Full Score

Gilad Cohen

Ten Variations

For Oboe, Piano and String Quartet

(2011)

Gilad Cohen

Ten Variations

Program notes

Ten Variations confronts enigmatic and abstract sections with moments of clarity and directionality. It is based on a short, simple melodic theme that is travelling through a musical journey and gradually revealed throughout the piece. Mysterious, rocky, festive, cool or glum - a different mood and character are used in each variation in order to expose a new facet of the theme. While some of the variations live comfortably in the world of 20th century's concert music (Ravel and Shostakovich being highly influential), others use rhythms and sounds derived from popular and world music (here bands like Alice in Chains, Pink Floyd and the Israeli Arabic-Jewish ensemble Bustan Abraham come to mind). Likewise, different moments in the piece may be soothing, captivating or startling for the listener. *Ten Variations* ends with a celebration of folk tunes, classical music polyphony, rock harmonies, and funk-dance grooves, while the theme is presented for the first time in its complete, triumphant form, thus offering a sense of catharsis.

"Ten Variations" is the winner of the
2012 Franz Josef Reinl International Composition Contest in Vienna (Austria)

Online recording

A demo recording of the piece is available at https://vimeo.com/32605396

Performance notes:

GENERAL:

1. All the variations should be played in a row (*attacca*), with no longer breaks than indicated.

2. Boxed passages should be played in regardless of tempo and barlines, with no attempt to match the rest of the instruments.

STRINGS PIZZ.:

- Pluck first note, gliss to the following note and pluck again.

- Pluck first note, then gliss until reaching the second (without plucking again).

VIOLINS:

In the boxed passages in Variation no. 1, for diamond noteheads apply "harmonic pressure" on strings,
while sound is alternating between actual harmonics and nearly white noise.

VIOLA:

1. A standard guitar pick is needed in Variation no. 10.
The violist might find that strumming chords with a pick is easier when holding the viola on his/her lap, like a guitar.

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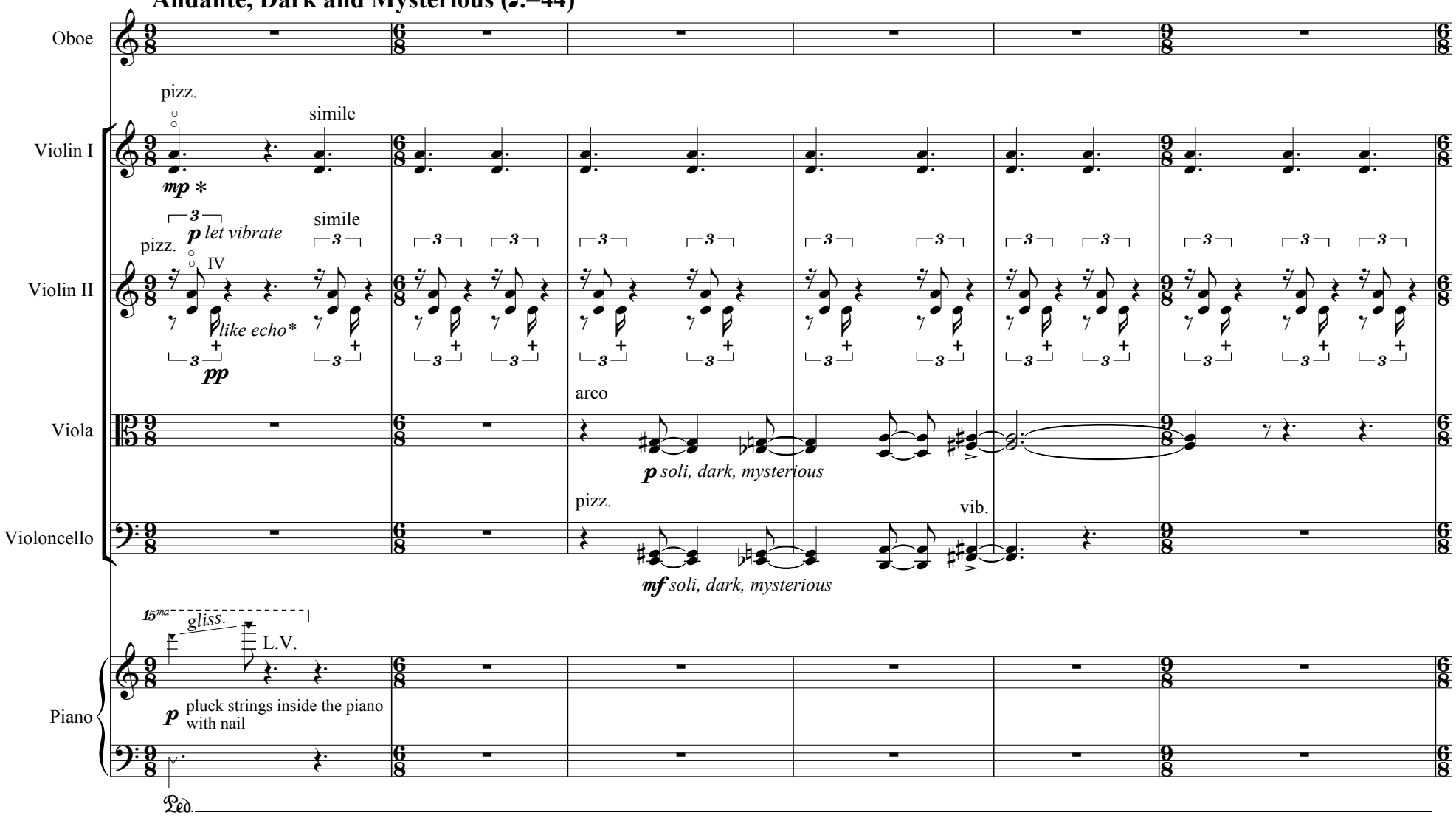
Ten Variations

For Oboe, Piano and String Quartet

Gilad Cohen 2011

Variation no. 1

Andante, Dark and Mysterious (♩.=44)



* - Violin II's part should sound like an echo of violin I with two repetitions; thus, among the two violins, each note is softer than the previous one.

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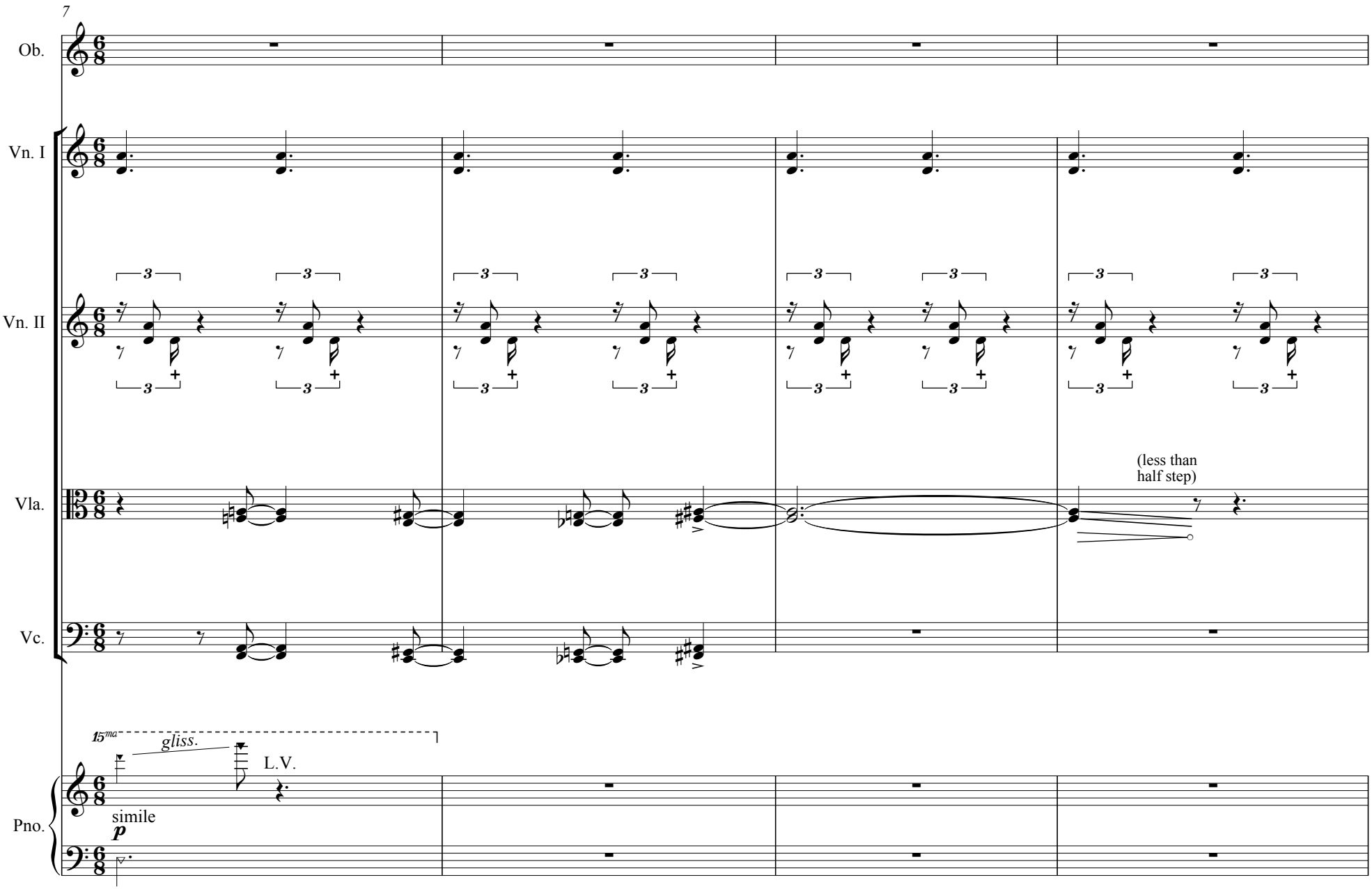
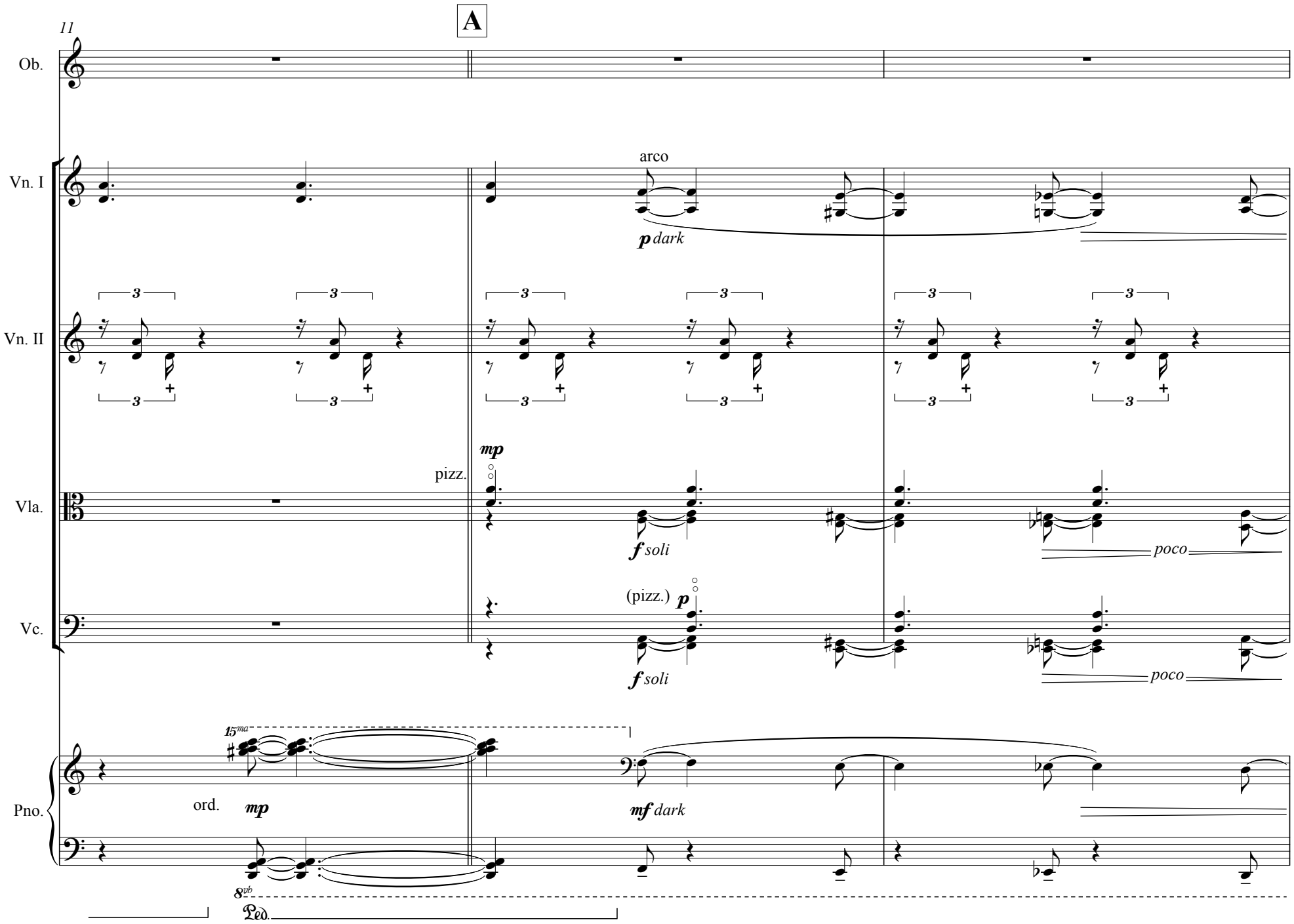
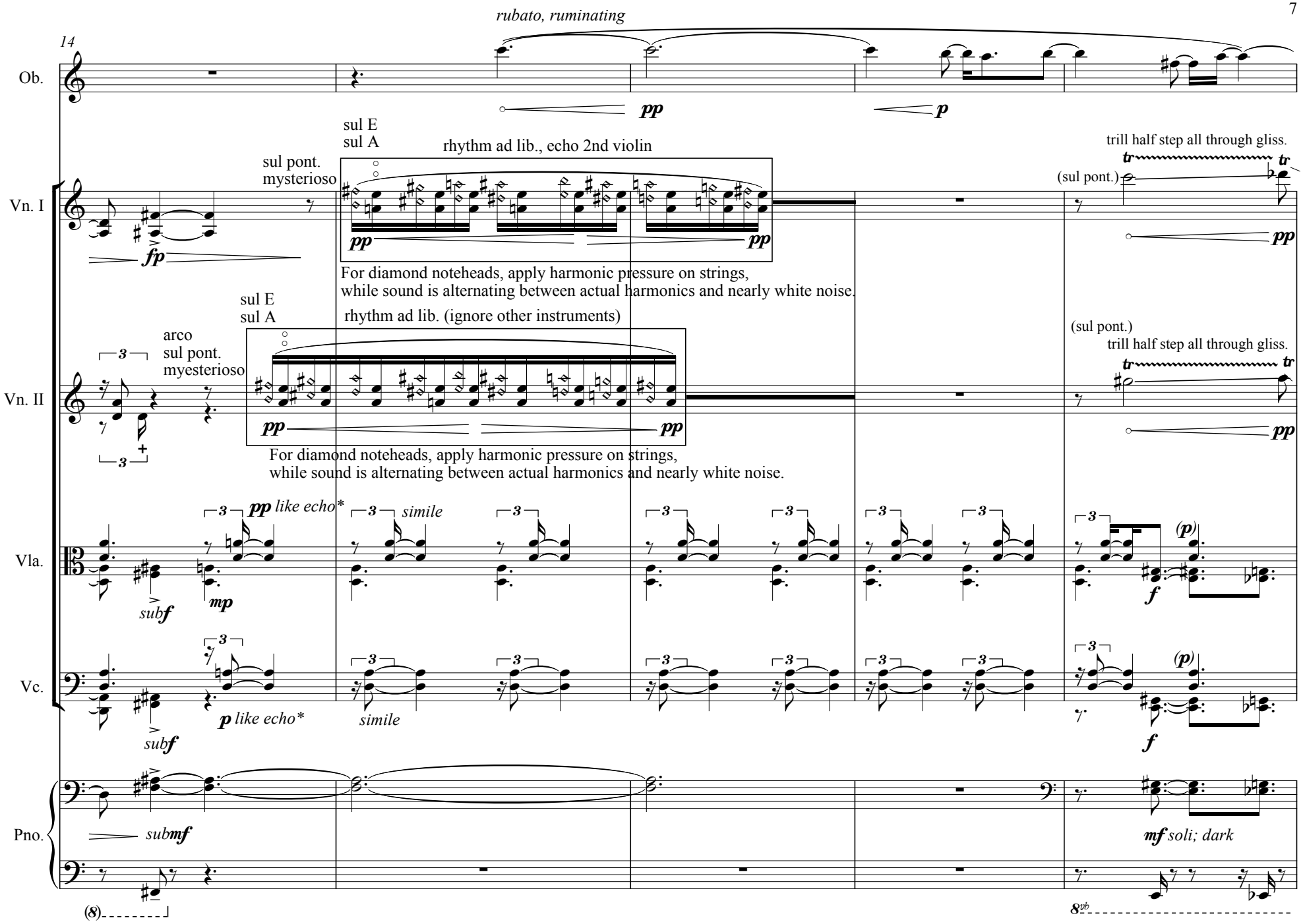
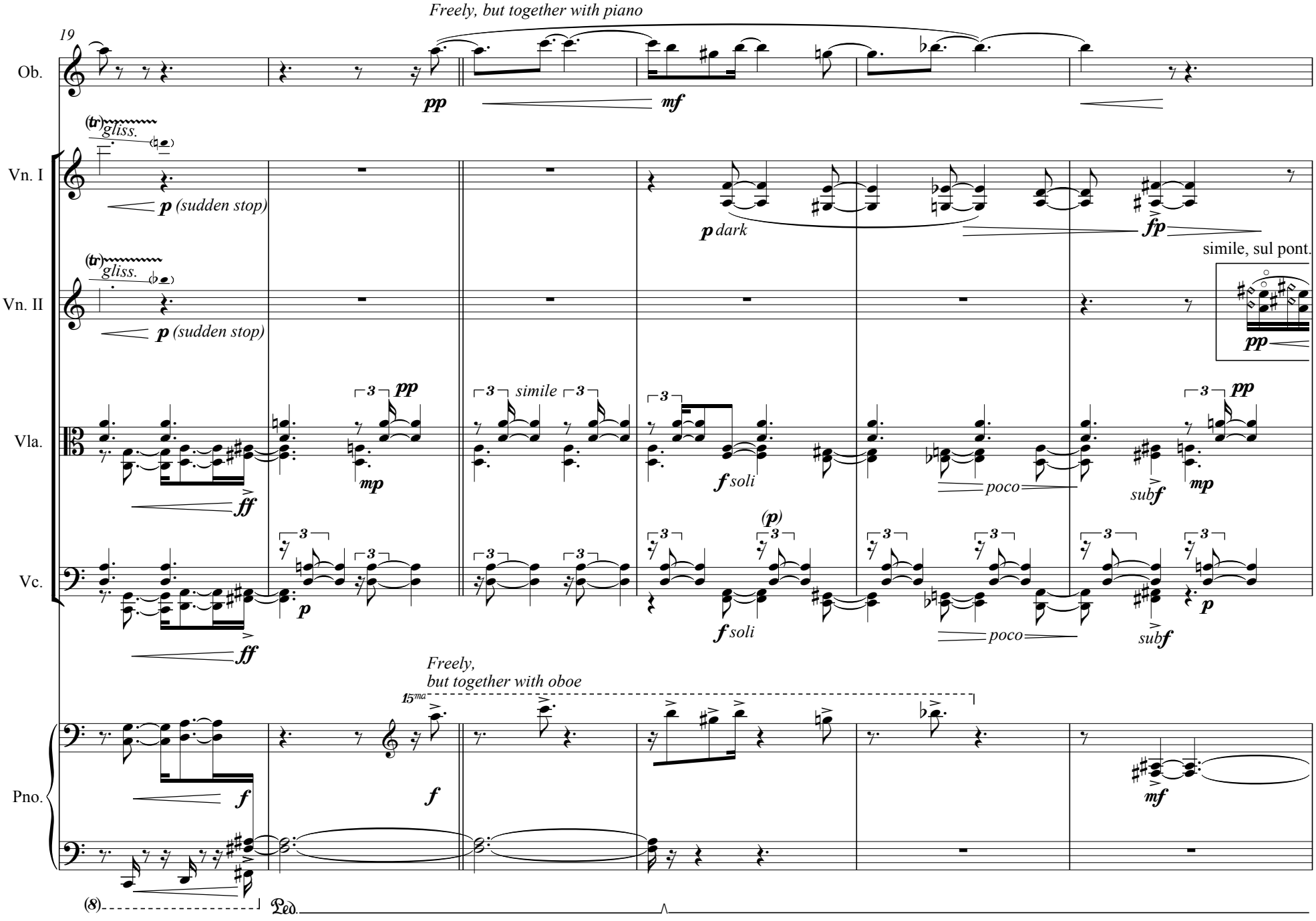
Updated May 2012

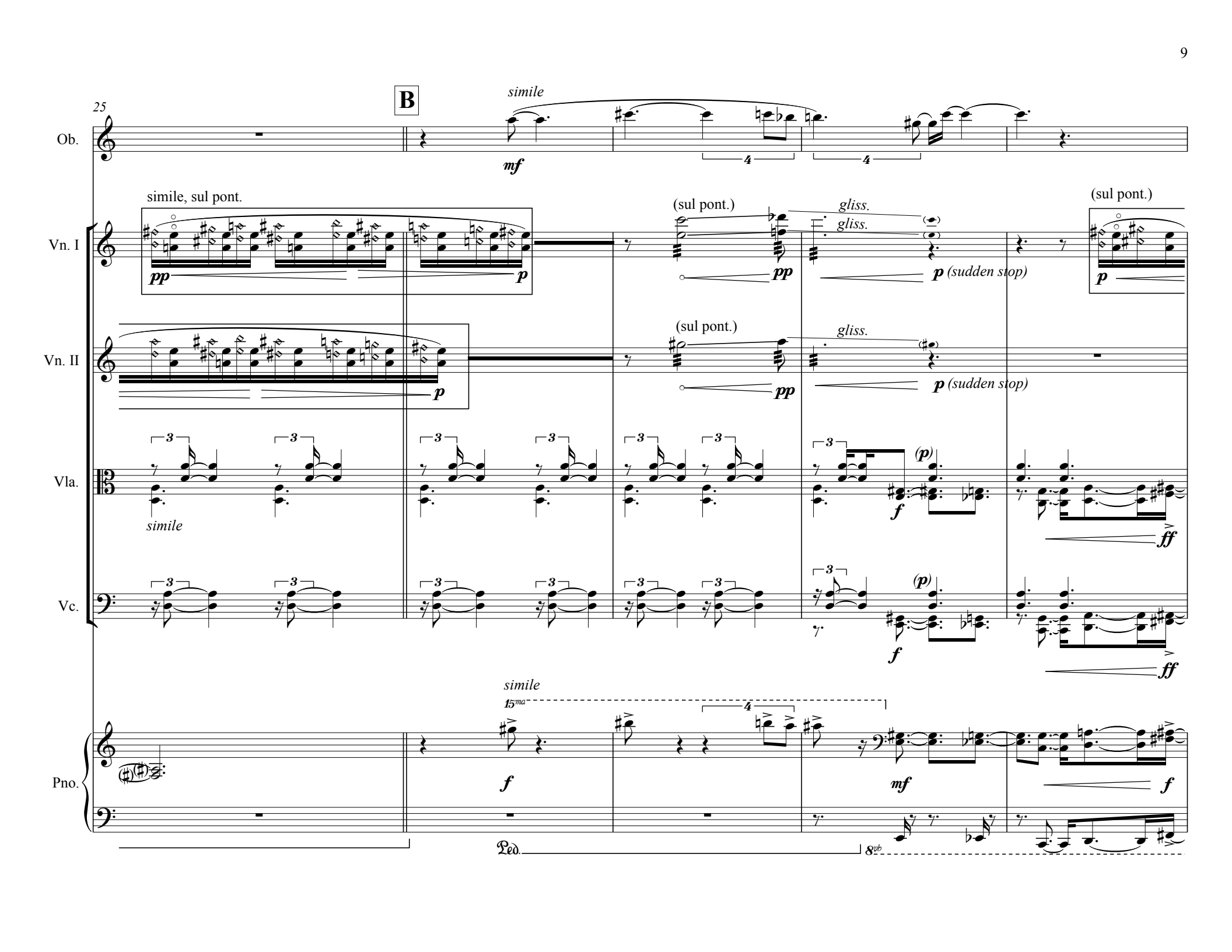

7
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
(less than
half step)
15ma
gliss.
L.V.
simile
p

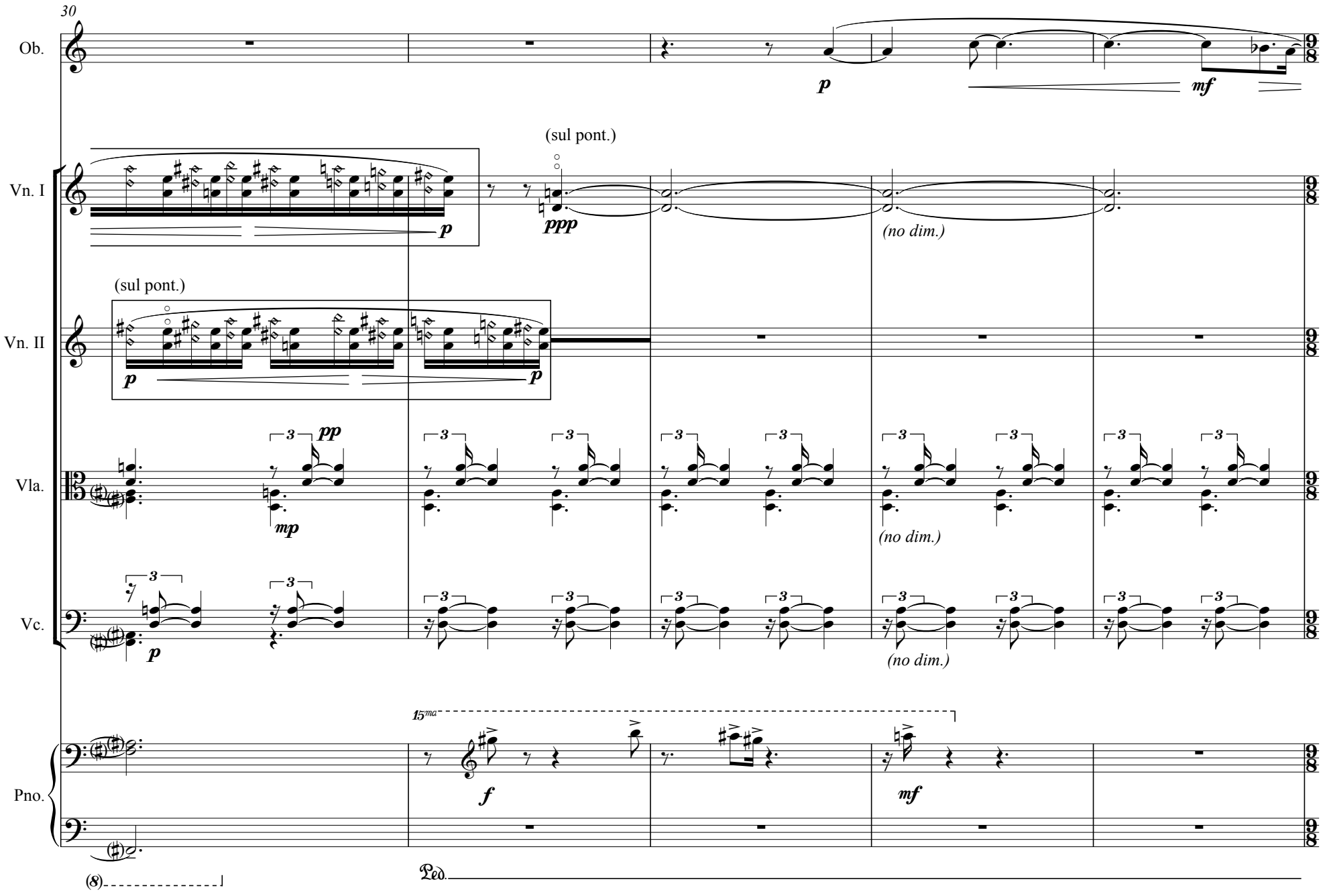

A
11
Ob.
Vn. I
arco
p dark
Vn. II
3
Vla.
mp
pizz.
f soli
poco
Vc.
(pizz.)
p
f soli
poco
Pno.
15ma
ord.
mp
mf dark
8vb
Ped.



* - The combination of the viola and cello's parts should sound like an echo with two repetitions; thus, each fifth is softer than the previous one.


Freely, but together with piano
19
Ob.
pp
mf
(tr) gliss.
Vn. I
p (sudden stop)
p dark
fp
simile, sul pont.
(tr) gliss.
Vn. II
p (sudden stop)
pp
Vla.
pp
simile
ff soli
poco
sub f
mp
(p)
Vc.
ff
p
f soli
poco
sub f
p
Freely,
but together with oboe
15ma
Pno.
f
f
mf
(8)
Ped.


25
B
Ob.
simile
mf
4
4
Vn. I
simile, sul pont.
pp
p
(sul pont.)
pp
gliss.
gliss.
p (sudden stop)
(sul pont.)
p
Vn. II
p
(sul pont.)
pp
gliss.
p (sudden stop)
Vla.
3
simile
(p)
f
ff
Vc.
(p)
f
ff
Pno.
simile
15ma
f
mf
f
Ped.
8vb


30
Ob.
p
mf
(sul pont.)
Vn. I
p
ppp
(no dim.)
(sul pont.)
Vn. II
p
p
Vla.
3
pp
mp
(no dim.)
Vc.
p
(no dim.)
15ma
Pno.
f
mf
(8)
Ped.

C *Variation no. 2*

Allegro, Rocky and Driven; keep a very steady beat (♩=140)

35

Ob.

mp

Vn. I

sudden stop

pizz.

III

simile

mf giusto

Vn. II

arco ord.

sul E

ppp

pp

Throughout this variation, the open C may be played as left-hand pizz.
Alternatively, the pattern can be plucked with three fingers.

Vla.

sudden stop

(pizz.)

mf giusto

simile

Vc.

sudden stop

arco

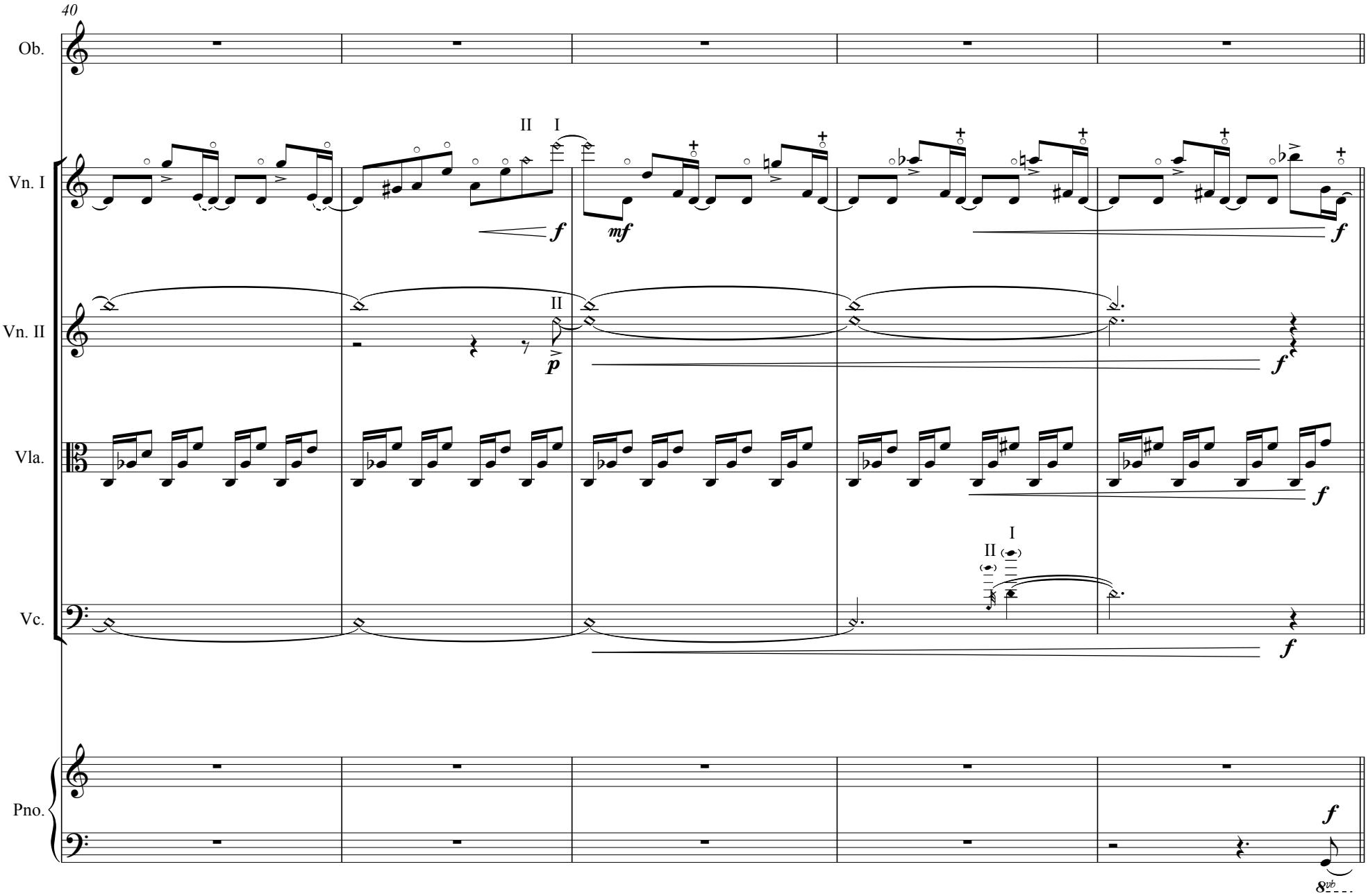
sul G

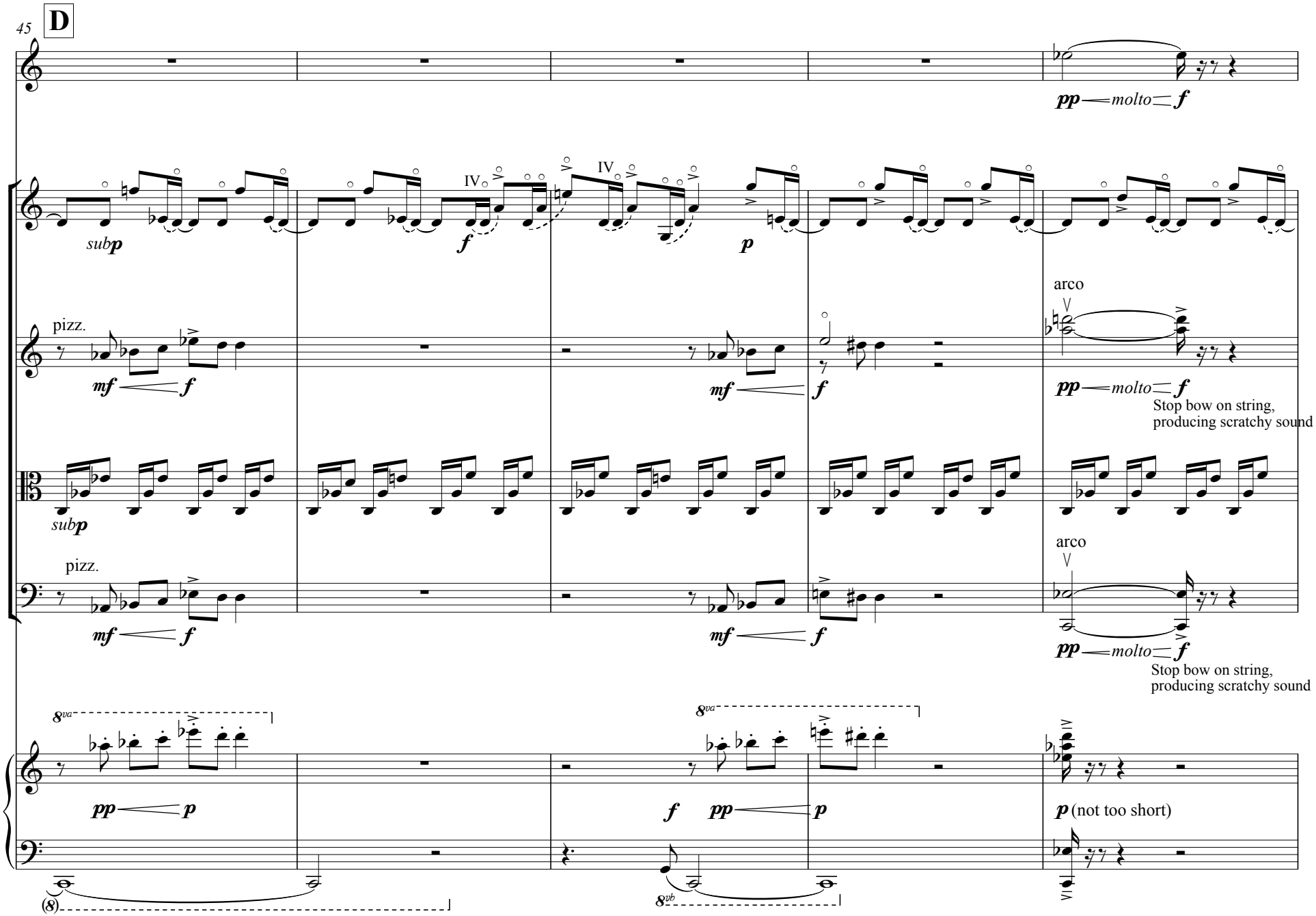
ppp

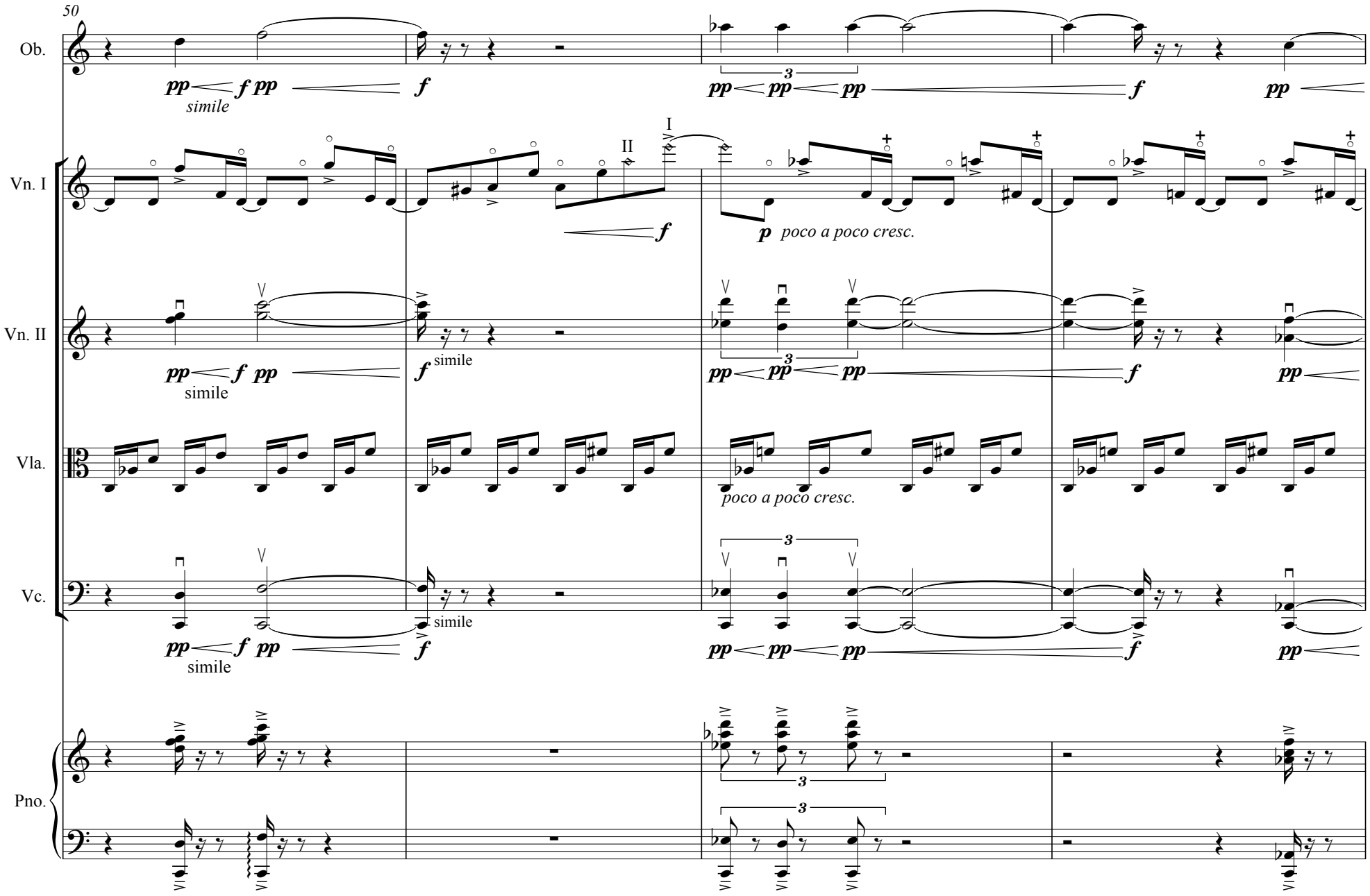
pp

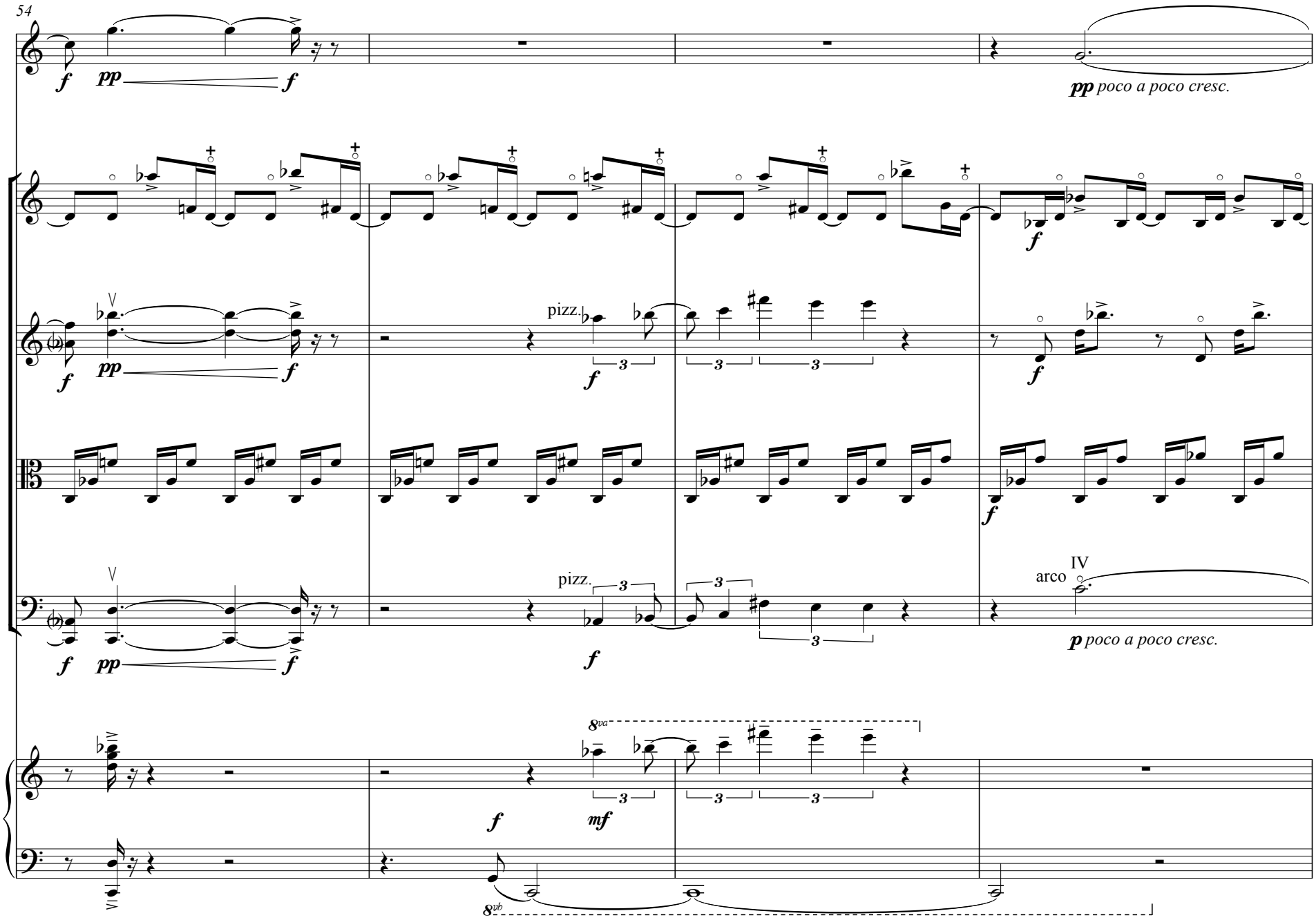
Pno.

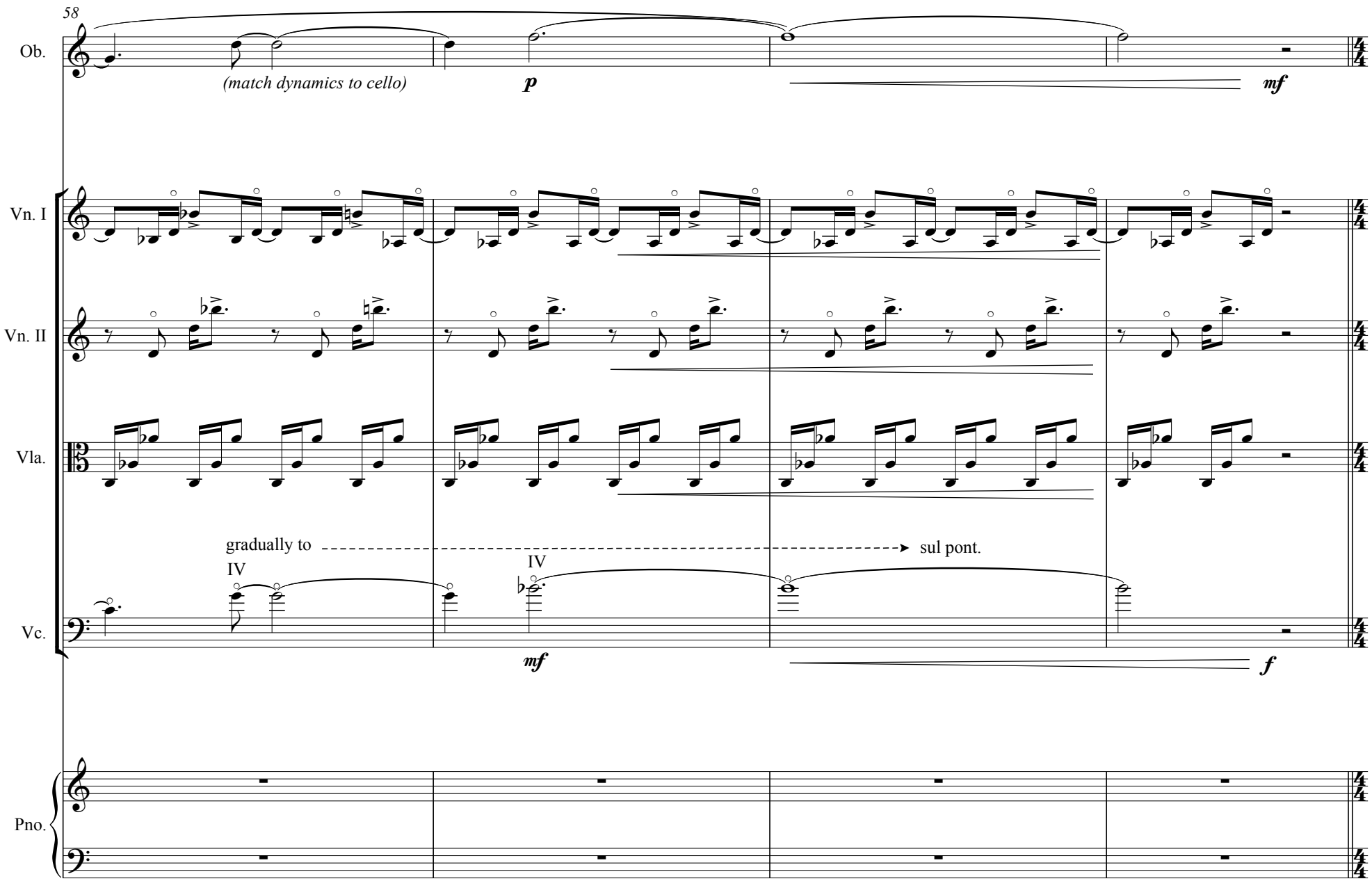
sudden stop


40
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
II I
II
I
II
f
mf
p
f
f
f
f
f
8vb

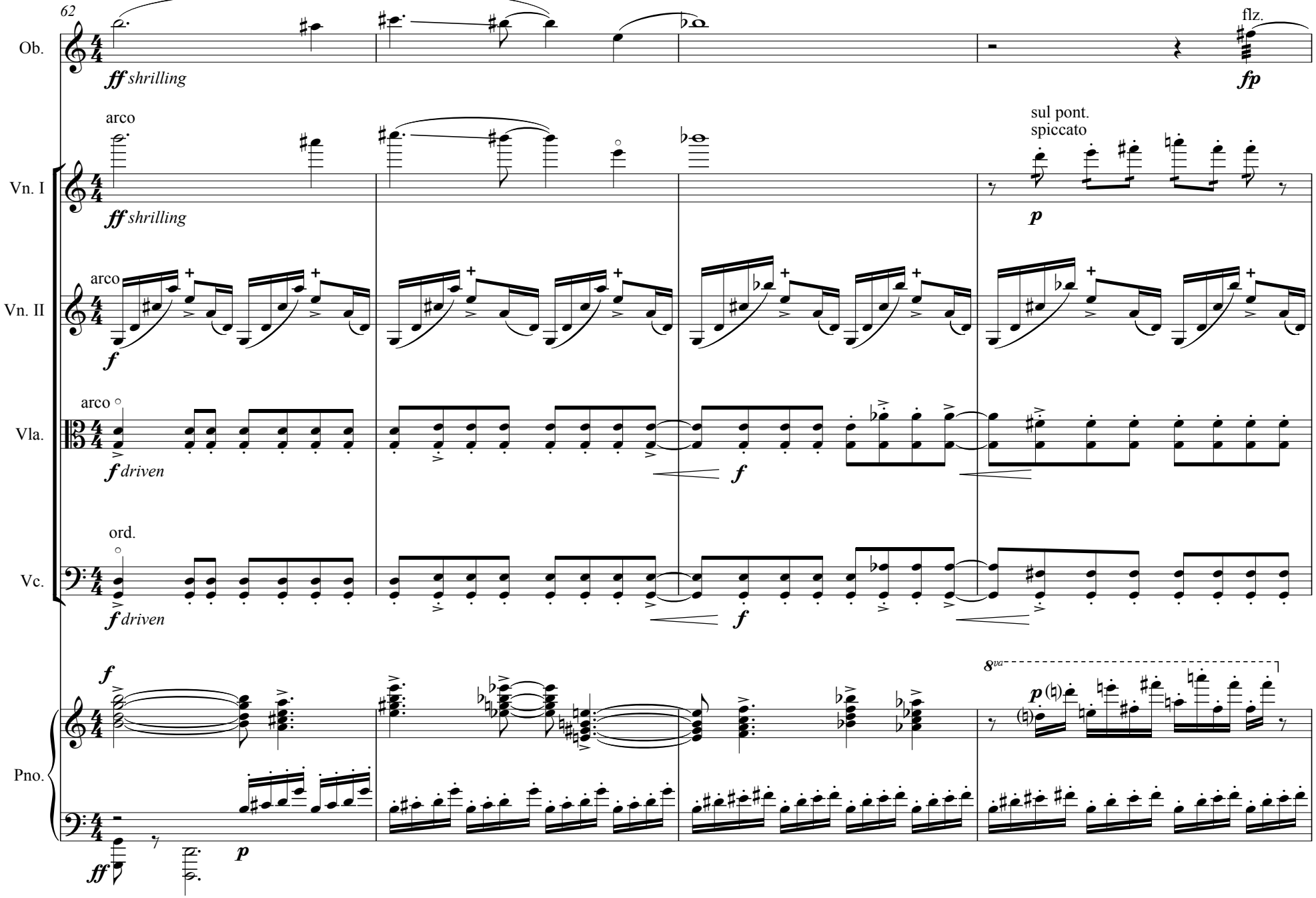

45
D
Ob.
pp molto f
Vn. I
sub p
IV
f
IV
p
arco
pizz.
Vn. II
mf f
mf f
pp molto f
Stop bow on string,
producing scratchy sound
Vla.
sub p
arco
pizz.
Vc.
mf f
mf f
pp molto f
Stop bow on string,
producing scratchy sound
8va
Pno.
pp p
f pp p
p (not too short)
(8)
8vb

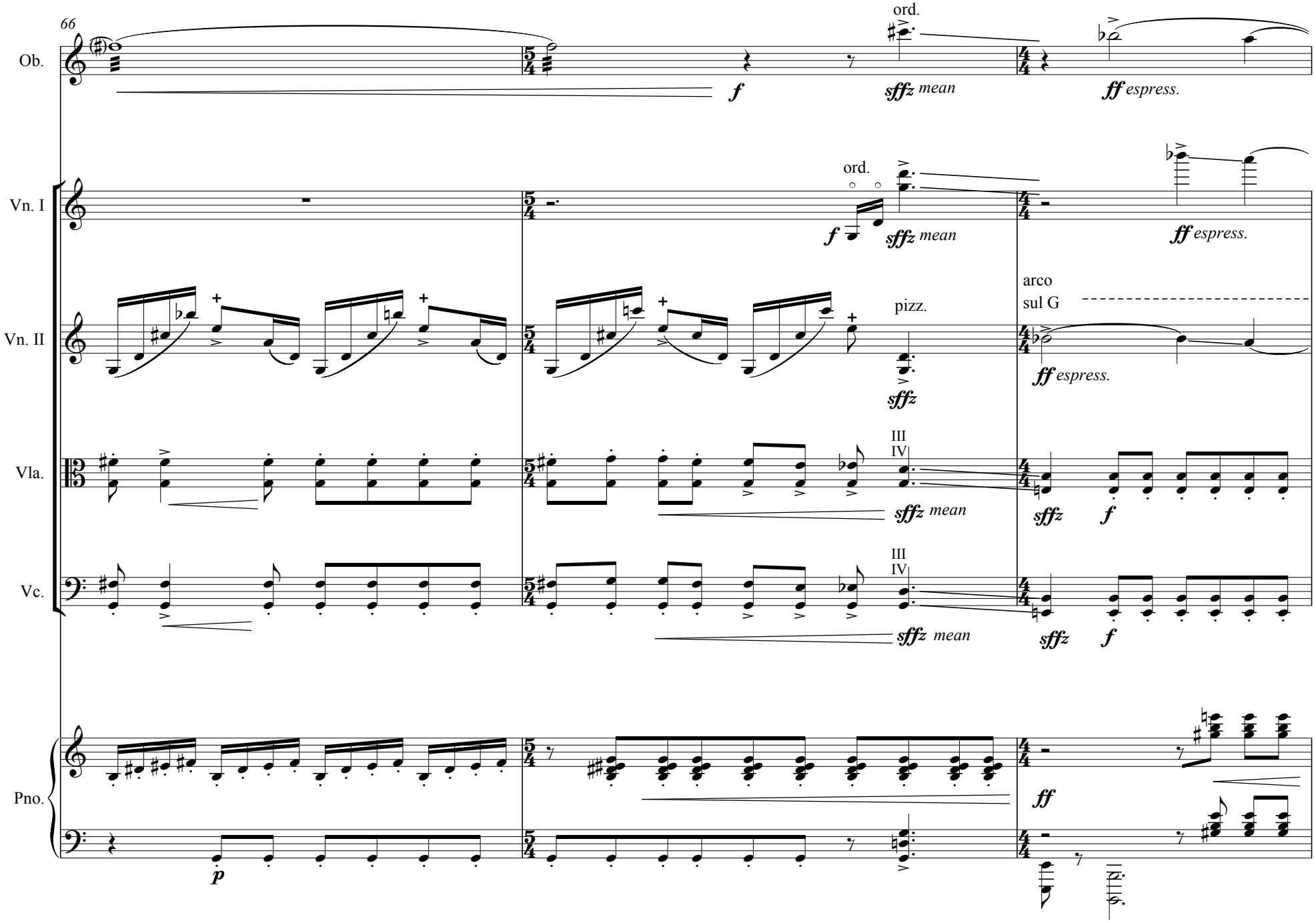

50
Ob.
pp
simile
f pp
f
3
pp
pp
pp
f
pp
Vn. I
II
I
f
p
poco a poco cresc.
Vn. II
pp
simile
f pp
f
simile
3
pp
pp
pp
f
pp
Vla.
poco a poco cresc.
Vc.
pp
simile
f pp
f
simile
3
pp
pp
pp
f
pp
Pno.
3
3

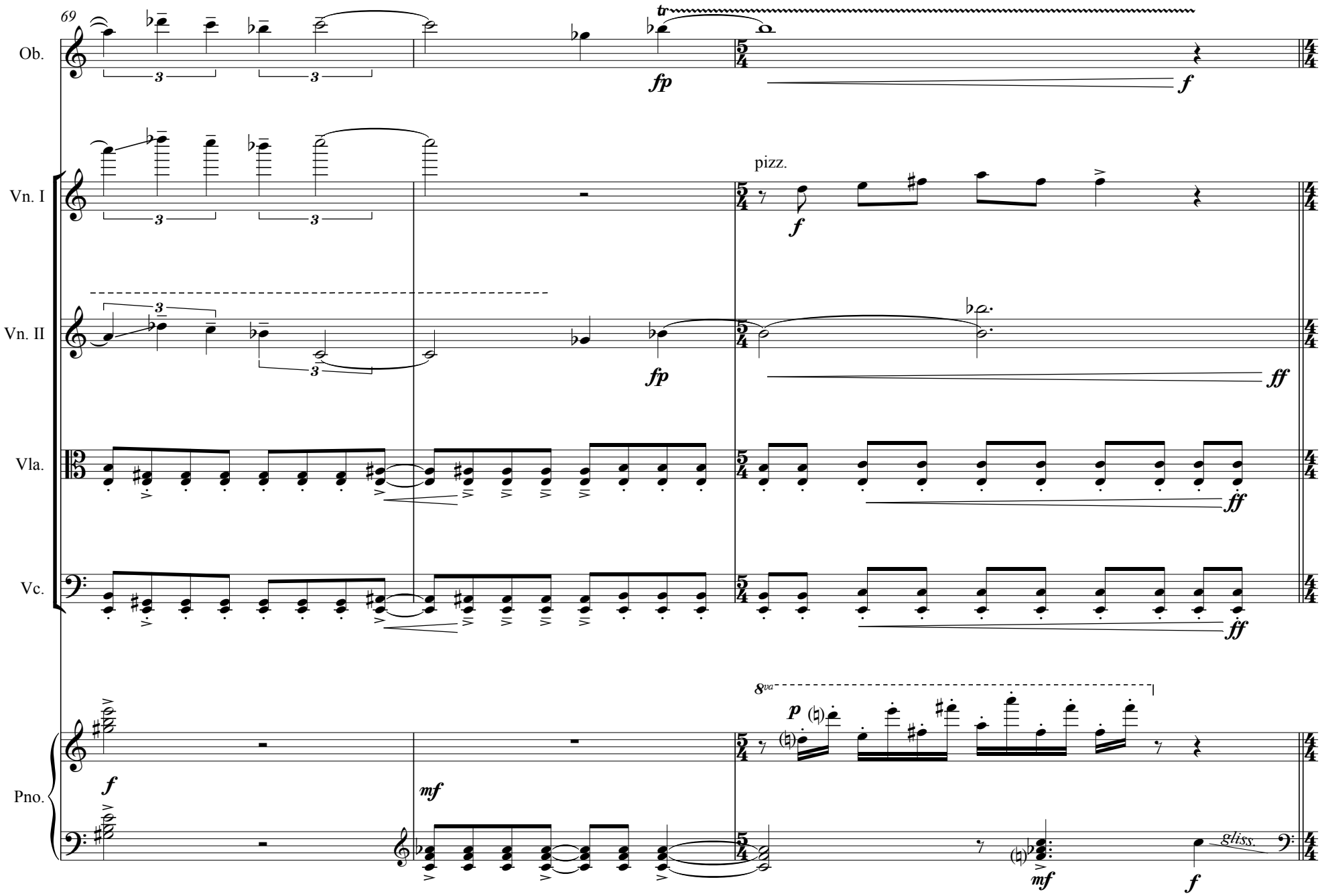

54
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
pizz.
arco
IV
poco a poco cresc.
8va
8vb


58
Ob.
(match dynamics to cello)
p
mf
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
gradually to
sul pont.
IV
IV
Vc.
mf
f
Pno.

E ***Variation no. 3***
Same tempo, festive, driven




66
Ob.
ord.
f
sffz mean
ff espress.
Vn. I
ord.
f
sffz mean
ff espress.
Vn. II
pizz.
sffz
arco
sul G
ff espress.
Vla.
III
IV
sffz mean
sffz
f
Vc.
III
IV
sffz mean
sffz
f
Pno.
p
ff


69
Ob.
tr
fp
f
Vn. I
pizz.
f
Vn. II
fp
ff
Vla.
ff
Vc.
ff
8va
p
Pno.
f
mf
mf
gliss.
f

72 **F** ***Variation no. 4***

Ob.

fpp

Vn. I

con sord.

arco

slow glisses

gliss.

sffz

mf *sounding as if from far away*

Vn. II

slow glisses

gliss.

p *as echo of 1st violin*

Vla.

pizz.

f

con sord.

arco

mf *sounding as if from far away*

Vc.

pizz.

f

Pno.

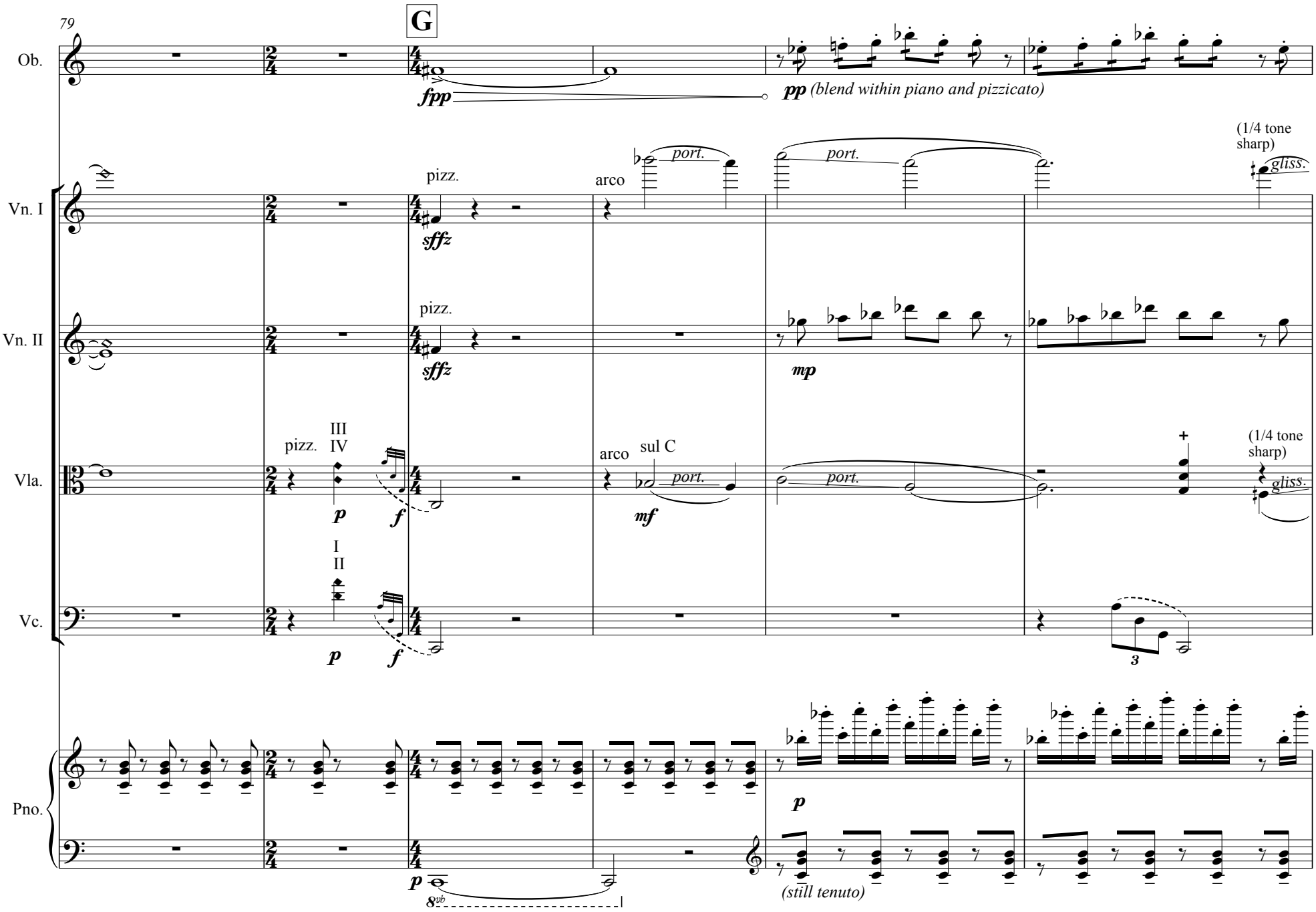
tenuto

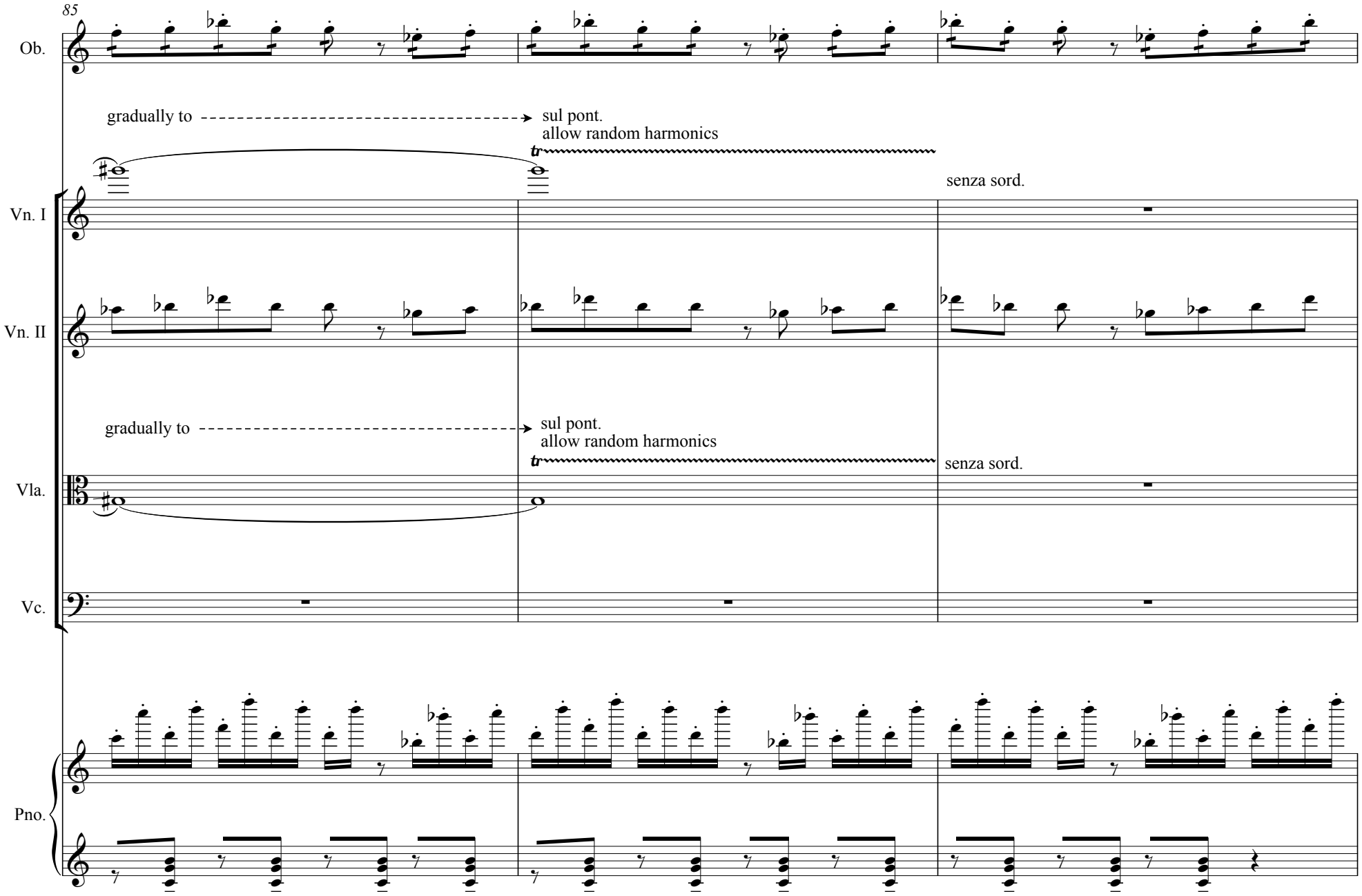
sub ***p***

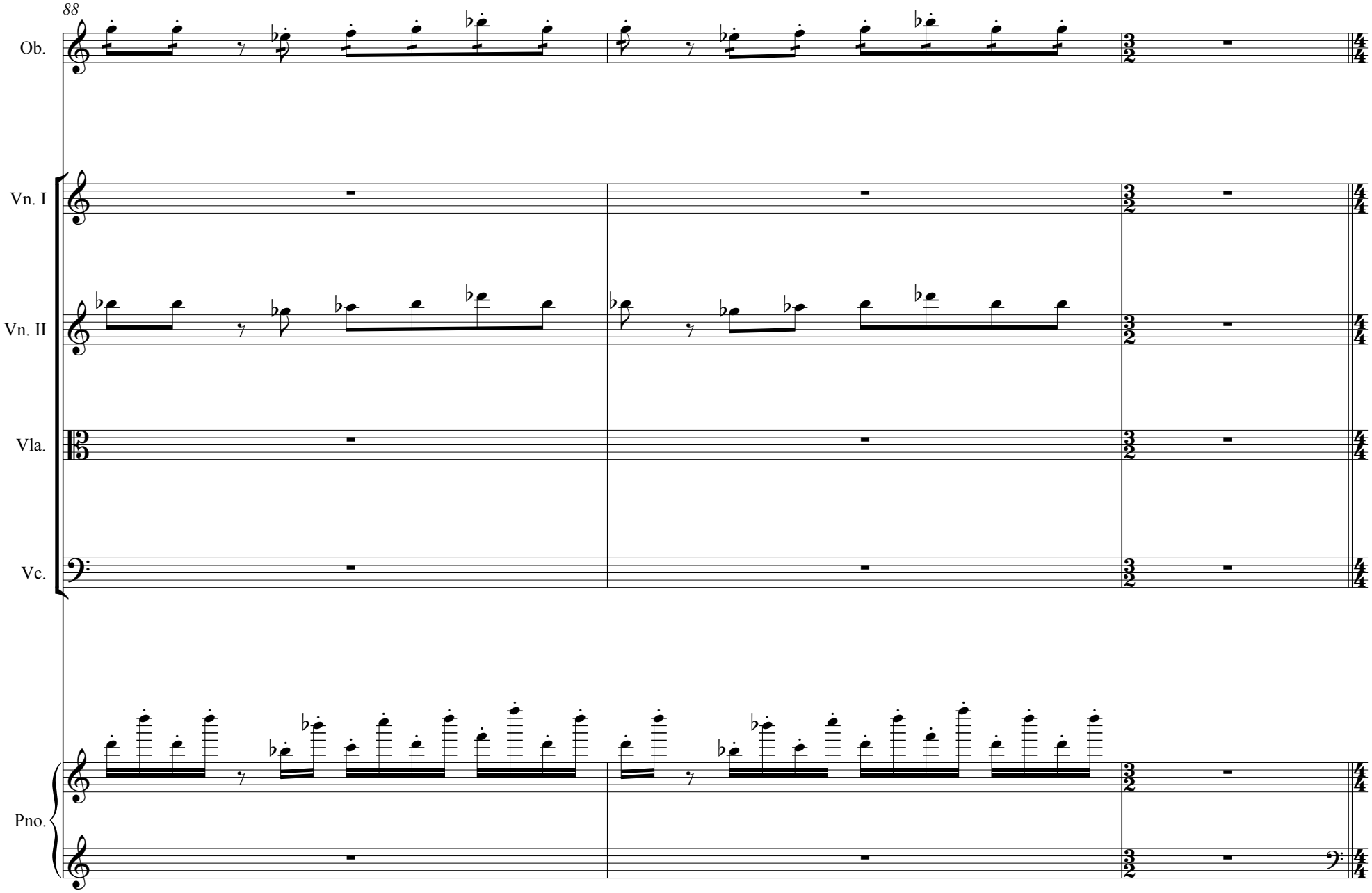
ff

8vb

pp

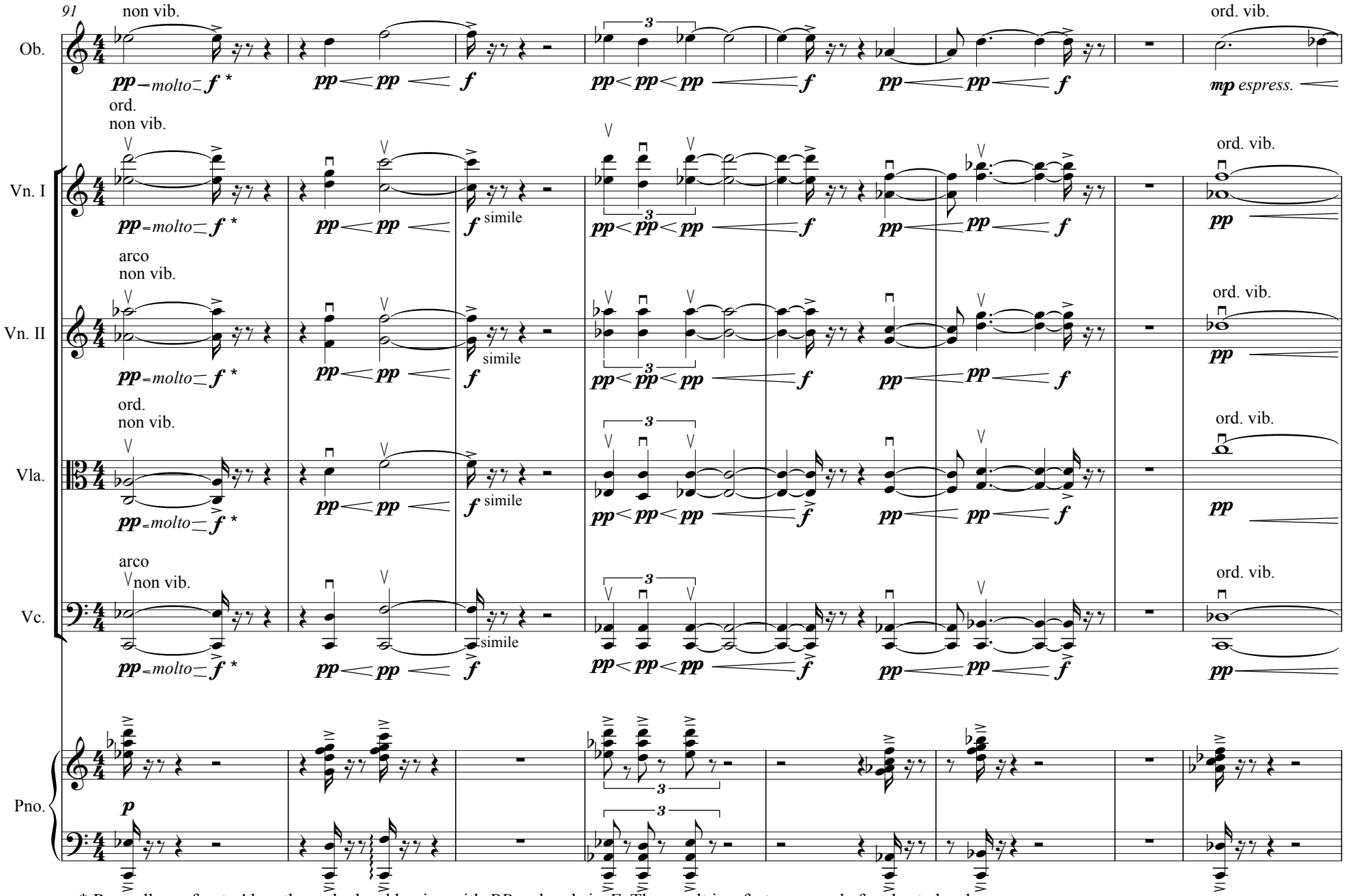

79
G
Ob.
fpp
pp (blend within piano and pizzicato)
Vn. I
pizz.
sffz
arco
port.
port.
(1/4 tone sharp)
gliss.
Vn. II
pizz.
sffz
mp
Vla.
pizz.
III
IV
p
f
arco
sul C
mf
port.
port.
(1/4 tone sharp)
gliss.
Vc.
I
II
p
f
3
Pno.
p
p
8vb
(still tenuto)


85
Ob.
gradually to
sul pont.
allow random harmonics
tr
senza sord.
Vn. I
Vn. II
gradually to
sul pont.
allow random harmonics
tr
senza sord.
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.


88
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

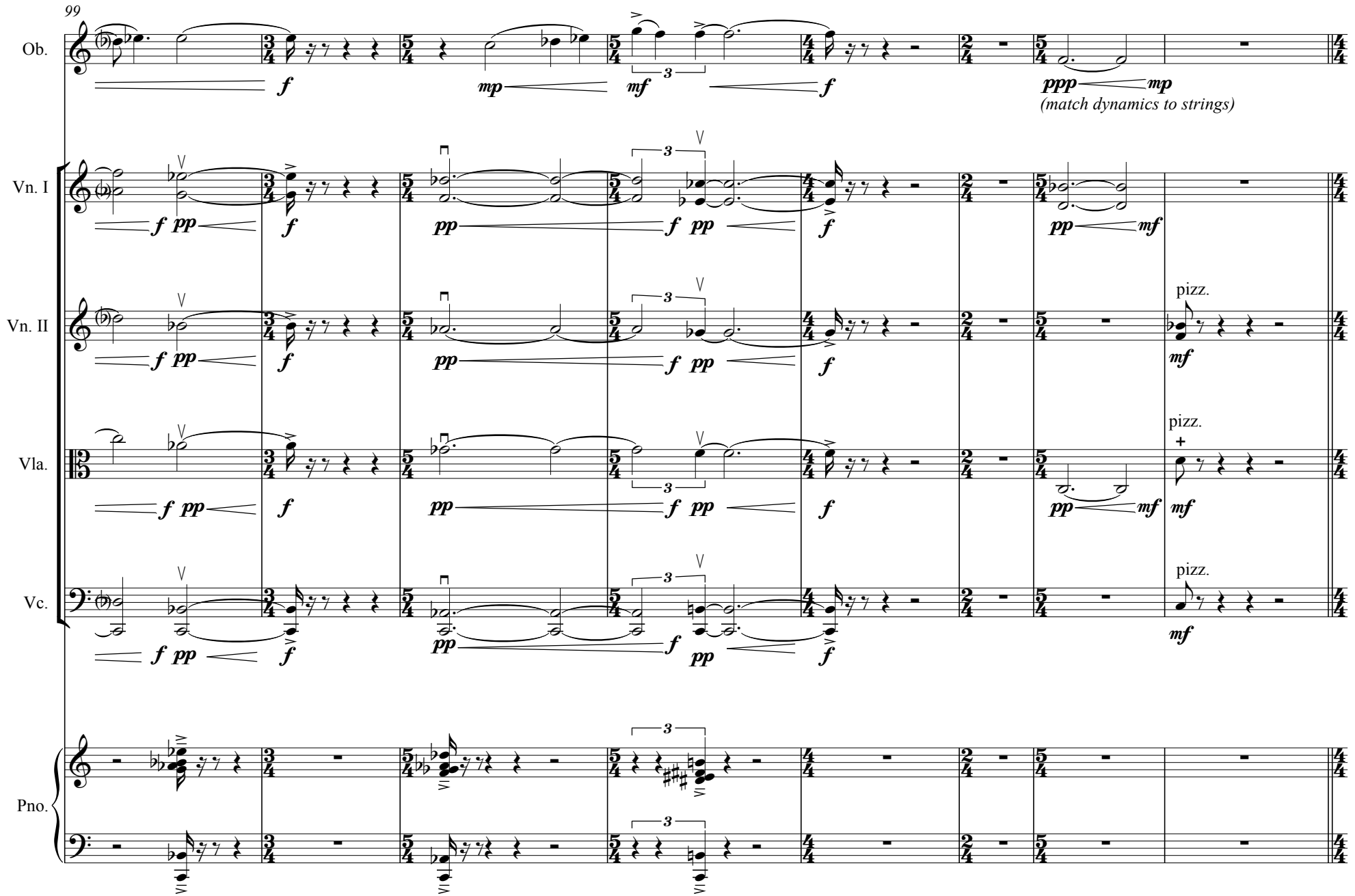
H *Variation no. 5*

Moderato (♩=100), tense and dramatic



* Regardless of notes' length, each chord begins with *PP* and ends in *F*; The result is a fast *crescendo* for short chords and a slow *crescendo* for long chords.

Strings: At the end of each crescendo stop bow on the string, producing scratchy sound.


99
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
(match dynamics to strings)
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.

I *Variation no. 6*

Andante, groovy, laid-back (♩=88)

107

Ob.

Vn. I

quasi col legno battuto

p < *f*

Vn. II

quasi col legno battuto

p < *f*

Vla.

pizz.

p round, warm, full sound

mp

Vc.

all pizz.
let vibrate as possible

(pluck both chords)

vib.

simile

mf round, warm, full sound

Pno.

knocking on the wood while pedal is depressed, causing as much resonance as possible

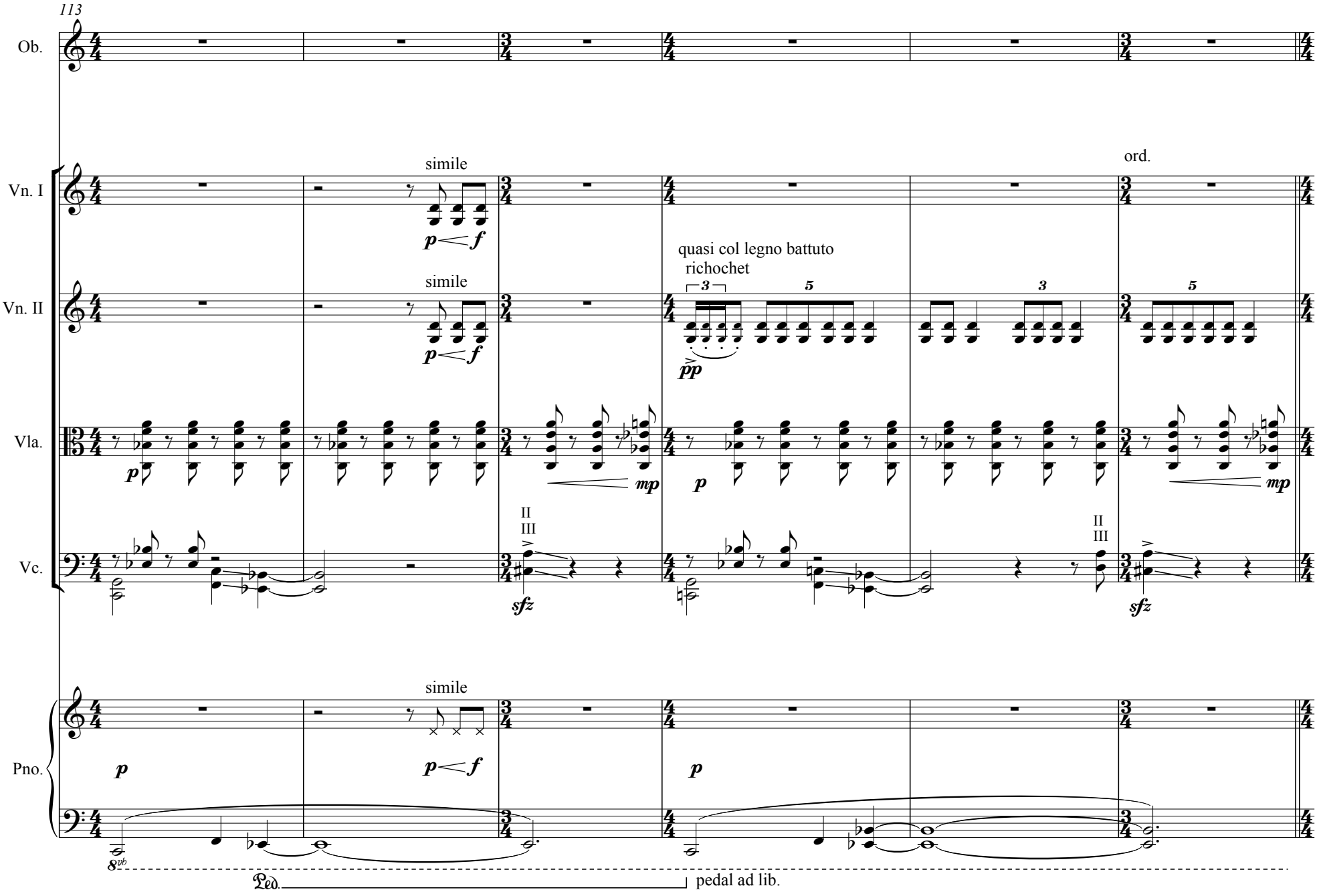
8va

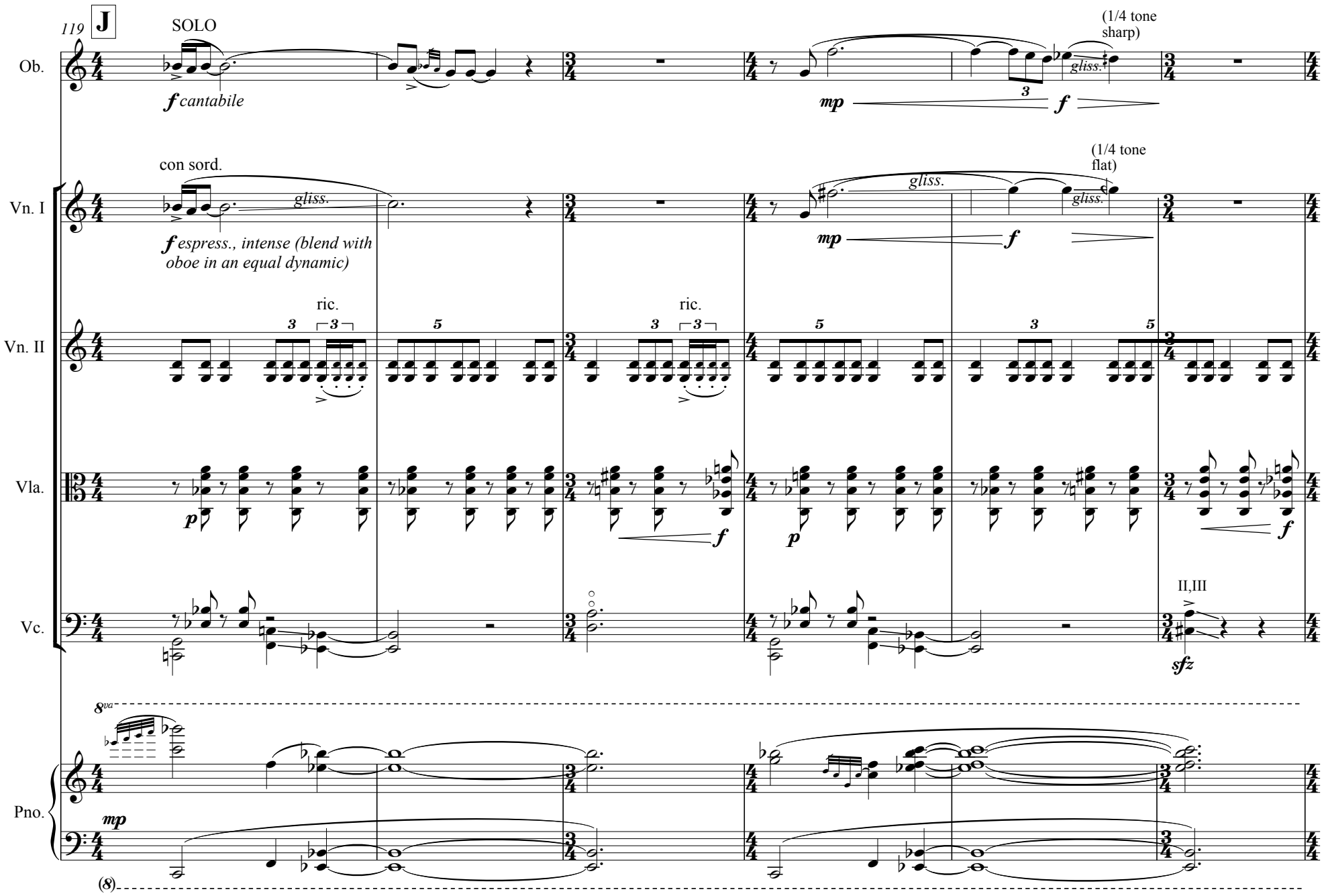
p < *f*

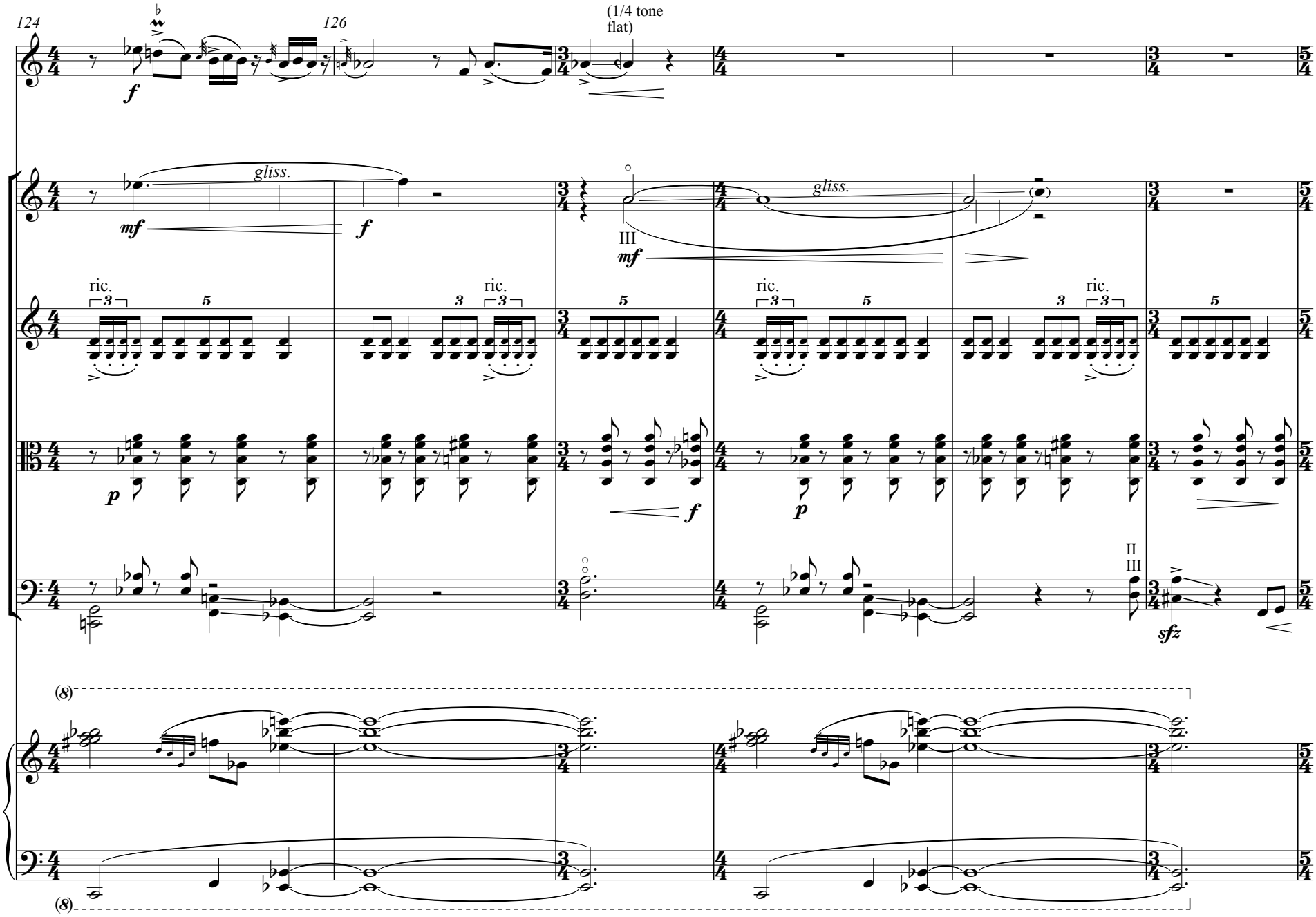
mf

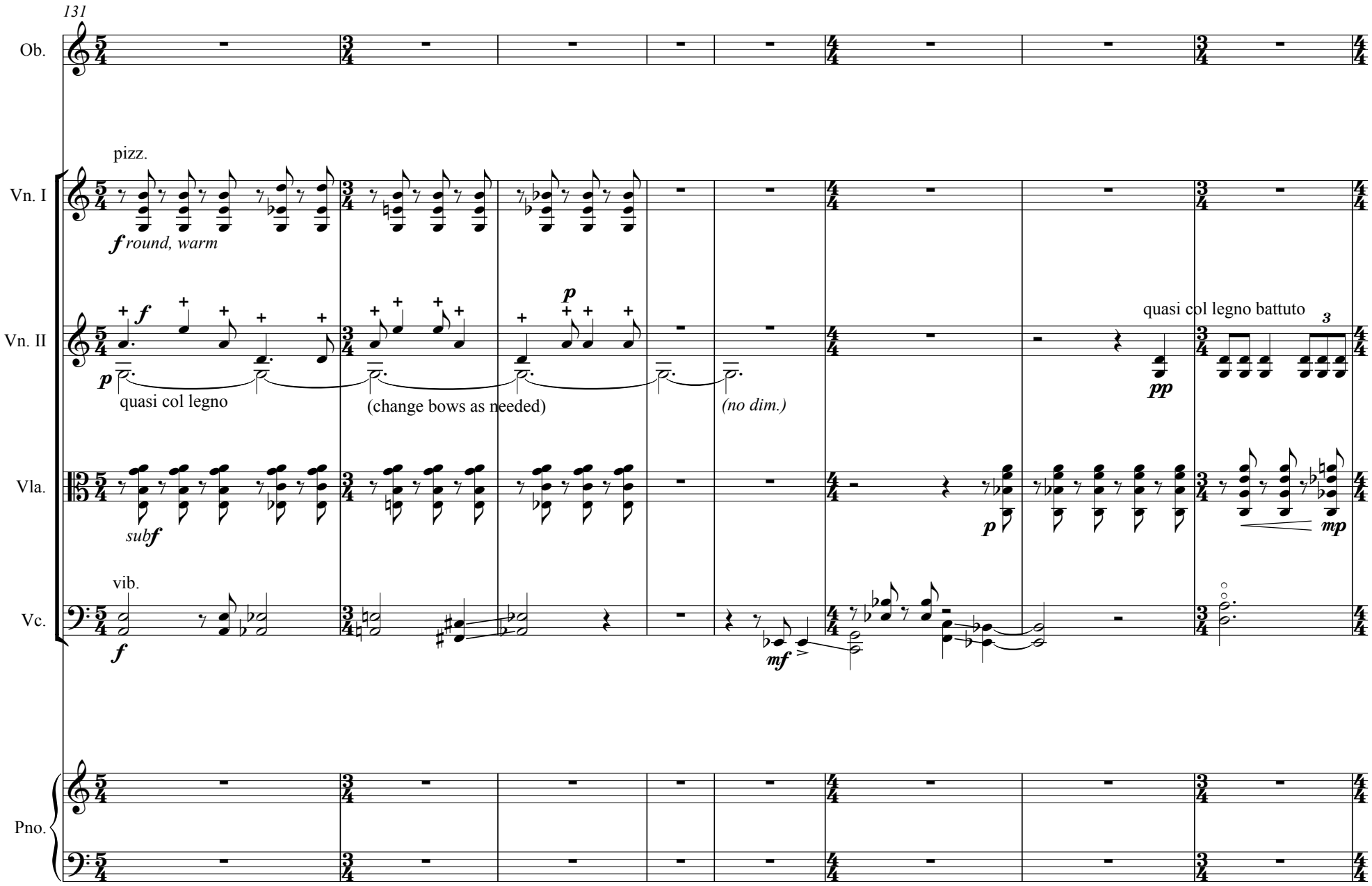
8va

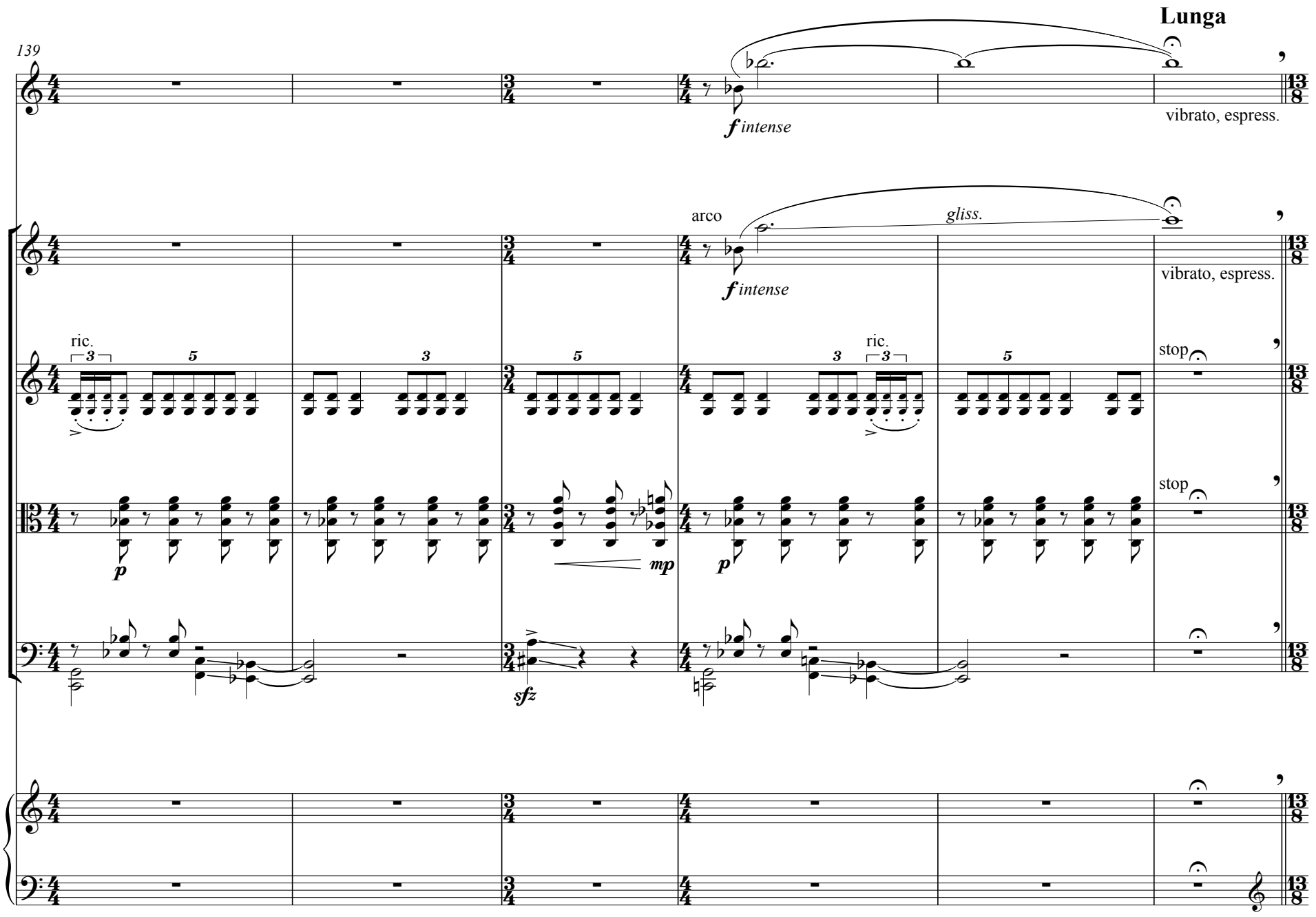
Ped.


113
Ob.
Vn. I
simile
ord.
Vn. II
simile
quasi col legno battuto
richochet
Vla.
Vc.
II
III
II
III
Pno.
simile
pedal ad lib.


119
J
SOLO
Ob.
f cantabile
(1/4 tone sharp)
gliss.
mp
3
f
con sord.
Vn. I
gliss.
f espress., intense (blend with oboe in an equal dynamic)
(1/4 tone flat)
gliss.
gliss.
mp
f
ric.
ric.
Vn. II
3
3
5
5
3
5
Vla.
p
f
p
f
Vc.
II,III
sfz
8va
Pno.
mp
(8)


124
126
(1/4 tone flat)
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
gliss.
ric.
III
II
mf
f
p
sfz
(8)


131
Ob.
Vn. I
pizz.
f round, warm
Vn. II
p
quasi col legno
(change bows as needed)
(no dim.)
quasi col legno battuto
pp
Vla.
subf
p
mp
Vc.
vib.
f
mf
Pno.


Lunga
139
Ob.
f intense
vibrato, espress.
Vn. I
arco
gliss.
f intense
vibrato, espress.
Vn. II
ric.
ric.
stop
Vla.
p
mp
p
stop
Vc.
sfz
Pno.

K ***Variation no. 7***

Andante rubato (♩.=45), ruminating

145

Ob.

(TACET var. 7)

Vn. I

(con sord.)

Vn. II

ord.
con sord.

Vla.

arco
con sord.

Vc.

arco
con sord.

Pno.

(3+3+3+2+2)

p *ruminating, rubato*

R.H.

8va

mp *dolce*

4

4

(p)

149

Ob.

VIOLINS: Gliss as slow as possible, ignoring the beat and the other instruments, from the indicated harmonic to the highest one on the E string, switching seemlessly between strings, and fade out when approaching the end of the fingerboard.
Change bow when necessary, seamlessly as possible. Repeat as many times as needed until cue.
The overall result of the strings should sound like constant ascending glissandos with no beginning or end.

Vn. I

sul pont.

gliss.

p

Vn. II

sul pont.

gliss.

p

VIOLA & CELLO: Gliss as slow as possible, ignoring the beat and the other instruments, and fade out when approaching the end of the fingerboard.
Change bow when necessary, seamlessly as possible. Repeat as many times as needed until cue.
The overall result of the strings should sound like constant ascending glissandos with no beginning or end.

Vla.

sul pont.
sul A, D

gliss.
gliss.

p

Vc.

sul pont.
sul A

gliss.

p

Pno.

pp

3 3

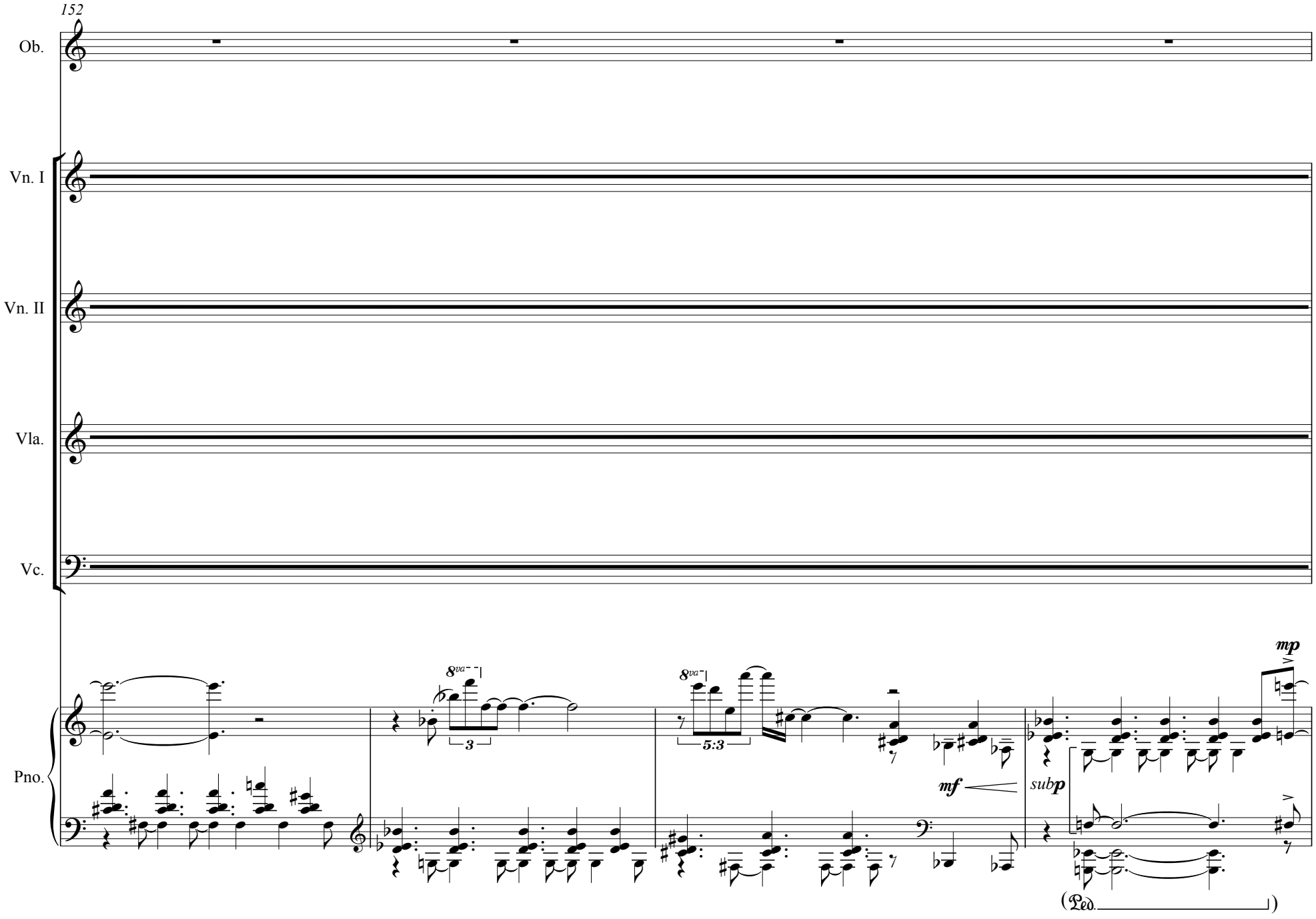
mf

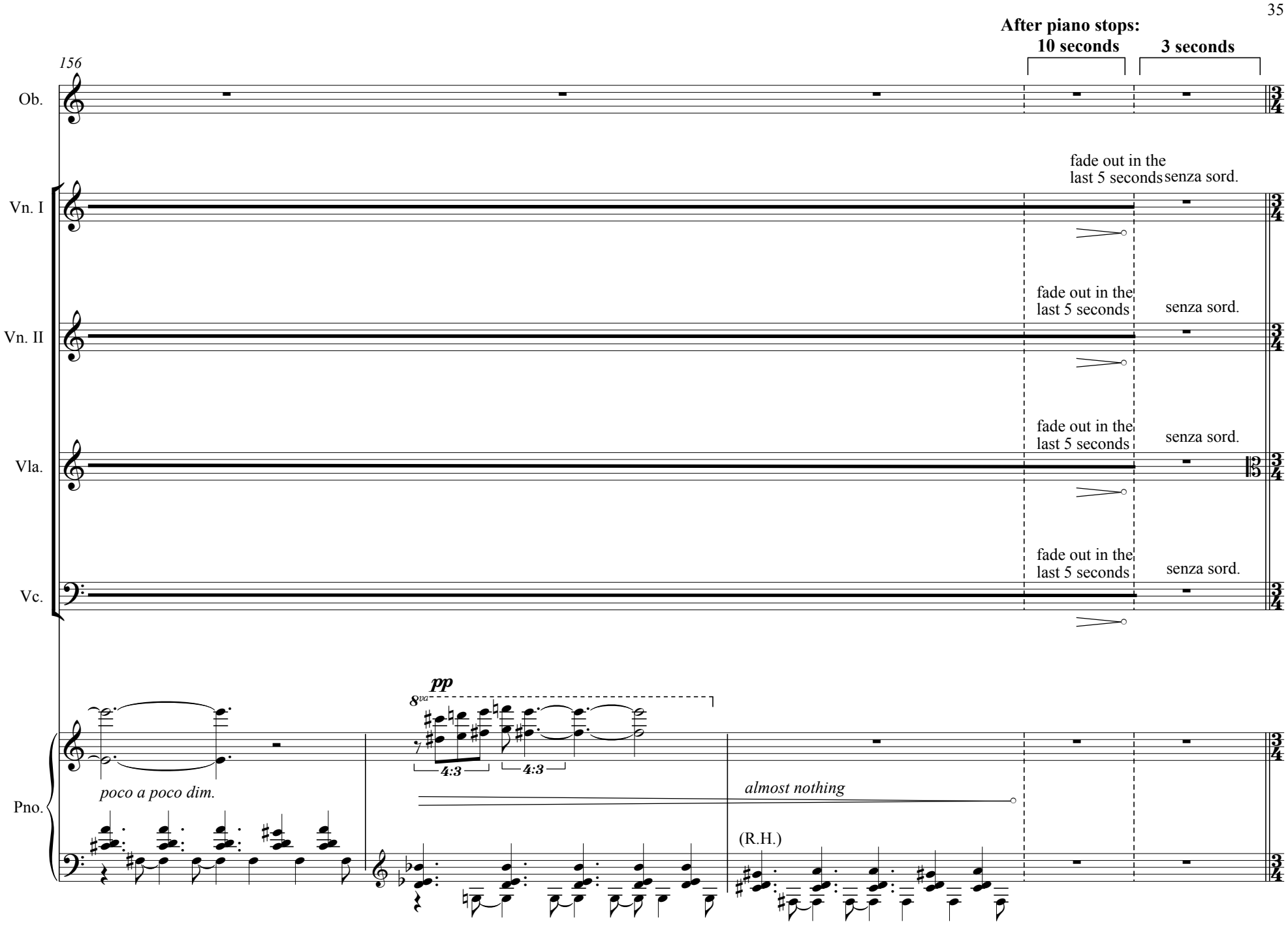
sub p

mp

(p)

(Ped.)


152
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
8va
3
8va
5:3
mf
mp
subp
(Ped.)


After piano stops:
10 seconds
3 seconds
156
Ob.
Vn. I
fade out in the last 5 seconds
senza sord.
Vn. II
fade out in the last 5 seconds
senza sord.
Vla.
fade out in the last 5 seconds
senza sord.
Vc.
fade out in the last 5 seconds
senza sord.
Pno.
pp
8va
4:3
4:3
poco a poco dim.
almost nothing
(R.H.)

L ***Variation no. 8***

Moderato rubato, sad (♩=100)

161

Ob.

p *solo, espress., sadly*

Vn. I

ord.

p

Vn. II

pizz.

f *(match to cello)*

arco

p

Vla.

ord.

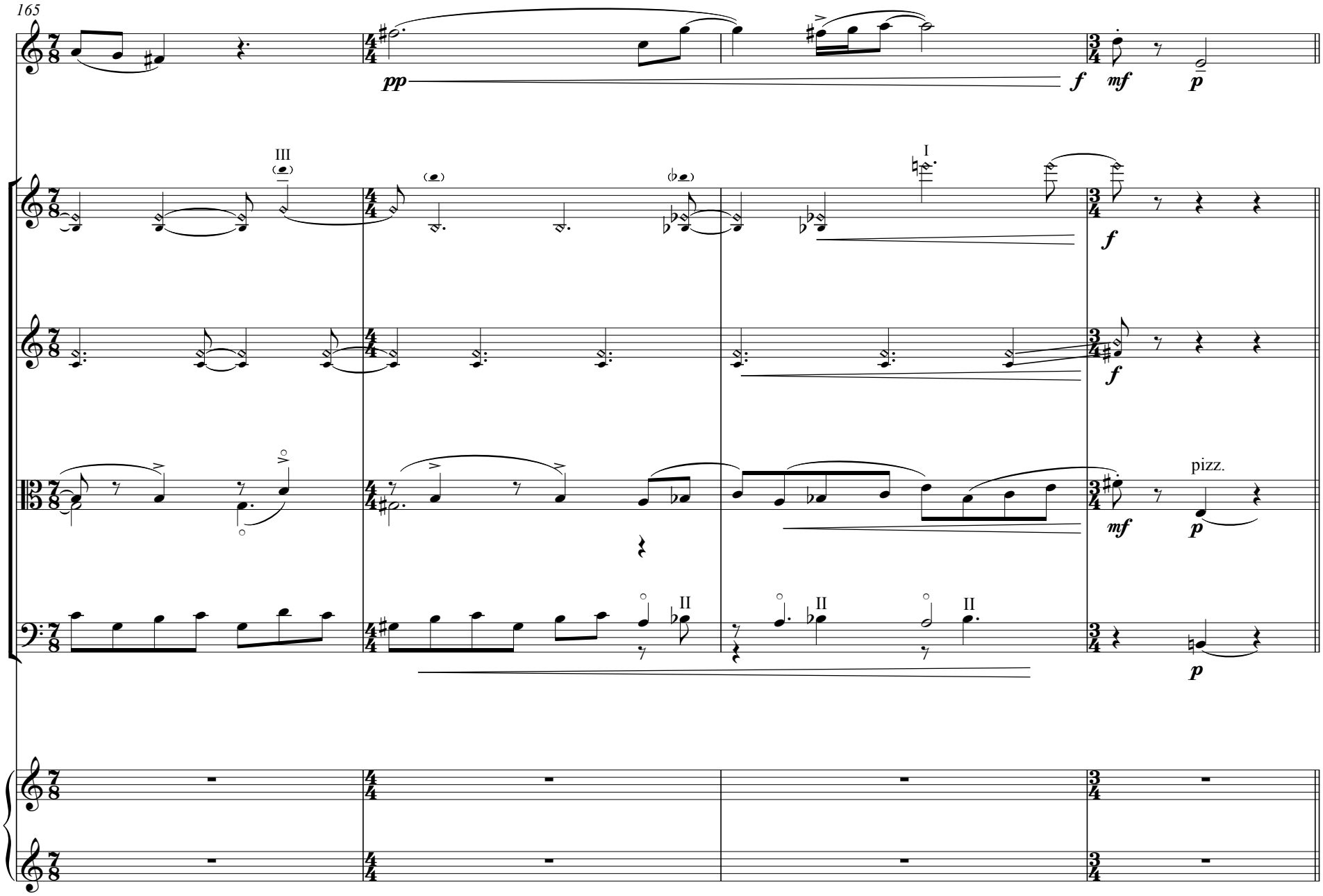
p

Vc.

pizz.

p

Pno.


165
Ob.
pp
f
mf
p
Vn. I
III
I
f
Vn. II
f
Vla.
mf
pizz.
p
Vc.
II
II
II
p
Pno.

M ***Variation no. 9***

Allegro, Energetic (𝅗𝅥.=60)

169

Ob.

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

arco

f *solo, energetic, playful, quasi minuet*

pizz.

f

f

f

N Quasi "Waltz"

178

Ob.

Vn. I

sul D
sul pont.
harm. gliss.

sul A
simile

Vn. II

(as wide vibrato)

ric.

simile

pizz.

arco

ric.

Vla.

arco
sul G
sul pont.
harm. gliss.

ric.

sul pont.
simile

pizz.

arco
simile

ric.

Vc.

(pizz.)

III

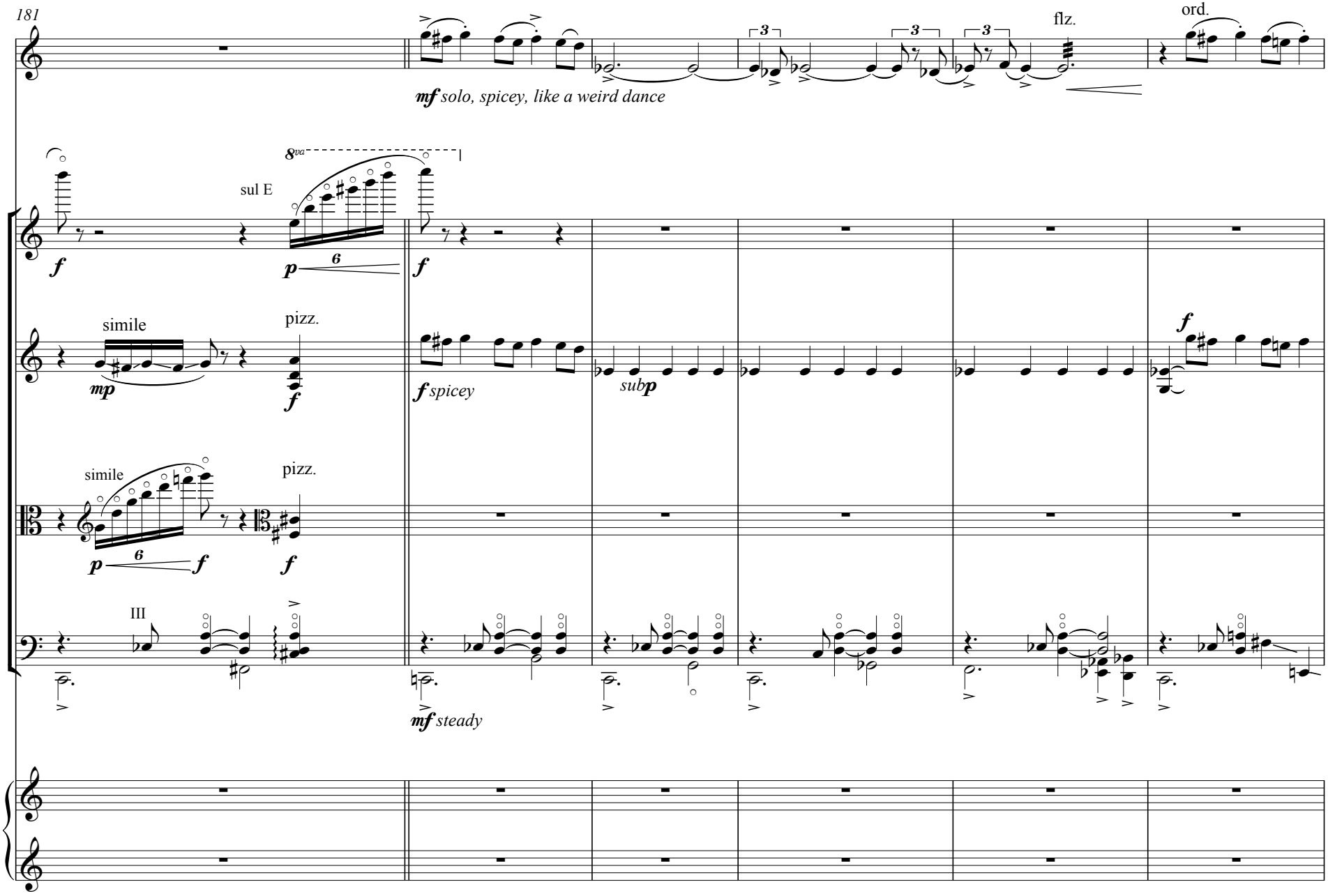
III

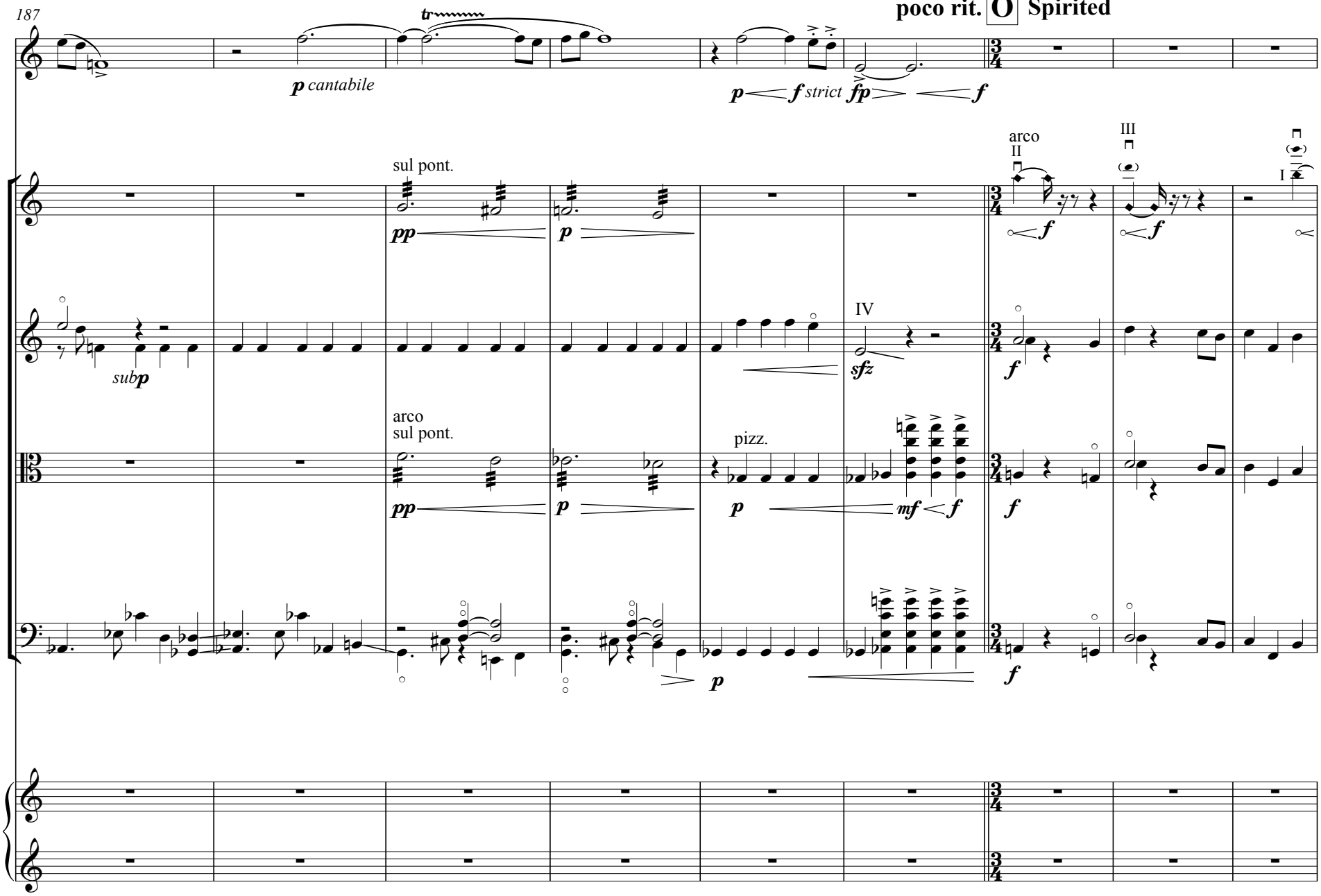
III

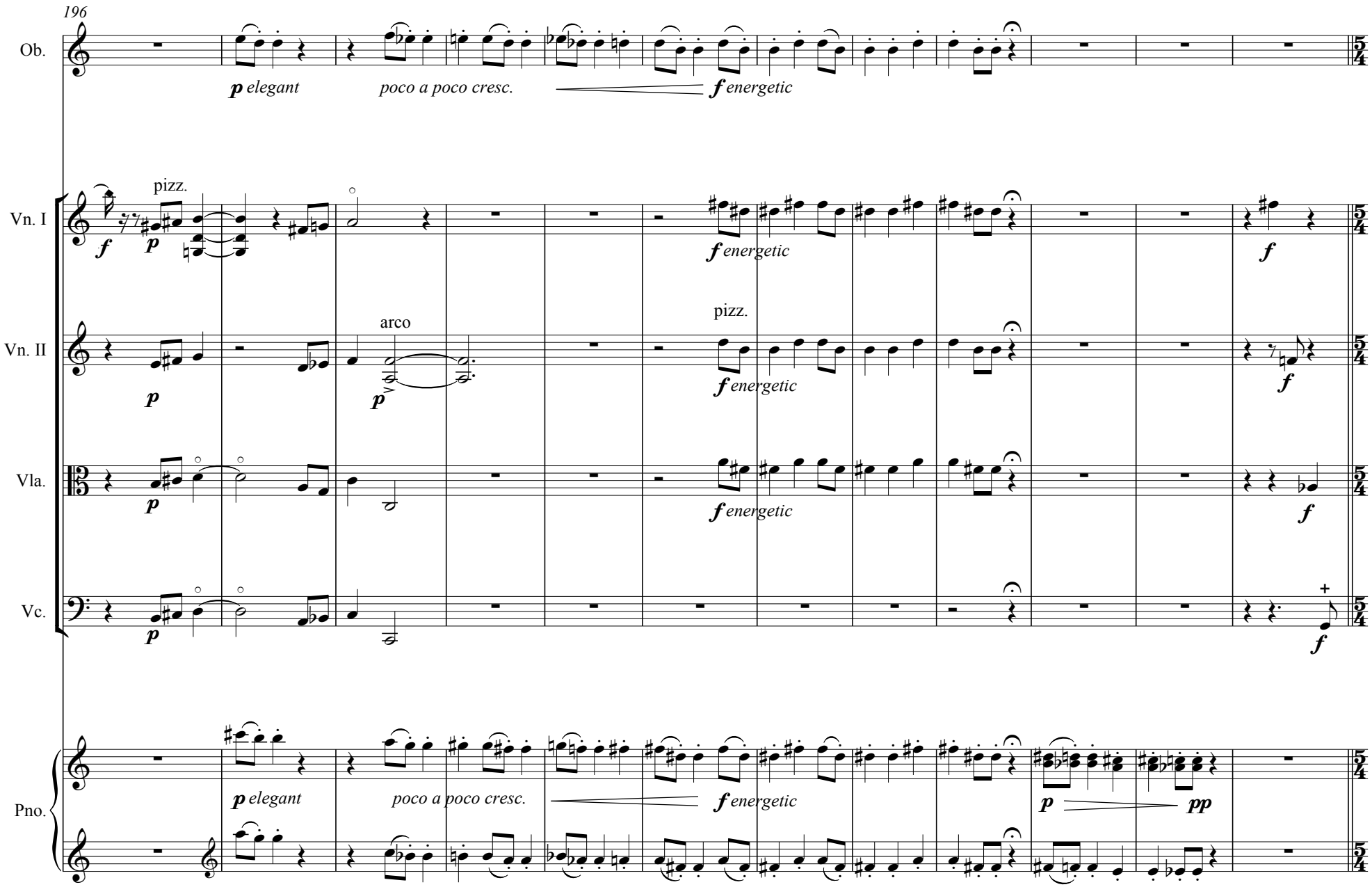
violently

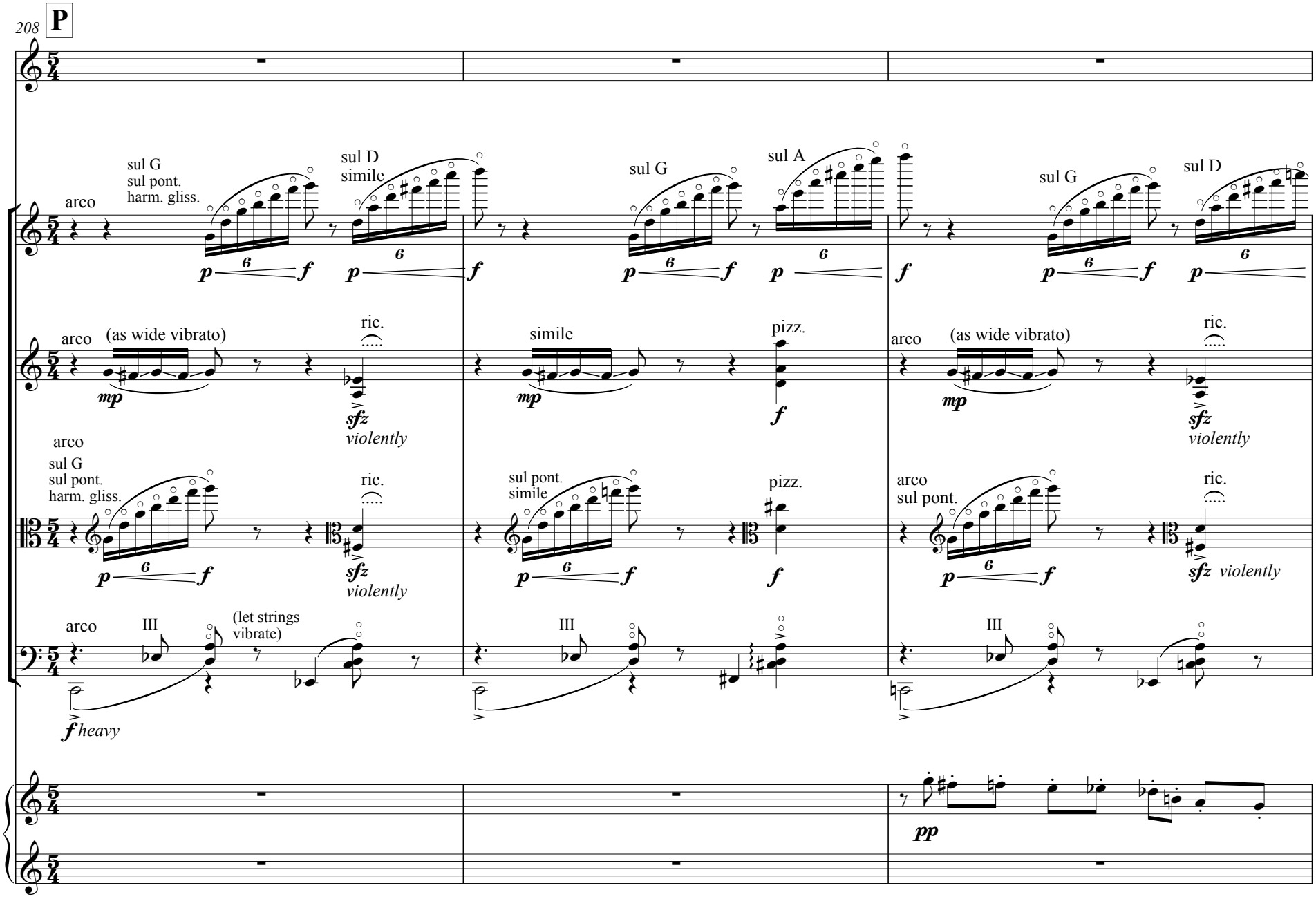
heavy

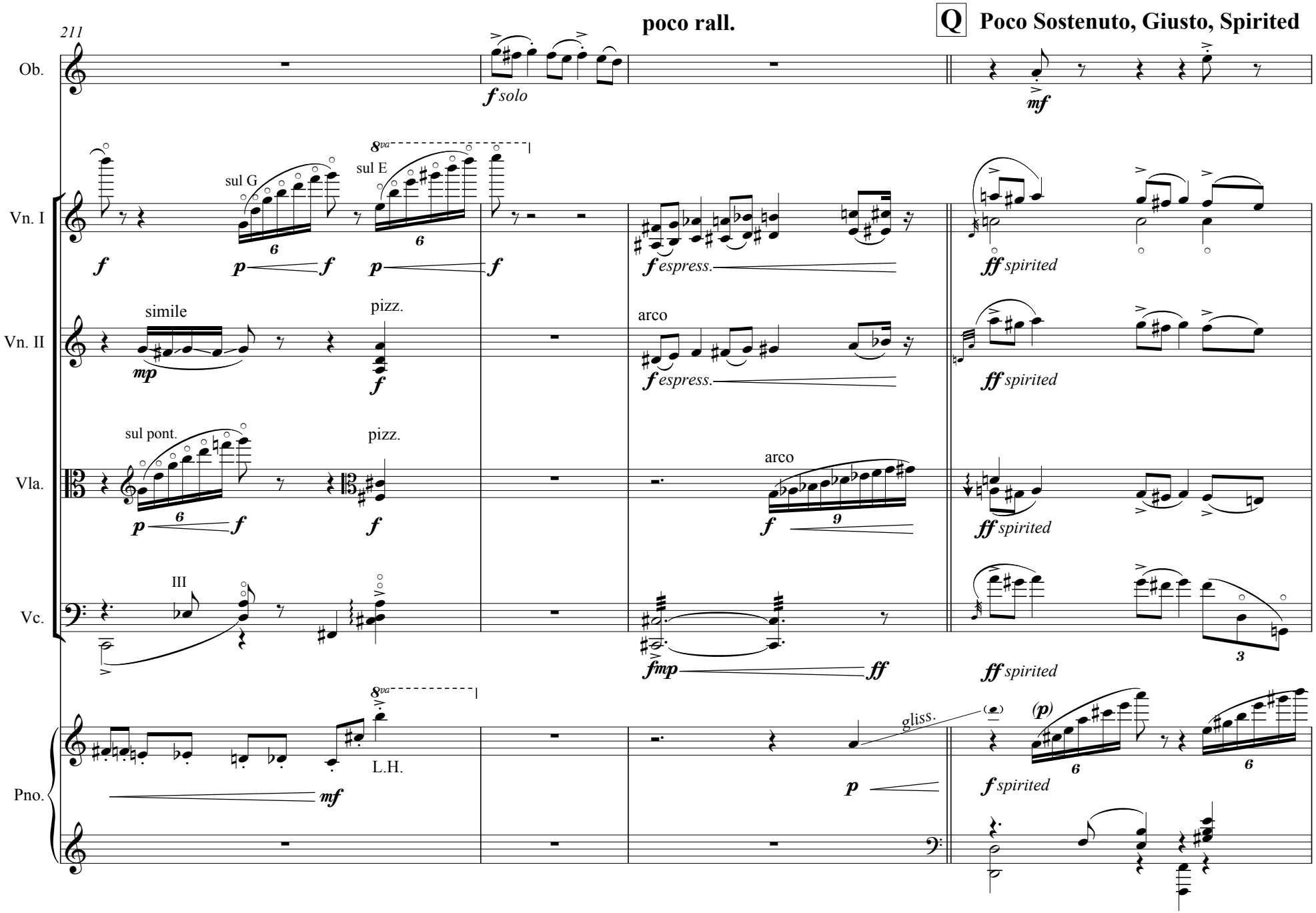
Pno.

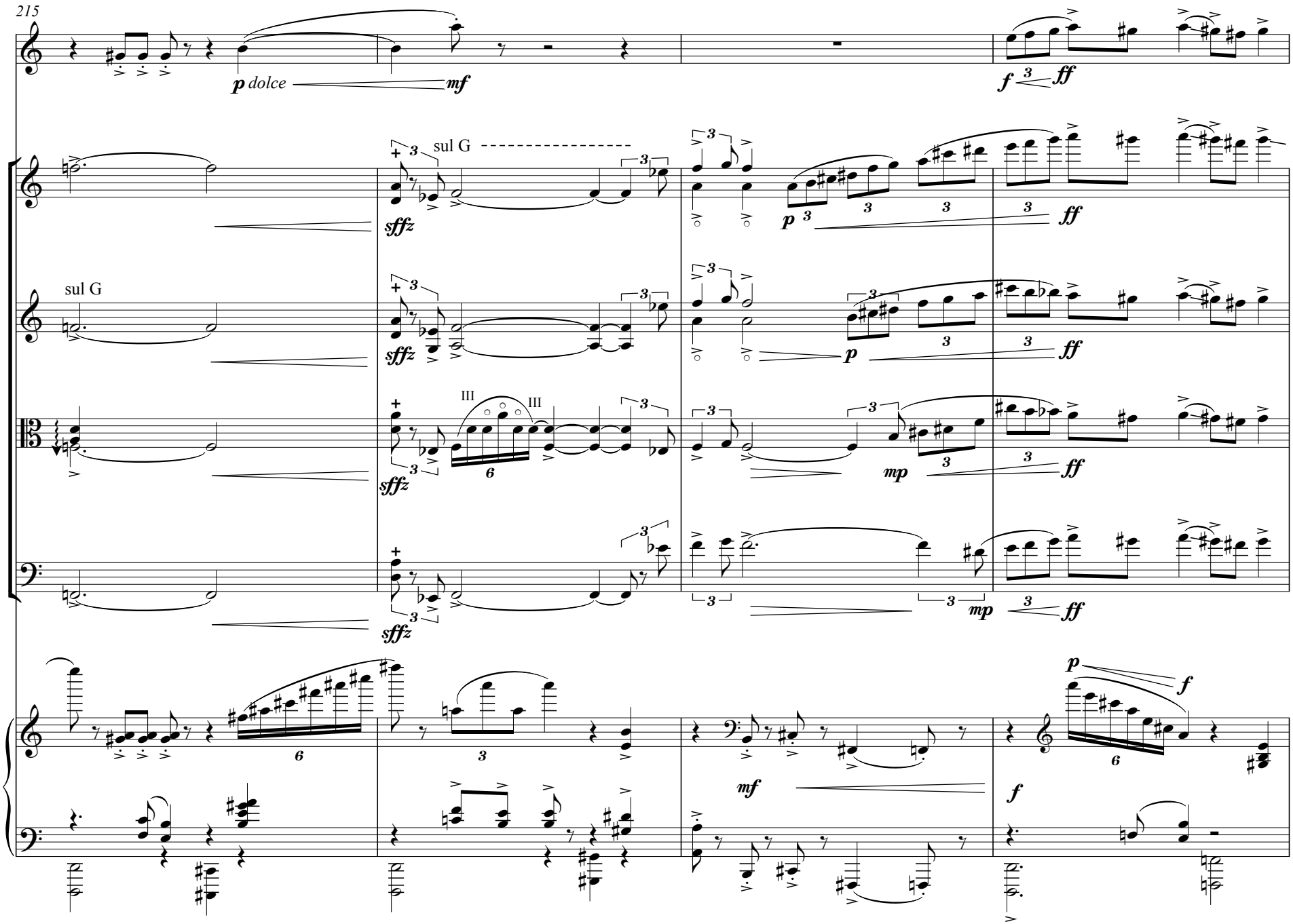

181
Ob.
flz.
ord.
mf solo, spicey, like a weird dance
Vn. I
sul E
8va
f
p
6
Vn. II
simile
pizz.
mp
f spicey
sub p
Vla.
simile
pizz.
III
mf steady
Vc.
Pno.

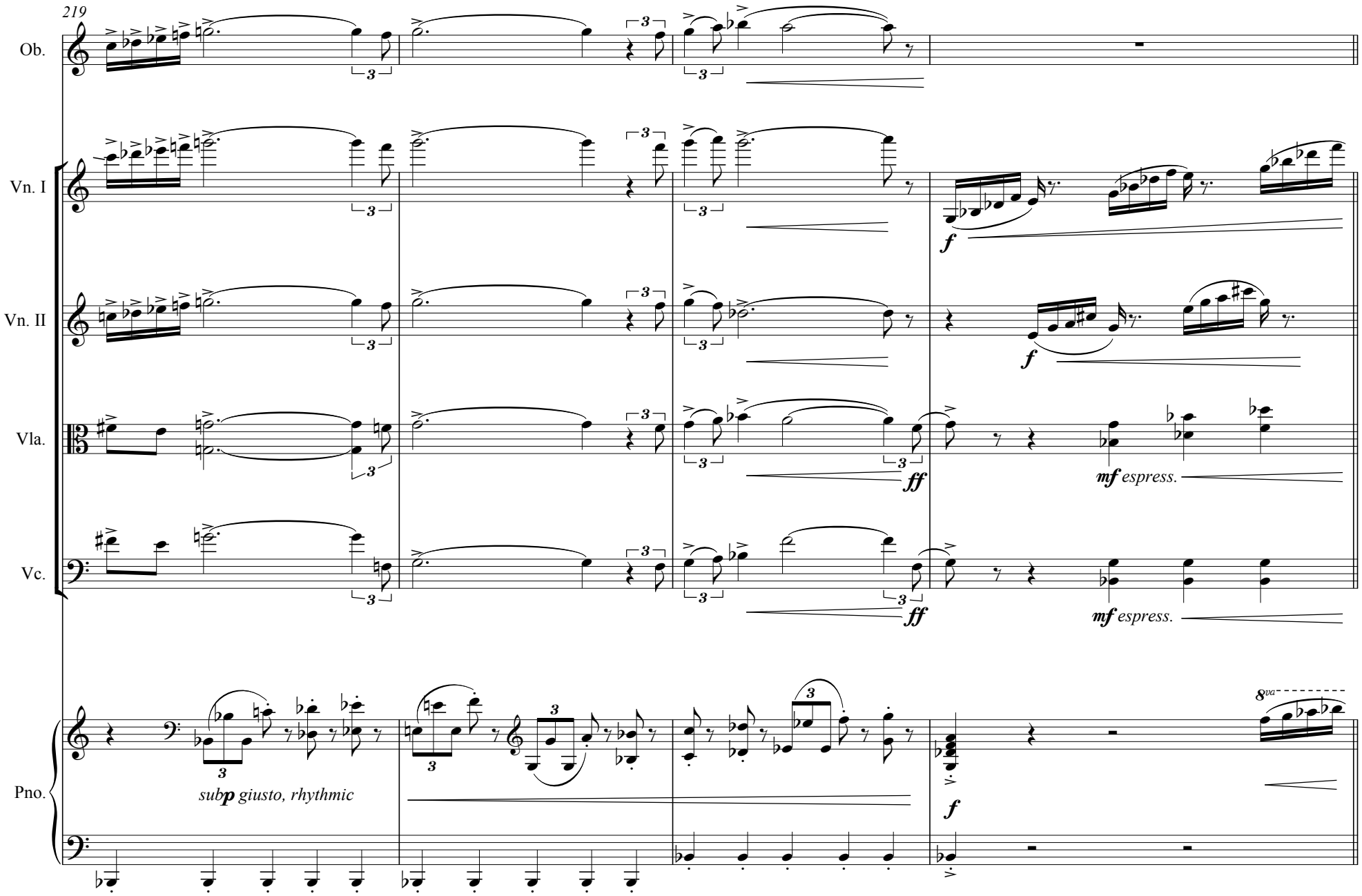

187
poco rit.
O
Spirited
Ob.
p cantabile
tr
p f strict fp f
Vn. I
sul pont.
pp p
arco
II
III
I
f
Vn. II
sub p
IV
sfz
Vla.
arco
sul pont.
pizz.
pp p
p mf f
Vc.
Pno.

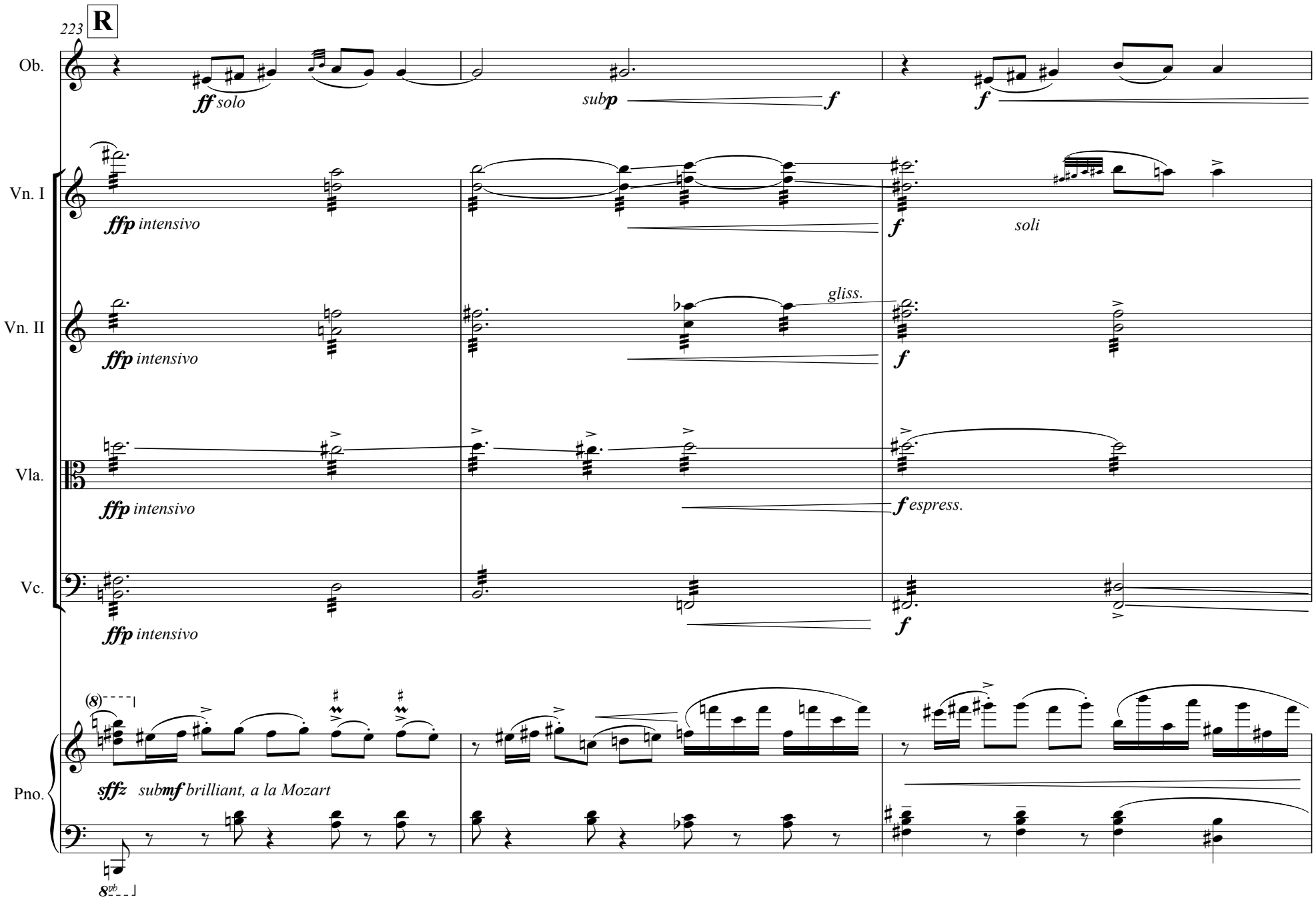

196
Ob.
p elegant
poco a poco cresc.
f energetic
Vn. I
pizz.
f
p
f energetic
f
Vn. II
arco
pizz.
p
p
f energetic
f
Vla.
p
f energetic
f
Vc.
p
f
Pno.
p elegant
poco a poco cresc.
f energetic
p
pp

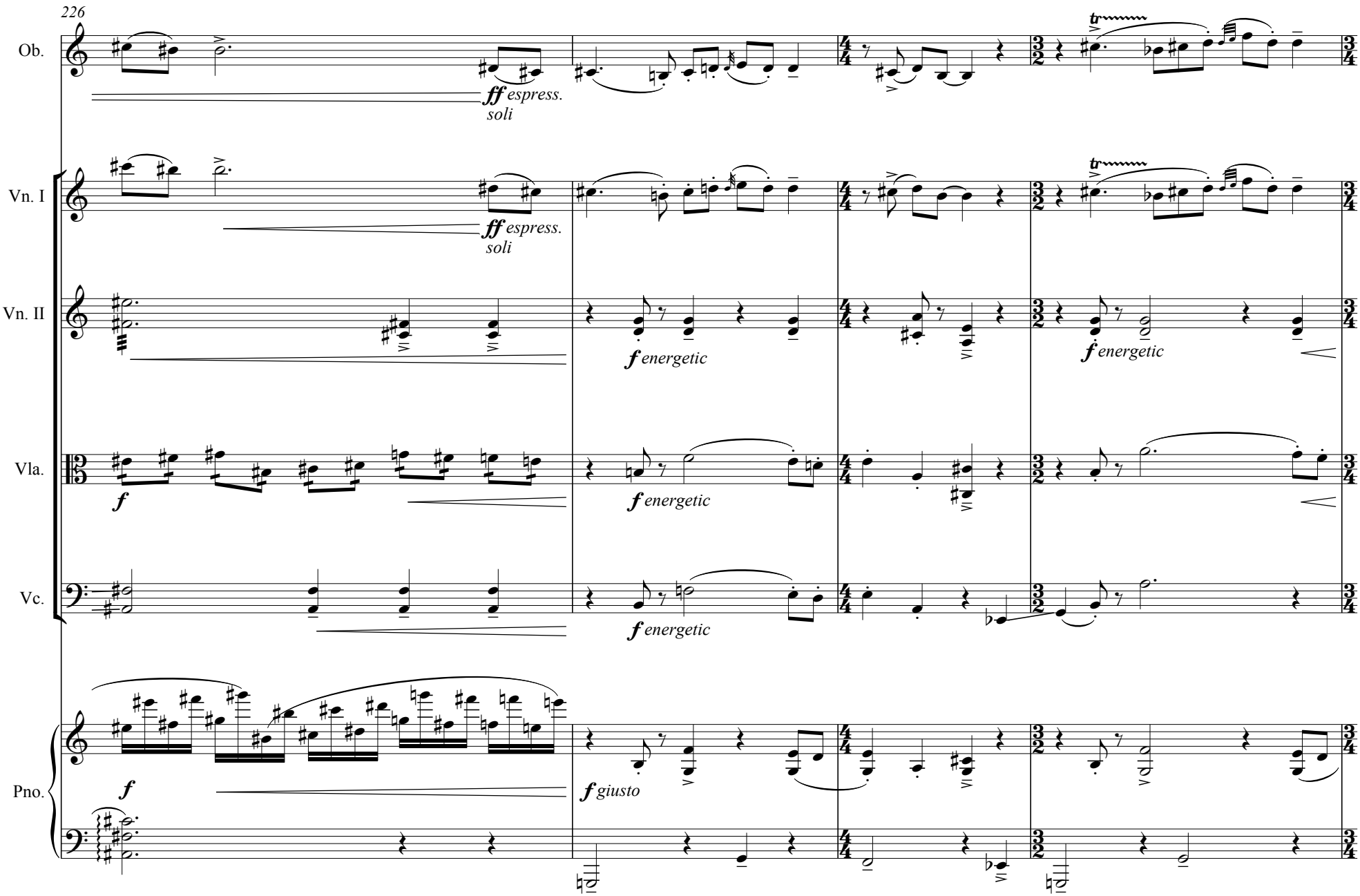

208
P
Ob.
Vn. I
arco
sul G
sul pont.
harm. gliss.
sul D
simile
sul G
sul A
sul G
sul D
Vn. II
arco
(as wide vibrato)
ric.
violently
simile
pizz.
Vla.
sul pont.
Vc.
III
(let strings
vibrate)
heavy
Pno.

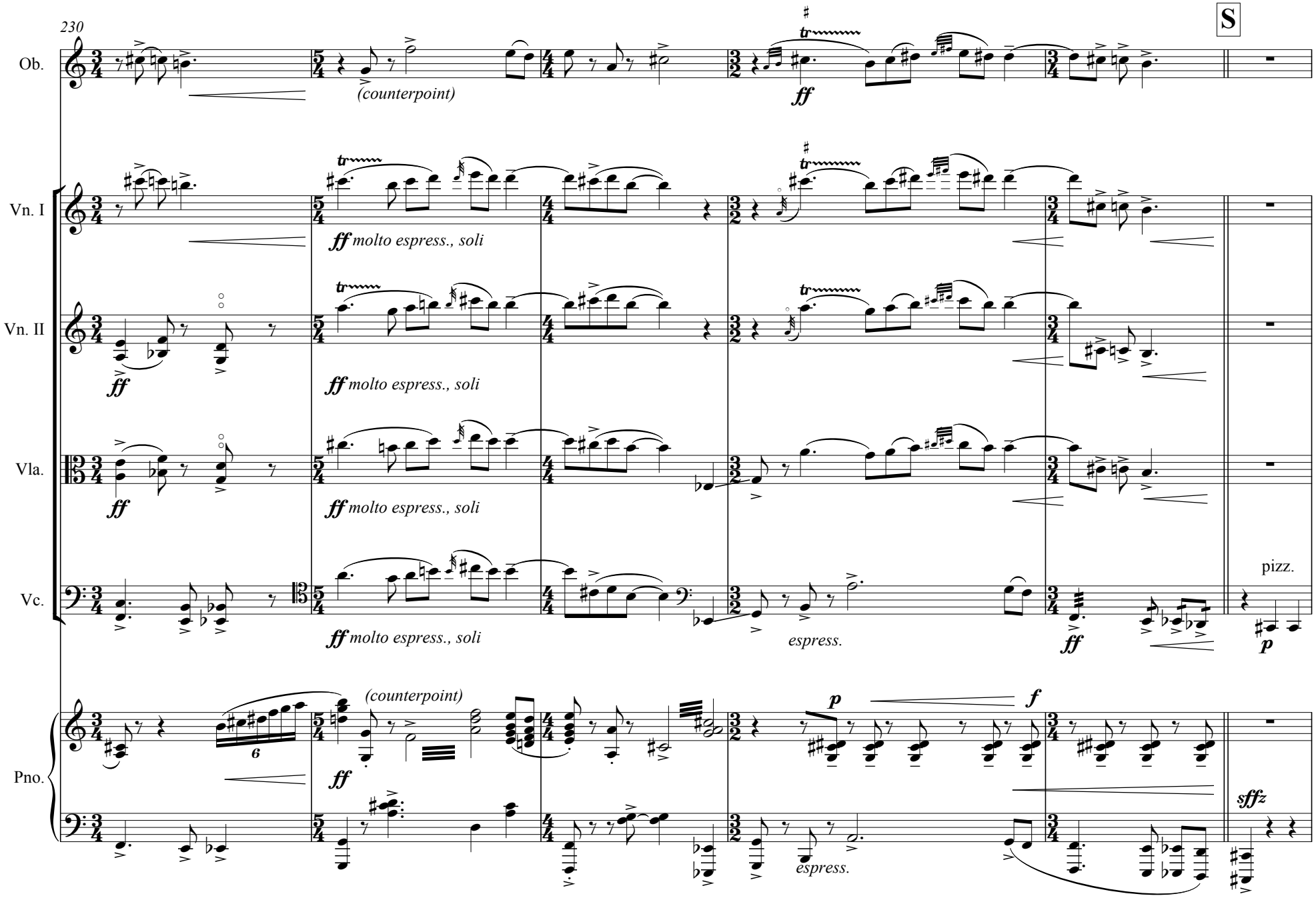

poco rall.
Q Poco Sostenuto, Giusto, Spirited
211
Ob.
f solo
mf
Vn. I
sul G
sul E
8va
f
p f
p f
f espress.
ff spirited
Vn. II
simile
mp
pizz.
f
arco
f espress.
ff spirited
Vla.
sul pont.
pizz.
p f
f
arco
f
ff spirited
Vc.
III
fmp
ff
ff spirited
Pno.
8va
L.H.
mf
gliss.
p
(p)
f spirited

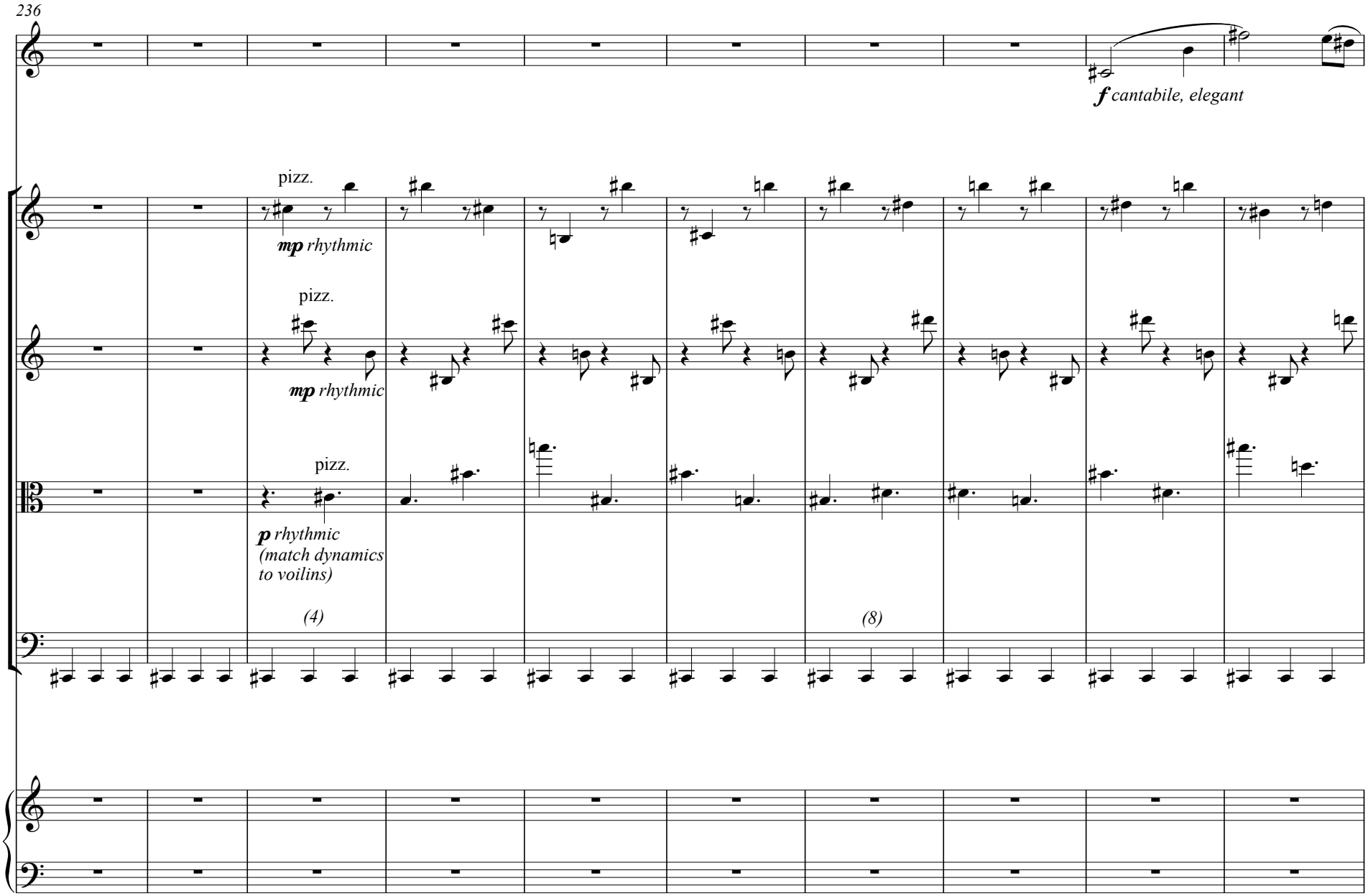

215
Ob.
p dolce
mf
f
ff
Vn. I
sul G
sffz
p
ff
Vn. II
sul G
sffz
p
ff
Vla.
III
III
6
sffz
mp
ff
Vc.
sffz
mp
ff
Pno.
6
3
mf
p
f
6
f

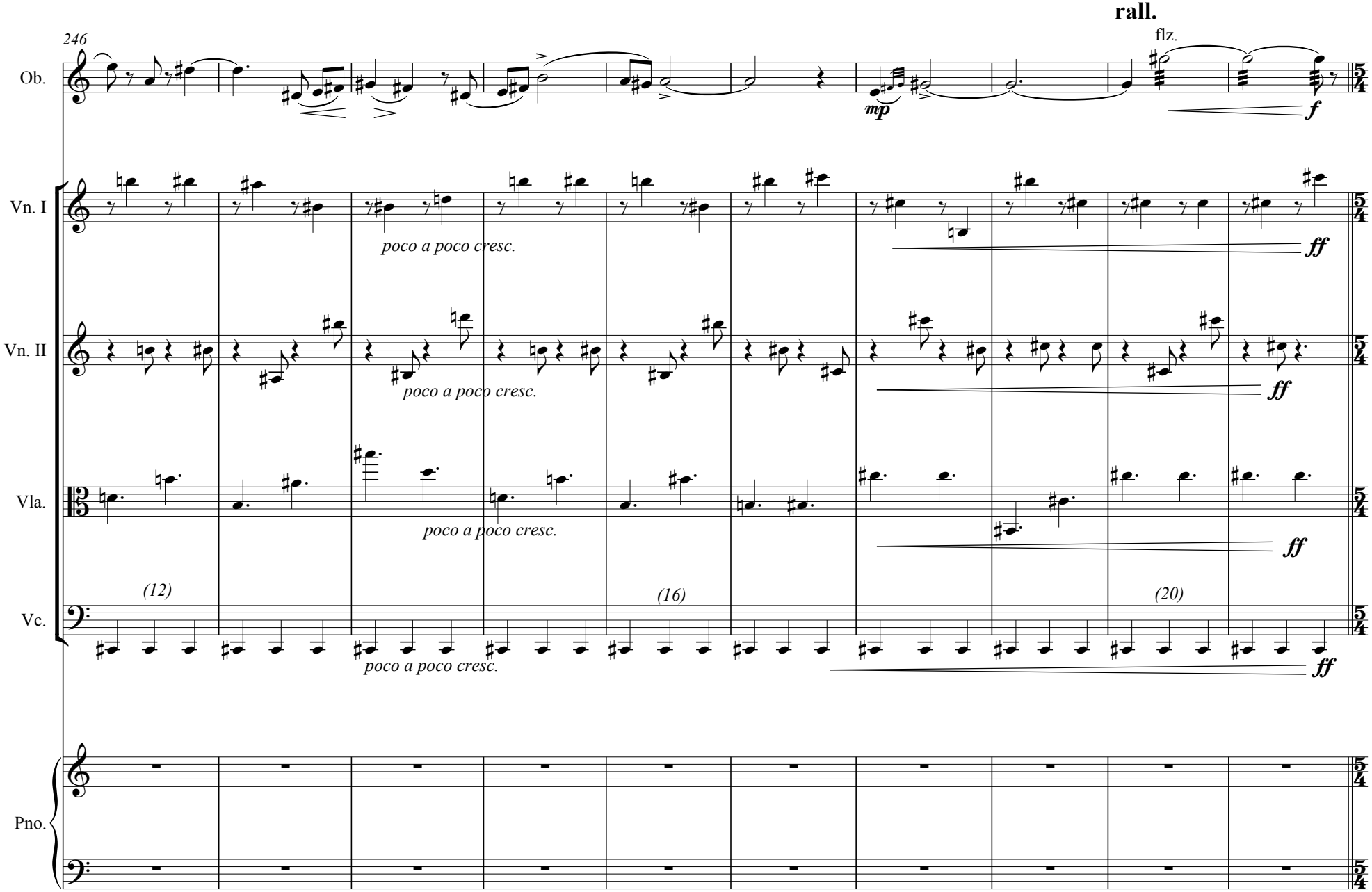

219
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
f
ff
mf espress.
sub p giusto, rhythmic
8va


223
R
Ob.
ff solo
subp
f
f
Vn. I
ffp intensivo
f
soli
Vn. II
ffp intensivo
gliss.
f
Vla.
ffp intensivo
f espress.
Vc.
ffp intensivo
f
Pno.
sffz
submf brilliant, a la Mozart

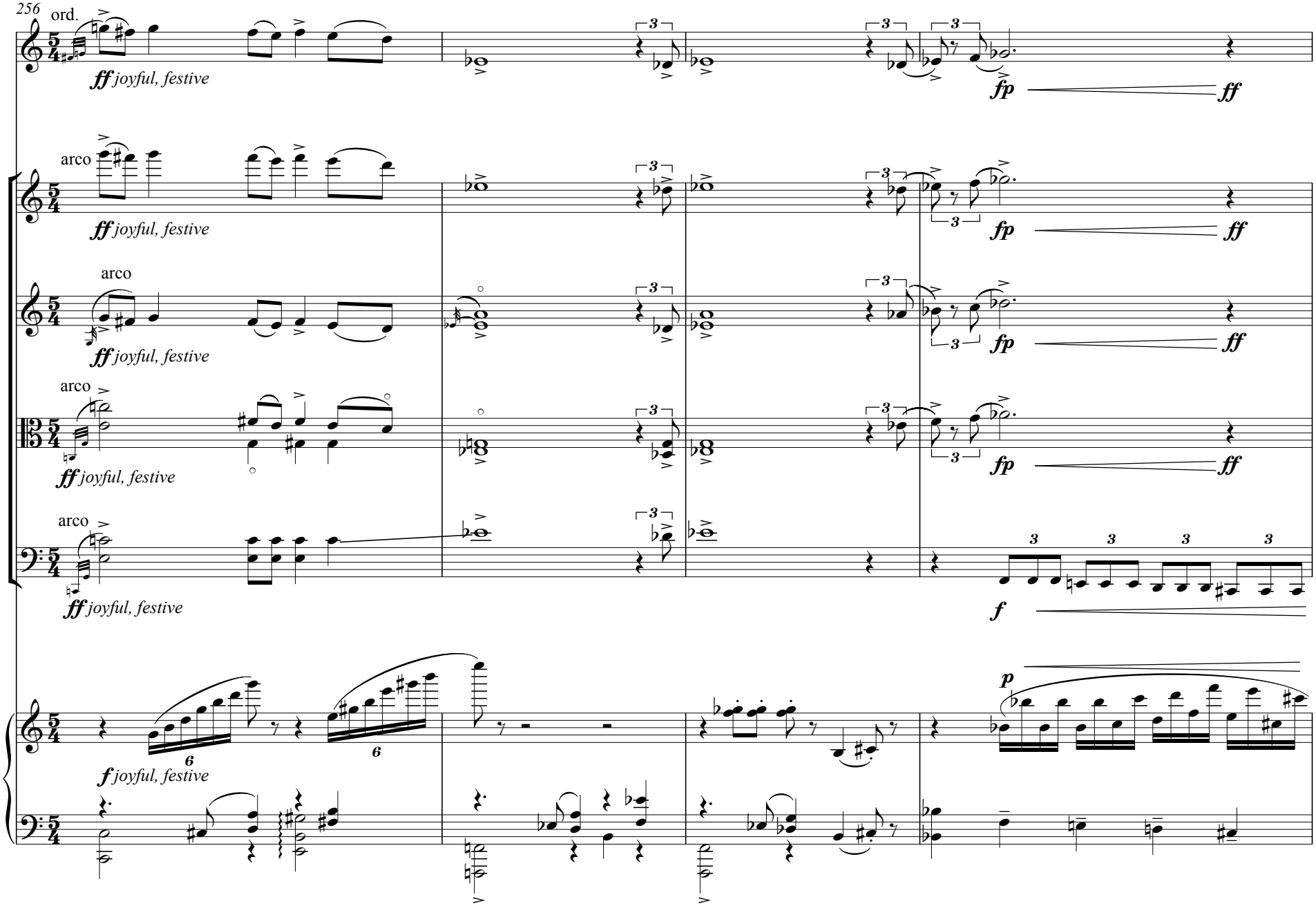

226
Ob.
ff espress.
soli
Vn. I
ff espress.
soli
Vn. II
f energetic
f energetic
Vla.
f
f energetic
Vc.
f energetic
Pno.
f
f giusto

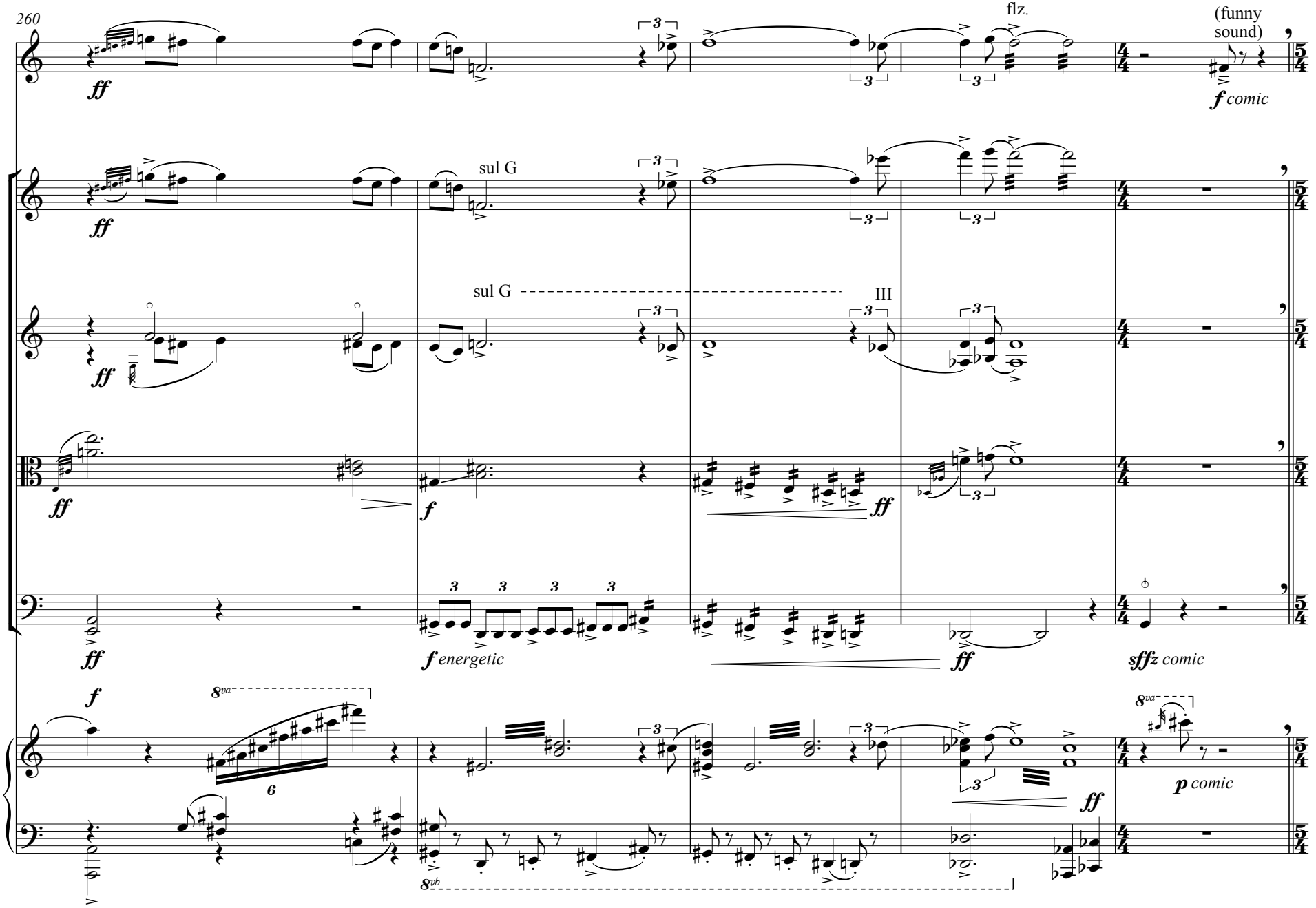

230
S
Ob.
(counterpoint)
ff
Vn. I
ff molto espress., soli
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
espress.
pizz.
p
Pno.
6
p
f
sffz

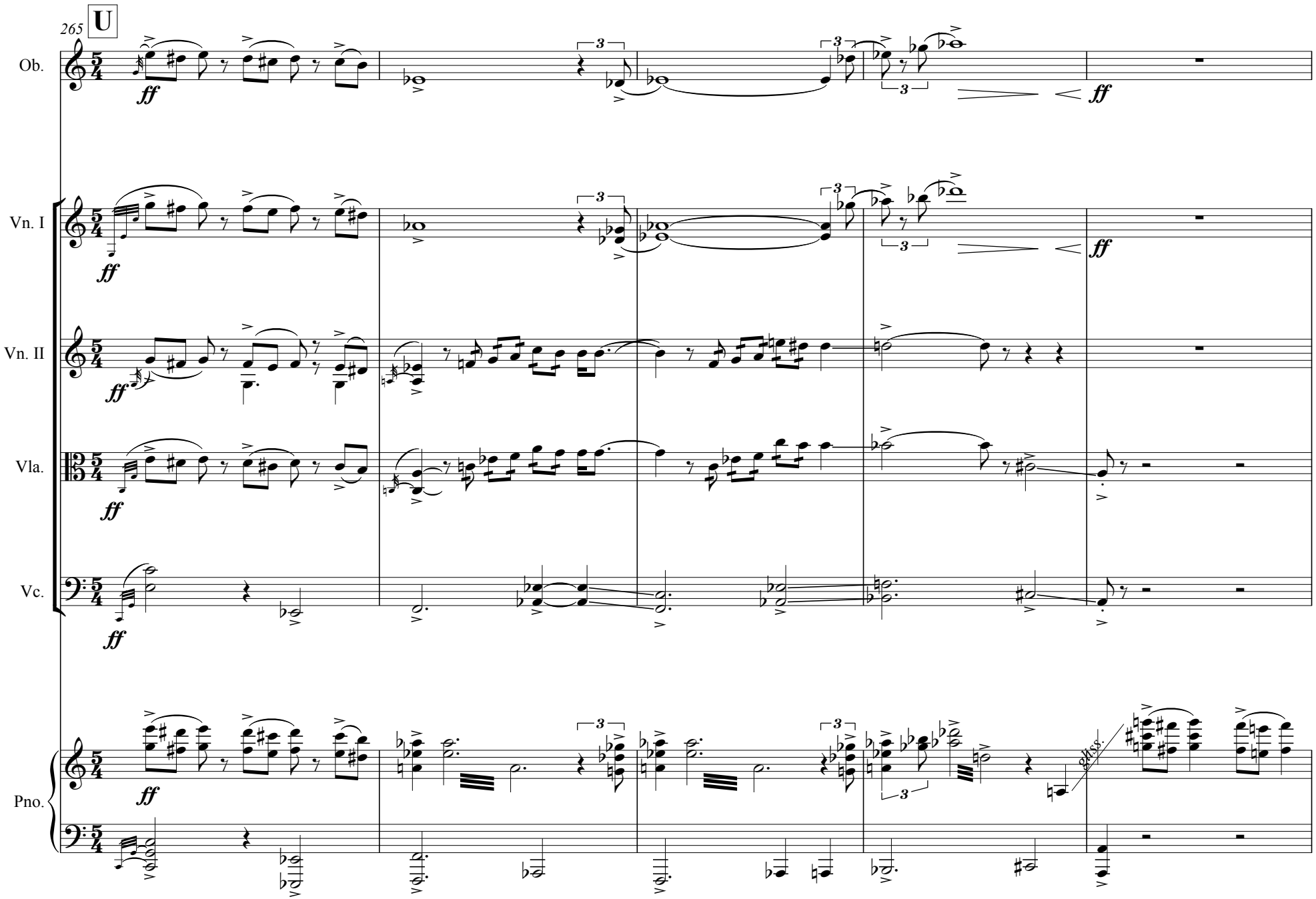

236
Ob.
f cantabile, elegant
Vn. I
pizz.
mp rhythmic
Vn. II
pizz.
mp rhythmic
Vla.
pizz.
p rhythmic
(match dynamics
to voilins)
(4)
(8)
Vc.
Pno.

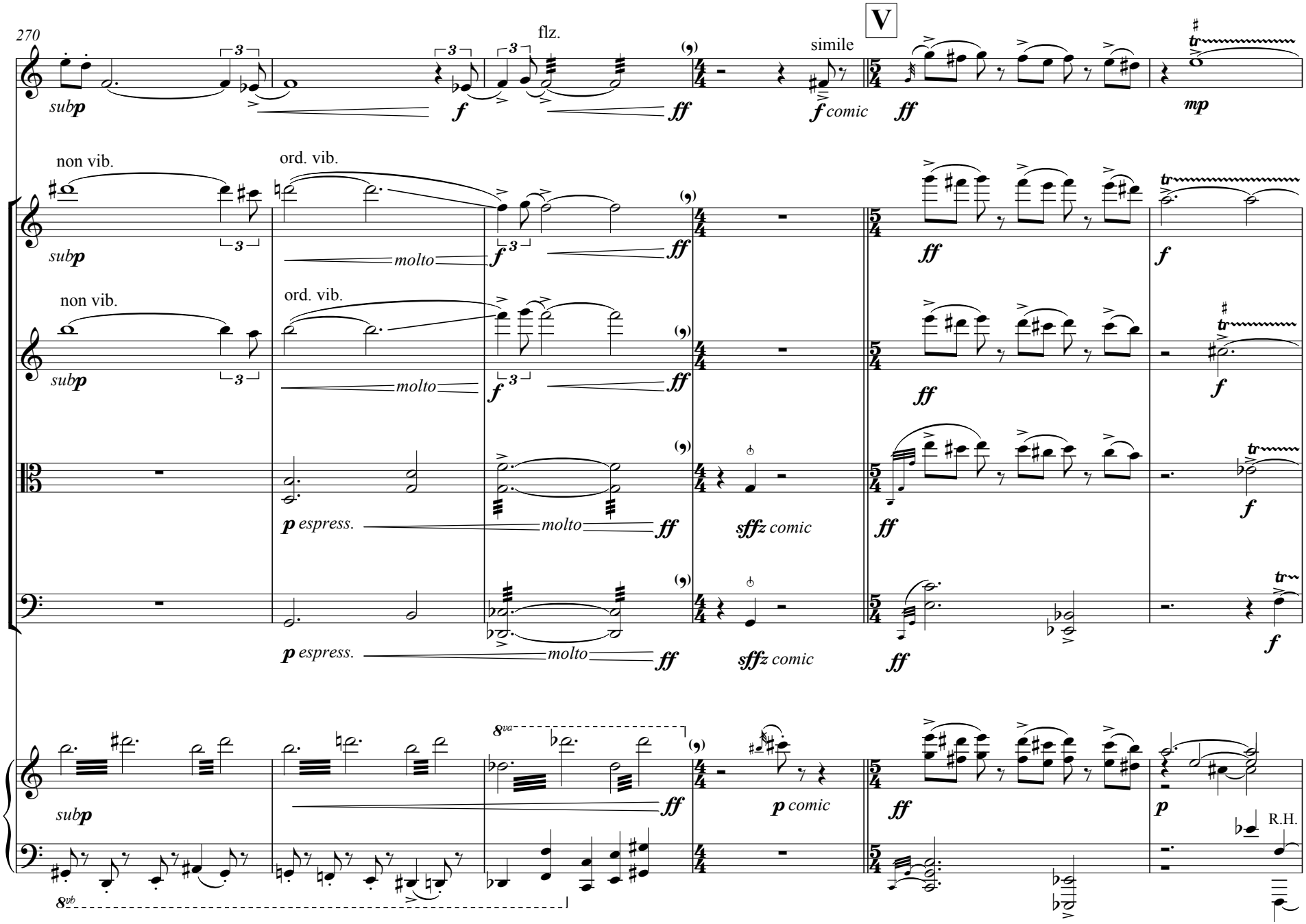

246
rall.
flz.
Ob.
mp
f
Vn. I
poco a poco cresc.
ff
Vn. II
poco a poco cresc.
ff
Vla.
poco a poco cresc.
ff
Vc.
(12)
(16)
(20)
poco a poco cresc.
ff
Pno.

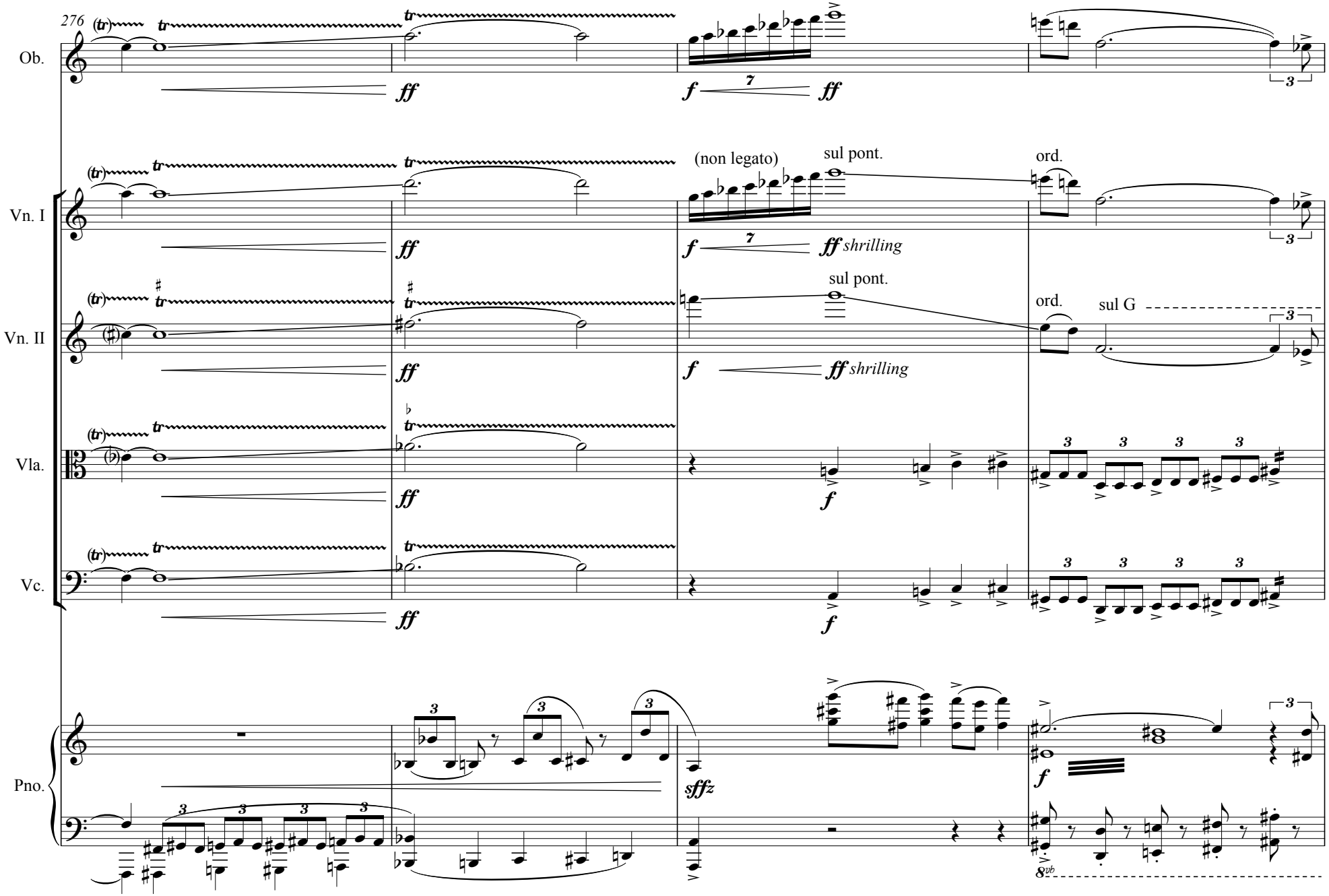
T **A tempo, poco sostenuto**

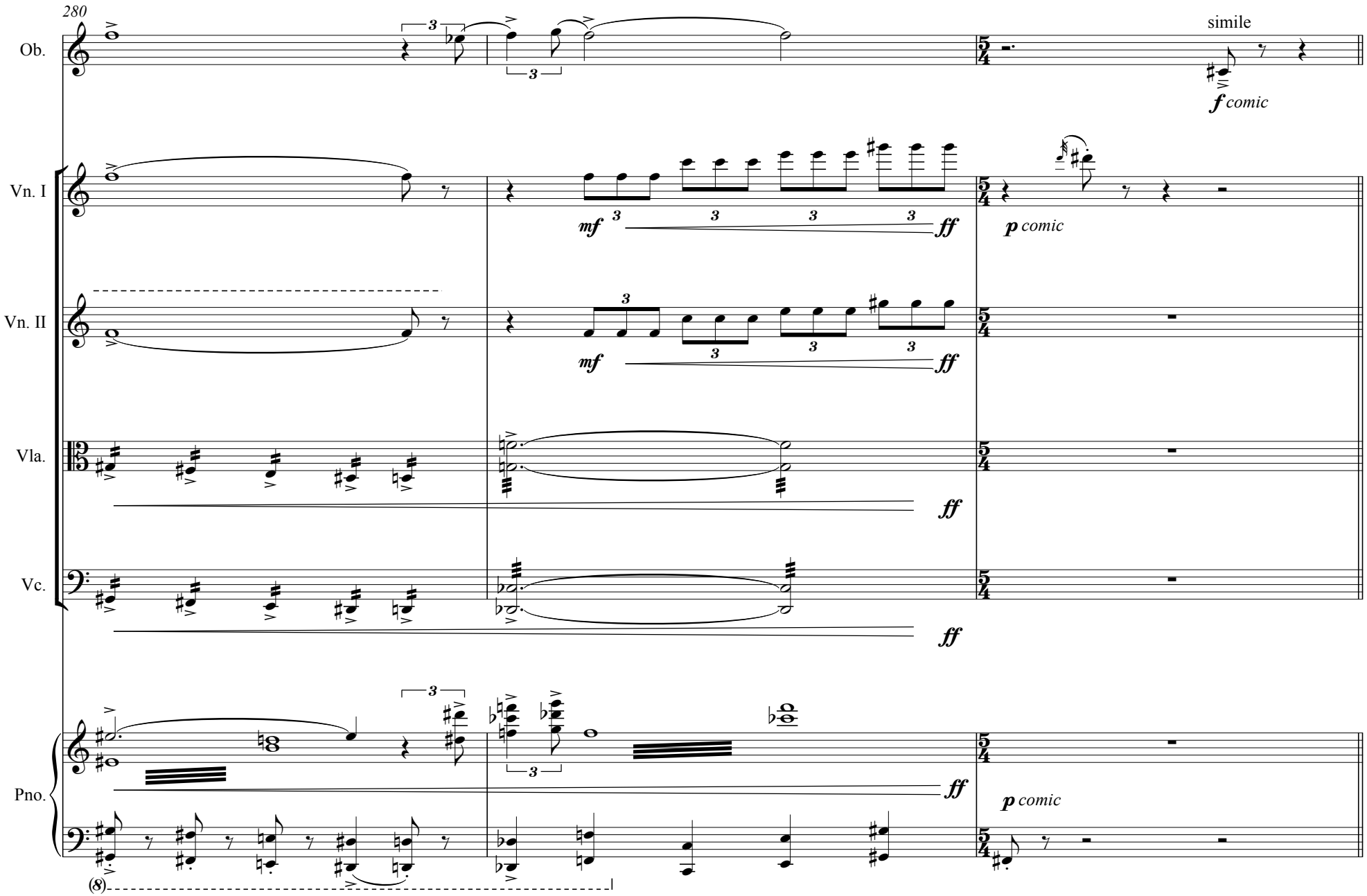


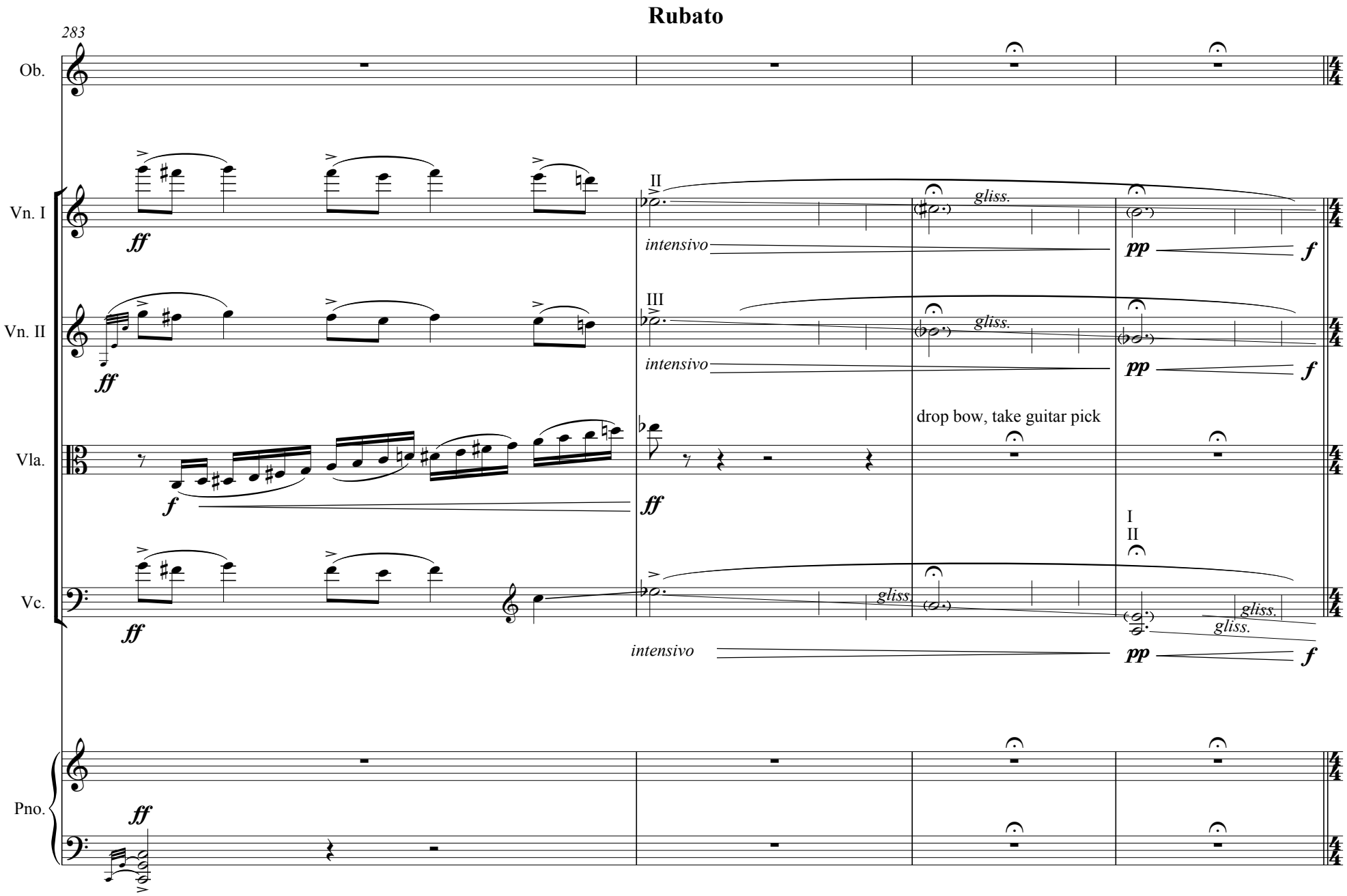

260
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
ff
flz.
(funny sound)
f comic
sul G
sul G
III
f
f energetic
sffz comic
8va
6
8vb
p comic


265
U
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
ff
3
8va


270
V
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
flz.
simile
non vib.
ord. vib.
molto
espress.
comic
R.H.


276
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
(non legato)
sul pont.
ord.
shrilling
sul G
sffz
8vb


280
Ob.
simile
f comic
Vn. I
mf
ff
p comic
Vn. II
mf
ff
Vla.
ff
Vc.
ff
Pno.
ff
p comic
(8)


Rubato
283
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
ff
II
III
intensivo
gliss.
pp
f
drop bow, take guitar pick
I
II

W ***Variation no. 10***

Allegro giusto, groovy and energetic, keep a very steady beat (𝅗𝅥=140)

287

Ob.

Vn. I

pizz.

II

II

f *giusto, soli*

Vn. II

pizz. using a guitar pick

Vla.

f *giusto*

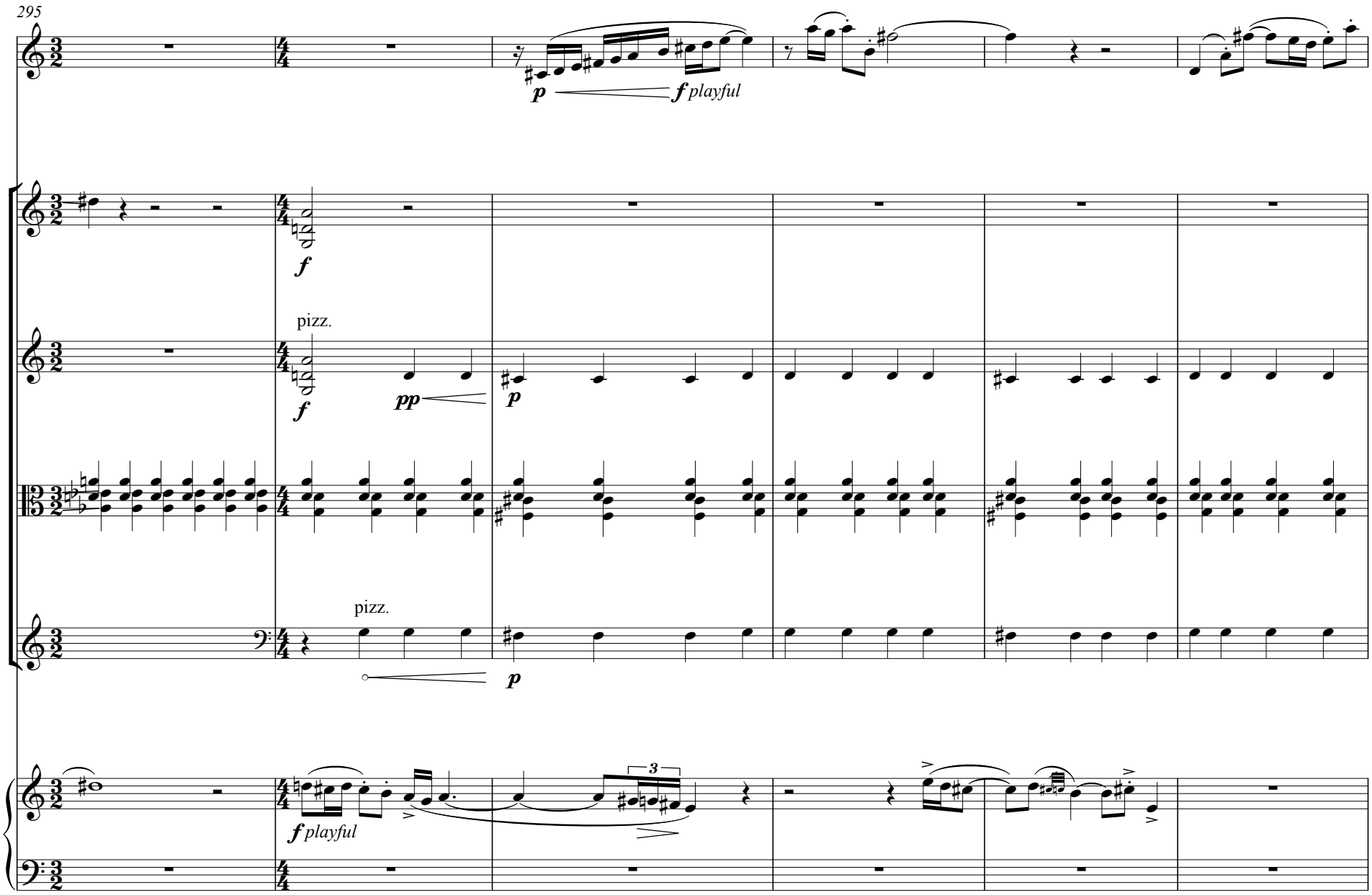
mf

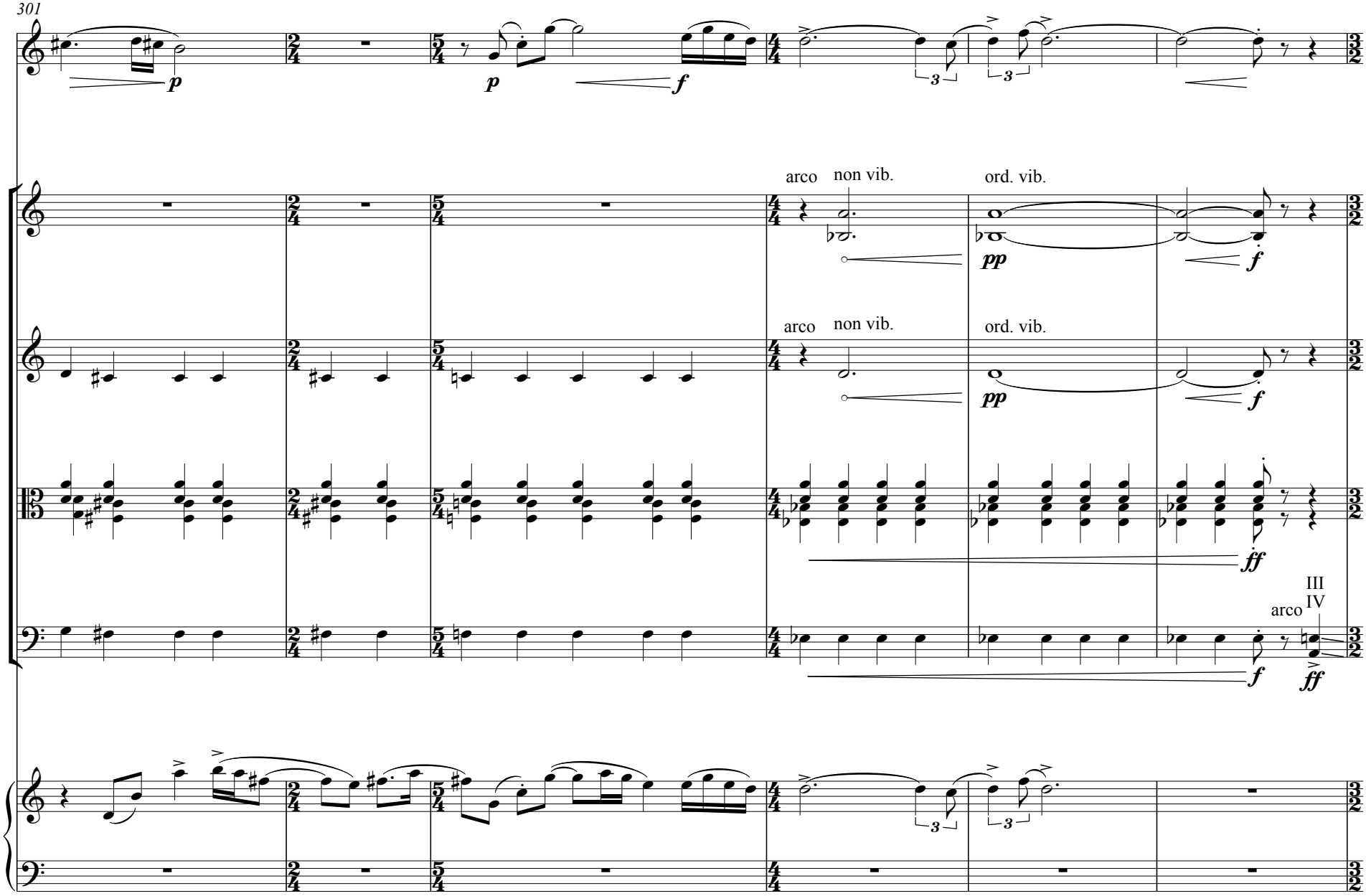
Vc.

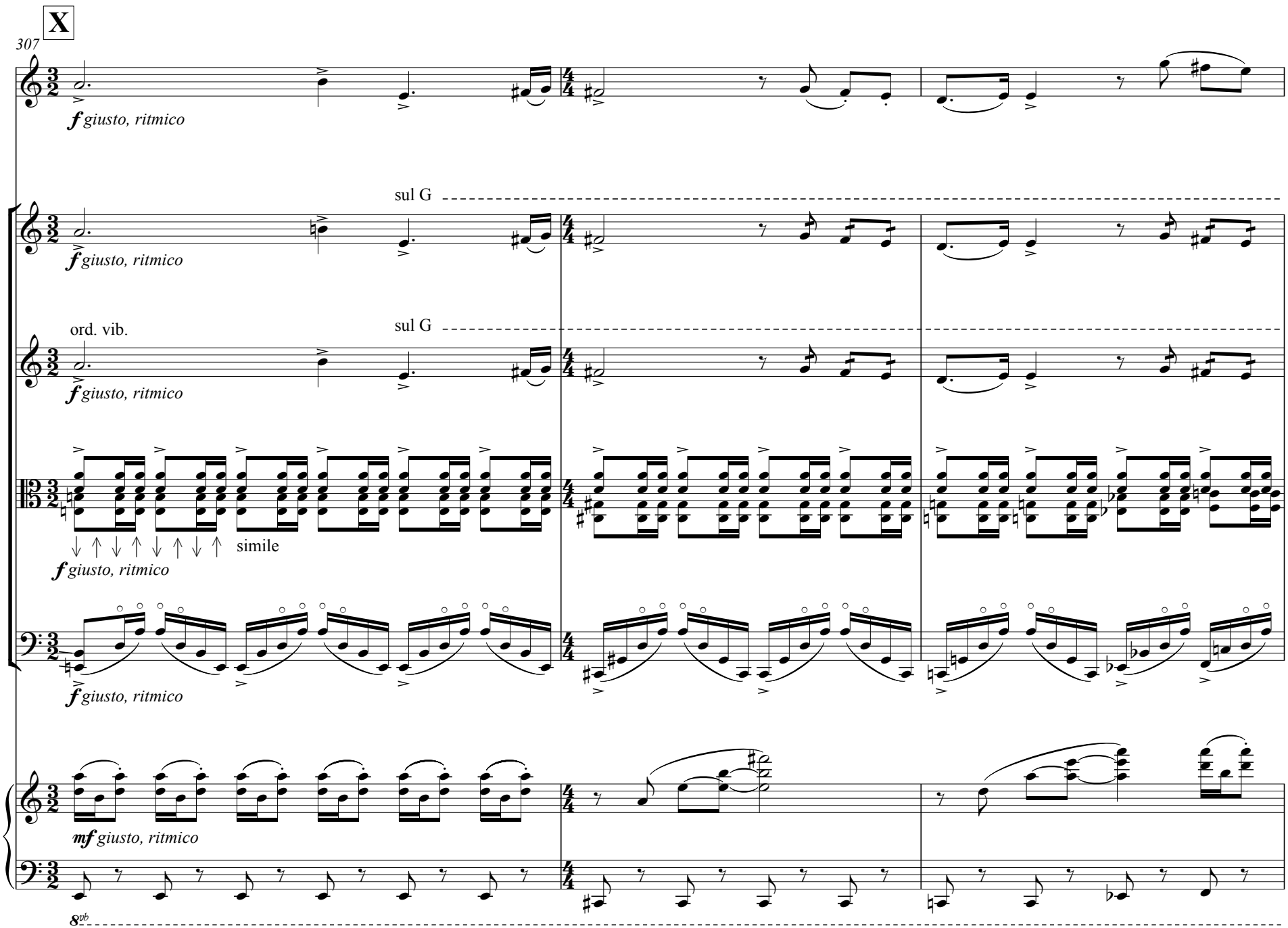
Pno.

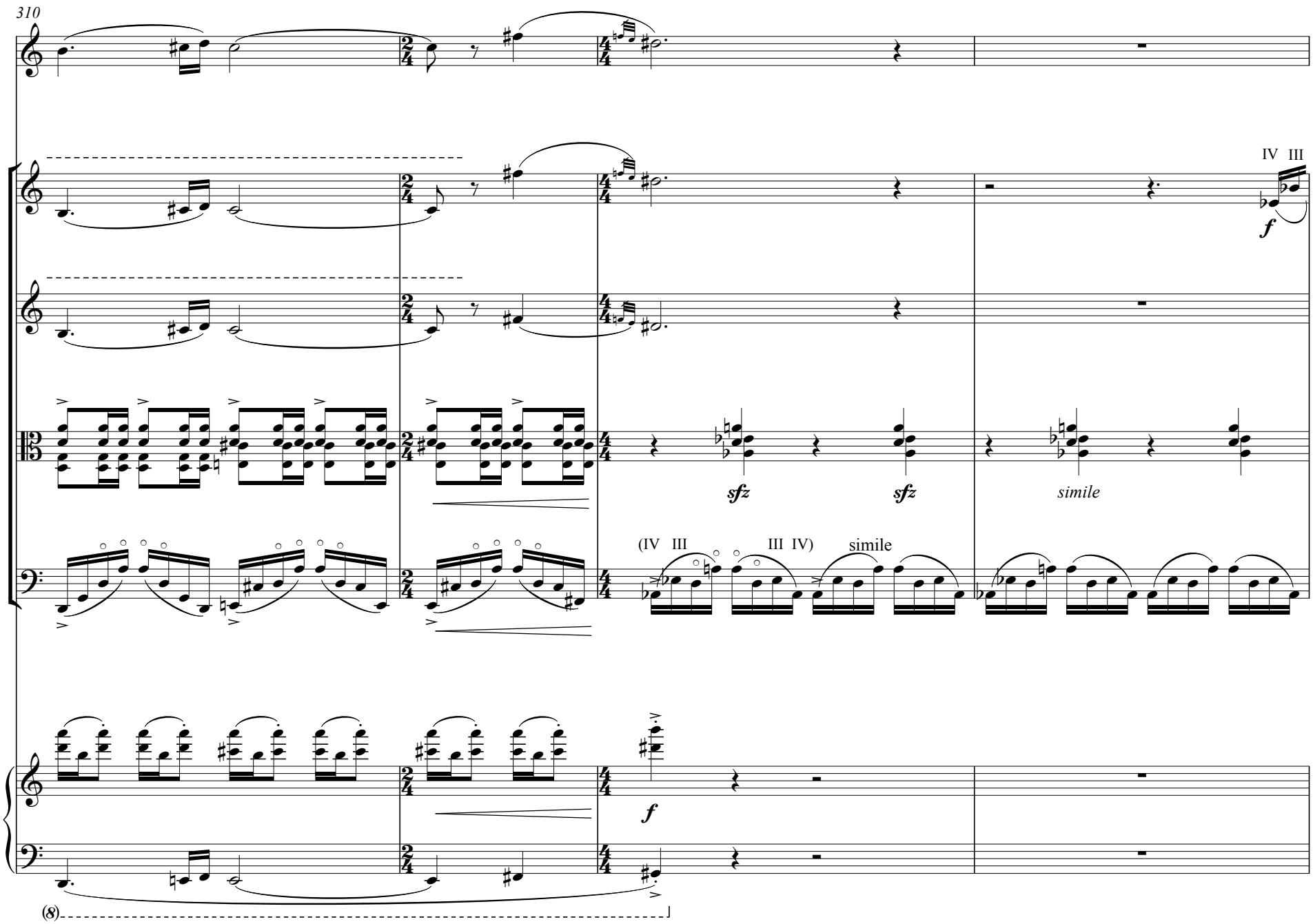
f *giusto, soli*

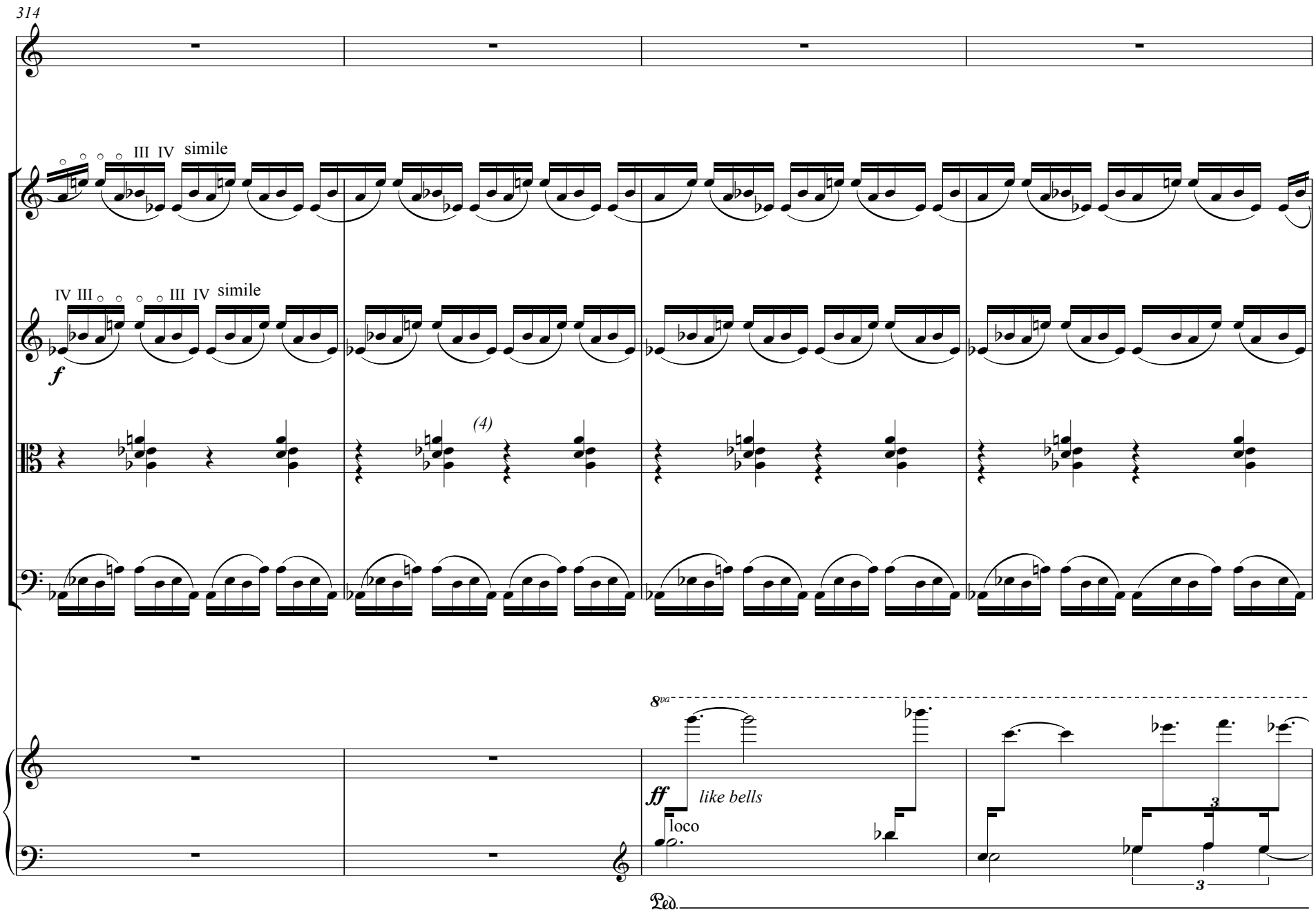
3

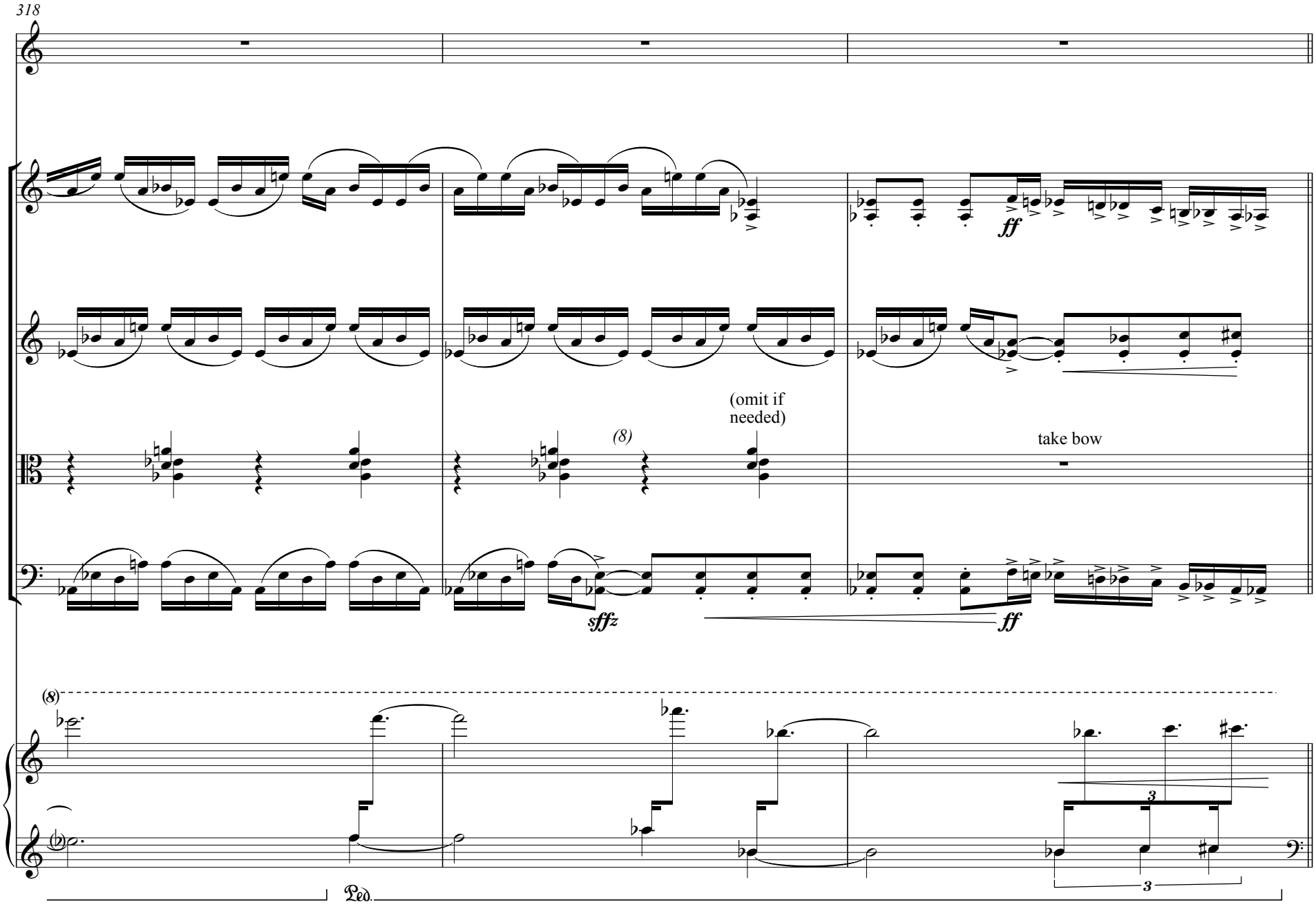

295
Ob.
p
f playful
Vn. I
f
Vn. II
pizz.
f
pp
p
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
p
Pno.
f playful
3

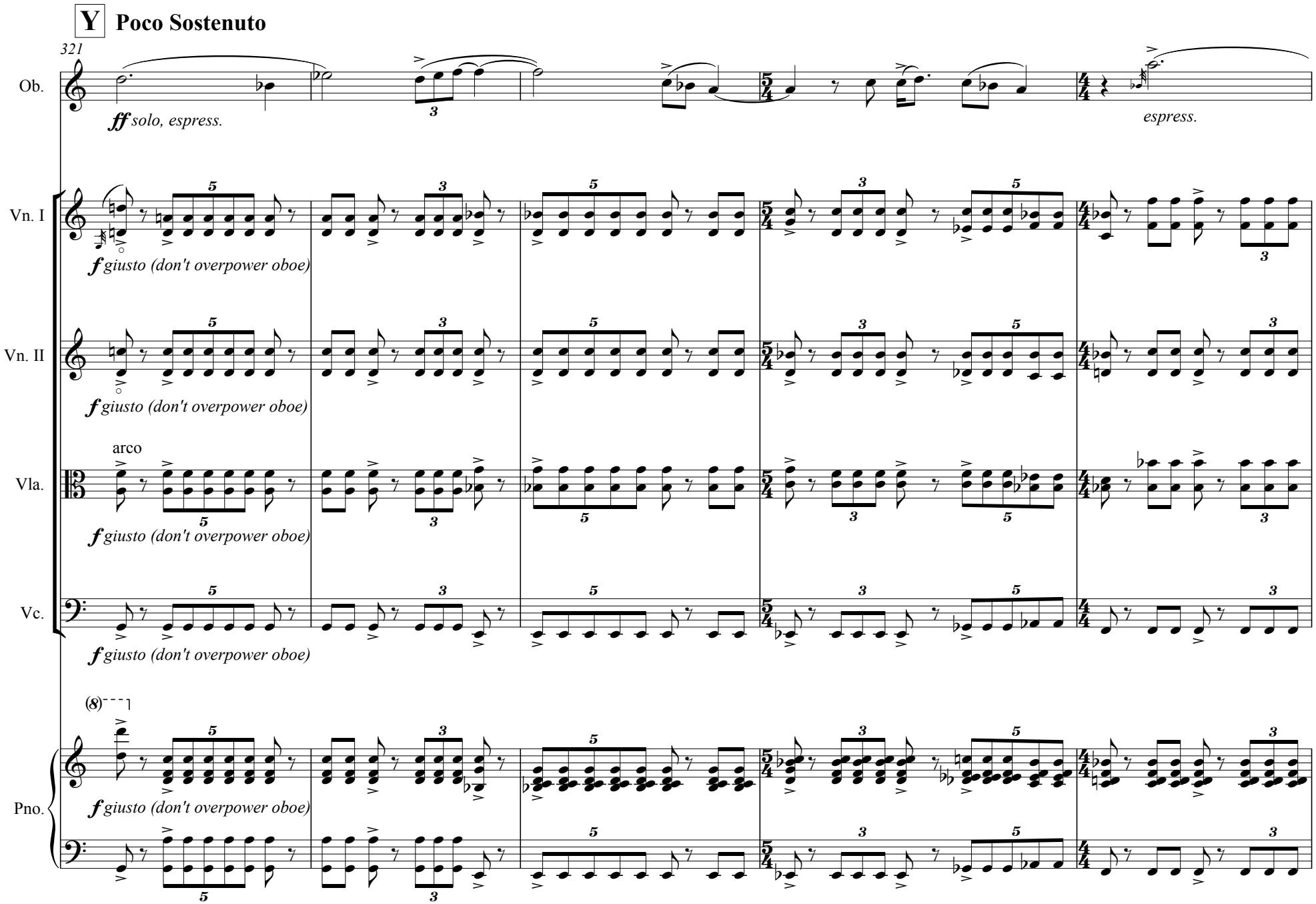

301
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
arco
non vib.
ord. vib.
III
IV

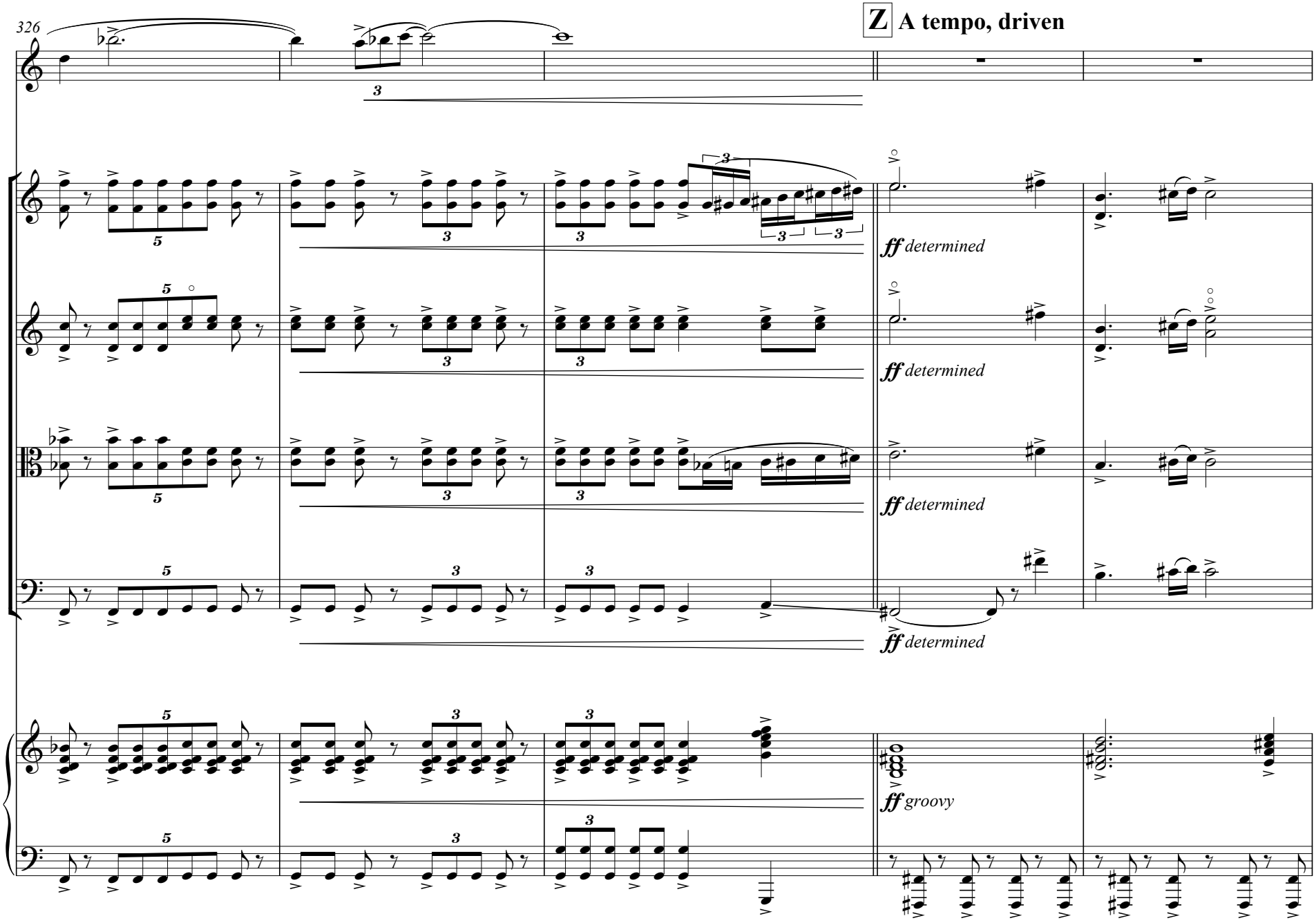

X
307
Ob.
f giusto, ritmico
sul G
Vn. I
f giusto, ritmico
ord. vib.
sul G
Vn. II
f giusto, ritmico
Vla.
simile
f giusto, ritmico
Vc.
f giusto, ritmico
Pno.
mf giusto, ritmico
8vb

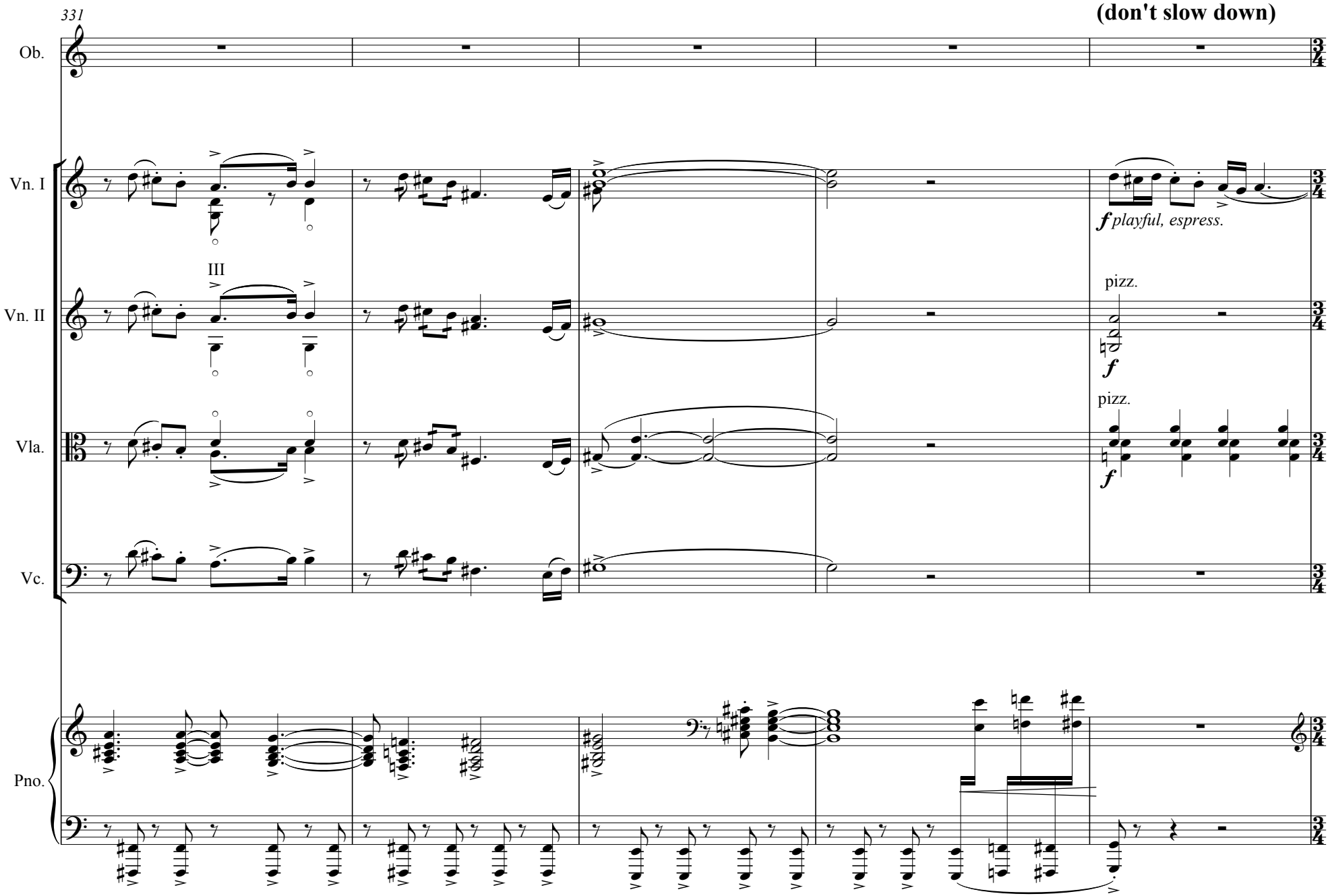

310
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
IV III
f
sfz
sfz
simile
(IV III
III IV)
simile
f
(8)

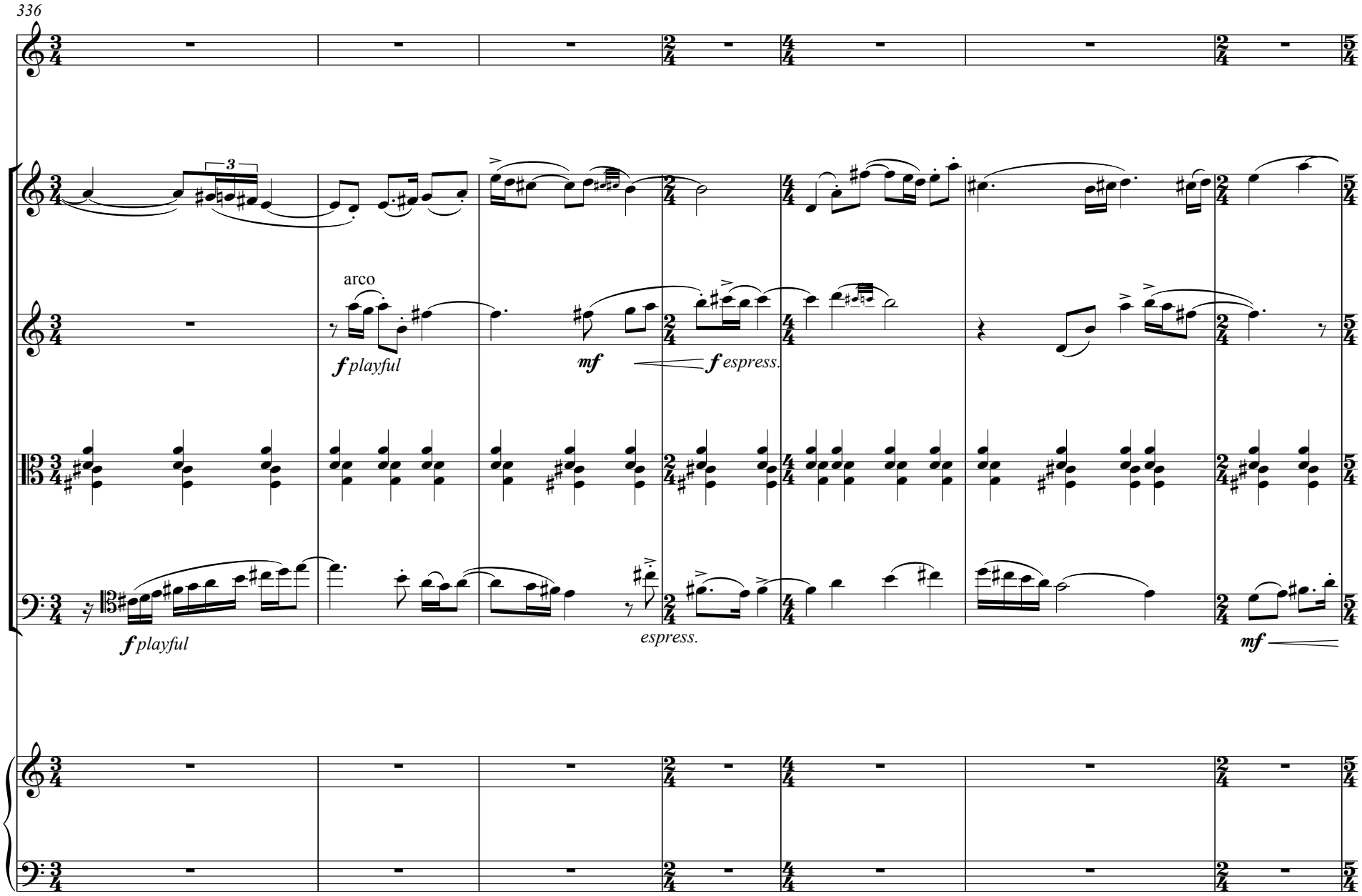

314
Ob.
Vn. I
III IV simile
Vn. II
IV III III IV simile
f
Vla.
(4)
Vc.
Pno.
8va
ff
like bells
loco
3
3
Ped.

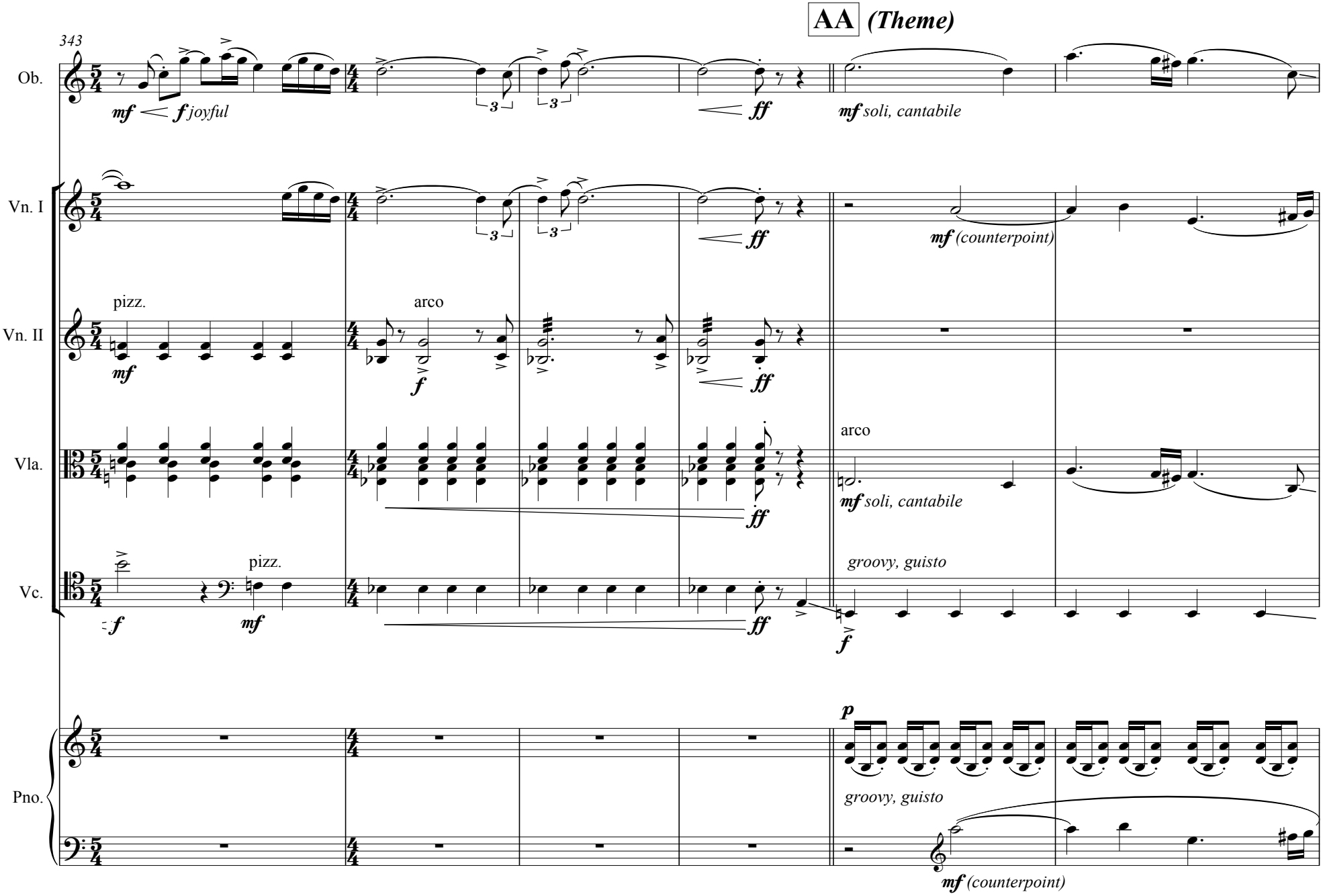

318
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
ff
(omit if needed)
(8)
take bow
sffz
ff
(8)
3
3
Ped.

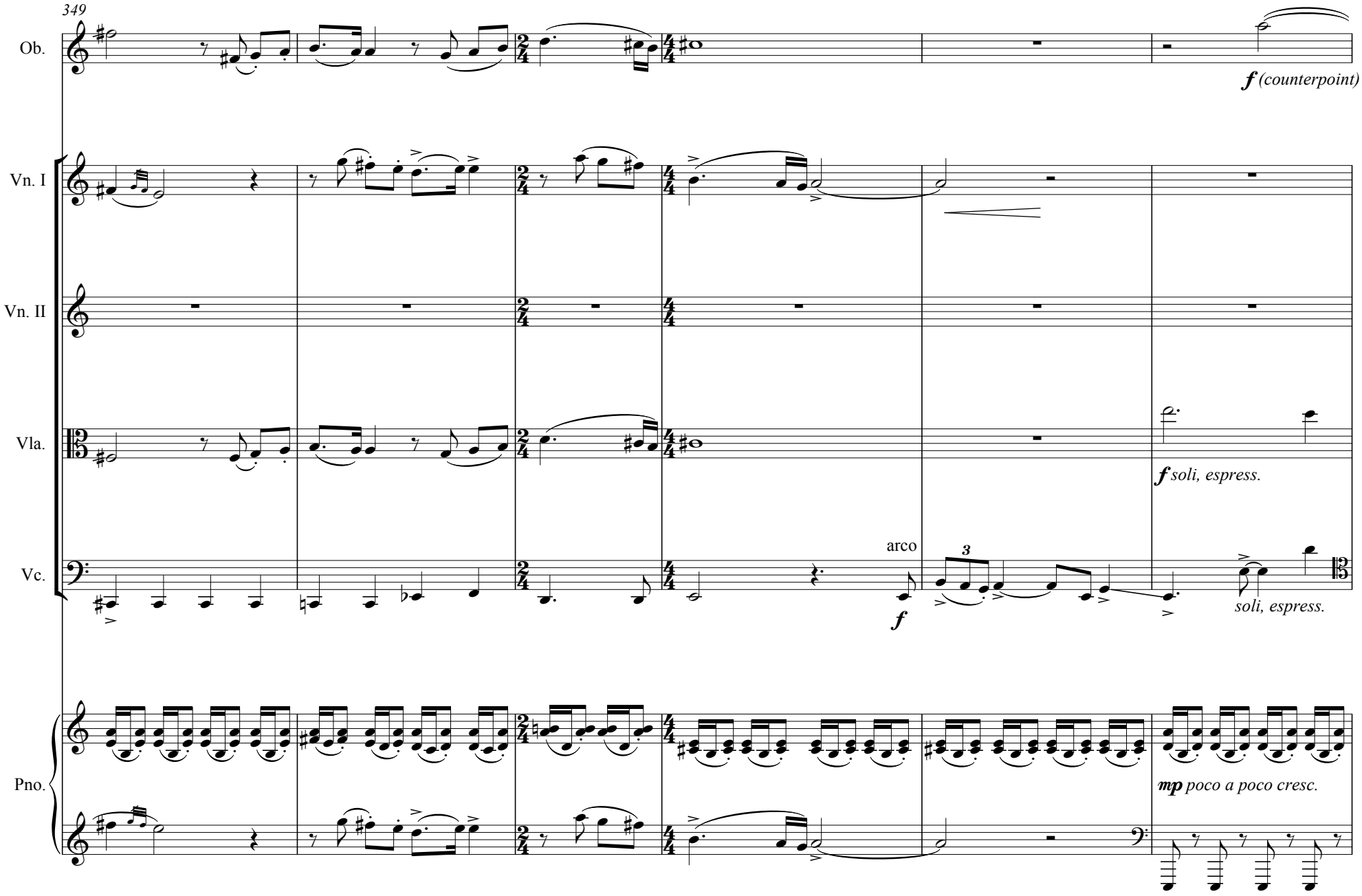

Y
Poco Sostenuto
321
Ob.
ff solo, espress.
espress.
Vn. I
f giusto (don't overpower oboe)
Vn. II
f giusto (don't overpower oboe)
arco
Vla.
f giusto (don't overpower oboe)
Vc.
f giusto (don't overpower oboe)
(8)
Pno.
f giusto (don't overpower oboe)

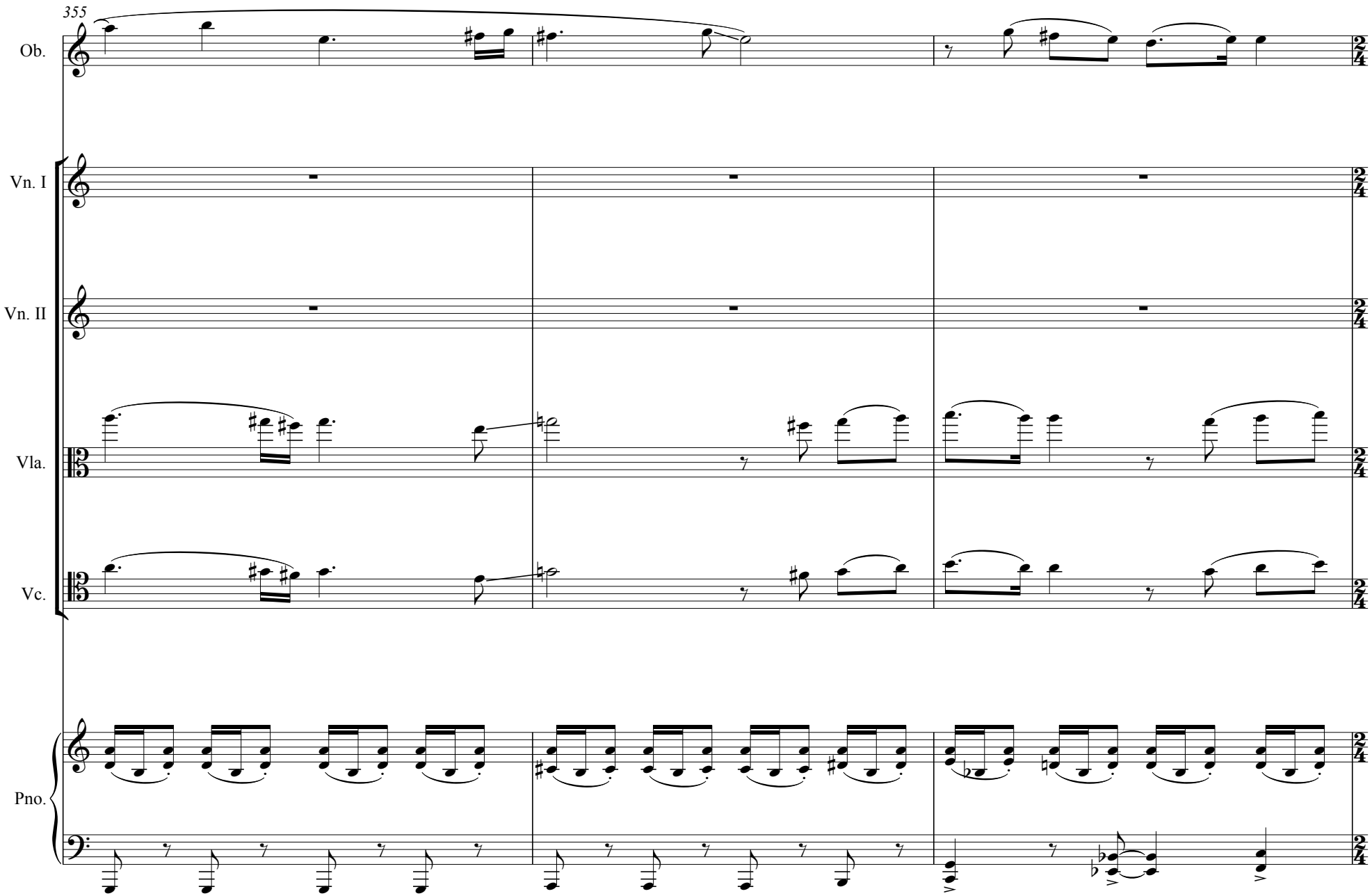

326
Z A tempo, driven
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
ff determined
ff determined
ff determined
ff determined
ff groovy

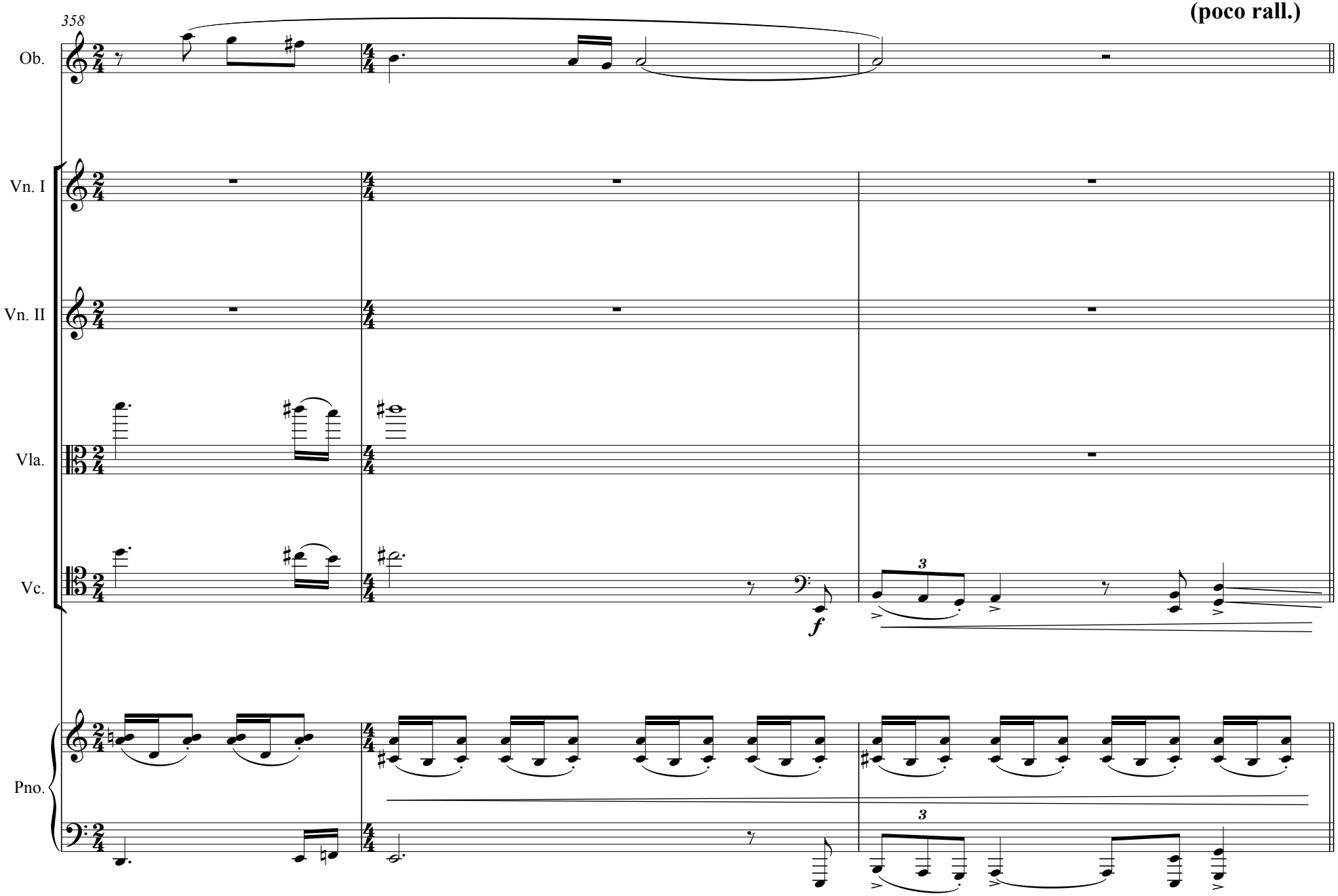

331
(don't slow down)
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
III
pizz.
pizz.
f playful, espress.


336
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
3
arco
f playful
mf
f espress.
f playful
espress.
mf


AA (Theme)
343
Ob.
mf f joyful
ff
mf soli, cantabile
Vn. I
mf (counterpoint)
Vn. II
pizz.
mf
arco
f
ff
Vla.
arco
mf soli, cantabile
ff
Vc.
f
pizz.
mf
ff
groovy, guisto
f
Pno.
p
groovy, guisto
mf (counterpoint)


349
Ob.
f (counterpoint)
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
f soli, espress.
Vc.
arco
f
soli, espress.
Pno.
mp poco a poco cresc.


355
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.


358
(poco rall.)
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
f
3
3

BB **(A tempo, driven)**

361

Ob.

ff espress.

molto vib., sul pont. ad lib.,
producing shrilling sound

slow glisses

Vn. I

ff shrilling

molto vib., sul pont. ad lib.,
producing shrilling sound

slow glisses

Vn. II

ff shrilling

Vla.

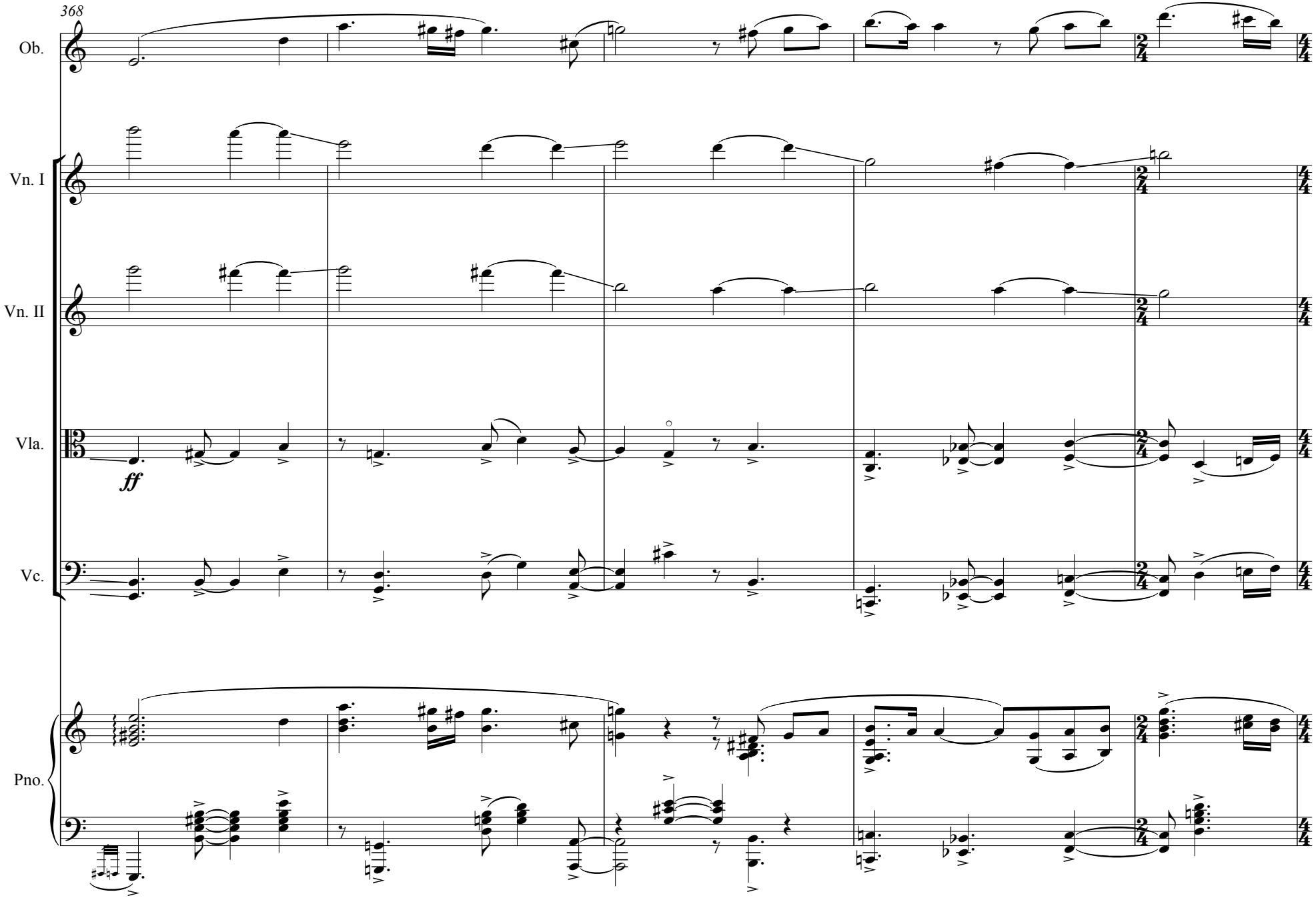
ff giusto

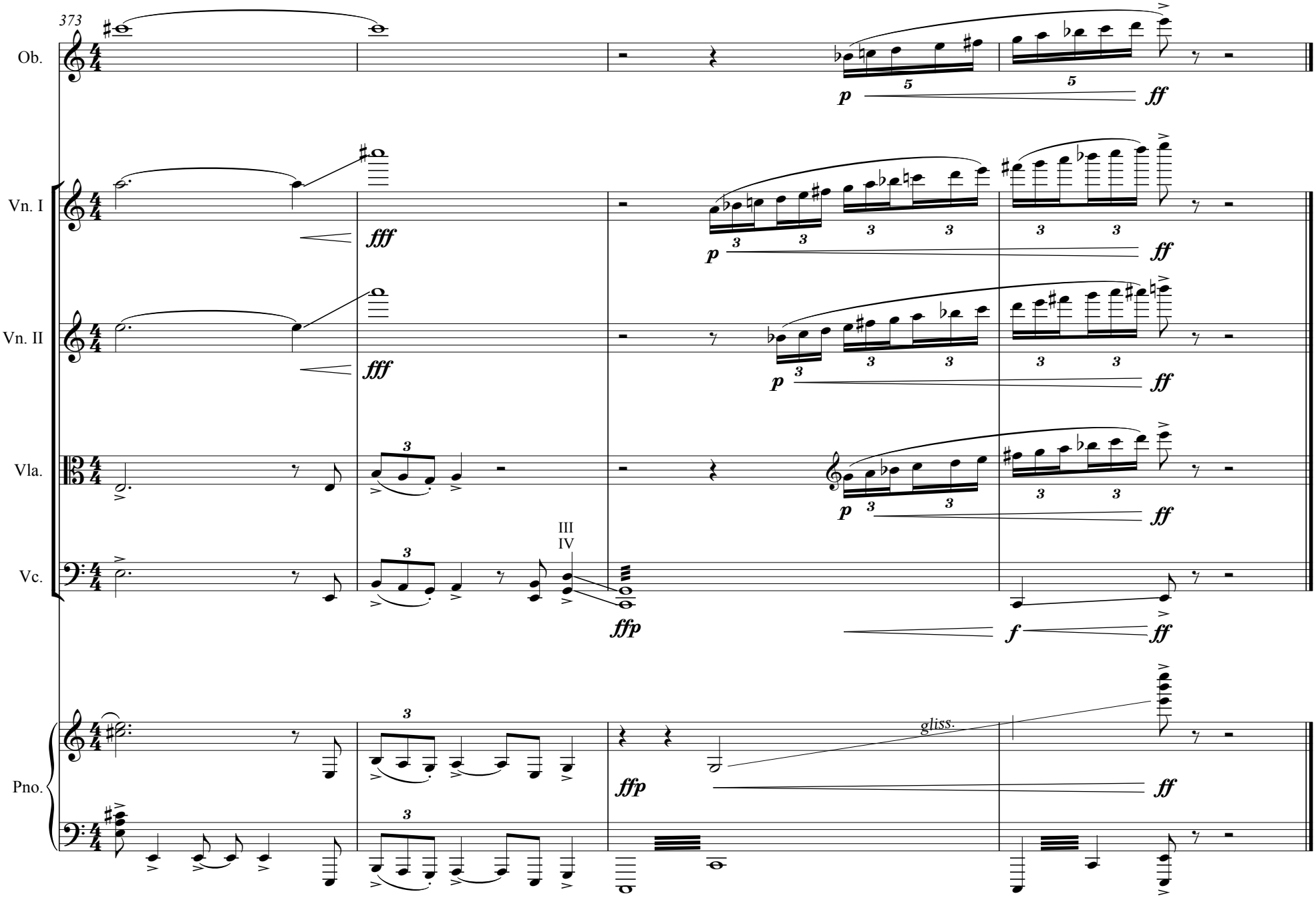
Vc.

ff giusto

Pno.

ff giusto


368
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
ff
Vc.
Pno.


373
Ob.
Vn. I
Vn. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
III
IV
gliss.
fff
ffp
p
ff
f