Reflections and Memories

String Quartet no. 8

2018-2020

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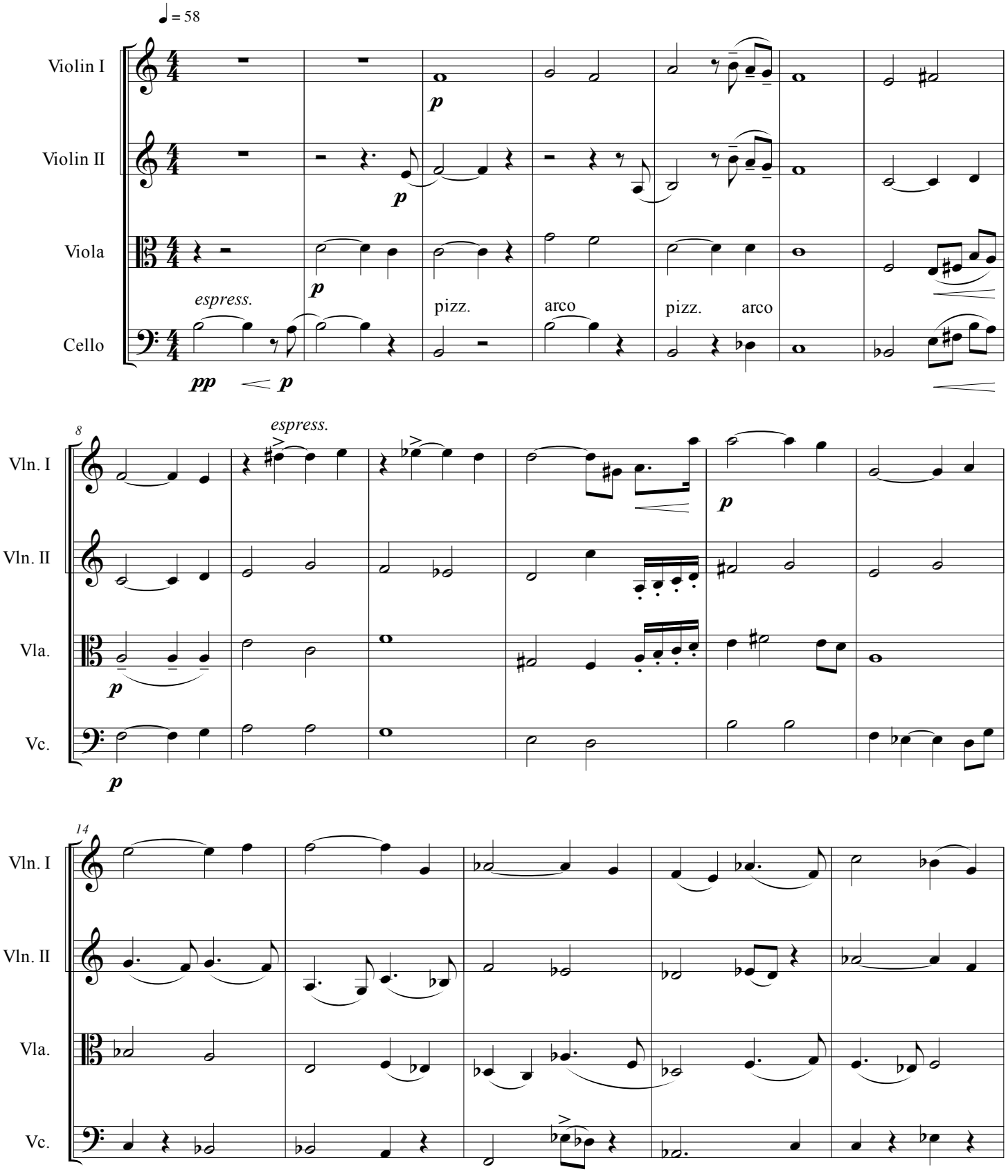
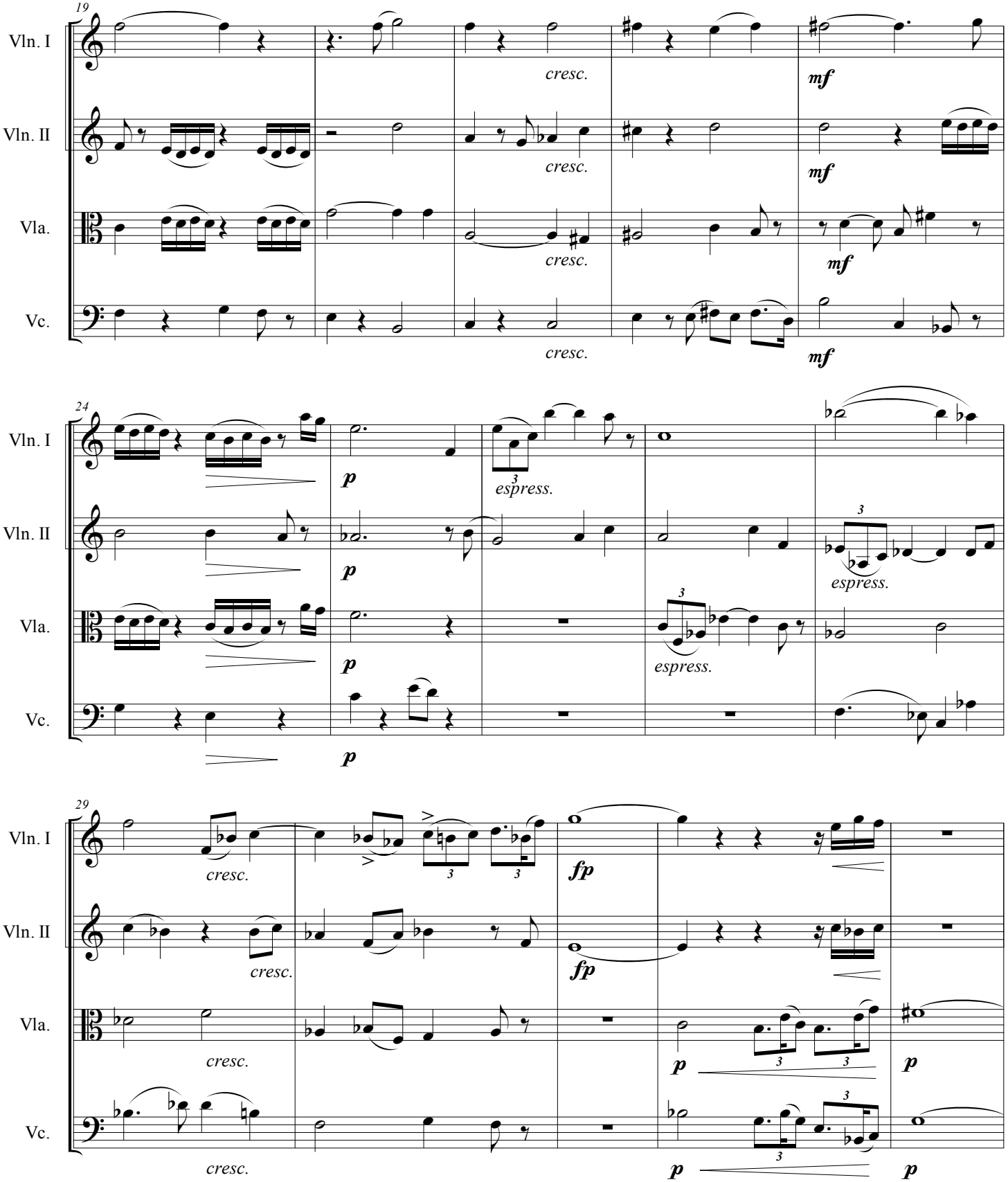
The title “Reflections and Memories” describes the alternating states of mind from which this quartet is built, one thoughtful and searching, the other vivid and immediate. The music imagines these states neither as opposites nor as parallels but as complements that call for and complete each other: thought seeking its sensory form and sensation seeking its place in thought. The four movements--Reflection I, "Mackerel Sky," Reflection II, and "Clouds. Wind. Stars."-- follow the quasi-Baroque pattern slow-fast-slow-fast, suggesting a cyclical process rather than a narrative progression. But the cycle is nonetheless shaped by changes of attitude, in a crisscross pattern: the second slow movement is more troubled than the first while the first fast movement is more troubled than the second.

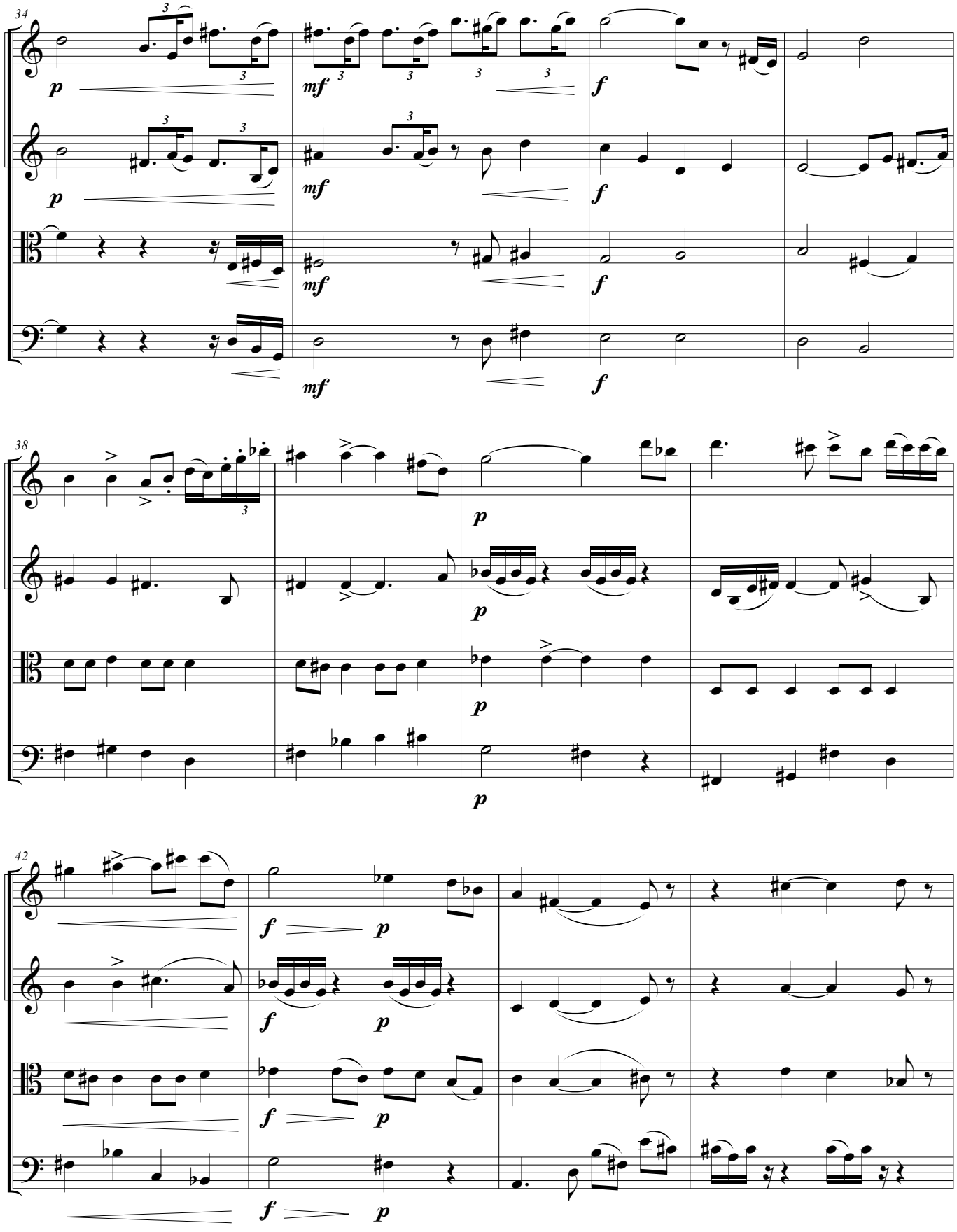
The memories, by the way, are real ones, of cloud formations with strong personal associations. The memory movements trace the flow of such associations—it doesn’t matter what they are—while the “Reflections” trace their inner reverberations. Each of the four movements features an element of texture or melody that becomes its unique signature; the four movements are linked by a kind of quickening or pulsation that recurs throughout in different forms.

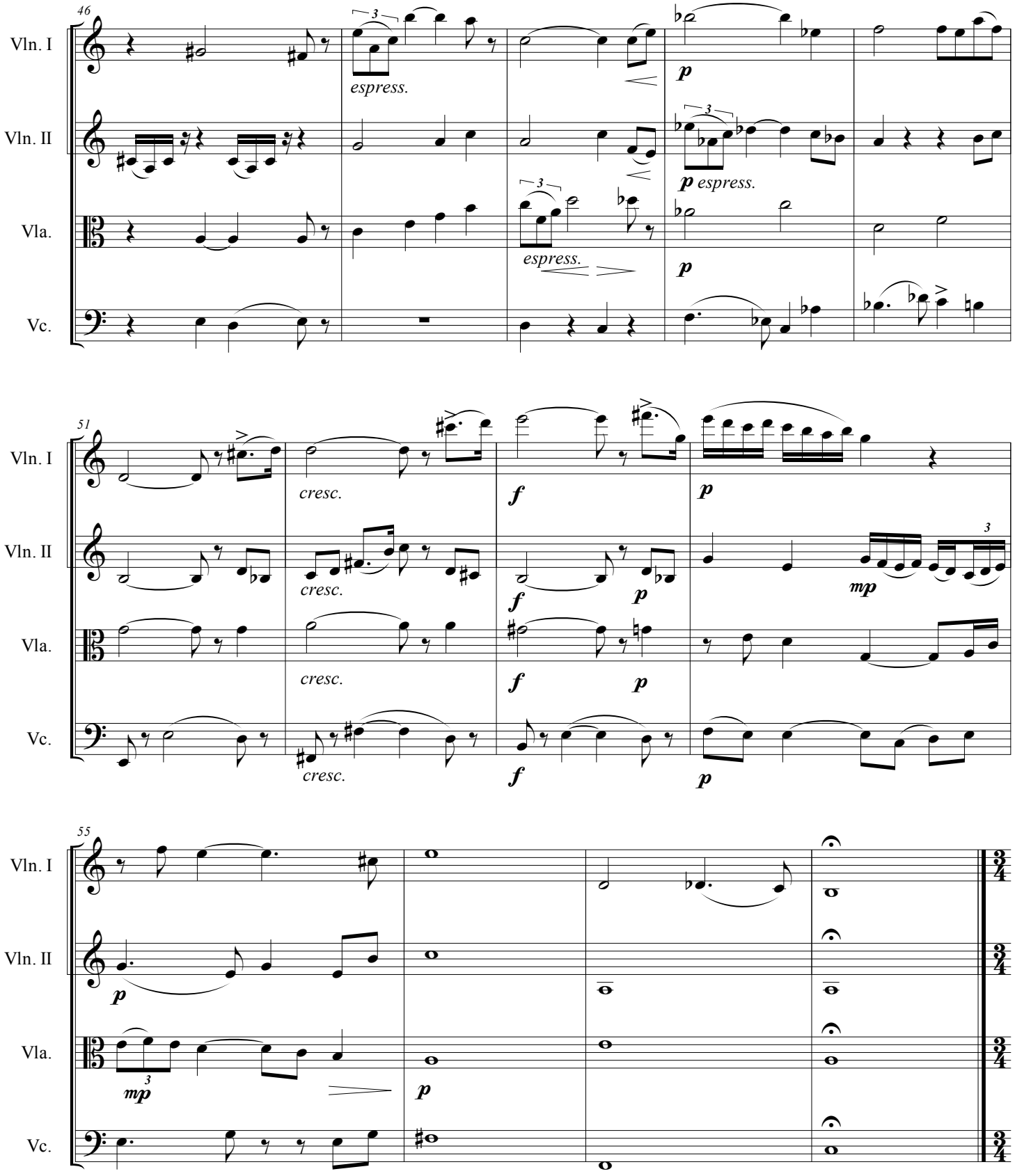
"Reflections and Memories" is about 21 minutes long. Its first three movements were composed in 2018 and -20; the finale was composed as an independent piece in 2013 (it was the winner of the first Composers Concordance "Generations" prize) and may still be played on its own.

Reflection I

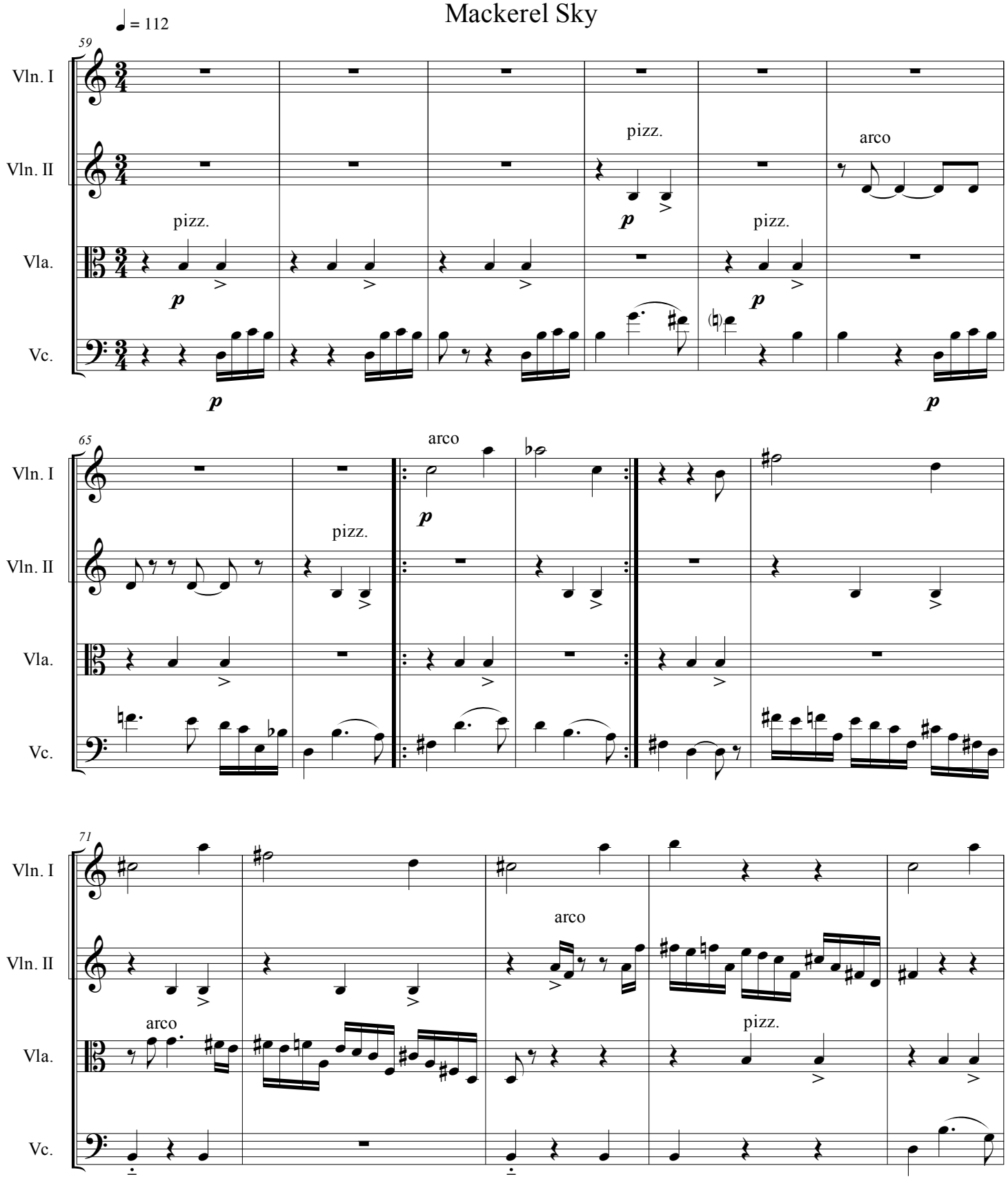


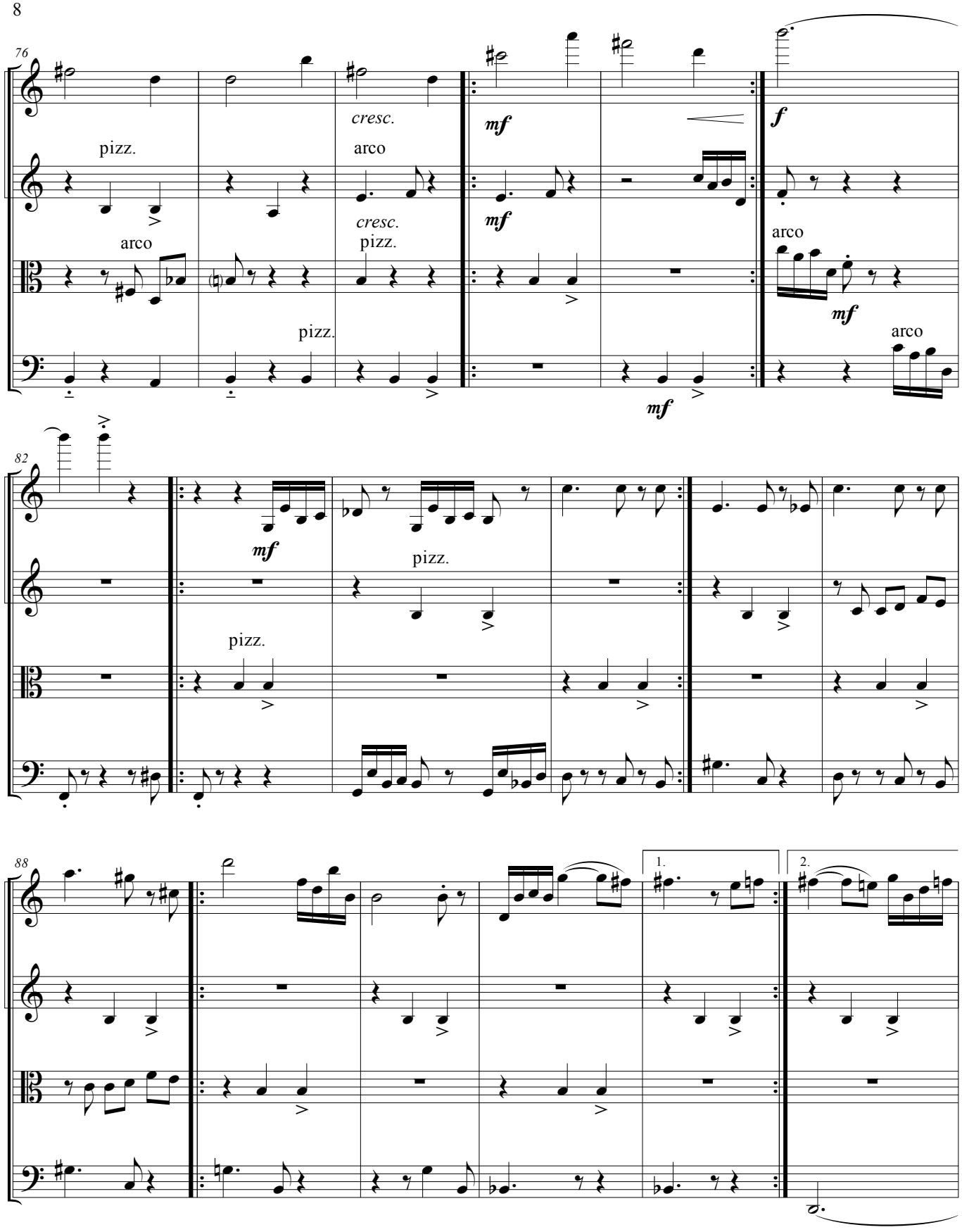

19
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
cresc.
mf
24
p
espress.
29
fp

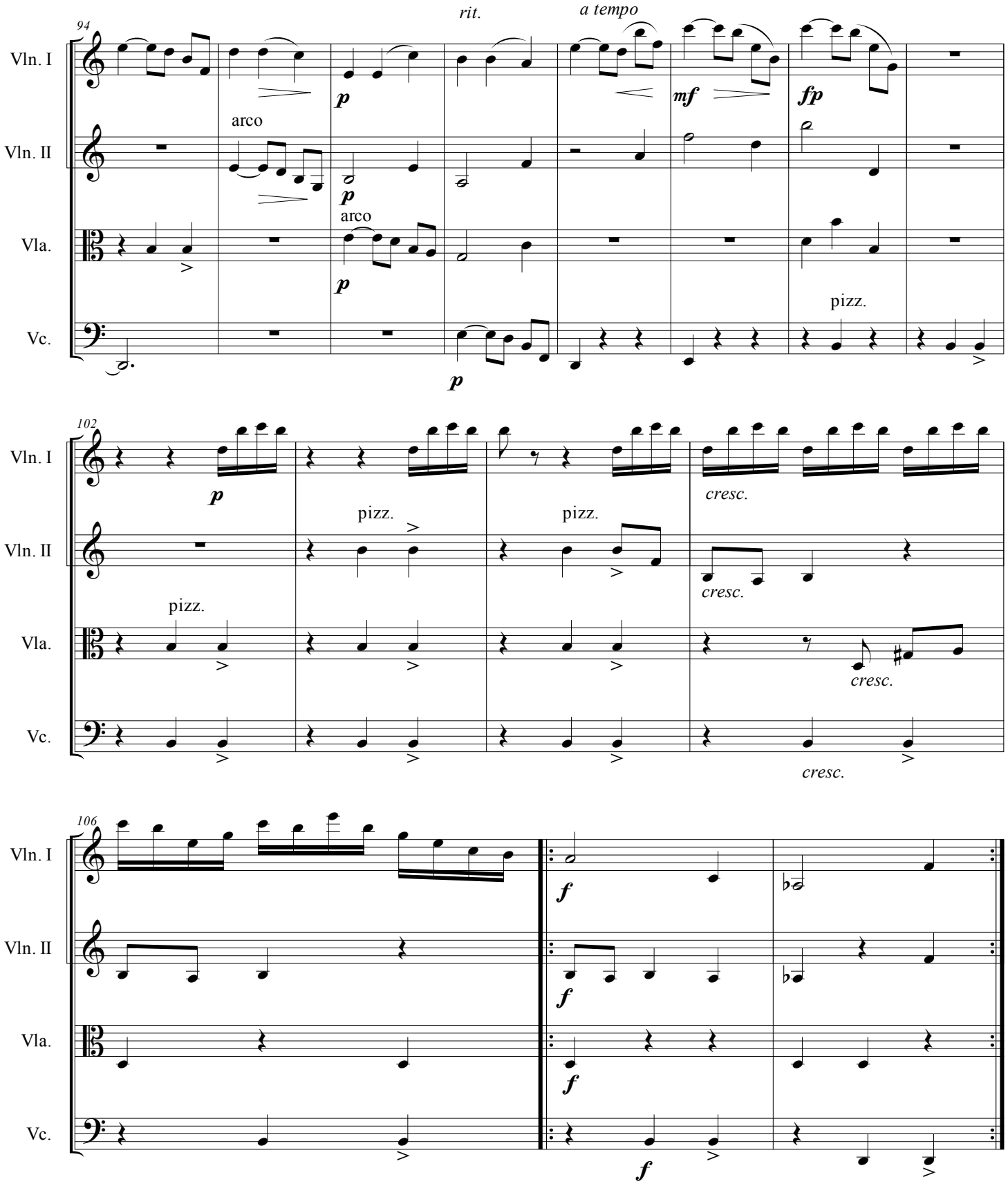

34
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
mf
f
38
42

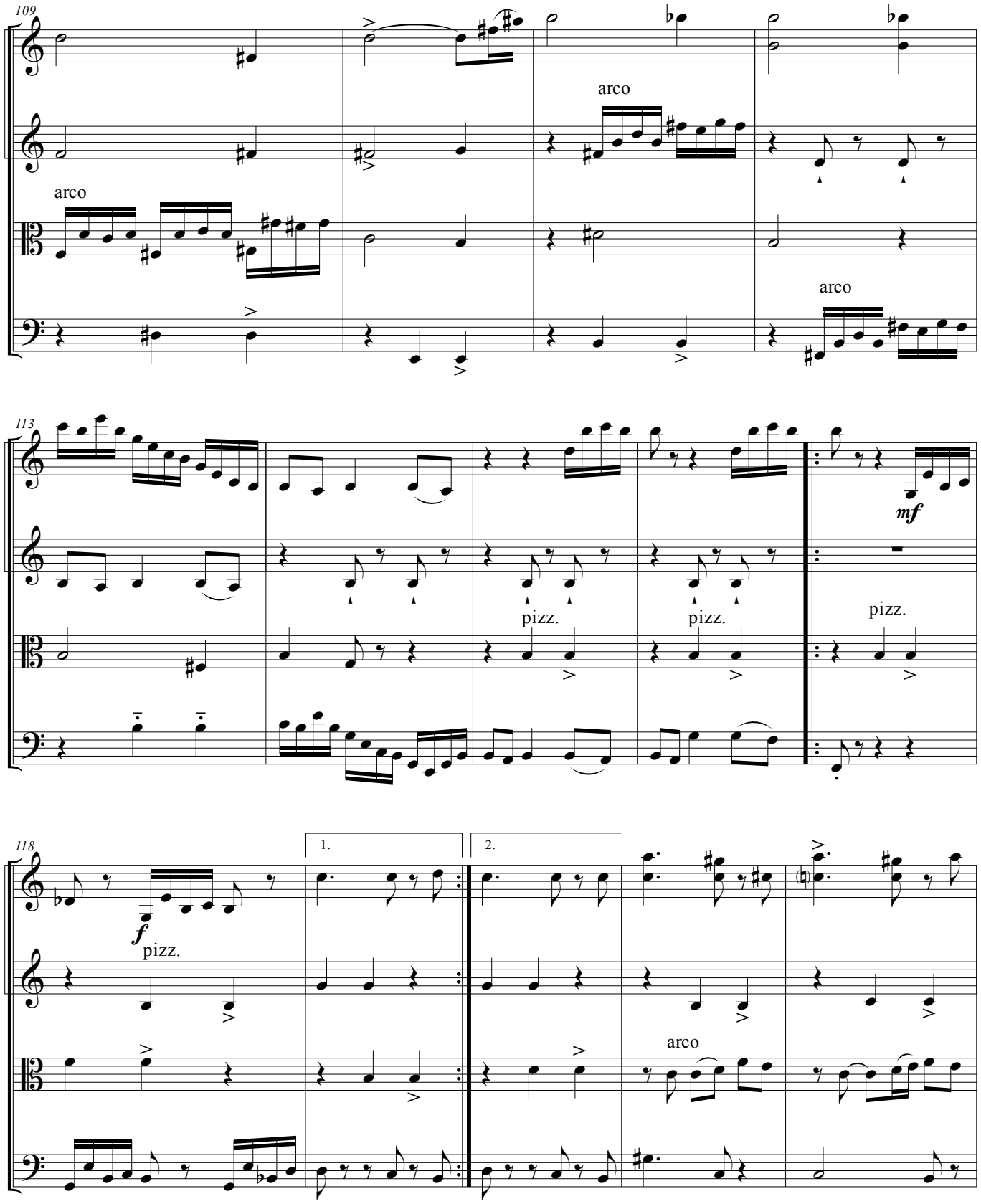

46
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
espress.
p
espress.
espress.
51
cresc.
f
p
mp
55
mp

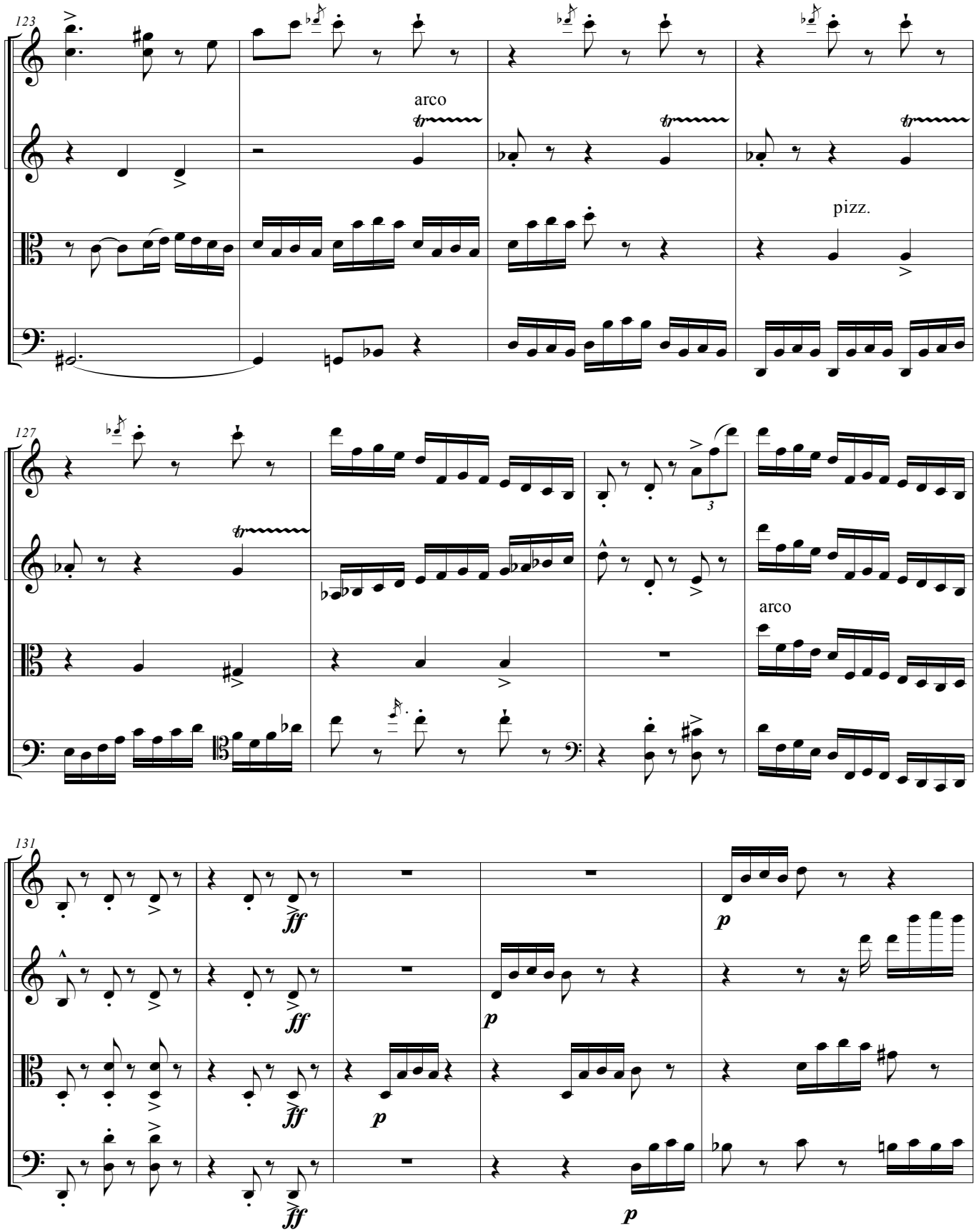
Mackerel Sky

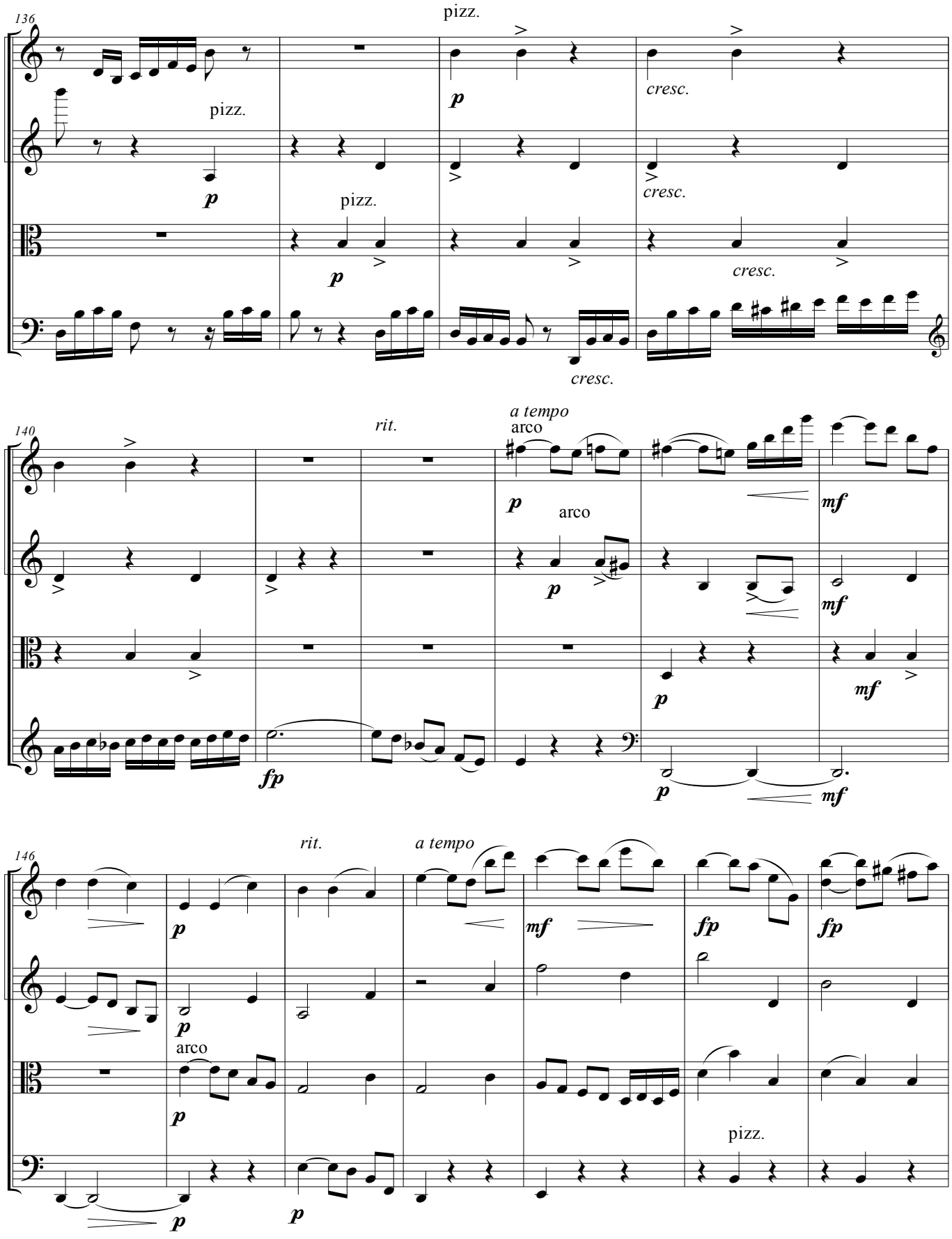


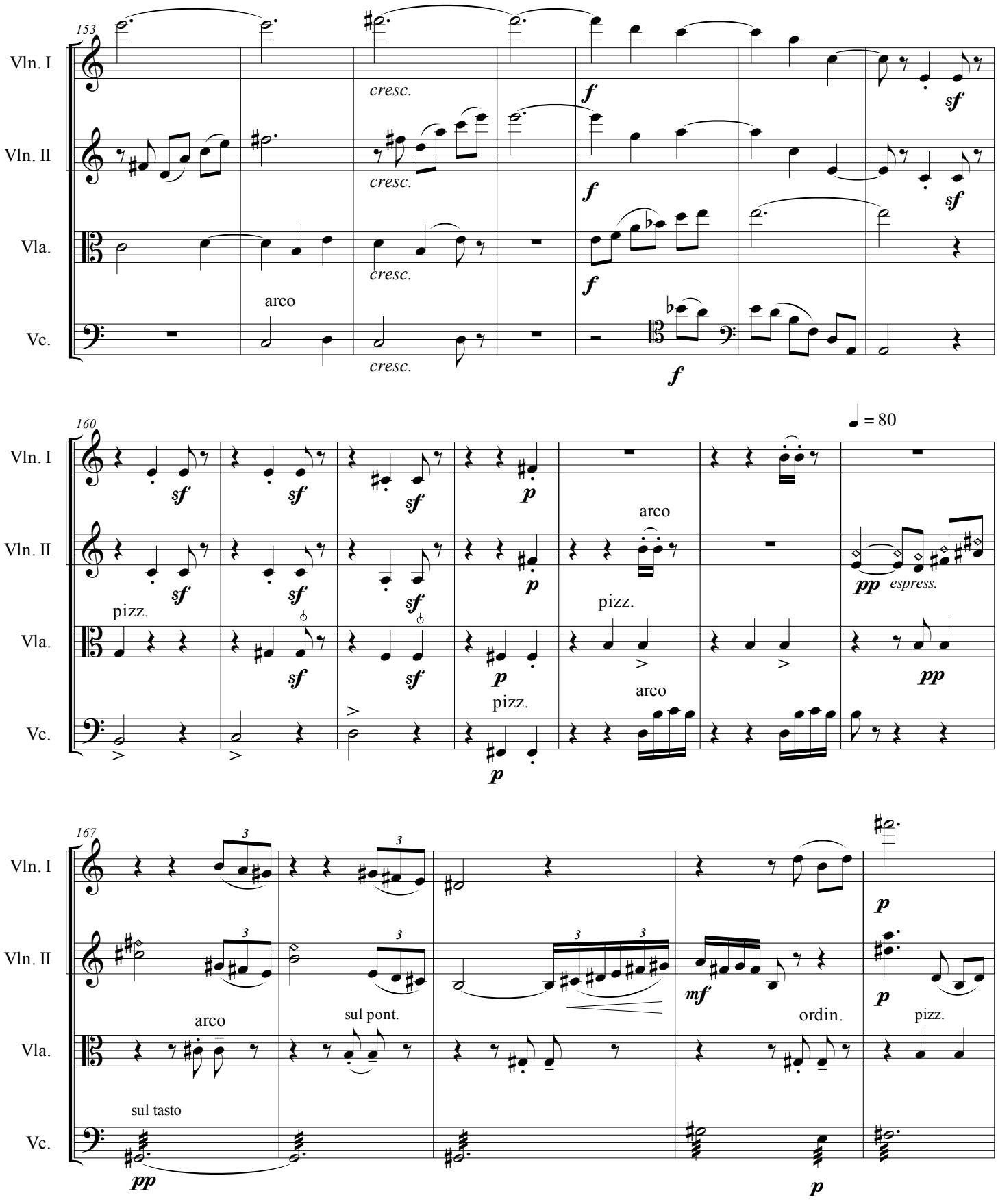

76
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
cresc.
mf
f
82
88
1.
2.

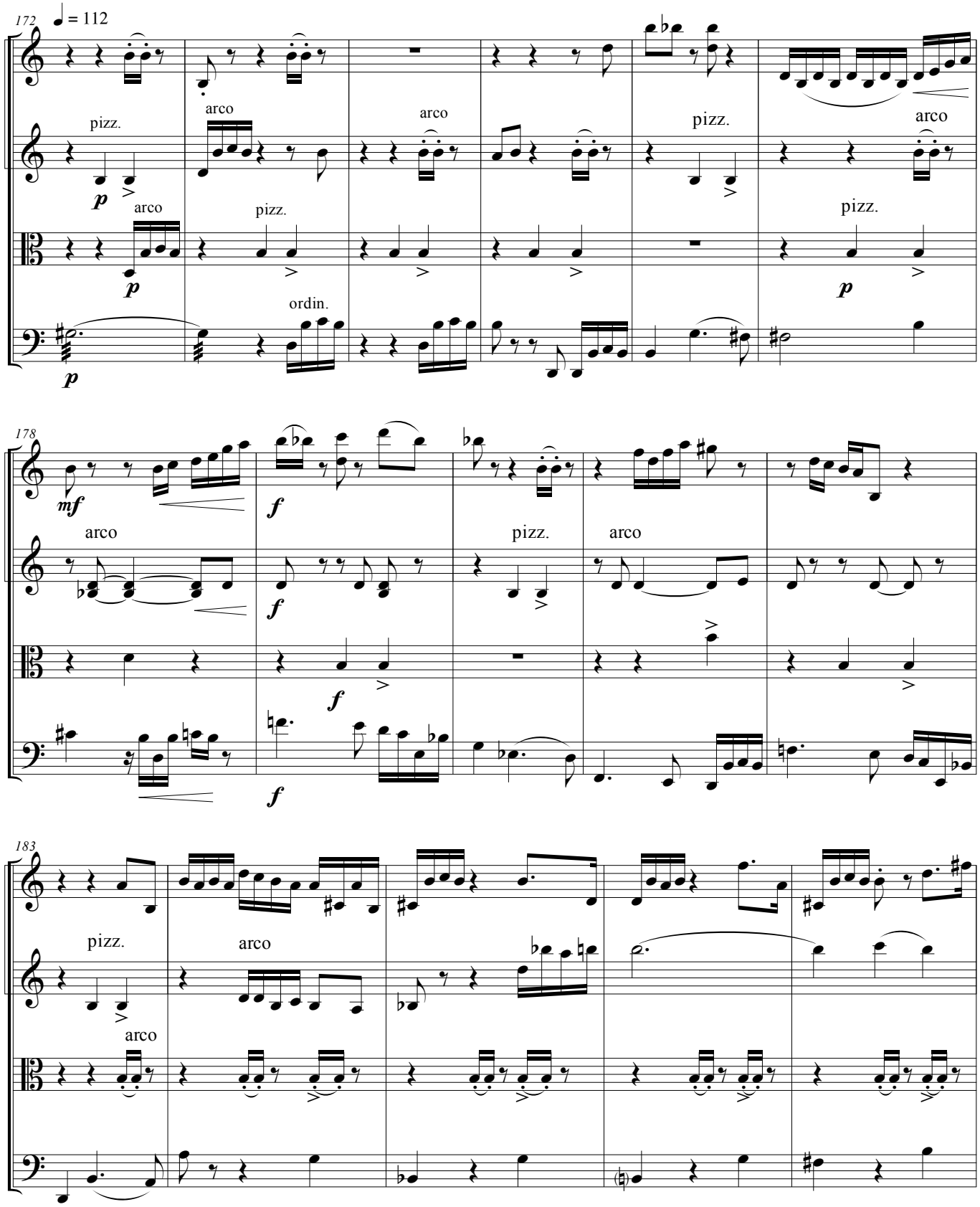

94
rit.
a tempo
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
arco
pizz.
102
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
106

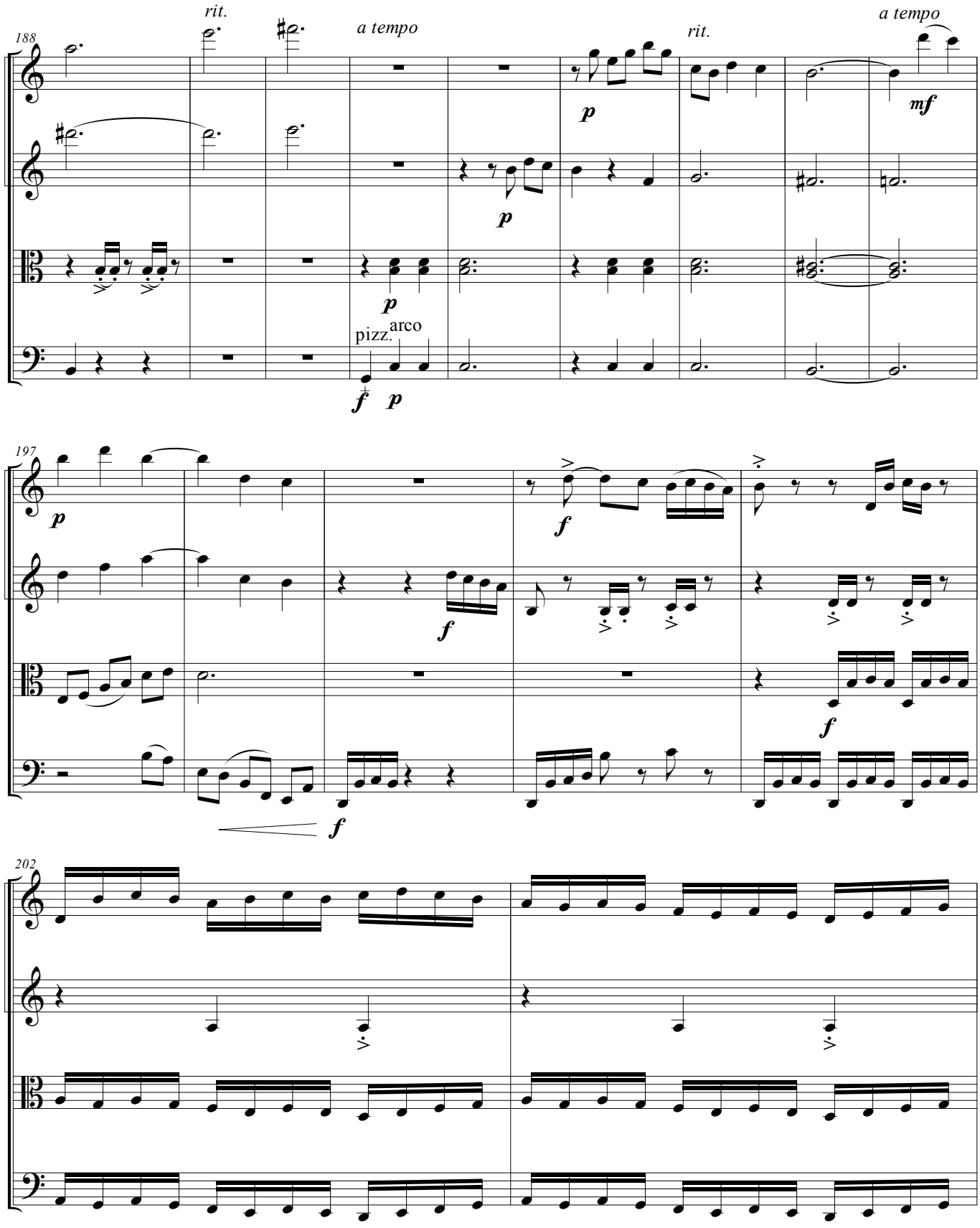

109
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
arco
arco
113
mf
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
118
f
pizz.
1.
2.
arco

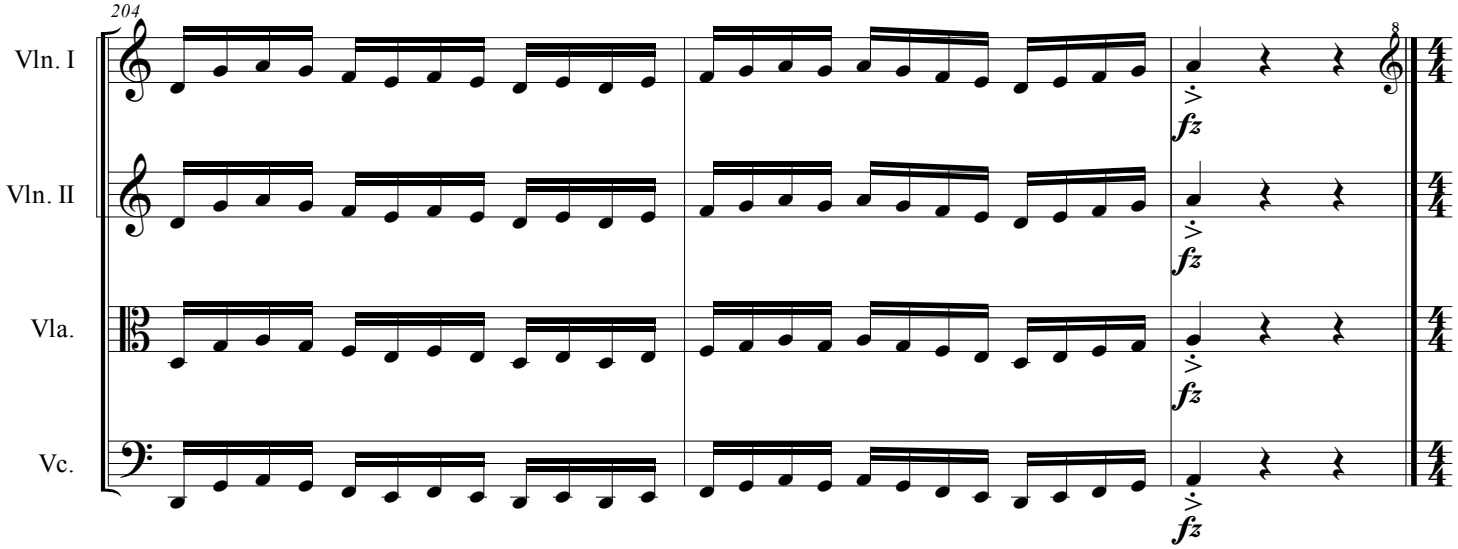

123
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
pizz.
127
arco
131
ff
p

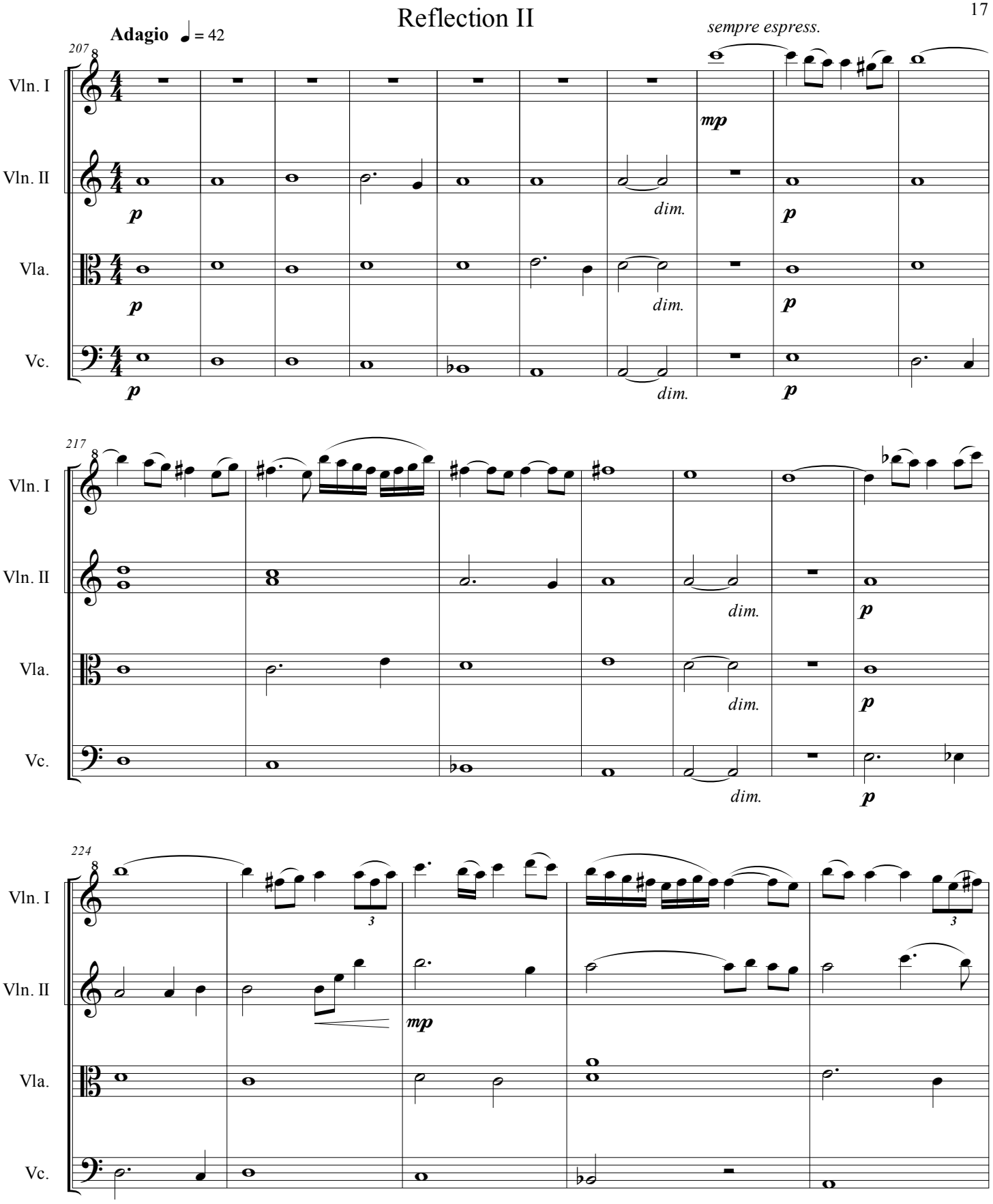

136
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
p
cresc.
140
rit.
a tempo
arco
fp
mf
146
rit.
a tempo
arco
pizz.

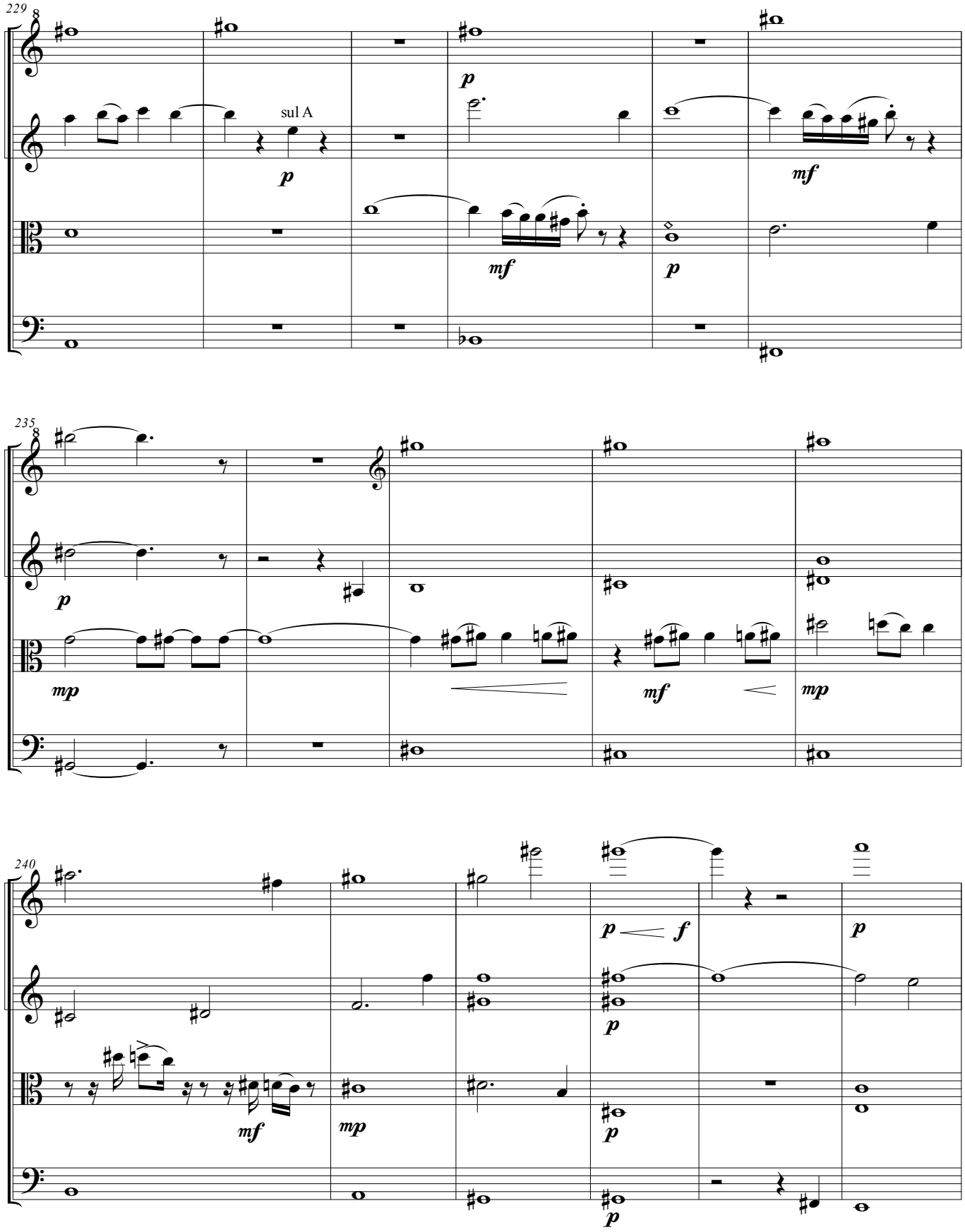

153
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
cresc.
f
sf
arco
160
= 80
pizz.
p
pp
espress.
167
mf
sul pont.
ordin.
sul tasto

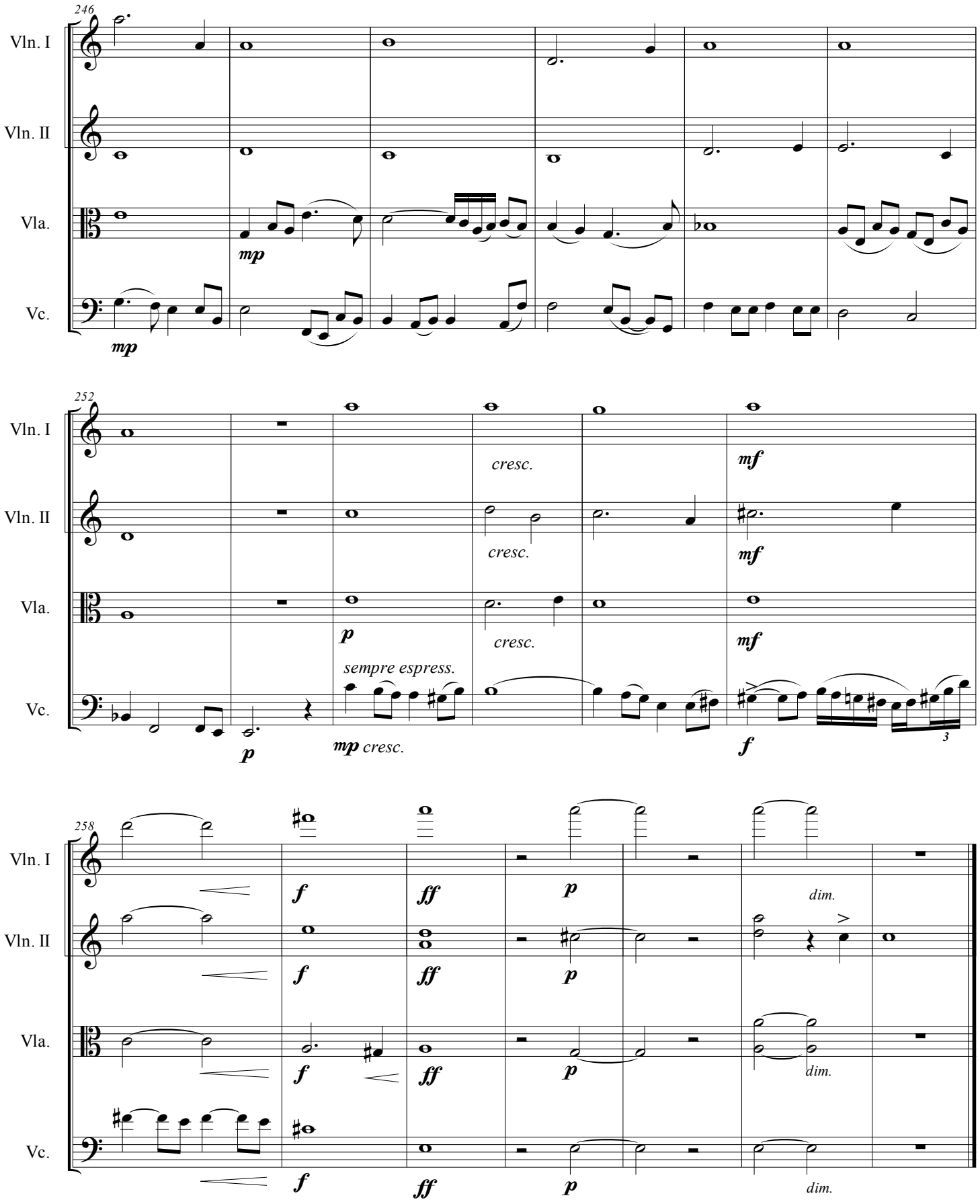

172
♩ = 112
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
ordin.
178
183


188
rit.
a tempo
rit.
a tempo
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
mf
pizz.
arco
f
197
202

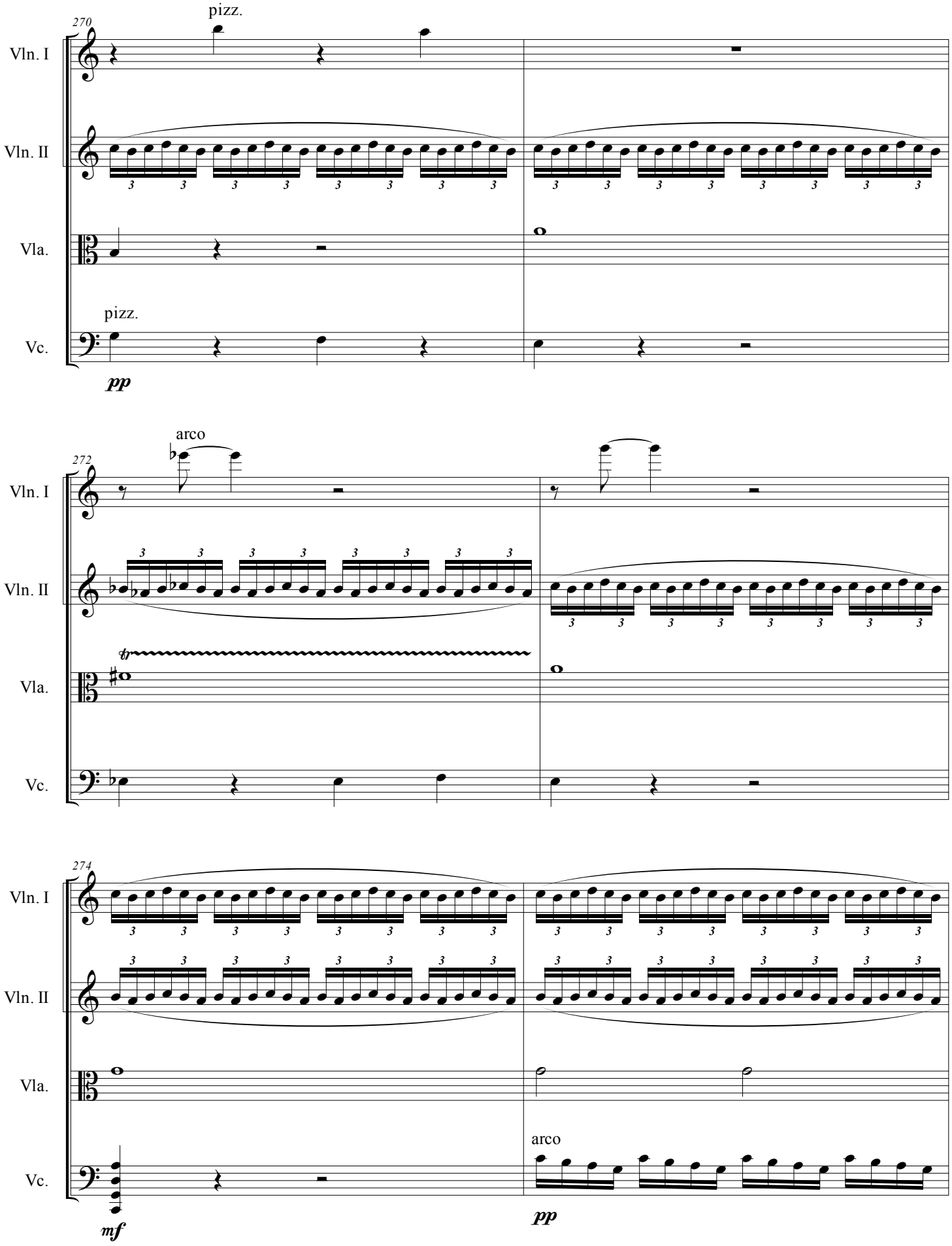

204
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
8
fz
fz
fz
fz

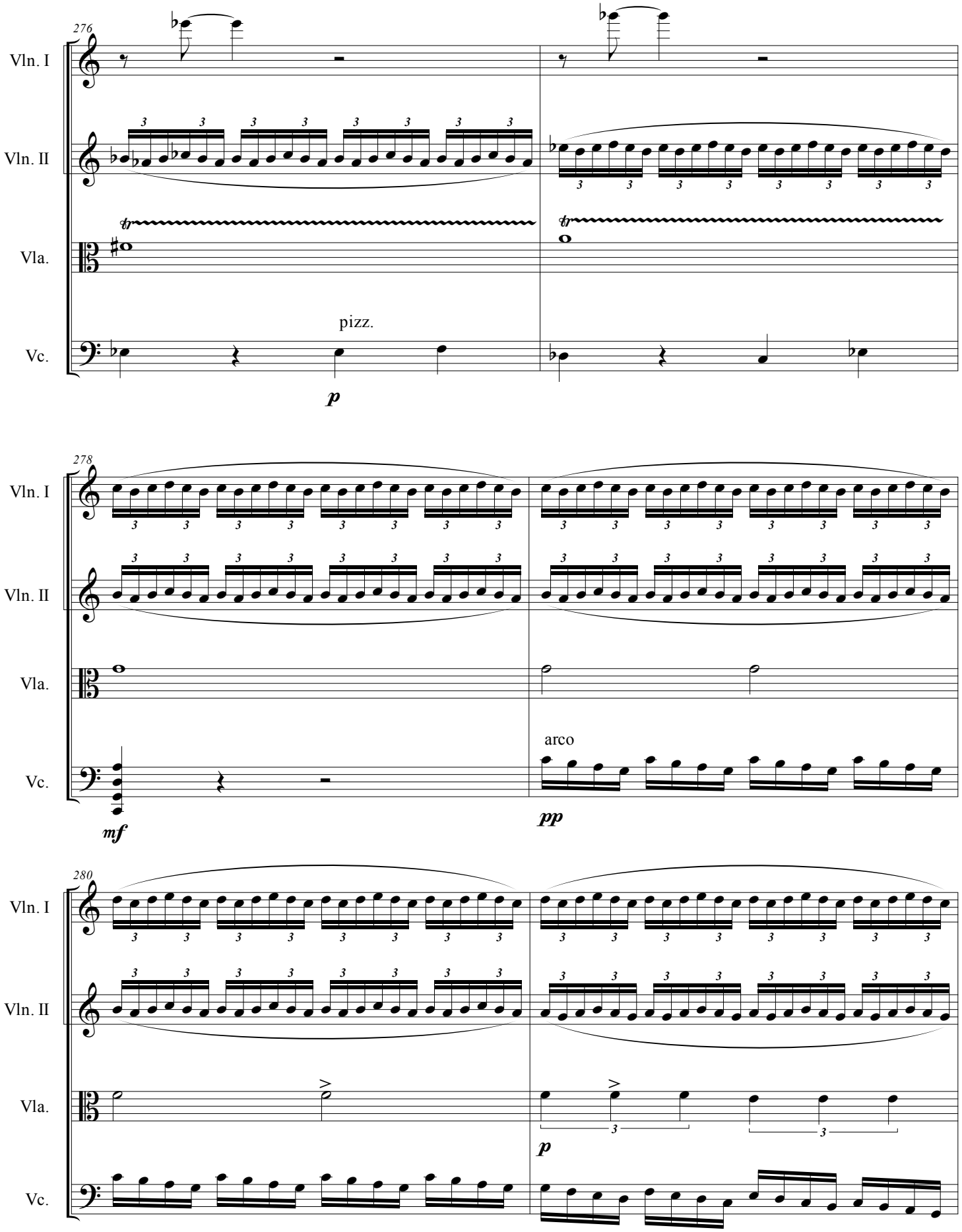

Adagio ♩ = 42
sempre espress.
207
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mp
p
dim.
217
224
3
3

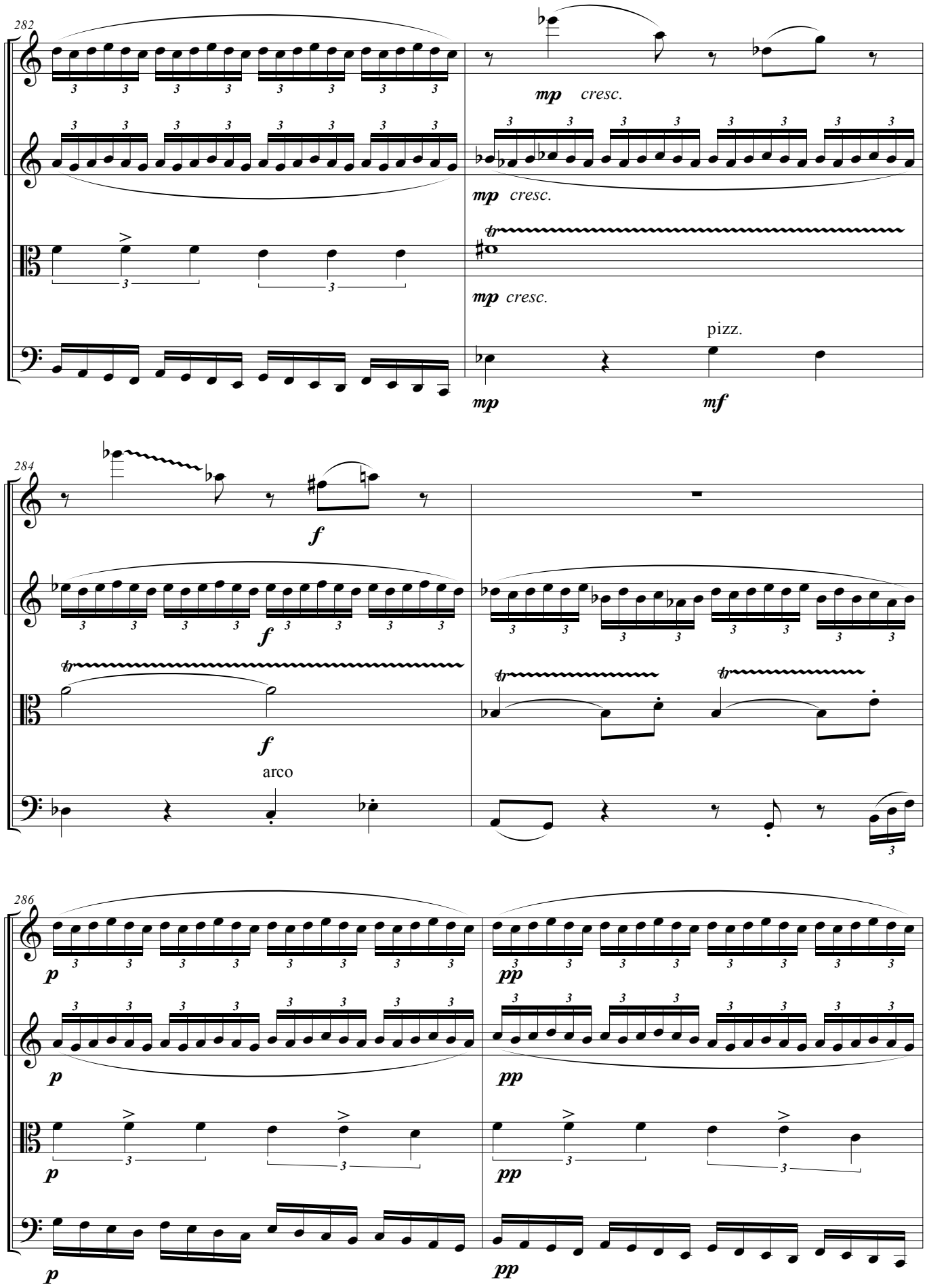

229
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sul A
p
mf
235
mp
240
f

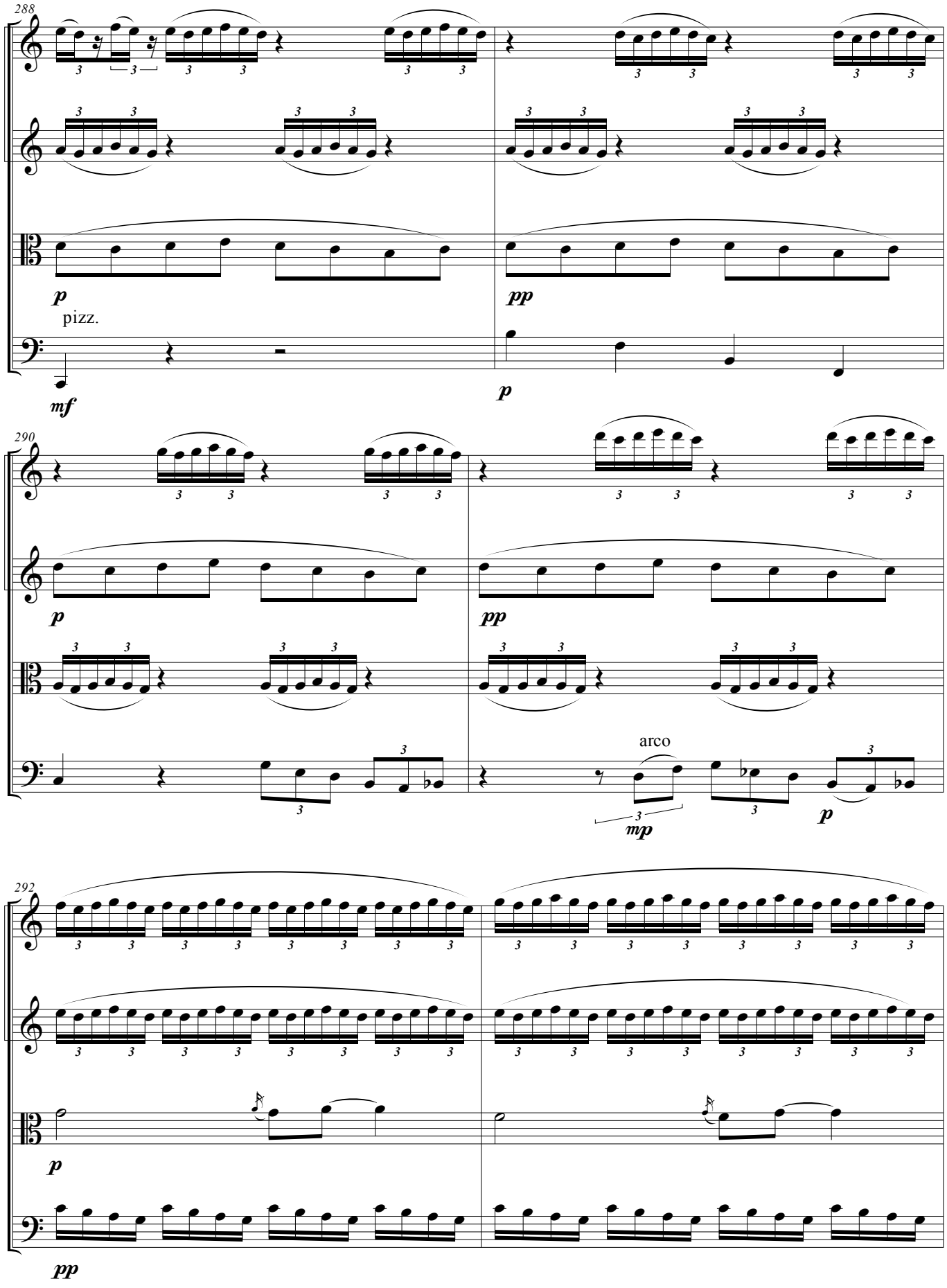

246
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mp
mp
252
cresc.
mf
cresc.
mf
p
cresc.
mf
sempre espress.
p
mp cresc.
f
3
258
f
ff
p
dim.
f
ff
p
f
ff
p
dim.
f
ff
p
dim.

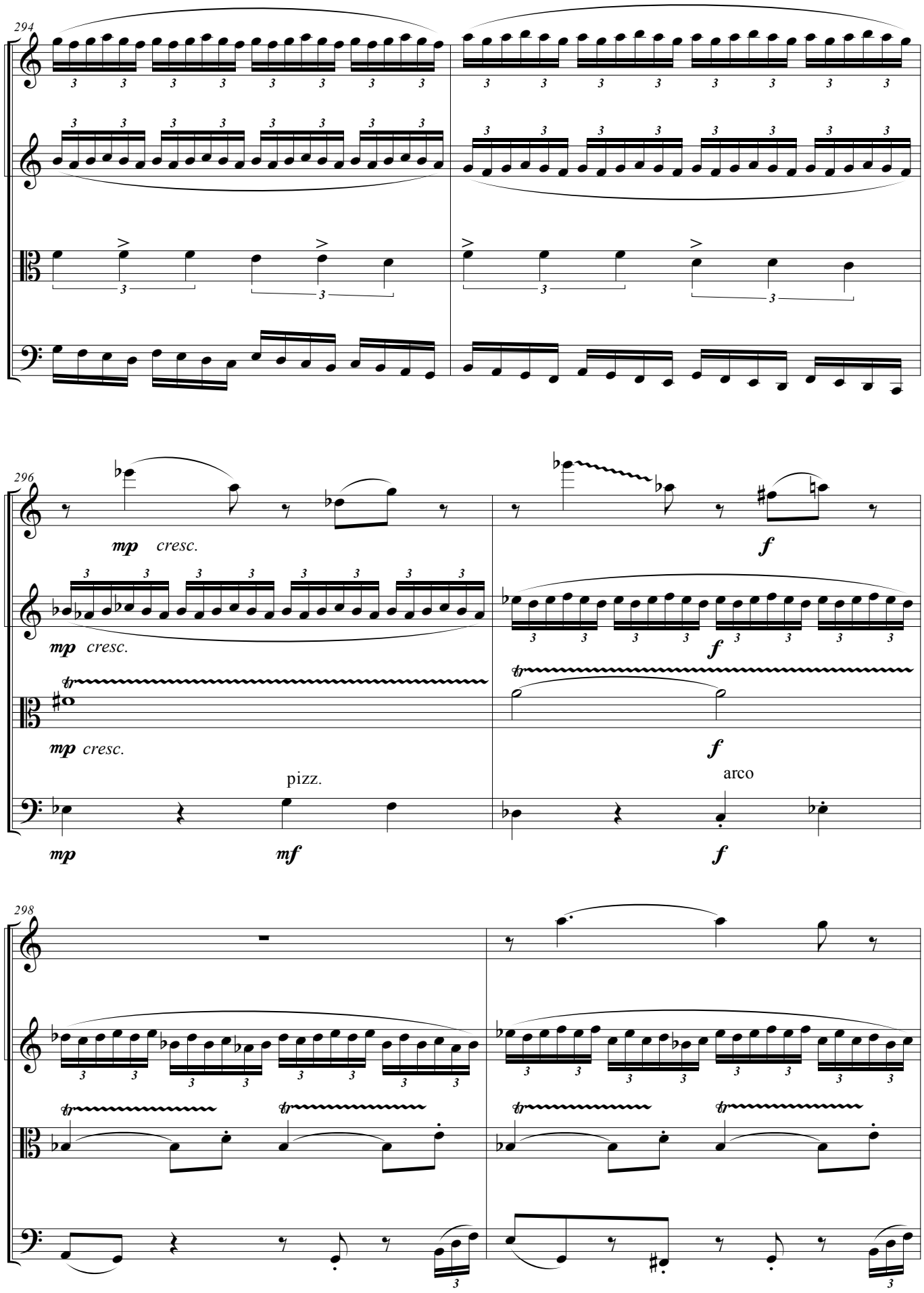
Clouds. Wind. Stars.

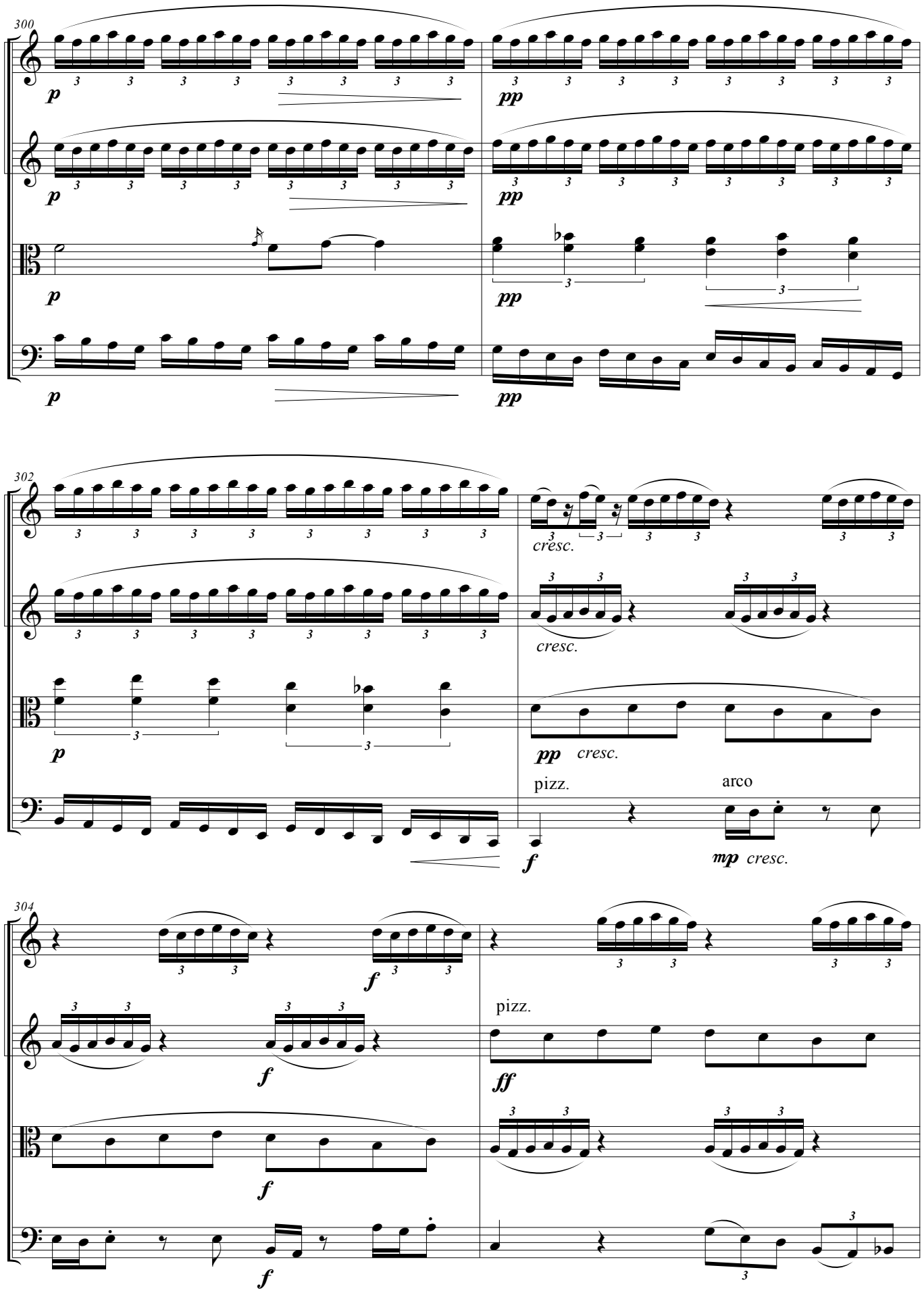

270
pizz.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
pizz.
Vc.
pp
272
arco
Vln. I
Vln. II
tr
Vla.
Vc.
274
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
arco
Vc.
mf
pp

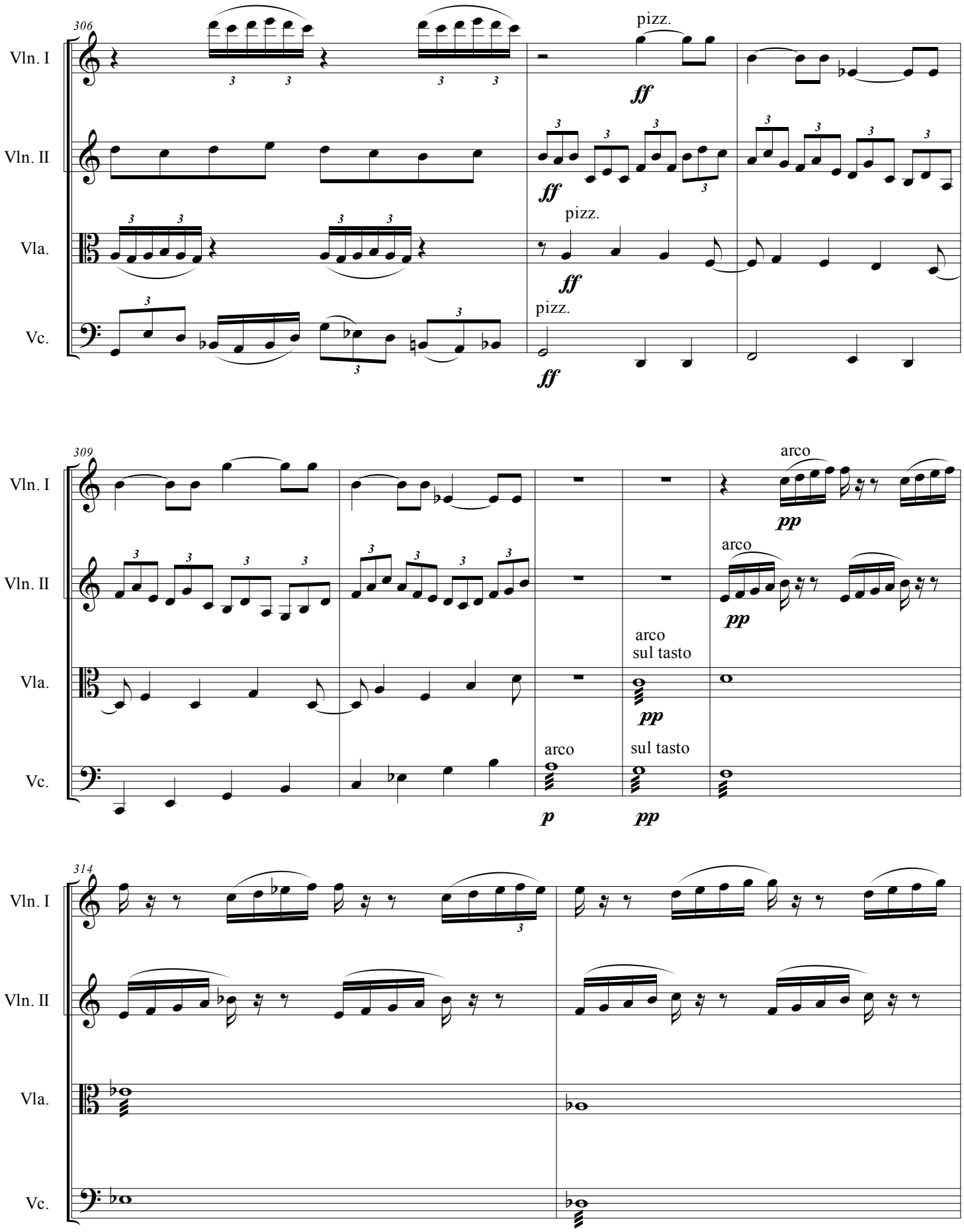

276
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
p
278
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
arco
pp
280
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p

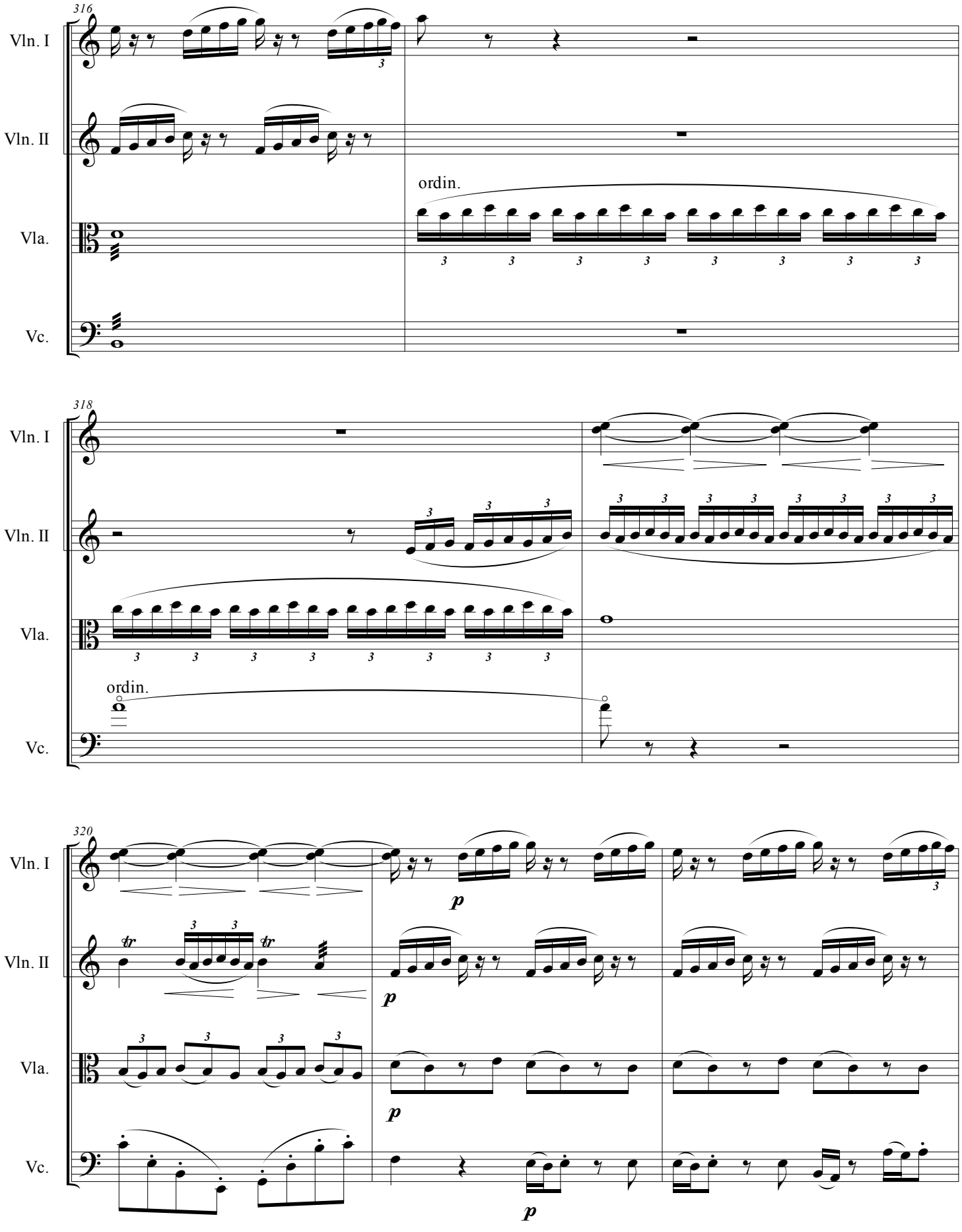

282
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mp cresc.
mp cresc.
mp cresc.
pizz.
mp
mf
284
f
f
f
arco
286
p
pp
p
pp
p
pp
p
pp

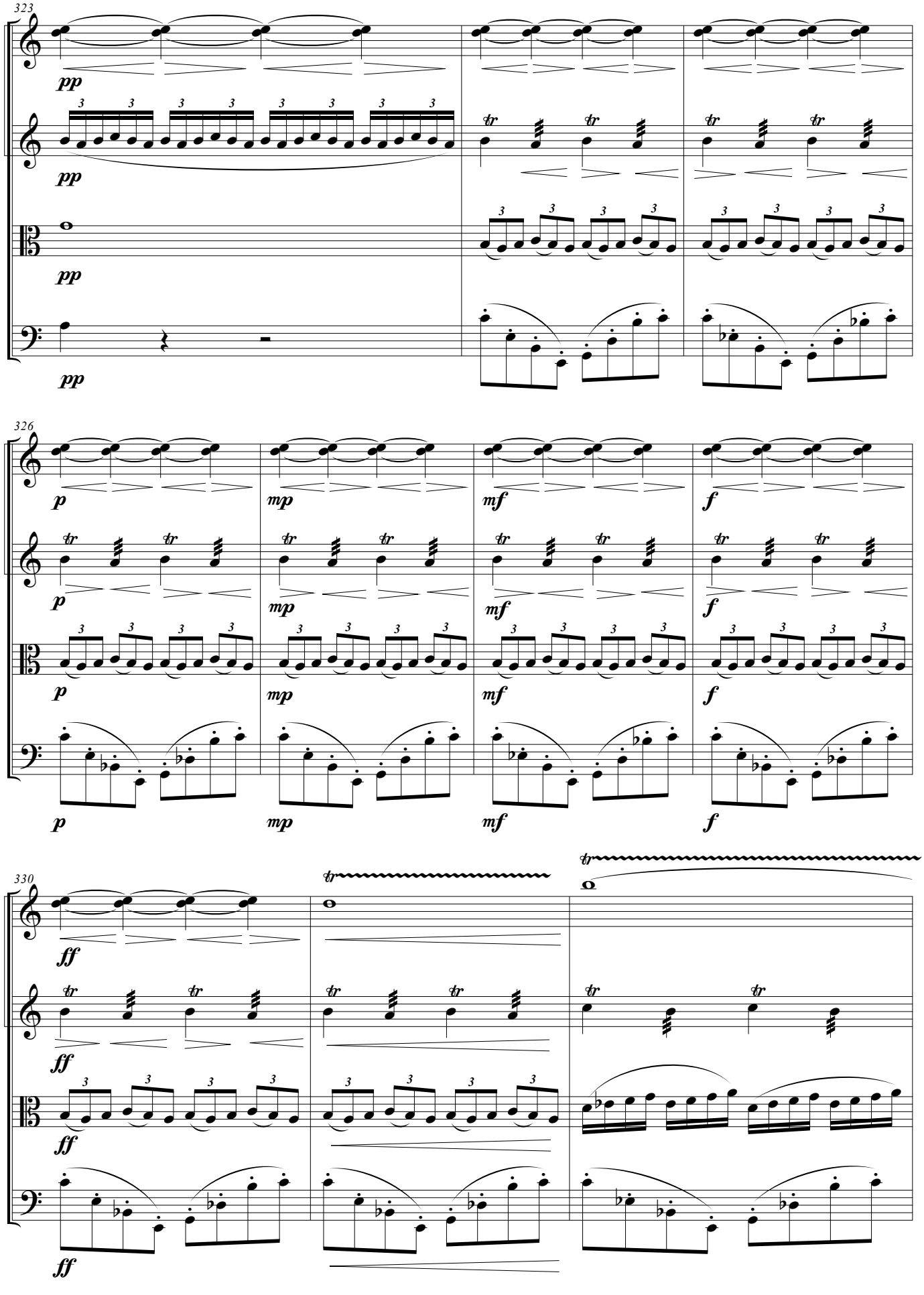

288
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
pizz.
mf
pp
p
290
arco
mp
292
pp

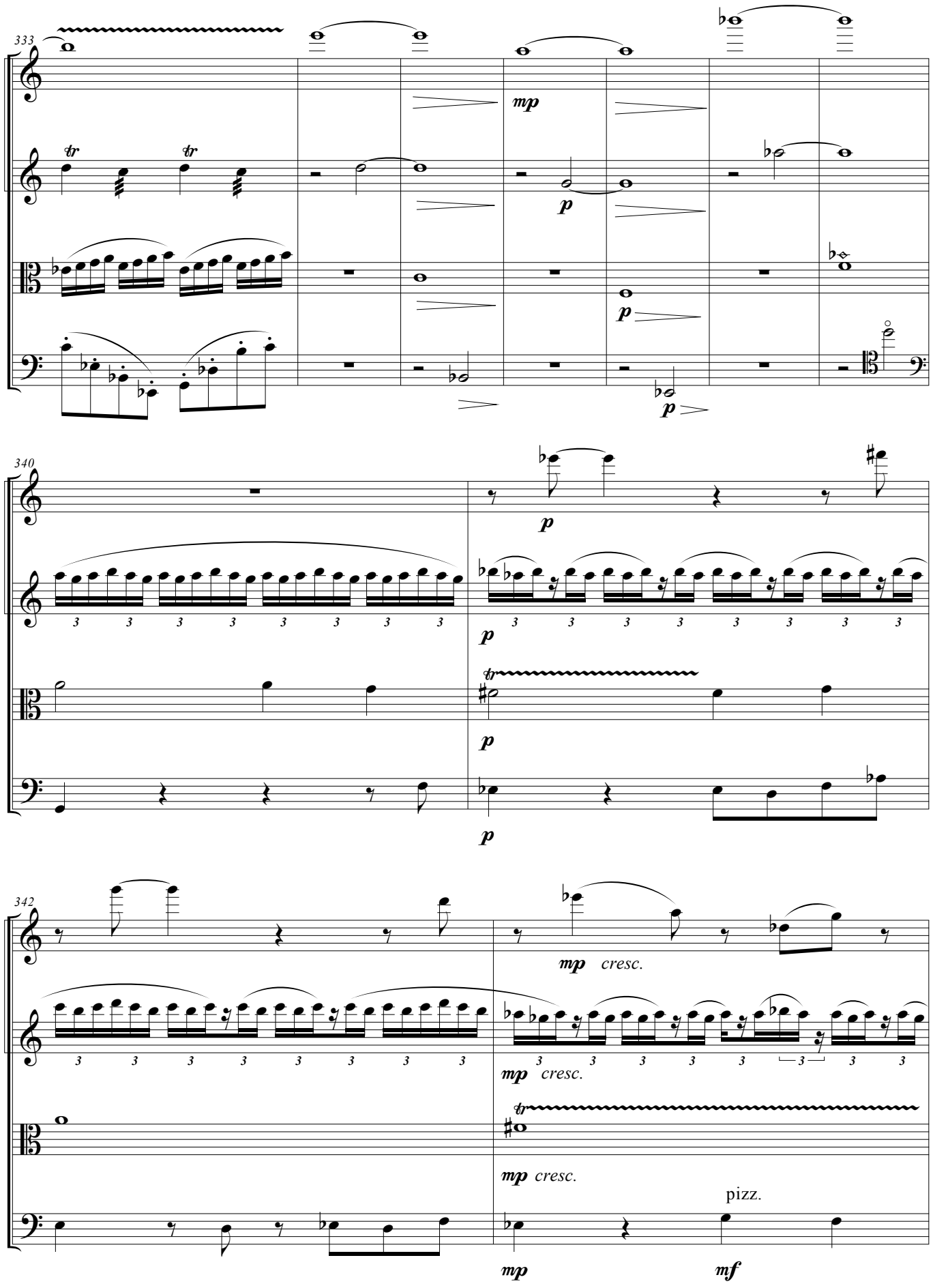

294
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
296
mp cresc.
f
pizz.
arco
mf
298

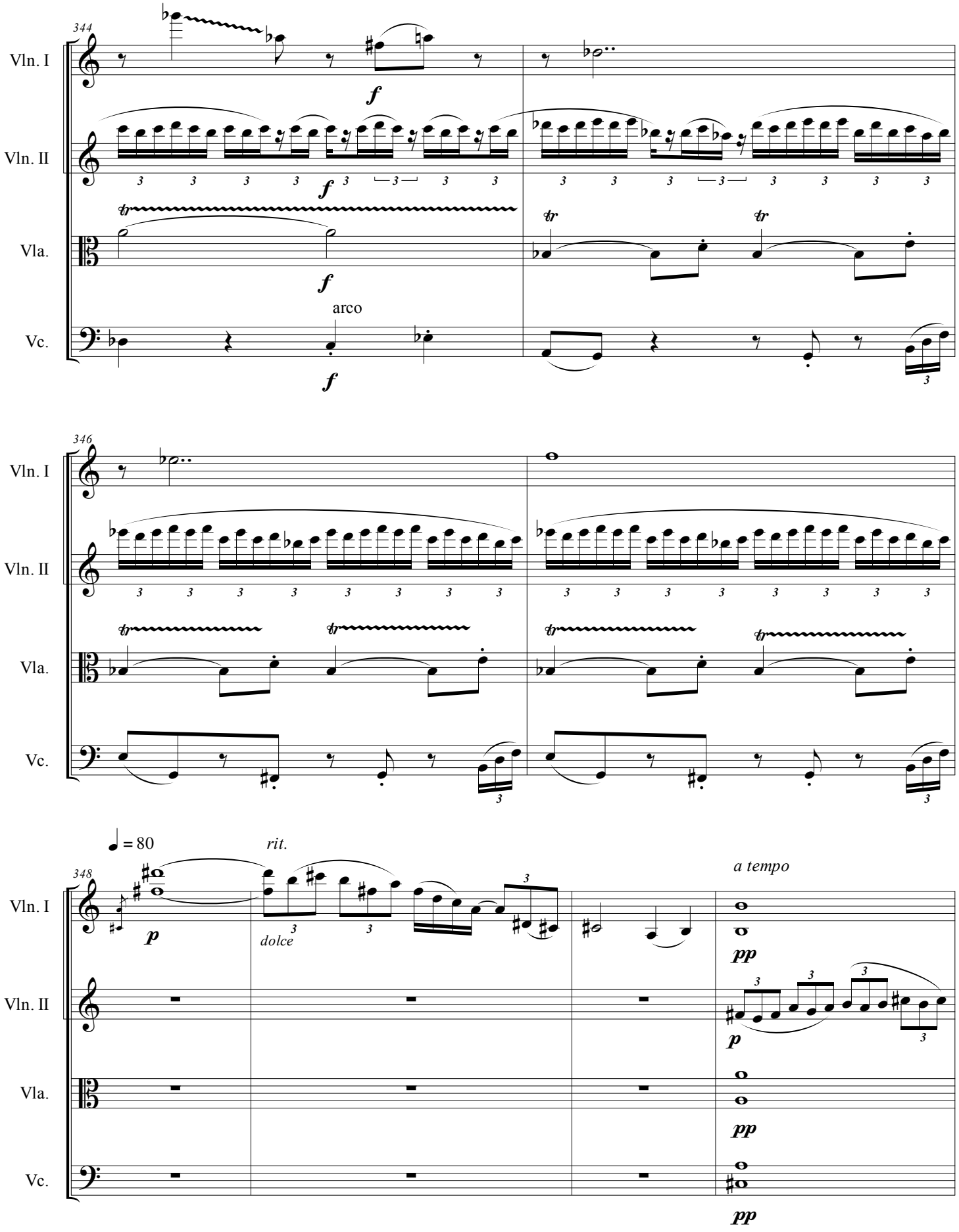

300
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
pp
302
cresc.
pp cresc.
pizz.
arco
f
mp cresc.
304
ff

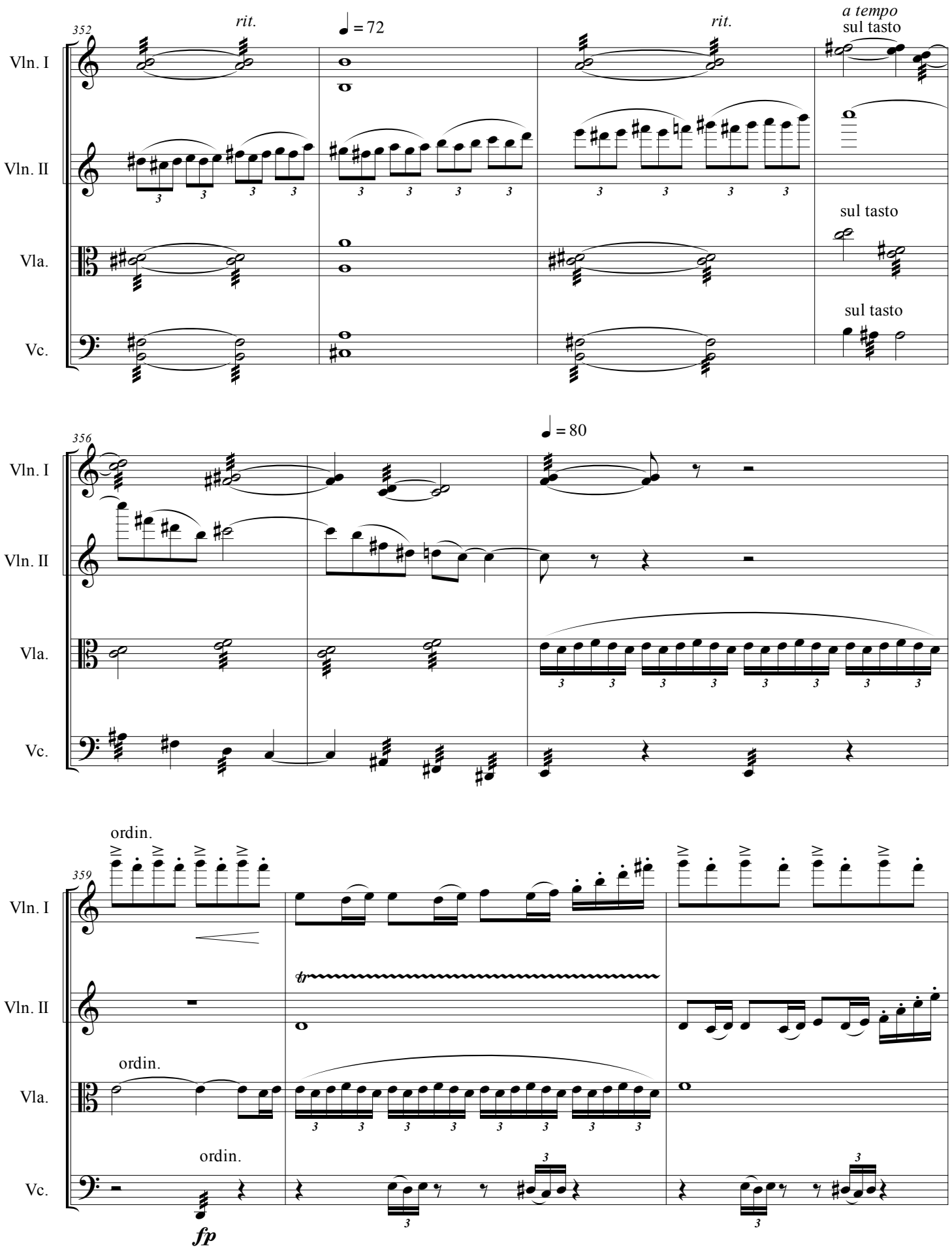

306
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
ff
309
arco
pp
sul tasto
p
314

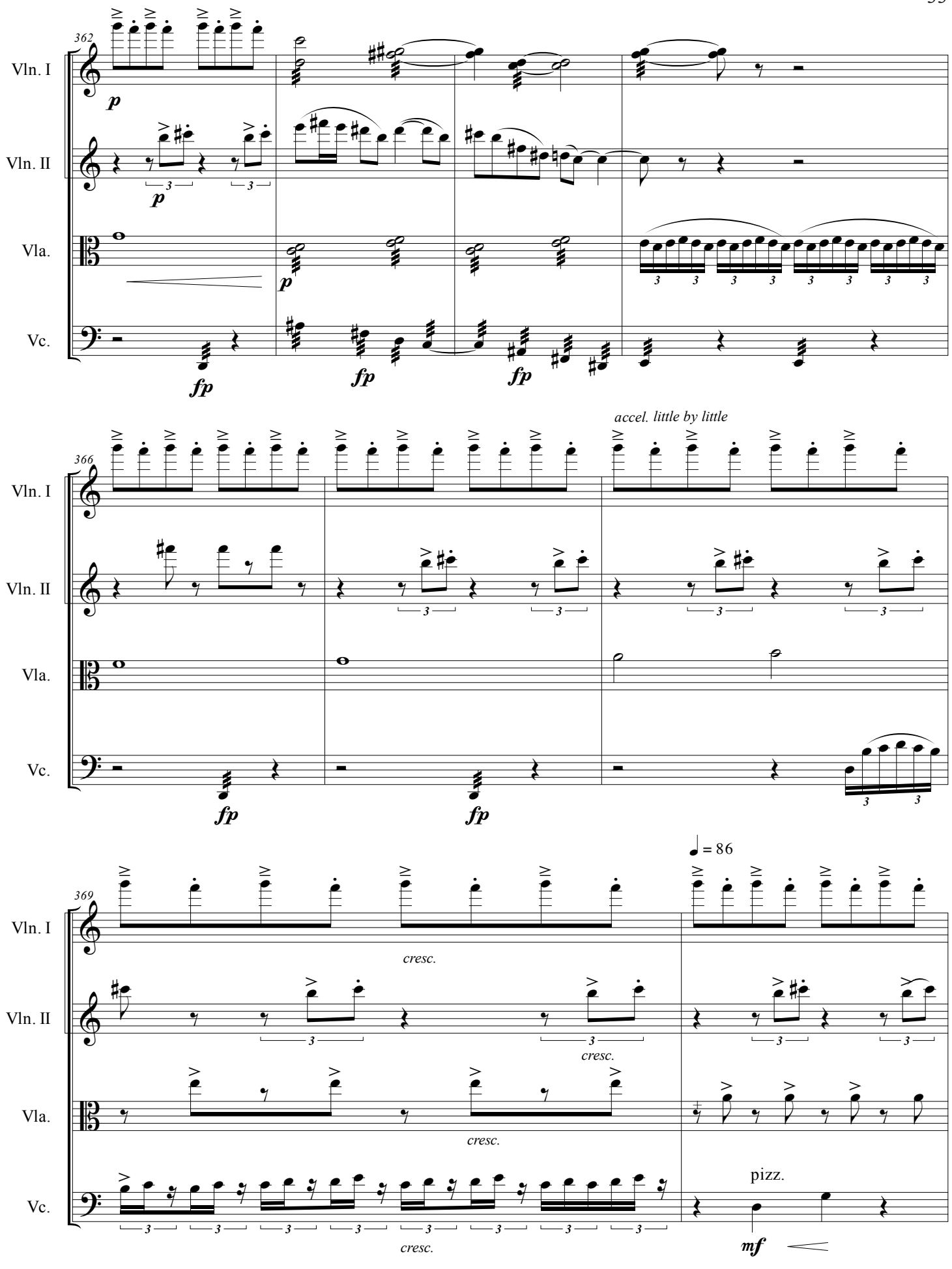

316
Vln. I
Vln. II
ordin.
Vla.
Vc.
318
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
ordin.
Vc.
320
Vln. I
p
Vln. II
tr
tr
p
Vla.
p
Vc.
p

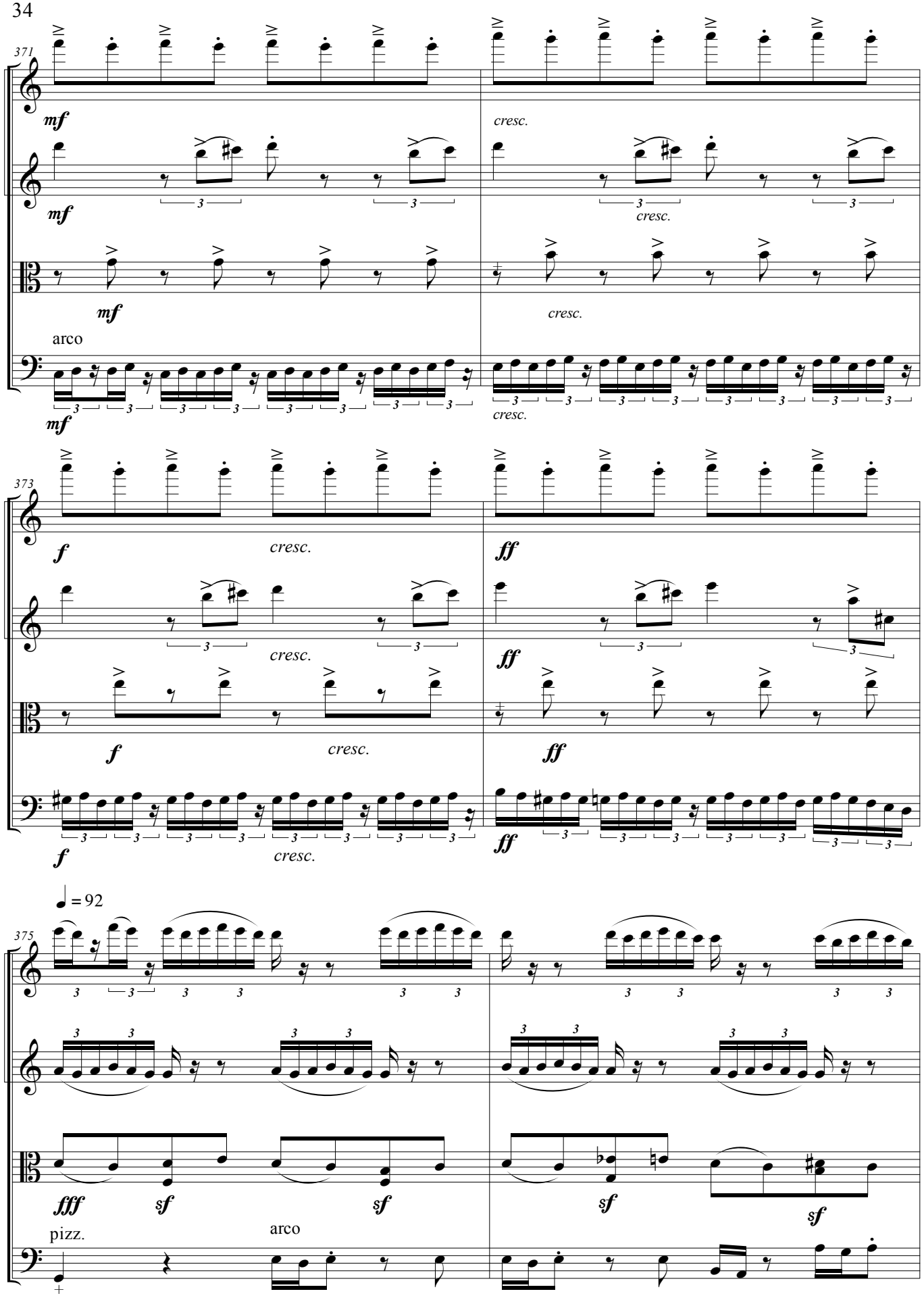

323
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pp
326
p
mp
mf
f
330
ff
tr

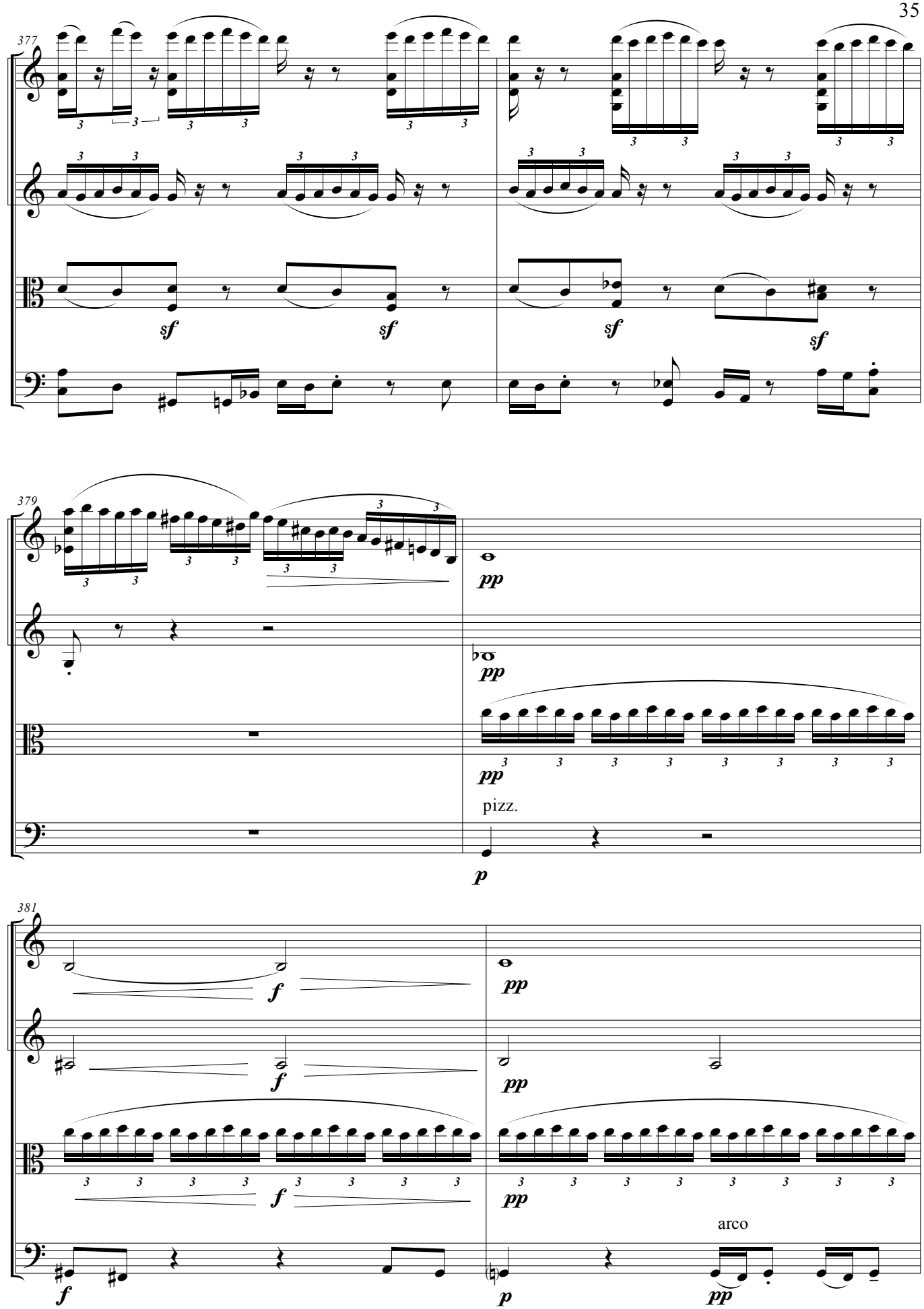

333
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
tr
tr
mp
p
p
p
340
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
p
tr
p
p
342
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mp cresc.
mp cresc.
tr
mp cresc.
pizz.
mp
mf

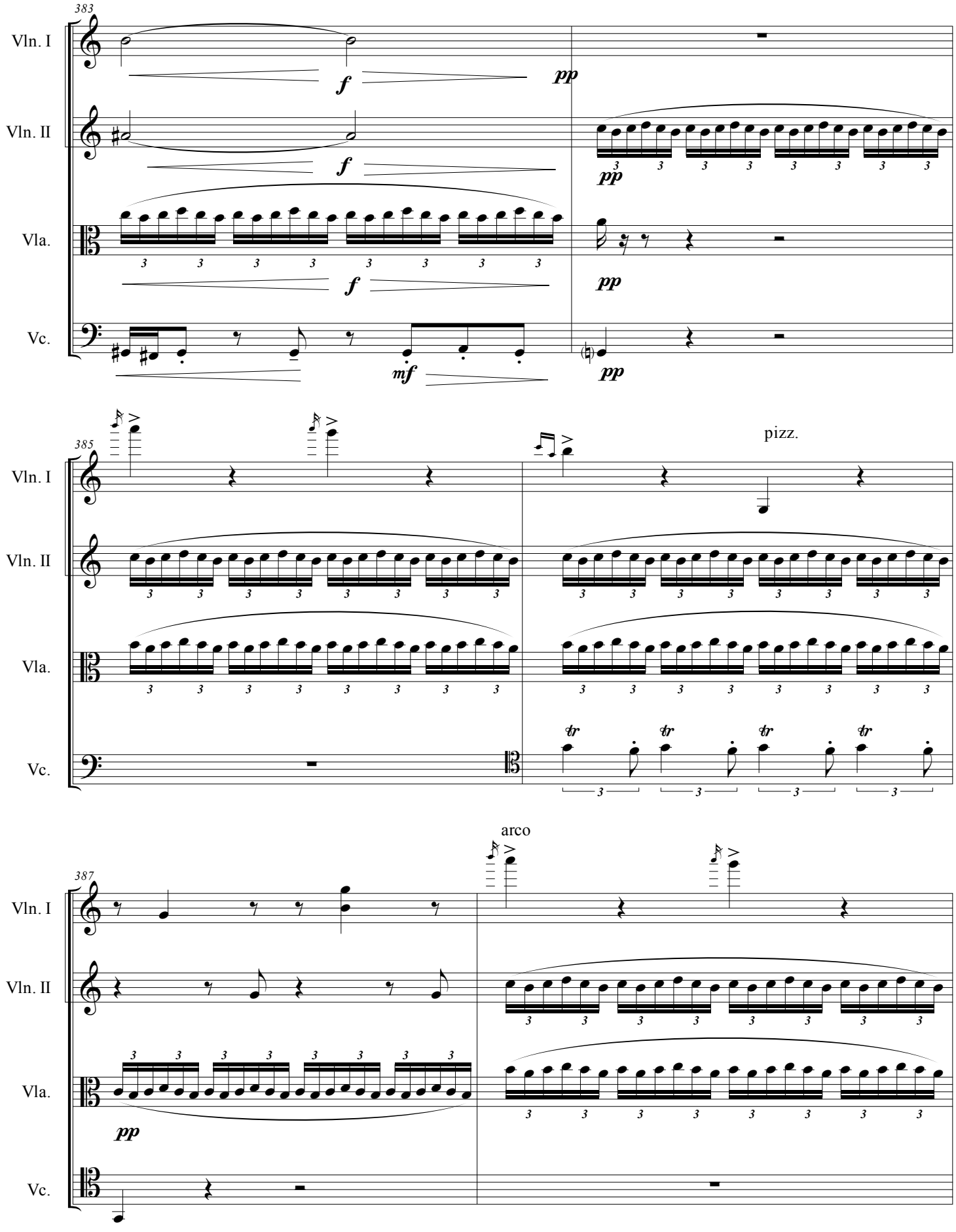

344
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
346
348
♩ = 80
rit.
dolce
a tempo

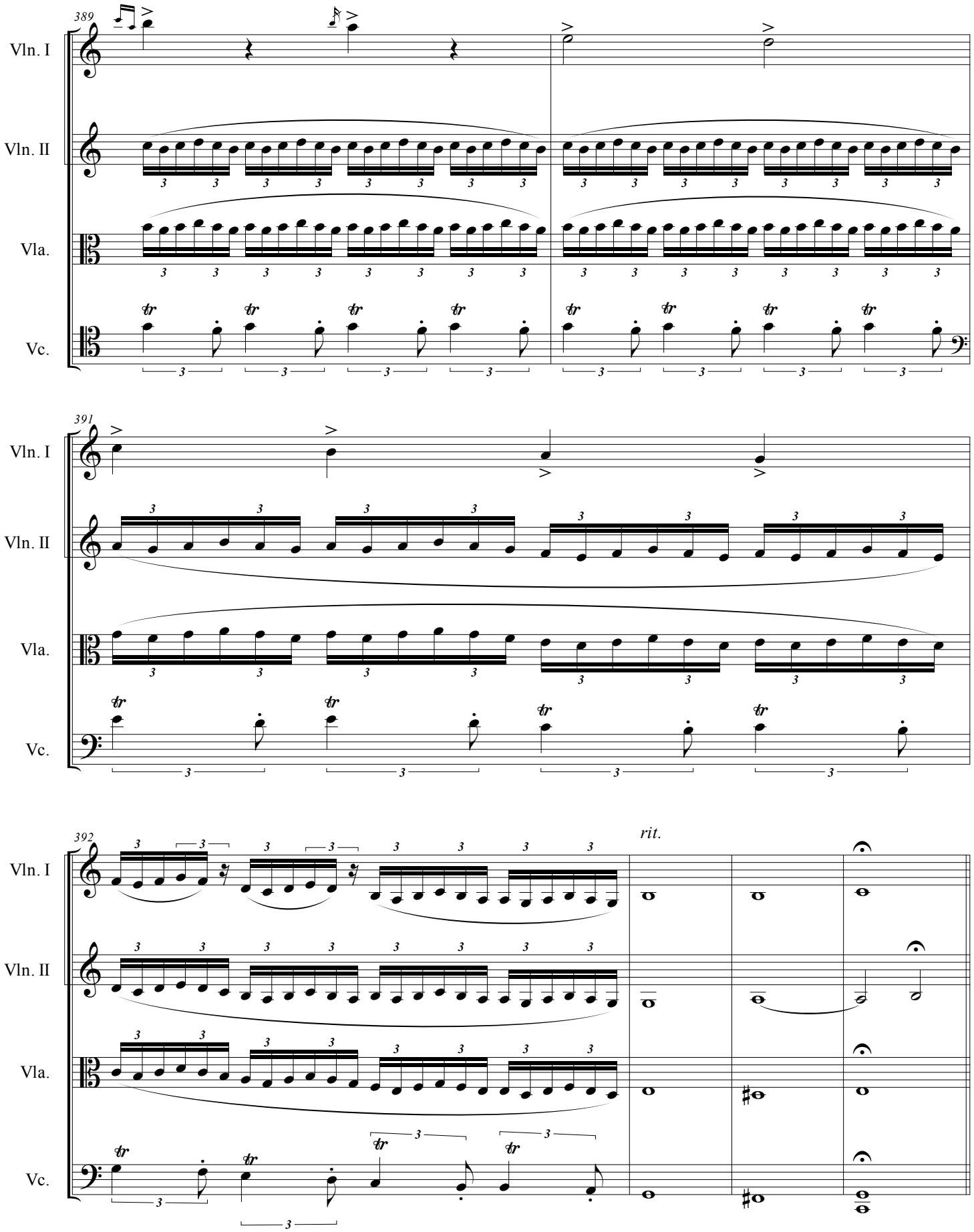

352
rit.
♩ = 72
rit.
a tempo
sul tasto
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sul tasto
sul tasto
356
♩ = 80
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
359
ordin.
Vln. I
Vln. II
tr
ordin.
Vla.
ordin.
Vc.
fp


362
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
fp
366
accel. little by little
369
= 86
cresc.
pizz.
mf


371
Vln. I
mf
cresc.
Vln. II
mf
cresc.
Vla.
mf
cresc.
arco
Vc.
mf
cresc.
373
Vln. I
f
cresc.
ff
Vln. II
cresc.
ff
Vla.
f
cresc.
ff
Vc.
f
cresc.
ff
♩ = 92
375
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
fff
sf
sf
sf
sf
pizz.
arco
Vc.


377
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sf
sf
sf
sf
379
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pp
pp
pp
pizz.
p
381
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
f
f
f
pp
pp
pp
arco
f
p
pp


383
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
f
pp
mf
385
pizz.
tr
387
arco


389
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
391
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
392
rit.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.