String Quartet No. 3

…the mood of an autumn afternoon when the weather is clear
but the shadows are longer than in summer.

My third quartet was begun in 1985 at the request of Brian Lloyd who wanted a work that would include African-American tunes. Several drafts were laid aside. Then, in 1992, the material finally coalesced into an integral three-movement cycle uniting diverse harmonic and rhythmic procedures.

The first movement is based on a traditional African-American Lament used at funerals and solemn occasions:

"I stood outside the gate
They would not let me in,
I prayed to my good Lord
To cleanse me of all sin."

Varied tonal settings of the tune, in C major, are conflicted with non-tonal episodes. An "expanding" phrase in F major initiates a coda that includes, as a peroration, another setting of the *Lament*.

The second movement, *Games*, dramatizes the evolution of a scale of nine and then of eight chromatic tones derived from non-tonal material of the first movement. Playful and energetic scale games lead to a triumphant setting of the tune "I Believe I'll Go Back Home" (theme of The Prodigal Son), ultimately contradicted with a mechanically generated disintegration- *se détacher du jeu*.

The last movement, *Hymn*, begins with settings of "In Bright Mansions Above." Leave-taking involves a gradual transformation and then an irrevocable dissolution of the hymn.

I. Lament.....p. 3 10+ minutes

II. Games.....p. 16 8 minutes

III. Hymn.....p. 46 7'41"

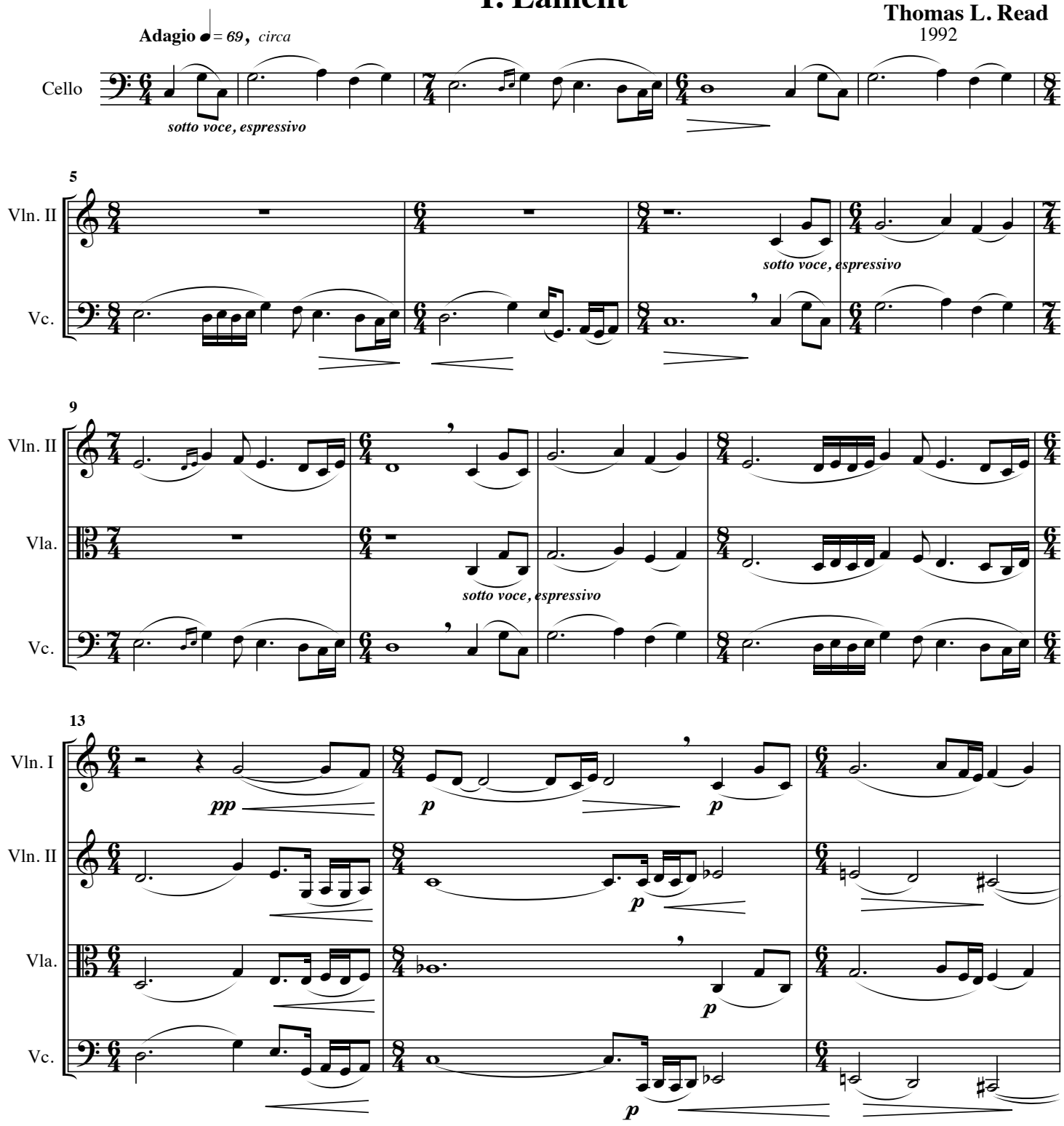
Performance time: 26-27 minutes

for Brian Lloyd

STRING QUARTET No. 3

I. Lament

Thomas L. Read
1992



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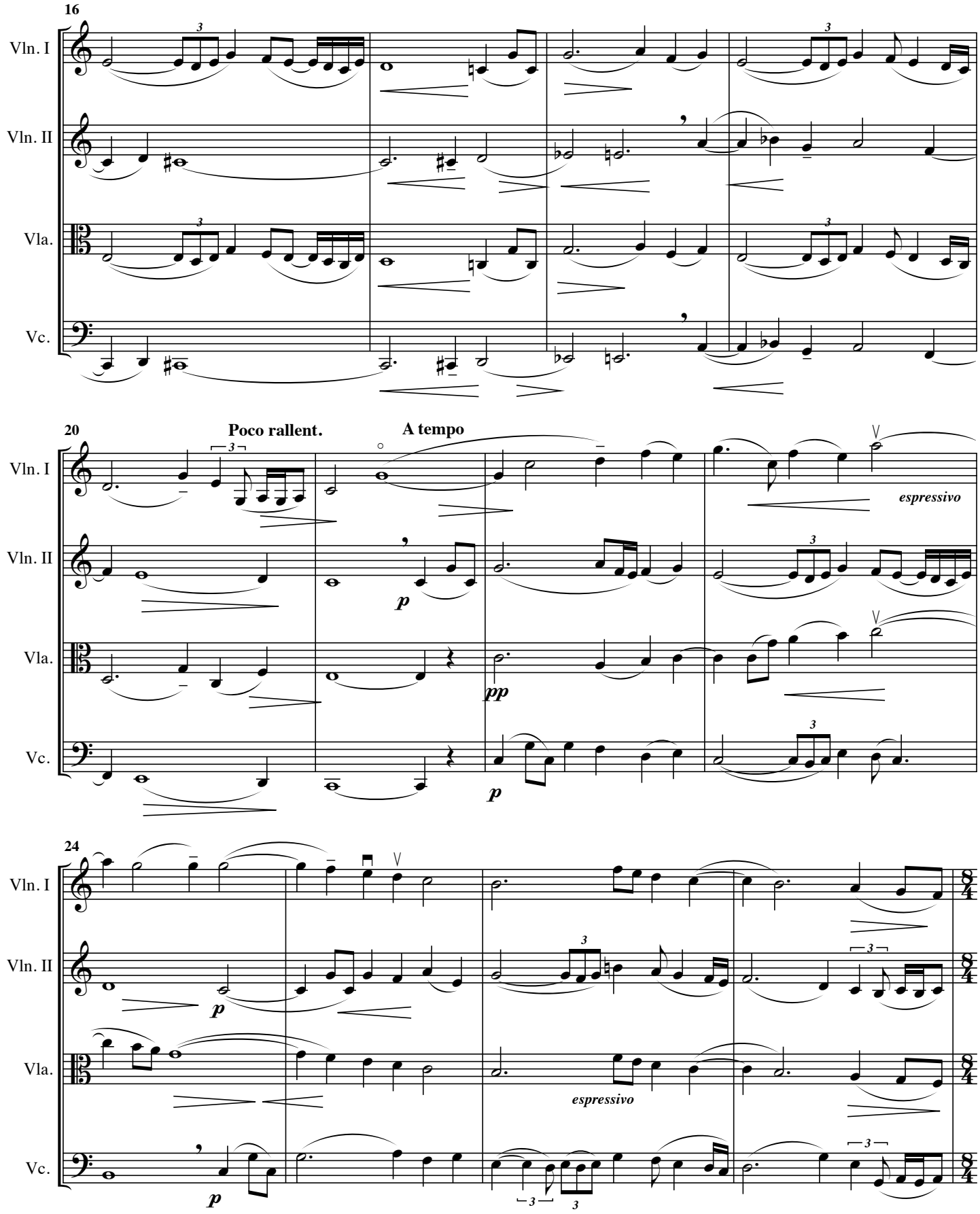
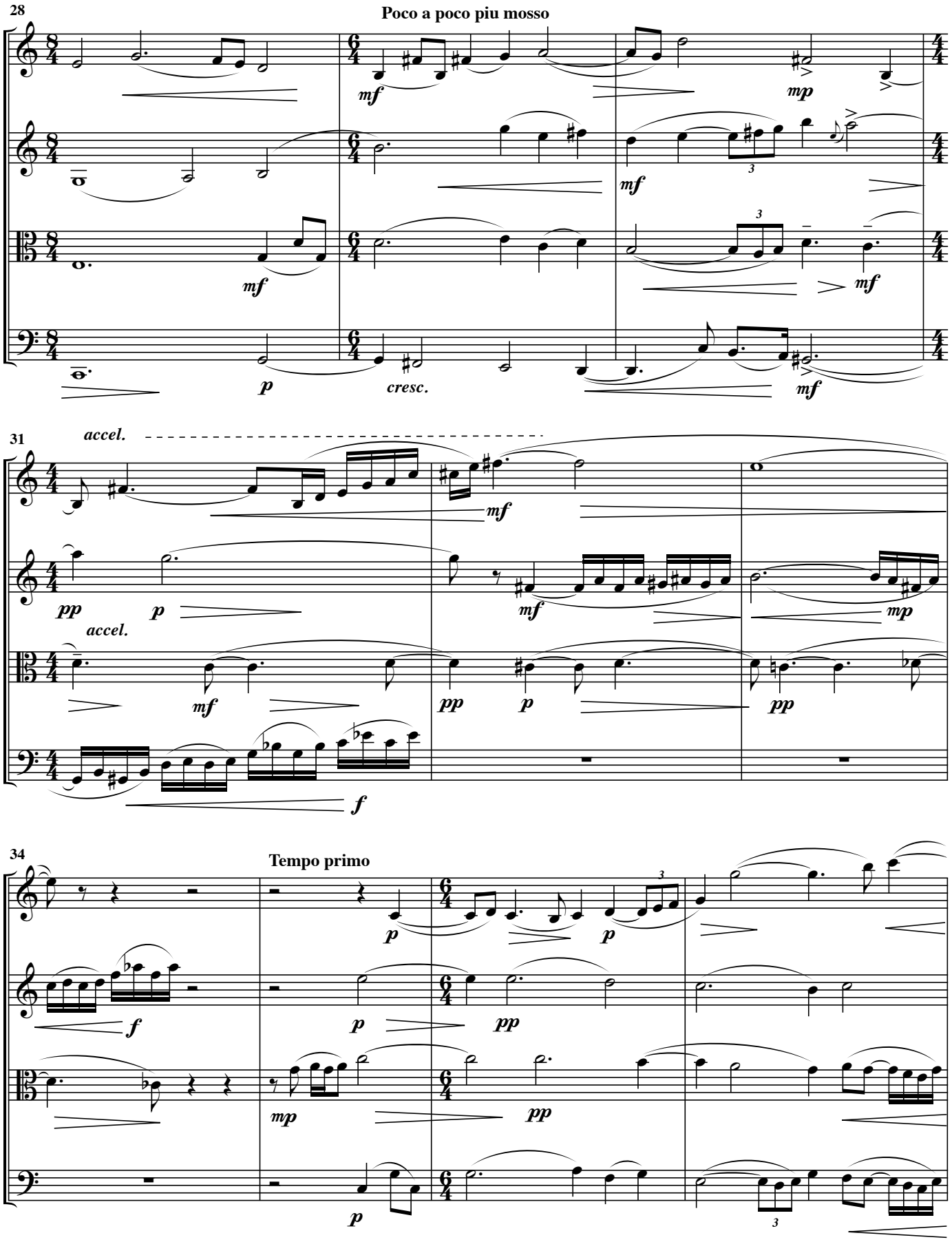
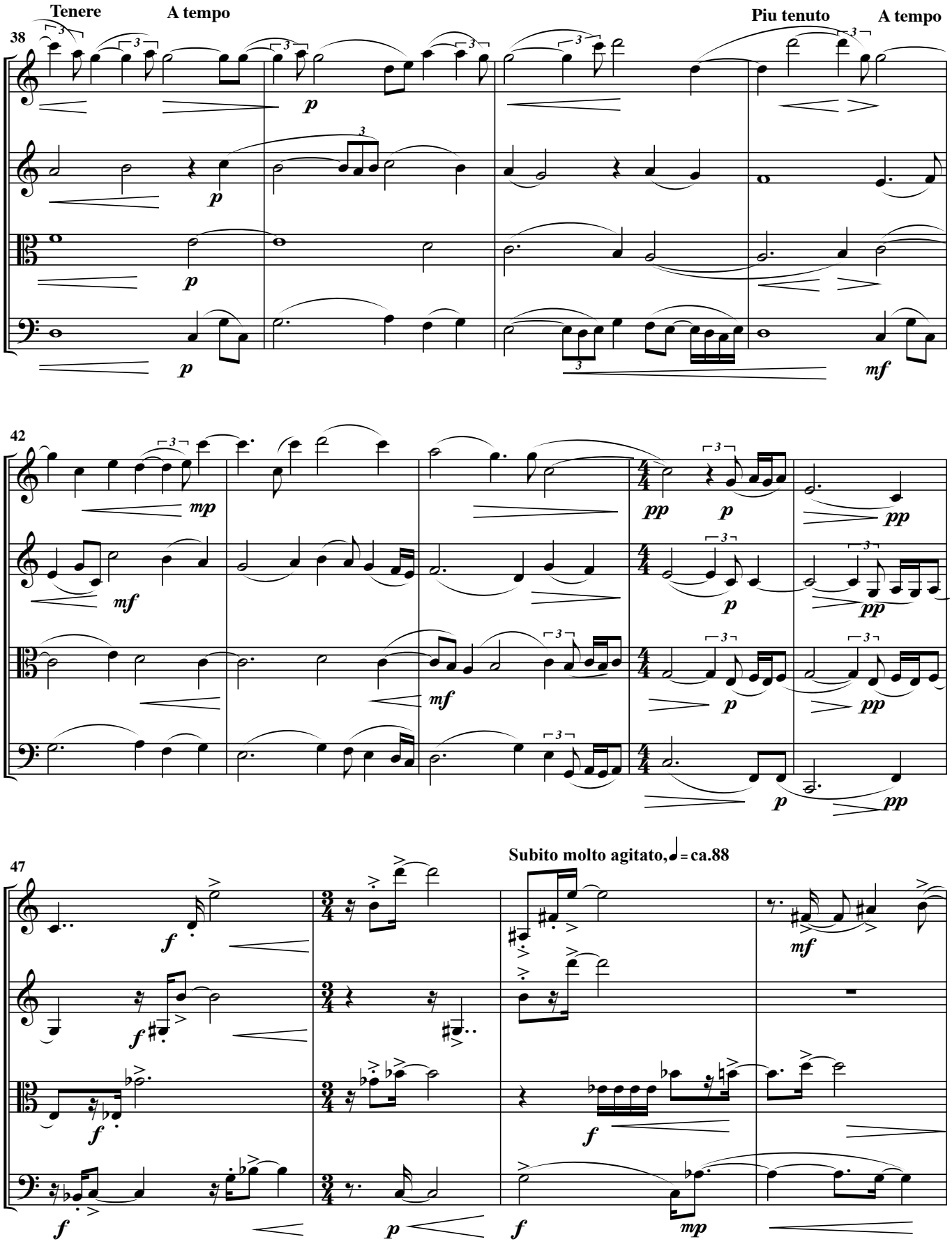
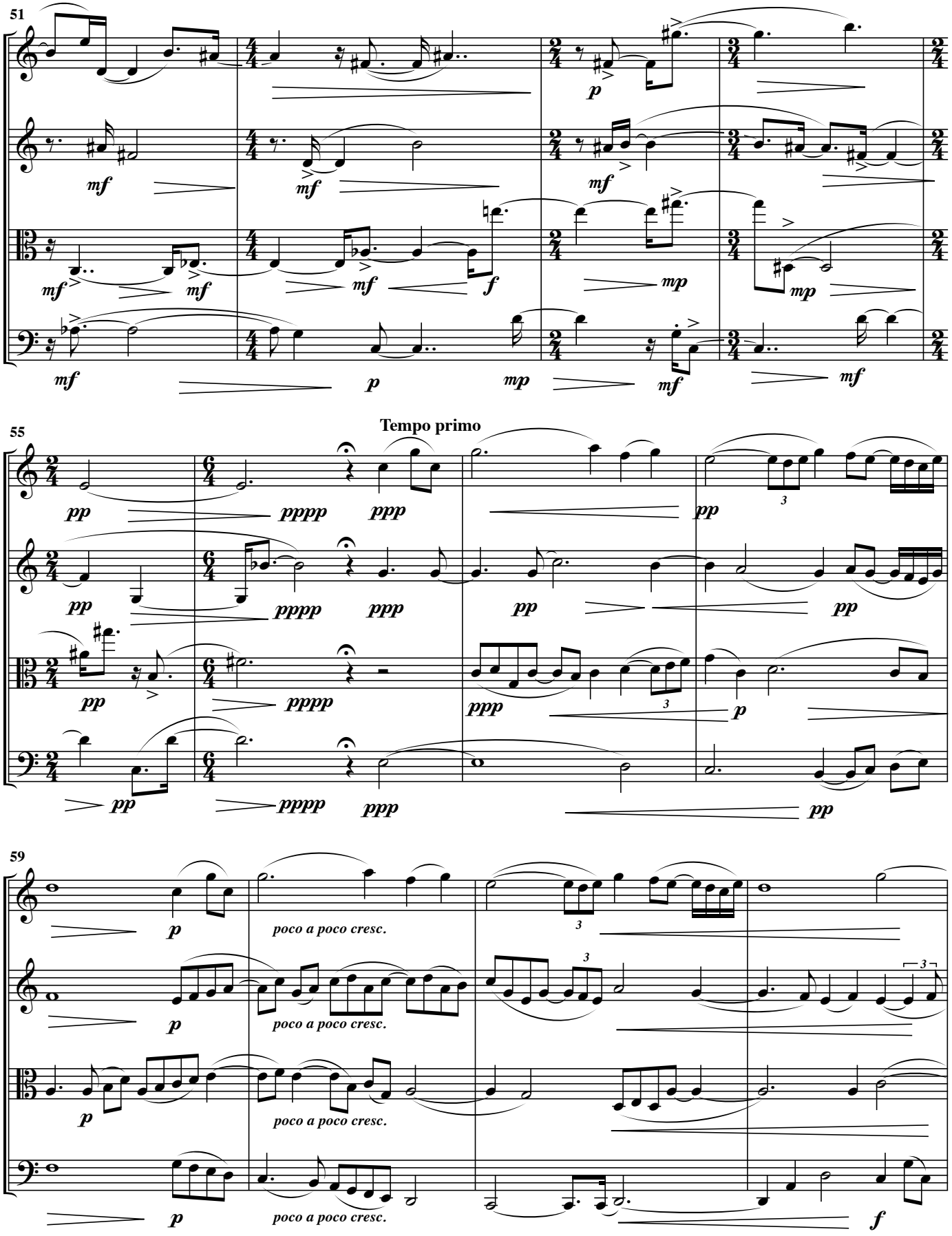
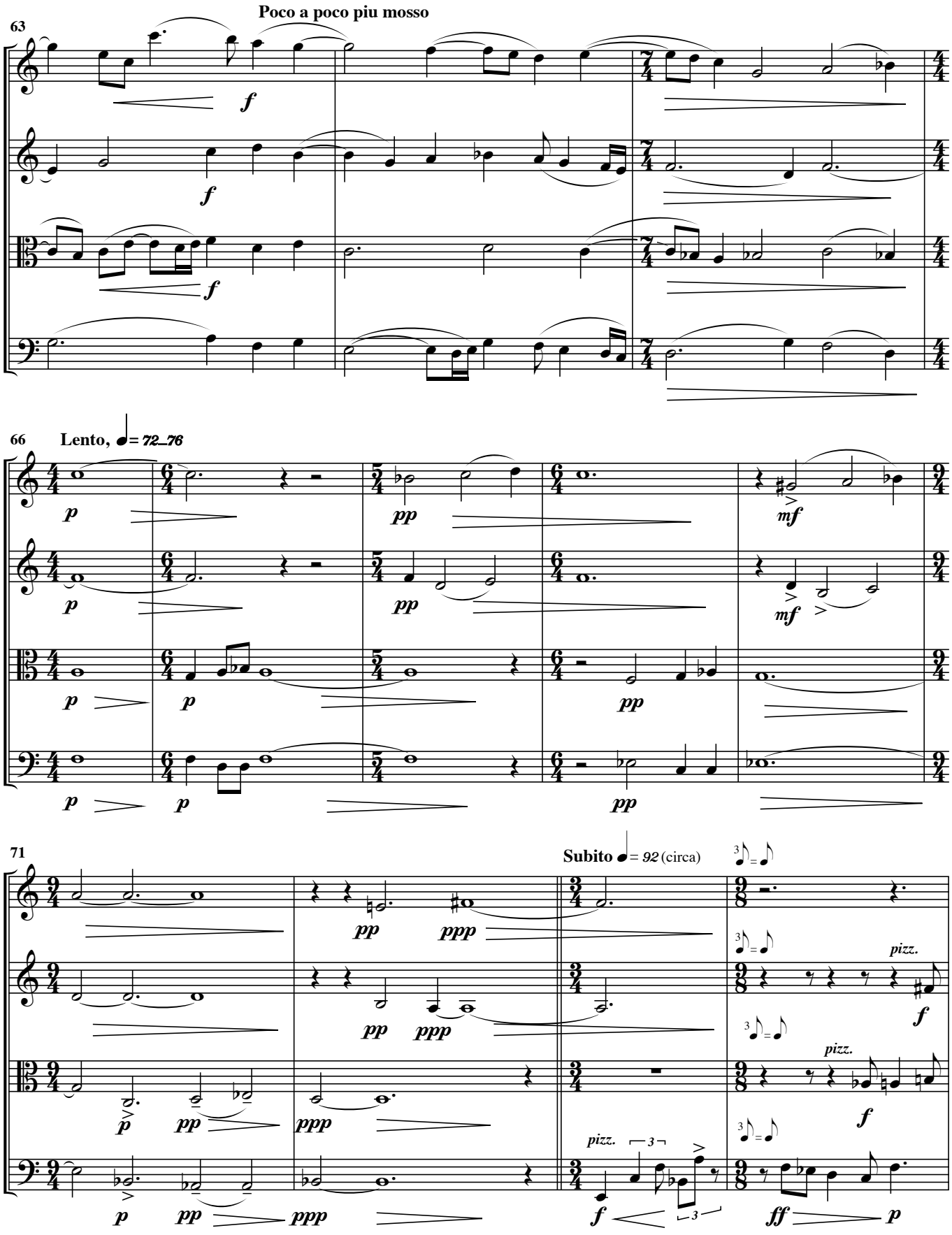
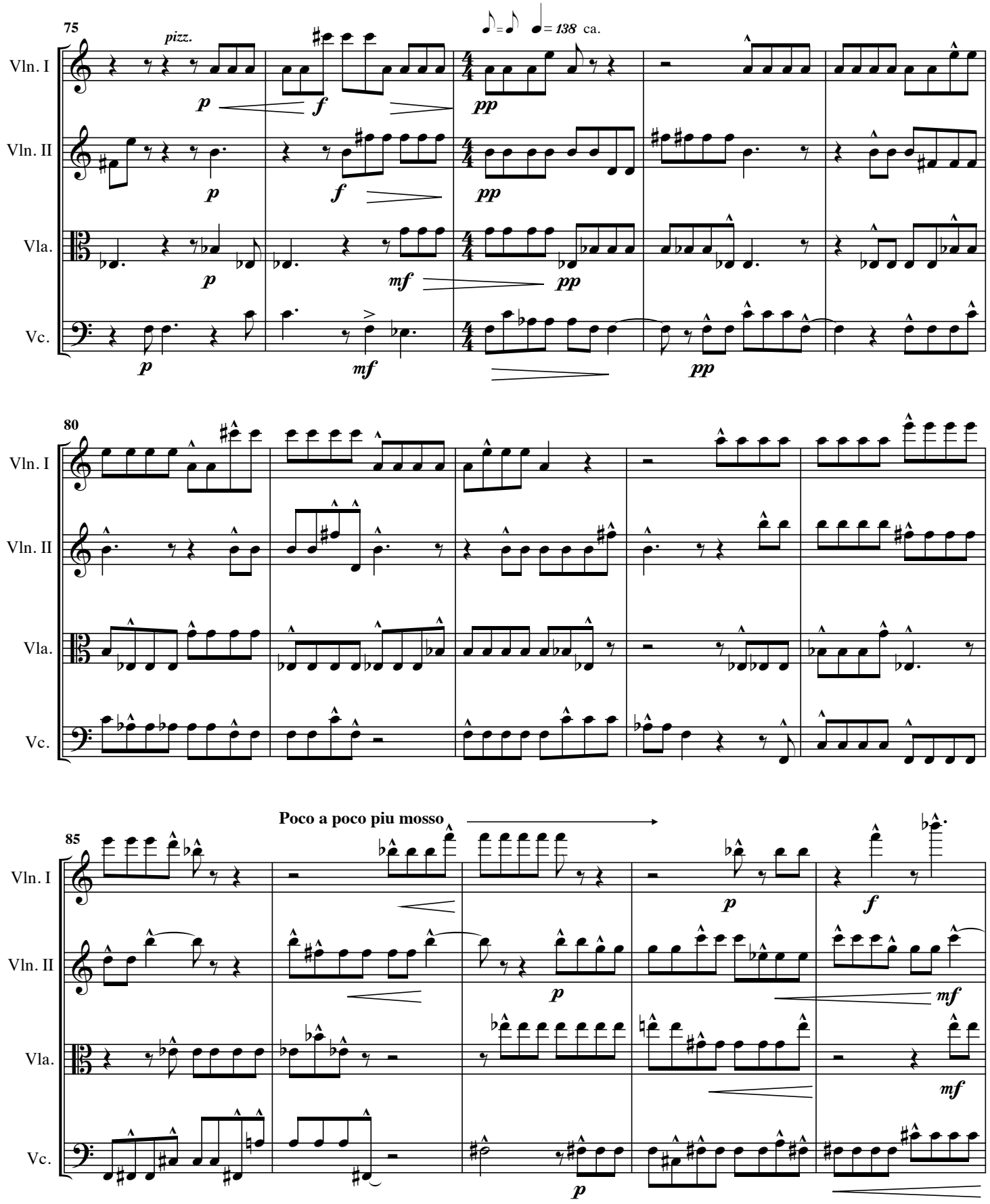

16
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
20
Poco rallent.
A tempo
espressivo
p
pp
24
espressivo

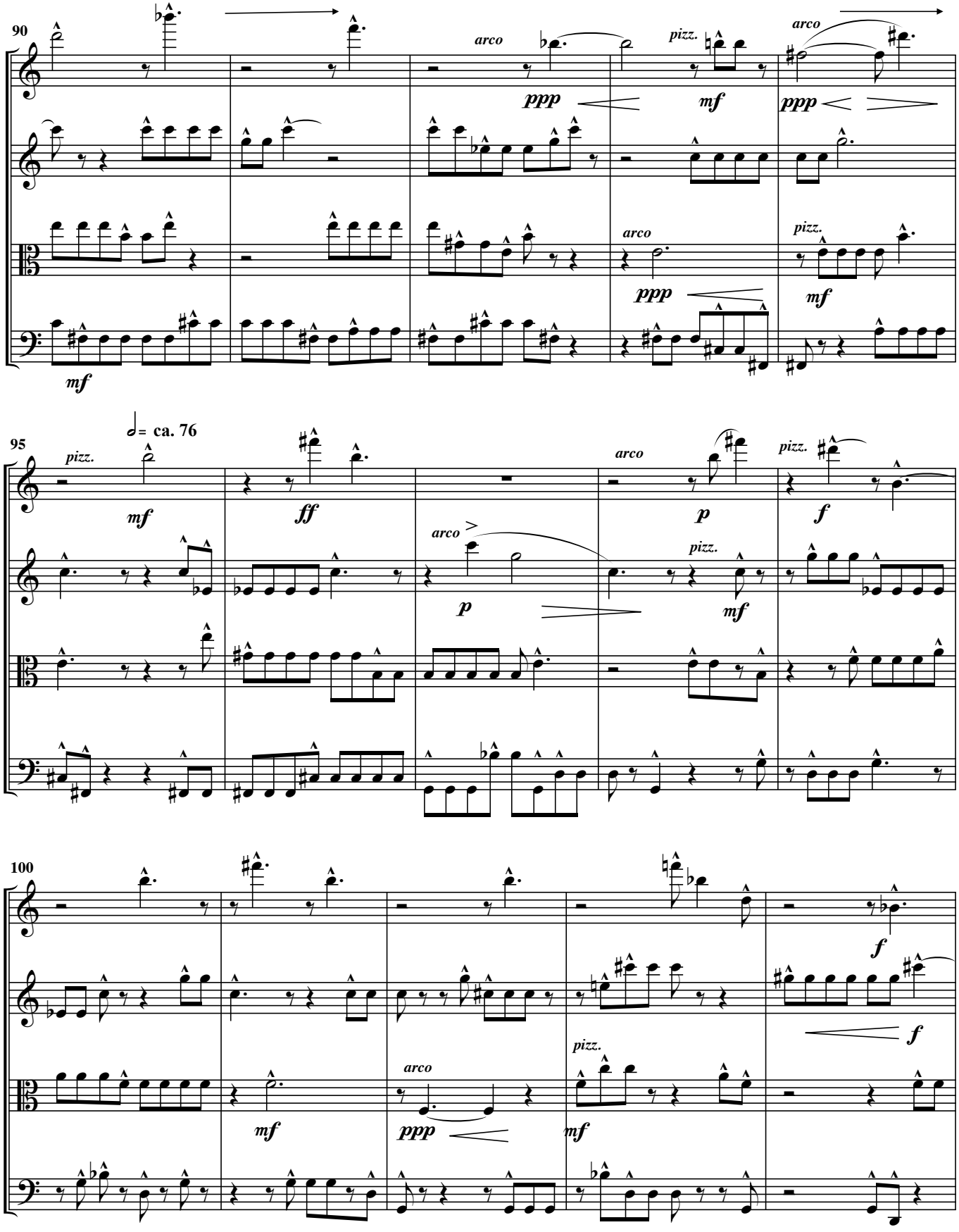

28
Poco a poco piu mosso
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
mp
mf
mf
p
cresc.
mf
31
accel.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
pp
p
accel.
mf
mp
mf
pp
p
pp
f
34
Tempo primo
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
p
f
p
pp
mp
pp
p

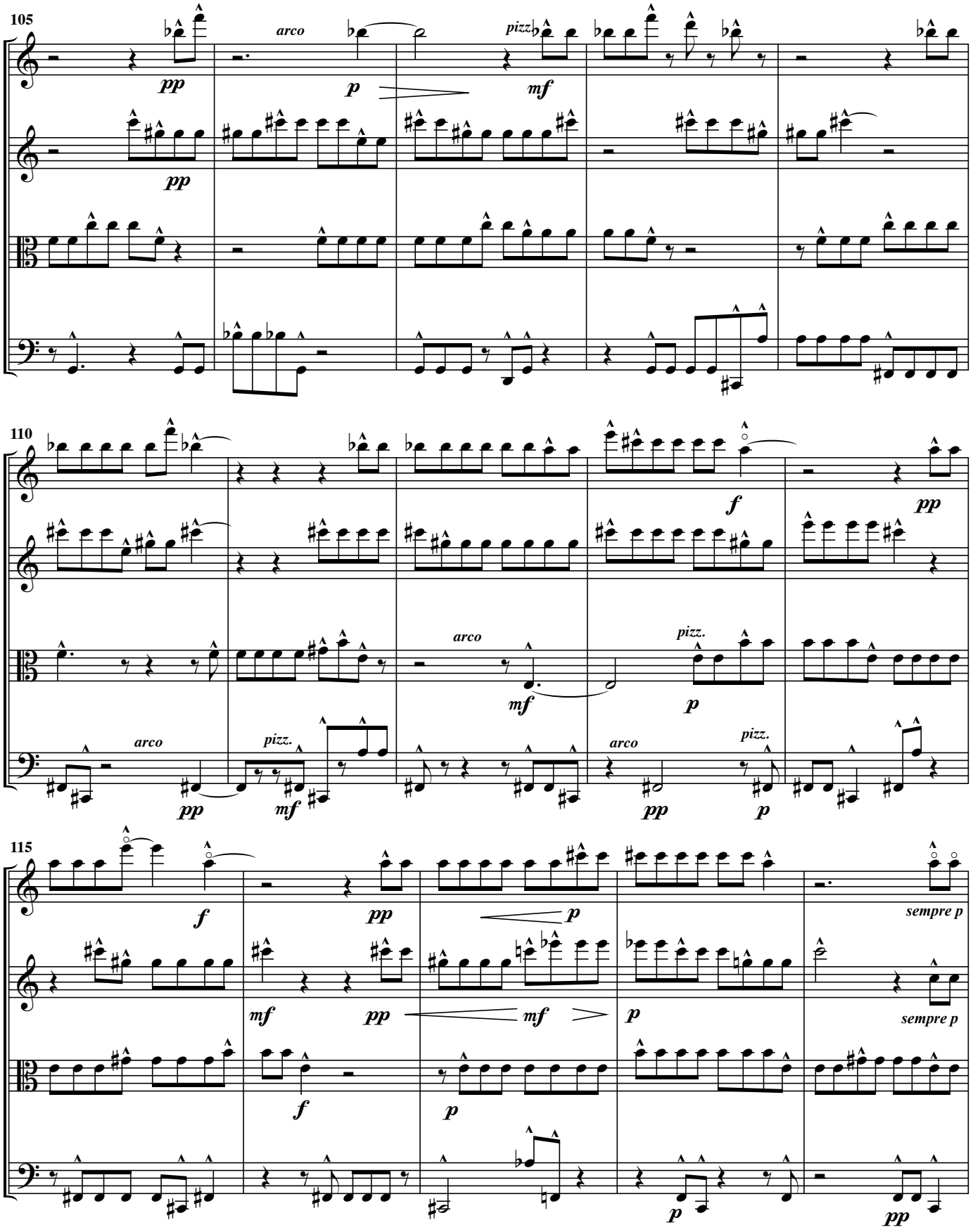

Tenere
A tempo
Piu tenuto
A tempo
38
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
42
47
Subito molto agitato, ♩= ca.88

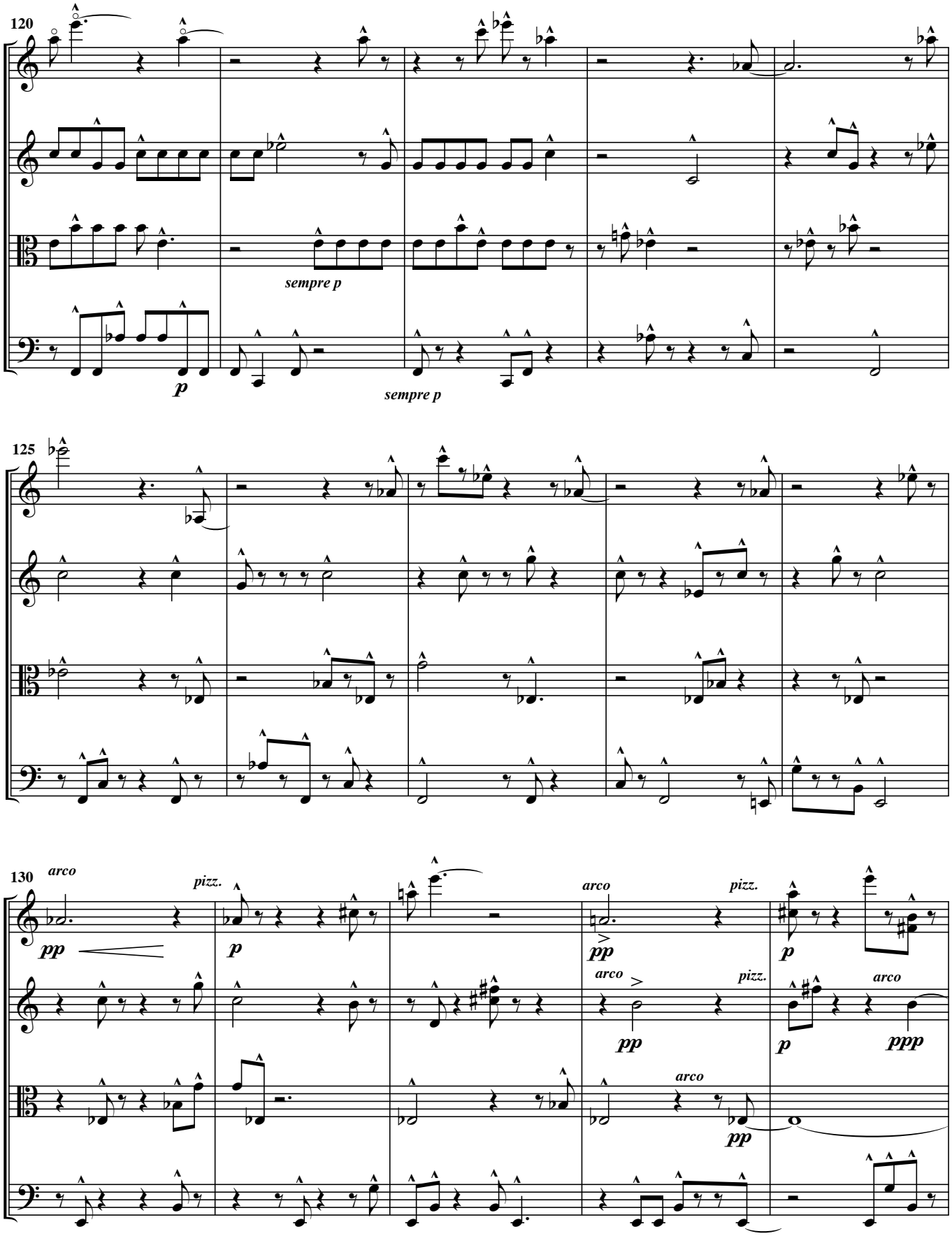

51
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
p
mp
f
55
Tempo primo
pp
pppp
ppp
59
poco a poco cresc.
3
f

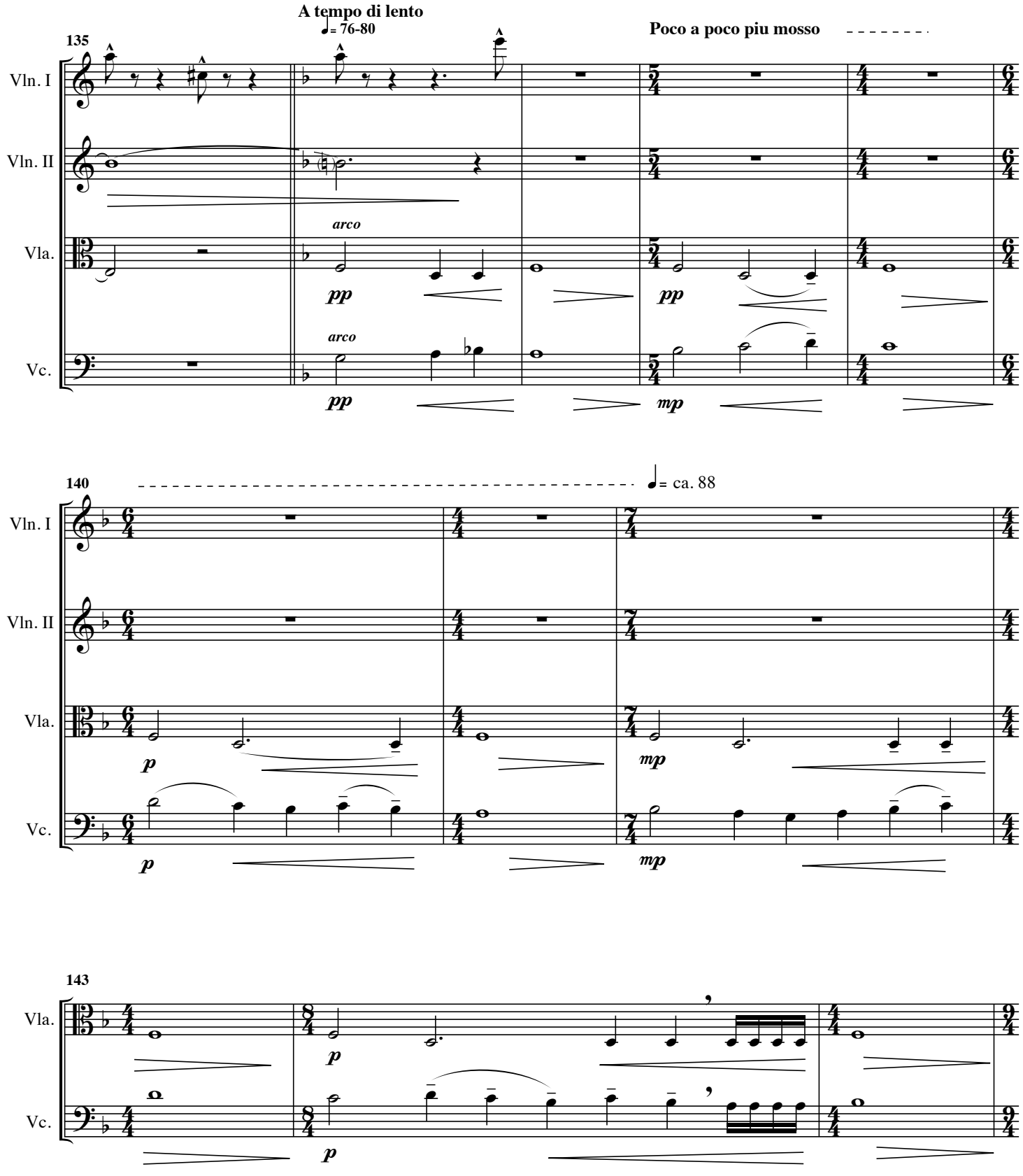

Poco a poco piu mosso
63
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
66
Lento, ♩= 72–76
71
Subito ♩= 92 (circa)
pizz.

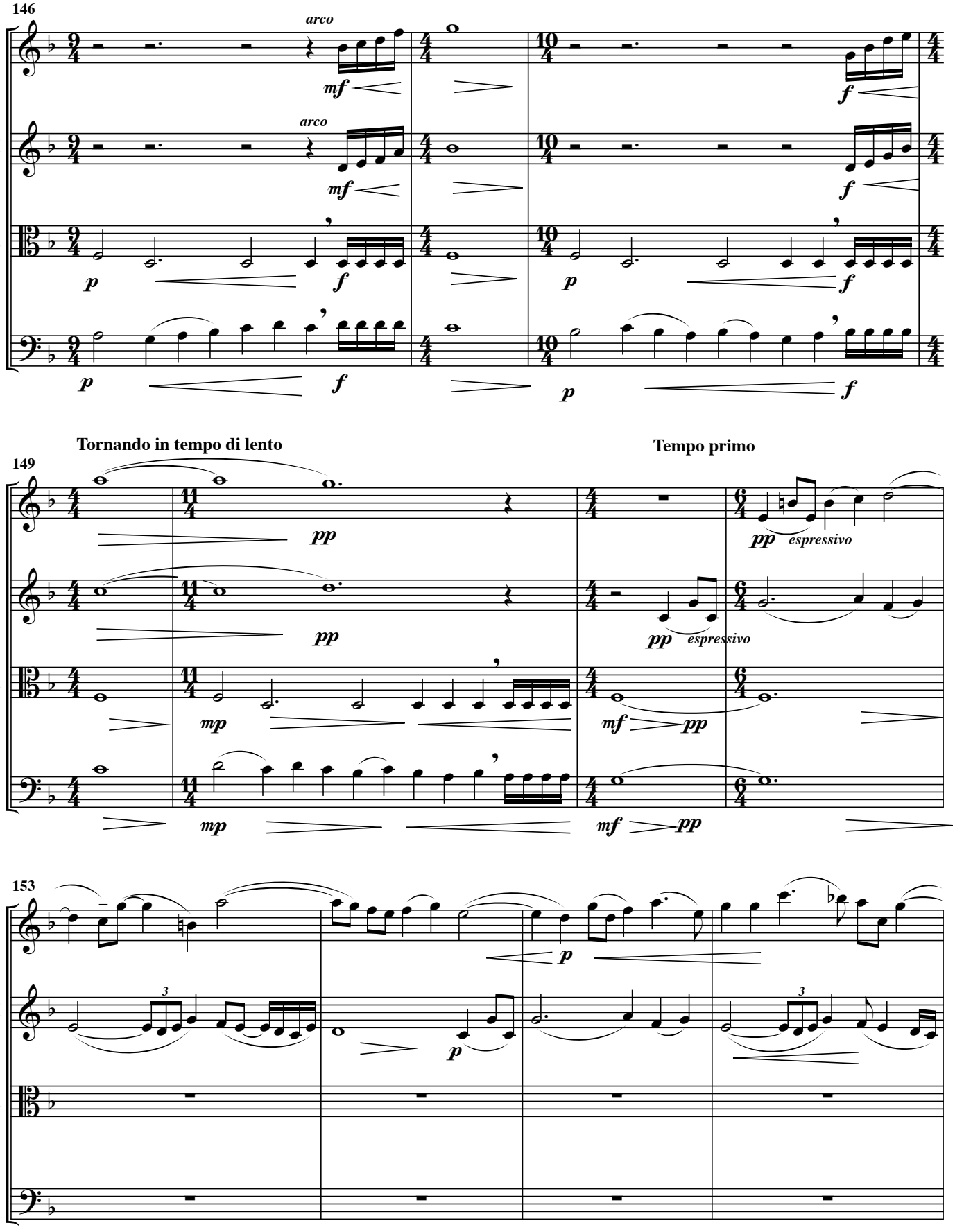

75
pizz.
♪ = ♪ ♩ = 138 ca.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
f
pp
mf
80
Poco a poco piu mosso
85

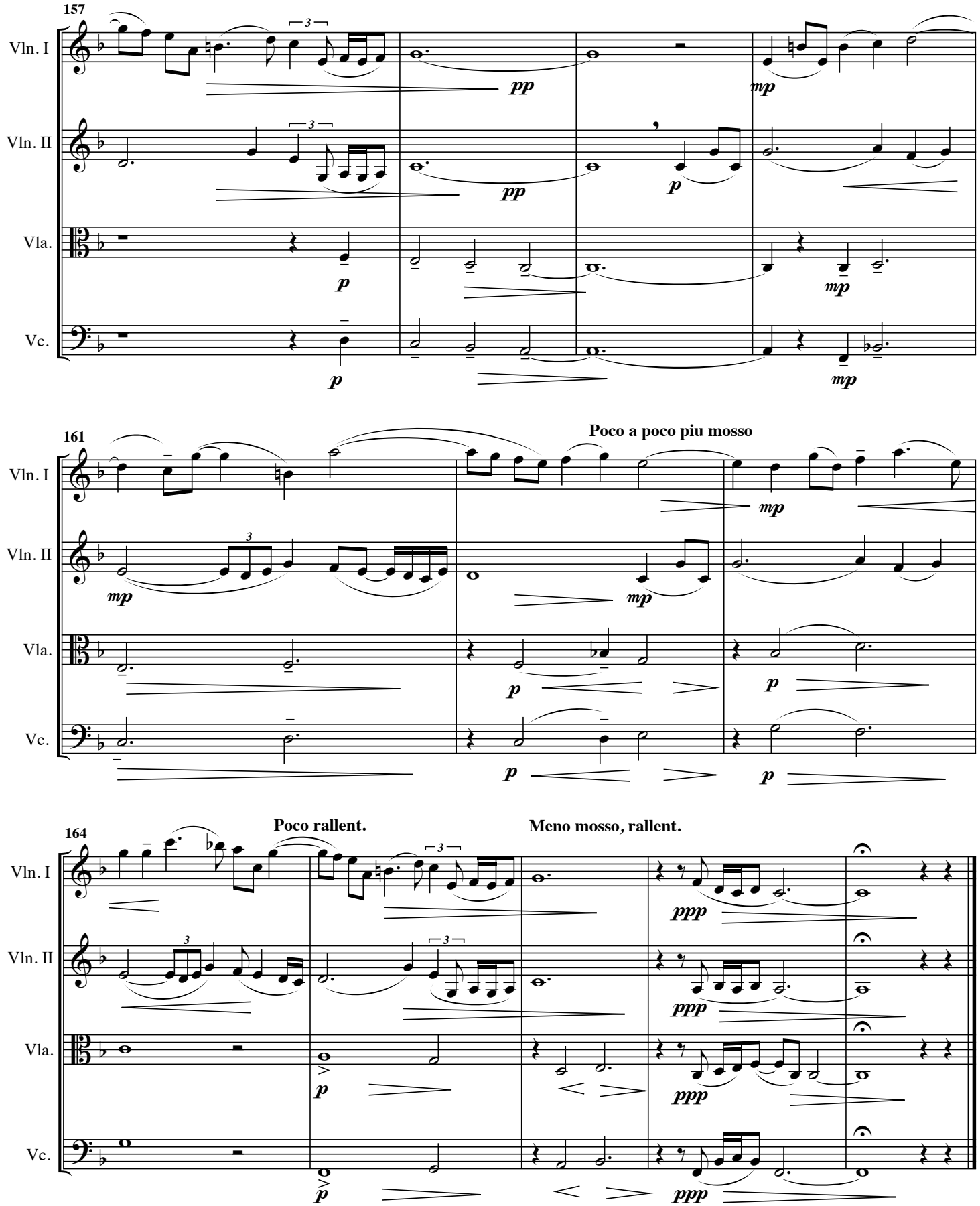

90
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
pizz.
ppp
mf
95
= ca. 76
ff
p
f
100


105
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
pizz.
110
arco
pizz.
115
sempre p


120
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sempre p
p
sempre p
125
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
130
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pp
p
pp
p
arco
pizz.
arco
pp
p
ppp
arco
pp

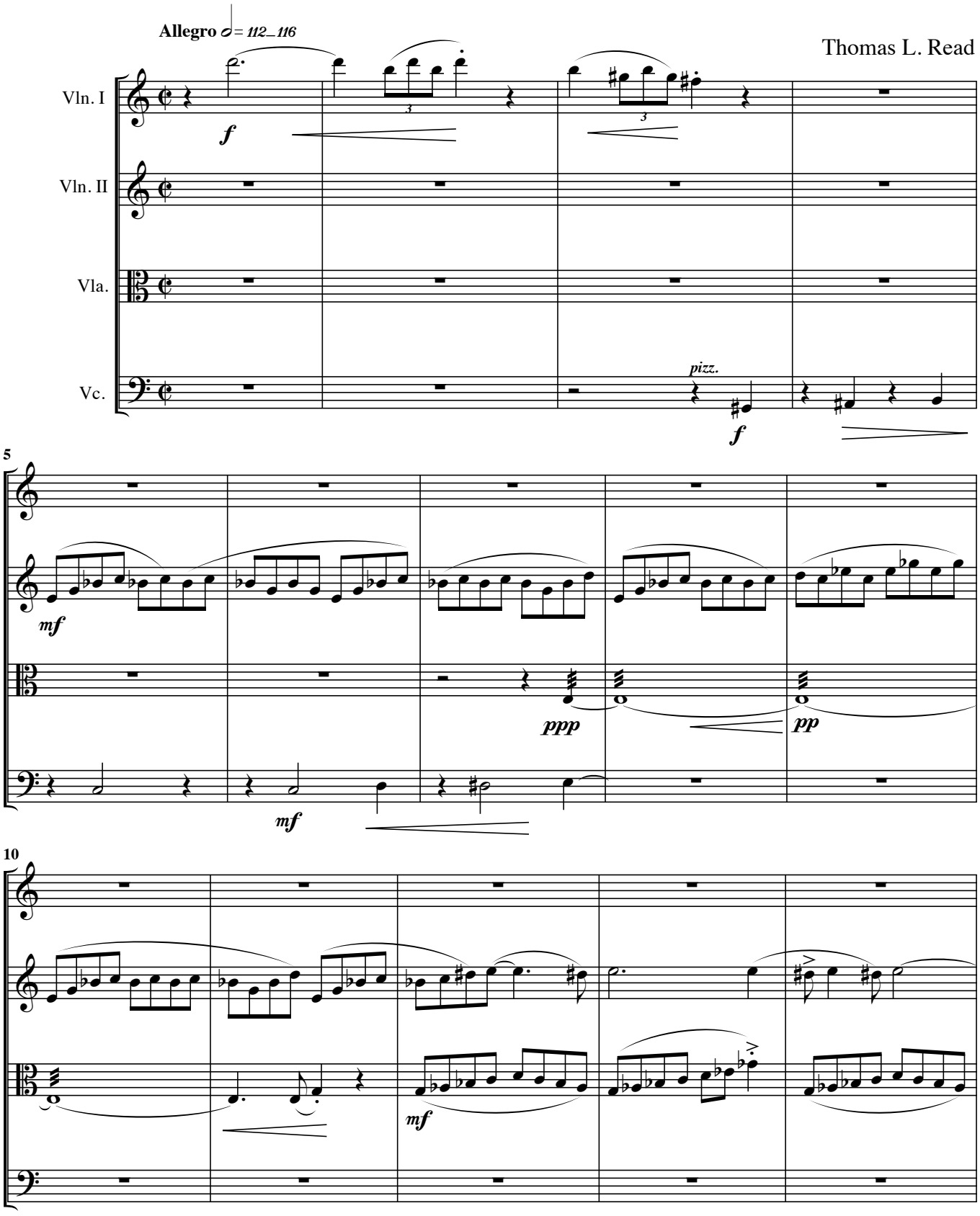

A tempo di lento
♩= 76-80
Poco a poco piu mosso
135
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
pp
mp
140
♩= ca. 88
p
mp
143


146
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
arco
mf
f
p
Tornando in tempo di lento
Tempo primo
149
pp
espressivo
mp
mf
153
3


157
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pp
mp
p
161
Poco a poco piu mosso
164
Poco rallent.
Meno mosso, rallent.
ppp

II. GAMES

Thomas L. Read



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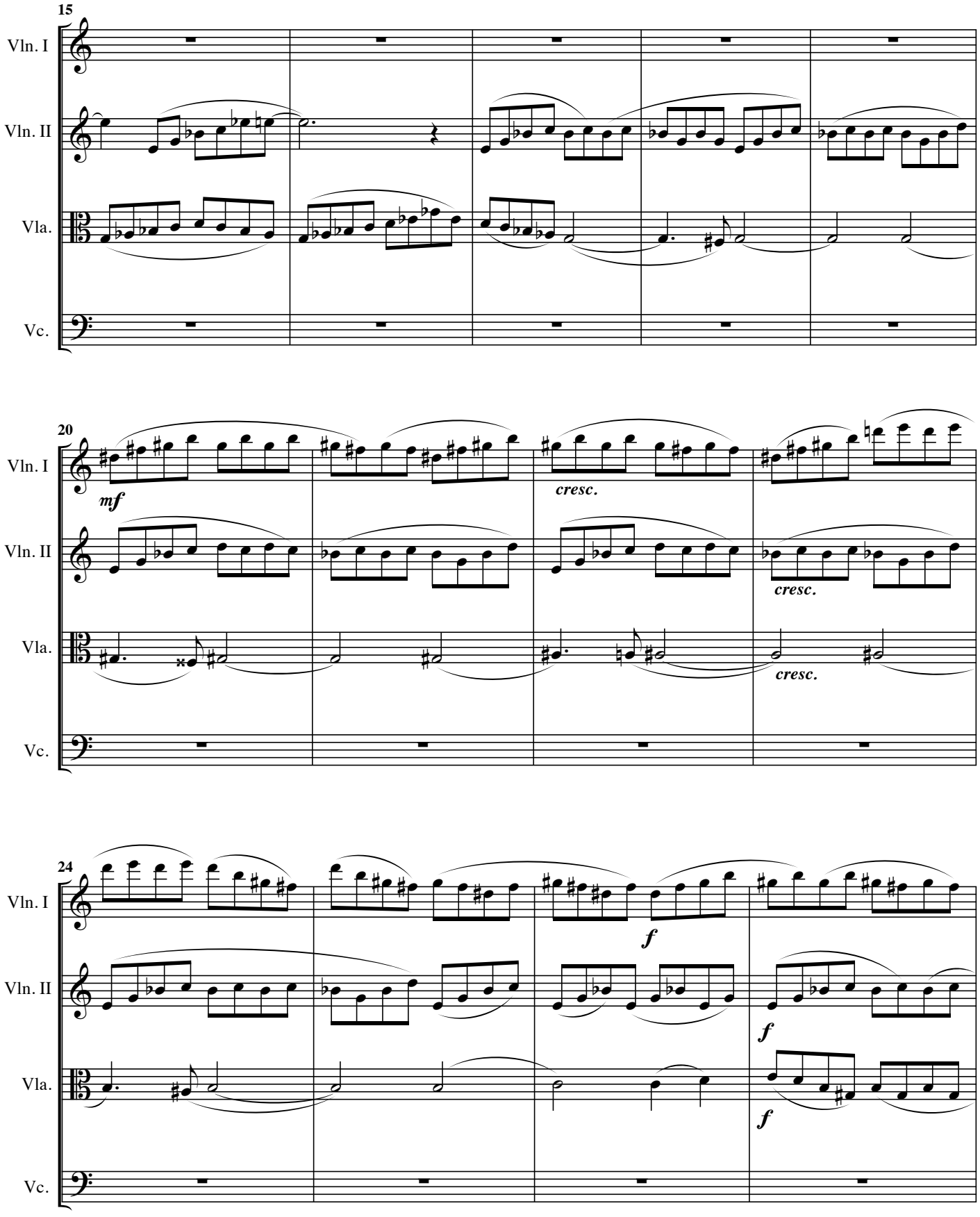
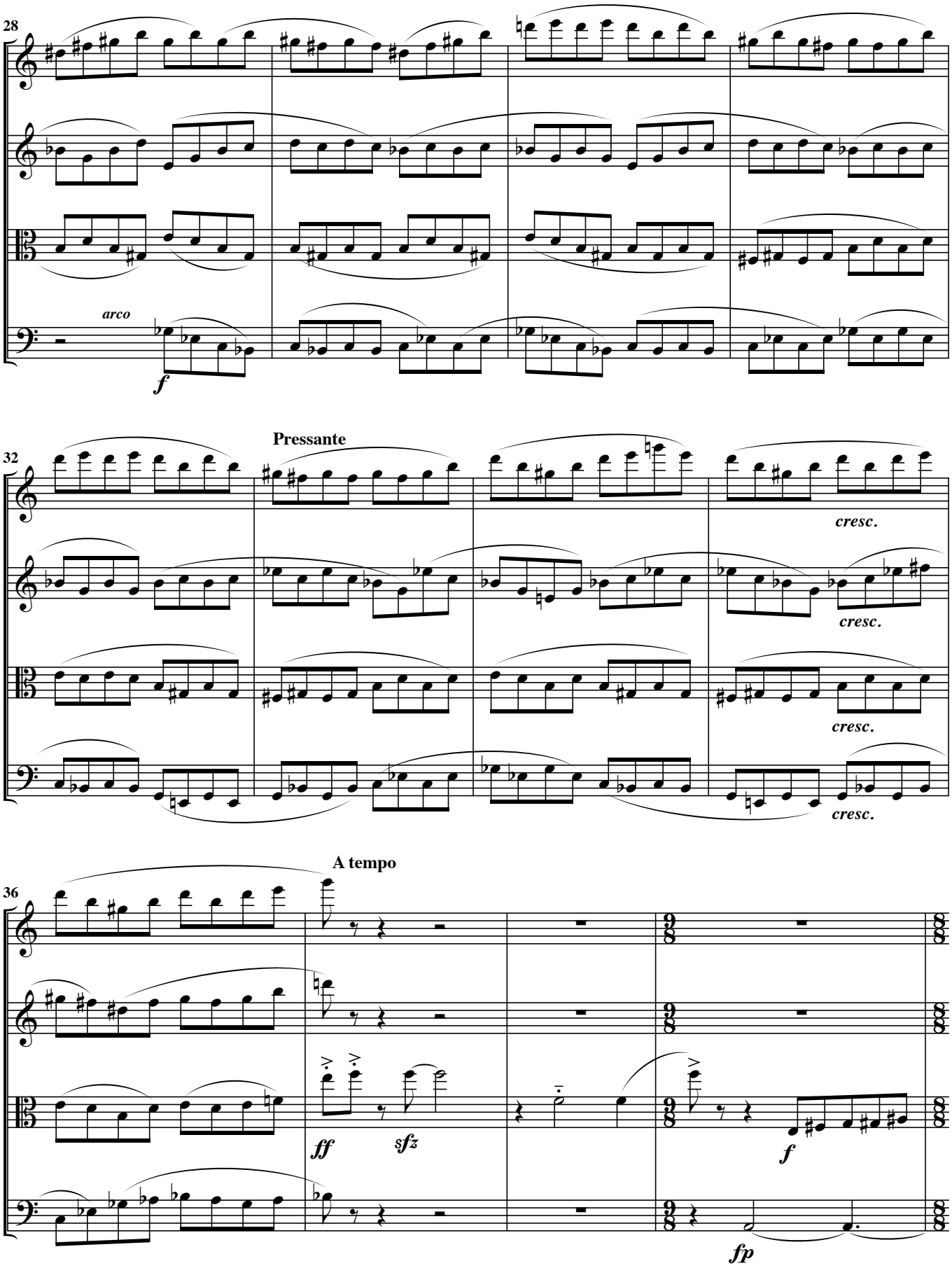
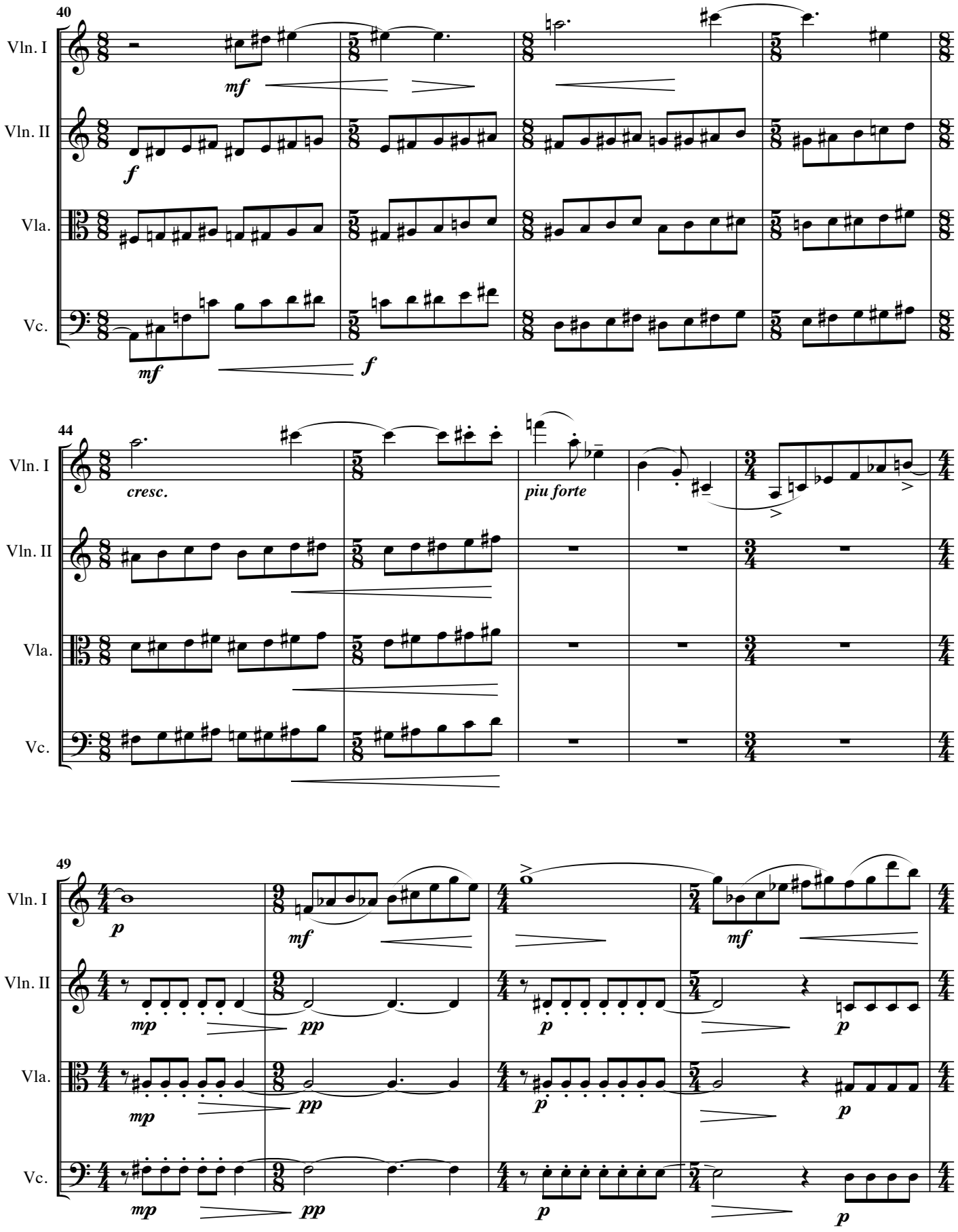
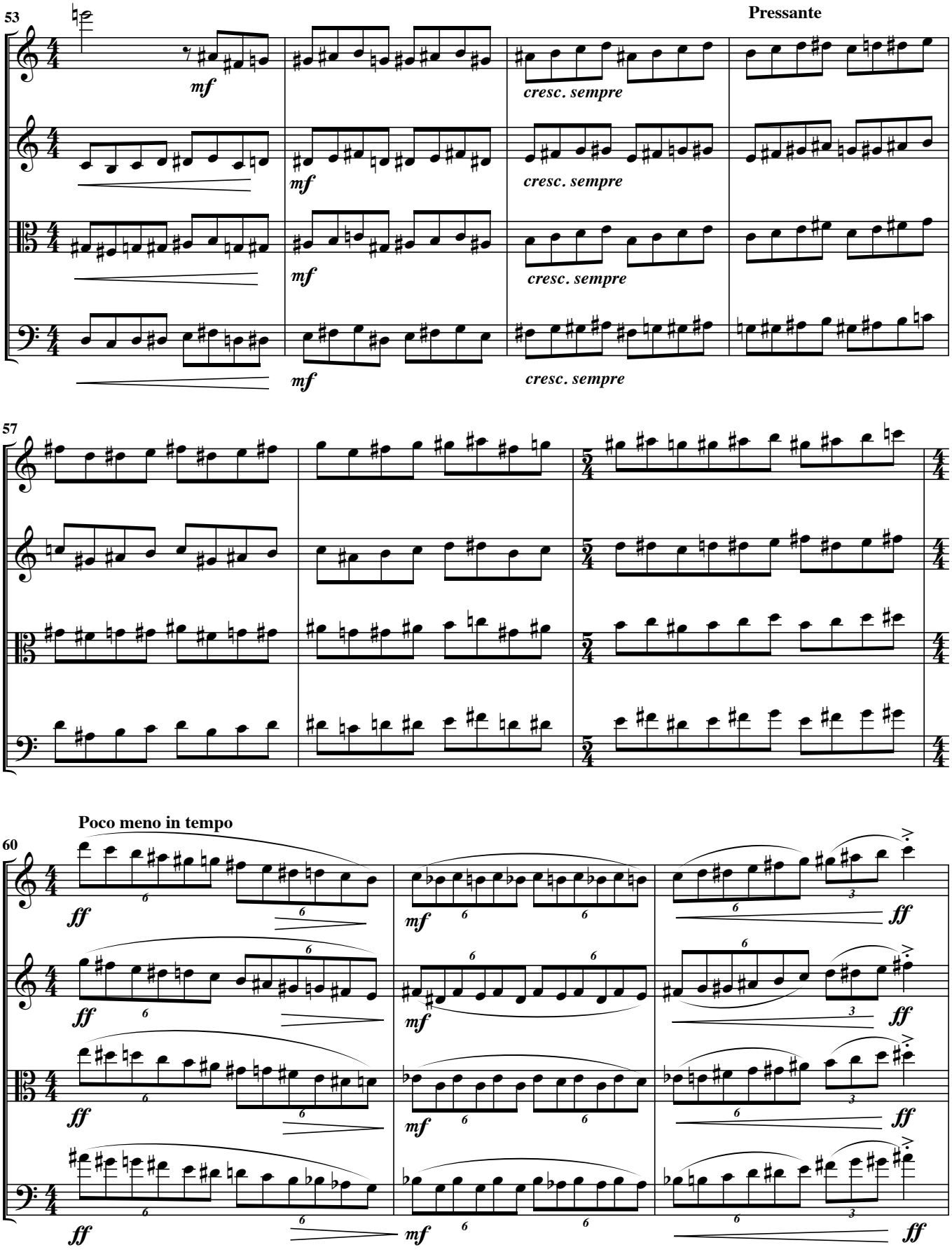
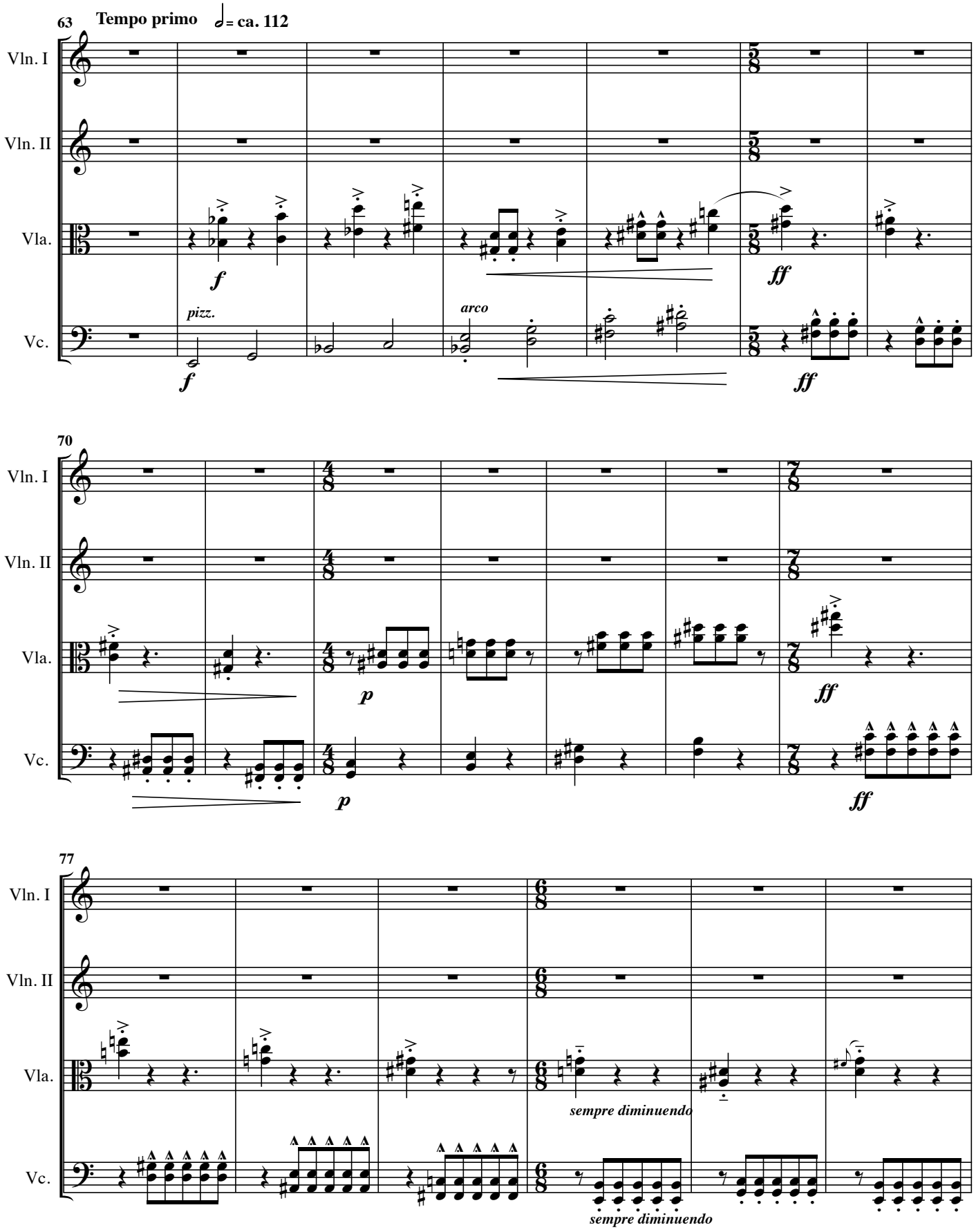
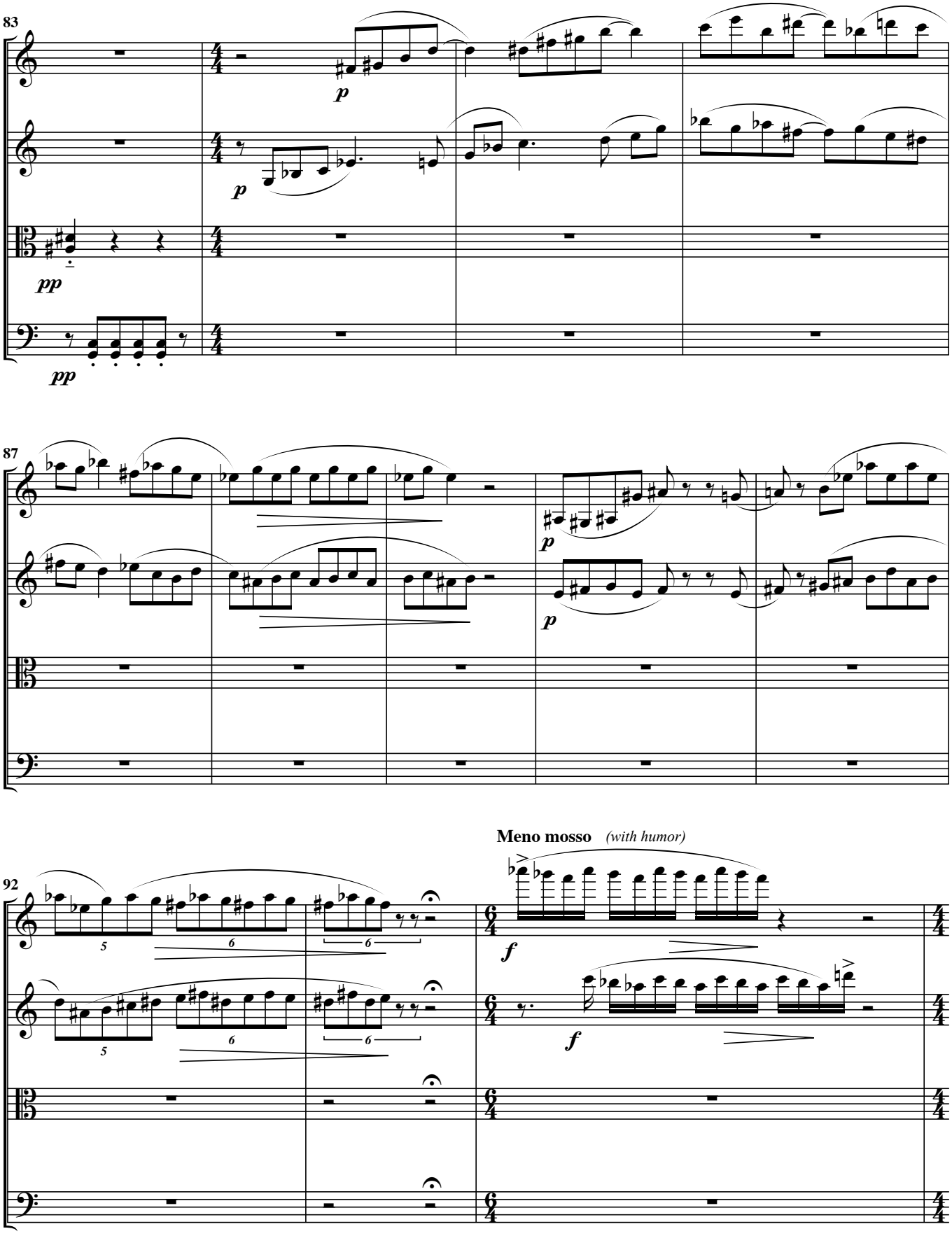

15
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
20
mf
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
24
f
f
f

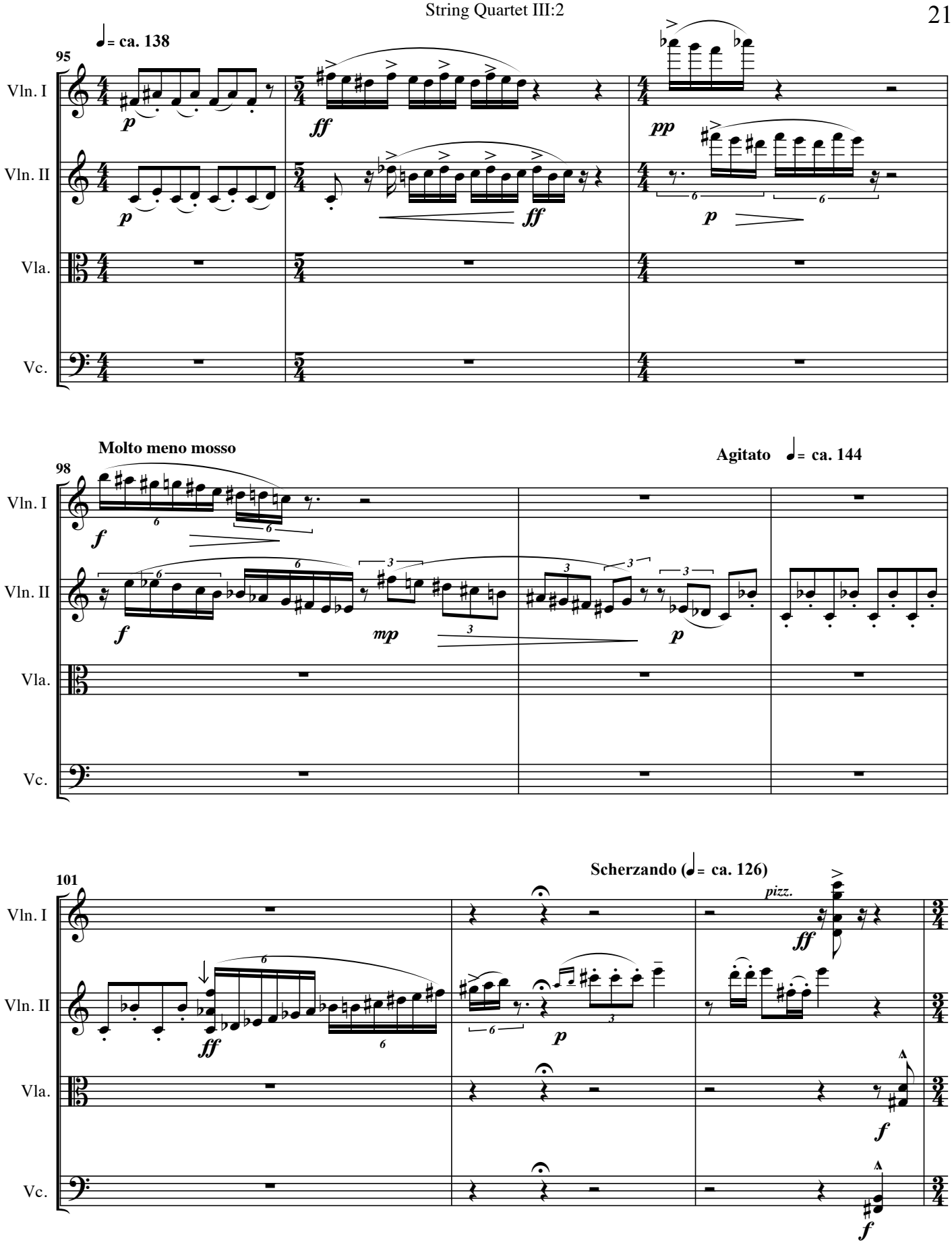

28
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
f
Pressante
32
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
A tempo
36
ff
sfz
f
fp

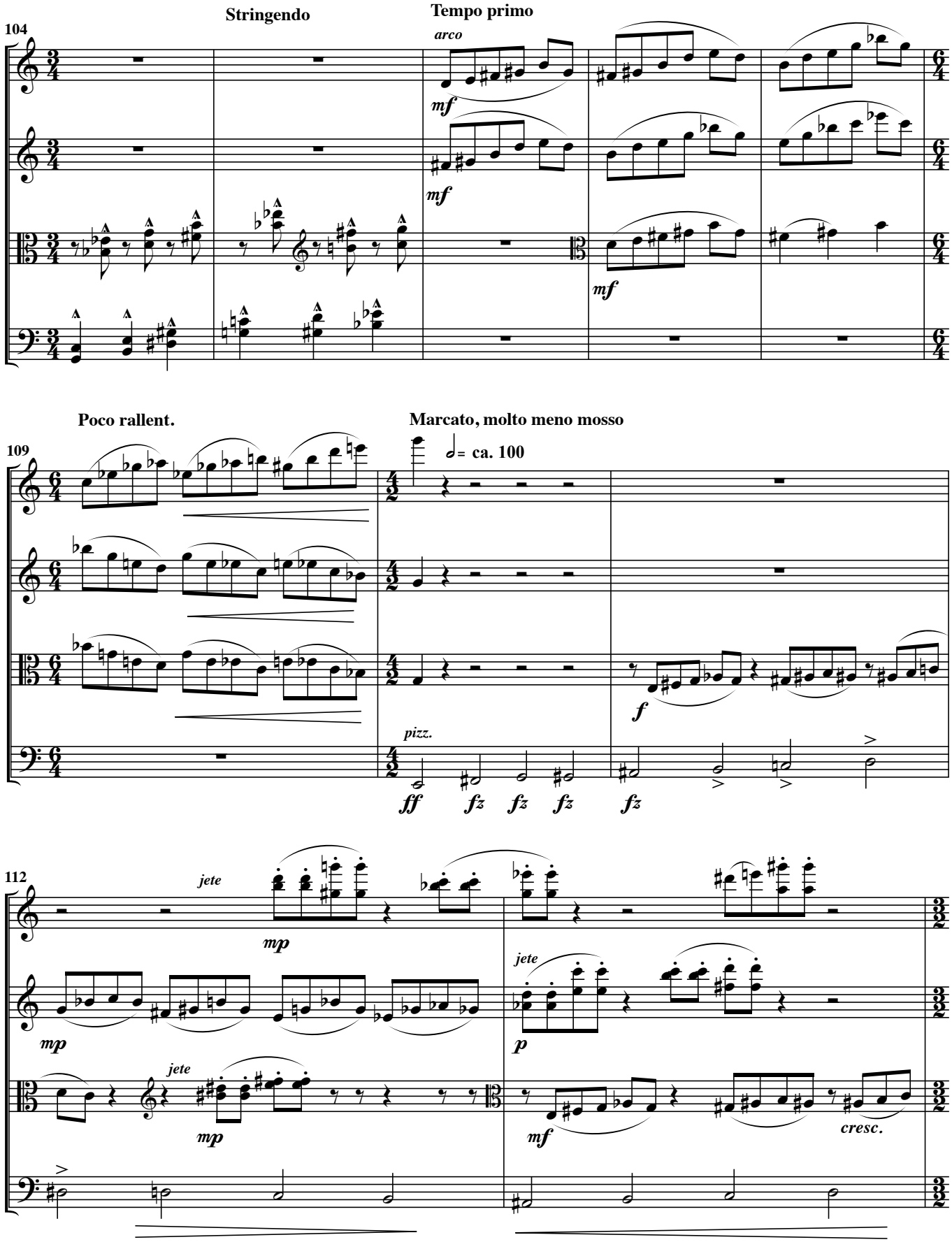

40
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
f
mf
f
44
cresc.
piu forte
49
p
mf
mf
mp
pp
p
p
mp
pp
p
p
mp
pp
p
p

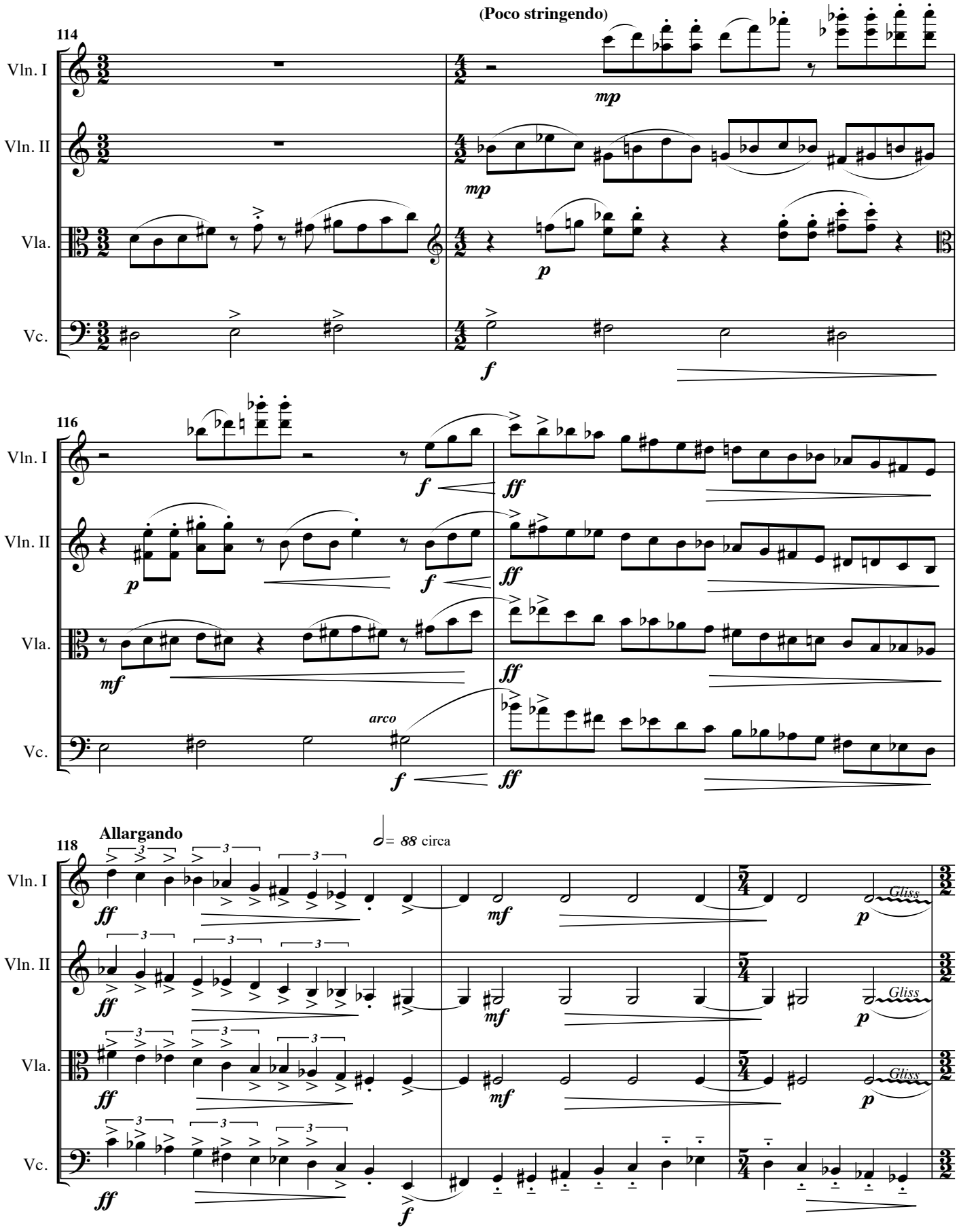

53
Pressante
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
cresc. sempre
57
Poco meno in tempo
60
ff
mf

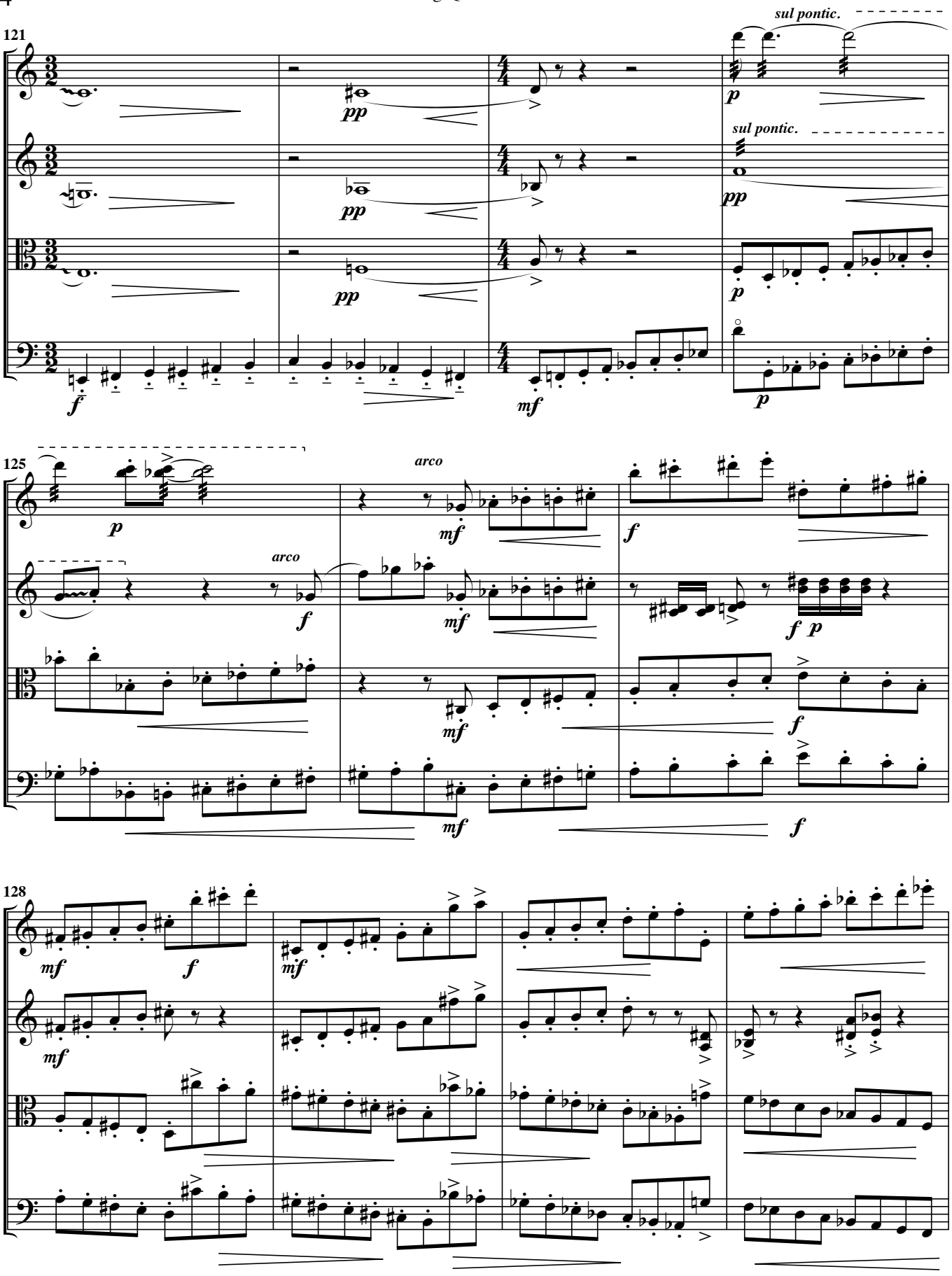

63
Tempo primo
= ca. 112
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
f
pizz.
arco
ff
70
p
77
sempre diminuendo

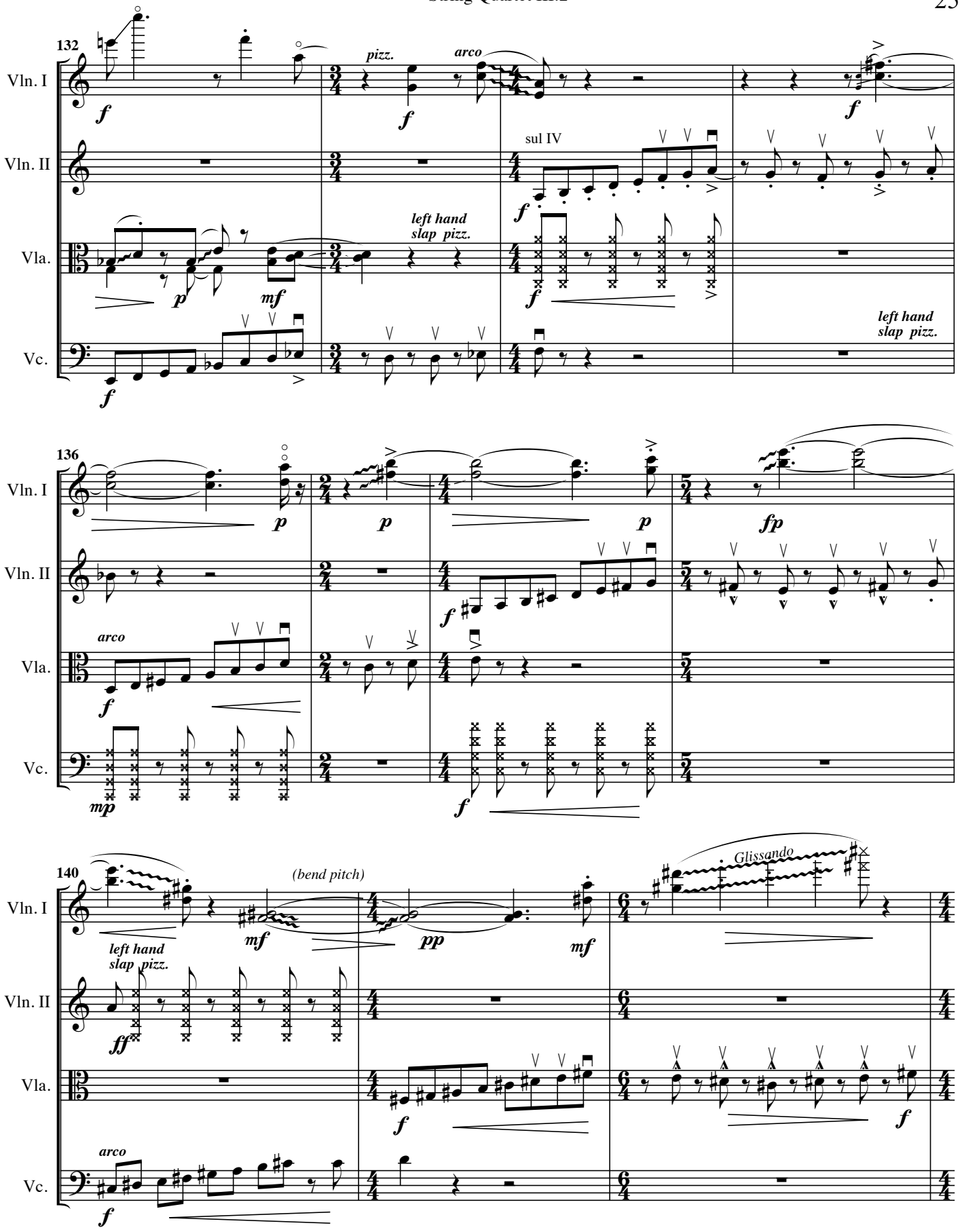

83
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
p
pp
pp
87
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
p
92
Meno mosso (with humor)
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
f
f
5
6
6
5
6
6

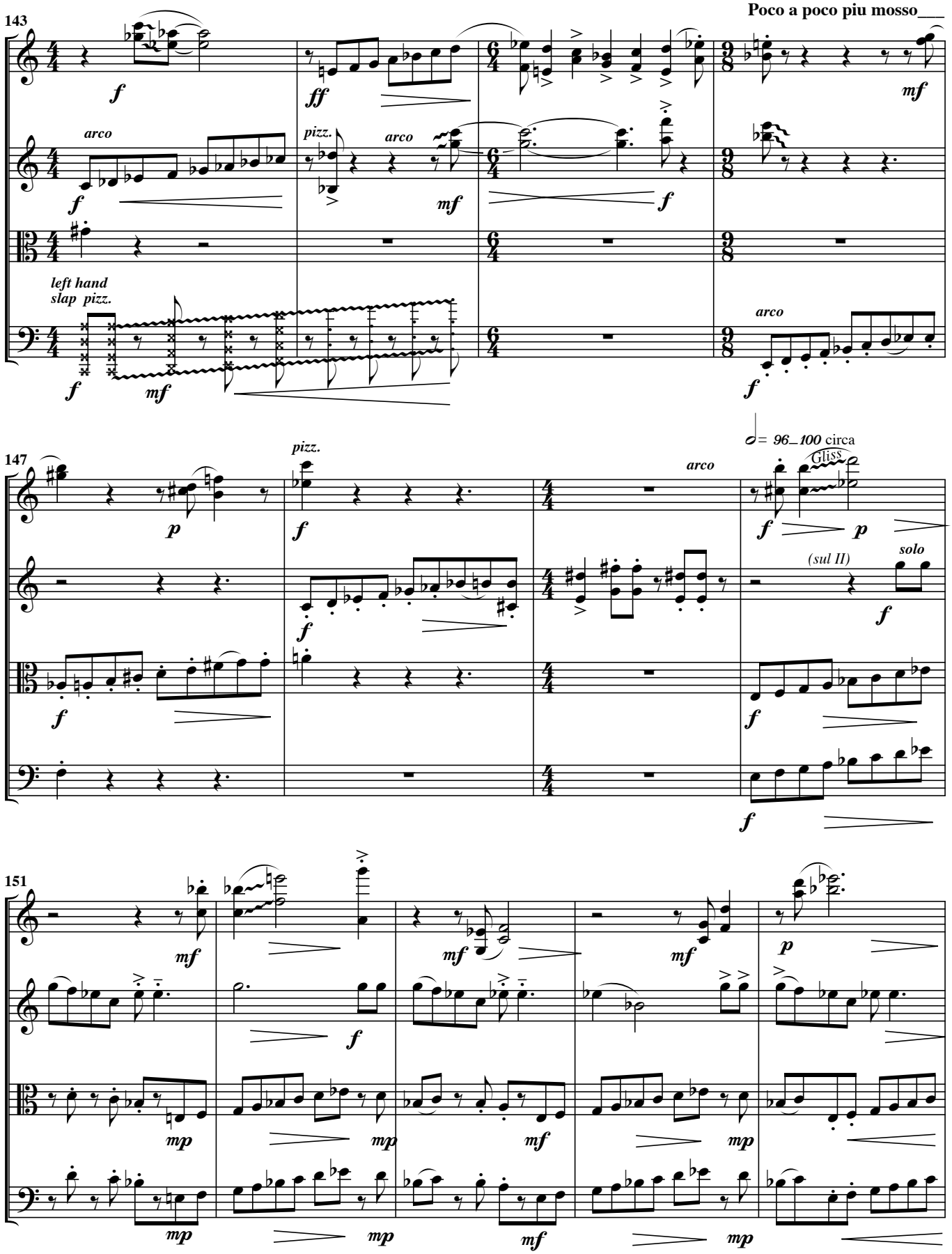

♩= ca. 138
95
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
ff
pp
Molto meno mosso
98
Agitato ♩= ca. 144
f
mp
Scherzando (♩= ca. 126)
101
pizz.

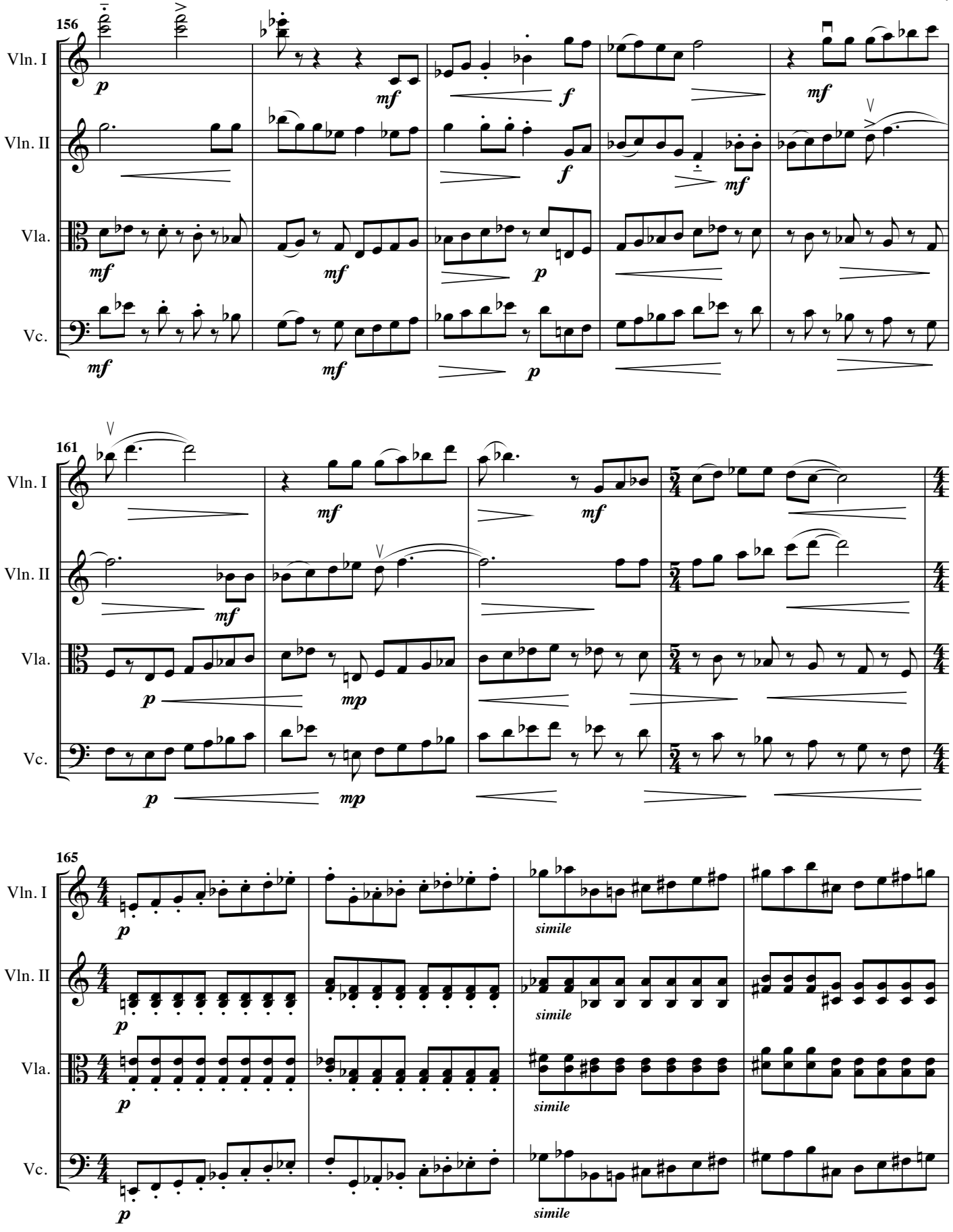

Stringendo
Tempo primo
104
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
mf
mf
mf
Poco rallent.
Marcato, molto meno mosso
109
= ca. 100
pizz.
ff
fz
fz
fz
fz
f
112
jete
mp
mp
jete
p
jete
mp
mf
cresc.

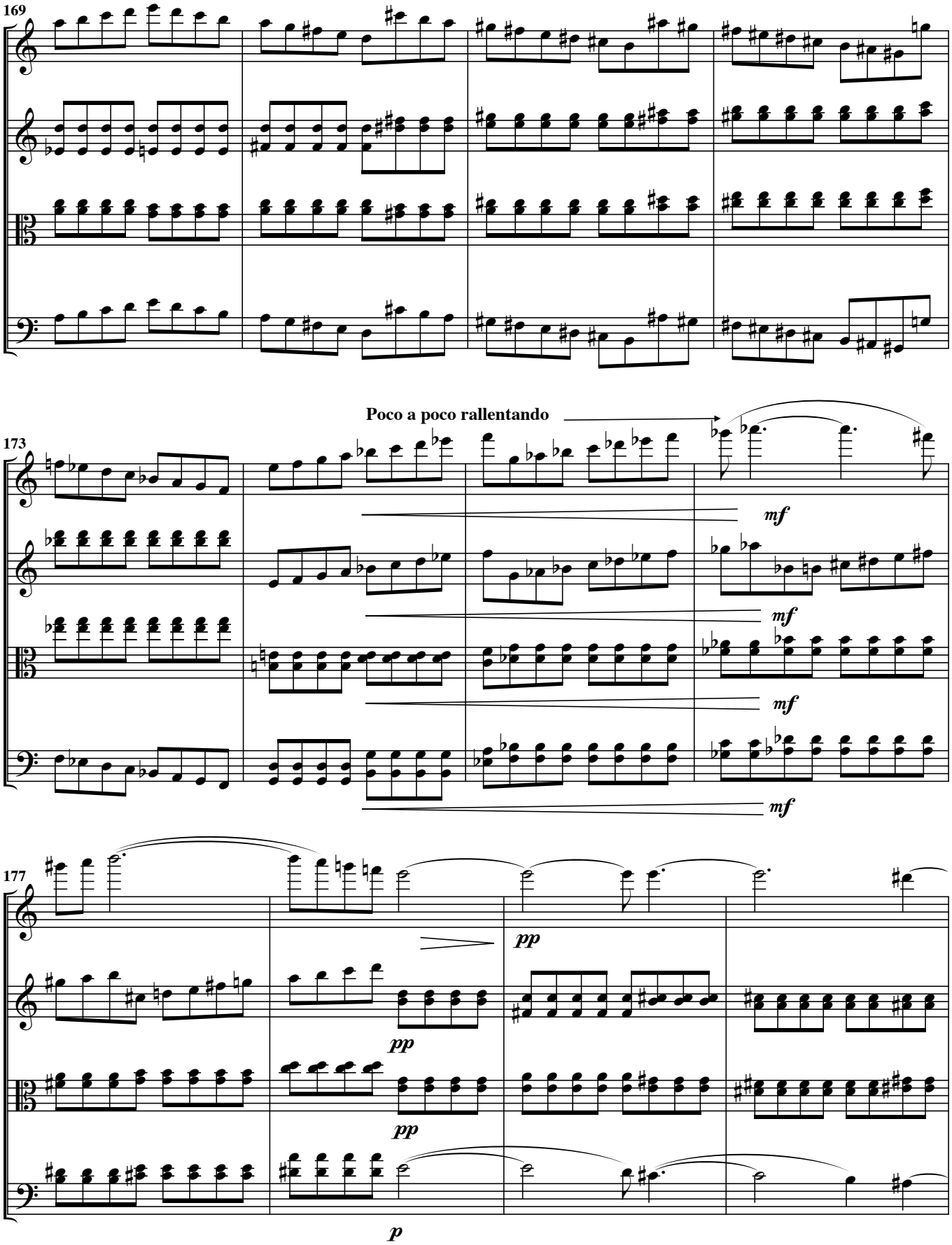

(Poco stringendo)
114
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mp
p
f
116
ff
mf
arco
Allargando
118
= 88 circa
Gliss

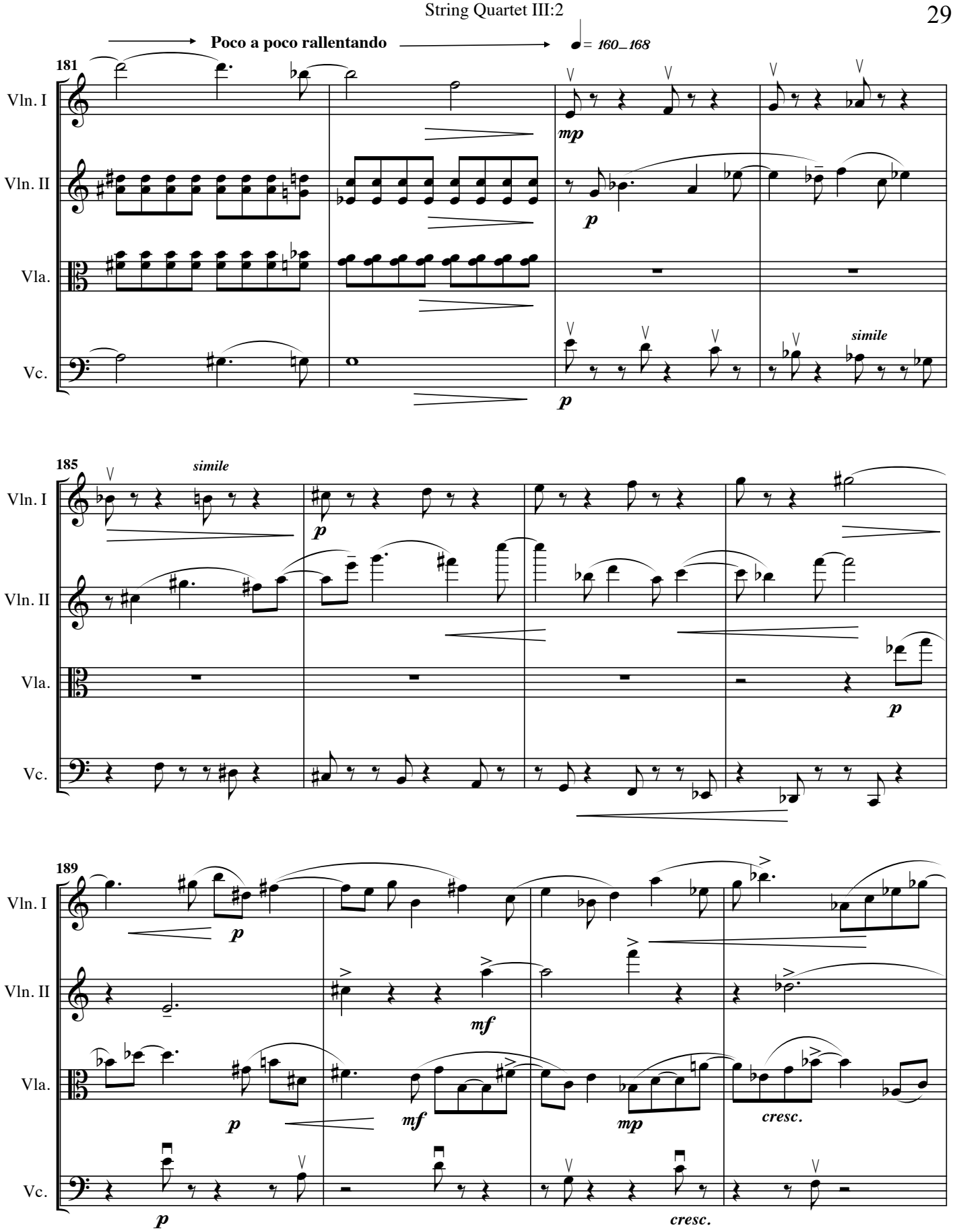

121
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sul pontic.
sul pontic.
125
arco
arco
128


132
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
sul IV
left hand slap pizz.
left hand slap pizz.
136
arco
140
(bend pitch)
Glissando
left hand slap pizz.
arco


Poco a poco piu mosso___
143
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
pizz.
left hand
slap pizz.
147
= 96–100 circa
Gliss.
(sul II)
solo
151


156
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
161
165
simile


169
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Poco a poco rallentando
173
mf
177
pp
p


Poco a poco rallentando
♩= 160–168
181
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mp
p
simile
185
simile
p
mf
cresc.
189