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The Struggle is Real for large ensemble

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Brendan Fox

The Struggle Is Real

for large ensemble

Graduate Thesis
M.M. Composition 2015

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First performed March 27, 2015, Hockett Family Recital Hall
Conductor: Paul Grobey

Instrumentation

1 Flute
1 Oboe
1 Clarinet in Bb
1 Bassoon
1 Trumpet in C
1 Trombone

Timpani

Violins I
Violins II
Violas
Cellos
Basses

Score in C.

Duration: 9 minutes

Program Note

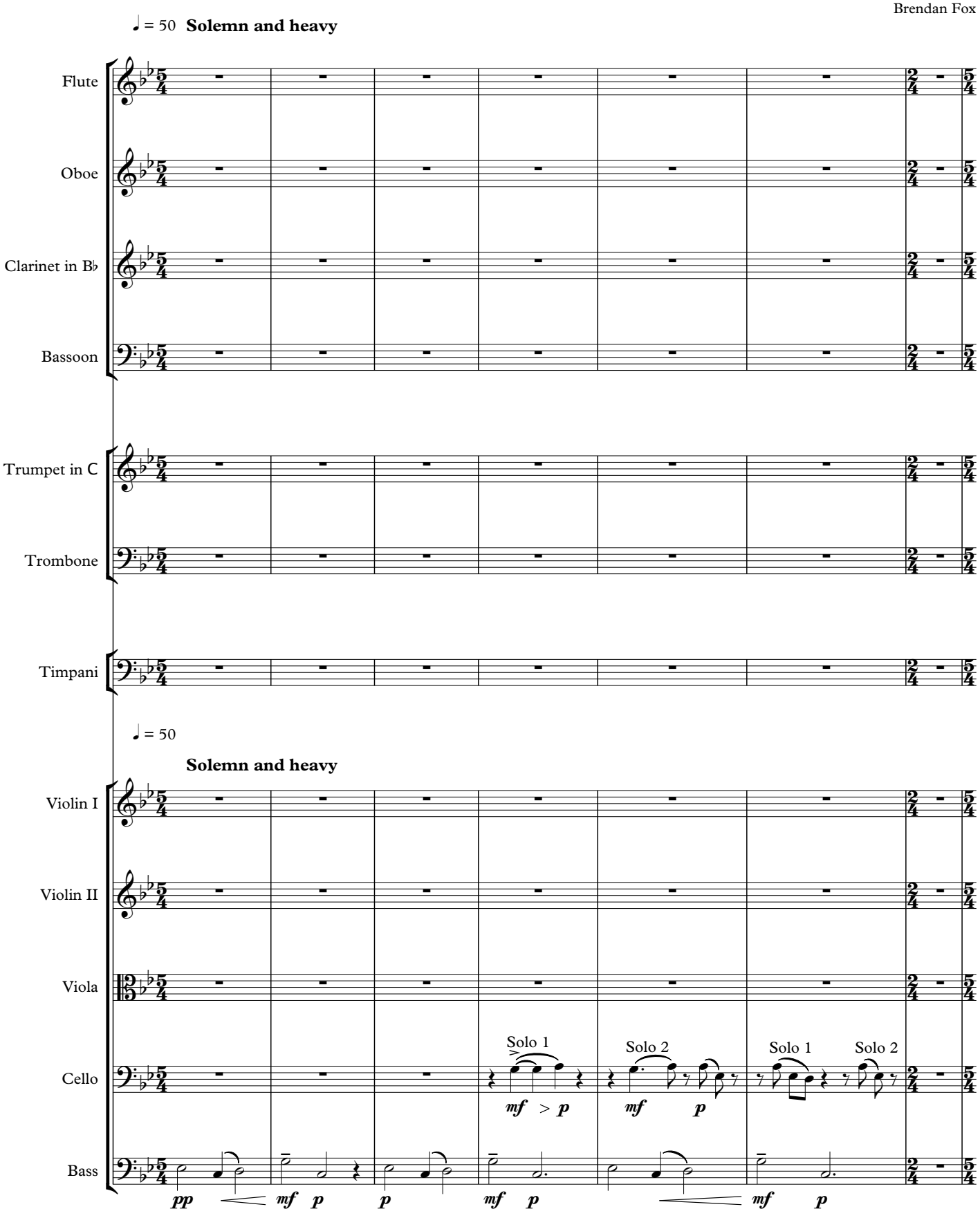
The art of composition is frequently difficult and discouraging. It is a struggle to create something new and true, even with the awareness of all the music that has come before and that is currently being created. The layered voices of self-criticism and doubt can be overwhelming. In some of my most frustrated moments, I started thinking about how many of the great masterpieces of classical music are *about* struggle: a struggle toward resolution, peace or revelation. In many of these pieces, the conflict is represented through dense counterpoint and fugal procedures, and I decided to appropriate some of the same methods. The resulting piece, while in some ways traditional and Romantic, feels like a fitting tribute to my own struggles and conflicts. The title is a phrase that has come into use recently to refer ironically to petty problems, but here I mean it in absolute sincerity. The struggle *i*s real.

This piece serves as the graduate thesis project as part of the requirements for the Master of Music in Composition at Ithaca College.

For Paul Grobey

The Struggle Is Real

Brendan Fox



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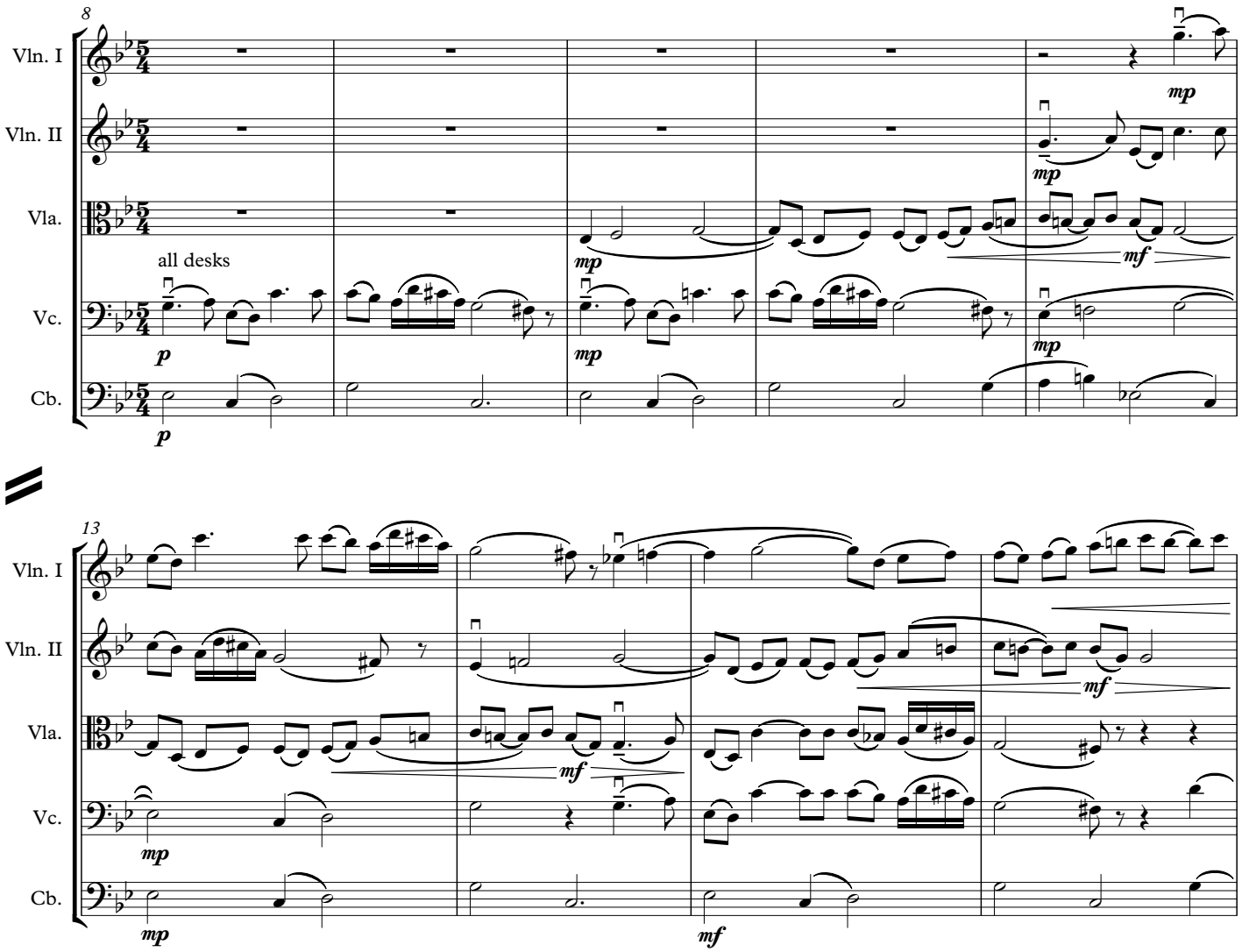
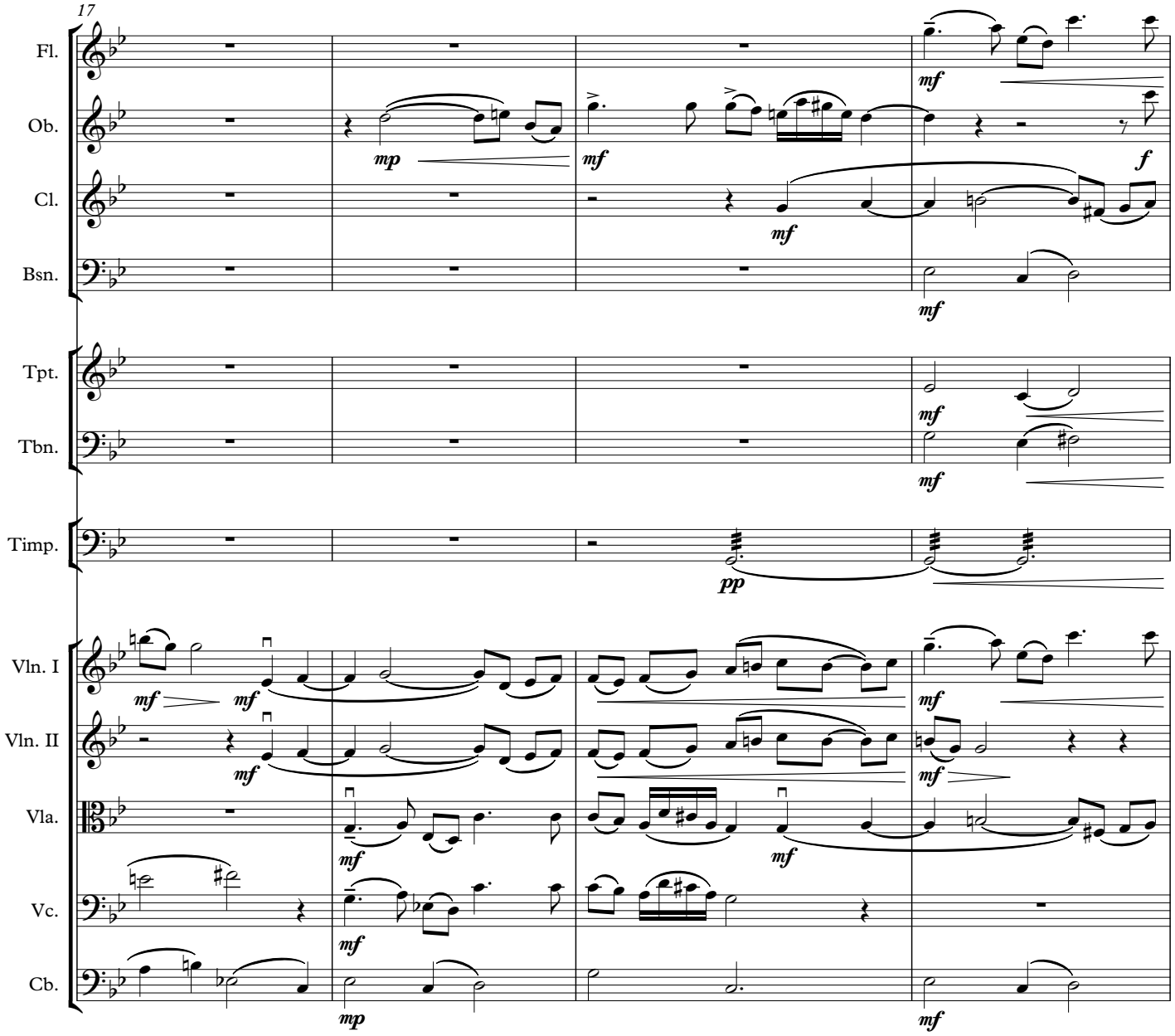
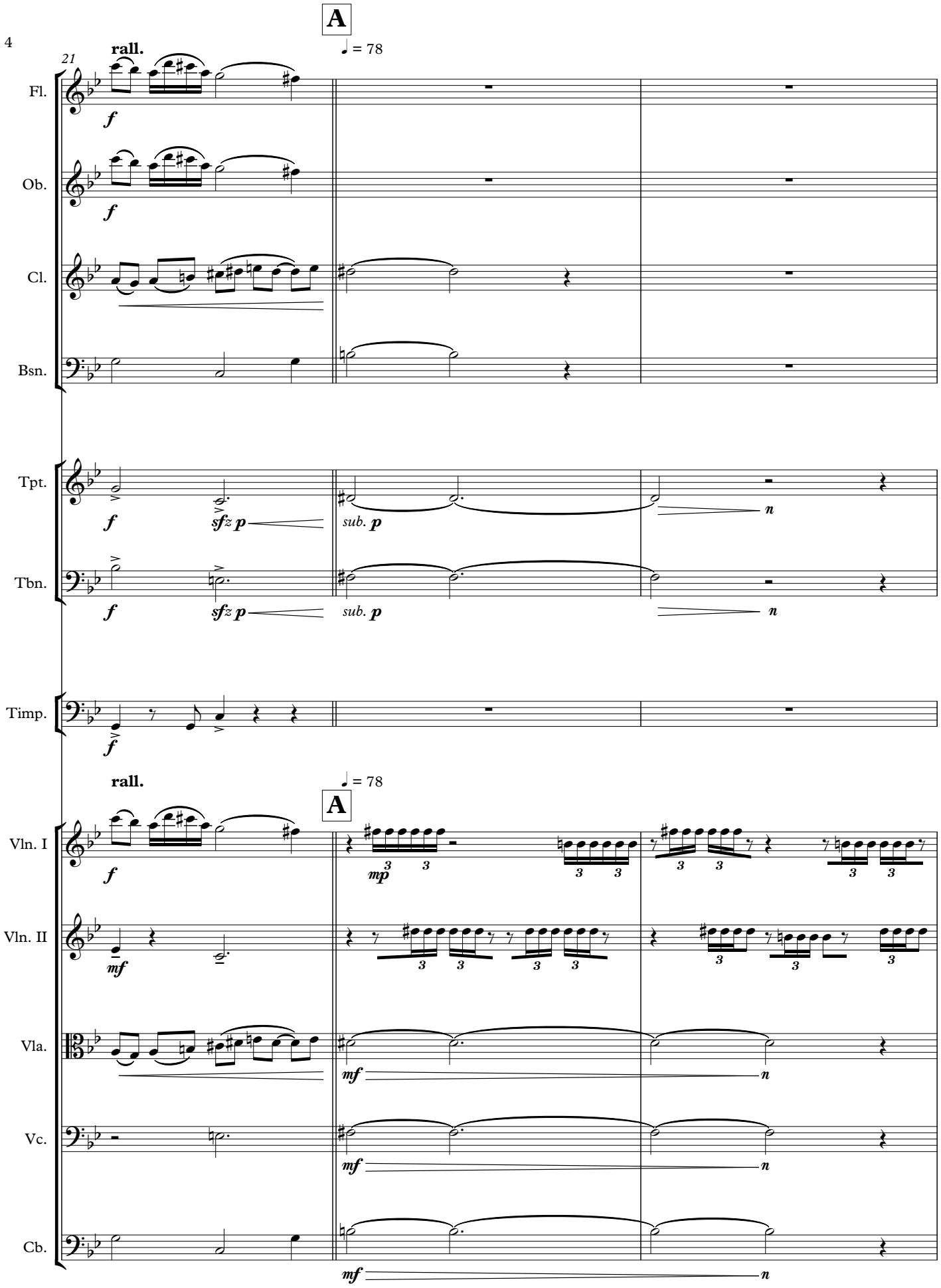
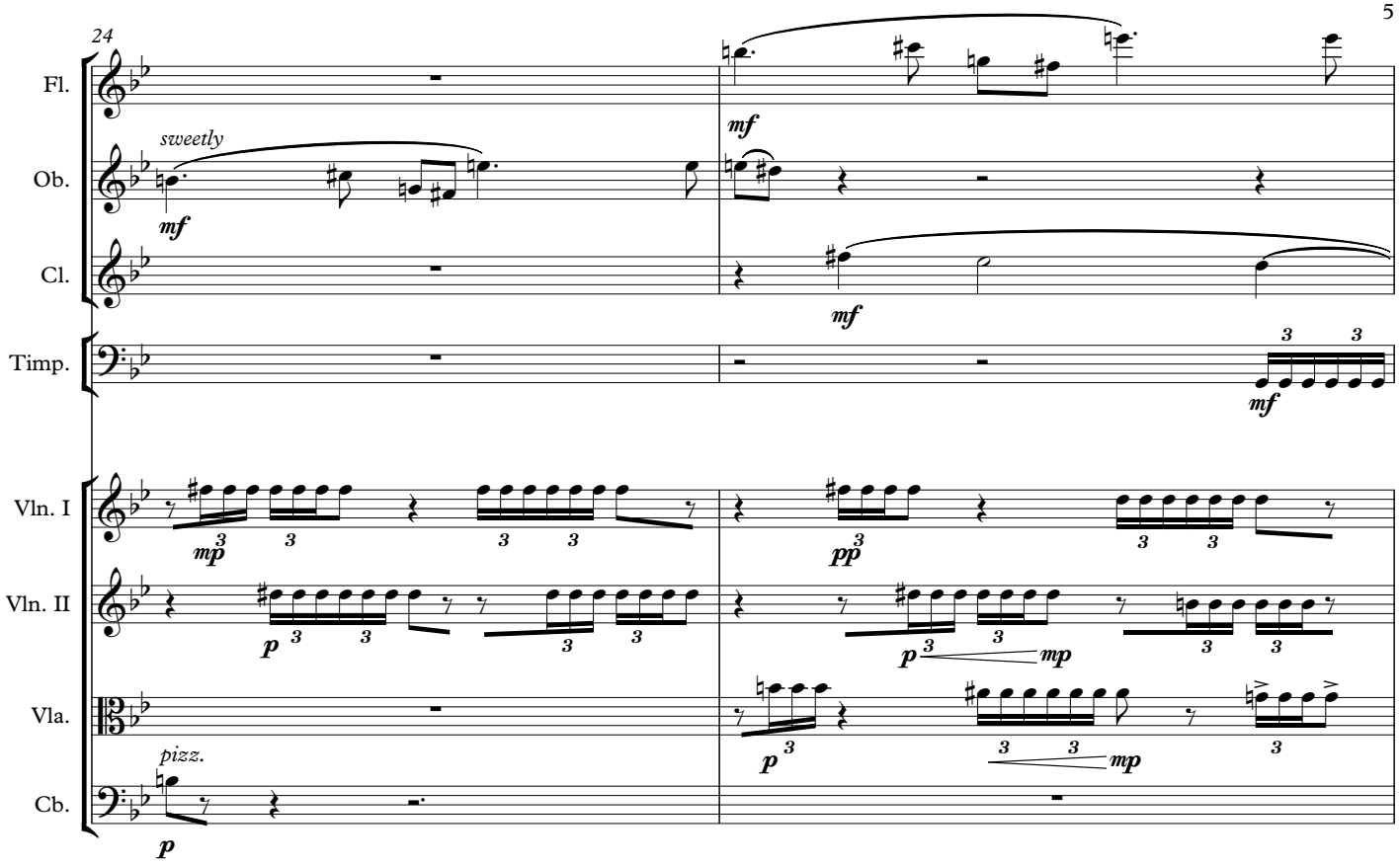
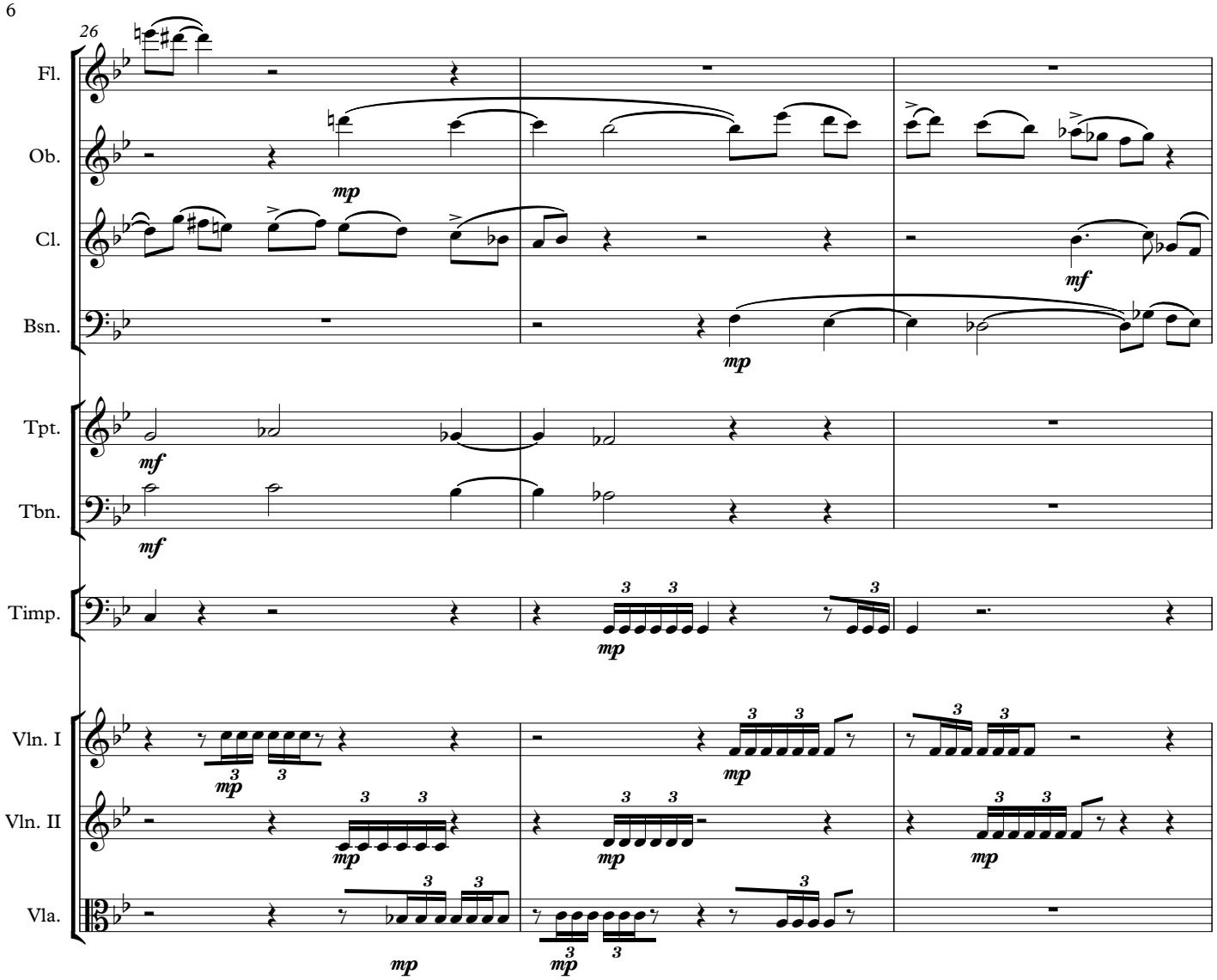
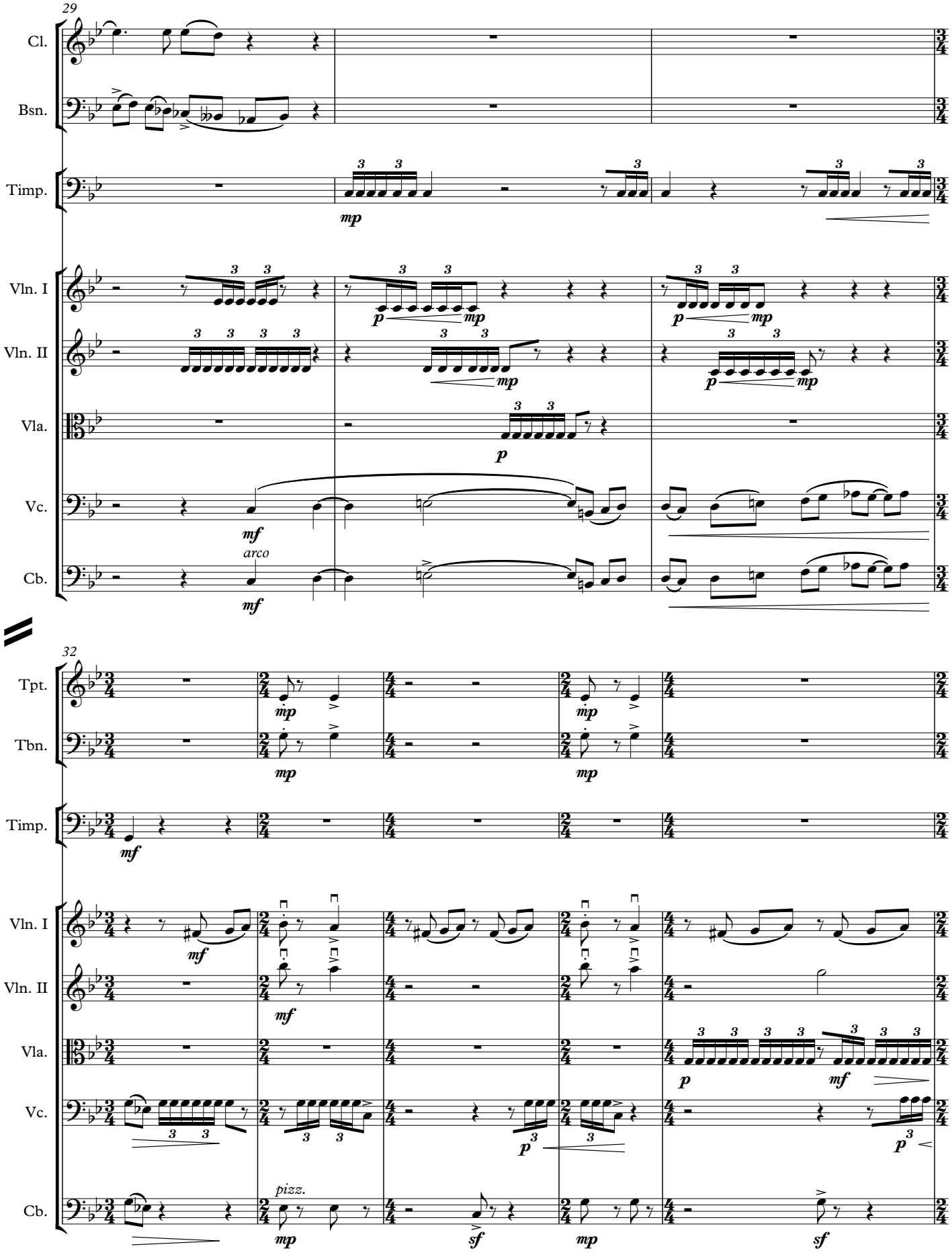

8
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
all desks
p
mp
mf
13
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
mf

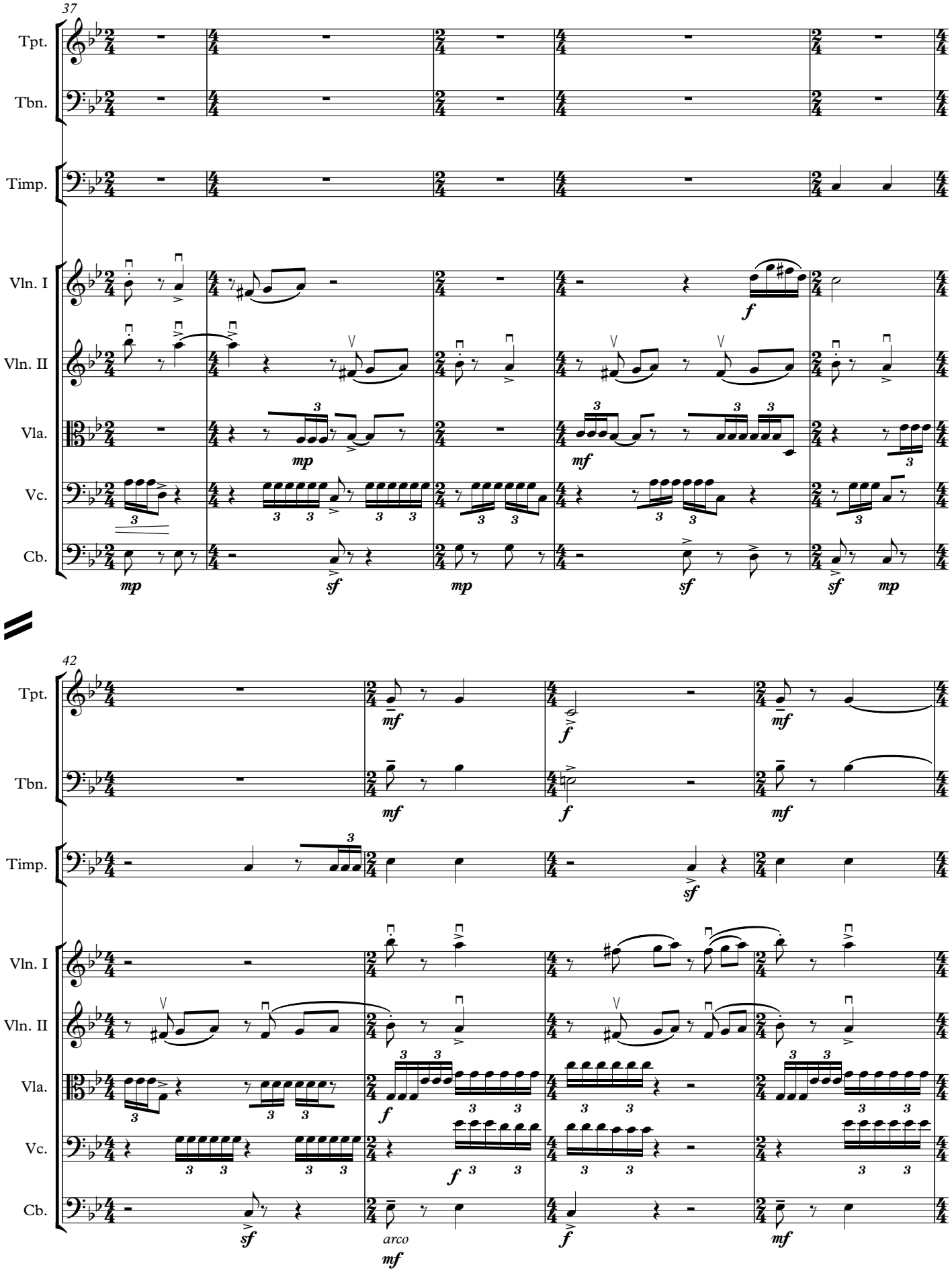

17
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
mf
f
pp

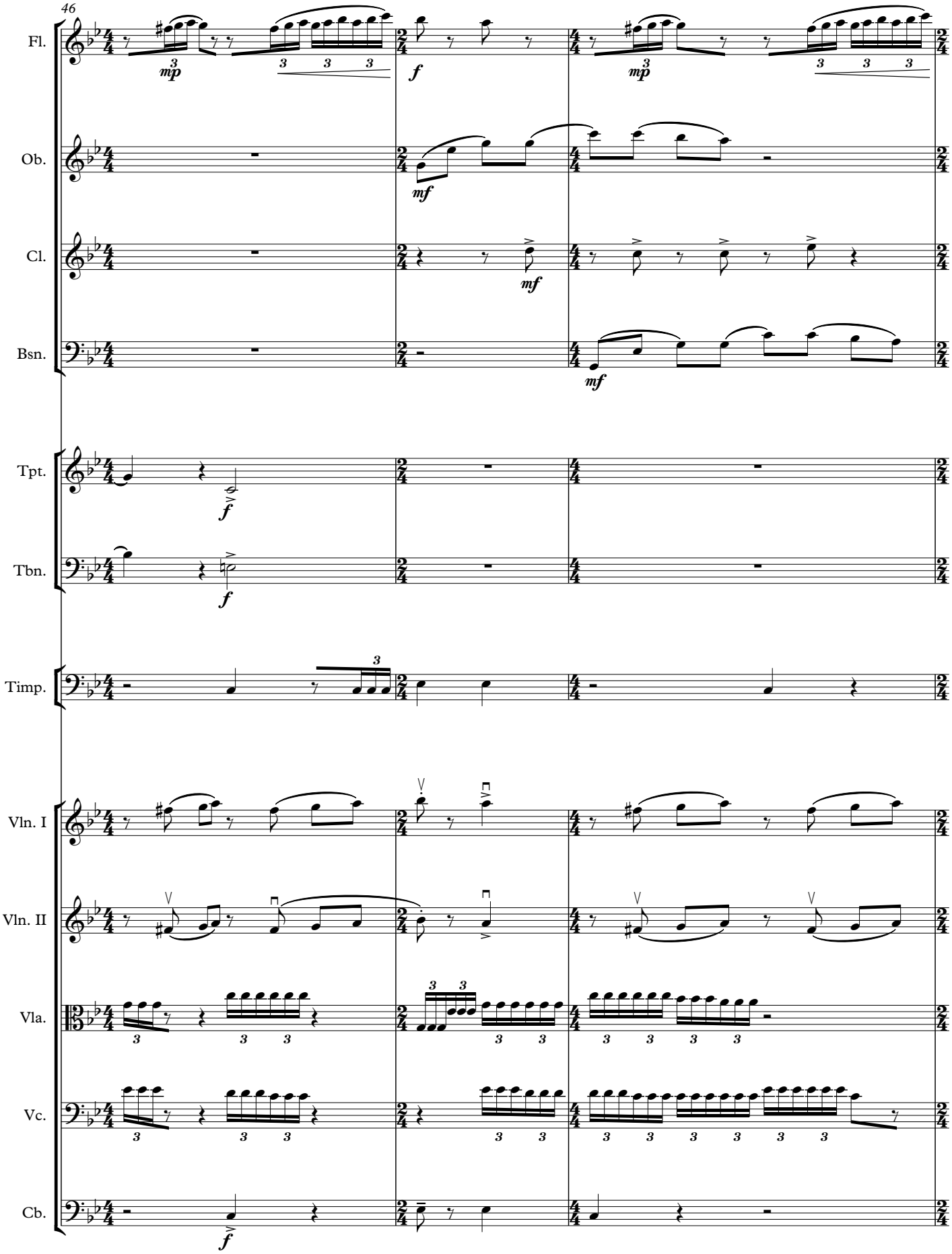

A
21
rall.
♩ = 78
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
rall.
♩ = 78
A
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

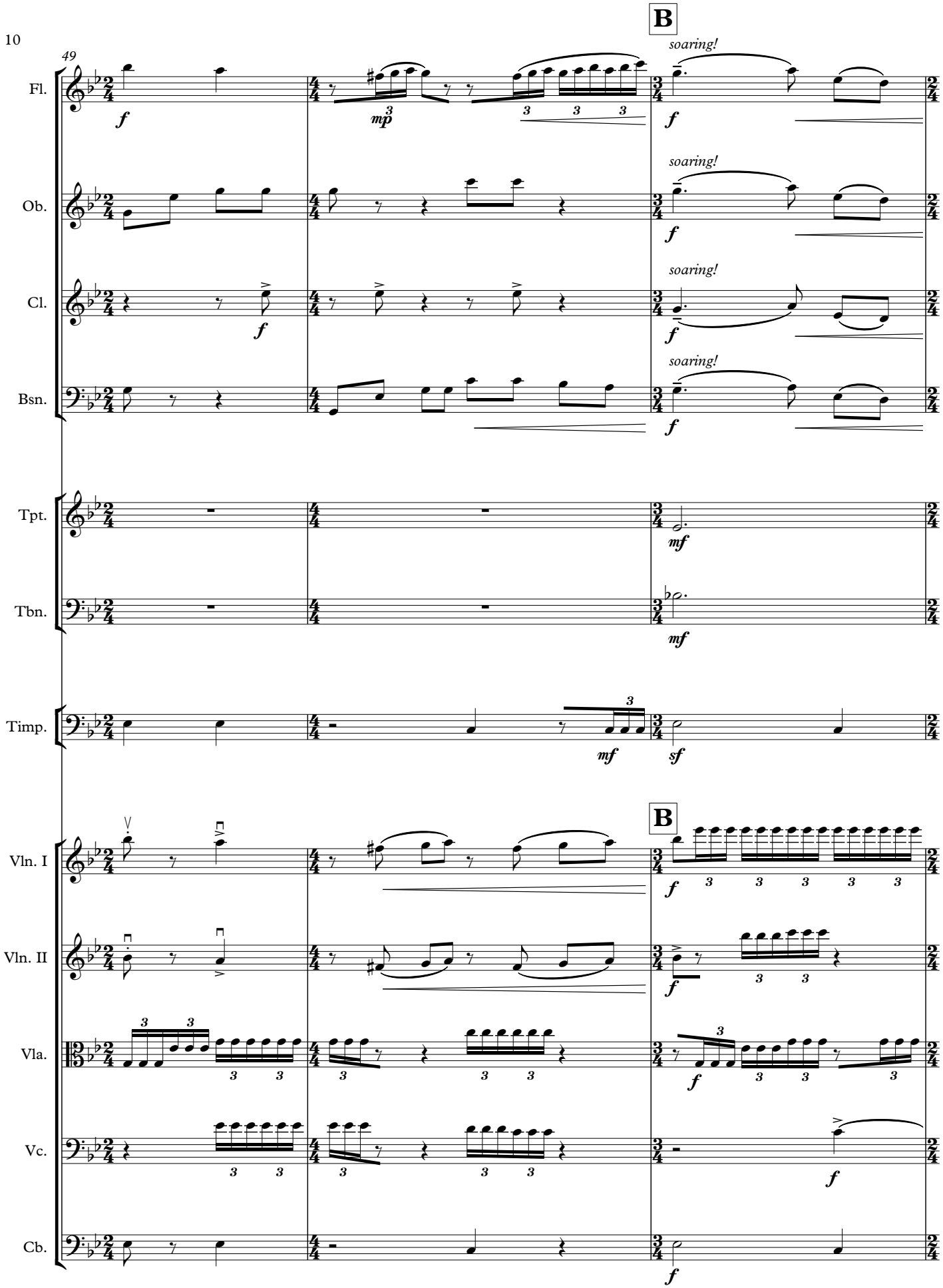

24
Fl.
Ob.
sweetly
mf
Cl.
mf
Timp.
mf
Vln. I
mp
pp
Vln. II
p
mp
Vla.
pizz.
p
Cb.
p

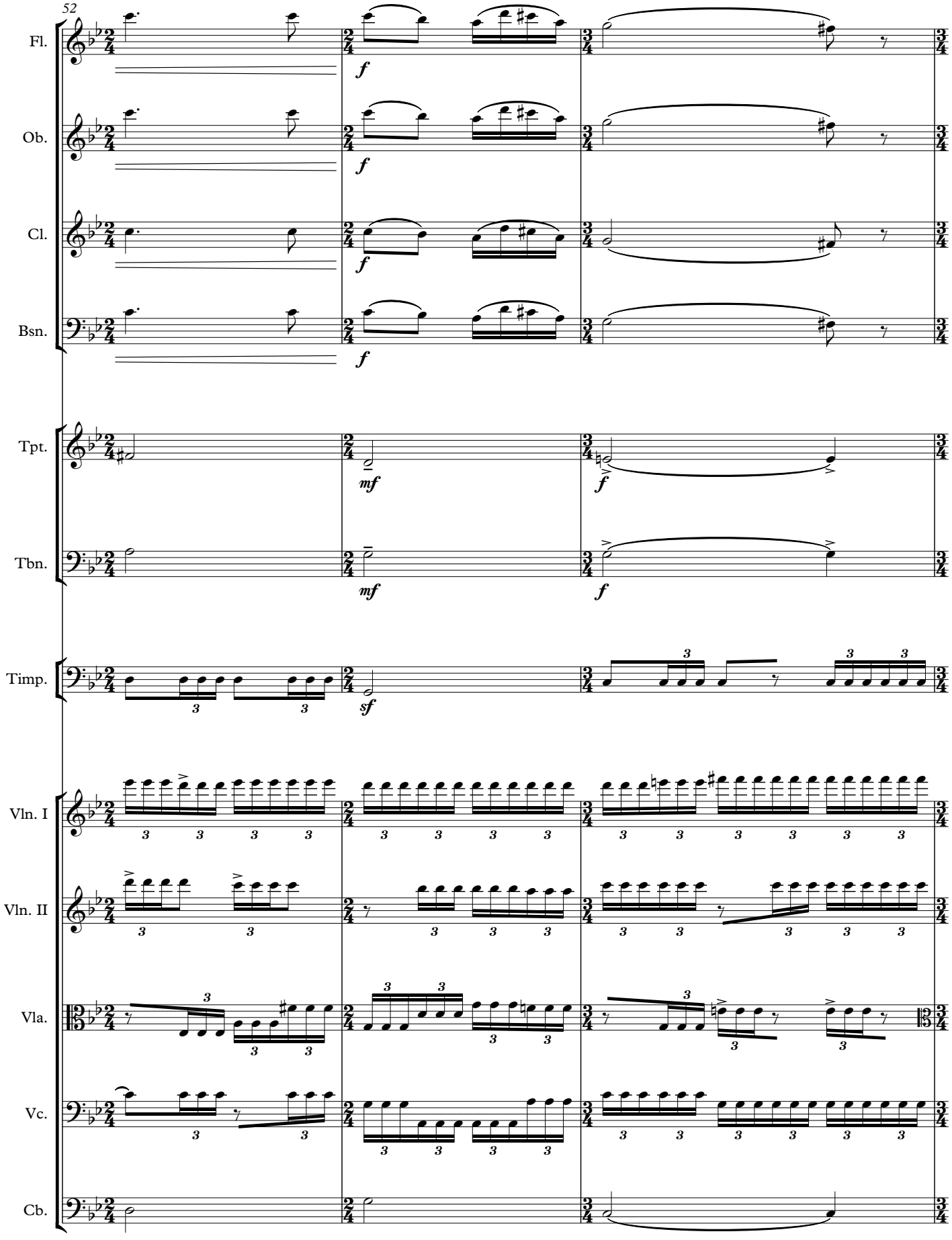

26
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
mp
mf

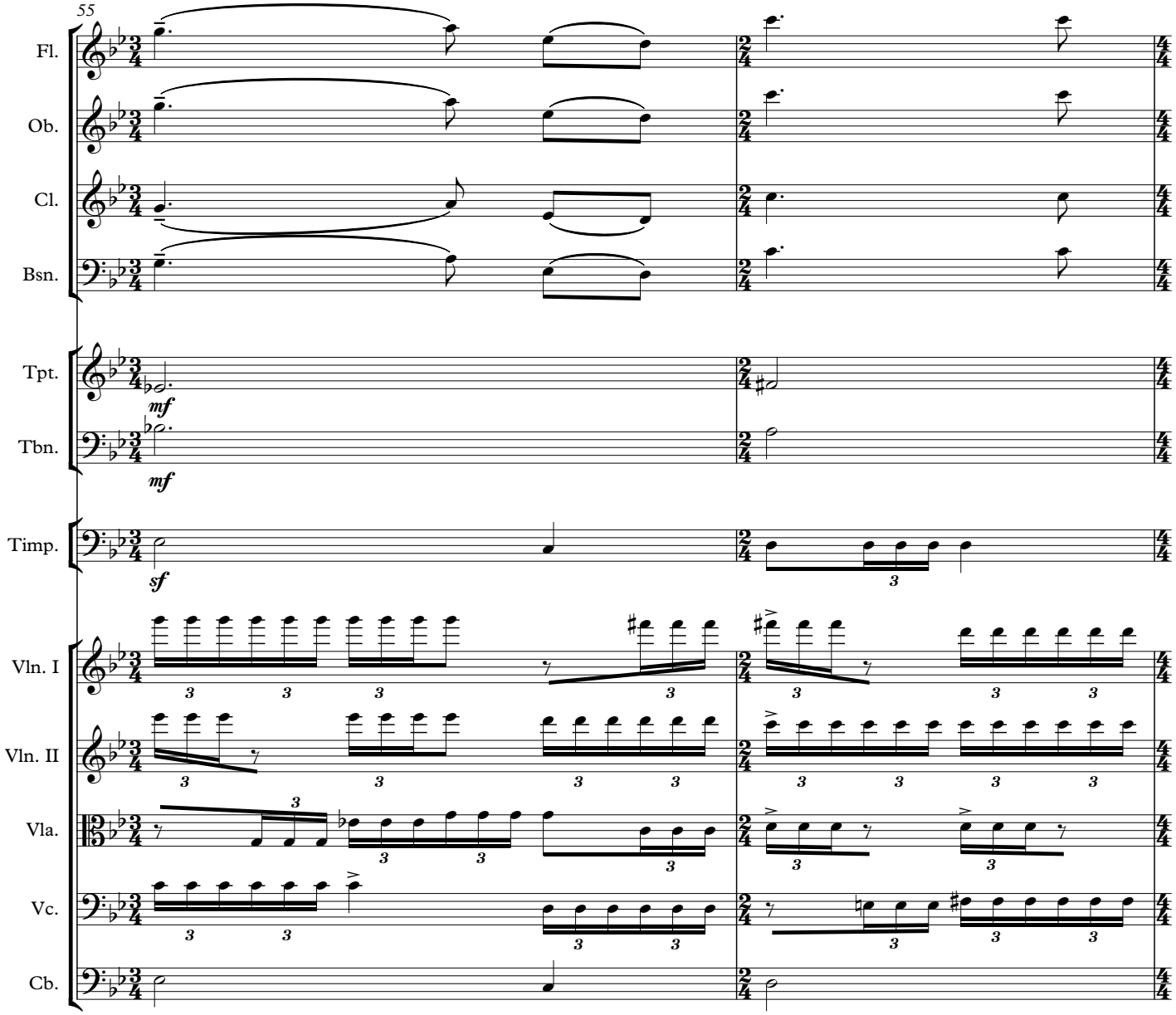

29
Cl.
Bsn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
arco
32
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pizz.

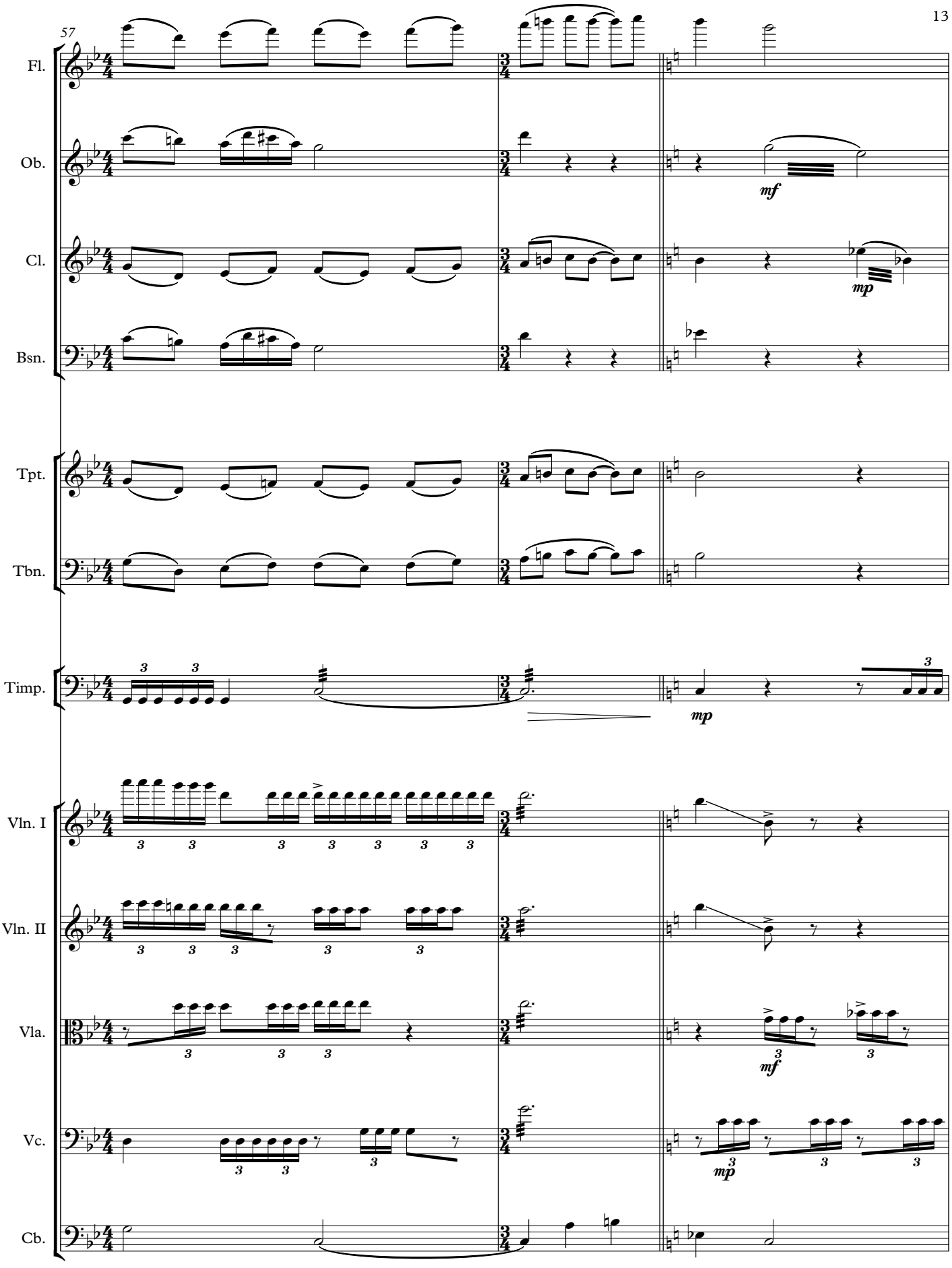

37
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
42
arco

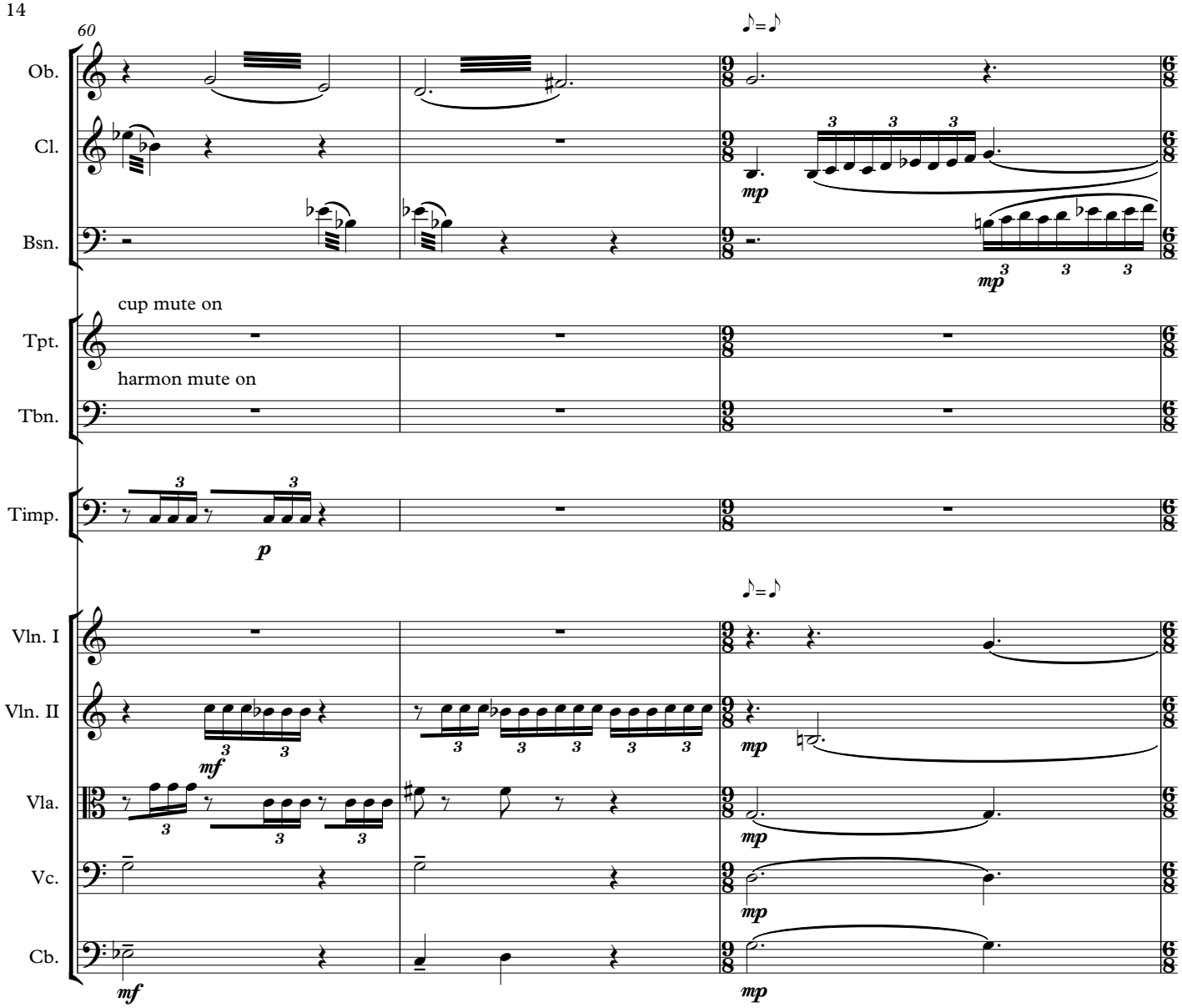

46
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
f
mf

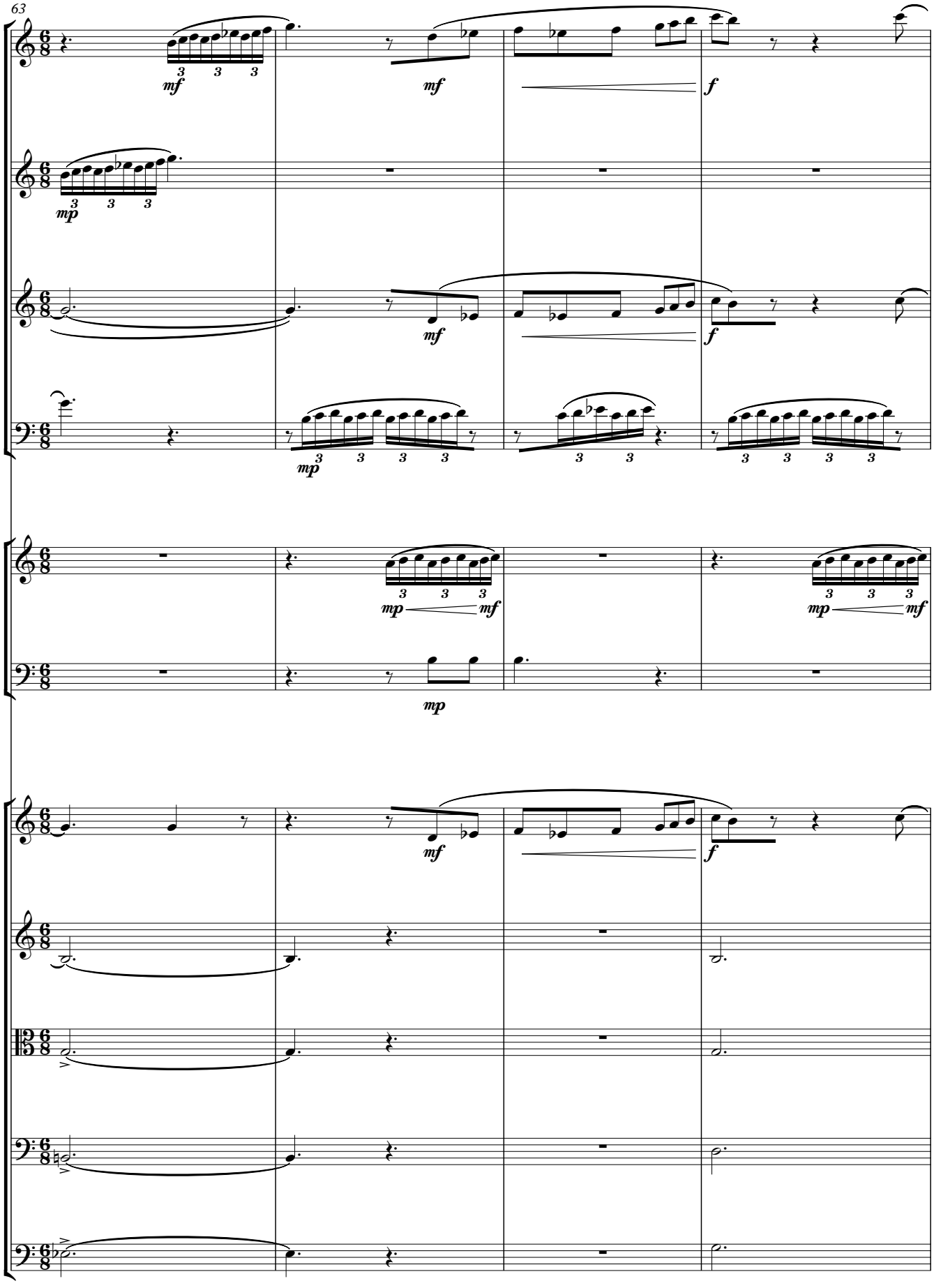

49
B
soaring!
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
mp
mf
sf

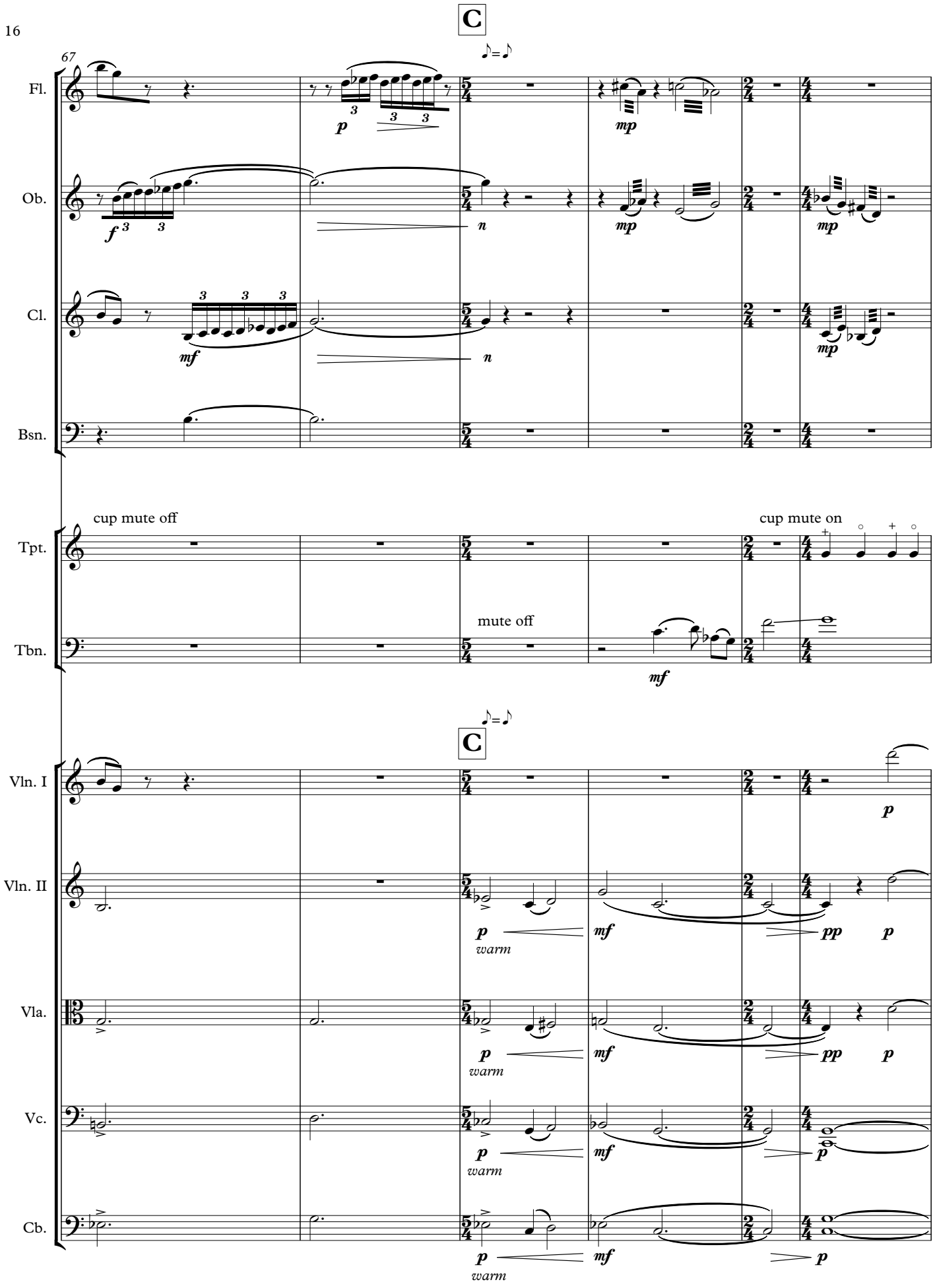

52
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
mf
sf

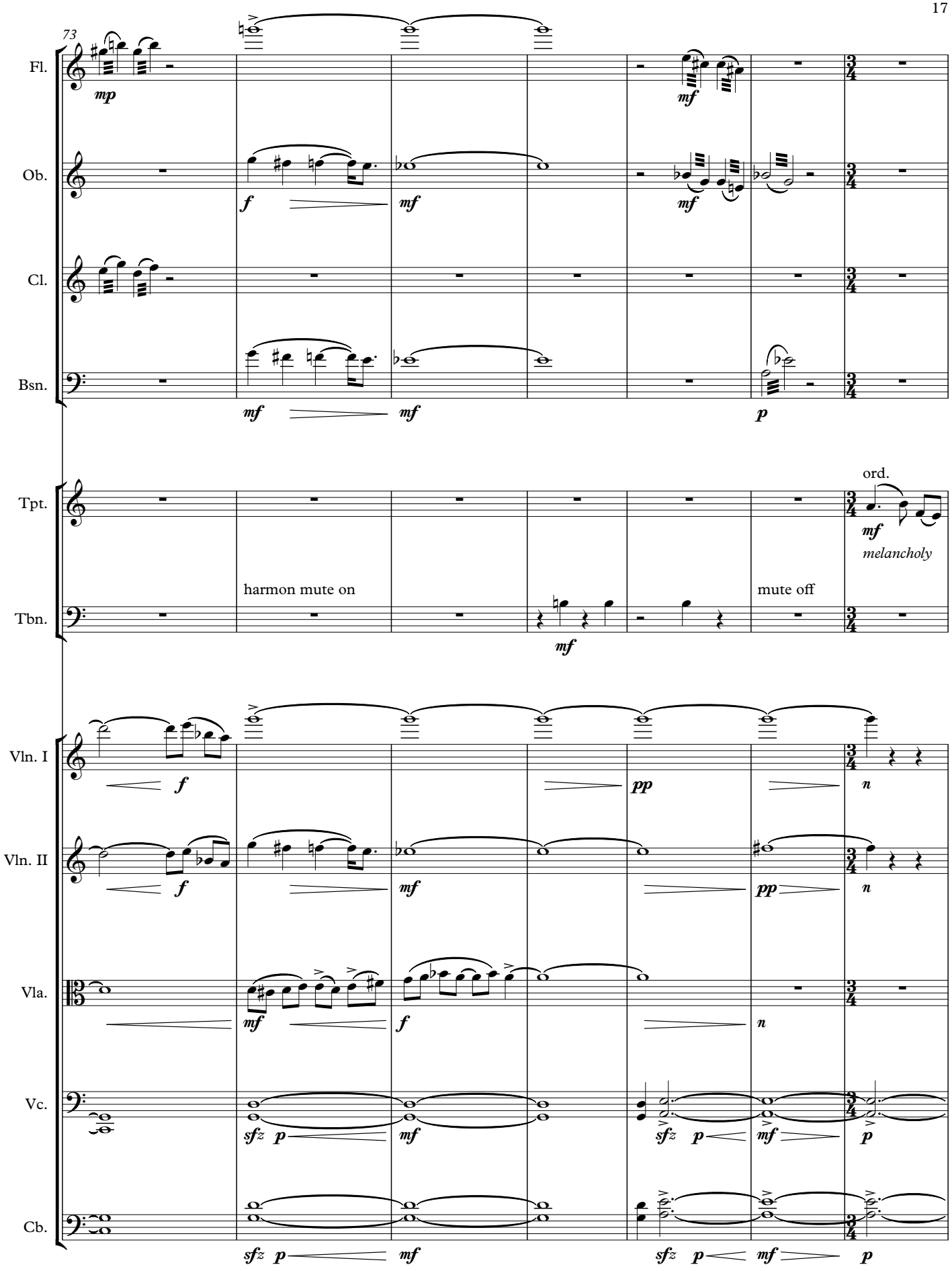

55
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf
mf
sf

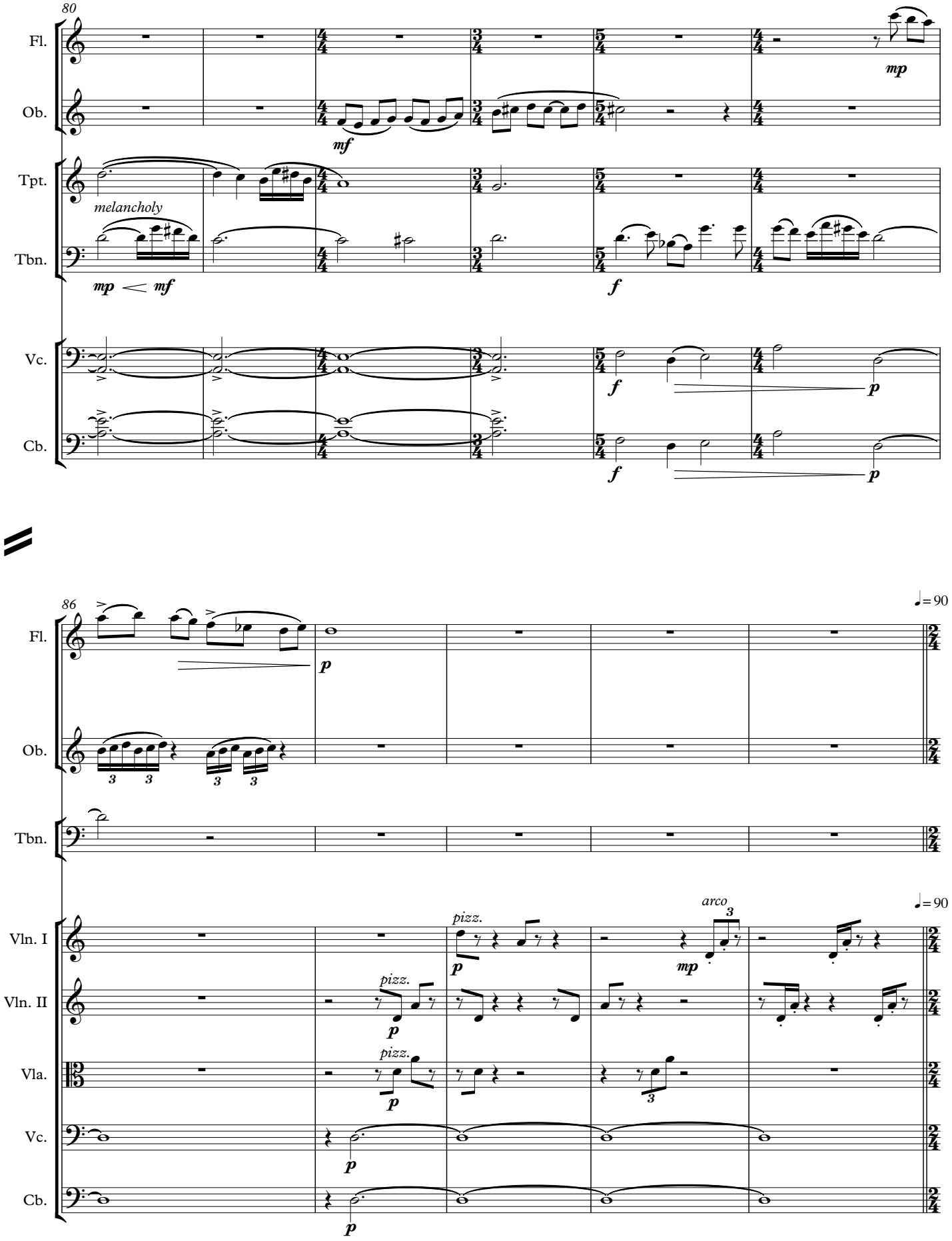

57
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf
mp
mp
mf
mp

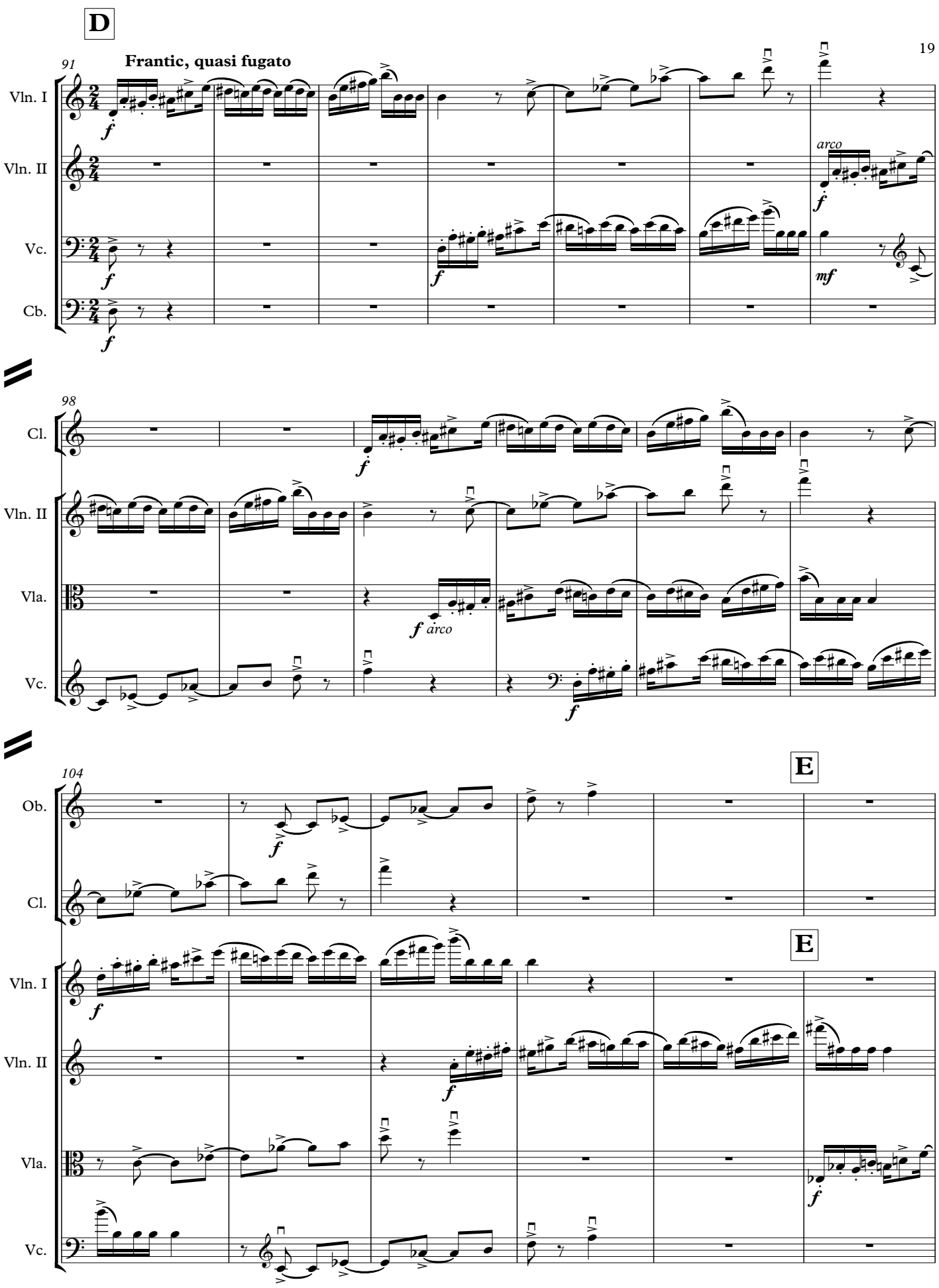

60
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
cup mute on
Tpt.
harmon mute on
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
mf
p

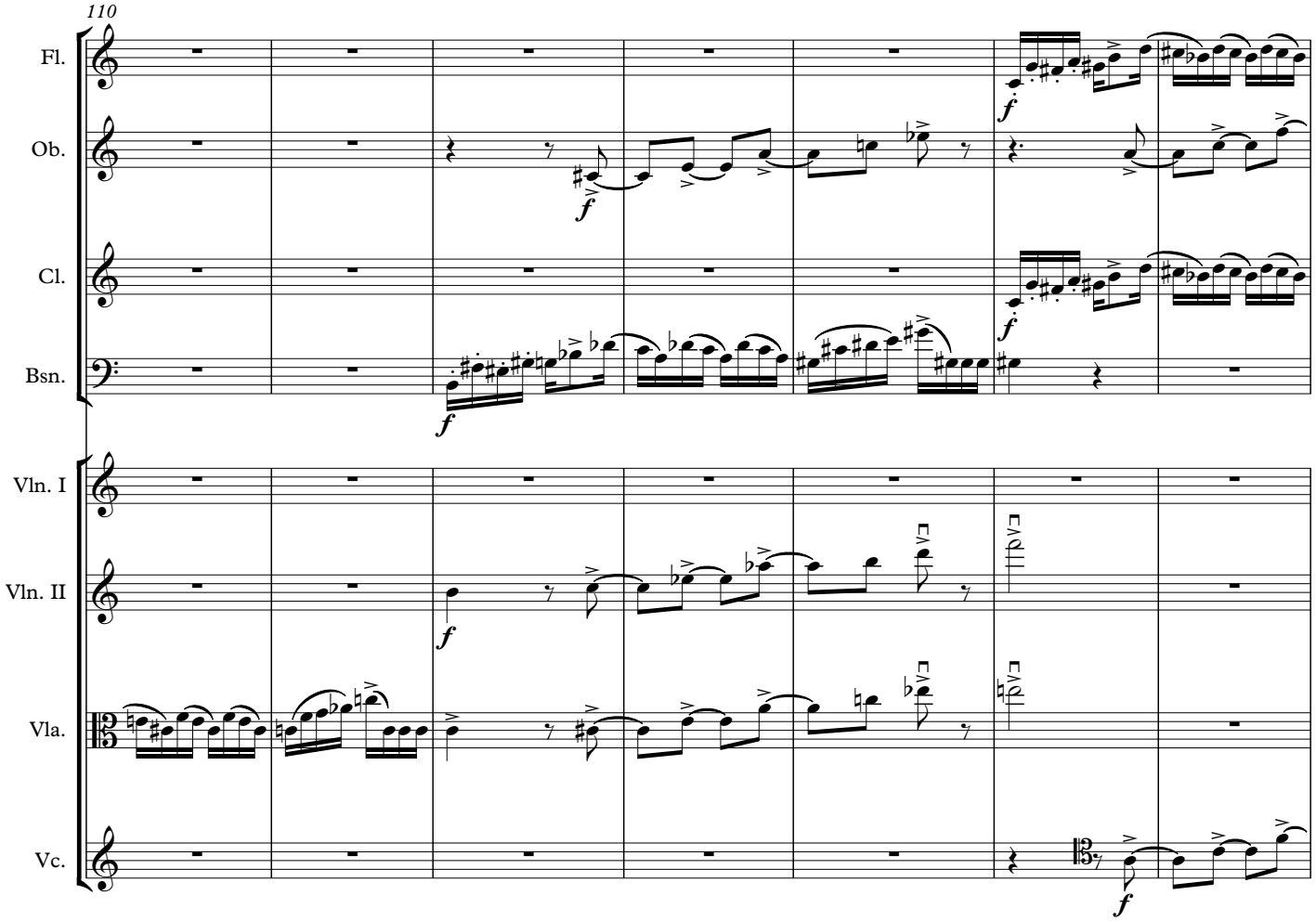

63
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf
mp
f

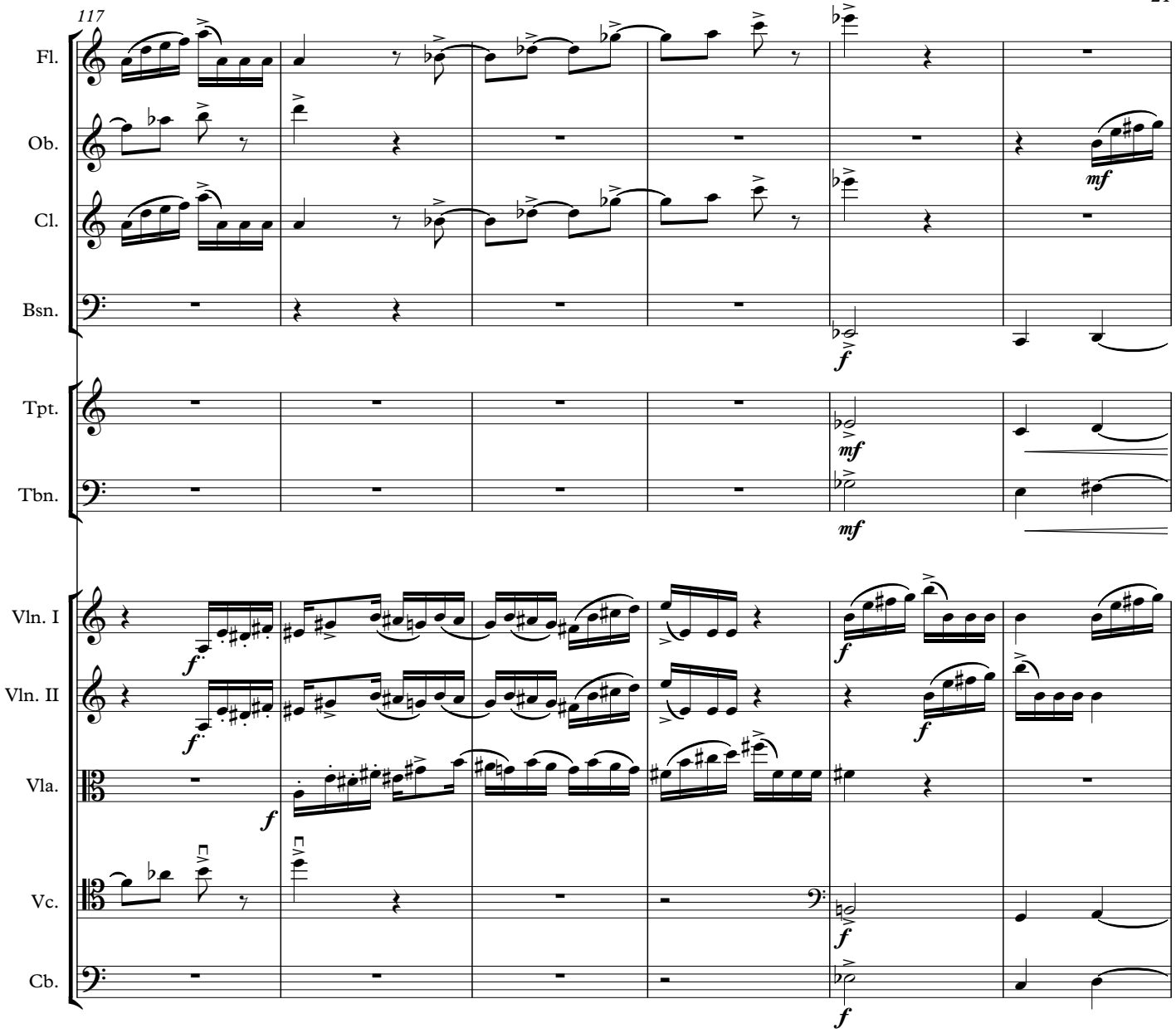

C
67
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
cup mute off
cup mute on
mute off
C
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
warm

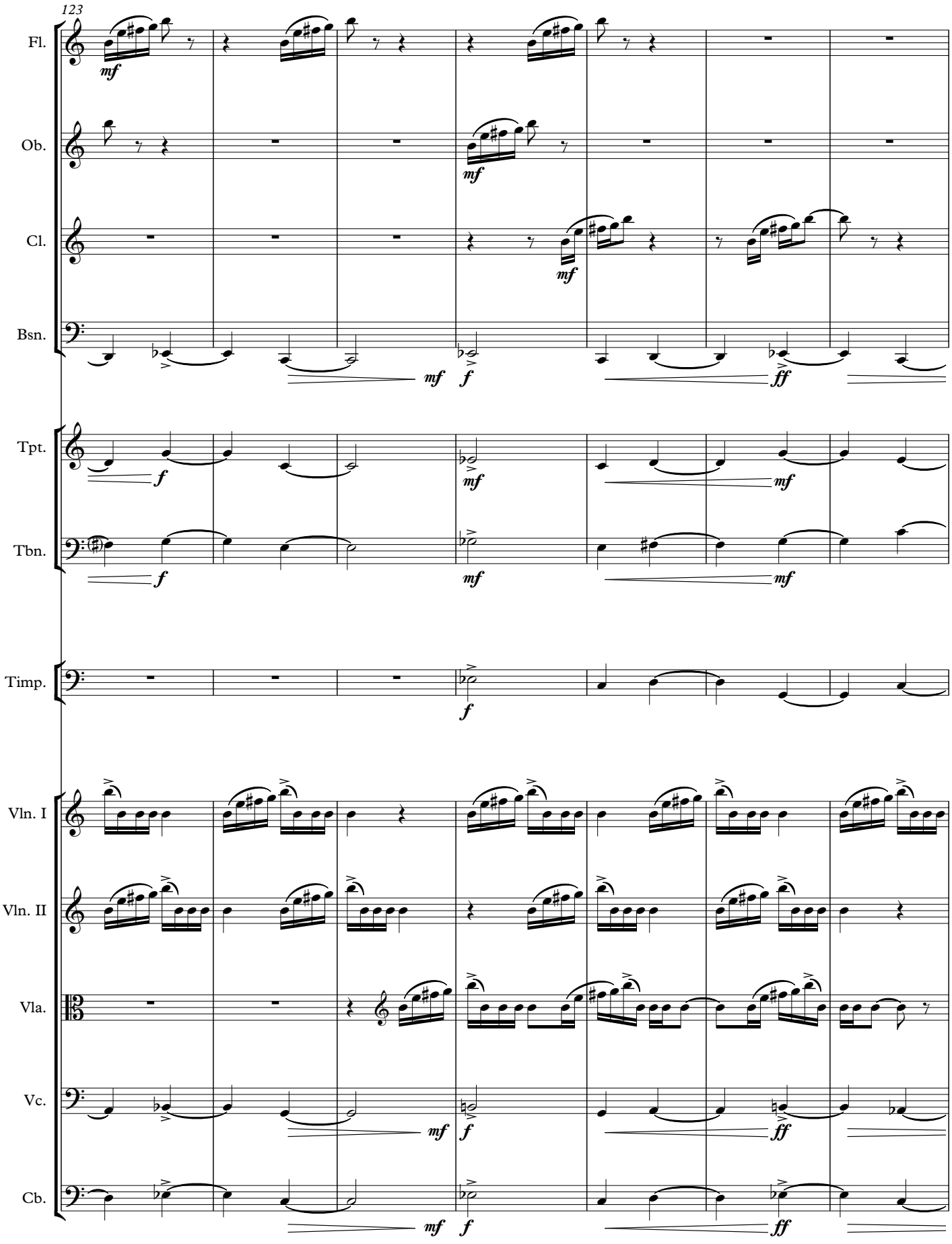

73
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
harmon mute on
mute off
ord.
melancholy

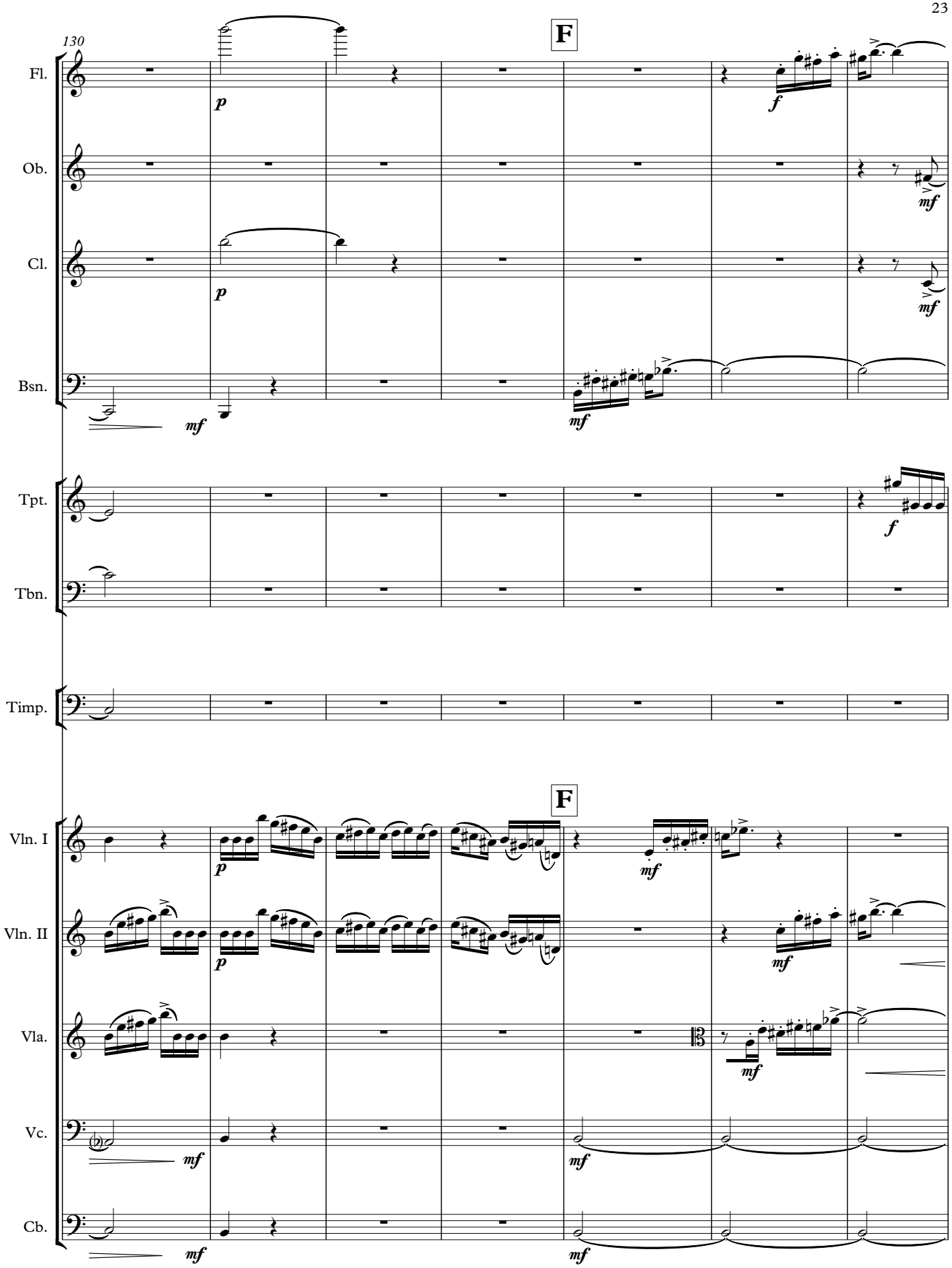

80
Fl.
Ob.
Tpt.
melancholy
Tbn.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
mf
f
p
86
♩= 90
pizz.
arco
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.

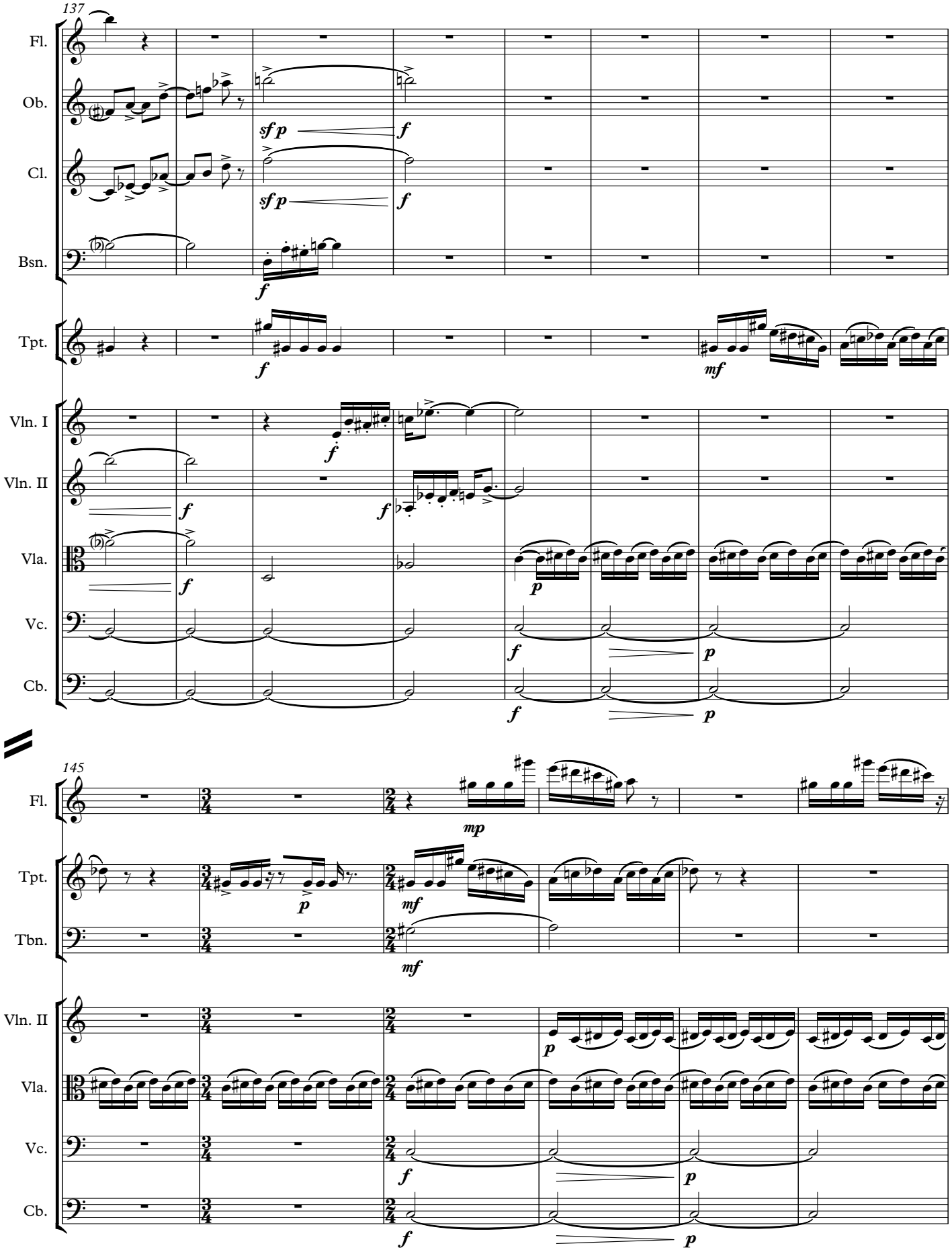

D
91
Frantic, quasi fugato
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vc.
Cb.
arco
98
Cl.
Vla.
104
Ob.
E

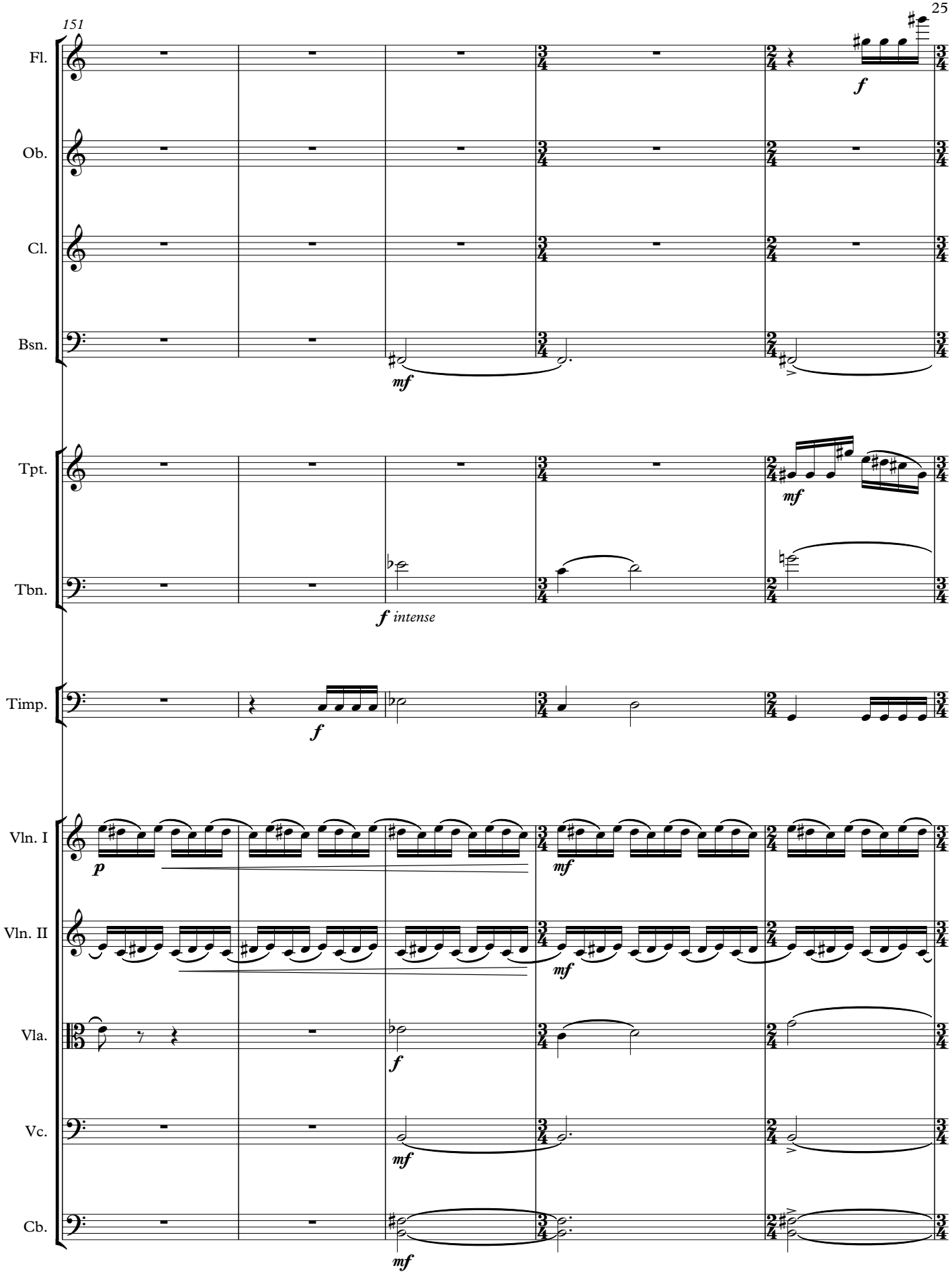

110
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
8va
8va
f

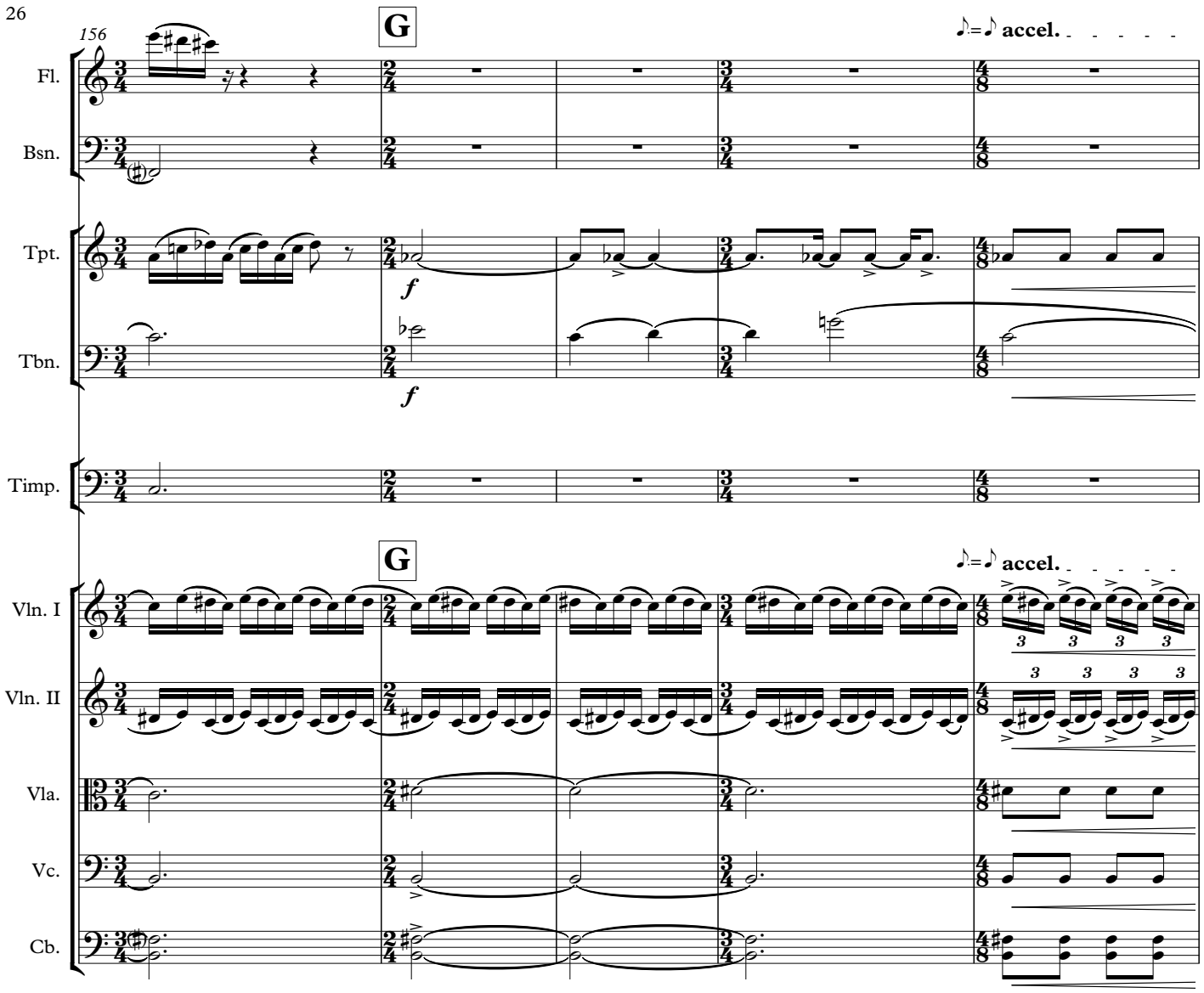

117
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf
f
mf
mf
f
f
f
f
f
f

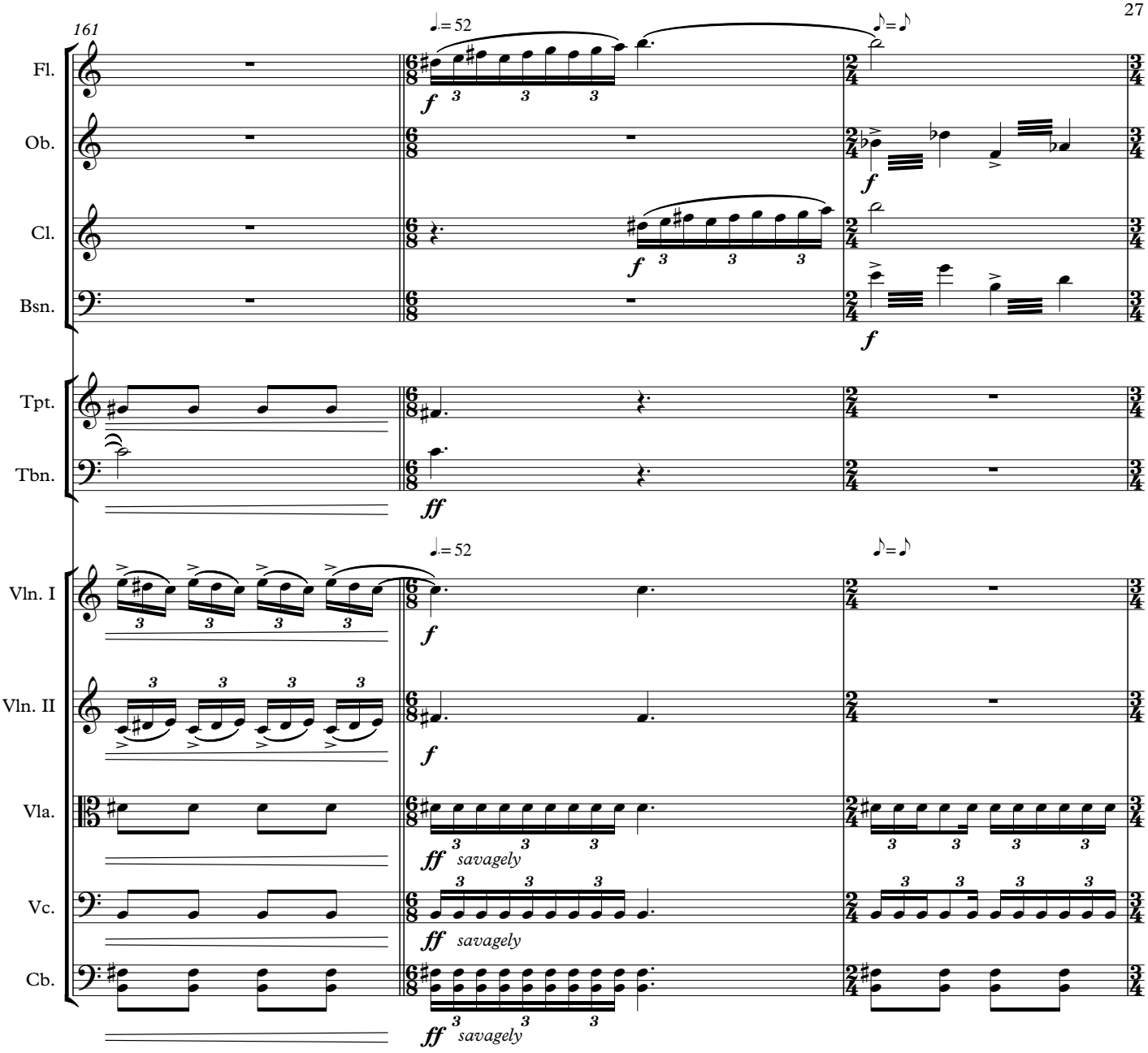

123
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf
f
ff

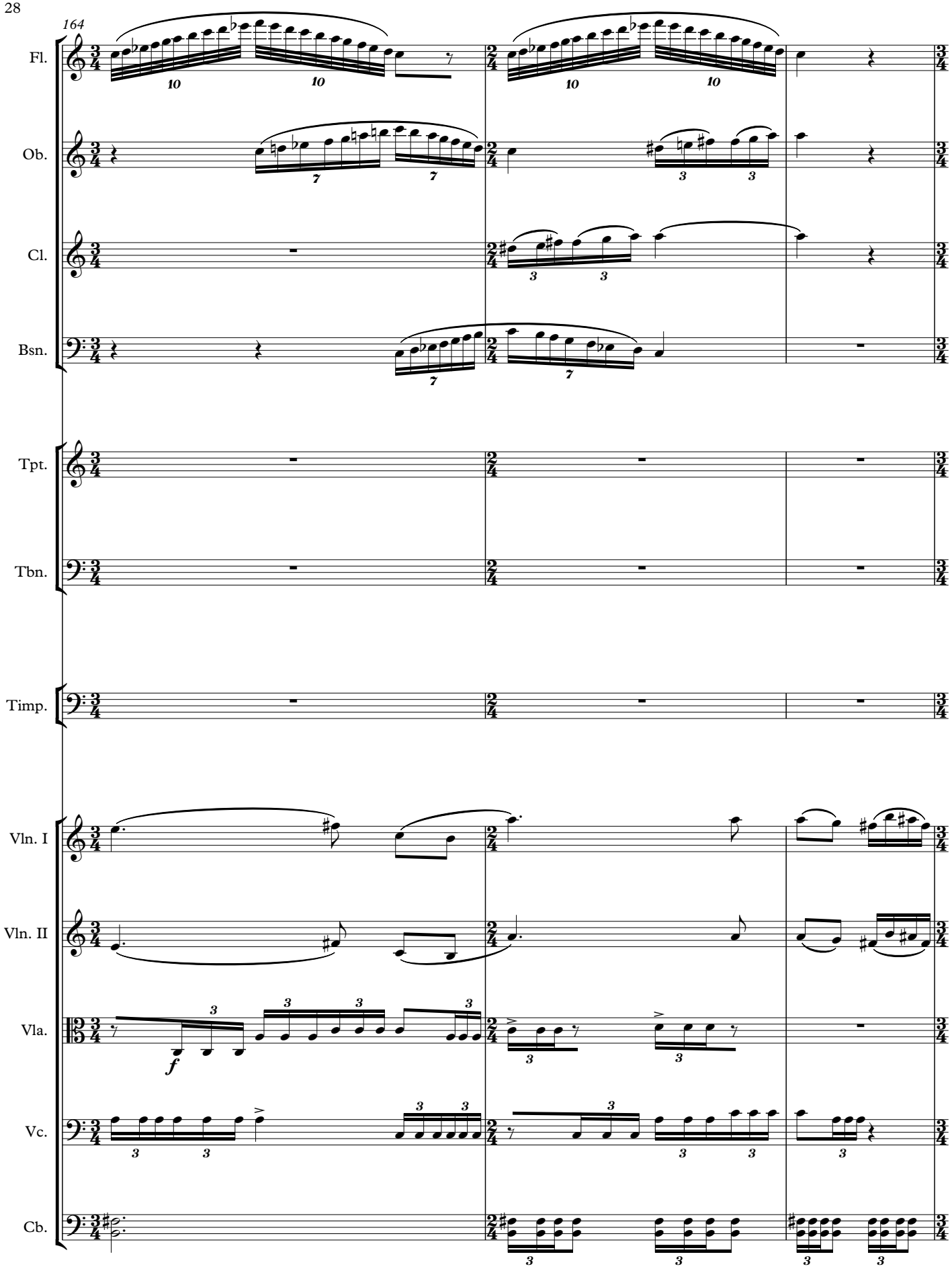

130
F
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
F
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p
mf
f

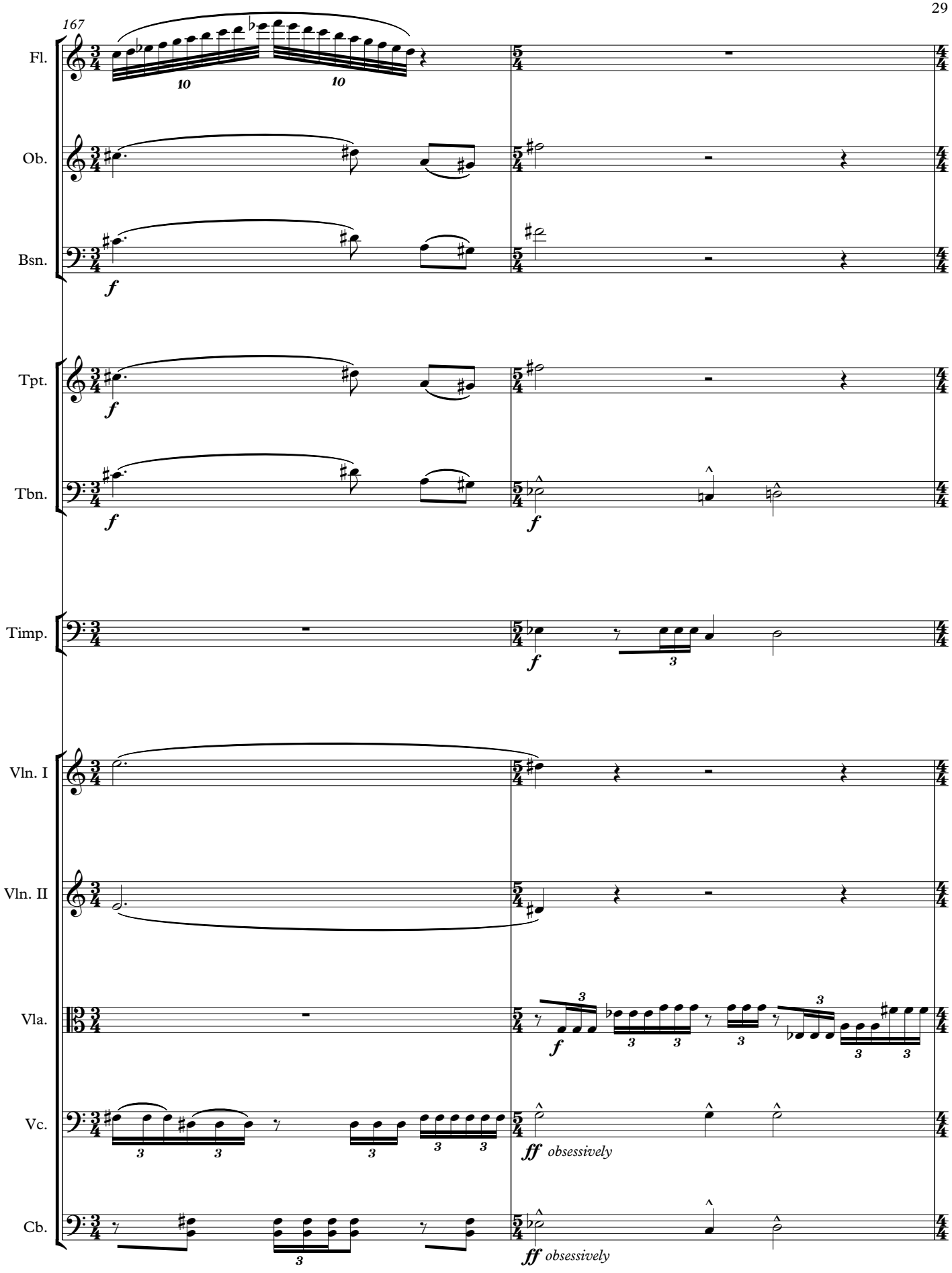

137
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
sf p
f
mf
p
145
Tbn.
mp

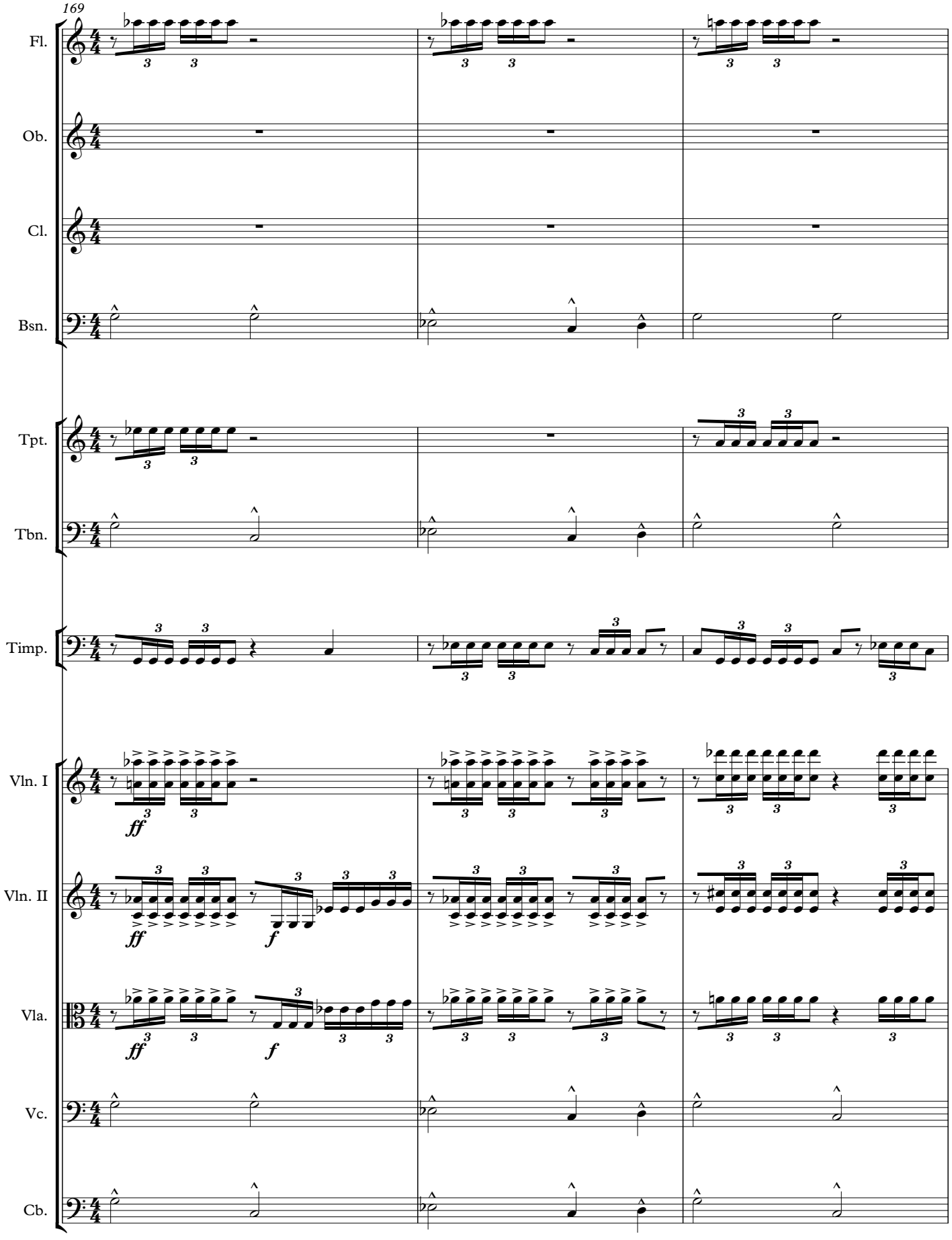

151
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
mf
p
f intense

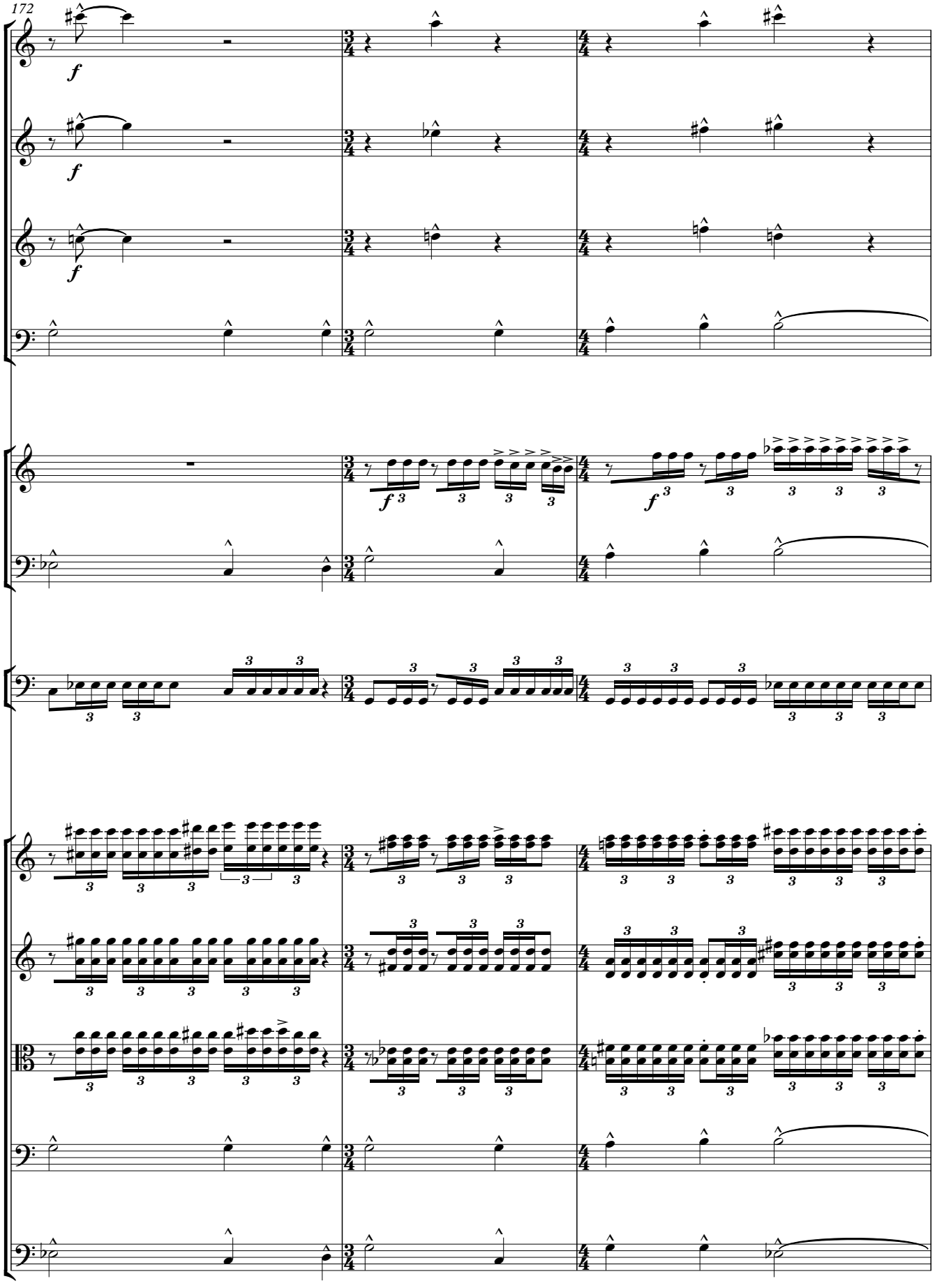

156
G
♪=♪ accel.
Fl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
f
f
Timp.
G
♪=♪ accel.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

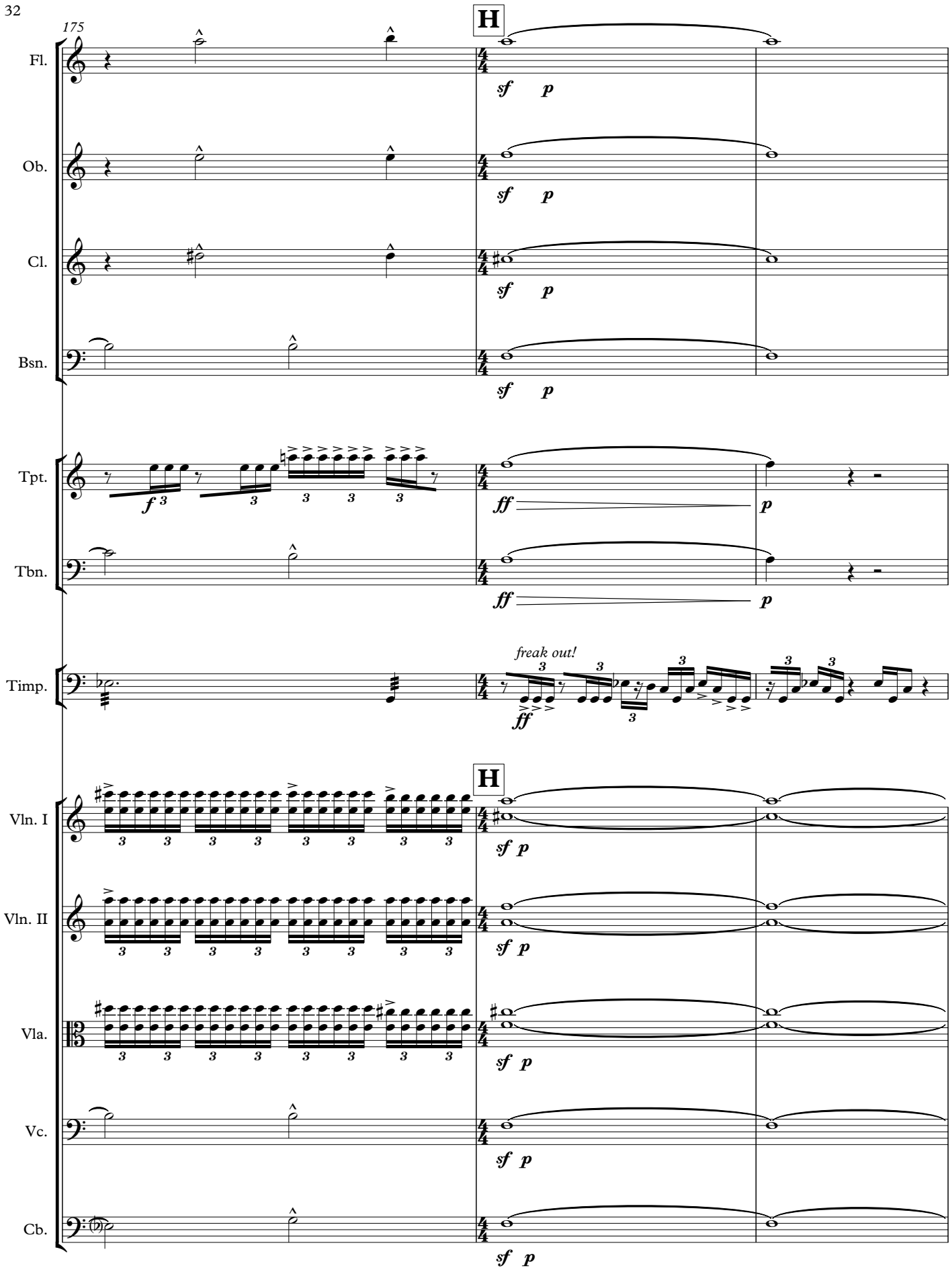

161
♩= 52
♪= ♪
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
ff
savagely

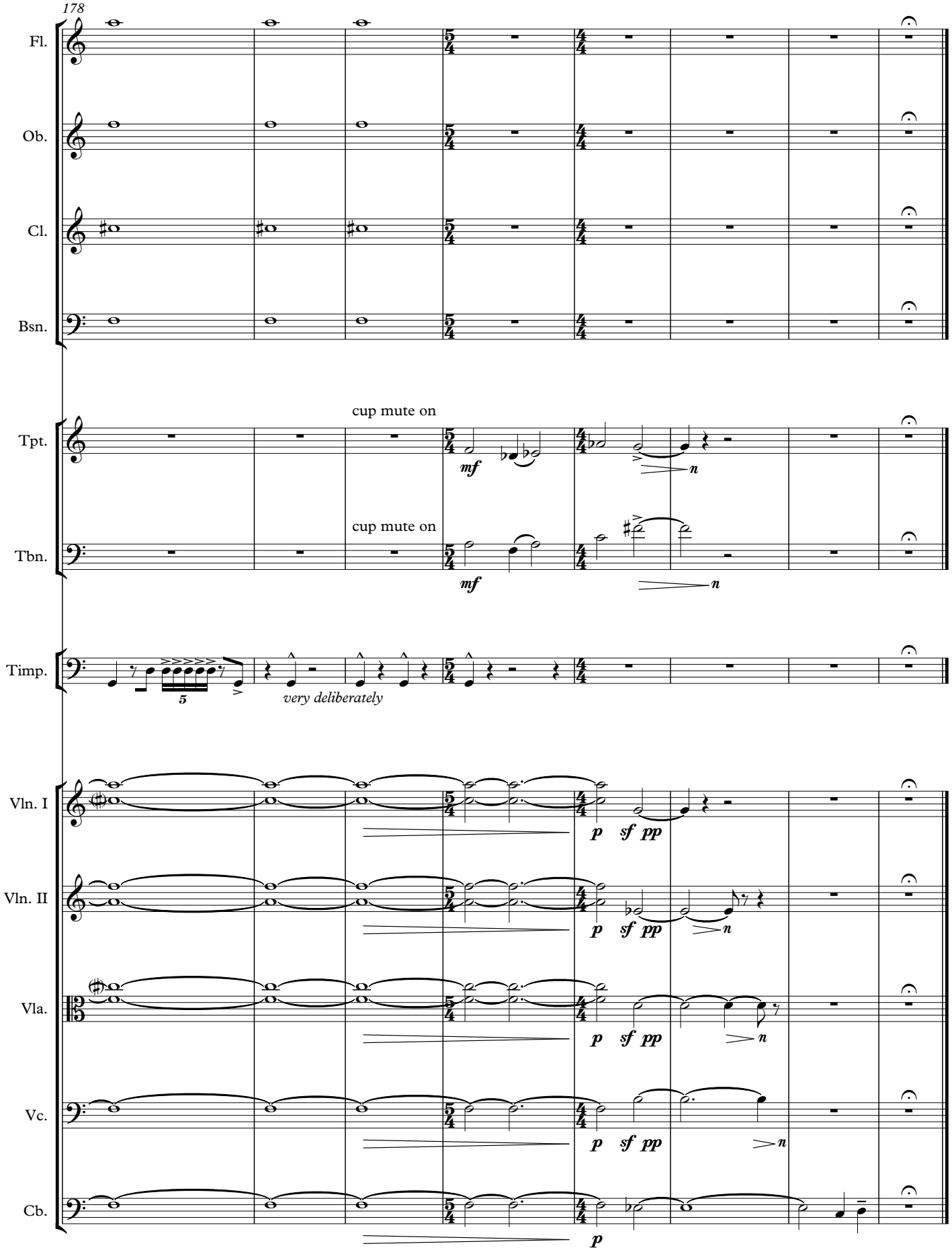

164
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f


167
Fl.
Ob.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
ff obsessively


169
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
ff
f


172
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.


175
H
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
freak out!
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
sf p
ff p
f 3


178
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
cup mute on
Tpt.
mf
n
cup mute on
Tbn.
mf
n
Timp.
5
very deliberately
Vln. I
p sf pp
Vln. II
p sf pp
n
Vla.
p sf pp
n
Vc.
p sf pp
n
Cb.
p