Carols

For Quartet

A Collection of
Five Holiday Tone Poems
for

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello

James Nathaniel Holland

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I. SKATING (Recording included)

I cannot skate as well as Kevin,
He glides and twirls so effortlessly
Over bumpy ice.

He has tried to teach me,
But I don't have patience,
Nor a solid rump to learn.

It's getting dark now.
Thick snow-clouds engulfing the orange ball.
Winter night reclaiming the frozen world sooner than it should.
Snow sparkling in glowing sunsets,
Crystals riding chilly breezes.
As effortlessly as Kevin does on ice.

His mitten takes my mitten.
A secret kiss upon my red, exposed cheek.
He laughs and we head back to the house,
Which seems so far in the snow.

Another kiss, another lesson, waits upon another day.

II. AT THE TABLE (Recording included)

Mother said,
Scrub every nook
And cranny,
So here I sit,
Dressed like the turkey,
Soon to be stuffed like him too.

Church is later,
A pageant in which
I play the disbeliever,
A small part that
Mrs. Hartman says
Is the most important
I know it's not true.

Mother smiles at me,
Helping me take hold
A spoon of mash potatoes.

III. LITTLE BRITCHES

Who is this
That stalks the night,
With red, pointed cap and little britches?
Carrying a sack of switches
For bad little girls and boys.

Look closely,
For on beams of lunar light,
Undercover in quiet room.
Away to work, they hum their tune
Whilst others hoist sacks of toys
For better acting girls and boys.

Scent of evergreen
Luster of the red, holly's berry,
Lures them hither
From Arctic realms that make one shiver,
Tis Christmas eve, a time of miracles.

IV. BARN DANCE (Recording included)

Good morrow, good morrow!
We come to carol you.
Away to the Smith's, and then to the Parker's
We come to carol you.
To awaken your hearts and bring you along,
Along to the dance at the barn,
So trimmed in holly and boughs of fir.
Hay over spilling the loft's edge.
Then Clap! Clap! Away we go!
The caller only knowing the steps to take.
The fiddle singing and ringing above the beat.
Clap! Clap! Join in! Join in!
Round and round
In a square, then in a circle.
Quite dizzy, quite happy.

V. THE MIDNIGHT SLEIGH RIDE (Recording included)

Across snow, barren landscapes,
My driver flies through the dark night.
It has been so long now.
I die to think I shall see my lover again.
To feel the warm glow of firelight.
Can the mule go no faster?
It's pace too steady, the jingle bells too measured.
Poor beast, driven by whip and call.
Icy smoke flares from its nostrils.
A sweet apple and oats I will reward it soon.

But now, press on, press for me.
Giddyap, good beast!
Tomorrow is Christmas!

Poems by James Nathaniel Holland
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Thank you for your interest

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Carols

For Quartet

I. Skating

James Nathaniel Holland

Lento non troppo ♩. = 55

Violin 1

fp

(ad lib; stagger bowing; as if tuning)

fp

Violin 2

mp *pizz.*

Viola

fp

(ad lib; stagger bowing; as if tuning)

simile

Cello

7

Vln. 1

fp *simile*

Vln. 2

Vla.

fp *fp*

Vlc.

A

13

Vln. 1

(Sing; put a little creas. on every held note)

mp

Vln. 2

arco

(Sing; put a little creas. on every held note)

mp

Vla.

(flowing)

(Sing; put a little creas. on every held note)

f

Vlc.

mp *mp* *mp* *simile*

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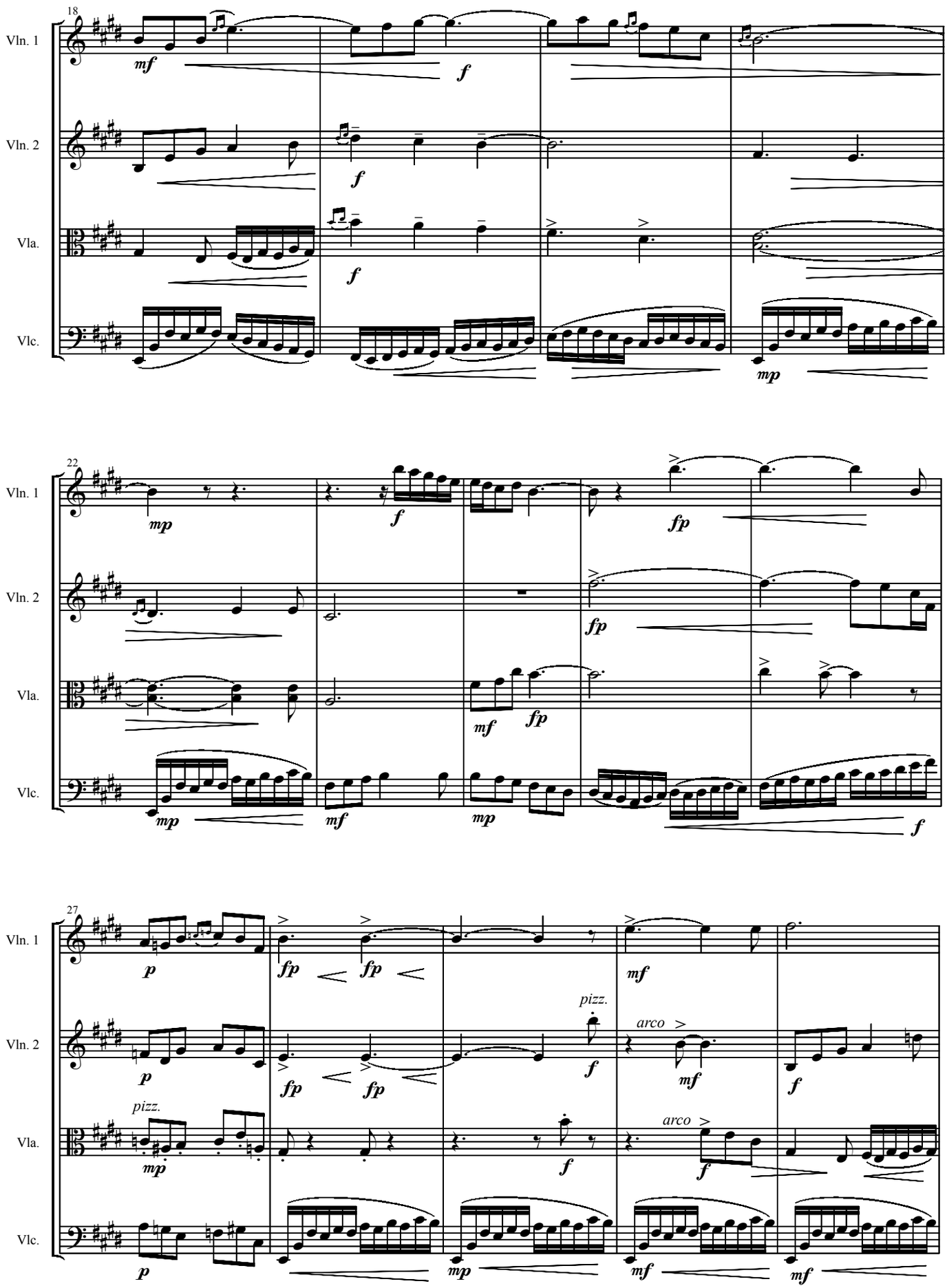
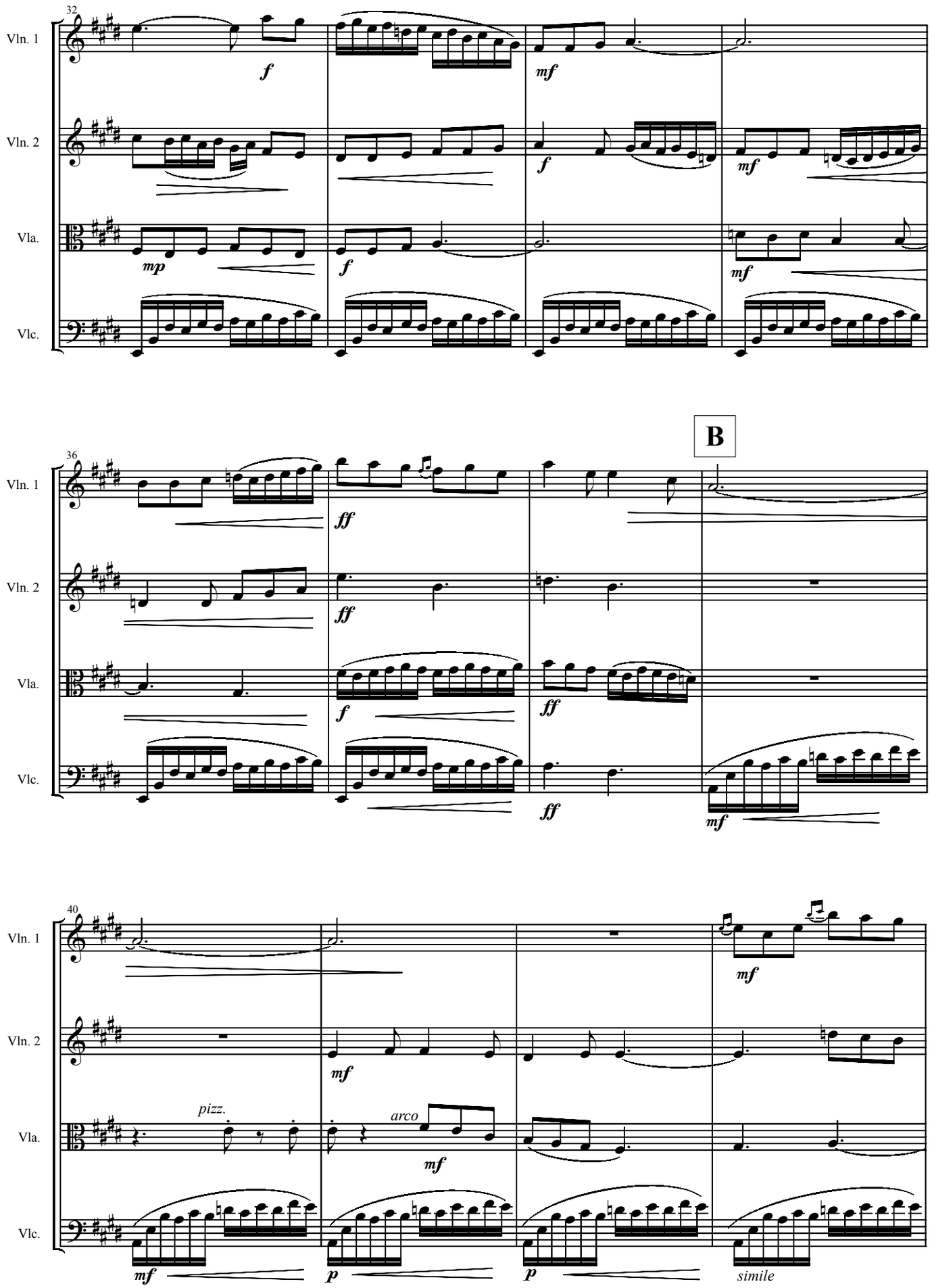
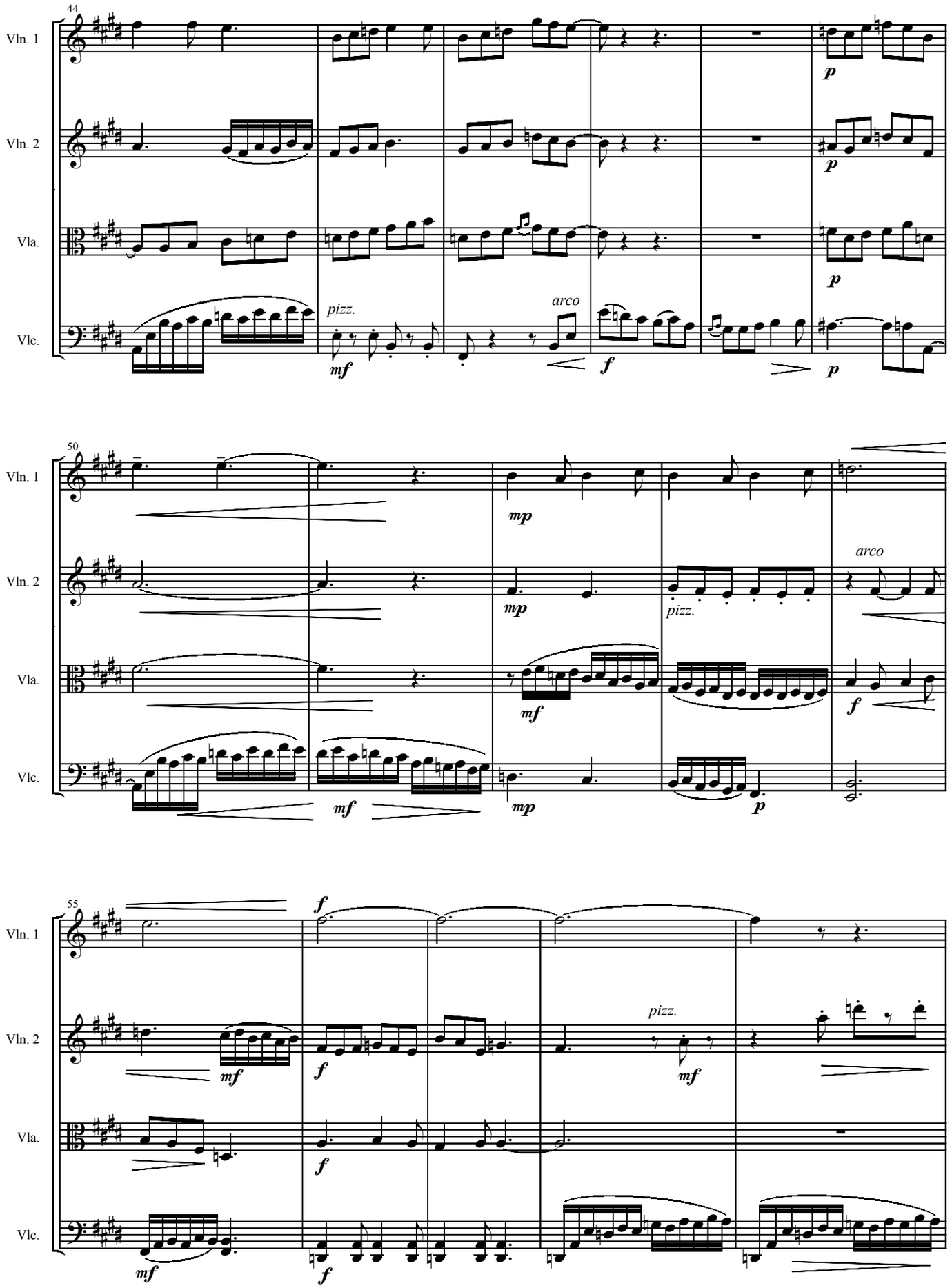
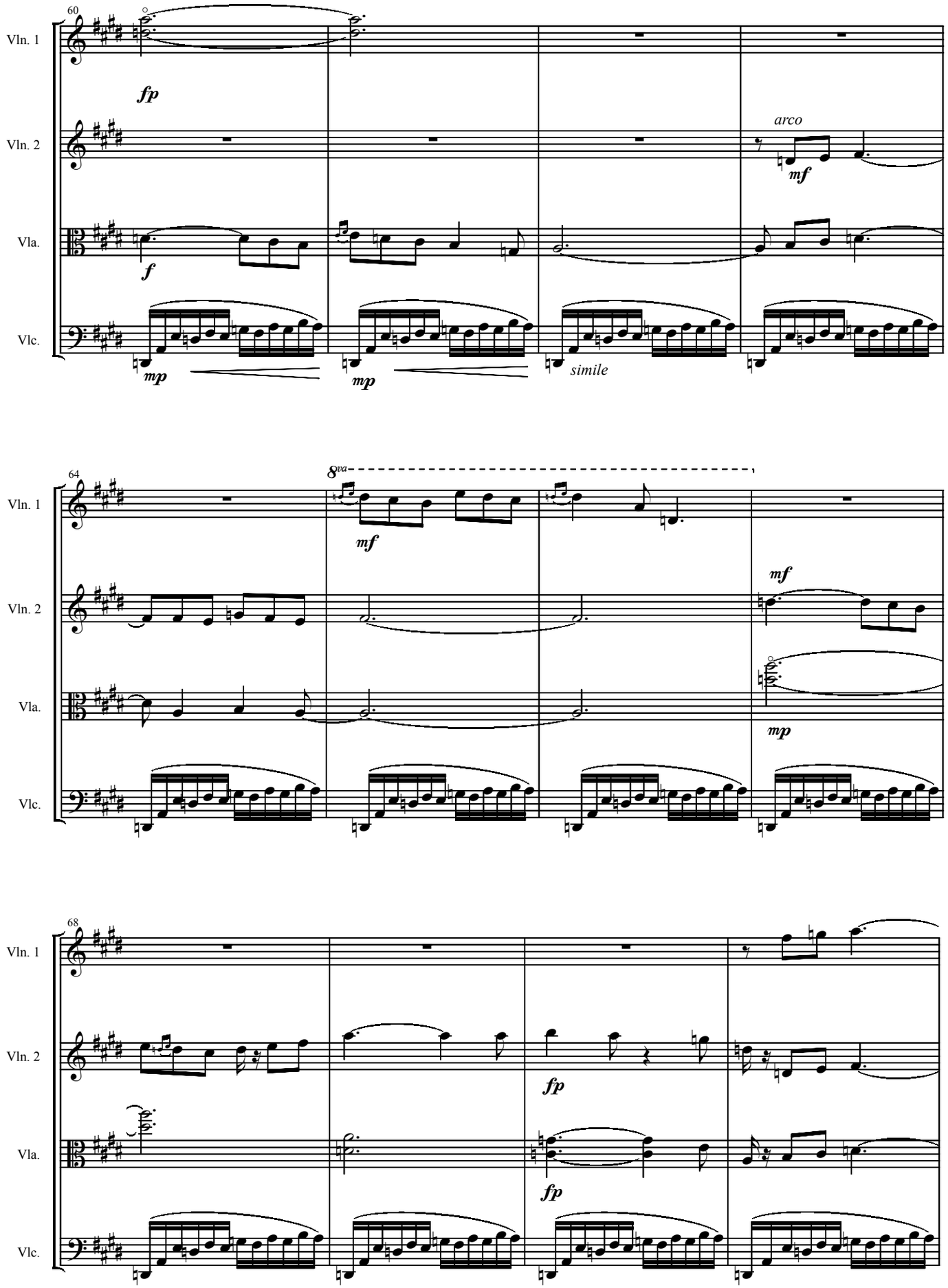
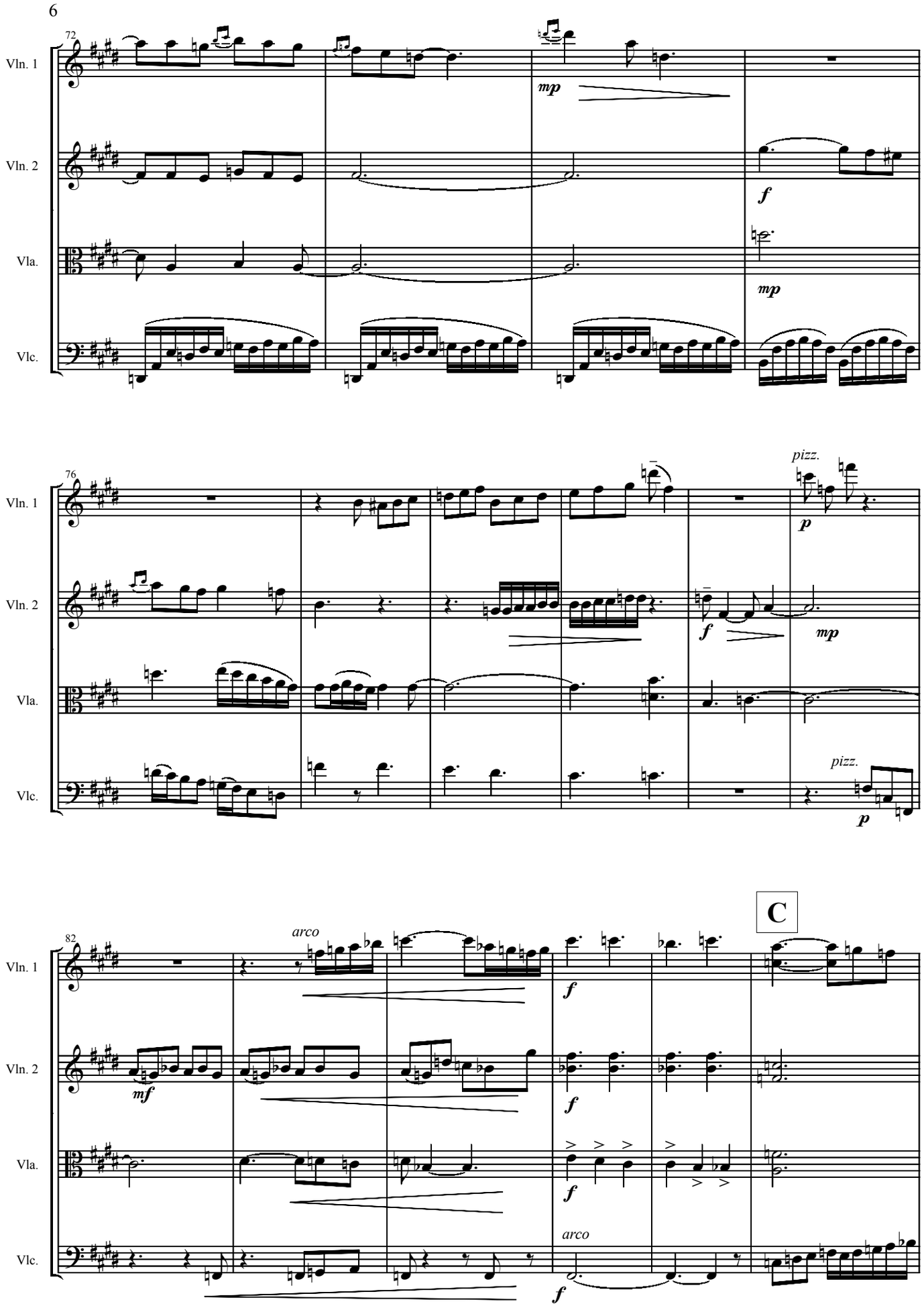
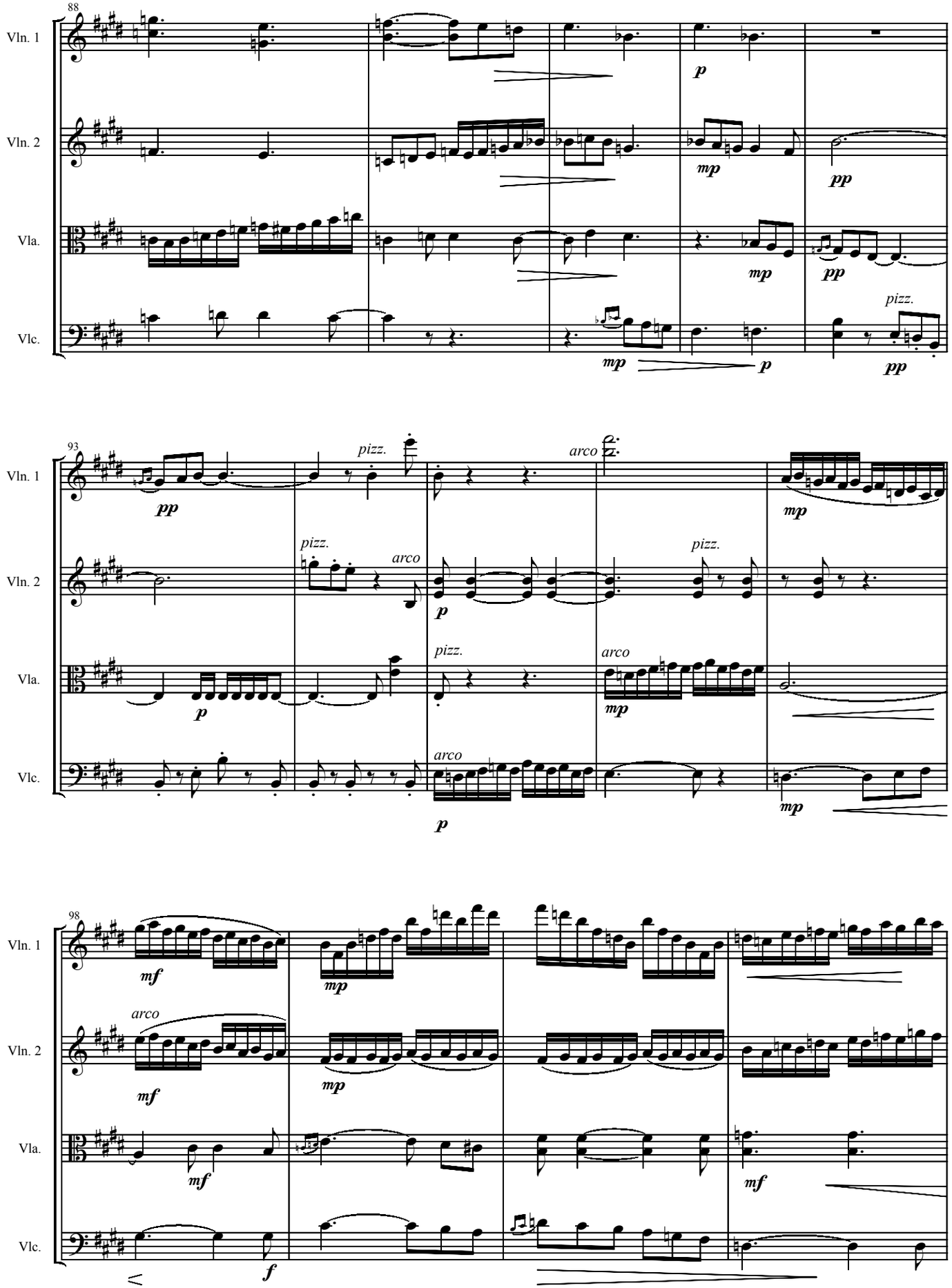

18
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
22
27
pizz.
arco

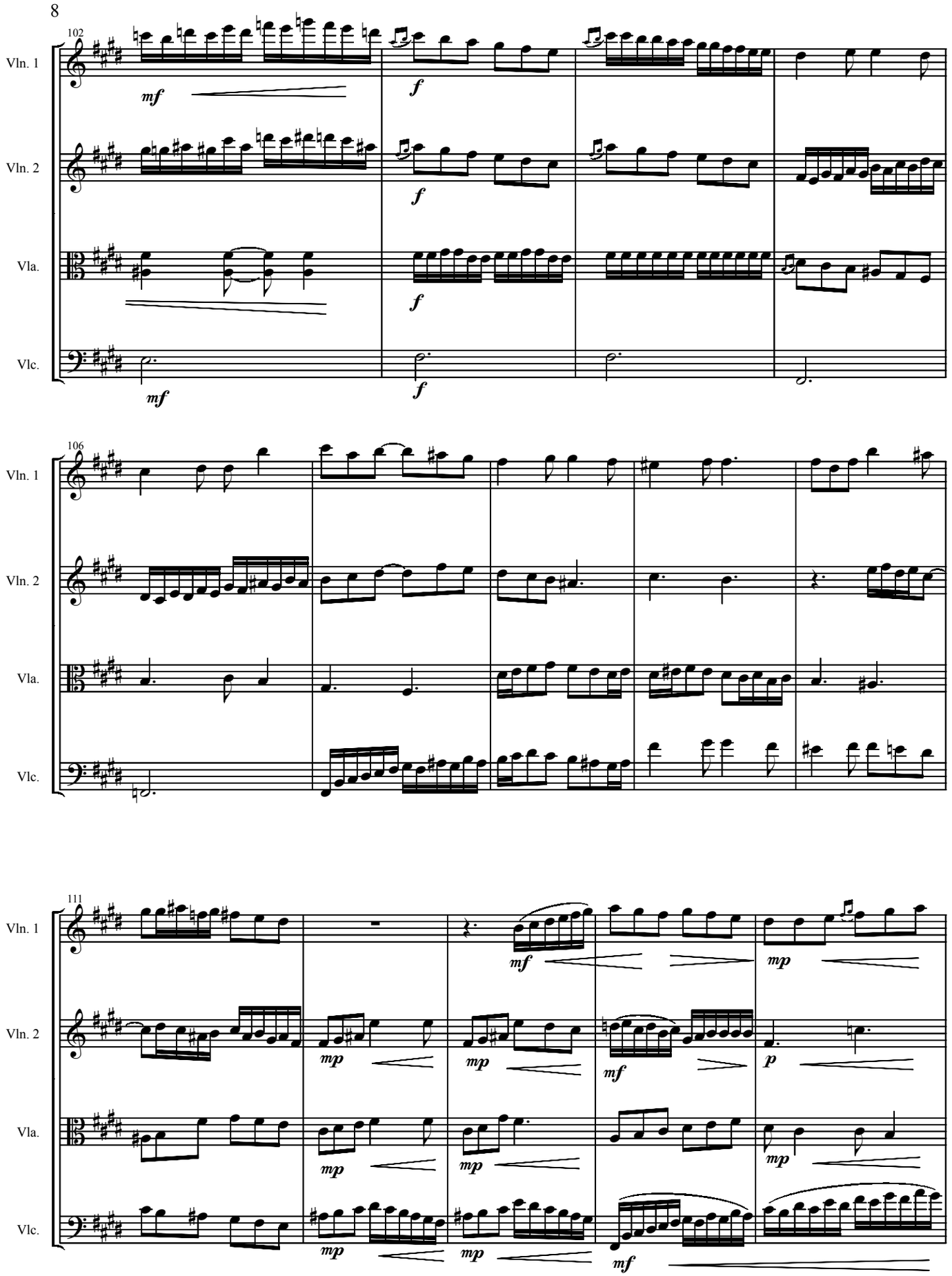

32
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
f
mf
mp
f
mf
B
36
ff
ff
f
ff
ff
mf
40
mf
mf
pizz.
arco
mf
mf
p
p
simile

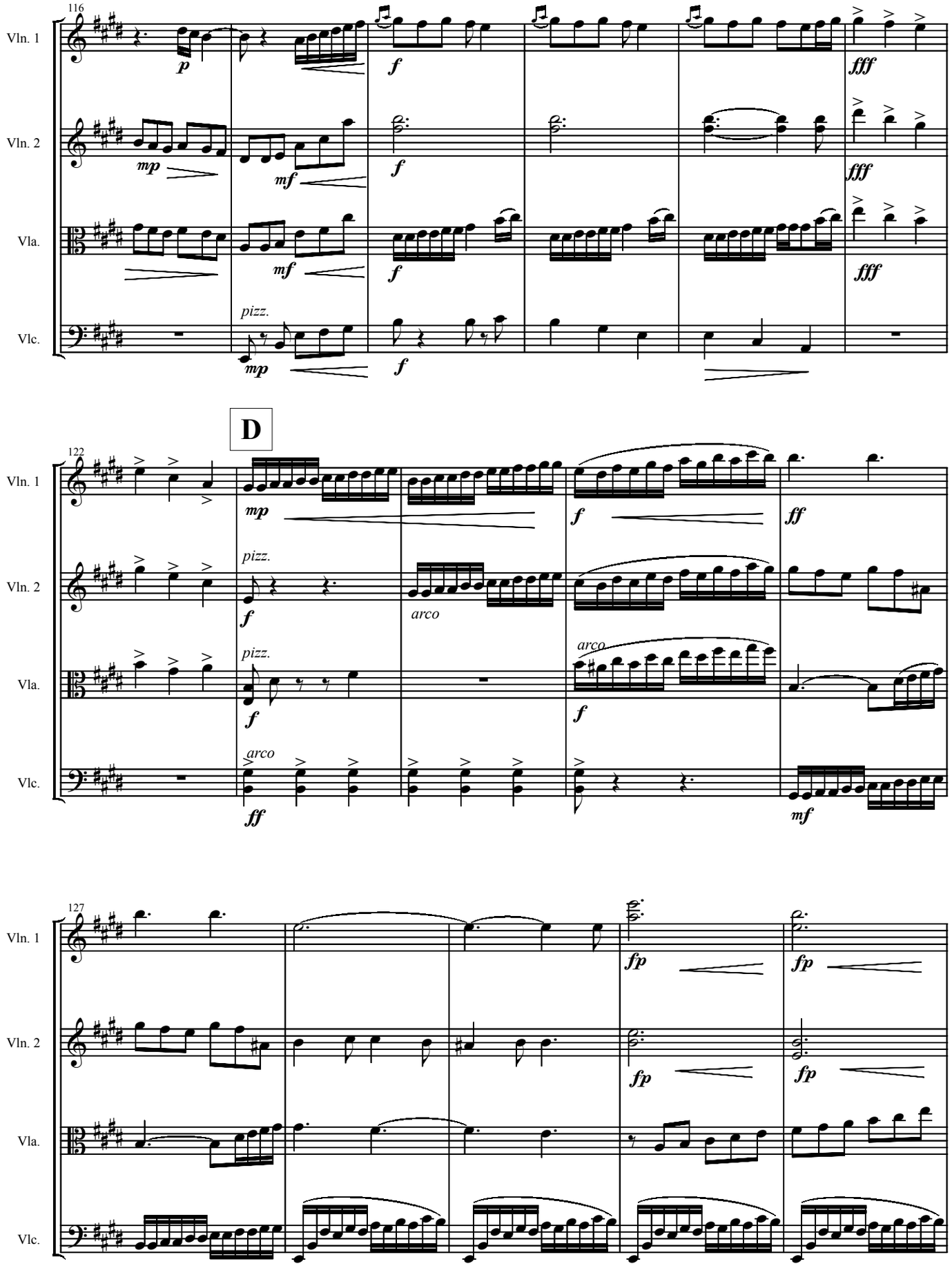

44
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
pizz.
arco
50
mp
55
mf
f
p

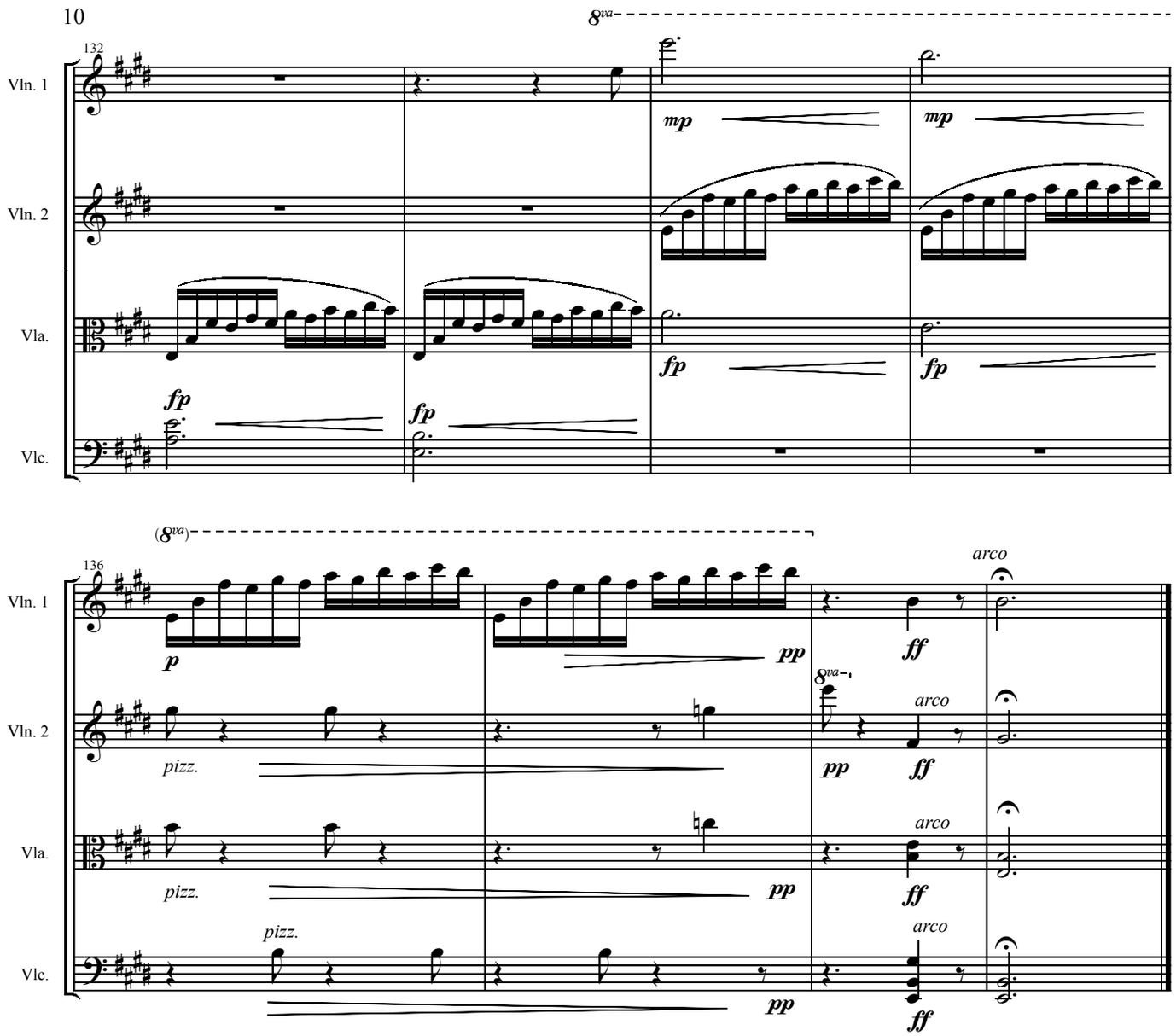

60
Vln. 1
fp
Vln. 2
arco
mf
Vla.
f
Vlc.
mp
mp
simile
64
8va
Vln. 1
mf
Vln. 2
mf
Vla.
mp
Vlc.
68
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
fp
Vla.
fp
Vlc.


72
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
mp
f
mp
76
pizz.
p
f
mp
pizz.
p
C
82
arco
mf
f
f
f
arco
f

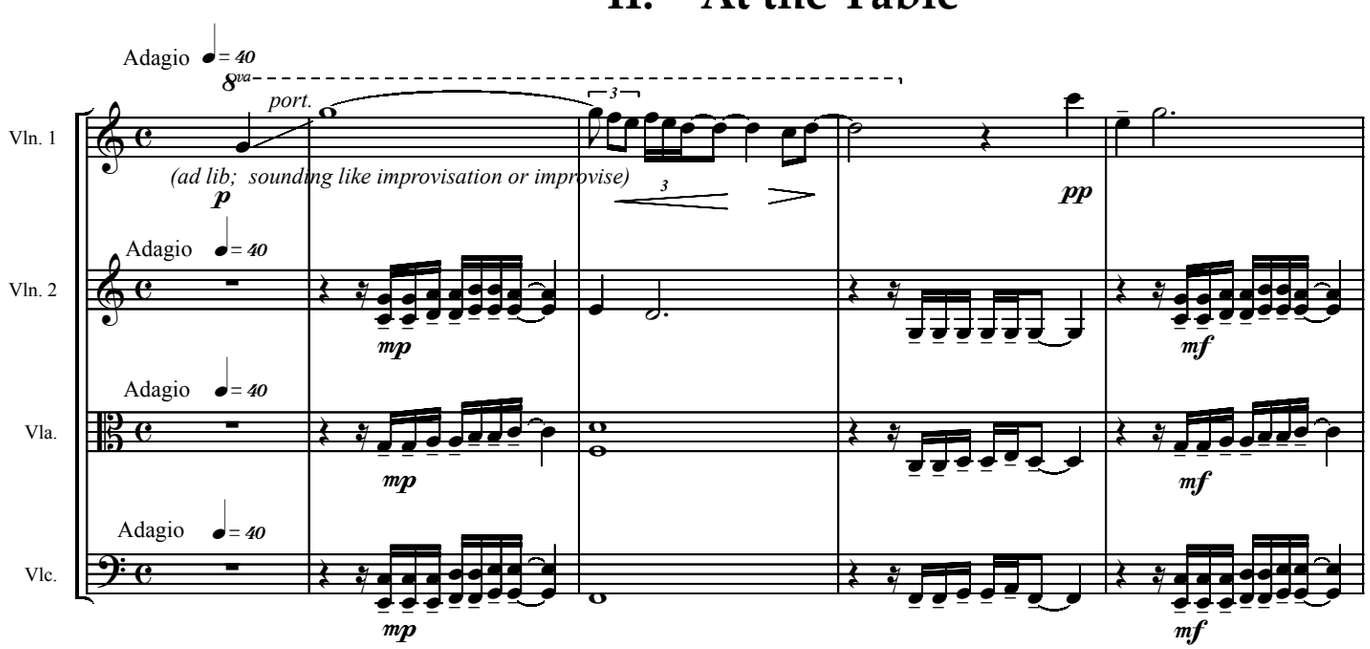

88
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
p
mp
pp
pizz.
93
arco
98
mf
f

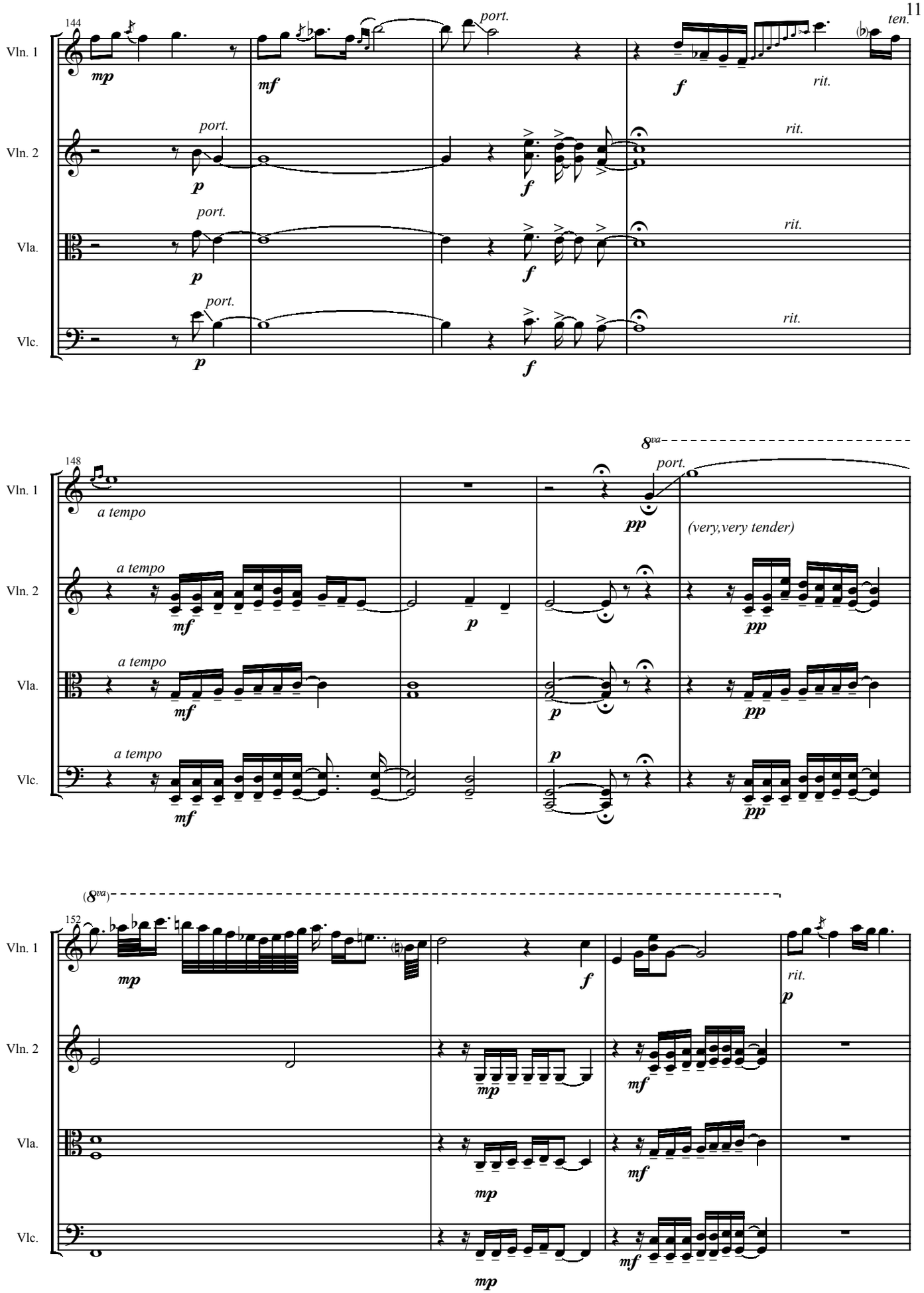

102
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
mf
f
106
111
mp
p

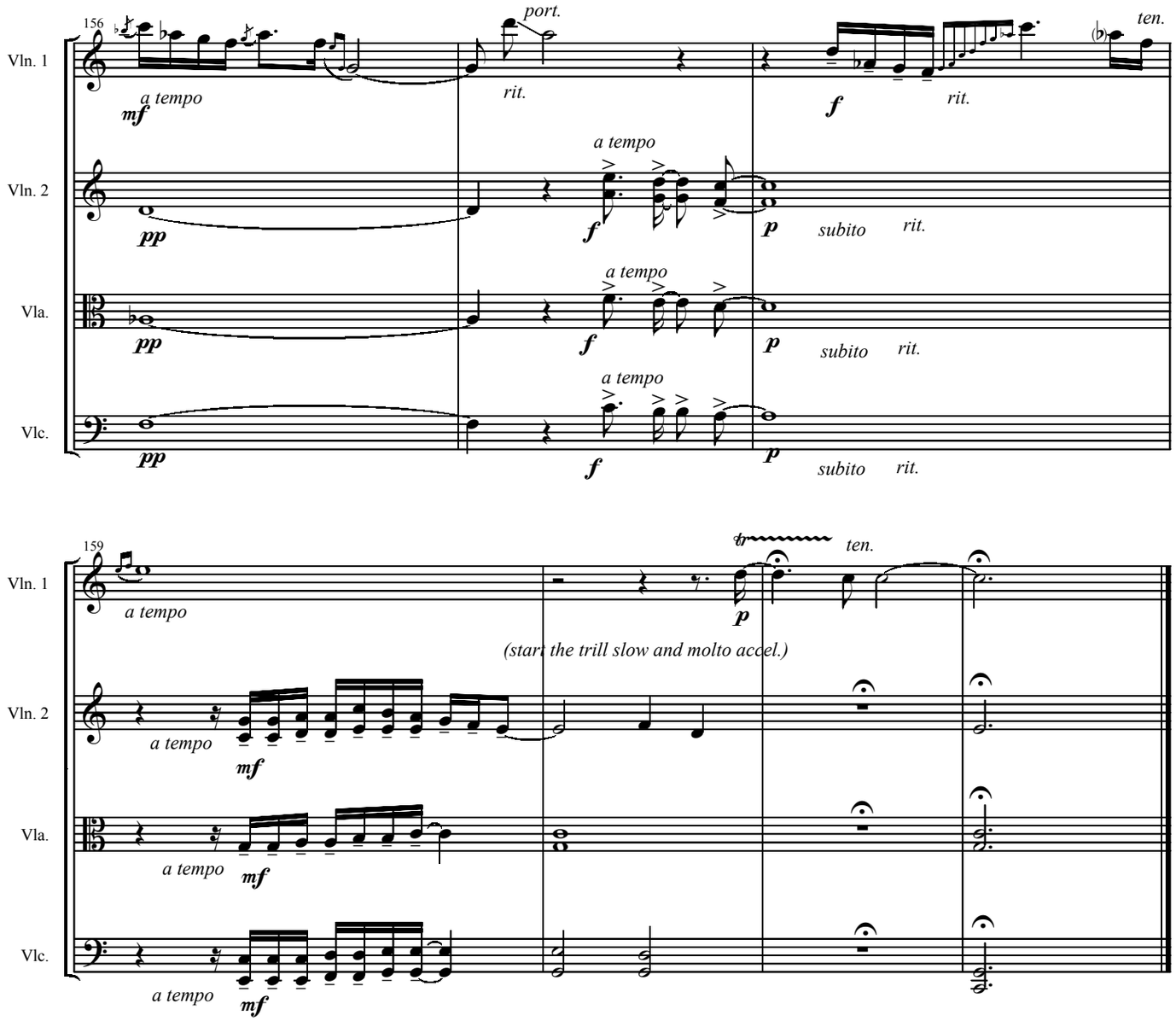

116
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
p
mp
mf
f
fff
pizz.
D
122
ff
arco
127
fp



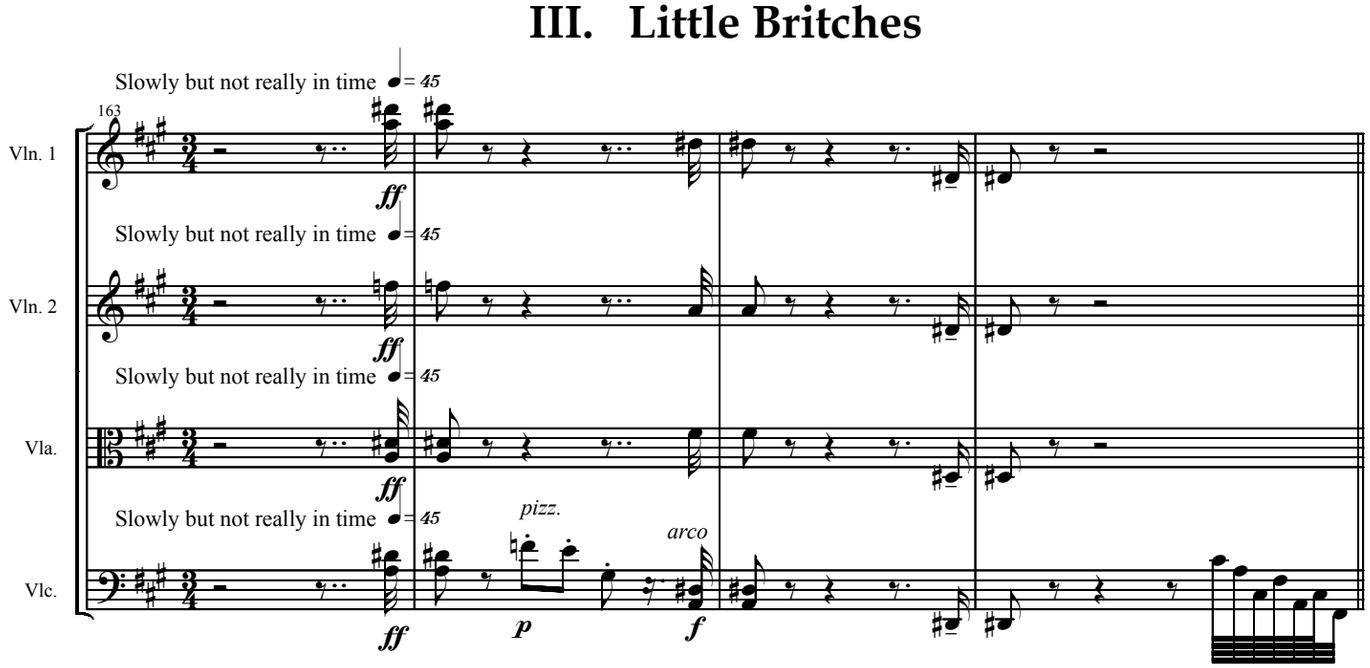
II. At the Table

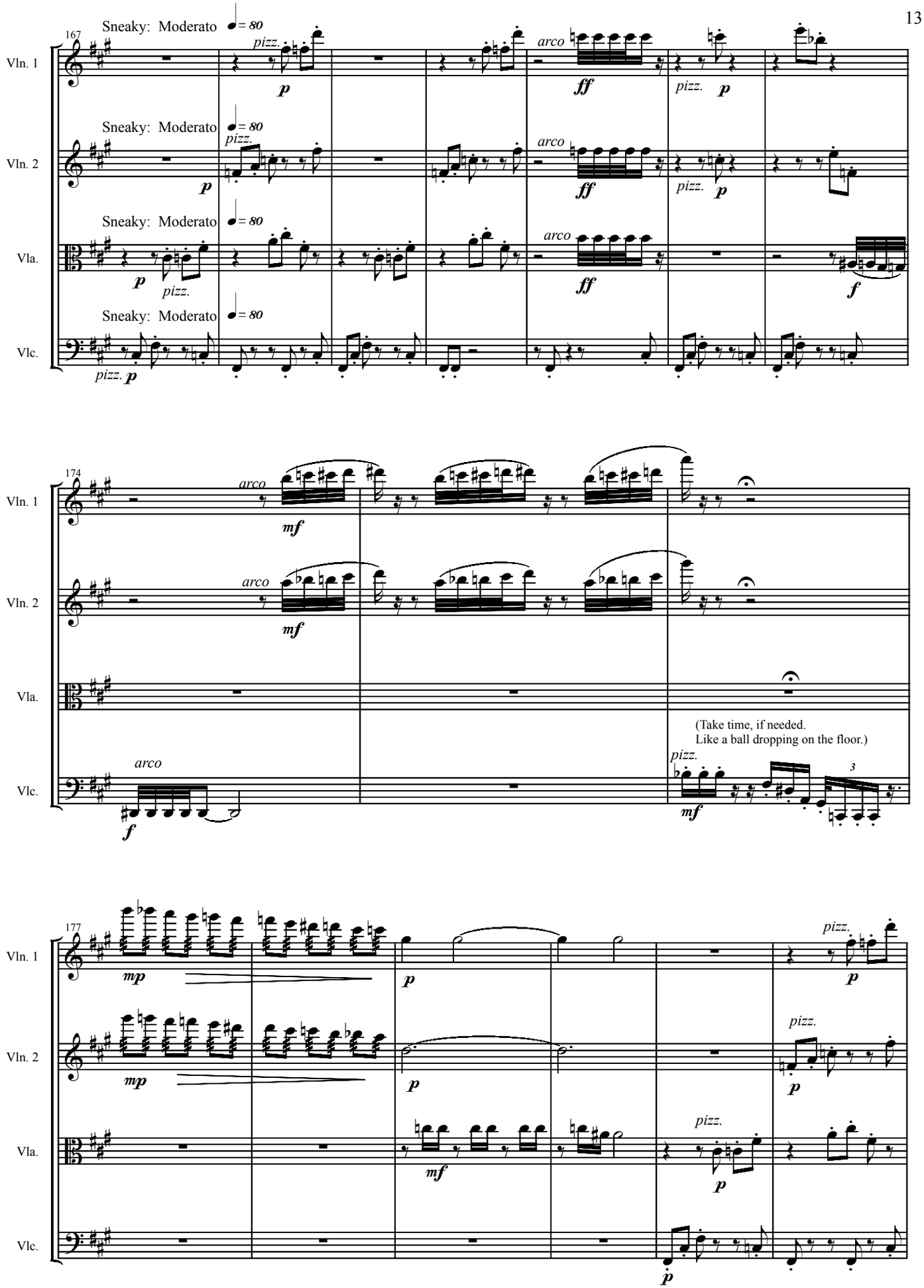



144
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
mp
mf
port.
ten.
f
rit.
p
148
a tempo
8va
pp
(very,very tender)
(8va)
152



III. Little Britches




167
Sneaky: Moderato ♩= 80
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
pizz.
arco
p
ff
f
174
mf
(Take time, if needed.
Like a ball dropping on the floor.)
177
mp

183

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 — *arco* — *p*

Vla.

Vlc.

187

Vln. 1 — *ff* — *arco* — *pizz.* — *p*

Vln. 2 — *pizz.* — *p*

Vla. — *ff* — *arco* — *p*

Vlc. — *ff*

192

Vln. 1 — 8va — *p*

Vln. 2 — *arco* — *pizz.* — *p*

Vla. — *mf* — *p* — *pizz.*

Vlc. — *arco* — *port.* *port.* *port.* — *p* — *pizz.*

198

Vln. 1

arco

mp

Slower, gentler ♩ = 60

port.

Vln. 2

Slower, gentler ♩ = 60

arco

p

port.

Vla.

Slower, gentler ♩ = 60

arco

p

Vlc.

Slower, gentler ♩ = 60

arco

p

205

Vln. 1

mf

ff

stretto

tr

p

Vln. 2

mf

ff

stretto

Vla.

f

ff

stretto

Vlc.

f

ff

stretto

213

Vln. 1

Very Quickly: Hurried ♩ = 150

8va

pizz.

f

Vln. 2

8va

pizz.

p

Very Quickly: Hurried ♩ = 150

mf pizz.

Vla.

tr

p

Very Quickly: Hurried ♩ = 150

mp pizz.

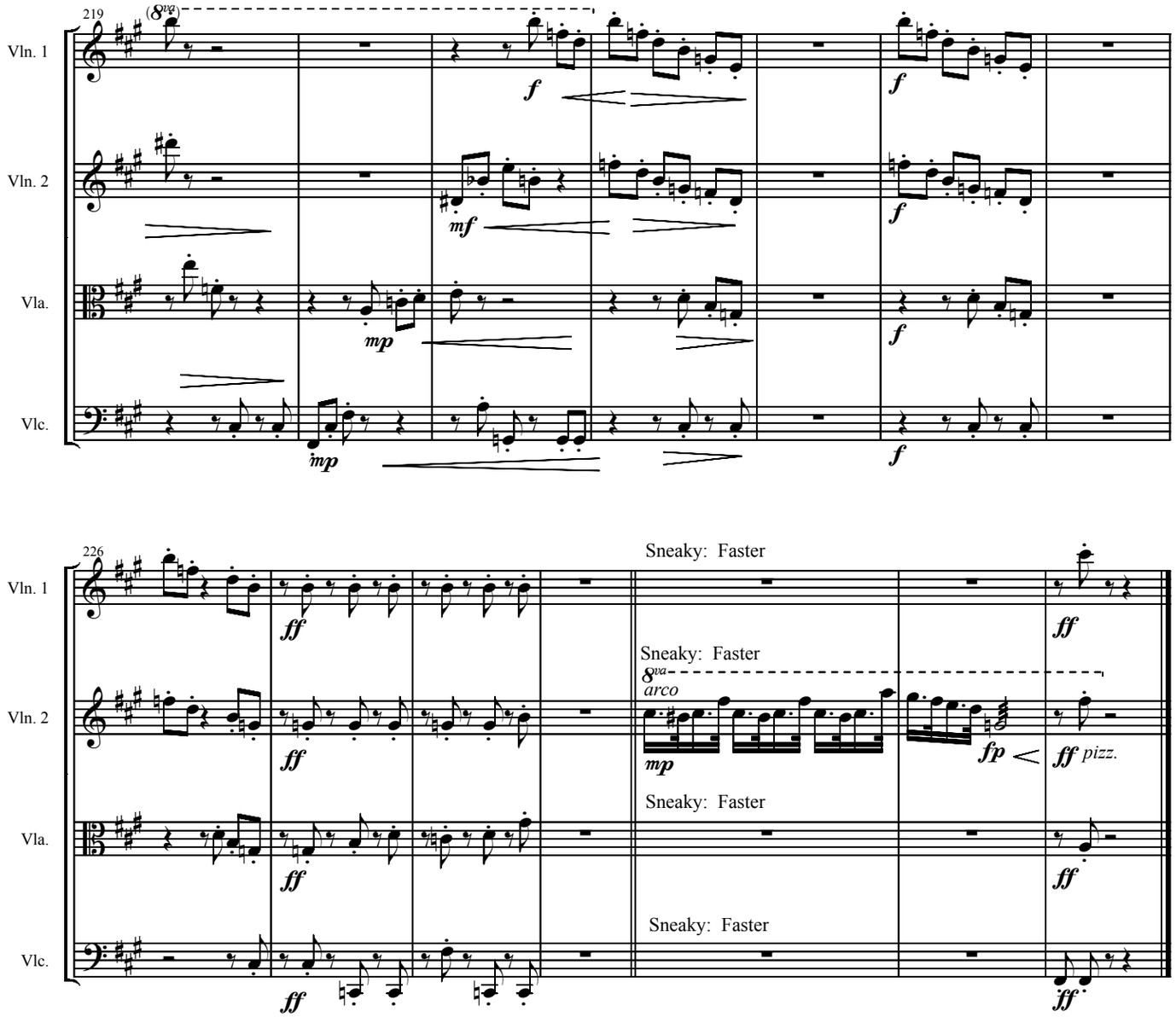
Vlc.

tr

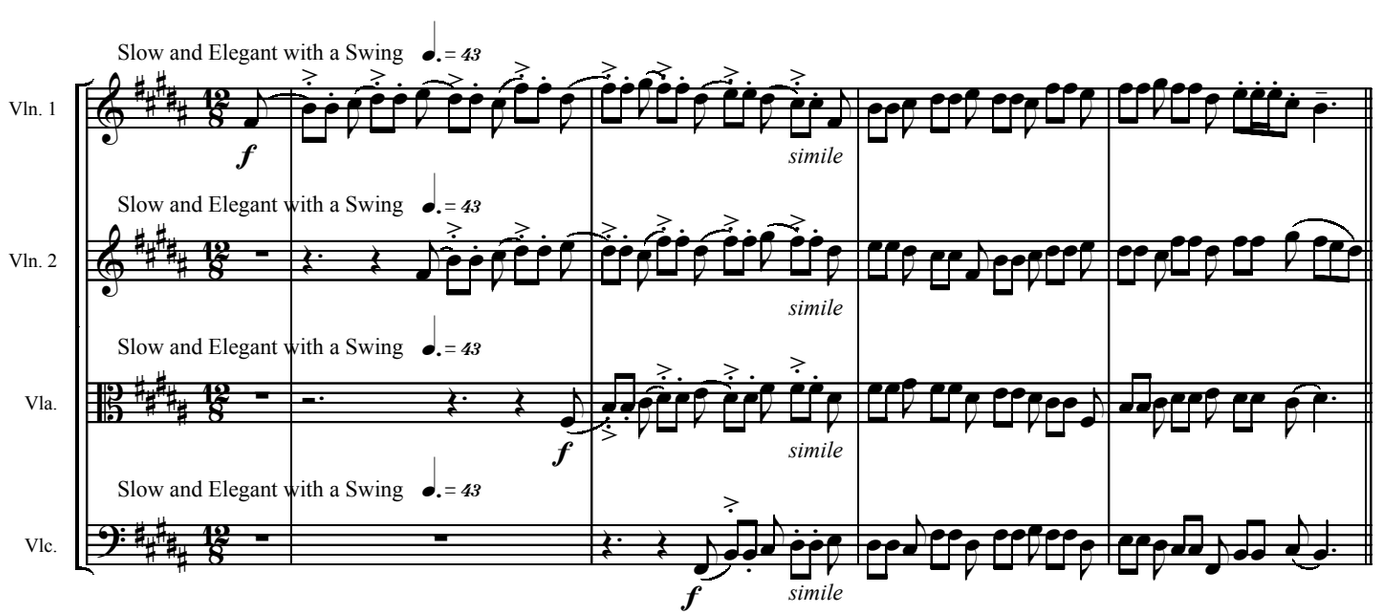
p

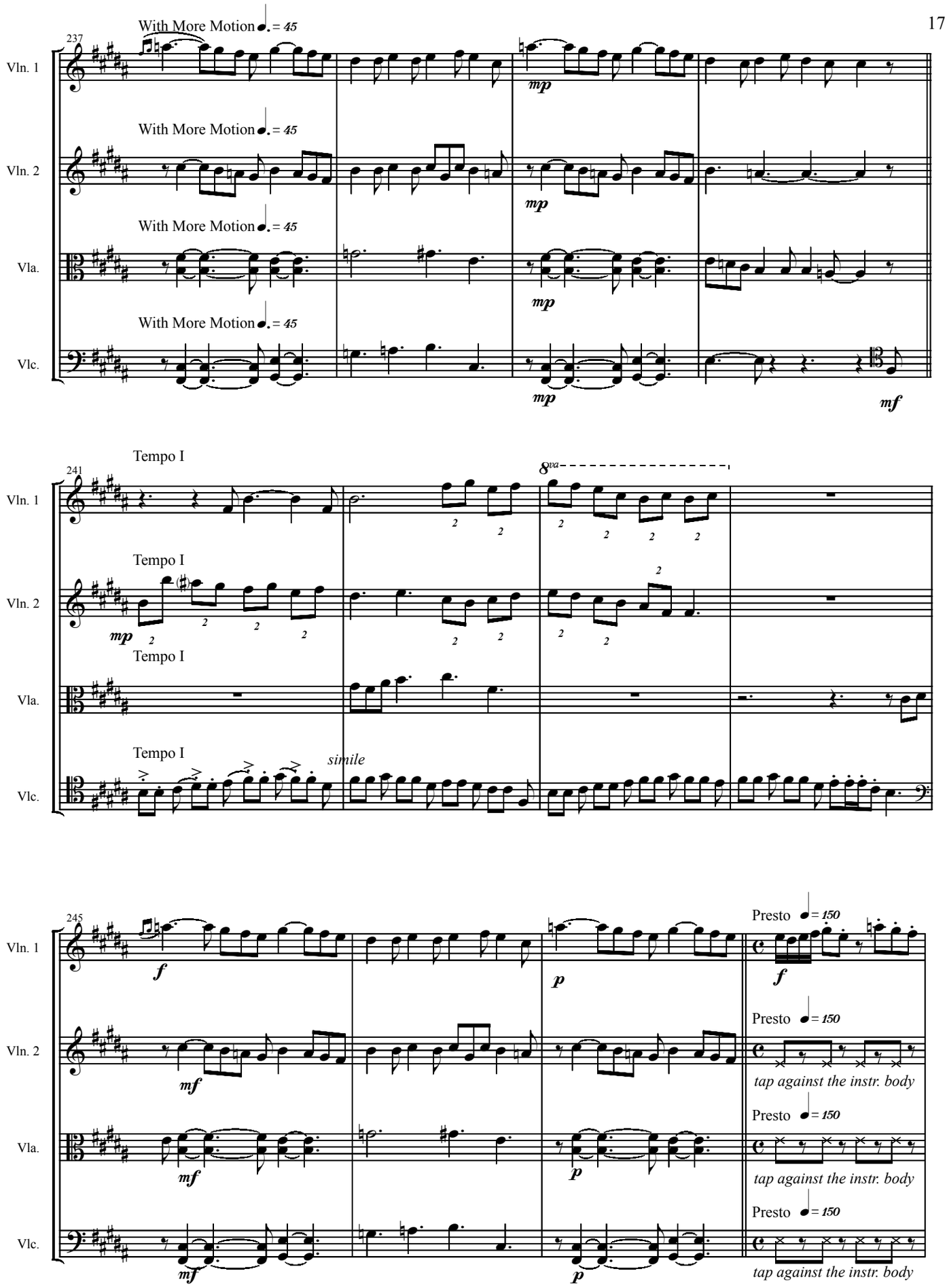
Very Quickly: Hurried ♩ = 150

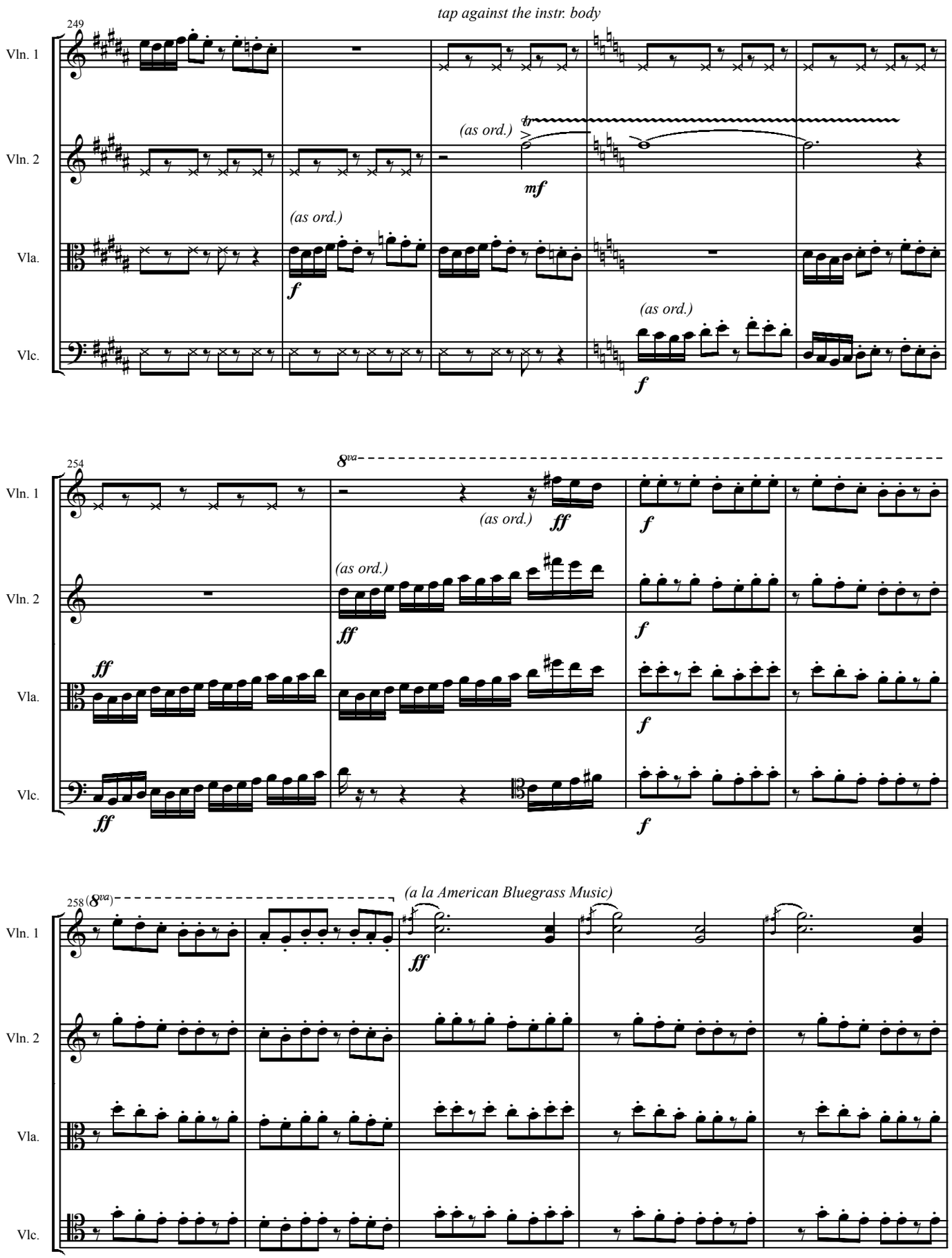
mp pizz.

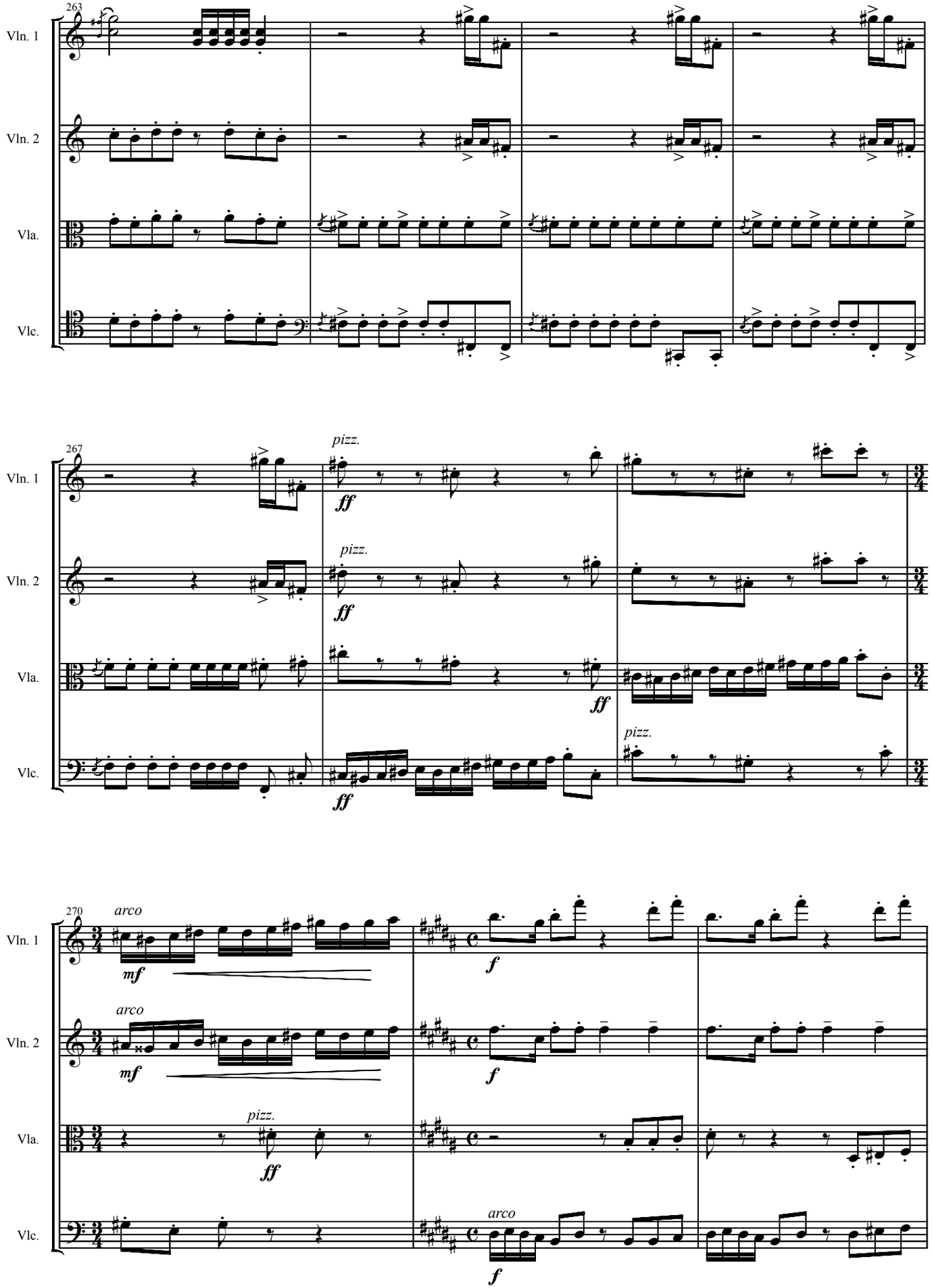


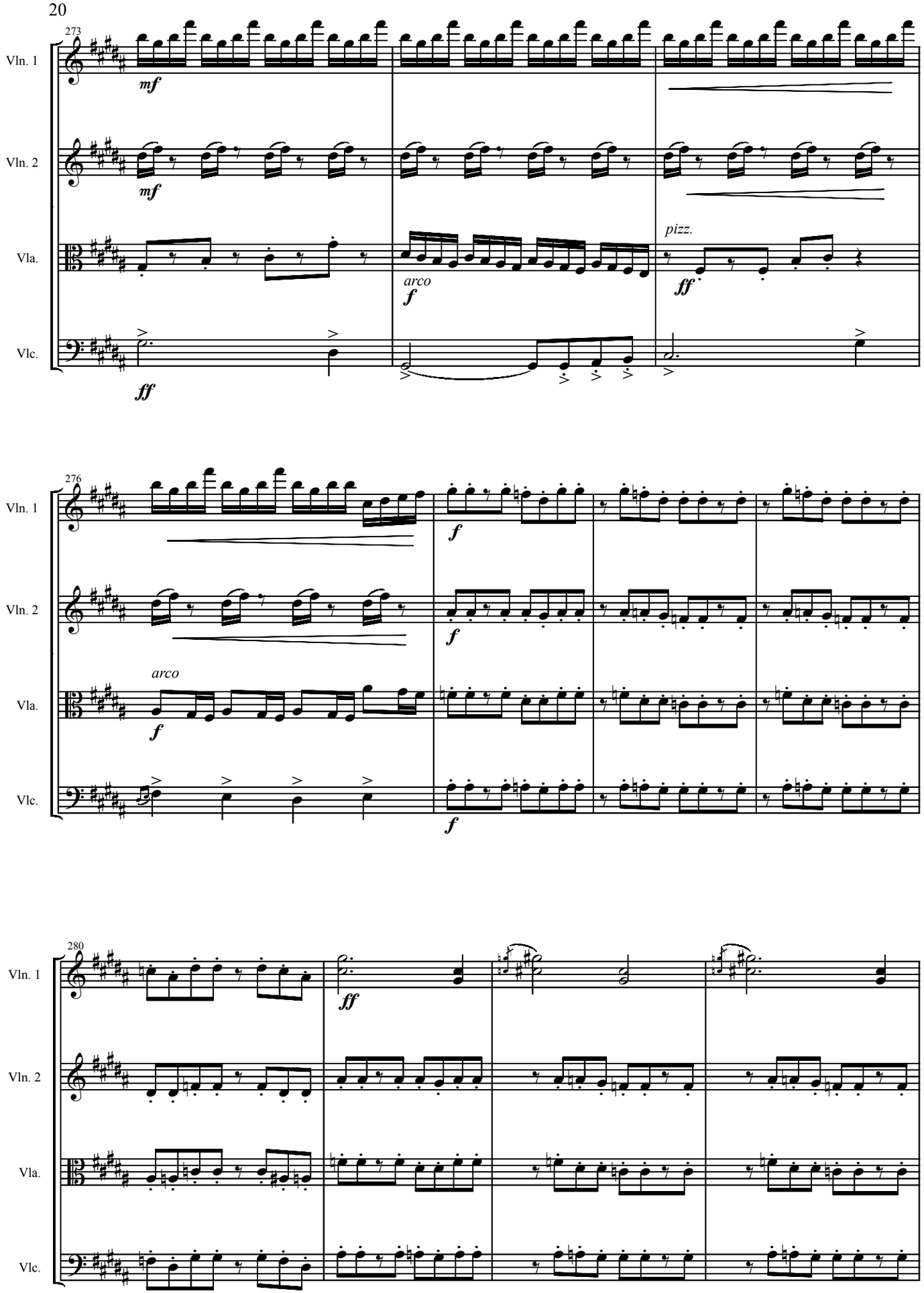
IV. Barn Dance

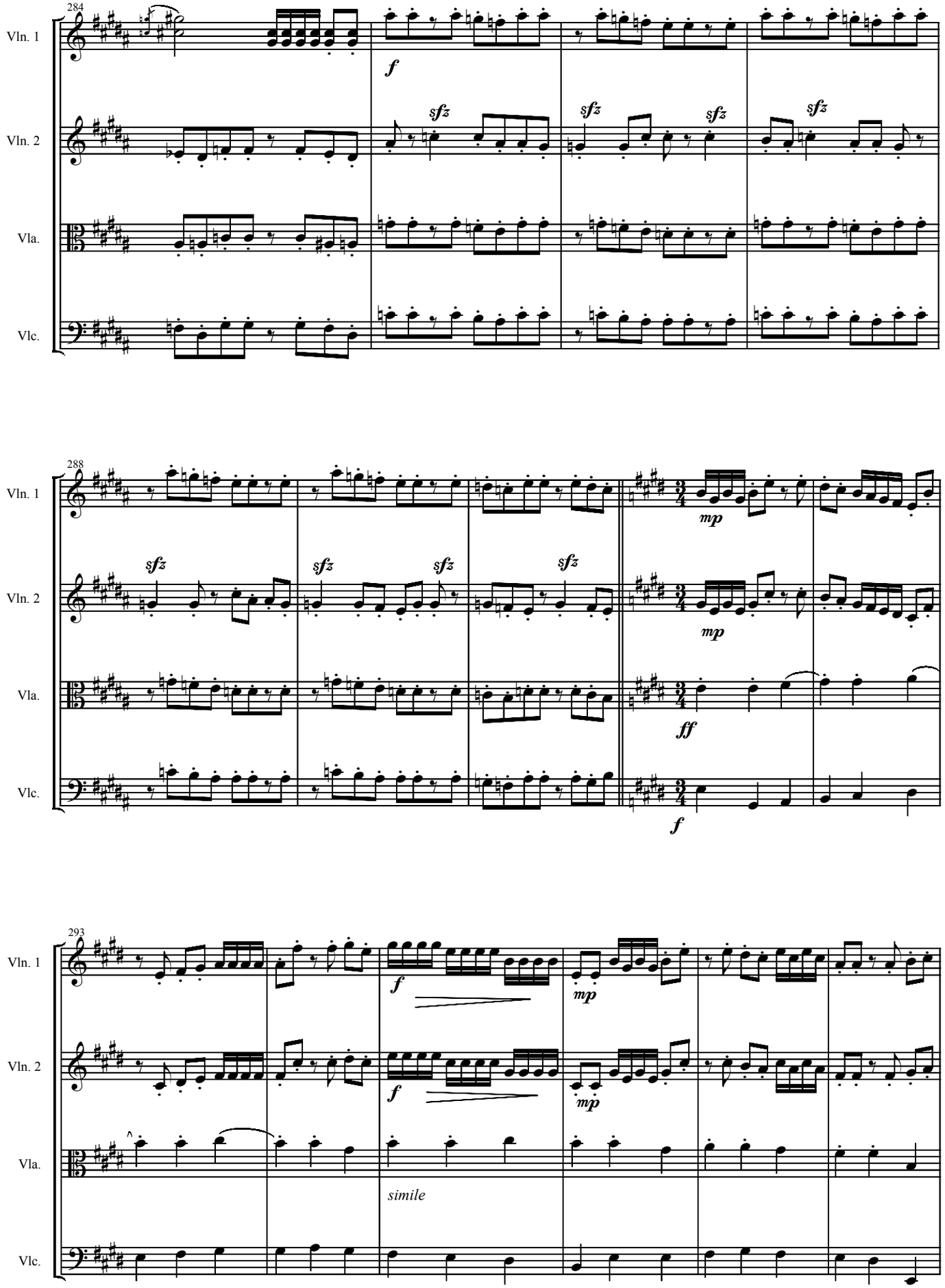


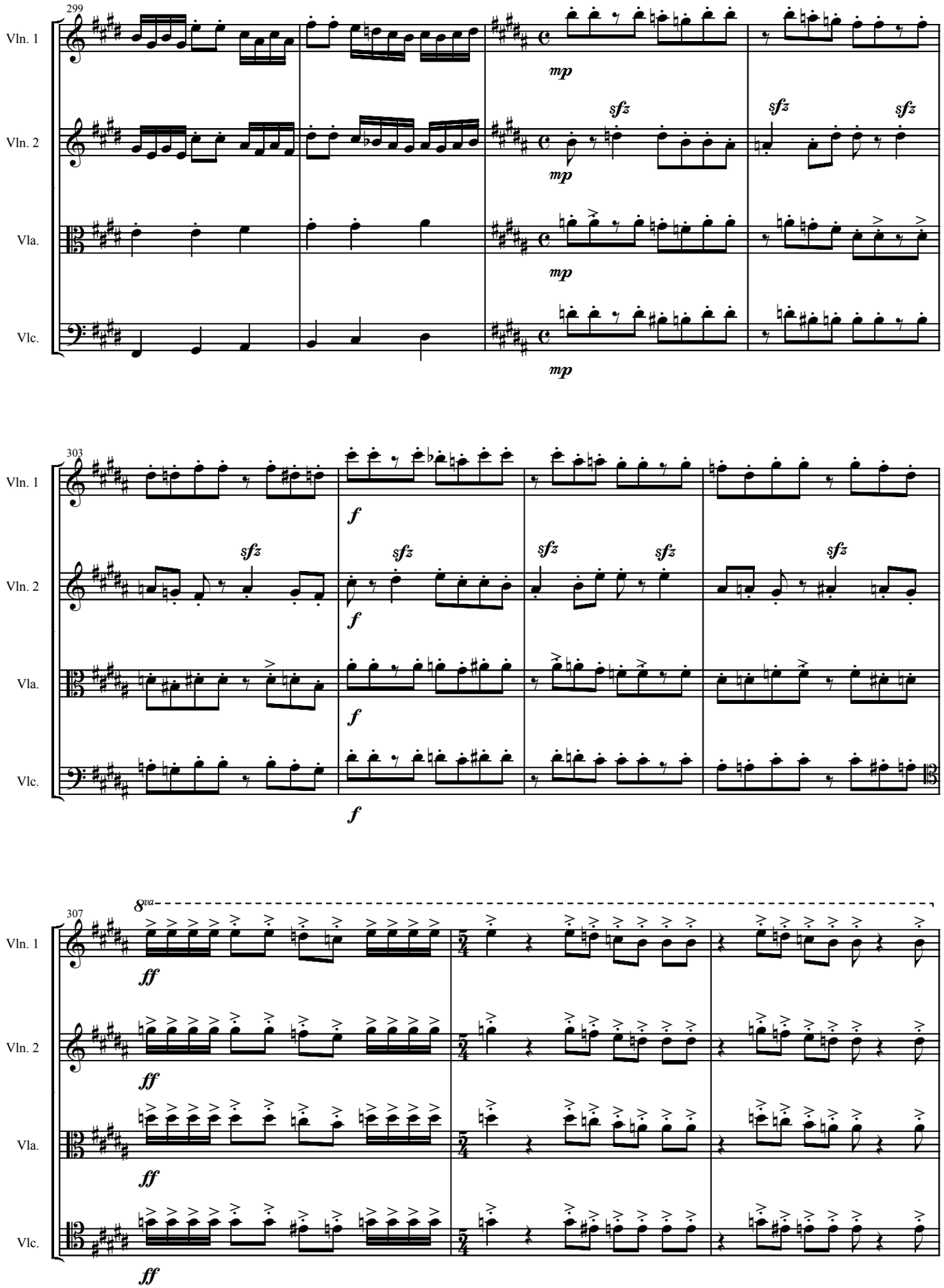

237
With More Motion ♩. = 45
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
mp
mf
241
Tempo I
8va
simile
245
f
p
Presto ♩ = 150
tap against the instr. body

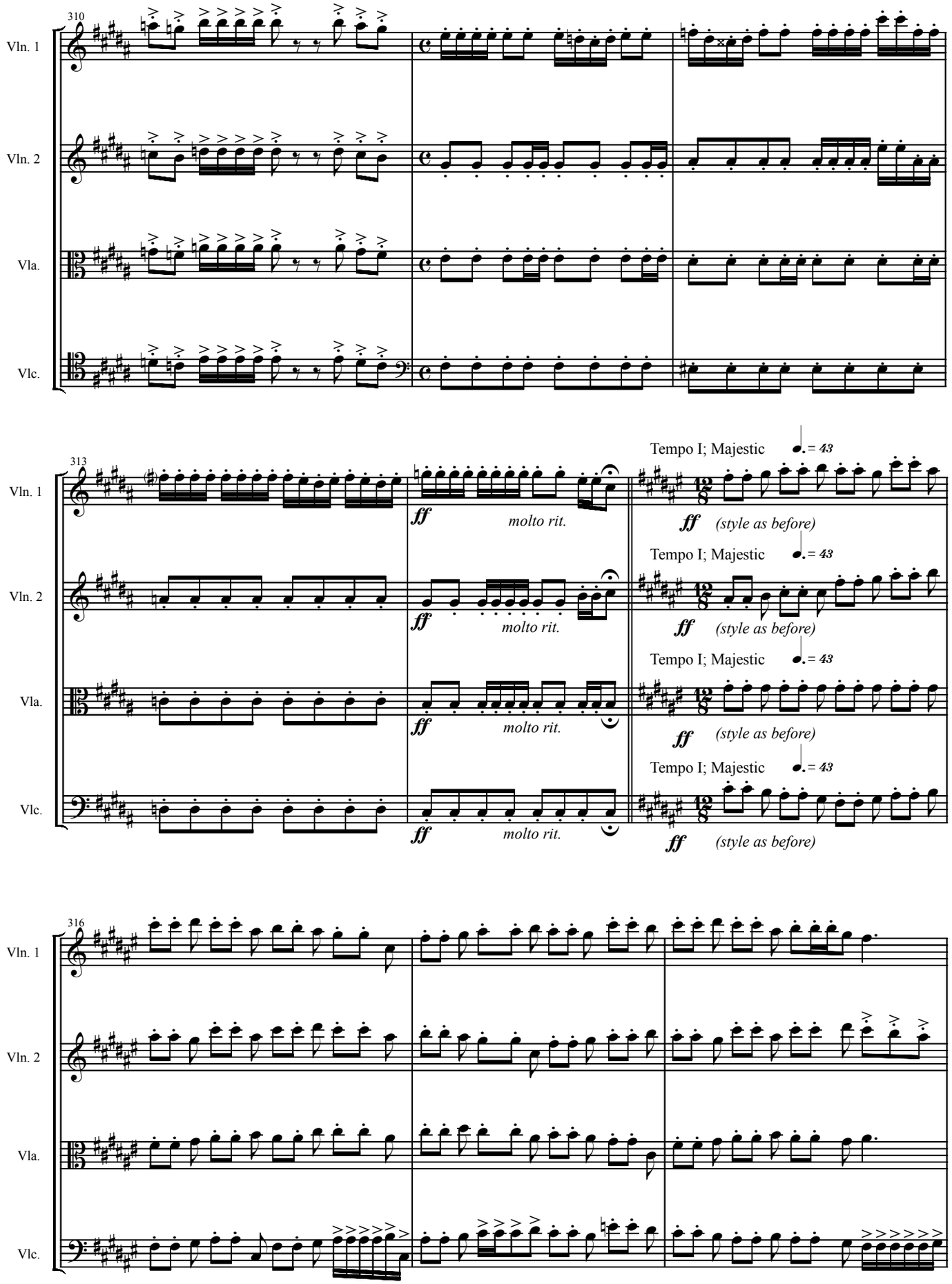

tap against the instr. body
249
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
(as ord.)
tr
mf
f
254
8va
ff
(as ord.)
258
(8va)
(a la American Bluegrass Music)

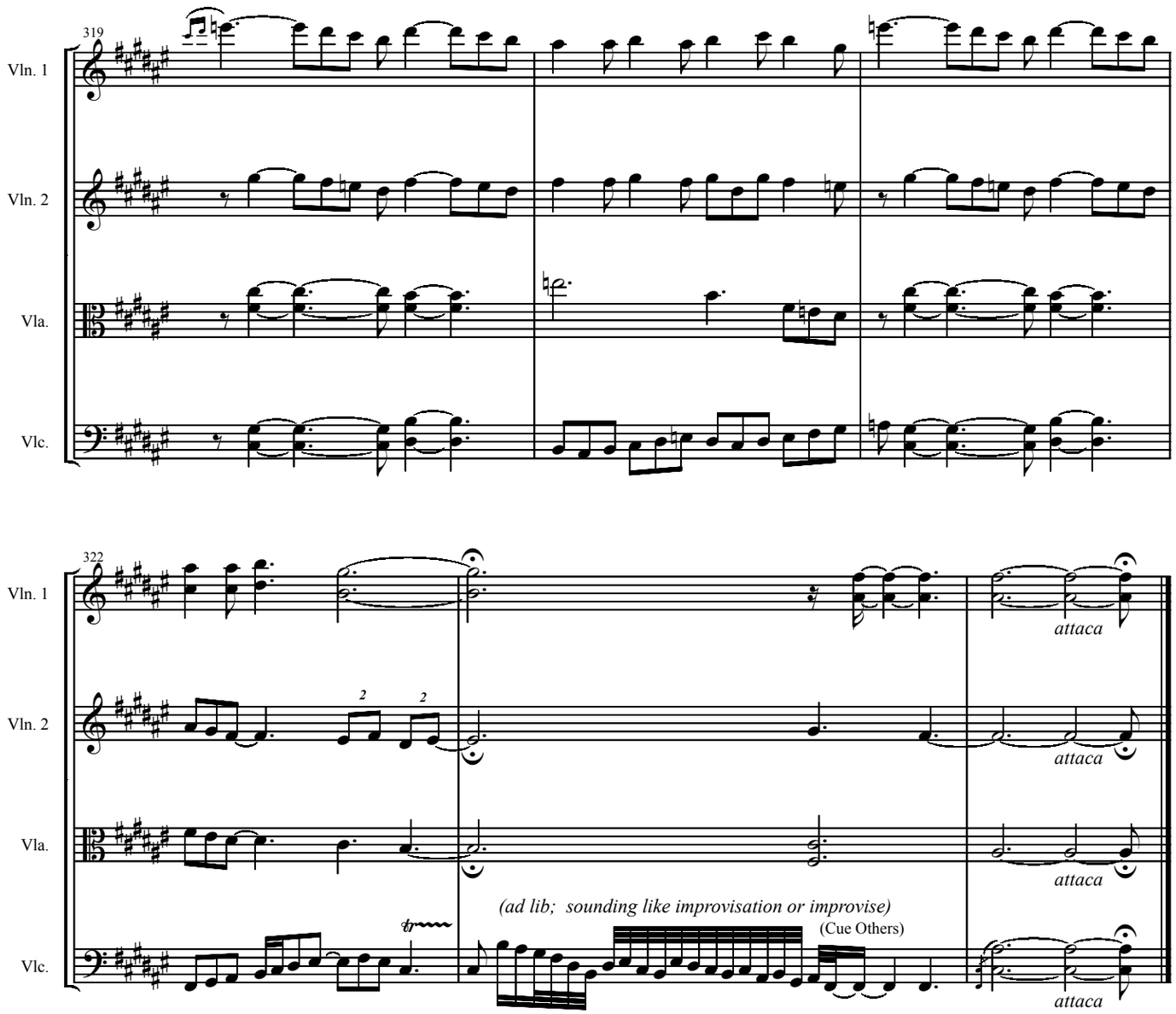

263
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
267
pizz.
ff
pizz.
ff
ff
pizz.
270
arco
mf
f
arco
mf
f
pizz.
ff
arco
f


273
Vln. 1
mf
Vln. 2
mf
Vla.
arco
f
pizz.
ff
Vlc.
ff
276
Vln. 1
f
Vln. 2
f
Vla.
arco
f
Vlc.
f
280
Vln. 1
ff
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

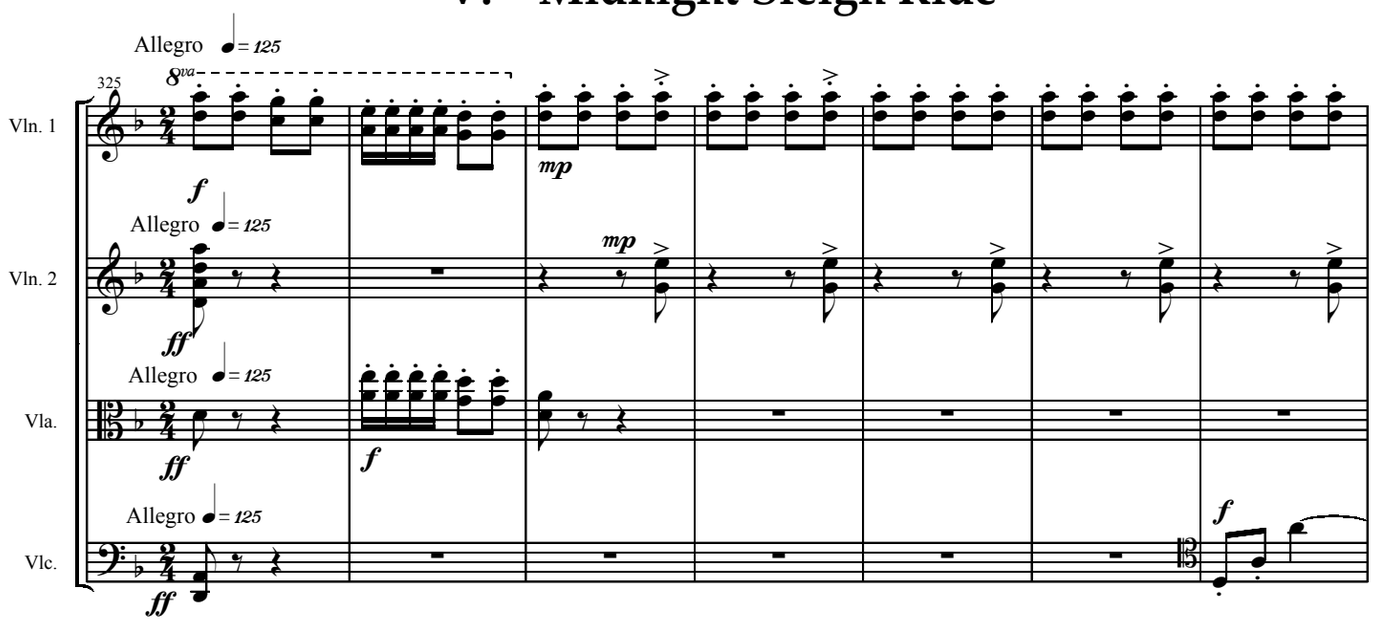

284
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
f
sfz
288
mp
ff
293
simile

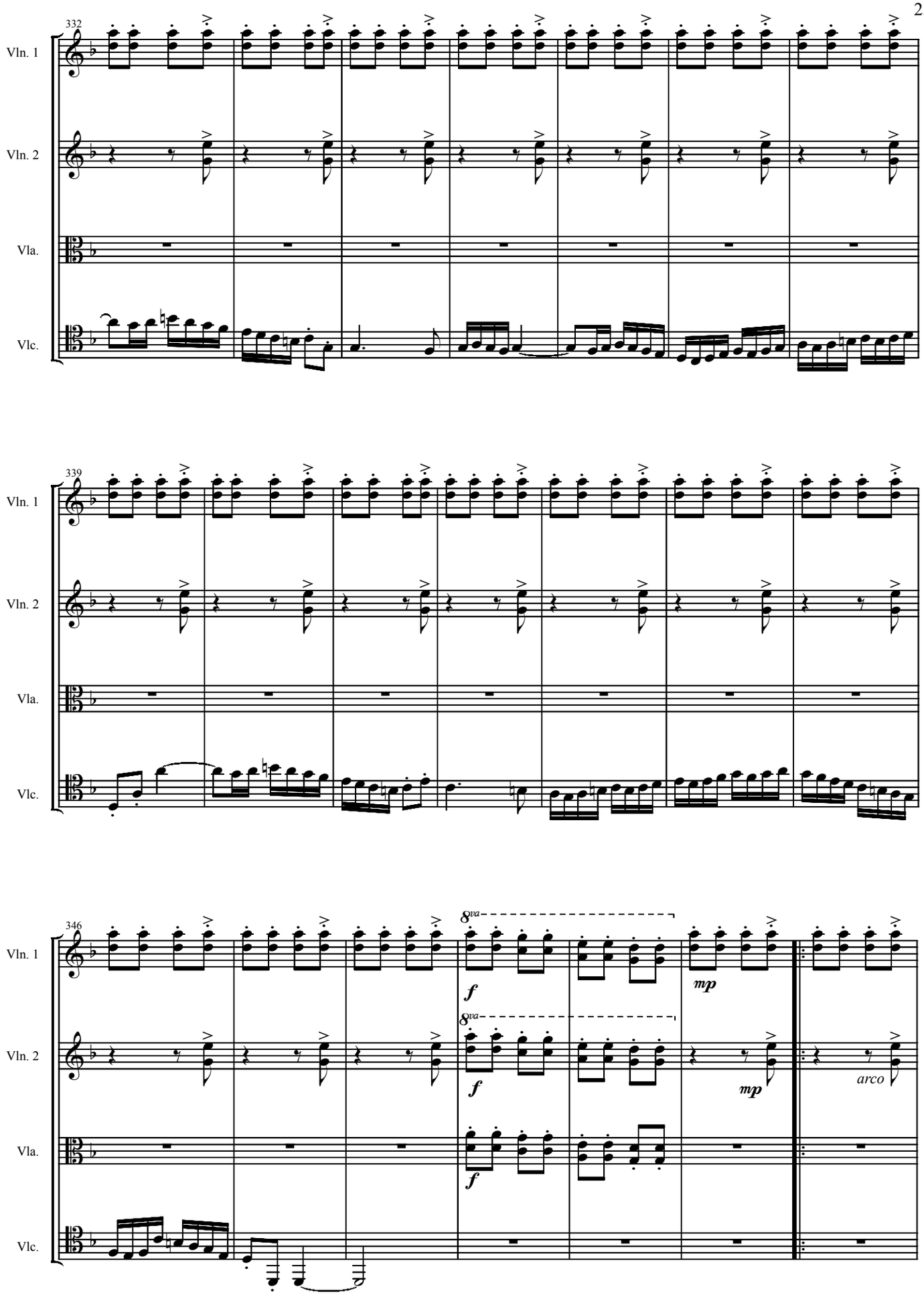

299
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
mp
sfz
303
f
307
8va
ff

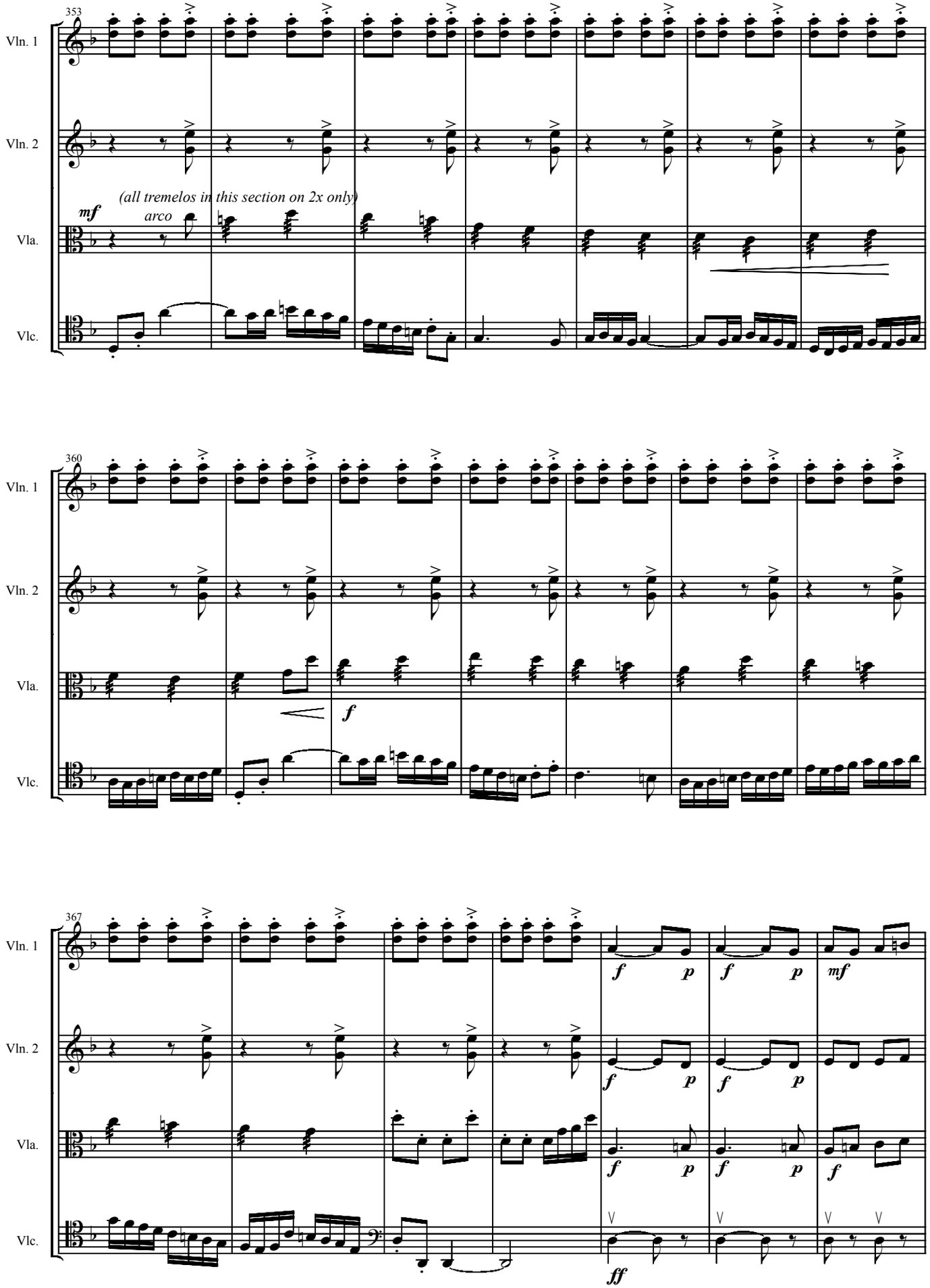

310
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
313
ff
molto rit.
Tempo I; Majestic
= 43
(style as before)
316

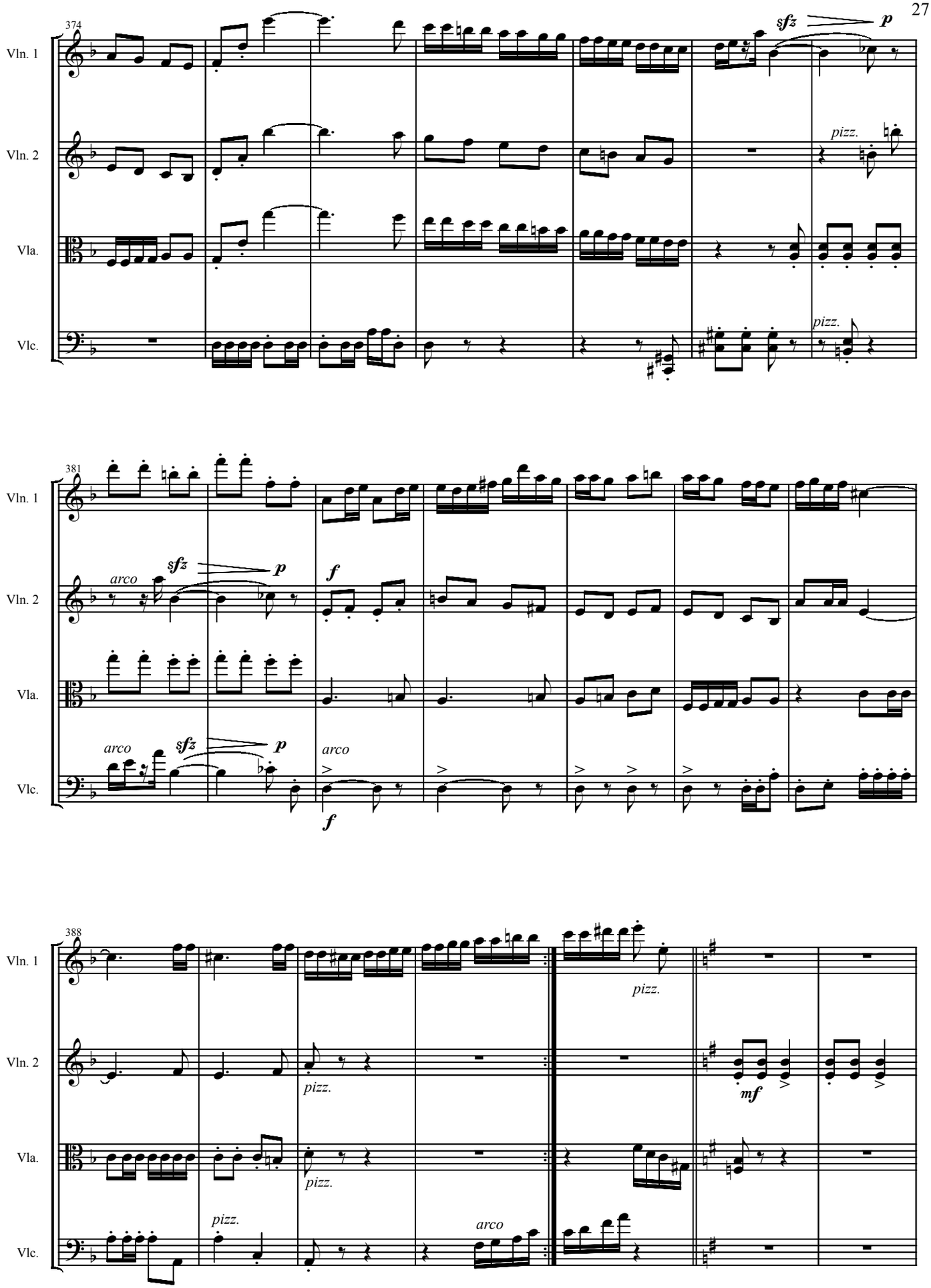


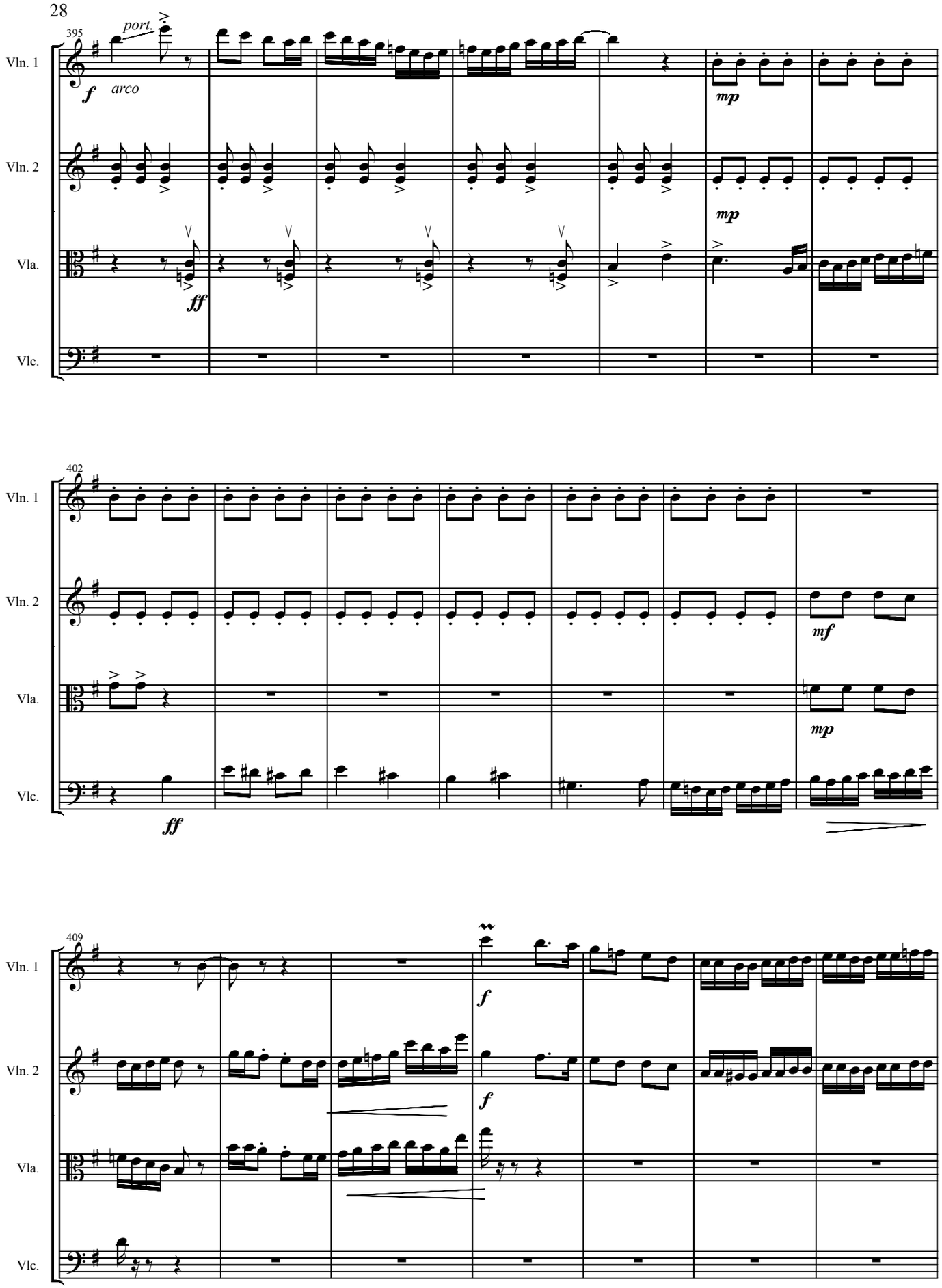
V. Midnight Sleigh Ride

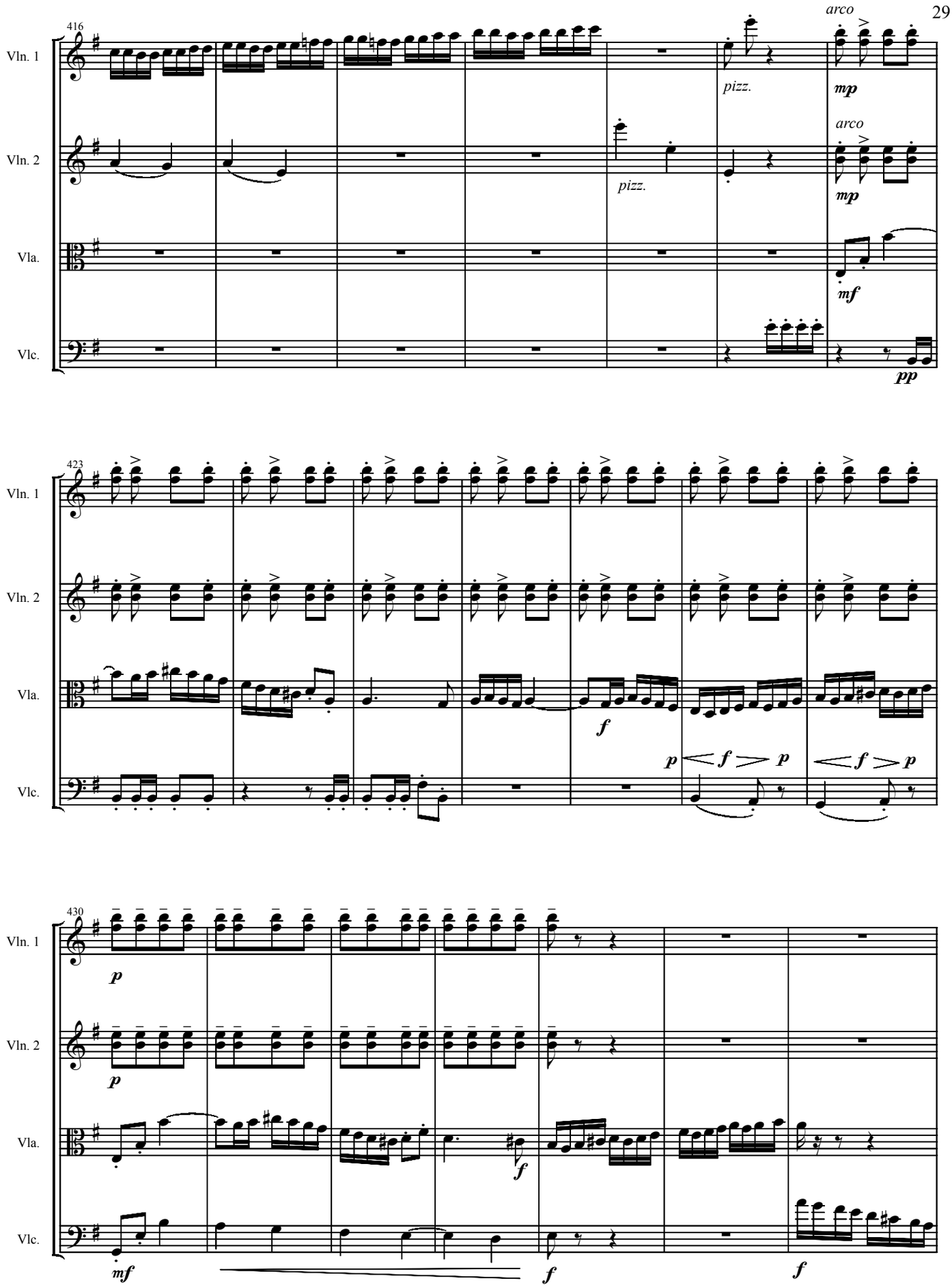


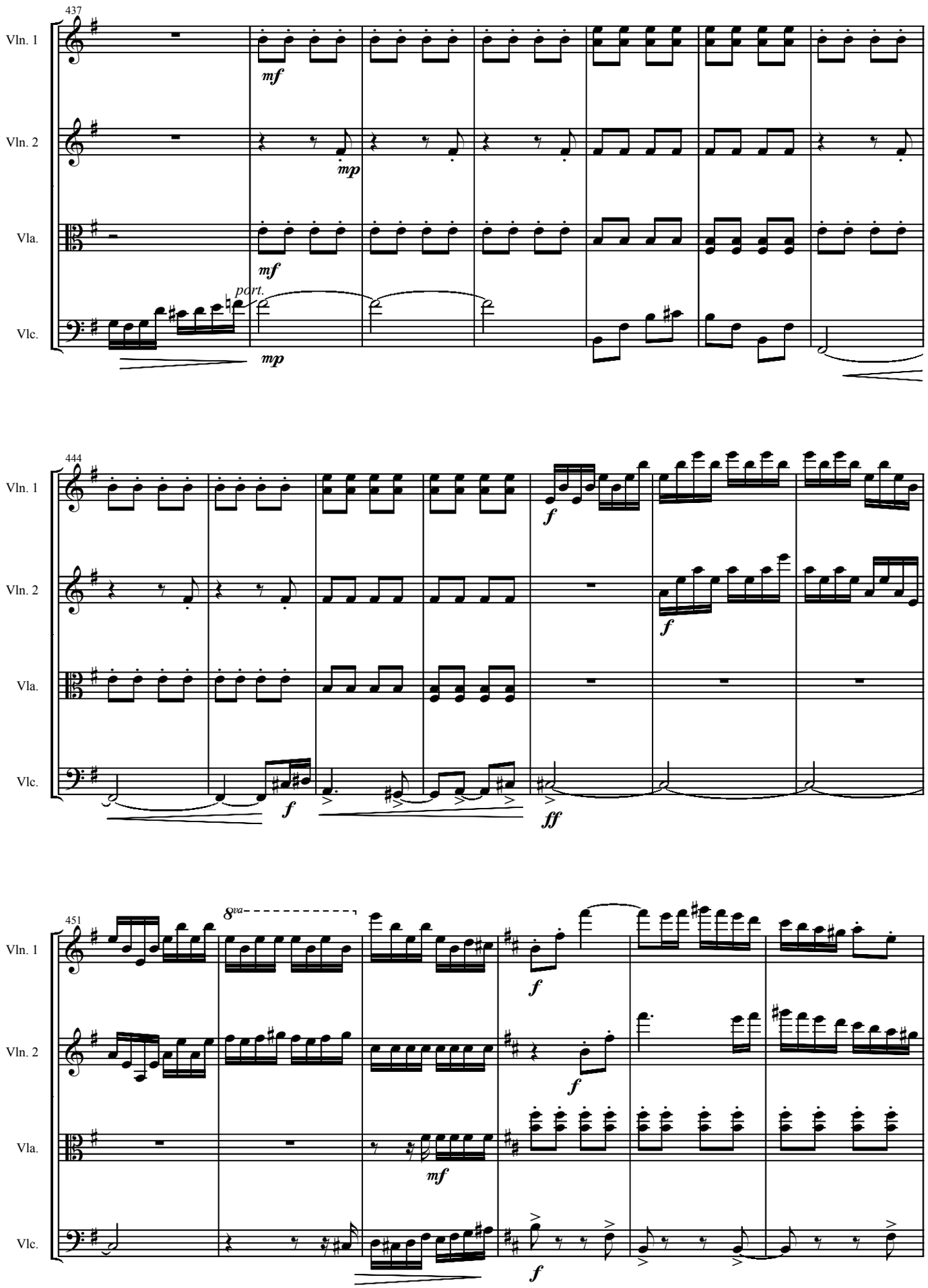

332
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
339
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
346
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
8va
f
mp
arco

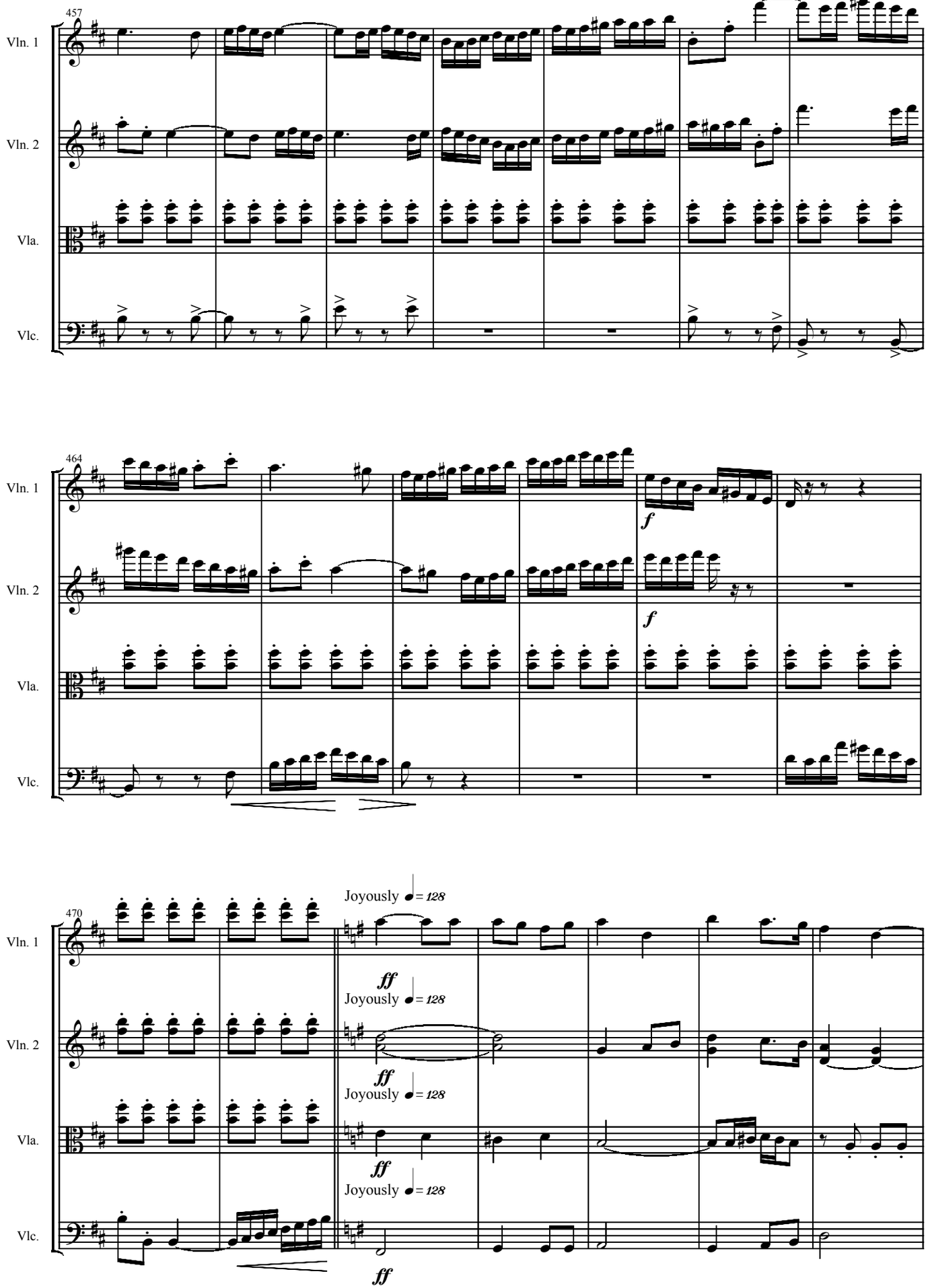

353
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
(all tremelos in this section on 2x only)
mf
arco
Vla.
Vlc.
360
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
f
Vlc.
367
Vln. 1
f
p
f
p
mf
Vln. 2
f
p
f
p
Vla.
f
p
f
p
f
Vlc.
ff

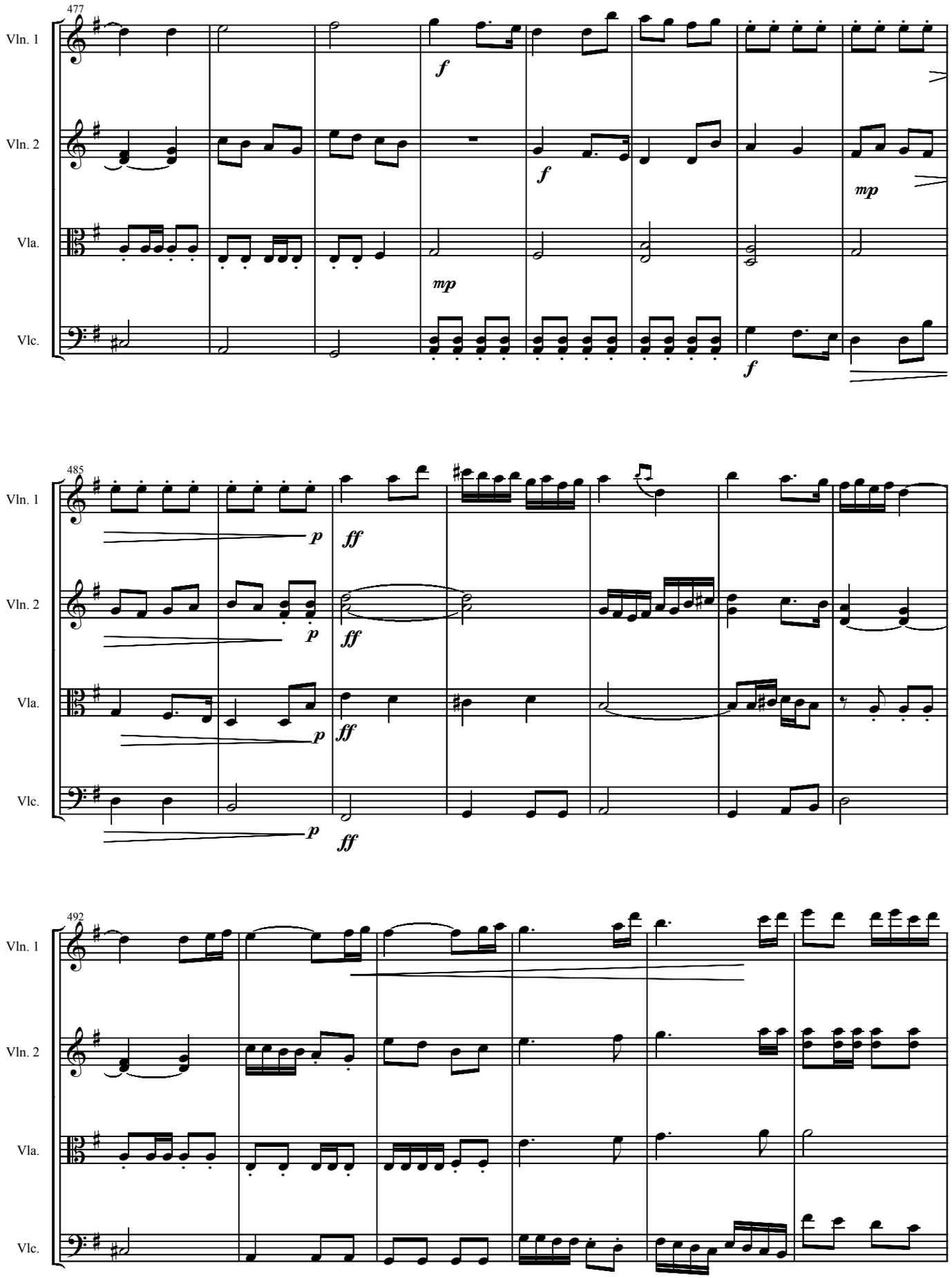

374
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
sfz
p
pizz.
381
arco
f
388
mf
arco

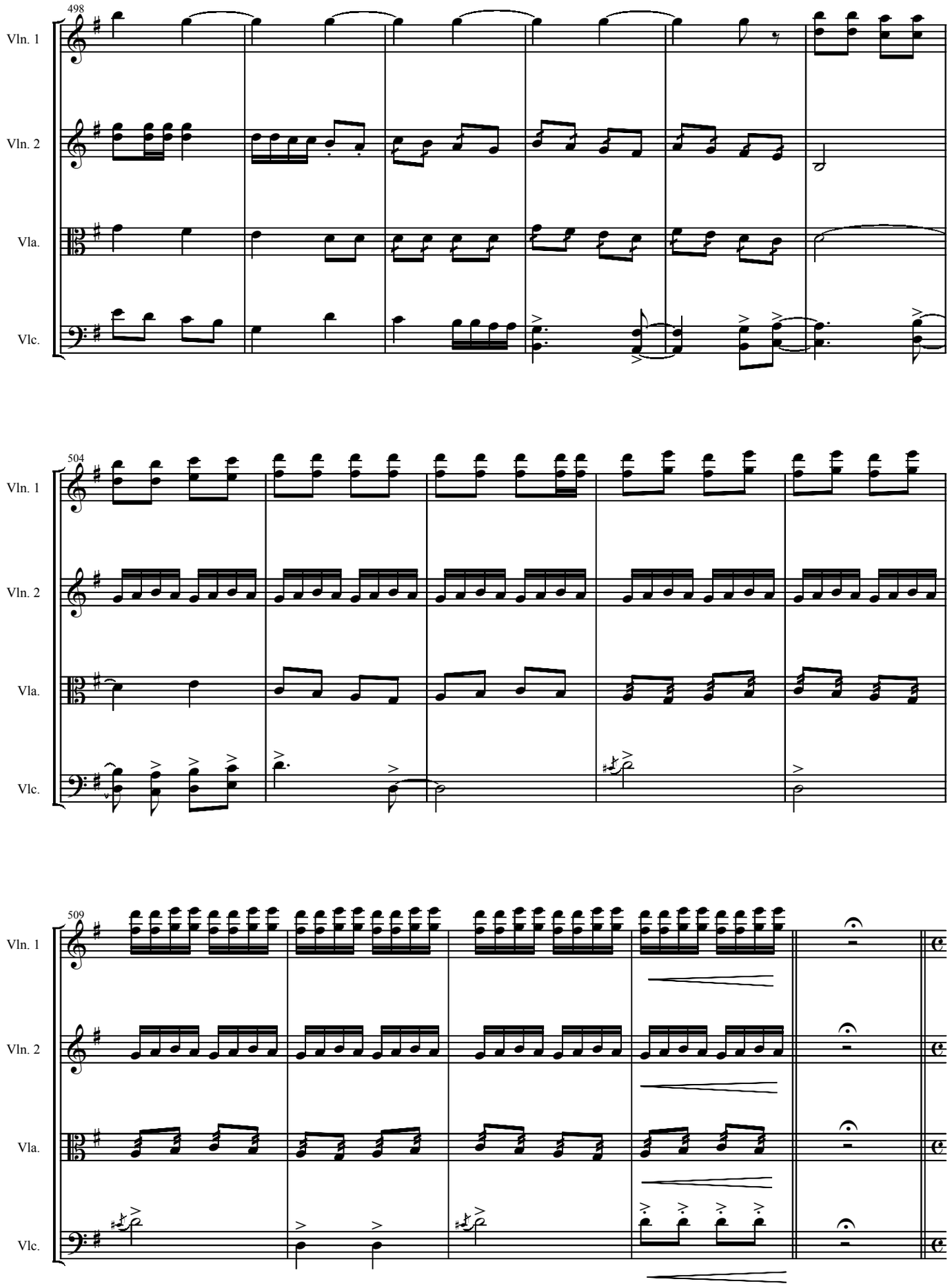

395
port.
f
arco
mp
ff
402
mf
409
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

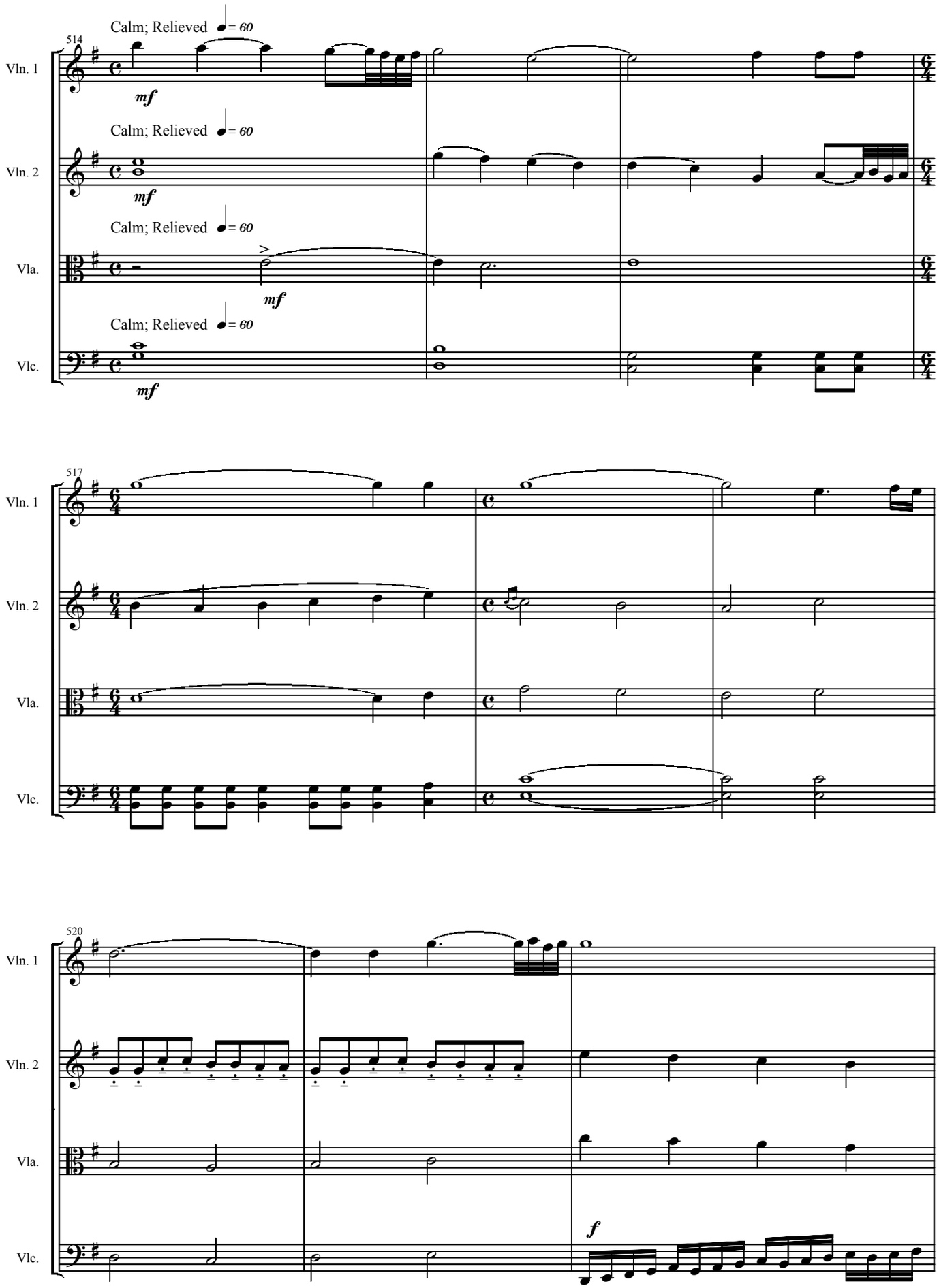

416
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
pizz.
arco
mp
mf
pp
423
f
p
430

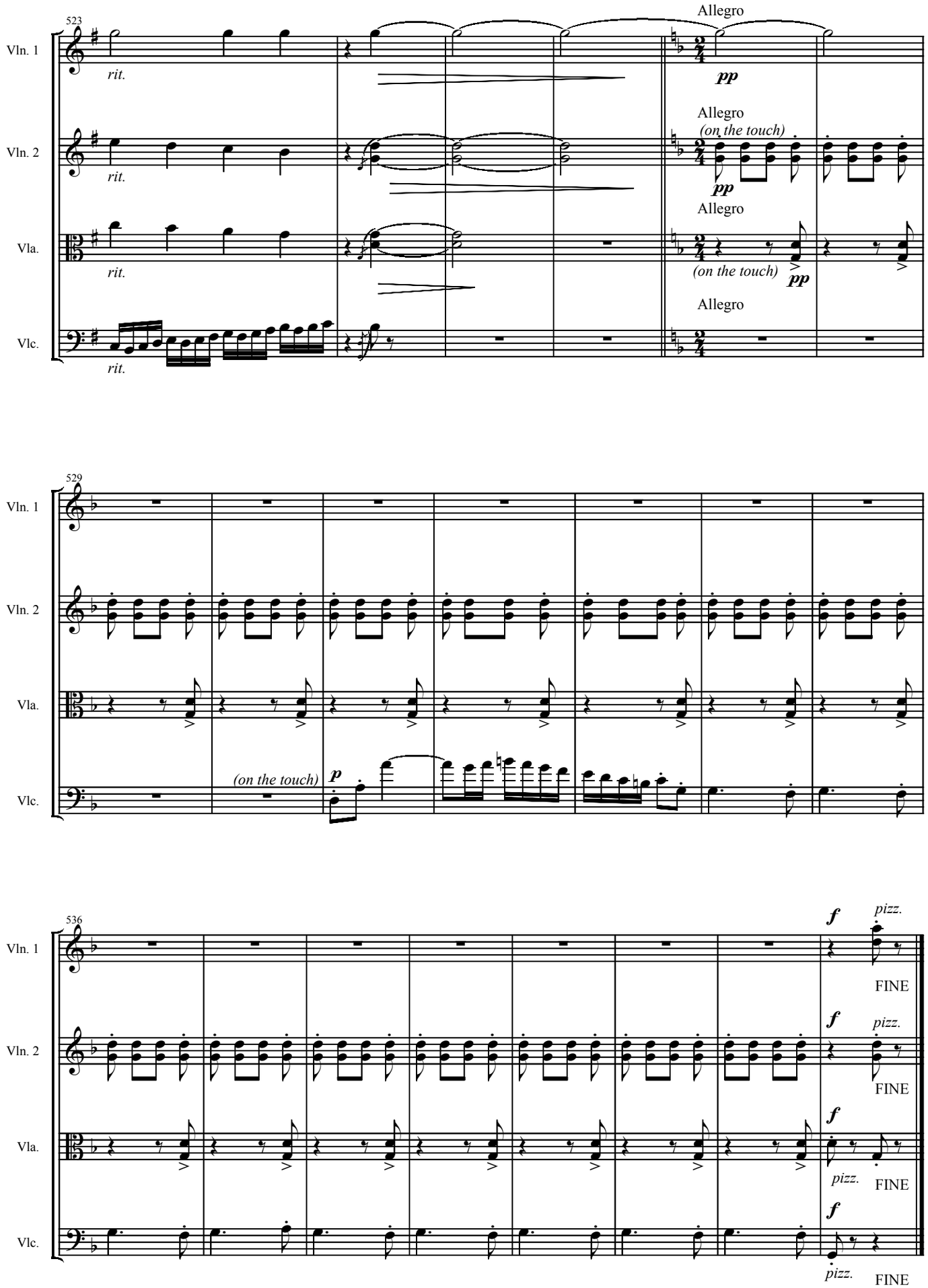

437
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
mf
mp
mf
port.
mp
444
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
f
f
f
ff
451
8va
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
f
f
mf
f


457
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
464
f
f
470
Joyously ♩= 128
ff
Joyously ♩= 128
ff
Joyously ♩= 128
ff
Joyously ♩= 128
ff


477
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
f
f
mp
mp
f
485
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
p
ff
p
ff
p
ff
p
ff
492
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.


498
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
504
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
509
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.


514
Calm; Relieved ♩= 60
Vln. 1
mf
Calm; Relieved ♩= 60
Vln. 2
mf
Calm; Relieved ♩= 60
Vla.
mf
Calm; Relieved ♩= 60
Vlc.
mf
517
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
520
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
f


523
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
rit.
Allegro
pp
(on the touch)
529
(on the touch)
p
536
f
pizz.
FINE