BBC NOW – Associate Leader
Audition Booklet, August 2025

BBC National Orchestra of Wales
Cerddorfa Genedlaethol Gymreig y BBC

In order to apply for this position, Candidates will need to register on MusicalChairs and **apply via the 'Apply via musicalchairs'** button to complete a short information form. Candidates will then follow the below application and audition process: **The deadline to complete the form on MusicalChairs is Sunday 14th September.**

The BBC National Orchestra of Wales aims to make the appointment process for its orchestral vacancies inclusive, transparent and accessible to players at all stages in their careers. Subject to operational capacity, all candidates who meet the minimum application criteria will have the opportunity to play to the panel and will be given a fair hearing according to the process below.

Minimum application criteria: completion of reputable classical music training (e.g. a music degree or equivalent) and ongoing experience in a similar position in professional orchestras (either freelance or contracted).

Stage 1: All candidates are invited to complete the online application form on Musical Chairs. This will be anonymously assessed by the BBC NOW Orchestra Management Team. Candidates will then progress to **Stage 2, 3** or **4**, based on pre-determined criteria. Candidates who evidence on the online application form a significant level of professional orchestral experience will be invited to progress to **Stage 3** and candidates who evidence an exceptional level of professional orchestral experience in equivalent positions will be invited to progress to **Stage 4**. All other candidates who meet the minimum application criteria will progress to **Stage 2**.

Stage 2: Candidates who progress to Stage 2 are required to send a short video submission consisting of the Stage 2 excerpts – Strauss *Also Sprach Zarathustra* (solos), Ravel *Mother Goose* (1st solo only – 3rd movement), Dvorak Symphony 8 (solo) and Haydn *Clock* (tutti) – as detailed in this booklet. The panel will hear the audio only. Successful candidates will be invited to progress to **Stage 3**.

Stage 3: Live audition; the requirements of this audition are laid out in this booklet and include the accompanied concerti with piano, excerpts, and sight reading. Live auditions will be held in two rounds: the first will be screened, the second will unscreened and take place later in the audition day. Stage 2 excepts may also be heard at Stage 3. Candidates successful at **Stage 3** will progress to **Stage 5**.

Stage 4: Candidates will be invited for a patch of assessed guest work in the orchestra in the relevant position. Candidates then may be invited to perform a live audition to the panel (equivalent to Stage 3) at a mutually convenient time, and, if successful, will progress to **Stage 5**.

Stage 5: Candidates will be invited for trial dates of work with the orchestra. Trial dates will include relevant sitting up, as appropriate and where necessary. Candidates will be assessed throughout the trial stage and feedback may be given/requested at any point in the trial. BBC NOW have the ambition that all trials will be completed in a timely manner, whilst ensuring opportunities for relevant candidates to demonstrate their skills across a broad range of repertoire.

Assessment criteria

Musicianship (to include musical understanding of works performed, approaches to style, phrasing, and harmony)
Technical accomplishment (to include intonation, rhythmic stability and accuracy, and clarity of articulation)

Live Audition Dates
We anticipate holding live auditions in Cardiff from November 2025 and audition dates will be communicated via MusicalChairs.

Audition Information

Stage 2
Please record the following excerpts for Stage 2.

Strauss	*Also Sprach Zarathustra* (solos)
Ravel	*Mother Goose* (1st solo only – 3rd movement)
Dvorak	Symphony 8 (solo)
Haydn	*Clock Symphony* (tutti)

Recordings should be submitted via Musical Chairs.

Stage 3

Live auditions will be in two rounds. The first round will be screened, and the second round unscreened. In **Round 1,** the panel will hear the Mozart concerto and excerpts. Successful candidates at Round 1 will be invited back for Round 2 which will take place later in the audition day. In **Round 2,** the panel will hear the romantic or 20th century concerto, excerpts, and sight reading.

Please prepare the following:
2 x accompanied pieces (1 Mozart concerto and 1 romantic or 20th century concerto):

1. Mozart Violin Concerto in G, D or A 1st Movement
2. A romantic or 20th century concerto of the candidate's choice 1st Movement

An accompanist will be provided for this, please do not bring your own pianist.

Orchestral Excerpts:
All excerpts in this booklet may be required for the live auditions. (These are listed and presented overleaf). The excerpts are a mixture of solo and tutti excerpts. Stage 2 excerpts may also be heard in Stage 3.

Sight reading:
Sight reading may also be required. This will be presented to candidates in their warm-up room to prepare before their 2nd round audition.

Visa Sponsorship

This role does not attract visa sponsorship. Candidates who are not able to evidence their right to work in the UK will not be considered for this role. It remains the candidate's responsibility:

A) to ensure they can demonstrate they hold valid documentation proving their eligibility to working in the UK required throughout the recruitment process including any trial period(s) before an offer of employment.

B) to ensure they can demonstrate they hold valid documentation proving their eligibility to commence the BBC role on the commencement date.

We will carry out right to work checks prior to any work taking place and reserve the right to cancel offers of work where right to work cannot be evidenced by the candidate.

If you have any access requirements for the audition, or require the materials in an alternative format, please email Nick Olsen, Assistant Orchestra Manager: nick.olsen@bbc.co.uk

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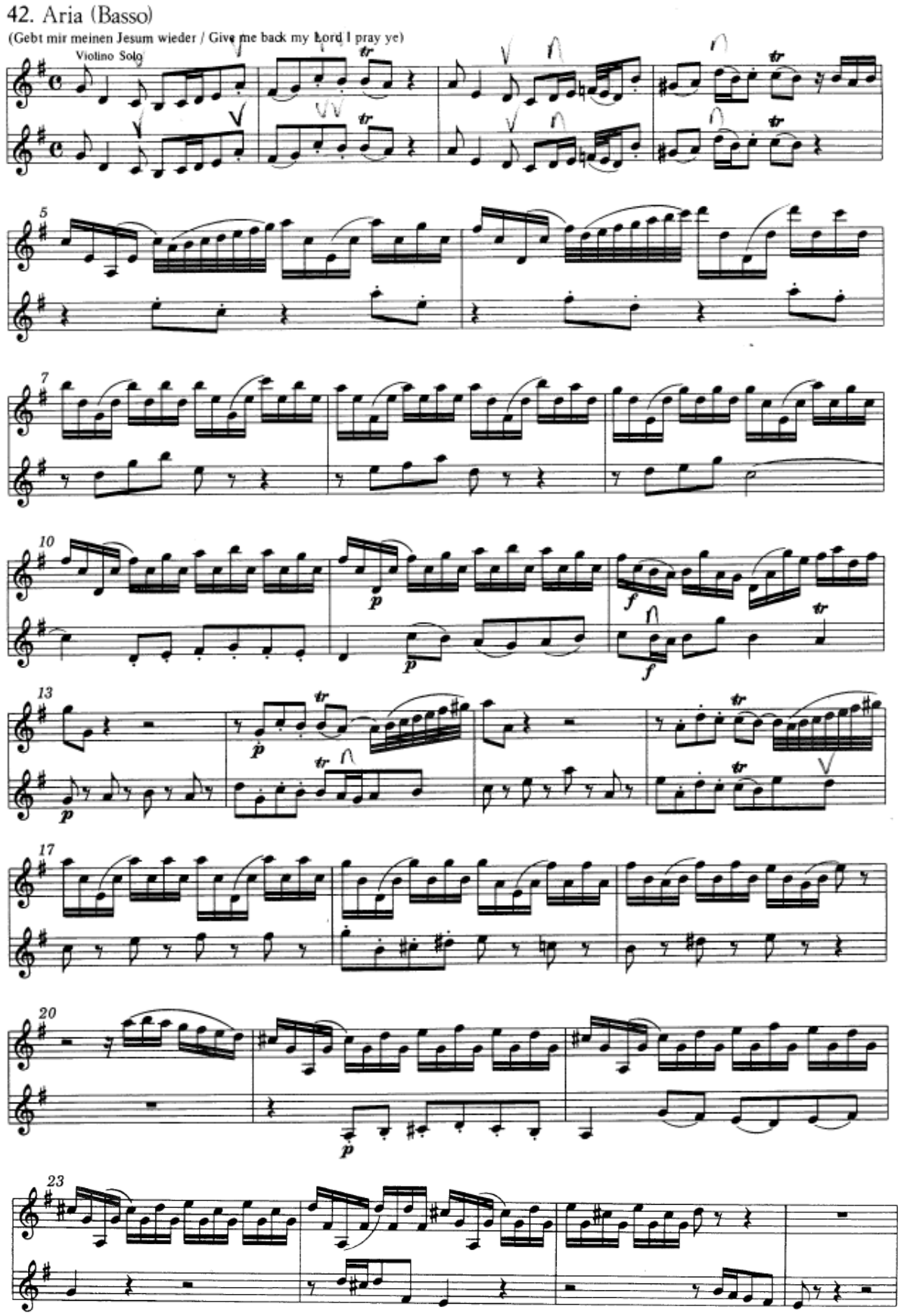
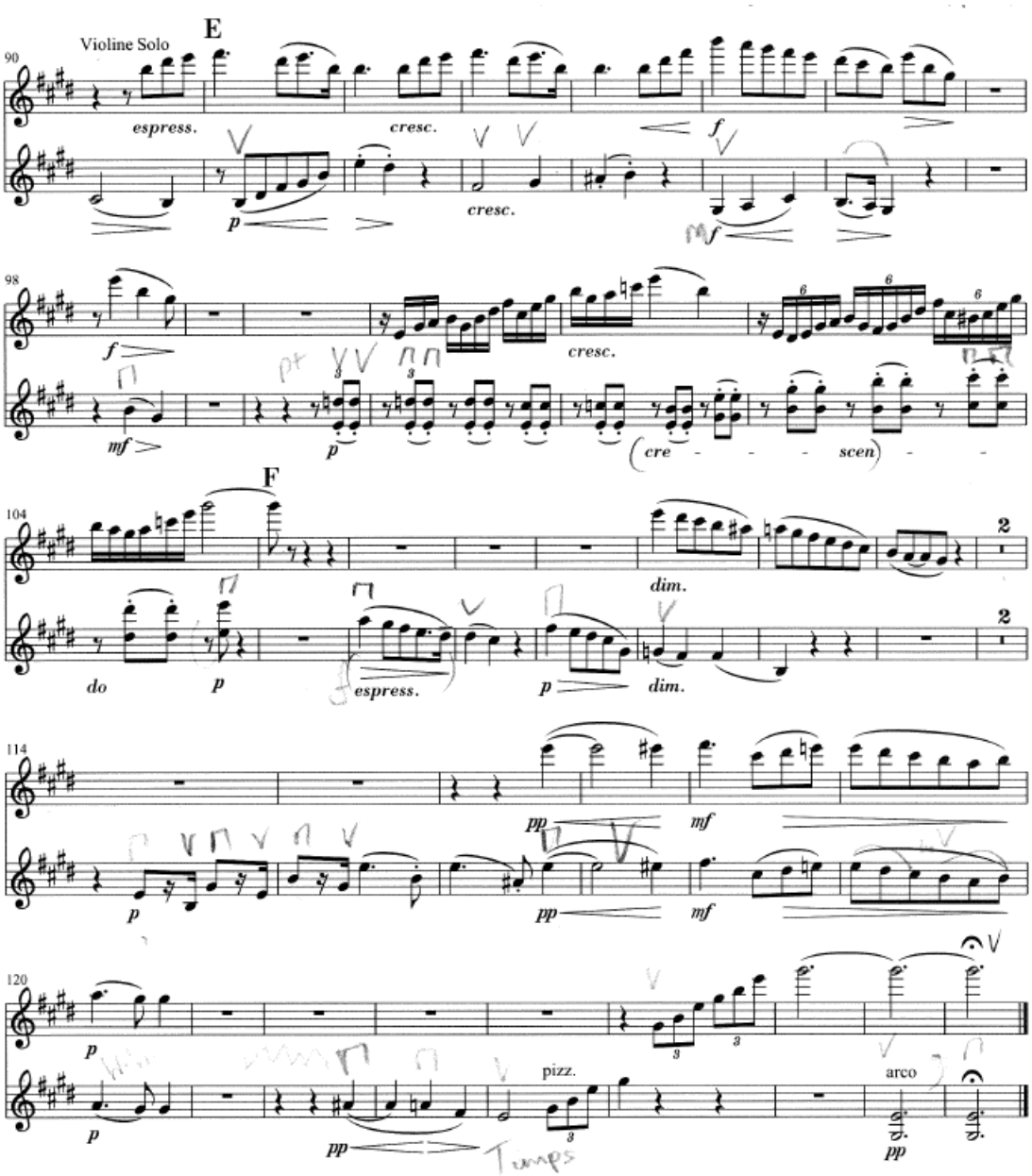
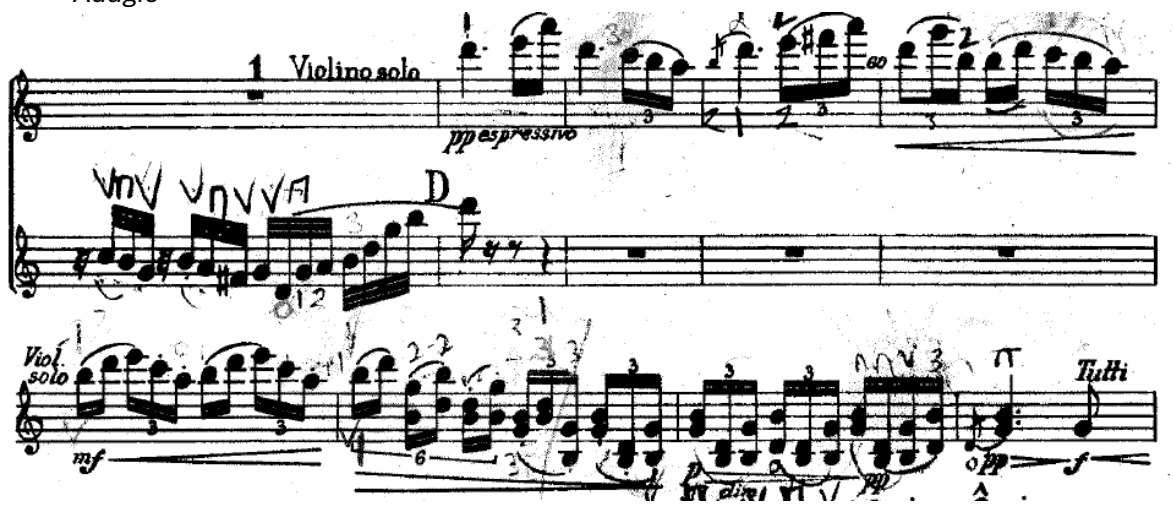

42. Aria (Basso)
(Gebt mir meinen Jesum wieder / Give me back my Lord I pray ye)
Violino Solo

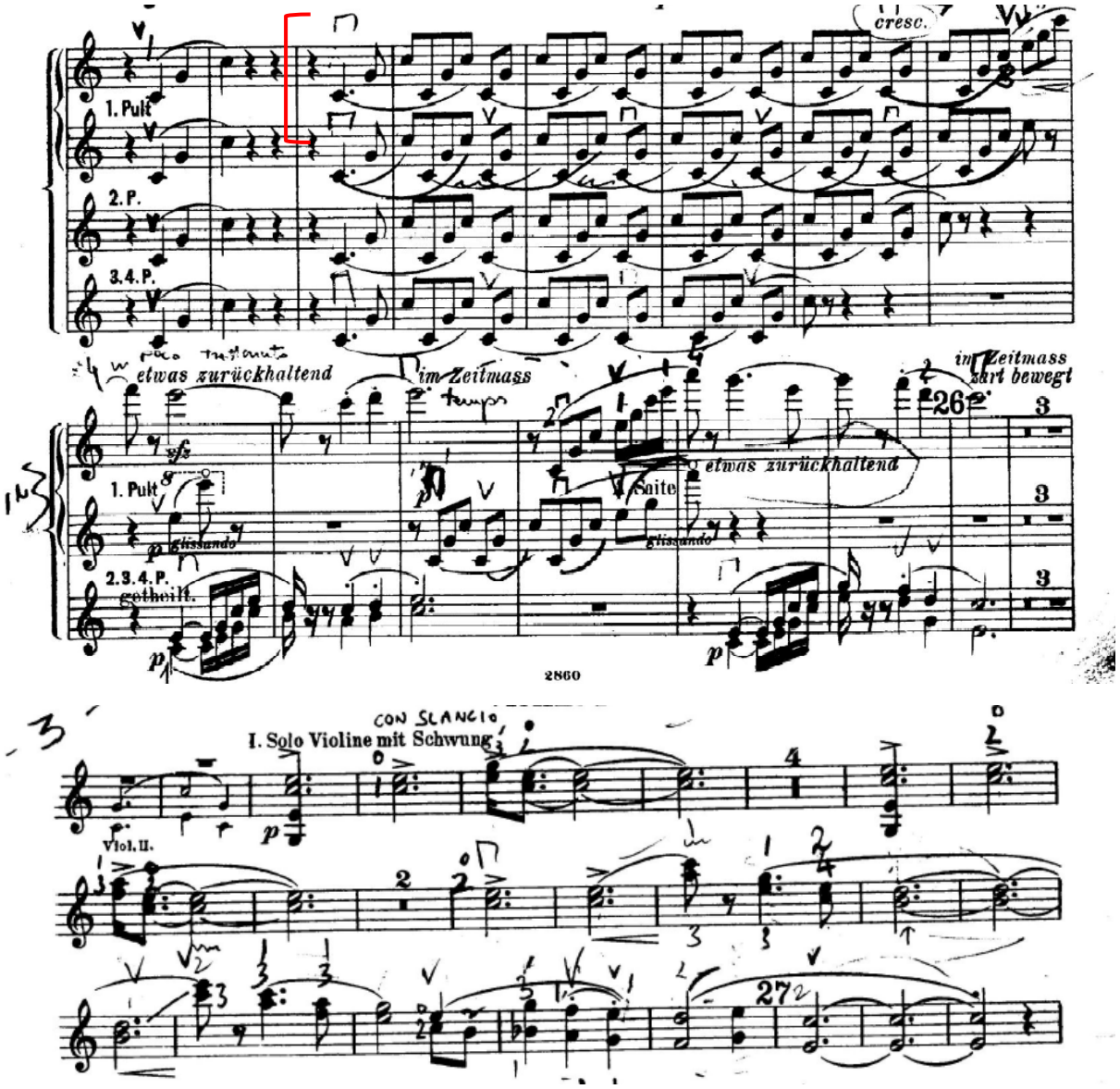
Andante sostenuto

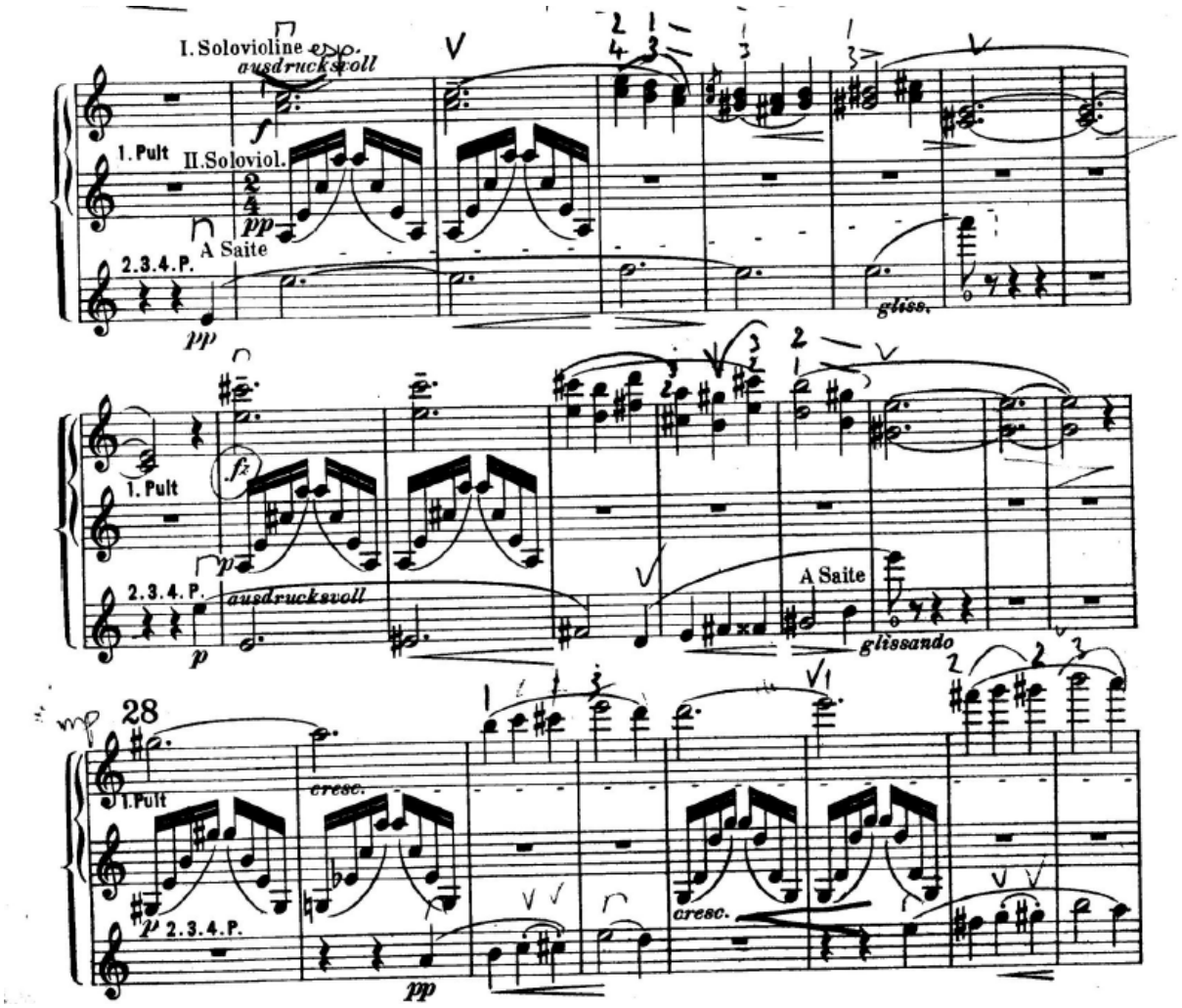


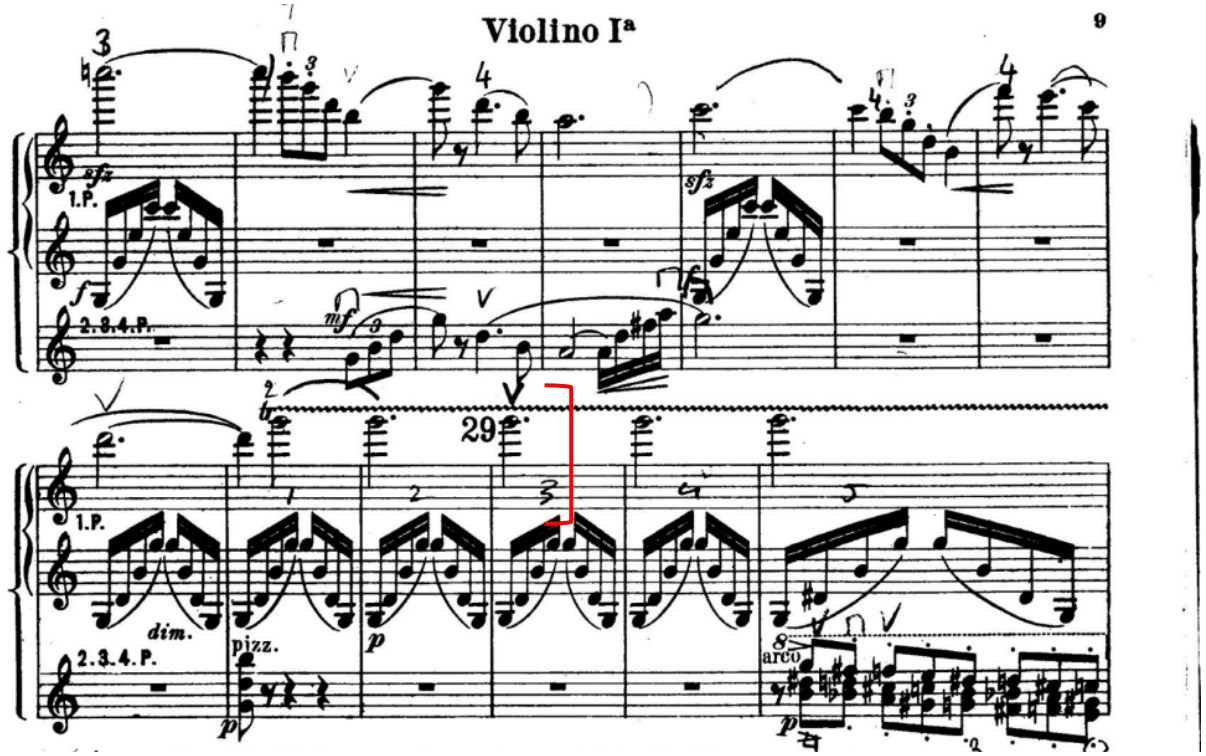
Adagio



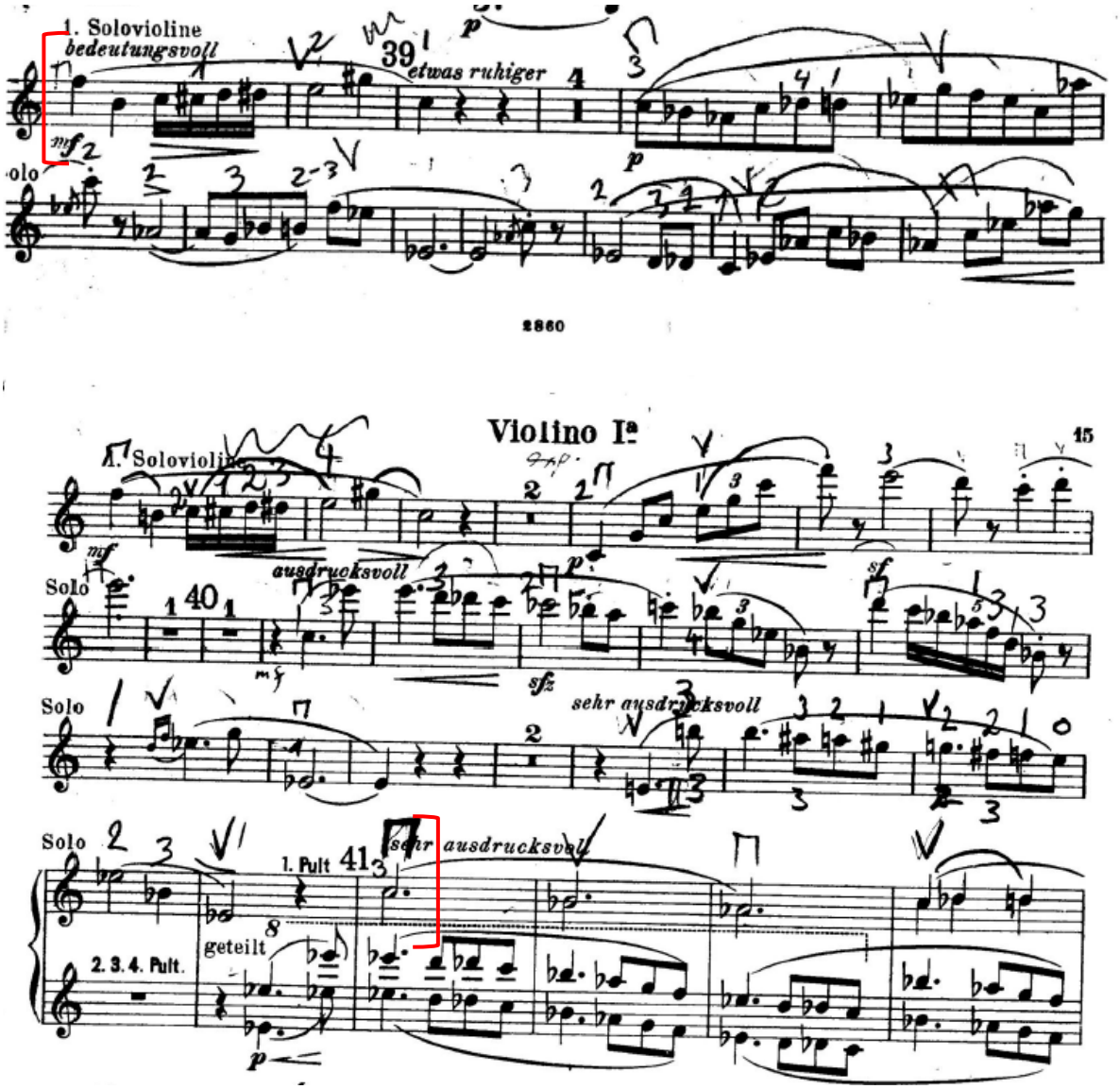
Assistant Leader Also Sprach - 12 bars before fig. 26 – fig. 29 (top line only) Strauss




I. Solovioline
ausdrucksvoll
1. Pult
II. Soloviol.
A Saite
2.3.4.P.
gliss.
A Saite
glissando
ausdrucksvoll
28
cresc.

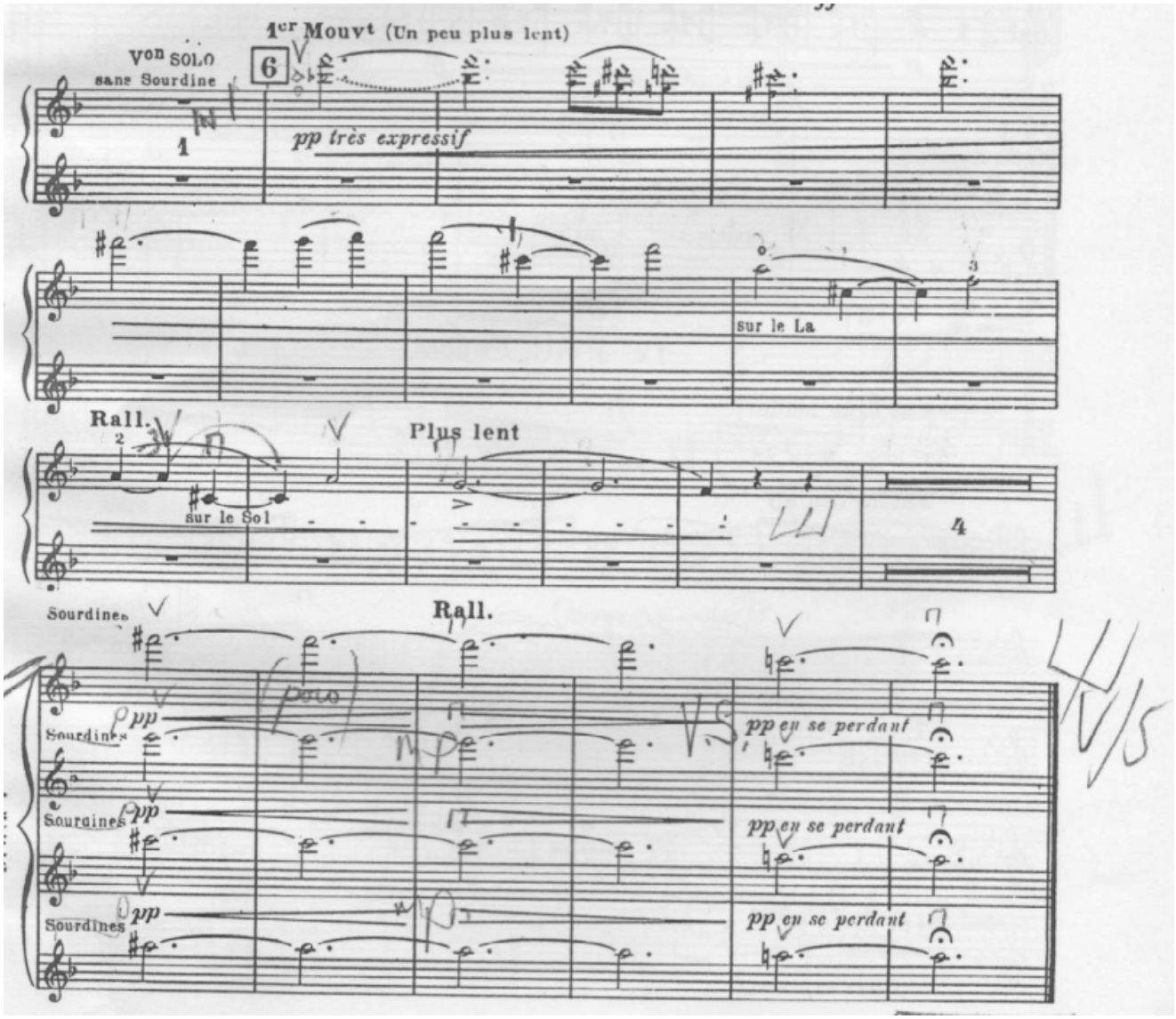

Violino Iª
9
1.P.
2.3.4.P.
29
dim.
pizz.
arco

Assistant Leader Also Sprach – 2 bars before fig. 39 – fig. 41 Strauss



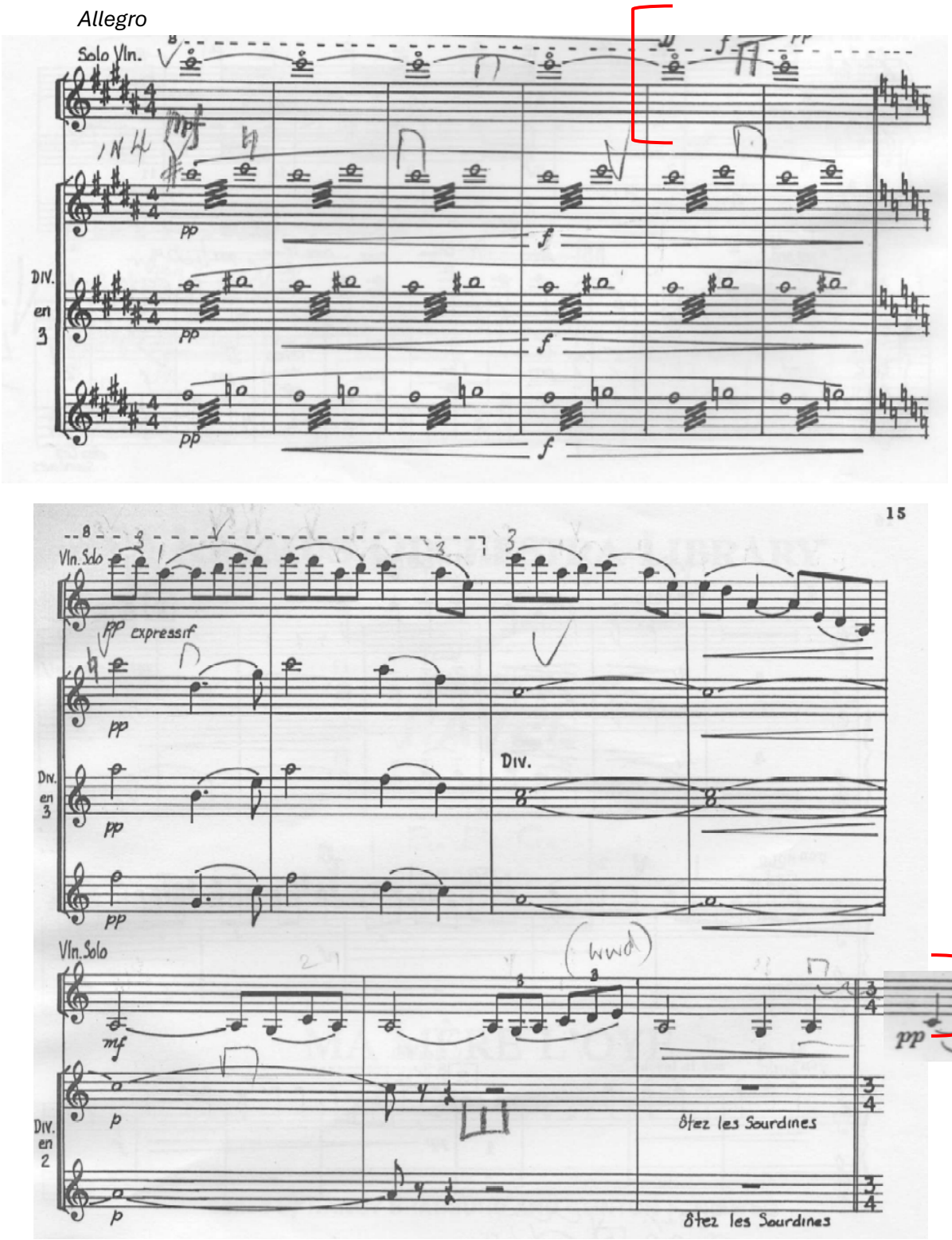
Assistant Leader Mother Goose Movement 3 fig. 6 – end Ravel

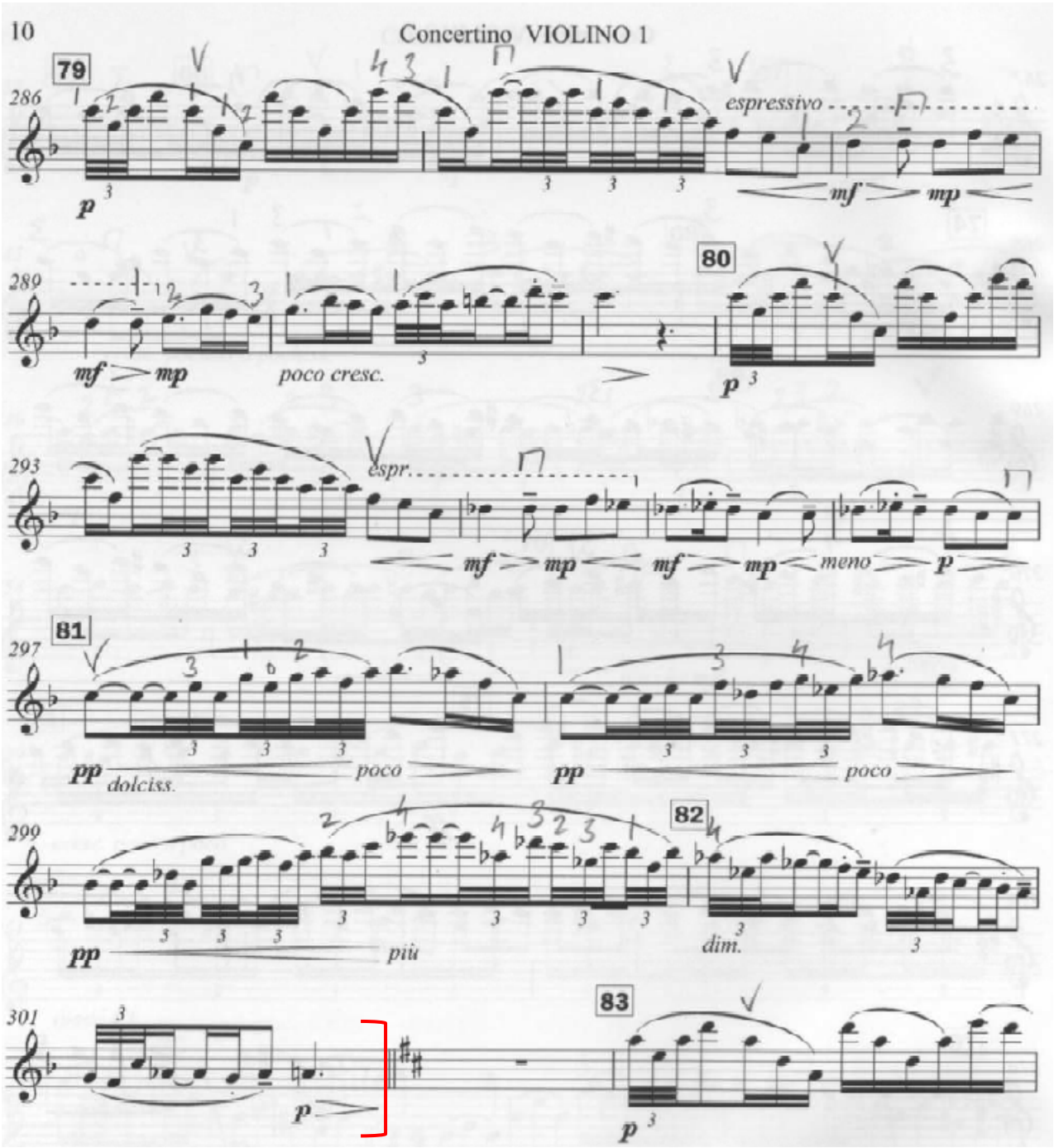
Mouvement de valse modere

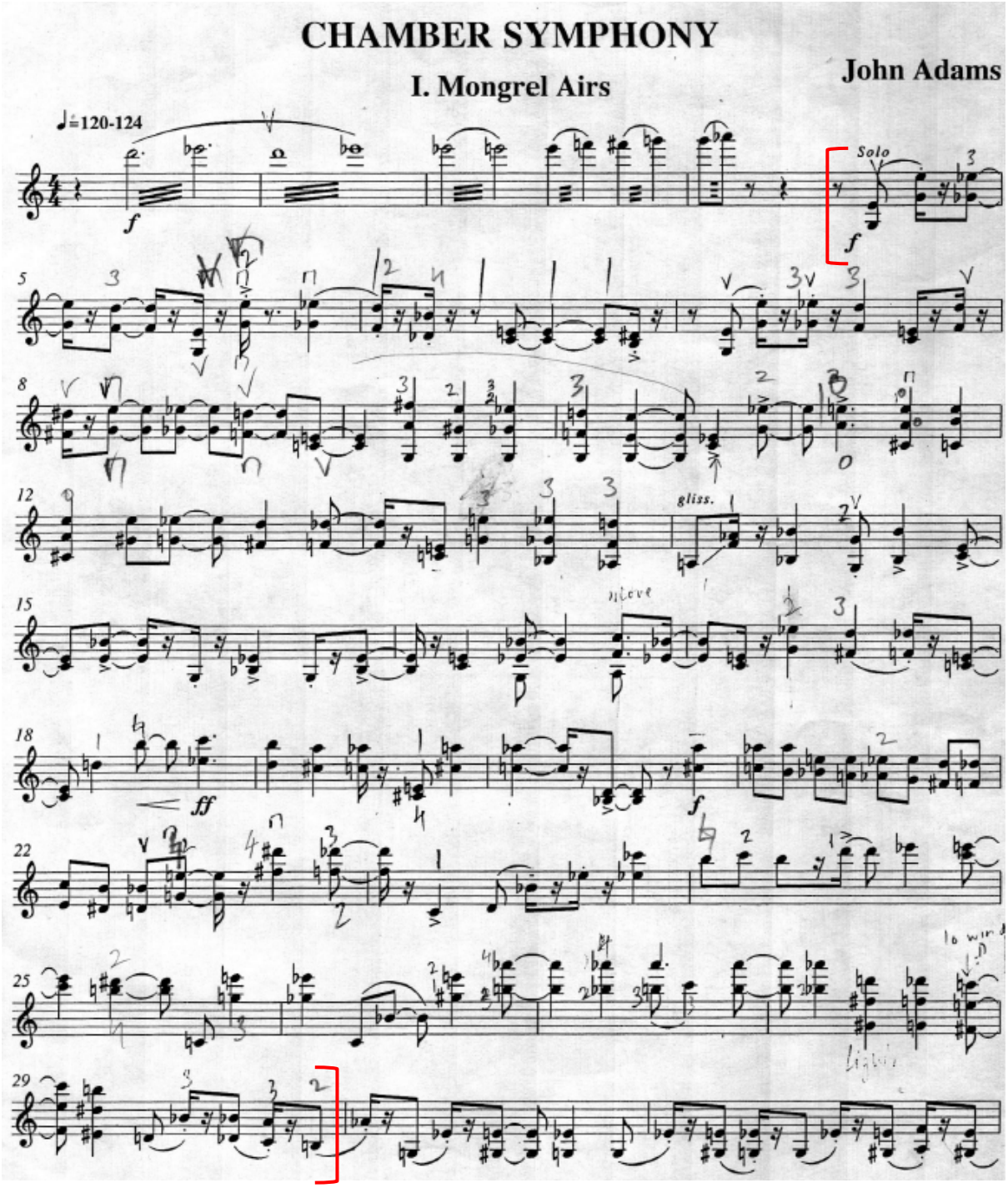


Assistant Leader Ravel

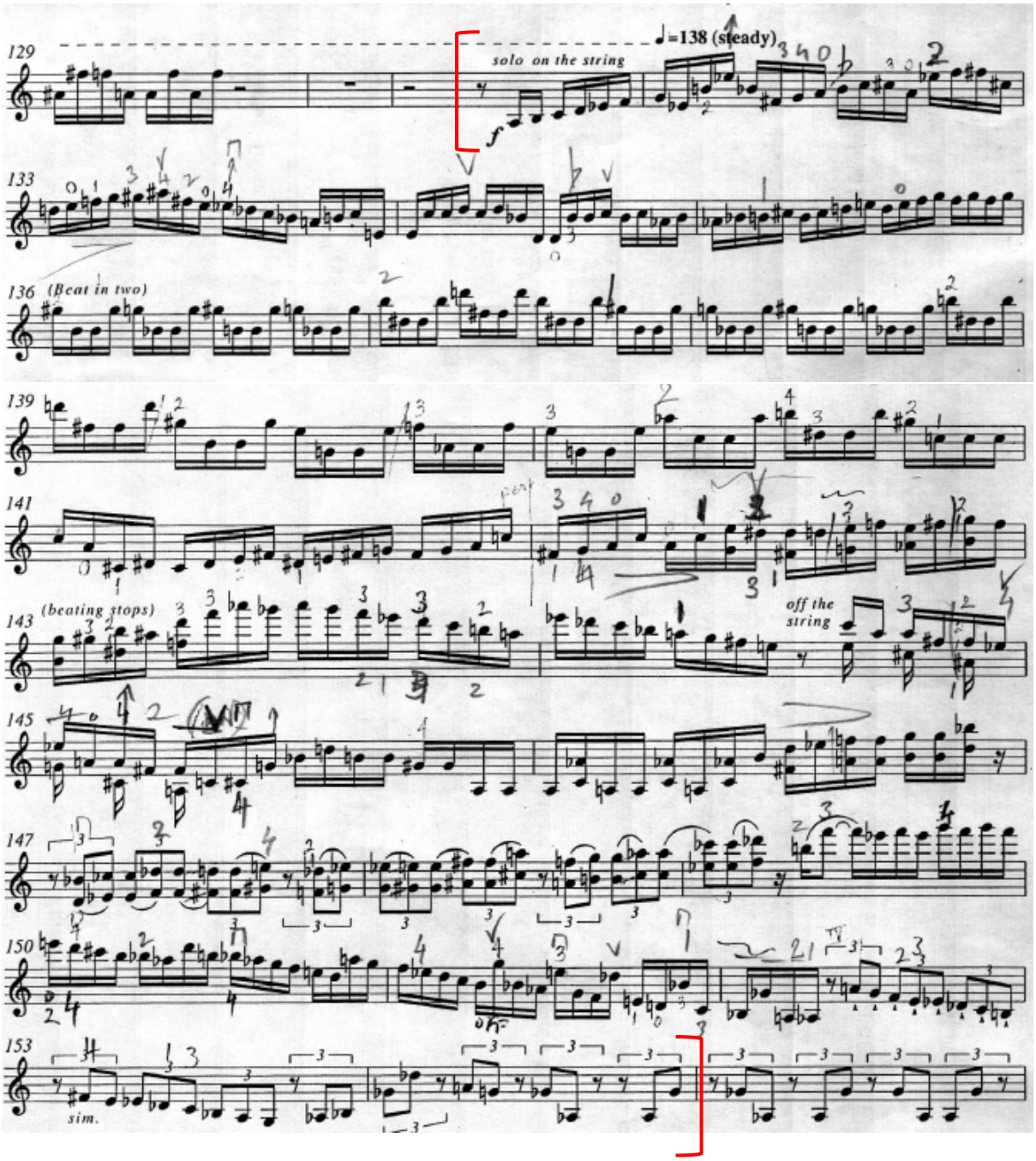
Mother Goose, movement V – final 9 bars to first note of movement VI (solo part)



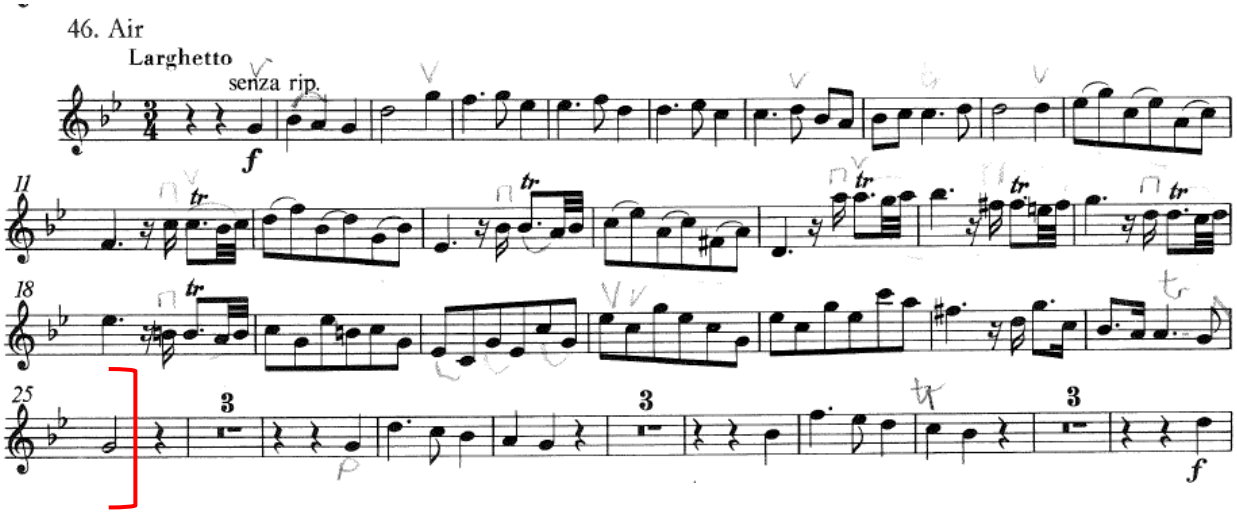

10
Concertino VIOLINO 1
79
286
espressivo
p
mf
mp
289
80
mf
mp
poco cresc.
p
293
espr.
mf
mp
mf
mp
meno
p
81
297
pp
dolciss.
poco
pp
poco
299
82
pp
più
dim.
301
83
p
p

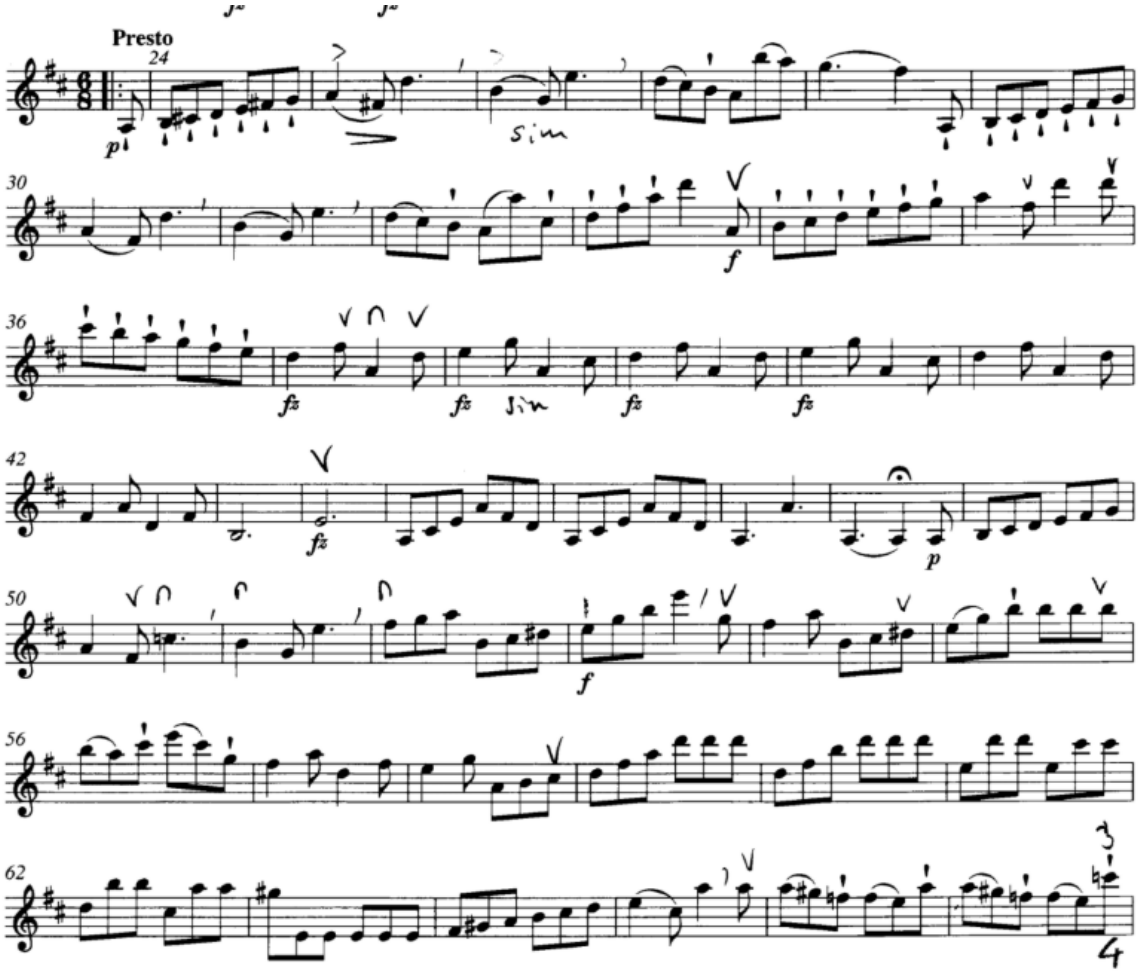

CHAMBER SYMPHONY
I. Mongrel Airs
John Adams
♩=120-124
Solo
gliss.

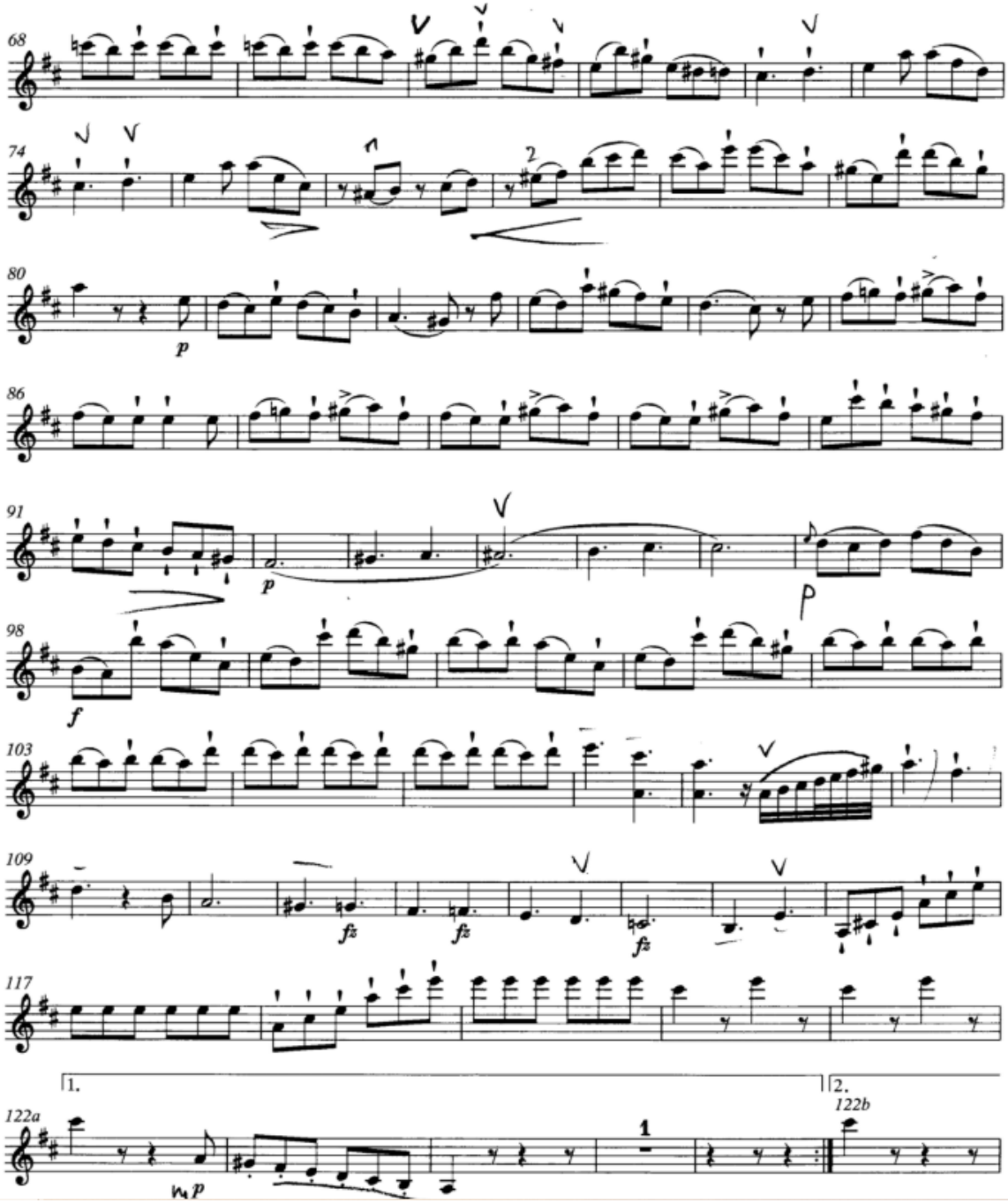
Assistant Leader Chamber Symphony movement 3 b. 131 – b. 154 Adams

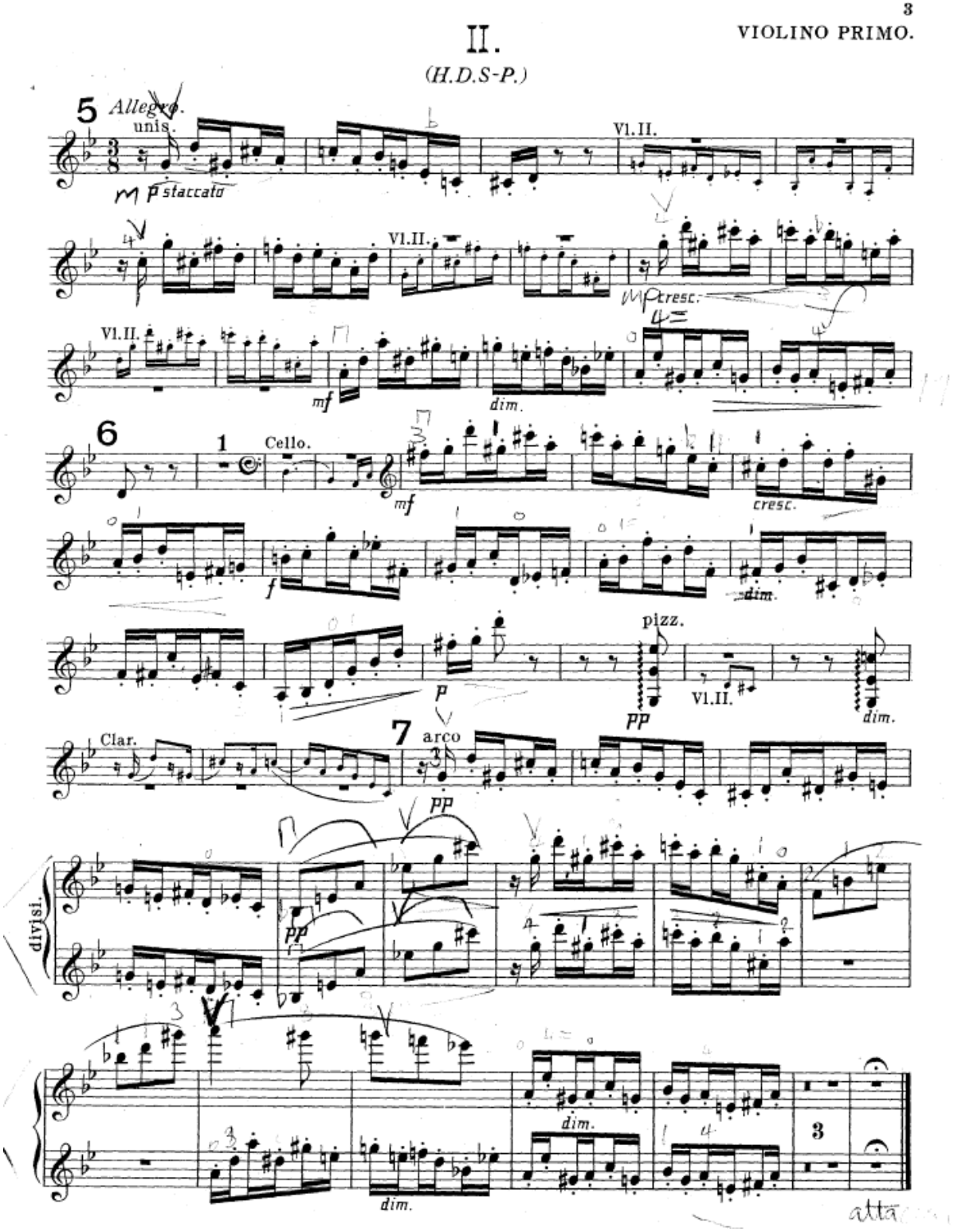


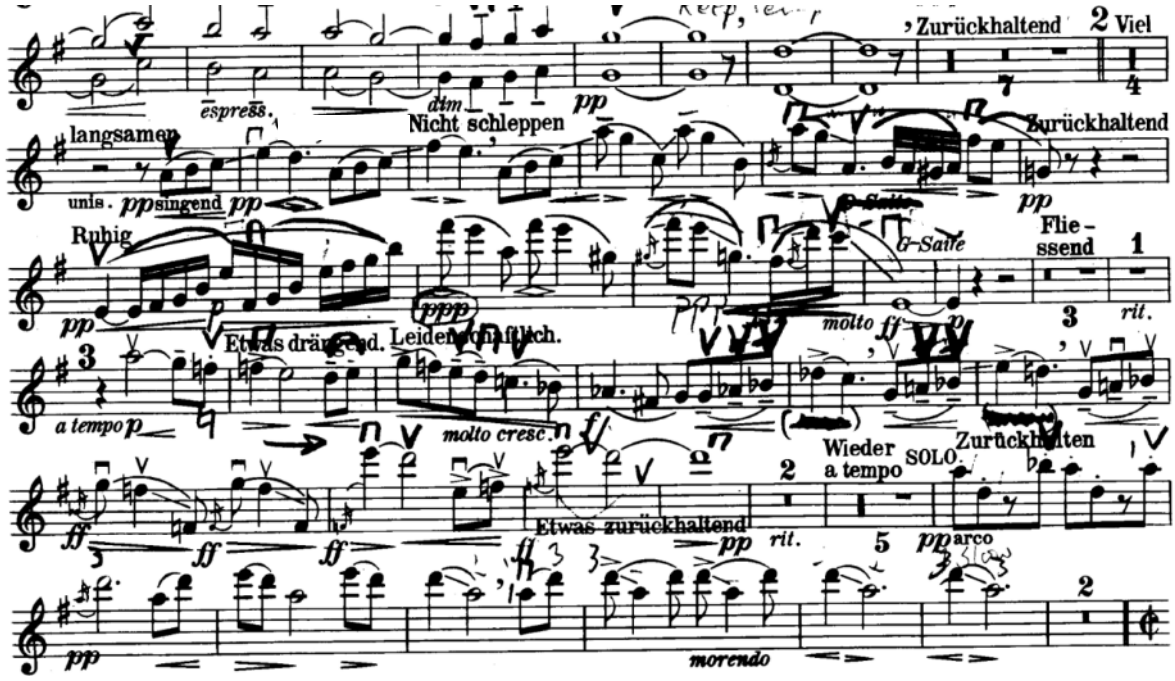
Assistant Leader Messiah, no. 46, beginning – b. 25 Handel

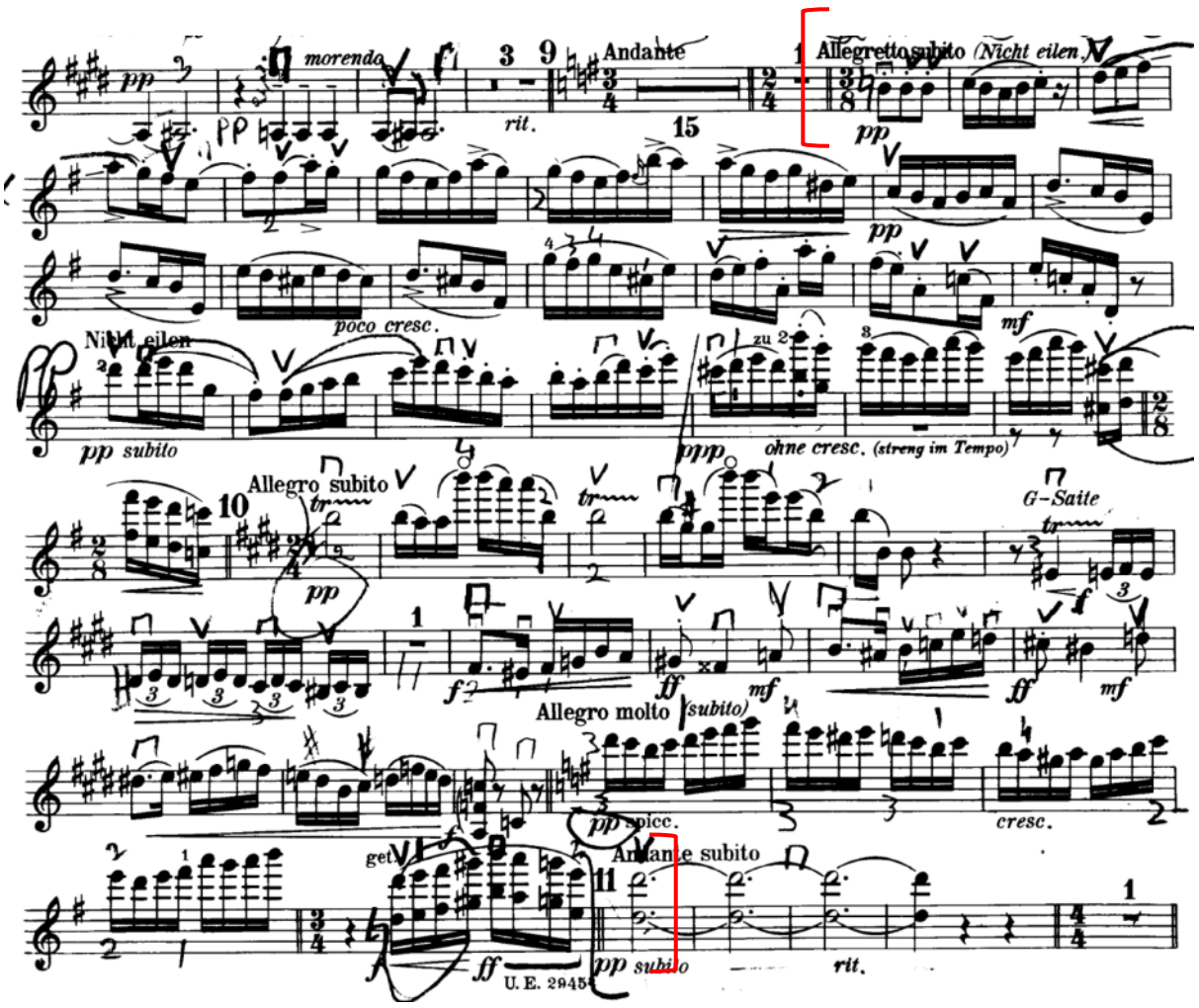



Presto
24
sim
30
f
36
fz
sim
42
fz
p
50
f
56
62
4


68
74
80
p
86
91
p
98
f
103
109
fz
fz
fz
117
1.
2.
122a
122b
mp
1


II.
(H.D.S-P.)
5
Allegro.
unis.
staccato
Vl.II.
cresc.
mf
dim.
6
1
Cello.
cresc.
pizz.
Clar.
7
arco
divisi.
3


Zurückhaltend
2 Viel
espress.
dim.
Nicht schleppen
pp
langsamen
Zurückhaltend
unis.
pp singend pp
pp
Ruhig
G-Saite
G-Saite
Flie-
ssend
1
pp
pppp
molto ff
3
rit.
Etwas drängend.
Leidenschaftlich.
3
a tempo p
molto cresc.
ff
Wieder
a tempo
SOLO
Zurückhalten
2
ff
ff
ff
Etwas zurückhaltend
pp
rit.
5
pp arco
2
pp
morendo


morendo
Andante
rit.
Allegretto subito (Nicht eilen)
poco cresc.
Nicht eilen
pp subito
ohne cresc. (streng im Tempo)
Allegro subito
G-Saite
Allegro molto (subito)
cresc.
Andante subito
rit.
U. E. 2945