stanley grill

MIDDLE GROUND

violin, 2 violas, violoncello

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MUSIC BY STAN GRILL

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
Arietta s without words	2005	soprano, vc, harp	9 min
Scetate (Ferdinando Russo)	2005	SSATTBB	6 min
In Their Flight (Mark Doty)	2006	soprano, mezzo soprano, vn, vc	6 min
Rilke Songs	2009	soprano, va d'amore, vc	15 min
4 Songs to Poems by Hart Crane	2010	tenor, piano	12 min
Sonnets to Orpheus (Rilke)	2012	tenor, piano	35 min

MUSIC FOR STRINGS ALONE

6 Contrapuntal Pieces	1986	string quartet	20 min
For Laura	1987	string quartet	25 min
As Easy as 1,2,3	1987	string trio	10 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
Middle Ground	2012	vn, 2 va, vc	25 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

ORCHESTRAL MUSIC

Appalachian Songs	1988	chamber orchestra	25 min
Morning Music	2001	cl, string orchestra	22 min
Two Sad Songs (W.B. Yeats)	2002	soprano, string orchestra	15 min
Invisible Ballet	2003	strings & diverse instruments	33 min
Pluto	2005	orchestra	15 min
Ophelia Songs (Shakespeare)	2005	soprano, harp, string orchestra	12 min
Love's Little Pleasures	2008	soprano, string orchestra	15 min
The Four Elements	2009	va, string orchestra	22 min
Mystical Songs	2009	soprano, va, string orchestra	18 min

Middle Ground

"Middle Ground" - scored for violin, 2 violas, cello - was composed for Elzbieta Sajka and the Pandolfis Consort. The title is about more than the 2 violas - and that gorgeous middle range they sound in. It was composed in the midst of an American Presidential campaign, a time when, even more than usual, politicians speak in extremes, and none attempt to find that "middle ground" where people can accomplish remarkable things if they have the desire and will to do so.

The quartet is in 5 movements, so that it also has a center, balanced by the outside movements. With the thought in mind that the Pandolfis Consort is an early music ensemble, the 2nd and 4th movements are based on Baroque themes, by Corelli and Bach, respectively. The opening and final movements are dance-like, built around opening viola duets.

Stan Grill

Middle Ground

I

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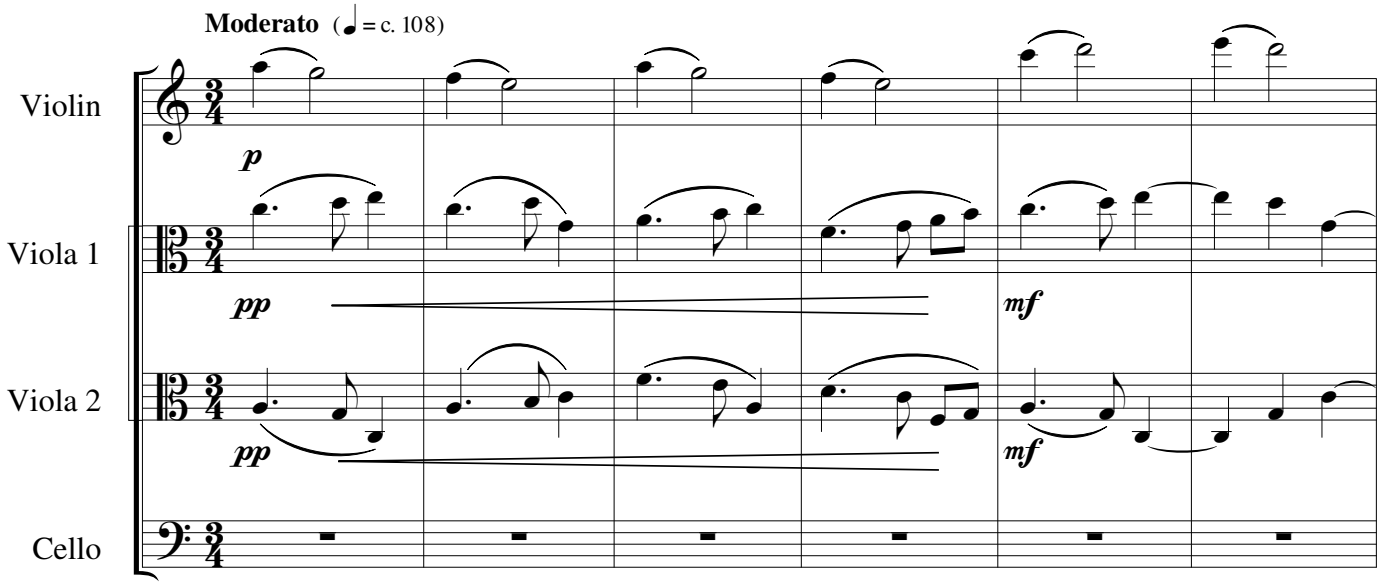

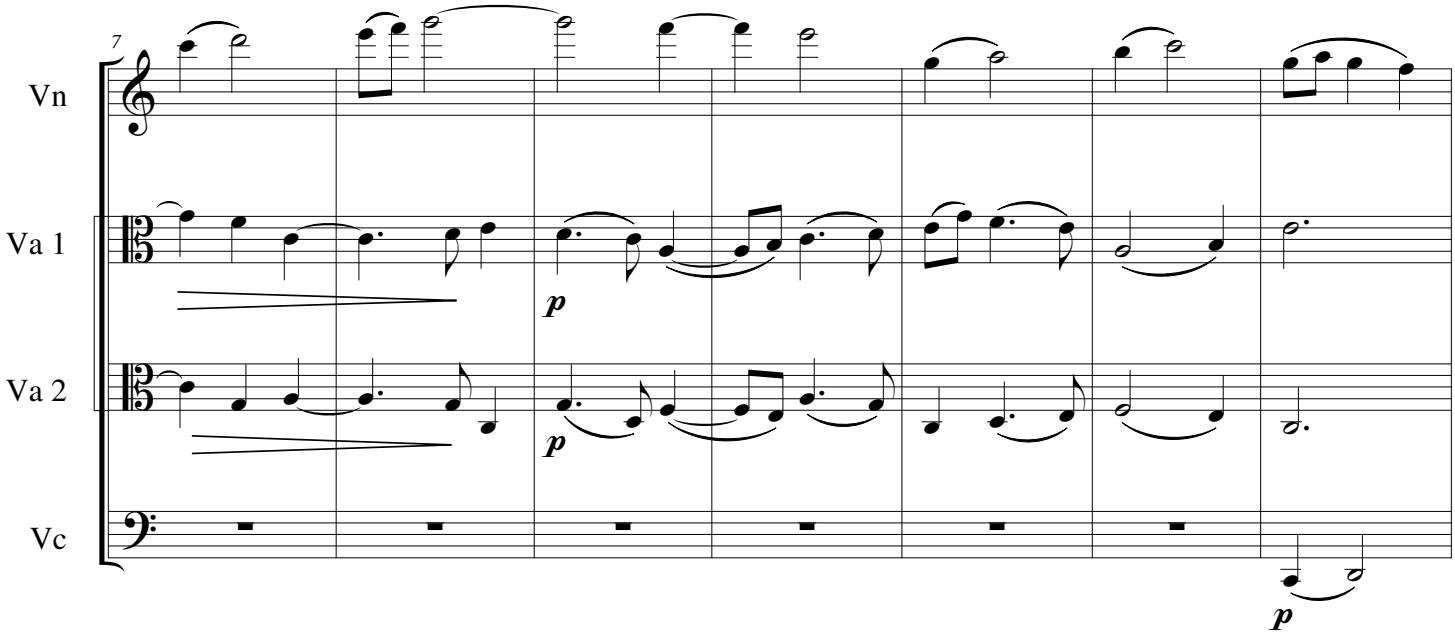

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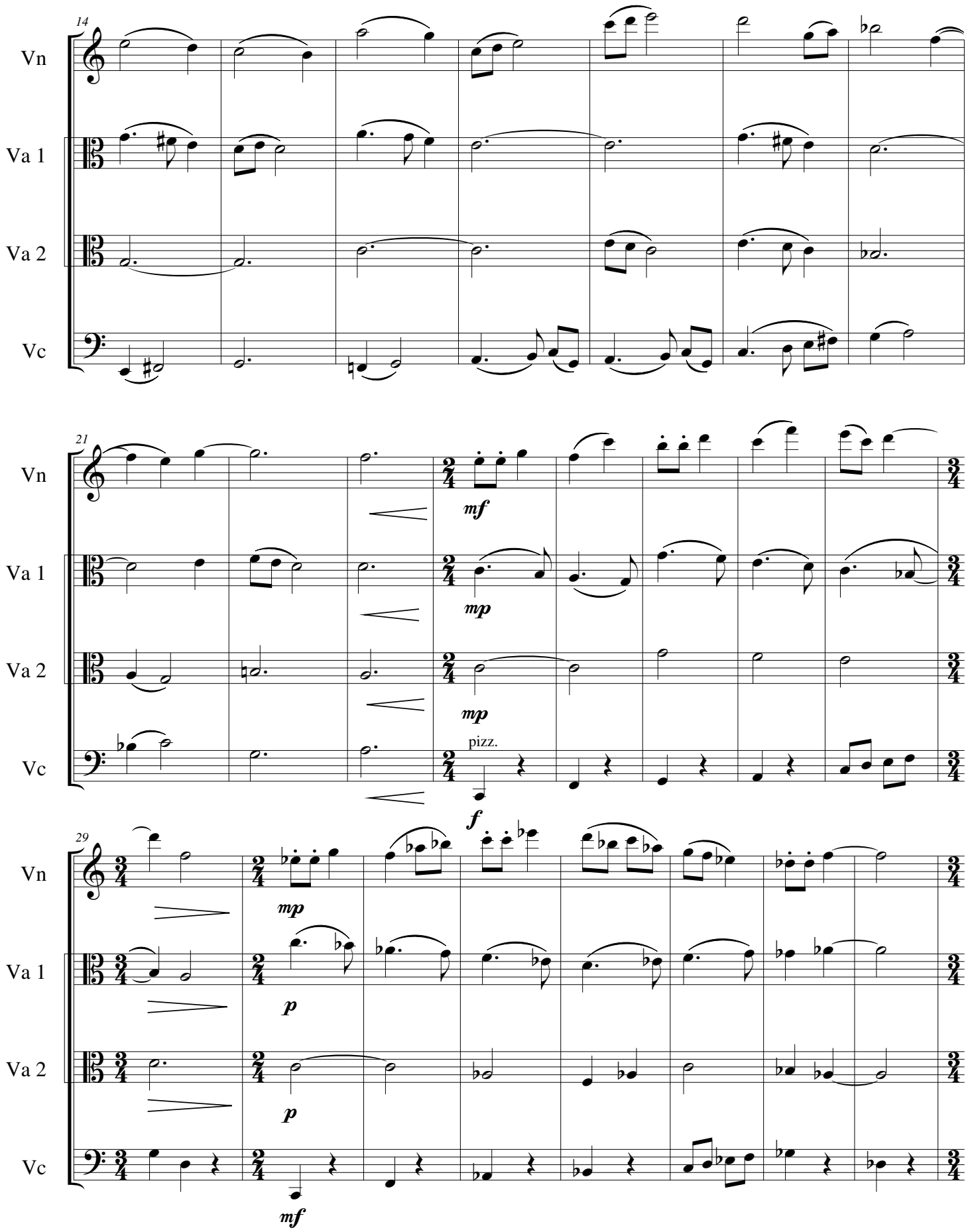
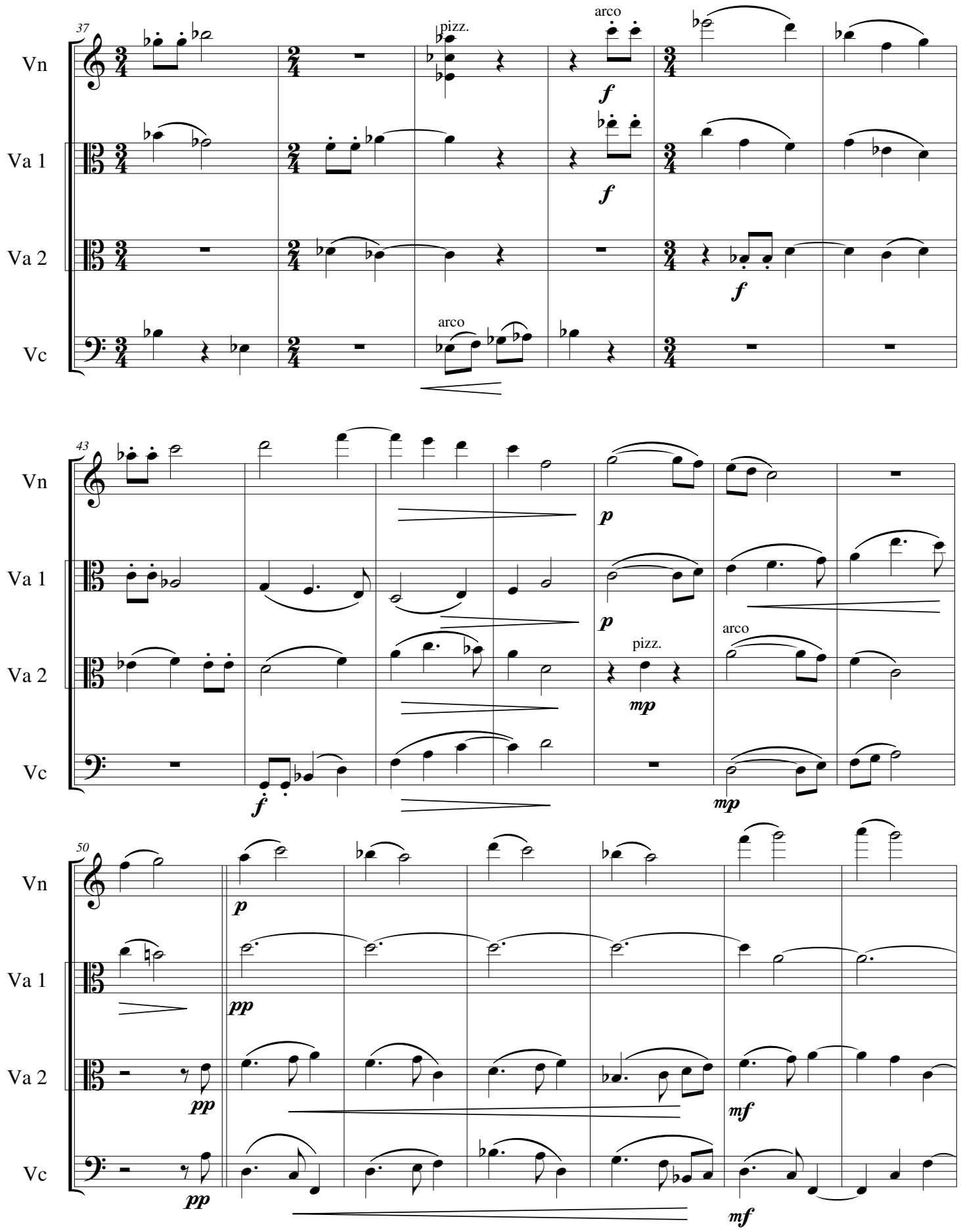
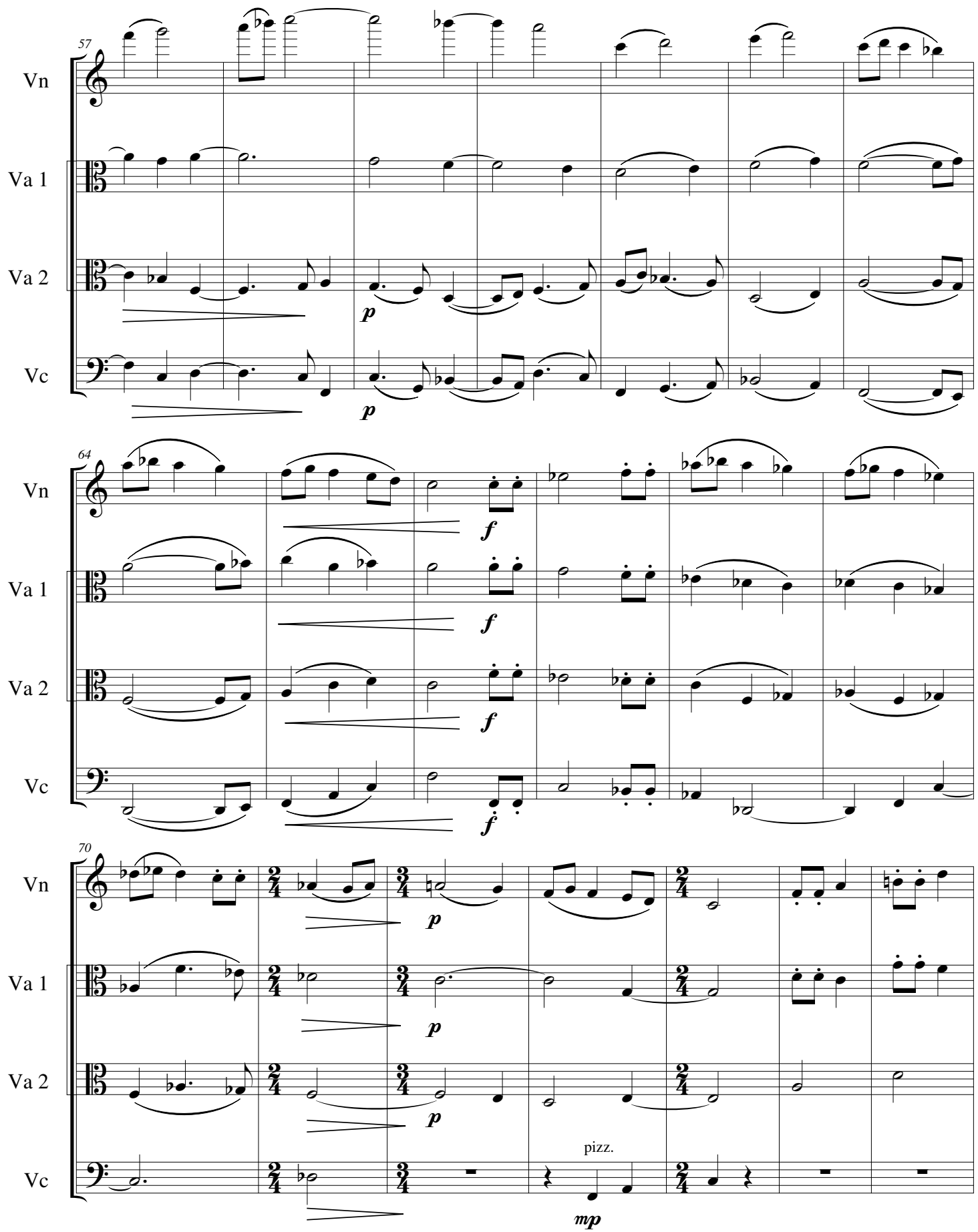
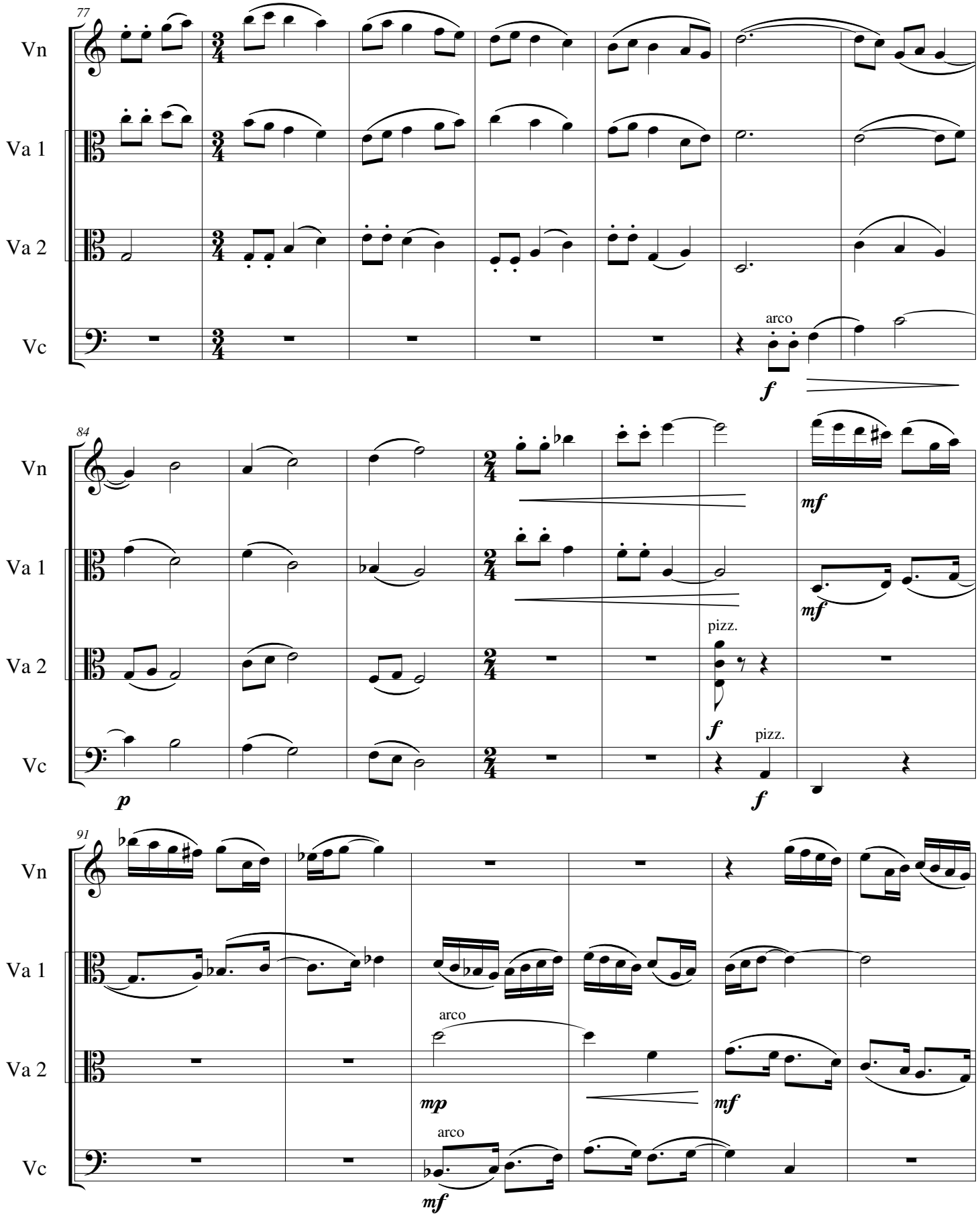
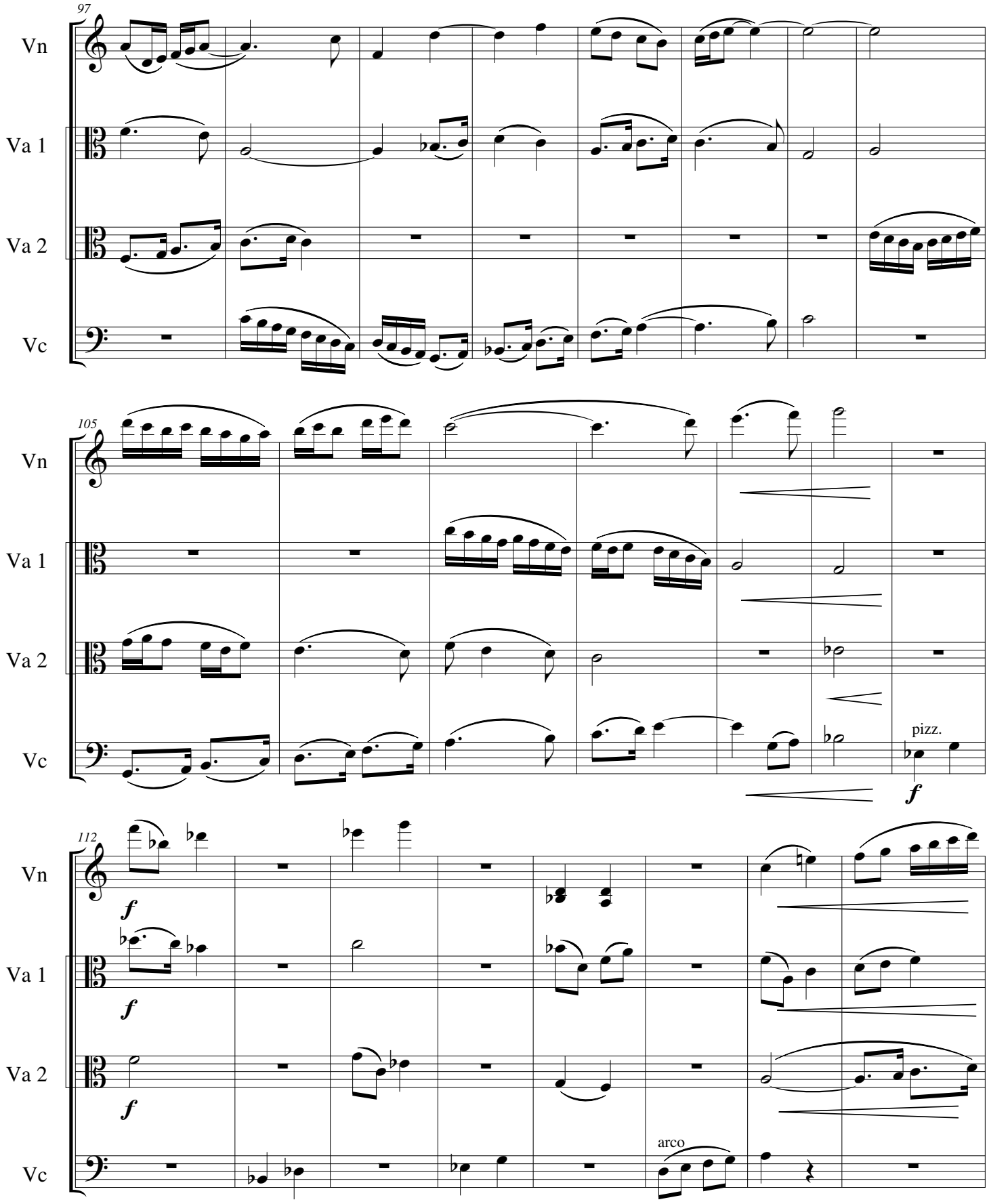
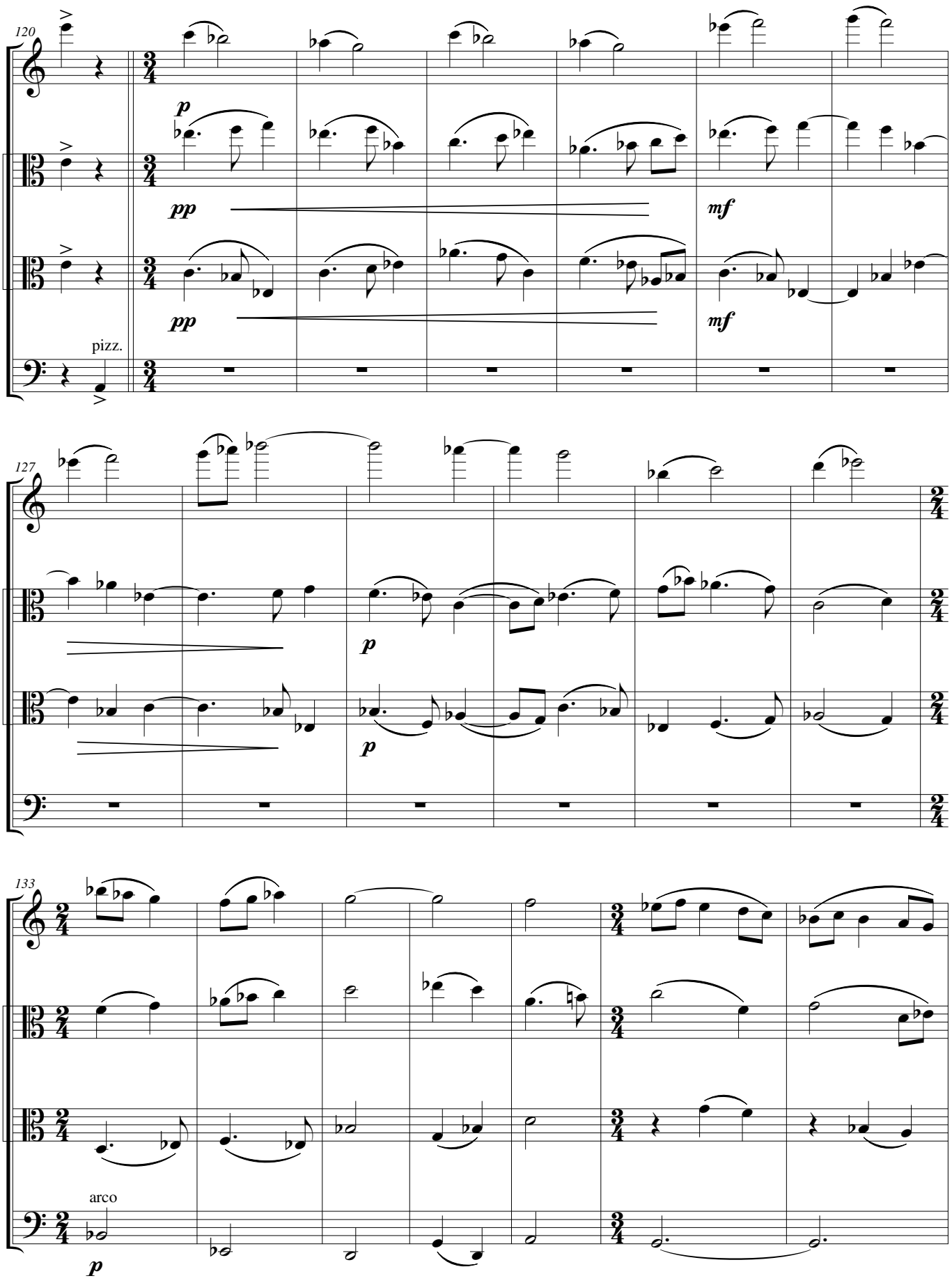

14
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
21
mf
mp
mp
pizz.
f
29
mp
p
p
mf

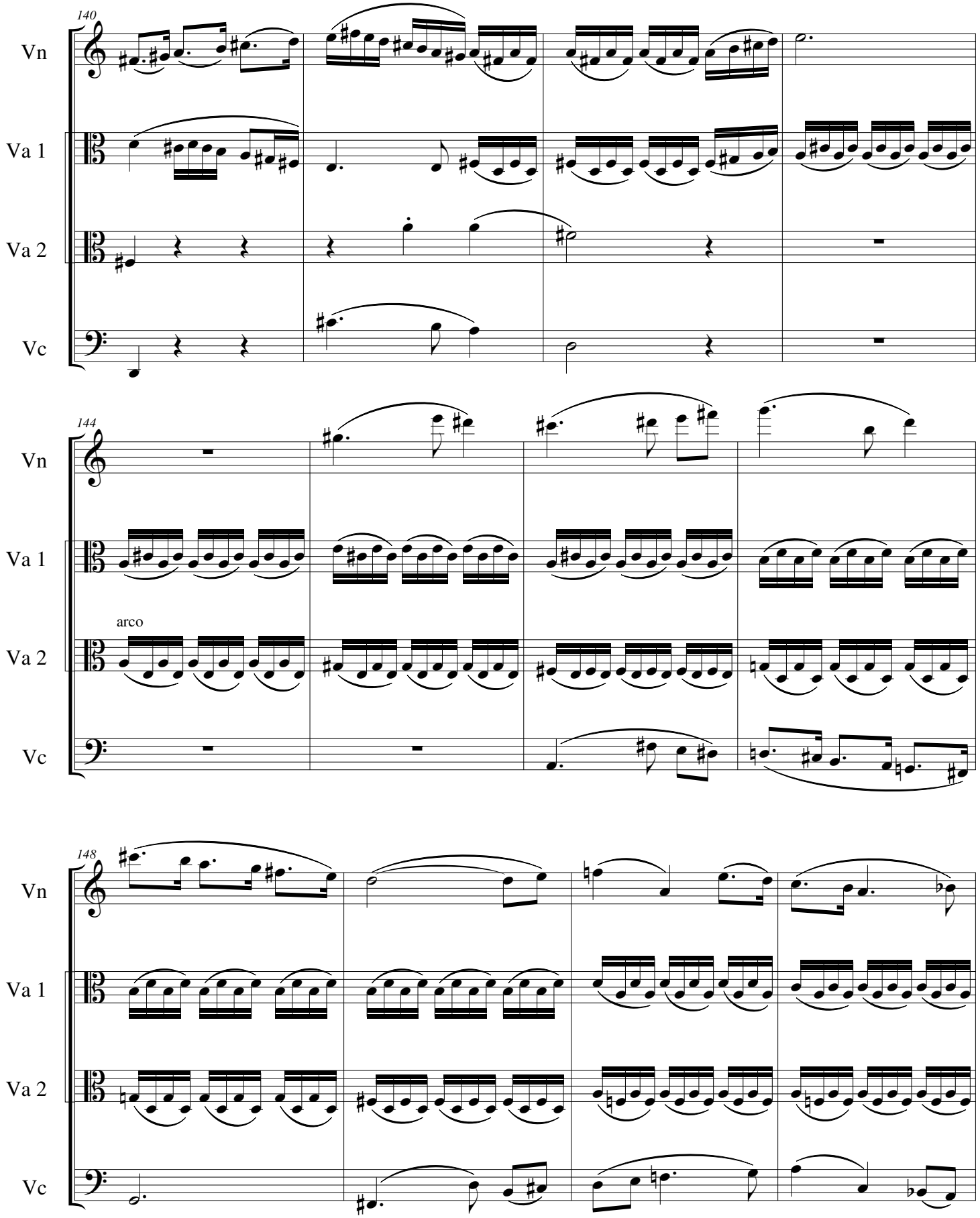

37
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
pizz.
arco
f
43
p
mp
50
pp
mf

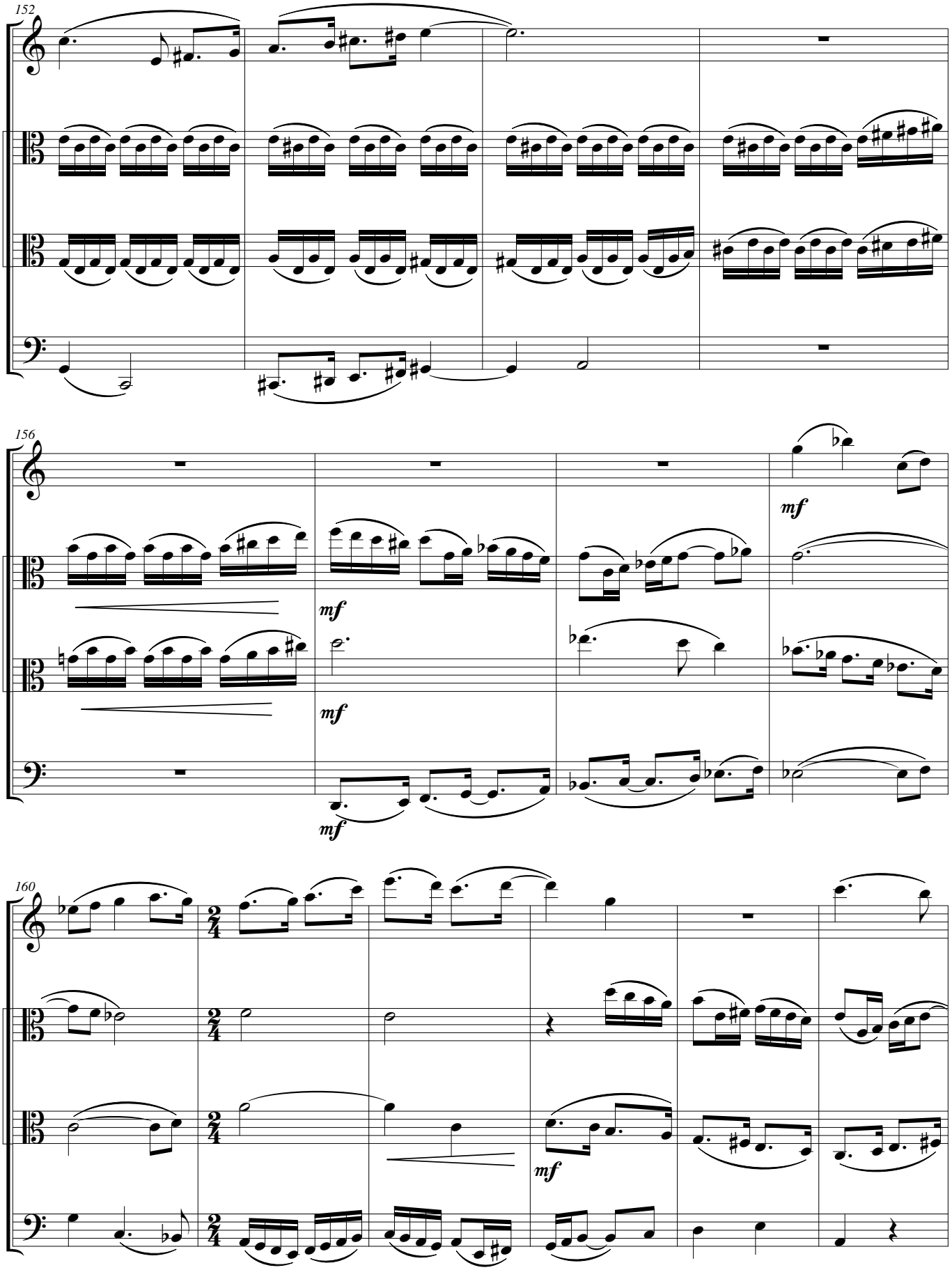

57
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
p
p
64
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
f
f
f
f
70
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
p
p
p
pizz.
mp

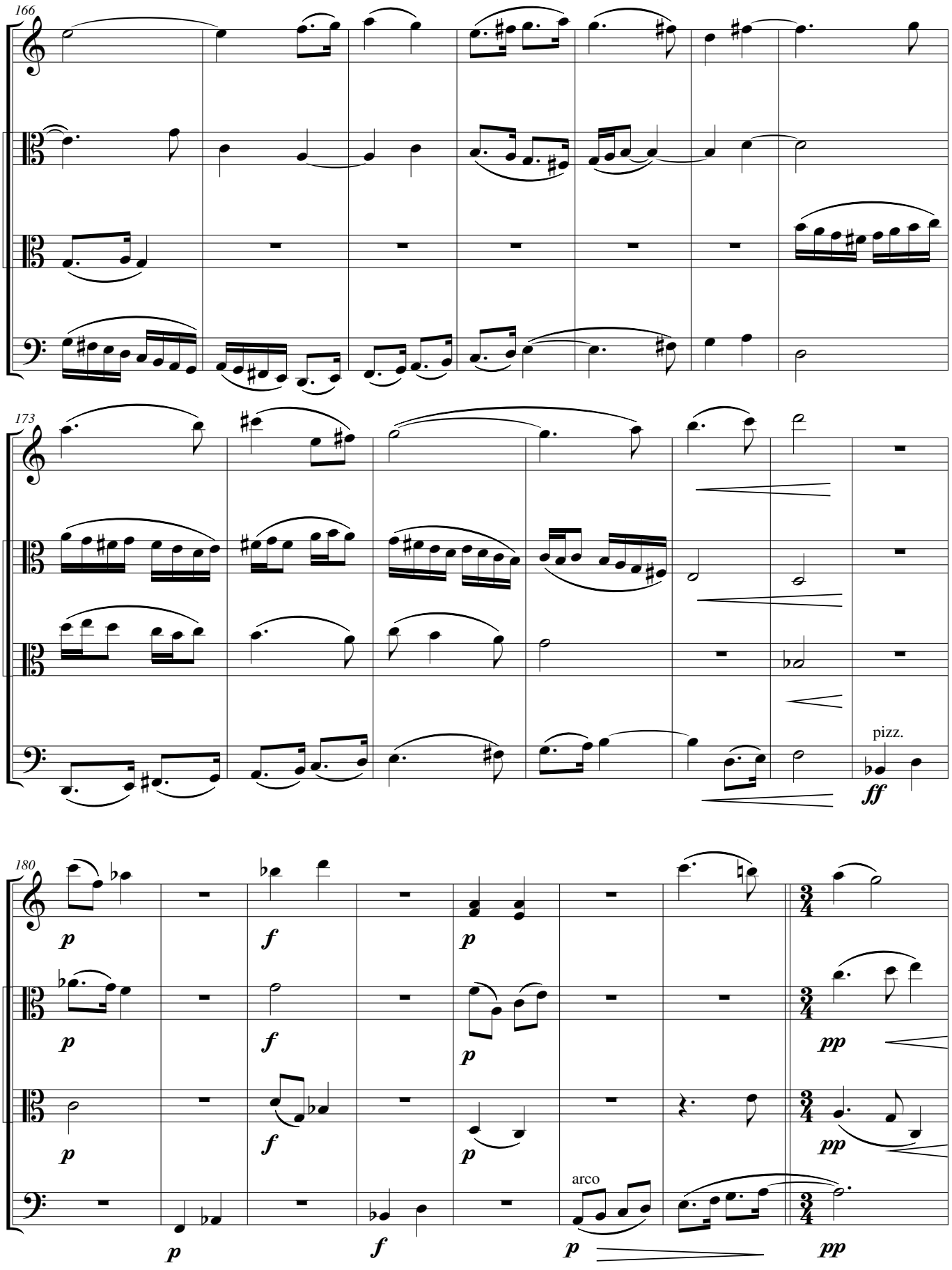

77
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
arco
f
84
p
mf
pizz.
91
mp
arco

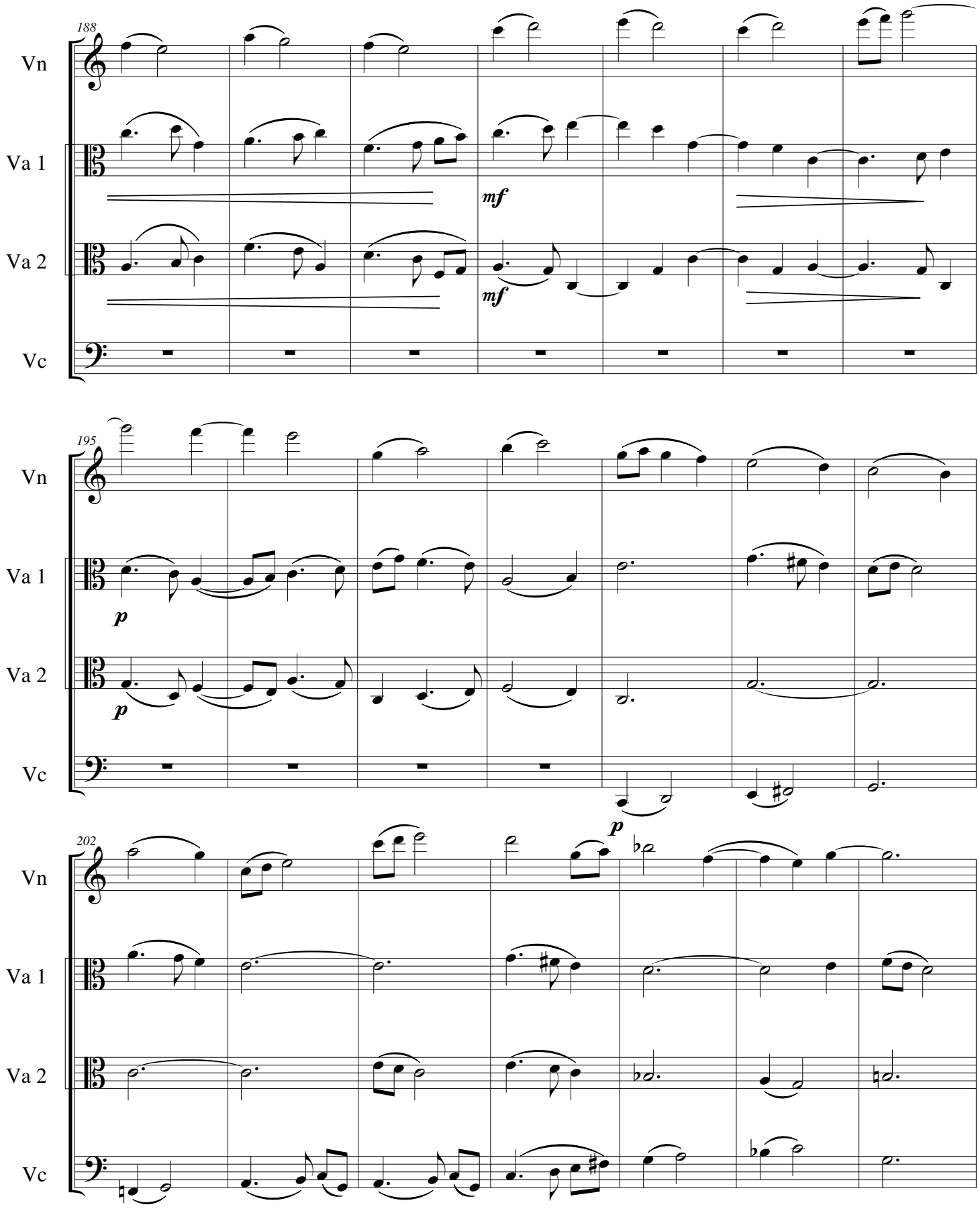

97
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
105
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
pizz.
f
112
Vn
f
Va 1
f
Va 2
f
Vc
arco

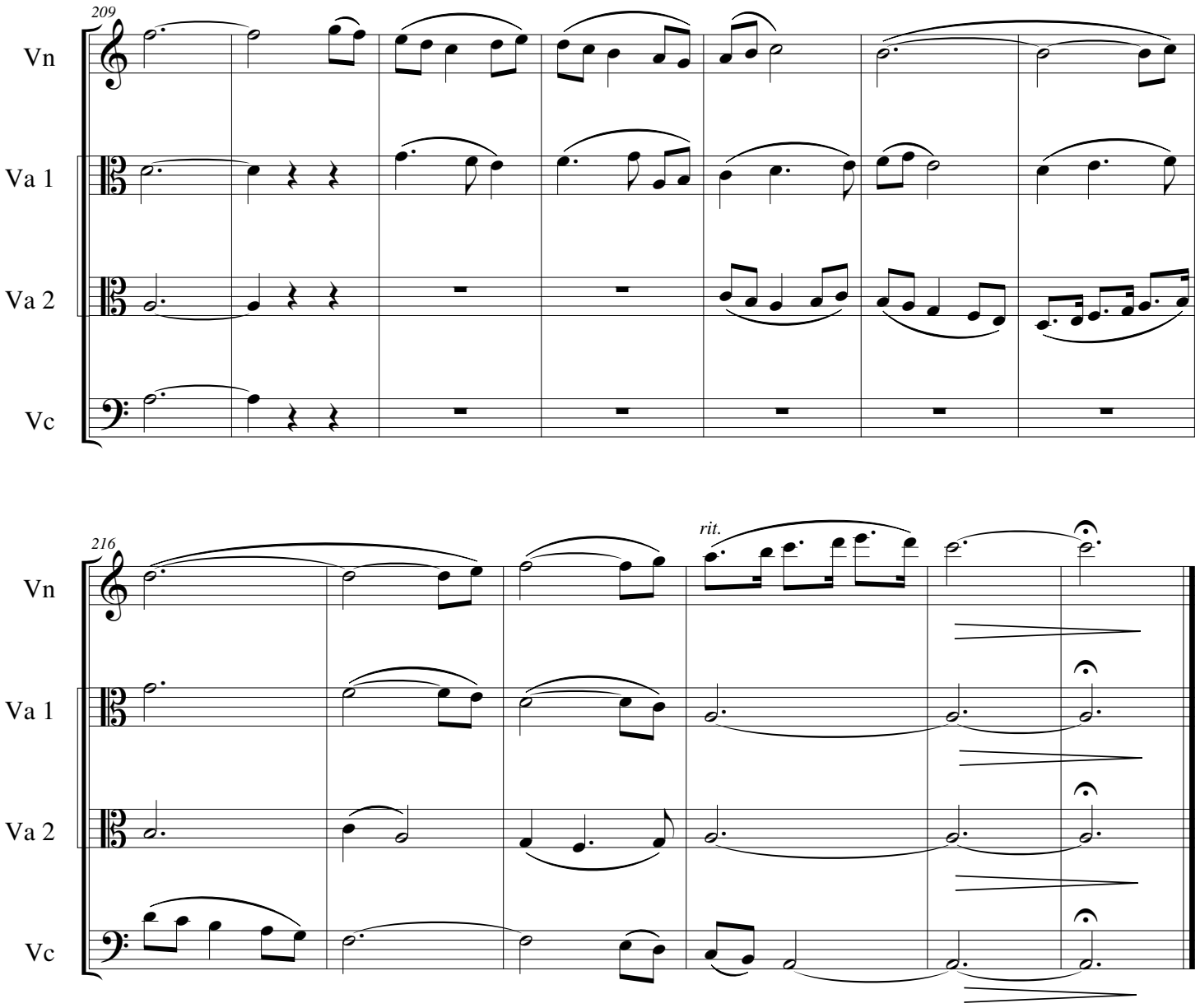

120
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
p
pp
mf
pizz.
127
133
arco


140
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
144
arco
148


152
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
156
mf
160
2/4


166
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
173
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
pizz.
ff
180
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
arco
p
f
pp


188
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
mf
mf
195
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
p
p
202
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
p


209
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
216
rit.
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
5'22"

Middle Ground

2

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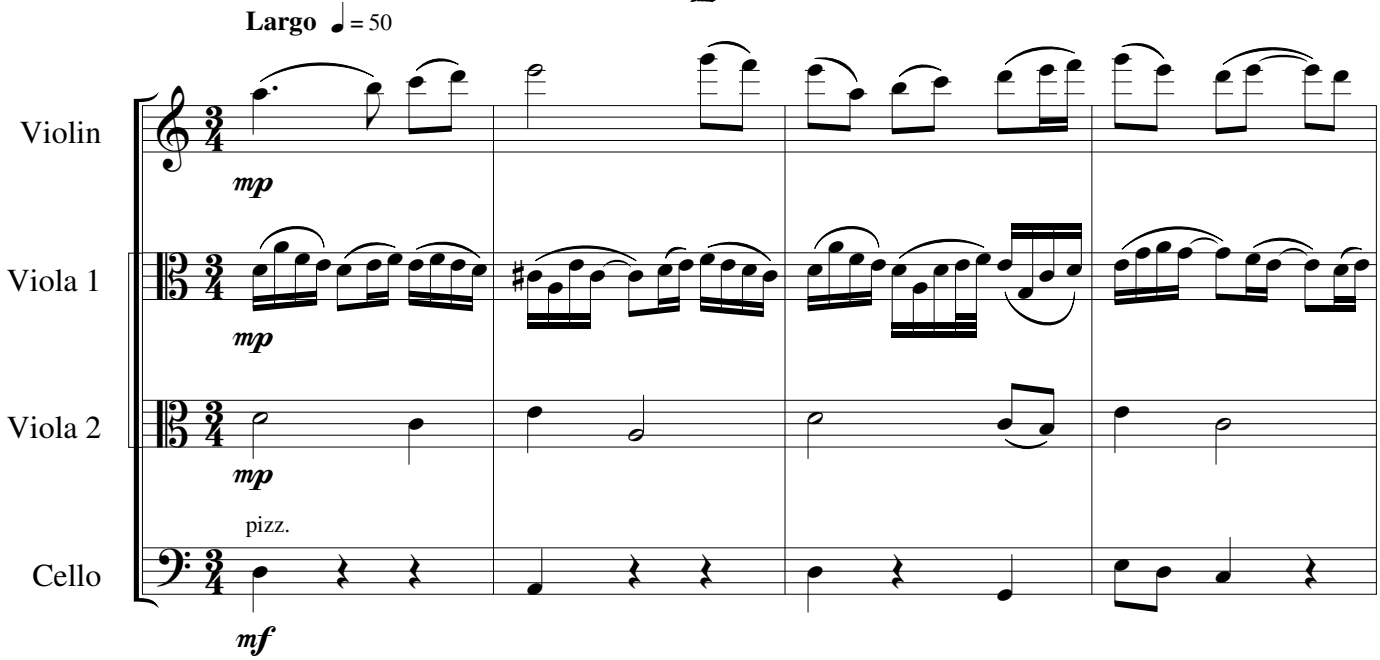
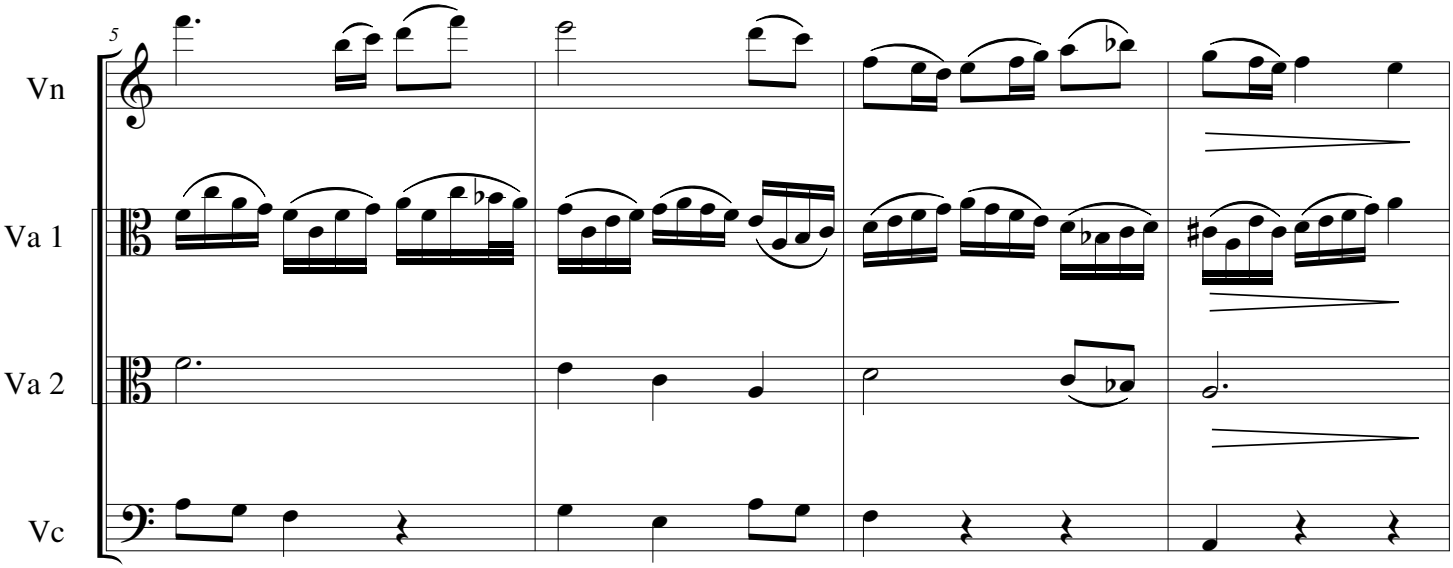
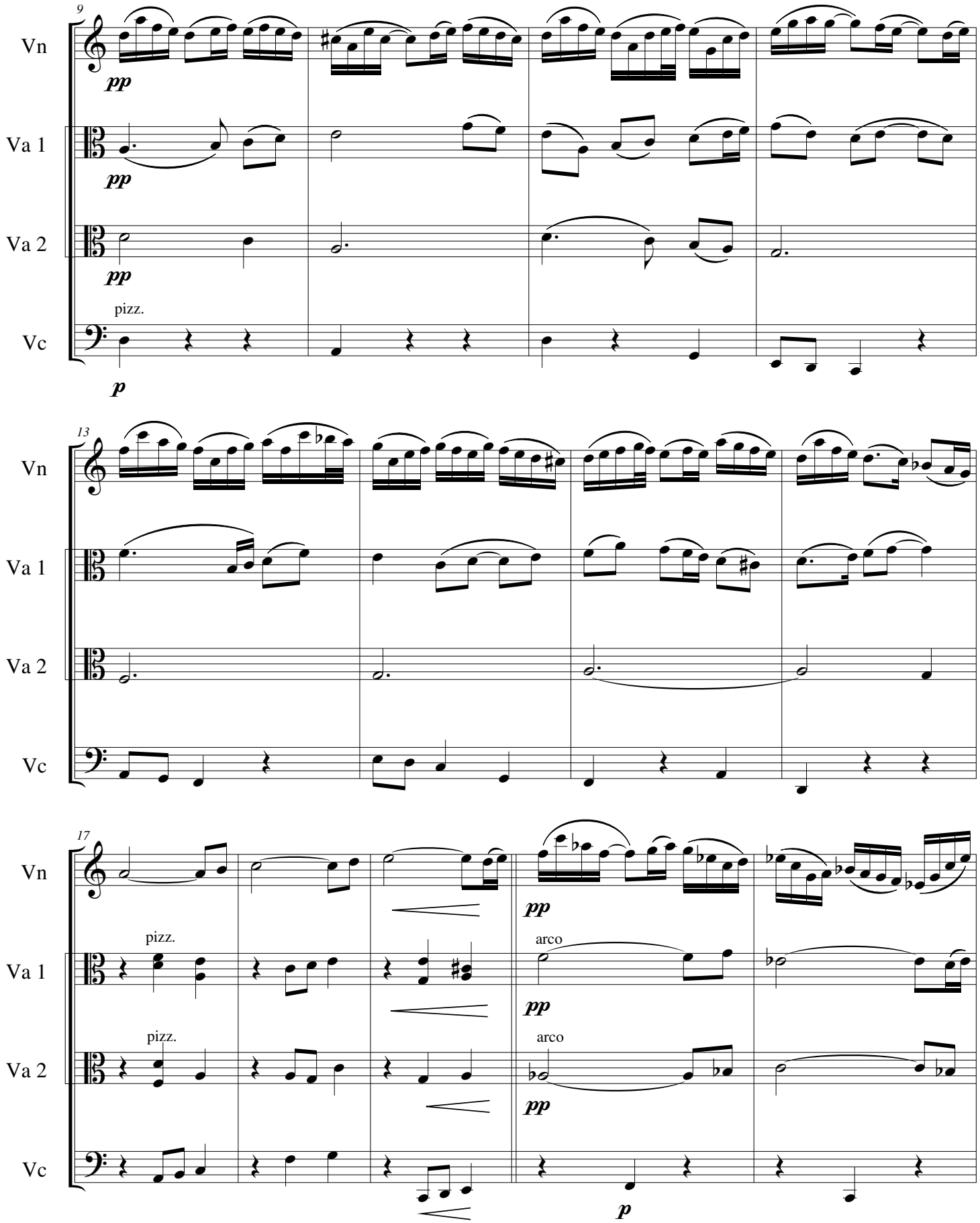
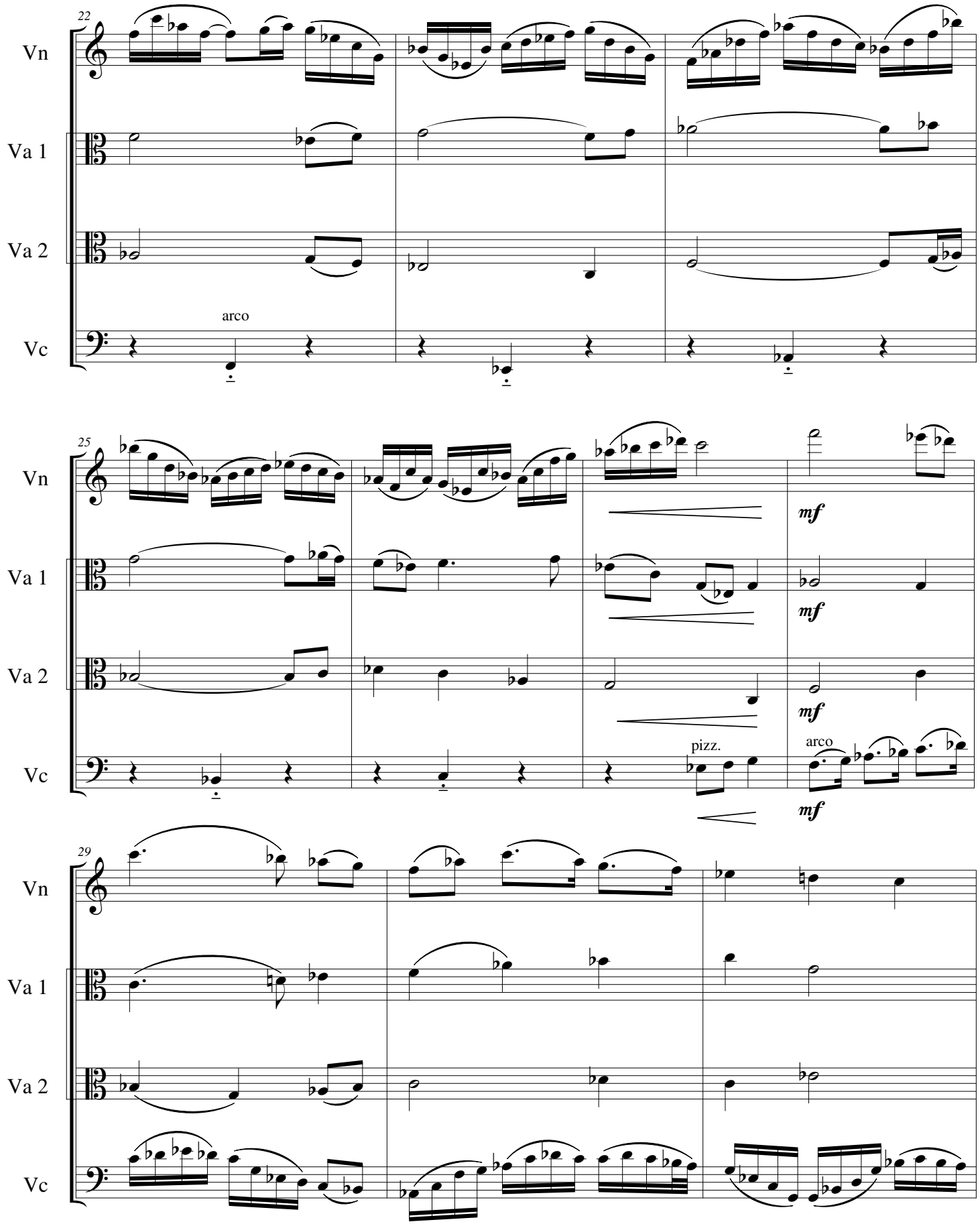
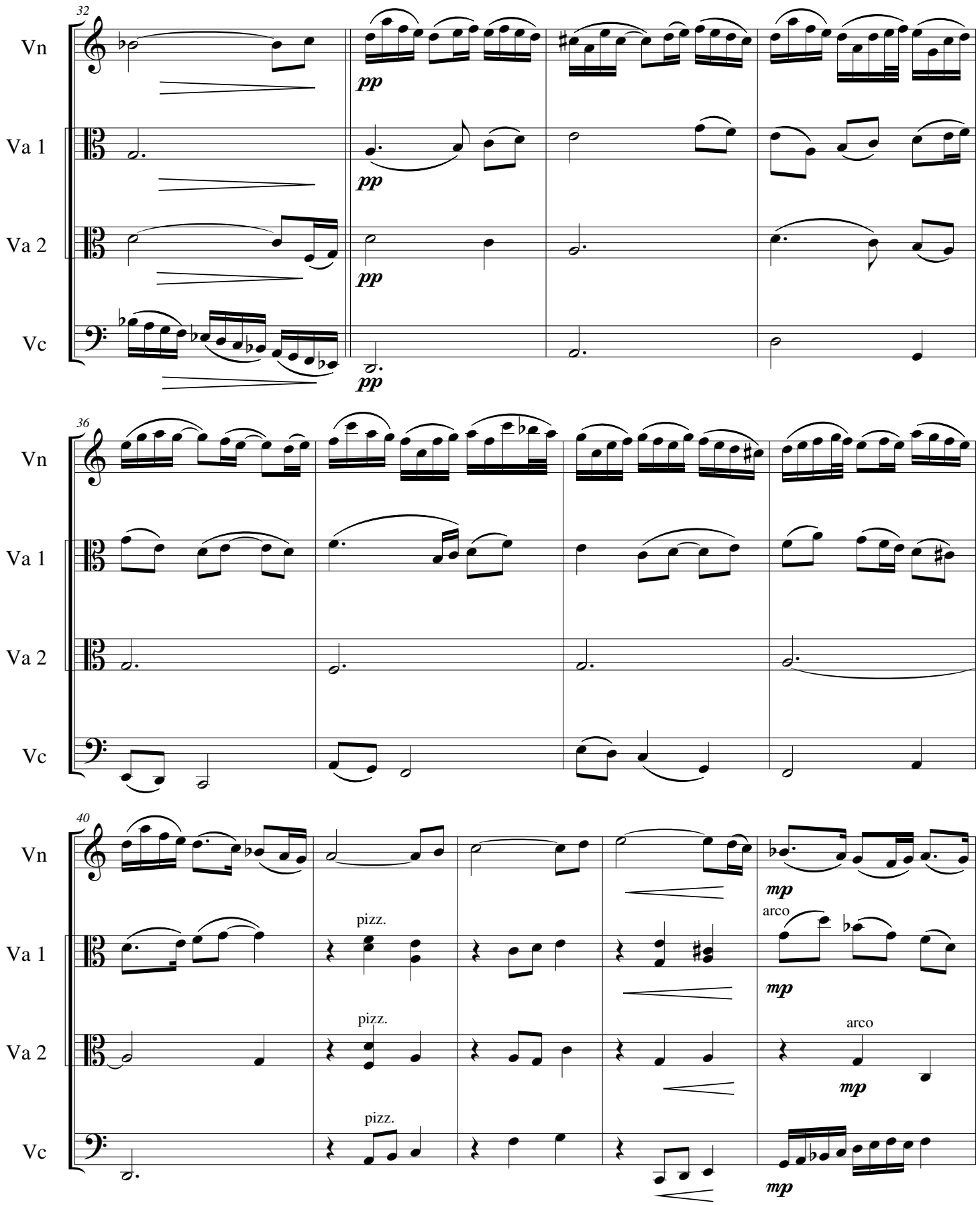
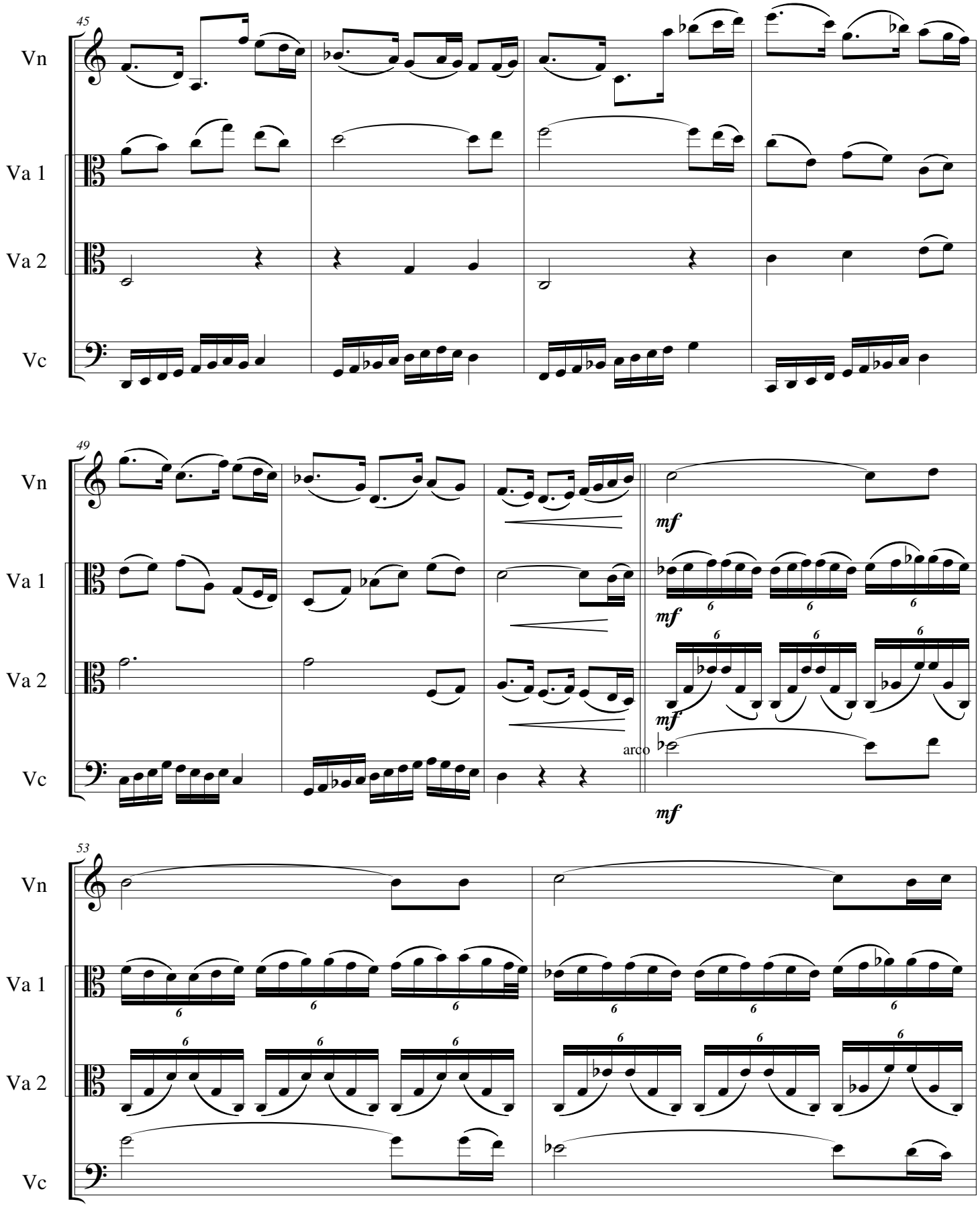


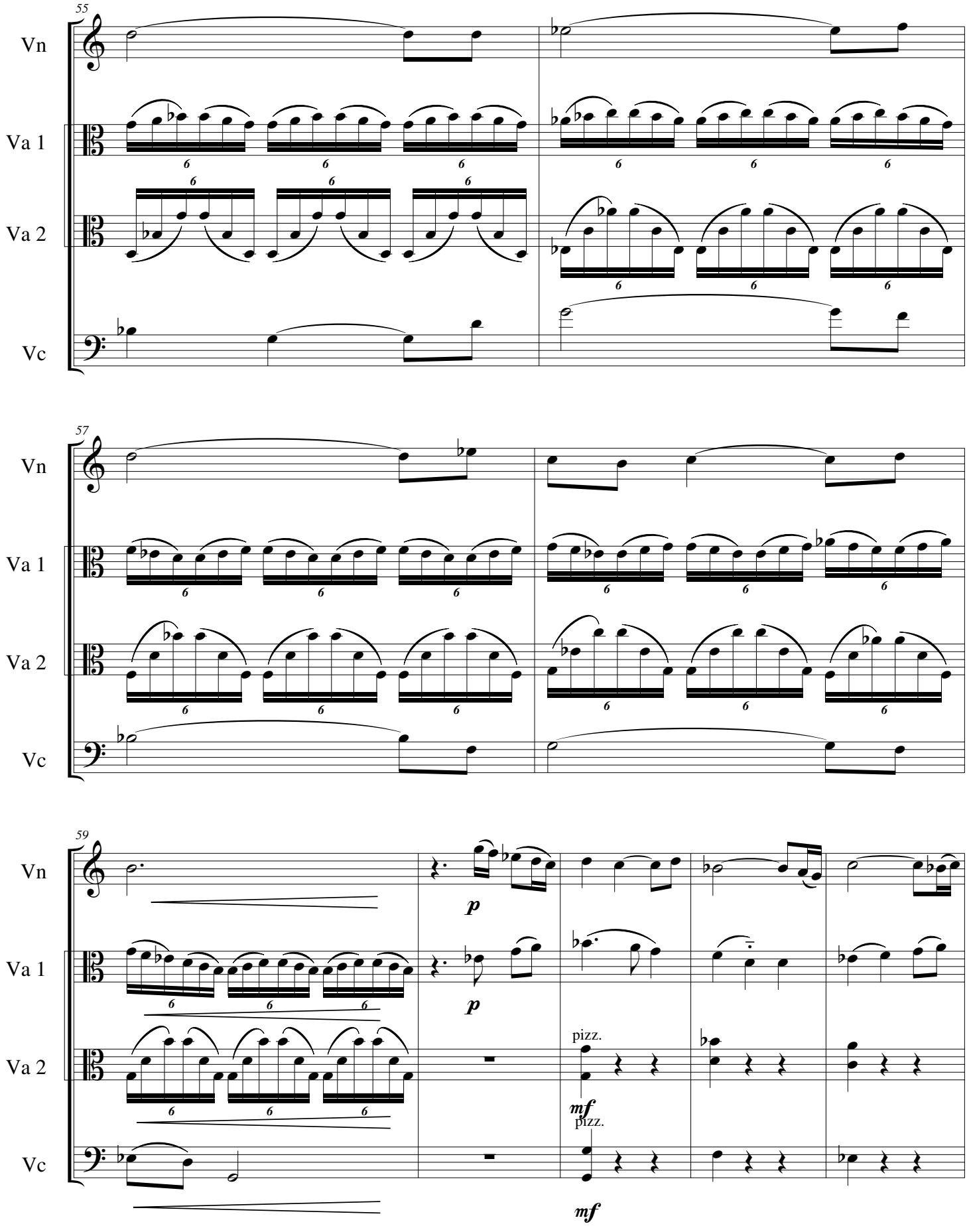


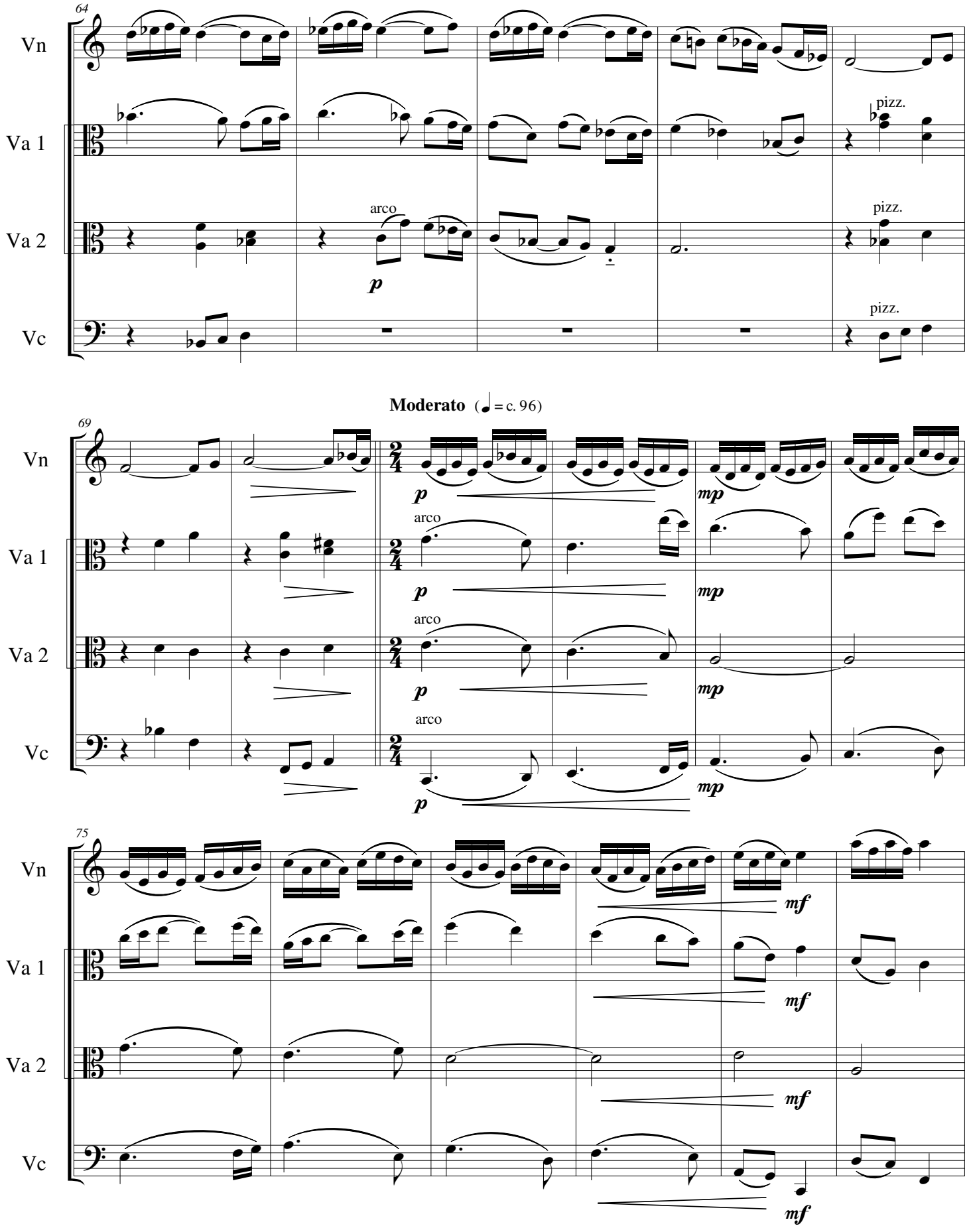

9
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
pp
pp
pp
pizz.
p
13
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
17
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
pizz.
pizz.
pp
arco
arco
pp
pp
p

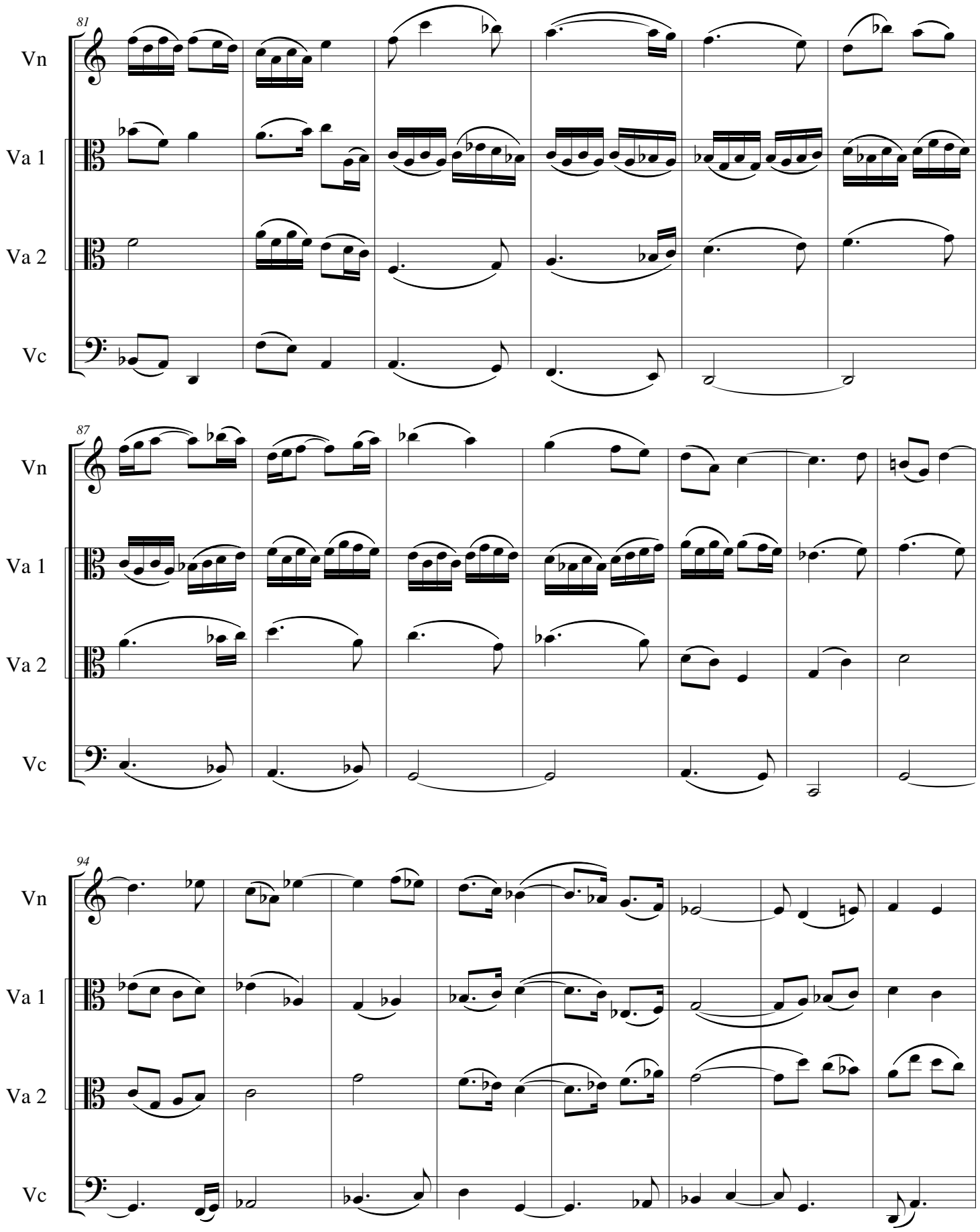

22
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
arco
Vc
25
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
mf
mf
mf
pizz.
arco
Vc
mf
29
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc

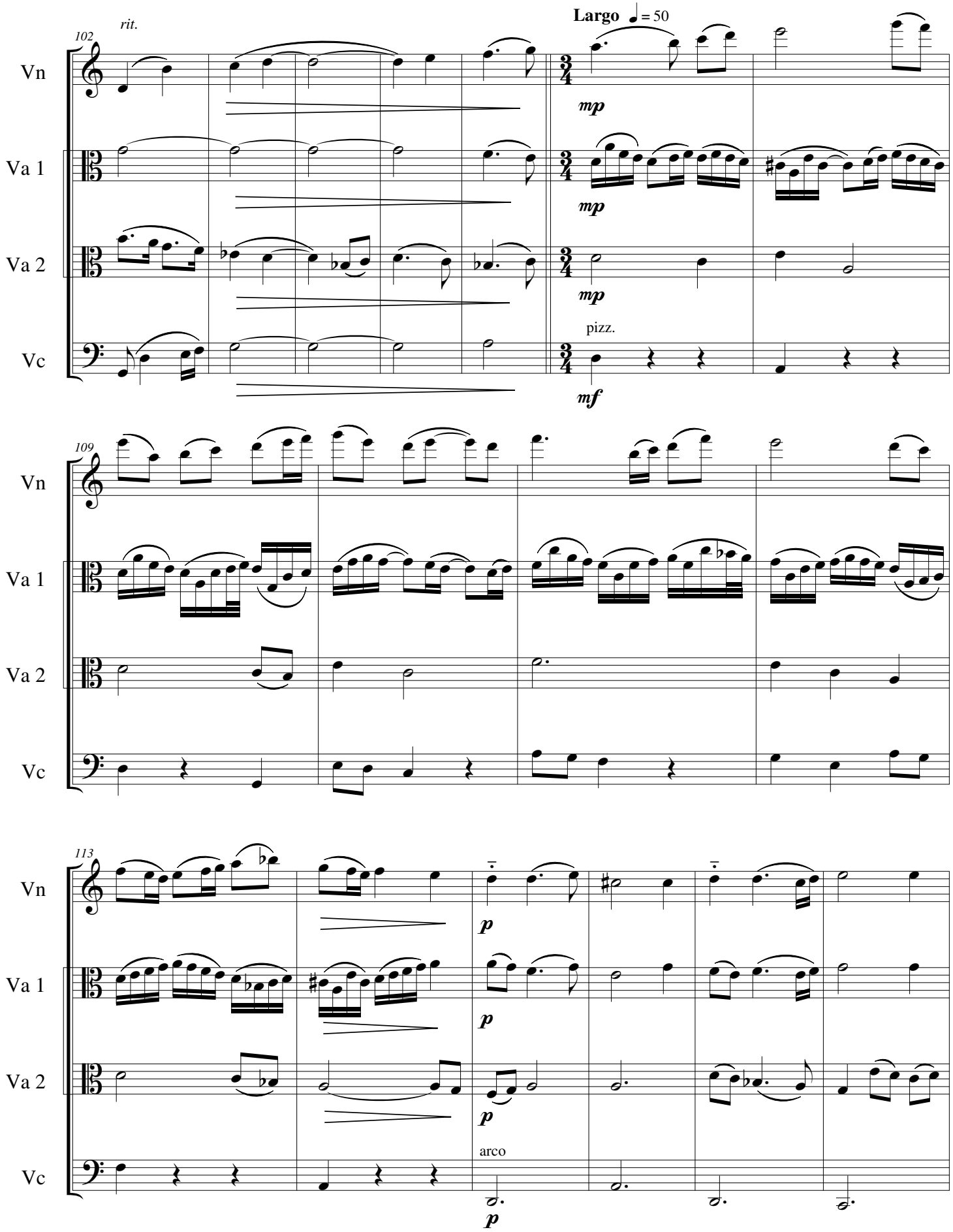

32
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
pp
pp
pp
pp
36
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
40
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
arco
arco
mp
mp
mp
mp

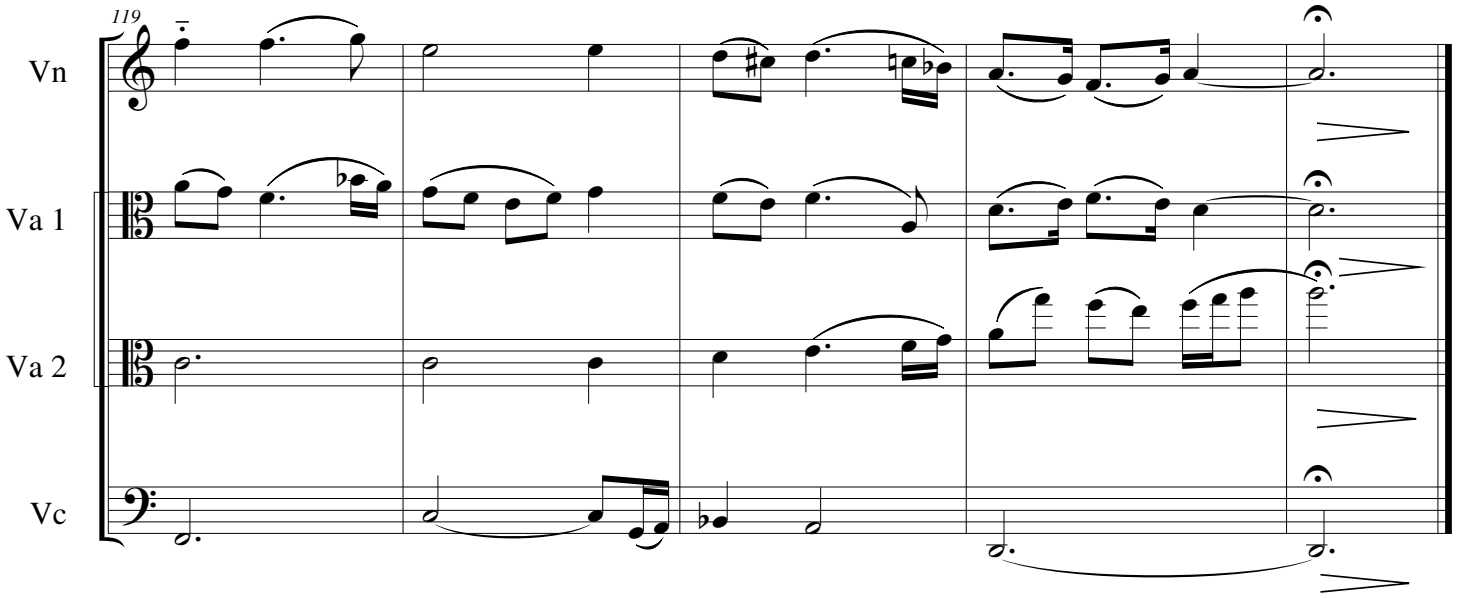

45
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
49
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
mf
mf
mf
arco
mf
53
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc


55
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
57
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
59
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
p
p
pizz.
mf
pizz.
mf


64
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
arco
p
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
Moderato (♩ = c. 96)
69
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
p
mp
arco
75
mf


81
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
87
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
94
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc


102
rit.
Largo ♩= 50
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
mp
mp
mp
pizz.
mf
109
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
113
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
p
p
p
arco
p



6'00"

Middle Ground

3

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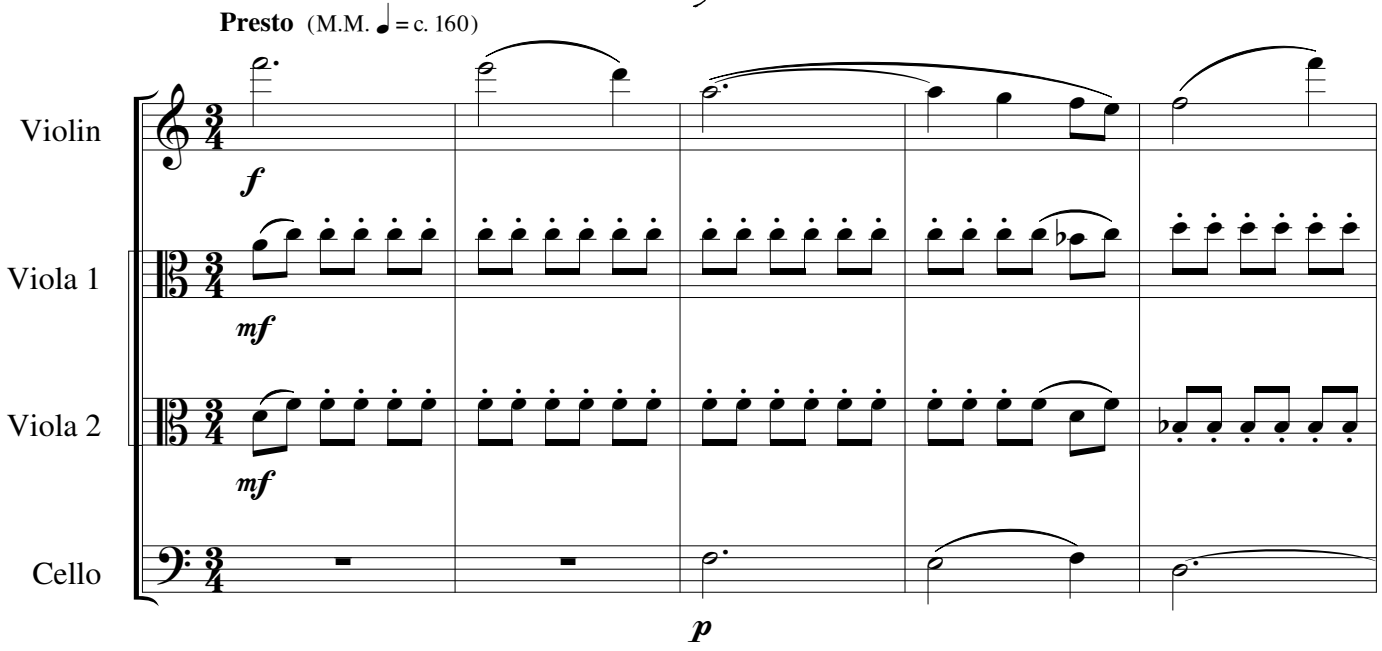
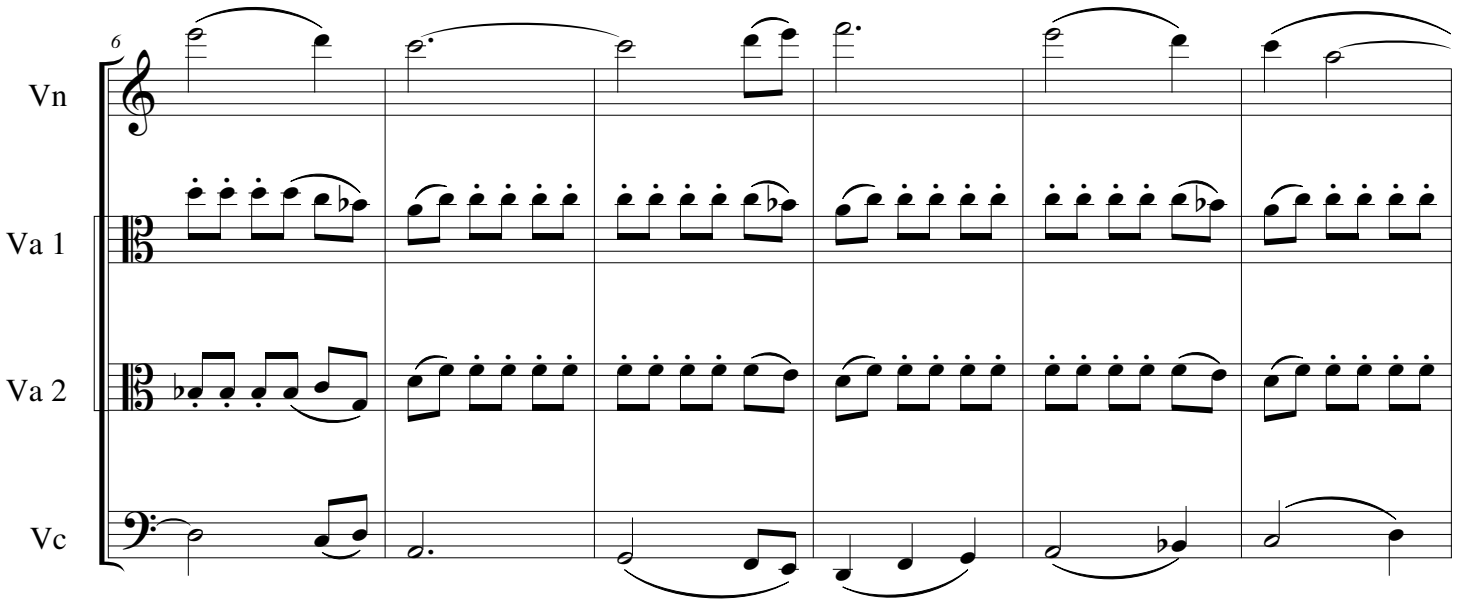
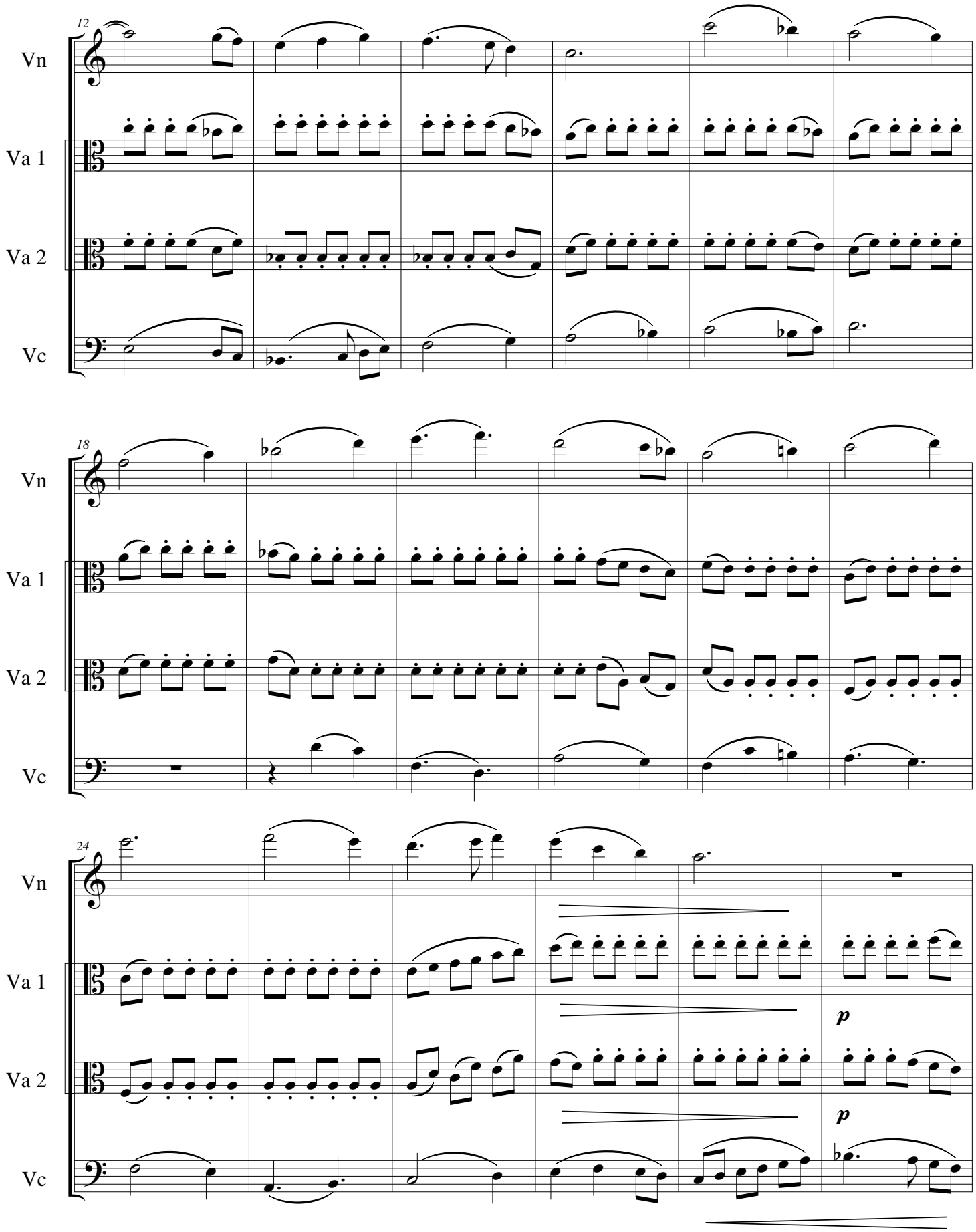
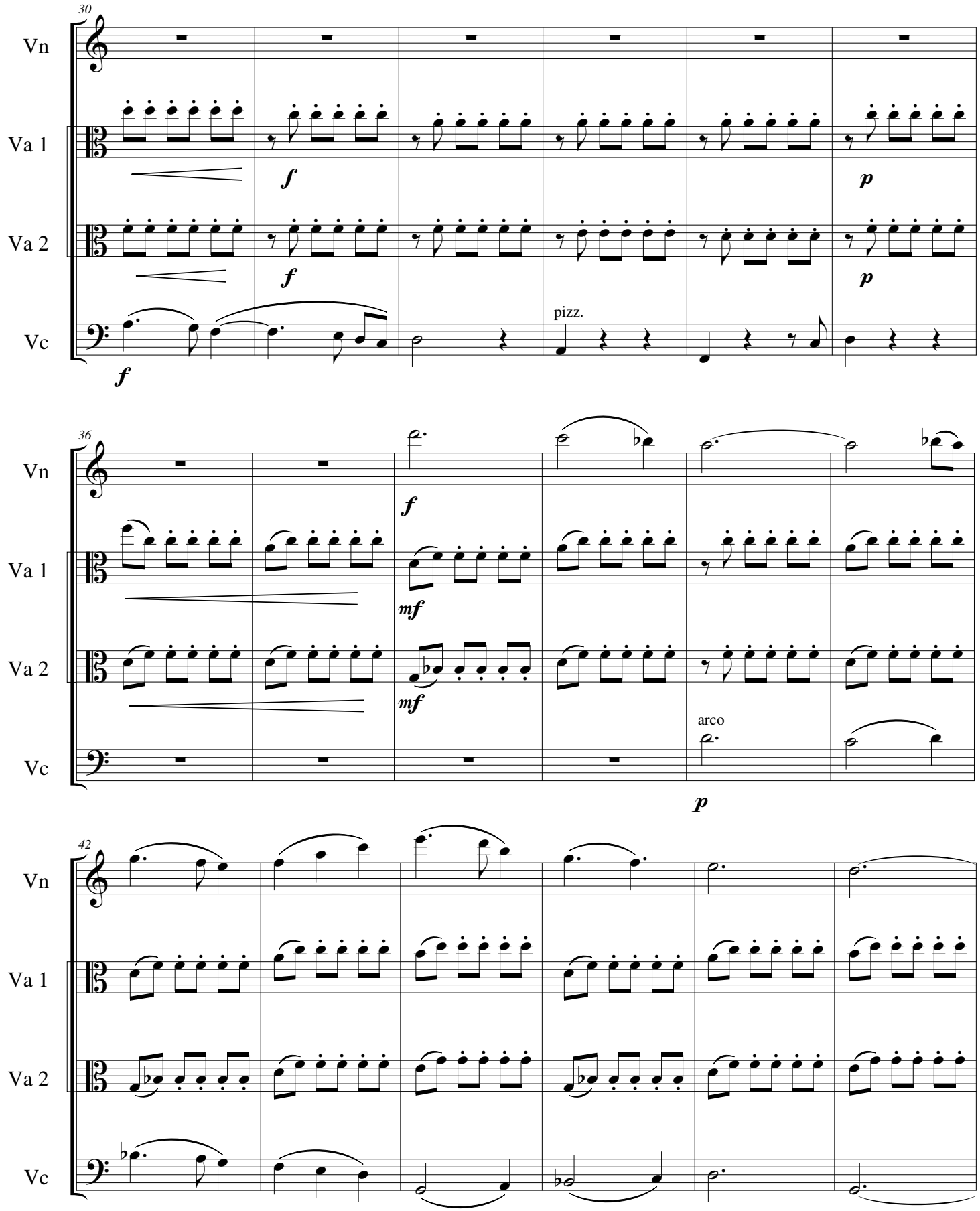
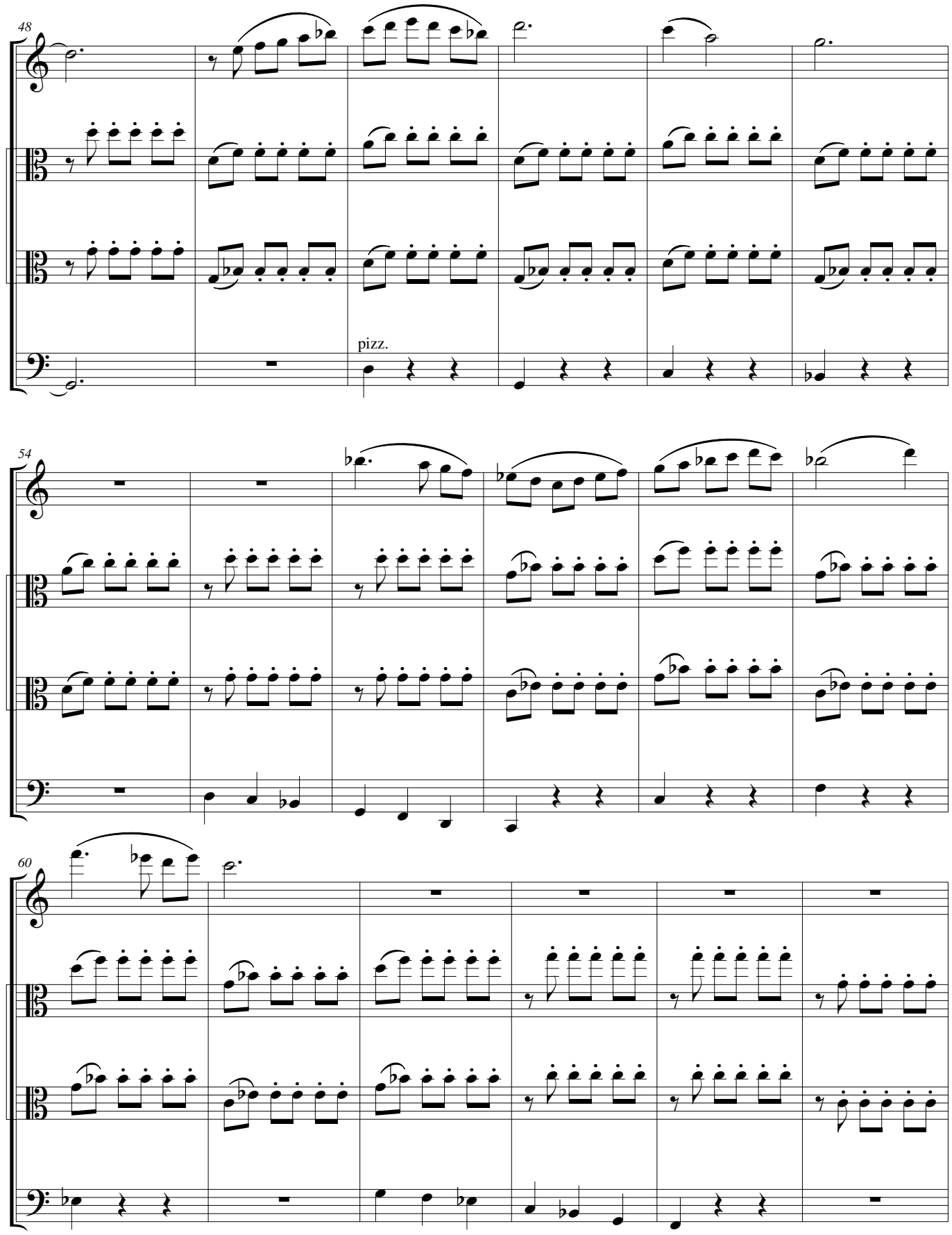
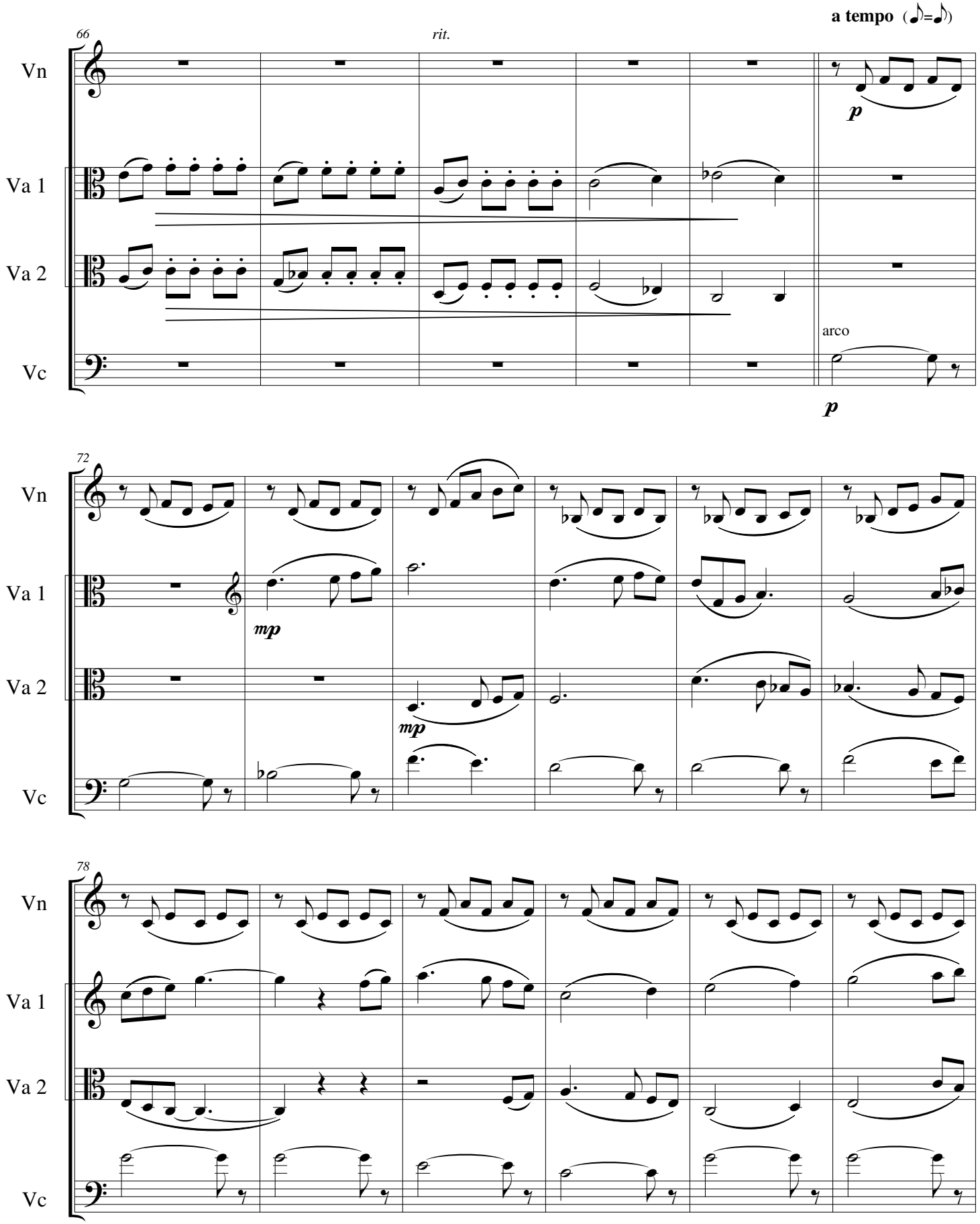


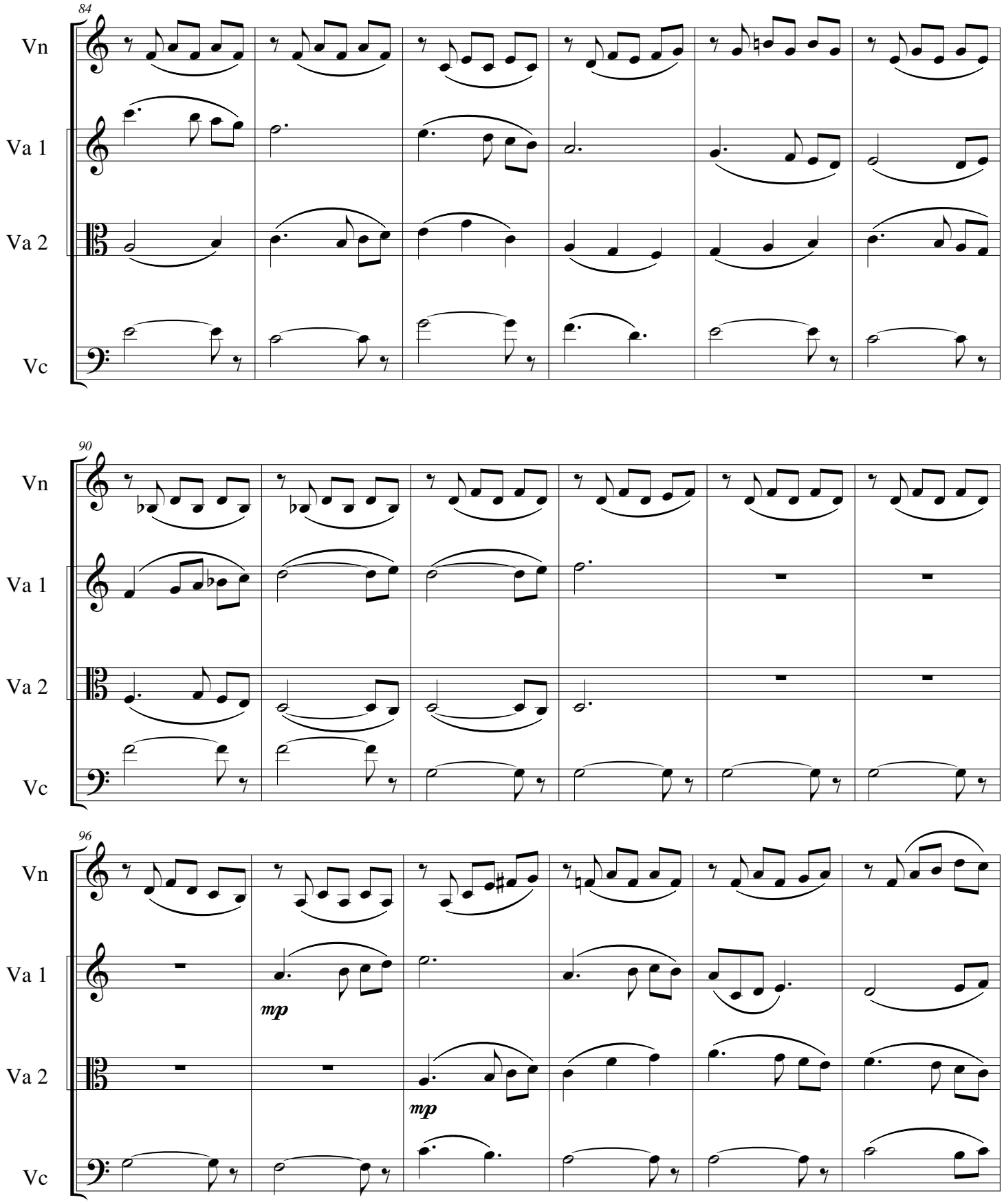


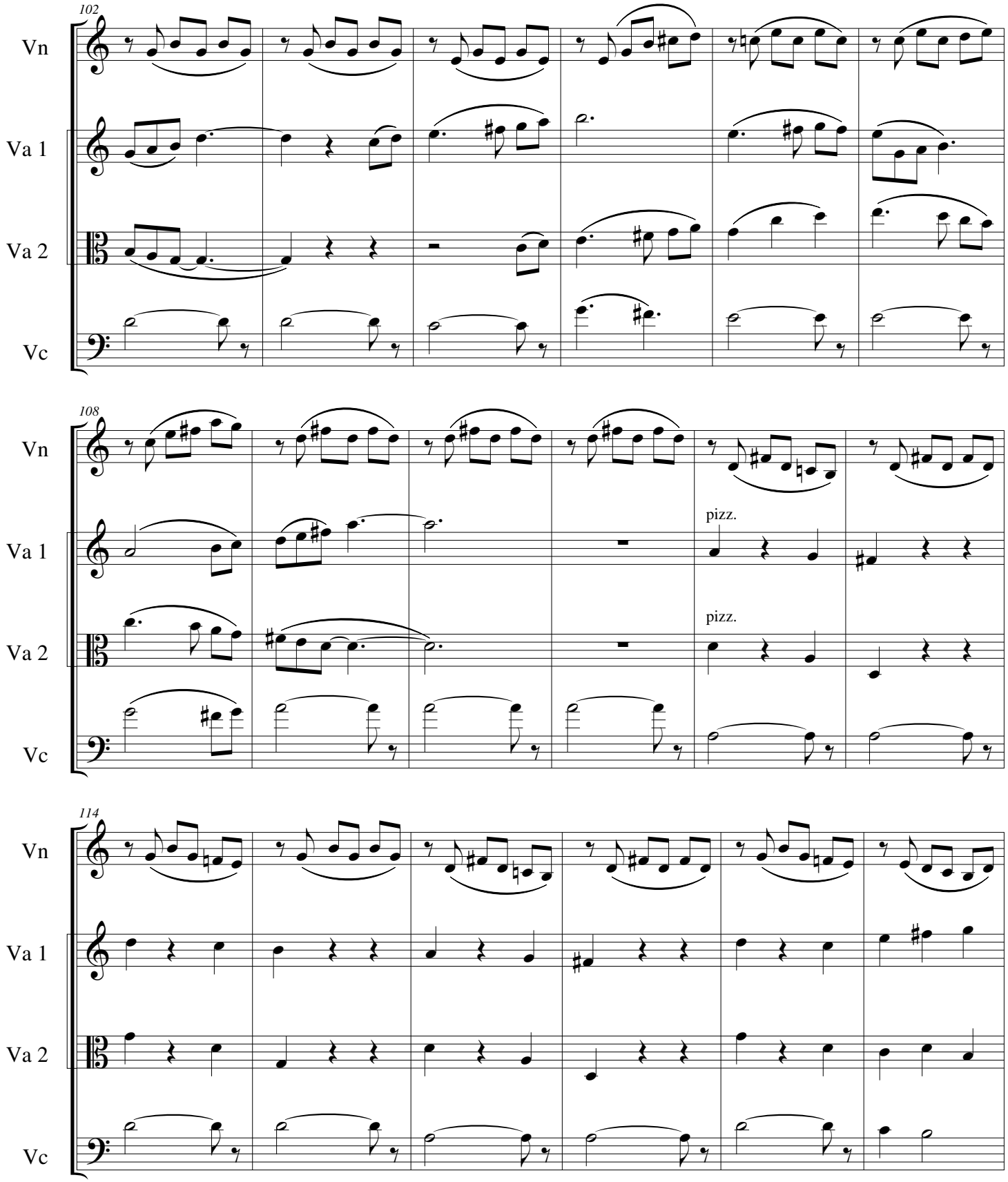

12
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
18
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
24
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
p
p

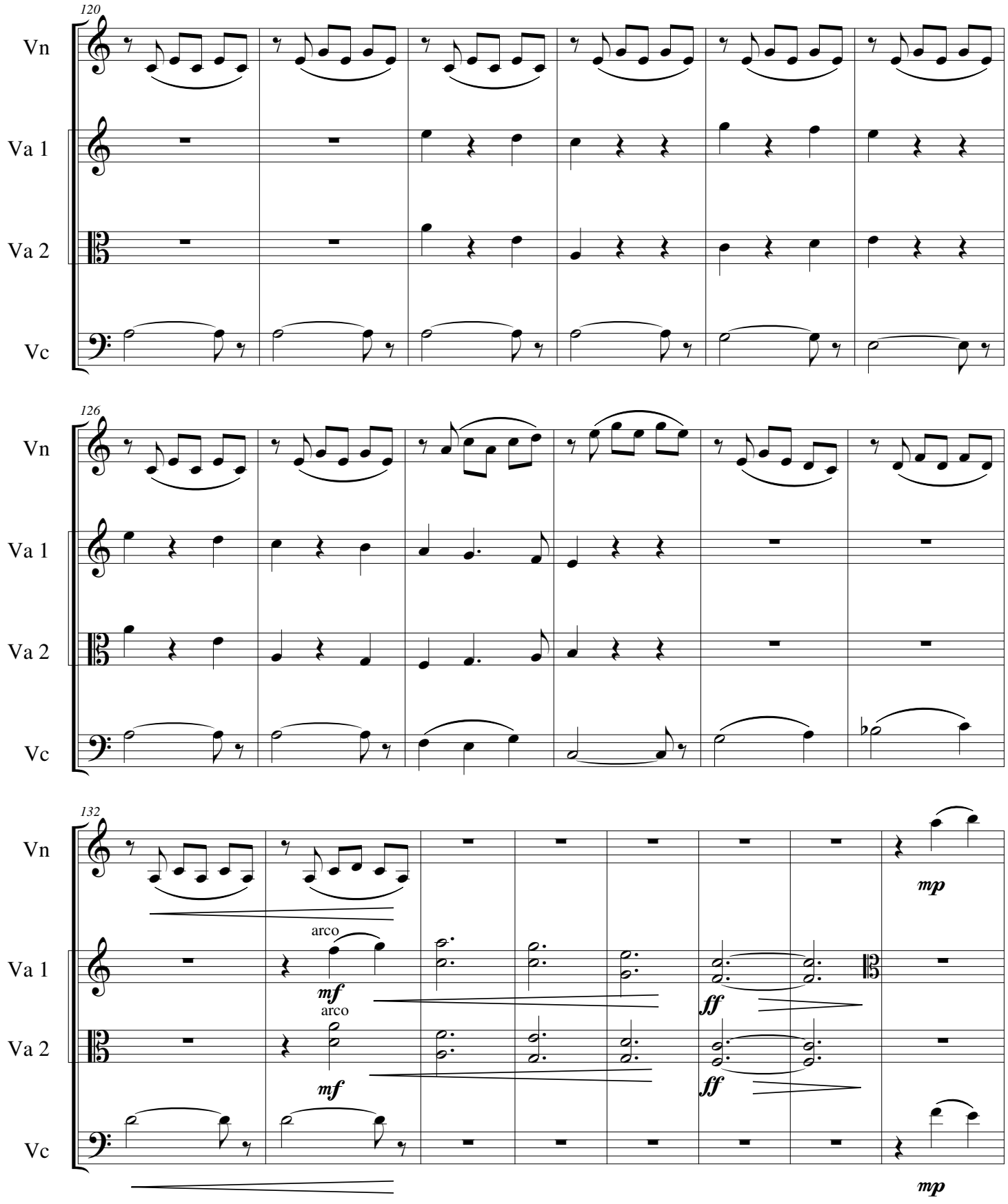

30
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
f
f
f
pizz.
p
p
36
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
f
mf
mf
arco
p
42
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc

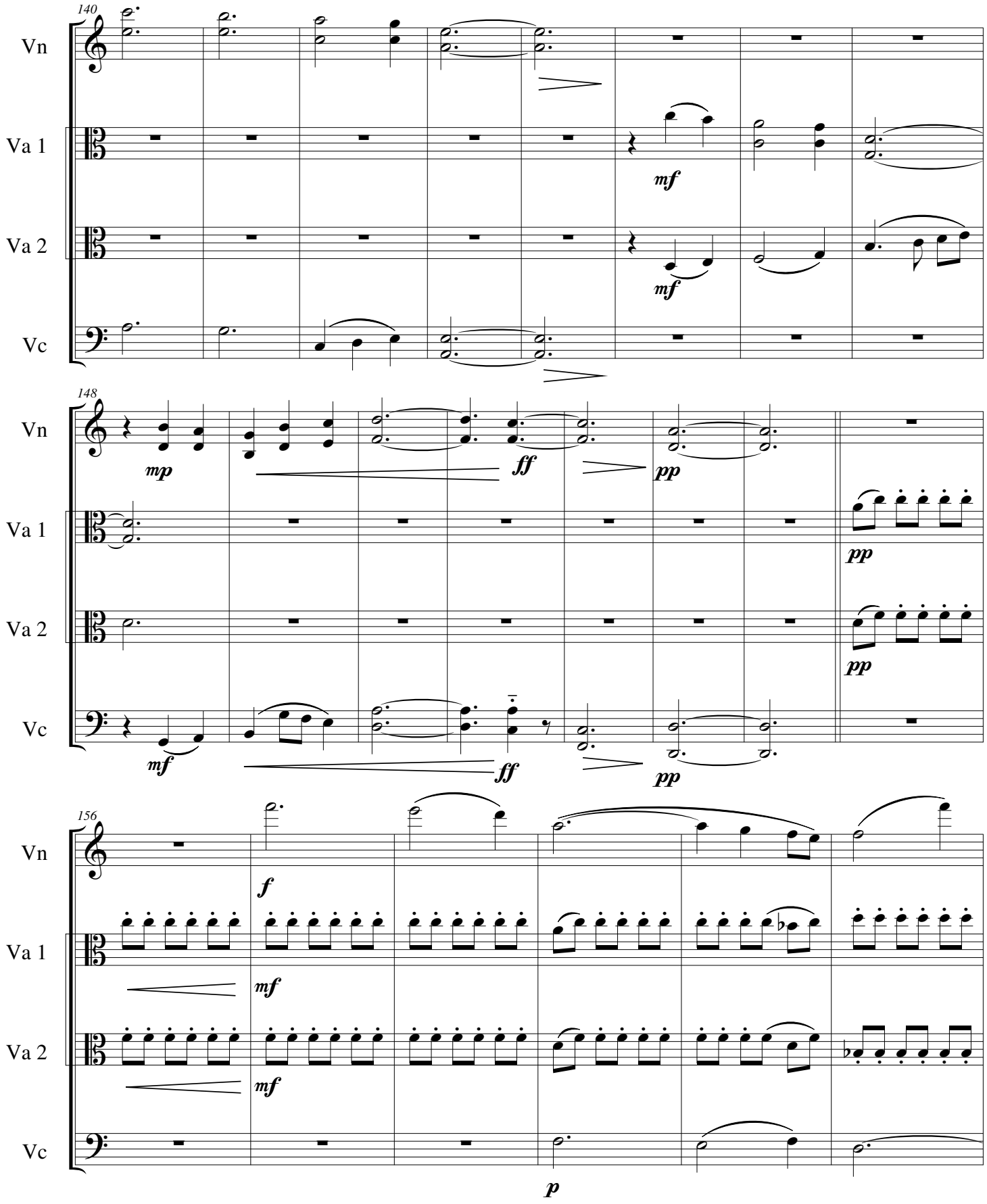

48
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
pizz.
54
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
60
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc

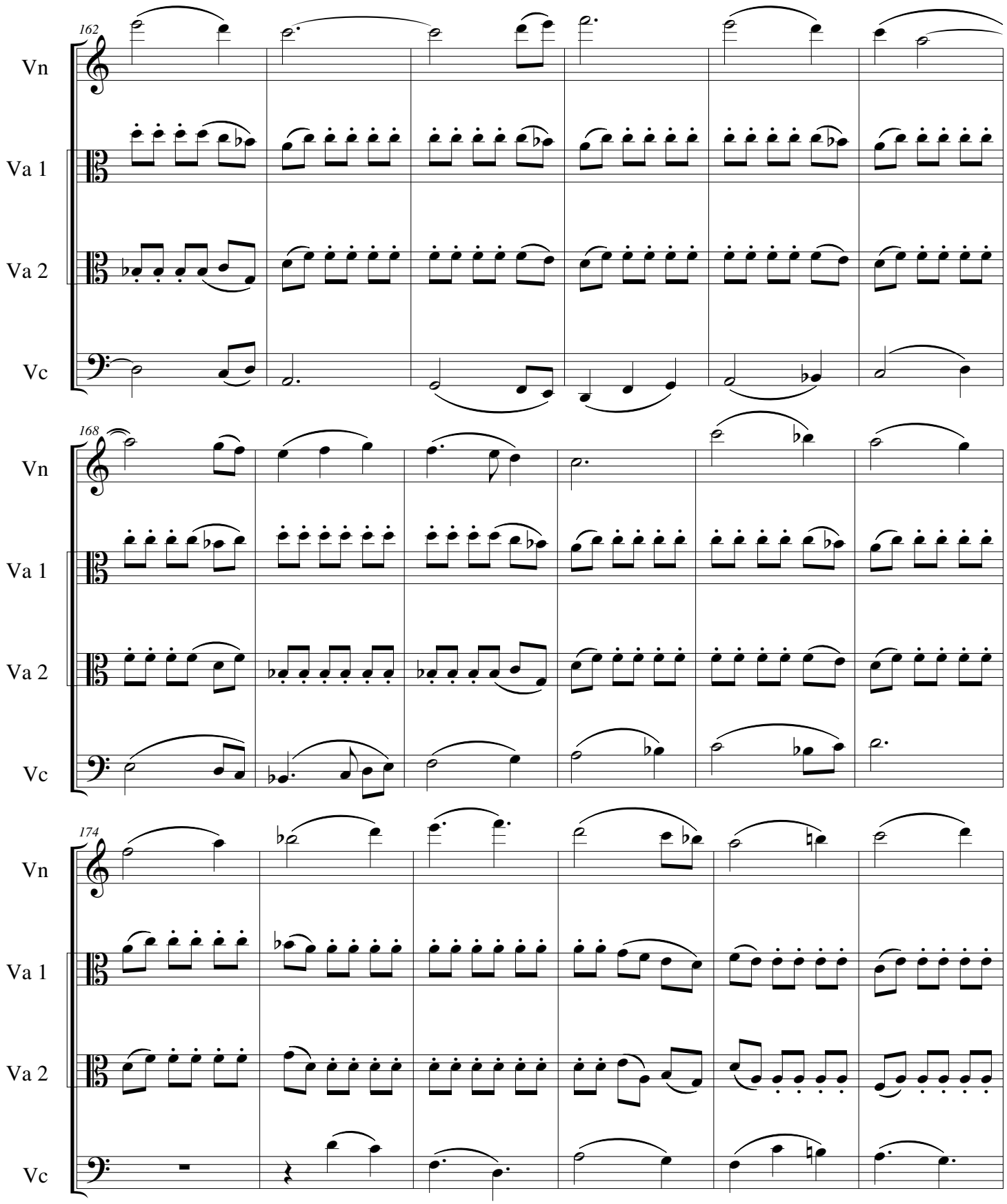

66
rit.
a tempo (♪=♪)
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
p
arco
p
72
mp
mp
78

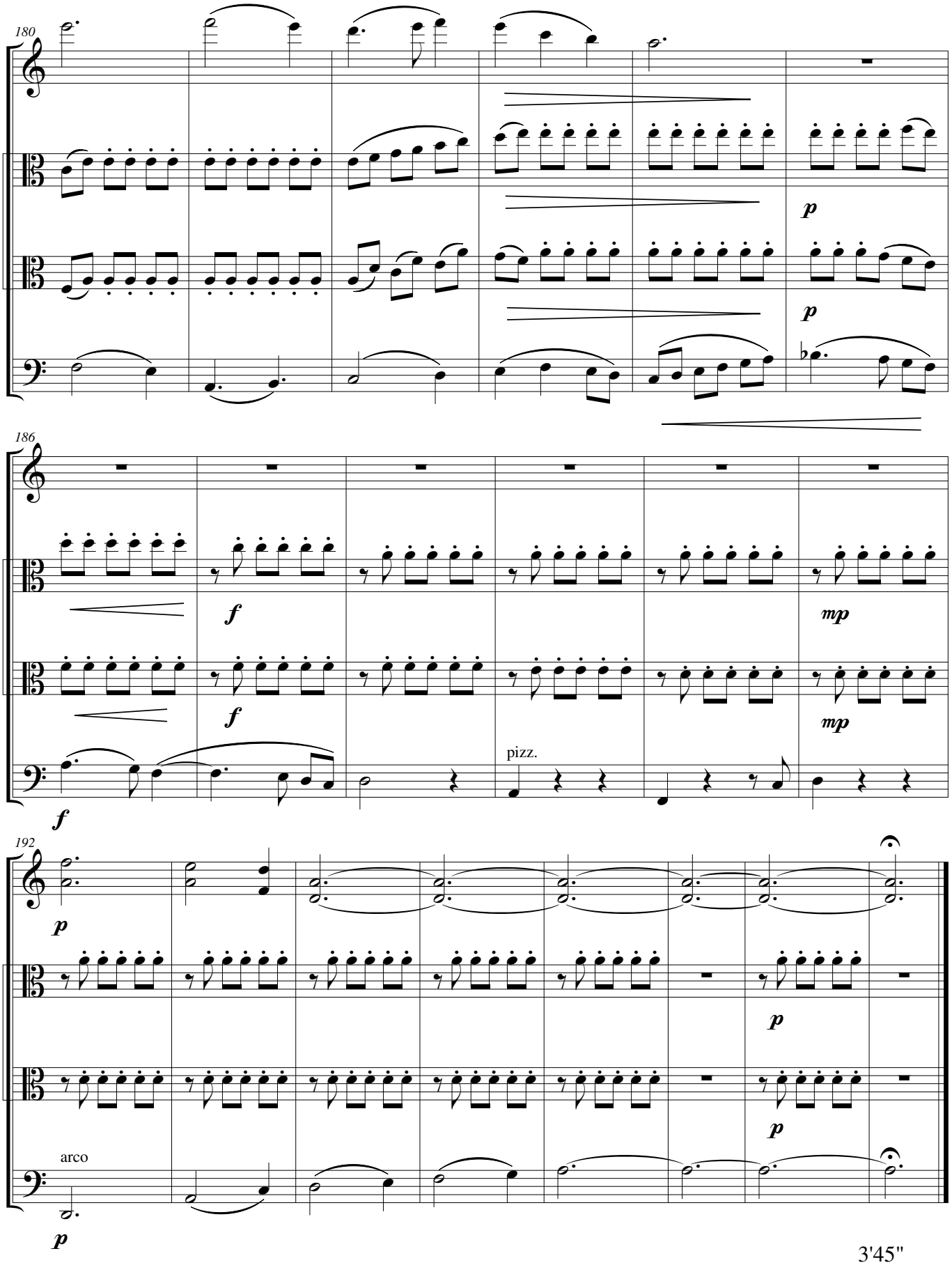

84
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
90
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
96
Vn
Va 1
mp
Va 2
mp
Vc


102
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
108
Vn
Va 1
pizz.
Va 2
pizz.
Vc
114
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc


120
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
126
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
132
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
arco
mf
arco
mf
ff
ff
mp
mp

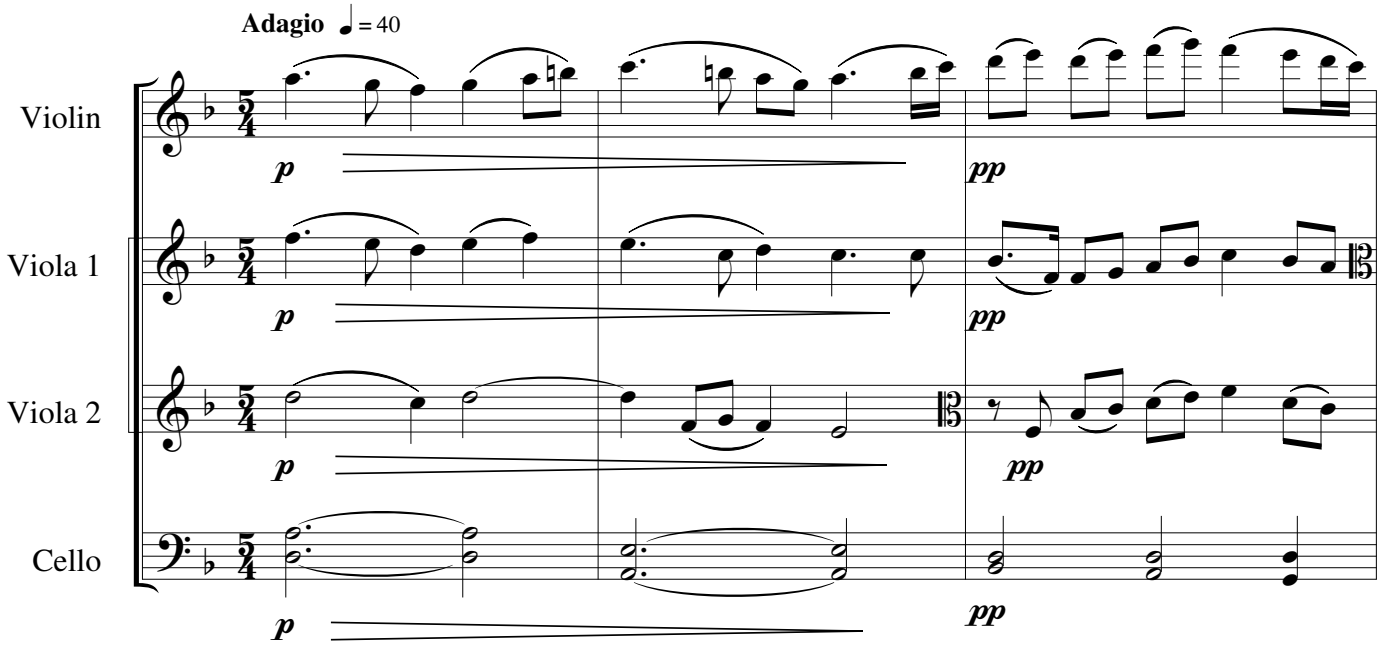

140
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
mf
mf
148
mp
ff
pp
pp
pp
mf
ff
pp
156
f
mf
mf
p

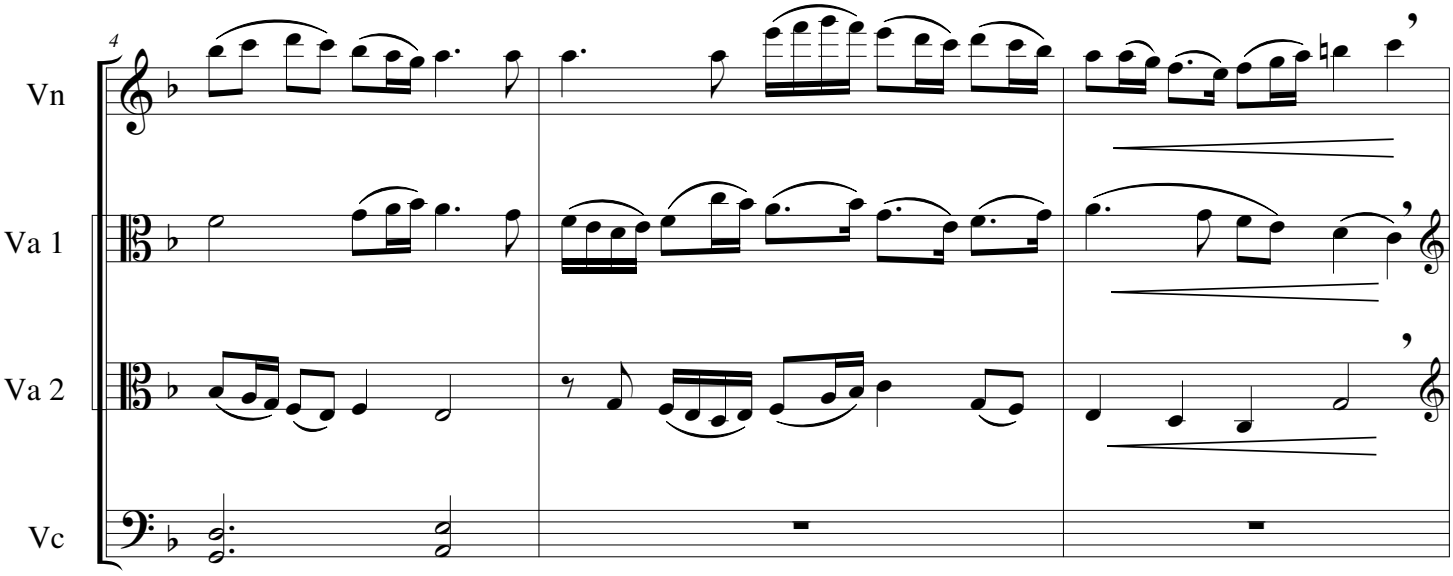

162
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
168
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
174
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc

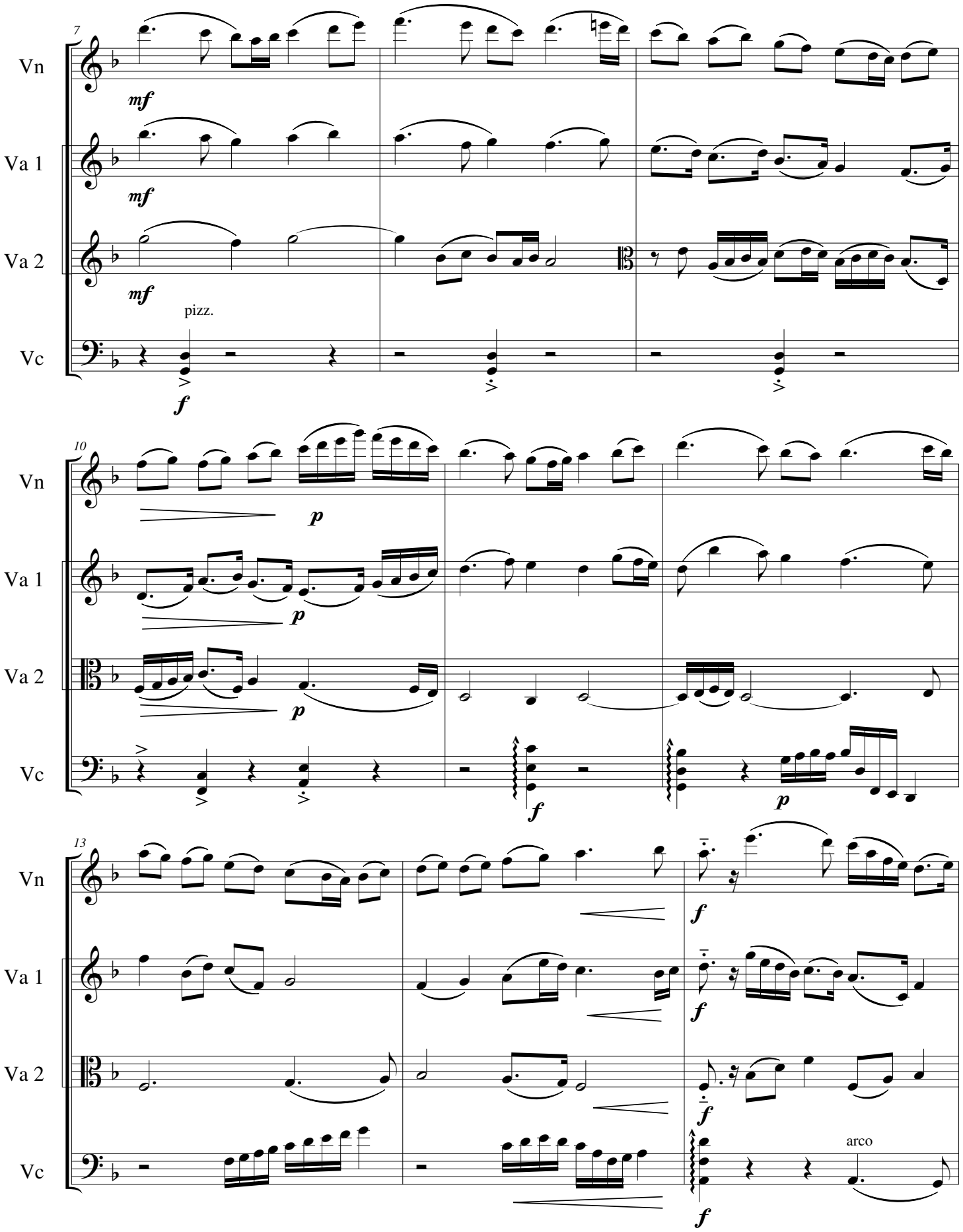

180
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
p
p
186
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
f
f
f
pizz.
mp
mp
192
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
arco
p
p
p
p
3'45"

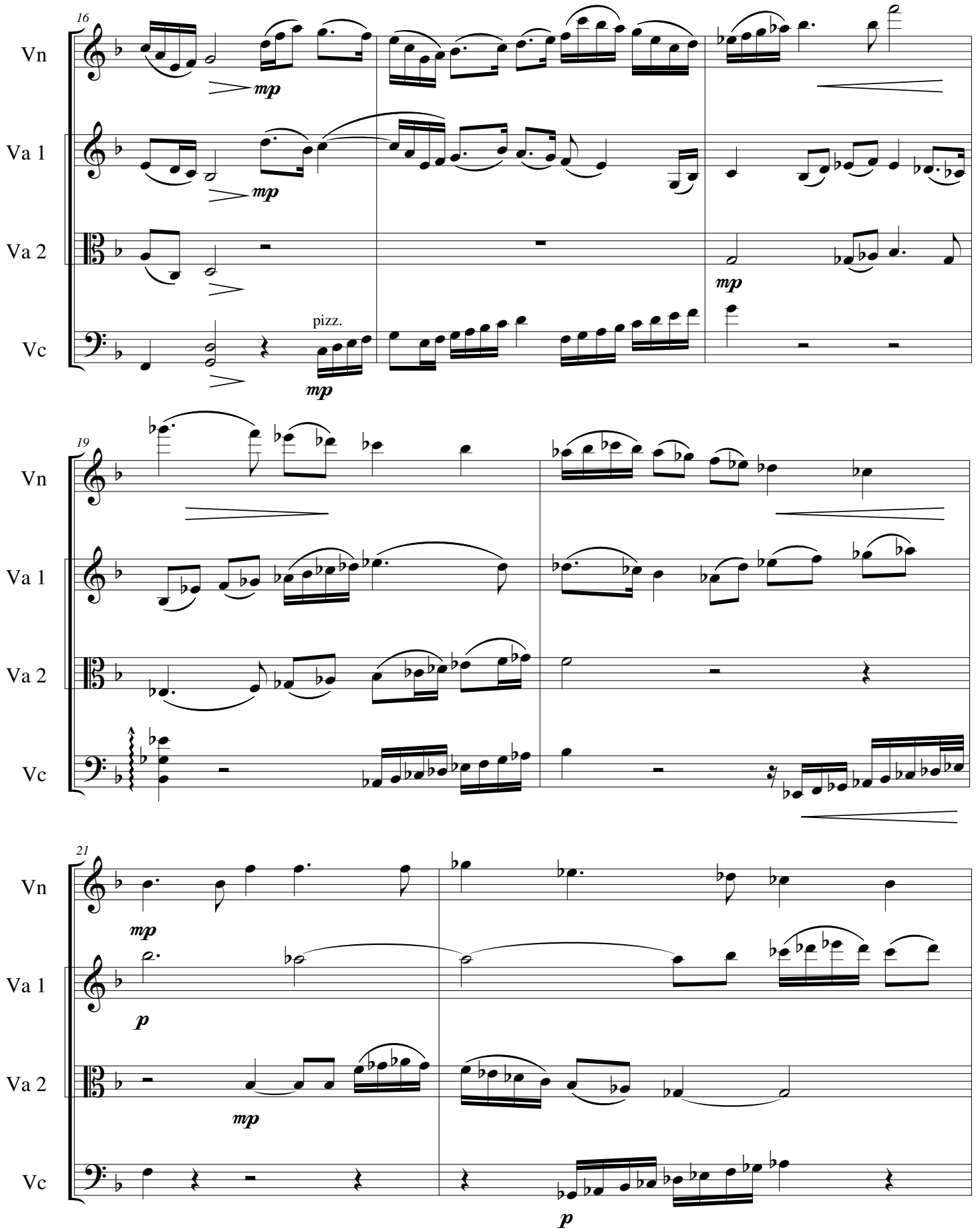
Middle Ground

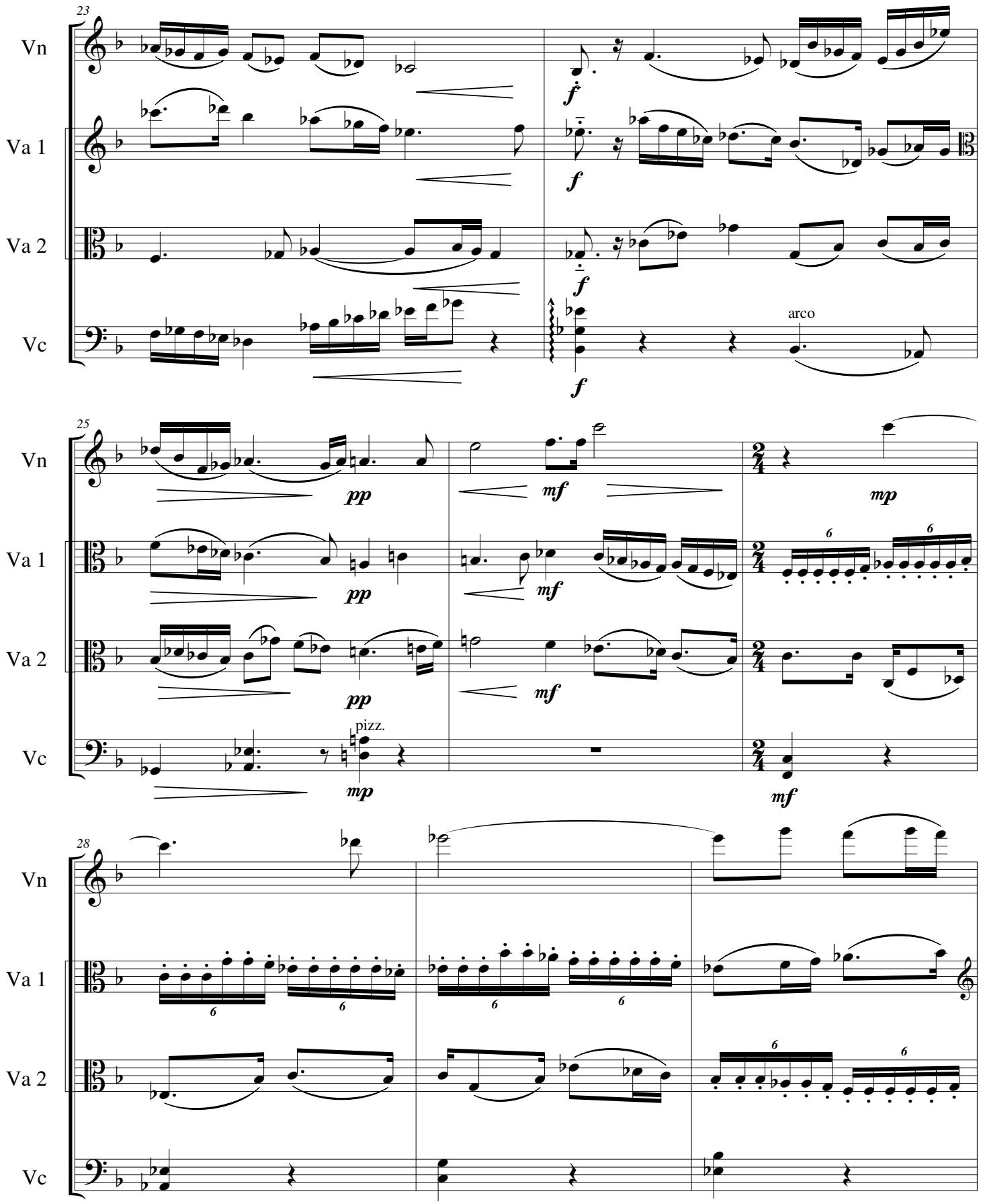
Stanley Grill

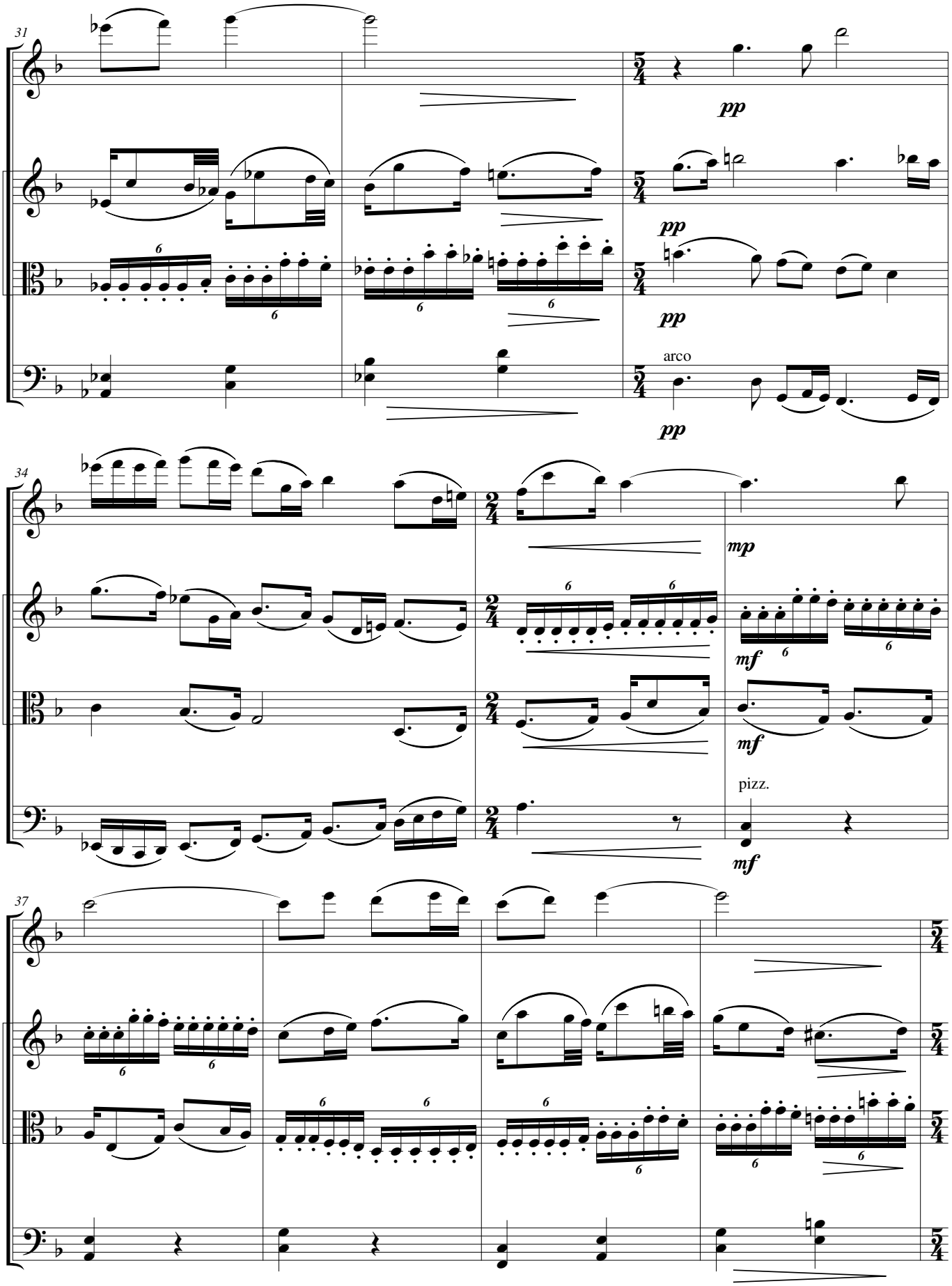


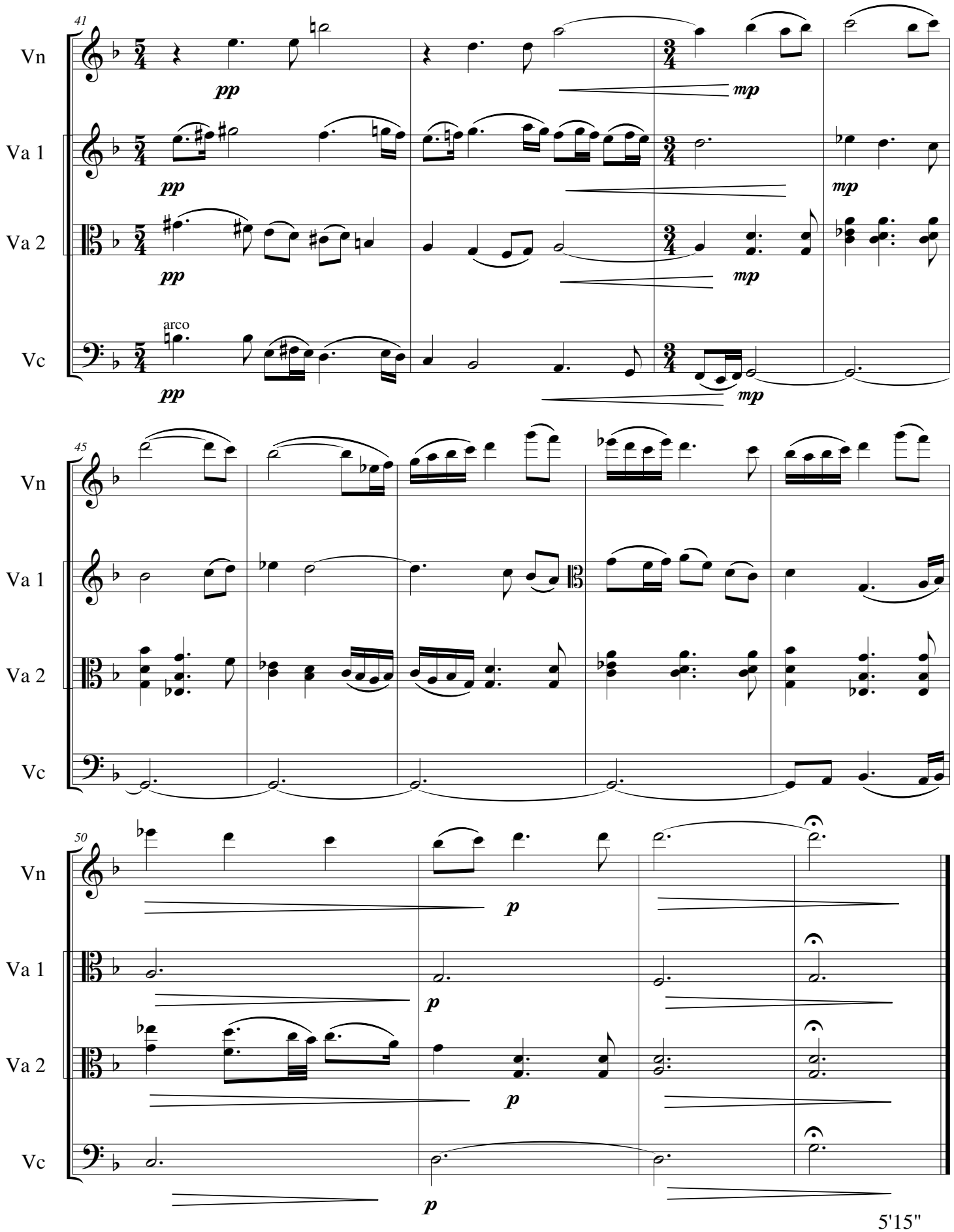



7
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
mf
mf
mf
pizz.
f
10
p
p
p
f
p
13
f
f
f
arco
f


16
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
mp
pizz.
19
21
p


23
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
f
arco
25
pp
mf
mp
pizz.
28
6

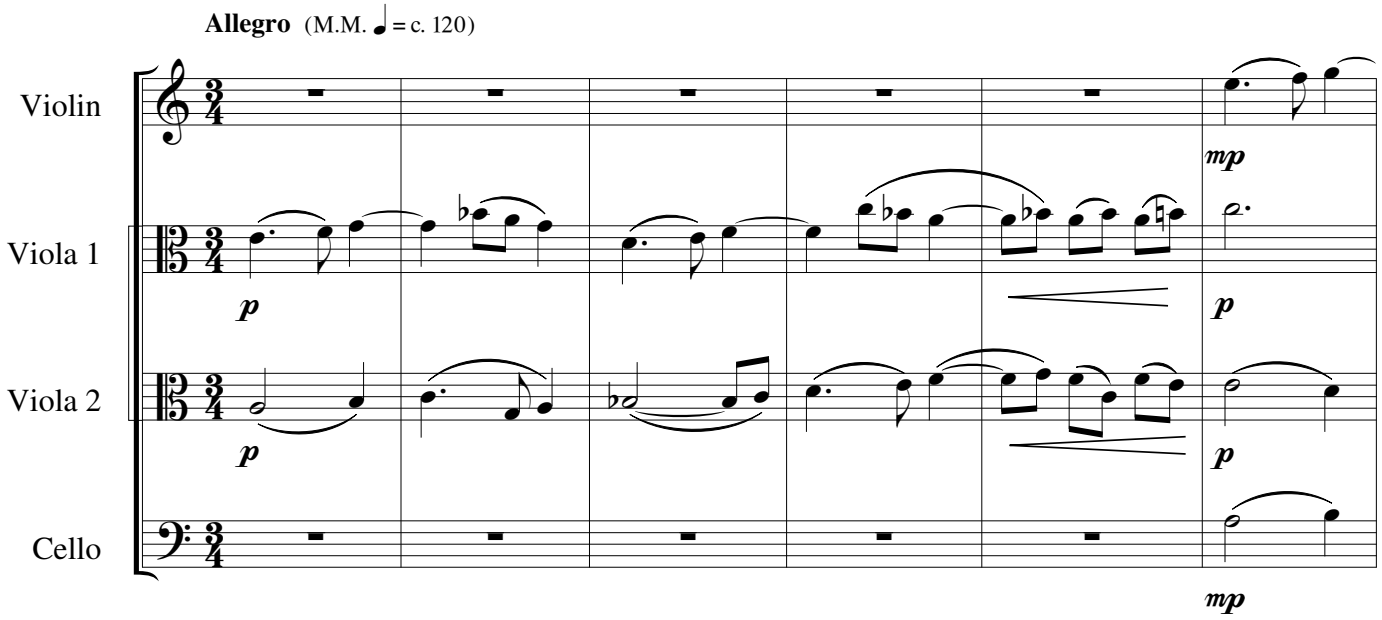

31
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
pp
pp
pp
arco
pp
34
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
mp
mf
mf
pizz.
mf
37
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc

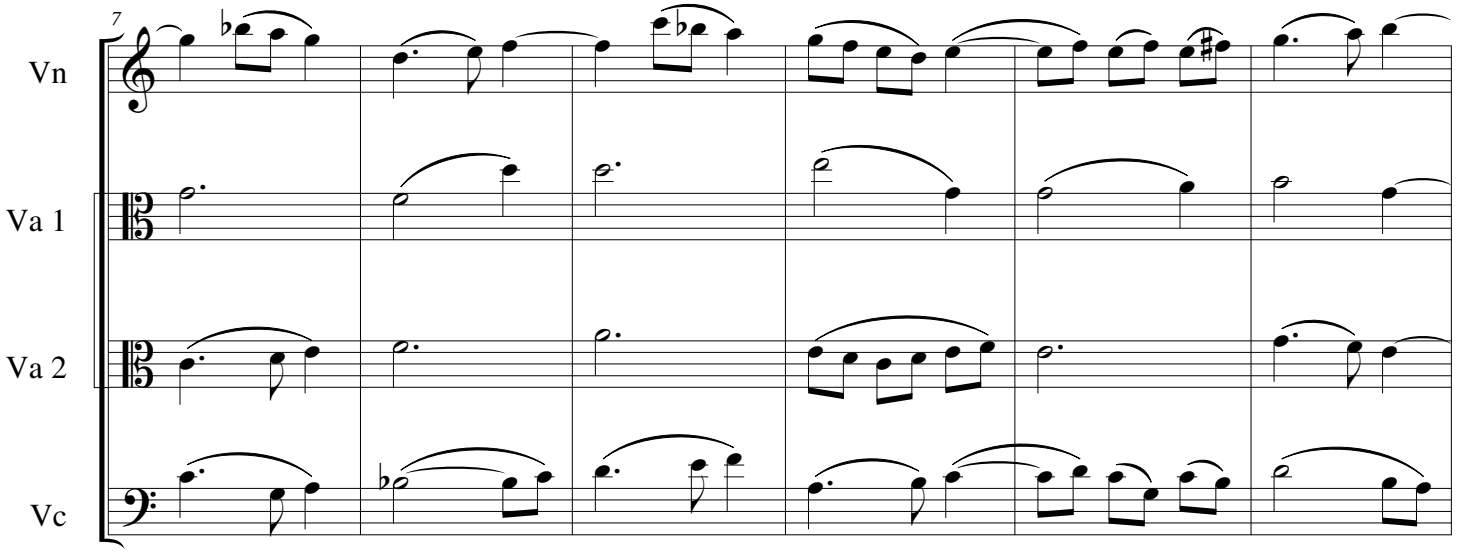

41
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
arco
pp
mp
45
50
p
5'15"

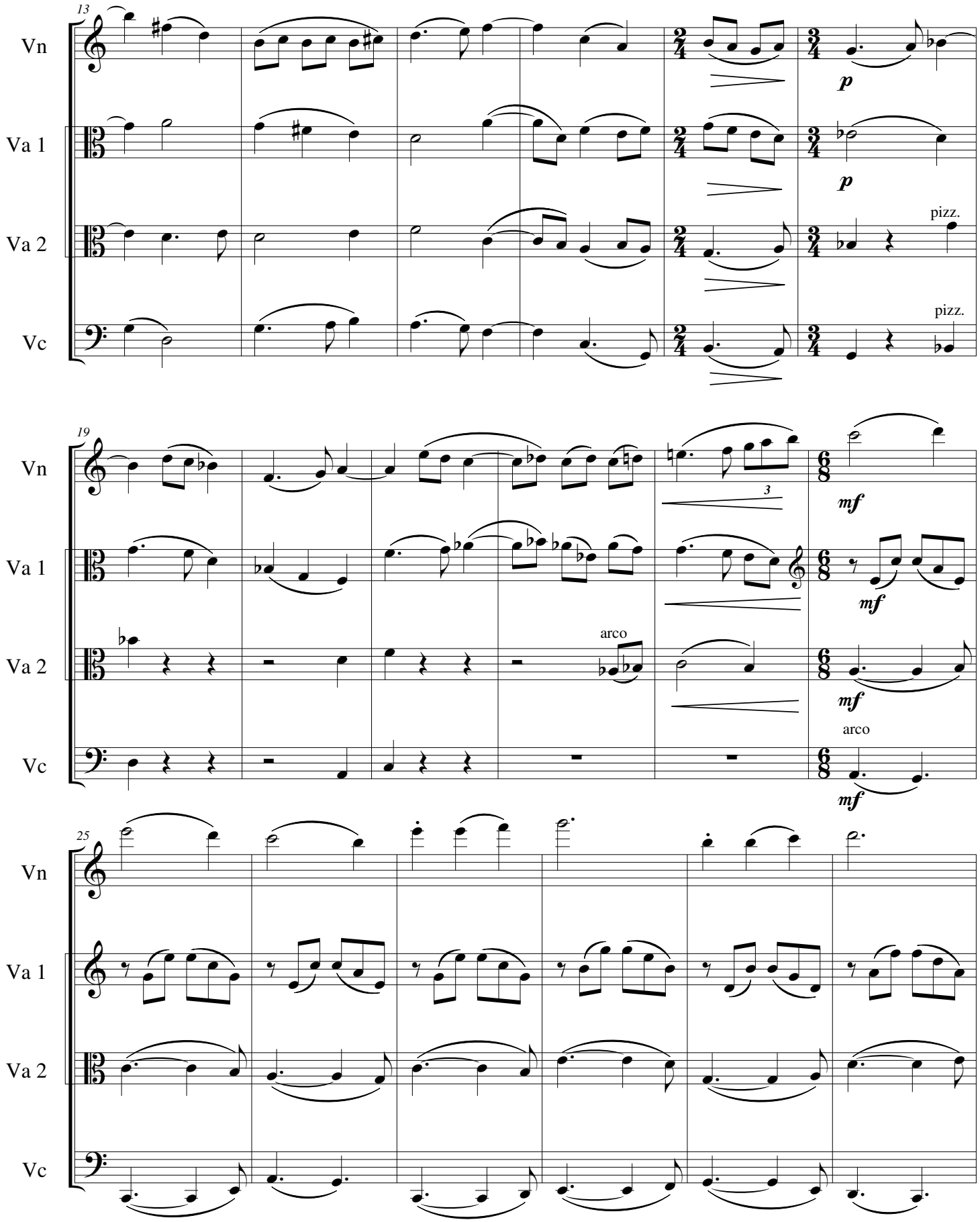
Middle Ground

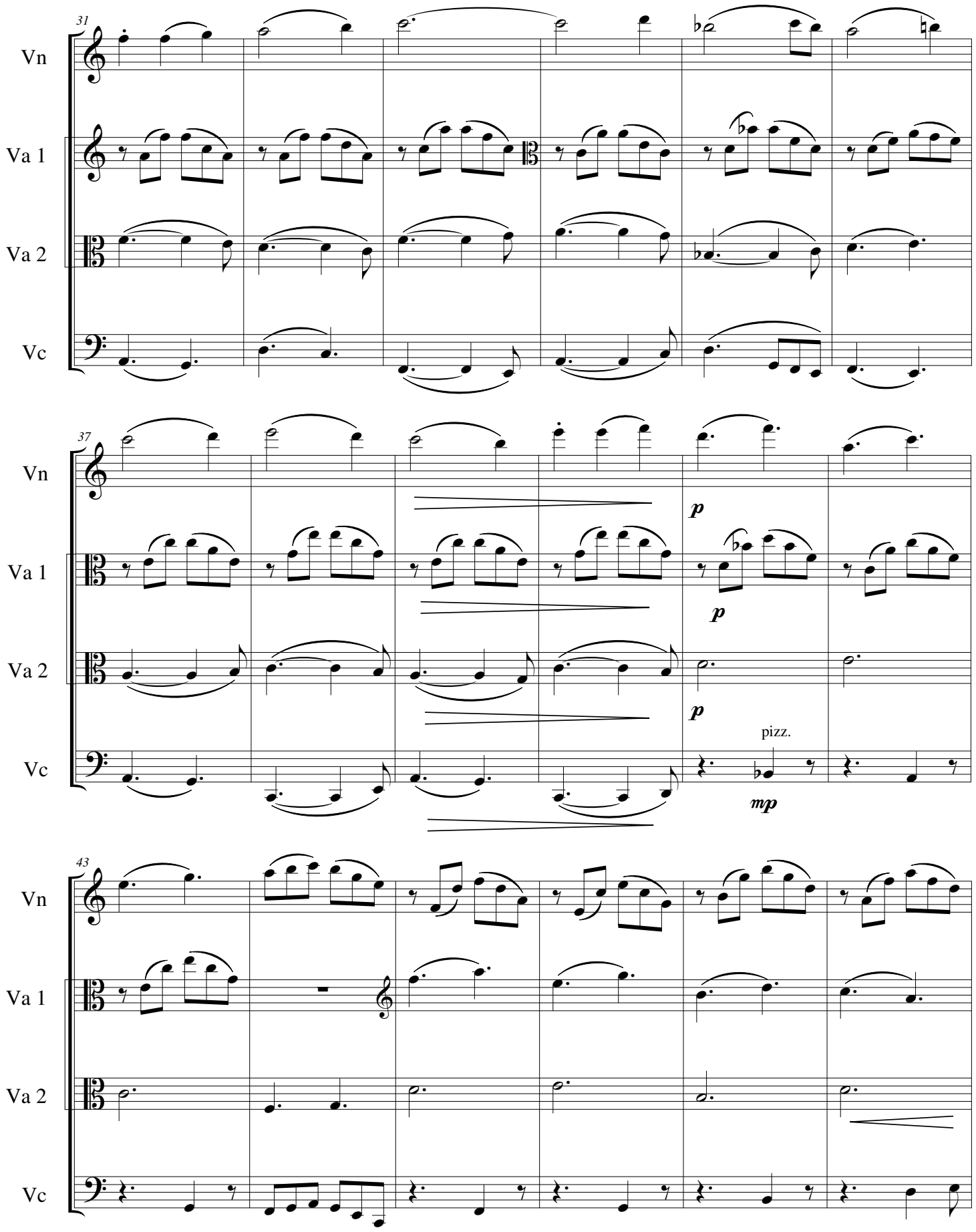
V

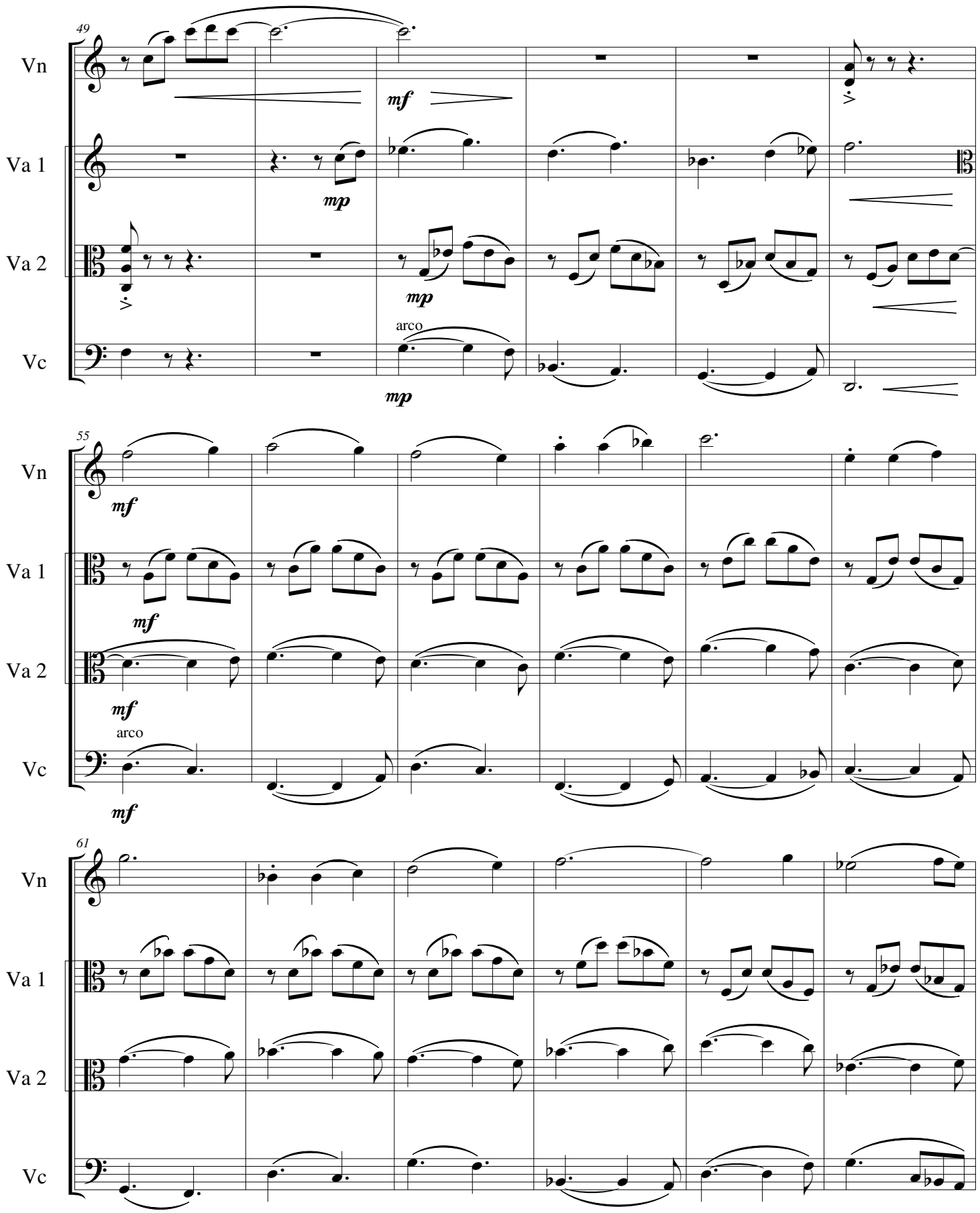
Stanley Grill

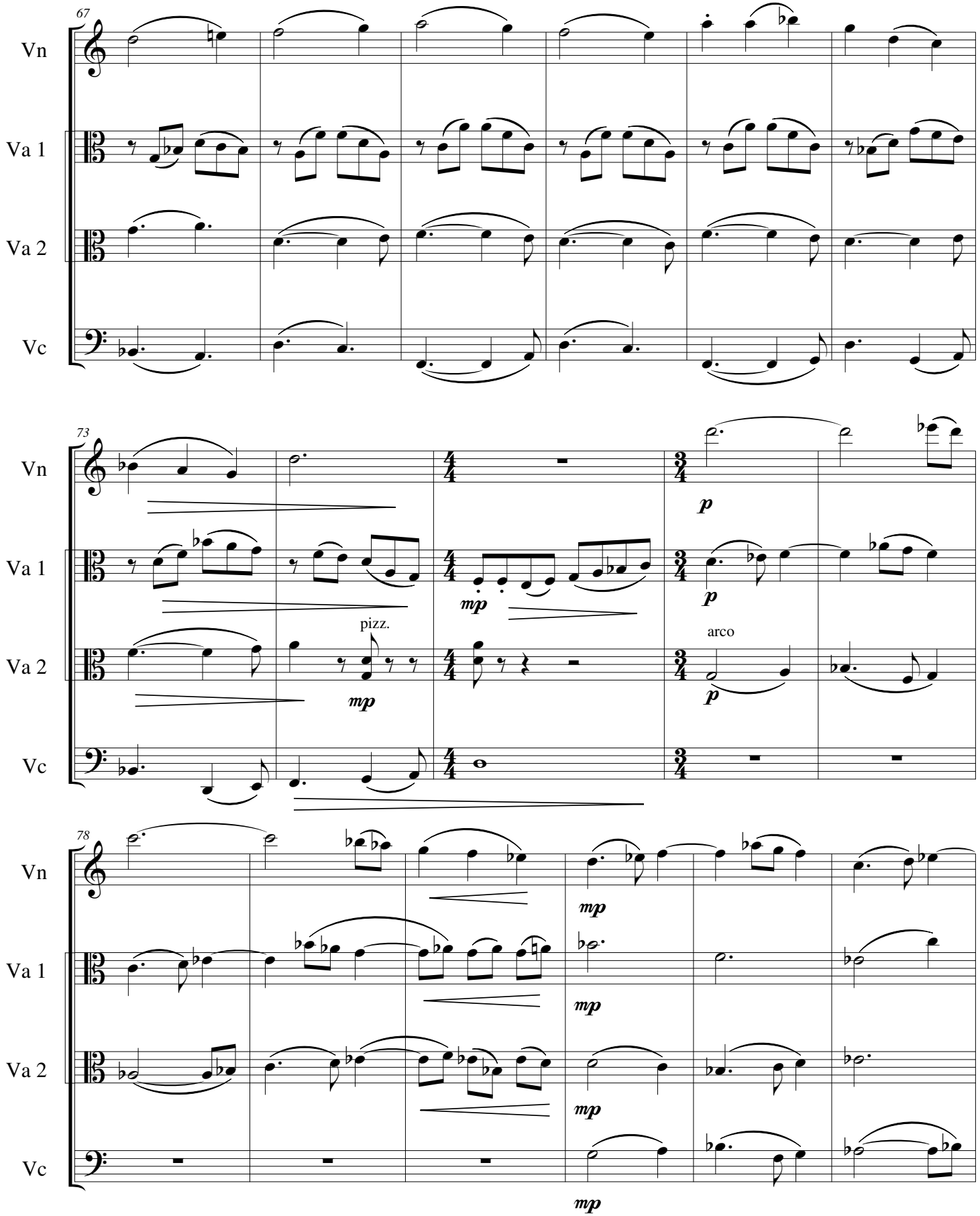


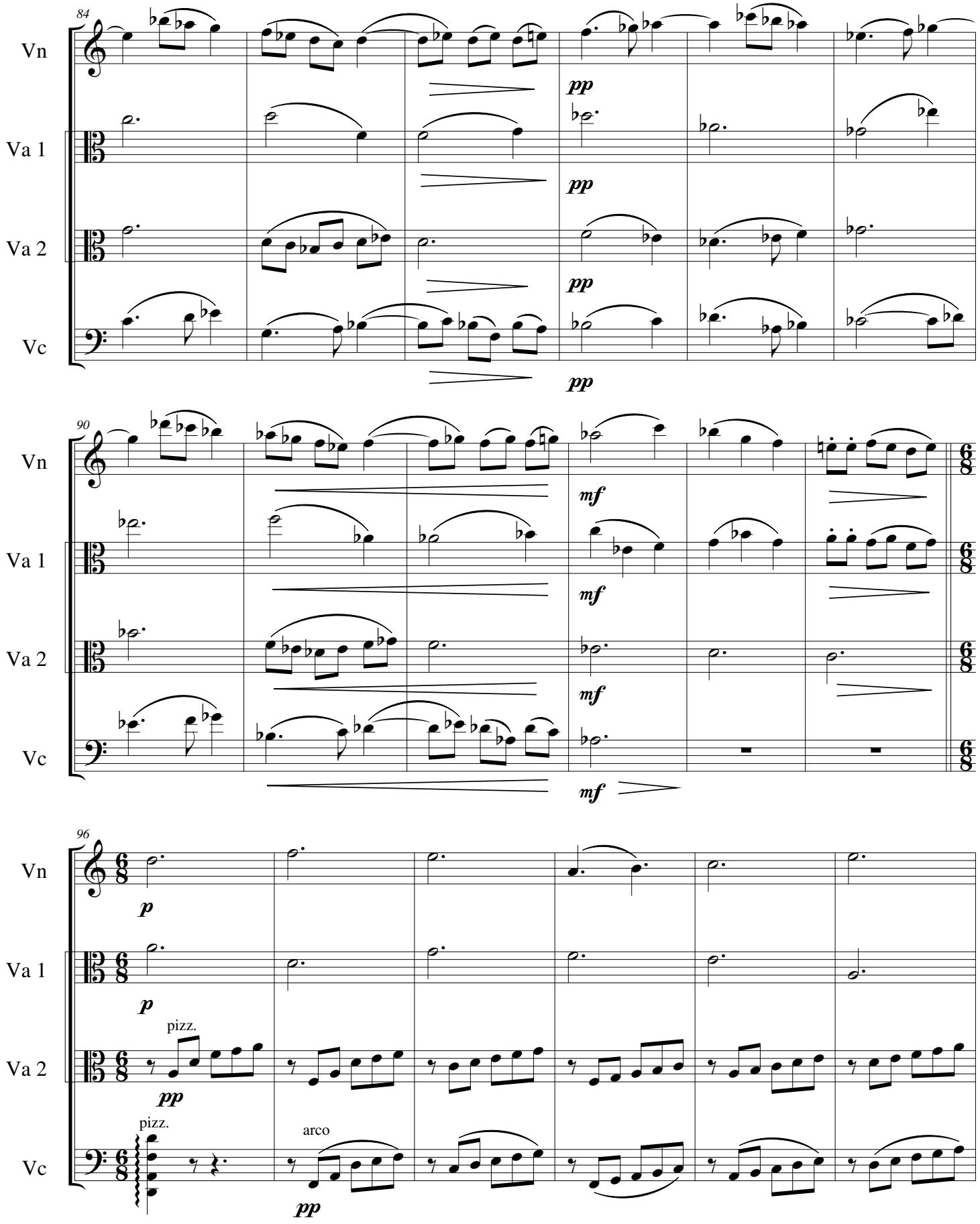


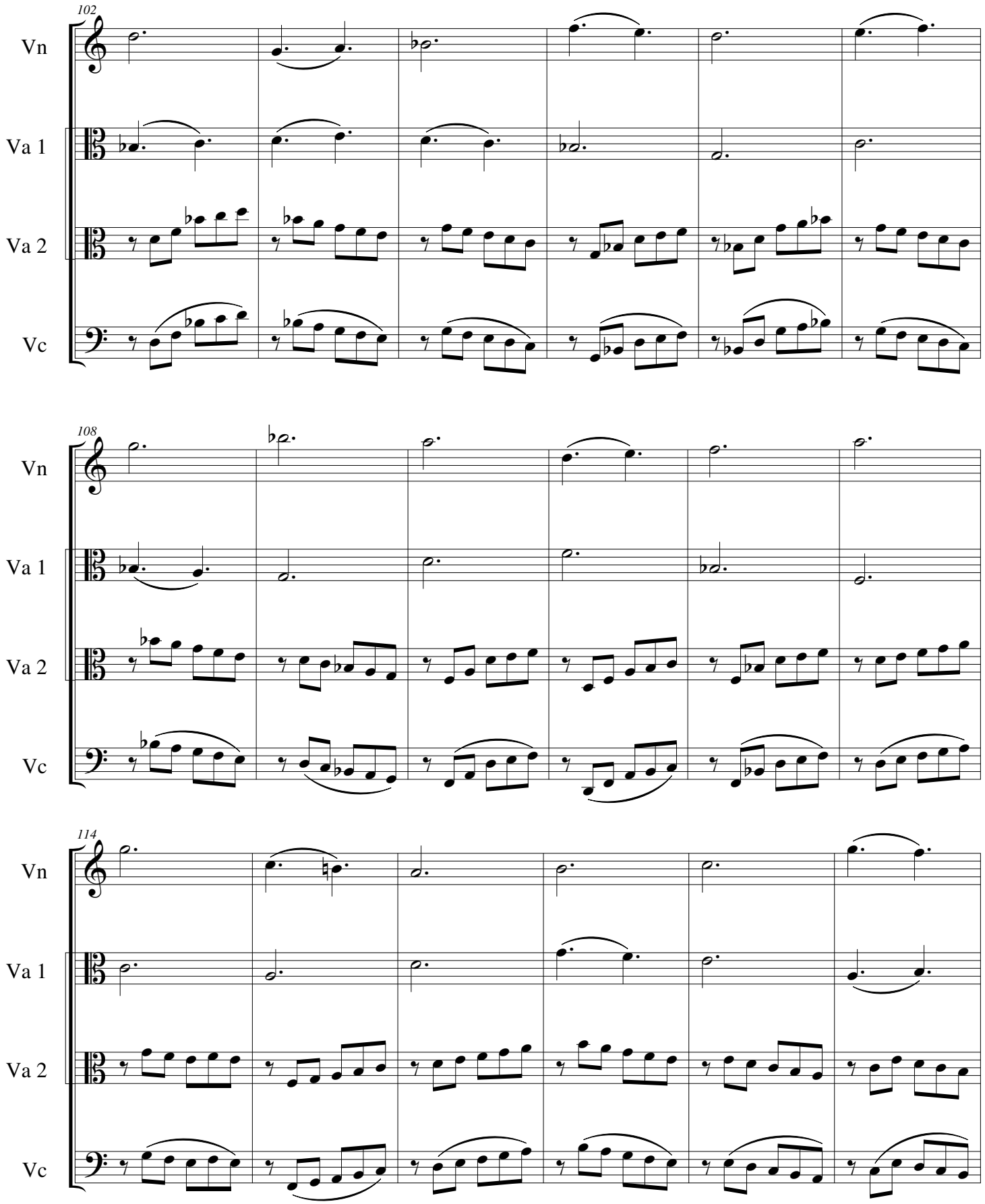

13
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
p
p
pizz.
pizz.
19
mf
mf
arco
mf
arco
mf
3
25

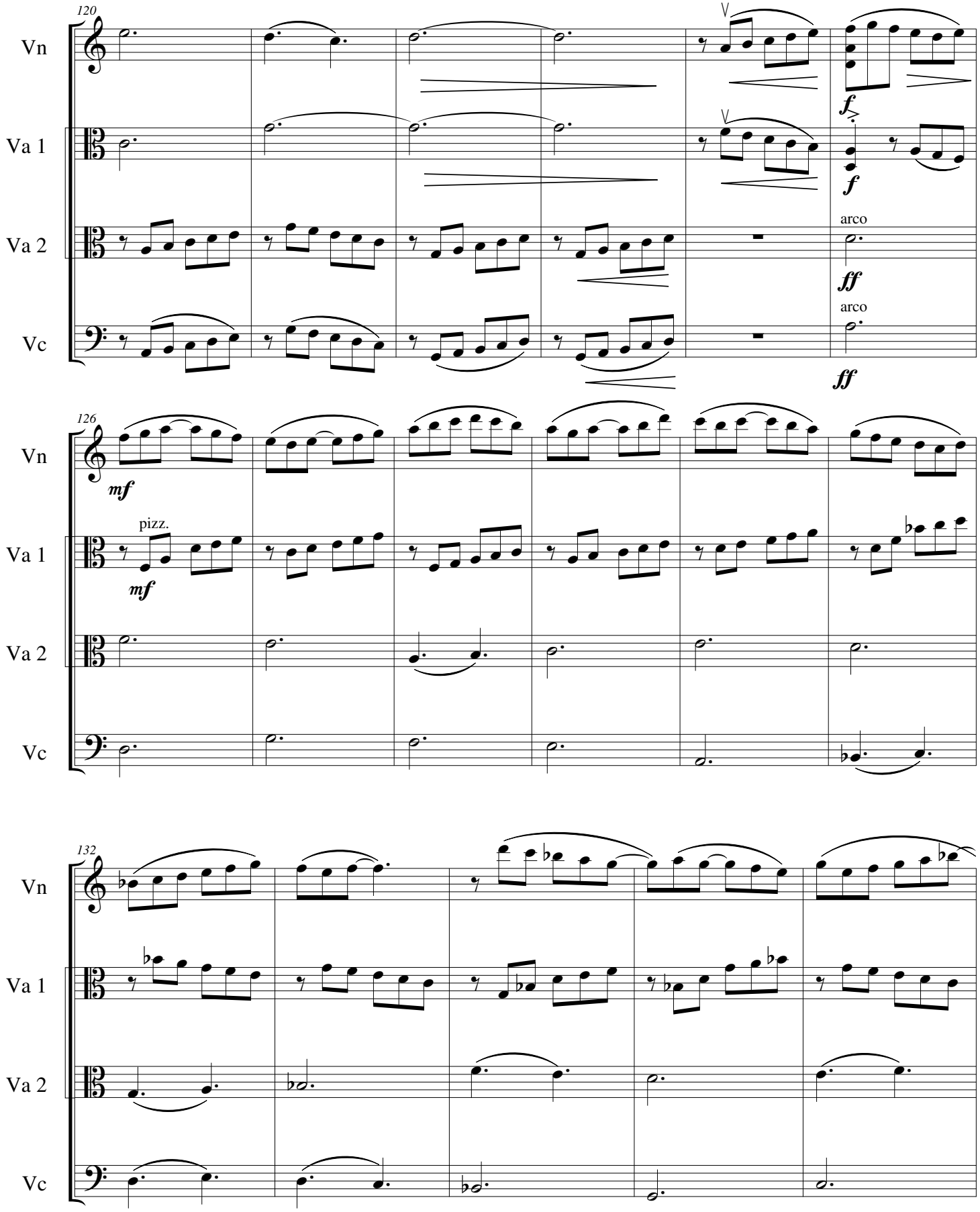

31
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
37
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
p
p
p
pizz.
mp
43
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc

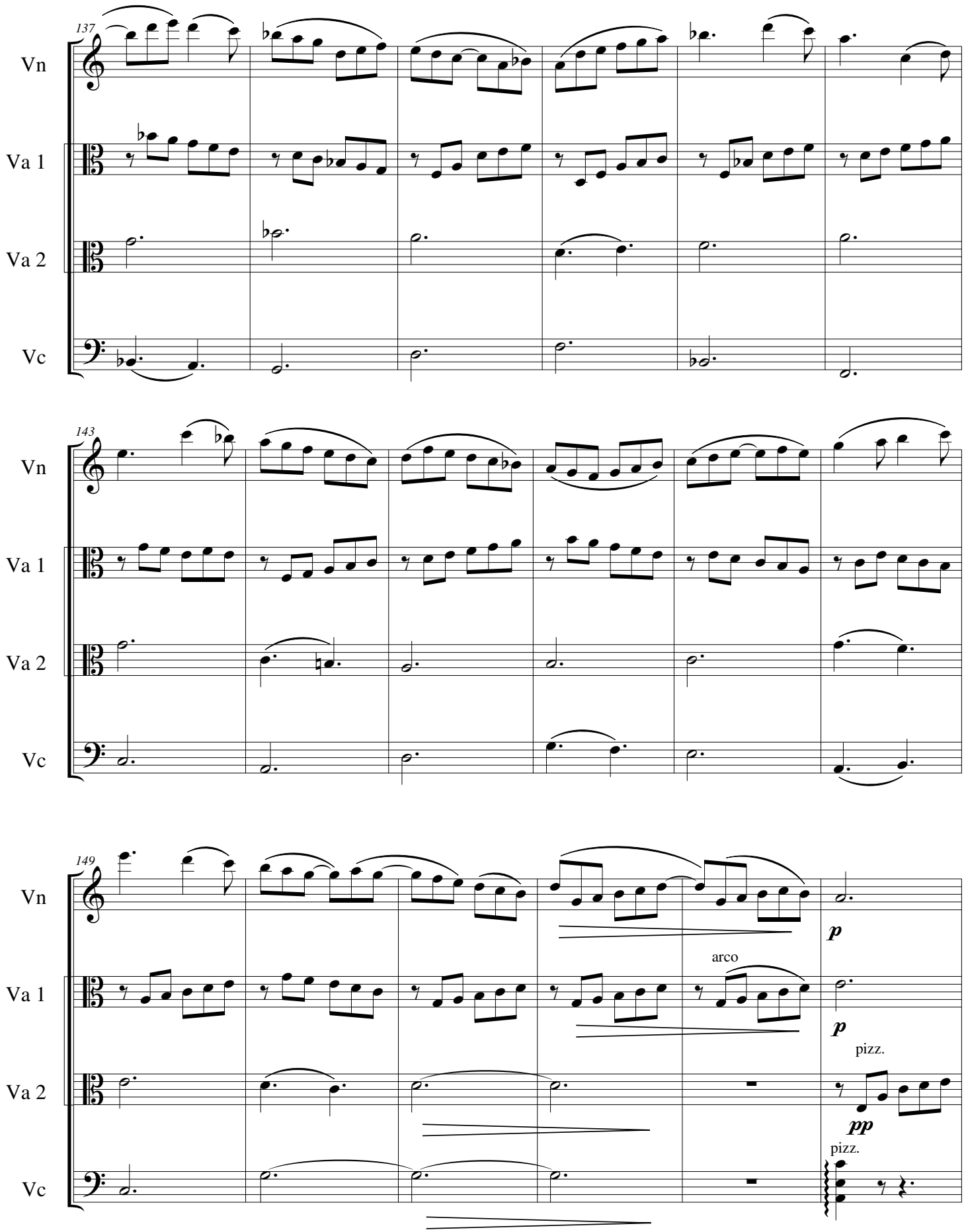

49
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
mf
mp
mp
arco
mp
55
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
mf
mf
mf
arco
mf
61
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc

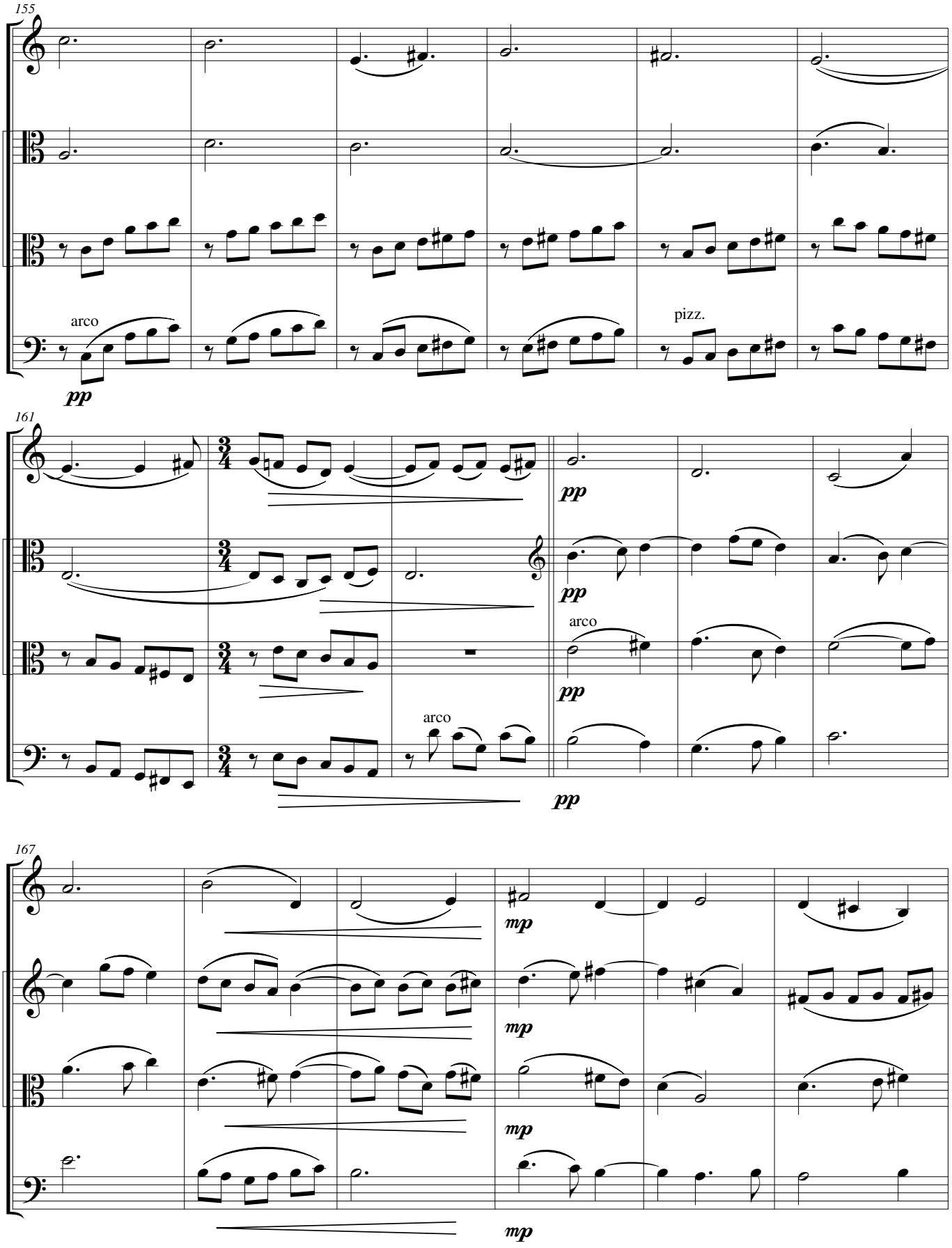

67
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
73
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
p
mp
pizz.
mp
arco
p
p
78
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
mp
mp
mp
mp

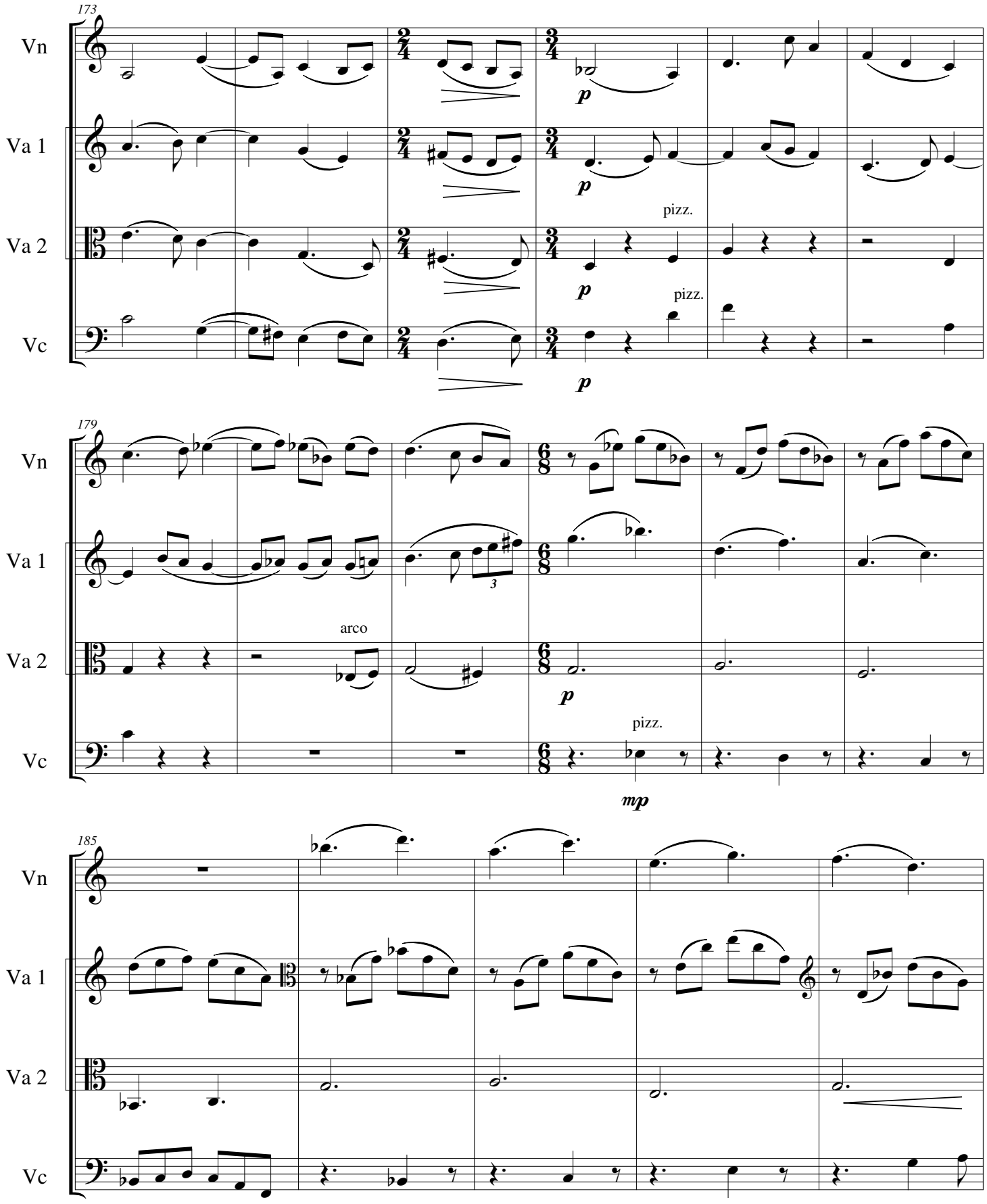

84
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
pp
pp
pp
pp
90
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
mf
mf
mf
mf
96
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
p
p
pizz.
pp
pizz.
arco
pp

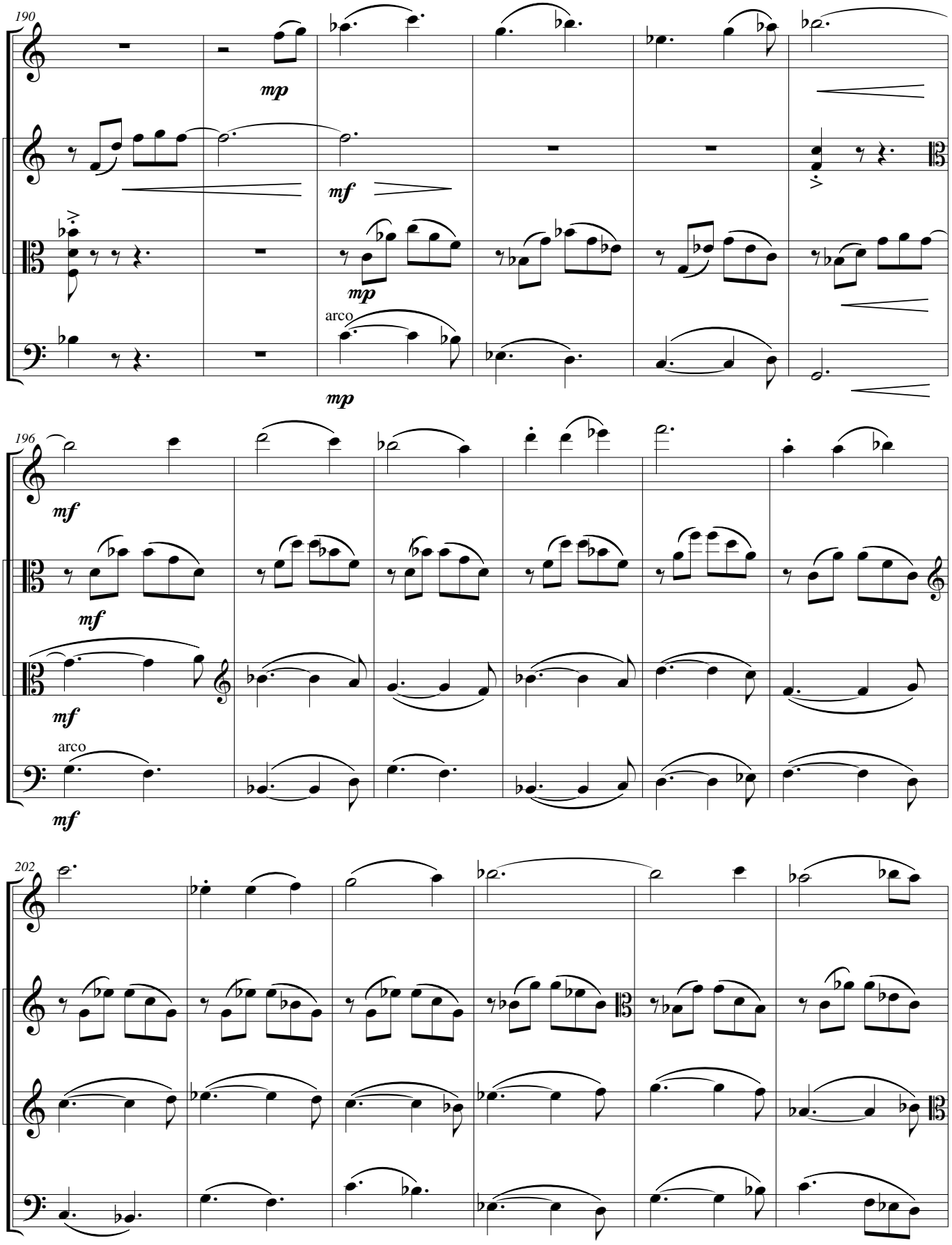

102
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
108
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
114
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc

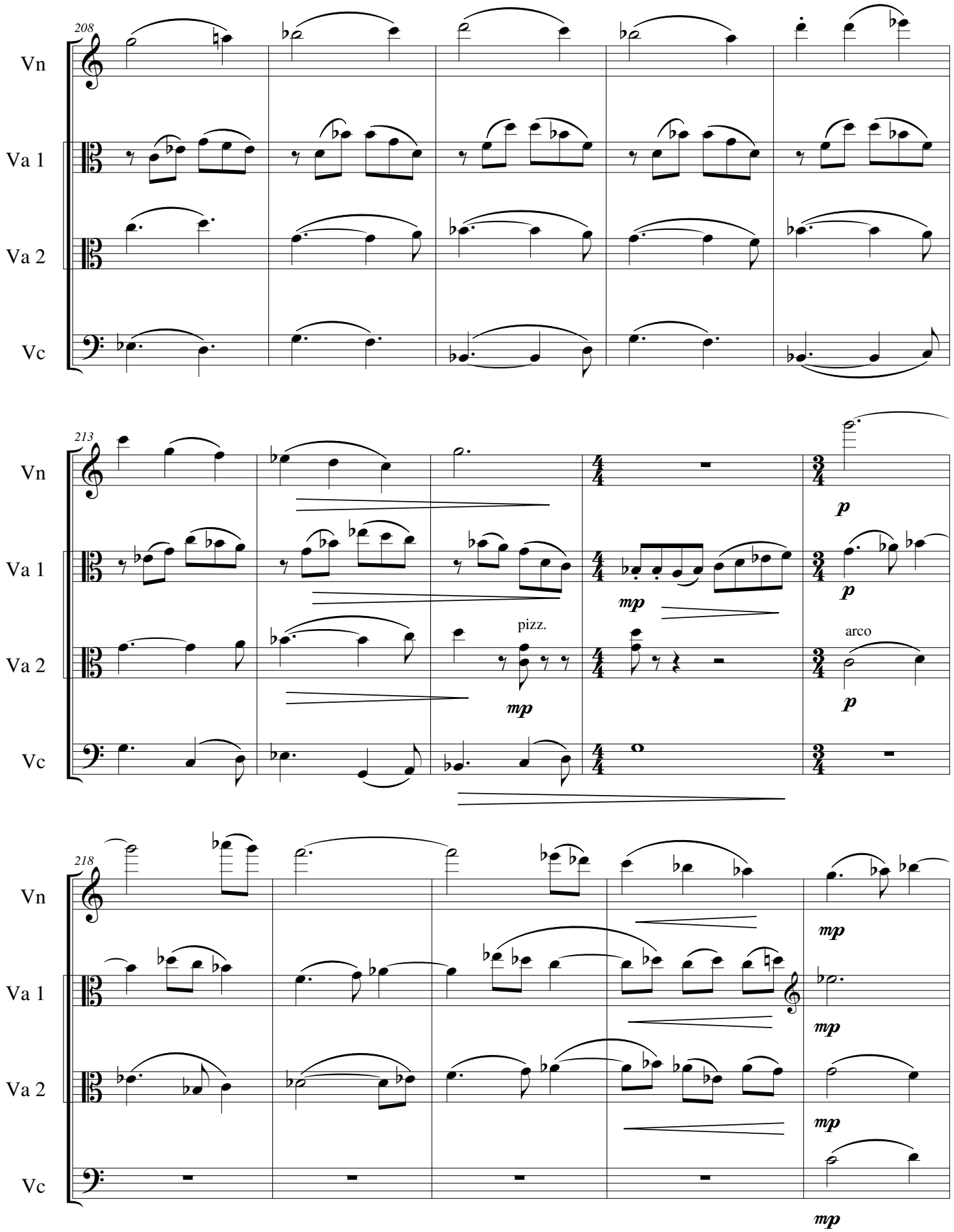

120
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
arco
arco
126
mf
pizz.
mf
132

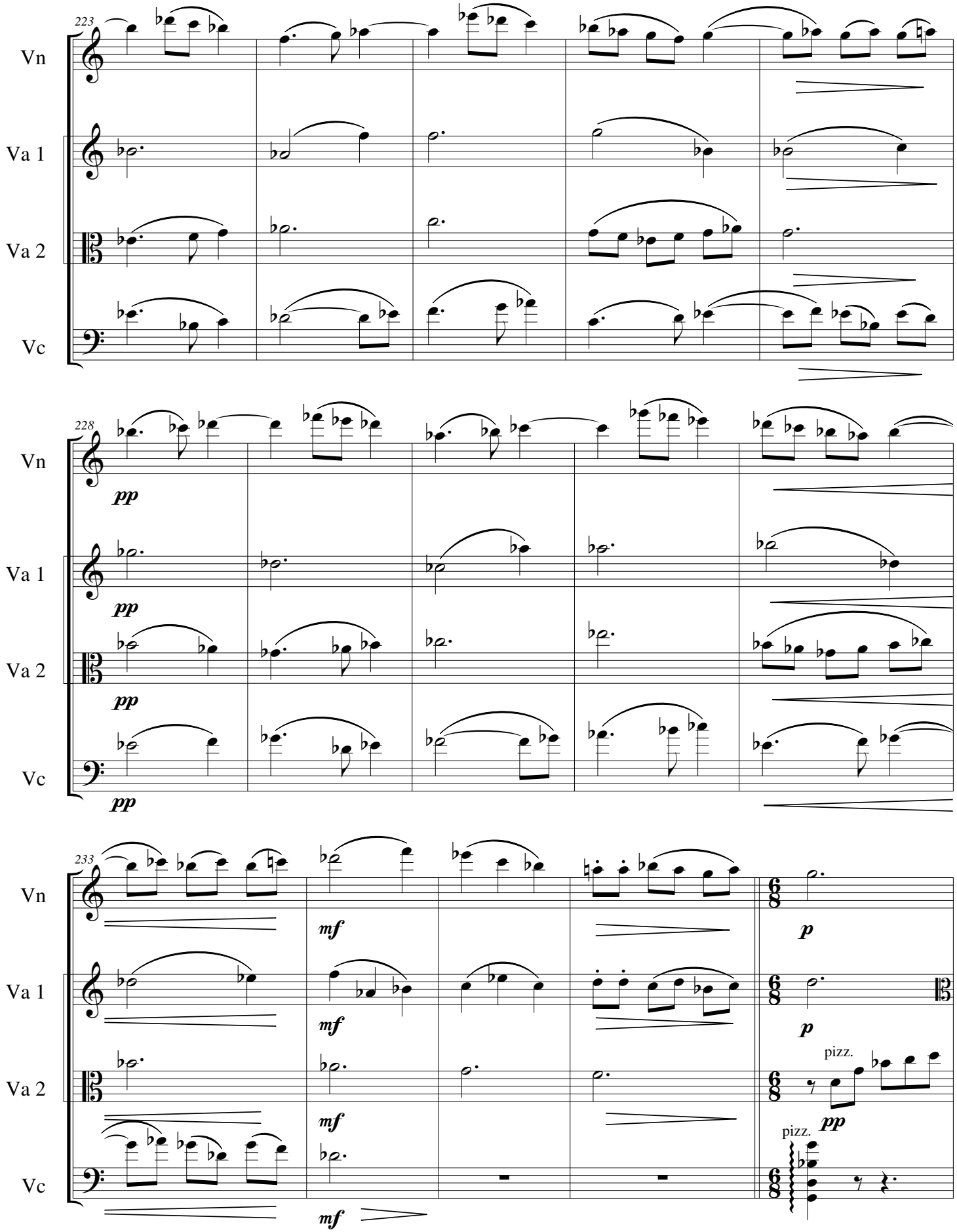

137
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
143
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
149
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
p
arco
p
pizz.
pp
pizz.

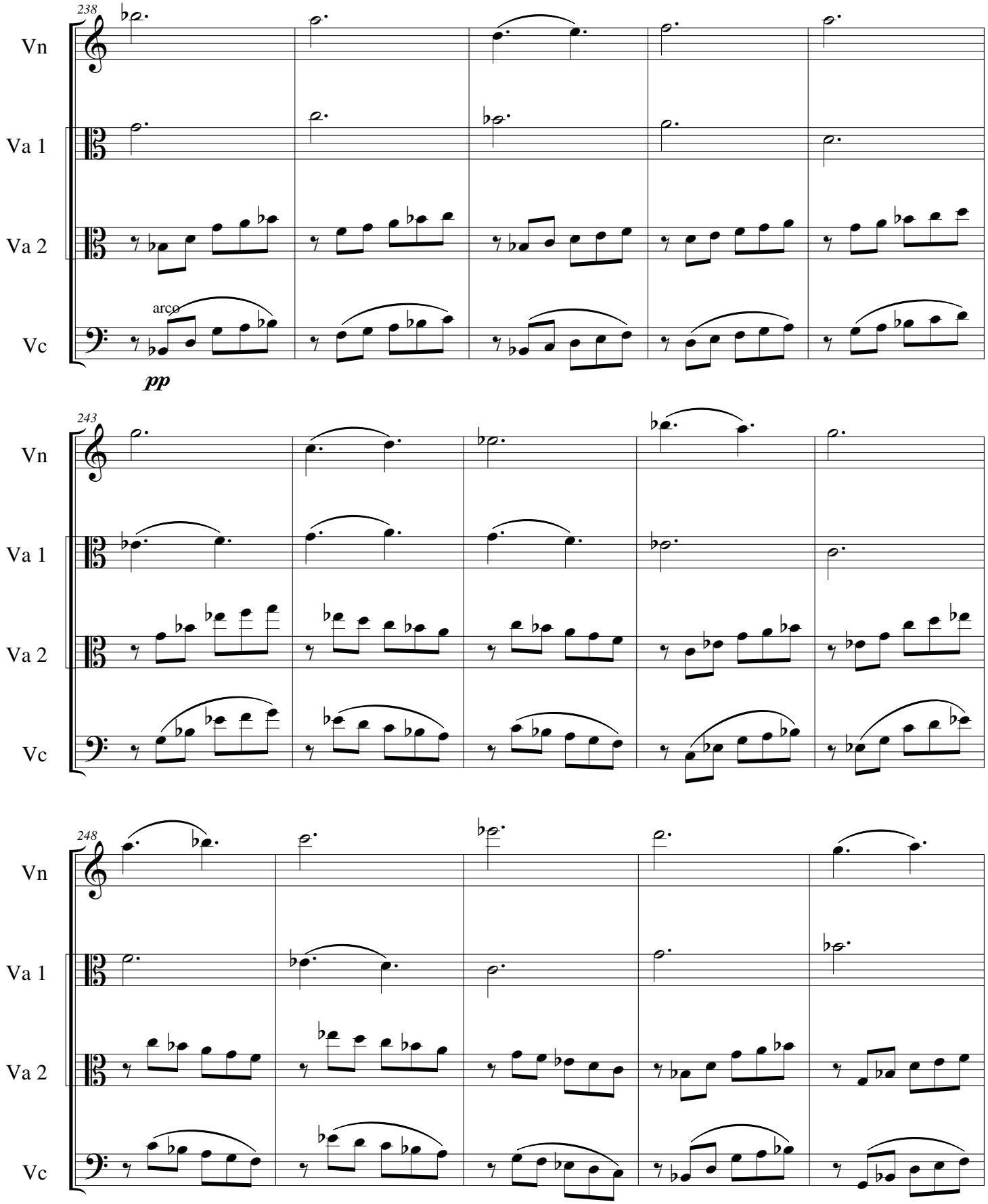

155
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
arco
pp
pizz.
161
3/4
pp
arco
167
mp

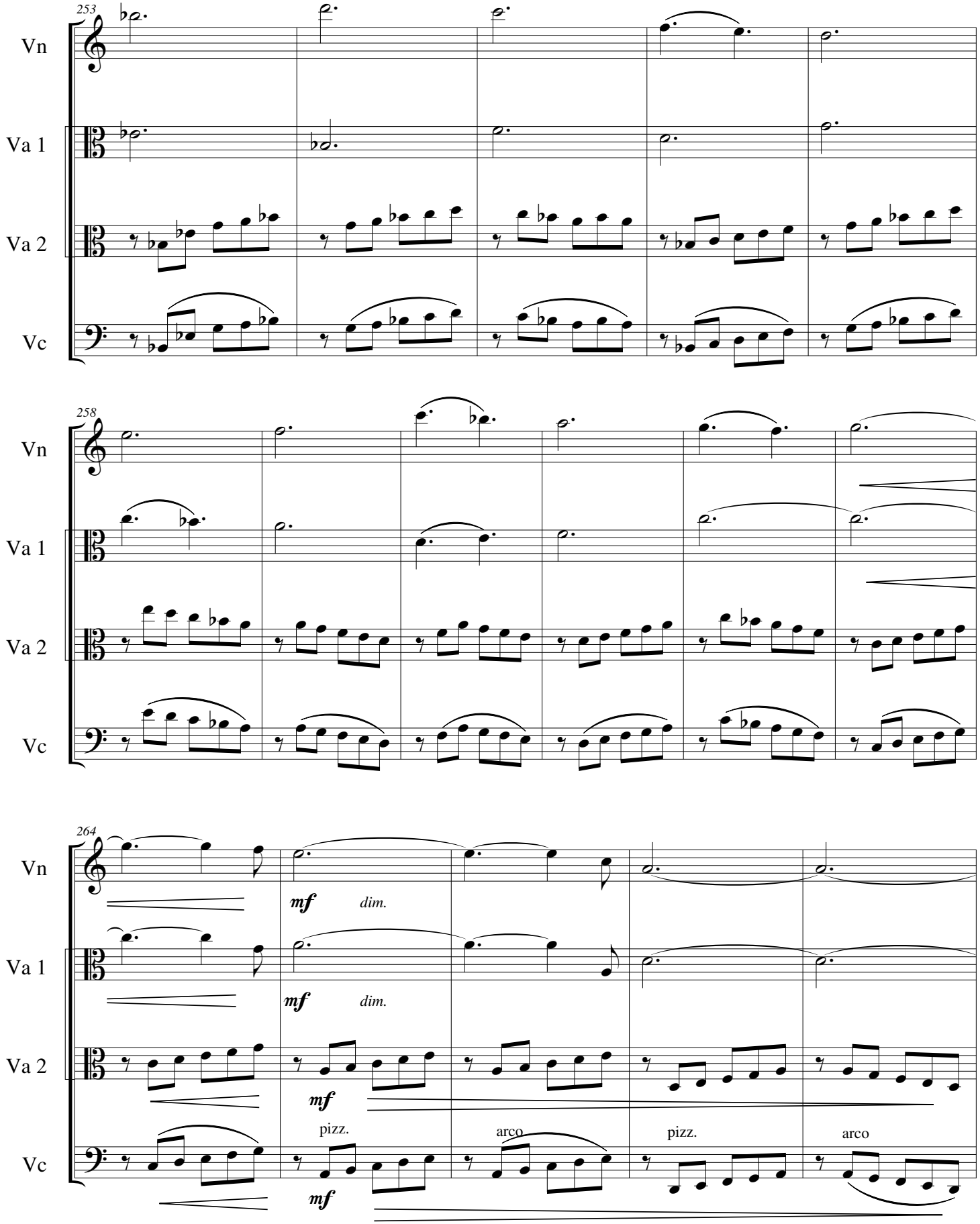

173
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
p
pizz.
179
arco
mp
185

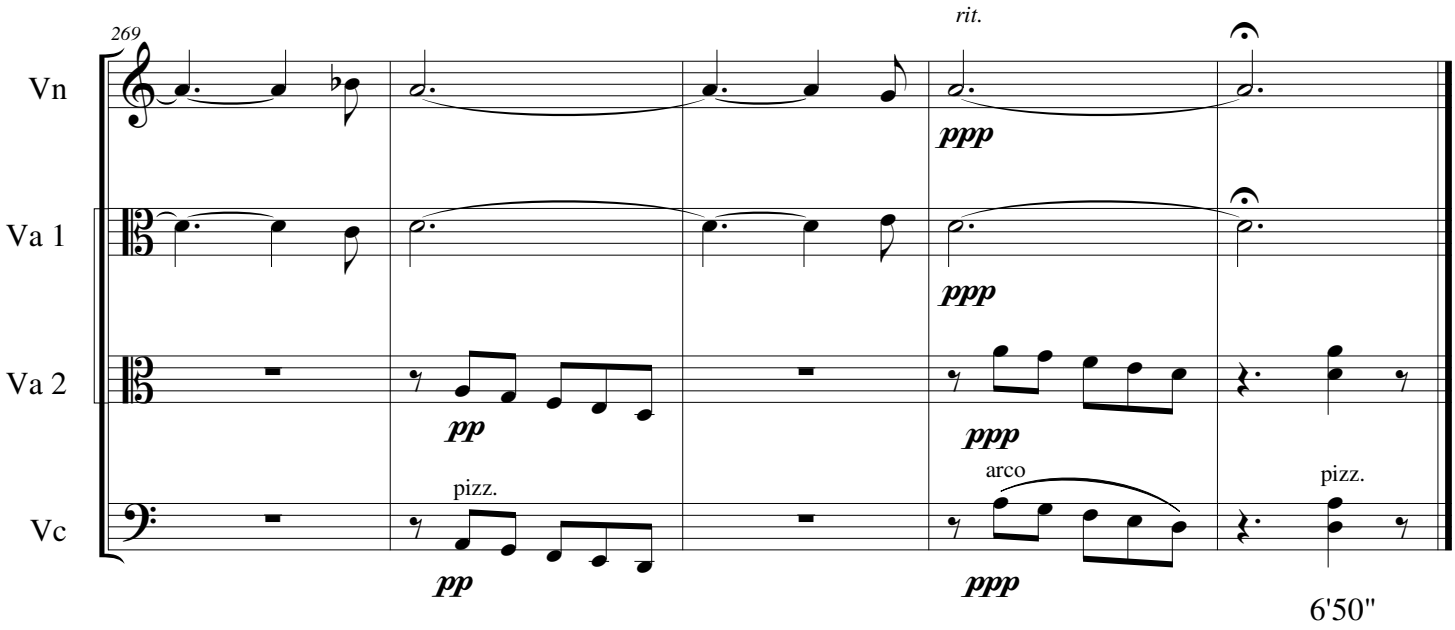

190
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
mp
mf
mp
arco
mp
196
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
mf
mf
mf
arco
mf
202
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc


208
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
213
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
p
mp
pizz.
mp
arco
p
p
218
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
mp
mp
mp
mp


223
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
228
pp
233
mf
p
pizz.


238
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
arco
pp
243
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
248
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc


253
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
258
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
264
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
mf
dim.
mf
dim.
mf
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
mf


269
rit.
Vn
Va 1
Va 2
Vc
ppp
ppp
pp
ppp
pizz.
arco
pizz.
pp
ppp
6'50"

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 voice, string orchestra and clarinet, a nonet for winds and strings, and several 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, the Bronx Arts Ensemble and the Duo + Ensemble. During the 2004-06 seasons, he was composer in residence of One World Symphony, a New York City based orchestra. One World Symphony has premiered several major works, including "Invisible Ballet" for orchestra, "Two Sad Songs" setting poems by W.B. Yeats for soprano & string orchestra, and a cycle of songs for two cellos and two mezzo sopranos setting poems by the New Jersey poet William Carlos Williams. In 2006, One World commissioned three works – a setting of the Ophelia songs from Shakespeare's "Hamlet" for soprano, harp and string orchestra, an orchestral work, "Pluto," for a program featuring Holst's "The Planets," and a setting of poetry for a concert honoring those who lost their lives on 9/11. Recent works include "The Four Elements" for viola and string orchestra commissioned by violist Brett Deubner and "Mystical Songs" for soprano, viola and string orchestra commissioned by the Universidad Tecnica Particular de Loja. In 2009, an entire program of music by Stan Grill was performed in Tokyo by the Duo + Ensemble. He currently works in Philadelpia, and lives happily in New Jersey with his wife, cats and piano.

"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**.

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