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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

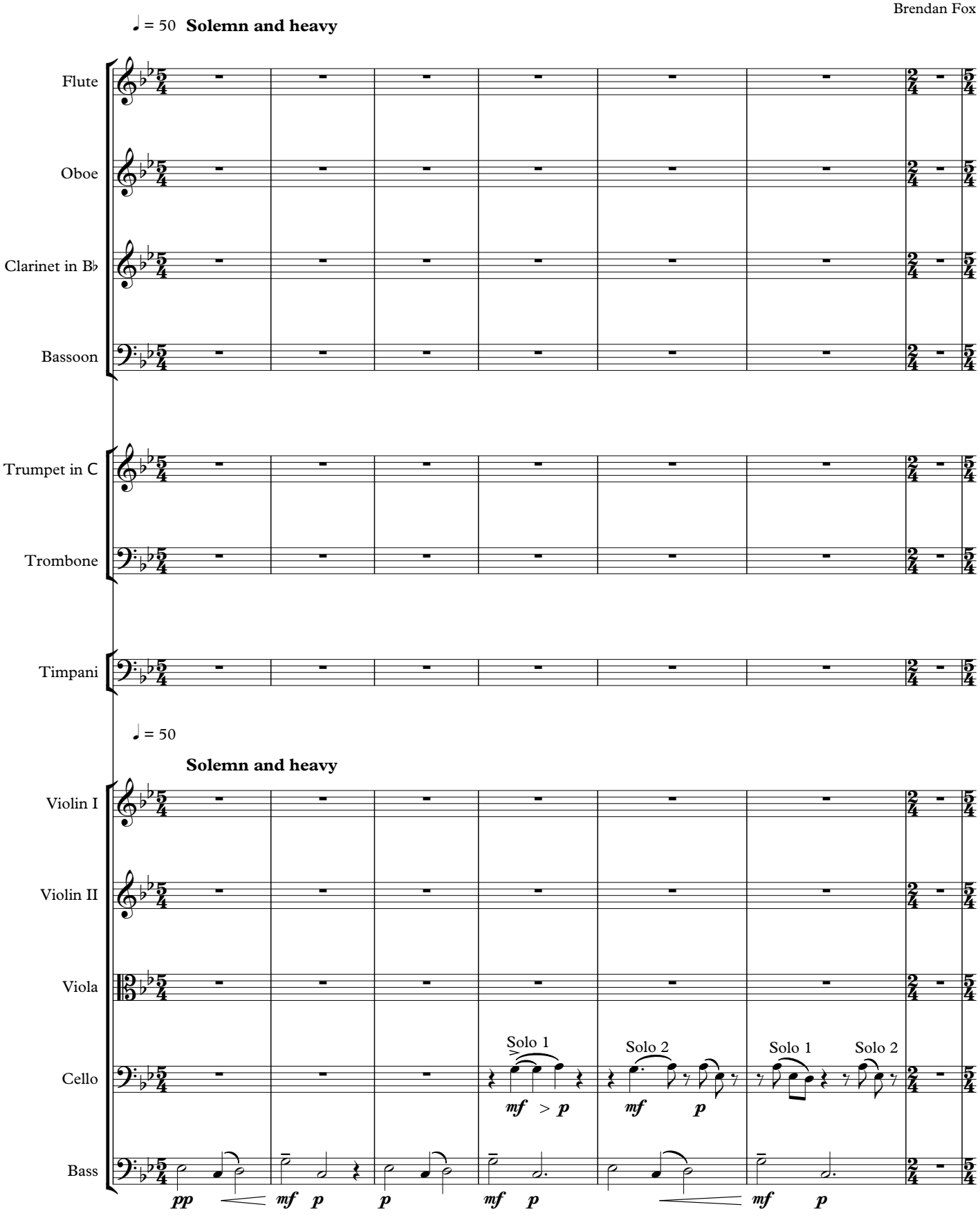
The art of composition is frequently difficult and discouraging. It is a struggle to create something new and true, even with the awareness of all the music that has come before and that is currently being created. The layered voices of self-criticism and doubt can be overwhelming. In some of my most 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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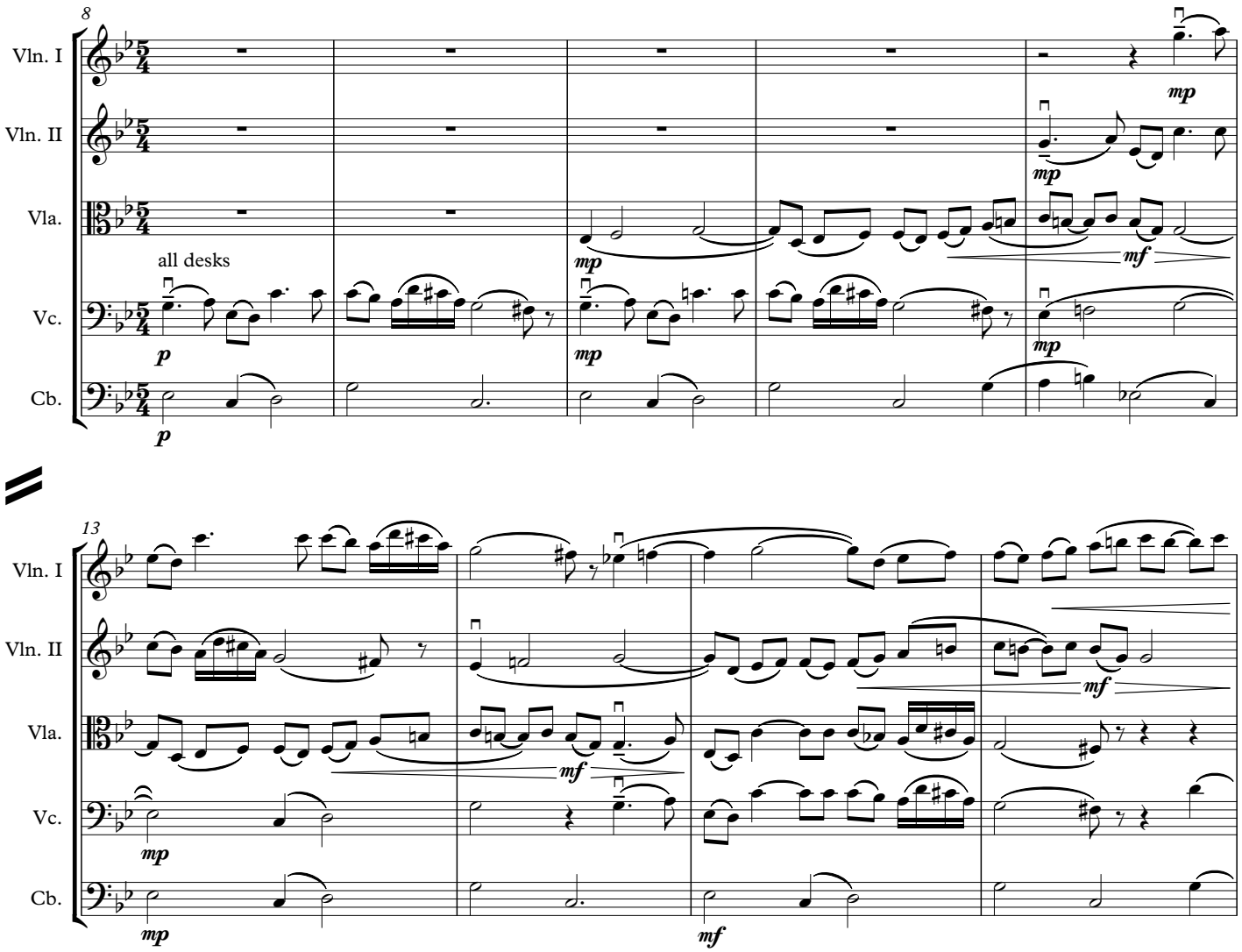
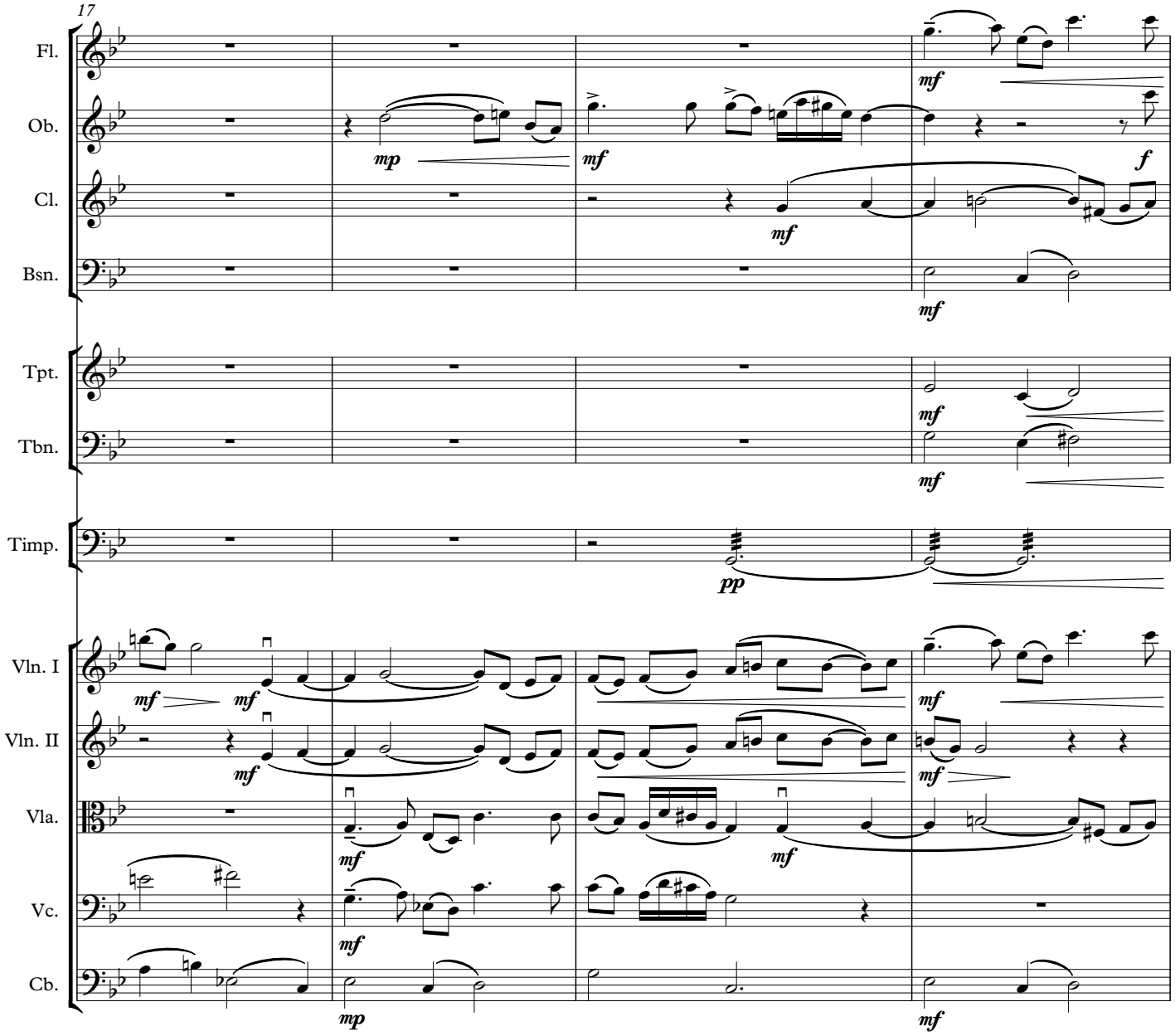
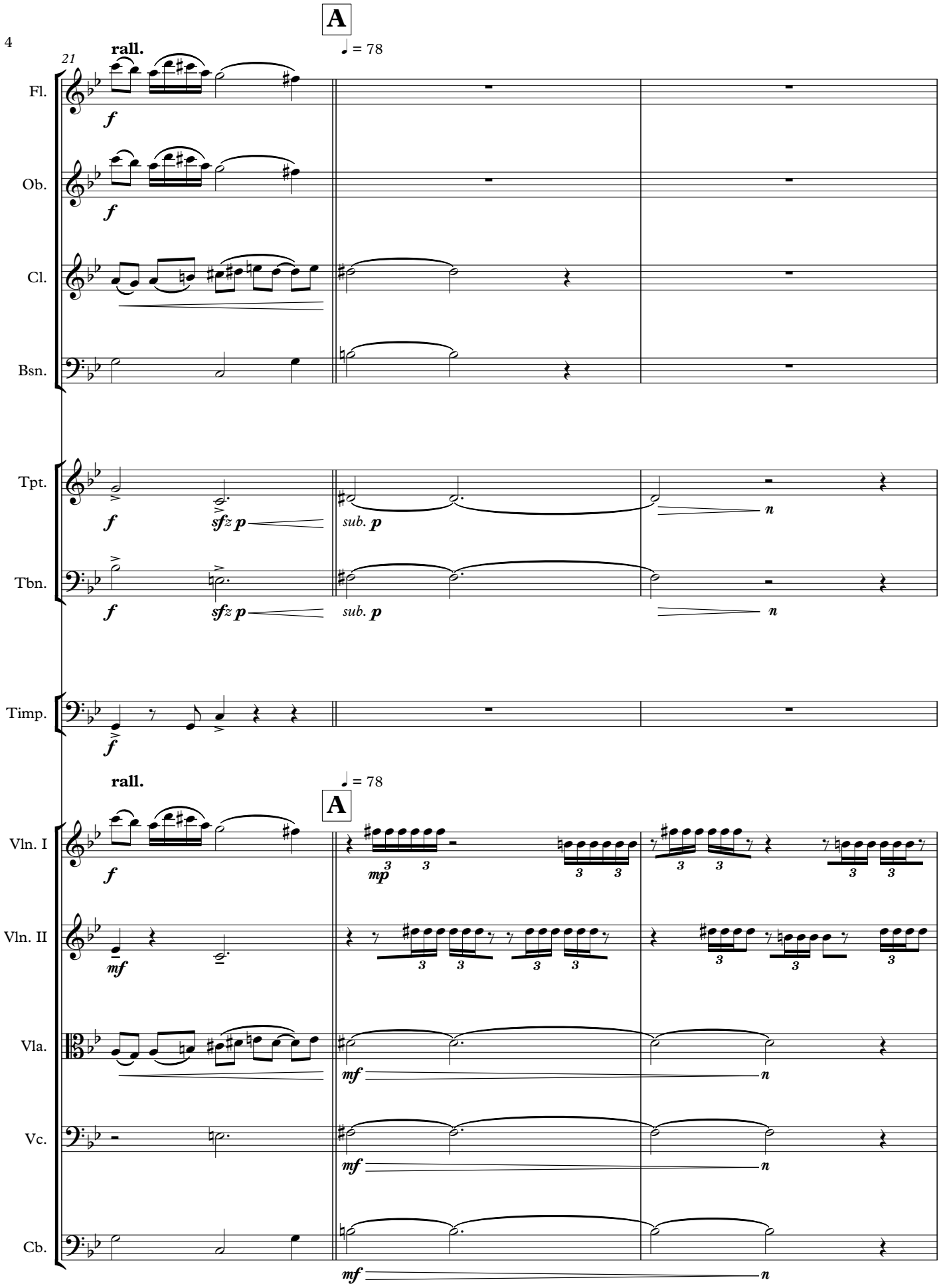
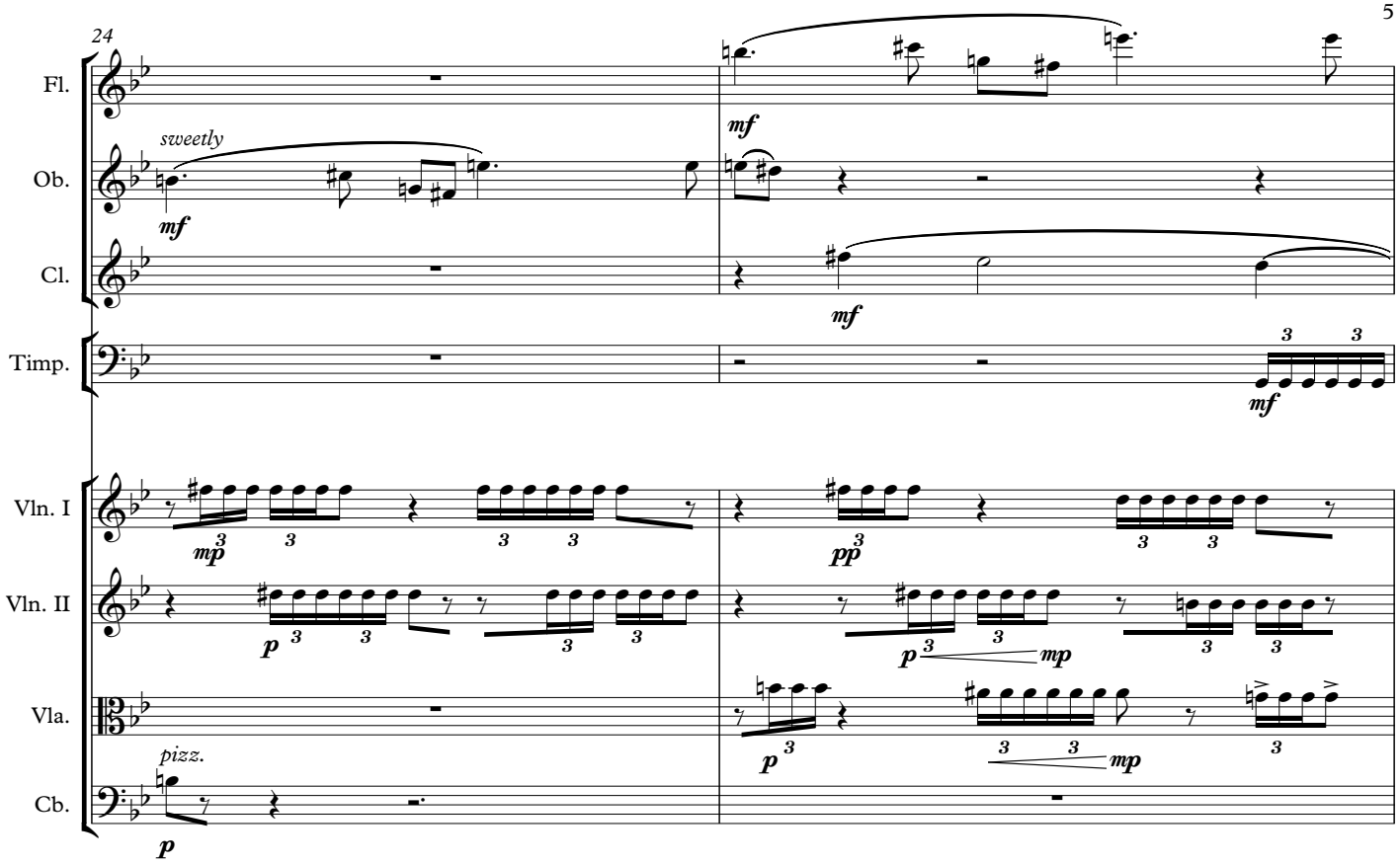
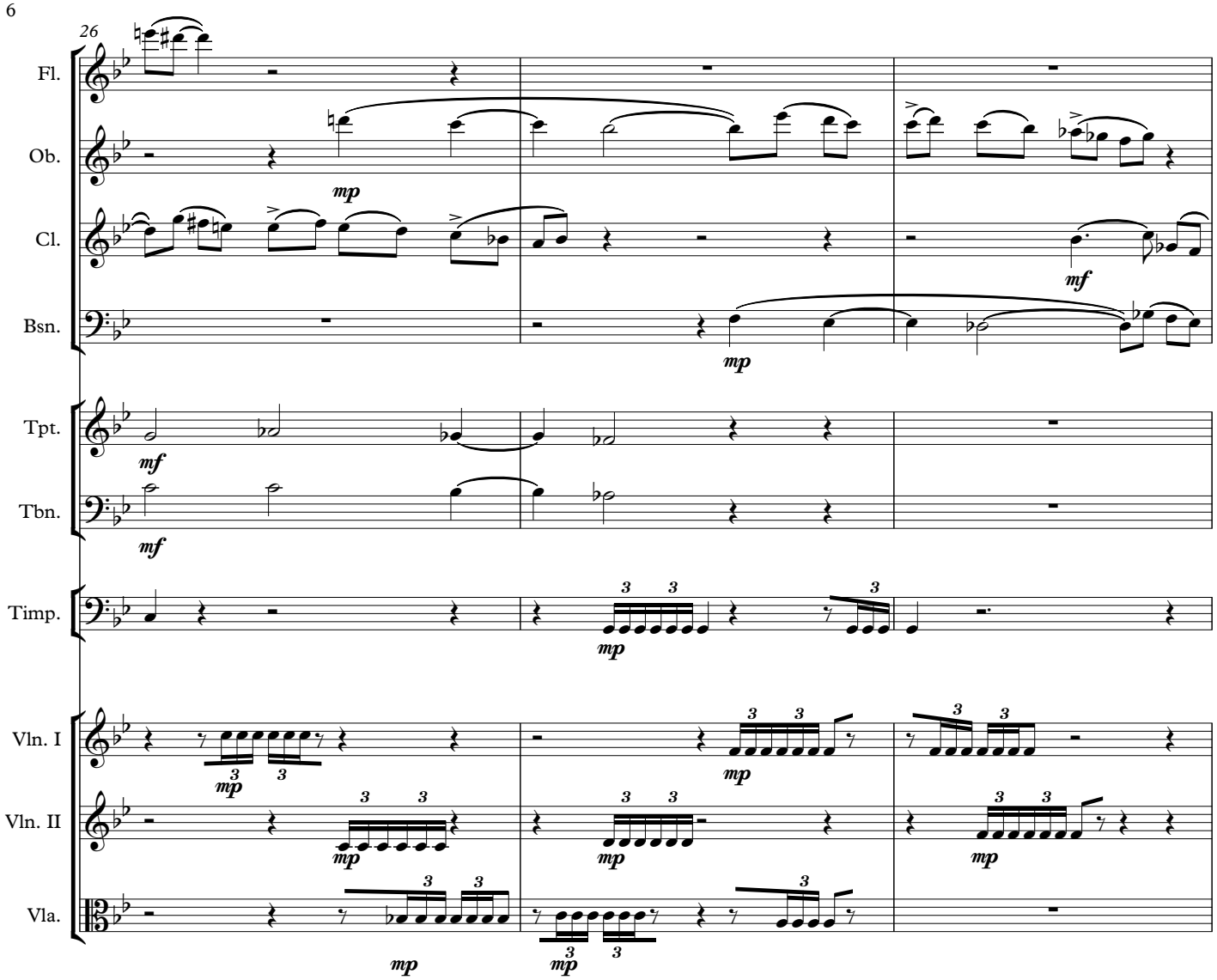
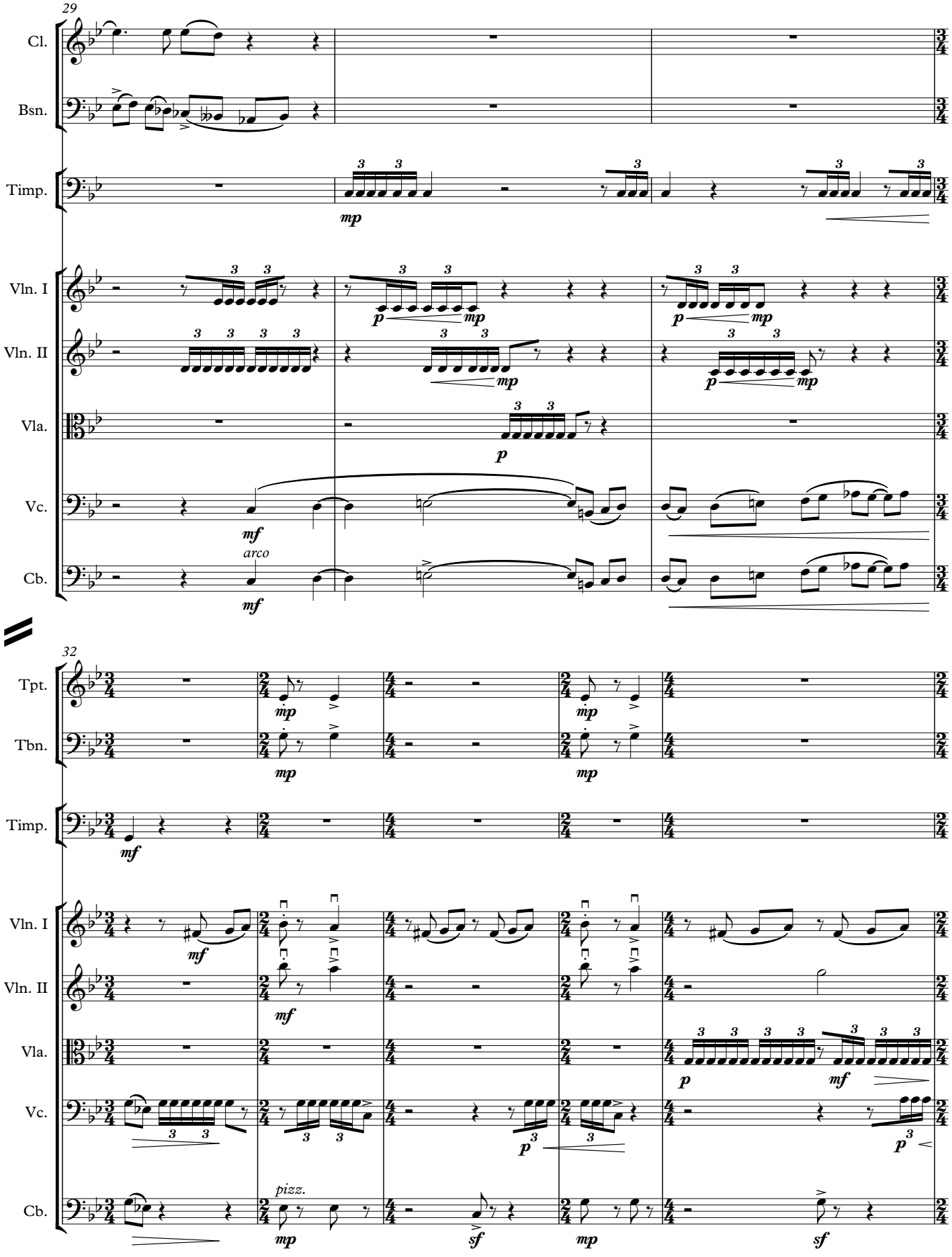

8
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
all desks
p
mp
mf
13
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
mf

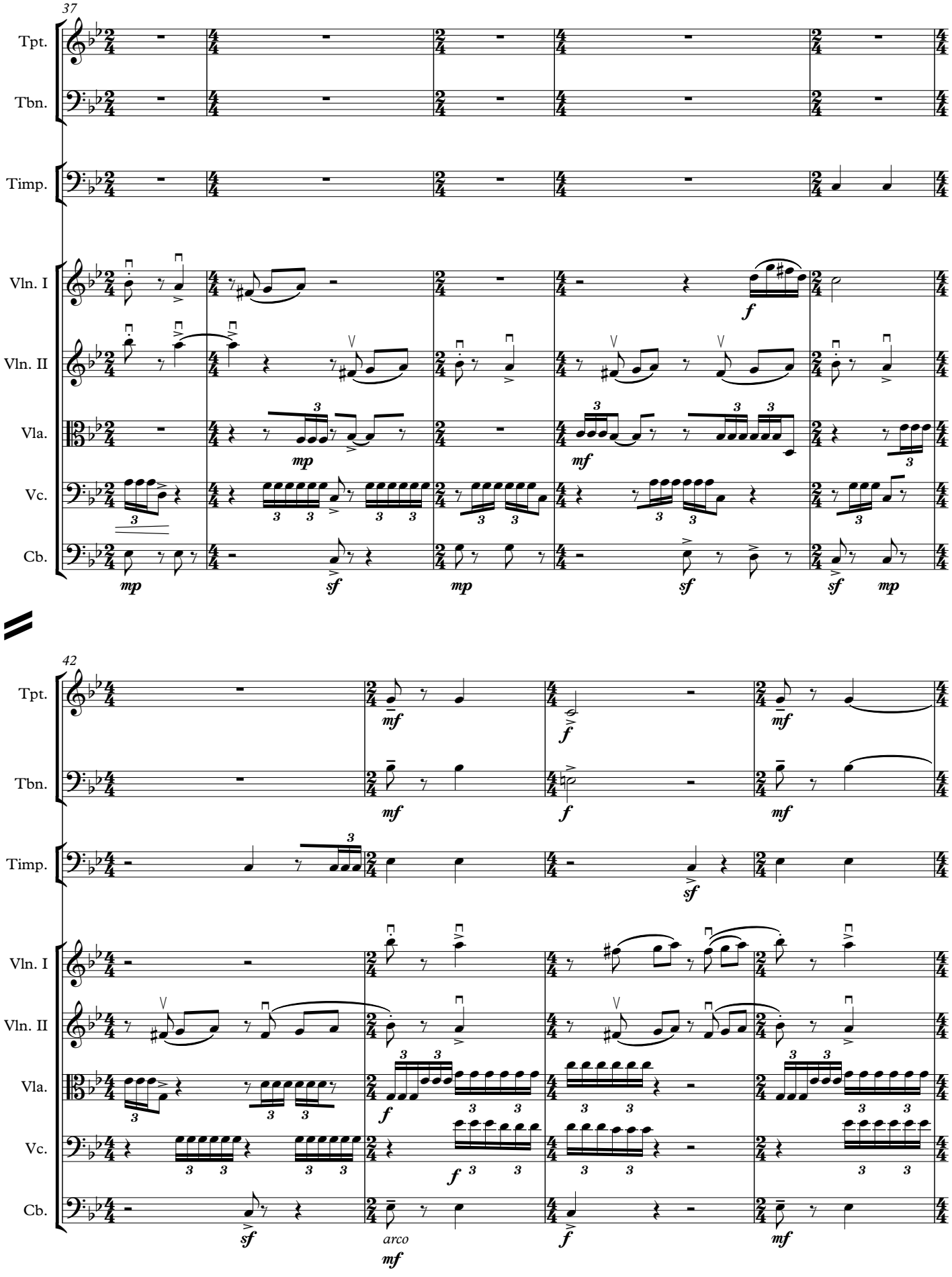

17
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
mf
f
pp

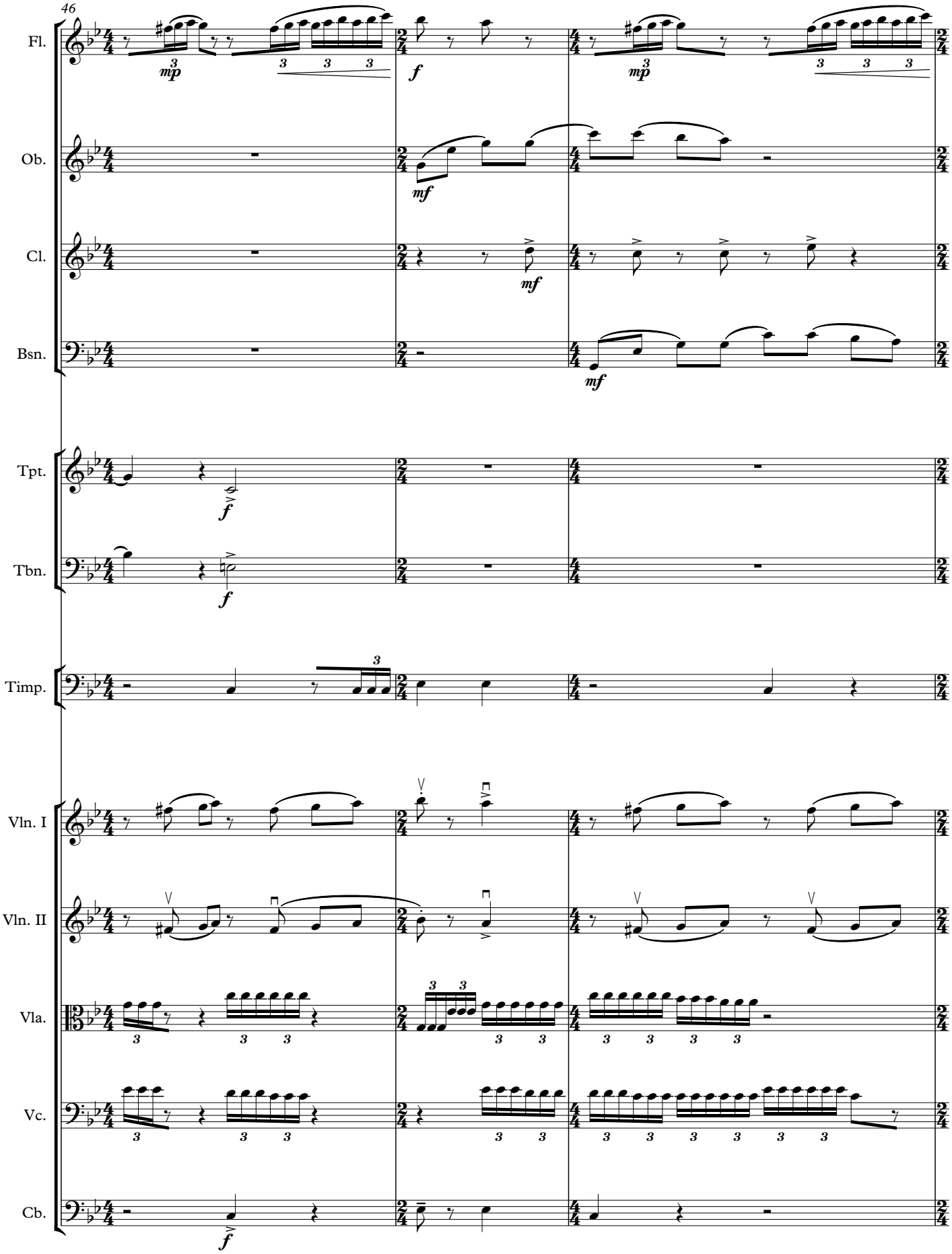

A
21
rall.
♩ = 78
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
rall.
♩ = 78
A
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

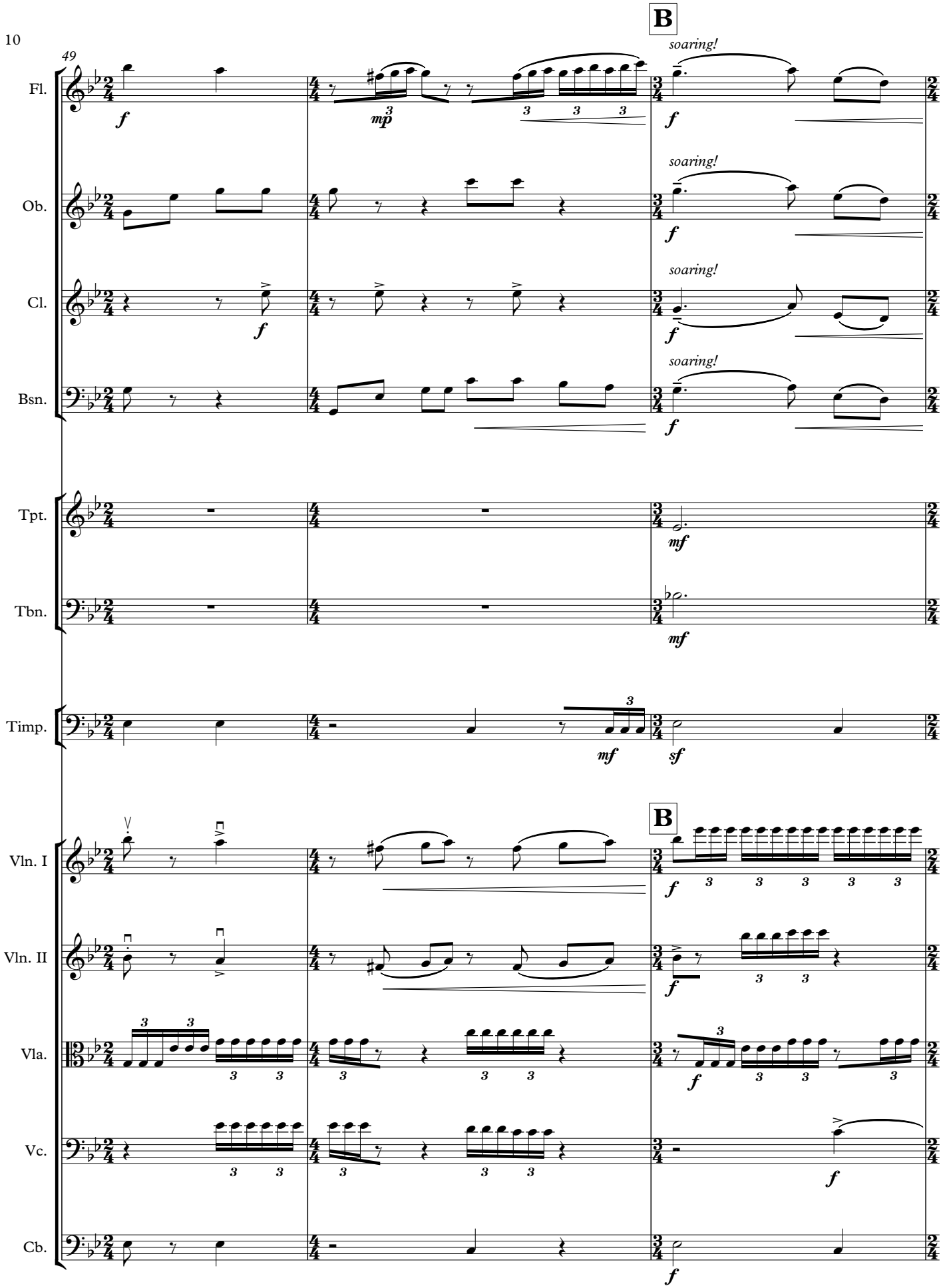

24
Fl.
Ob.
sweetly
mf
Cl.
mf
Timp.
mf
Vln. I
mp
pp
Vln. II
p
mp
Vla.
pizz.
p
Cb.
p

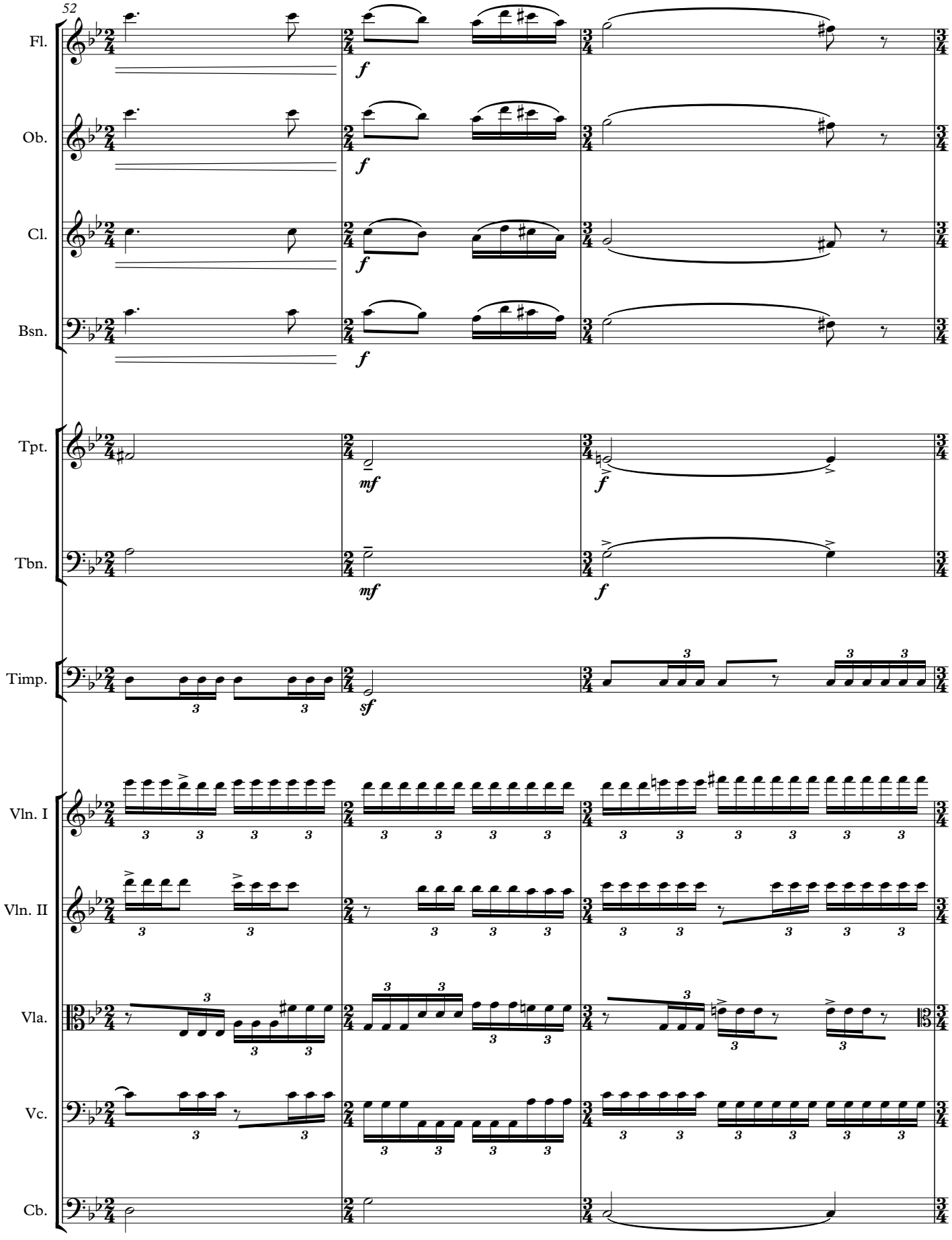

26
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
mp
mf

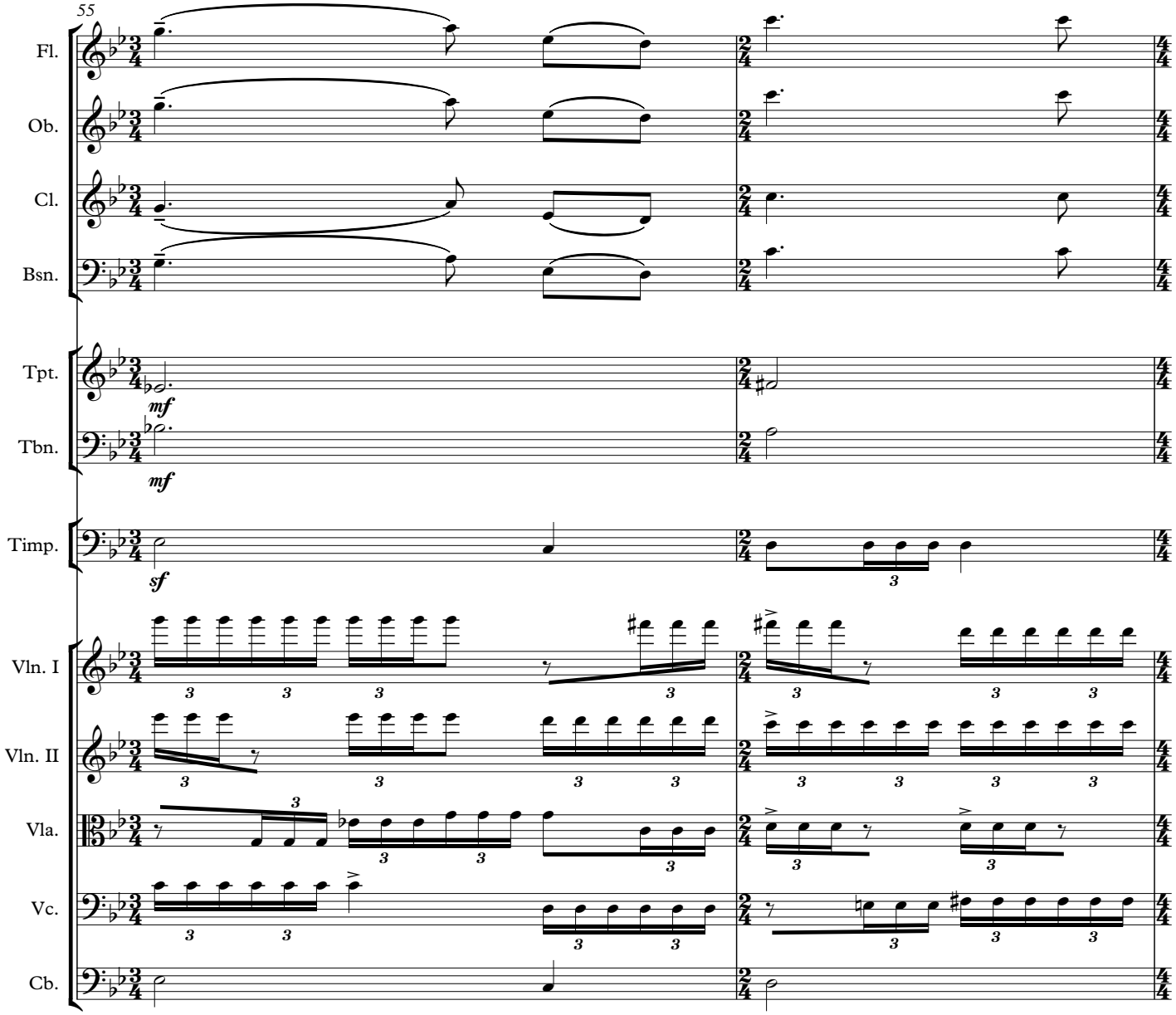

29
Cl.
Bsn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
arco
32
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pizz.

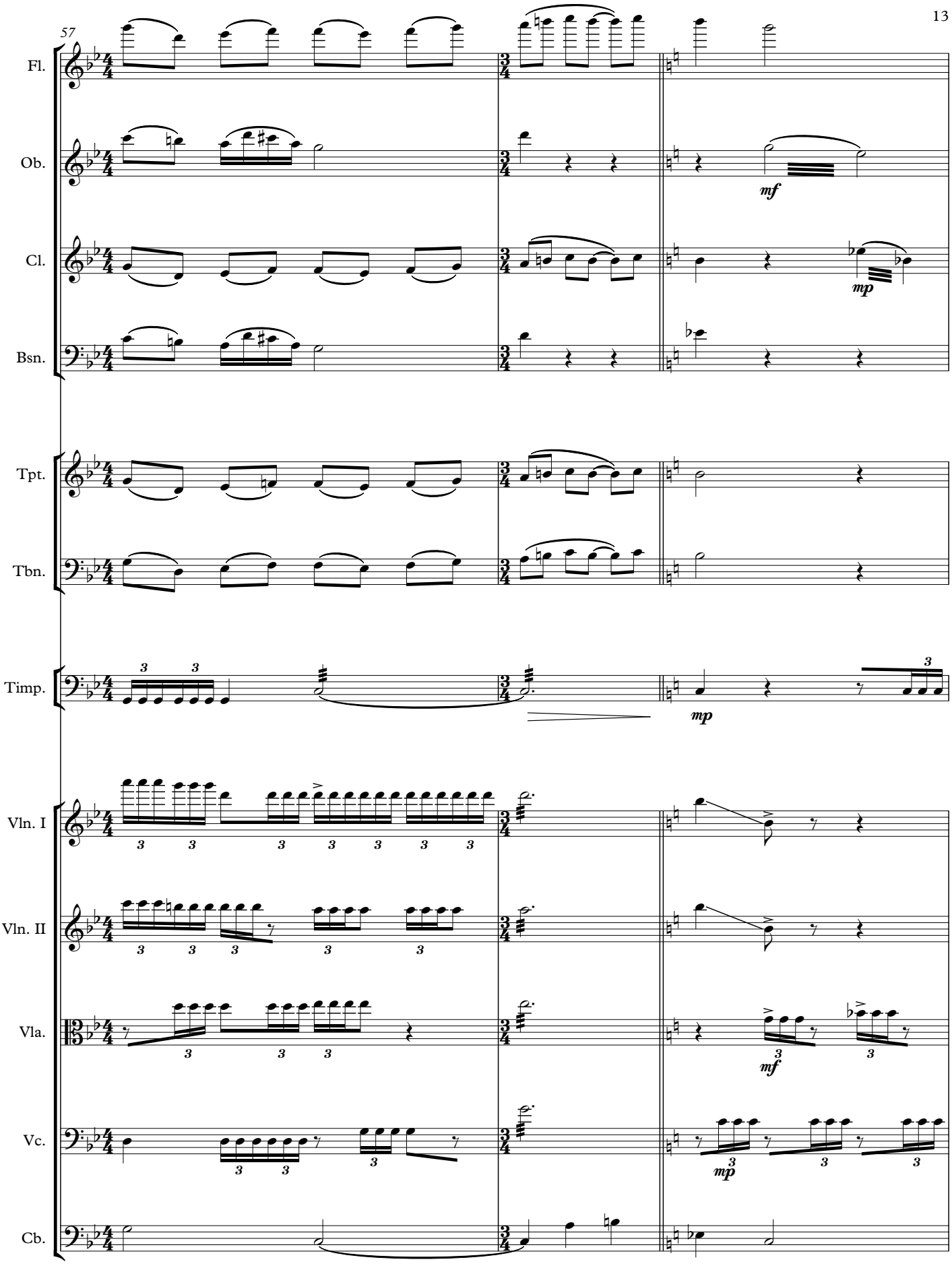

37
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
42
arco

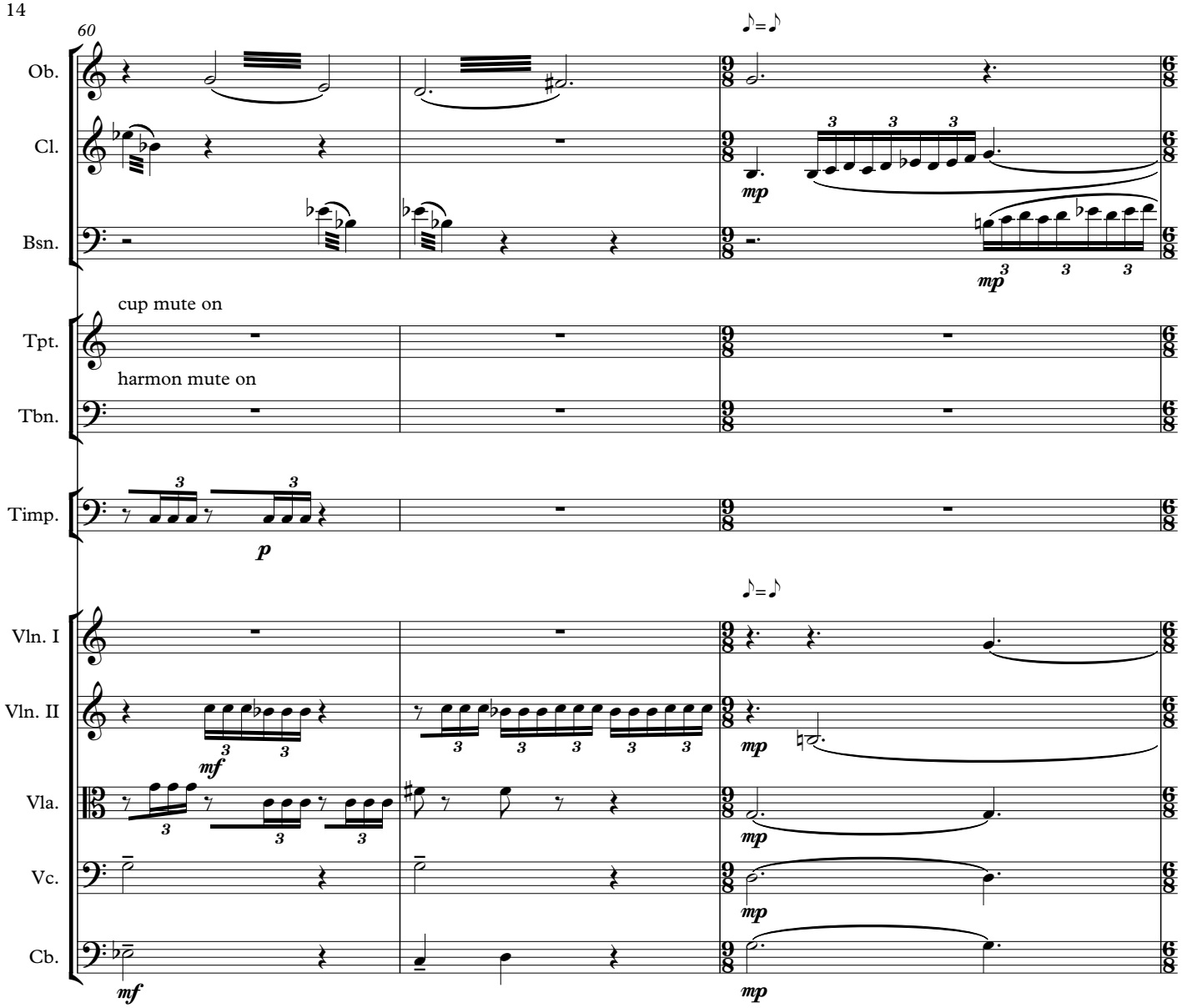

46
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
f
mf

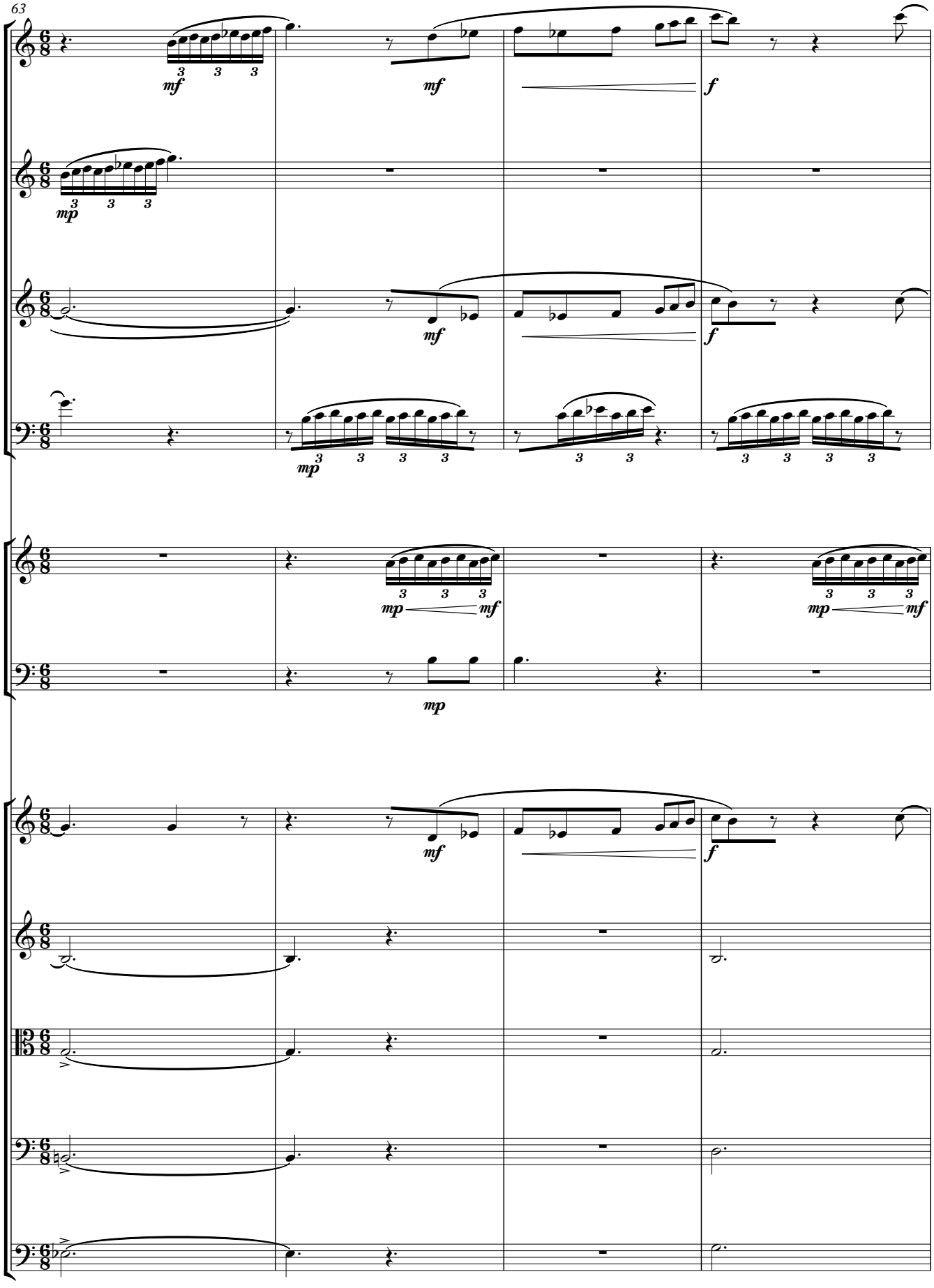

49
B
soaring!
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
mp
mf
sf

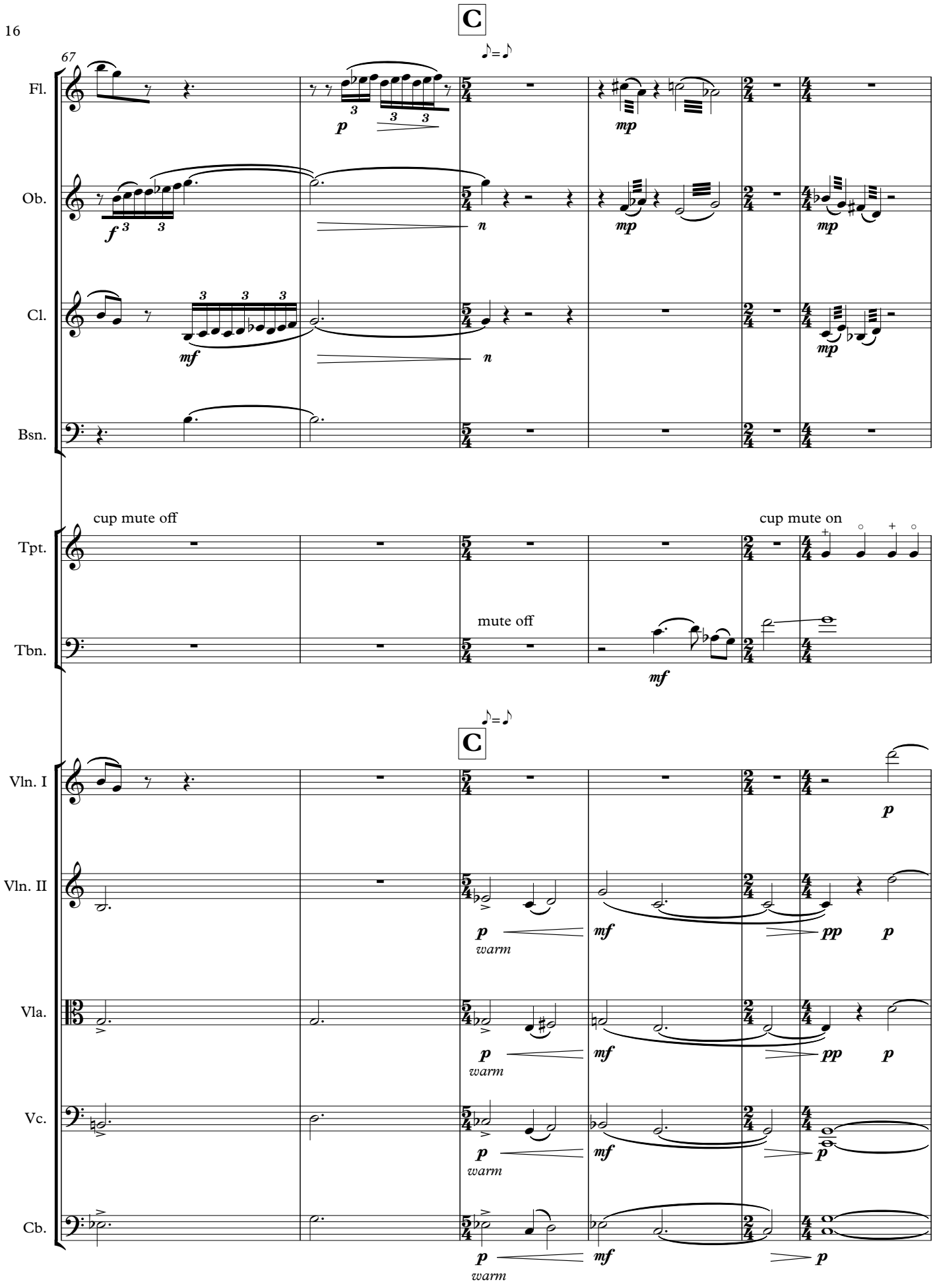

52
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
mf
sf

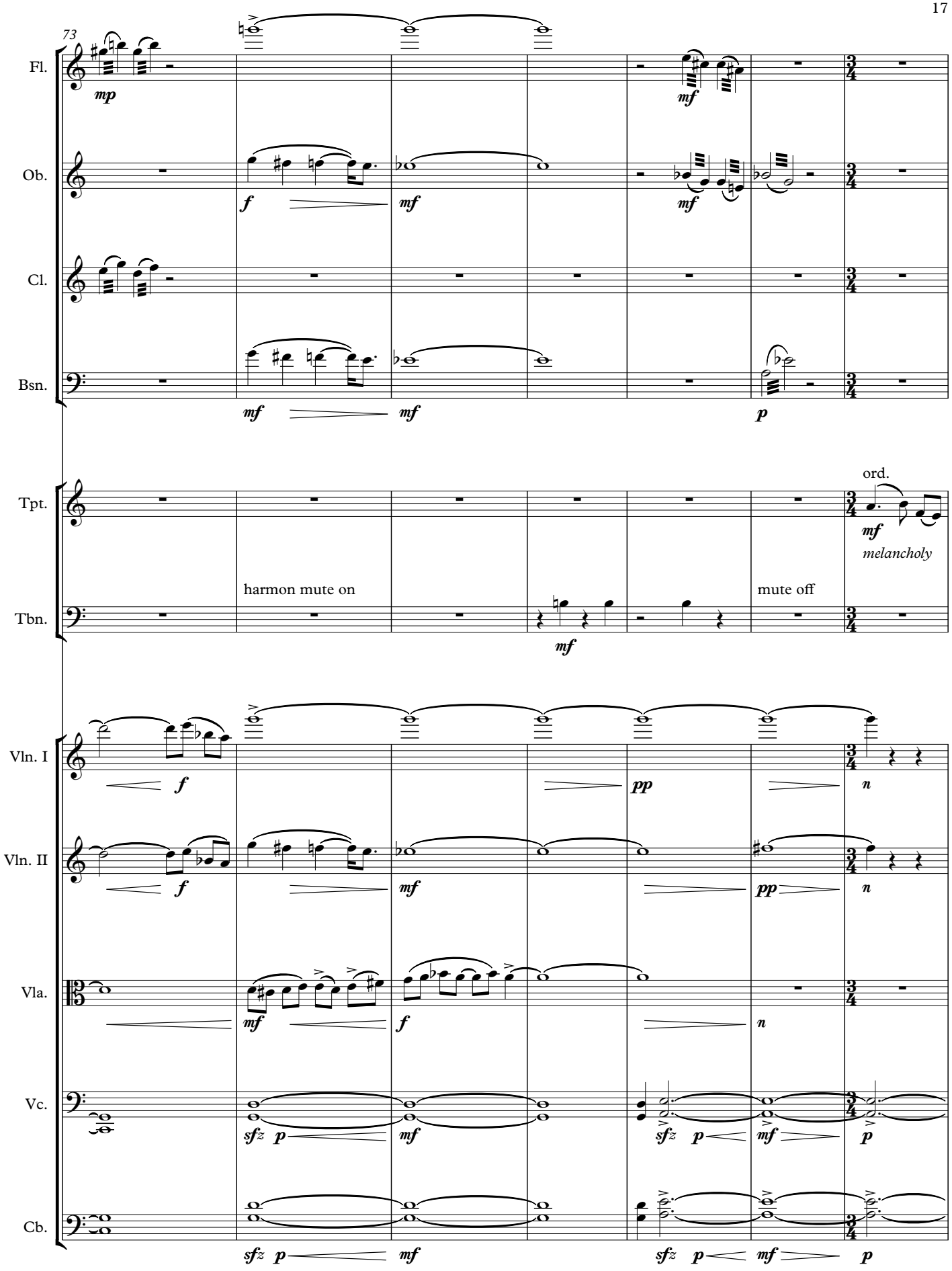

55
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf
mf
sf

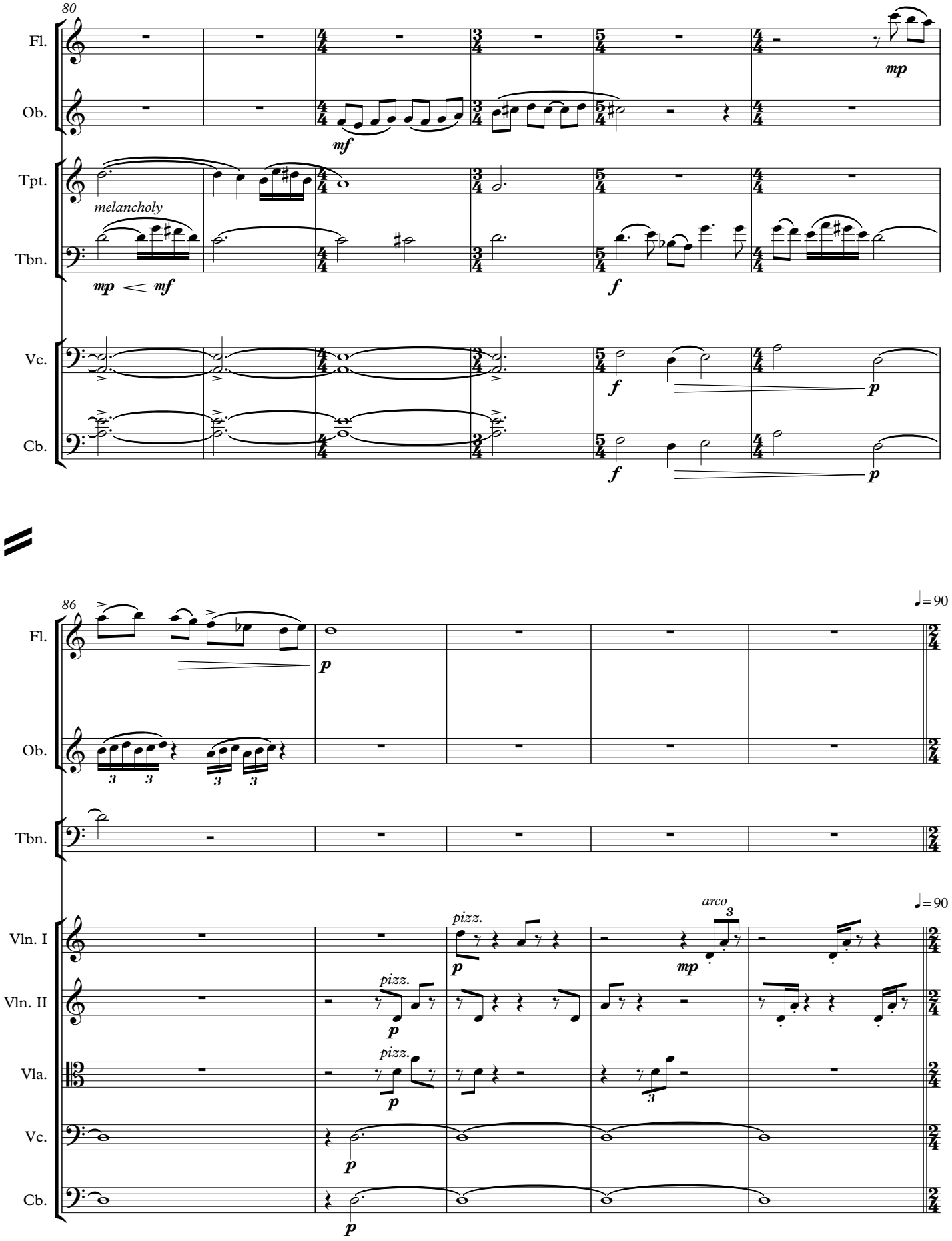

57
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf
mp
mp
mf
mp

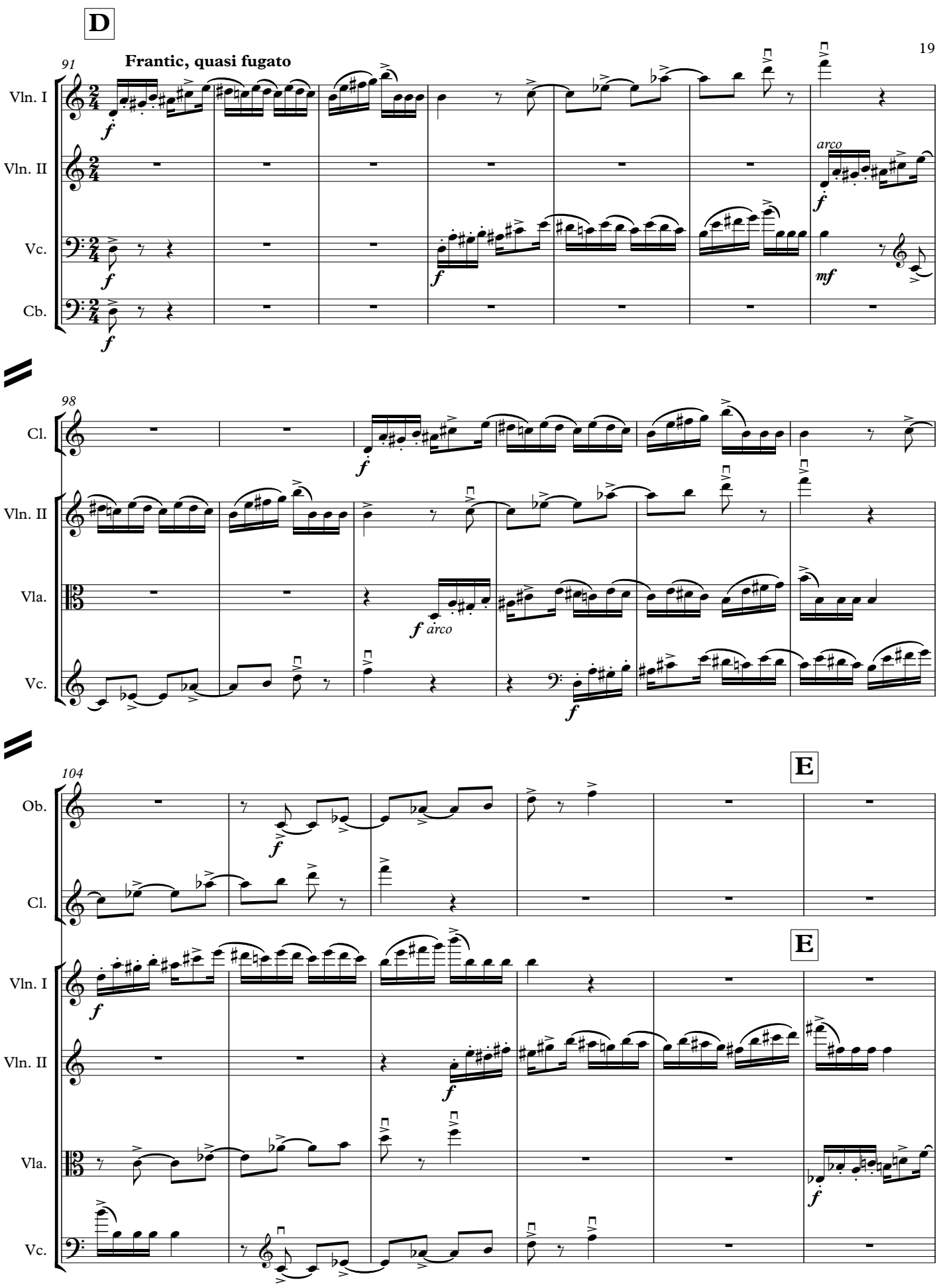

60
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
cup mute on
Tpt.
harmon mute on
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
mf
p

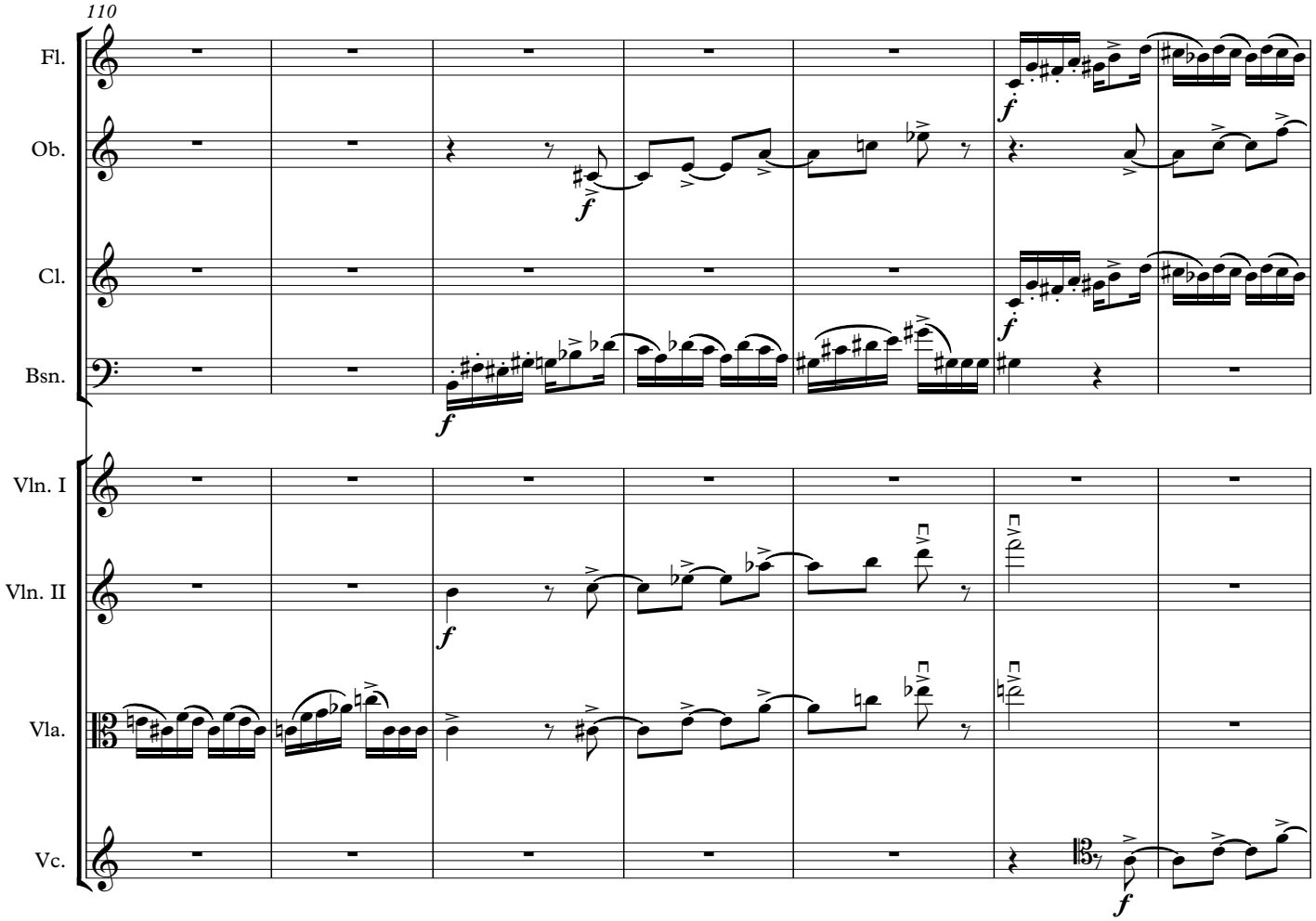

63
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf
mp
f

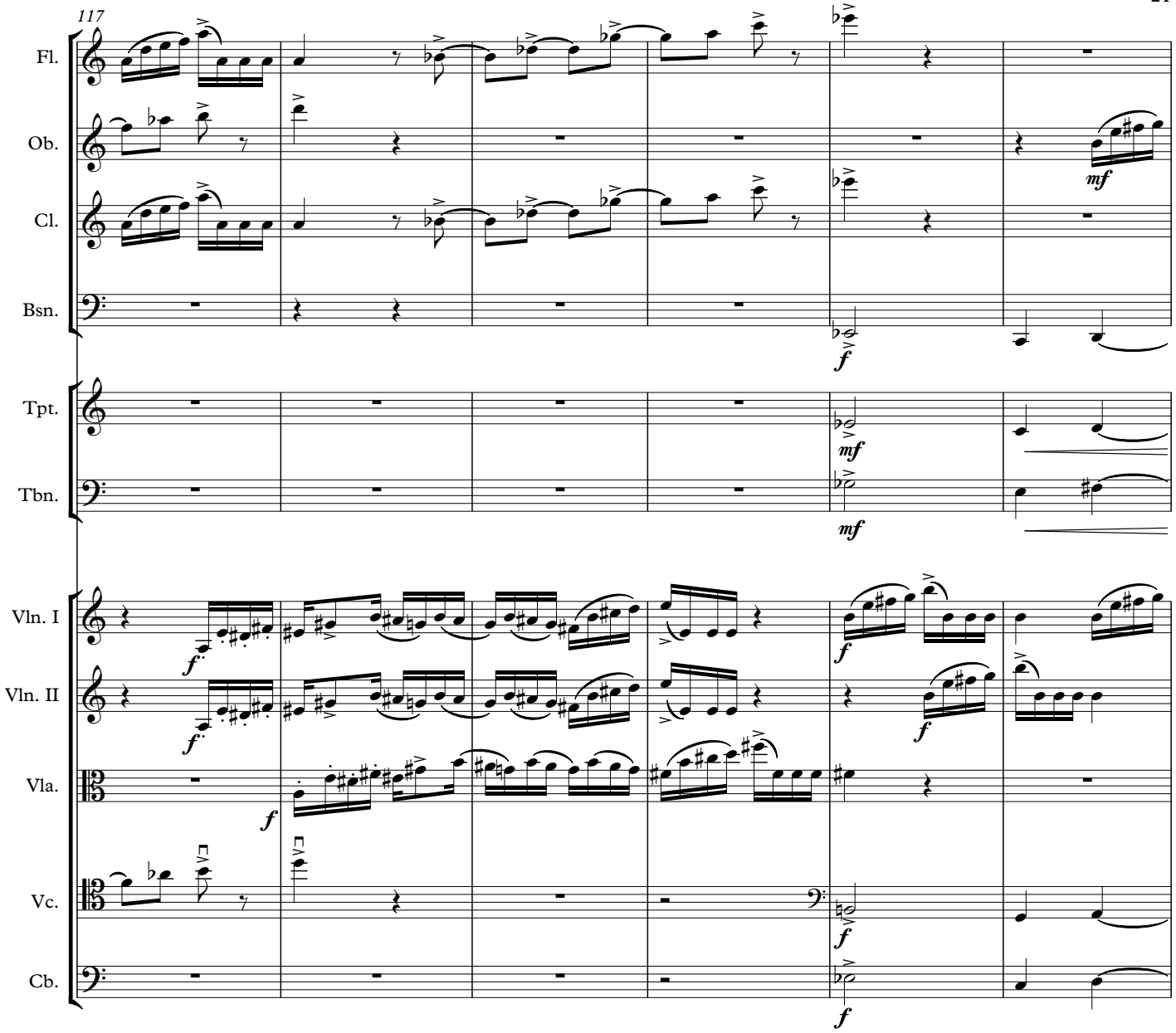

C
67
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
cup mute off
cup mute on
mute off
C
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
warm

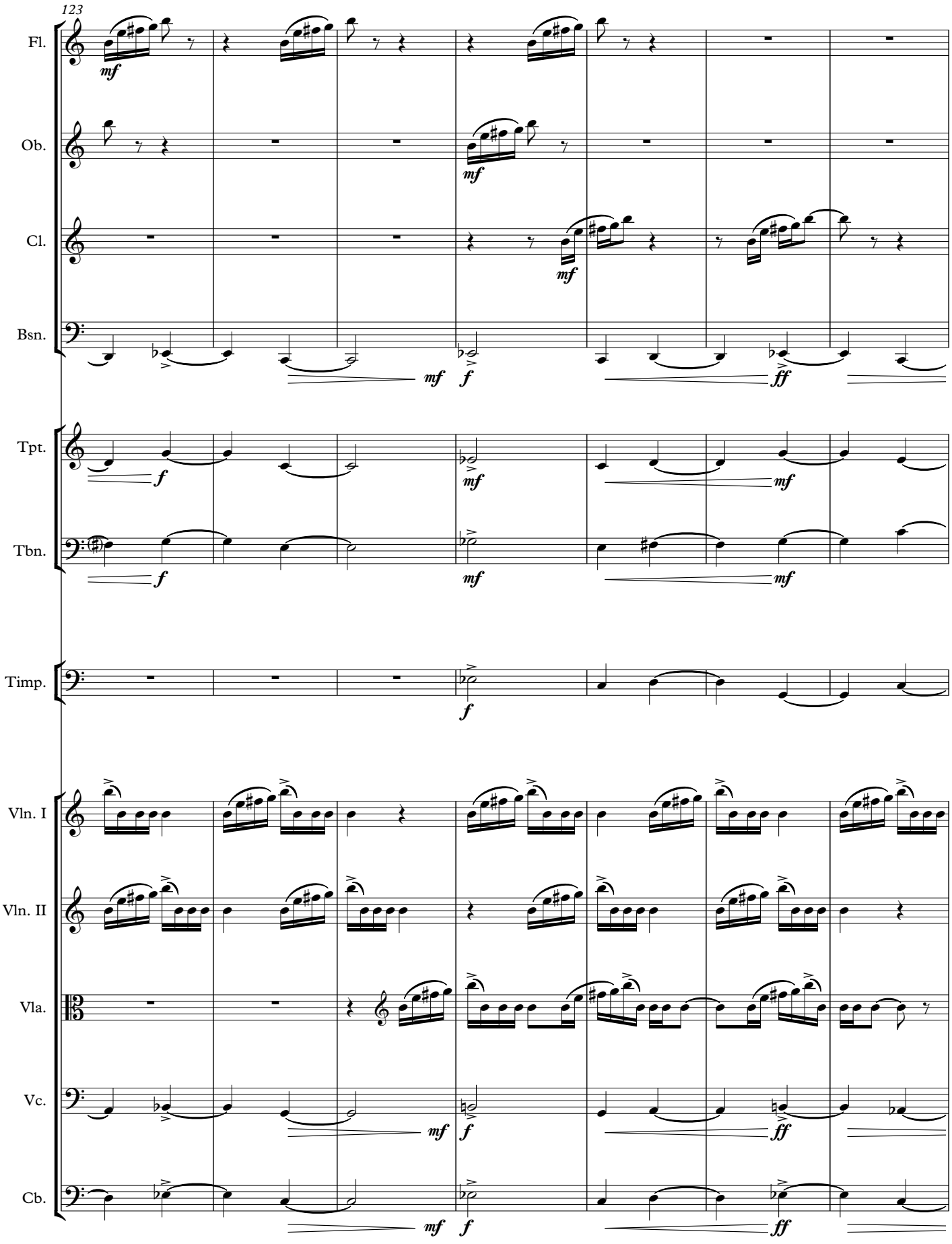

73
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
harmon mute on
mute off
ord.
melancholy

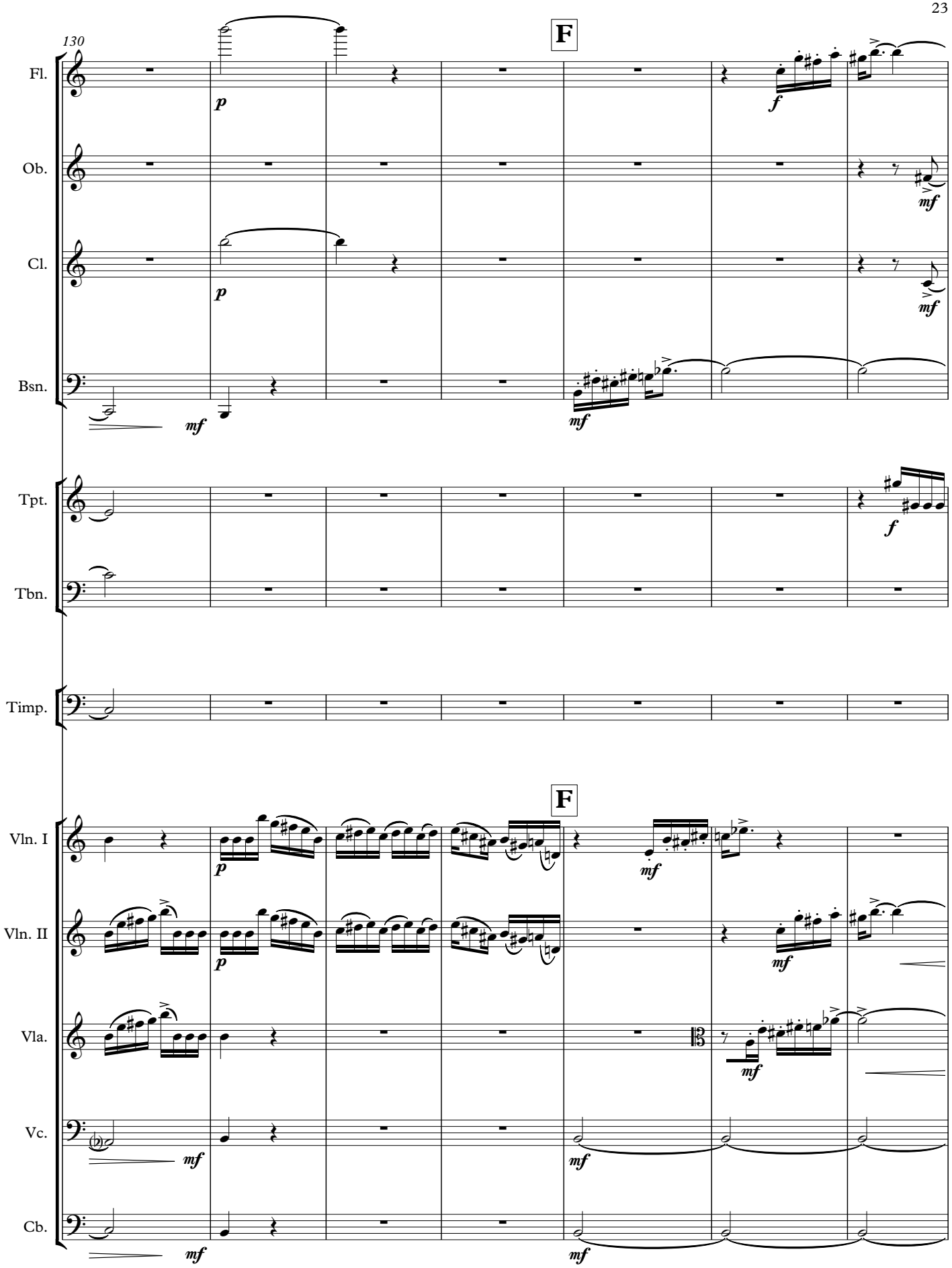

80
Fl.
Ob.
Tpt.
melancholy
Tbn.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
mf
f
p
86
♩= 90
pizz.
arco
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.

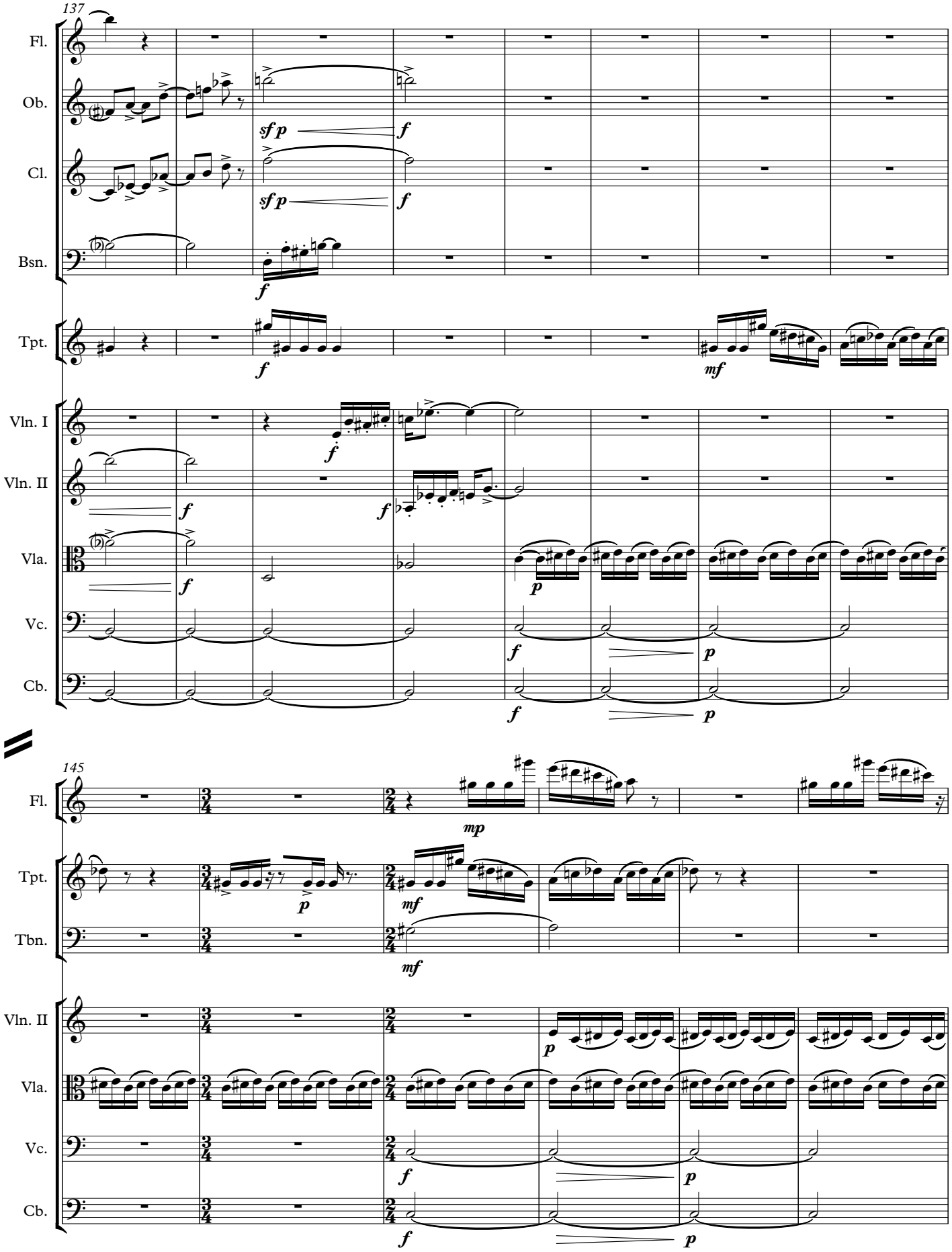

D
91
Frantic, quasi fugato
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vc.
Cb.
arco
98
Cl.
Vla.
104
Ob.
E

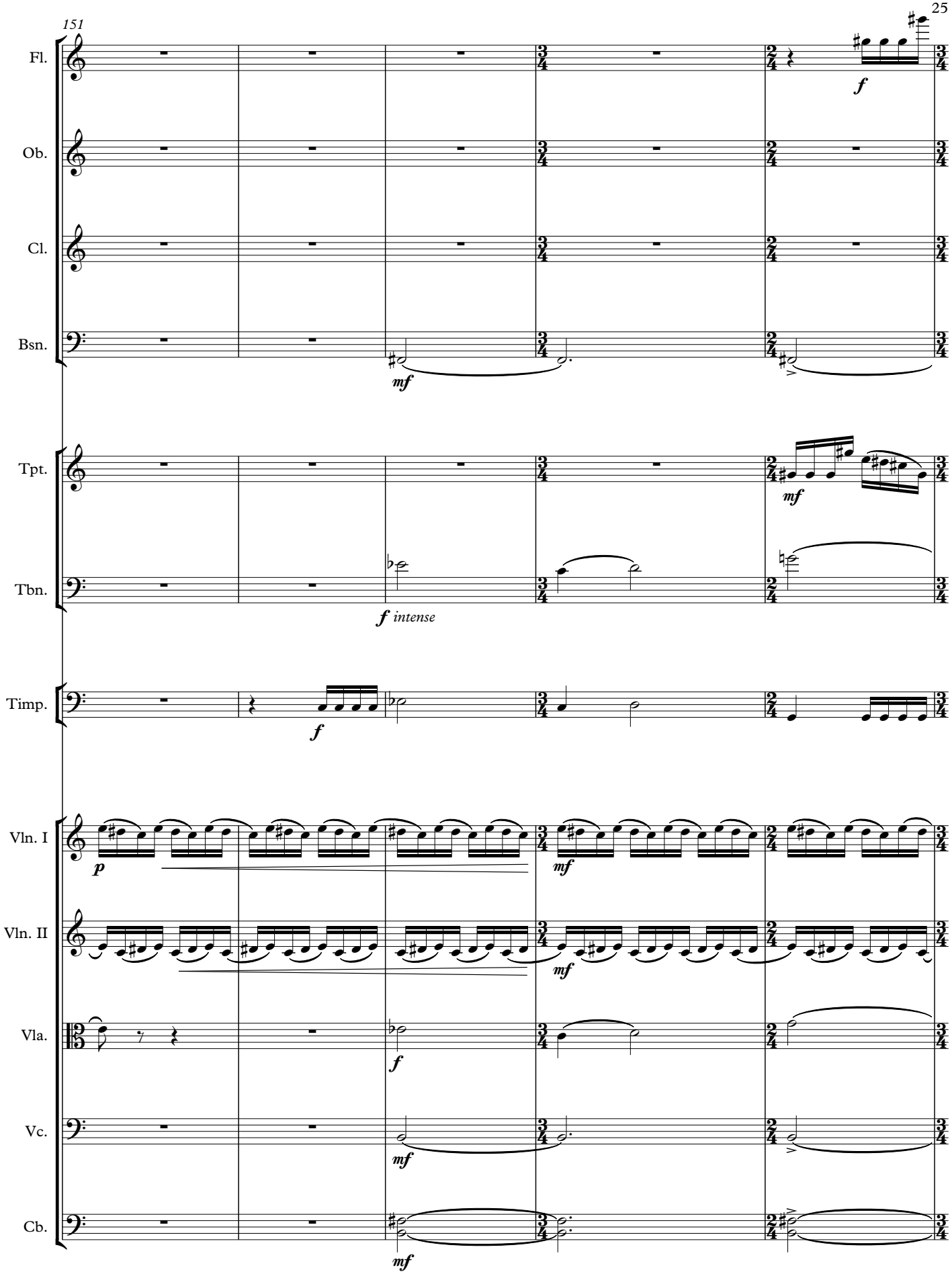

110
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
8va
8va
f

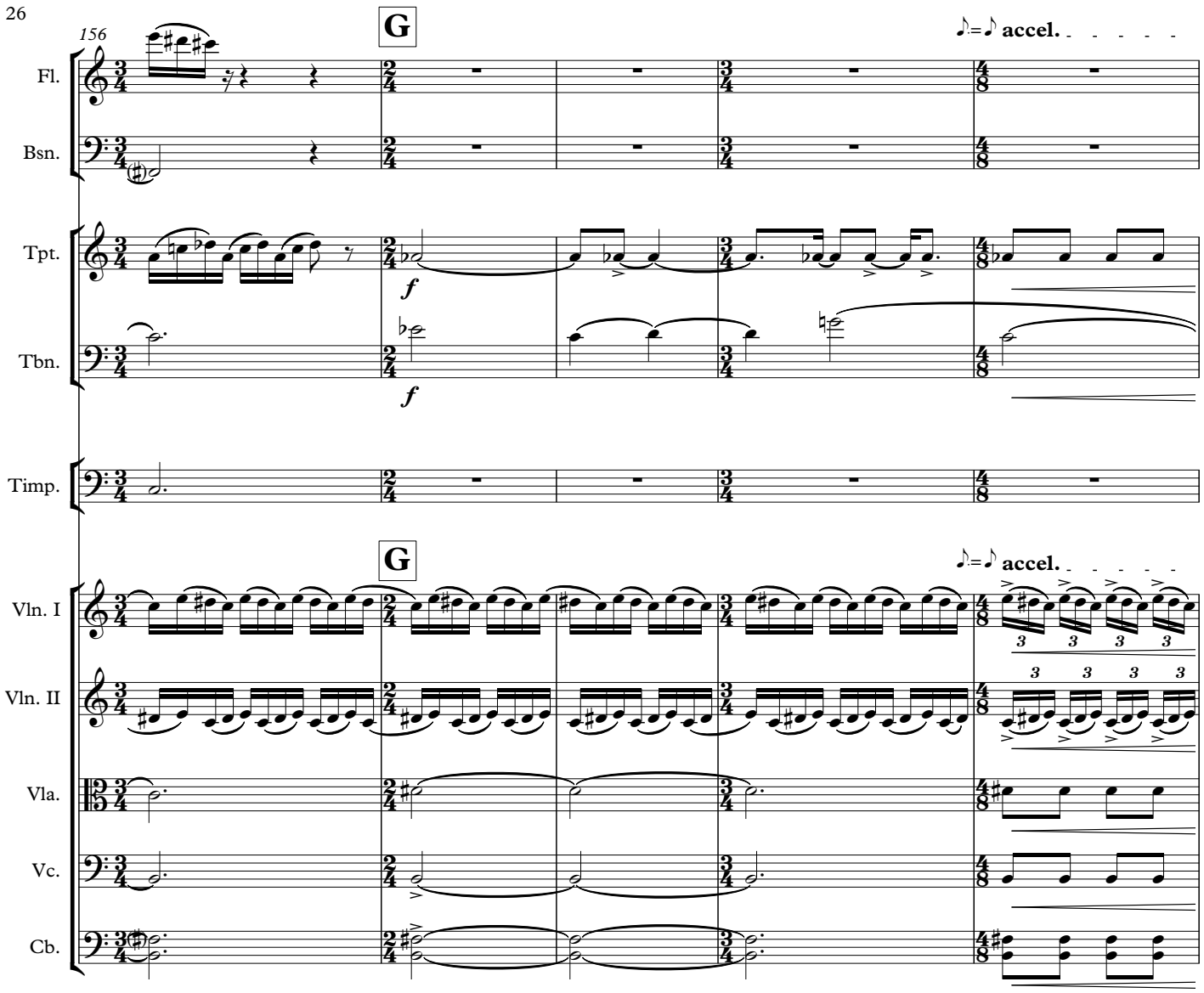

117
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf
f
mf
mf
f
f
f
f
f
f

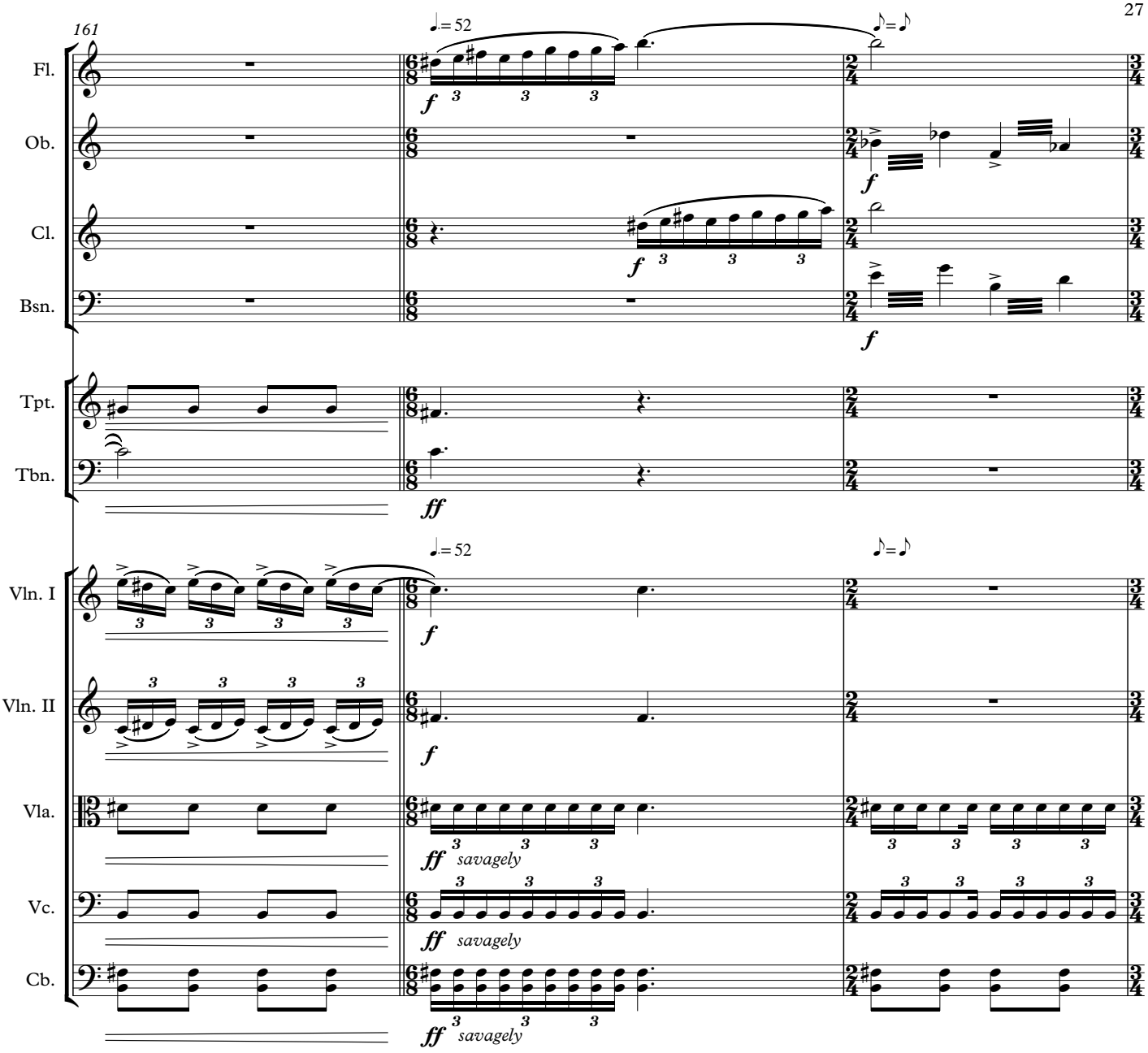

123
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf
f
ff

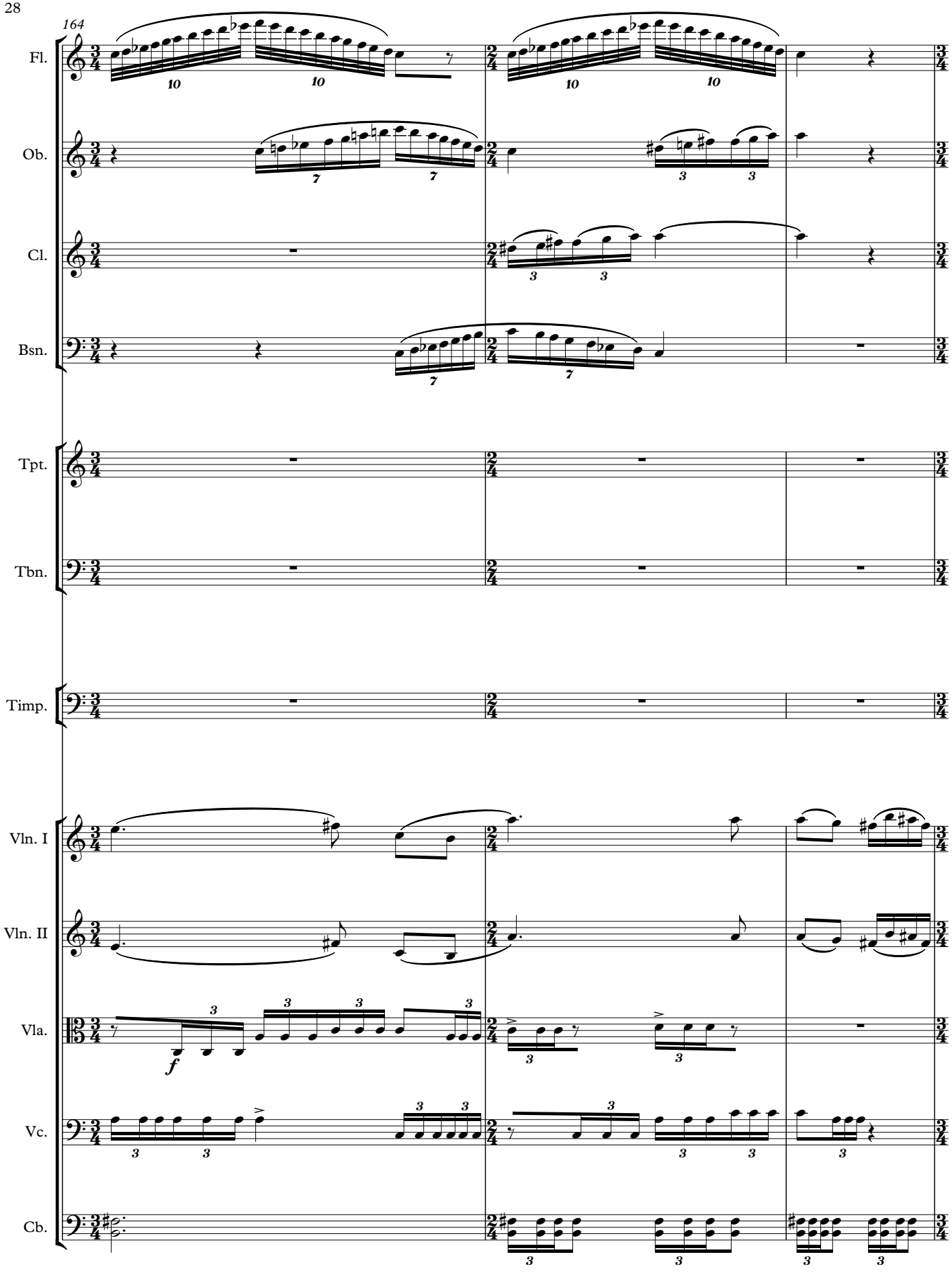

130
F
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
F
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p
mf
f

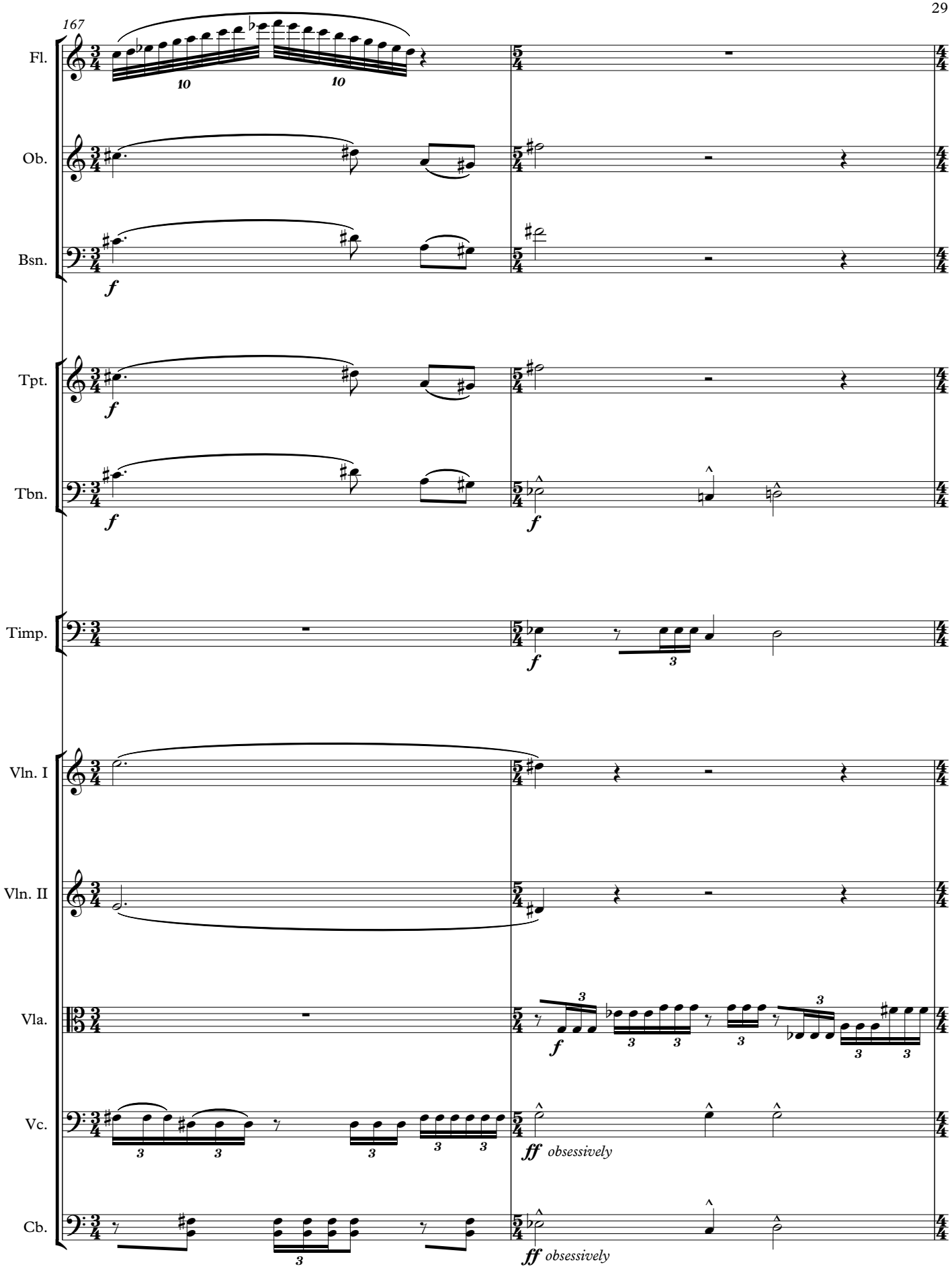

137
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
sf p
f
mf
p
145
Tbn.
mp

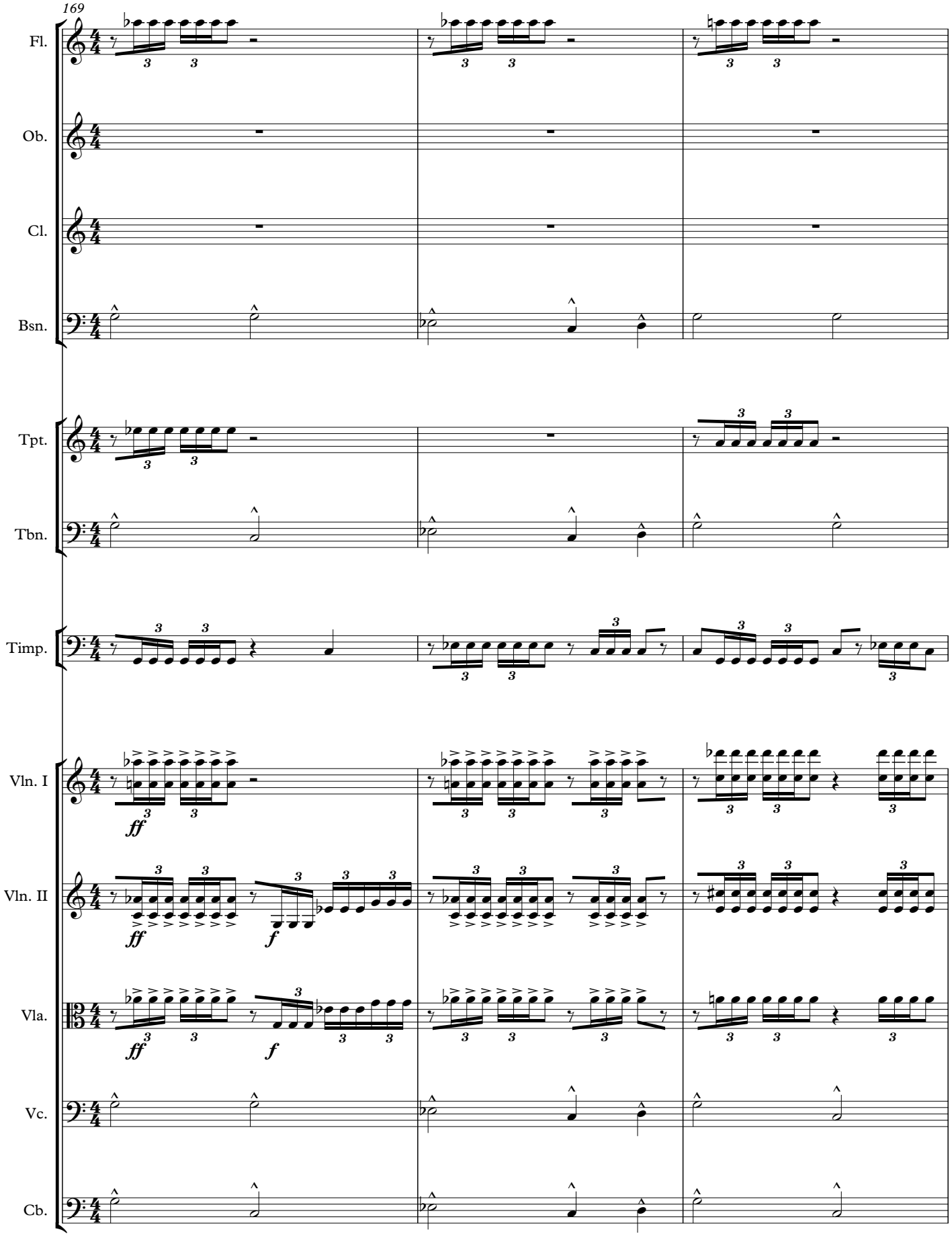

151
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
mf
p
f intense

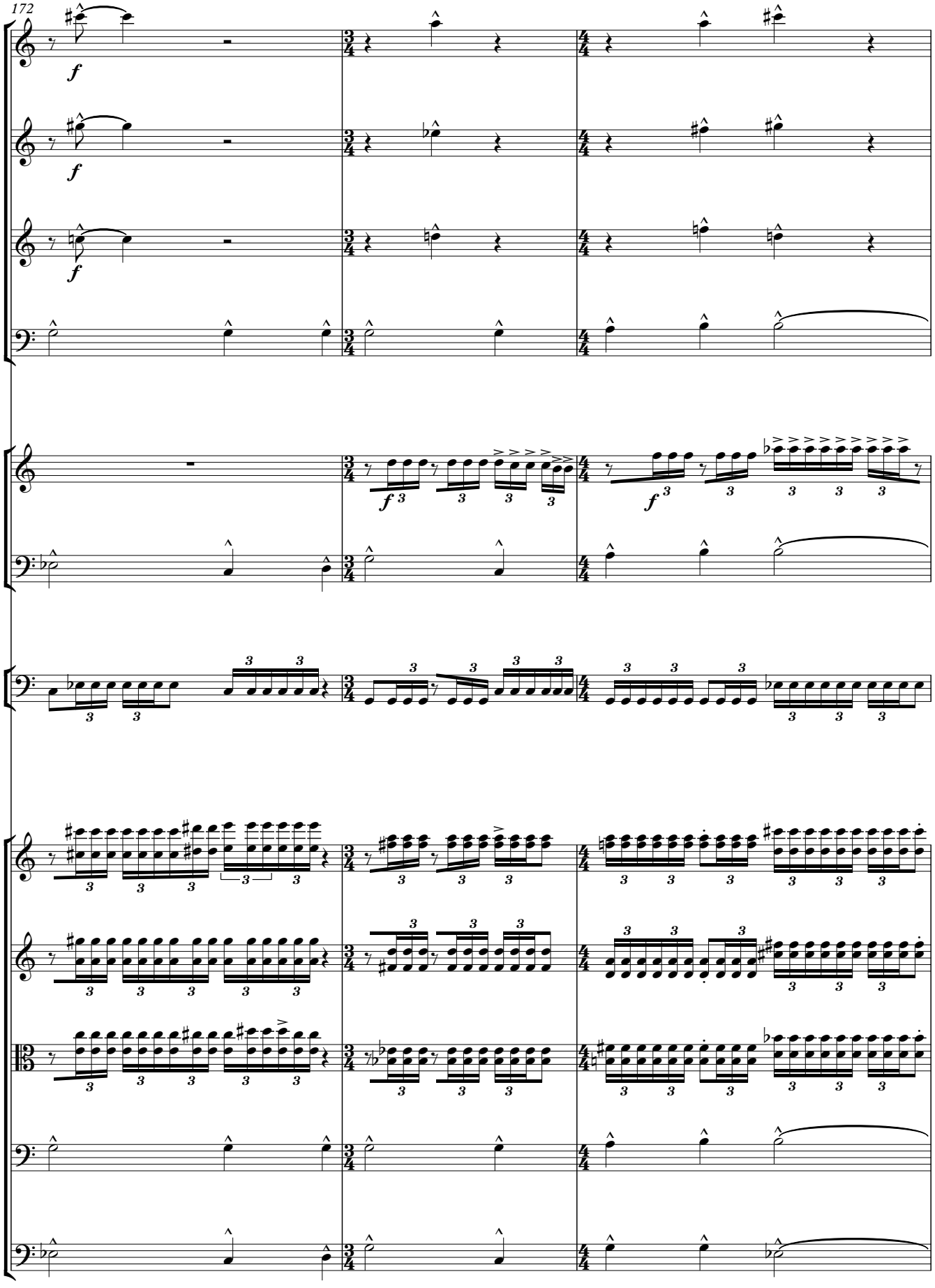

156
G
♪=♪ accel.
Fl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
f
f
Timp.
G
♪=♪ accel.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

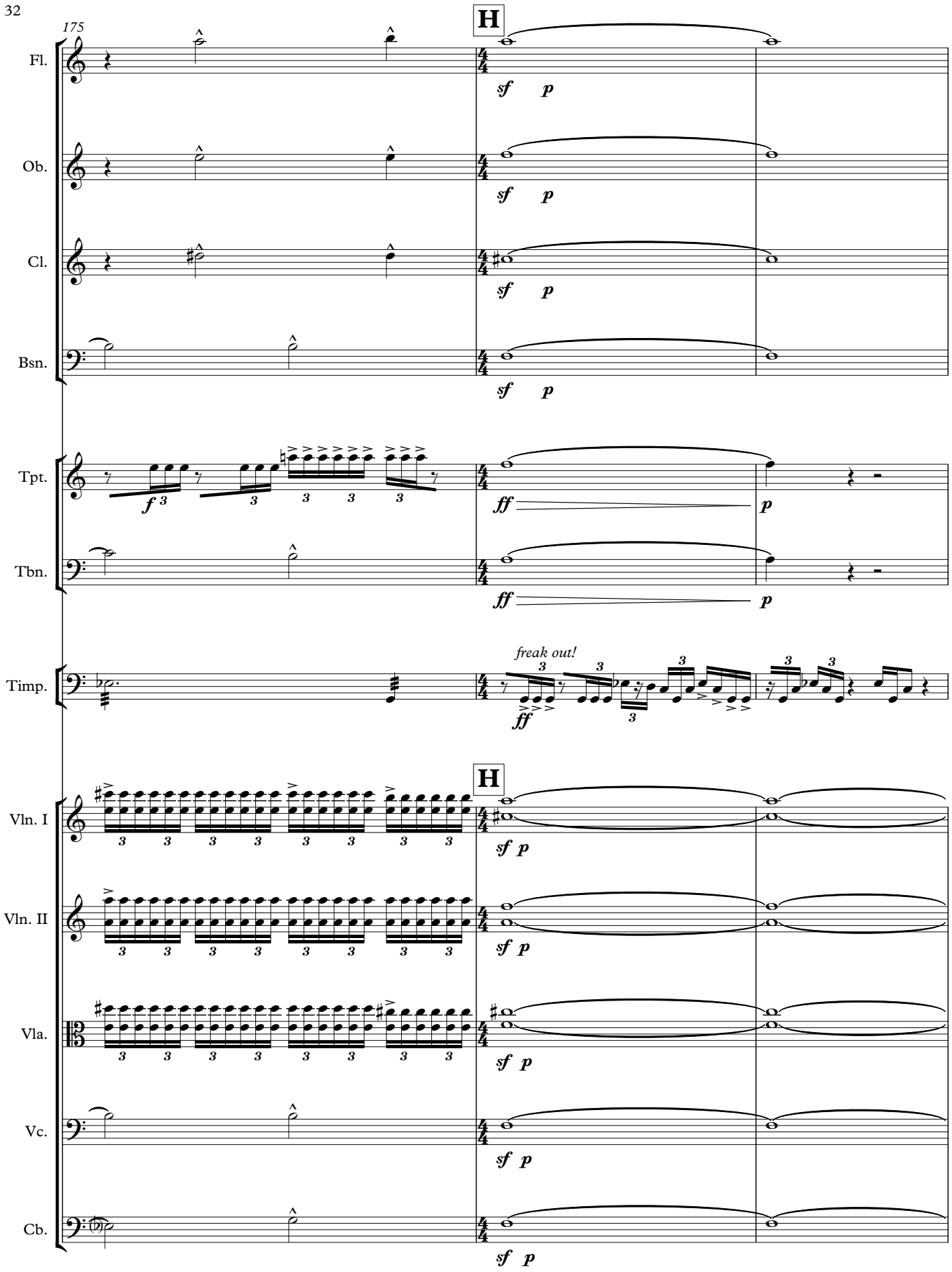

161
♩= 52
♪= ♪
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
ff
savagely

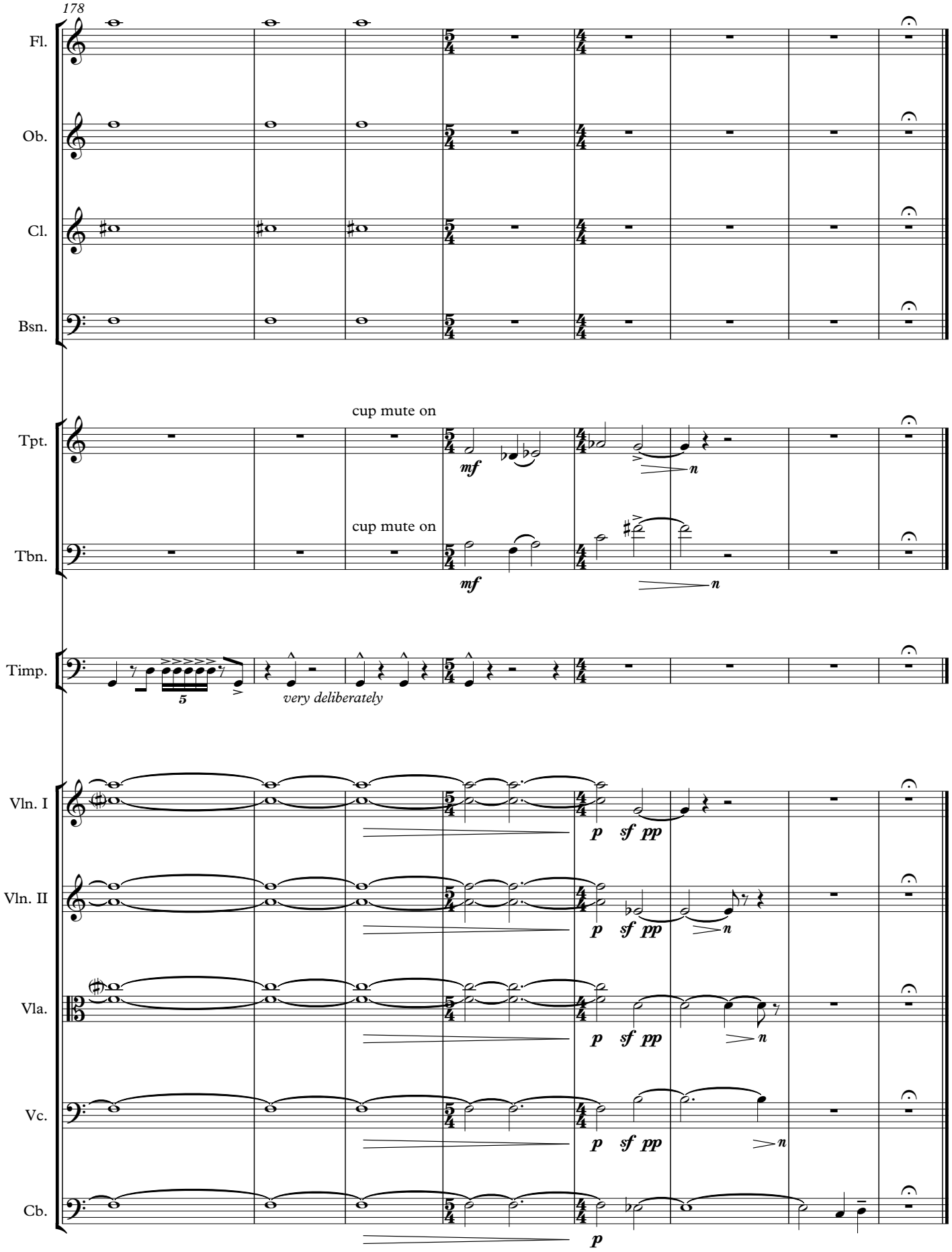

164
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f


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