Near, Under, Far

for solo cello

Jesse R. Brault

3.11.21

This work is a response to Luc Tuymans' painting *Die blaue Eiche* ("The Blue Oak"). I was struck by both the loneliness and angularity of the painting, and sought to capture these two ideas musically.

As I was first sketching the piece, the region where I am currently living experienced extreme cold weather. Standing outside one afternoon during this cold snap, I asked myself: what is the opposite of *Die blaue Eiche*? I imagined a large blue oak, green with many leaves, somewhere in a field in California. I thought of viewing it from a close distance, from underneath its shade, and from far away on a distant hill. I then imagined these views of the long-frozen tree of *Die blaue Eiche*. In picturing these opposite scenes, I felt both unease and longing, which I subsequently set out to express musically (in addition to the painting's loneliness and angularity).

This work has been commissioned by Musaics of the Bay, San Francisco, California, and is composed for cellist Gabriel Cabezas.

duration ca. 6'10"

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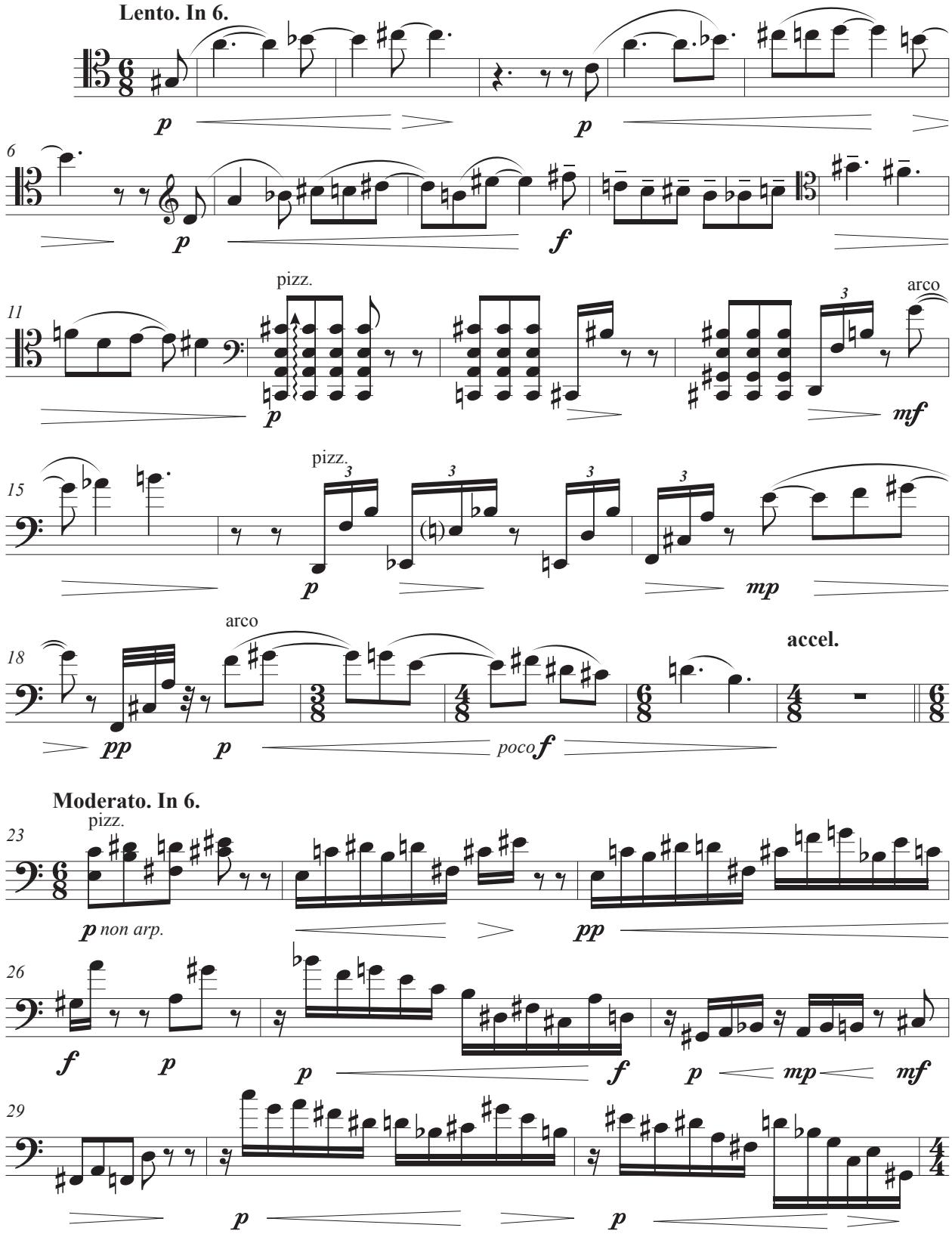

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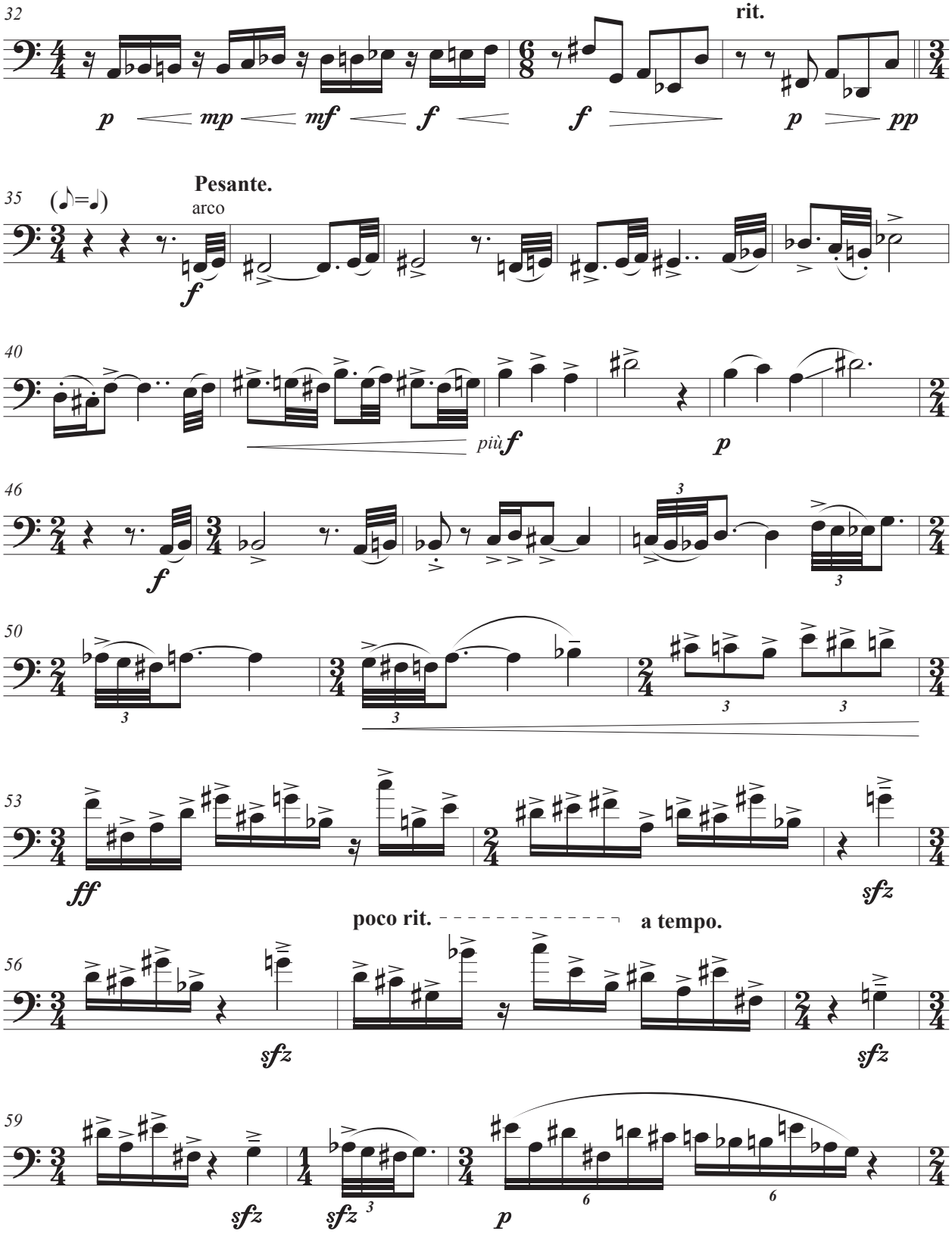
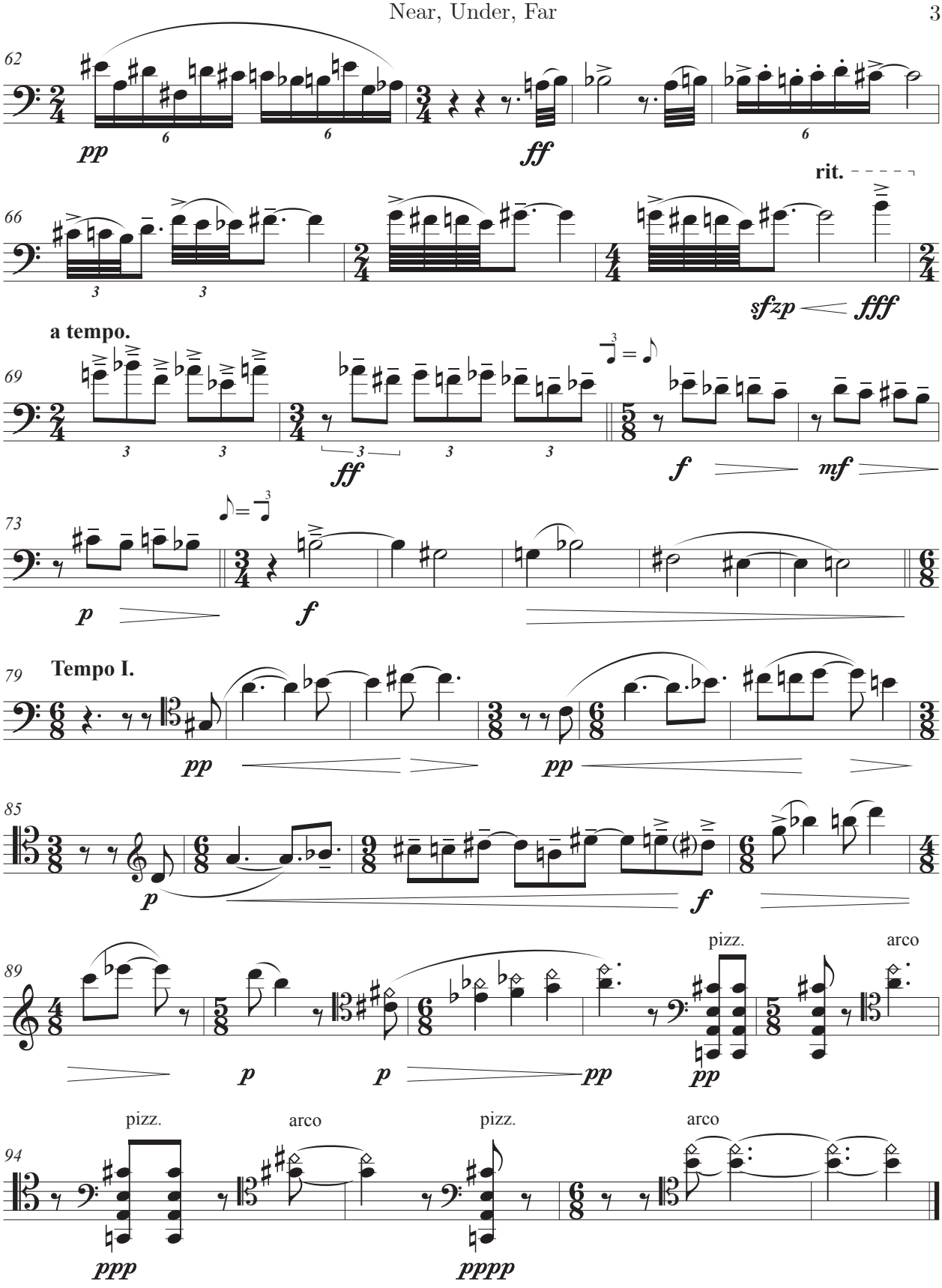

32
rit.
p mp mf f f p pp
35
(♪=♩)
Pesante.
arco
f
40
più f
p
46
f
50
3
53
ff
sfz
poco rit.
a tempo.
56
sfz
sfz
59
sfz
sfz
3
p
6
6


62
pp
ff
rit.
66
sfzp
fff
a tempo.
69
ff
f
mf
73
p
f
79
Tempo I.
pp
pp
85
p
f
89
p
p
pp
pp
pizz.
arco
94
ppp
pppp
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco