Derek B. Scott

String Quartet No. 1, Op. 17

(1975, rev. 2002 & 2019)

String Quartet No. 1

1. Allegro vivace – Presto

2. Largo

3. Allegro – Allegro vivace

Duration: 14:30

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, at first, betrayed too much of 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 D-flat chord, the quartet rarely sits in this tonality.

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.

Derek B. Scott

String Quartet, Op. 17

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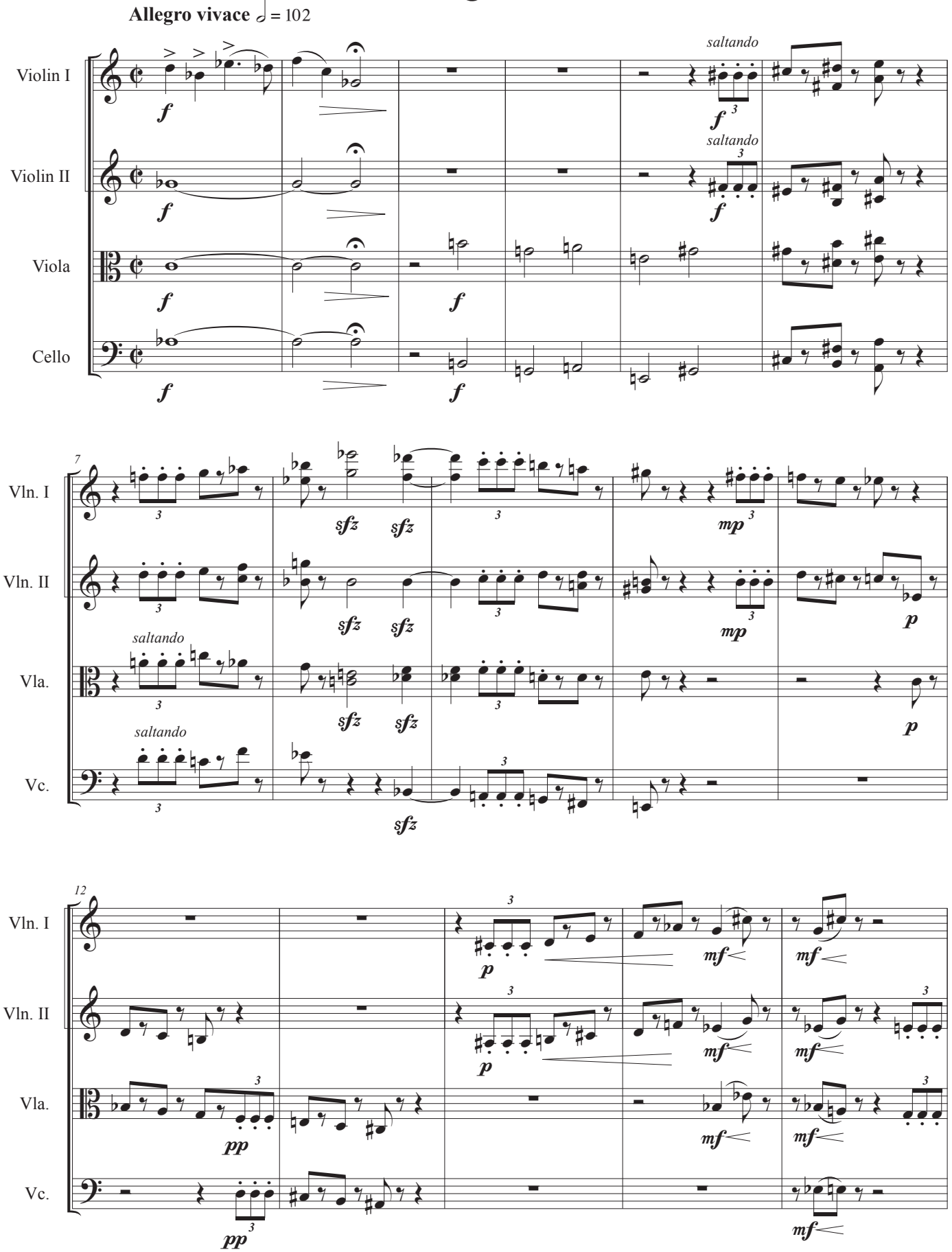
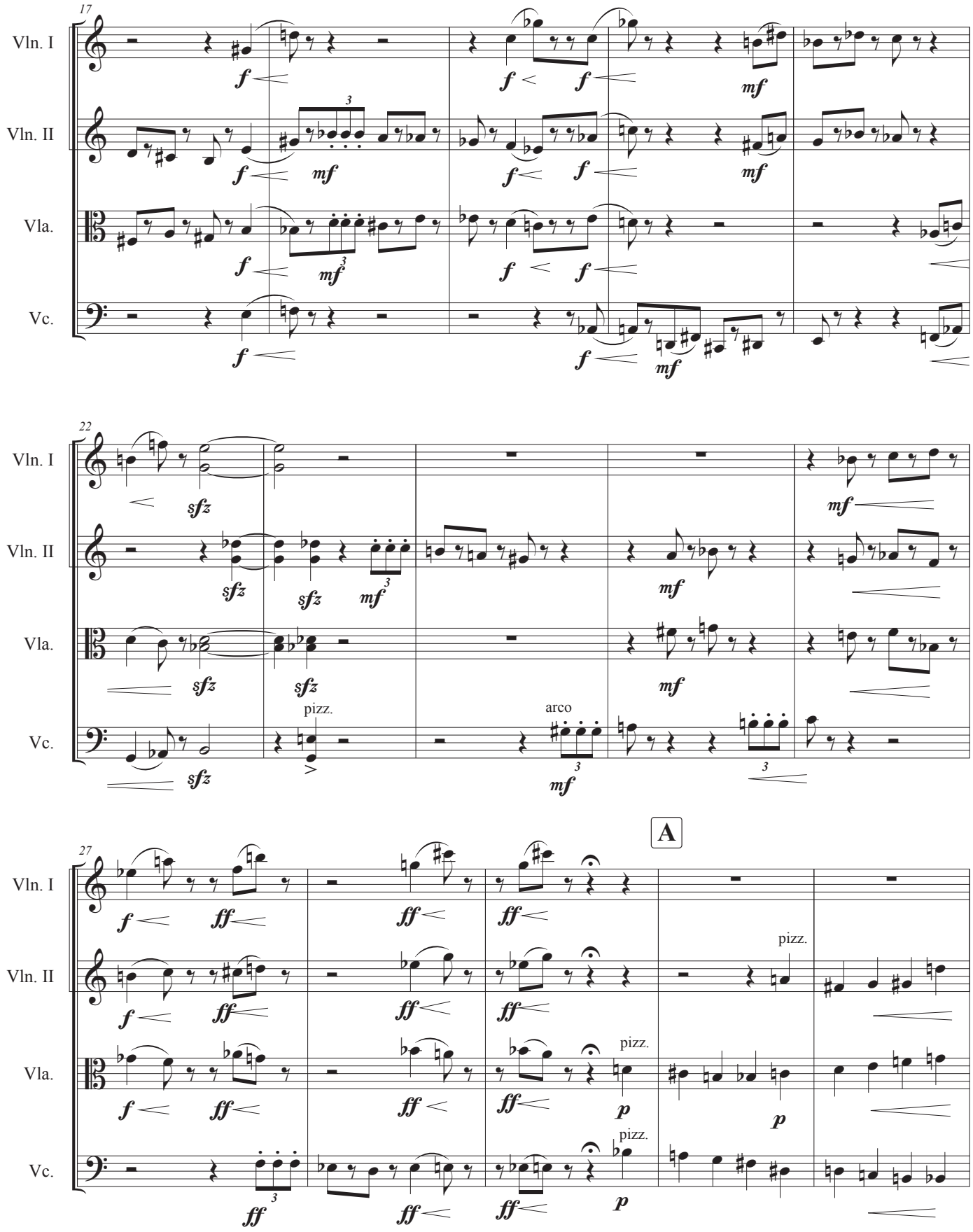
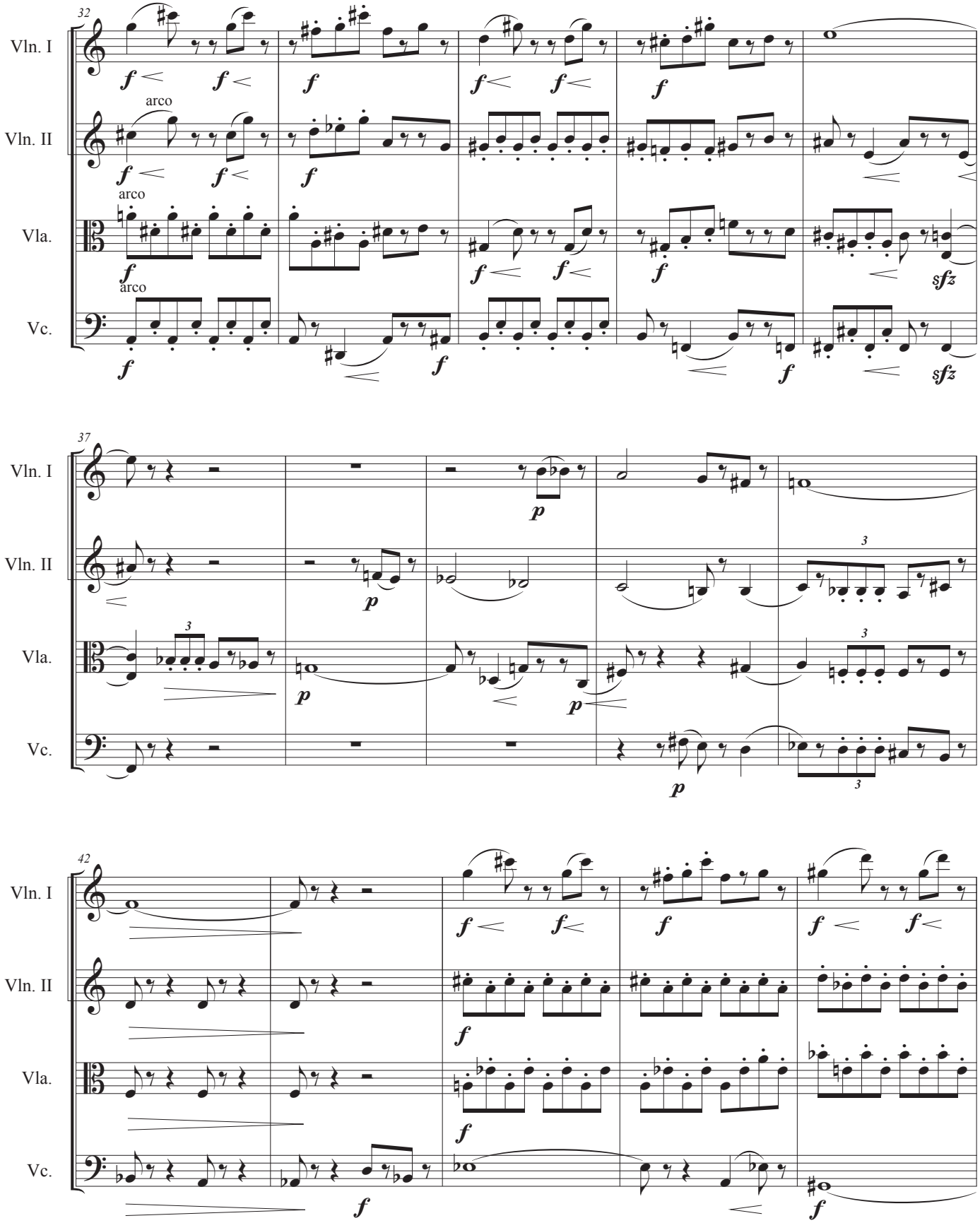
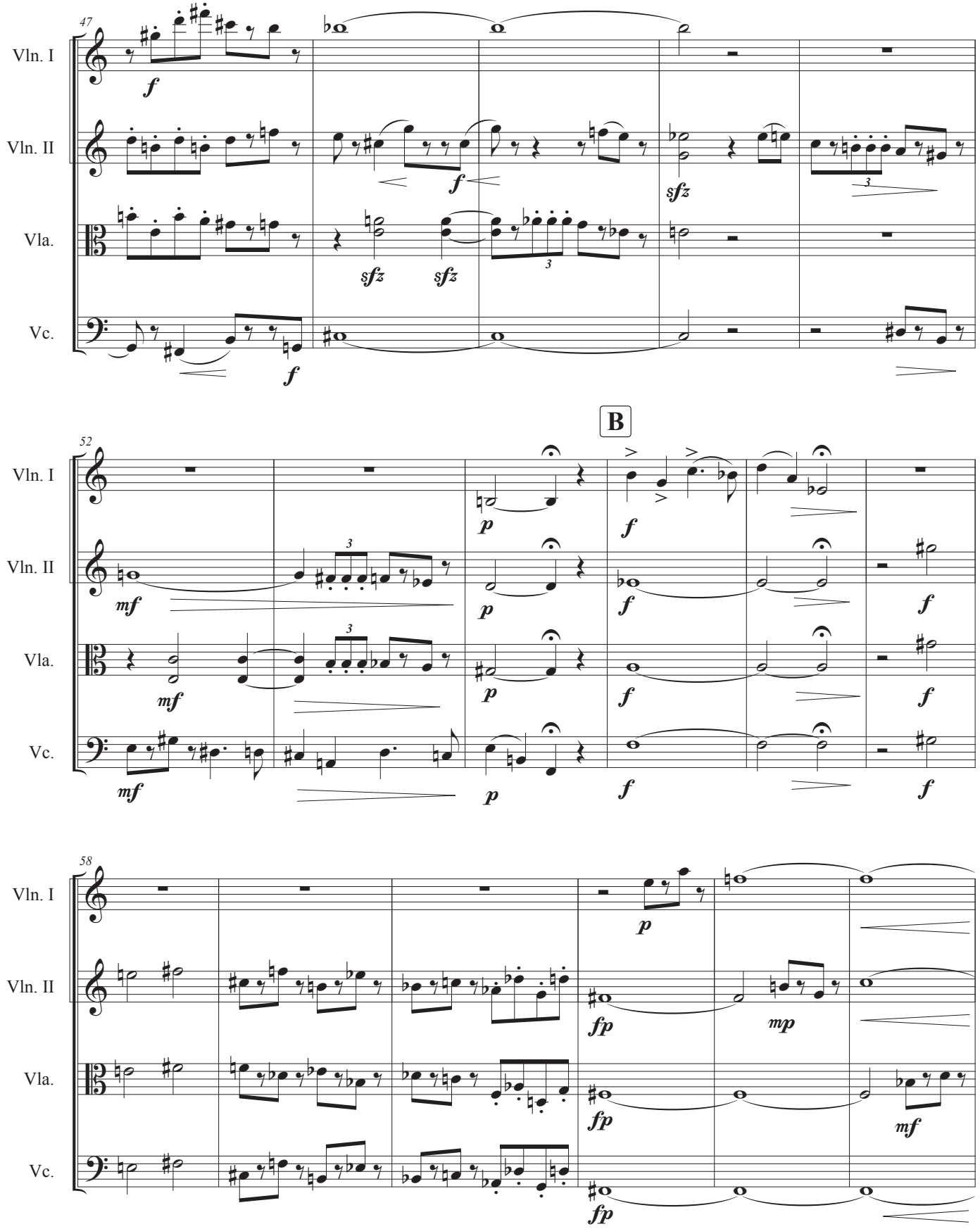
1975, rev. 2019

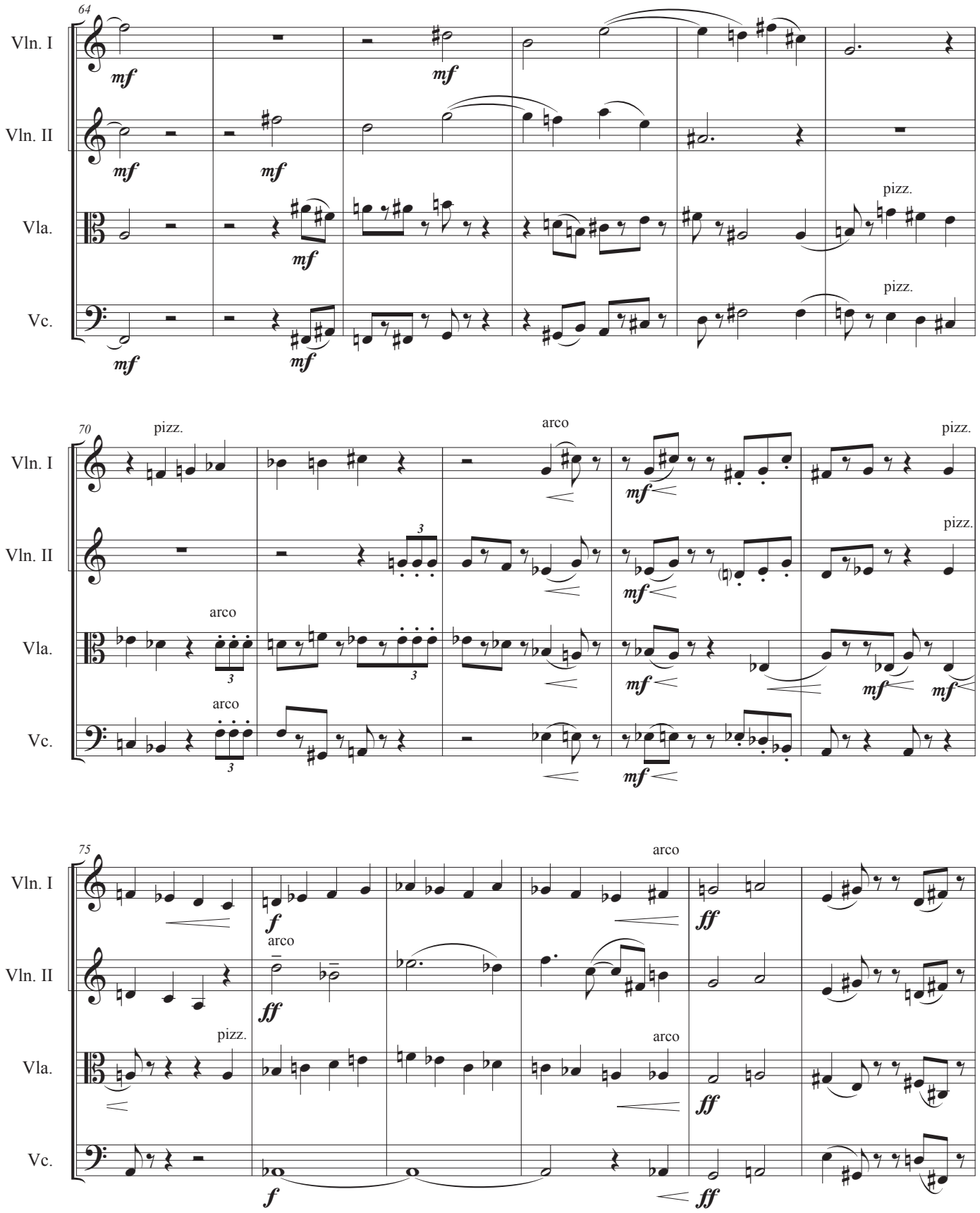
1. Allegro vivace

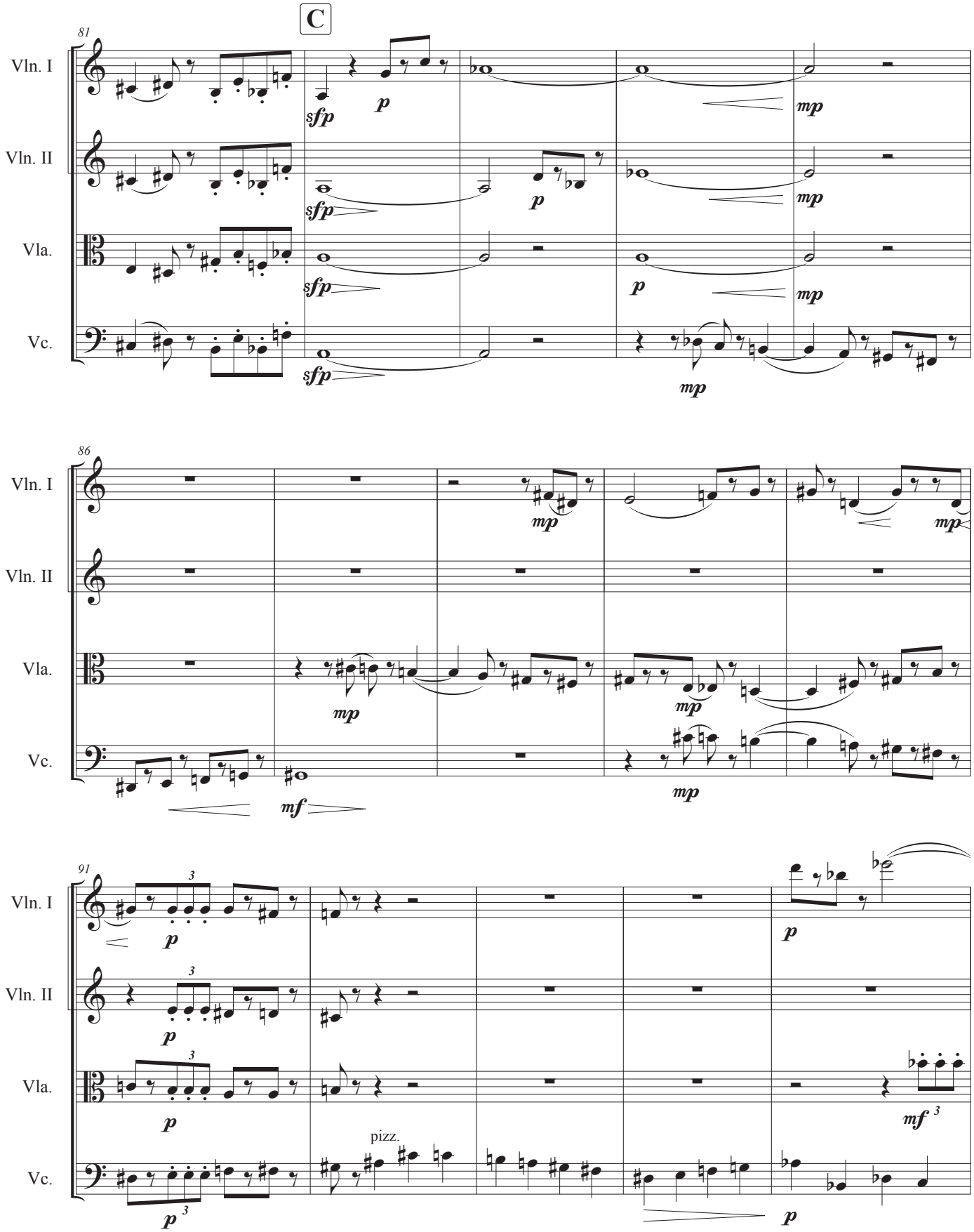


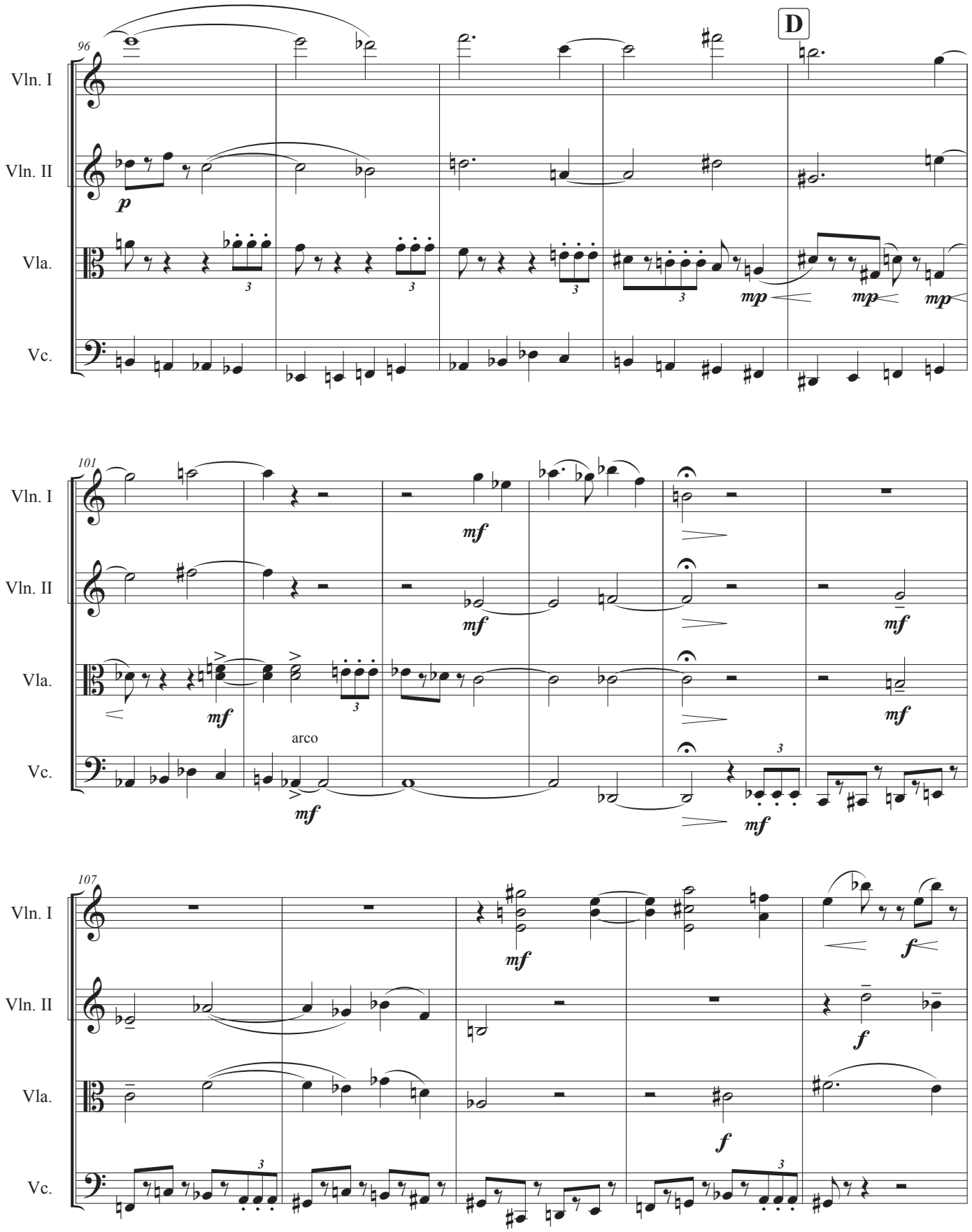

17
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
22
sfz
mf
pizz.
arco
27
A
ff
p

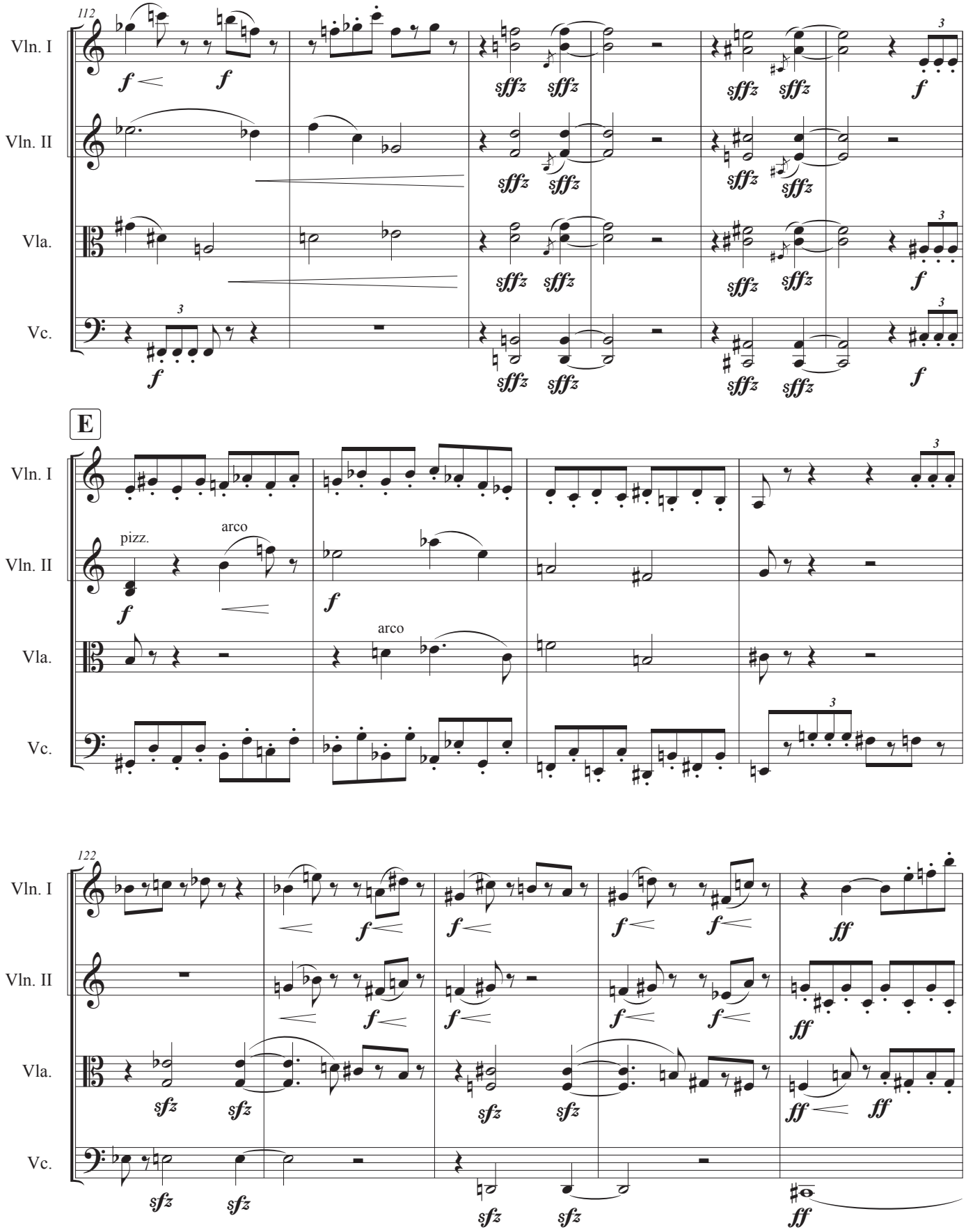

32
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
arco
arco
37
42

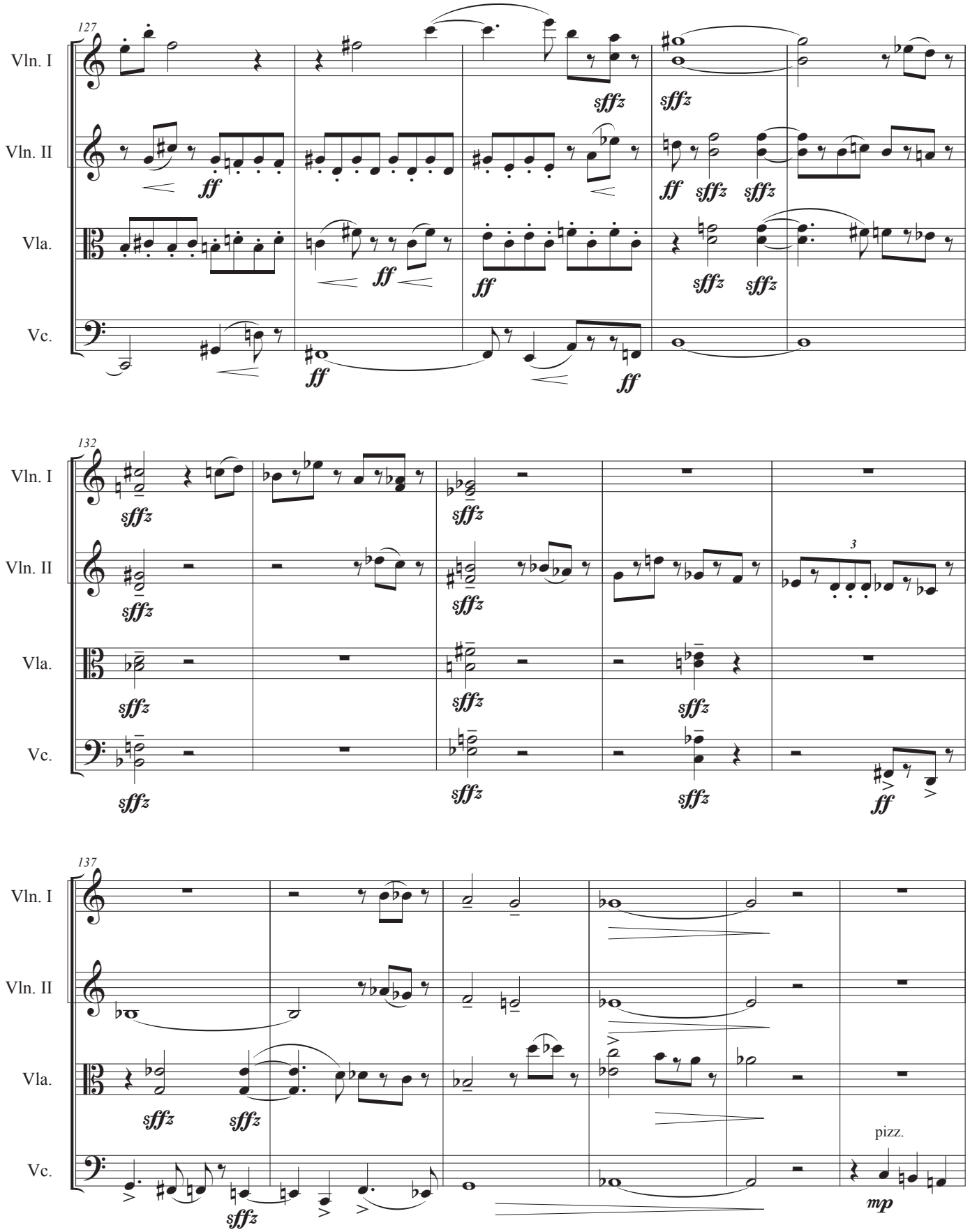

47
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
f
sfz
B
52
mf
p
58
fp
mp

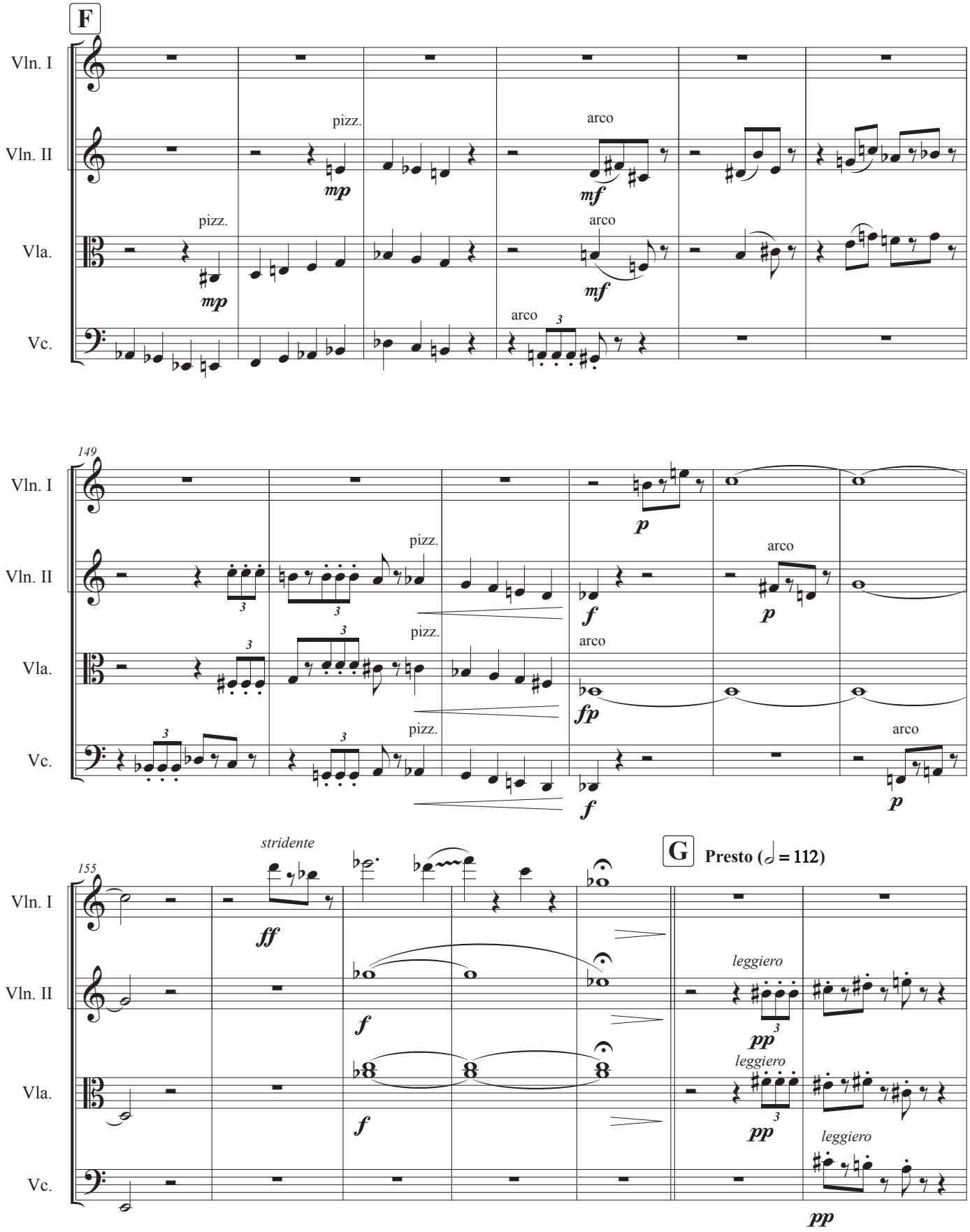

64
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
pizz.
70
arco
75
f
ff

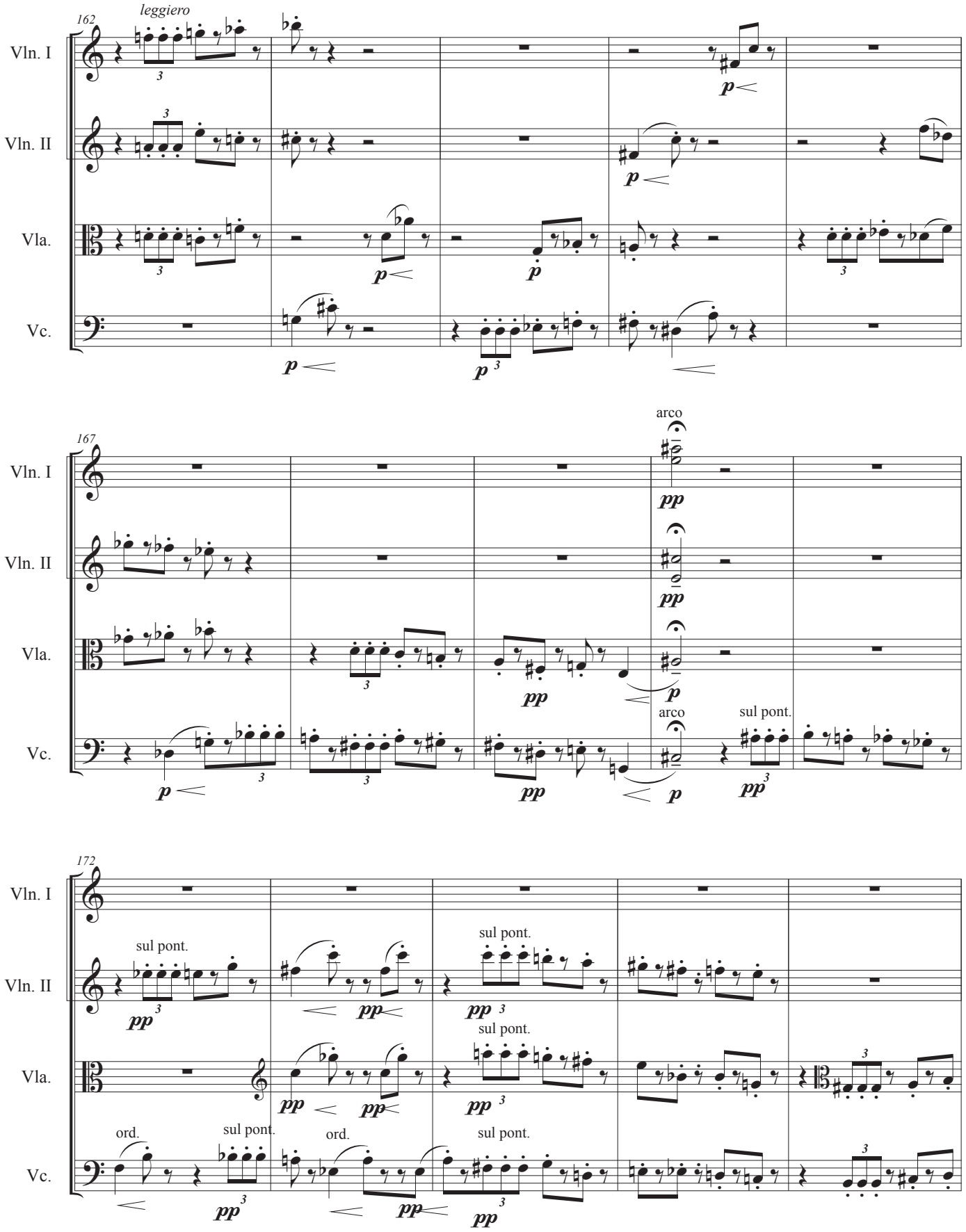

C
81
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sfp
p
mp
86
mf
91
3
pizz.

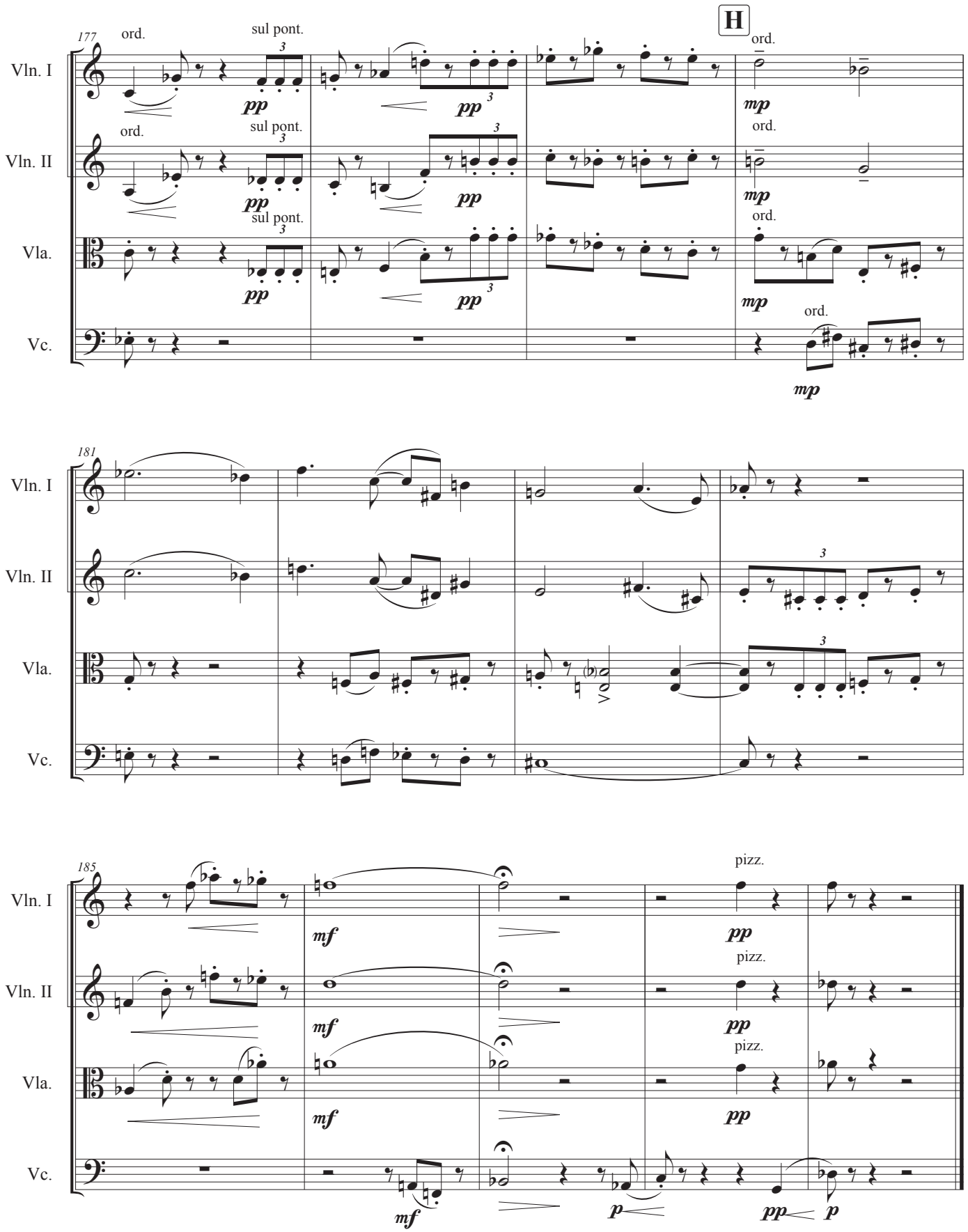

96
D
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
mp
mp
mp
101
mf
mf
mf
mf
arco
mf
mf
107
mf
f
f
f


112
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
E
pizz.
arco
122


127
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
ff
sffz
132
3
137
pizz.
mp


F
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
mp
mf
149
p
f
fp
155
stridente
ff
G
Presto (𝅗𝅥 = 112)
leggiero
pp


162
leggiero
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
167
arco
sul pont.
ord.
172


177
H
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
ord.
sul pont.
pp
mp
181
185
pizz.
mf
p

2. Largo

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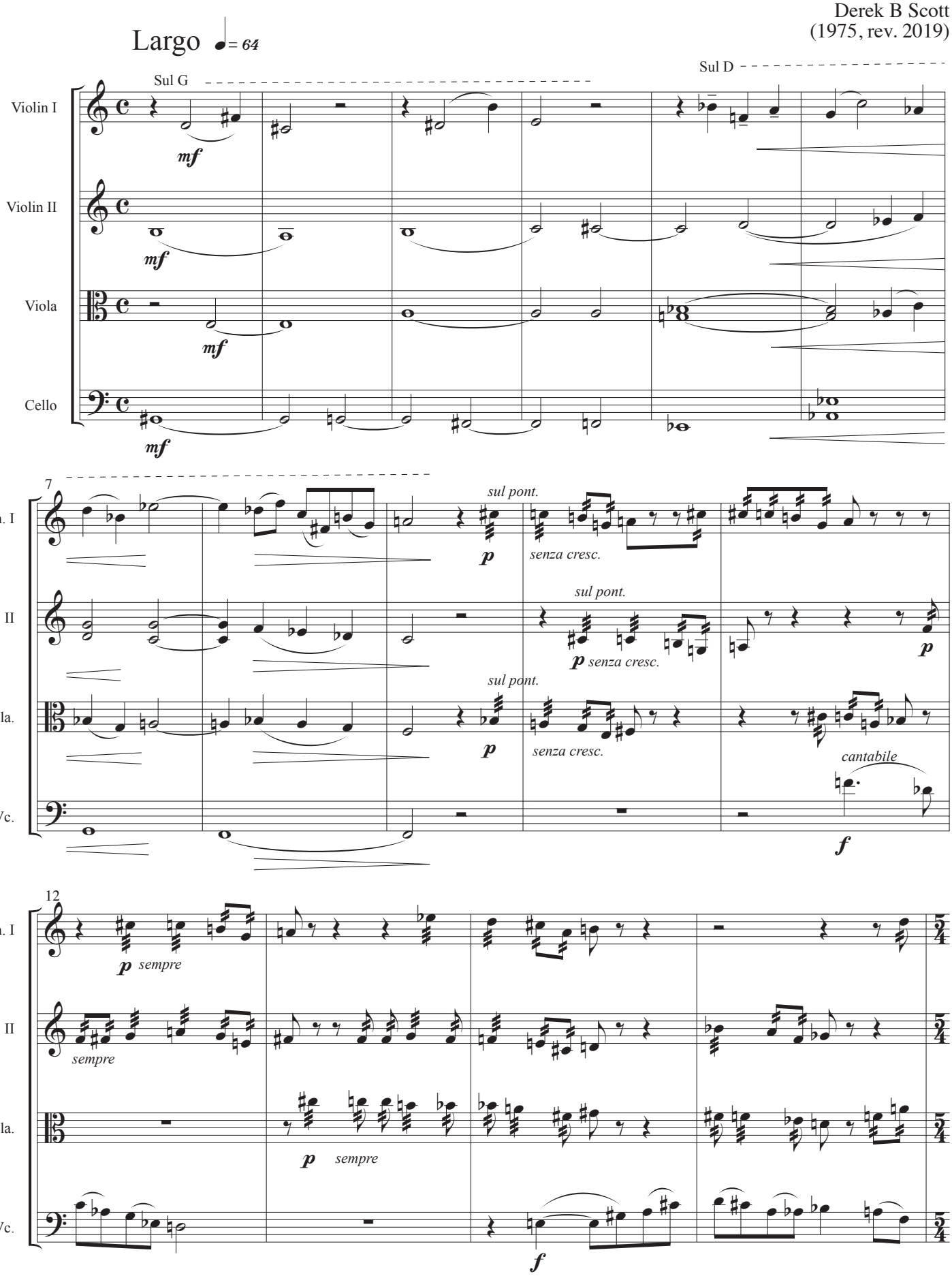
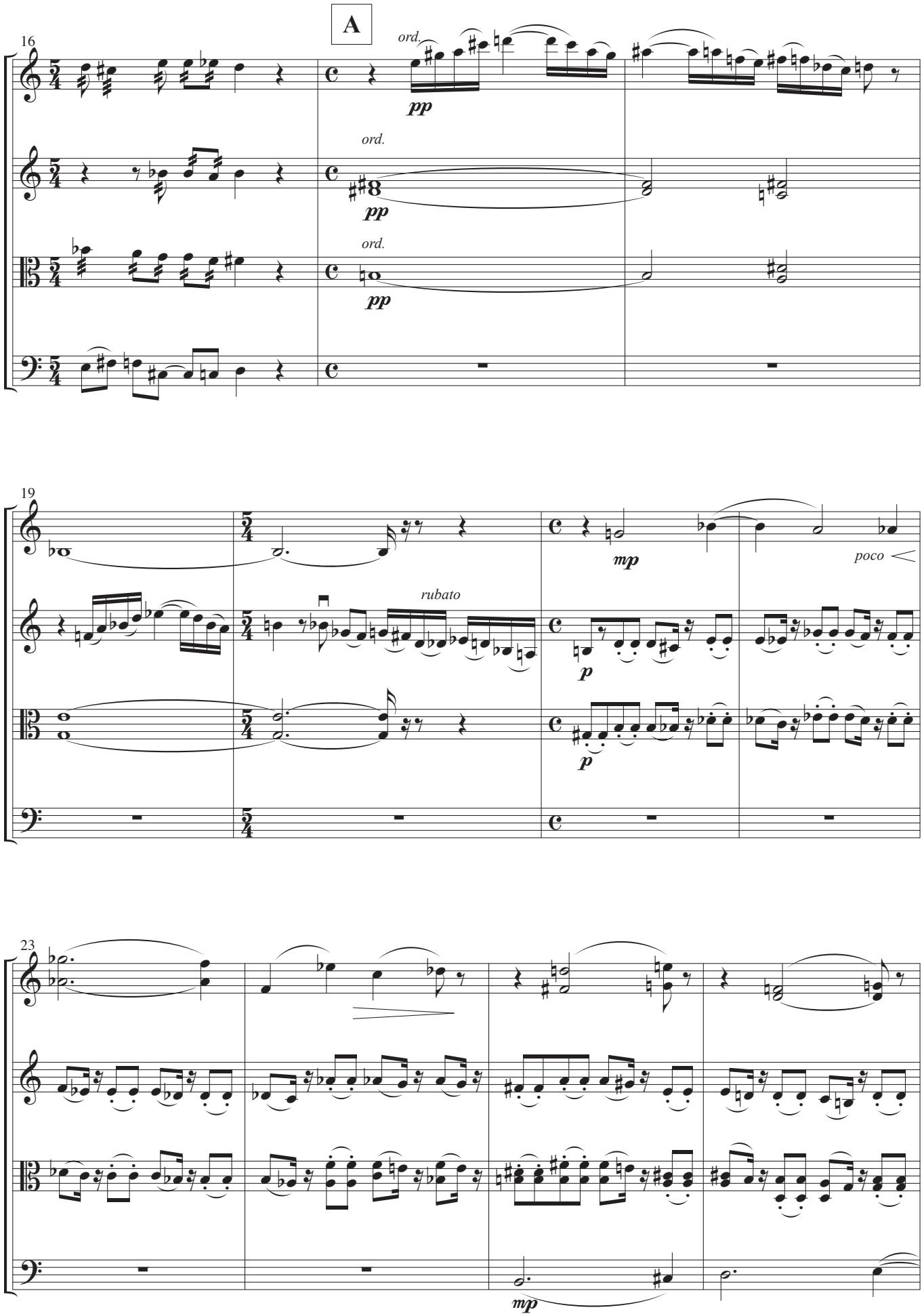
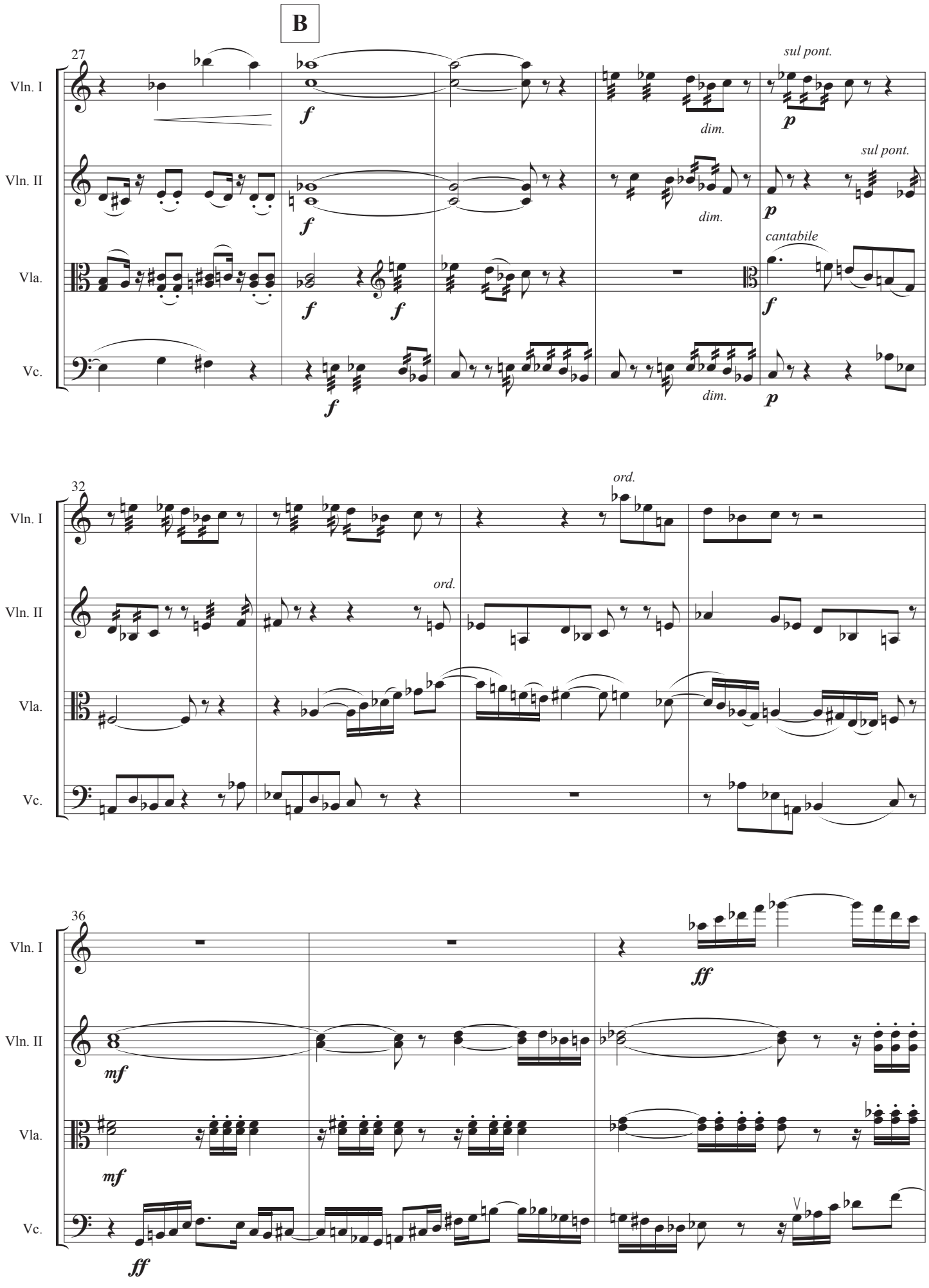
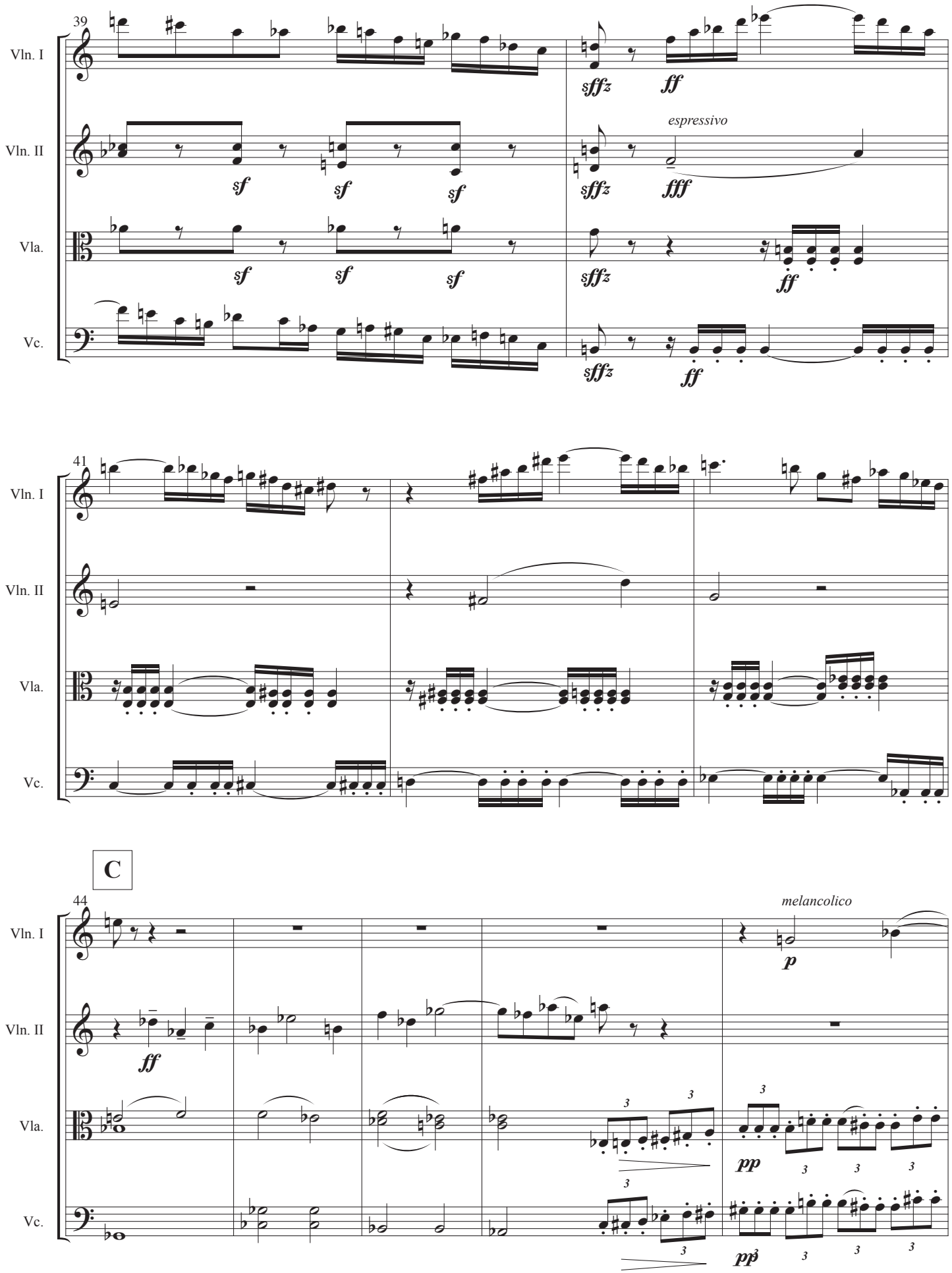
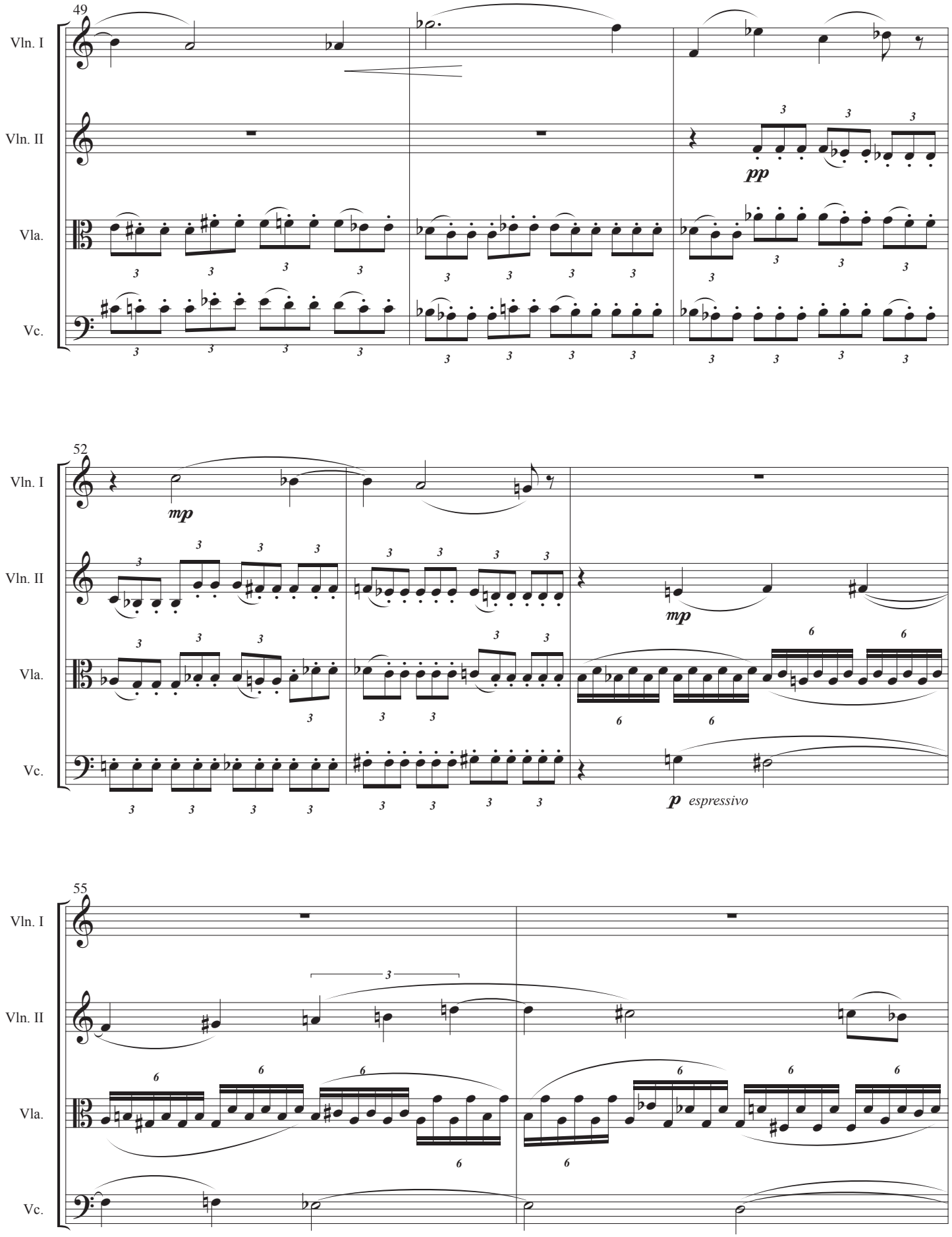
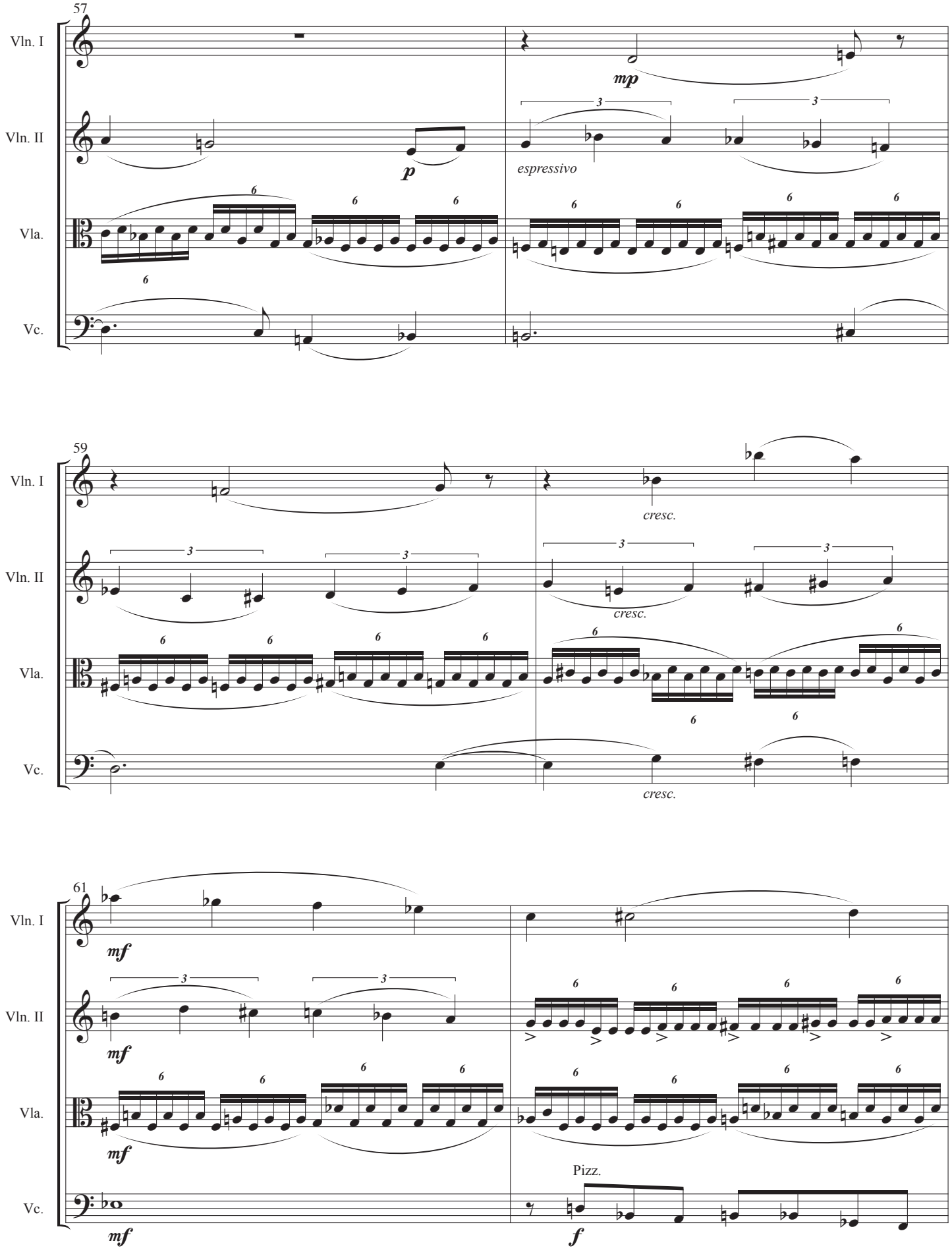


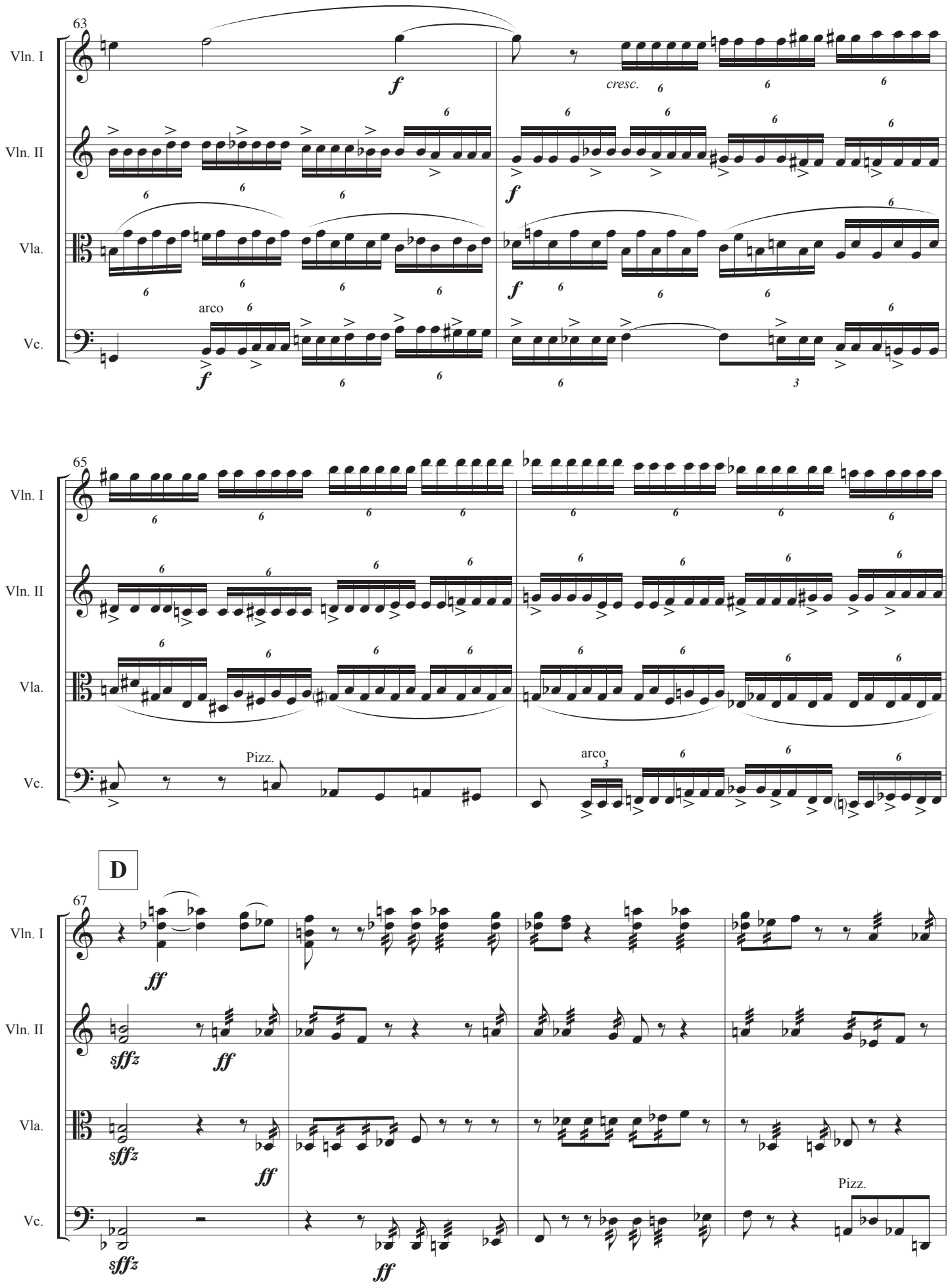

A
16
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
ord.
pp
ord.
pp
ord.
pp
19
rubato
mp
poco
p
p
23
mp

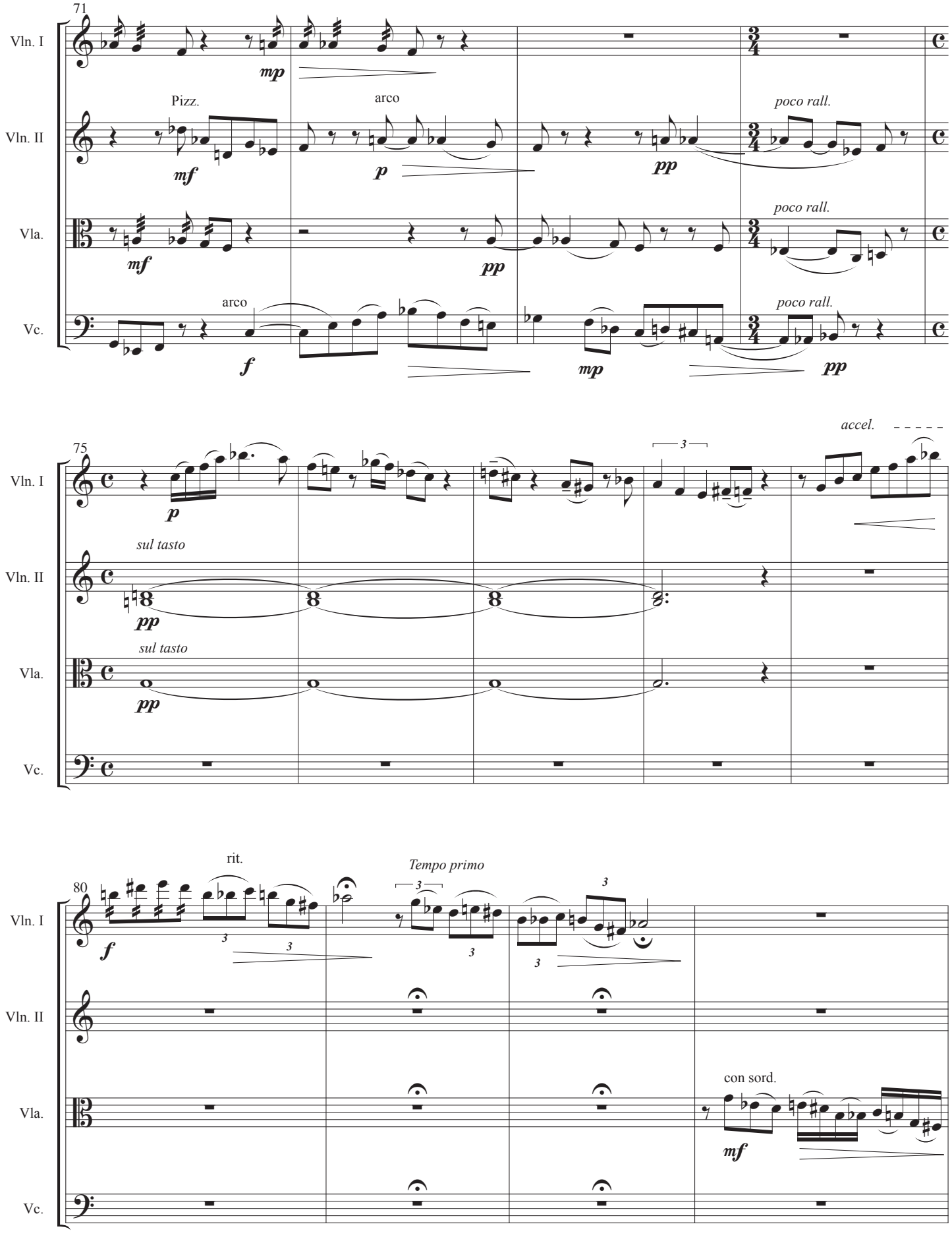

B
27
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
f
dim.
sul pont.
p
cantabile
32
ord.
36
mf
ff

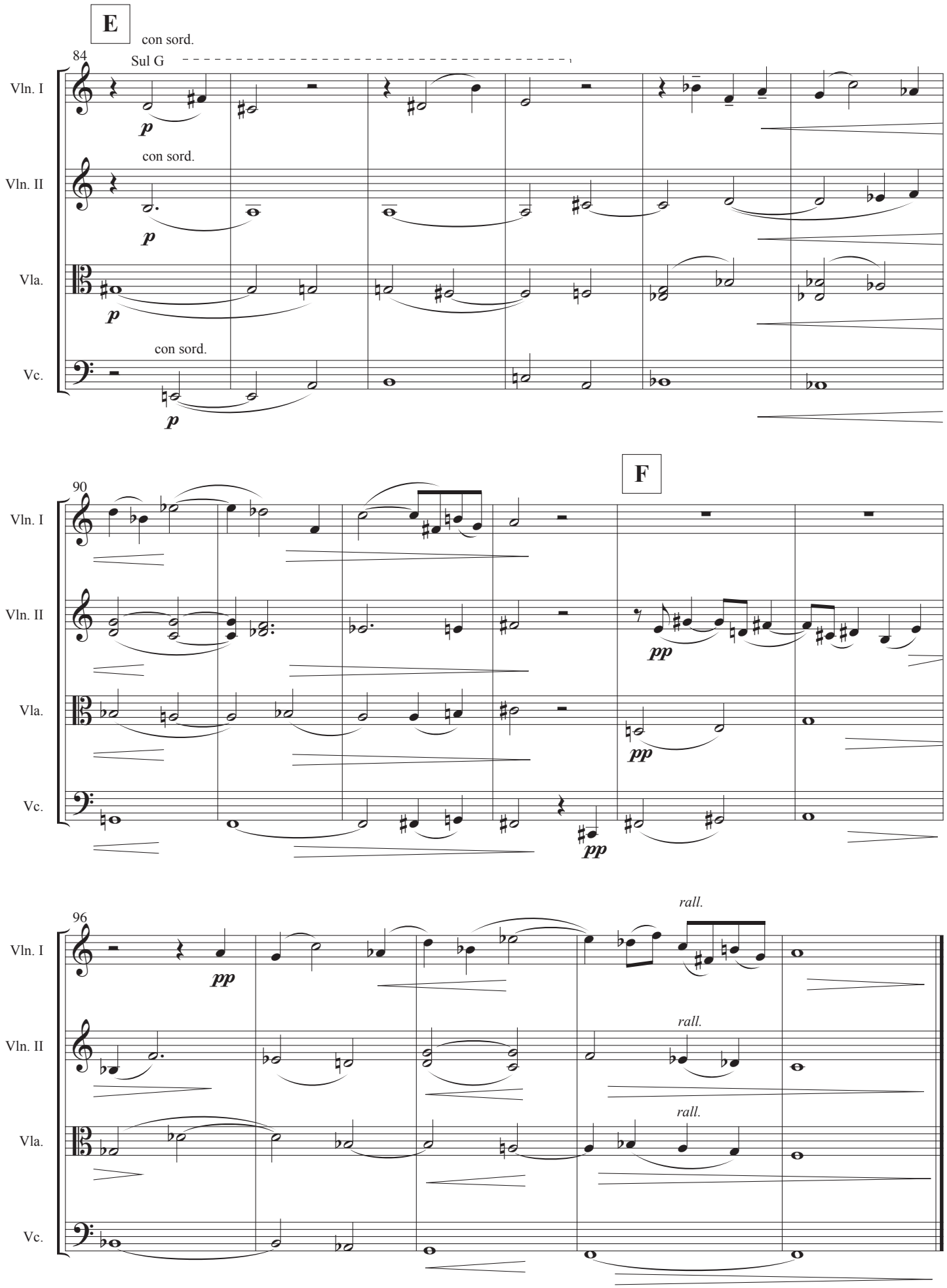

39
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sffz
ff
espressivo
sf
fff
41
C
44
melancolico
p
pp


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.
arco
D
67
ff
sffz
Pizz.


71
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mp
Pizz.
mf
arco
p
pp
poco rall.
mf
pp
poco rall.
arco
f
mp
poco rall.
pp
75
accel.
3
p
sul tasto
pp
sul tasto
pp
80
rit.
Tempo primo
3
3
3
3
3
f
con sord.
mf


E
con sord.
84
Sul G
Vln. I
p
con sord.
Vln. II
p
Vla.
p
con sord.
Vc.
p
F
90
Vln. I
Vln. II
pp
Vla.
pp
Vc.
pp
96
rall.
Vln. I
pp
Vln. II
rall.
Vla.
rall.
Vc.

3 Allegro ma non troppo

Derek B. Scott
1975, revd 2019

Allegro (𝅗𝅥 = 62)

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello

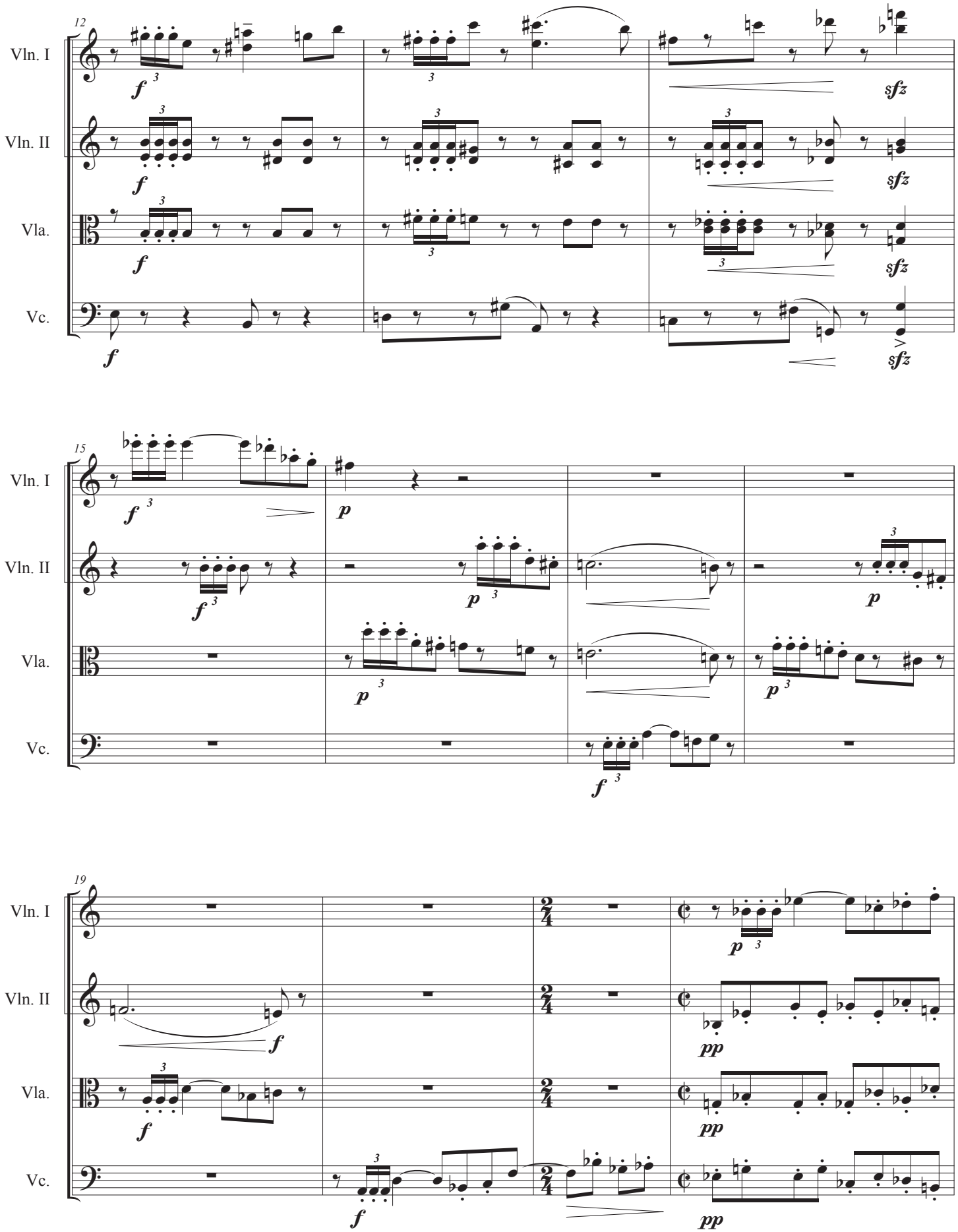
saltando *poco rit.*

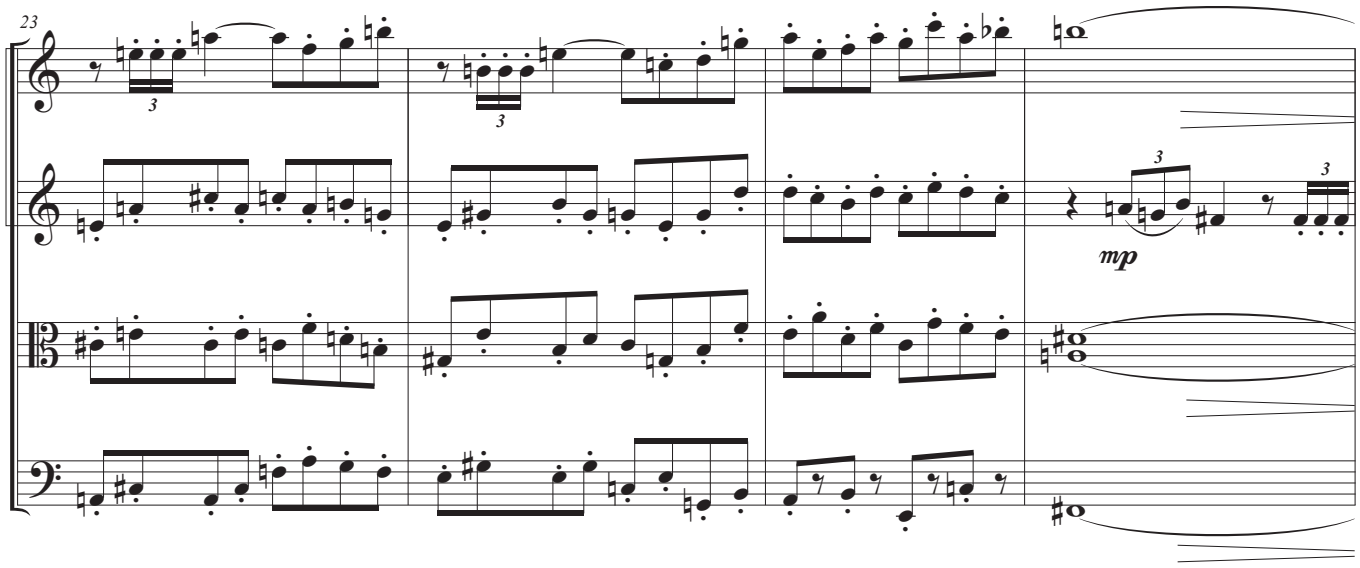
5

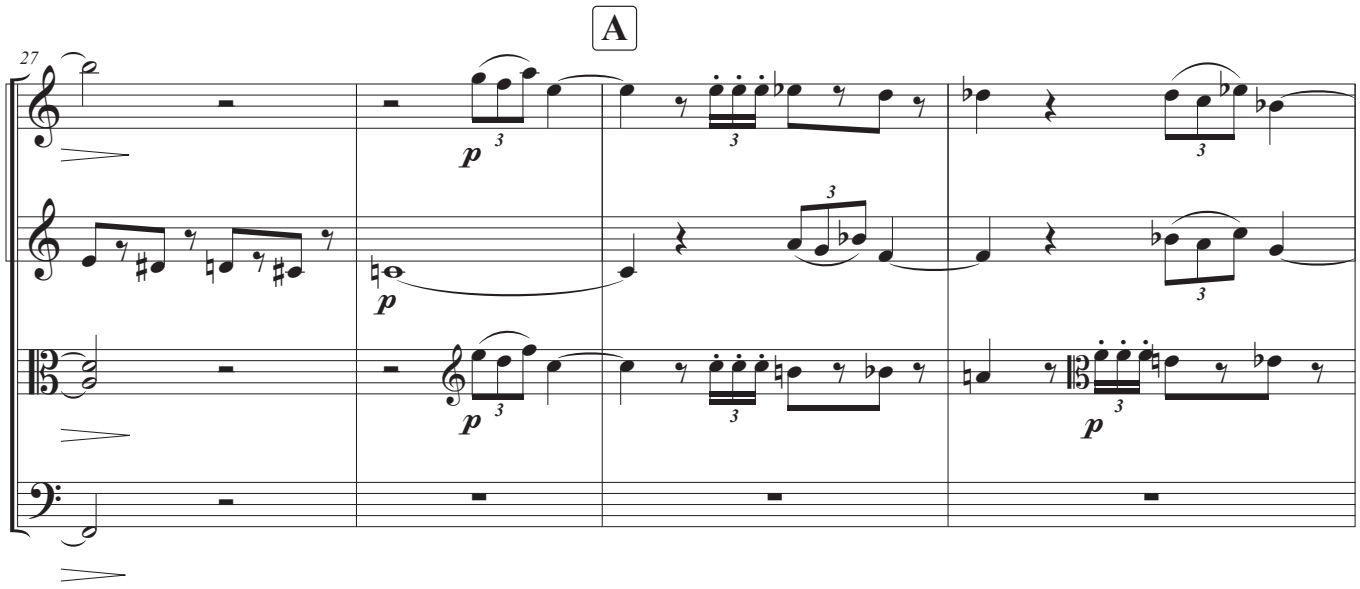
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

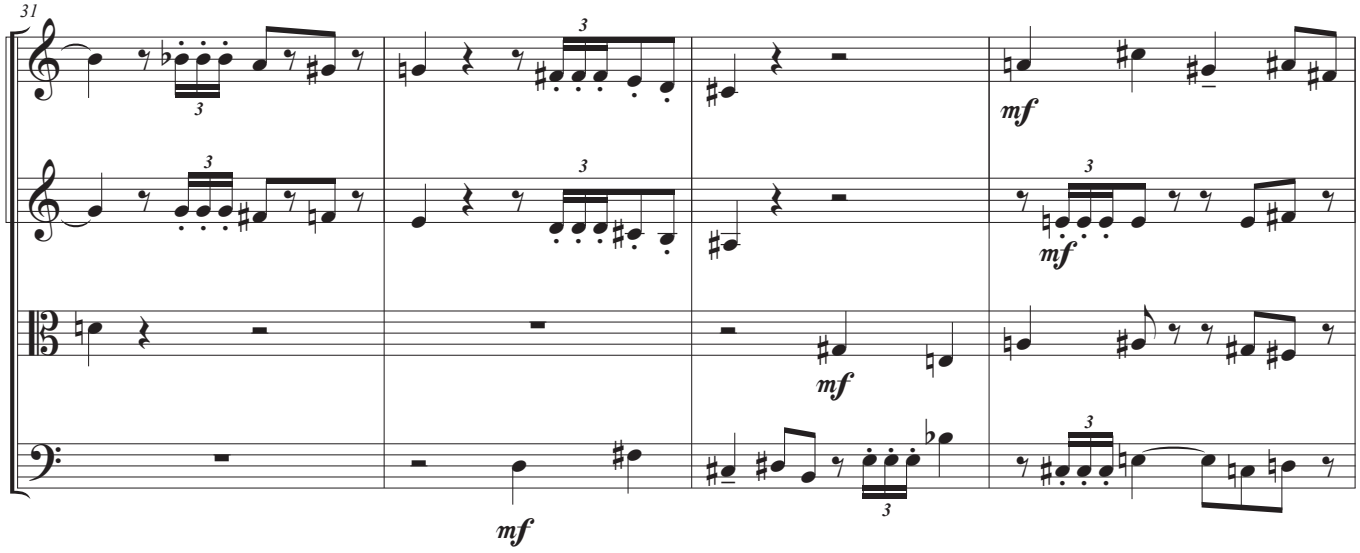
9

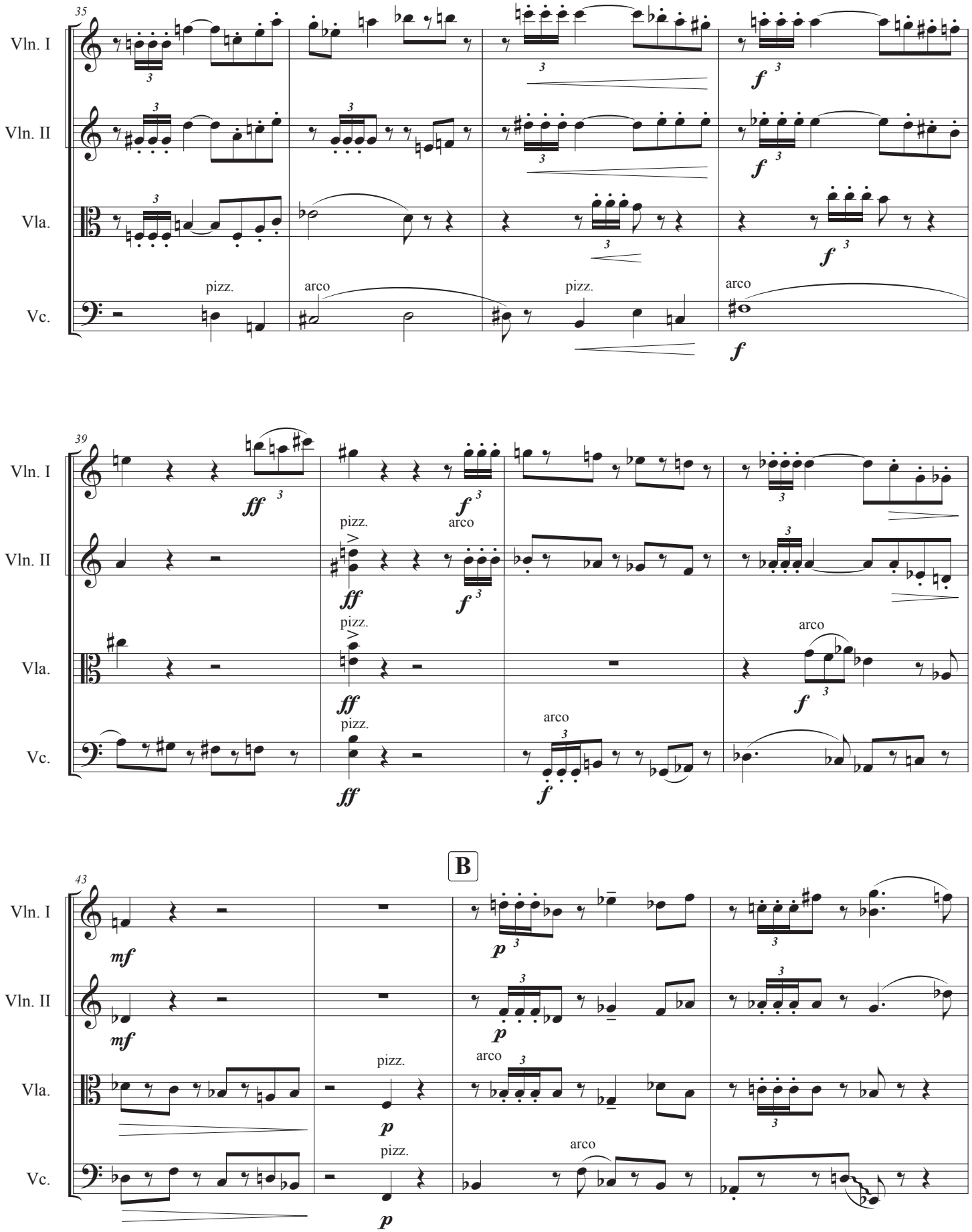
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

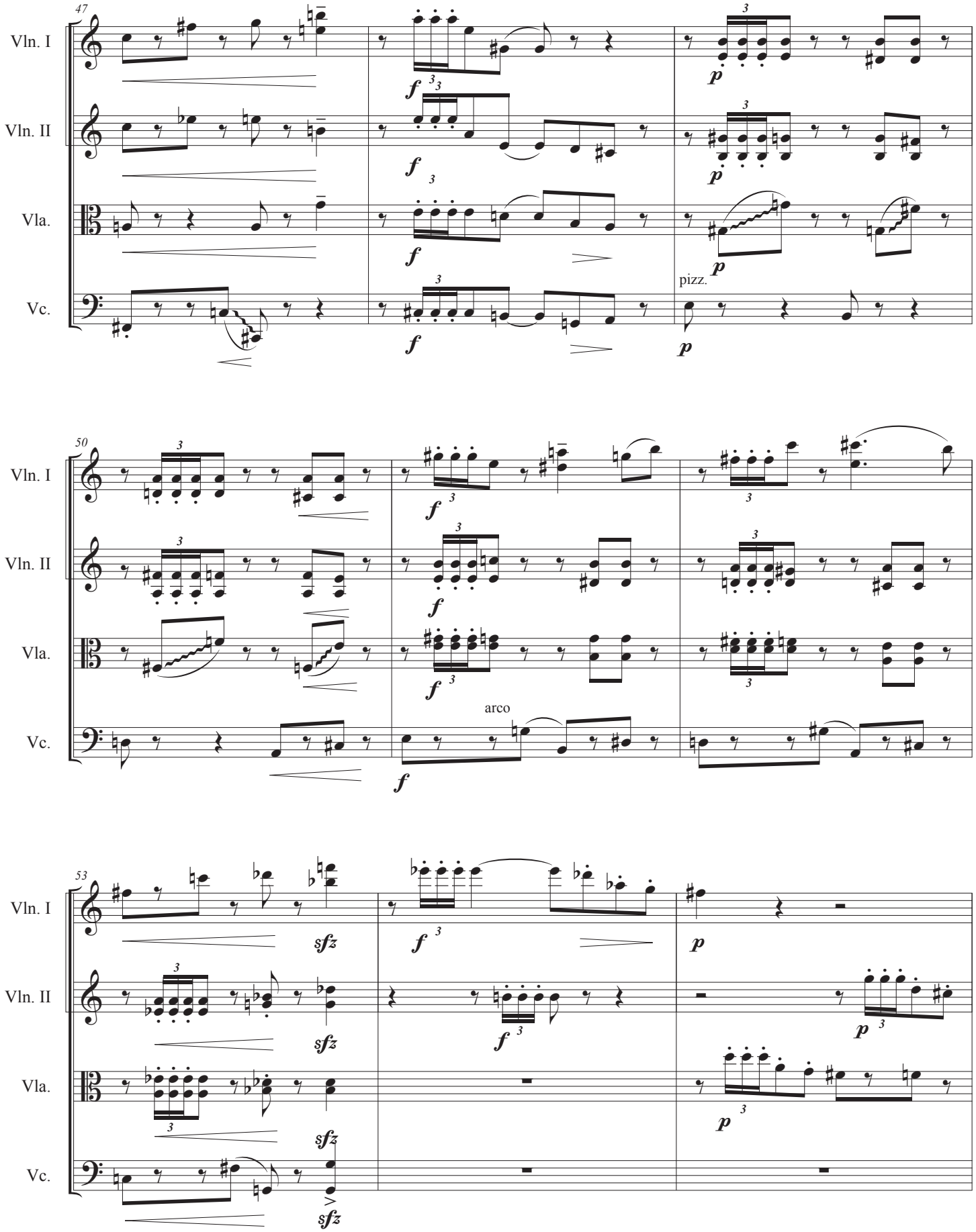

12
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
f
sfz
15
p
19
pp

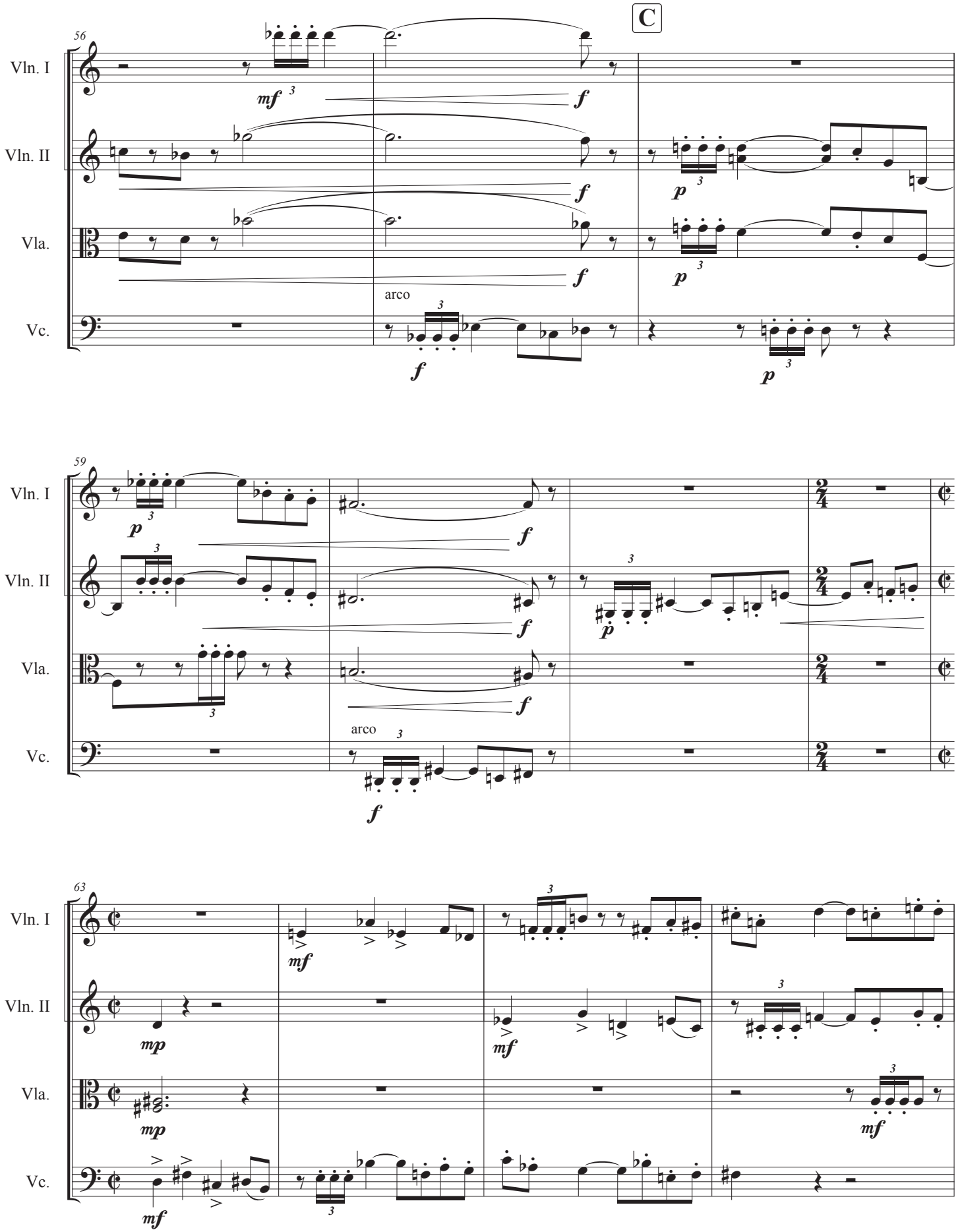

23
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mp

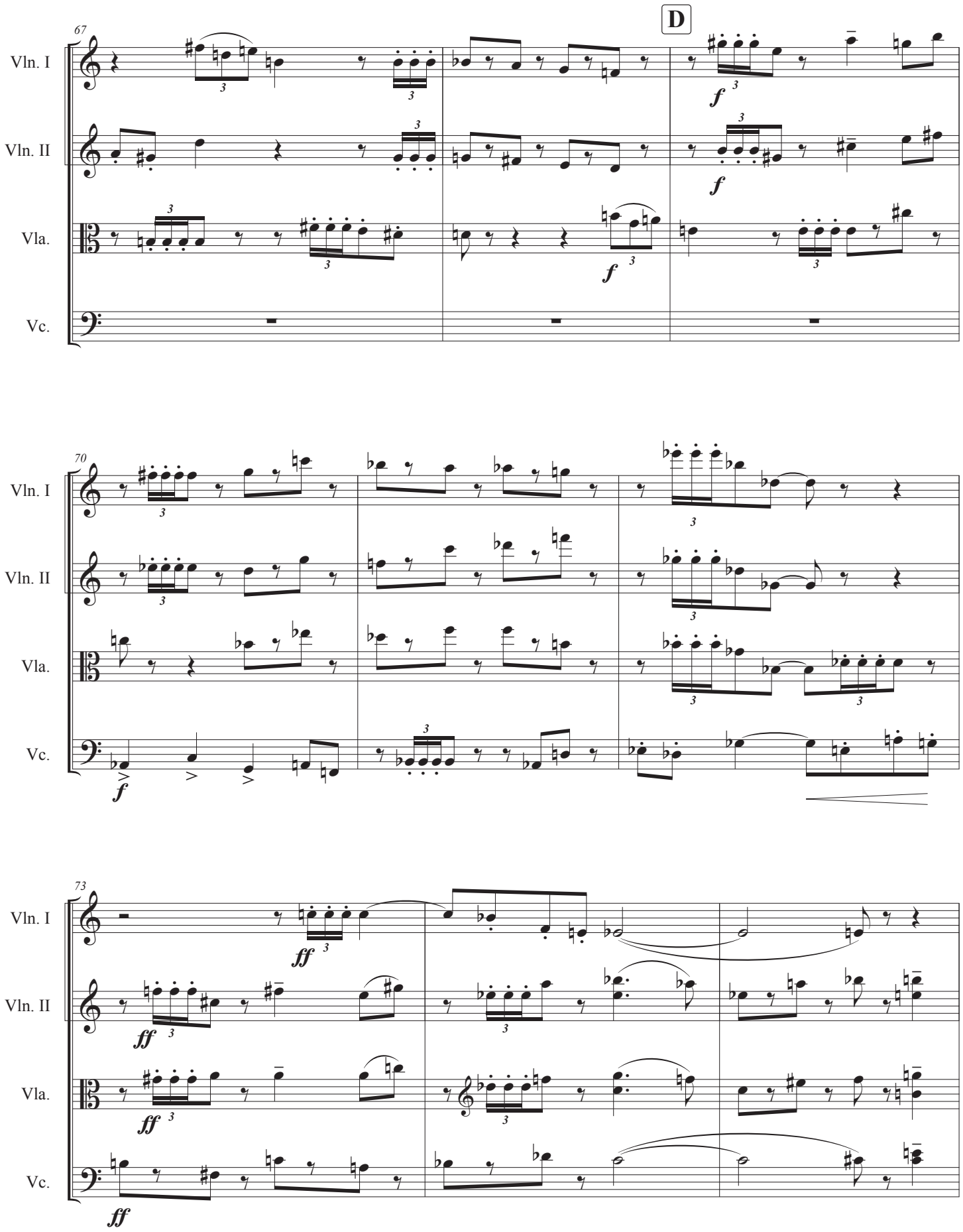

A
27
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
p
p

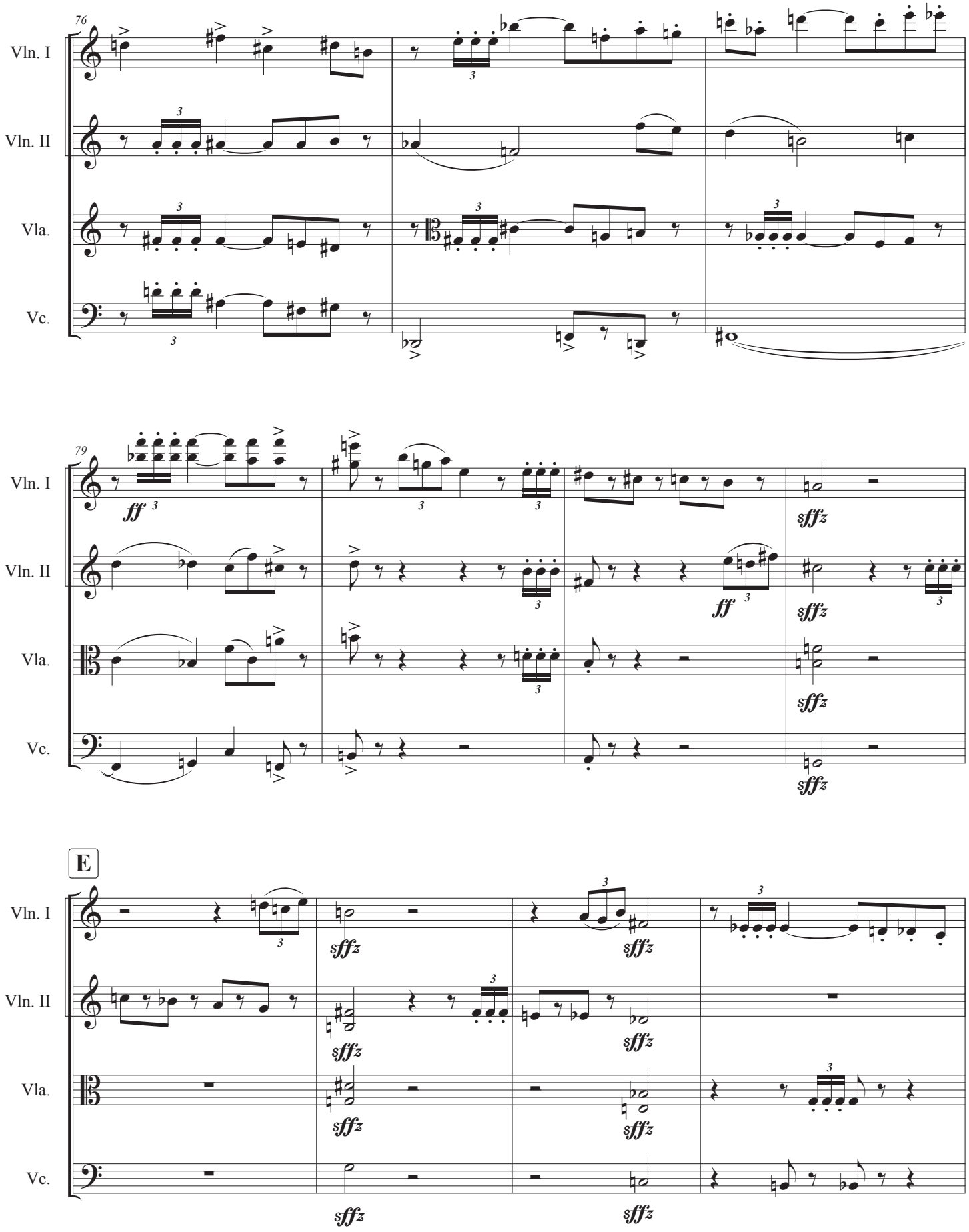

31
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
mf
mf
mf

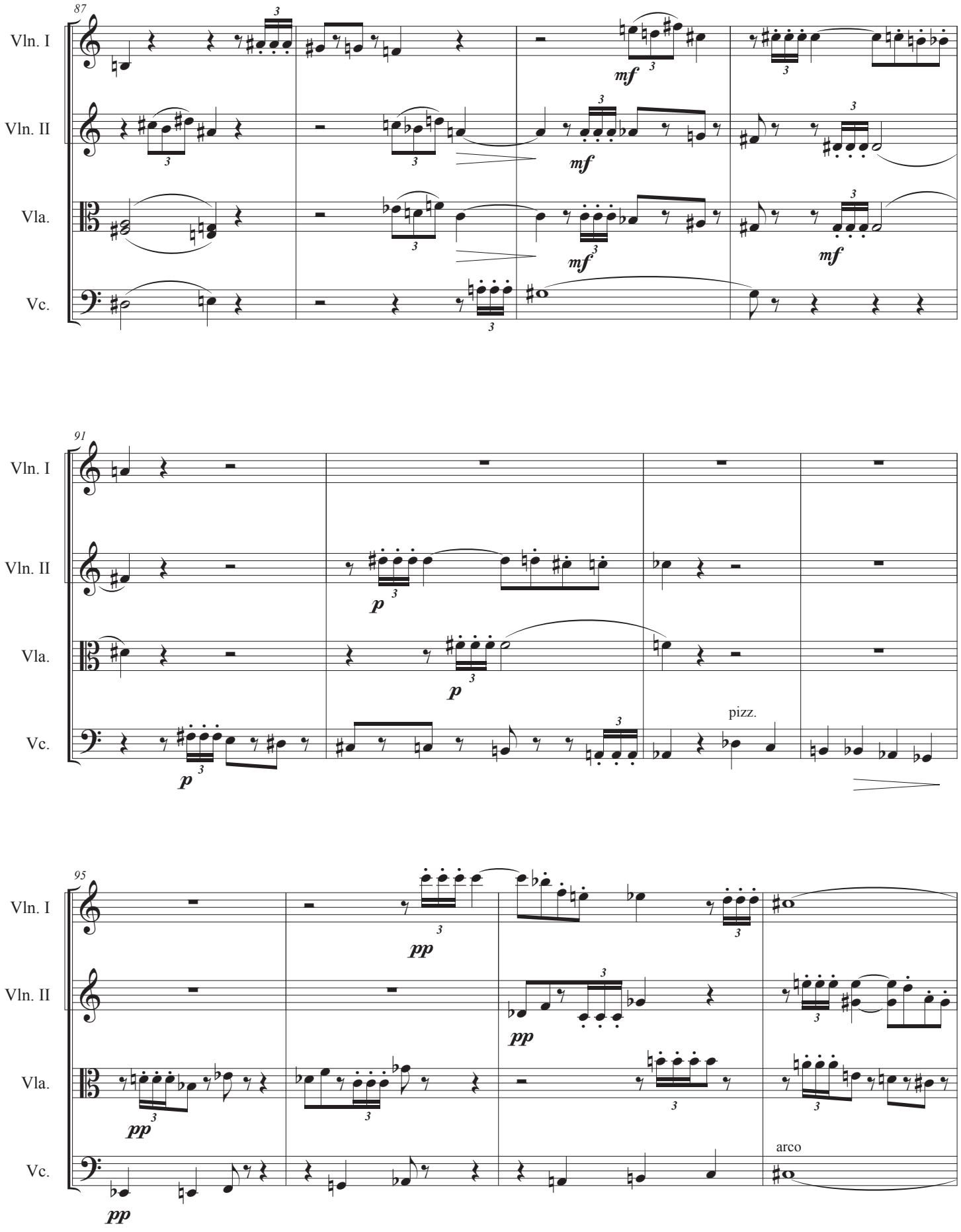

35
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
39
pizz.
arco
pizz.
pizz.
arco
arco
B
43
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco

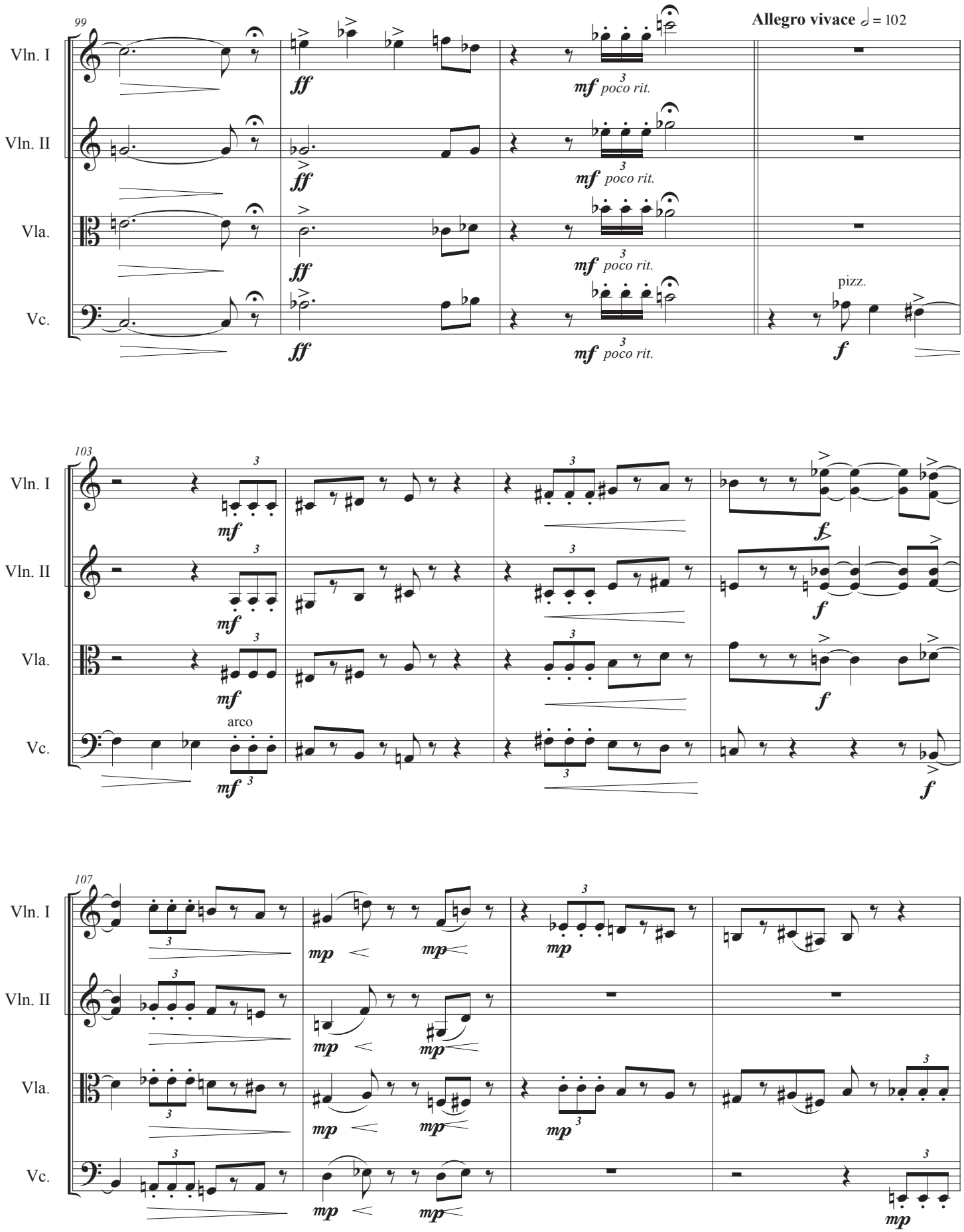

47
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
50
arco
53

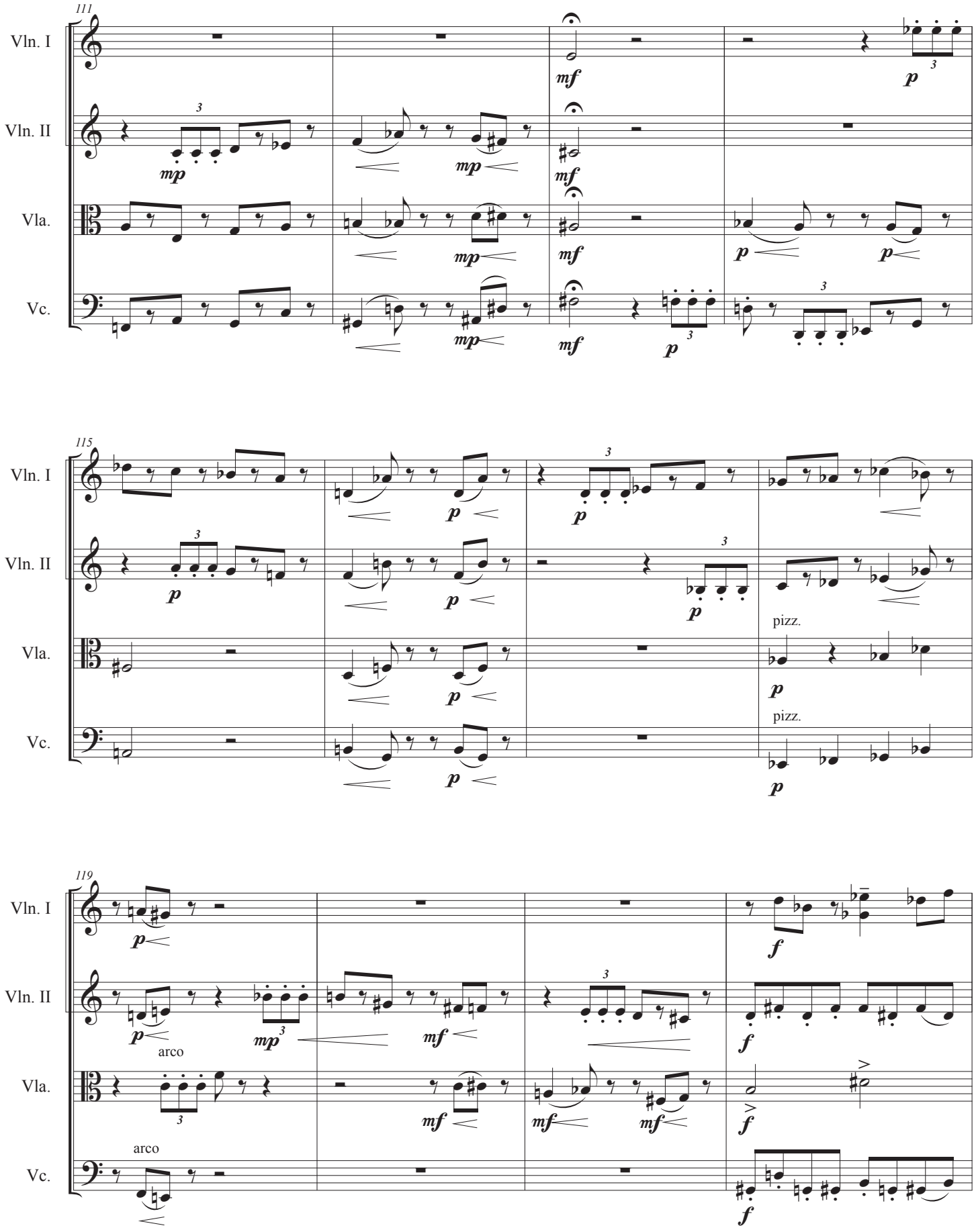

C
56
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
59
63

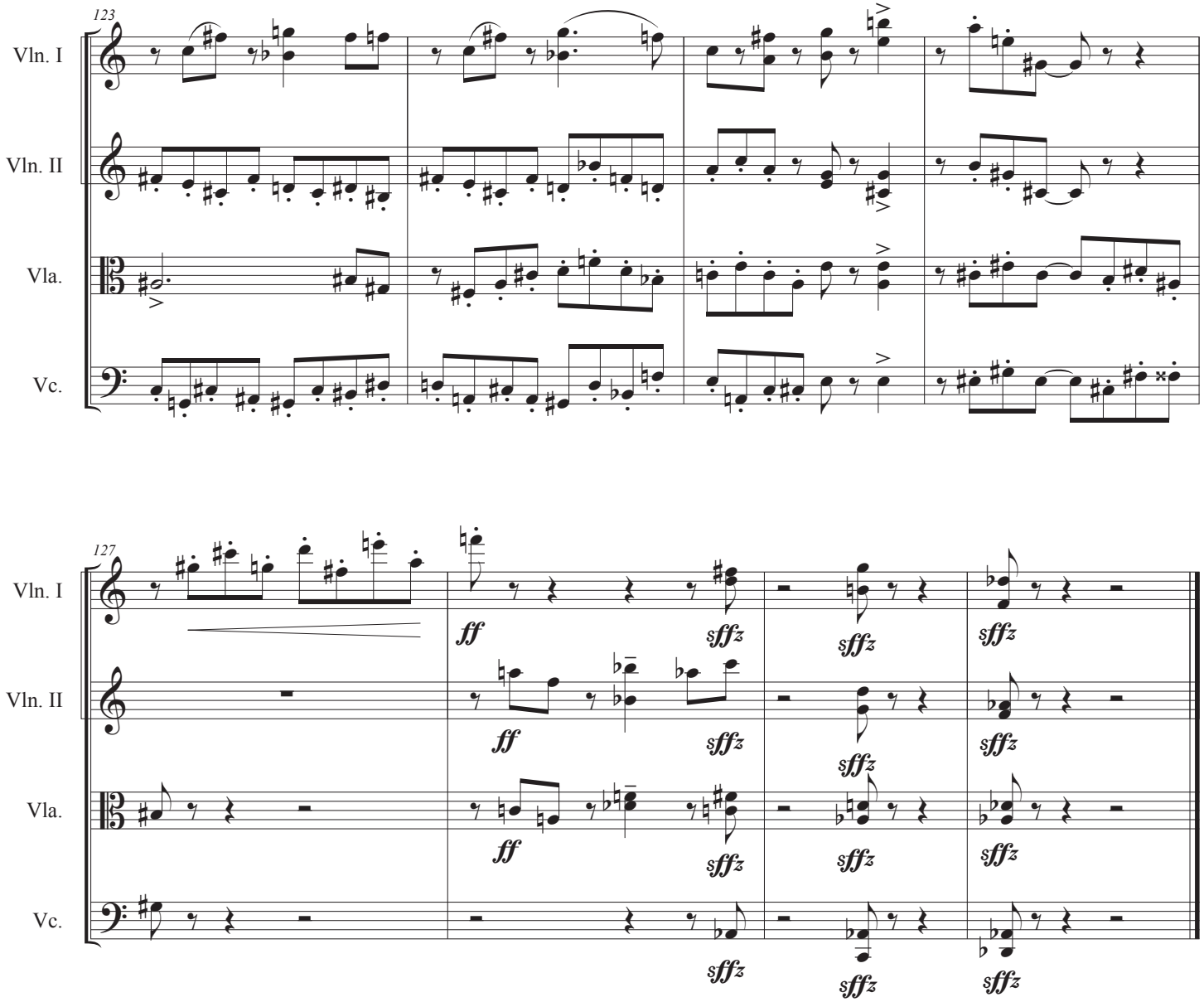

67
D
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
f
70
ff
73


76
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
79
ff
sffz
E


87
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
mf
mf
mf
91
p
p
p
pizz.
95
pp
pp
pp
pp
arco


99
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
ff
mf poco rit.
Allegro vivace ♩= 102
pizz.
f
103
mf
arco
107
mp


111
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
115
pizz.
pizz.
119
arco
arco


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