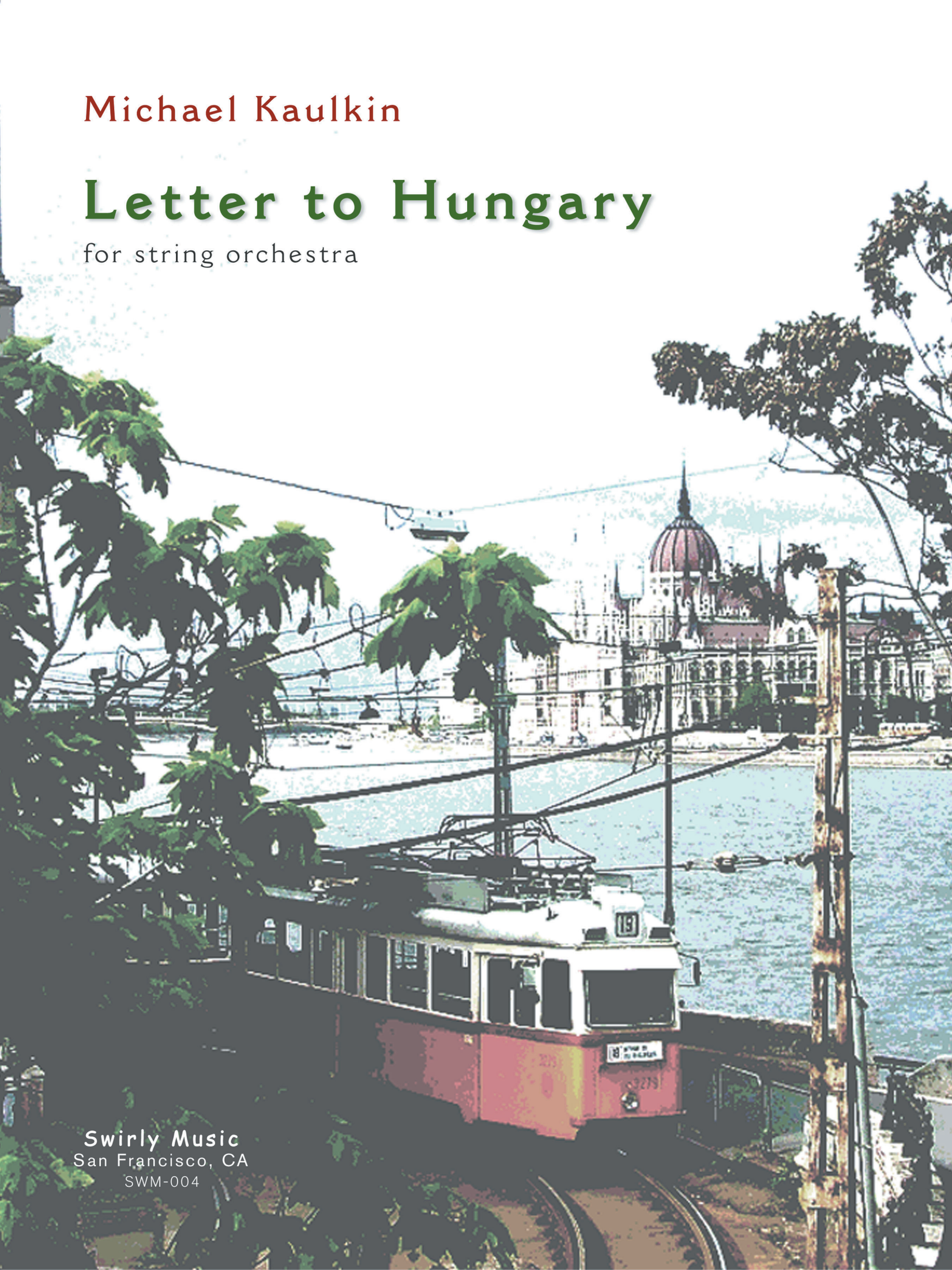
Michael Kaulkin

Letter to Hungary

for string orchestra



Swirly Music
San Francisco, CA
SWM-004

Michael Kaulkin

Letter to Hungary

for string orchestra

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Instrumentation

Violin I (div. in 4)
Violin II (div. in 4)
Violas (div. In 4)
Cellos (div. in 3)
Basses (div. in 2)

Duration: 15 minutes

Letter to Hungary was premiered in Budapest, Hungary in November, 2005, by the Hungarian Chamber Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Alberto Santana. The HCSO commissioned the work to open their inaugural "American Composers' Podium".

Orchestra parts are available for rent from Swirly Music.
(415) 386-2201 | scores@swirlymusic.comCover:

About the Composer
San Francisco-based composer Michael Kaulkin has written several works for orchestra, chorus and the musical stage. He holds a Master of Music from the San Francisco Conservatory, and previously studied at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest, Hungary.

More information is available at www.michaelkaulkin.com.

Cover: Original photograph by Mohammad Abdullah (ikaros-images.com)

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Program Note

Since even before living in Budapest in the early 1990's, I have loved Hungarian music for its enigmatic melodies and infectious rhythms. With *Letter to Hungary* I've taken the opportunity to explore what can be achieved by mixing these elements with my own style and sensibilities. This is a playful piece, in which Hungarian rhythms and instrumental styles appear unexpectedly and then recede into the background. Although most of the material is original, my hope is that the Hungarian listener will be convinced he or she has heard these tunes before.

The emotional core of this 15-minute piece is the well-known folksong *Madárka, madárka*, in which a little bird is asked to deliver a letter home to the singer's beloved Hungary. To me, this suggests someone in exile, living outside Hungary against his/her will, and so it's a song about homesickness. Fragments of the tune are woven into the texture of the plaintive, chorale-like introduction, and it becomes the main focus of the slow middle section. The final minutes consist of a vigorous *scherzo* that eventually becomes a gentle backdrop for one last majestic statement of the *madárka* theme, culminating in a wild *csárdás* coda.

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Madárka, madárka
Csácsogó madárka
Vidd el a levelem,
Vidd el a level
Szép magyar hazámba

Ha kérdi, ki küldte,
Mondd csak, hogy az küldte
Kinek bánatában
Szíve fájdalmában
Meghasad a szíve

— Hungarian folksong

“Dear little bird, please bring this letter to my beloved Homeland.

If she asks who sent it, tell her it is from one with a broken heart.”

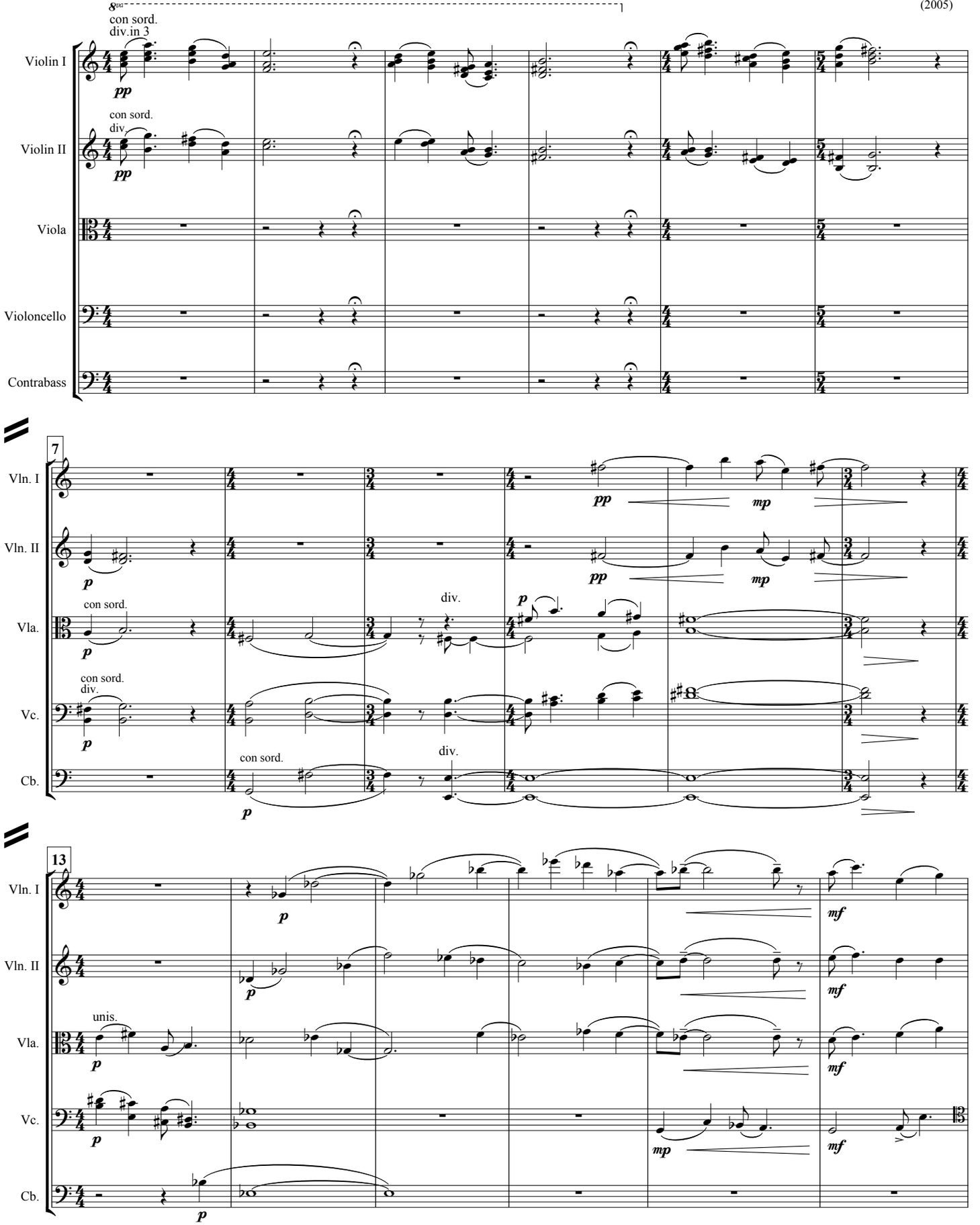
— translation, Michael Kaulkin

Commissioned by the Hungarian Chamber Symphony Orchestra
Alberto Santana, Music Director

Letter To Hungary

Adagio

Michael Kaulkin
(2005)



SWM-004

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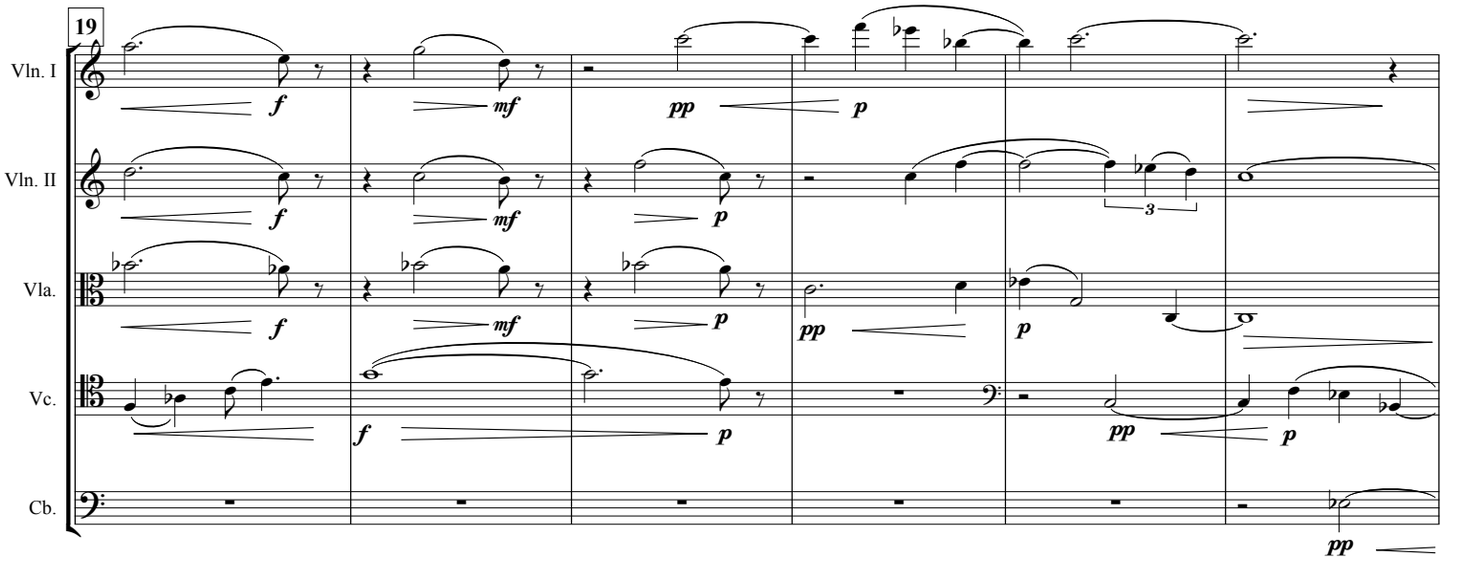
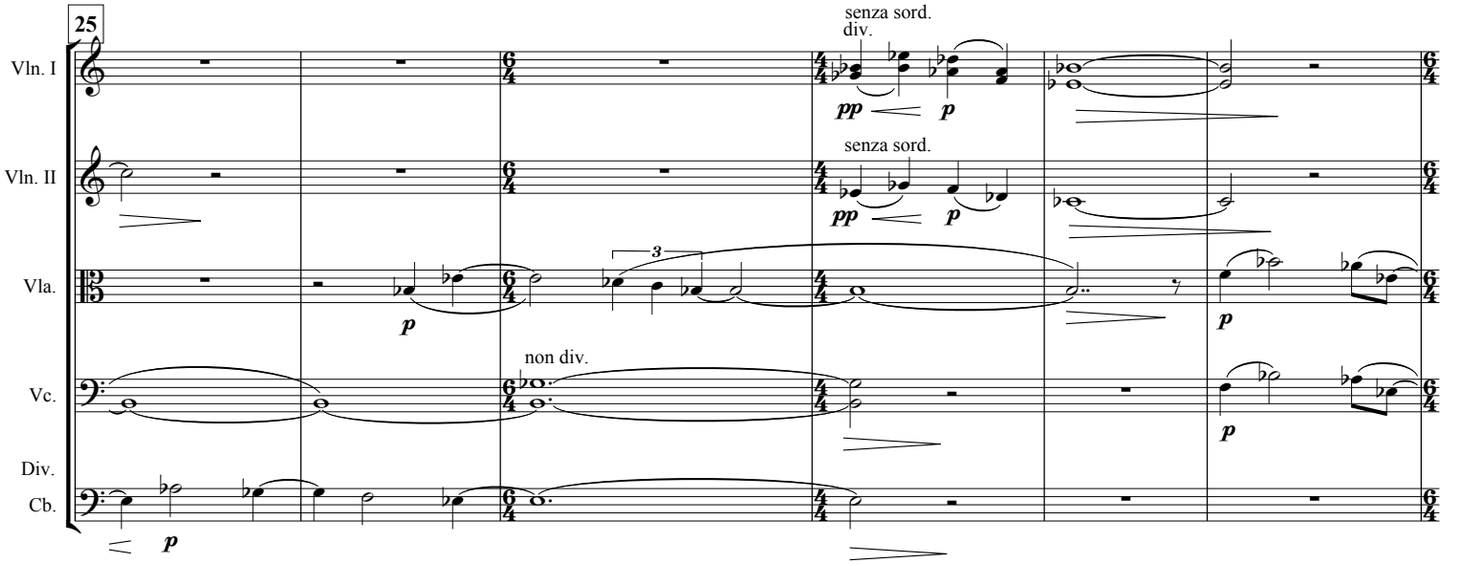
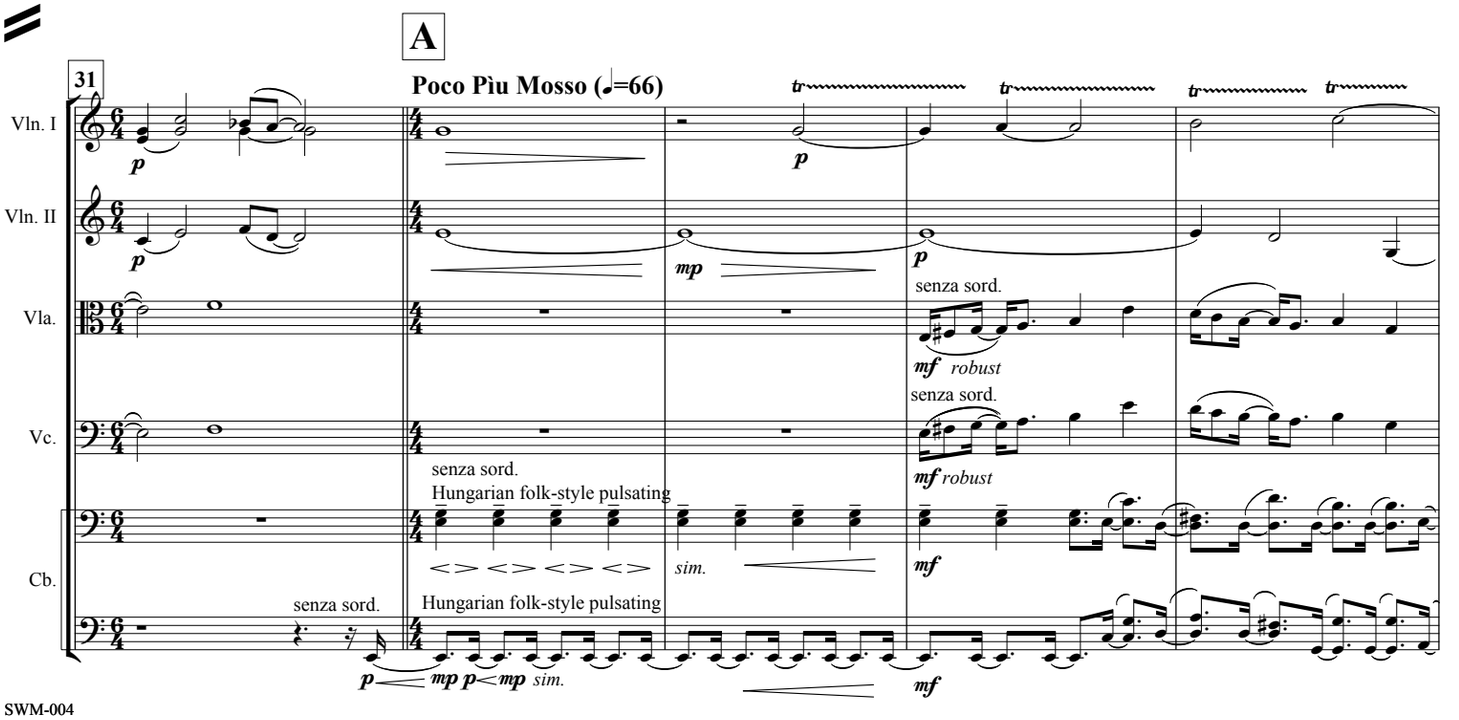
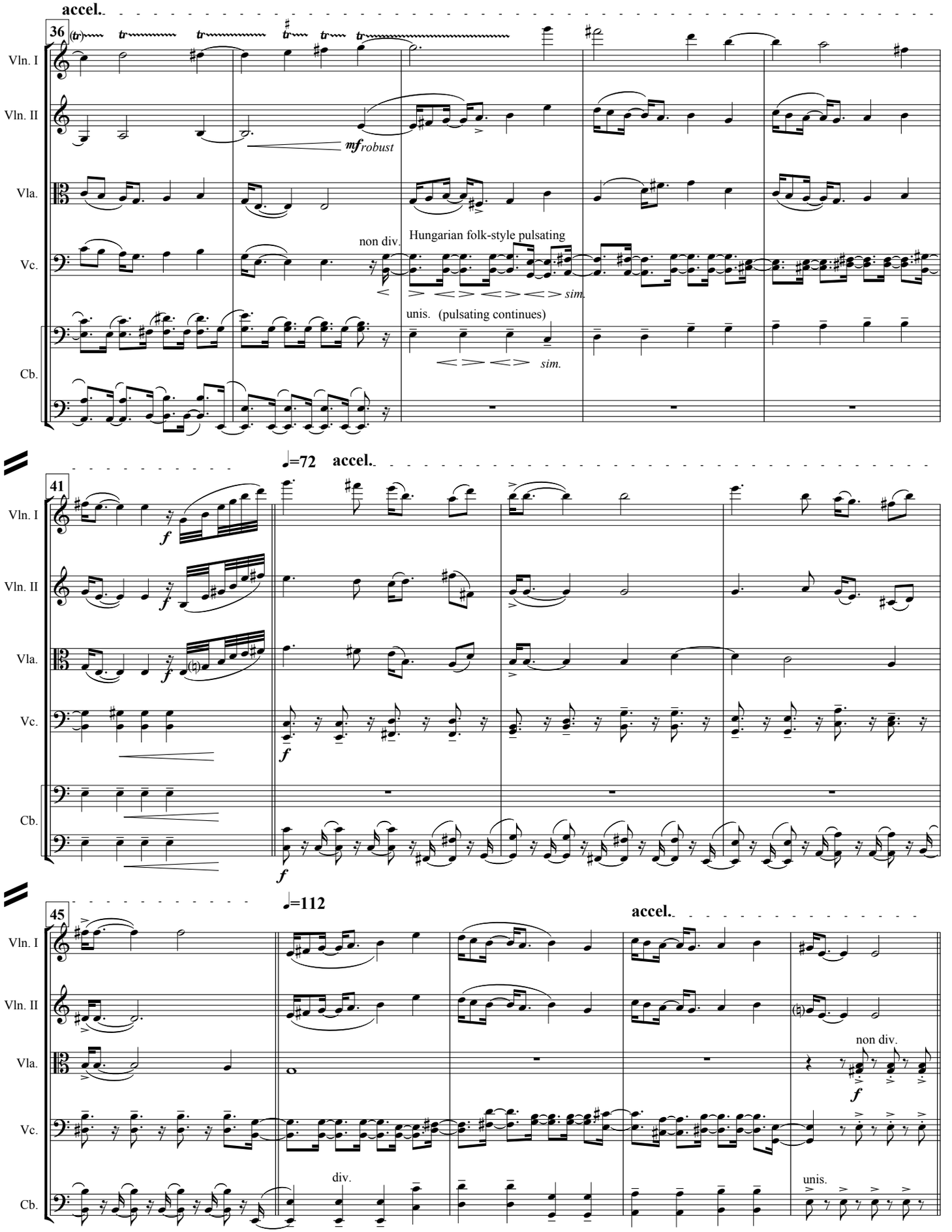
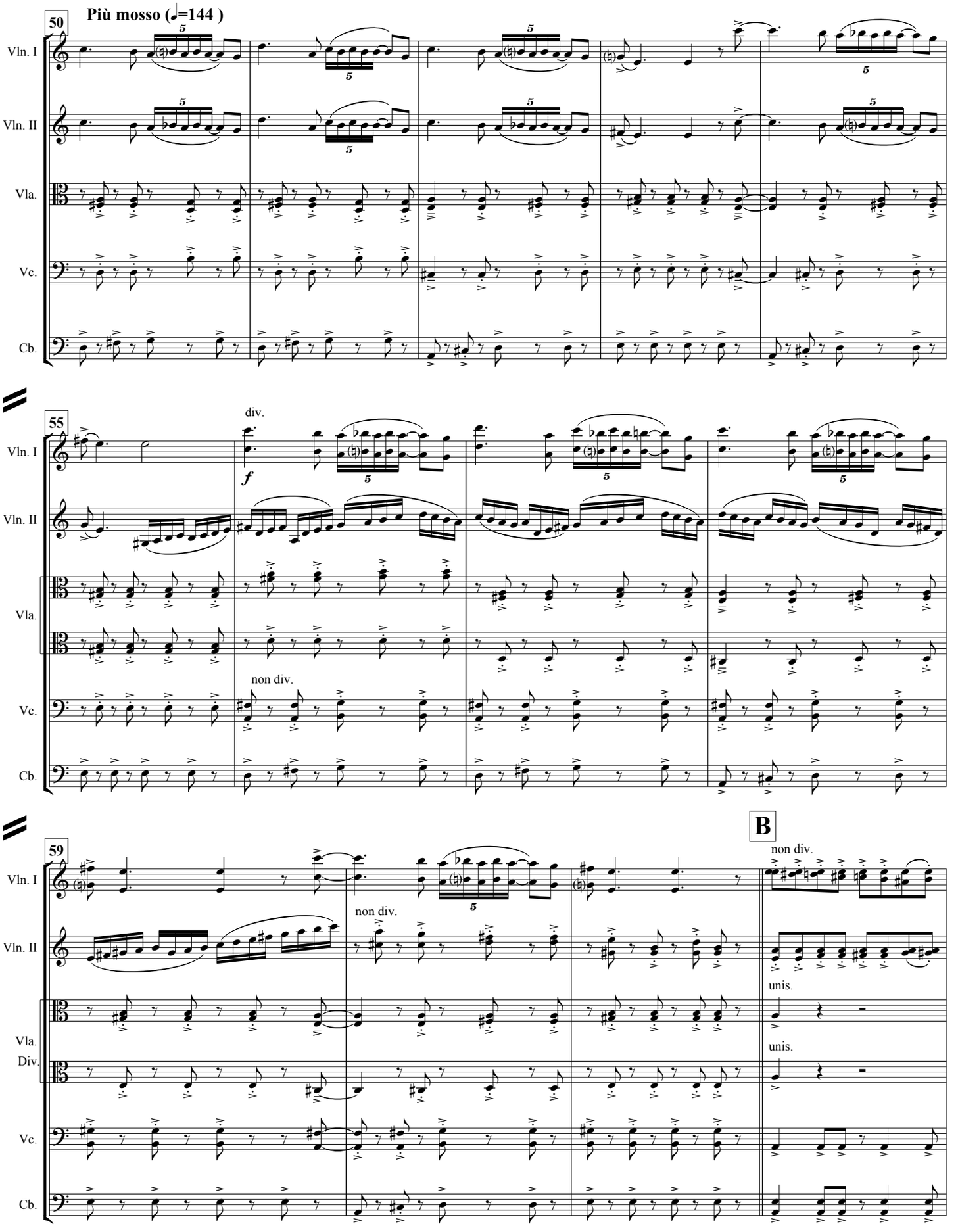
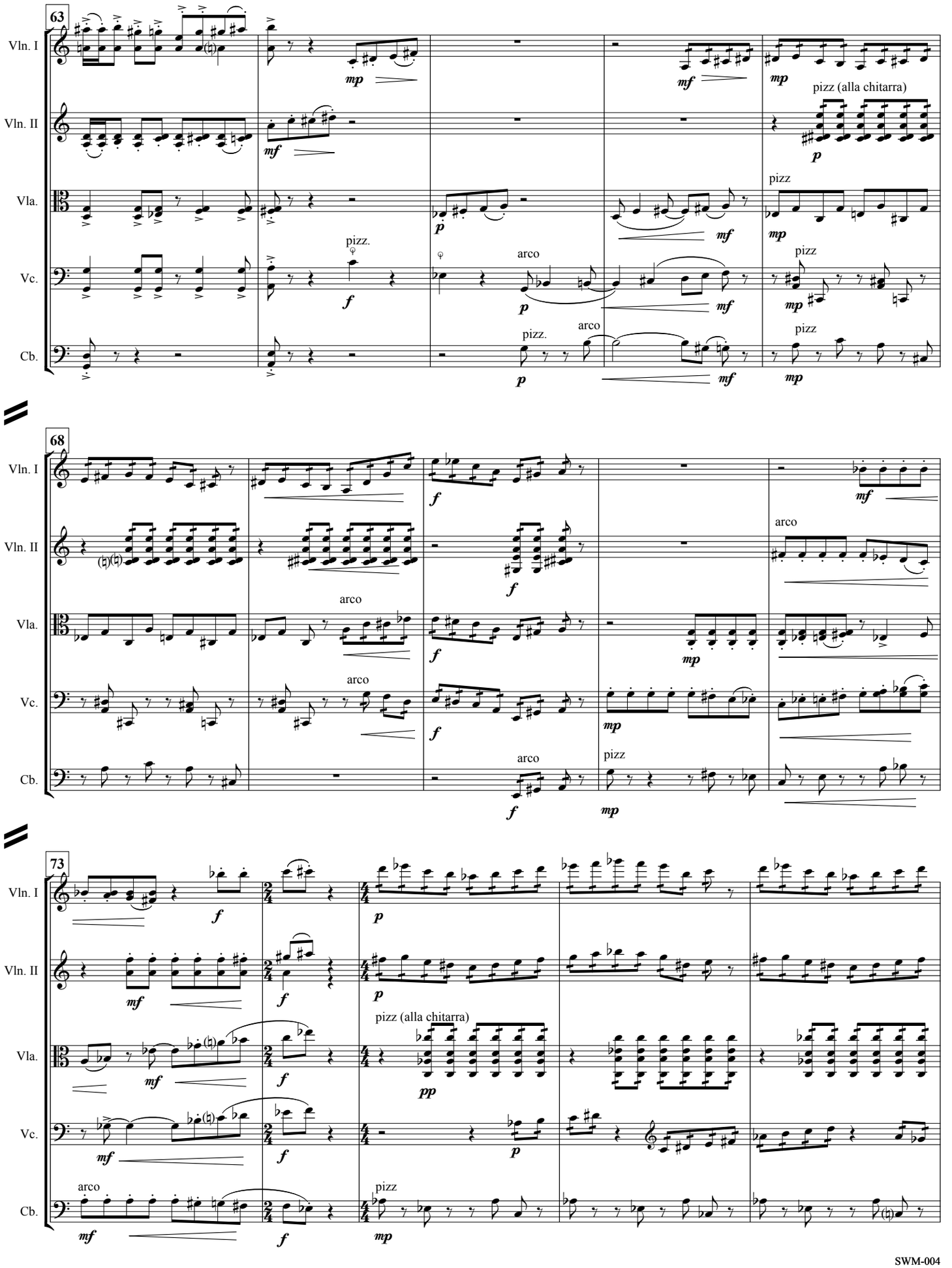

19
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
mf
pp
p
3

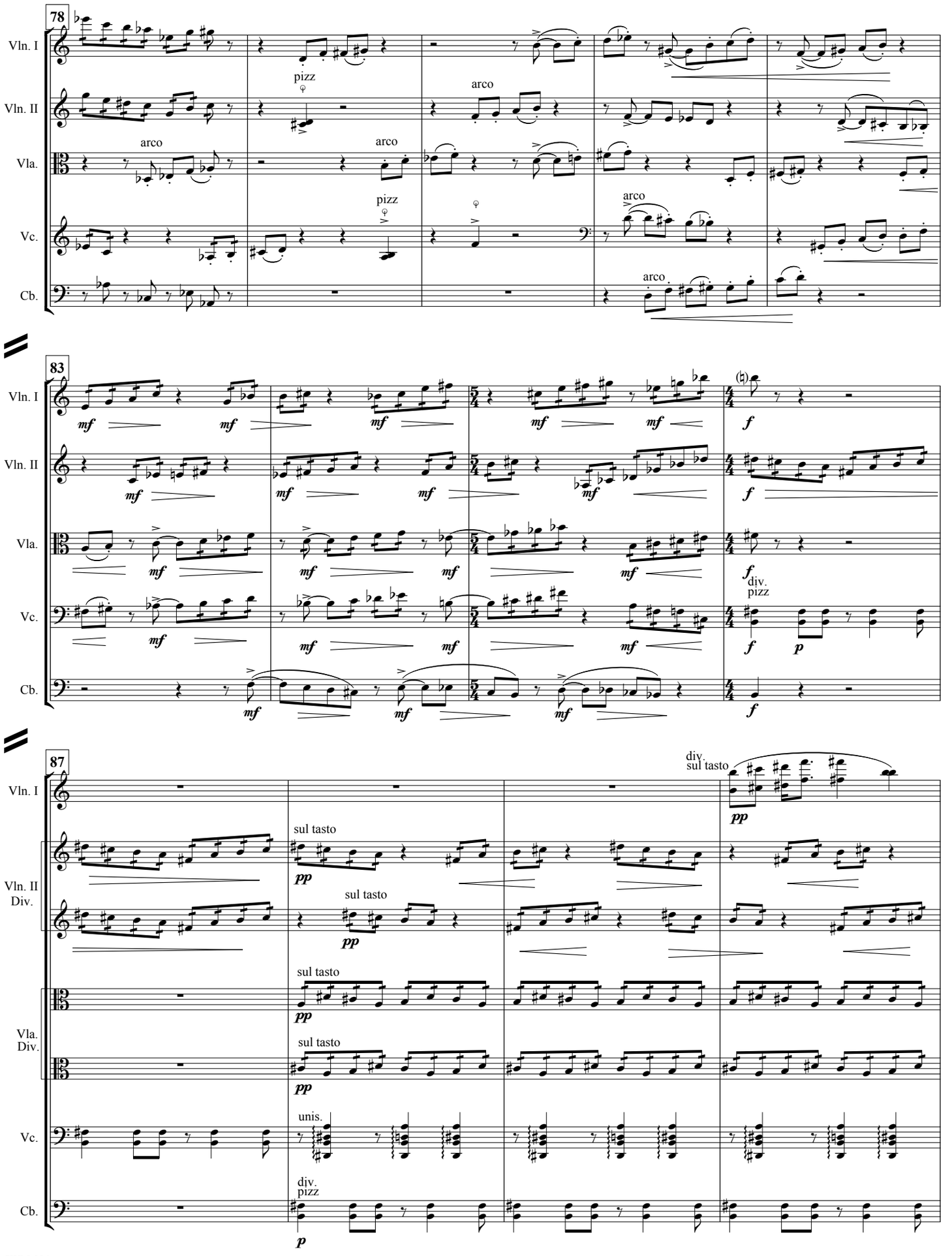

25
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Div.
Cb.
senza sord.
div.
senza sord.
non div.
pp
p
3

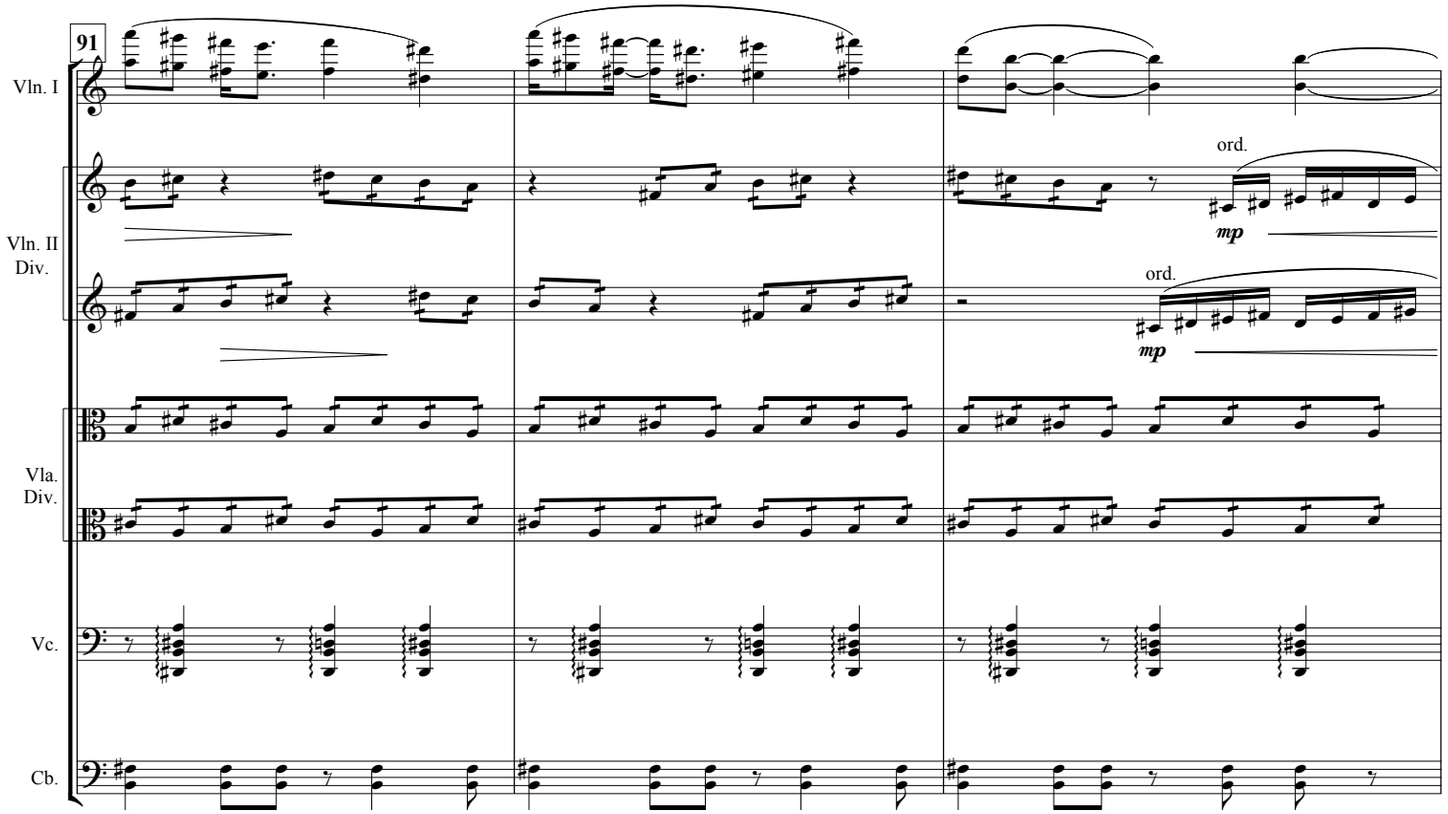

A
31
Poco Pìu Mosso (♩=66)
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
tr
senza sord.
mf robust
Hungarian folk-style pulsating
sim.
mp
p

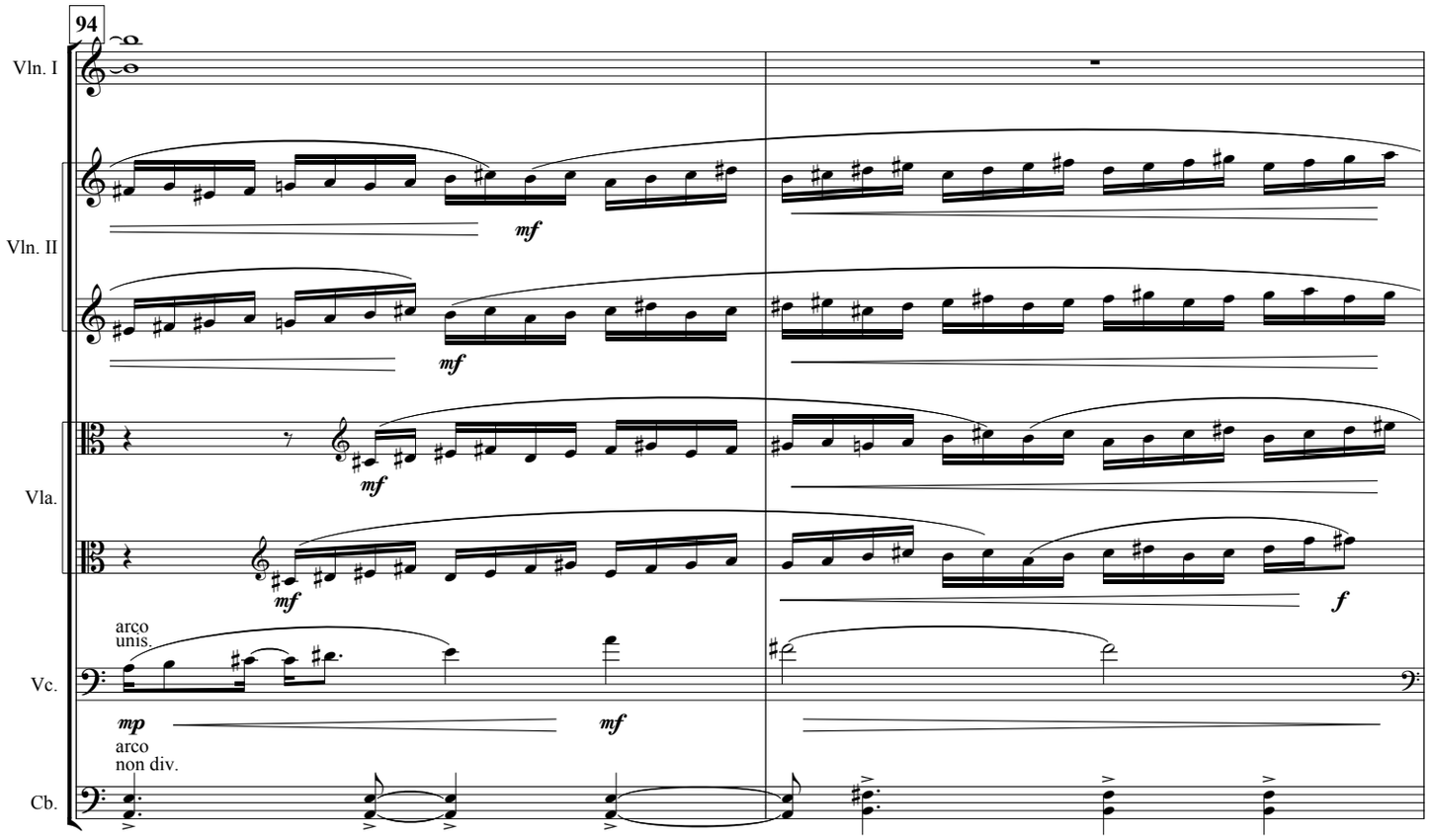

accel.
36
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf robust
non div.
Hungarian folk-style pulsating
sim.
unis. (pulsating continues)
sim.
♩=72
accel.
41
f
f
f
♩=112
accel.
45
non div.
f
div.
unis.

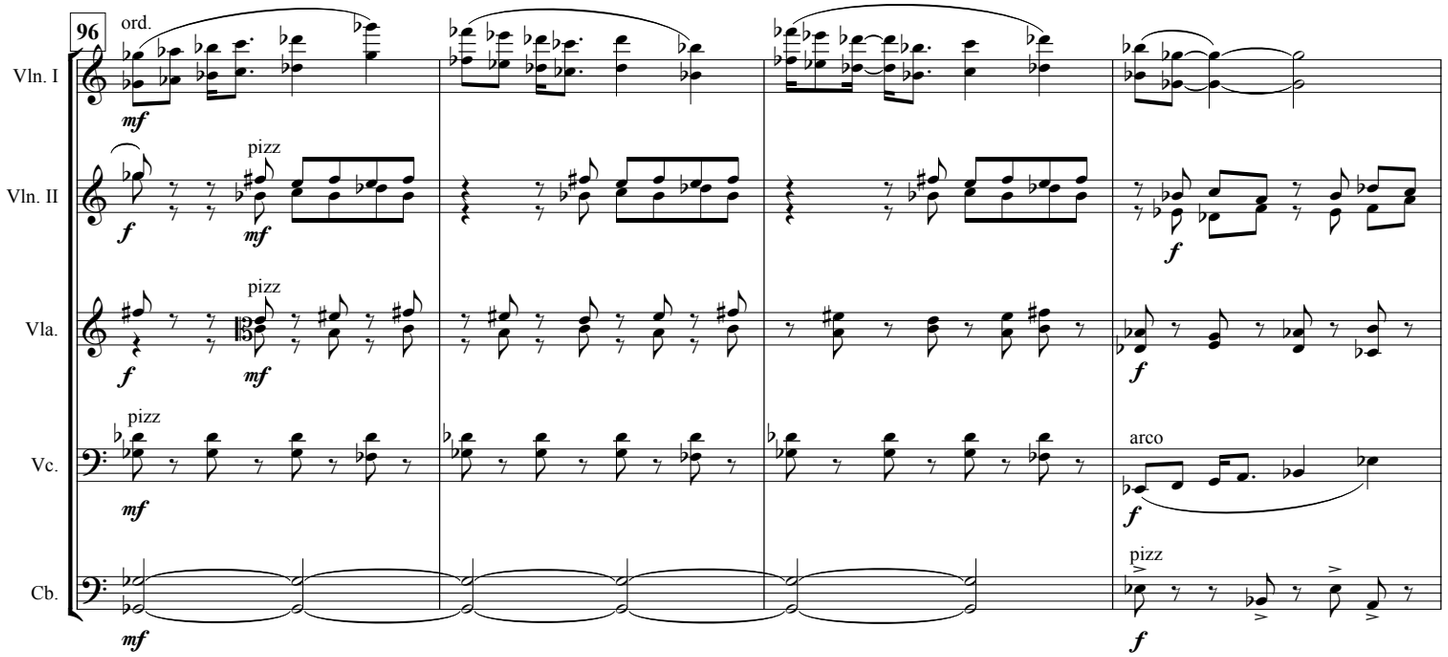

50
Più mosso (♩=144)
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
55
div.
f
non div.
59
non div.
B
non div.
unis.
unis.
Div.

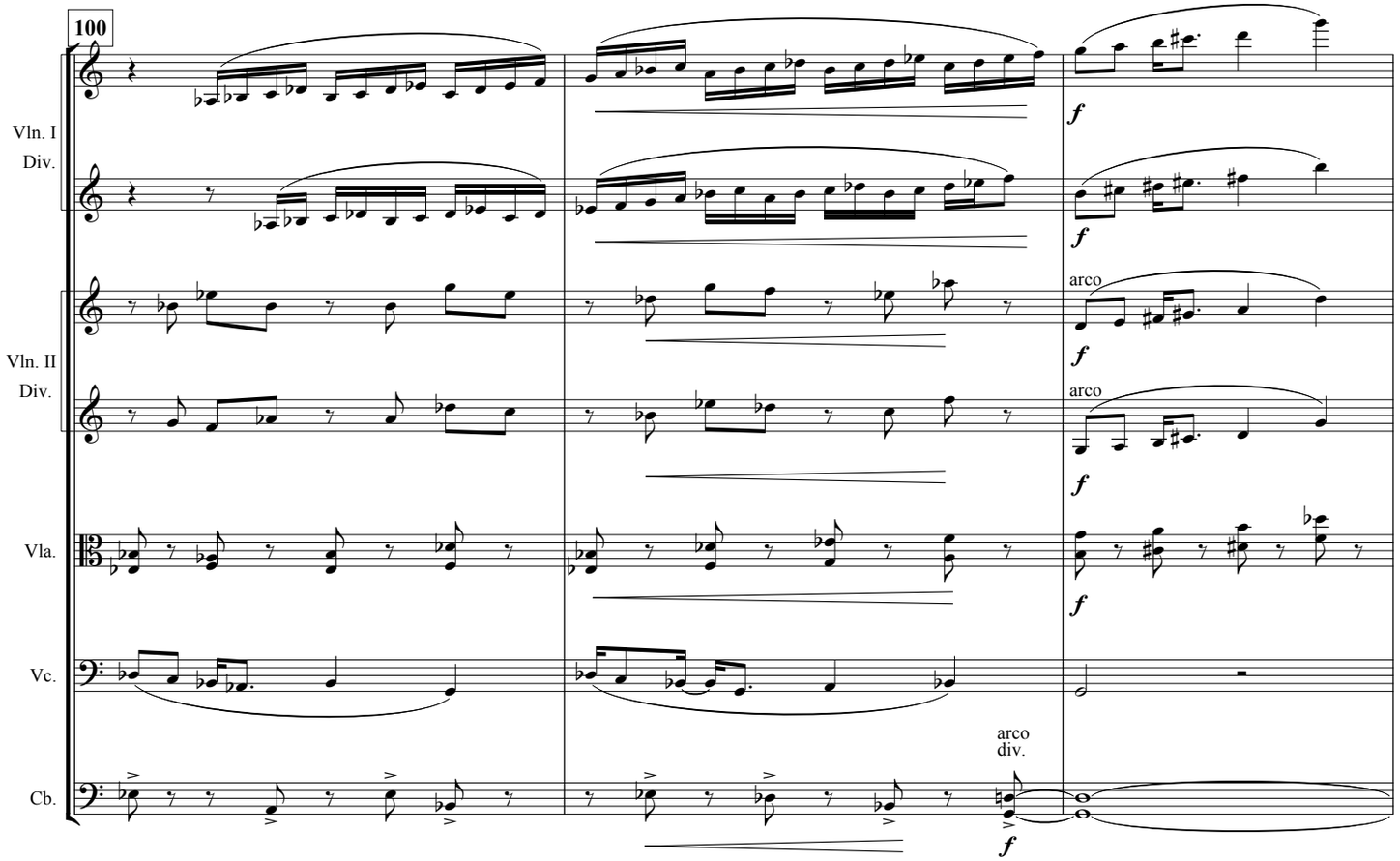

63
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pizz (alla chitarra)
pizz
arco
68
73

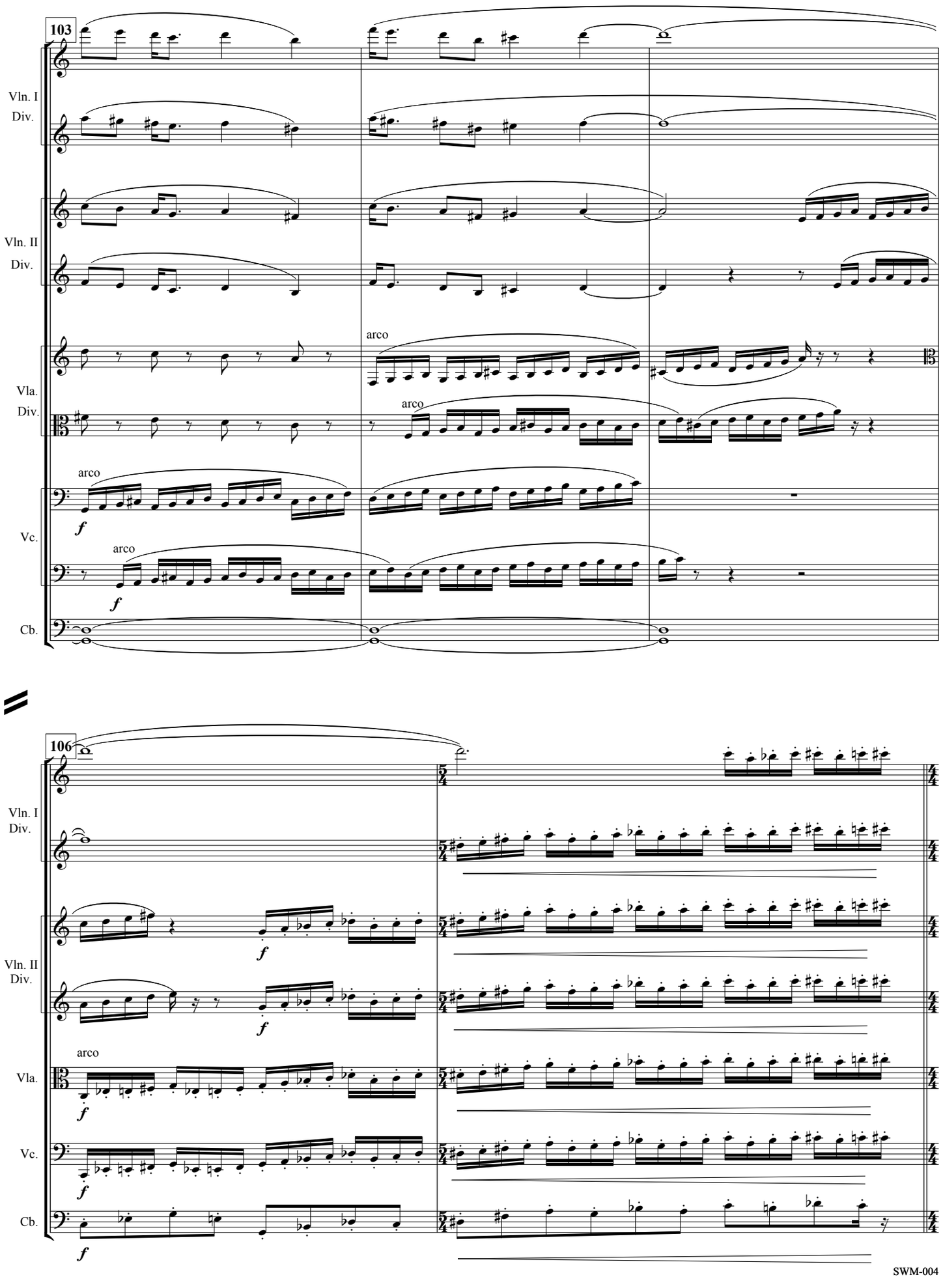

78
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pizz
arco
83
mf
f
div.
pizz
p
87
div.
sul tasto
pp
sul tasto
Vln. II
Div.
Vla.
Div.
unis.
div.
pizz


91
Vln. I
Vln. II
Div.
ord.
mp
ord.
mp
Vla.
Div.
Vc.
Cb.


94
Vln. I
Vln. II
mf
mf
Vla.
mf
mf
f
arco
unis.
Vc.
mp
mf
arco
non div.
Cb.


96
ord.
Vln. I
mf
pizz
Vln. II
f
mf
pizz
Vla.
f
mf
pizz
Vc.
mf
arco
f
Cb.
mf
pizz
f


100
Vln. I
Div.
f
Vln. II
Div.
arco
f
arco
f
Vla.
f
Vc.
Cb.
arco
div.
f


103
Vln. I
Div.
Vln. II
Div.
arco
Vla.
Div.
arco
arco
f
Vc.
arco
f
Cb.
106
Vln. I
Div.
f
Vln. II
Div.
f
arco
Vla.
f
Vc.
f
Cb.
f

C

Largo e lamentando (♩=54)

108

Vln. I
Div. in 4

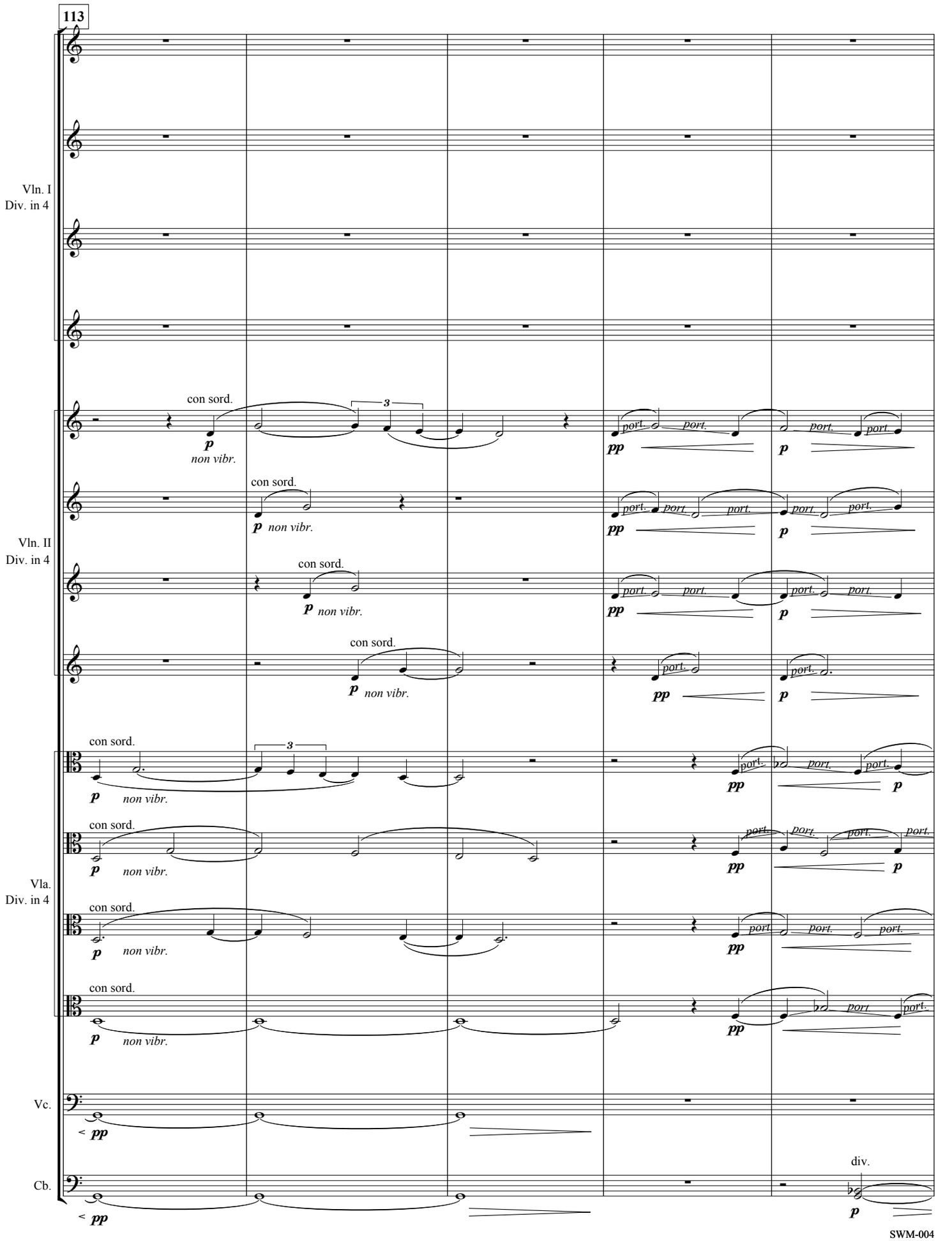
Vln. II
Div. in 4

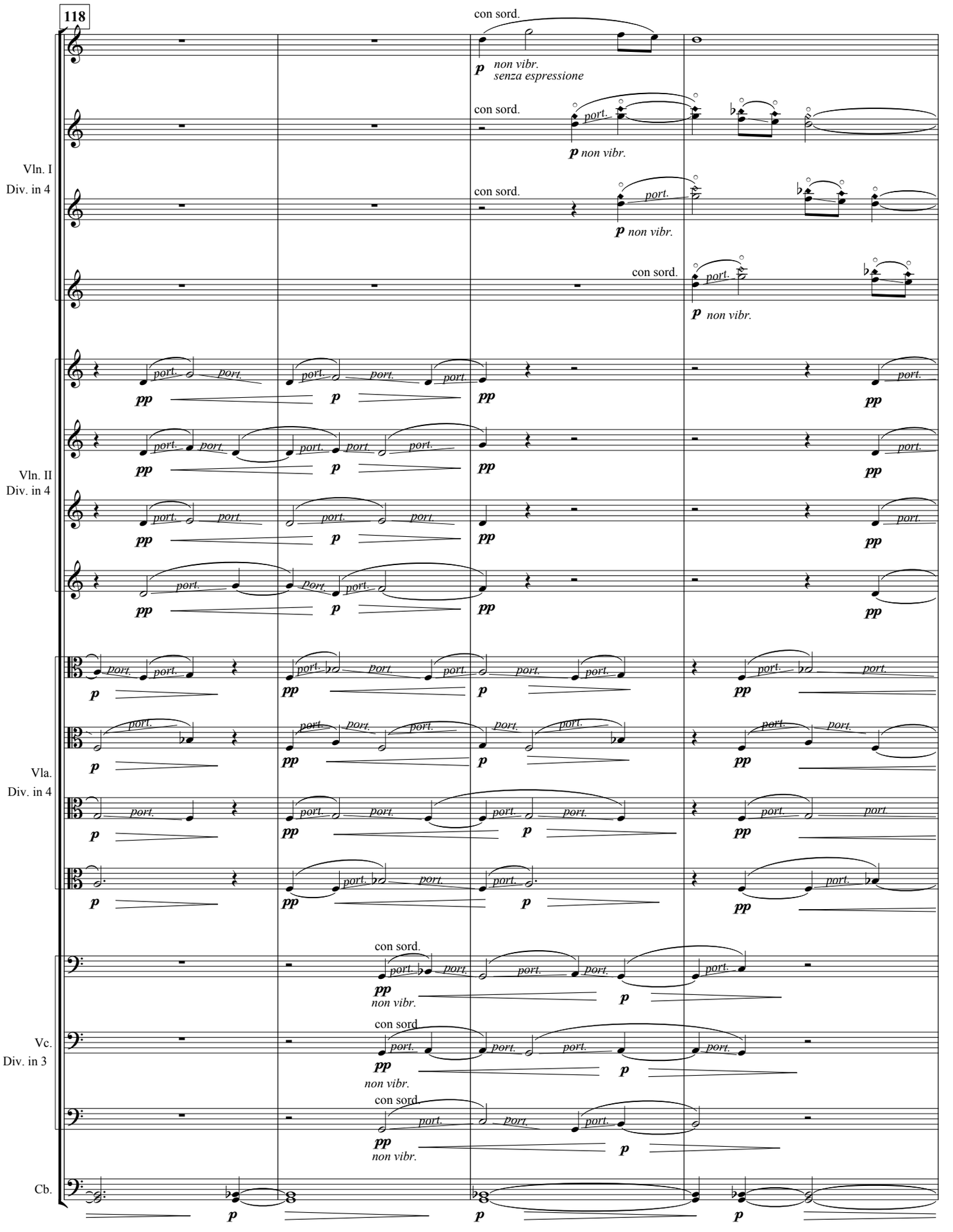
Vla.
Div. in 4

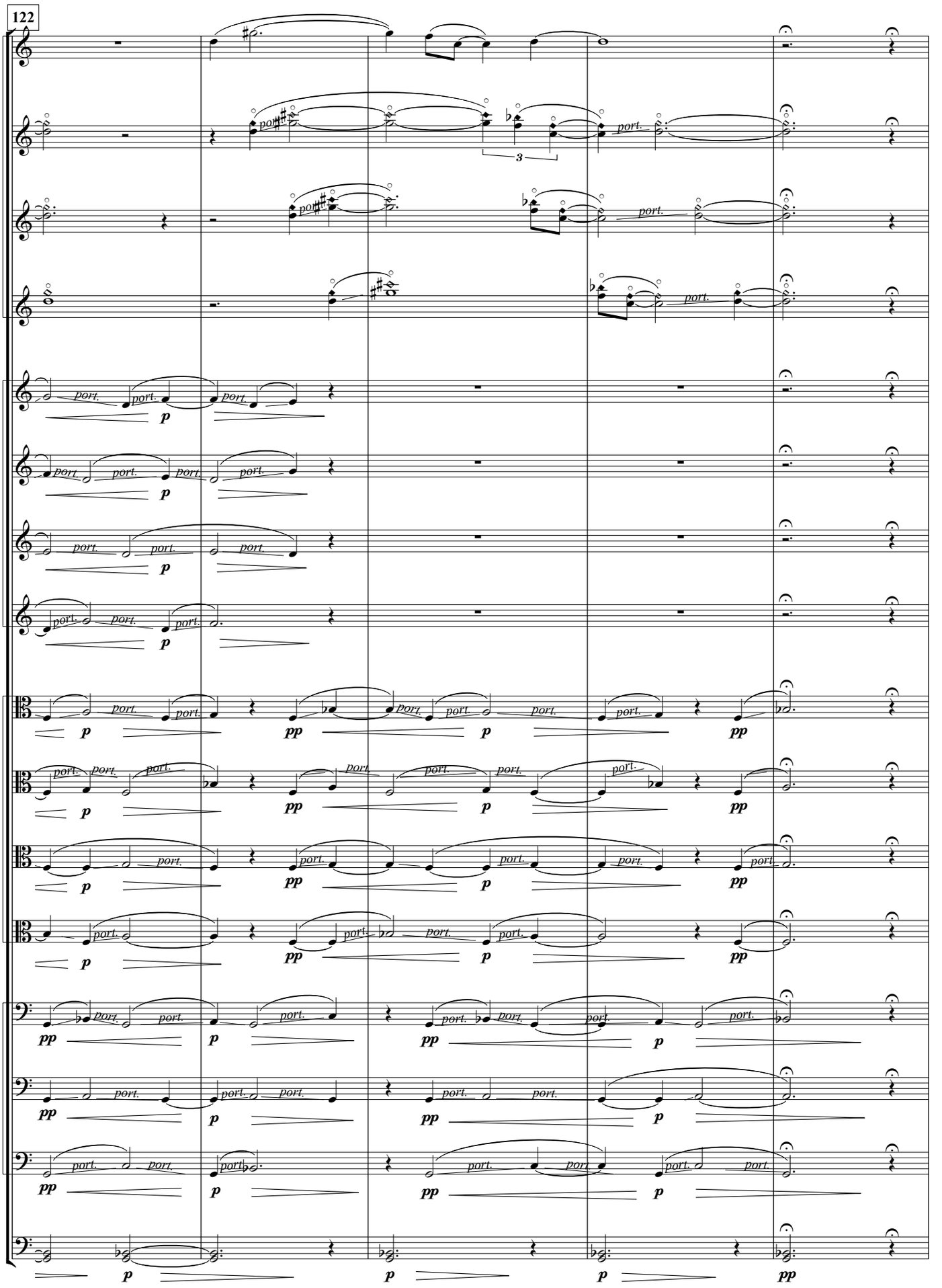
Vc.

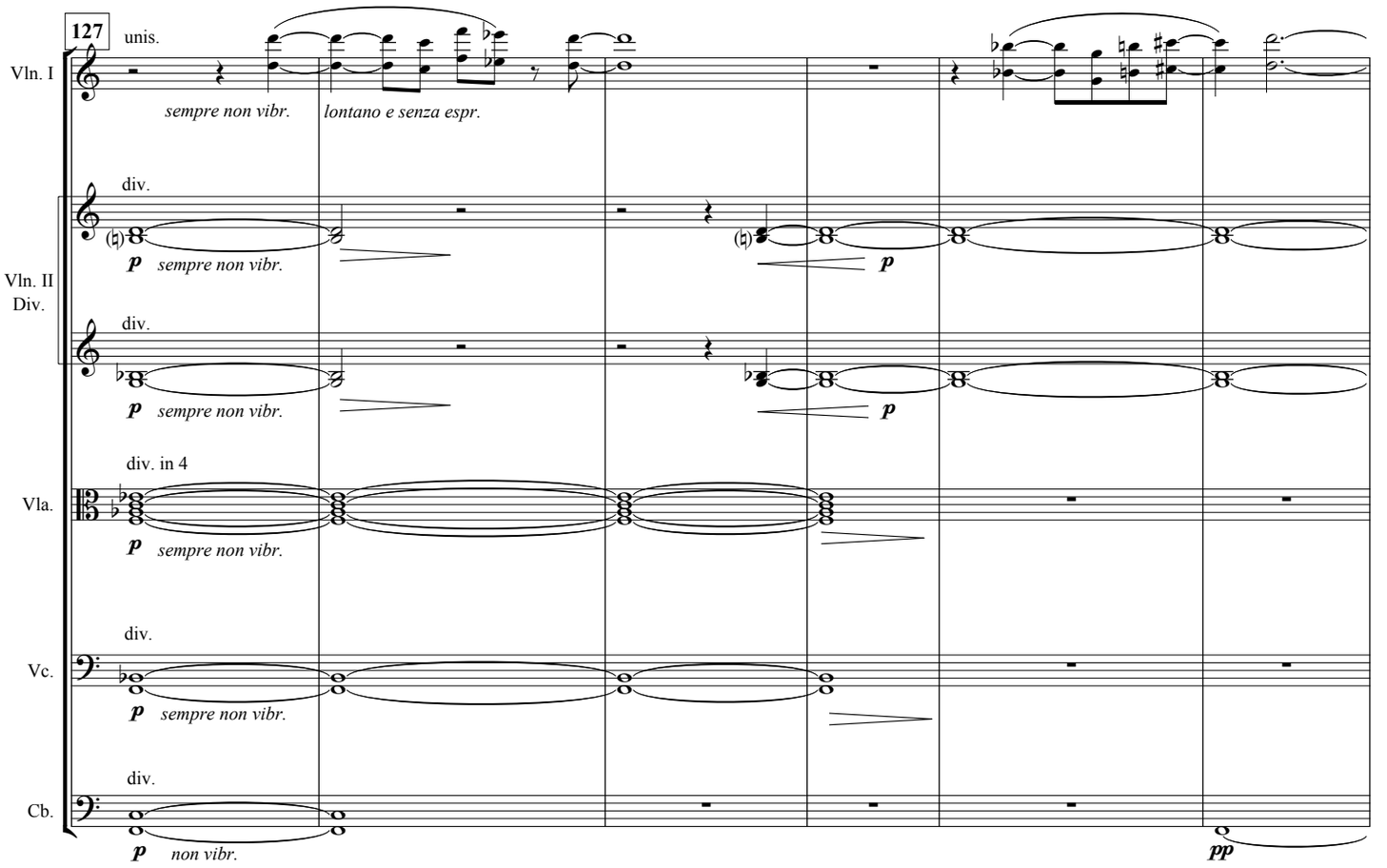
Cb.

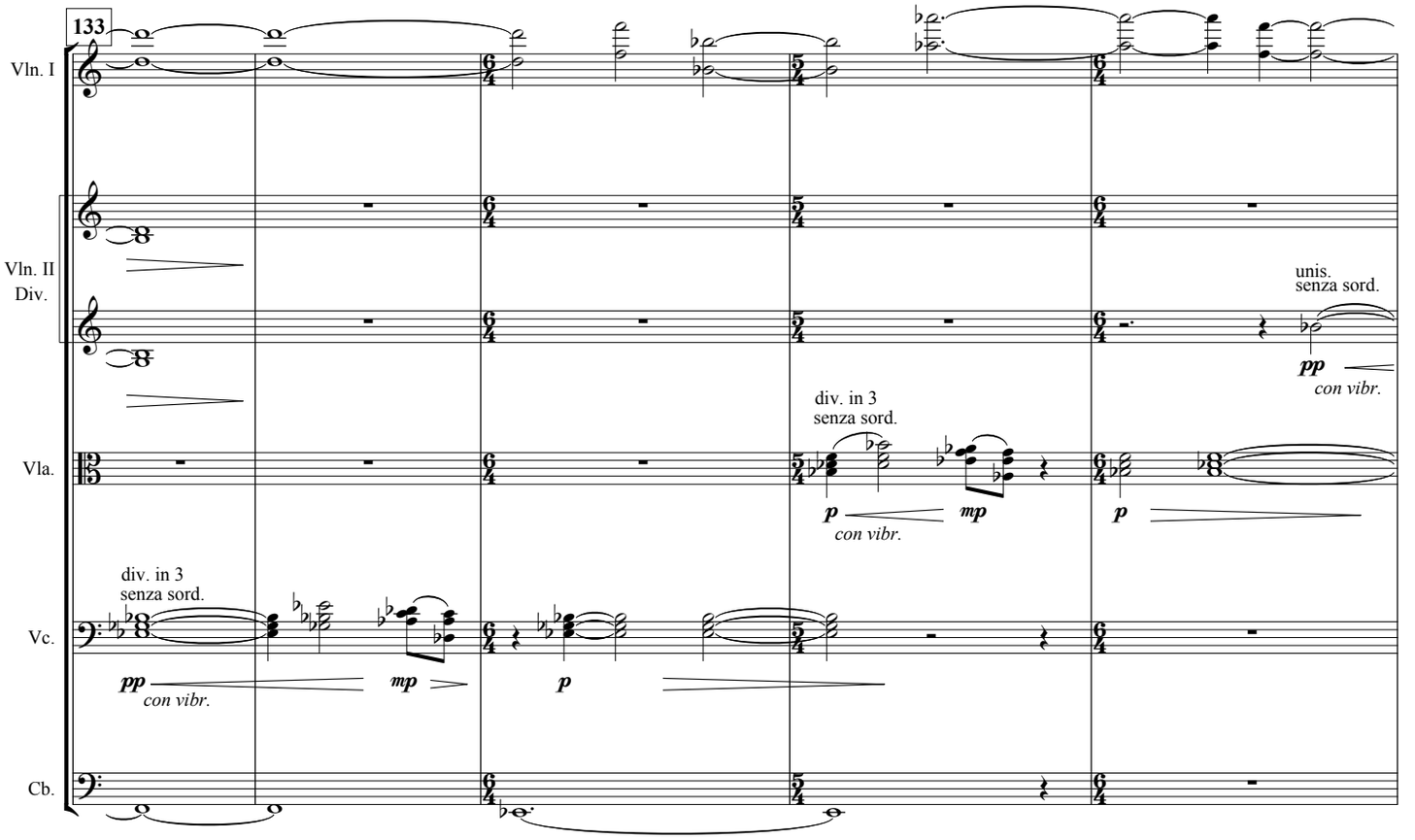
ff *mf* *f* *mp*

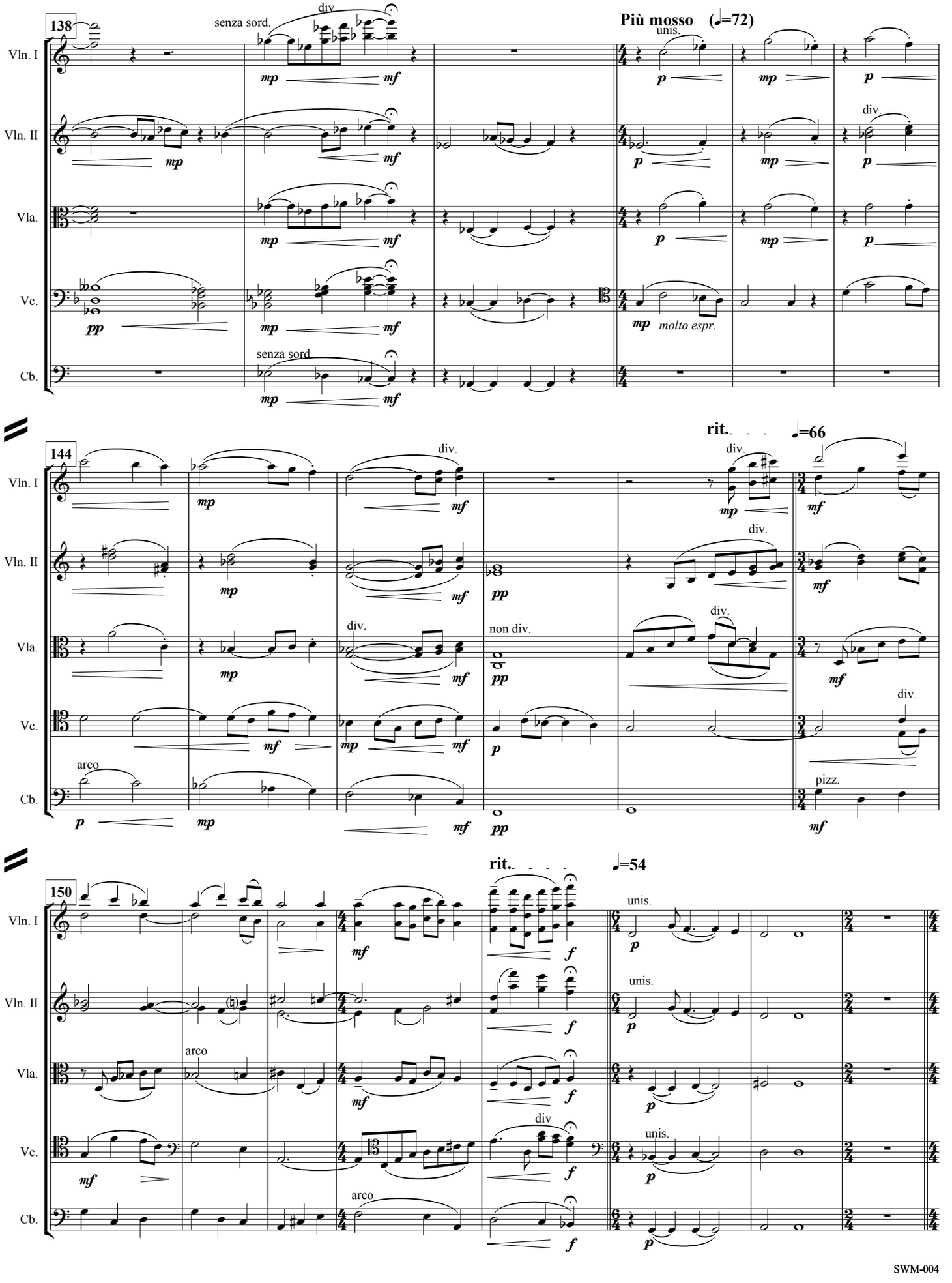

113
Vln. I
Div. in 4
Vln. II
Div. in 4
Vla.
Div. in 4
Vc.
Cb.
con sord.
non vibr.
port.
div.


118
con sord.
p non vibr.
senza espressione
Vln. I
Div. in 4
con sord.
port.
p non vibr.
con sord.
port.
p non vibr.
con sord.
port.
p non vibr.
Vln. II
Div. in 4
Vla.
Div. in 4
con sord.
pp
non vibr.
p
con sord.
Vc.
Div. in 3
con sord.
Cb.


122
Vln. I
Div. in 4
Vln. II
Div. in 4
Vla.
Div. in 4
Vc.
Div. in 3
Cb.
port.
p
pp
3


127
unis.
Vln. I
sempre non vibr.
lontano e senza espr.
div.
Vln. II
Div.
p sempre non vibr.
p
div.
p sempre non vibr.
p
div. in 4
Vla.
p sempre non vibr.
div.
Vc.
p sempre non vibr.
div.
Cb.
p non vibr.
pp


133
Vln. I
Vln. II
Div.
unis.
senza sord.
pp
con vibr.
div. in 3
senza sord.
Vla.
p
con vibr.
mp
p
div. in 3
senza sord.
Vc.
pp
con vibr.
mp
p
Cb.


138
Più mosso (♩=72)
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
senza sord.
div
unis.
molto espr.
senza sord
144
rit.
♩=66
non div.
arco
pizz.
150
♩=54

D

158 ♩=132 **Scherzando**

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

non div.

felső szolam *sul G*

161

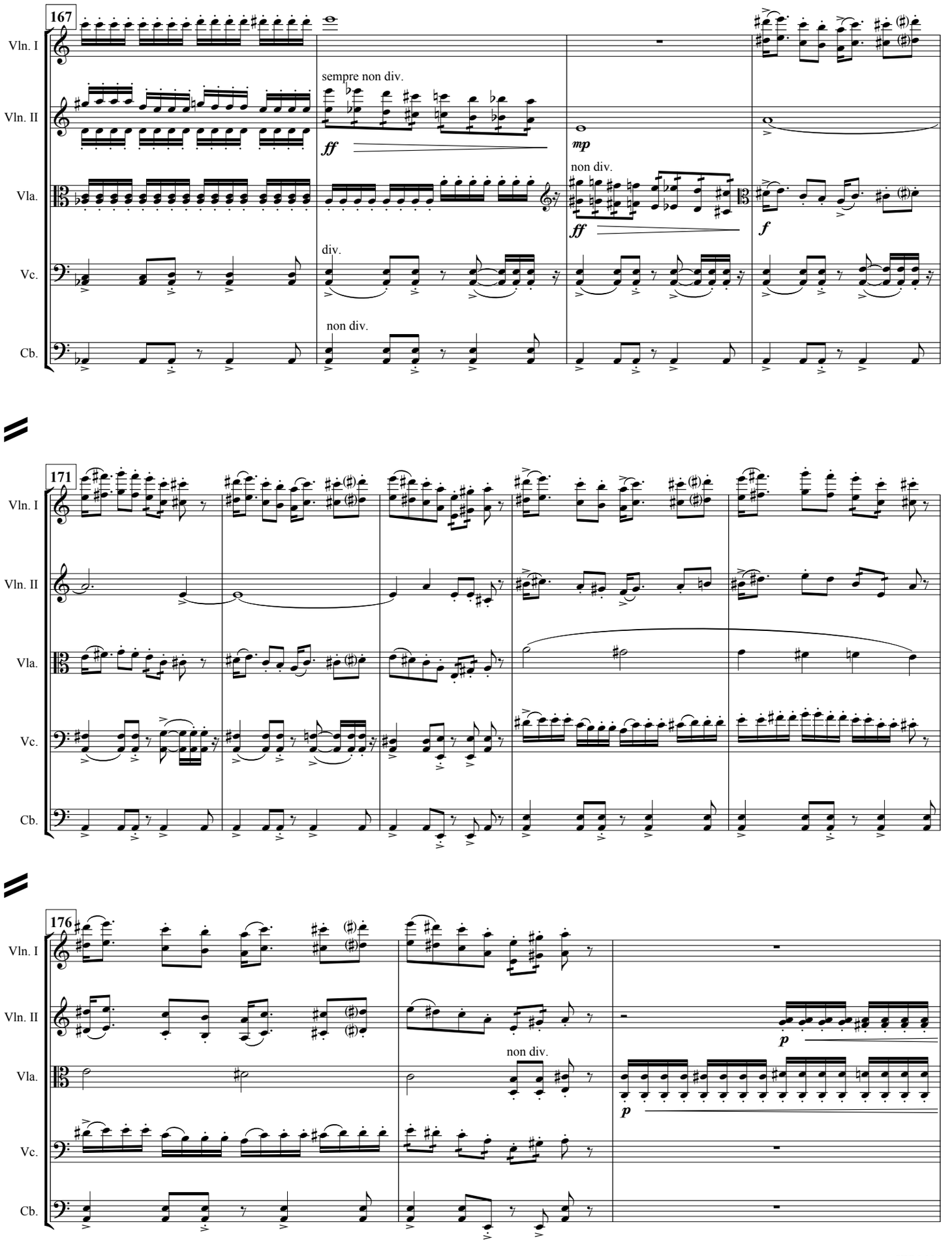
non div.

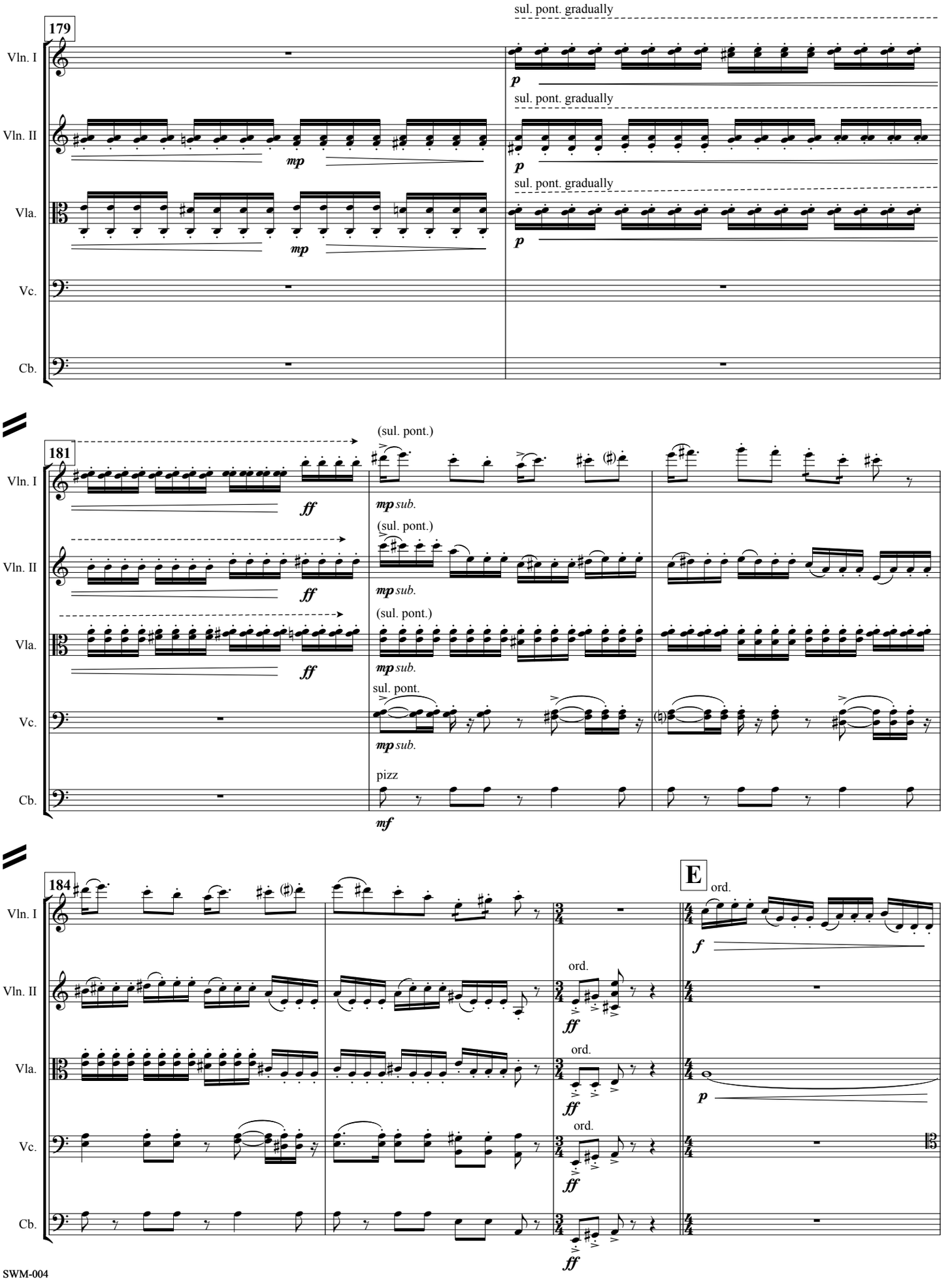
div.

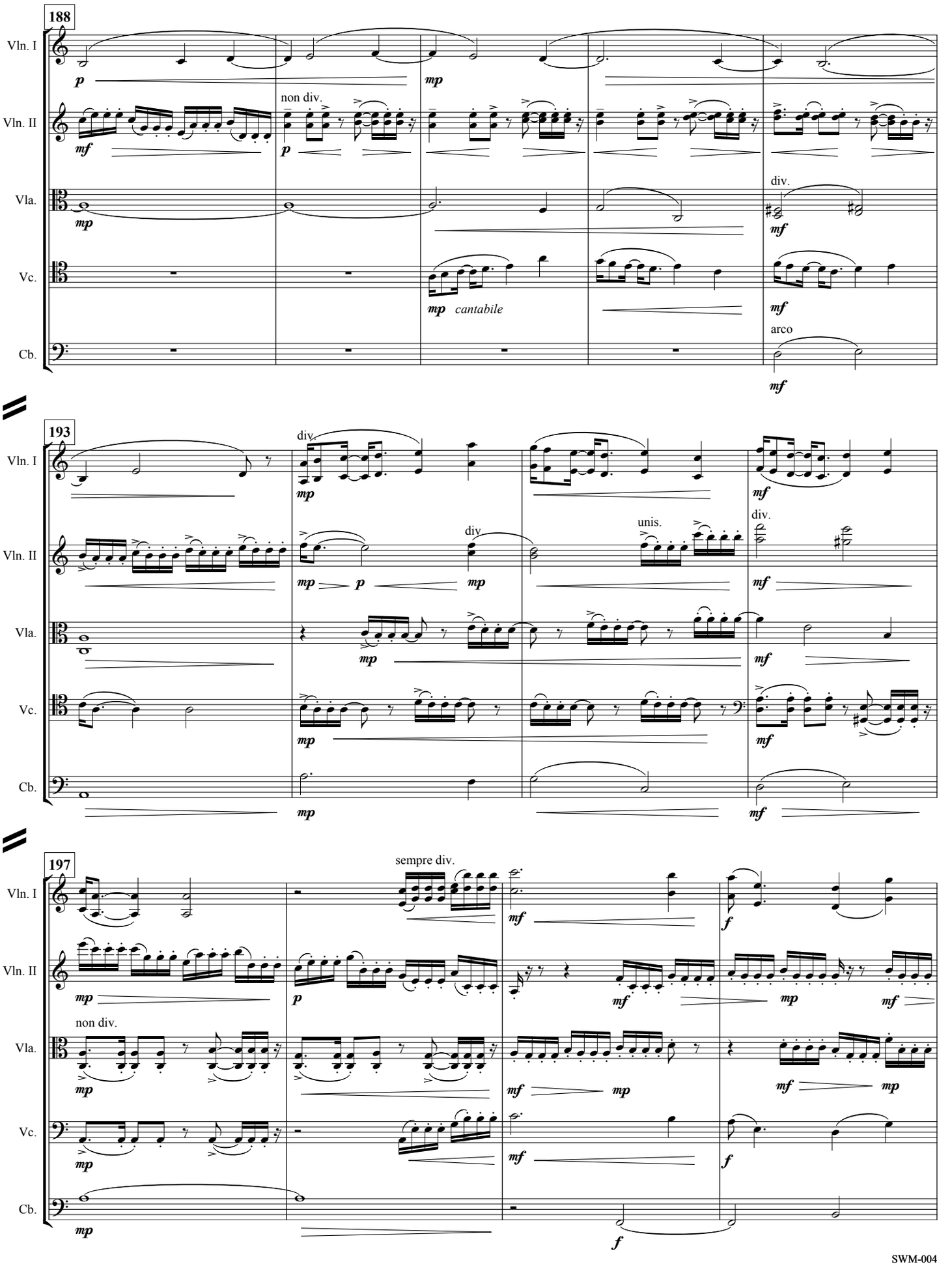
164

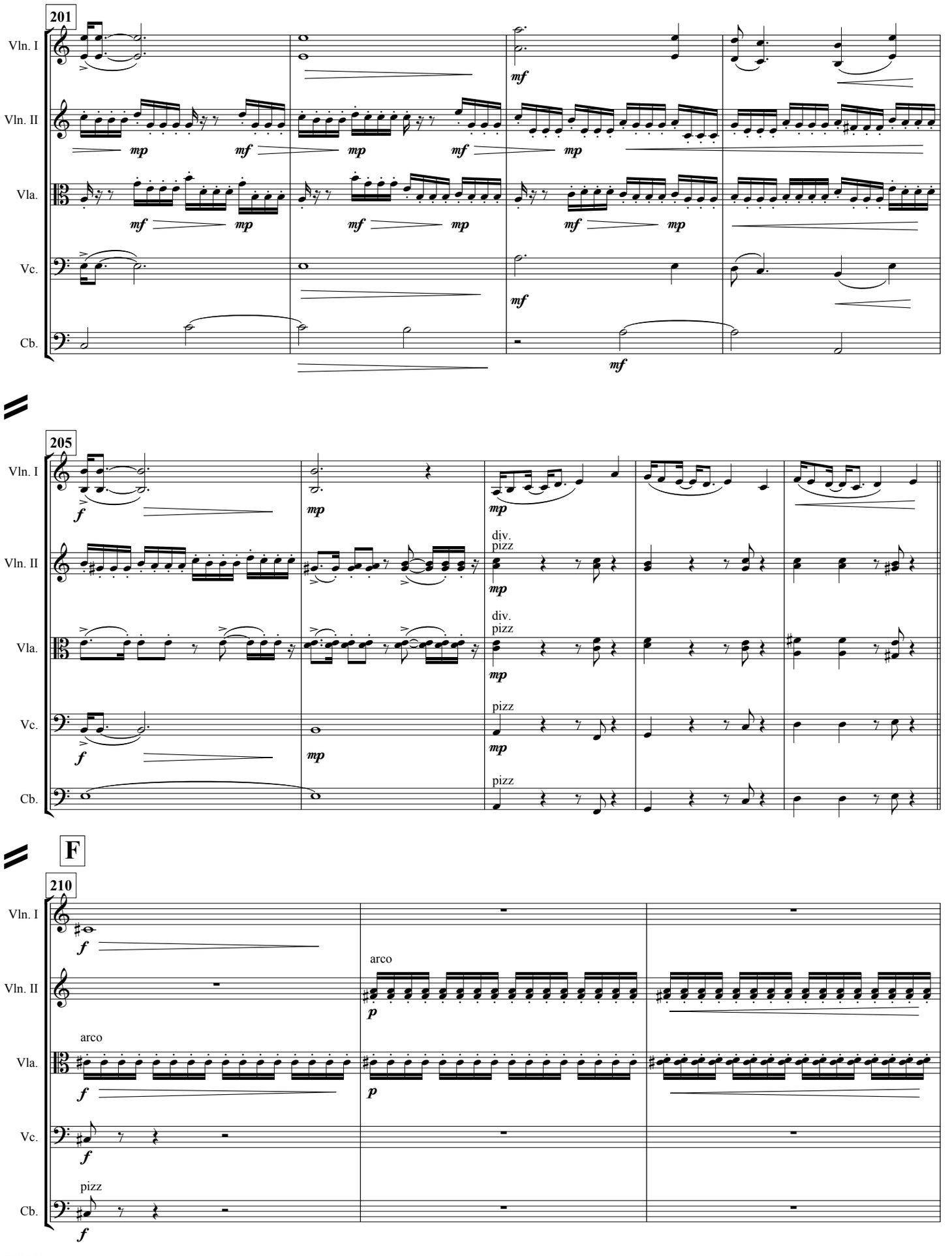
non div.

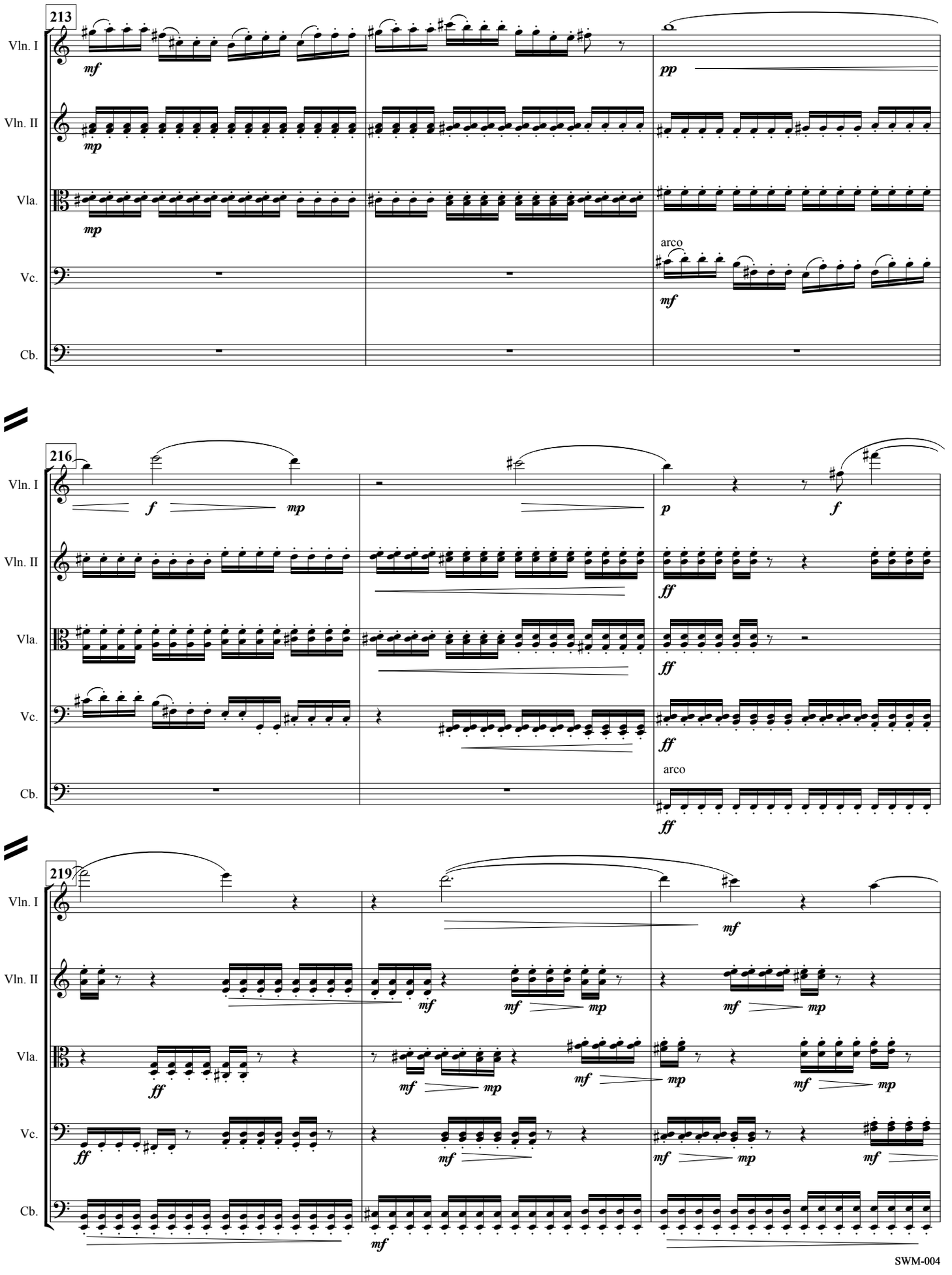
non div.

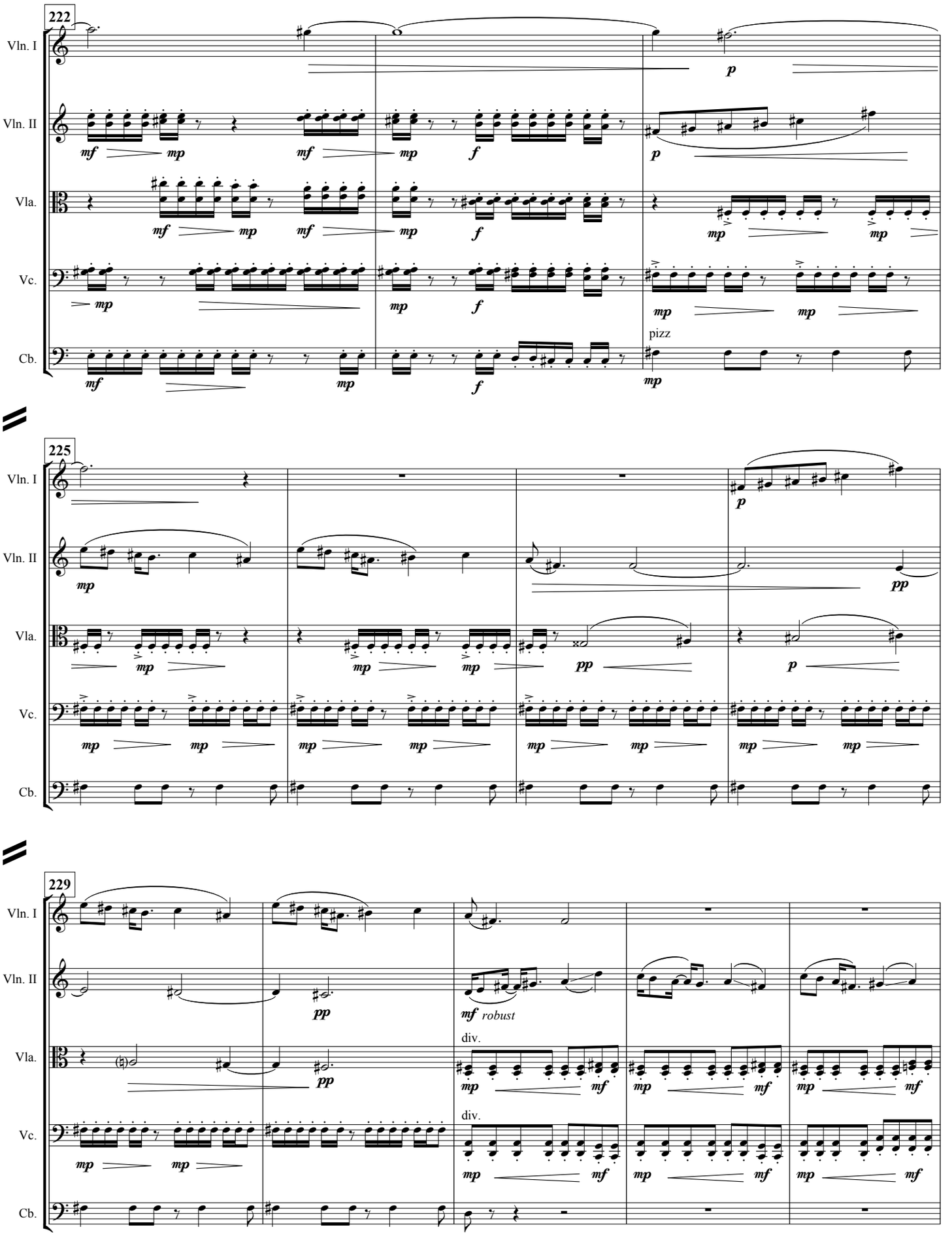

167
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
sempre non div.
ff
mp
non div.
ff
f
div.
non div.
171
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
176
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
non div.
p
p

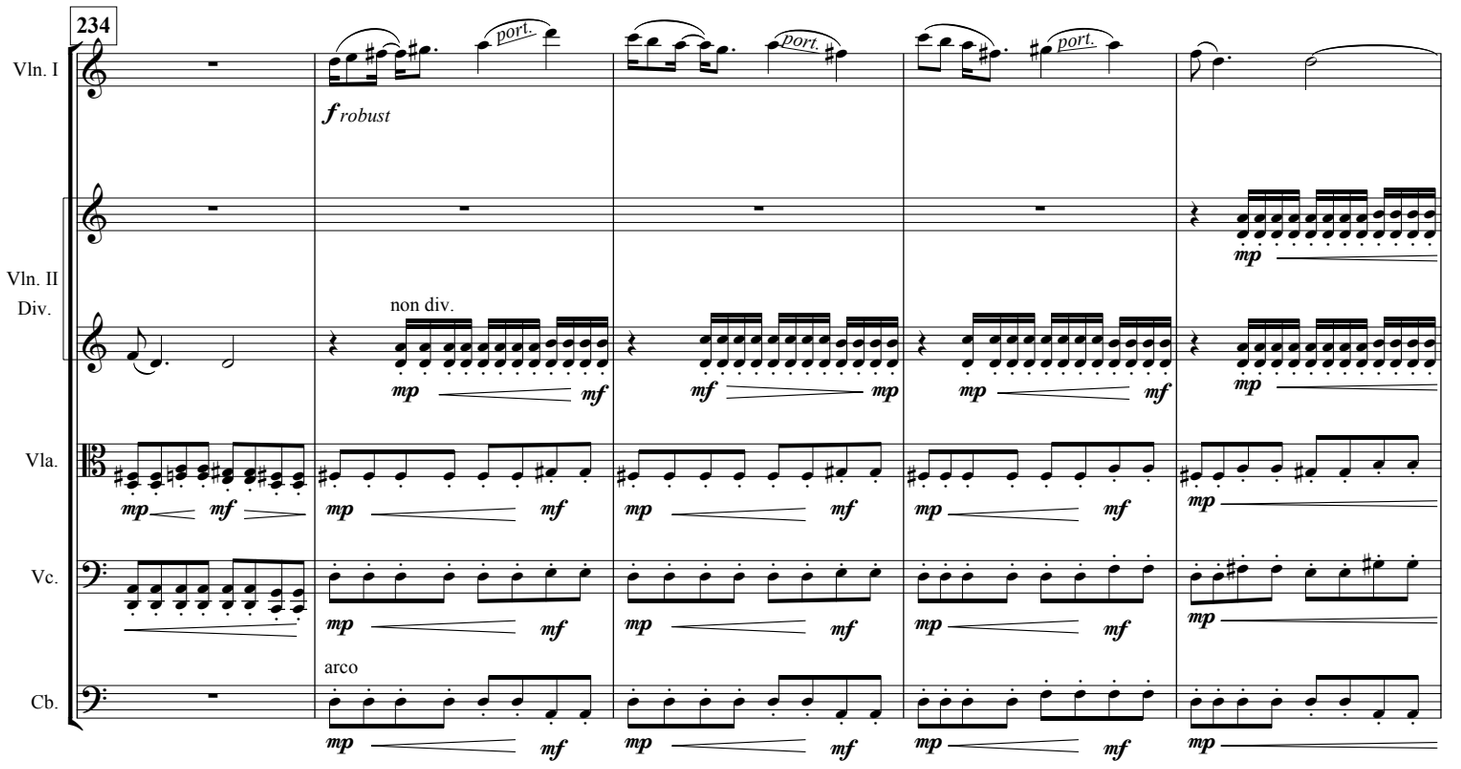

179
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
sul. pont. gradually
p
mp
181
ff
(sul. pont.)
mp sub.
sul. pont.
pizz
mf
184
E
ord.
f

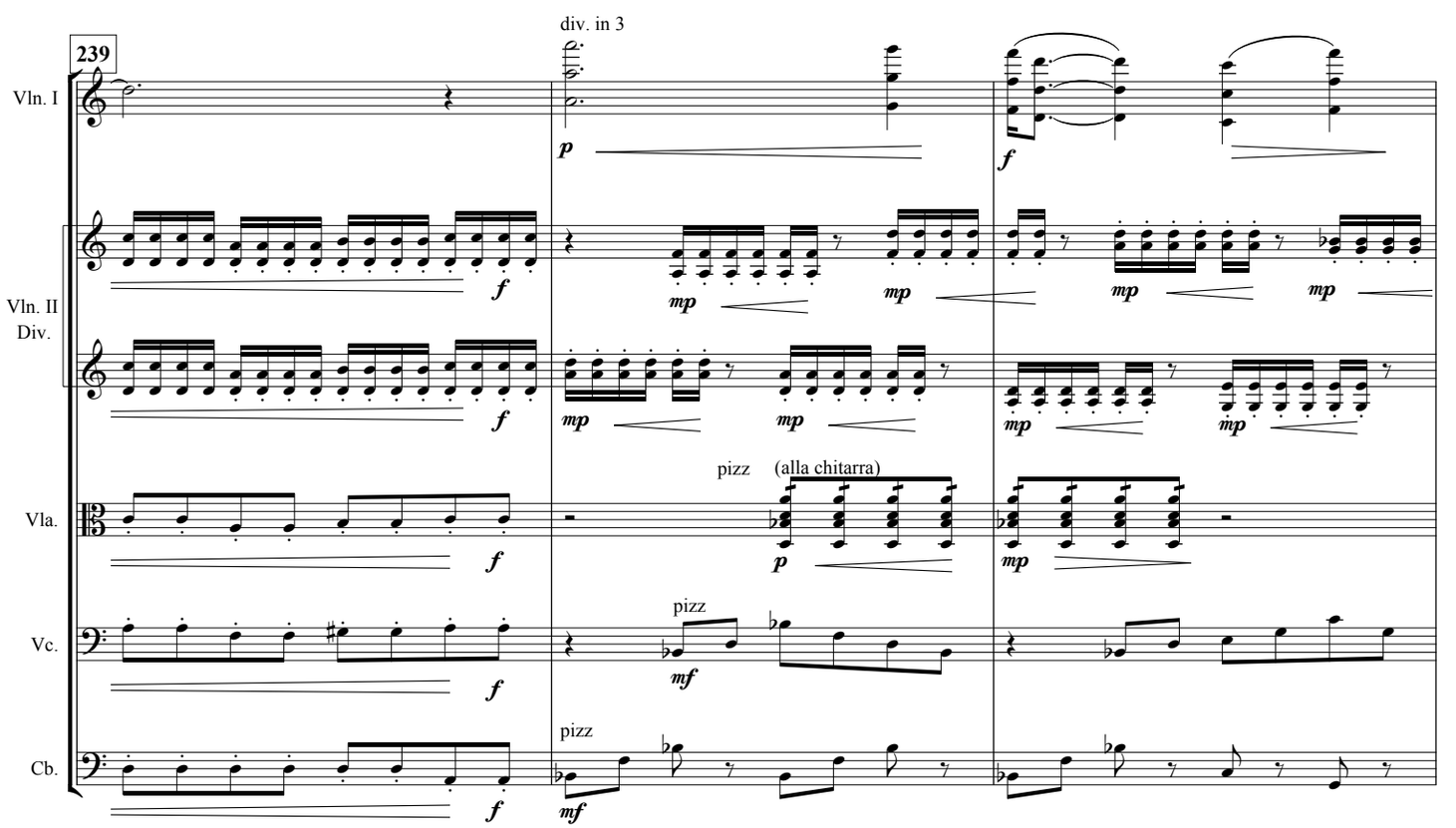

188
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p
mf
non div.
p
mp
mp cantabile
div.
mf
arco
mf
193
div.
mp
mf
unis.
div.
mp
p
mp
mf
mp
mf
mp
mf
mp
197
sempre div.
mf
f
mp
p
mf
mp
mf
non div.
mp
mf
mp
mf
mp
mp
mf
f
mp
f

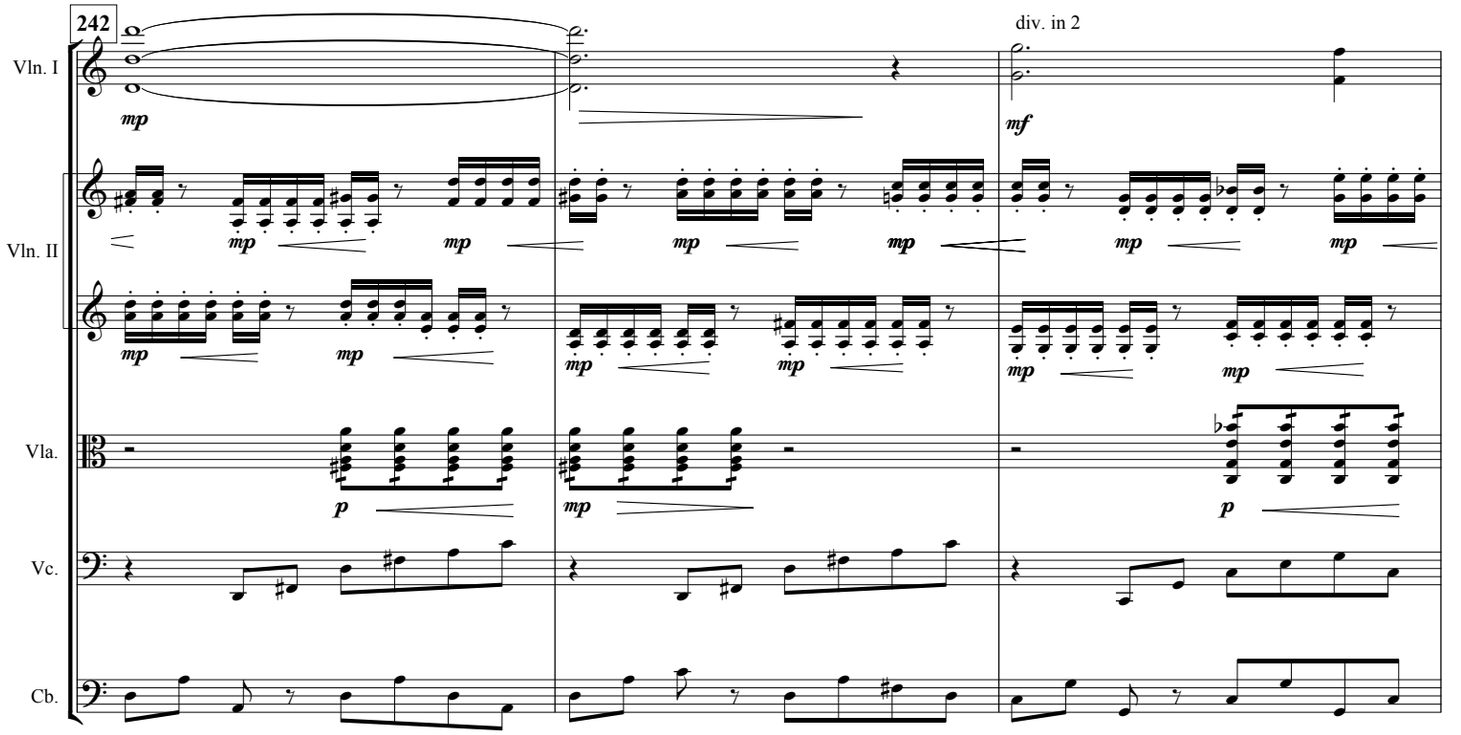

201
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
mf
205
f
div.
pizz
arco
F
210
p

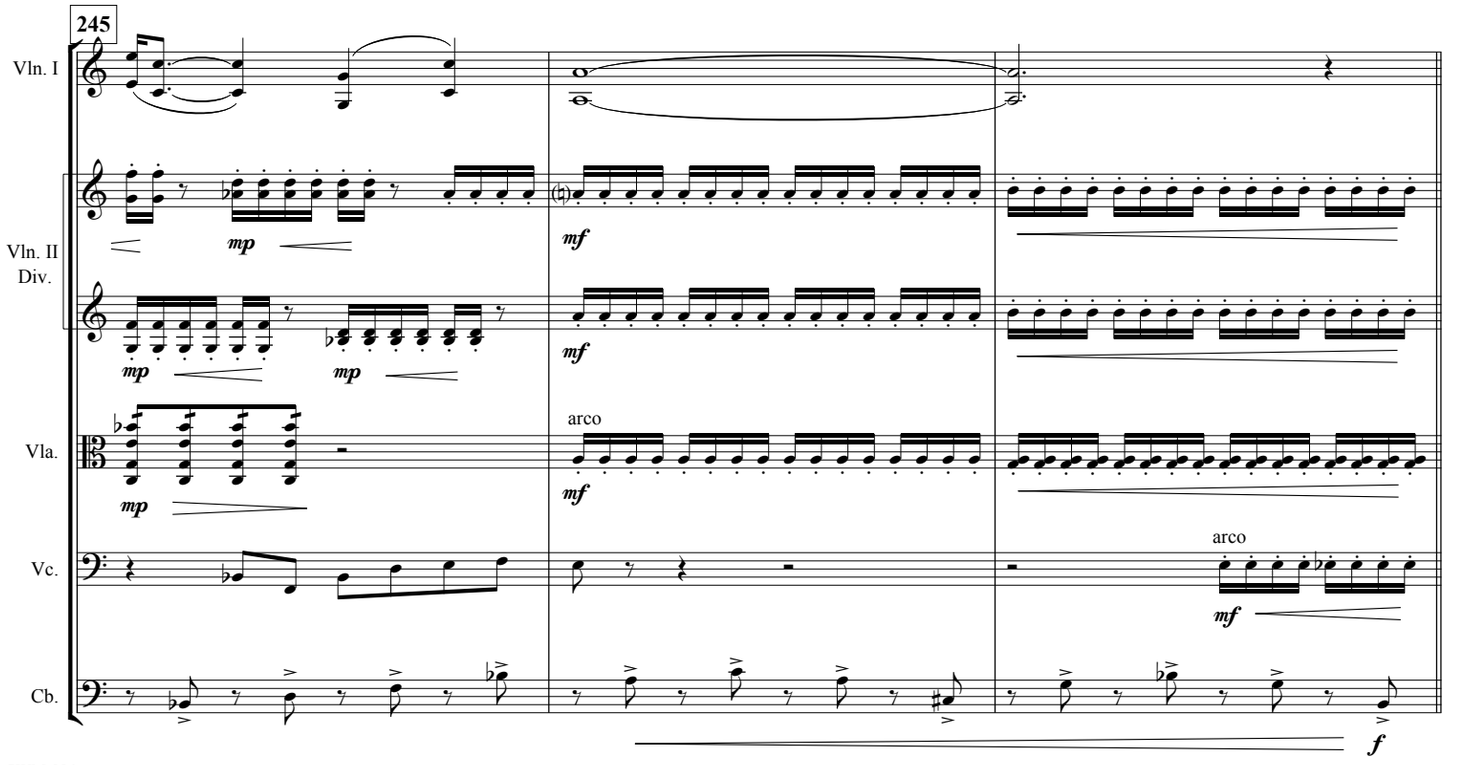

213
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf
mp
pp
arco
mf
216
f
mp
p
f
ff
arco
219
mf
mp

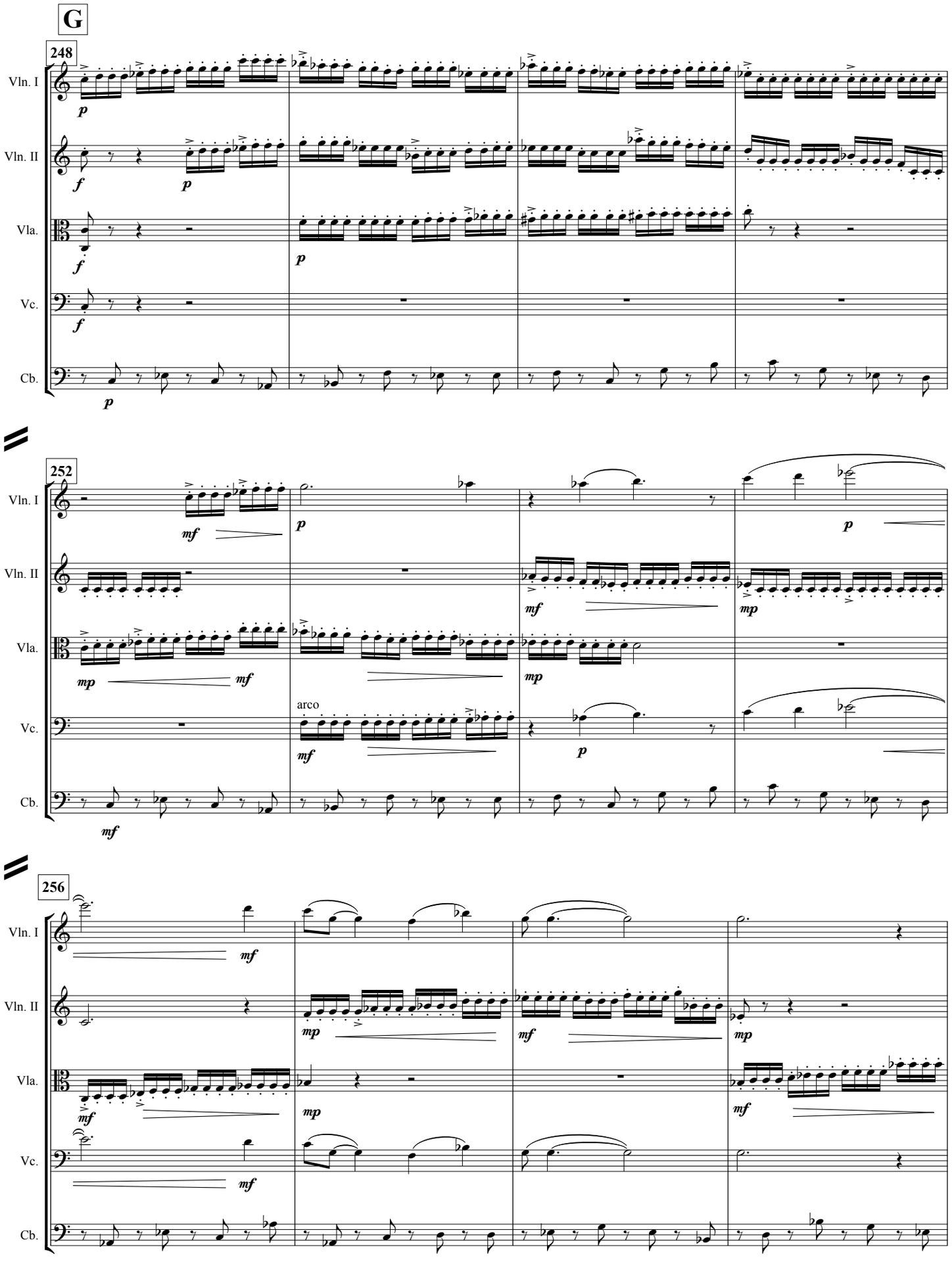

222
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pizz
225
229
div.
robust

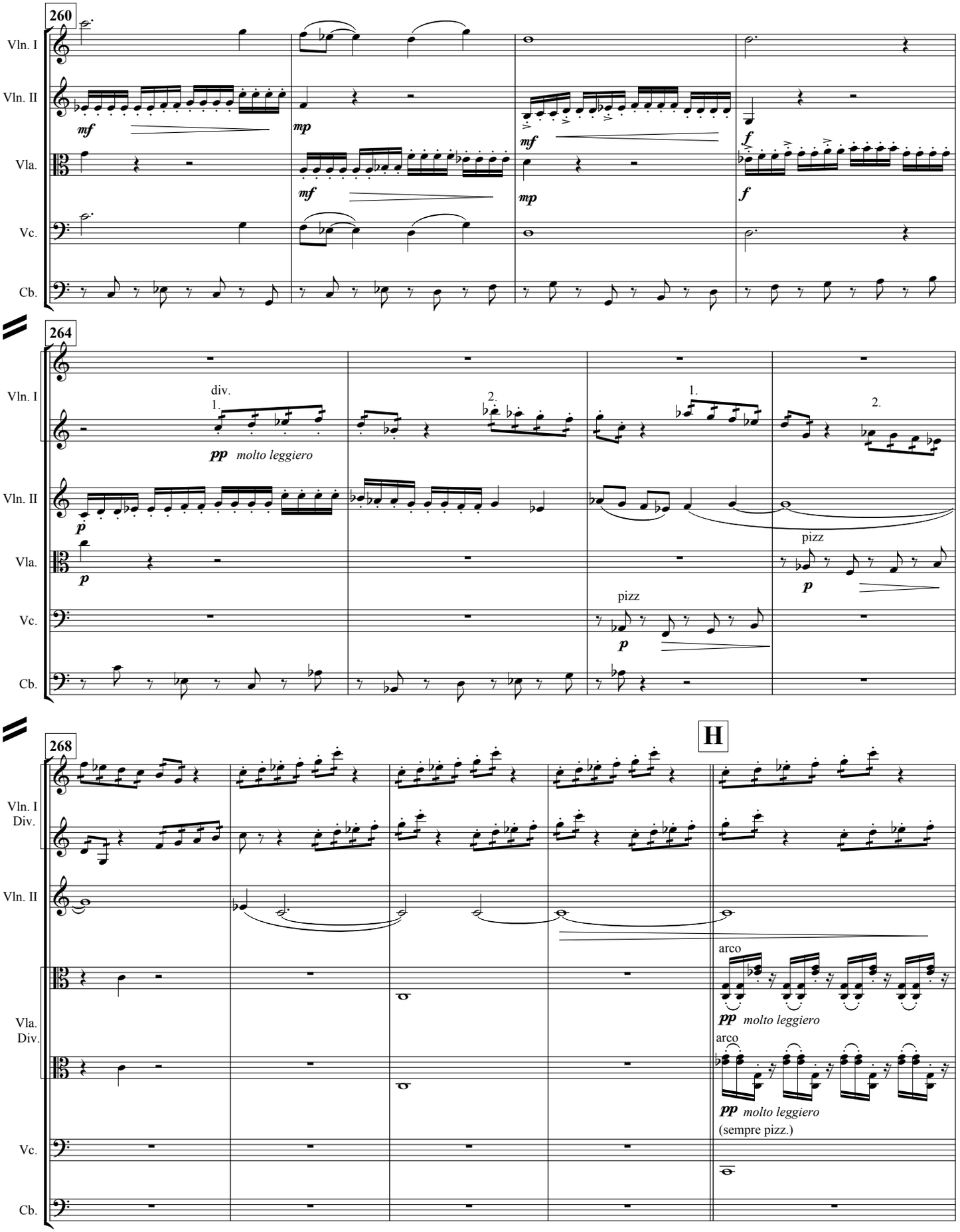

234
Vln. I
Vln. II
Div.
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
port.
port.
port.
f robust
non div.
arco
mp
mf

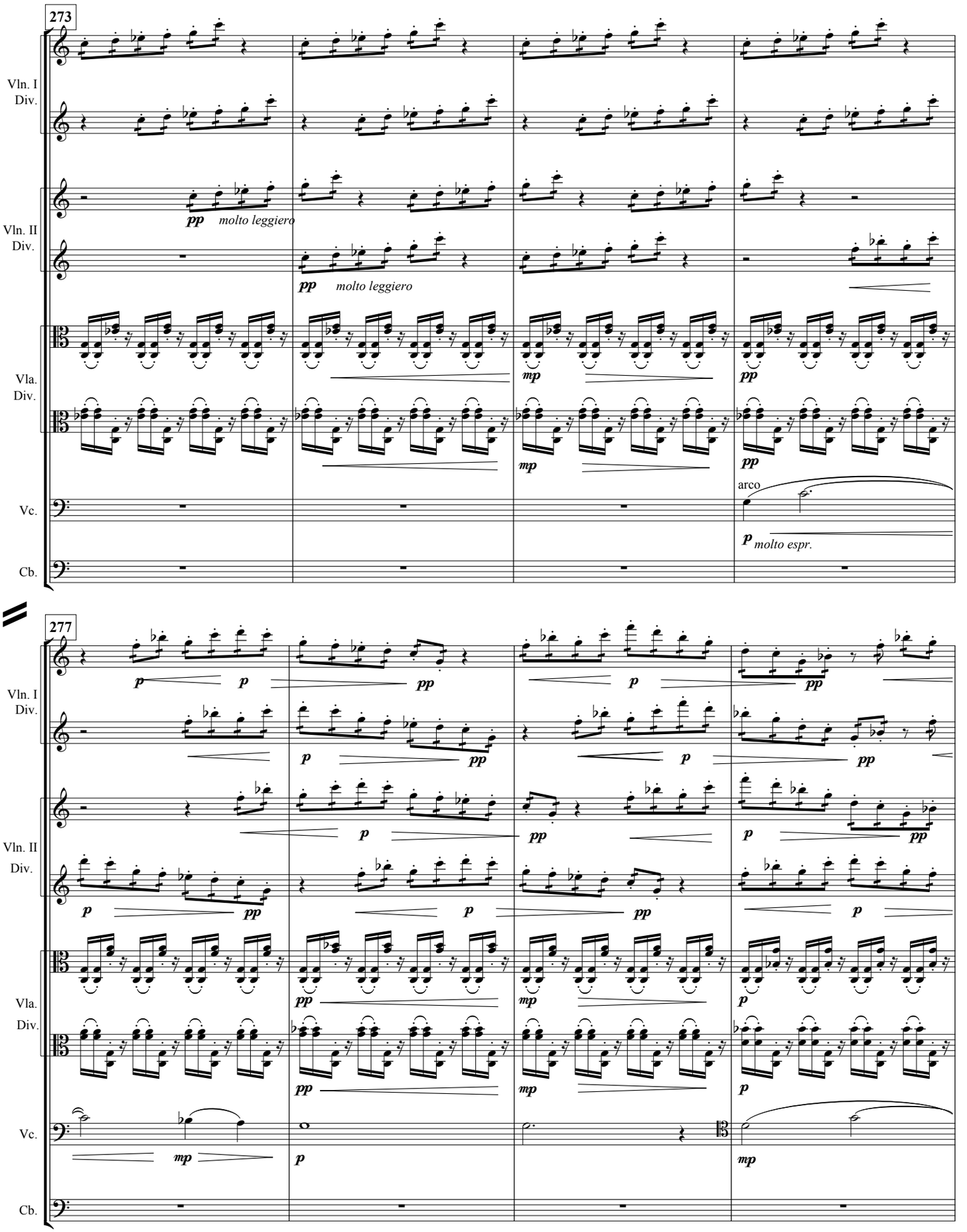

239
Vln. I
Vln. II
Div.
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
div. in 3
pizz
(alla chitarra)
pizz
pizz
p
f
mp
mf

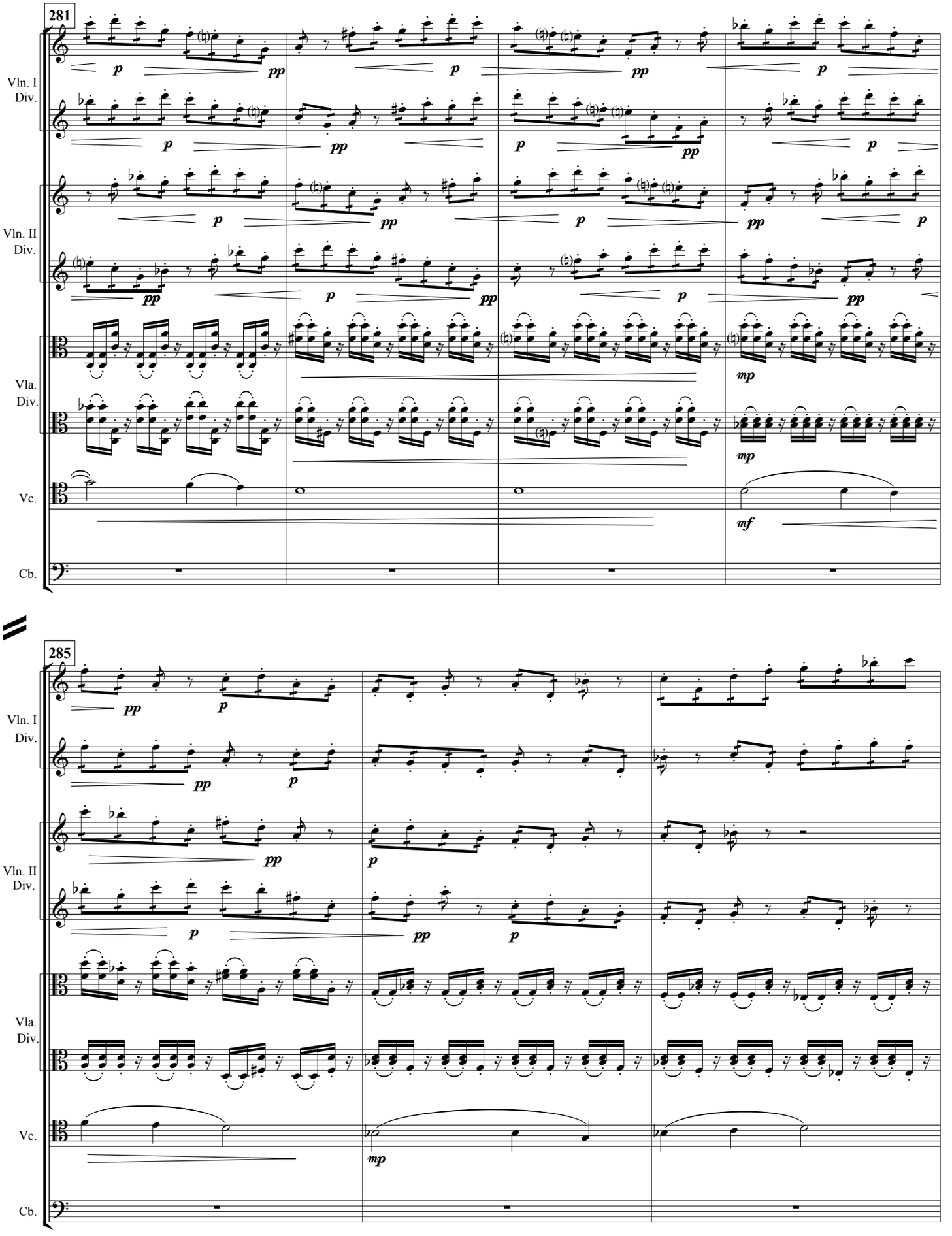

242
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
div. in 2
mp
mf
p

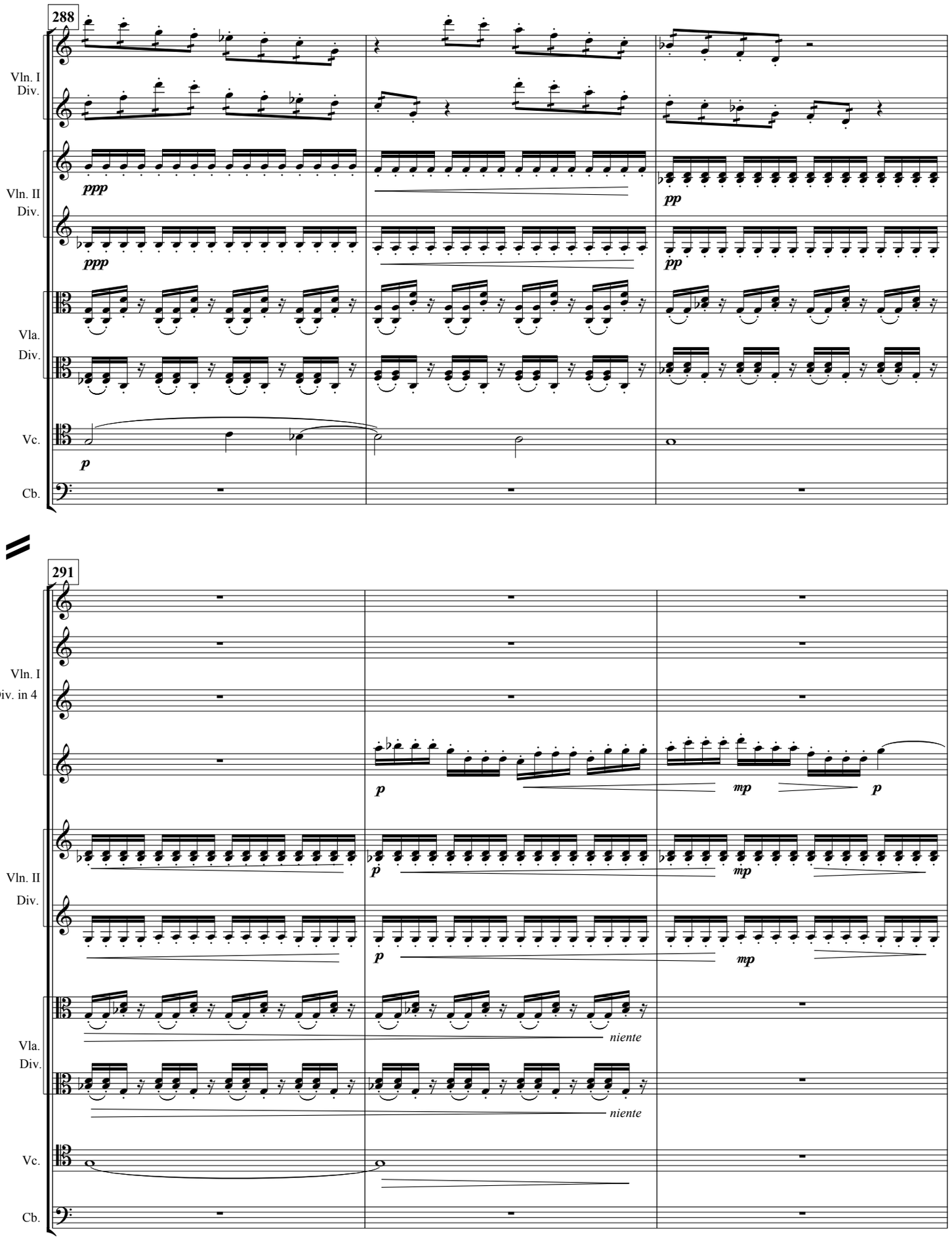

245
Vln. I
Vln. II
Div.
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
arco
mp
mf
f

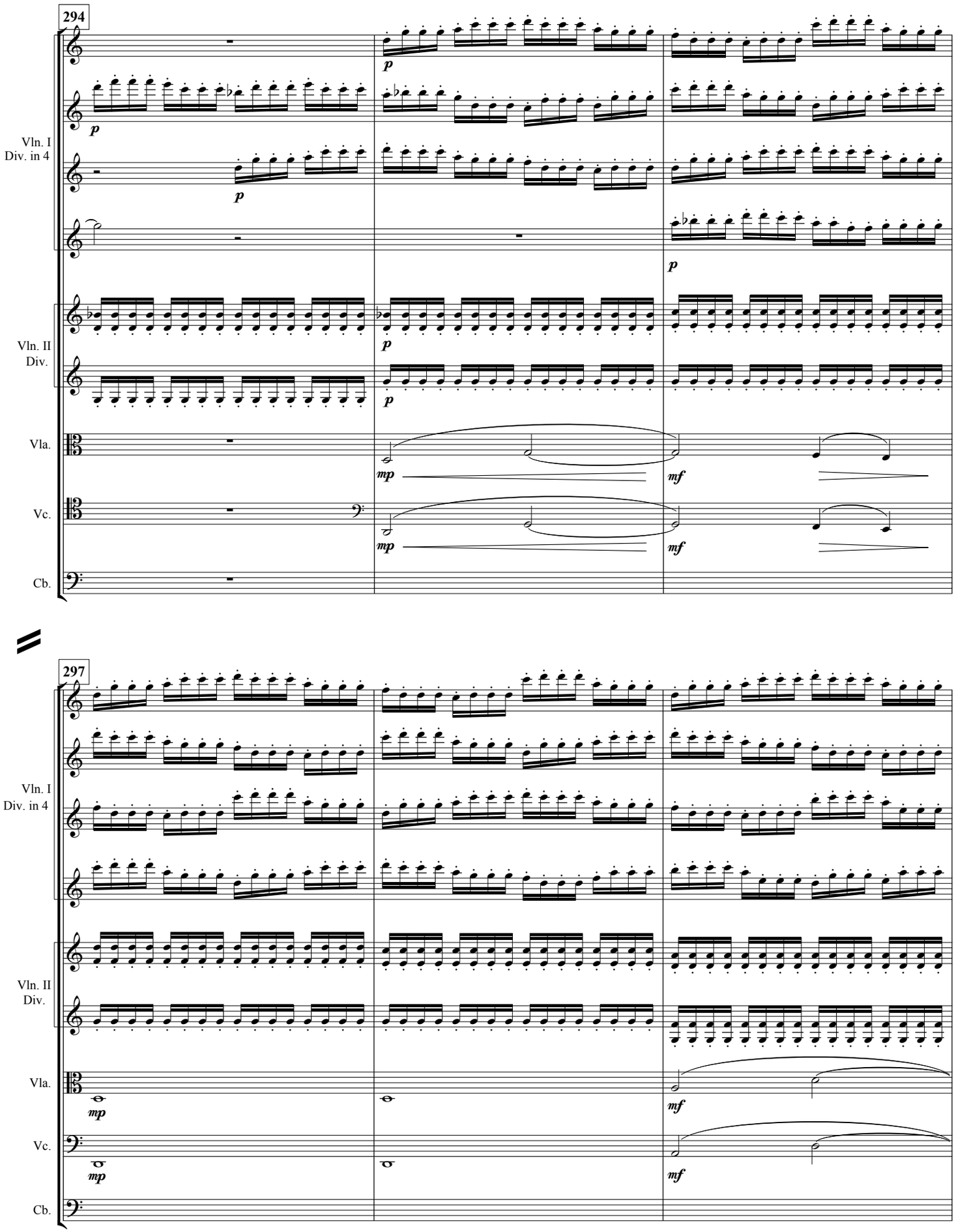

G
248
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
252
arco
256

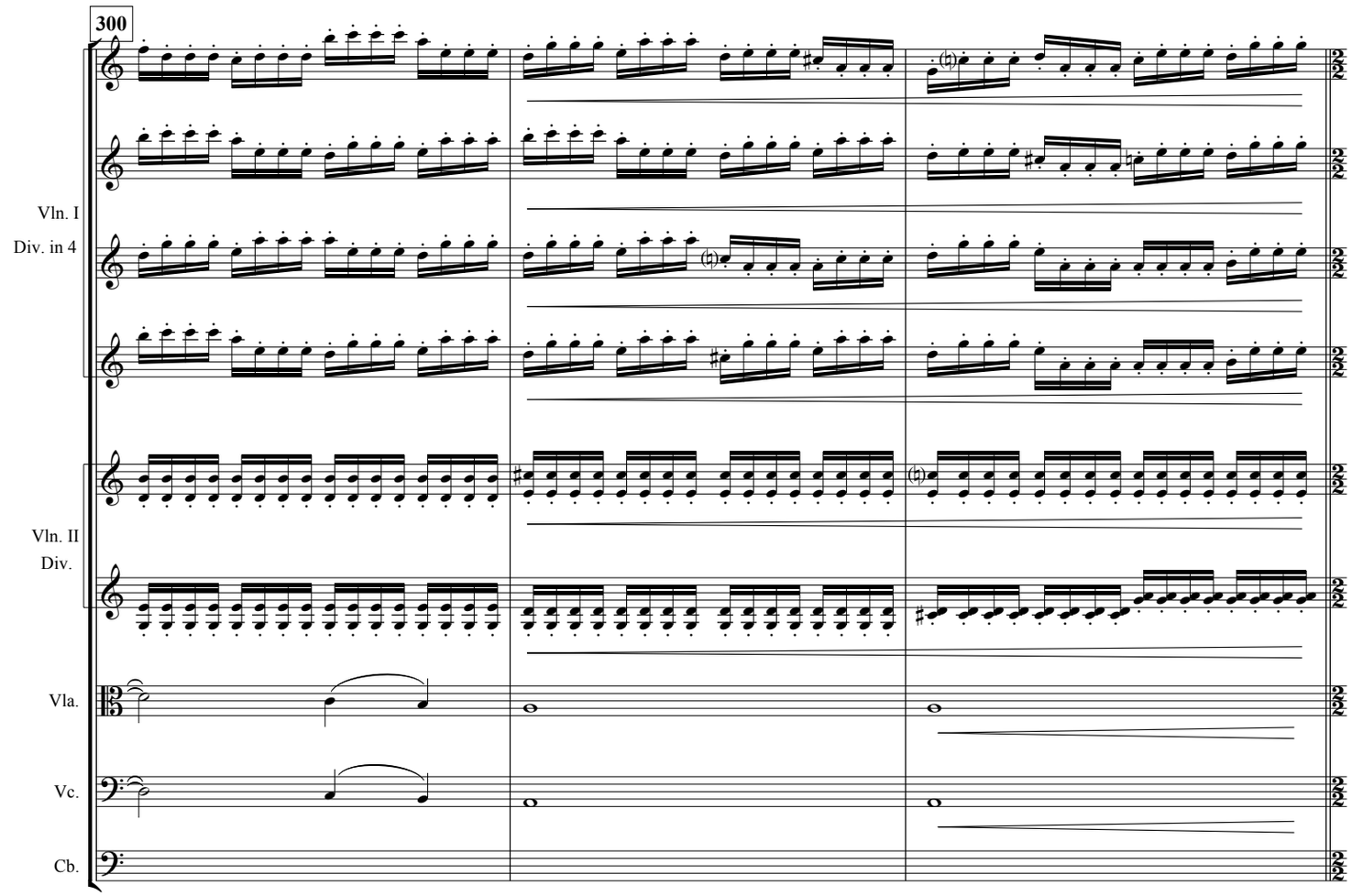

260
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf
mp
mf
mp
f
f
264
Vln. I
div.
1.
2.
1.
2.
pp molto leggiero
Vln. II
p
Vla.
p
pizz
Vc.
pizz
p
Cb.
268
H
Vln. I
Div.
Vln. II
Vla.
Div.
arco
pp molto leggiero
arco
pp molto leggiero
(sempre pizz.)
Vc.
Cb.

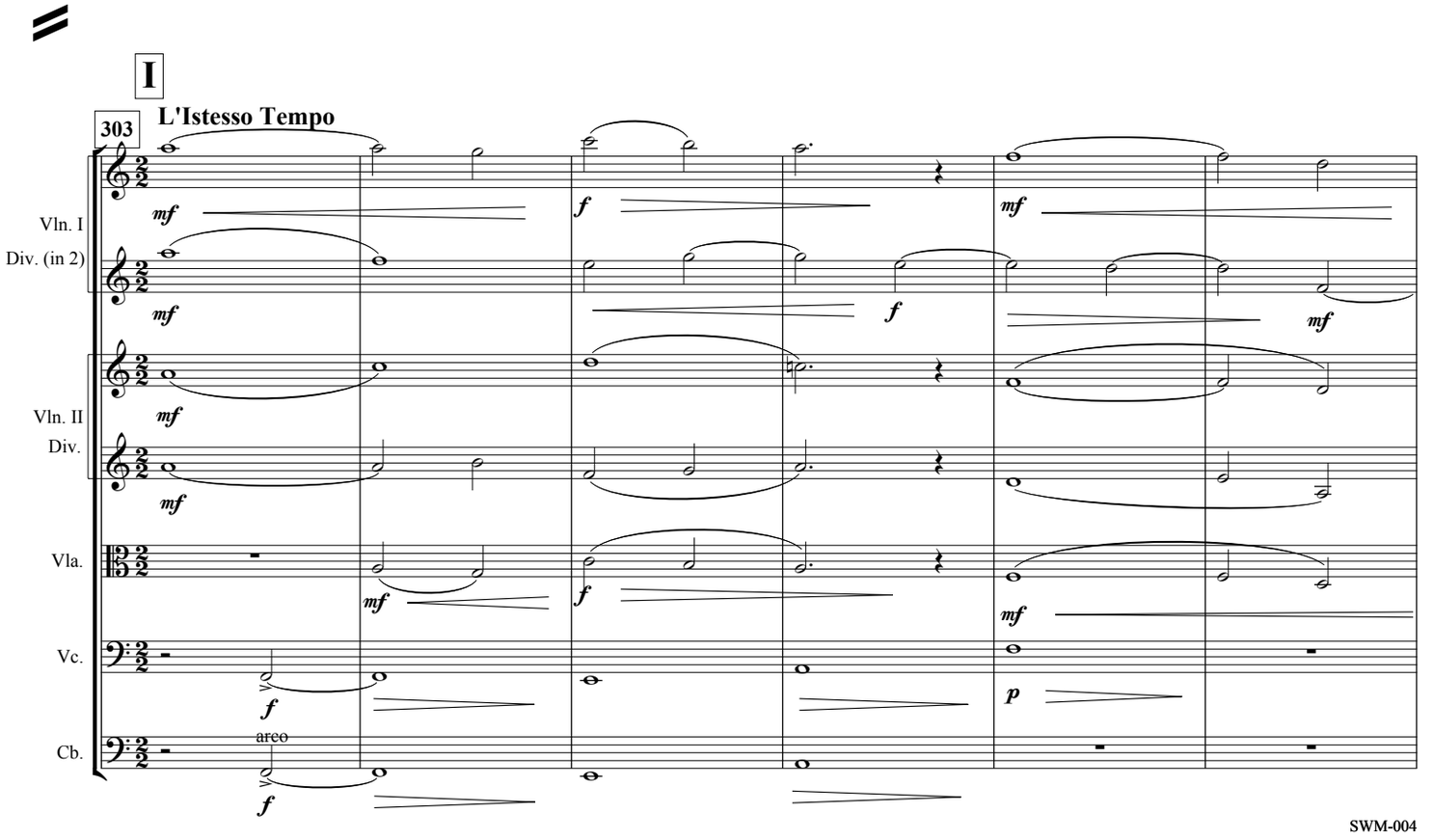

273
Vln. I
Div.
Vln. II
Div.
Vla.
Div.
Vc.
Cb.
pp molto leggiero
pp molto leggiero
mp
pp
pp
arco
p molto espr.
277
Vln. I
Div.
Vln. II
Div.
Vla.
Div.
Vc.
Cb.
p
p
pp
p
pp
p
pp

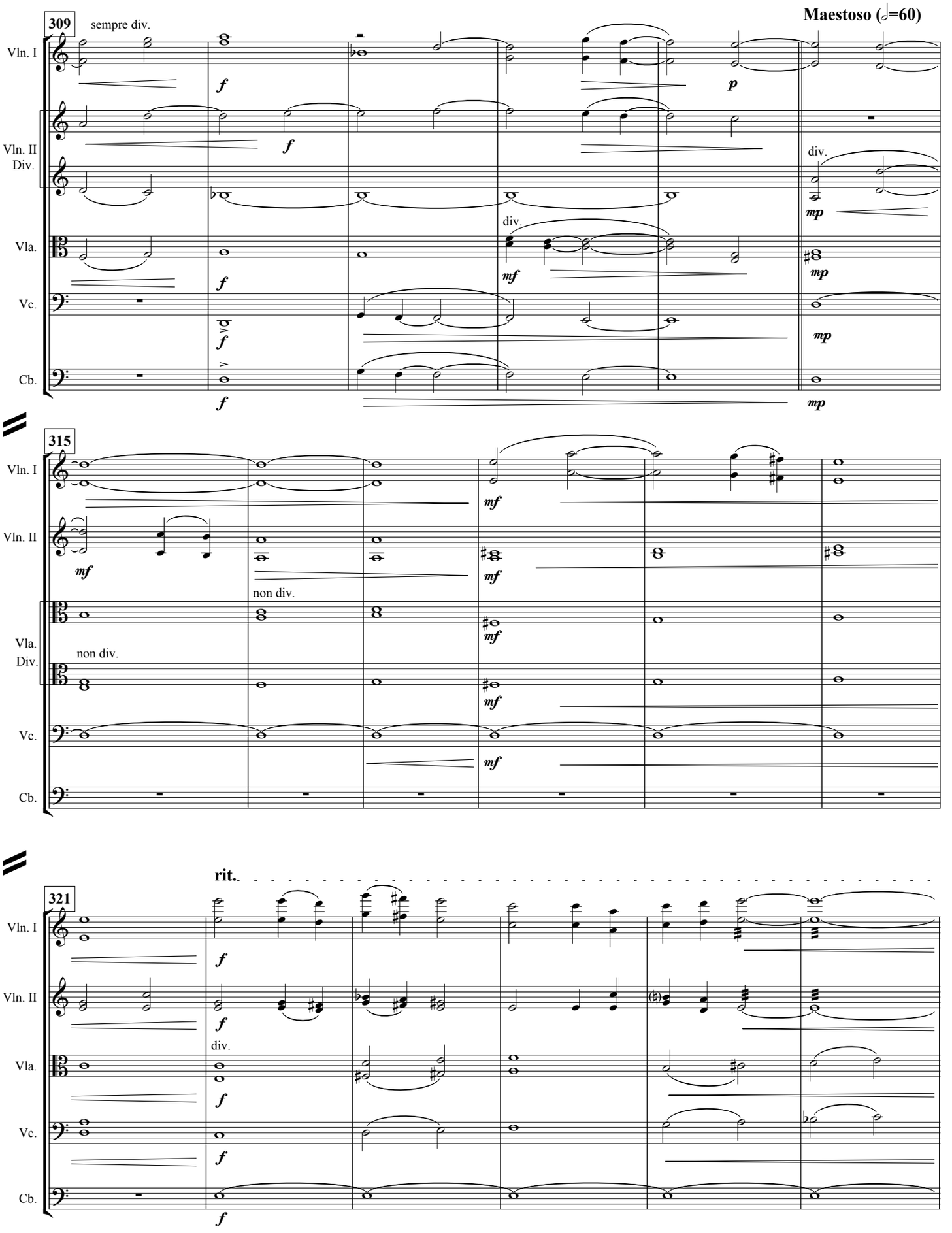

281
Vln. I
Div.
Vln. II
Div.
Vla.
Div.
Vc.
Cb.
285
Vln. I
Div.
Vln. II
Div.
Vla.
Div.
Vc.
Cb.

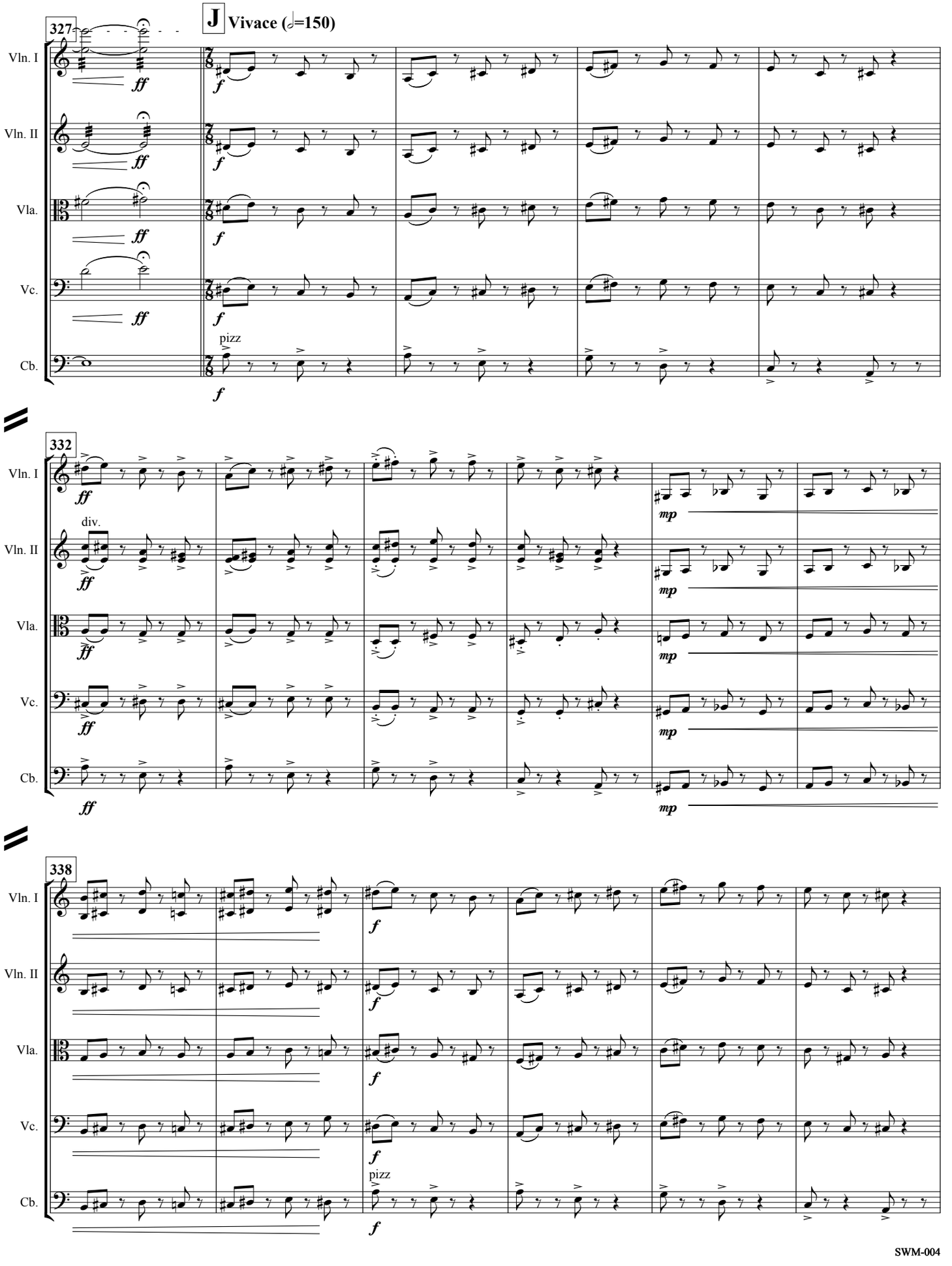

288
Vln. I
Div.
Vln. II
Div.
Vla.
Div.
Vc.
Cb.
ppp
ppp
pp
pp
p
291
Vln. I
Div. in 4
Vln. II
Div.
Vla.
Div.
Vc.
Cb.
p
mp
p
p
mp
p
mp
niente
niente

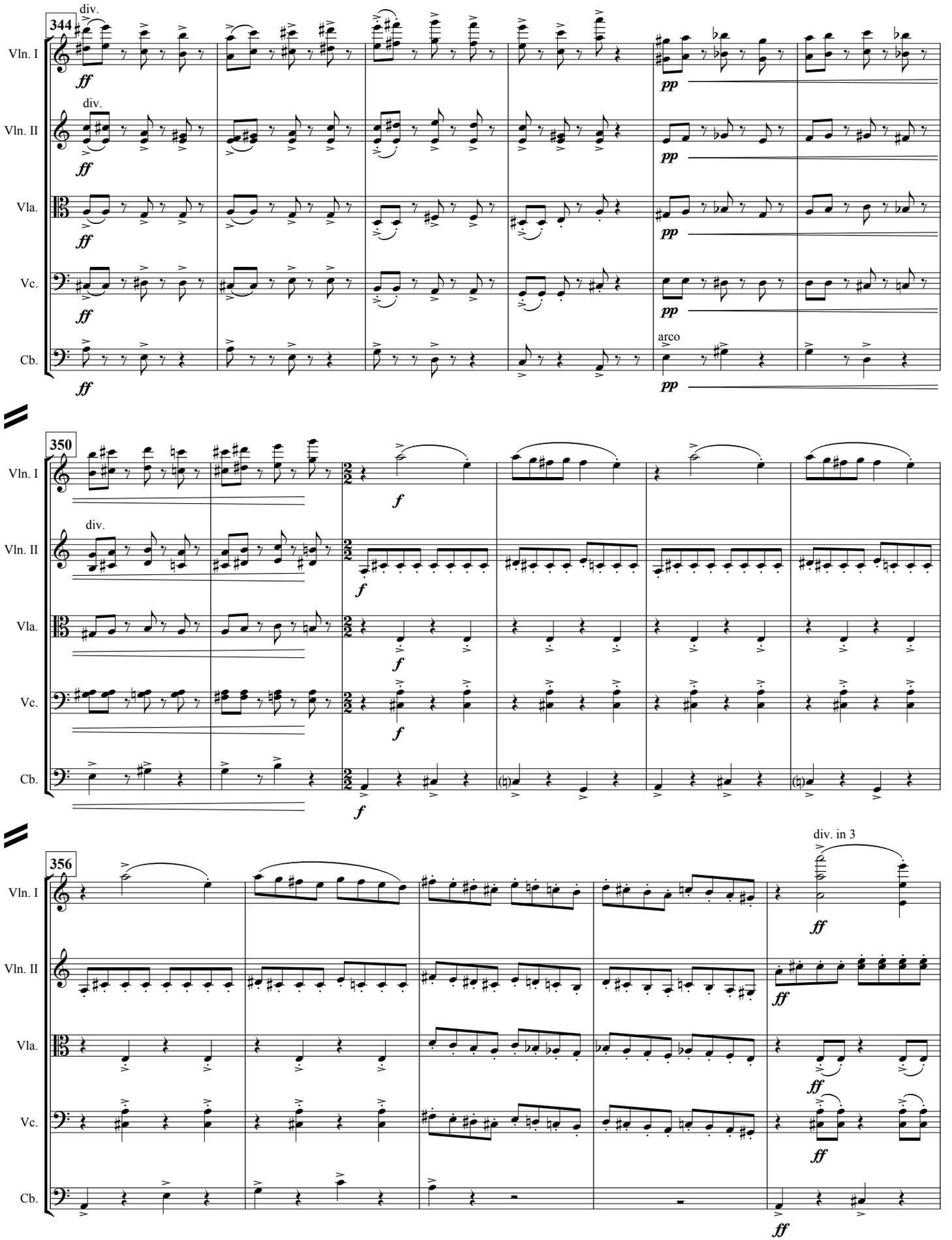

294
Vln. I
Div. in 4
Vln. II
Div.
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p
mp
mf
297
Vln. I
Div. in 4
Vln. II
Div.
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
mf

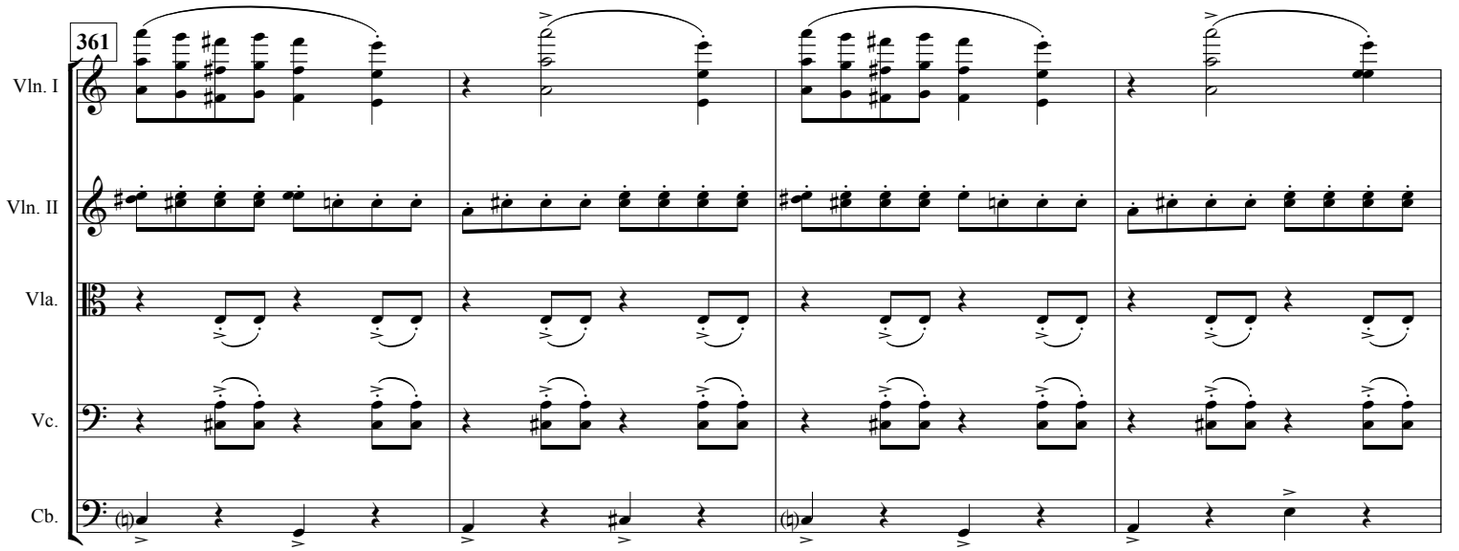

300
Vln. I
Div. in 4
Vln. II
Div.
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

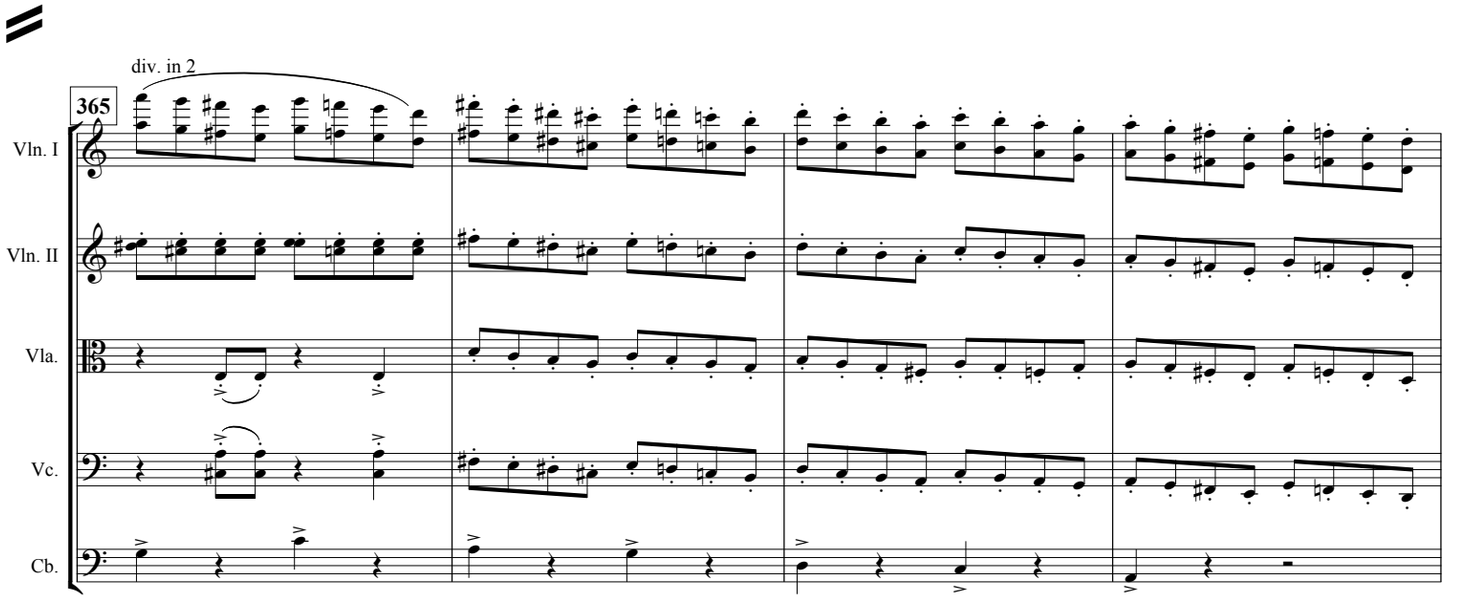

I
L'Istesso Tempo
303
Vln. I
Div. (in 2)
Vln. II
Div.
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
arco

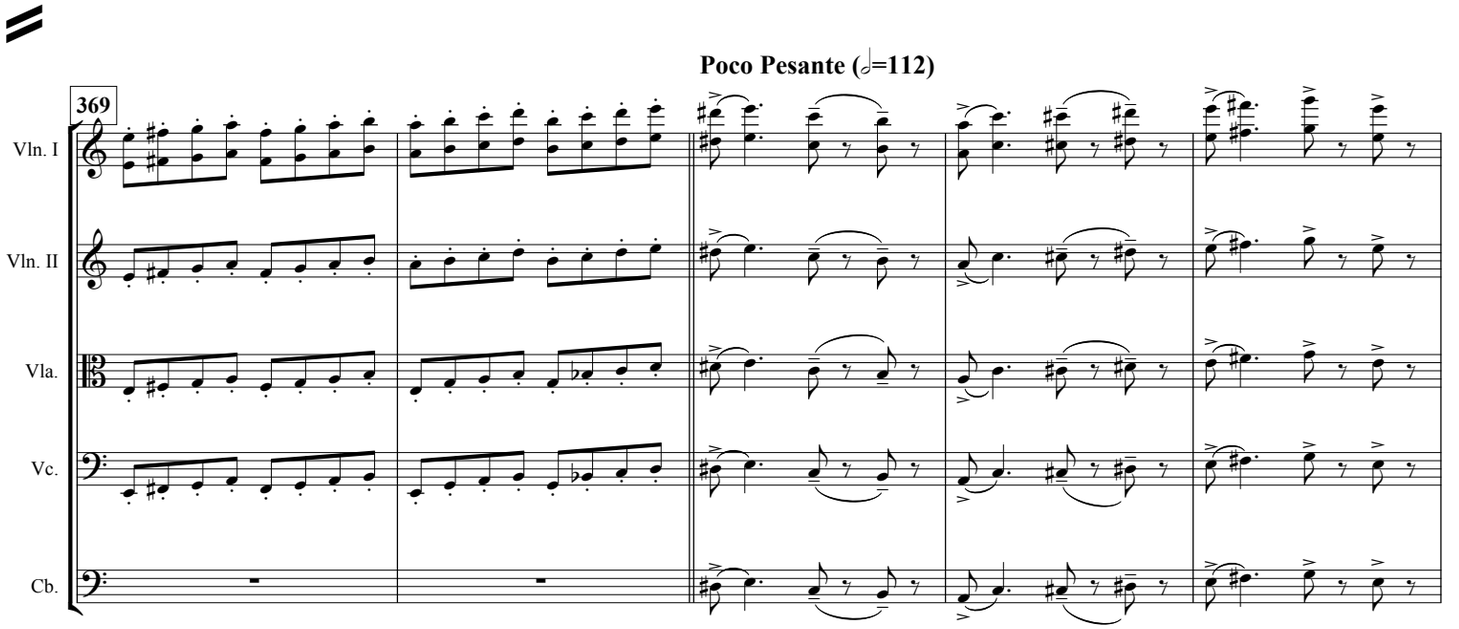

309
sempre div.
Maestoso (𝅗𝅥=60)
Vln. I
Vln. II
Div.
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
div.
315
non div.
Vla.
Div.
321
rit.

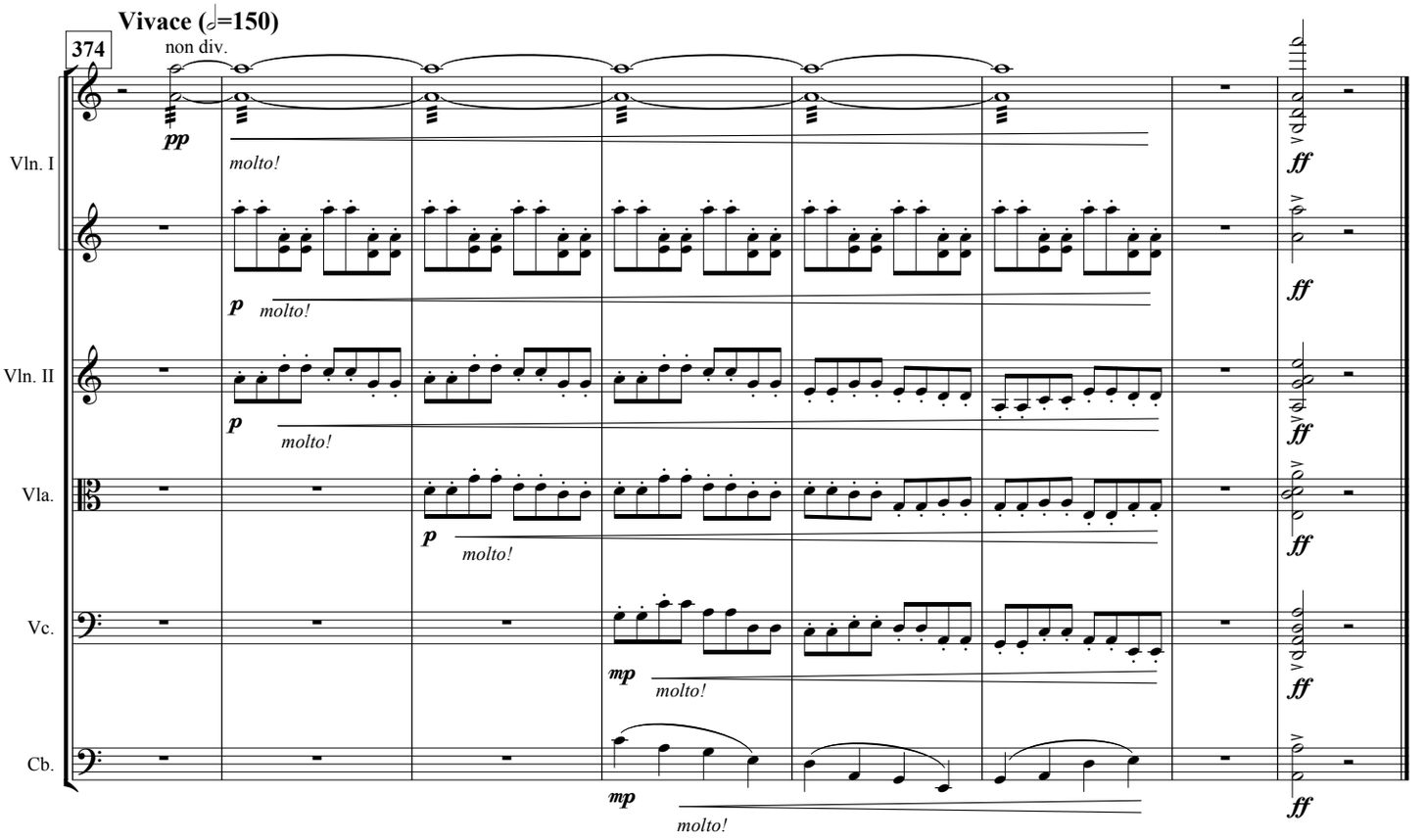

J Vivace (𝅗𝅥=150)
327
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pizz
332
div.
338


344
div.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
ff
pp
arco
350
f
356
div. in 3


361
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.


div. in 2
365
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.


Poco Pesante (𝅗𝅥=112)
369
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.



San Francisco
October 28, 2005