Pachelbel's Canon: played at almost every wedding and dinner reception, a staple of the string quartet repertoire... and a cellist's bane.

We hate the piece. Why, when it sounds so beautiful? That's precisely the reason. The violins play this long, interlocking melody; the cello plays the same eight notes. Over and over. For five, eight, ten, or however long it takes, minutes. I honestly don't know — I've played the piece at least a hundred times by now, but whenever I do it I zone out and wait for the first violin to give me the nod that says that we're five bars before the end. Sure, it gives you a chance to scan the crowd for pretty girls... but I'd rather have an interesting part to play.

Well, now the tables are turned. The first violin repeats the same four bars over and over, while the cello leads the melody. It's about time somebody wrote this.

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As classically trained musicians, we are taught that the composer's intent is most important part of the music. We are taught how to interpret music so that we can produce exactly what (we think) the composer intended, rather than whatever we think sounds good.

It is this composer's wish that you place no value on his wishes. These pages provide a starting point for you to make music; nothing more, nothing less. If you enjoy playing this music as it is printed then by all means do so. But if you would like to change anything, feel no hesitation to disregard the "Composer's Intent."

These scores were created with GNU/LilyPond version 2.7.9, an open-source music engraving program. To download GNU/LilyPond or find out more, visit http://lilypond.org/

Percival's Chaconne(s), Op. 3. © Graham Percival 2002 - 2005.
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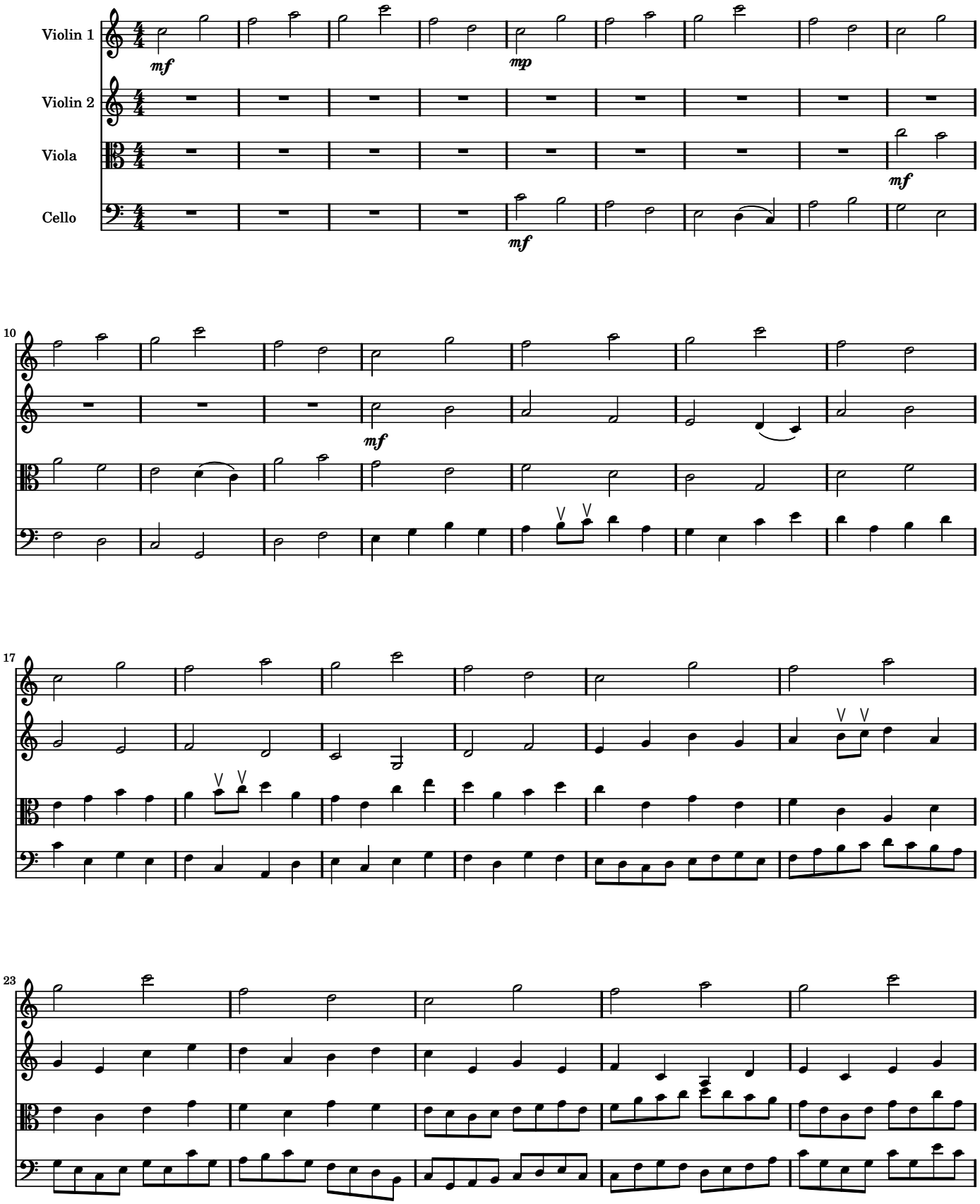
Chaconne

A Canadian Cellist's Response to
Unjust Overexposure To Pachelbel's Canon

Graham Percival

Tempo di Pachelbel

Op. 3 No. 1



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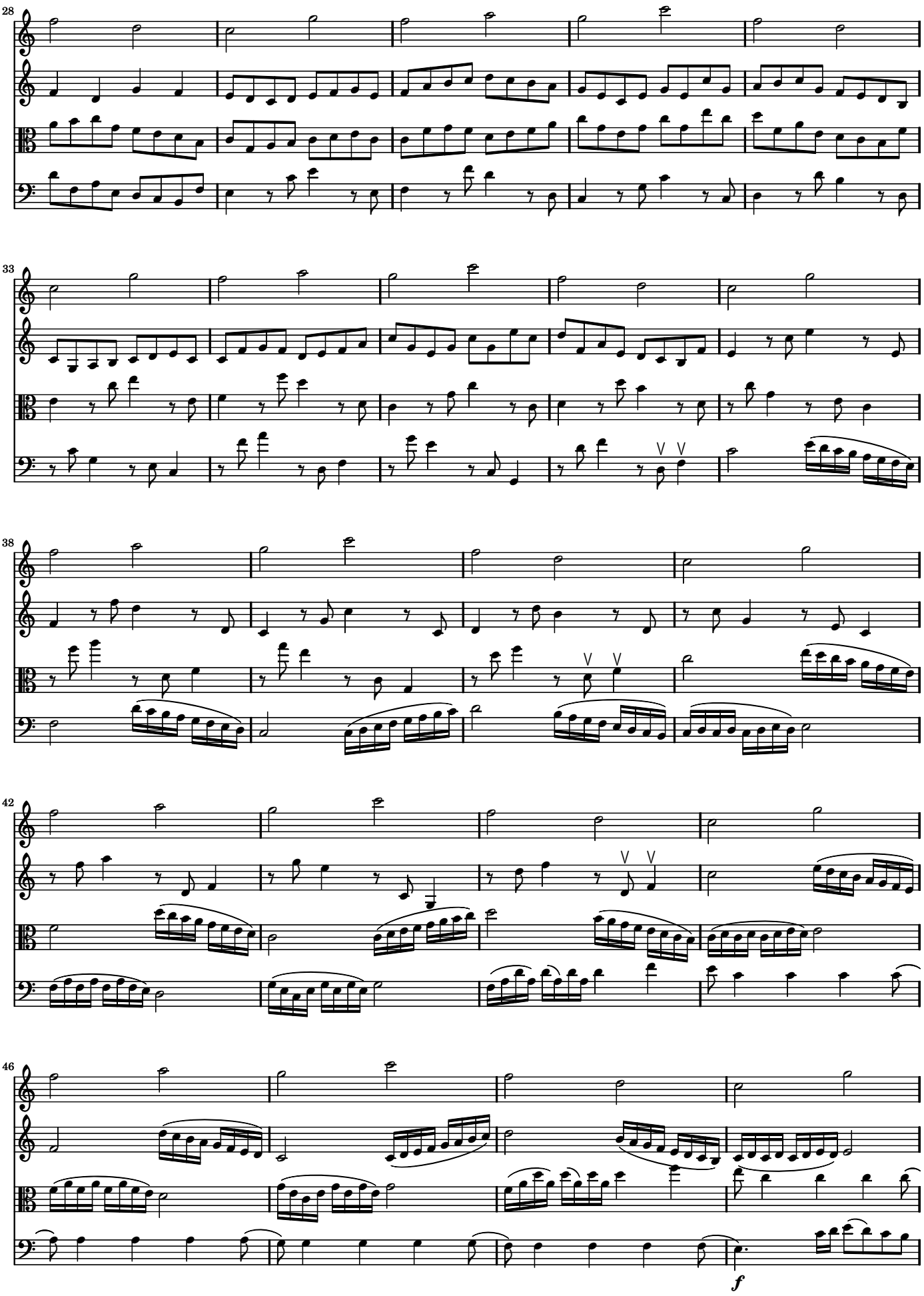
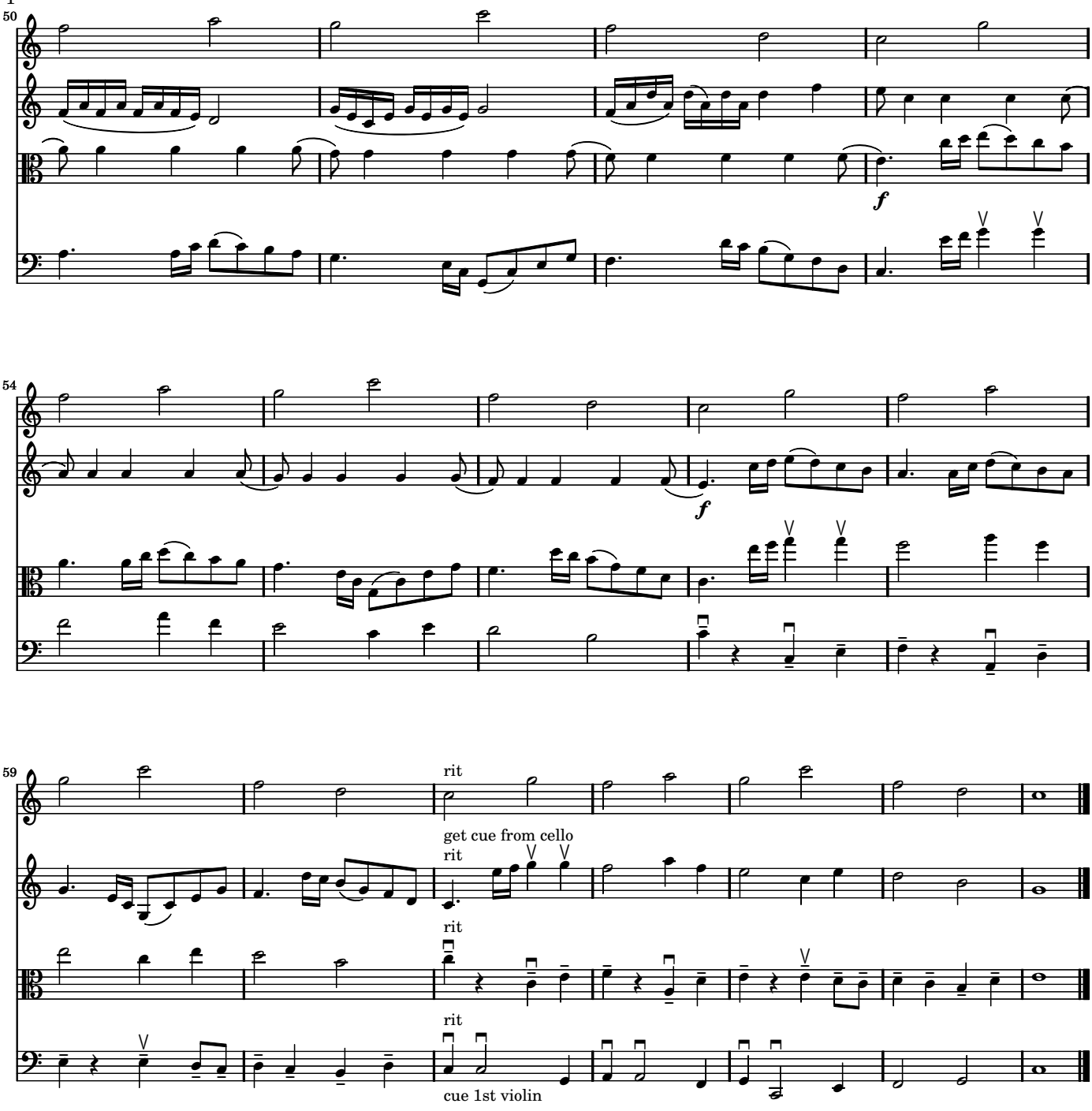

28
33
38
42
46
f


50
f
54
f
59
rit
get cue from cello
rit
rit
rit
cue 1st violin

(this page has been left blank to facilitate page turning)

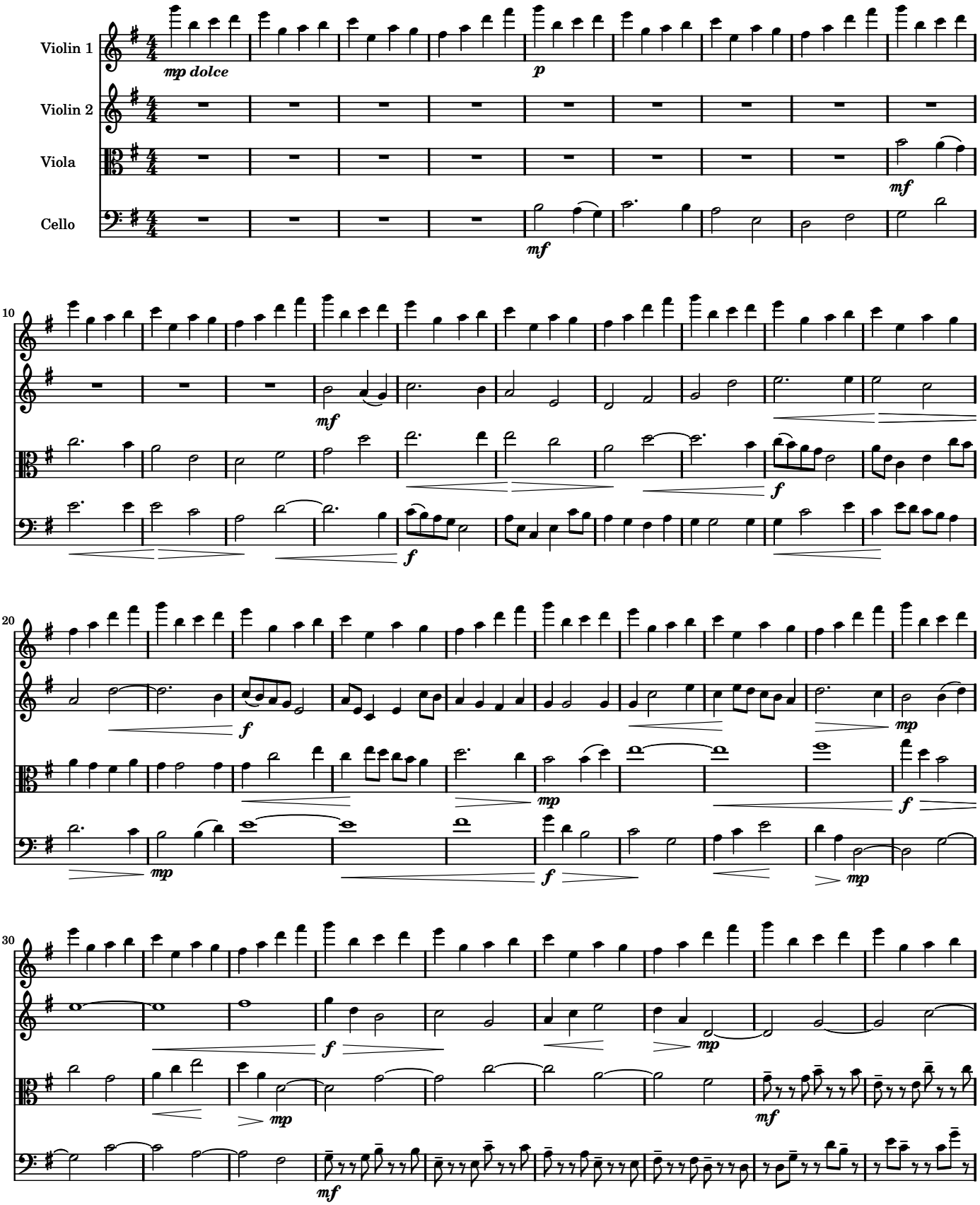
Return of the Chaconne

A Canadian Cellist's Response to Unjust Overexposure To Pachelbel's Canon

Graham Percival

Tempo di Pachelbel

Op. 3 No. 2



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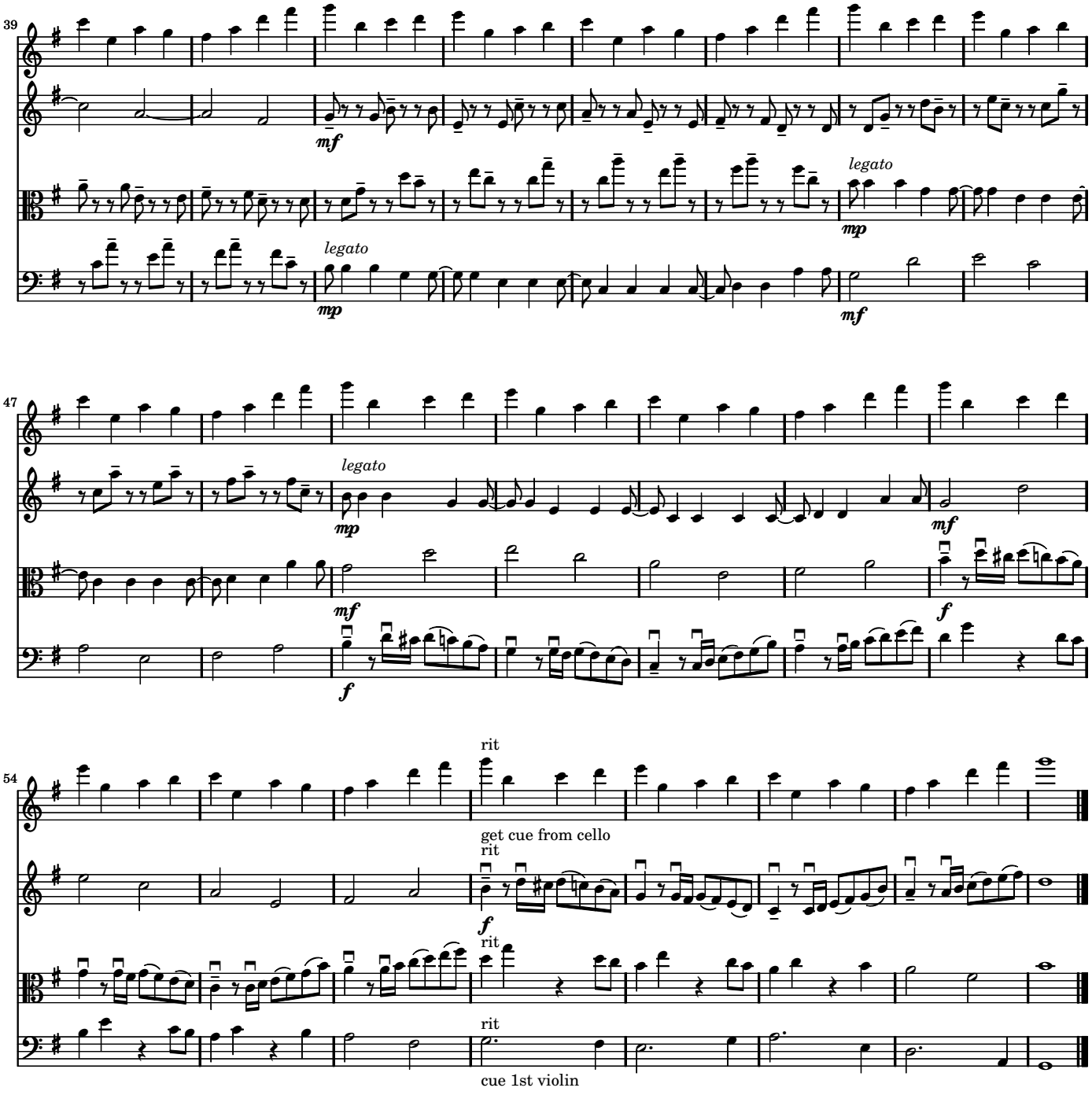
39
mf
legato
mp
legato
mp
mf
47
legato
mp
mf
mf
f
54
rit
get cue from cello
rit
f
rit
rit
cue 1st violin