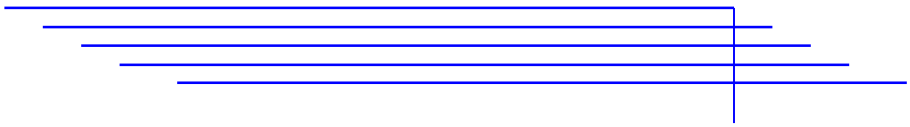
stanley grill



Sulla Natura

string quartet

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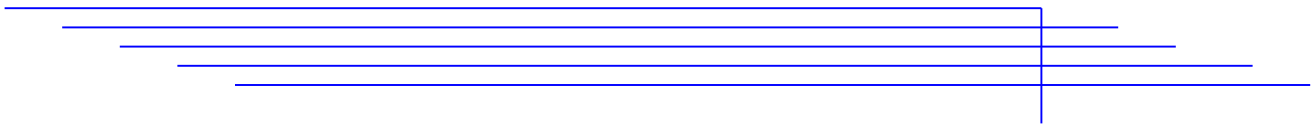


VOCAL MUSIC			
The Snow Begins (W.C. Williams)	1975	soprano, piano	3 min
Earth and Sea (Eskimo texts)	1975	soprano, piano	3 min
Preludes (T.S. Eliot)	1978	soprano, violin, cello	10 min
6 Songs (W.B. Yeats)	1983	soprano, piano	15 min
To a Child (W.B. Yeats)	1987	soprano, string quartet	20 min
Crazy Jane 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	sop, mezz sop, 2 cellos	15 min
Thinking of You (John MacKenzie)	2005	soprano, cello, harp	7 min
Ariettas Without Words	2005	soprano, cello, harp	9 min
Scetate (Ferdinando Russo)	2005	SSATTBB	6 min
In Their Flight (Mark Doty)	2006	sop, mezzo, violin, cello	6 min
5 Rilke Songs	2009	soprano, viola d'amore, cello	15 min
4 Songs to Poems by Hart Crane	2010	tenor, piano	35 min
Seasons (W.C. Williams)	2010	SATB	11 min
Sonnets to Orpheus (R.M. Rilke)	2012	tenor, piano	35 min
Songs of Loss and Remembering (R.M. Rilke)	2012	soprano, viola d'amore, viola, cello	12 min
Rozmowa z kamieniem (W. Szymborska)	2013	soprano, 2 violins, cello	15 min
2 Love Songs (H. Heine)	2015	countertenor, va, vc, theorbo	4 min
A Collection of Songs (C.F. Cilliers)	2017	soprano, piano	18 min
The Violin Sings in a Common Language	2017	soprano, violin	13 min
Collected Villanelles (various poets)	2018	SATB	16 min
La selva de los relojes (Federico Garcia Lorca)	2018	mezzo soprano, cello, piano	21 min
Der Februar (Erich Kastner)	2018	soprano, viola d'amore	4 min
Vier Gedichte (Inborg Hoflehner)	2018	mezzo soprano, viola d'amore	6 min
Le Lay de Plour (Guillaume Machaut)	2018	contralto, fl, vn, vc, piano	40 min
Selections from Les Roses (R.M. Rilke)	2019	soprano, oboe, violin	9 min
Blossoms (Selma Meerbaum-Eisinger)	2019	soprano, viola d'amore, cello	22 min
This Hour (Rose Ausländer)	2019	soprano, tenor, vn, va, vc, harpsichord	11 min
The Aim was Song (Robert Frost)	2019	soprano, cello	3 min
Two Ballads (Richard Leach)	2019	soprano, Bb clarinet, viola, cello, piano	8 min
The Whirr of Wings (various poets)	2020	chorus, flute, viola, cello	24 min
Dust Song (Richard Leach)	2020	soprano, piano	3 min
Selections from Words for Music Perhaps (W.B. Yeats)	2020	mezzo soprano, baritone, piano	8 min
An Incalculable Loss (Richard Leach/Norman Fischer)	2020	soprano & cello	12 min
Say their names (words from the news)	2020	voice & piano	6 min
To Pain (Peter Levitt)	2020	baritone & piano	4 min
Artist (Madhu Raghavendra)	2020	soprano & piano	3 min
1918 (Ellen Bryant Voigt)	2020	mezzo soprano, vn, 2 va, vc	20 min
Les Fugitifs (R.M. Rilke)	2020	mezzo soprano, viola	5 min
Schnee und Eis (Rose Ausländer)	2020	soprano, viola	6 min
Moot!	2020	9 voices	3 min
4xM and Other Blues (Richard Leach)	2021	baritone & piano	11 min
2 Sonnets (William Shakespeare)	2021	soprano, flute, clarinet, viola	9 min
Several Simple Songs	2021	soprano & piano	10 min
Idilio (Federico Garcia Lorca)	2021	soprano & piano	3 min
The Peace of Wild Things	2021	counter-tenor, traverso, va, vc, theorbo	17 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	viola, cello	9 min
Pavanne (for a world without war)	2005	string orchestra	8 min
Meditations	2006	string orchestra	8 min
American Landscapes	2007	string quartet	24 min
Motet	2008	string orchestra	7 min
Ecstasy	2009	viola solo	9 min
Transformations	2009	viola da gamba	12 min
Sonatine	2010	3 violins	9 min
Lieder ohne Worte	2011	2 va, vc, theorbo	12 min
Middle Ground	2012	vn, 2 va, vc	25 min
O mystery!	2012	viola 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	violin, viola	19 min
Lonely Voices	2013	string quartet	26 min
Trance Music	2014	string orchestra	22 min
The Time is Past	2016	string quartet	15 min
Dreaming of a Better World	2016	string quartet	15 min
Trio Sonata	2017	vn, va d'amore, cello	10 min
Transfiguration	2017	viola quartet	14 min
Duets	2018	2 viola d'amore	7 min
Aphorisms I	2019	string quartet	15 min
Airs and Dances	2019	strings	6 min
Border Crossings	2019	2 violins	6 min
Sea and Sky	2019	2 violas	11 min
Ode to Theia	2020	string quartet	22 min
Trio Sonata – 2020	2020	viola, viola d'amore, cello	10 min
Drift	2021	string orchestra	12 min
The Bridge of Birds	2021	viola & cello	13 min
Sulla Natura	2021	string quartet	27 min

CHAMBER MUSIC

Three for Three	1992	violin, cello, piano	16 min
Civil War Songs	1992	viola, piano	18 min
Take Five	1993	piano quintet	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	flute, cello, piano	25 min
Nonet (for New York)	2002	fl, ob, cl, hn, bn, string quartet	35 min
A Little Sweet	2003	flute, cello	10 min
On the Edge of Sleep & Dreaming	2003	horn, cello, 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 Piece	2005	clarinet, violin, cello	15 min
Elements	2006	fl, ob, cl, hn, bn	11 min
Motet for Brass Instruments	2006	2 tp, hn, tb, tu	7 min
4 Caprices	2014	violin, piano	14 min
Melville's Dream	2017	alto flute, viola, cello	12 min
Music for Loud Band	2018	2 cornettos & 2 tenor sackbuts	5 min
Fanfare	2018	4 sackbuts (or tenor trombones)	3 min
the children are crying	2018	saxophone quartet	6 min
the children are still crying	2018	saxophone quartet	6 min
Aphorisms II	2019	viola & piano	21 min
Divisions	2019	vn, vc, pn	13 min

Aphorisms IV	2019	cello & piano	19 min
Remember	2020	viola & piano	10 min
The Whirr of Wings (instrumental suite)	2020	flute, viola, cello	19 min
Dance	2020	flute	3 min
Echo	2020	flute, oboe, clarinet, violin	4 min
Freedom Song	2020	saxophone quartet	6 min
The Stars Circle Above, Indifferent to Our Foolishness	2020	flute quartet	7 min
Traumstücke	2020	viola d'amore, piano	11 min
Fantasy	2021	viola & piano	12 min
Imaginary Dances II	2021	alto saxophone & harp	12 min
Songs for Astrid	2021	flute	13 min
Ararat	2021	duduk quartet	6 min
A Trifle	2021	trumpet & cello	4 min
Book of Soliloquies	2021	various instruments	17 min

ORCHESTRAL MUSIC

Morning Music	2001	clarinet, string orchestra	22 min
Two Sad Songs (W.B. Yeats)	2002	soprano, string orchestra	15 min
The Invisible Ballet	2003	string orchestra & diverse instruments	33 min
Pluto	2005	orchestra	15 min
Ophelia Songs (Shakespeare)	2005	soprano, harp, string orchestra	12 min
Love's Little Pleasures (various poets)	2008	soprano, string orchestra	15 min
The Four Elements	2009	viola, string orchestra	22 min
Mystical Songs (Fernando Rielo)	2009	soprano, viola, string orchestra	18 min
In Praise of Reason	2012	cello, 2 horns, string orchestra	13 min
Against War	2018	soprano, orchestra	23 min
Season of Rain	2018	orchestra	38 min
Summer	2018	orchestra	43 min
Declaration of Peace	2019	chamber orchestra	12 min
Everything Passes	2019	soprano & chamber orchestra	16 min
Gaia's Lament	2019	violin, orchestra	21 min
Serenade	2019	oboe, string orchestra	13 min
The Silence of Winter	2020	3 flutes, string orchestra	13 min
The Bridge	2020	viola & orchestra	70 min
Fantasy	2020	piano, string orchestra	15 min
Die Erste Elegie (R.M. Rilke)	2020	soprano, orchestra	38 min
The Mystic Trumpeter	2021	trumpet, string orchestra	24 min
24 september 1945 (Nazir Hikmet)	2021	soprano & string orchestra	3 min
28 october 1945 (Nazir Hikmet)	2021	soprano & string orchestra	4 min
Canziones d'Amore (various poets)	2021	soprano & string orchestra	22 min
Ahimsa	2021	orchestral ensemble	22 min
We Will Not Forget	2021	duduk & string orchestra	13 min

PIANO MUSIC

Simple Sketches	2015	piano	12 min
Skirmishes	2016	piano 4 hands	10 min
Preludes for Piano, 1-6	2016	piano	10 min
Preludes for Piano, 7-12	2017	piano	10 min
Aphorisms III	2019	piano	17 min

Sulla Natura

for the Umbria Ensemble

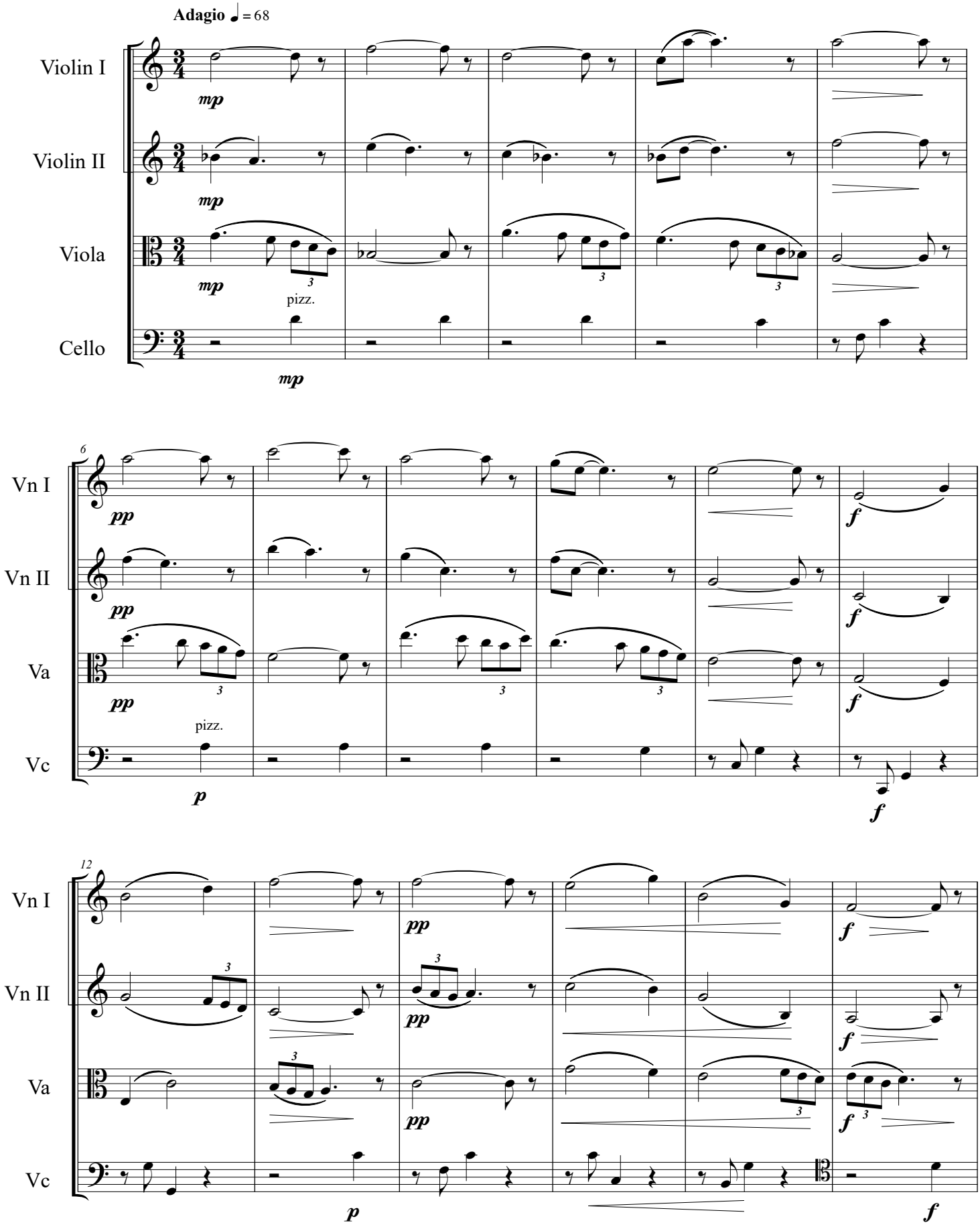
I

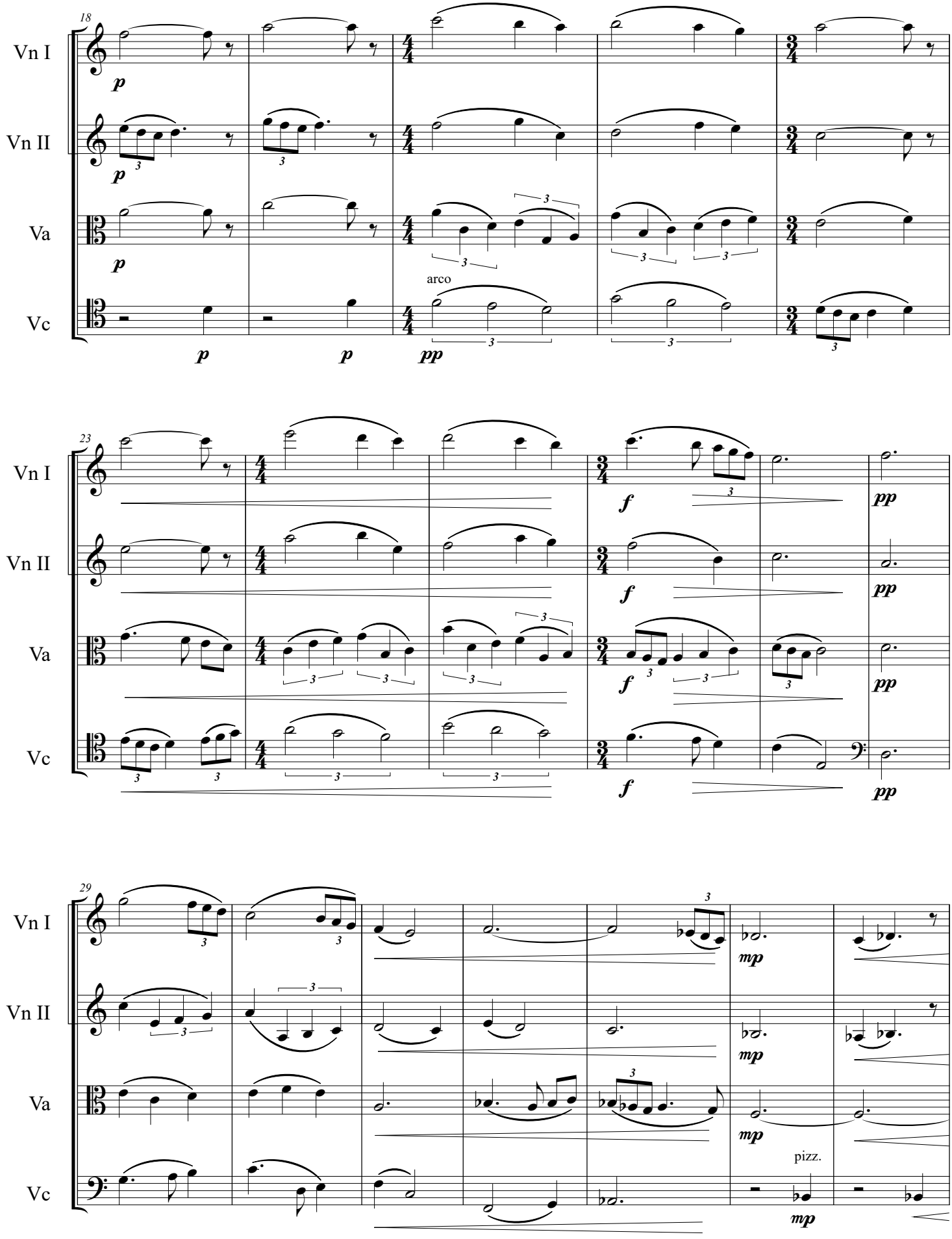
Alla Sera

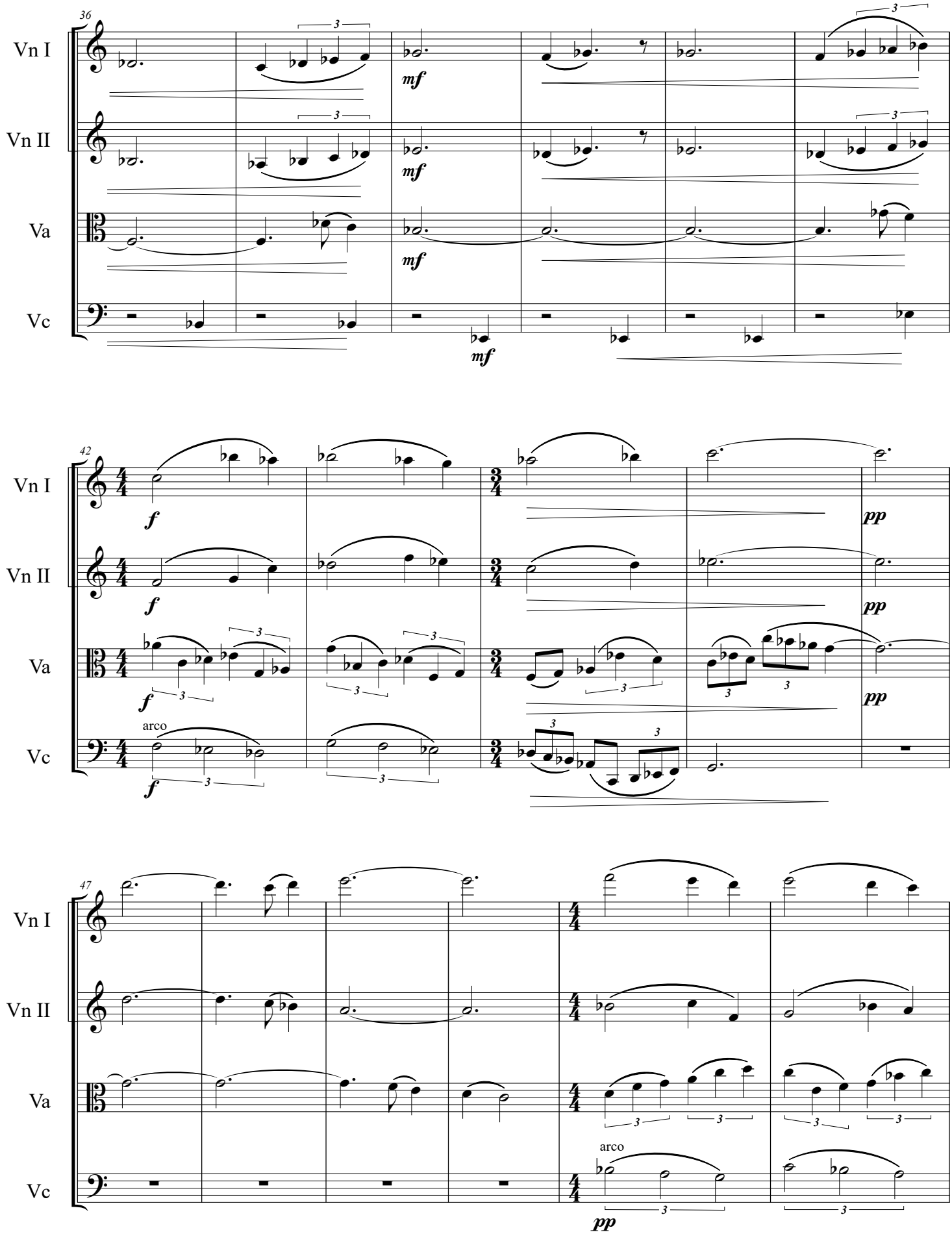
(Ugo Foscolo)

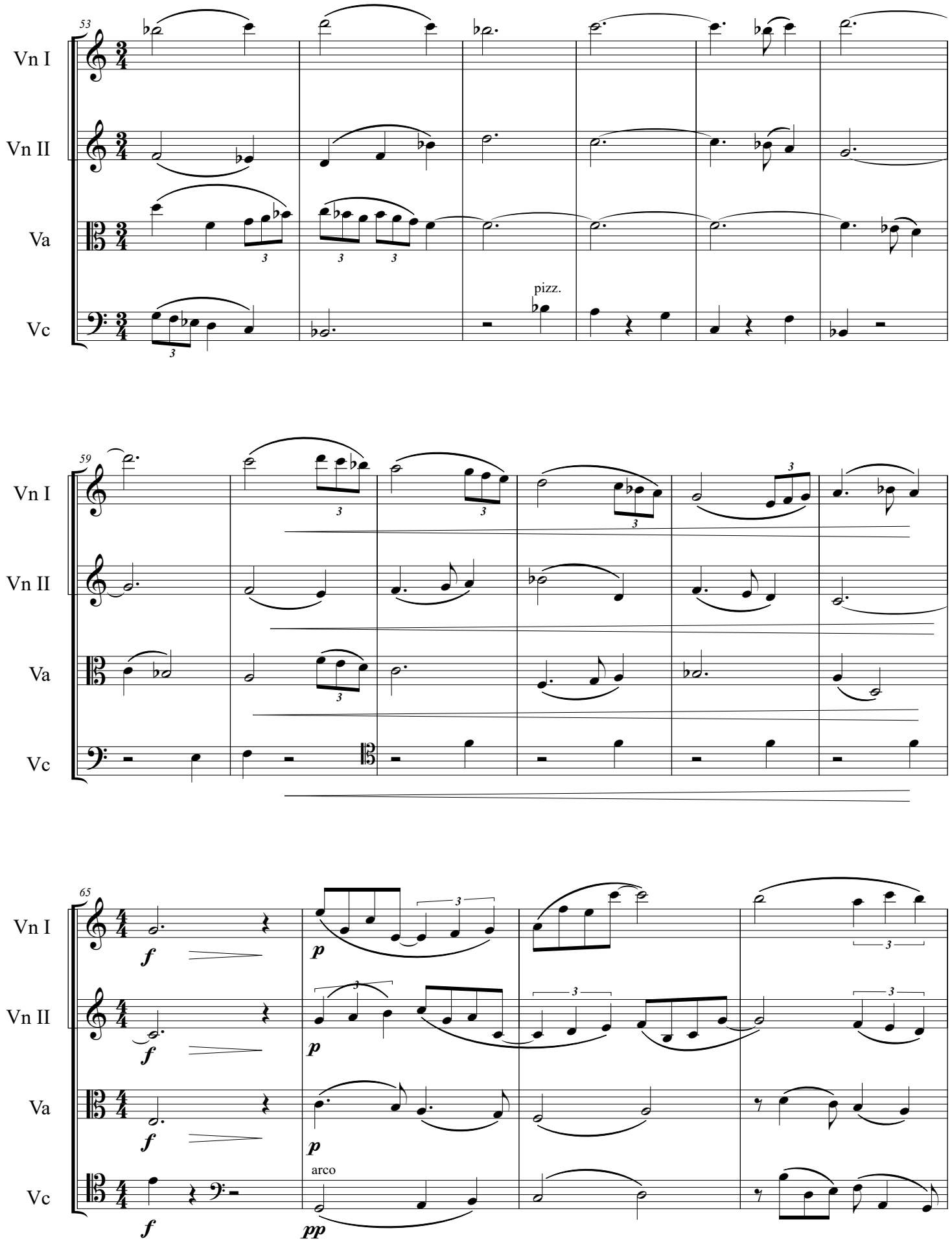
Forse perché della fatal quiete
tu sei l'immago, a me si cara vieni,
o Sera! E quando ti corteggian liete
le nubi estive e i zeffiri sereni,
e quando dal nevoso aere inquiete
tenebre e lunghe all'universo meni,
sempre scendi invocata, e le secrete
vie del mio cor soavemente tieni.
Vagar mi fai co' miei pensier su l'orme
che vanno al nulla eterno; e intanto fugge
questo reo tempo, e van con lui le torme
delle cure onde meco egli si strugge;
e mentre guardo la tua pace, dorme
quello spirto guerrier ch'entro mi rugge.

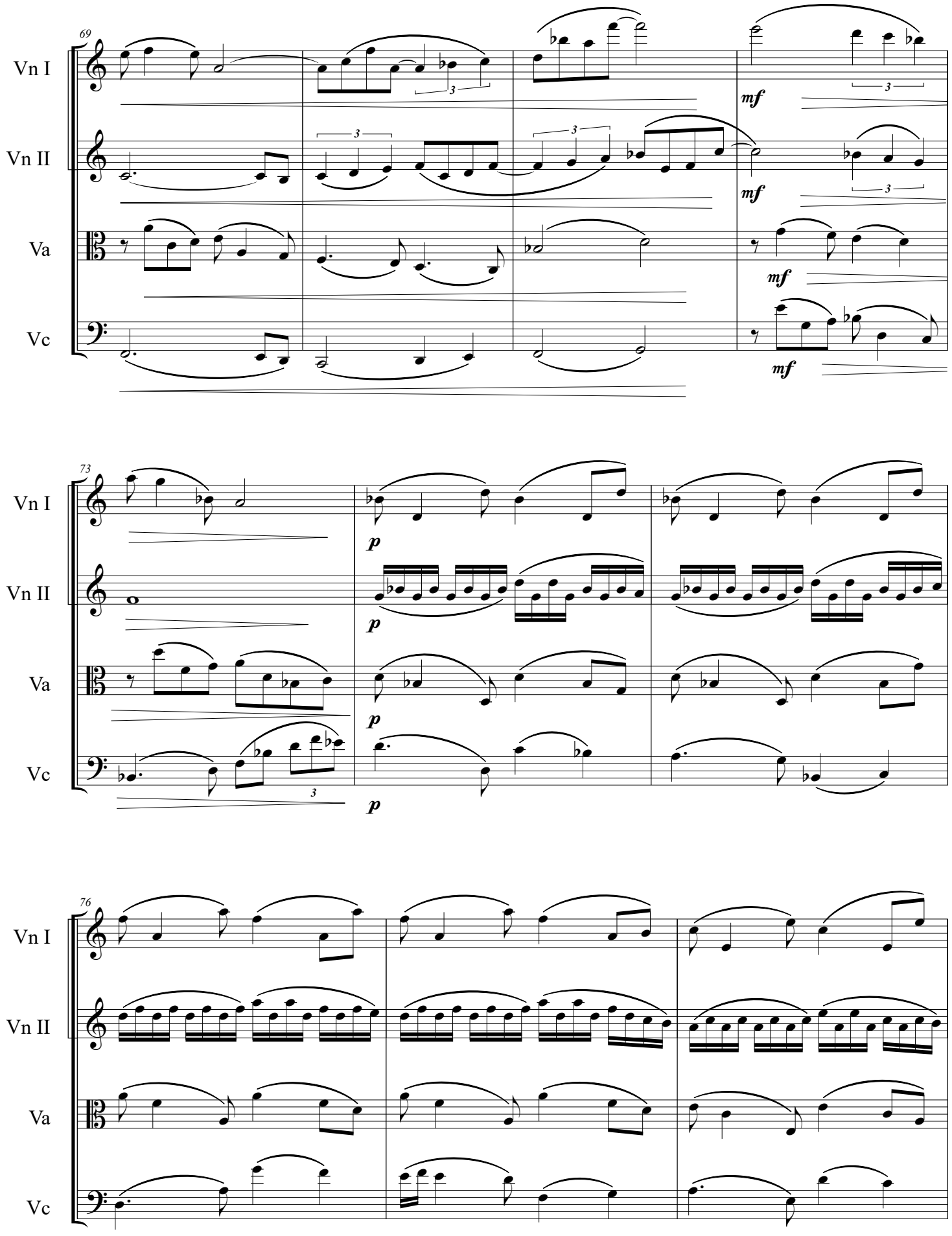
Alla Sera

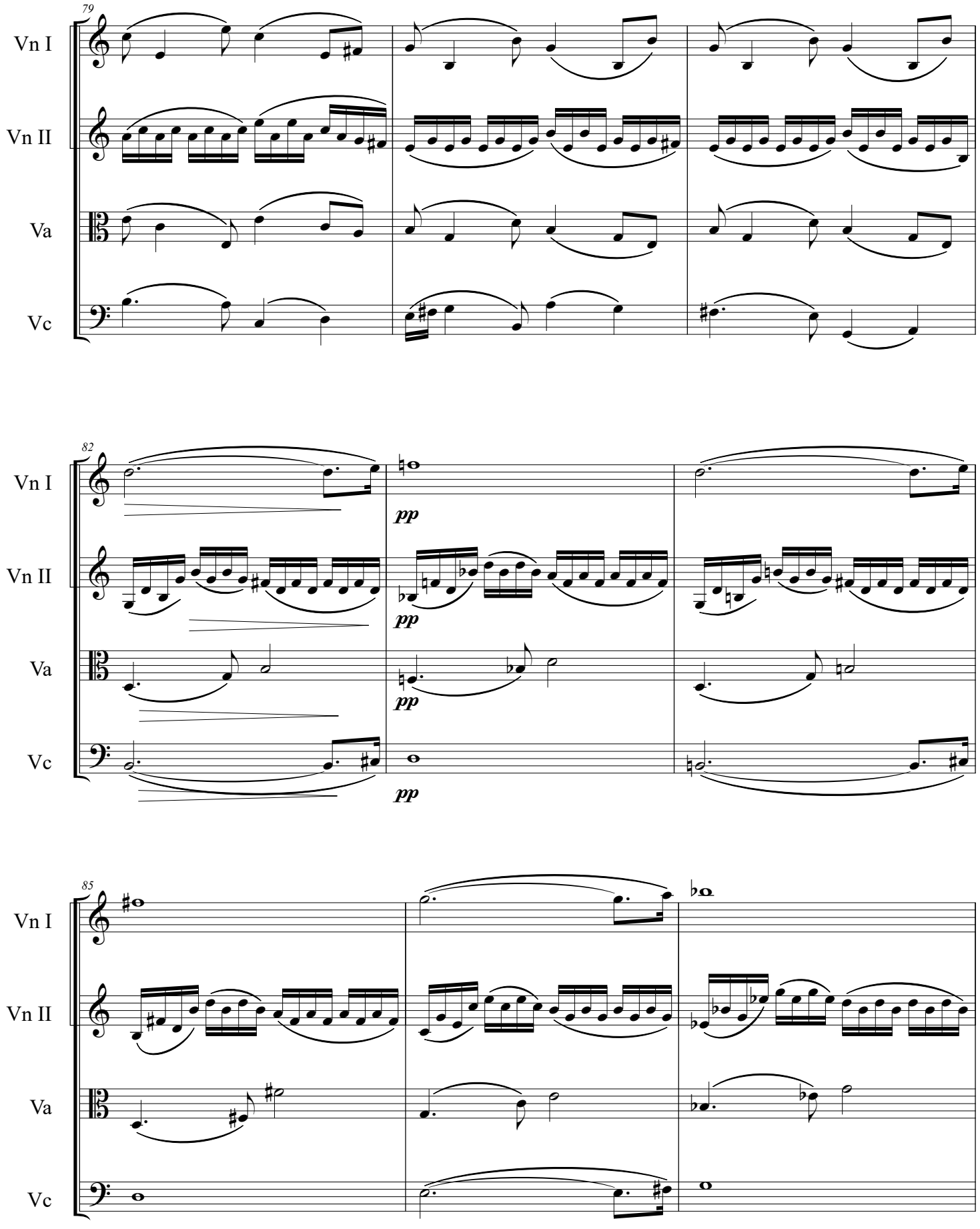

Adagio ♩ = 68
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello
mp
pizz.
6
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp
p
f
12

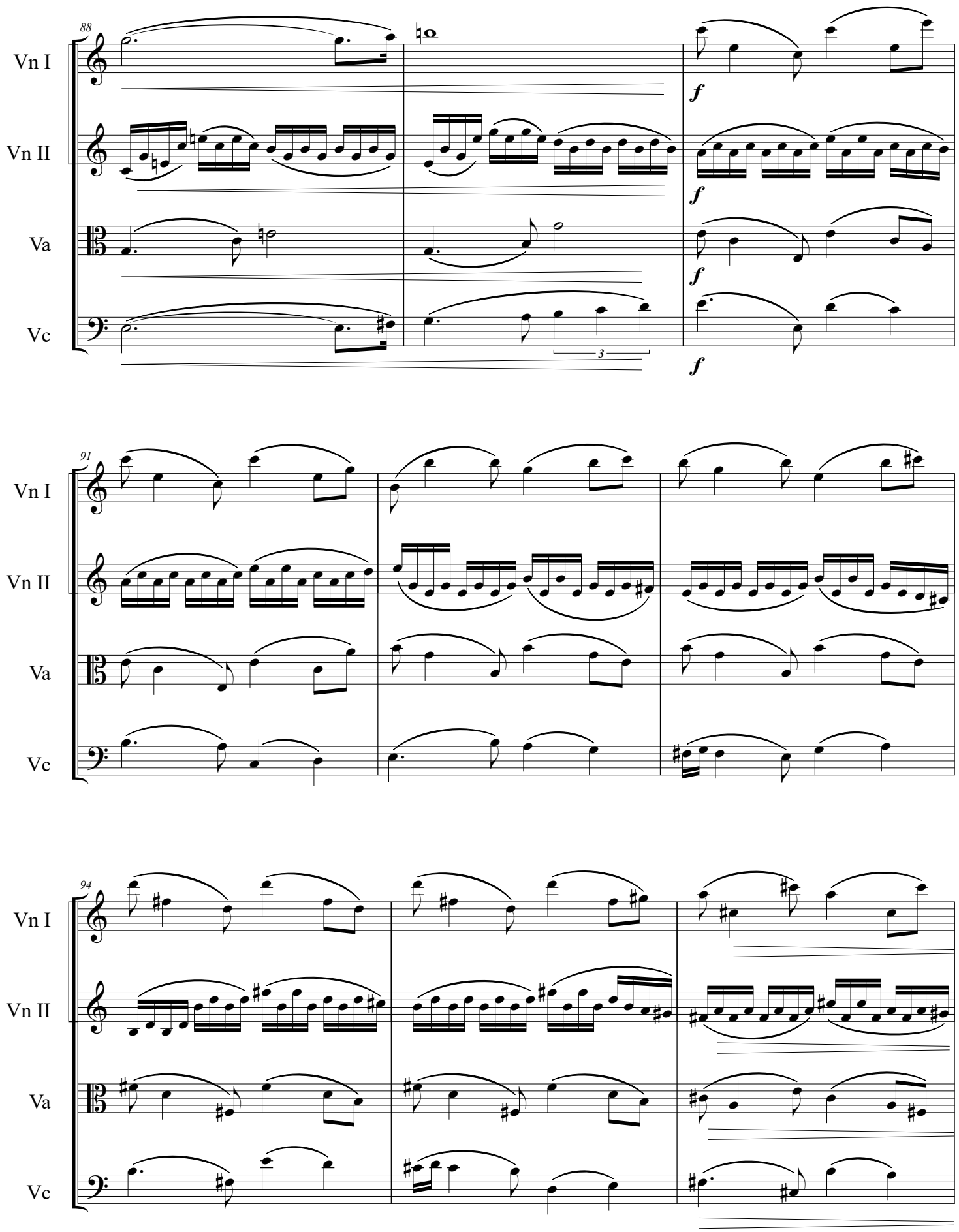

18
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
arco
23
29
pizz.

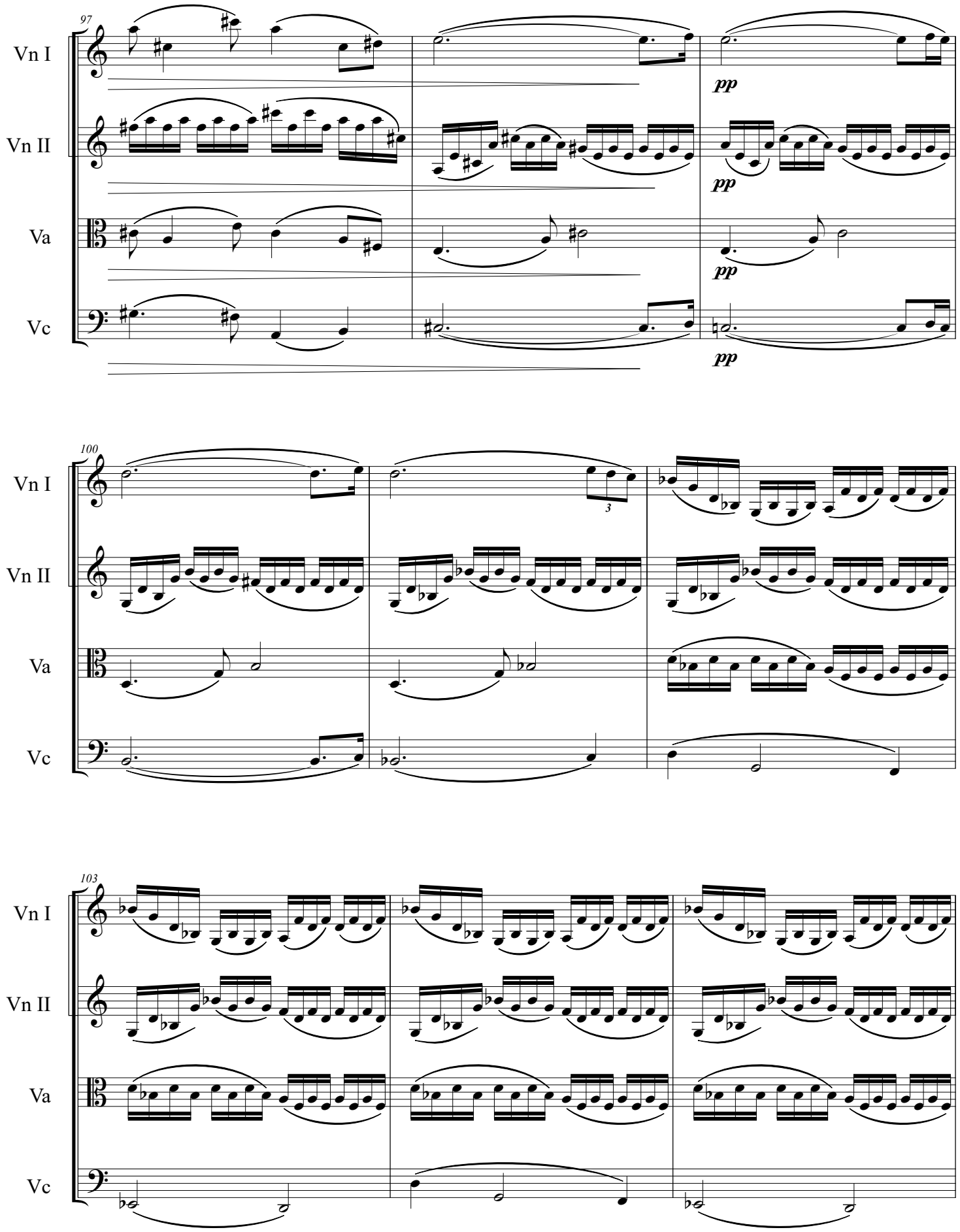

36
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
mf
42
f
pp
arco
47
arco
pp

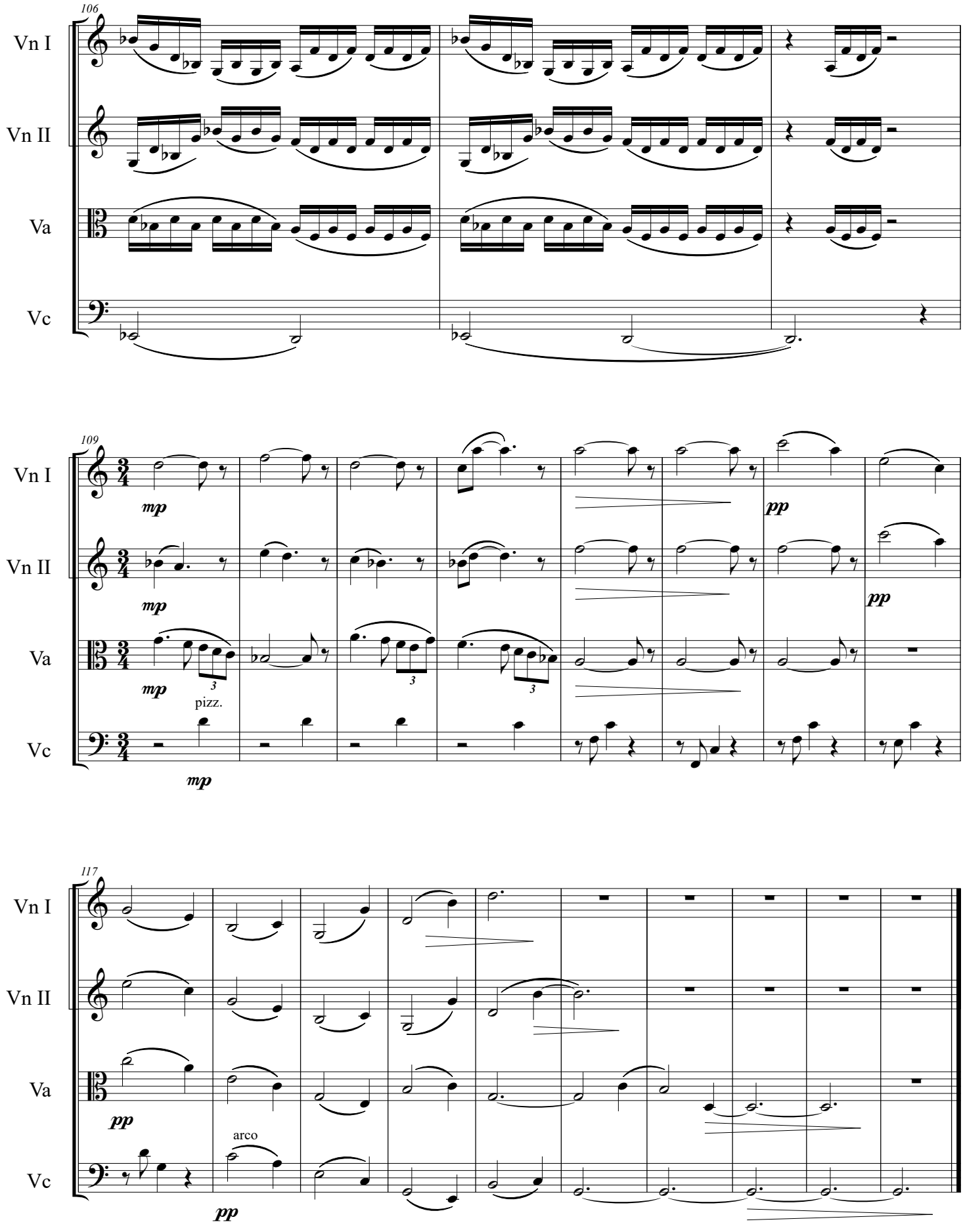

53
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pizz.
59
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
65
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
arco


69
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
mf
mf
mf
73
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
p
p
p
p
76
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc


79
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
82
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp
pp
pp
85
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc


88
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
f
3
91
94


97
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp
pp
pp
100
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
3
103
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc


106
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
109
mp
pizz.
pp
117
arco

II

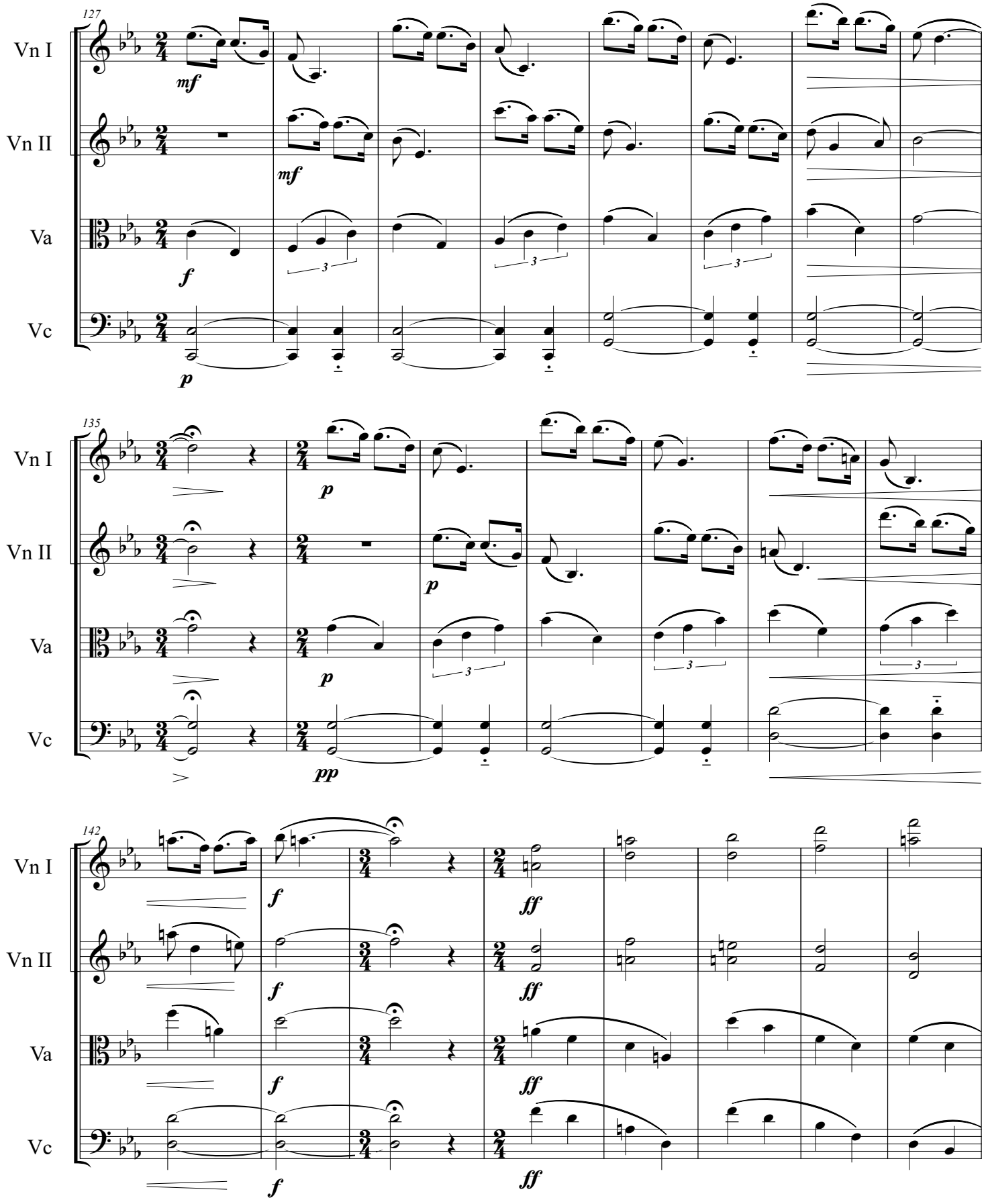
Il lampo

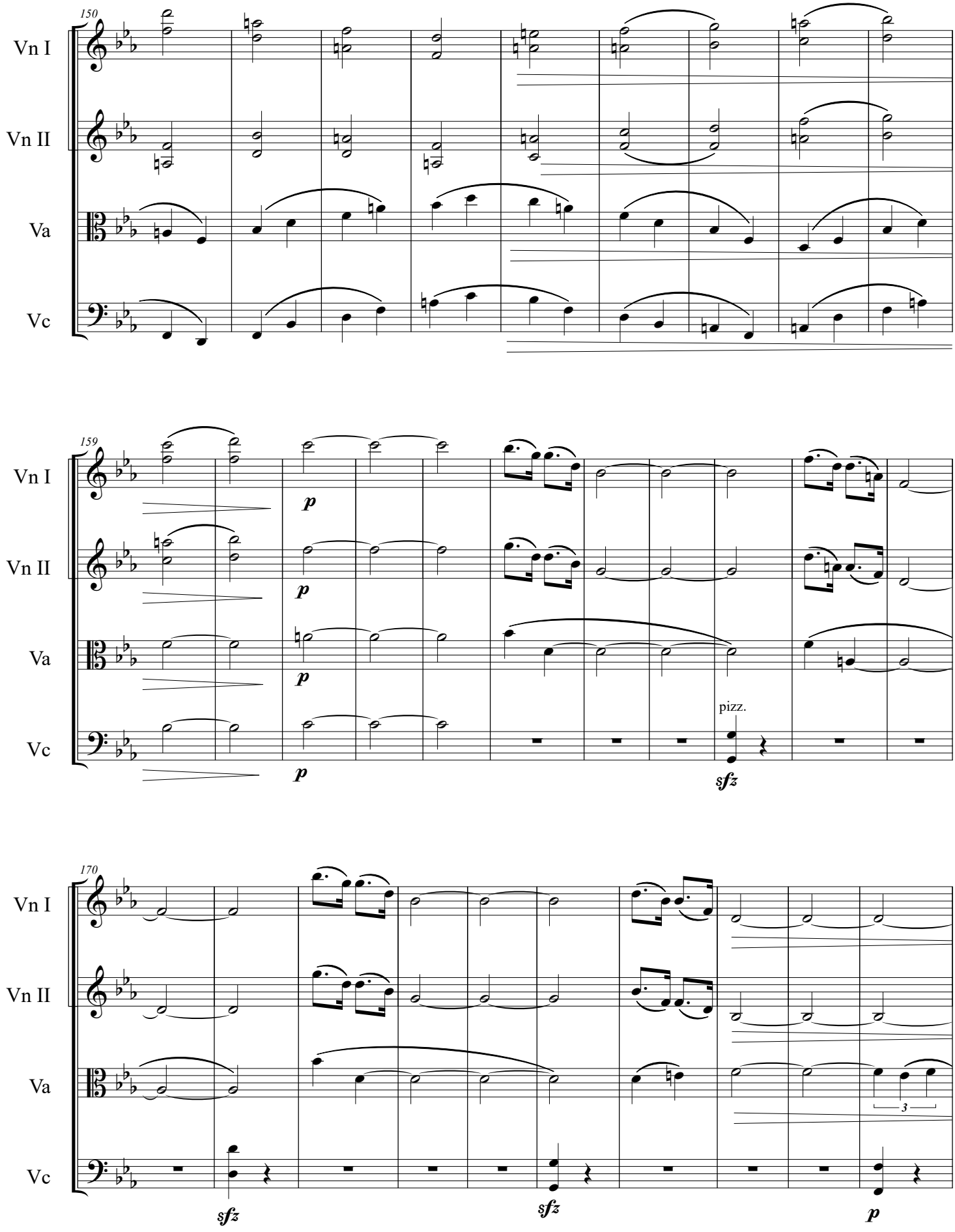
(Giovanni Pascoli)

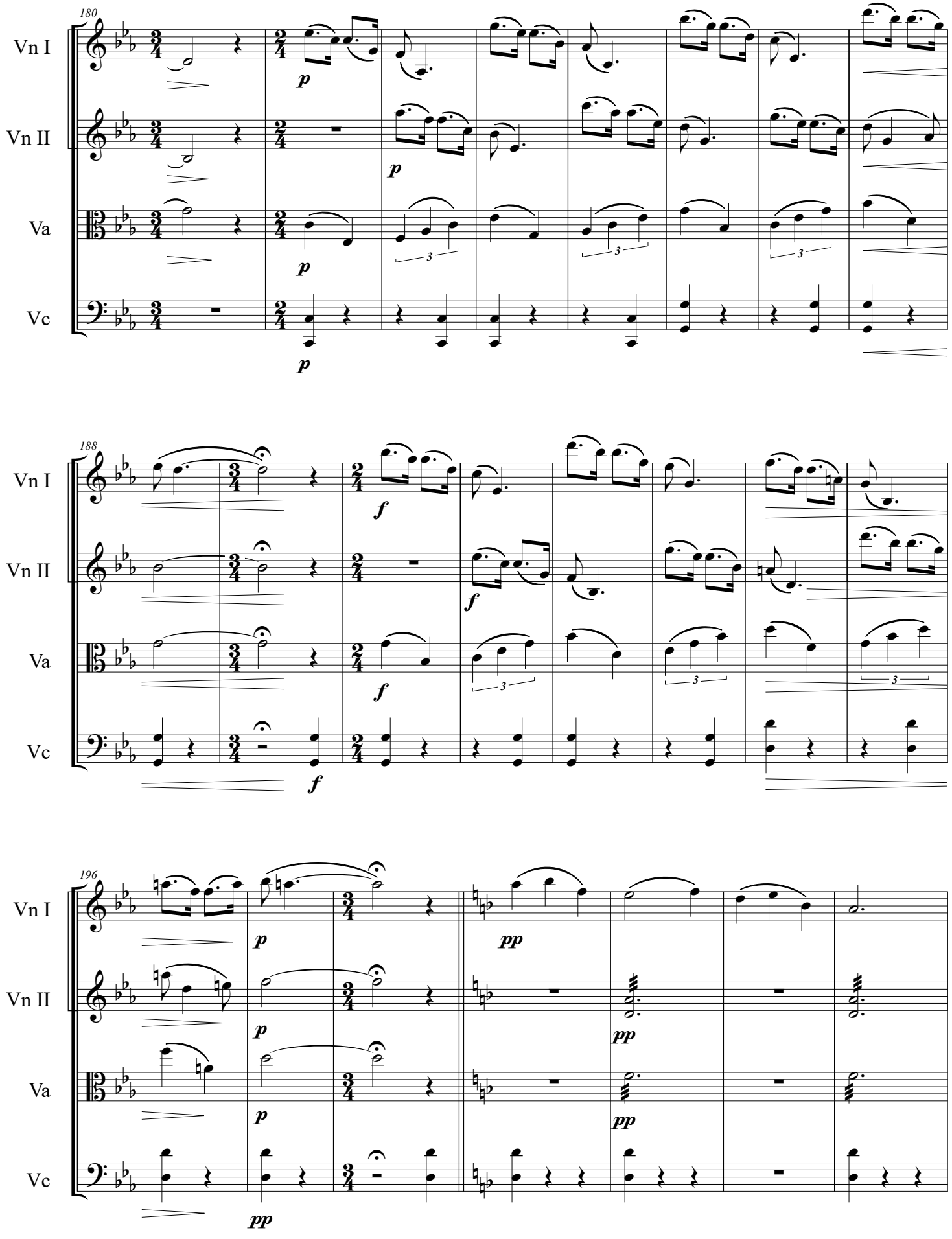
E cielo e terra si mostrò qual era:
la terra ansante, livida, in sussulto;
il cielo ingombro, tragico, disfatto:
bianca bianca nel tacito tumulto
una casa apparì sparì d'un tratto;
come un occhio, che, largo, esterrefatto,
s'aprì si chiuse, nella notte nera.

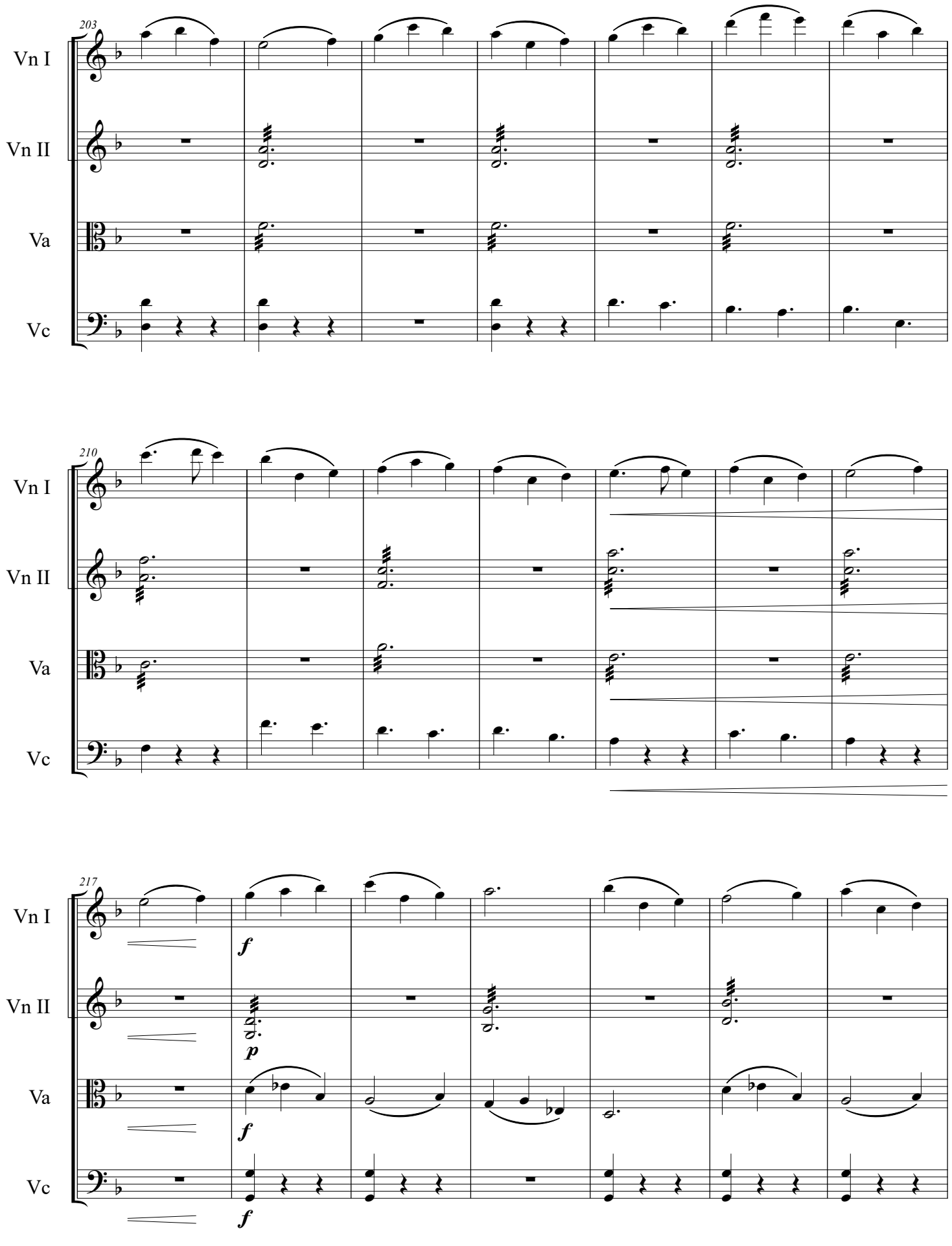
Il lampo

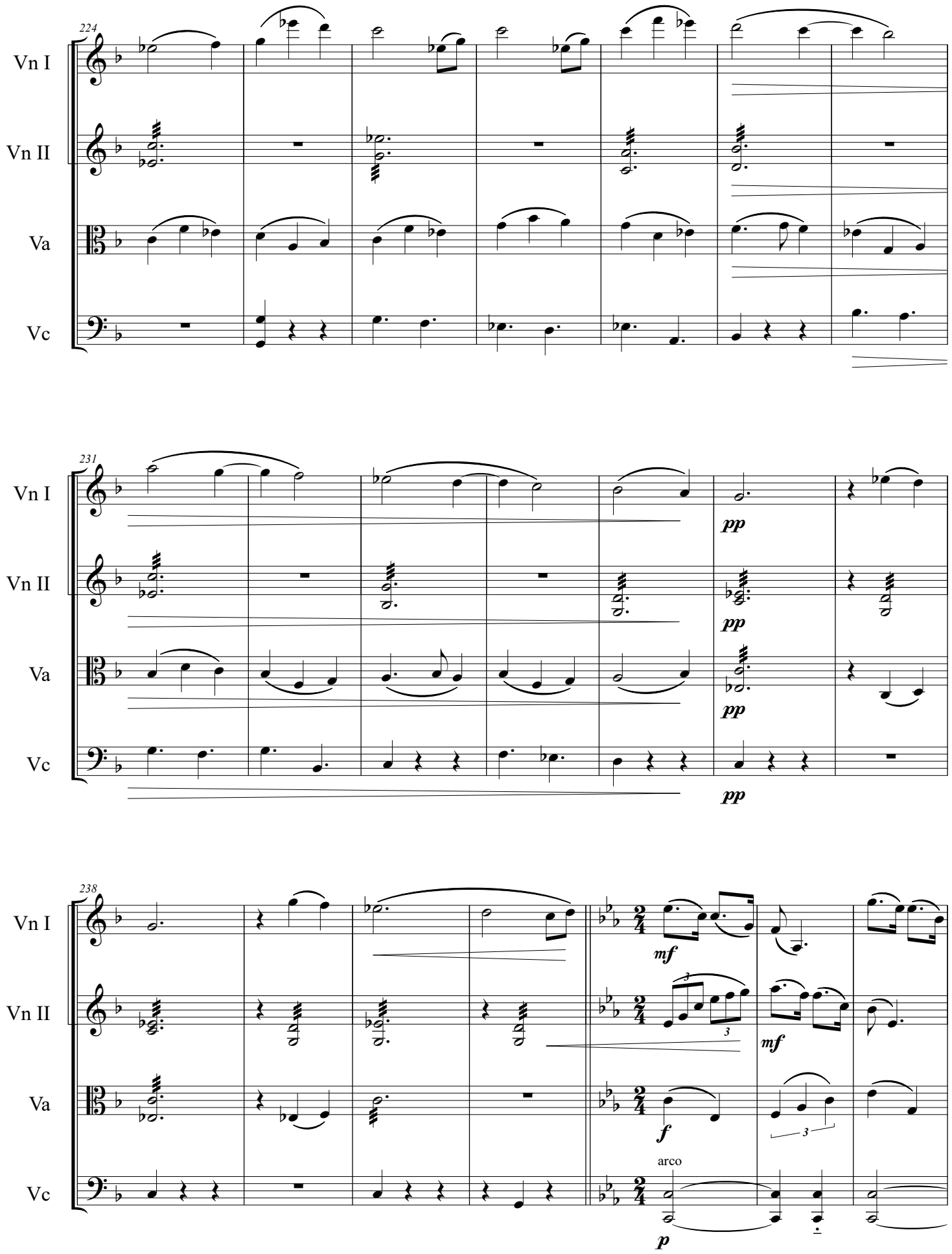
Allegro ♩ = 112

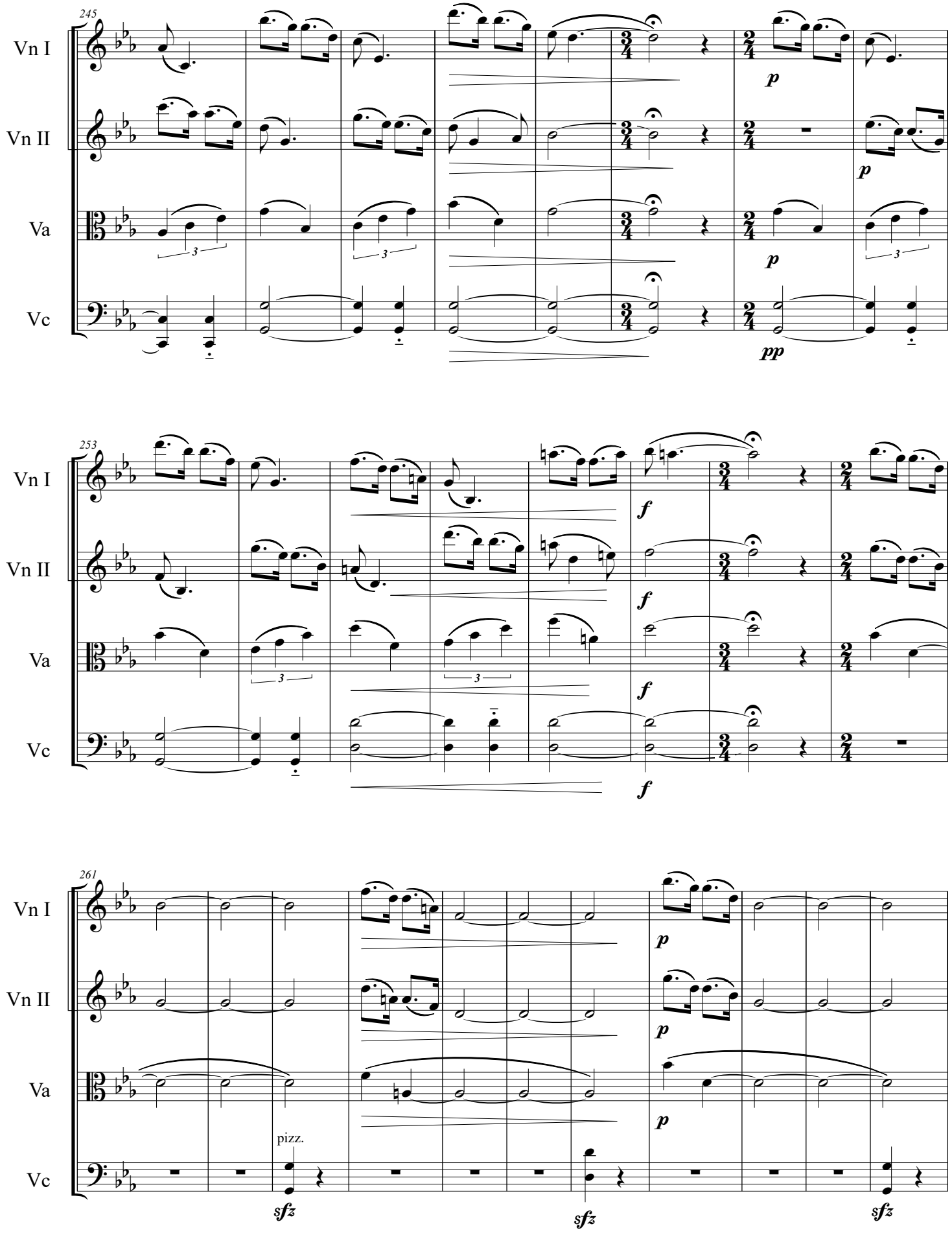


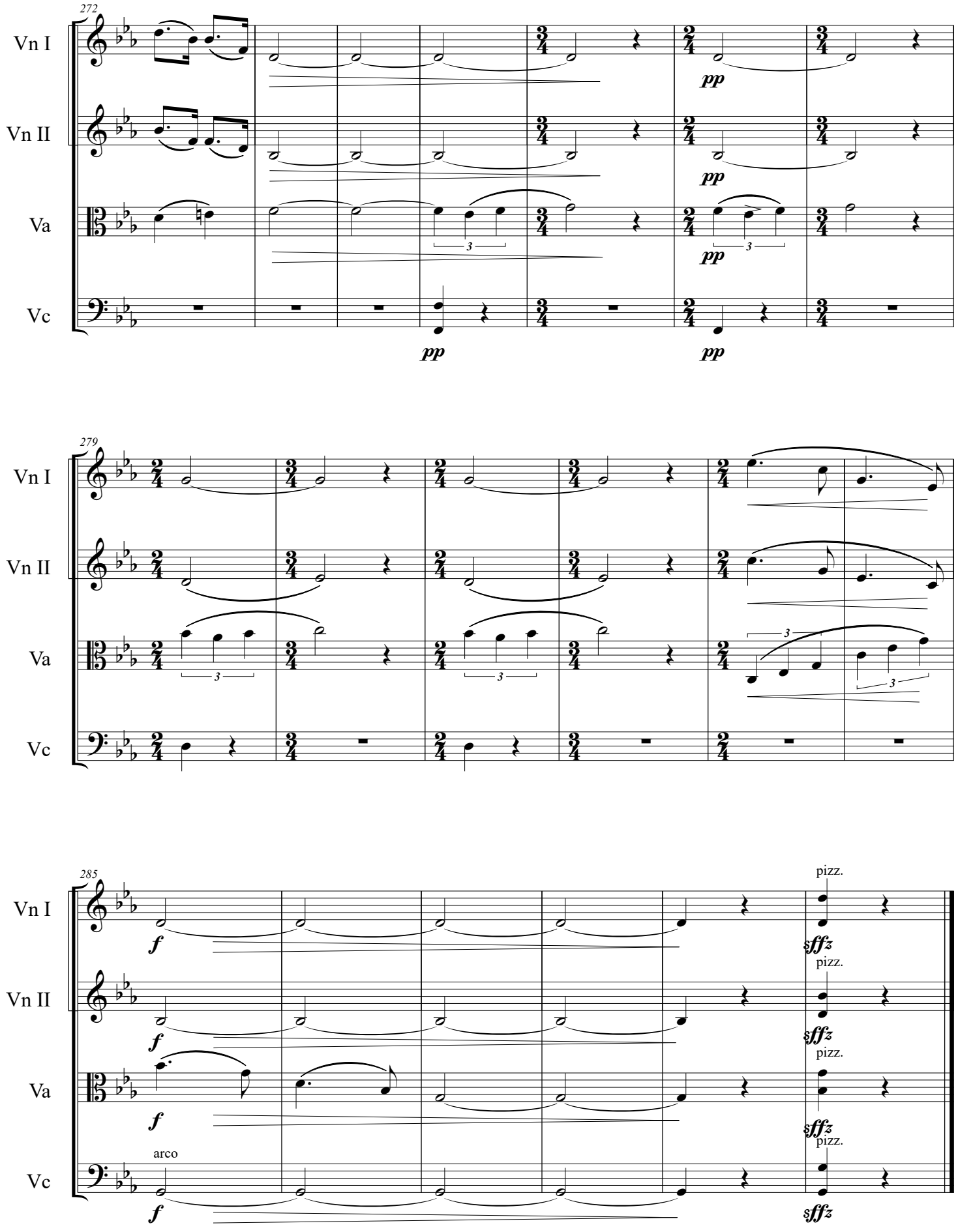

150
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
159
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
p
p
p
p
pizz.
sfz
170
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
sfz
sfz
3
p


180
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
188
196


203
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
210
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
217
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
f
p
f
f


224
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
231
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp
pp
pp
pp
238
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
mf
mf
f
arco
p
3
3
3


245
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
p
p
p
pp
253
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
f
f
f
f
261
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
p
p
p
pizz.
sfz
sfz
sfz


272
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp
pp
pp
pp
3
279
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
3
3
3
3
285
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
f
f
f
arco
f
pizz.
sffz
pizz.
sffz
pizz.
sffz
pizz.
sffz

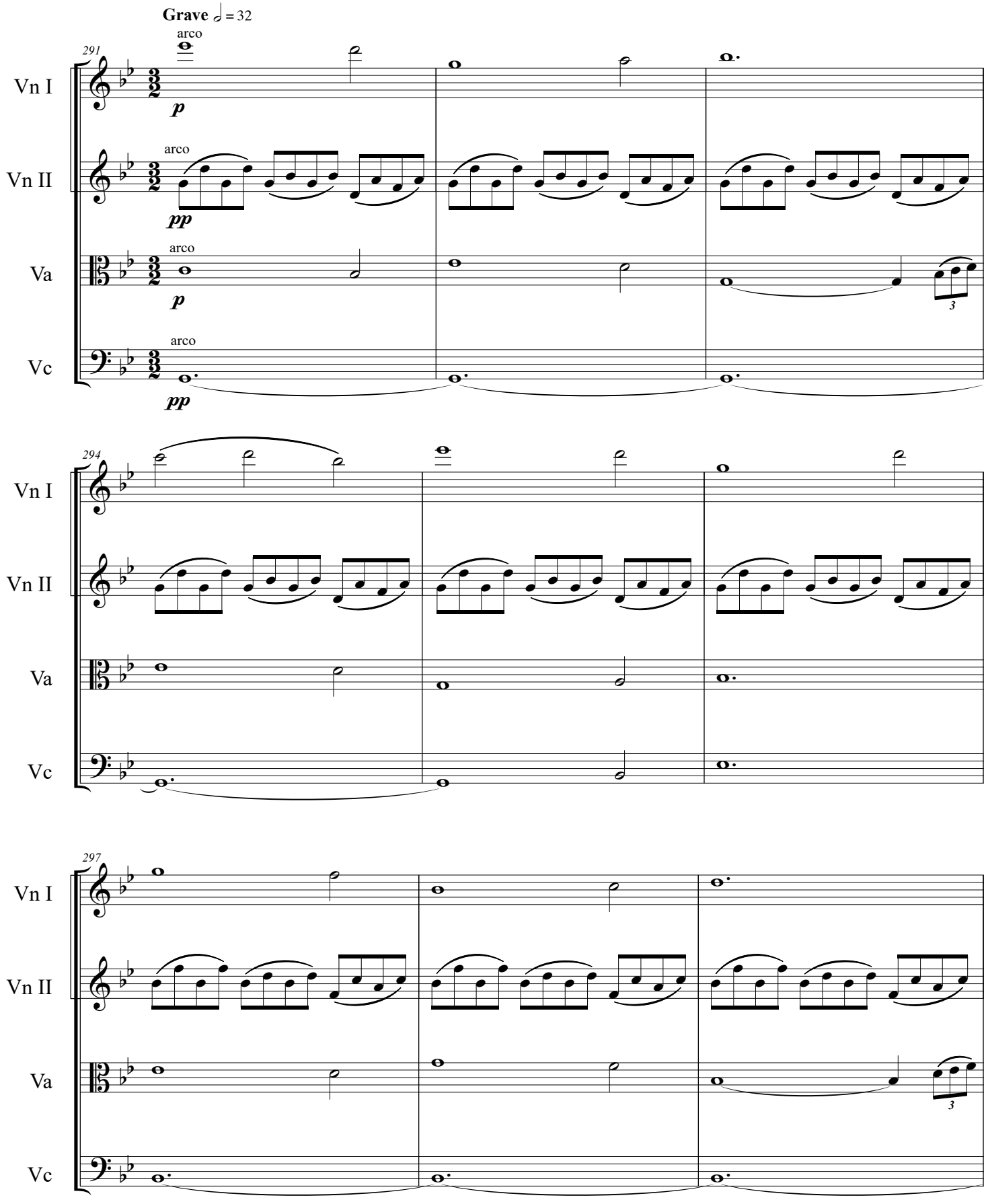
III

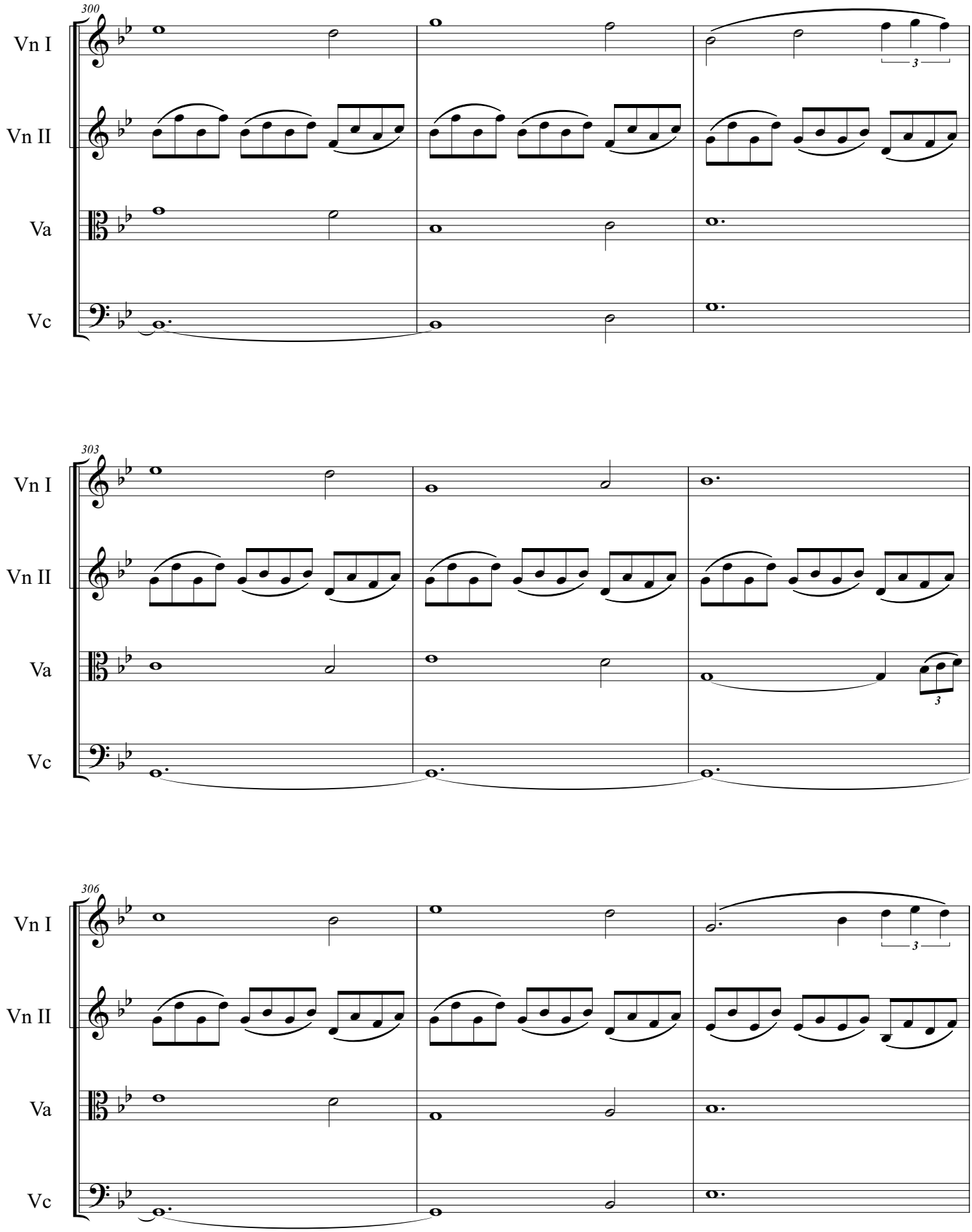
L'Infinito

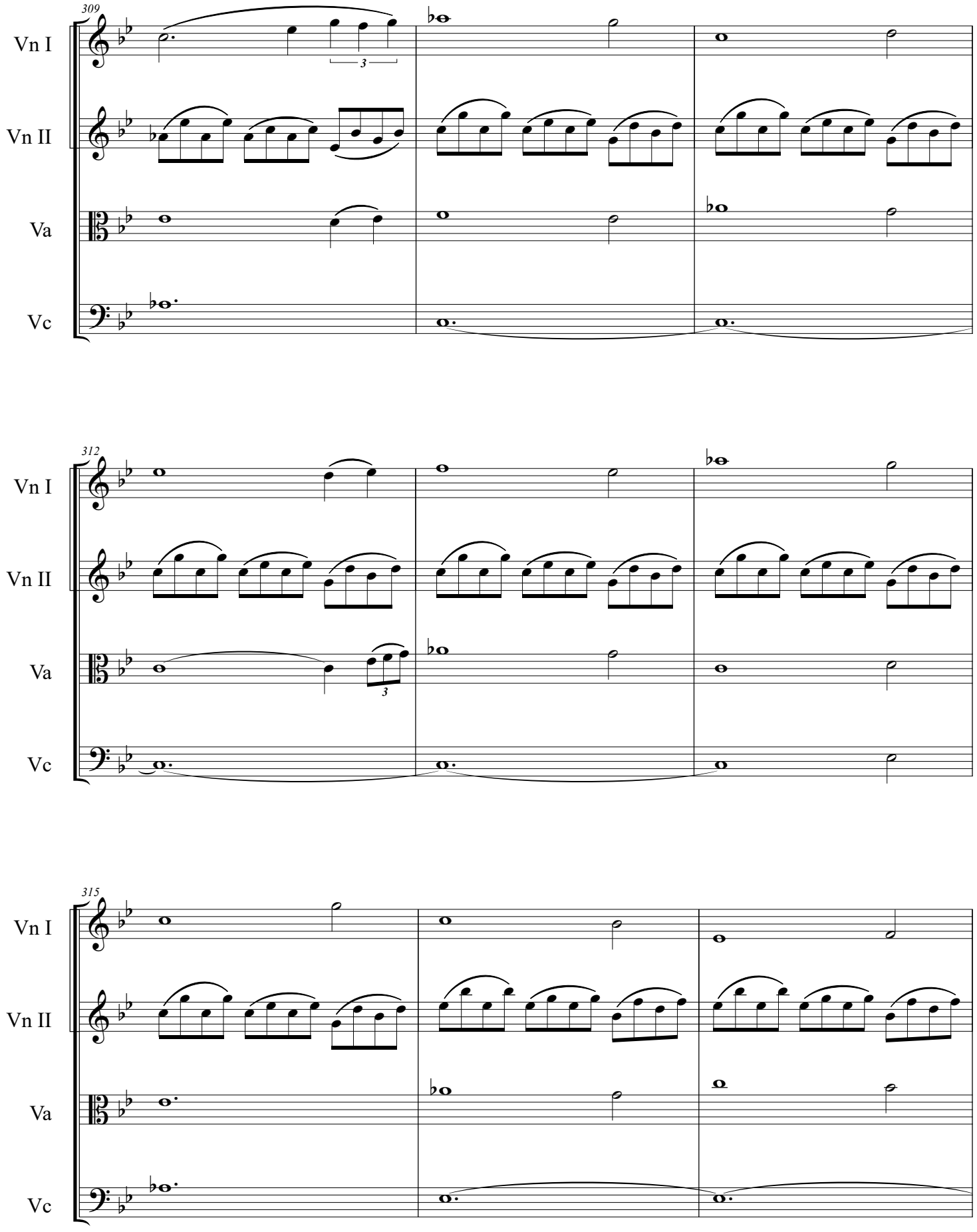
(Giacomo Leopardi)

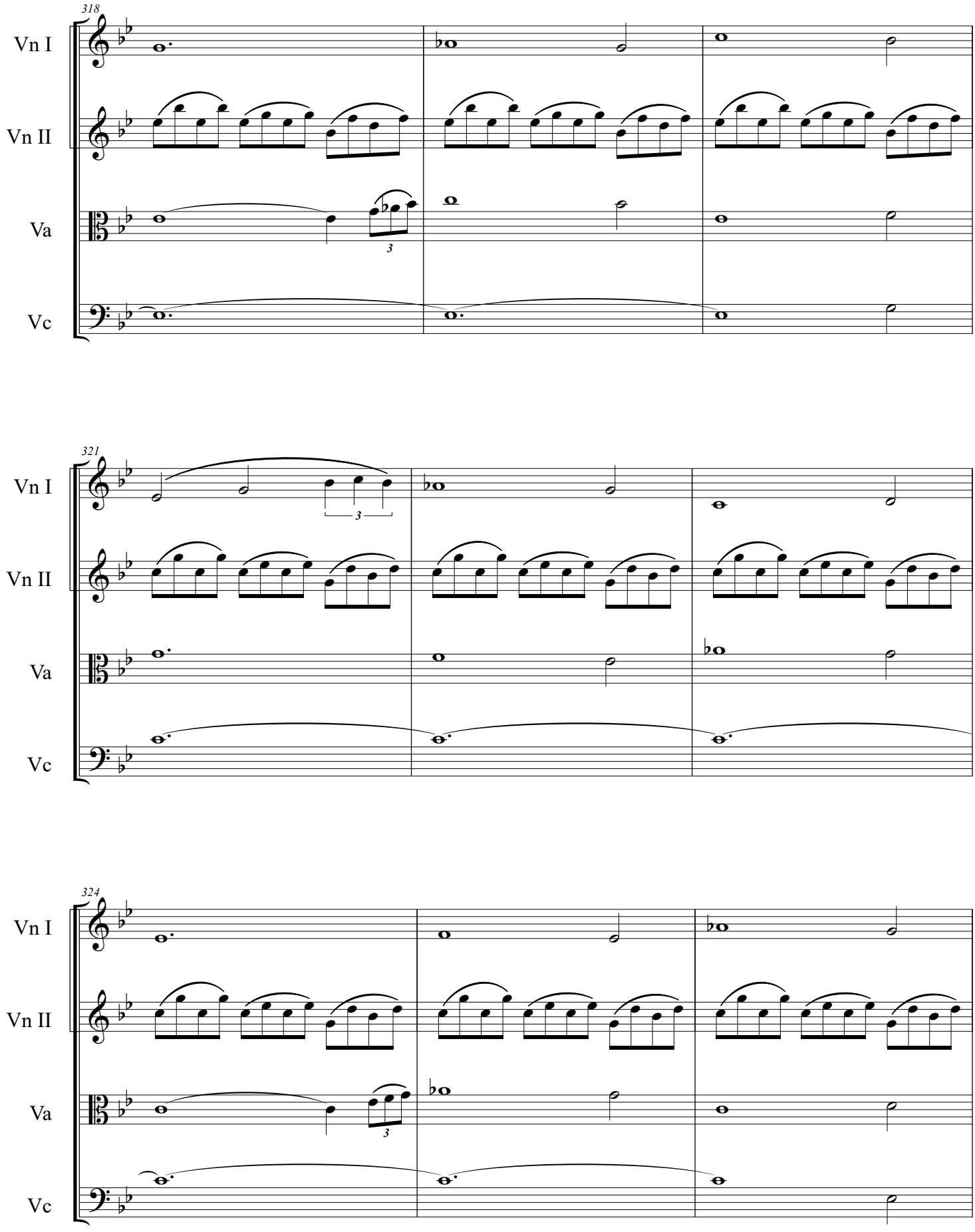
Sempre caro mi fu quest'ermo colle,
E questa siepe, che da tanta parte
Dell'ultimo orizzonte il guardo esclude.
Ma sedendo e rimirando, interminati
Spazi di là da quella, e sovrumani
Silenzi, e profondissima quieteIo nel pensier mi fingo, ove per poco
Il cor non si spaura. E come il vento
Odo stormir tra queste piante, io quello
Infinito silenzio a questa voce
Vo comparando: e mi sovvien l'eterno,
E le morte stagioni, e la presente
E viva, e il suon di lei. Così tra questa
Immensità s'annega il pensier mio:
E il naufragar m'è dolce in questo mare.

L'infinito




300
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
3
303
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
3
306
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
3


309
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
3
312
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
3
315
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc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Vn I
Vn II
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Vc
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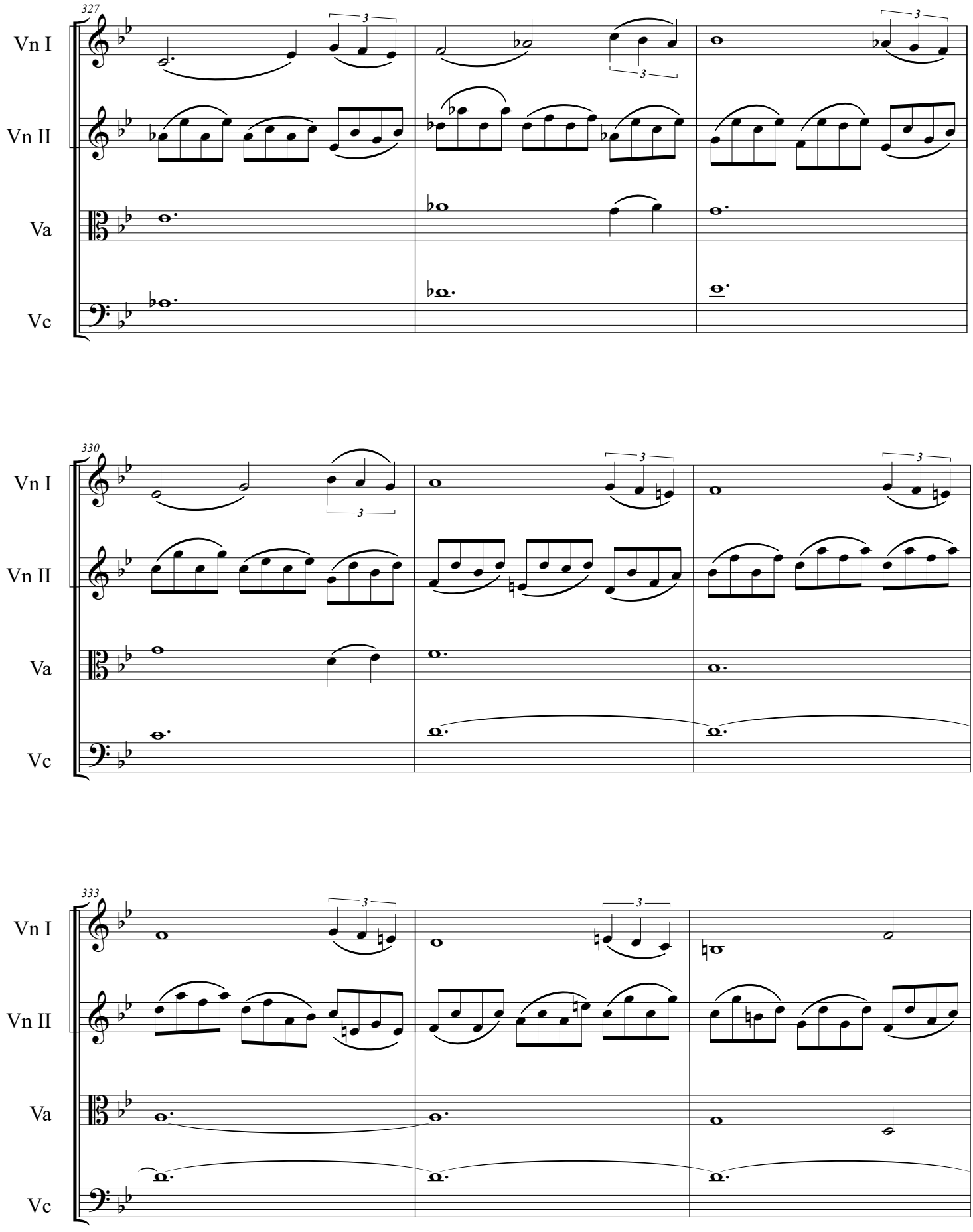
Vn II
Va
Vc
3
324
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
3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Va
Vc
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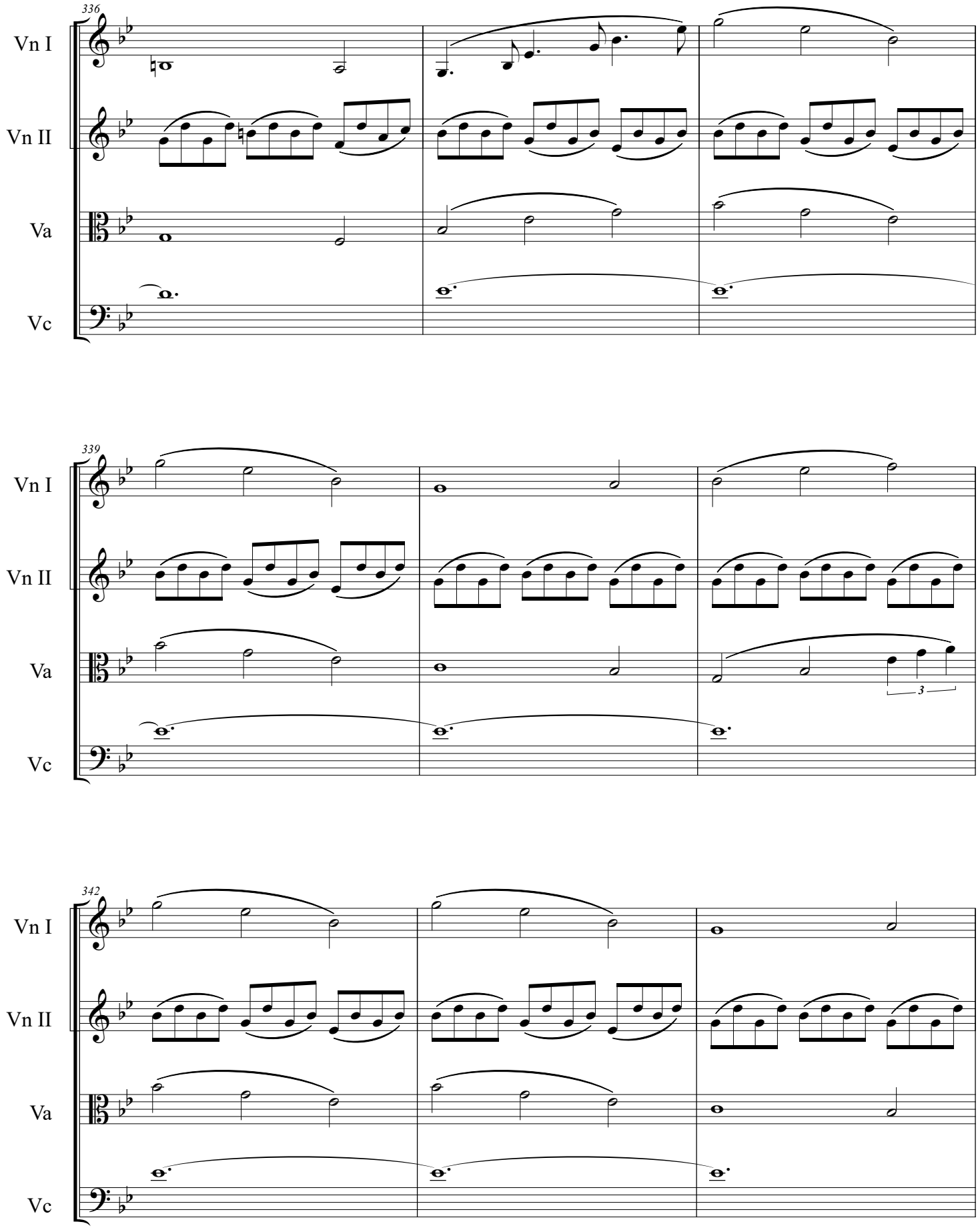
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
333
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc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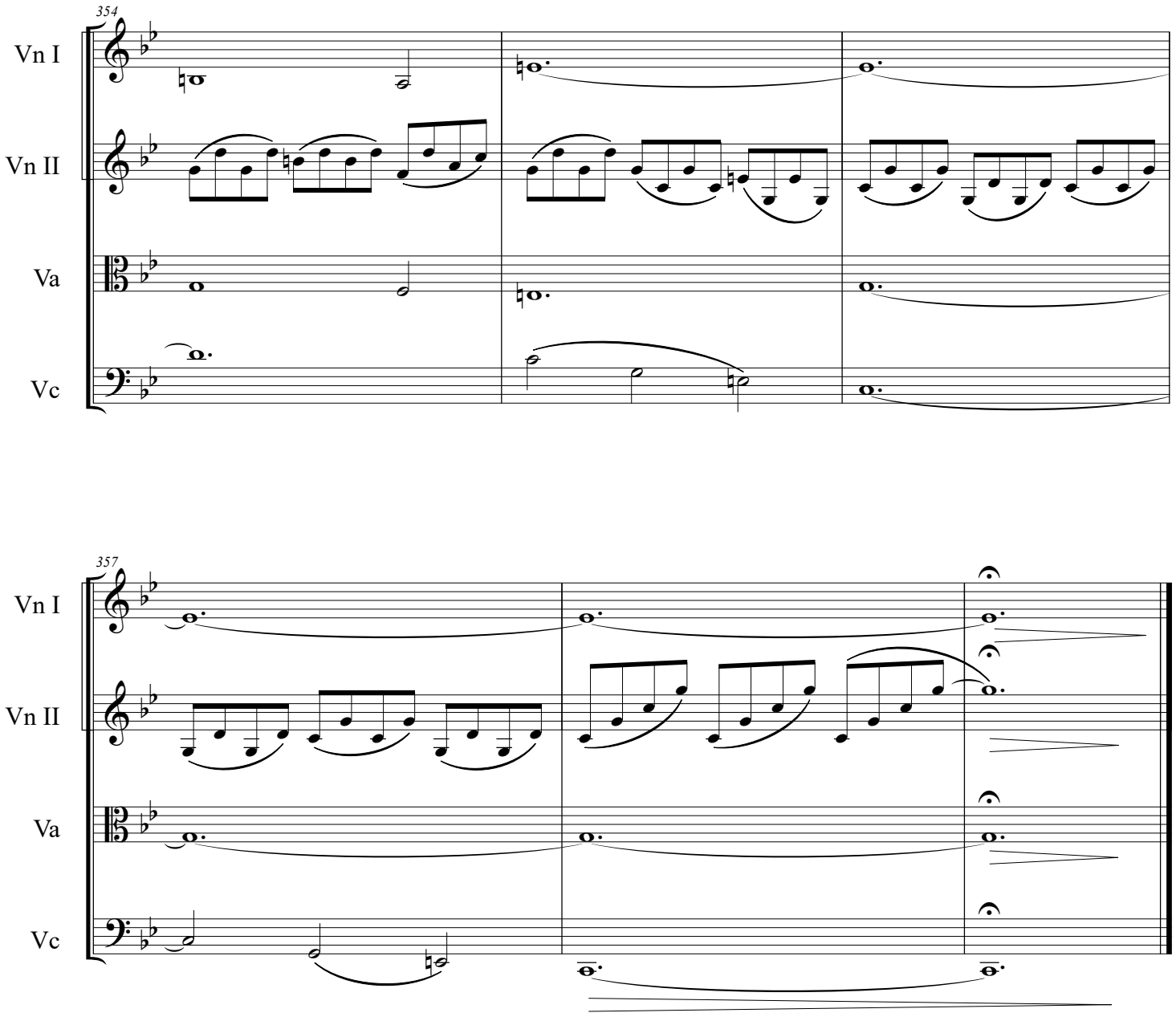
Vn II
Va
Vc
339
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
3
342
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc

345
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
3
3
348
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
3
351
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc


354
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc

357
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc

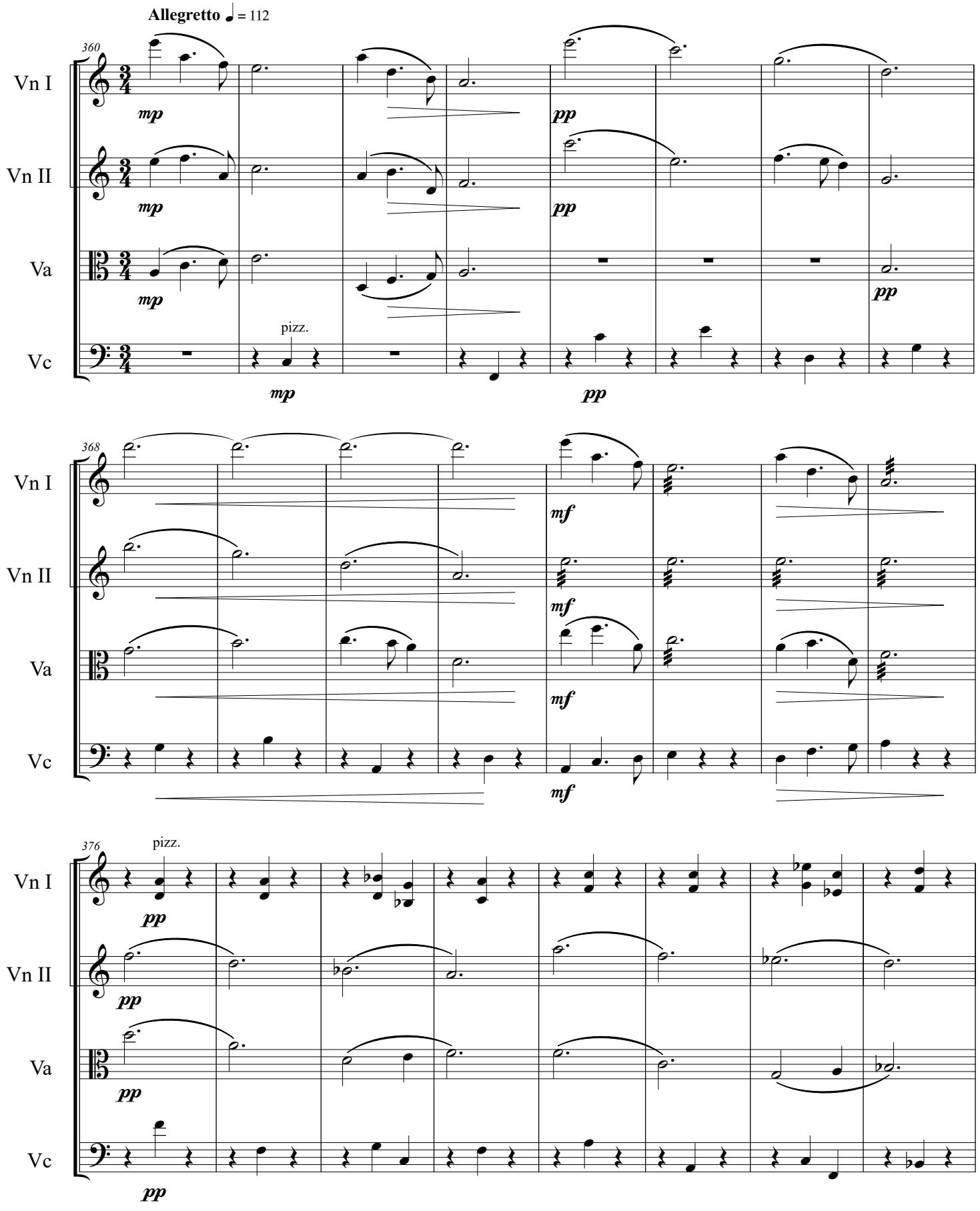
IV

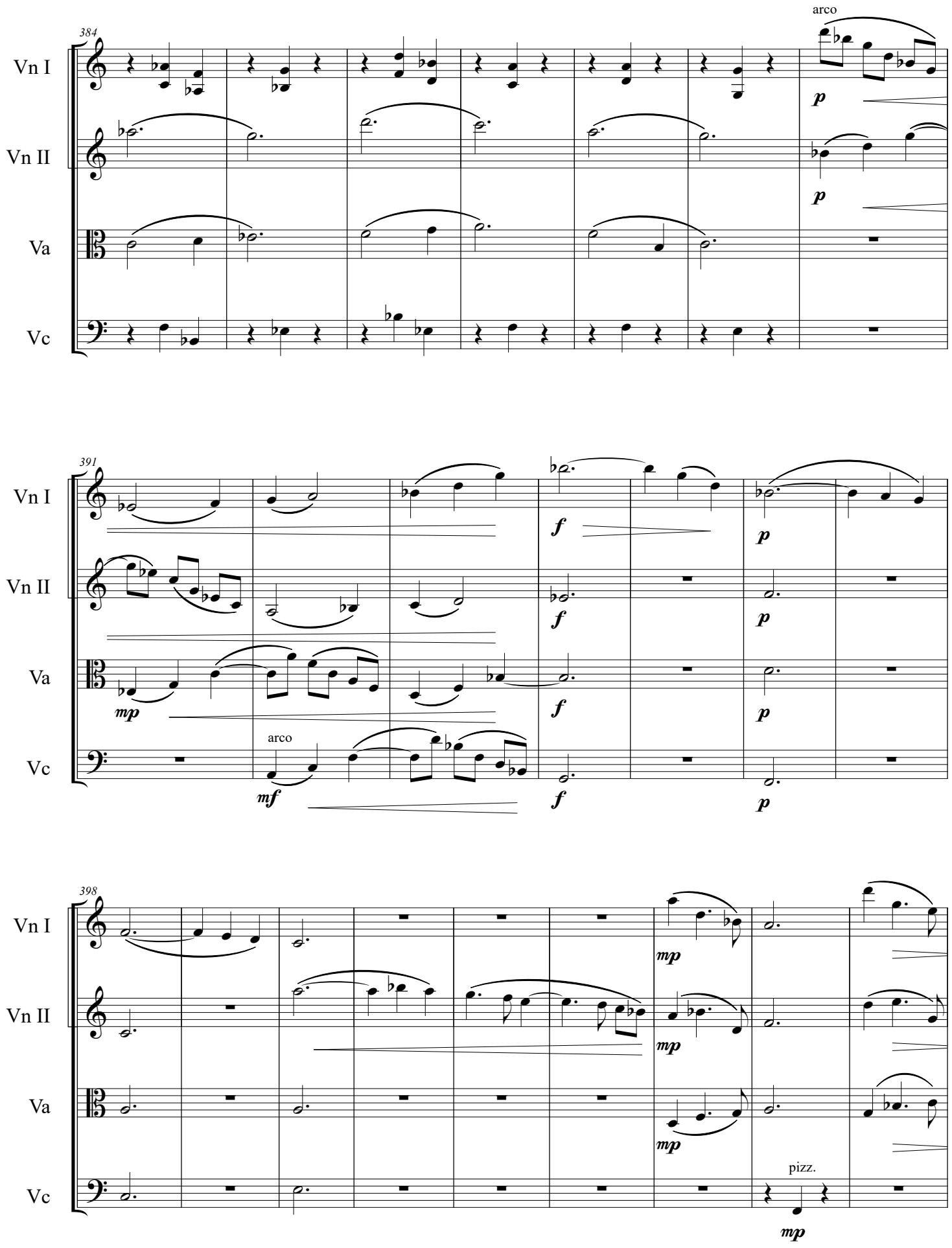
Nevicata

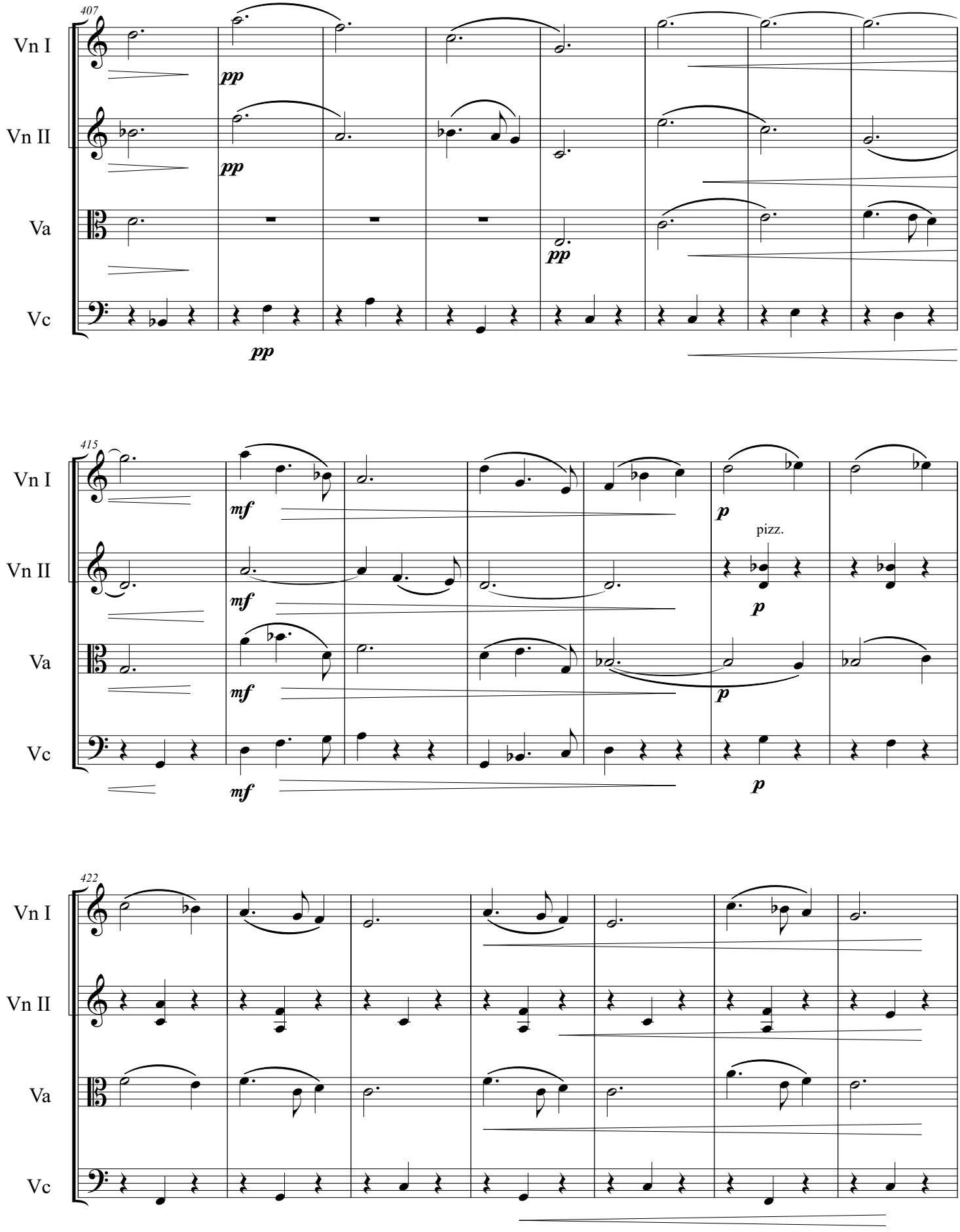
(Giosuè Carducci)

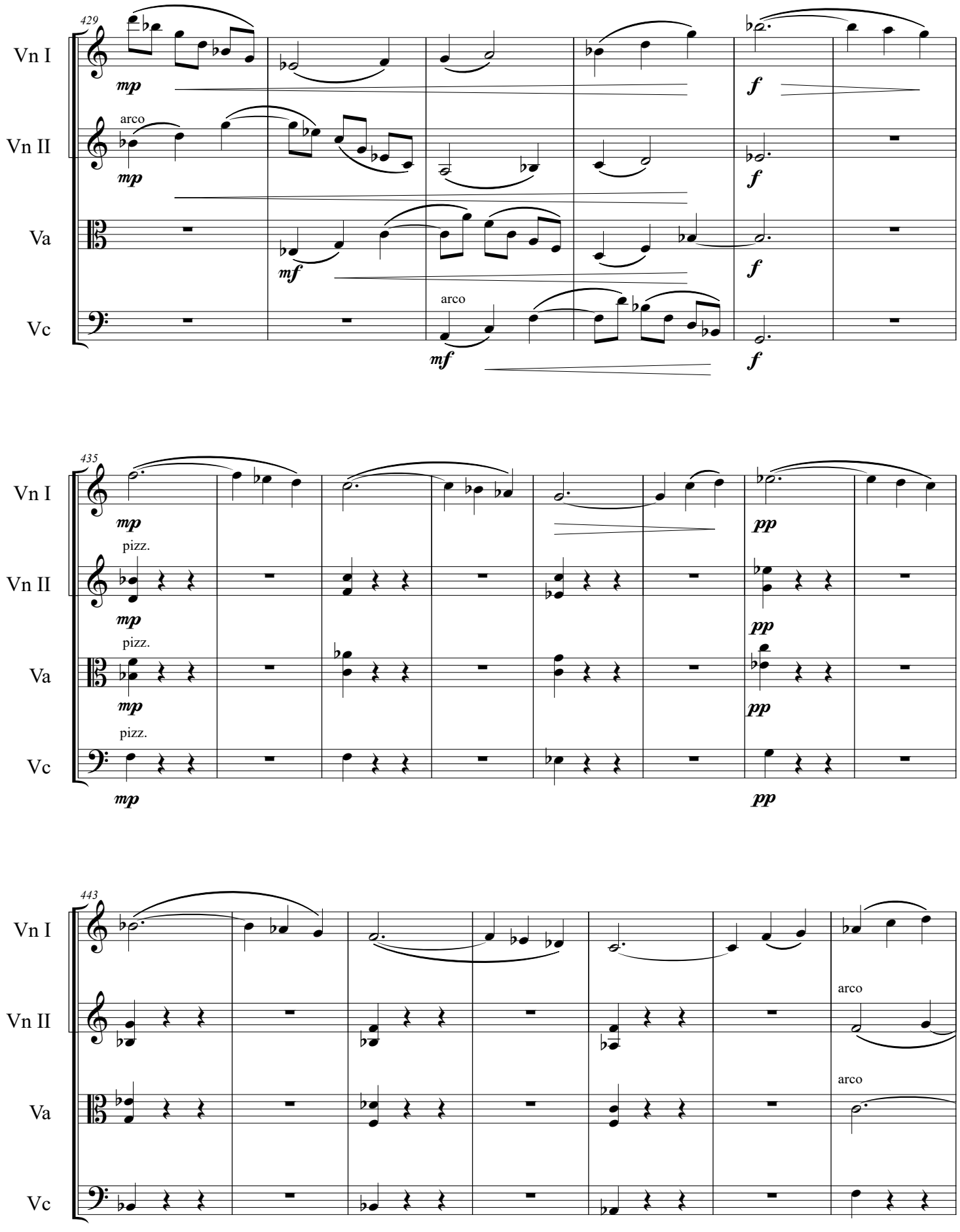
Lenta fiocca la neve pe 'l cielo cinereo: gridi,
suoni di vita più non salgono da la città,
non d'erbaiola il grido o corrente rumore di carro,
non d'amor la canzon ilare e di gioventù.
Da la torre di piazza roche per l'aere le ore
gemon, come sospir d'un mondo lungi dal dì.
Picchiano uccelli raminghi a' vetri appannati: gli amici
spiriti reduci son, guardano e chiamano a me.
In breve, o cari, in breve – tu càlmati, indomito cuore –
giù al silenzio verrò, ne l'ombra riposerò.

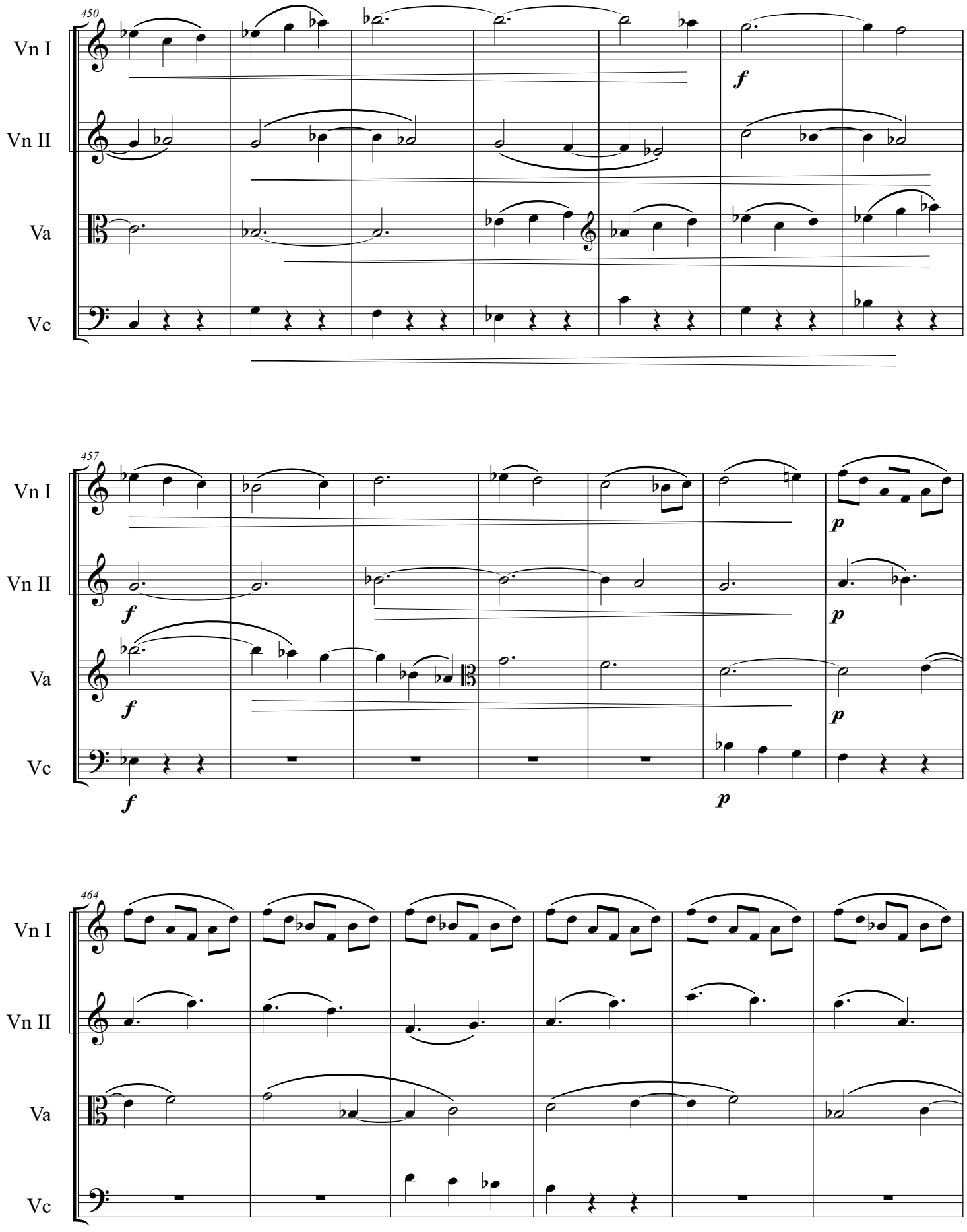
Nevicata

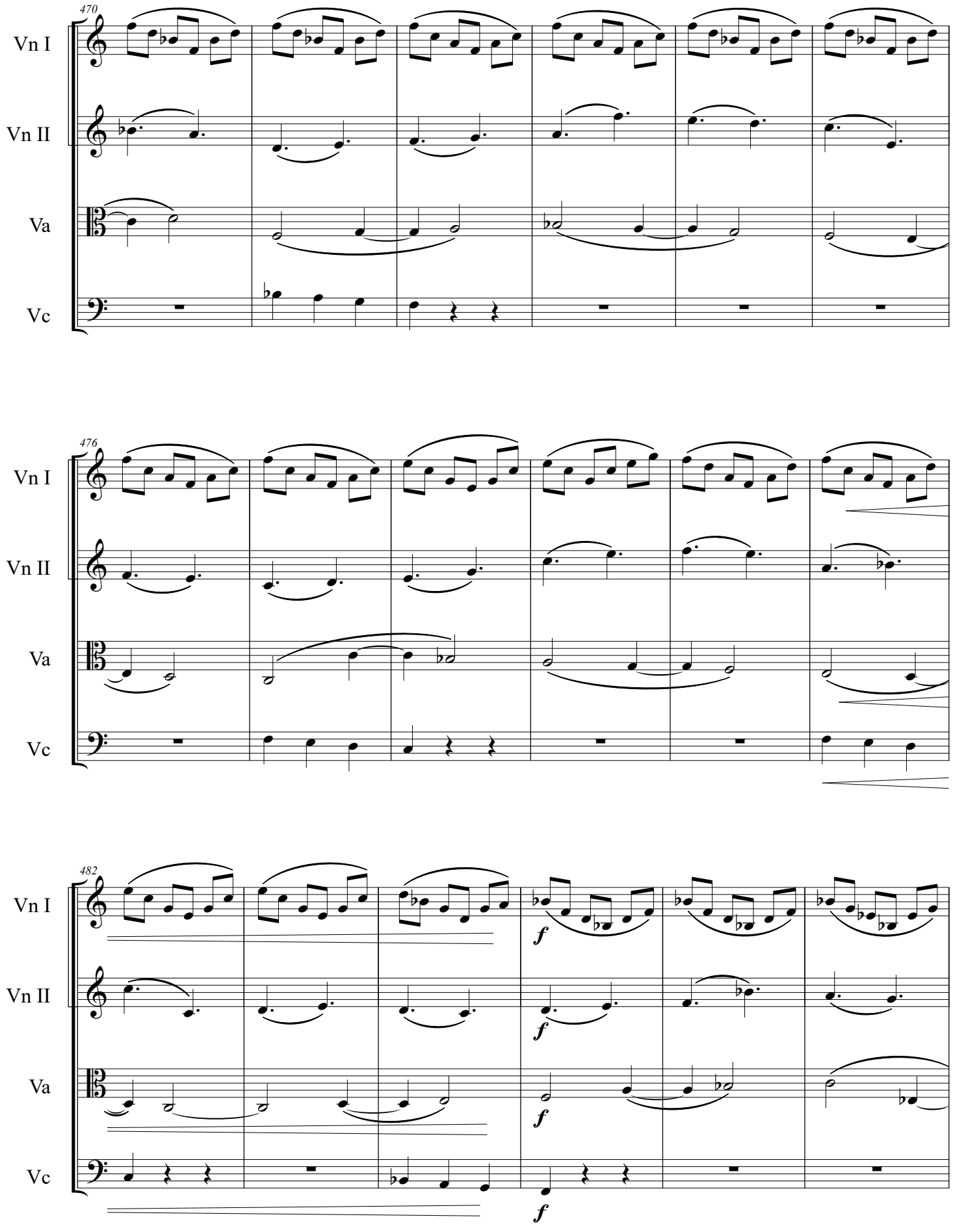


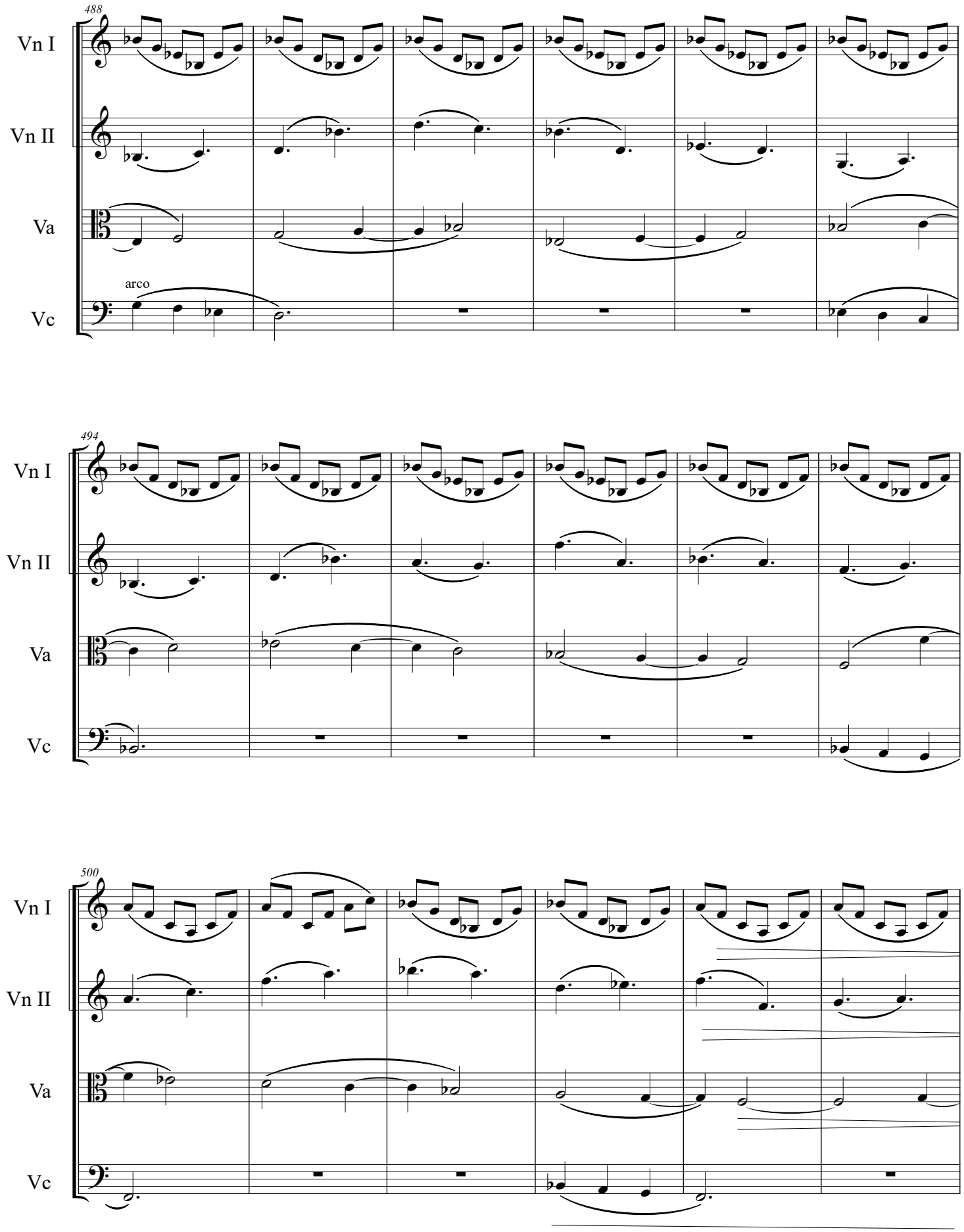

384
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
arco
p
391
mp
mf
f
arco
398
mp
pizz.

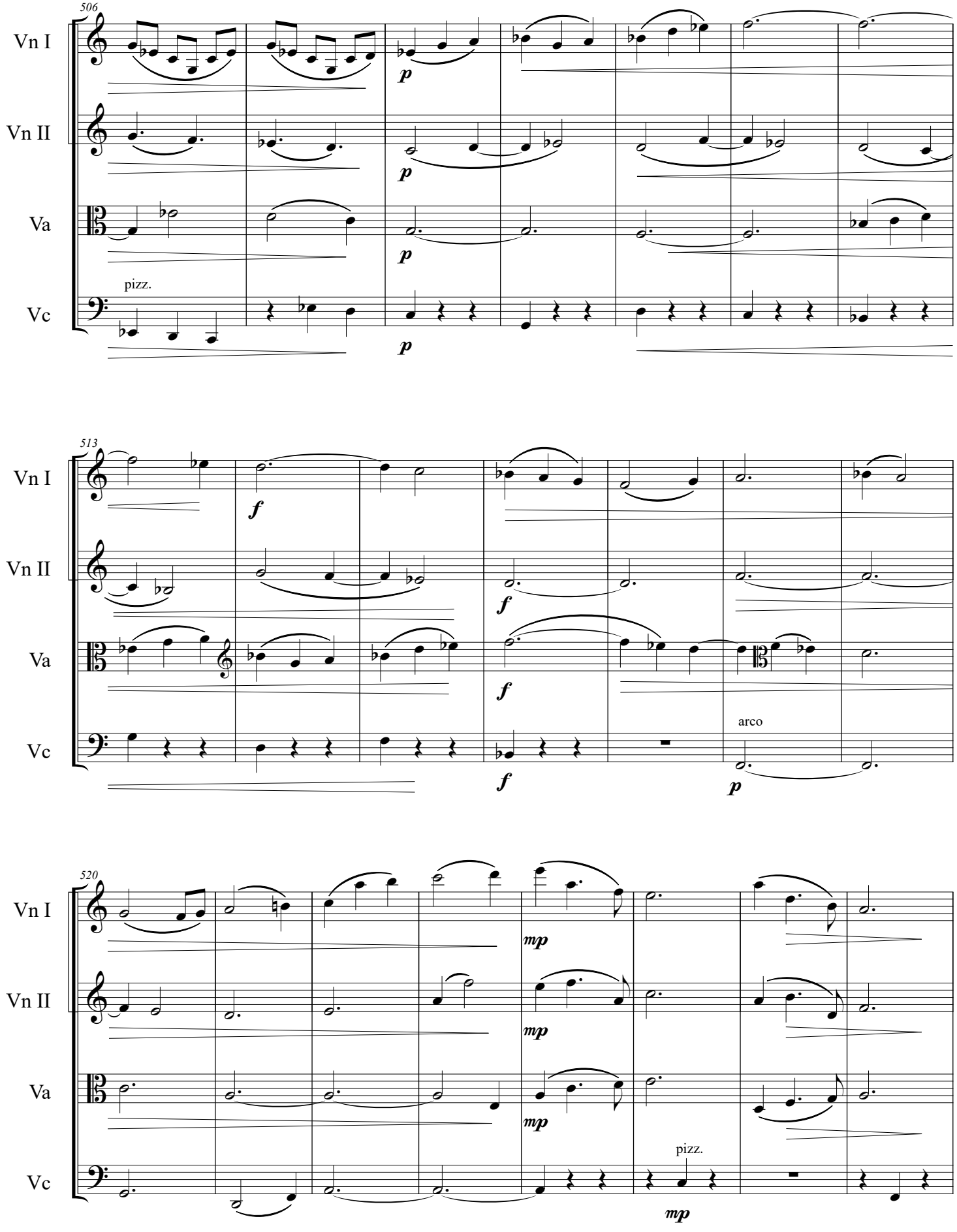

407
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp
415
mf
p
pizz.
422


429
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
arco
mp
mf
f
435
pizz.
pp
443


450
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
f
457
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
f
p
464
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc


470
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
476
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
482
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
f
f
f
f


488
Vn I
Vn II
Va
arco
Vc
494
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
500
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc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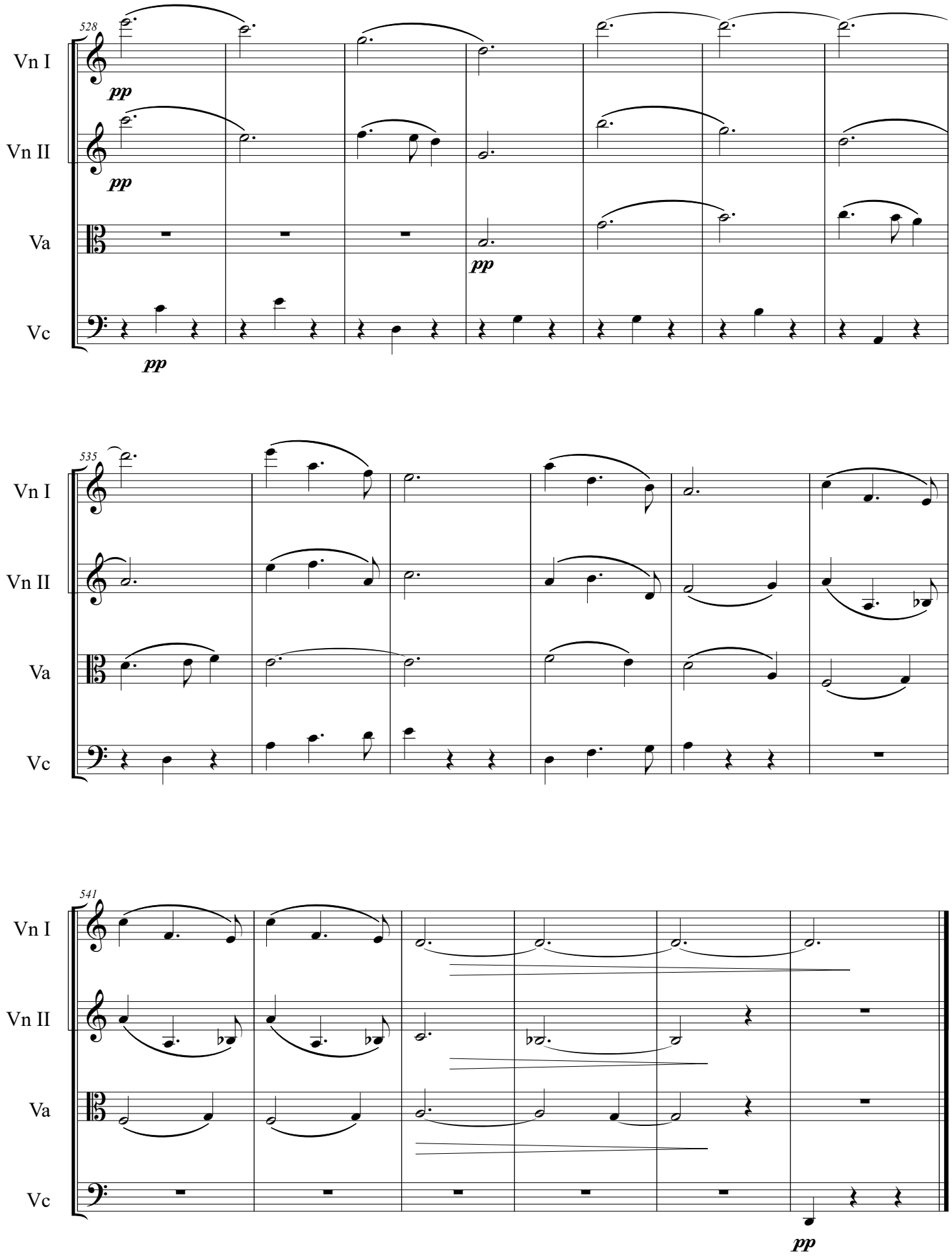
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pizz.
p
513
f
arco
520
mp
pizz.


528
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp
pp
pp
pp
535
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
541
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp

V

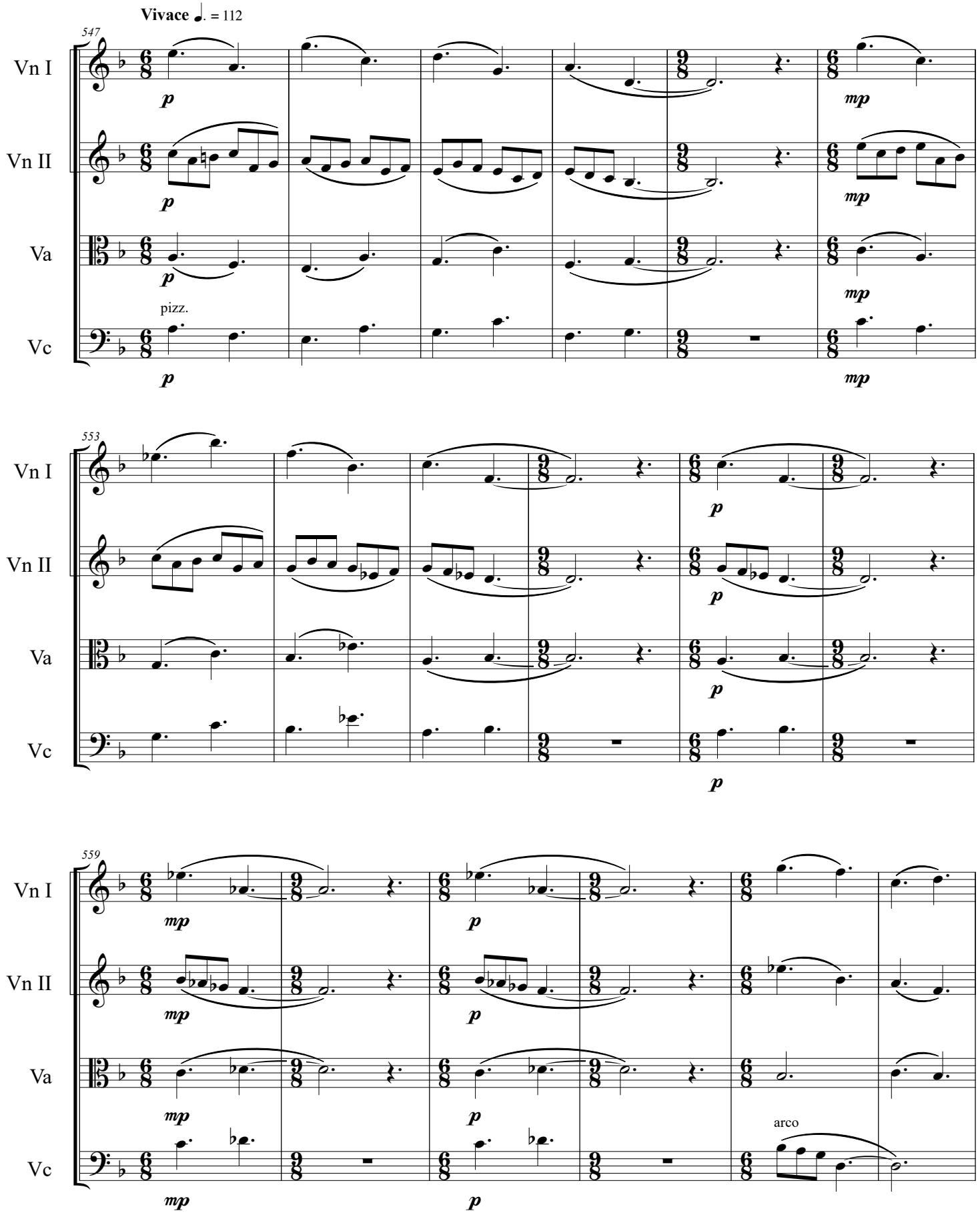
I gatti lo sapranno

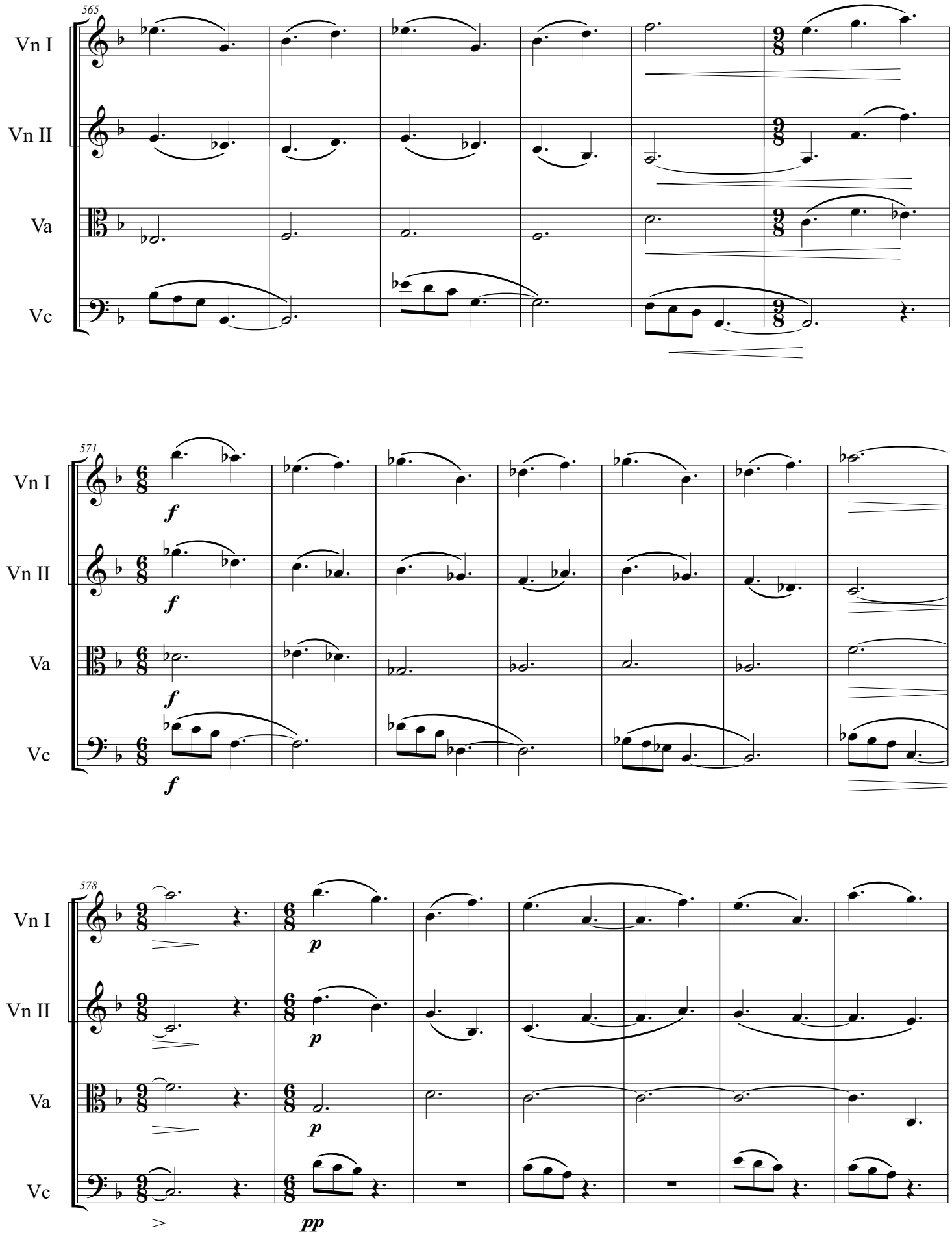
(Cesare Pavese)

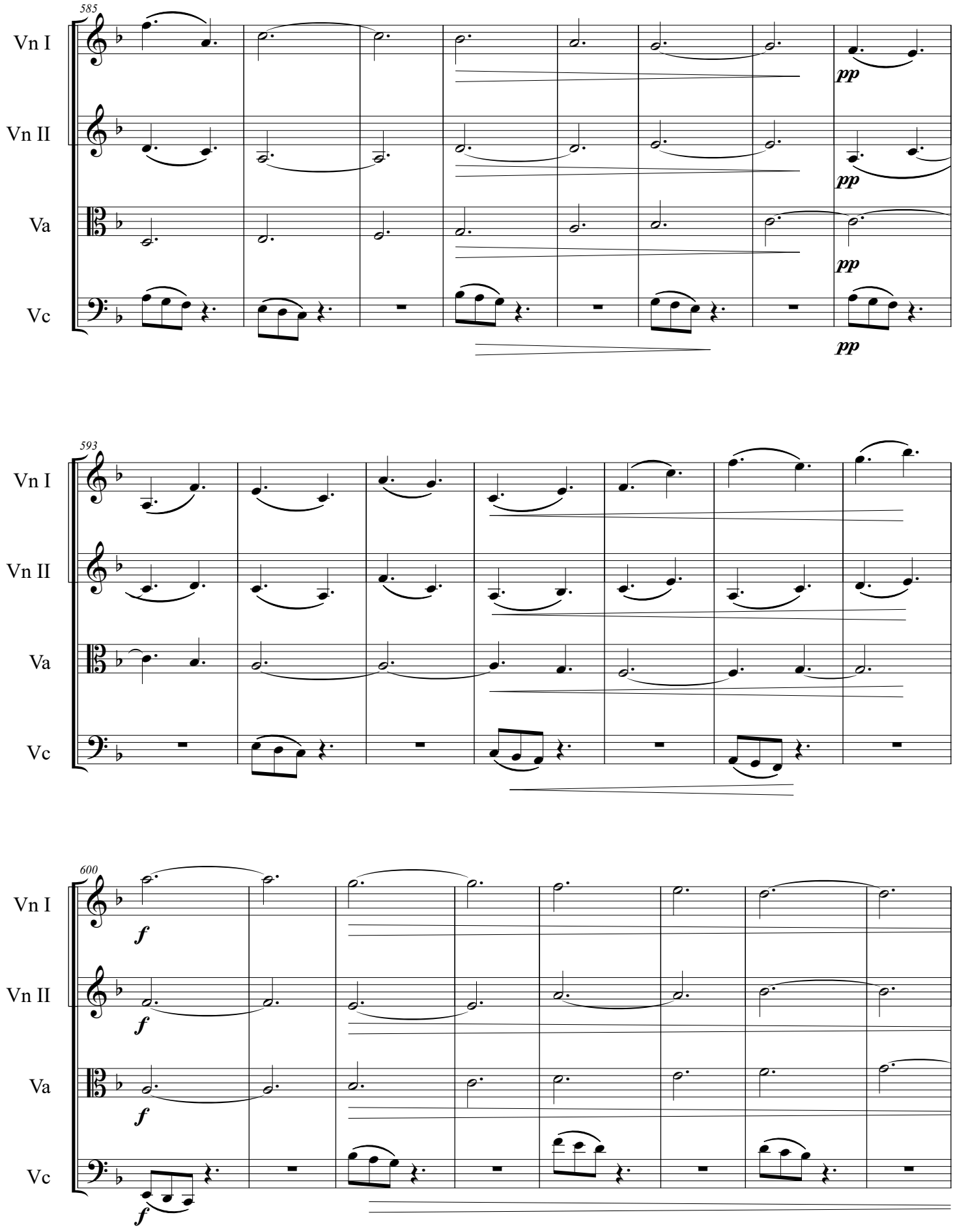
Ancora cadrà la pioggia
sui tuoi dolci selciati,
una pioggia leggera
come un alito o un passo.
Ancora la brezza e l'alba
fioriranno leggere
come sotto il tuo passo,
quando tu rientrerai.
Tra fiori e davanzali
i gatti lo sapranno.

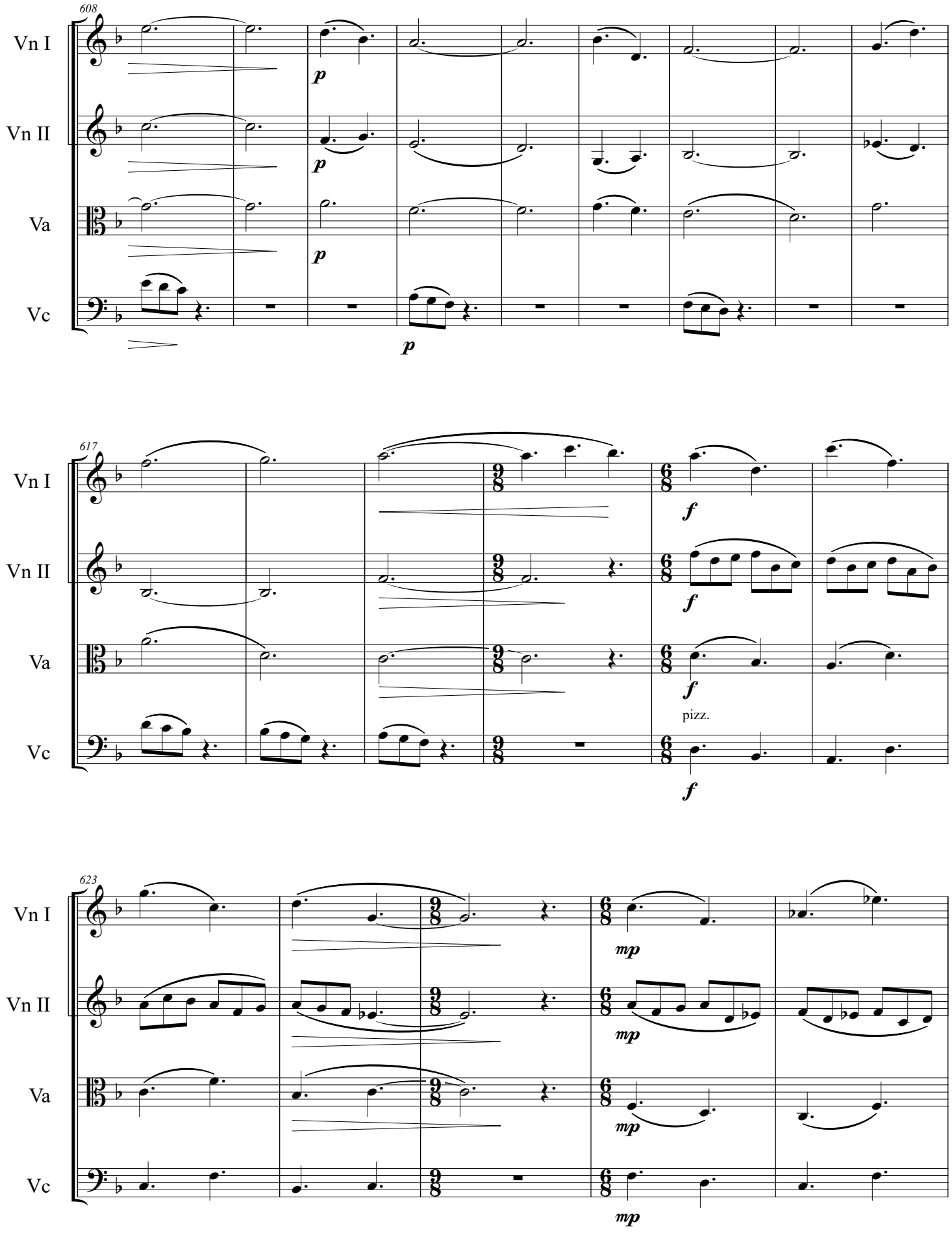
Ci saranno altri giorni,
ci saranno altre voci.
Sorriderai da sola.
I gatti lo sapranno.
Udrai parole antiche,
parole stanche e vane
come i costumi smessi
delle feste di ieri.
Farai gesti anche tu.
Risponderai parole –
viso di primavera,
farai gesti anche tu.
I gatti lo sapranno,
viso di primavera;
e la pioggia leggera,
l'alba color giacinto,
che dilaniano il cuore
di chi piú non ti spera,
sono il triste sorriso
che sorridi da sola.
Ci saranno altri giorni,
altre voci e risvegli.
Soffriremo nell'alba,
viso di primavera.

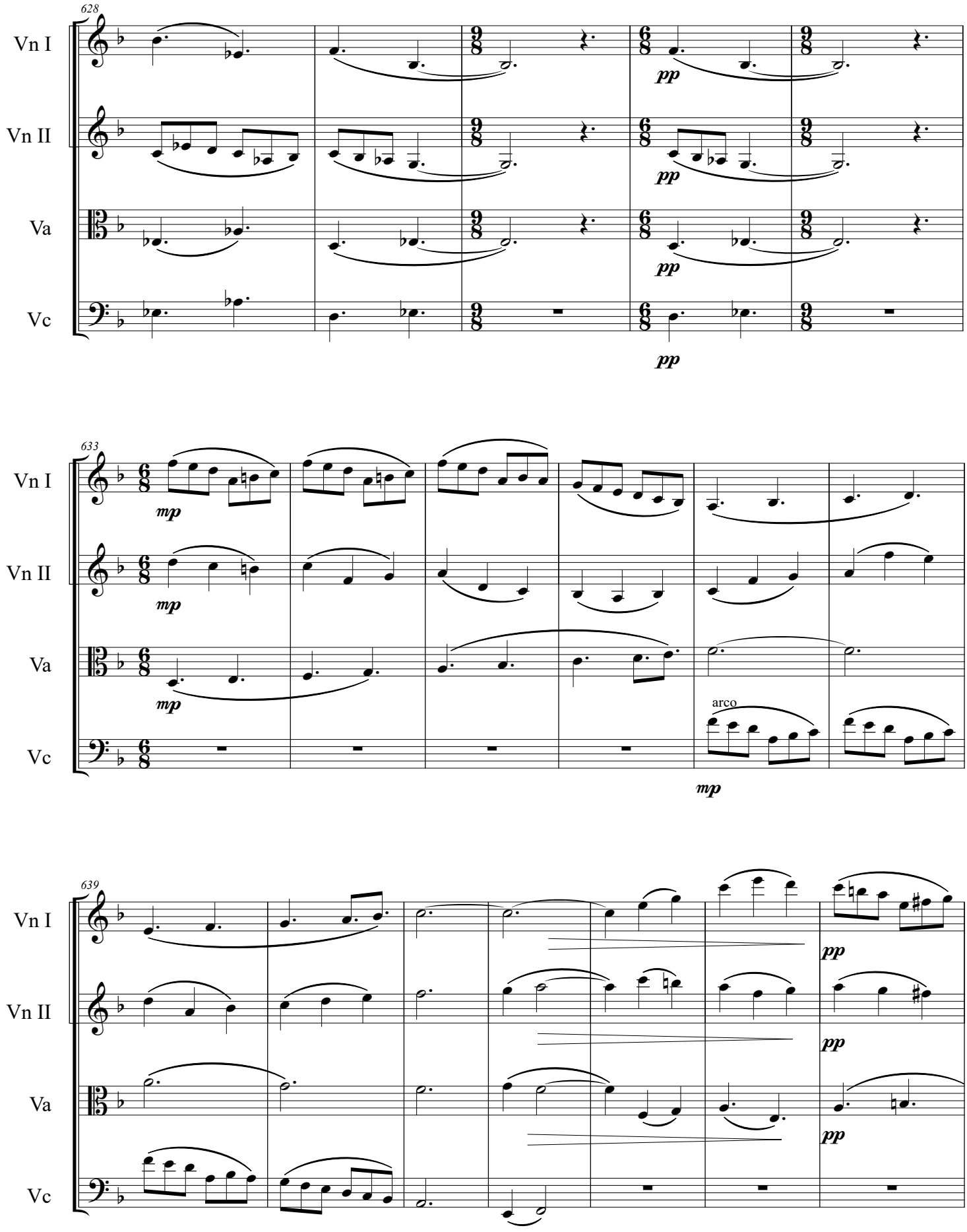
I gatti lo sapranno

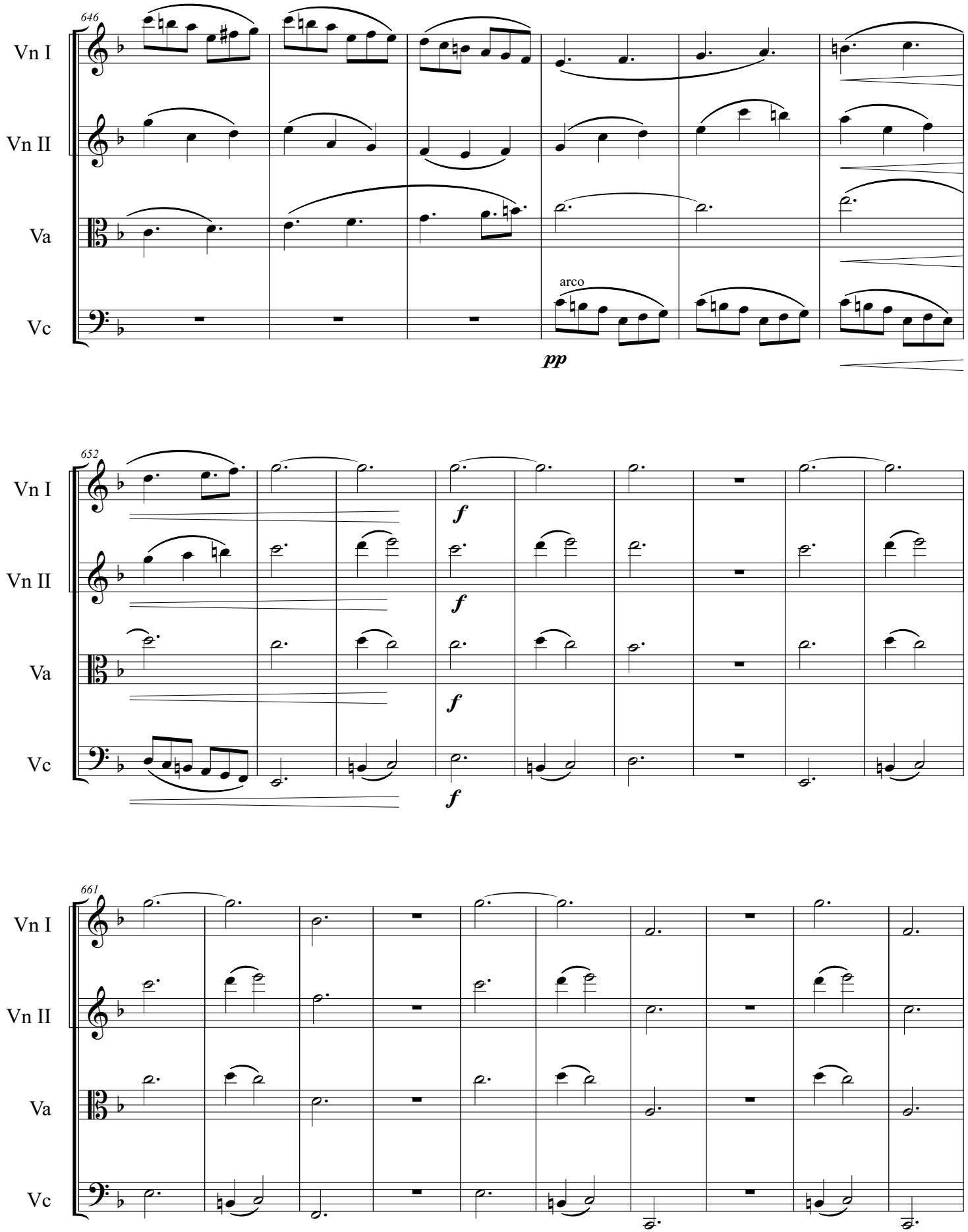



565
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
571
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
f
578
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
p
pp


585
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp
593
600
f


608
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
p
617
f
pizz.
623
mp


628
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp
633
mp
arco
639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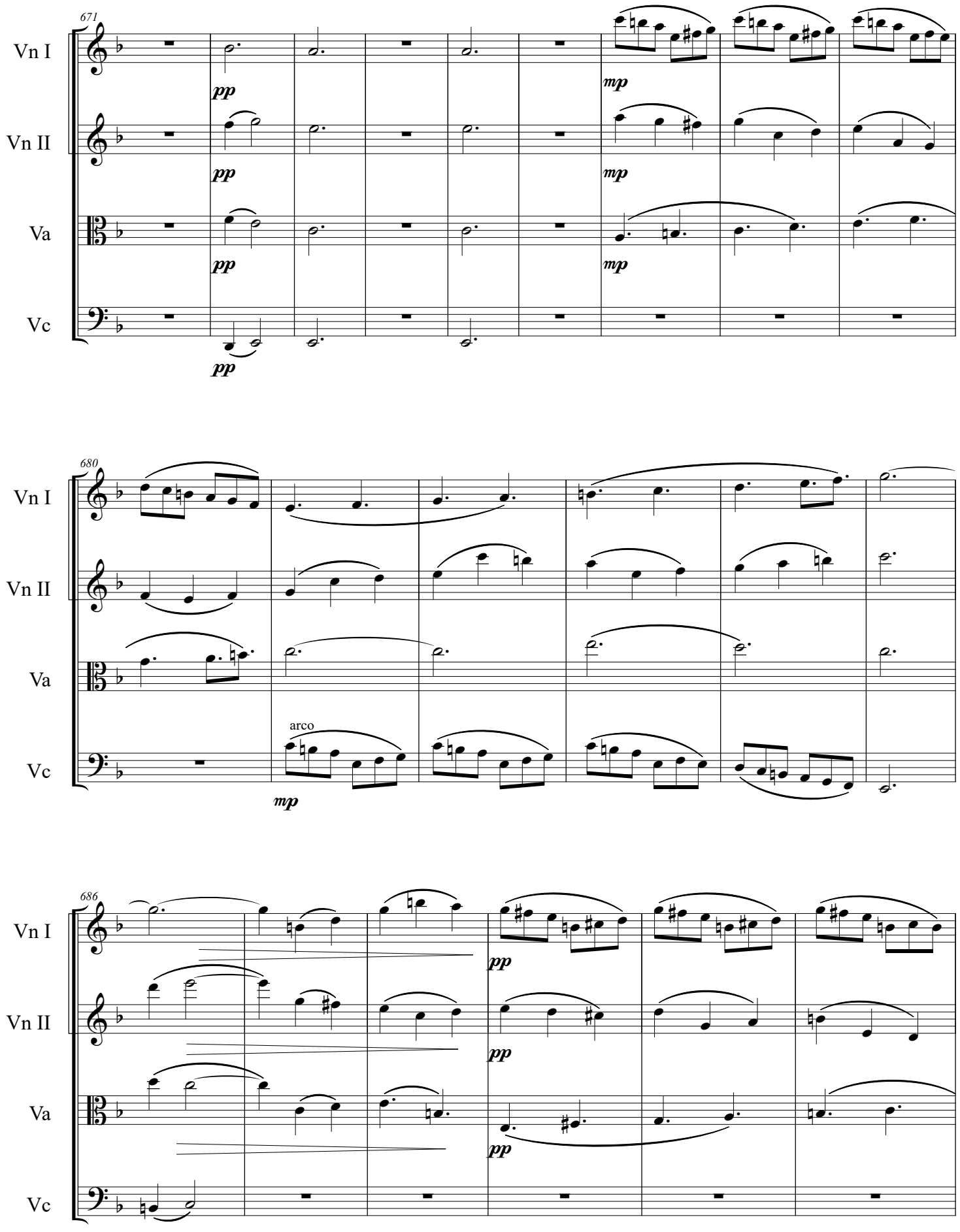
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
arco
pp
652
f
661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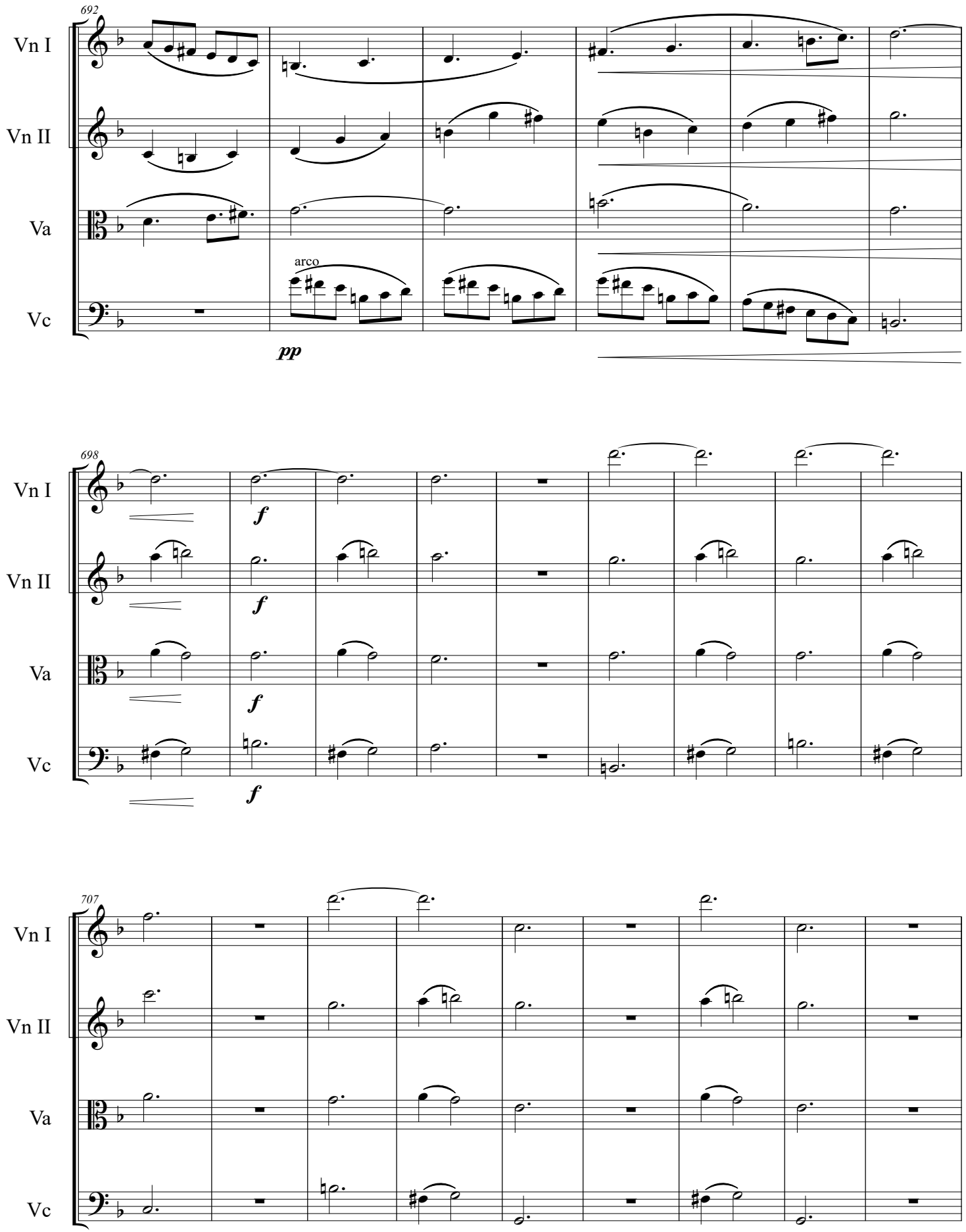
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp
mp
680
arco
686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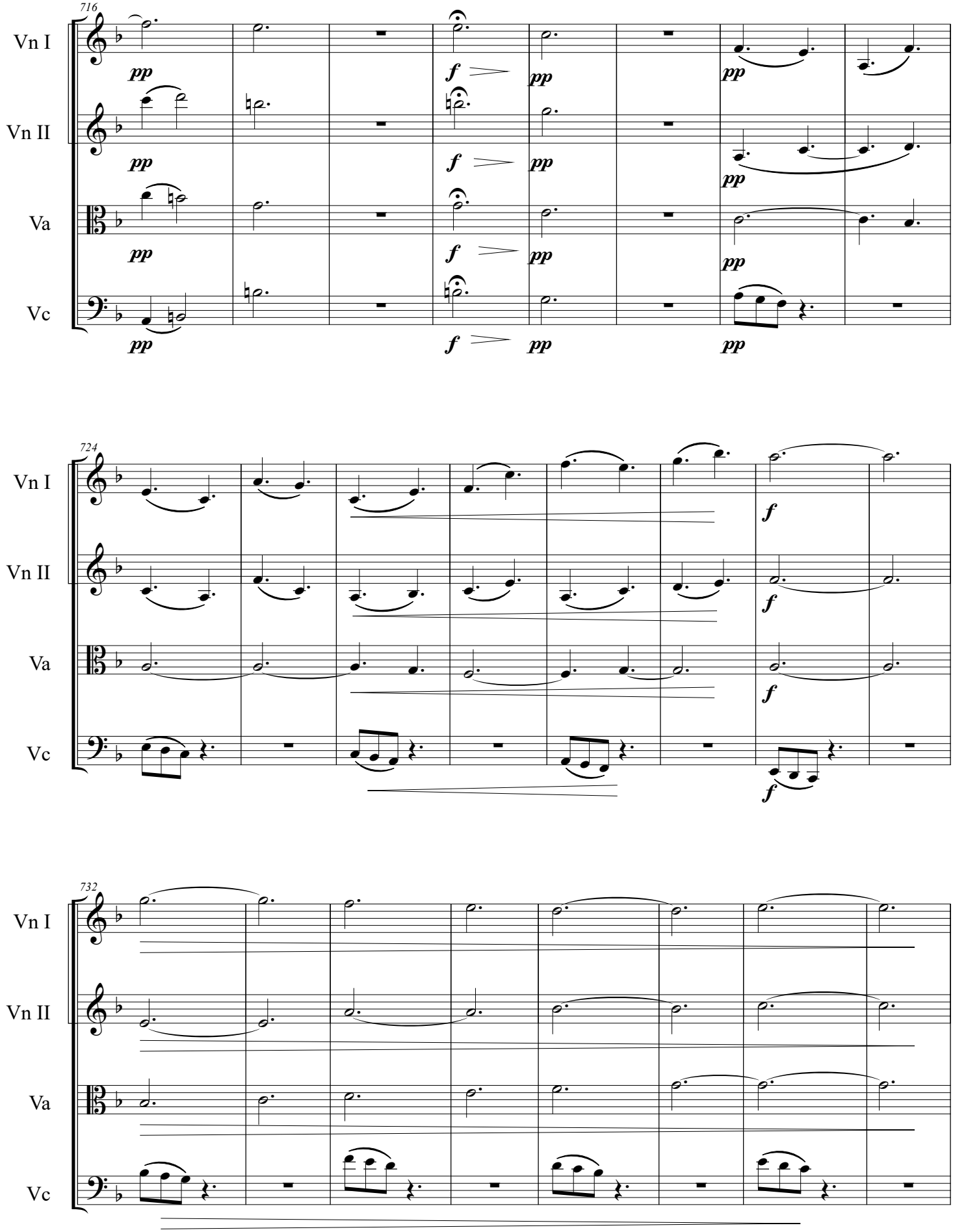
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
arco
pp
698
f
707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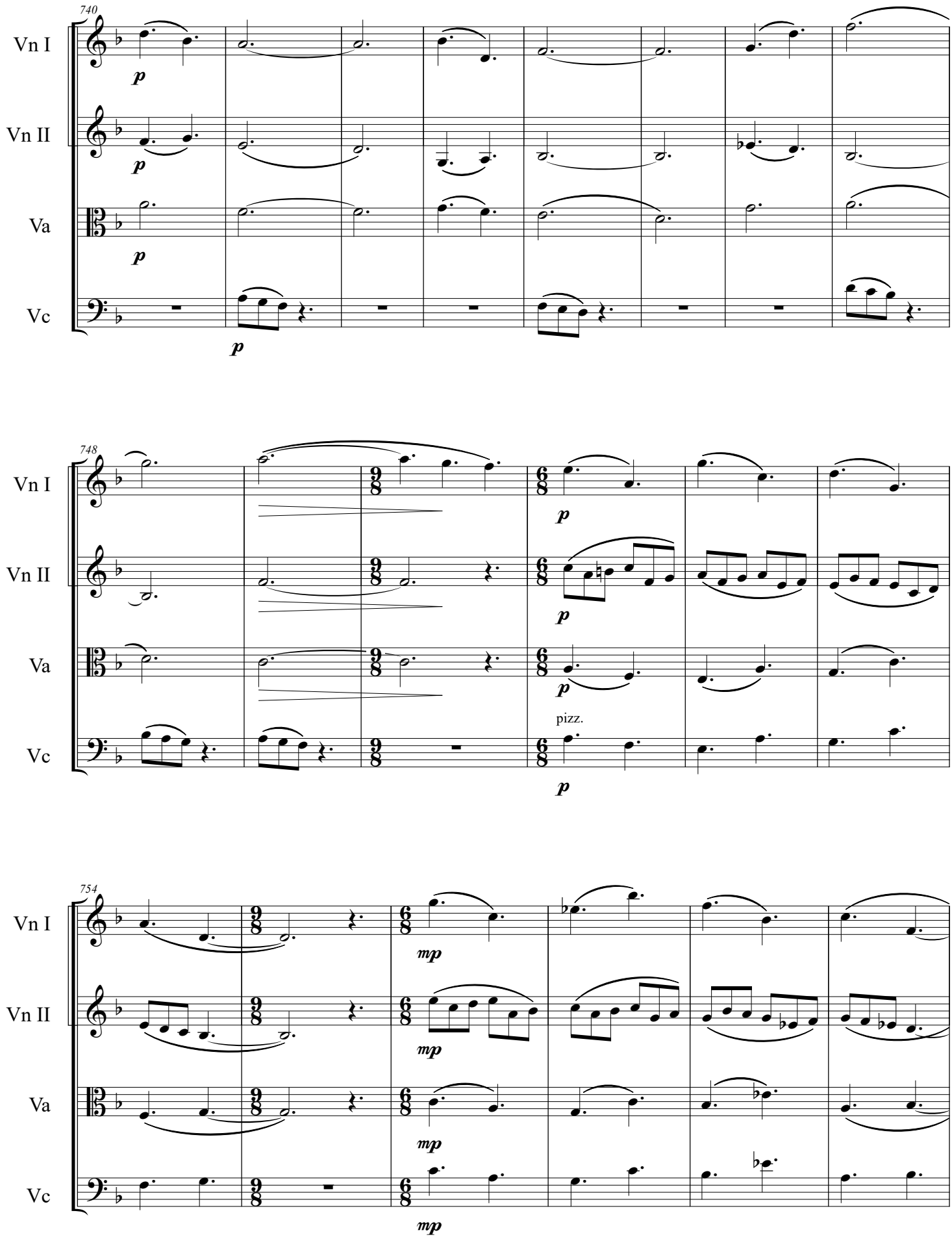
Va
Vc
pp
f
pp
724
f
732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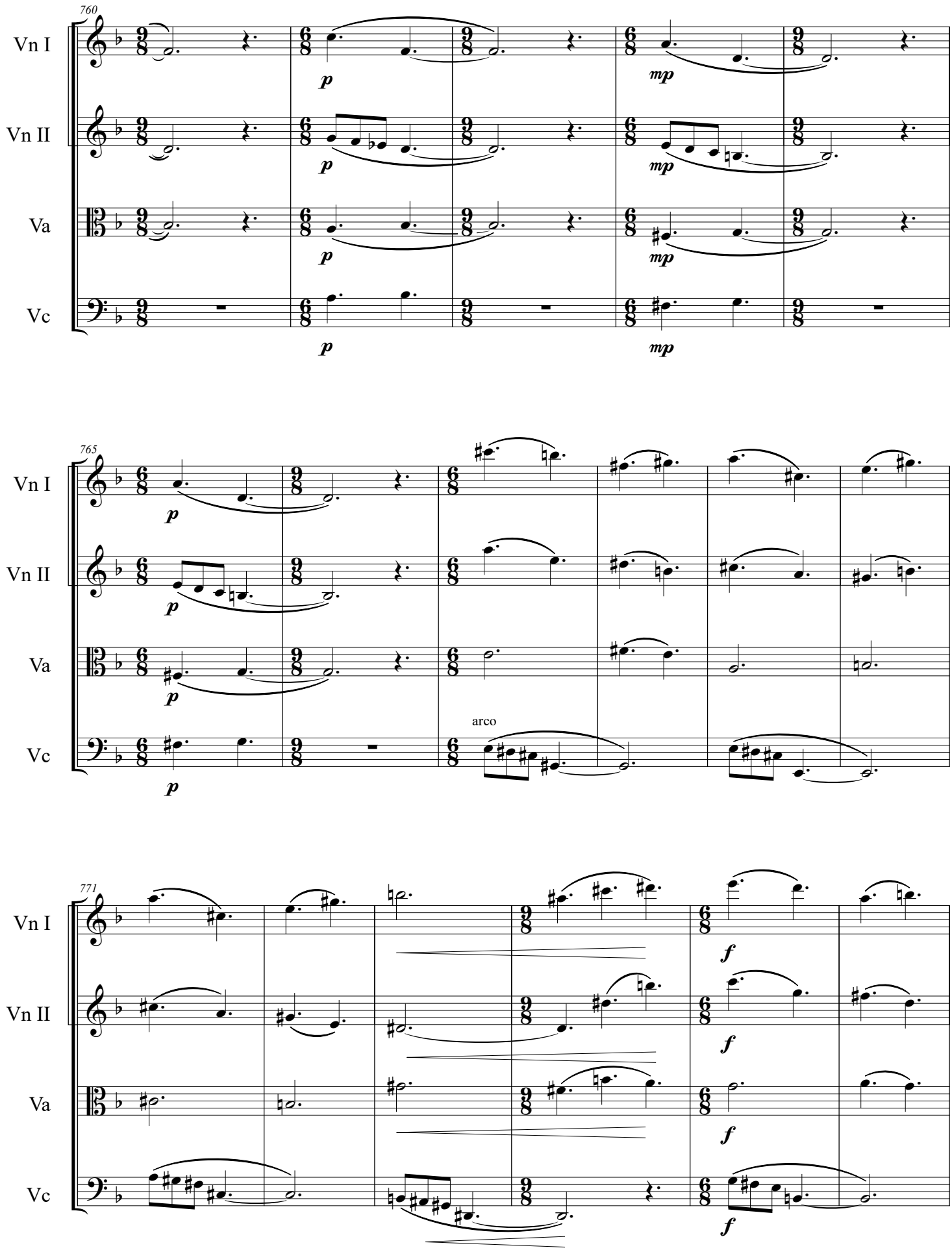
Vn II
Va
Vc
p
748
pizz.
754
mp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771
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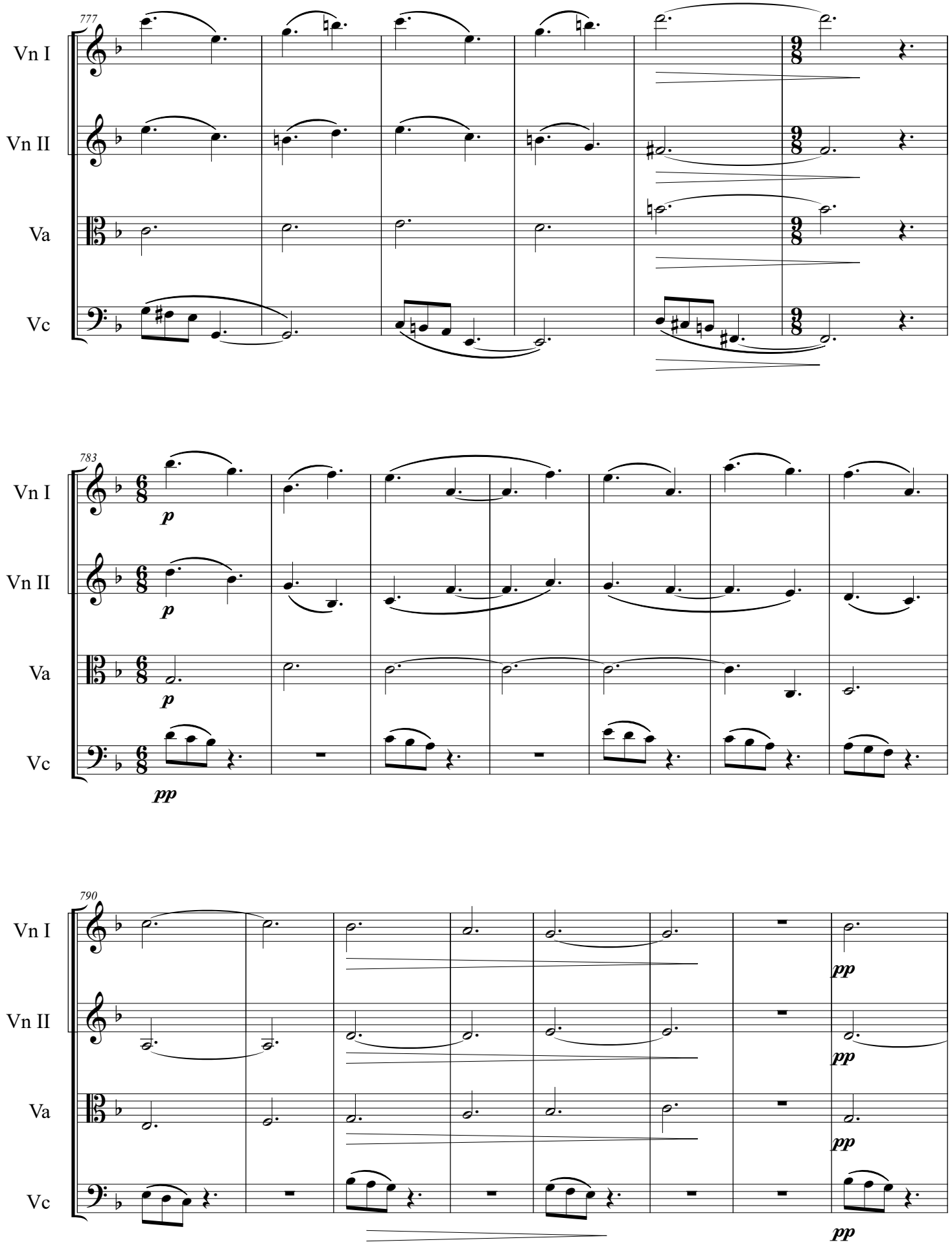
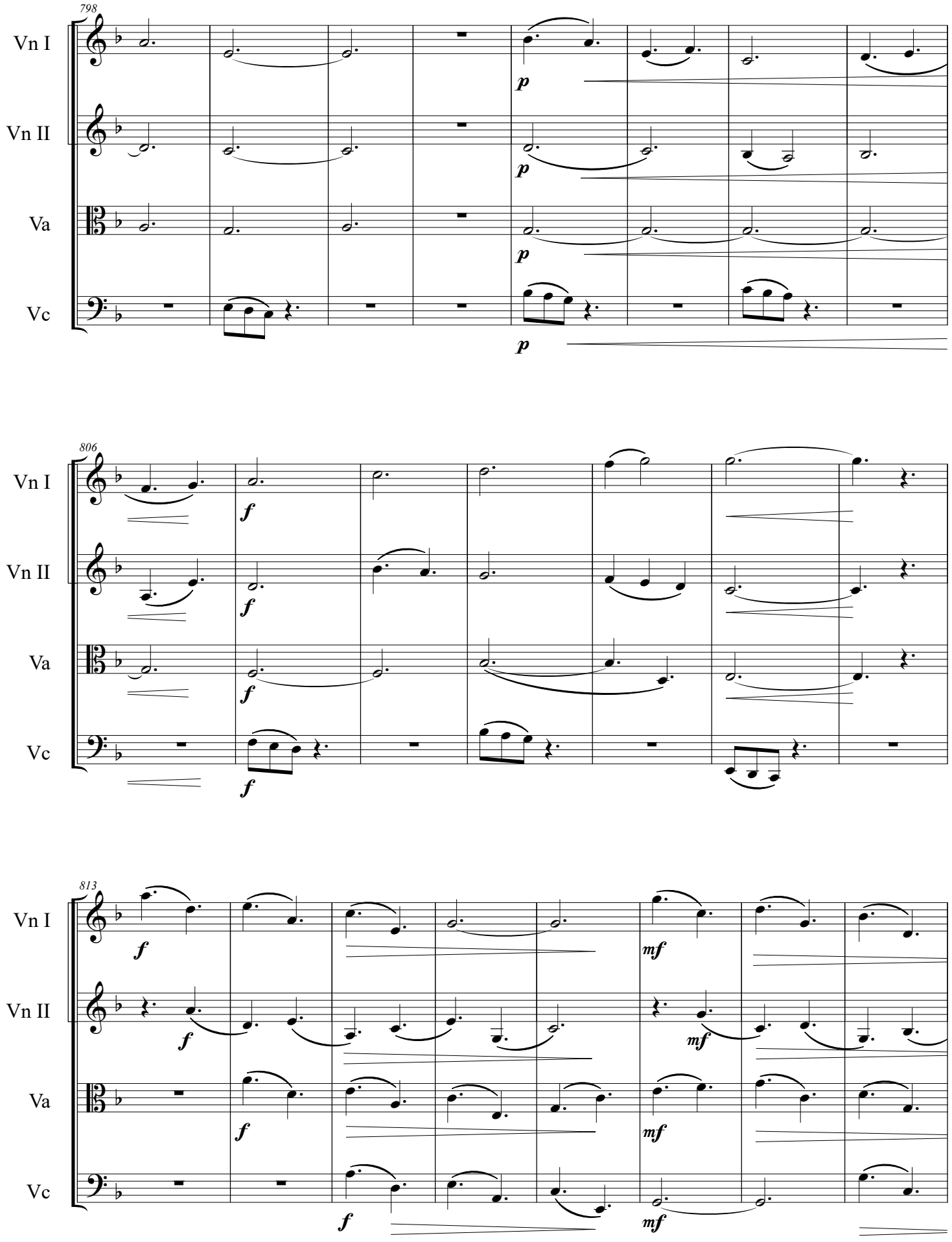
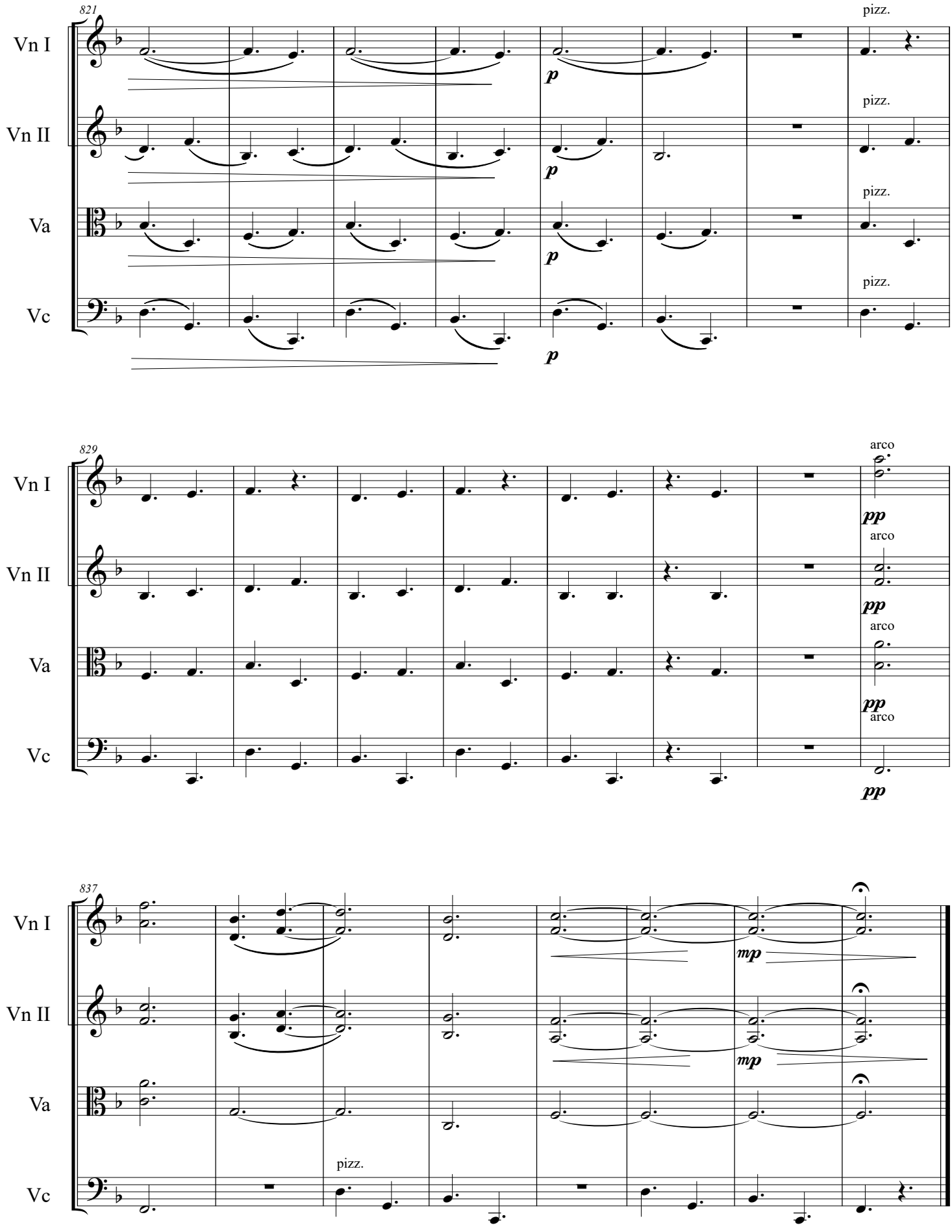

777
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
783
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
p
p
p
pp
790
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp
pp
pp
pp


798
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
p
806
f
813
mf


821
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
p
pizz.
829
arco
pp
837
mp

A few words about (and by) the composer

Raised in the Bronx, Stan has been obsessed with music since the age of six, when his mother took him to Carnegie Hall and he was astonished and awestruck by a performance of "La Mer." While that obsession first took the form of playing piano at every possible moment (when not otherwise engaged in activities typical of a kid growing up in the Bronx of the 1950's and '60s), it was Stan's music theory studies at the Manhattan School of Music that converted that obsession to writing music – and to finding his own musical voice.

He learned the craft from extraordinary musicians: among others - Robert Helps, Leon Kushner, Ursula Mamlok and Joseph Prostakoff. Stan's passion for medieval and Renaissance music has greatly influenced his writing - a contemporary expression of ageless techniques based on melody, modal harmonies, and contrapuntal, extended, interweaving lines. Two main themes permeate many of his works - music composed in an attempt to translate something about the nature of the physical world, and music composed to inspire and promote world peace.

Stan's music has been performed the world over – from Ecuador to Poland; Toulouse to Tokyo; Brooklyn to Vienna – by such artists as Camerata Philadelphia, Camerata Arkos, Englewinds, the Pandolfis Consort, the Bronx Arts Ensemble, One World Symphony, violists Brett Deubner and Ralph Farris, and violinist Jorge Avila. Major works include three symphonies, ten string quartets, a nonet, concerti for violin, viola and cello, and numerous song cycles for voice and various instruments.

Stan's discography includes "remember" with violist Brett Deubner and pianist Thomas Steigerwald, "afterwards..." and "and I paint stars with wings" with Camerata Philadelphia, "Rustling Flights of Wings" with soprano Nancy Allen Lundy, pianist Stephen Gosling and violinist Ralph Farris and "At the Center of All Things" with music performed by the Diderot String Quartet.

"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.

Complete scores are available at **www.stangrillcomposer.com**. Stan Grill is a member of ASCAP and a voting member of the RECORDING ACADEMY. His albums are available on the Innova Recordings and Navona Recordings labels.

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