Ascension

(2014)

string quartet

Jason Eckardt

PERFORMANCE NOTES

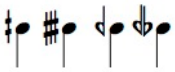
Accidentals apply only to notes they immediately precede with the exception of tied or consecutively repeated notes.

Tempi are consistent throughout the meter changes (i.e., ♪ = ♪., ♪. = ♪, etc.).

Approximate duration: 7¼ minutes

SPECIAL MARKINGS

smpz, smfz, ***sfz***, ***sffz***, etc. Progressively louder accented attacks, independent of preceding dynamics.

 Quartertone sharp, three quartertones sharp, one quartertone flat, three quartertones flat.

Glissando with re-attack on arrival note.

Glissando without re-attack on arrival note.

Suddenly and mechanically curtail sound, without diminuendo, as if being unexpectedly cut off.

Snap pizzicato.

Thrown bow (jeté).

Heavy bow pressure (producing a distorted “scratch” tone).

Mute strings with left hand, eliminating pitch.

c.l.b. Col legno battuto.

c.l.t. Col legno tratto. Draw wood of bow across string.

½ c.l.t. Half col legno tratto. Draw half wood, half hair of bow across string.

s.p., m.s.p. Sul ponticello, molto sul ponticello (some distortion of tone).

s.t. Sul tasto. Bow as much over the fingerboard as possible.

b.pc. Body percussion. Striking areas are indicated in the score.

Vibrato types are indicated as follows:

vib.I Fast vibrato (speed).

vib.i Slow vibrato (speed).

vib.II Wide vibrato (intonation).

vib.ii Narrow vibrato (intonation).

These indications may be combined, for example, **vib.I/ii** indicates a fast and narrow vibrato.

Amplitude of vibrati is relative to dynamic markings indicated.

più vib. More pronounced, slightly more intense vibrato.

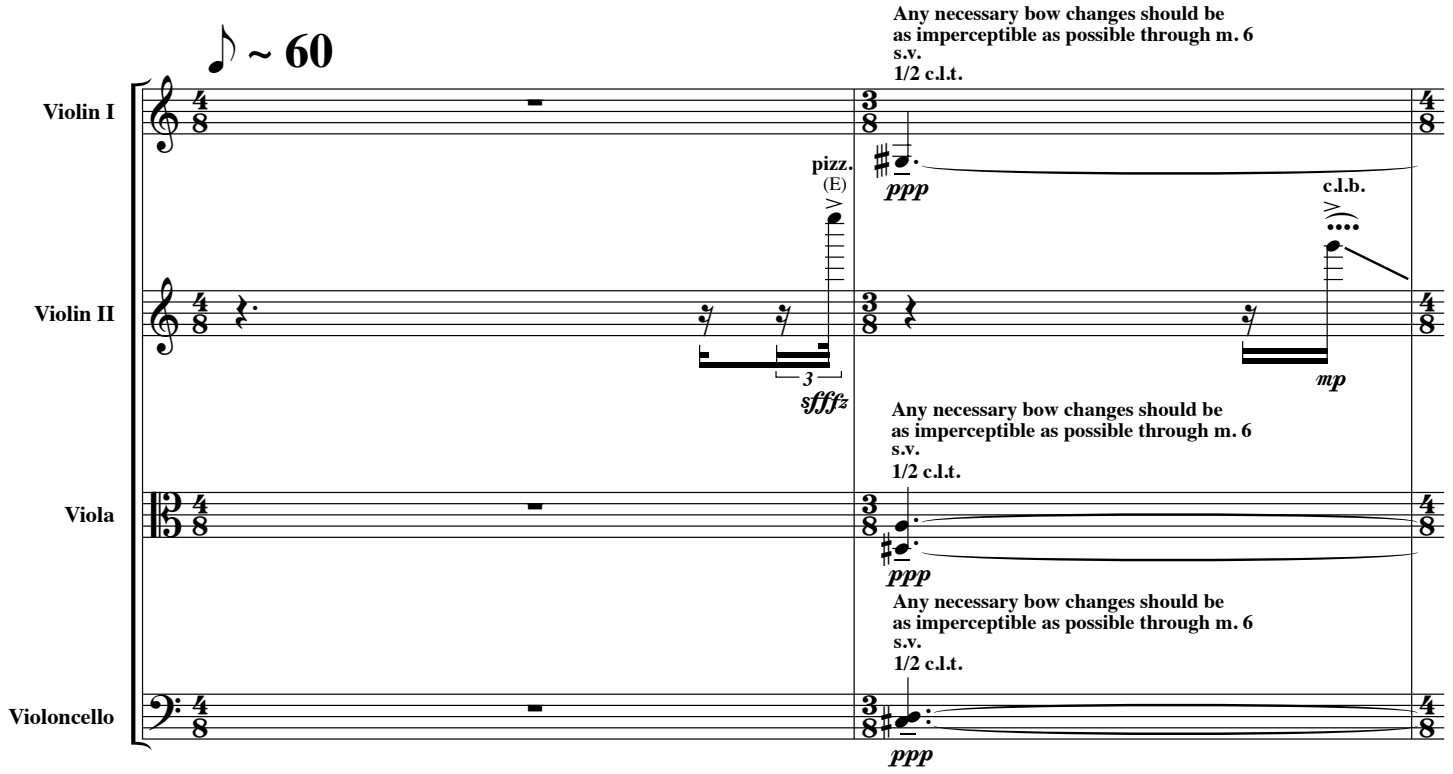
poco vib. Poco vibrato. More subtle, less pronounced, ordinary vibrato.

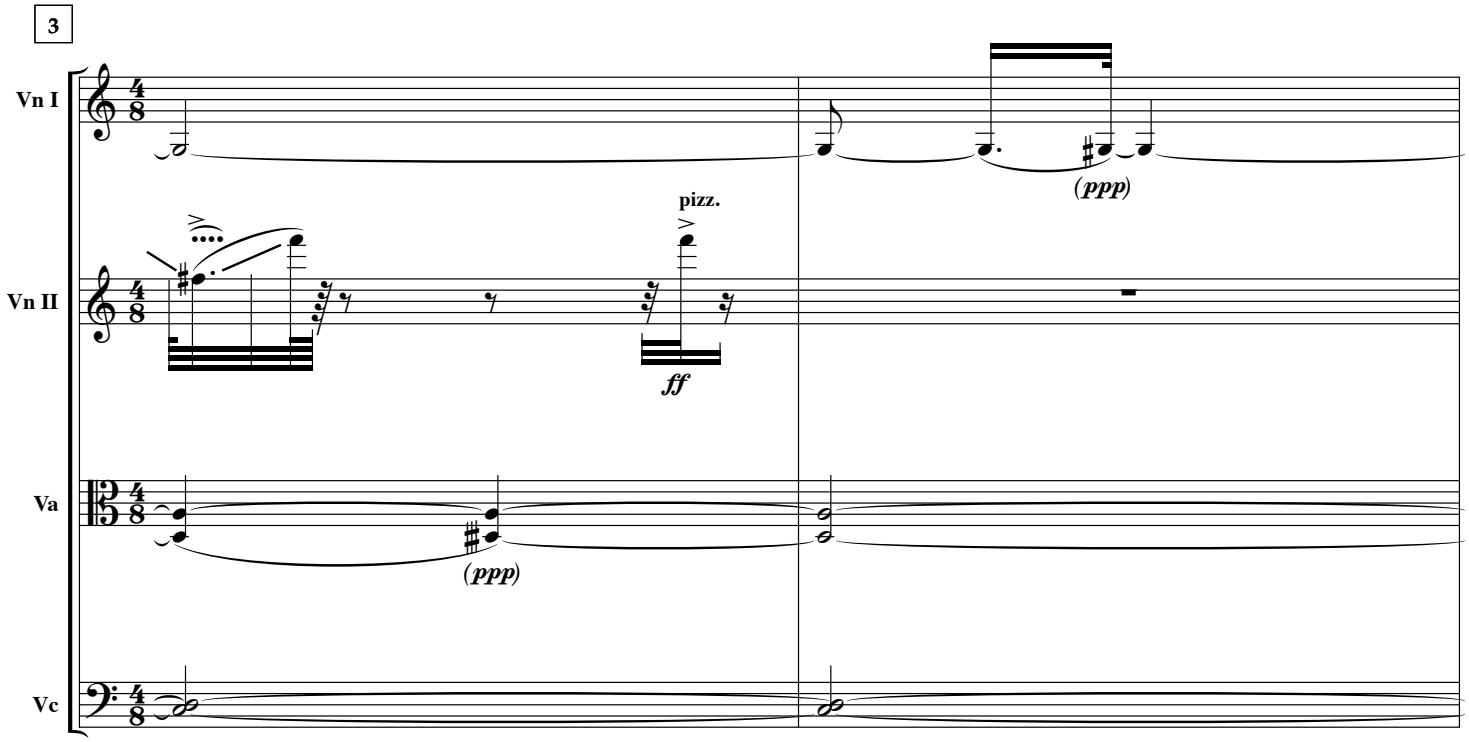
s.v. Senza vibrato.

Ascension

Commissioned by Purchase College, S.U.N.Y.
with generous support from the Marx Family Foundation
Dedicated to Mario Davidovsky on his 80th birthday

Jason Eckardt (2014)





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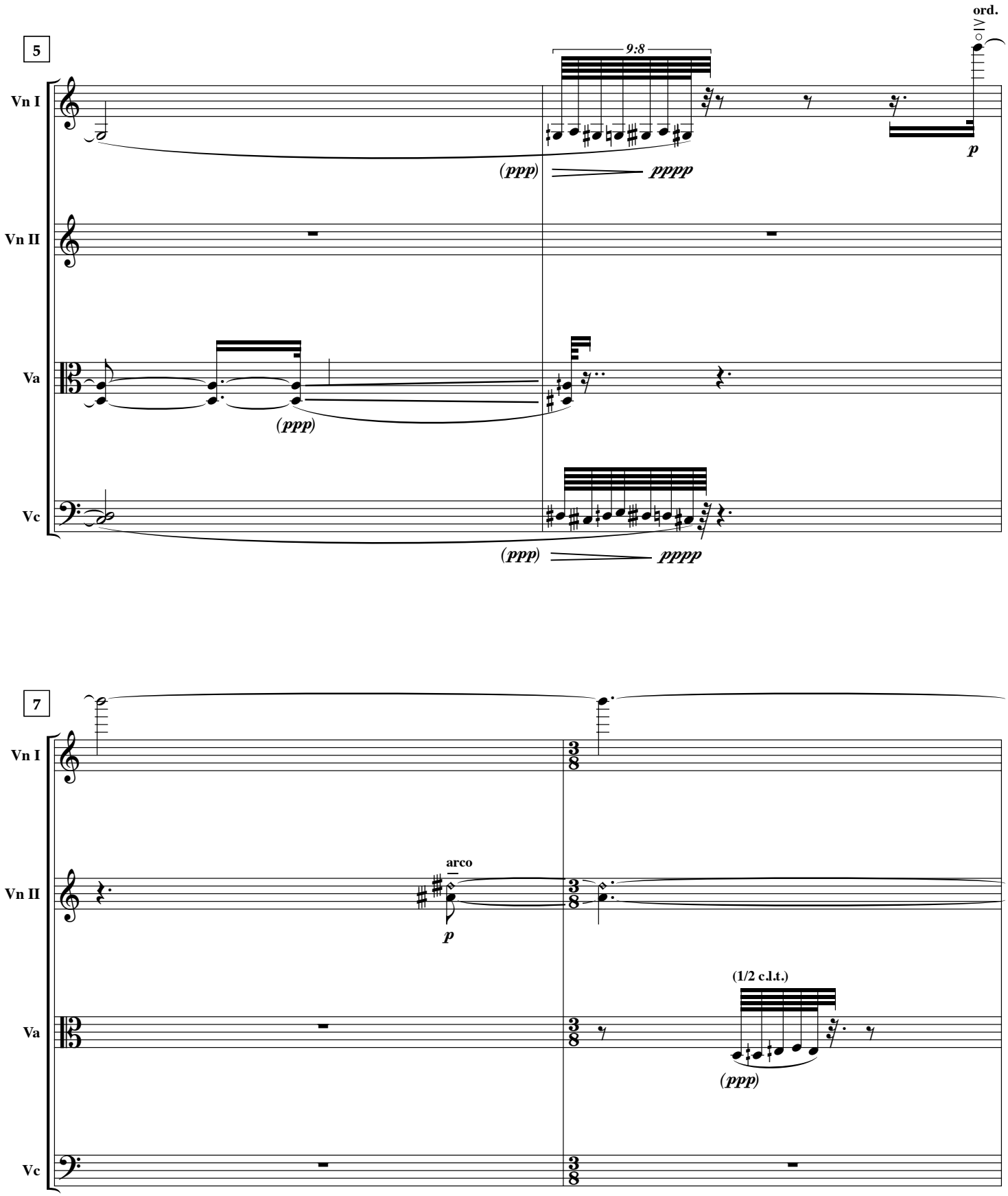
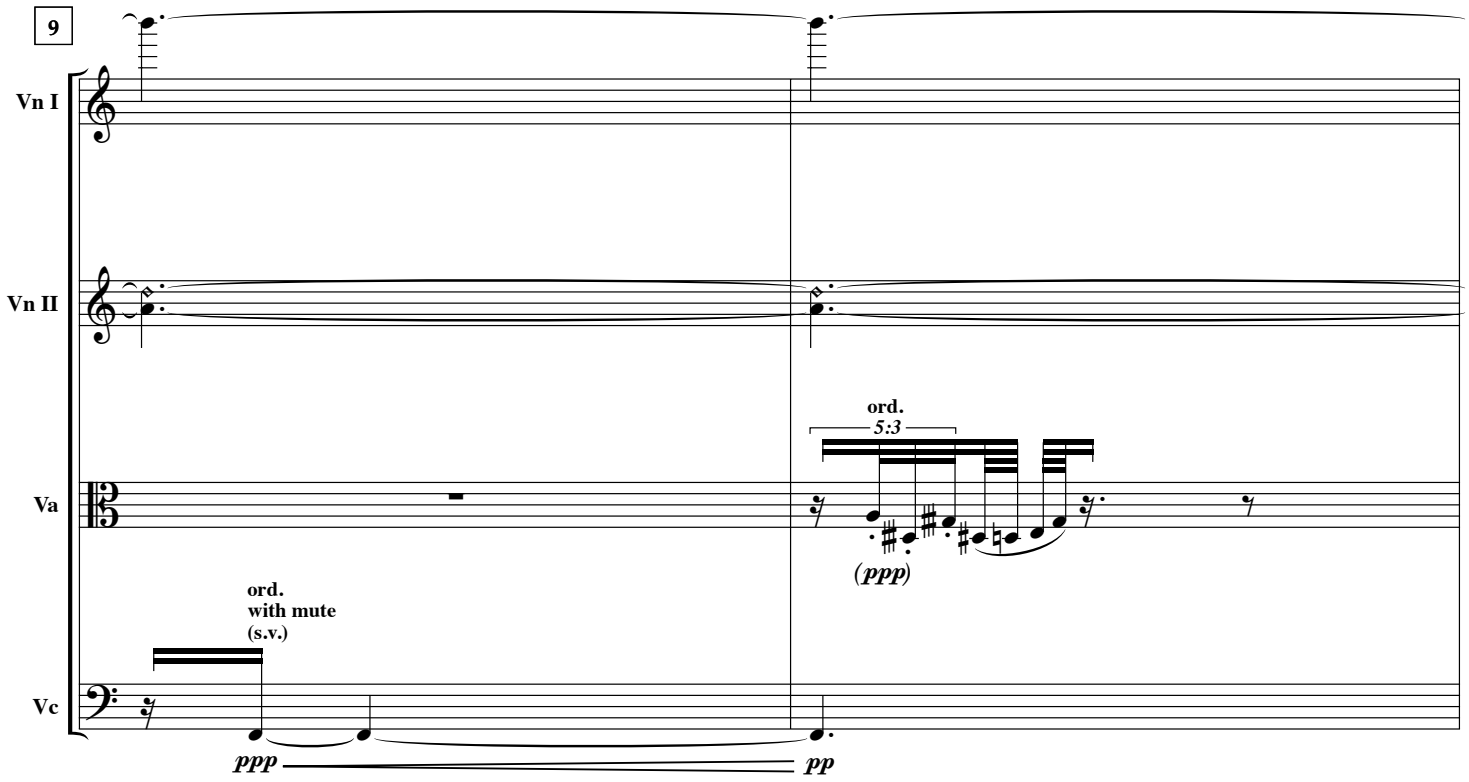
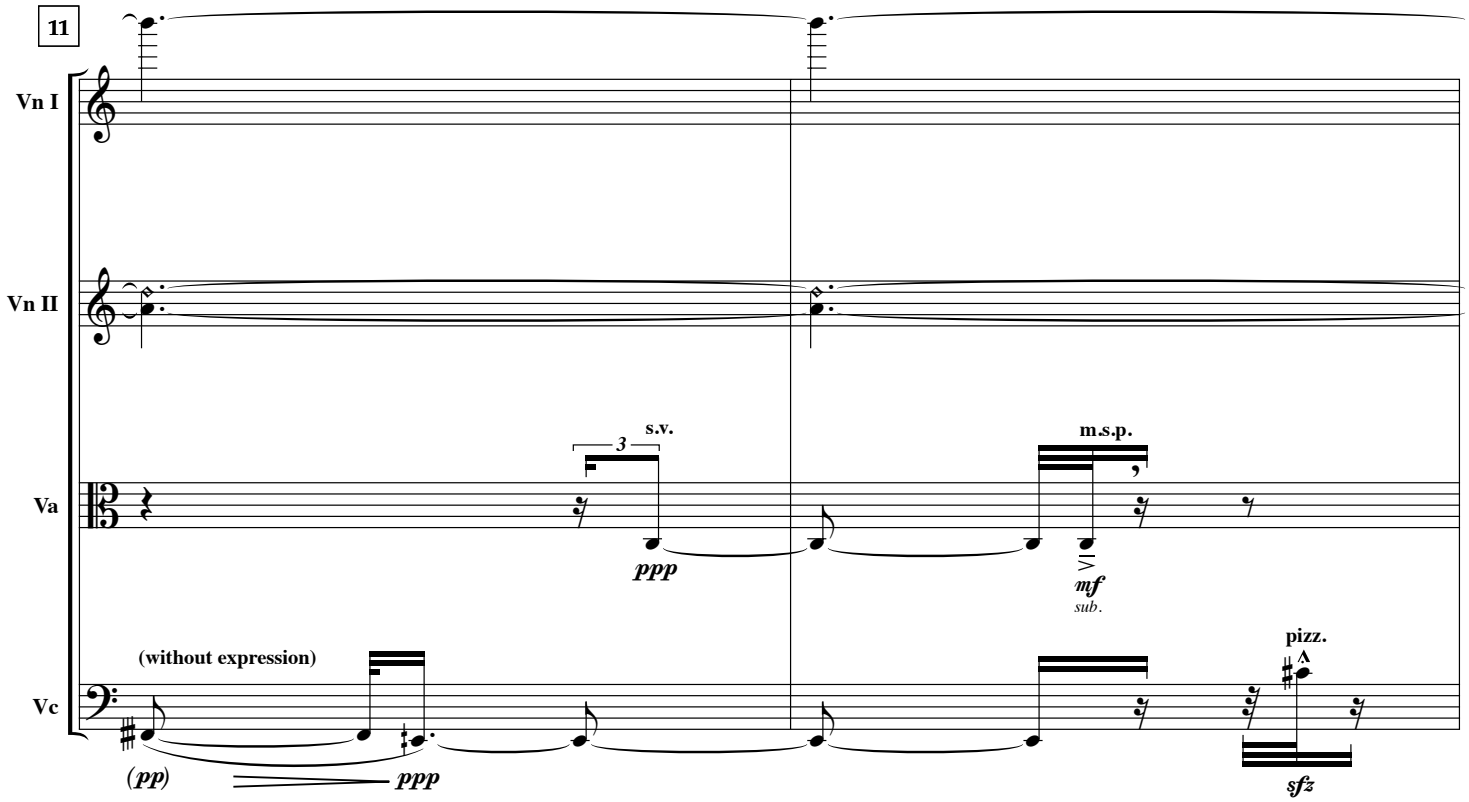
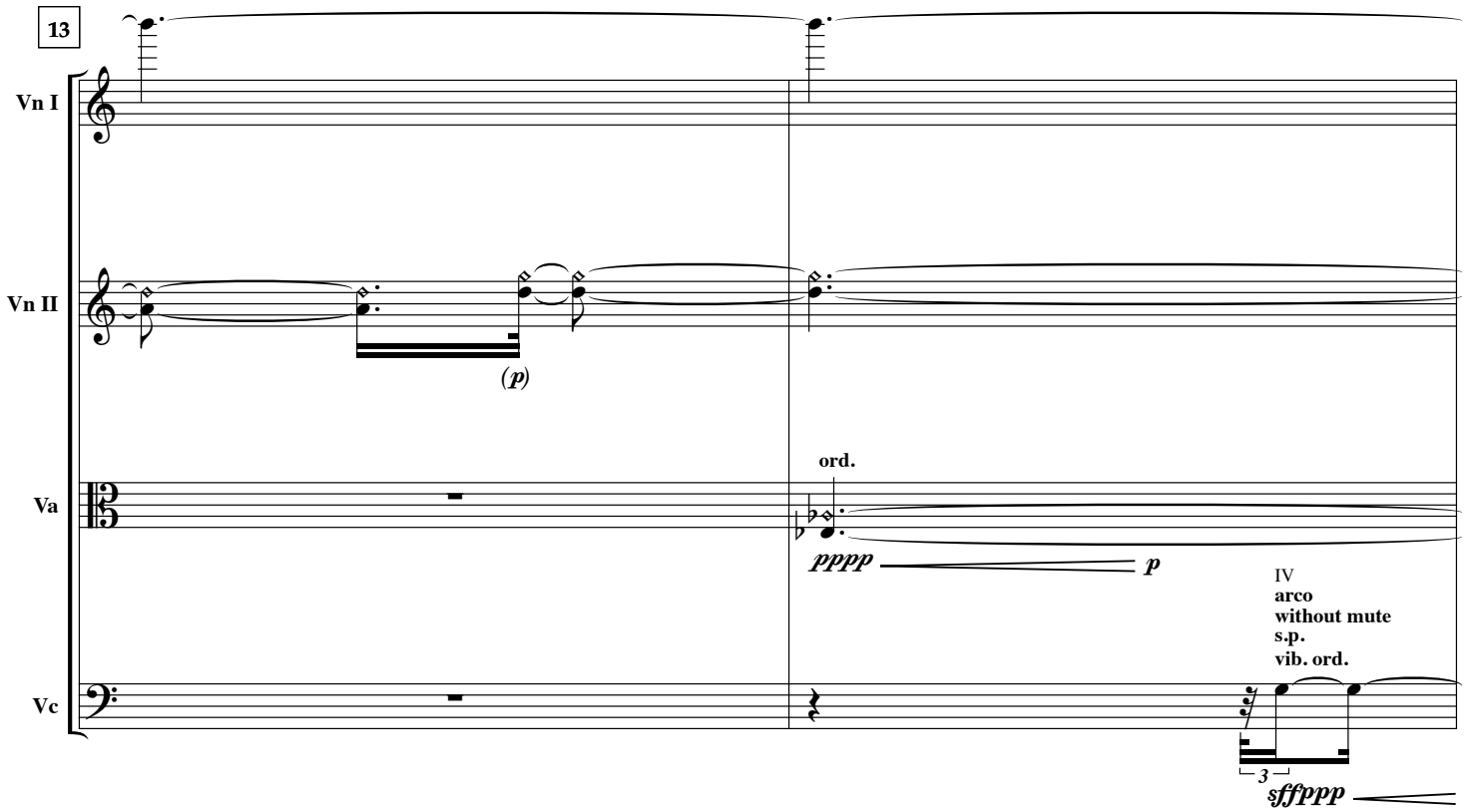
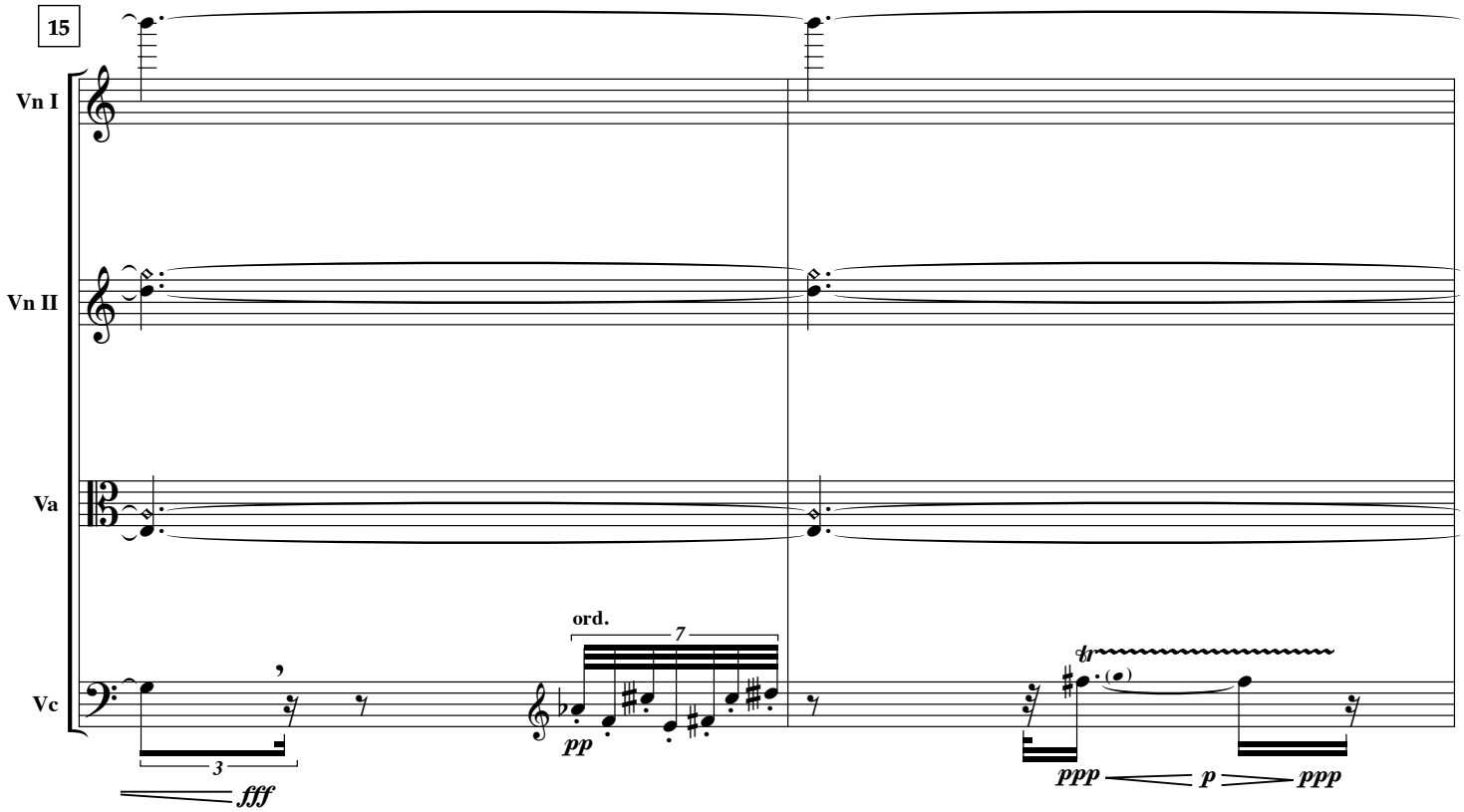
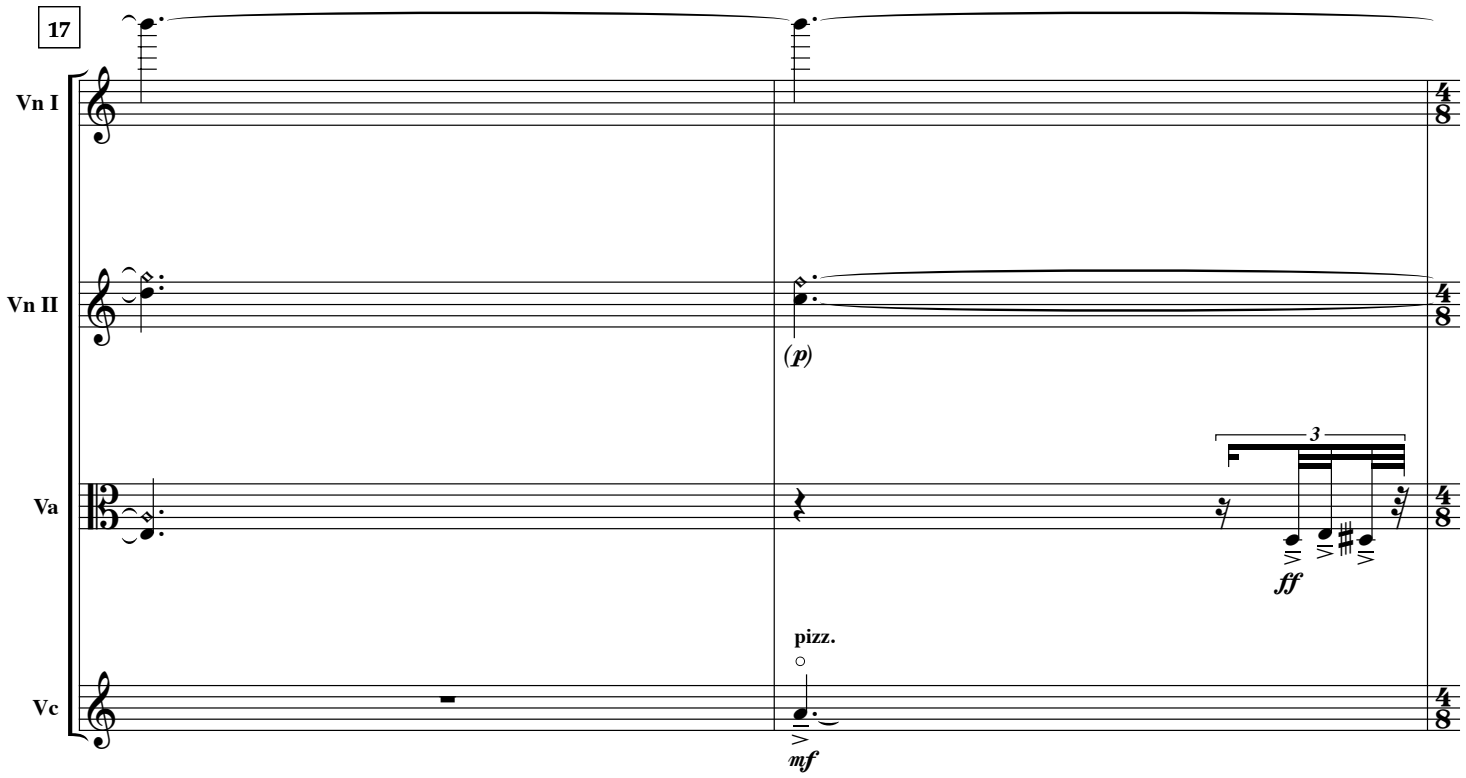

5
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
9:8
ord.
IV
(ppp)
pppp
p
(ppp)
(ppp)
pppp
7
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
arco
p
(1/2 c.l.t.)
(ppp)

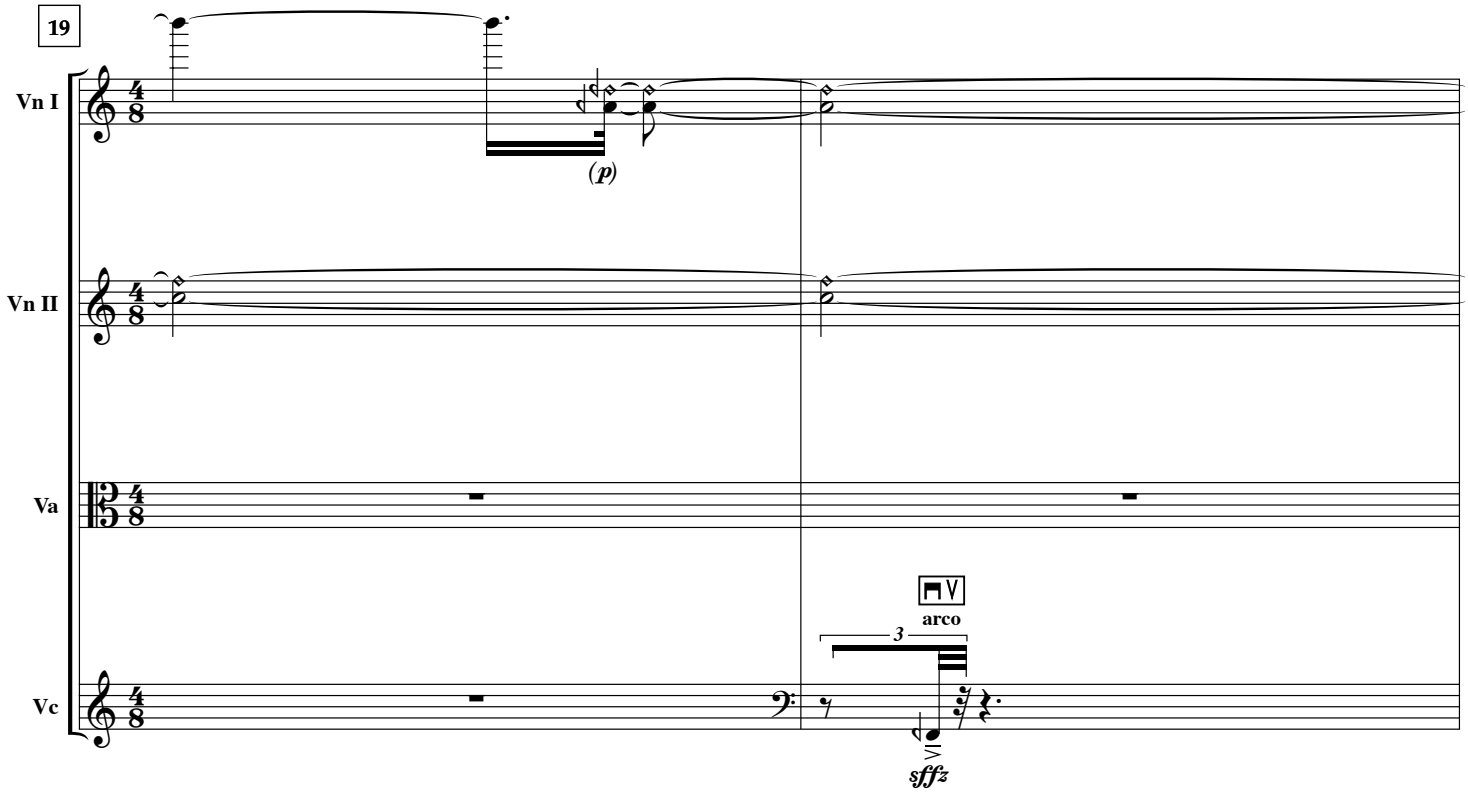

9
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
ord.
5:3
(ppp)
ord.
with mute
(s.v.)
ppp
pp

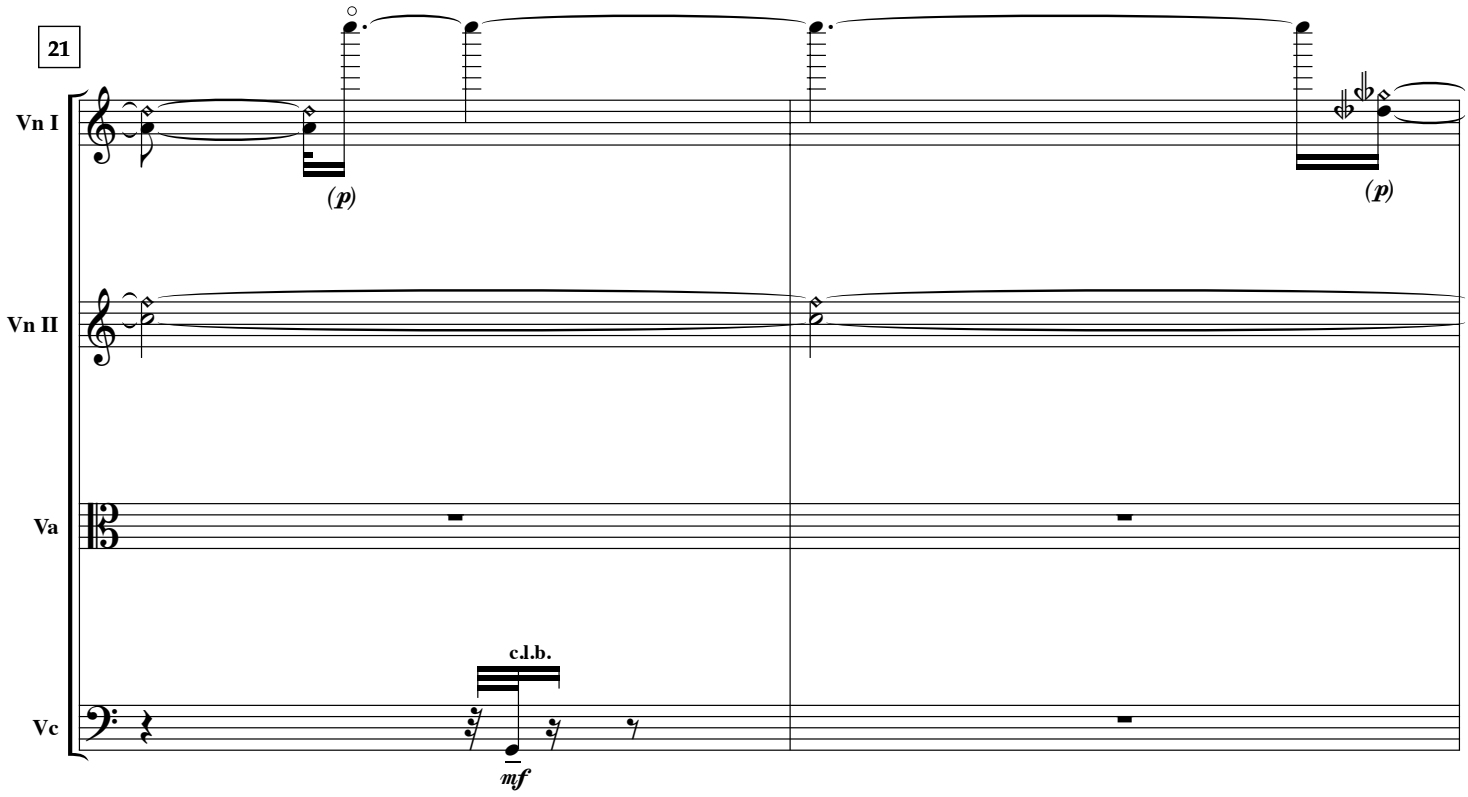

11
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
s.v.
3
ppp
m.s.p.
mf
sub.
(without expression)
(pp)
ppp
pizz.
sfz

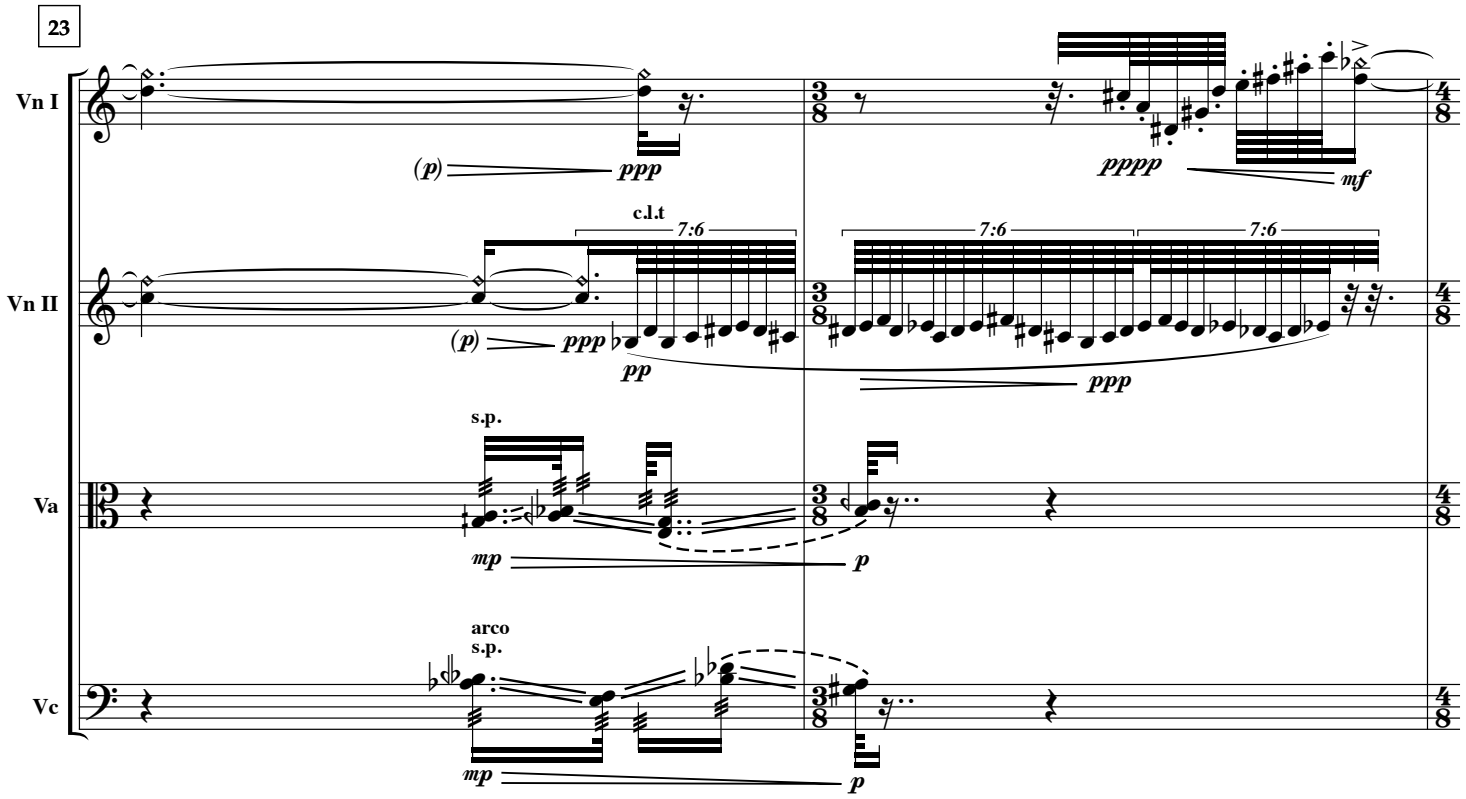

13
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
(p)
ord.
pppp
p
IV
arco
without mute
s.p.
vib. ord.
3
sffppp

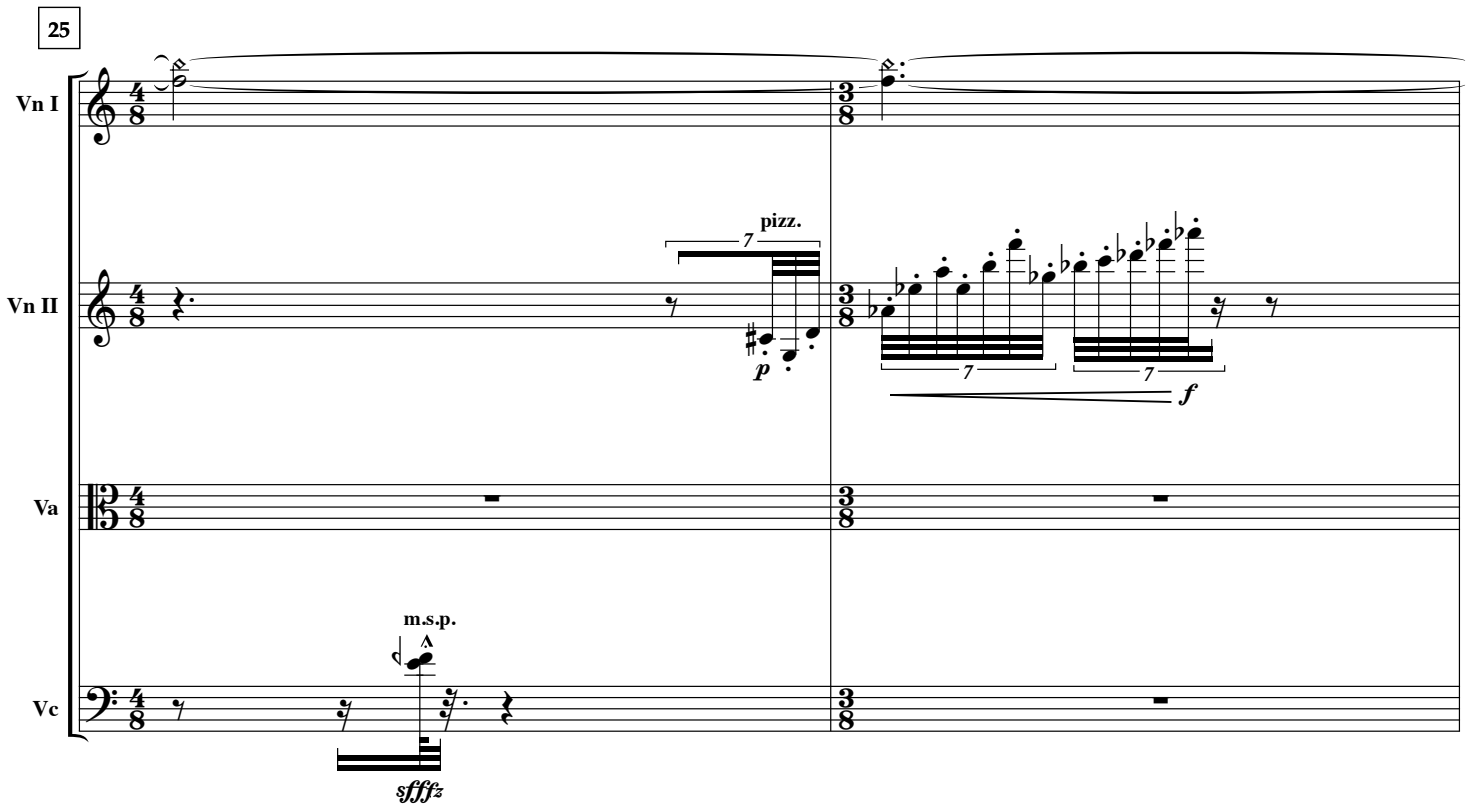

15
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
3
fff
ord.
7
pp
tr
ppp
p
ppp

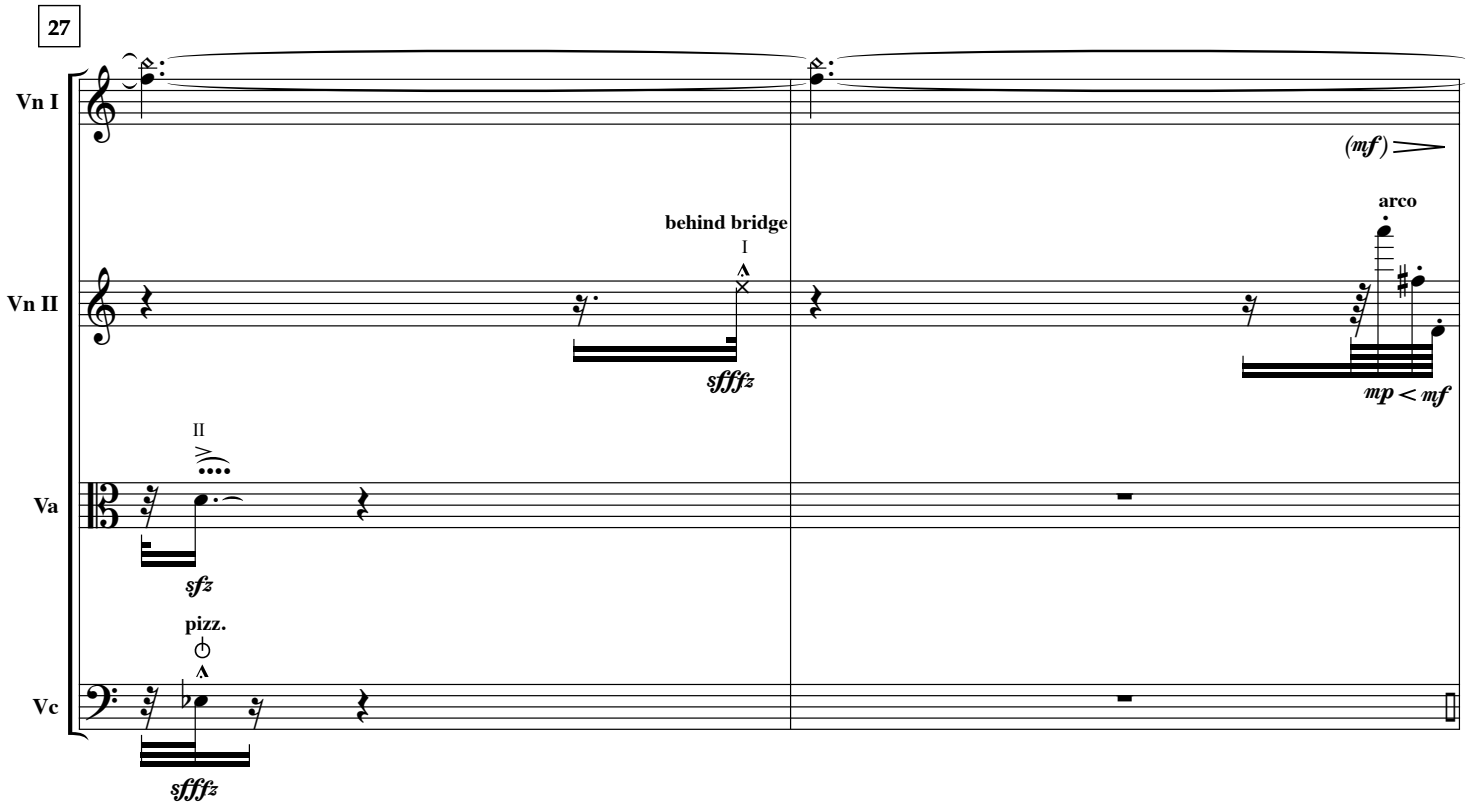

17
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
(p)
3
ff
pizz.
mf

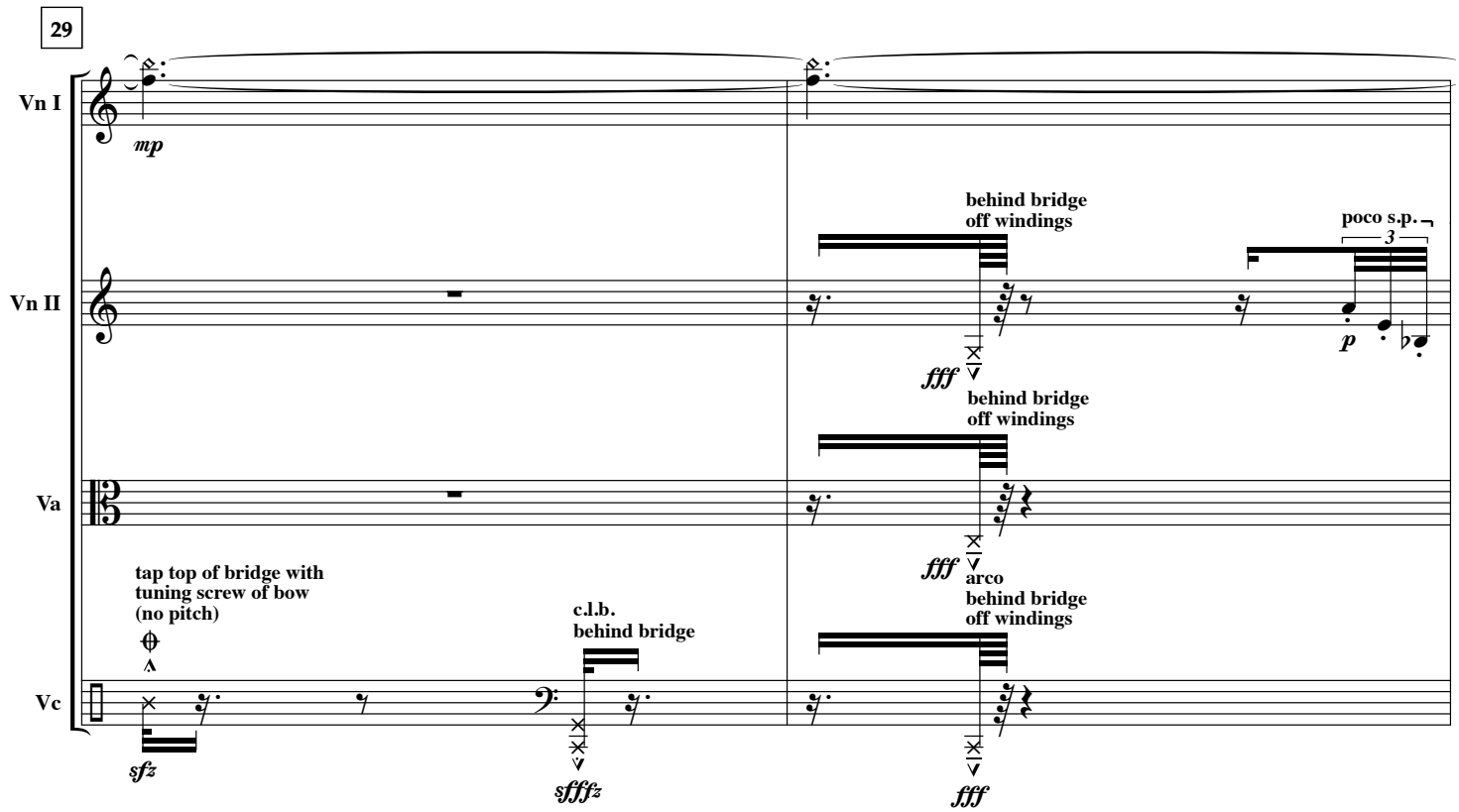

19
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
(p)
arco
3
sffz

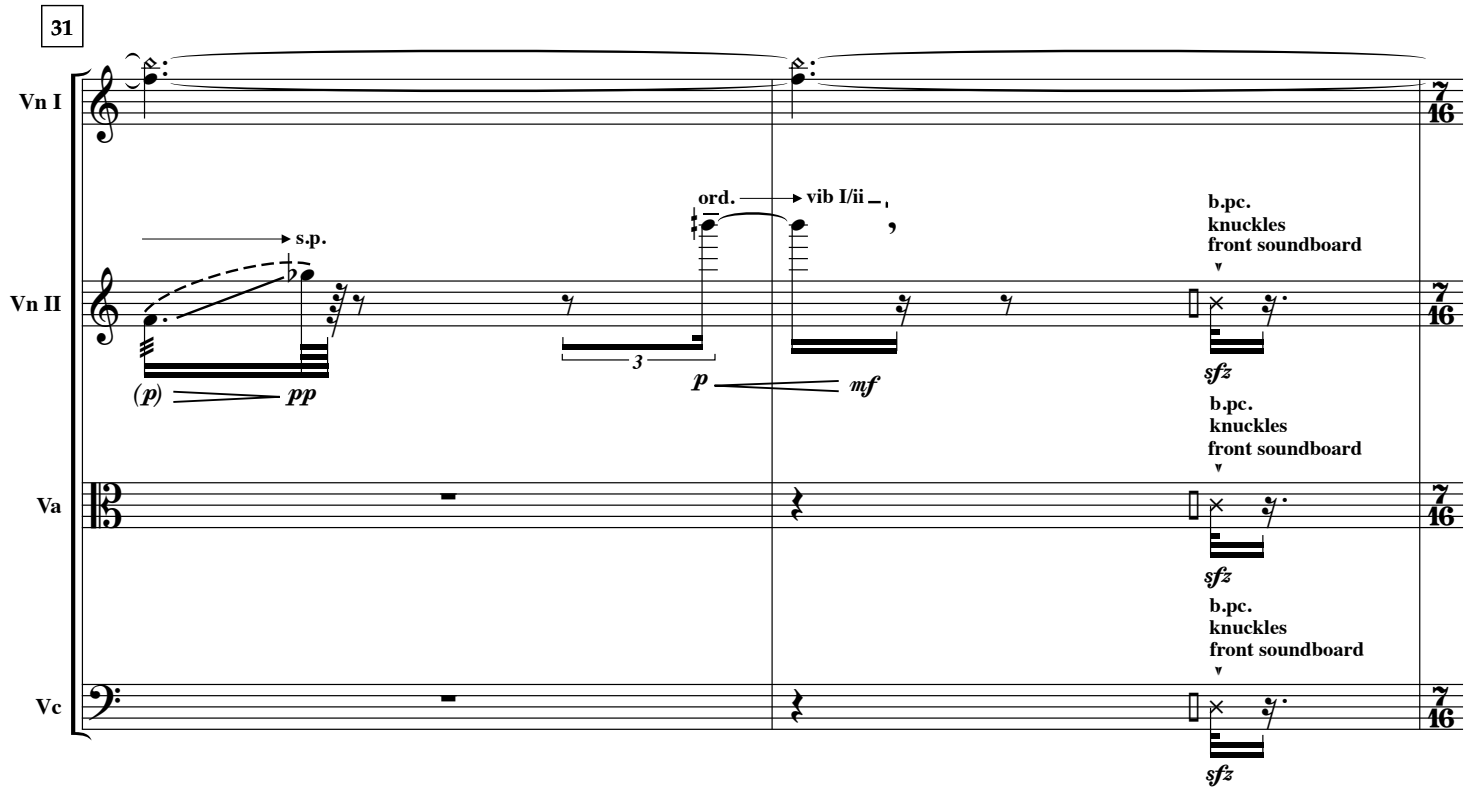

21
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
(p)
(p)
c.l.b.
mf

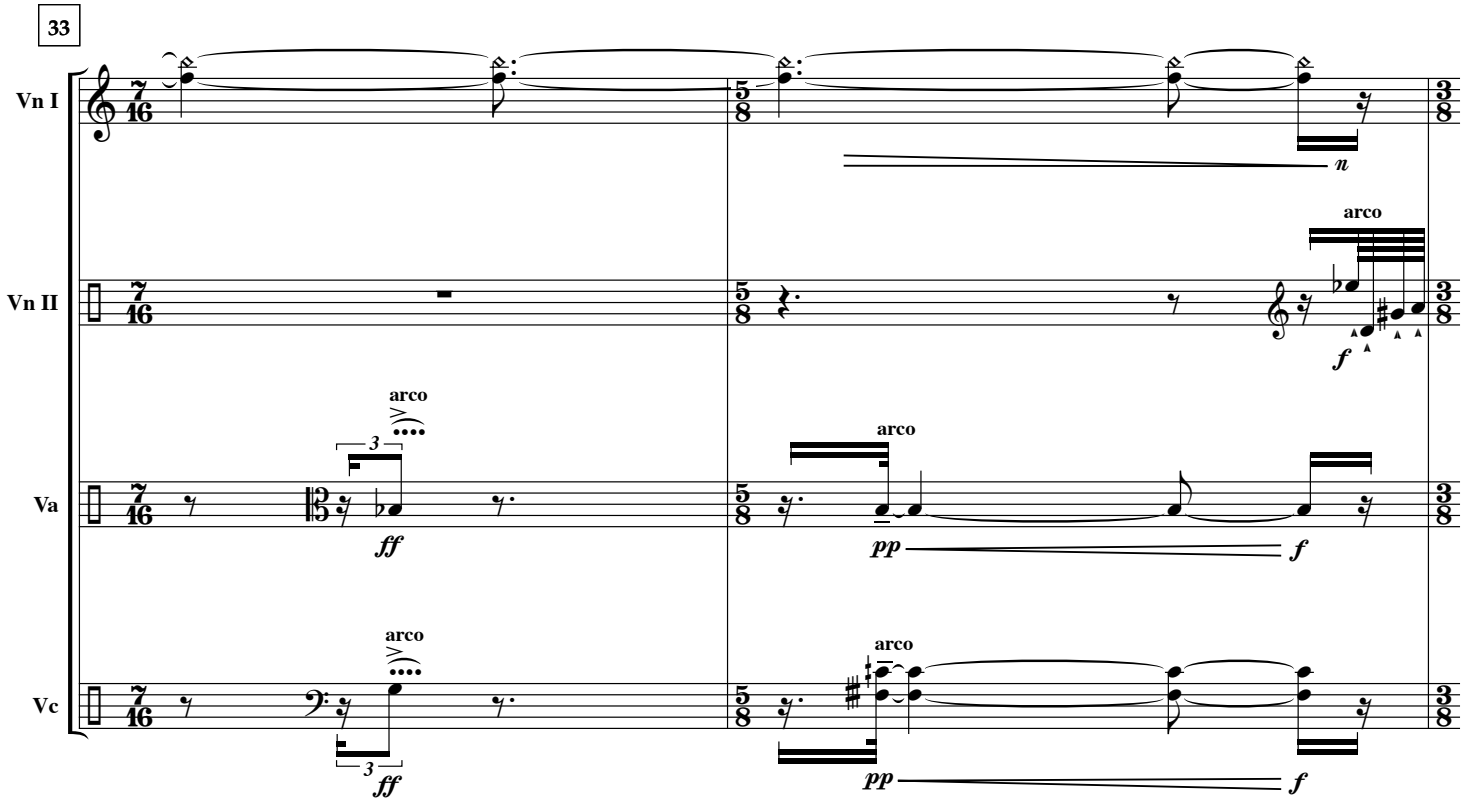

23
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
(p)
ppp
pppp
mf
c.l.t
7:6
7:6
7:6
(p)
ppp
pp
ppp
s.p.
mp
p
arco
s.p.
mp
p

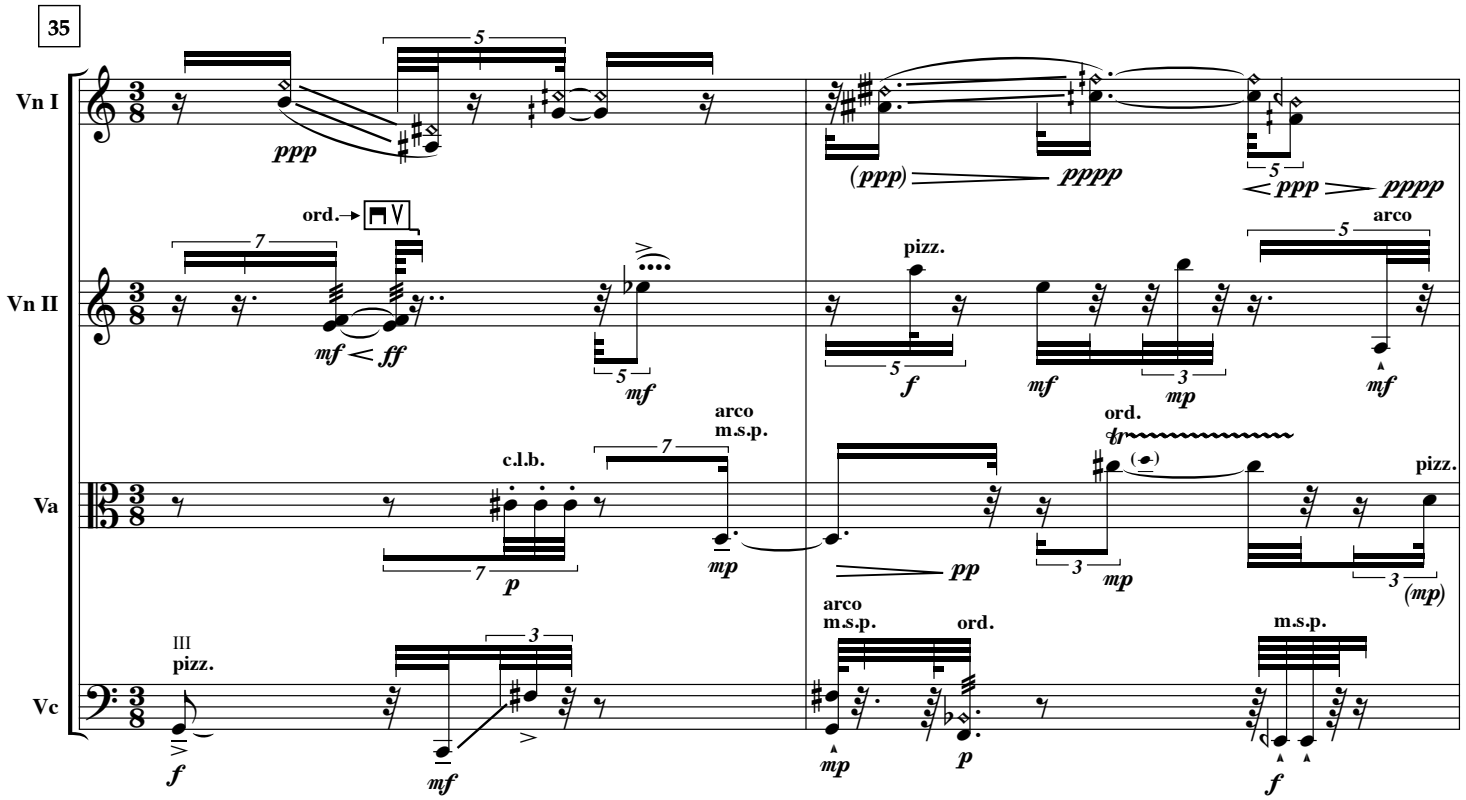

25
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pizz.
7
p
7
7
f
m.s.p.
sffz

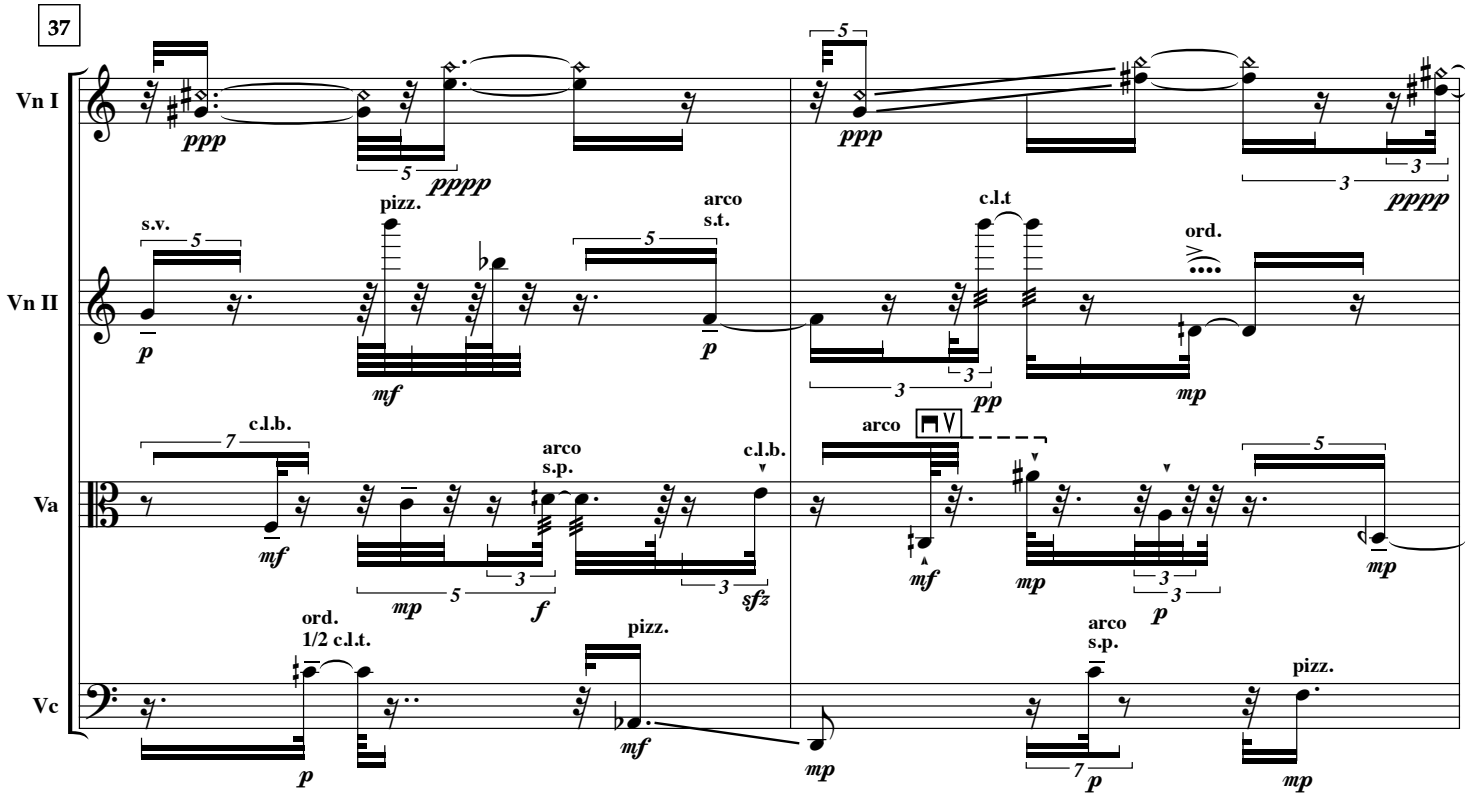

27
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
(mf)
behind bridge
I
sffz
arco
mp < mf
II
sfz
pizz.
sffz

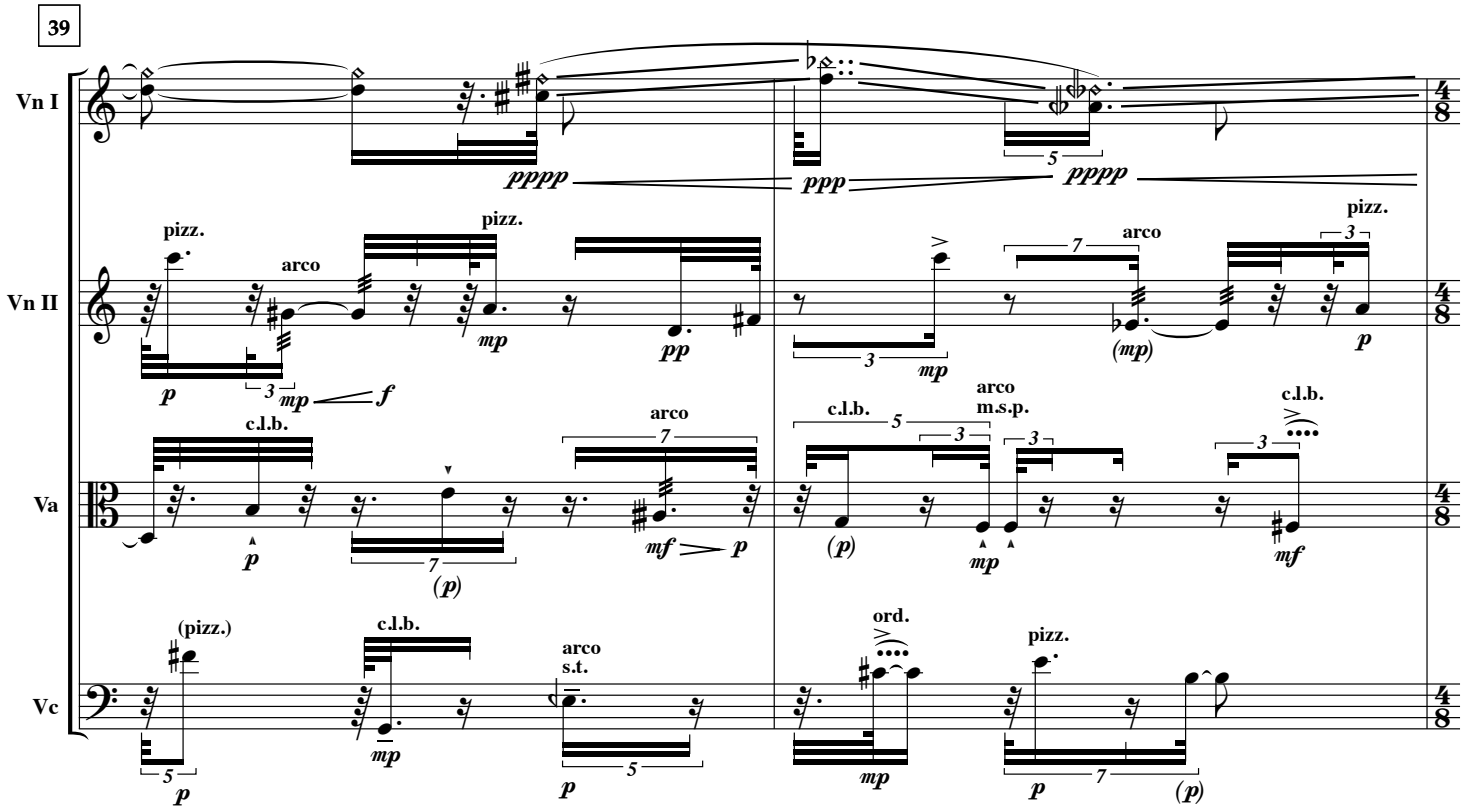

29
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
mp
behind bridge
off windings
fff
poco s.p.
3
p
behind bridge
off windings
fff
tap top of bridge with
tuning screw of bow
(no pitch)
sfz
c.l.b.
behind bridge
sffffz
arco
behind bridge
off windings
fff

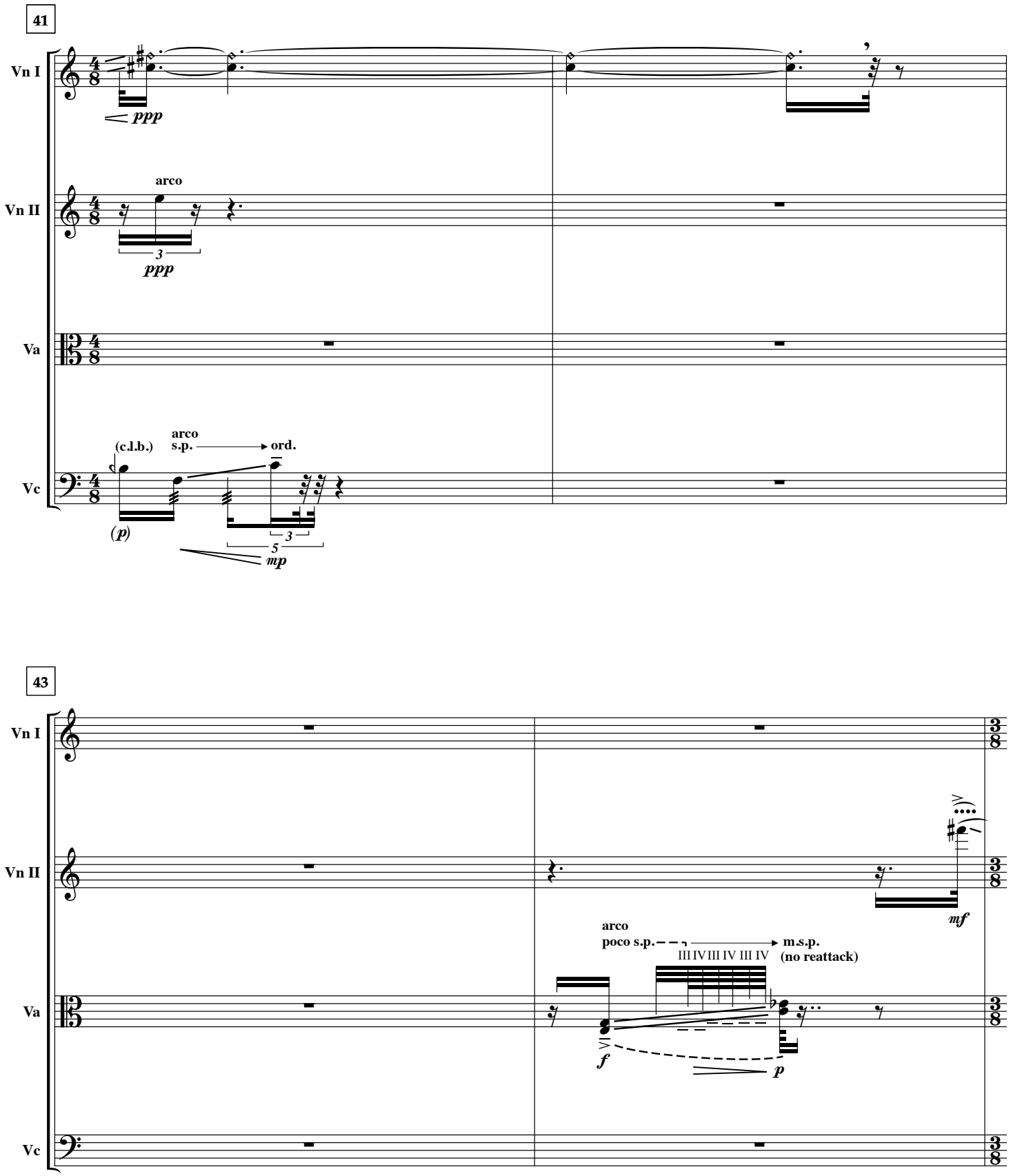

31
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
s.p.
(p)
pp
ord.
vib I/ii
3
p
mf
b.pc.
knuckles
front soundboard
sfz
b.pc.
knuckles
front soundboard
sfz
b.pc.
knuckles
front soundboard
sfz
7
16

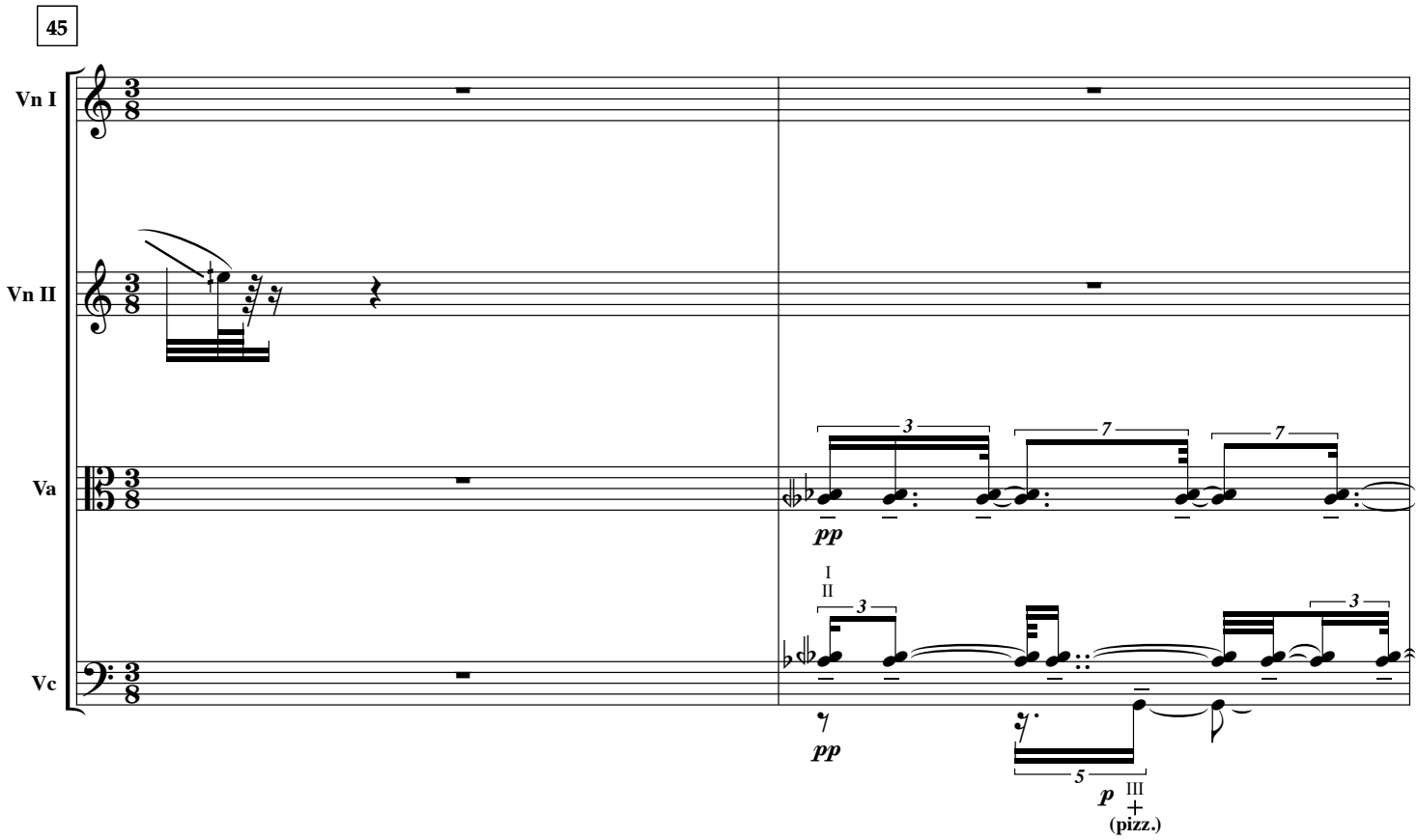

33
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
arco
ff
pp
f
n

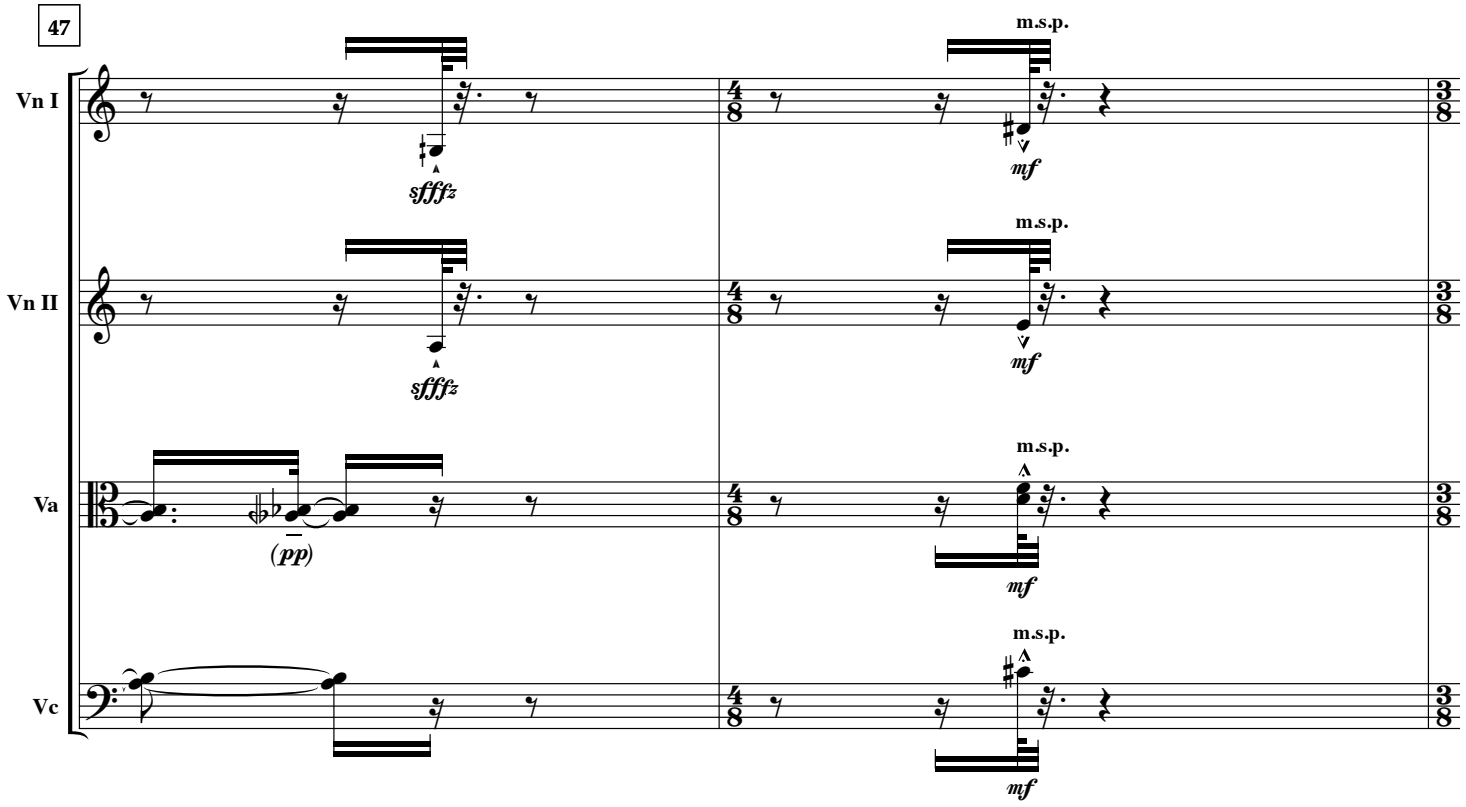

35
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
ppp
(ppp)
pppp
ord.
mf
ff
pizz.
arco
c.l.b.
arco m.s.p.
p
mp
III pizz.
arco m.s.p.
ord.
(mp)

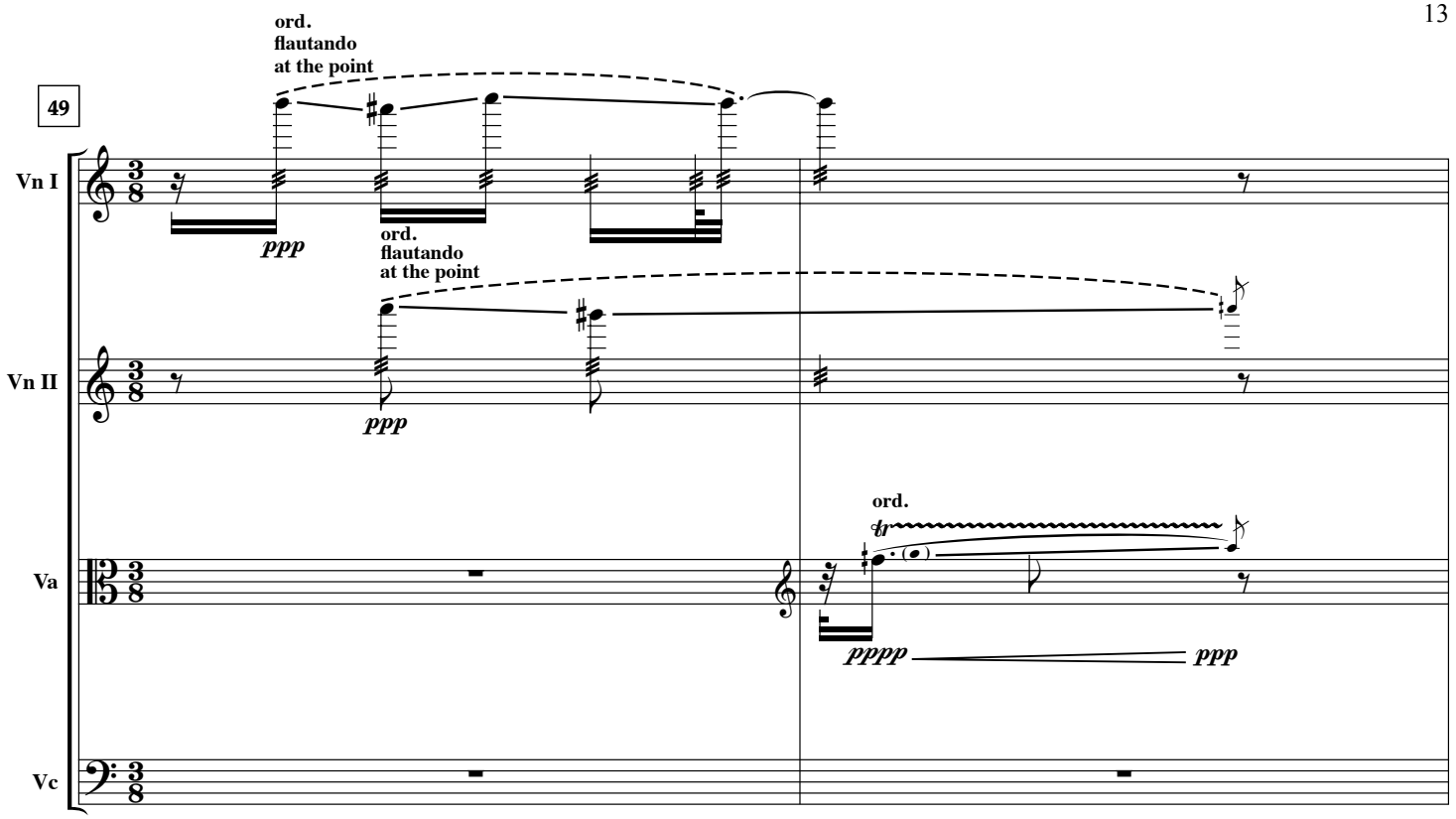

37
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
s.v.
pizz.
arco
s.t.
c.l.t
ord.
c.l.b.
arco
s.p.
c.l.b.
arco
ord.
1/2 c.l.t.
pizz.
arco
s.p.
pizz.

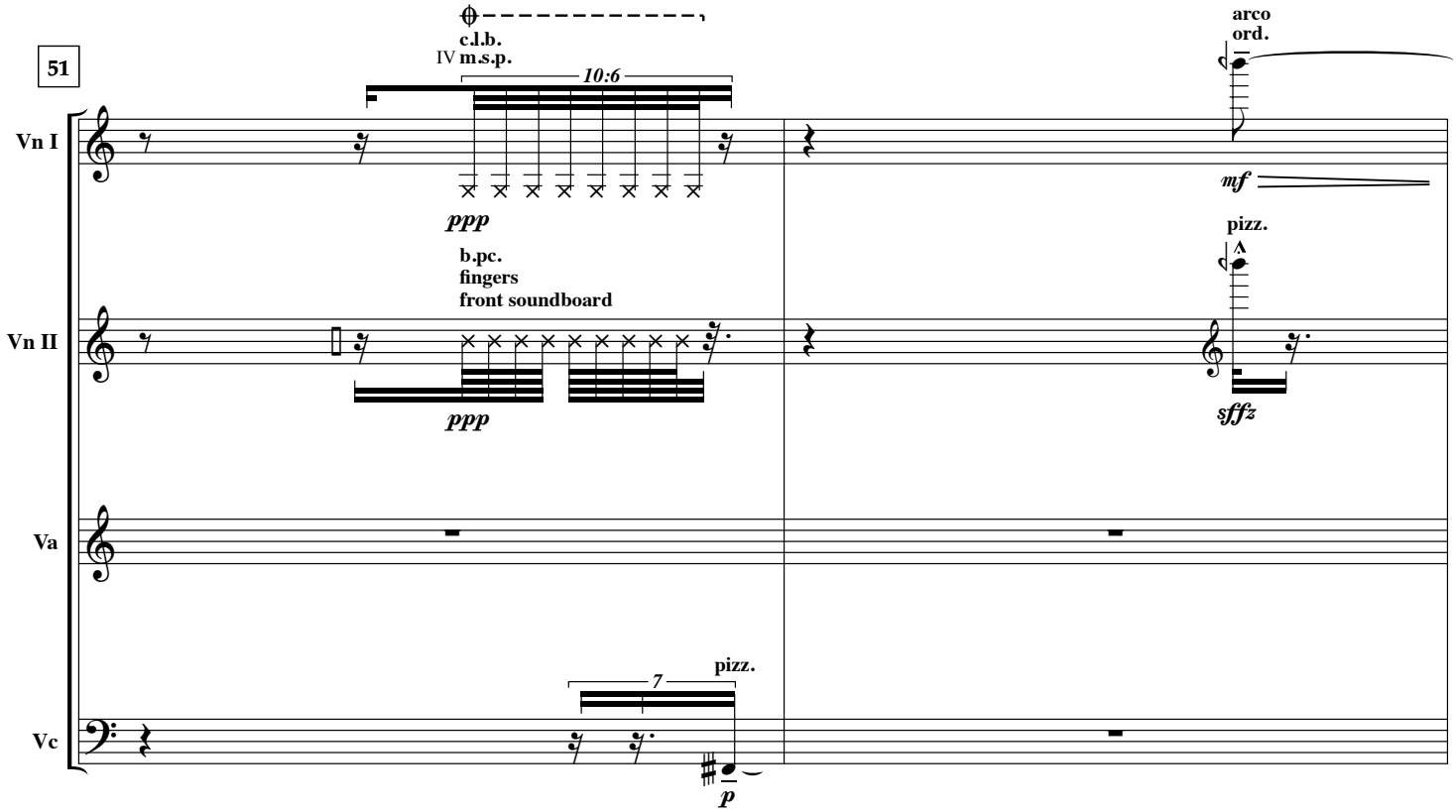

39
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
c.l.b.
arco
c.l.b.
arco
m.s.p.
c.l.b.
(pizz.)
c.l.b.
arco
s.t.
ord.
pizz.

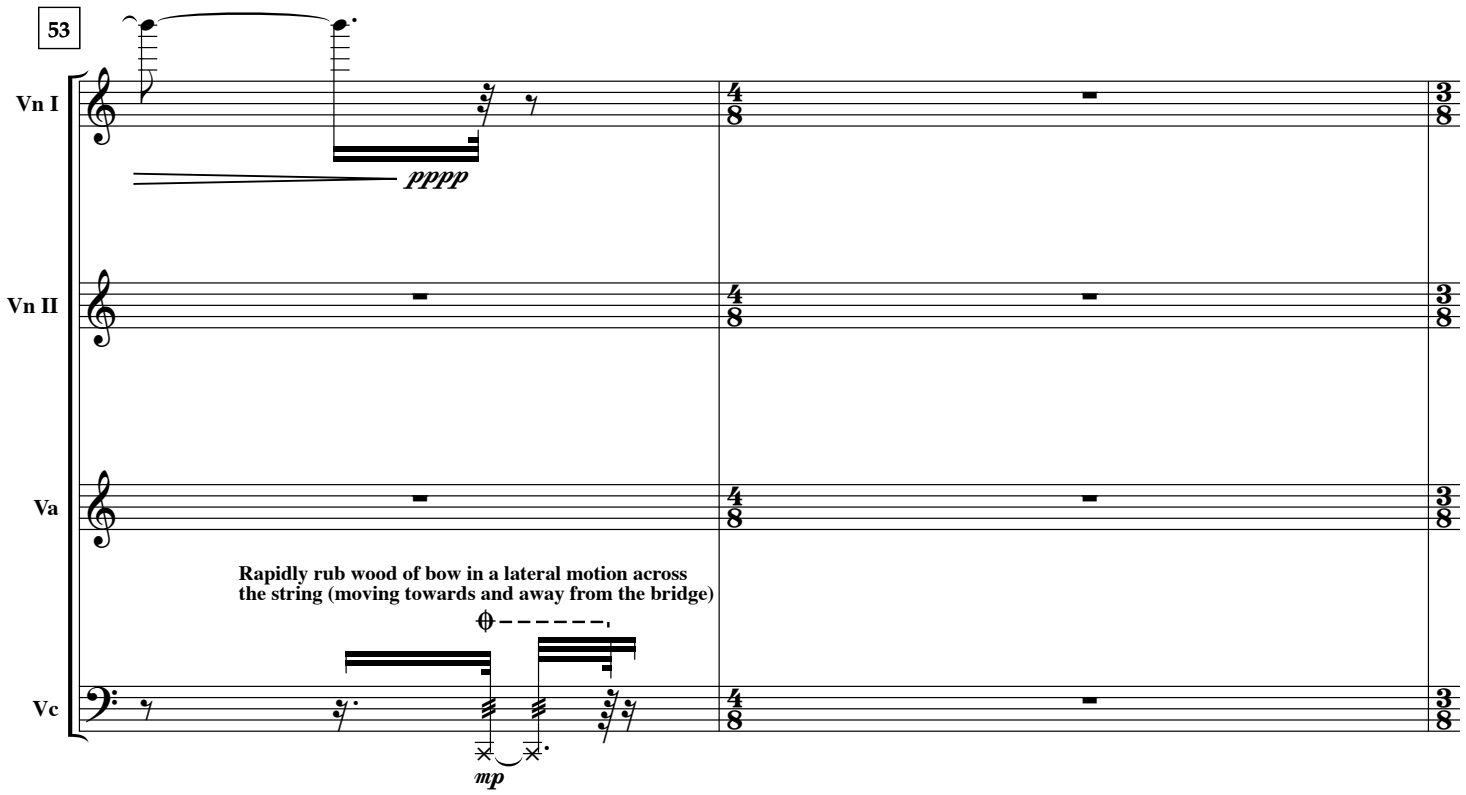

41
Vn I
ppp
Vn II
arco
3
ppp
Va
Vc
(c.l.b.)
arco
s.p.
ord.
(p)
3
5
mp
43
Vn I
Vn II
mf
arco
poco s.p.
m.s.p.
III IV III IV III IV
(no reattack)
Va
f
p
Vc

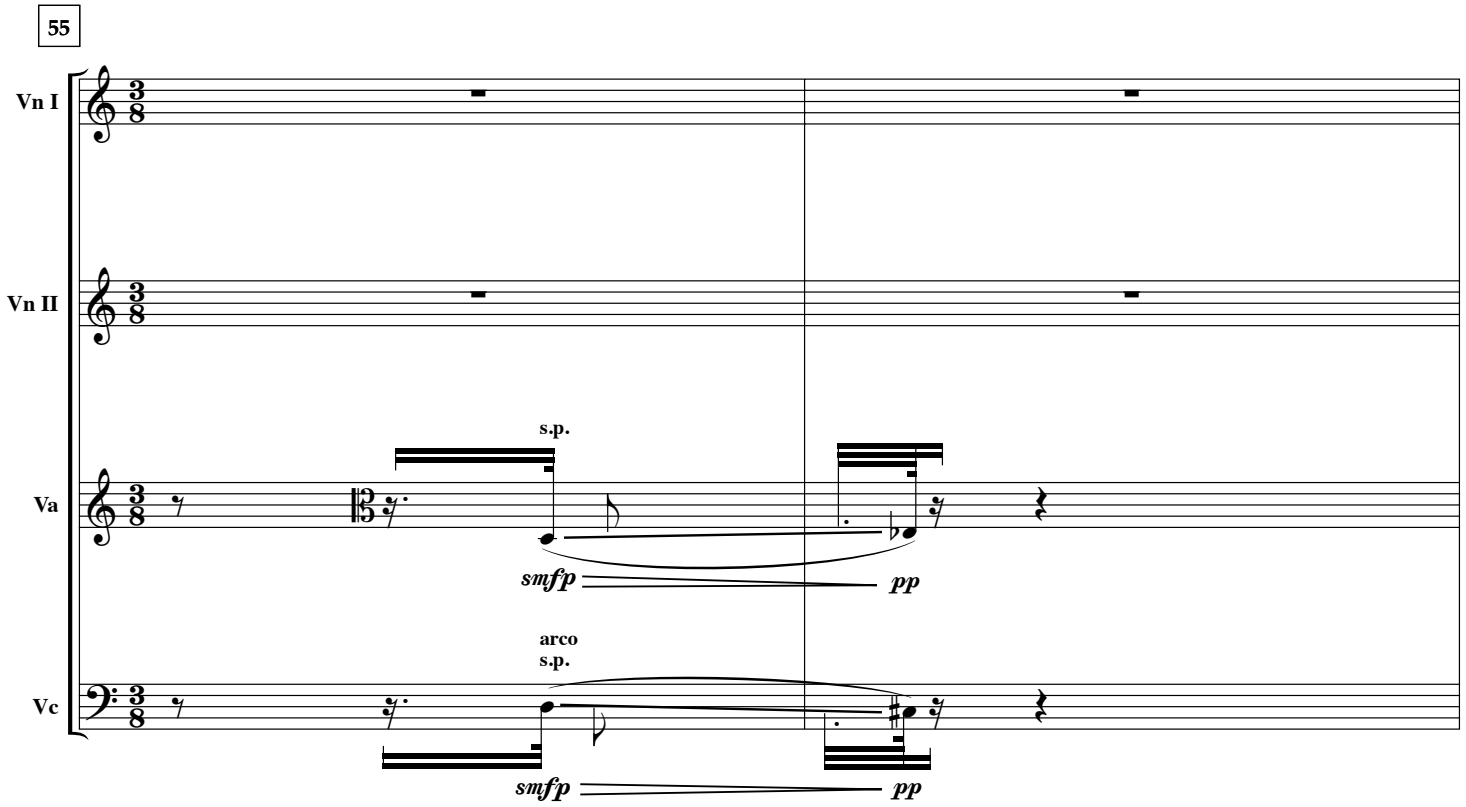

45
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
3
7
7
pp
I
II
3
3
pp
5
p
III
+
(pizz.)

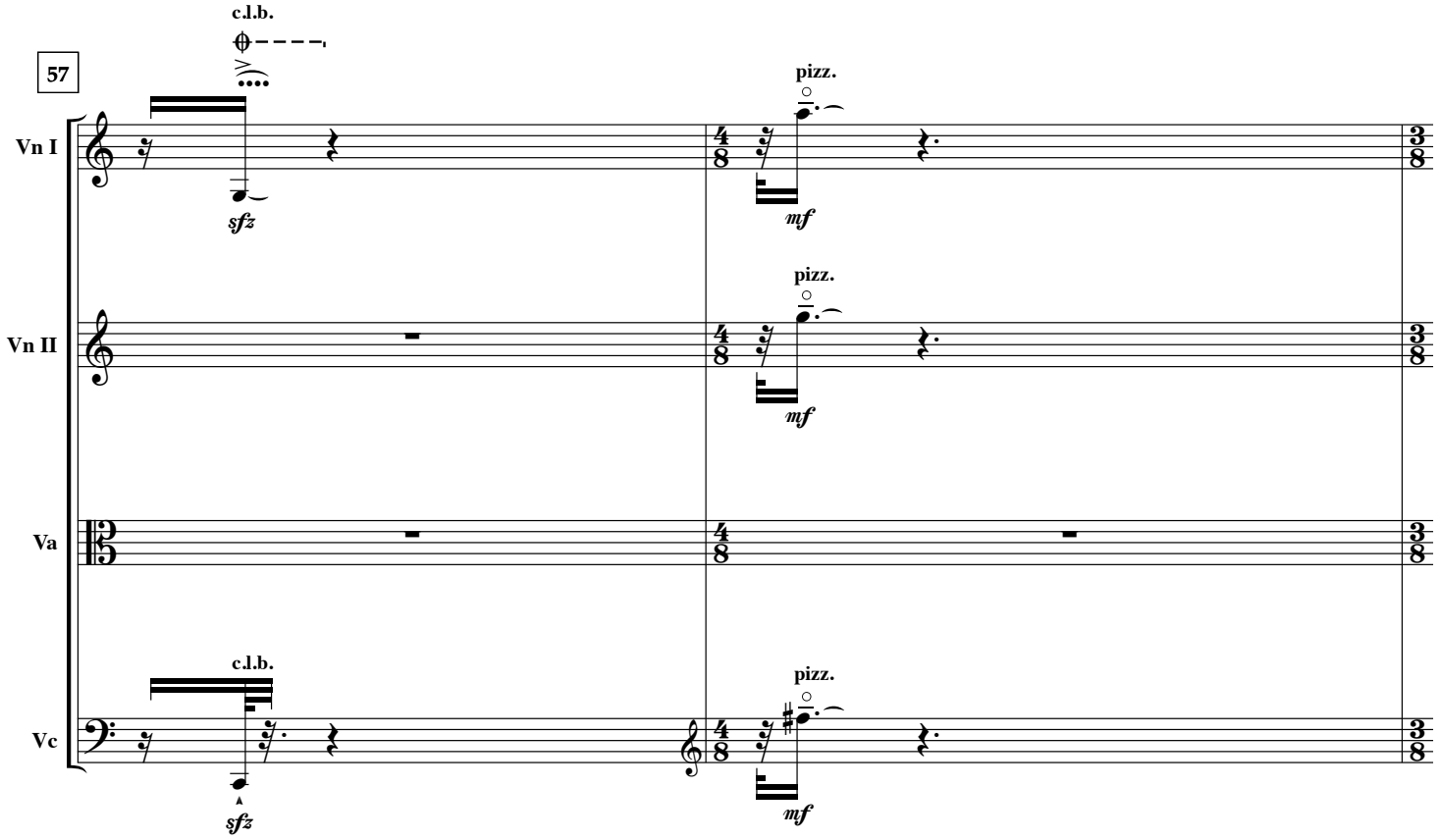

47
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
sfffz
sfffz
(pp)
m.s.p.
mf
m.s.p.
mf
m.s.p.
mf
m.s.p.
mf

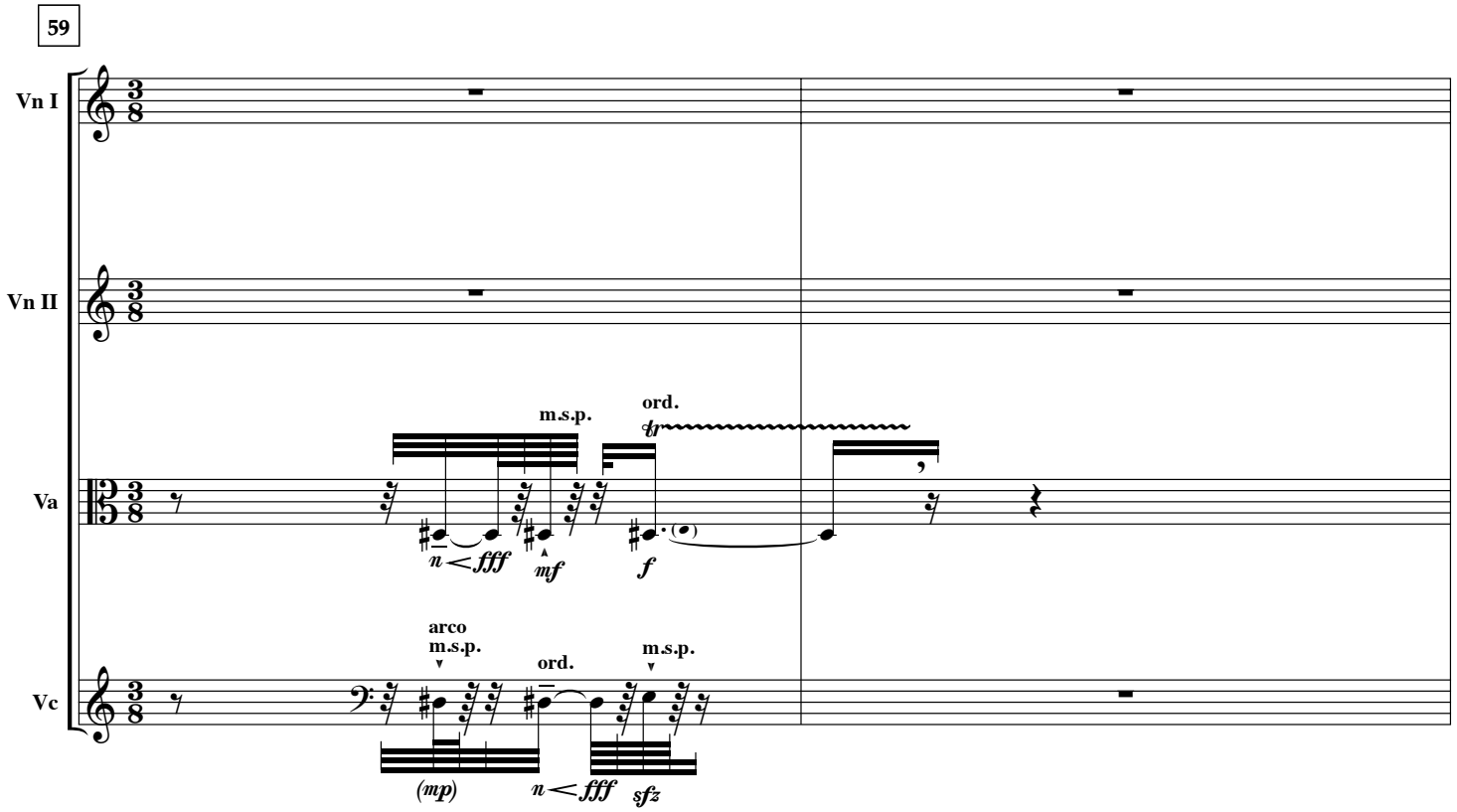

49
ord.
flautando
at the point
Vn I
ppp
ord.
flautando
at the point
Vn II
ppp
Va
ord.
tr
pppp
ppp
Vc

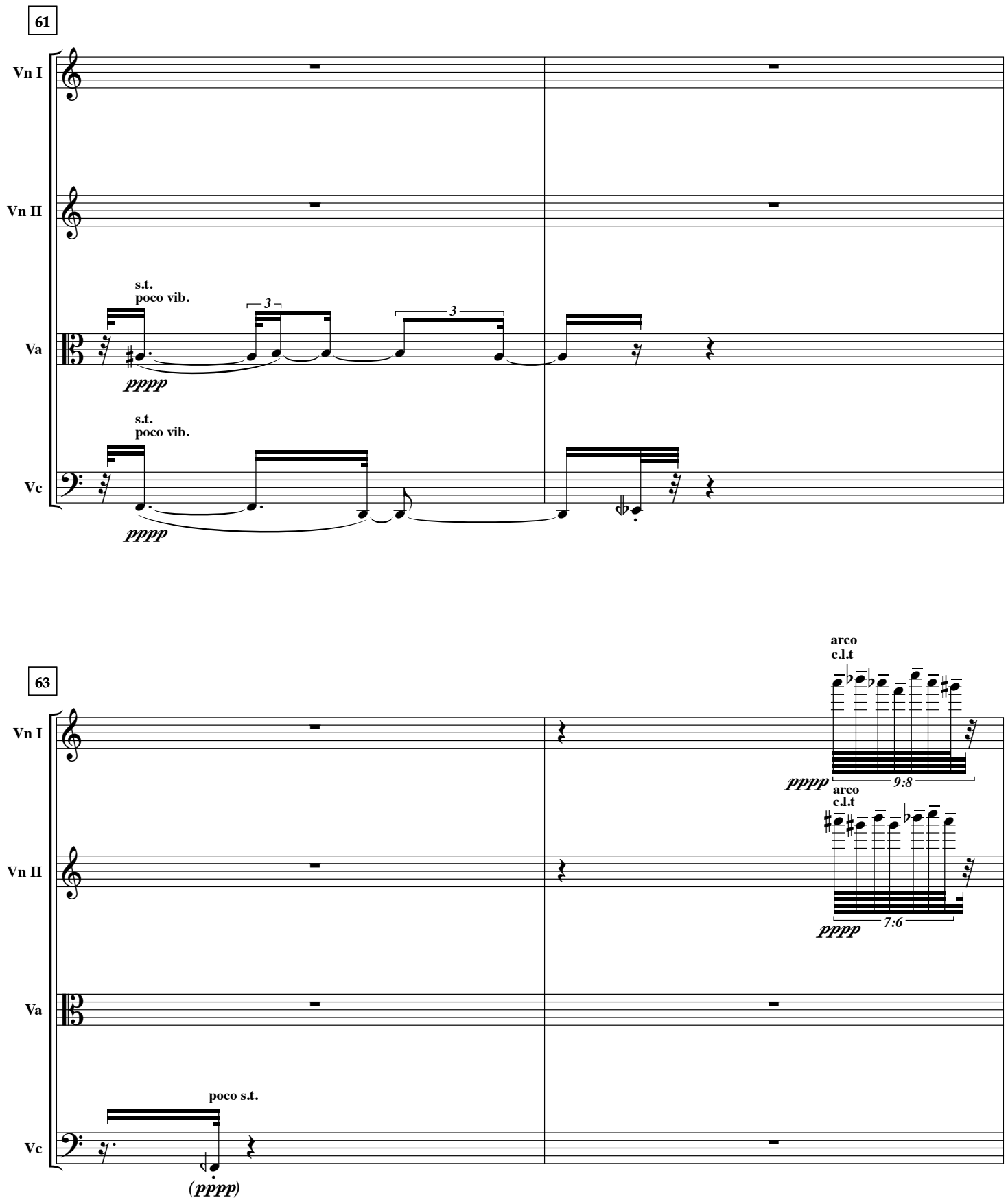

51
c.l.b.
IV m.s.p.
10:6
Vn I
ppp
arco
ord.
mf
pizz.
b.pc.
fingers
front soundboard
Vn II
ppp
sfz
Va
7
pizz.
Vc
p

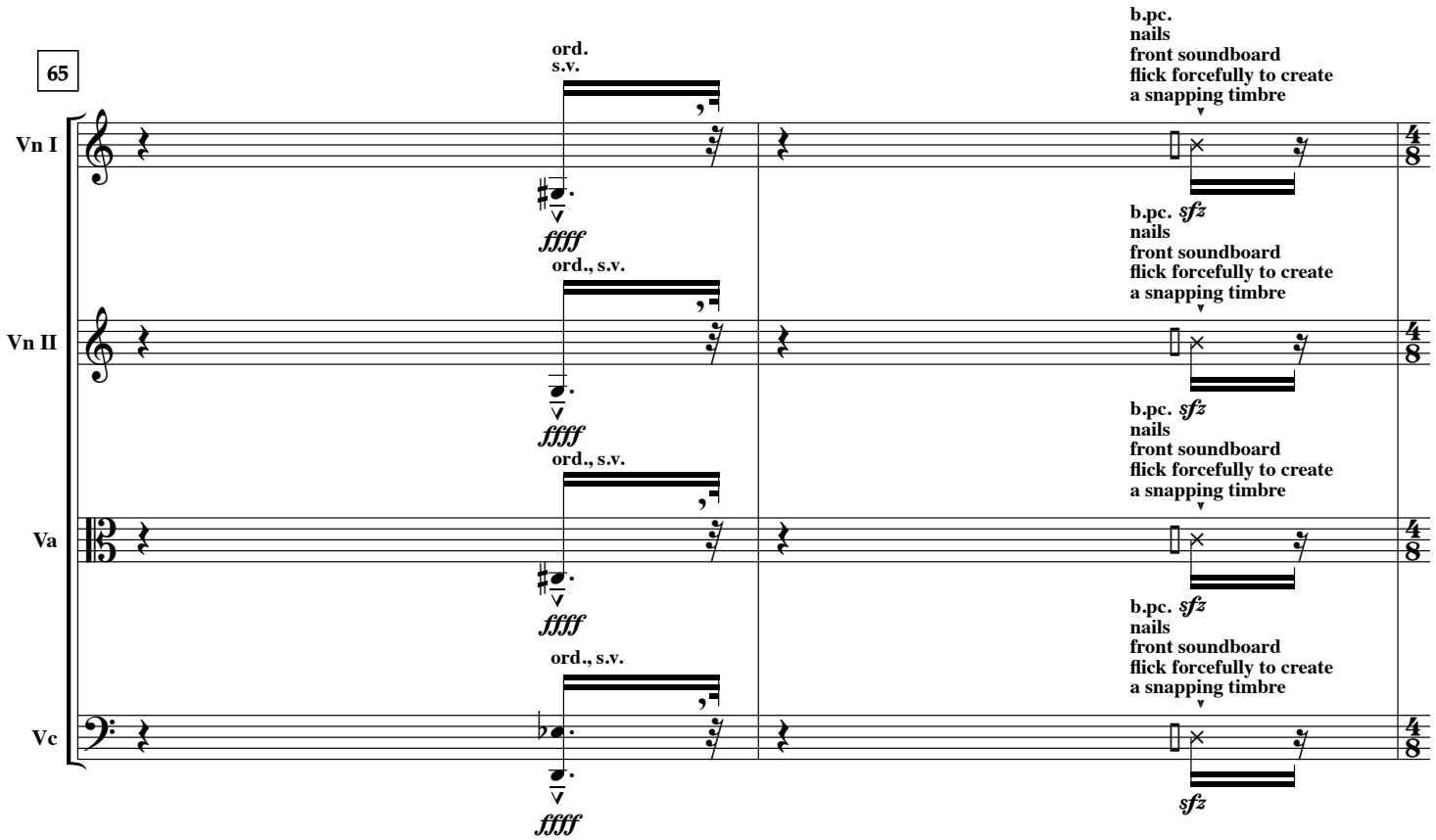

53
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pppp
Rapidly rub wood of bow in a lateral motion across
the string (moving towards and away from the bridge)
mp

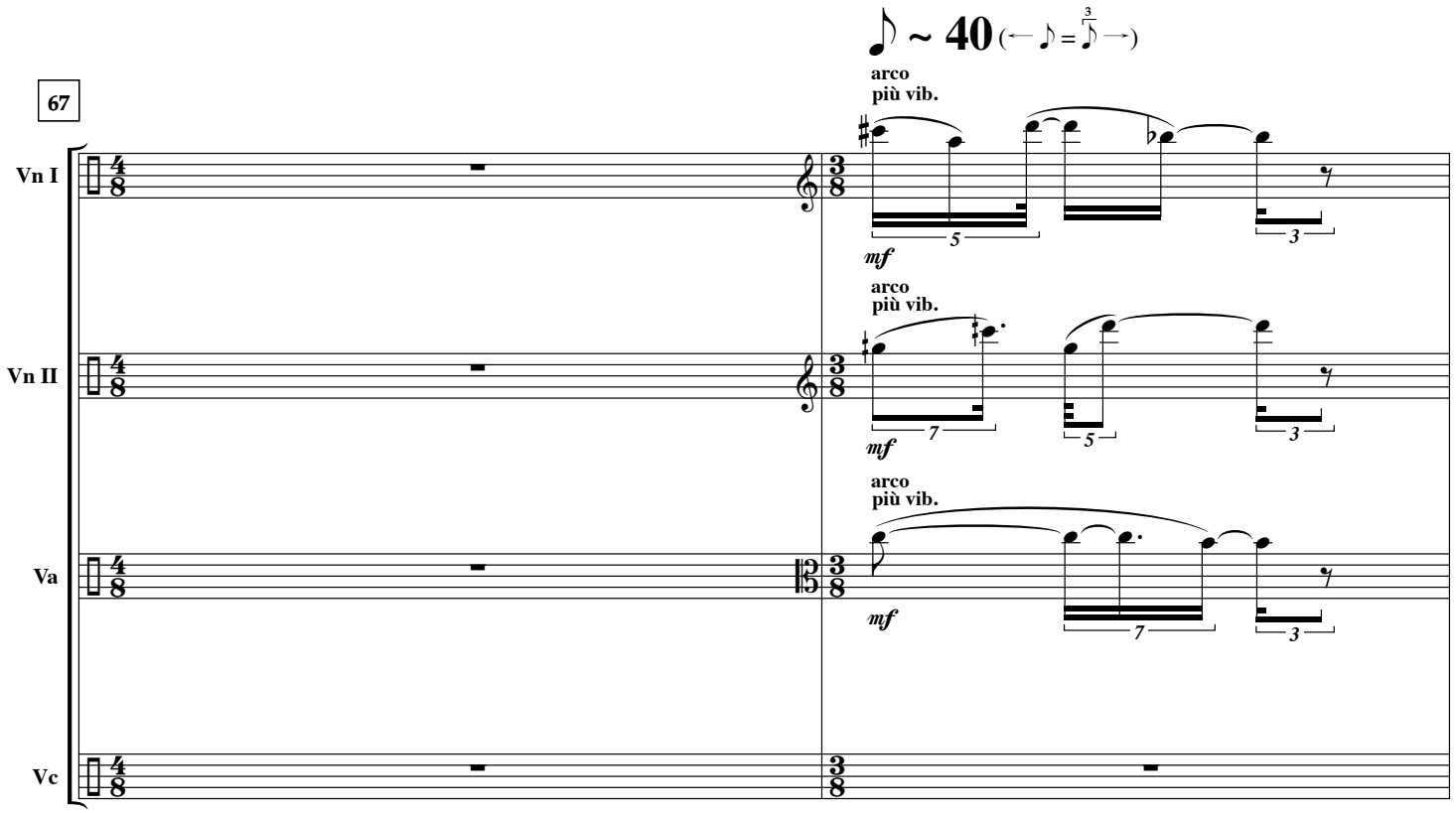

55
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
s.p.
smfp
pp
arco
s.p.
smfp
pp

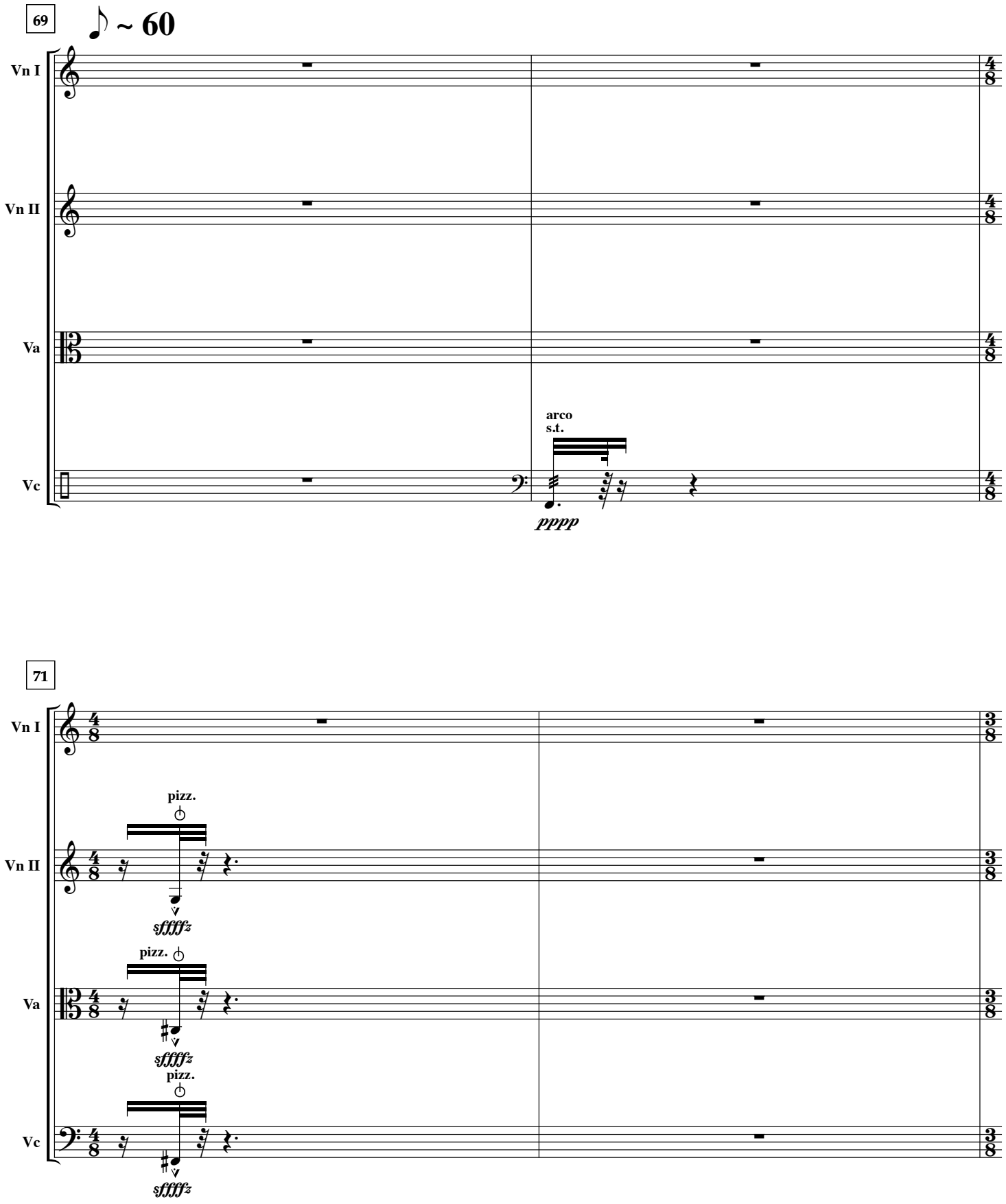

57
c.l.b.
sfz
pizz.
mf
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc

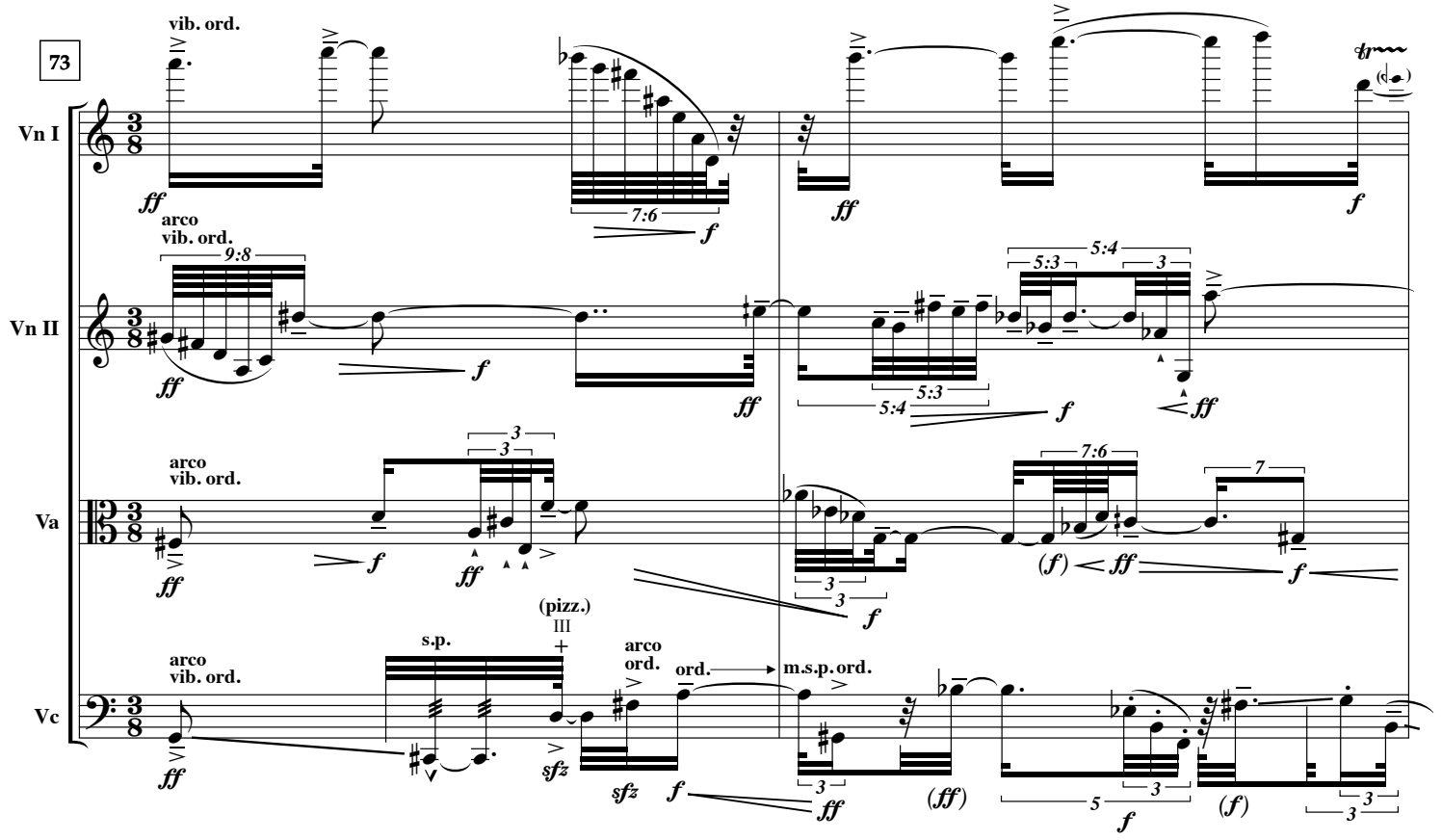

59
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
m.s.p.
ord.
n
fff
mf
f
arco
m.s.p.
ord.
m.s.p.
(mp)
n
fff
sfz

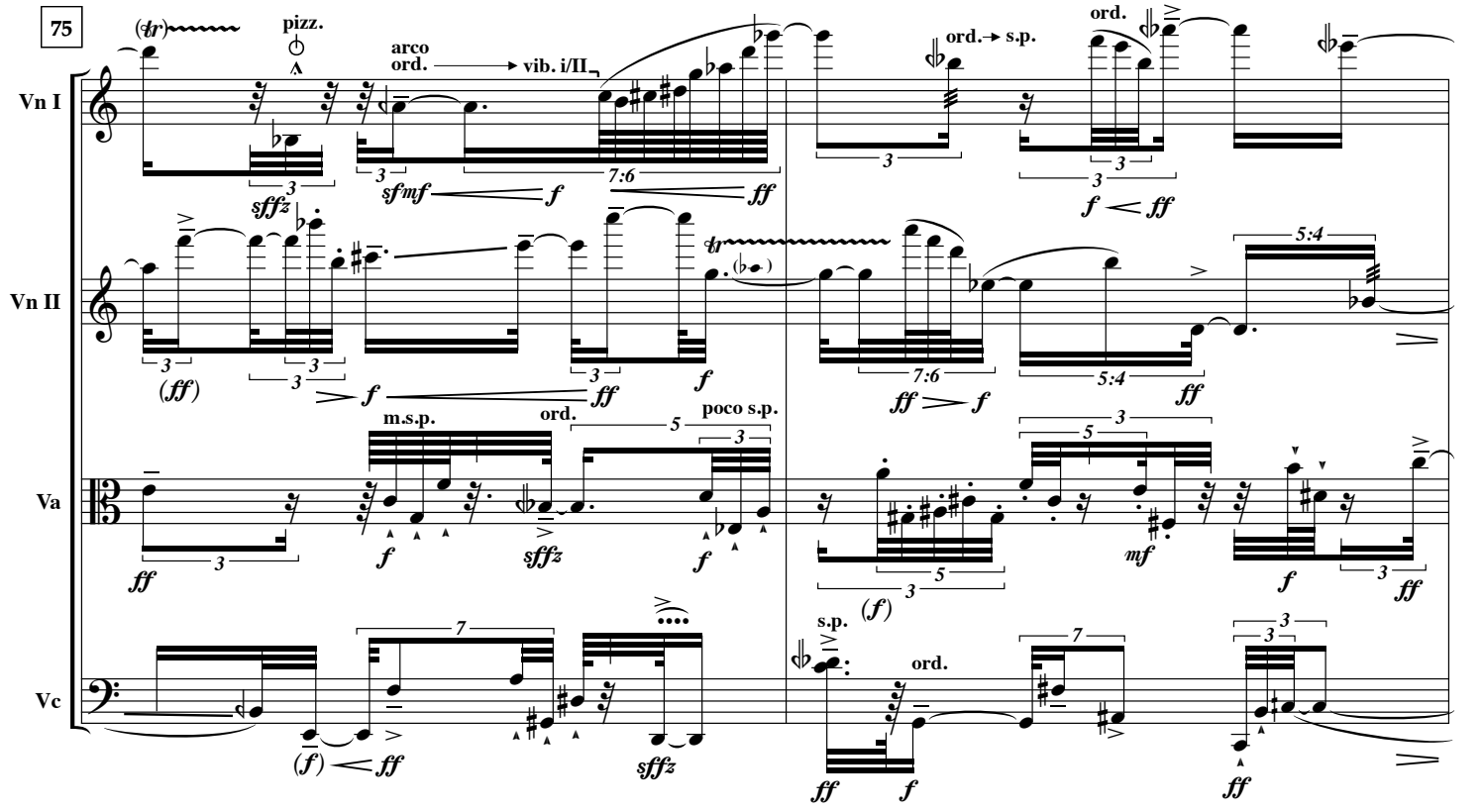

61
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
s.t.
poco vib.
3
3
pppp
s.t.
poco vib.
pppp
63
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
arco
c.l.t
pppp
9:8
arco
c.l.t
pppp
7:6
poco s.t.
(pppp)

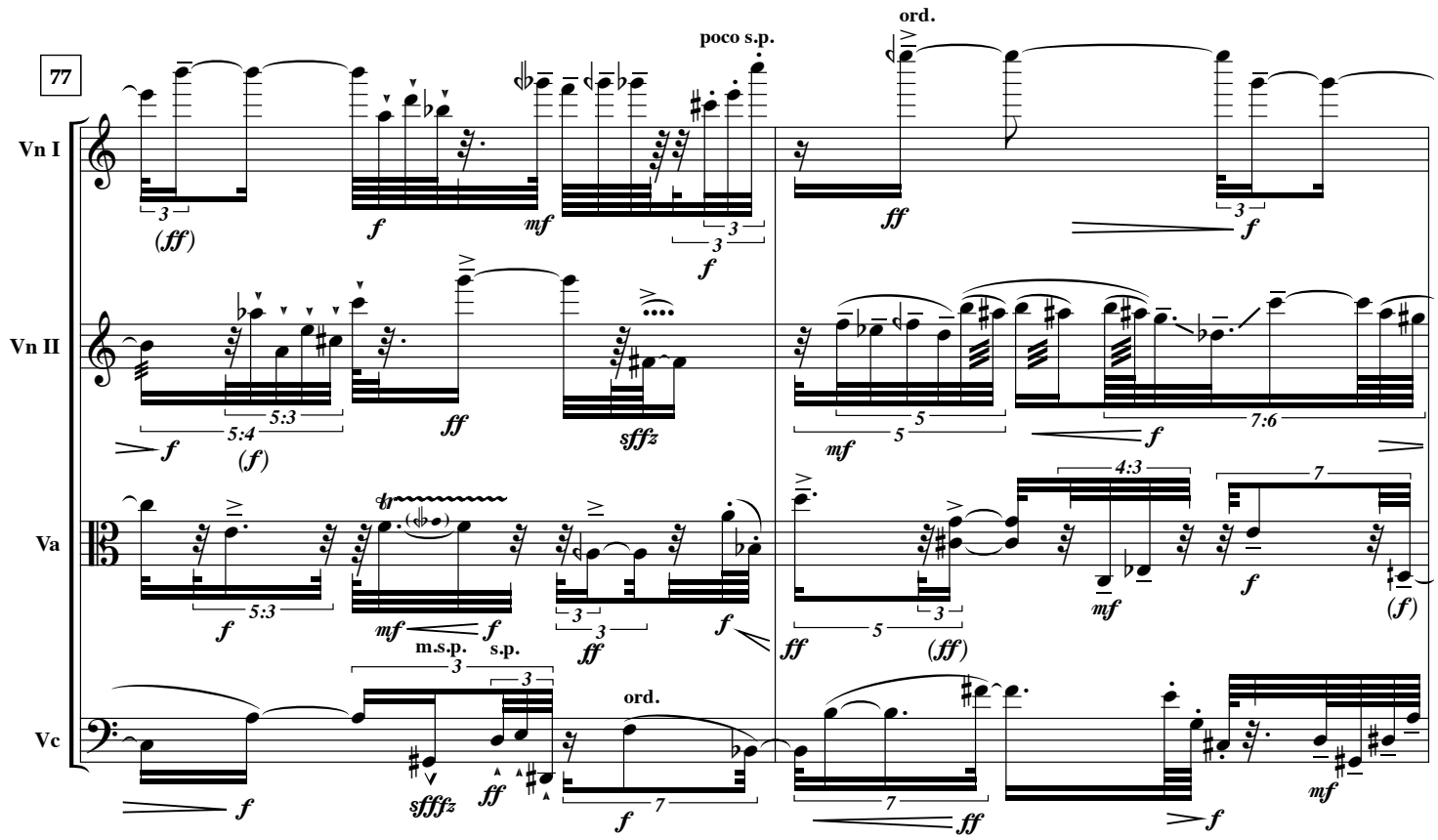

65
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
ord.
s.v.
ord., s.v.
ffff
b.pc.
nails
front soundboard
flick forcefully to create
a snapping timbre
b.pc. sfz
sfz

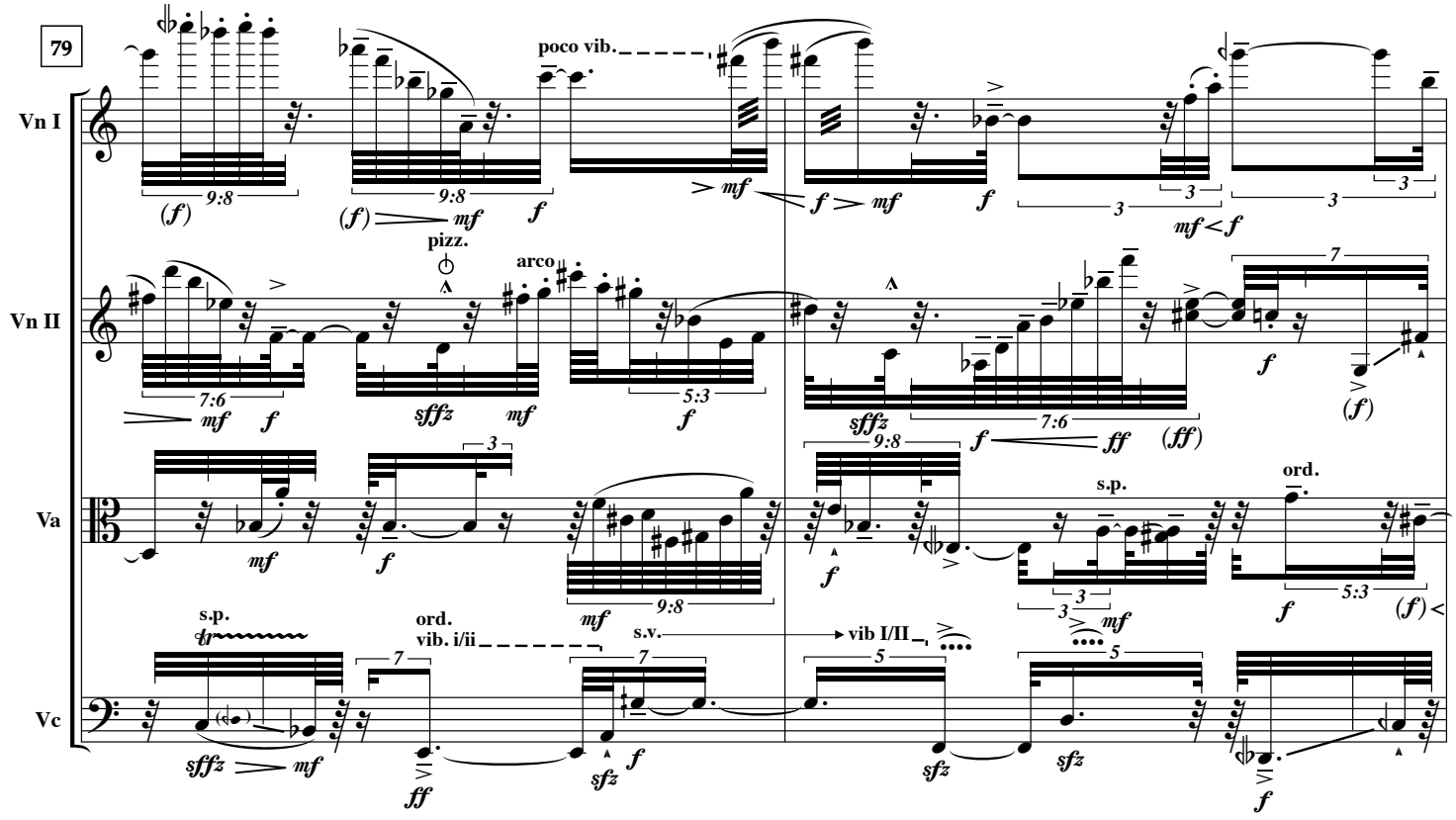

67
~ 40 (← ♪ = 3 ♪ →)
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
arco
più vib.
mf
5
3
7

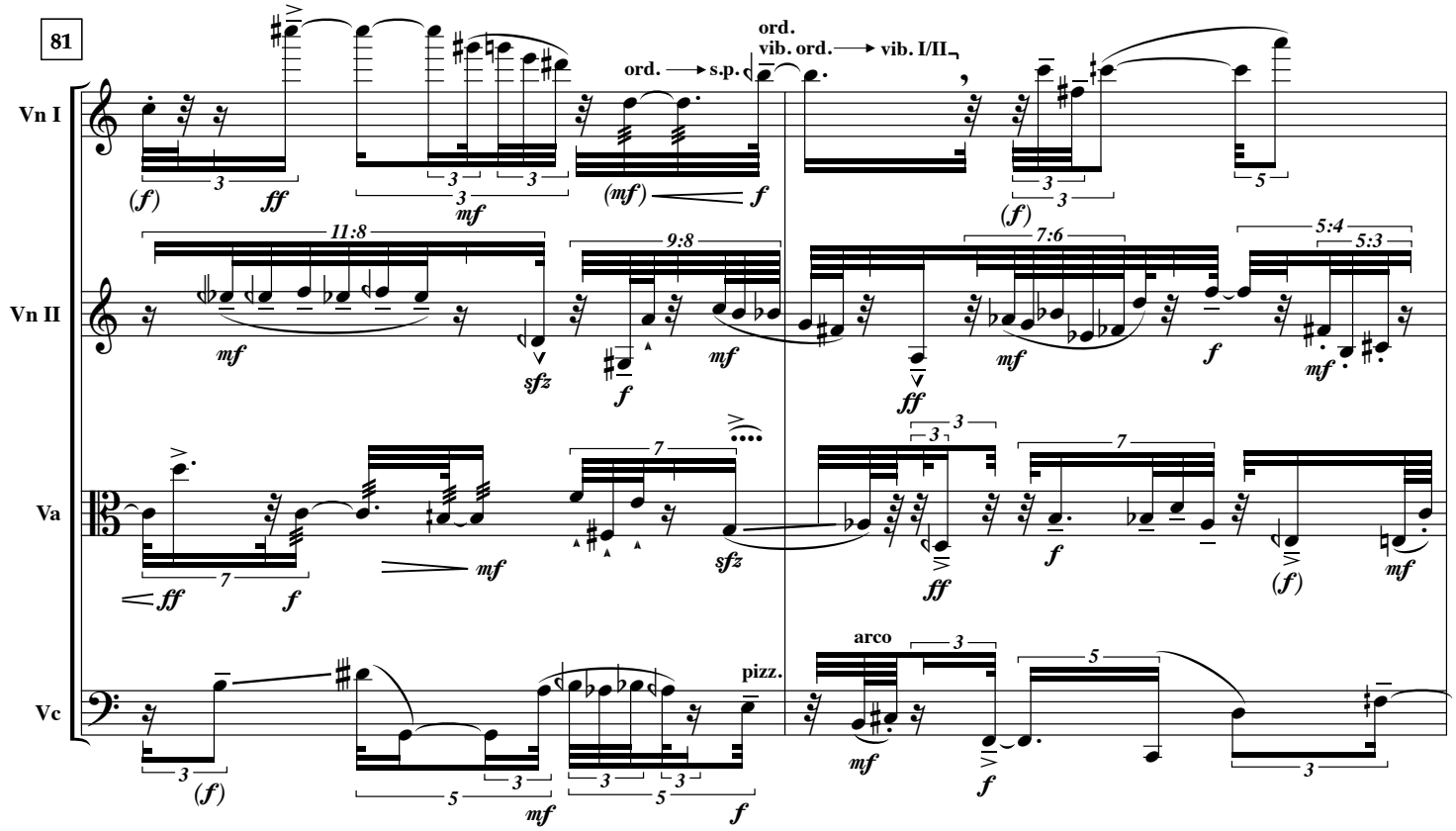

69
♪ ~ 60
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
arco
s.t.
pppp
71
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pizz.
sffffz
pizz.
sffffz
pizz.
sffffz

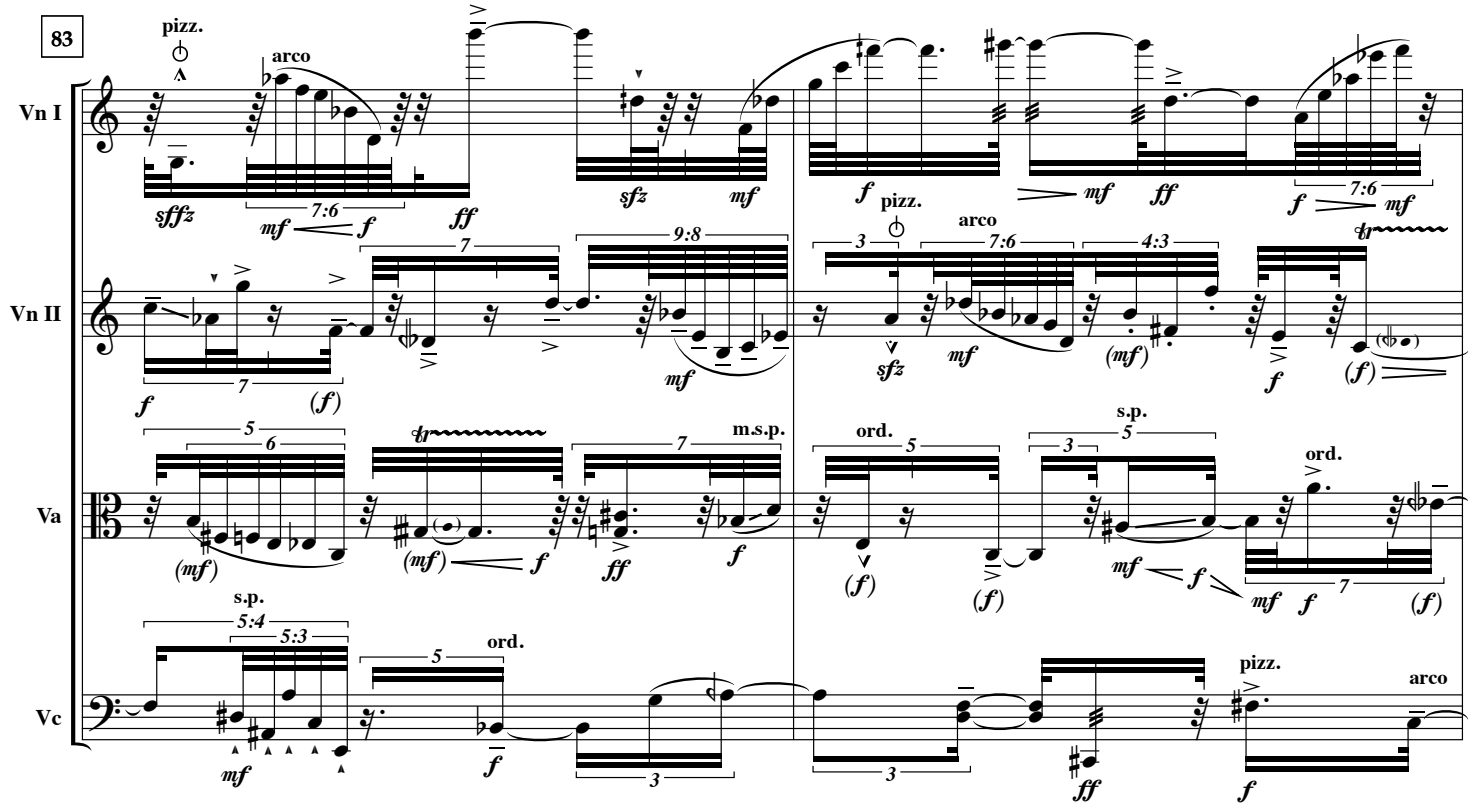

73
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
vib. ord.
arco
vib. ord.
(pizz.)
III
s.p.
arco
ord.
ord.
m.s.p.
ord.
9:8
7:6
5:4
5:3

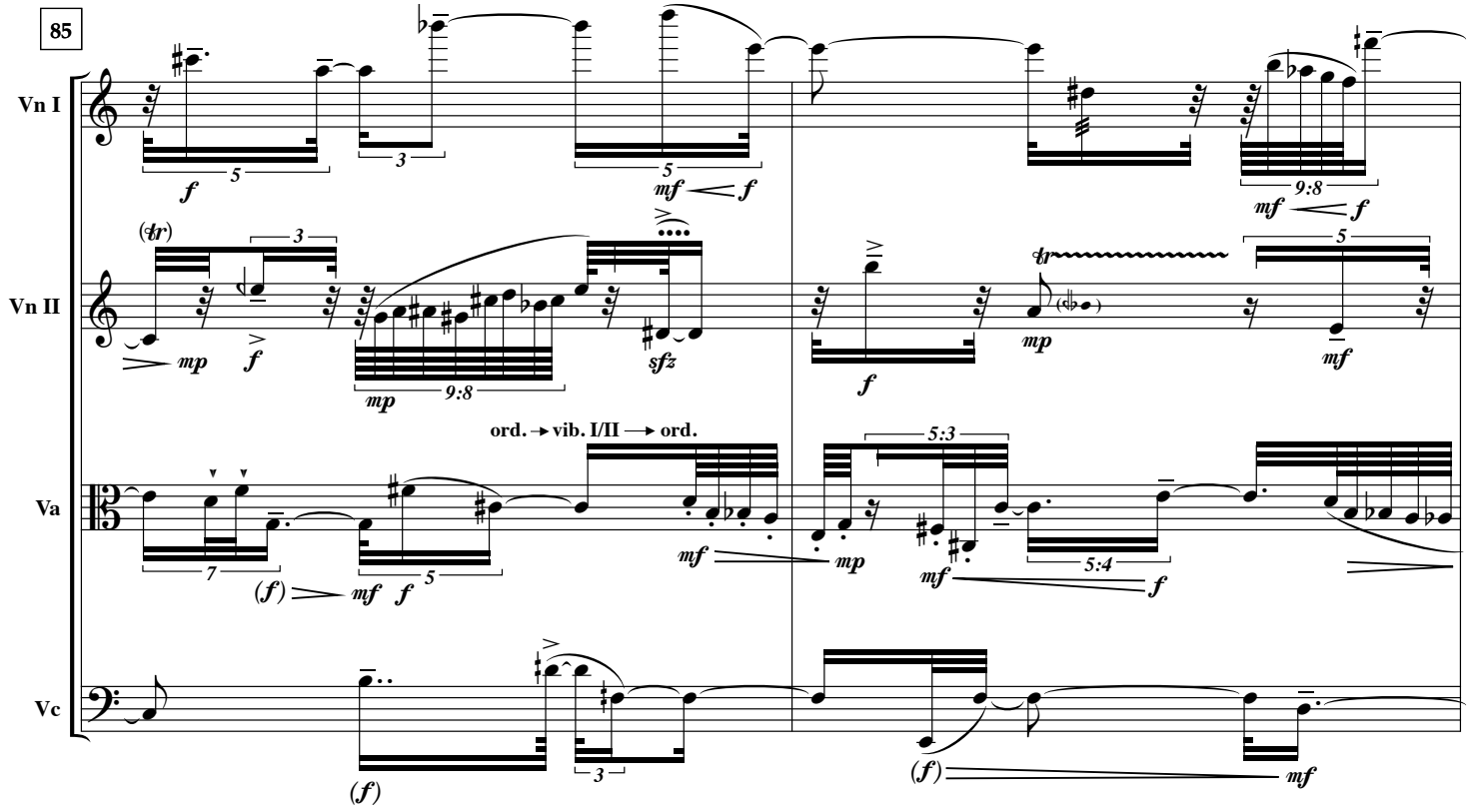

75
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pizz.
arco
ord.
vib. i/II
ord.
s.p.
ord.
m.s.p.
ord.
poco s.p.
s.p.
ord.
7:6
5:4
5:3

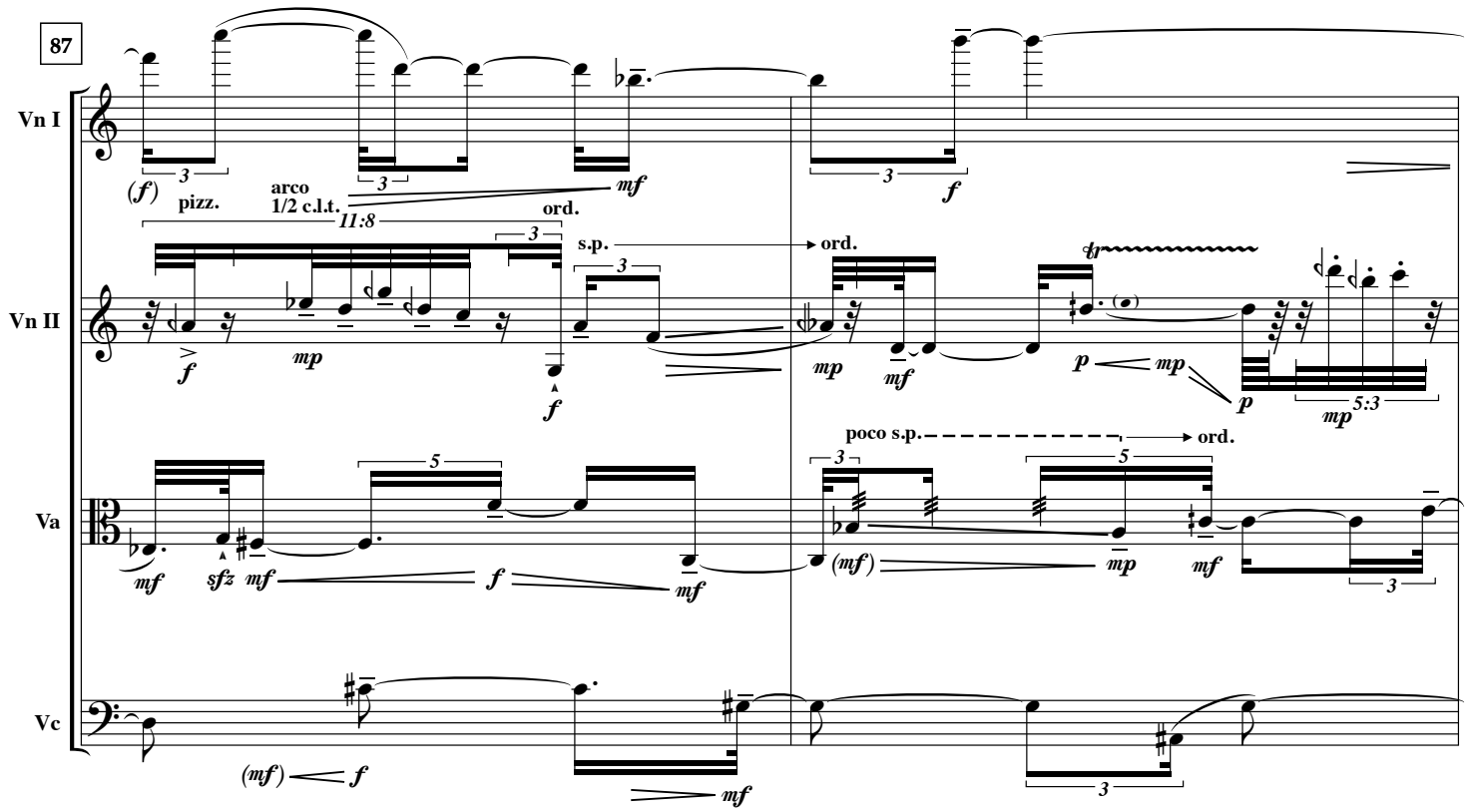

77
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
poco s.p.
ord.
m.s.p.
s.p.
ord.

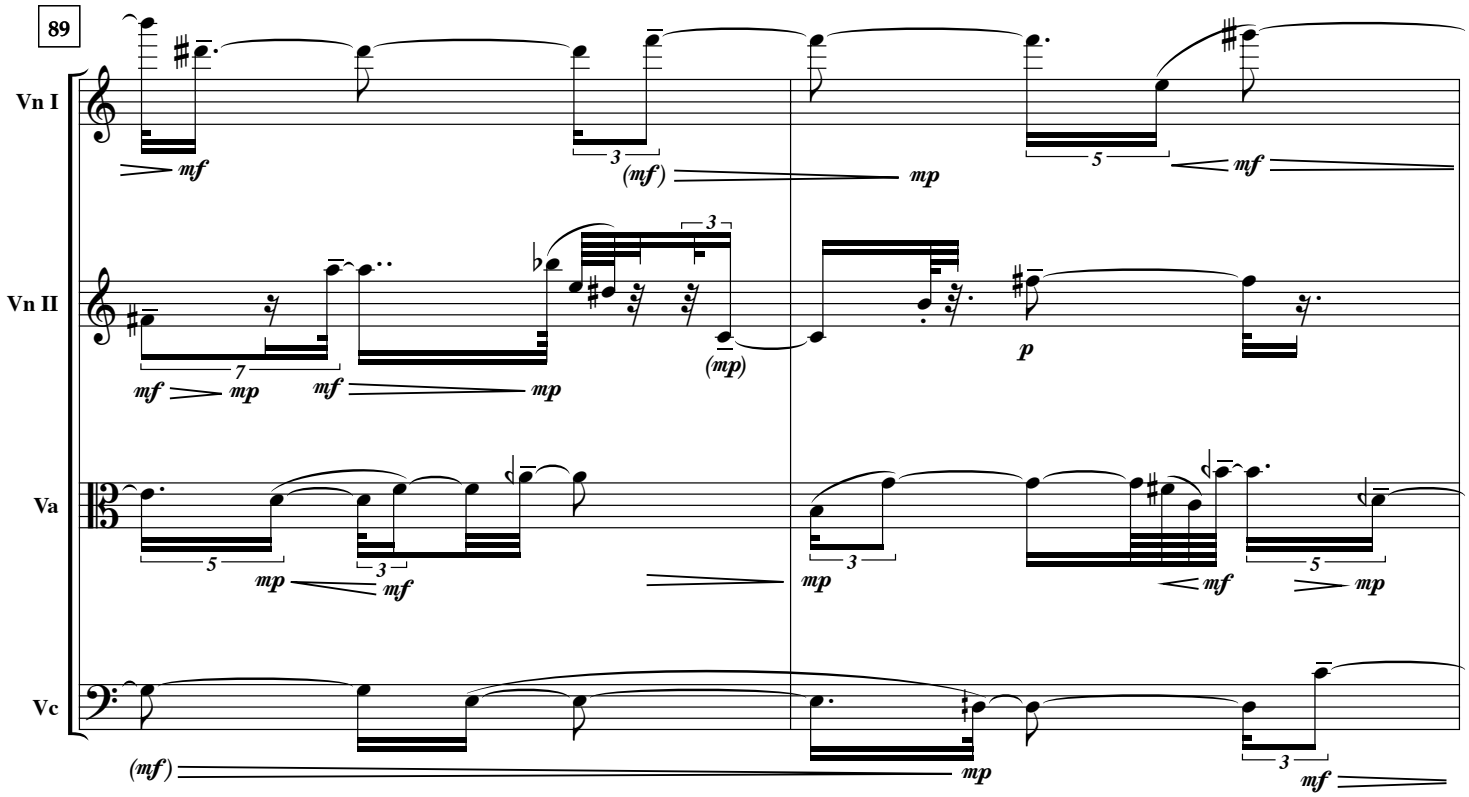

79
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
poco vib.
pizz.
arco
s.p.
ord.
s.p.
ord.
vib. i/ii
s.v.
vib I/II

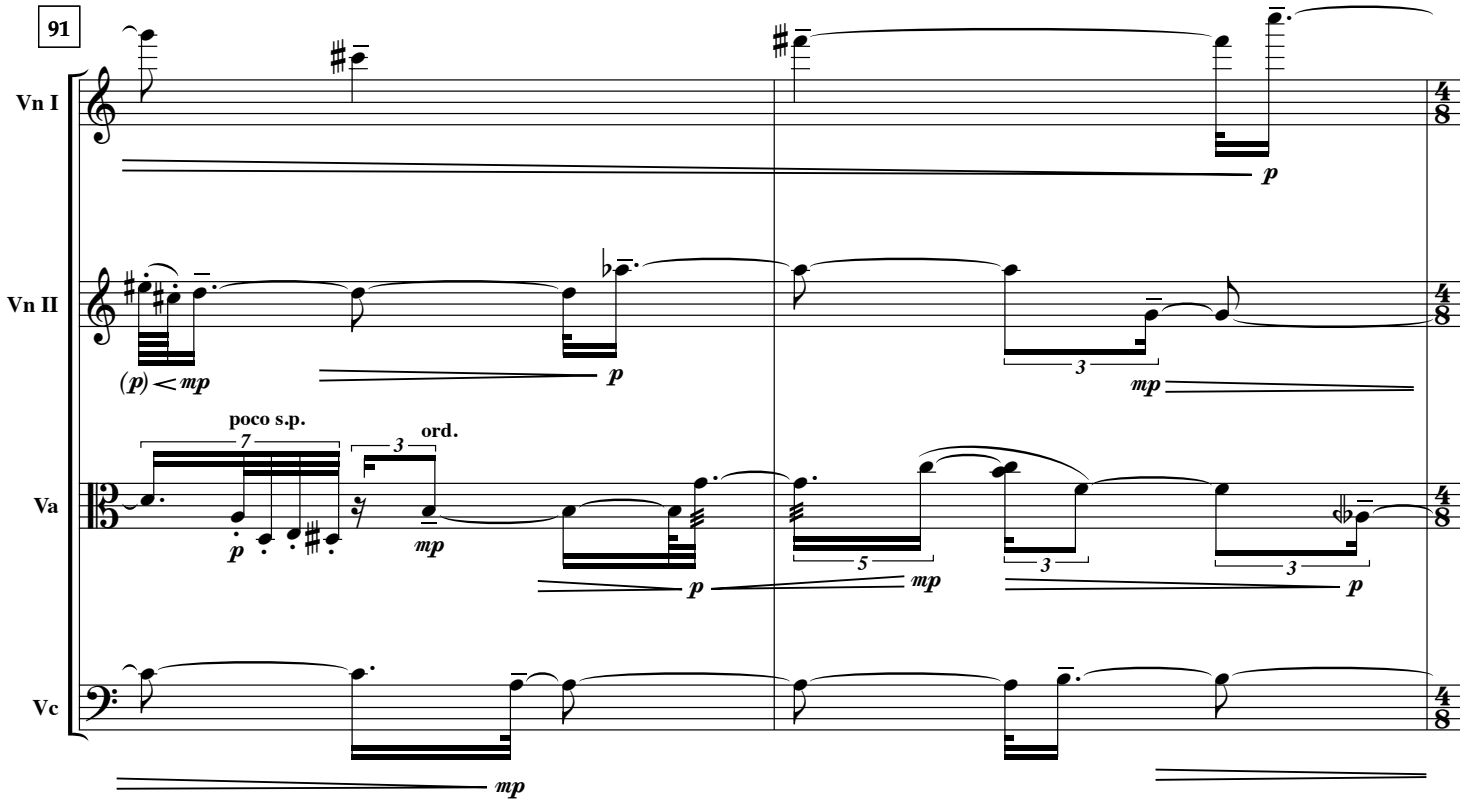

81
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
ord.
vib. ord. → vib. I/II
ord. → s.p.
pizz.
arco

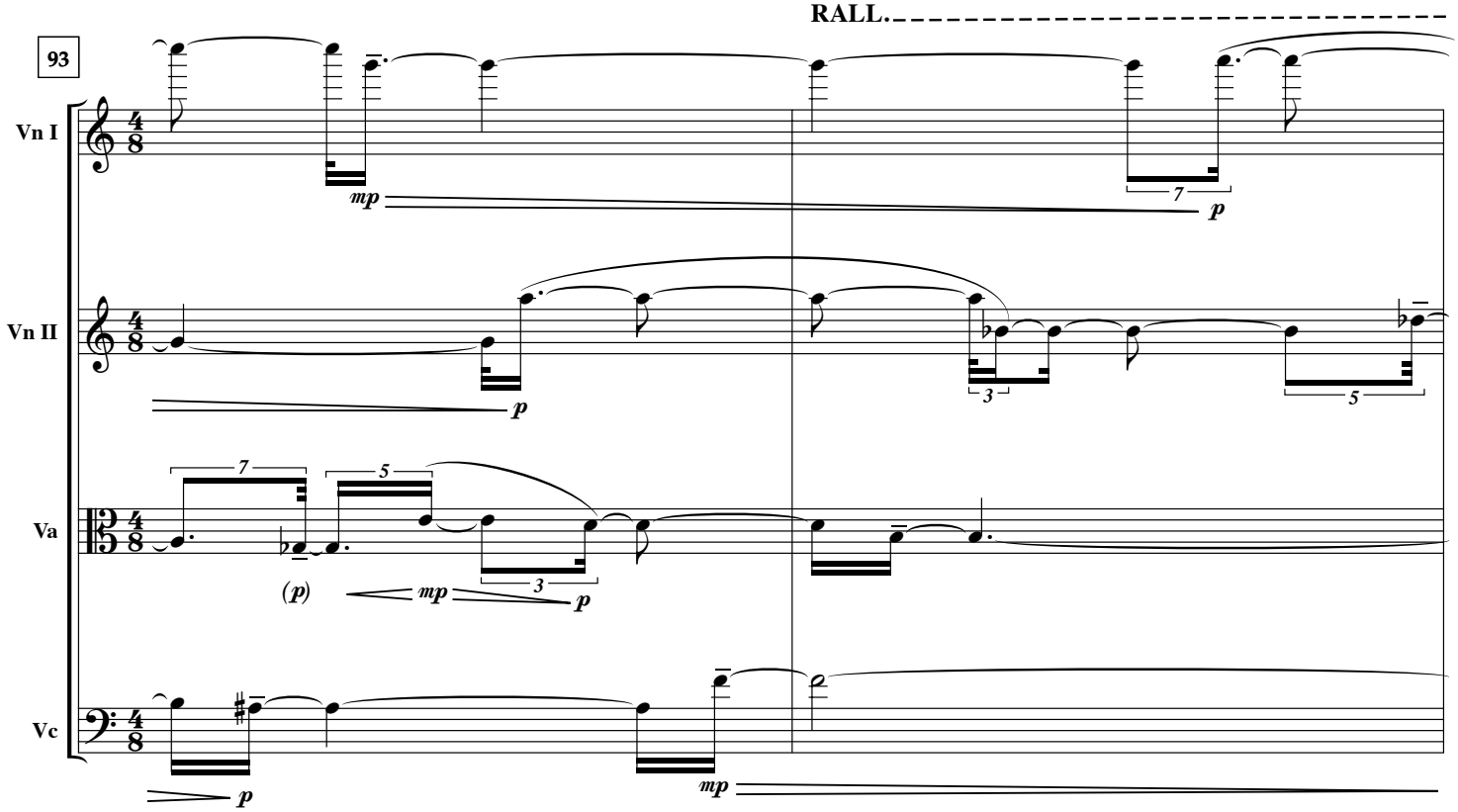

83
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pizz.
arco
s.p.
m.s.p.
ord.

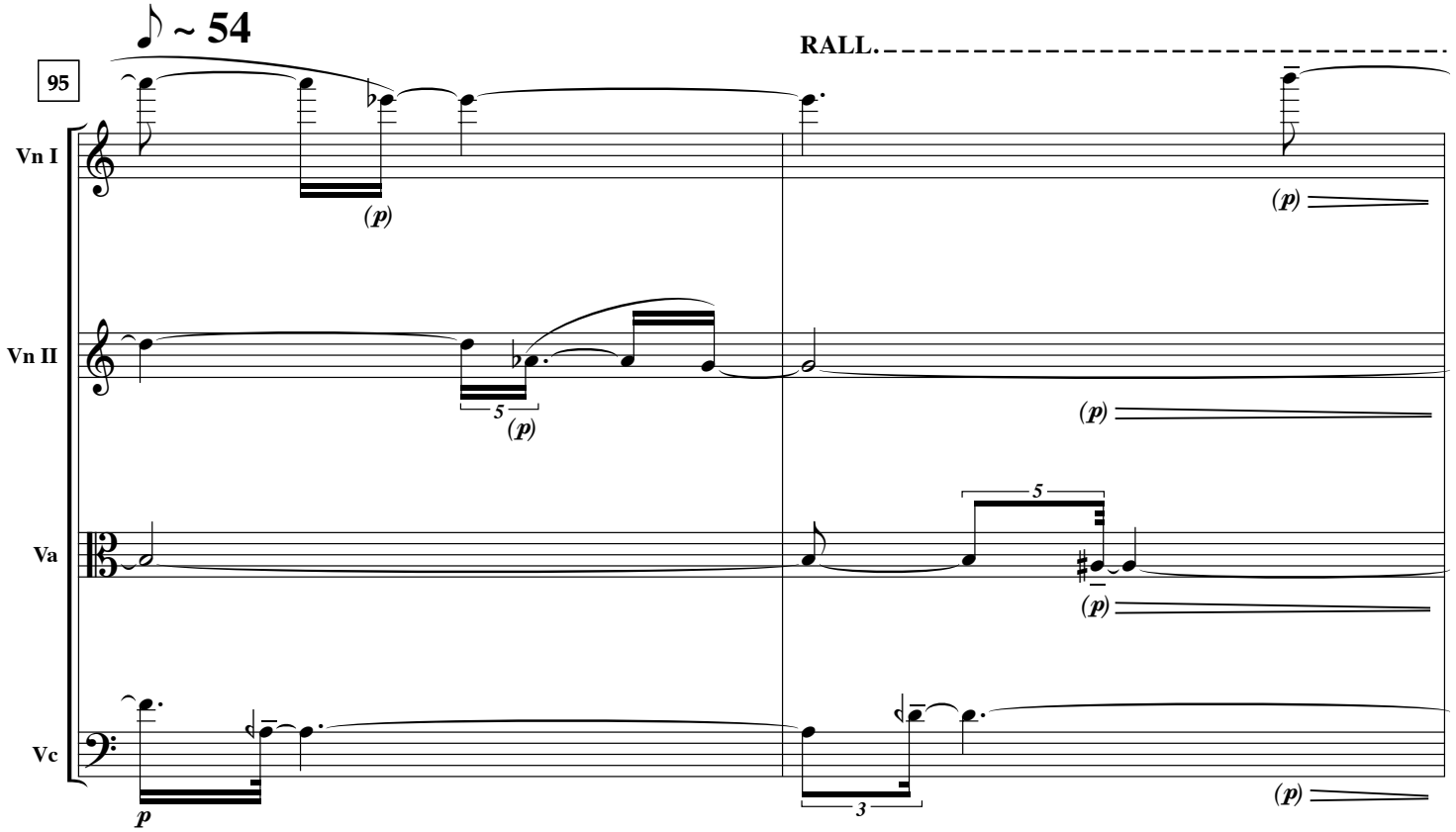

85
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
ord. → vib. I/II → ord.

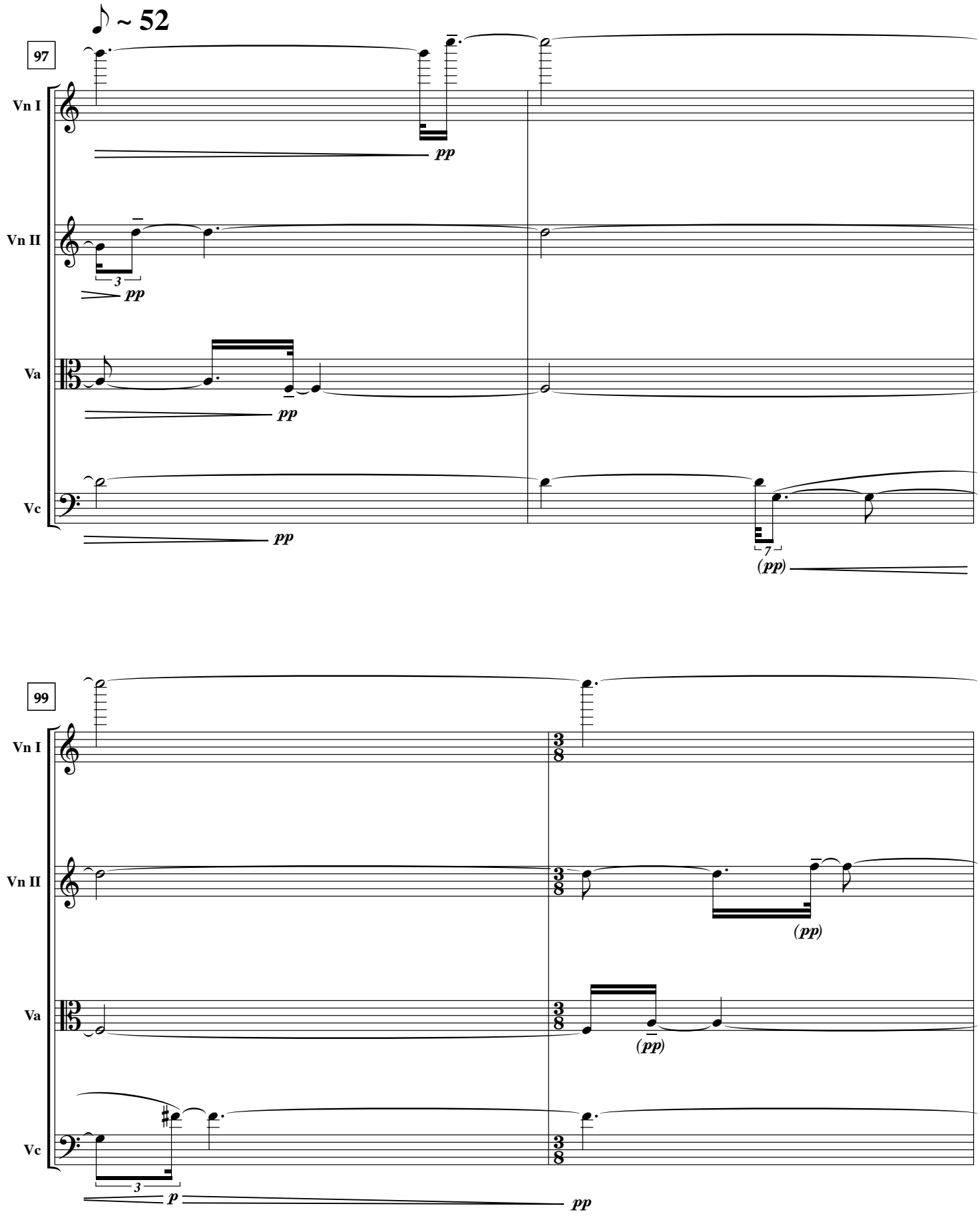

87
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pizz.
arco
1/2 c.l.t.
ord.
s.p. → ord.
poco s.p. → ord.

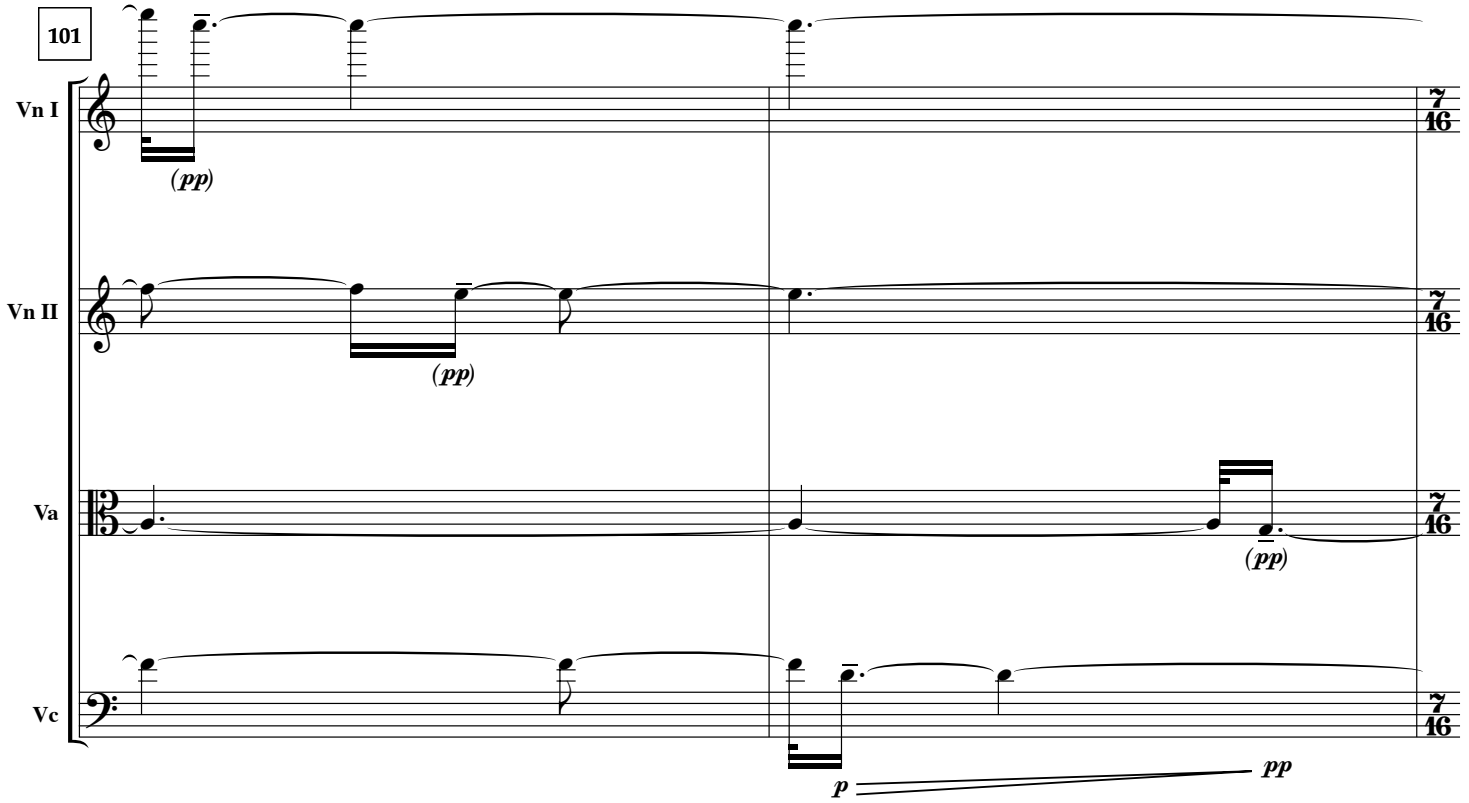

89
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc

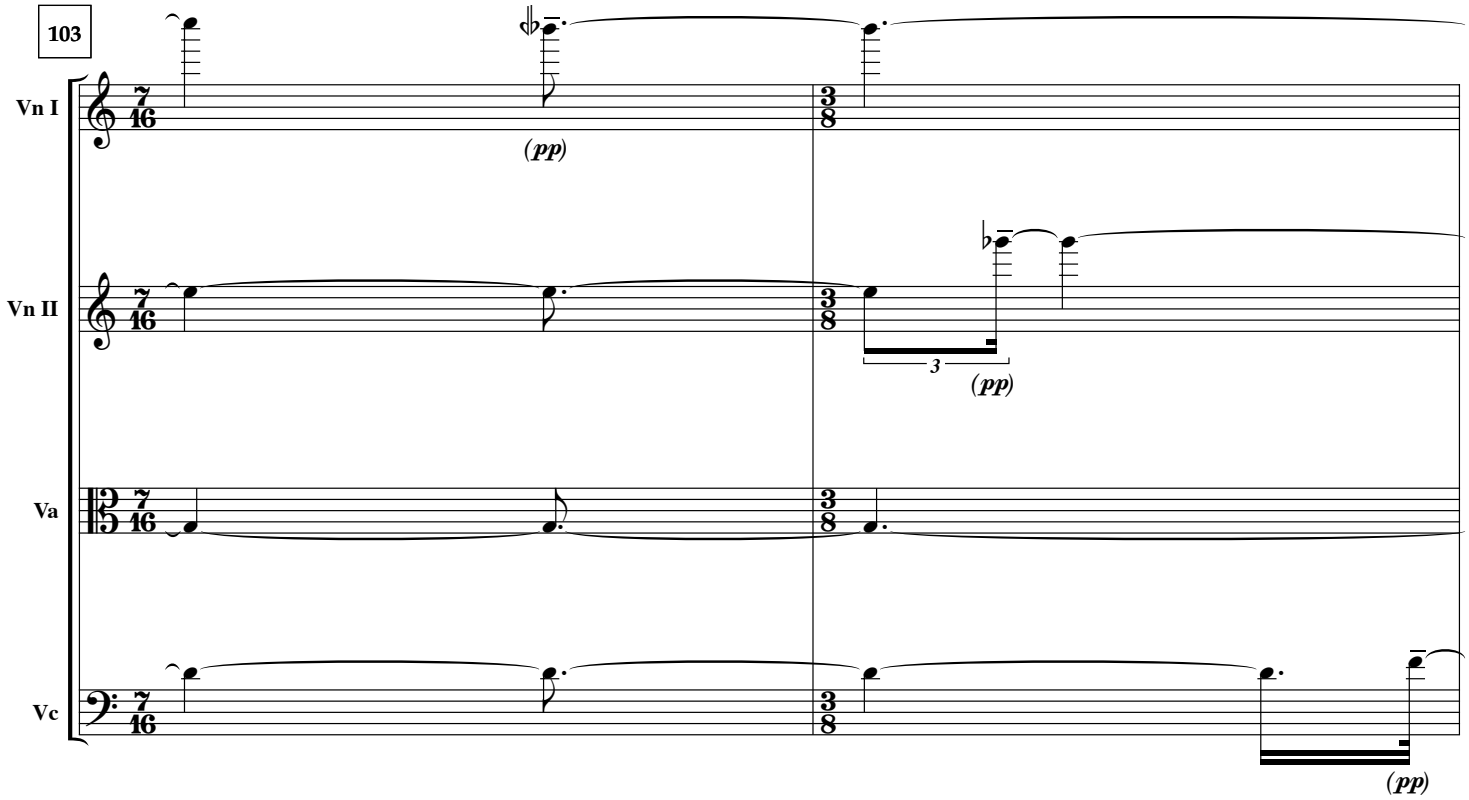

91
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
poco s.p.
ord.

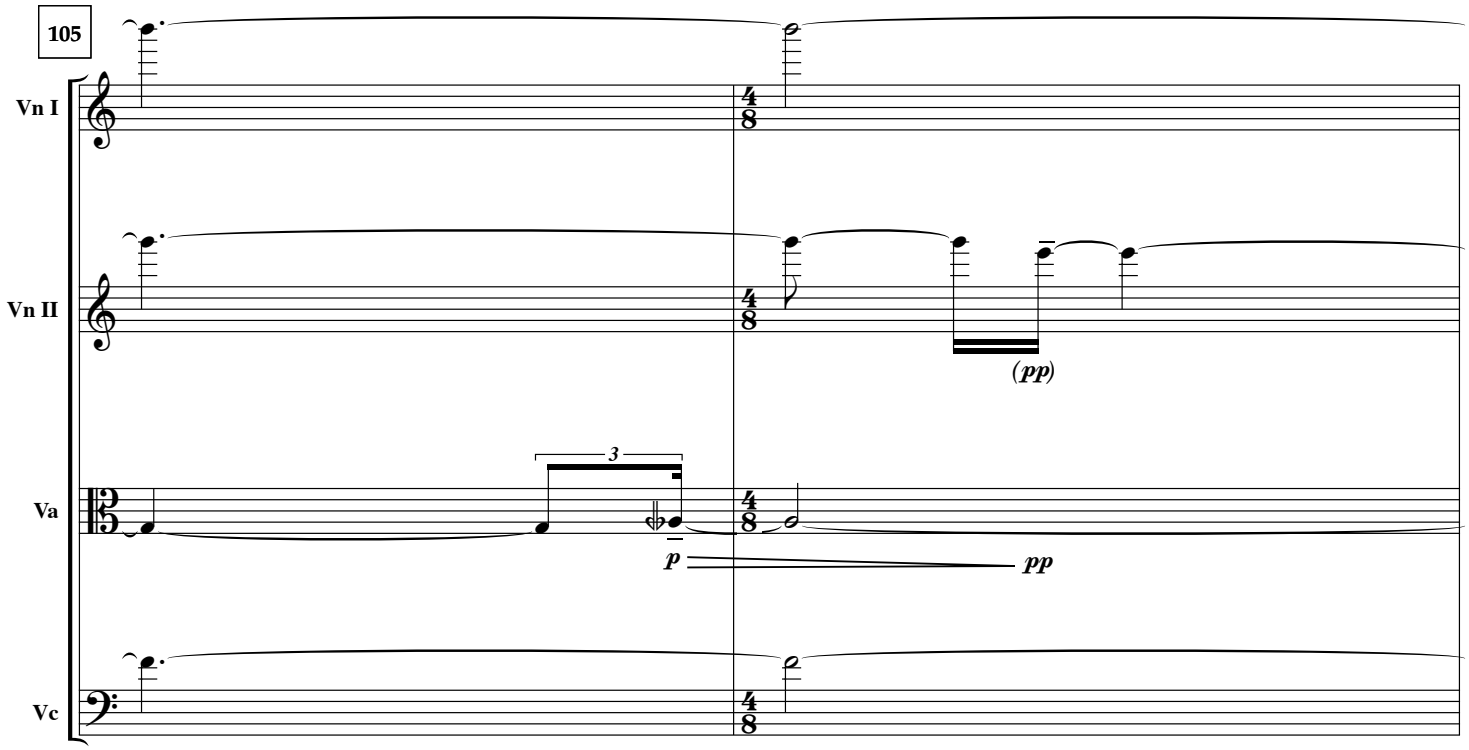

RALL.
93
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
mp
p
7
5
3
(p)

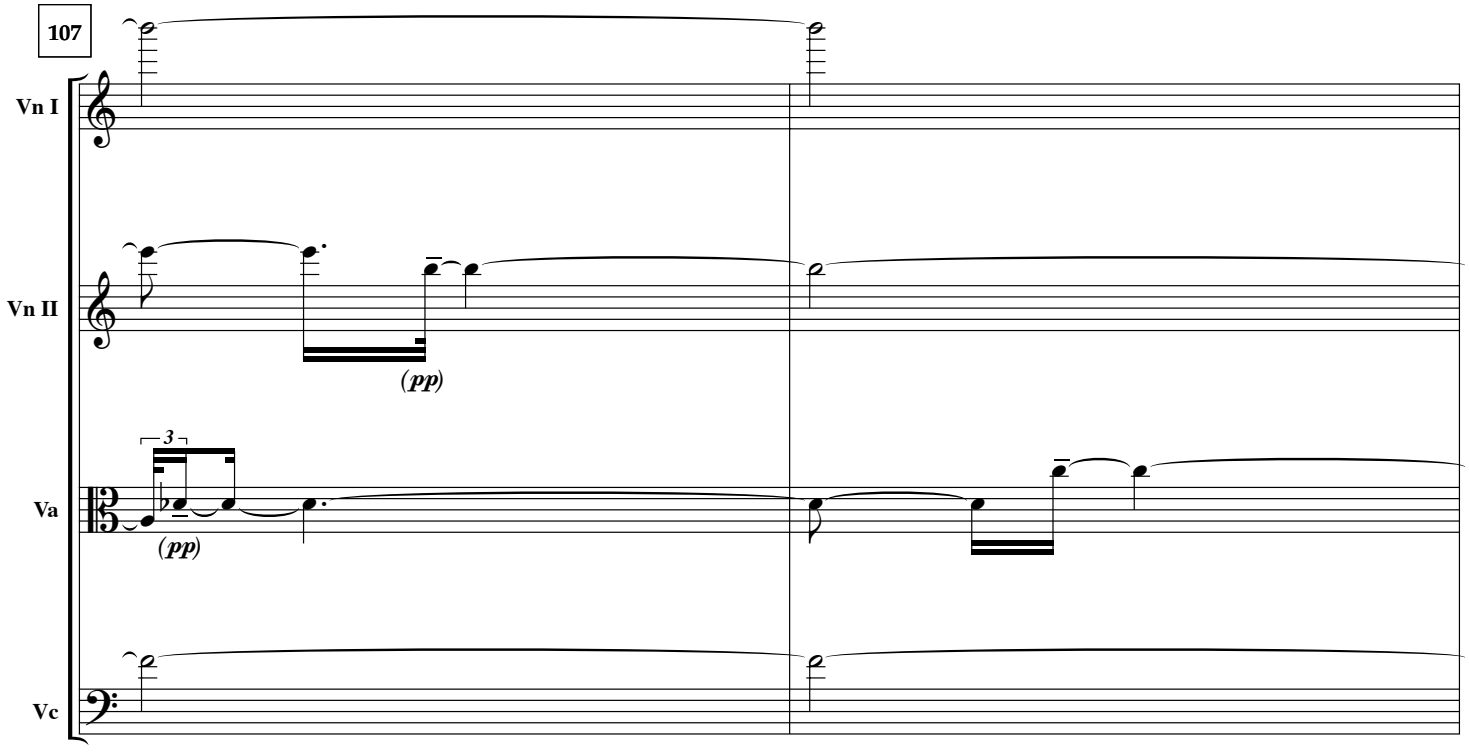

~ 54
RALL.
95
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
(p)
5
3

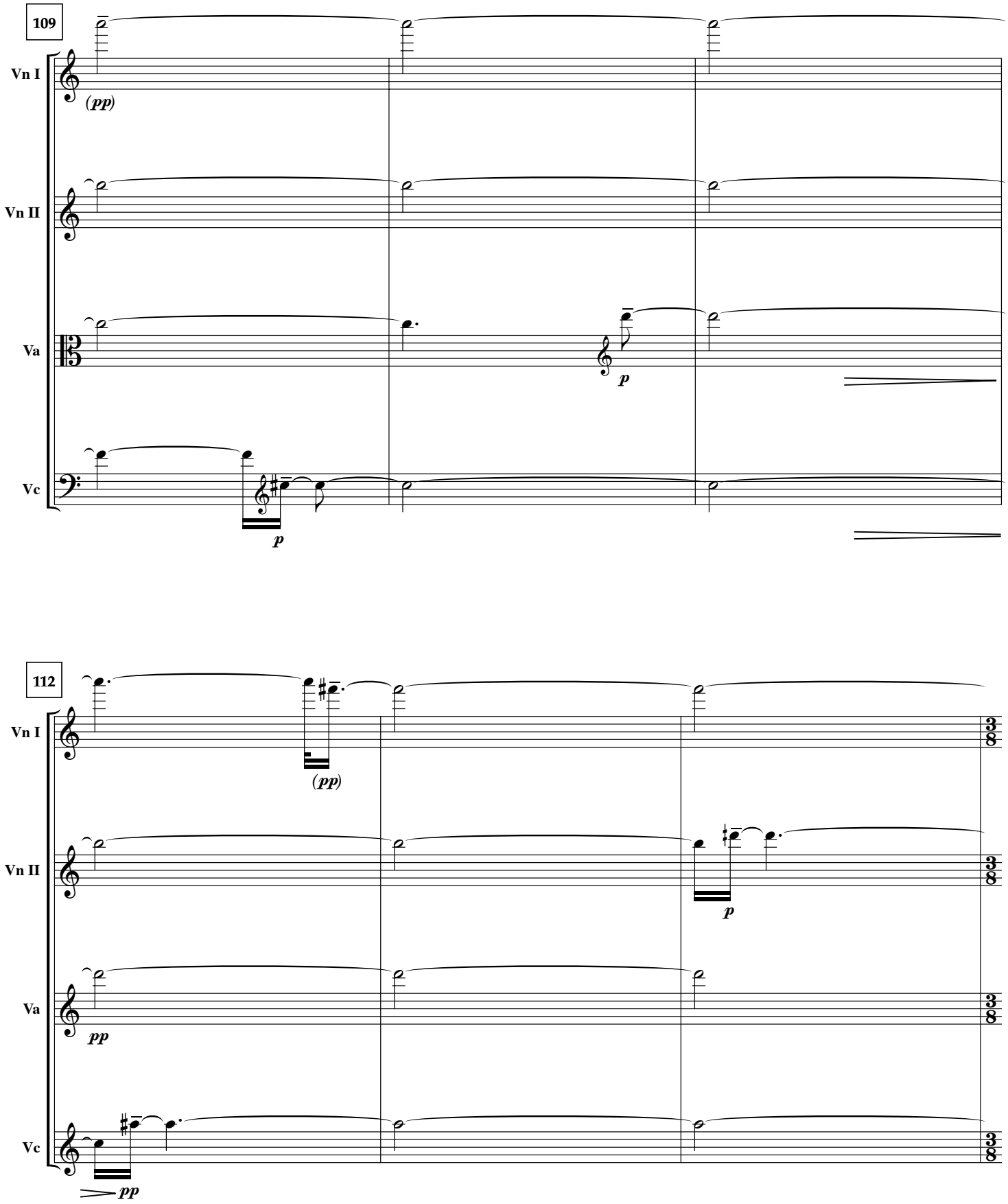

♪ ~ 52
97
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
pp
3
7
(pp)
99
3/8
p

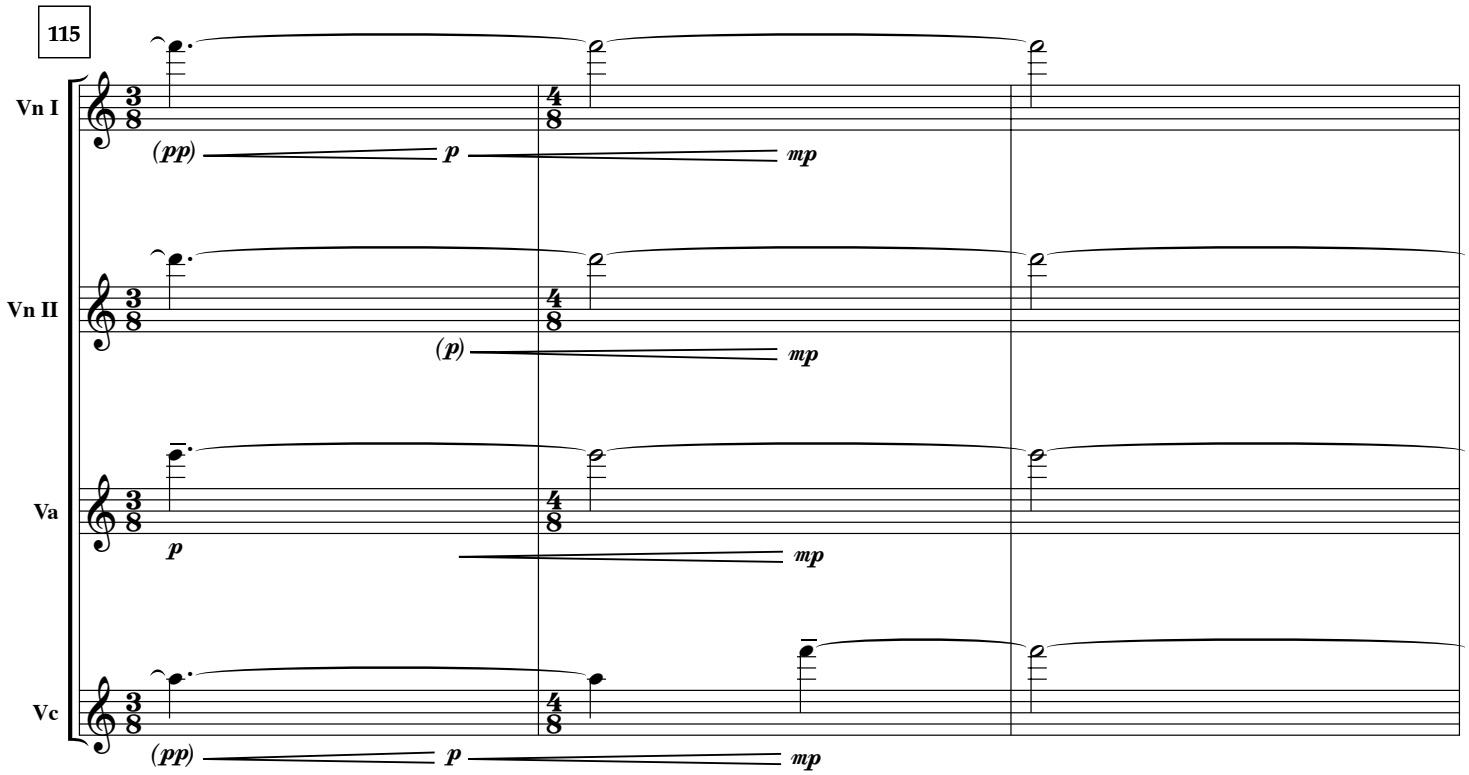

101
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
(pp)
(pp)
(pp)
p
pp
7/16

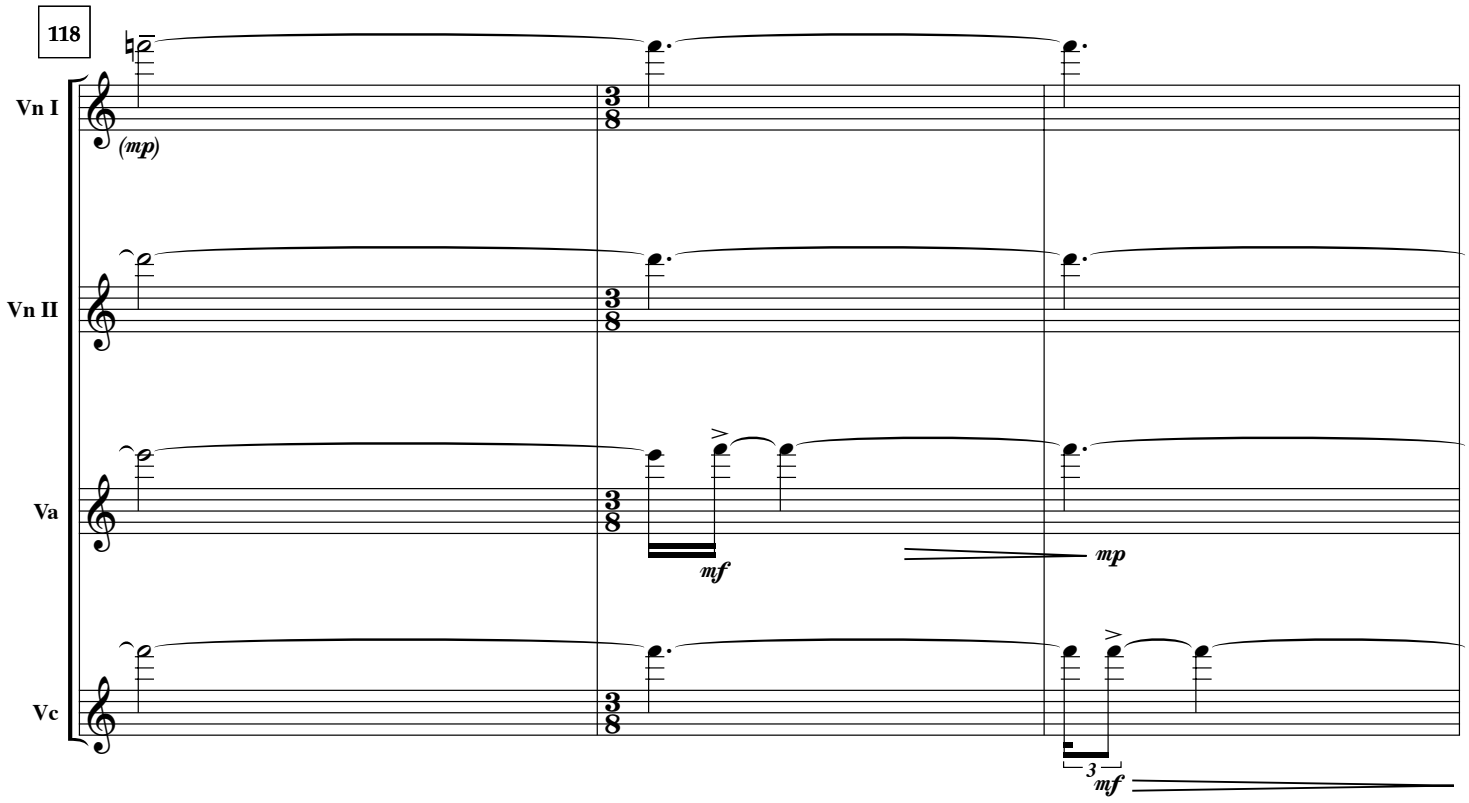

103
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
(pp)
3
(pp)
(pp)
7/16
3/8

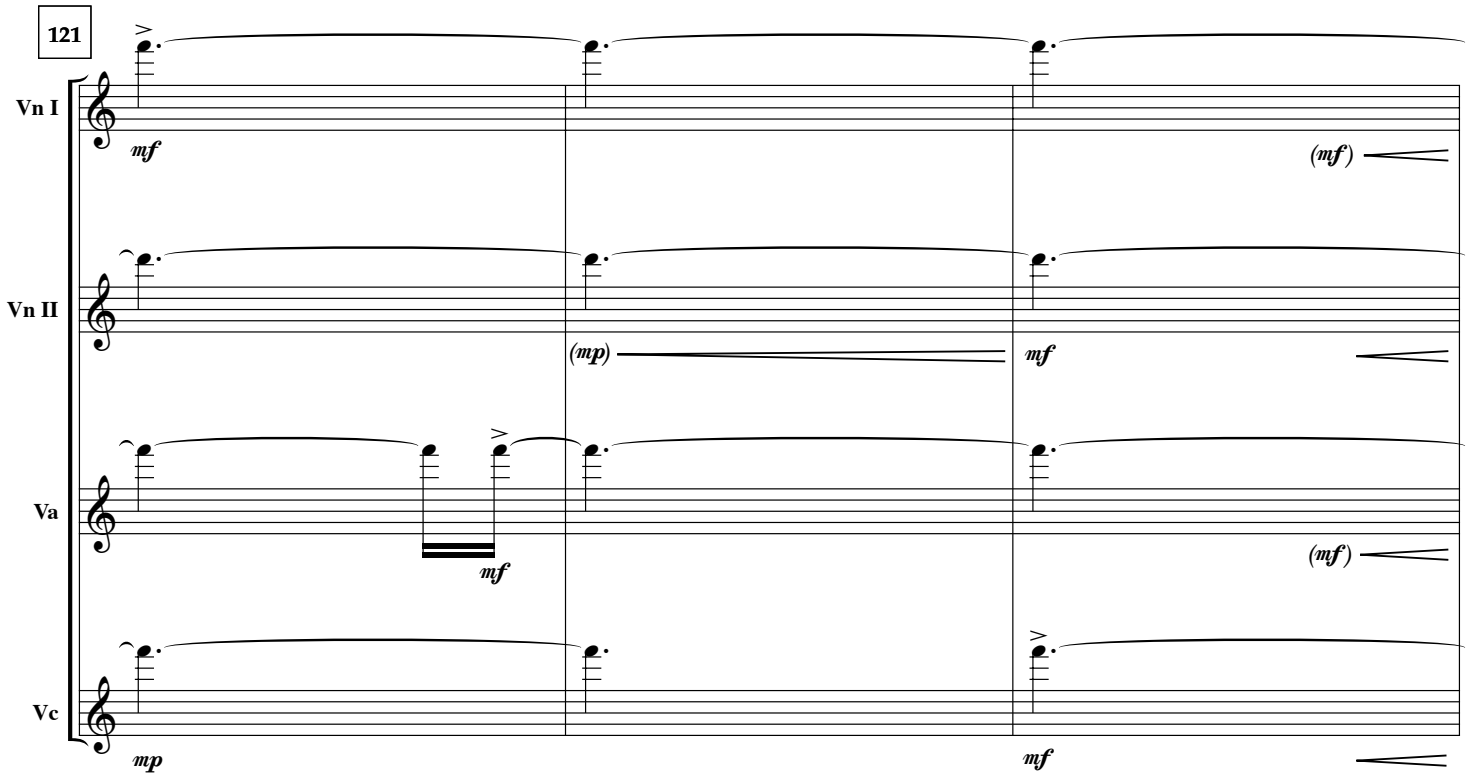

105
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
(pp)
3
p
pp

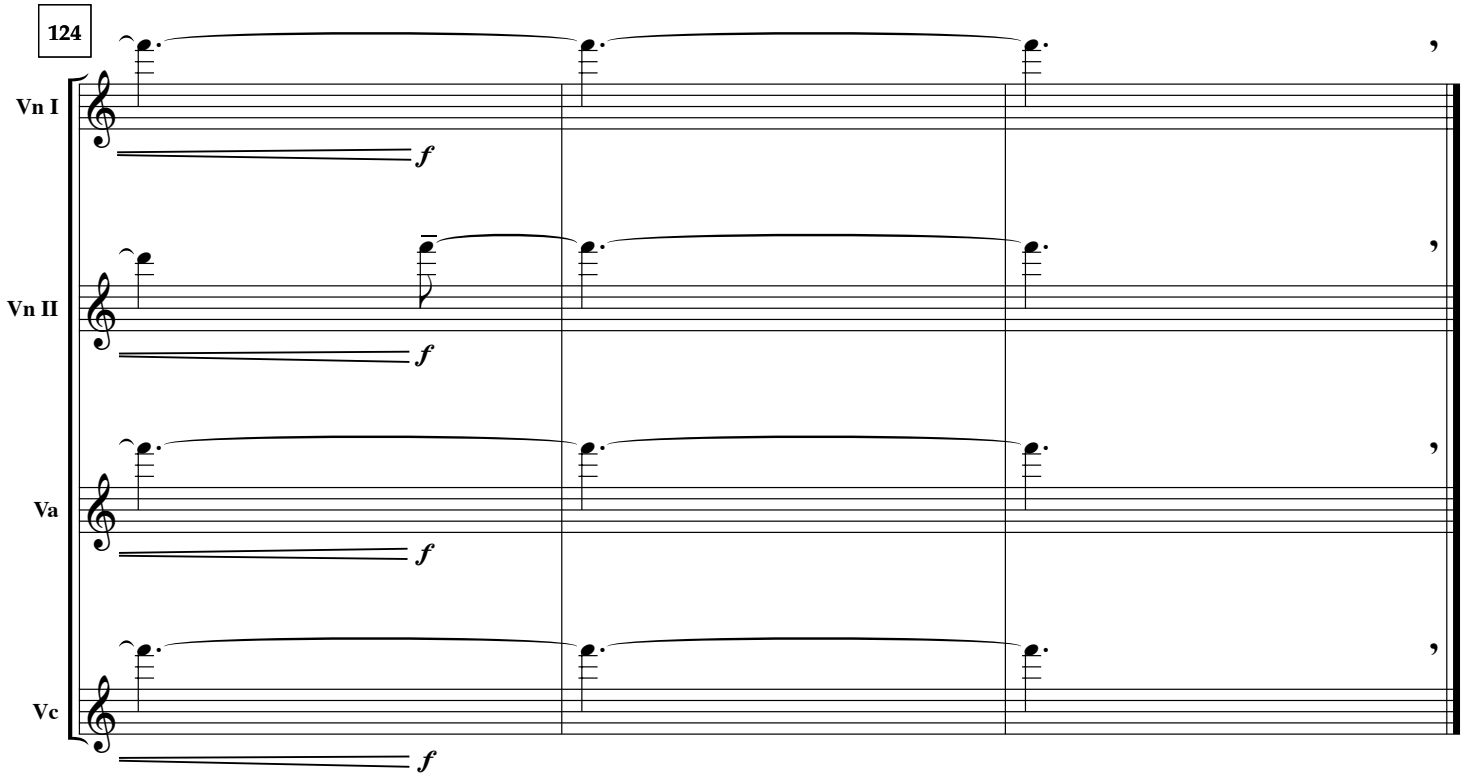

107
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
(pp)
3
(pp)


109
Vn I
(pp)
Vn II
Va
p
Vc
p
112
Vn I
(pp)
Vn II
p
Va
pp
Vc
pp


115
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
(pp)
p
mp
(p)
p
mp
p
mp
(pp)
p
mp


118
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
(mp)
mf
mp
3
mf


121
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
mf
(mf)
(mp)
mf
mf
(mf)
mp
mf


124
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
f
f
f
f