Trefoil

For String Trio

2011

Lawrence Kramer

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In nature a trefoil is a three-leafed clover. In architecture it is an ornament in the shape of three overlapping leaves. In mathematics it is the first "nontrivial" knot, meaning that a knot tied in the trefoil shape cannot be untied without cutting it. The title of this composition refers first of all to the texture of three distinct, often exposed, instrumental voices. But it refers even more to the knot metaphorically tied by the music. The work is based on the separate elaboration of two very different ideas, ideas so different that each can be imagined as continuing silently while the other sounds. Yet the ideas are somehow so closely intertwined that they could not be untied without cutting them. This is not to say that they have some sort of "organic" relationship; they don't, and that is the point. Their intimacy is formed by the way they address and interrogate, yield to and overtake each other, as if each were always aware of the other as an alter ego. The same relationship obtains between the main body of the work and the strange, floating, seemingly unfinished Prelude that introduces it--the third leaf in the large trefoil of the work.

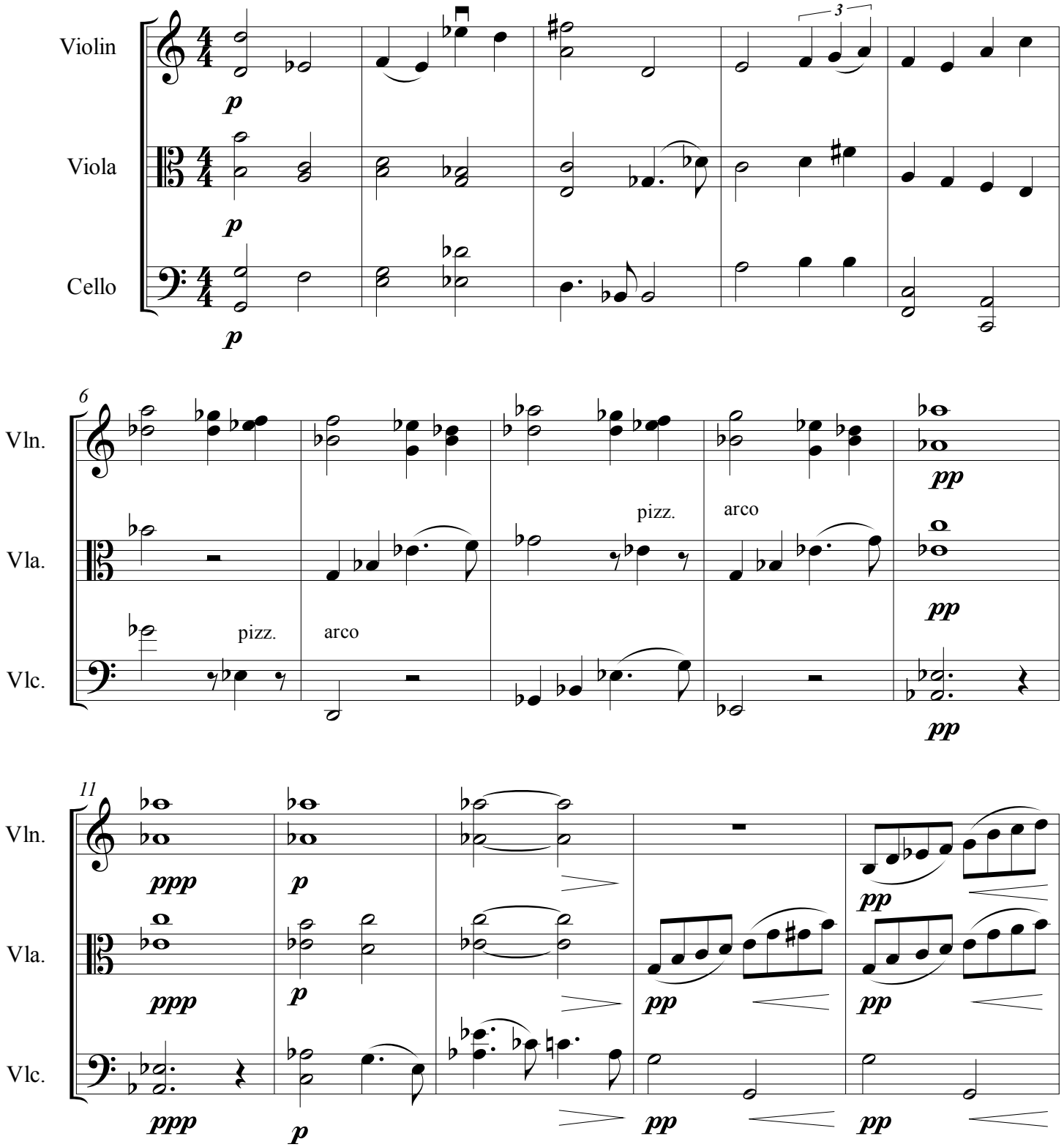
Duration: 14 minutes.

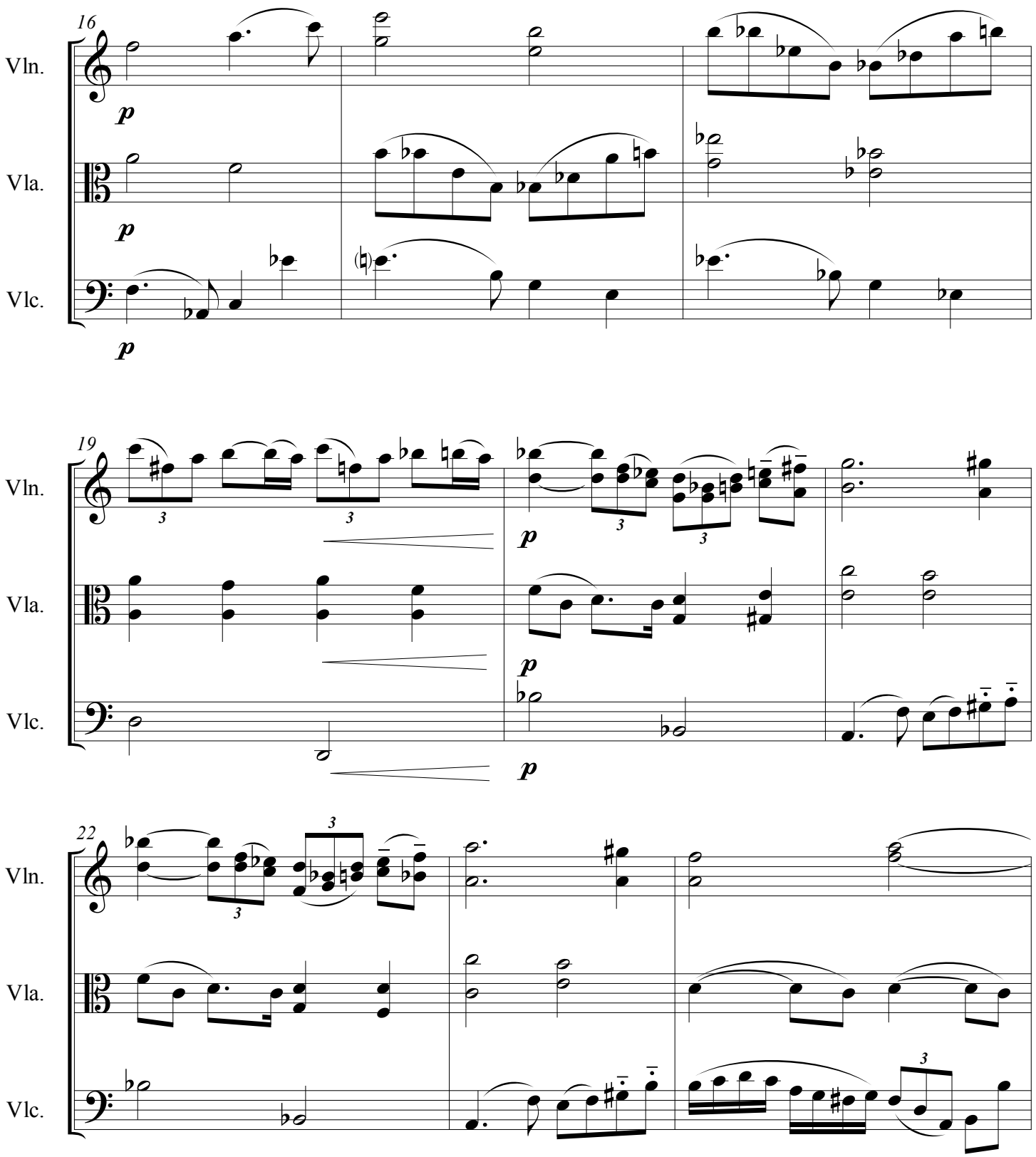
Trefoil: Prelude

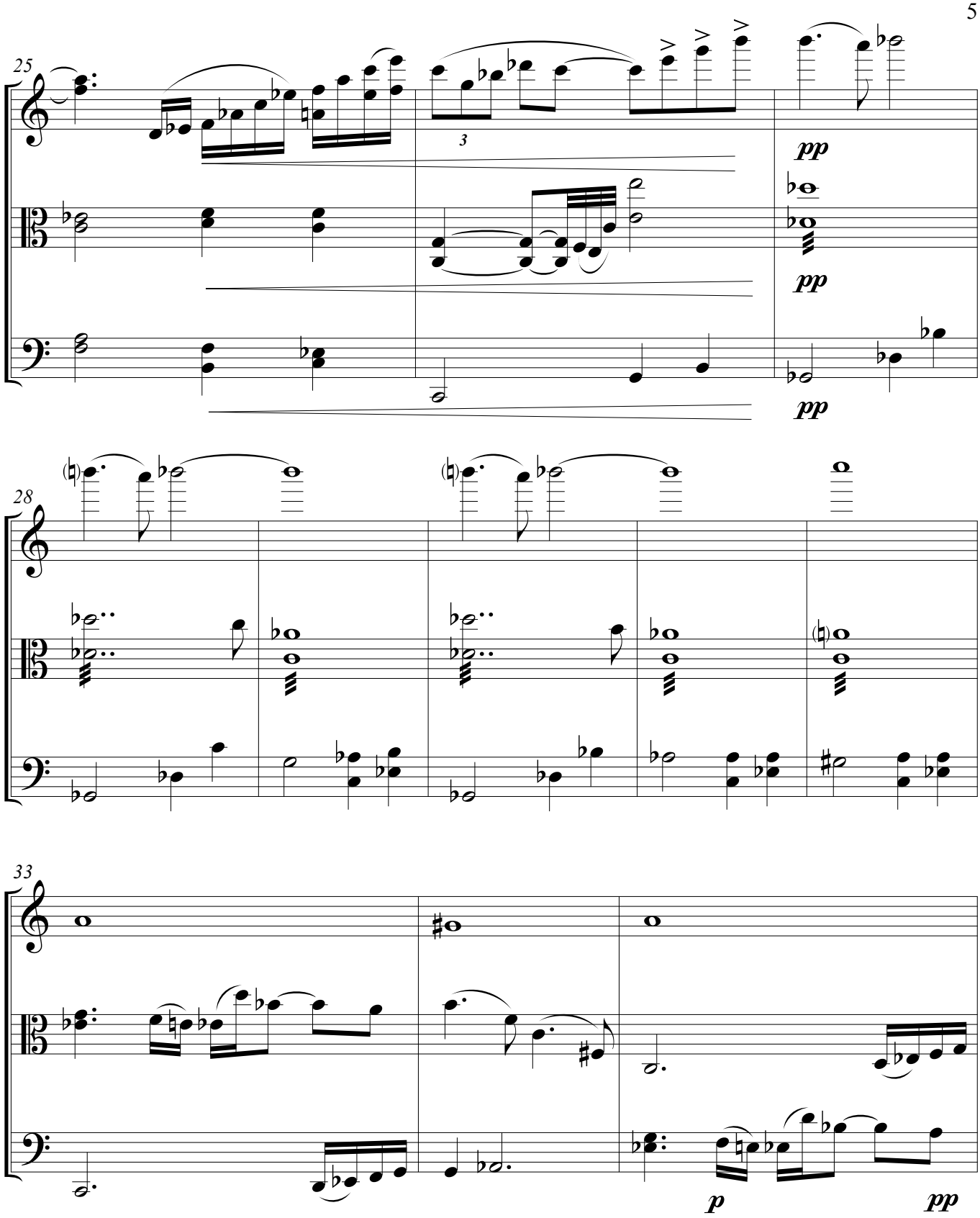
Lawrence Kramer

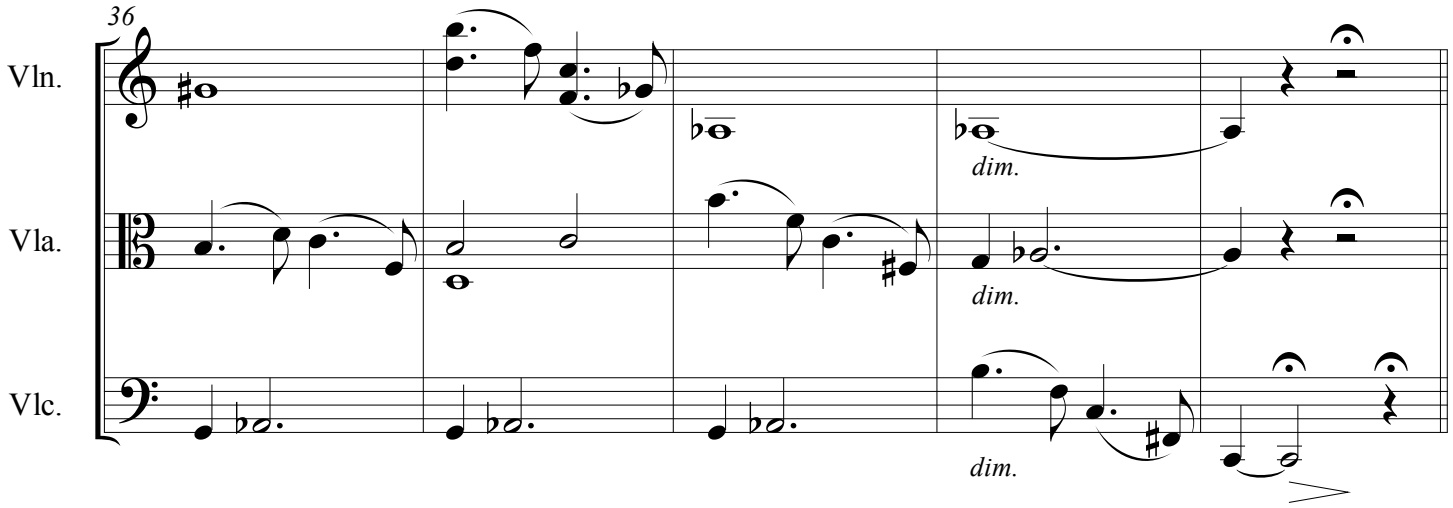
Grave

♪= 56

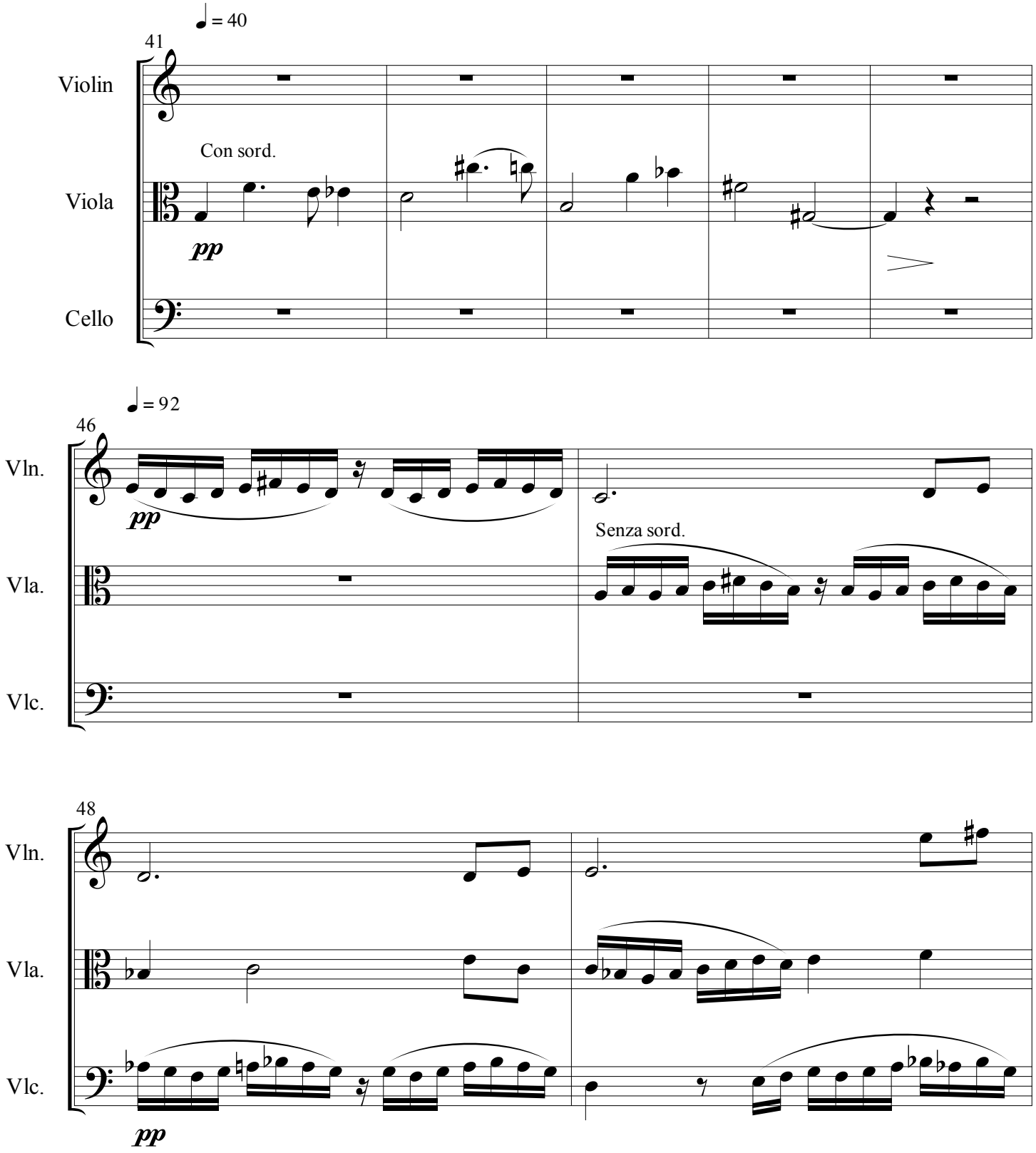


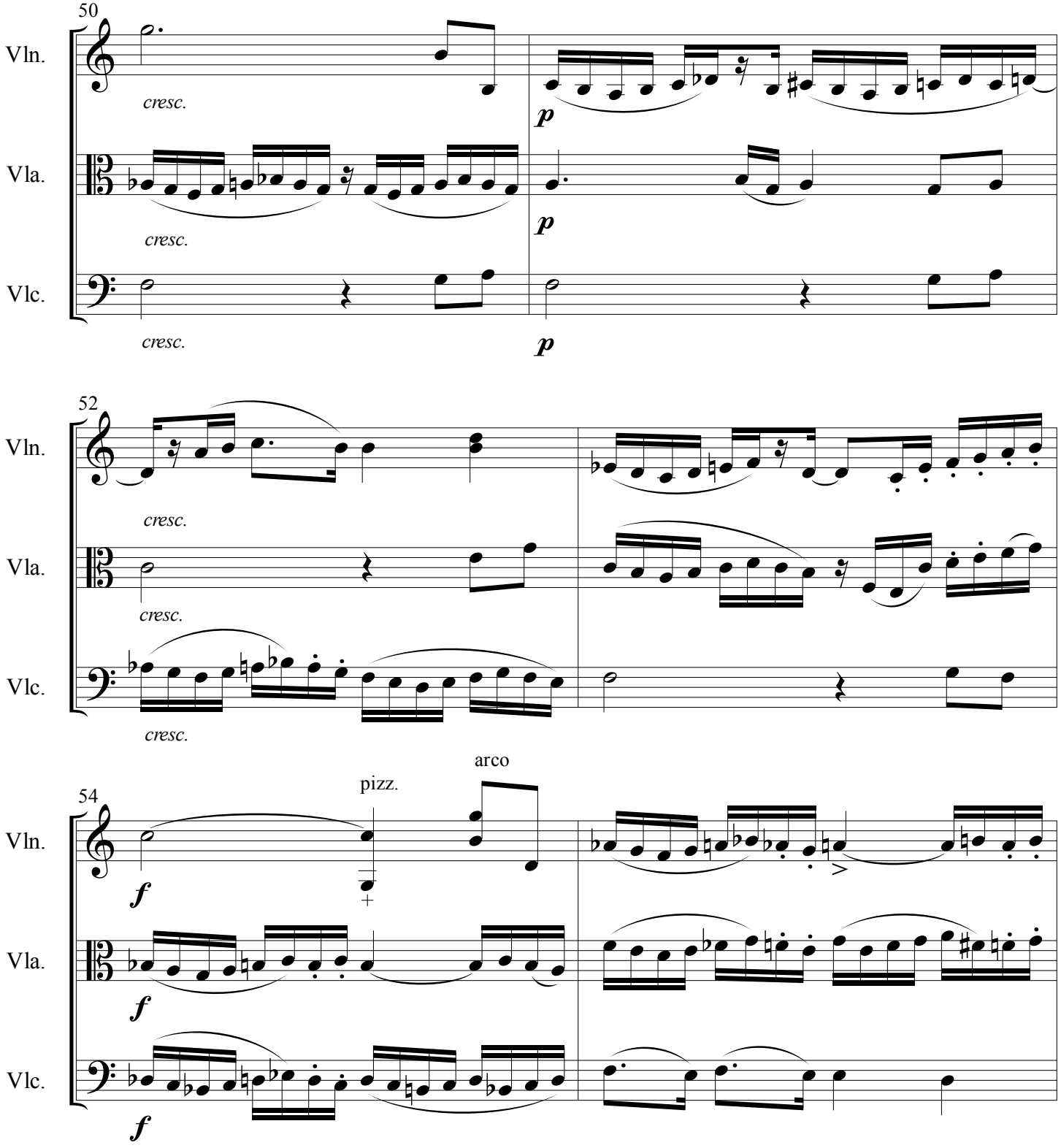

16
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
p
19
3
22

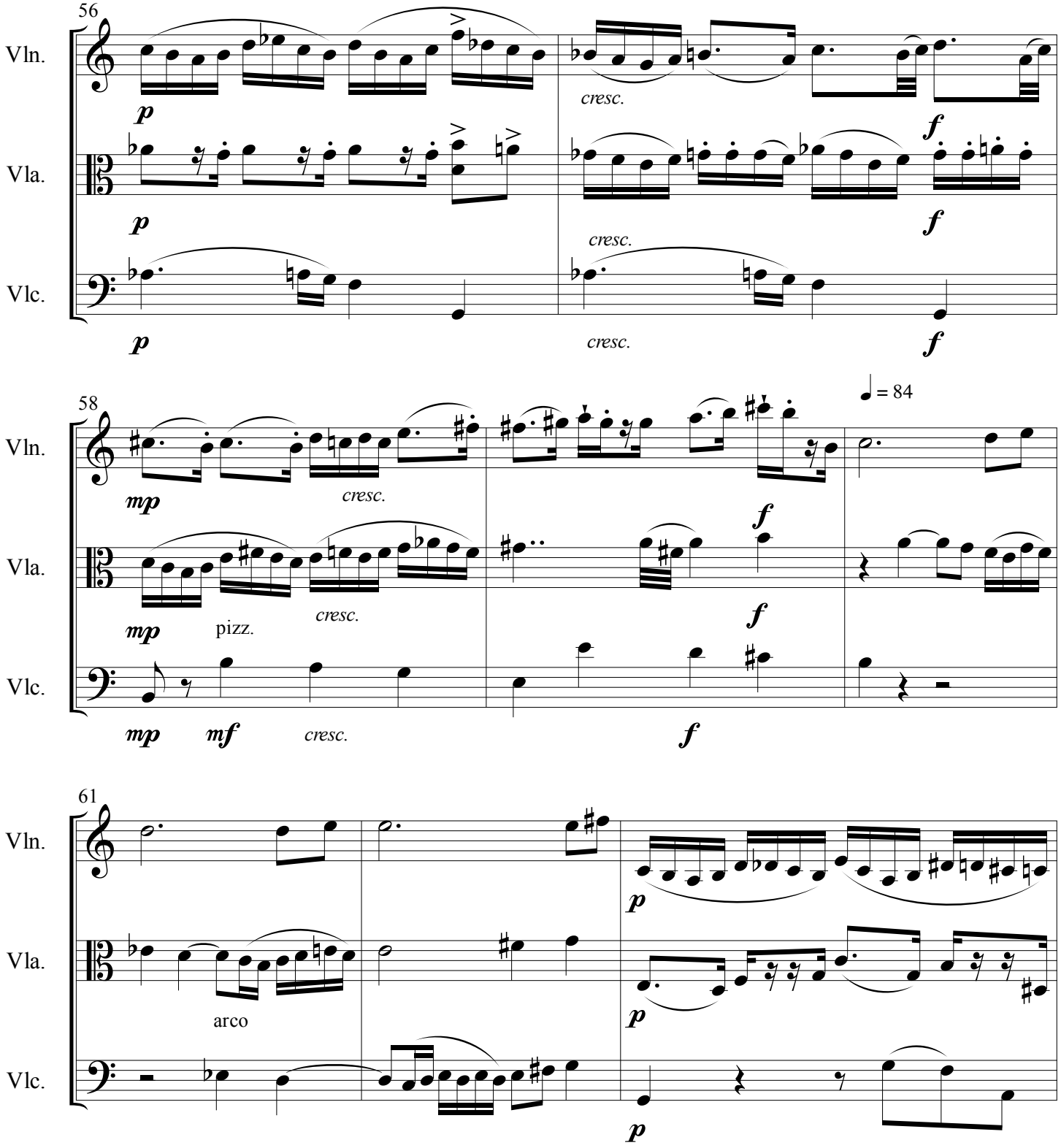

25
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
3
pp
pp
pp
28
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
33
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
p
pp

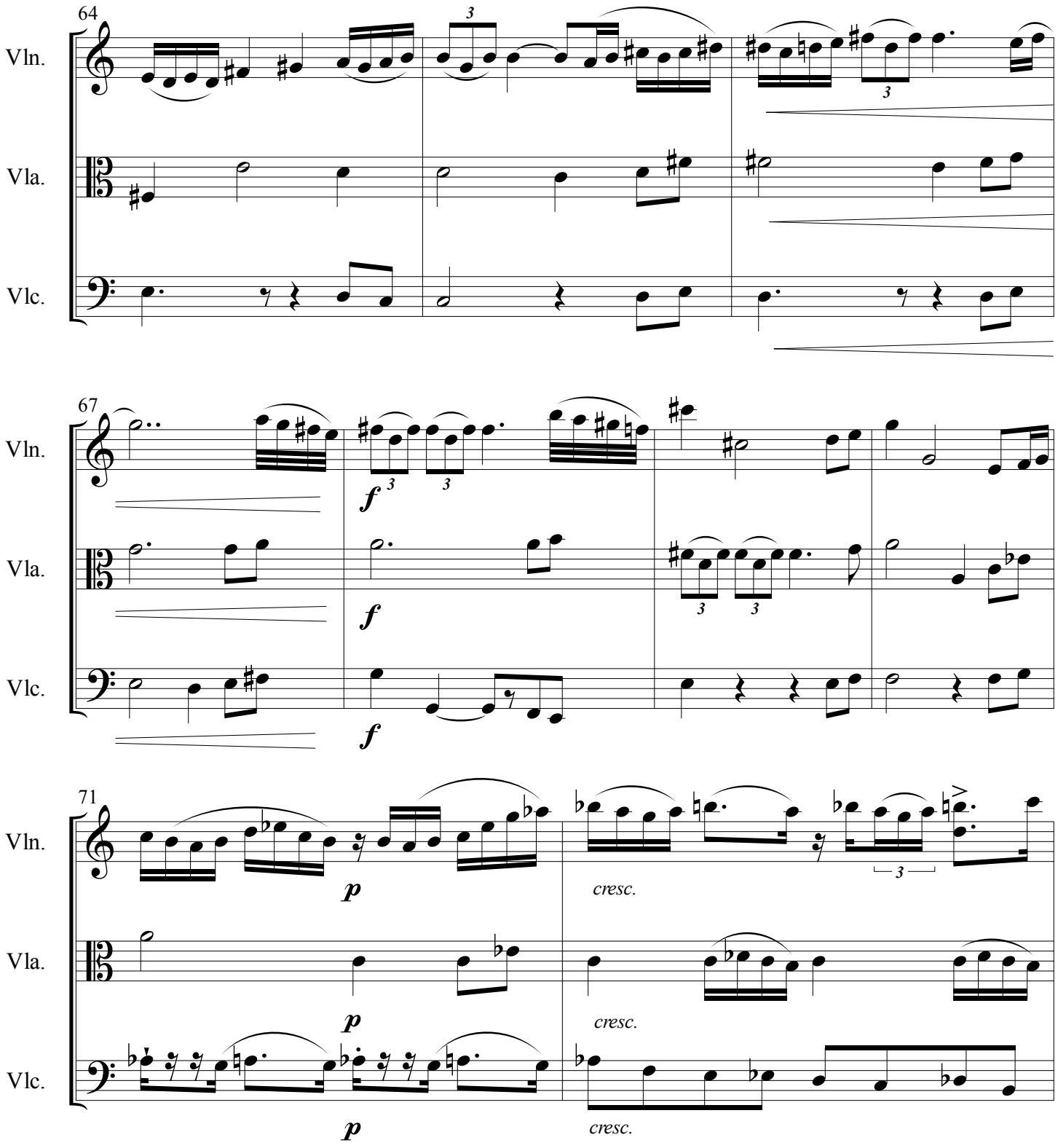

36
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
dim.
dim.
dim.

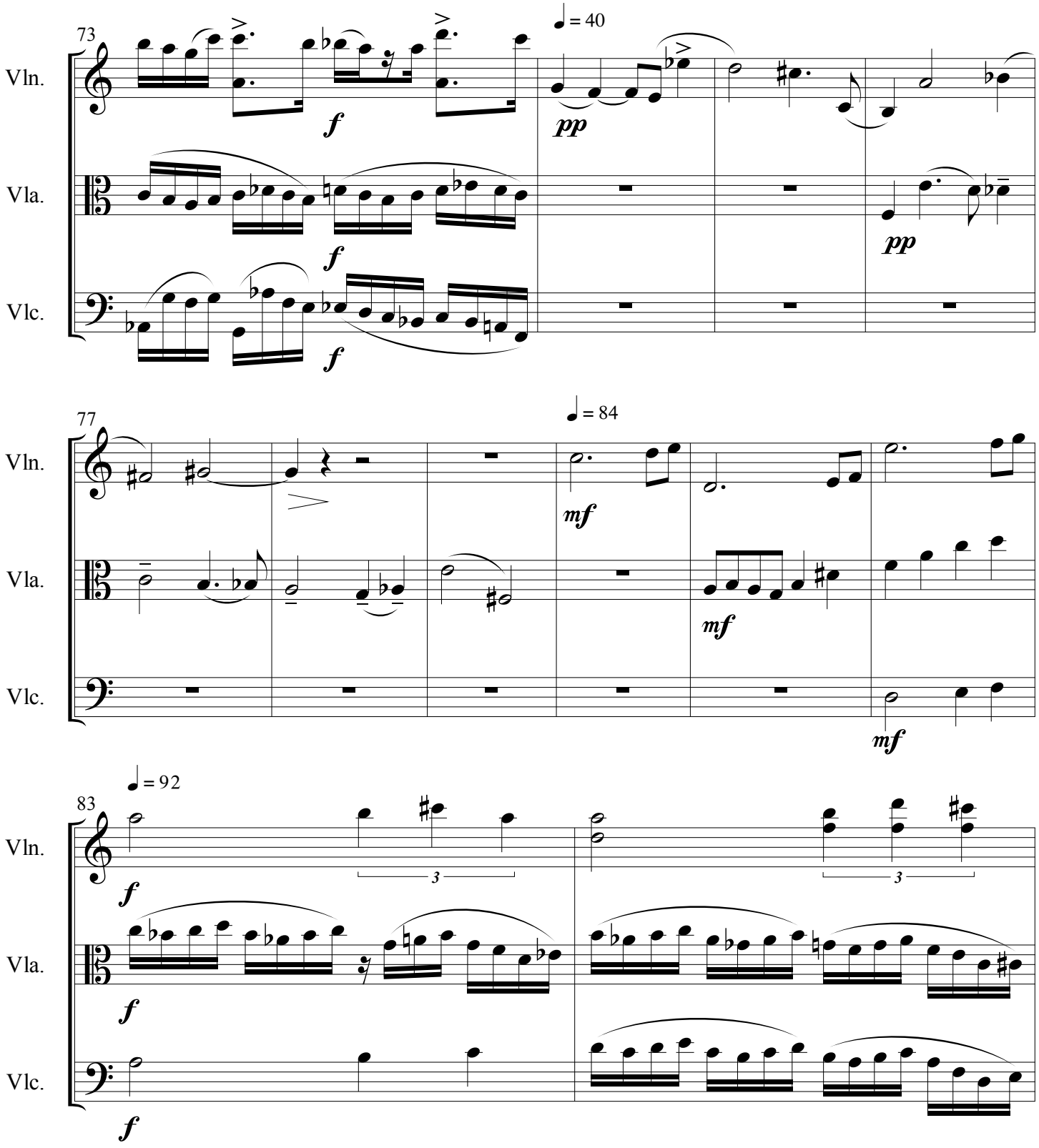
Trefoil

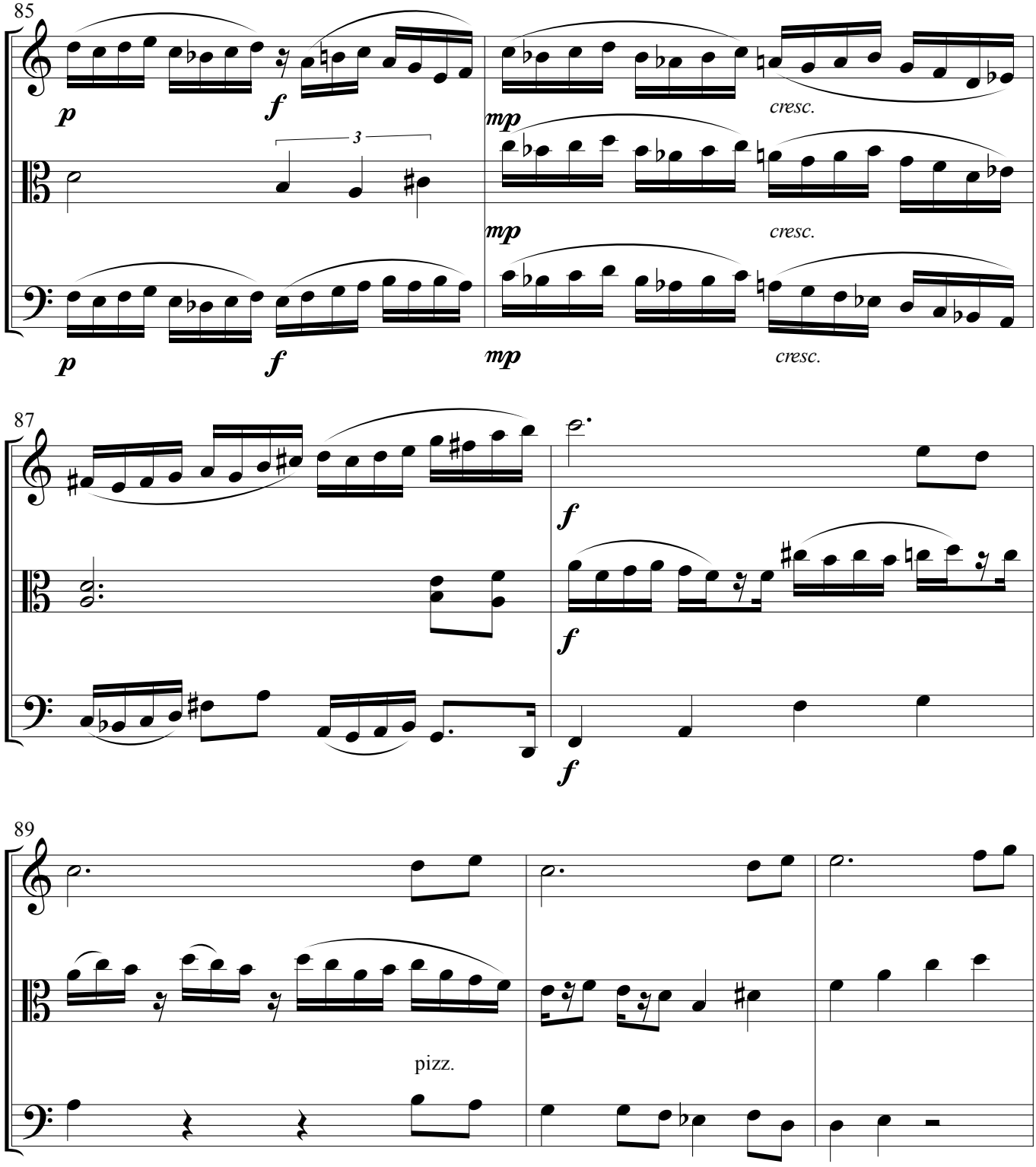

♩ = 40
41
Violin
Con sord.
Viola
pp
Cello
♩ = 92
46
Vln.
pp
Senza sord.
Vla.
Vlc.
48
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
pp

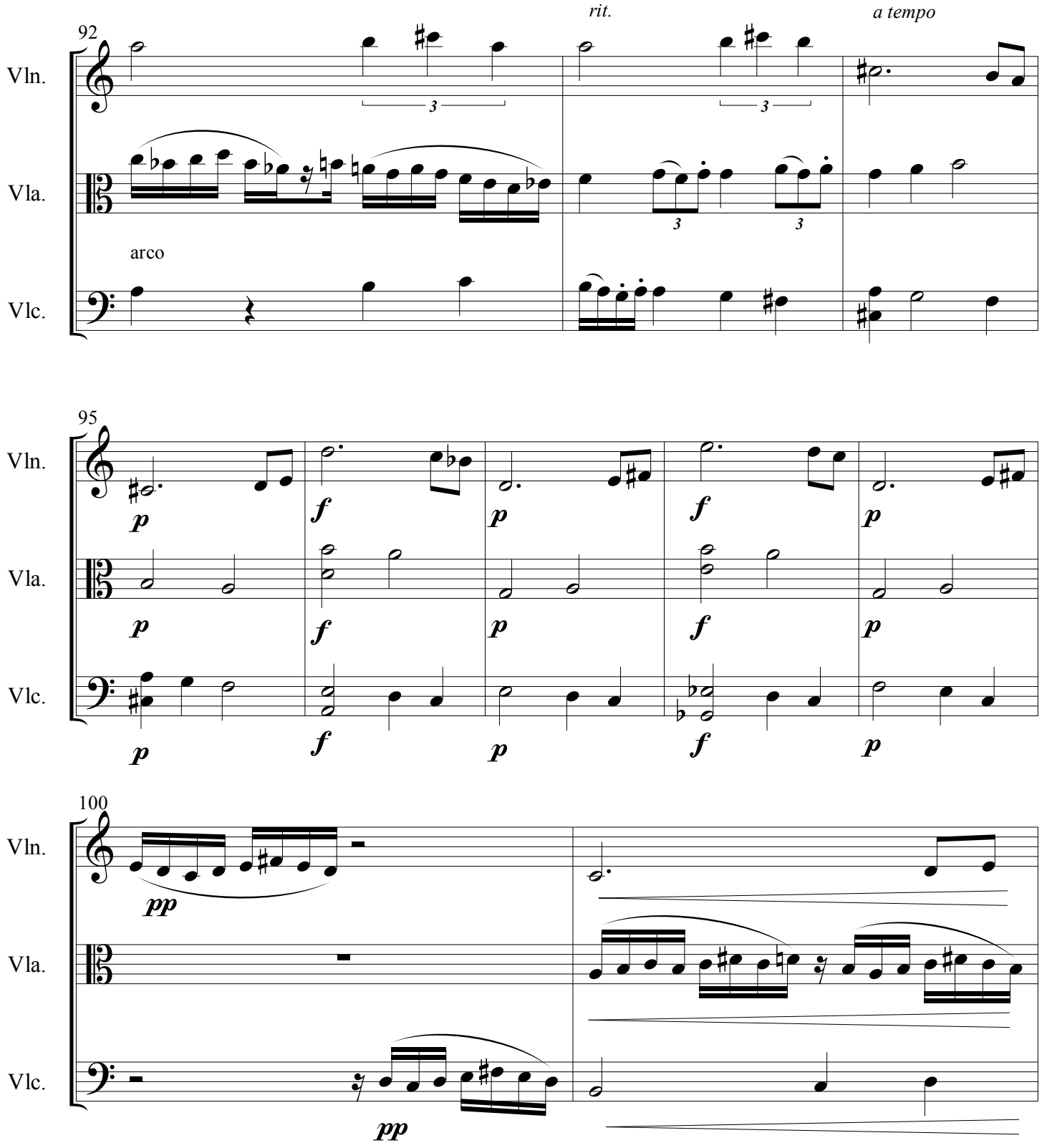

50
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
cresc.
p
52
arco
pizz.
54
f

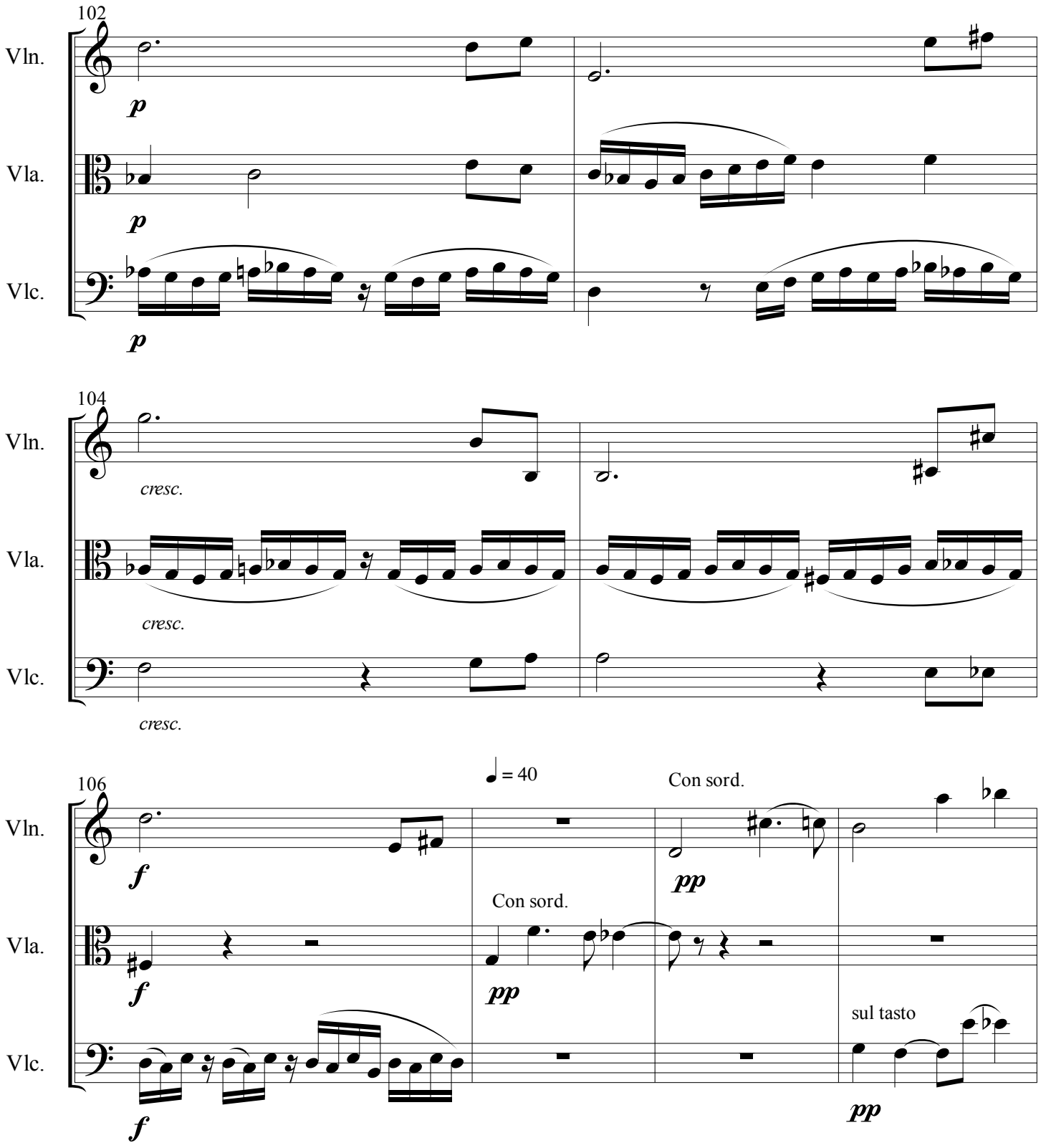

56
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
p
cresc.
f
58
= 84
mp
mf
pizz.
arco
61

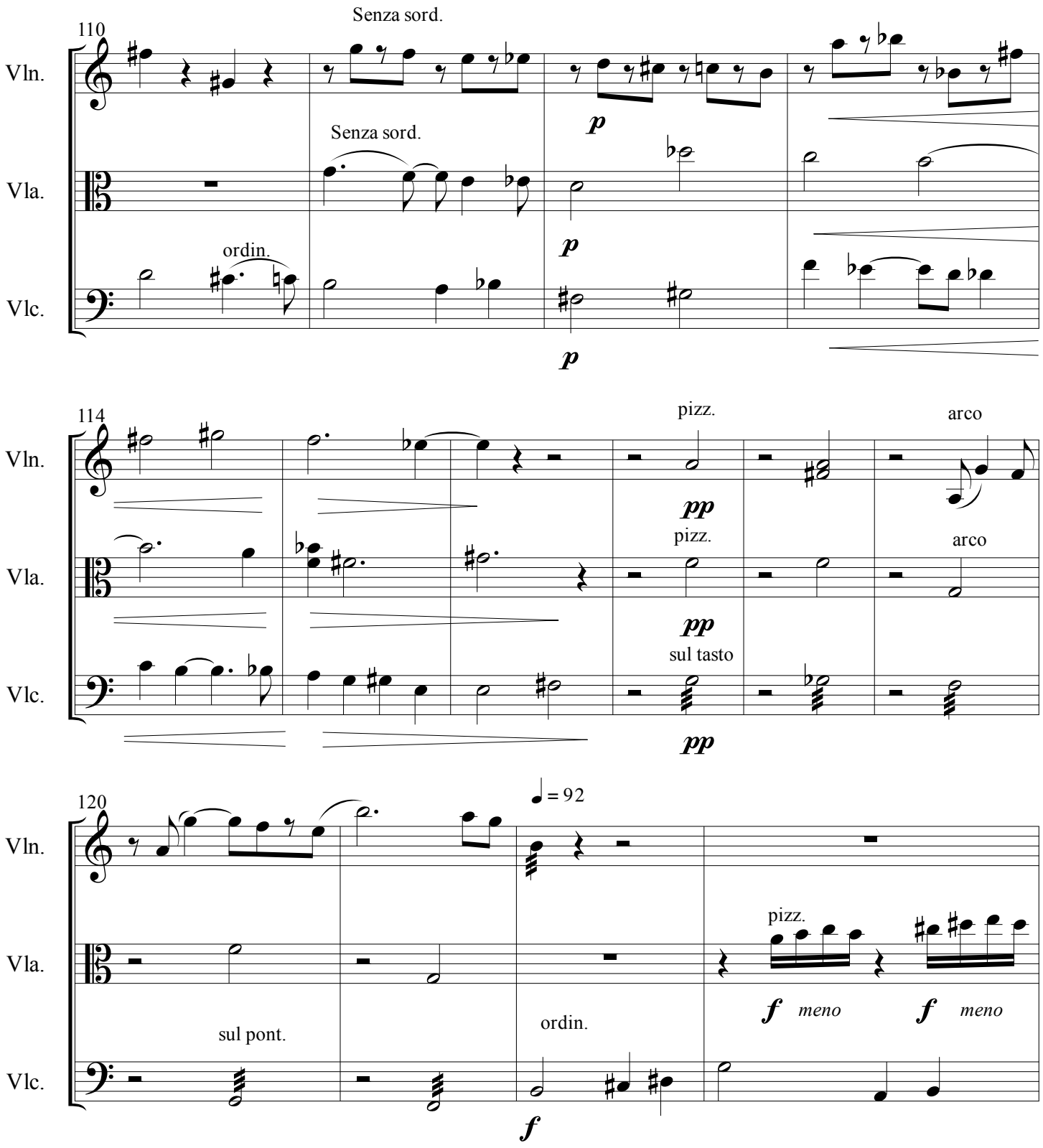

64
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
3
3
67
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
f
3
3
f
3
3
f
71
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
p
cresc.
3
p
cresc.
p
cresc.

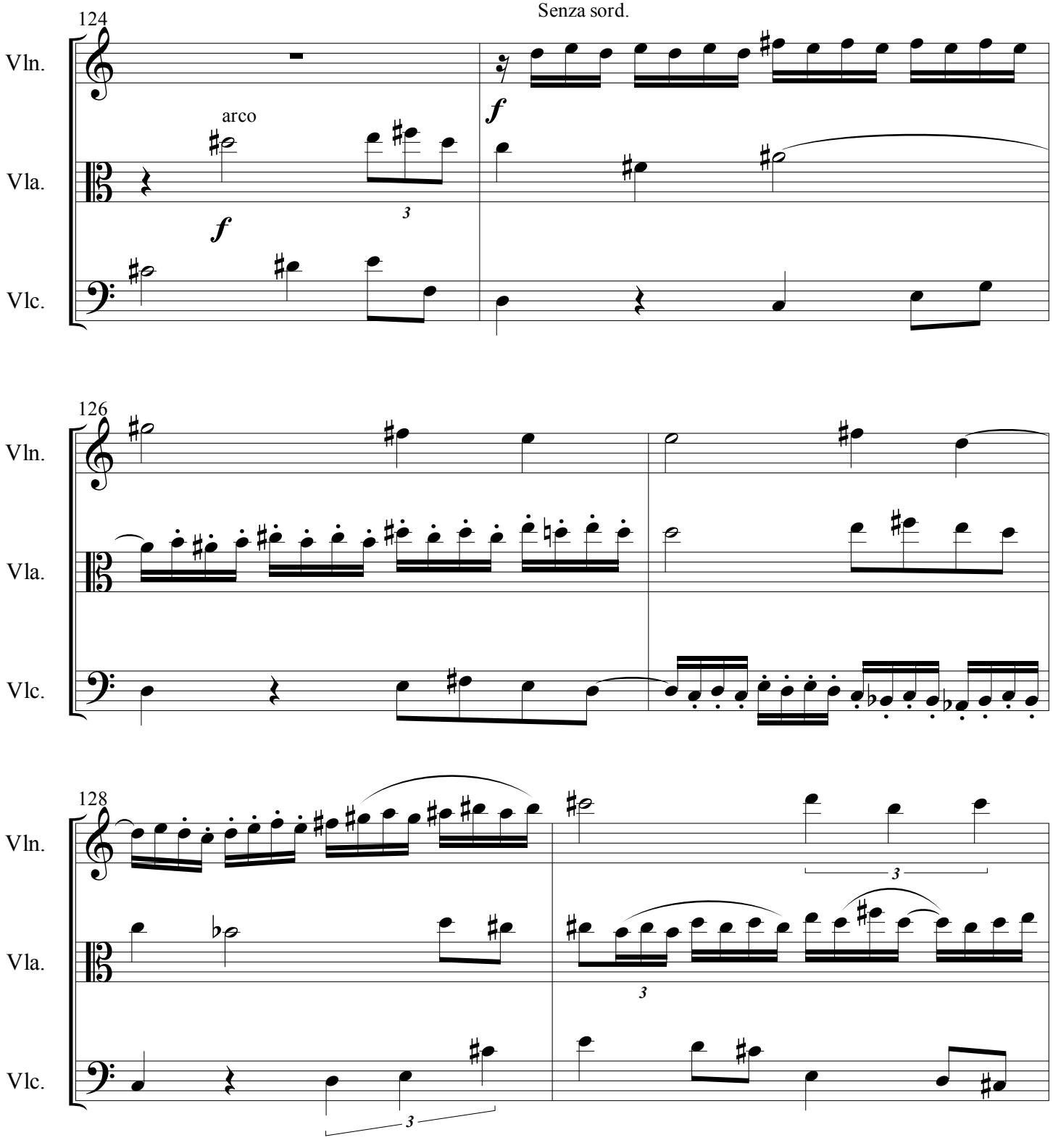

73
♩ = 40
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
f
pp
77
♩ = 84
mf
83
♩ = 92
3

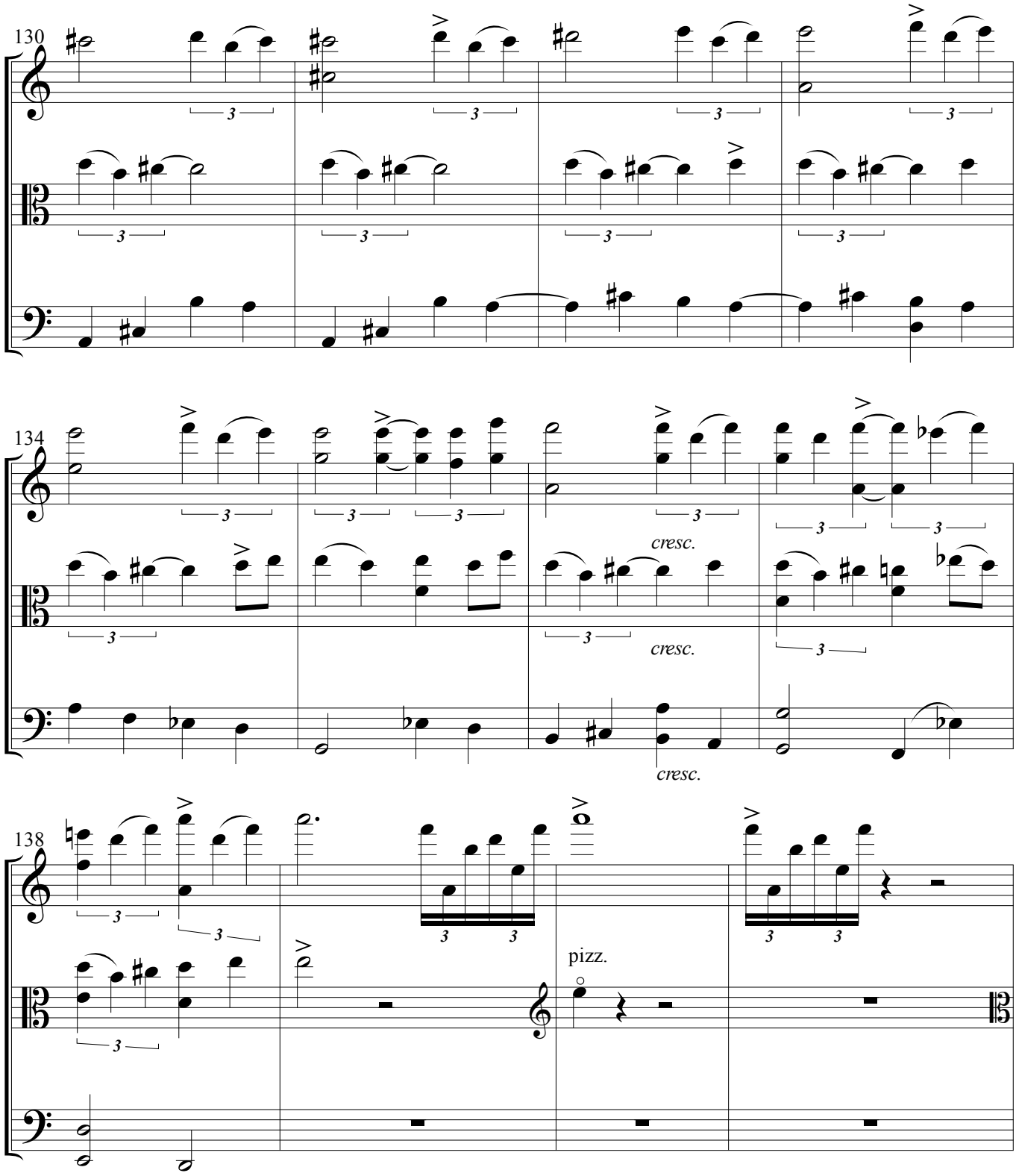

85
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
p
f
3
mp
cresc.
87
89
pizz.

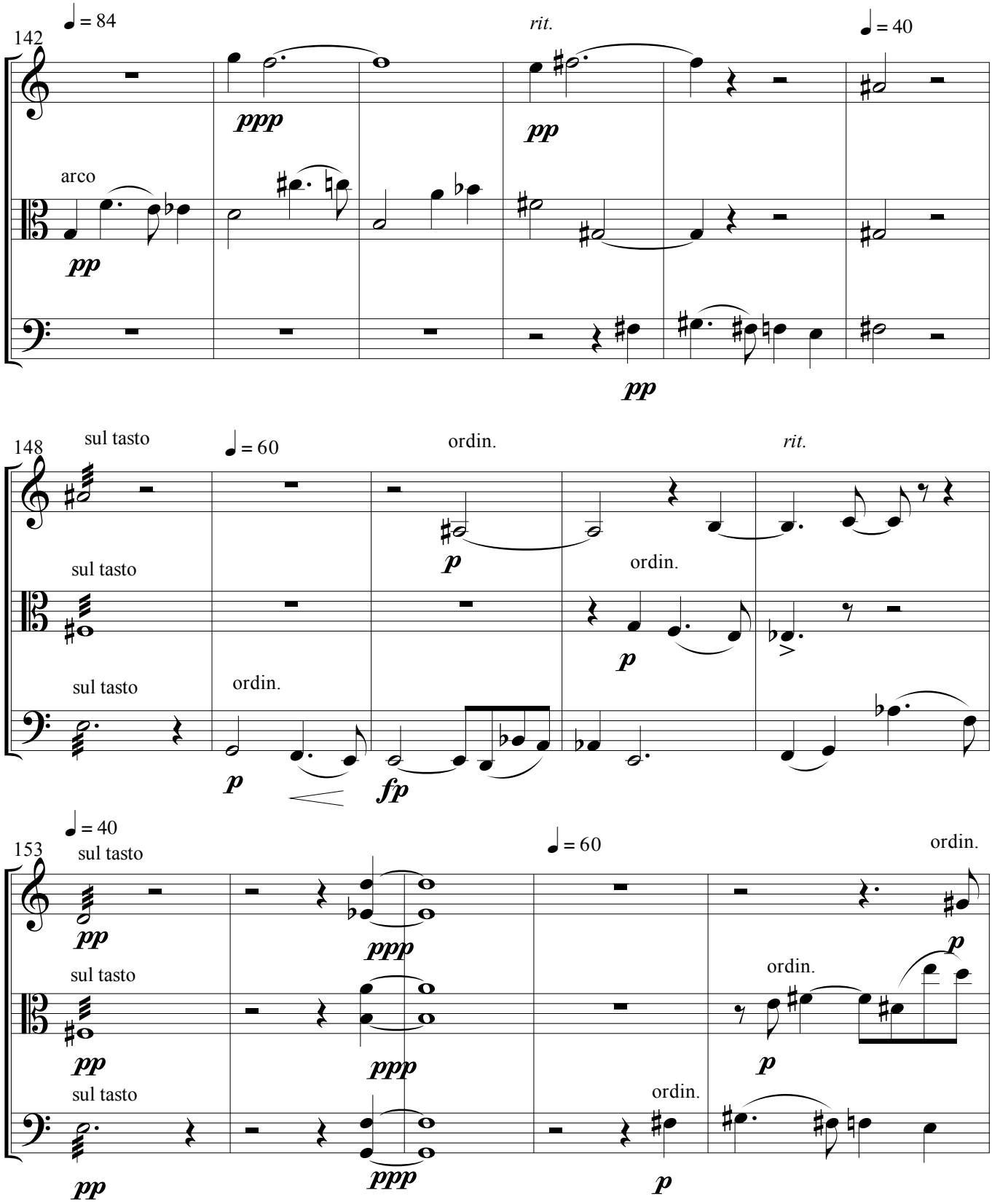

92
rit.
a tempo
Vln.
Vla.
arco
Vlc.
95
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
p
f
p
f
p
100
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
pp
pp

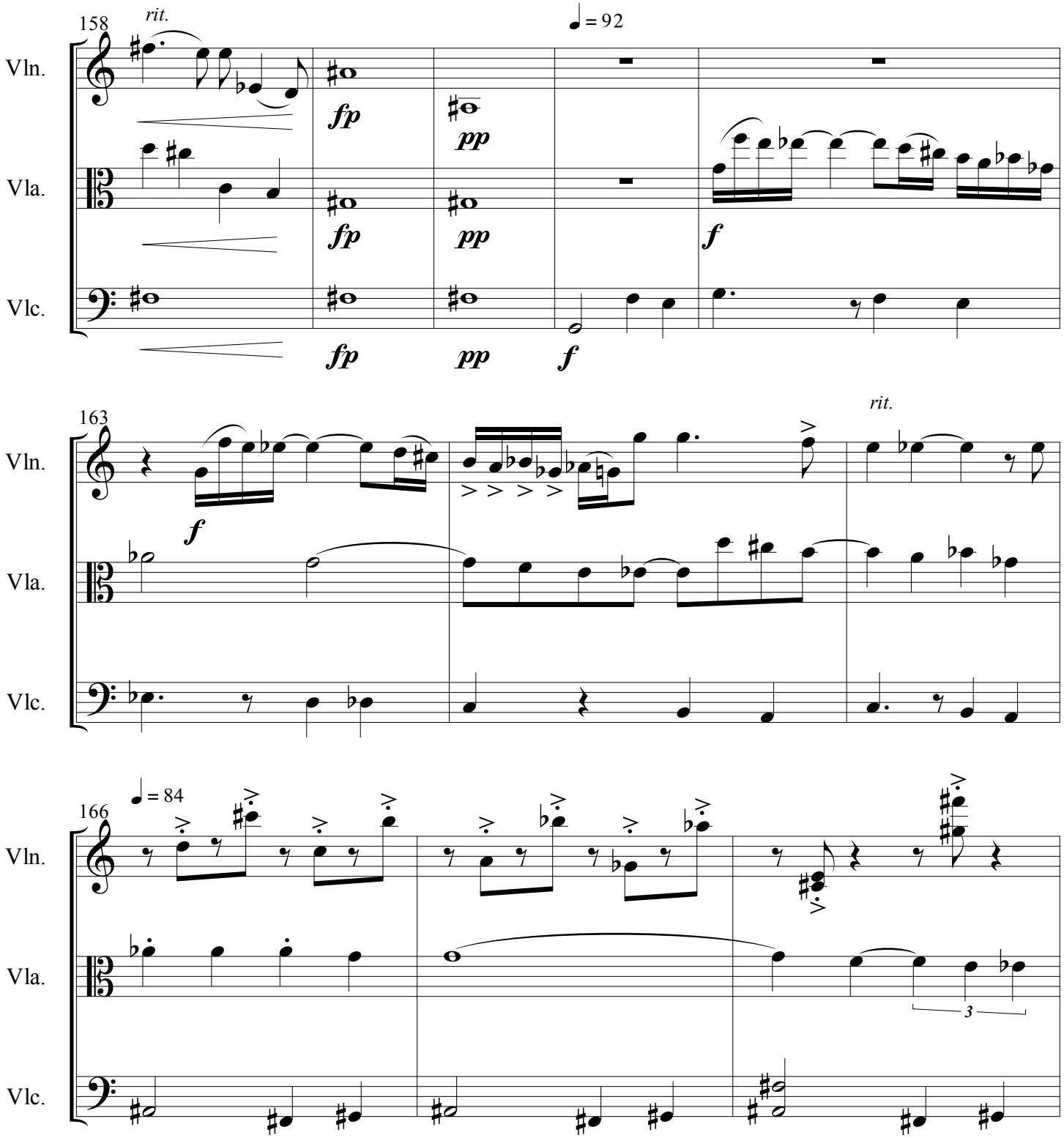

102
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
p
p
p
104
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
106
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
f
f
f
♩ = 40
Con sord.
pp
Con sord.
pp
sul tasto
pp

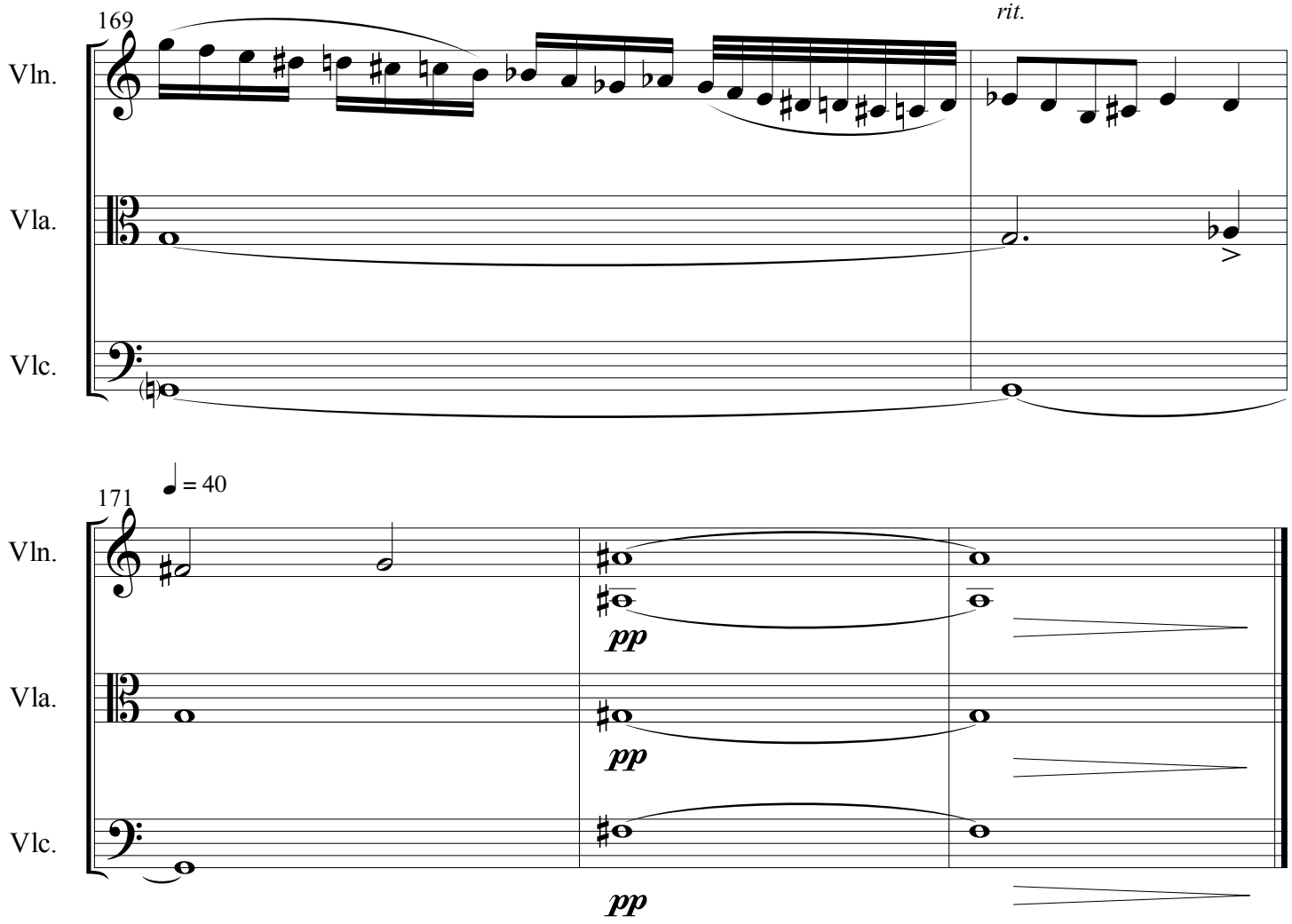

110
Senza sord.
Vln.
Senza sord.
Vla.
ordin.
Vlc.
p
p
p
114
pizz.
arco
Vln.
pp
pizz.
arco
Vla.
pp
sul tasto
Vlc.
pp
120
♩ = 92
Vln.
pizz.
Vla.
f meno
f meno
sul pont.
ordin.
Vlc.
f


124
Senza sord.
Vln.
arco
Vla.
f
f
Vlc.
126
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
128
Vln.
3
Vla.
3
Vlc.
3


130
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
134
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
138
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
pizz.


142
♩ = 84
rit.
♩ = 40
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
arco
ppp
pp
pp
pp
148
sul tasto
♩ = 60
ordin.
rit.
sul tasto
ordin.
sul tasto
ordin.
p
fp
p
p
153
♩ = 40
sul tasto
♩ = 60
ordin.
ppp
ppp
ppp
ordin.
ordin.
pp
pp
pp
p
p
p


158
rit.
♩ = 92
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
fp
pp
f
163
rit.
166
♩ = 84
3


169
rit.
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
171
♩ = 40
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
pp
pp
pp