# STRING QUARTET

## ALASTAIR STOUT

## Composer's note:

The quartet was written between October 1997 when the 3rd movement was begun, and February 1999 when the 2nd movement was finished. The first movement was written during 1998.
The work was inspired by a poem from *Gitanjali* by Rabindranath Tagore (1861 - 1941), the movements focusing more specifically on the selected verses.
My string quartet is dedicated with thanks to Robert Saxton.

Durations: 5 minutes for each movement, 15 minutes total.

A.S. 1999

On the seashore of endless worlds
children meet. The infinite sky is
motionless overhead and the restless
water is boisterous. On the seashore
of endless worlds the children meet
with shouts and dances.

They build their houses with sand
and they play with empty shells. With
withered leaves they weave their boats
and smilingly float them on the vast
deep. Children have their play on the
seashore of worlds.

They know not how to swim, they
know not how to cast nets. Pearl
fishers dive for pearls, merchants sail in
their ships, while children gather pebbles
and scatter them again. They seek not
for hidden treasures, they know not how
to cast nets.

The sea surges up with laughter and
pale gleams the smile of the sea beach.
Death-dealing waves sing meaningless
ballads to the children, even like a
mother while rocking her baby's cradle.
The sea plays with children, and pale
gleams the smile of the sea beach

On the seashore of endless worlds
children meet. Tempest roams in the
pathless sky, ships get wrecked in the
trackless water, death is abroad and
children play. On the seashore of end-
less worlds is the great meeting of children.

*from* Gitanjali
Rabindranath Tagore

# 1.

*'On the seashore of endless worlds children meet. The infinite sky is motionless overhead and the restless water is boisterous. On the seashore of endless worlds the children meet with shouts and dances.'*

♩ = 96
♪ = 96

# 2.

## Double Passacaglia

*'They build their houses with sand and they play with empty shells. With withered leaves they weave their boats and smilingly float them on the vast deep. Children have their play on the seashore of worlds.'*

# 3.

*'The sea surges up with laughter and pale gleams the smile of the sea beach. Death-dealing waves sing meaningless ballads to the children, even like a mother while rocking her baby's cradle. The sea plays with children, and pale gleams the smile of the sea beach.'*

Allegro brutale ♩ = 104

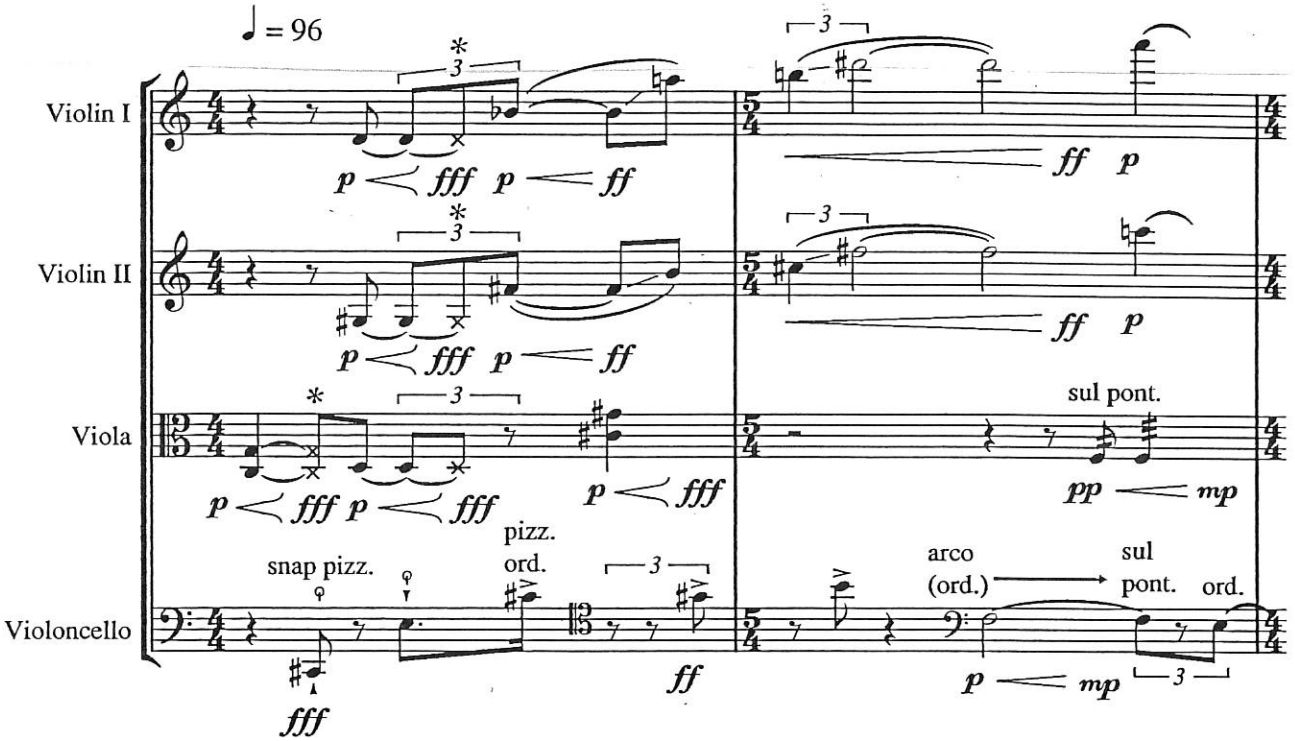
*to Robert Saxton*

# STRING QUARTET

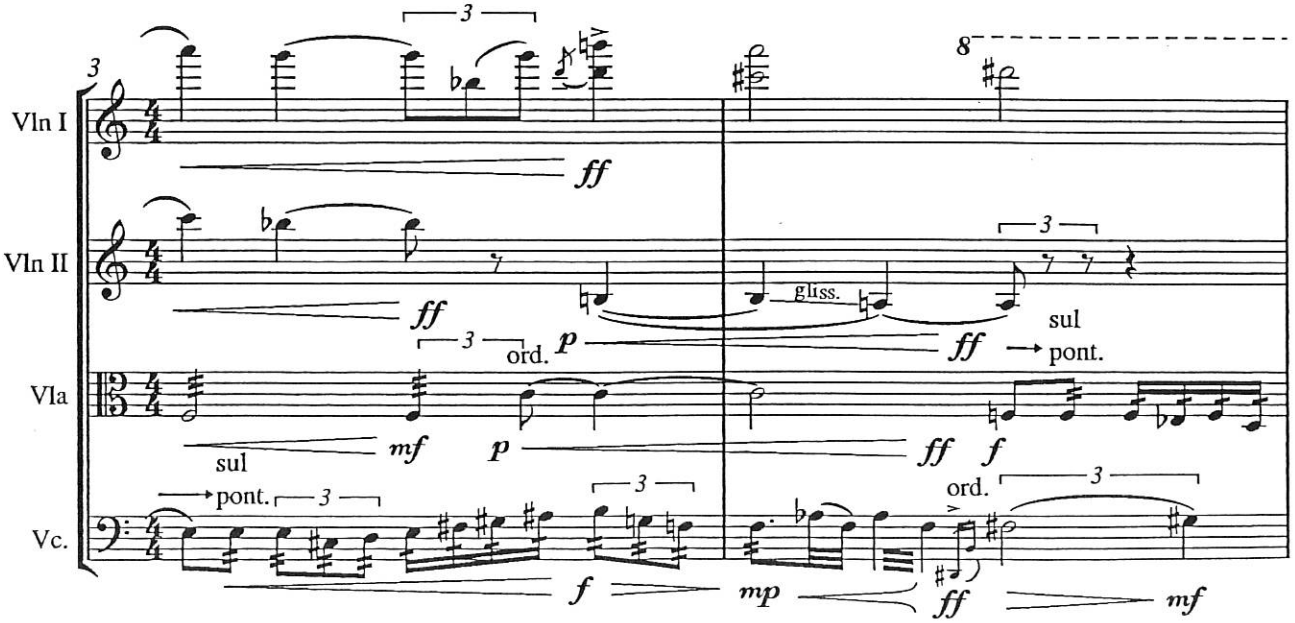
## 1.

*'On the seashore of endless worlds children meet.*
*The infinite sky is motionless overhead and the*
*restless water is boisterous. On the seashore of*
*endless worlds the children meet with shouts and dances.'*

ALASTAIR STOUT
(1997 - 1999)




* Grating, more sound of bow than pitch.

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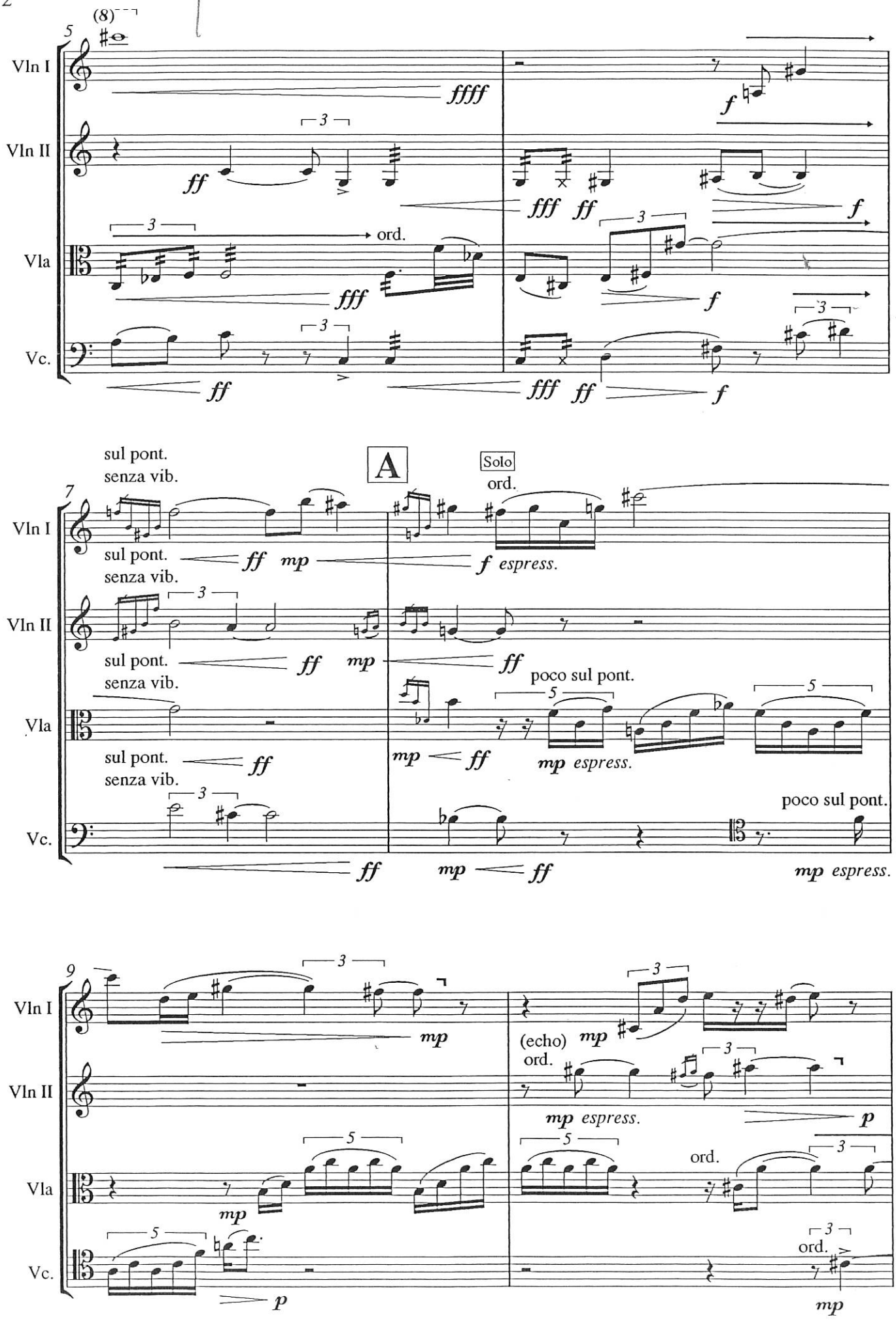
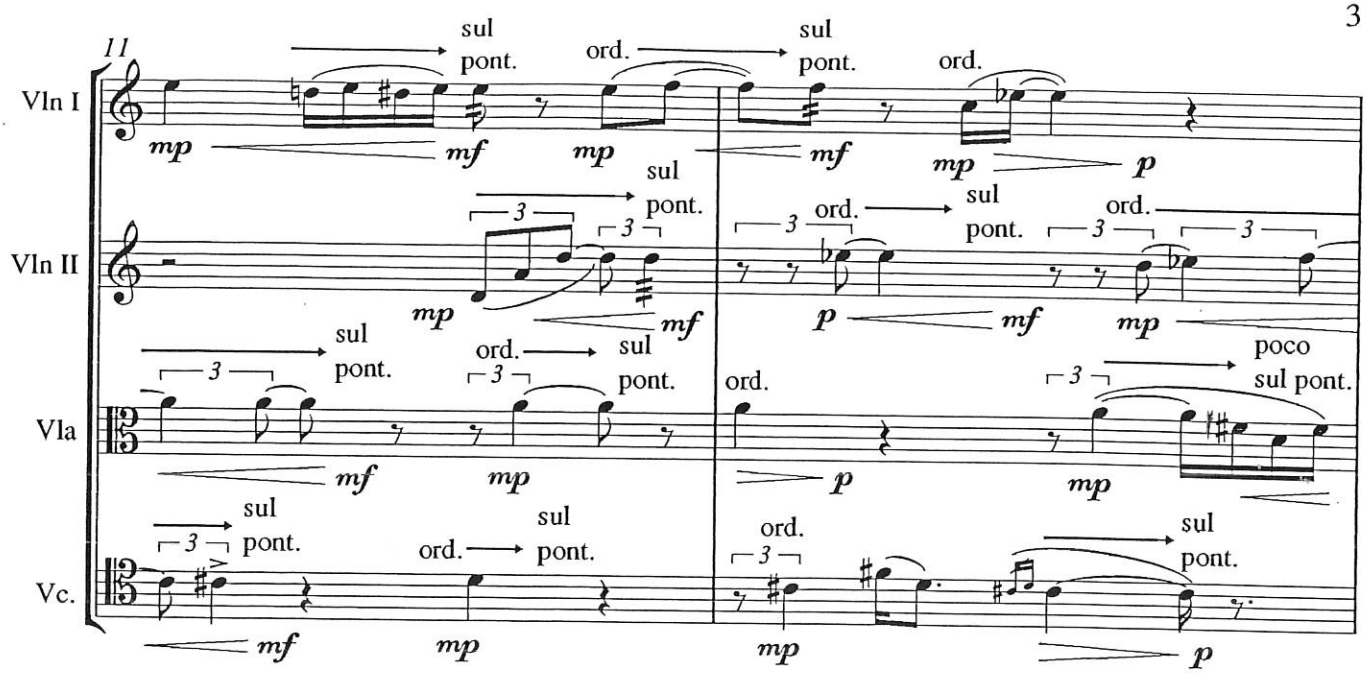
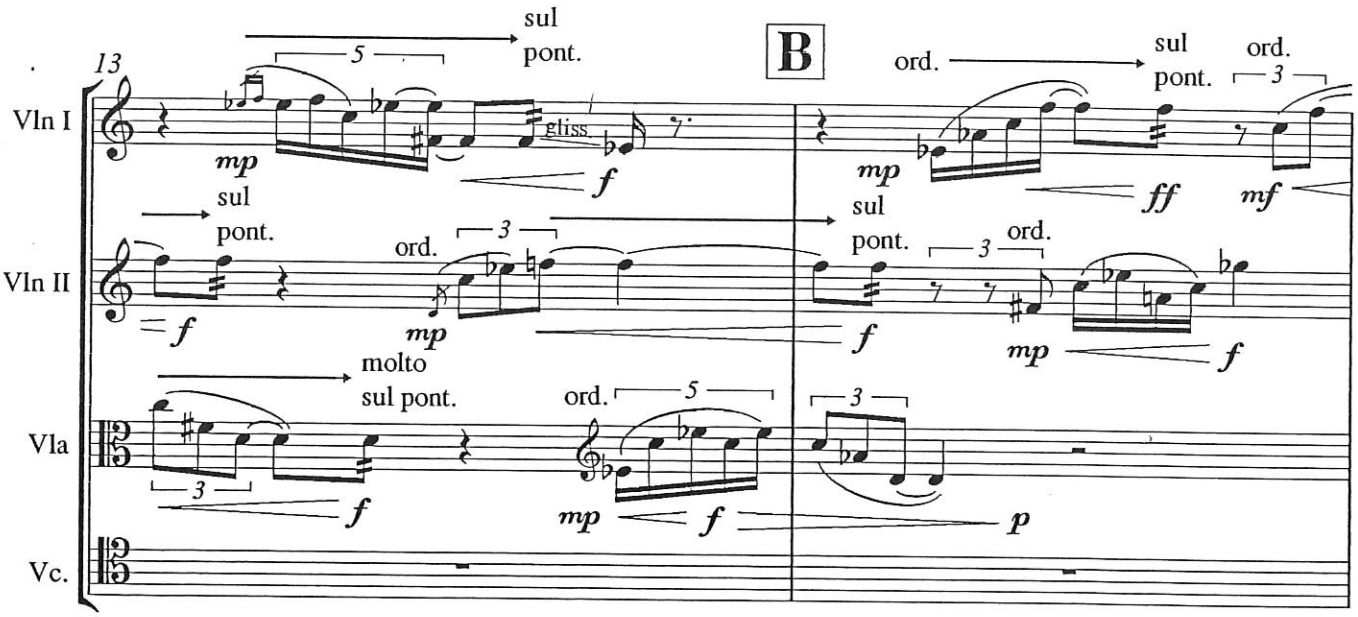
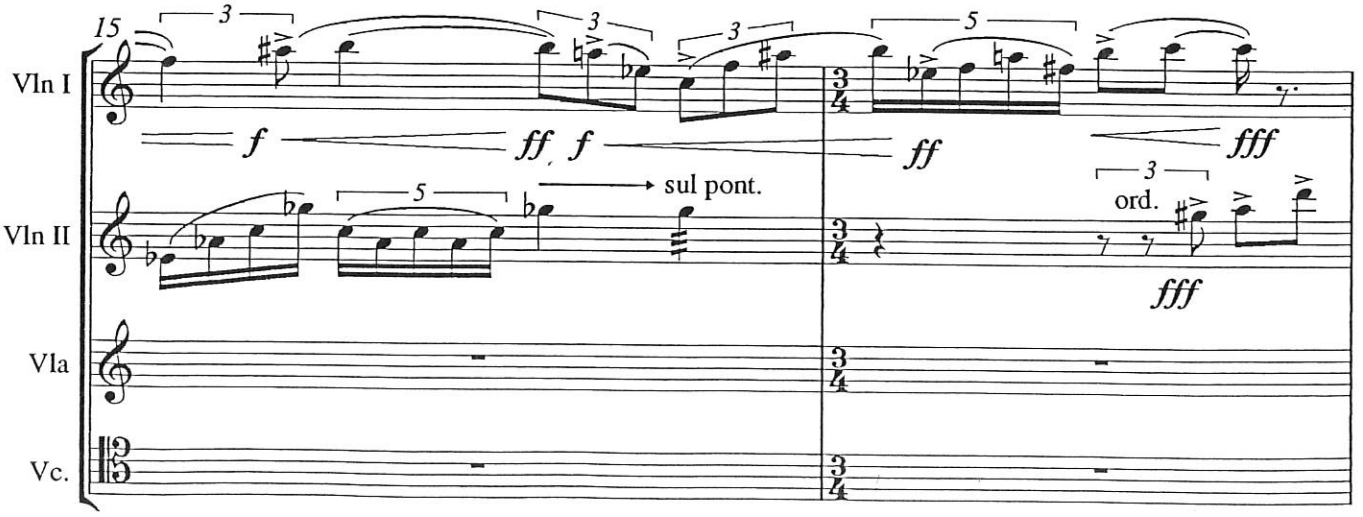
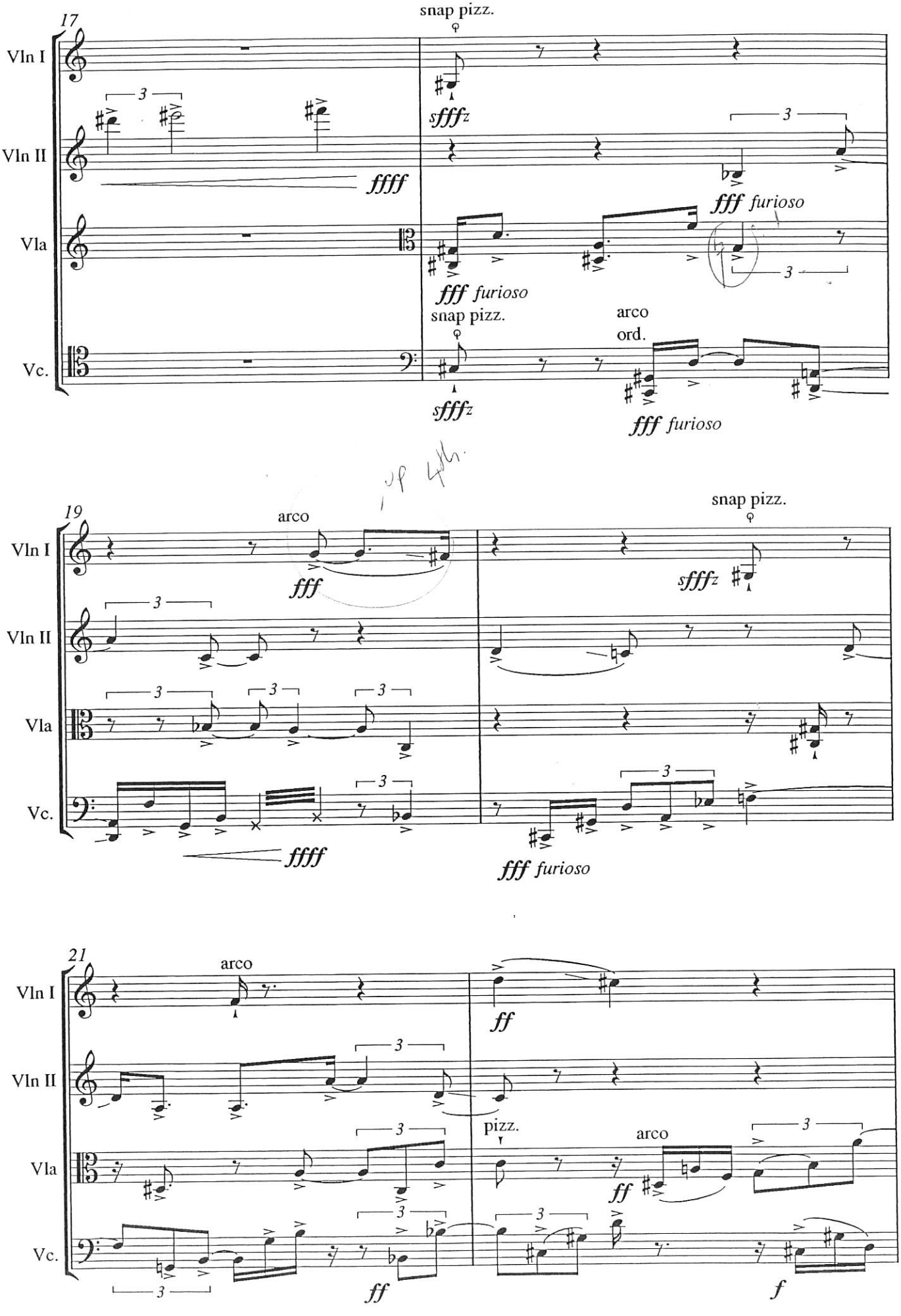

5
(8)
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
ffff
ff
f
fff
ord.
7
A
Solo
sul pont.
senza vib.
mp
espress.
poco sul pont.
9
(echo)
p

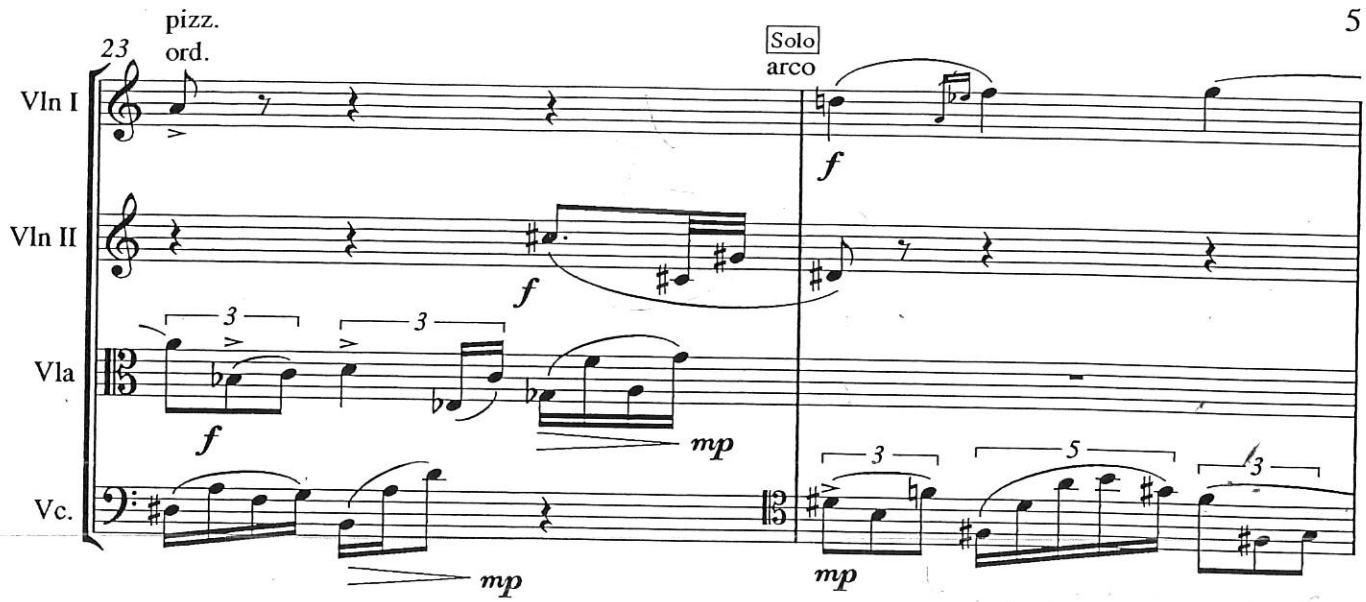

11
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
sul pont.
ord.
poco sul pont.
mp
mf
p

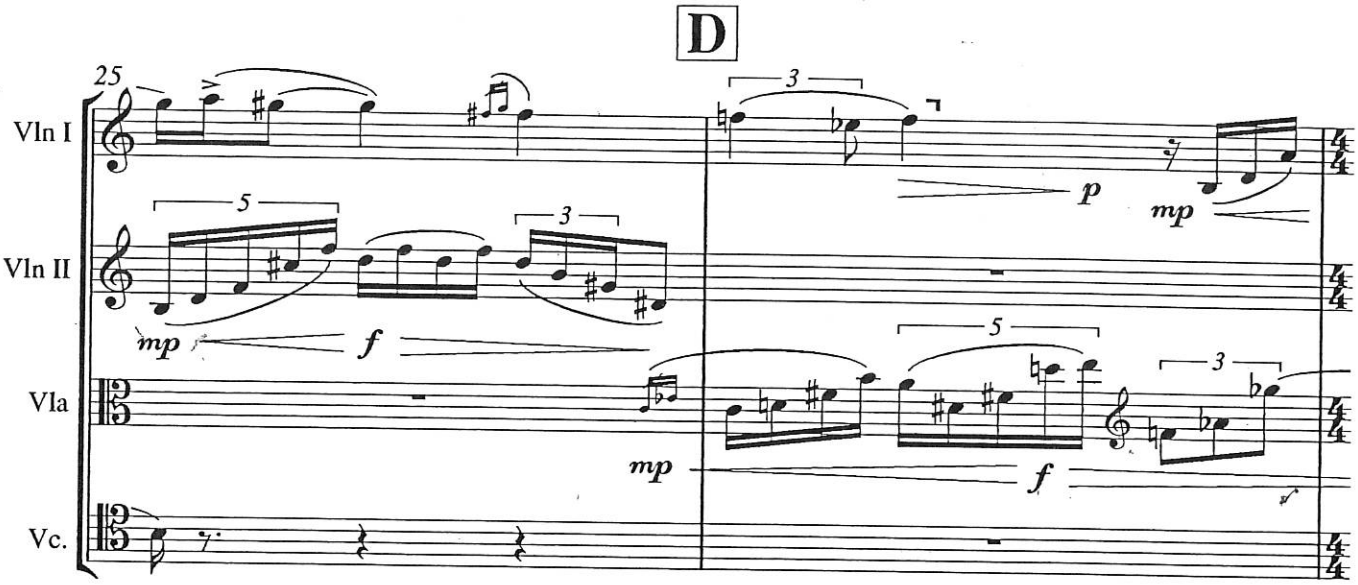

13
B
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
sul pont.
ord.
gliss.
molto sul pont.
mp
mf
f
ff
p

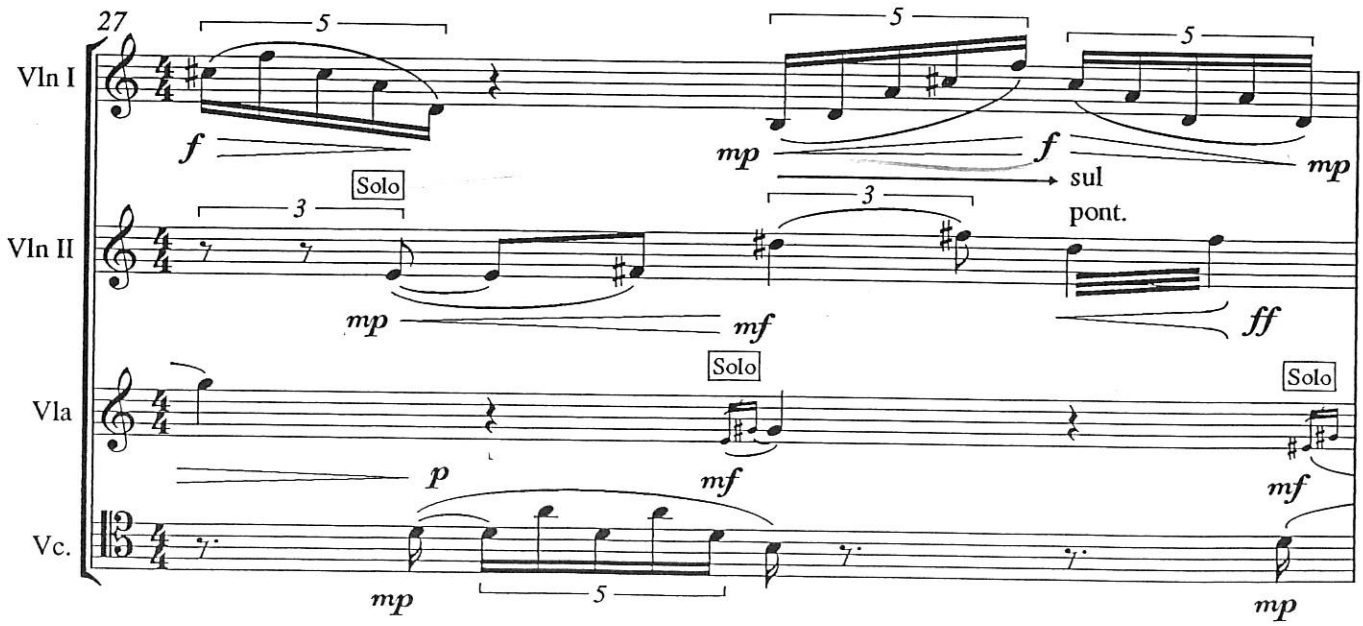

15
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
sul pont.
ord.
f
ff
fff

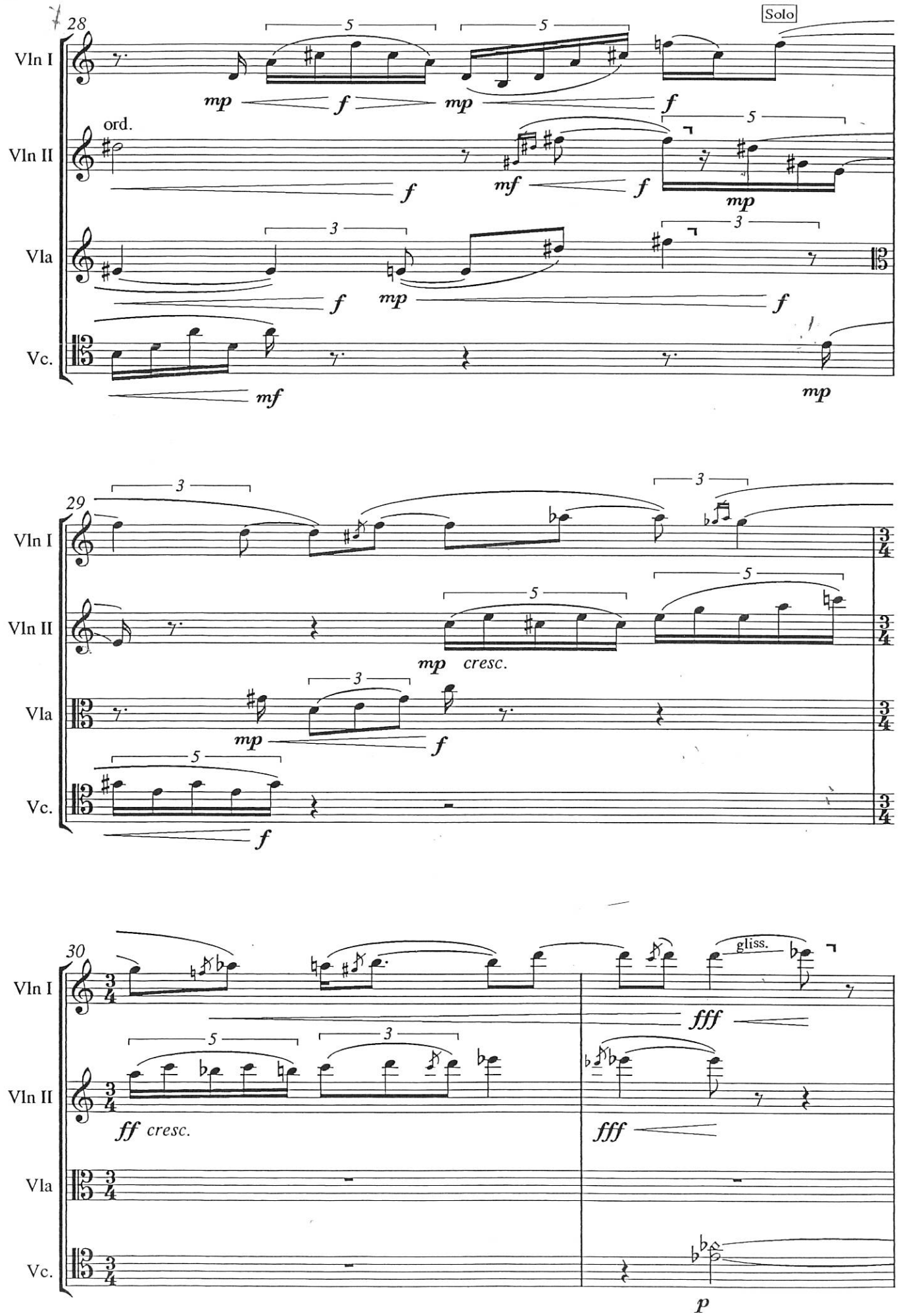
**C**


17
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
snap pizz.
sfffz
fff furioso
ffff
arco
ord.
19
arco
snap pizz.
fff
ffff
21
ff
pizz.
f

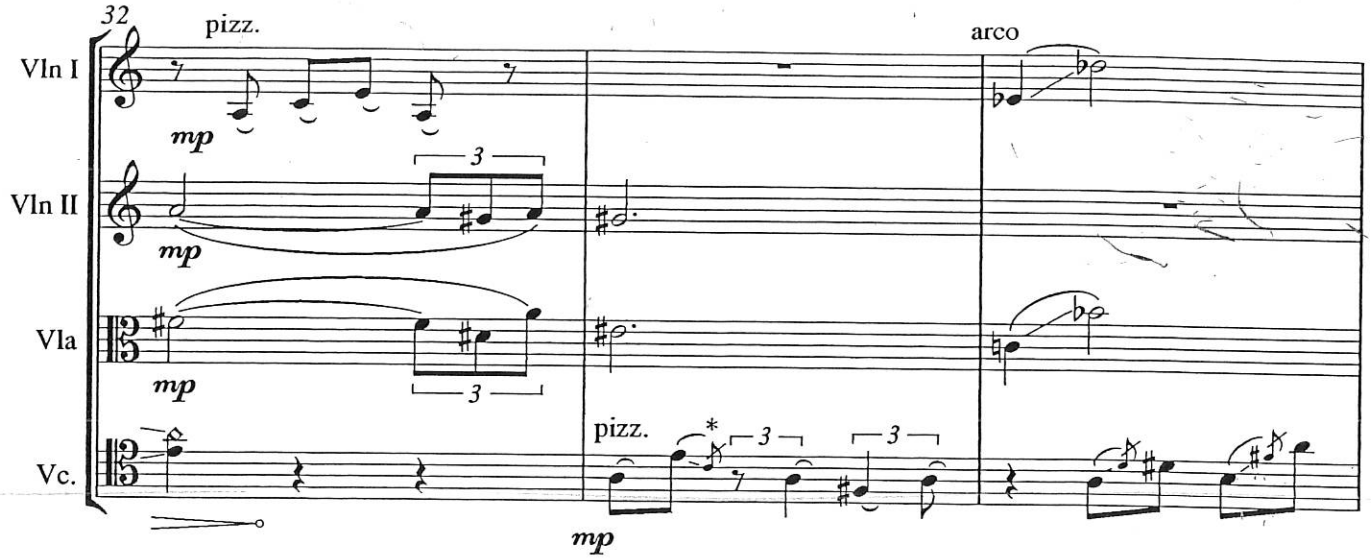

23
pizz.
ord.
Solo
arco
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
f
mp
3
5


D
25
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
p
mp
f
3
5

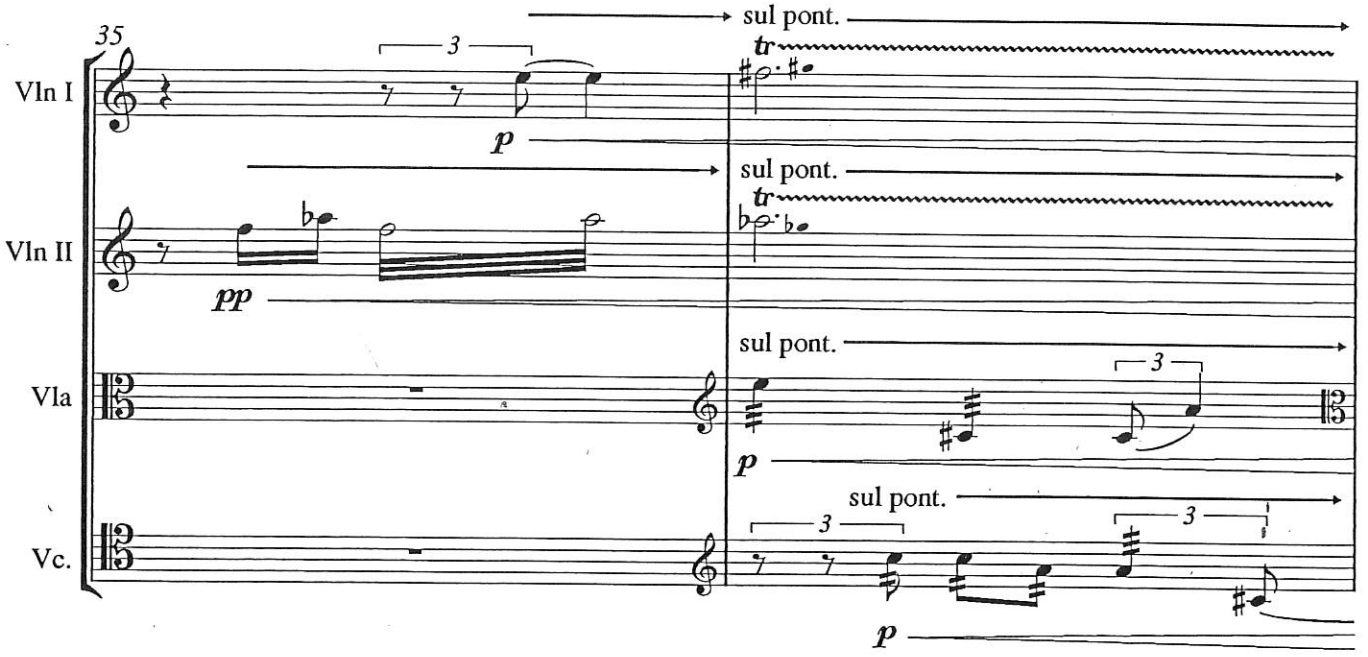

27
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Solo
sul
pont.
f
mp
mf
ff
p
3
5

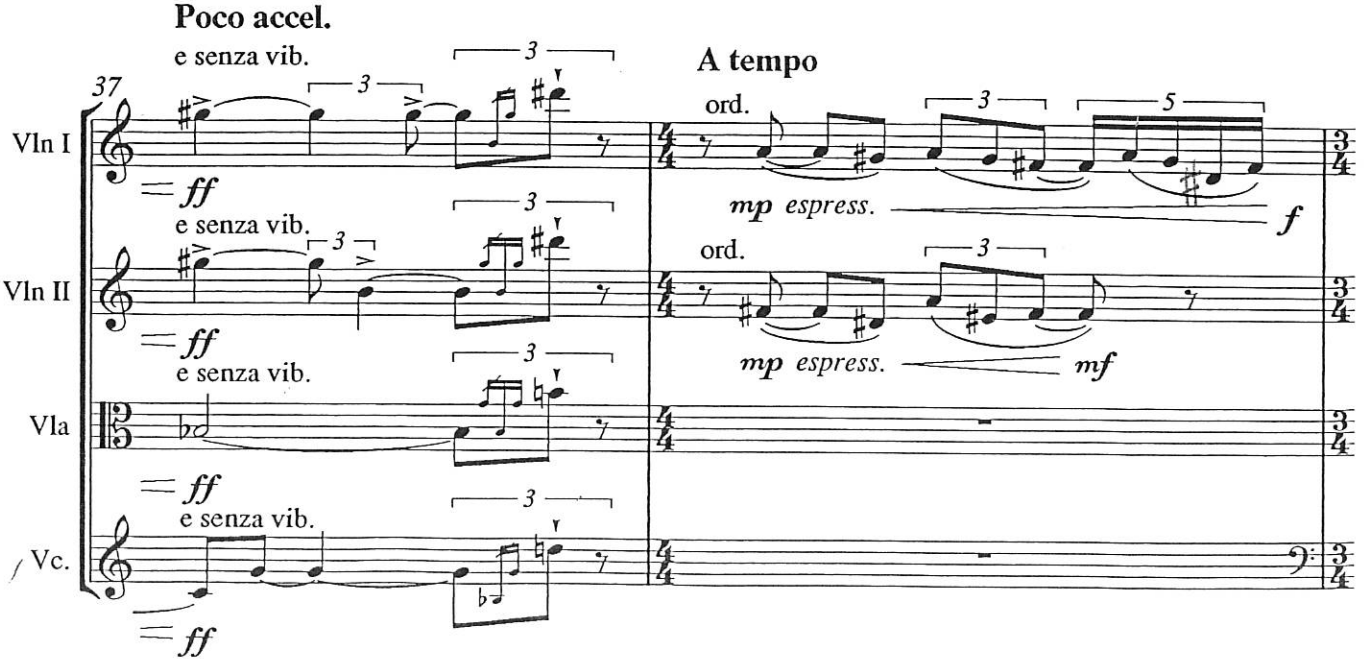

28
Solo
Vln I
Vln II
ord.
Vla
Vc.
mp
f
mf
29
cresc.
30
gliss.
fff
ff cresc.
p

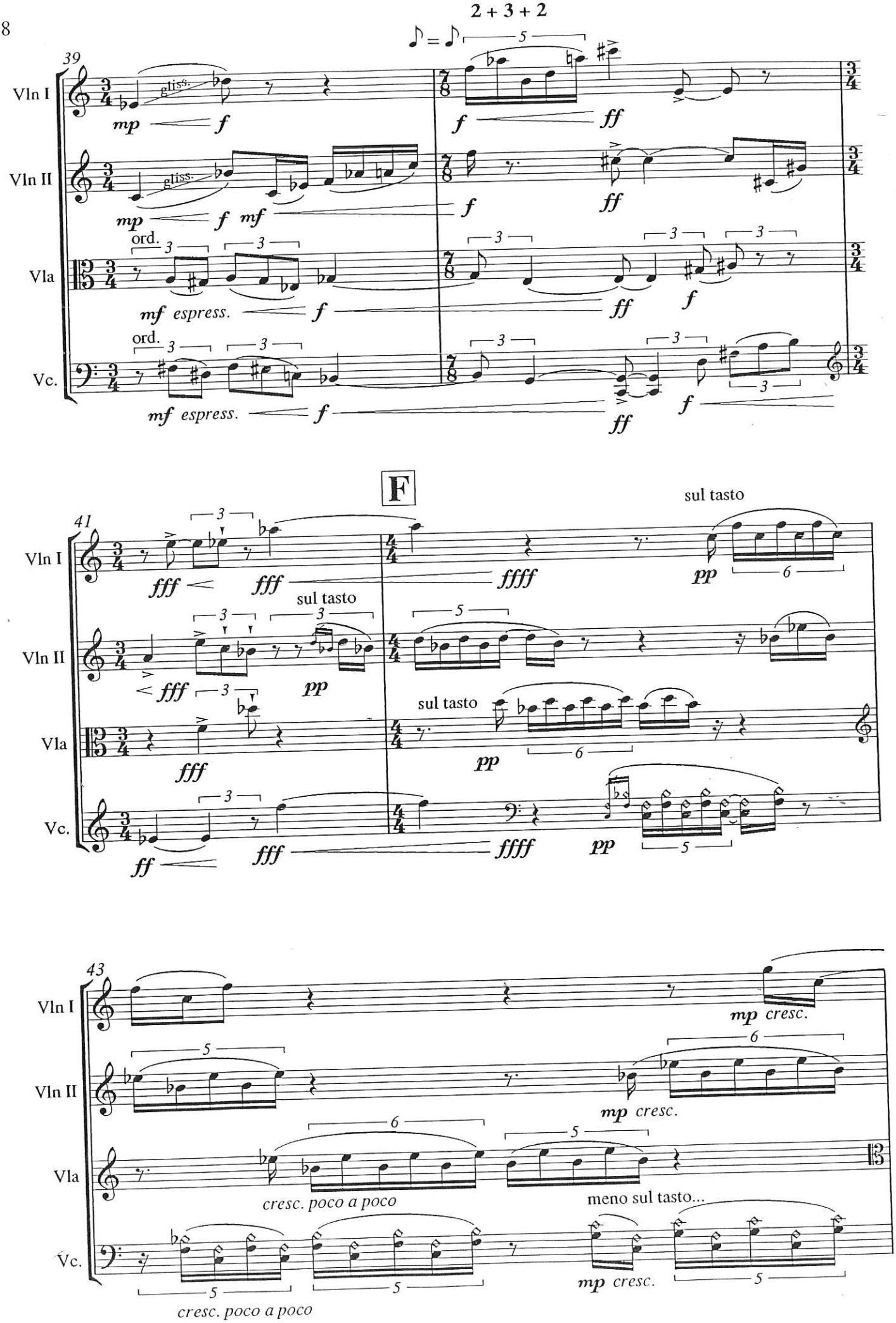
**E**

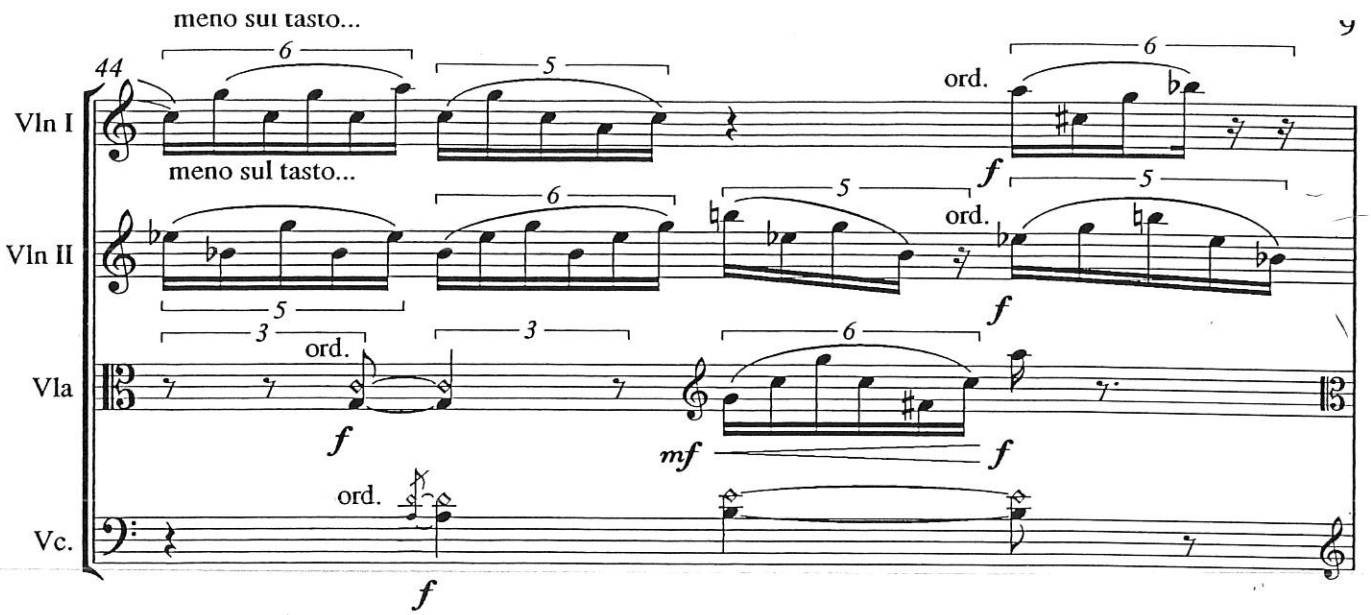


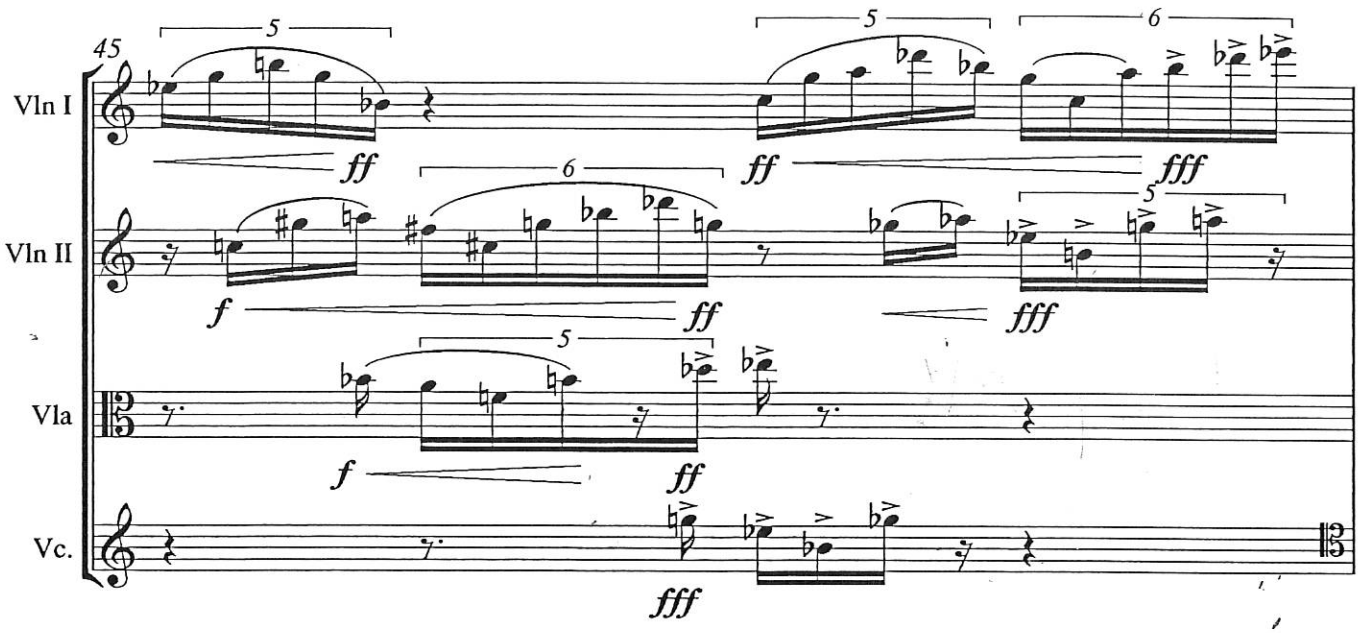

* The grace note indicates the end of the gliss. It should not be plucked.

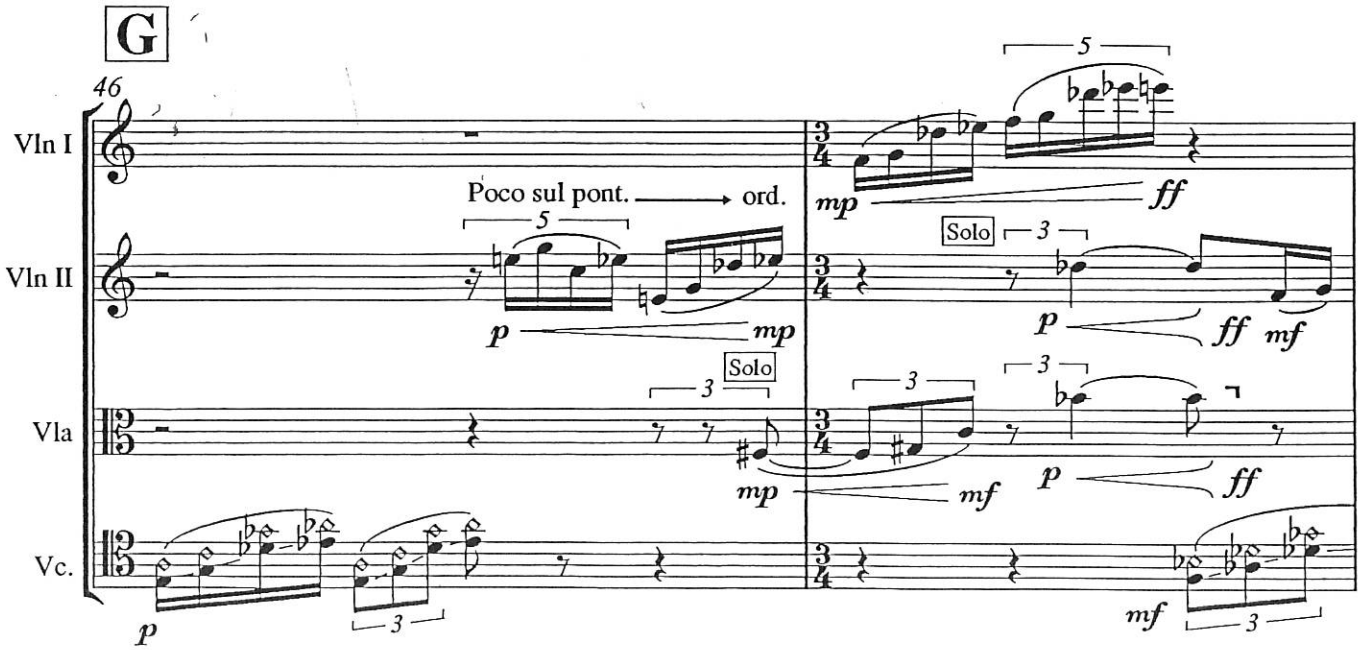


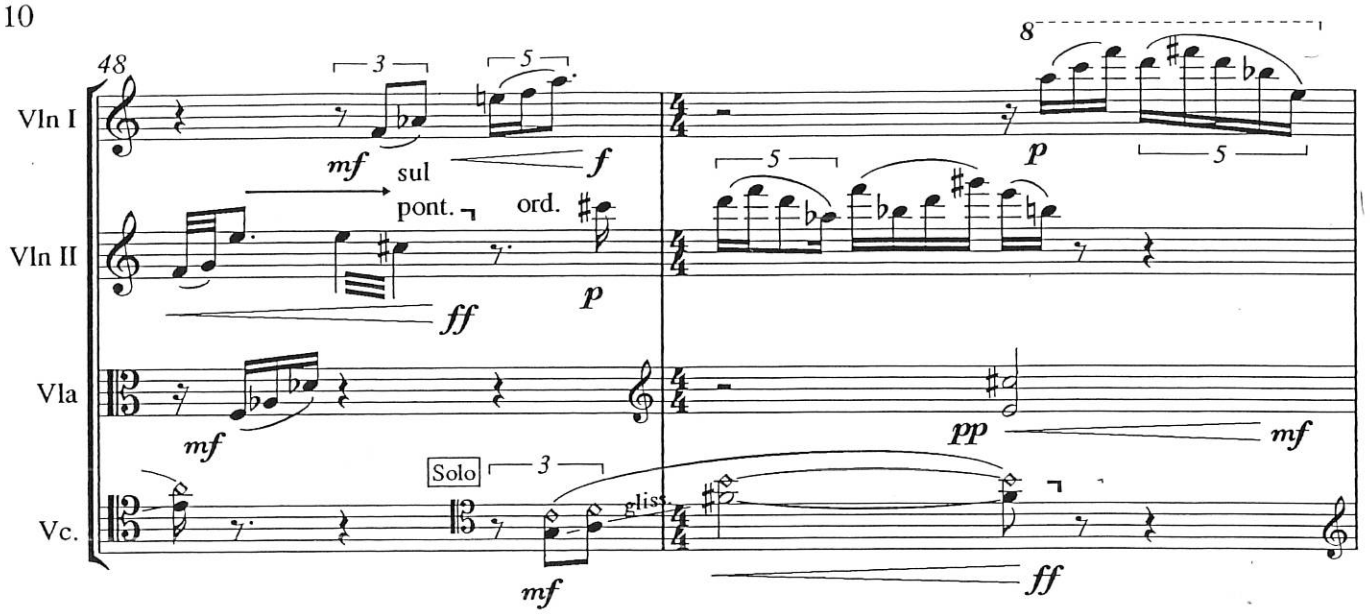



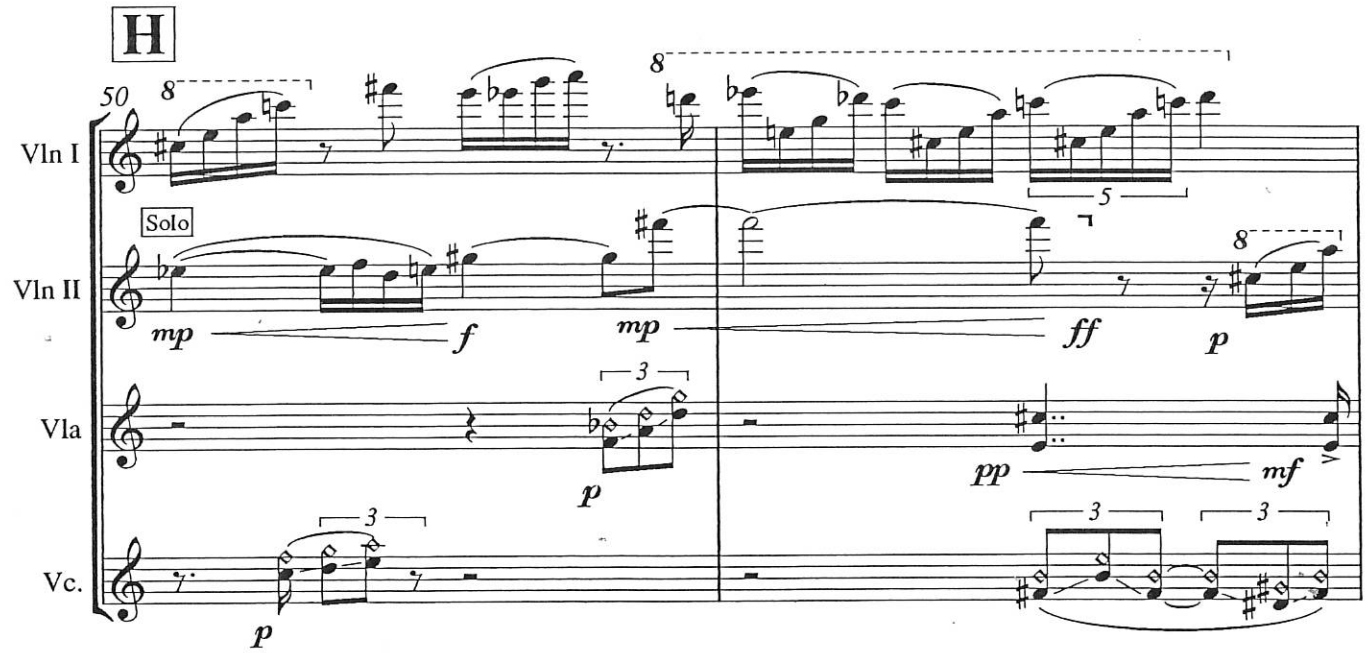

2 + 3 + 2
39
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
gliss.
mp
f
ff
mf
ord.
mf espress.
F
41
fff
ffff
pp
sul tasto
43
mp cresc.
cresc. poco a poco
meno sul tasto...

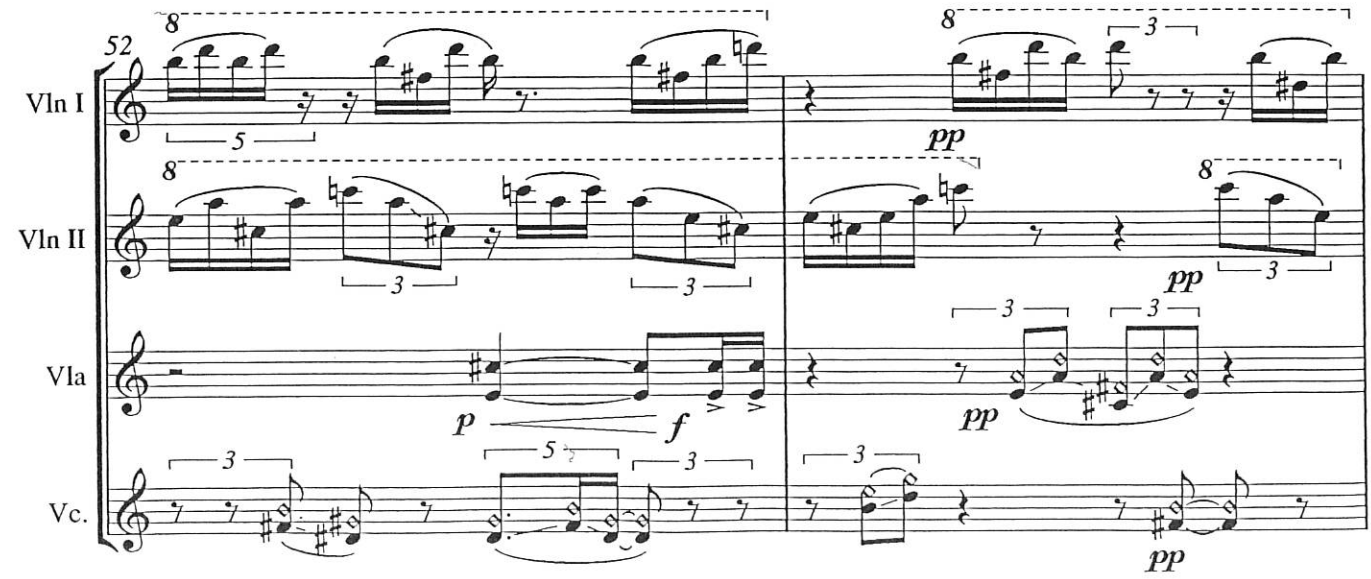

meno sul tasto...
44
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
ord.
f
mf

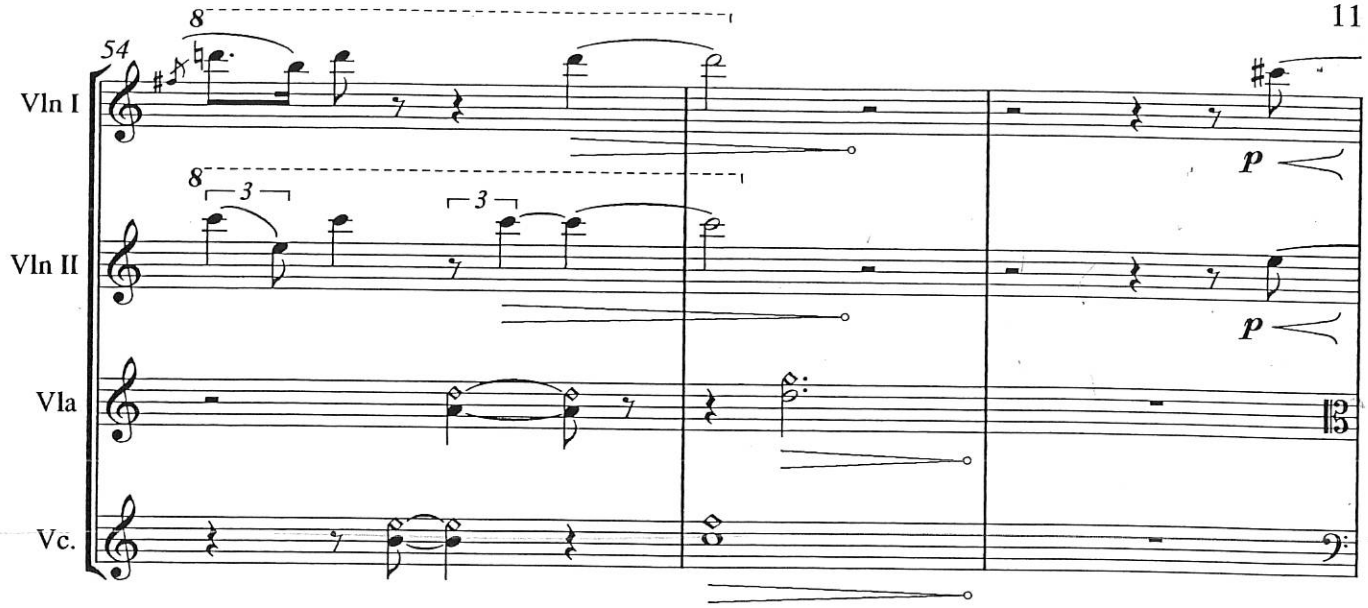

45
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
ff
fff

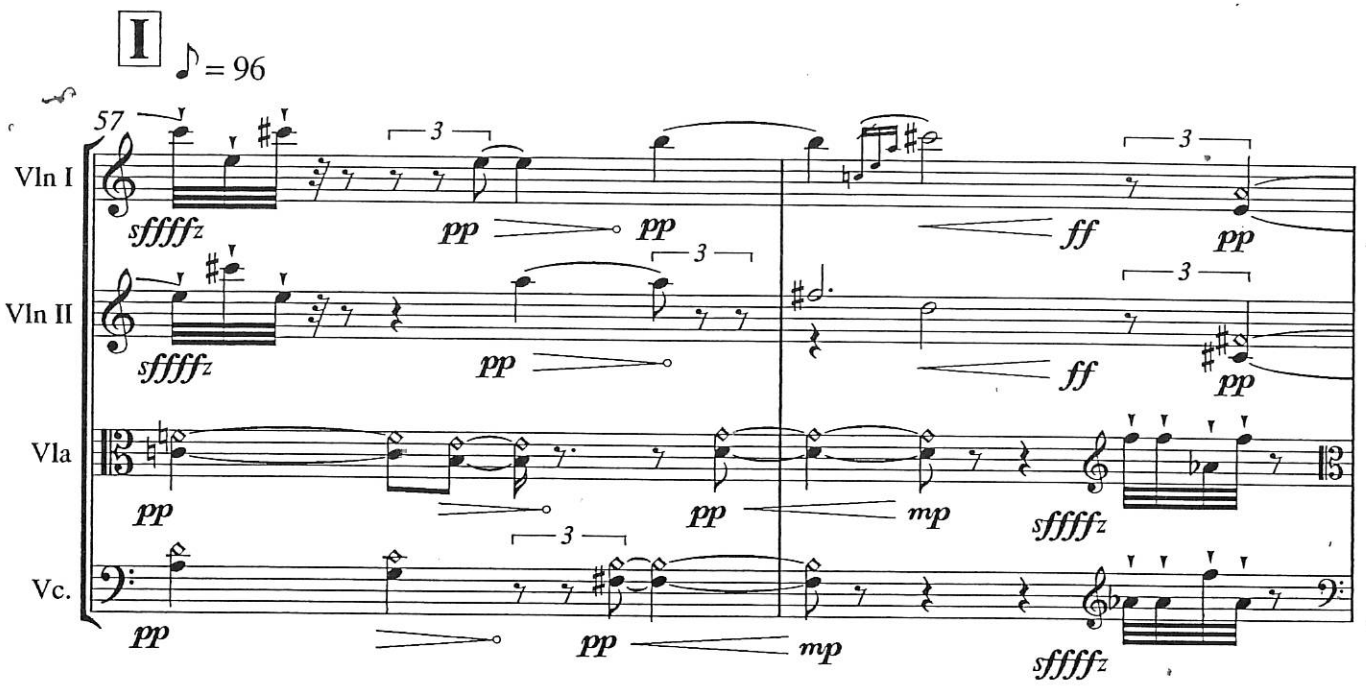

G
46
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Poco sul pont.
ord.
Solo
p
mp
mf
ff

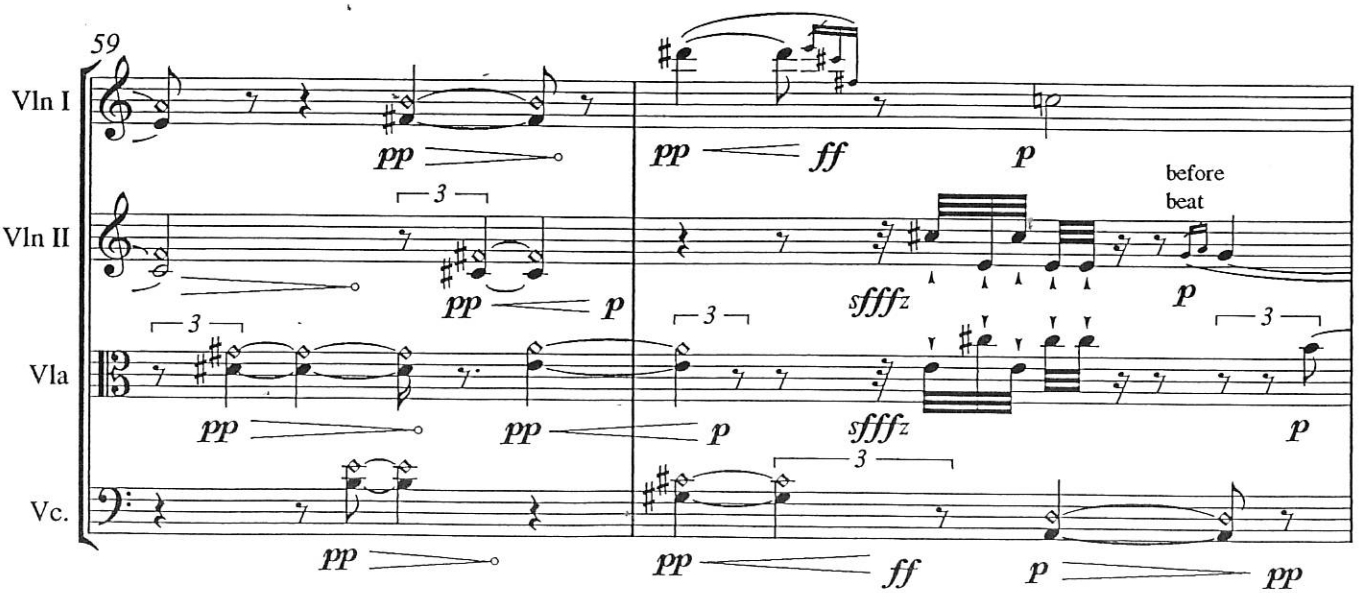

48
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
mf
sul
pont.
ord.
f
ff
p
pp
mf
Solo
gliss.
ff

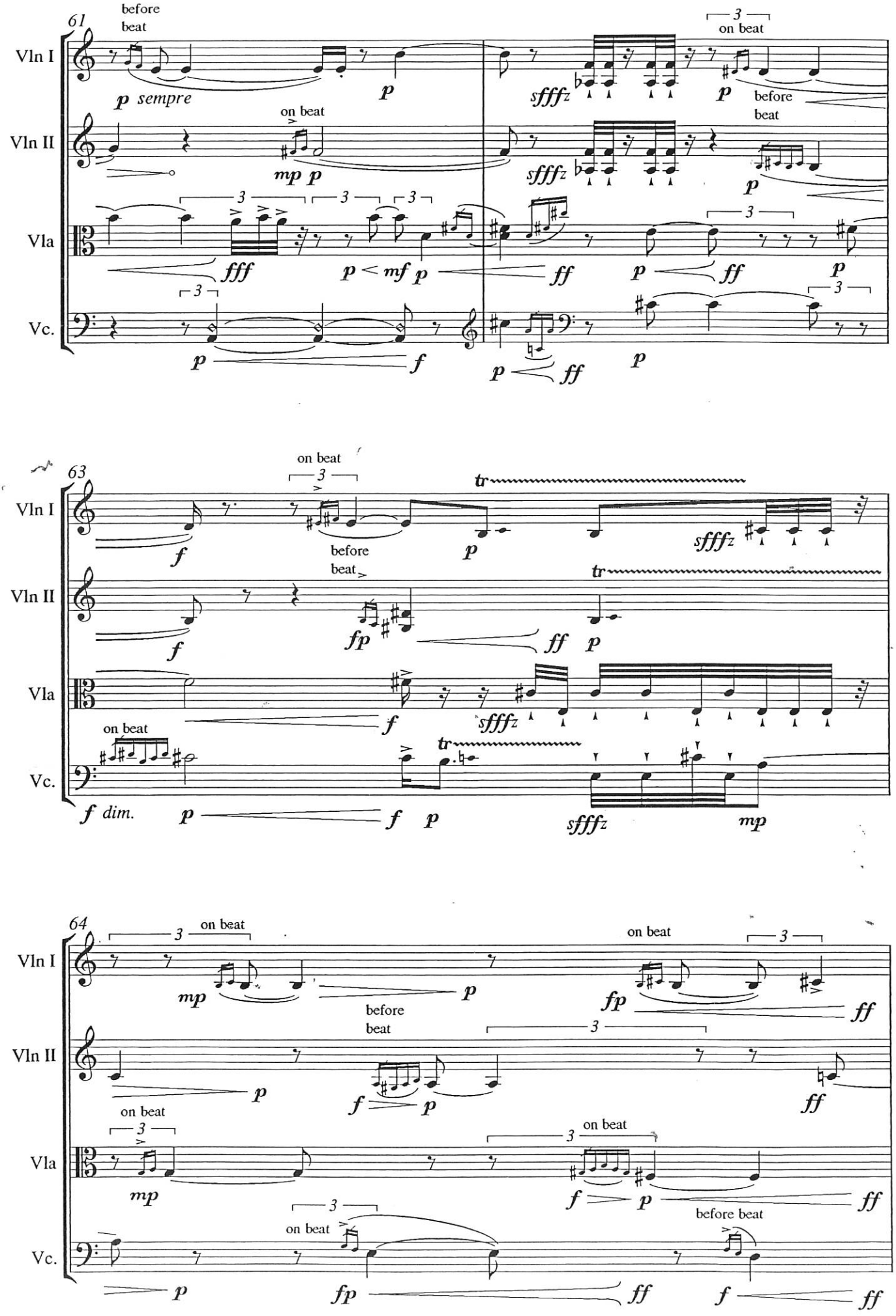

H
50
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Solo
mp
f
mp
ff
p
pp
mf
p

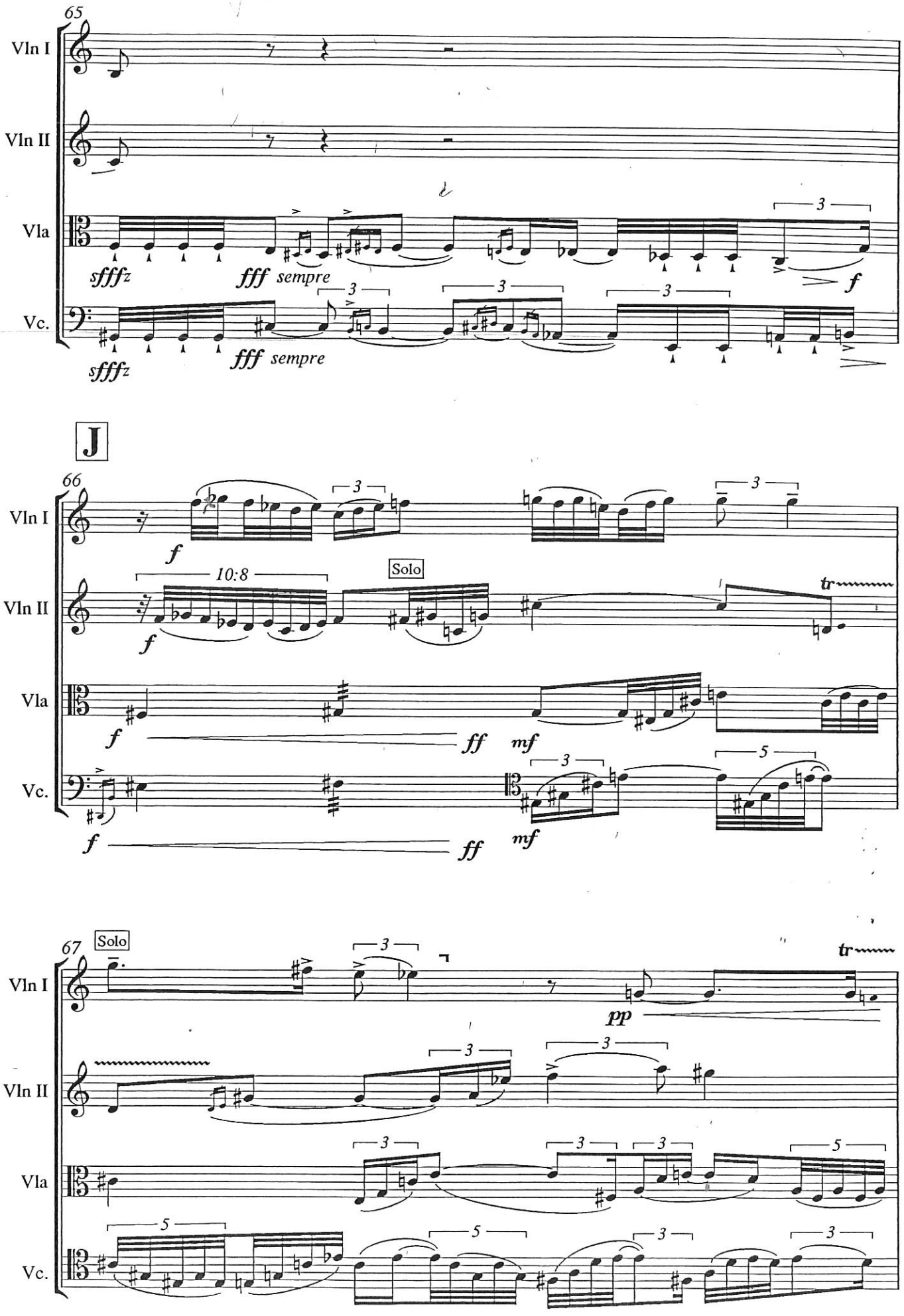

52
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
pp
p
f
pp
pp
pp

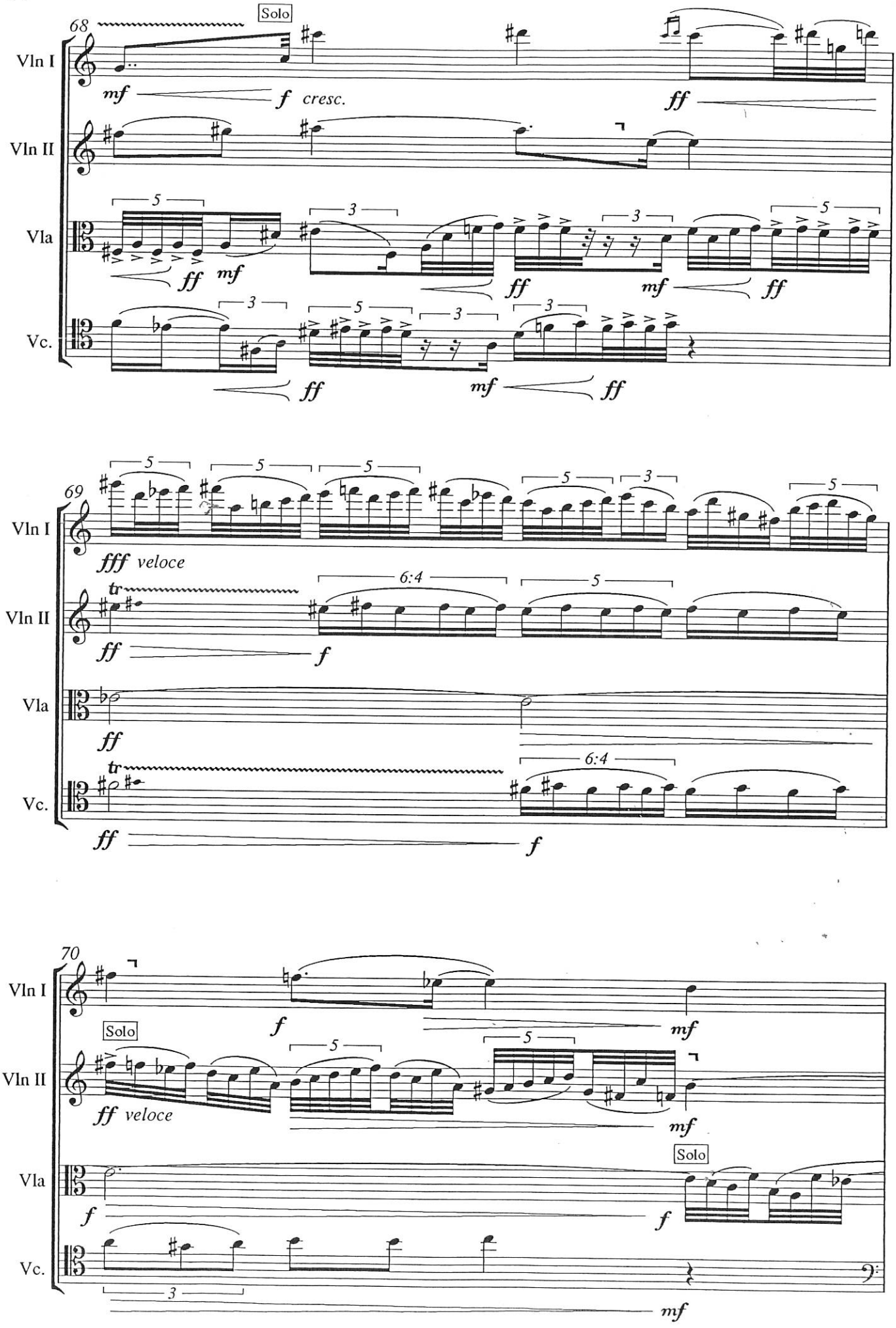

54
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
8
3
p

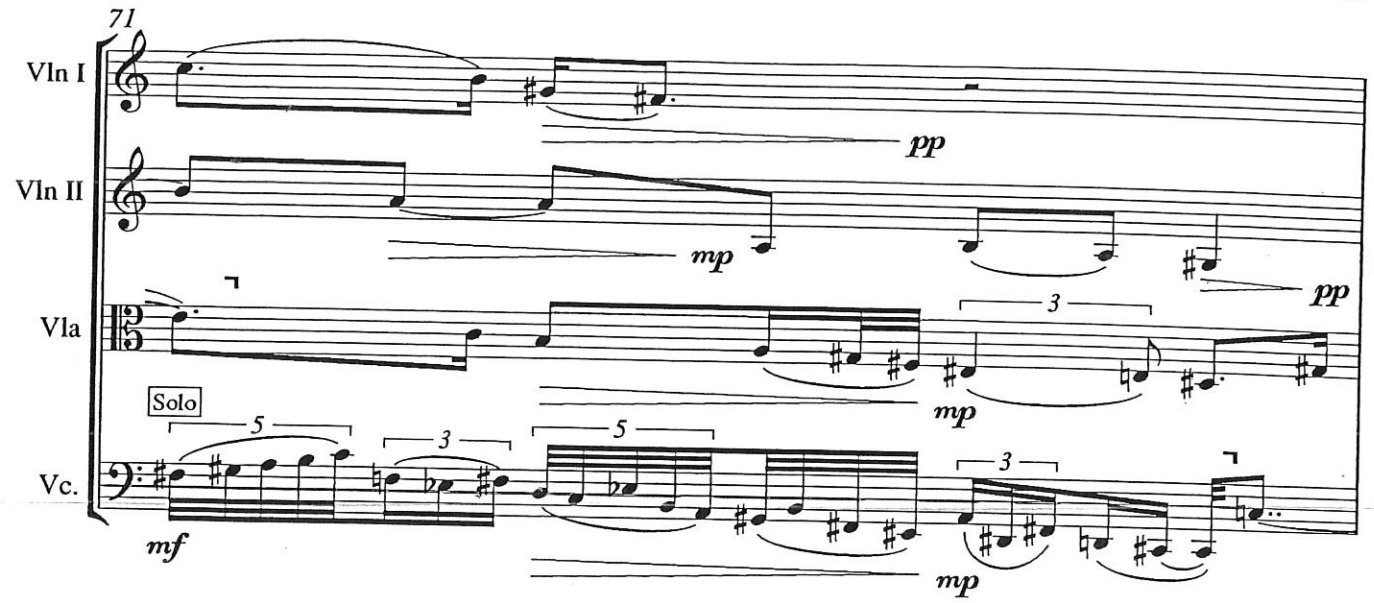

I
♪ = 96
57
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
sfffffz
pp
ff
mp
3

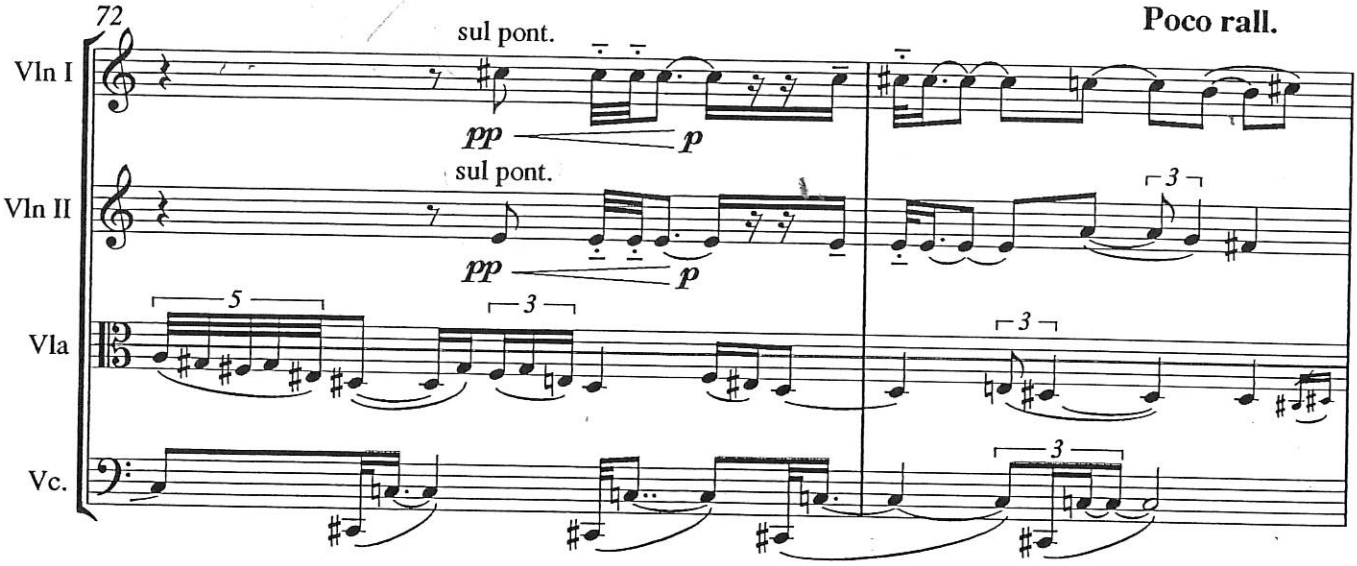

59
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
pp
ff
p
sfffz
before
beat
3

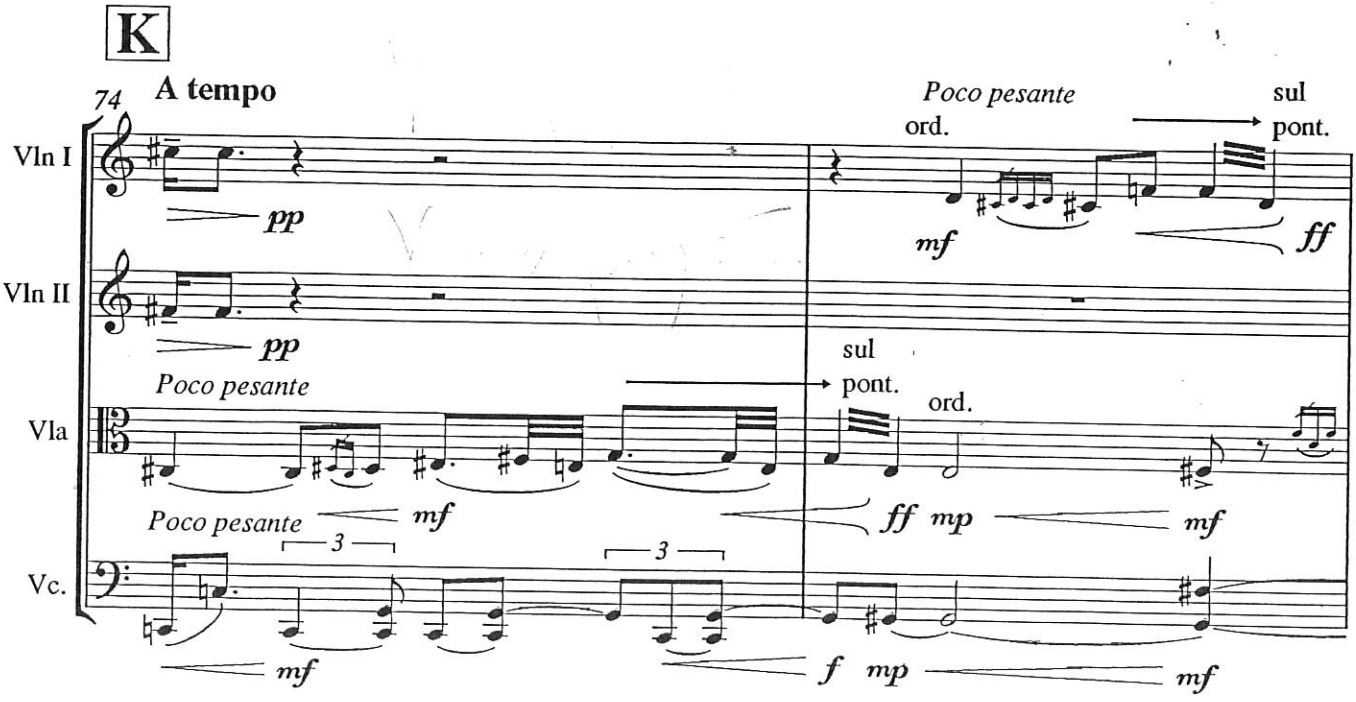

61
before beat
Vln I
p sempre
p
sfffz
on beat
p
before beat
Vln II
on beat
mp p
sfffz
p
Vla
fff
p < mf p
ff
p
ff
p
Vc.
p
f
p
ff
p
63
on beat
Vln I
f
before beat
p
tr
sfffz
Vln II
f
fp
ff
p
Vla
f
sfffz
on beat
Vc.
f dim.
p
f
p
sfffz
mp
64
on beat
Vln I
mp
p
before beat
on beat
fp
ff
Vln II
p
f
p
ff
on beat
Vla
mp
on beat
f
p
ff
on beat
Vc.
p
fp
ff
before beat
f
ff

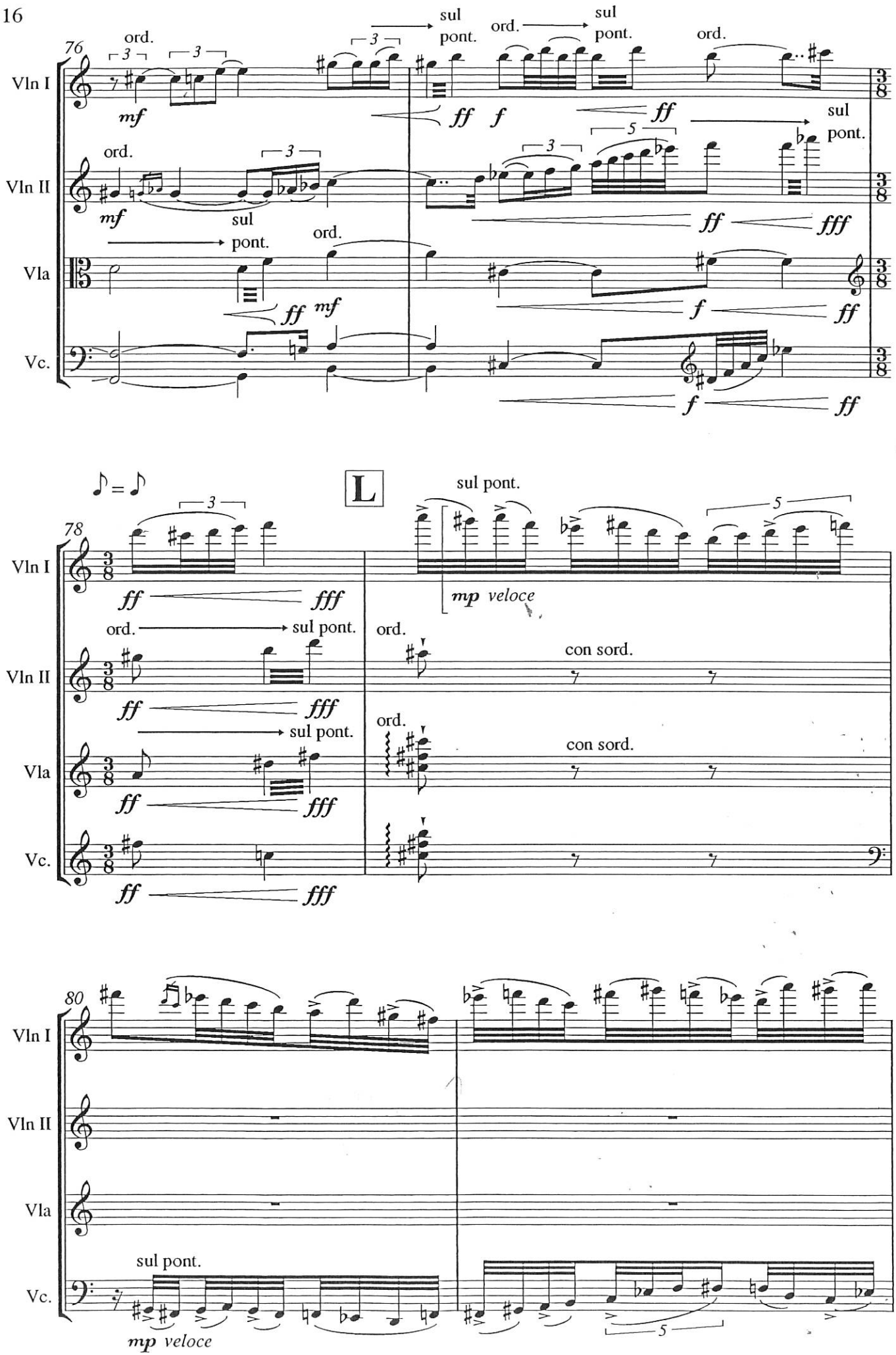

65
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
sffz
fff sempre
f
J
66
10:8
Solo
ff
mf
tr
67
pp

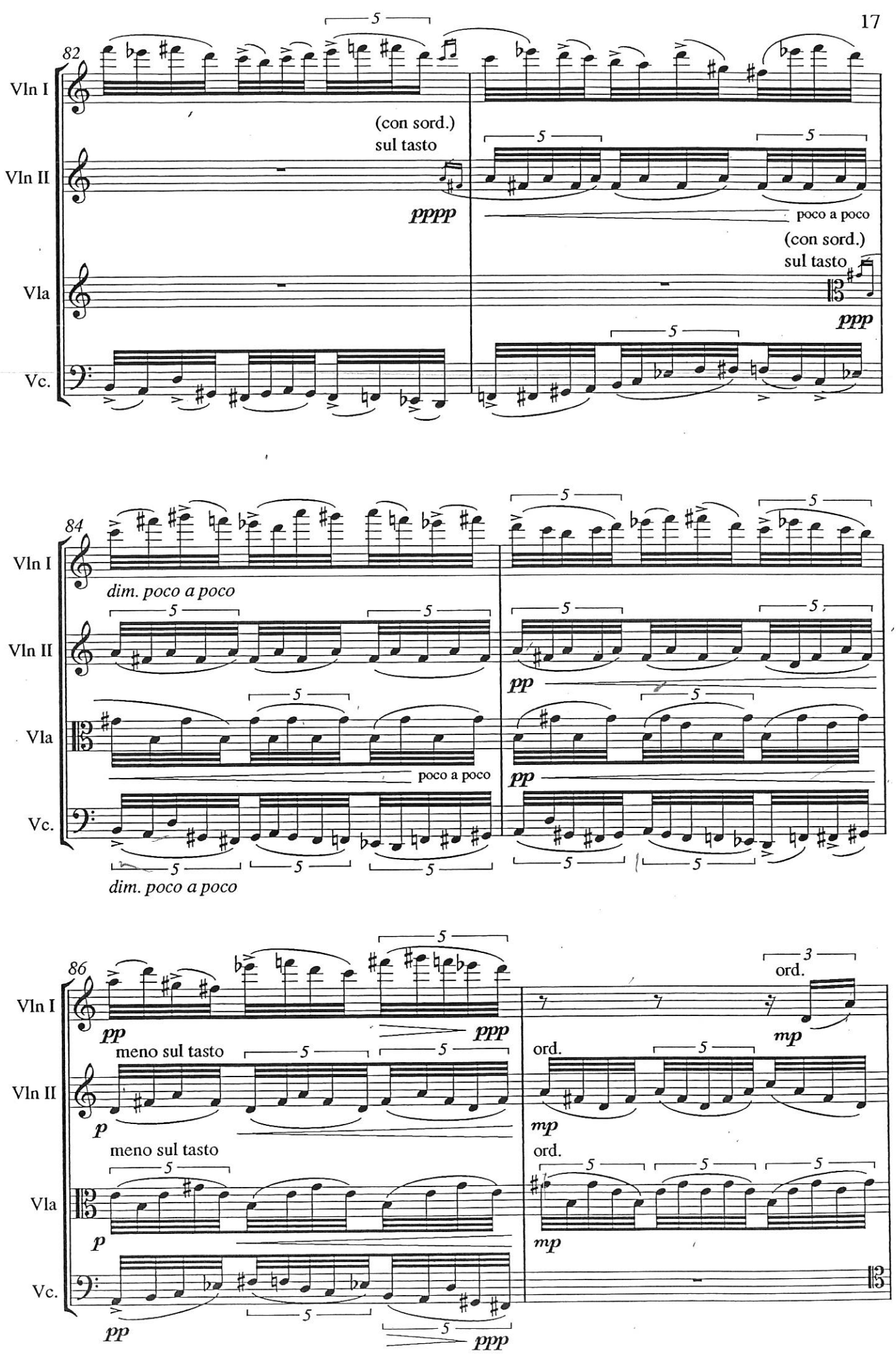

68
Solo
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
mf
f cresc.
ff
5
3
69
fff veloce
tr
6:4
70
Solo


71
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Solo
pp
mp
pp
mp
mf
mp
3
5
3
5
3

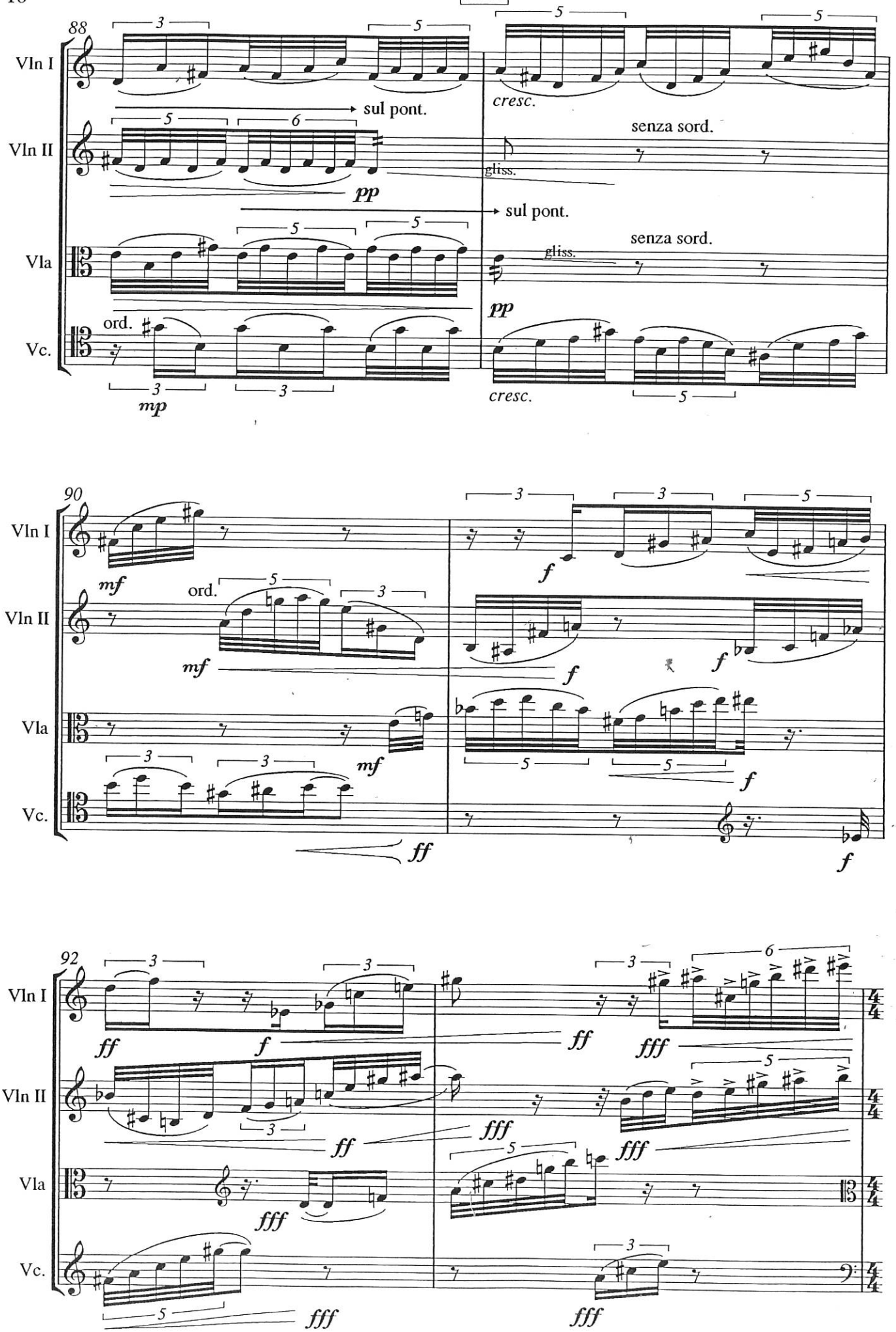

72
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
sul pont.
pp
p
sul pont.
pp
p
Poco rall.
5
3
3
3
3

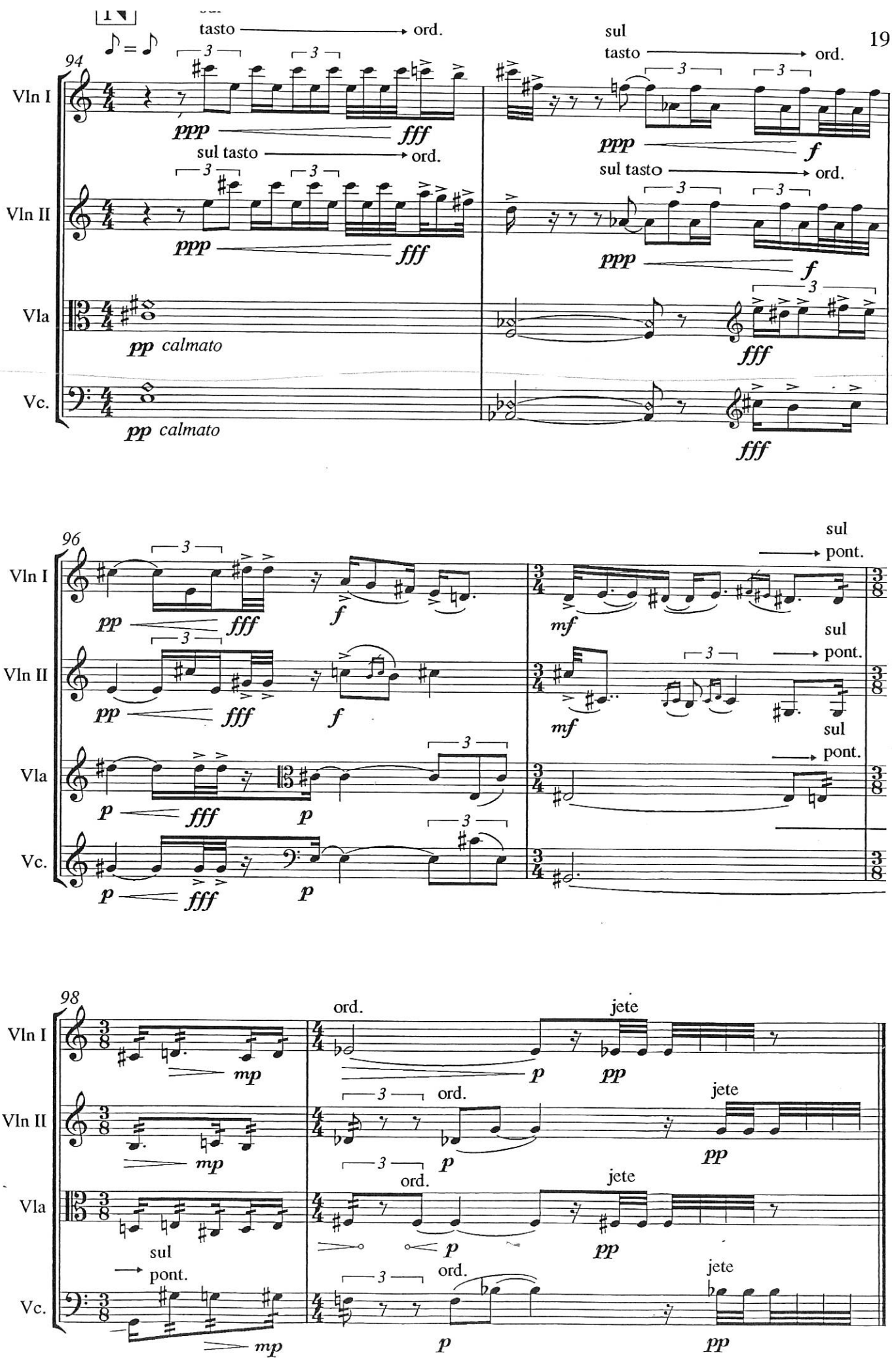

K
A tempo
74
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
pp
pp
Poco pesante
mf
Poco pesante
mf
3
3
mf
Poco pesante
ord.
sul
pont.
mf
ff
sul
pont.
ord.
ff
mp
mf
f
mp
mf


76
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
ord.
sul pont.
mf
ff
f
fff
78
L
mp veloce
con sord.
80


82
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
(con sord.)
sul tasto
pppp
poco a poco
(con sord.)
sul tasto
ppp
84
dim. poco a poco
pp
poco a poco
pp
dim. poco a poco
86
pp
ppp
ord.
mp
meno sul tasto
p
ord.
mp
meno sul tasto
p
ord.
mp
pp
ppp

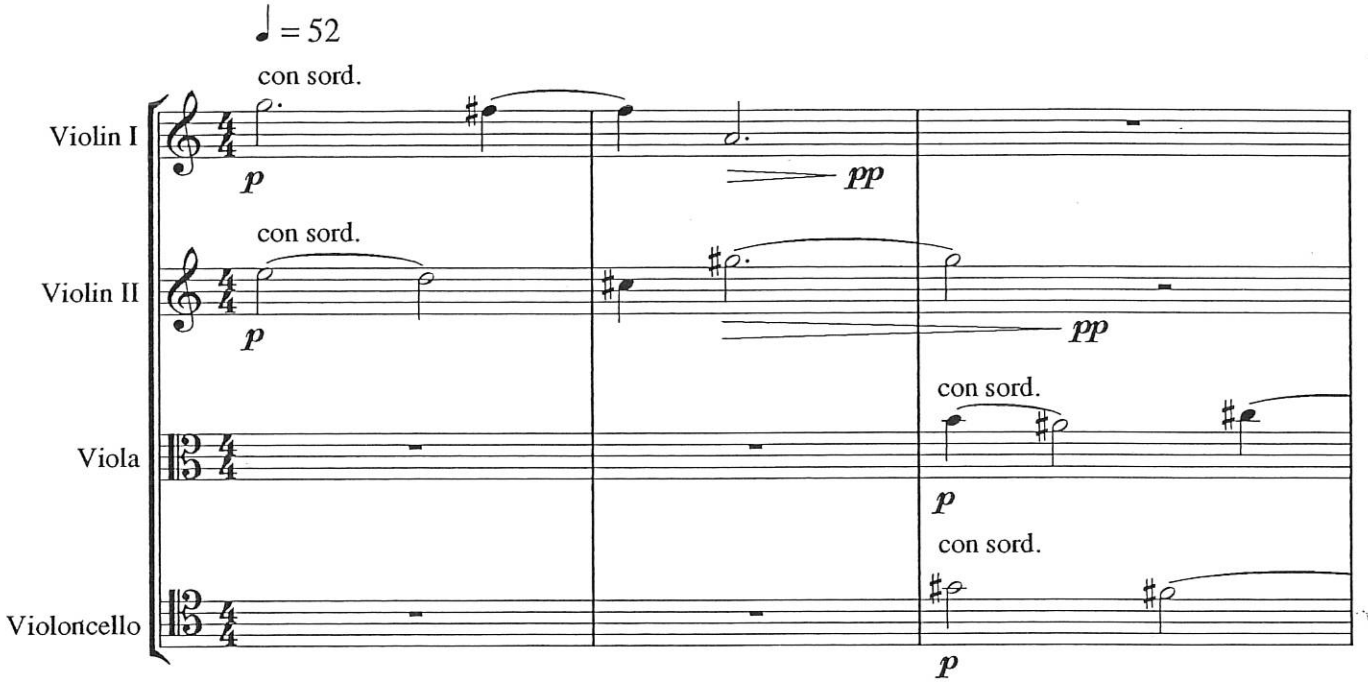
**M**

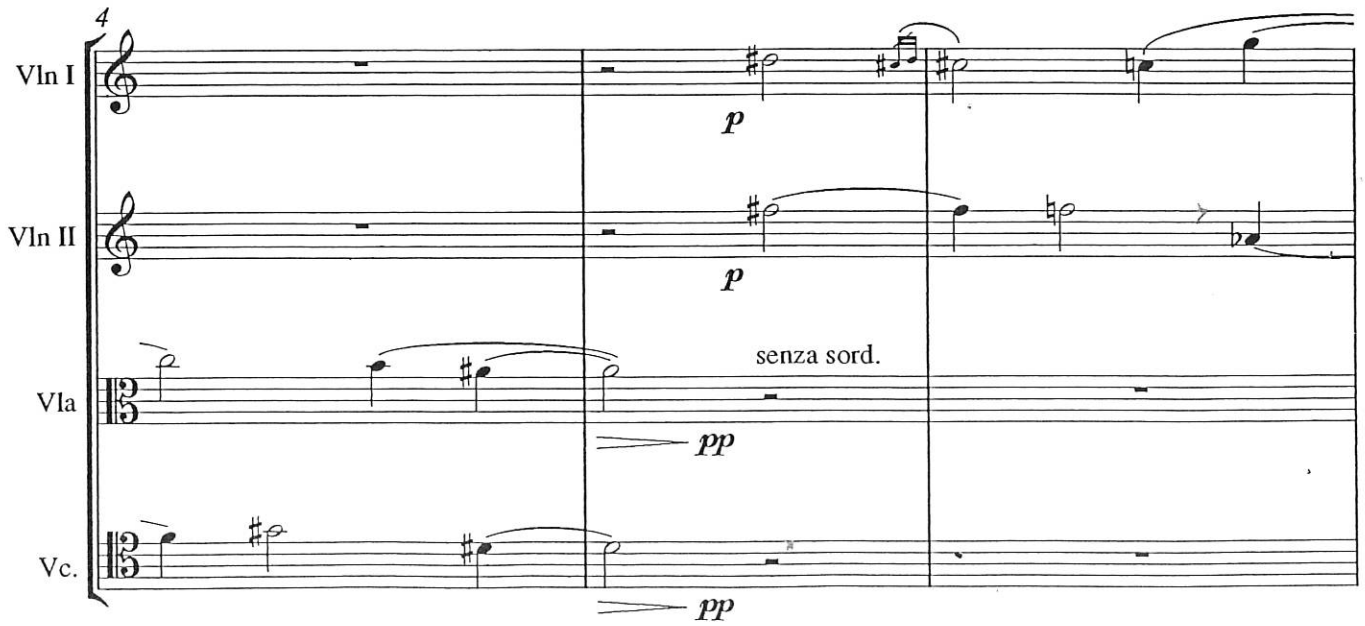

88
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
sul pont.
cresc.
senza sord.
gliss.
pp
ord.
mp
90
mf
f
ff
92
fff


94
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
tasto → ord.
sul tasto → ord.
sul
ppp
fff
f
pp calmato
96
sul → pont.
mf
mp
p
pp
98
ord.
jete

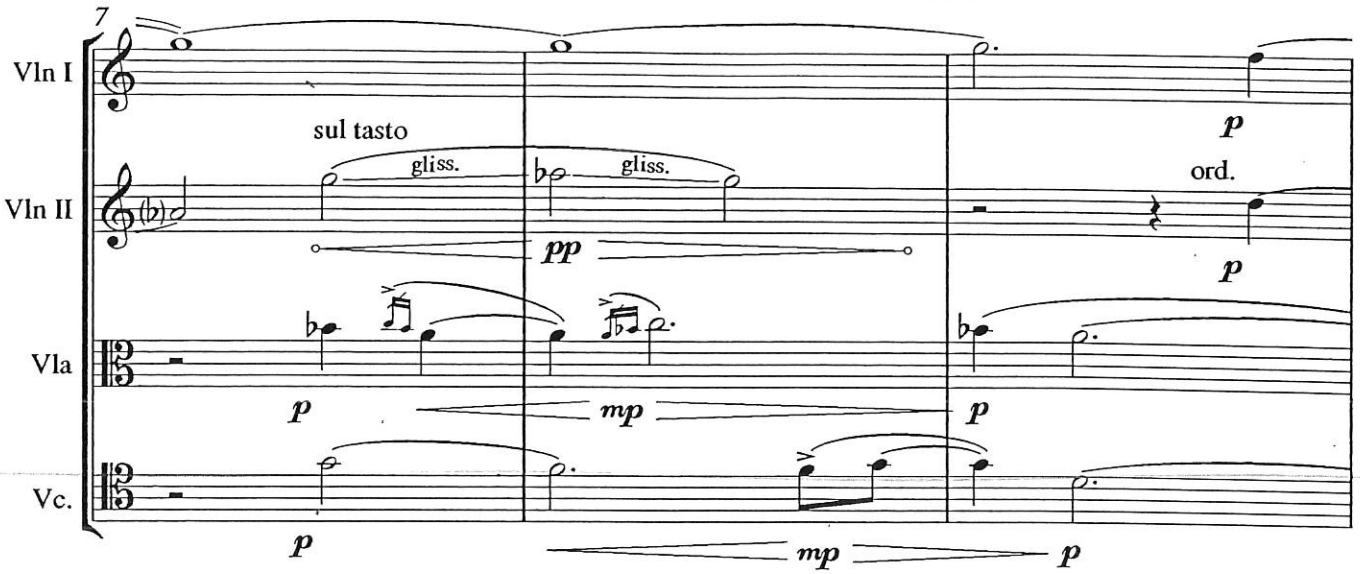
# 2.
# Double Passacaglia

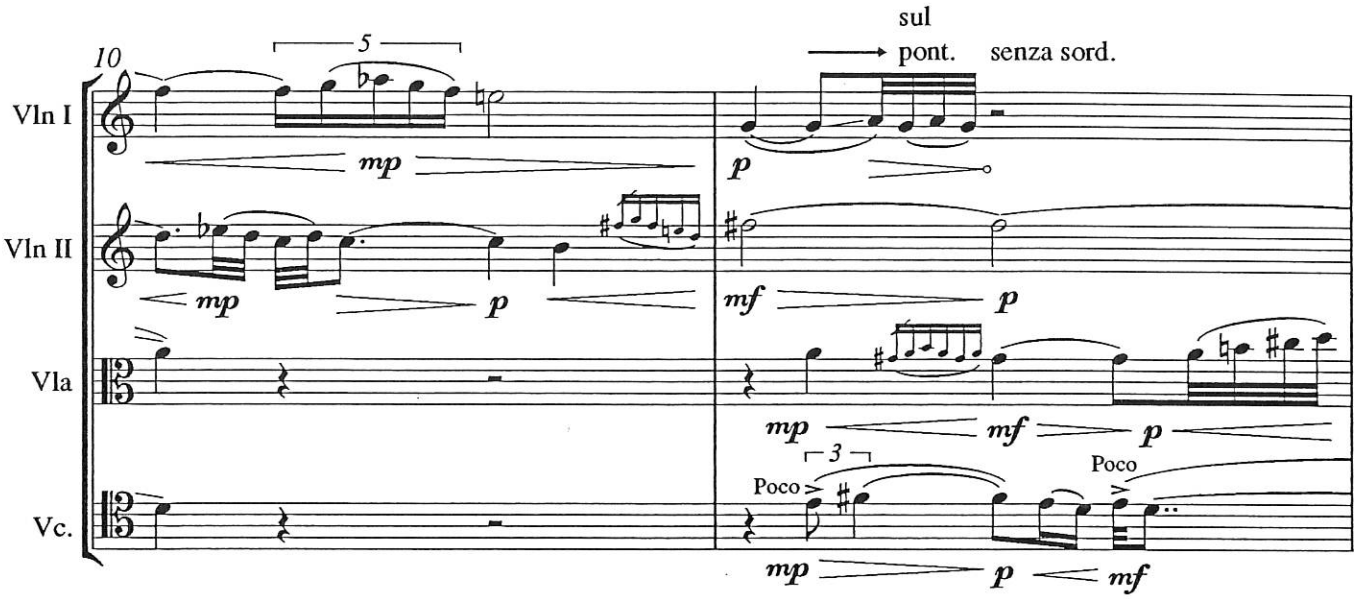
*'They build their houses with sand and they play with empty shells. With withered leaves they weave their boats and smilingly float them on the vast deep. Children have their play on the seashore of worlds.'*

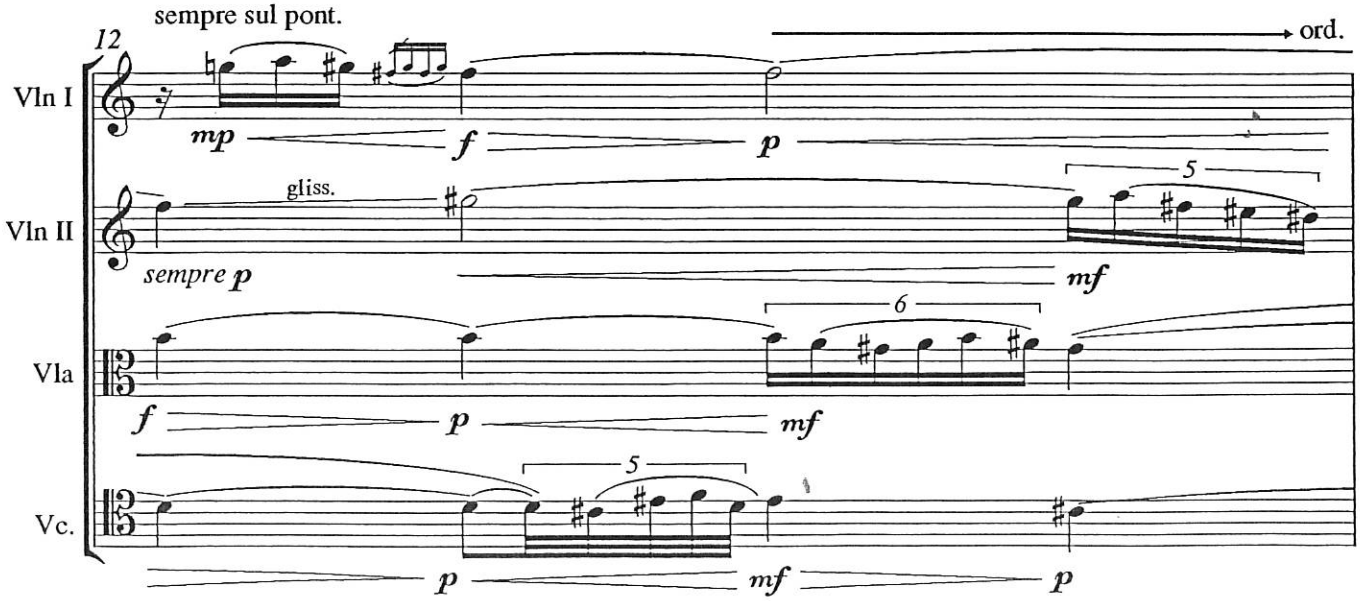


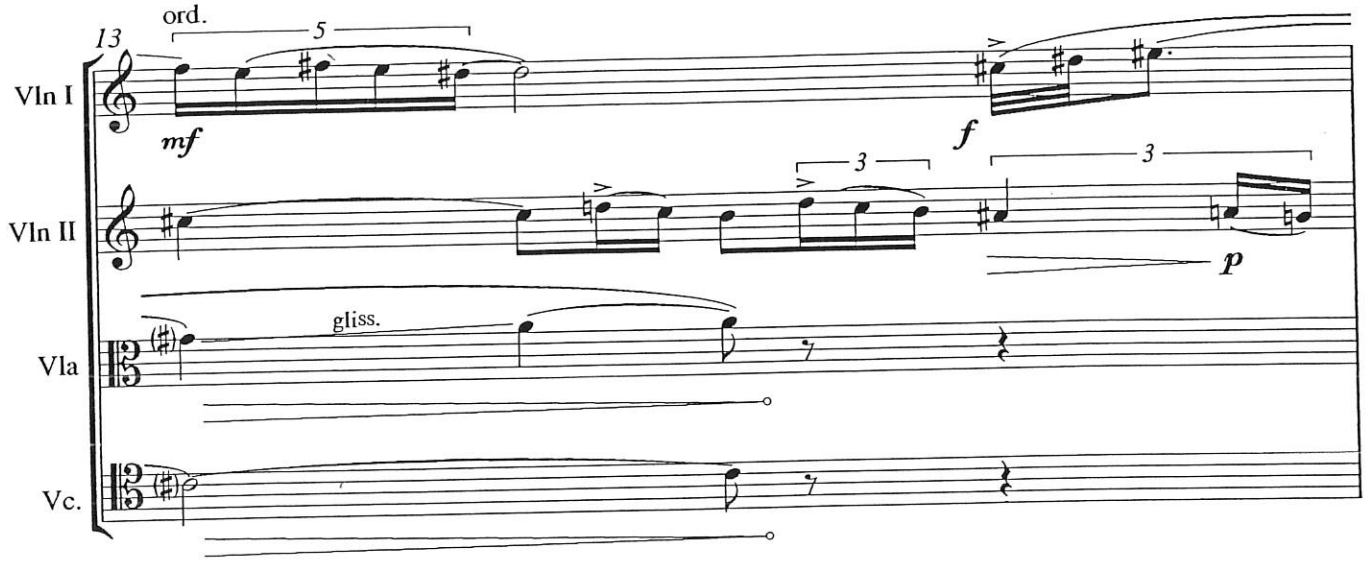



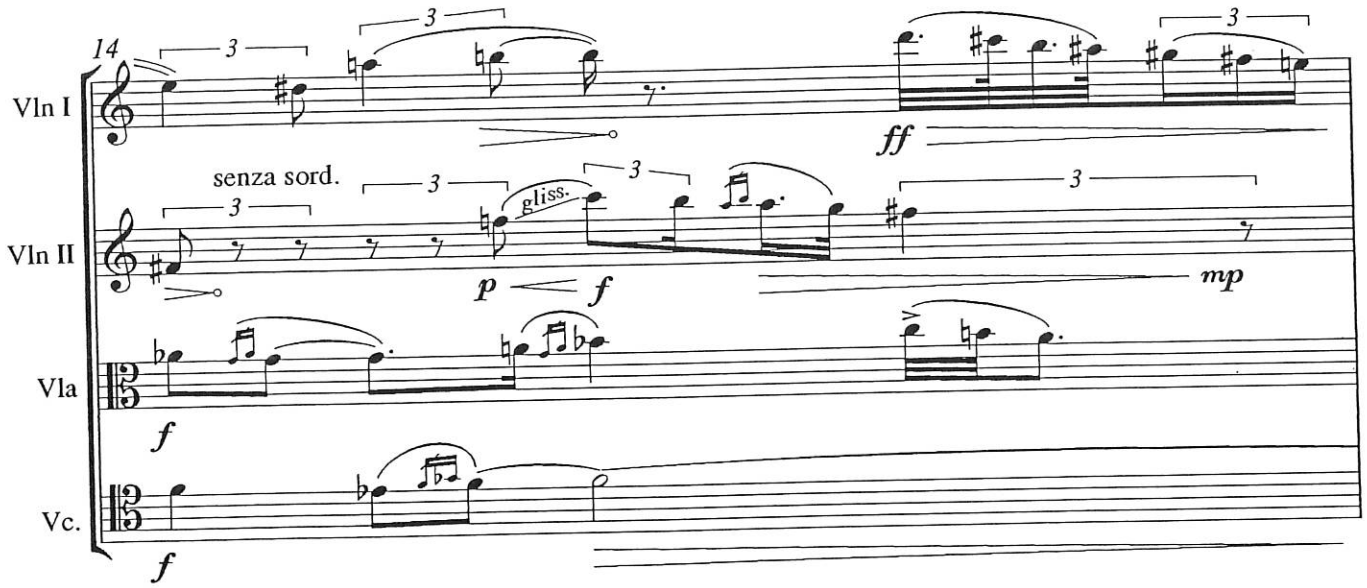
**A**

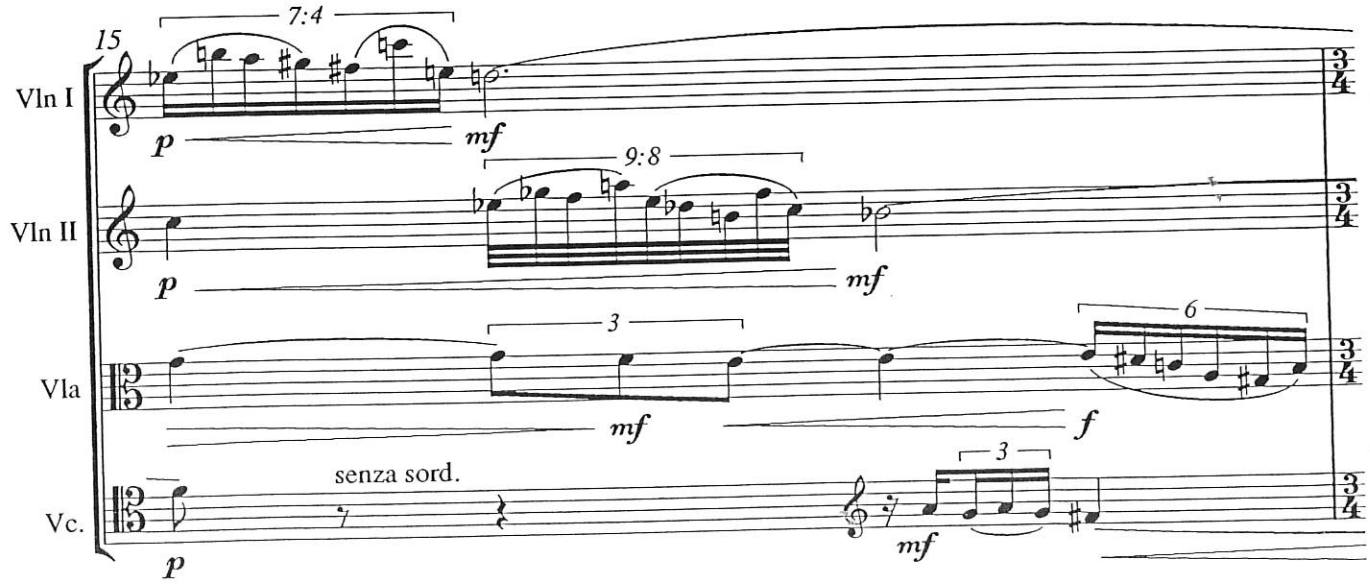

7
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
sul tasto
gliss.
gliss.
ord.
p
pp
mp

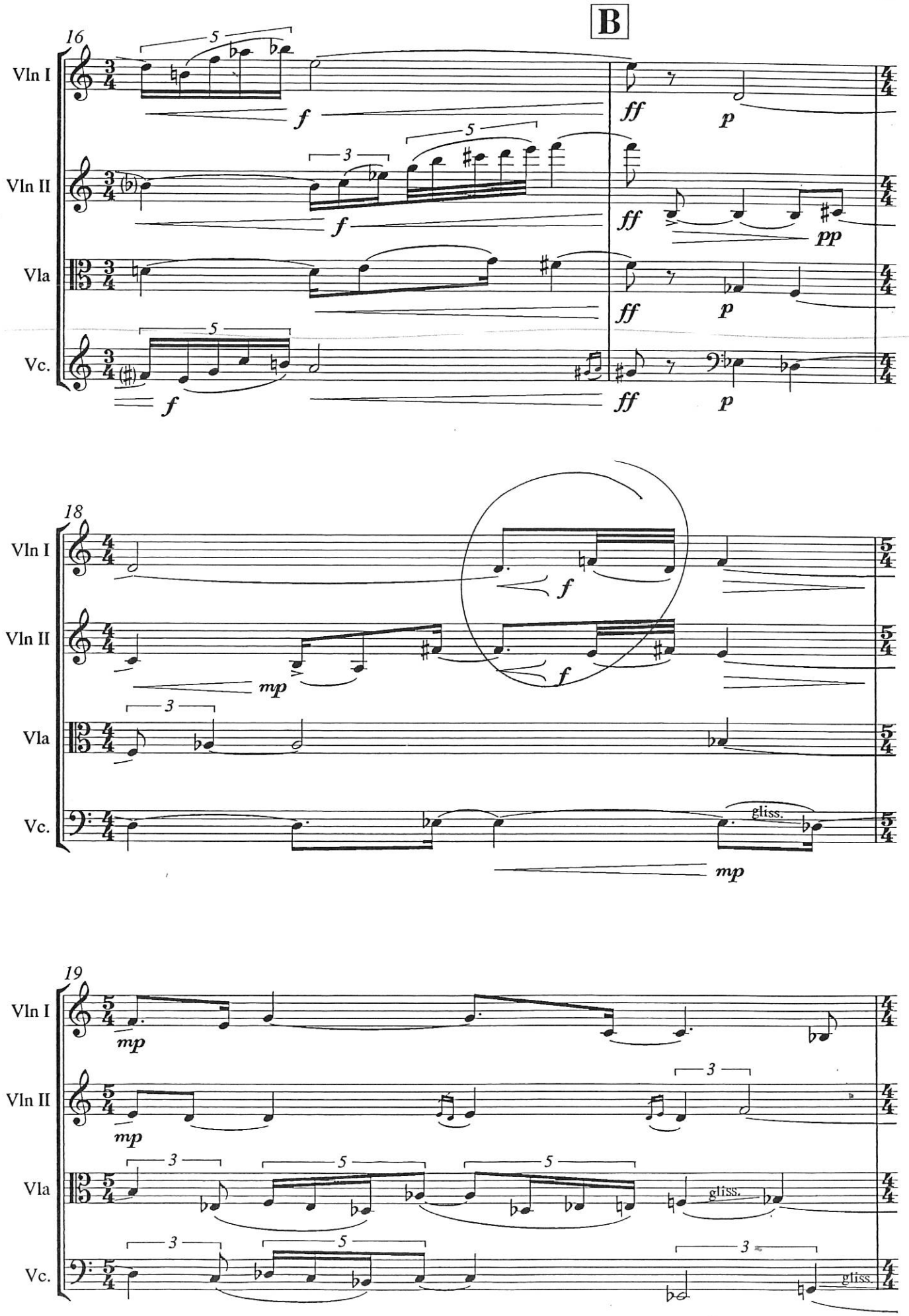

10
5
sul
pont.
senza sord.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
mp
p
mf
3
Poco
Poco

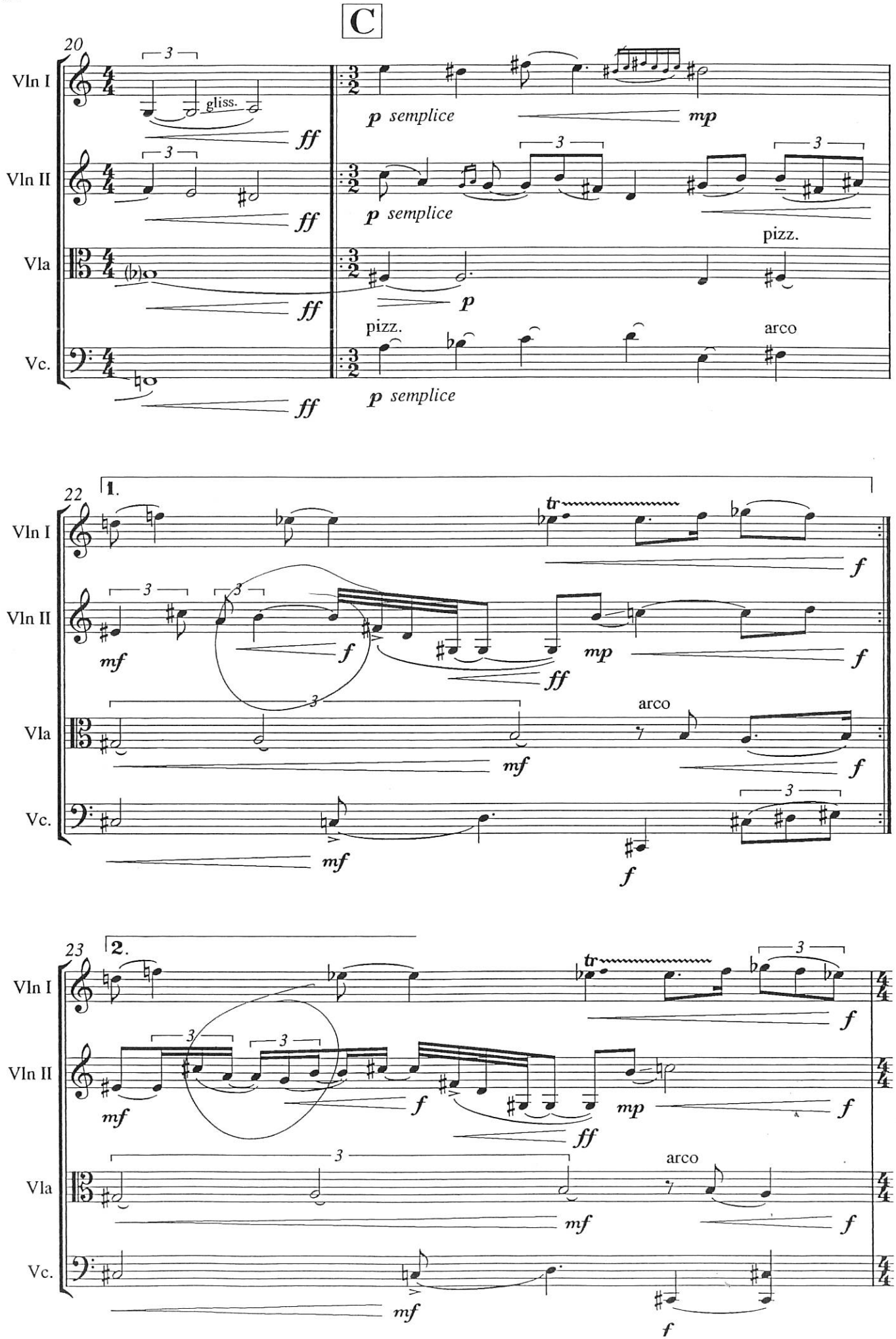

12
sempre sul pont.
ord.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
gliss.
sempre p
mp
f
p
mf
5
6

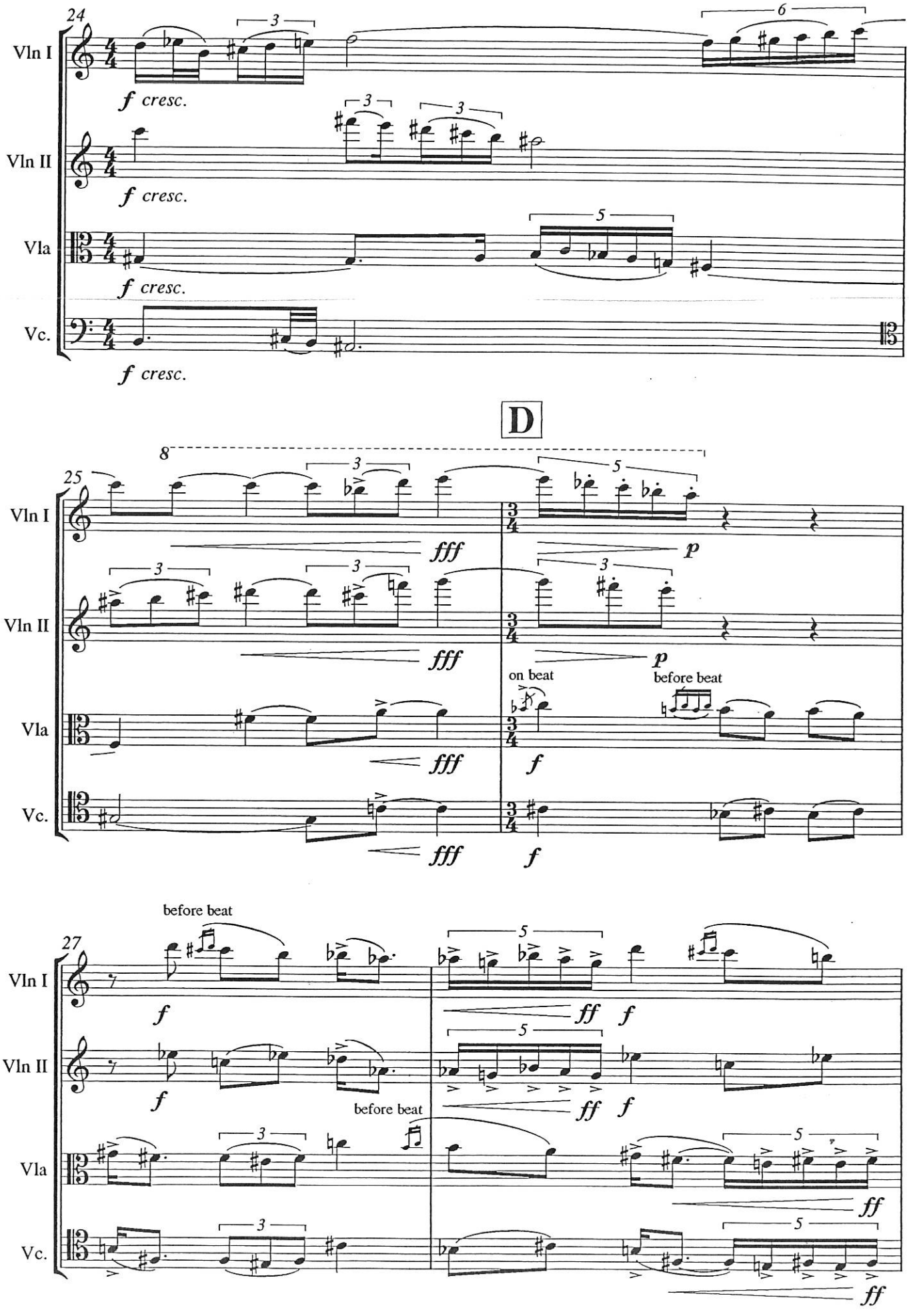

13
ord.
5
Vln I
mf
f
Vln II
3
3
p
Vla
gliss.
Vc.

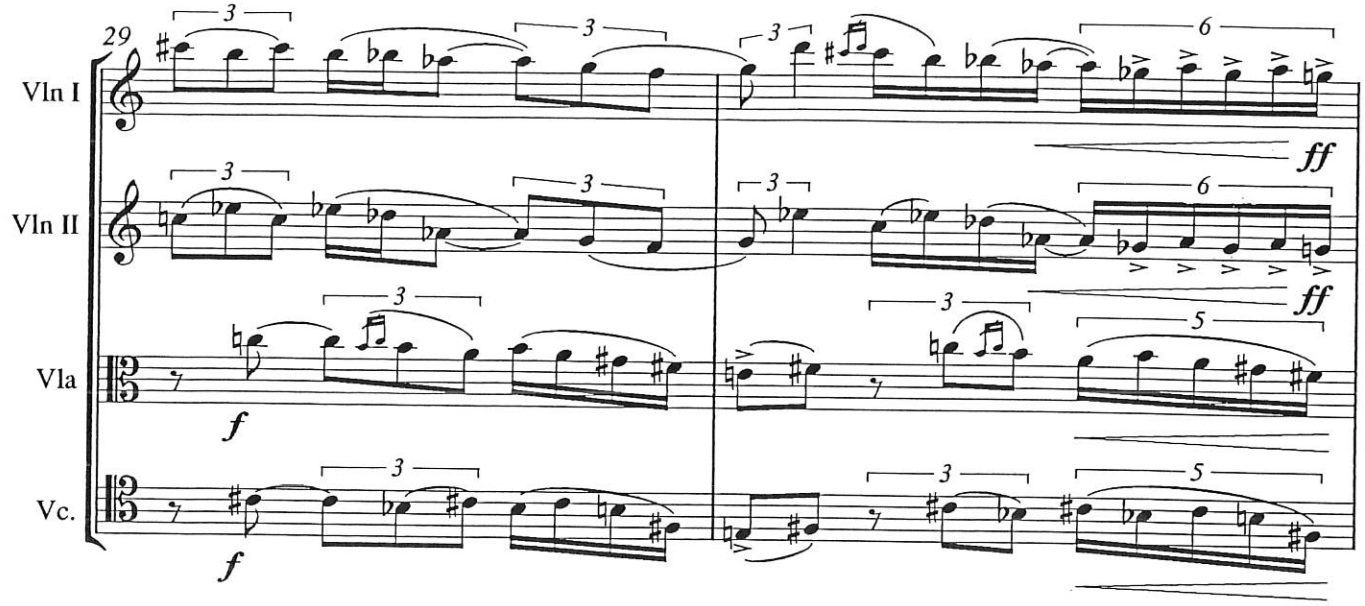

14
3
3
3
Vln I
ff
senza sord.
3
3
3
3
gliss.
Vln II
p
f
mp
Vla
f
Vc.
f

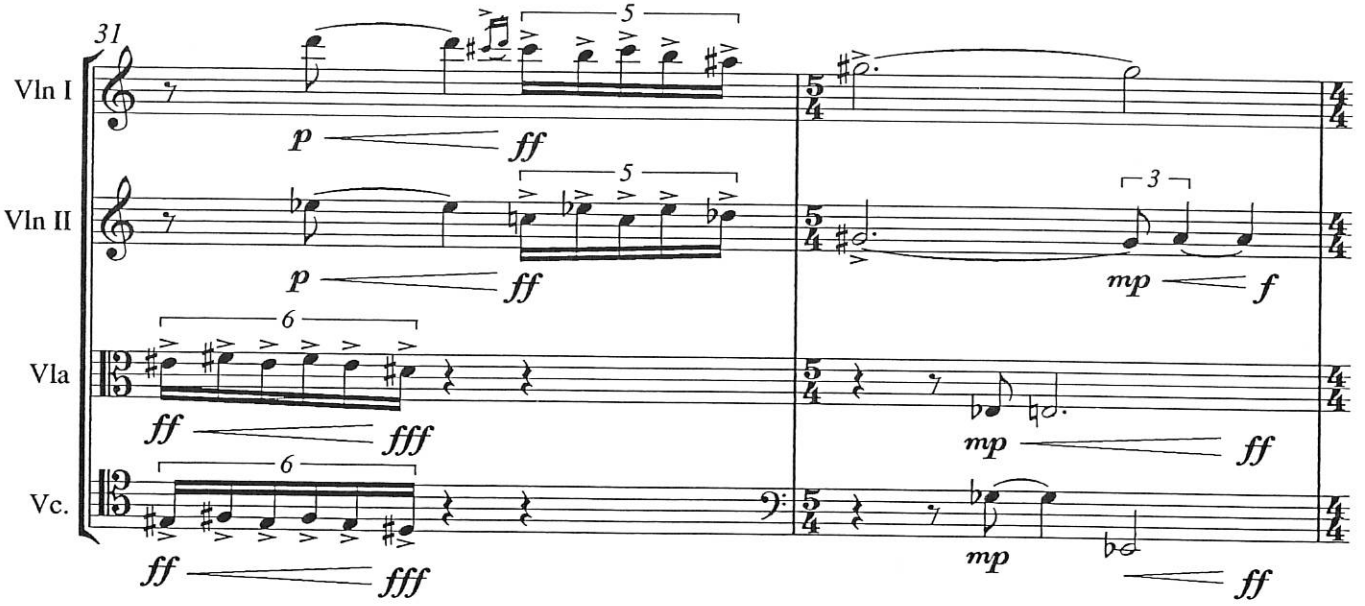

15
7:4
Vln I
p
mf
9:8
Vln II
p
mf
3
6
Vla
mf
f
senza sord.
3
Vc.
p
mf

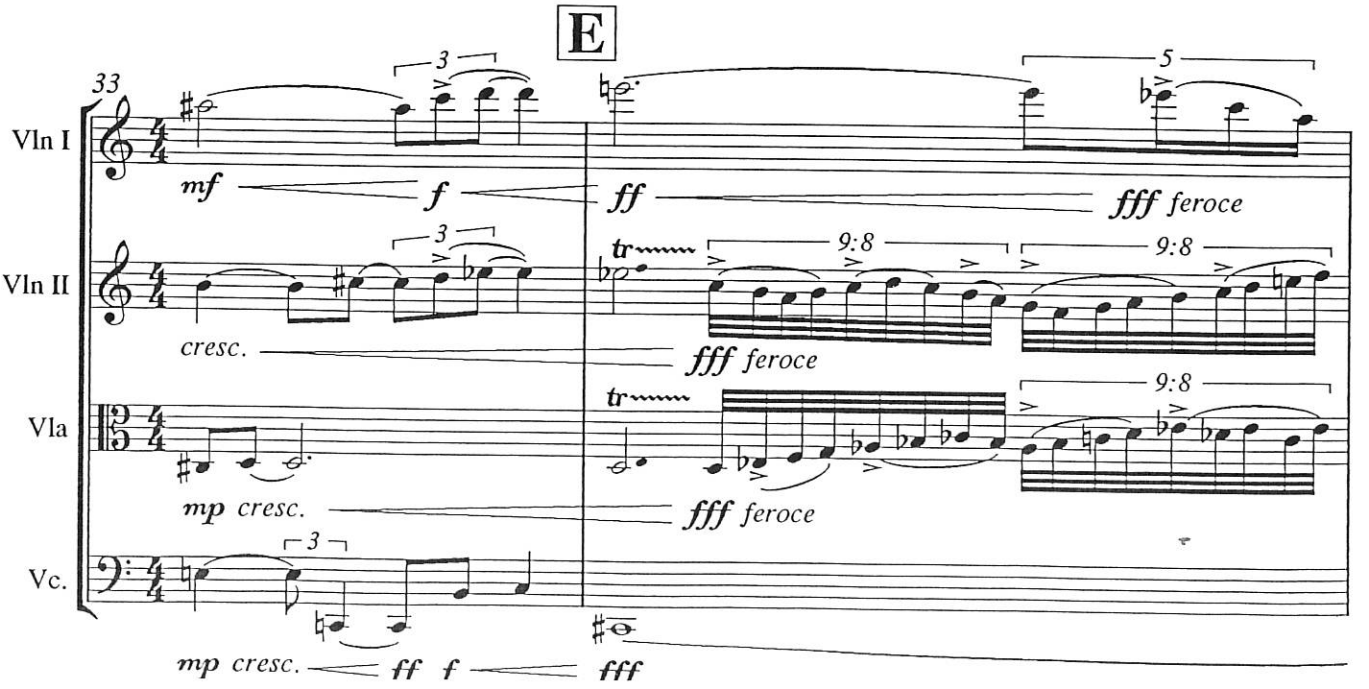

B
16
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
18
19
gliss.

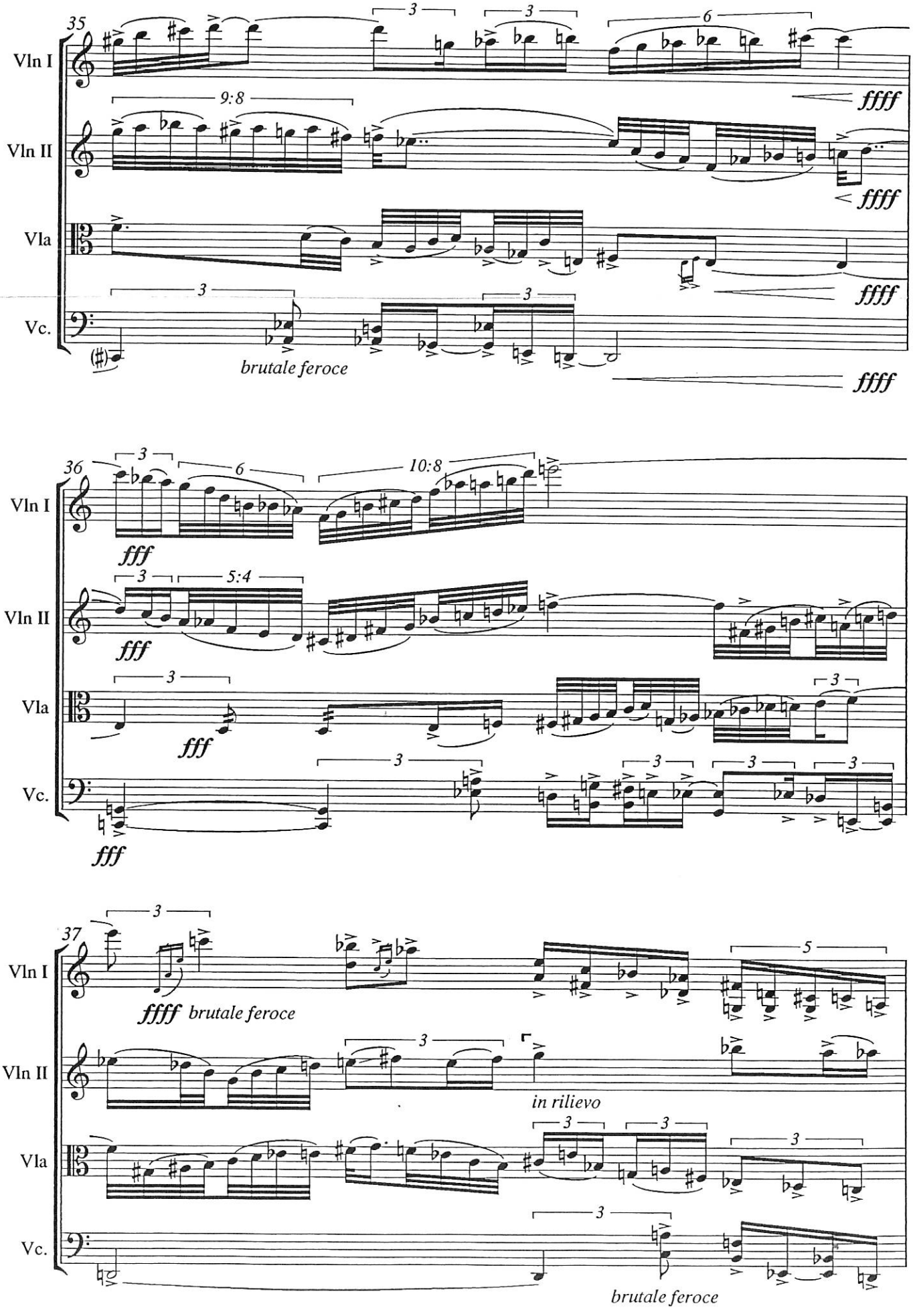

C
20
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
gliss.
ff
p semplice
mp
pizz.
arco
22
1.
tr
mf
f
ff
23
2.

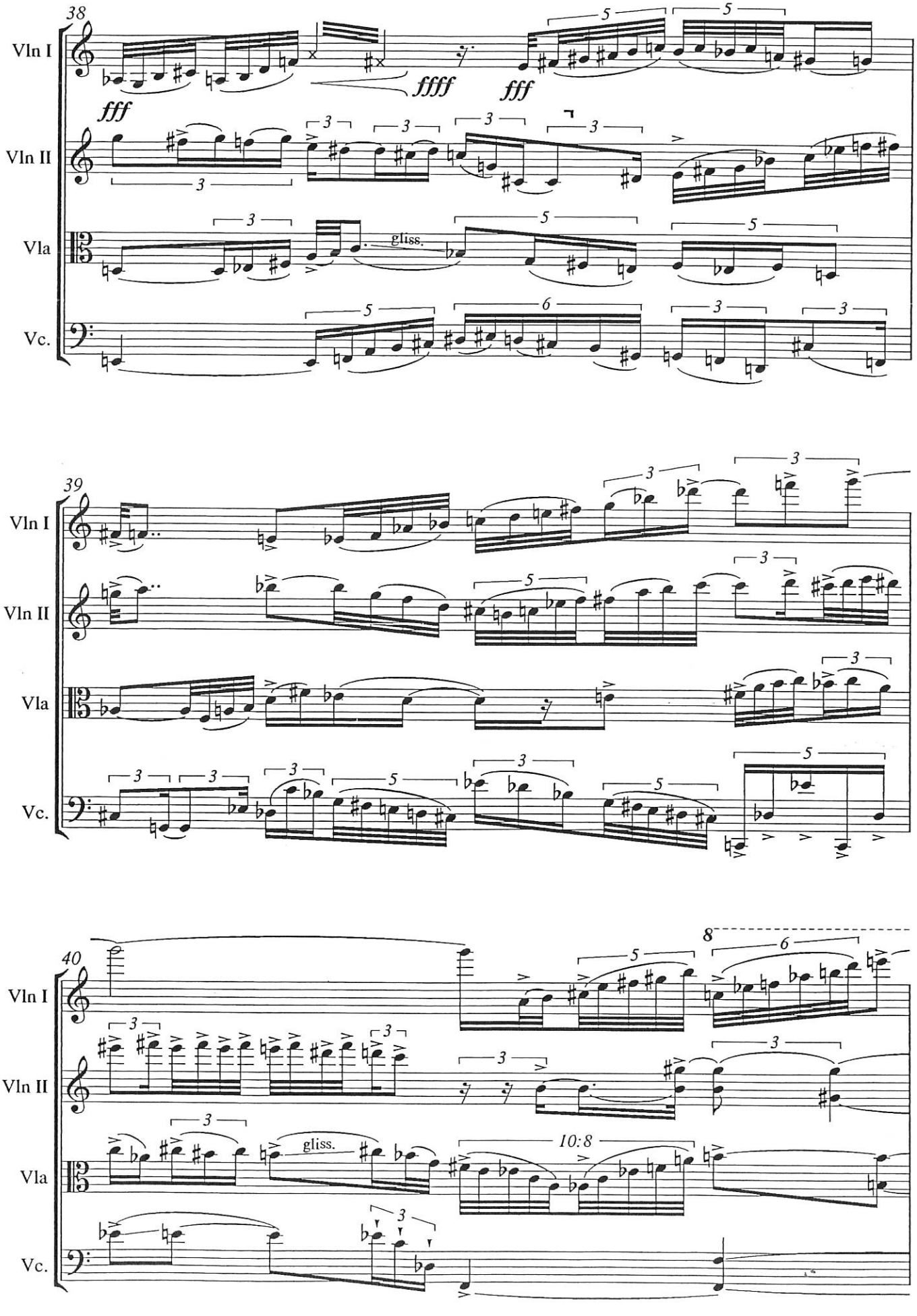

24
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
f cresc.
D
25
fff
p
on beat
before beat
f
27
ff

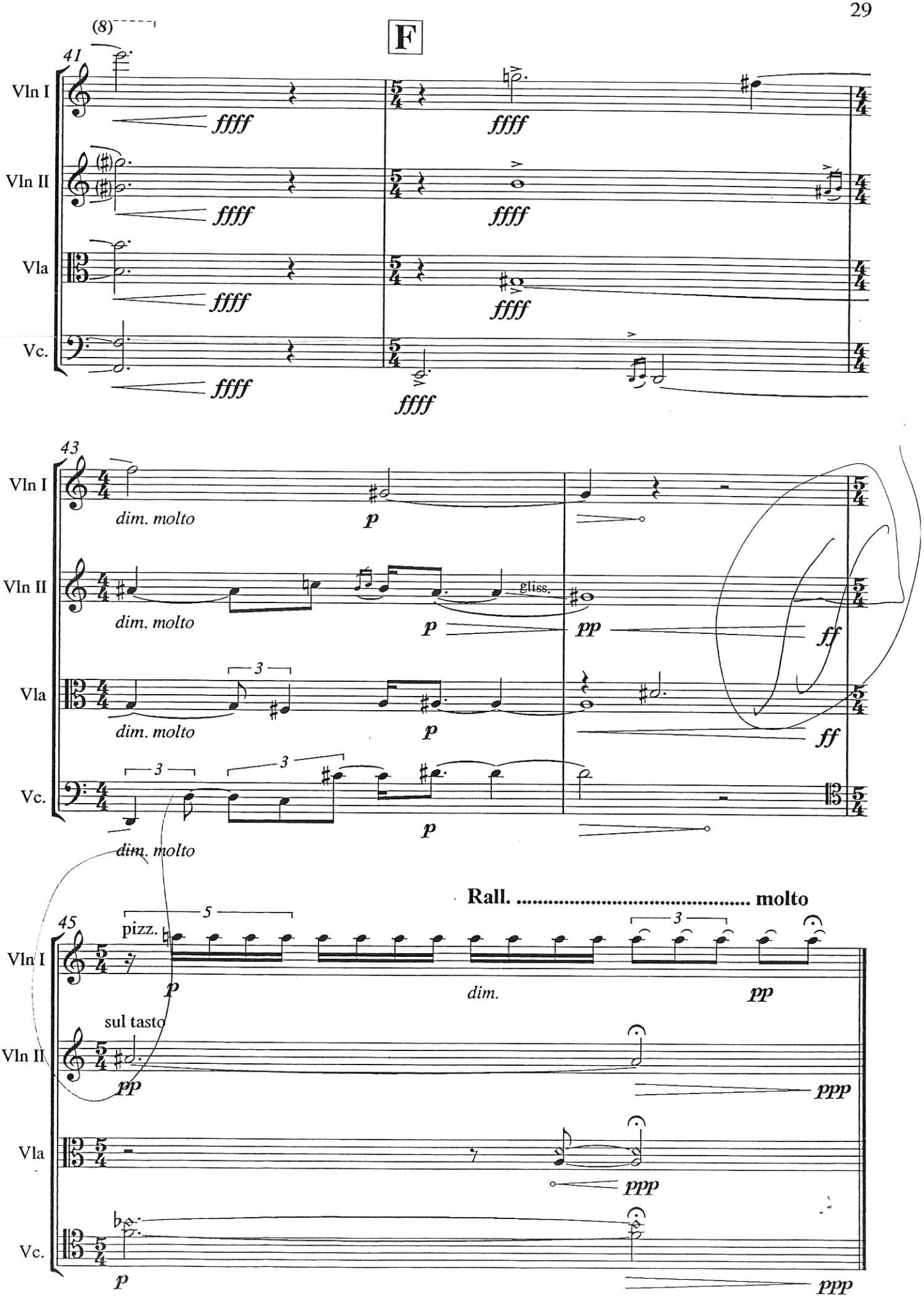

29
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
ff
f


31
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
p
ff
mp
f
fff


E
33
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
mf
f
ff
fff feroce
cresc.
mp cresc.
9:8
tr
mp cresc.
ff f
fff

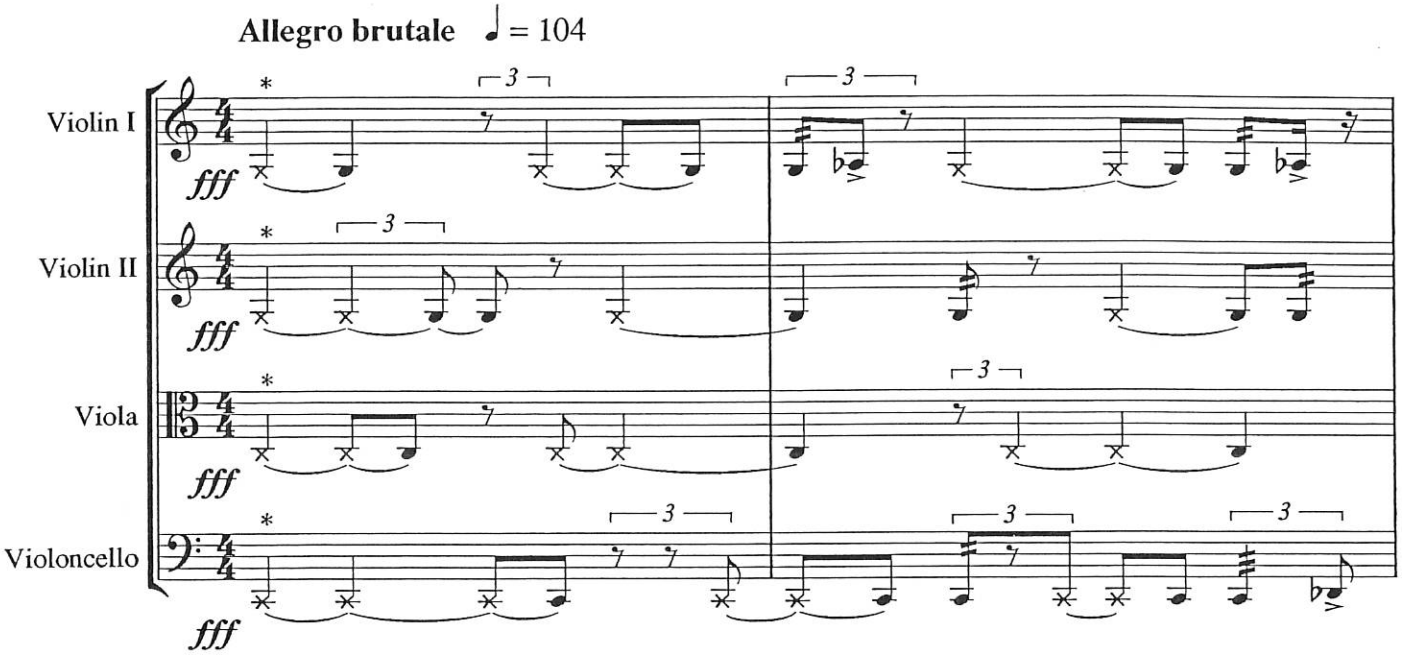

35
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
9:8
ffff
brutale feroce
36
10:8
5:4
fff
37
5
ffff brutale feroce
in rilievo
brutale feroce


38
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
fff
ffff
fff
gliss.
39
40
8
10:8
gliss.

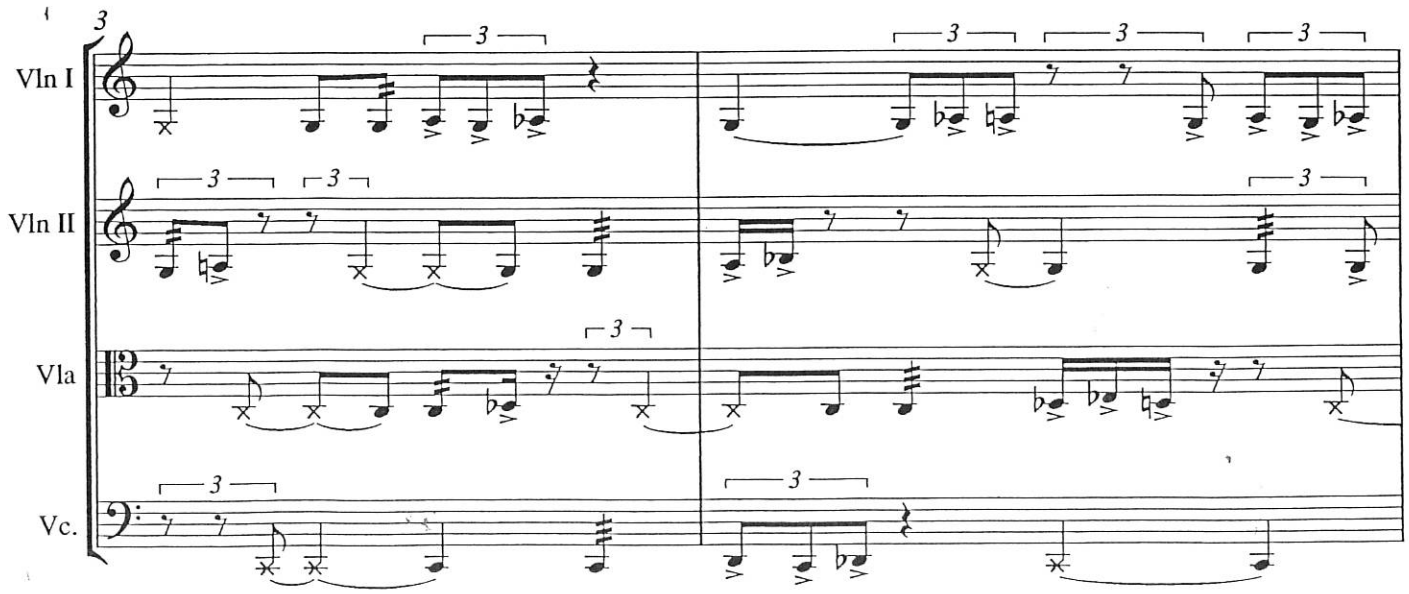

(8)
F
41
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
ffff
43
dim. molto
p
gliss.
pp
ff
3
45
Rall. ..... molto
pizz.
5
dim.
sul tasto
ppp

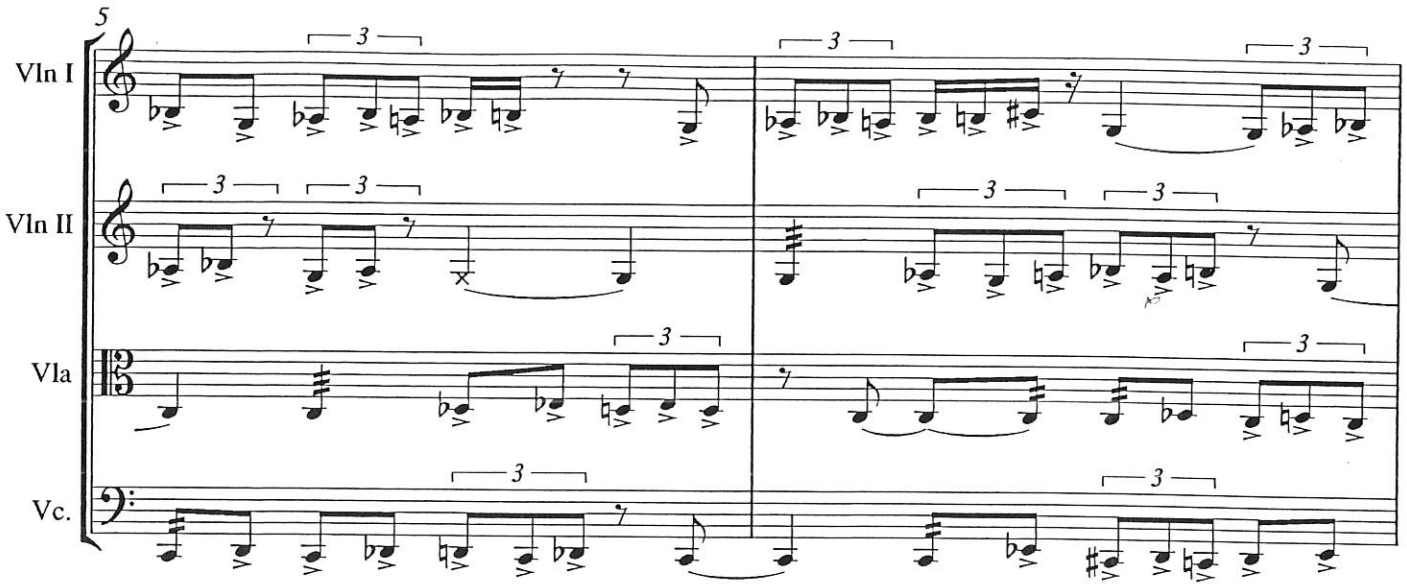
# 3.

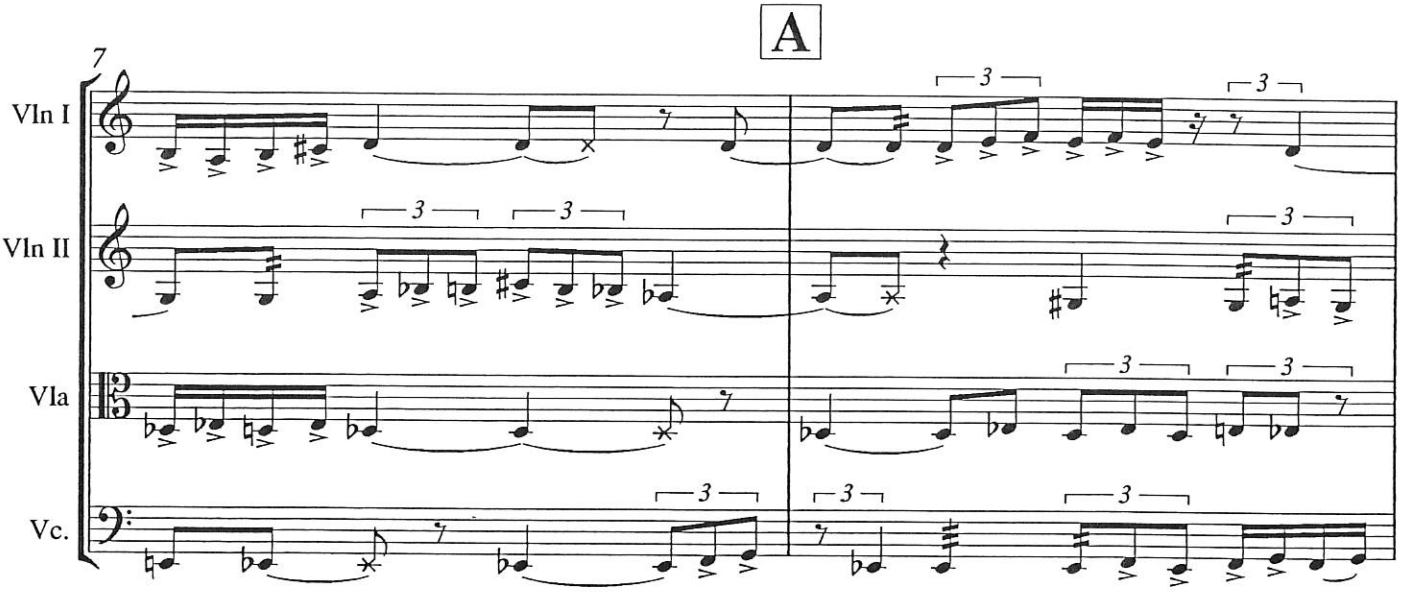
*'The sea surges up with laughter and pale gleams the smile of the sea beach. Death-dealing waves sing meaningless ballads to the children, even like a mother while rocking her baby's cradle. The sea plays with children, and pale gleams the smile of the sea beach.'*

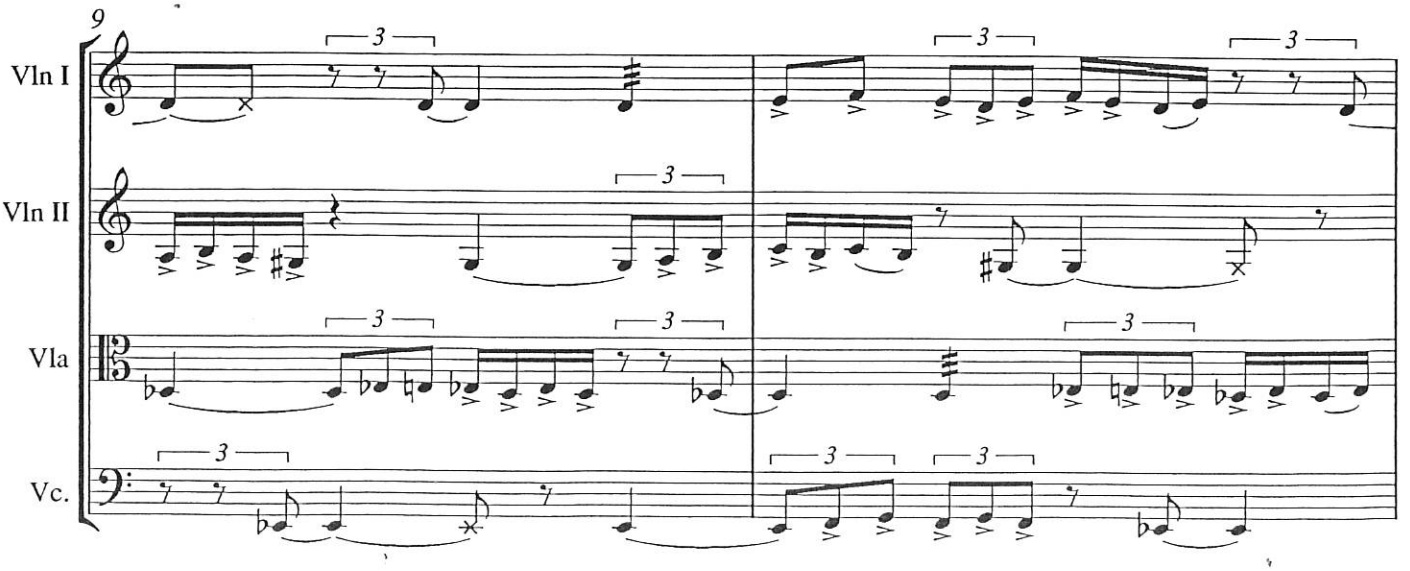


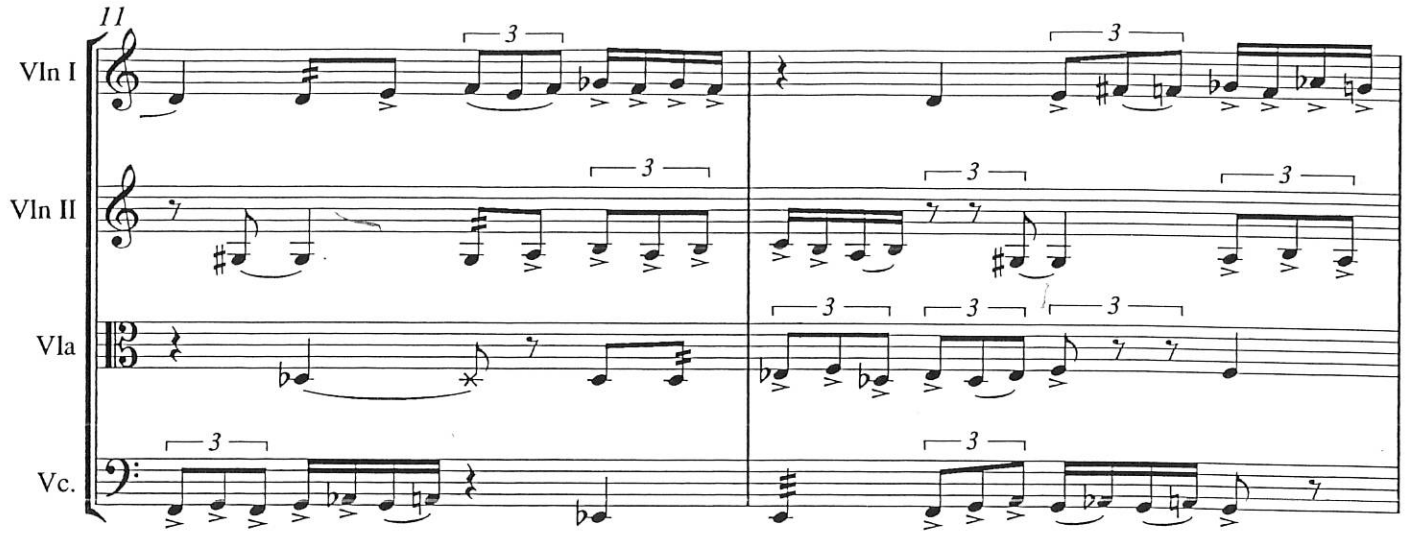

* Grating open strings, more sound of bow than pitch.



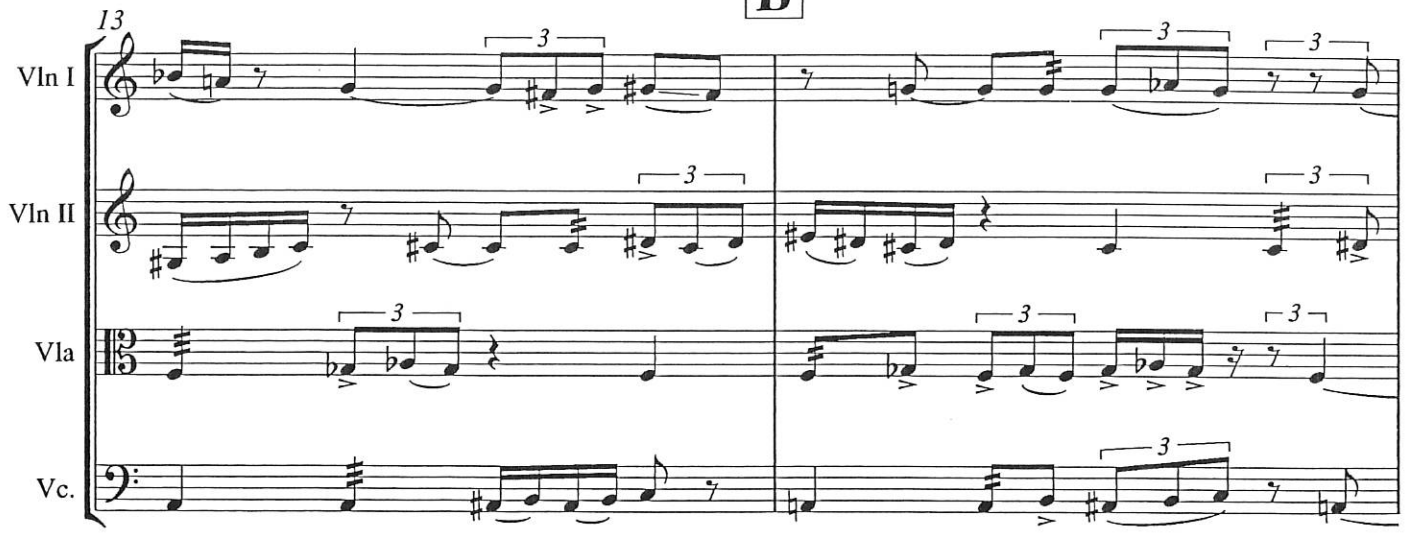

5
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.

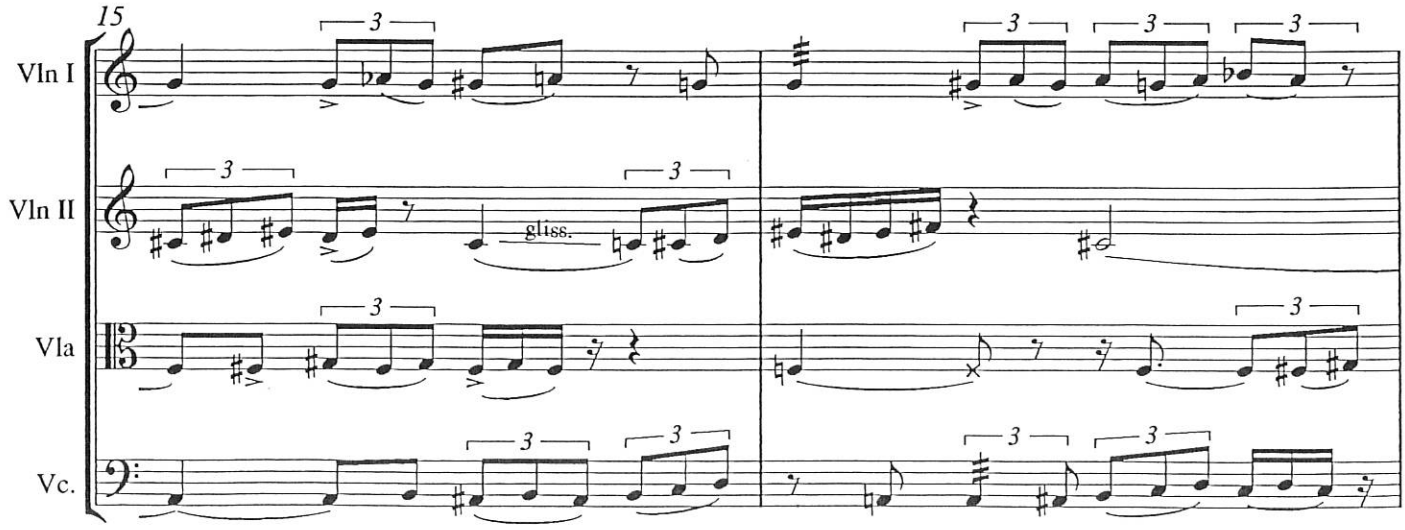

A
7
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.

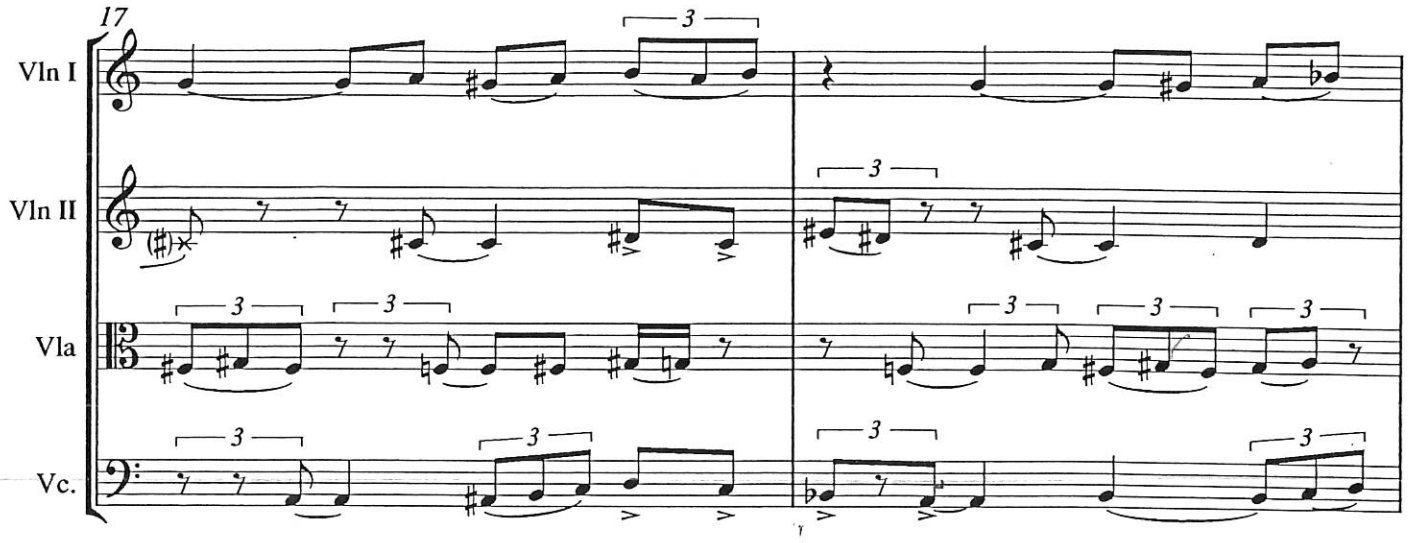

9
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.

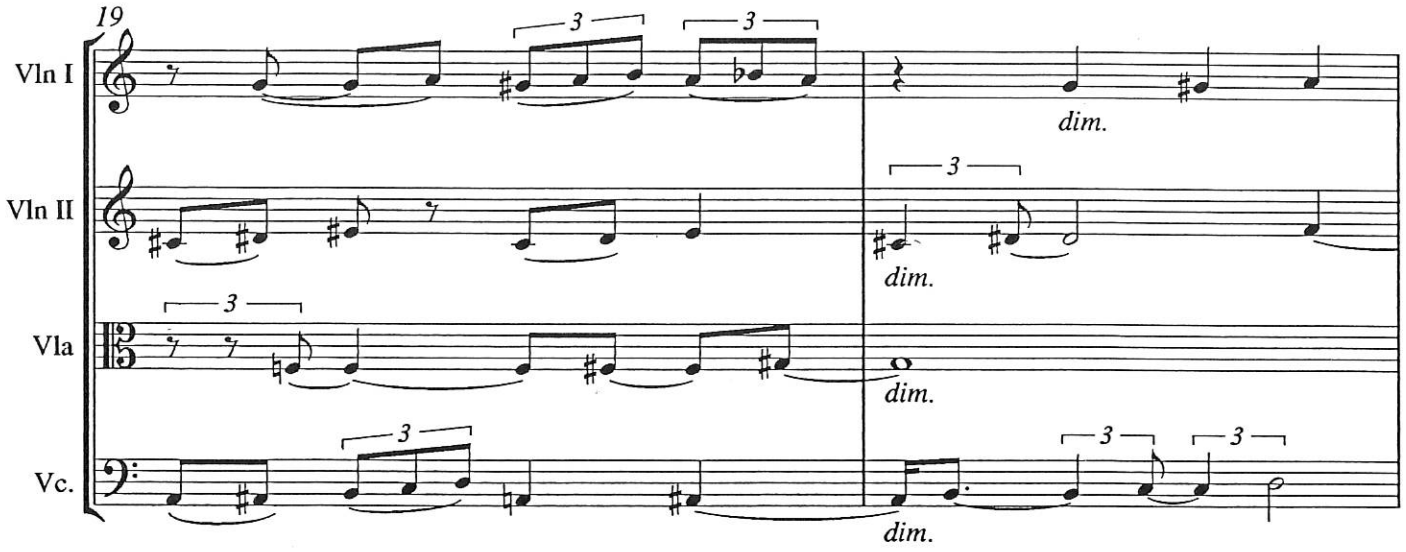

11
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.

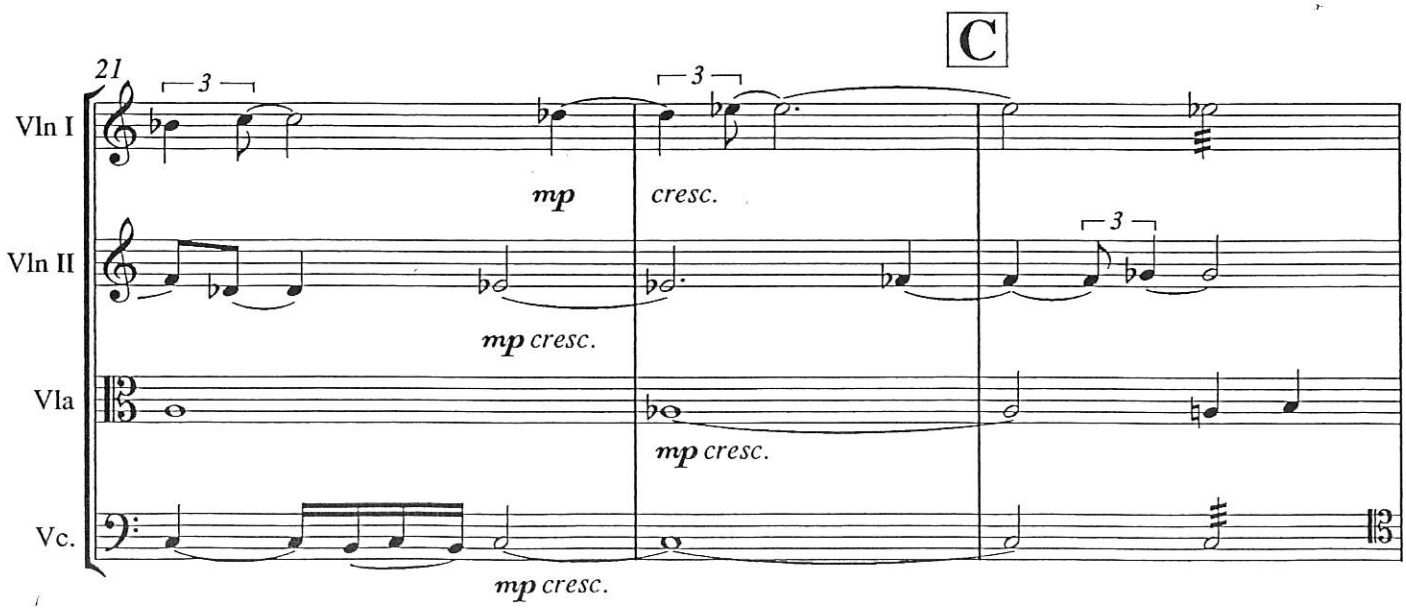
**B**

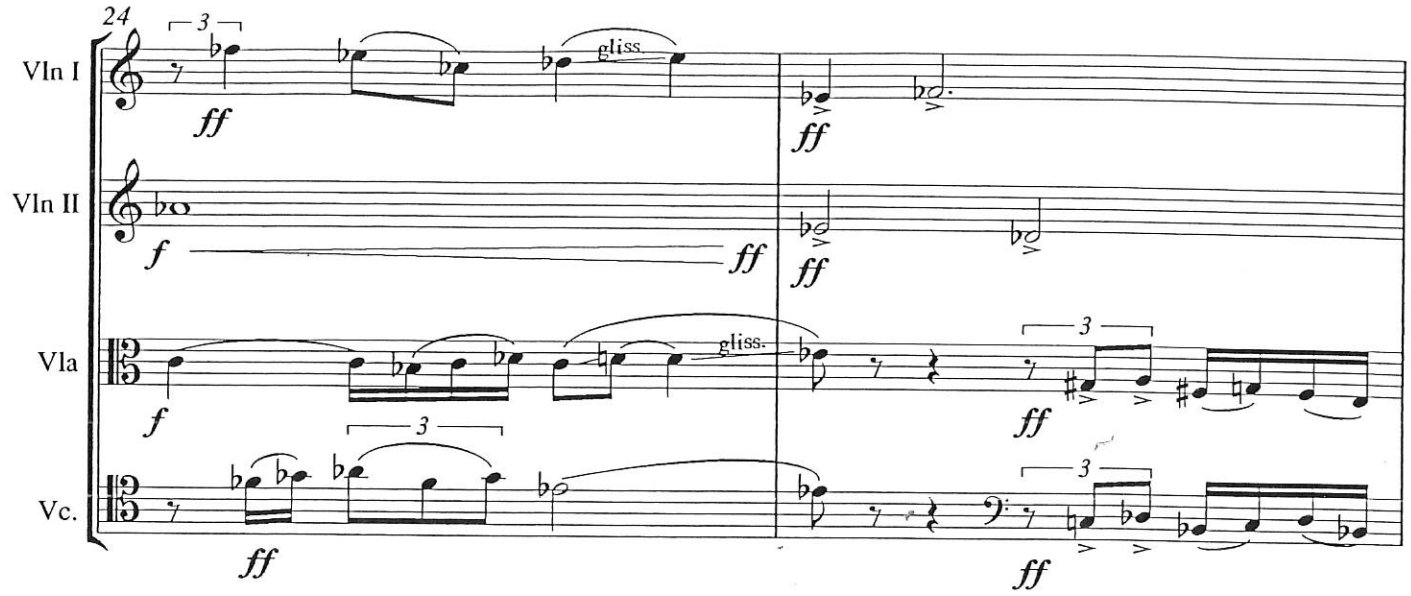

13
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.

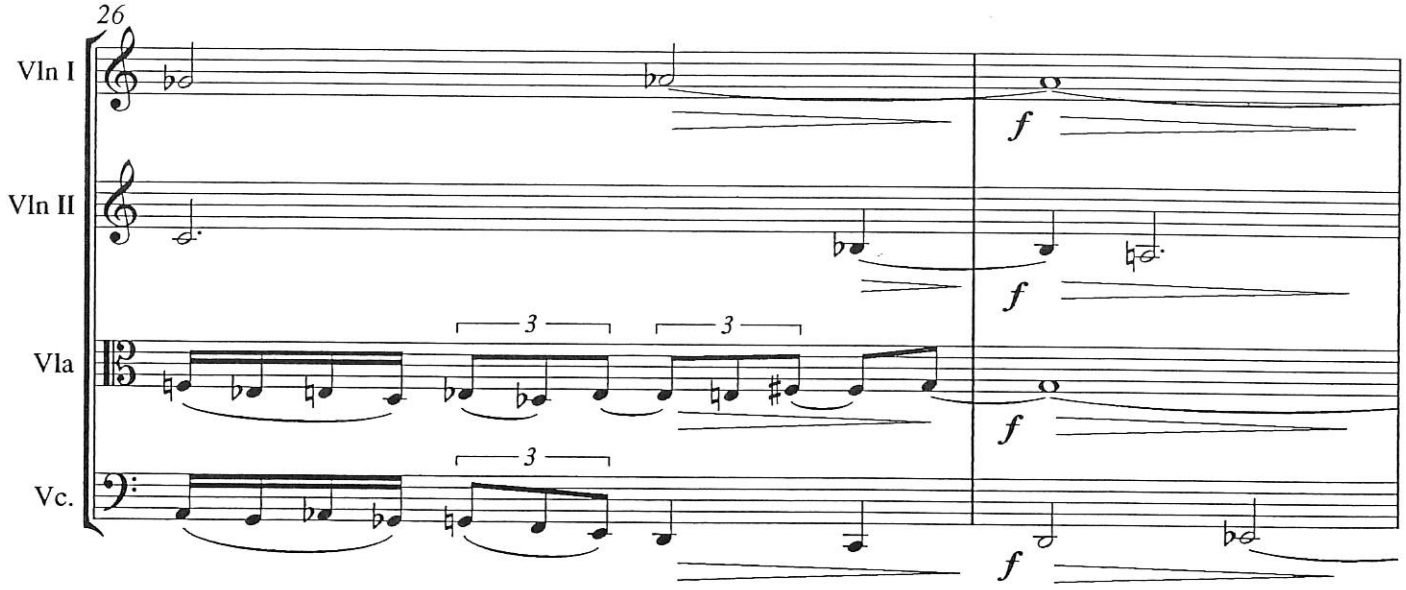

15
Vln I
Vln II
gliss.
Vla
Vc.

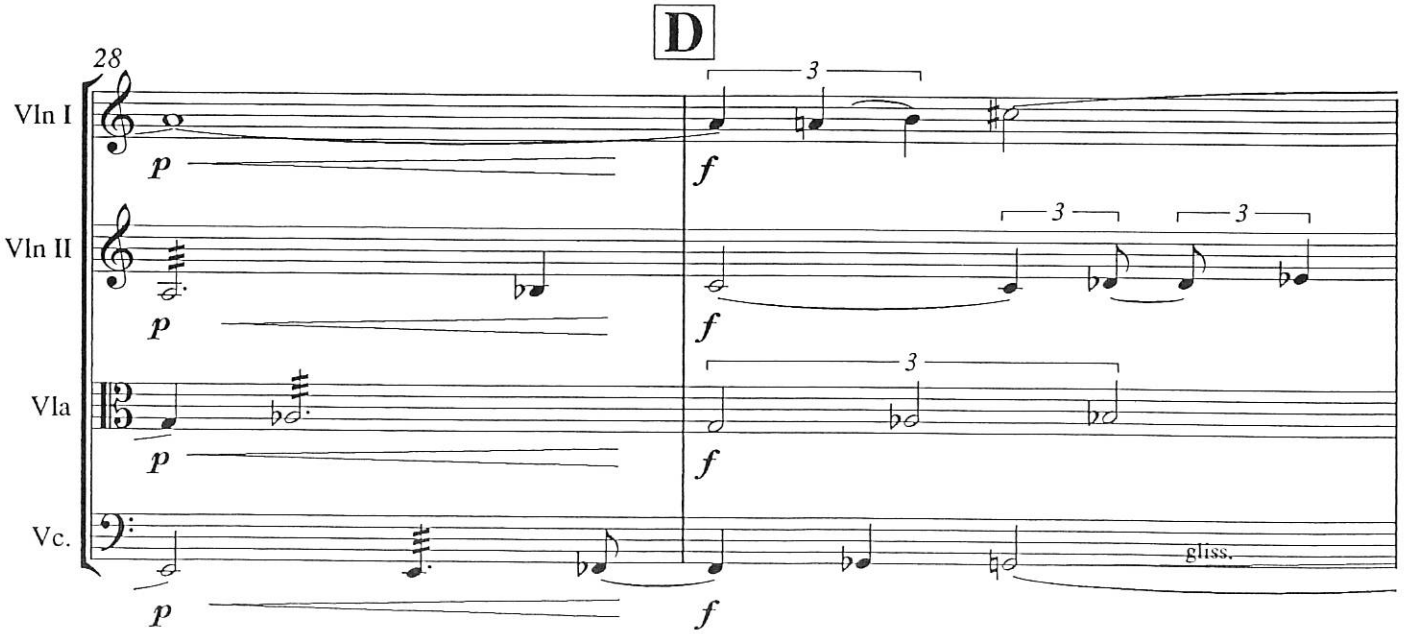

17
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
3

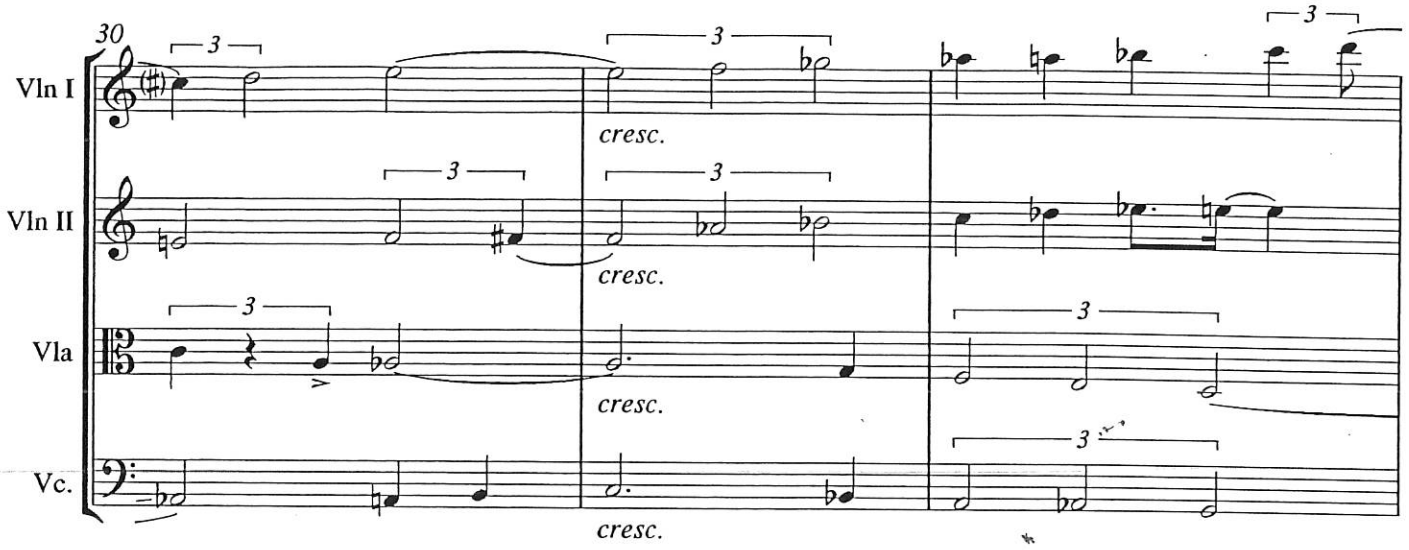

19
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
3
dim.

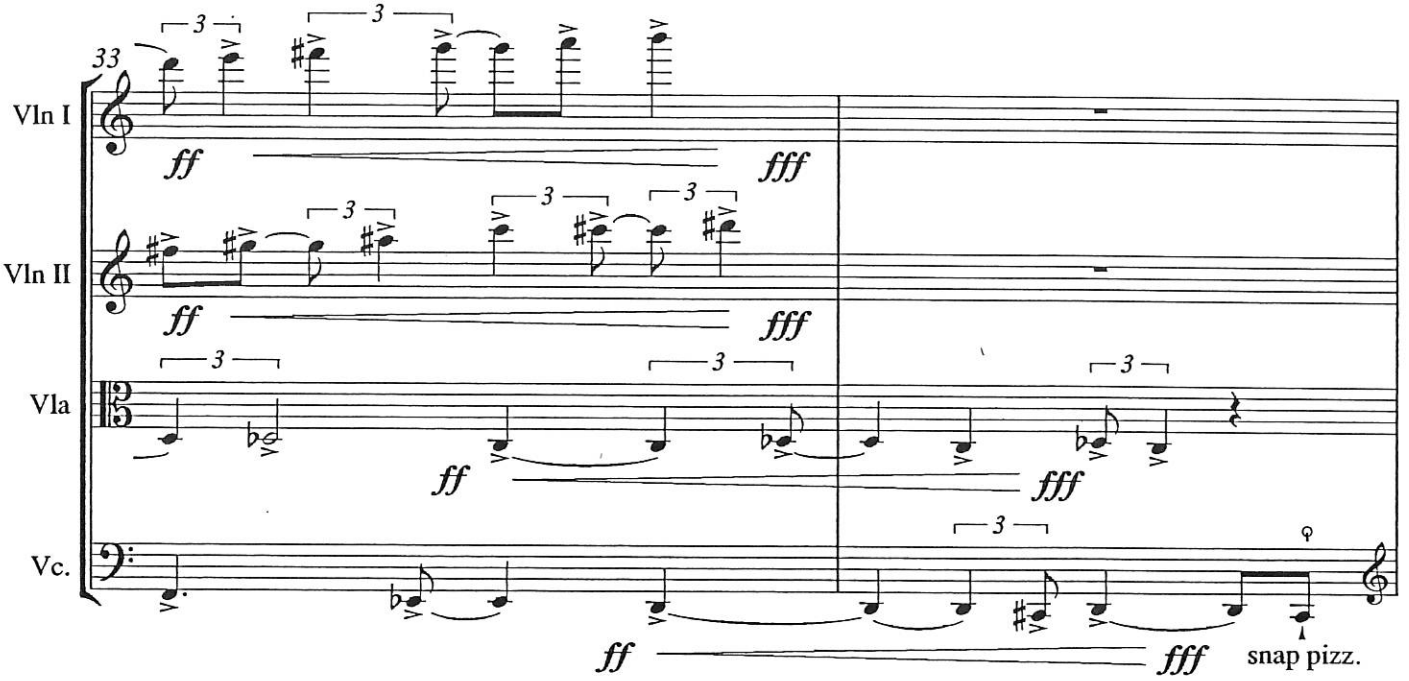

C
21
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
3
mp
cresc.
mp cresc.

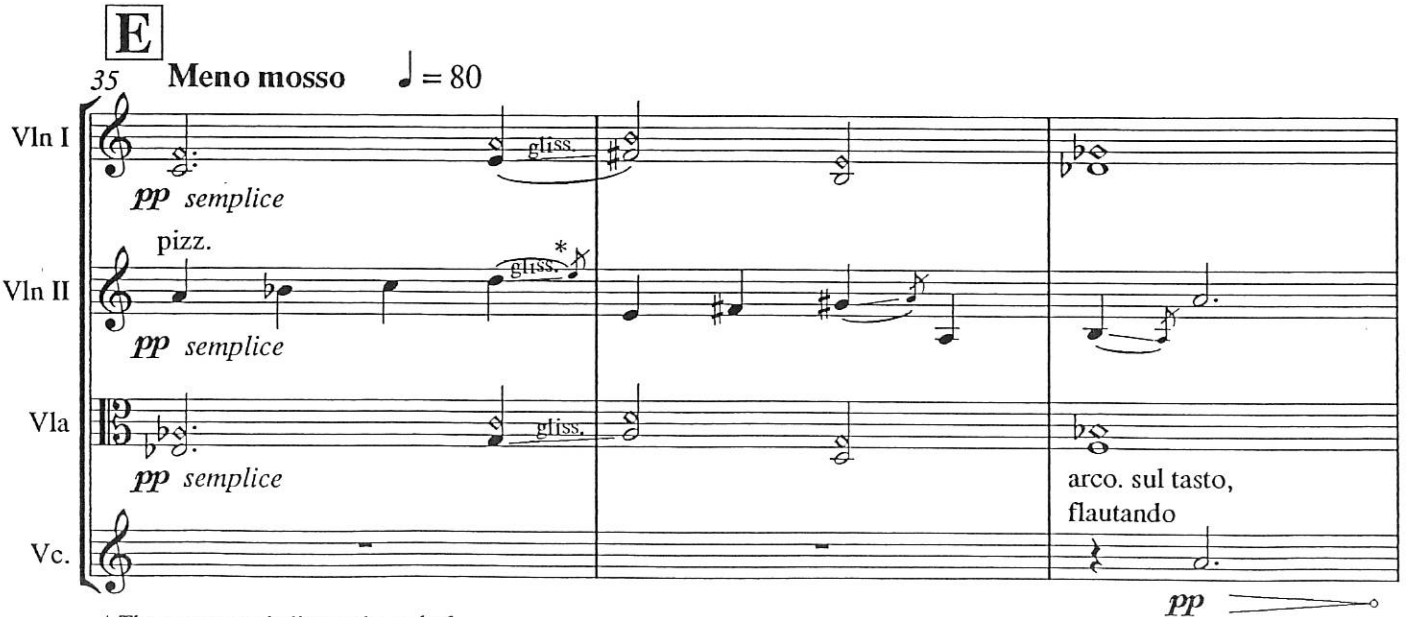

24
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
gliss.
ff
f


26
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
f

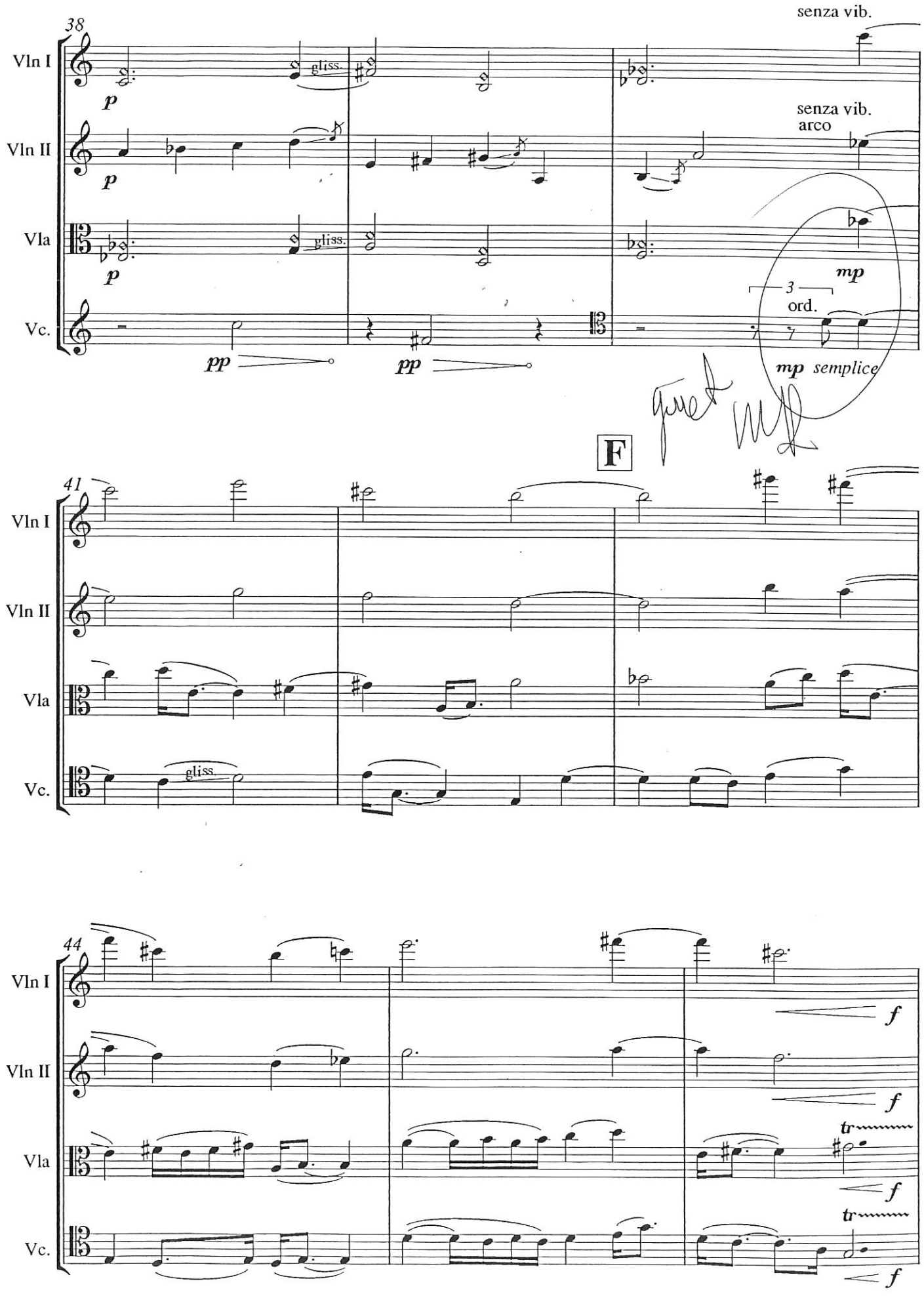

D
28
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
p
f
gliss.

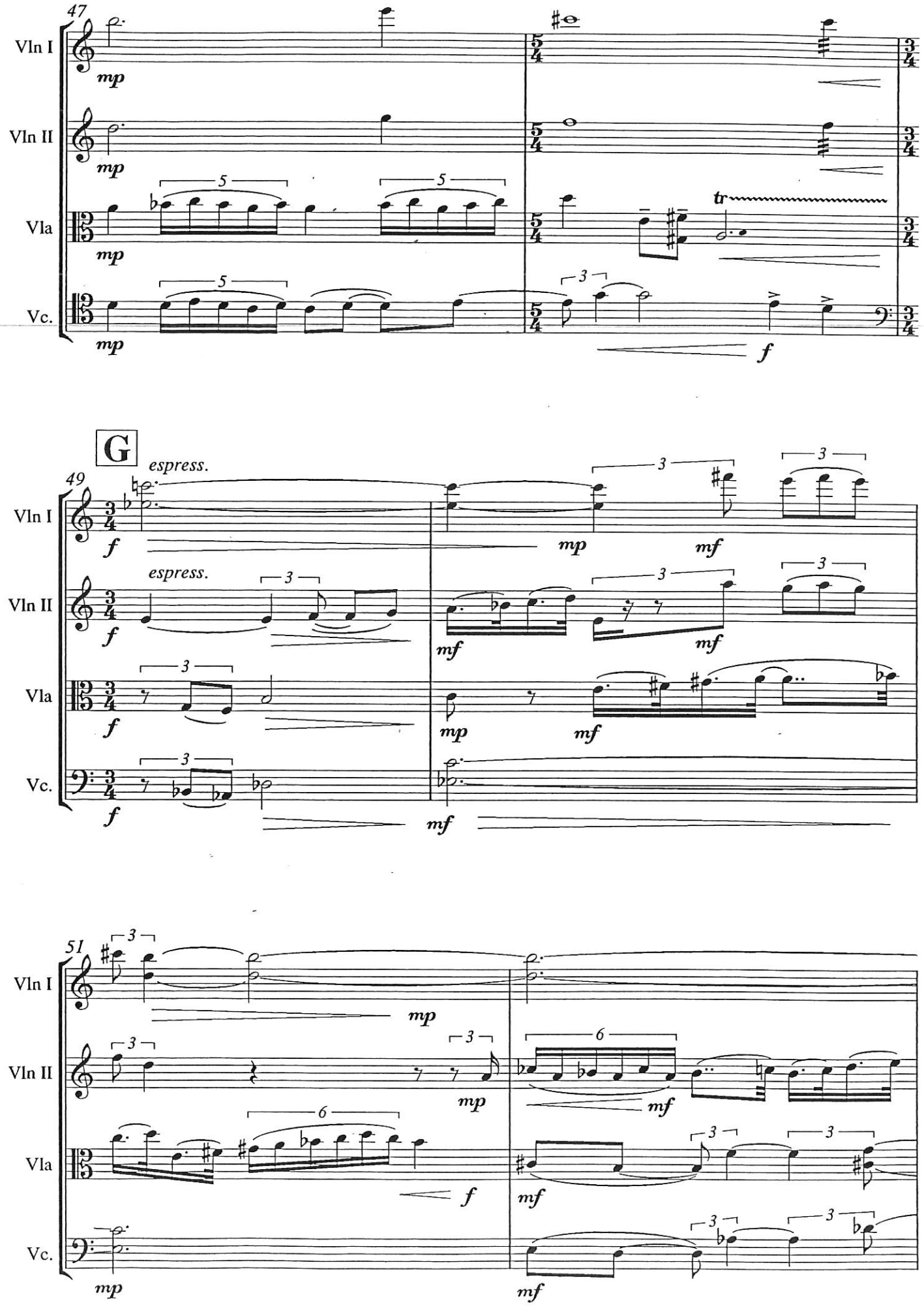


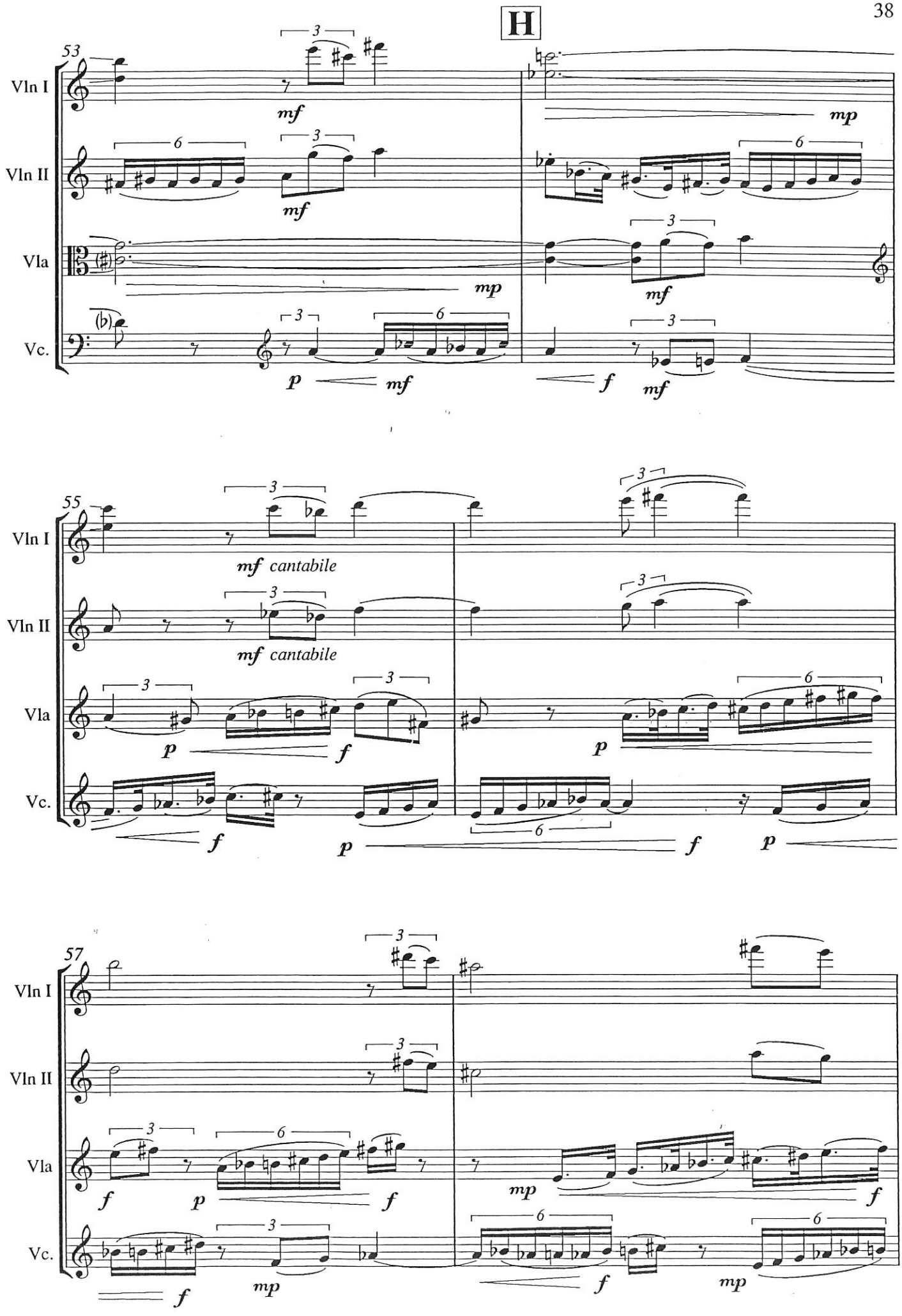



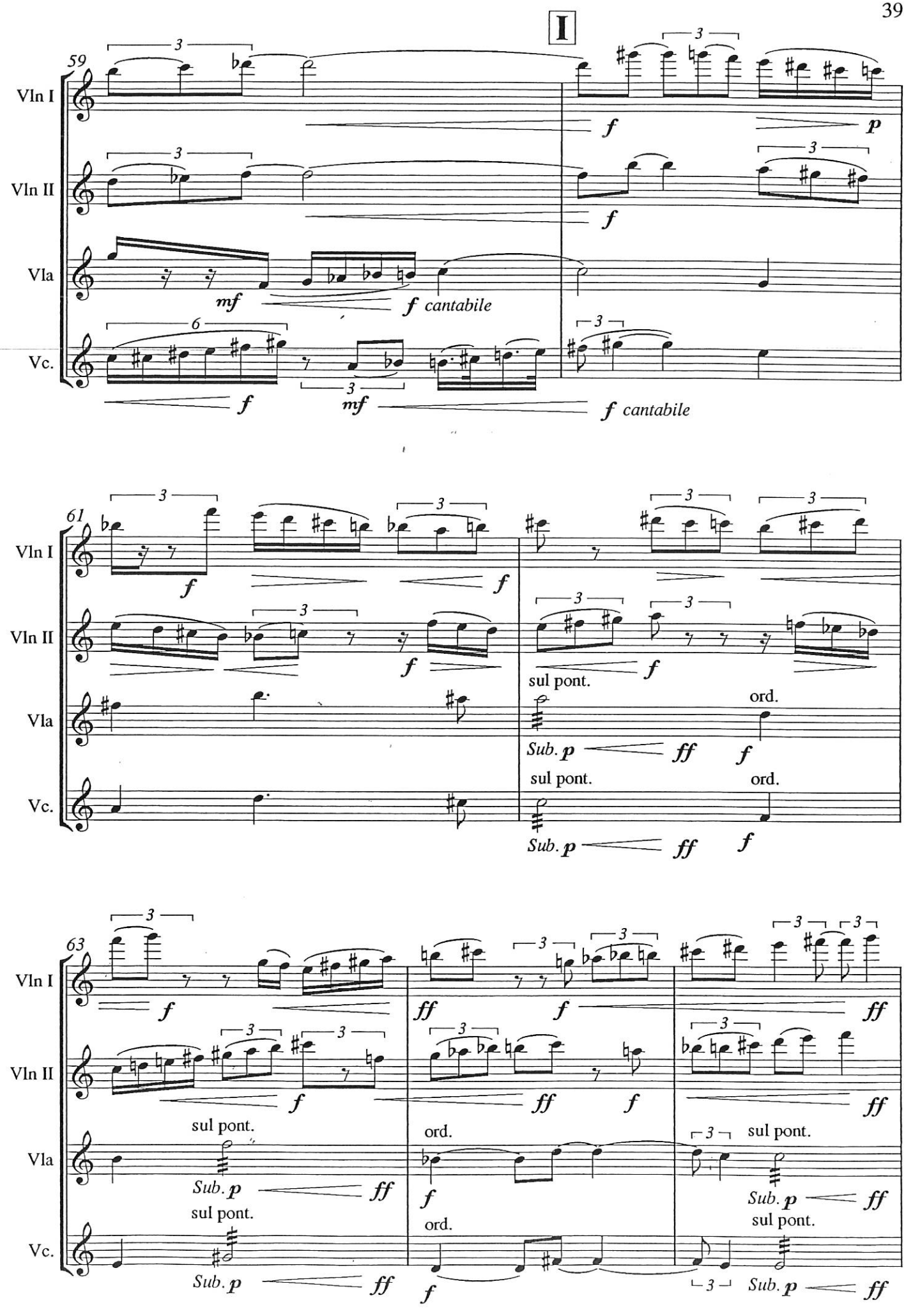



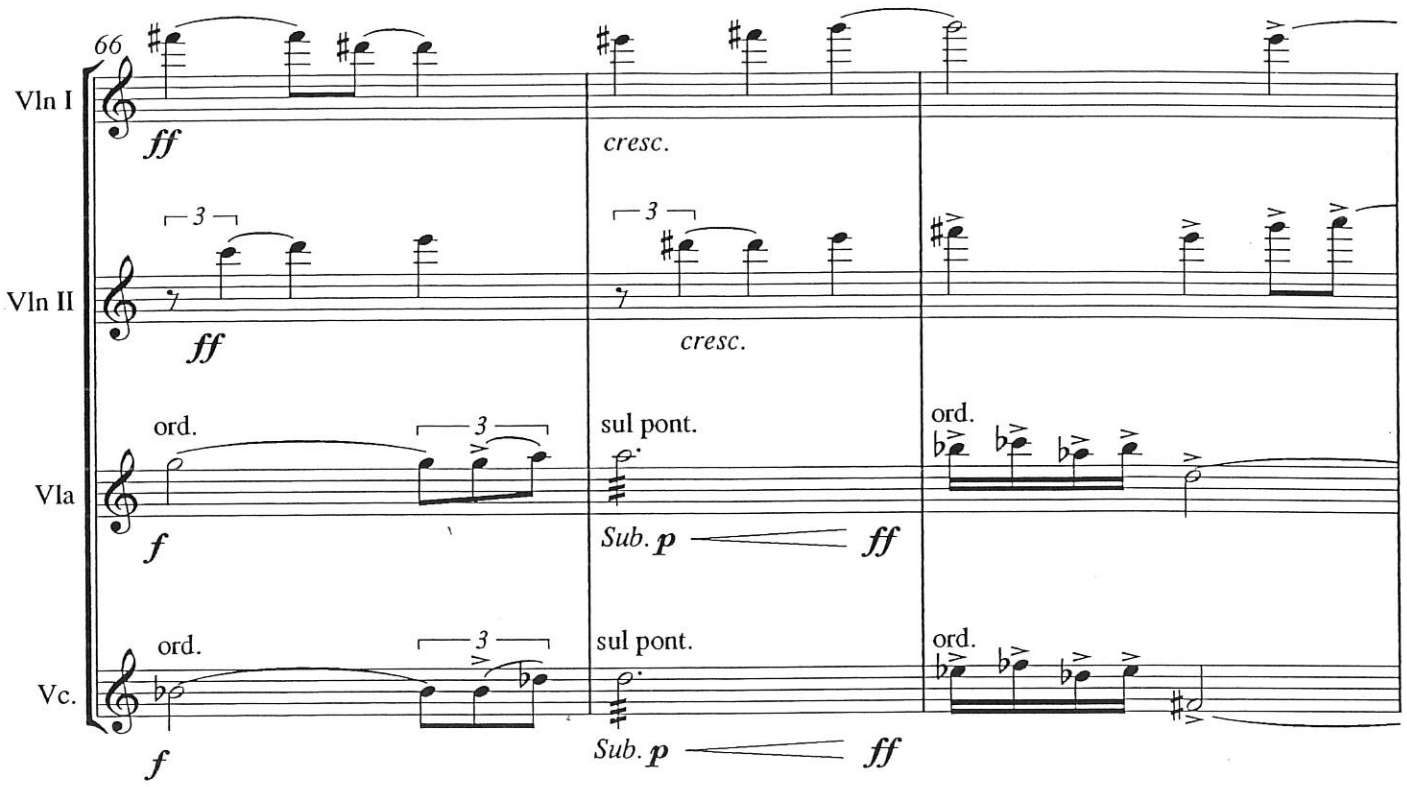

* The grace note indicates the end of the gliss. It should not be plucked.


38
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
p
gliss.
pp
senza vib.
senza vib.
arco
mp
3
ord.
mp semplice
F
41
gliss.
44
f
tr
f


47
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
mp
5
tr
3
f
G
espress.
49
mf
51
6

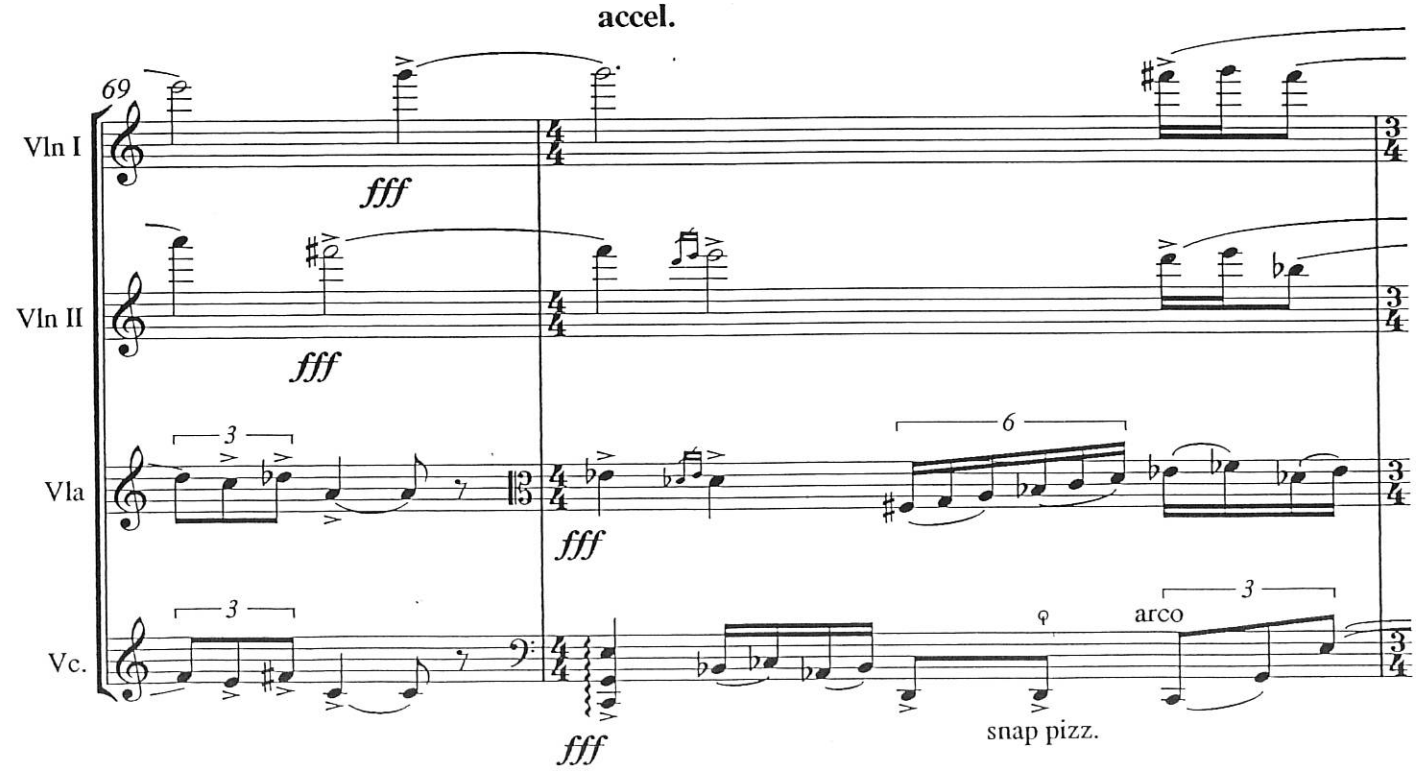

H
53
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
mf
mp
p
f
55
mf cantabile
57

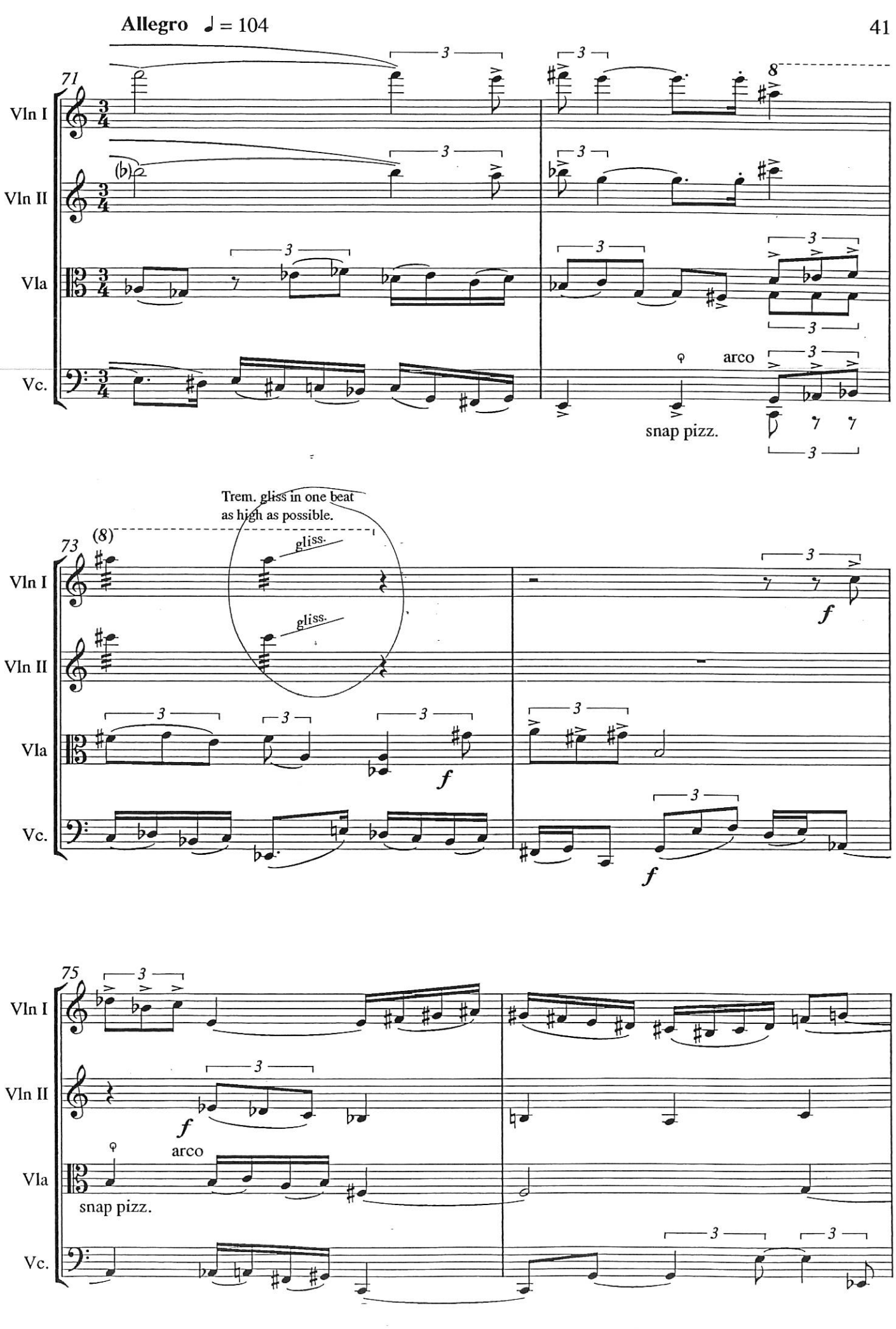

I
59
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
mf
f cantabile
f
mf
f cantabile
61
sul pont.
ord.
Sub. p
ff
63
sul pont.
ord.

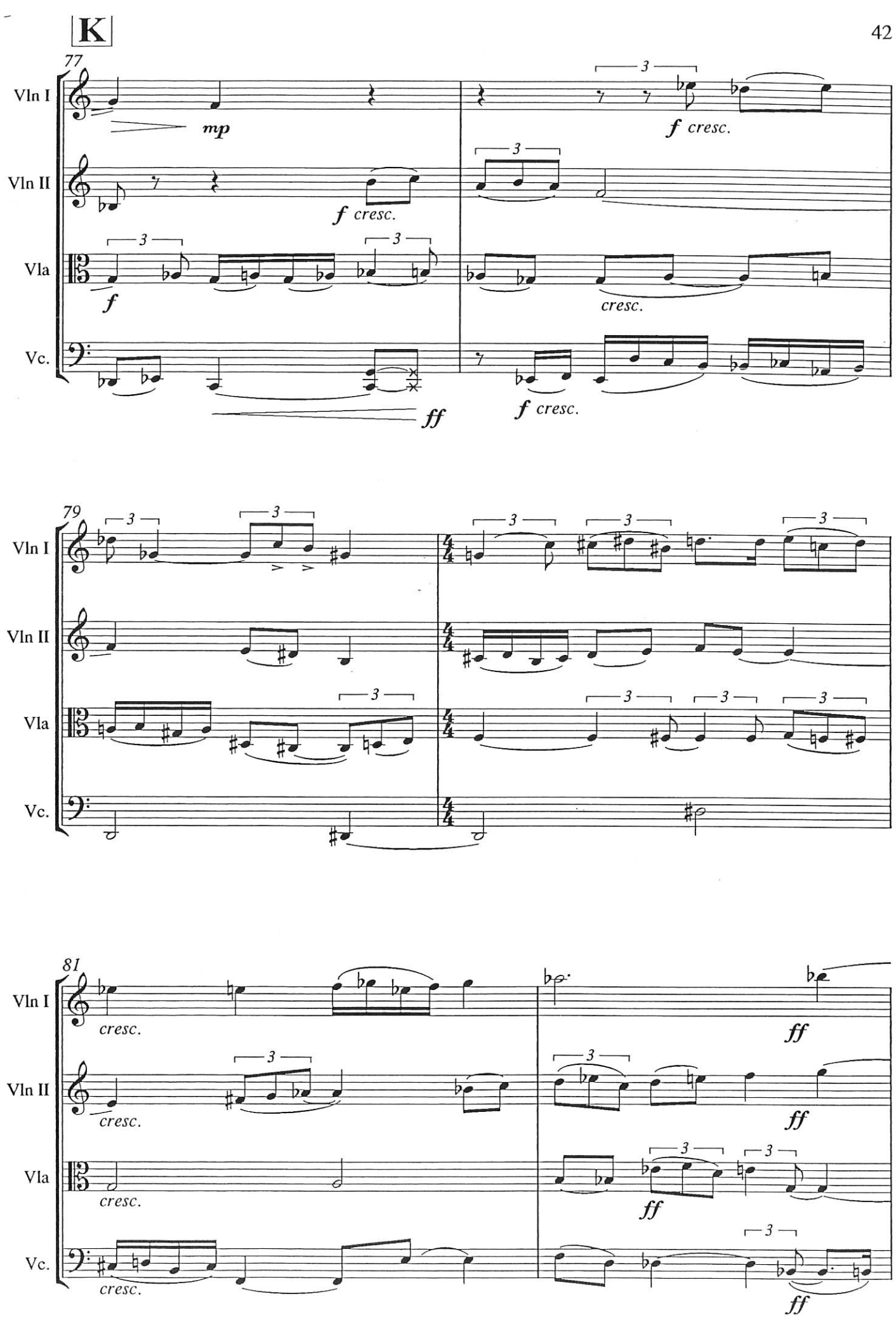

66
Vln I
ff
cresc.
Vln II
ff
cresc.
Vla
ord.
f
sul pont.
Sub. p
ff
ord.
Vc.
ord.
f
sul pont.
Sub. p
ff
ord.

J

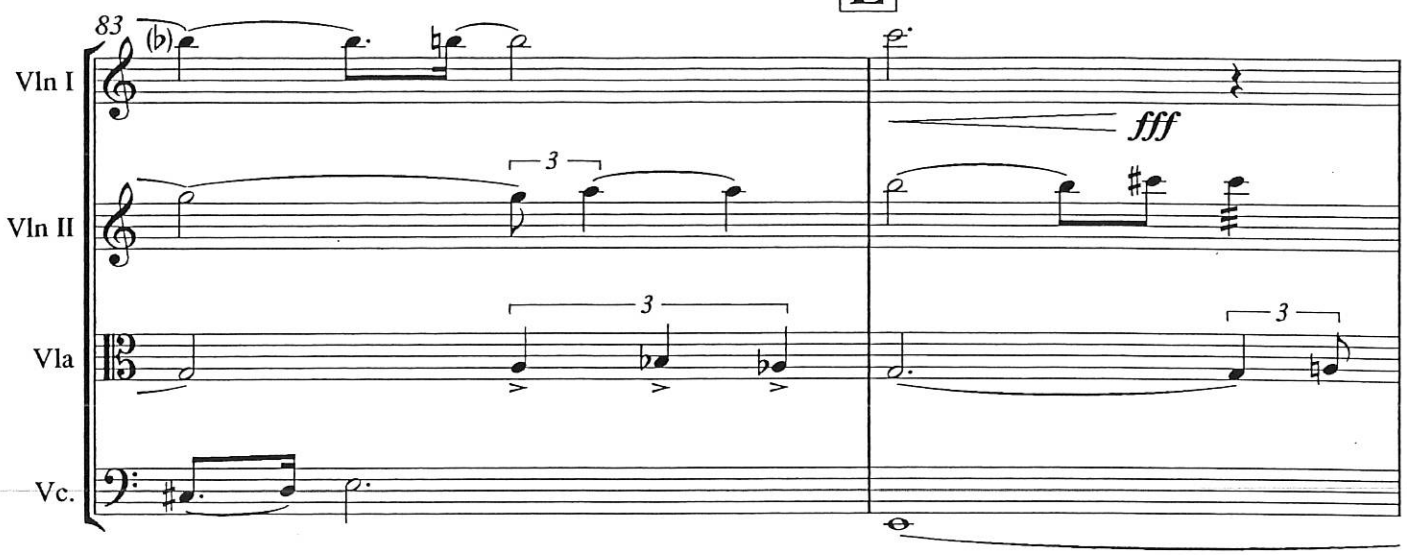
**accel.**

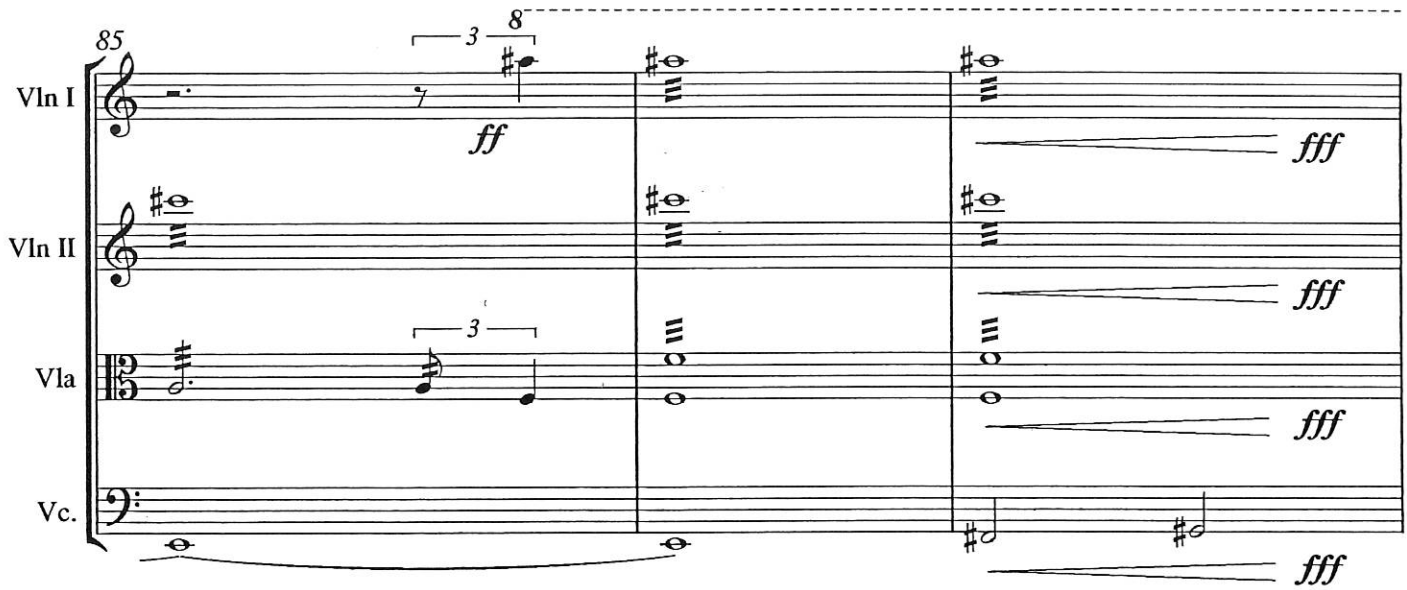

69
Vln I
fff
Vln II
fff
Vla
fff
Vc.
fff
arco
snap pizz.


Allegro ♩ = 104
71
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
arco
snap pizz.
Trem. gliss in one beat
as high as possible.
73
(8)
gliss.
gliss.
f
75
arco
snap pizz.

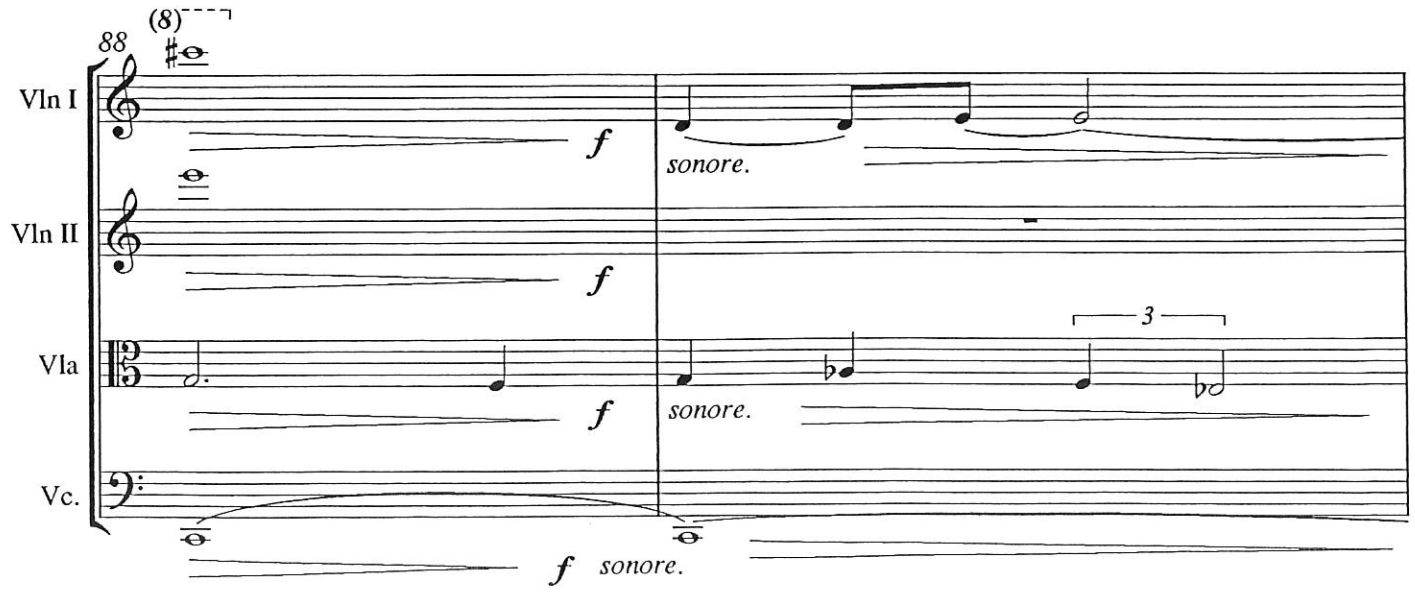

K
77
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
mp
f cresc.
f
cresc.
ff
79
81
ff

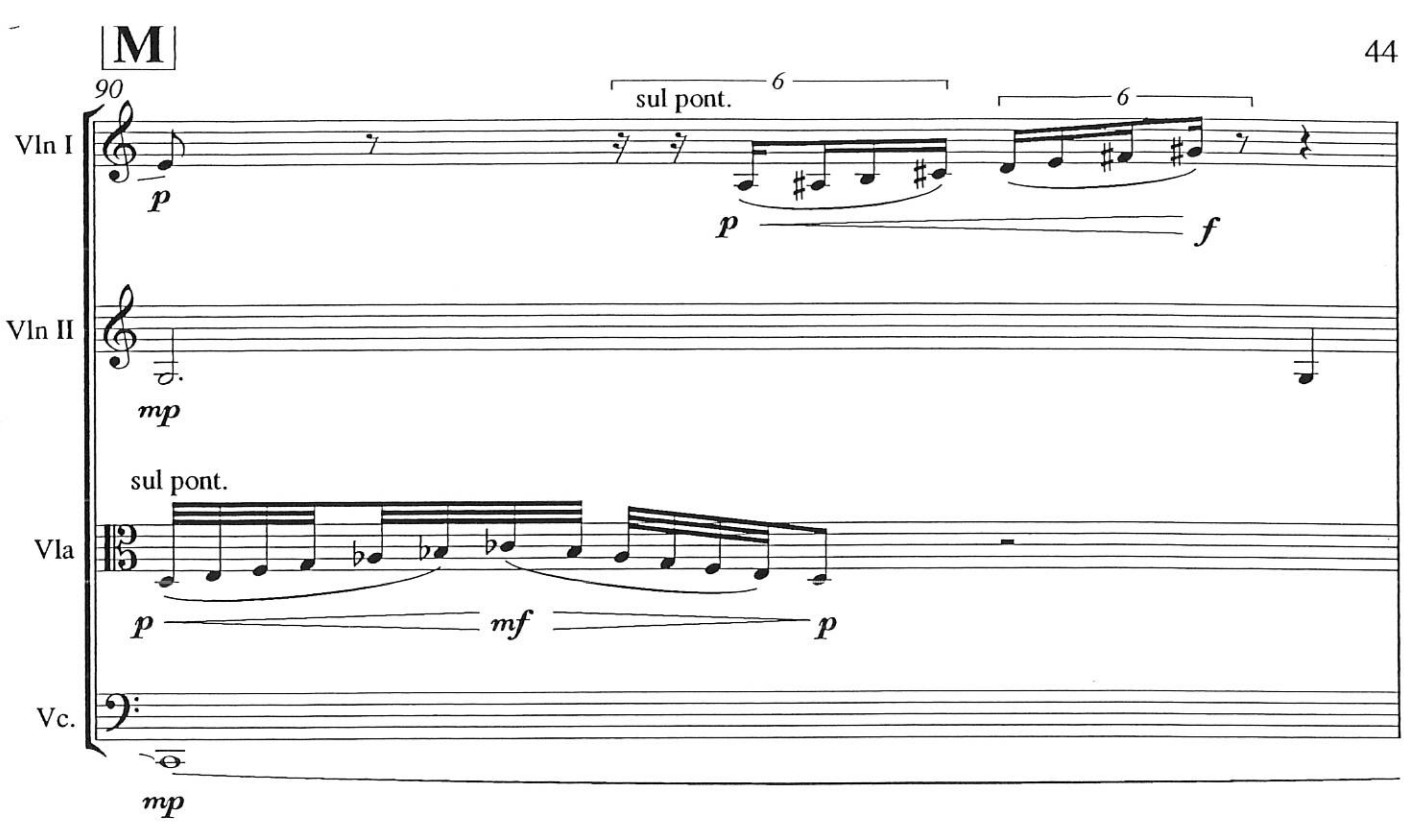
**L**

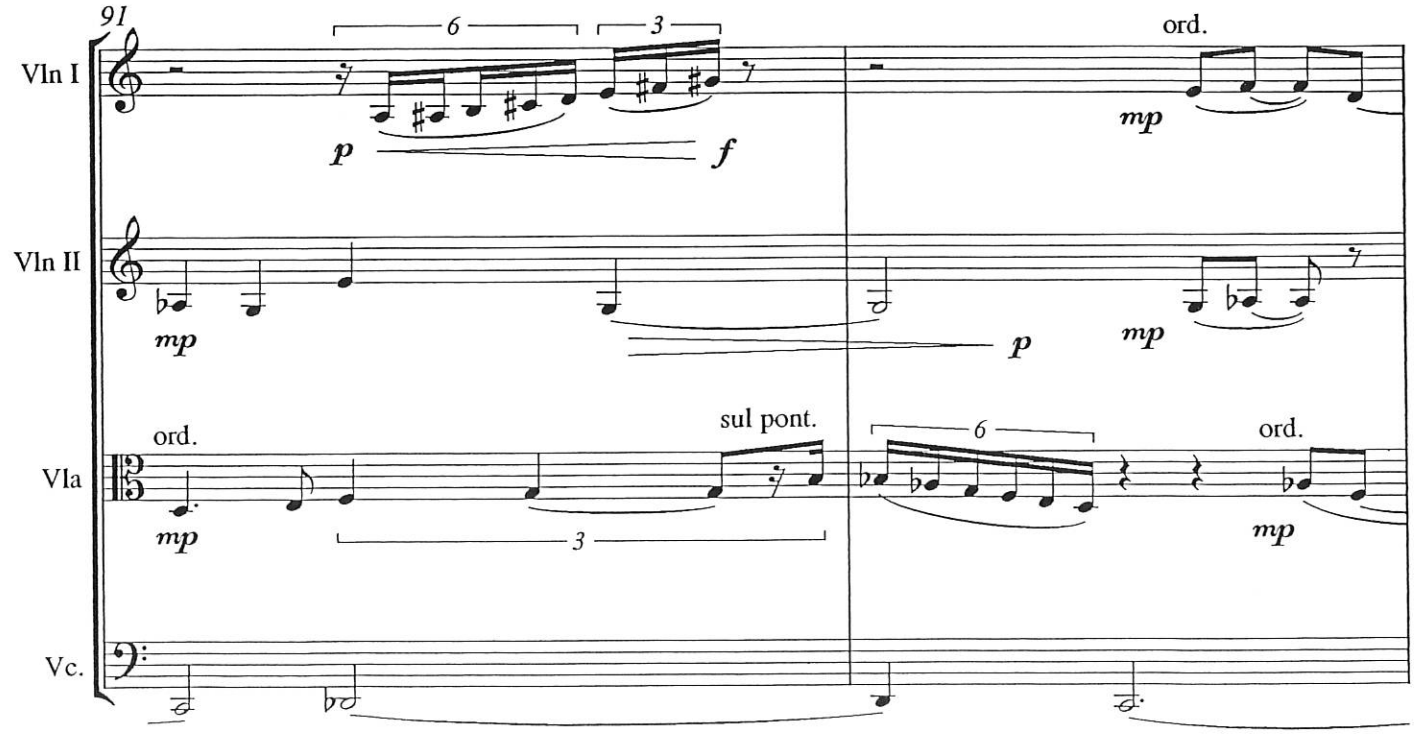


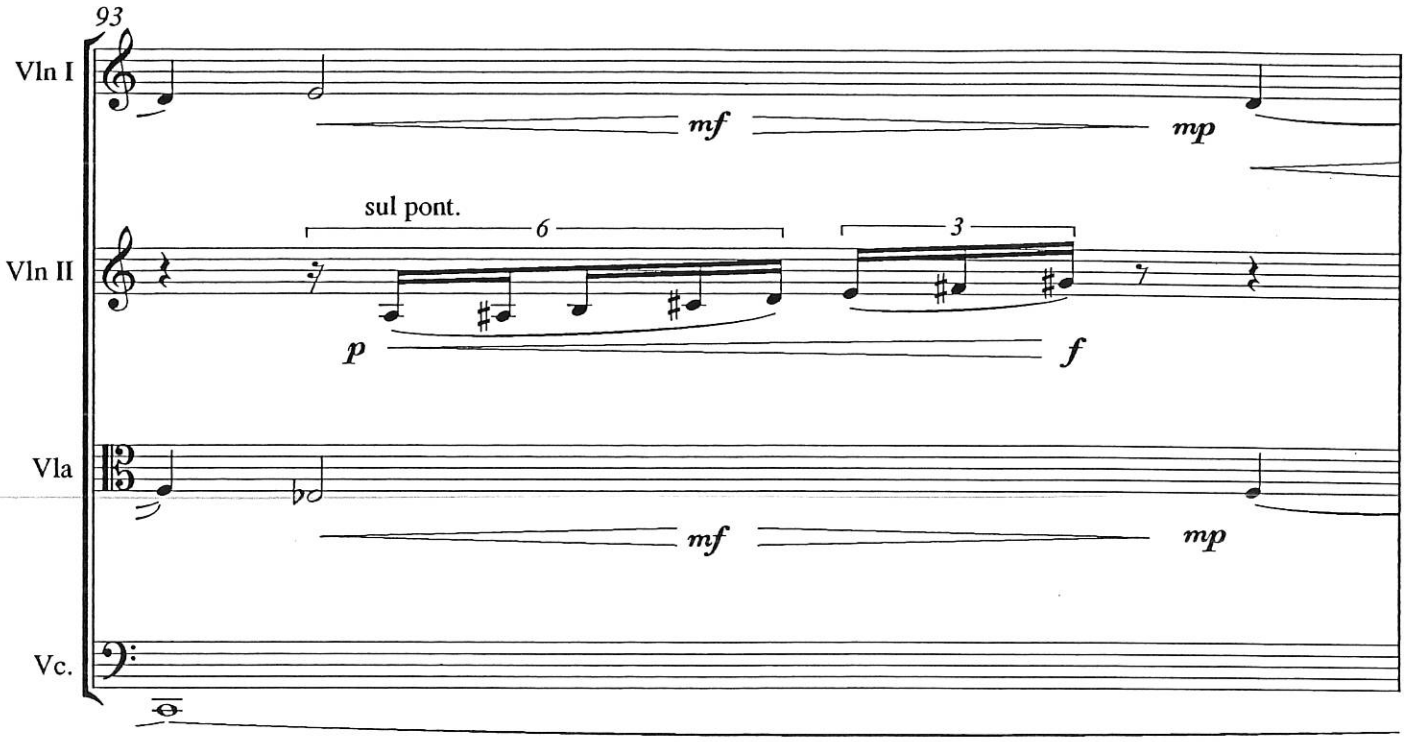




**Meno mosso** ♩ = 80




M
90
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
sul pont.
6
6
p
p
f
mp
sul pont.
p
mf
p
mp


91
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
6
3
p
f
ord.
mp
mp
p
mp
ord.
sul pont.
6
ord.
mp
3
mp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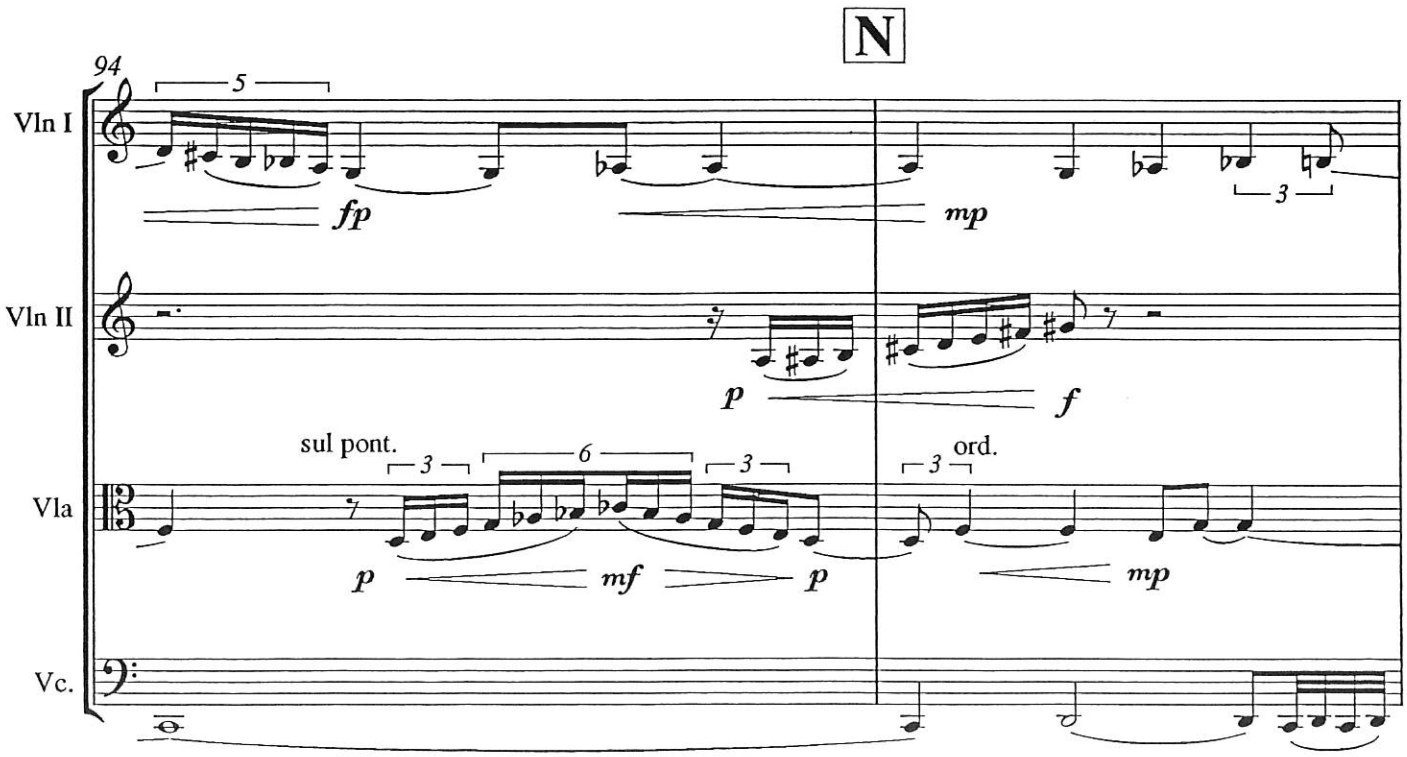
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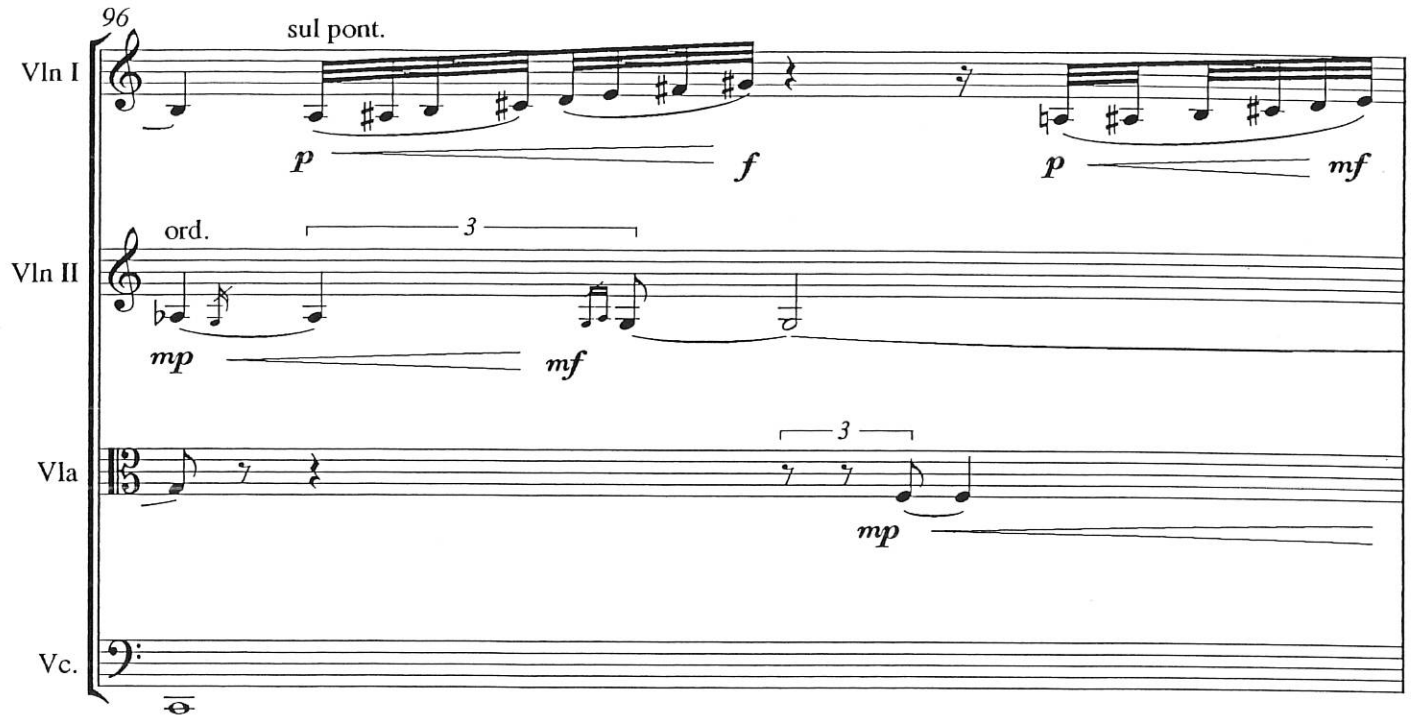
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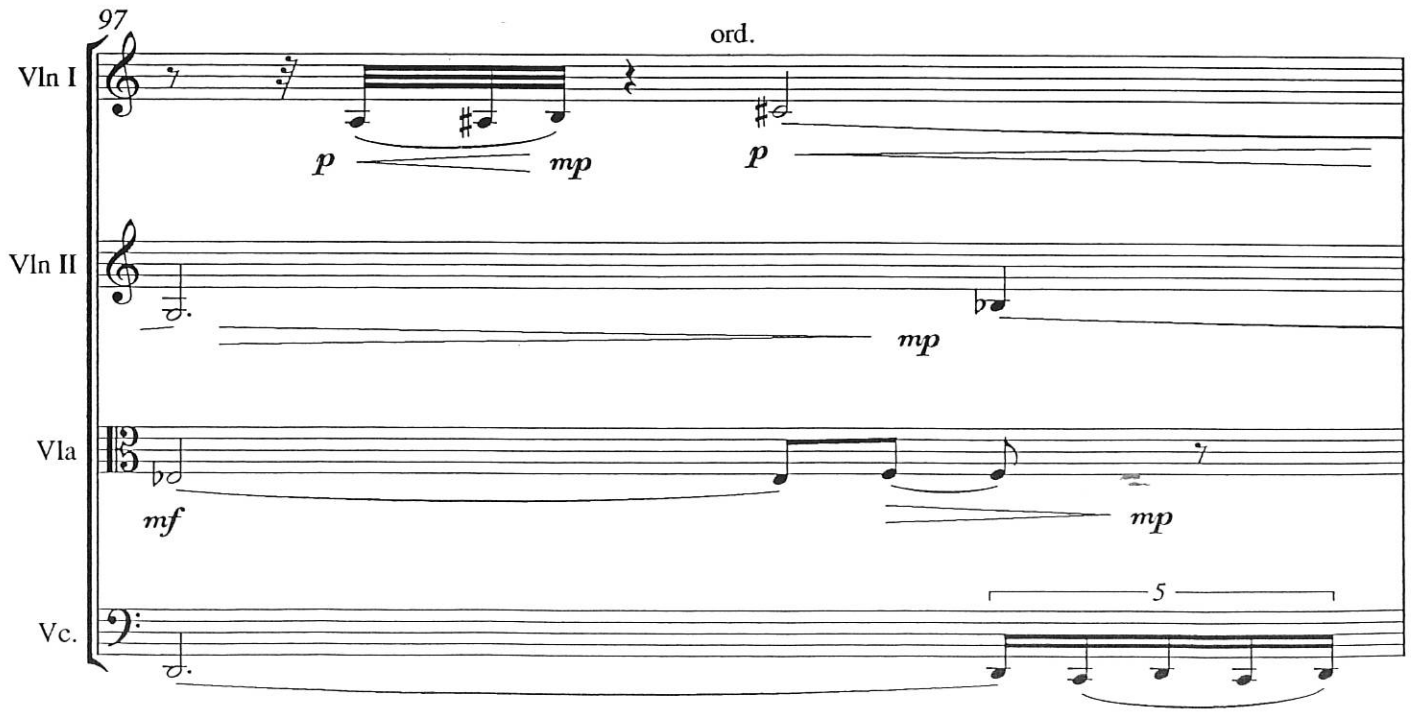
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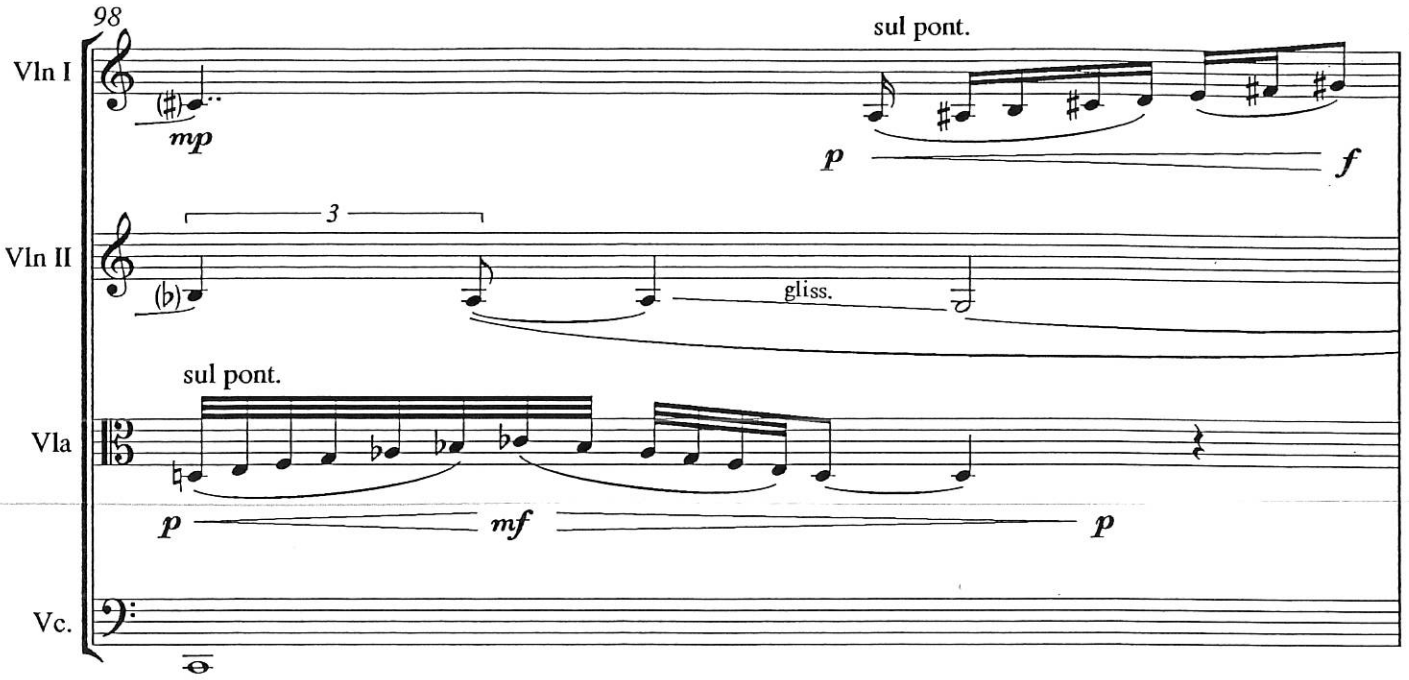
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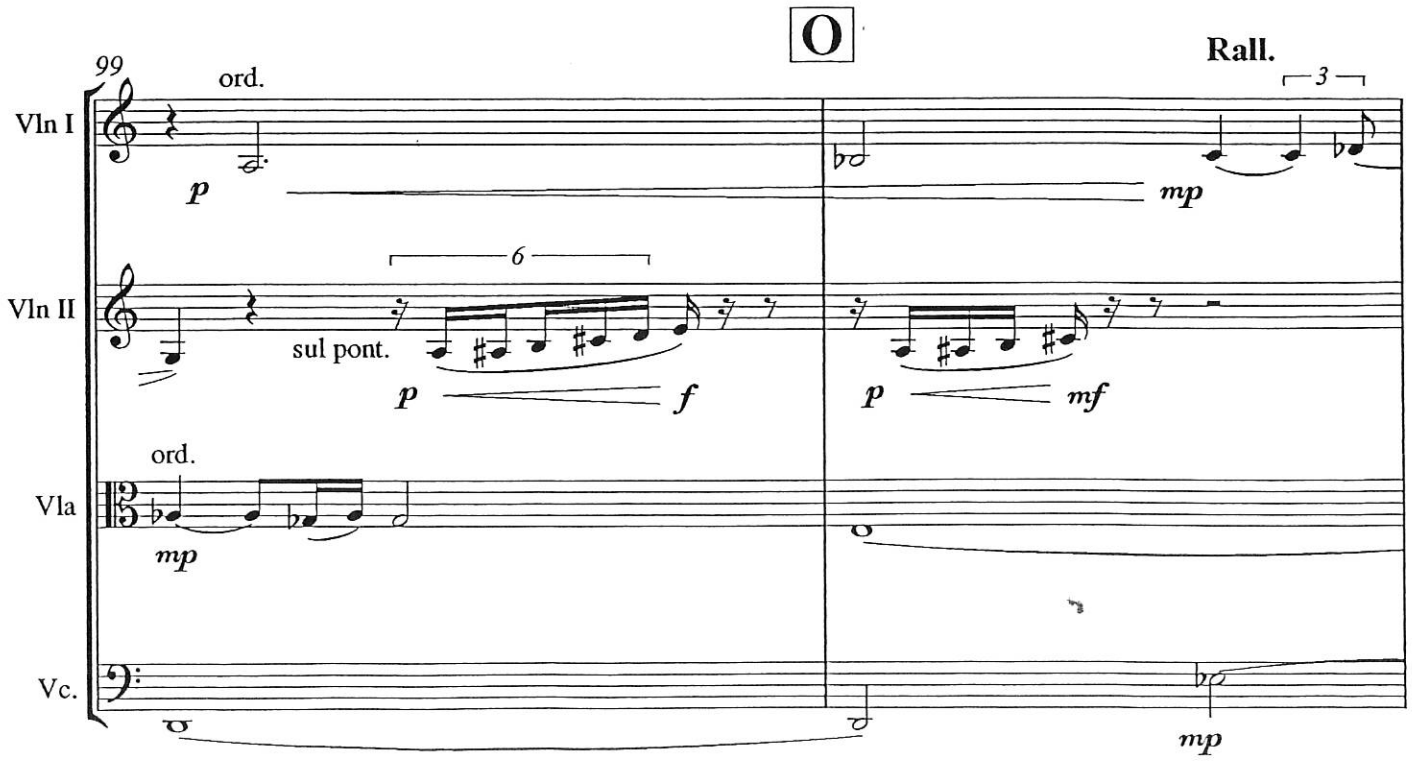
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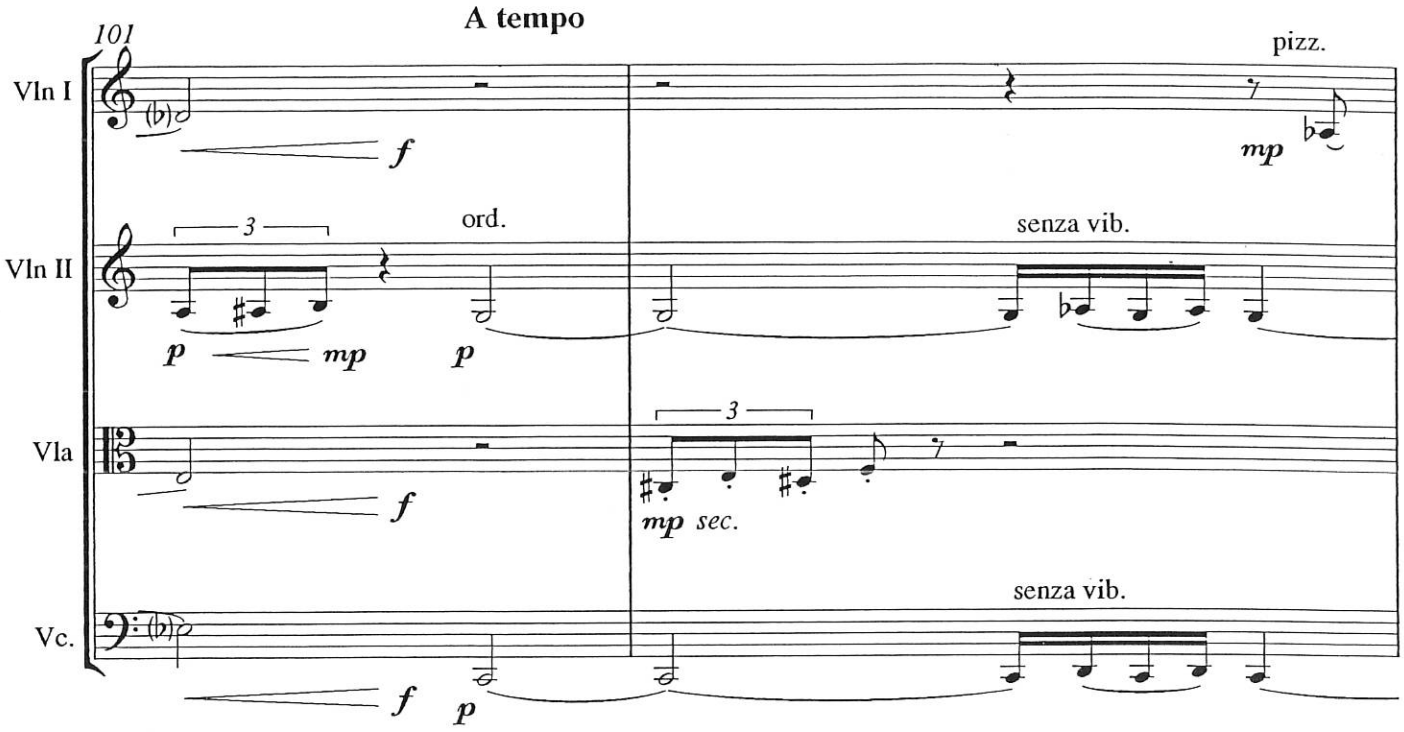
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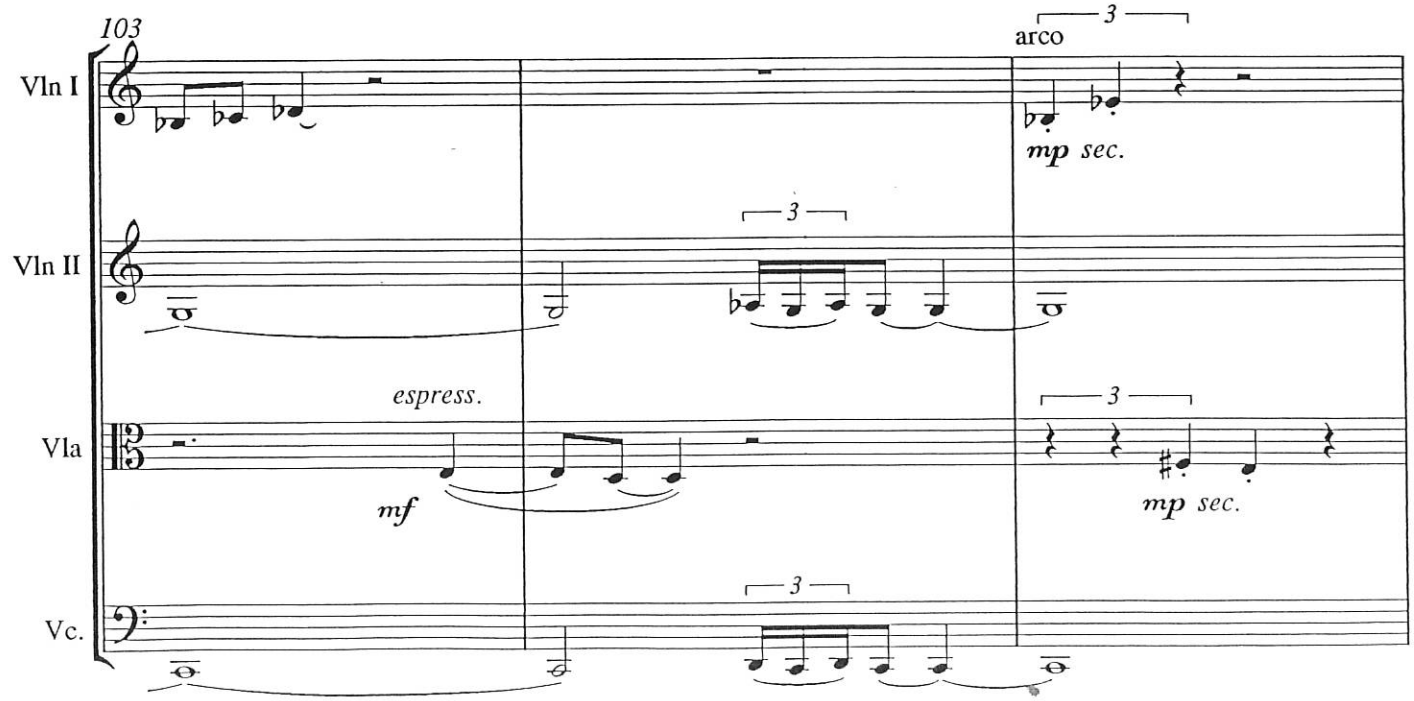
103
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Vln II
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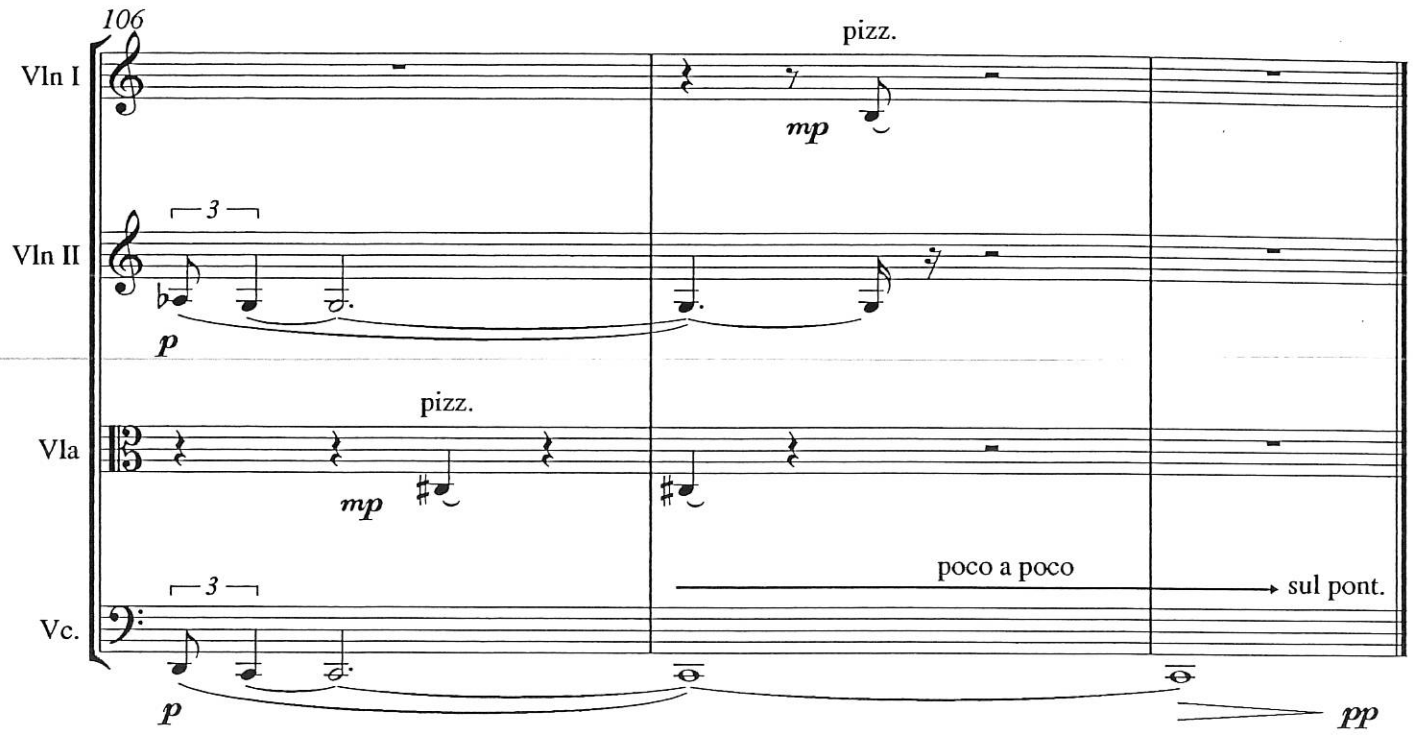


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