String Quartet Minuet & Trio

The composer most responsible for shaping and perfecting the string quartet was Haydn (composing at least 68). Listen to the 3rd movement of his String Quartet No.1 in B♭ major (Op.50). The music is structured in **Minuet & Trio** form (score below).

The minuet was a popular, graceful triple-time dance that became fashionable in the French court during the 17th century. Originally composed in pairs, Minuet I was played by the whole orchestra and Minuet II was for three instruments only – for this reason Minuet II became known as the *trio*. By Mozart and Haydn's time *the trio was no longer for three instruments only* but it still provided a contrast in orchestration and a lightness in texture. The custom to omit any repeats in Minuet I when it was played again after the trio still remained.

The *overall* structure of the Minuet & Trio is **ternary** (ABA), but each of the main sections is in fact a complete **binary** (AB) or **ternary** (ABA) design in itself:

A: Minuet in triple time	**B**: Trio (a contrast)	**A**^{1}: Minuet again without repeats
A **B (A)**	**C** **D (C)**	**A** **B (A)**

Q1. The Minuet section is structured in binary form and it is based on a single tune. How many bars long is this tune? Bars ____

Q2. How many times is the tune heard during the Minuet? _____. Name the instruments that play it in turn: _____

Q3. How does the beginning of the Trio provide a contrast to the Minuet?

_____

_____

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Q4. Describe two ways in which Haydn makes use of the rhythmic effect of syncopation during the Trio:

_____

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Q5. Is the music for the Trio in Binary or Ternary form? Give reasons for your answer:

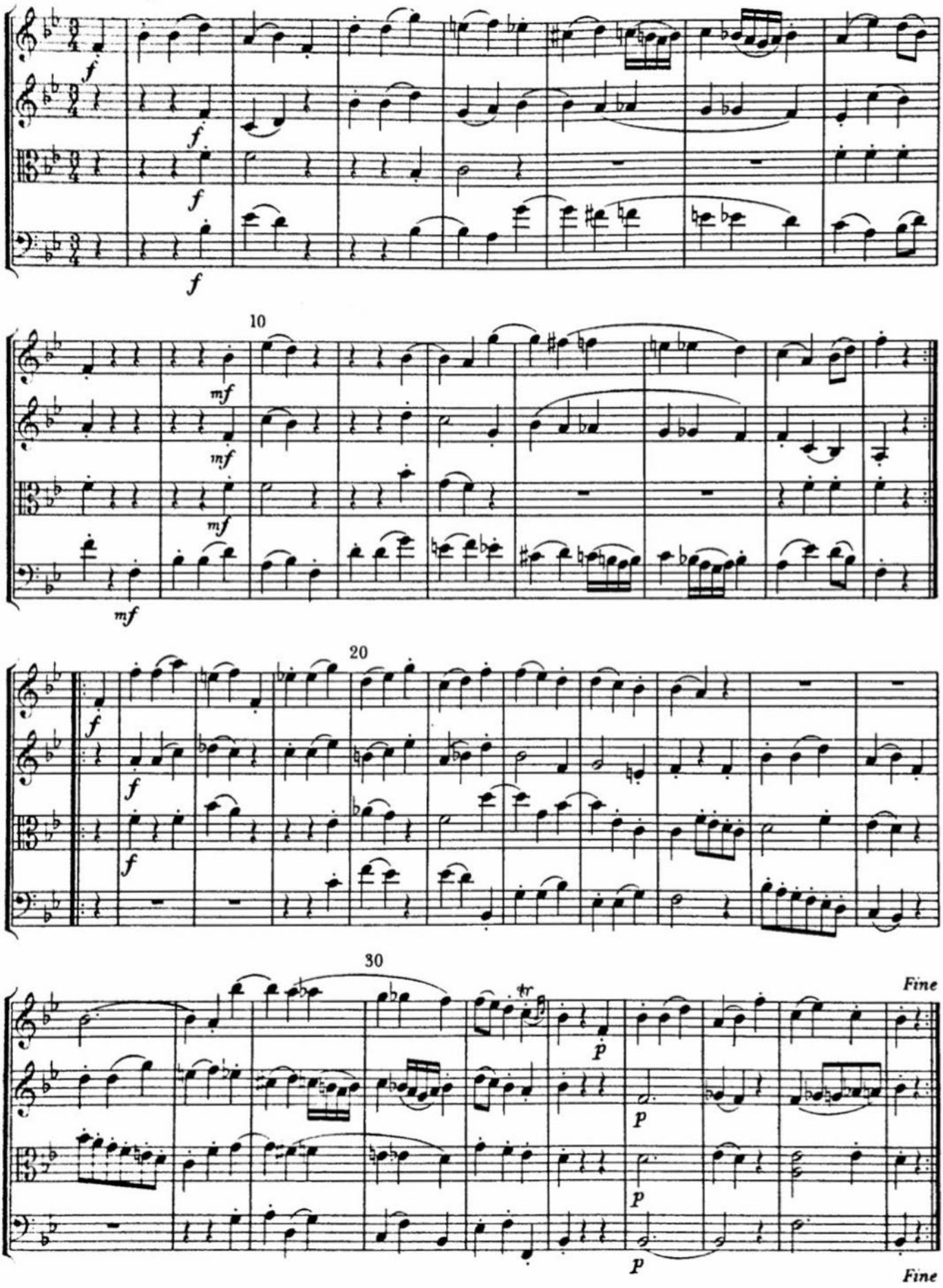
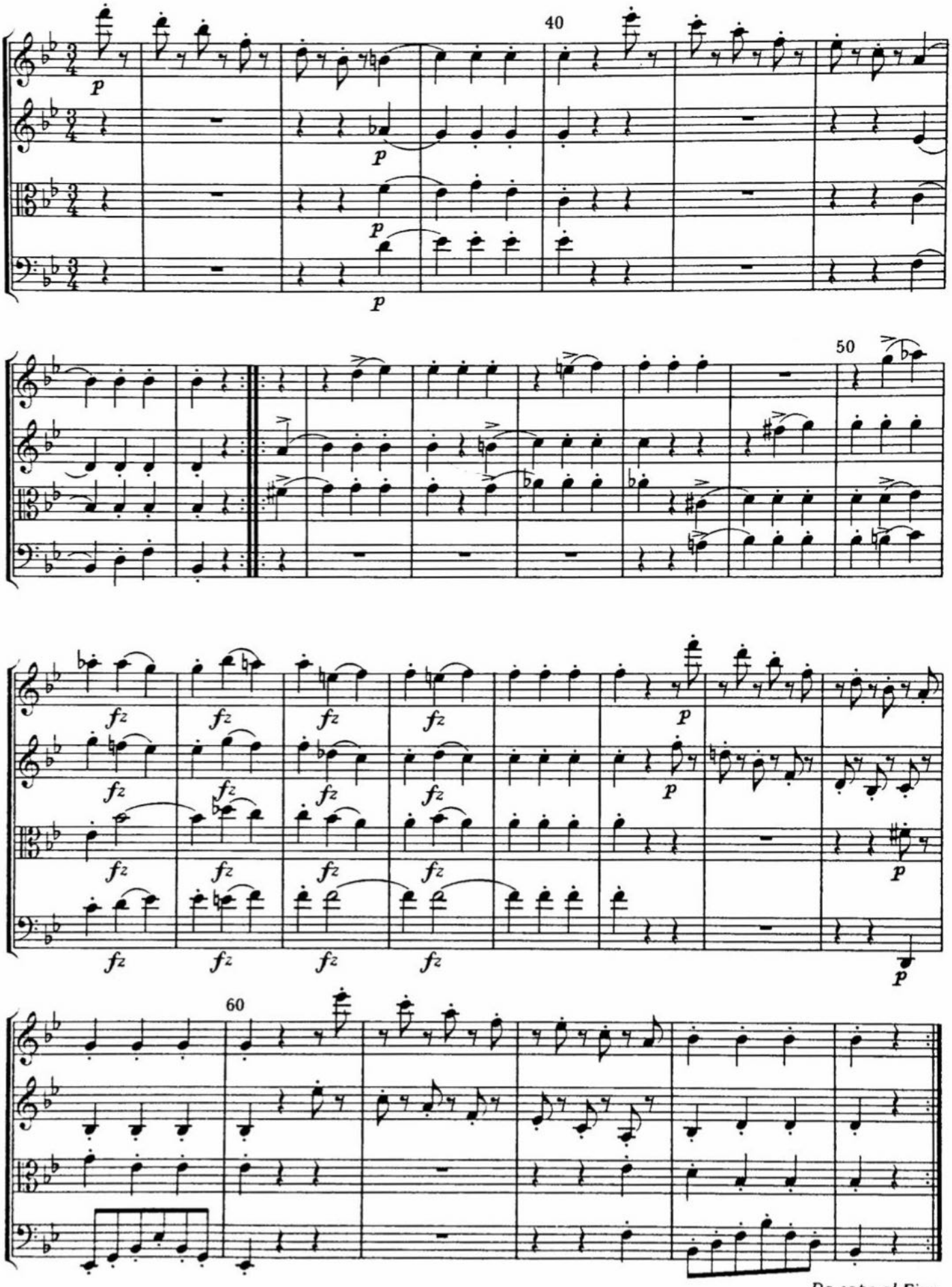
_____

_____

_____

Menuetto

Poco Allegretto



Trio