stanley grill

Dreaming of a Better World

for string quartet

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A few words about (and by) the composer

Stan Grill was raised in the Bronx, studied at the Bronx House School of Music, and later graduated from the Manhattan School of Music with undergrad and graduate degrees in music theory. He studied piano with Robert Helps and Leon Kushner and composition with Ursula Mamlok and Joseph Prostakoff. Major works include music for string orchestra and various solo instruments, a cello concerto, ten string quartets, a nonet for winds and strings, and numerous song cycles for mixed voices and chamber ensemble. Performances have been produced by the composer, as well as presented by the Composers Guild of New Jersey, the St. Paul's Church Festival of the Arts, the Leonia Chamber Players, the New York Composers Circle, the Northern New Jersey Camerata, One World Symphony, the Bronx Arts Ensemble, the Tokyo based Duo + Ensemble, the Pandolfis Consort, the Diderot Quartet and Camerata Philadelphia.

"As I see it, as much as we strive to find reason and purpose in our having been born into this amazing, mysterious and awe-inspiring universe, that attempt is largely futile. It is however, the best part of our nature that obliges us to make the attempt, though the most we can hope for is to gain some small degree of understanding of the world around us, and, more importantly, of ourselves. To achieve this, we each approach the problem in our own way, uniquely shaped by our cultural background, innate talents and abilities, education and so on. For some, science may be the window through which they best perceive and interpret the world, for others, religion. For those to whom the world seems to express itself most clearly and beautifully through sound, music is the voice that speaks to us and through which we, in turn, best express ourselves. Now, I can write notes that will make pretty music because I've been trained to do so – but the best of my music has arrived, rather inexplicably, as part of a personal effort to understand the world and myself. It is, in a way, an act of translation. The world says something, I try to understand it, and then translate it into musical language. The particular musical language which I speak, is, of course, a product of my conservatory training and personal musical tastes, but hopefully, the outcome, imperfect a translation as it may be, will convey to others something of its original intent."

Stan's music is melodic, modal, contrapuntal, characterized by extended, interweaving lines. His musical influences span the centuries, and include Machaut, Josquin, Palestrina, Monteverdi, Lassus, Britten, Ives, Vaughn Williams and Shostakovich. Two main themes permeate many of the pieces - music intended to influence the minds and hearts of those who hear it in such a way as to encourage thoughts about the possibility of world peace - and music composed in an attempt to translate something about the nature of the physical world.

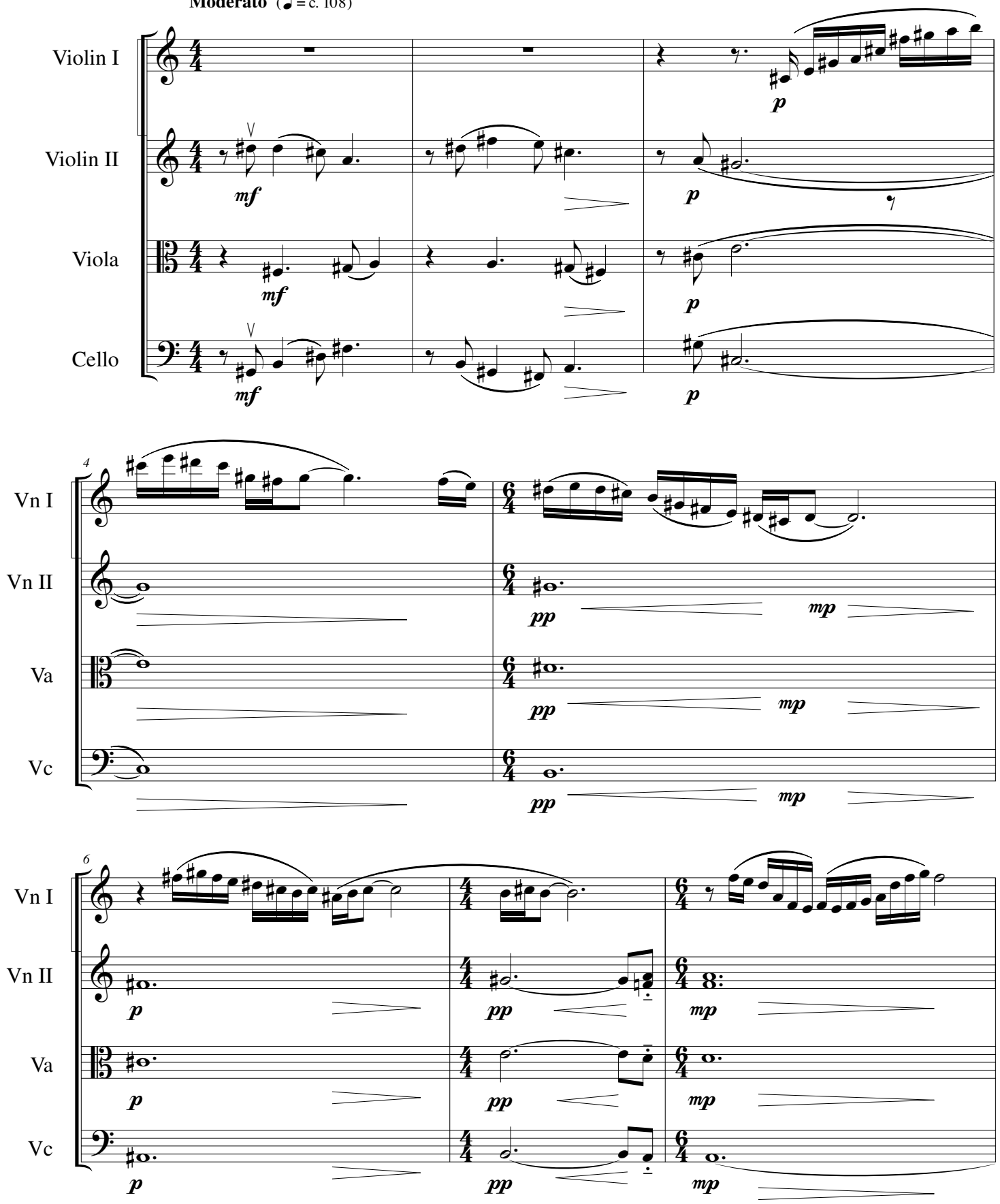
Complete scores are available in the American Music Center's on-line library. Please go to Stan's web page at **American Music Center**.

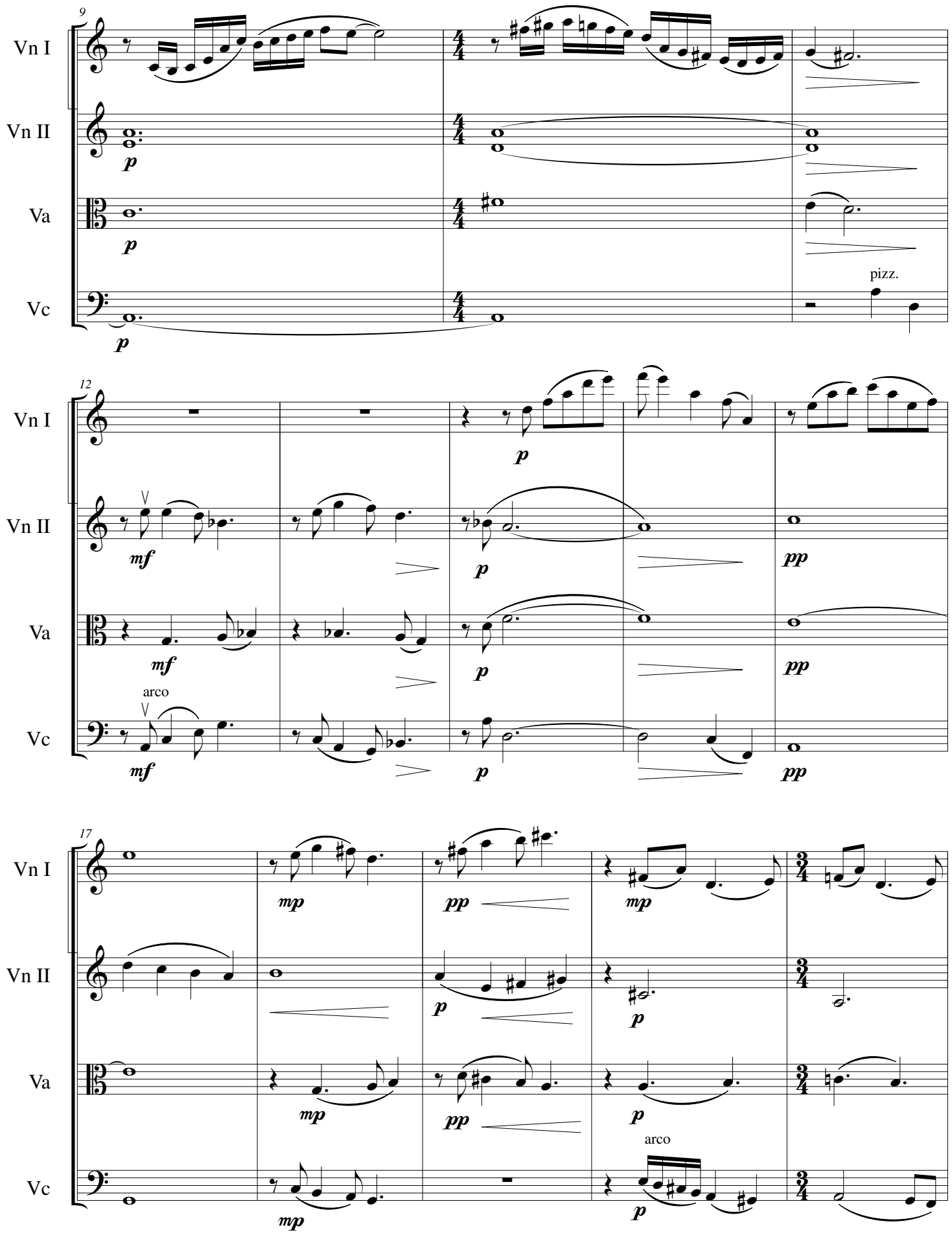
dreaming of a better world

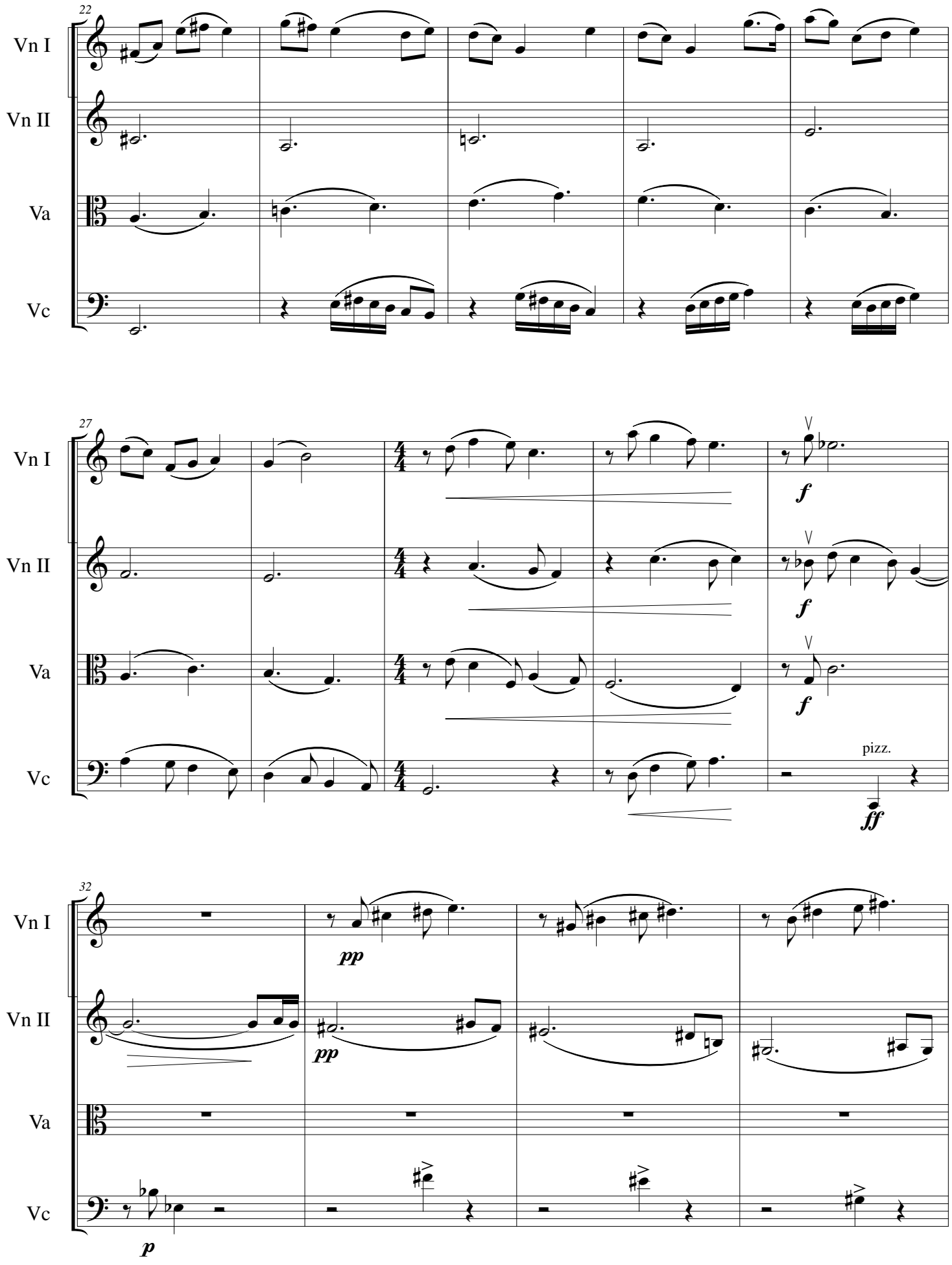
I

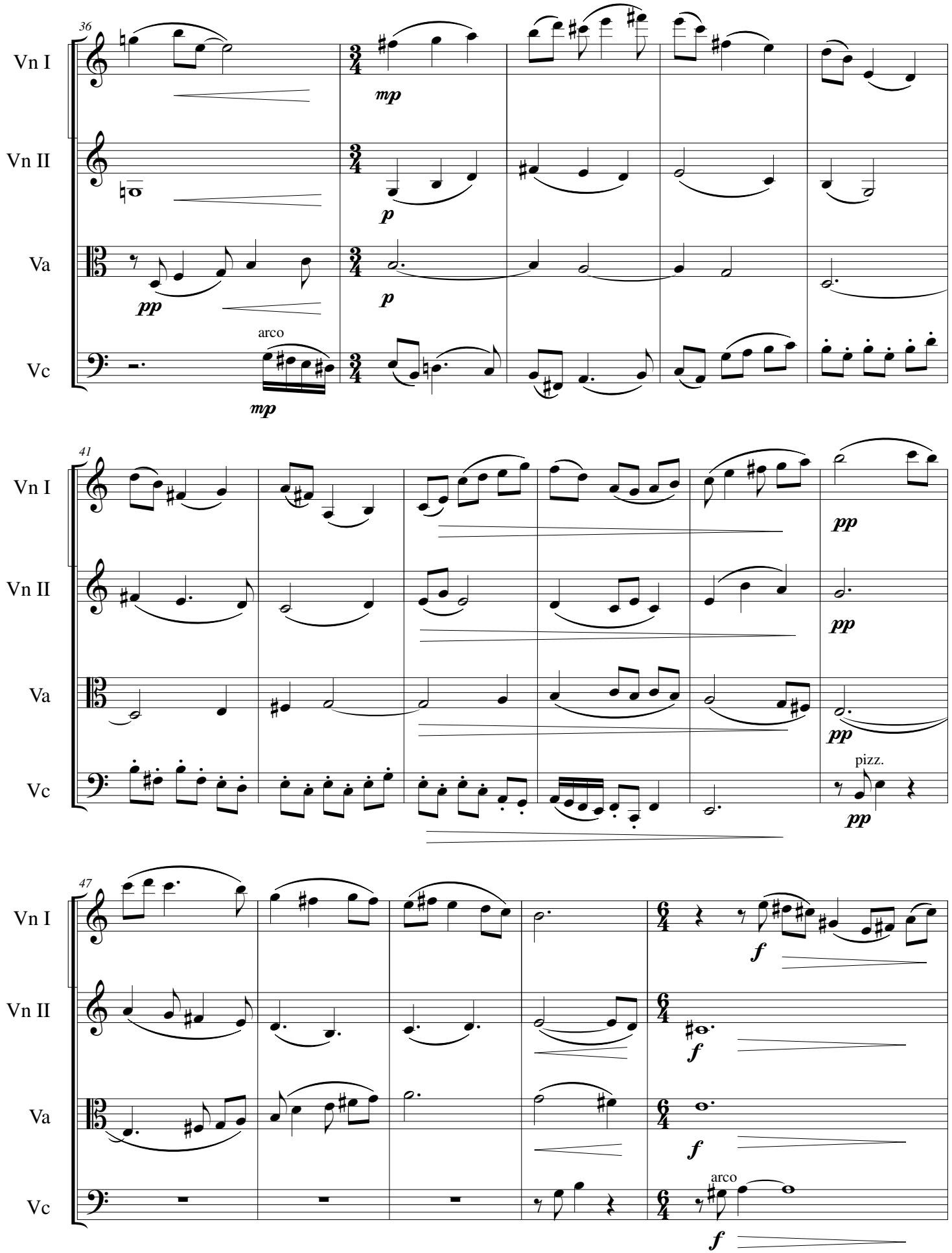
S. Grill

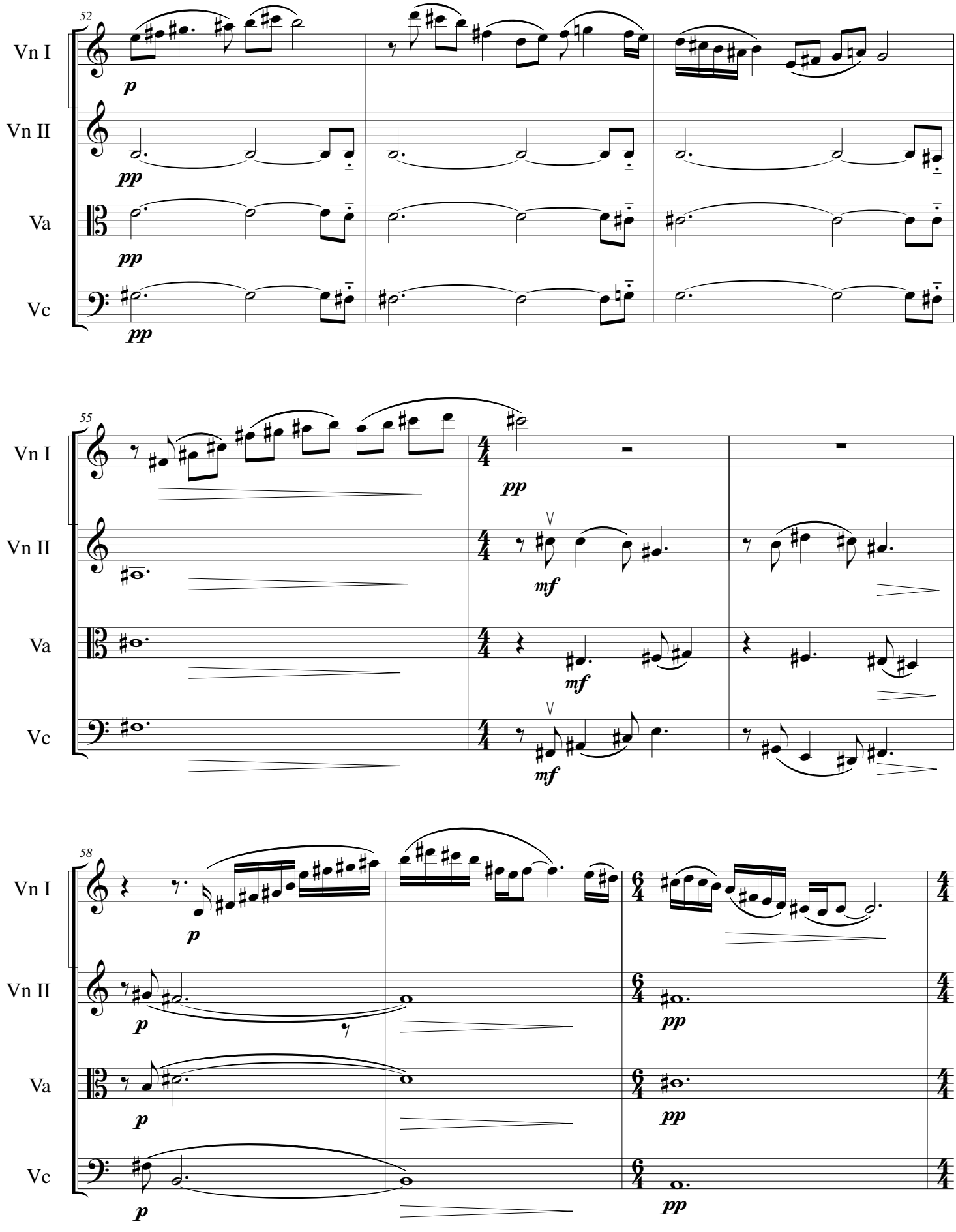
Moderato (♩ = c. 108)

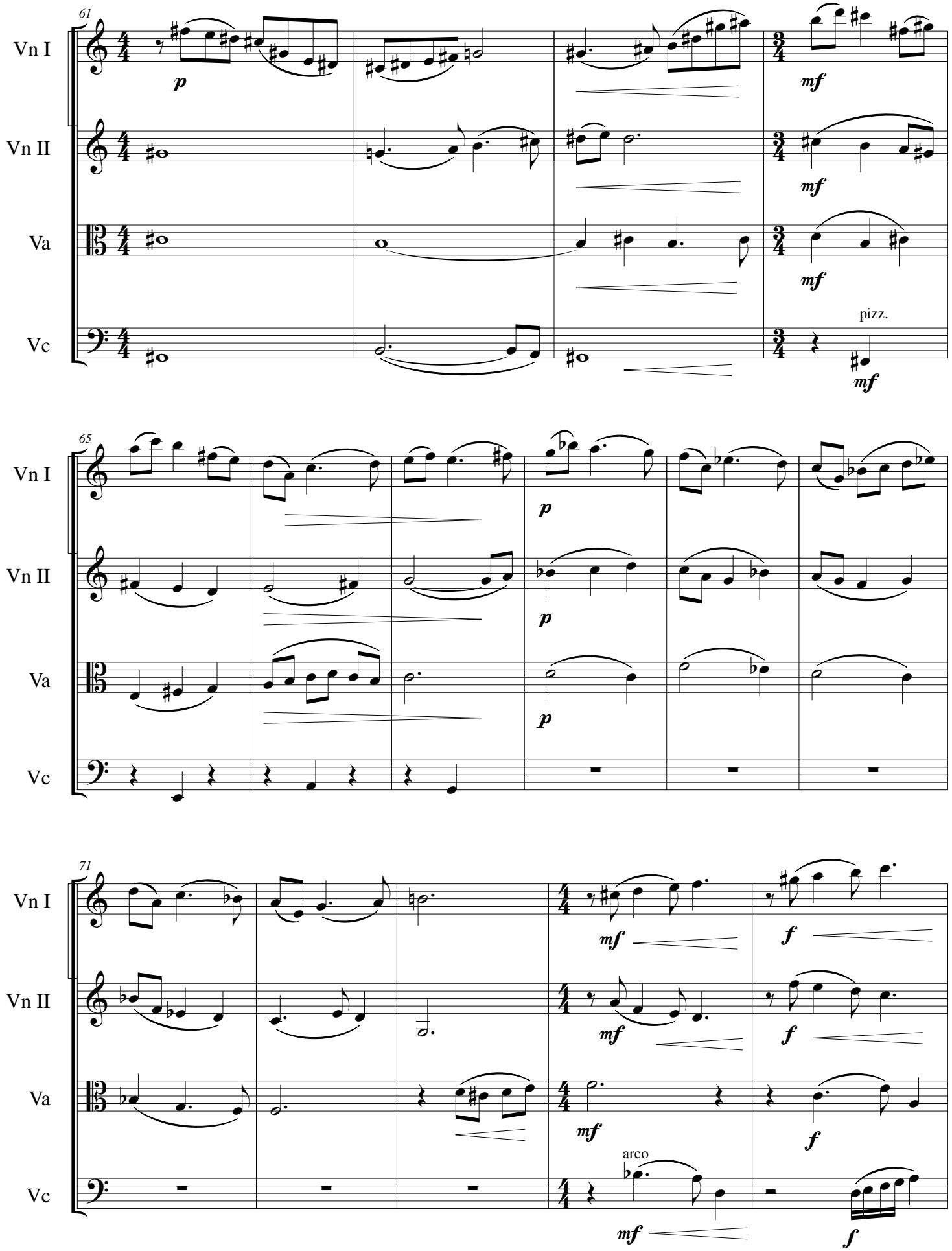


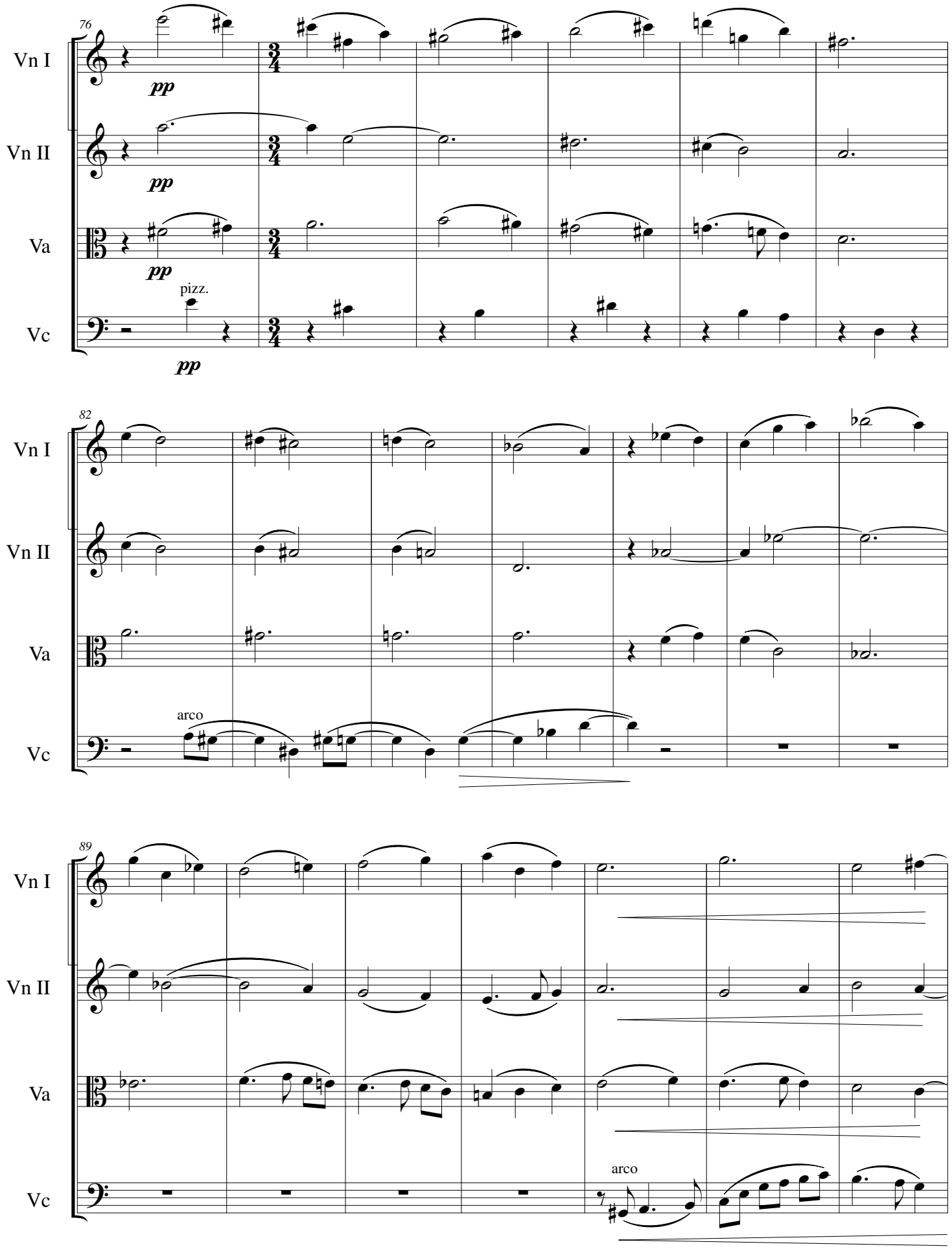

9
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
p
pizz.
12
mf
pp
arco
17
mp

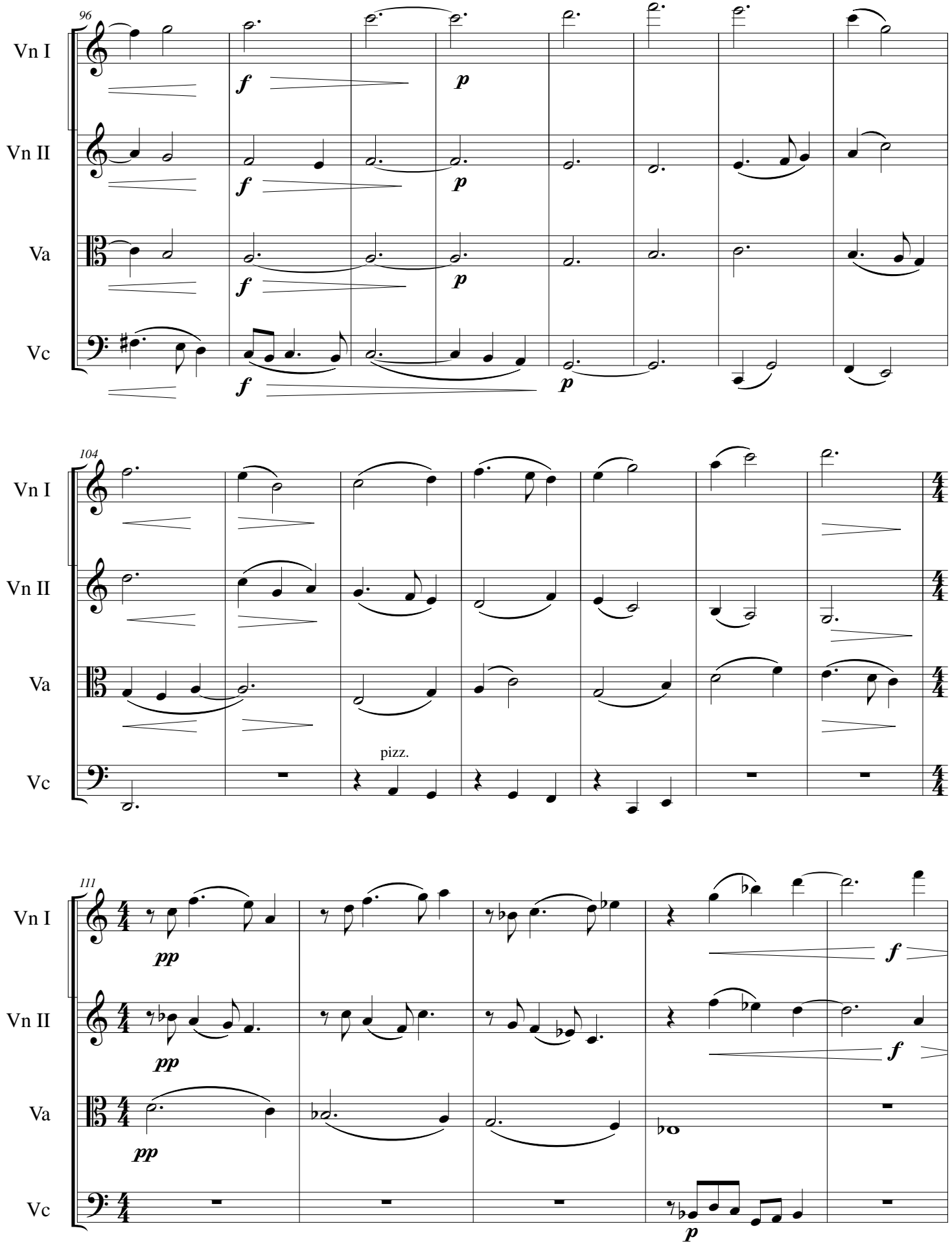

22
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
27
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
f
f
f
pizz.
ff
32
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp
pp
p

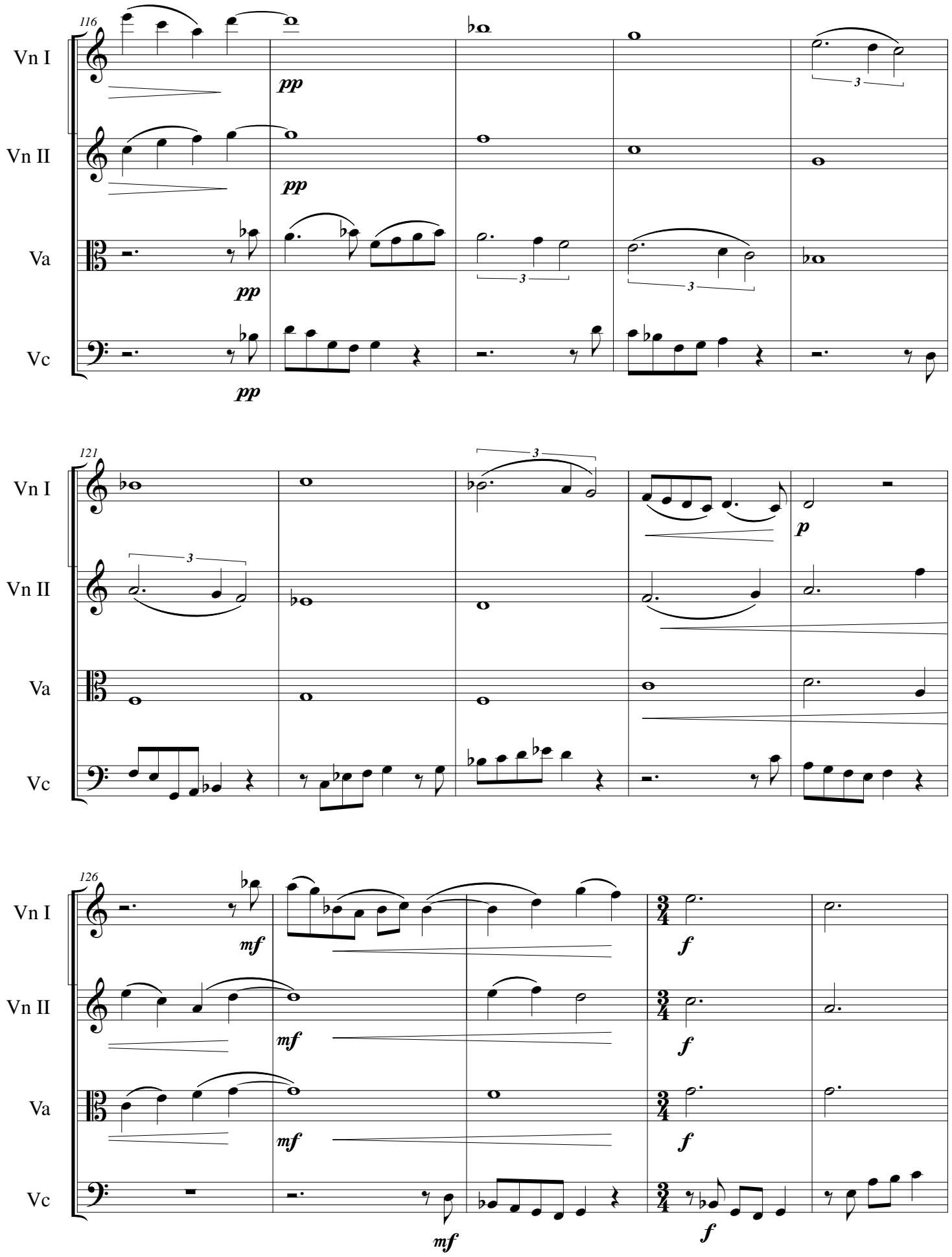

36
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
mp
p
pp
arco
41
pp
pizz.
47
f
arco

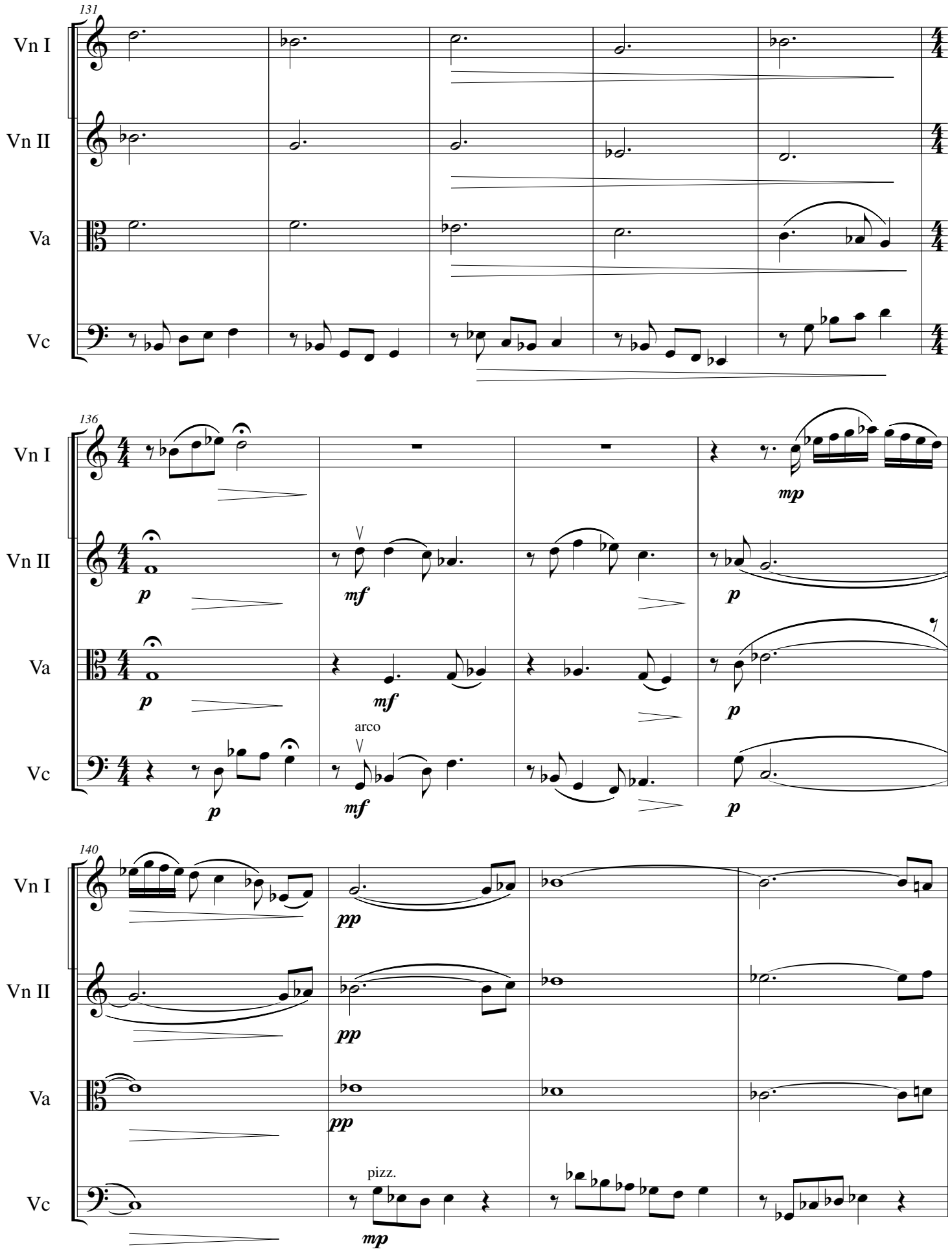

52
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
p
pp
pp
pp
55
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp
mf
mf
mf
58
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
p
p
p
p
pp
pp
pp

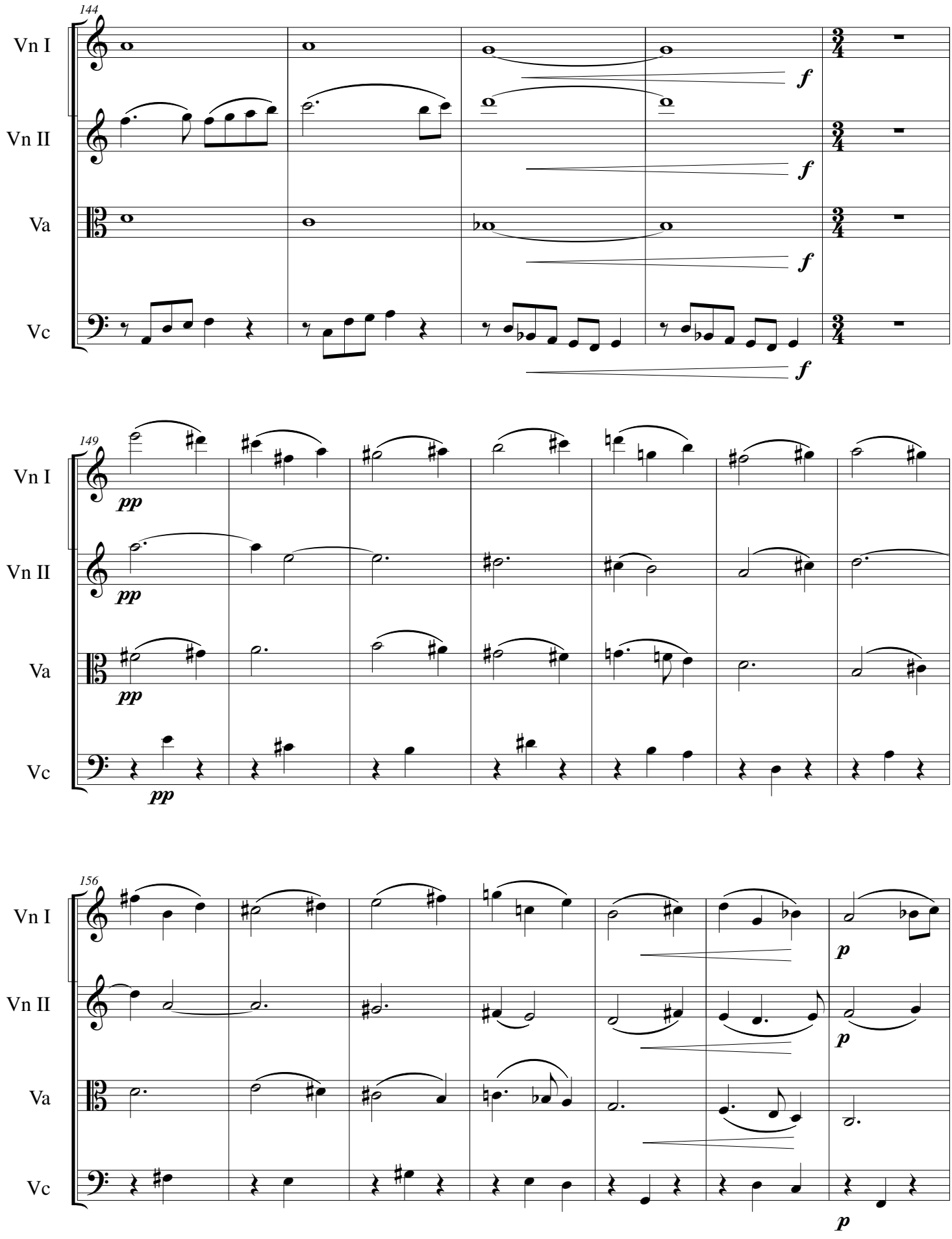

61
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
p
mf
pizz.
65
71
arco

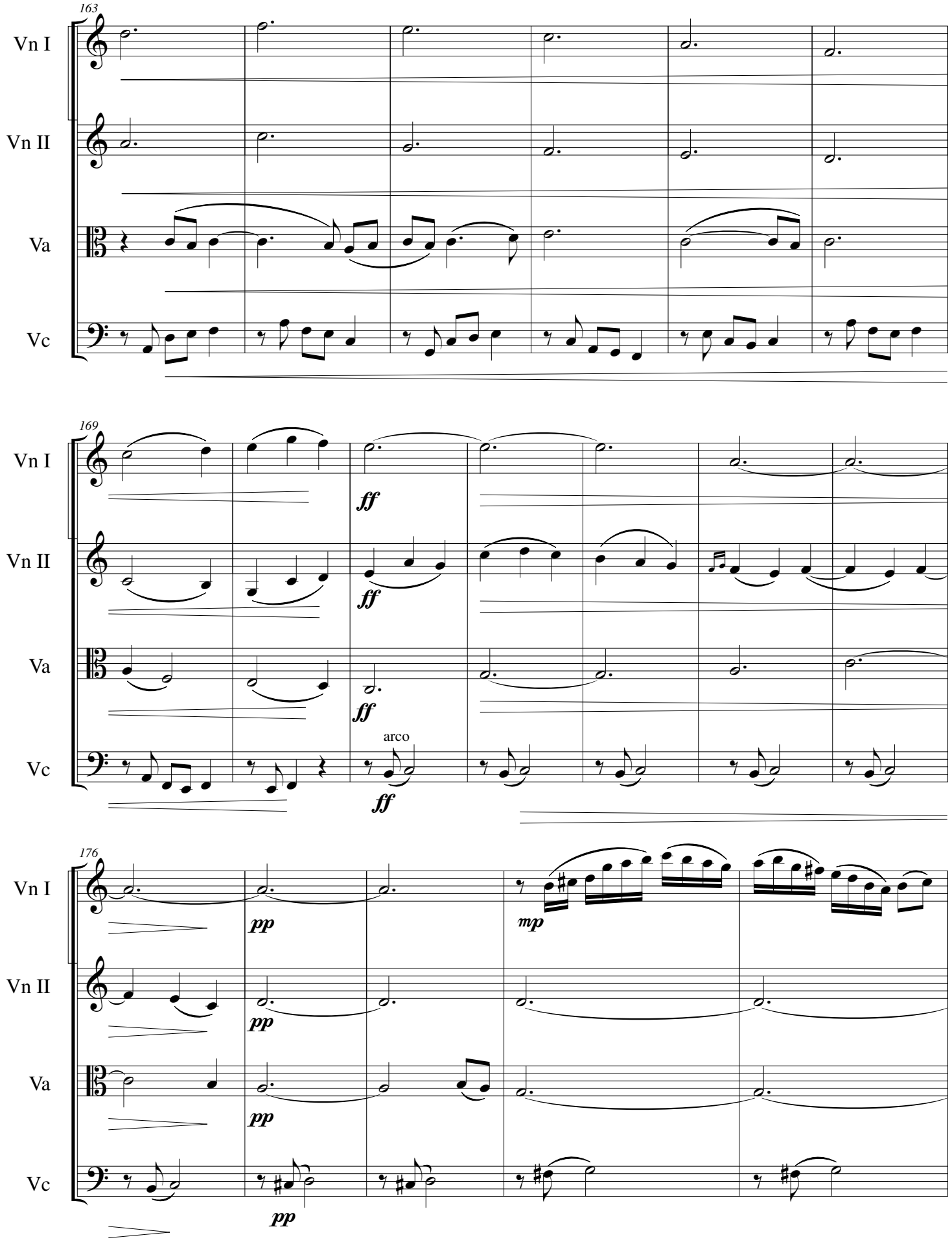

76
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp
pizz.
82
arco
89
arco

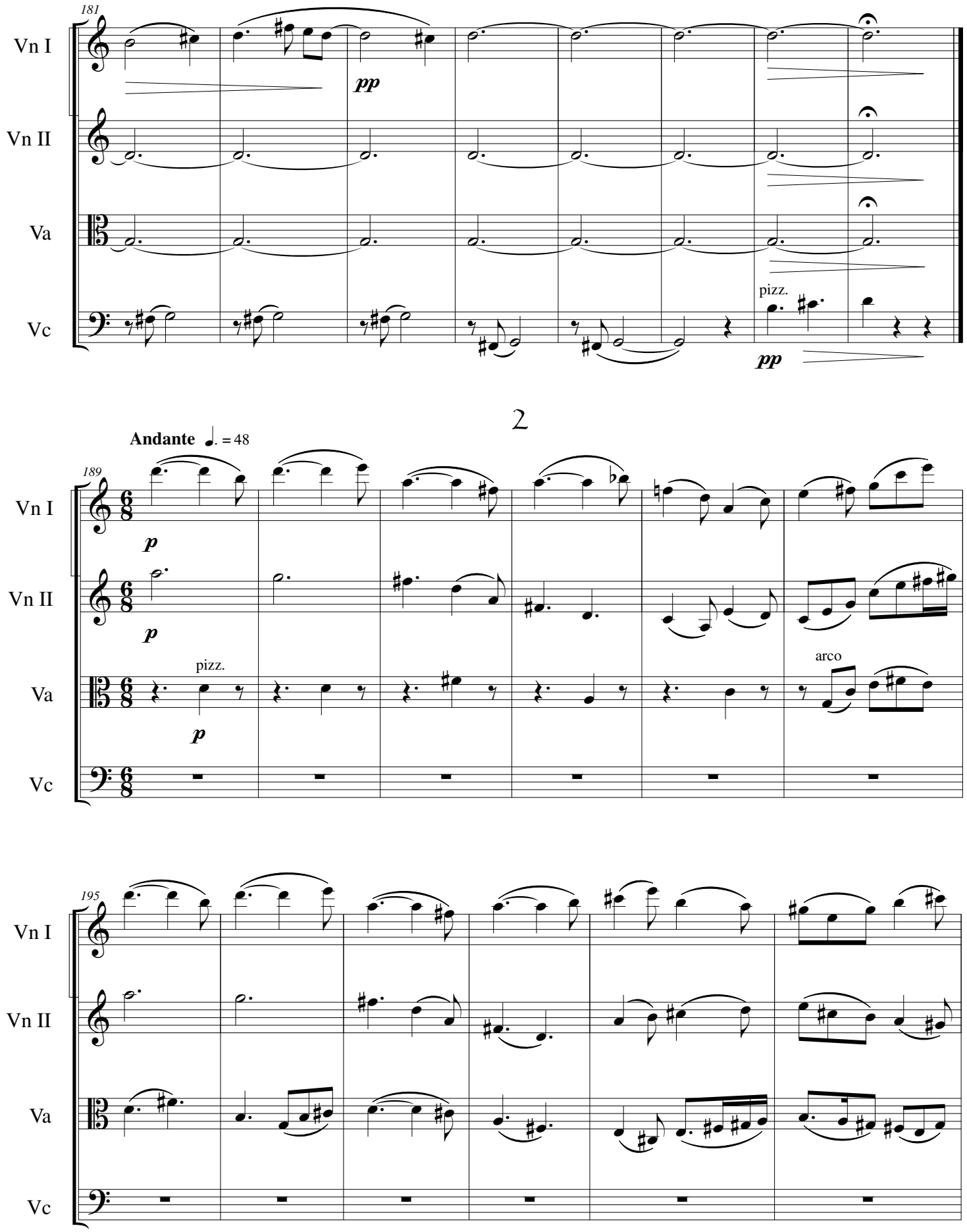

96
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
f
p
104
pizz.
111
pp
f
p

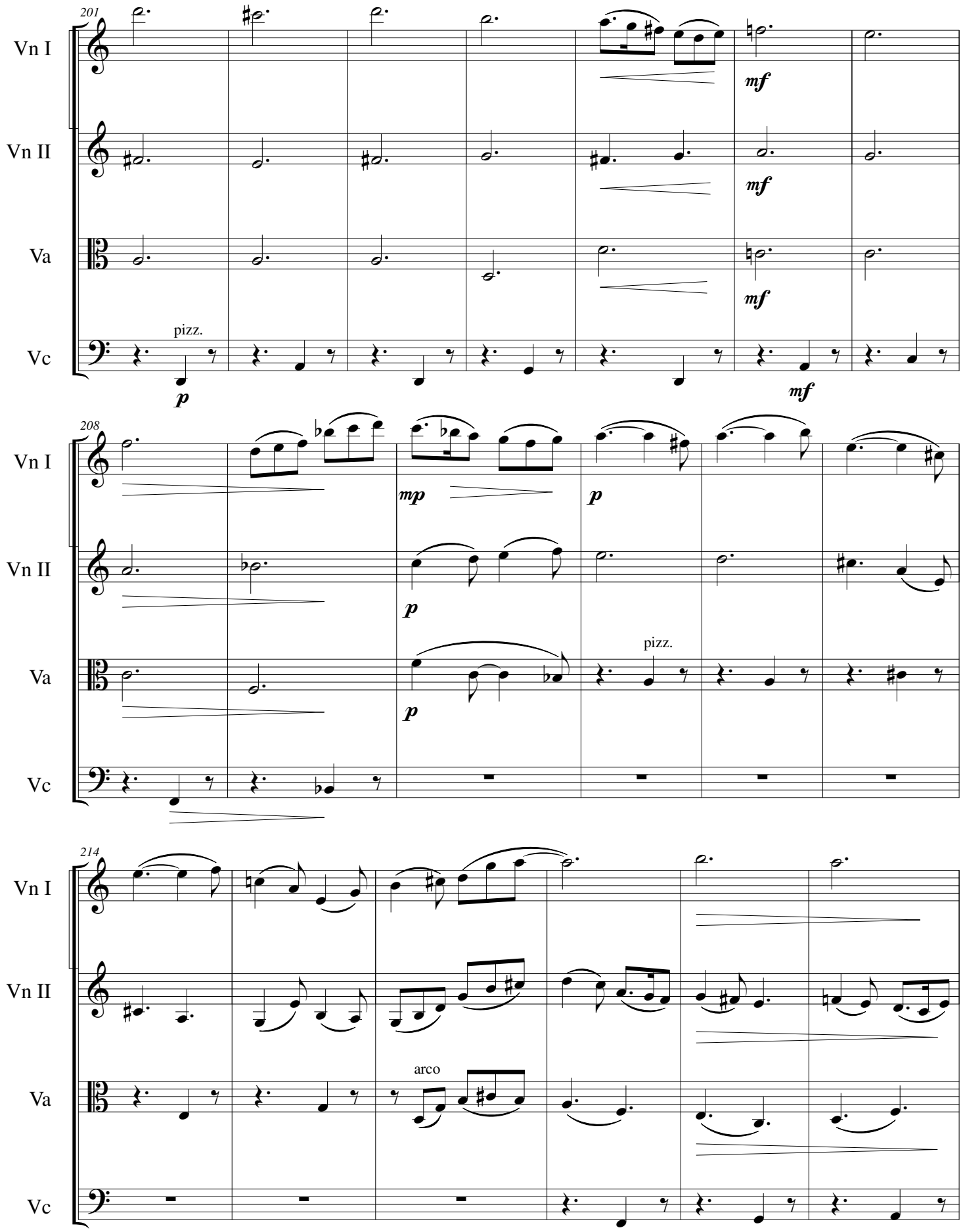

116
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp
121
p
126
mf
f
3/4

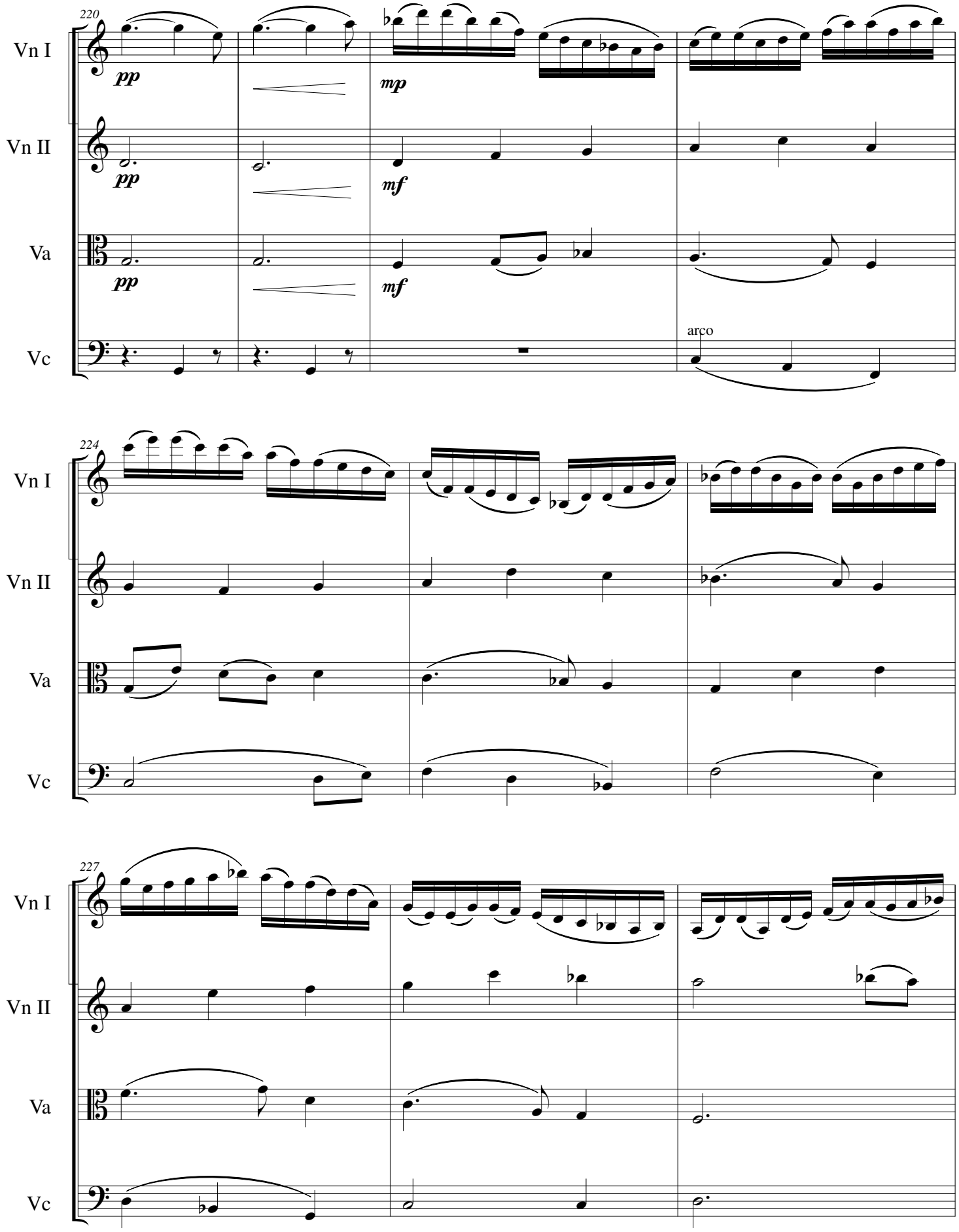

131
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
136
mp
p
mf
arco
140
pp
pizz.

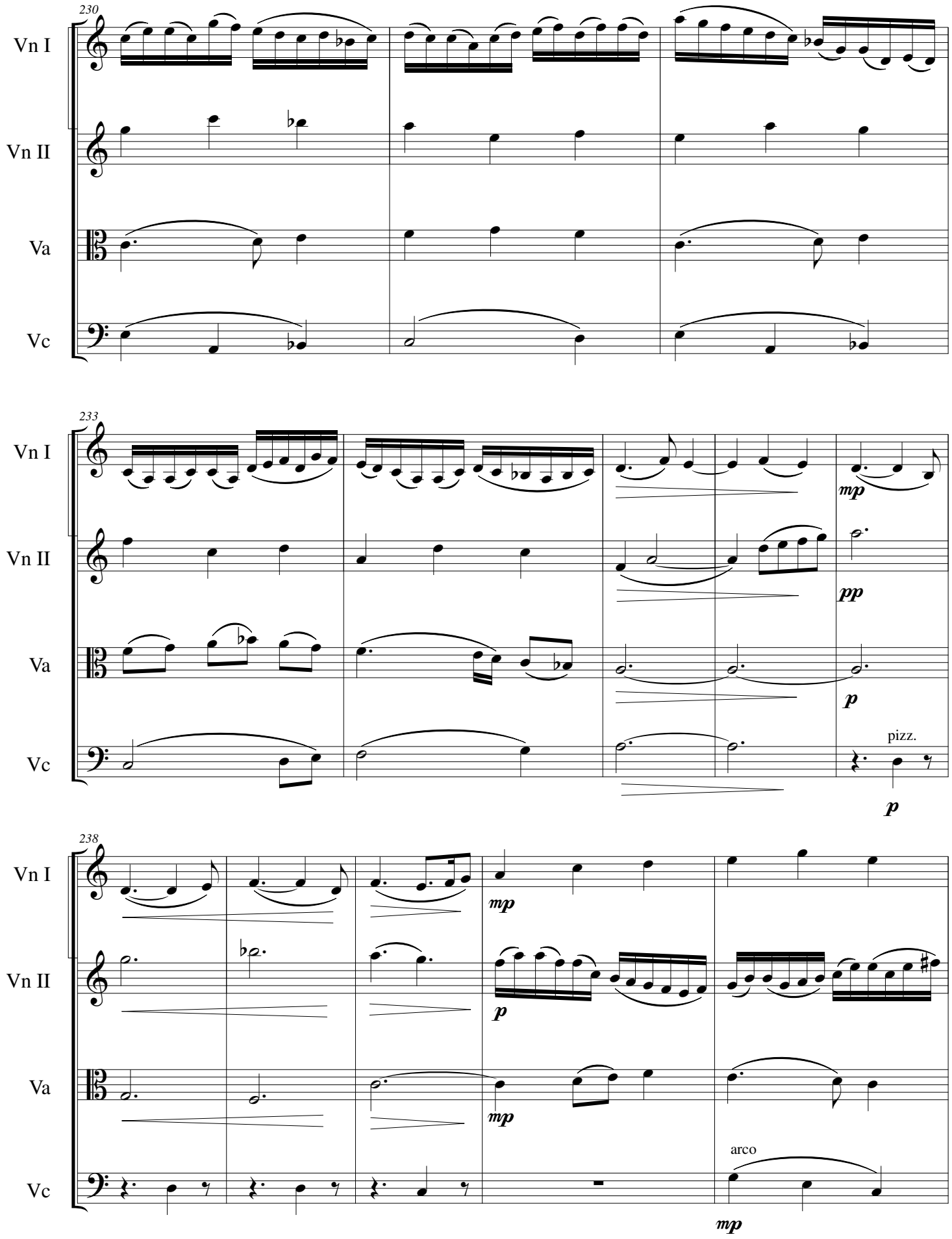

144
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
f
149
pp
156
p

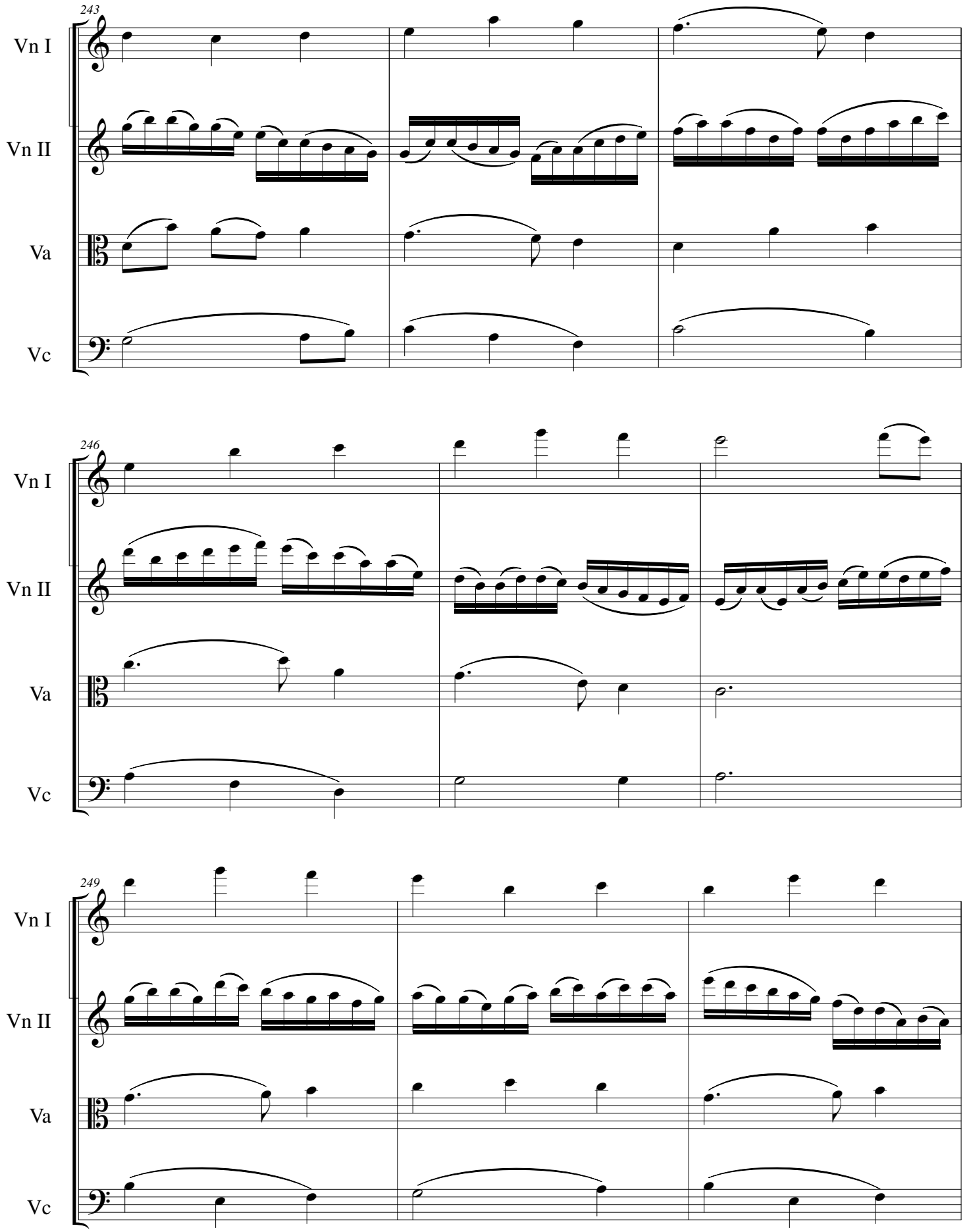

163
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
169
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
ff
ff
ff
arco
176
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp
pp
pp
pp
mp

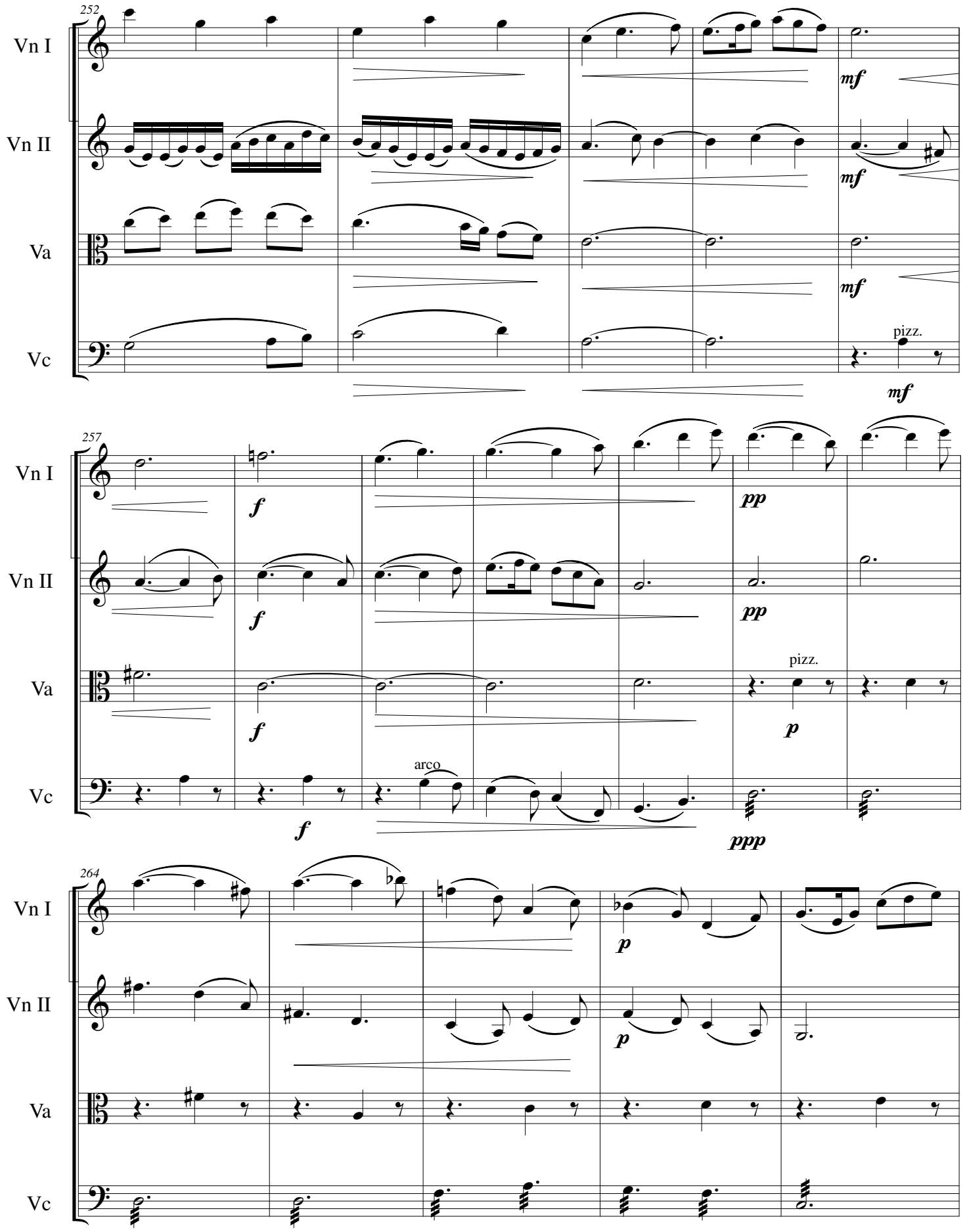

181
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp
pizz.
pp
2
Andante ♩. = 48
189
p
p
pizz.
p
arco
195

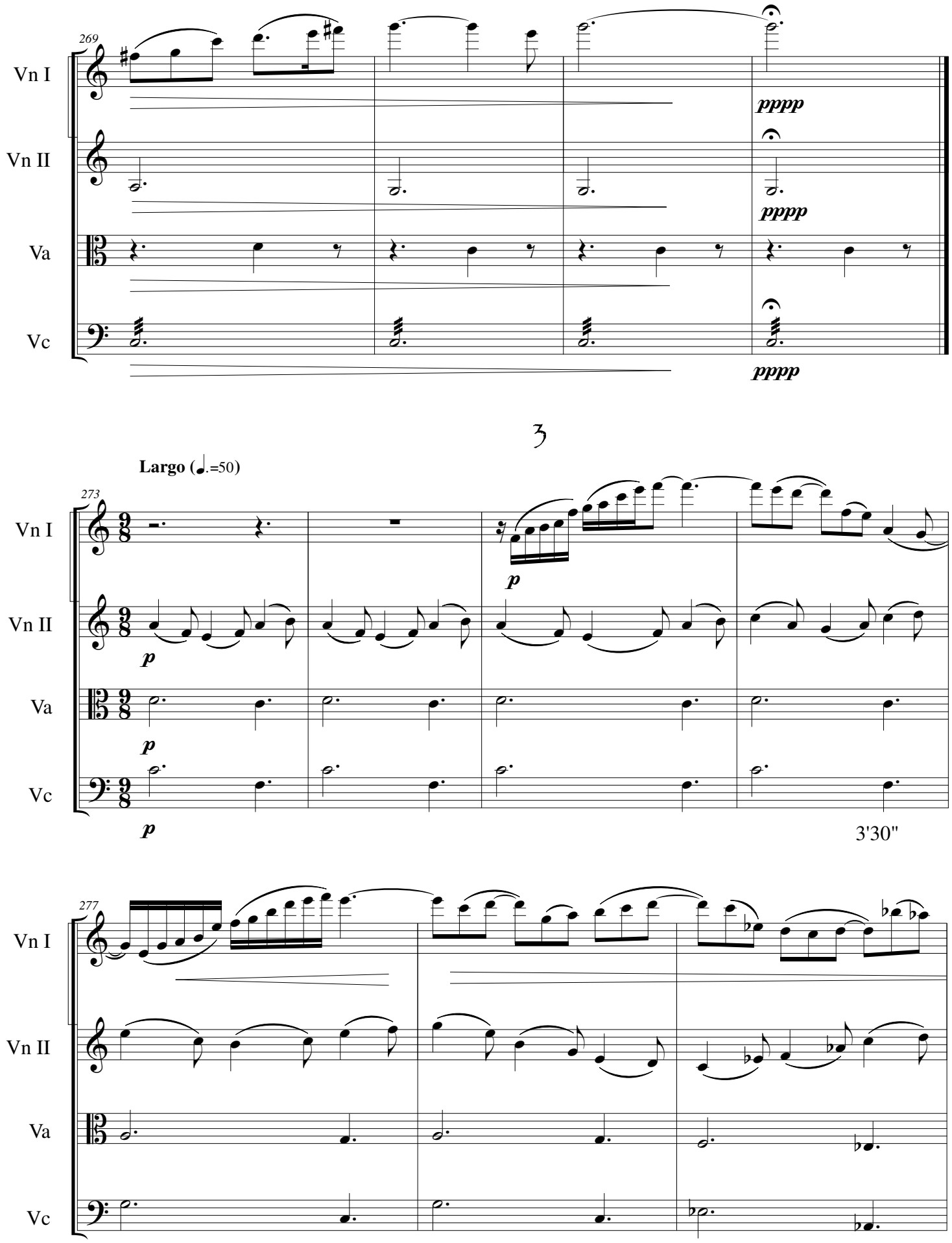

201
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
mf
mf
mf
pizz.
p
mf
208
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
mp
p
p
p
pizz.
214
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
arco

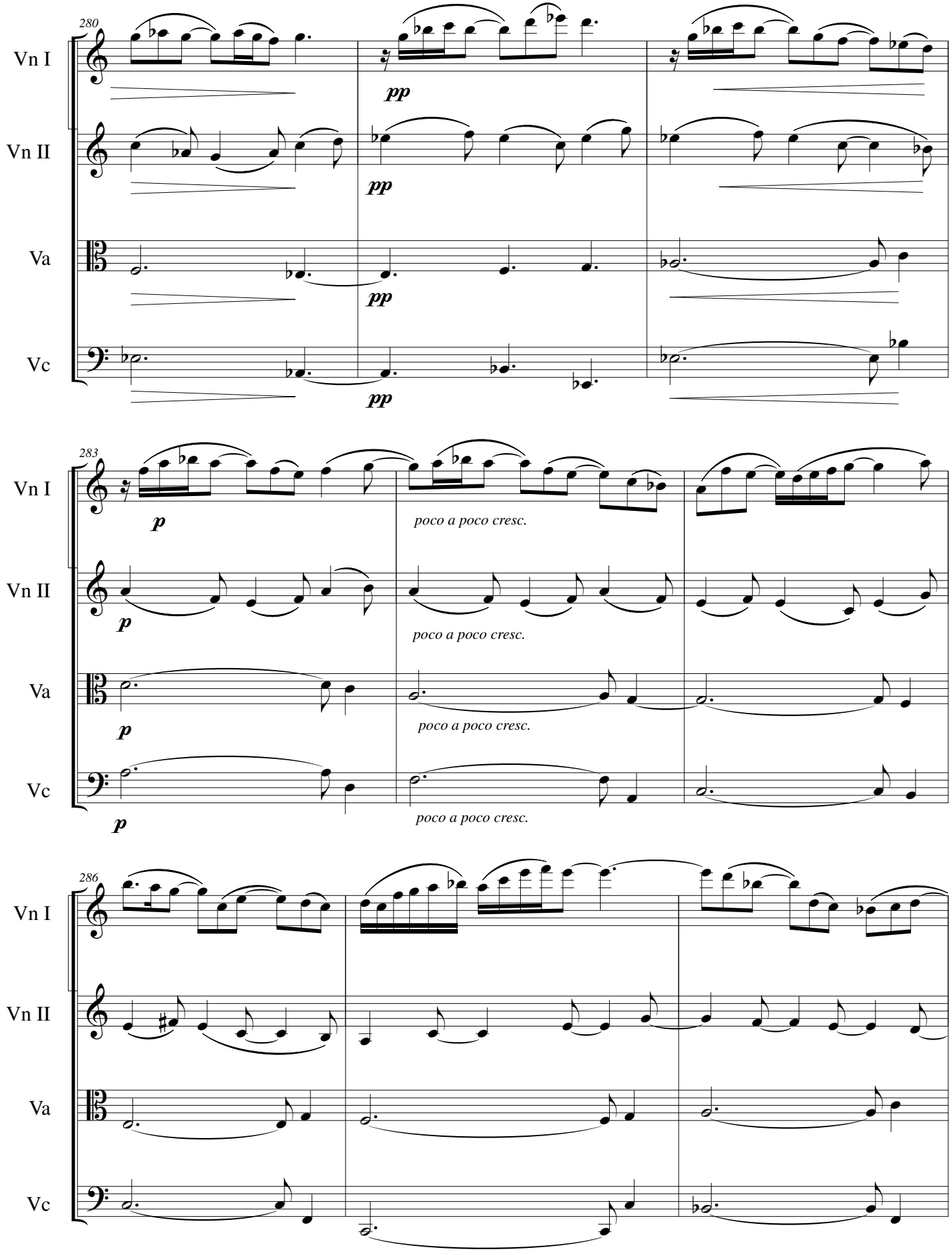

220
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp
pp
pp
mp
mf
mf
arco
224
227

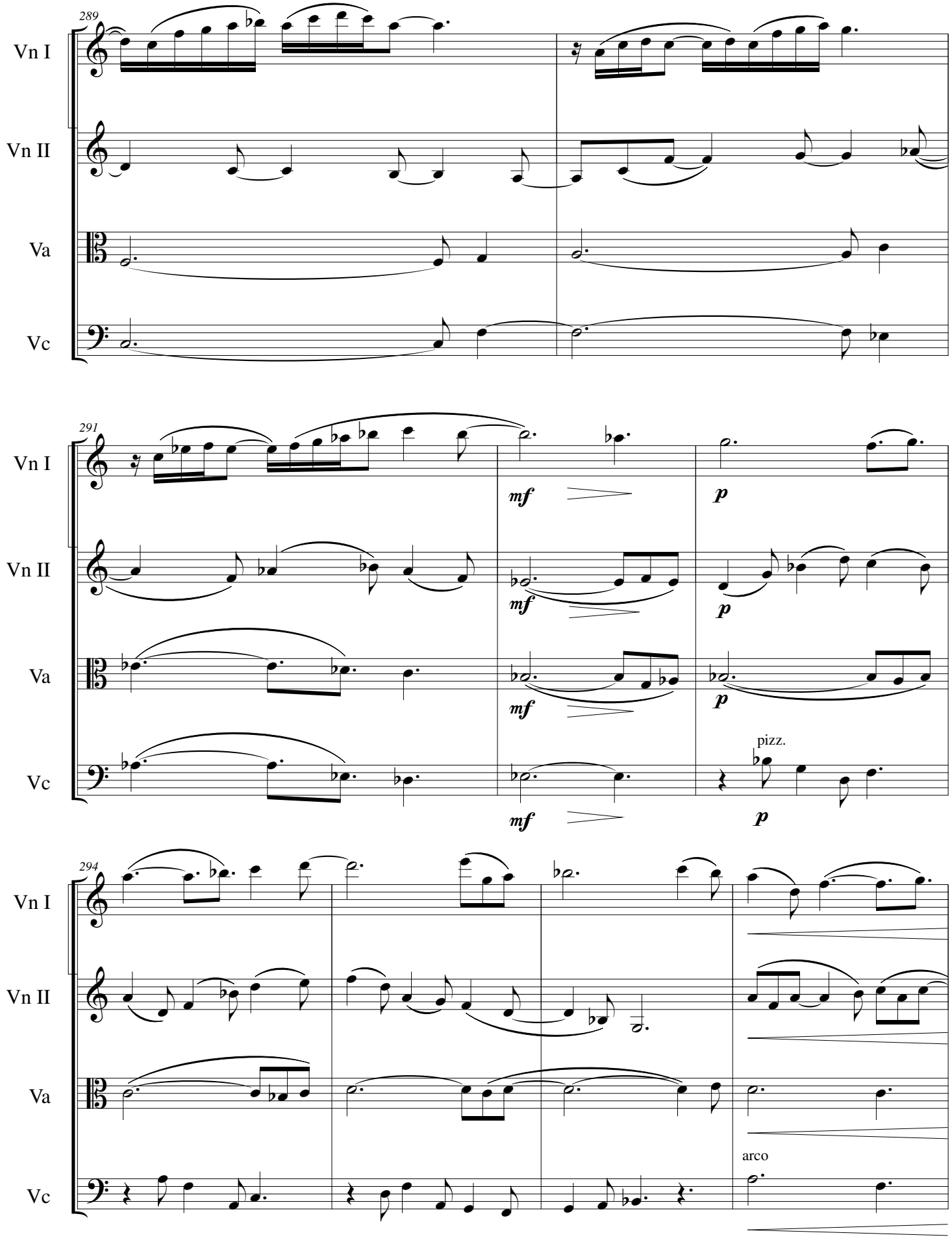

230
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
233
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
mp
pp
p
pizz.
p
238
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
mp
p
mp
arco
mp

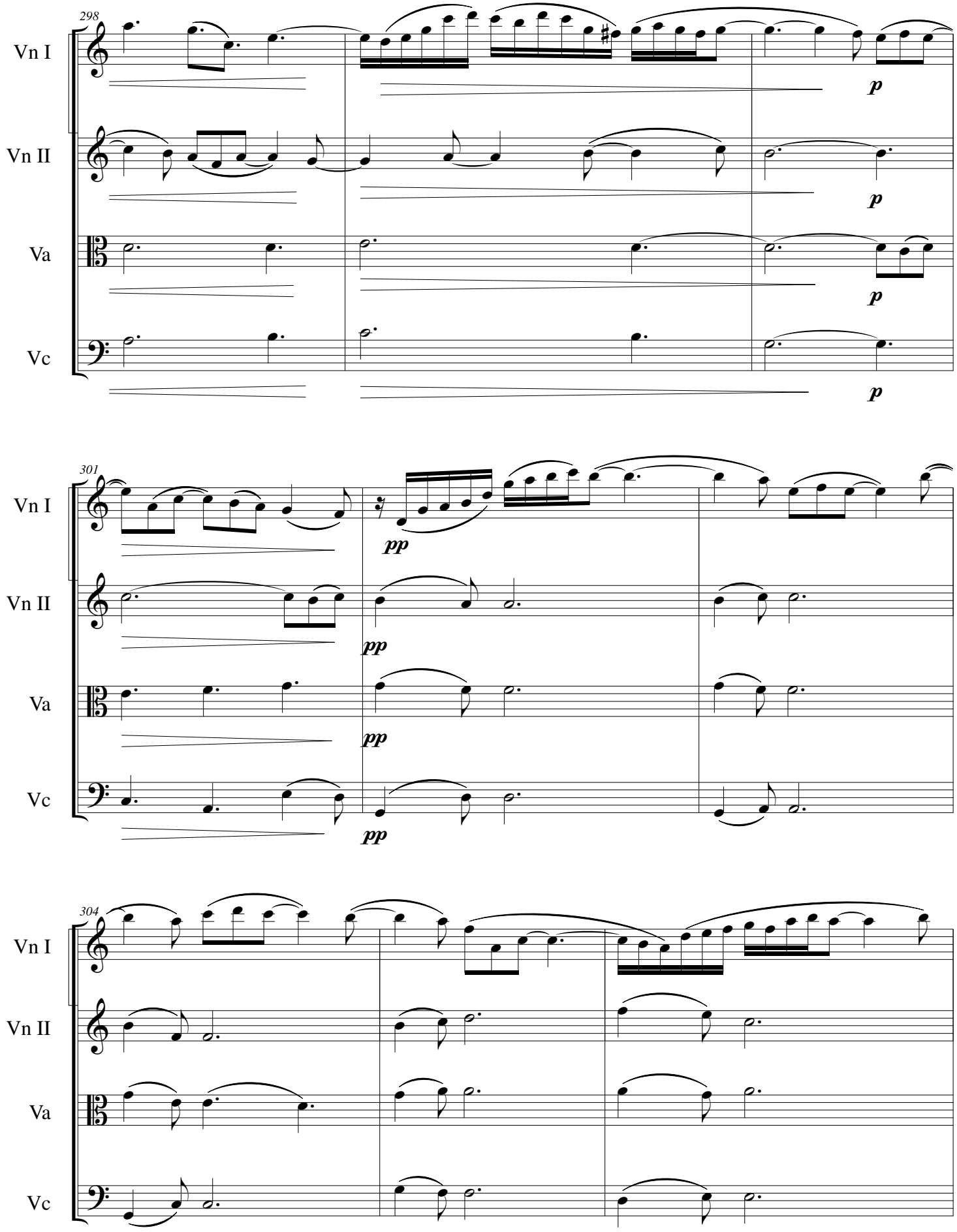

243
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
246
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
249
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc

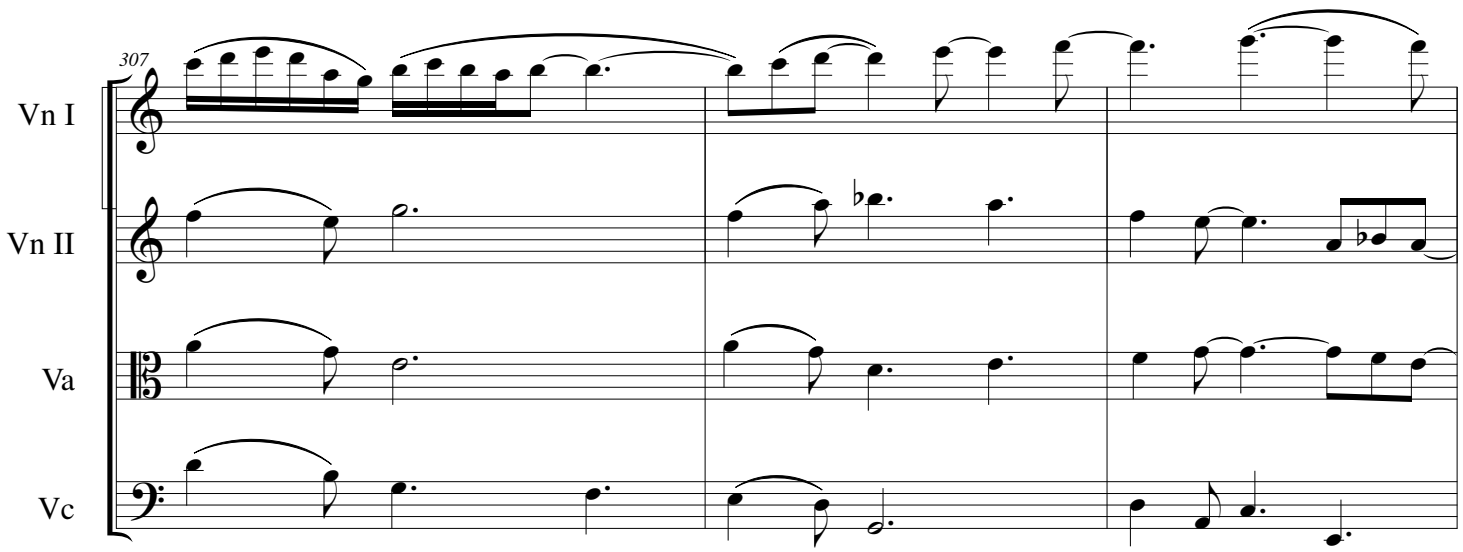

252
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
mf
mf
mf
pizz.
mf
257
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
f
f
f
f
arco
pp
pp
pizz.
p
ppp
264
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
p
p

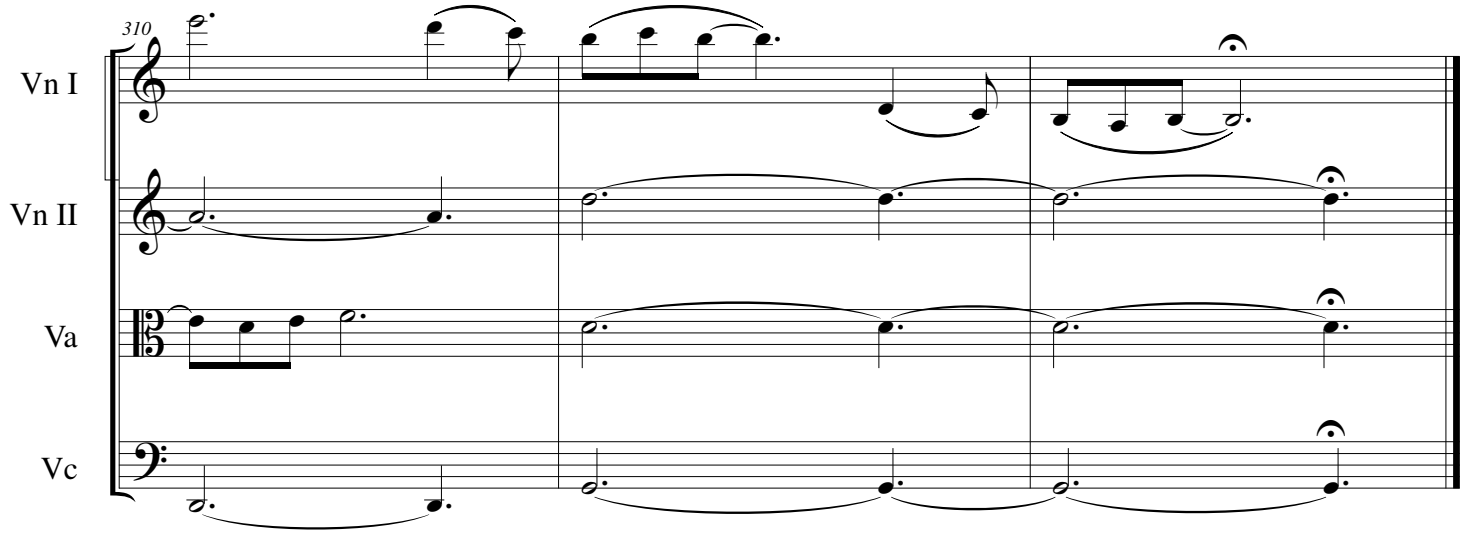

269
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pppp
pppp
pppp
3
Largo (♩.=50)
273
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
p
p
p
p
3'30"
277
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc

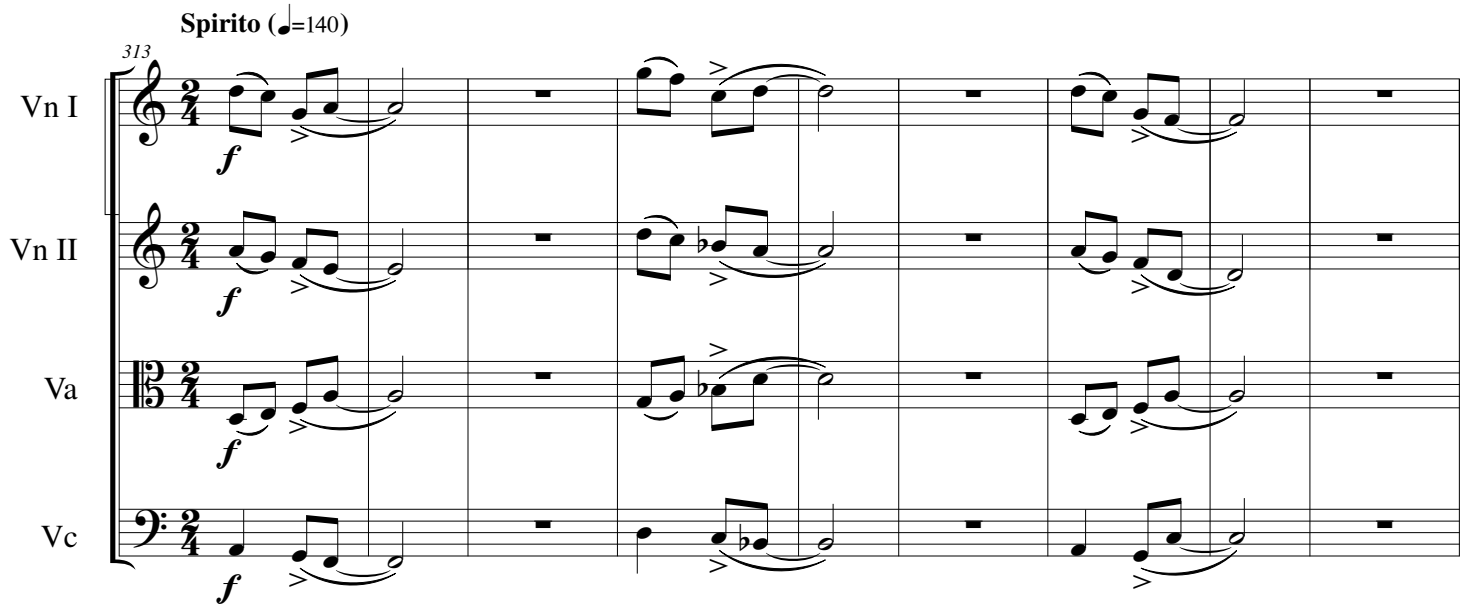

280
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp
283
p
poco a poco cresc.
286

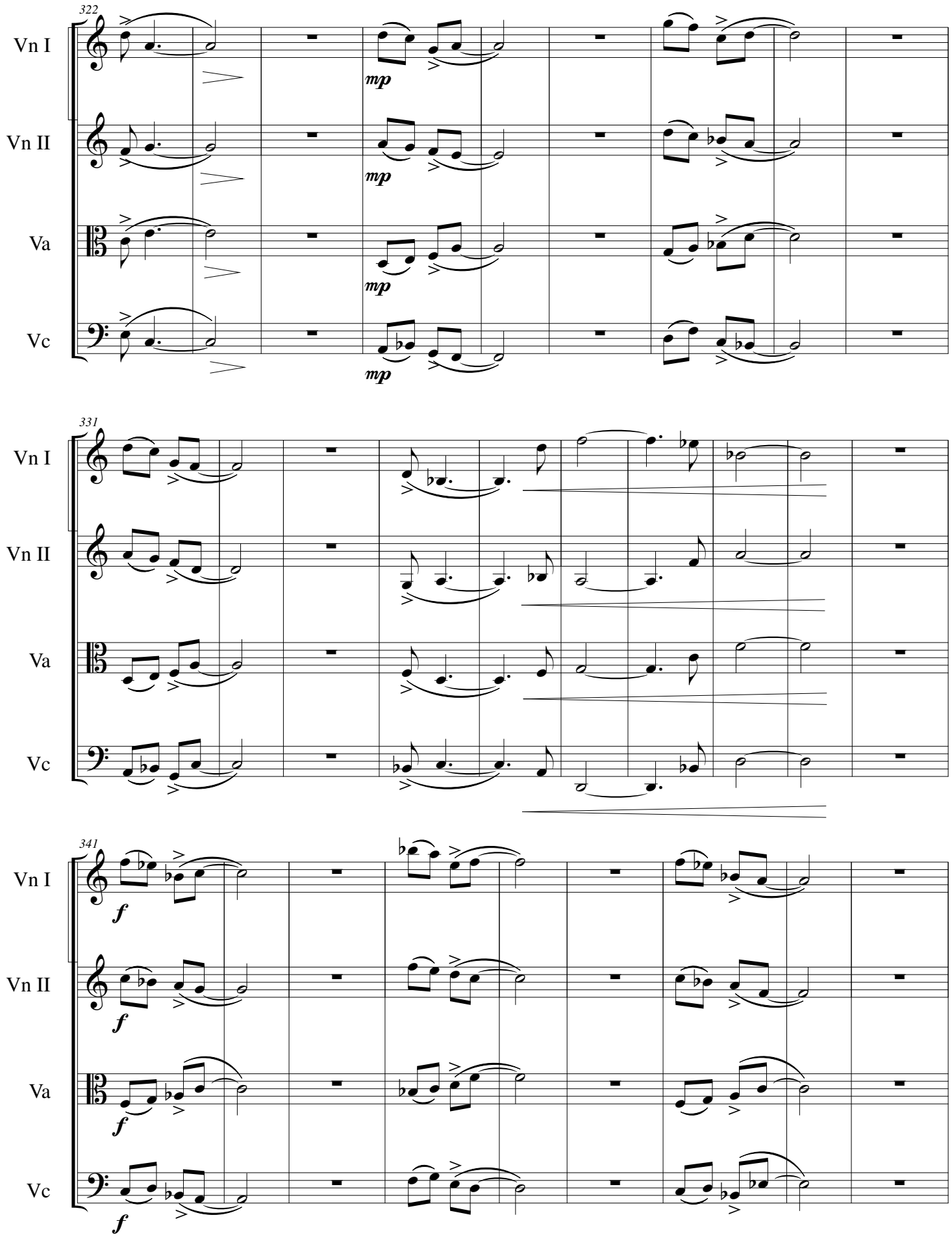

289
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
291
mf
p
pizz.
294
arco

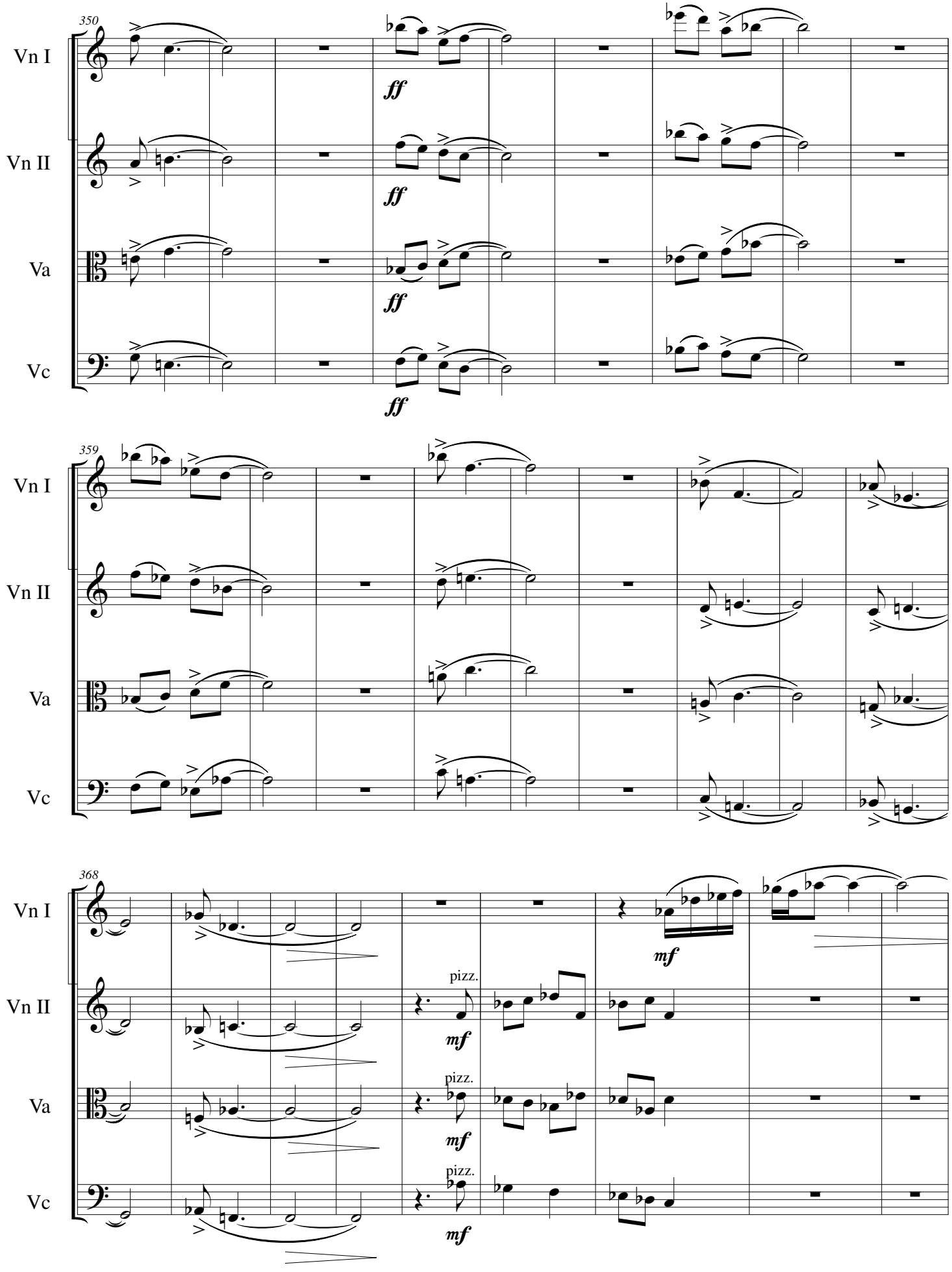

298
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
p
301
pp
304

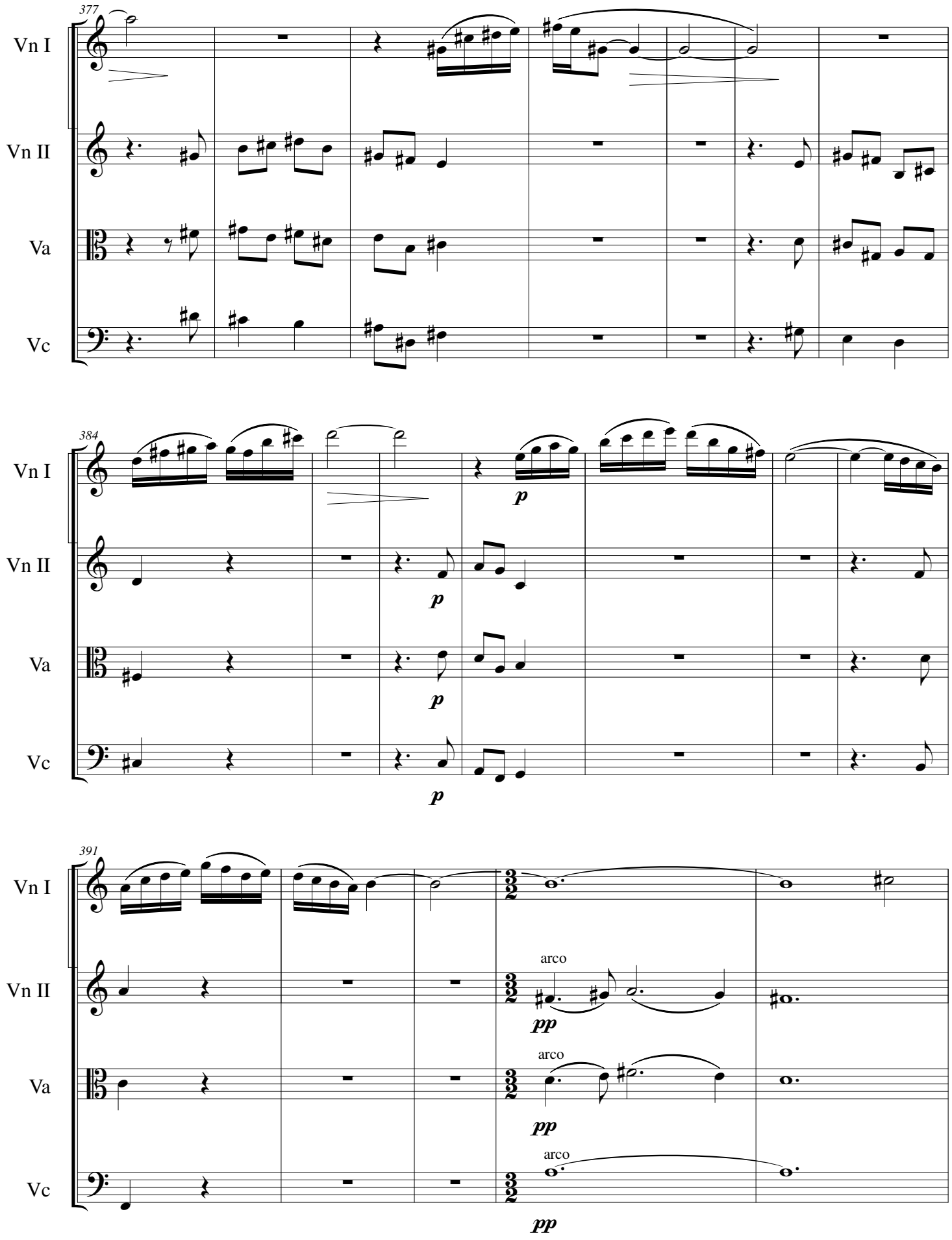

307
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc

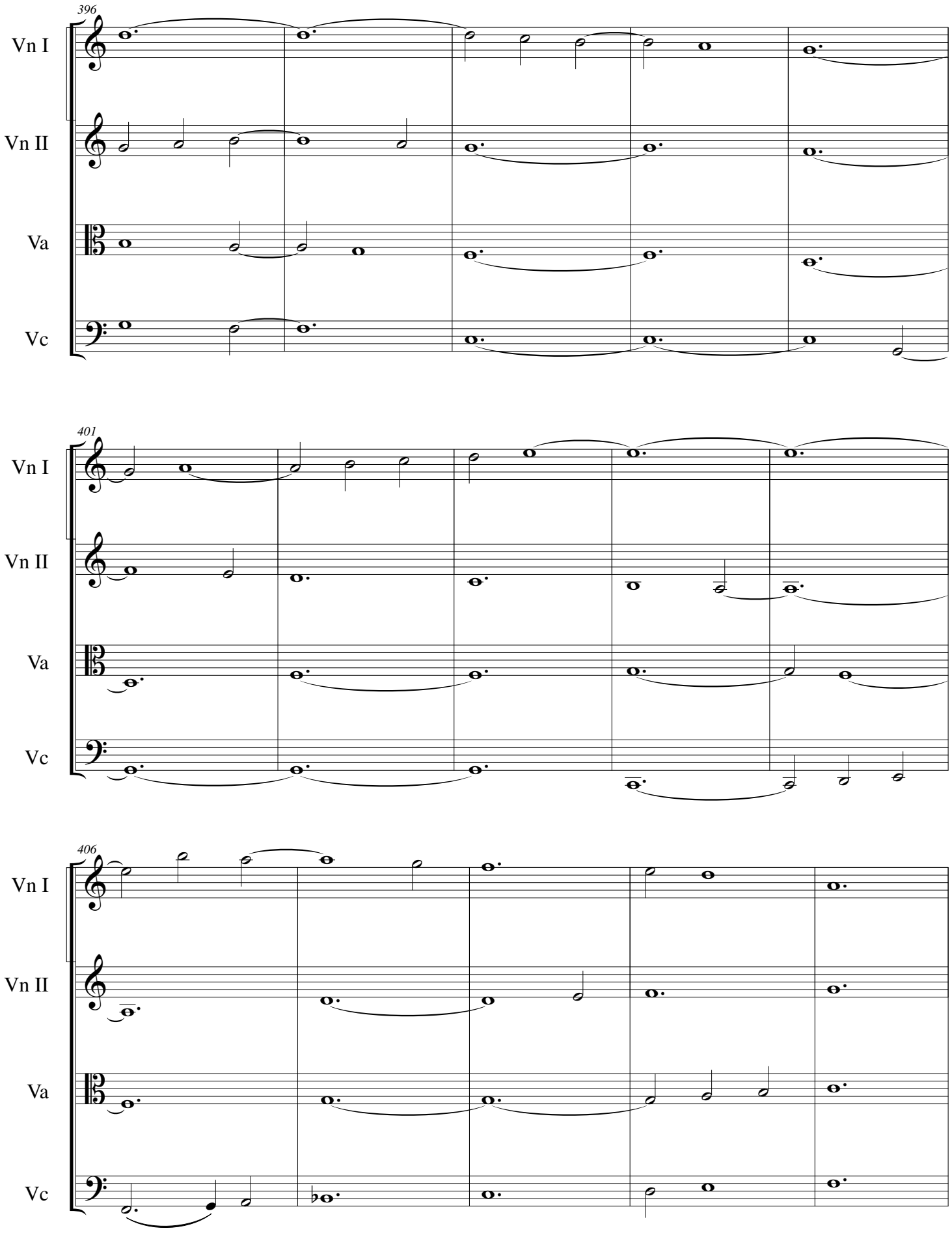

310
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc

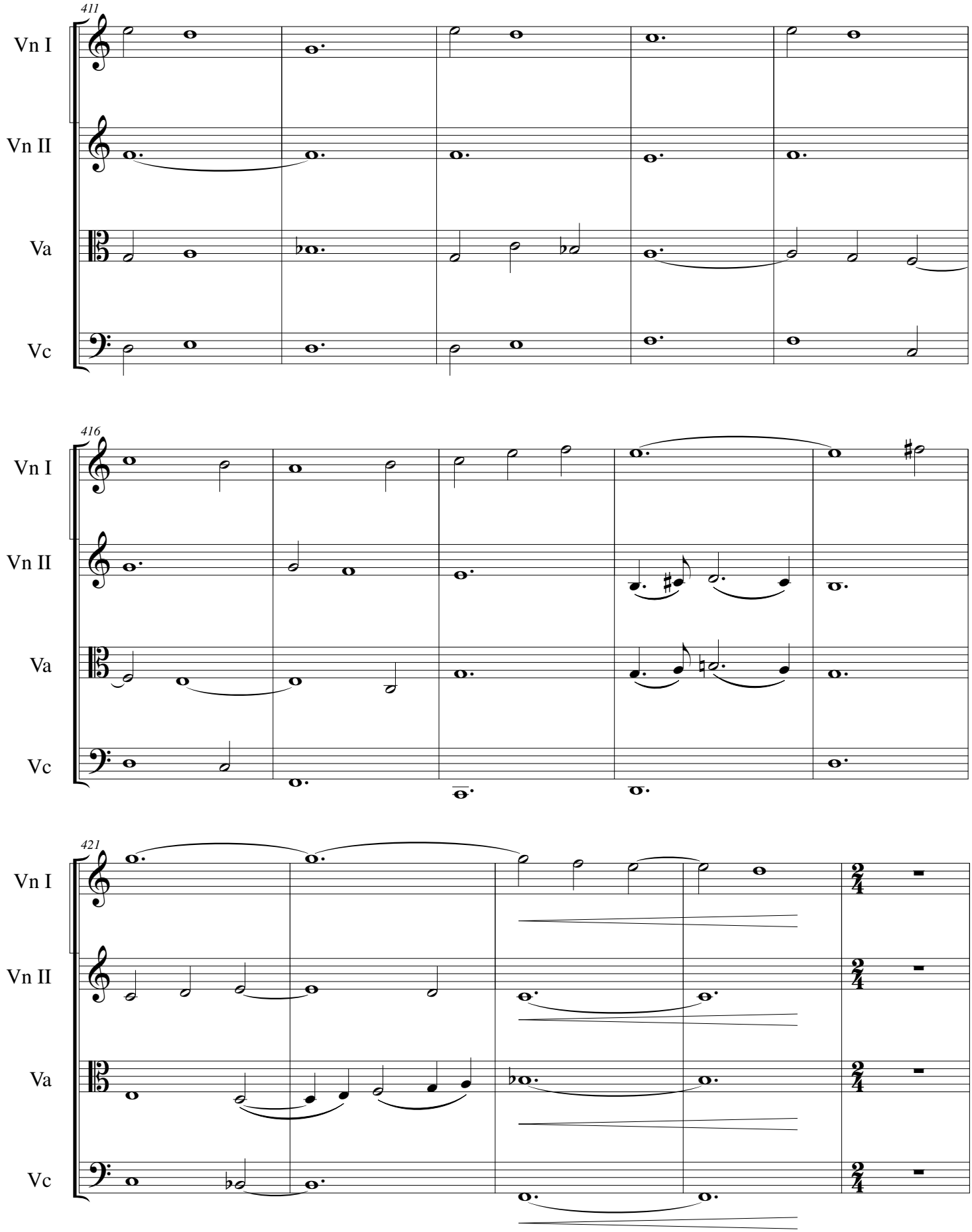

Spirito (♩=140)
313
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
f

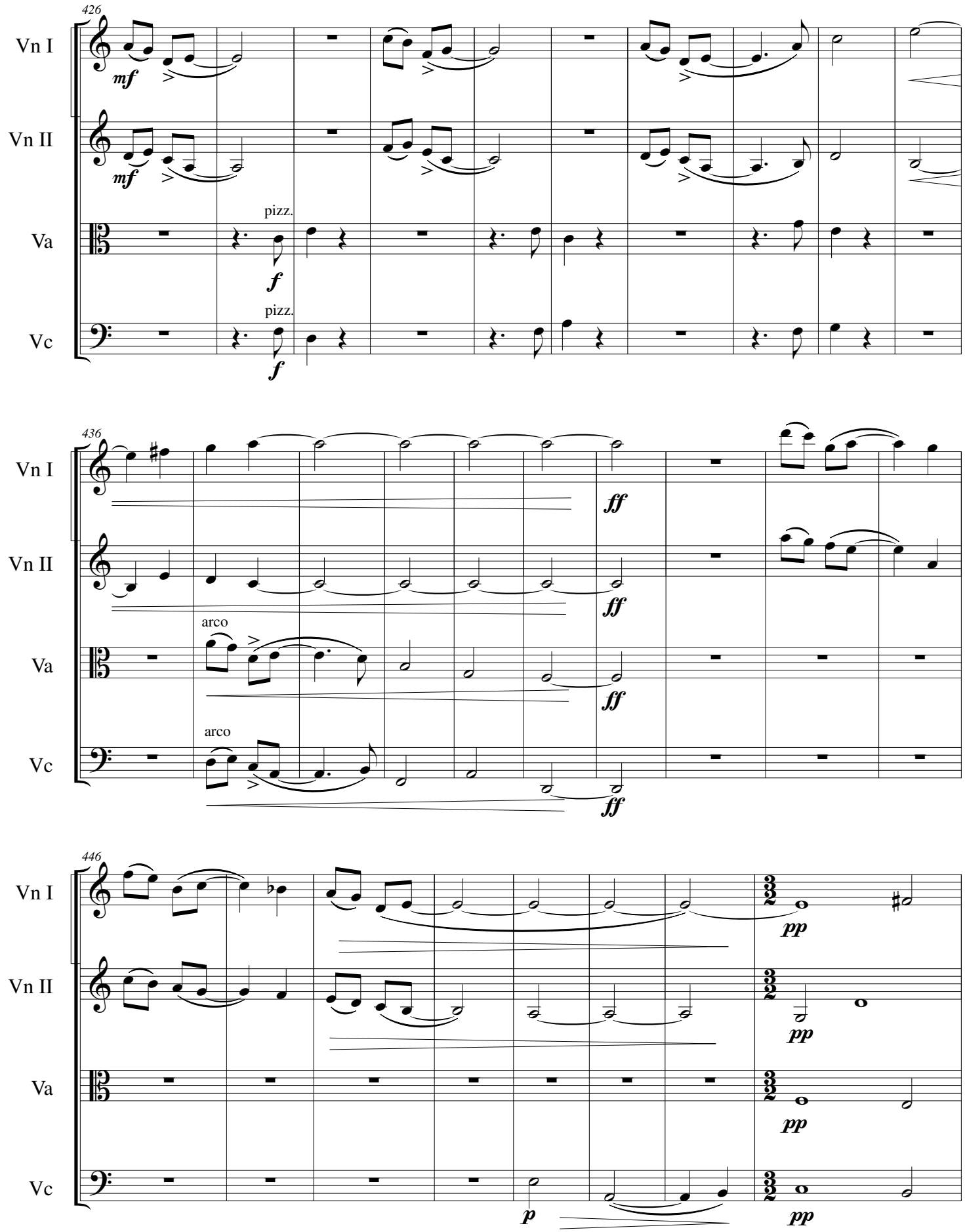

322
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
mp
331
341
f

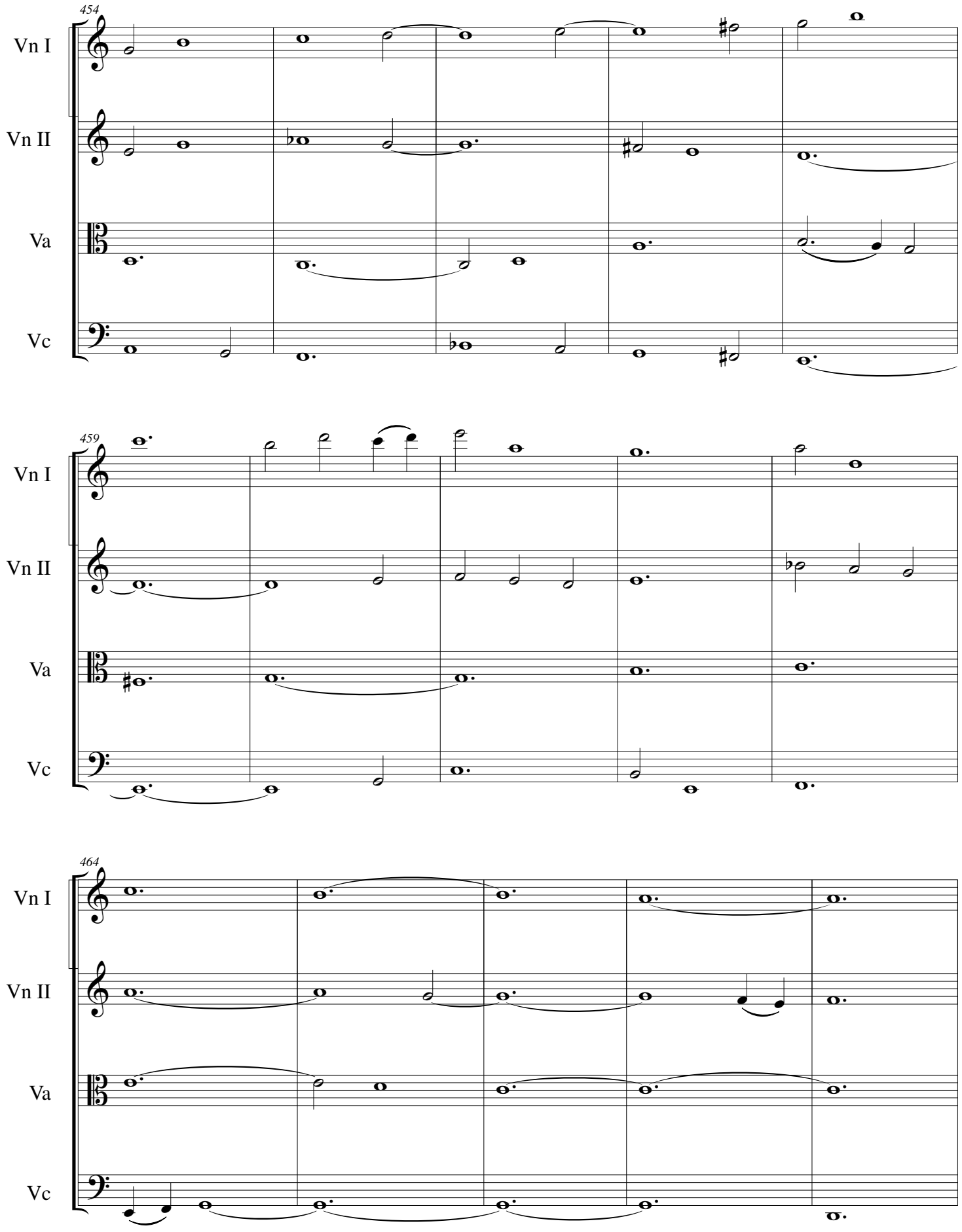

350
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
ff
359
368
pizz.
mf

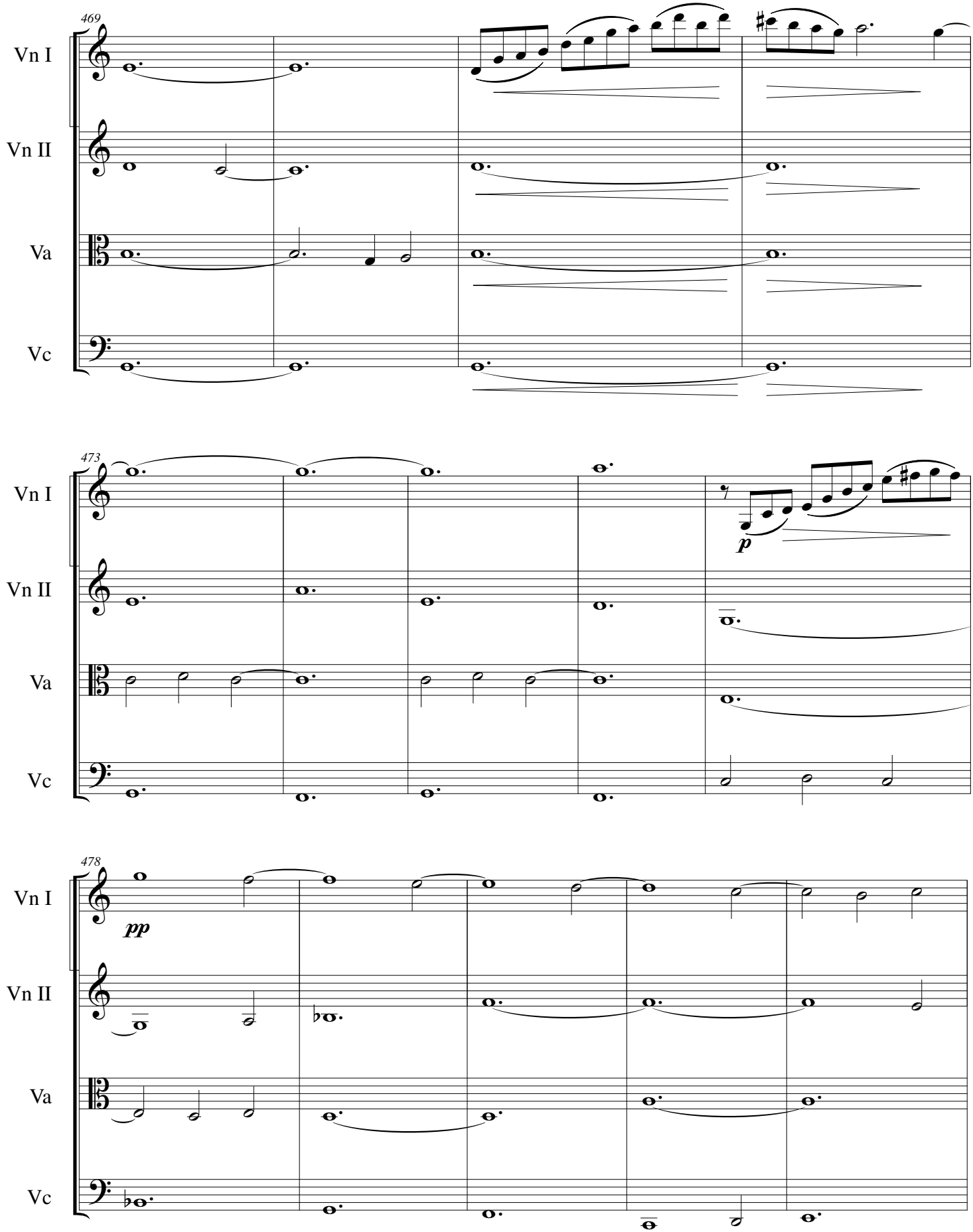

377
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
384
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
p
p
p
p
391
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
arco
arco
arco
pp
pp
pp

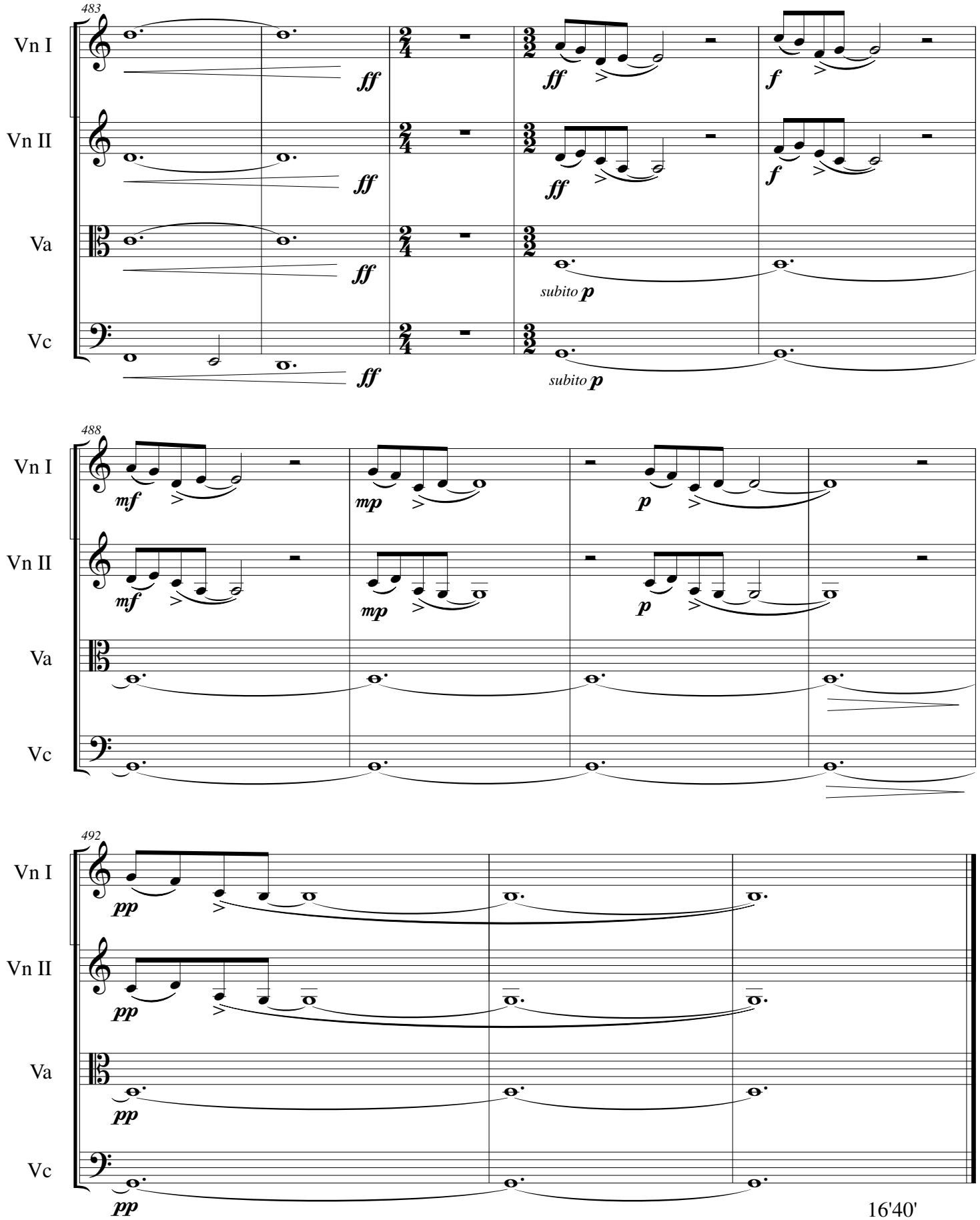

396
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
401
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
406
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc


411
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
416
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
421
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc


426
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
mf
mf
pizz.
f
pizz.
f
436
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
ff
ff
arco
ff
arco
ff
446
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp
pp
pp
p
pp


454
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
459
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
464
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc


469
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
473
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
p
478
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp


483
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
ff
ff
f
subito p
488
mf
mp
p
492
pp
16'40'

VOCAL MUSIC

The Snow Begins (W.C. Williams)	1975	soprano, piano	3 min
Earth and Sea (Eskimo texts)	1975	soprano, piano	3 min
Preludes (T.S. Eliot)	1978	soprano, violin, cello	10 min
6 Songs (W.B. Yeats)	1983	soprano, piano	15 min
To a Child (W.B. Yeats)	1987	soprano, string quartet	20 min
Crazy Jane Sings (W.B. Yeats)	1999	soprano, fl, vn, va, vc, pn	25 min
Vignettes/Flowers (W.C. Williams)	2002	SATB, cello	18 min
Love Poems (W.C. Williams)	2003	SSAA	10 min
Vignettes/Trees (W.C. Williams)	2004	2 voices, 2 cellos	15 min
Thinking of You (John MacKenzie)	2005	soprano, vc, harp	7 min
Ariettas without words	2005	soprano, vc, harp	9 min
Scetate (Ferdinando Russo)	2005	SSATTBB	6 min
In Their Flight (Mark Doty)	2006	sop, mezzo, vn, vc	6 min
5 Rilke Songs	2009	soprano, va d'amore, vc	15 min
4 Songs to Poems by Hart Crane	2010	tenor, piano	12 min
Seasons (W.C. Williams)	2010	SATB	11 min
Der Nachbar	2012	sop, vn	3 min
Sonnets to Orpheus (Rilke)	2012	tenor, piano	35 min
Songs of Loss and Remembrance	2012	sop, va d'amore, va, vc	12 min
Rozmowa z kamieniem (Szymborska)	2013	sop, 2 va, vc	15 min
Wedding Songs	2014	countertenor, va, vc, theorbo	5 min
2 poems by Charl Cilliers	2016	soprano, piano	5 min

MUSIC FOR STRINGS ALONE

6 Contrapuntal Pieces	1986	string quartet	20 min
For Laura	1987	string quartet	25 min
The Beckoning Stars	2001	string quartet	13 min
Imaginary Dances	2001	violin solo	18 min
Short Stories	2003	vn, va, vc, db	18 min
Passion (a love duet)	2003	va, vc	9 min
Pavanne (for a world without war)	2005	string orchestra	8 min
Meditations for String Orchestra	2006	string orchestra	8 min
American Landscapes	2007	string quartet	24 min
Motet for String Orchestra	2008	string orchestra	7 min
Ecstasy	2009	viola solo	9 min
Transformations	2009	viola da gamba solo	12 min
Sonatine	2010	3 violins	9 min
Lieder ohne Worte	2011	2 va, vc, theorbo	12 min
Middle Ground	2012	vn, 2va, vc	25 min
O mystery!	2012	cello solo	5 min
Music for viol consort	2013	6 viols	20 min
Afterwards, there were no more wars	2013	string quartet	21 min
At the Center of All Things	2013	string quartet	17 min
4 Nocturnes	2013	vn, va	19 min
Lonely Voices	2013	string quartet	26 min
Trance Music	2014	string orchestra	22 min
The Time is Past	2015	string quartet	11 min
Dreaming of a Better World	2016	string quartet	17 min

CHAMBER MUSIC

Three for Three	1992	vn, vc, pn	16 min
Civil War Songs	1992	va, pn	18 min
Take Five	1993	2 vns, va, vc, pn	25 min
Serenade	1999	fl, vn, va, vc	11 min
Distant Music	2000	cl, vn/va, vc, pn	20 min
Driven by the Wind	2001	fl, vc, pn	25 min
Nonet (for New York)	2002	fl, ob, cl, hn, bn, 2vns, va, vc	35 min
A Little Sweet	2003	fl, vc	10 min
On the edge of sleep & dreaming	2003	hn, vc, harp	31 min
5 Pastoral Scenes	2004	ob, bn, vn, va, vc	30 min
I was dreaming of the sea...	2004	vn (or fl), vc, pn	7 min
Little Tales of Mirth & Woe	2004	vn (or fl), vc, pn	6 min
An Ode to the Possibility of Peace	2005	cl, vn, vc	15 min
Elements	2006	fl, ob, cl, hn, bn	11 min
Motet for Brass Instruments	2006	2 trp, hn, trb, tu	7 min
4 Caprices for Violin & Piano	2014	vn, pn	14 min

ORCHESTRAL MUSIC

Morning Music	2001	cl, string orchestra	22 min
Two Sad Songs (W.B. Yeats)	2002	sop, string orchestra	15 min
Invisible Ballet	2003	strings & diverse instruments	33 min
Pluto	2005	orchestra	15 min
Ophelia Songs (Shakespeare)	2005	sop, hp, string orchestra	12 min
Love's Little Pleasures (various poets)	2008	sop, string orchestra	15 min
The Four Elements	2009	va, string orchestra	22 min
Mystical Songs	2009	sop, va, string orchestra	18 min
In Praise of Reason	2012	vc, 2 hn, string orchestra	13 min

PIANO MUSIC

Simple Sketches	2015	piano	12 min
Skirmishes	2016	piano 4 hands	10 min

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