in the world of zero

for voice and chamber ensemble

poem by Göran Sonnevi

translated from the Swedish by Rika Lesser

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INSTRUMENTS

flute
oboe
clarinet
bassoon
horn
percussion (one player)
- **anvil**
- **large suspended cymbal**
- **medium gong**
- **large tam-tam**
- **bass drum**
- **crotales (one octave, chromatic)**
- **timpani**

piano
violin 1
violin II
viola
cello
contrabass

The score is in C.

The poem is taken from the collection A Child is not a Knife, selected poems of Göran Sonnevi, translated and edited by Rika Lesser, published by Princeton University Press. The poem is used with kind permission of both poets.

what
do I find
then, in the
matrix of
ultimate
alarm?
The world
of zero
is coming
Singing in
full
voice, with
no distinctions
My love
remains
even in the world
of zero
Now my eye
seeks
you, and
there you
are, even in
the world of
zero, with no
distinctions
with no voice
There is no difference
Suddenly you come
a delight of zero
You are the softest darkness
the hardest light
Is there any light
in the world of zero? No

qu'est-ce que
je trouve
alors, dans
la matrice
de l'ultime
alarme?
L'univers
de zéro
approche
chantant
à pleine voix,
sans aucune
distinction.
Mon amour
démeure,
même dans l'univers
de zéro.
Maintenant mon oeil
te cherche
et tu es là,
même
dans l'univers
de zéro, sans
distinctions,
sans voix
Il n'y a aucune différence.
Soudain, tu arrives,
une extase de zéro.
Tu es l'obscurité
la plus douce
la lumière la plus dure.
Y a-t'il de la lumière
dans l'univers de zéro? Non

*

there is no
hate, no fear Not even
in the ultimate alarm, its
warmth, its
cold
Resting in time's
progression of zero
in the space of zero
The voices were silenced long ago
The mountain and the sea
obliterated
The moon obliterated The sun
Beneath us there's nothing
Not around us
not above us
Everything is of zero
Like perfect sweetness
And faster, more forcefully now
Birth is enormous We
are birthed We are the enormous

*

il n'y a aucune
haine, aucune peur. Même
dans l'ultime alarme,
dans sa chaleur, sa
froidure
Reposant dans
la progression du temps de zéro,
dans l'espace de zéro
Les voix se sont tues depuis longtemps
La montagne et la mer
oblitérées
La lune oblitérée Le soleil
En-dessous de nous rien n'existe
Rien autour de nous
rien au-dessus de nous
Tout est fait de zéro
Comme une parfaite douceur
Et plus rapidement, avec plus de violence
maintenant la naissance est immense
Nous sommes nés

child of zero
The matrix stretches
The knife, the head, coming
Everything is blinding white light
We are our own child
(We have no parents)*
The deep births us
We are the limits of zero
A shock wave of warmth
even in the ultimate annihilation
Outside of this
is the white universe
I search for my connection , here
in the real world
The real world of zero

Do you know me, that I exist?

There is only the ultimate answer.

Nous sommes l'immense enfant de zéro
La matrice s'agrandit
Le couteau, la tête, surgissants
Tout est lumière blanche aveuglante
Nous sommes notre propre enfant
(Nous n'avons pas de parents)*
La profondeur nous engendre.
Nous sommes les limites de zéro
Onde-choc de chaleur
même dans l'ultime anéantissement
En dehors de cela
subsiste le blanc univers
Je cherche mon lien, ici
dans le vrai univers
le vrai univers de zéro

Me connais-tu, sais-tu que j'existe?

Il n'y a que l'ultime réponse.

-Traduction: Jocelyne Fleury

*This line is not sung.

*Cette phrase n'est pas chantée.

From 'A Child is not a Knife, Selected poems of Göran Sonnevi, edited and translated by Rika Lesser. Princeton University Press, 1991. Used by kind permission of both poets.

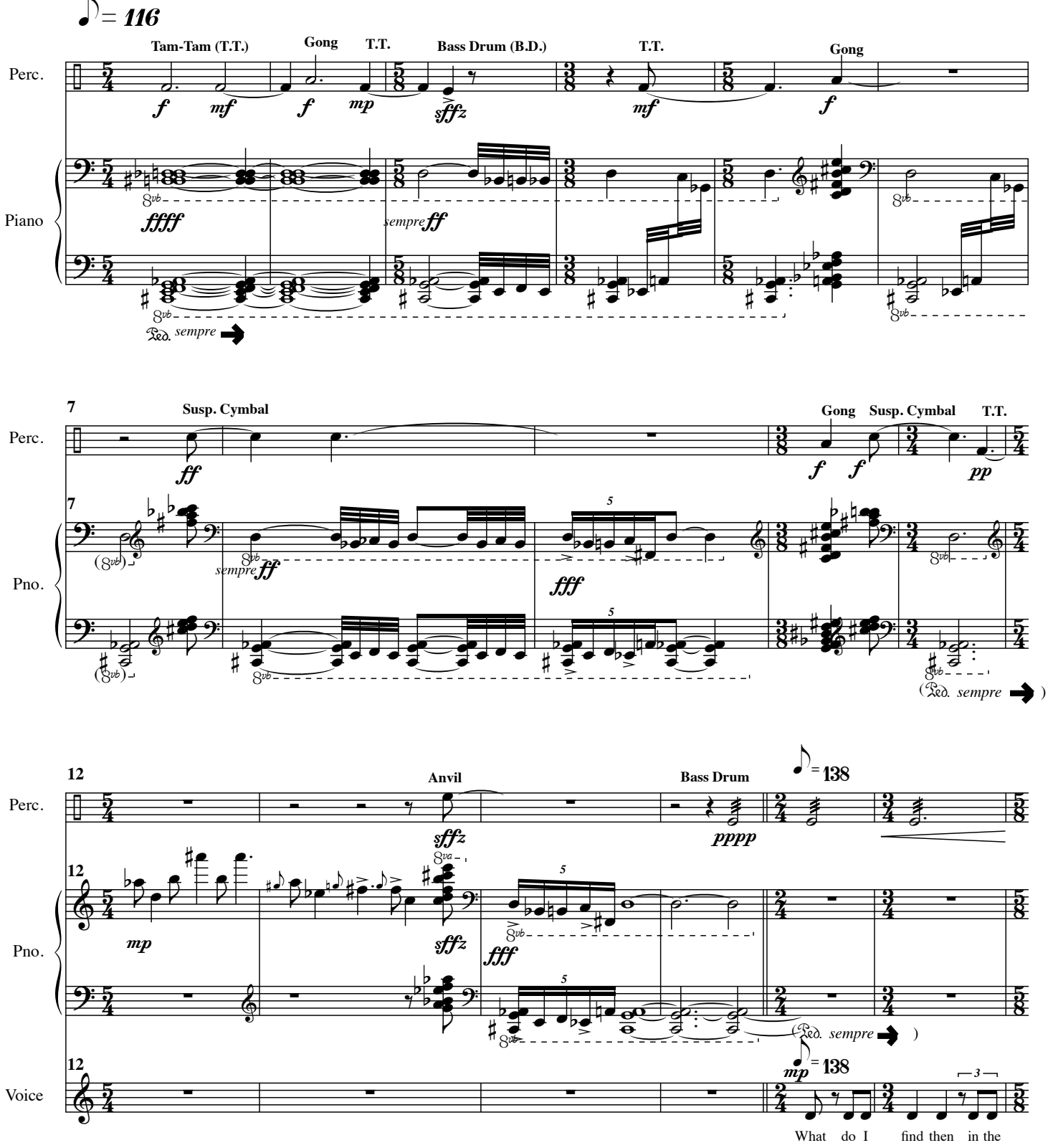
in the world of zero

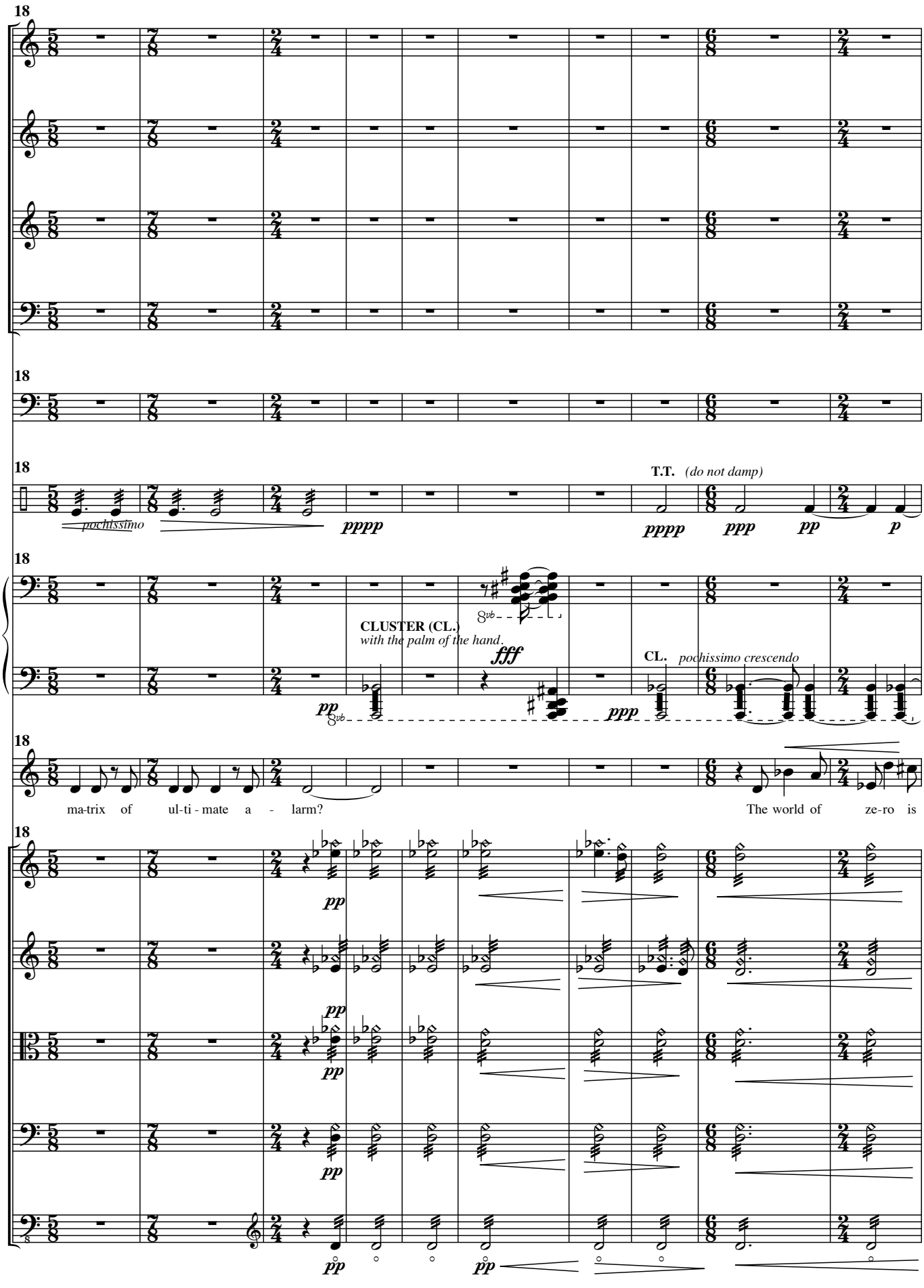
for my parents

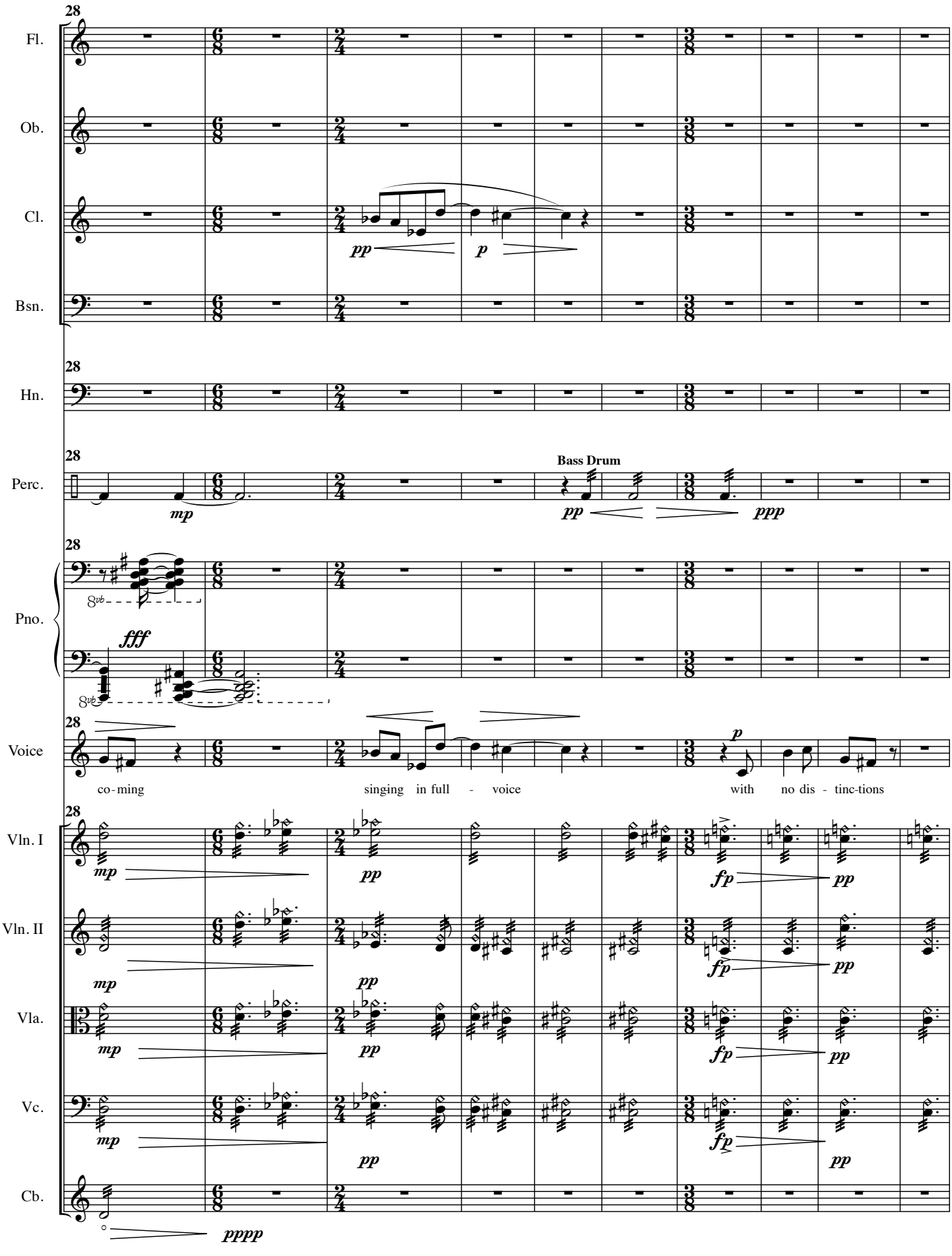
Göran Sonnevi/Rika Lesser

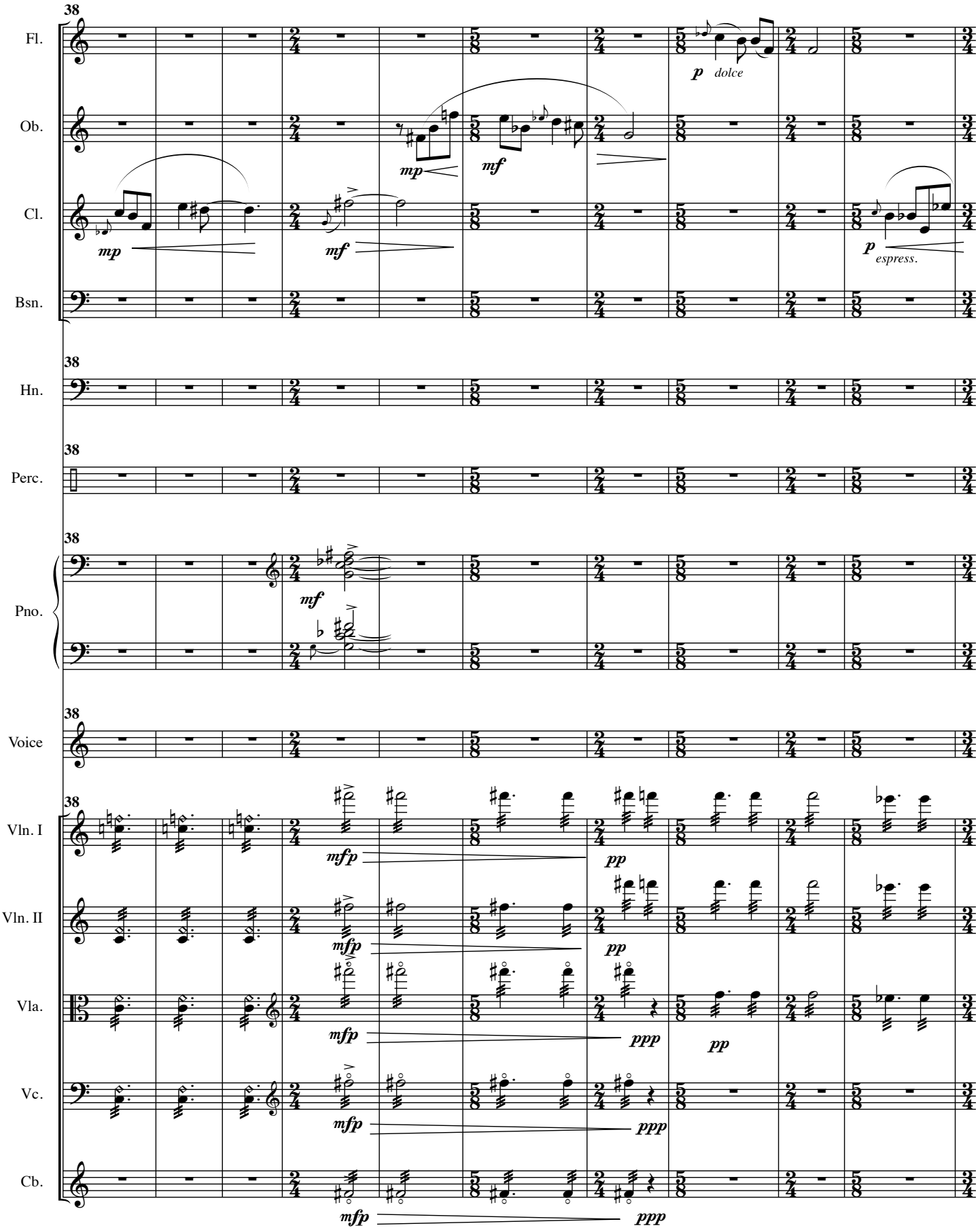
I

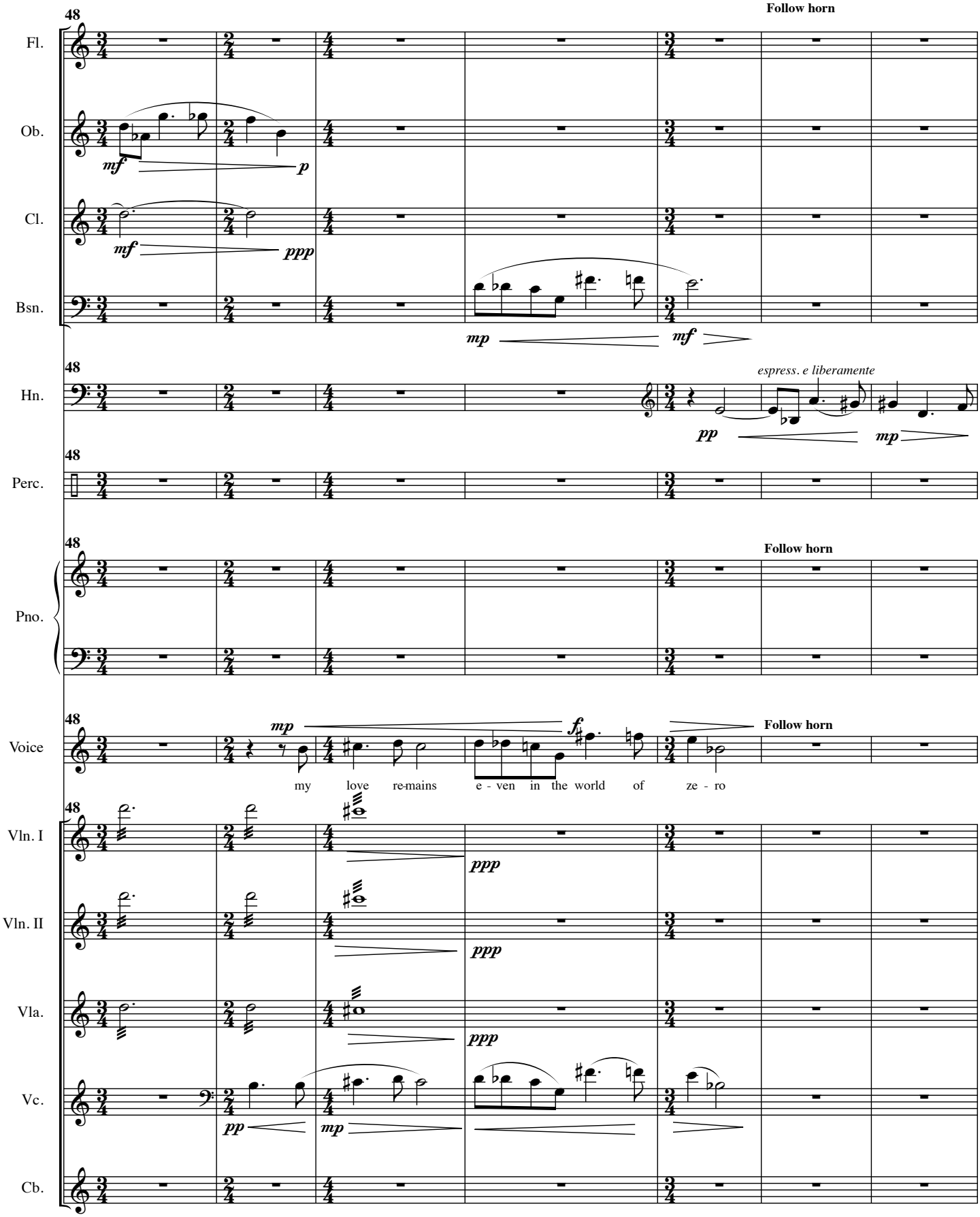
John Plant

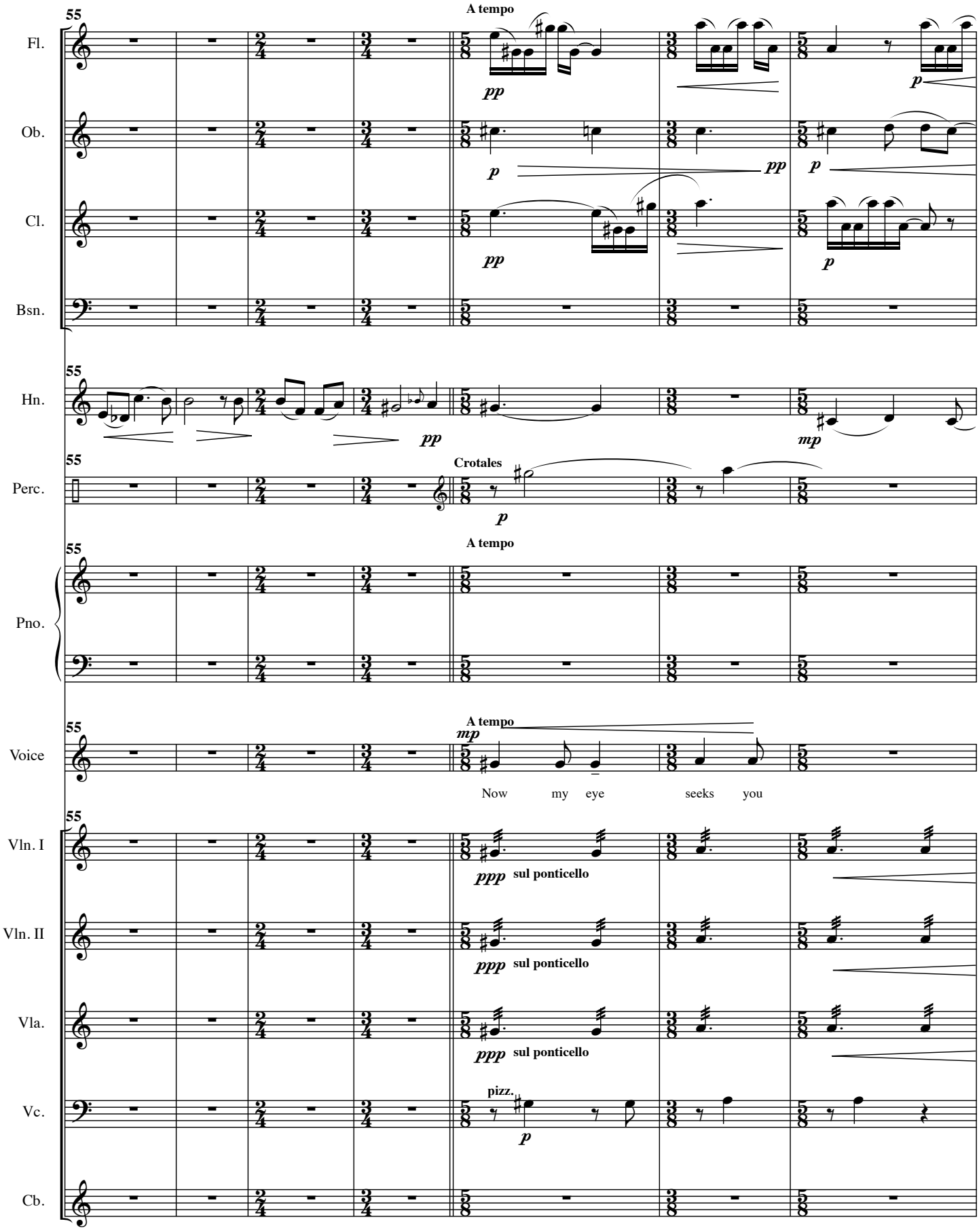


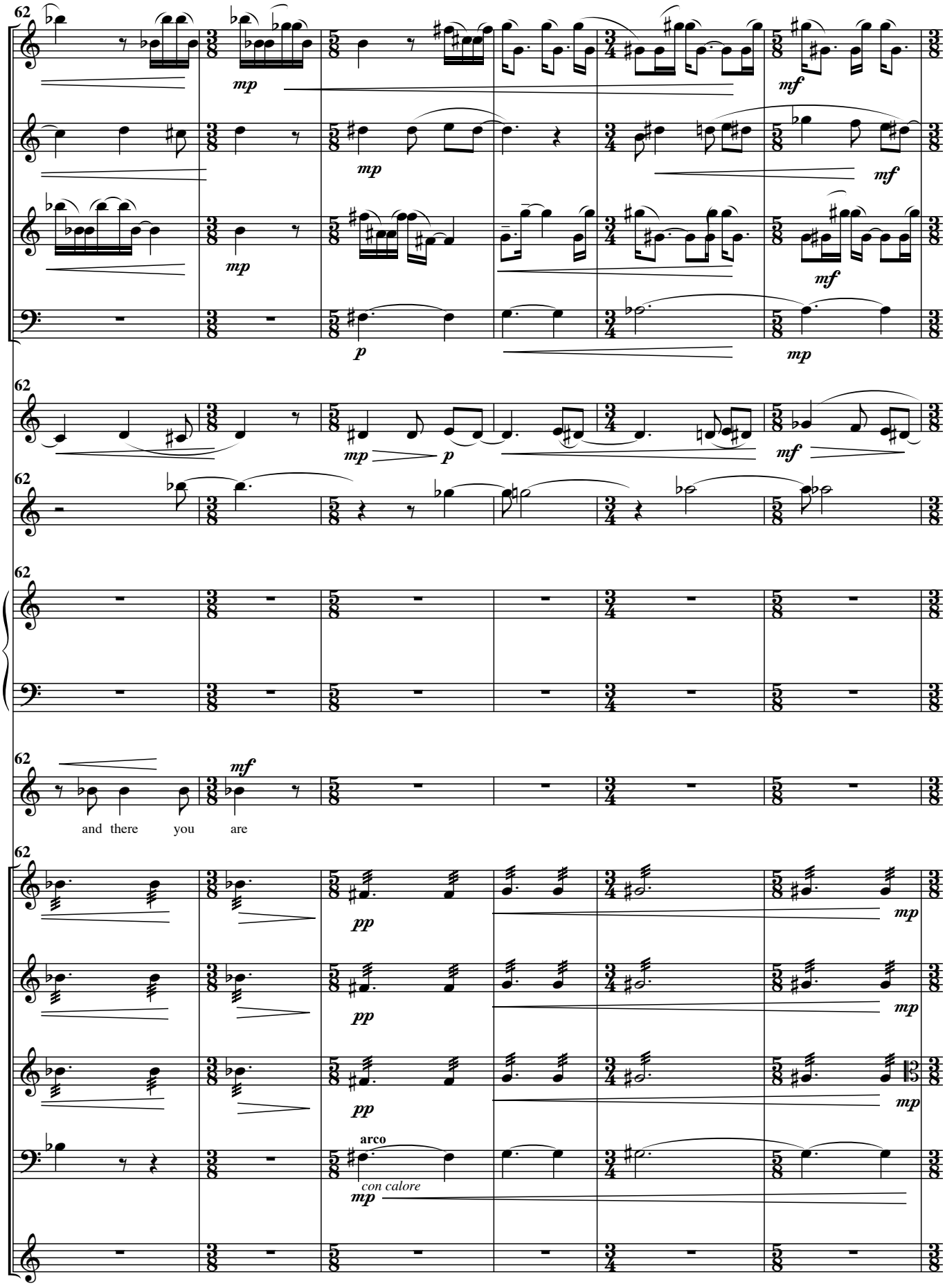

18
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
18
Hn.
18
Perc.
pochissimo
pppp
T.T. (do not damp)
pppp
ppp
pp
p
18
Pno.
CLUSTER (CL.)
with the palm of the hand.
fff
8vb
pp
ppp
CL. pochissimo crescendo
18
Voice
ma-trix of ul-ti - mate a - larm?
The world of ze-ro is
18
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pp

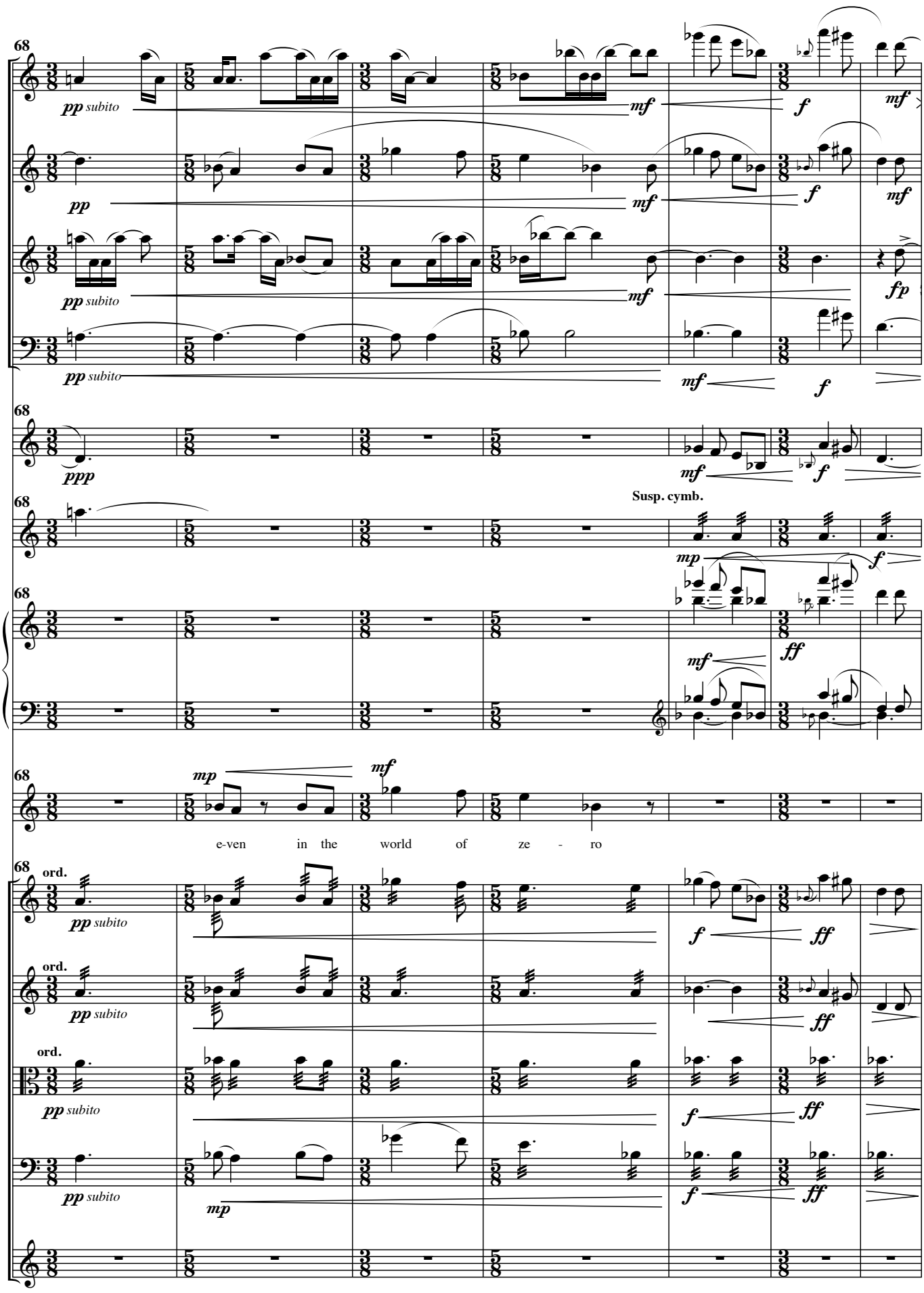

28
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
pp
p
28
Hn.
28
Perc.
Bass Drum
mp
pp
ppp
28
Pno.
fff
28
Voice
p
co-ming
singing in full - voice
with no dis - tinc-tions
28
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
pp
fp
pp
pppp

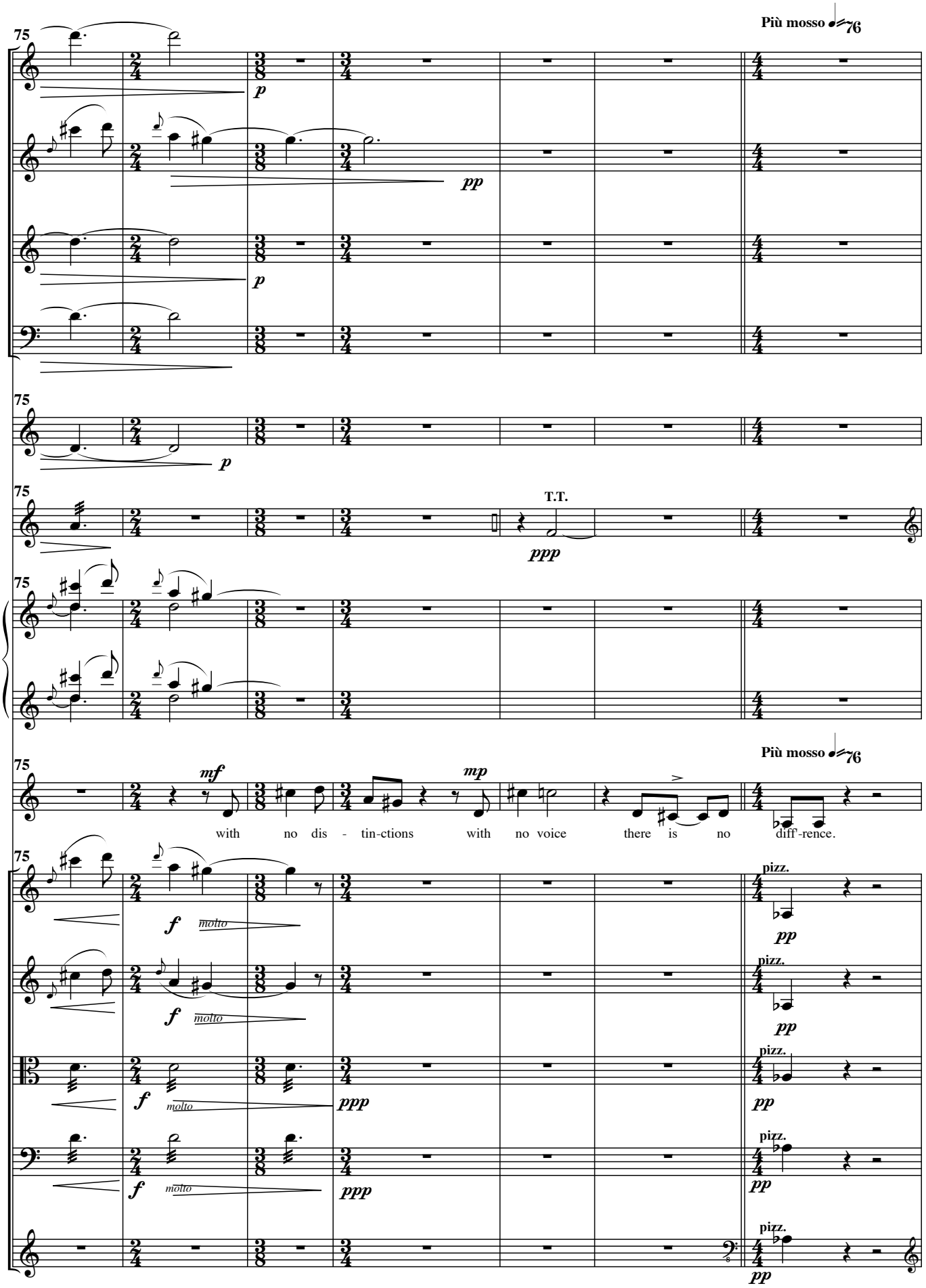

38
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Pno.
Voice
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p dolce
mp
mf
mp
mf
p espress.
mf
mfp
pp
mfp
pp
mfp
ppp
pp
mfp
ppp
mfp
ppp

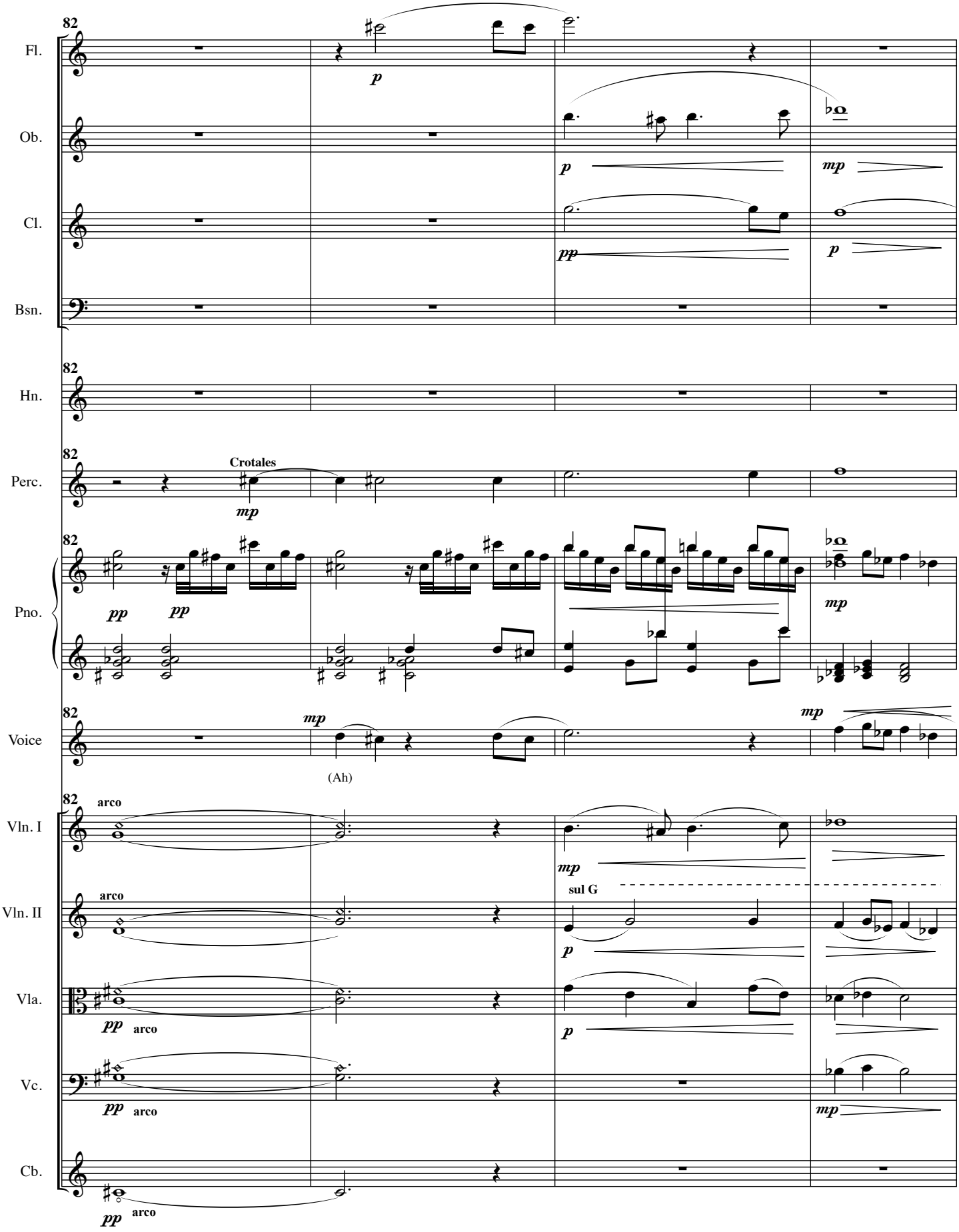

48
Follow horn
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
mf
p
mf
ppp
mp
mf
48
espress. e liberamente
Hn.
pp
mp
48
Perc.
48
Follow horn
Pno.
48
mp
f
Follow horn
Voice
my love re-mains e - ven in the world of ze - ro
48
Vln. I
ppp
Vln. II
ppp
Vla.
ppp
Vc.
pp
mp
Cb.

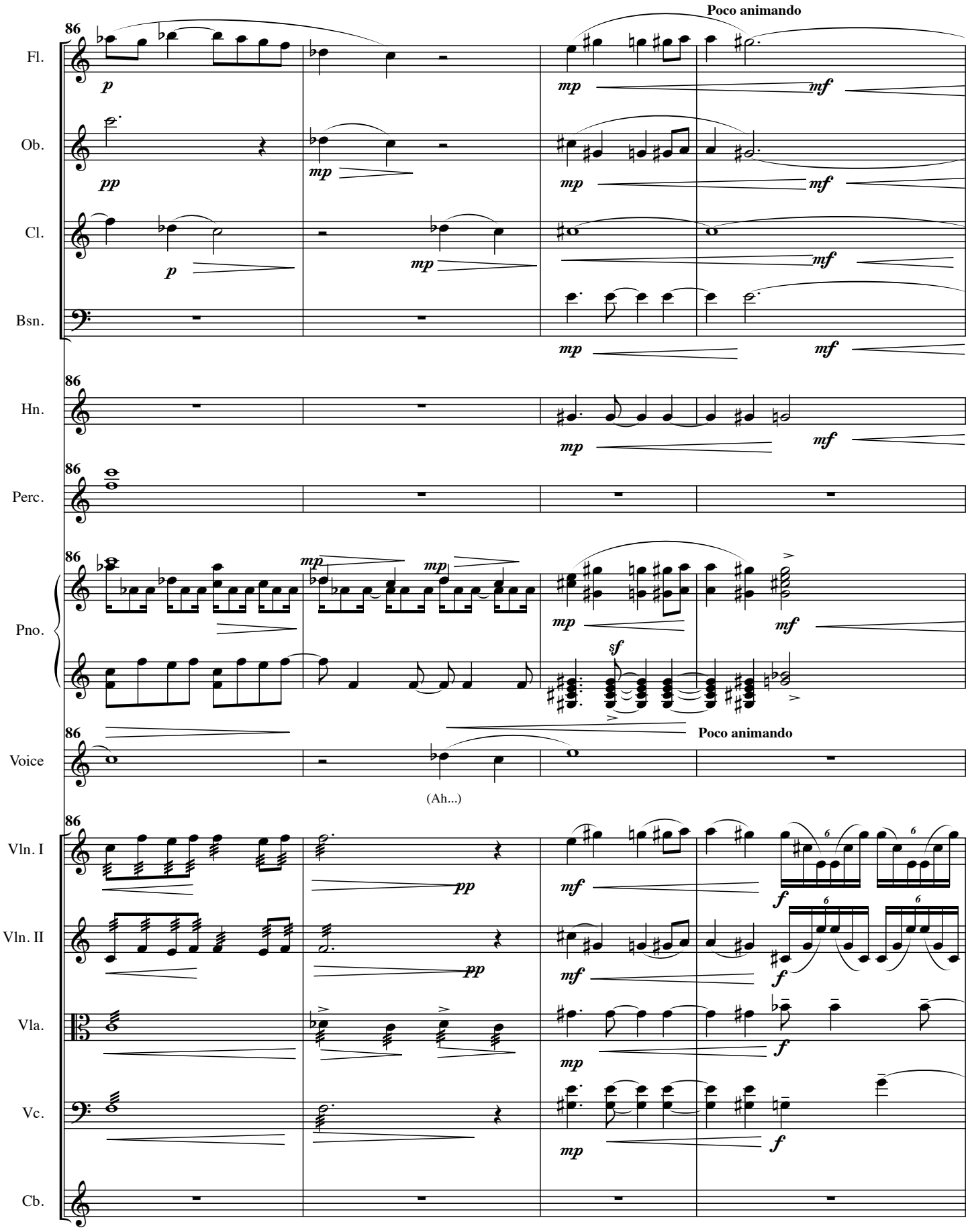

55
A tempo
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Crotales
Pno.
Voice
Now my eye seeks you
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
sul ponticello
pizz.

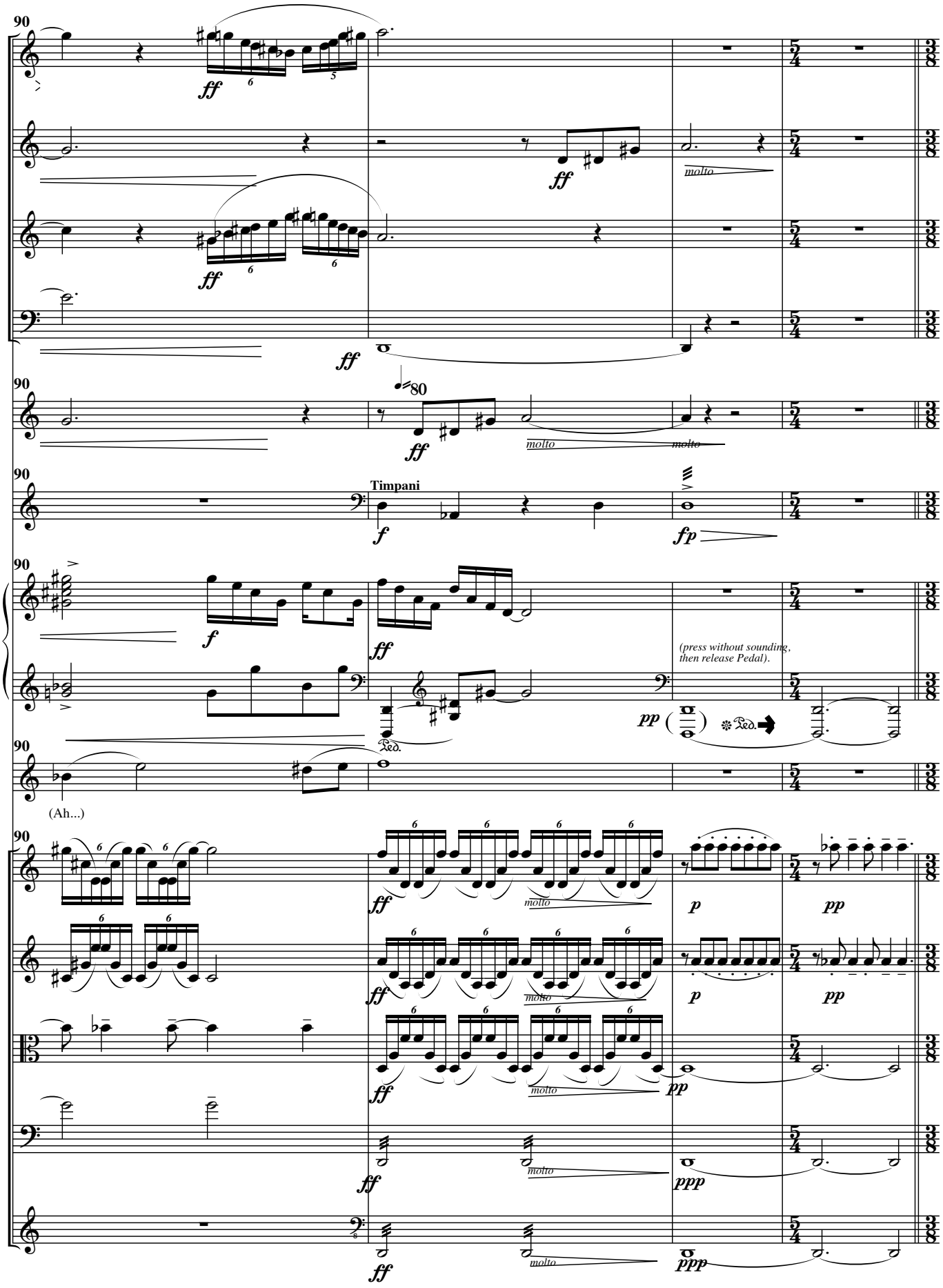

62
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Pno.
Voice
and there you are
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
mf
p
pp
arco
con calore

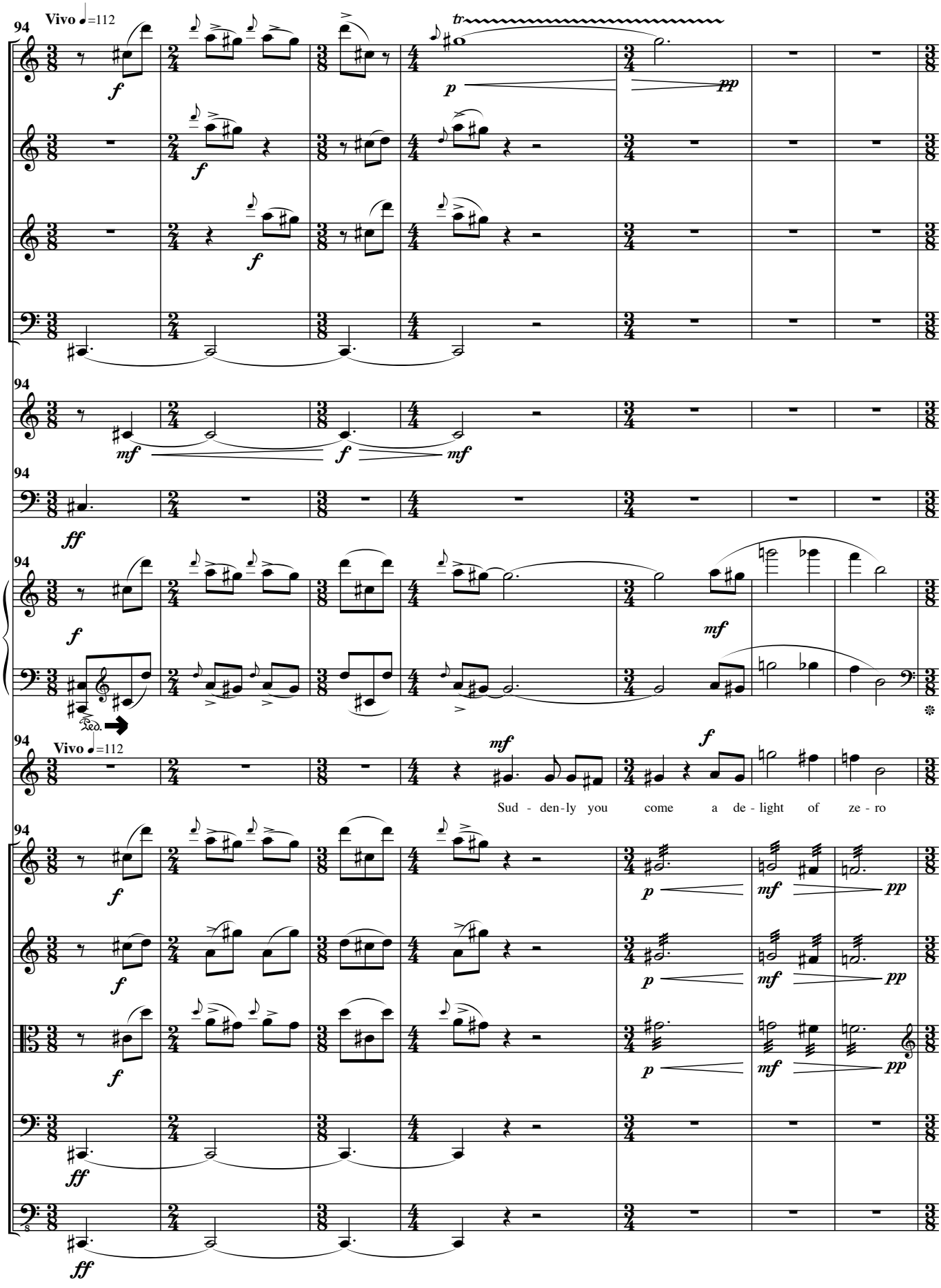

68
Fl.
pp subito
mf
f
mf
Ob.
pp
mf
f
mf
Cl.
pp subito
mf
fp
Bsn.
pp subito
mf
f
68
Hn.
ppp
mf
f
Susp. cymb.
68
Perc.
mp
f
68
Pno.
mf
ff
68
Voice
mp
mf
e-ven in the world of ze - ro
68
Vln. I
ord.
pp subito
f
ff
Vln. II
ord.
pp subito
ff
Vla.
ord.
pp subito
f
ff
Vc.
pp subito
mp
f
ff
Cb.

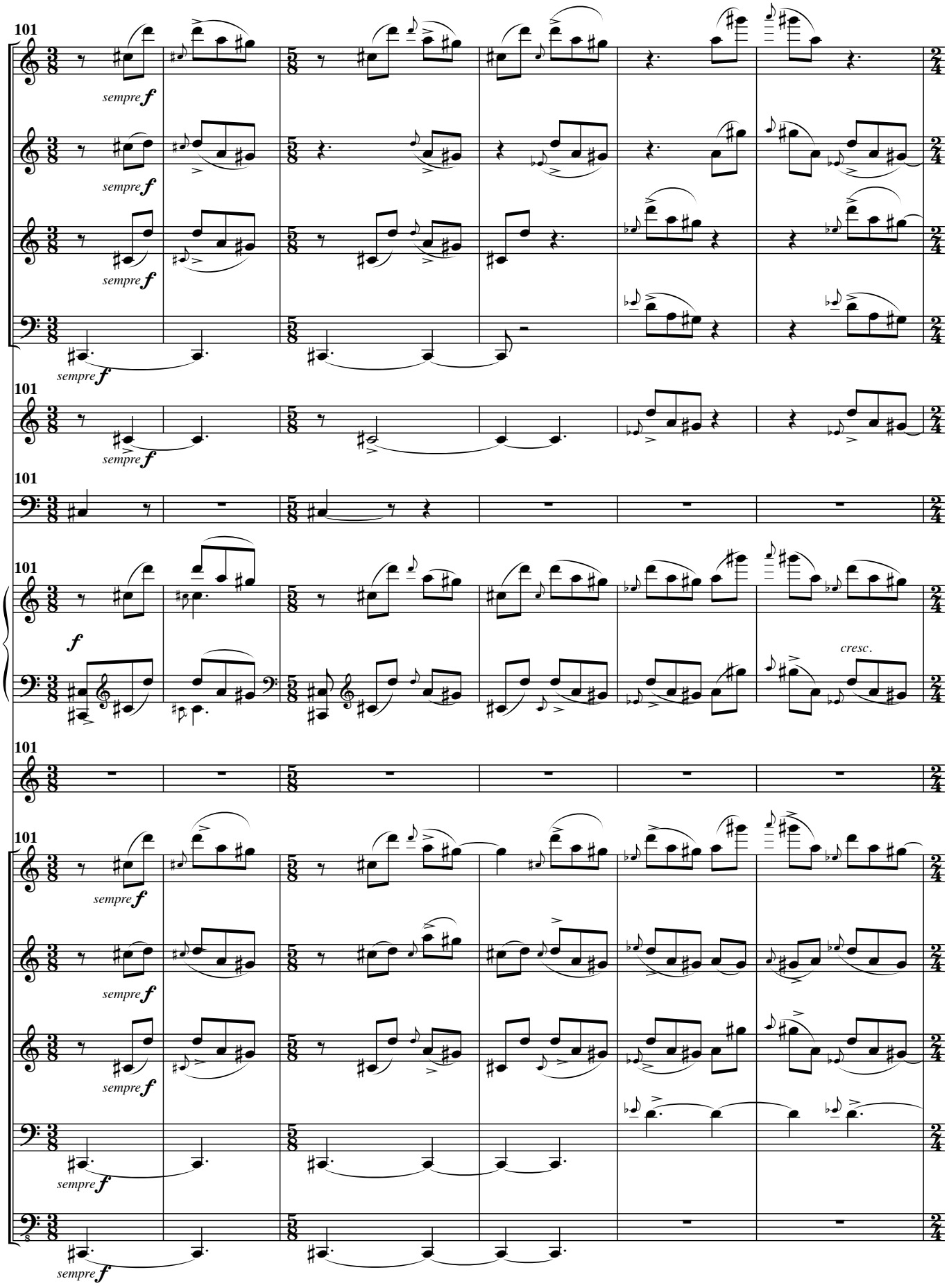

Più mosso 76
75
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
T.T.
Pno.
Voice
mf
mp
with no dis - tin-ctions with no voice there is no diff-rence.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f molto
ppp
pizz.
pp

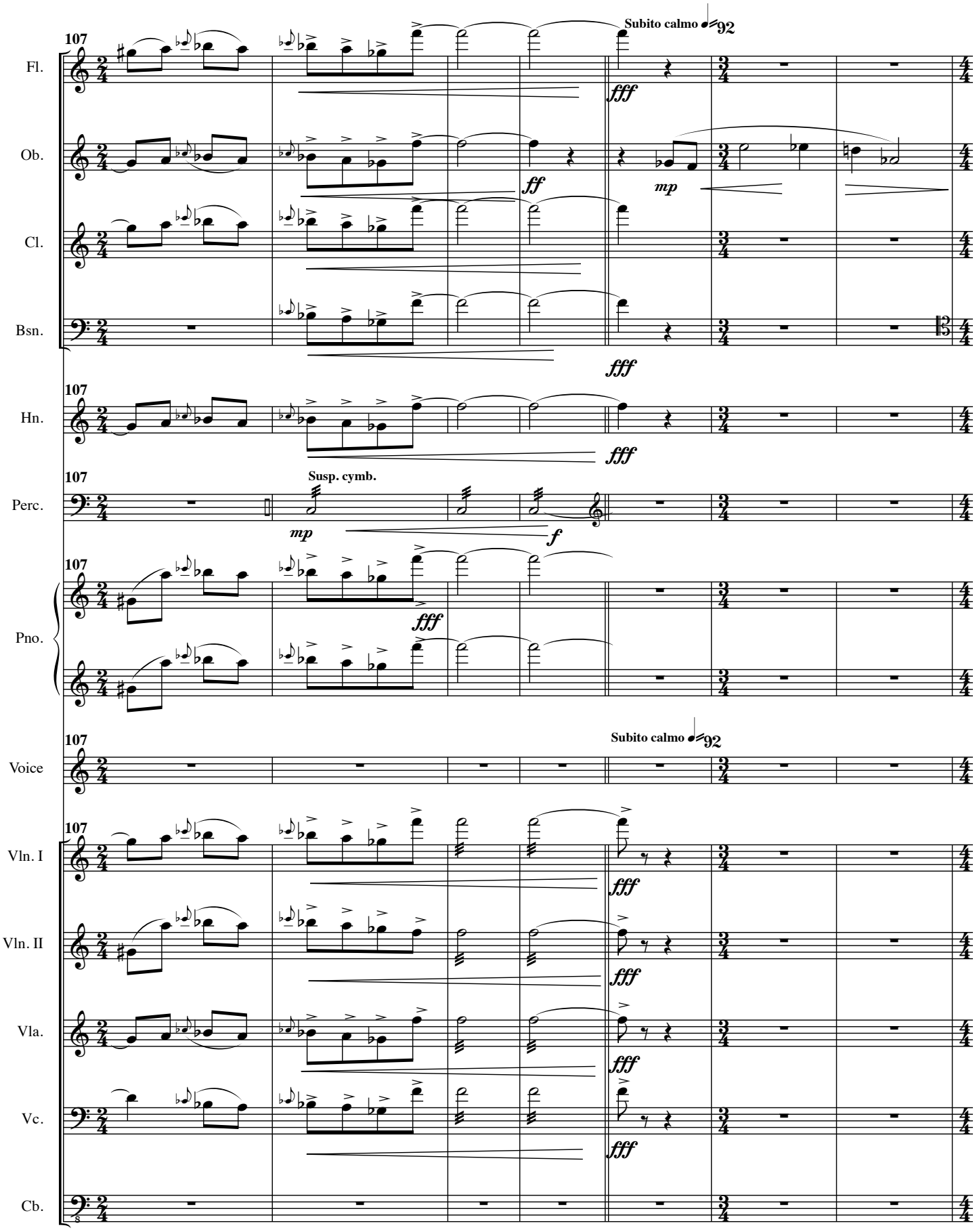

82
Fl.
p
Ob.
p
mp
Cl.
pp
p
Bsn.
82
Hn.
82
Perc.
Crotales
mp
82
Pno.
pp
pp
mp
82
Voice
mp
(Ah)
mp
82
Vln. I
arco
mp
Vln. II
arco
sul G
p
Vla.
pp
arco
p
Vc.
pp
arco
mp
Cb.
pp
arco

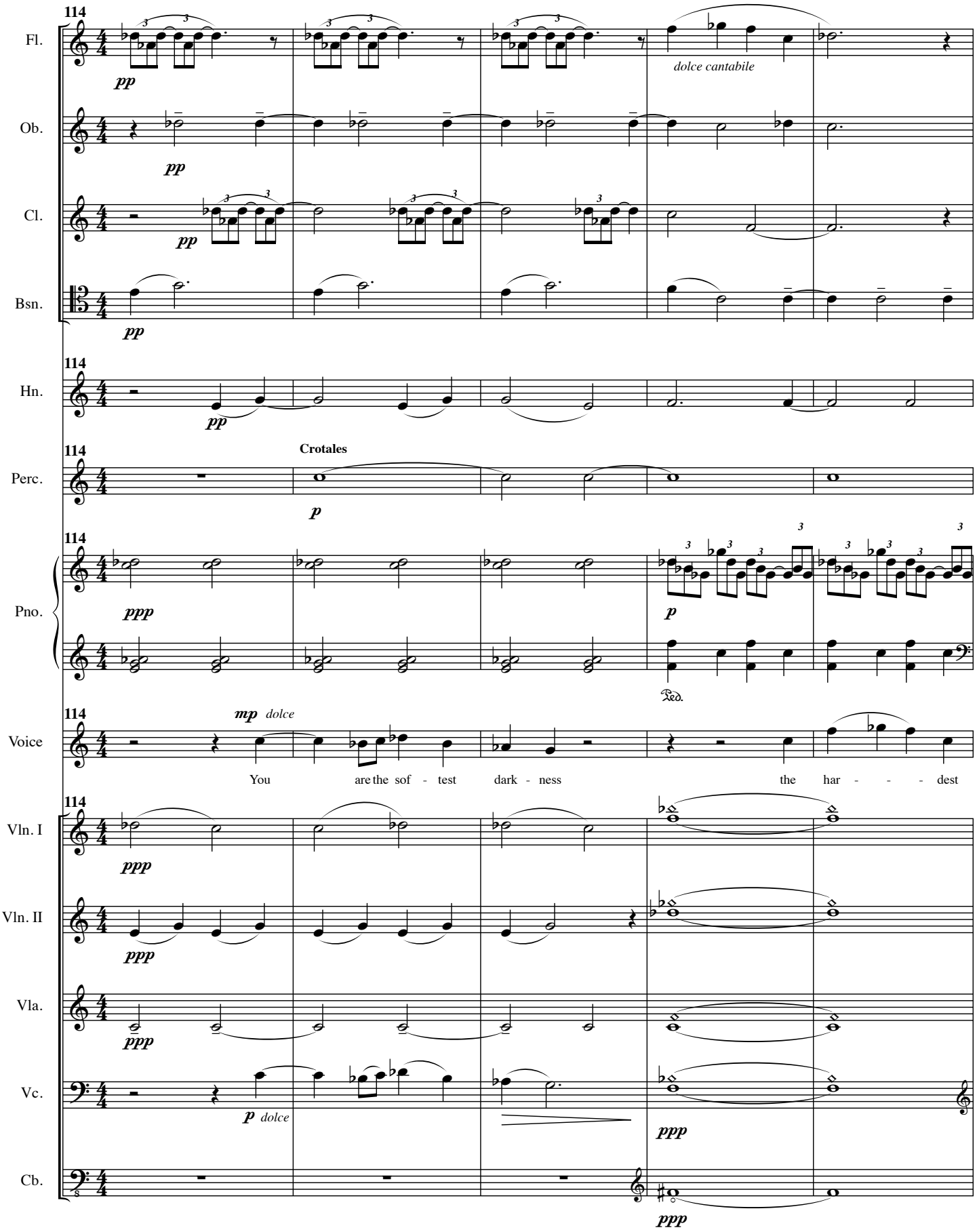

Poco animando
86
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Pno.
Voice
(Ah...)
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p
pp
mp
mf
sf
f

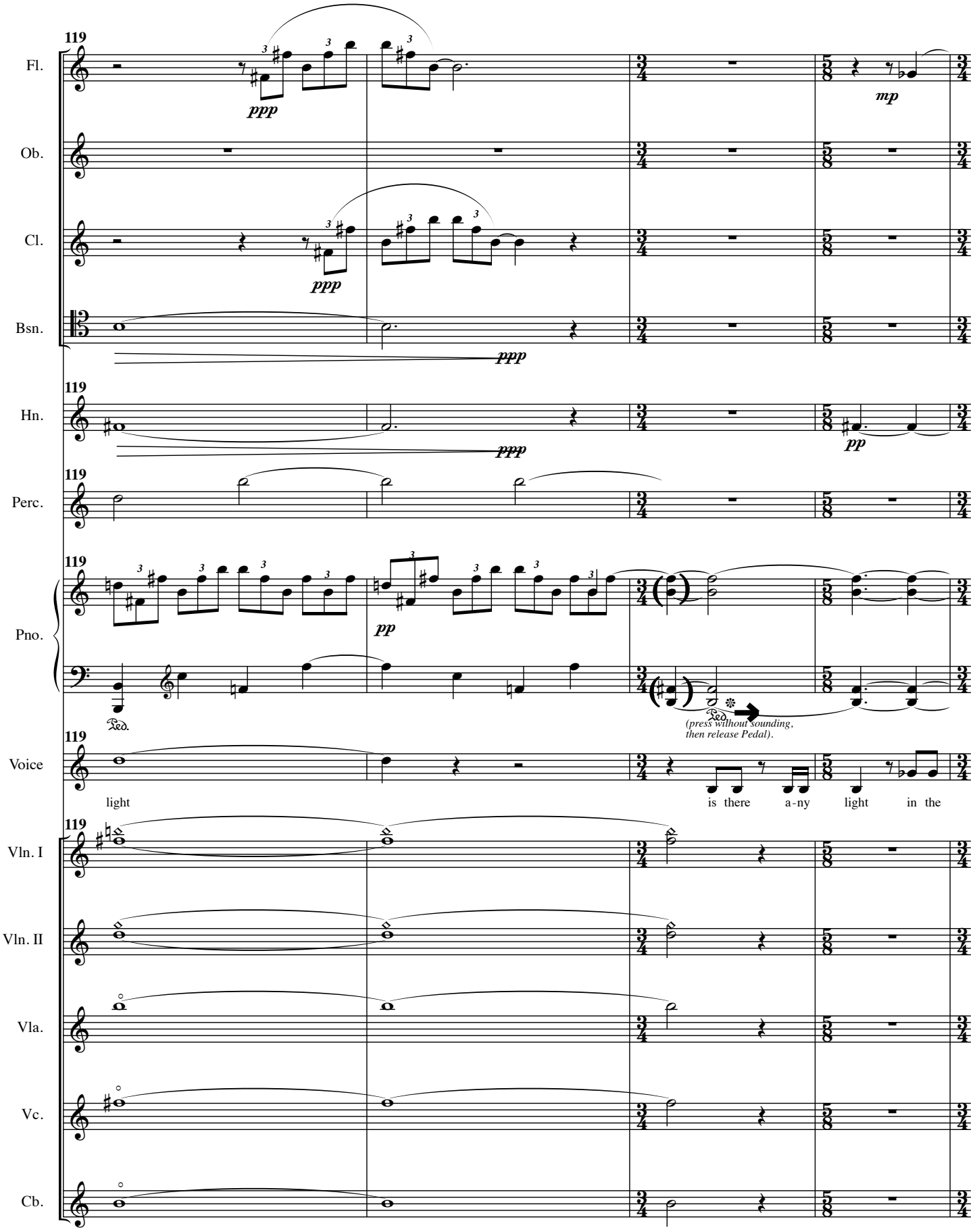

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Pno.
Voice
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
90
80
Timpani
(Ah...)
(press without sounding, then release Pedal).
molto

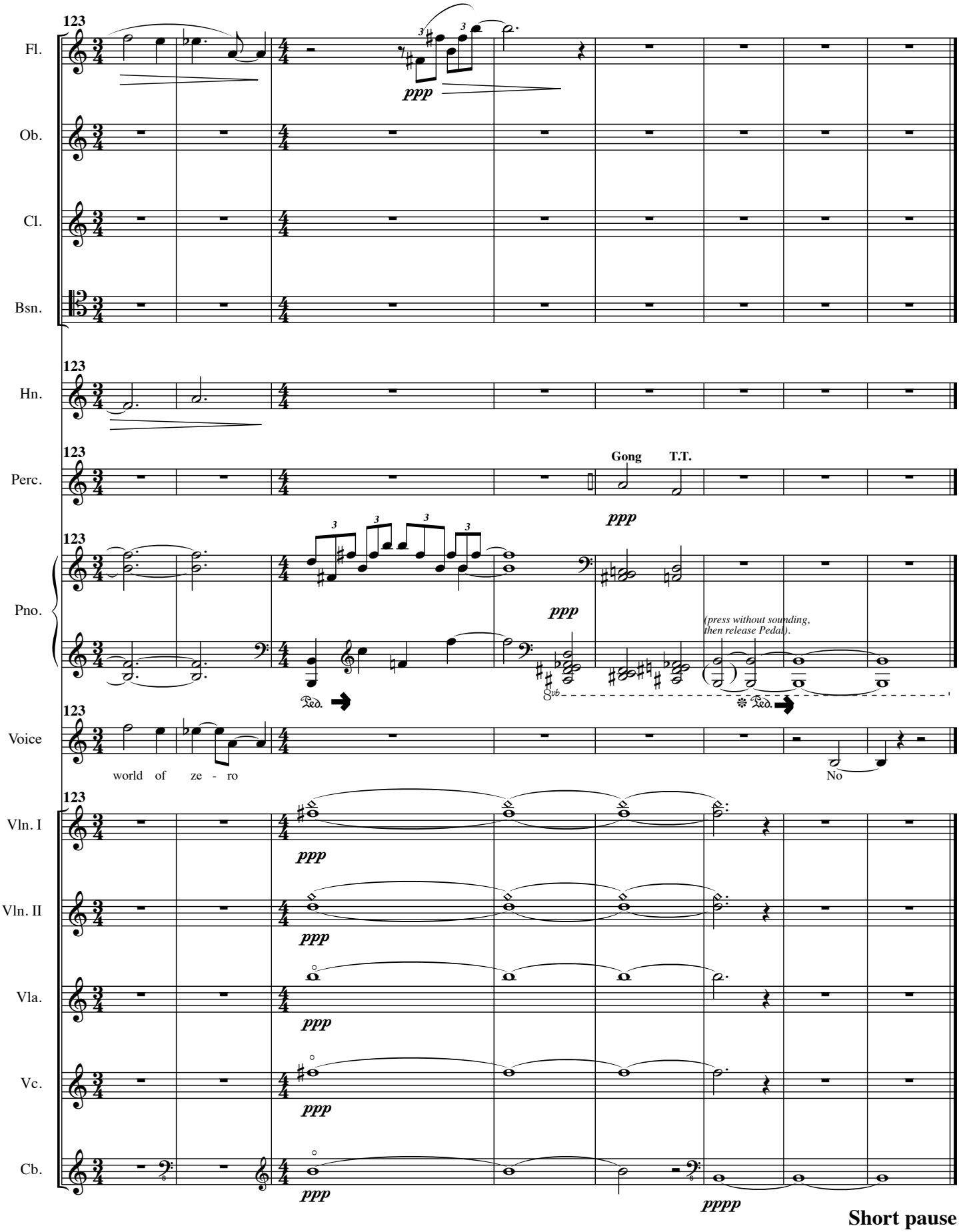

94
Vivo ♩=112
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Pno.
Voice
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
tr
Sud - den-ly you come a de - light of ze - ro

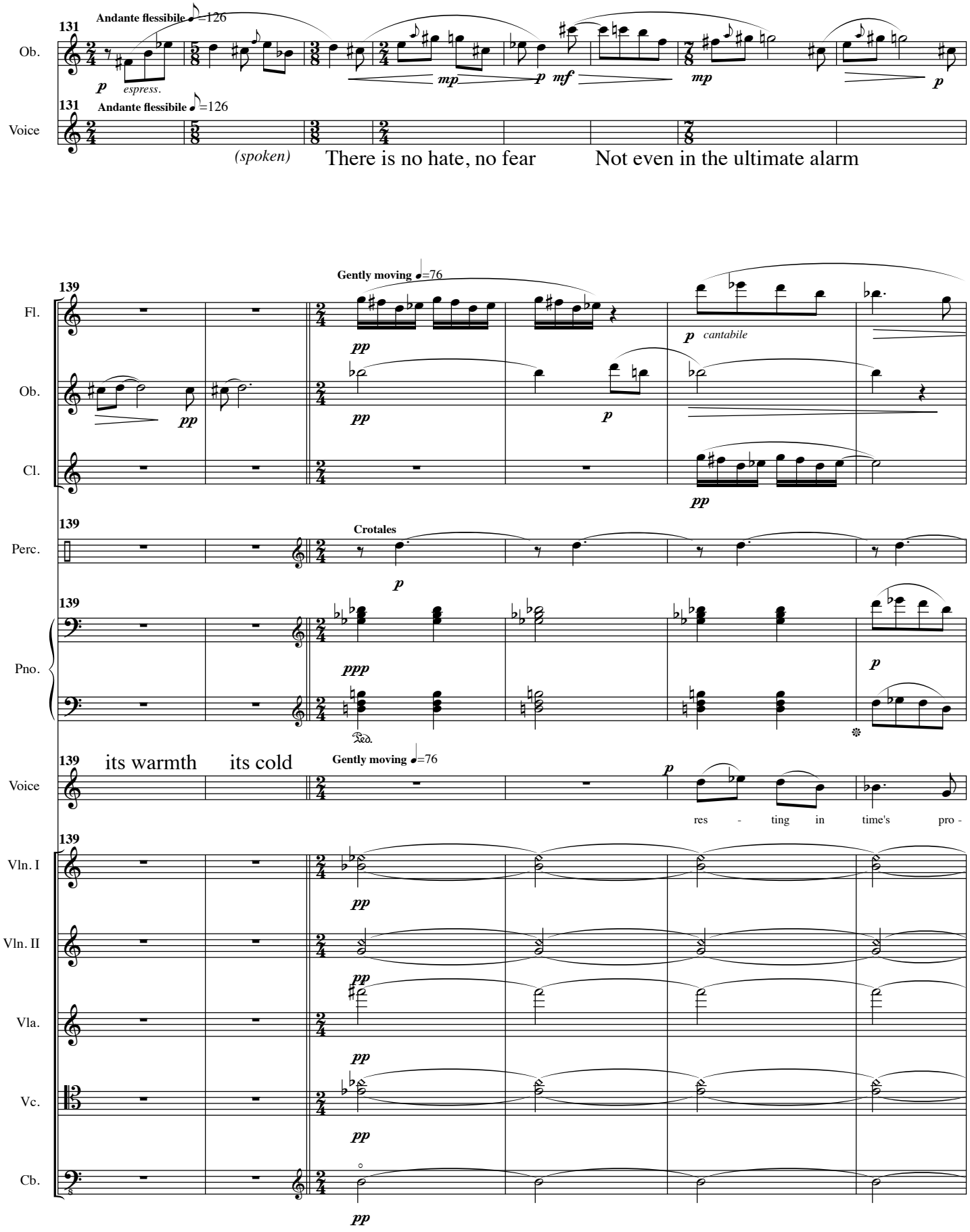

101
Fl.
sempre f
Ob.
sempre f
Cl.
sempre f
Bsn.
sempre f
101
Hn.
sempre f
101
Perc.
101
Pno.
f
cresc.
101
Voice
101
Vln. I
sempre f
Vln. II
sempre f
Vla.
sempre f
Vc.
sempre f
Cb.
sempre f

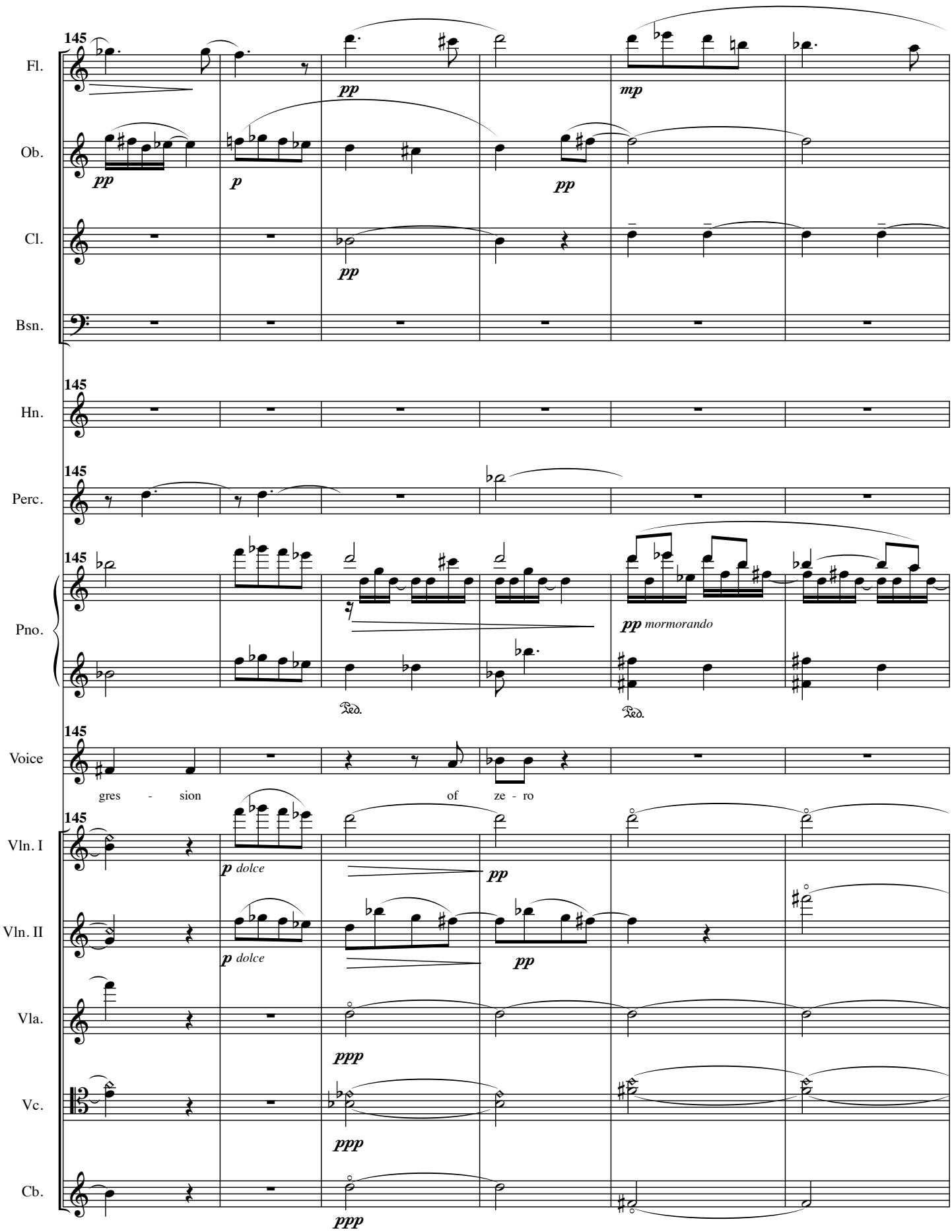

107
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Pno.
Voice
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
Subito calmo 92
fff
ff
mp
Susp. cymb.
f

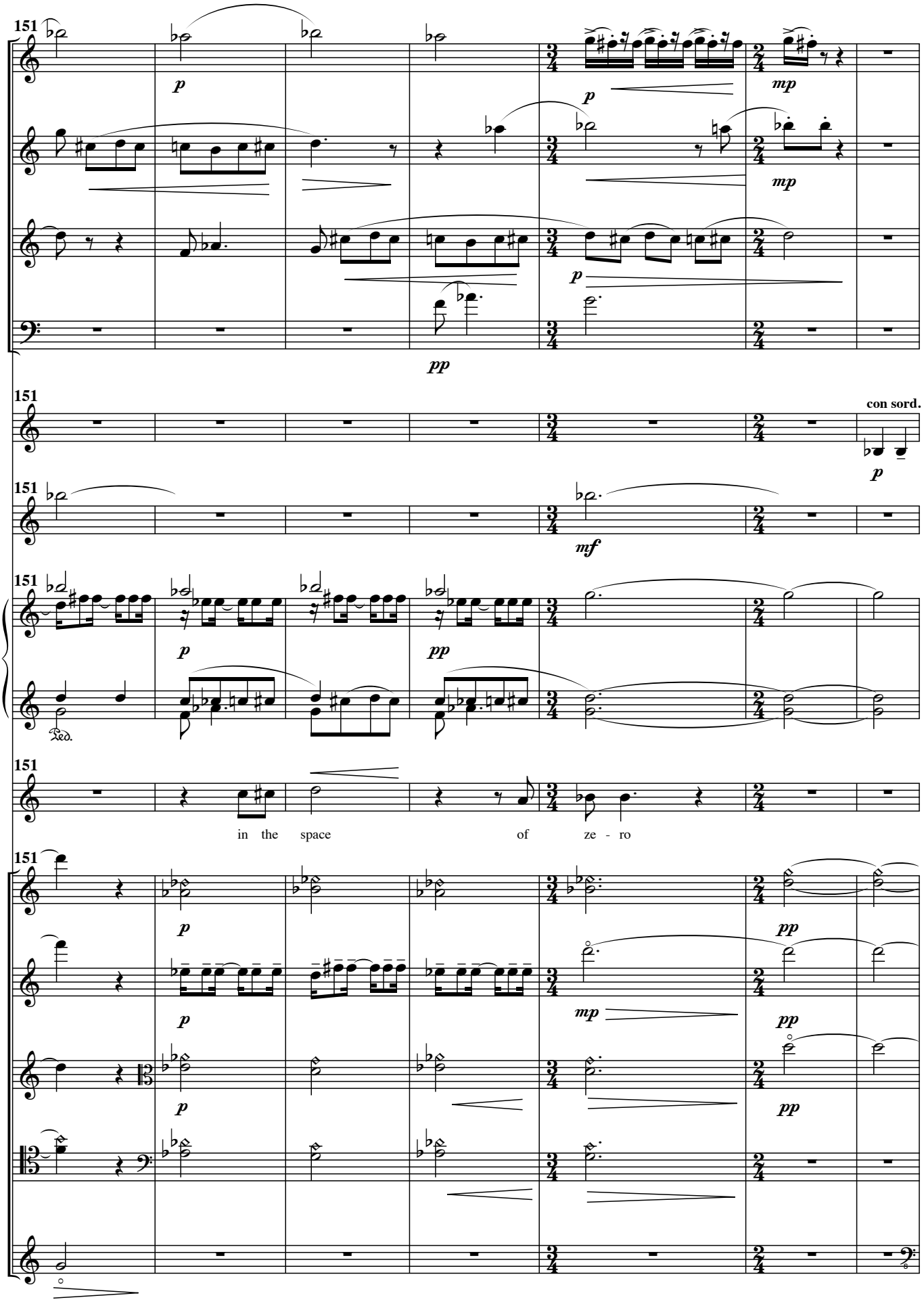

114
Fl.
pp
dolce cantabile
Ob.
pp
Cl.
pp
Bsn.
pp
114
Hn.
pp
114
Crotales
Perc.
p
114
Pno.
ppp
p
Ped.
114
mp dolce
Voice
You are the sof - test dark - ness the har - - - dest
114
Vln. I
ppp
Vln. II
ppp
Vla.
ppp
Vc.
p dolce
ppp
Cb.
ppp

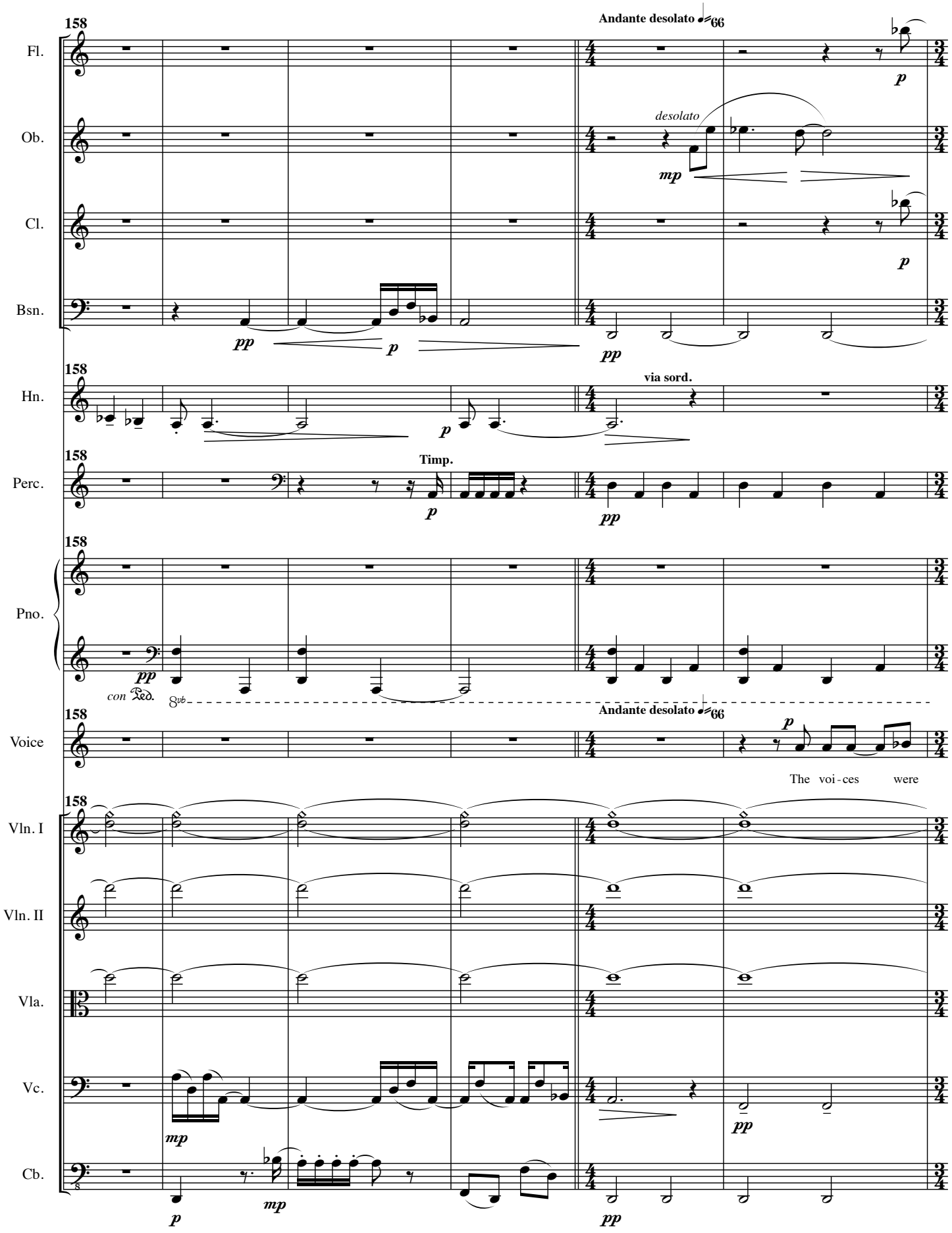

119
Fl.
ppp
mp
Ob.
Cl.
ppp
Bsn.
ppp
119
Hn.
ppp
pp
119
Perc.
119
Pno.
pp
Ped.
(press without sounding, then release Pedal).
119
Voice
light
is there a-ny light in the
119
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

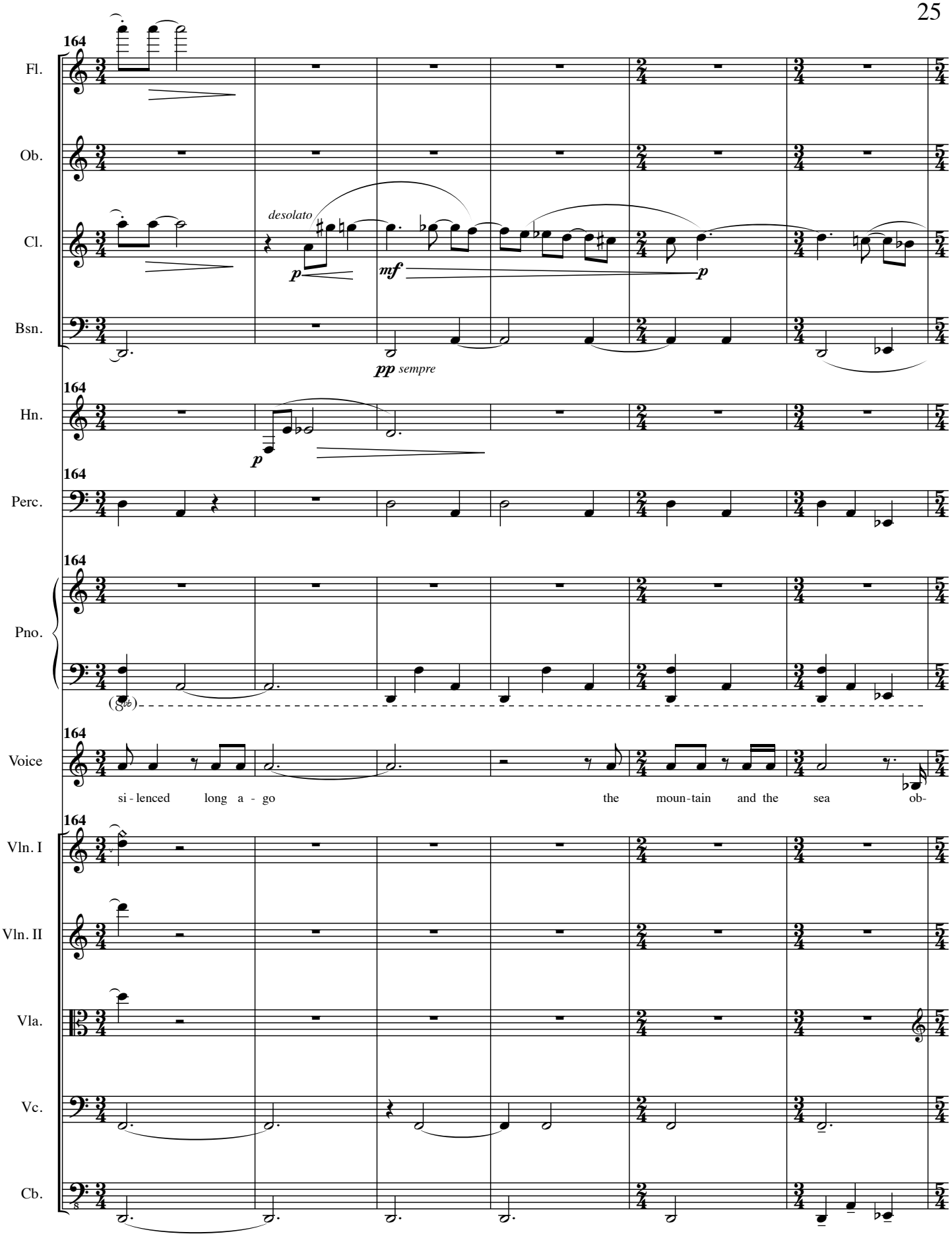

123
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Gong
T.T.
Pno.
(press without sounding, then release Pedal).
Voice
world of ze - ro
No
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
ppp
pppp
Short pause

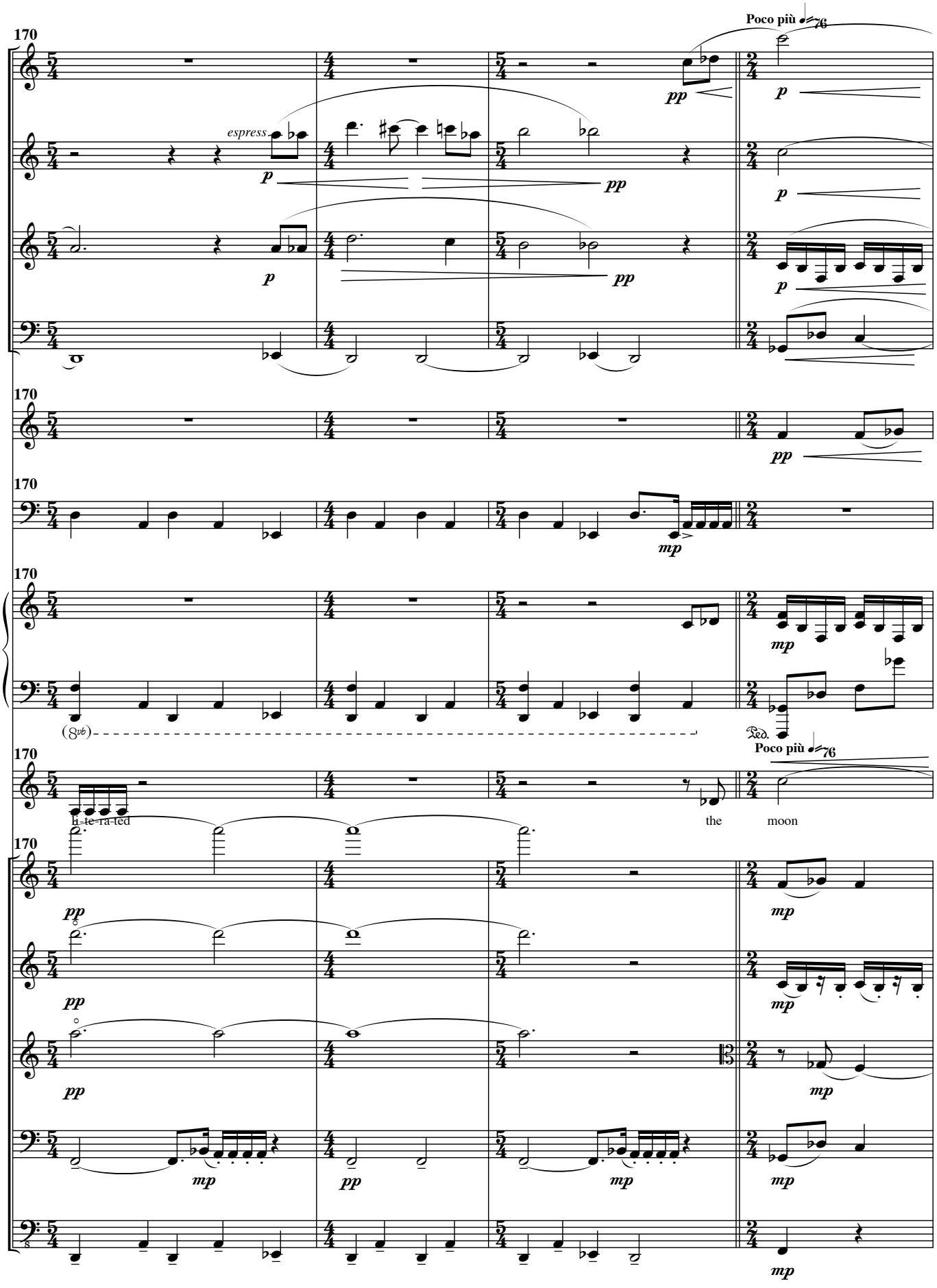

131
Andante flessibile ♪=126
Ob.
p
espress.
mp
p
mf
mp
p
Voice
(spoken)
There is no hate, no fear
Not even in the ultimate alarm
139
Gently moving ♩=76
Fl.
pp
p
cantabile
Ob.
pp
pp
p
Cl.
pp
Perc.
Crotales
p
Pno.
ppp
p
Ped.
its warmth
its cold
Gently moving ♩=76
p
res - ting in time's pro -
Vln. I
pp
Vln. II
pp
Vla.
pp
Vc.
pp
Cb.
pp

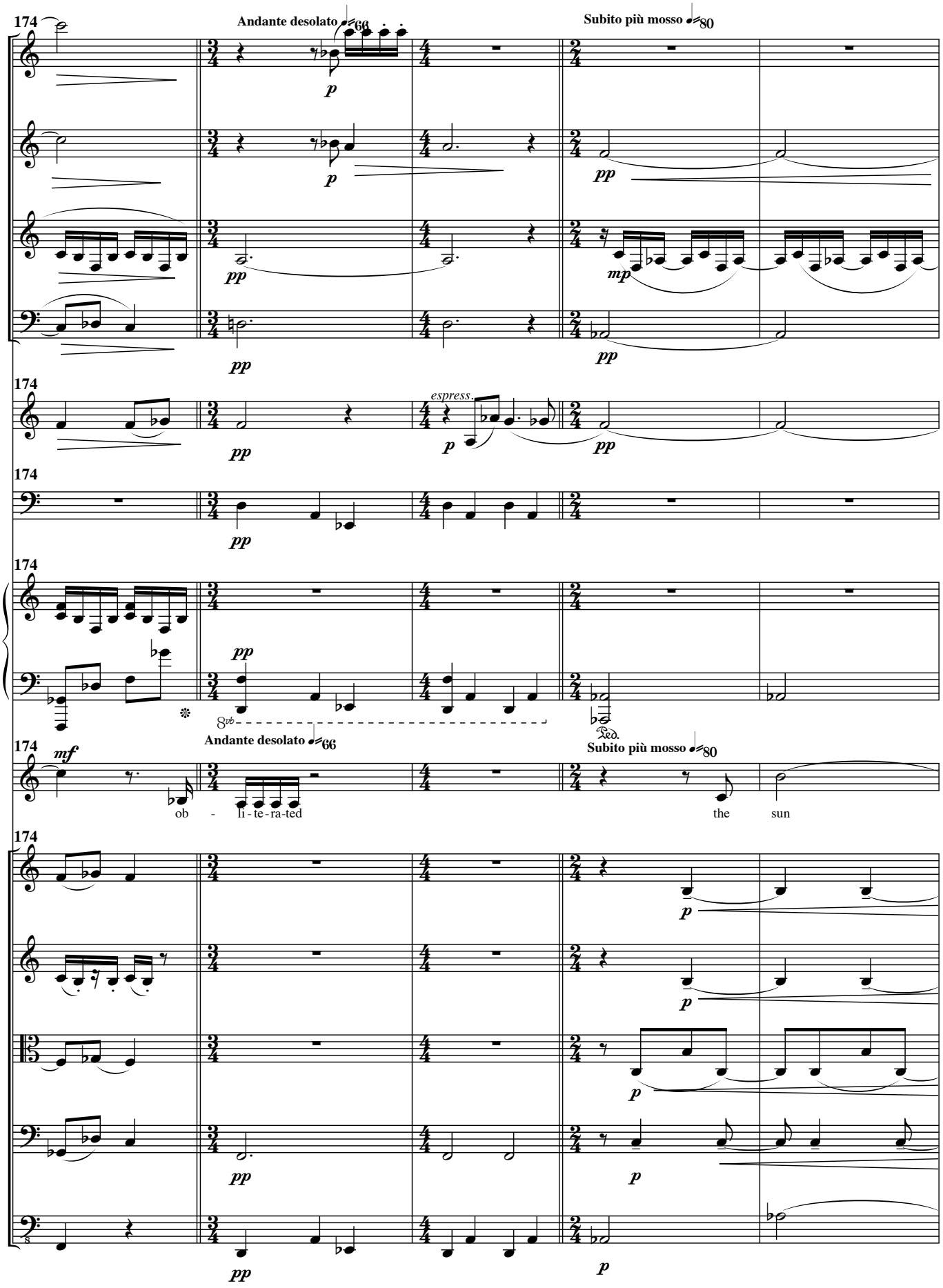

145
Fl.
pp
mp
Ob.
pp
p
pp
Cl.
pp
Bsn.
145
Hn.
145
Perc.
145
Pno.
pp mormorando
Ped.
Ped.
145
Voice
gres - sion
of ze - ro
145
Vln. I
p dolce
pp
Vln. II
p dolce
pp
Vla.
ppp
Vc.
ppp
Cb.
ppp

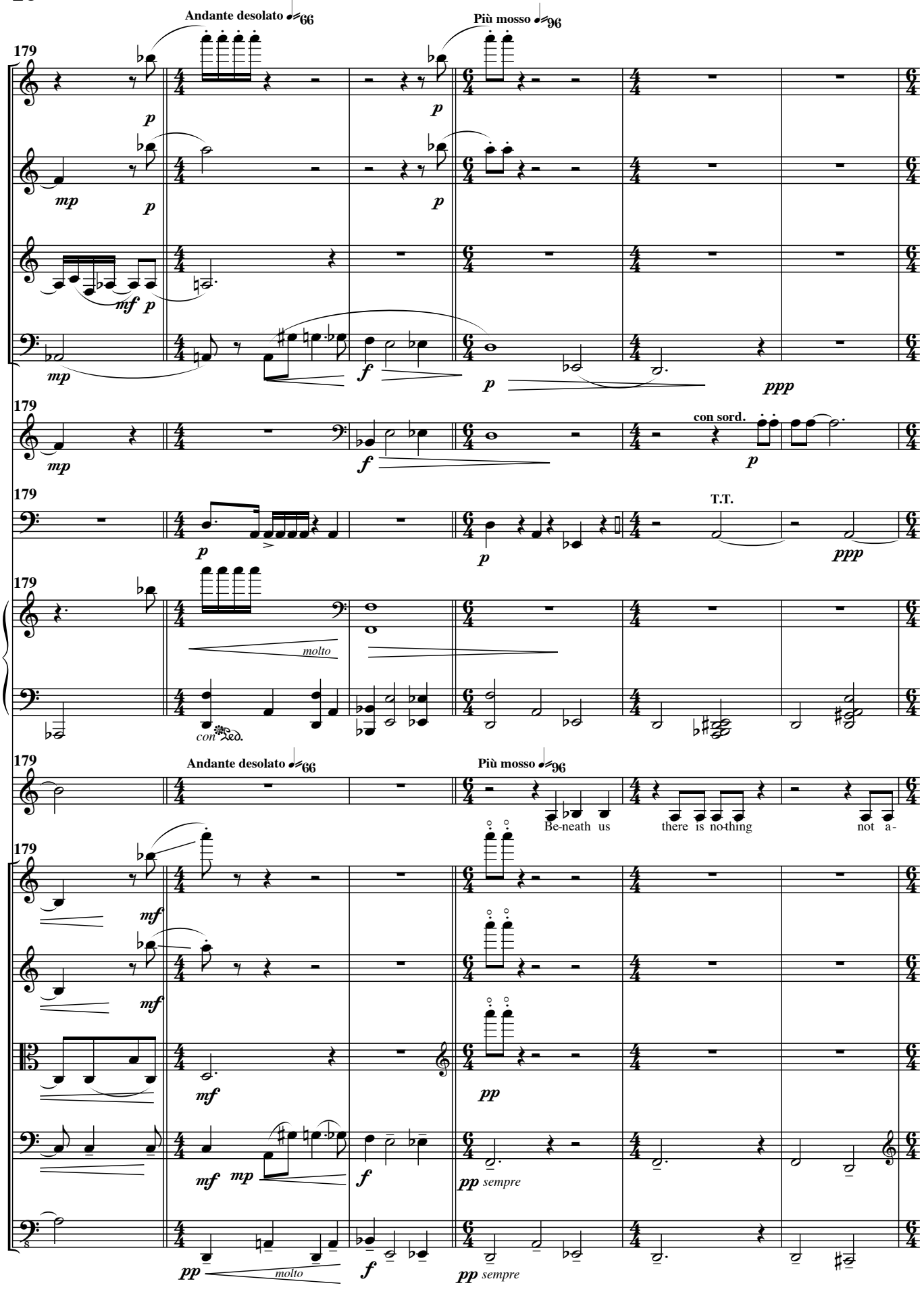

151
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
con sord.
Perc.
Pno.
Voice
in the space of ze - ro
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

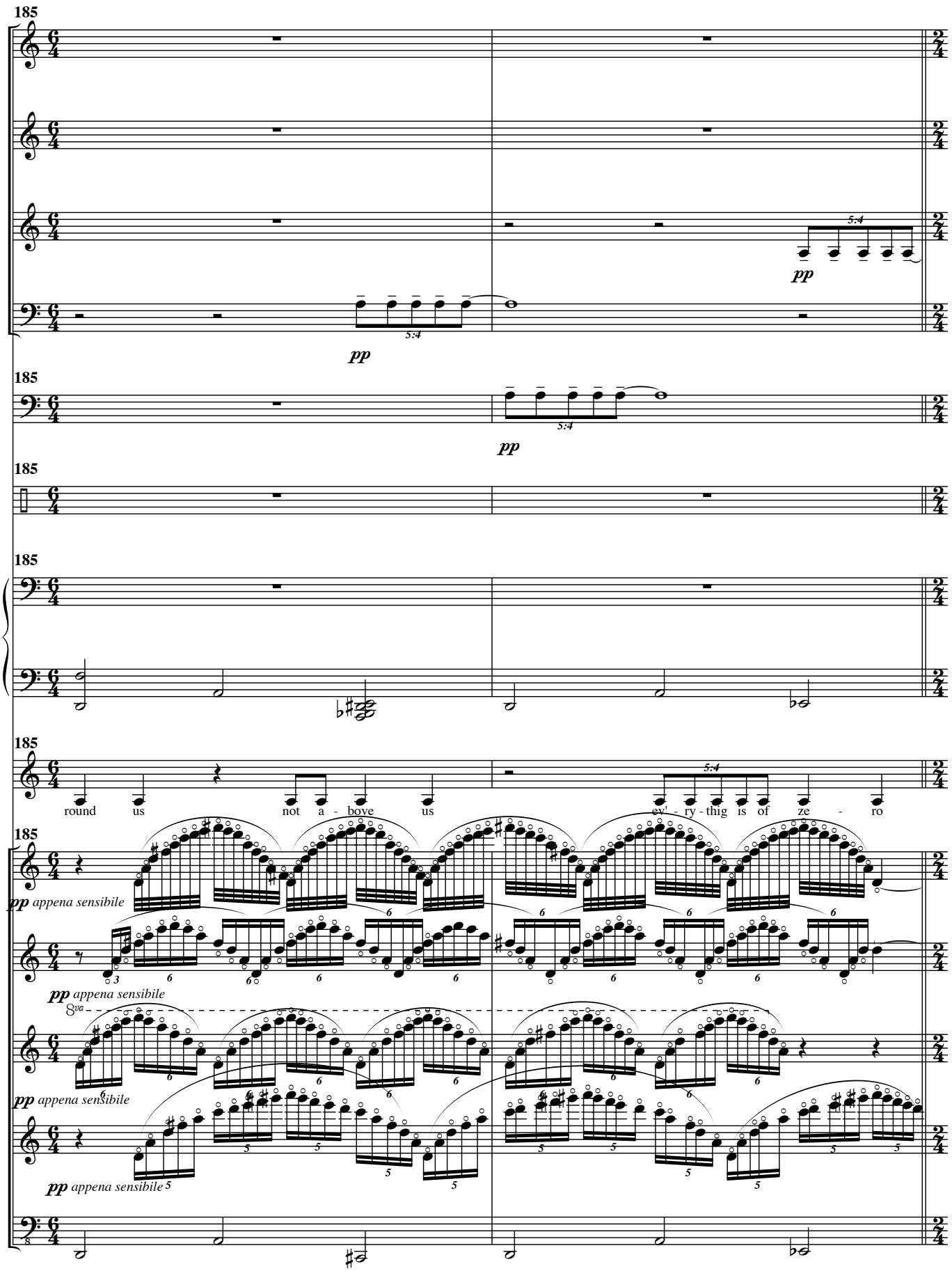

158
Andante desolato 66
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Pno.
Voice
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
desolato
via sord.
Timp.
con Ped.
8vb
The voi - ces were
pp
p
mp

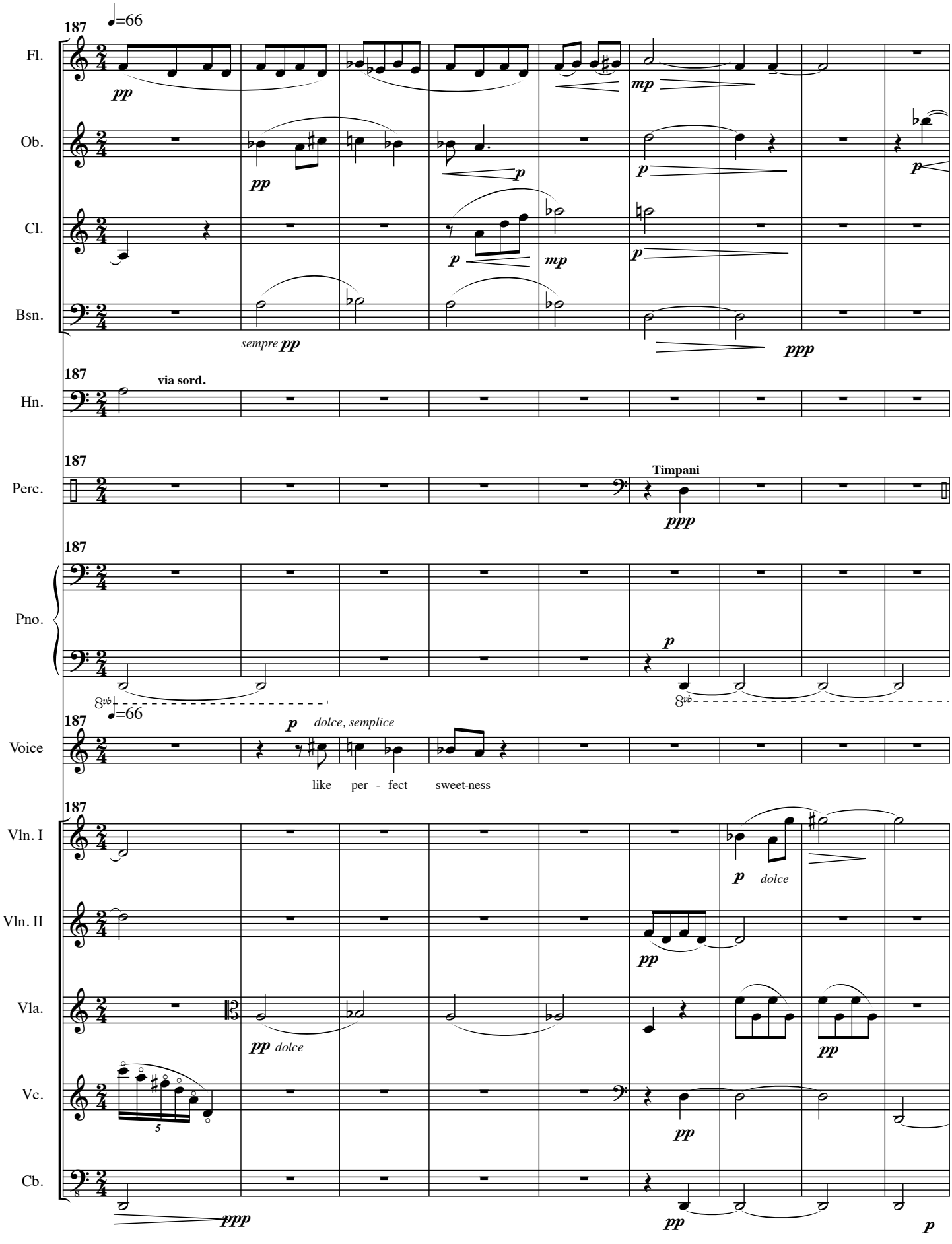

164
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
desolato
p
mf
p
Bsn.
pp sempre
164
Hn.
p
164
Perc.
164
Pno.
(8vb)
164
Voice
si - lenced long a - go the moun-tain and the sea ob-
164
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

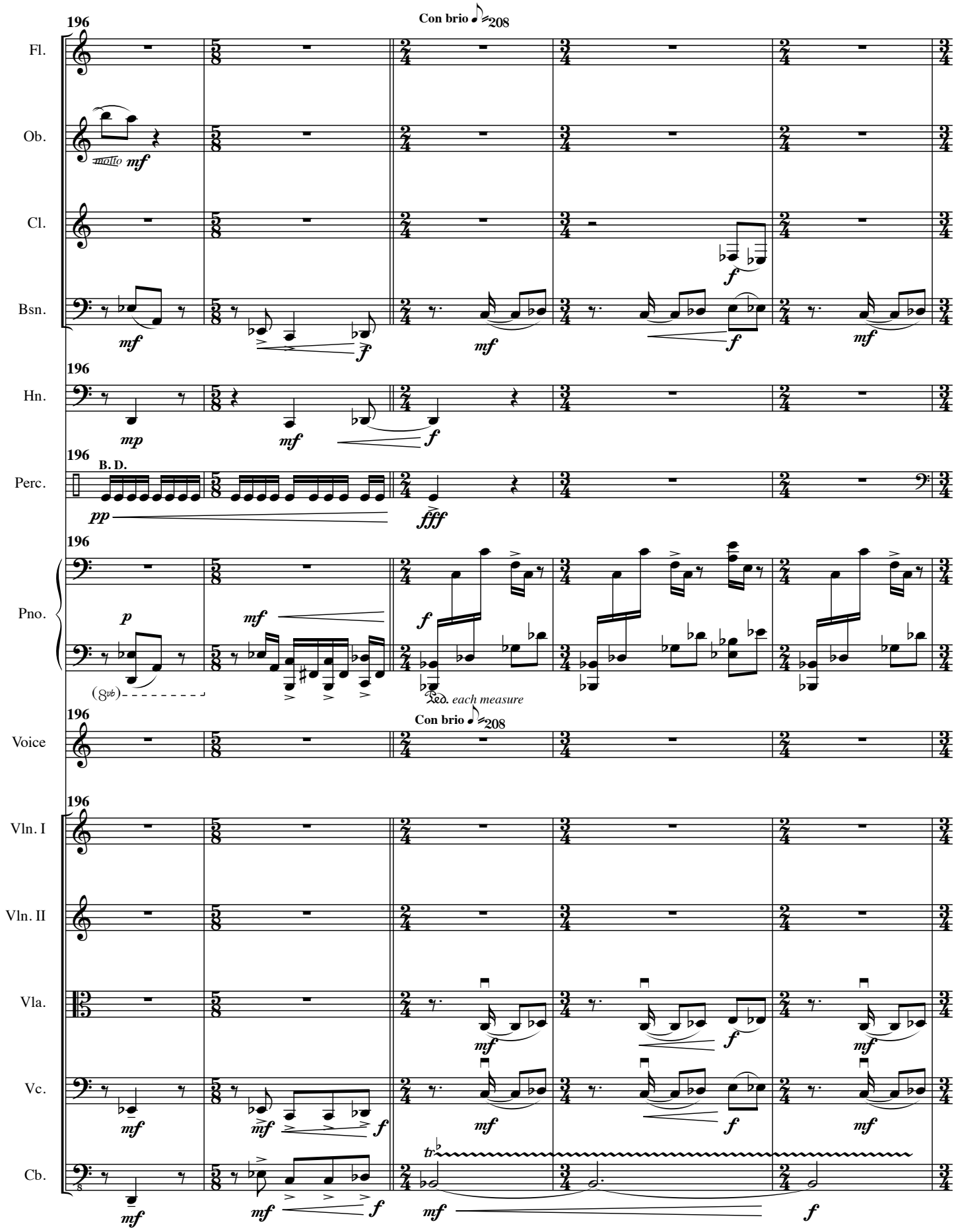

170
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Pno.
Voice
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
Poco più 76
espress
pp
p
mp
(8vb)
Ped.
ti-te-ra-ted
the
moon

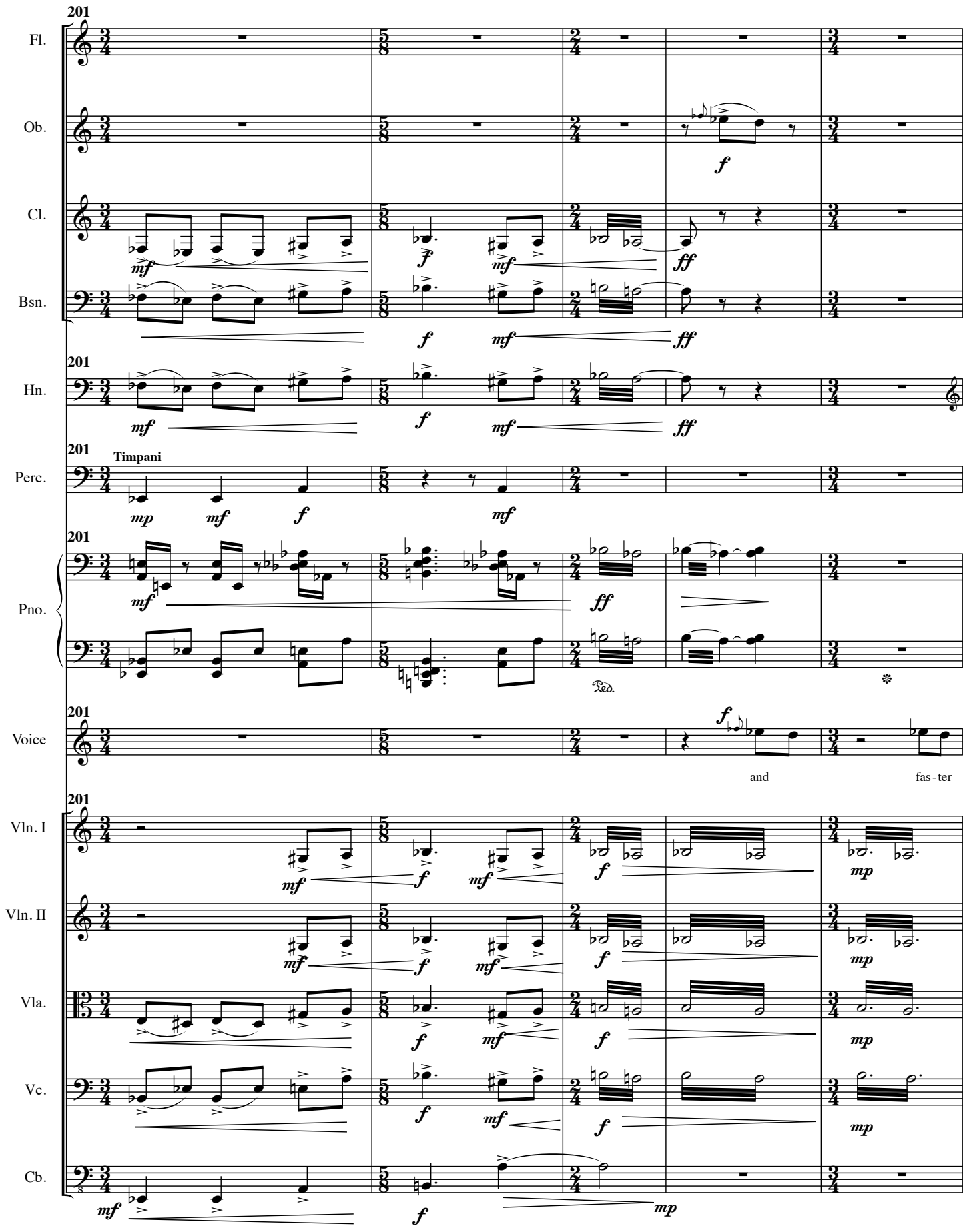

174
Andante desolato ♩=66
Subito più mosso ♩=80
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
espress.
Perc.
Pno.
8vb
Ped.
Voice
ob - li - te - ra - ted
the sun
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pp
p
mp
mf

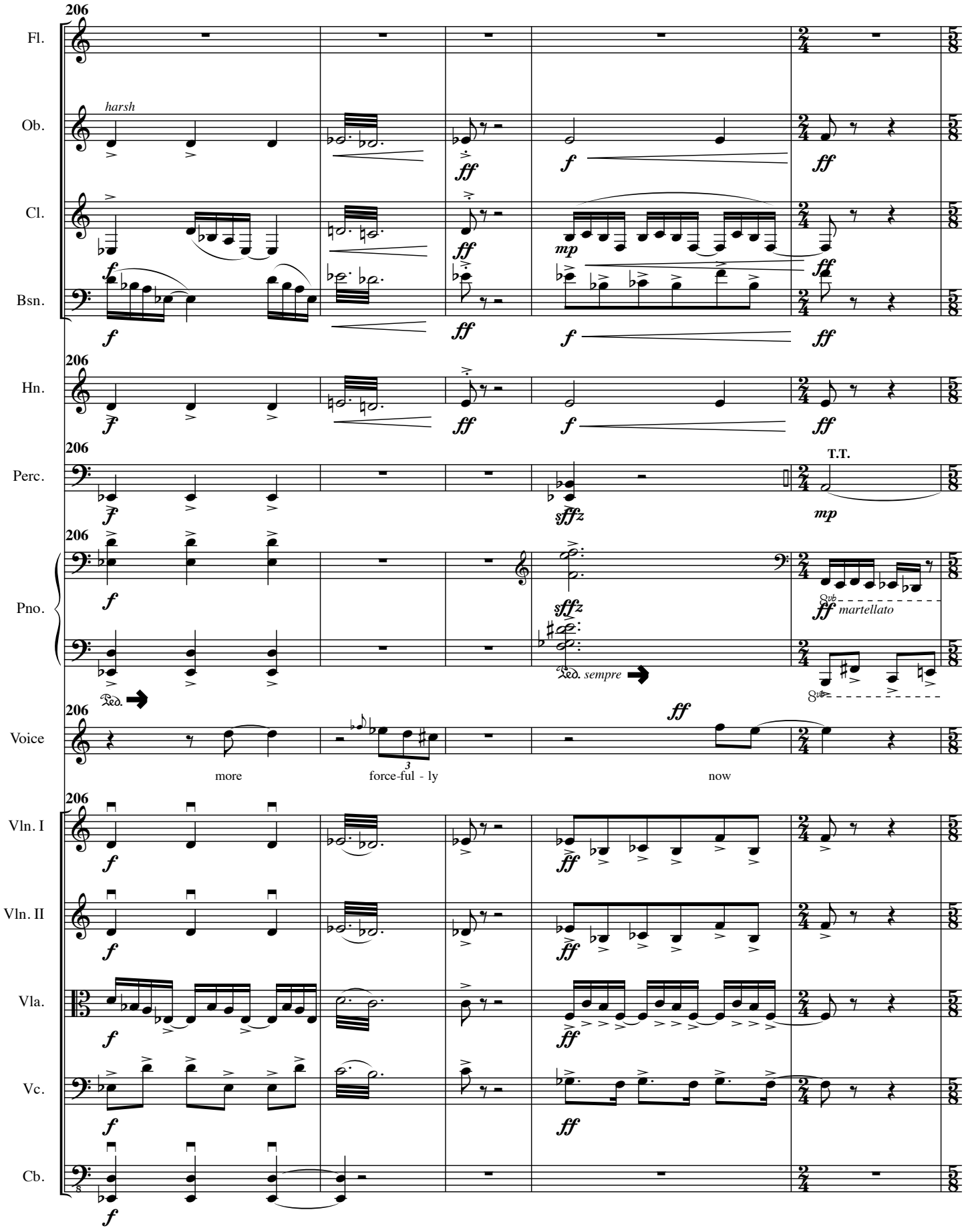

Andante desolato ♩=66
Più mosso ♩=96
179
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Pno.
Voice
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p
mp
mf
f
pp
ppp
molto
con sord.
T.T.
Be-neath us
there is no-thing
not a-
sempre

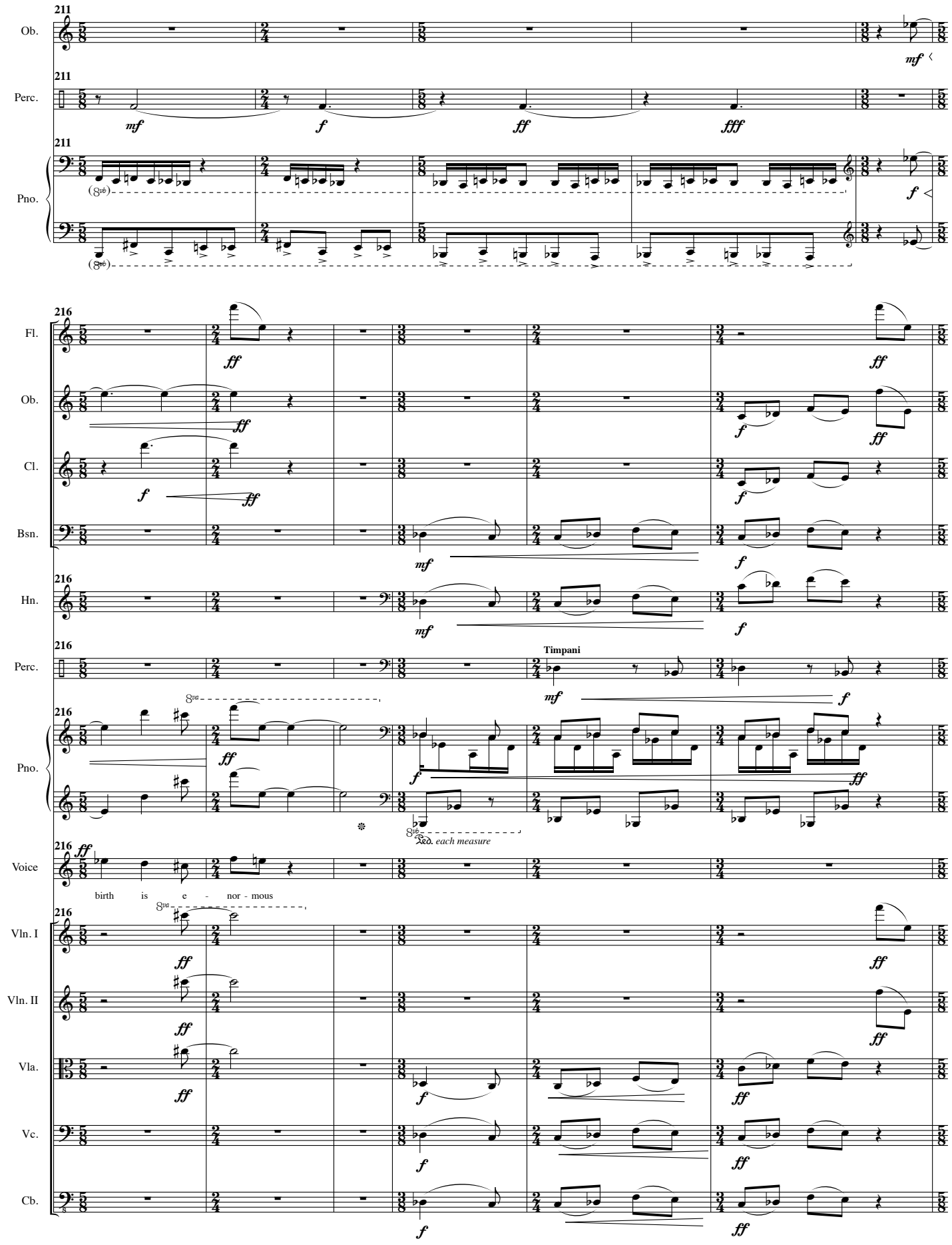

185
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
pp
5:4
Hn.
Perc.
Pno.
Voice
round us not a - bove us
ev' - ry - thig is of ze - ro
Vln. I
pp appena sensibile
Vln. II
Vla.
8va
Vc.
Cb.

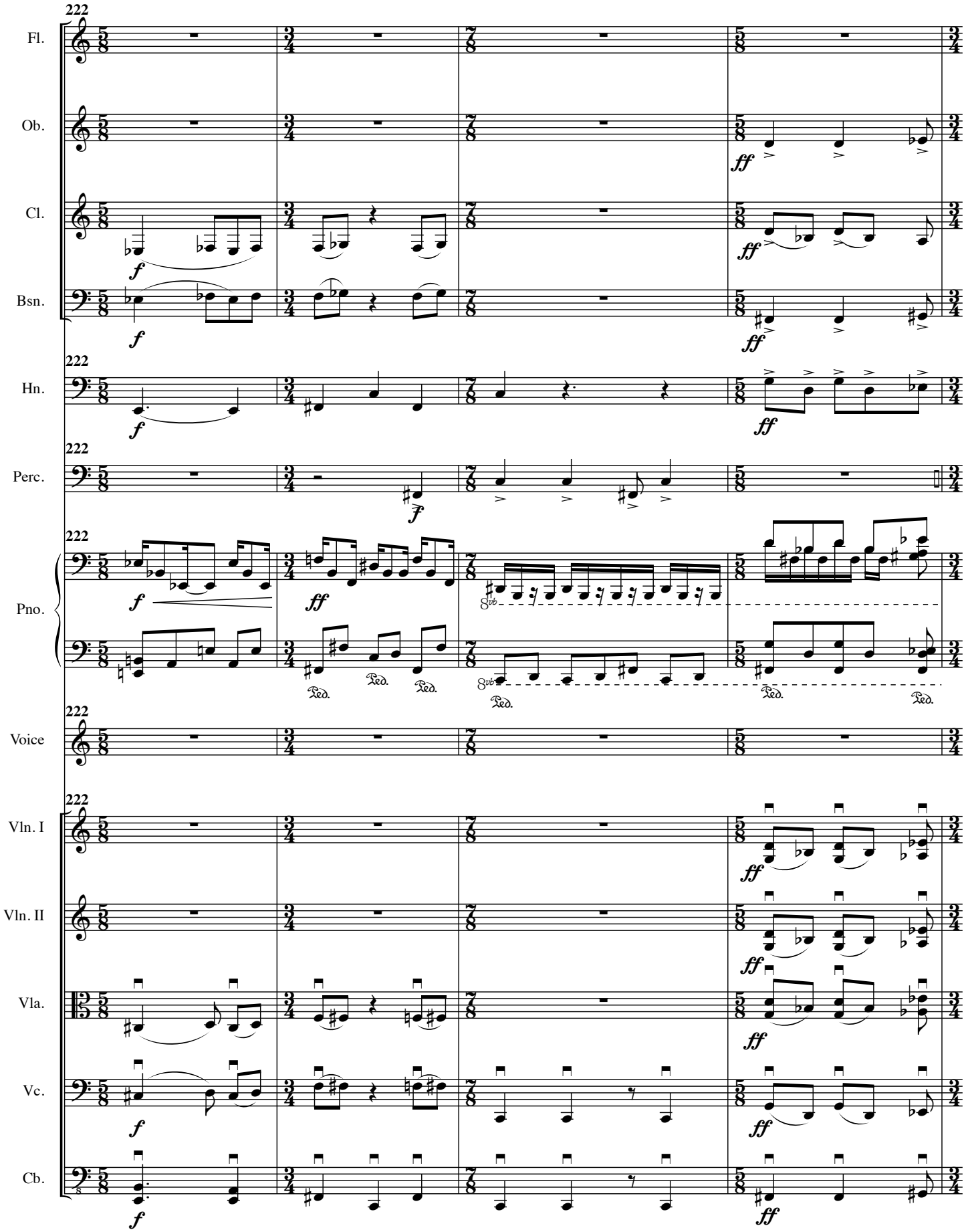

187
♩=66
Fl.
pp
mp
Ob.
pp
p
p
p
Cl.
p
mp
p
Bsn.
sempre pp
ppp
187
via sord.
Hn.
187
Timpani
Perc.
ppp
187
Pno.
p
8vb
♩=66
8vb
187
p dolce, semplice
Voice
like per - fect sweet-ness
187
Vln. I
p dolce
Vln. II
pp
Vla.
pp dolce
pp
Vc.
5
pp
Cb.
ppp
pp
p

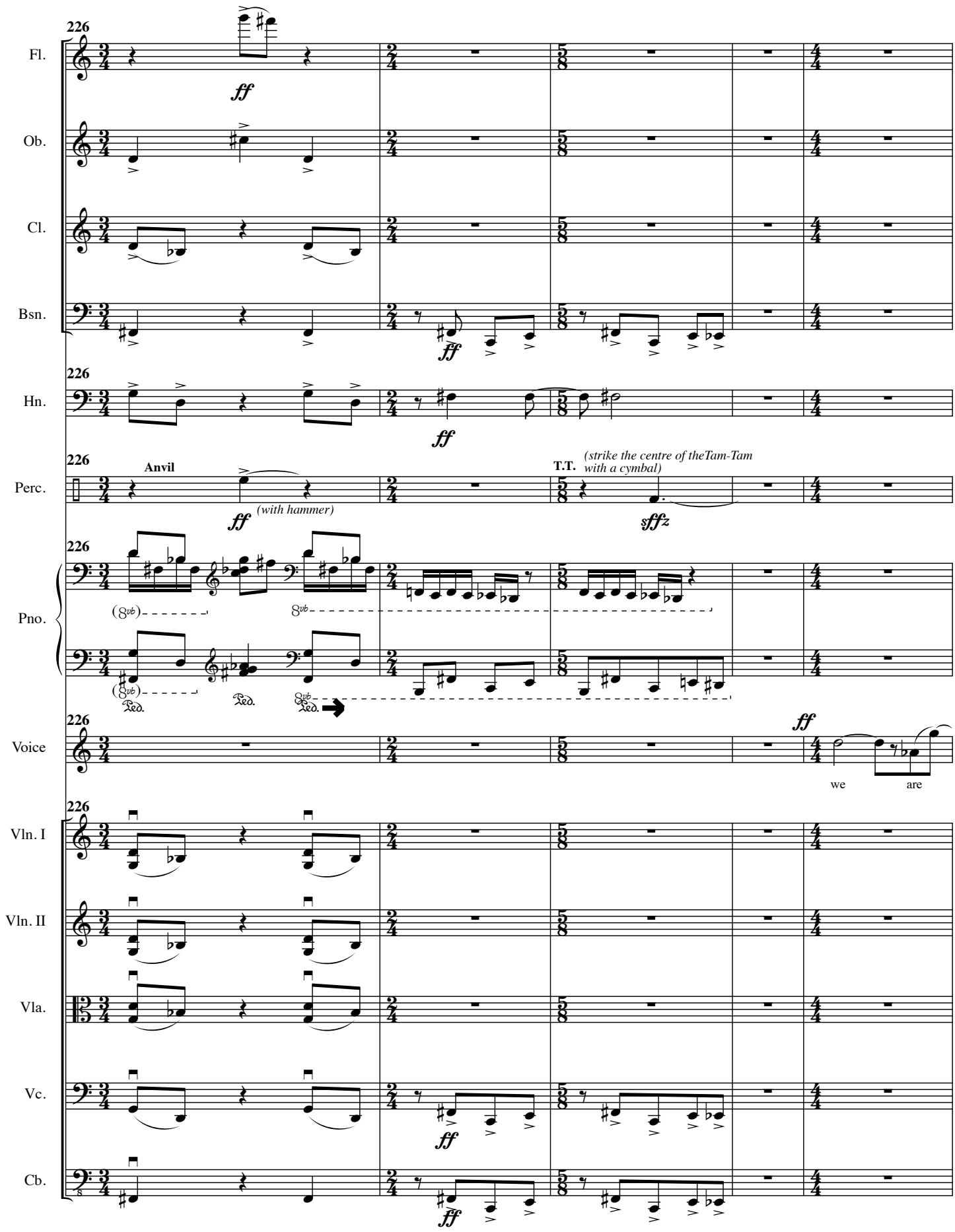

196
Con brio ♩=208
Fl.
Ob.
motto
mf
Cl.
f
Bsn.
mf
f
mf
f
mf
196
Hn.
mp
mf
f
196
B. D.
Perc.
pp
fff
196
Pno.
p
mf
f
(8vb)
Ped. each measure
196
Con brio ♩=208
Voice
196
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
mf
f
mf
Vc.
mf
mf
f
mf
f
mf
tr
Cb.
mf
mf
f
mf
f

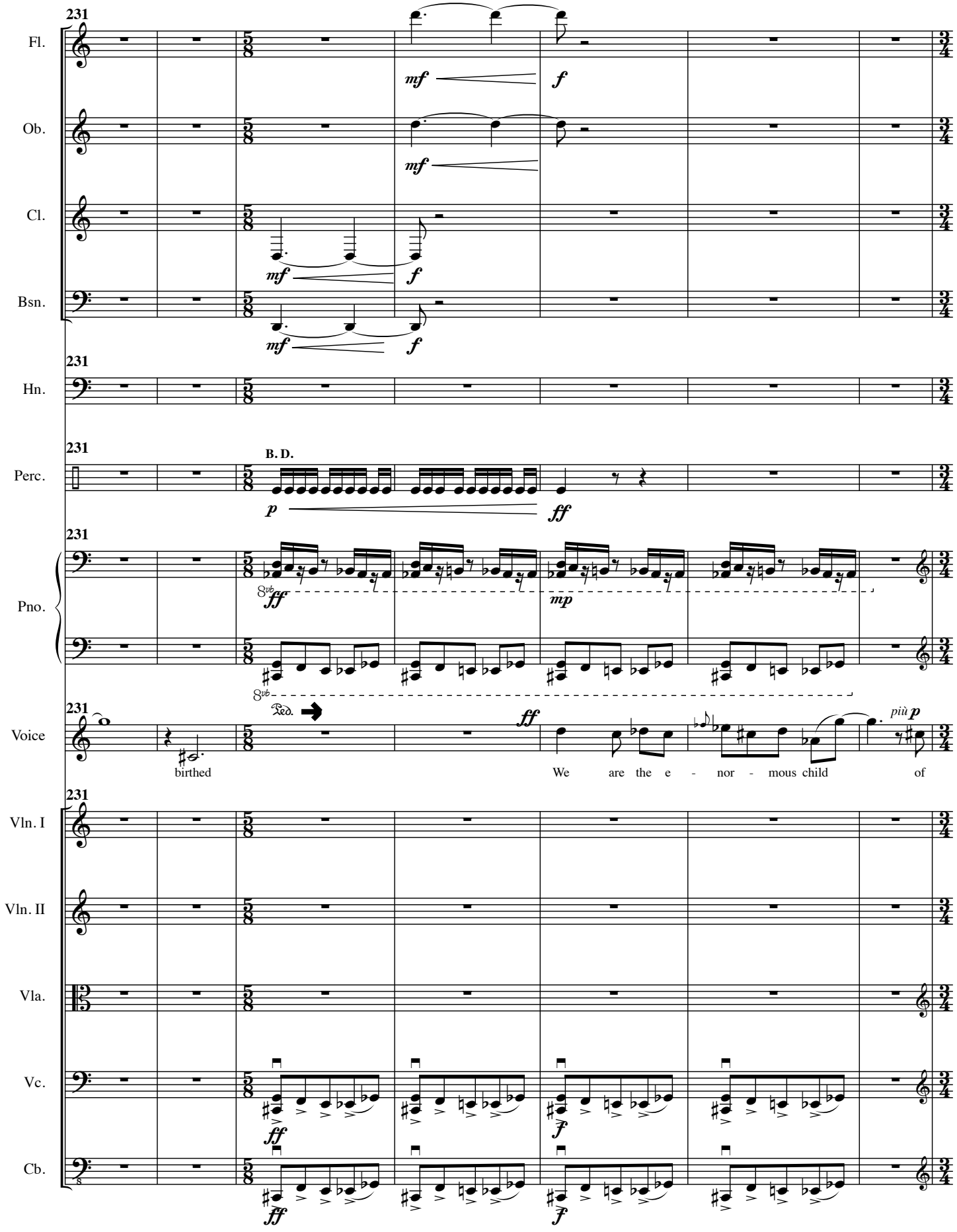

201
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
201
Hn.
201
Timpani
Perc.
201
Pno.
Ped.
201
Voice
and
fas - ter
201
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

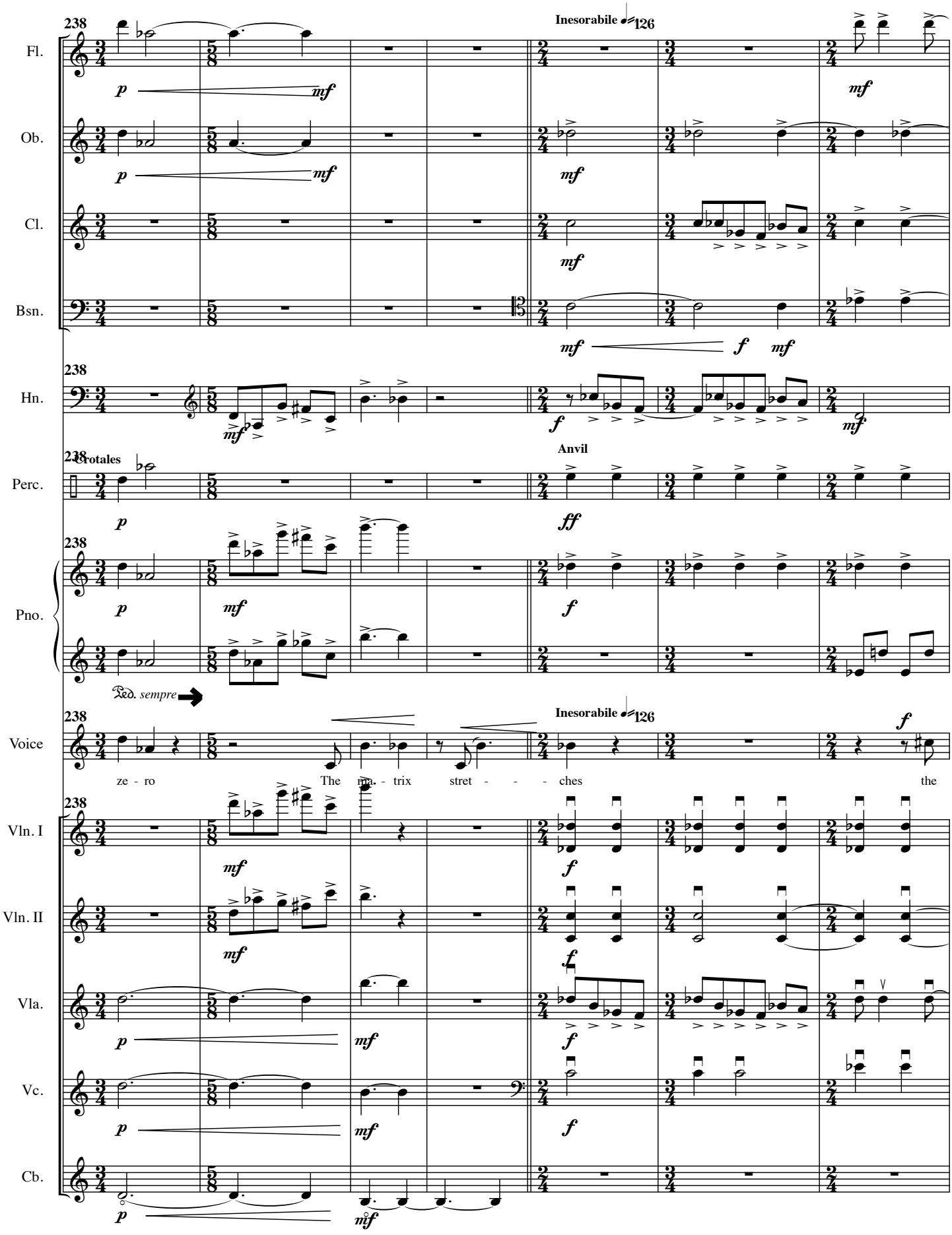

206
Fl.
Ob.
harsh
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
T.T.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped. sempre
8vb
martellato
Voice
more
force-ful - ly
now
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

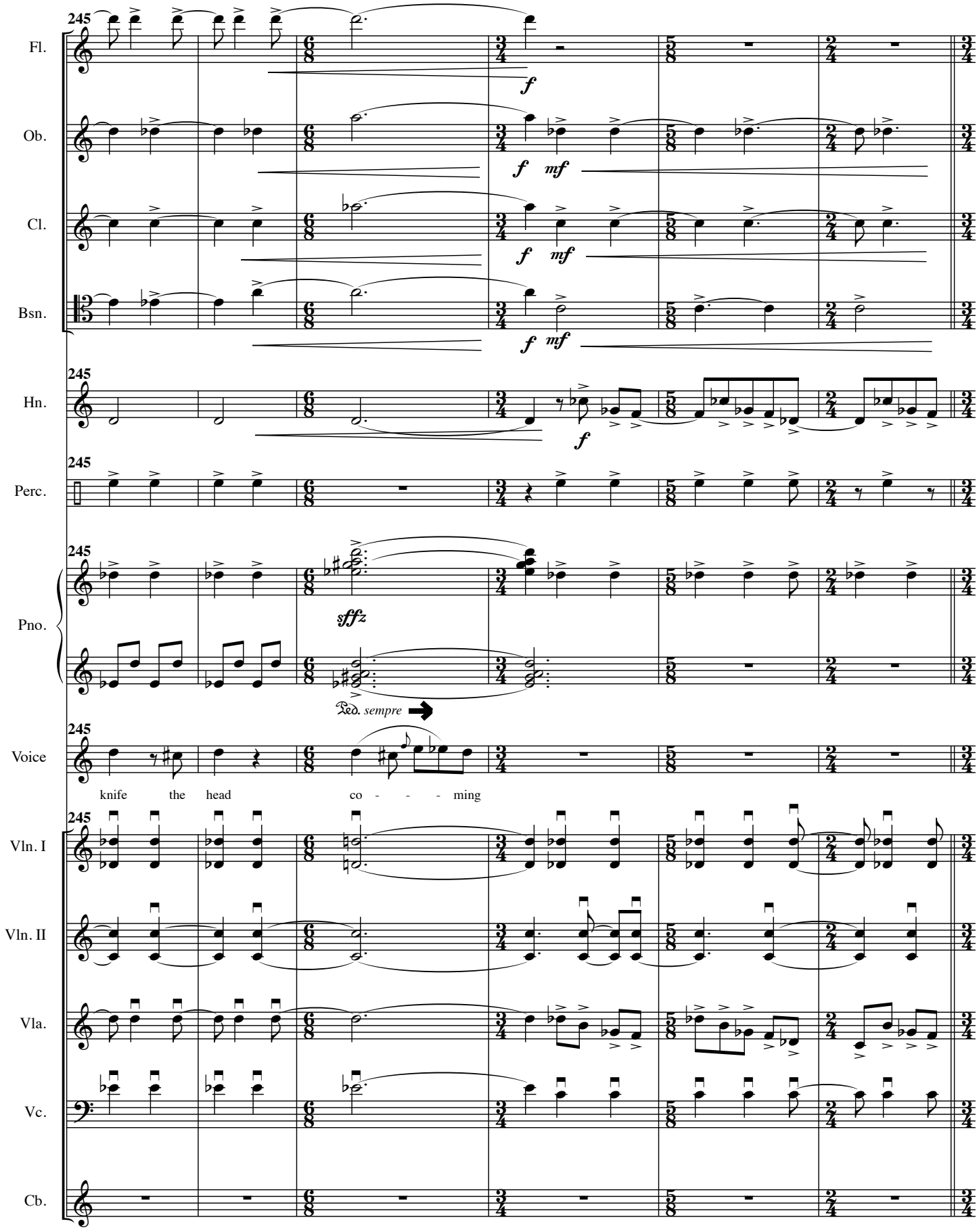

211
Ob.
Perc.
Pno.
mf
f
ff
fff
(8vb)
216
Fl.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Timpani
8va
Ped. each measure
Voice
birth is e - nor - mous
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

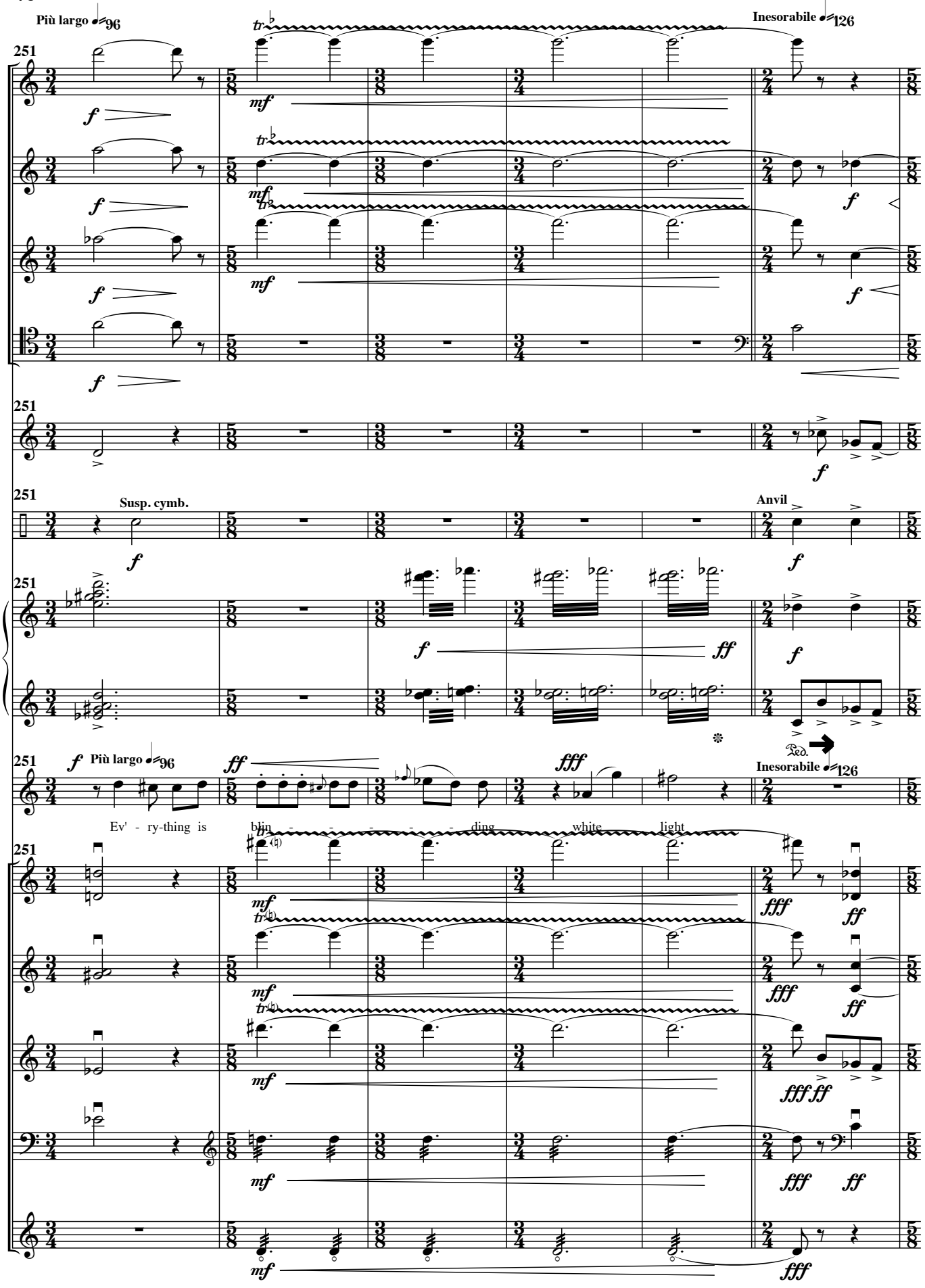

222
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Pno.
Voice
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
ff
8vb
Ped.

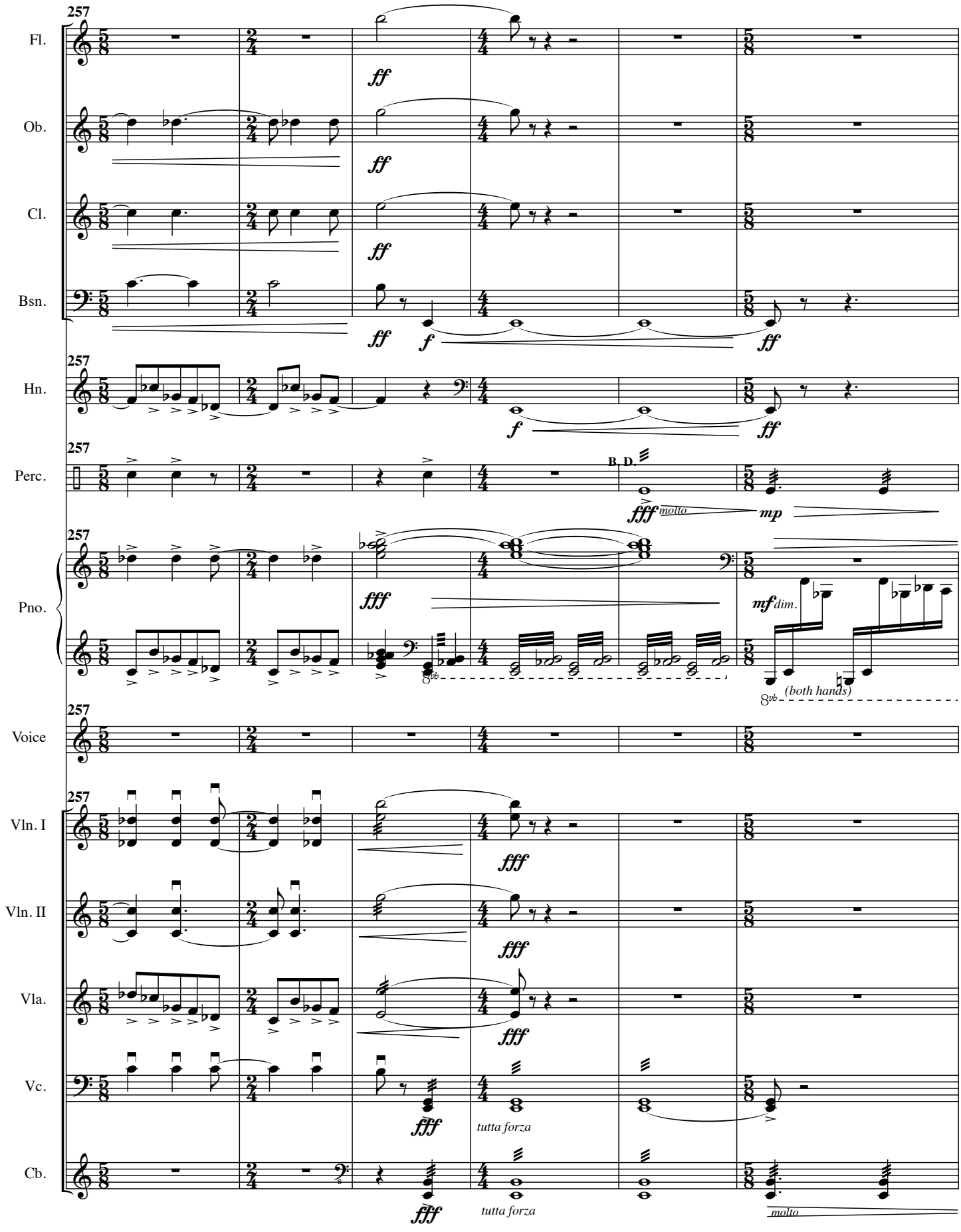

226
Fl.
ff
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
ff
226
Hn.
ff
226
Anvil
Perc.
ff
(with hammer)
T.T.
(strike the centre of theTam-Tam with a cymbal)
sffz
226
Pno.
(8vb)
8vb
Ped.
226
Voice
ff
we
are
226
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
ff
Cb.
ff

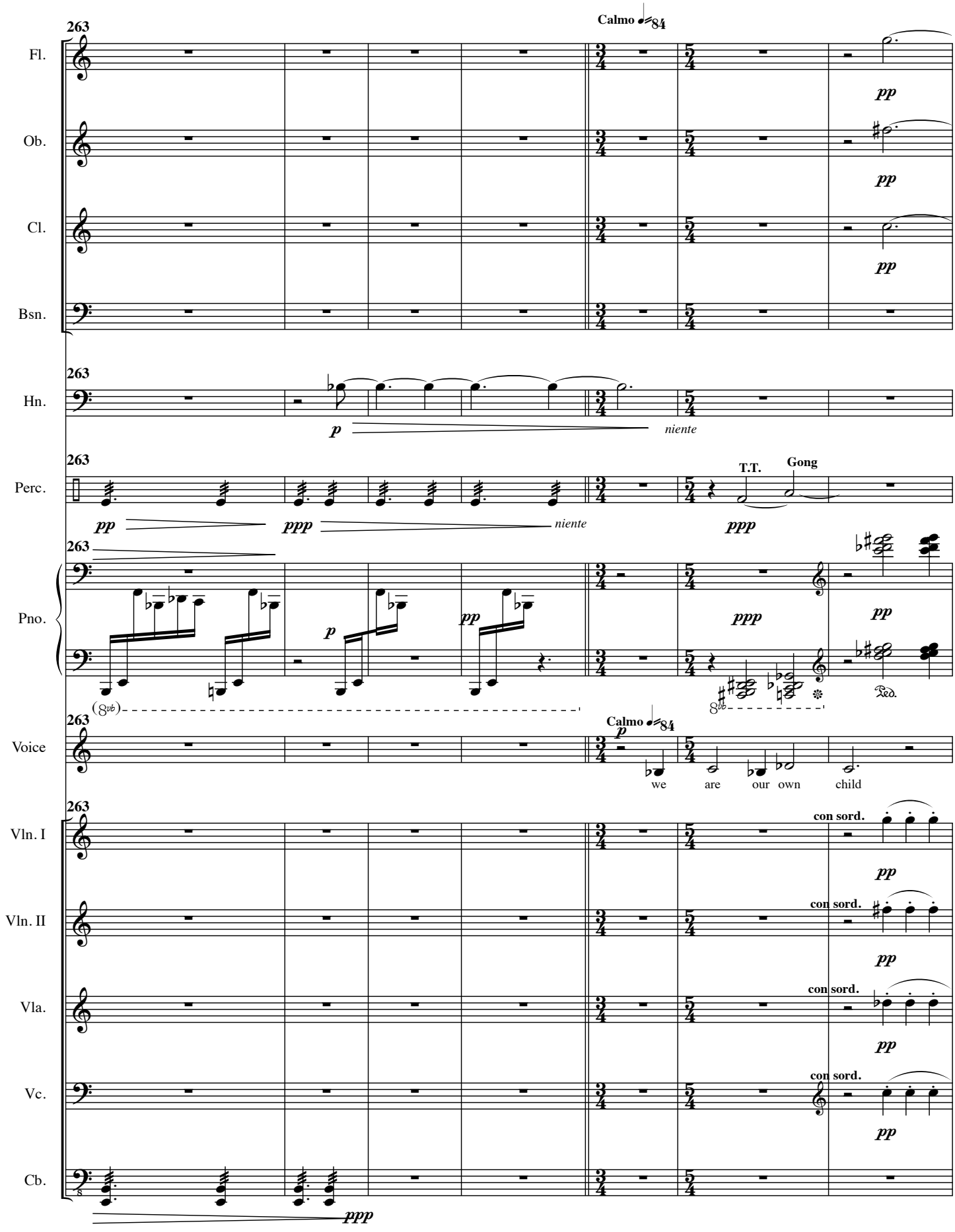

231
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Pno.
Voice
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf
f
B. D.
p
ff
8vb
mp
Ped.
birthed
We are the e - nor - mous child of
più p

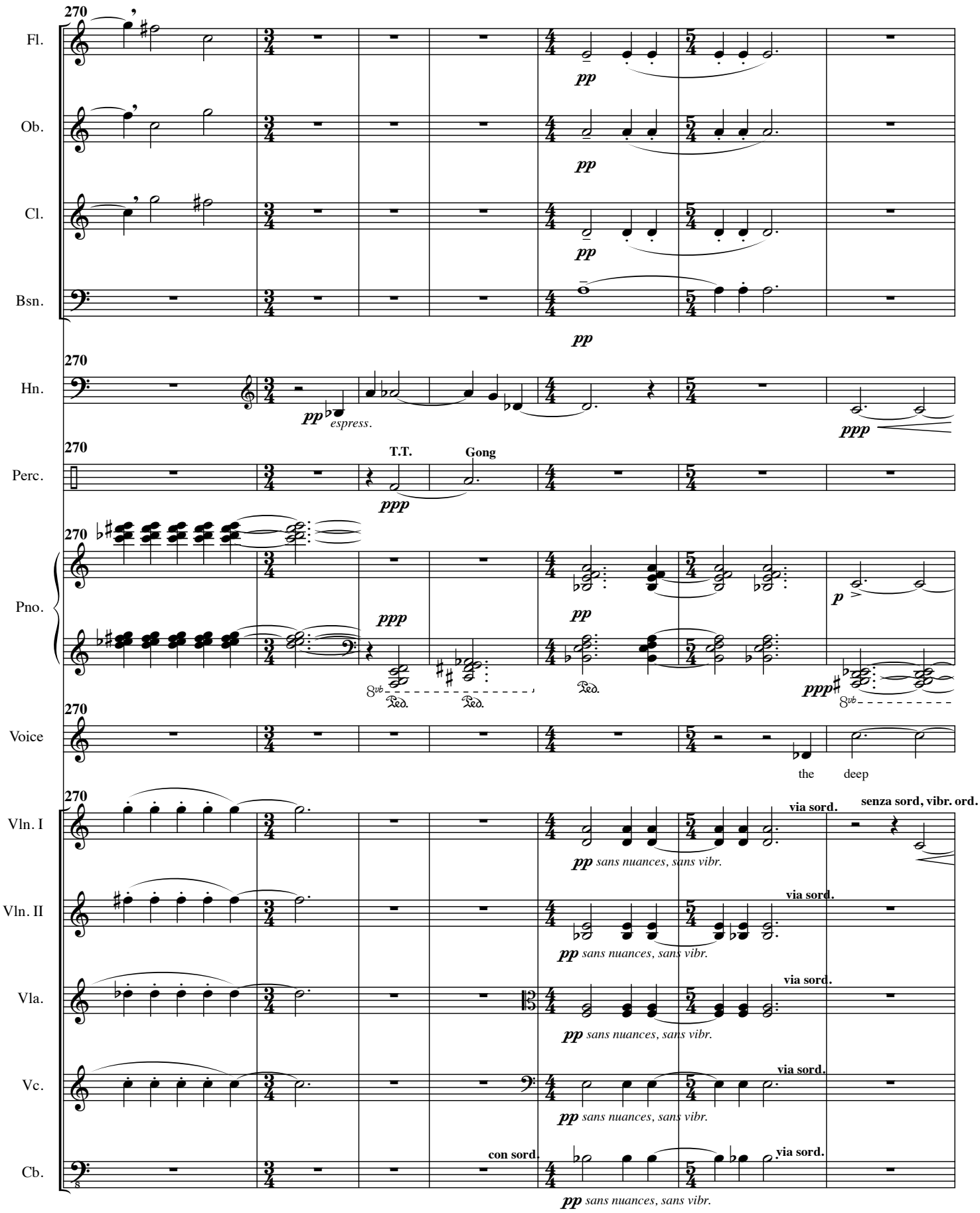

238
Inesorabile 126
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Crotales
Anvil
Perc.
Pno.
Ped. sempre
Voice
ze - ro
The ma. - trix
stret - - - ches
the
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

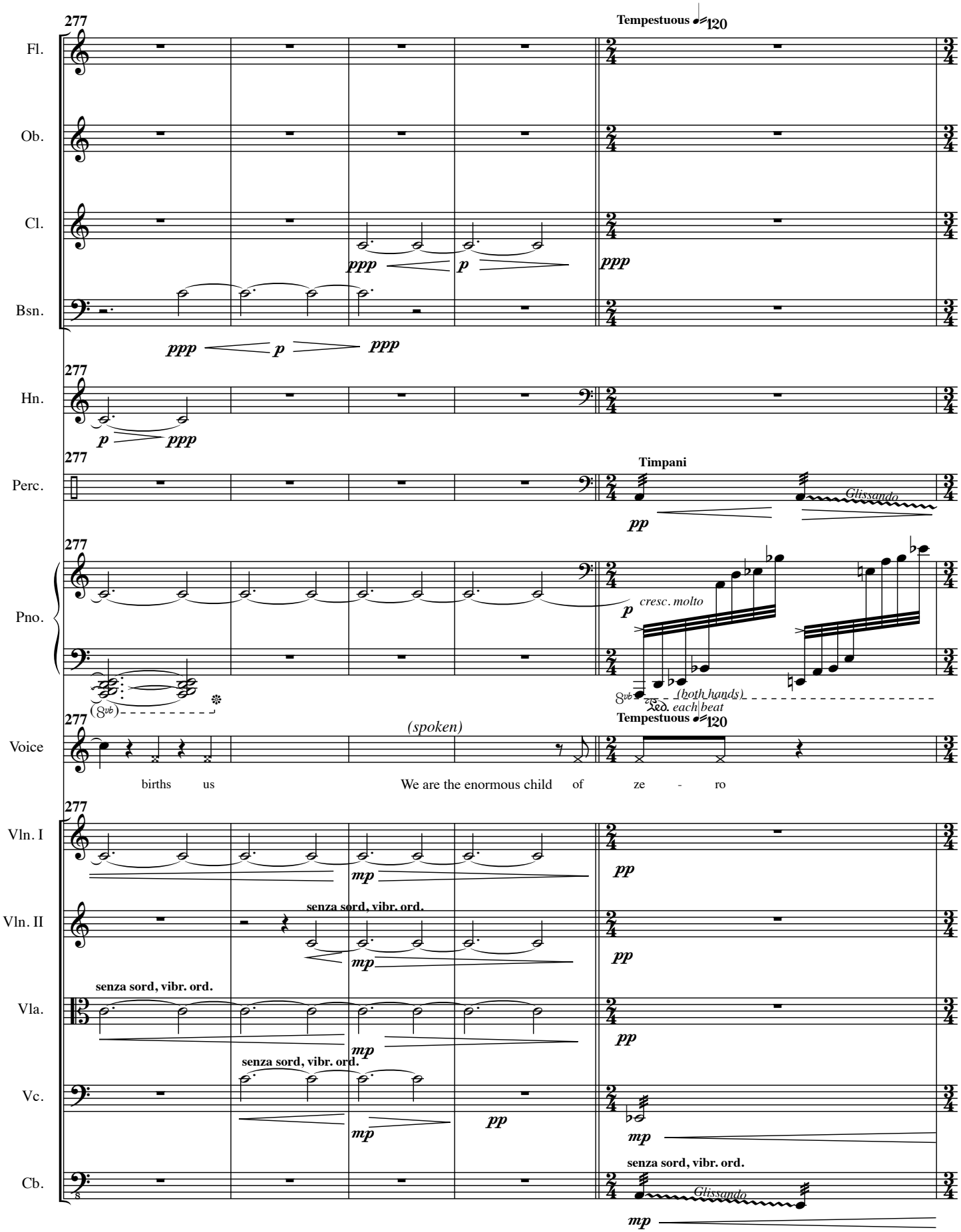

245
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Pno.
Voice
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
mf
sffz
Ped. sempre
knife the head co - - - ming

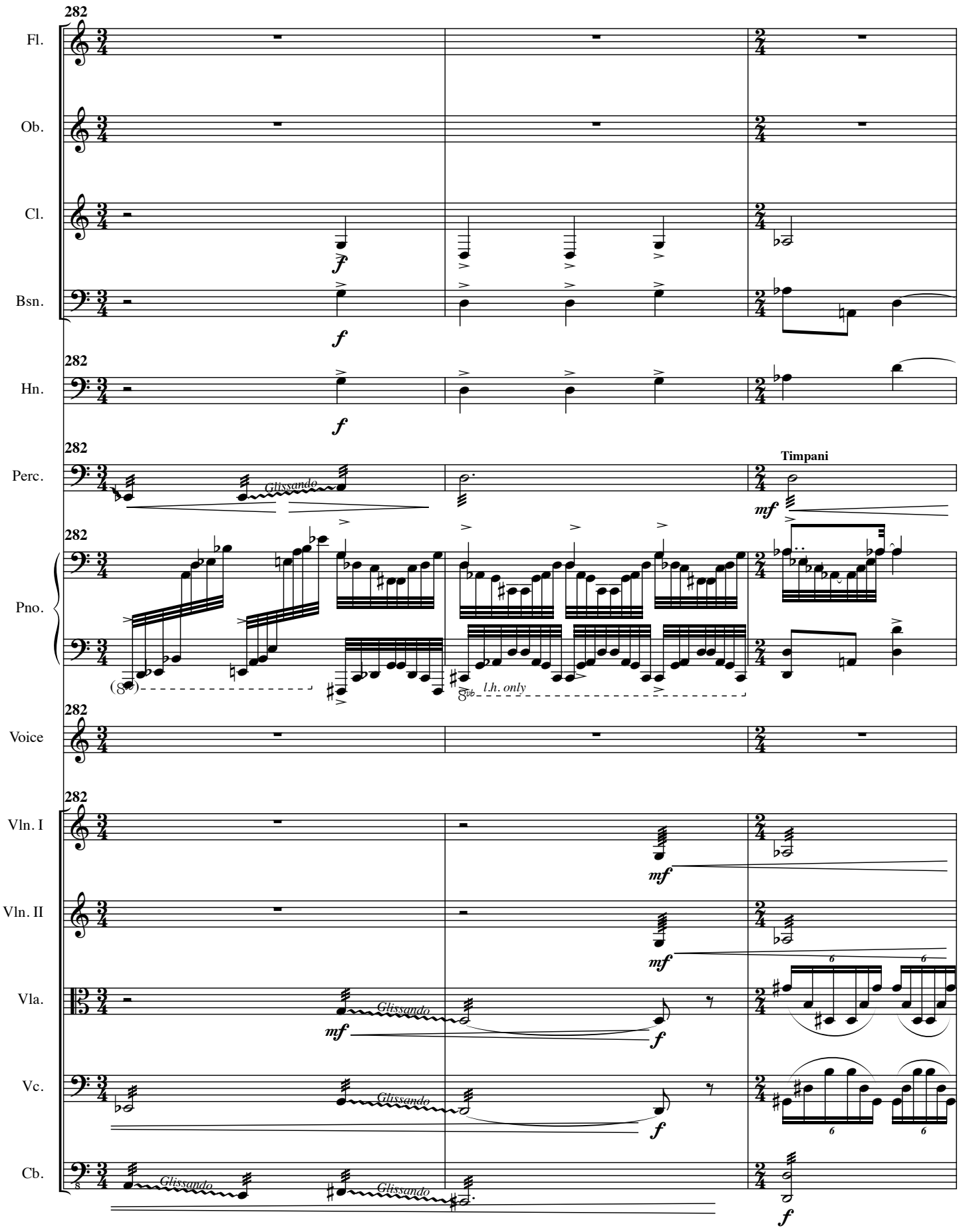

Più largo ♩=96
Inesorabile ♩=126
251
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Susp. cymb.
Anvil
Perc.
Pno.
Voice
Ev' - ry-thing is
blin - - - - - - - ding
white
light
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

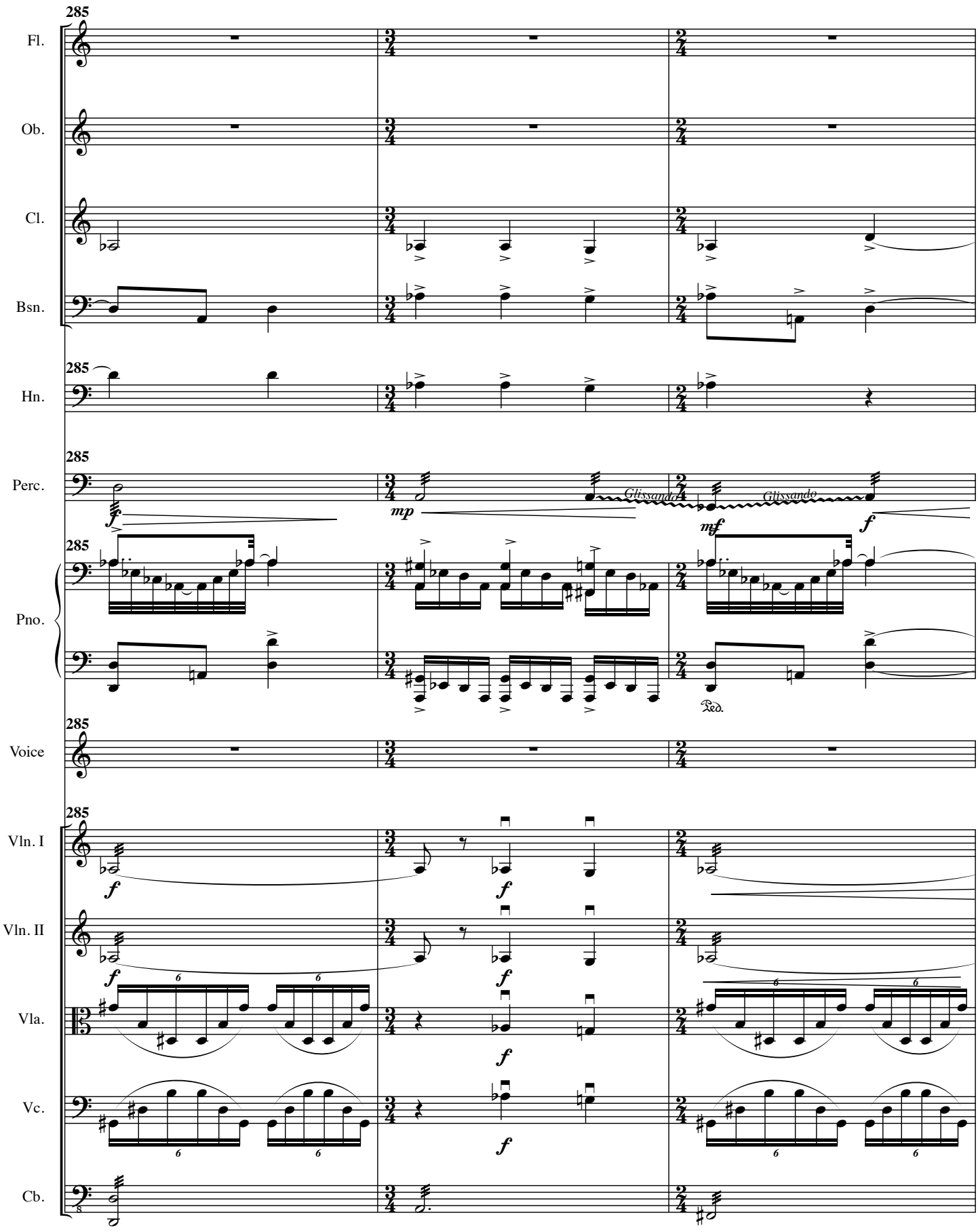

257
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
B. D.
molto
Pno.
dim.
(both hands)
Voice
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
tutta forza
Cb.
tutta forza
molto

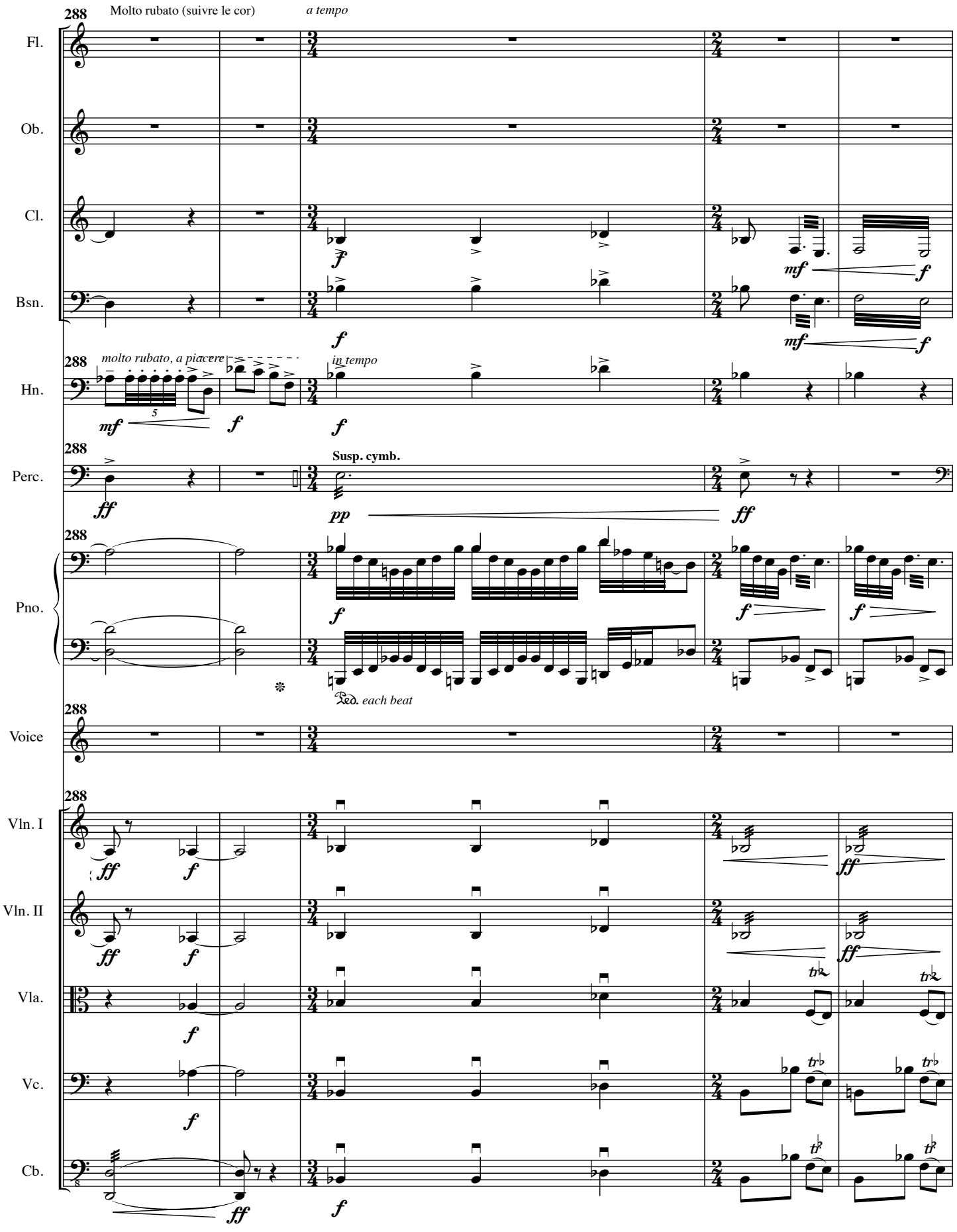

263
Calmo ♩=84
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Pno.
Voice
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pp
p
niente
ppp
T.T.
Gong
(8vb)
8vb
Ped.
we are our own child
con sord.

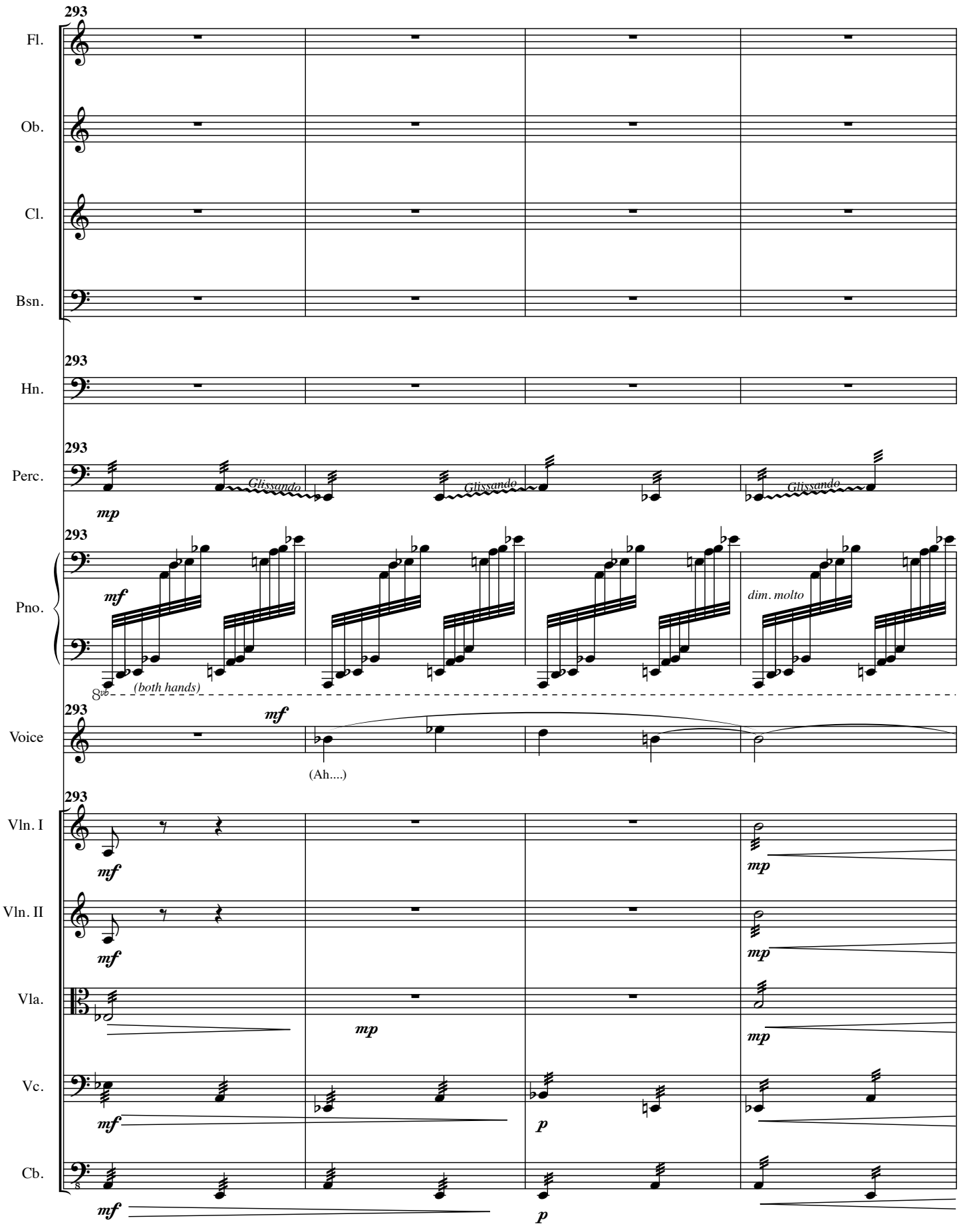

270
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Pno.
Voice
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pp
espress.
ppp
T.T.
Gong
Ped.
8vb
p
the deep
via sord.
senza sord, vibr. ord.
con sord.
sans nuances, sans vibr.

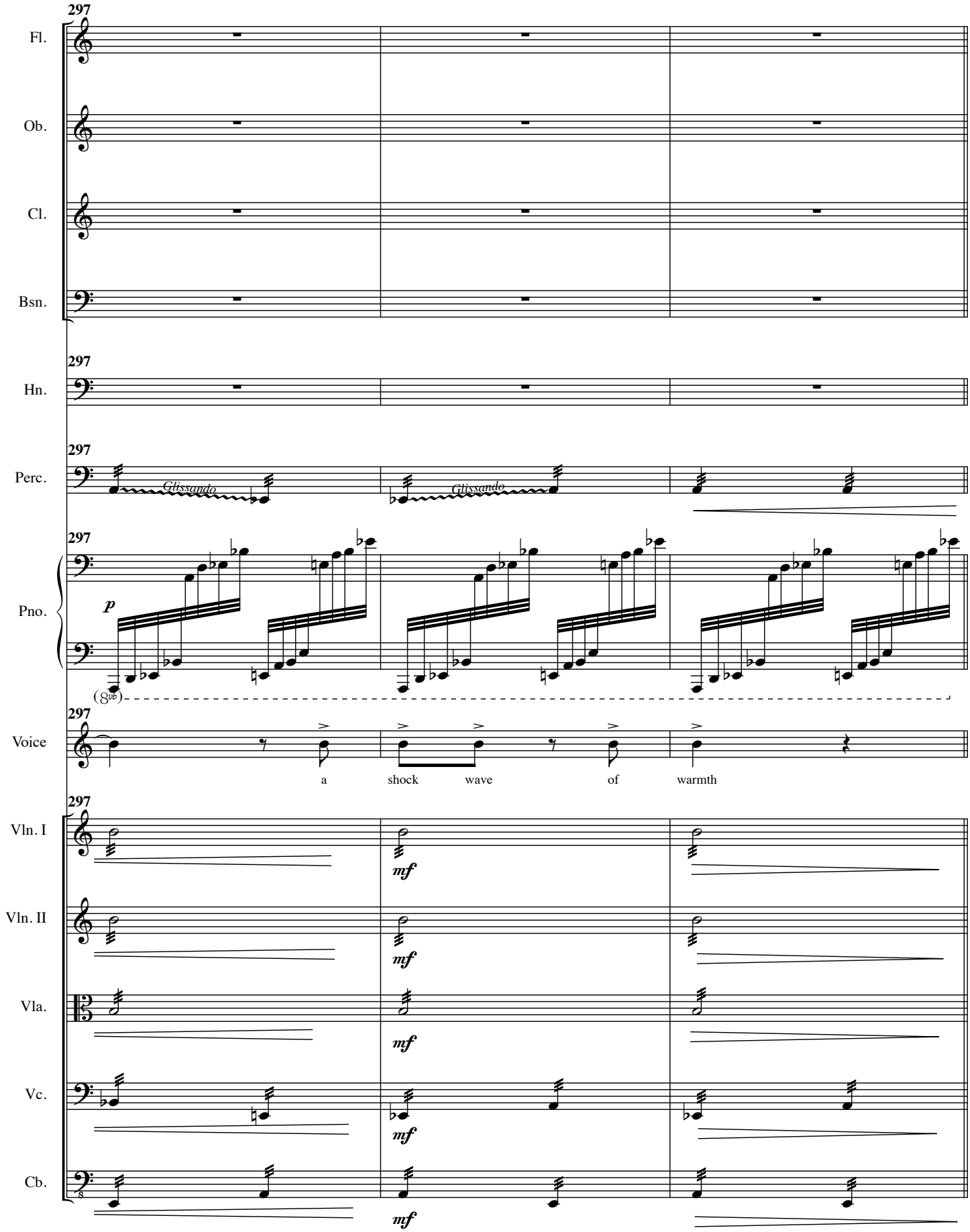

277
Tempestuous 120
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
ppp
p
ppp
Hn.
Timpani
Perc.
pp
Glissando
Pno.
cresc. molto
(8vb)
(both hands)
Ped. each beat
(spoken)
Voice
births us
We are the enormous child of ze - ro
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
senza sord, vibr. ord.

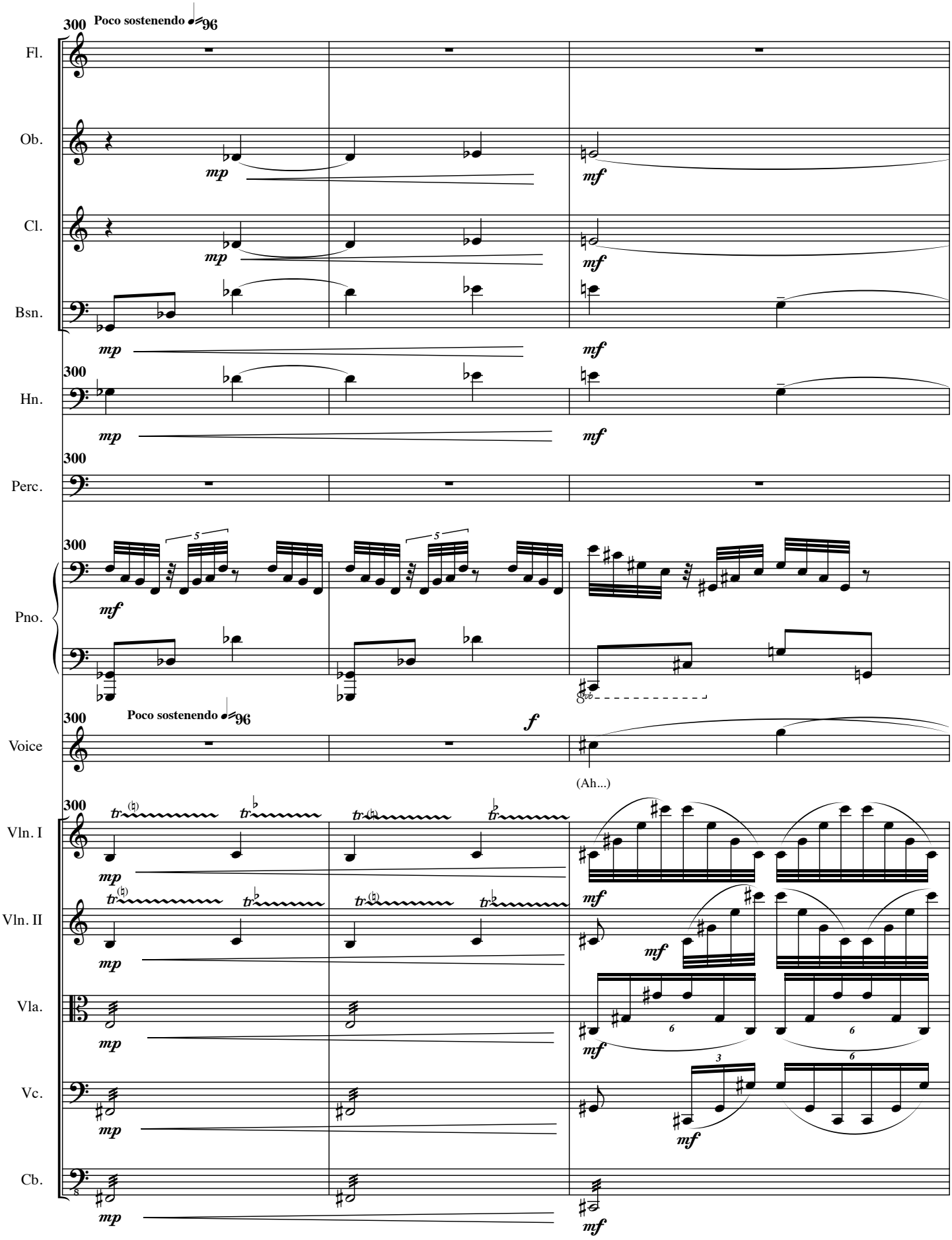

282
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Timpani
Pno.
Voice
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
Glissando
l.h. only

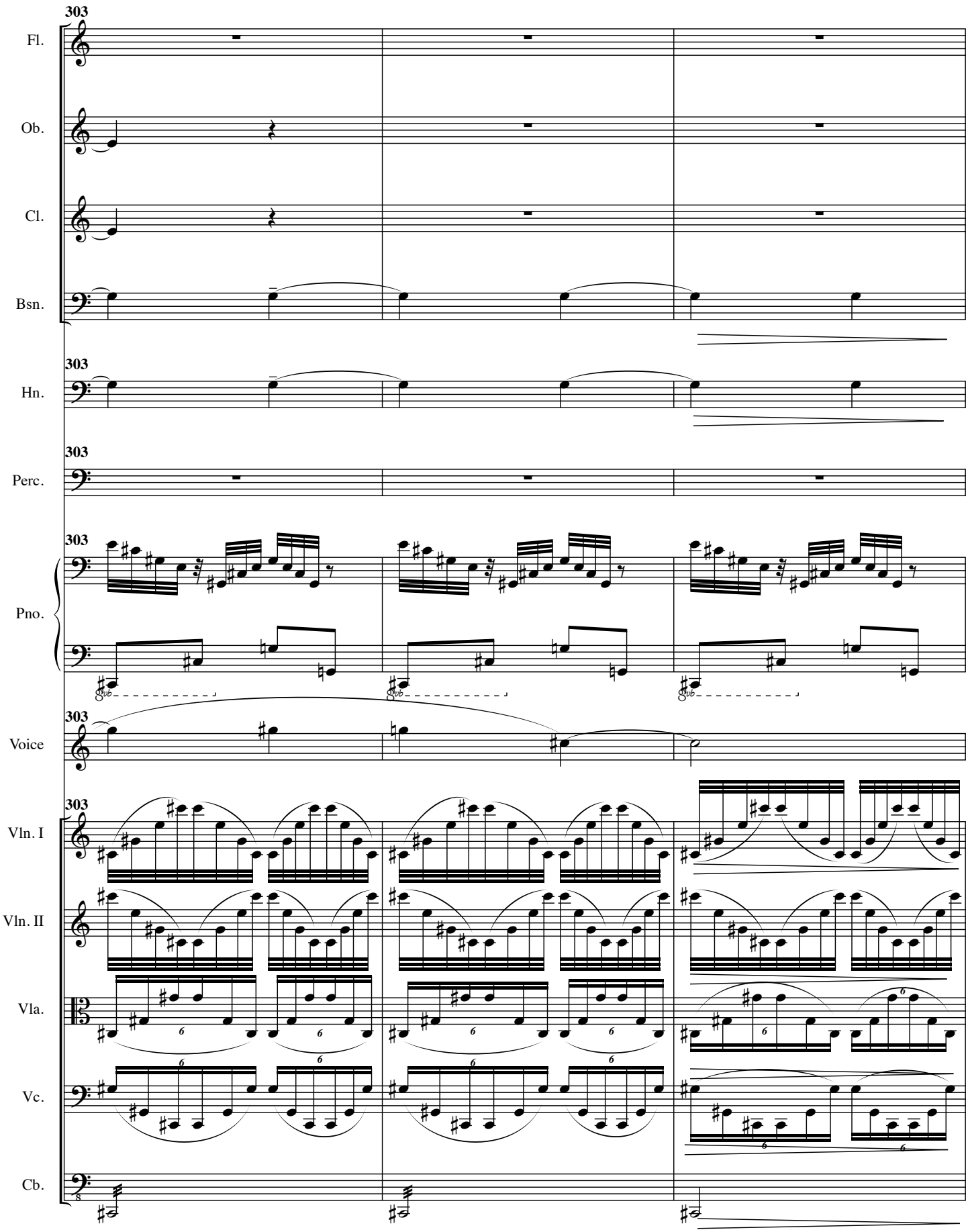

285
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
285
Hn.
285
Perc.
Glissando
Glissando
285
Pno.
Ped.
285
Voice
285
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

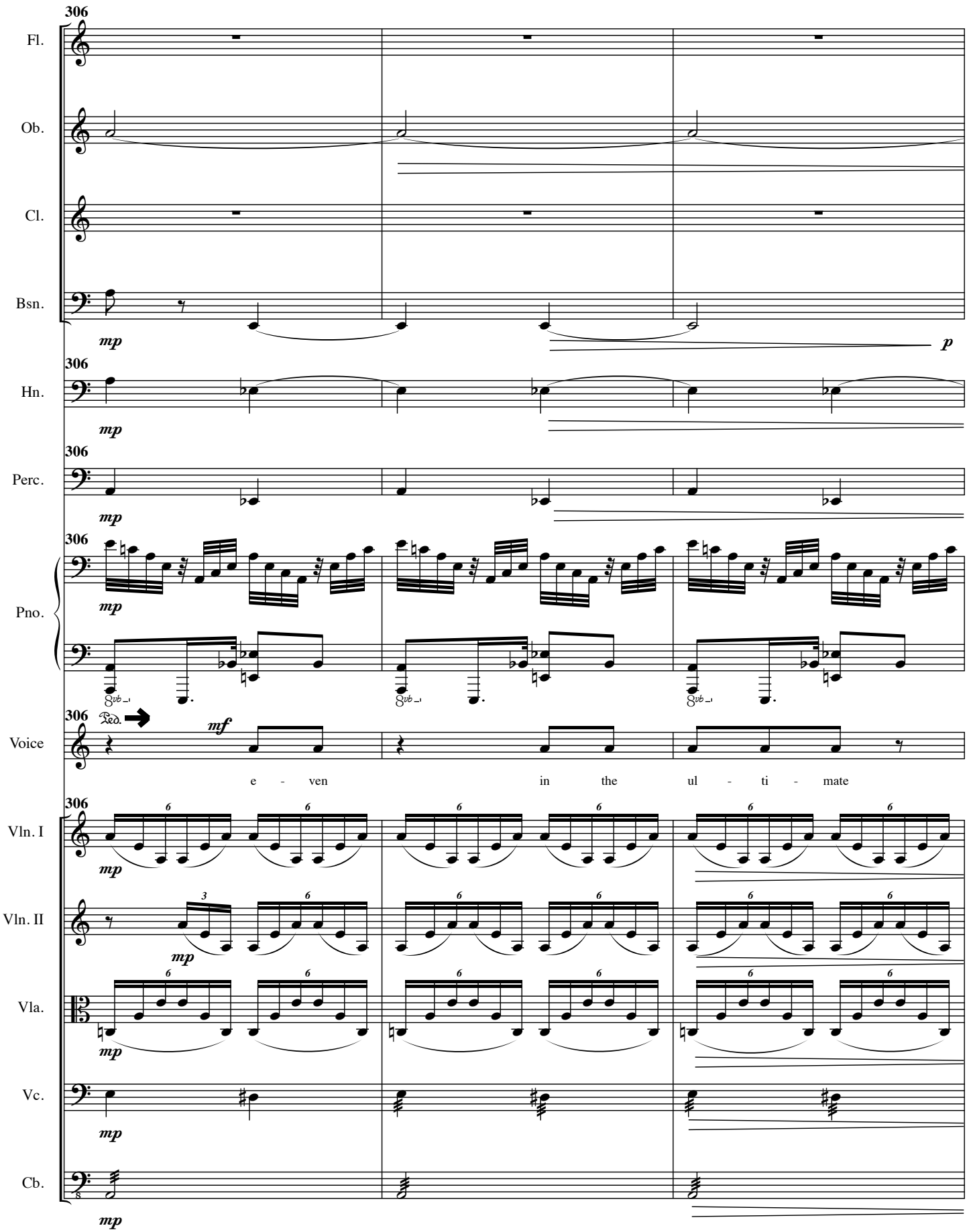

288
Molto rubato (suivre le cor)
a tempo
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
molto rubato, a piacere
in tempo
Hn.
Susp. cymb.
Perc.
Pno.
Ped. each beat
Voice
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

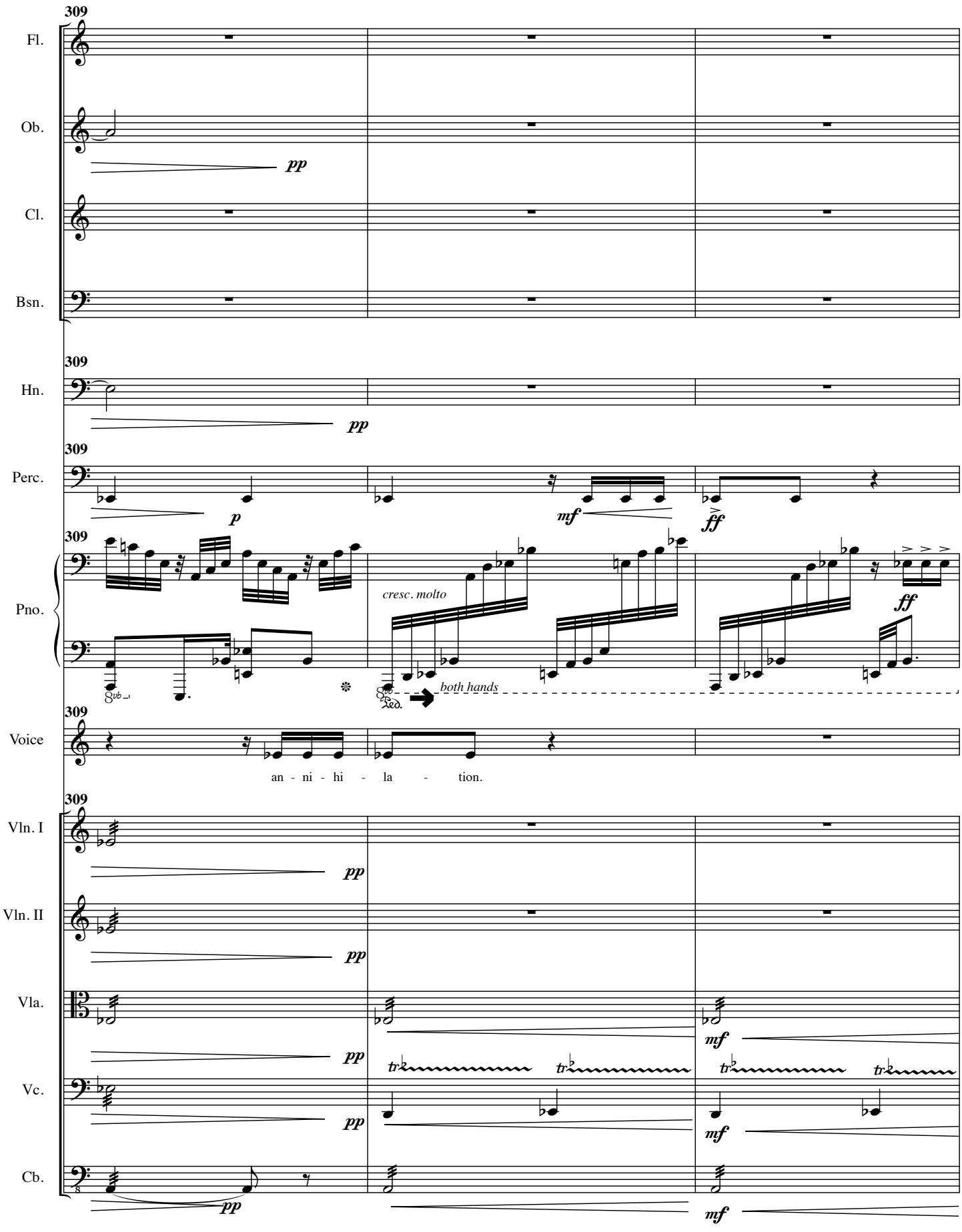

293
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
293
Hn.
293
Perc.
mp
Glissando
Glissando
Glissando
293
Pno.
mf
dim. molto
8va
(both hands)
293
Voice
mf
(Ah....)
293
Vln. I
mf
mp
Vln. II
mf
mp
Vla.
mp
mp
Vc.
mf
p
Cb.
mf
p

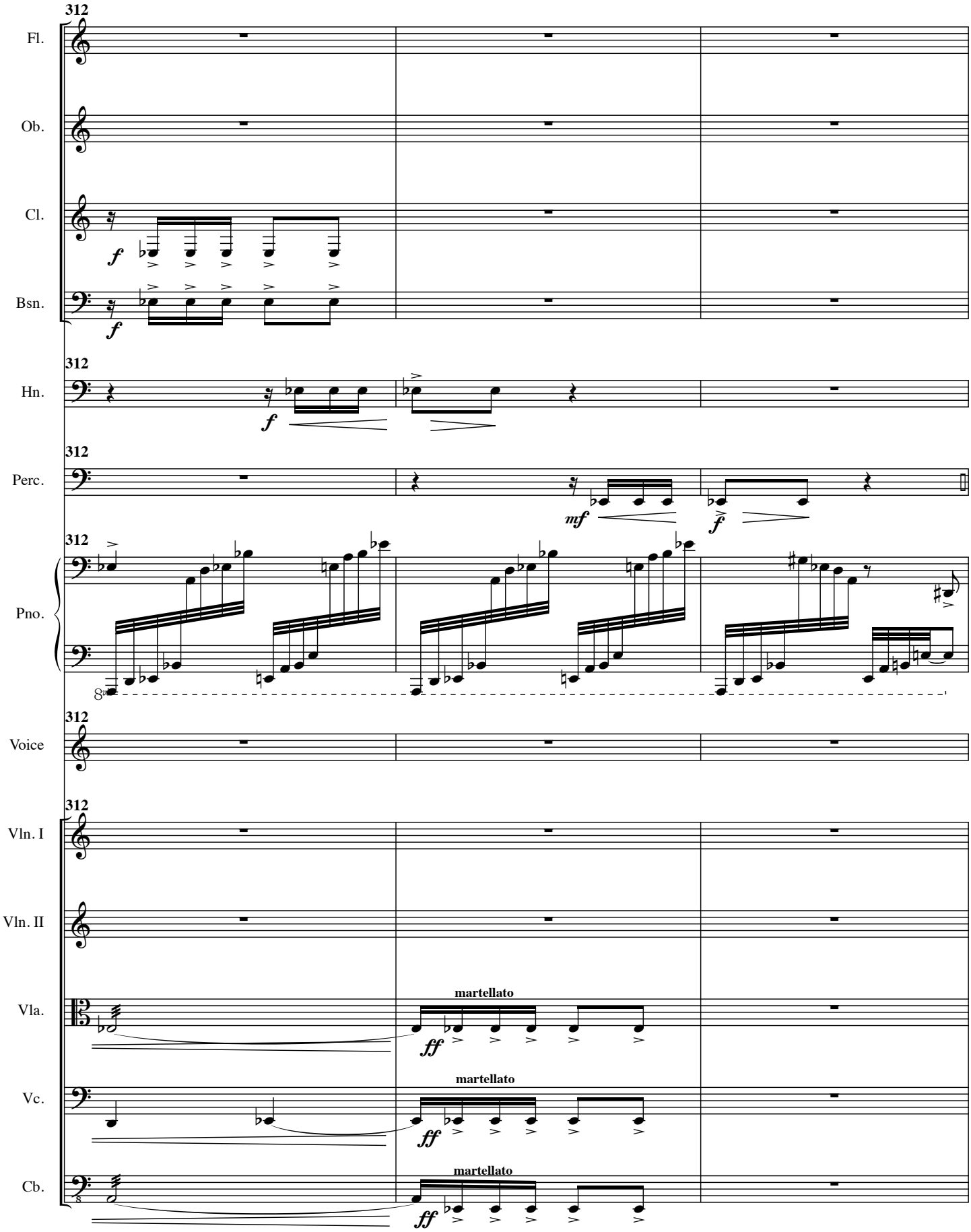

297
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
297
Hn.
297
Perc.
Glissando
Glissando
297
Pno.
p
(8vb)
297
Voice
a
shock
wave
of
warmth
297
Vln. I
mf
Vln. II
mf
Vla.
mf
Vc.
mf
Cb.
mf

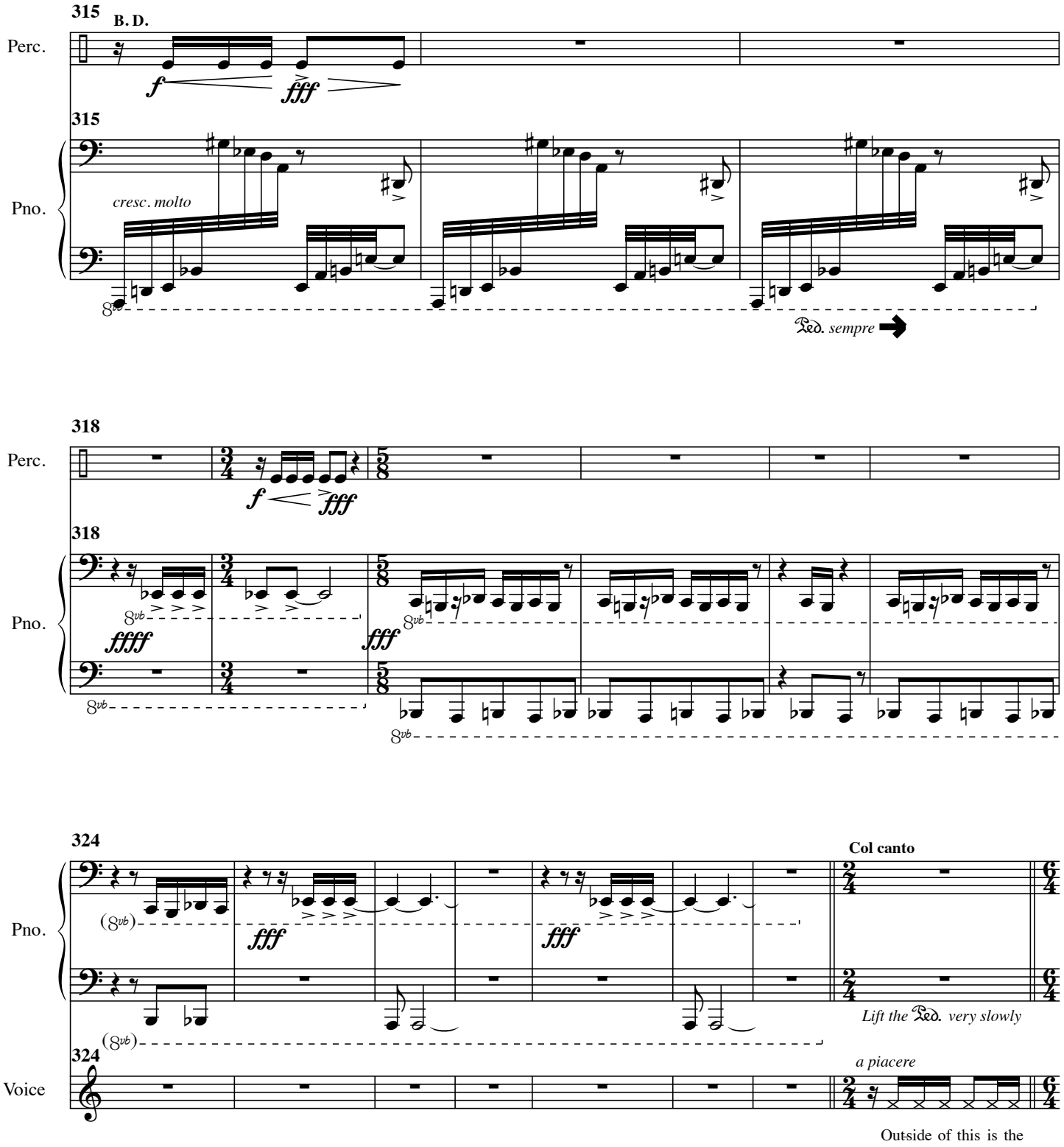

300
Poco sostenendo
96
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Pno.
Voice
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
mf
f
(Ah...)

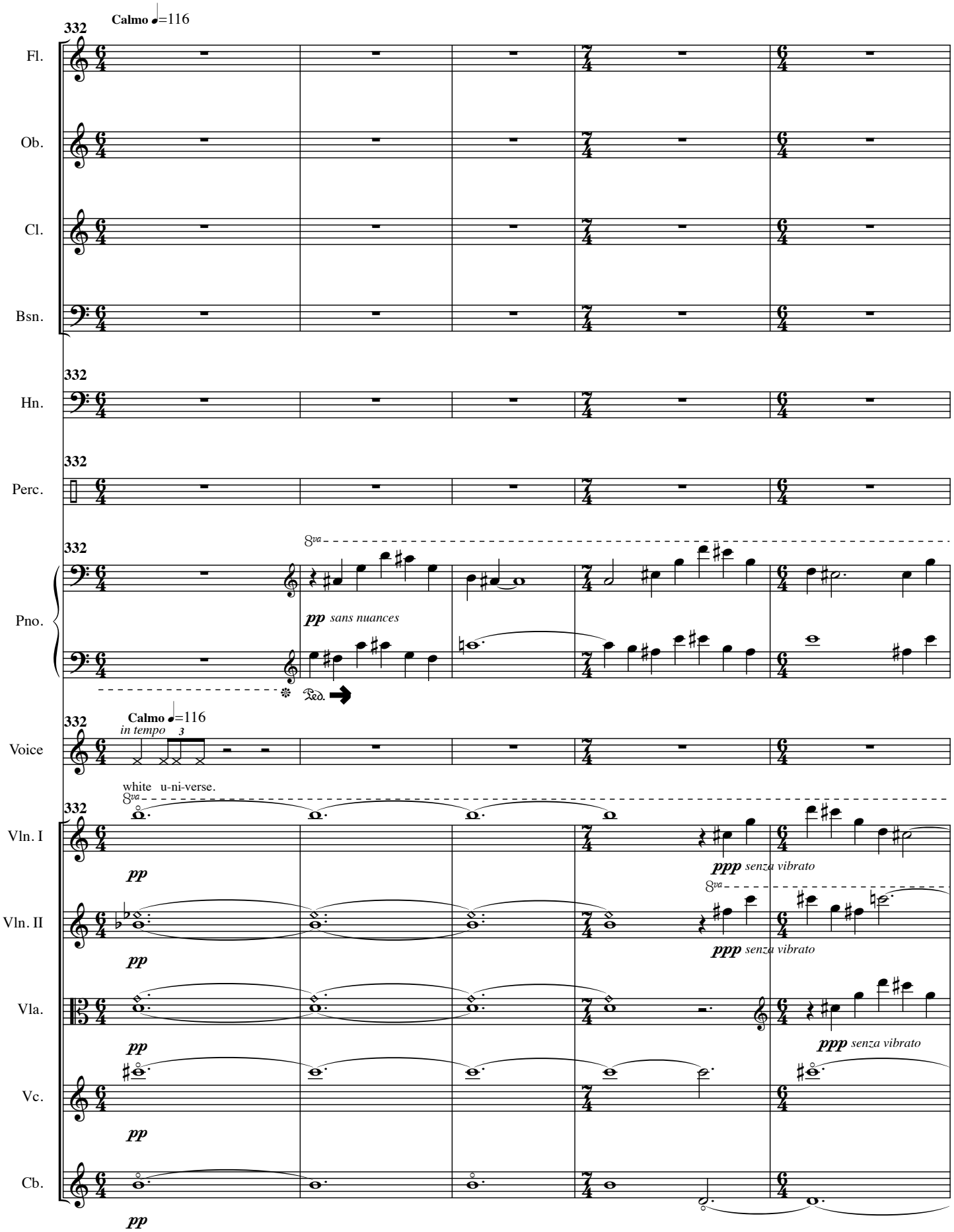

303
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
303
Hn.
303
Perc.
303
Pno.
303
Voice
303
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

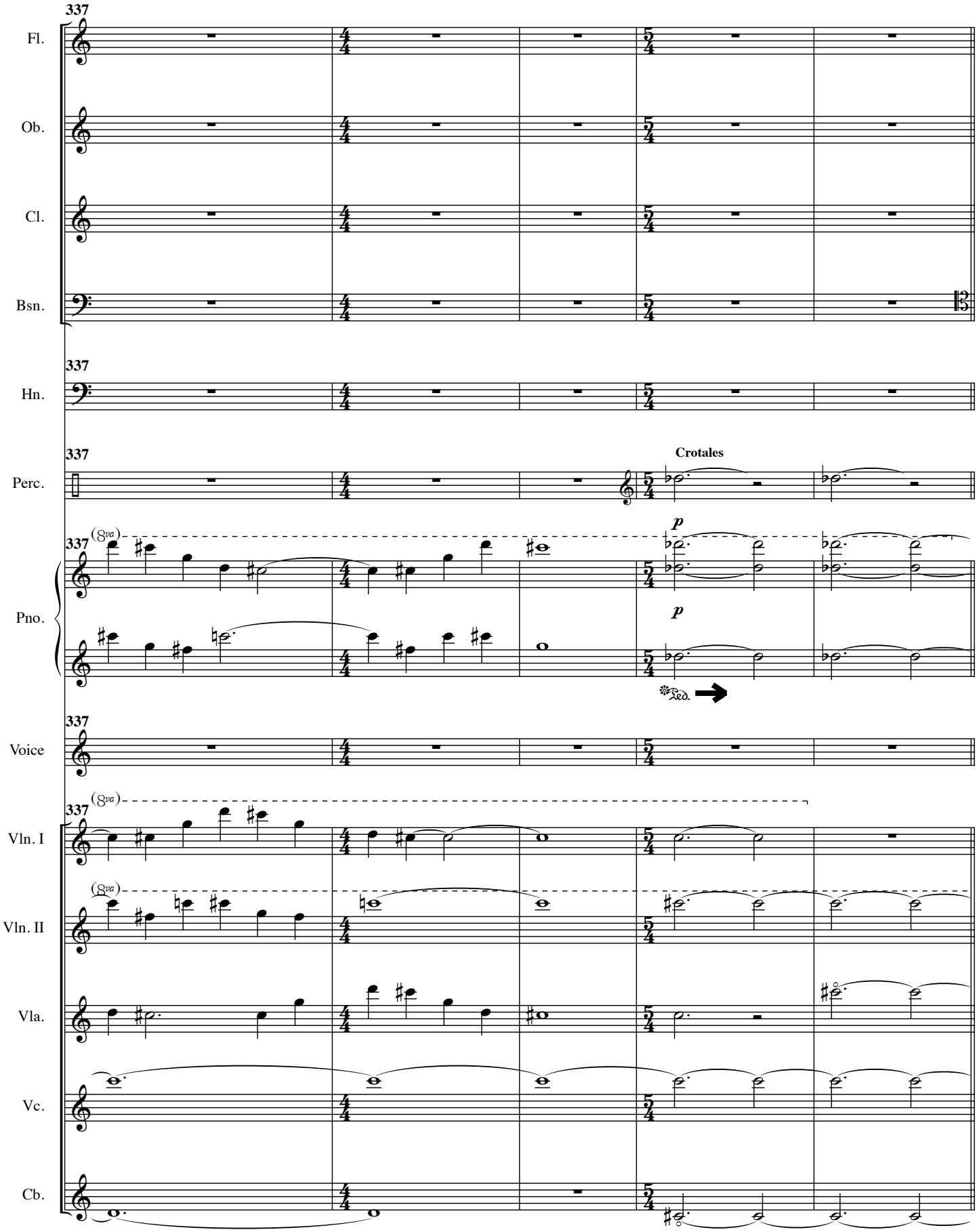

306
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
mp
p
306
Hn.
mp
306
Perc.
mp
306
Pno.
mp
306
Ped.
mf
Voice
e - ven in the ul - ti - mate
306
Vln. I
mp
Vln. II
mp
Vla.
mp
Vc.
mp
Cb.
mp

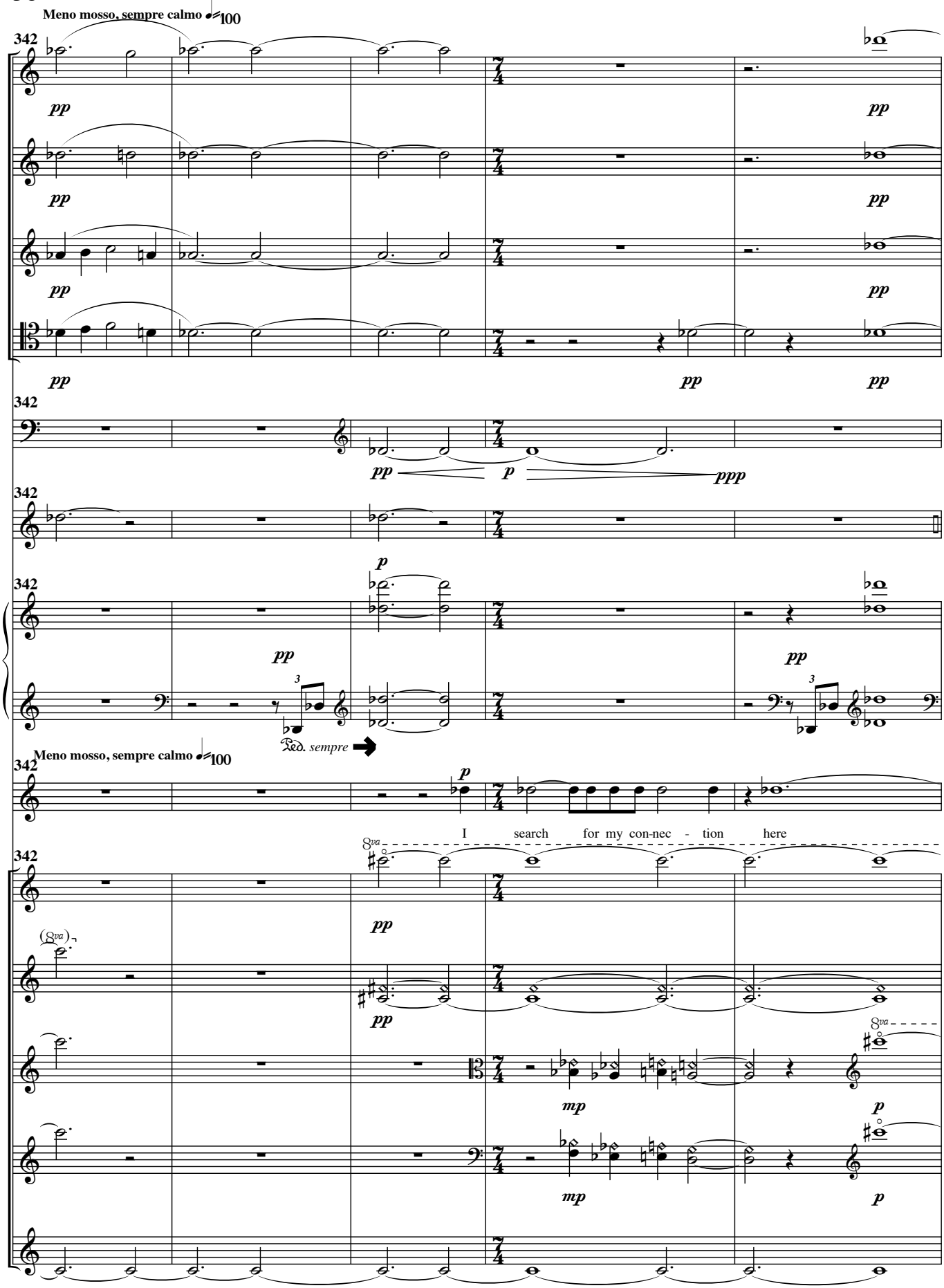

309
Fl.
Ob.
pp
Cl.
Bsn.
309
Hn.
pp
309
Perc.
p
mf
ff
309
Pno.
cresc. molto
ff
8vb
Ped.
both hands
309
Voice
an - ni - hi - la - tion.
309
Vln. I
pp
Vln. II
pp
Vla.
pp
tr
tr
mf
tr
tr
Vc.
pp
mf
Cb.
8
pp
mf

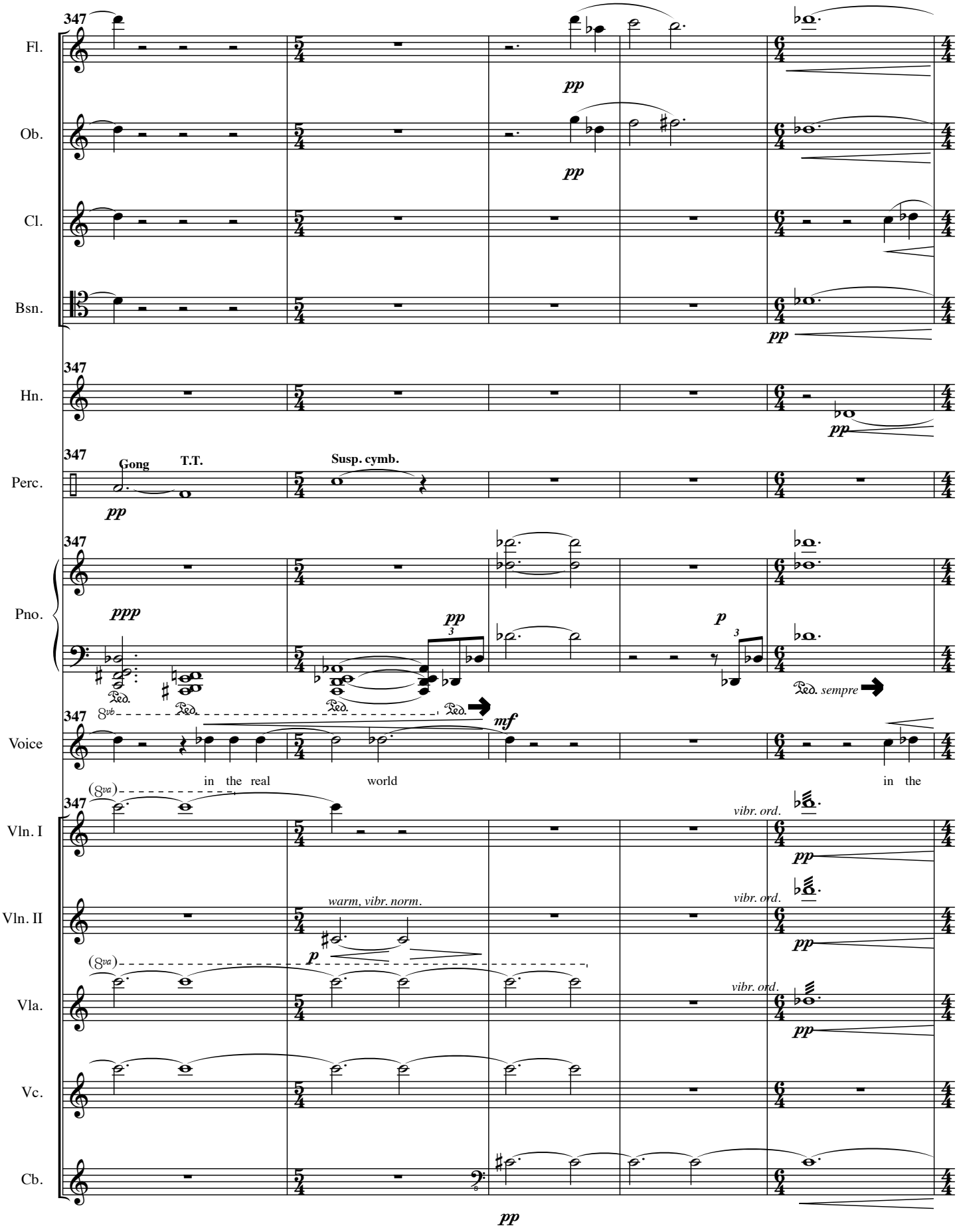

312
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Pno.
Voice
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
mf
ff
martellato

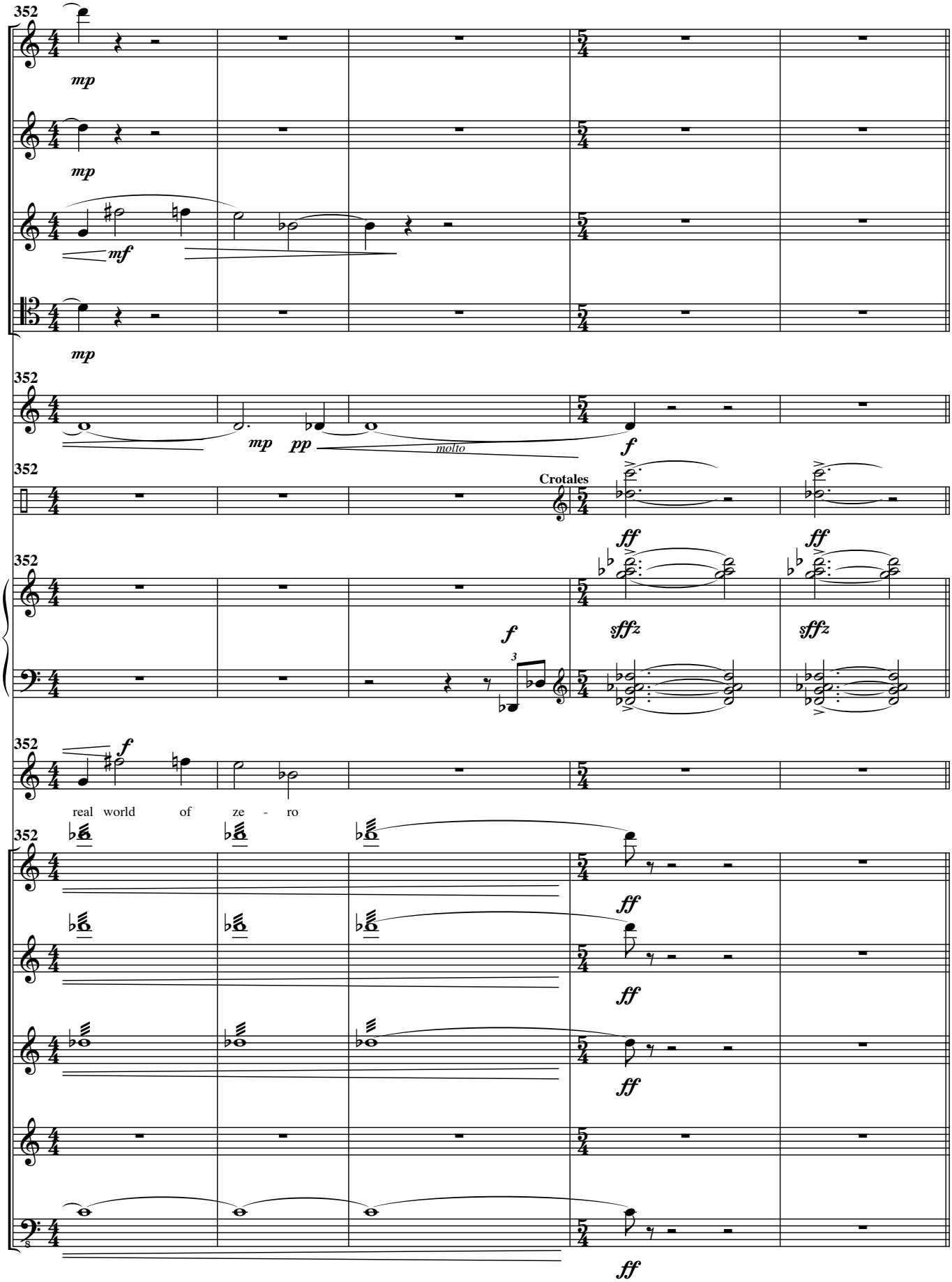

315
B. D.
Perc.
f
fff
315
Pno.
cresc. molto
8vb
Ped. sempre
318
Perc.
f
fff
318
Pno.
ffff
fff
8vb
324
Col canto
Pno.
(8vb)
fff
fff
Lift the Ped. very slowly
324
a piacere
Voice
Outside of this is the

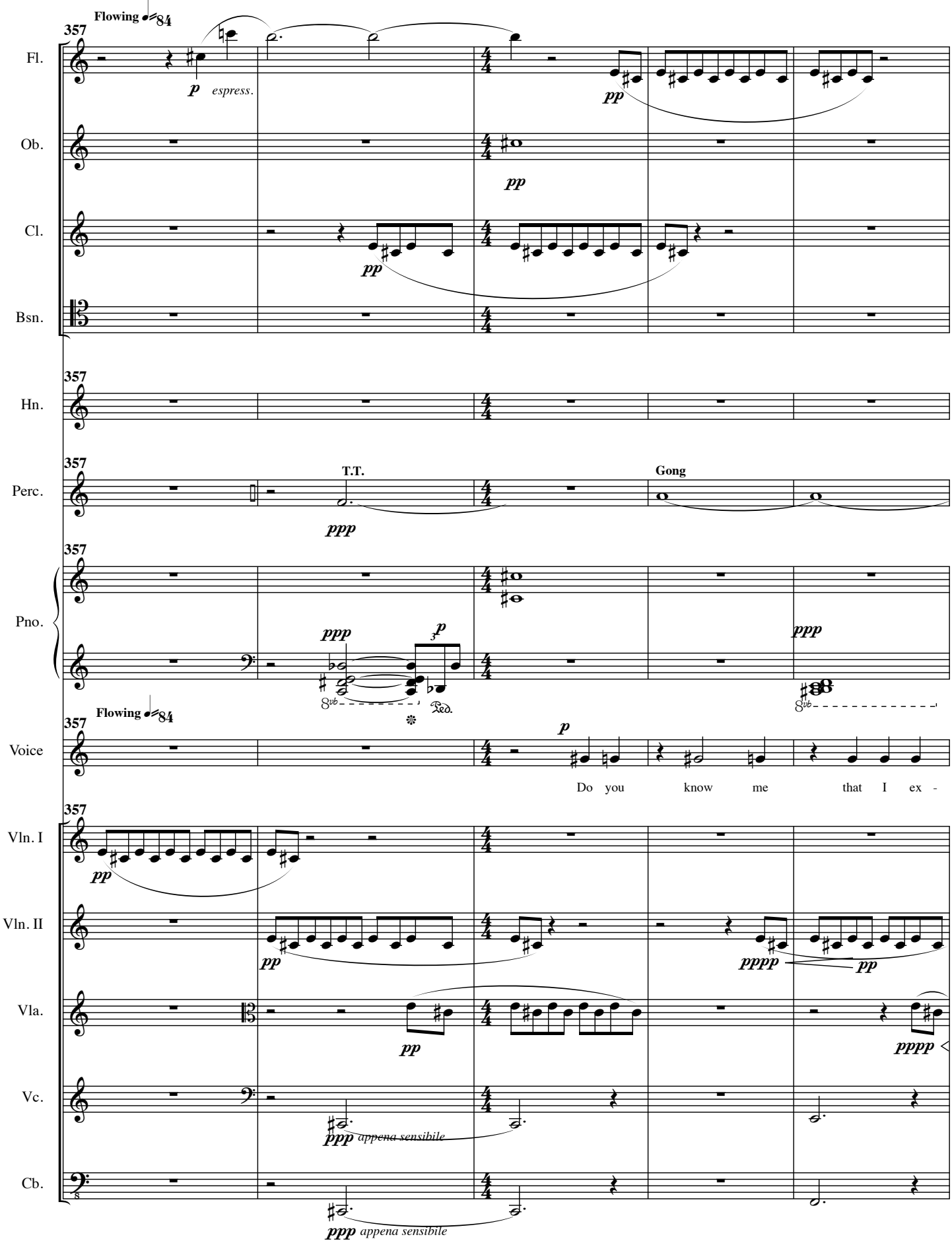

Calmo ♩=116
332
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Pno.
8va
pp sans nuances
Ped.
Calmo ♩=116
in tempo
3
Voice
white u-ni-verse.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pp
ppp senza vibrato

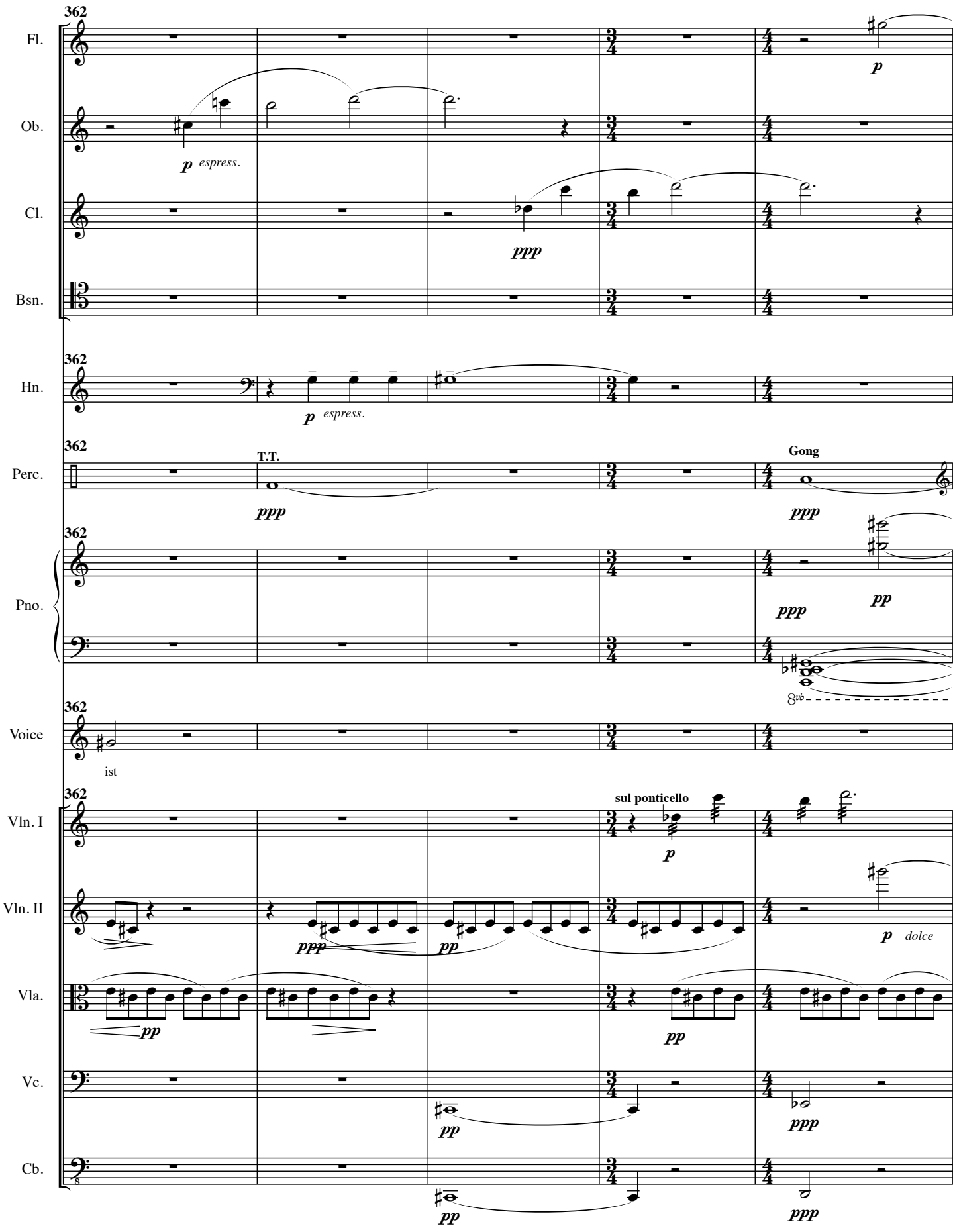

337
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
337
Hn.
337
Perc.
Crotales
337
(8va)
Pno.
p
p
Ped.
337
Voice
337
(8va)
Vln. I
(8va)
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

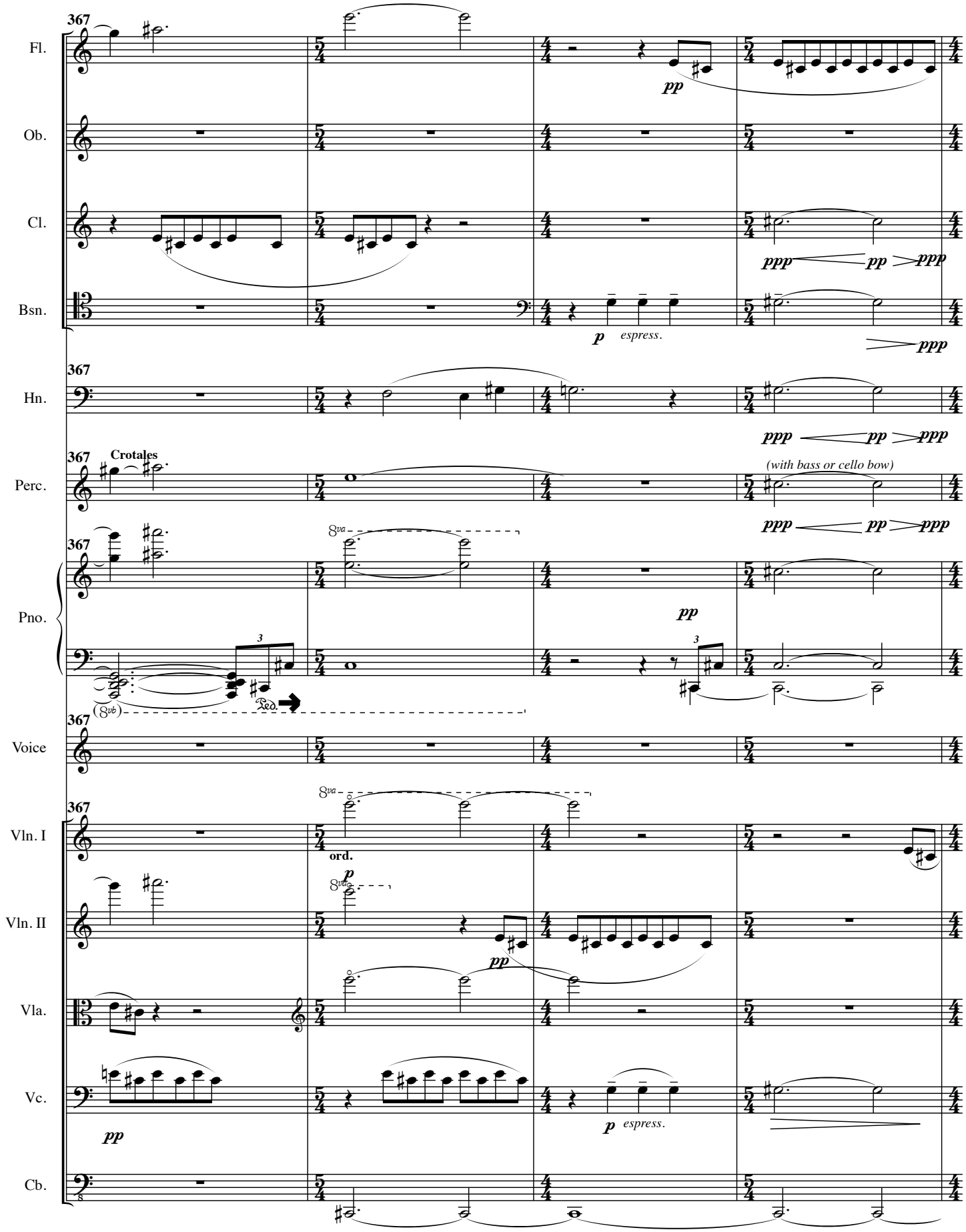

Meno mosso, sempre calmo ♩=100
342
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Pno.
Voice
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pp
p
ppp
mp
Ped. sempre
I search for my con-nec - tion here
8va

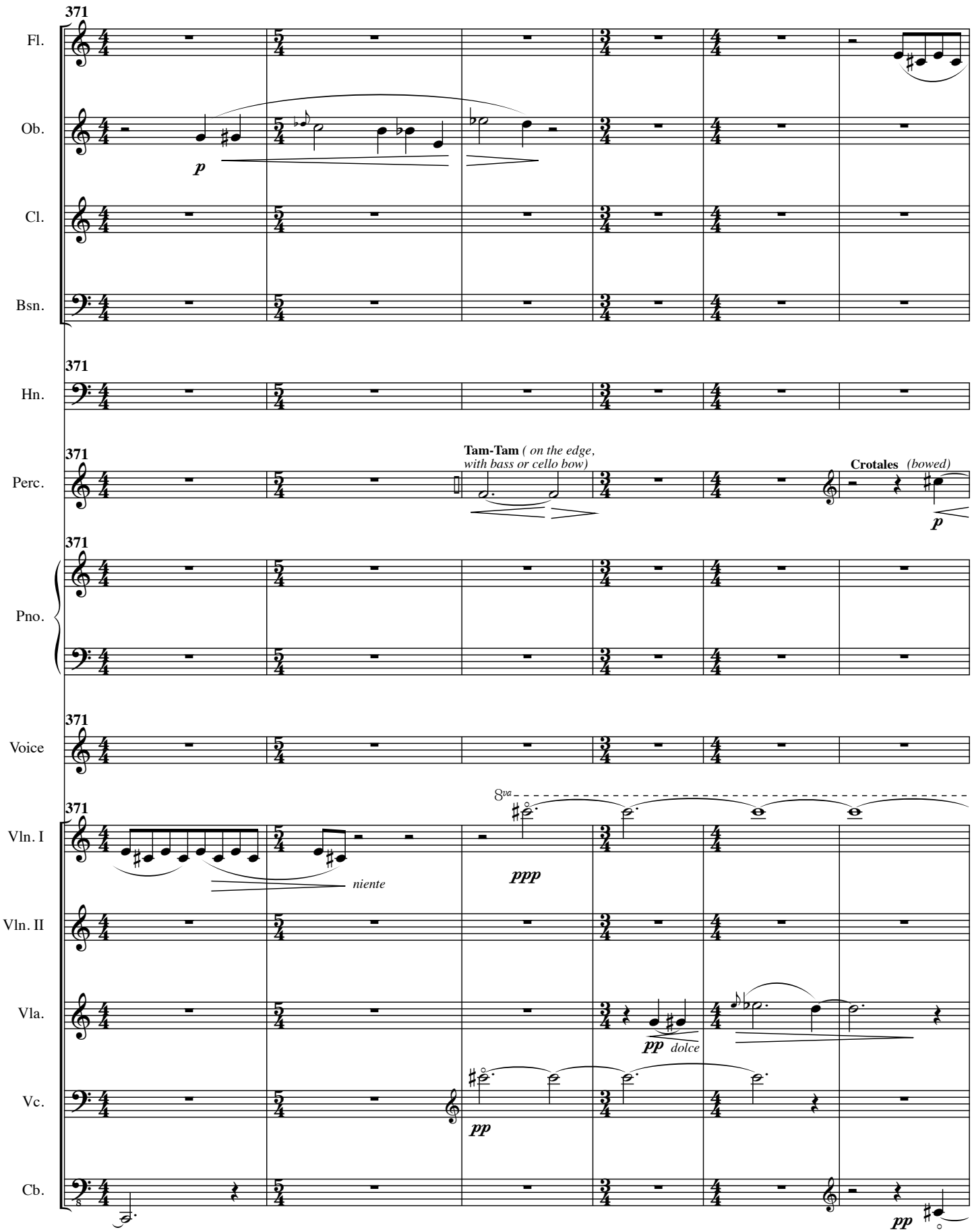

347
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Gong
T.T.
Susp. cymb.
Pno.
Voice
in the real world in the
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pp
ppp
p
mf
Ped.
Ped. sempre
vibr. ord.
warm, vibr. norm.
(8va)
8vb

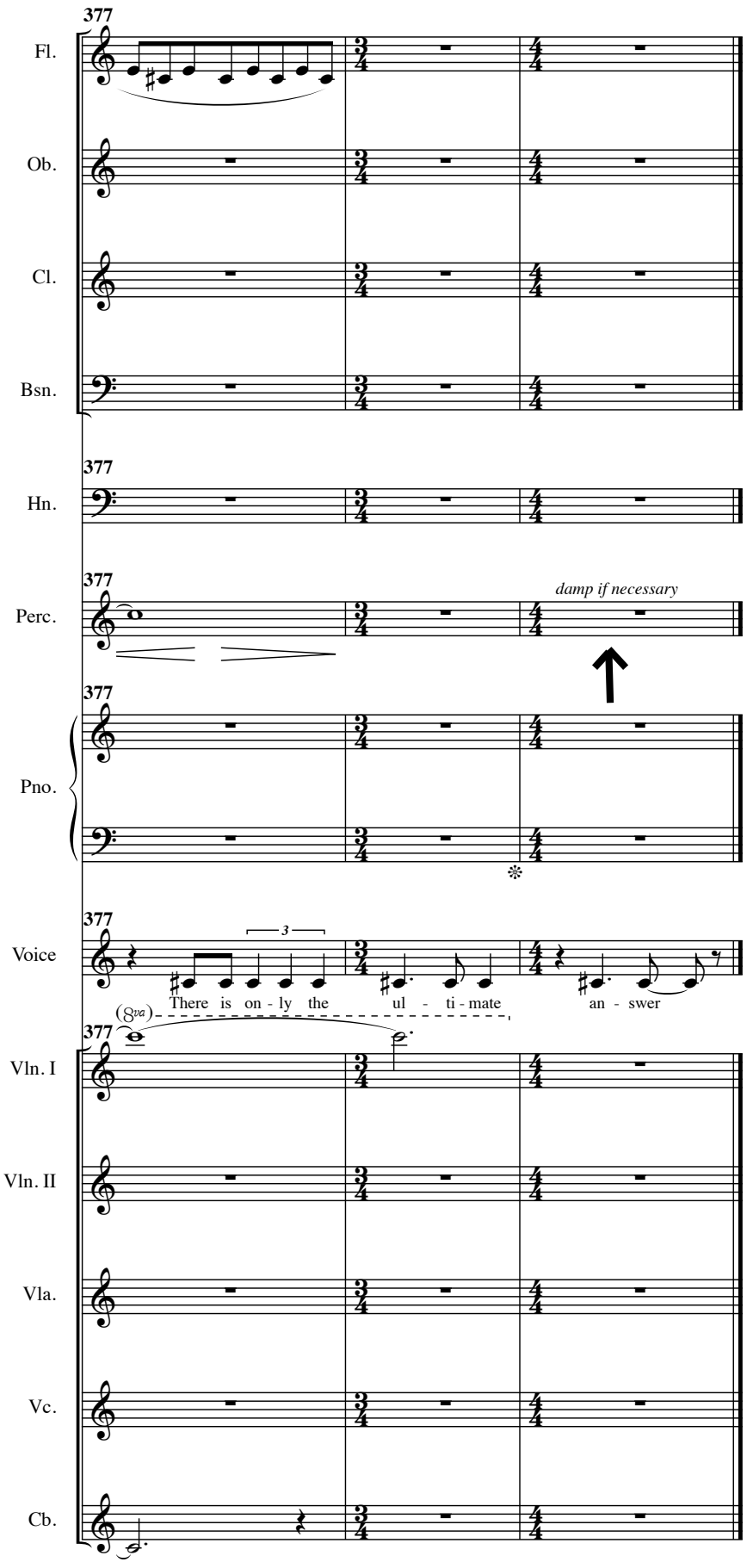

352
Fl.
mp
Ob.
mp
Cl.
mf
Bsn.
mp
352
Hn.
mp
pp
molto
f
352
Perc.
Crotales
ff
ff
352
Pno.
f
3
sffz
sffz
352
Voice
f
real world of ze - ro
352
Vln. I
ff
Vln. II
ff
Vla.
ff
Vc.
Cb.
ff


Flowing ♩=84
357
Fl.
p espress.
pp
Ob.
pp
Cl.
pp
Bsn.
357
Hn.
357
Perc.
T.T.
ppp
Gong
357
Pno.
ppp
p
ppp
Flowing ♩=84
357
Voice
p
Do you know me that I ex -
357
Vln. I
pp
Vln. II
pp
pppp
pp
Vla.
pp
pppp
Vc.
ppp appena sensibile
Cb.
ppp appena sensibile


362
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Perc.
Pno.
Voice
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p espress.
ppp
p espress.
T.T.
ppp
Gong
ppp
pp
ppp
8vb
ist
sul ponticello
p
ppp
pp
p dolce
pp
pp
pp
ppp
pp
ppp


367
Fl.
pp
Ob.
Cl.
ppp
pp
ppp
Bsn.
p
espress.
ppp
367
Hn.
ppp
pp
ppp
367
Crotales
Perc.
(with bass or cello bow)
ppp
pp
ppp
367
8va
Pno.
pp
3
(8vb)
Ped.
367
Voice
367
8va
Vln. I
ord.
p
8va
Vln. II
pp
Vla.
Vc.
pp
p
espress.
Cb.


371
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
p
371
Hn.
371
Perc.
Tam-Tam (on the edge, with bass or cello bow)
Crotales (bowed)
p
371
Pno.
371
Voice
371
Vln. I
8va
ppp
niente
Vln. II
Vla.
pp dolce
Vc.
pp
Cb.
pp


377
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
377
Hn.
377
Perc.
damp if necessary
377
Pno.
377
Voice
3
There is on - ly the ul - ti - mate an - swer
(8va)
377
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.