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String Quartet No. 7 "Hommage á Bartók"

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Kevin Scott

String Quartet No. 7
“Hommage á Bartók”
(2014)

Full Score

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Program notes

The genesis of my seventh string quartet originated in October 2013, when I answered a request posted on an online site devoted to movies from a young director looking for a composer to score his latest film by writing a string quartet that would serve as a concert work as well as underscore the cinematic narrative. The director Michael Morgenstern invited this composer and several others to write assessment cues to see which of us would be suitable for his film *Lily in the Grinder*, a short essay which is a cinematic meditation of life, death, friendship and the journey from darkness to light.

In the end, I was not chosen to score Morgenstern's film, but the material I submitted for consideration was far too important to discard, so I decided to flesh out the numerous sketches and cues into a five-movement quartet that is abstract in content, yet formally retaining the narrative structure I envisioned for Morgenstern's short film.

Like most directors, Morgenstern used "temp tracks" to approximate the pacing of his film, so he chose several movements from the six quartets of Béla Bartók as a rough guide for what he sought. Following the practice of Bartók's fifth string quartet, my quartet begins with a mysterious introduction followed by an ensuing, blistering allegro in a modified sonata form, its violent tone contrasted by a yearning blues-tinged second subject that undergoes modified transfiguration in the coda.

The second movement is a nocturne where the quartet is totally muted, evoking a disturbance in the soul while communing with a quiet evening in the city. The scherzo is a raucous conversation between the four players, alternating pizzicato lines against bowed ones. The trio is another blues-like melody that relaxes the conversation before the brittle brilliance of the scherzo's ambiance returns, replete with rude glissandos and curt wails.

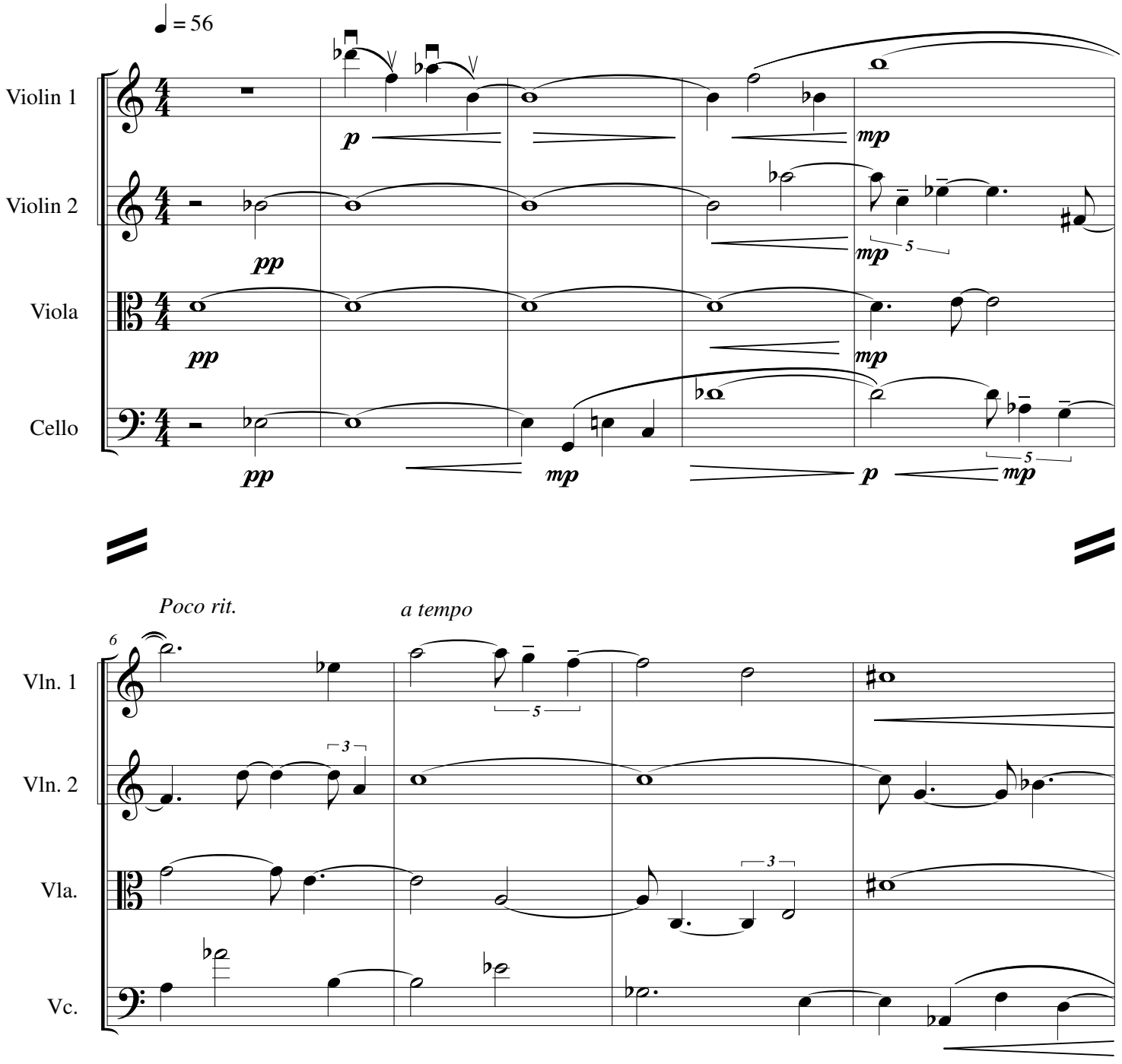
The fourth movement is an elegiac fantasy on the well-known hymn *Amazing Grace*, which is sung in the film by several friends after the loss of one of their buddies. The final movement is a musical journey through the canyons of New York where the melodic ideas – principal, secondary and even harmonic cadences and ostinatos – are tossed into an extended developmental episode that recalls a free-form jazz session. If the ideas seem to be abruptly interrupted or fail to make its impact because of its incompleteness, it is to evoke the many conversations we have with our friends – and within ourselves – as we make the sojourn to life that ends rather abruptly, and unexpectedly.

String Quartet No. 7

"Hommage á Bartók"

Kevin Scott

I - Introduzione e Allegro



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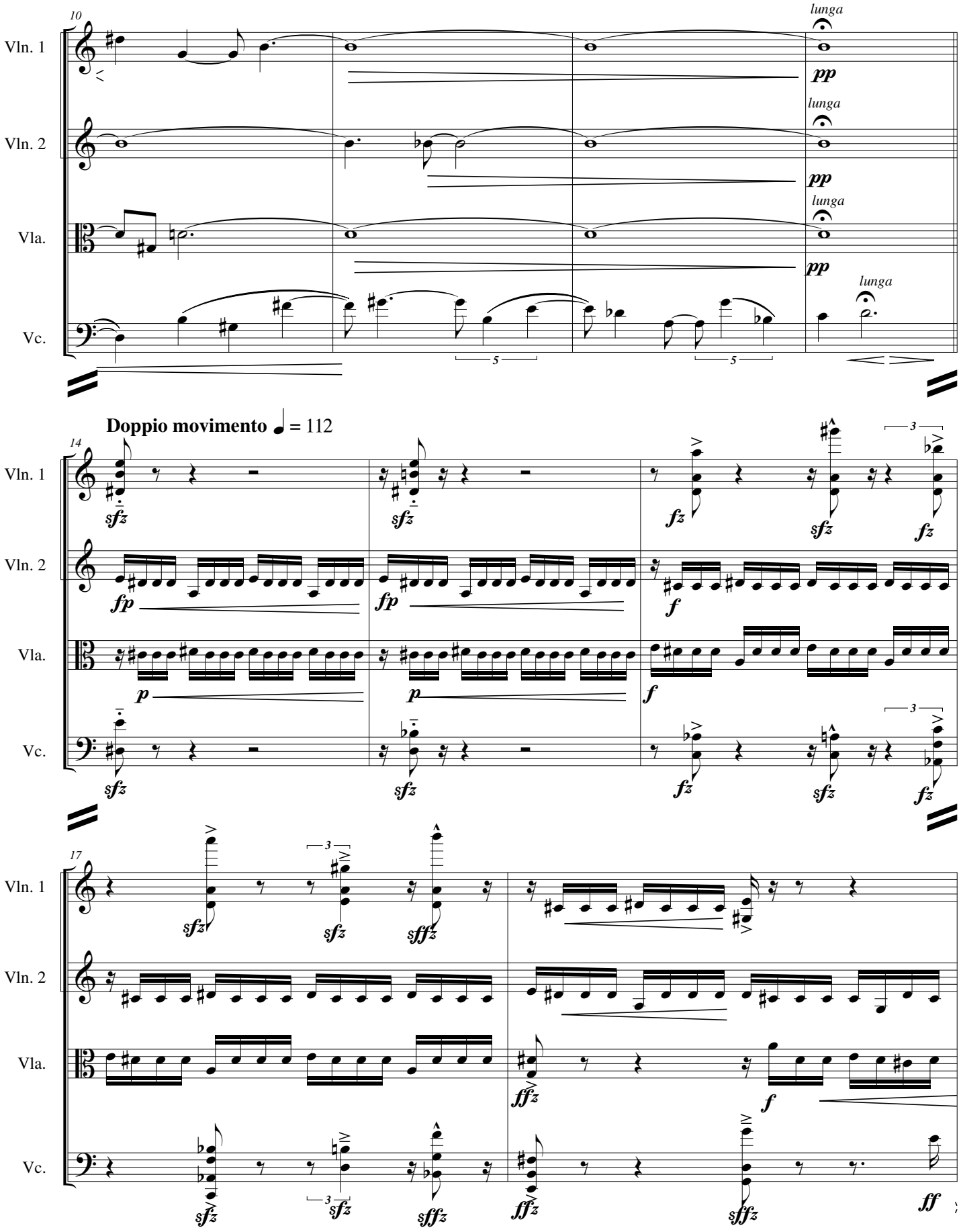
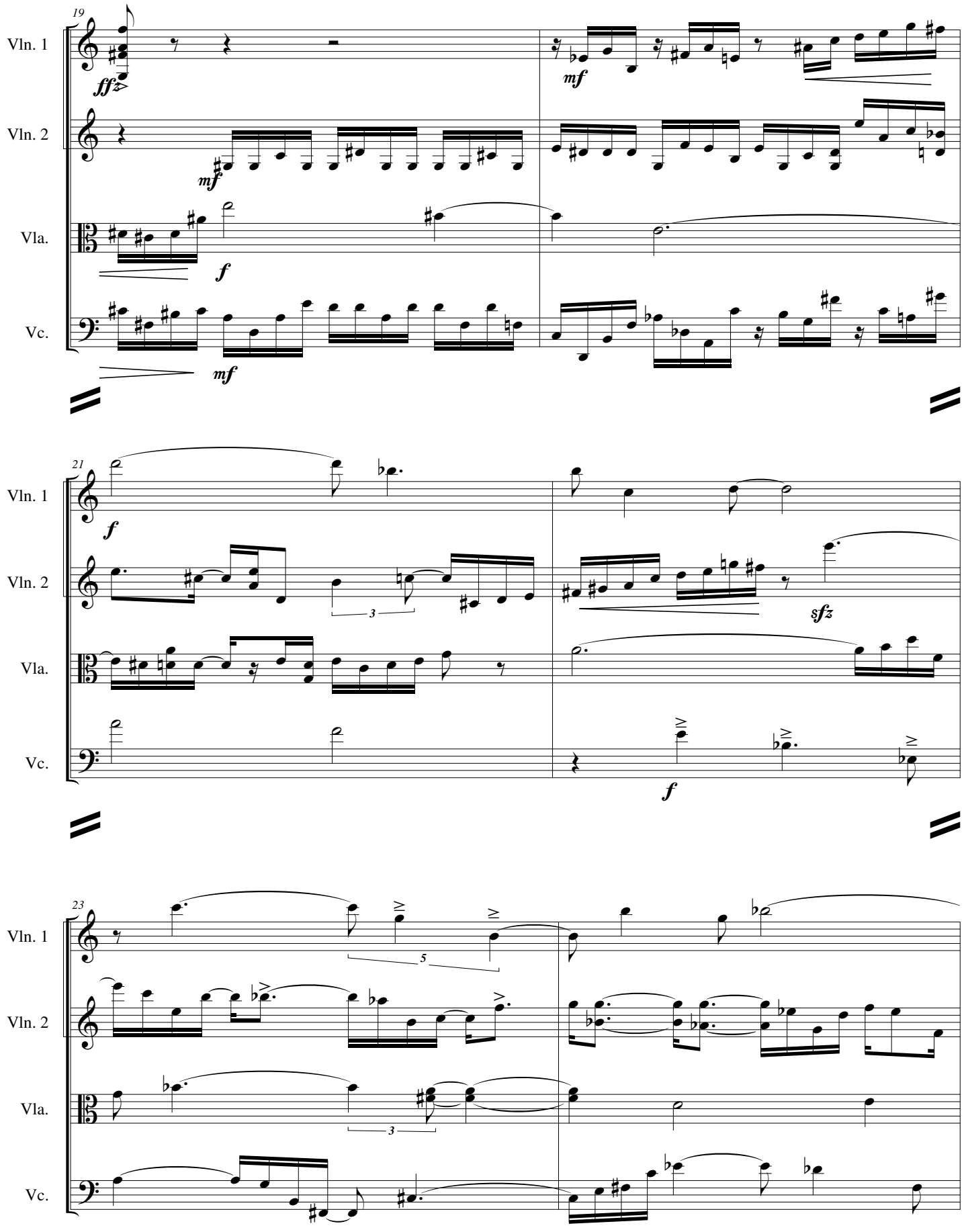
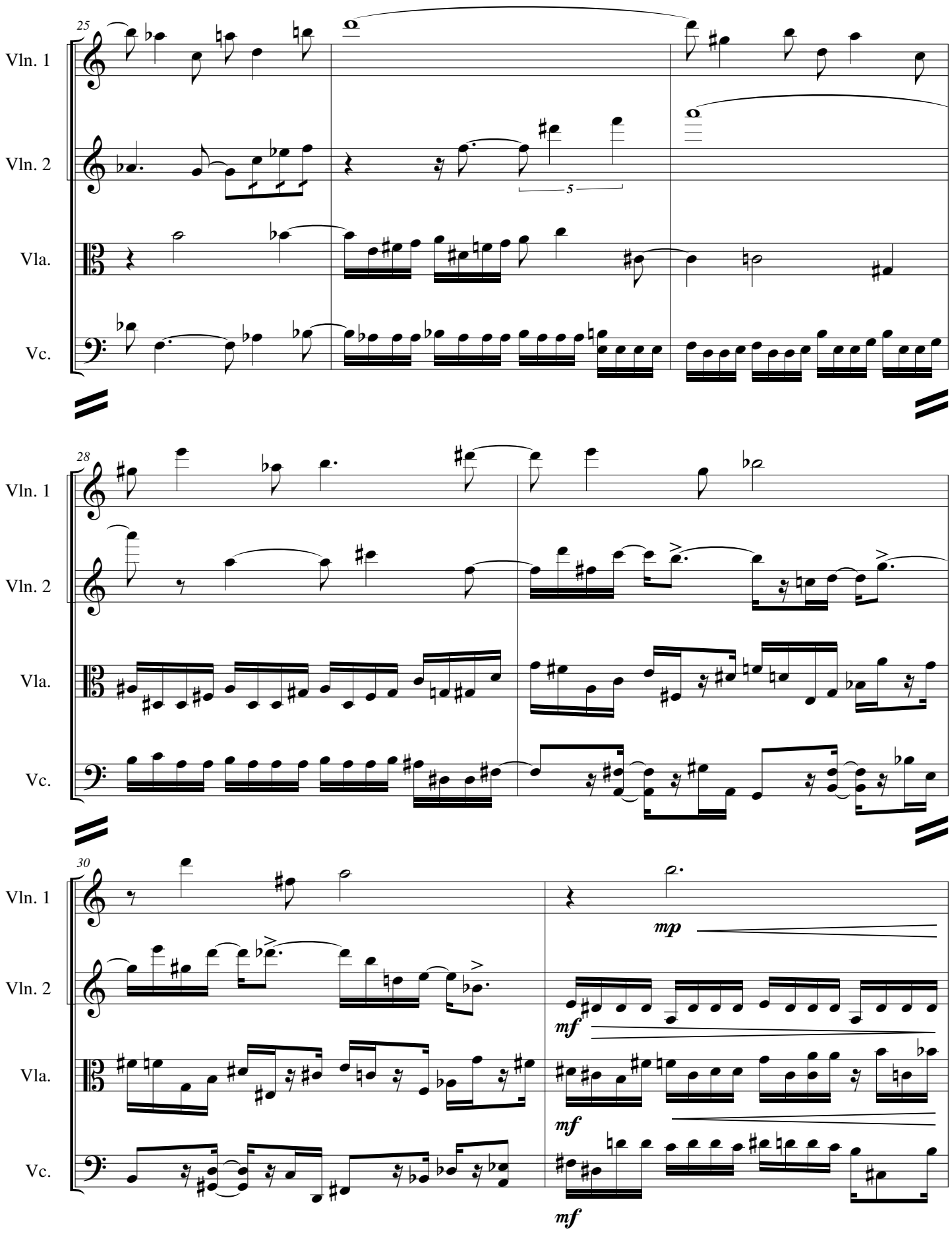
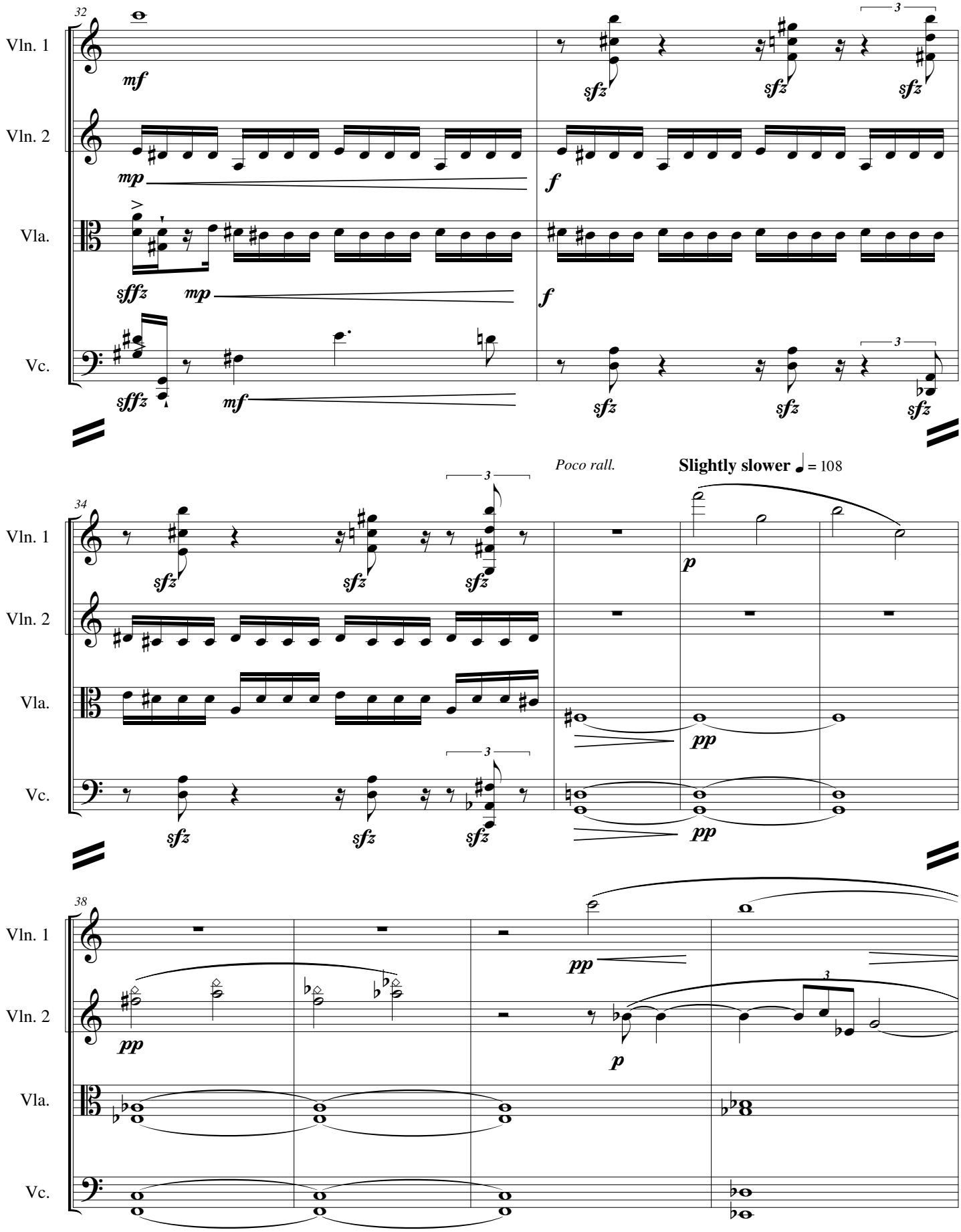
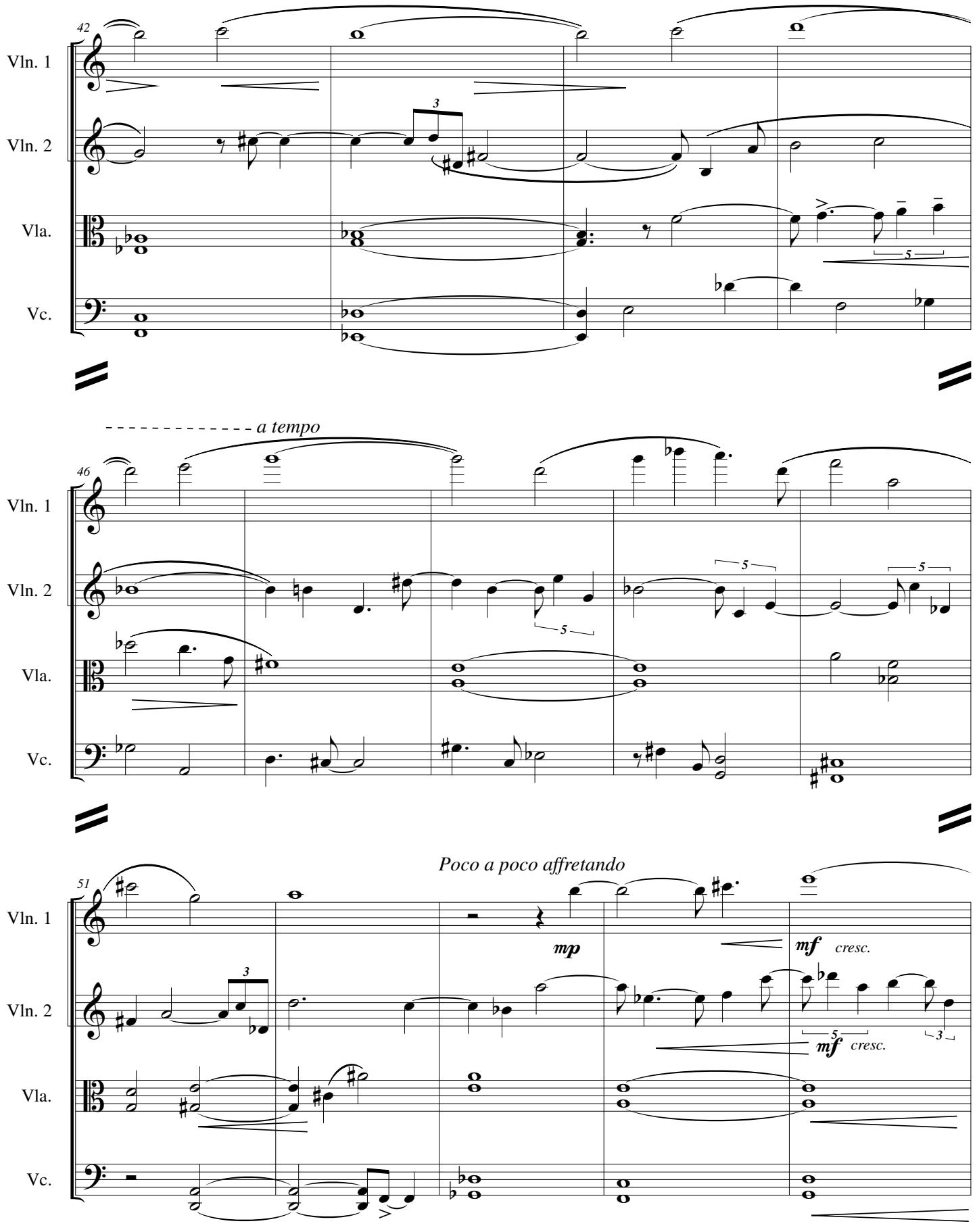
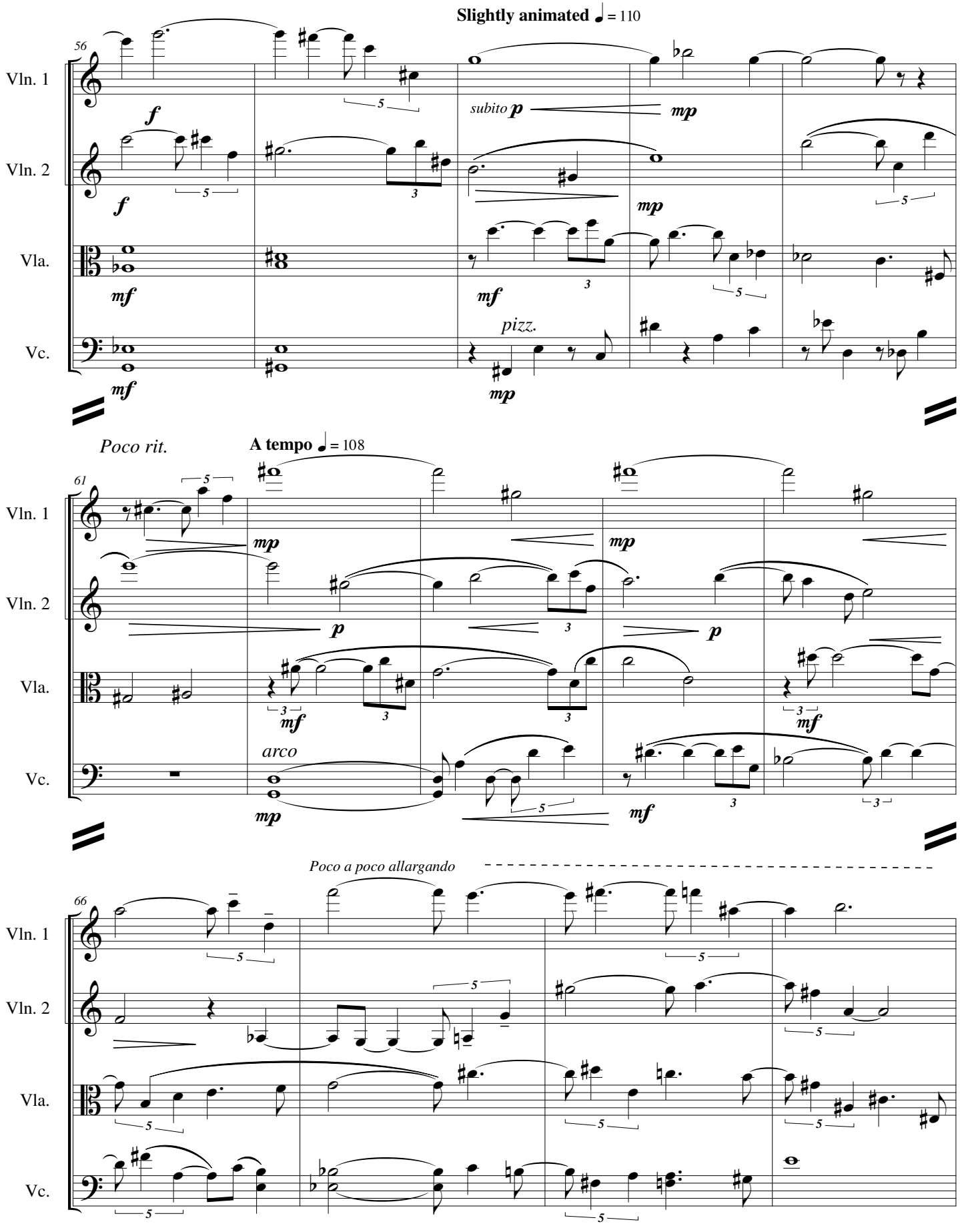

10
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
lunga
pp
5
Doppio movimento ♩ = 112
14
sfz
fp
p
f
fz
3
17
sffz
ffz
ff

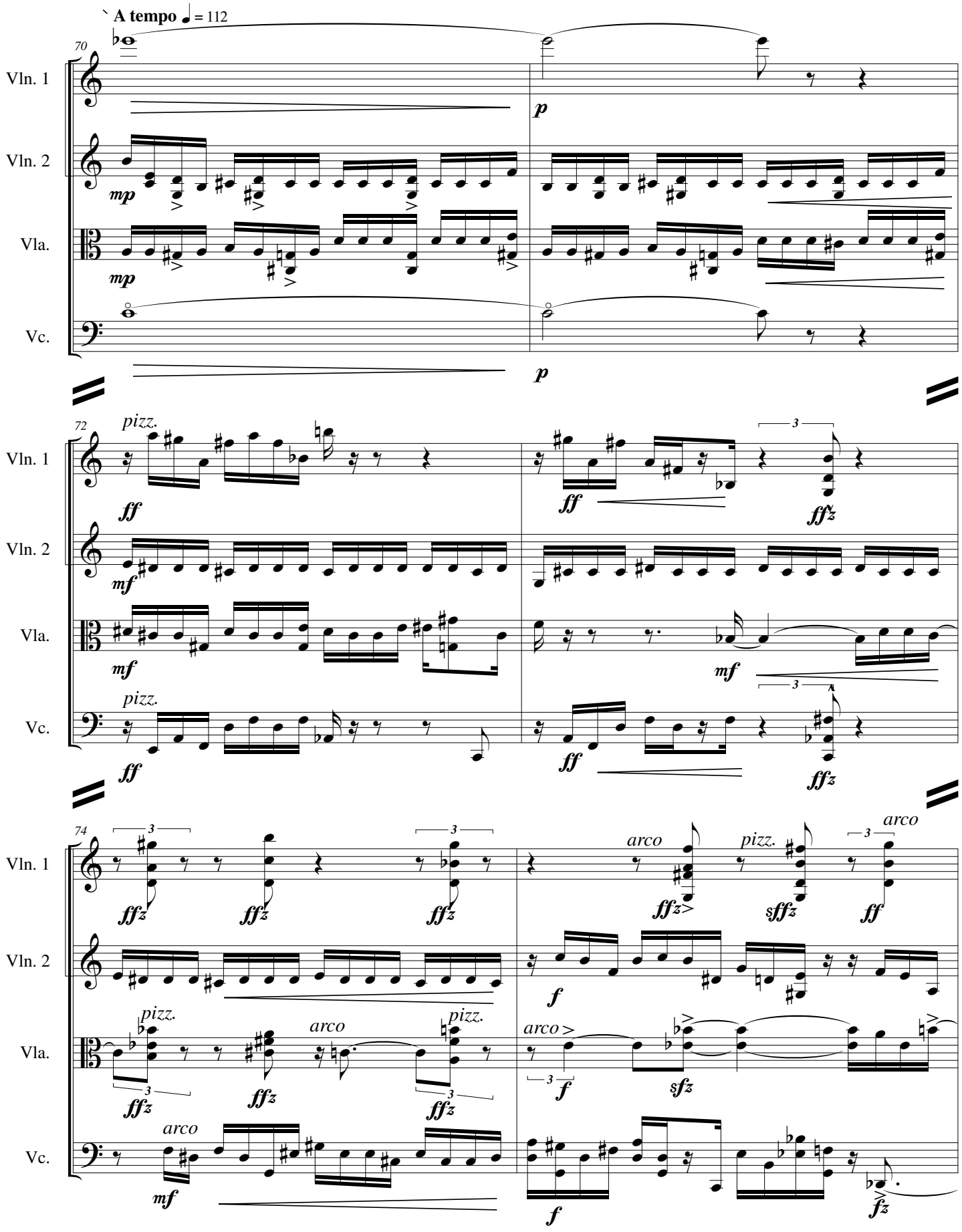

19
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
ff
mf
mf
f
mf
21
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
f
3
sfz
f
23
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
5
3

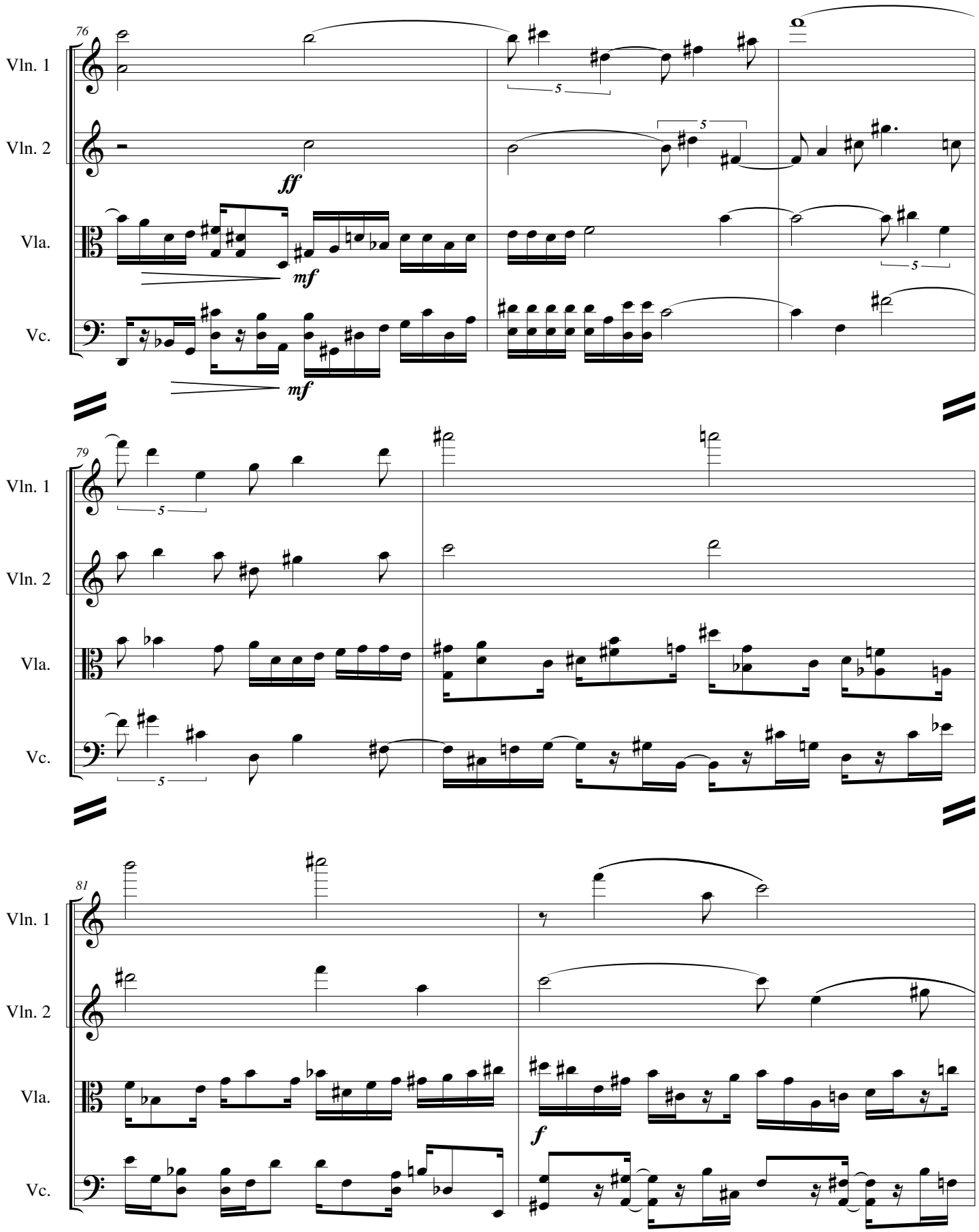

25
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
5
28
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
30
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
mp
mf
mf
mf

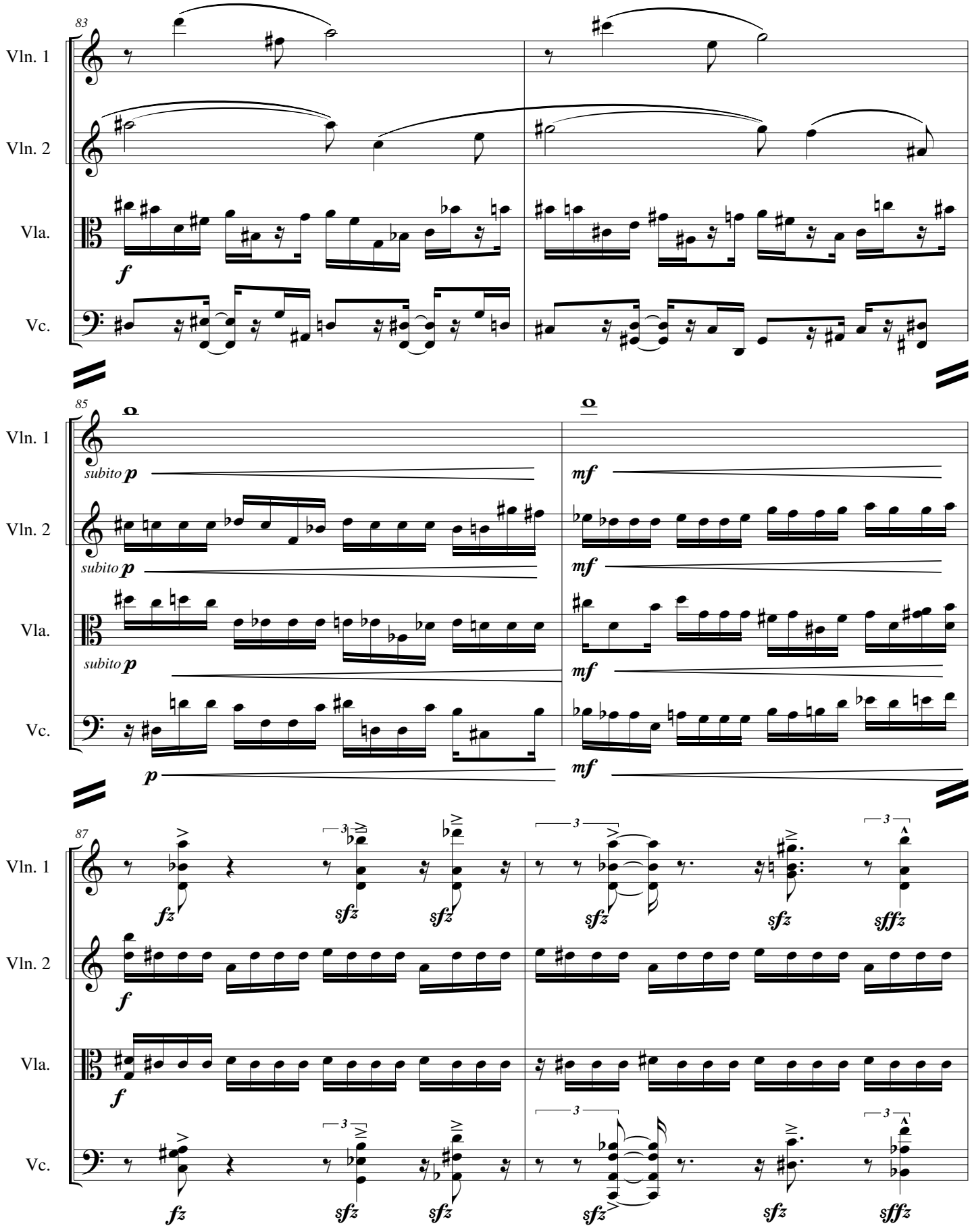

32
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
mf
mp
sffz
f
sfz
3
34
Poco rall.
Slightly slower ♩ = 108
p
pp
38

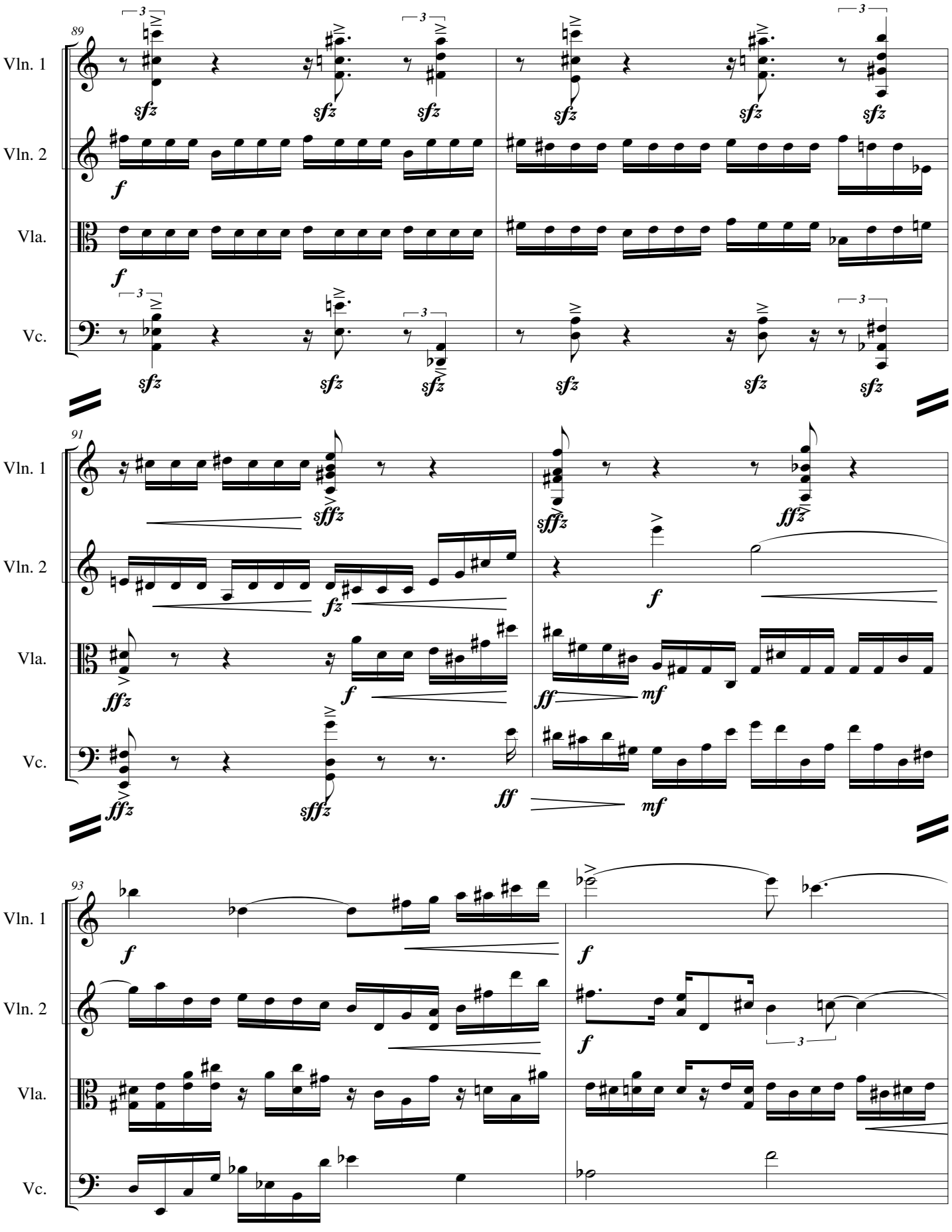

Allargando un poco
42
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
3
5
a tempo
46
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
5
5
5
Poco a poco affretando
51
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
3
mp
mf cresc.
mf cresc.
5
3

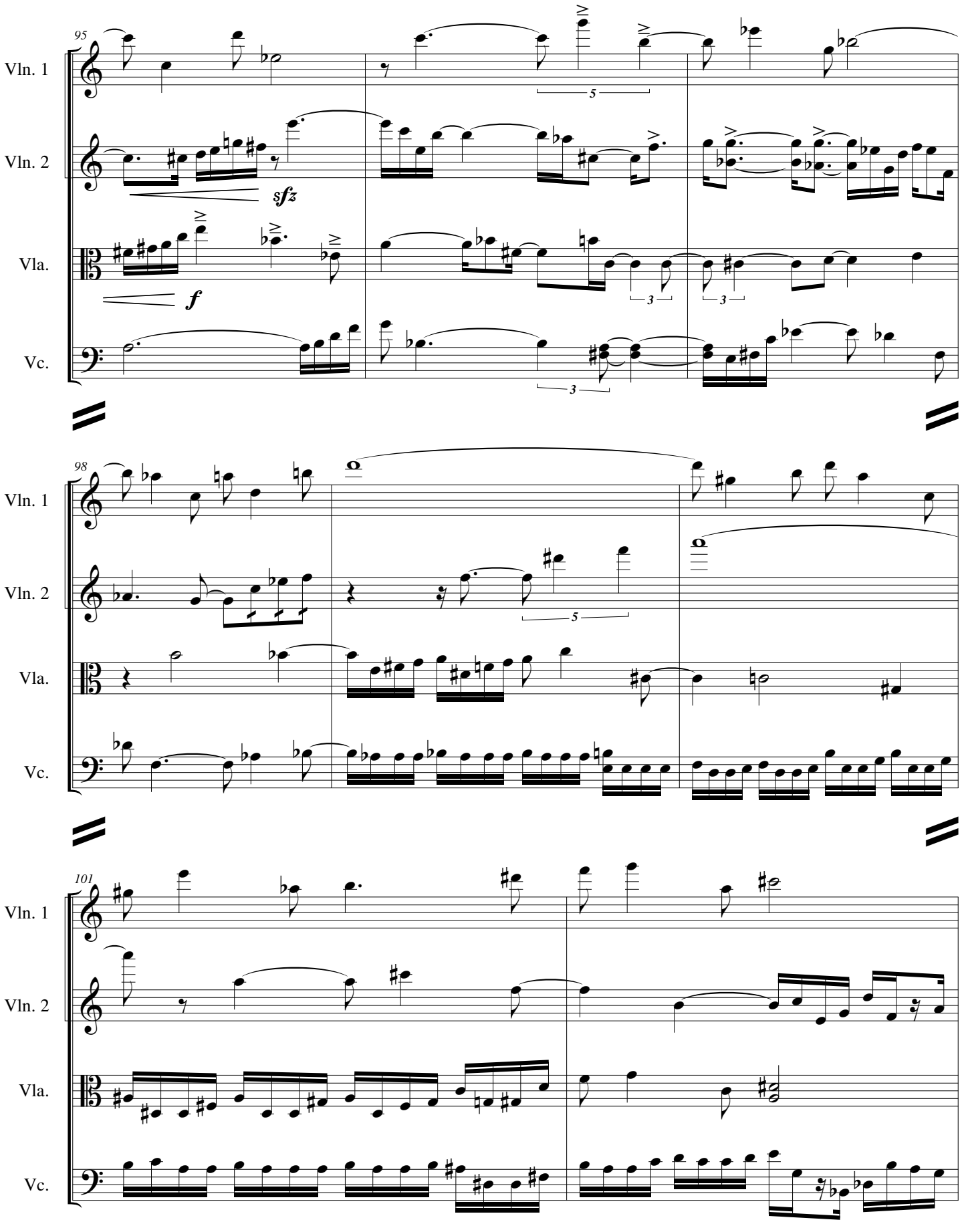

Slightly animated ♩ = 110
56
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
f
mf
subito p
mp
pizz.
Poco rit.
A tempo ♩ = 108
61
arco
Poco a poco allargando
66

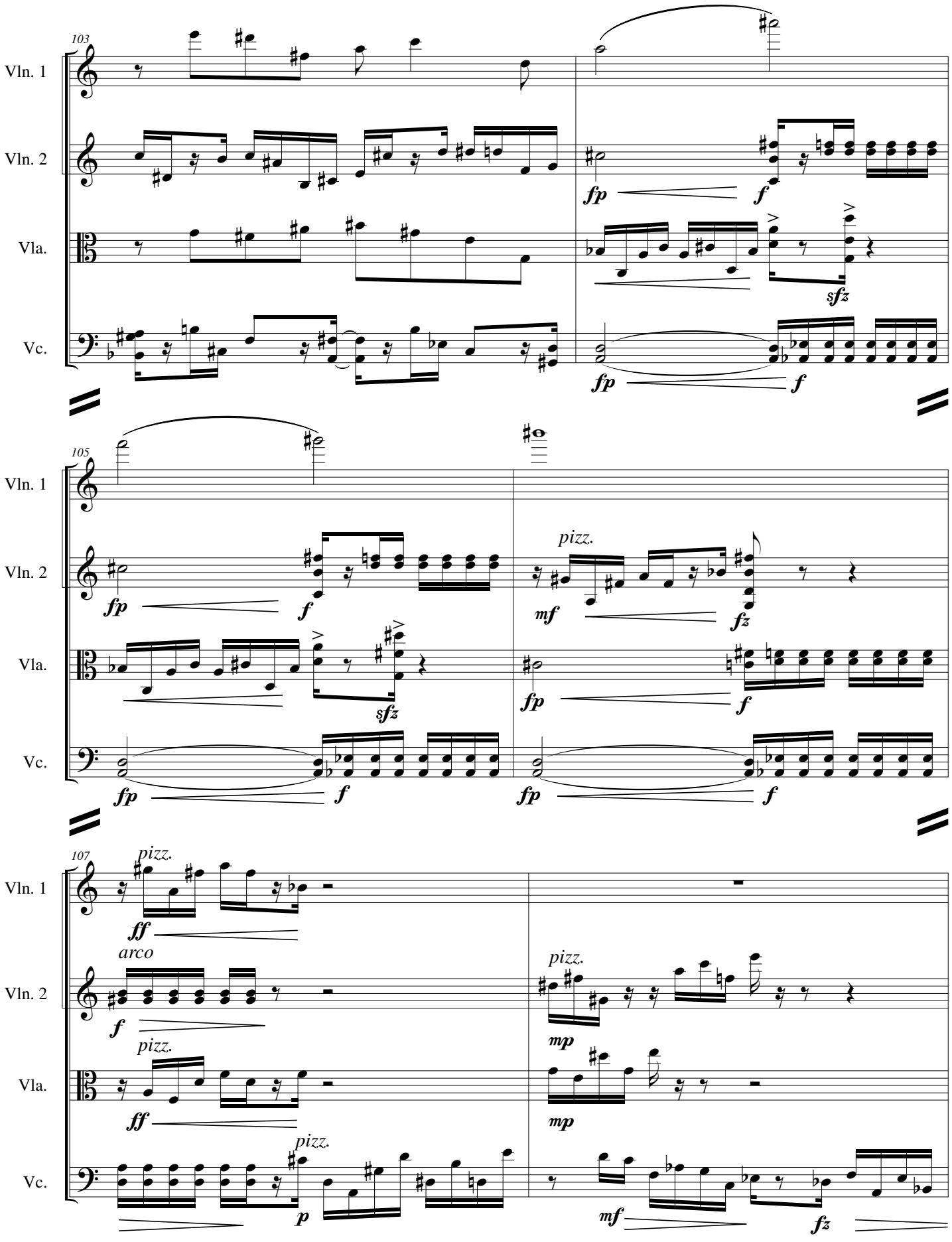

A tempo ♩ = 112
70
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
p
mp
72
pizz.
ff
mf
ffz
74
arco
sffz
f
sfz
fz

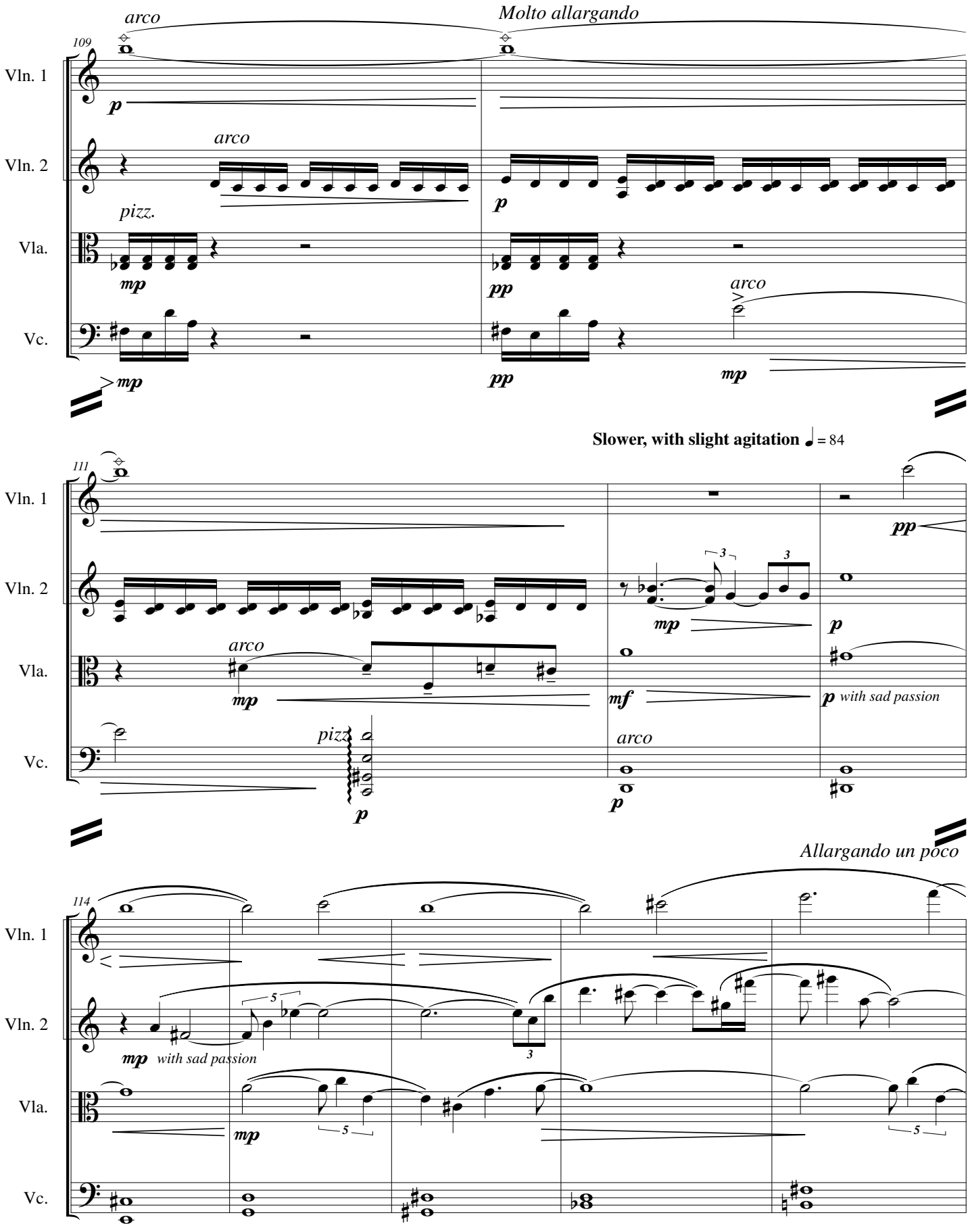

76
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
ff
mf
mf
5
5
5
79
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
5
5
81
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
f

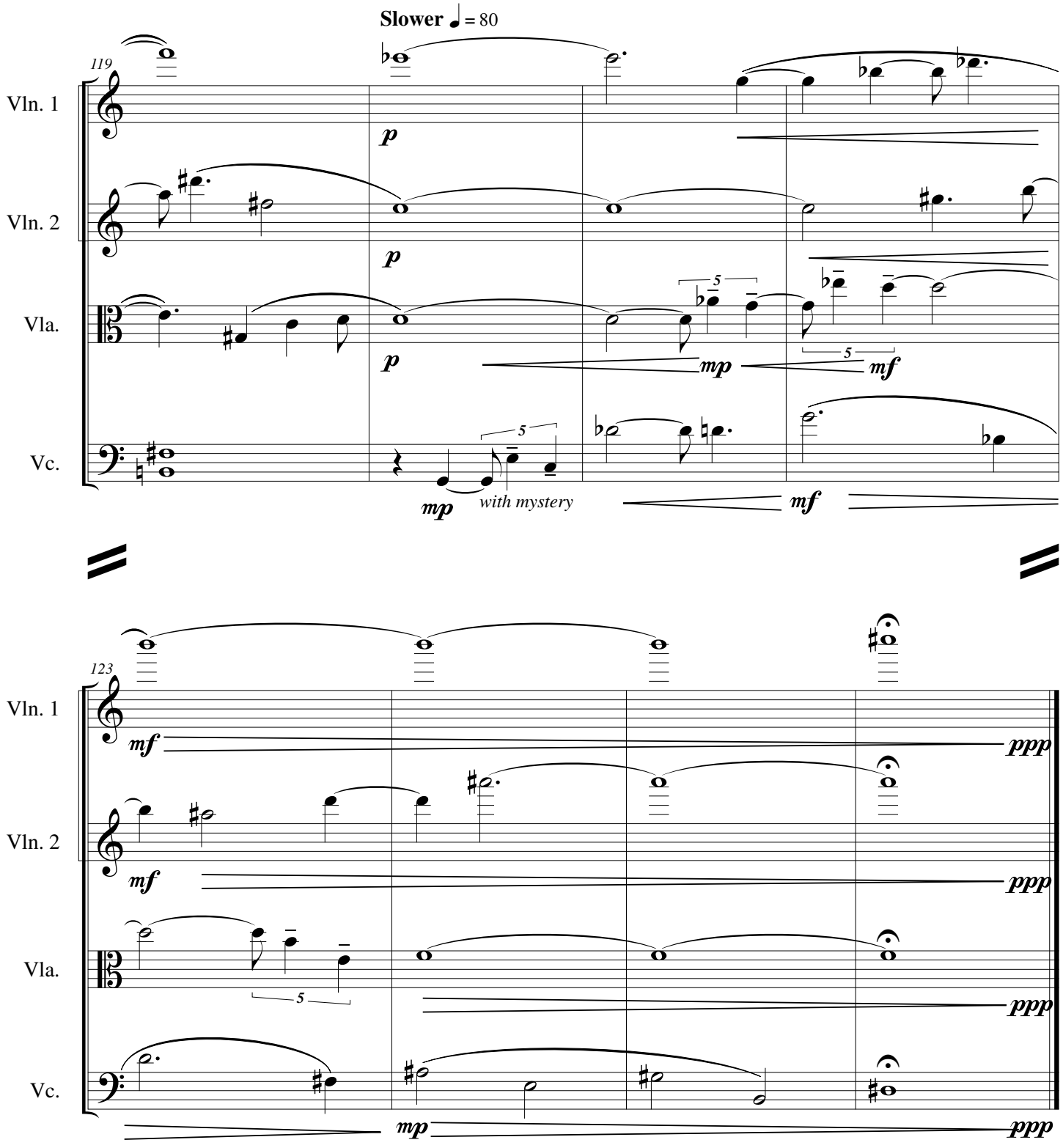

83
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
f
85
subito p
mf
87
fz
sfz
sffz
3


89
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
91
93

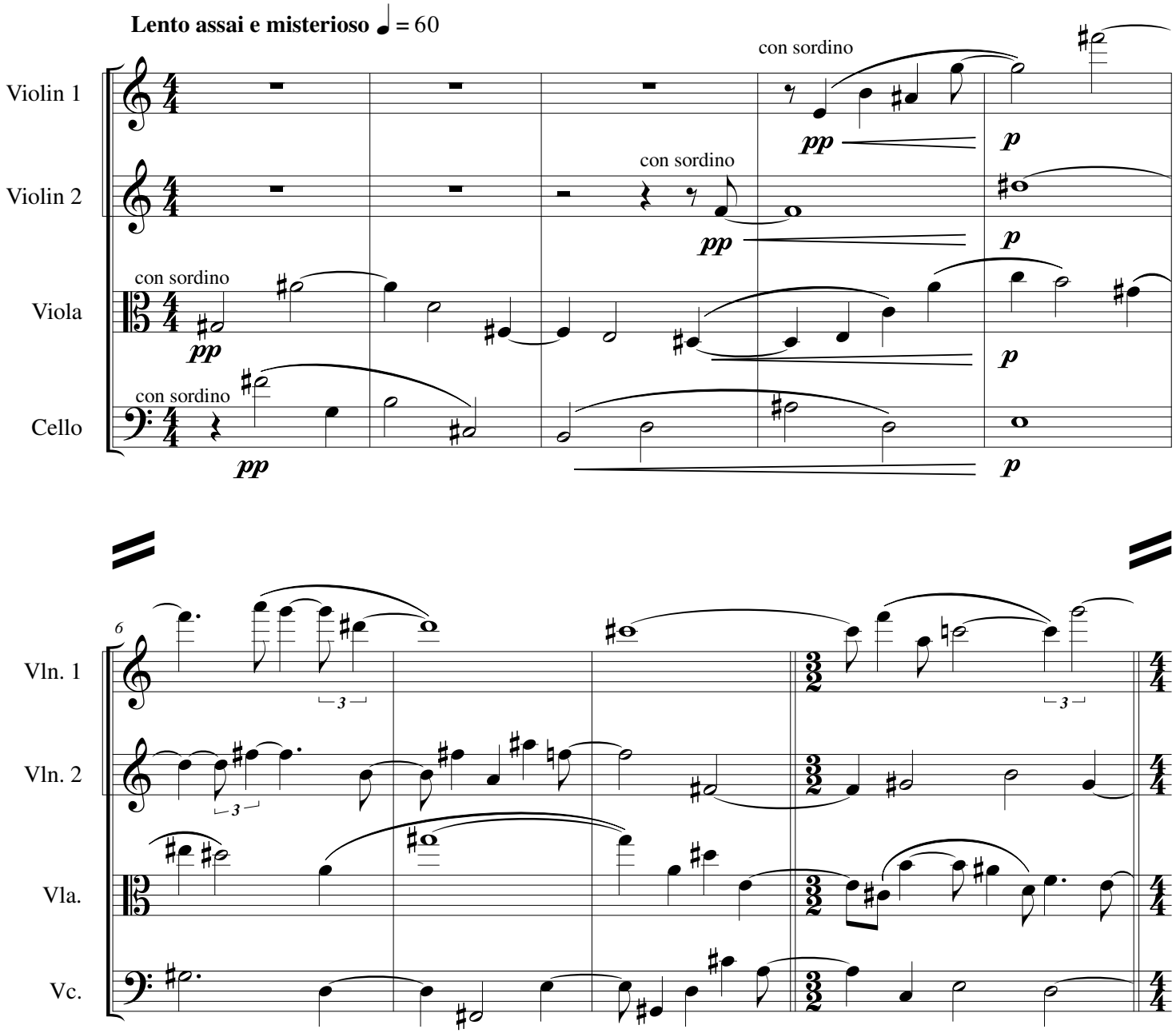

95
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
sfz
f
98
101


103
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
fp
f
sfz
105
pizz.
mf
fz
107
ff
arco
mp
p


arco
Molto allargando
109
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
p
arco
pizz.
mp
pp
arco
mp
pp
mp
Slower, with slight agitation ♩ = 84
111
pp
3
3
mp
p
arco
mp
mf
p with sad passion
pizz.
p
arco
p
Allargando un poco
114
5
mp with sad passion
3
mp
5
5


Slower ♩ = 80
119
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
p
mp
mf
with mystery
5
123
ppp

II - Nocturne



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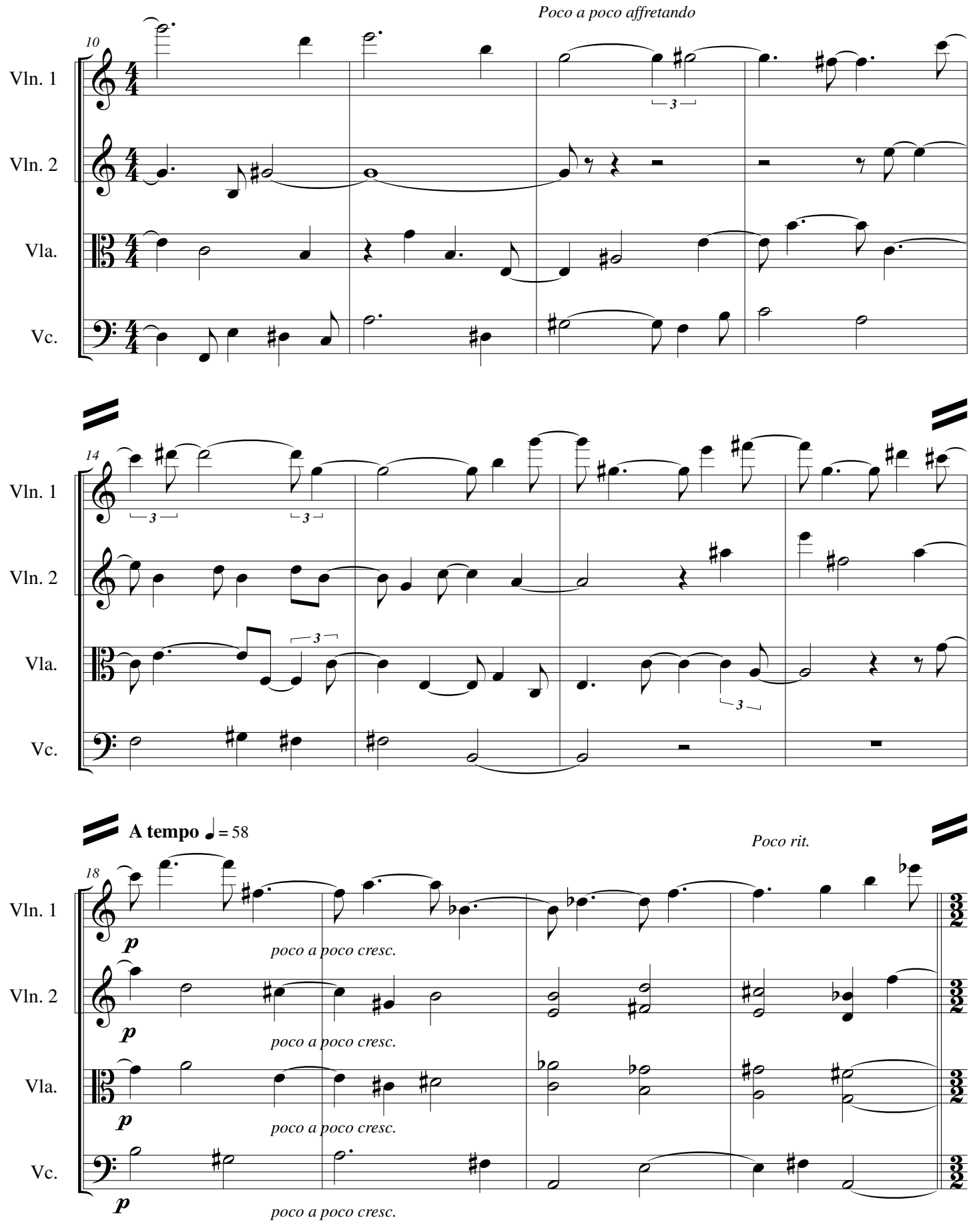
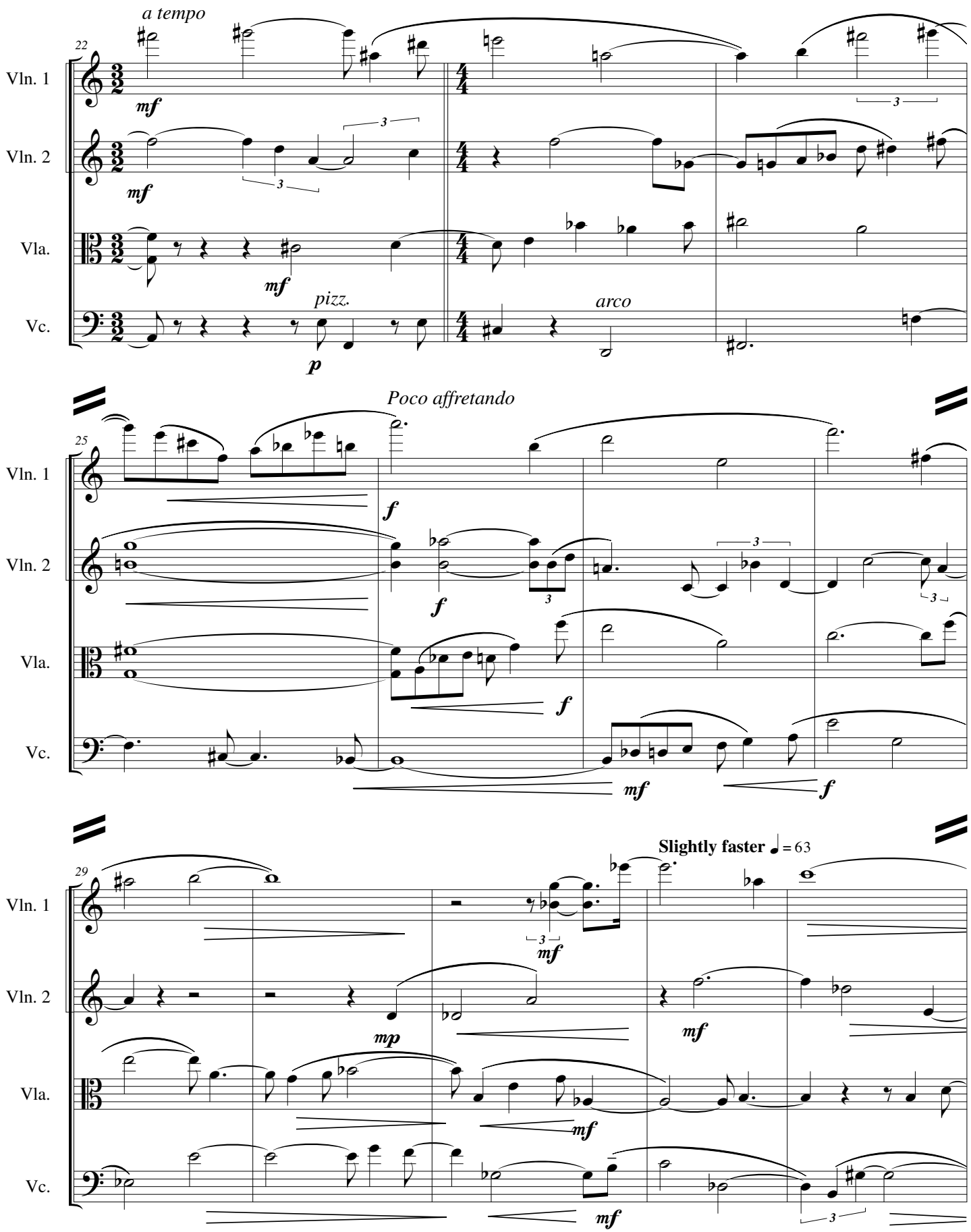
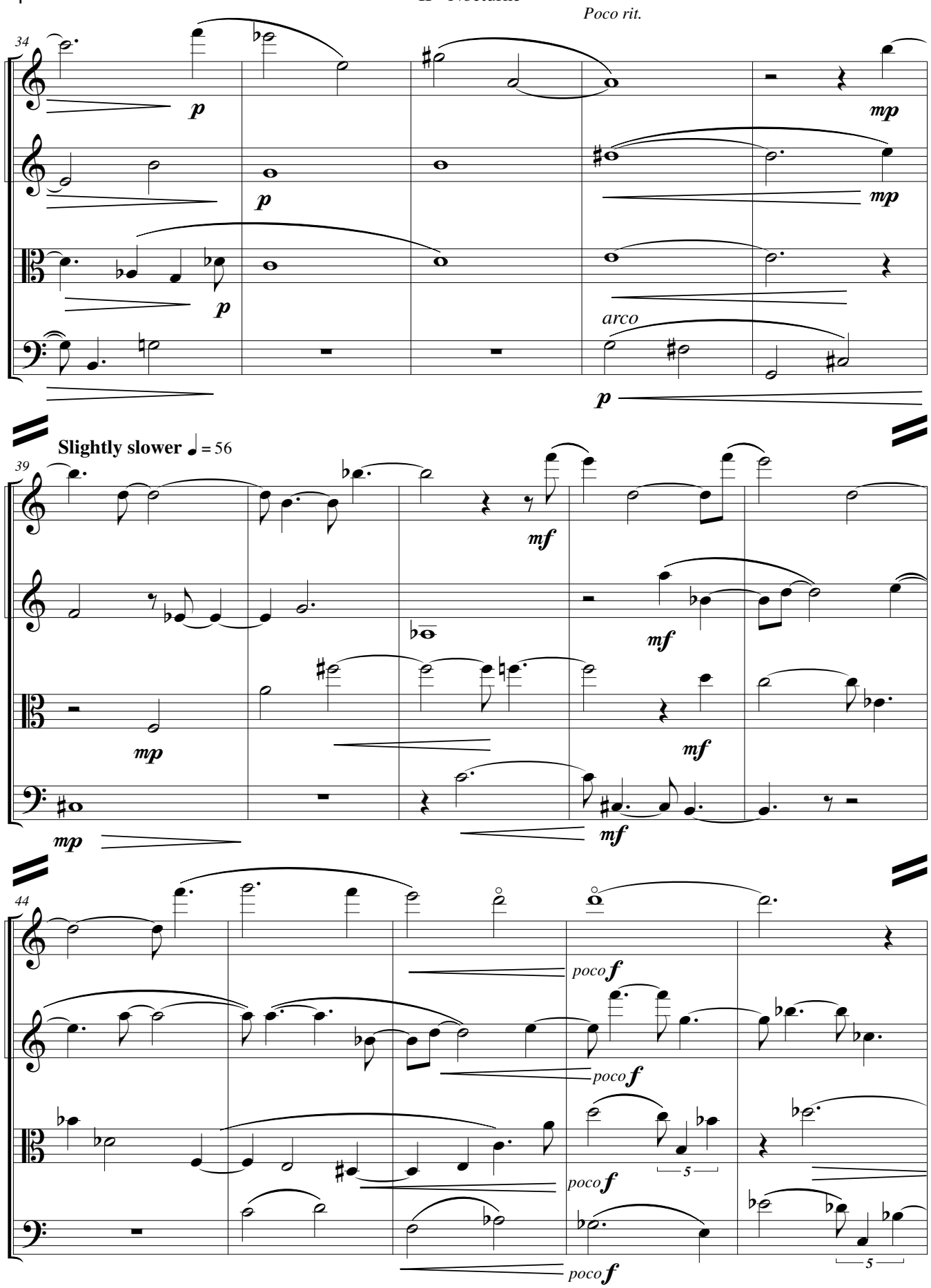
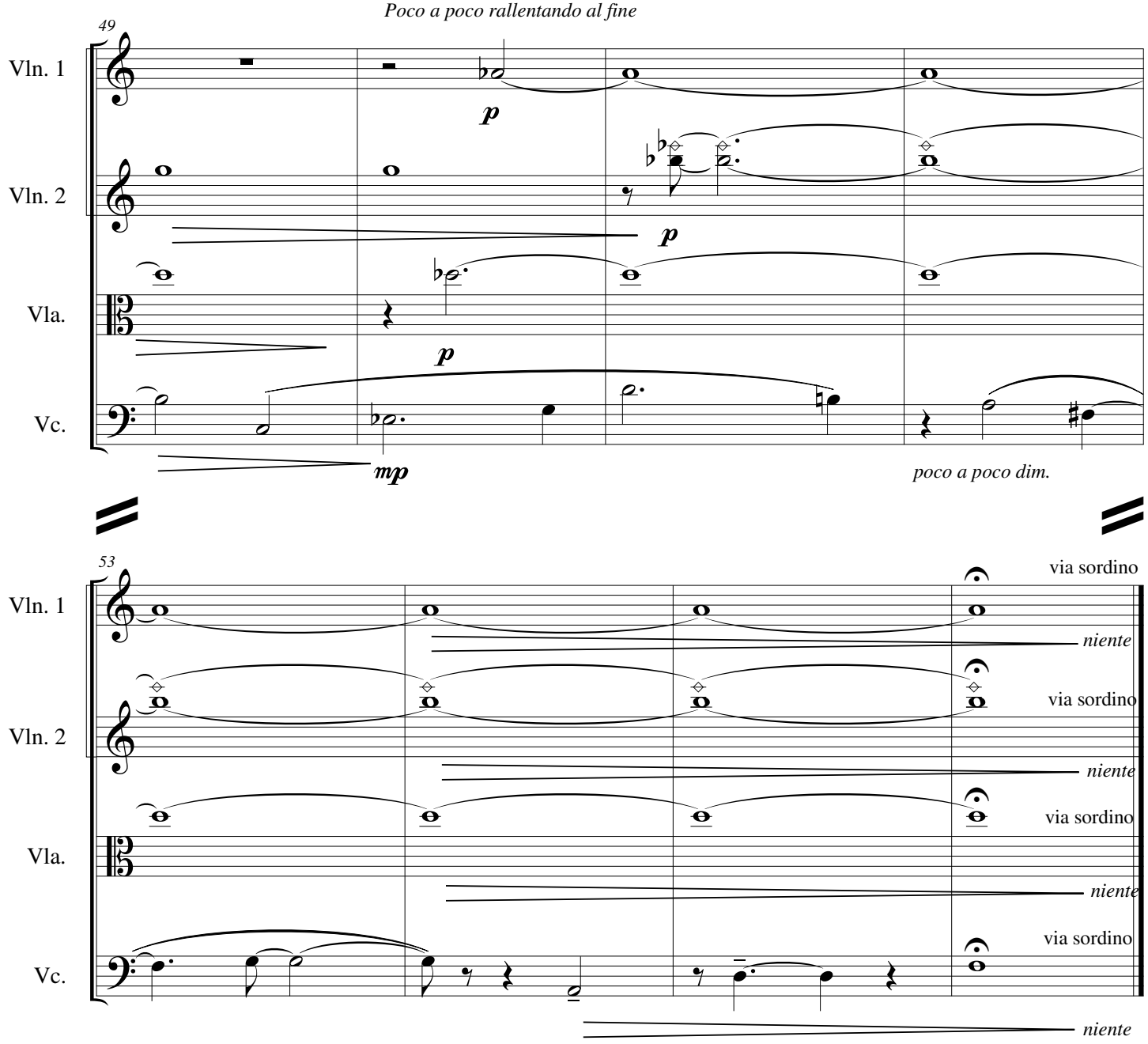
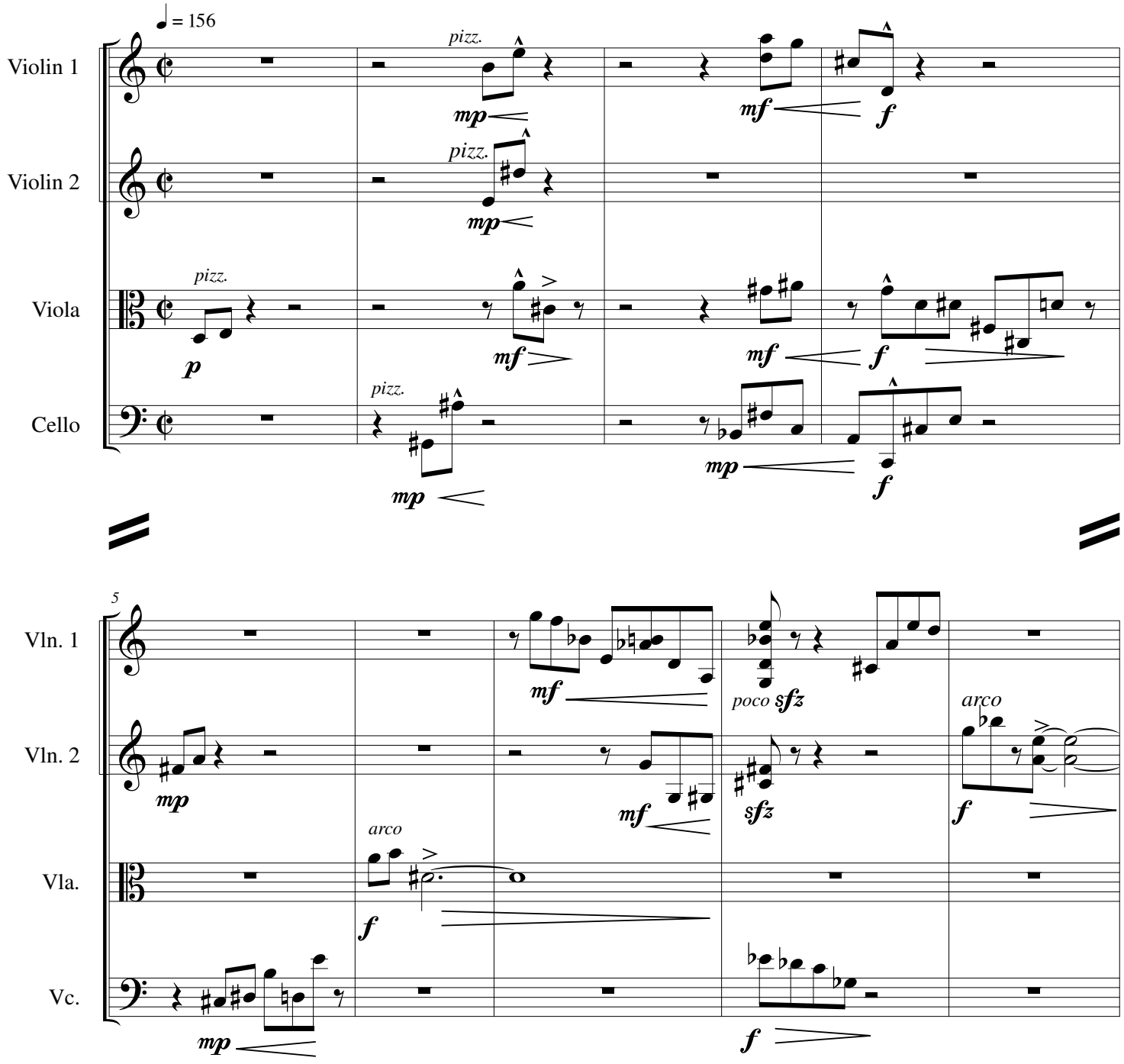

Poco a poco affretando
10
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
14
A tempo ♩ = 58
Poco rit.
18
poco a poco cresc.


a tempo
22
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
mf
pizz.
p
arco
Poco affretando
25
f
mf
29
Slightly faster ♩ = 63
mp


Poco rit.
34
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
p
mp
arco
Slightly slower ♩ = 56
39
mf
44
poco f
5


Poco a poco rallentando al fine
49
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
p
p
p
mp
poco a poco dim.
53
via sordino
niente
via sordino
niente
via sordino
niente
via sordino
niente

III- Scherzo



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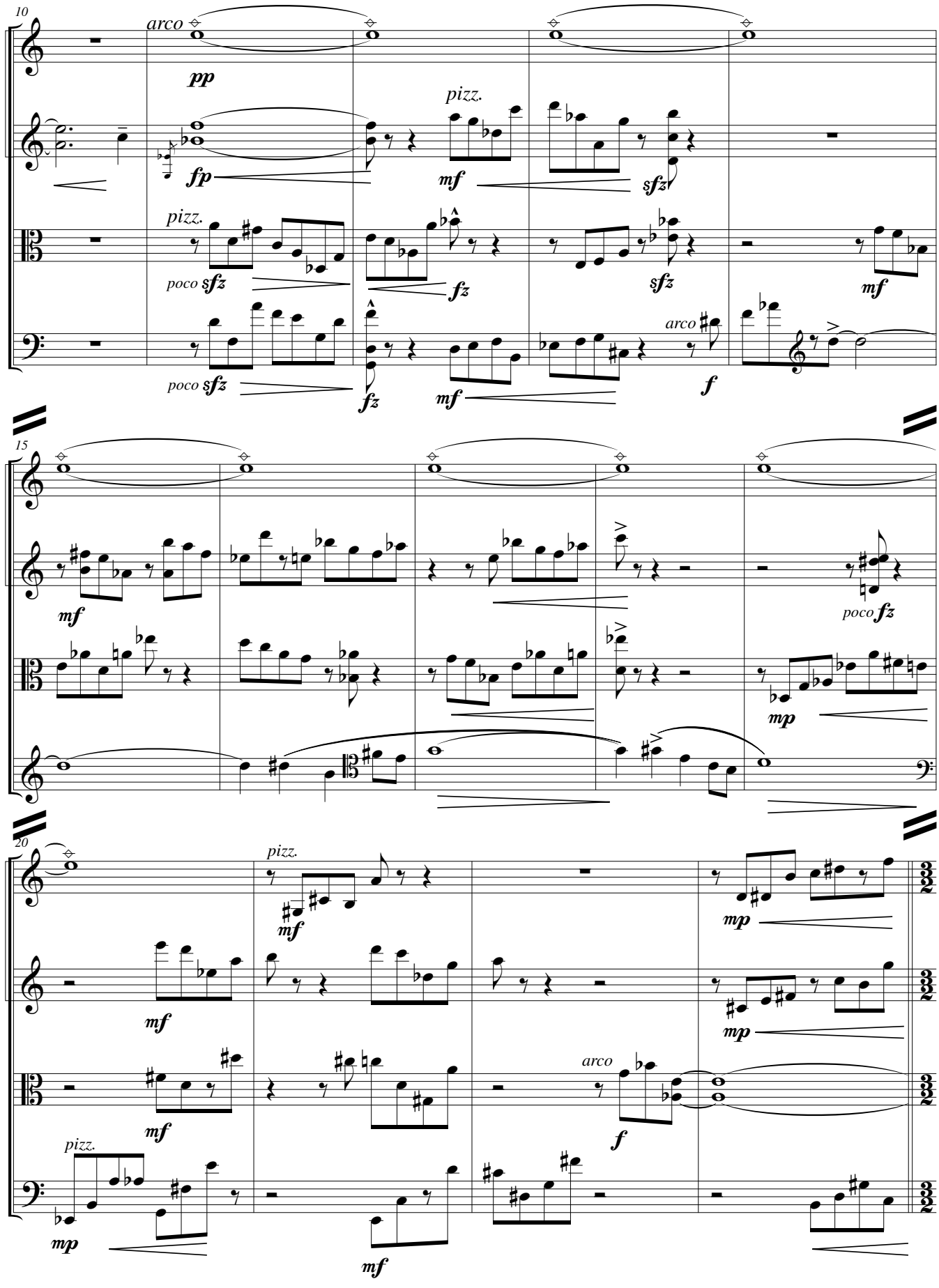
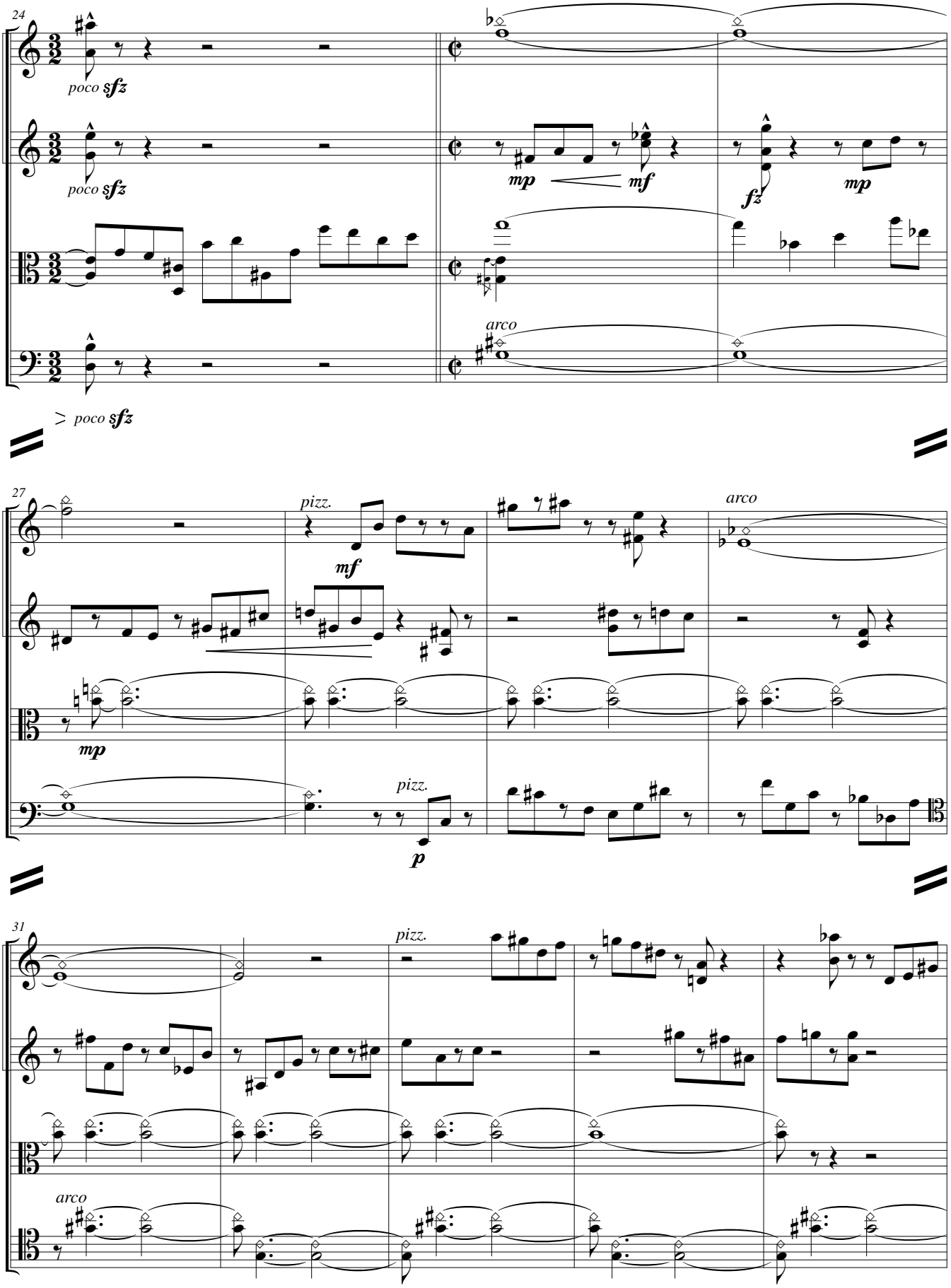
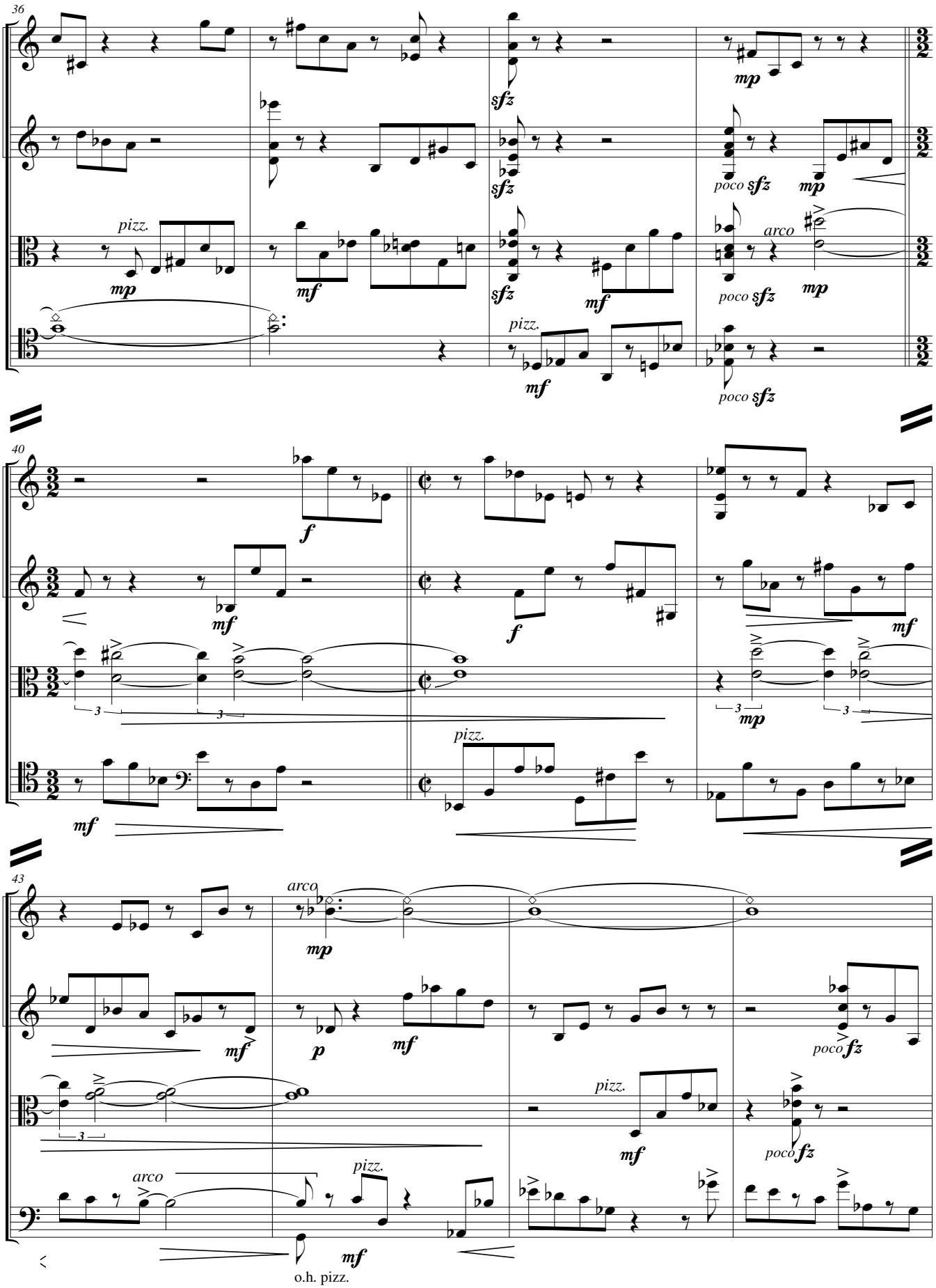
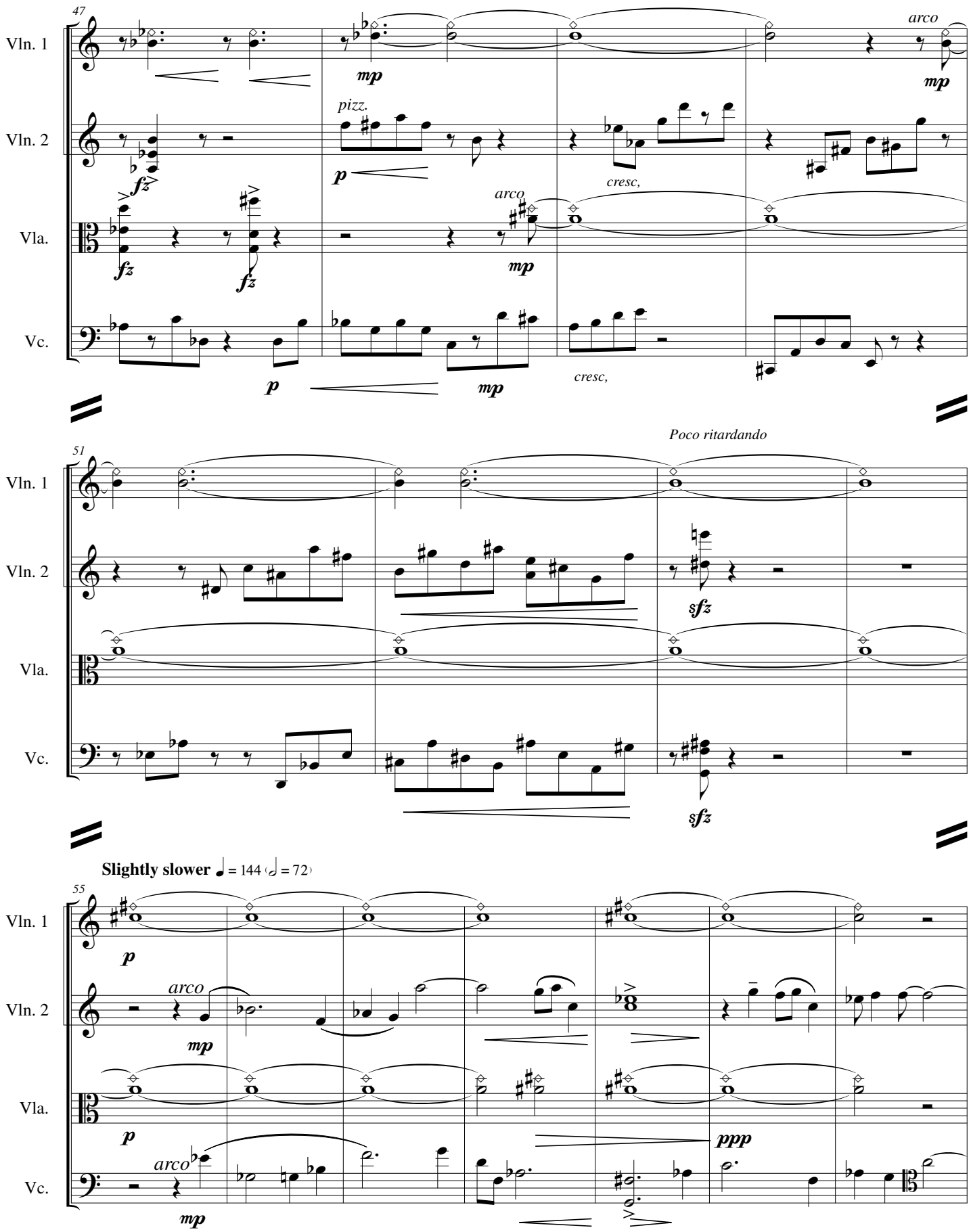
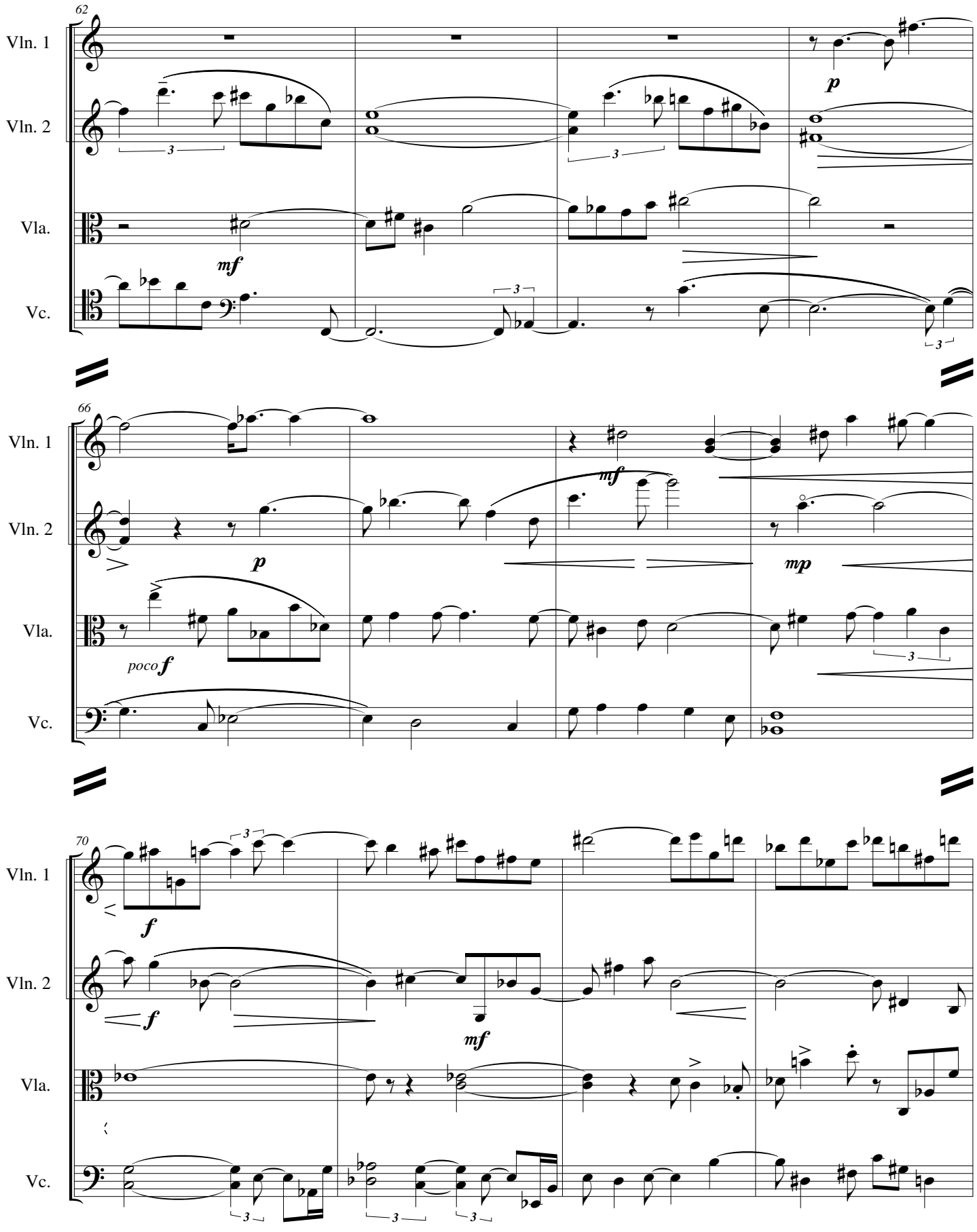
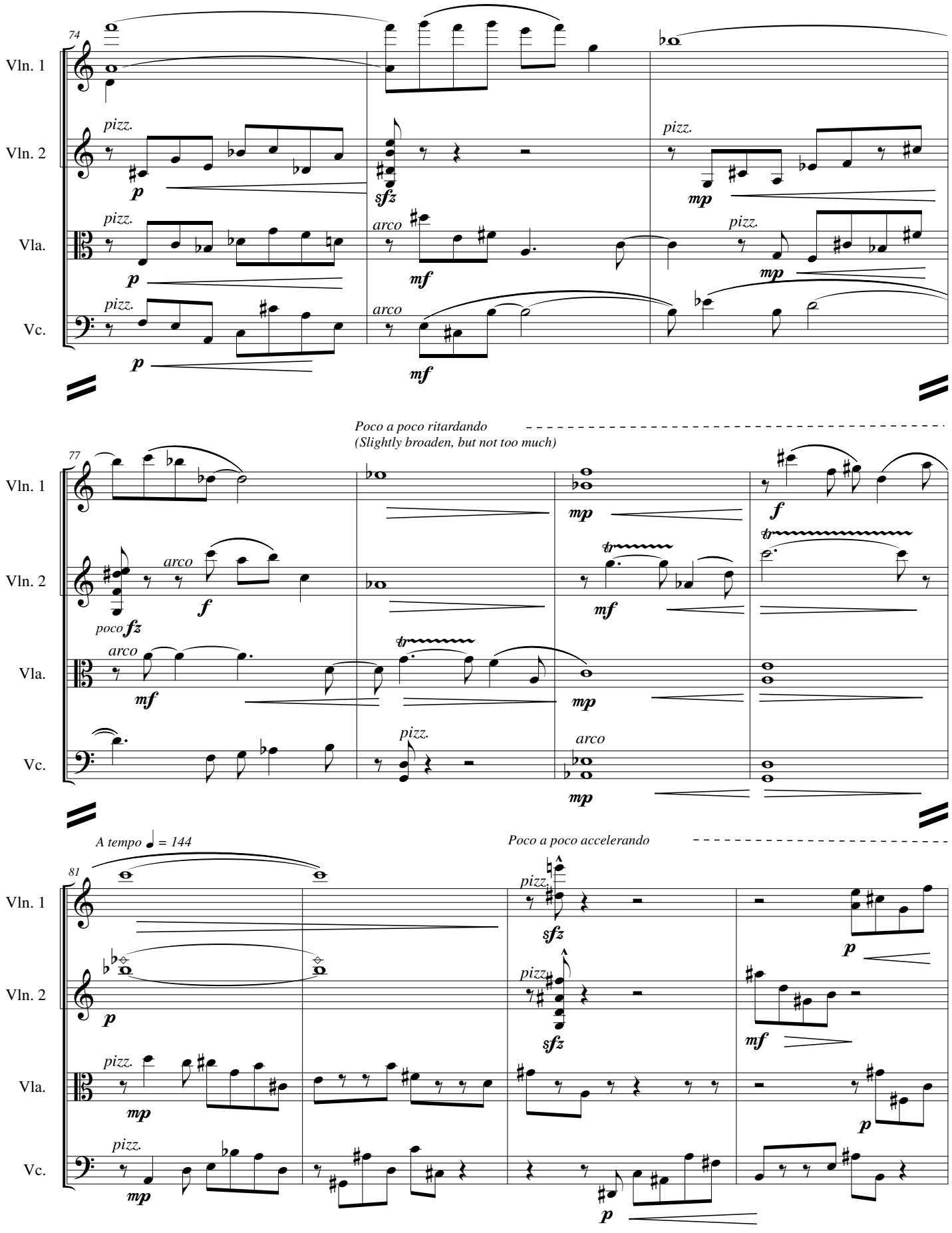

10
Vln. 1
arco
pp
Vln. 2
fp
pizz.
mf
sfz
Vla.
pizz.
poco sfz
fz
sfz
mf
Vc.
poco sfz
fz
mf
arco
f
15
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
mf
poco fz
Vla.
mp
Vc.
20
Vln. 1
pizz.
mf
mp
Vln. 2
mf
mp
Vla.
mf
arco
f
Vc.
pizz.
mp
mf

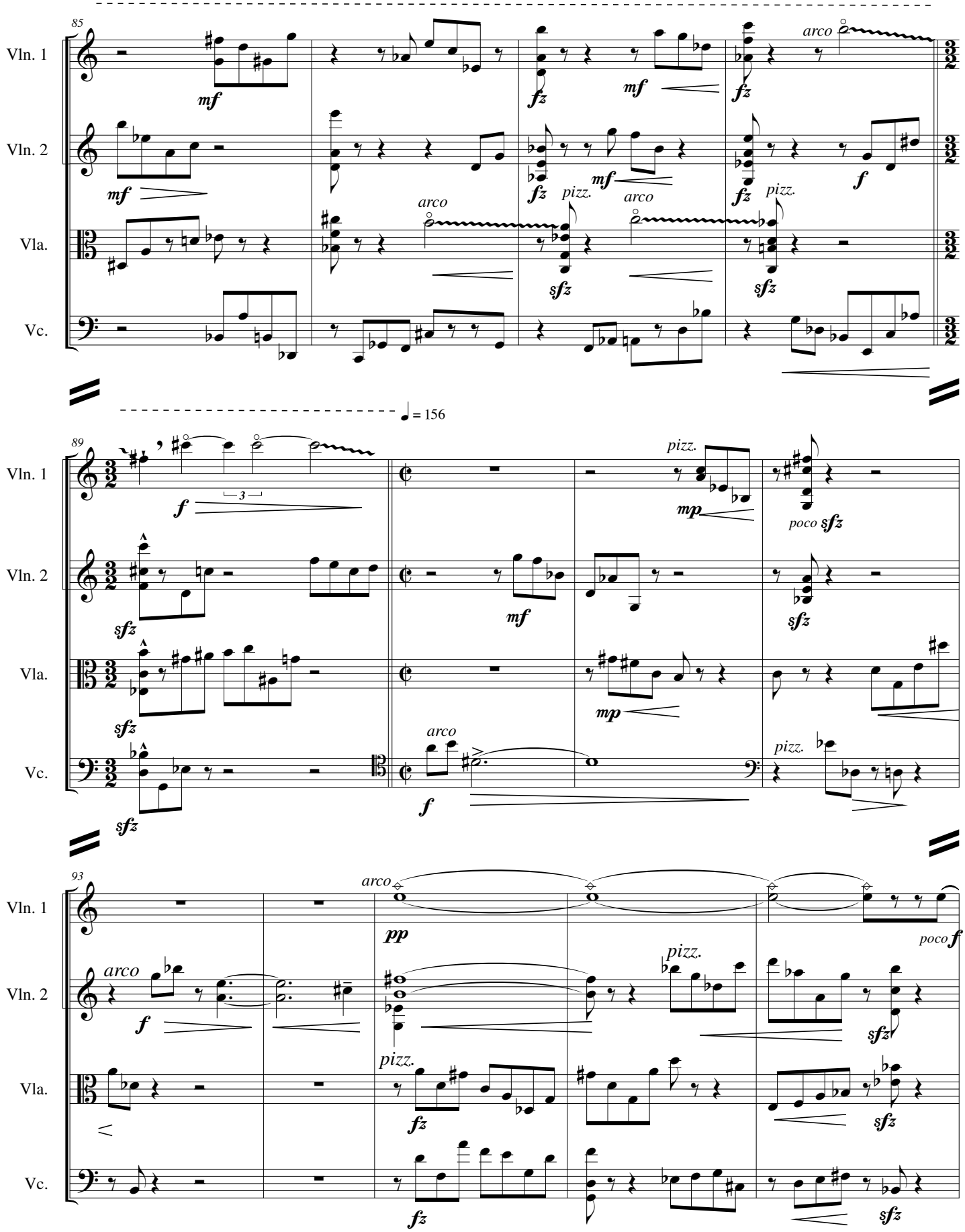

24
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
poco sfz
poco sfz
mp
mf
fz
mp
arco
poco sfz
27
pizz.
mf
arco
mp
pizz.
p
31
pizz.
arco

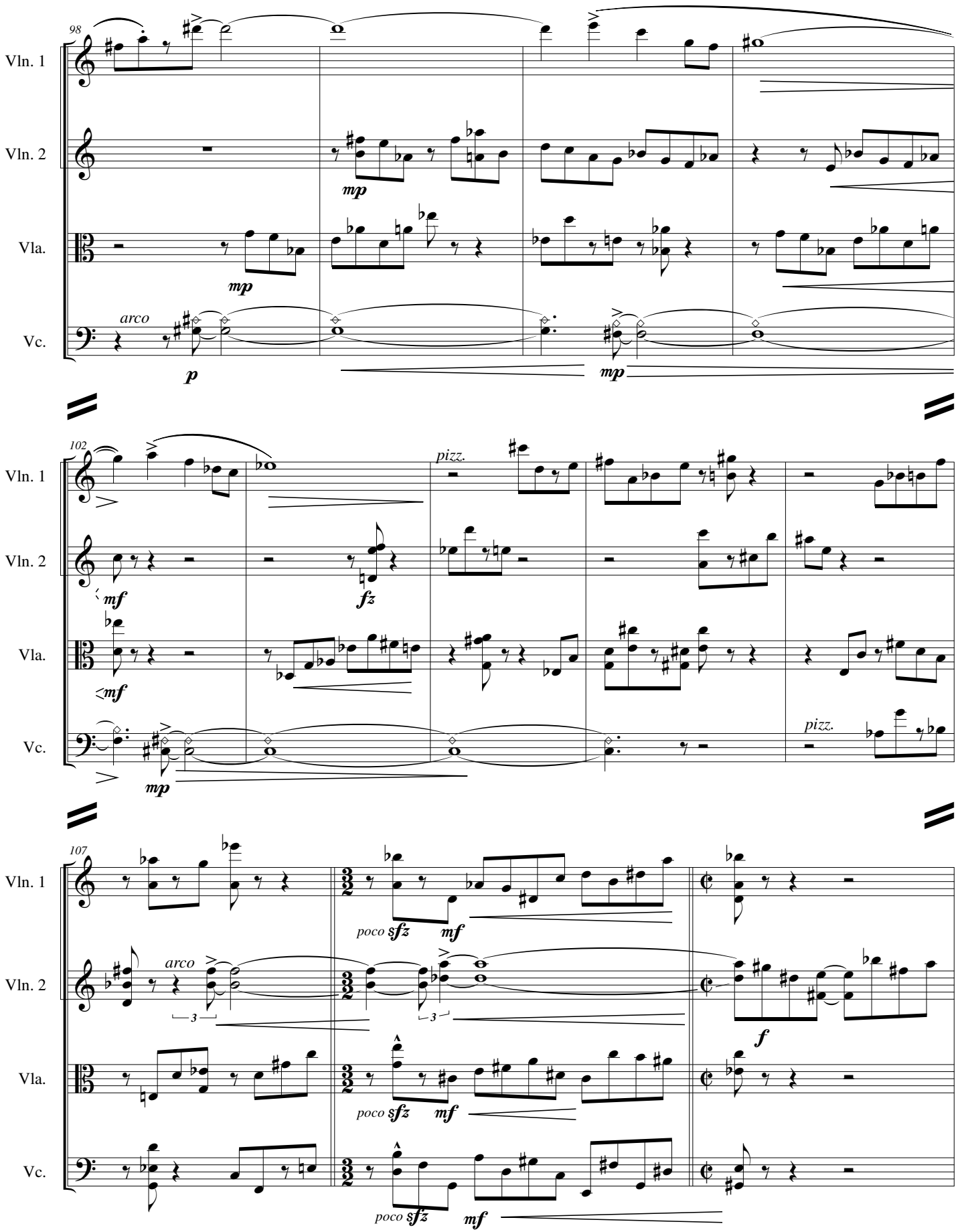

36
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
poco sfz
40
43
o.h. pizz.

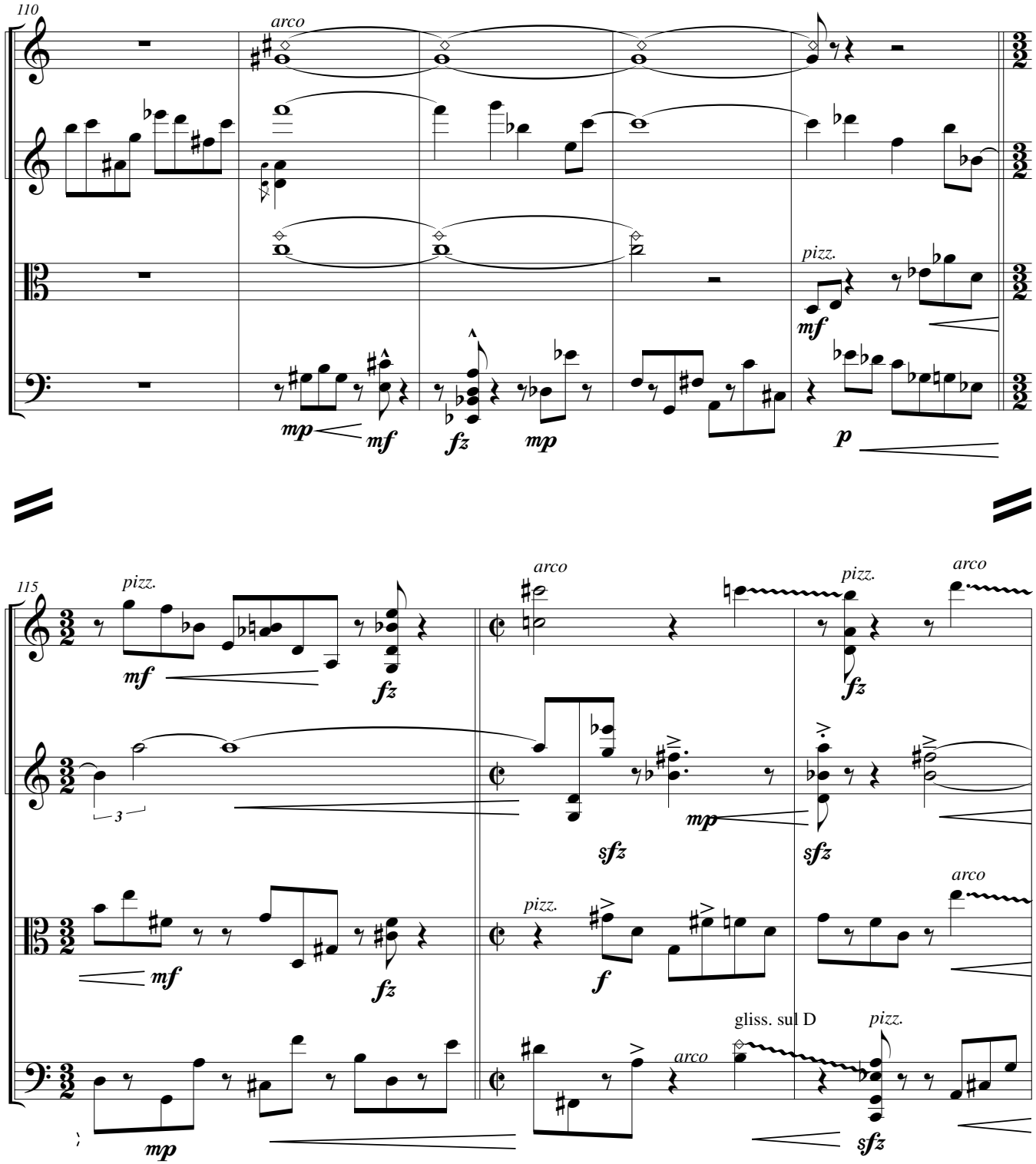

47
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
arco
mp
pizz.
p
fz
cresc,
51
Poco ritardando
sfz
Slightly slower ♩ = 144 (𝅗𝅥 = 72)
55
ppp

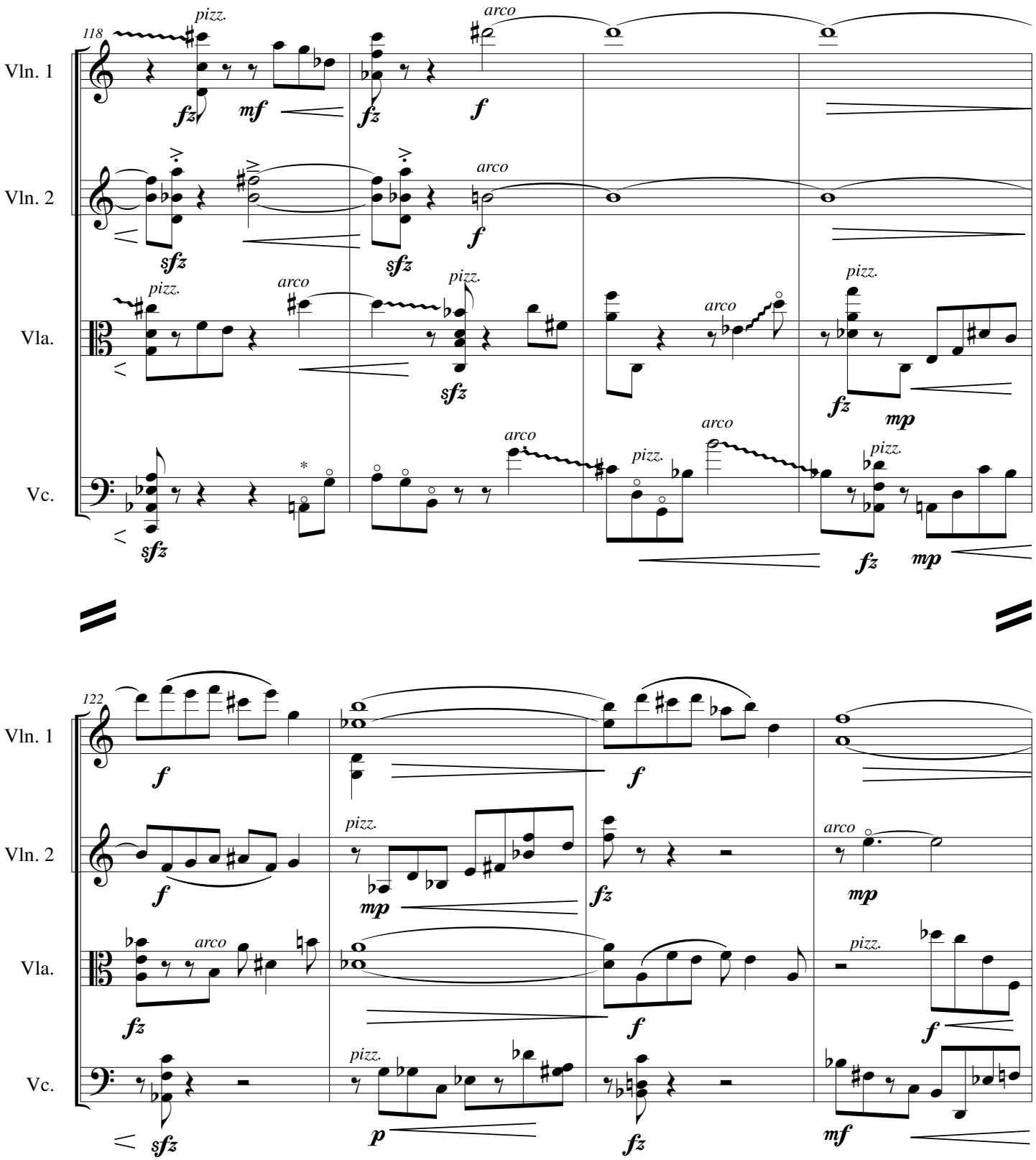

62
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
p
mf
3
66
mf
p
mp
poco f
70
f
mf

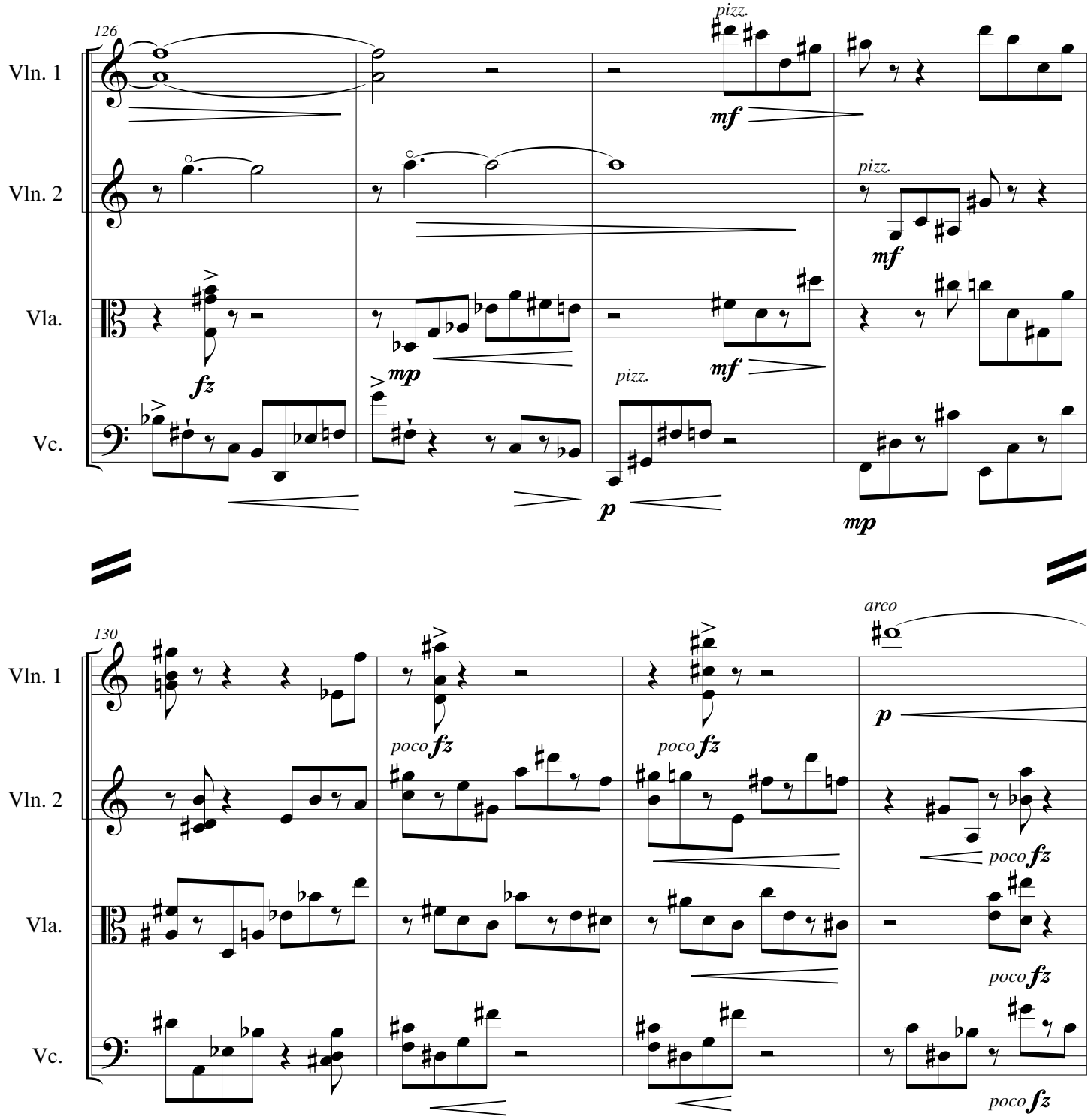

74
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
p
sfz
mf
mp
Poco a poco ritardando
(Slightly broaden, but not too much)
77
poco fz
f
tr
A tempo ♩ = 144
Poco a poco accelerando
81

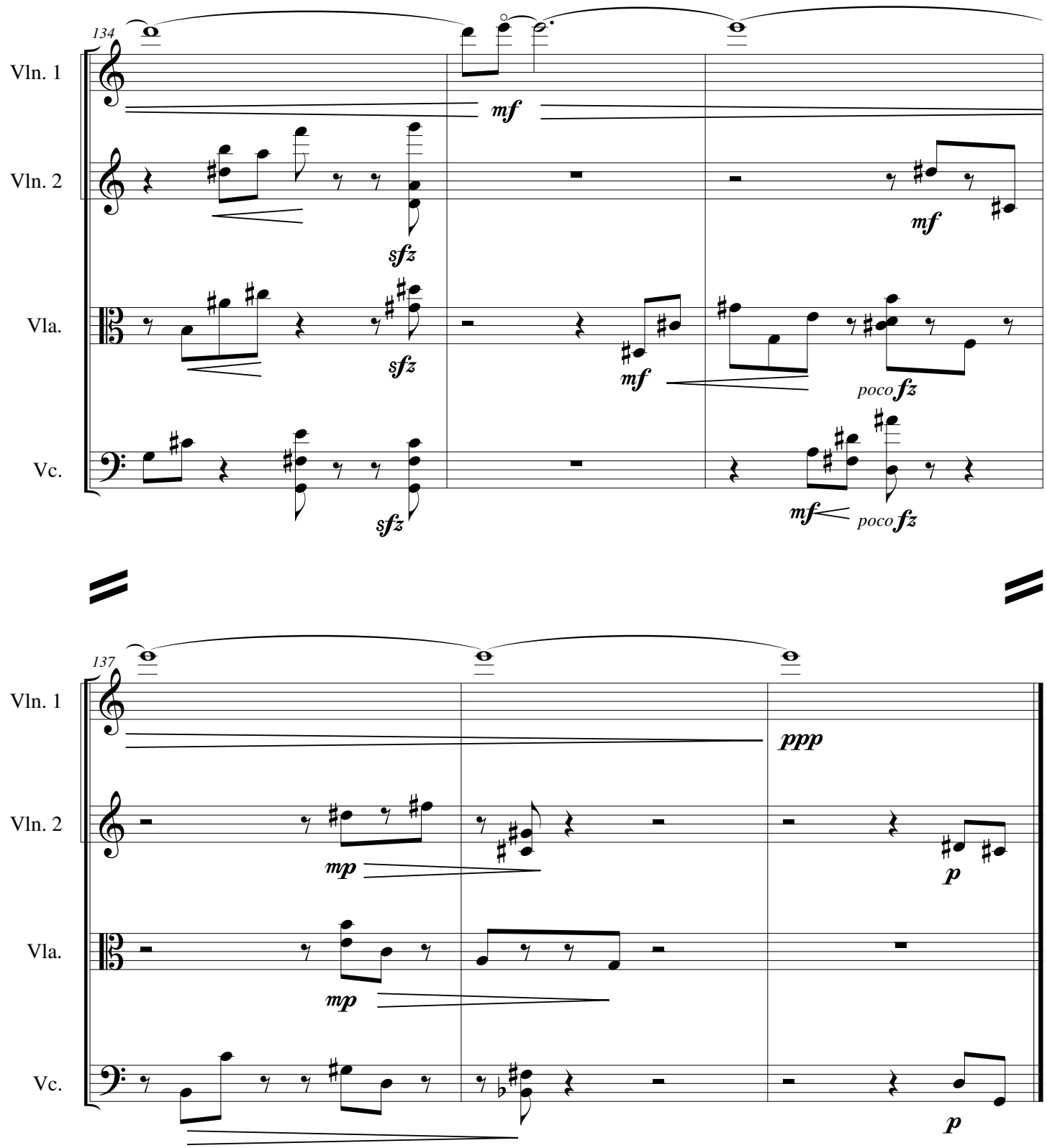

85
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
mf
fz
arco
pizz.
sfz
f
89
♩ = 156
3
mp
poco sfz
93
pp
poco f


98
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
arco
mp
p
102
pizz.
mf
fz
107
poco sfz
f
3

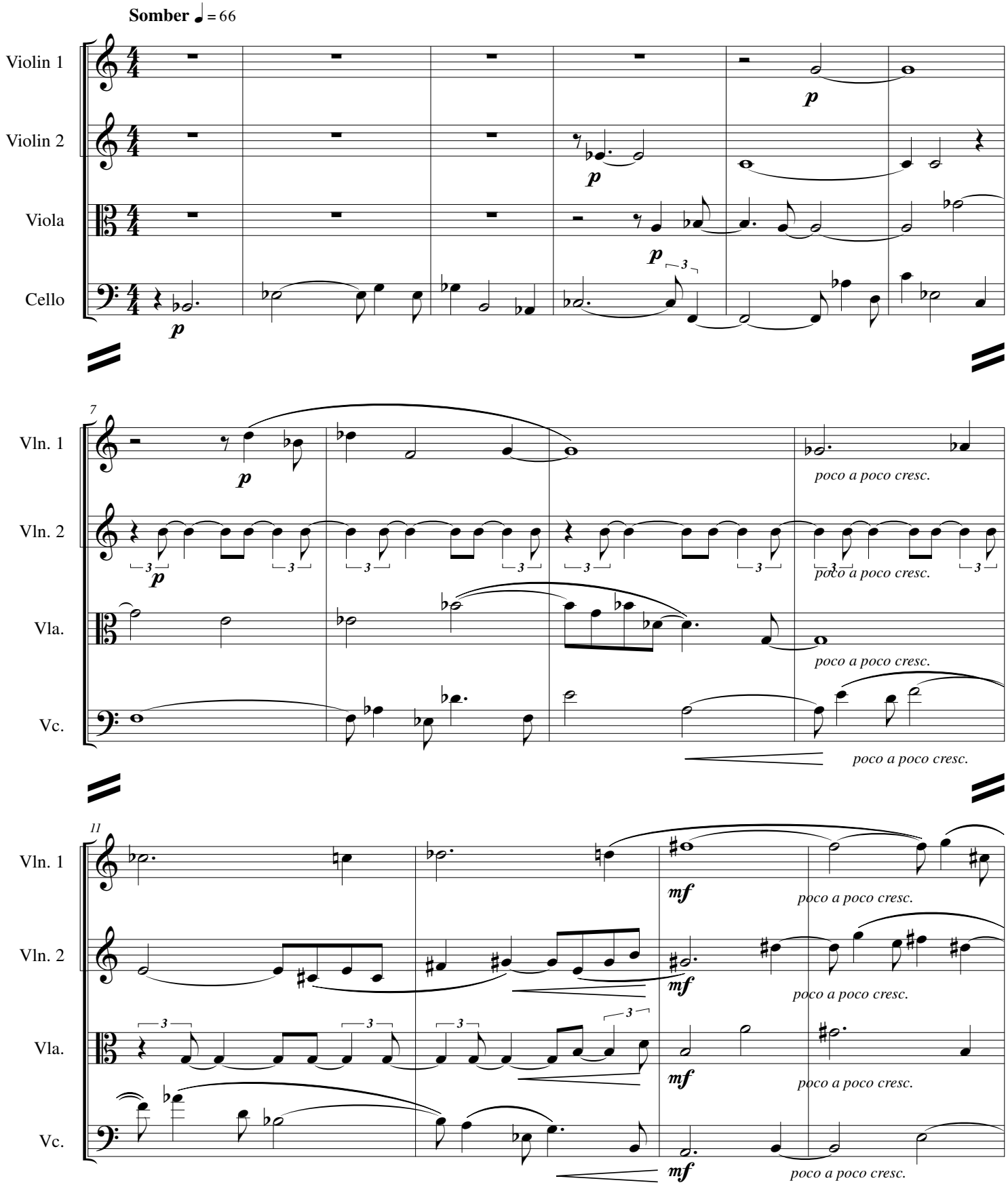

110
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
arco
pizz.
mp
mf
fz
mp
mf
p
115
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
mf
fz
fz
3
mp
sfz
sfz
mf
fz
pizz.
f
arco
gliss. sul D
pizz.
arco
mp
sfz


118
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
122
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.


126
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
mf
fz
mp
p
130
arco
poco fz


134
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
mf
sfz
mf
poco fz
137
ppp
mp
p

IV - Elegy



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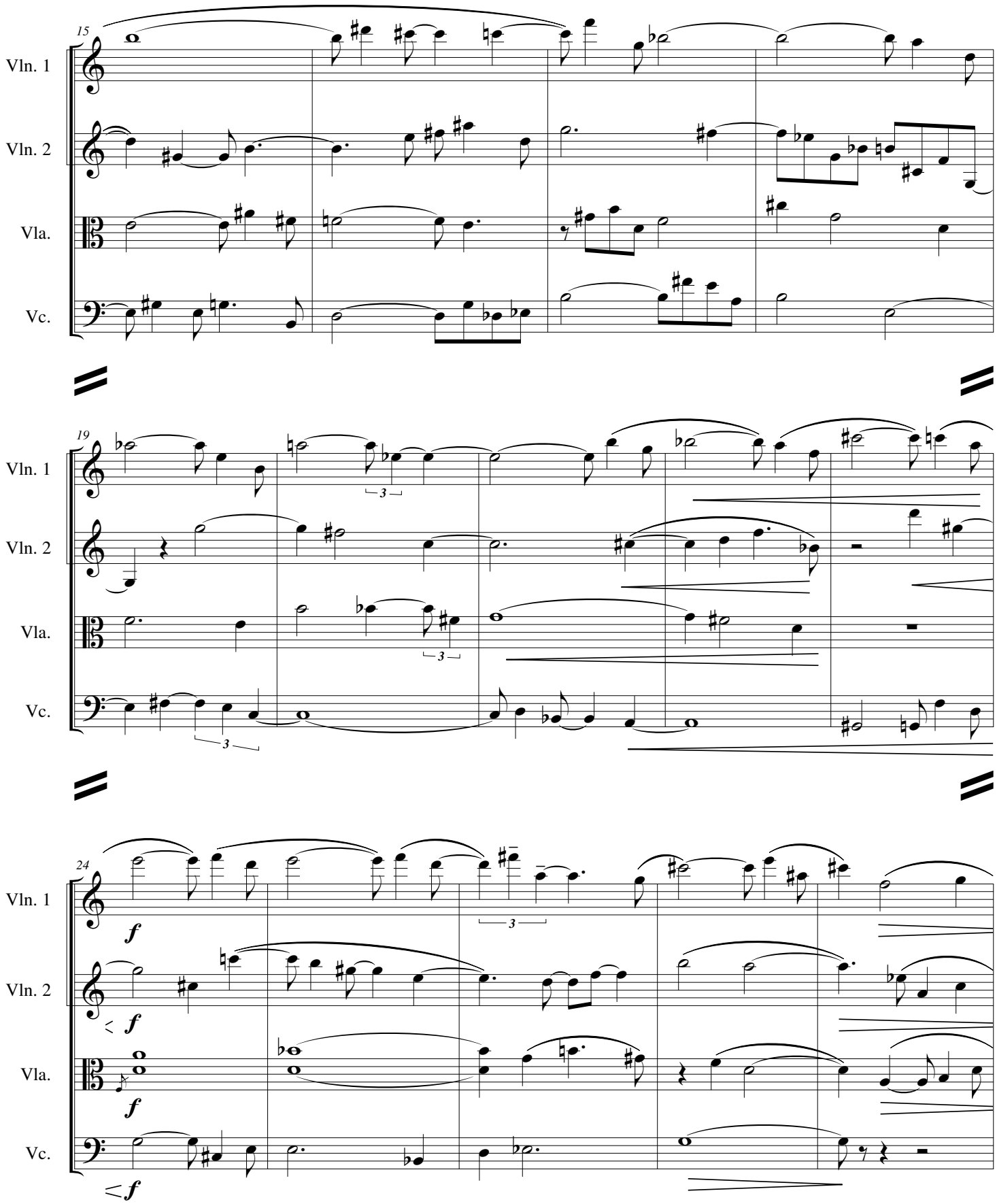
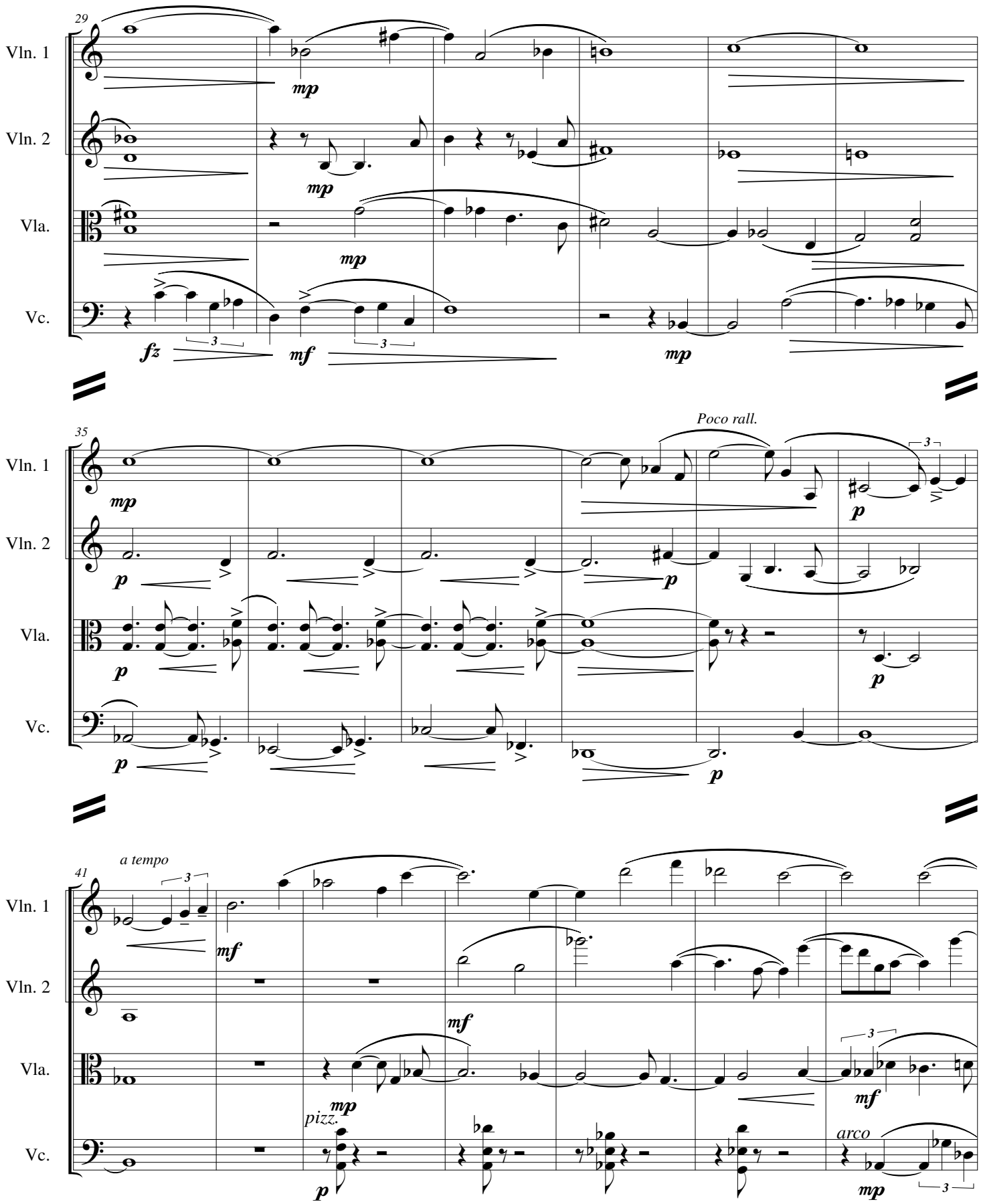
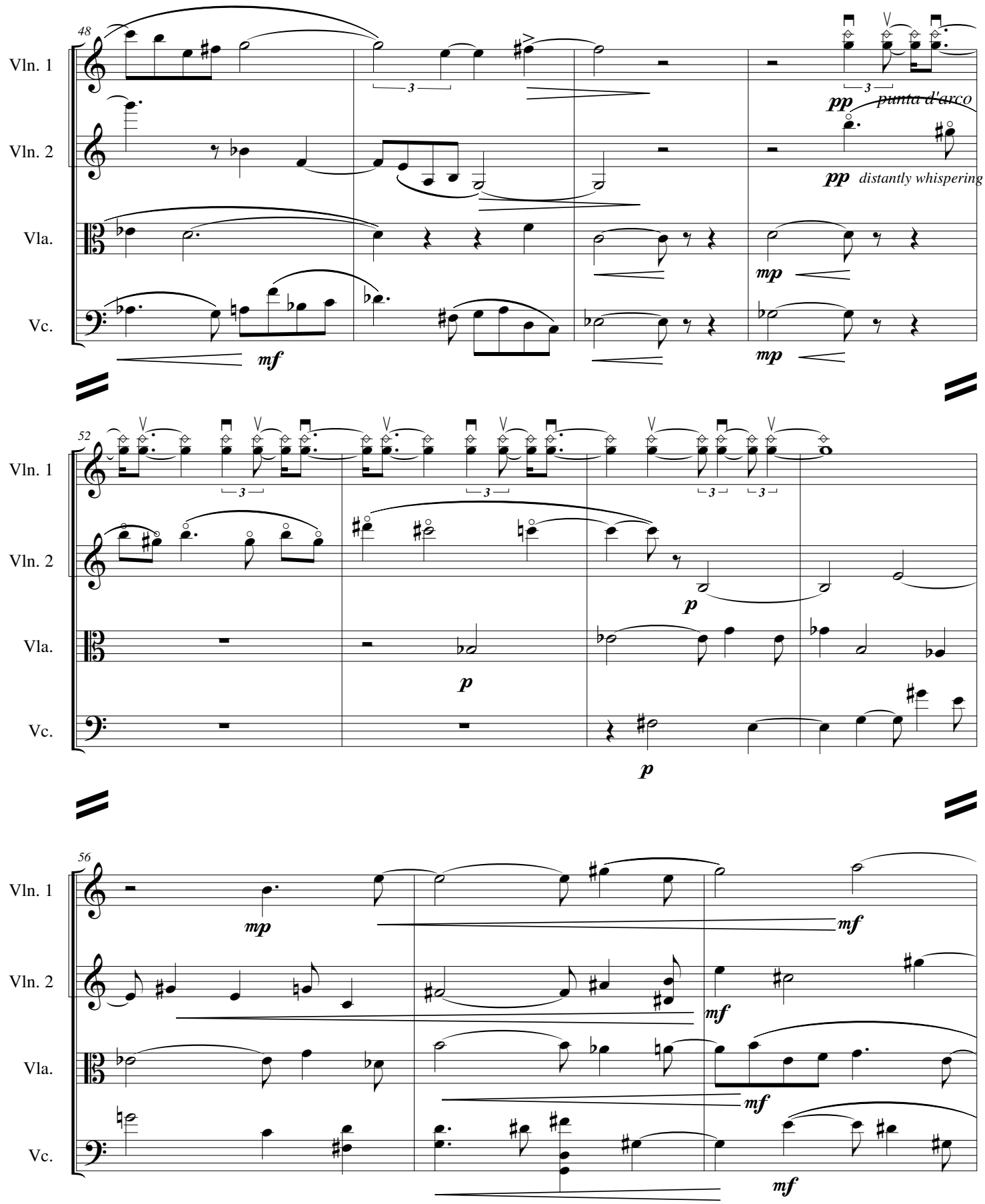
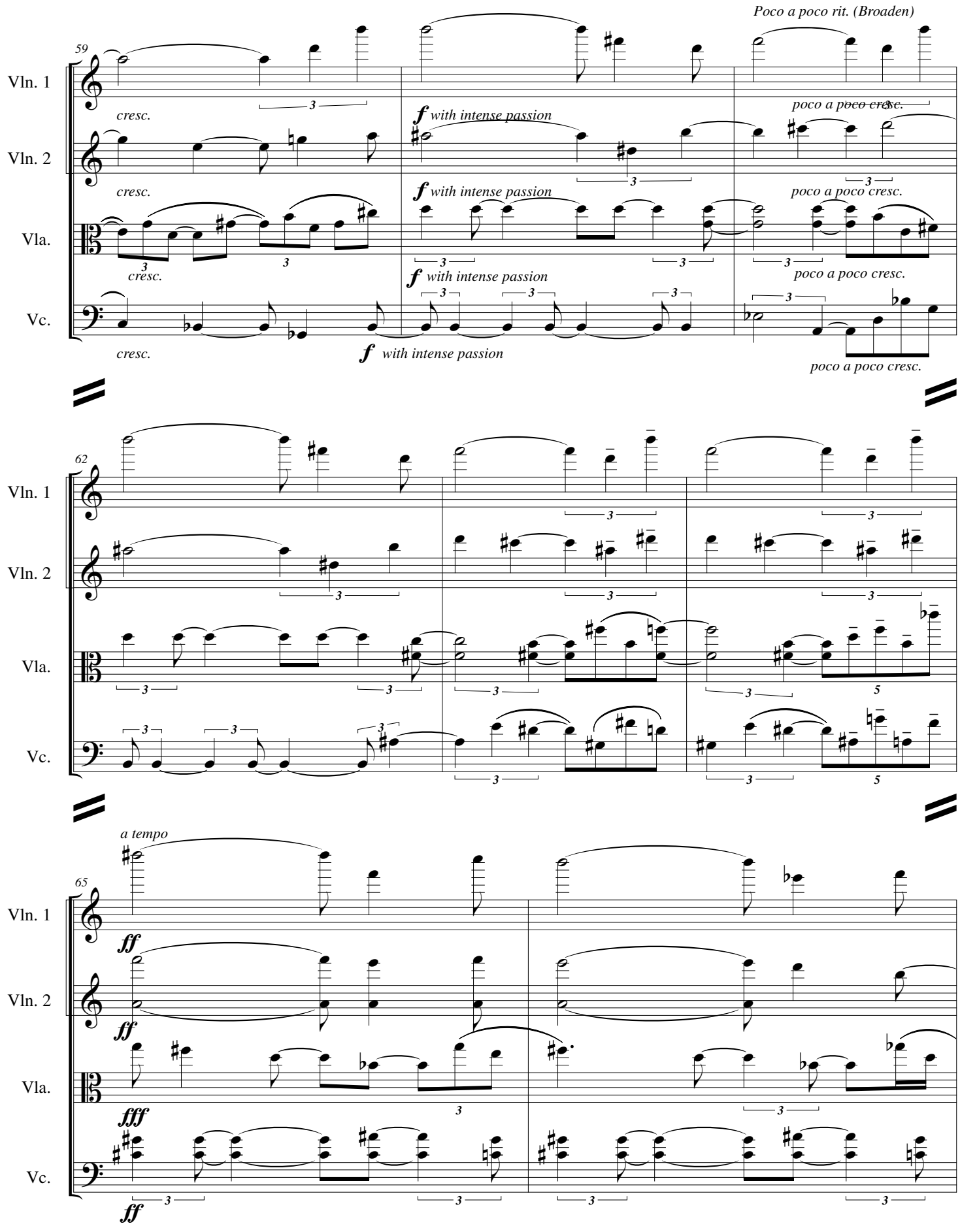
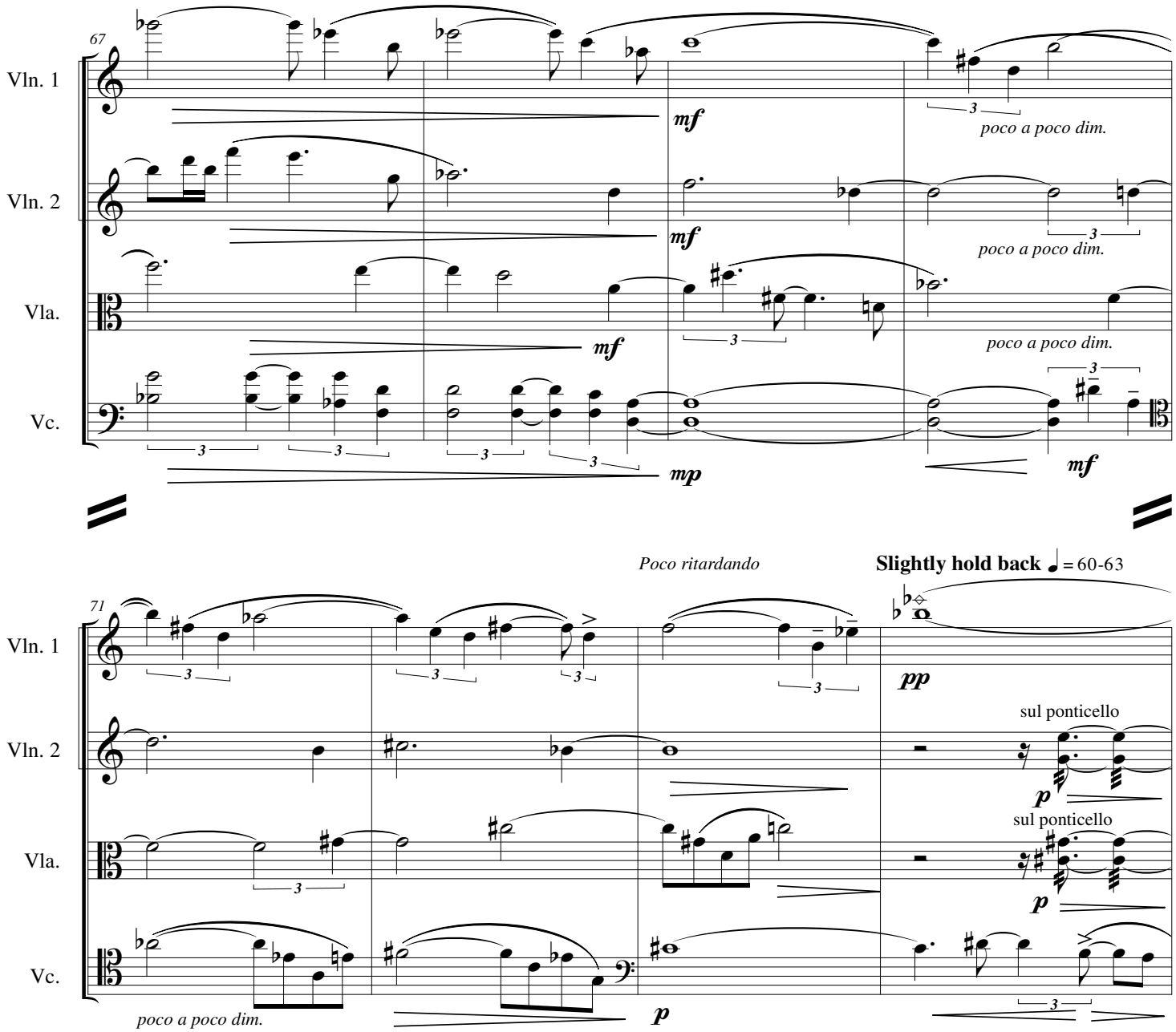
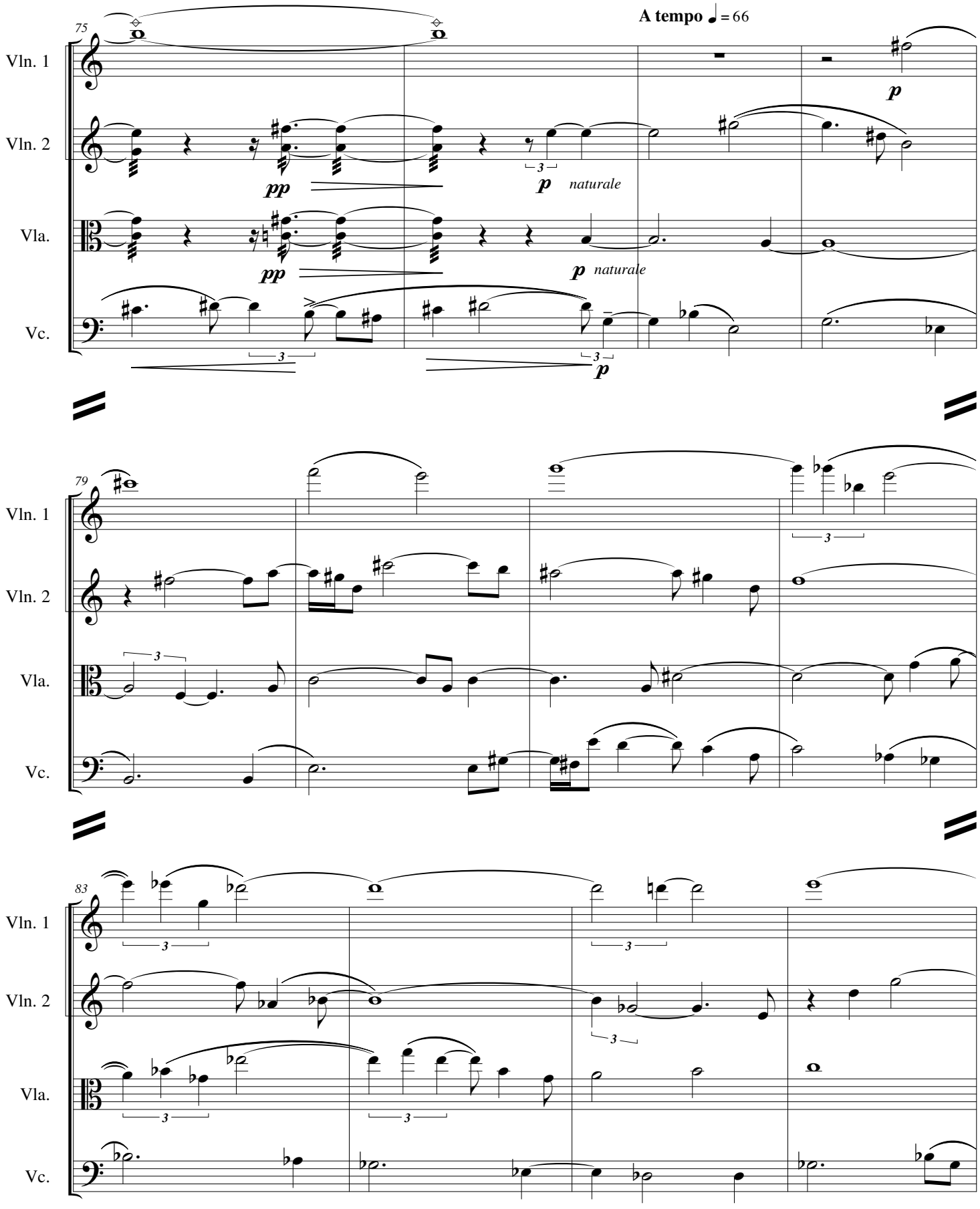

15
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
19
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
24
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
f
f
f
f

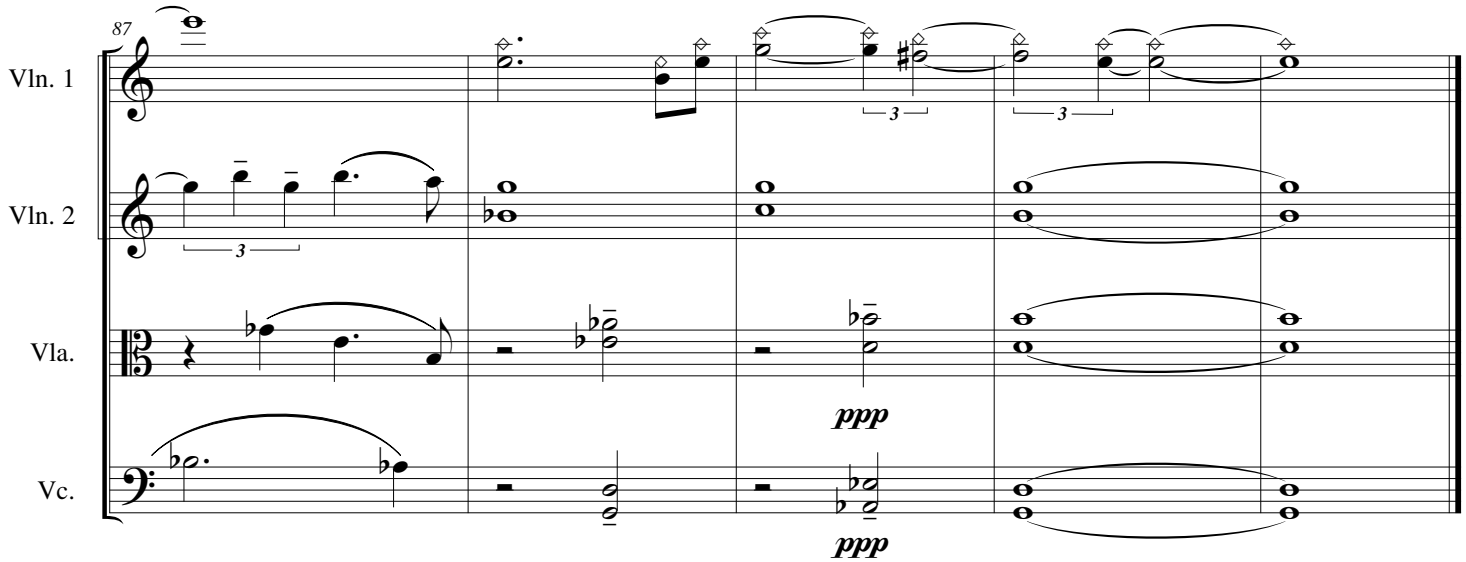

29
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
mp
mp
mp
fz
mf
mp
35
Poco rall.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
mp
p
p
p
p
p
41
a tempo
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
mf
mf
mp
pizz.
p
mf
arco
mp


48
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
3
pp
punta d'arco
pp
distantly whispering
mp
mf
mp
52
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
3
p
p
p
56
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
mp
mf
mf
mf
mf

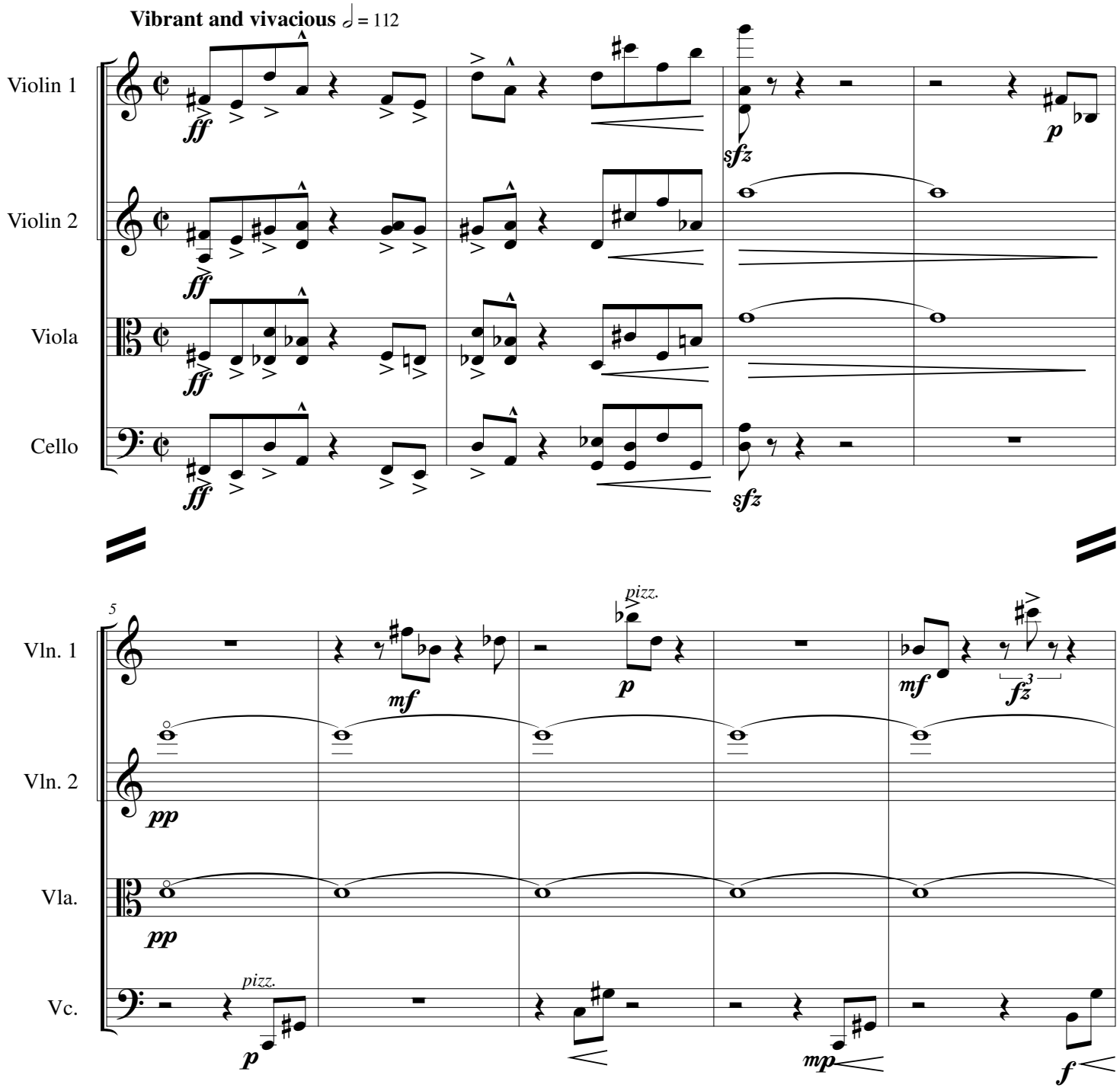

Poco a poco rit. (Broaden)
59
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
cresc.
f with intense passion
poco a poco cresc.
62
a tempo
65
ff
fff


67
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
mf
poco a poco dim.
mp
71
Poco ritardando
Slightly hold back ♩= 60-63
pp
sul ponticello
p


A tempo ♩ = 66
75
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
pp
p
naturale
79
83


87
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
3
3
3
ppp
ppp

V - Finale



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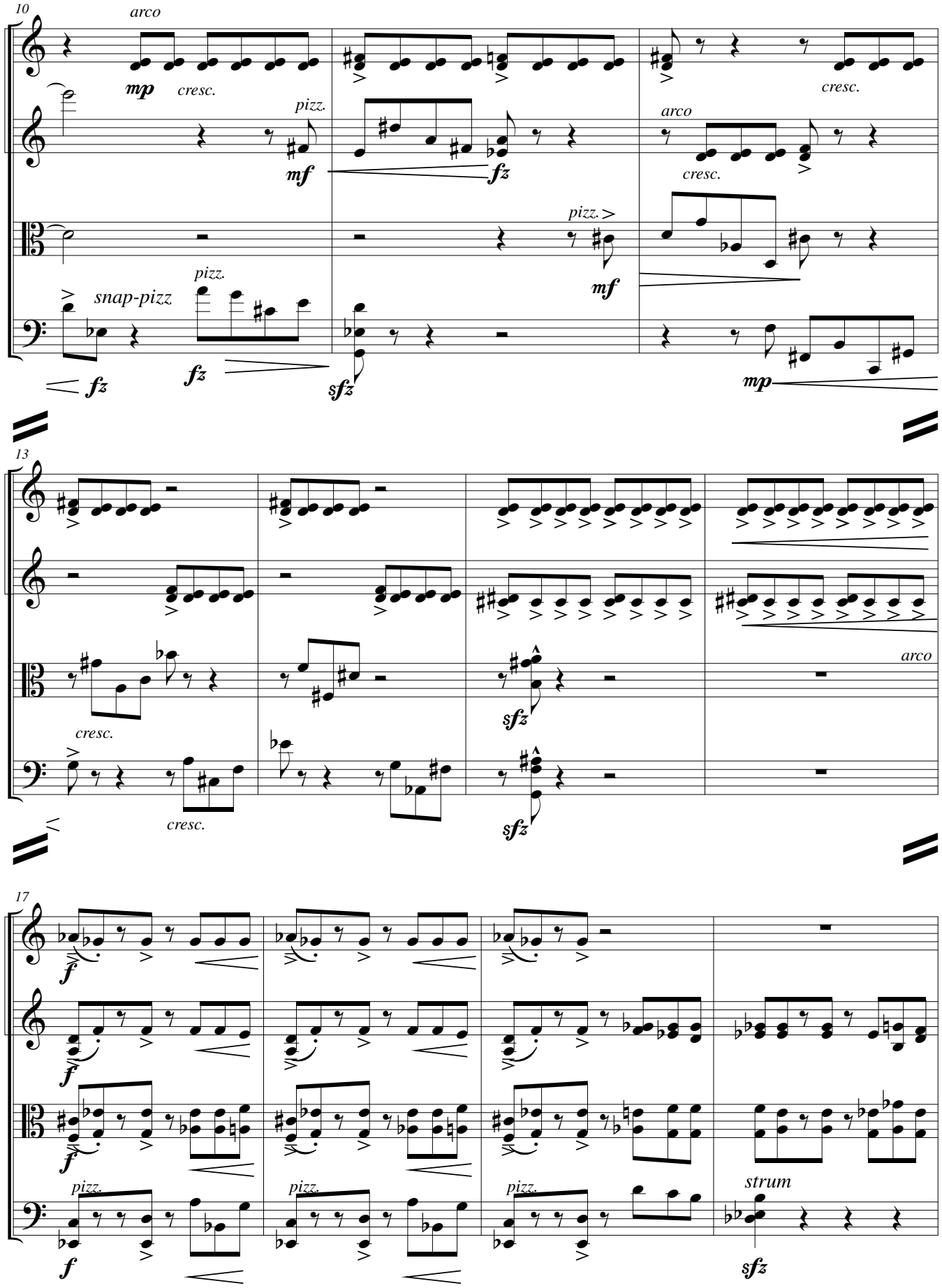
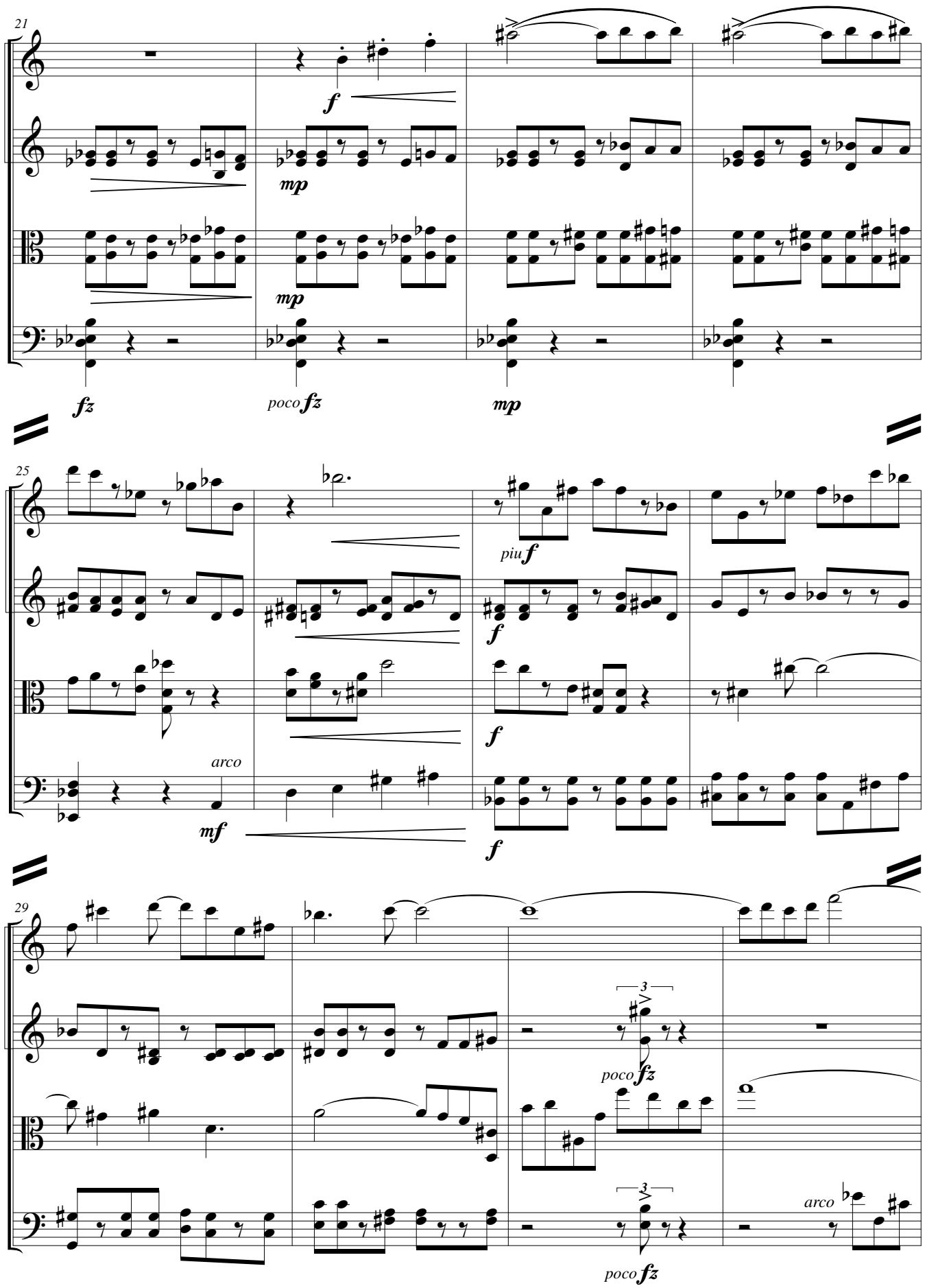
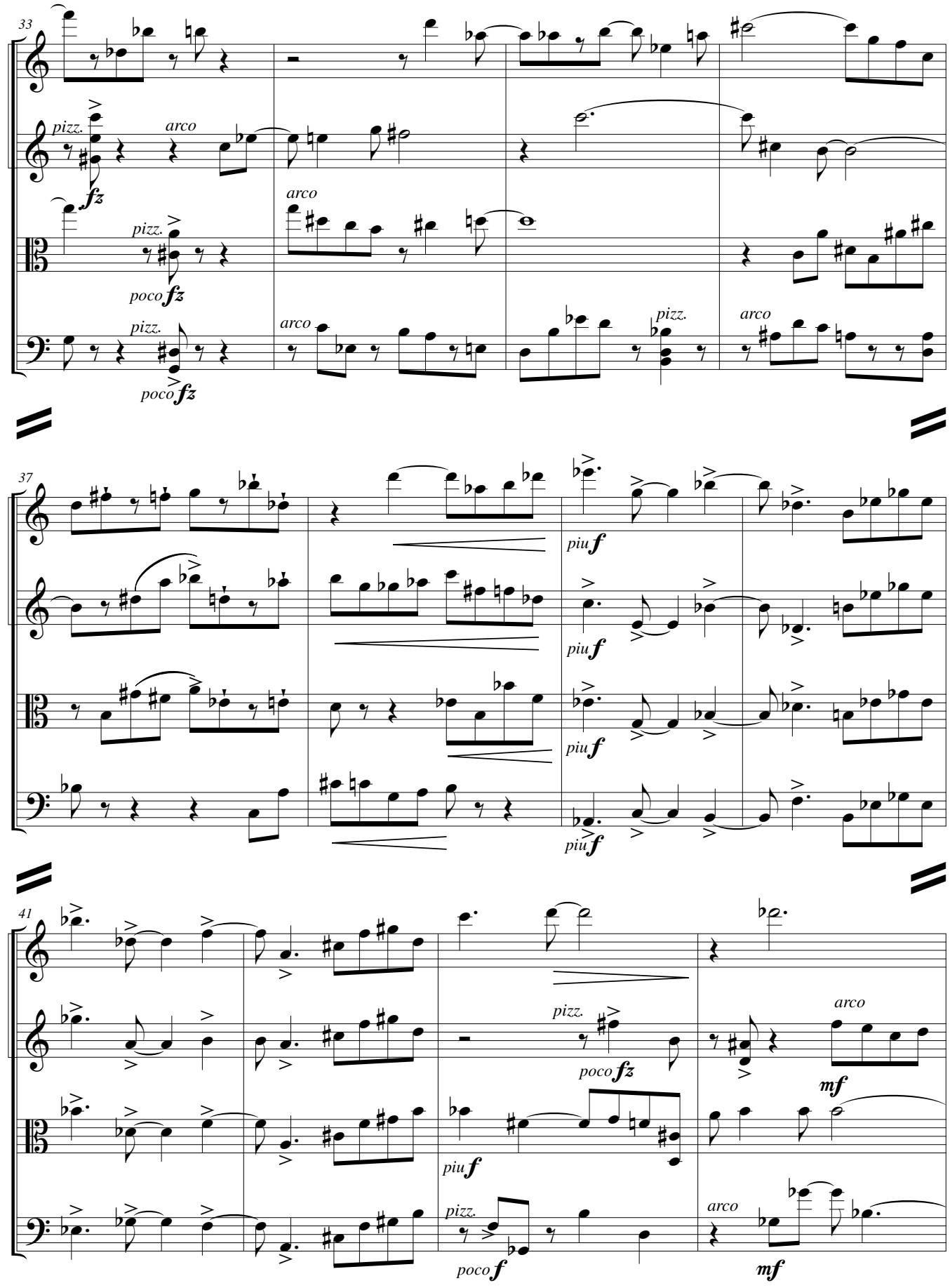
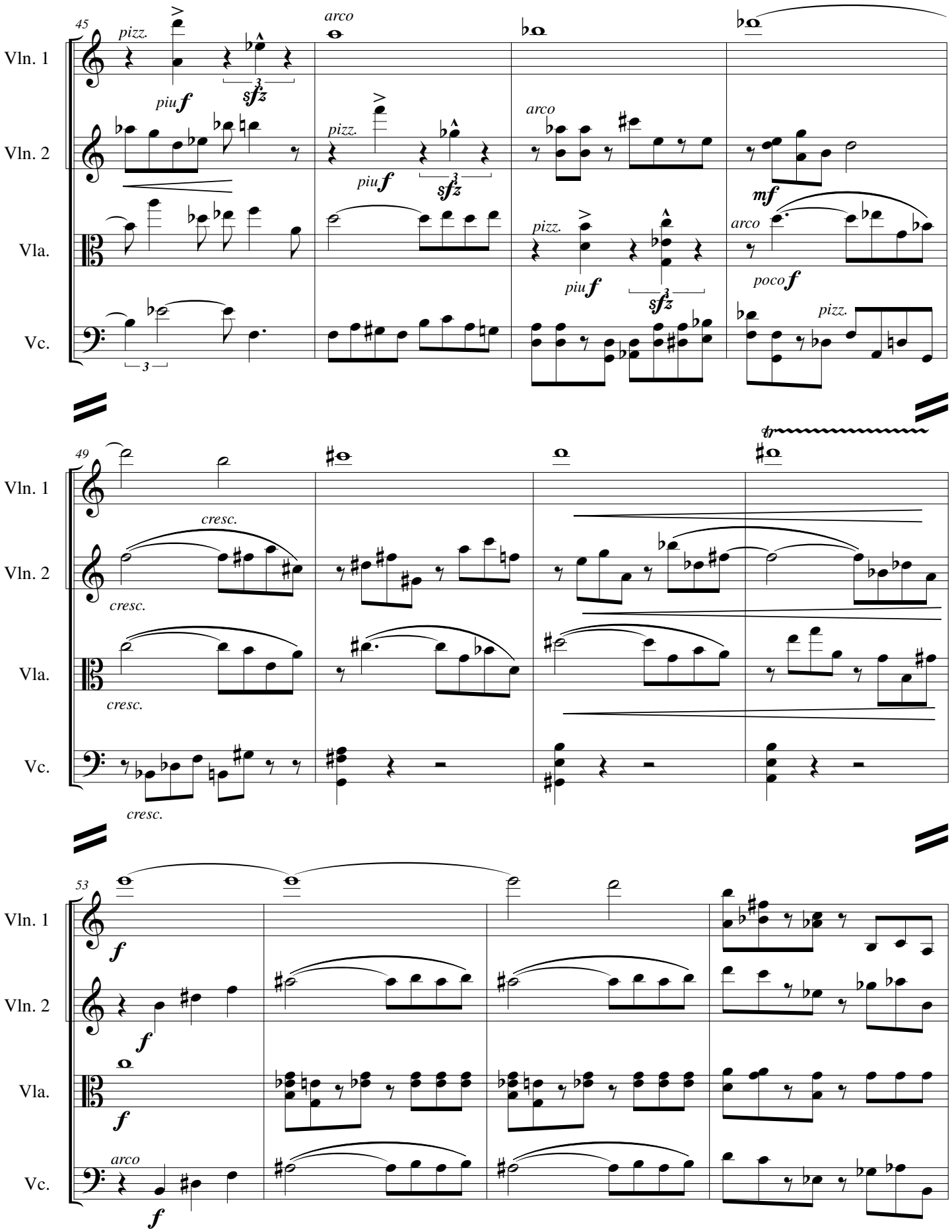
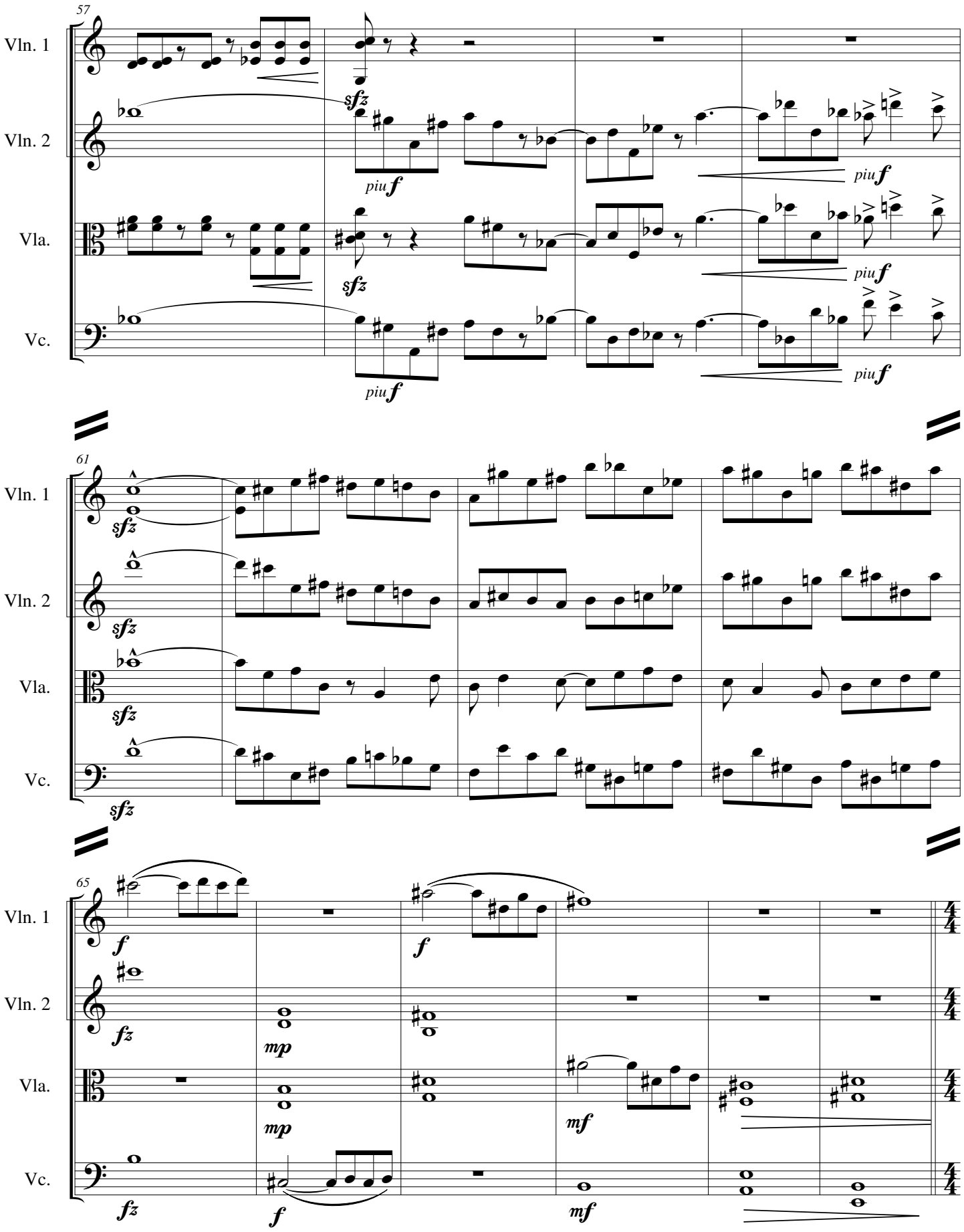
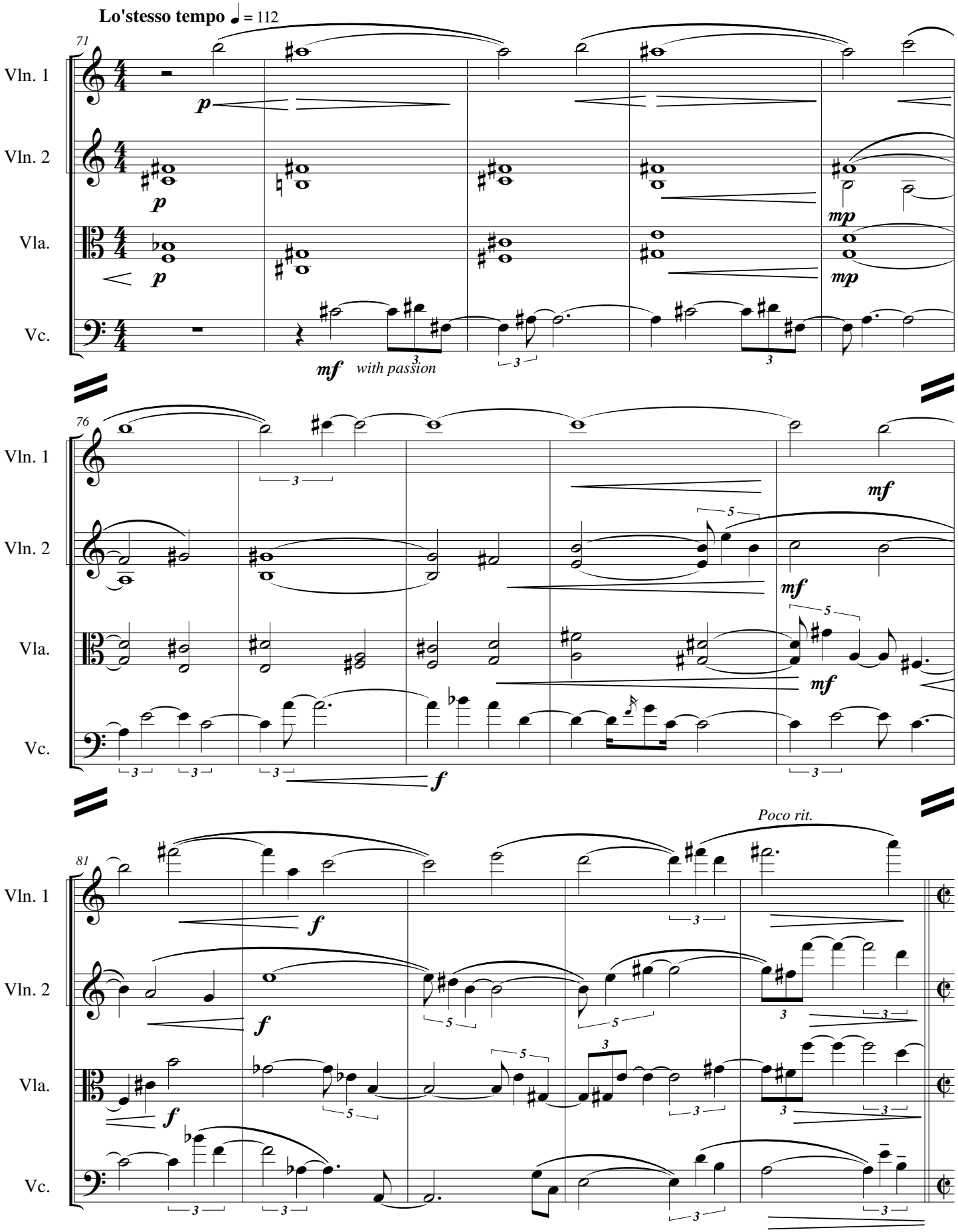

10
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
arco
mp
cresc.
pizz.
mf
fz
snap-pizz
sfz
13
17
f
strum

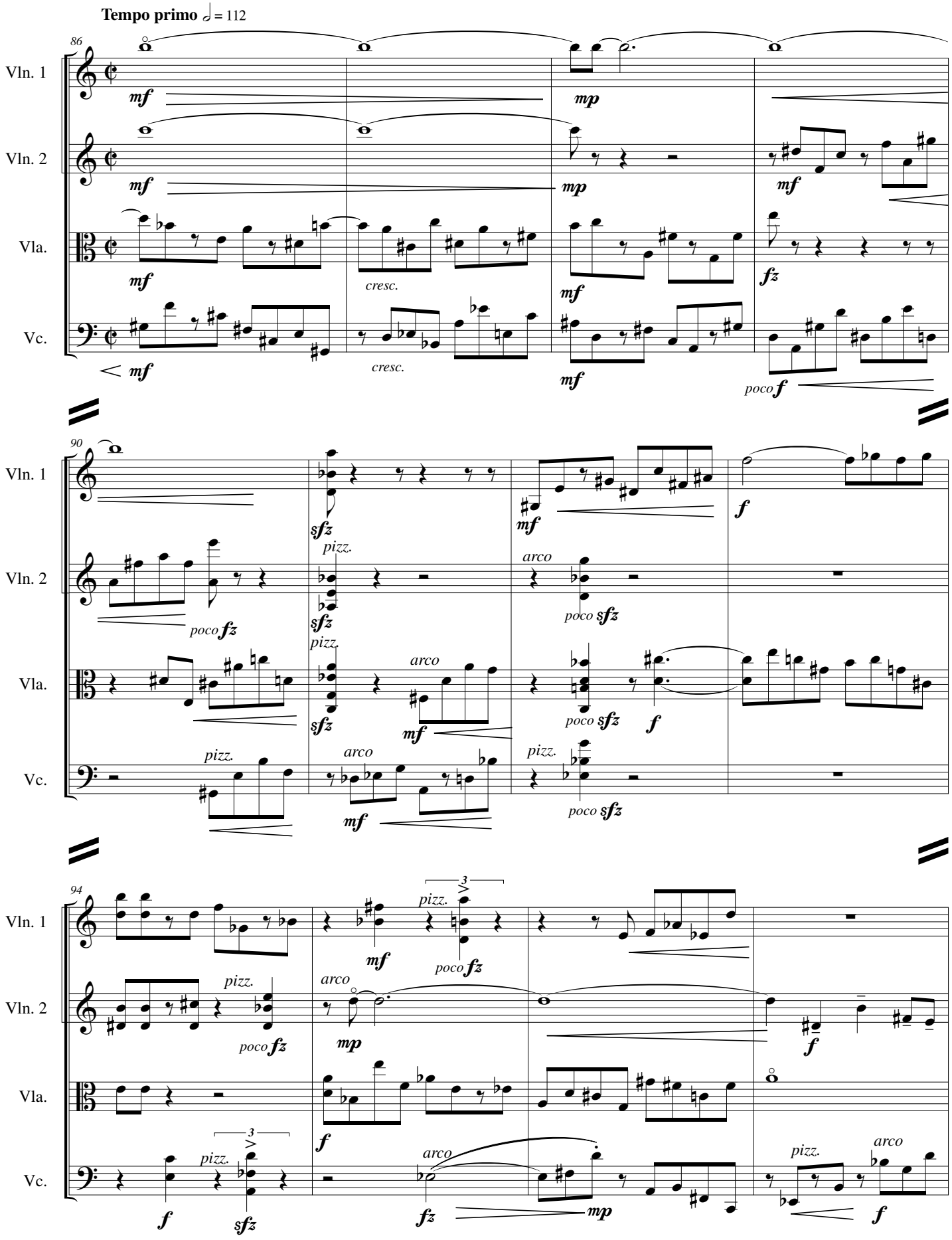

21
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
f
mp
mp
fz
poco fz
mp
25
piu f
f
f
arco
mf
f
29
3
poco fz
arco
3
poco fz

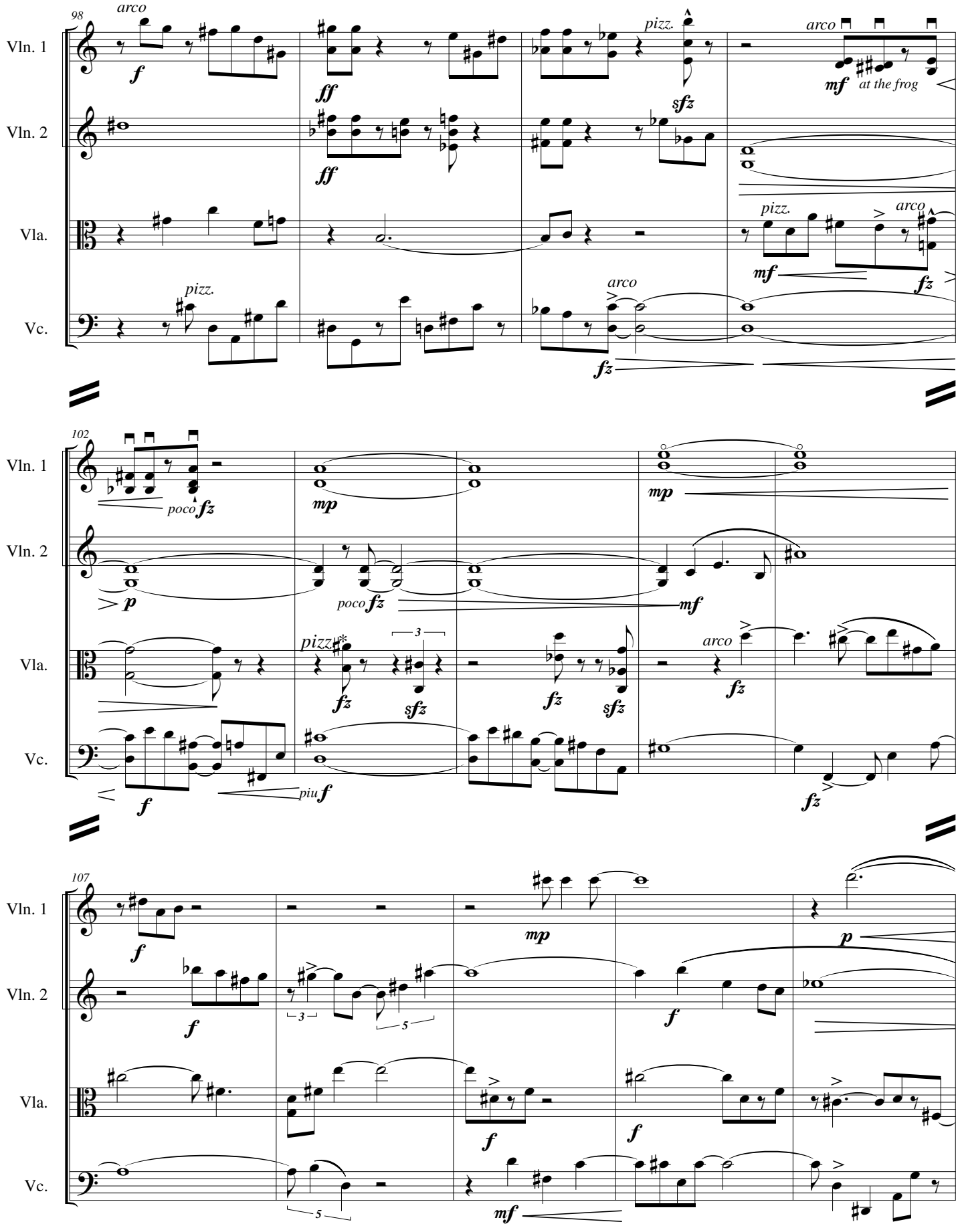

33
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
poco fz
37
piu f
41
poco f
mf

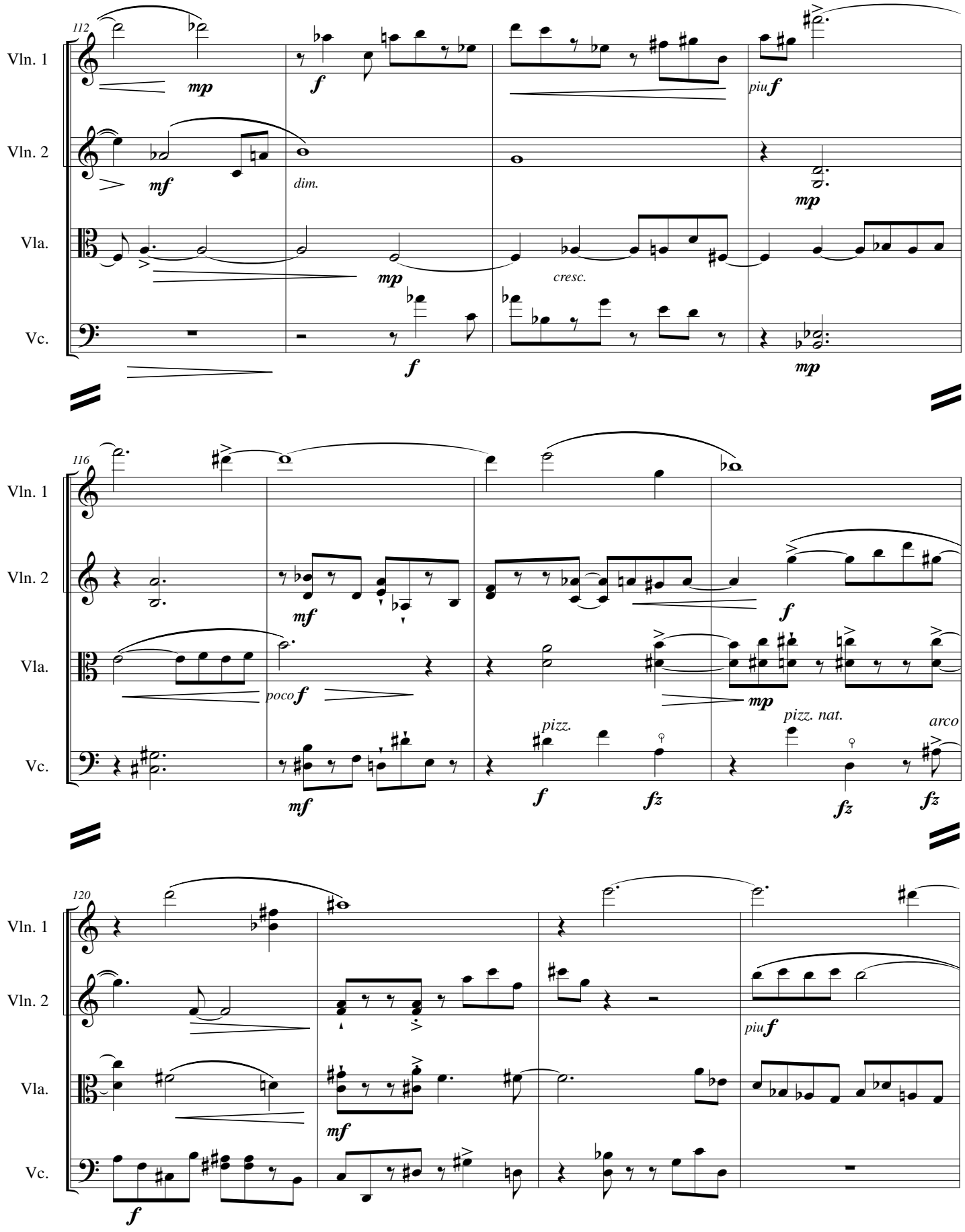

45
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
piu f
sfz
mf
poco f
49
cresc.
53
f

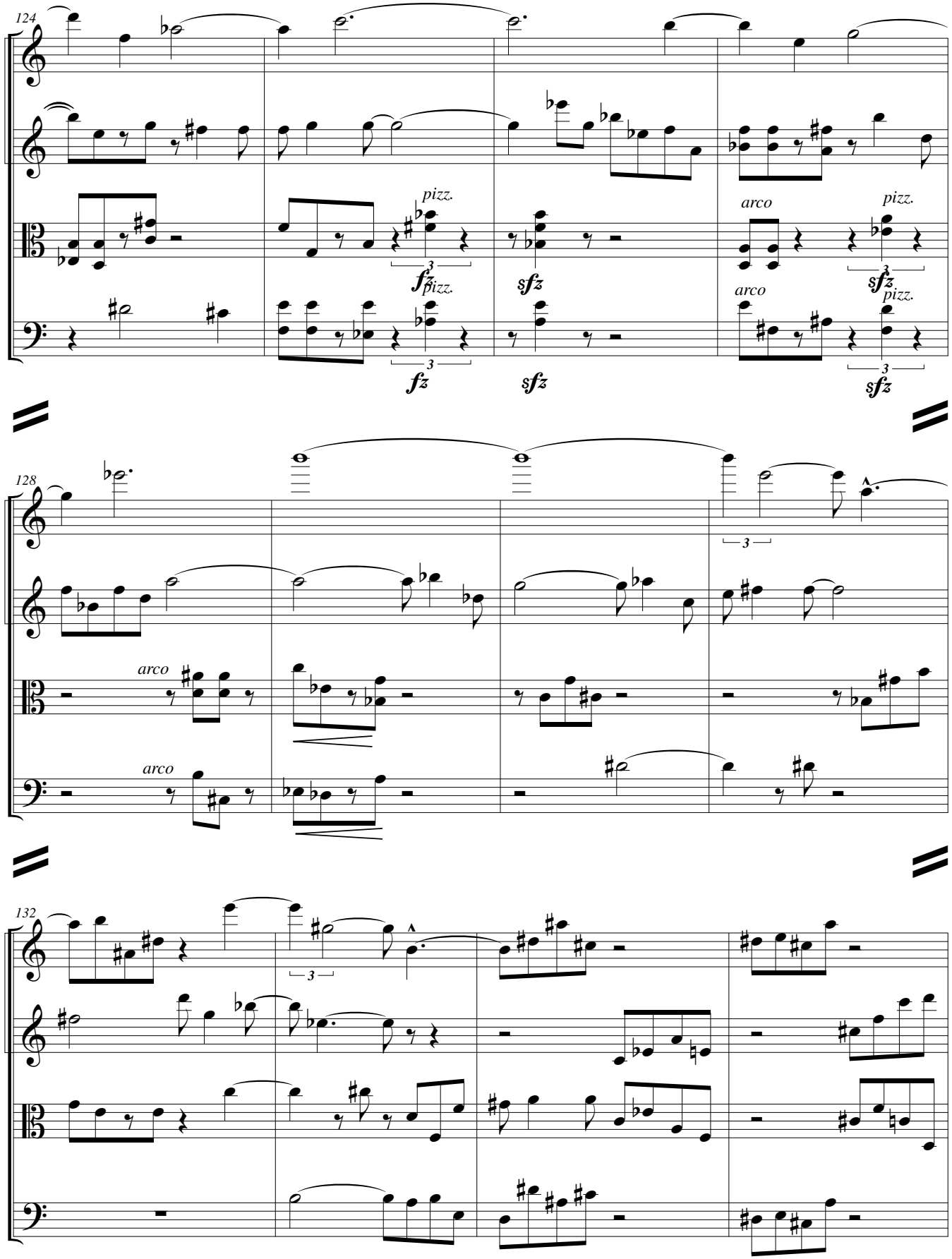

57
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
sfz
piu f
61
sfz
65
f
fz
mp
mf

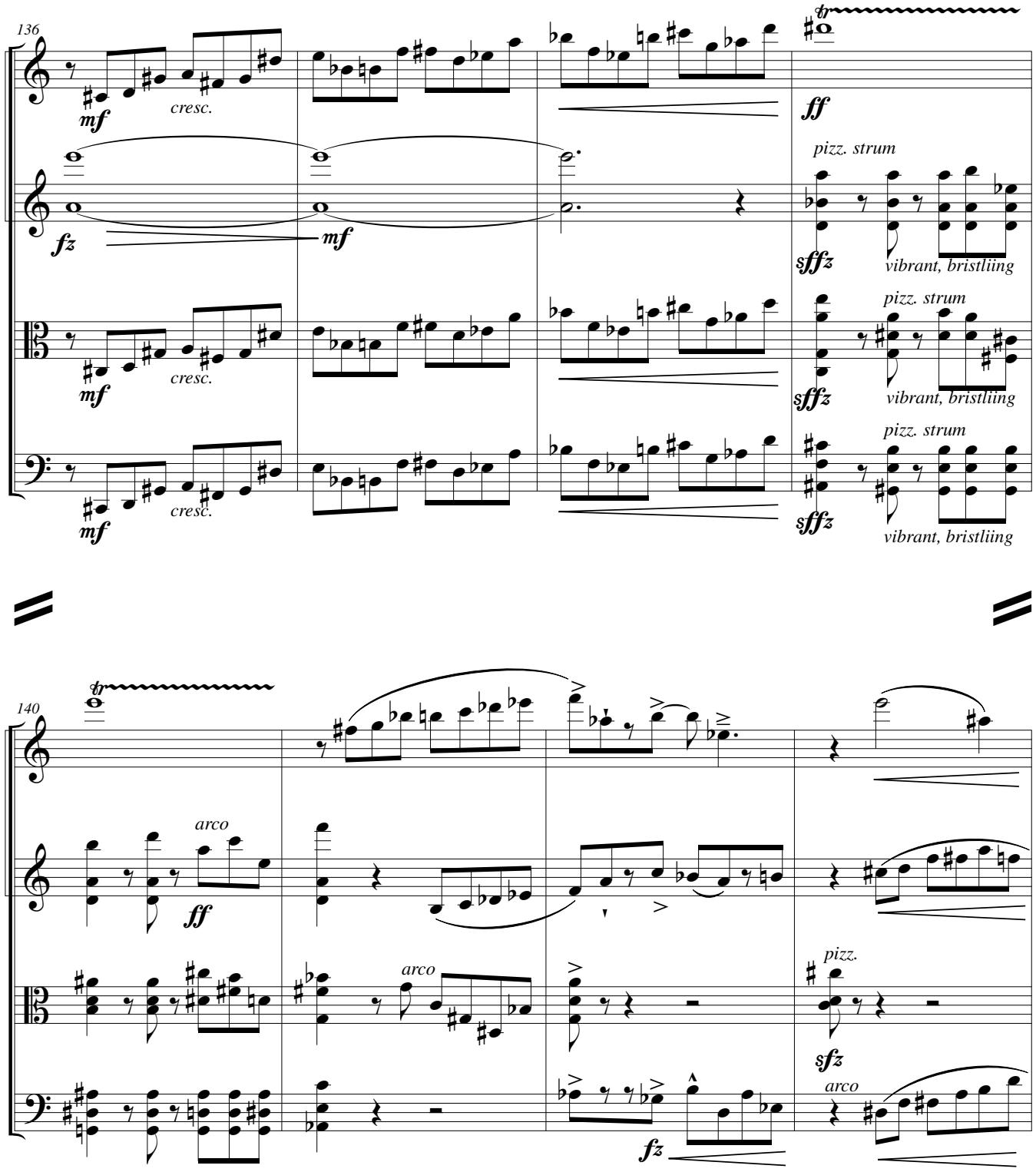

Lo'stesso tempo ♩ = 112
71
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
p
mp
mf
with passion
76
f
81
Poco rit.

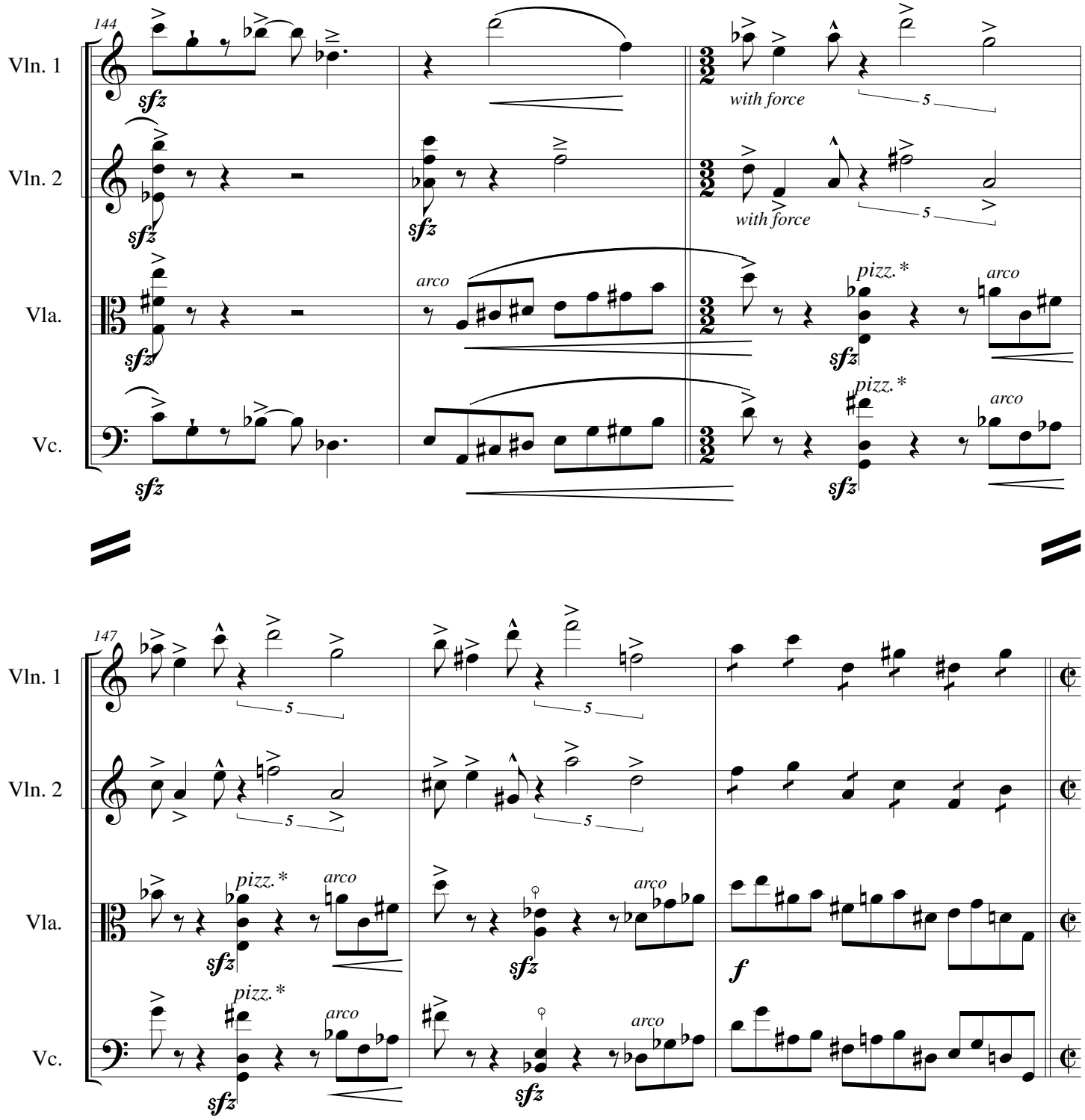

Tempo primo ♩ = 112
86
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
mf
mp
cresc.
fz
poco f
90
sfz
pizz.
arco
poco sfz
f
94
3
poco fz

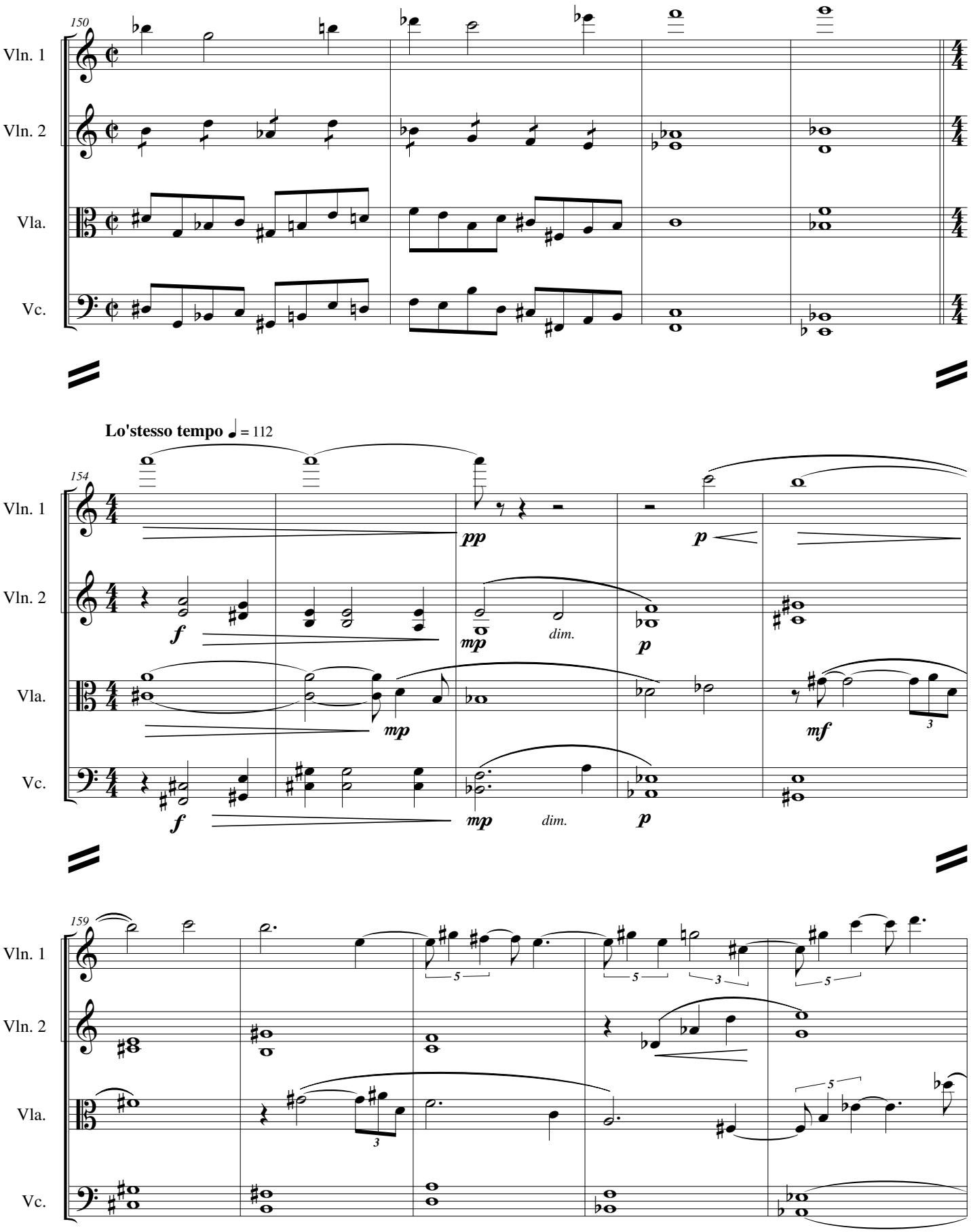

98
arco
pizz.
arco
at the frog
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
102
poco
piu
pizz.
arco
107

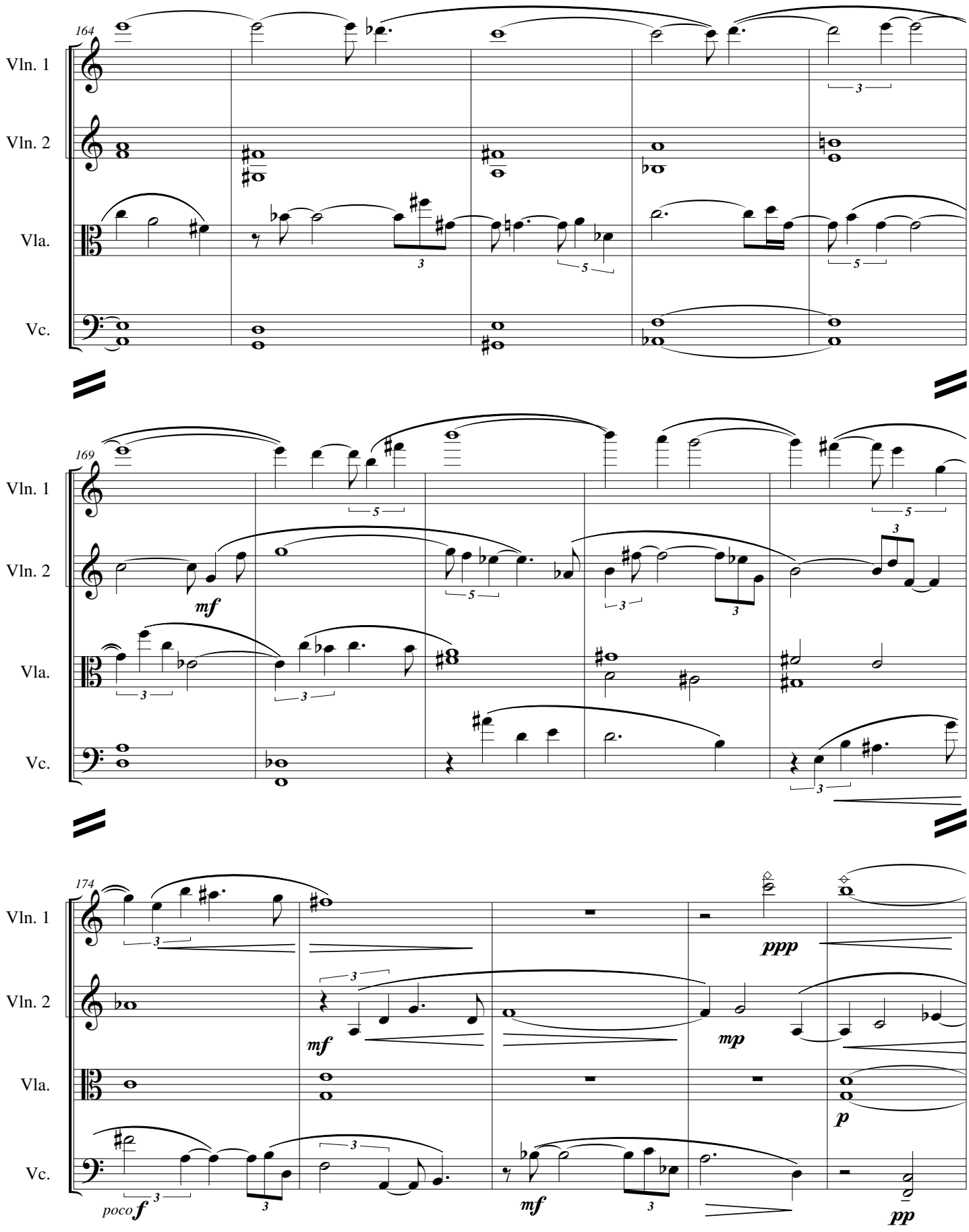

112
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
mp
f
mf
dim.
mp
cresc.
f
piu f
mp
116
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
mf
poco f
mf
f
pizz.
fz
mp
pizz. nat.
fz
arco
fz
120
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
f
mf
piu f

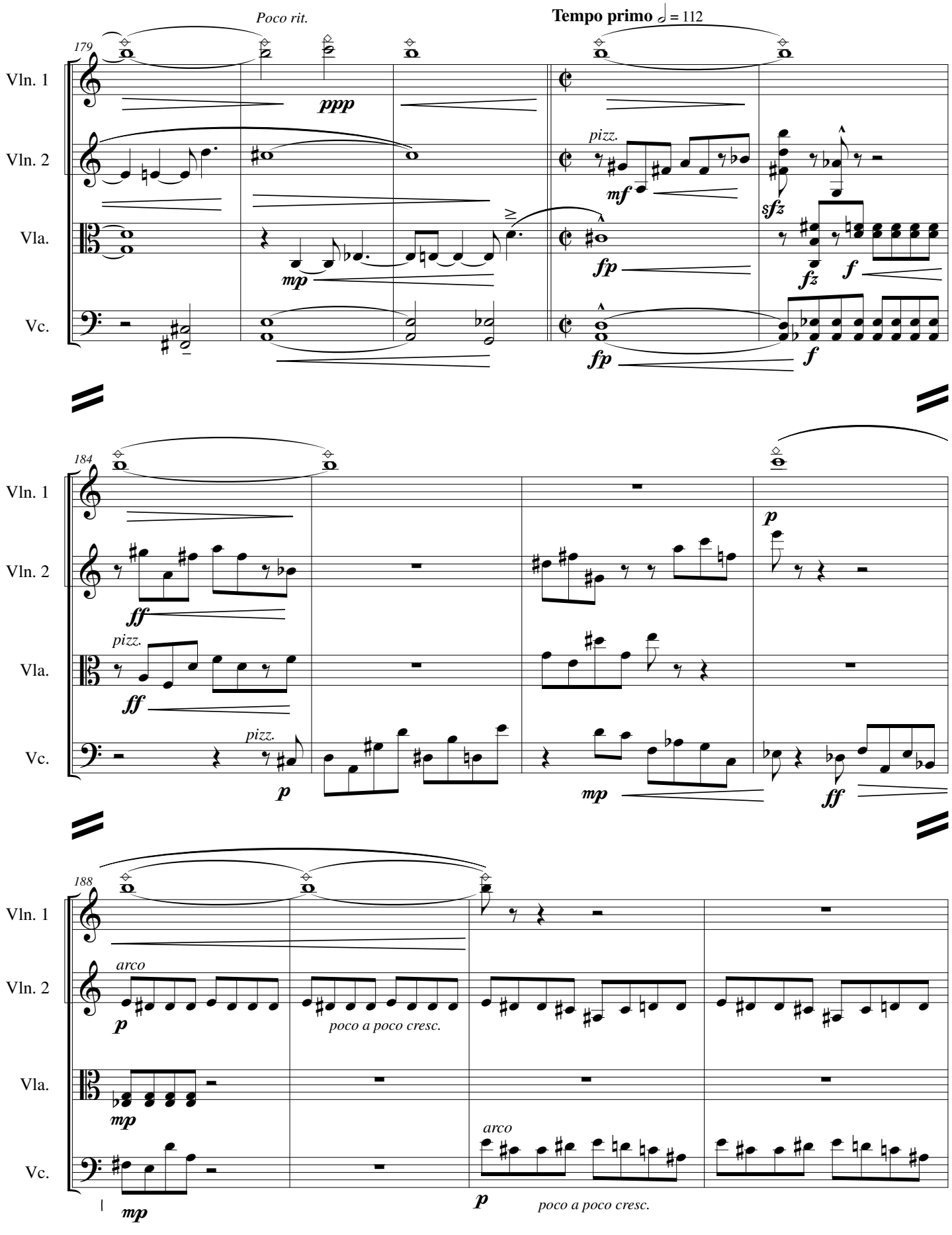

124
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
fz
sfz
128
132

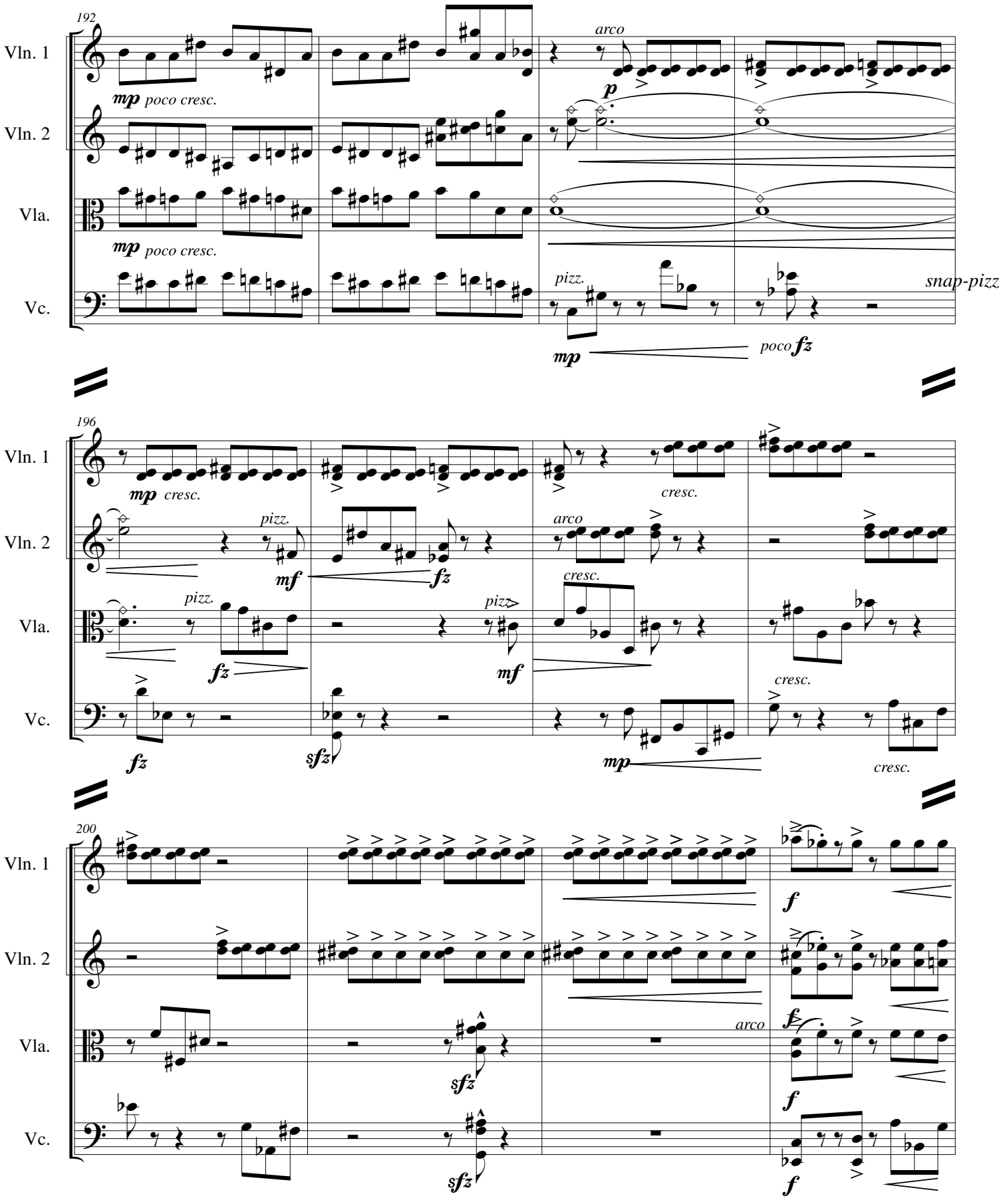

136
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
mf
cresc.
fz
mf
tr
ff
pizz. strum
sffz
vibrant, bristliing
140
arco
pizz.
sfz
fz

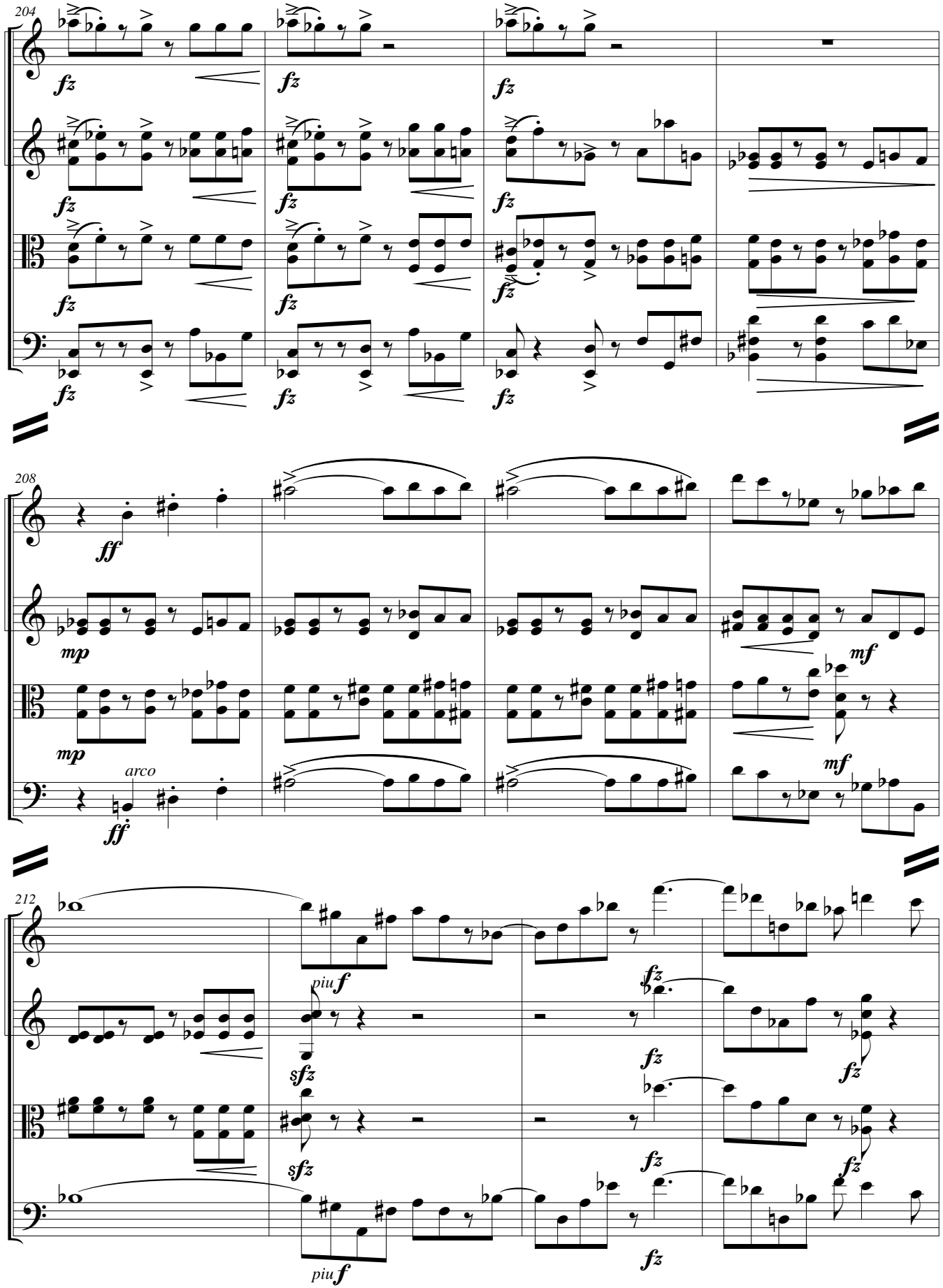

144
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
sfz
with force
5
arco
pizz.*
147
f

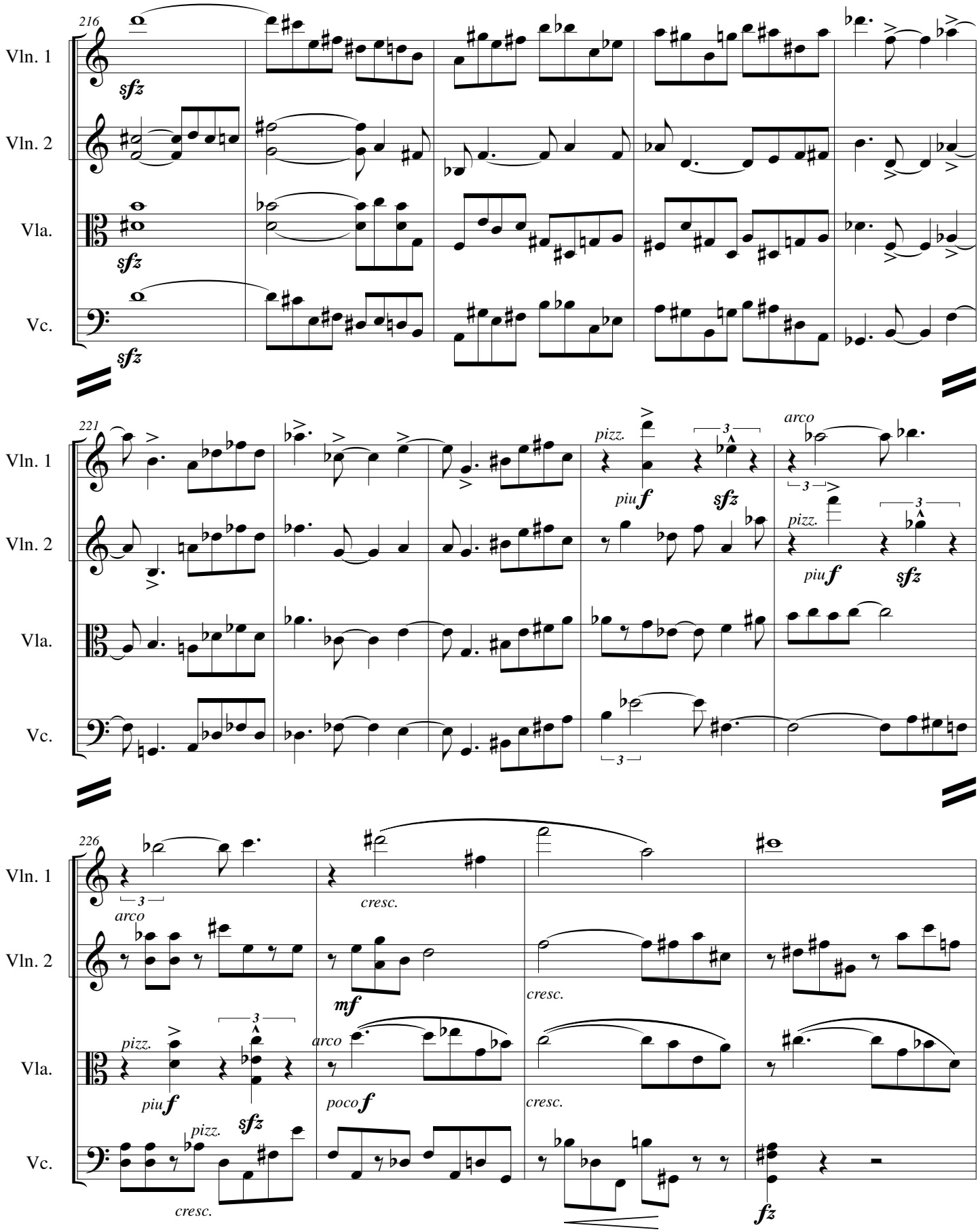

150
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Lo'stesso tempo ♩ = 112
154
pp
p
f
mp
dim.
mf
159
5
3

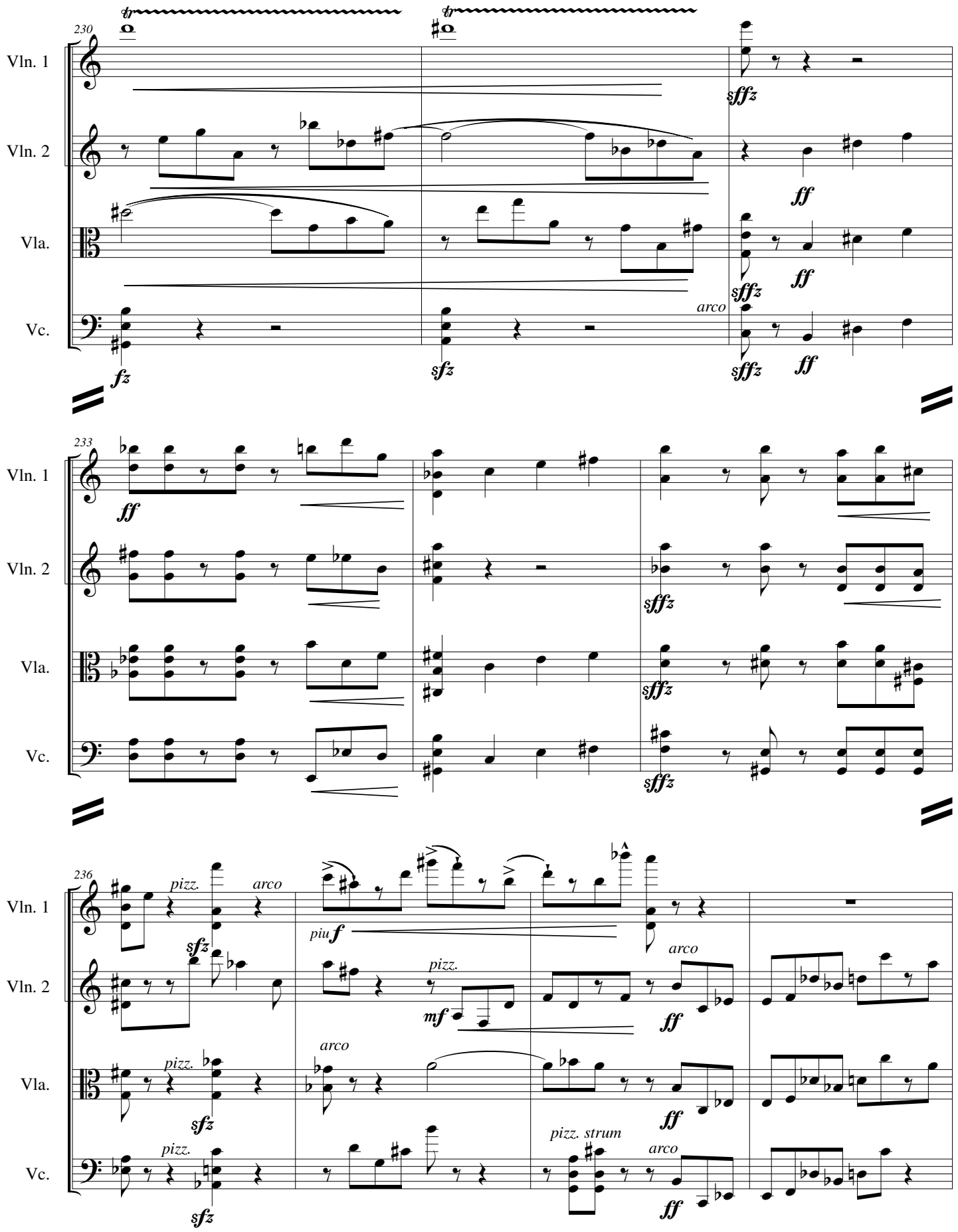

164
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
169
mf
174
poco f
mf
mp
ppp
p
pp

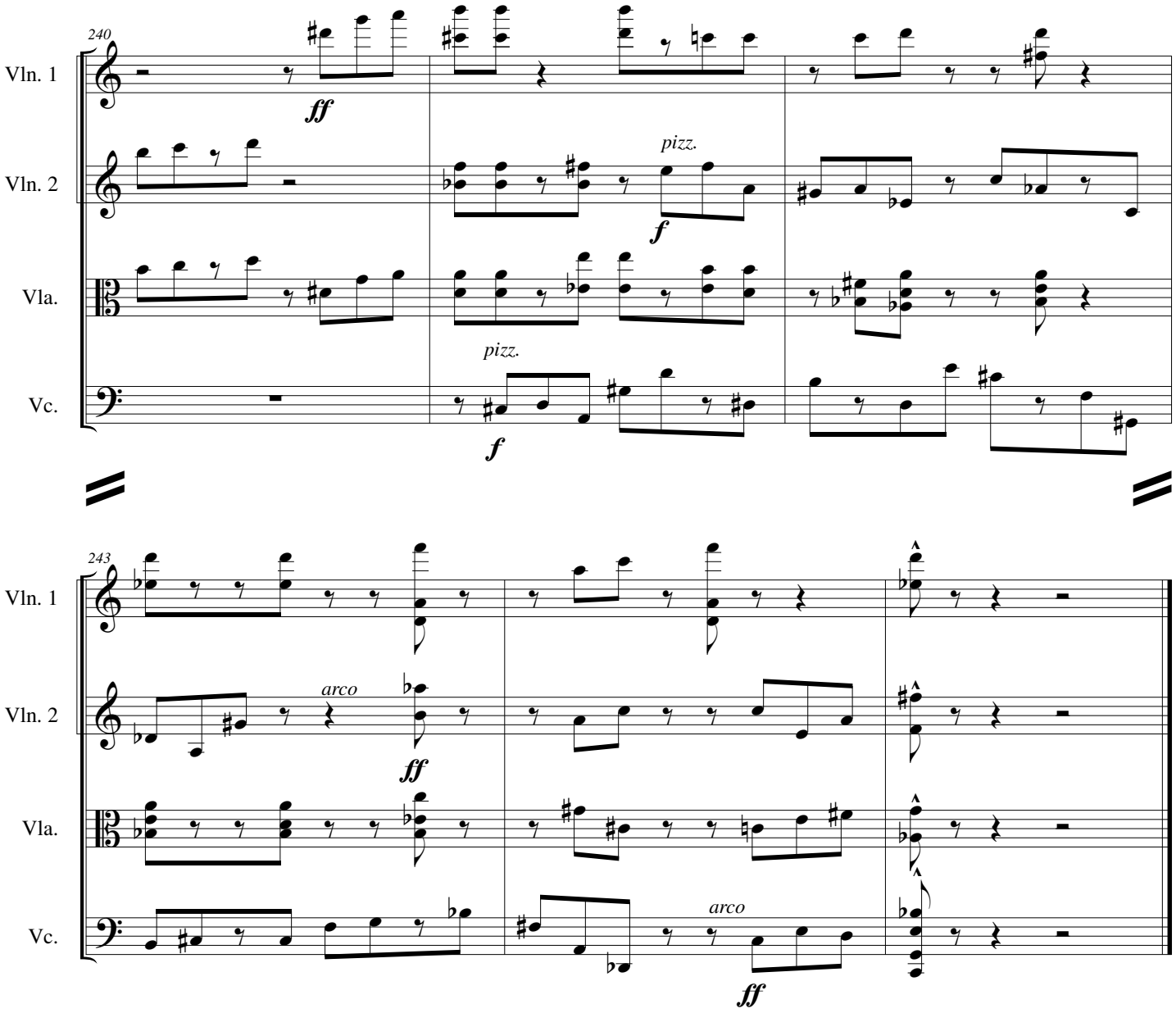

Poco rit.
Tempo primo ♩ = 112
179
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
ppp
pizz.
mf
sfz
mp
fp
fz
f
184
ff
p
mp
188
arco
poco a poco cresc.


192
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
mp poco cresc.
arco
p
pizz.
snap-pizz
mp
poco fz
196
mp cresc.
pizz.
mf
fz
cresc.
arco
fz
sfz
mp
200
f
sfz


204
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
fz
208
ff
mp
mf
arco
212
piu f
sfz


216
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
sfz
221
pizz.
piu f
sfz
arco
3
226
arco
cresc.
mf
poco f
fz


230
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
tr
fz
sfz
sffz
ff
arco
233
236
pizz.
arco
piu f
mf
pizz. strum


240
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
ff
pizz.
f
pizz.
f
243
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
arco
ff
arco
ff