Derek B. Scott

String Quartet No. 1, Op. 17

(1975, rev. 2002 & 2019)

String Quartet in D-flat Major

1. Allegro vivace – Presto

2. Largo

3. Allegro – Allegro vivace

Duration: 14:40

This String Quartet originated as a Sinfonietta for Chamber Orchestra in 1975. A quartet version was made of the second movement in 2002 and the whole work was recomposed for that medium in 2019. The piece was written during a period of study for a higher degree in composition and betrayed an academic character, especially in the first movement, where a twelve-tone technique involving a three-note cell was relentlessly employed. I attempted, in my revision, to soften its angularity and occasional harshness. There is a more human quality to the Largo, and the final movement includes a comic element. I considered designating the key as D-flat major, but although it opens with the dominant seventh of that key and the Finale ends with the tonic, the quartet rarely stays in this tonality for long.

For those who have an interest in arcane structural matters, the opening notes in the first violin followed by those in the viola and cello constitute a twelve-note row. The 12-note row may be thought of as a 3-note row, because it is constructed from a 3-note prime and its transposed permutations: inversion, retrograde inversion, and retrograde (D B-flat E-flat / D-flat F C / G-flat B G / A E G-sharp). The second movement has the 3-note row in the order inversion, prime, retrograde, and retrograde inversion. The third movement states the 12-note row in full in bars 6–9, with the 3-note cells presented in the order they had in the first movement. However, the 3-note retrograde inversion is modified by repeated notes as well as a change in the order of its second and third notes.

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String Quartet, Op. 17

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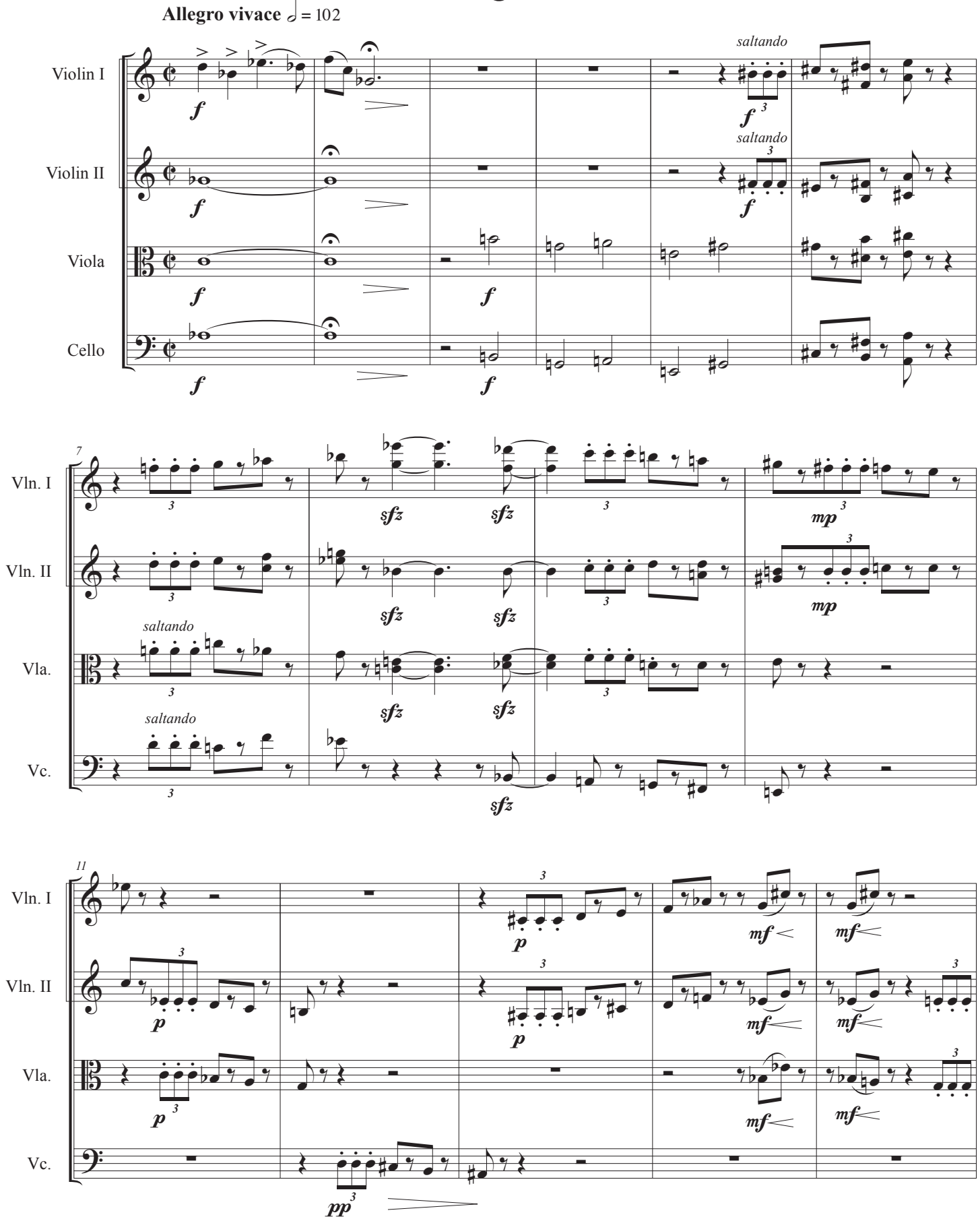
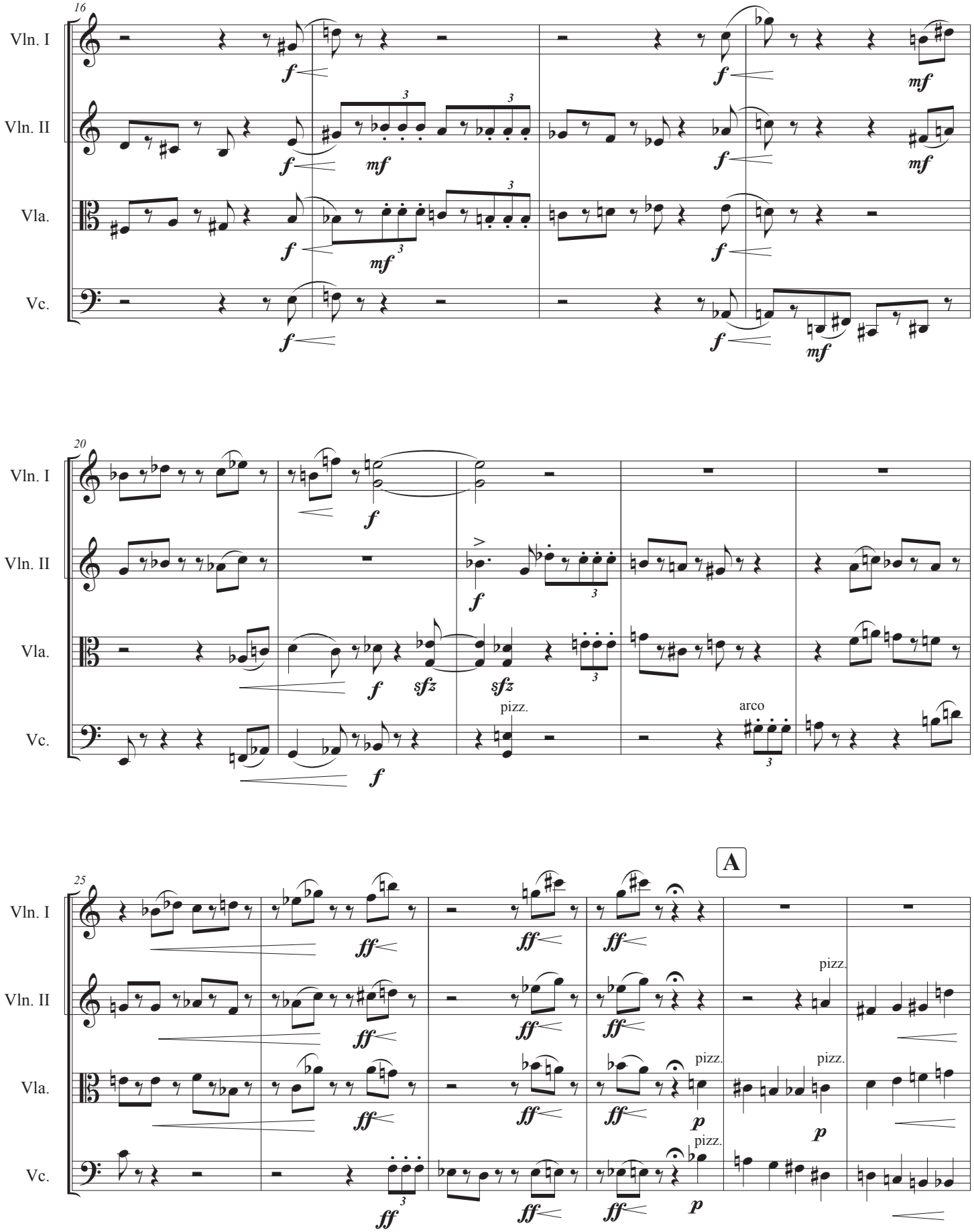
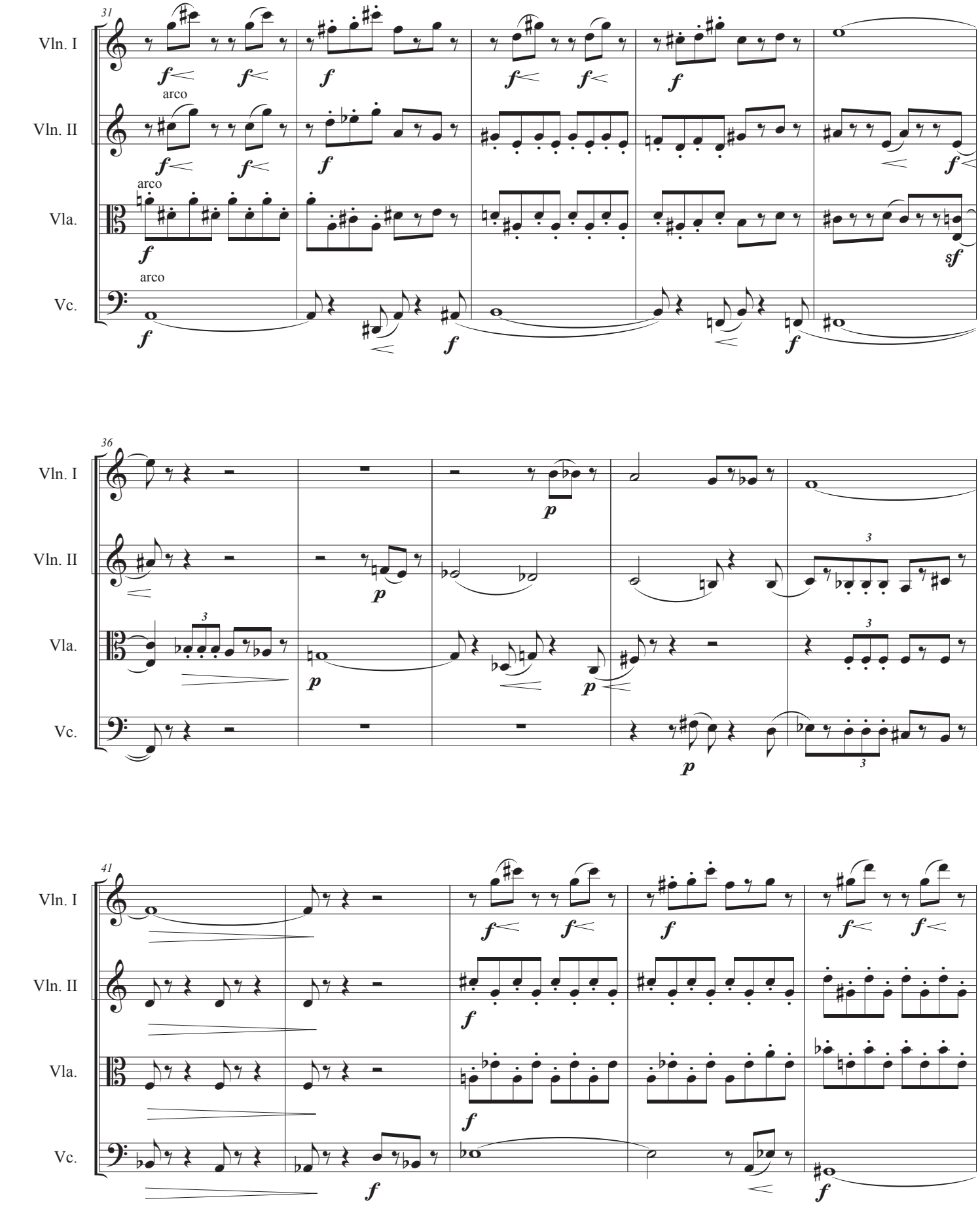
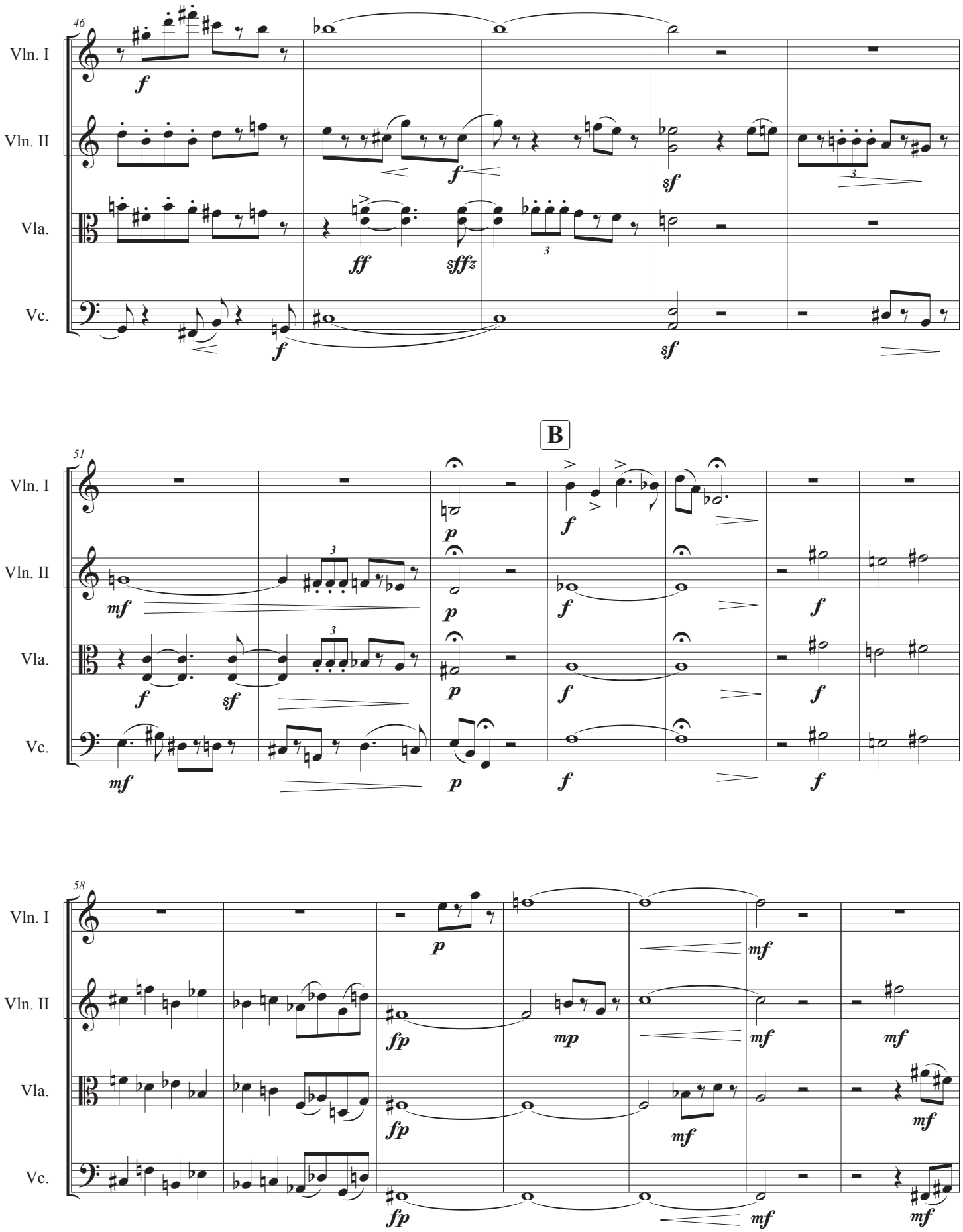
1975, rev. 2019

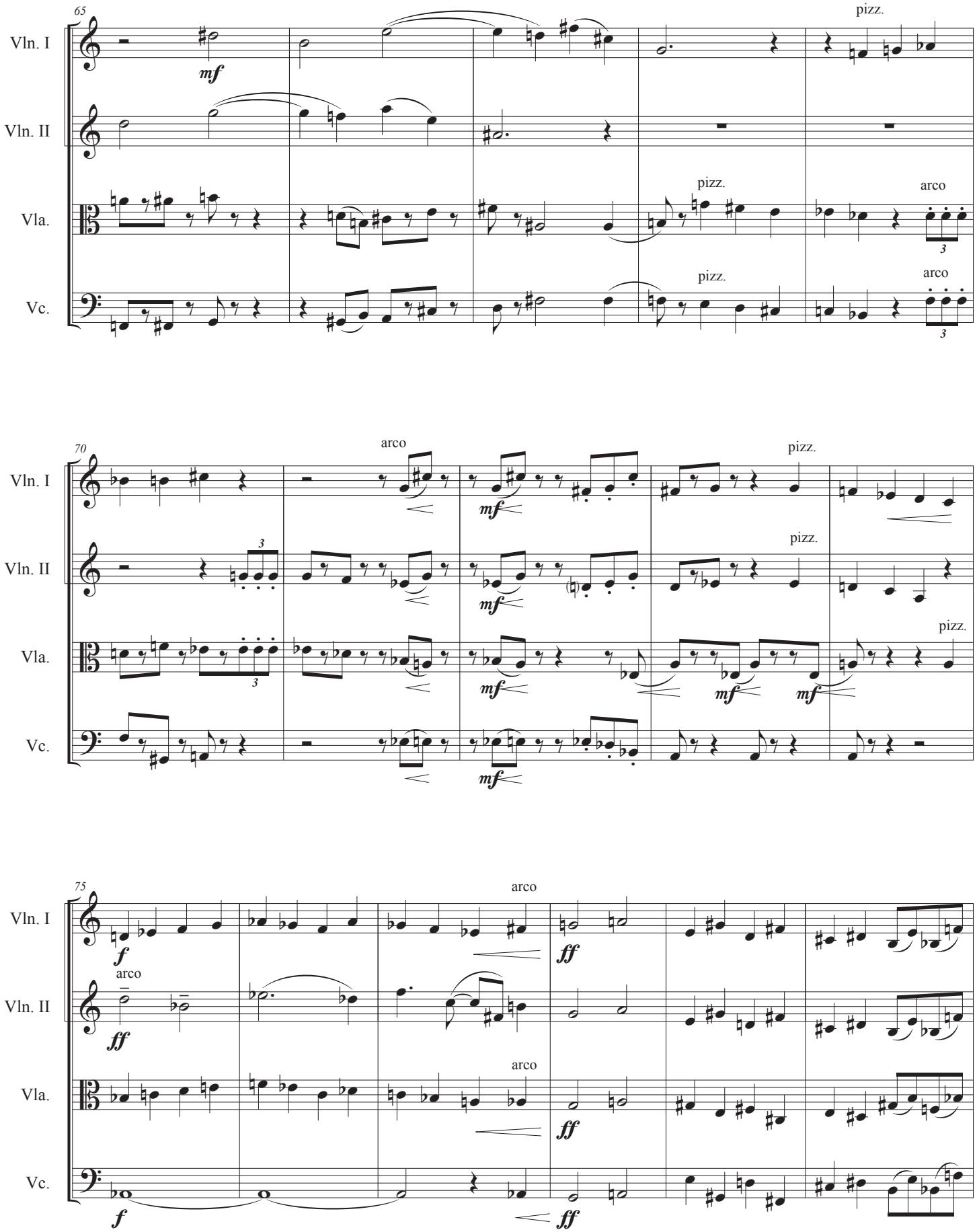
1. Allegro vivace

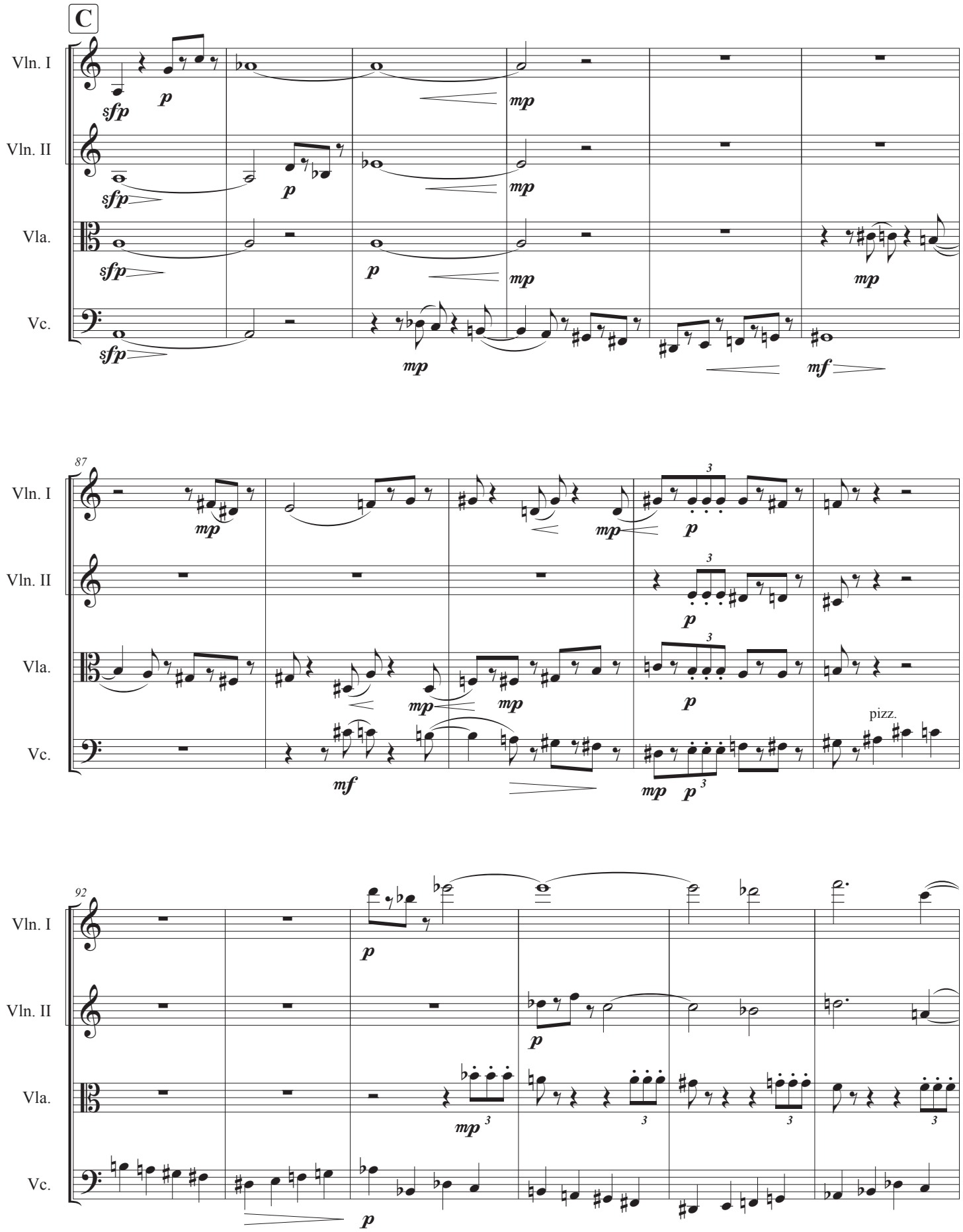


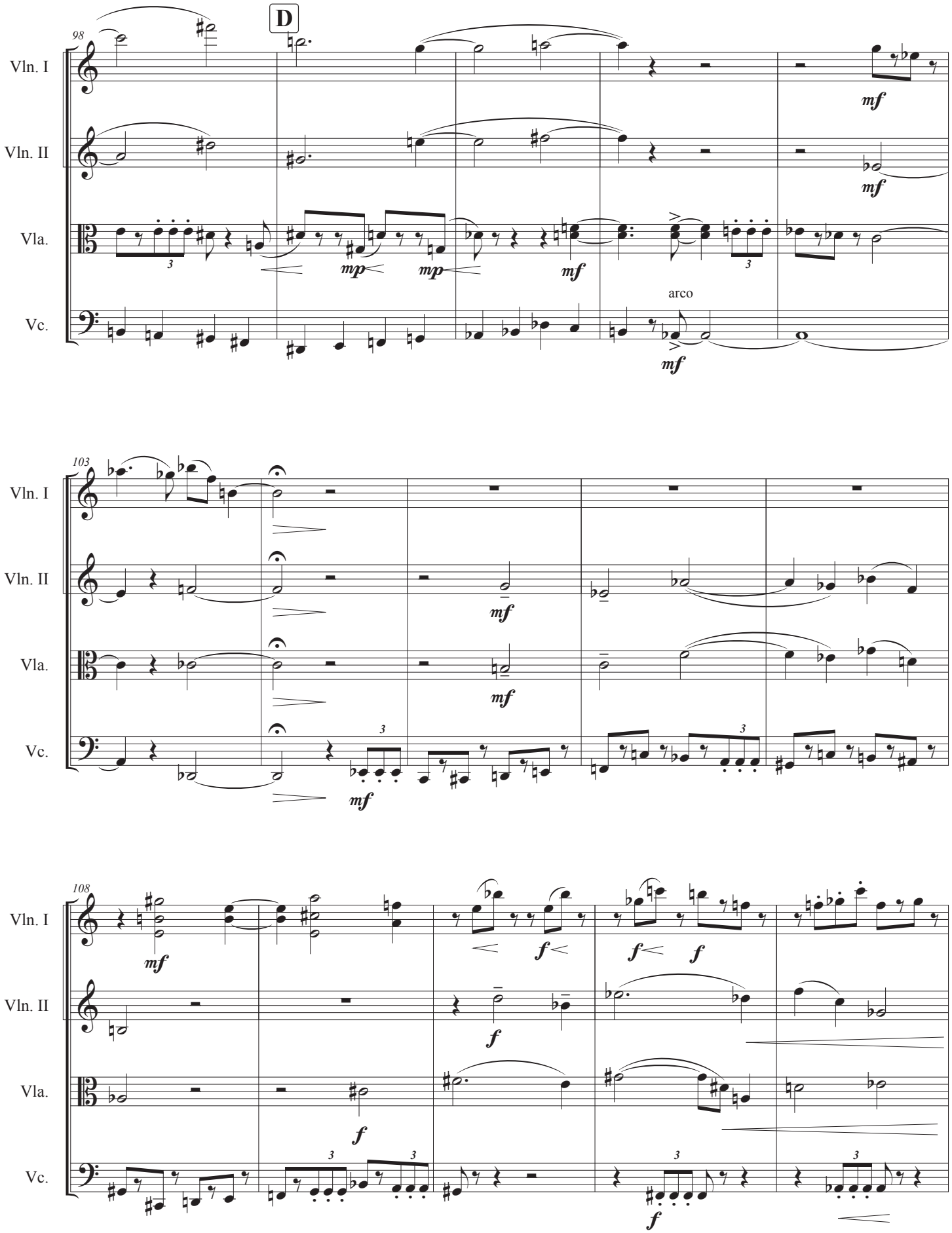

16
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
20
pizz.
arco
25
A
pizz.

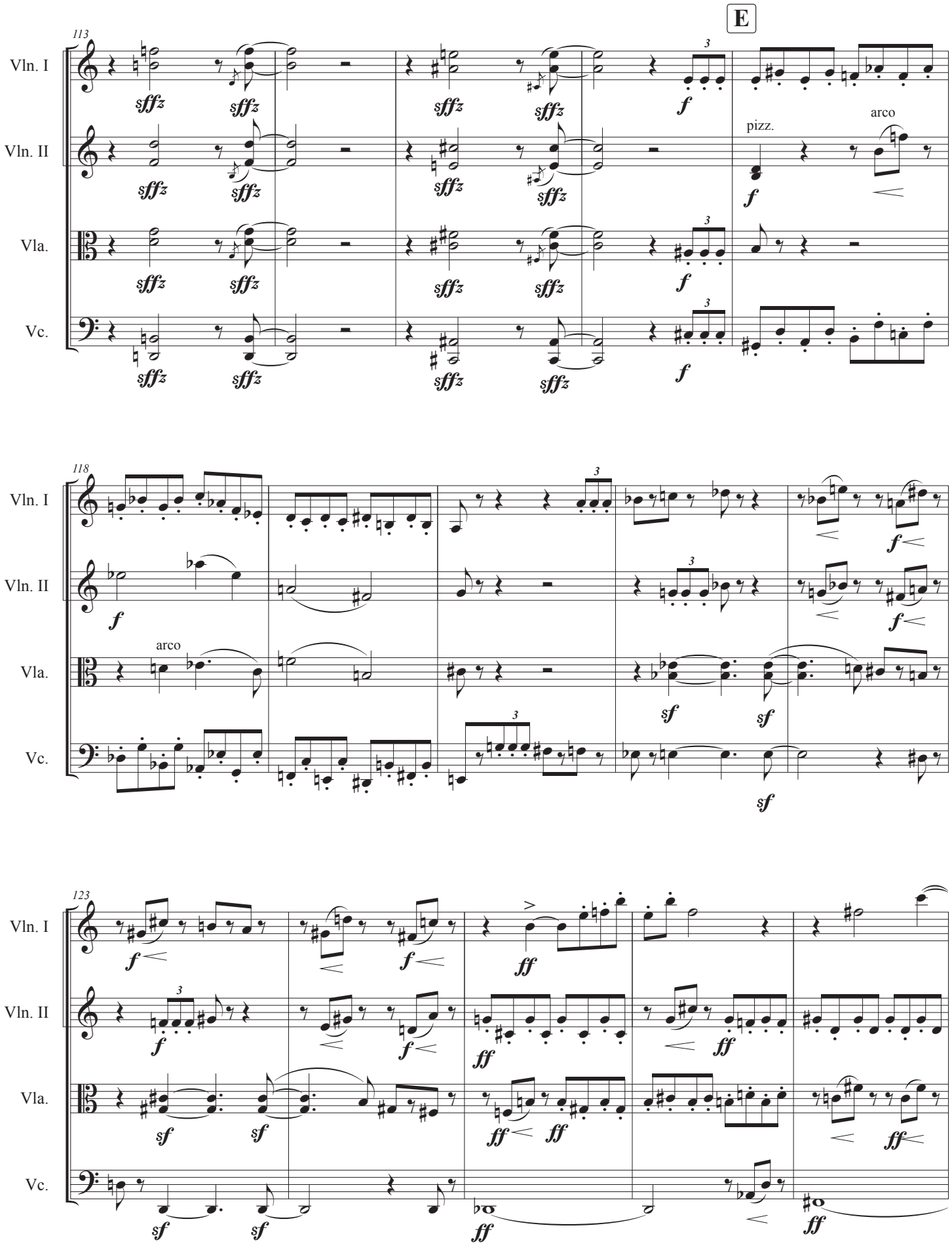

31
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
arco
arco
36
41

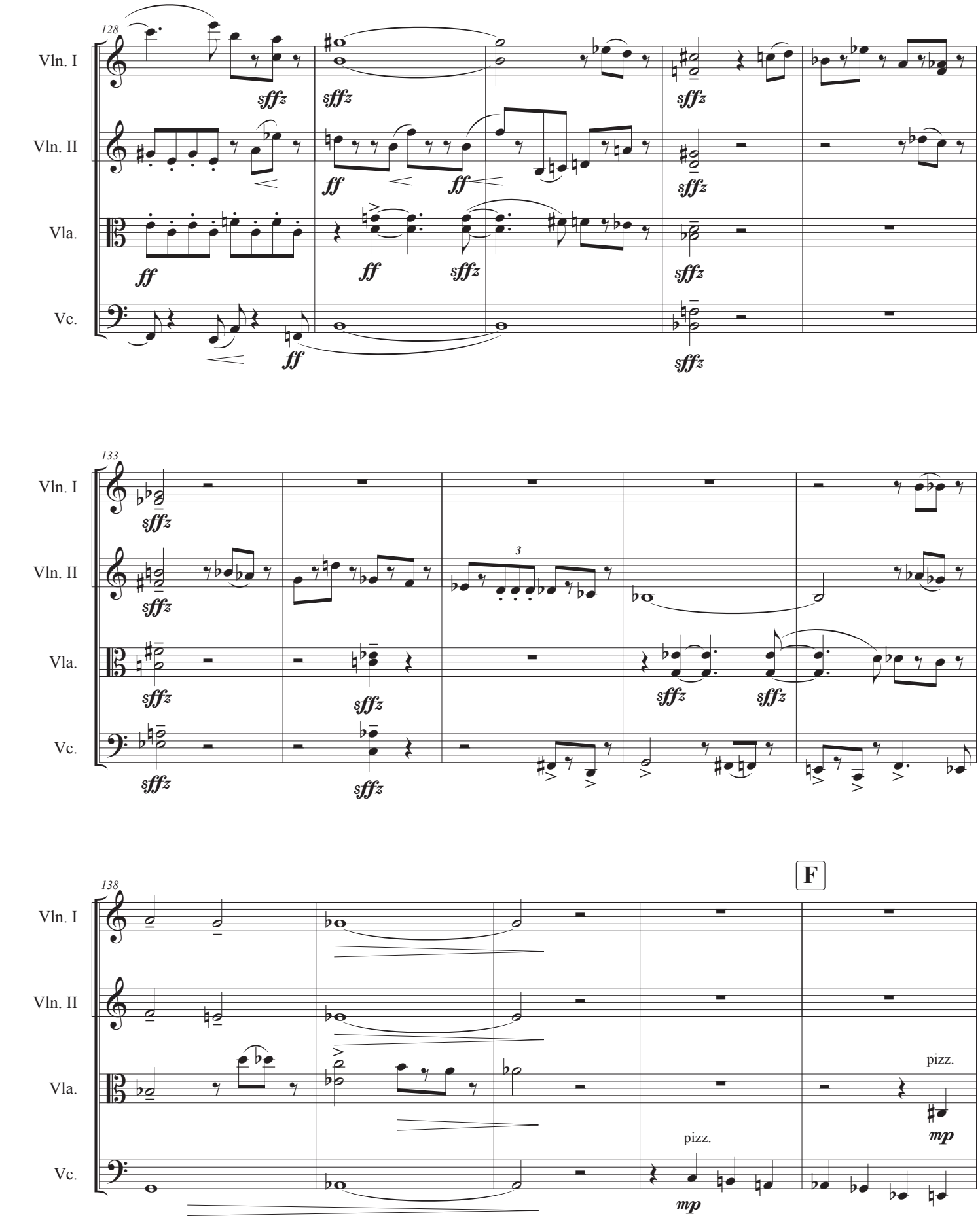

46
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
B
51
58

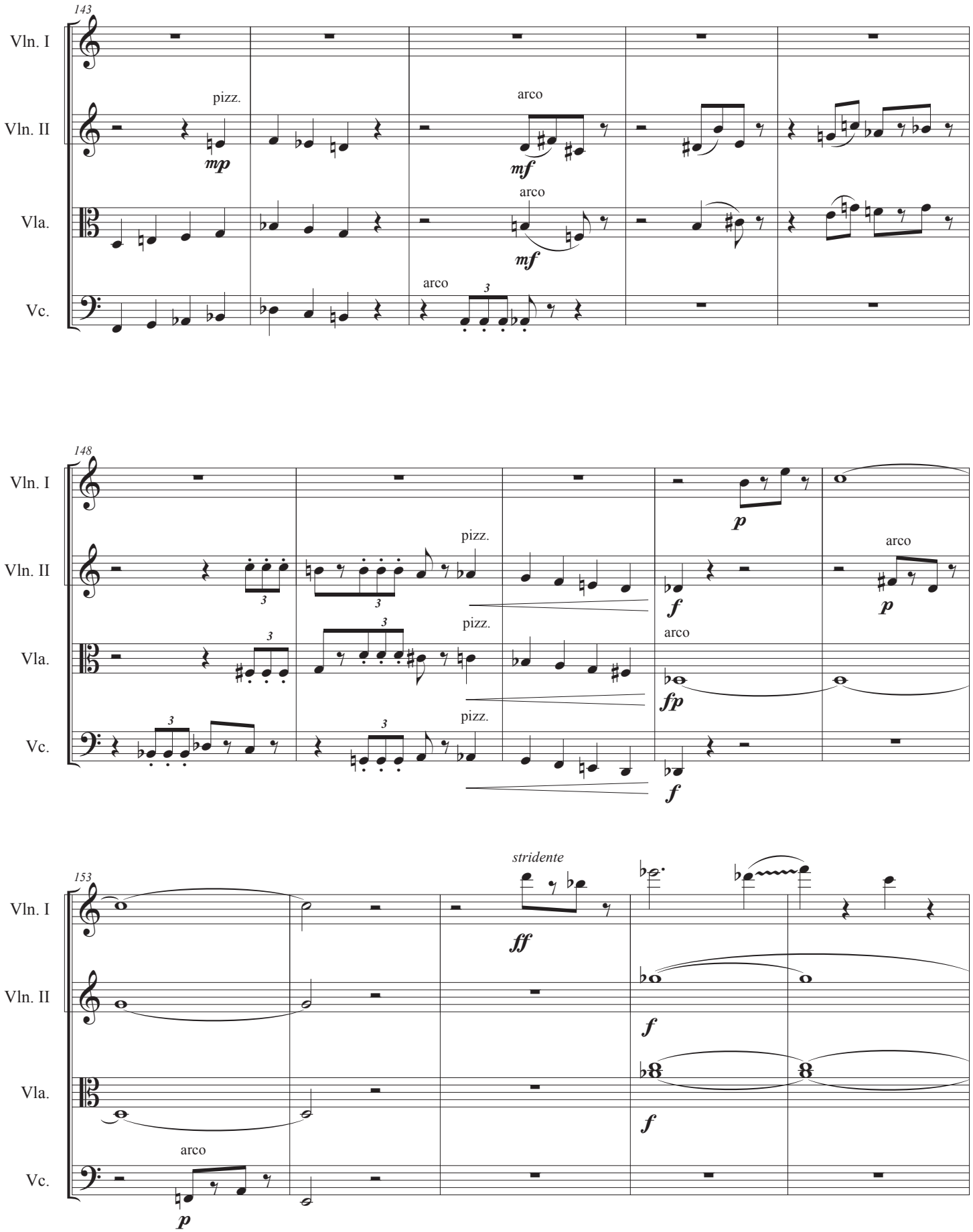

65
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
pizz.
arco
70
mf
75
f
ff

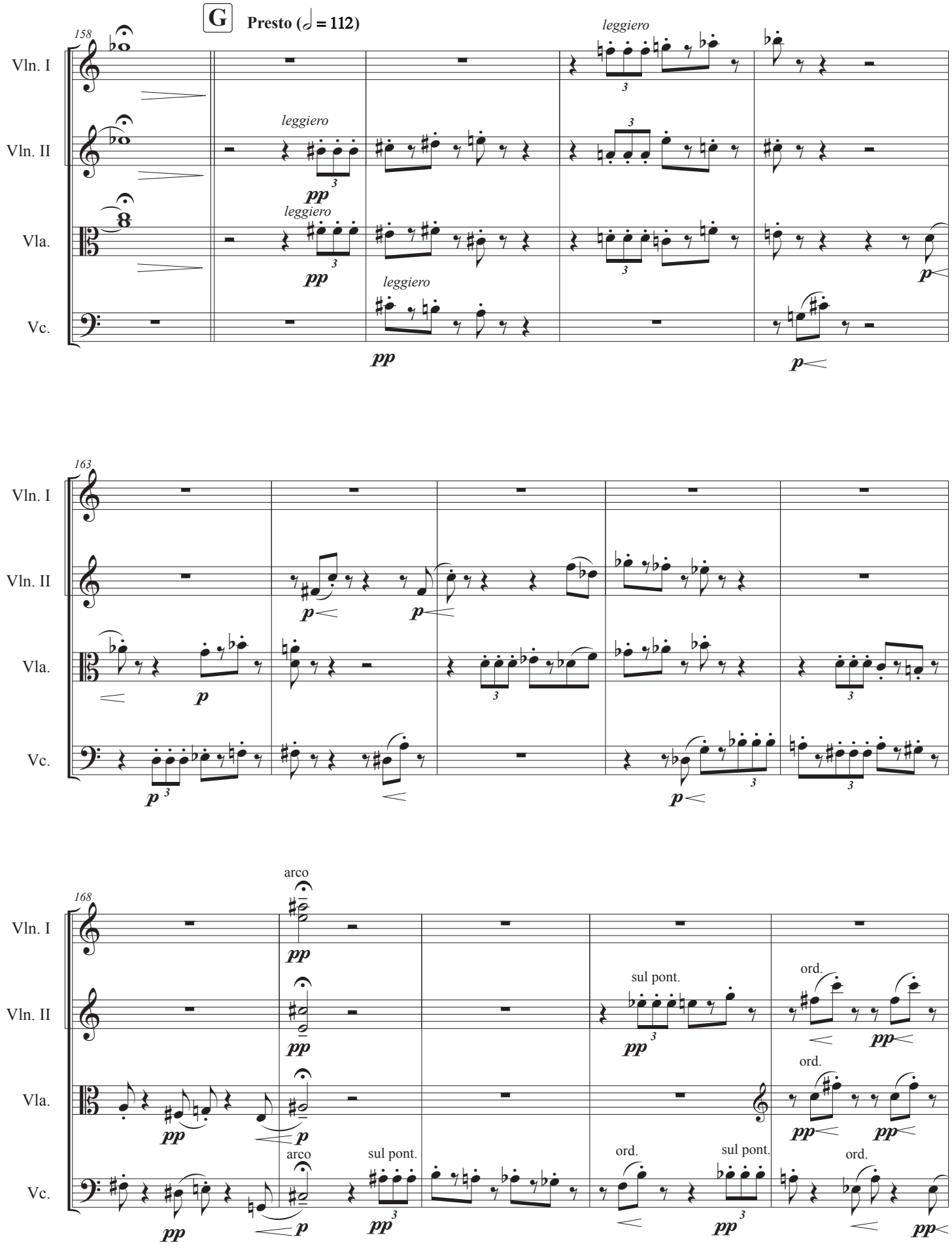

C
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sfp
p
mp
mf
87
pizz.
92

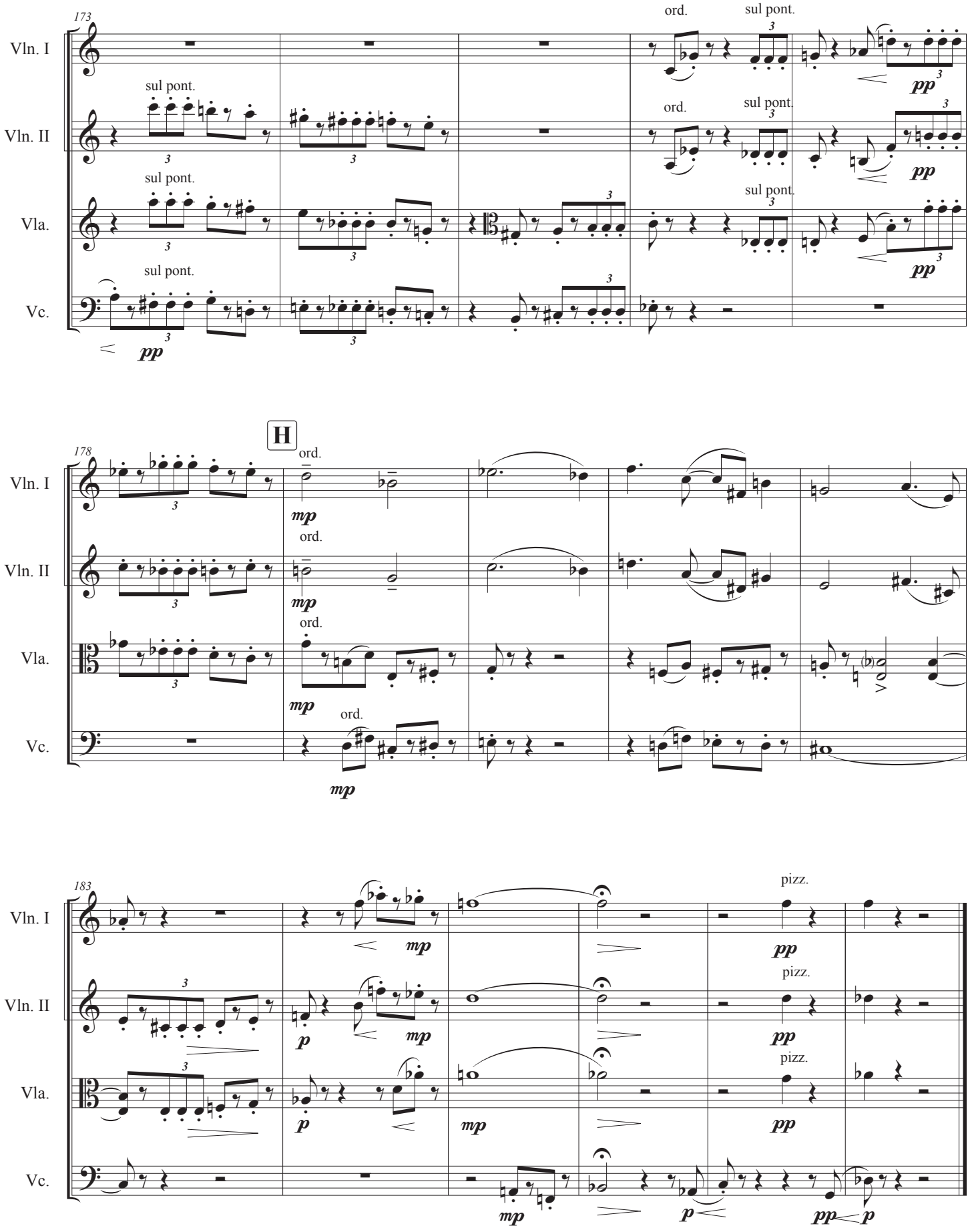

98
D
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
mp
arco
103
108


E
113
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sffz
f
pizz.
arco
118
arco
sf
123
ff


128
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
133
3
138
F
pizz.
pizz.


143
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
mp
arco
mf
arco
mf
arco
148
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
pizz.
f
arco
p
pizz.
arco
fp
pizz.
f
153
stridente
ff
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
f
f
arco
p


G
Presto (𝅗𝅥 = 112)
158
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
leggiero
pp
p
163
168
arco
sul pont.
ord.


173
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sul pont.
ord.
pp
H
178
mp
183
pizz.
p

2. Largo

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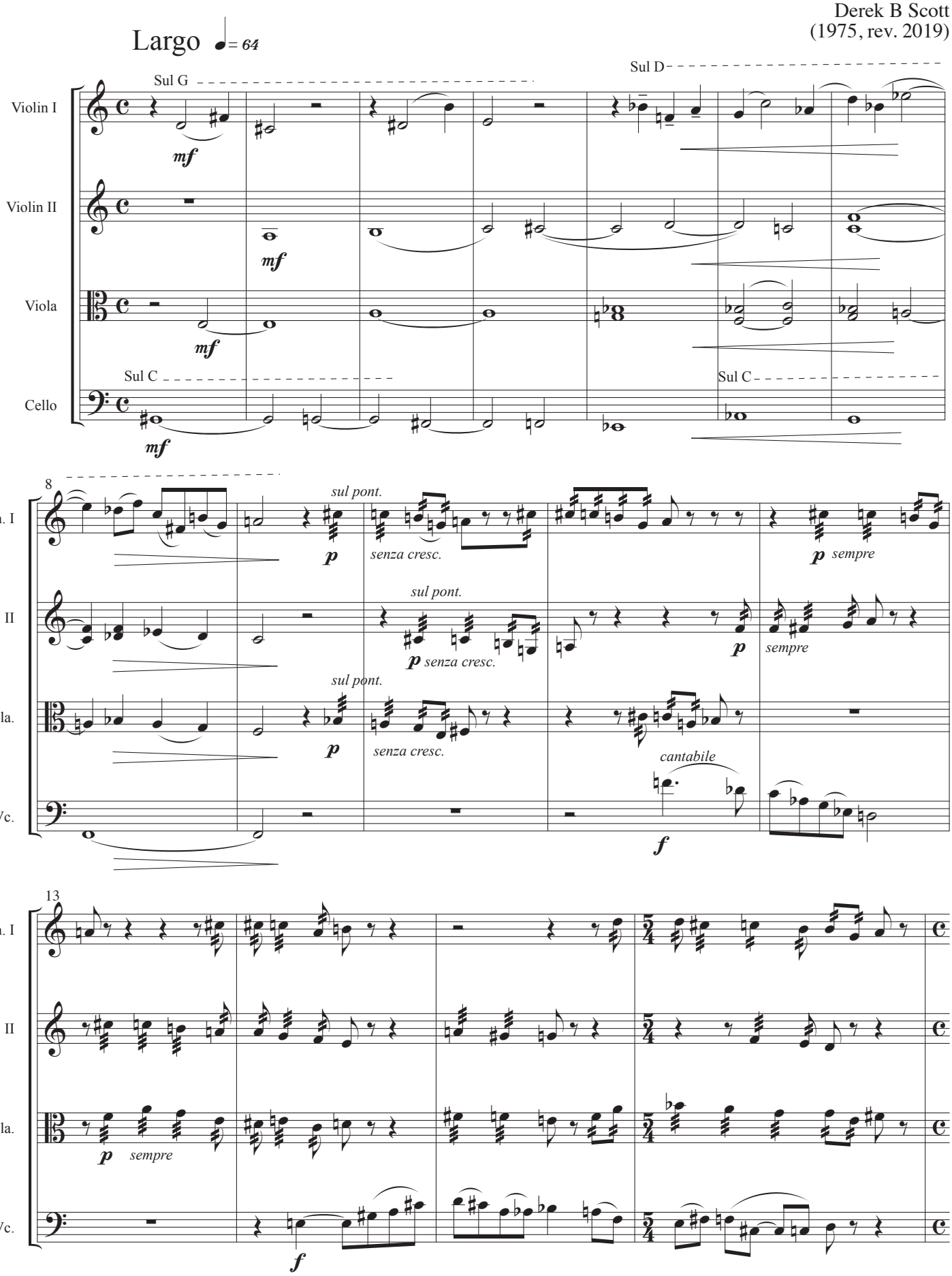
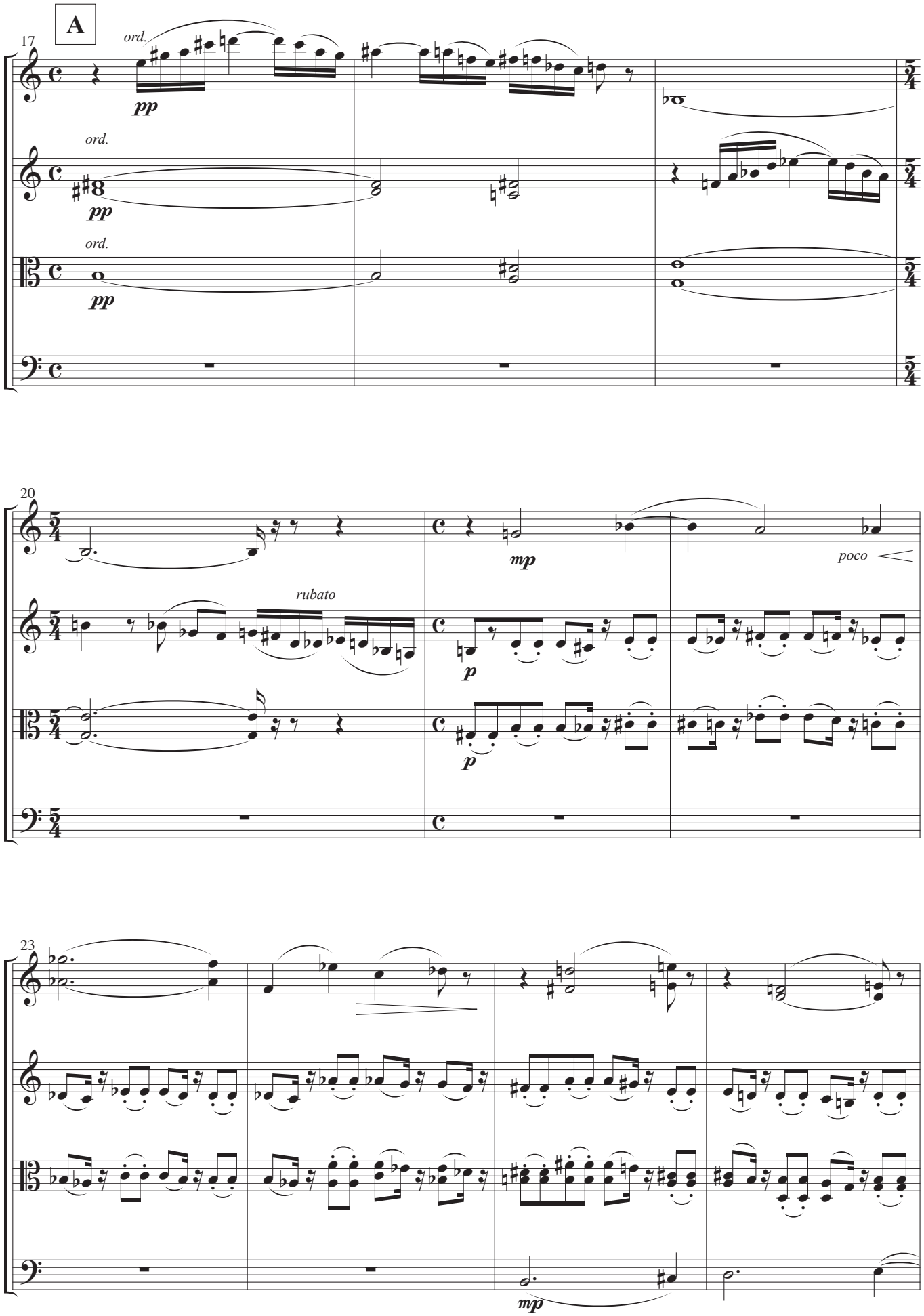
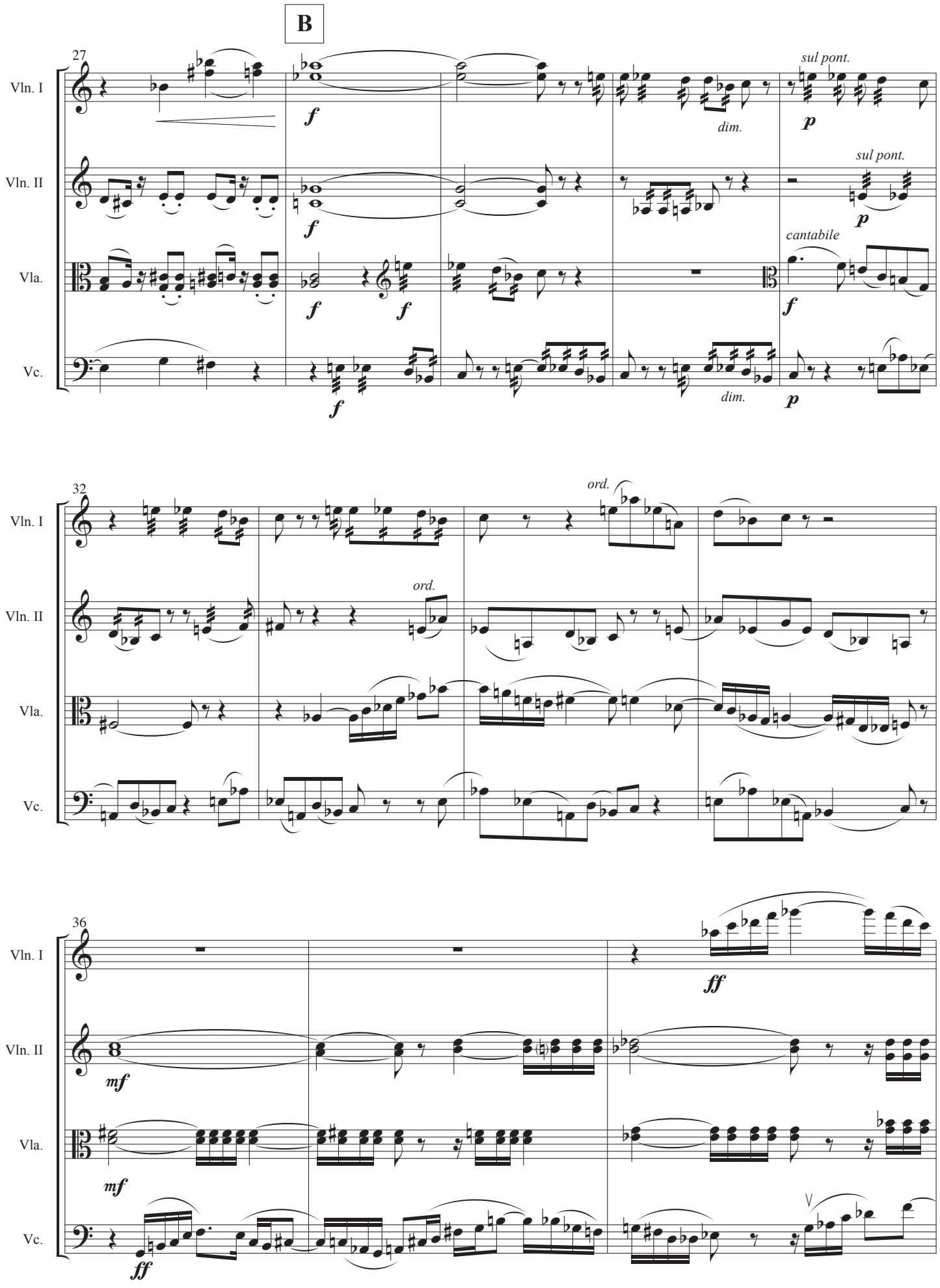
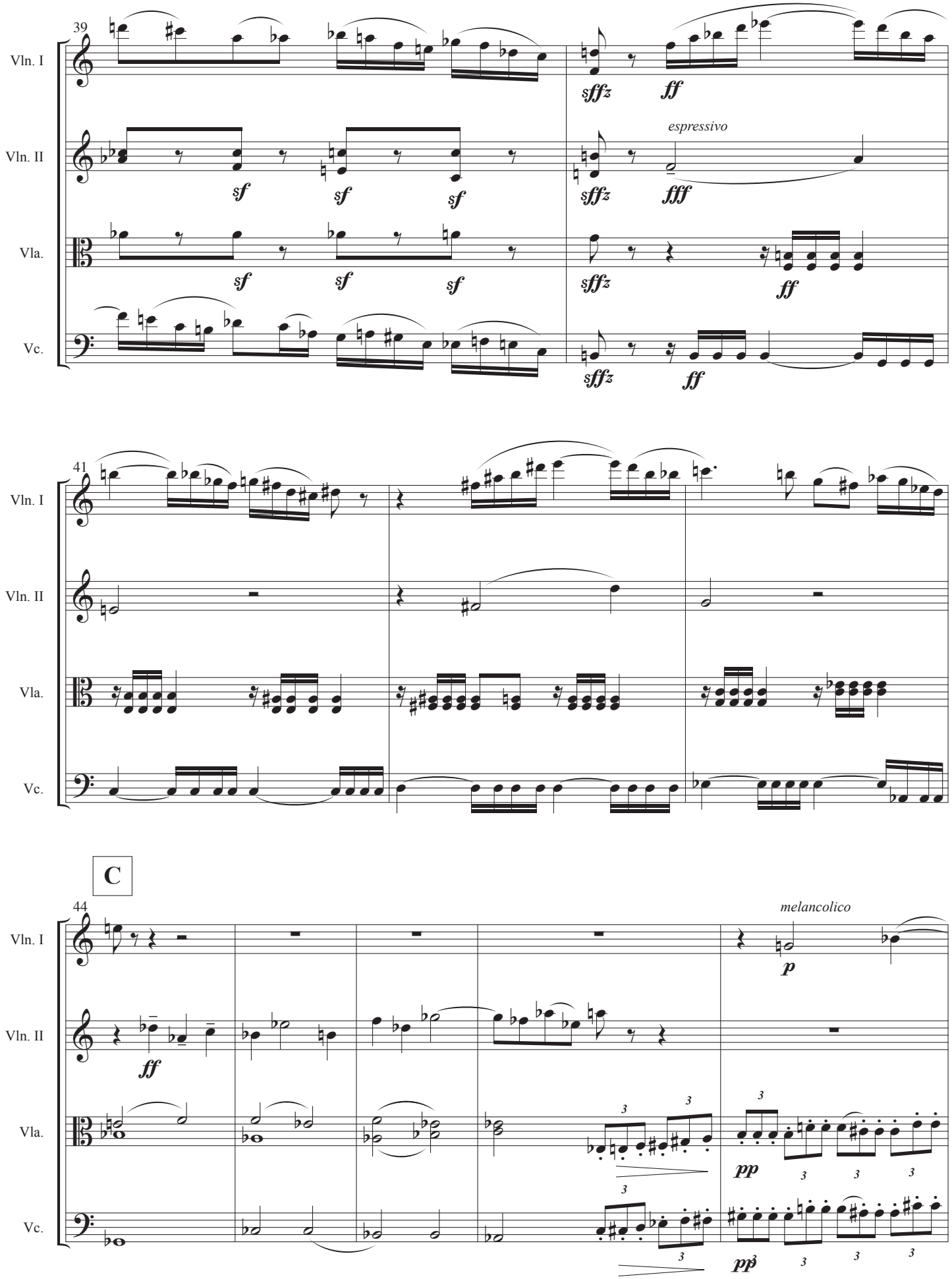
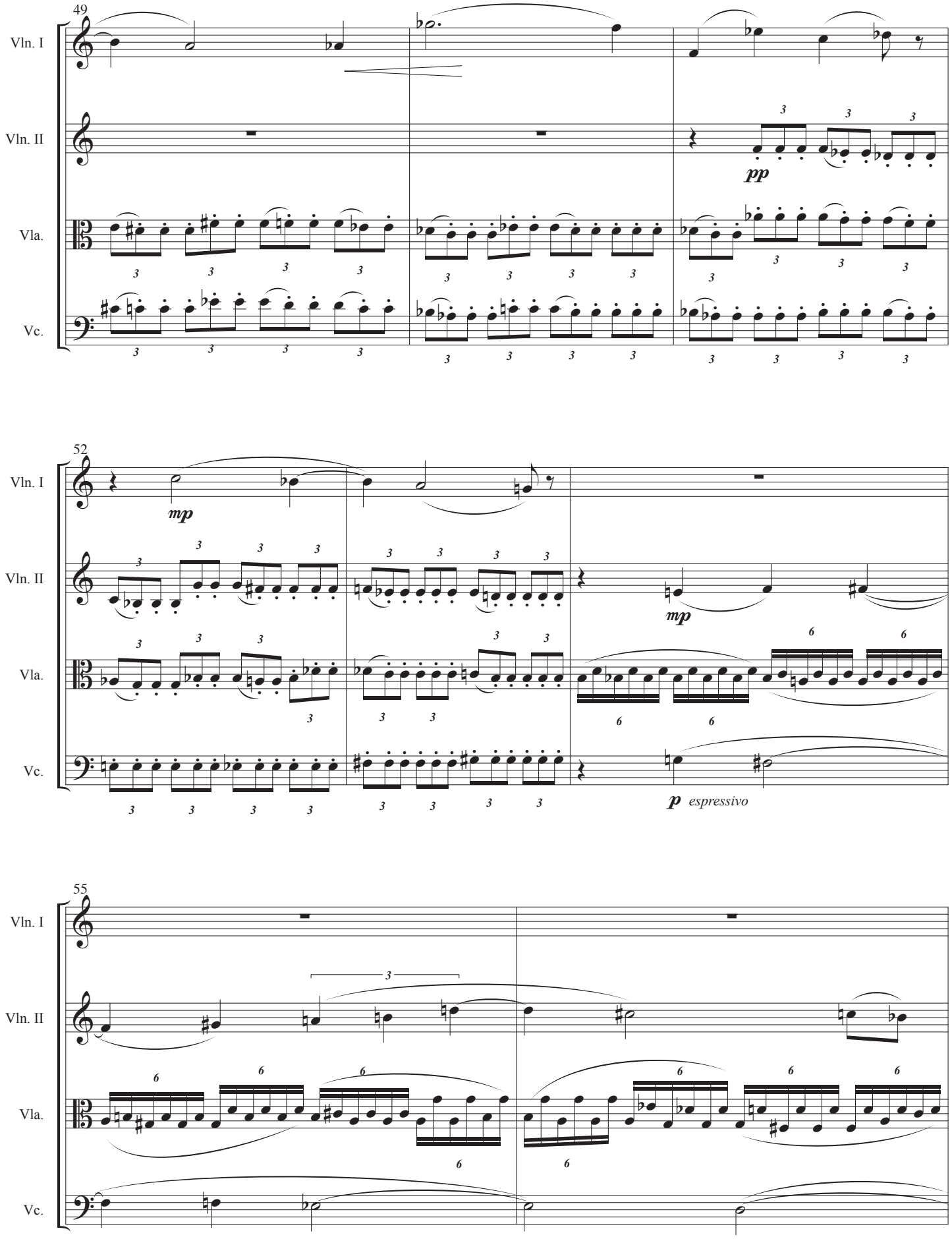
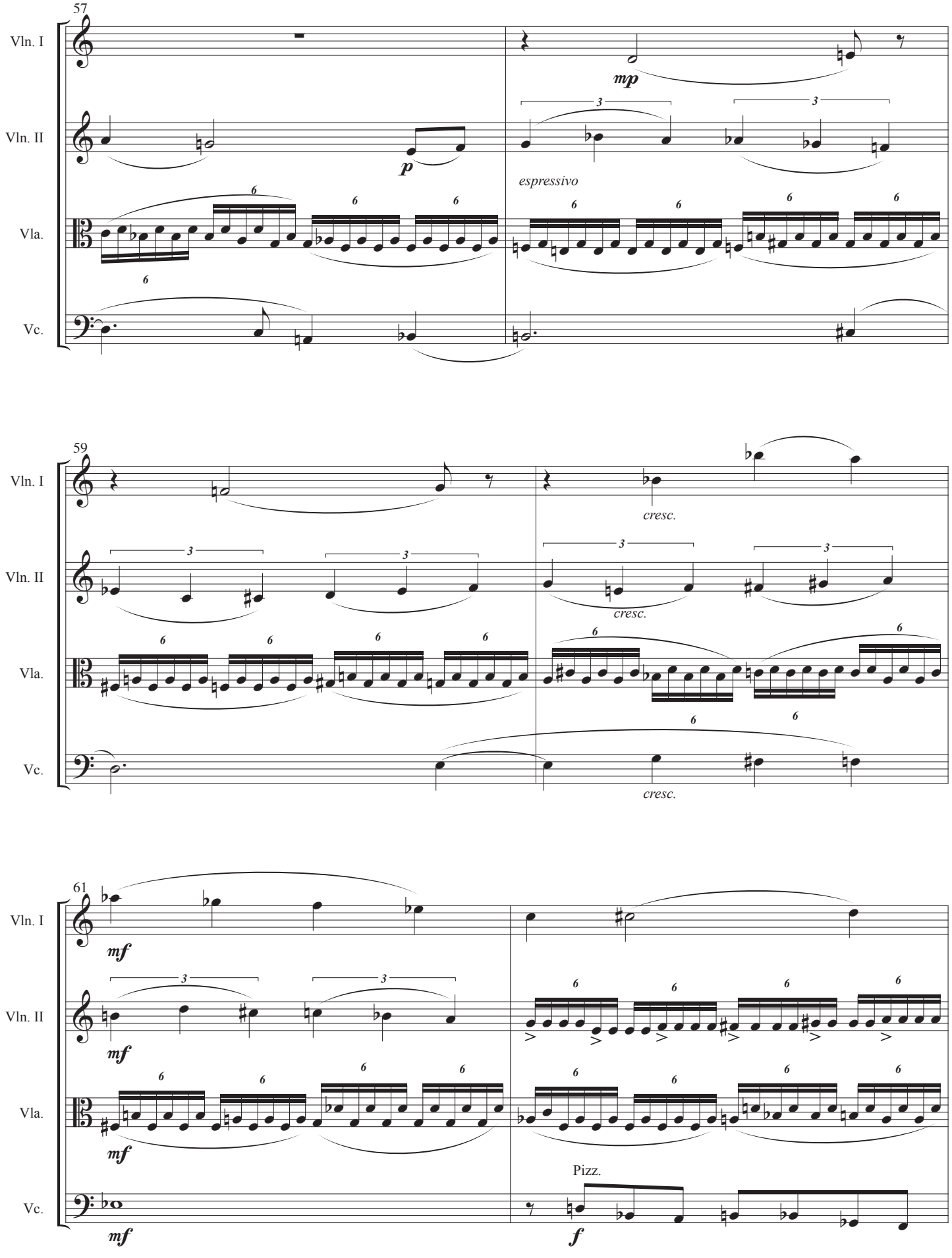


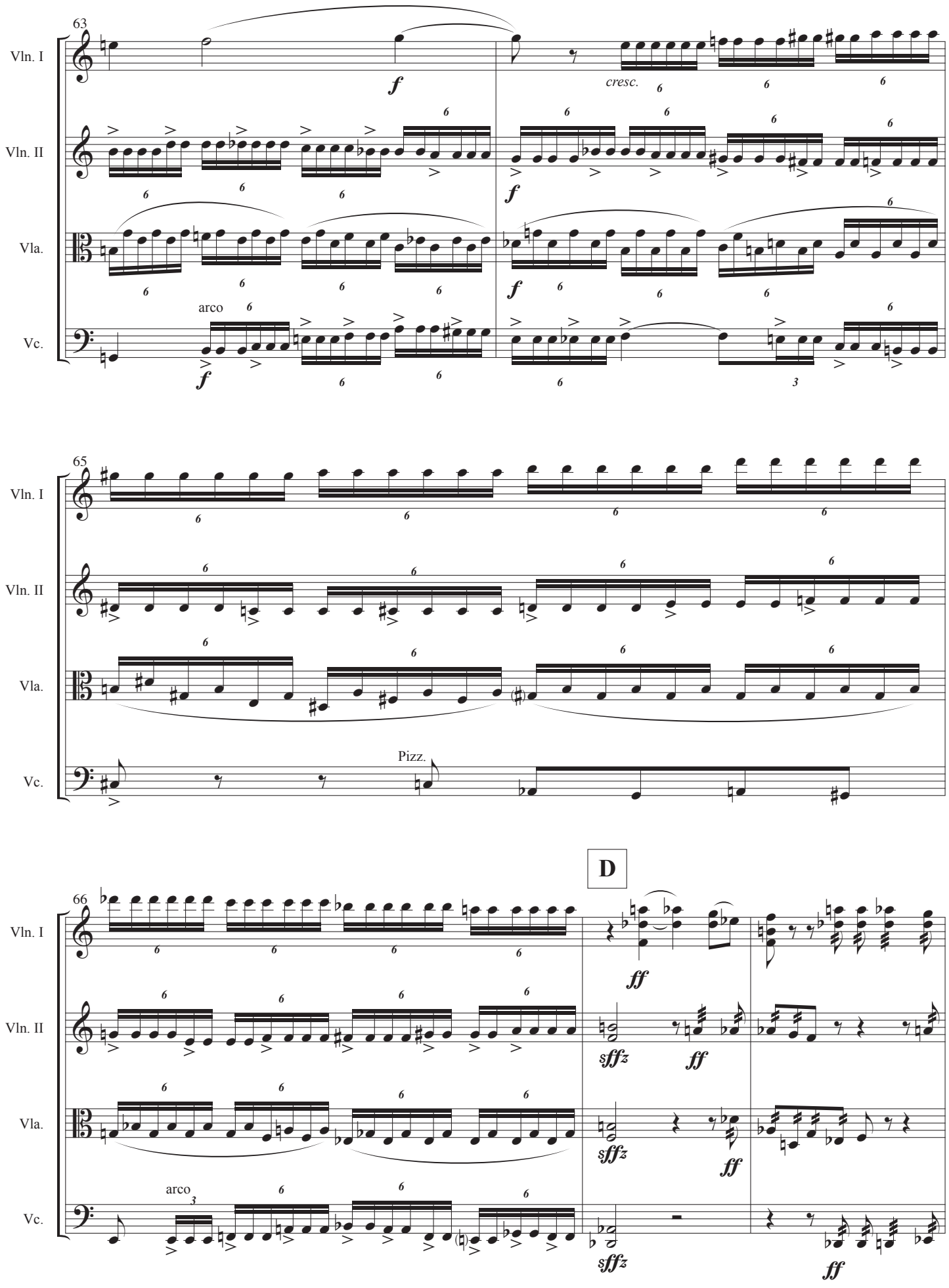

A
17
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
ord.
pp
5/4
20
rubato
mp
poco
p
23

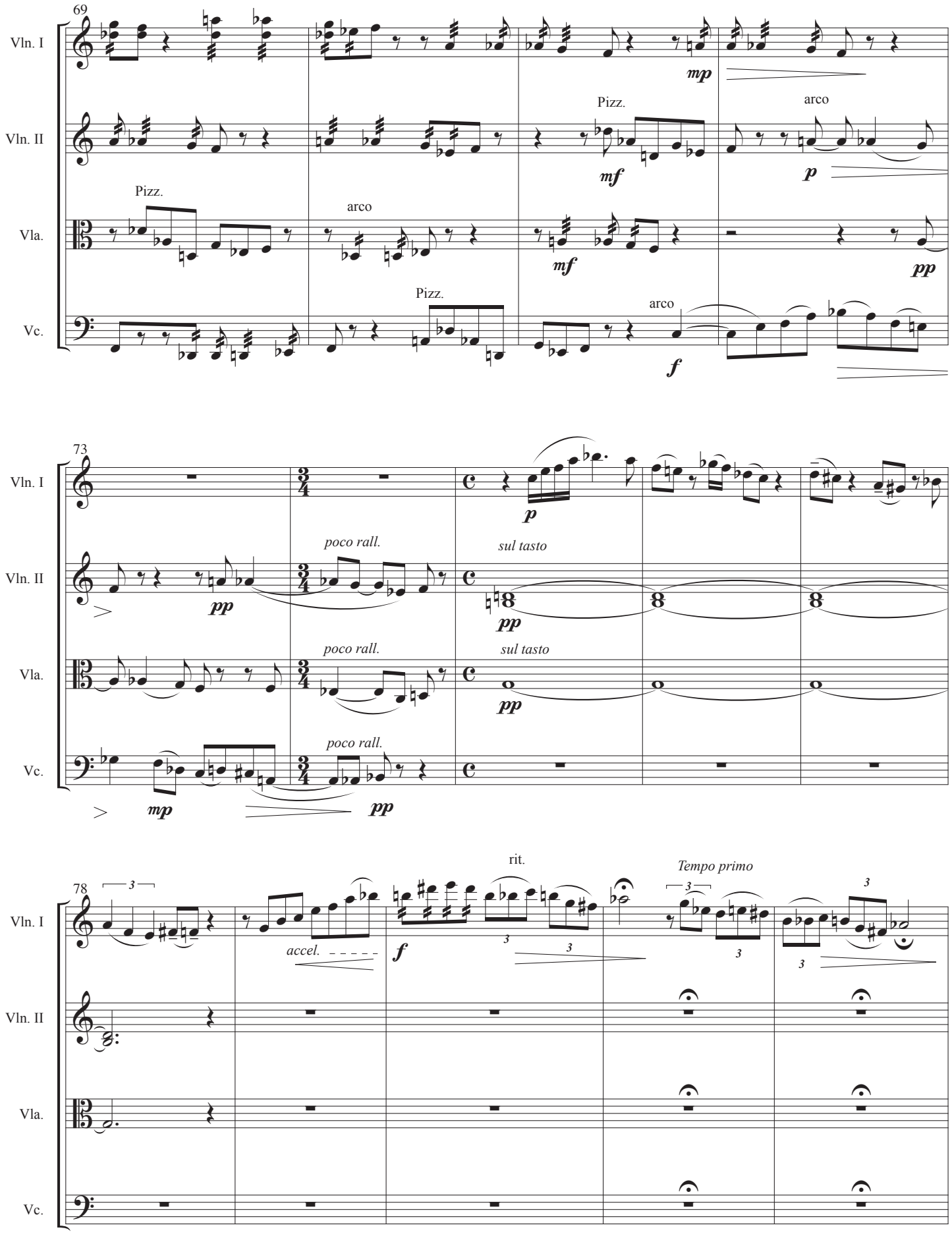

B
27
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
f
dim.
sul pont.
p
cantabile
32
ord.
36
mf
ff

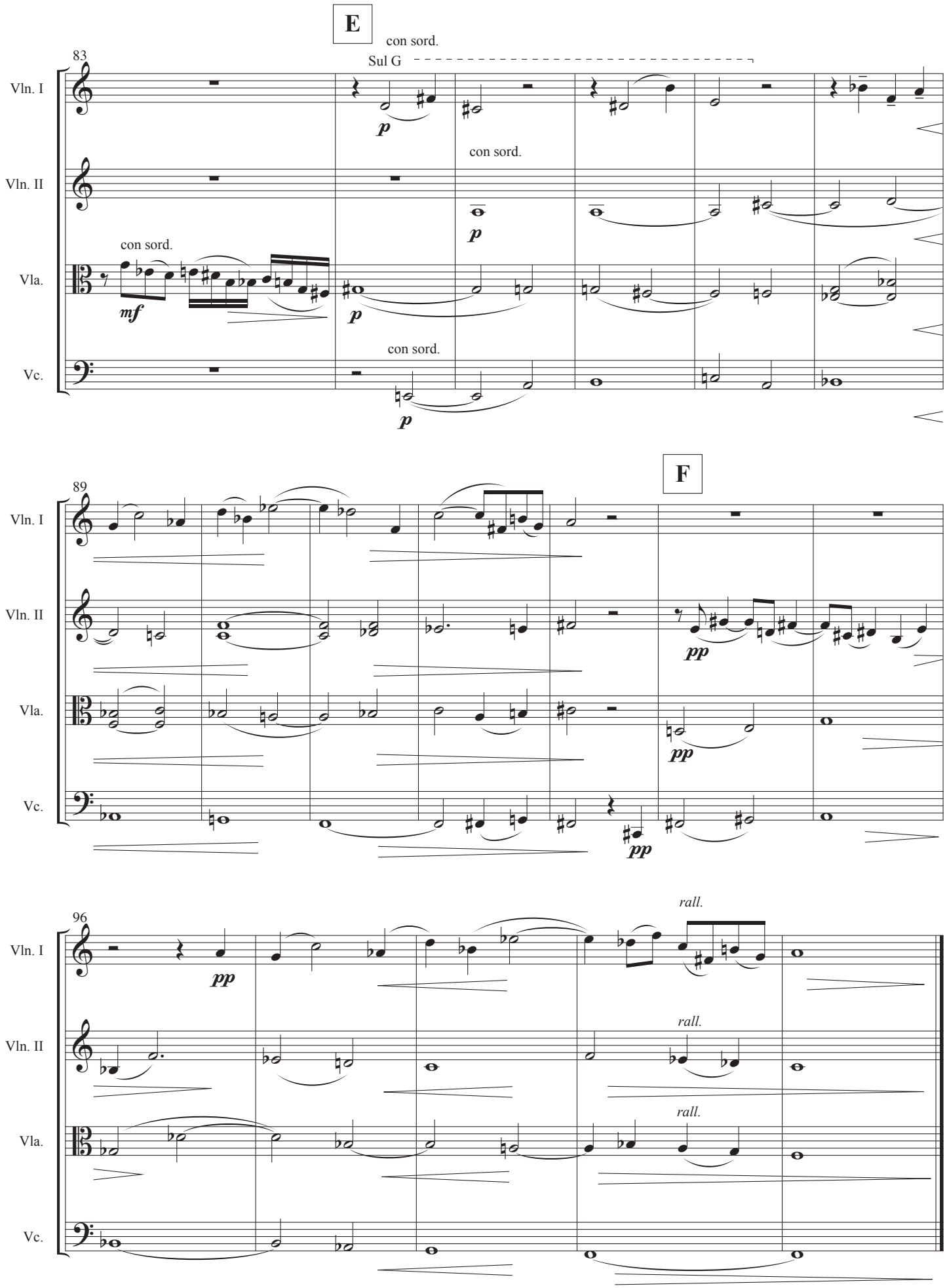

39
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sffz
ff
espressivo
sf
fff
41
C
44
melancolico
p
pp


49
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pp
52
mp
mp
p espressivo
55


57
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mp
p
espressivo
59
cresc.
61
mf
Pizz.
f


63
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
f
cresc.
arco
65
Pizz.
D
66
ff
sffz

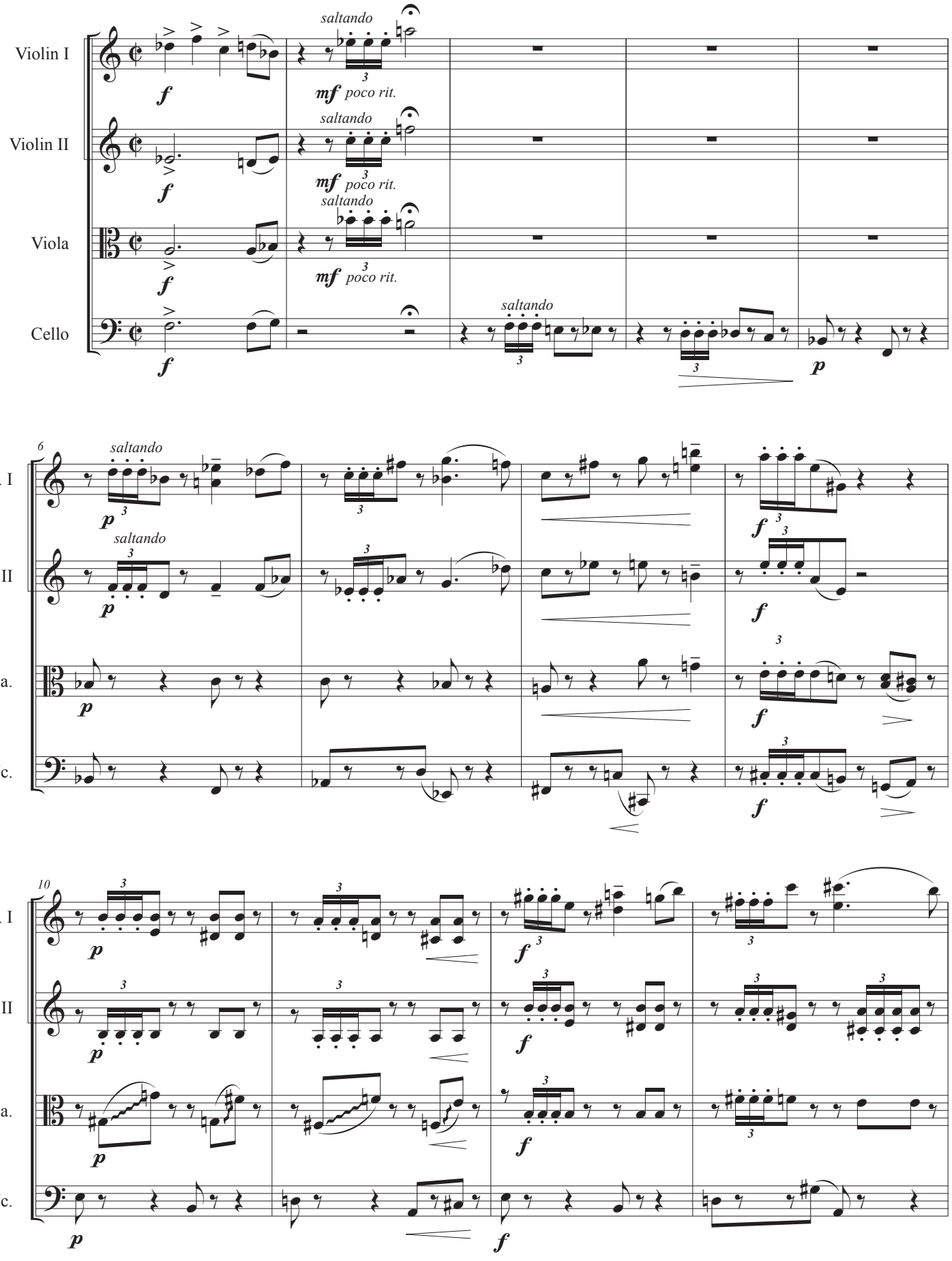

69
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mp
Pizz.
mf
arco
p
Pizz.
mf
arco
pp
Pizz.
arco
f
73
p
poco rall.
sul tasto
pp
poco rall.
sul tasto
pp
poco rall.
mp
pp
78
rit.
Tempo primo
accel.
f

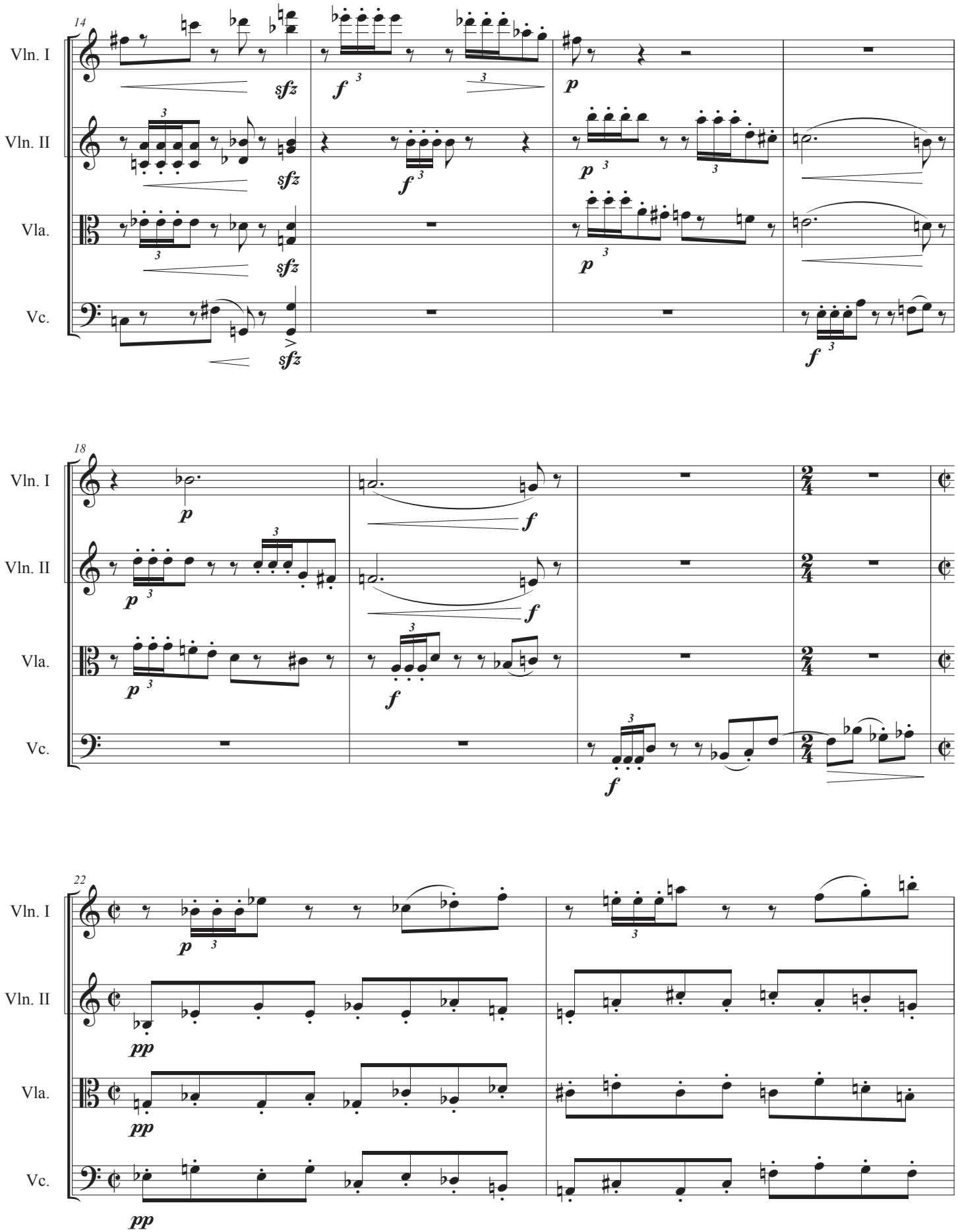

E
con sord.
Sul G
83
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
con sord.
con sord.
con sord.
mf
p
p
p
F
89
pp
pp
pp
96
pp
rall.
rall.
rall.

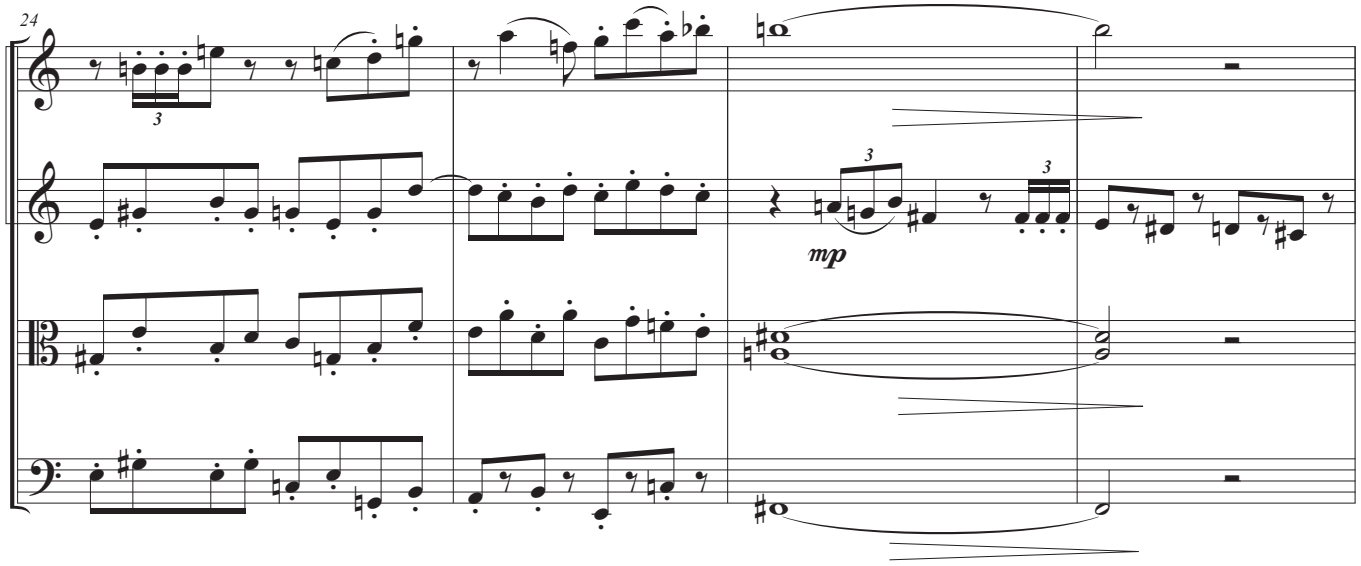
3 Allegro ma non troppo

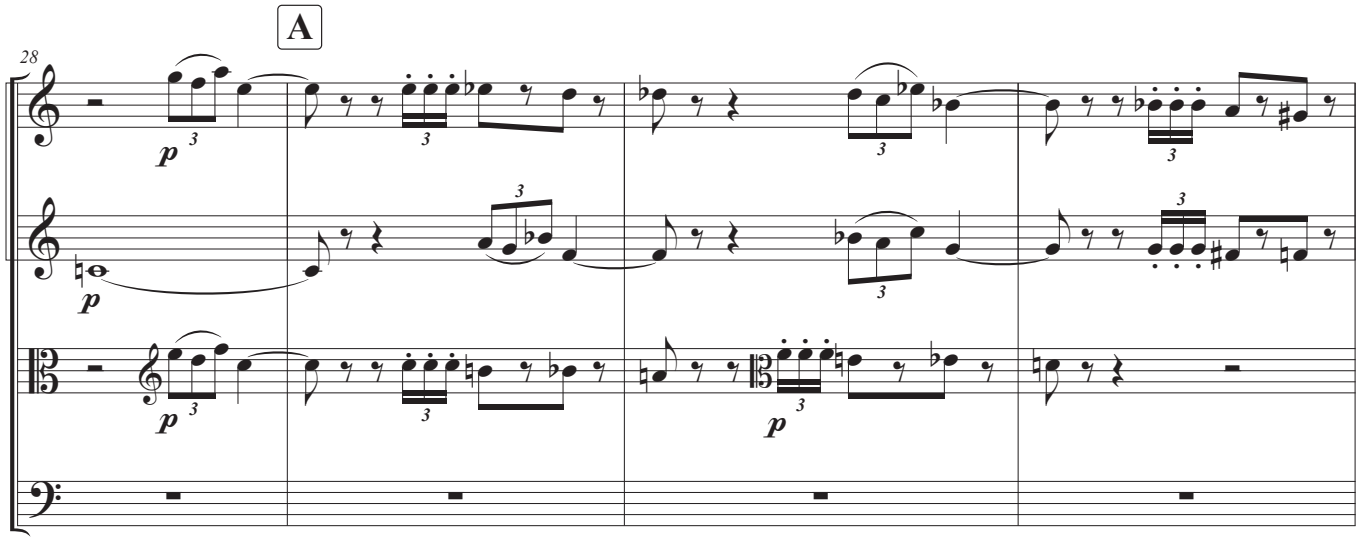
Derek B. Scott
1975, revd 2019

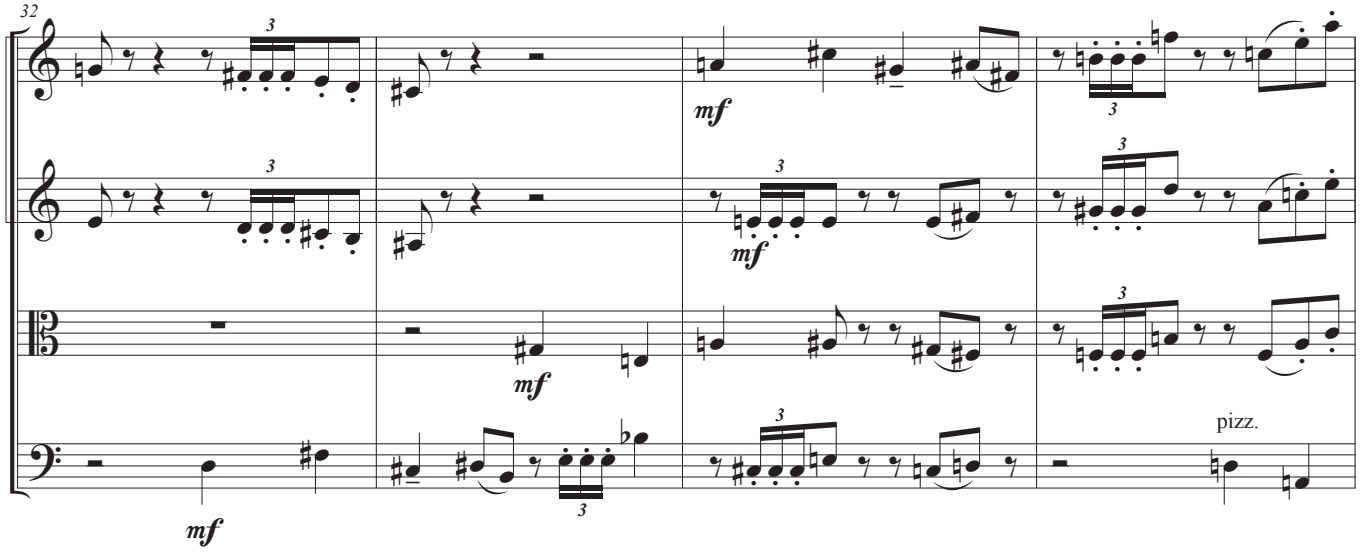
Allegro (𝅗𝅥 = 62)

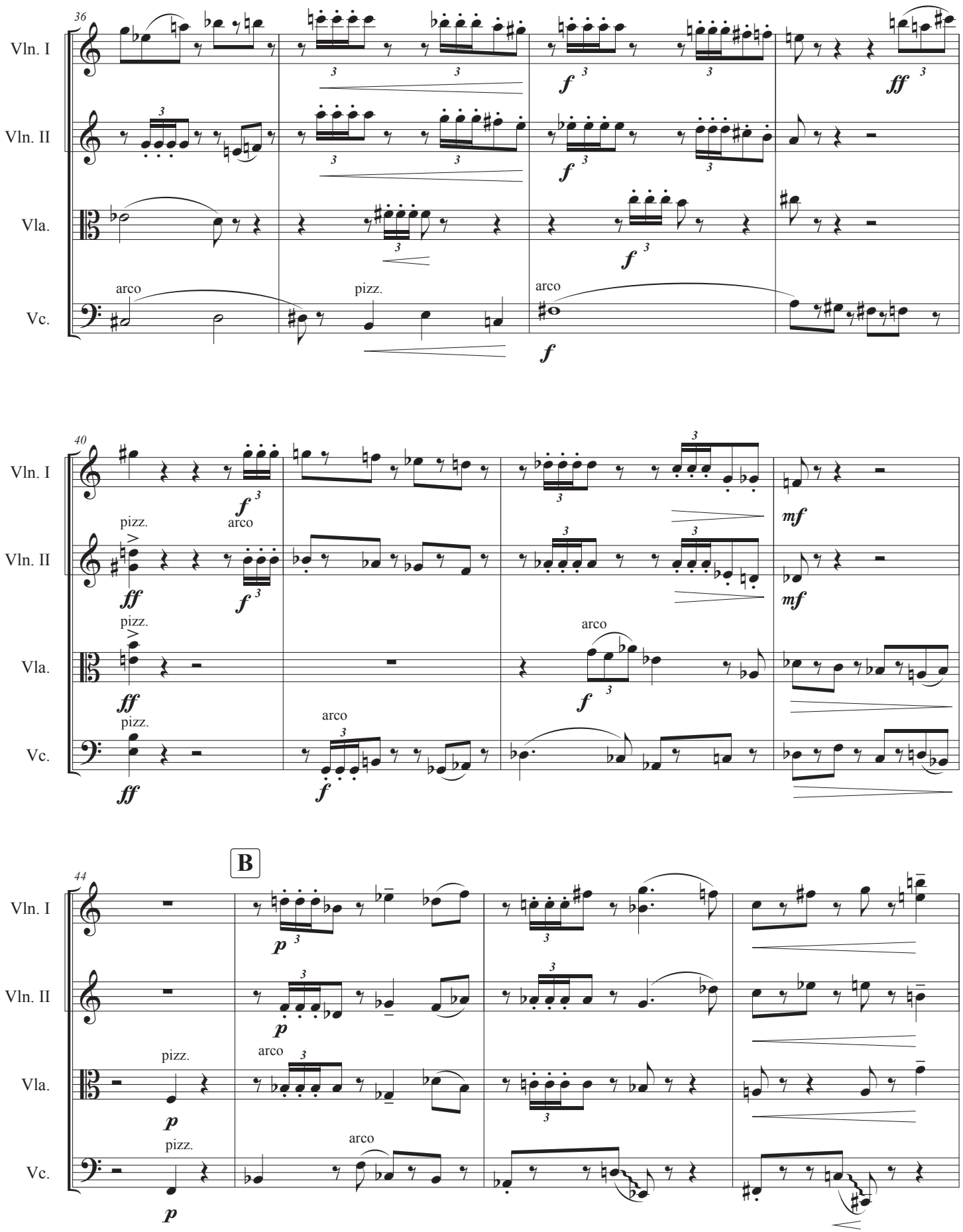


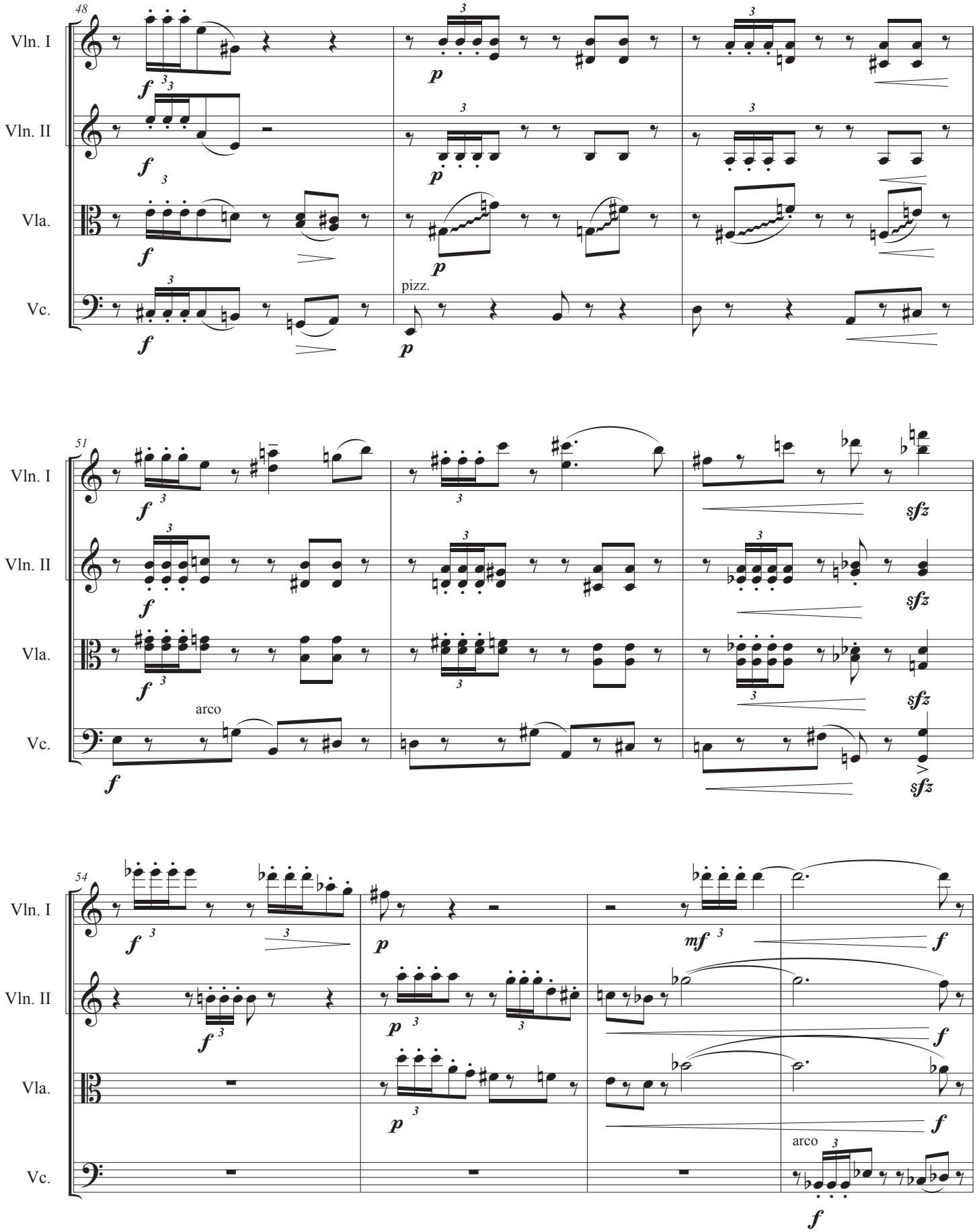

14
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sfz
f
p
18
22
pp

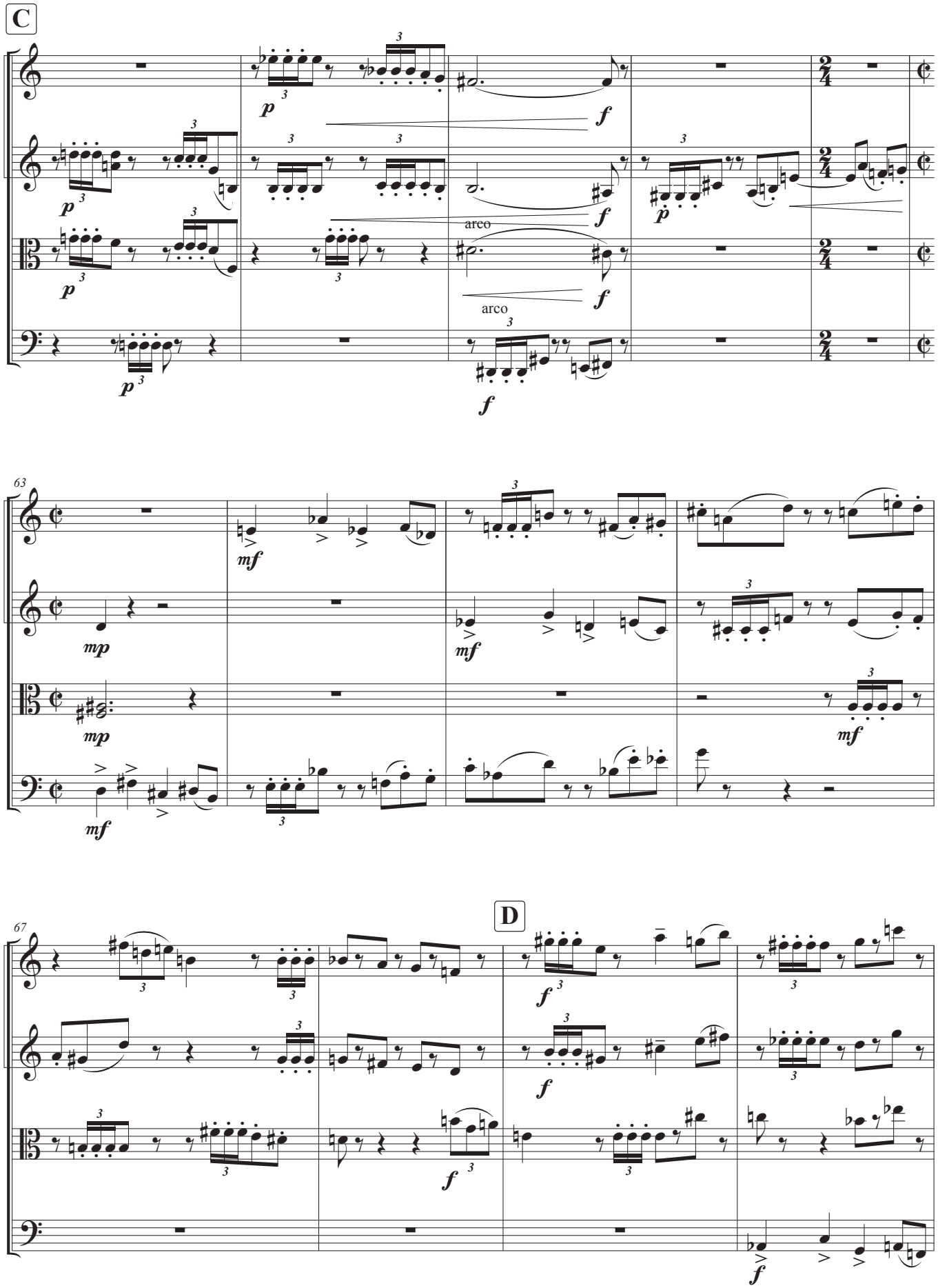

24
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mp

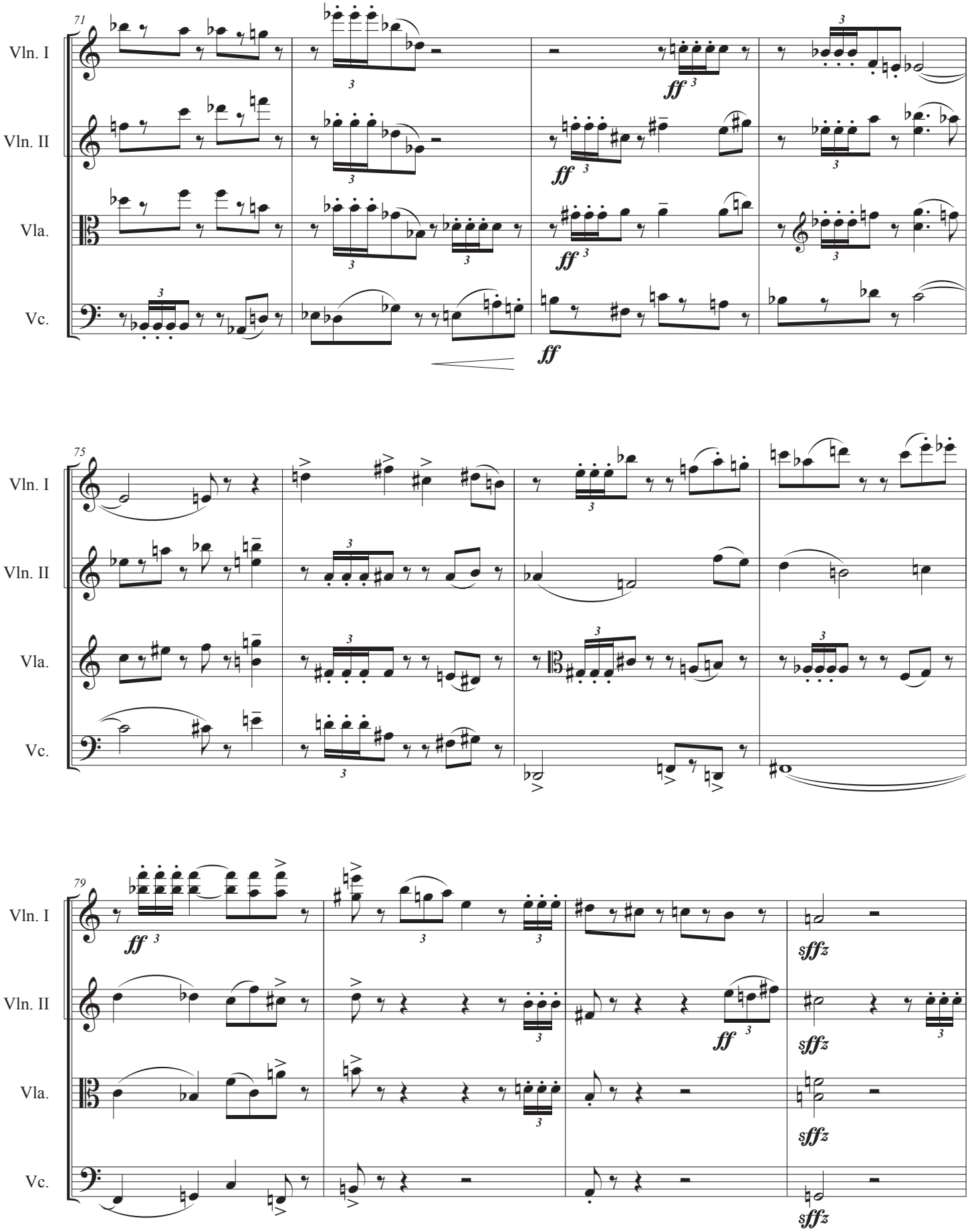

A
28
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p

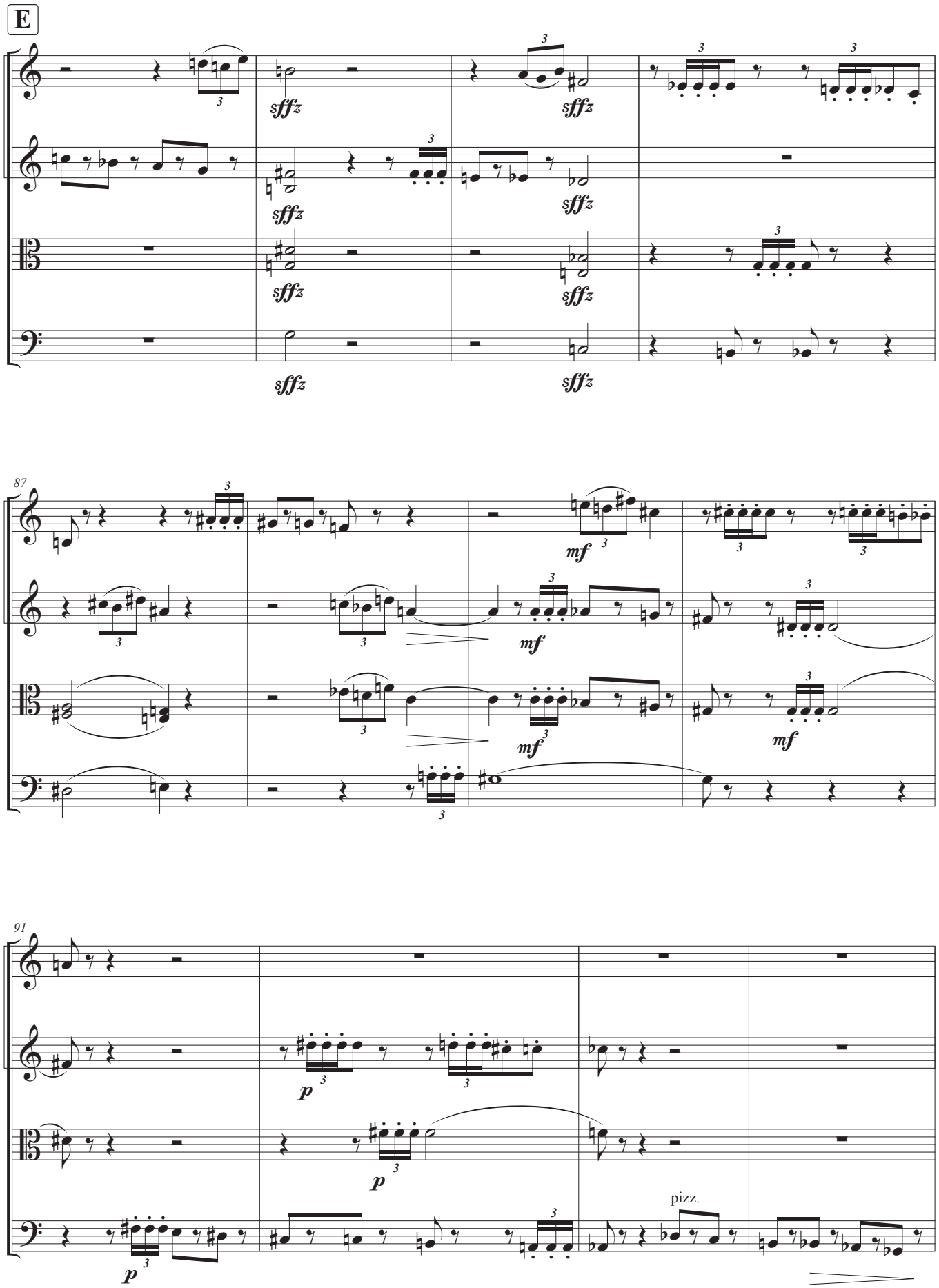

32
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
pizz.

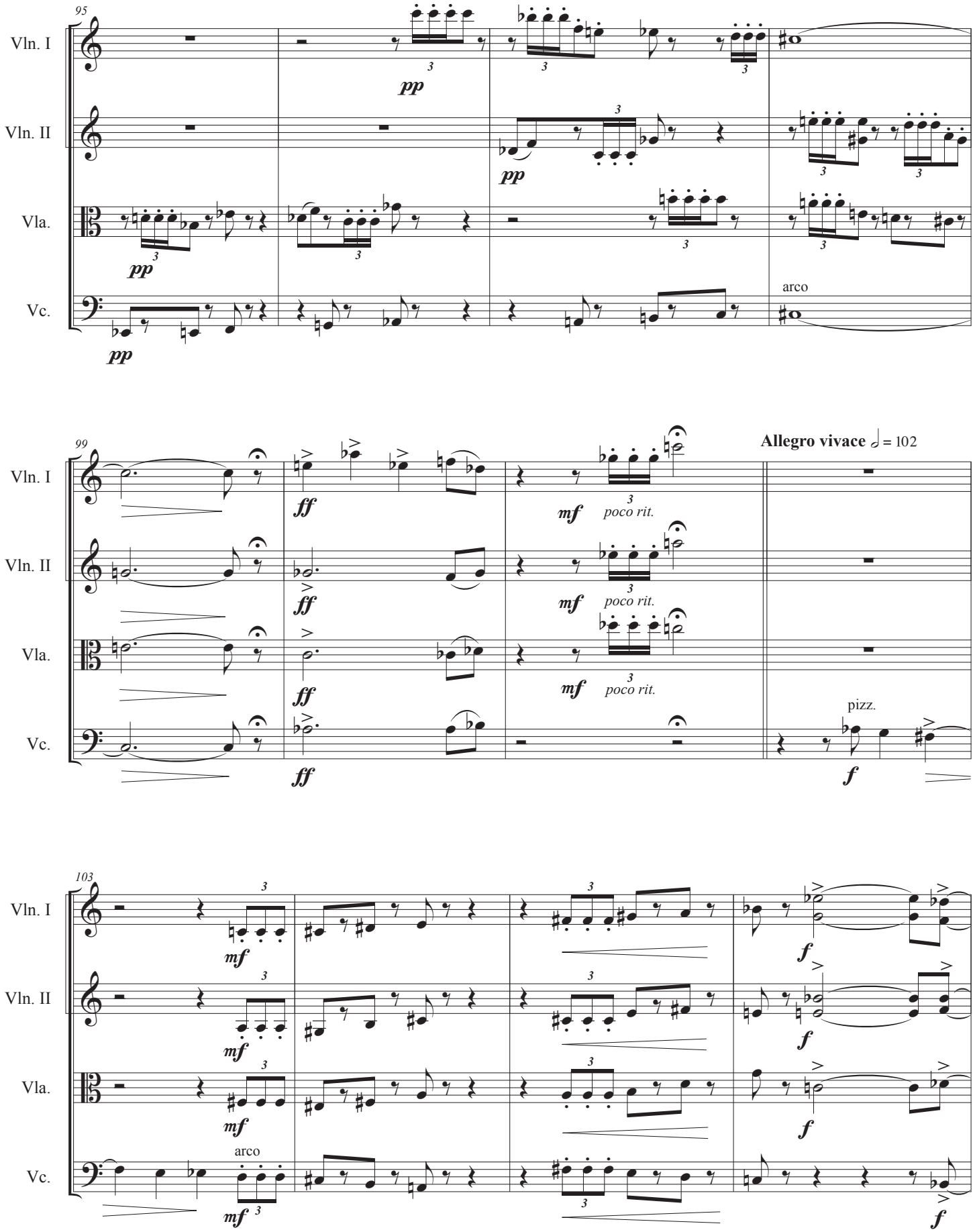

36
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
pizz.
arco
40
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
B
44
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco

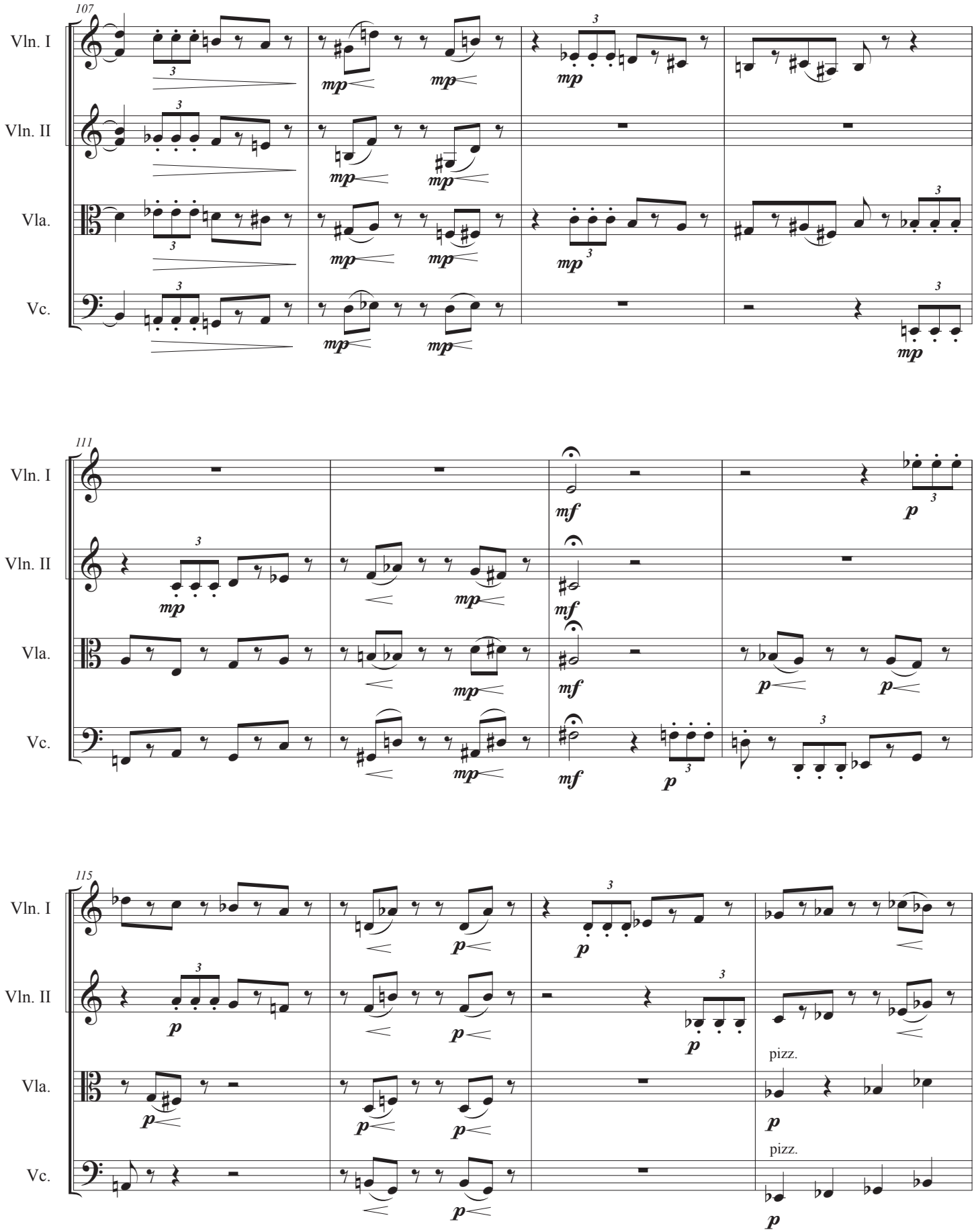

48
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
51
arco
54

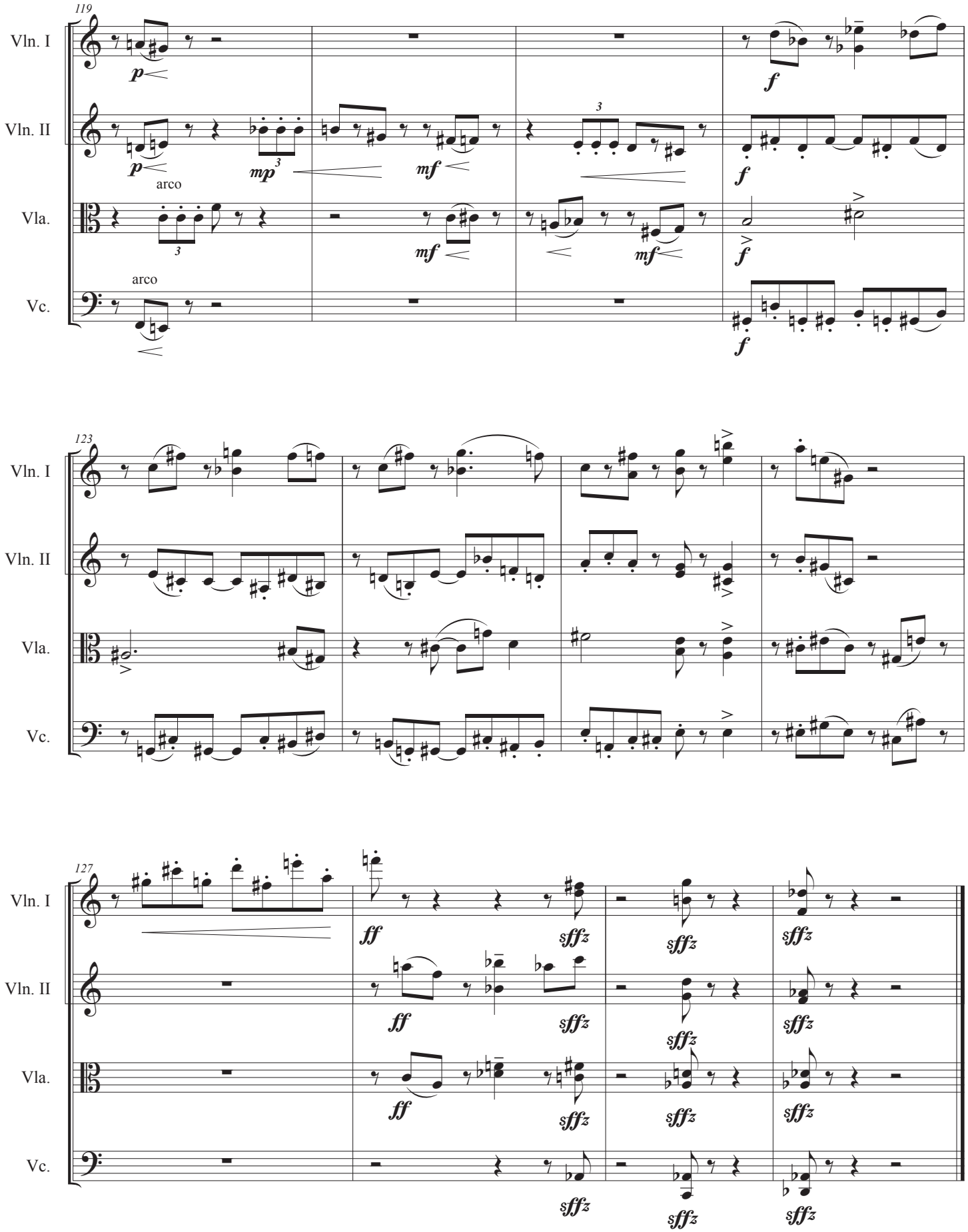

C
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
arco
63
D


71
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
ff
75
79
sffz


E
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sffz
87
mf
91
p
pizz.


95
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pp
arco
99
ff
mf
poco rit.
Allegro vivace ♩ = 102
pizz.
f
103
mf
arco


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


119
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
arco
123
127
ff
sffz