for The Rhythm Method

Menagerie of Insect Societies

Jason Brauer

String quartet
2024
c. 7 minutes 15 seconds

I. *Formicidae*, the Colonial Soldier
II. *Cicadoidea*, the Menacing Swarm

Performance Note

Sforzandos should be treated as intensified accents that do not cancel out the previous dynamic. However, they do not have to be "contextual" even sforzandos that occur during a soft dynamic can be rather violent.

Breath marks denote a very brief pause, less than a beat.

Staccato accents at the end of a tie indicate throwing the bow off the string. Let vibrate afterwards.

Program Note

Both movements of *Menagerie of Insect Societies* examine the fascinating (and at times oppressive) ways that insects (and humans) organize their social structures.

Formicidae (ants) are the only animals besides humans to go to war by the thousands. They can also efficiently explore an area through emergent behavior, or a set of simple instructions for each ant that result in a complex pattern for the whole. Reflecting the rigidity of their hierarchy, their movement is a military march in sonata form based on the chromatic scale. After their final battle, a mortally wounded ant cries for peace.

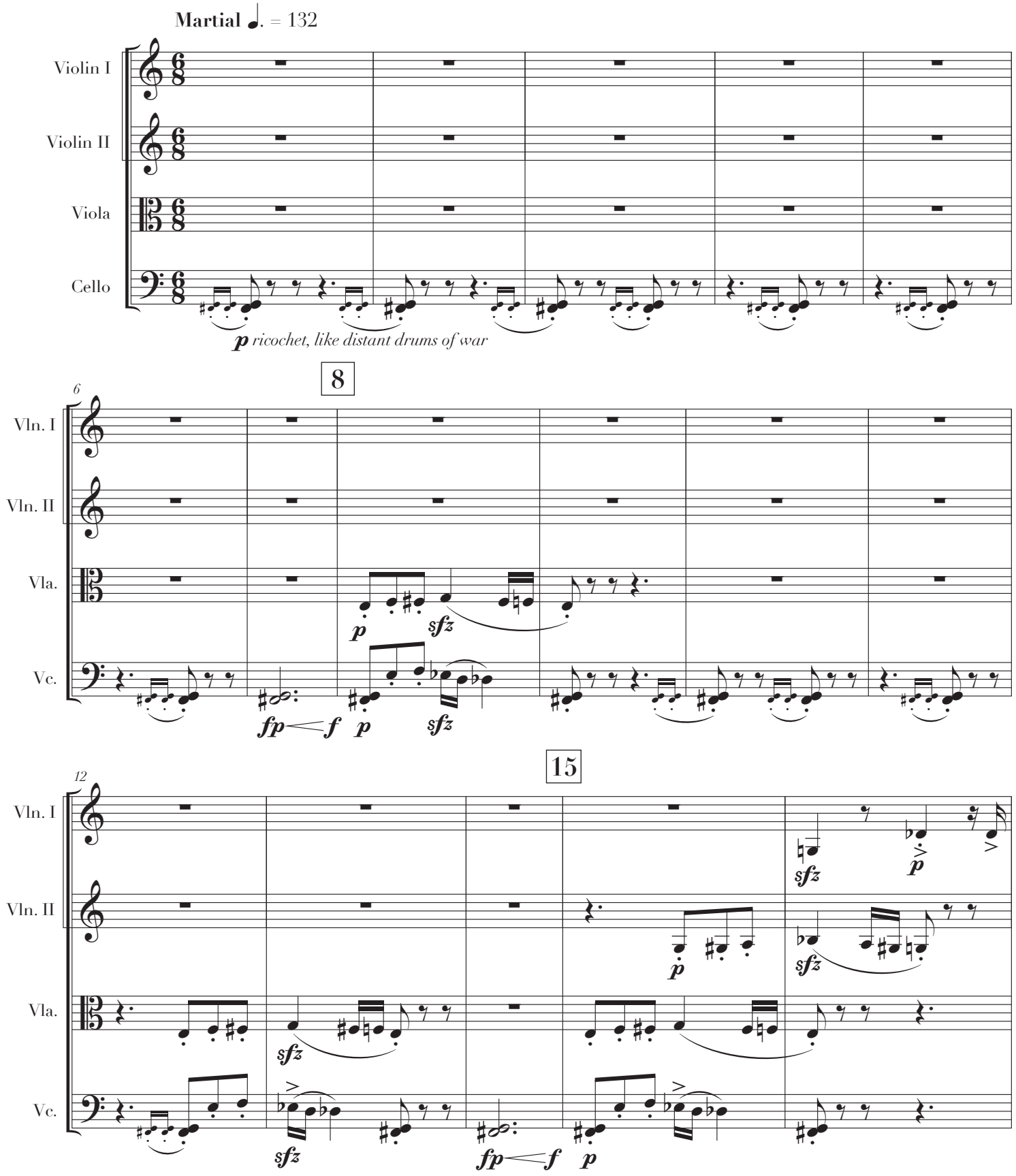
Cicadoidea (cicadas) emerge from their underground burrows in massive broods every 13 or 17 years, singing their cacophonous mating call, before vanishing as quickly as they arrived. This movement roughly mimics their call and the motion of their broods in flight, depicting the homogeneity of their society via the octatonic scale and many moments of rhythmic unison and close canons.

Score

MENAGERIE of INSECT SOCIETIES

I. *Formicidae*, the Colonial Soldiers

Jason Brauer



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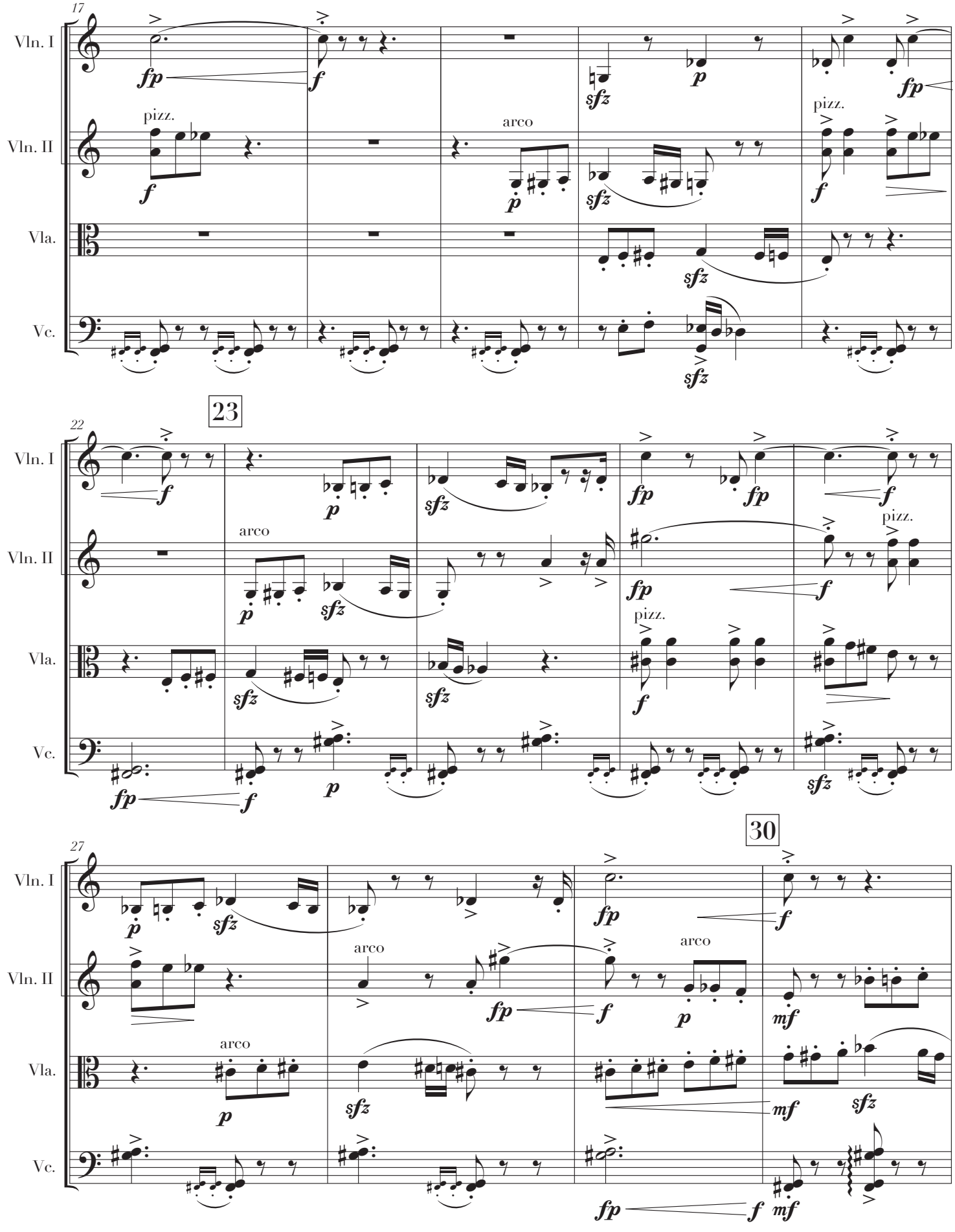
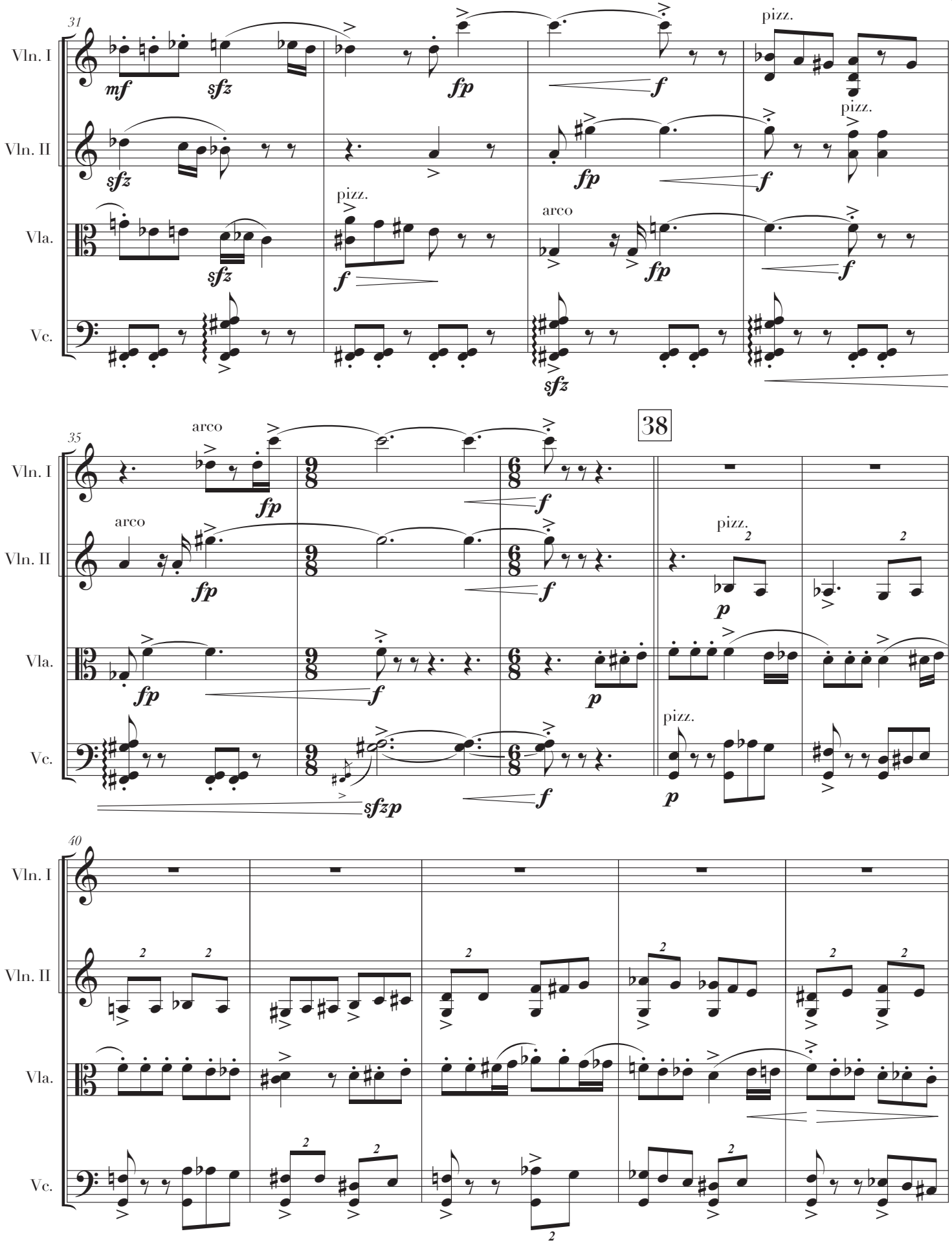
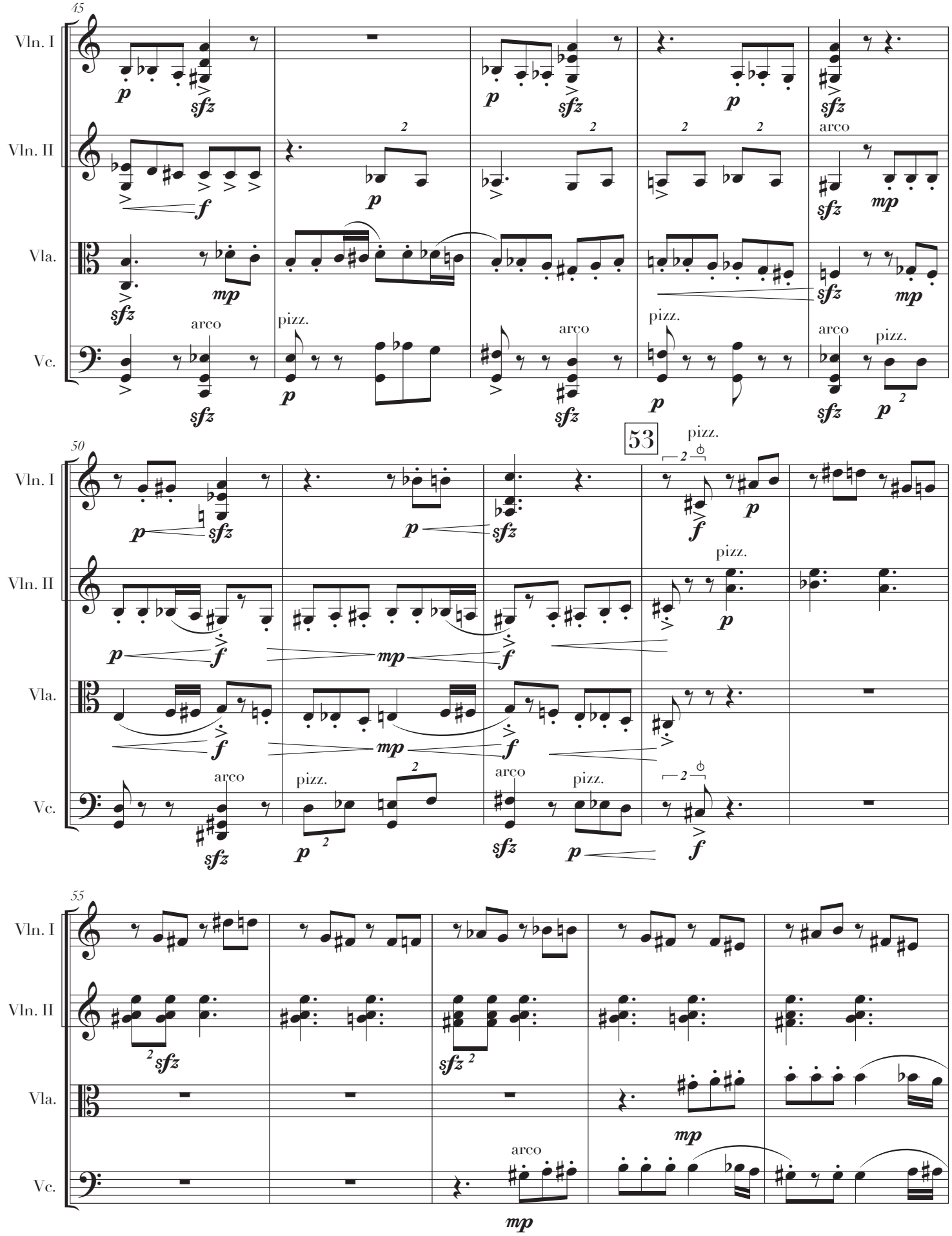
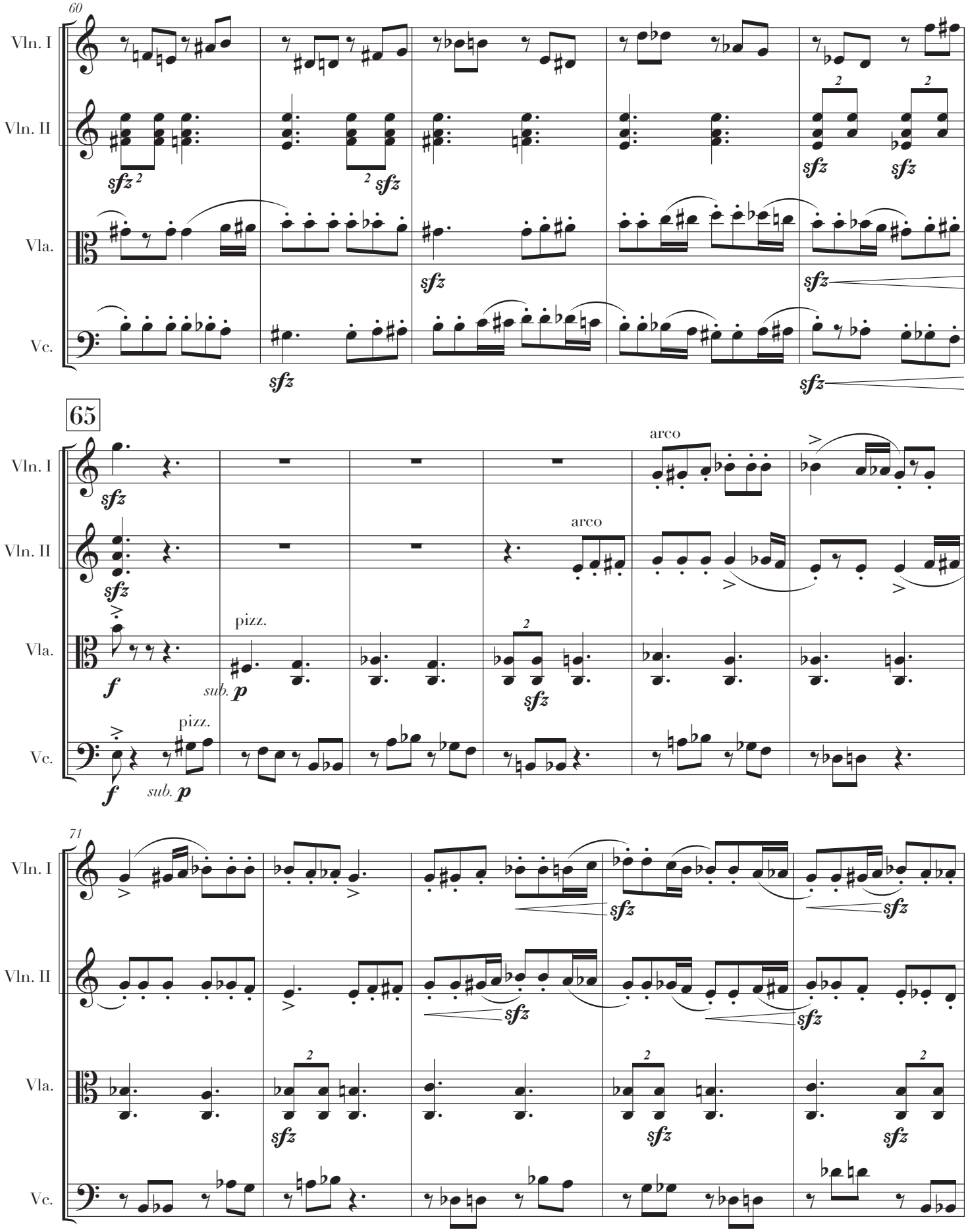
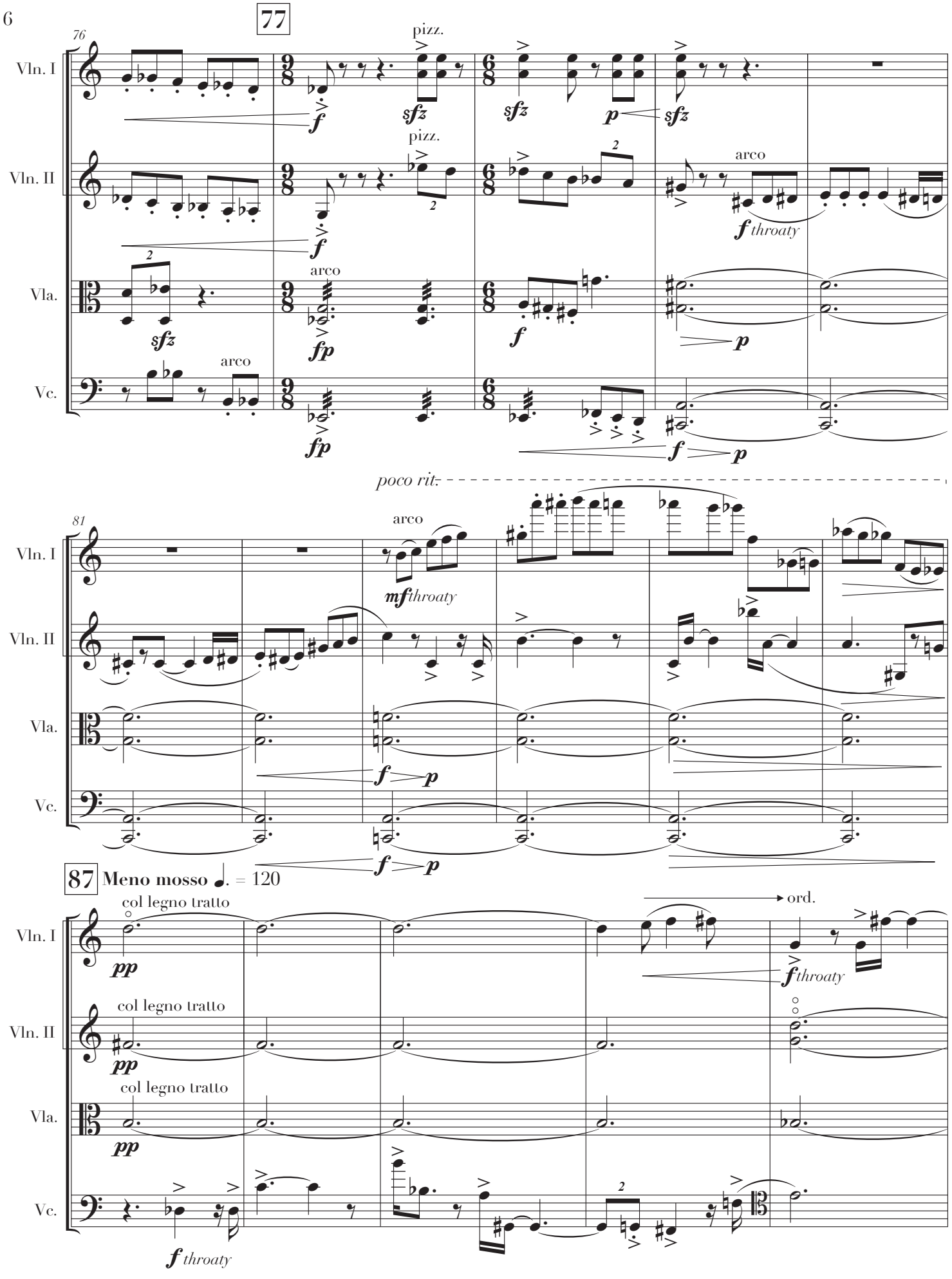
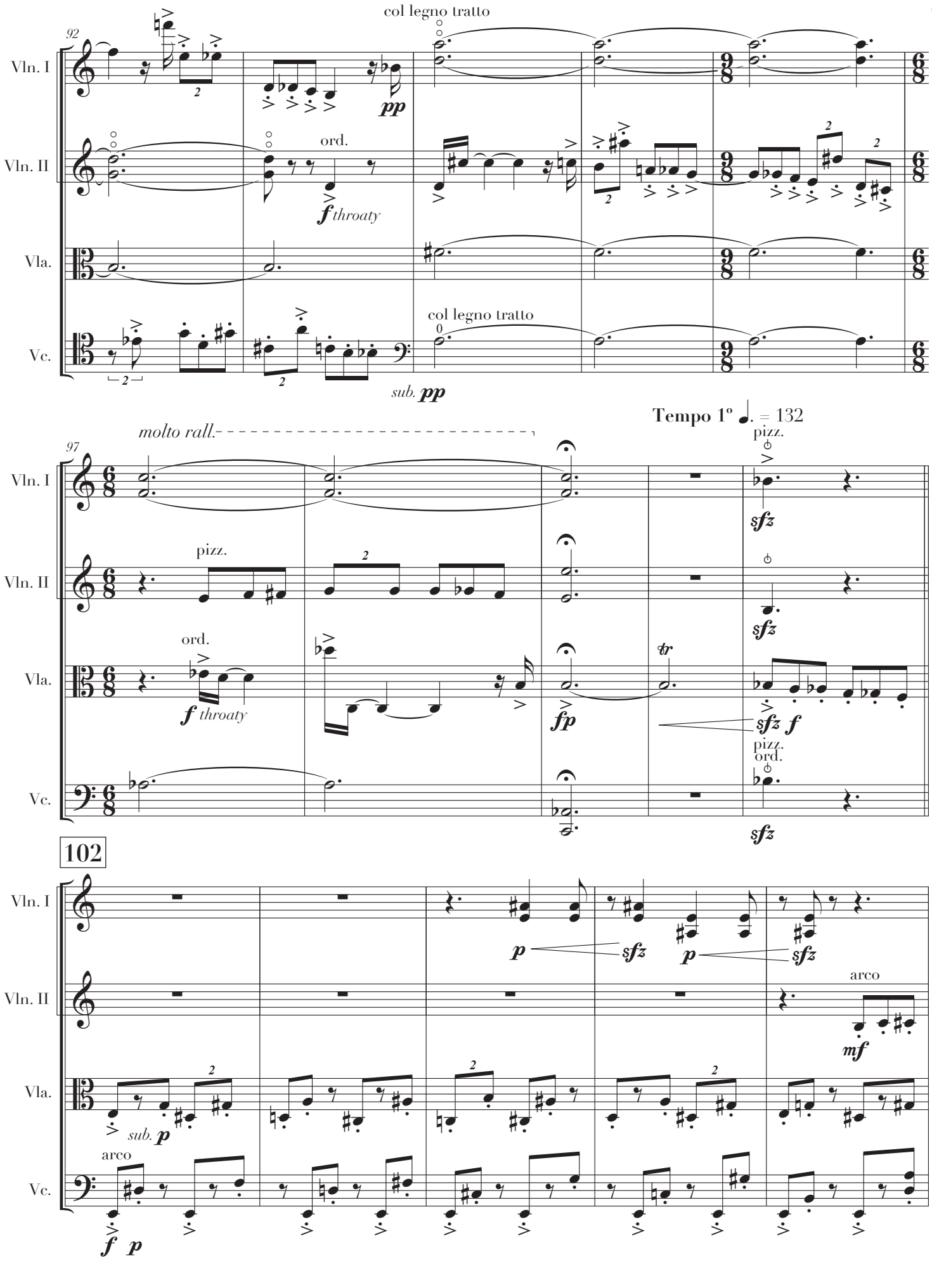

17
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
23
22
30
27

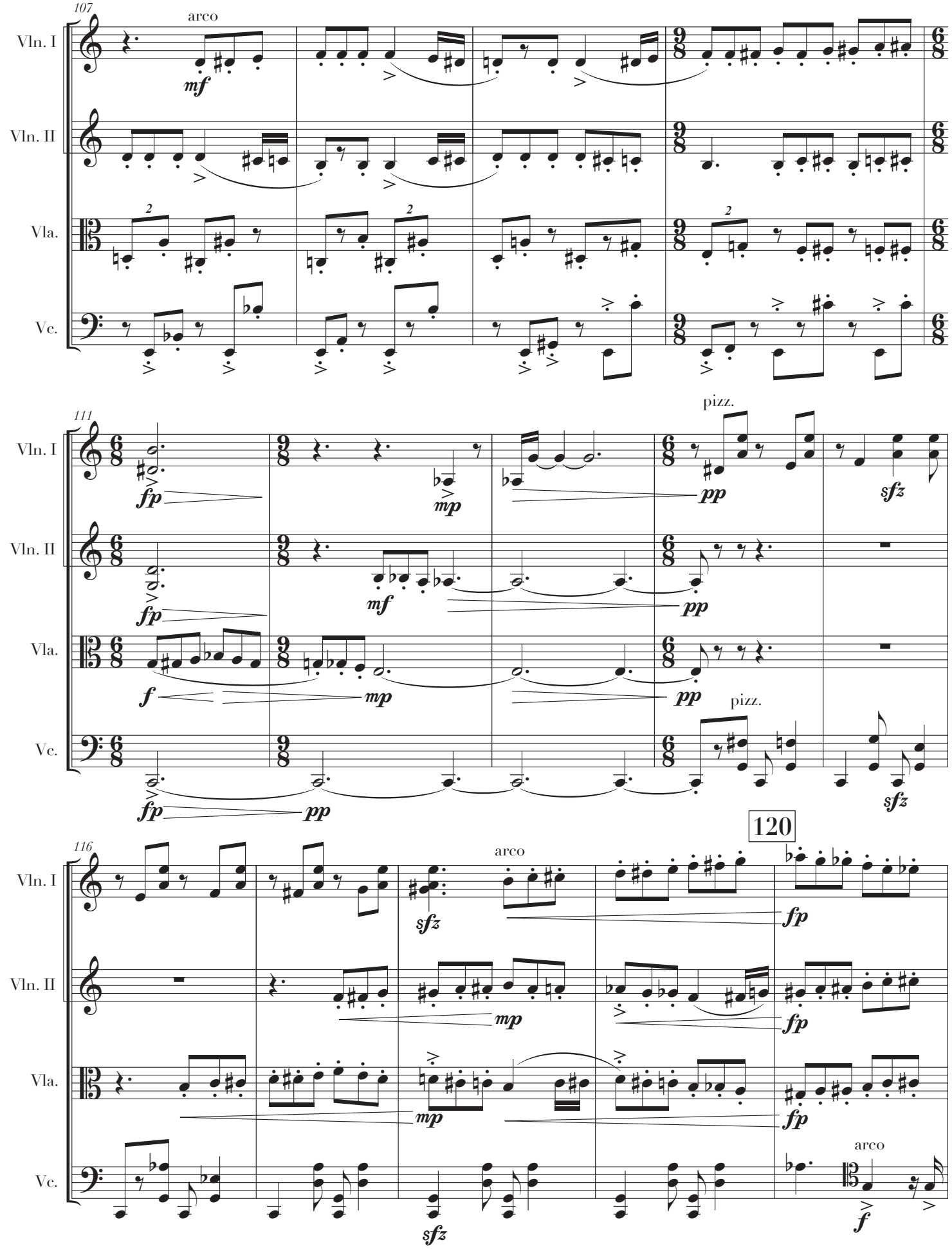

31
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
sfz
fp
f
pizz.
arco
35
38
sfzp
p

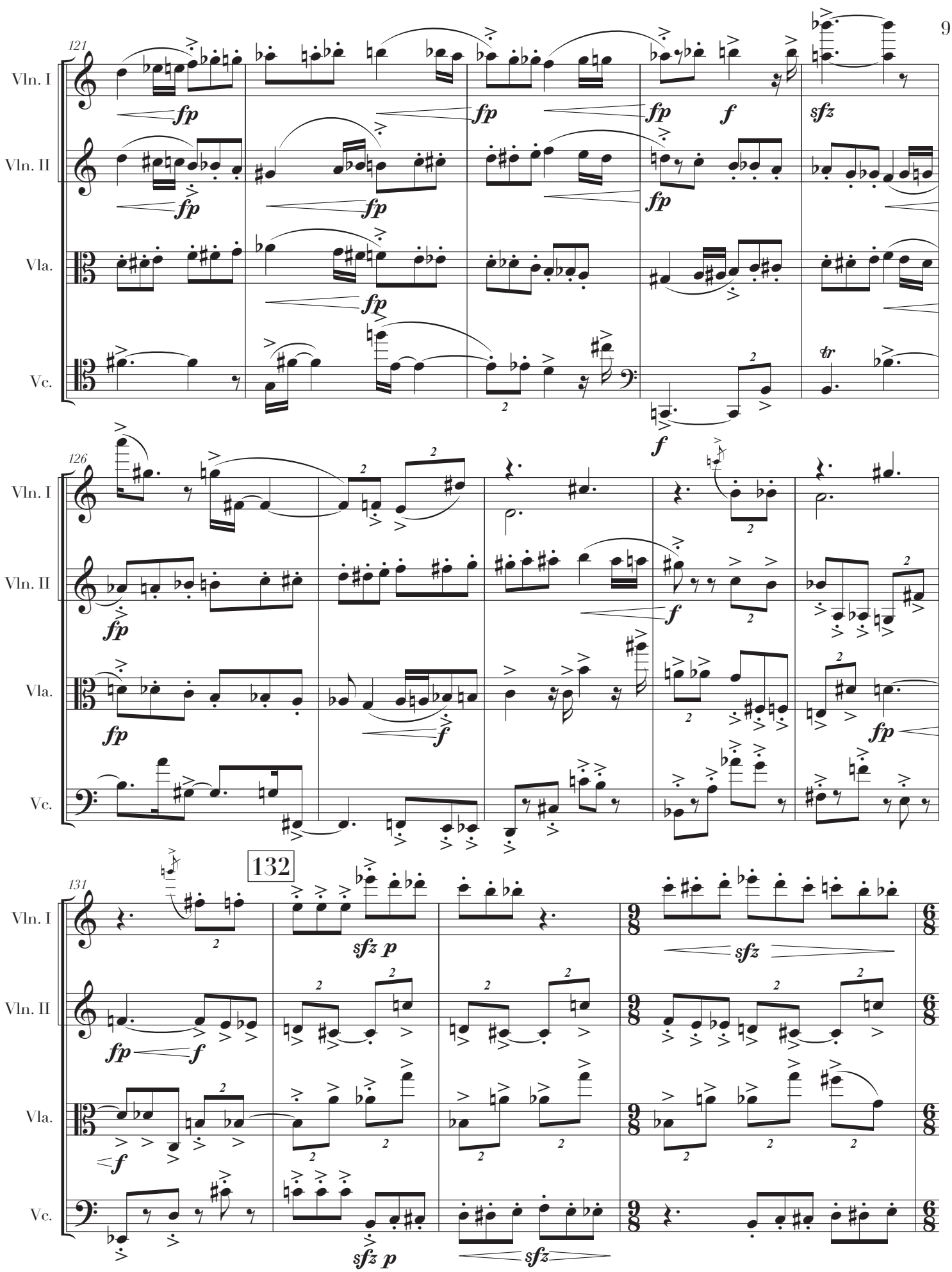

45
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
pizz.
50
53
55

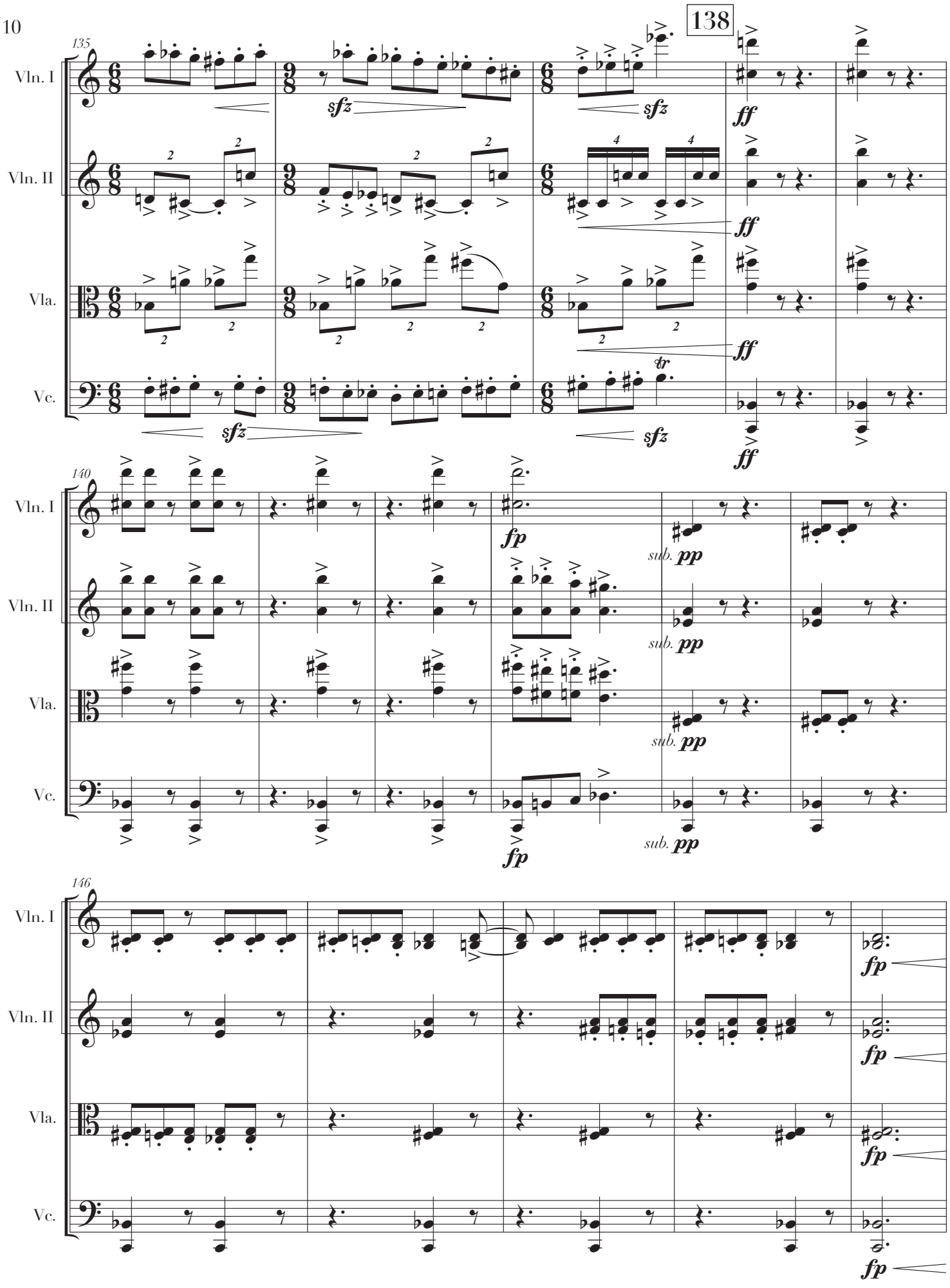

60
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sfz
65
arco
pizz.
sub. p
f
71

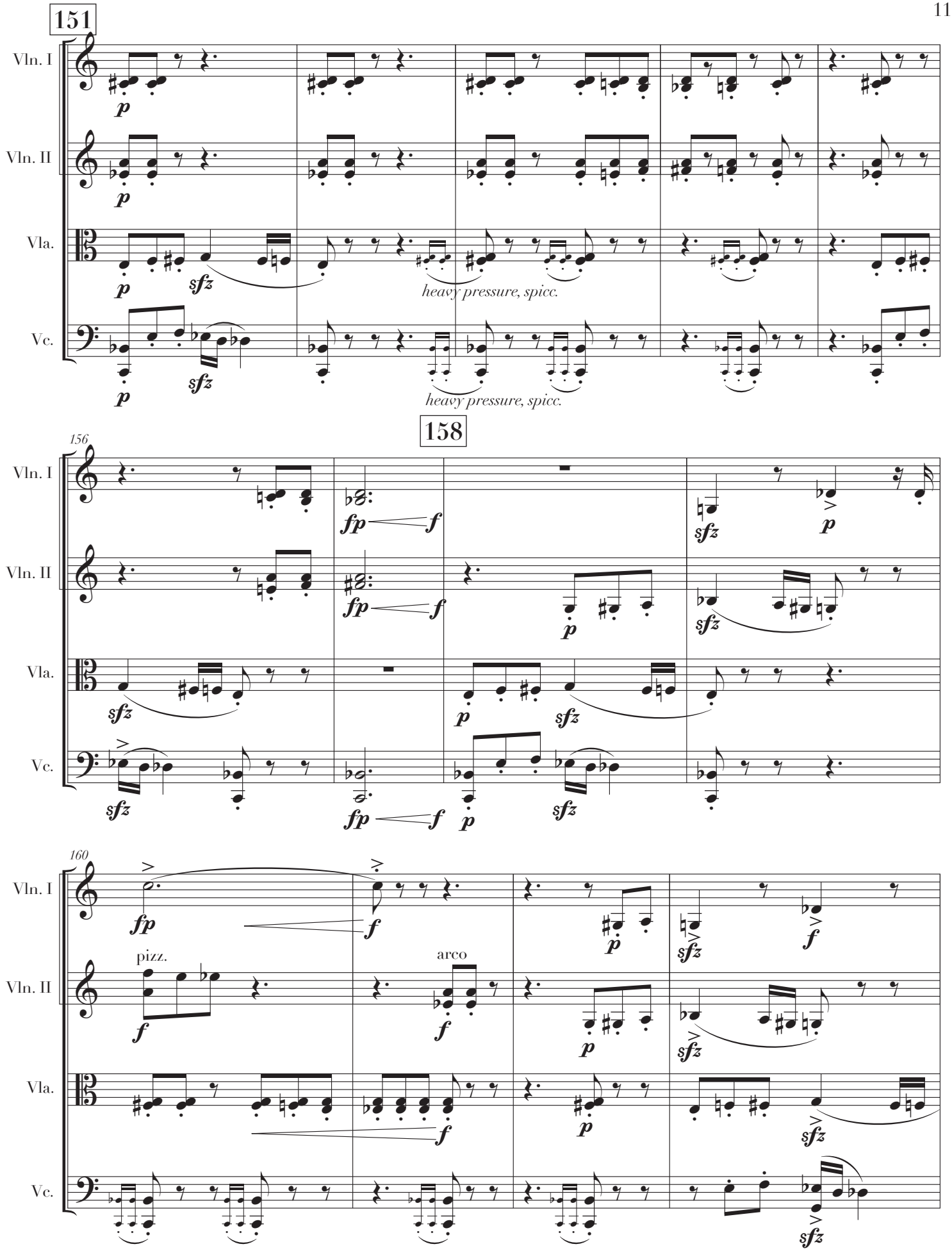

77
76
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
sfz
fp
f
p
throaty
poco rit.
81
mf
87
Meno mosso ♩. = 120
col legno tratto
ord.
pp

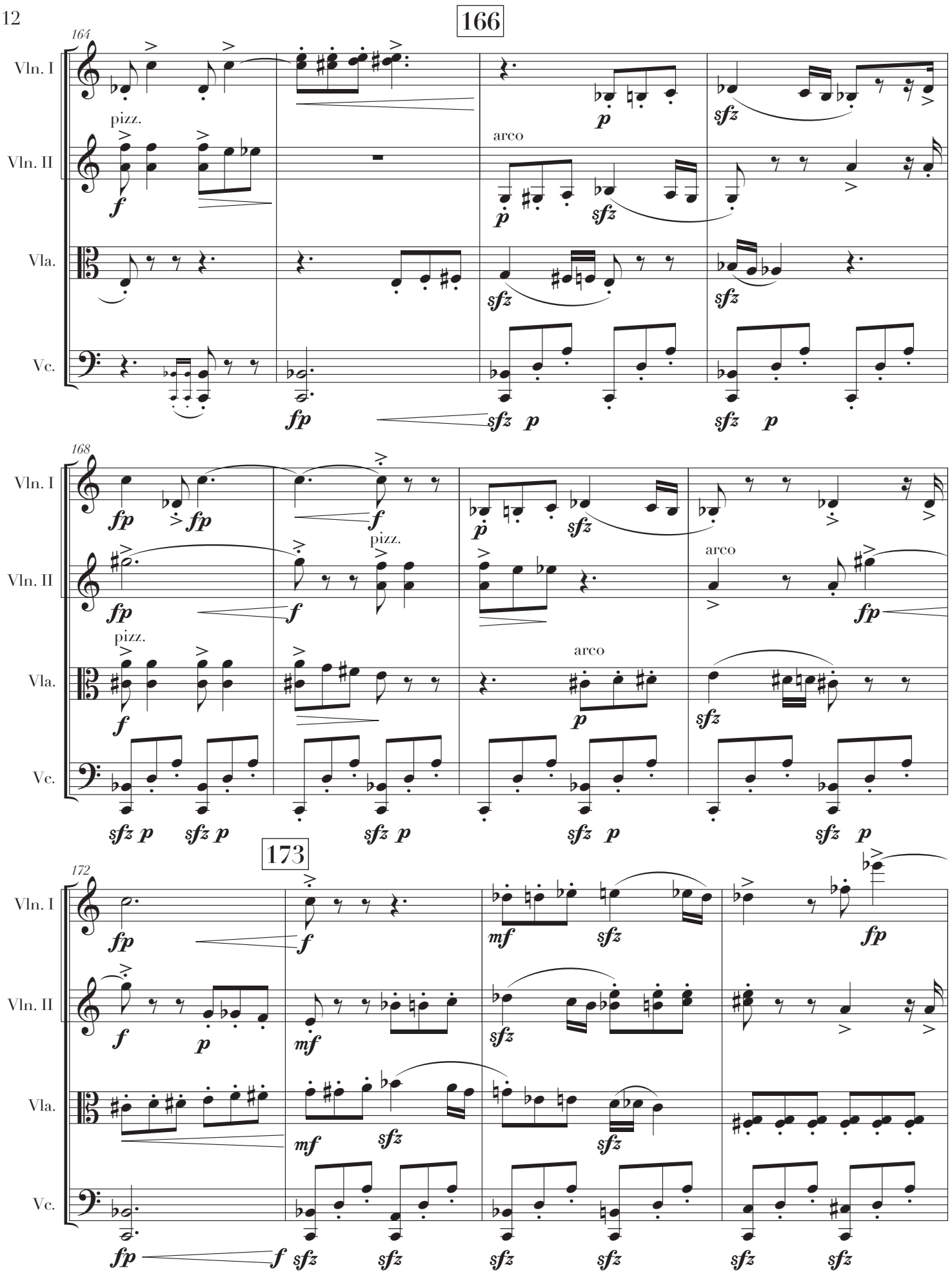

92
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
col legno tratto
ord.
throaty
col legno tratto
sub. pp
molto rall.
97
Tempo 1º ♩. = 132
pizz.
ord.
throaty
pizz.
ord.
102
arco
sub. p
arco

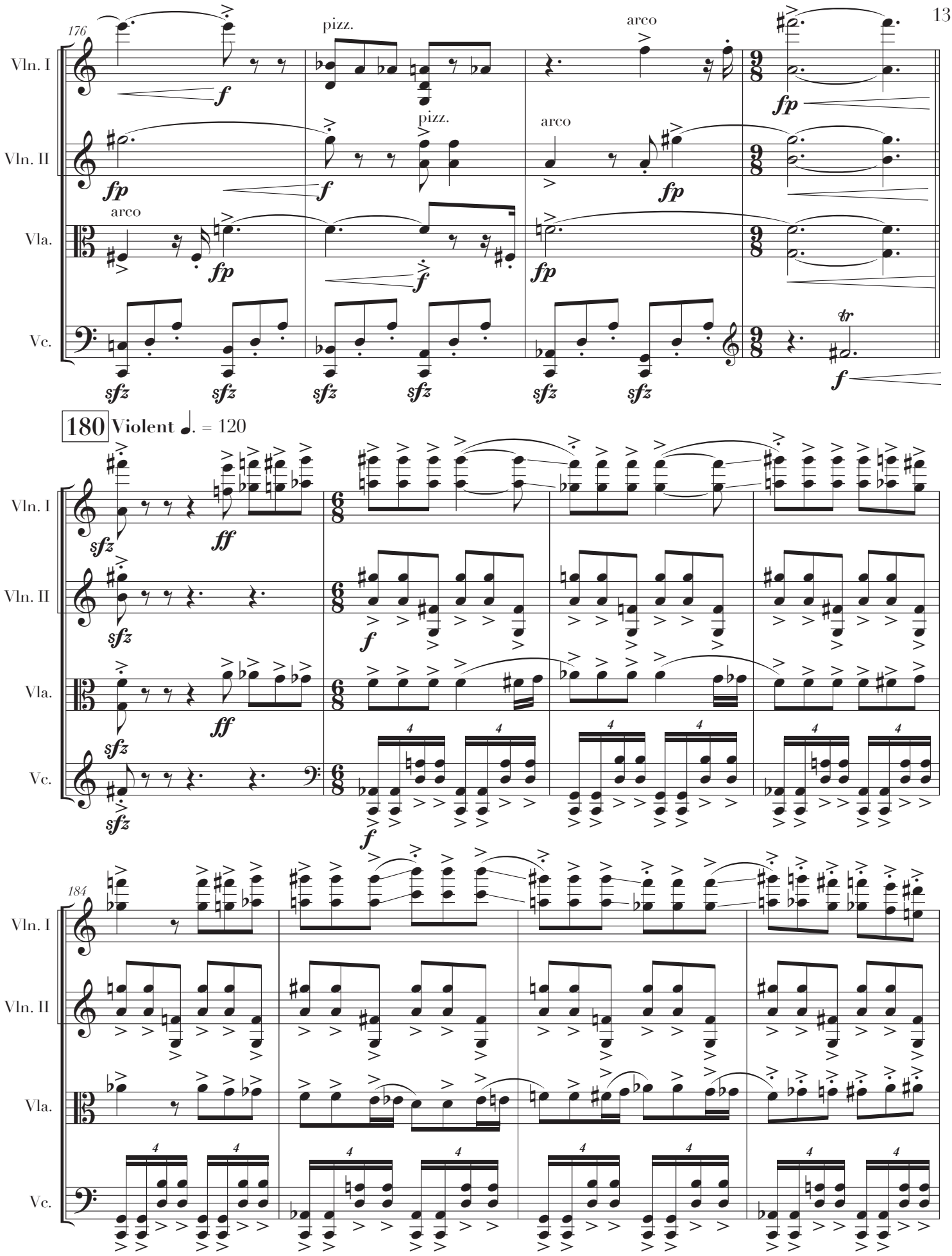

107
arco
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
111
pizz.
fp
mp
pp
sfz
f
116
120
arco

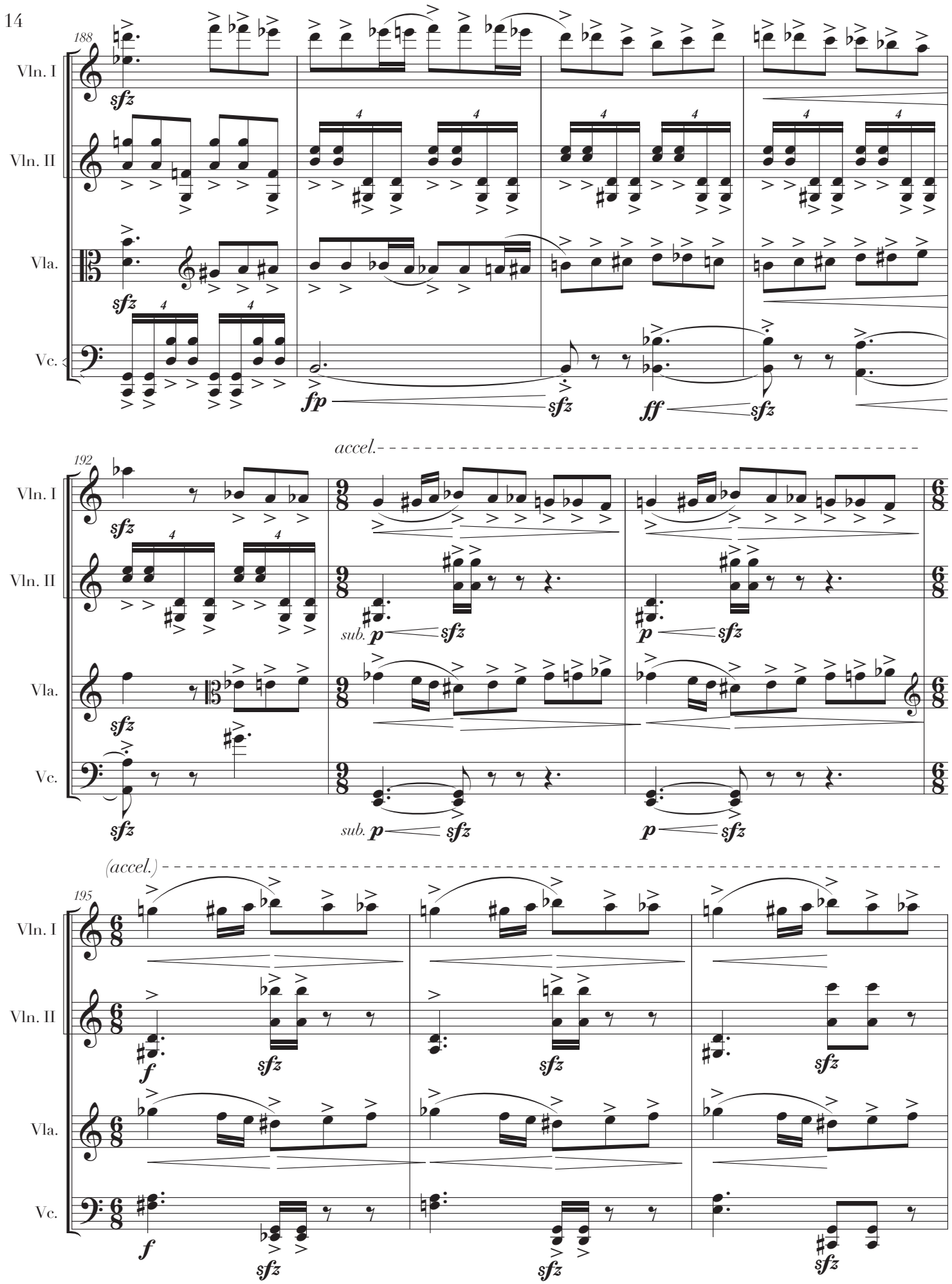

121
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
fp
f
sfz
tr
126
132
131
sfz p

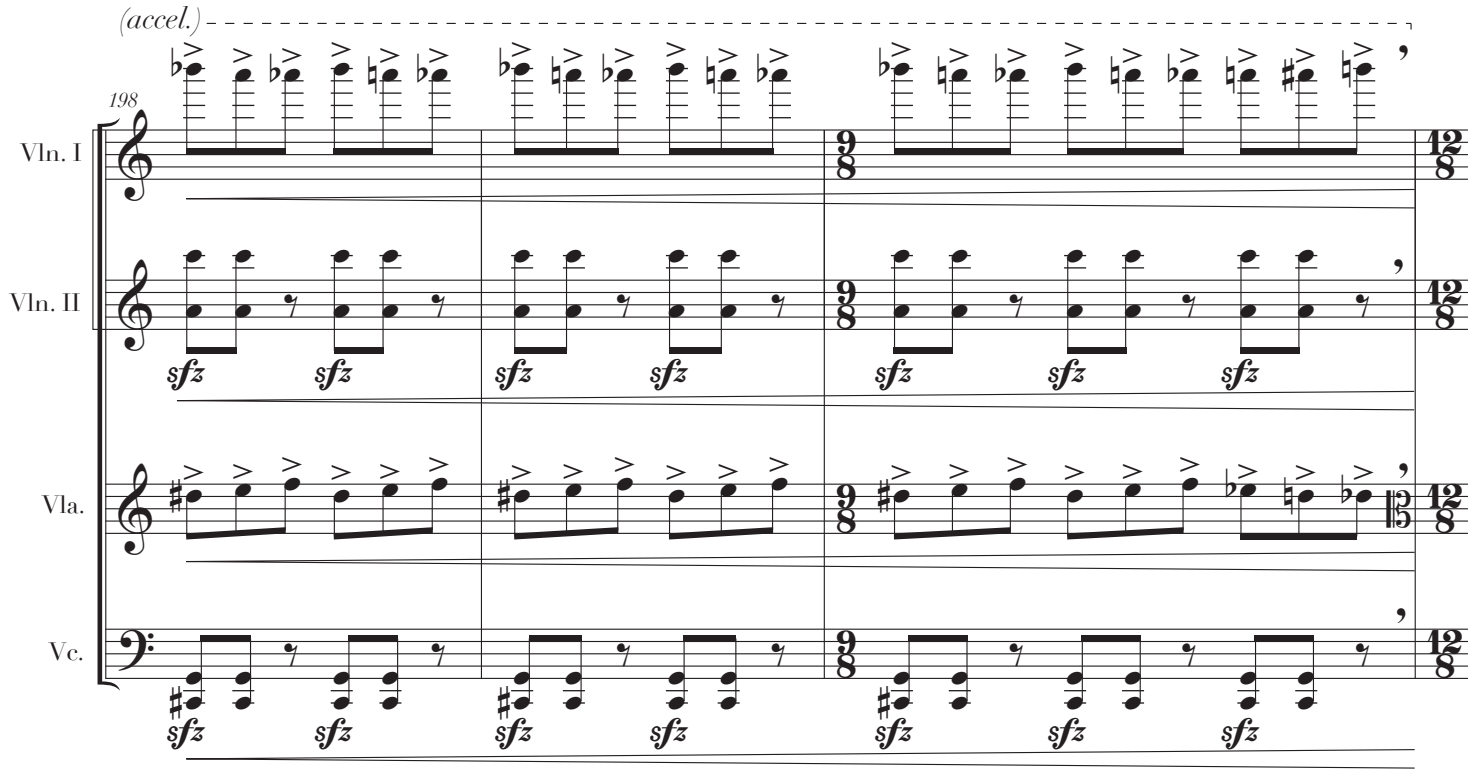

138
135
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sfz
ff
tr
140
fp
sub. pp
146

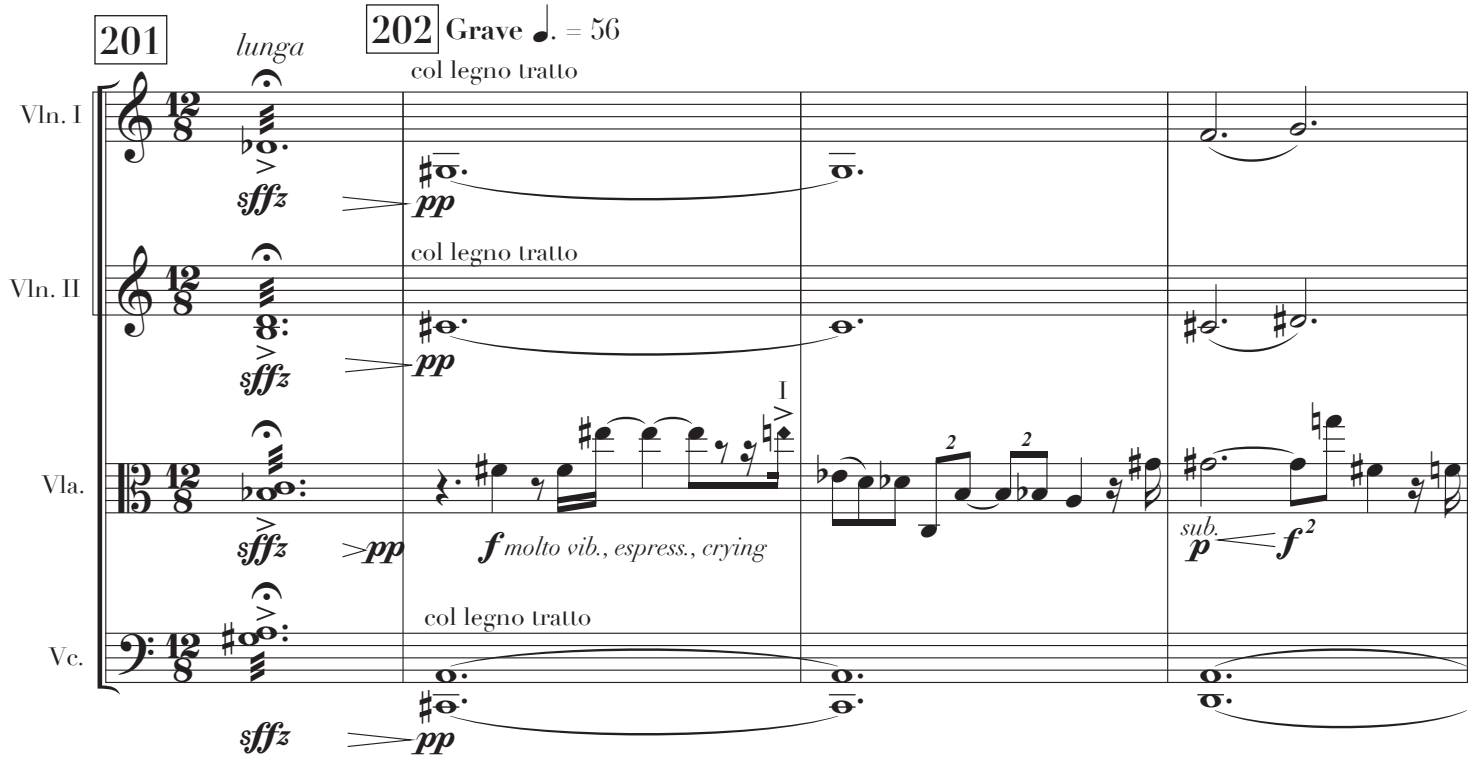

151
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
heavy pressure, spicc.
158
156
160
pizz.
arco

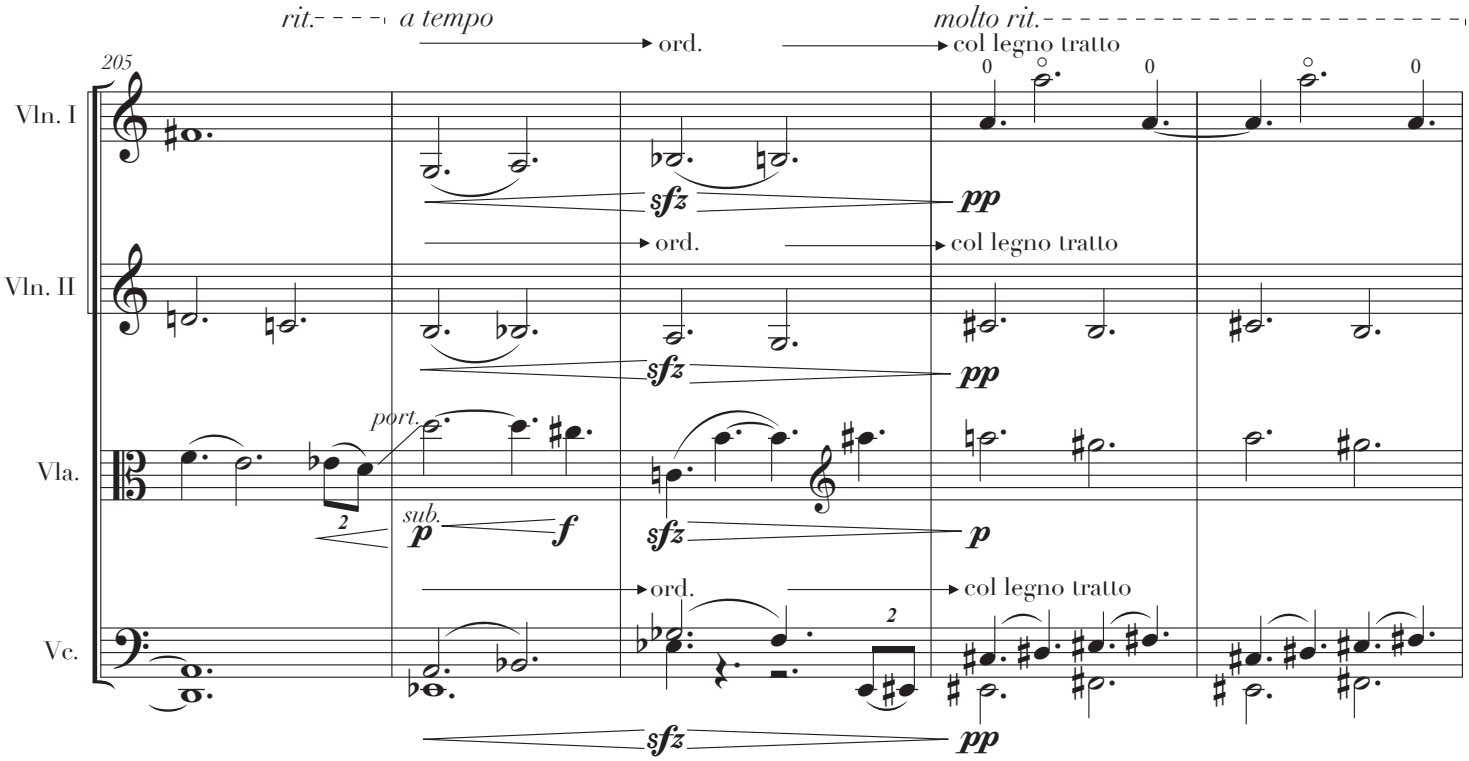

166
164
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
168
173
172

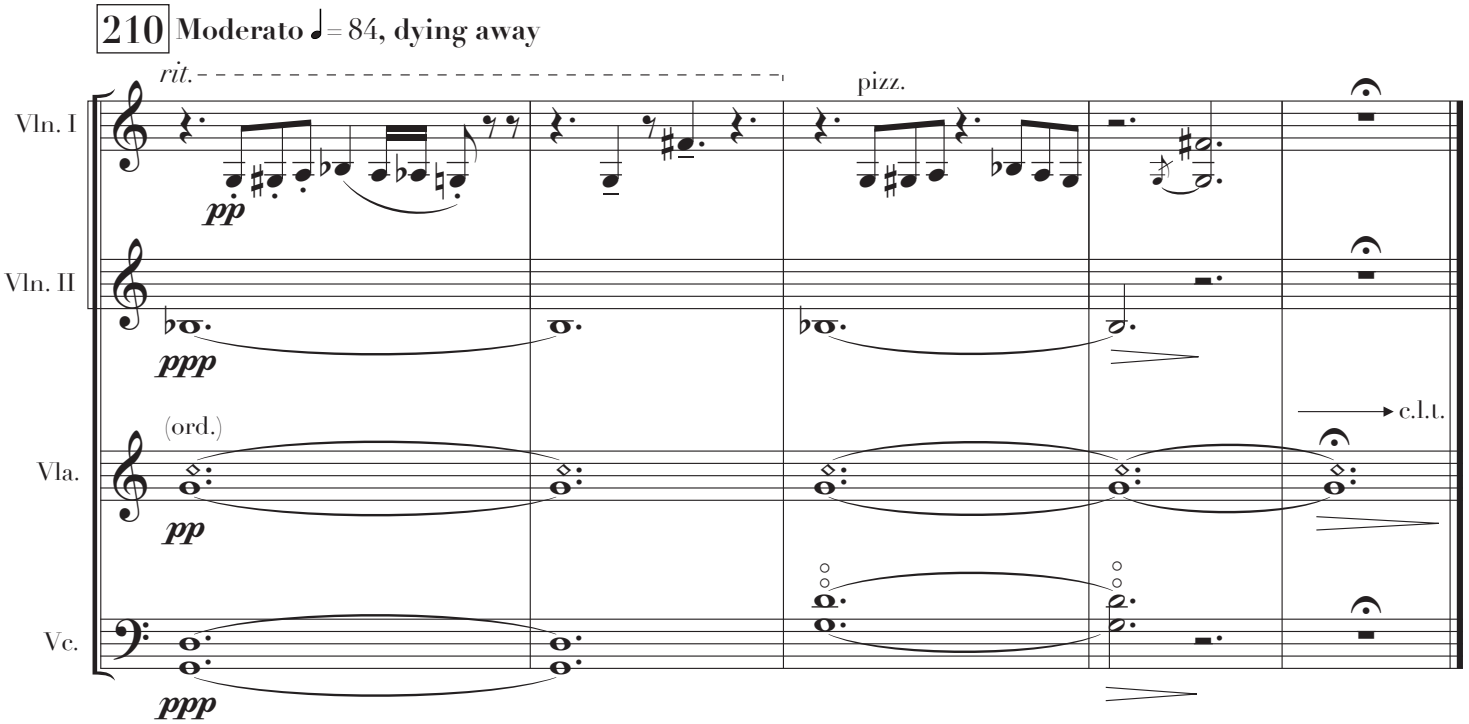

176
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
180 Violent ♩. = 120
184


188
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sfz
fp
sfz
ff
sfz
accel.
192
sub. p
sfz
p
sfz
(accel.)
195
f
sfz


(accel.)
198
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sfz

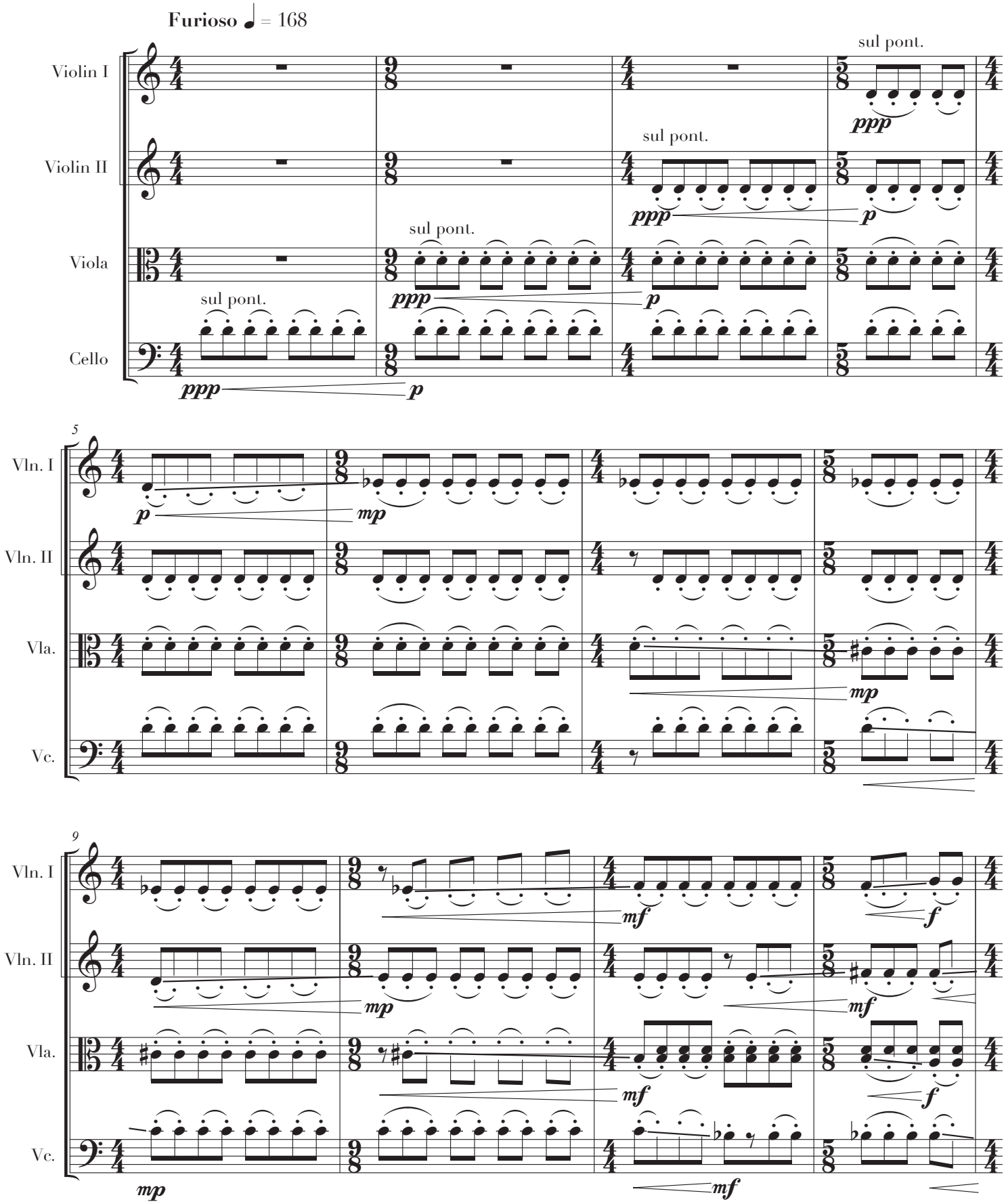

201
lunga
202
Grave ♩. = 56
col legno tratto
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sffz
pp
I
f molto vib., espress., crying
sub.
p
f


rit.
a tempo
molto rit.
205
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
ord.
col legno tratto
sfz
pp
port.
sub.
p
f
2
0


210 Moderato ♩= 84, dying away
rit.
pizz.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pp
ppp
(ord.)
c.l.t.

II. *Cicadoidea*, the Menacing Swarm

Jason Brauer



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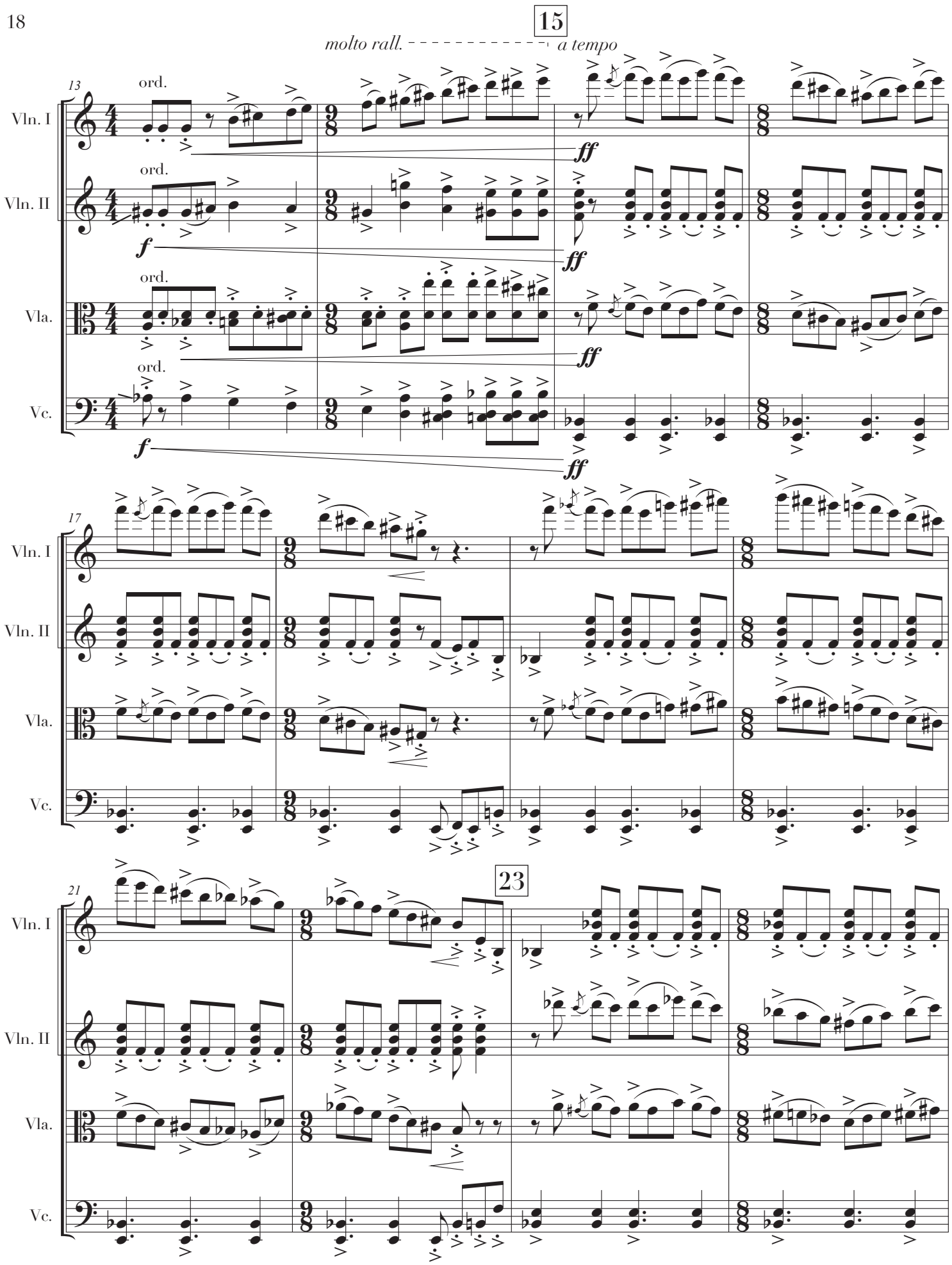
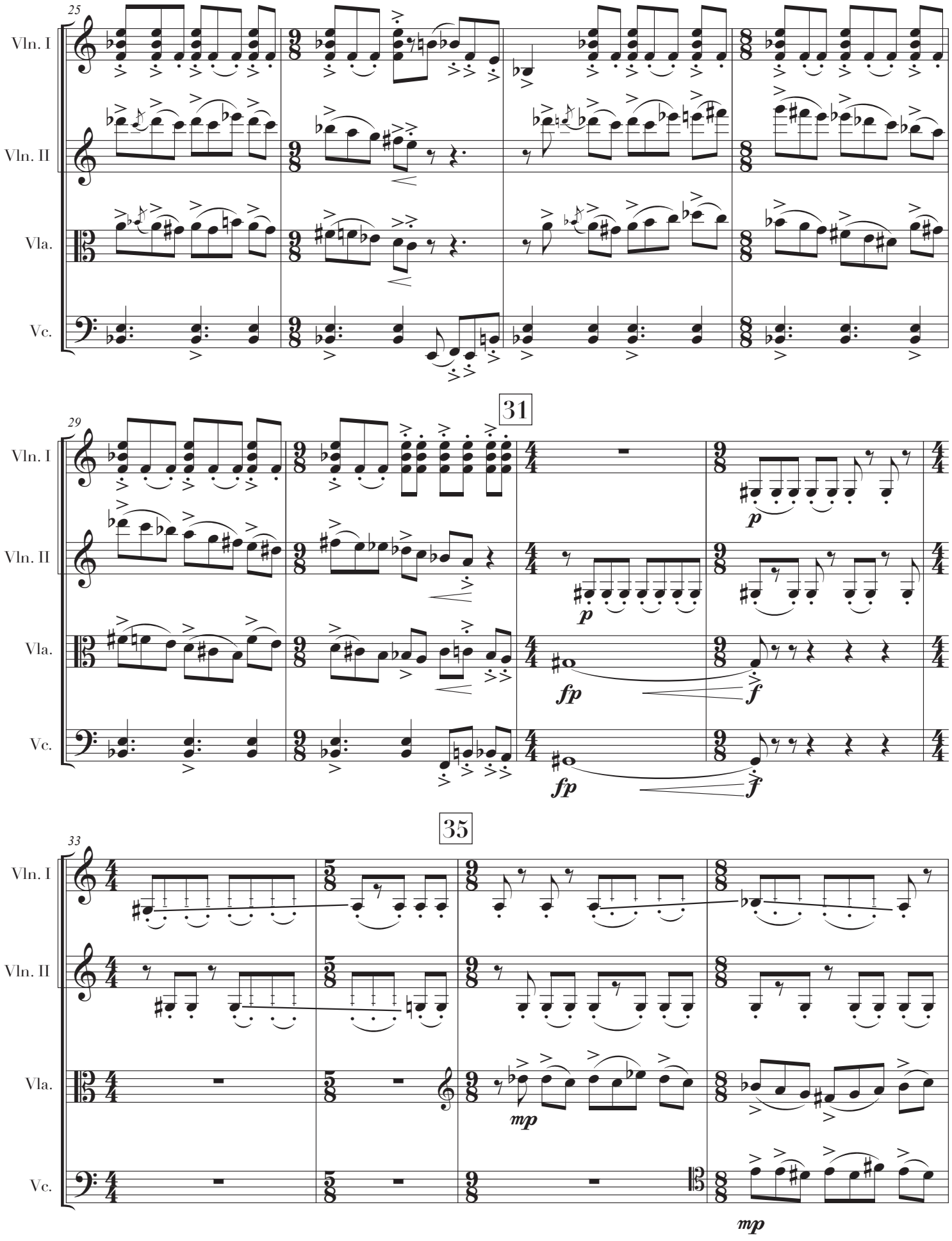
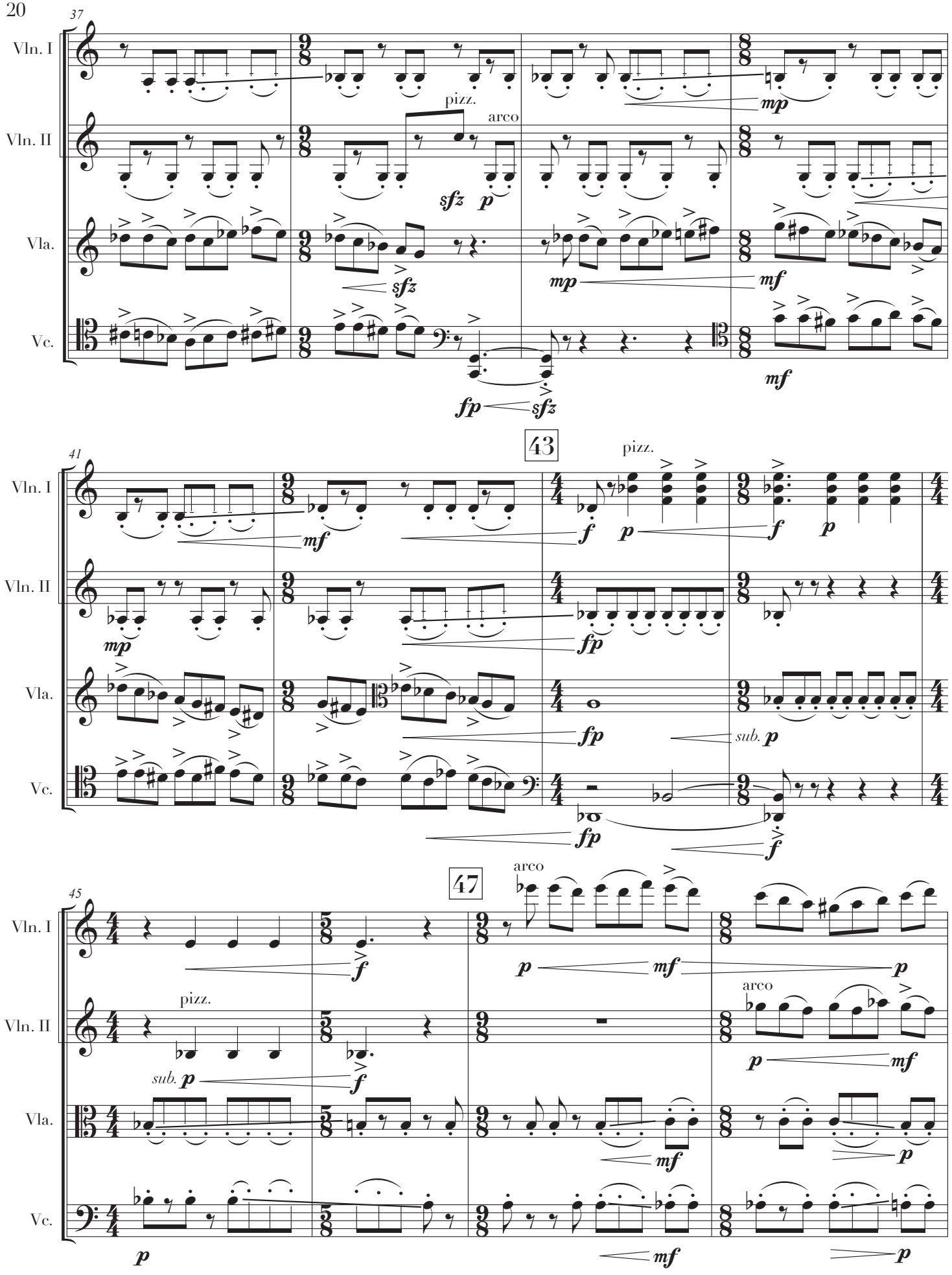
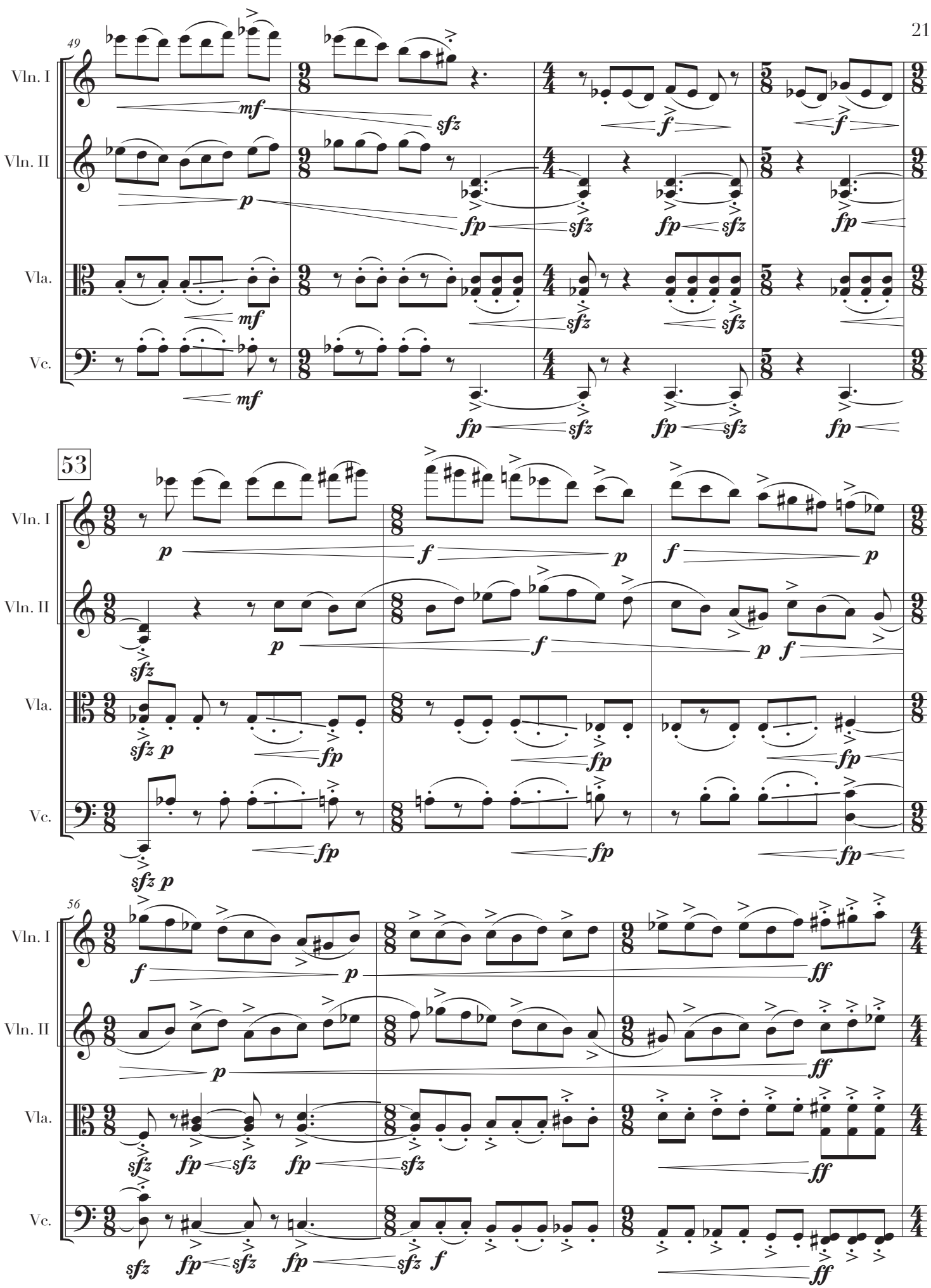
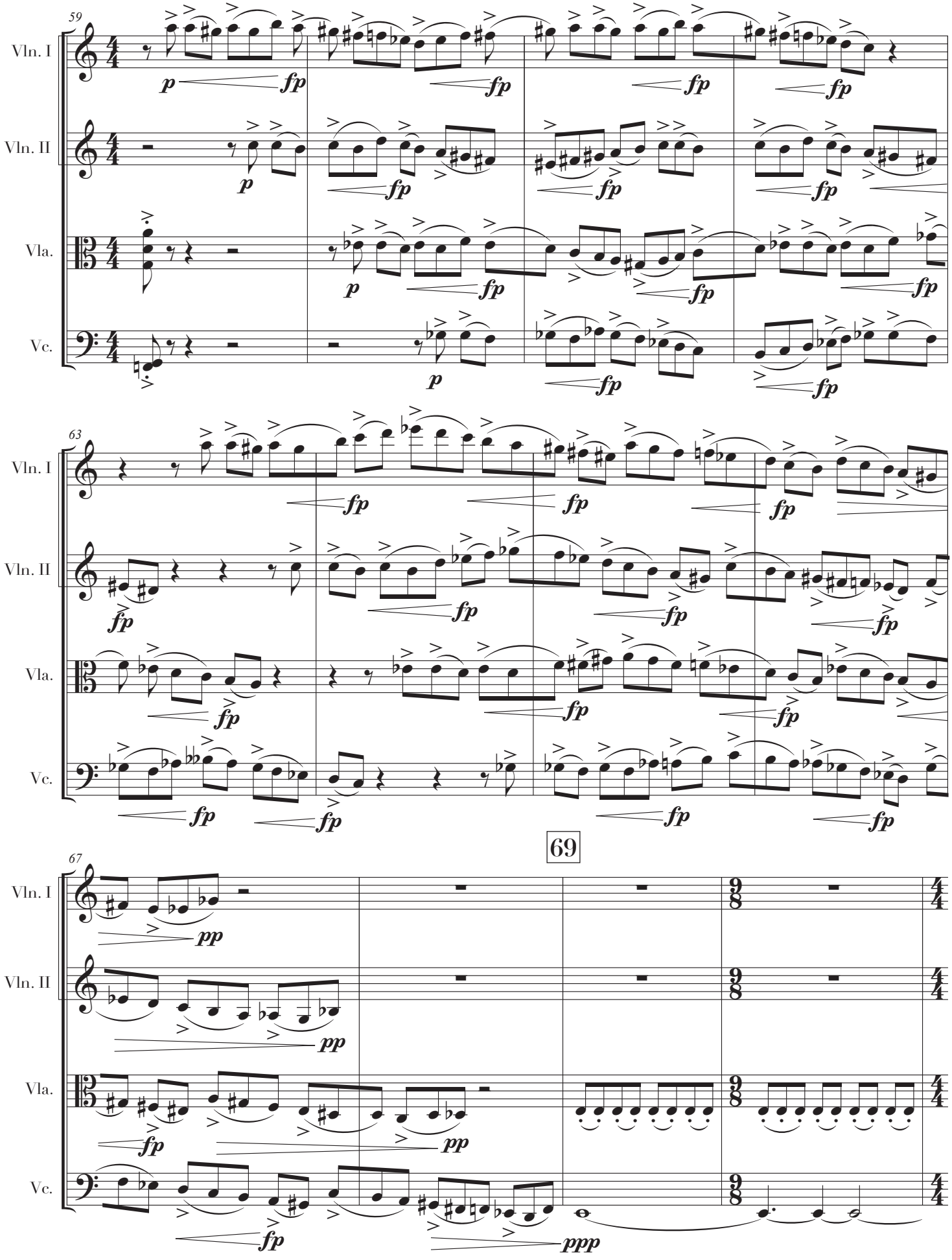
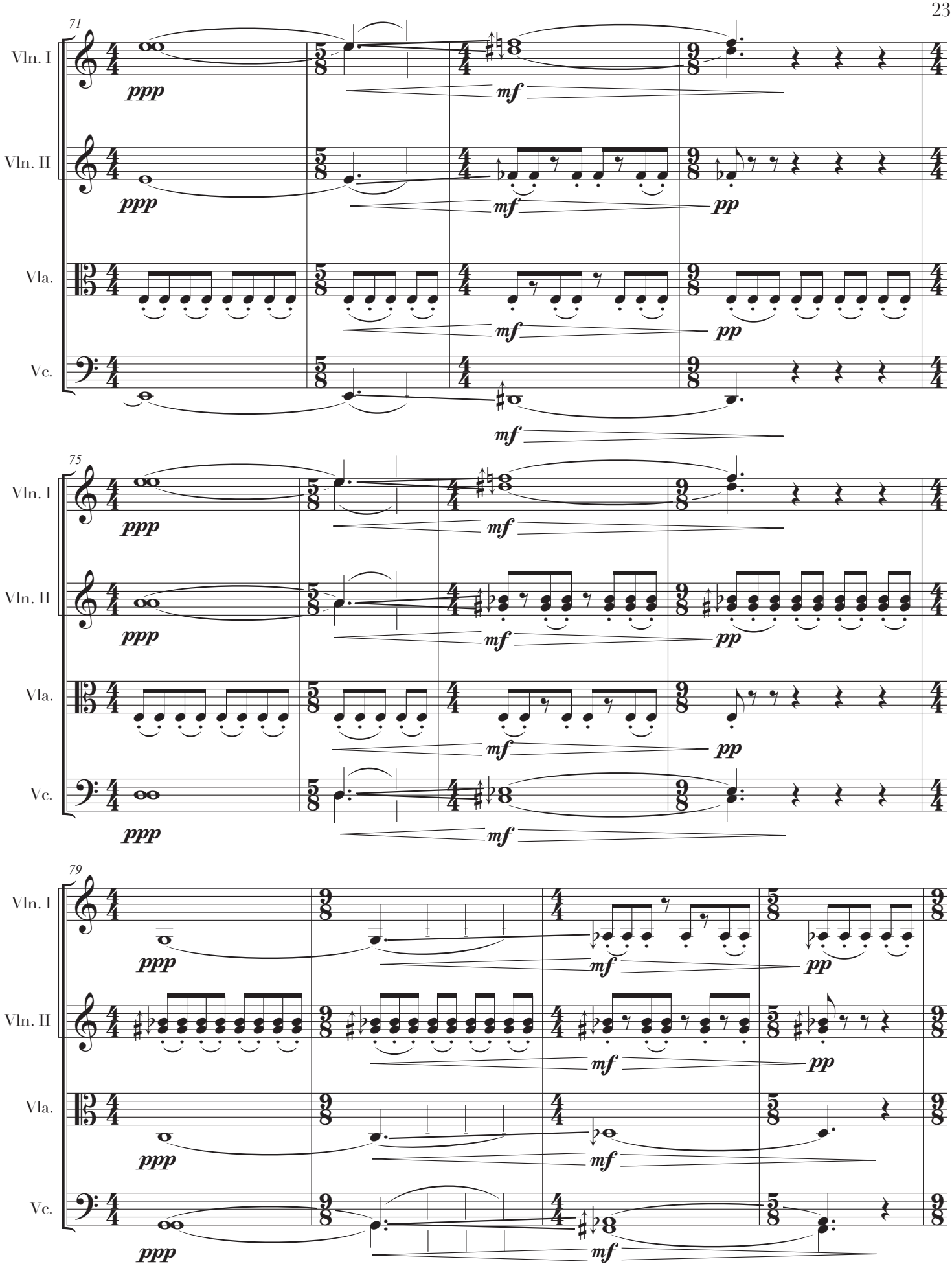

15
molto rall.
a tempo
13
ord.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
f
ff
17
21
23

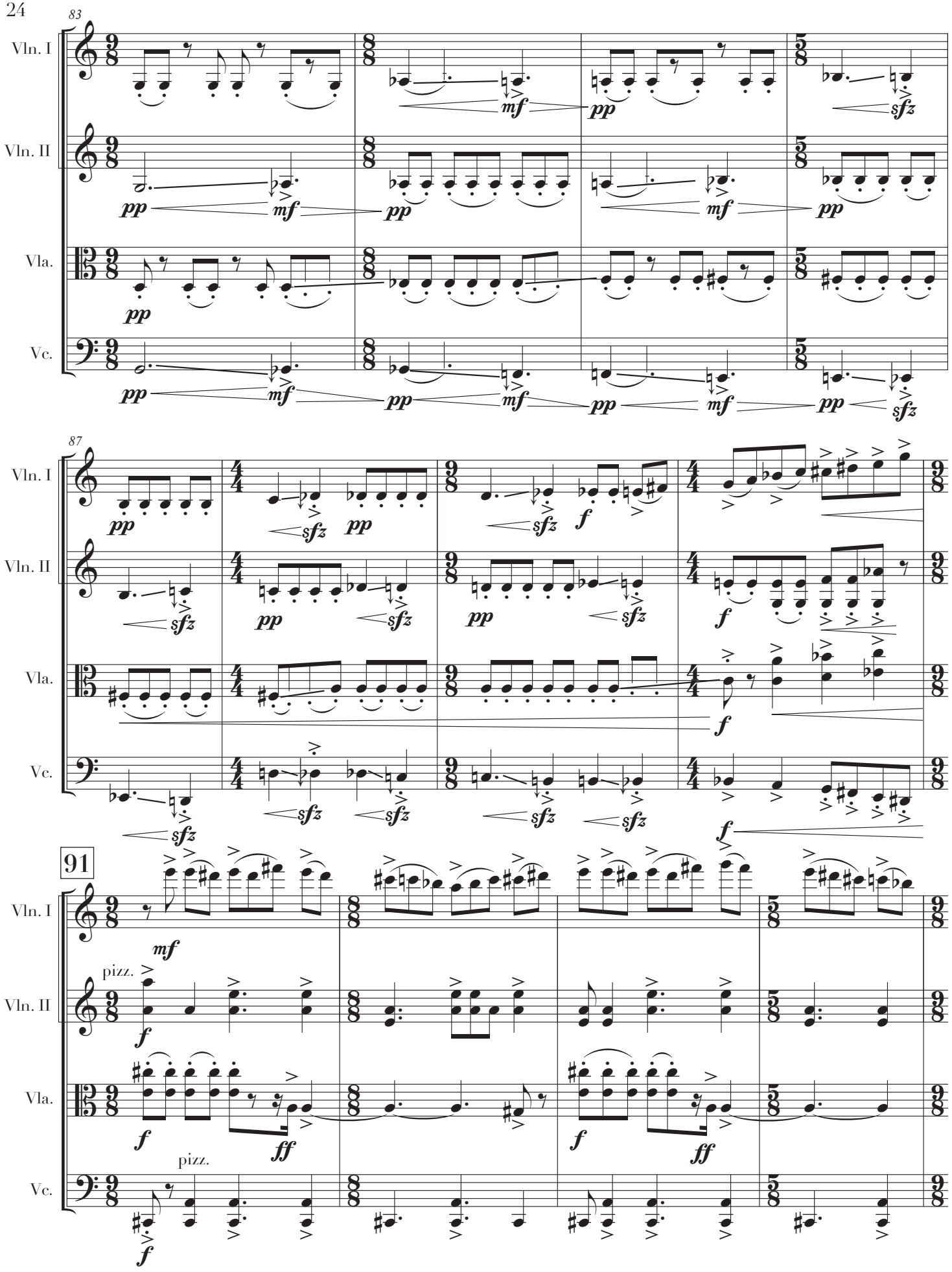

25
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
31
29
fp
f
35
33
mp

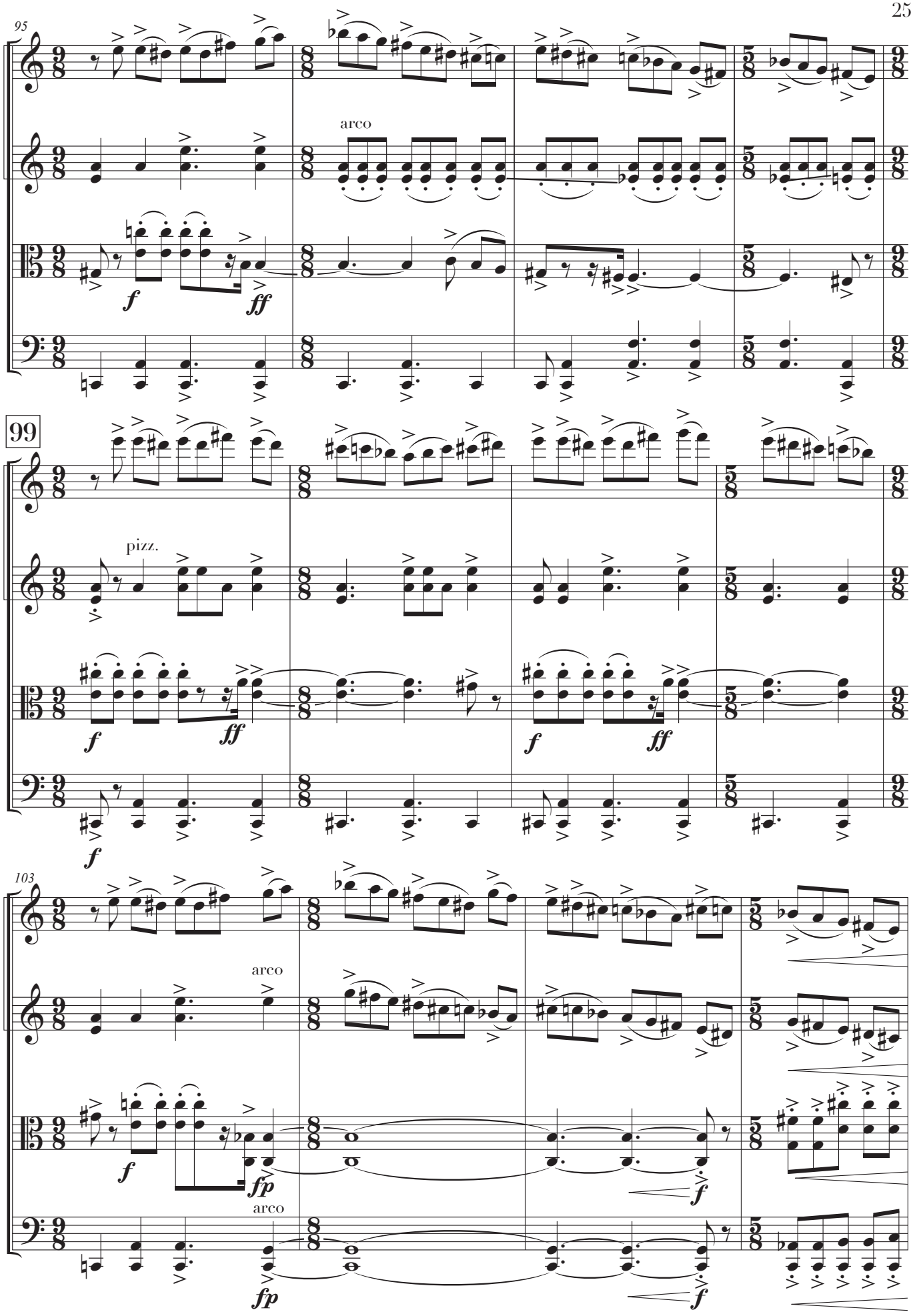

37
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
sfz
p
mp
mf
fp
43
41
f
sub. p
47
45

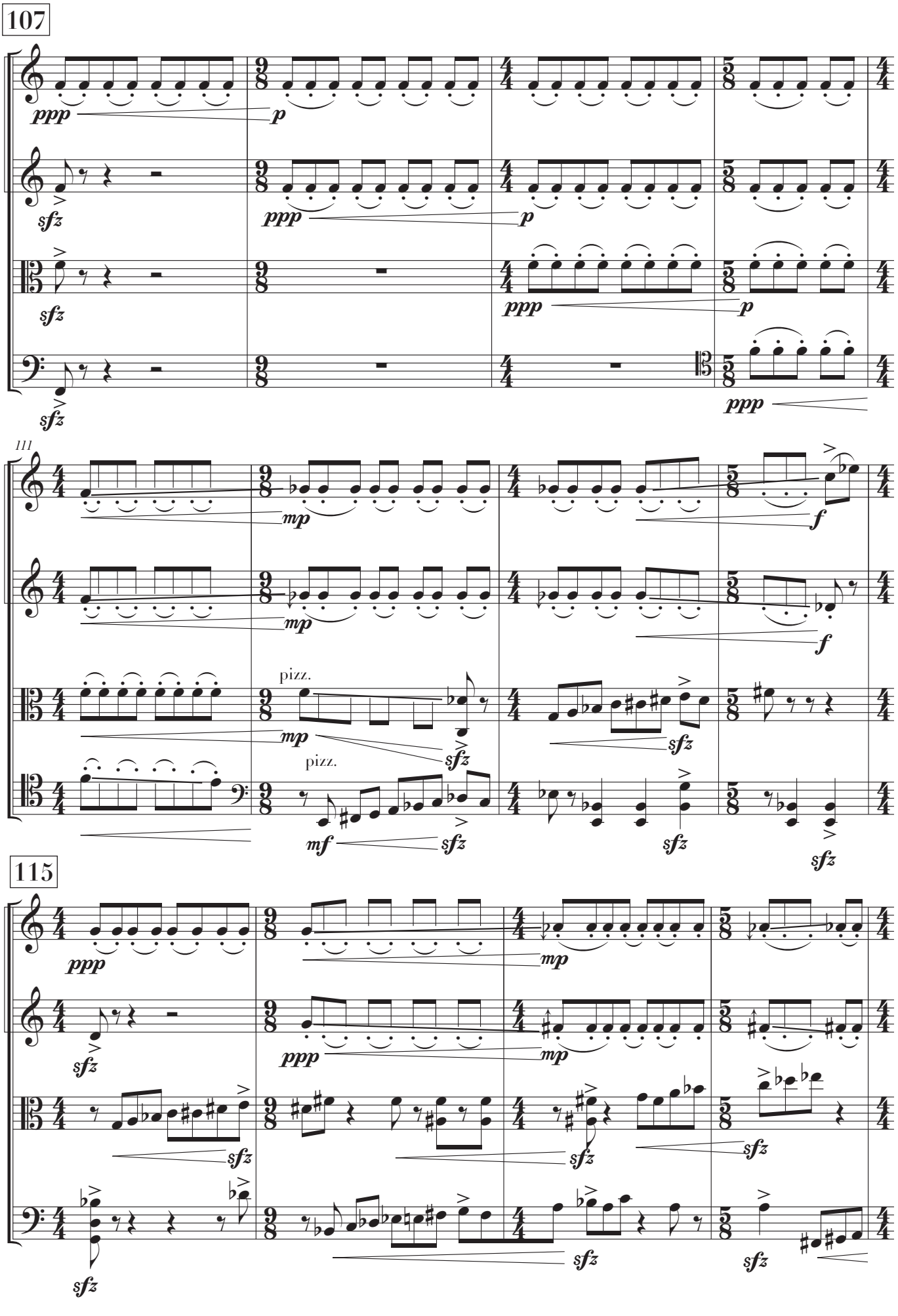

49
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
53
56

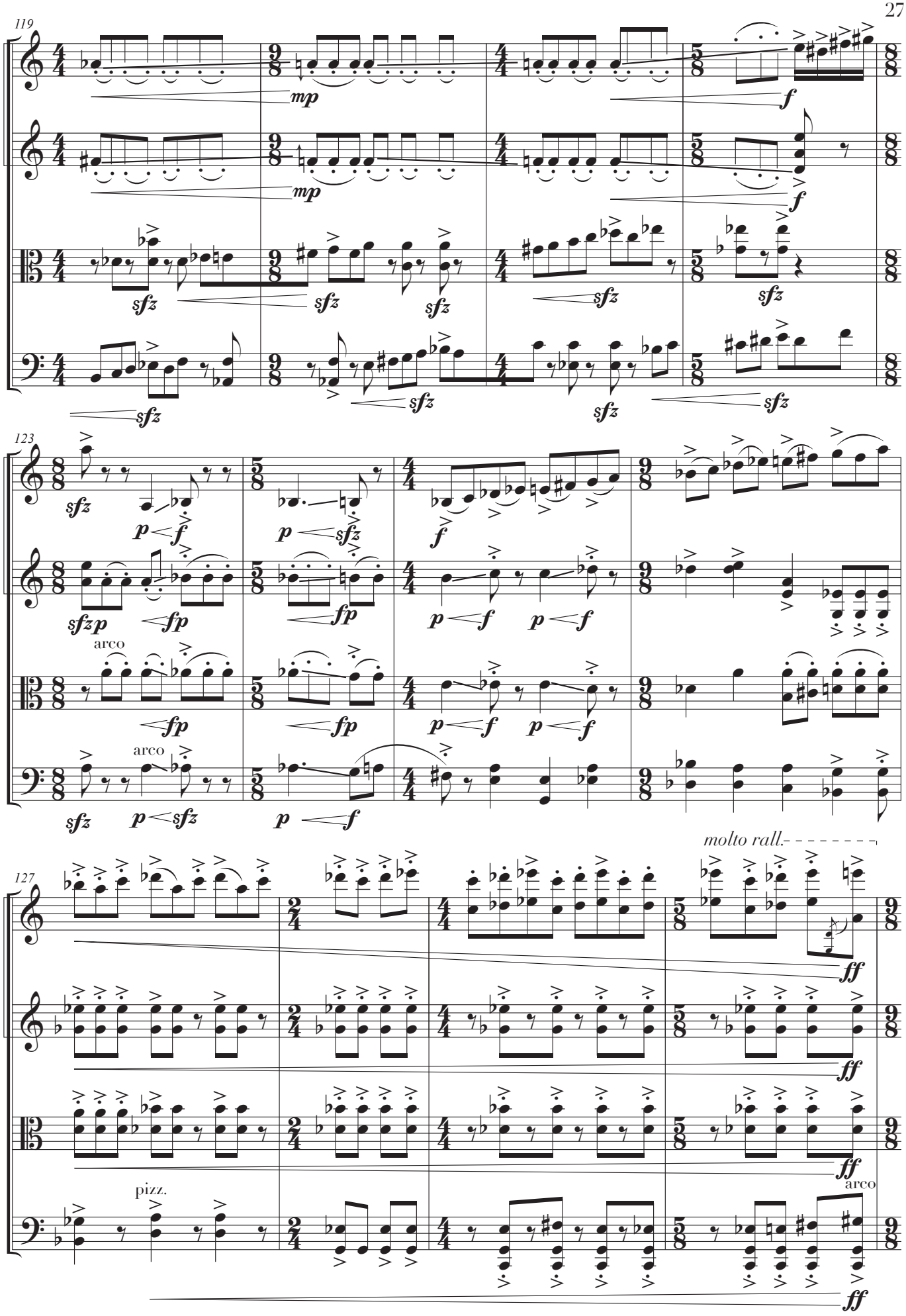

59
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
63
67
69
p
fp
pp
ppp

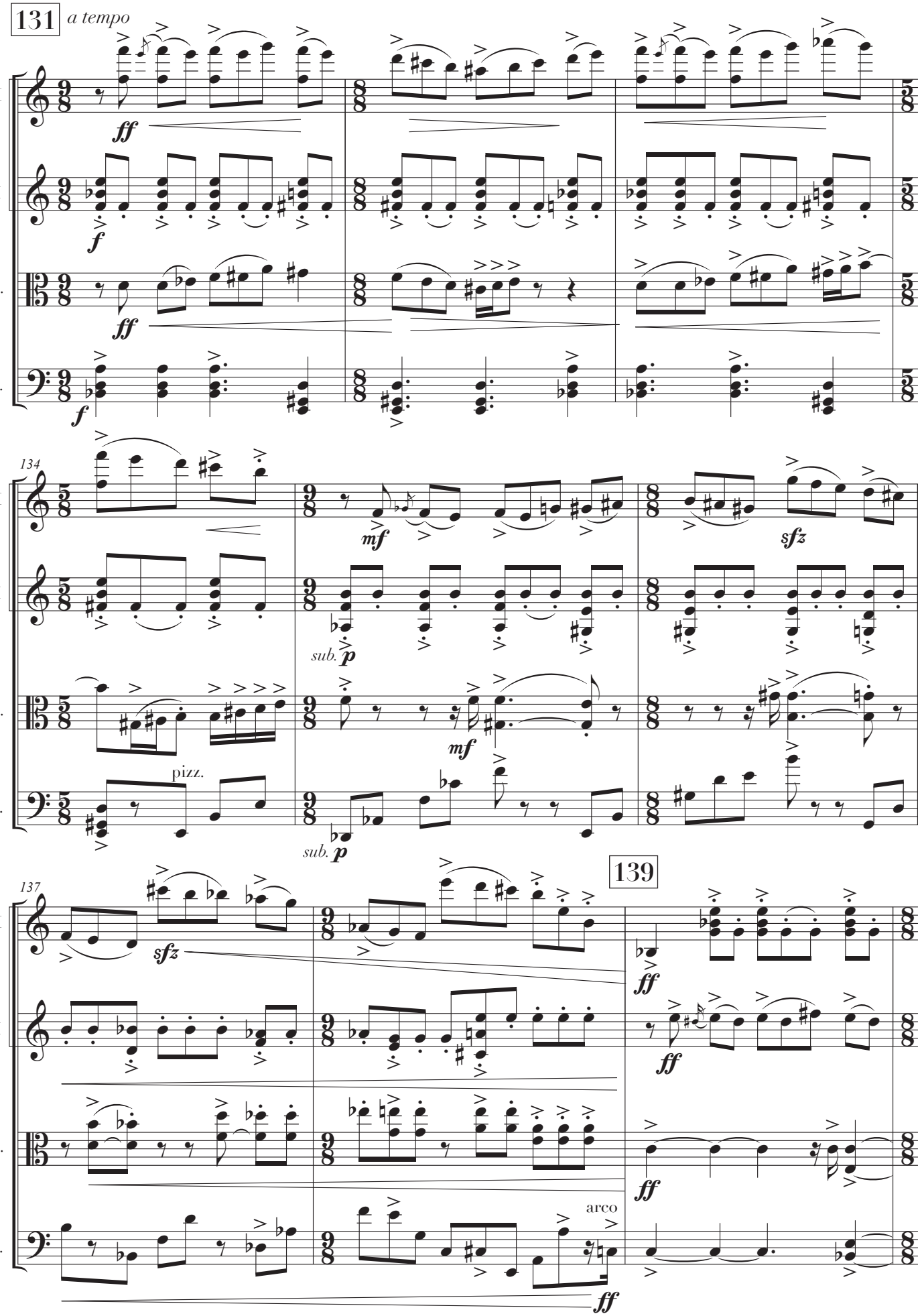

71
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
ppp
mf
pp
75
79

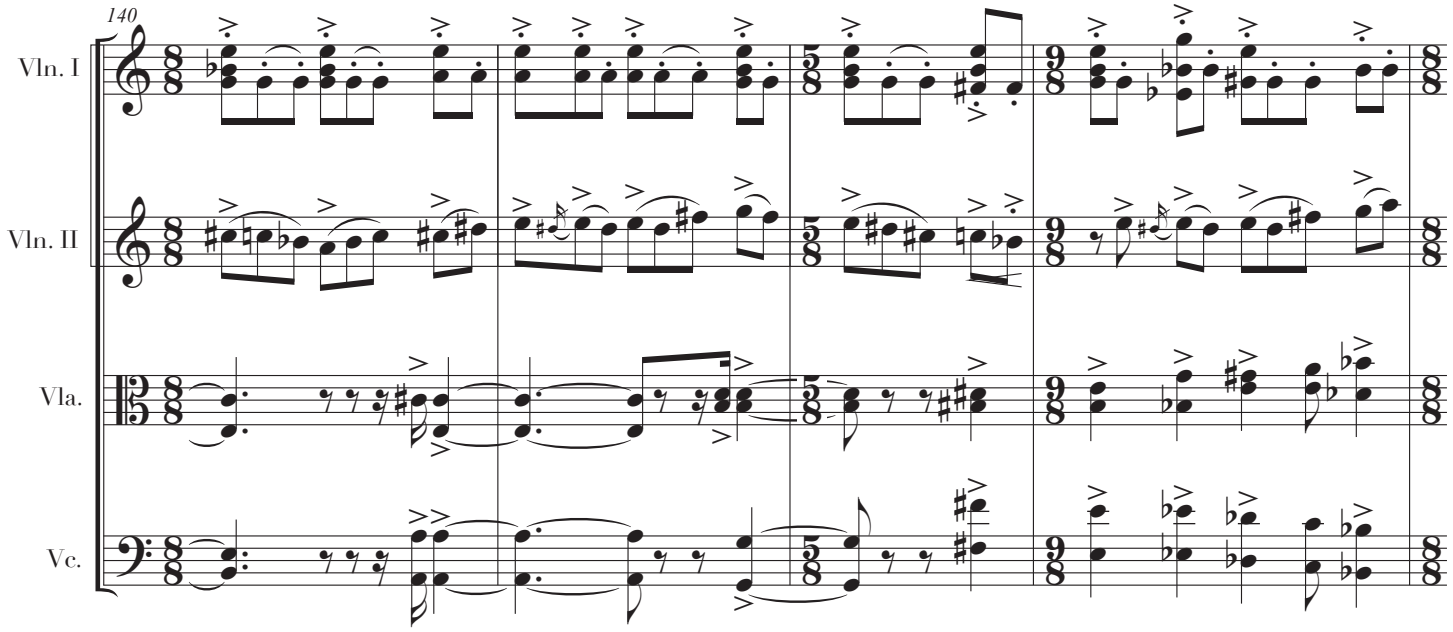

83
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
87
91
pizz.
pizz.

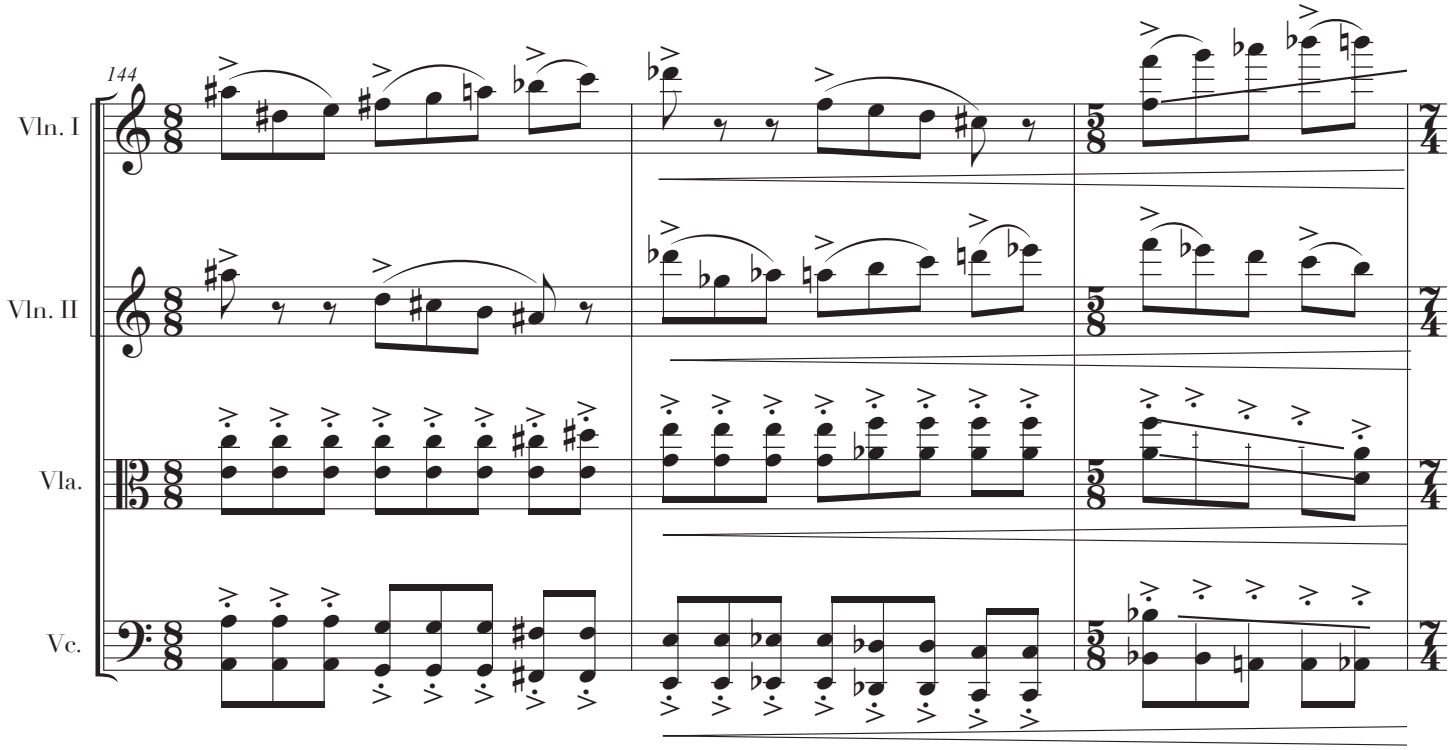

95
Vln. I
Vln. II
arco
Vla.
f
ff
Vc.
99
pizz.
103
fp
arco

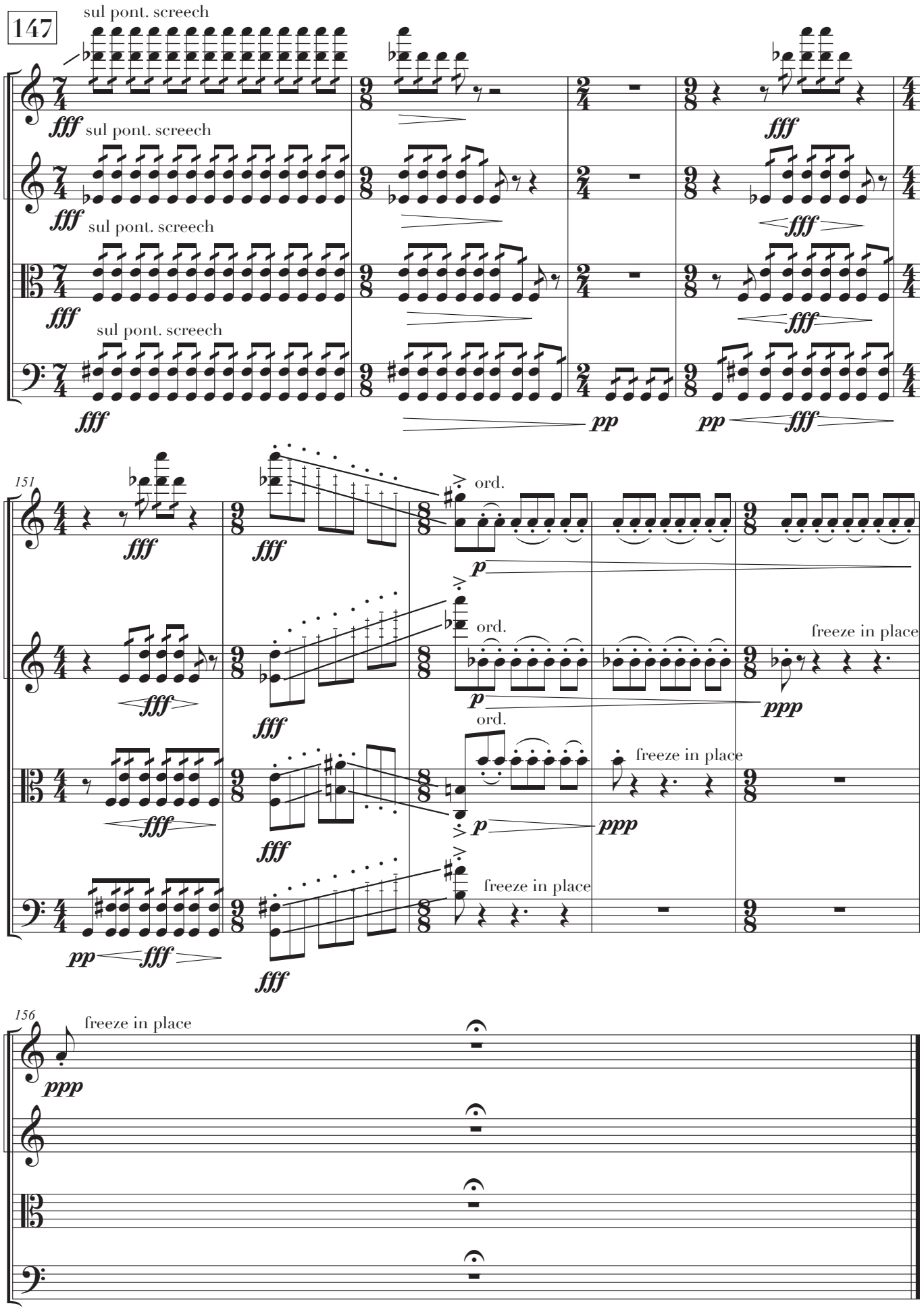

107
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
ppp
p
sfz
111
mp
f
pizz.
mf
115


119
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mp
f
sfz
123
sfzp
fp
p
arco
pizz.
molto rall.
127
ff


131
a tempo
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
ff
f
134
mf
sfz
sub. p
pizz.
137
139
arco


140
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.


144
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.


147
sul pont. screech
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
fff
pp
151
ord.
p
freeze in place
ppp
156