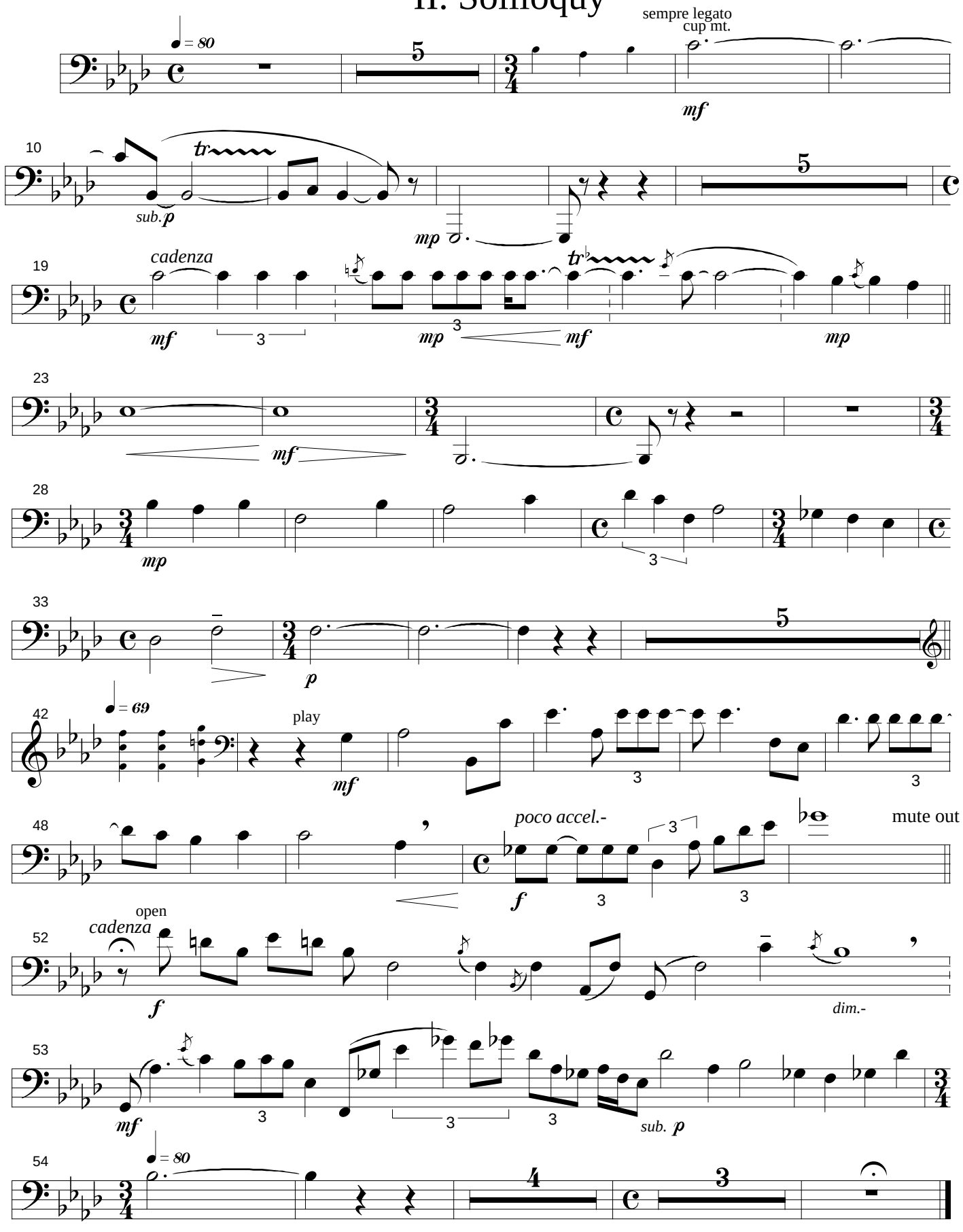II. Soliloquy