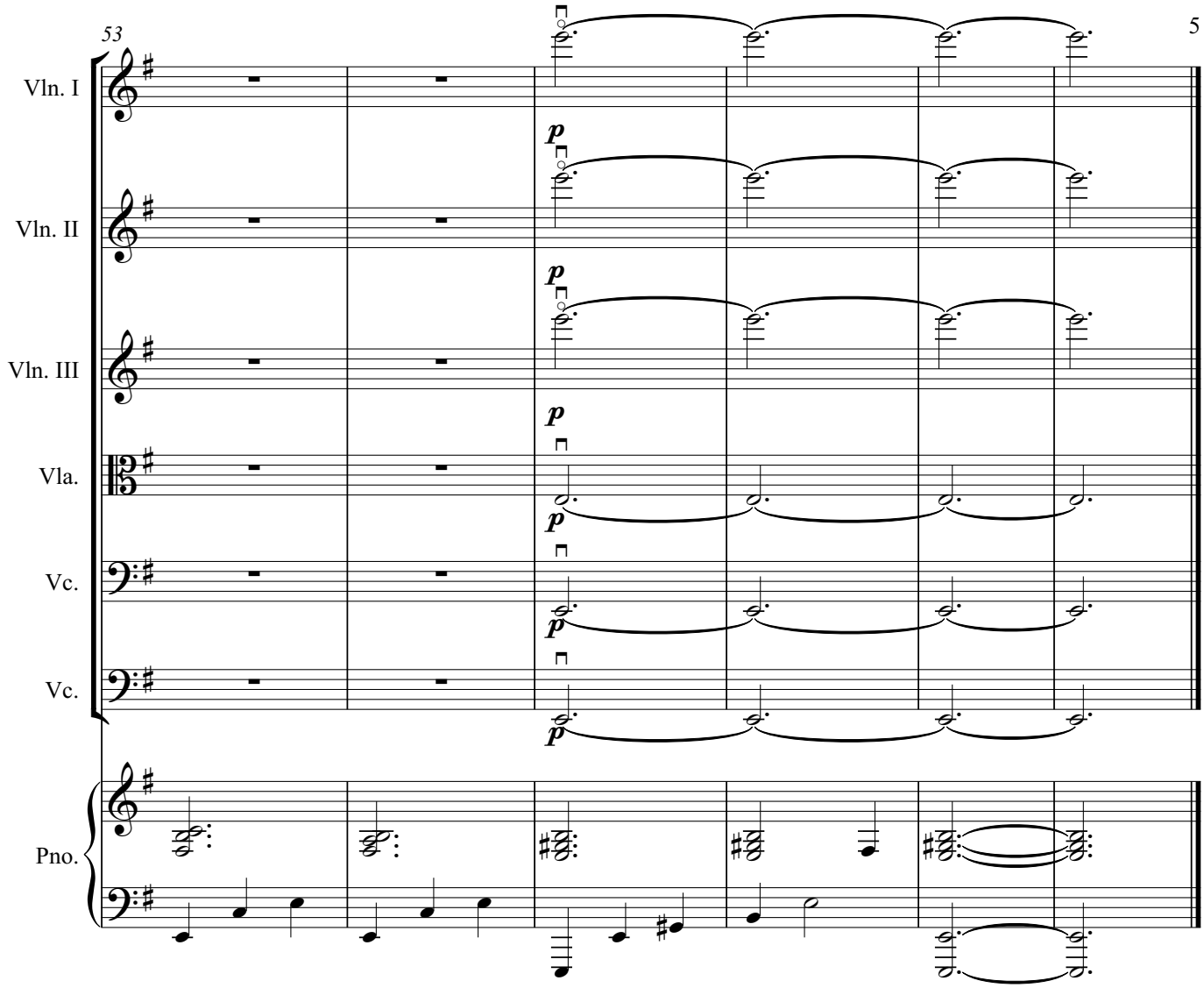
Pno.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Vln. I
Vln. II
Vln. III
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Vc.
Pno.
p
p
p
p
p
p

The Chase

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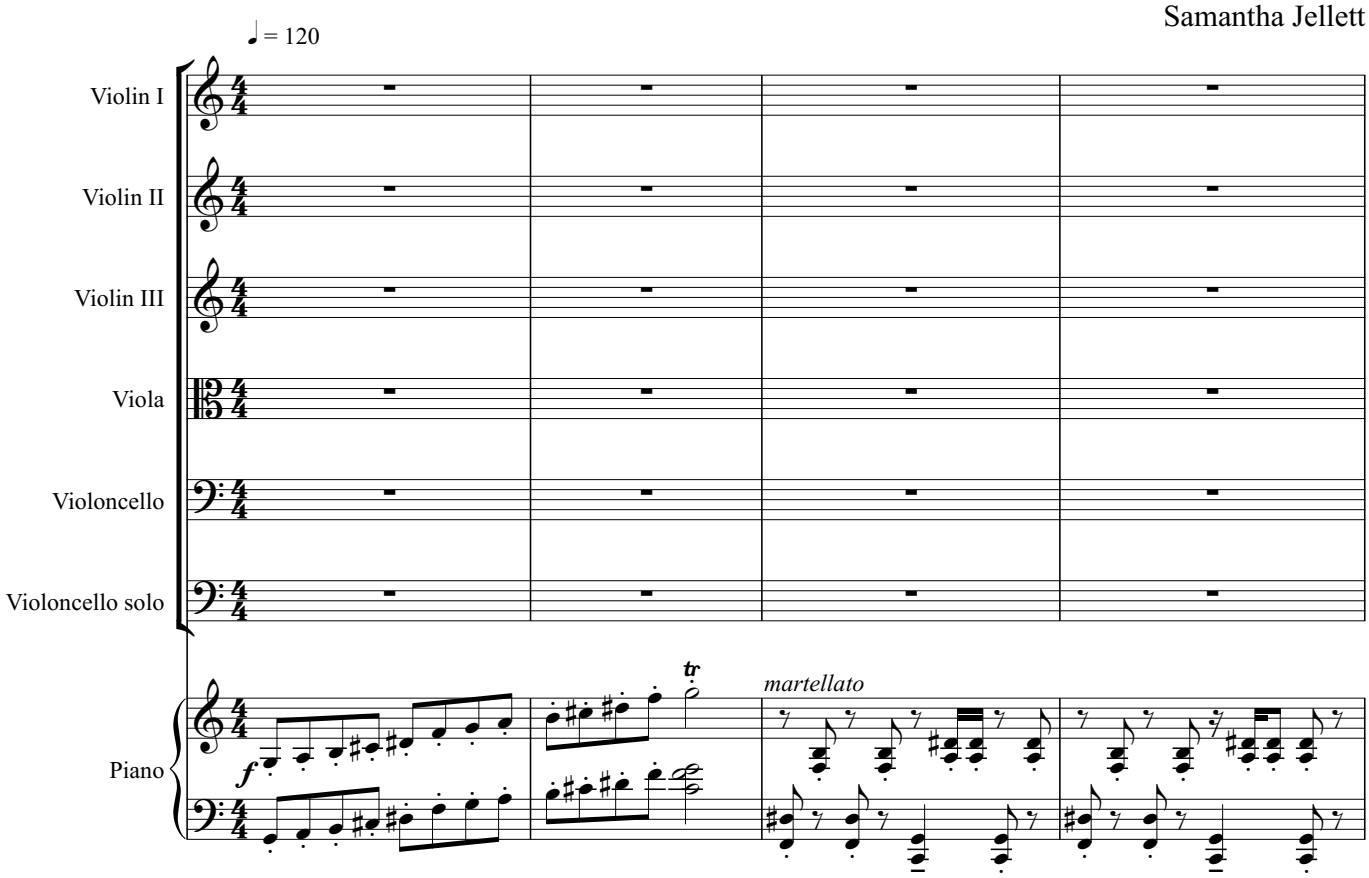

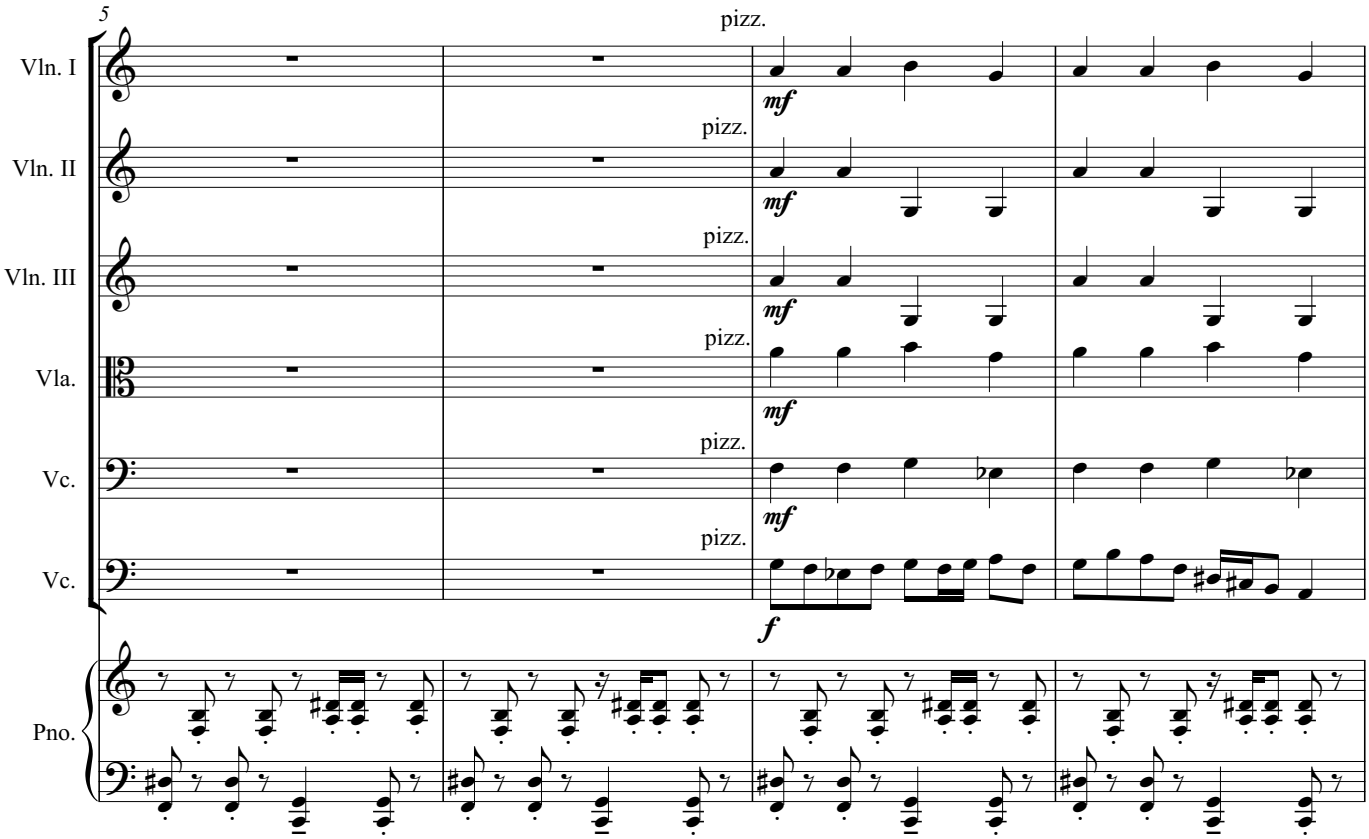

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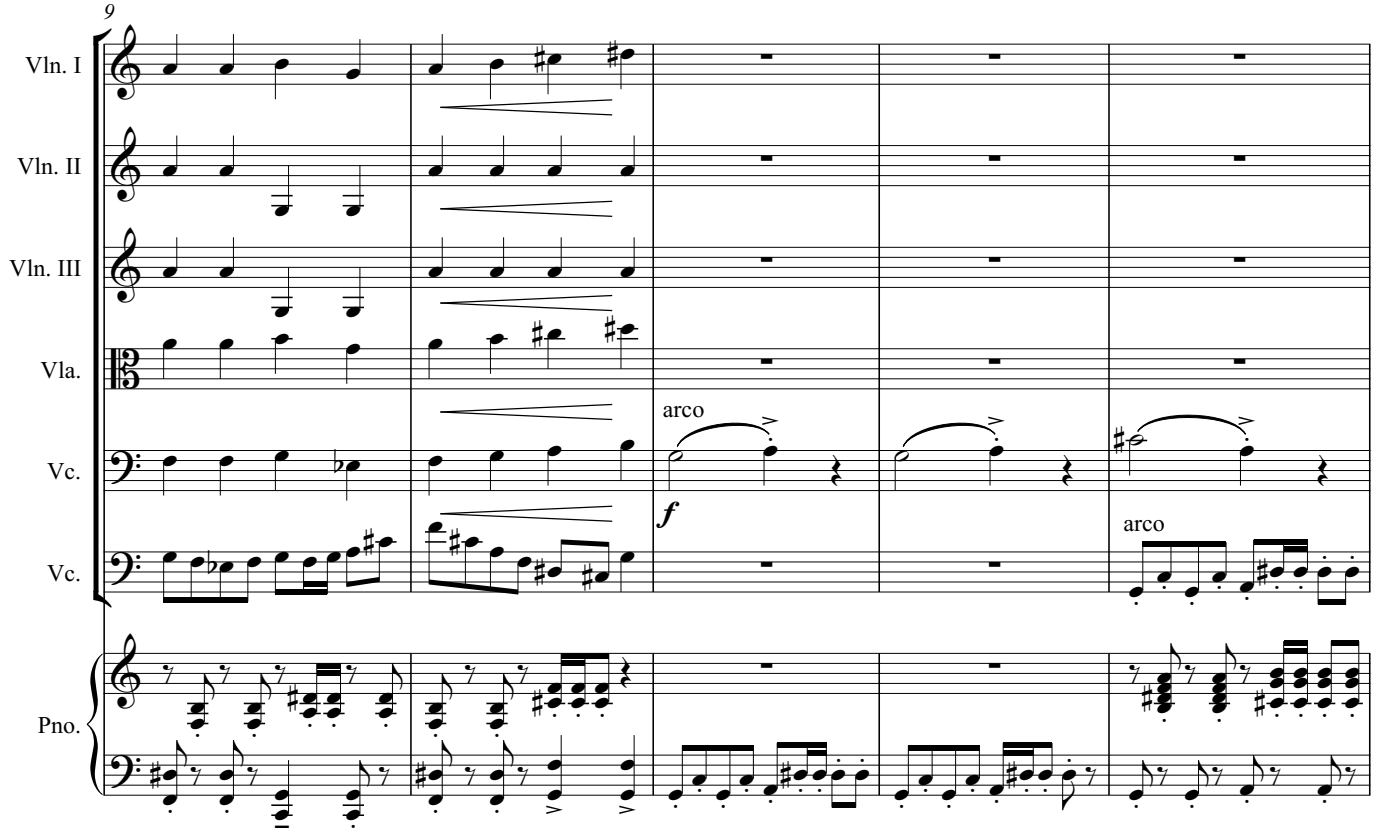
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Vln. III
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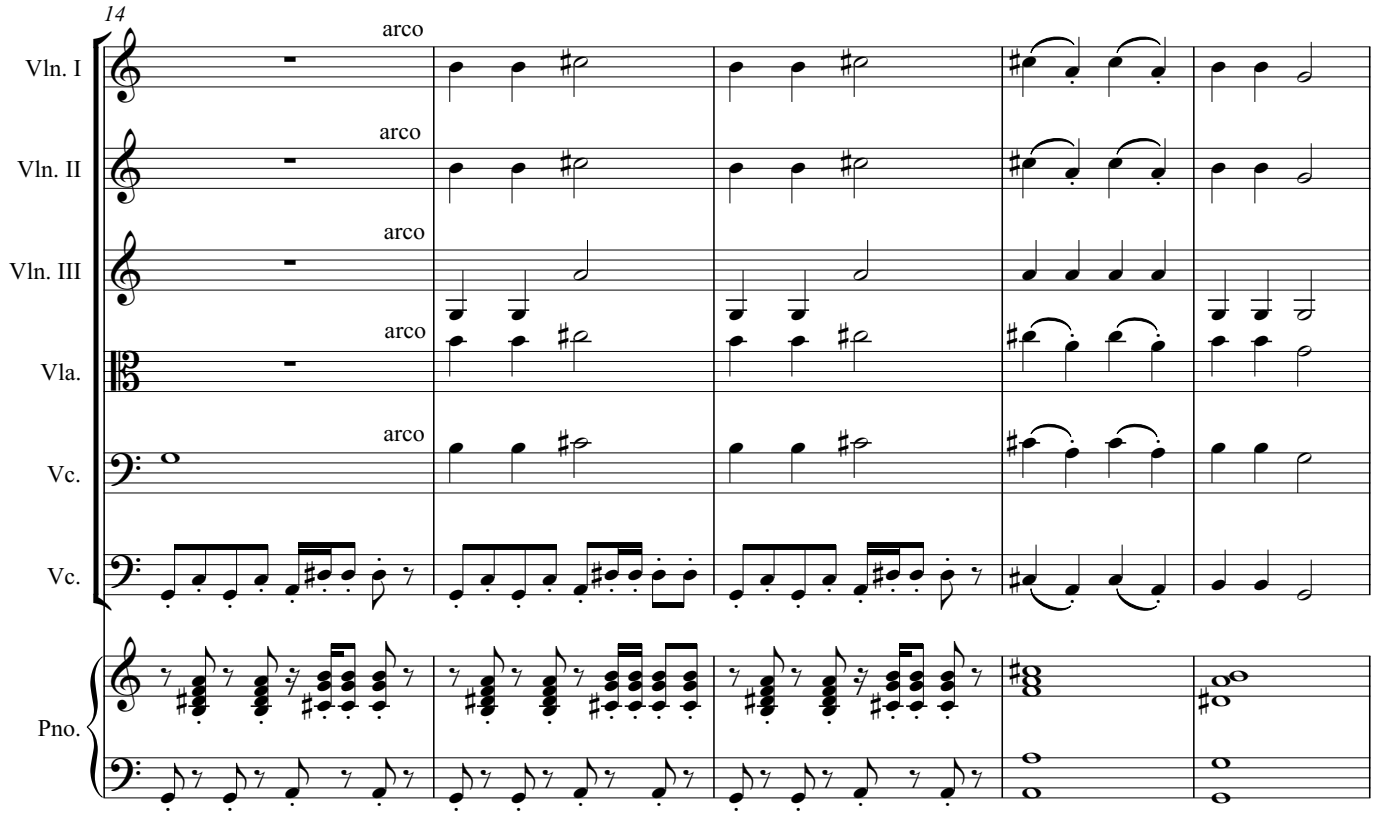
Vc.
Pno.
arco
f
arco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Vln. III
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arco
arco
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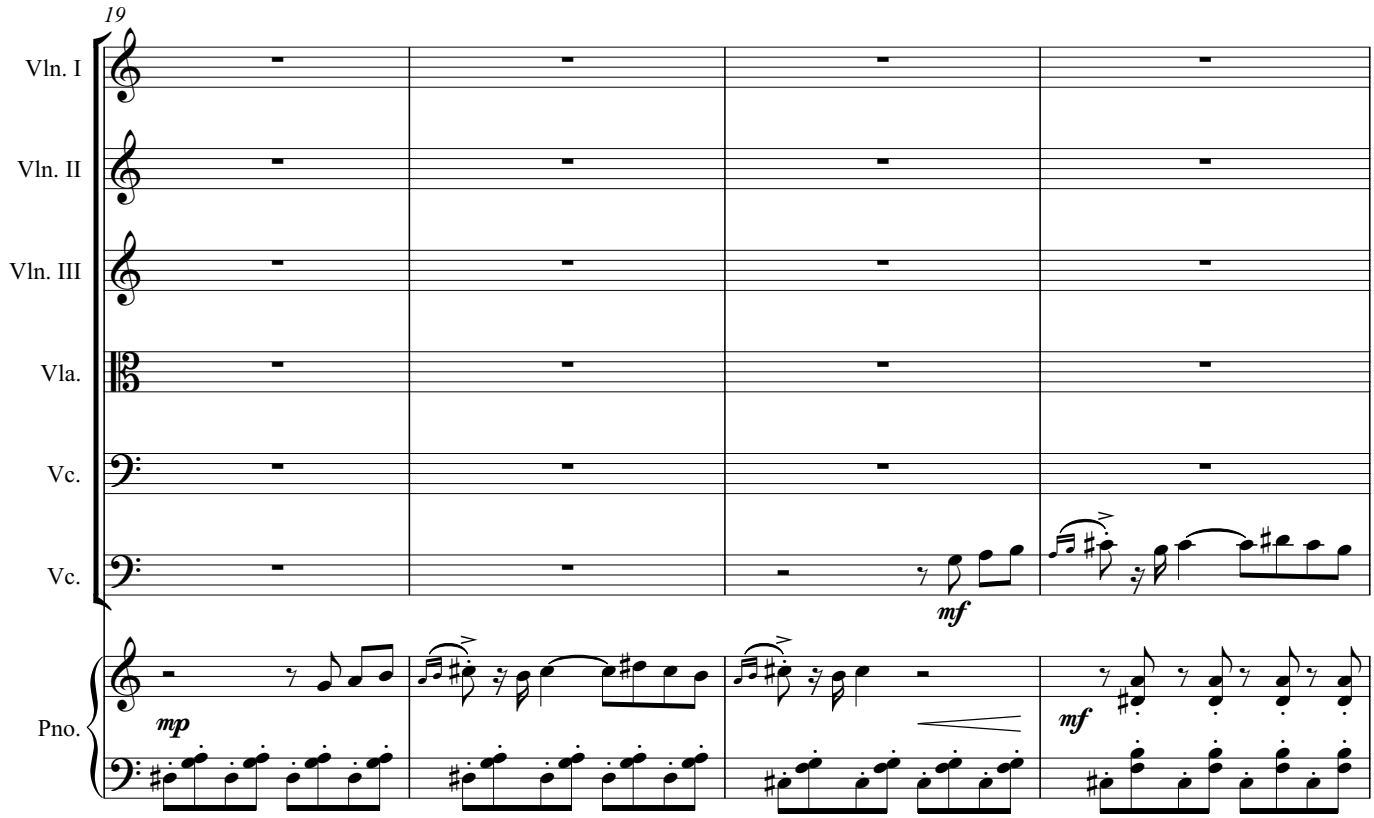
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Vln. III
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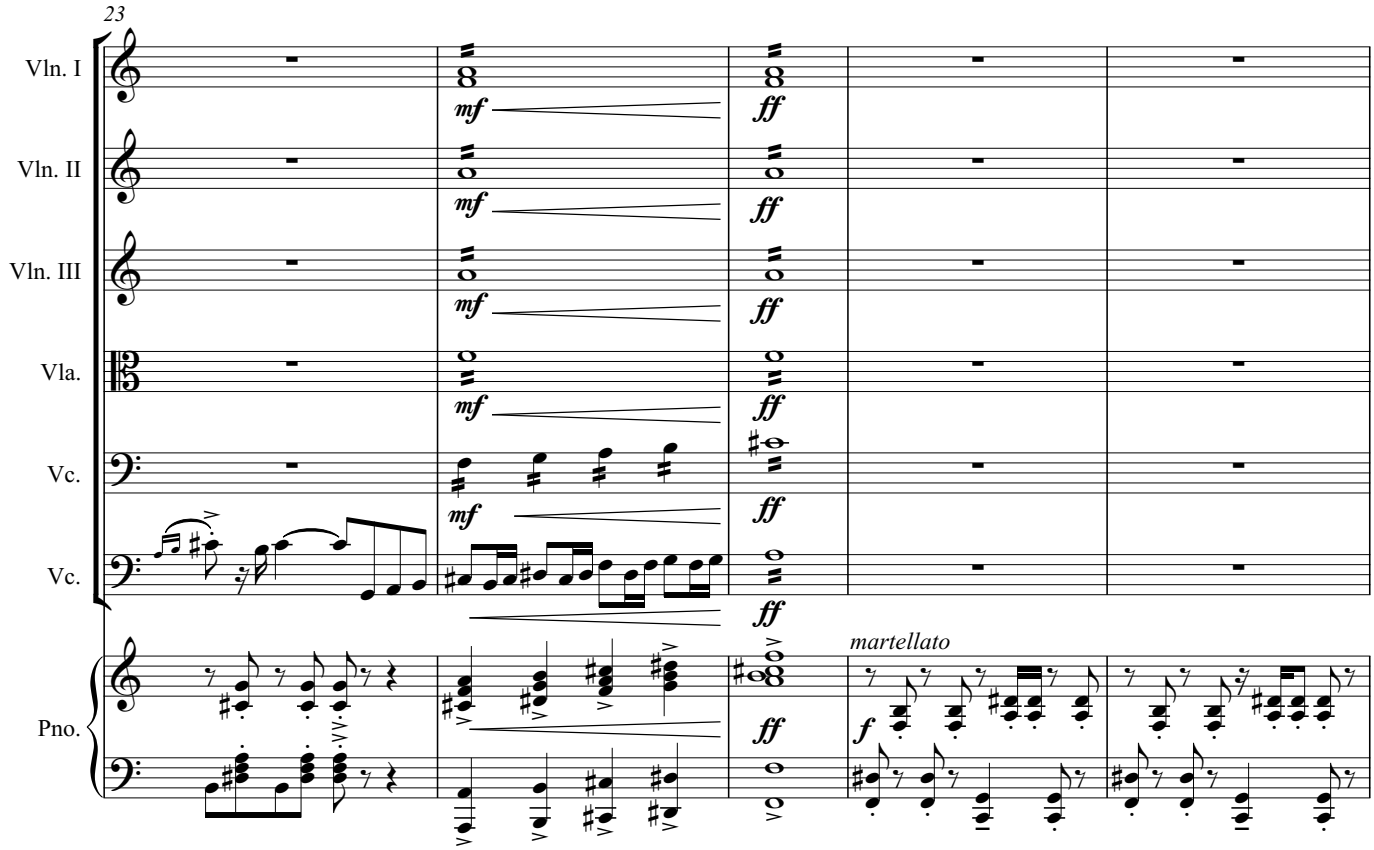
Pno.
mf
mp
mf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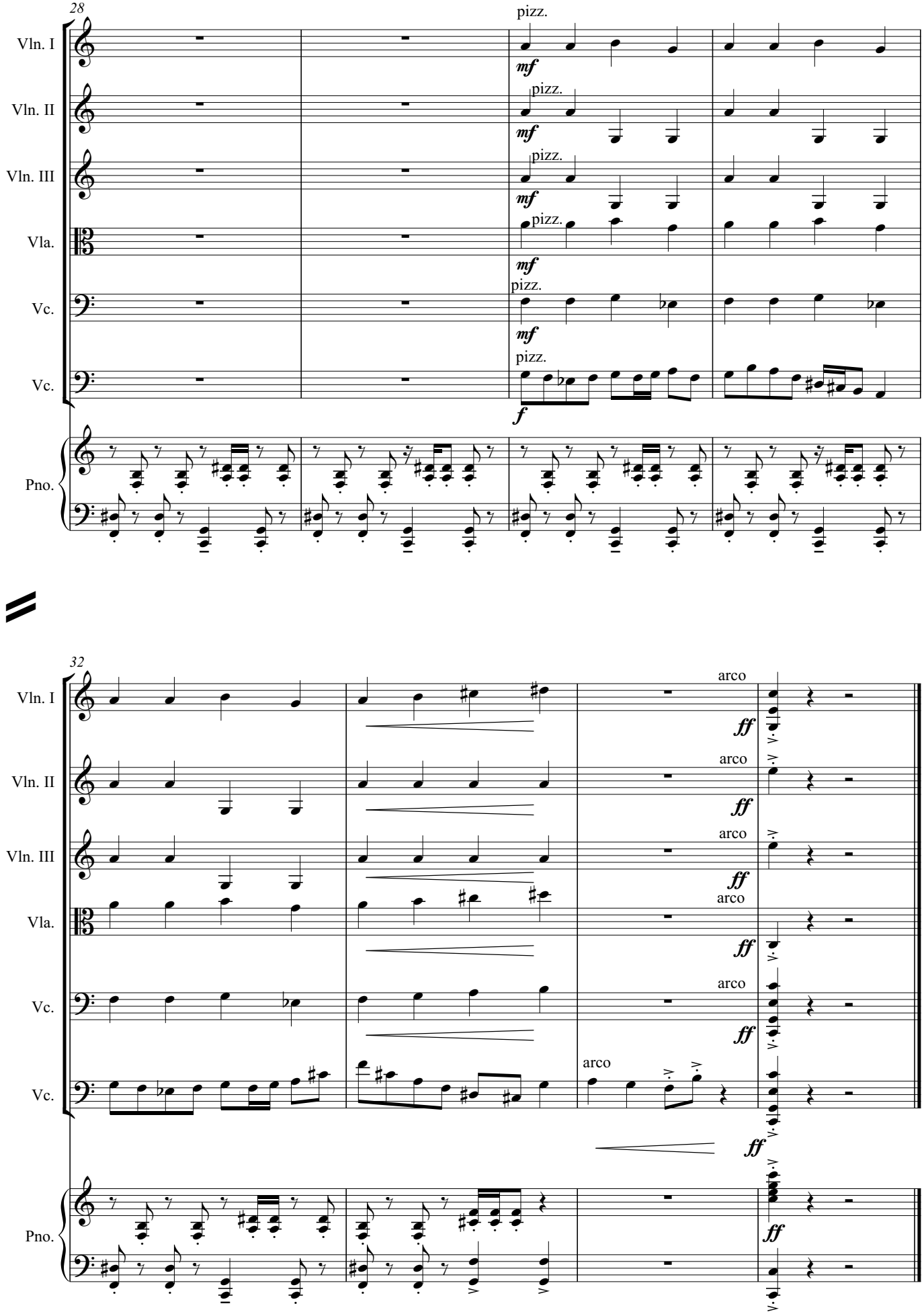
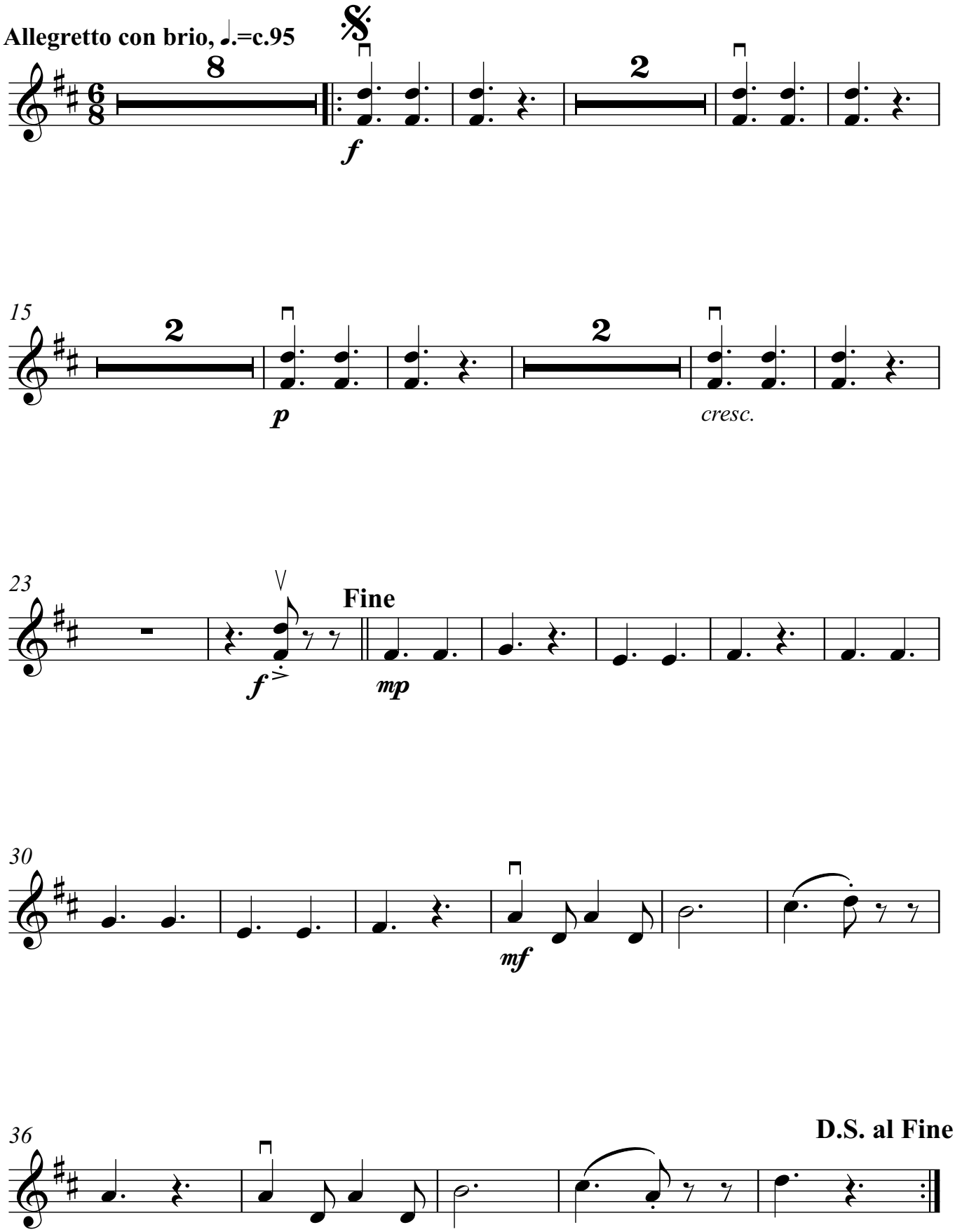

28
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vln. III
Vla.
Vc.
Vc.
Pno.
pizz.
mf
f
32
arco
ff

Violin I

Dolphin Ride

Samantha Jellett



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Violin II

Dolphin Ride

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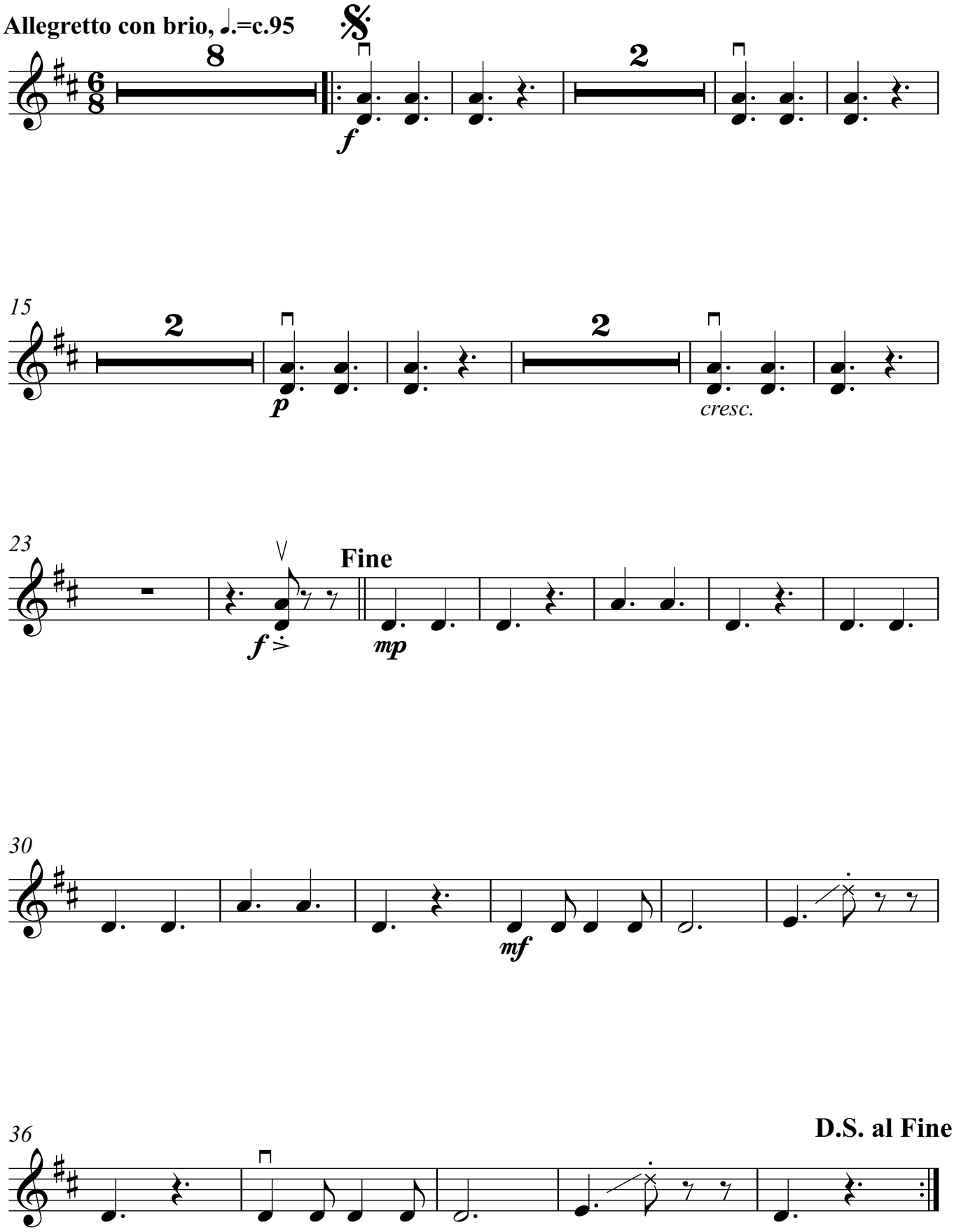

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Viola

Dolphin Ride

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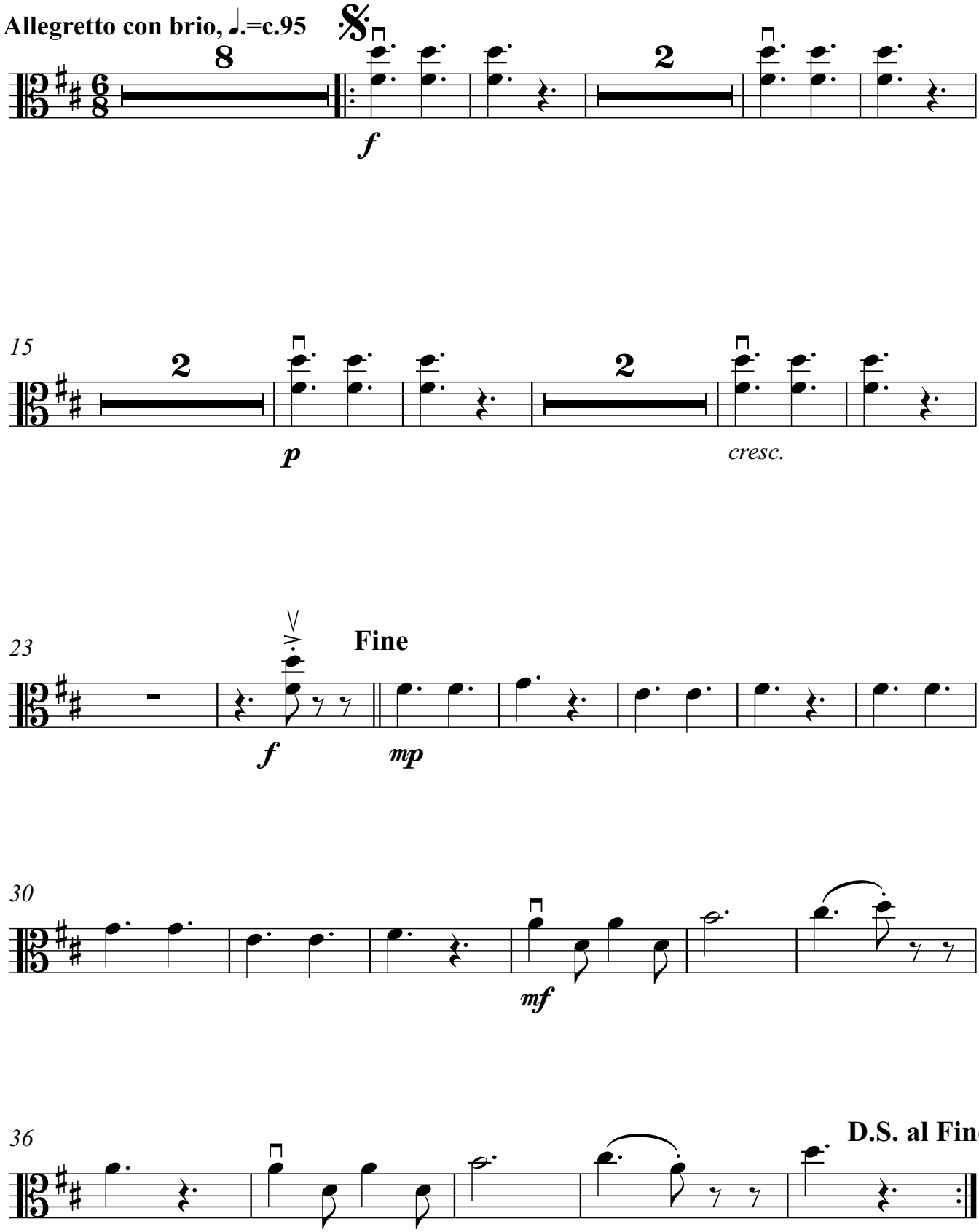

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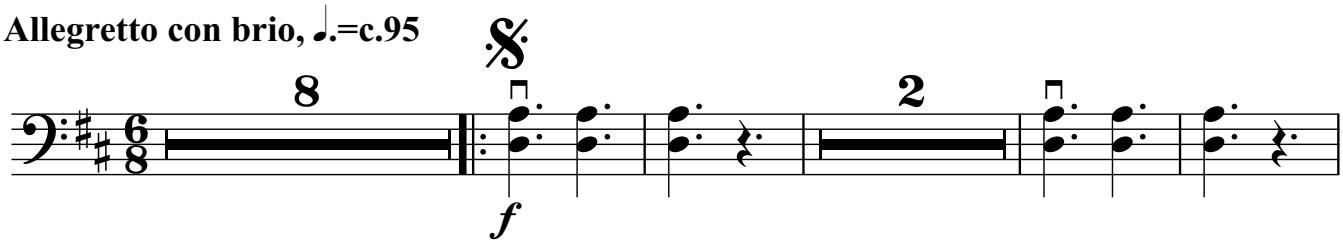
Violoncello

Dolphin Ride

Samantha Jellett

Allegretto con brio, ♩.=c.95



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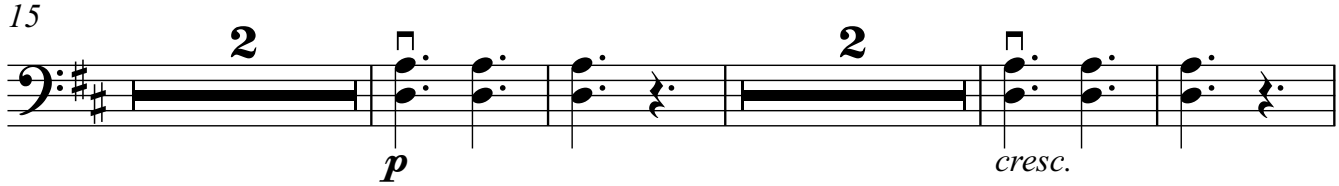

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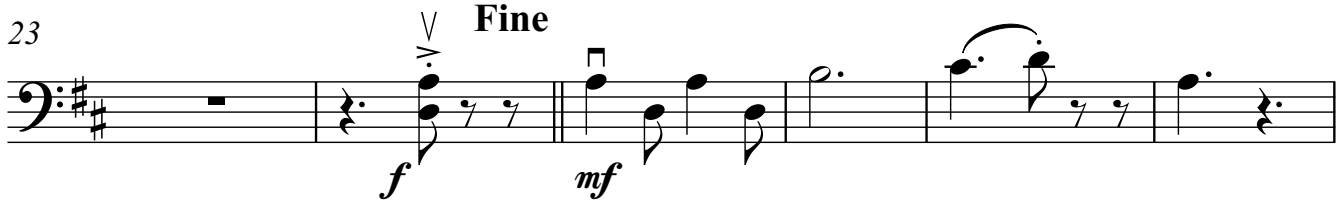

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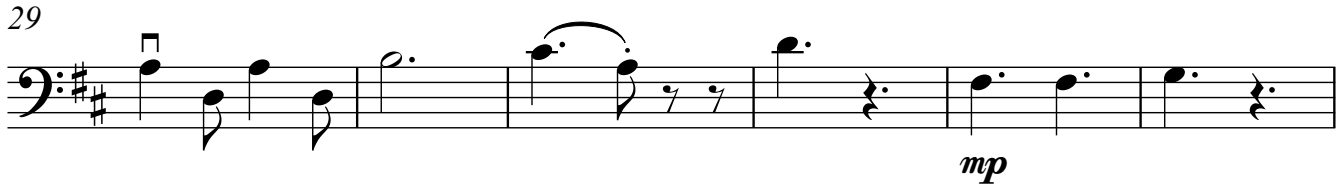

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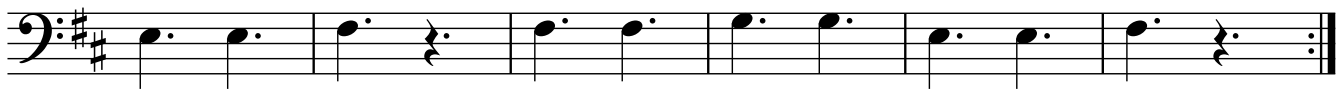
D.S. al Fine



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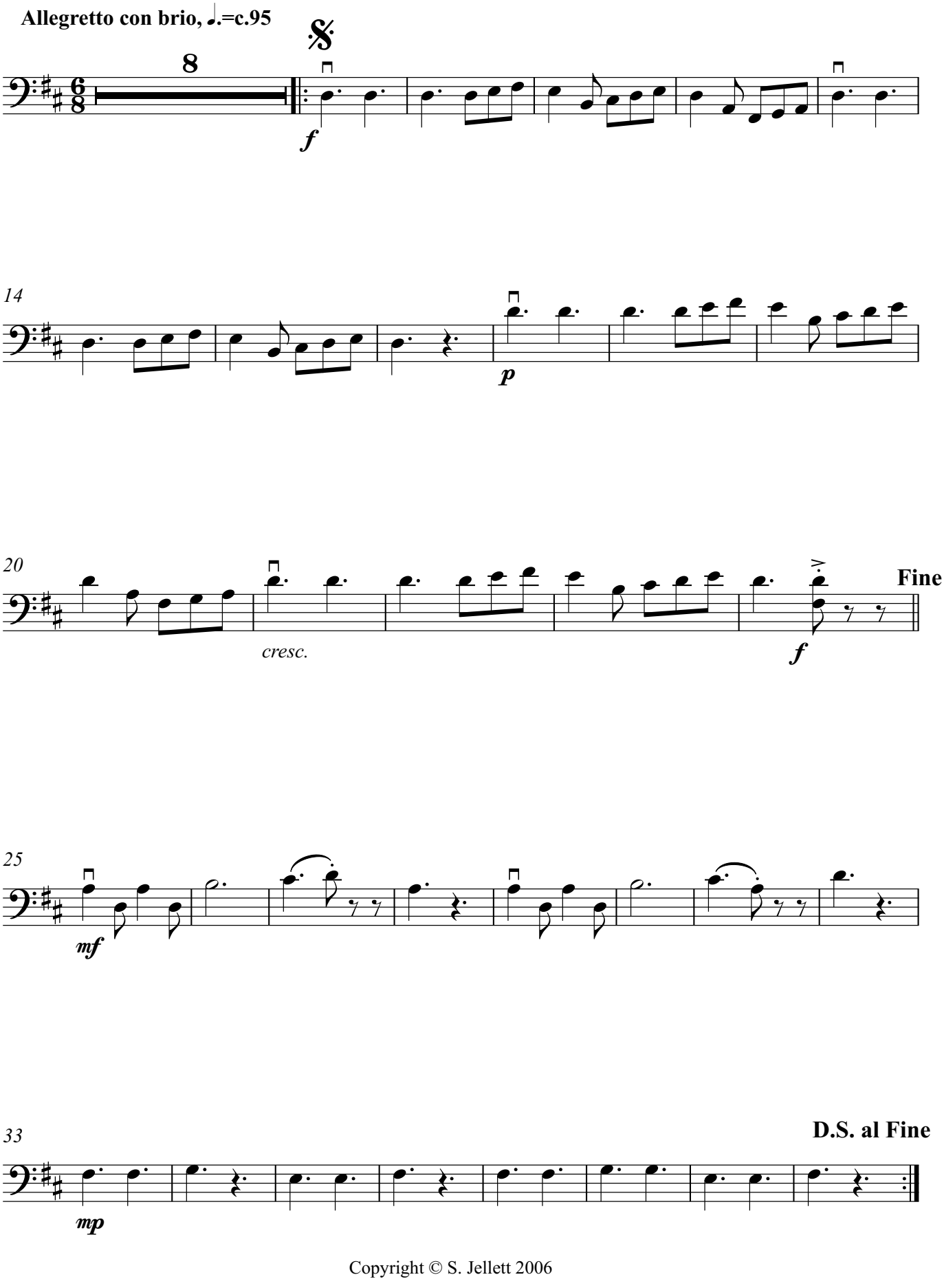
SOLO VIOLONCELLO

Dolphin Ride

Samantha Jellett

Allegretto con brio, ♩.=c.95



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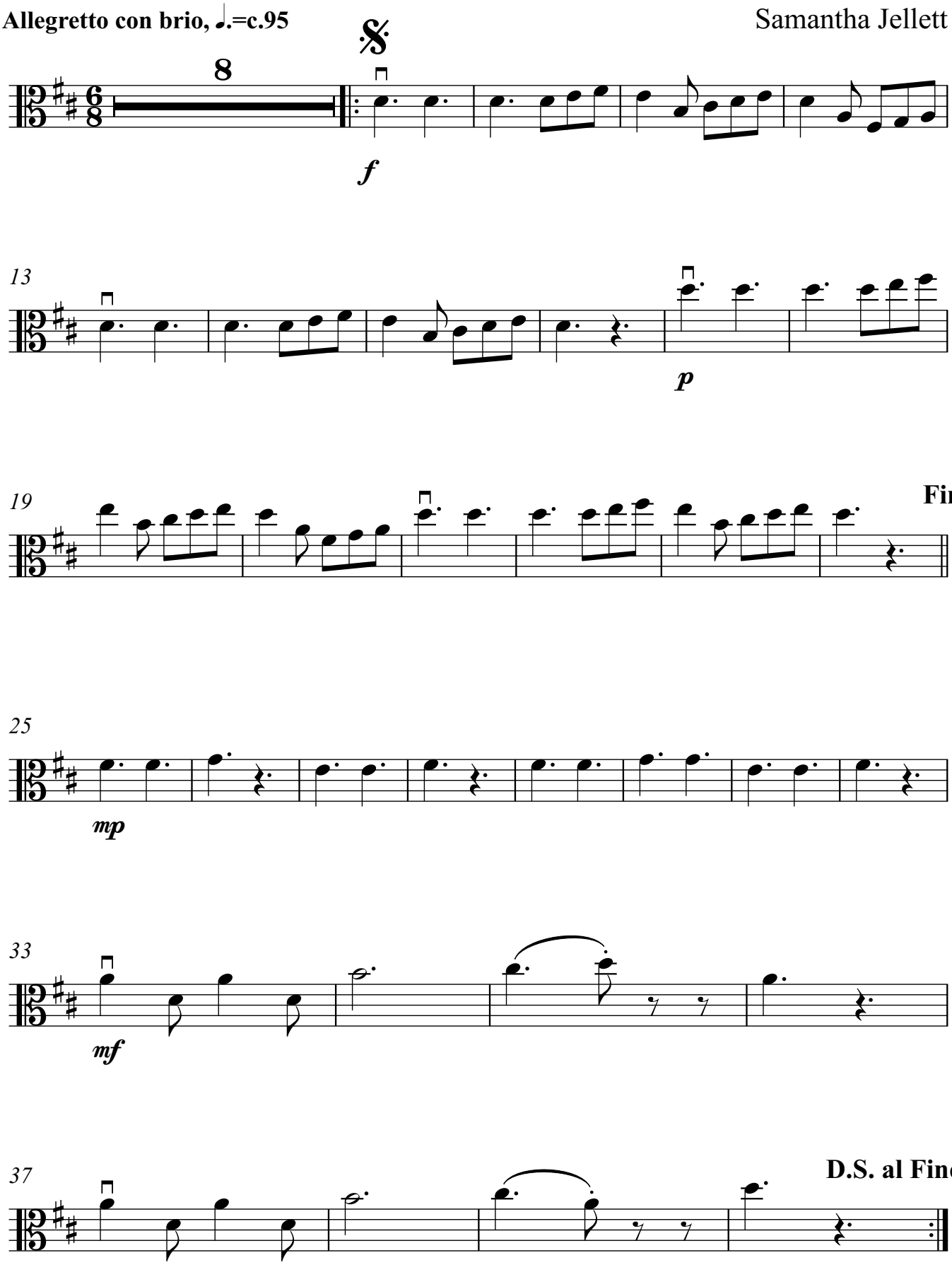
SOLO VIOLA

Dolphin Ride

Allegretto con brio, ♩.=c.95

Samantha Jellett



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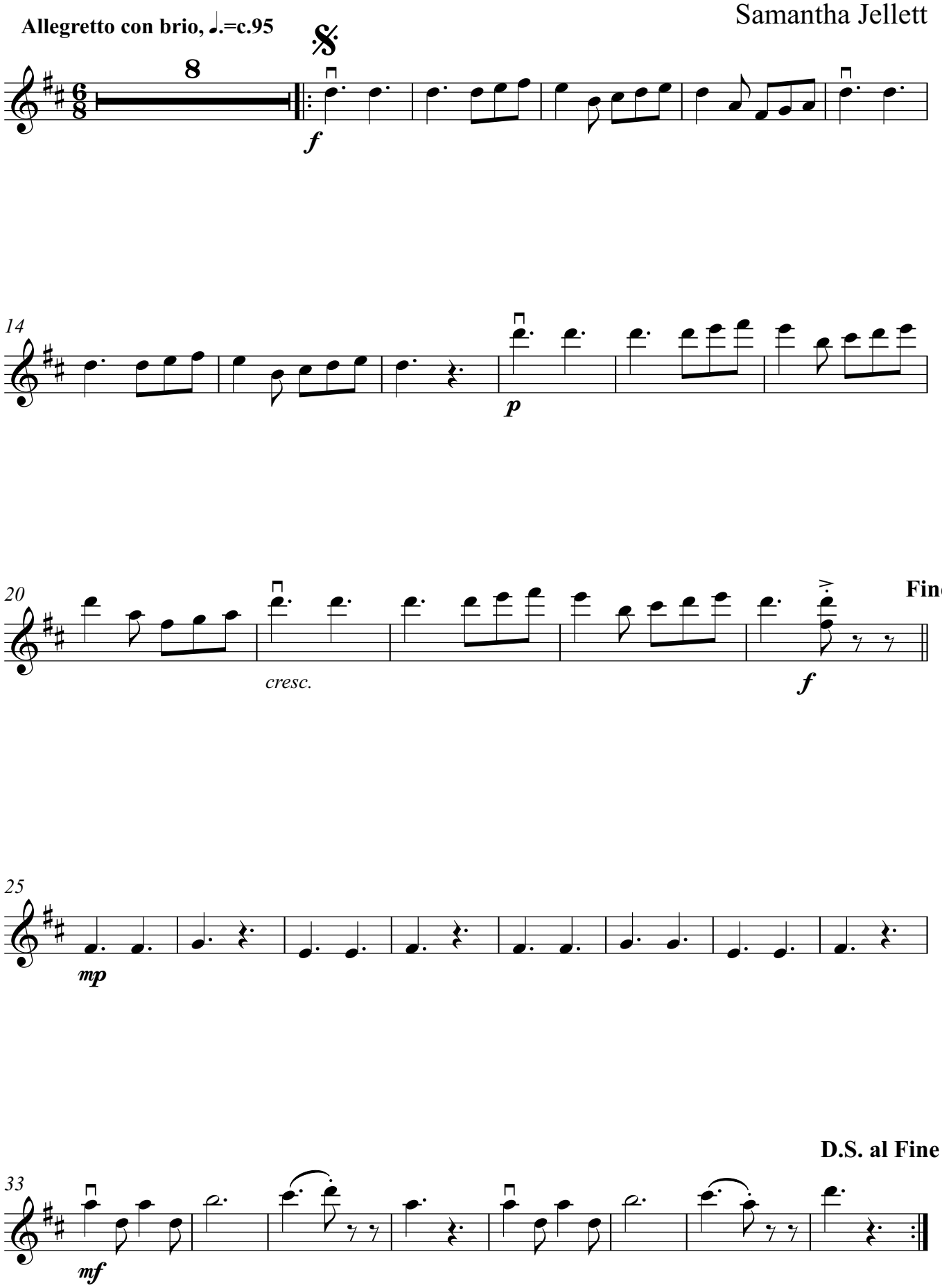
SOLO VIOLIN

Dolphin Ride

Samantha Jellett

Allegretto con brio, ♩.=c.95



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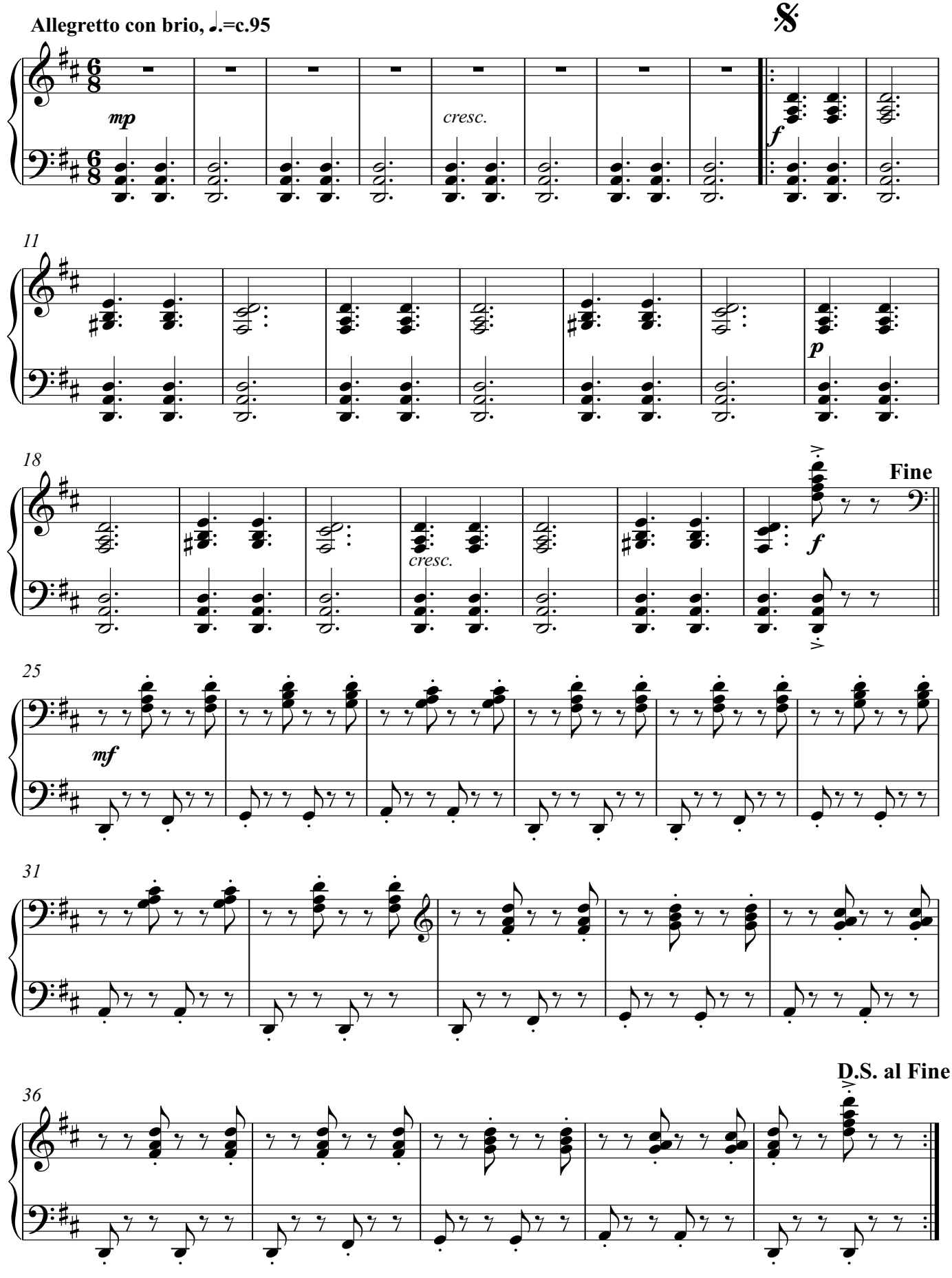
Piano

Dolphin Ride

Samantha Jellett

Allegretto con brio, ♩.=c.95



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Violin I

The Mermaid's Song

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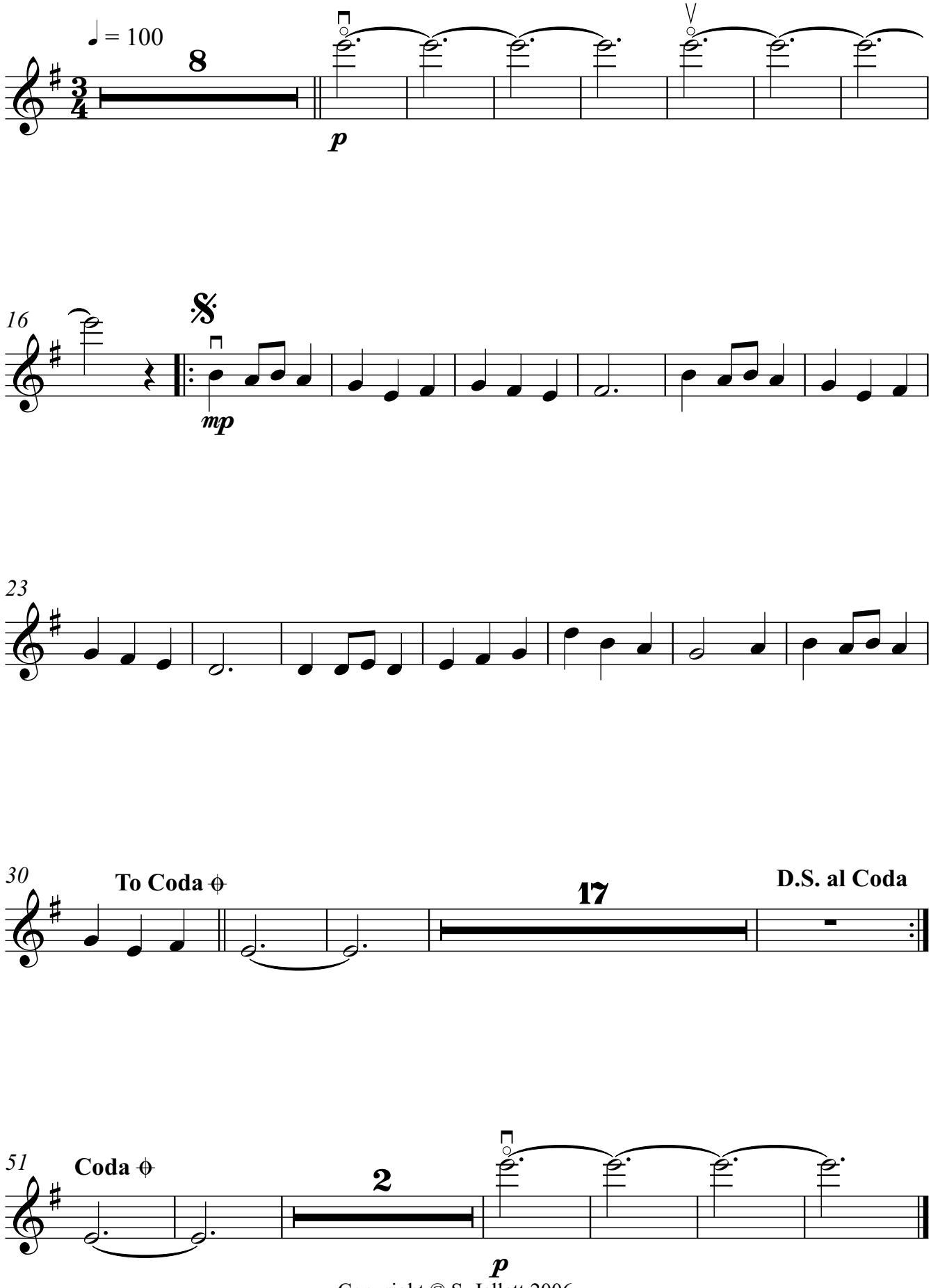

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Violin II

The Mermaid's Song

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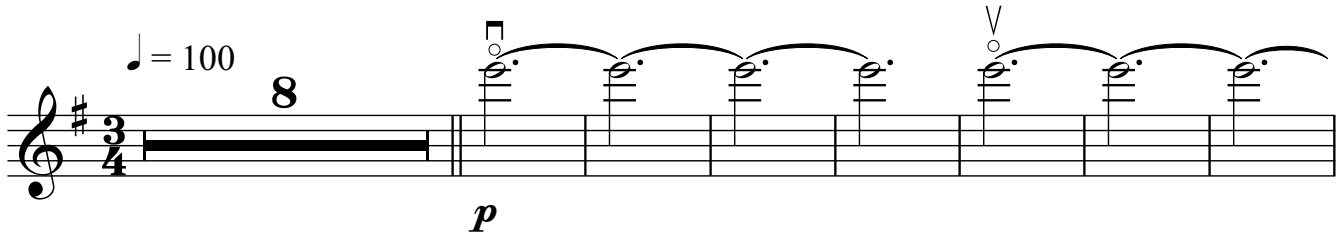

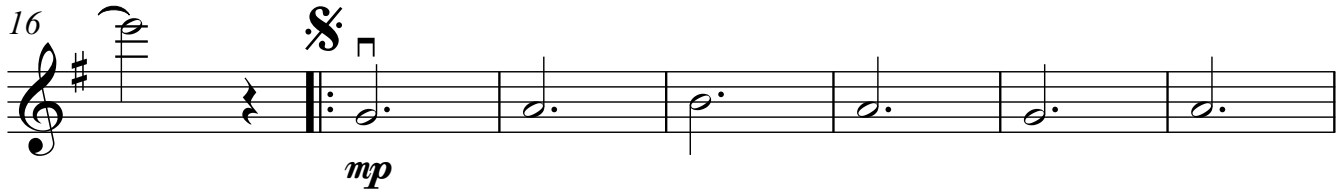

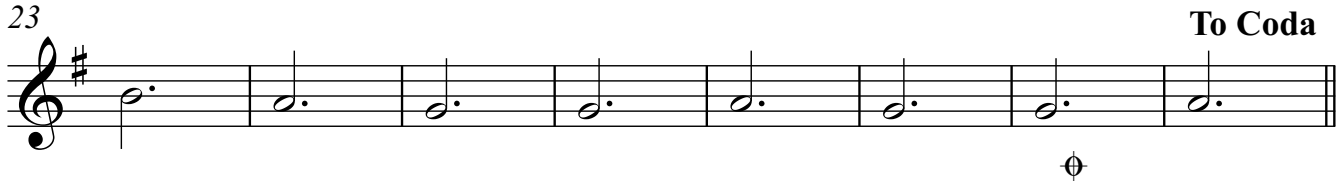

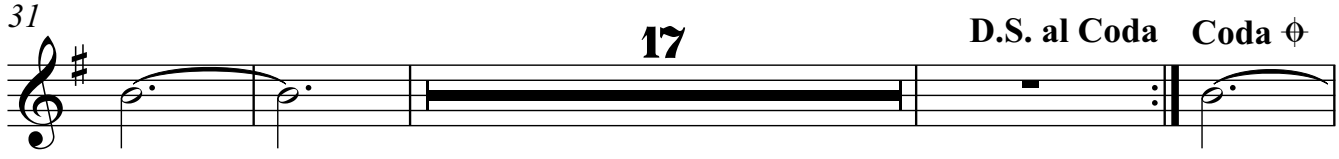

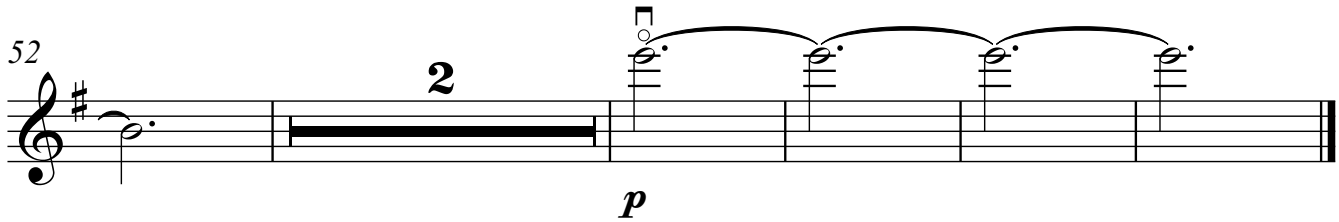

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Violin III

The Mermaid's Song

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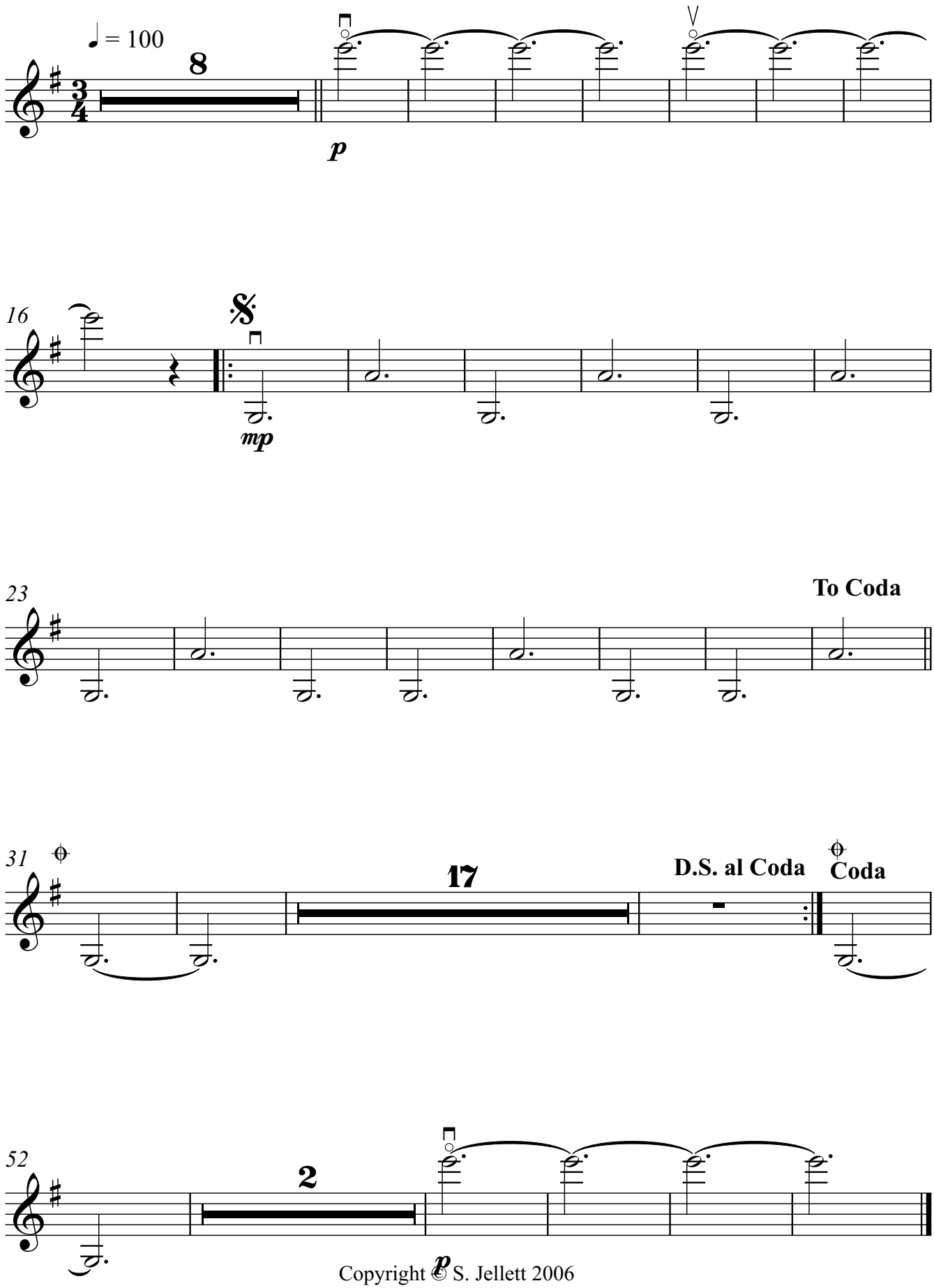

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Viola

The Mermaid's Song

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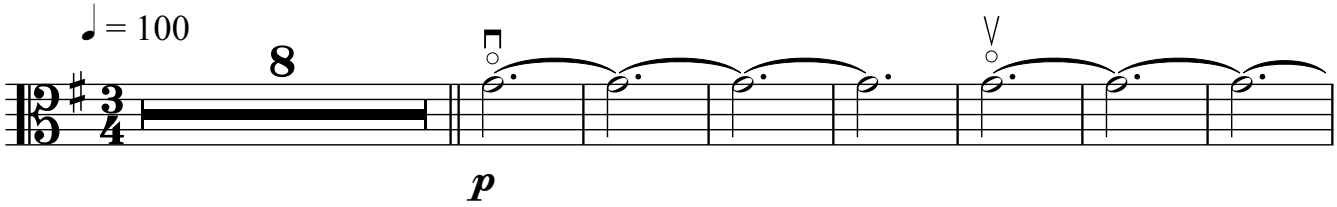

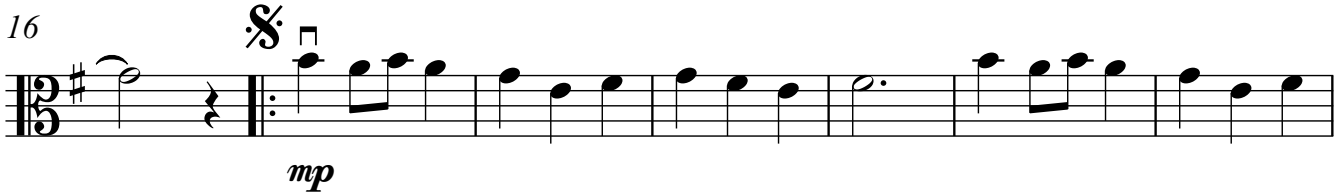

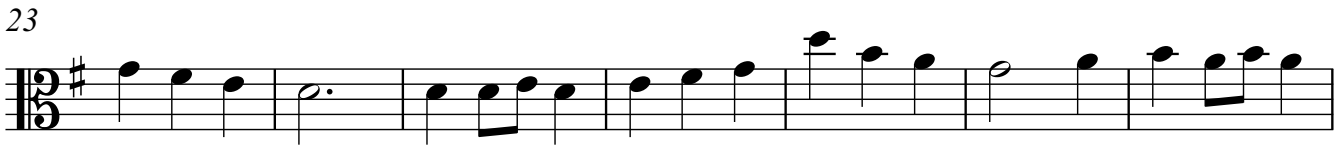

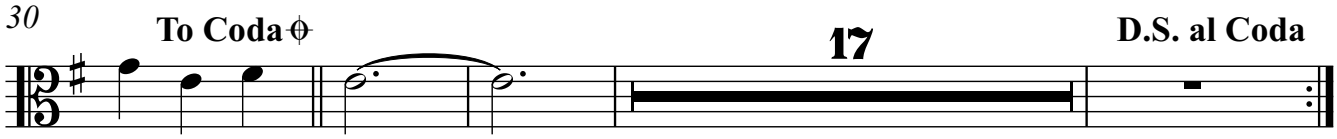

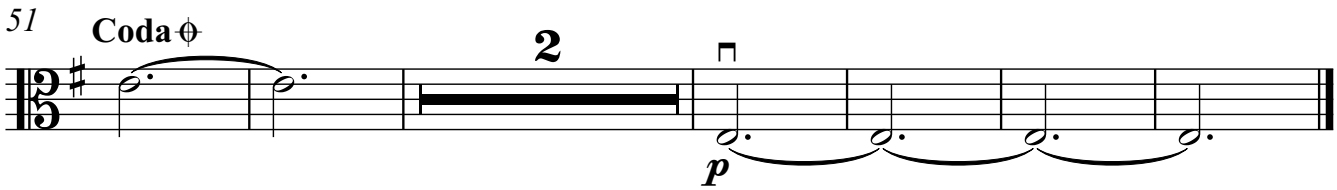

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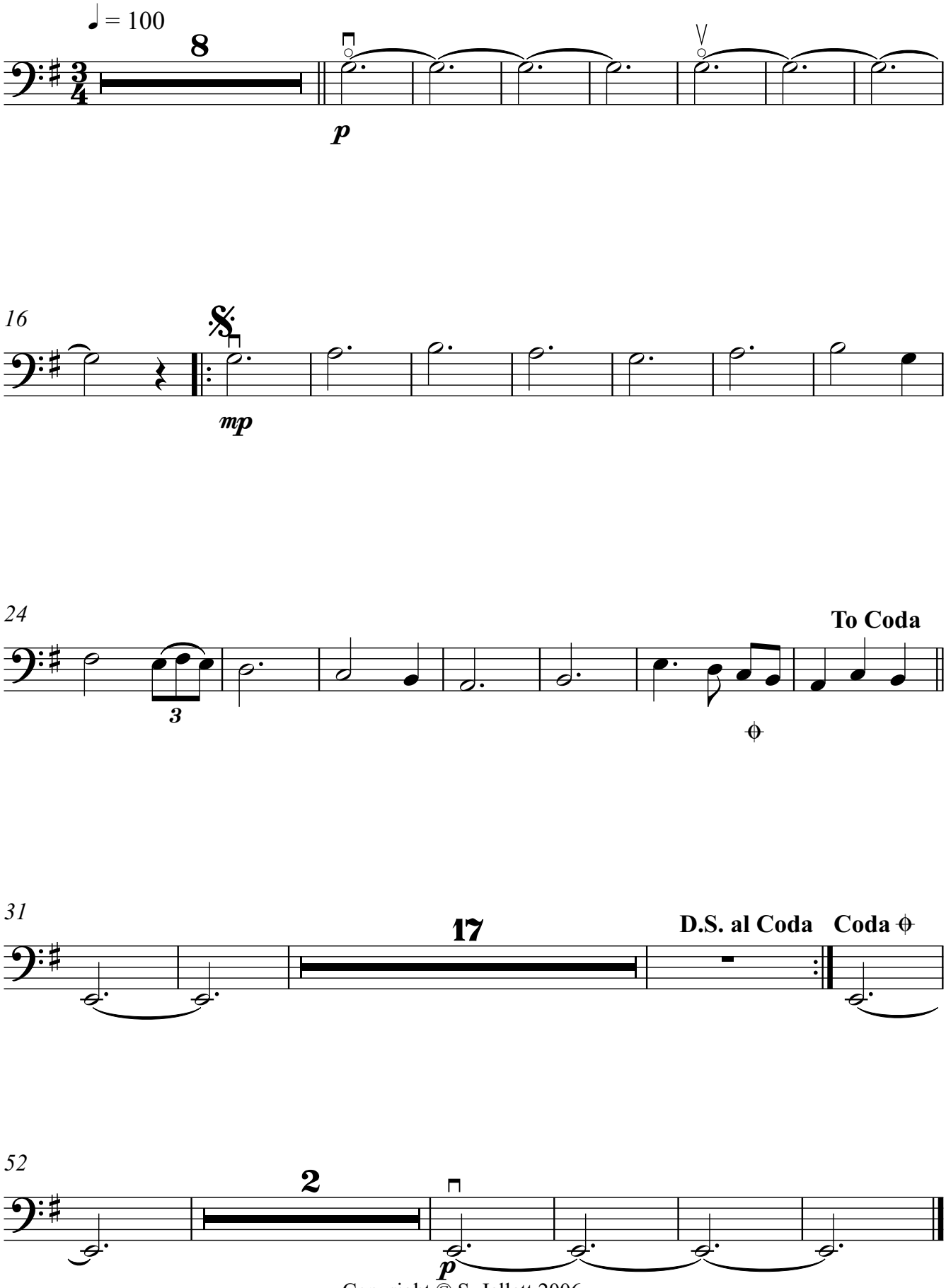
Violoncello

The Mermaid's Song

S. Jellett



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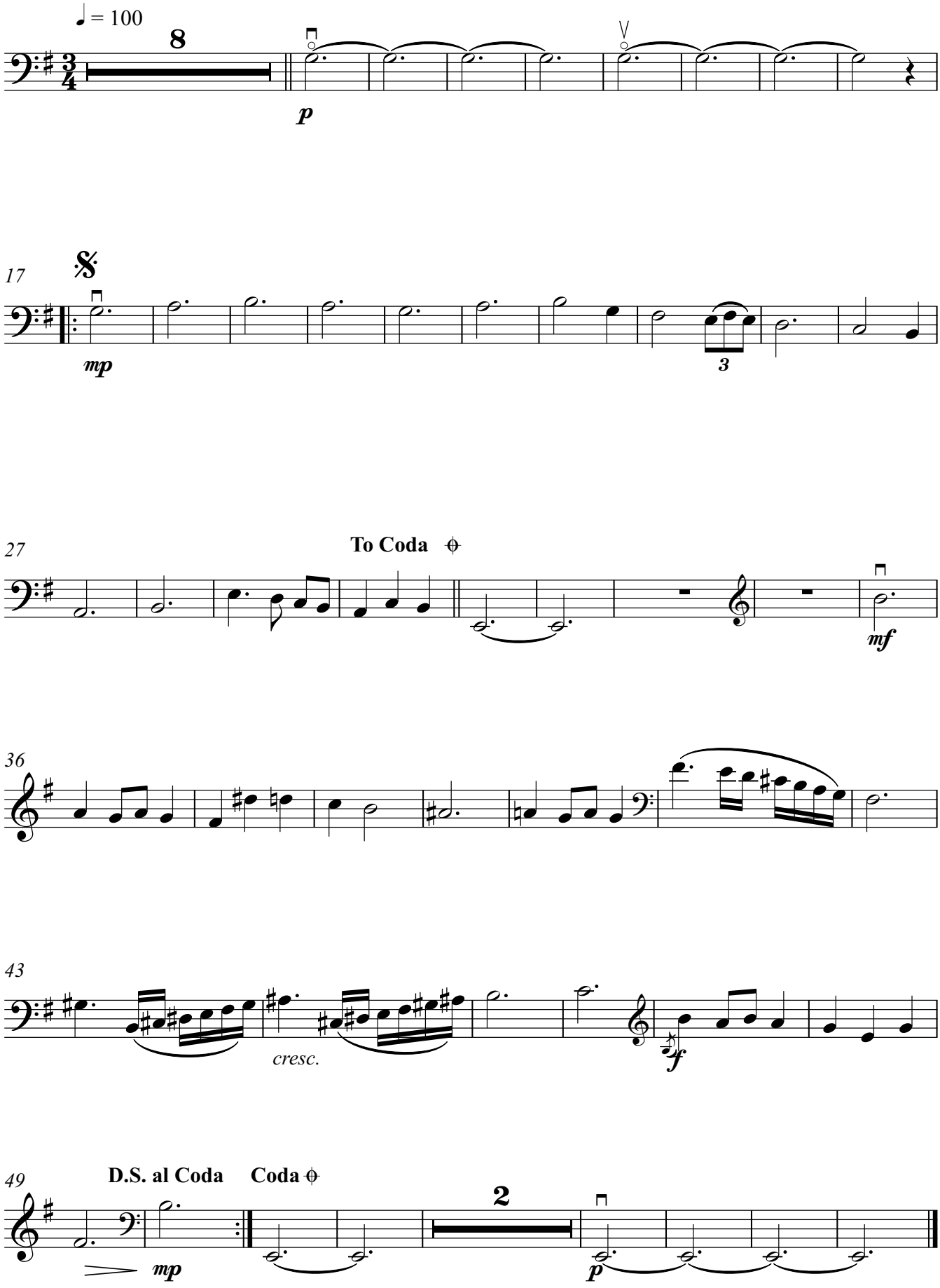
SOLO VIOLONCELLO

The Mermaid's Song

S. Jellett



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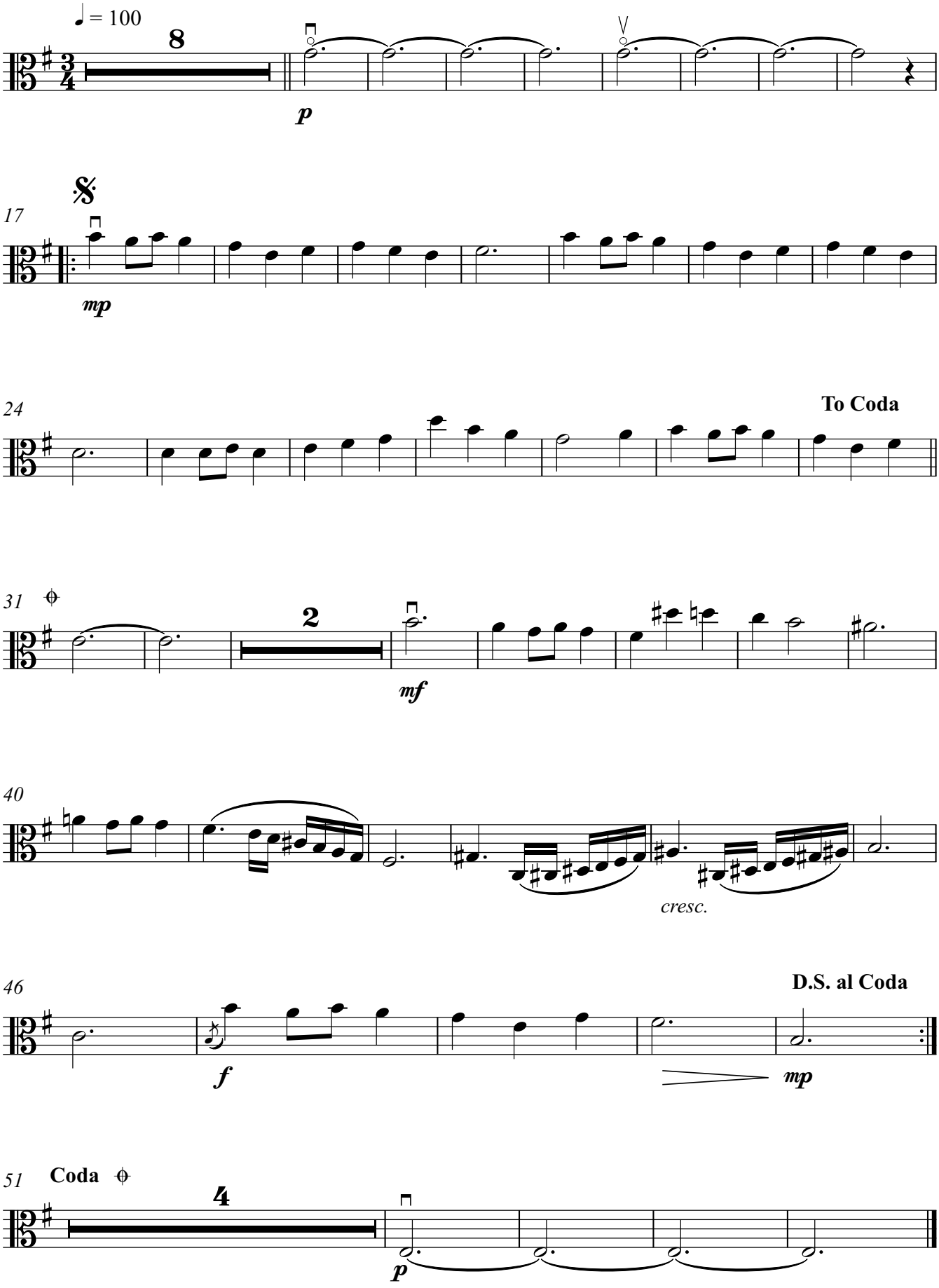
SOLO VIOLA

The Mermaid's Song

S. Jellett



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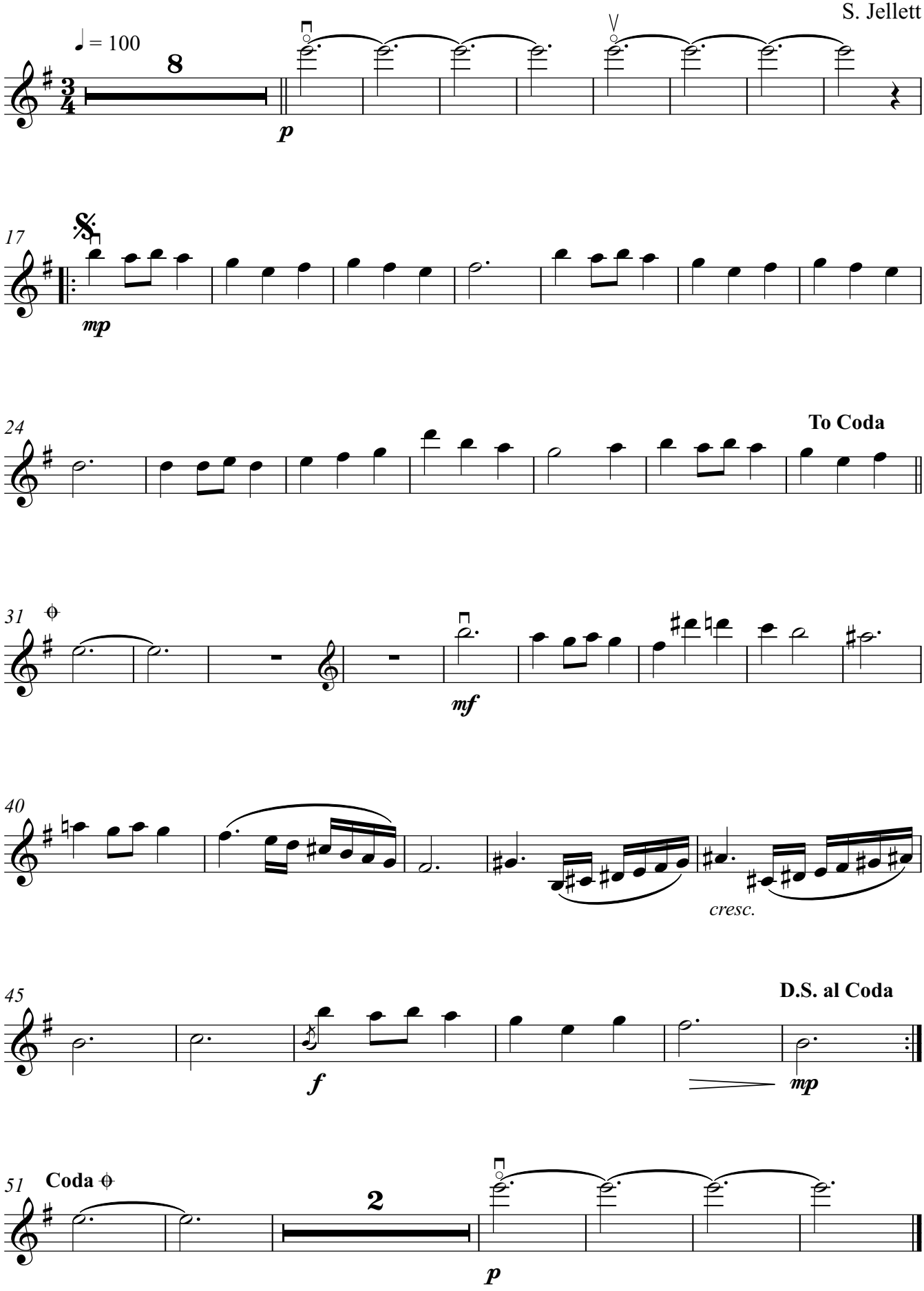
SOLO VIOLIN

The Mermaid's Song

S. Jellett



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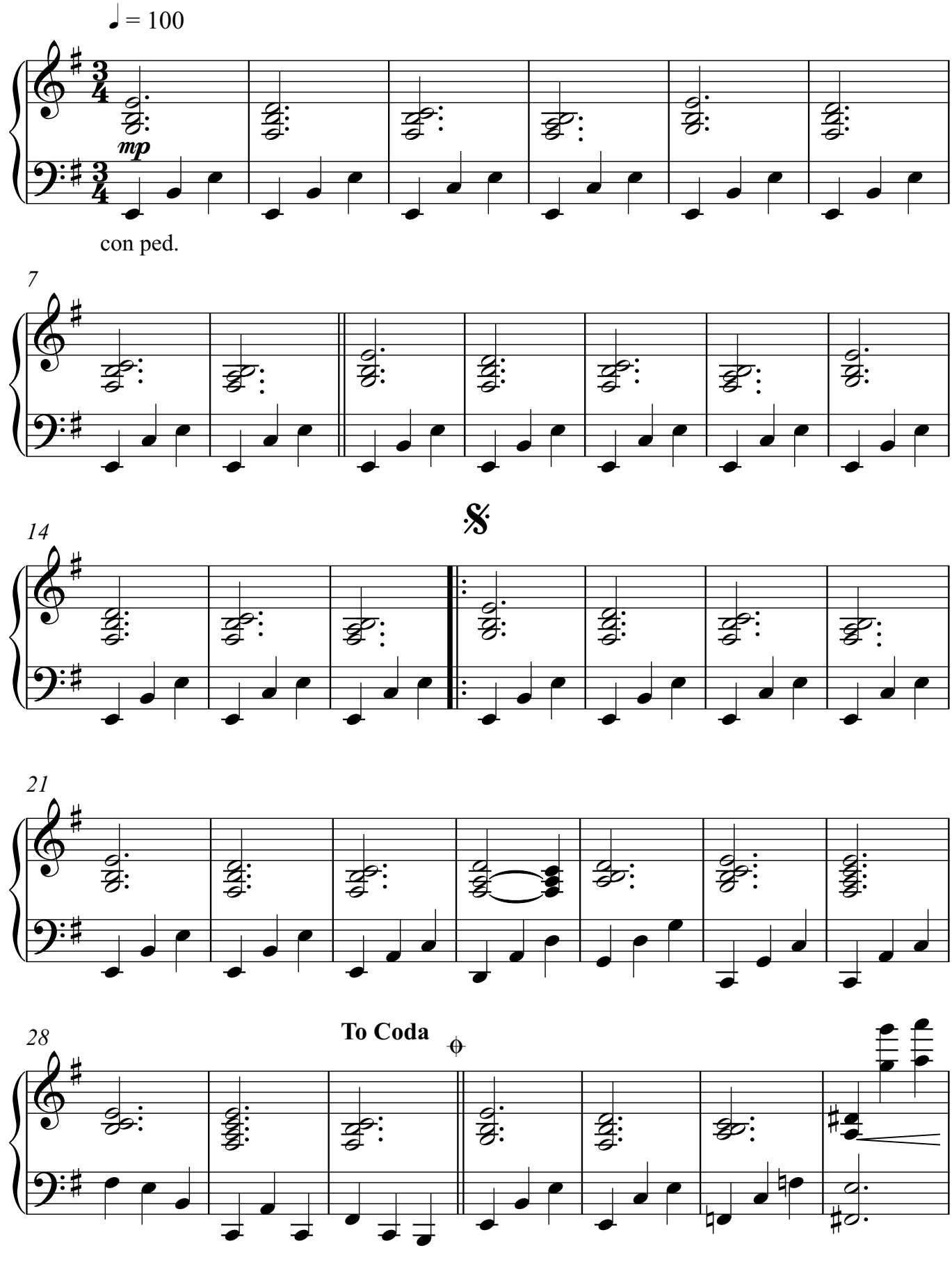
Piano

The Mermaid's Song

S. Jellett



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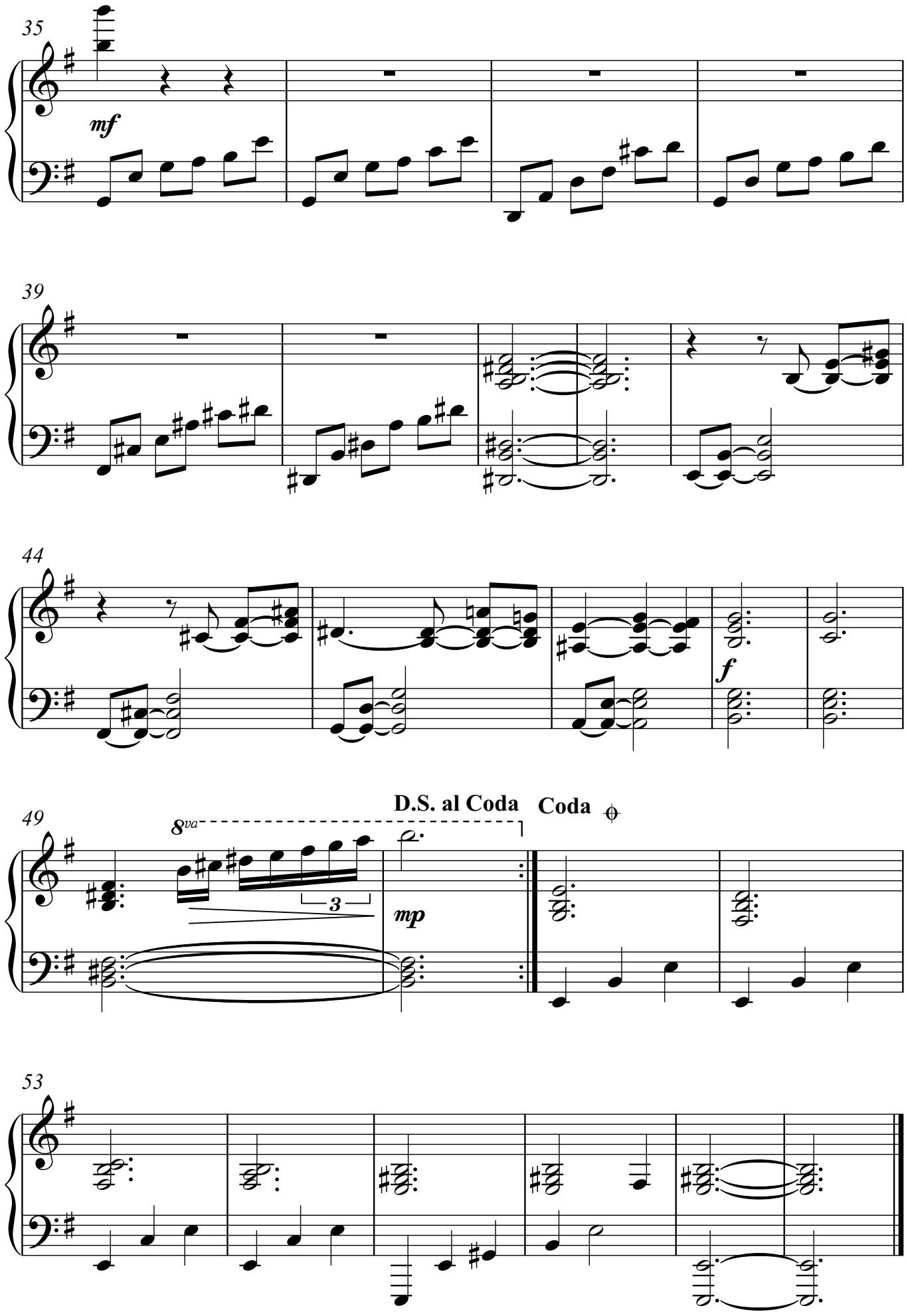
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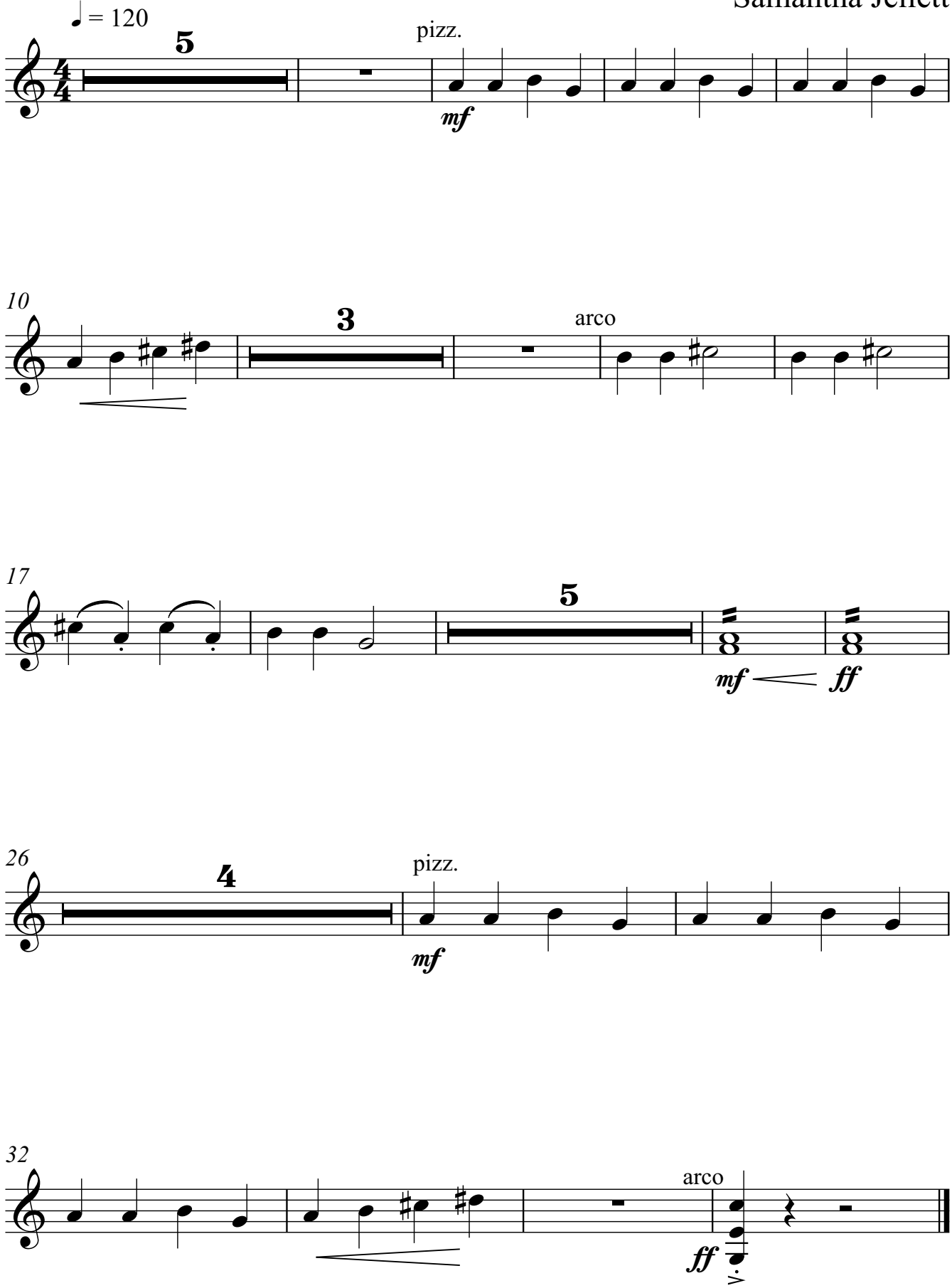
Violin I

The Chase

Samantha Jellett



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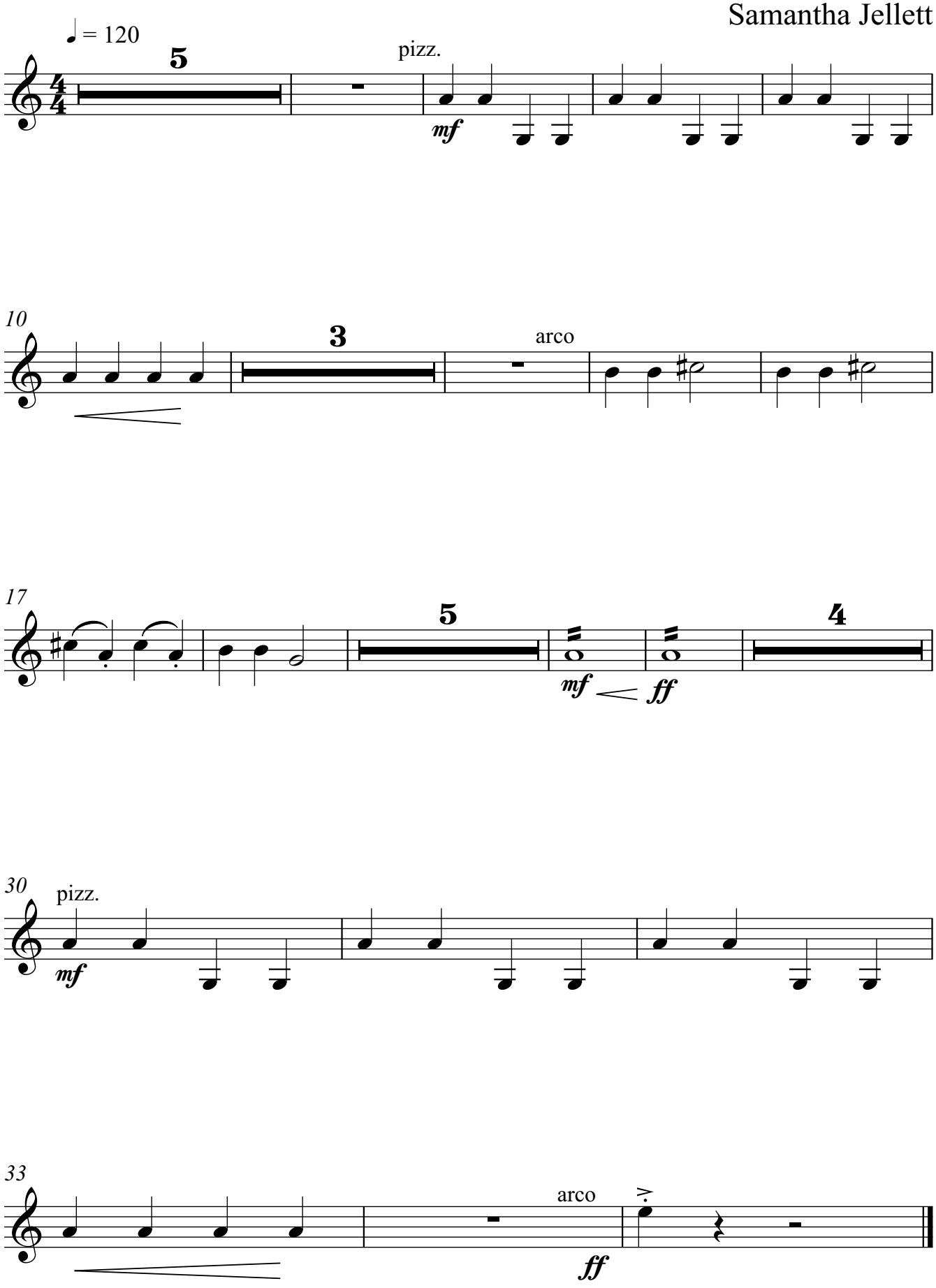
Violin II

The Chase

Samantha Jellett



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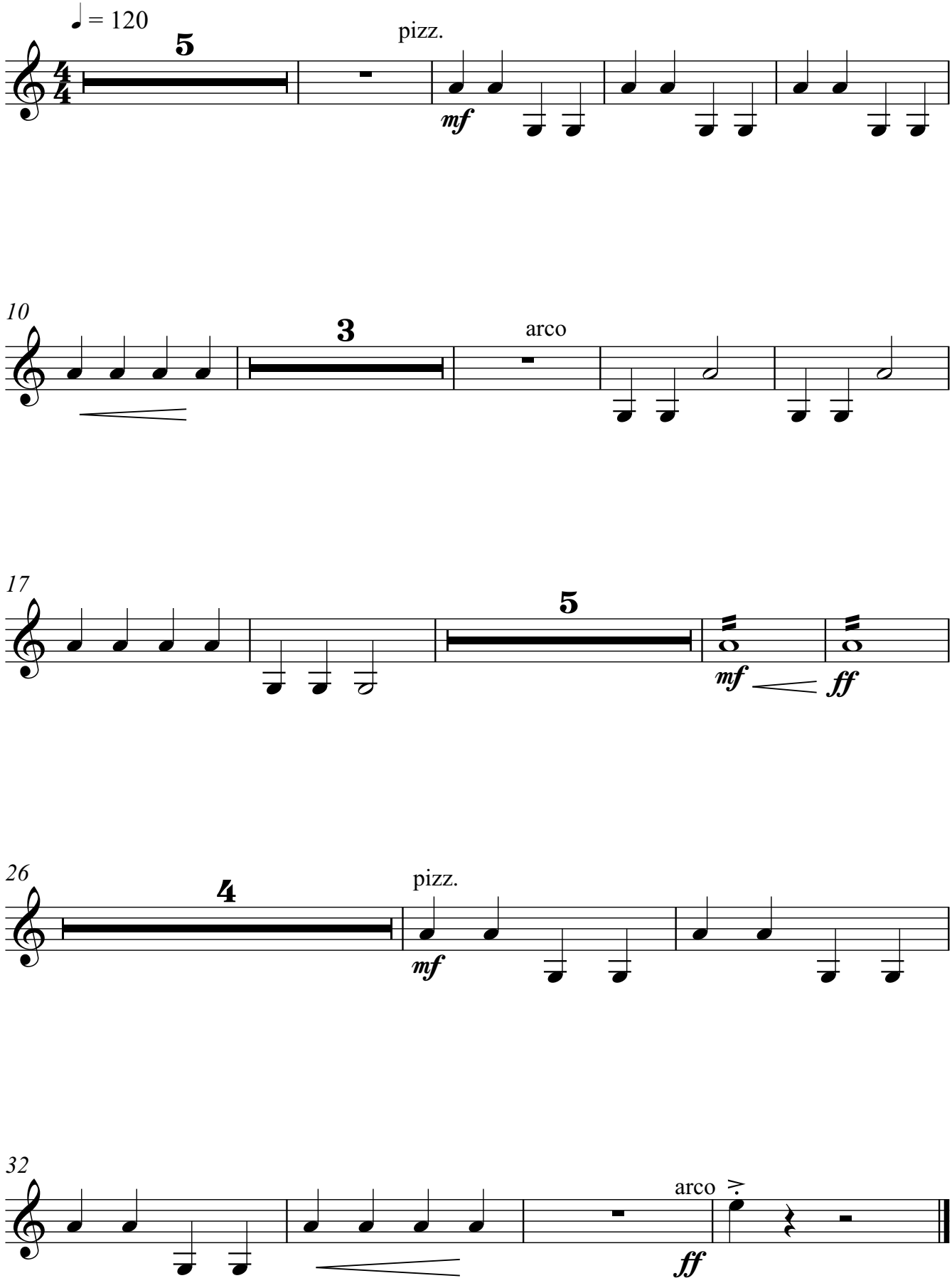
Violin III

The Chase

Samantha Jellett



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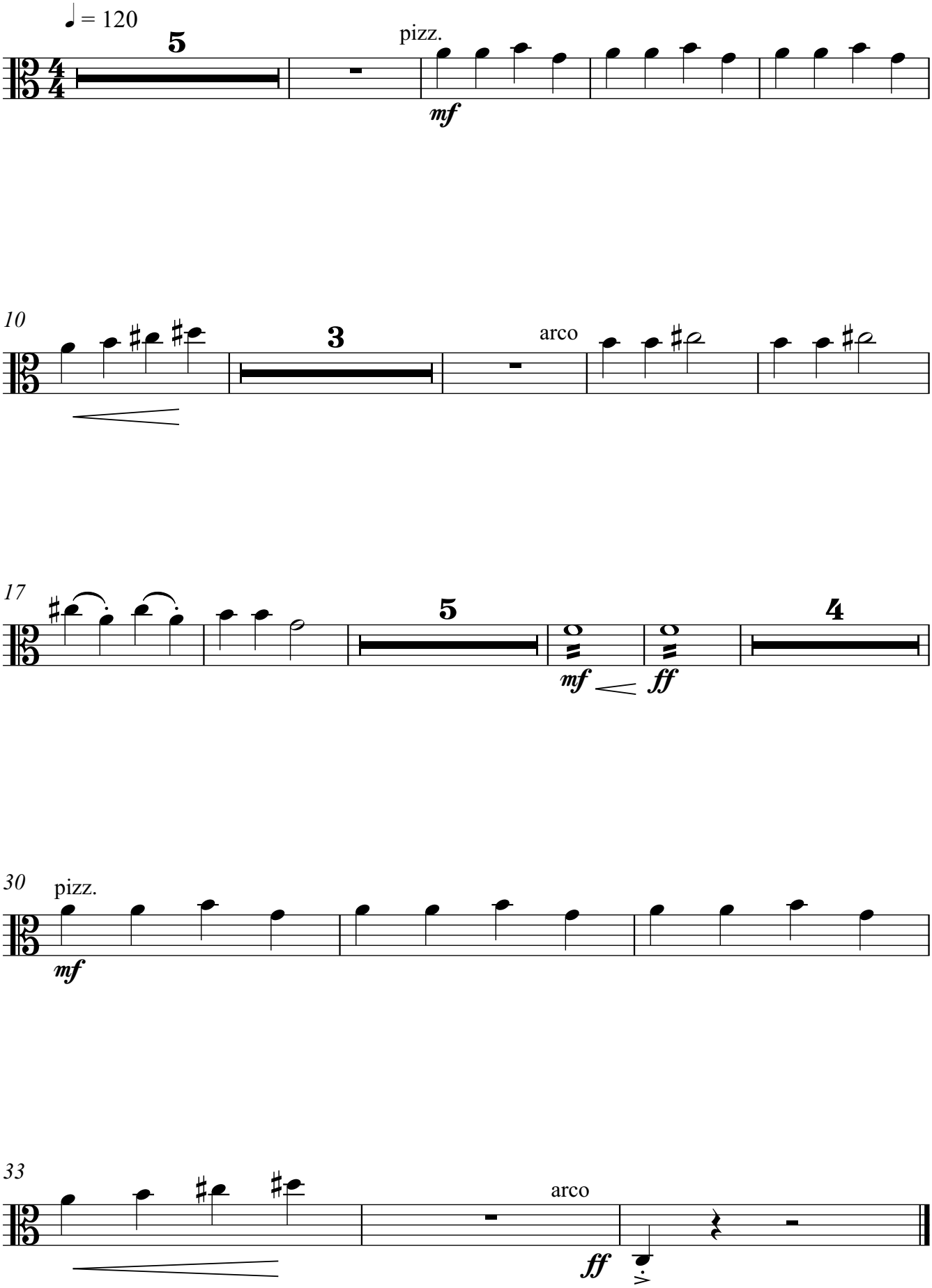
Viola

The Chase

Samantha Jellett



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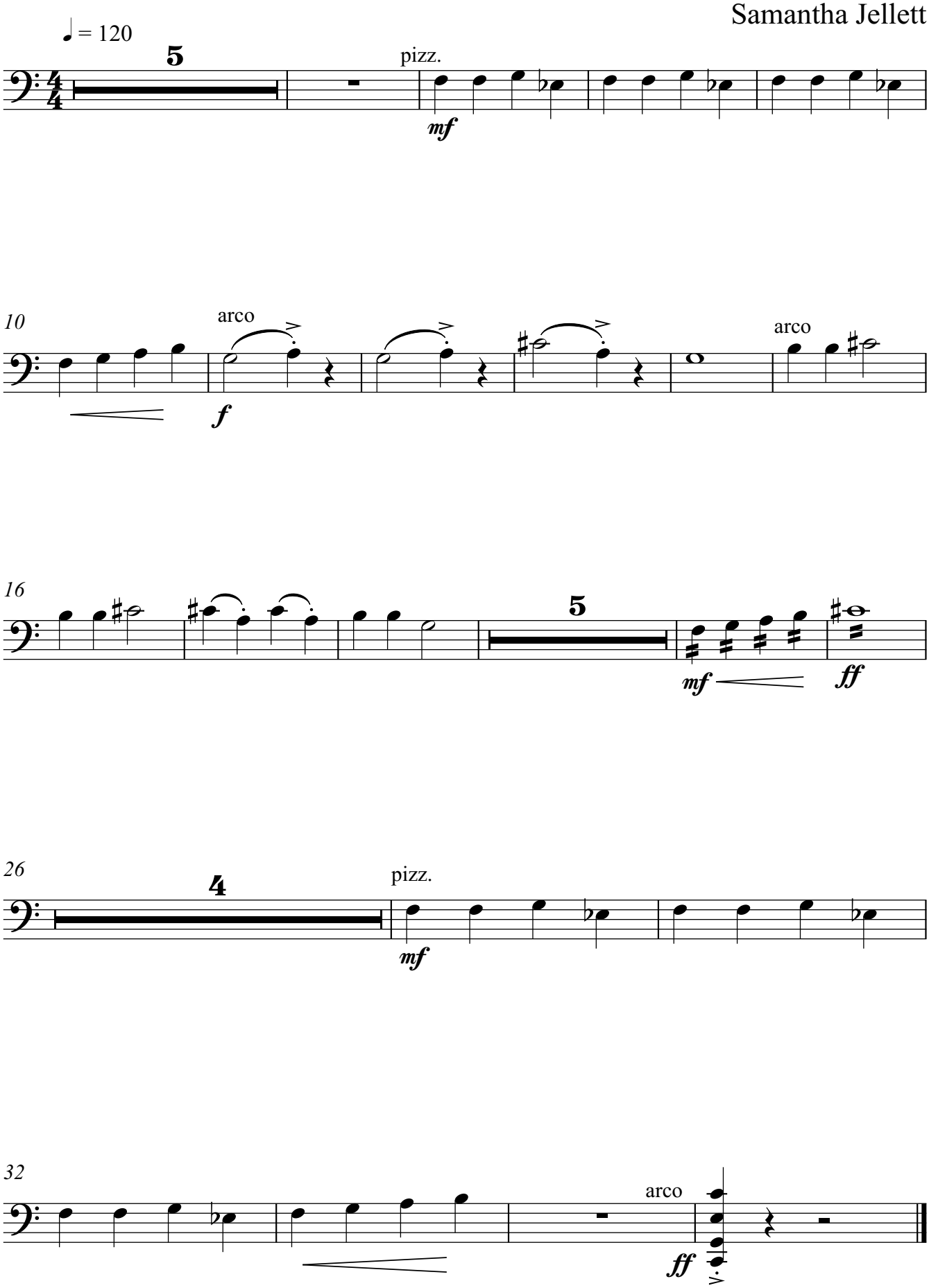
Violoncello

The Chase

Samantha Jellett



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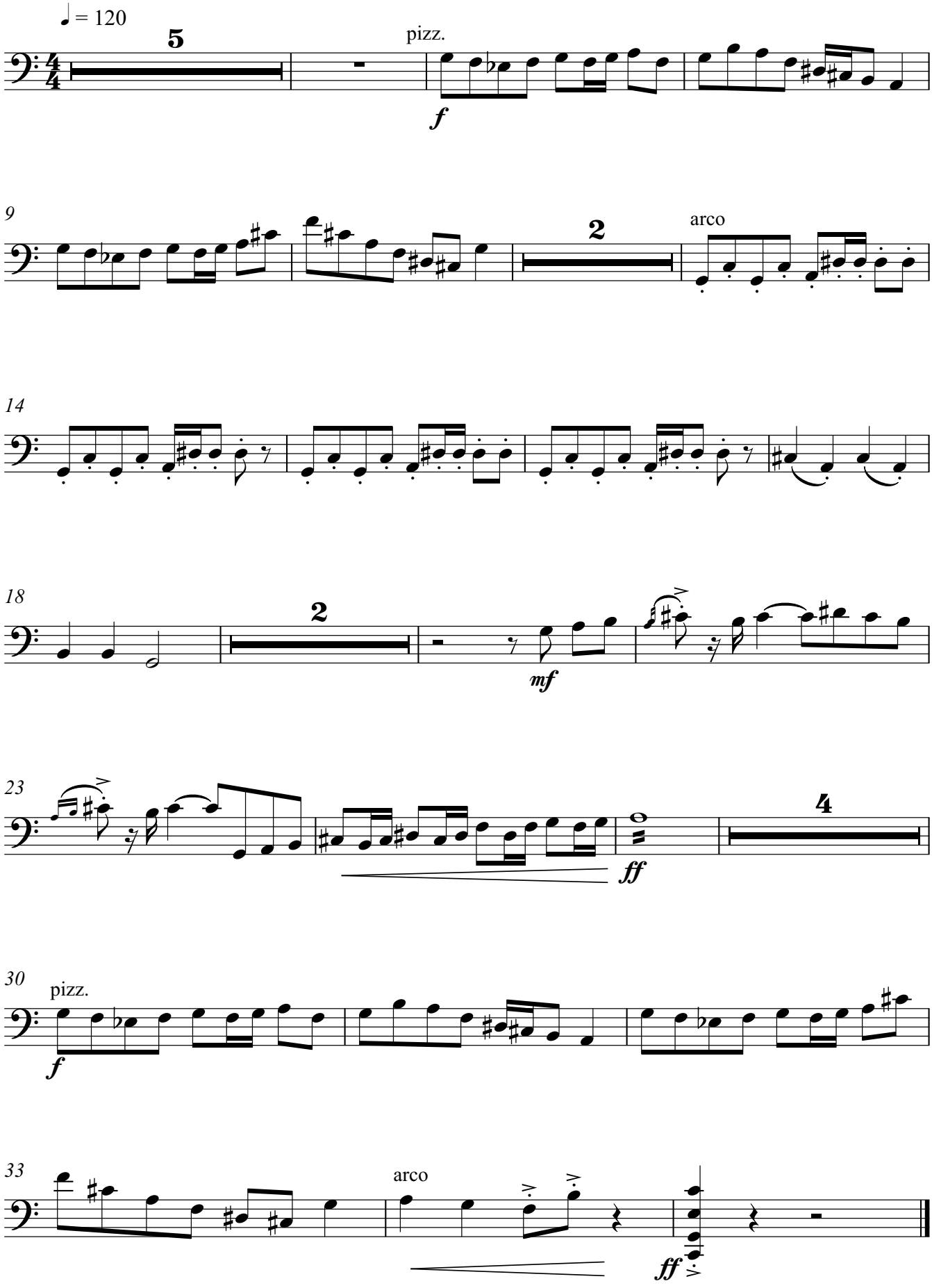
SOLO VIOLONCELLO

The Chase

Samantha Jellett



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SOLO VIOLA

The Chase

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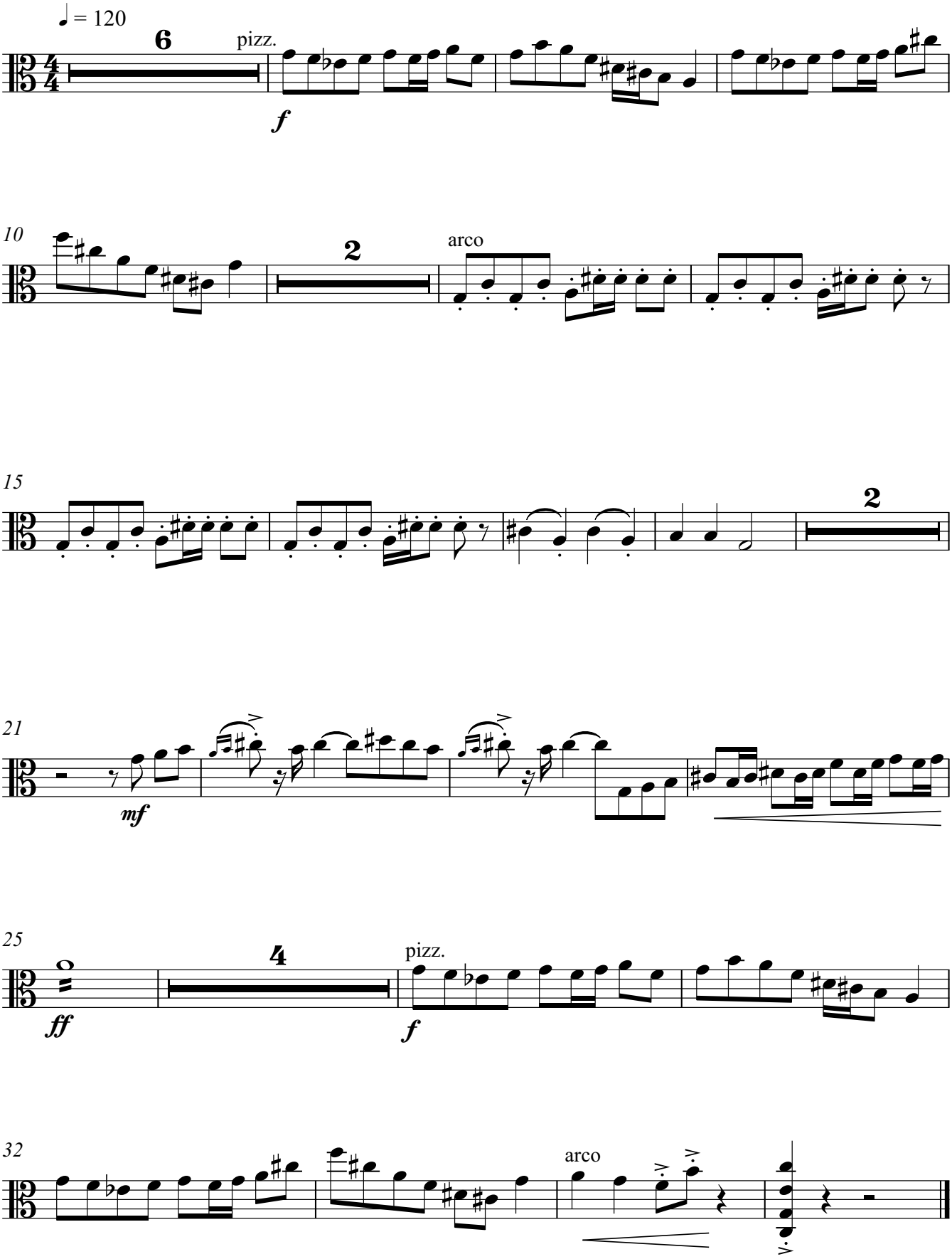

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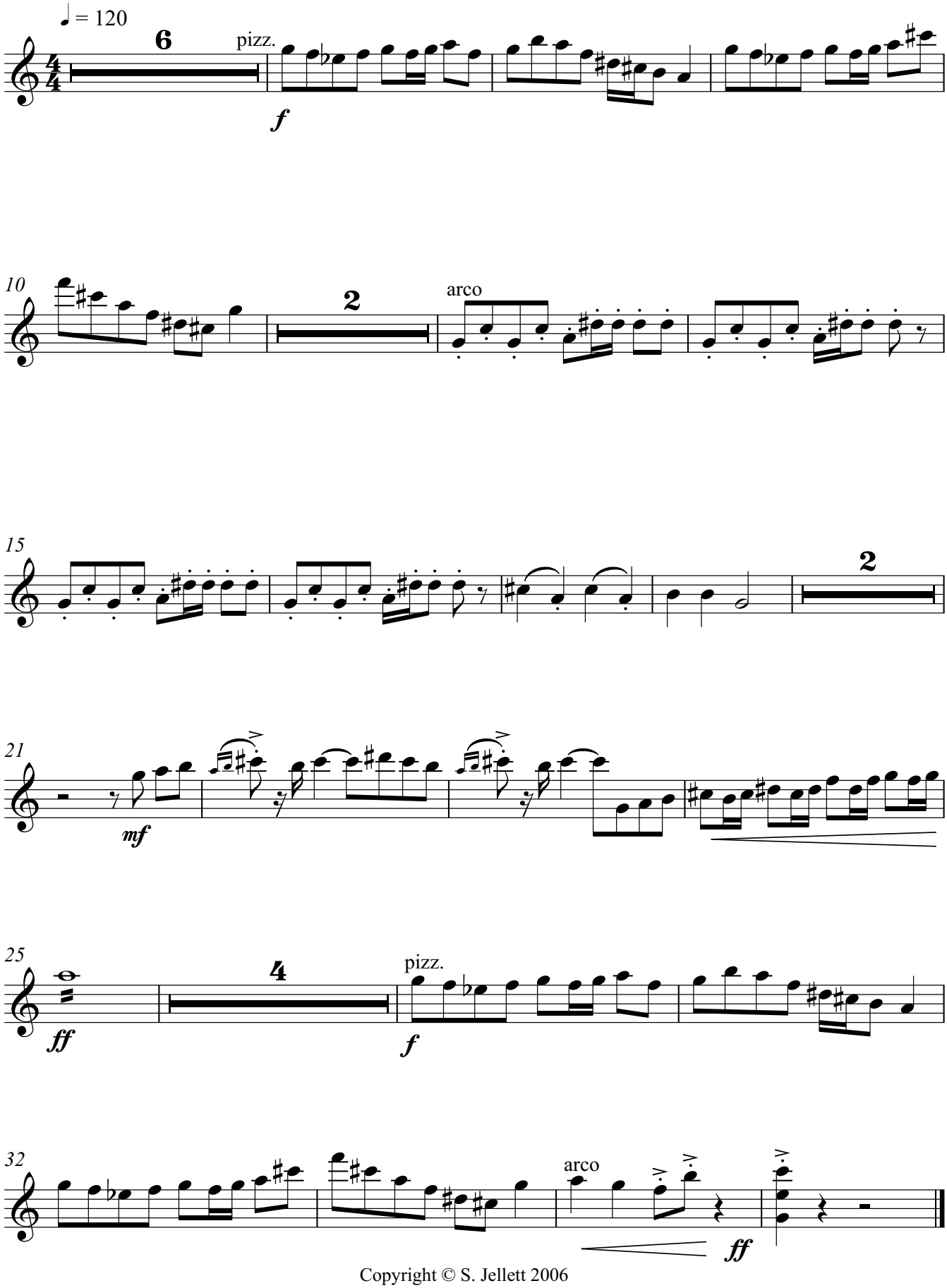
SOLO VIOLIN

The Chase

Samantha Jellett



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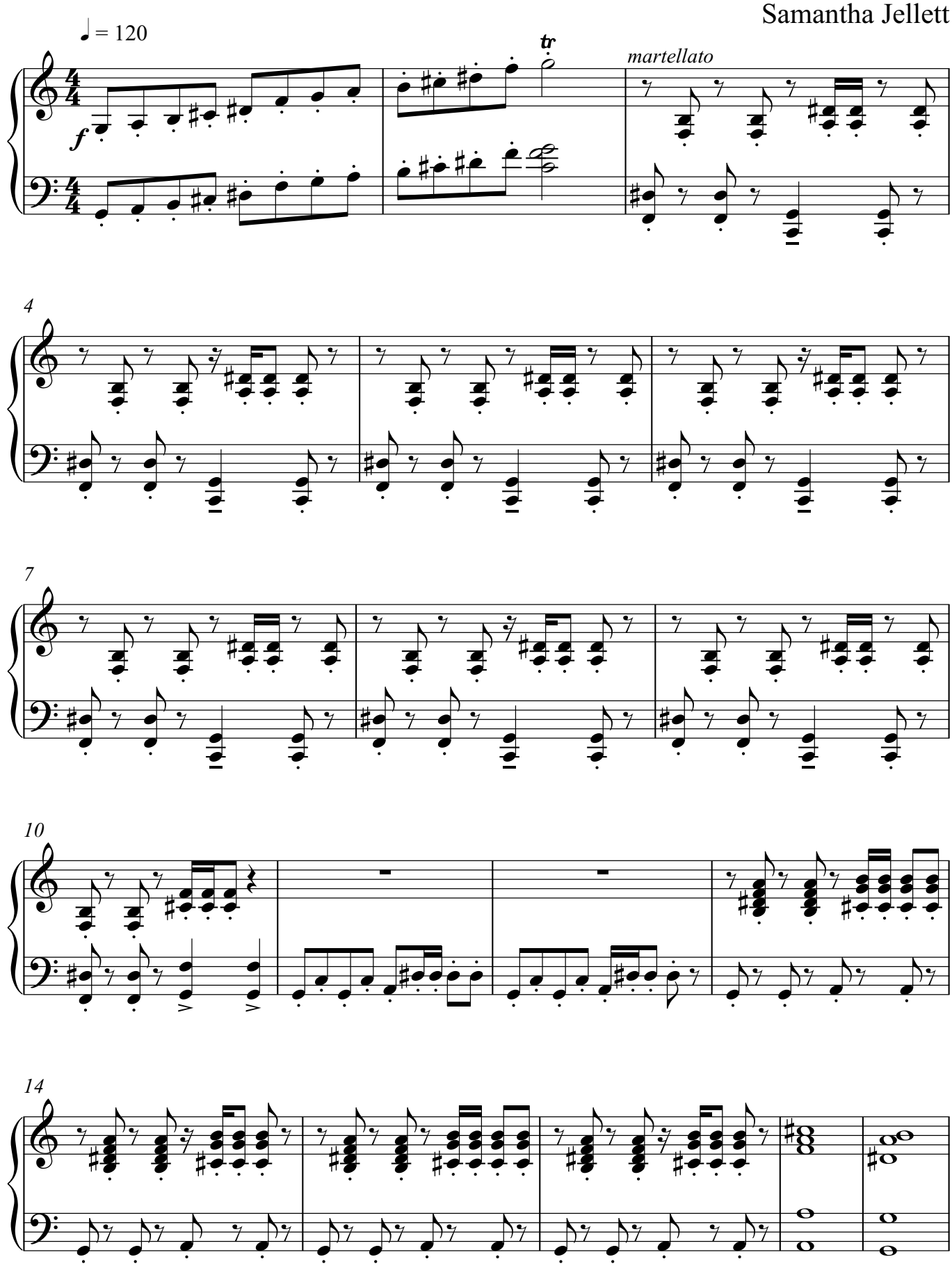
Piano

The Chase

Samantha Jellett



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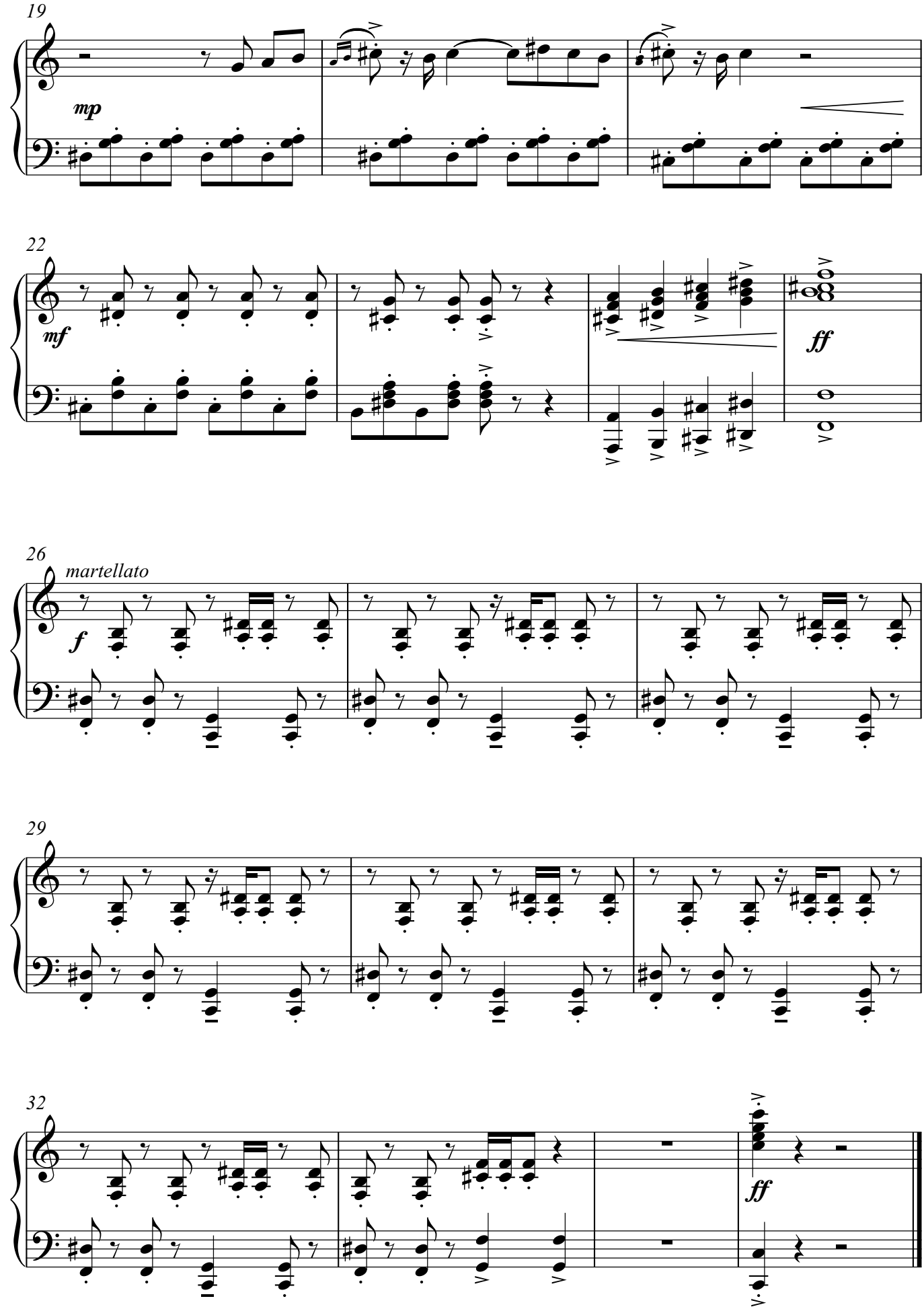
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This is the story of Max and Millie's Amazing Undersea Adventure.

One hot summer's day, Max and Millie were playing on the beach, splashing in the waves while their Mum and Dad sunbathed nearby.

Millie saw the dolphin first. It popped its head out of the water, and said, 'Hello', before disappearing again. 'Max!' cried Millie. 'That dolphin just talked to me!'

'Don't be silly,' scoffed Max. 'Dolphins don't come near the shore, and they certainly don't talk.'

Max jumped over a wave and found himself face to face with the dolphin. 'Hello,' the dolphin said again.

Max fell down in surprise. 'Told you, 'said Millie.

'My name is Shimmer,' said the dolphin. 'Would you like to come for a ride?'

Max and Millie nodded and climbed onto Shimmer's slippery, wet back.

'Hold on tight!' Shimmer told them, and they were off, gliding through the sparkling water and leaping over the waves. It was the most wonderful ride.

(Music: Dolphin Ride)

But Max and Millie weren't ready for what happened next. With an enormous dive, Shimmer took them right under the water, going deeper and deeper all the time.

'Help!' screamed Millie.
'Don't worry, 'Max reassured his sister. 'Look- we can breathe!'

Shimmer smiled. 'My magic will keep you safe. I just thought that you'd like to meet a special friend of mine. She's a mermaid.'

'Oh no- don't tell me that mermaids are real,' groaned Max. It was bad enough when his sister dressed up as one.

'You'll like this mermaid,' Shimmer told him as they flew past starfish and seahorses, crabs and coral reefs. 'Look, there she is!'

The mermaid was far lovelier than Millie could ever have imagined. She was sitting on a rock and singing a beautiful song as she brushed her hair.

(Music: The Mermaid's Song)

'I knew she'd be brushing her hair,' said Max.

The mermaid's name was Pearl, and she wore a pearl necklace and earrings that glistened with all of the colours of the rainbow.

Pearl invited Shimmer and the children to tea at the underwater palace. 'We'll have lemonade, 'she told them, 'and jellyfish and ice-cream…'

Before the children could ask Pearl what jellyfish tasted like, Shimmer suddenly cried out, 'Bronaca, Bronaca! Coming this way!'

The most terrifying sea creature imaginable was speeding towards them. It had the head of a shark and the body of an eel.

'Bronacas live in the depths of the ocean,' Pearl shouted as they all jumped on to Shimmer's back. 'No human has ever seen one before. Now go, Shimmer, go!'

The chase was on.

(Music: The Chase)

Shimmer leapt through the gates of the Undersea palace just in time. Defeated, the Bronaca snarled and swam away.

'Now we really need some tea,' said Pearl.'

They had a wonderful feast- fish and chips for everyone, and the jellyfish and ice-cream was quite delicious. All too soon, it was time to go.

Max and Millie's undersea adventure was nearly at an end, but not before another incredible……DOLPHIN RIDE!

Music: reprise Dolphin Ride