Arne Gieshoff

Aphorisms and Annotations

for Orchestra

2 Flutes (2. doubling Piccolo)

2 Oboes

2 Clarinets in B♭

2 Bassoons

2 Horns in F

2 Trumpets in B♭

Timpani (4; doubling Flexatone, Slide Whistle, Tambourine (mounted), Woodblock)

Violin 1 (div. a 2)

Violin 2 (div. a 2)

Viola (div. a 2)

Violoncello (div. a 2)

Double Bass (with C extension - div a 2)

Duration: 12 mins.

First Performance

Royal College of Music Symphony Orchestra
Robin O'Neill, conductor

27 October 2011 - Royal College of Music, London
28 October 2011 - Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

Programme Notes

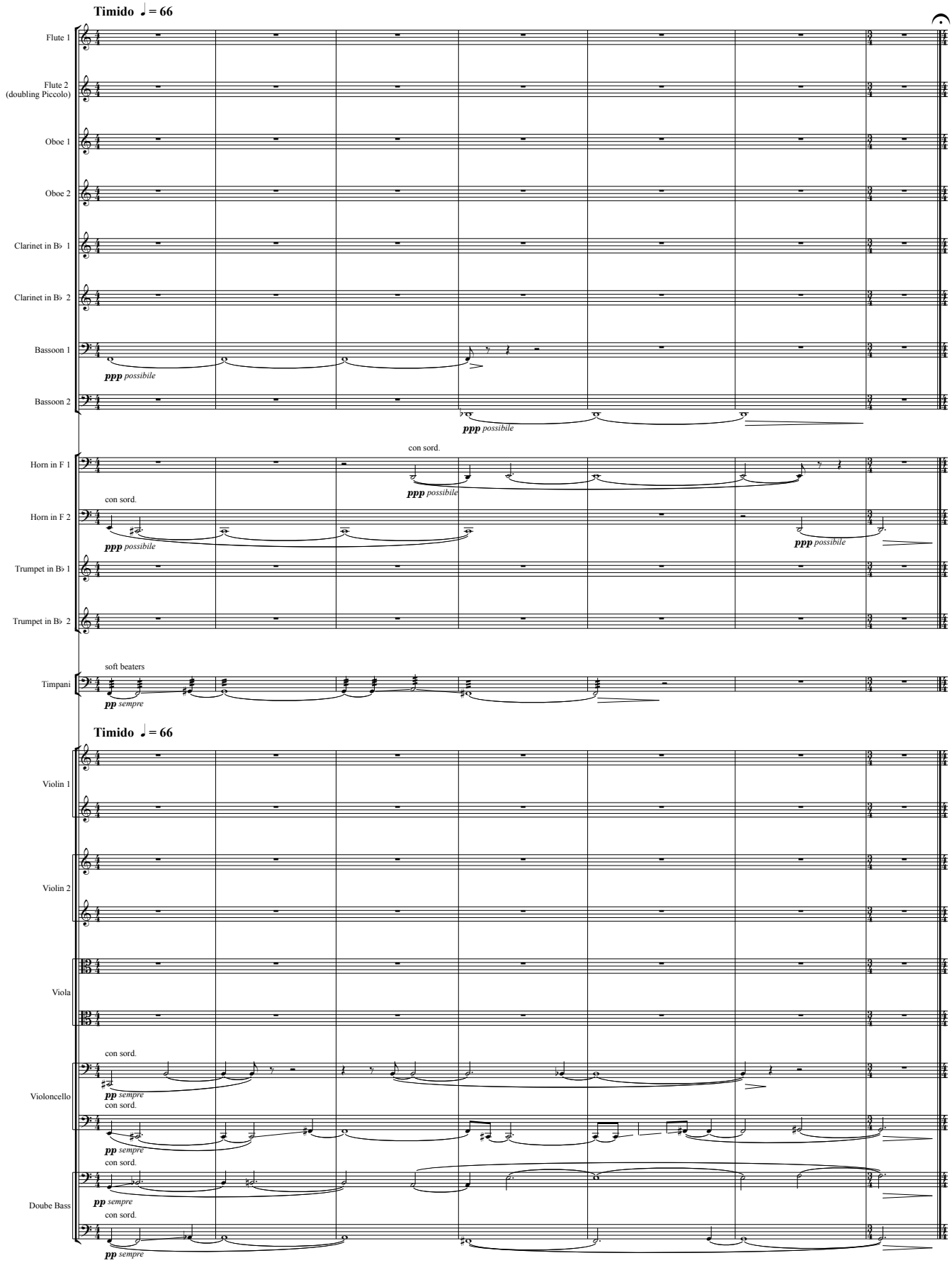
Aphorisms and Annotations was commissioned by the Royal College of Music. This twelve minute long piece for small orchestra is divided into twelve aphoristic movements of different lengths. By sharing intersecting material whilst working within a consistent harmonic and rhythmic frame they create a kaleidoscopic effect on a formal level and establish a disjunct narrative. Distinct types of material are presented in a number of different orchestral states ranging from solo, sectional and chamber formations to the full palette of the orchestra.

The twelve movements are divided into nine *Aphorisms* and three *Annotations*. The group of *Aphorisms* is further divided into three triptychs which share the same gestural emotional genotype within each respective triptych but they do not appear in succession. Each of the three *Annotations* is related to one of the aphorism triptychs in affect. They feature distorted versions of material taken from older pieces of mine as well as contorted quotations.

The poetic idea behind the musical thought resembles a disordered mosaic: the beginning or the end of a thought is always interrupted by the interpolation of another unrelated idea which may return or may simply disappear. The musical narrative is constantly jumping backwards and forwards - sometimes recalling blurred reminiscences of past ideas and even (almost in a nostalgic way) past epochs. As a result *Aphorisms and Annotations* is amongst other concerns a piece about (musical) memory.

Aphorisms and Annotations
for Orchestra

AphI(3) - 1



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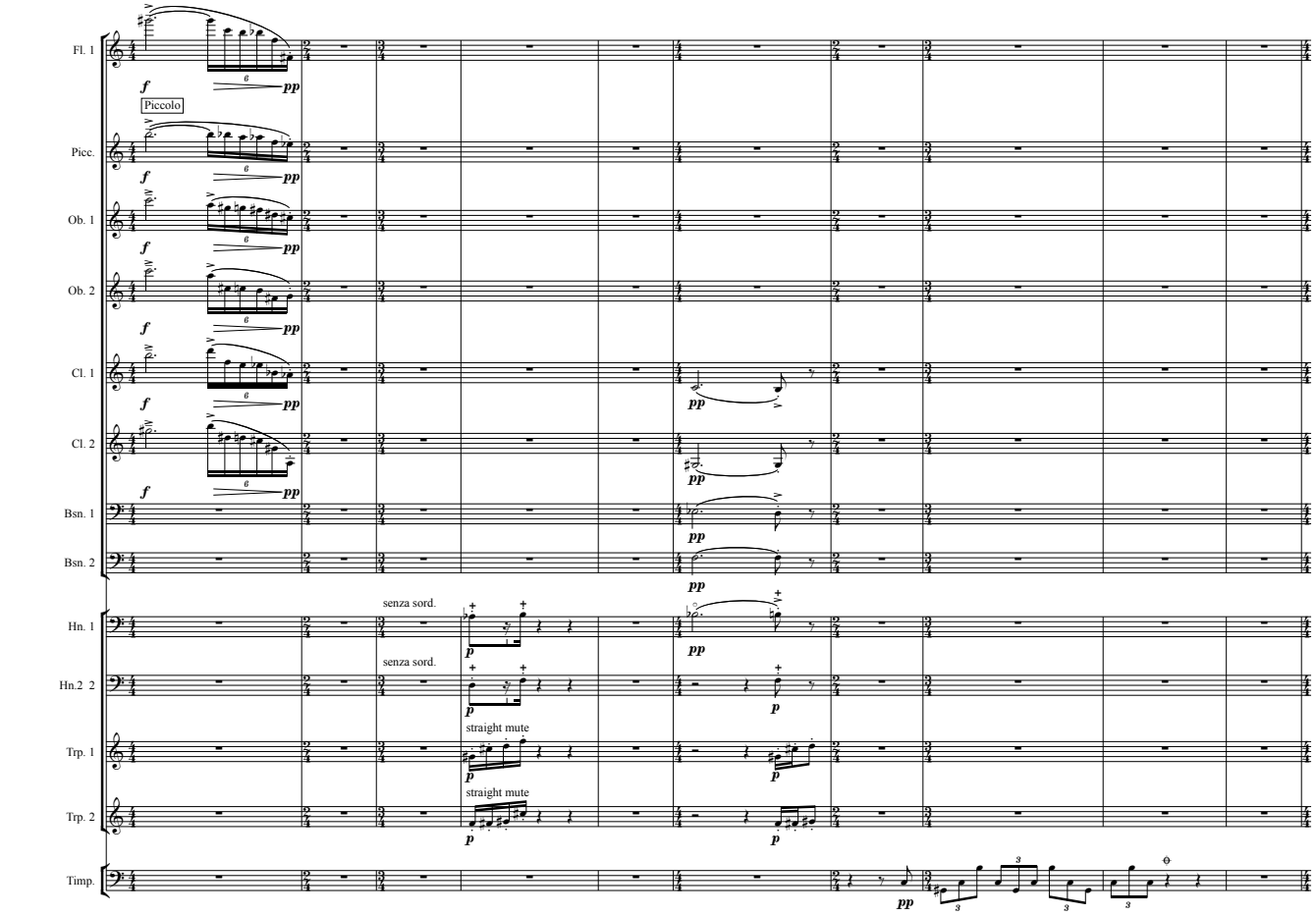
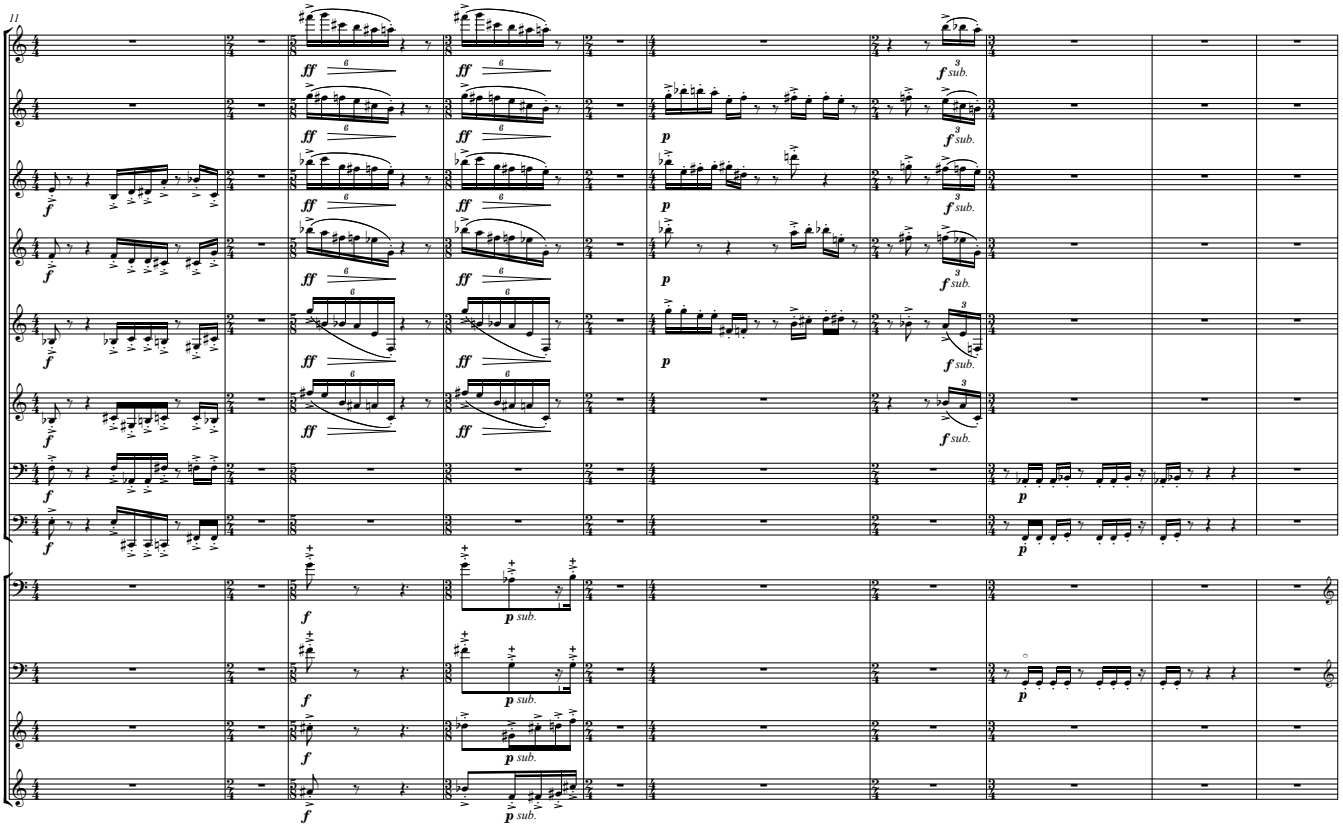
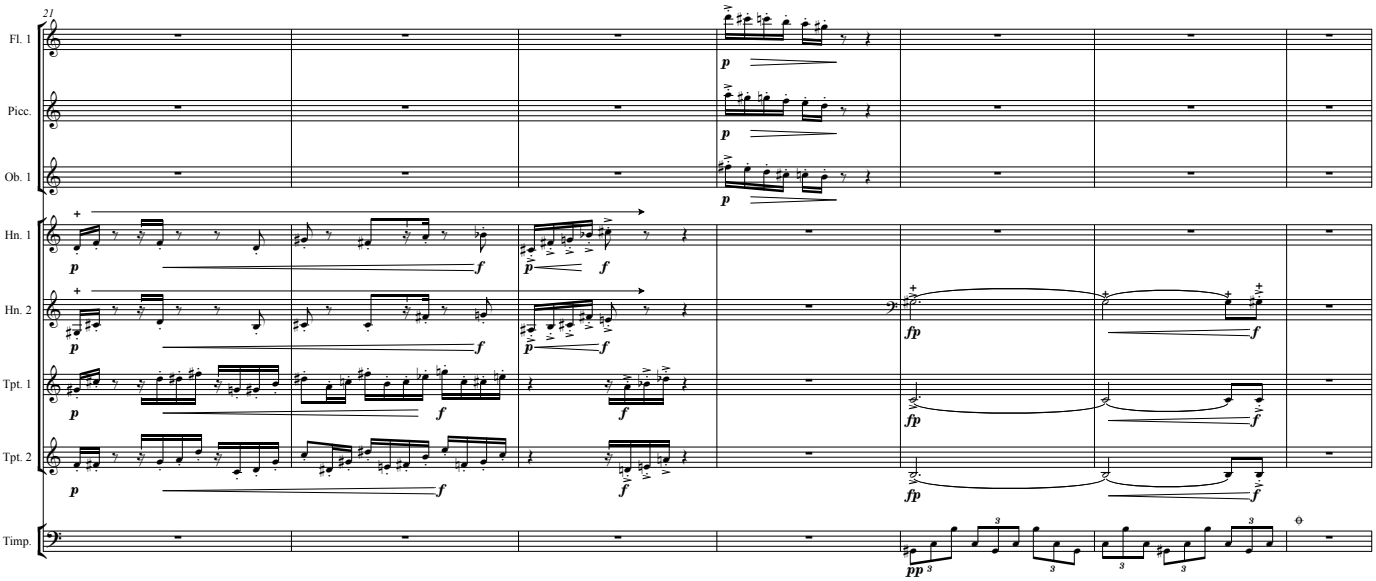
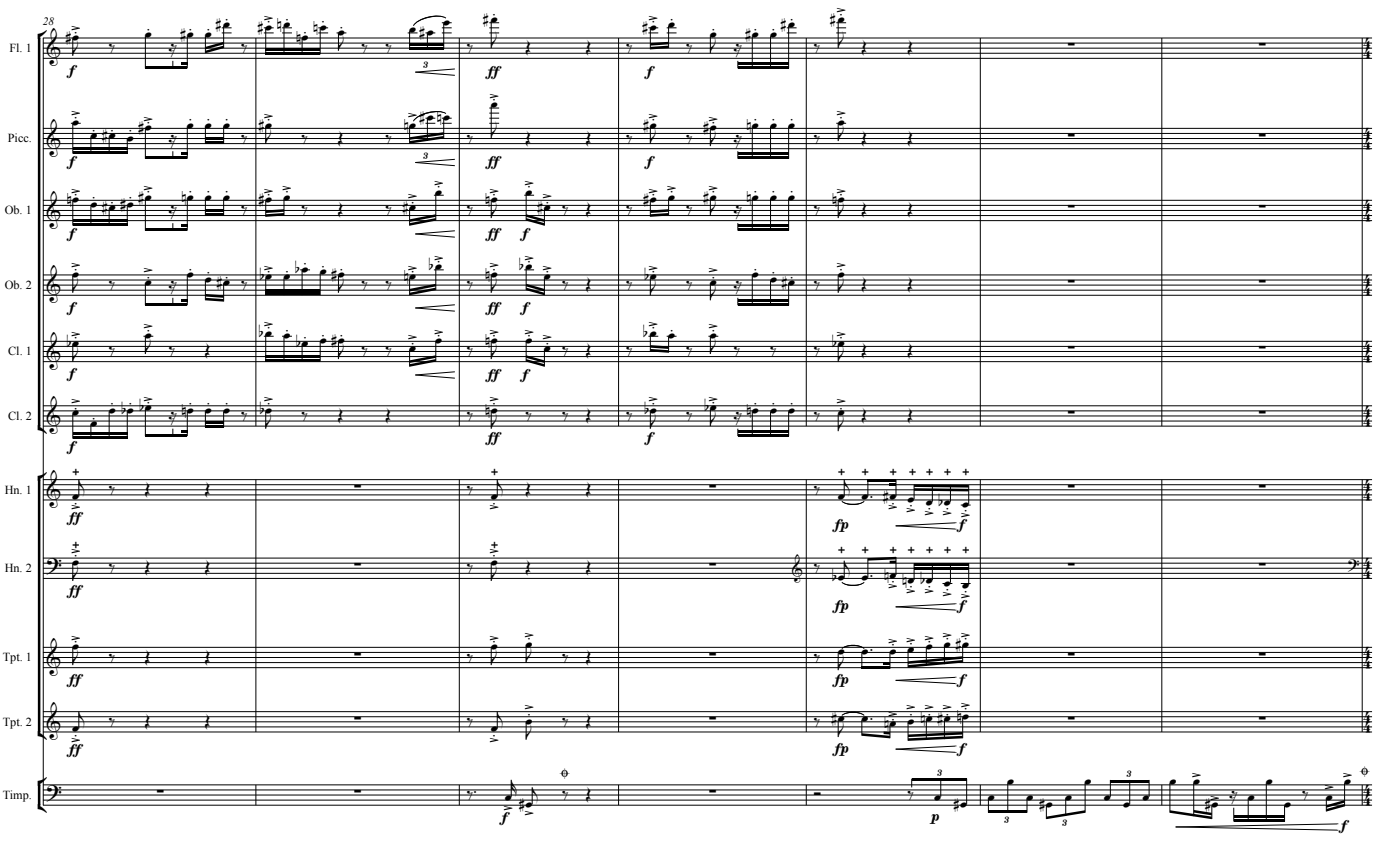
AphII(9) - 2

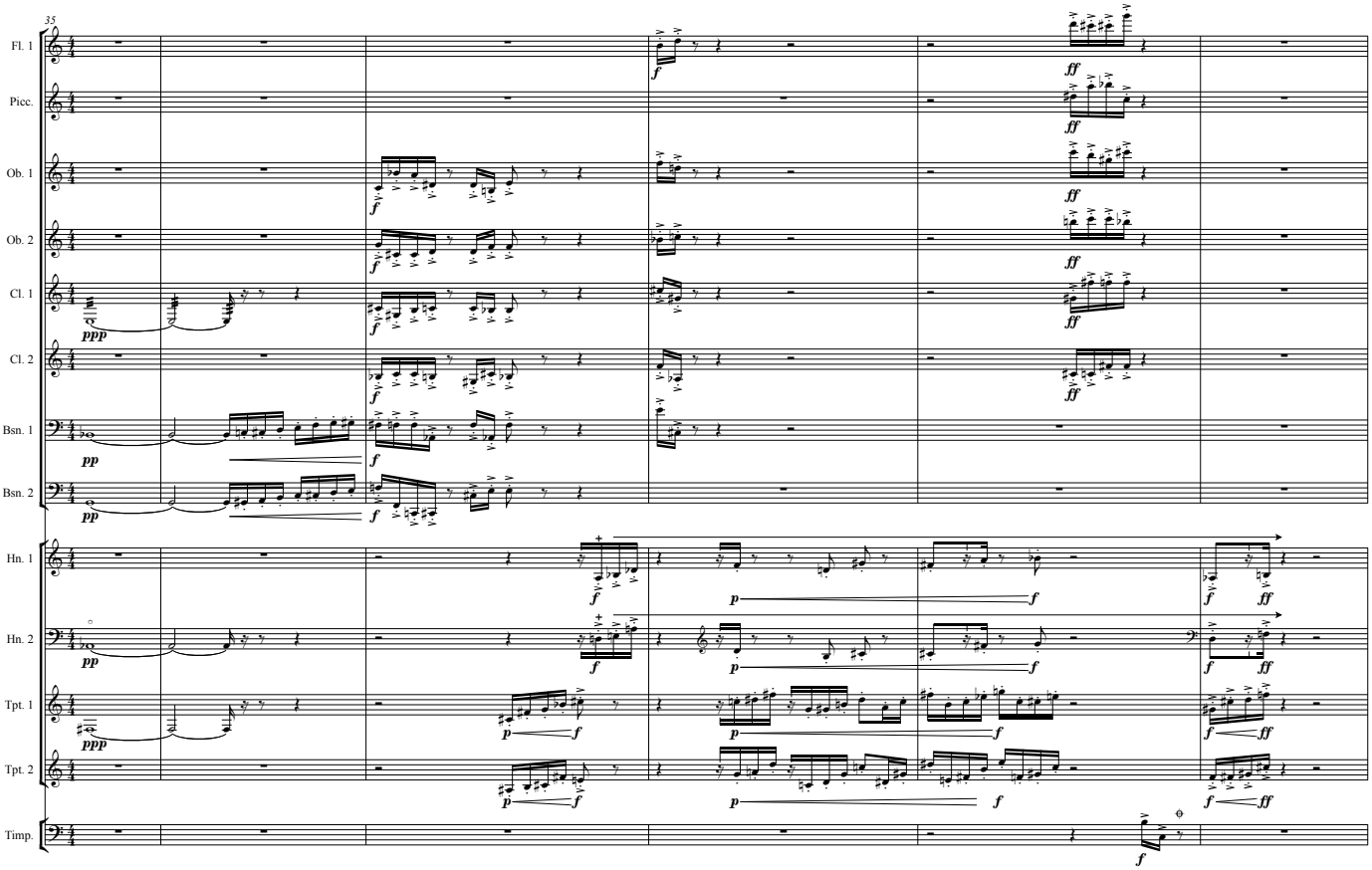
Agitato ma poco ironico ♩ = 120

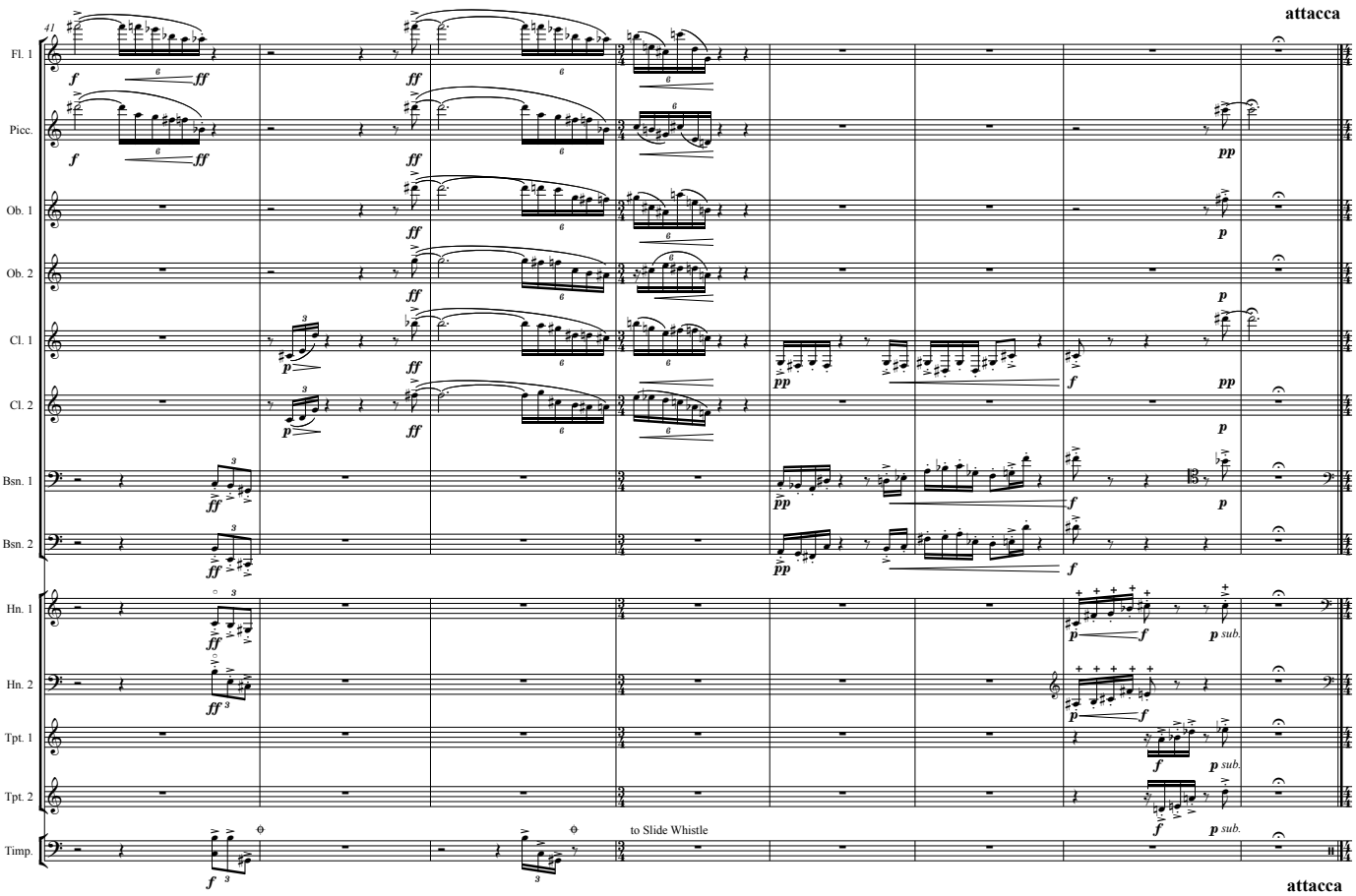




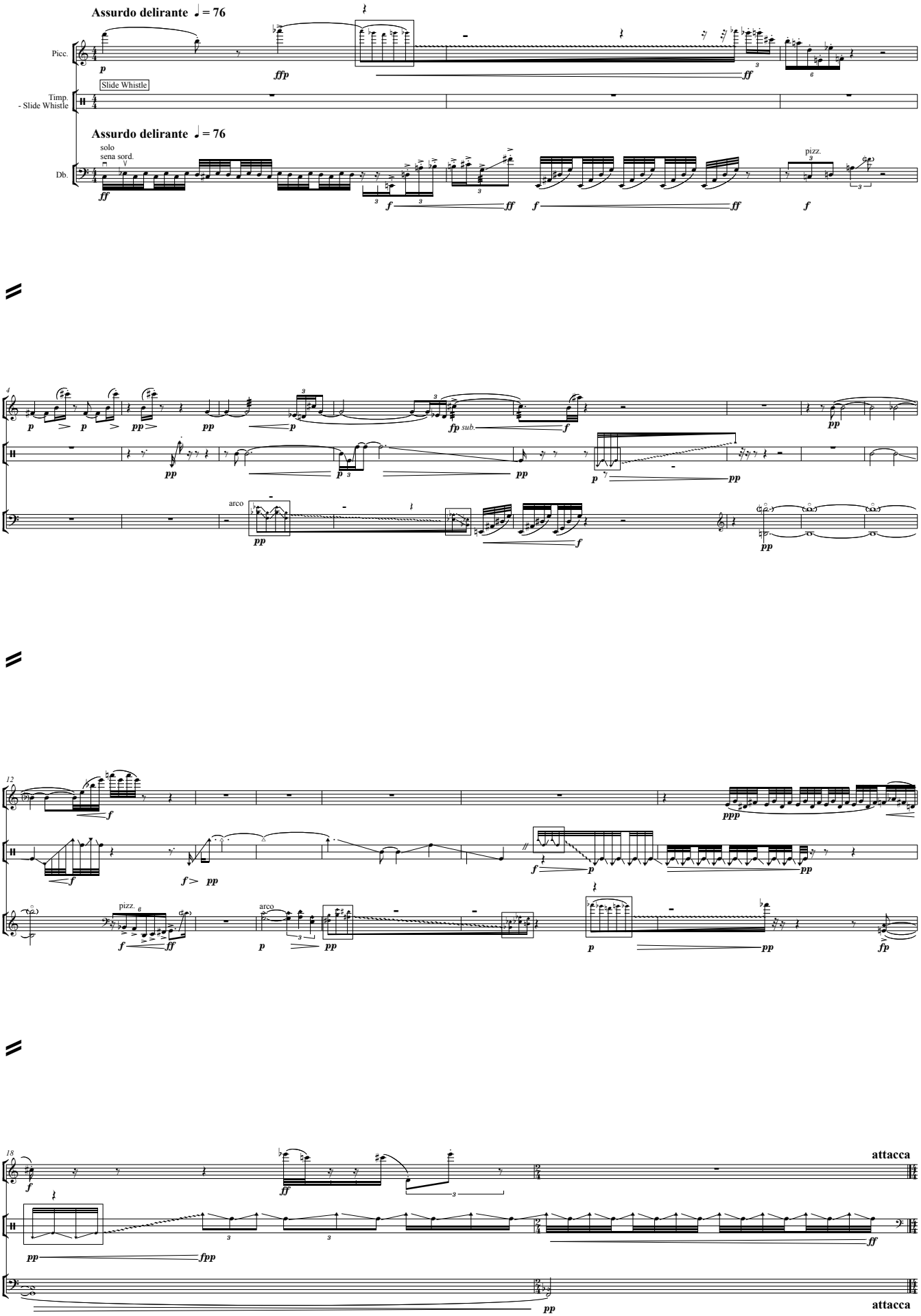

21
Fl. 1
Picc.
Ob. 1
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Timp.


28
Fl. 1
Picc.
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Timp.


35
Fl. 1
Picc.
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Timp.


41
attacca
Fl. 1
Picc.
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Timp.
to Slide Whistle
attacca

AphIII(7) - 3


Assurdo delirante ♩ = 76
Picc.
Slide Whistle
Timp.
- Slide Whistle
Assurdo delirante ♩ = 76
solo
sena sord.
Db.
pizz.
S.W.
arco
attacca

AphI(8) - 4

♩ = 66 Timido ma poco inquieto

Fl. 1
Ob. 1
Cl. 1
Bsn. 1
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Trp. 1
Trp. 2

harmon mute (stem in)

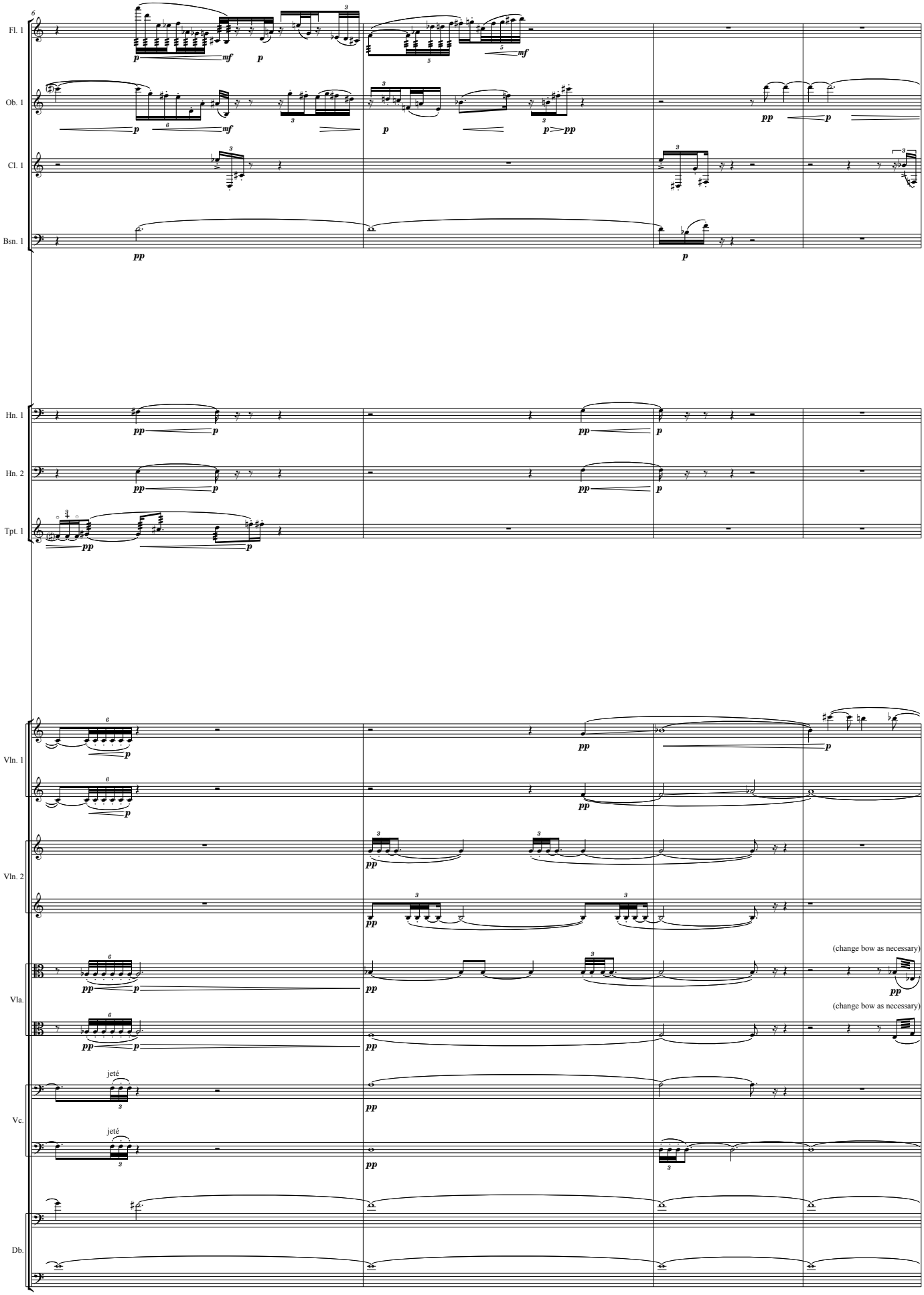
♩ = 66 Timido ma poco inquieto

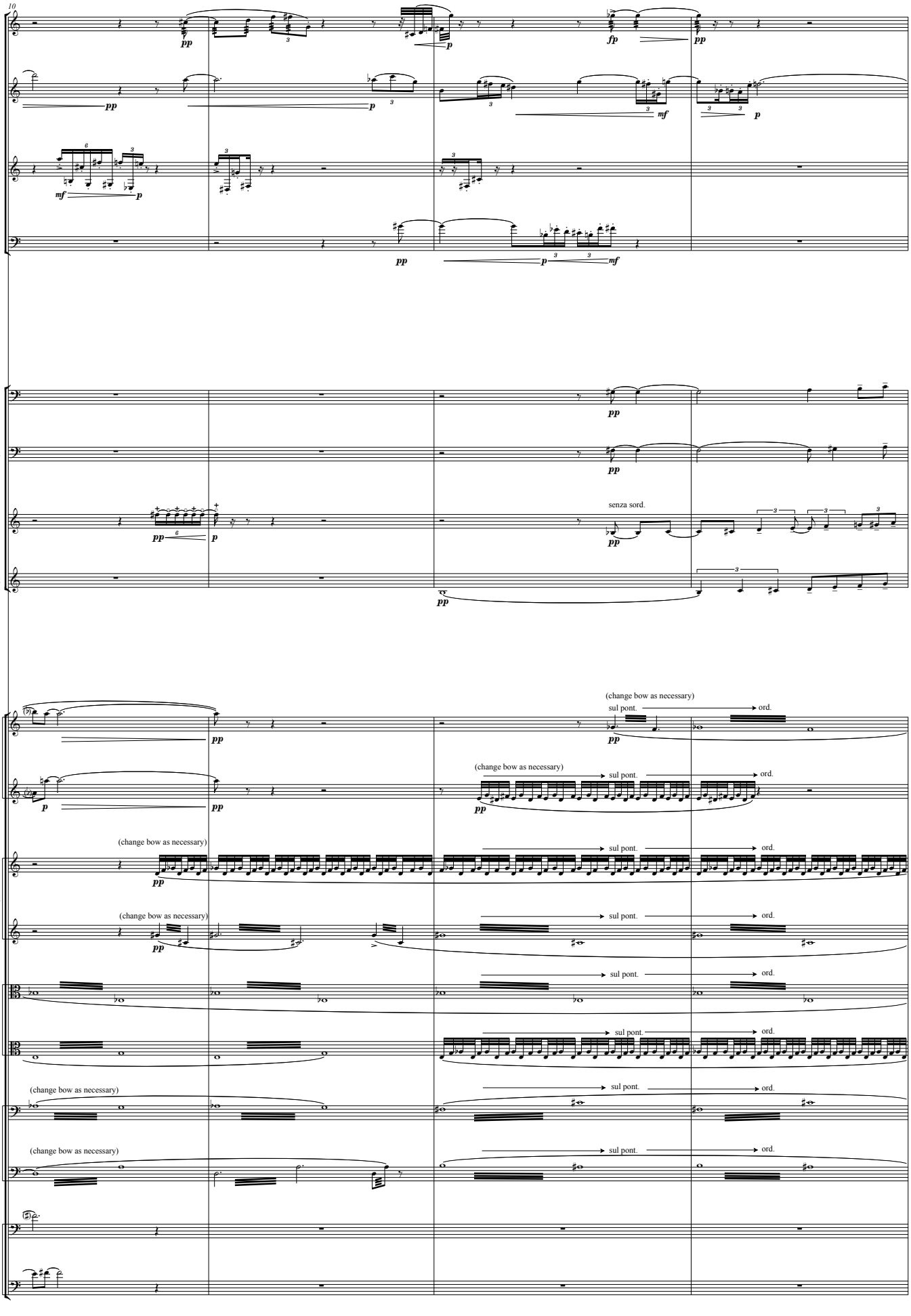
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

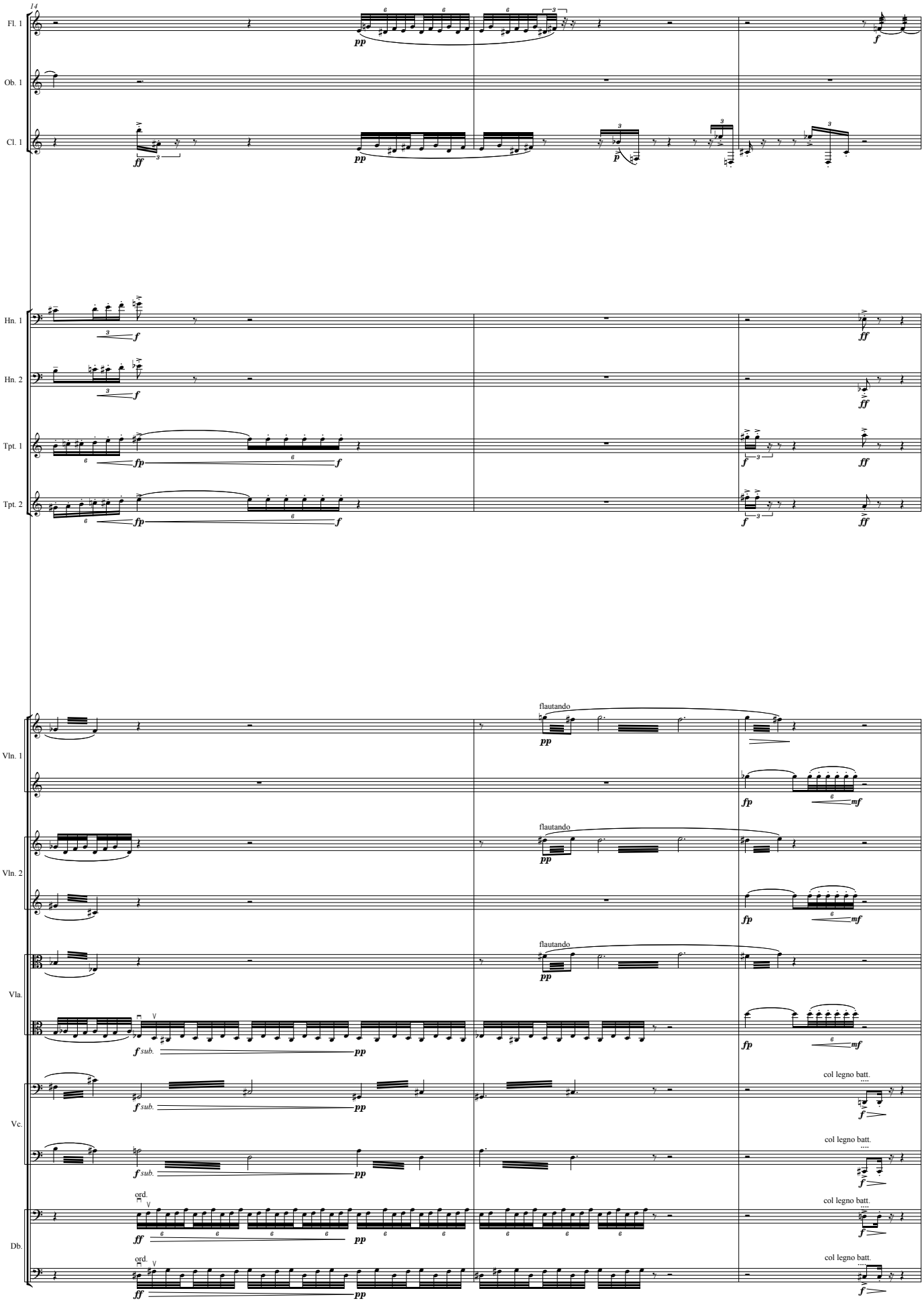
jeté

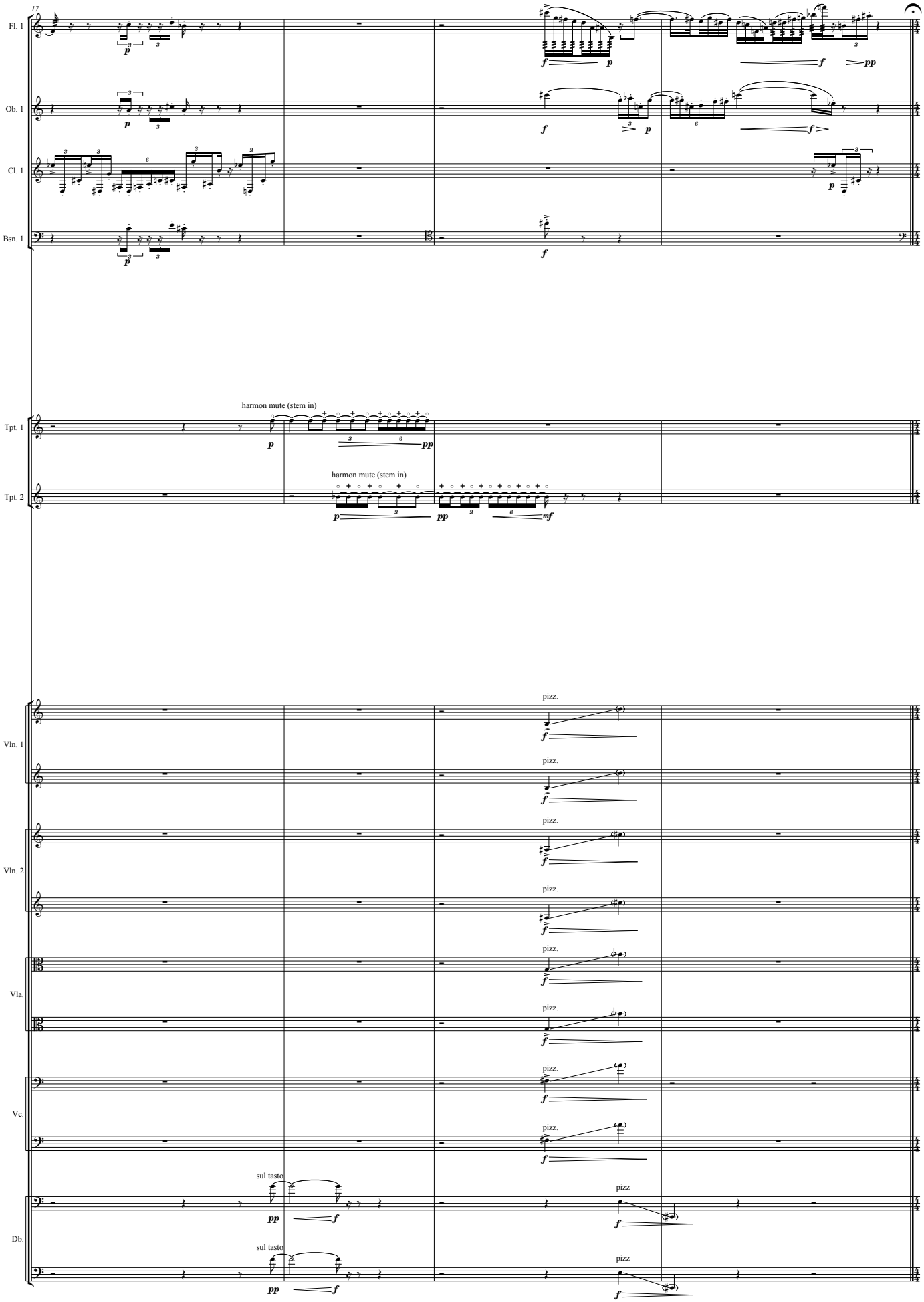
senza sord.

senza sord.
sul tasto


Fl. 1
Ob. 1
Cl. 1
Bsn. 1
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Tpt. 1
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Db.
jeté
jeté
(change bow as necessary)
(change bow as necessary)

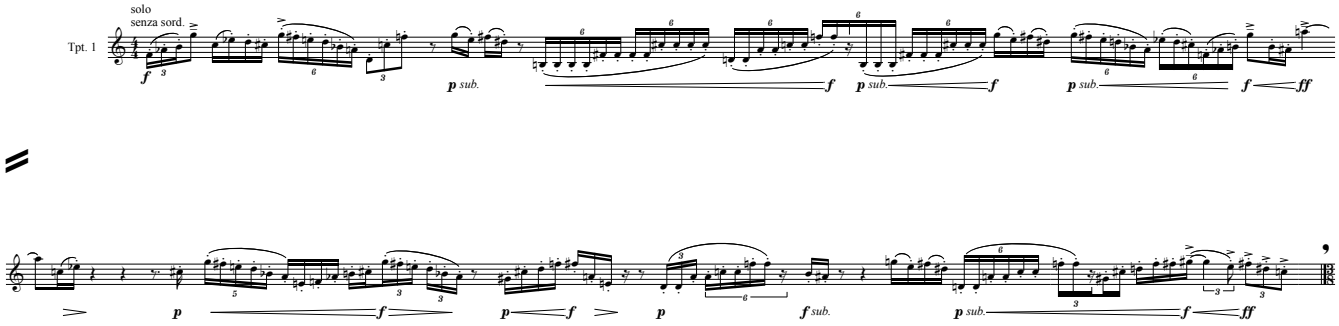

10
Fl. 1
Ob. 1
Cl. 1
Bsn. 1
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
senza sord.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Db.
(change bow as necessary)
sul pont.
ord.


14
Fl. 1
Ob. 1
Cl. 1
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Db.
flautando
col legno batt.
ord.


17
Fl. 1
Ob. 1
Cl. 1
Bsn. 1
Tpt. 1
harmon mute (stem in)
Tpt. 2
harmon mute (stem in)
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Db.
pizz.
sul tasto
pizz

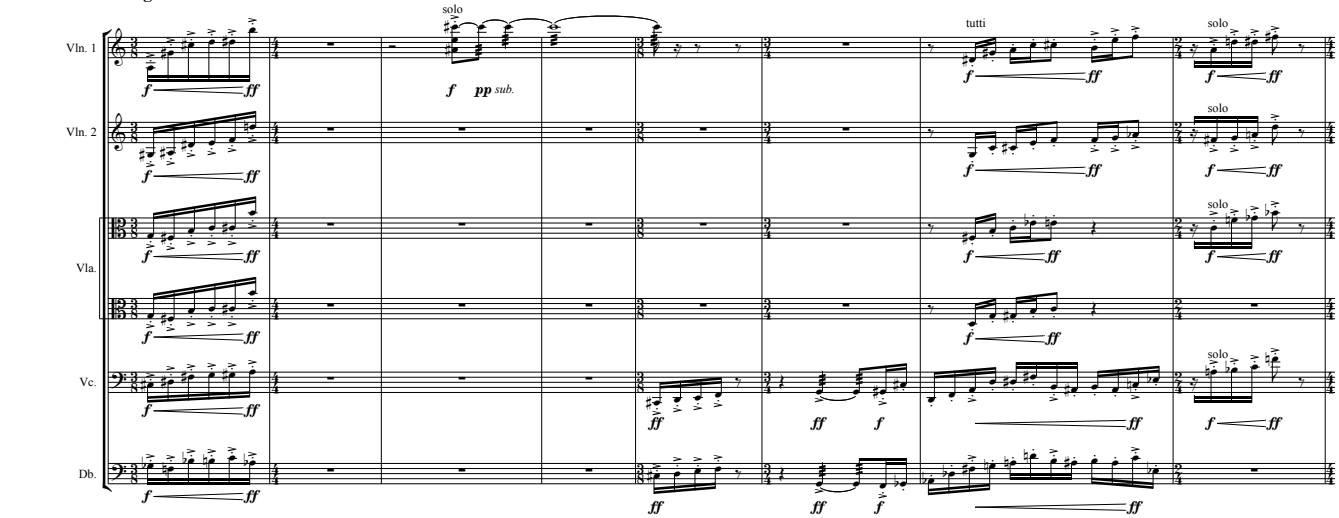
AphIII(2) - 5

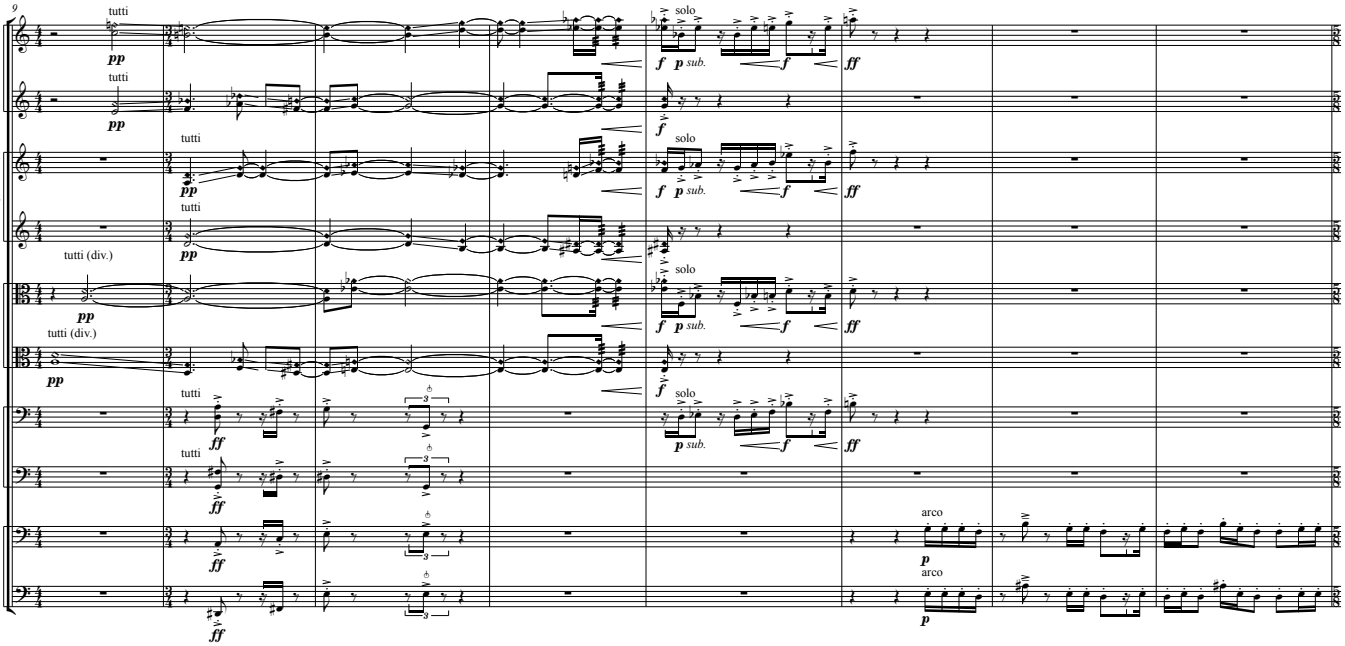
Fanfara, flessibile, quasi senza misura ♩ = 128

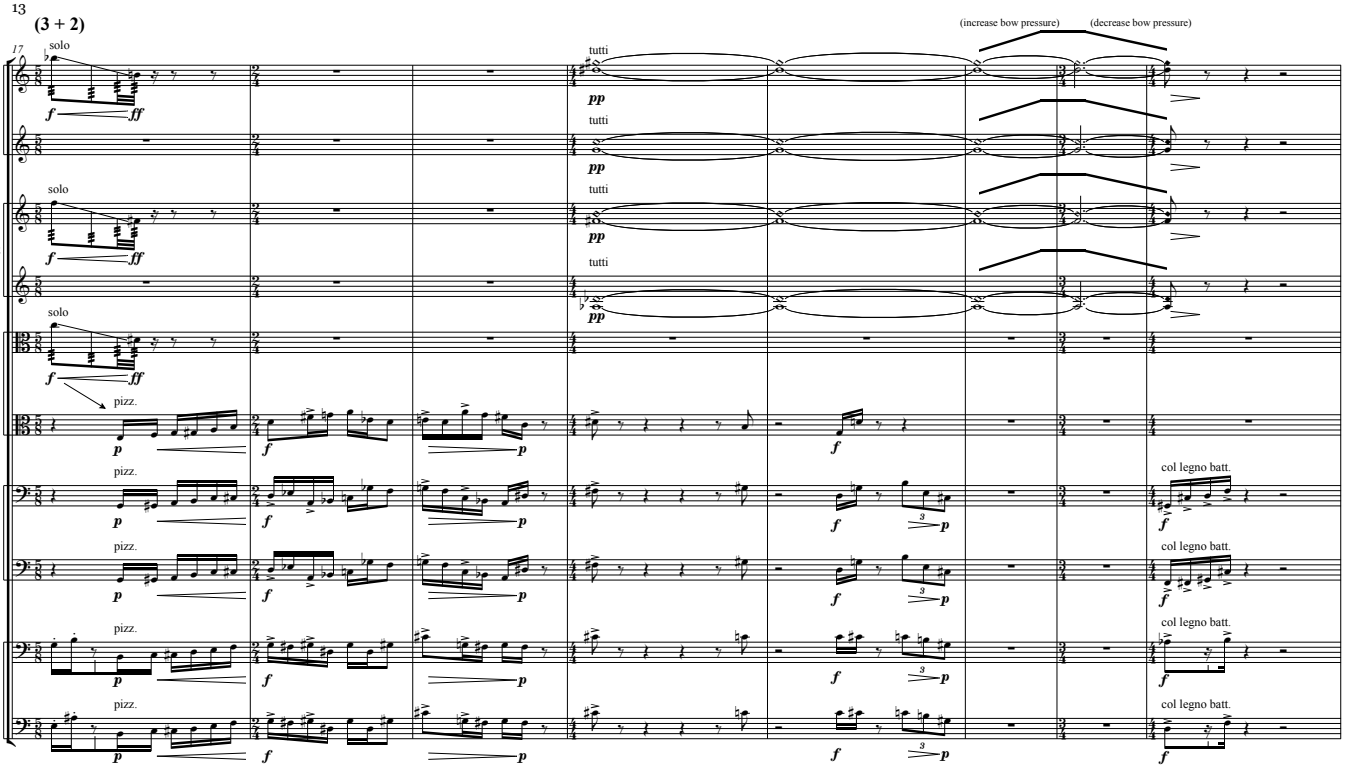


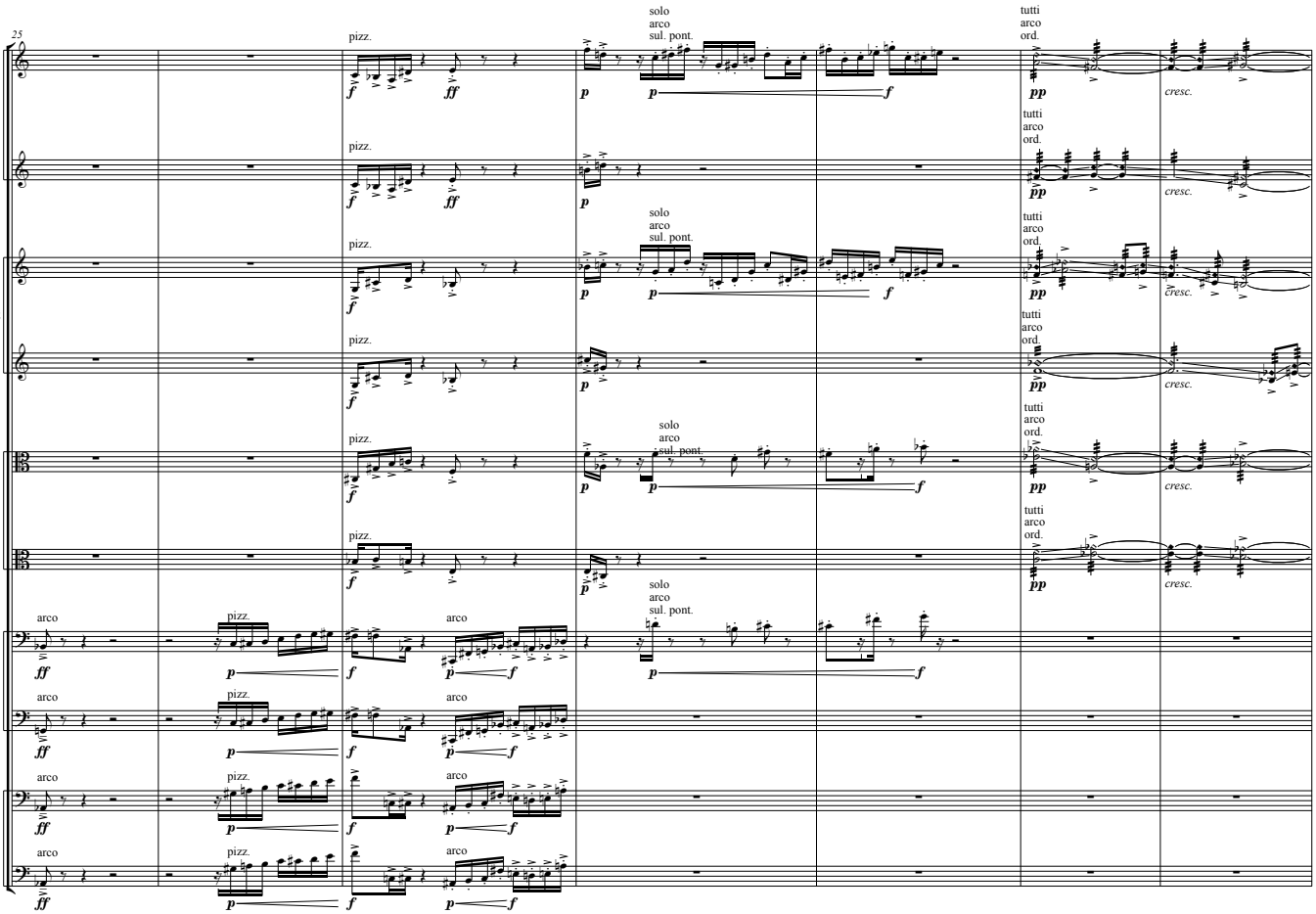
AphII(11) - 6

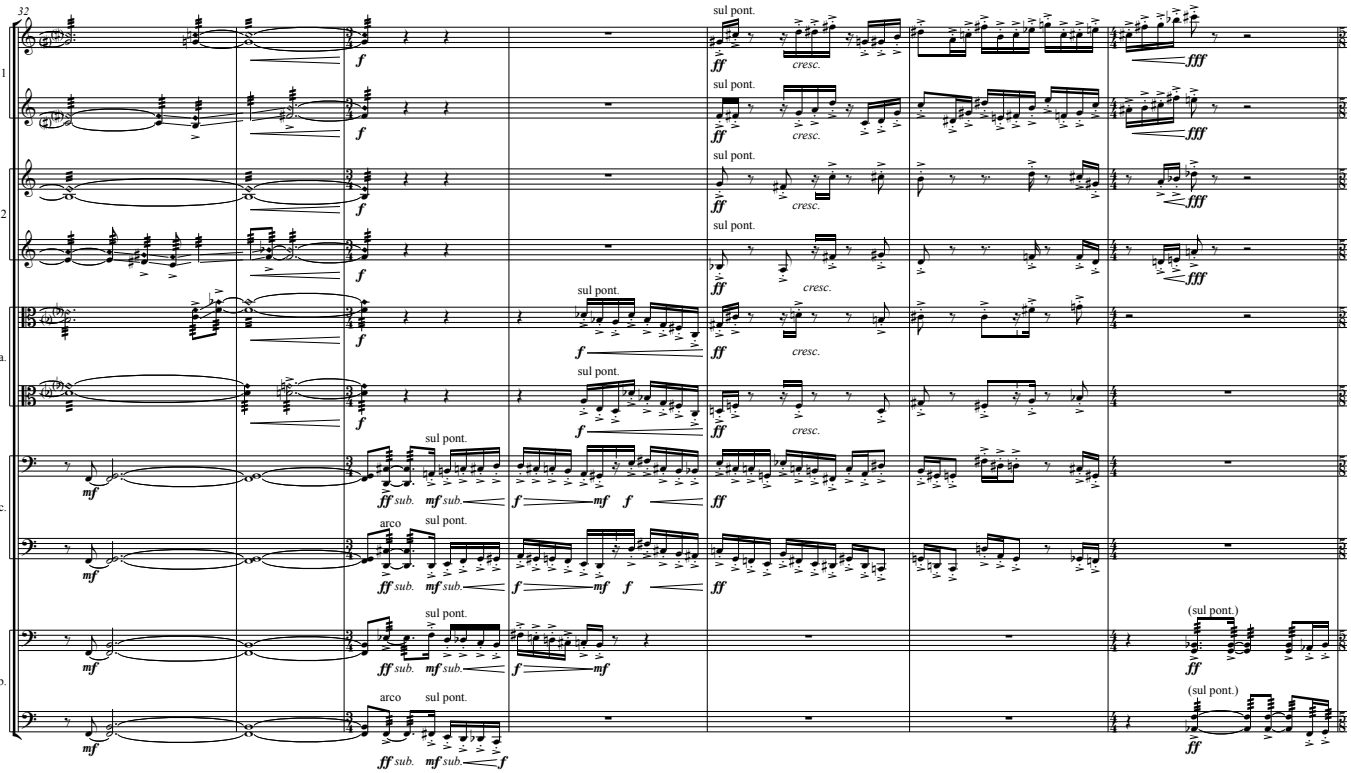
Agitato e con fuoco ♩ = 120

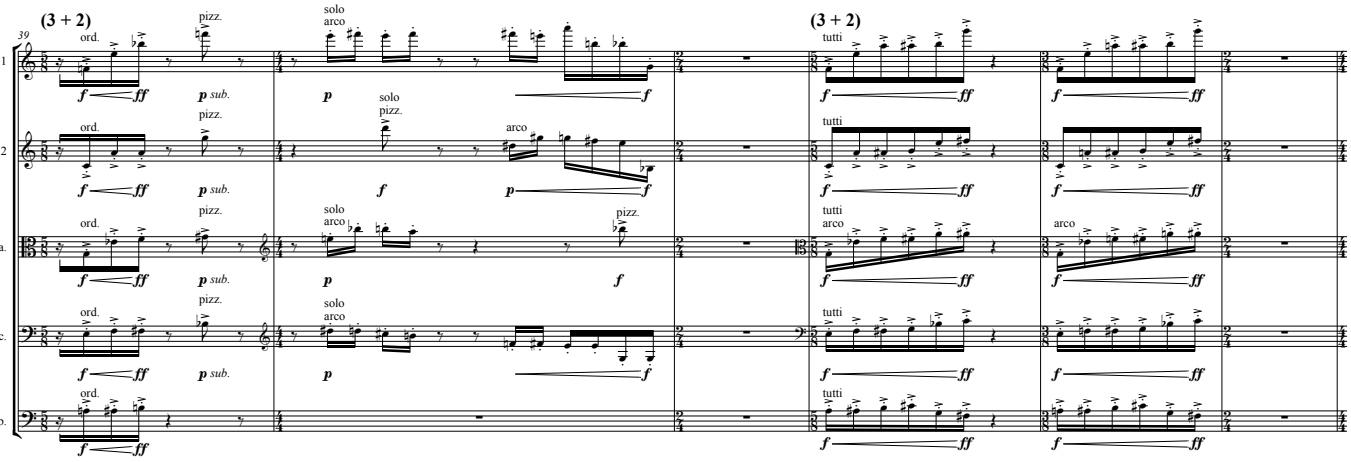


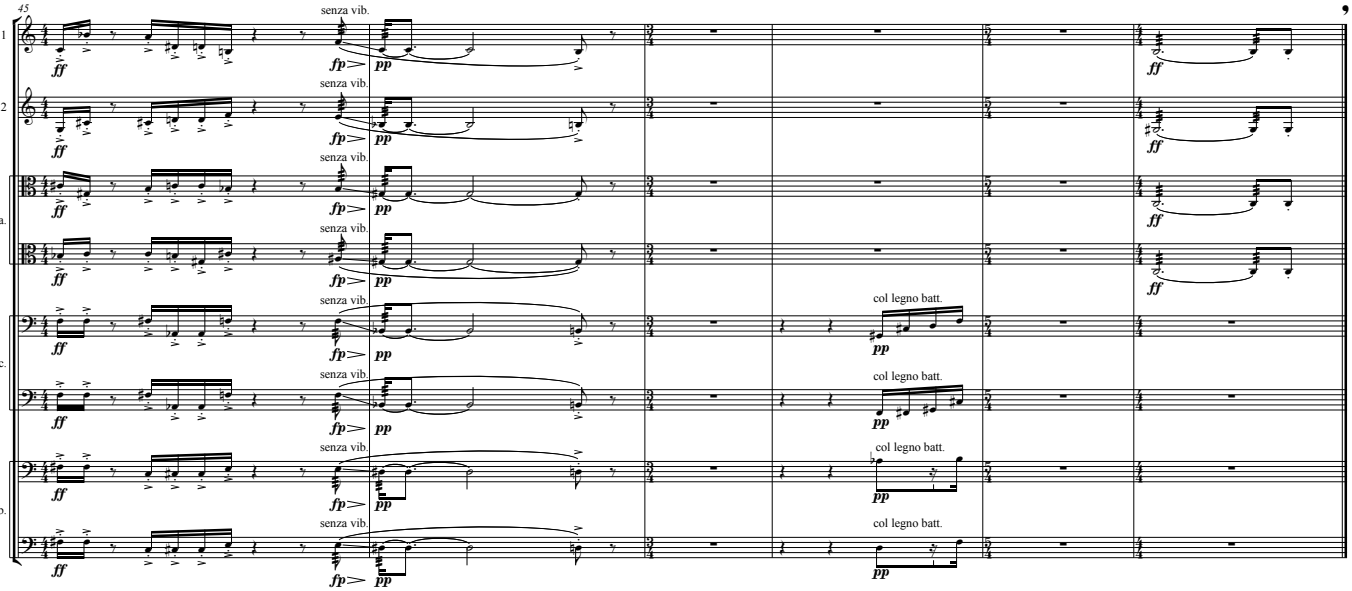



(3 + 2)
17
(increase bow pressure)
(decrease bow pressure)
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Db.
solo
tutti
pizz.
col legno batt.


25
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Db.
pizz.
arco
solo
arco
sul. pont.
tutti
arco
ord.
cresc.


32
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Db.
sul pont.
cresc.
arco
(sul pont.)


39
(3 + 2)
ord.
pizz.
solo
arco
tutti
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Db.


45
senza vib.
col legno batt.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

AphIII(1) - 7

Isterico, senza misura ma in secondo

fff

as fast as possible - do not synchronise with section

0"

8"

8.5"

stop with Timp. hit

Fl. 1

Picc.

to Fl.

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

fff breathe as necessary - do not synchronise with section

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Trp. 1

senza sord.

Trp. 2

fff

Flexatone (high as poss.)

Timp. - Flexatone

Timpani

fff

Isterico, senza misura ma in secondo

fff

as fast as possible - do not synchronise with section

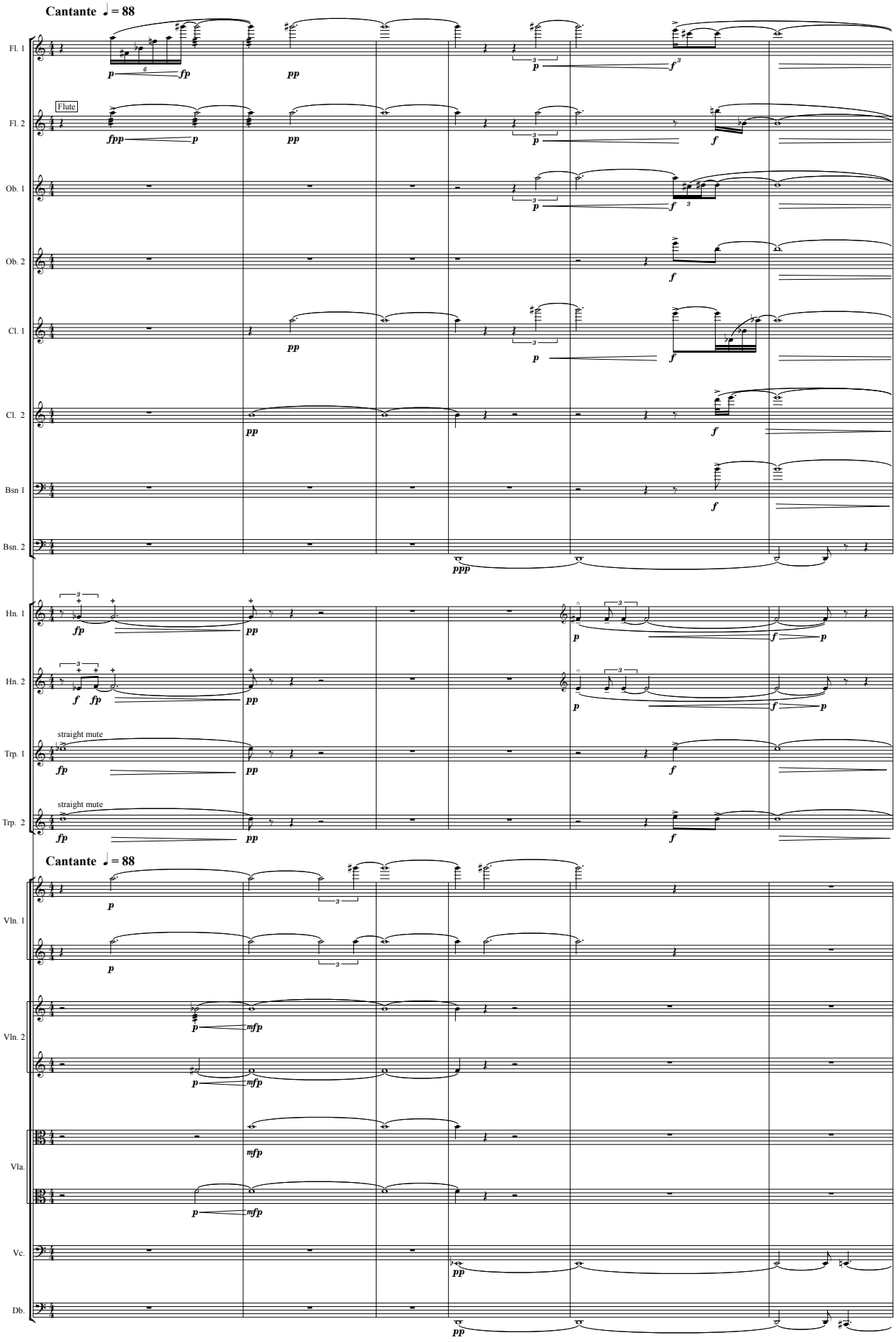
Vln. 1

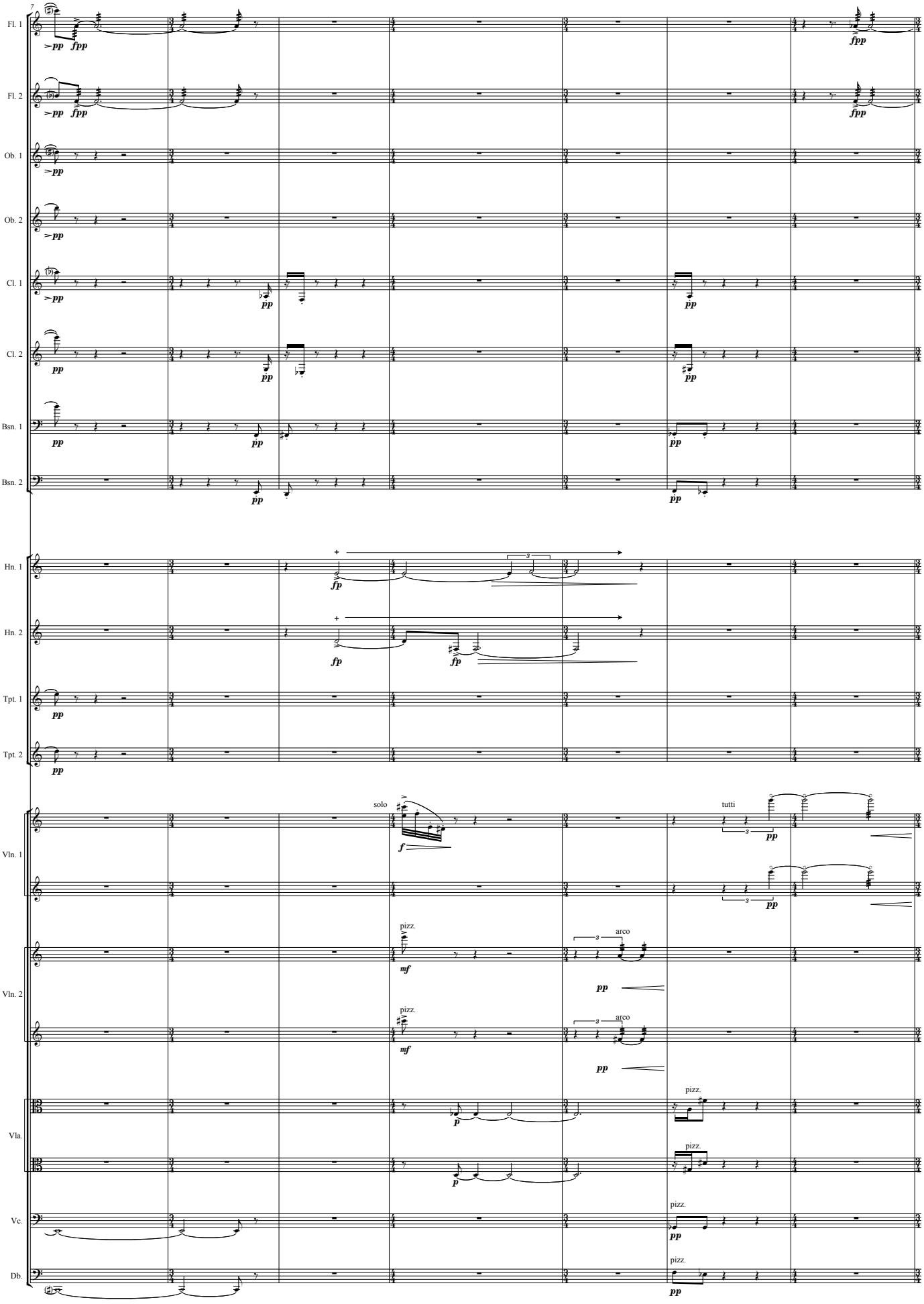
Vln. 2

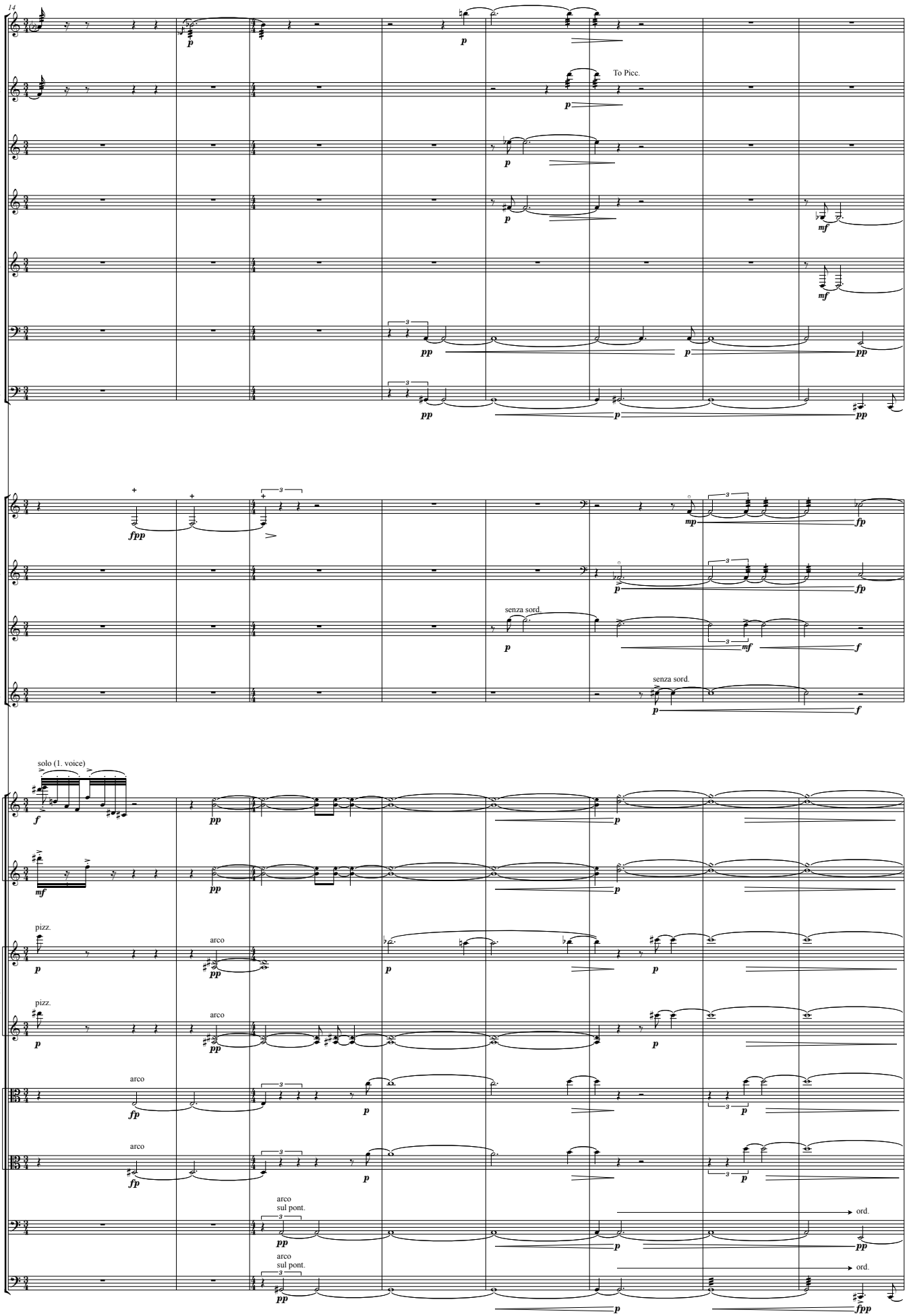
Vla.

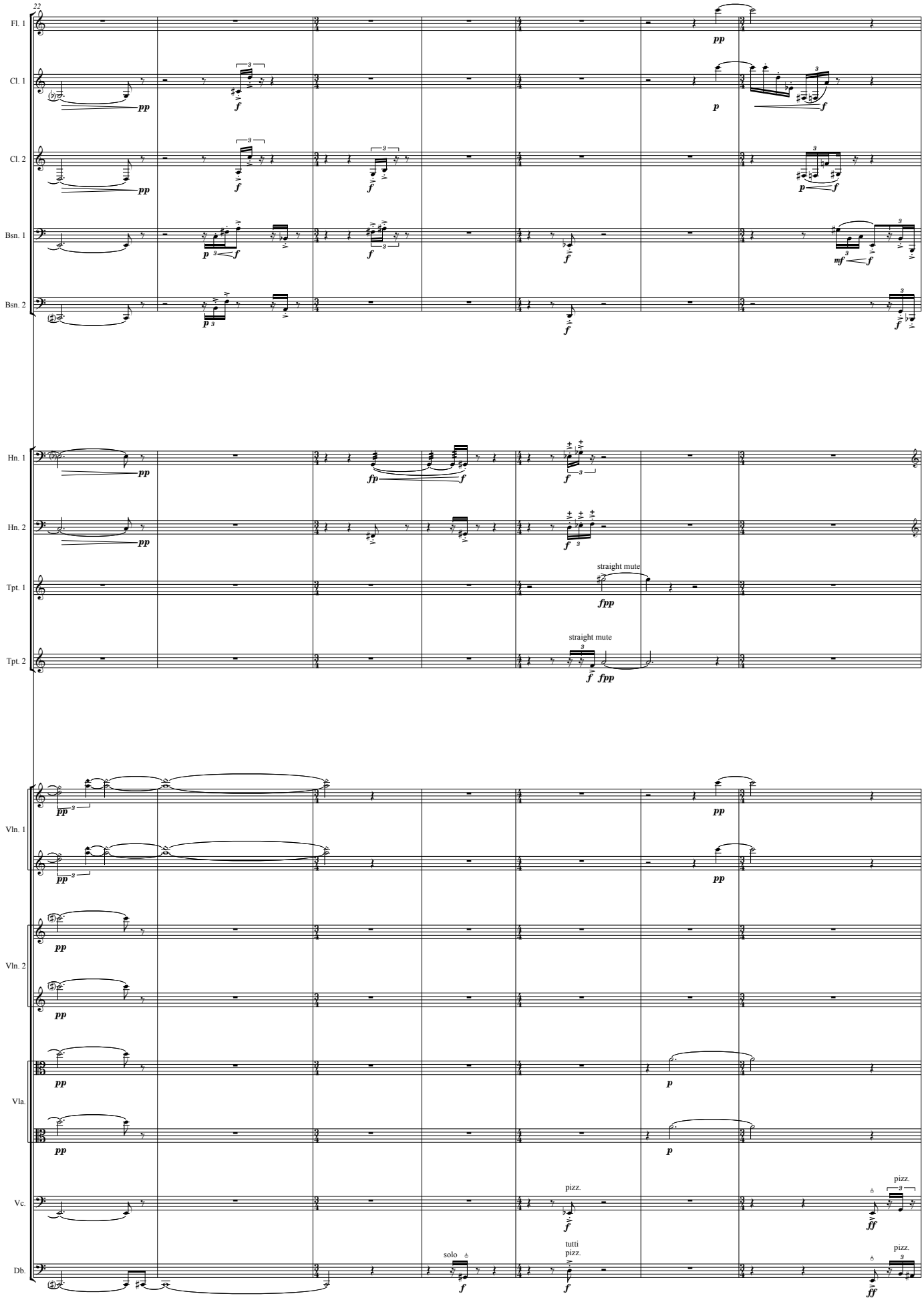
Vc.

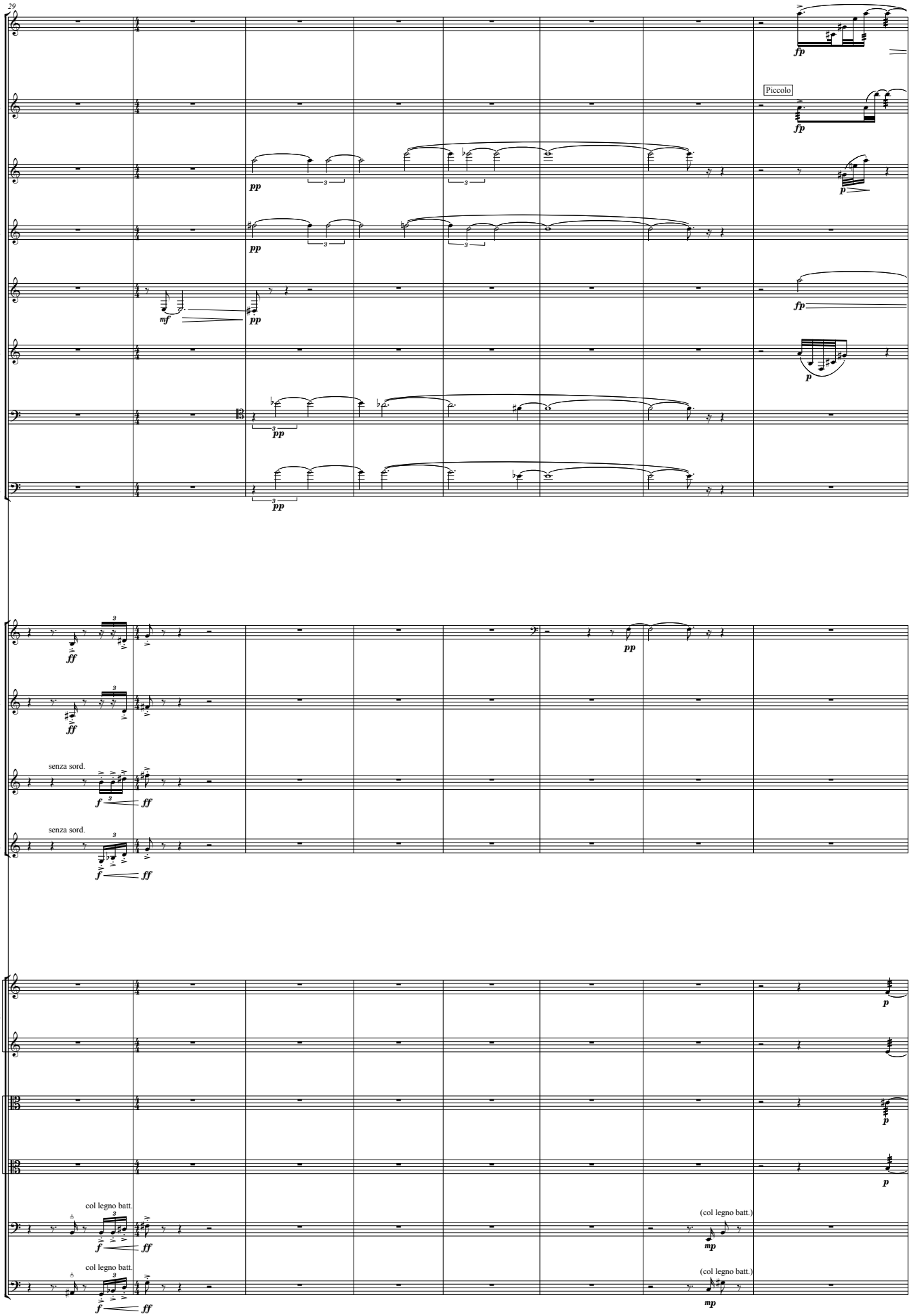
Db.

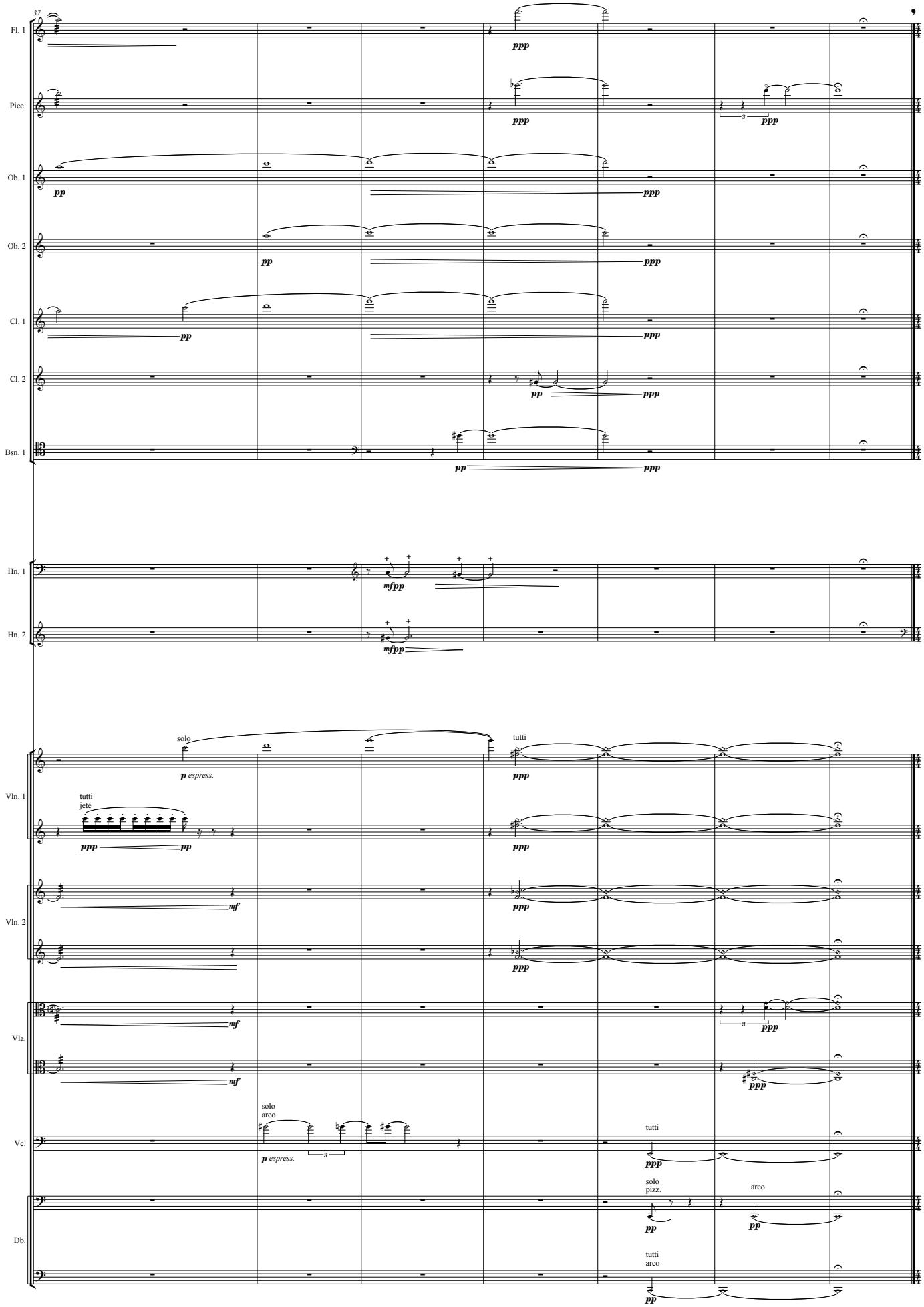

Cantante ♩ = 88
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Flute
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
straight mute
Trp. 1
straight mute
Trp. 2
Cantante ♩ = 88
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

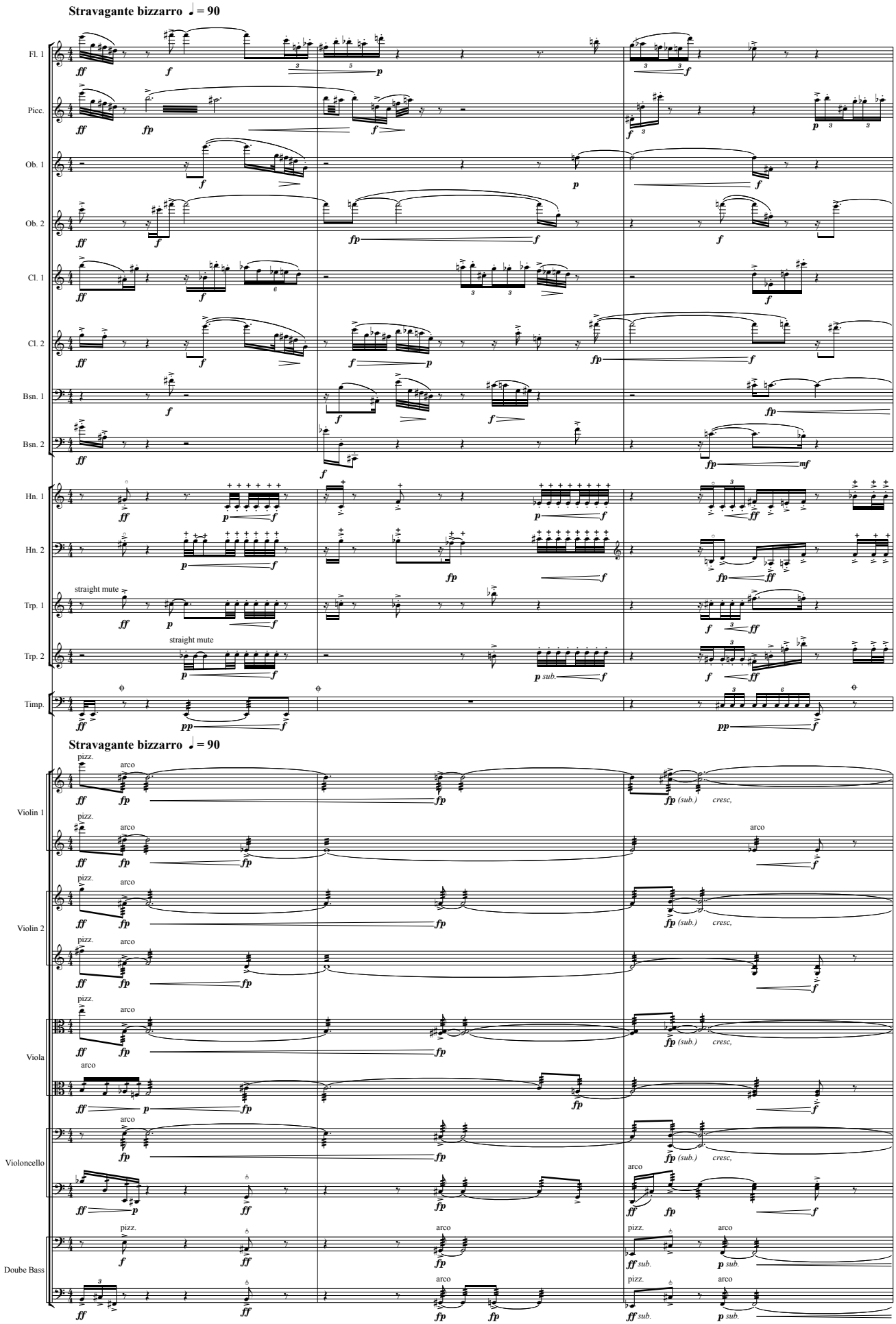

7
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Db.
solo
tutti
pizz.
arco

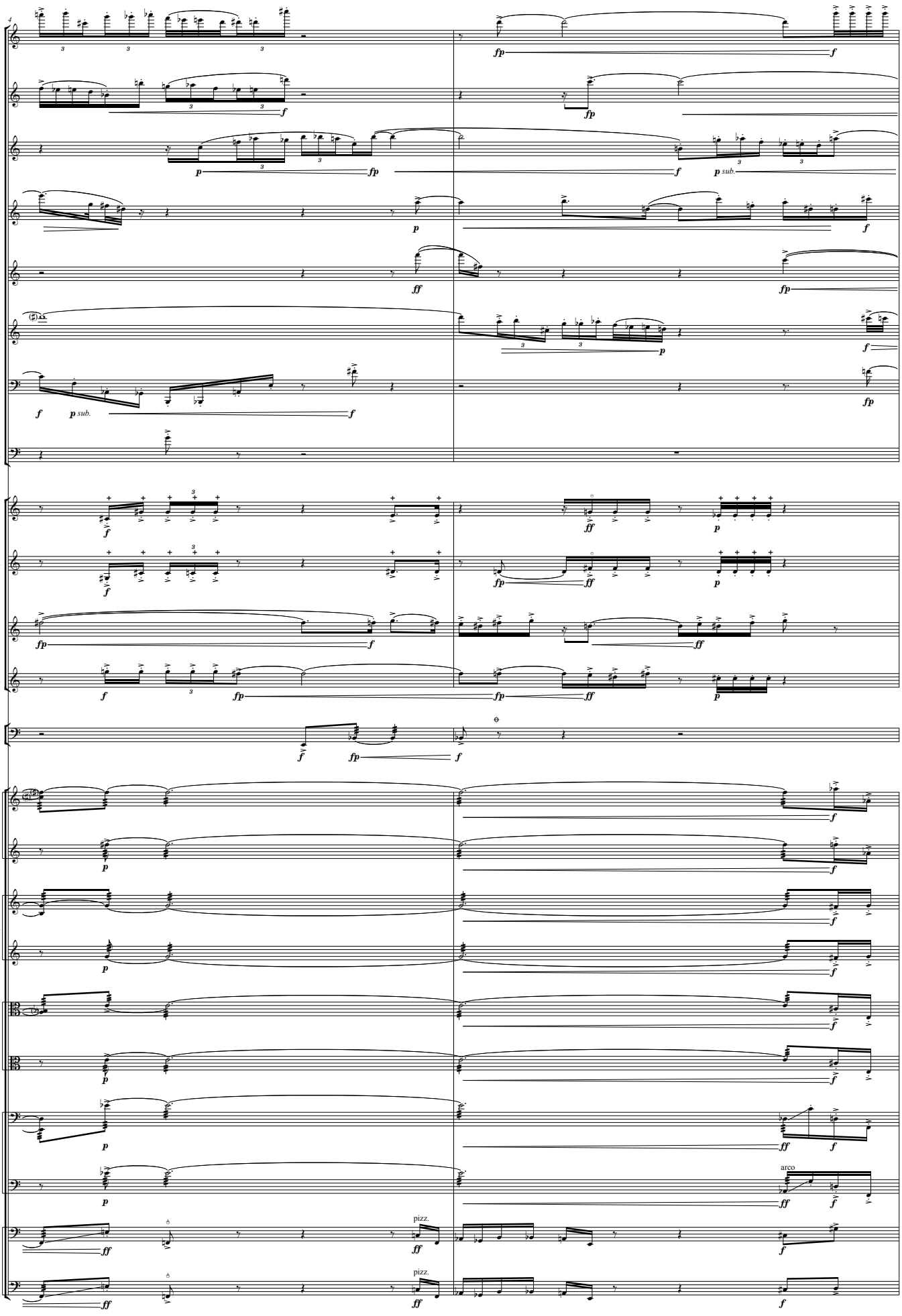

14
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
To Picc.
Ob. 1
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Tpt. 1
senza sord.
Tpt. 2
senza sord.
solo (1. voice)
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
pizz.
arco
Vla.
arco
Vc.
arco
sul pont.
ord.
Db.
arco
sul pont.
ord.

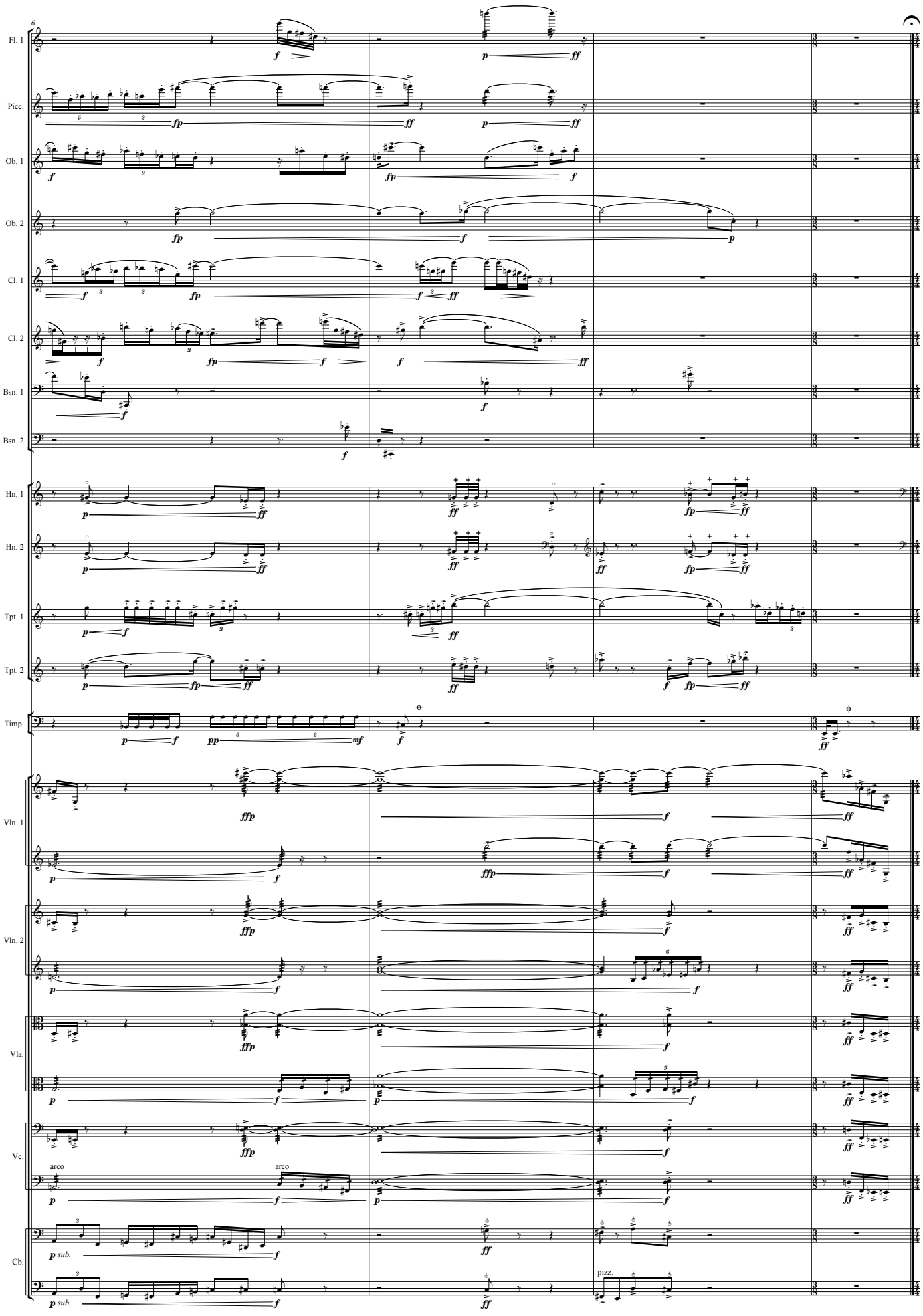

22
Fl. 1
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
straight mute
straight mute
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Db.
pizz.
tutti
pizz.
solo
pizz.


29
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Piccolo
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Tpt. 1
senza sord.
Tpt. 2
senza sord.
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
col legno batt.
(col legno batt.)
Db.
col legno batt.
(col legno batt.)

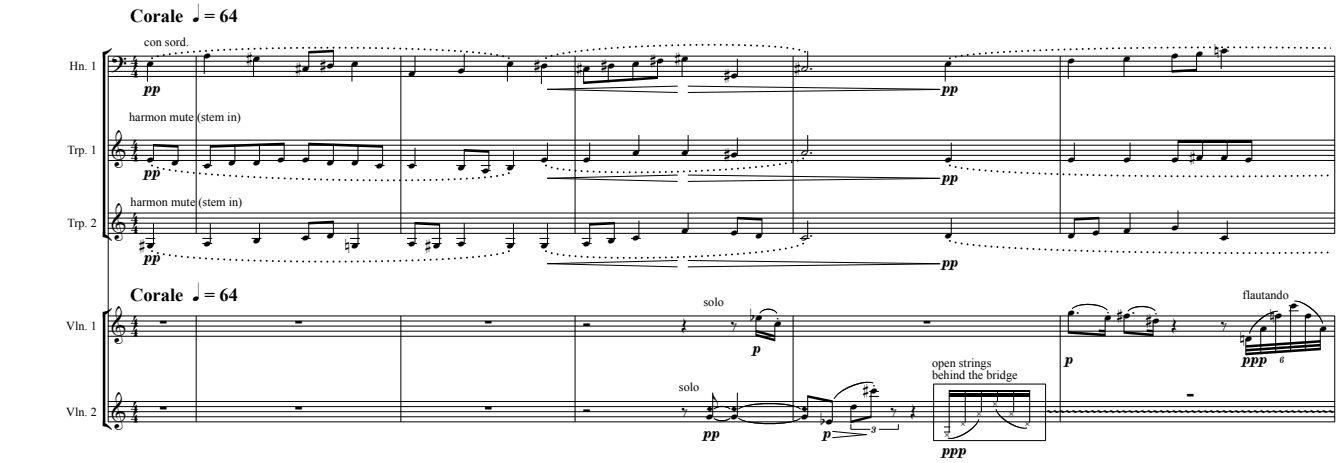

37
Fl. 1
Picc.
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Db.
solo
tutti
jeté
solo
arco
solo
pizz.
arco
tutti
arco
p espress.
mfpp
ppp
pp
mf

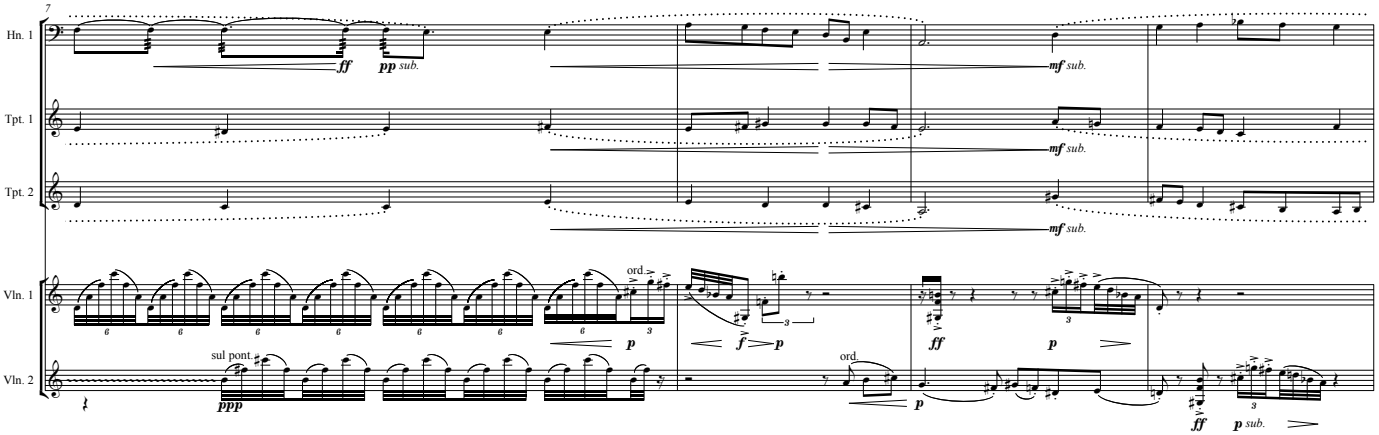

Stravagante bizzarro ♩ = 90
Fl. 1
Picc.
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
straight mute
Trp. 1
straight mute
Trp. 2
Timp.
Stravagante bizzarro ♩ = 90
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello
Doube Bass
pizz.
arco
cresc,
sub.

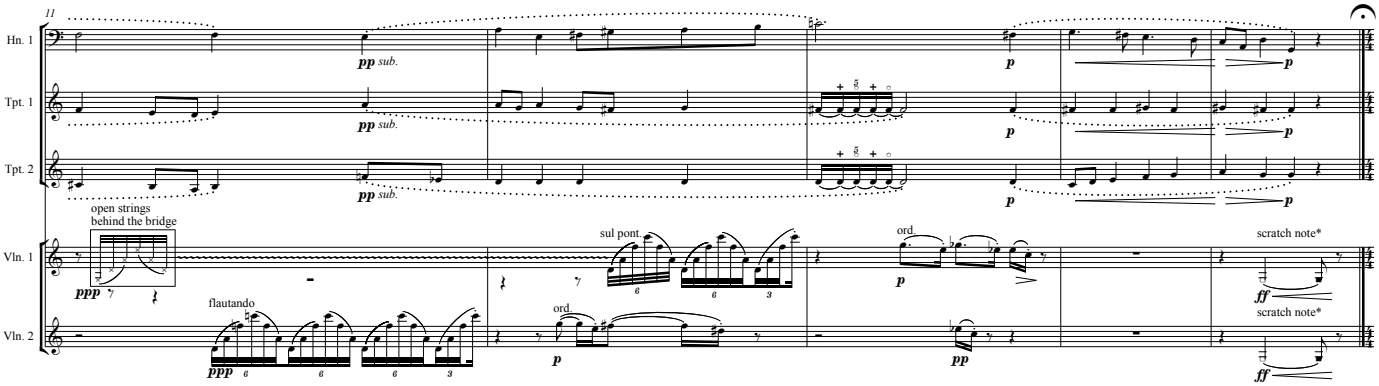

Fl. 1
Picc.
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Timp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
sub.
pizz.
arco


Fl. 1
Picc.
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Timp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
arco
arco
pizz.

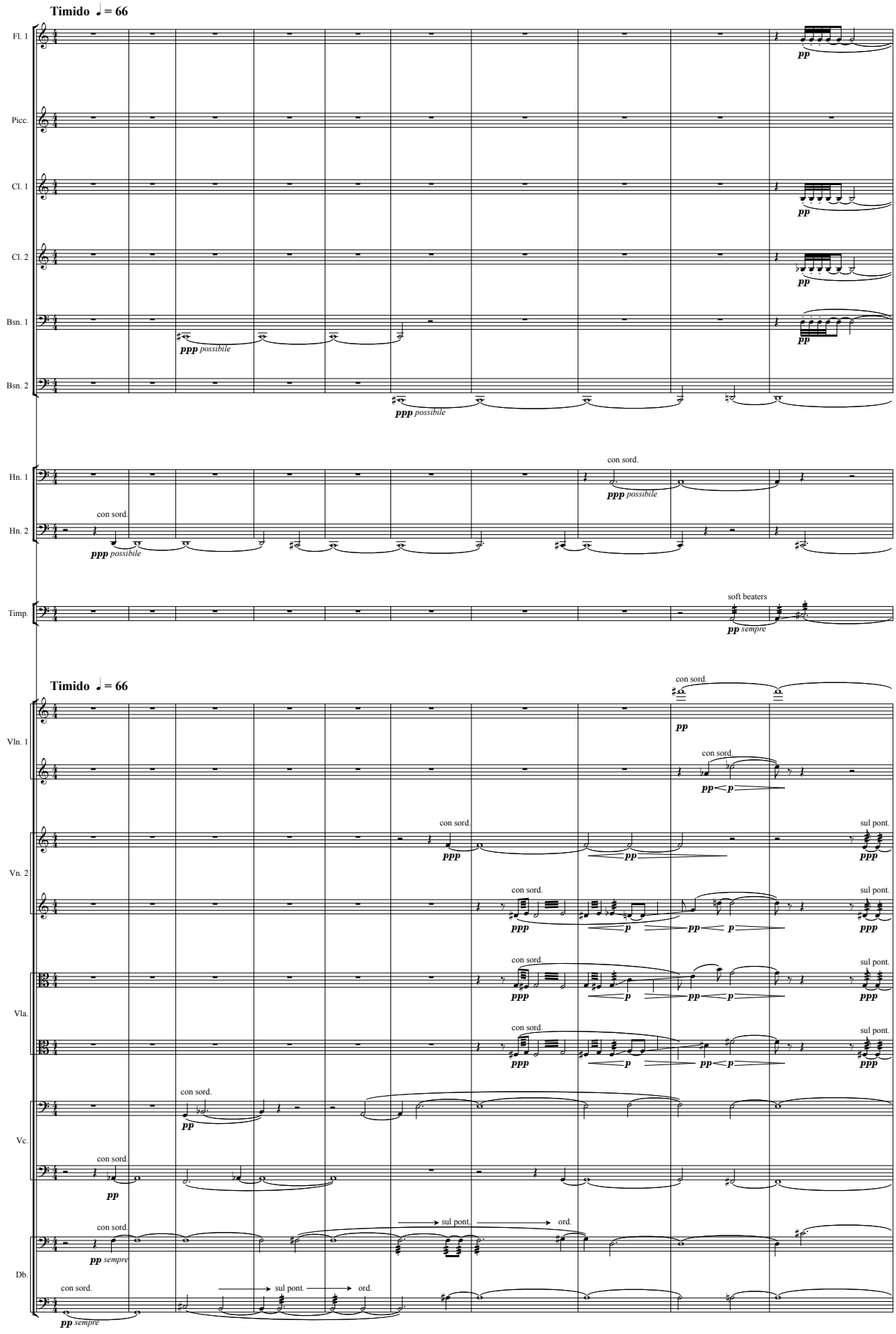
AnIII(5) - 10





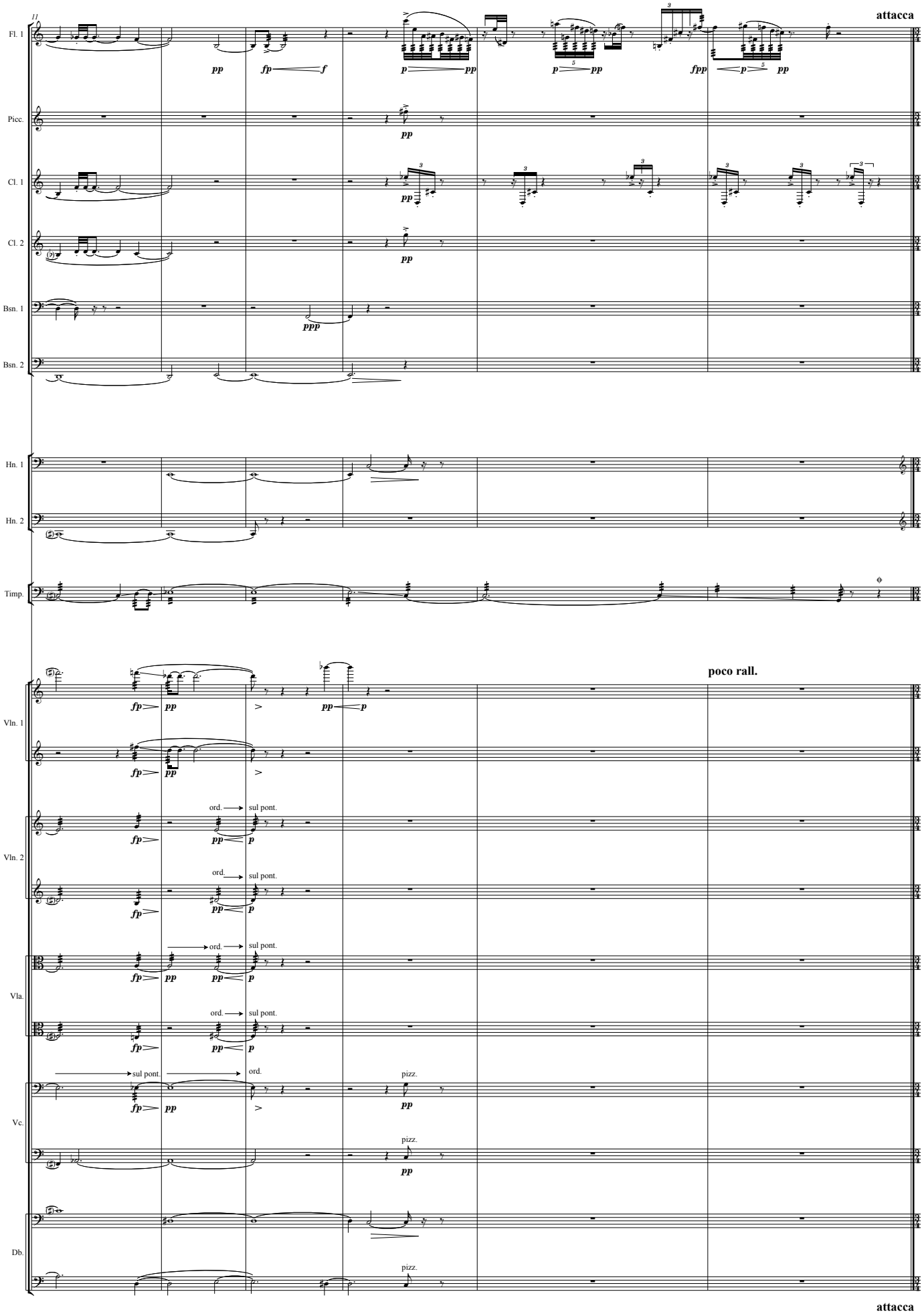


*press down hard on the string with the bow to produce a rasping


Timido ♩ = 66
Fl. 1
Picc.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Timp.
Timido ♩ = 66
Vln. 1
Vn. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Db.
con sord.
sul pont.
ord.
soft beaters
pp
ppp
p
possibile
sempre

poco rall.

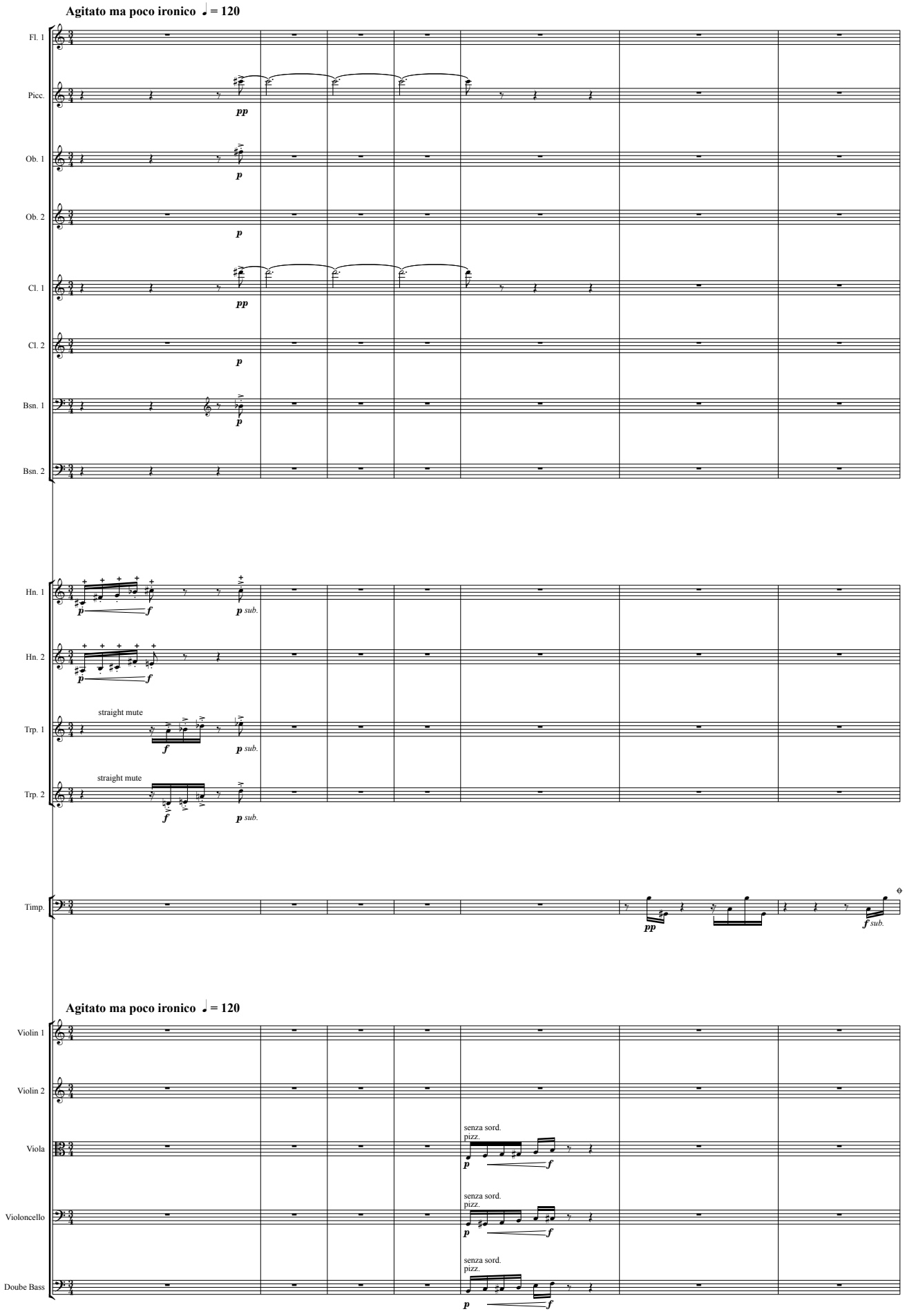
attacca

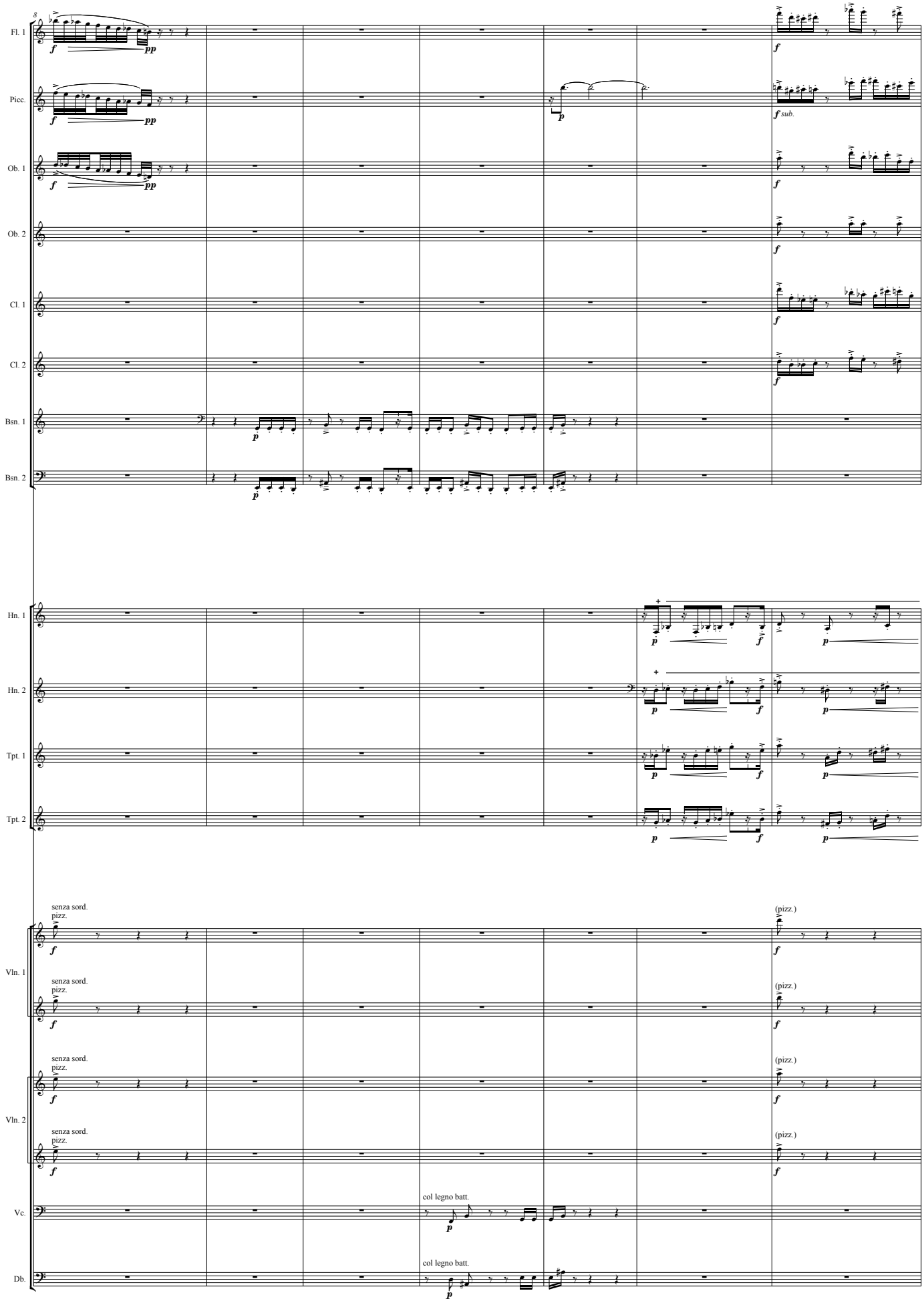


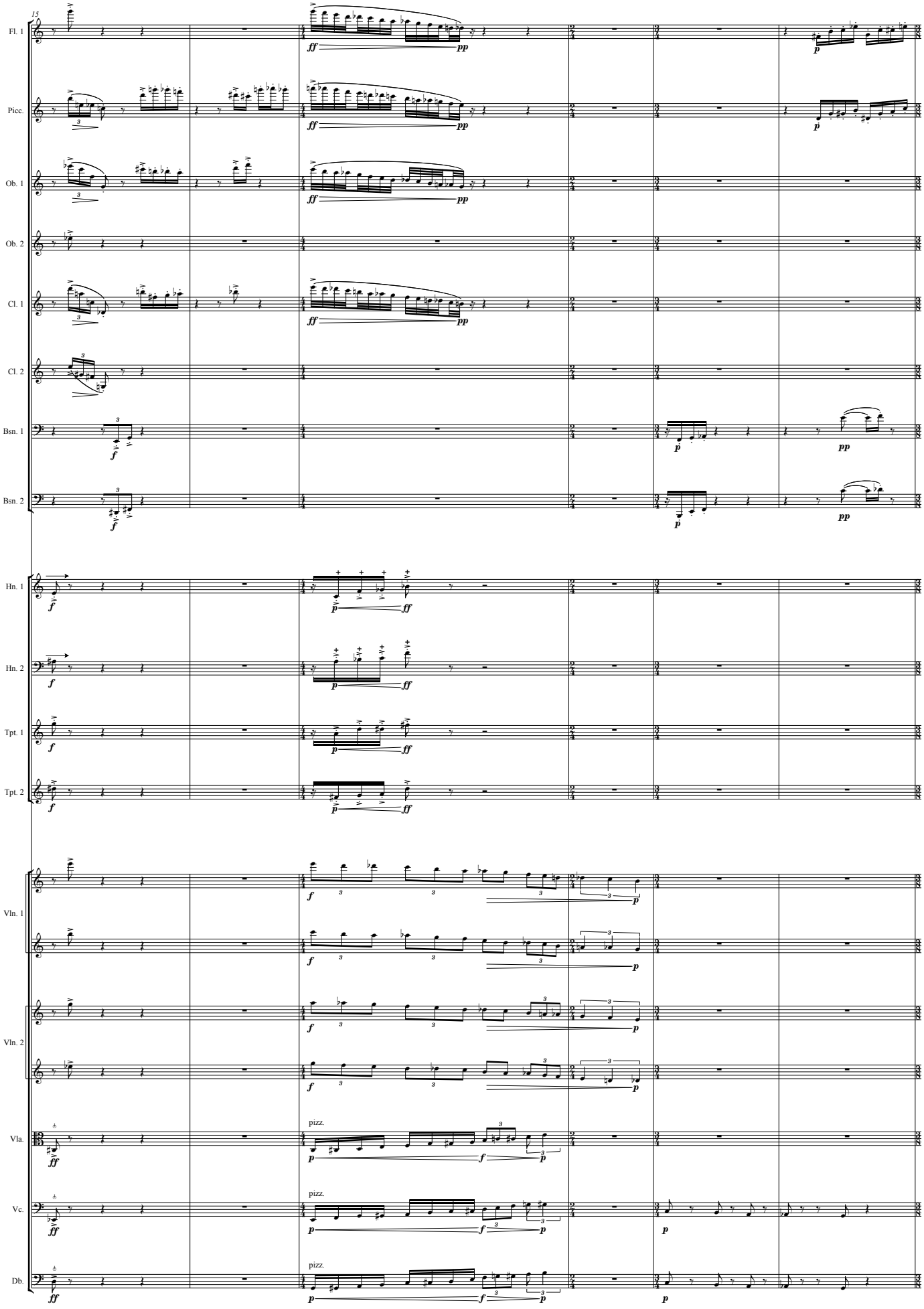
poco rall.

attacca

AphII(4) - 12


Agitato ma poco ironico ♩ = 120
Fl. 1
Picc.
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Trp. 1
Trp. 2
straight mute
straight mute
Timp.
Agitato ma poco ironico ♩ = 120
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello
Doube Bass
senza sord.
pizz.
senza sord.
pizz.
senza sord.
pizz.


Fl. 1
Picc.
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vc.
Db.
senza sord.
pizz.
(pizz.)
col legno batt.
sub.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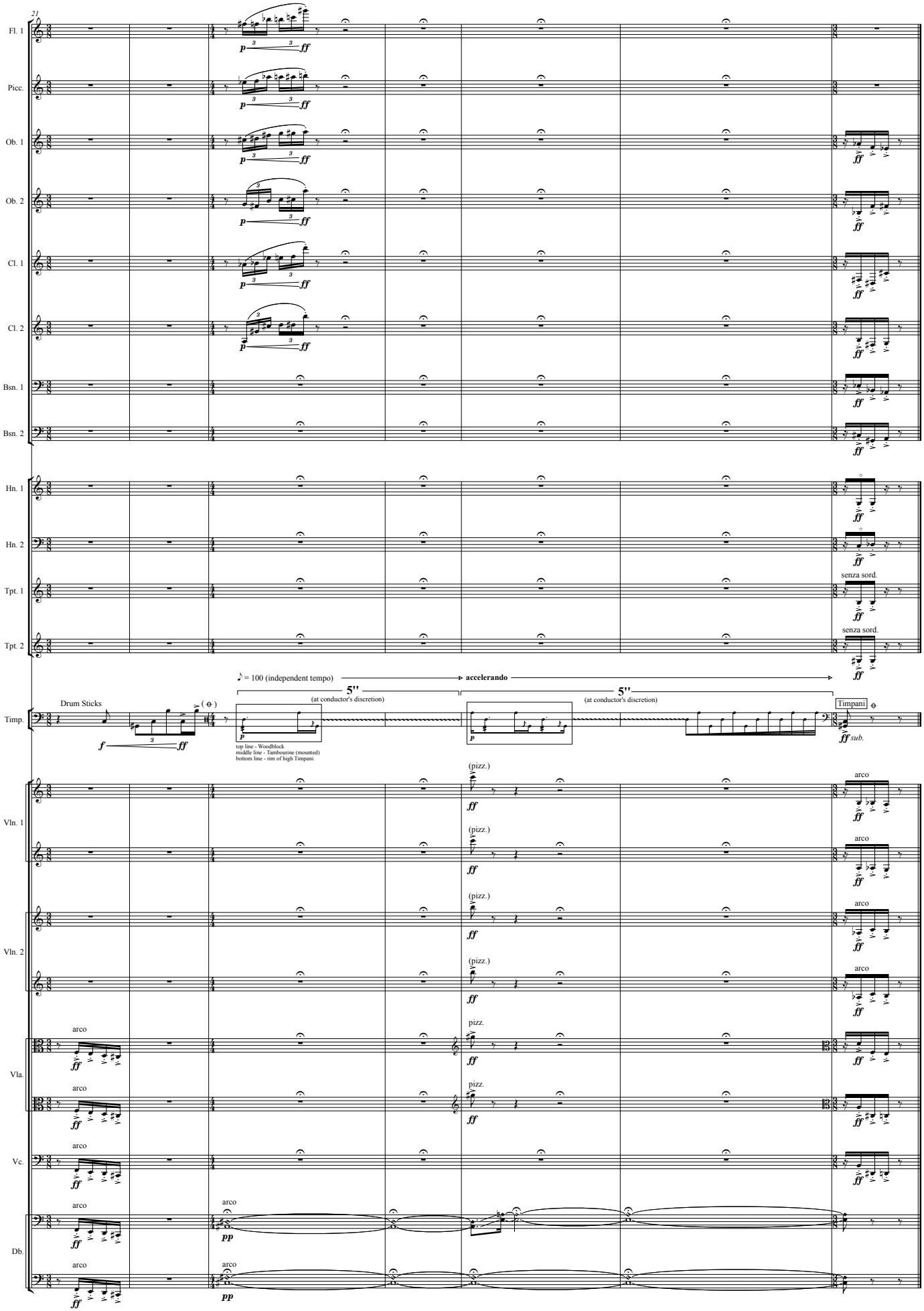
Fl. 1
Picc.
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Db.
pizz.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Fl. 1
Picc.
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Timp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Db.
p
ff
pp
senza sord.
Drum Sticks
♪ = 100 (independent tempo)
accelerando
5"
(at conductor's discretion)
top line - Woodblock
middle line - Tambourine (mounted)
bottom line - rim of high Timpani
Timpani
sub.
(pizz.)
arco
pizz.