The Laughing Crane's Lament

For String Quartet

Jonathan Wilson

© 2014

Program Notes

The "Laughing Crane" is 1) an allusion to a character of the same name from a contemporary dance that dealt with the philosophical issues of the Earth's balance, and 2) a connection to the very dancer who played this role onstage. This dancer was someone I knew and went to school with many years ago. This piece is written, in part, in memory of this person, the very bird in flight that sadly took its own life at a young age. This work explores the aspects of such a dancer: the graceful and enchanting qualities that come into conflict with the underlying torments and bitter melancholy that may have plagued this gentle spirit.

Lay eyes morose upon the Laughing Crane,
Aloft in majesty—perdition foul!
Betaken, stolen by some curse profane,
She flies to Hades, wretched by the howls
Of Erinyes, betide her last lament
To Tyche, absent in her final prayer,
At her behest—she danced in her descent
To peril, poisoned by her sickness rare.
Live on, young memory! Her sweet perfumes,
Sincere benevolence—her past, her prime,
Her permanence in all who breathe her fumes
Forever mourn for penitence—her crime,
Alas! Her pangs of woe! Her laden soul
No longer lit, her heart no longer whole—
(Wilson, *Sonnet LVIII*)

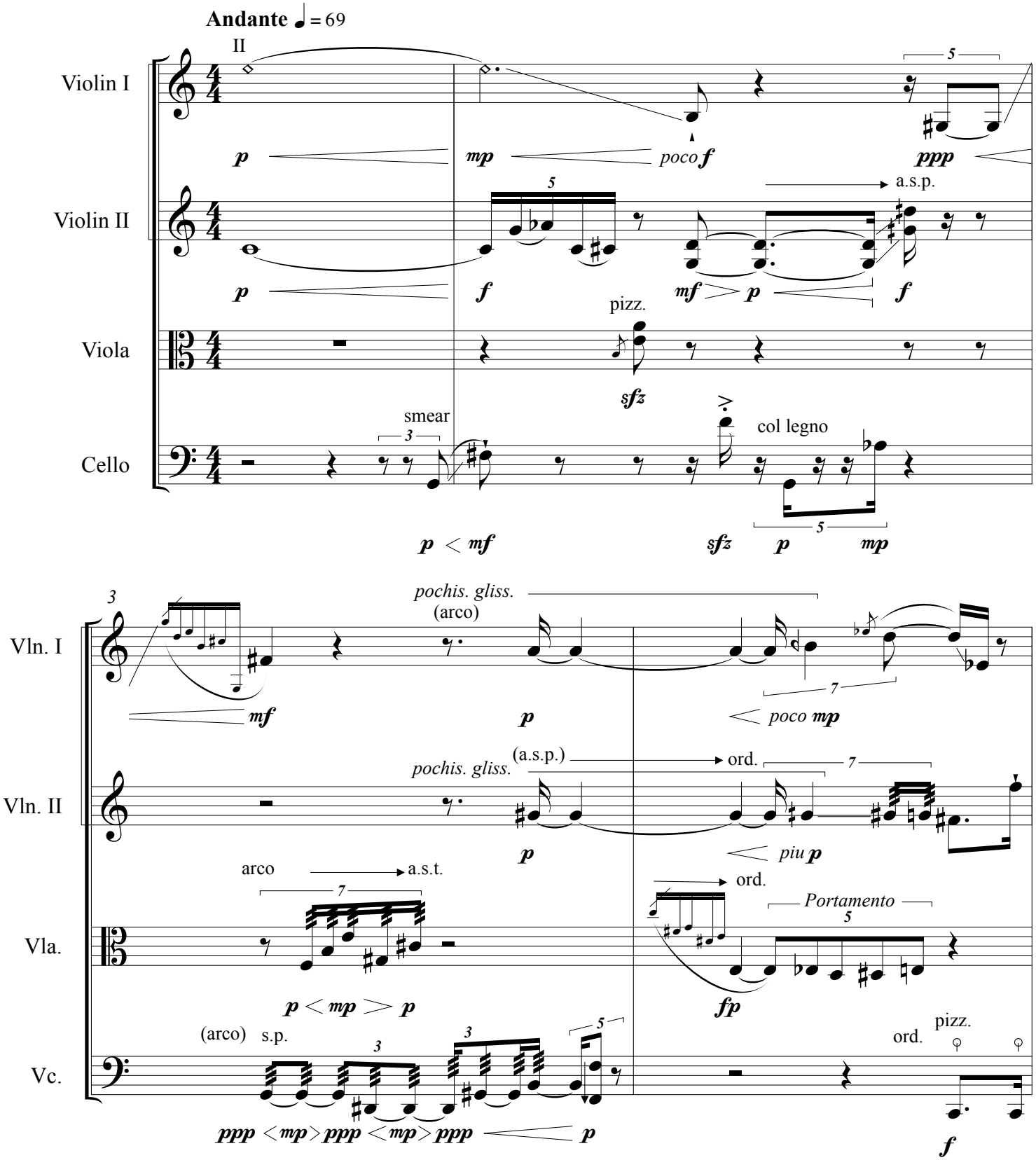
Performance Directions

s.t. = sul tasto
a.s.t. = extreme sul tasto
s.p. = sul ponticello
a.s.p. = extreme sul ponticello
pochis. glissando = the slightest bit of glissando possible
(⊓∨) = change bowing direction as needed (for long sustained tones)
Portamento = glissando from note to note indicated in brackets

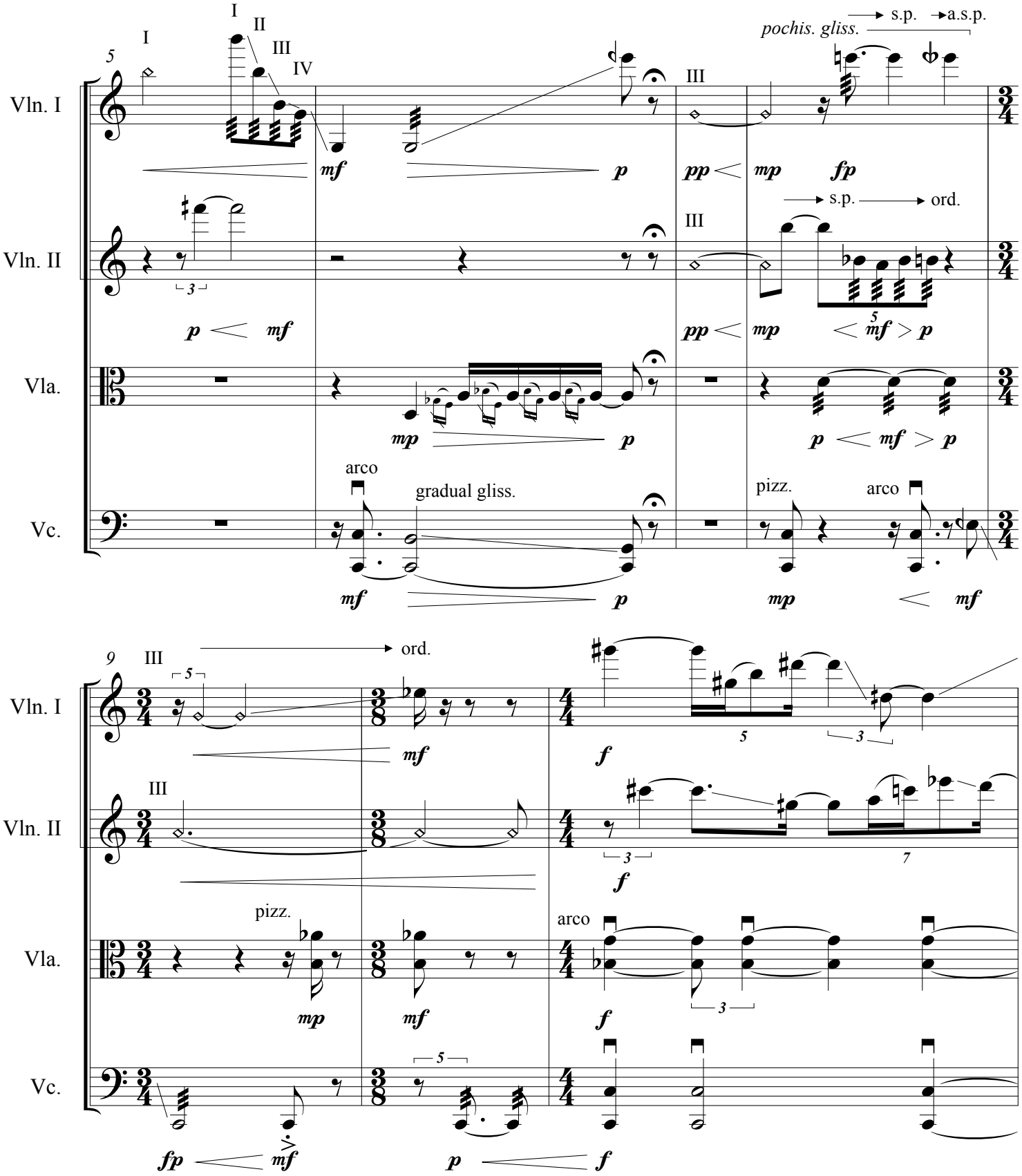
The Laughing Crane's Lament

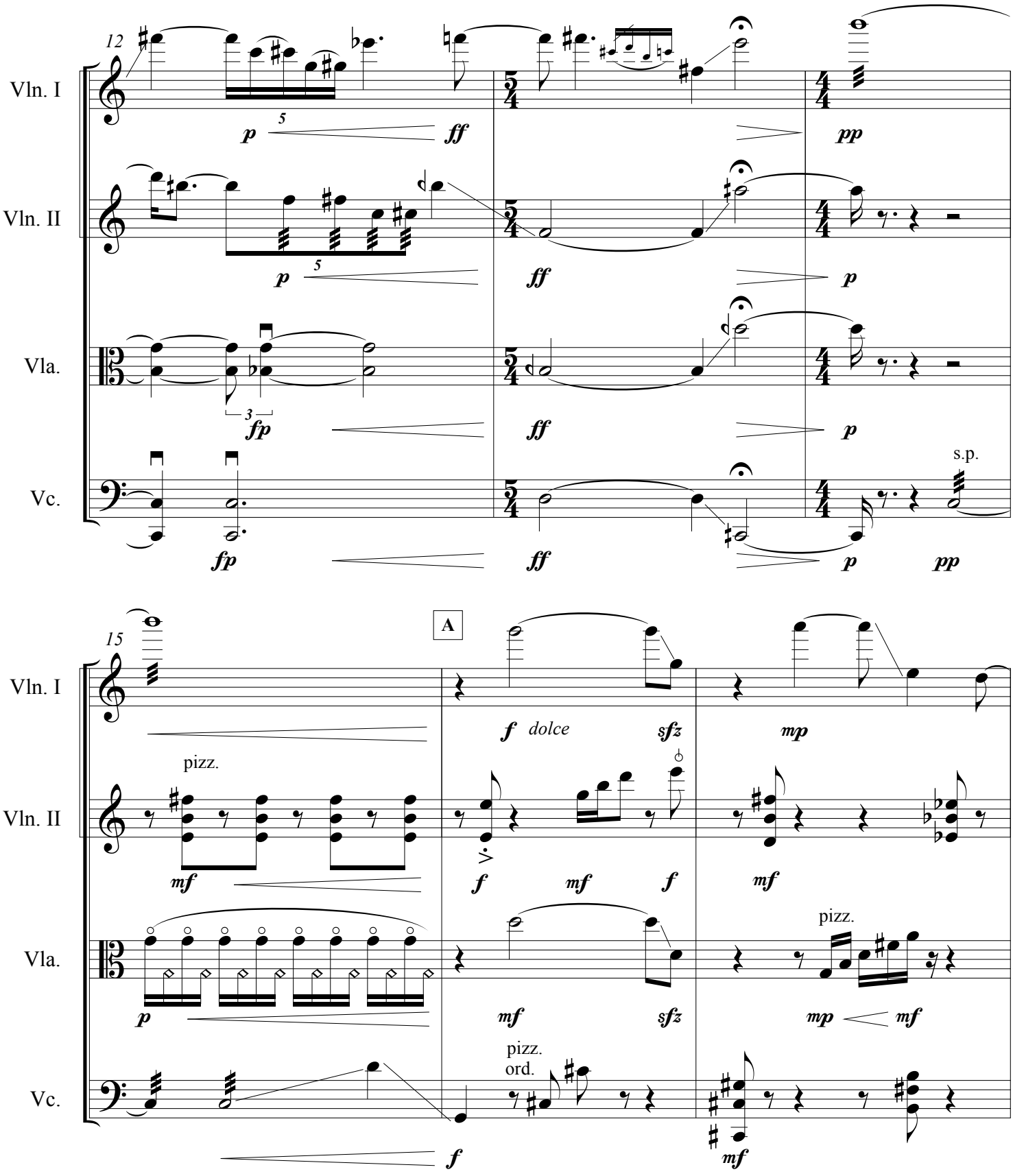
In memory of the Laughing Crane

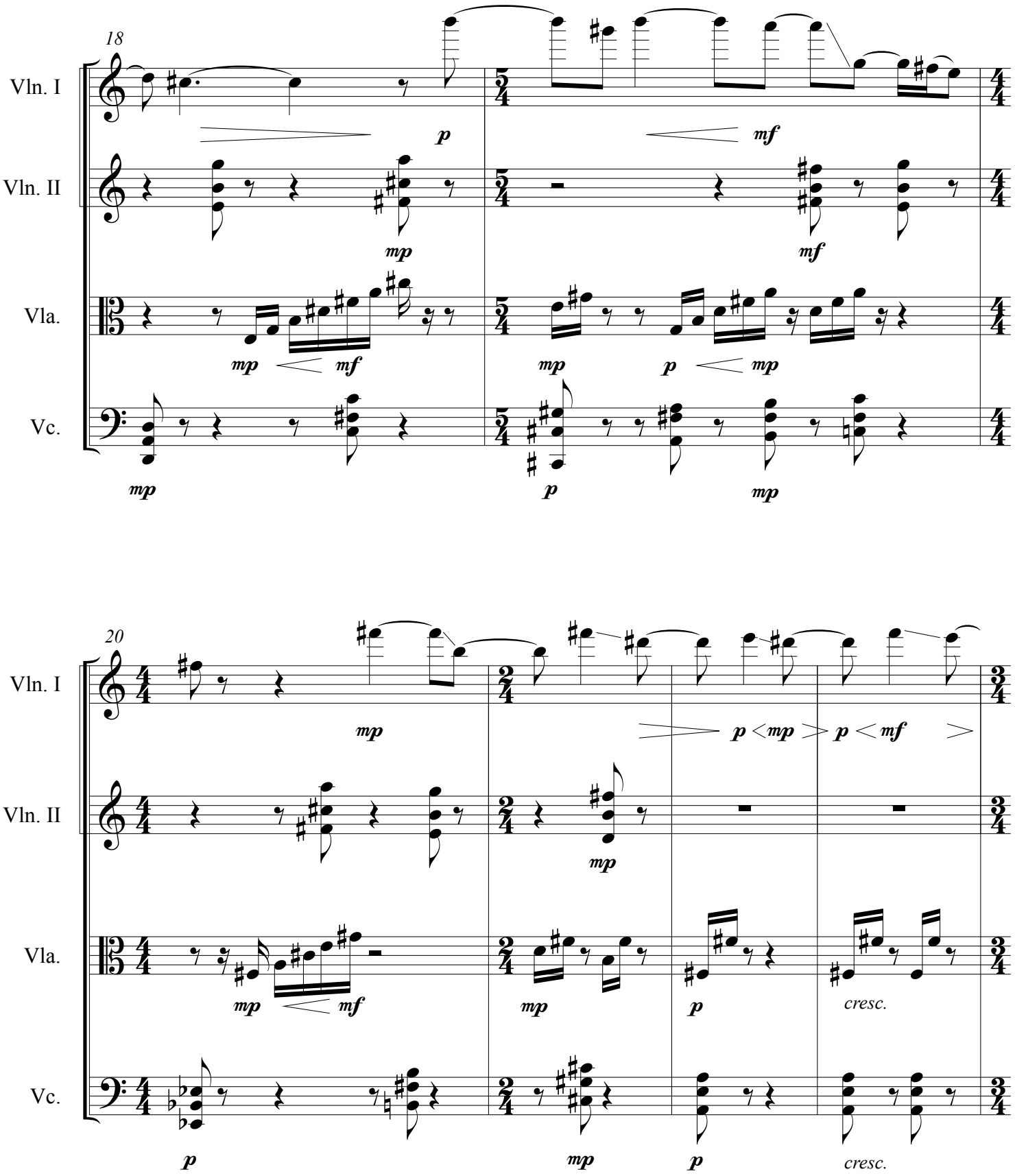
Jonathan Wilson

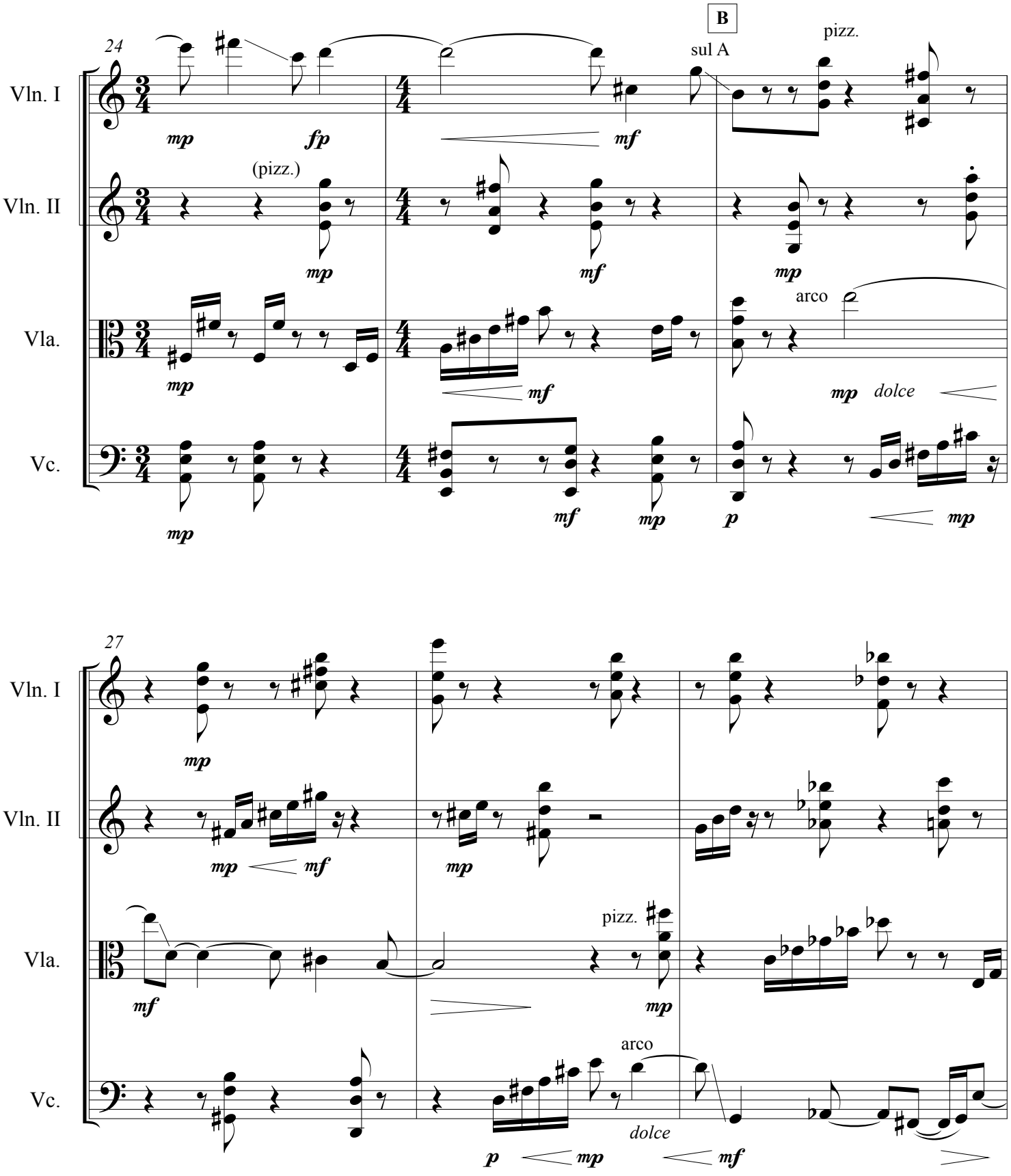


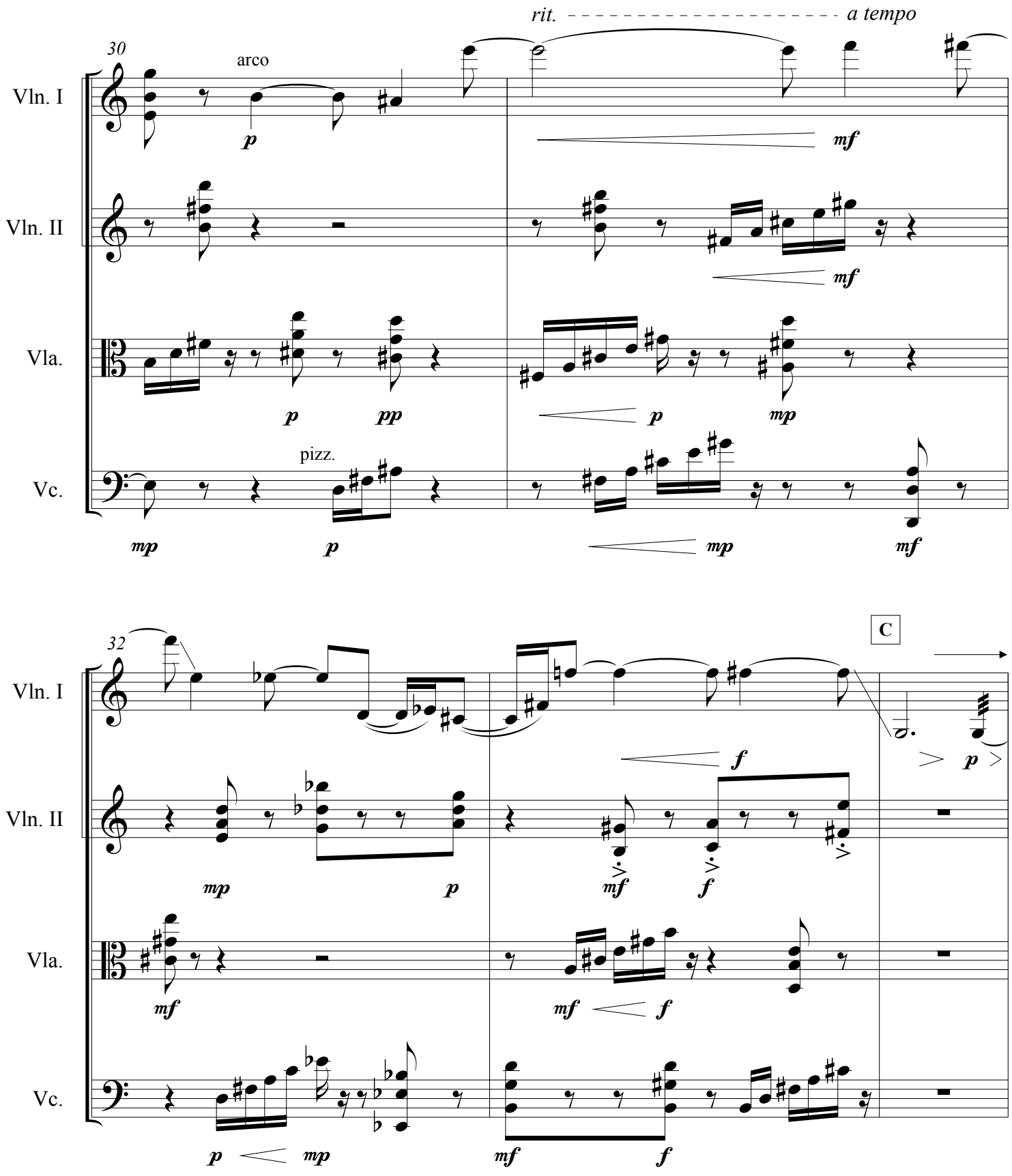
© 2014

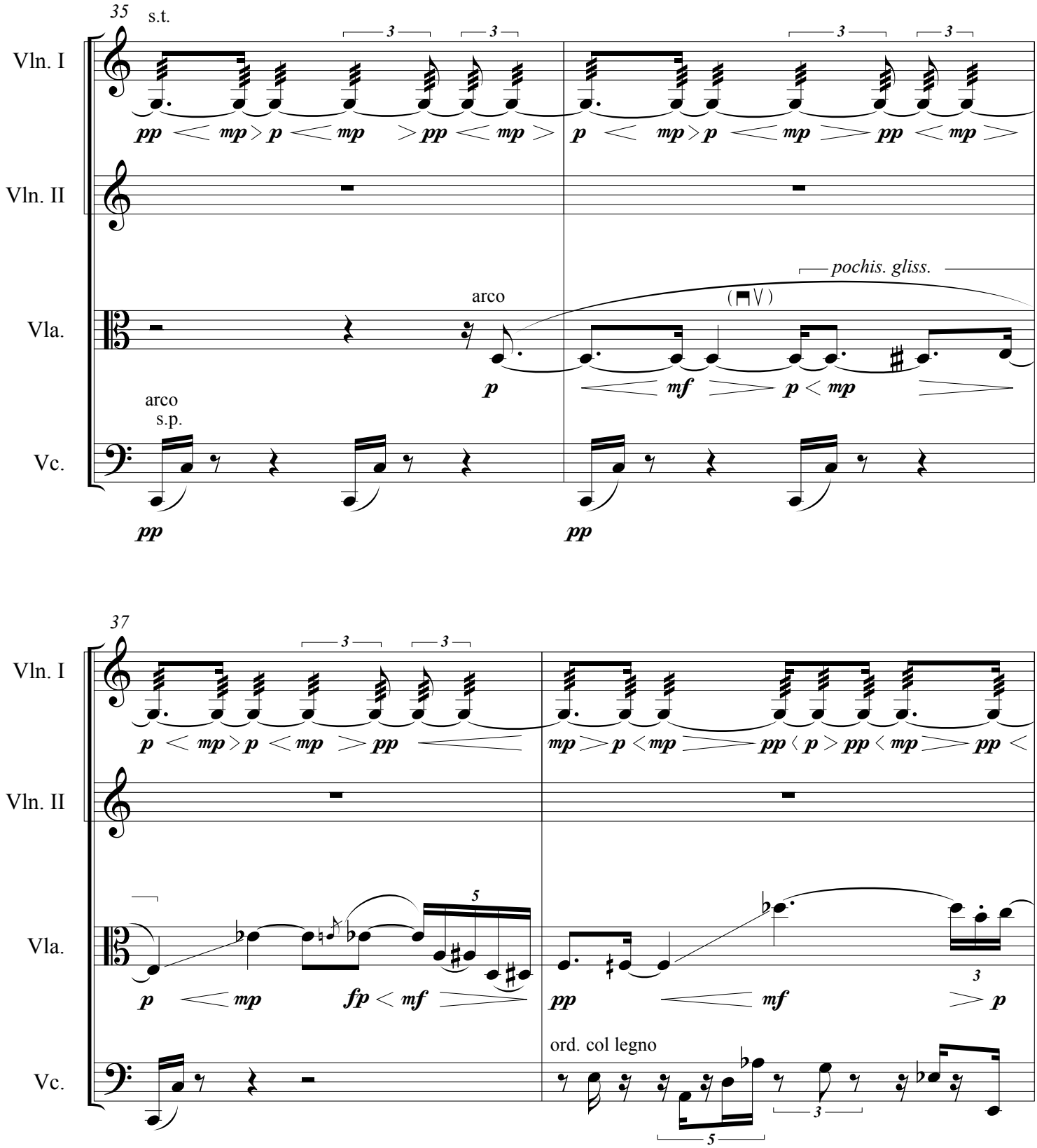

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
I
II
III
IV
pochis. gliss.
s.p.
a.s.p.
ord.
arco
gradual gliss.
pizz.

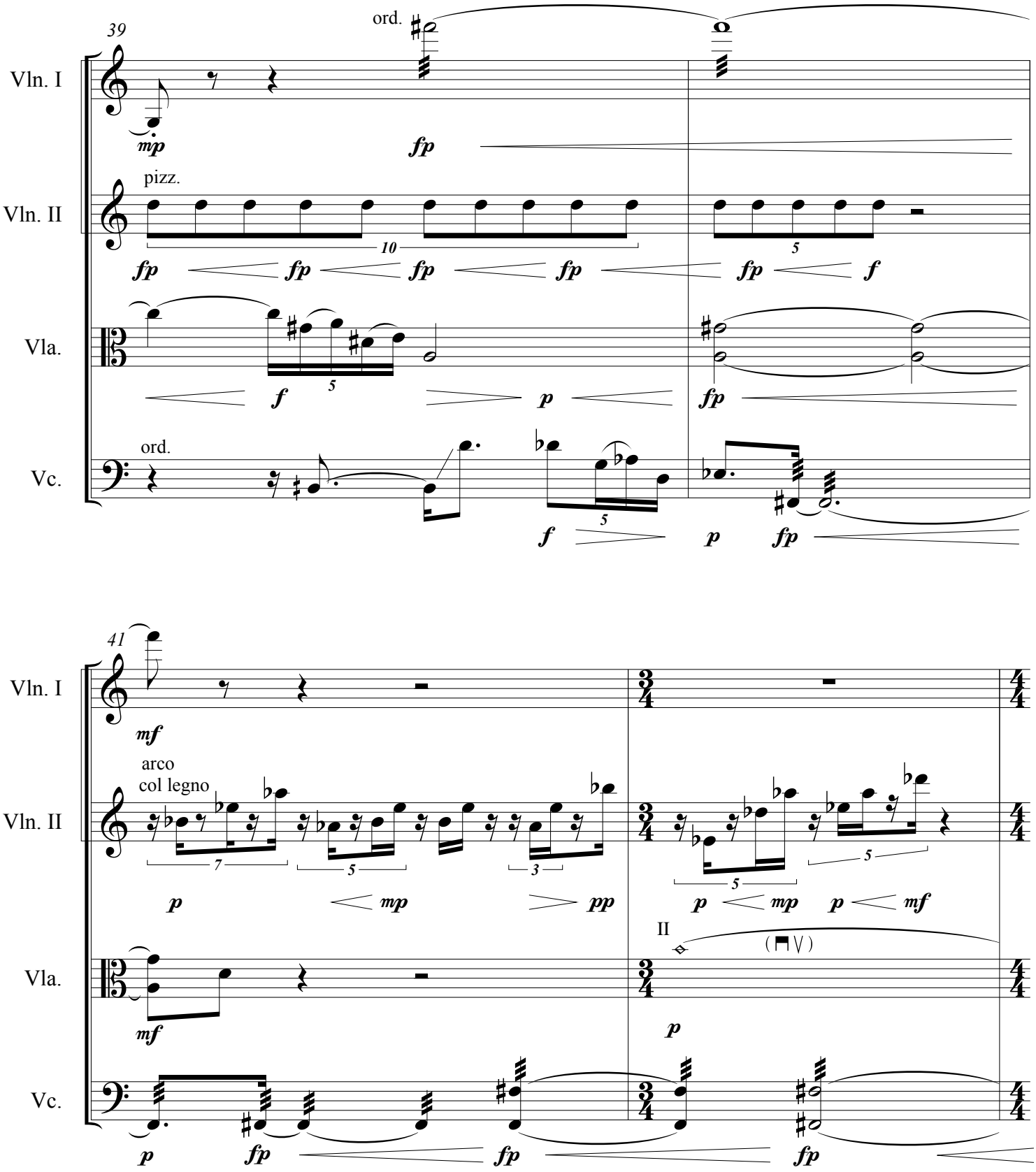

12
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
5
ff
pp
fp
3
s.p.
15
A
dolce
sfz
mp
pizz.
mf
f
ord.

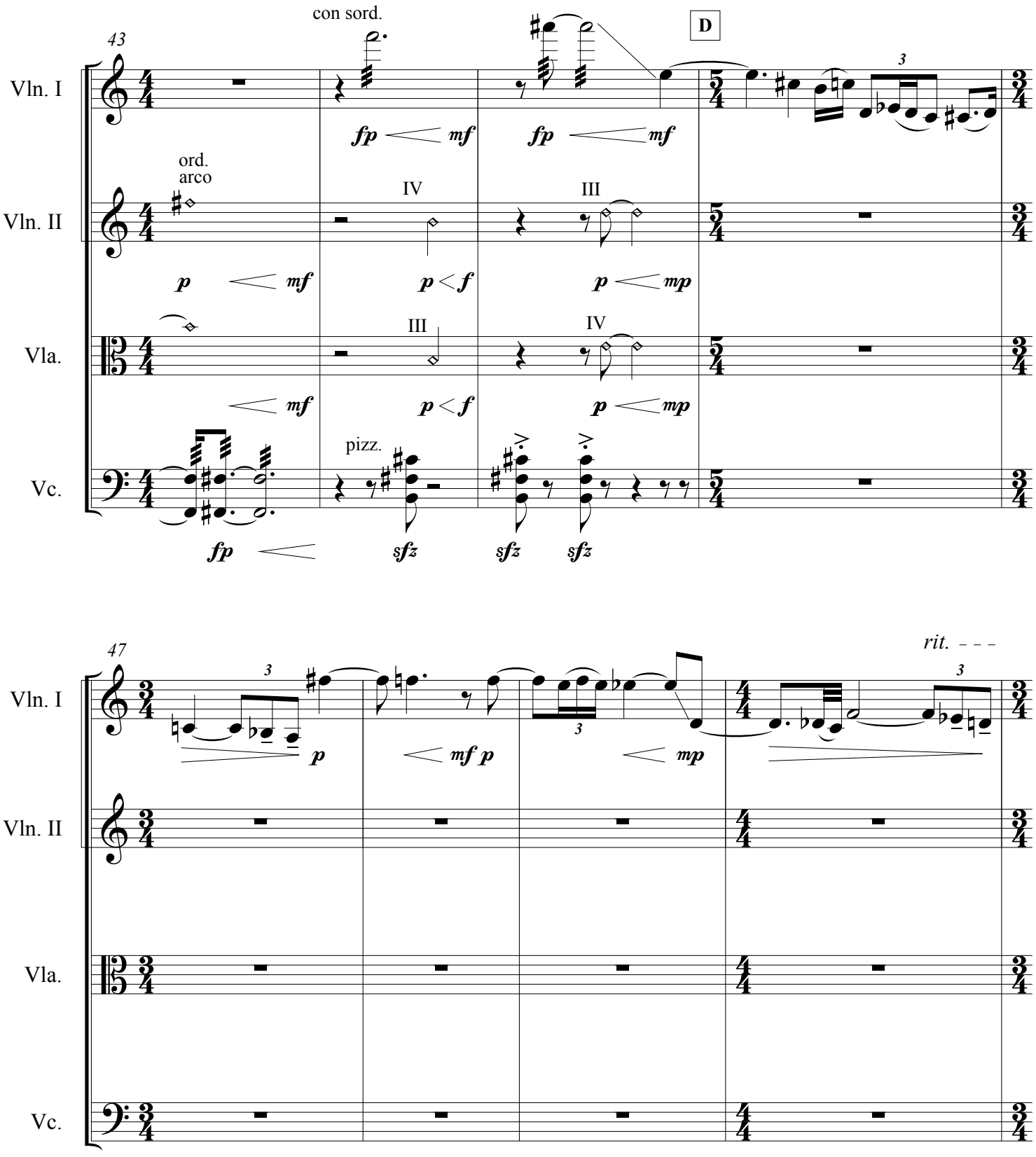

18
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
20
cresc.
cresc.

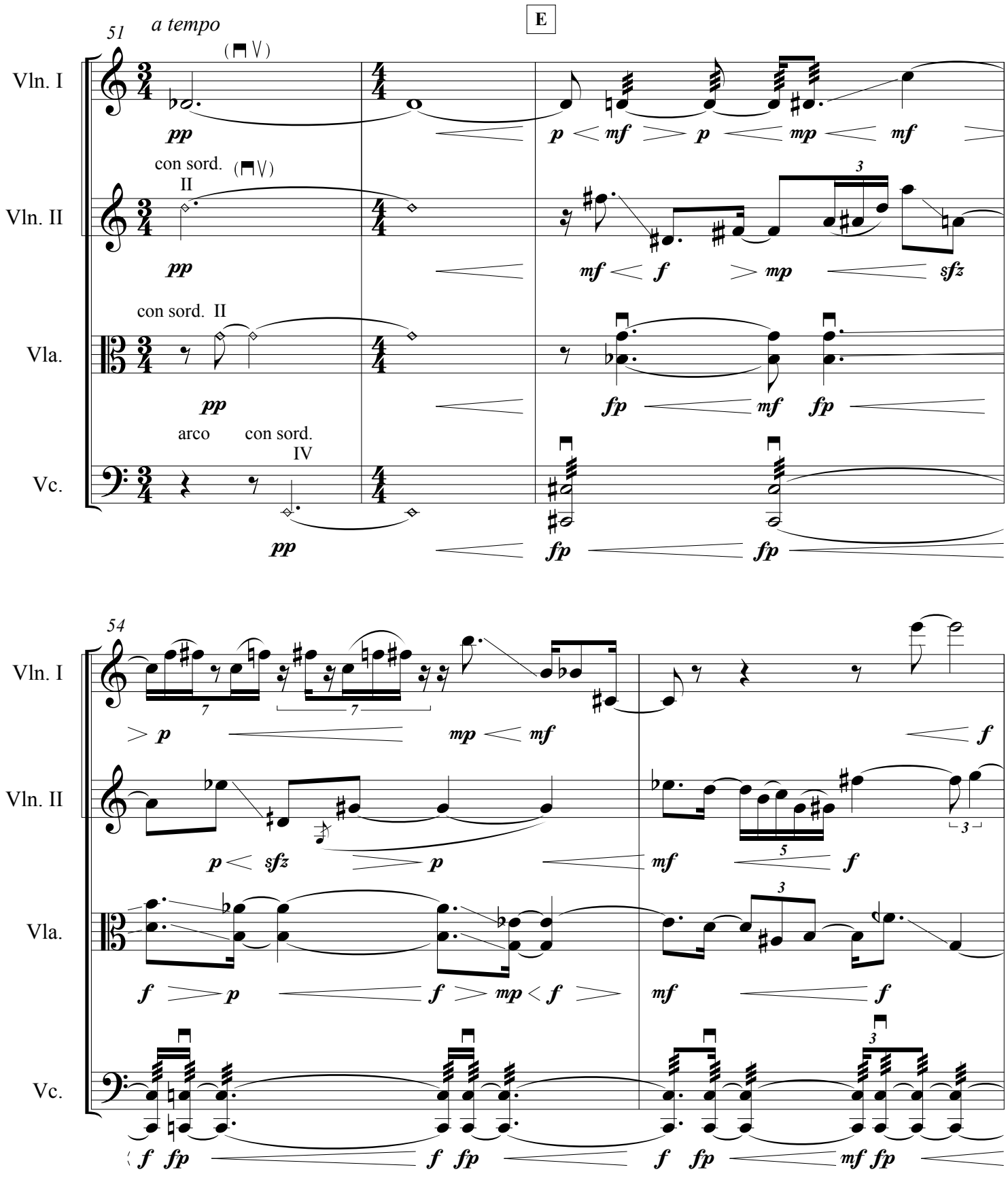

24
B
sul A
pizz.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
(pizz.)
arco
dolce
27
pizz.
arco
dolce

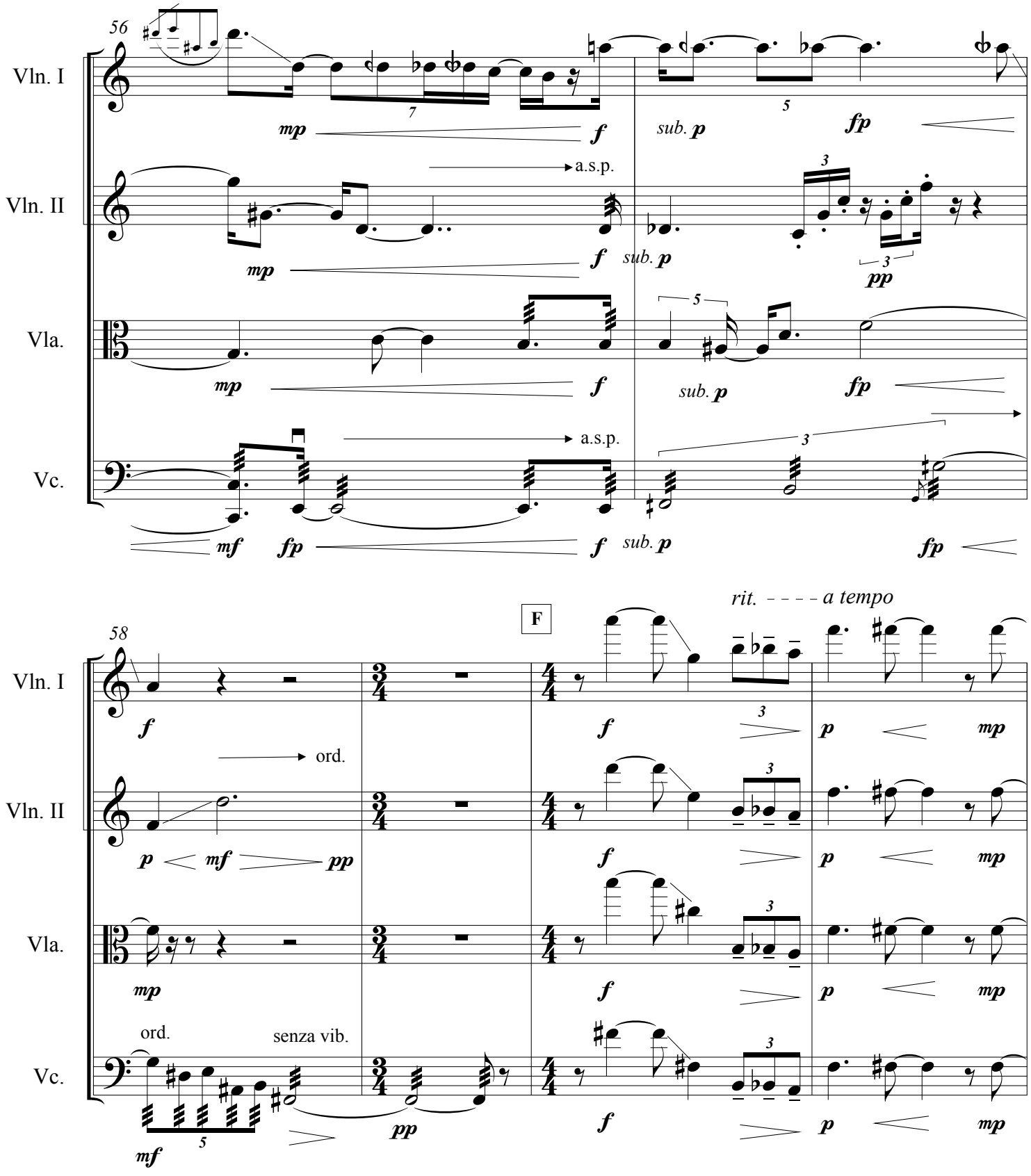

rit.
a tempo
30
arco
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
32
C

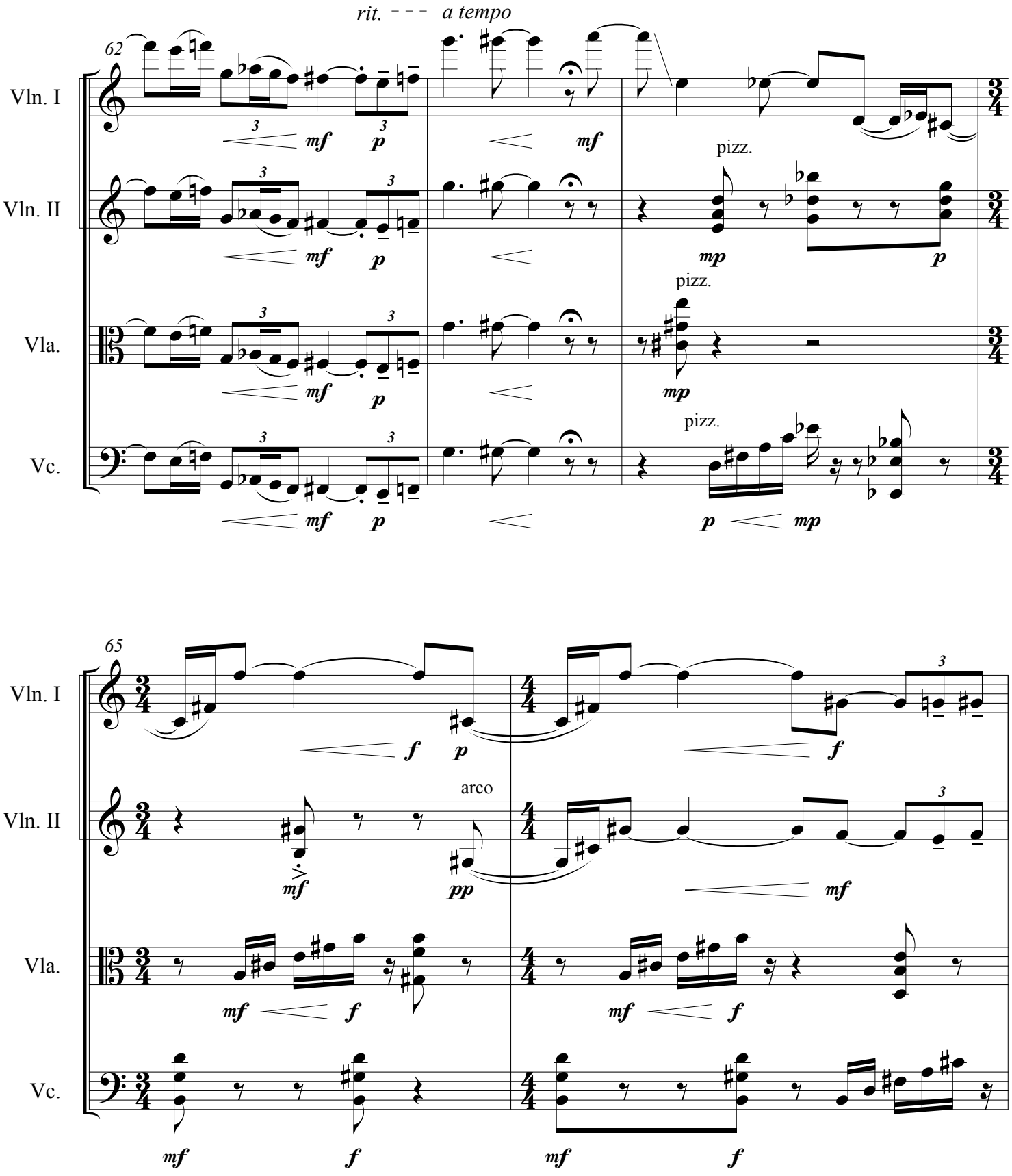

35
s.t.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
arco
s.p.
pochis. gliss.
37
ord. col legno

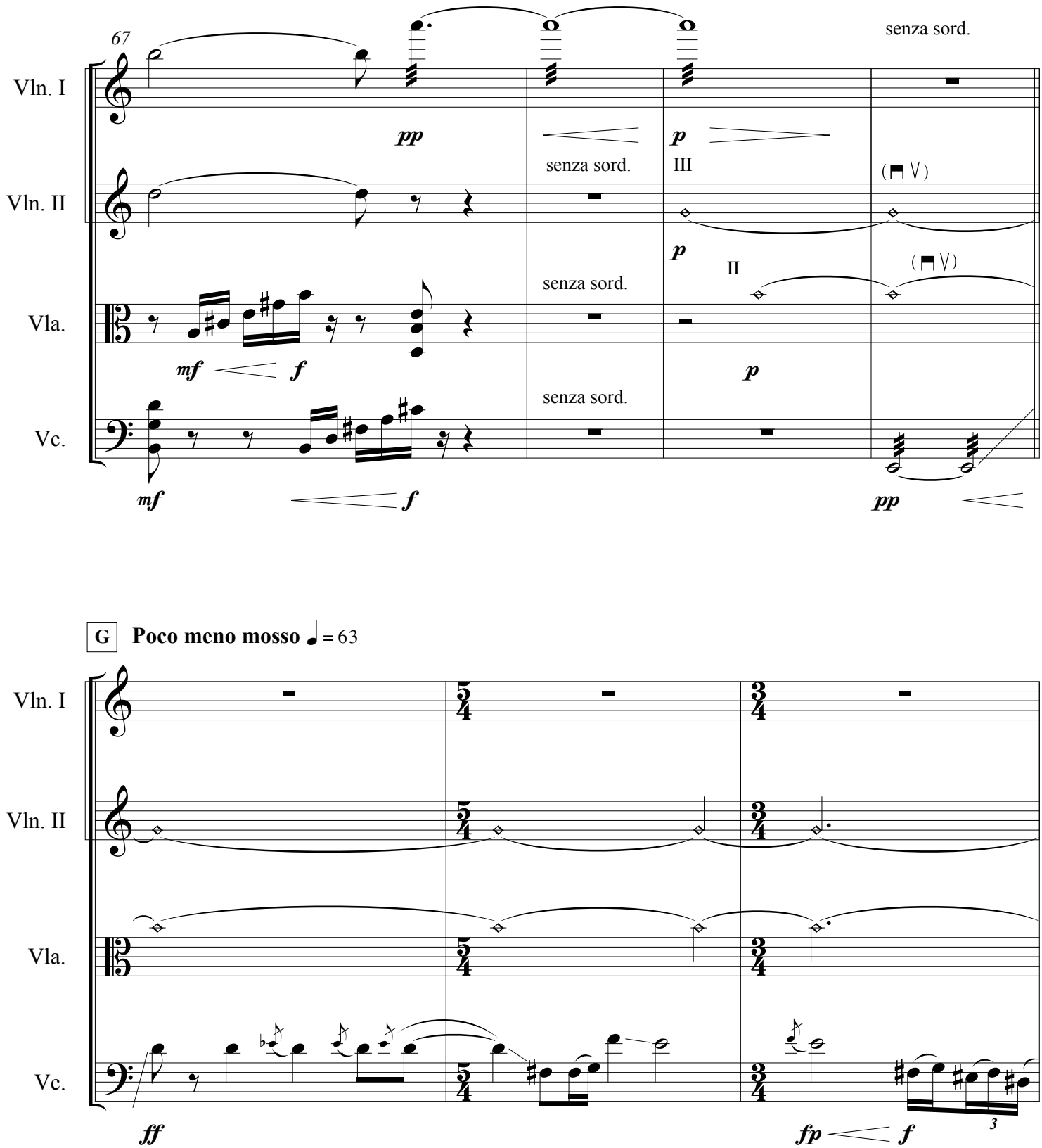

39
ord.
Vln. I
mp
fp
pizz.
Vln. II
10
5
fp
f
Vla.
5
f
p
fp
ord.
Vc.
5
f
p
fp
41
Vln. I
mf
arco
col legno
Vln. II
7
5
3
5
5
p
mp
pp
p
mp
p
mf
II
Vla.
mf
p
Vc.
p
fp
fp
fp

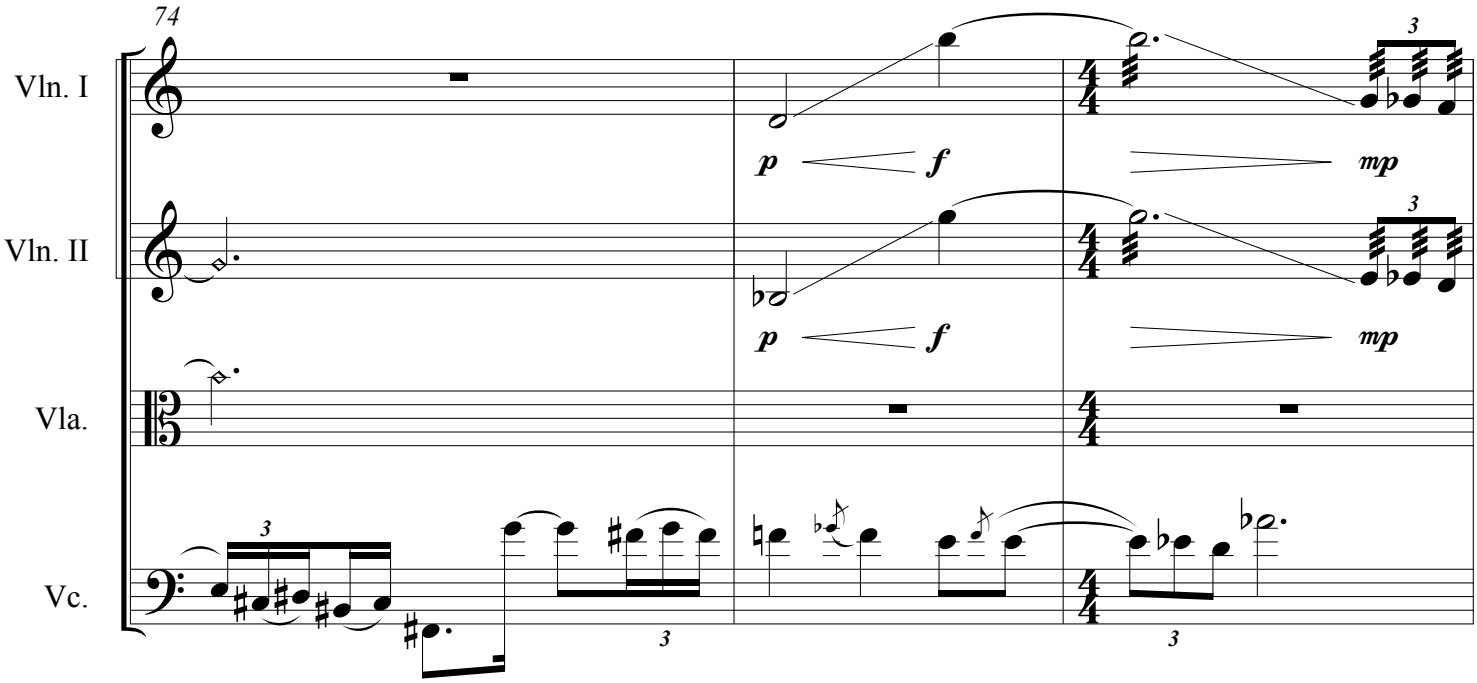

43
con sord.
D
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
ord.
arco
IV
III
pizz.
fp
mf
p
f
mp
sfz
3
47
rit.

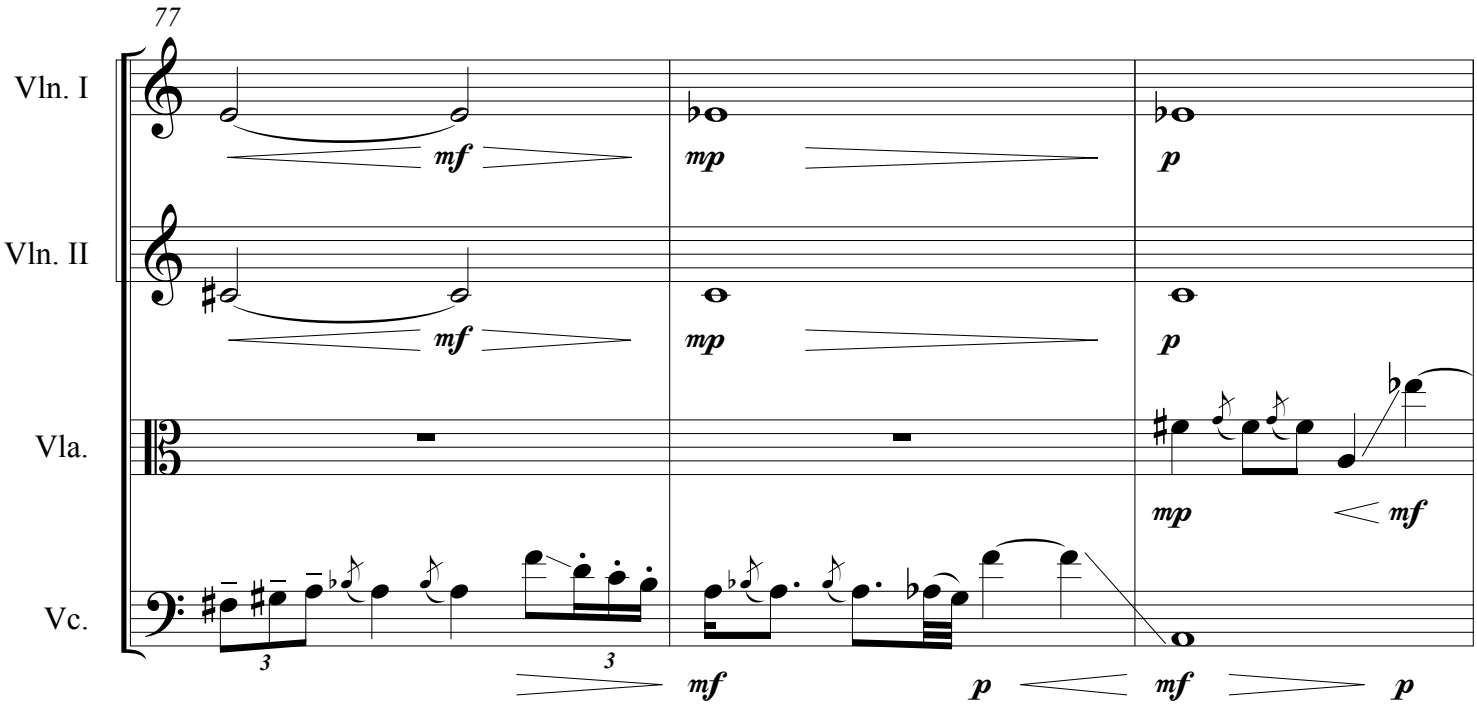

51
a tempo
E
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
con sord. II
arco
con sord. IV
54

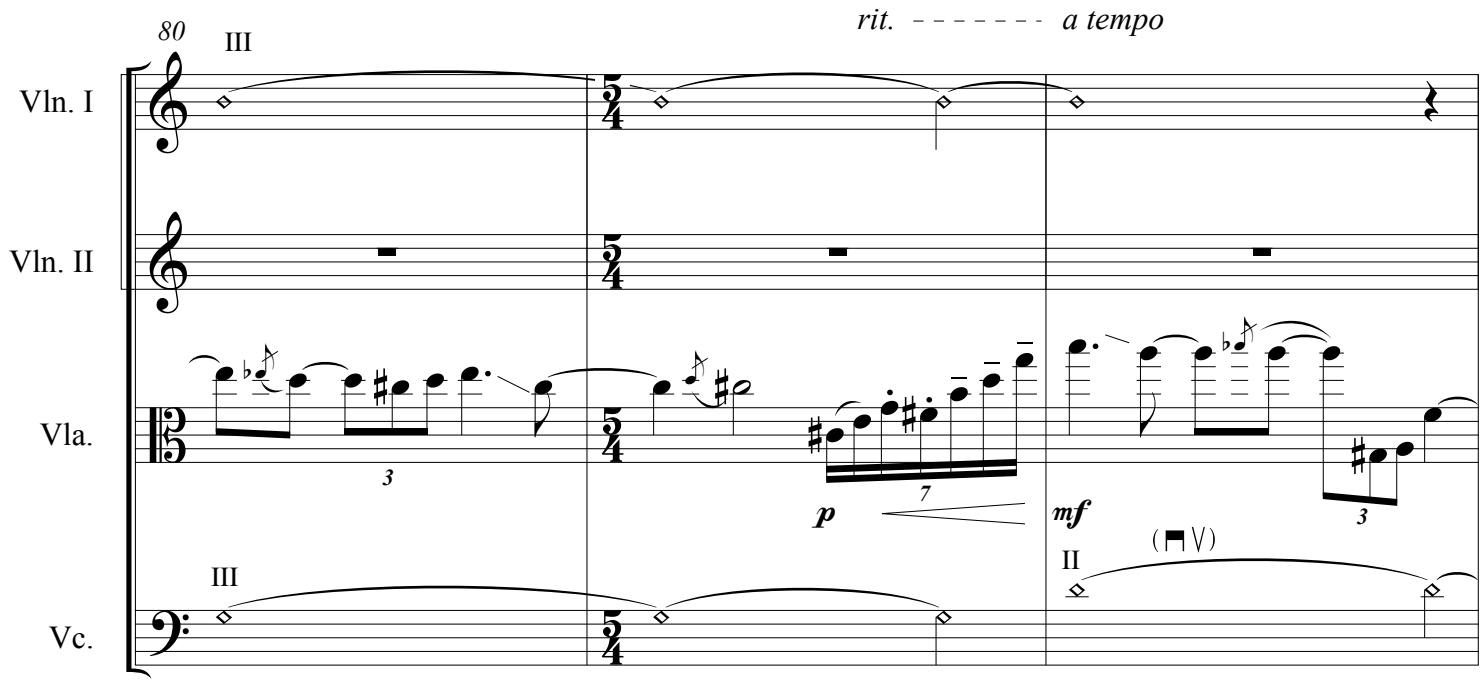

56
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mp
f
sub. p
fp
a.s.p.
mf
pp
58
F
rit. - - - - a tempo
ord.
senza vib.

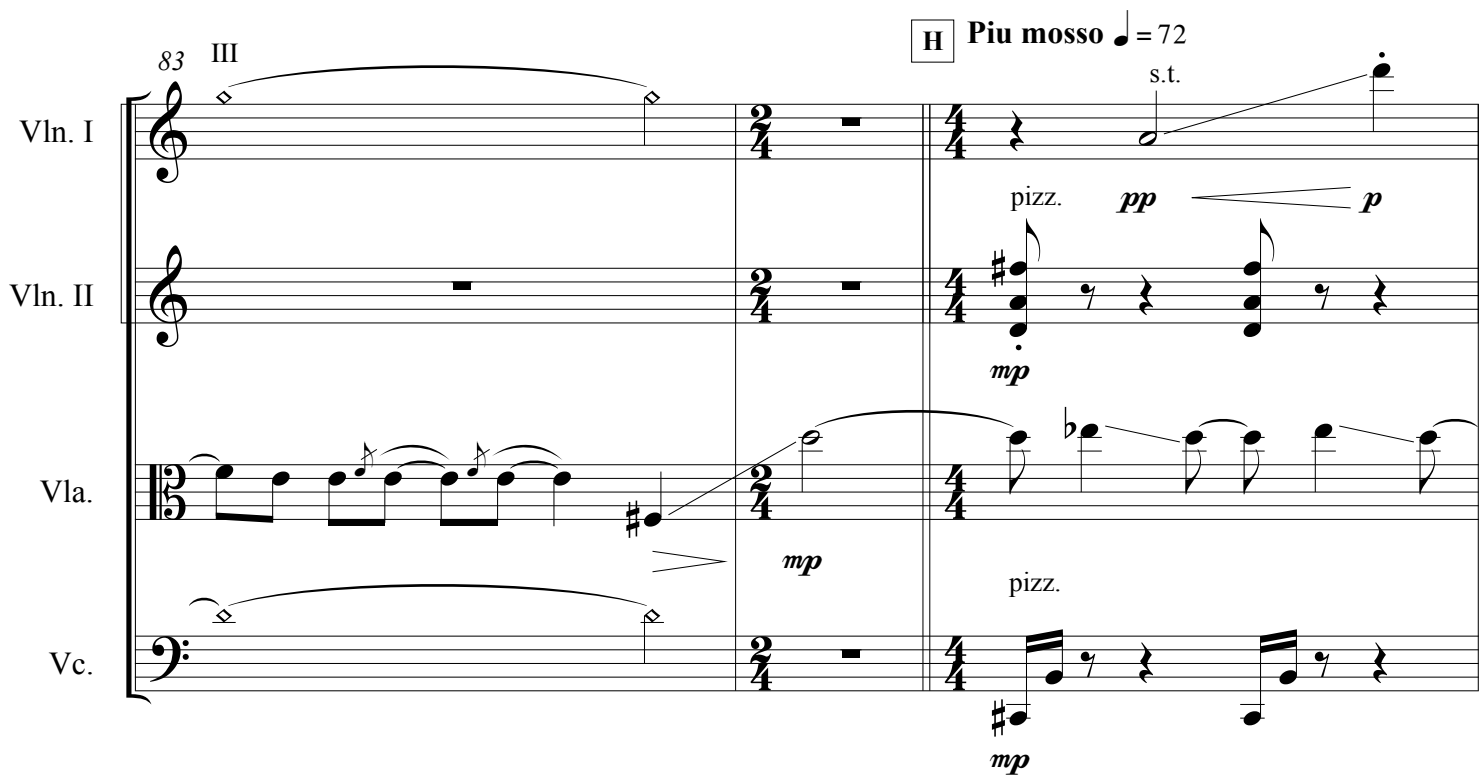

rit. - - - a tempo
62
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
p
pizz.
mp
arco
65
f
pp

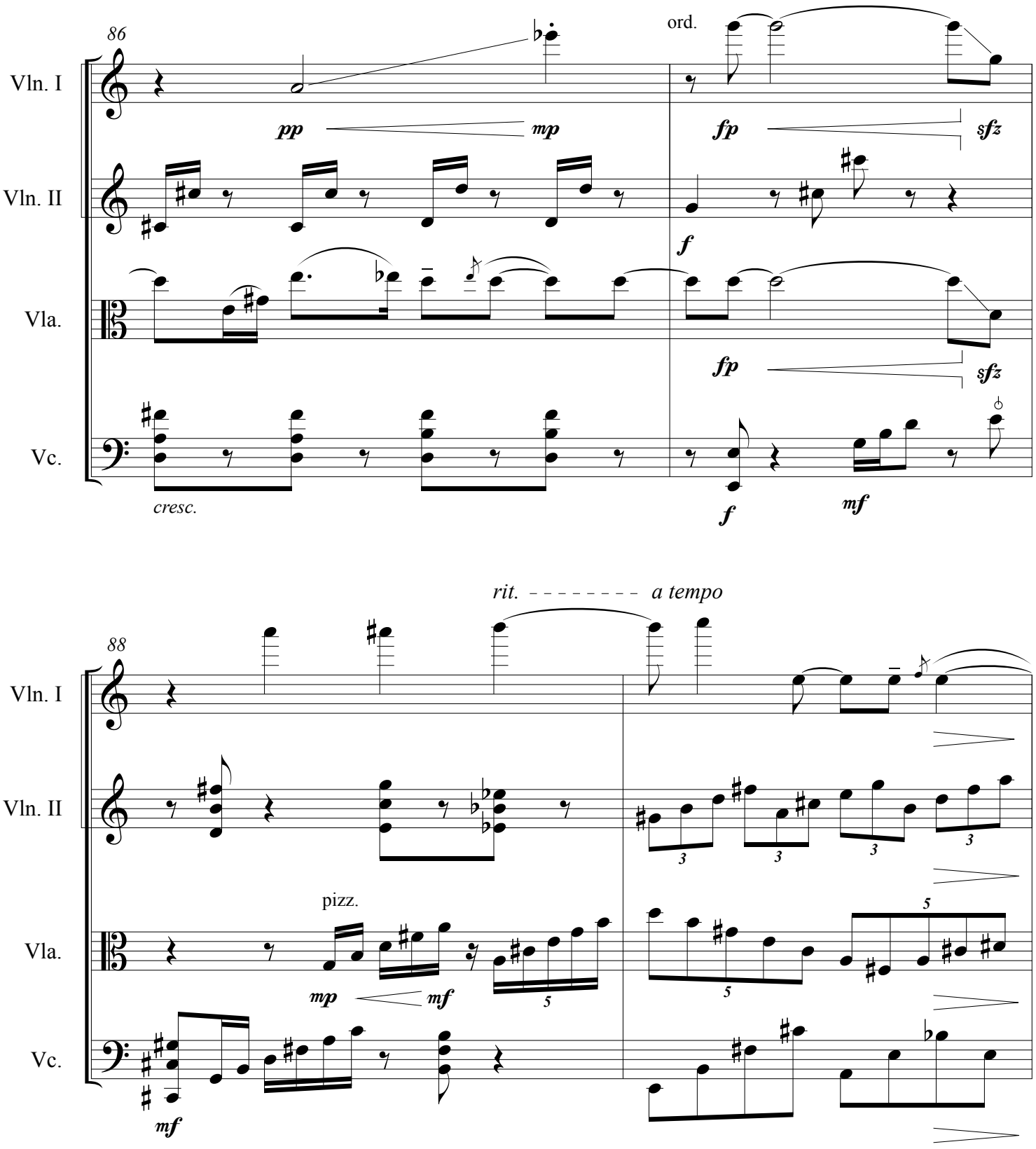

67
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
senza sord.
pp
p
III
II
mf
f
G
Poco meno mosso ♩ = 63
ff
fp
3

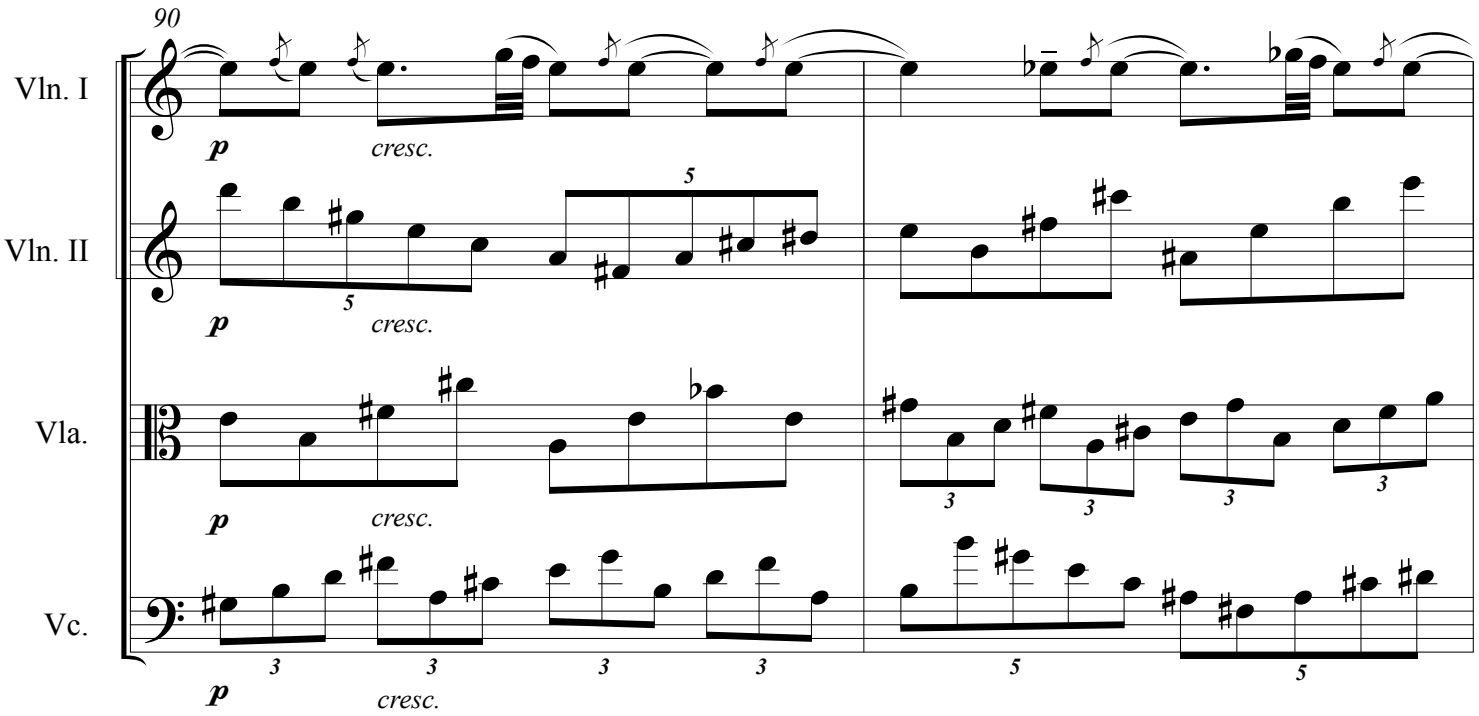

74
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
f
mp
3

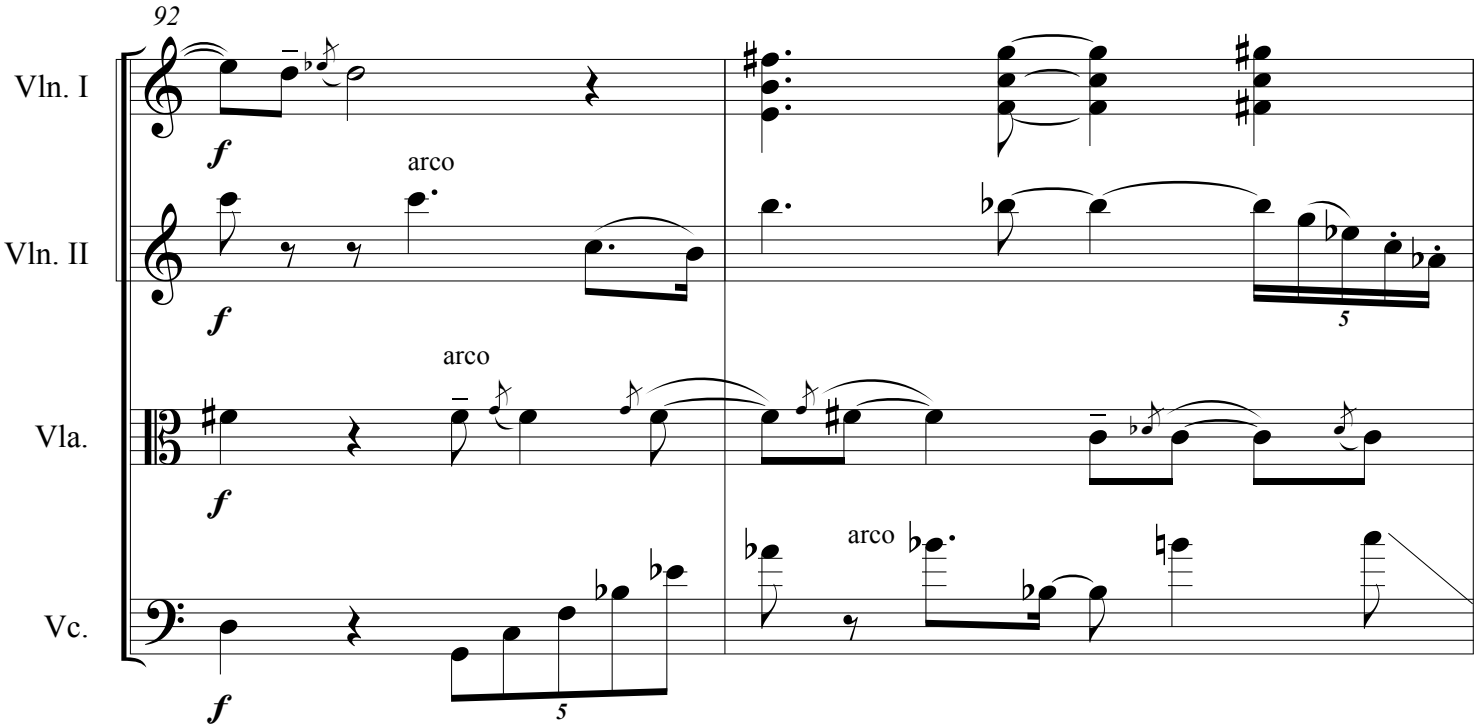

77
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
mp
p
3

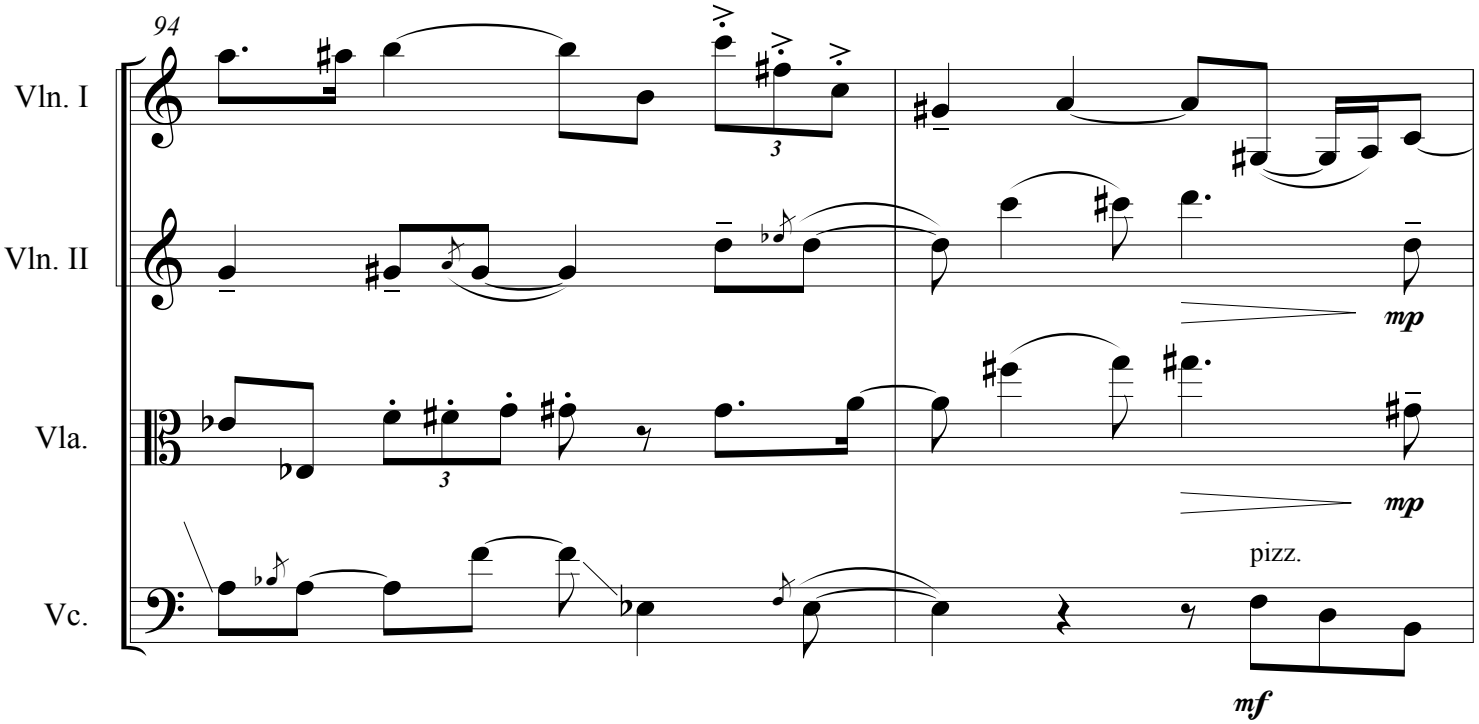

80
III
rit. - - - - - - - a tempo
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
III
p
mf
II

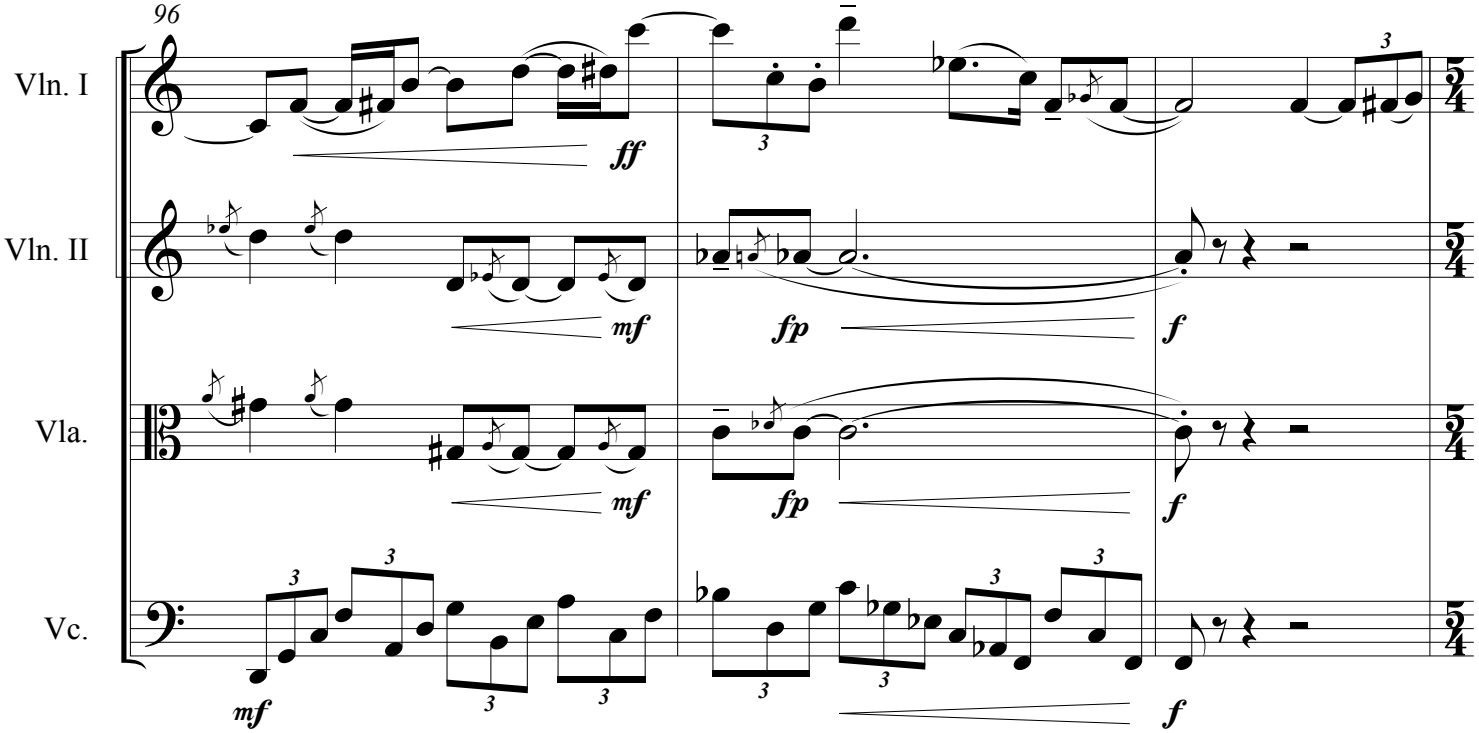

83
III
H
Piu mosso ♩ = 72
s.t.
Vln. I
pizz.
pp
p
Vln. II
mp
Vla.
mp
pizz.
Vc.
mp

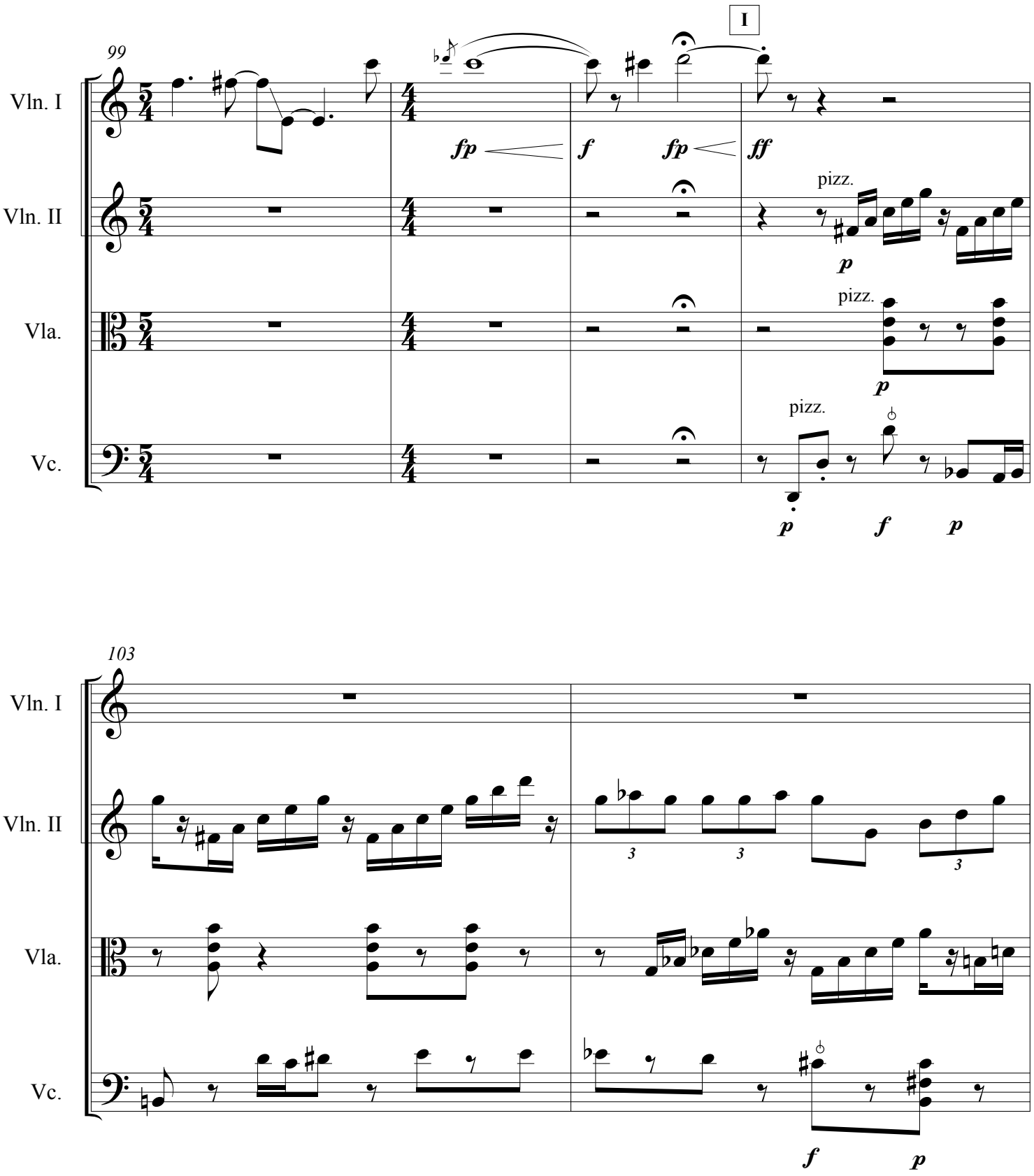

86
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pp
mp
ord.
fp
sfz
f
fp
sfz
cresc.
f
mf
rit.
a tempo
88
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
mp
mf
mf
3
3
3
3
5
5
5

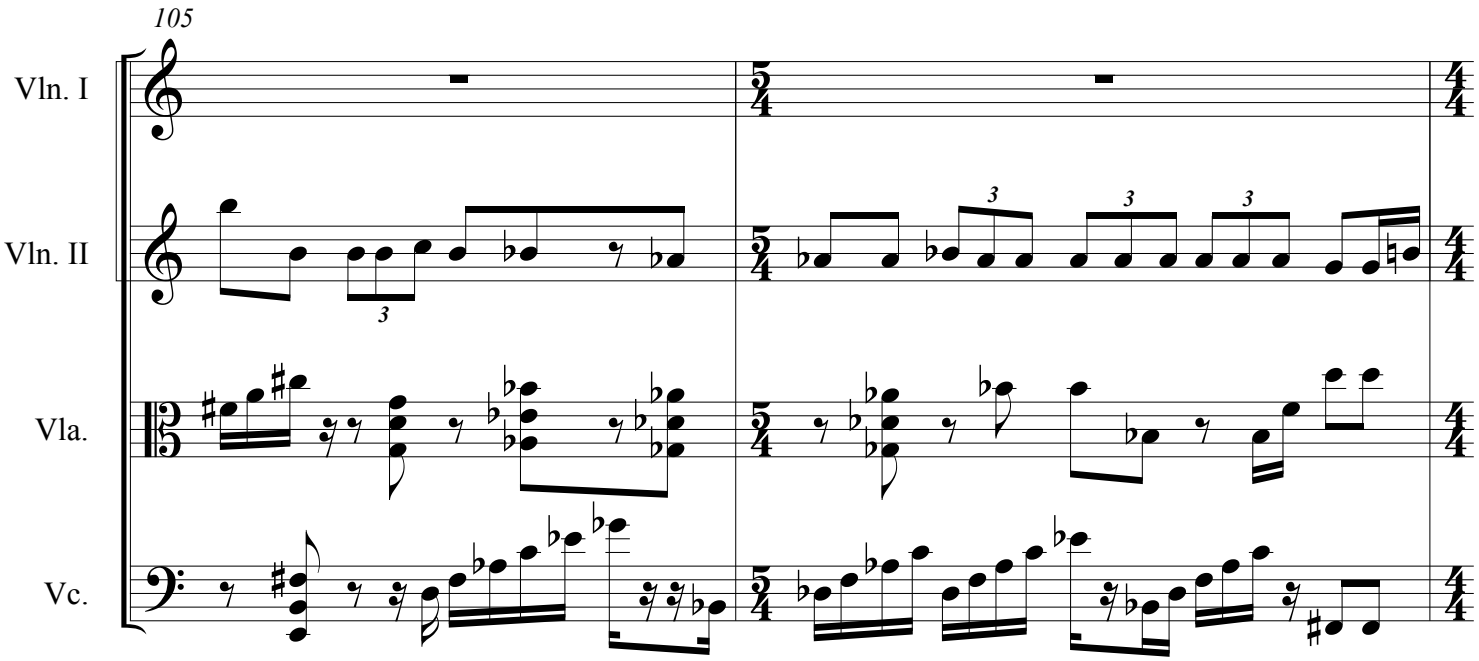

90
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
cresc.
5
3

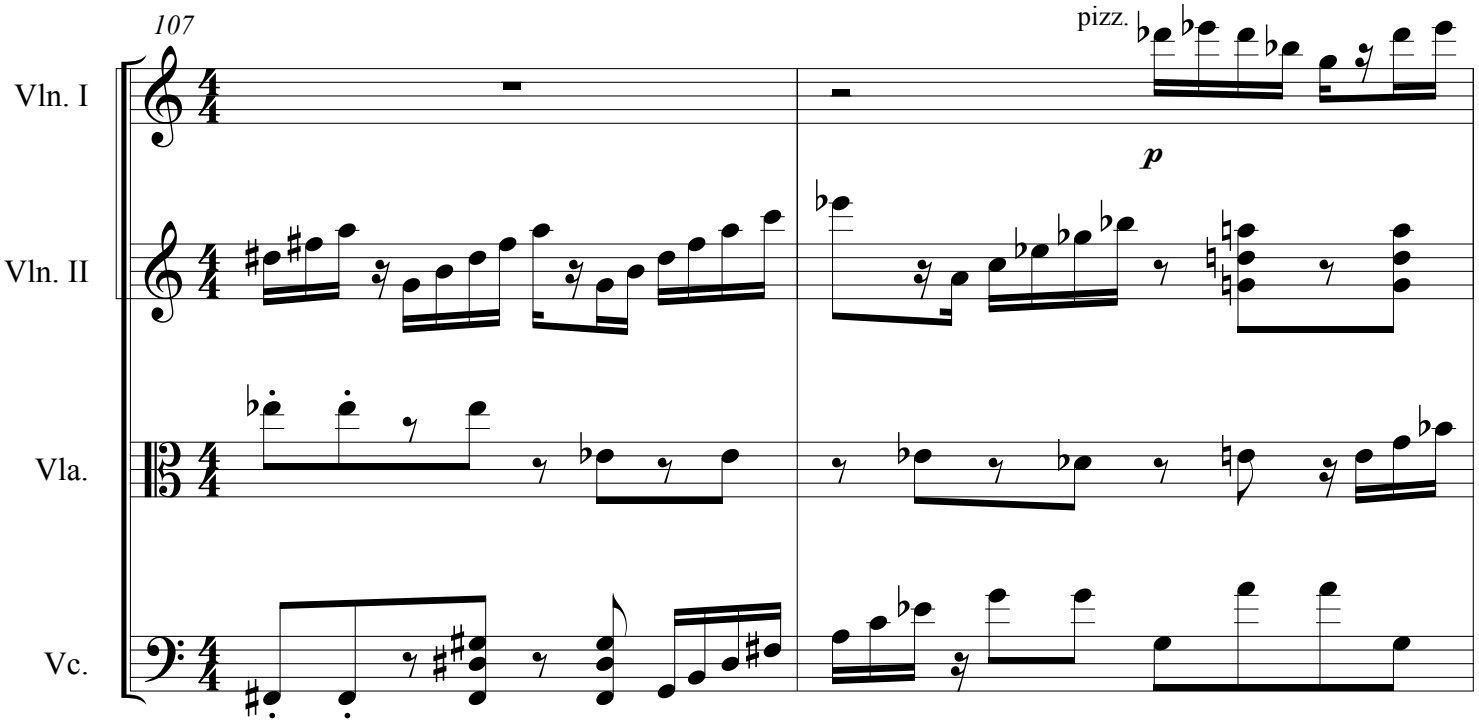

92
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
f
arco
5

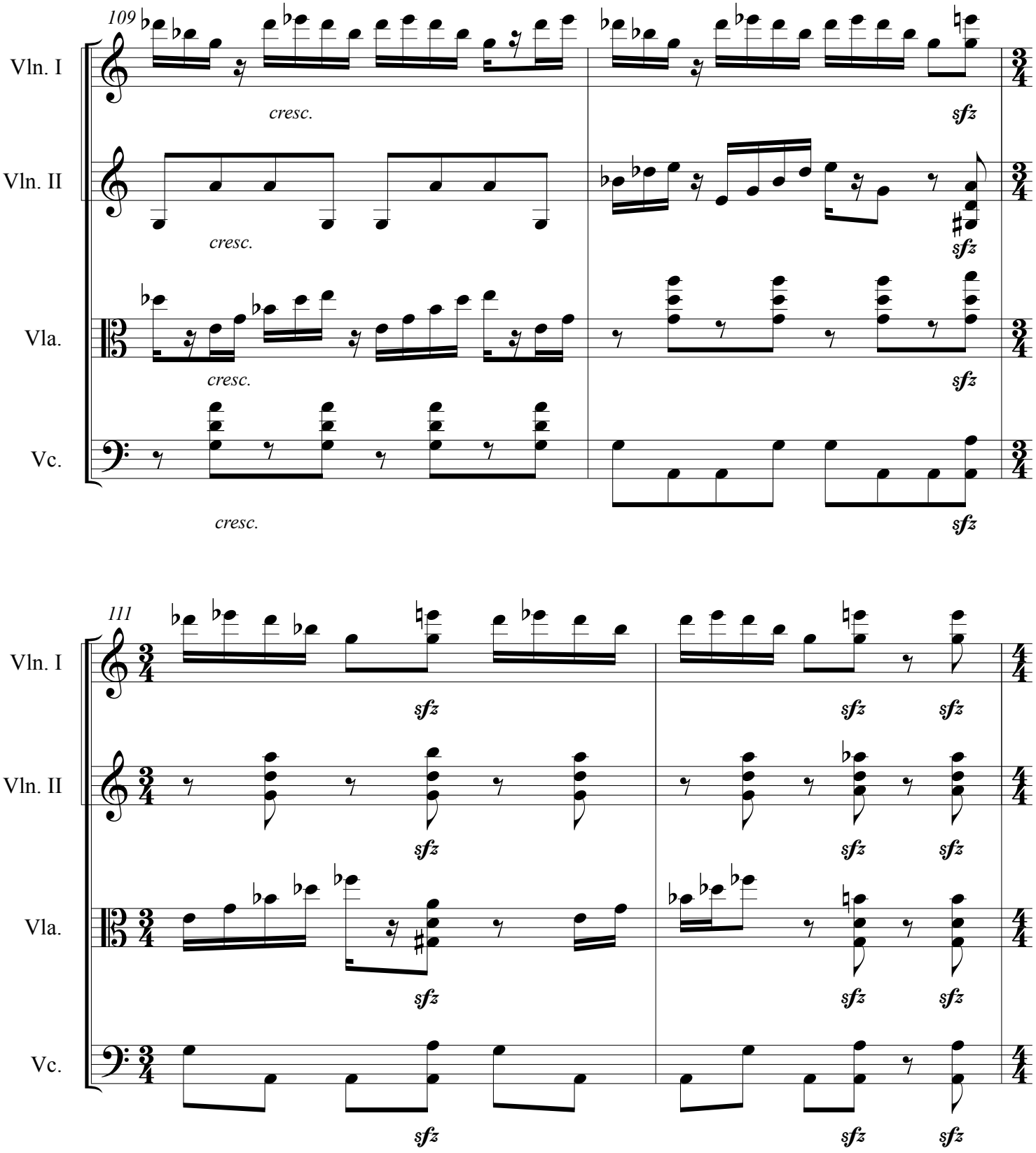

94
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mp
mp
pizz.
mf

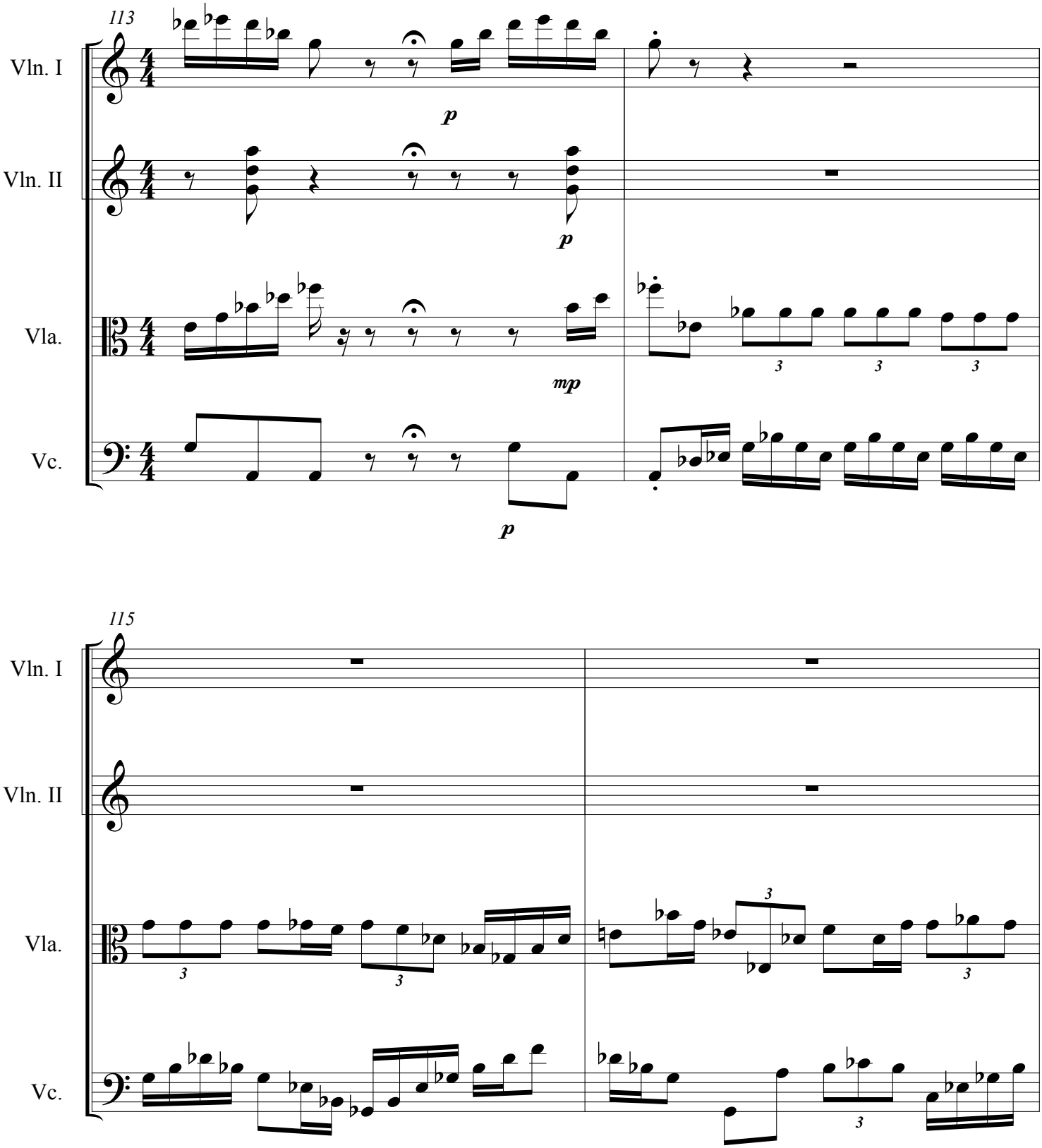

96
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
ff
mf
fp
f
mf
fp
f
mf
f

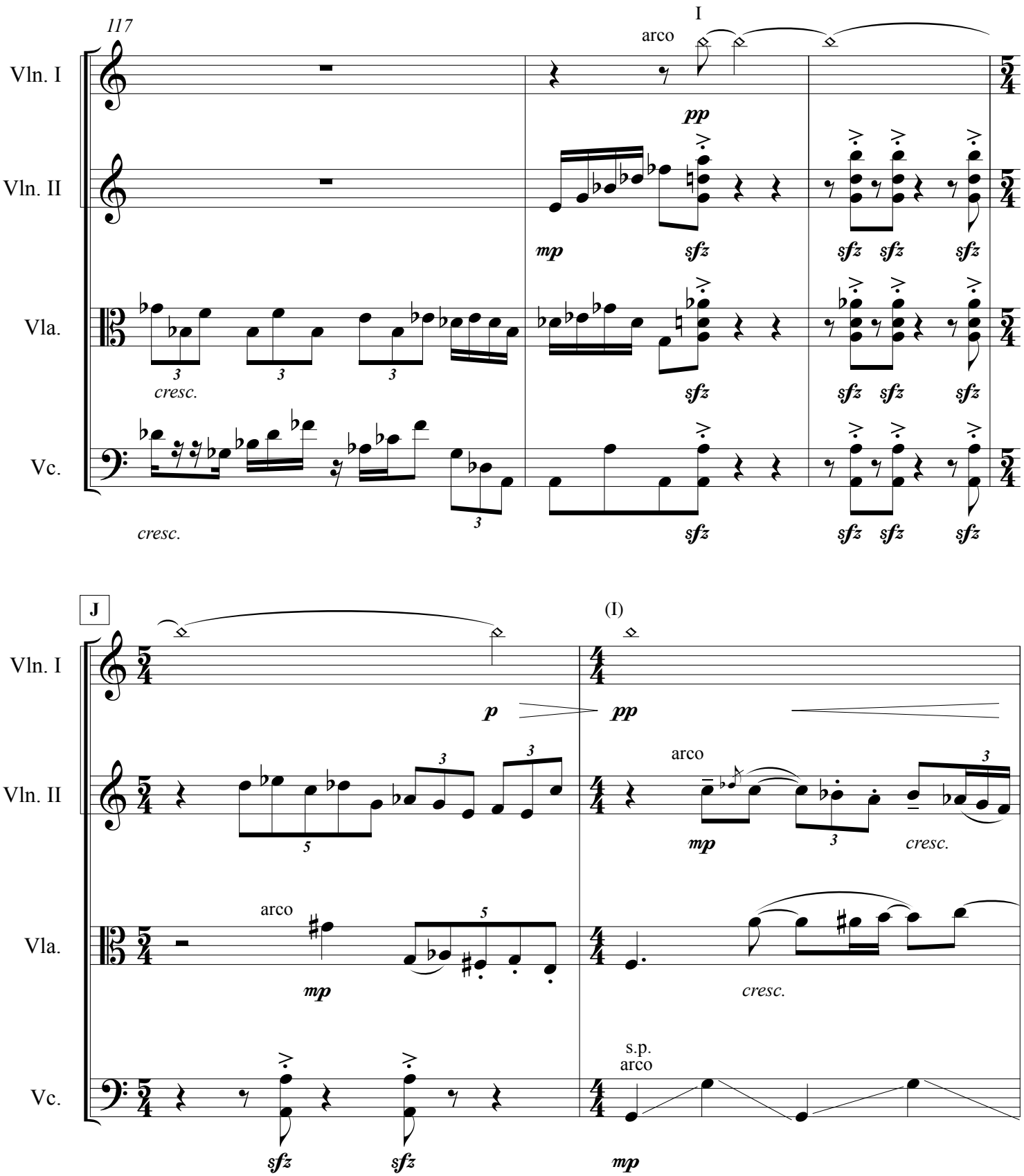

99
I
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
fp
f
fp
ff
pizz.
p
pizz.
p
pizz.
p
f
p
103
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
3
3
3
f
p

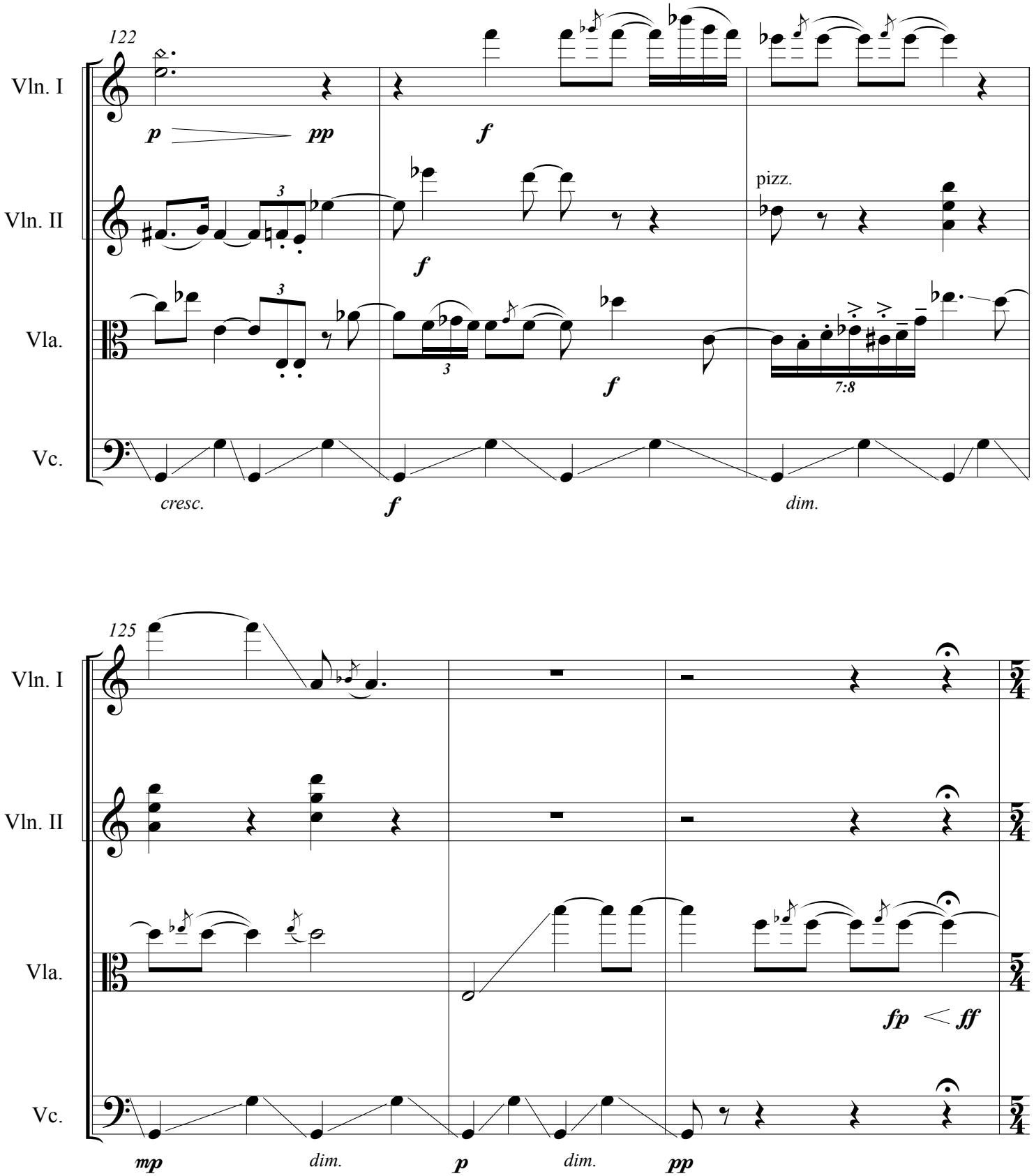

105
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

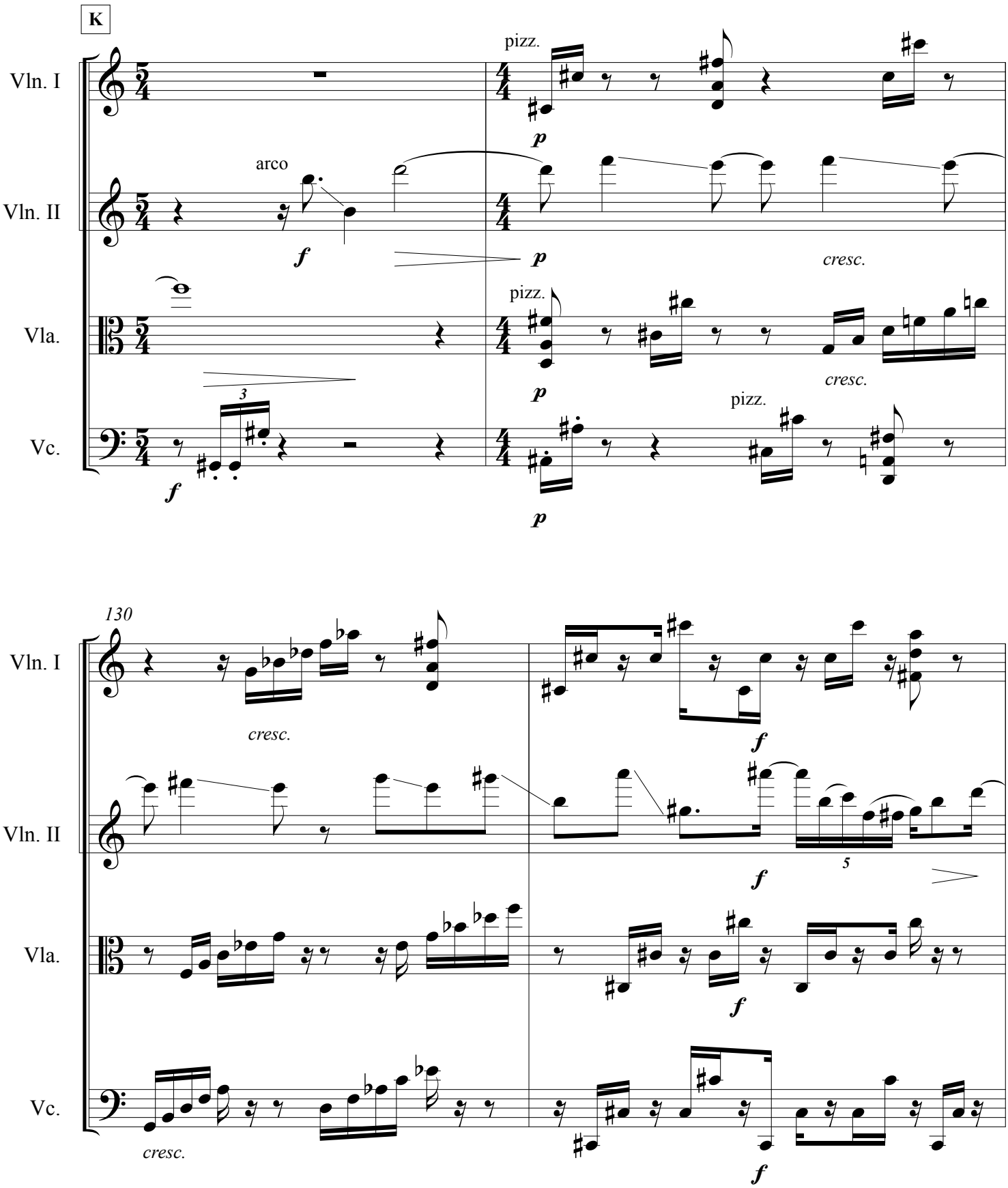

107
pizz.
p
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

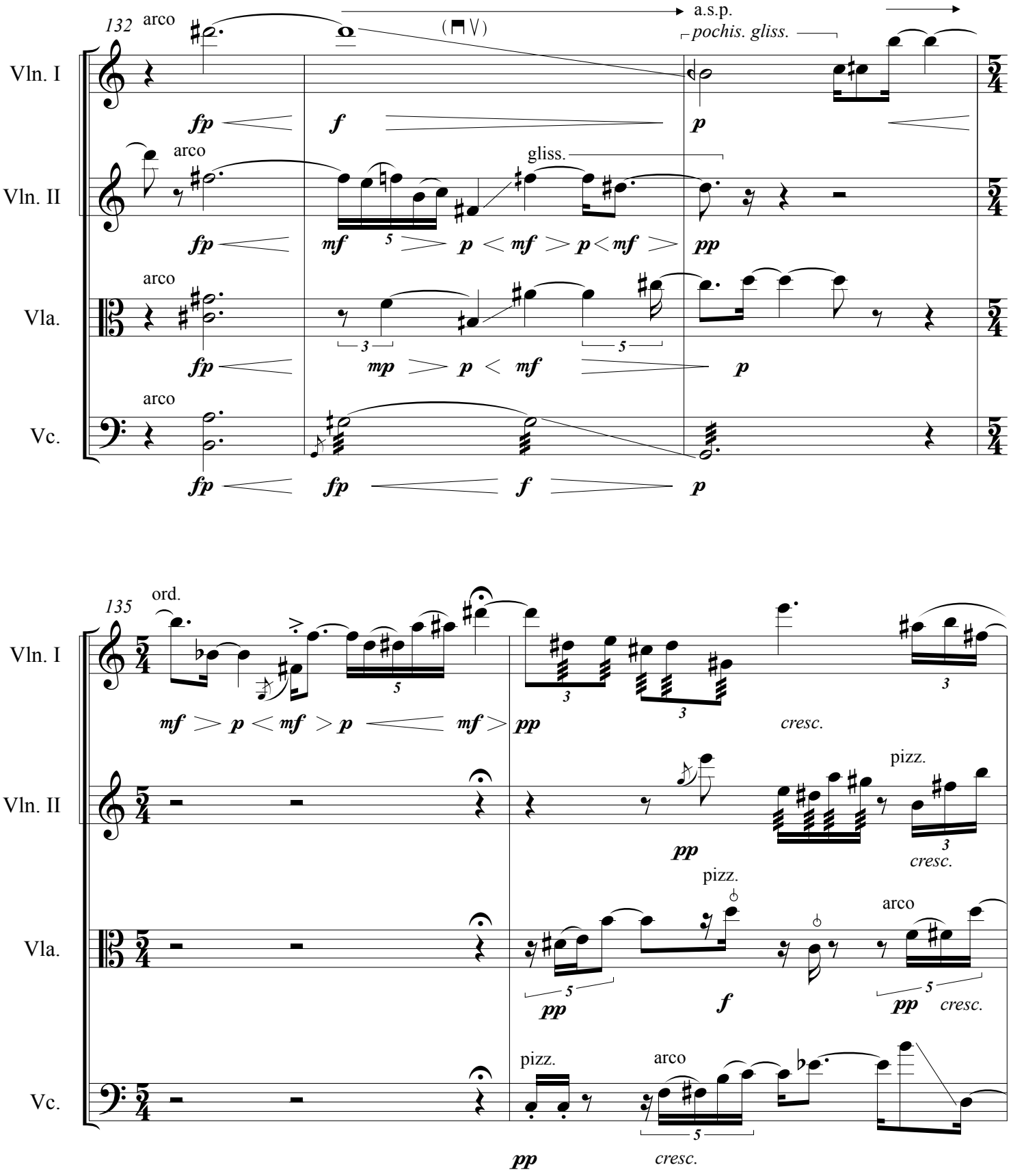

109
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
cresc.
sfz
111

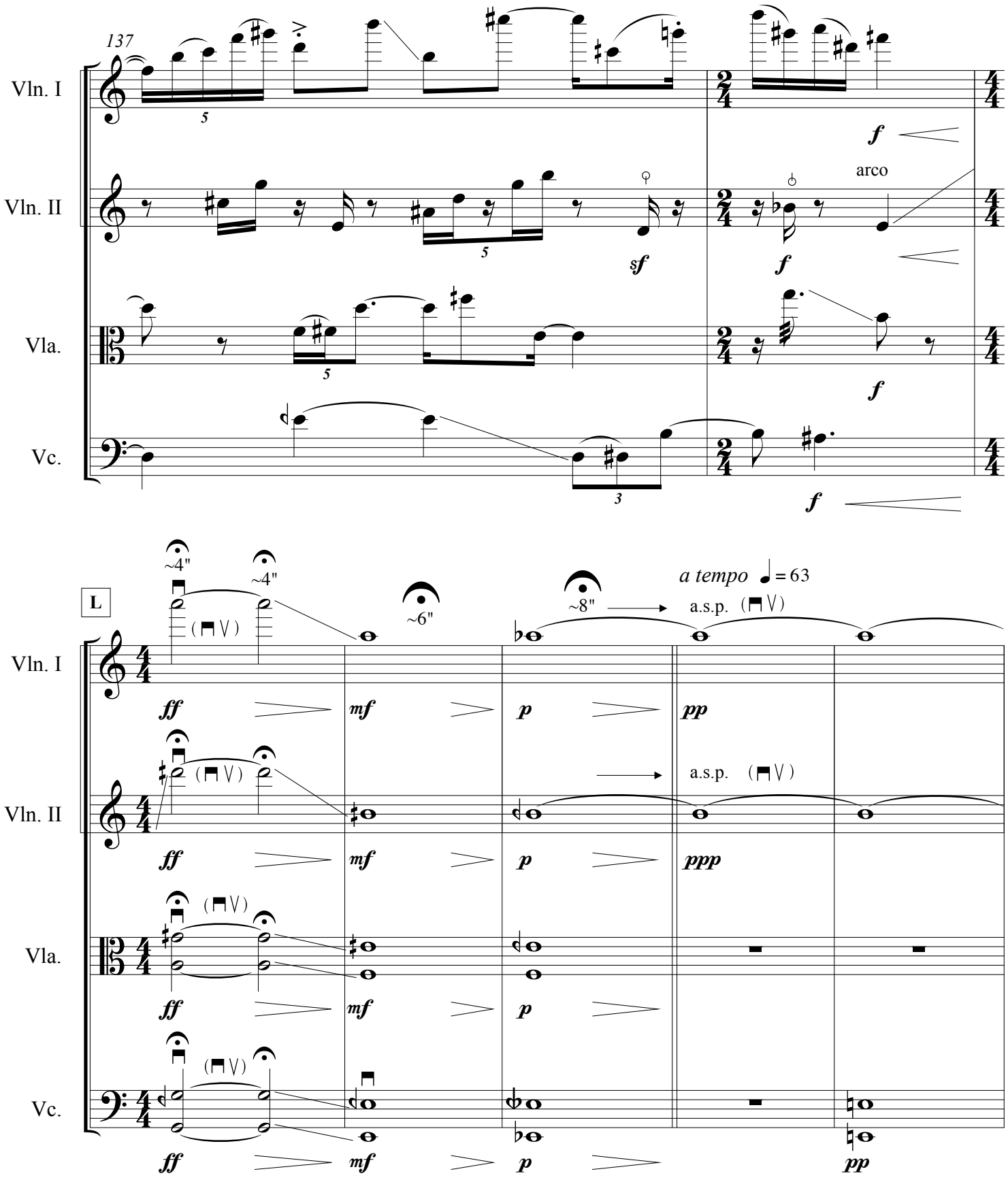

113
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
p
mp
p
3
3
3
115
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
3
3
3
3
3

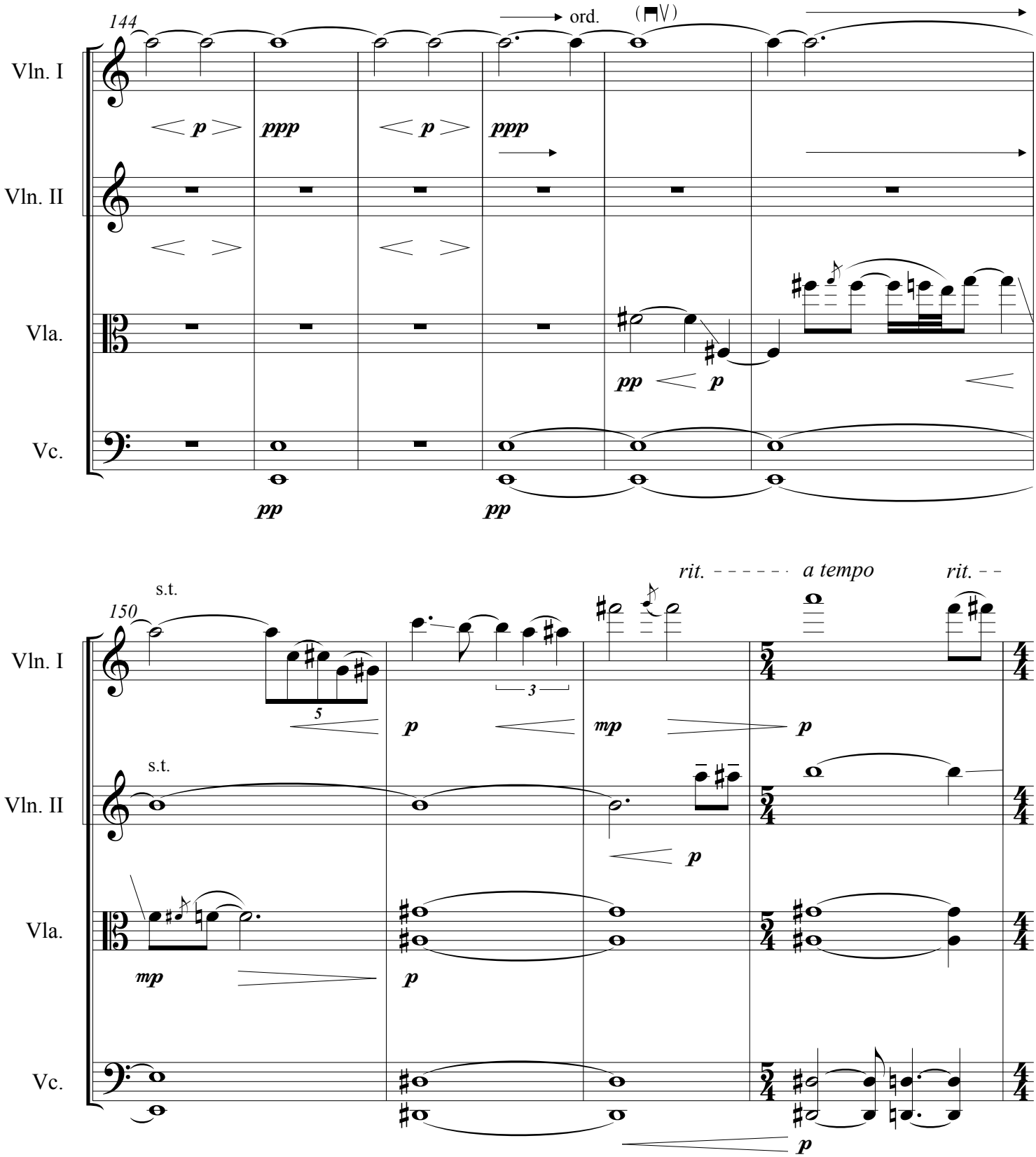

117
I
arco
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pp
mp
sfz
cresc.
J
(I)
p
arco
s.p.
arco

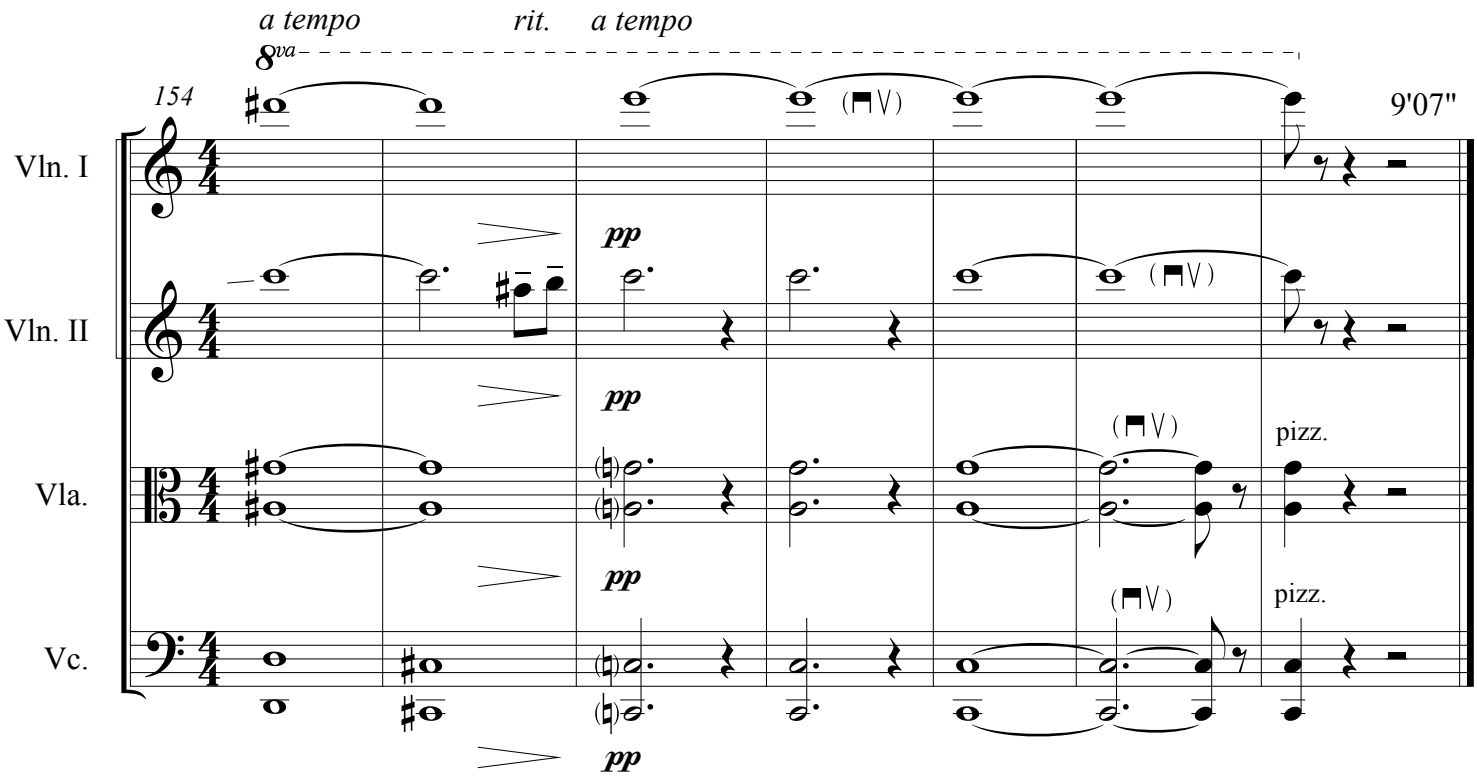

122
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
pp
f
pizz.
cresc.
dim.
125
mp
dim.
p
dim.
pp
fp
ff
7:8


K
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
cresc.
130
cresc.


132
arco
a.s.p.
pochis. gliss.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
gliss.
fp
f
p
mf
mp
pp
135
ord.
cresc.
pizz.
arco


137
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
L
~4"
~4"
~6"
~8"
a tempo ♩= 63
a.s.p.
a.s.p.
ff
mf
p
pp
ppp


144
ord.
(V)
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
ppp
pp
s.t.
150
rit.
a tempo
rit.
5
3
mp


a tempo
rit.
a tempo
8va
154
9'07"
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pp
pizz.