Full Score

Georges Bizet (1838-1875)

Carmen Suite No 2
arranged for
6-Part Cello Orchestra

Full Score

Synopsis and Performance Notes

Carmen is a four-act opera by Georges Bizet which was premiered at the Opera Comique in Paris in 1875 and, despite its subsequent world-wide popularity, was not particularly well received at the time. Bizet died suddenly three months later, at the tragically early age of 36, and it was only in the twentieth century that it was recognised that France had lost a brilliant and highly original composer. After Bizet's death, Ernest Guirard (composer, musicologist, and close friend of Bizet and Saint-Saens) compiled two Suites based on Bizet's orchestration of the full opera. The second suite which was published around 1887 is the more extensive of the two, and has been arranged here for cello orchestra. The musical sources used by Guirard for the six movements are:

(1) Marche des Contrebandiers Act III, Chorus: Écoutes, écoutes, compagnon!
(2) Habanera Act I, Aria (Carmen): L'amour est un iseau rebelle
(3) Nocturne Act III, Aria (Michela): Je dis que rien ne m'épourante
(4) Chanson du Toréador Act II, Introduction and aria (Escamillo)
(5) La Garde Montante Act I: Avec la garde montante, nous arrivons, nous violá!
(6) Danse Bohème Act II, Gypsy Dance: Les tringles des sistres tintaient.

Performance notes on the six movements:

1. Marche des Contrebandiers (4 min 30 sec).
This has been transposed down a semitone to B minor as the tune in the original C Minor sits awkwardly on the cello

2. The famous Habanera lasts less than two minutes if played at the designated tempo of crochet = 72. I have suggested that the whole movement could be repeated, but this is not indicated in the original score.

3. Nocturne (4 min 30 sec). This has an extended violin solo in the original, and a corresponding part for solo cello is given in this arrangement. It has been transposed from E flat to C Major as the melody and the arpeggio accompaniment sit particularly well on the cello in that key.

4. Chanson du Toreador (4 minutes if repeated). This has been transposed from F minor to D minor in the interests of playability and sonority on massed cellos. In Guirard's arrangement the movement lasts only 2 minutes, but the original opera score incorporates a repeat which doubles the length and which I have put it in the present arrangement. The famous tune begins at bar 47 and elements of it have been shared among all six of the cello parts to avoid complaints in those who would otherwise be excluded.

5. Le Garde Montante [The Mounted Guard] (about 4 minutes). The original orchestration relies heavily on high flute and piccolo parts and the present cello arrangement has necessarily needed to put these down one, two or even more octaves. However, Bizet's music is so strong melodically and harmonically that this proves to be reasonably successful, although the lightness of the original should be borne in mind (the music suggests that the Mounted Guard are not an elite battle-hardened fighting force). The original score begins quietly with an offstage bugle-type call. I have given this to a solo muted Cello 2, who should start inobtrusively, but for practical reasons will probably not want to go offstage. Cellos 1 are given artificial harmonics at bars 49 and 109 as a rough approximation to a prominent triangle part. At the end of the piece the music gets quieter and quieter, presumably as the the Mounted Guard leaves (or retreats). The muted slithering sextuplets in cellos 3 to 6 (from bar 200) are ppp and should be almost inaudible.

6. Danse Boheme (about 5 minutes). Members of the cello orchestra should start with smouldering sensuality and finish with wild abandon as they dance on the table in the tavern of Lillas Pastia. The movement should start slowly to leave room for increases in tempo later on.

This arrangement was made for James Halsey and the Giant Cello Ensemble to perform at the Aboyne Cello Festival, Scotland in July 2014.

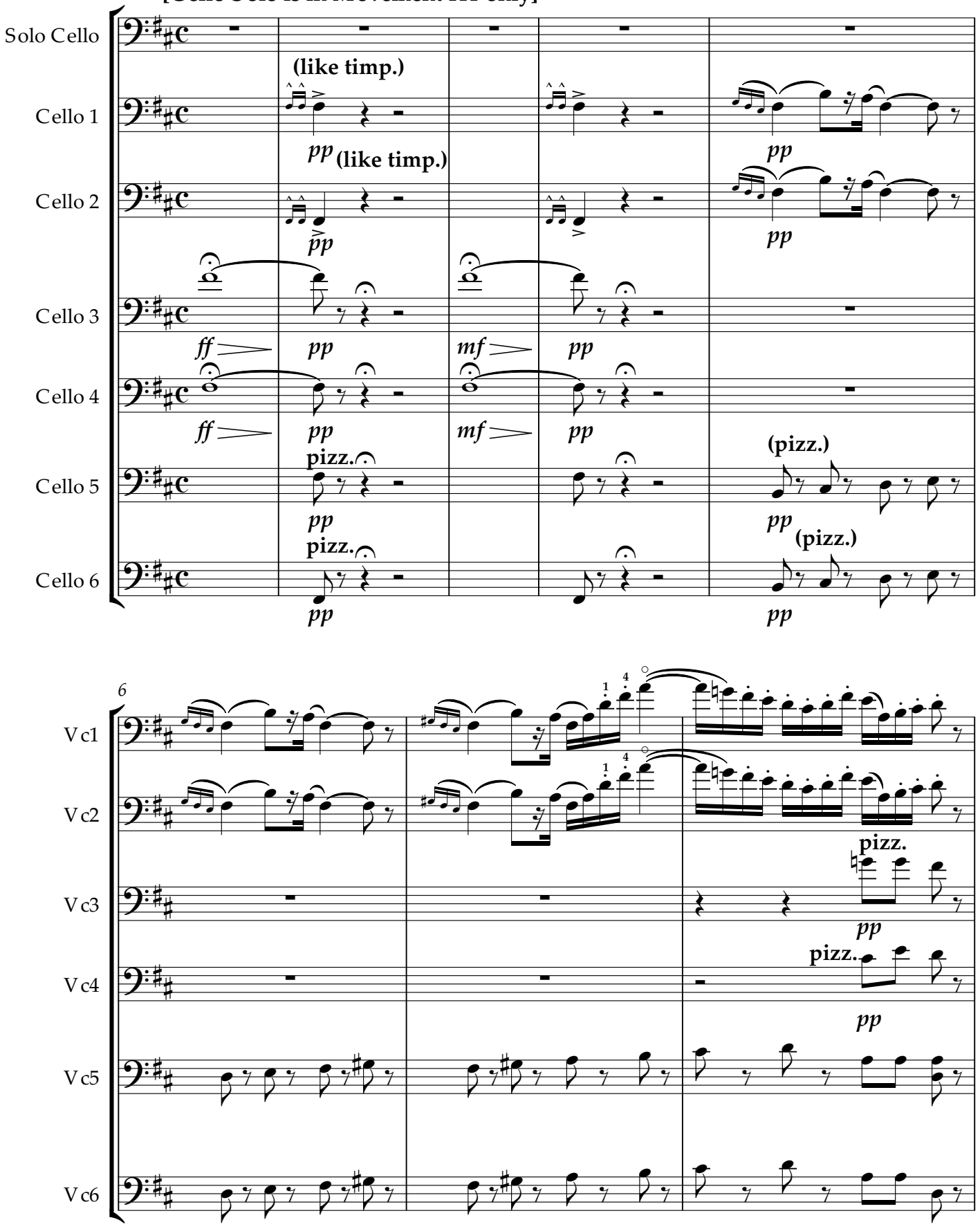
Gwyn Seymour, Stonehaven, Scotland
April 2014

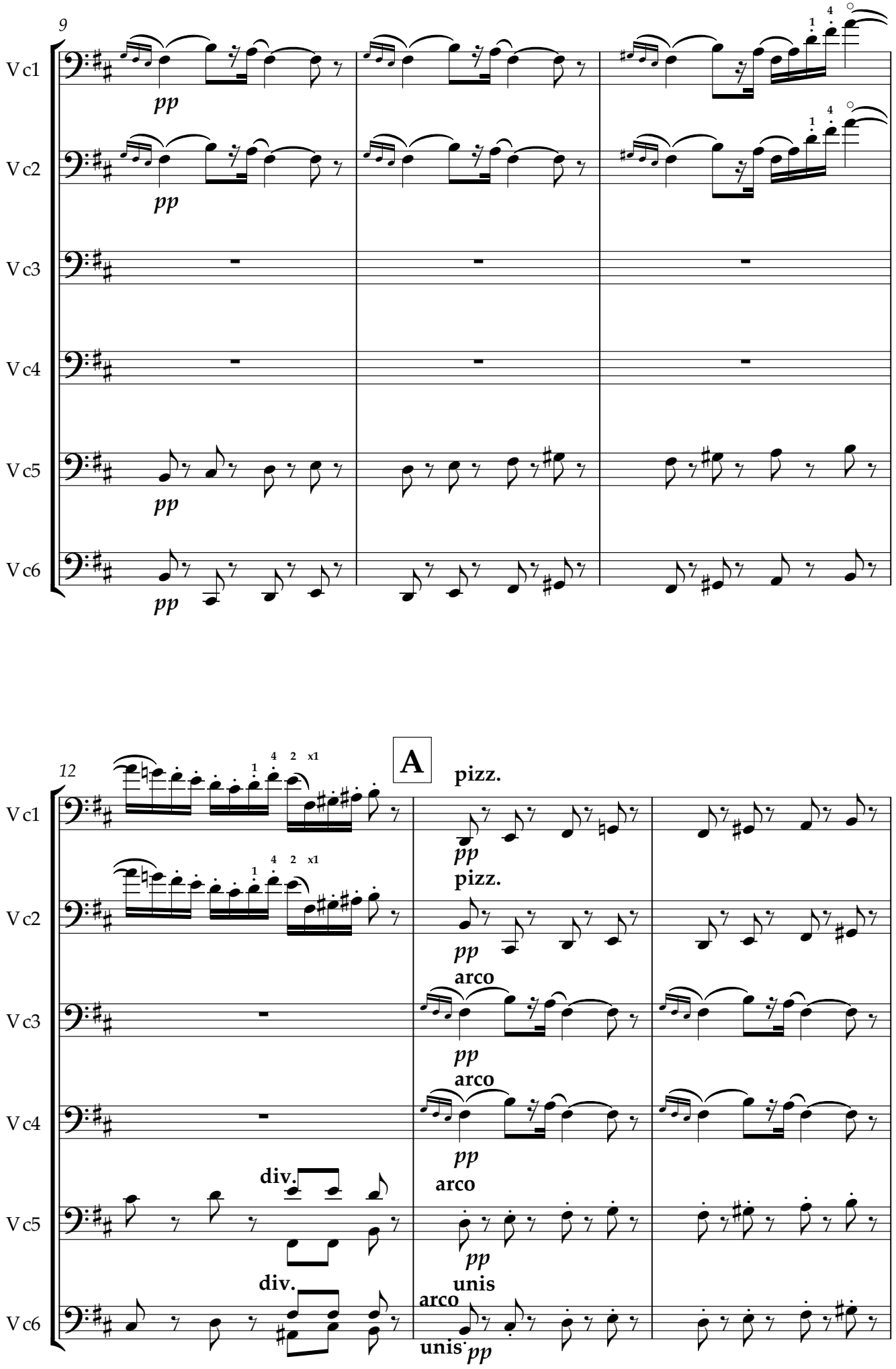
I. Marche des Contrebandiers

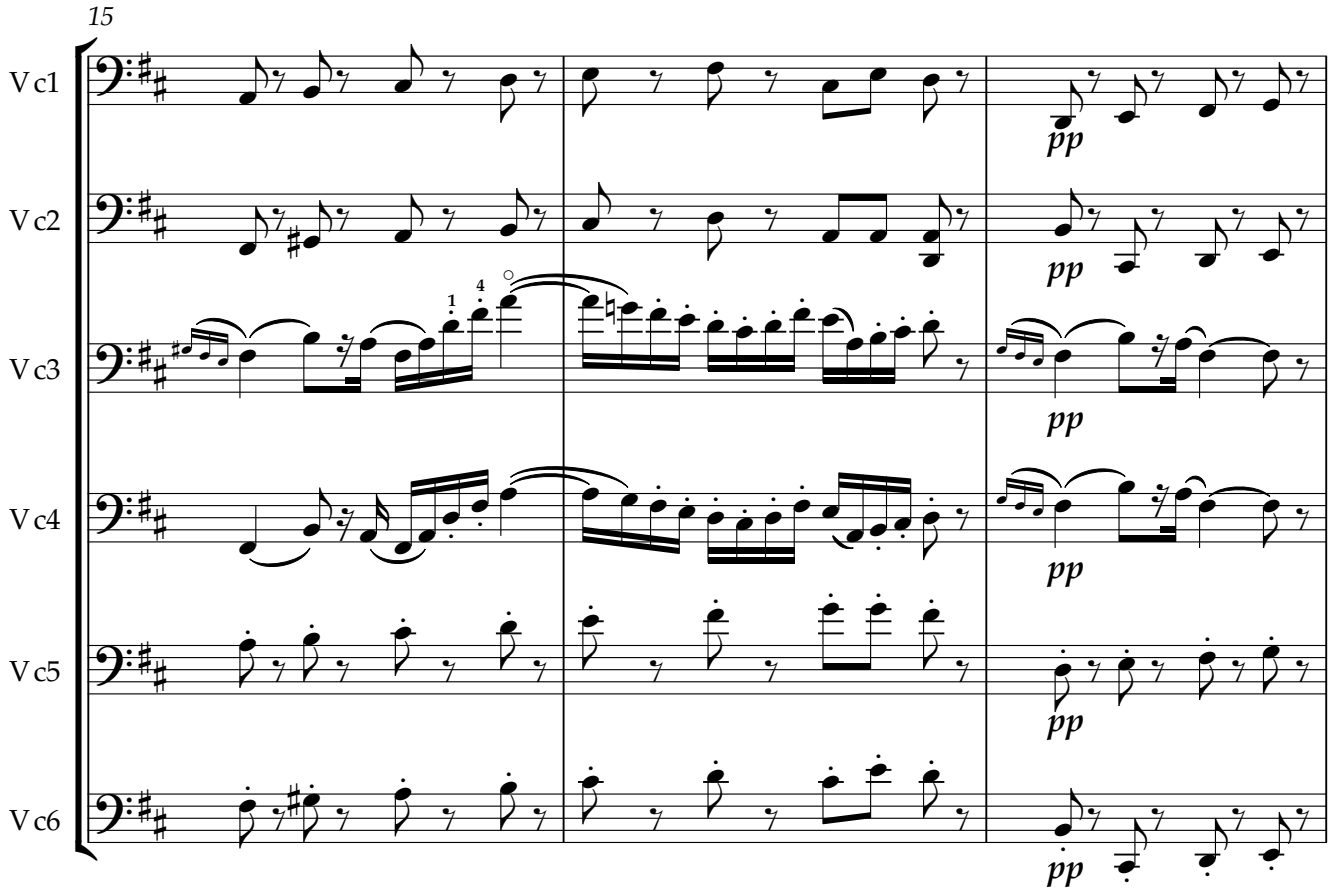
Georges Bizet (1838-1875)
arranged by Gwyn Seymour
(d.g.seymour@abdn.ac.uk)

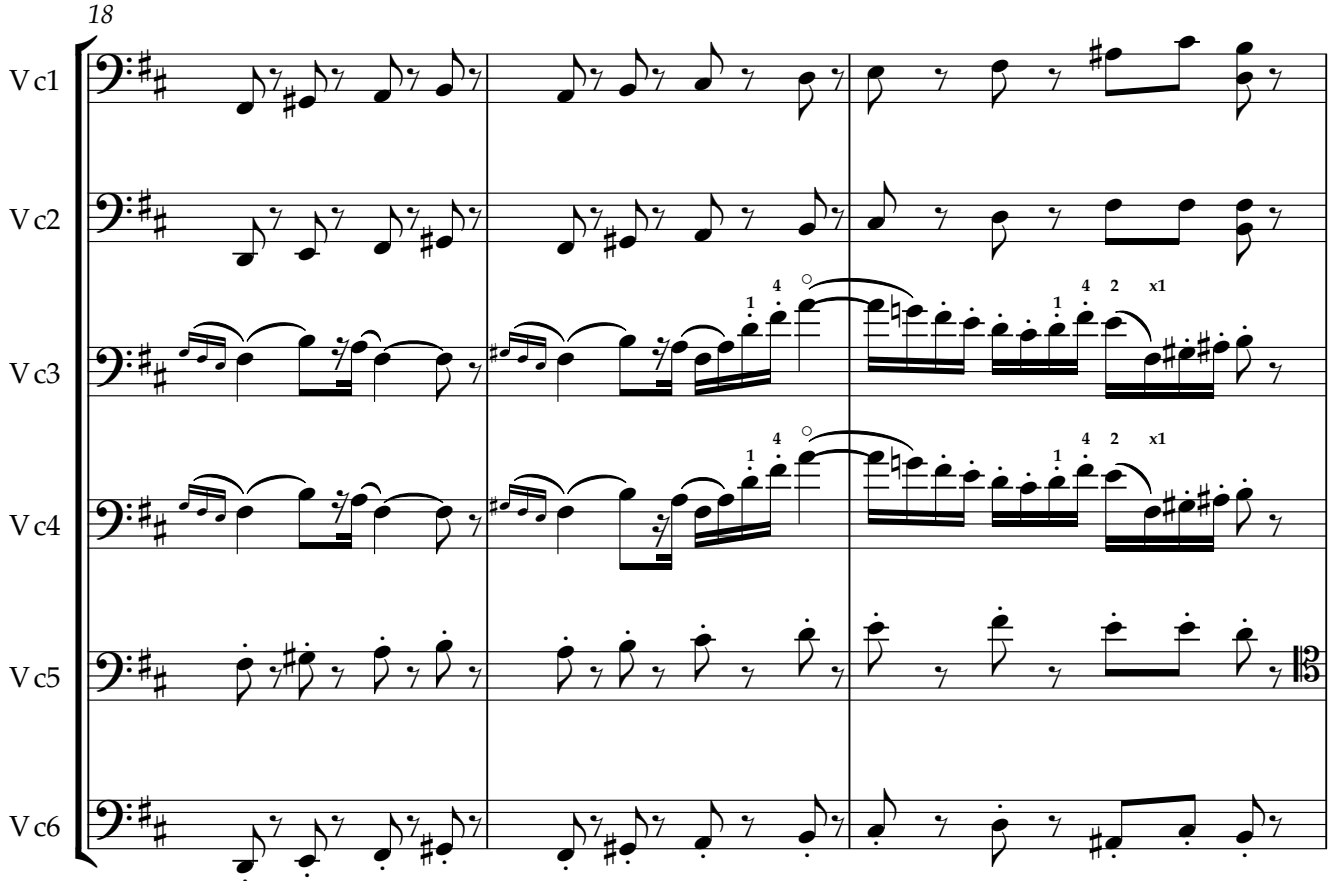
Allegro moderato (♩=96)

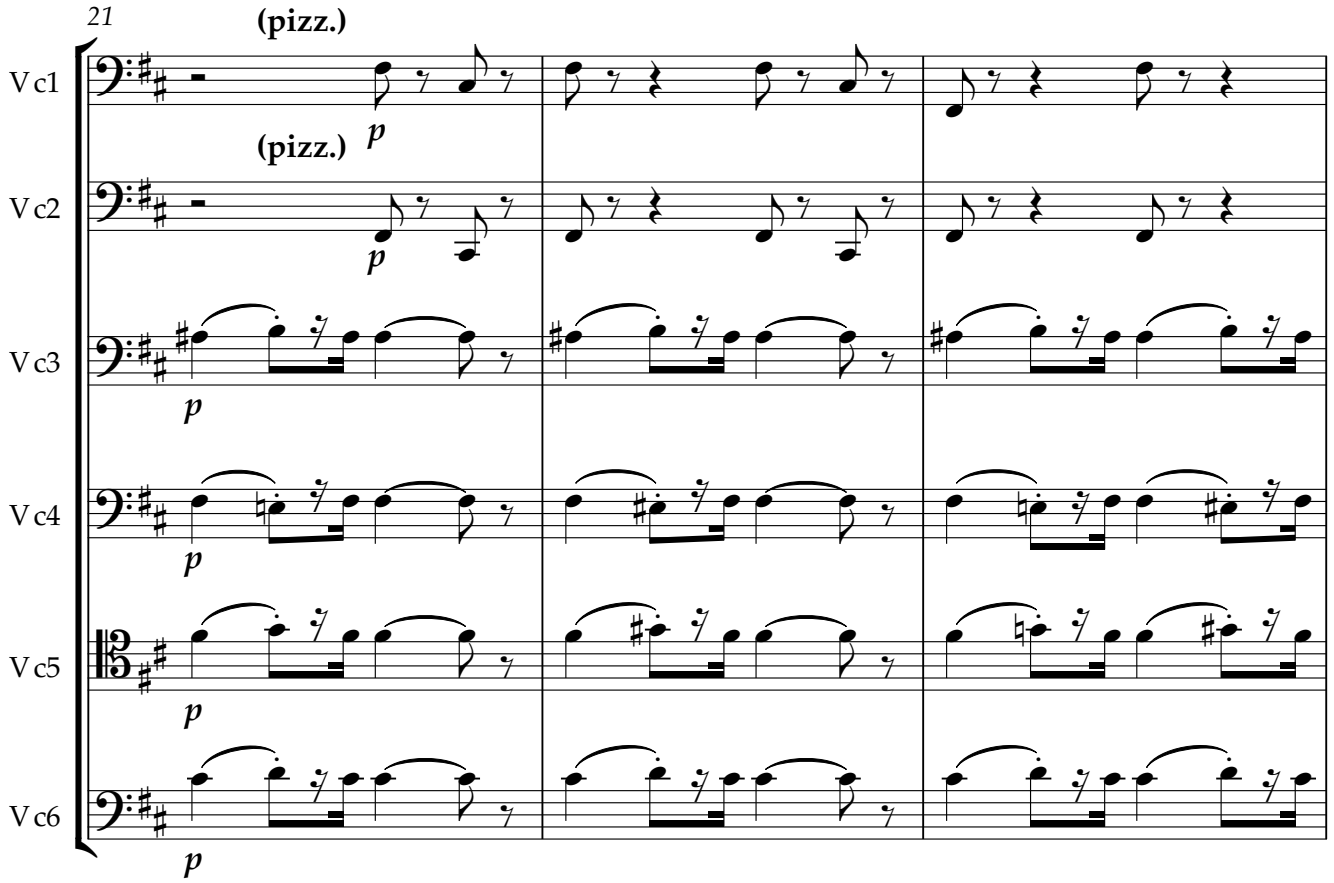
[Cello Solo is in Movement III only]

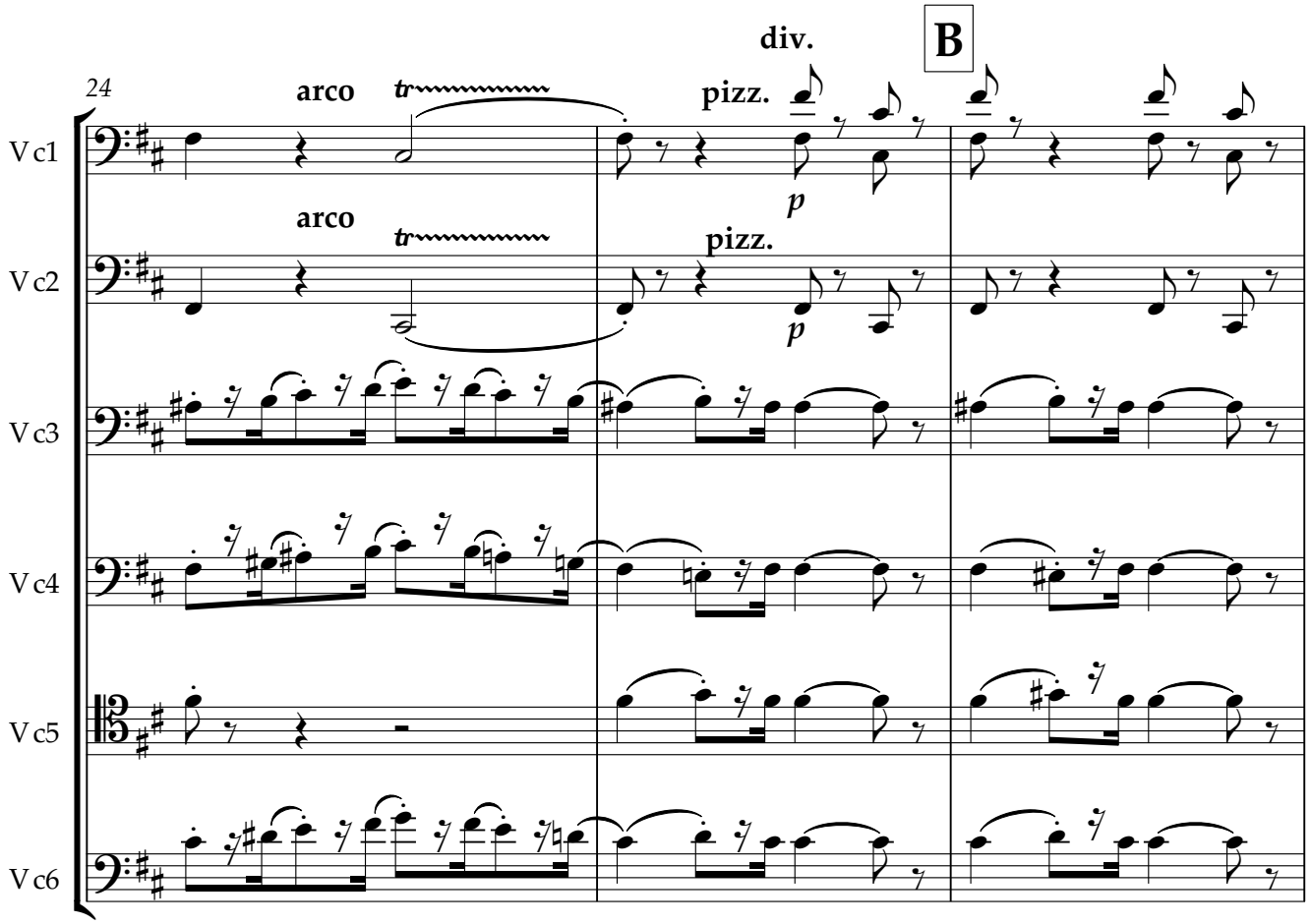


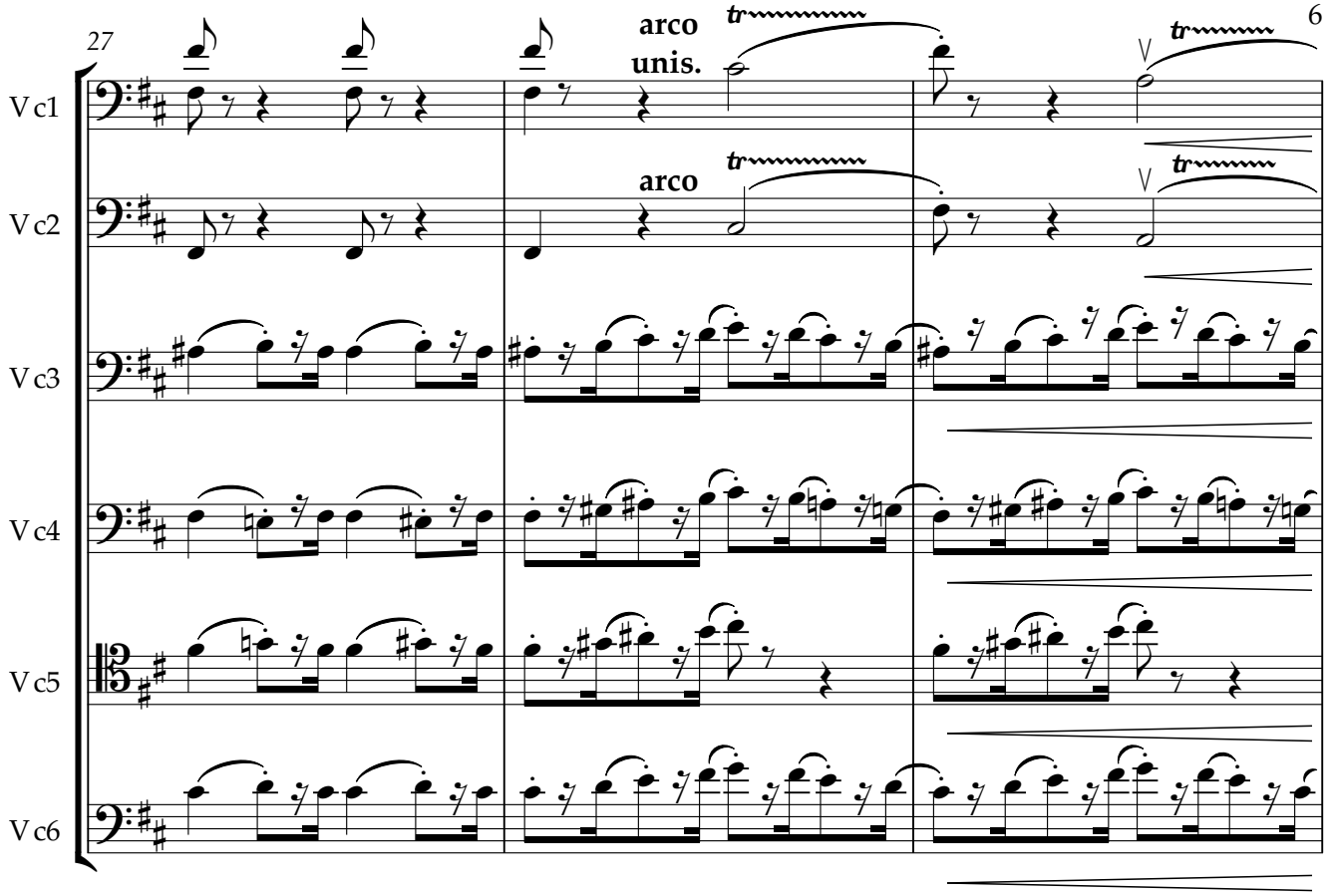

9
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pp
12
A
pizz.
arco
div.
unis
x1

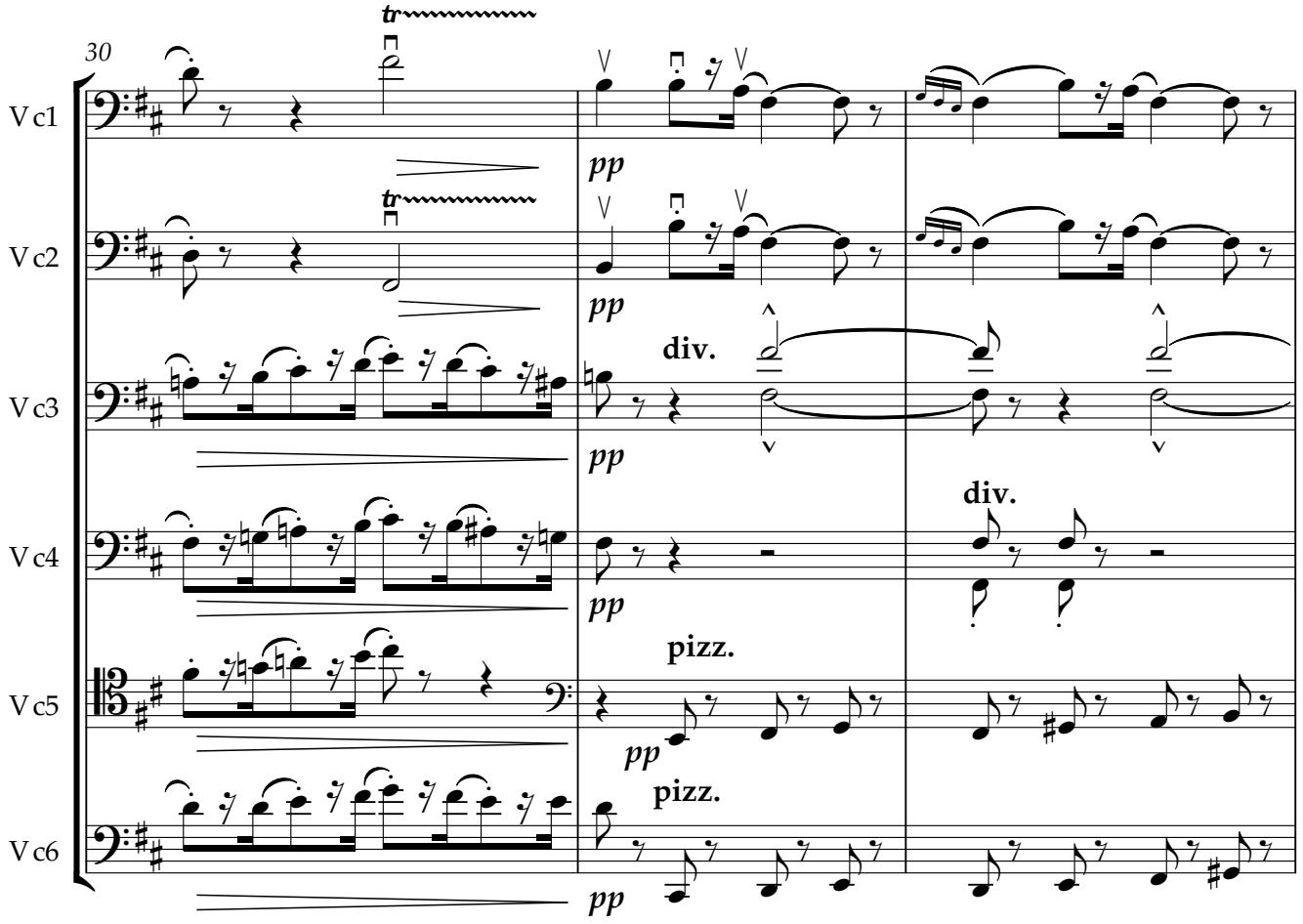

15
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pp

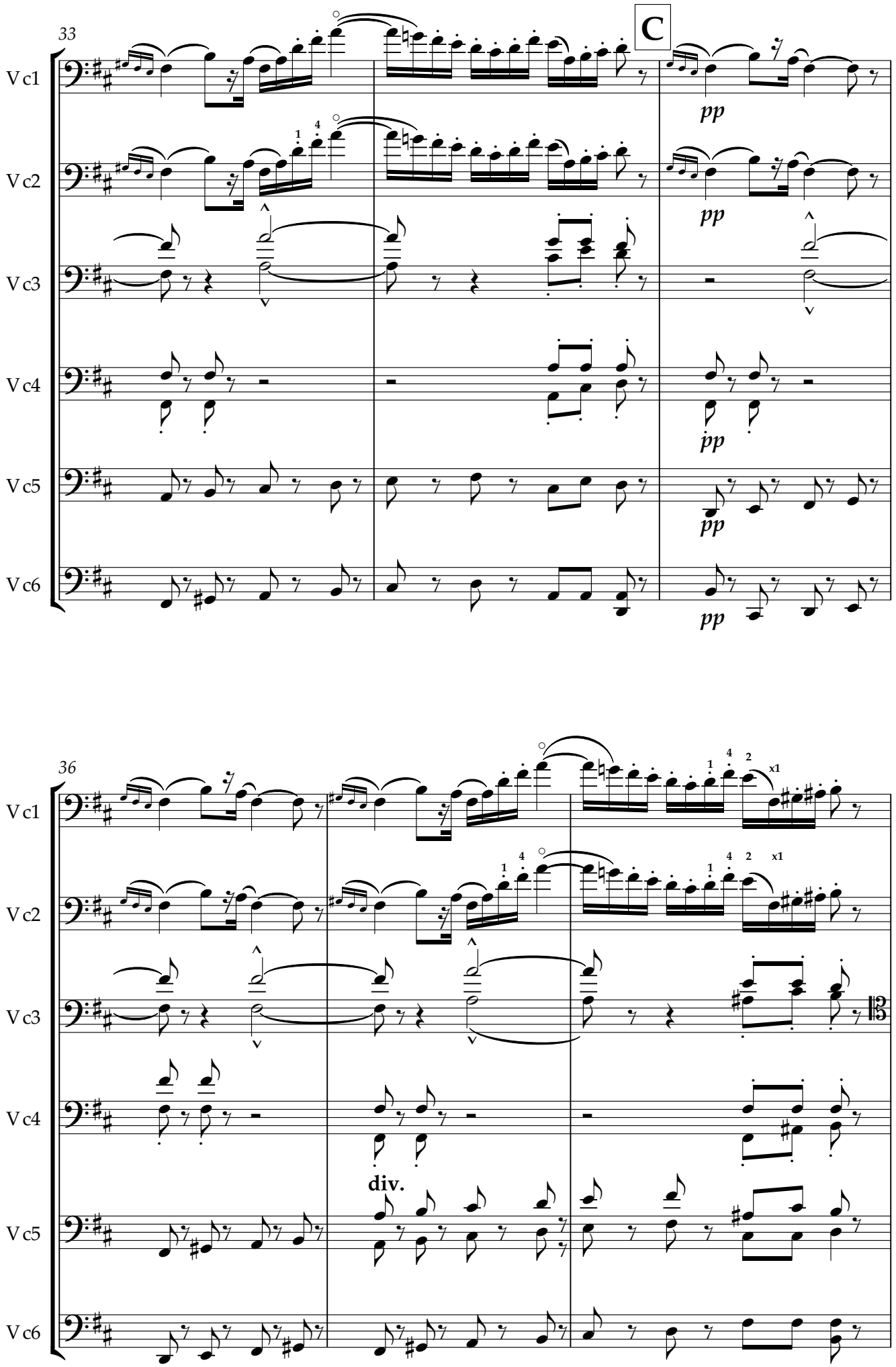

18
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

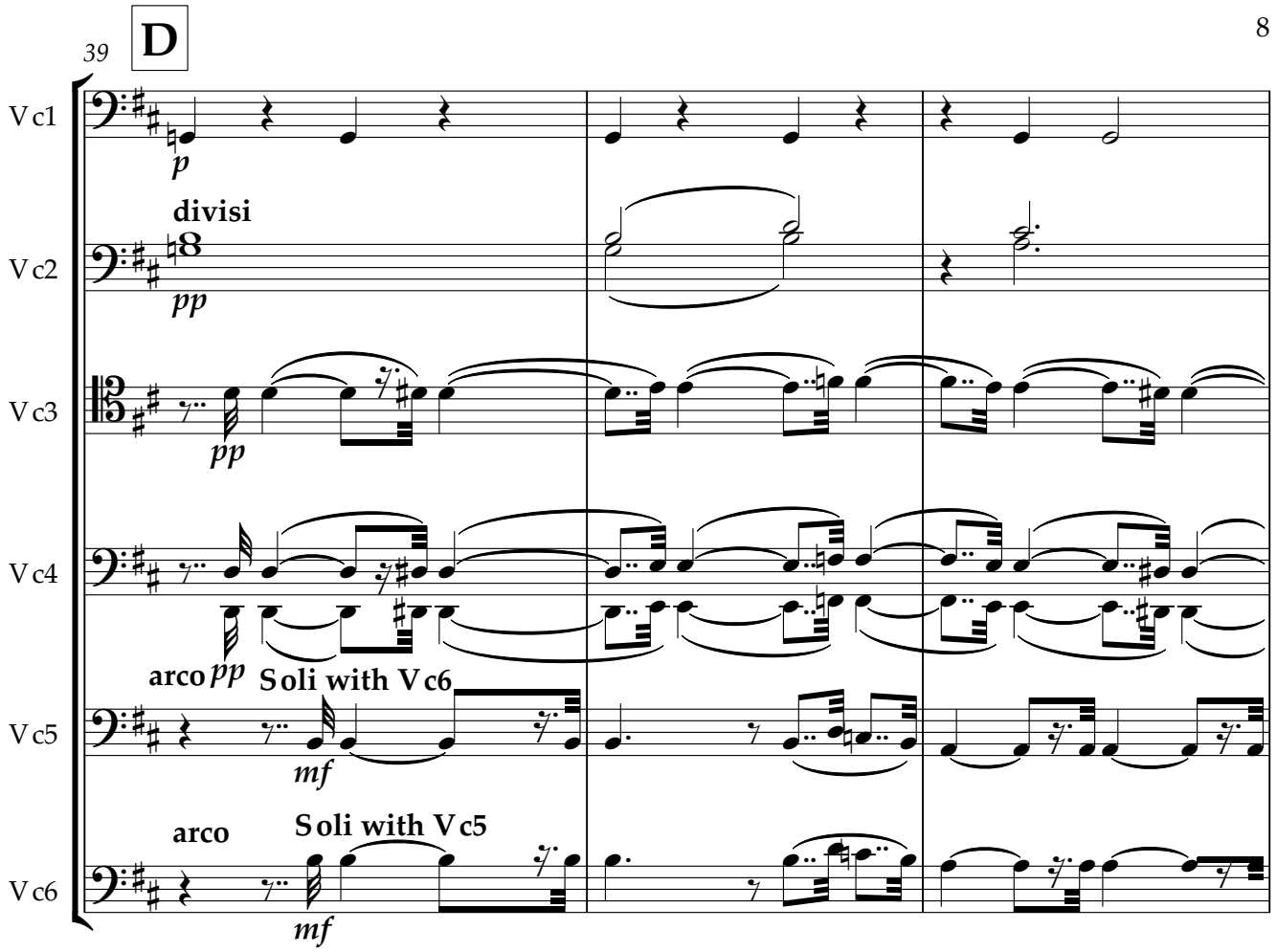

21
(pizz.)
Vc1
(pizz.)
p
Vc2
p
Vc3
p
Vc4
p
Vc5
p
Vc6
p

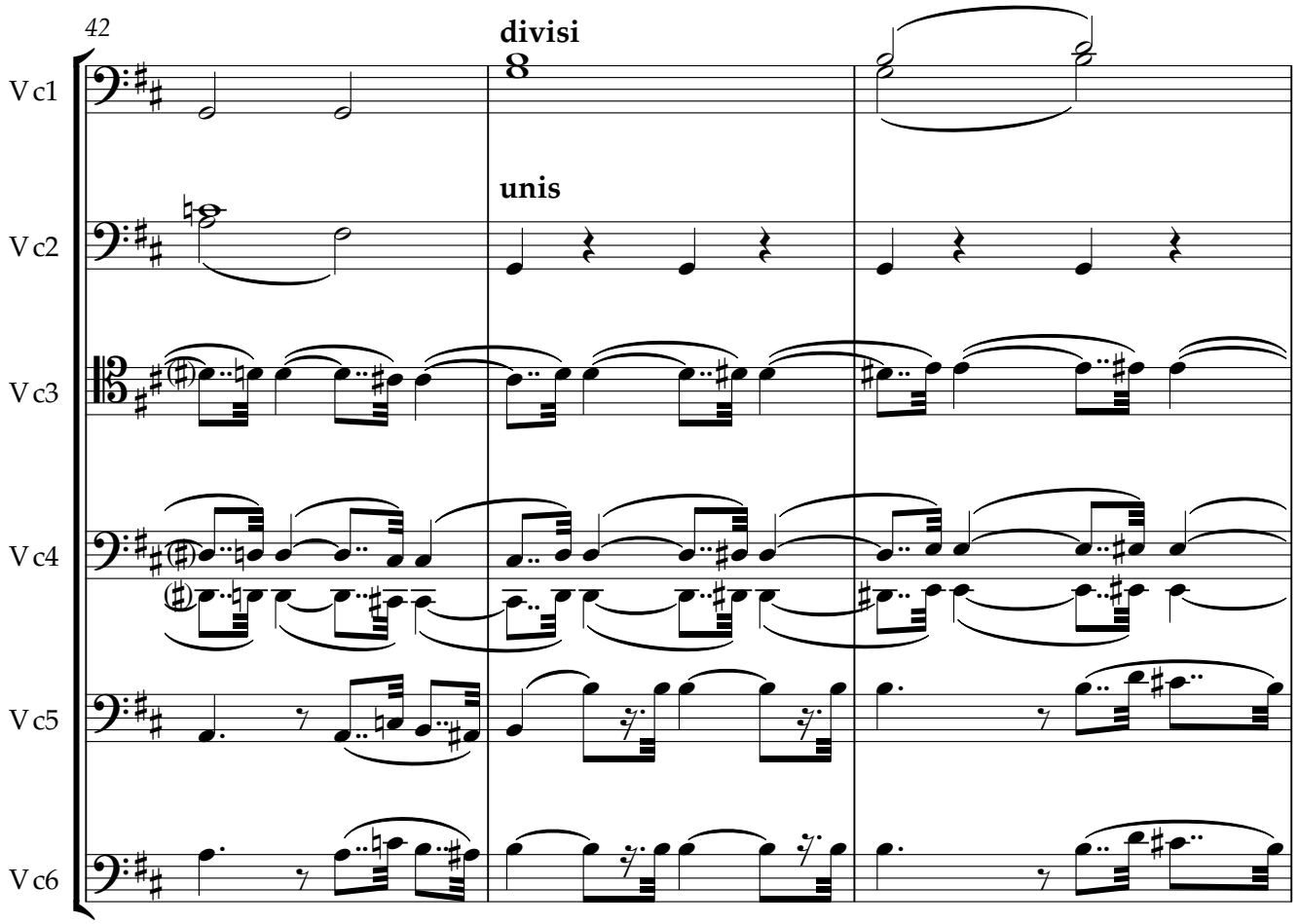

24
arco
tr
div.
pizz.
B
Vc1
p
arco
tr
pizz.
Vc2
p
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

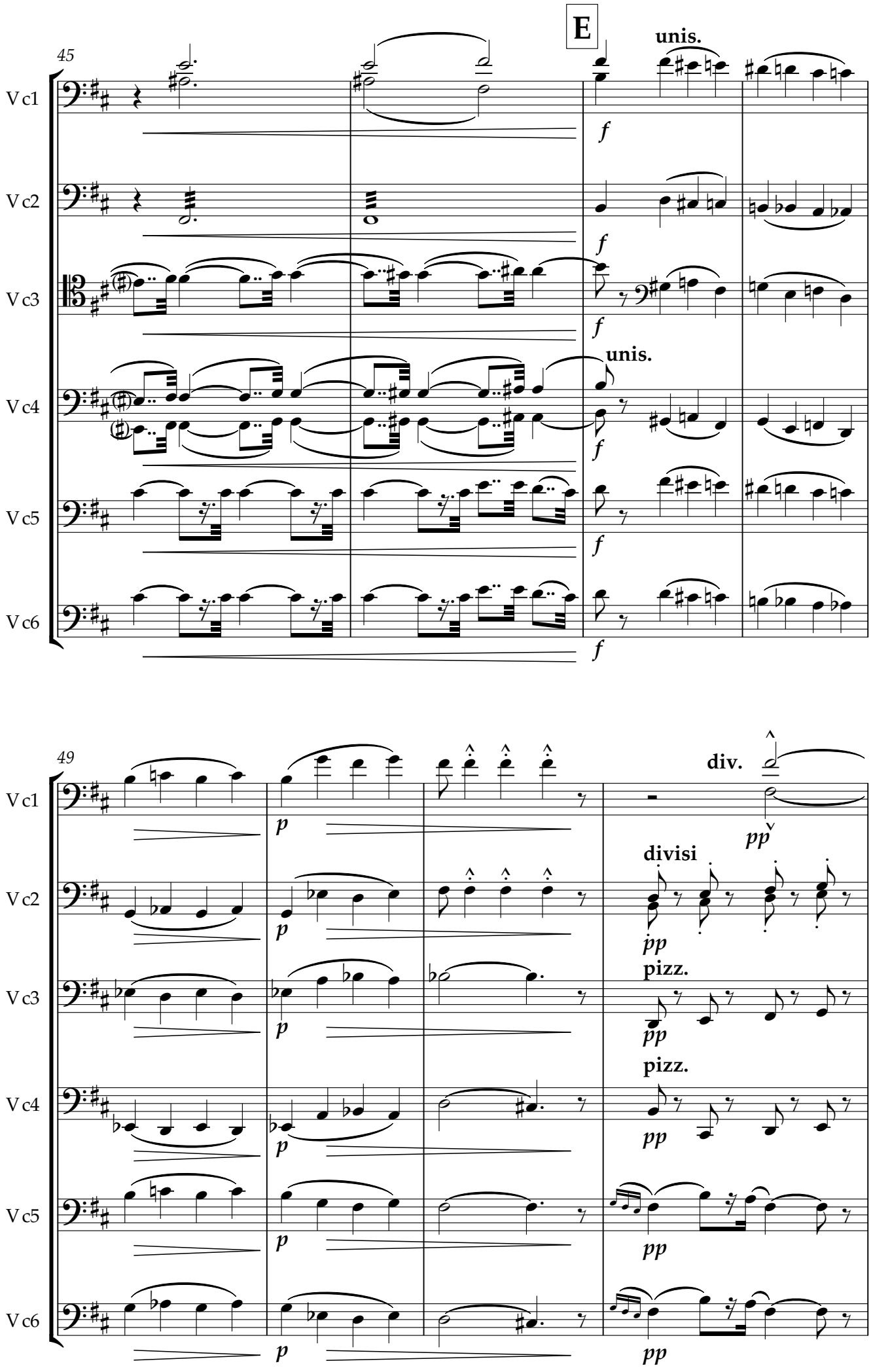

27
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
arco
unis.
arco
tr

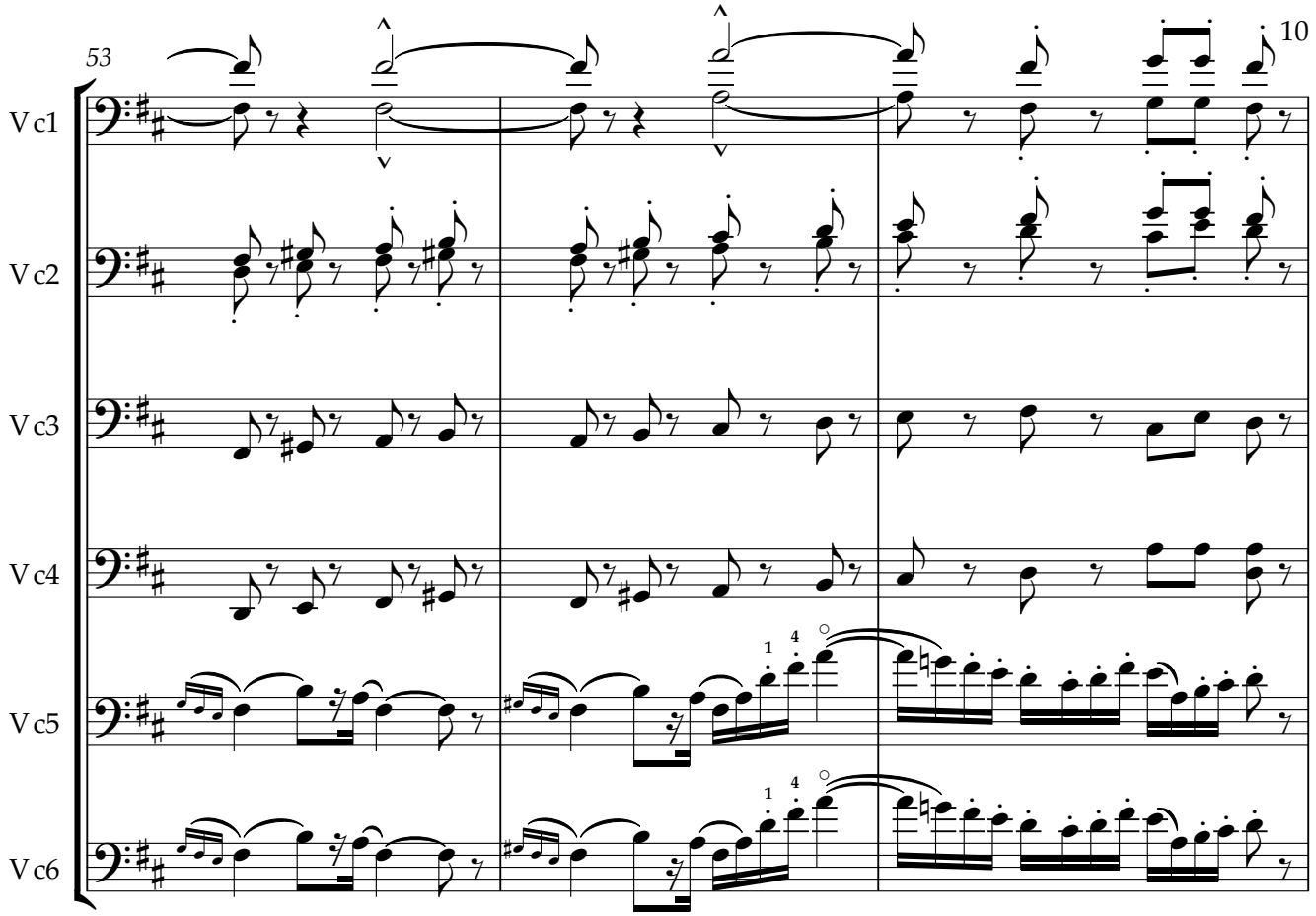

30
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
tr
pp
div.
pizz.

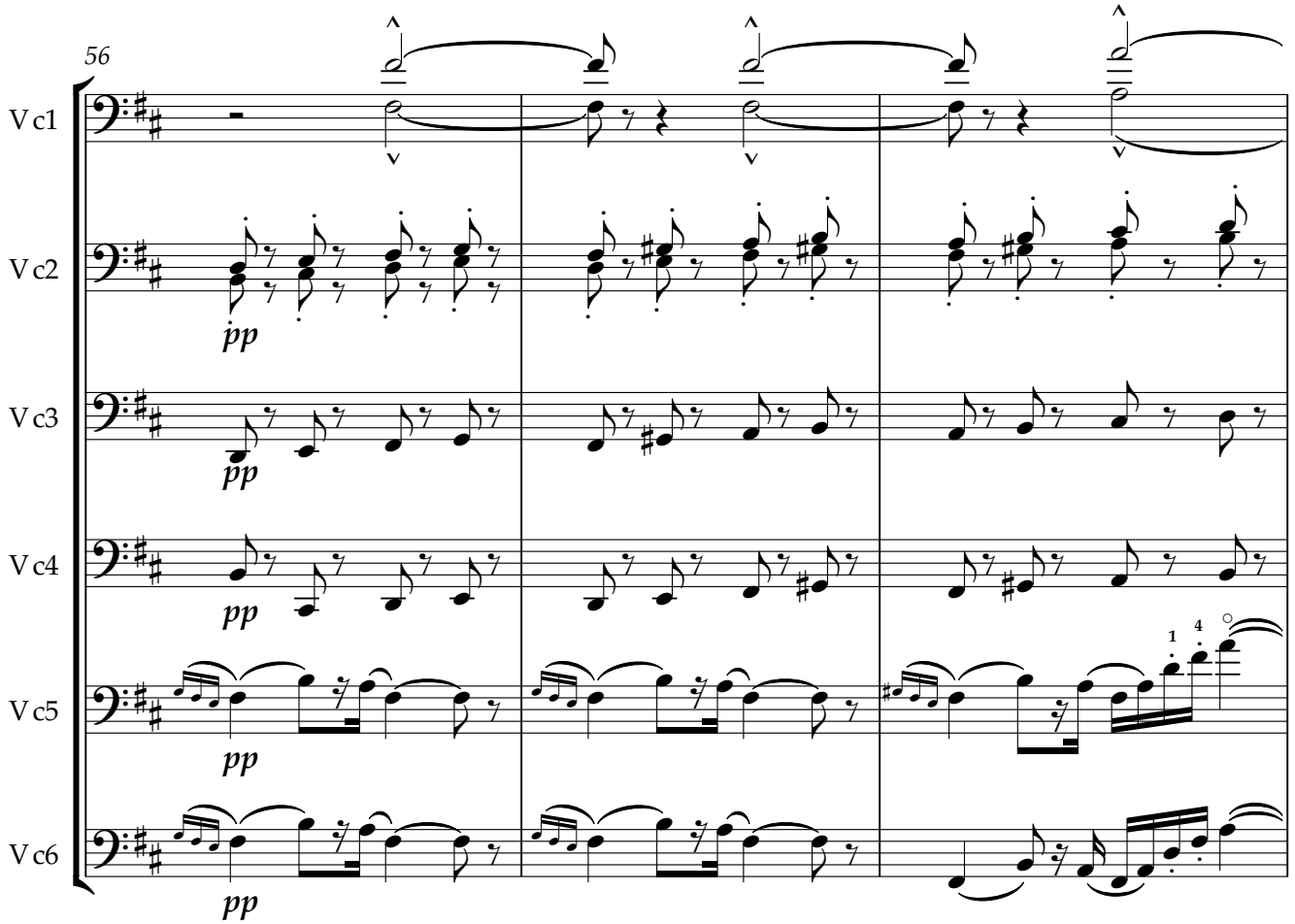

33
C
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pp
36
x1
div.

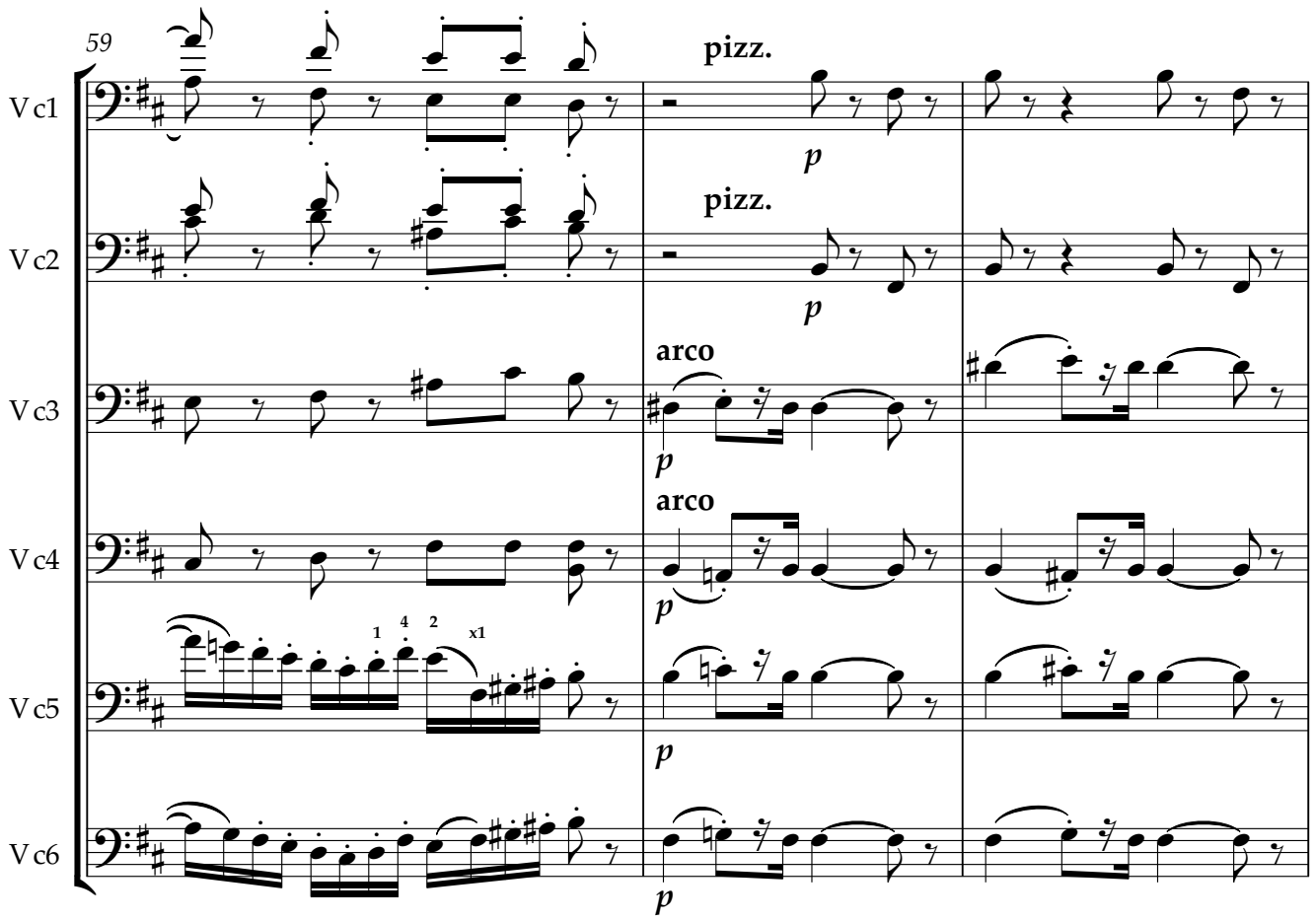

39
D
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
p
divisi
pp
pp
arco pp
Soli with Vc6
mf
arco
Soli with Vc5
mf

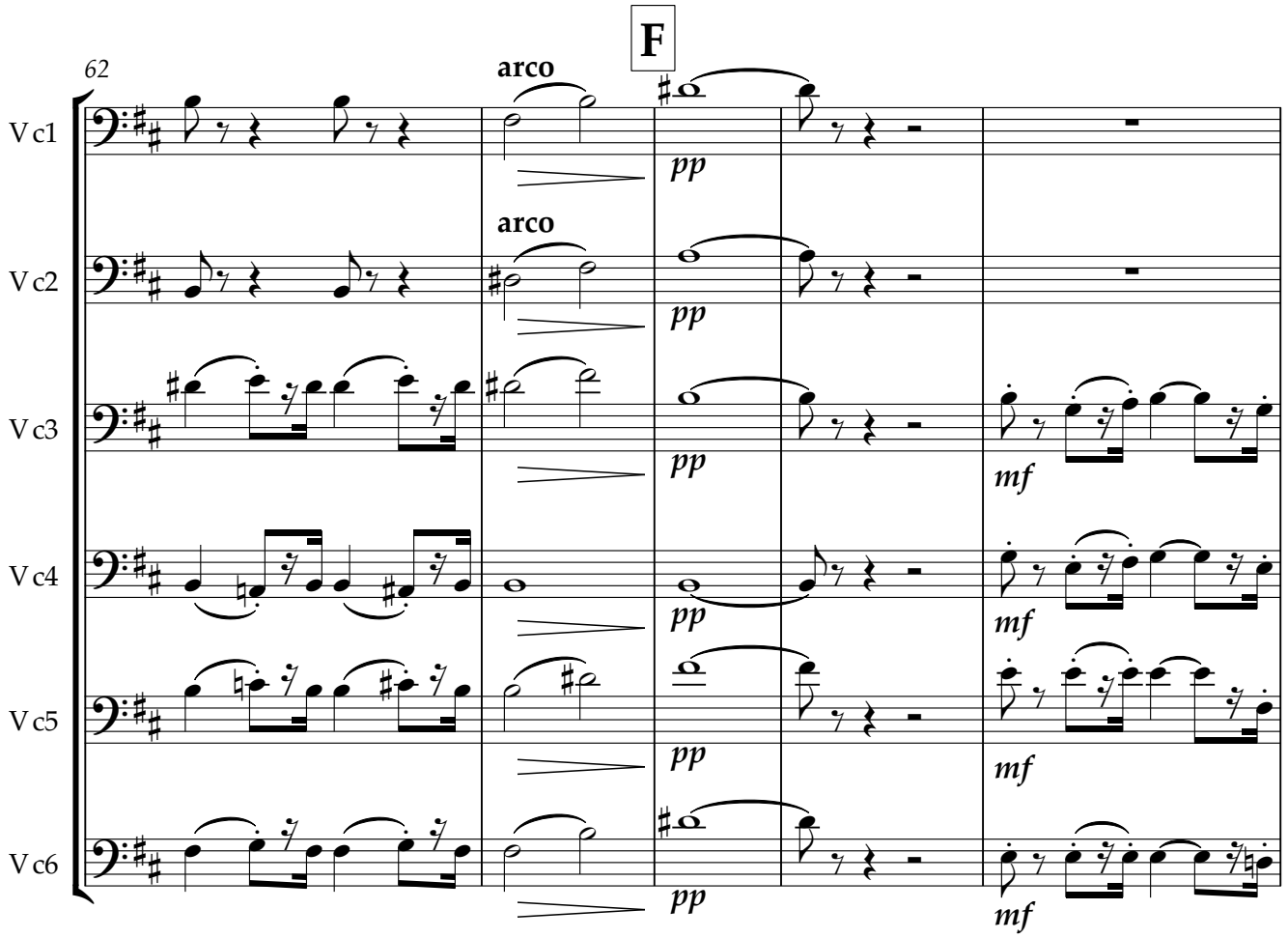

42
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
divisi
unis

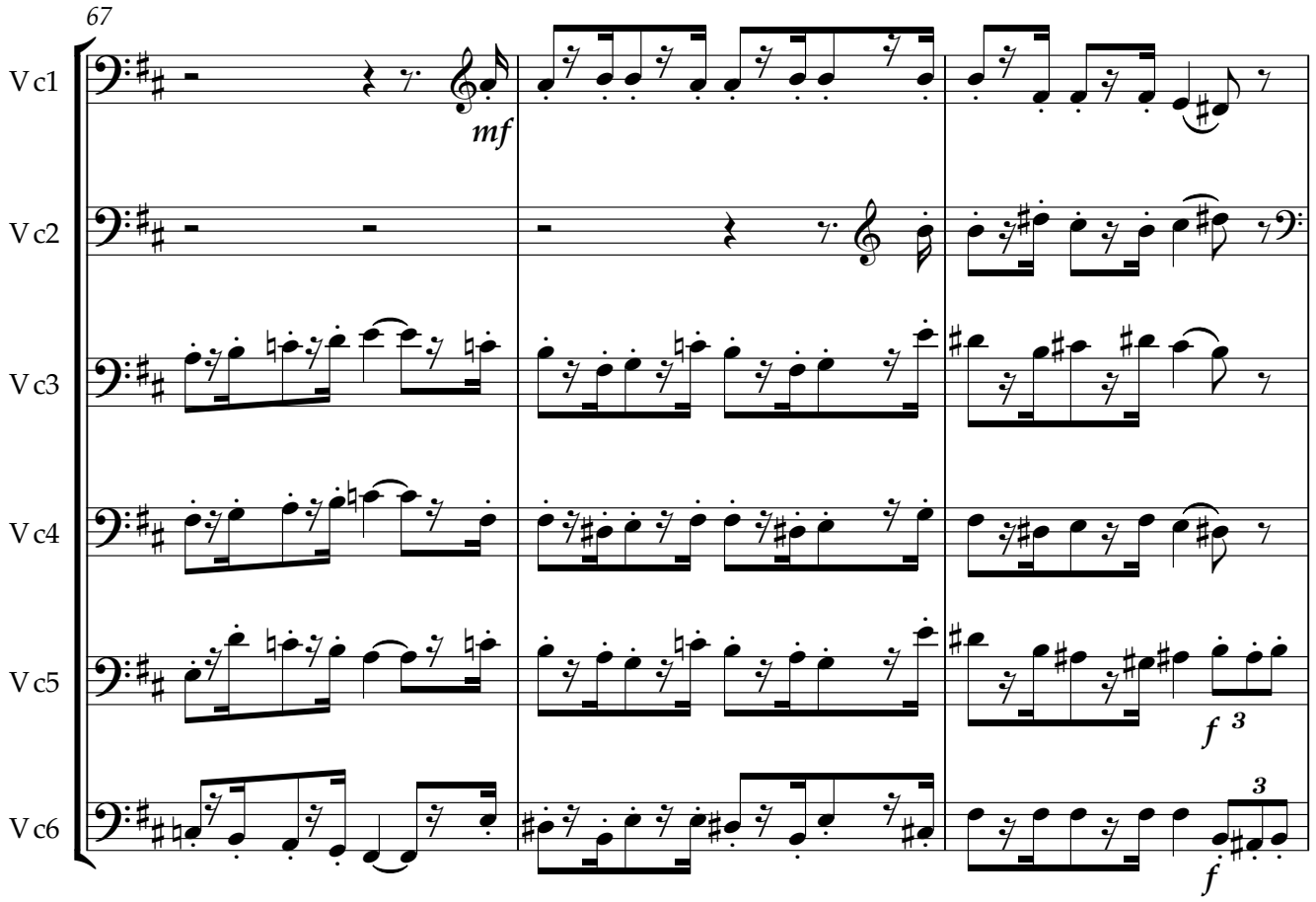

E
45
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
unis.
f
49
p
div.
pp
divisi
pizz.

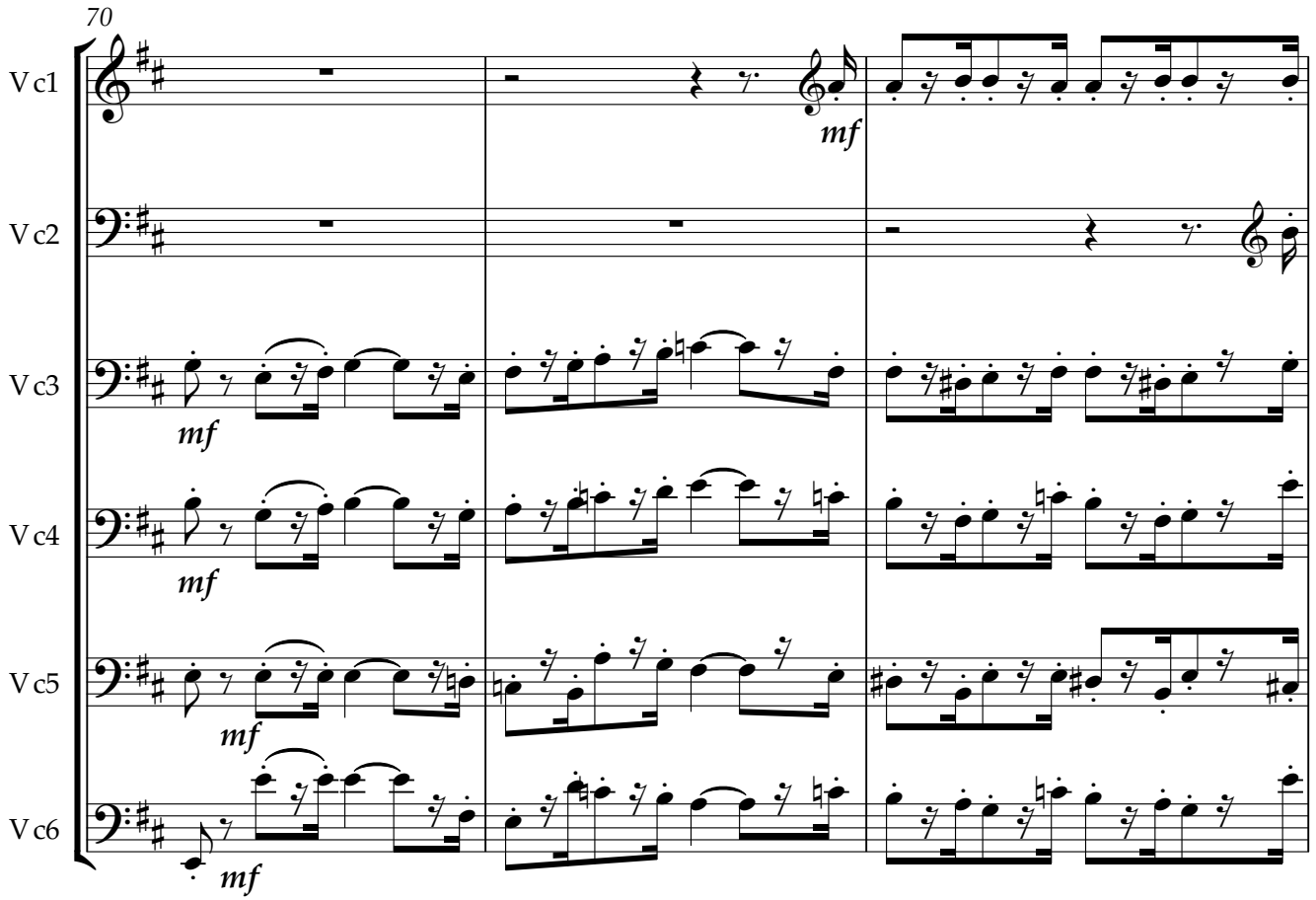

53
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

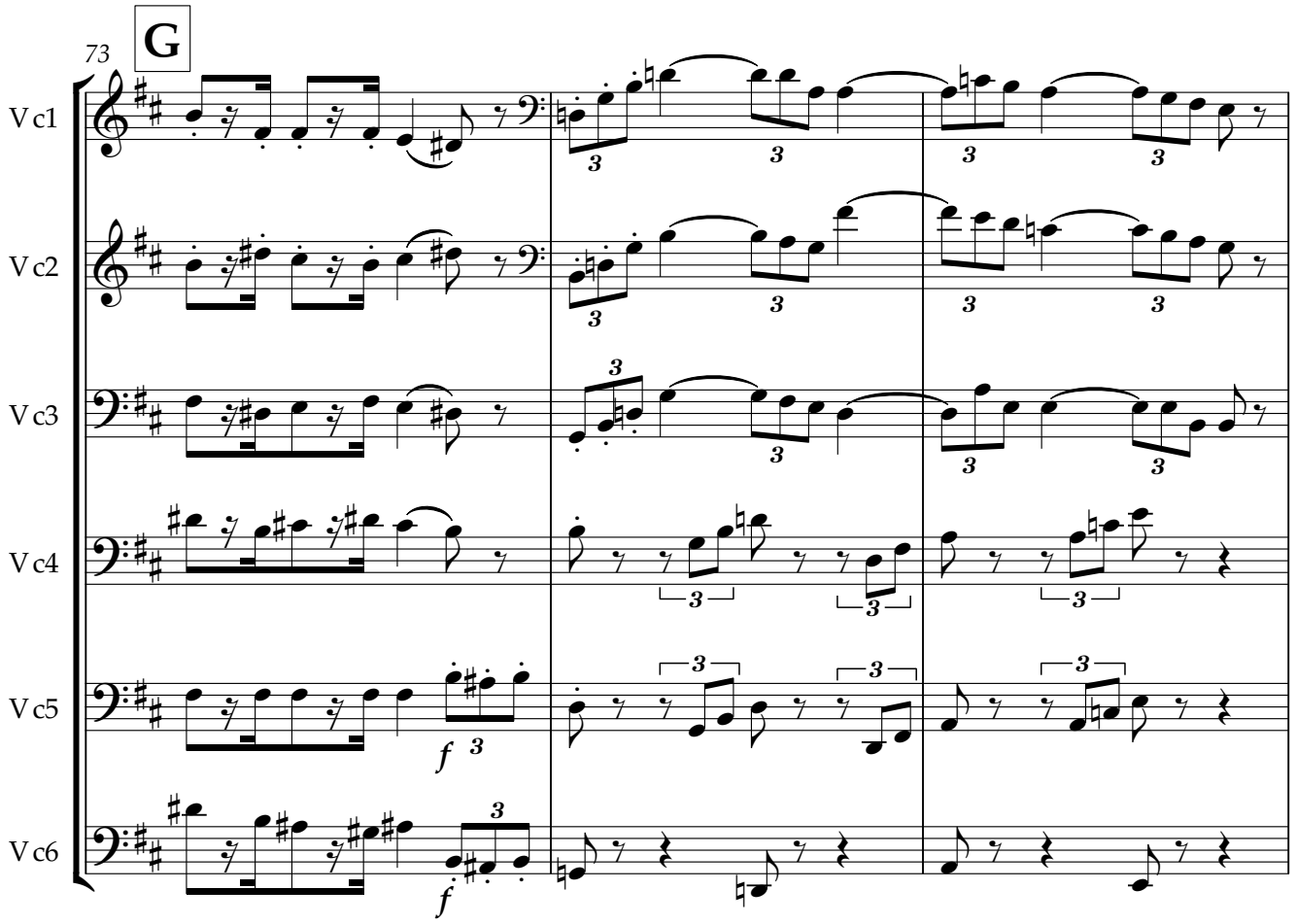

56
Vc1
Vc2
pp
Vc3
pp
Vc4
pp
Vc5
pp
Vc6
pp

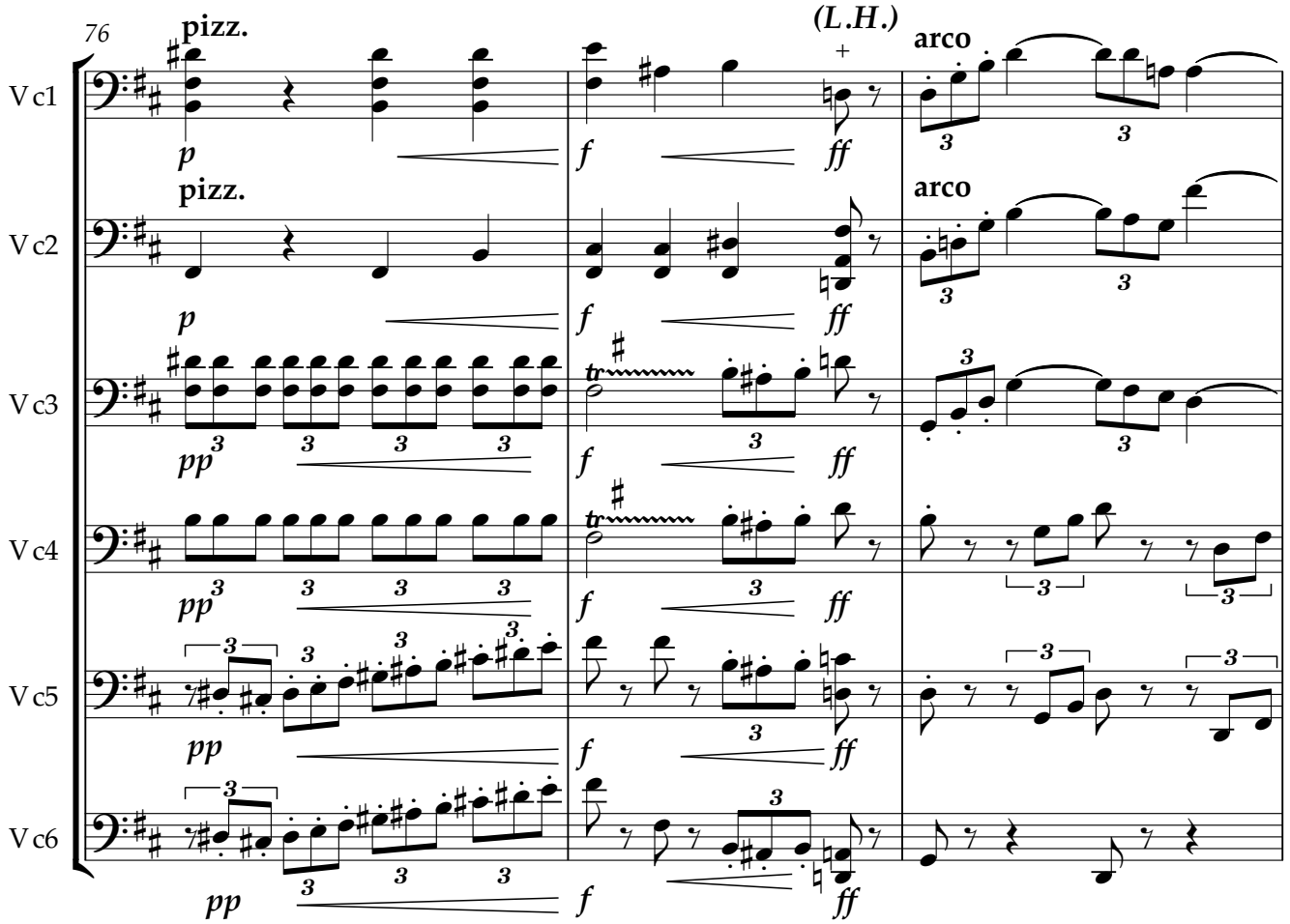

59
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pizz.
arco
p
1
4
2
x1

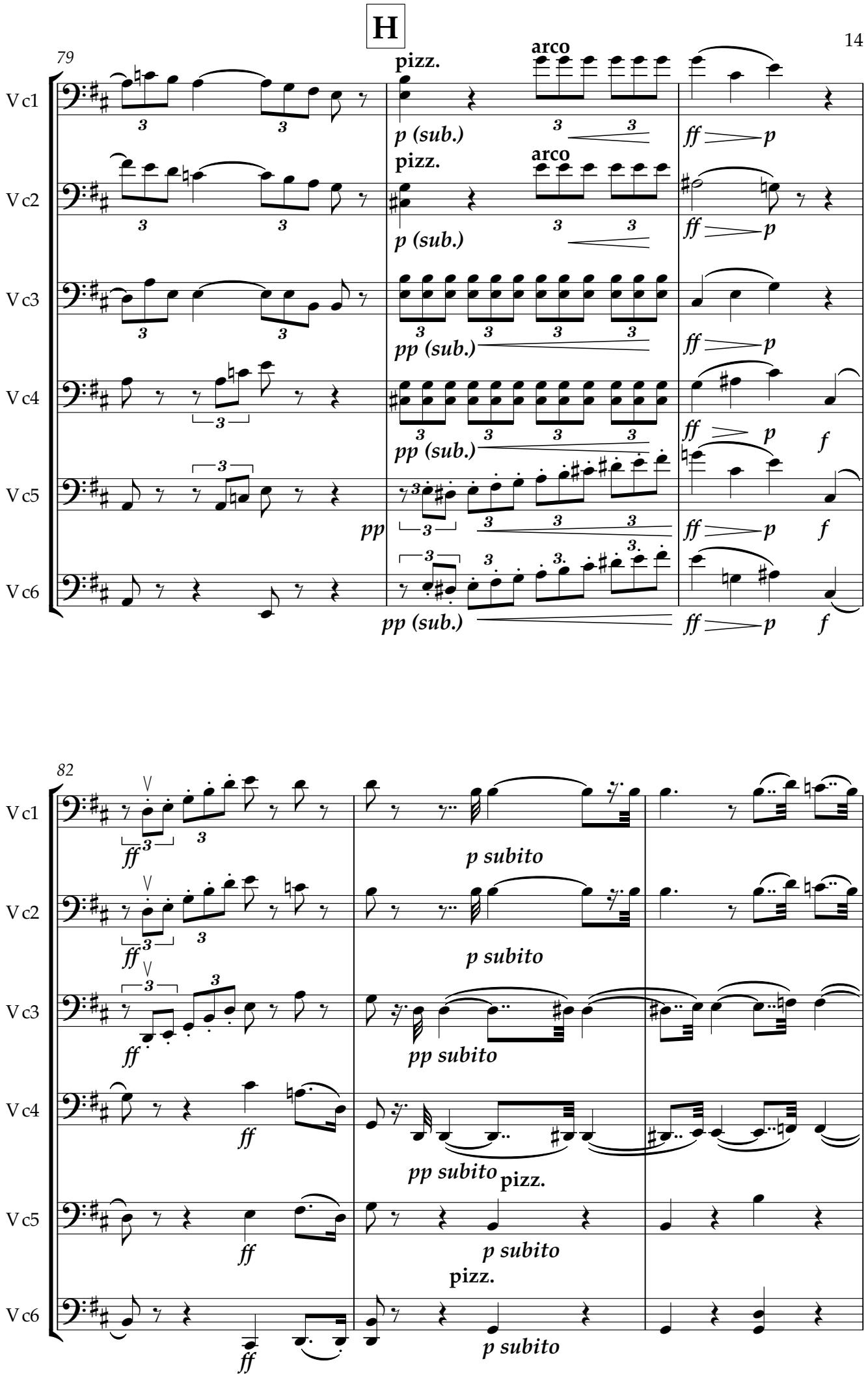

62
F
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
arco
pp
mf

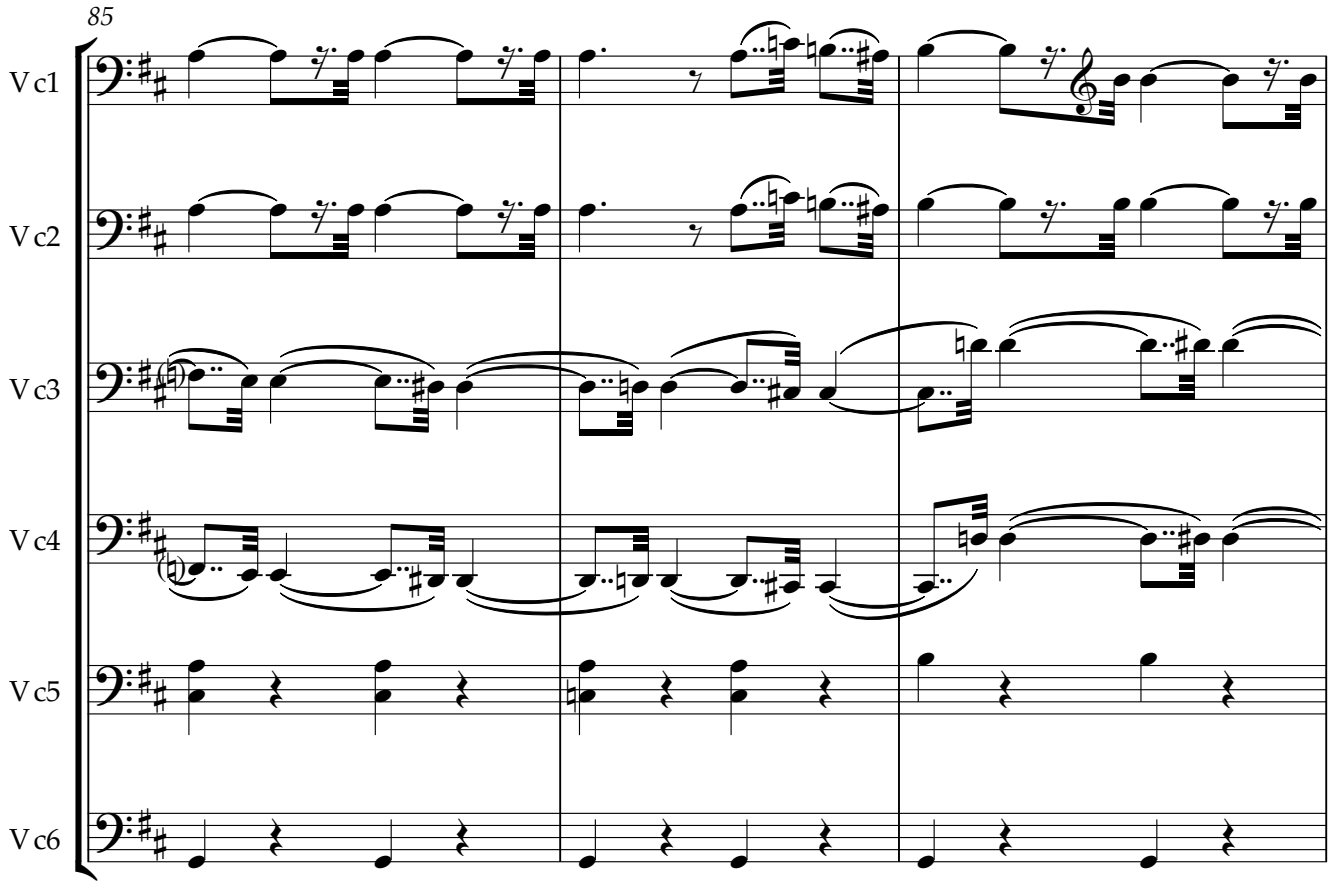

67
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
mf
f
3

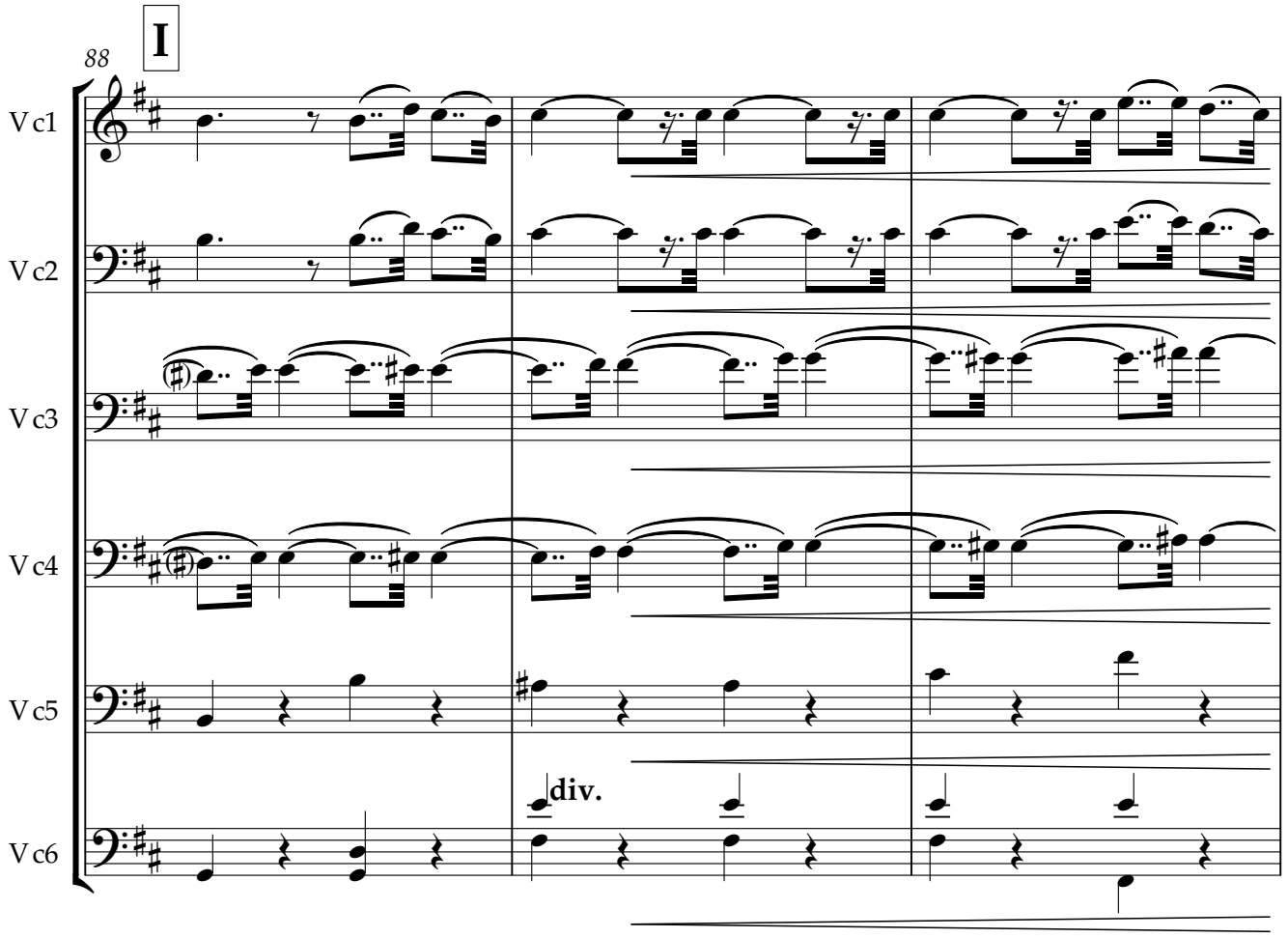

70
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
mf

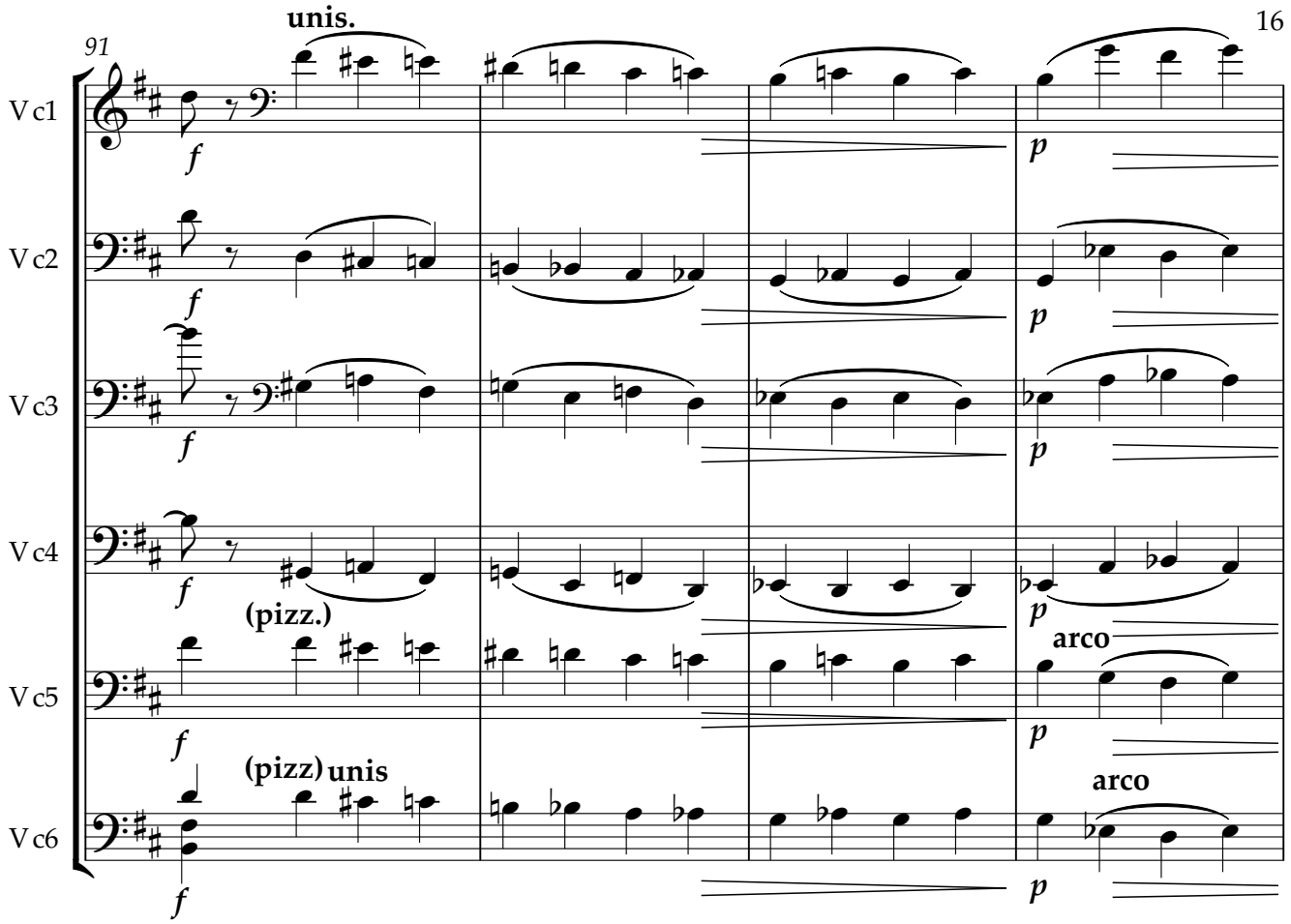

G
73
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
f
f

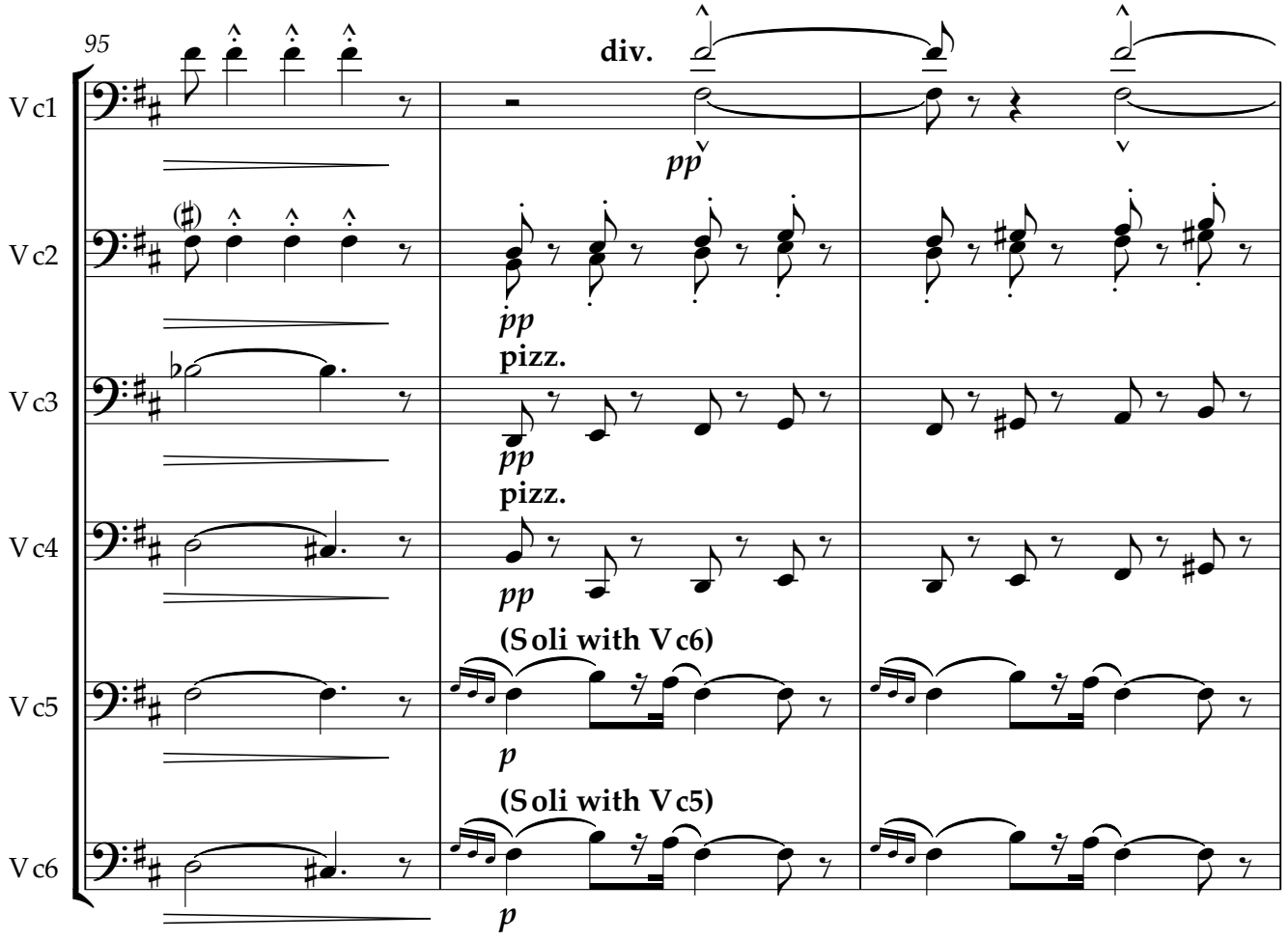

76
pizz.
(L.H.)
arco
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
p
pizz.
arco
pp
f
ff

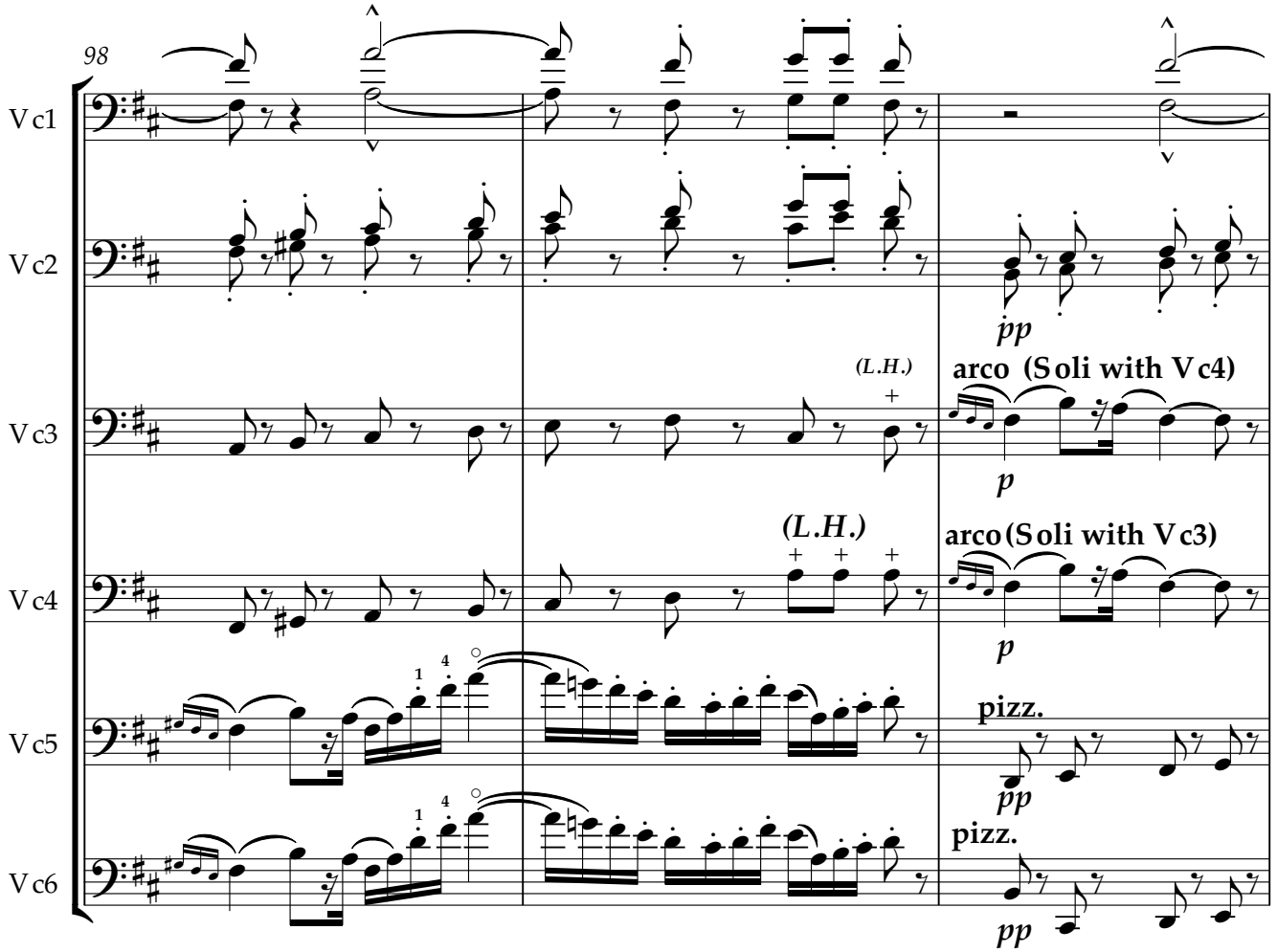

H
79
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pizz.
arco
p (sub.)
pp (sub.)
pp
ff
p
f
82
p subito
pp subito
pizz.

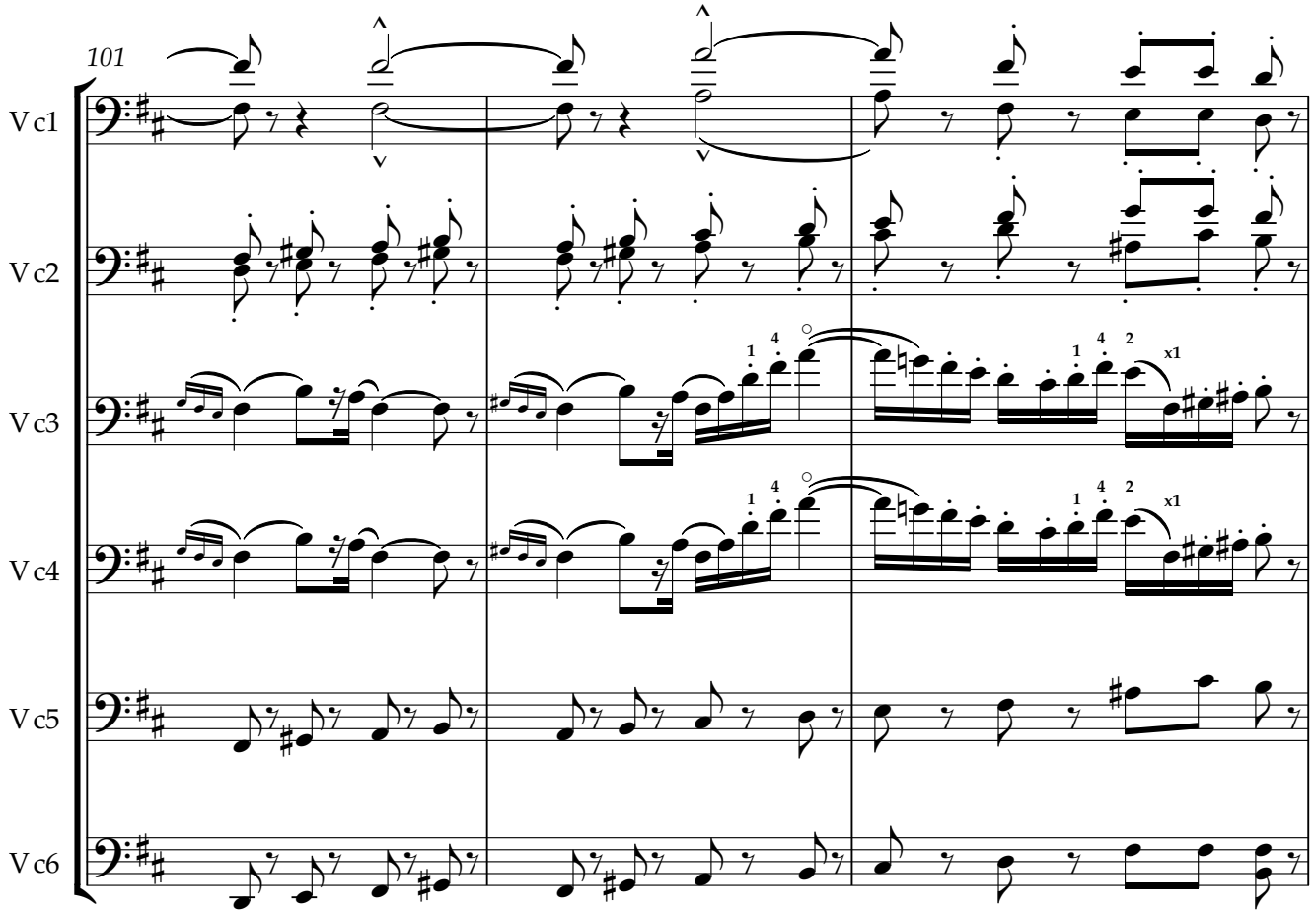

85
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

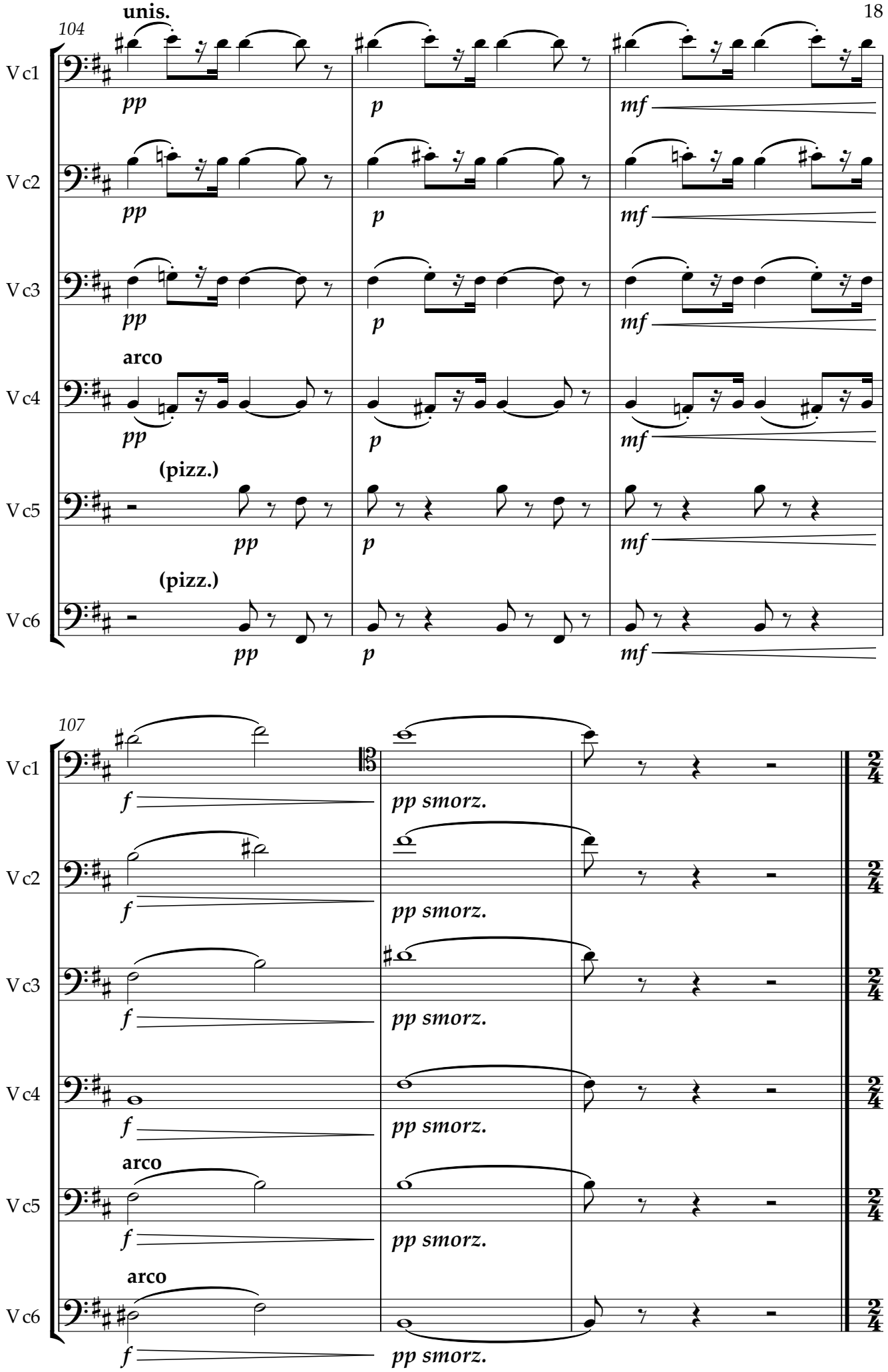

I
88
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
div.
Vc6


91
unis.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
f
p
(pizz.)
arco
(pizz)
unis
arco


95
div.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pp
pizz.
(Soli with Vc6)
(Soli with Vc5)
p

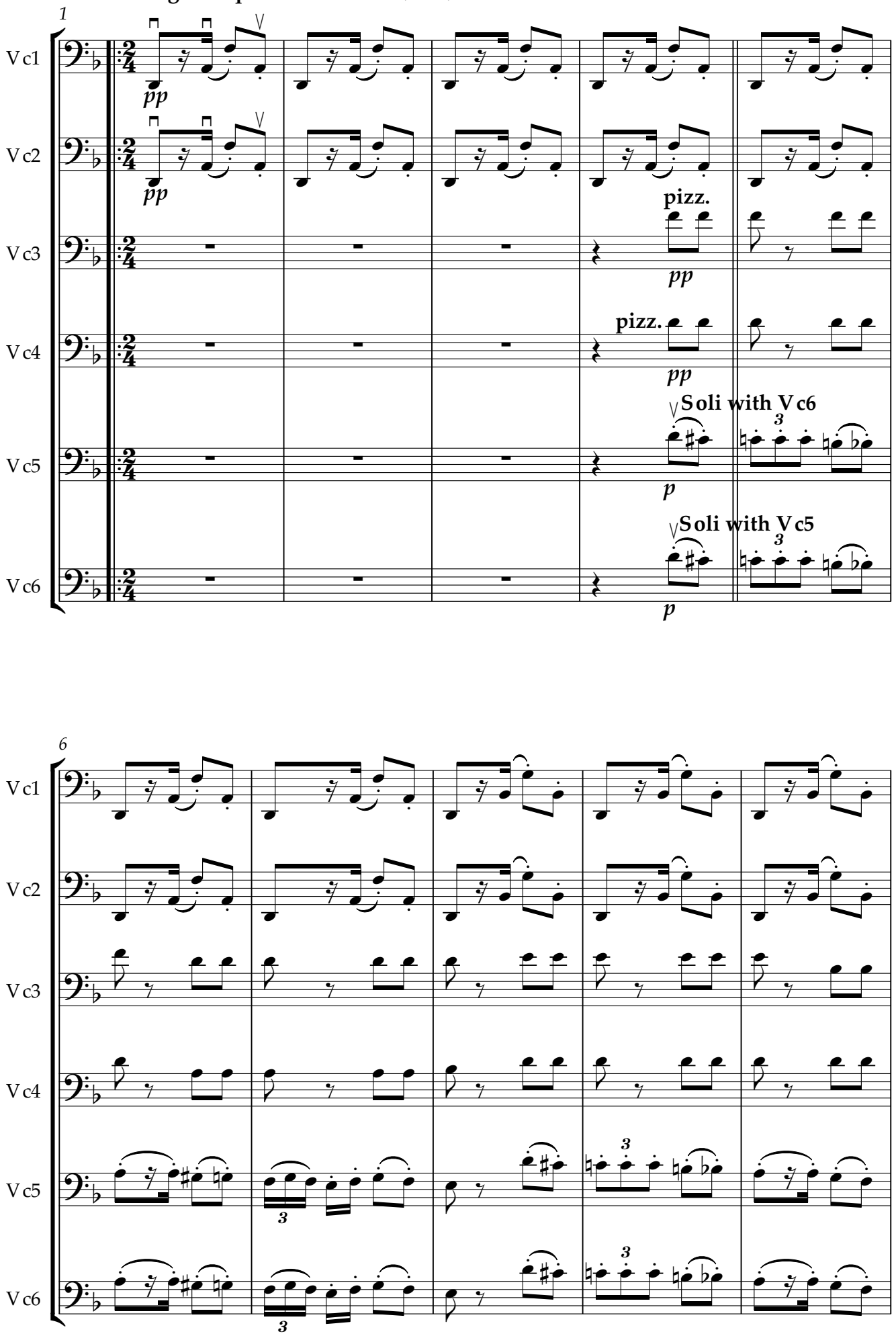

98
Vc1
Vc2
pp
(L.H.)
arco (Soli with Vc4)
Vc3
p
(L.H.)
arco (Soli with Vc3)
Vc4
p
pizz.
Vc5
pp
pizz.
Vc6
pp

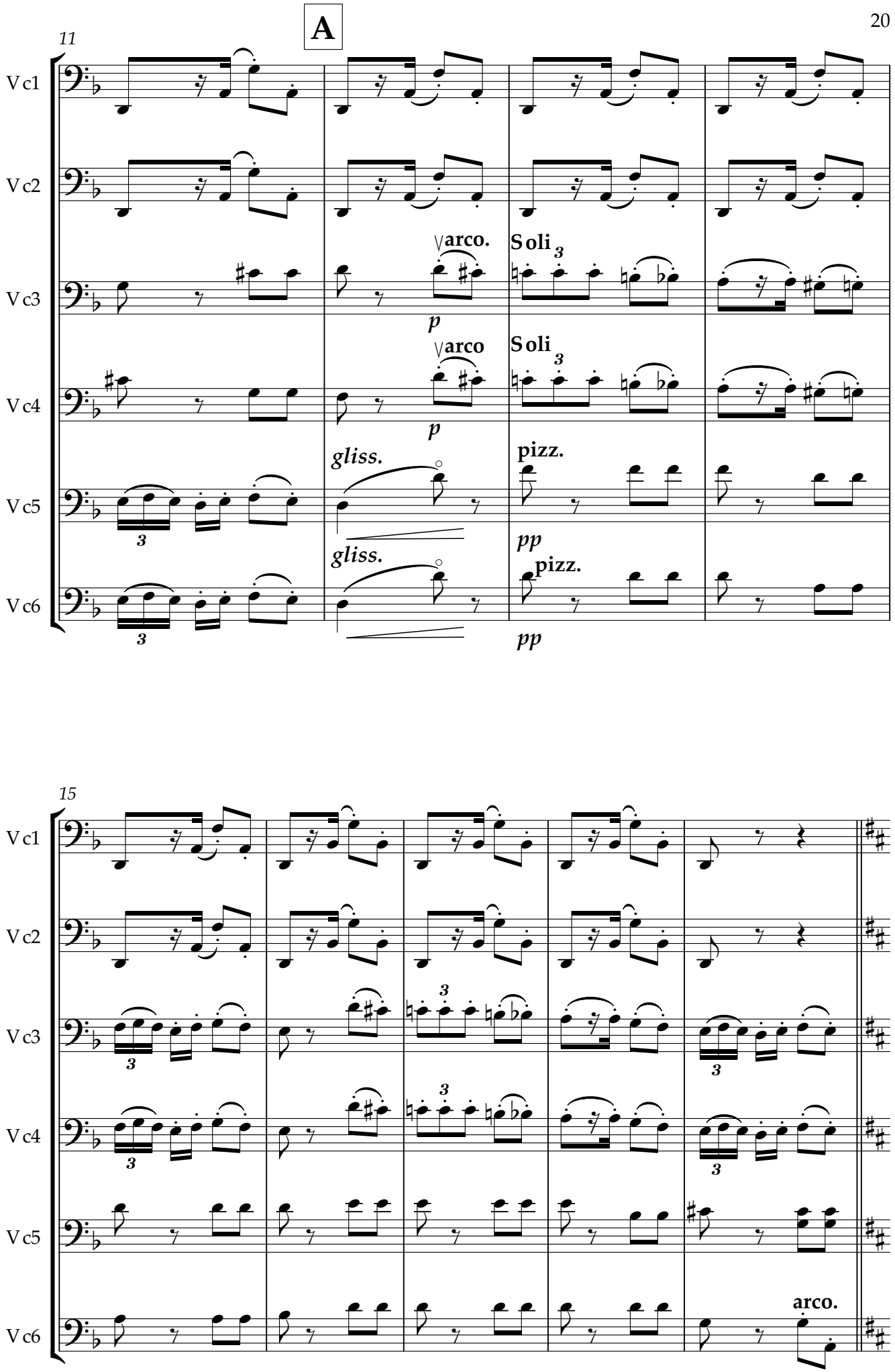

101
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

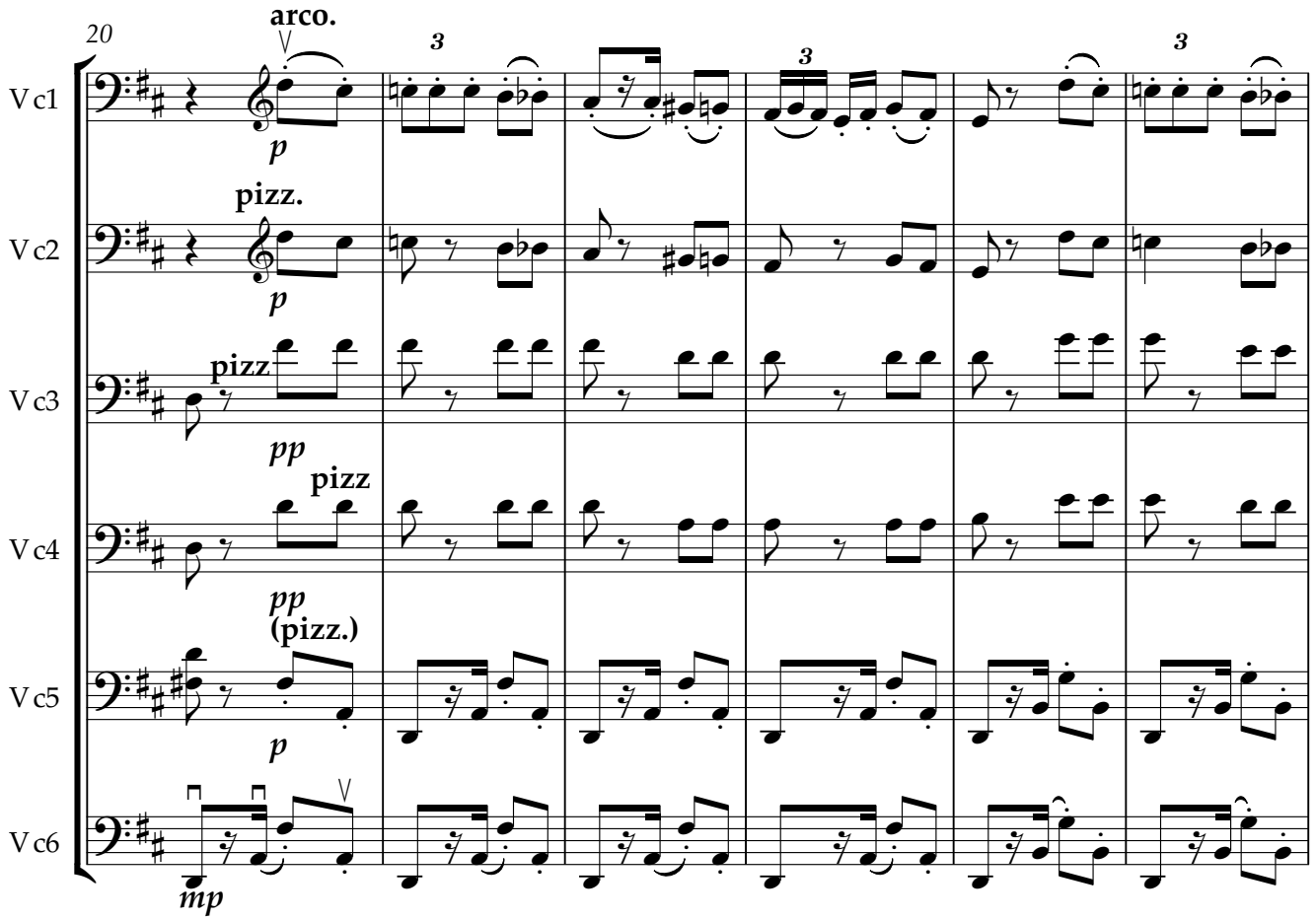

104
unis.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
arco
Vc4
(pizz.)
Vc5
(pizz.)
Vc6
pp
p
mf
107
f
pp smorz.
arco
2/4

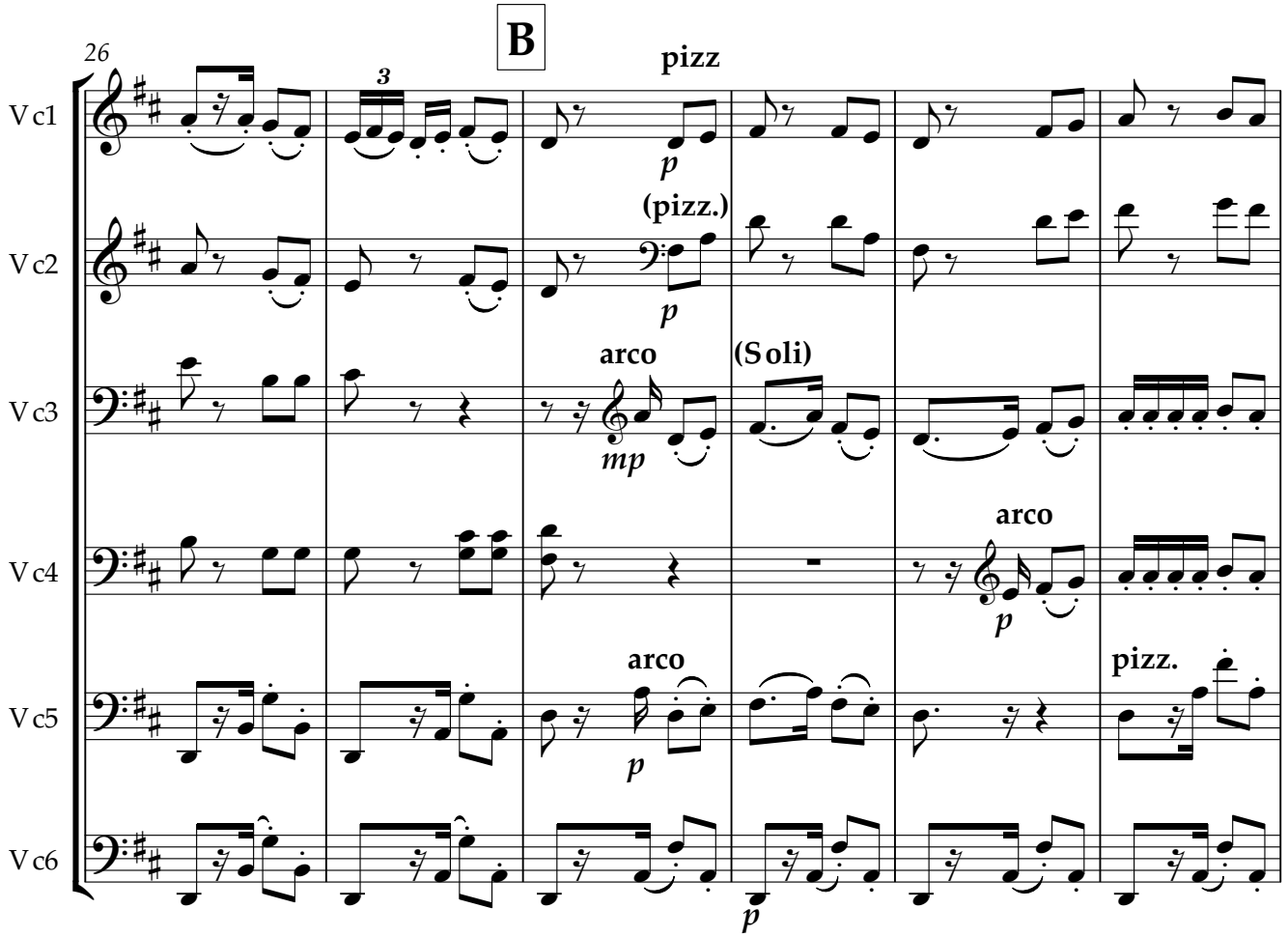
II. Habanera

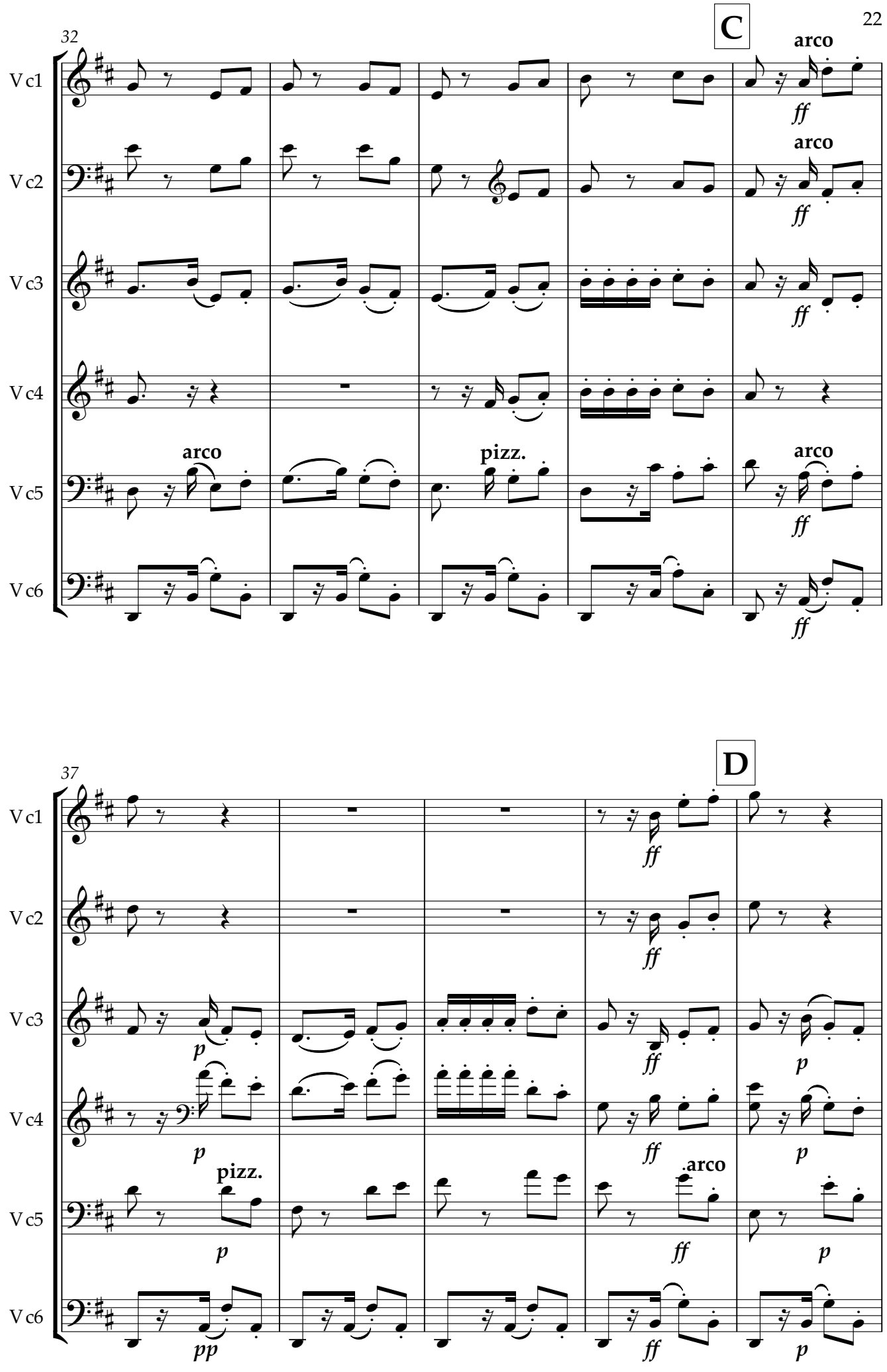
Allegretto quasi Andantino (♩=72)

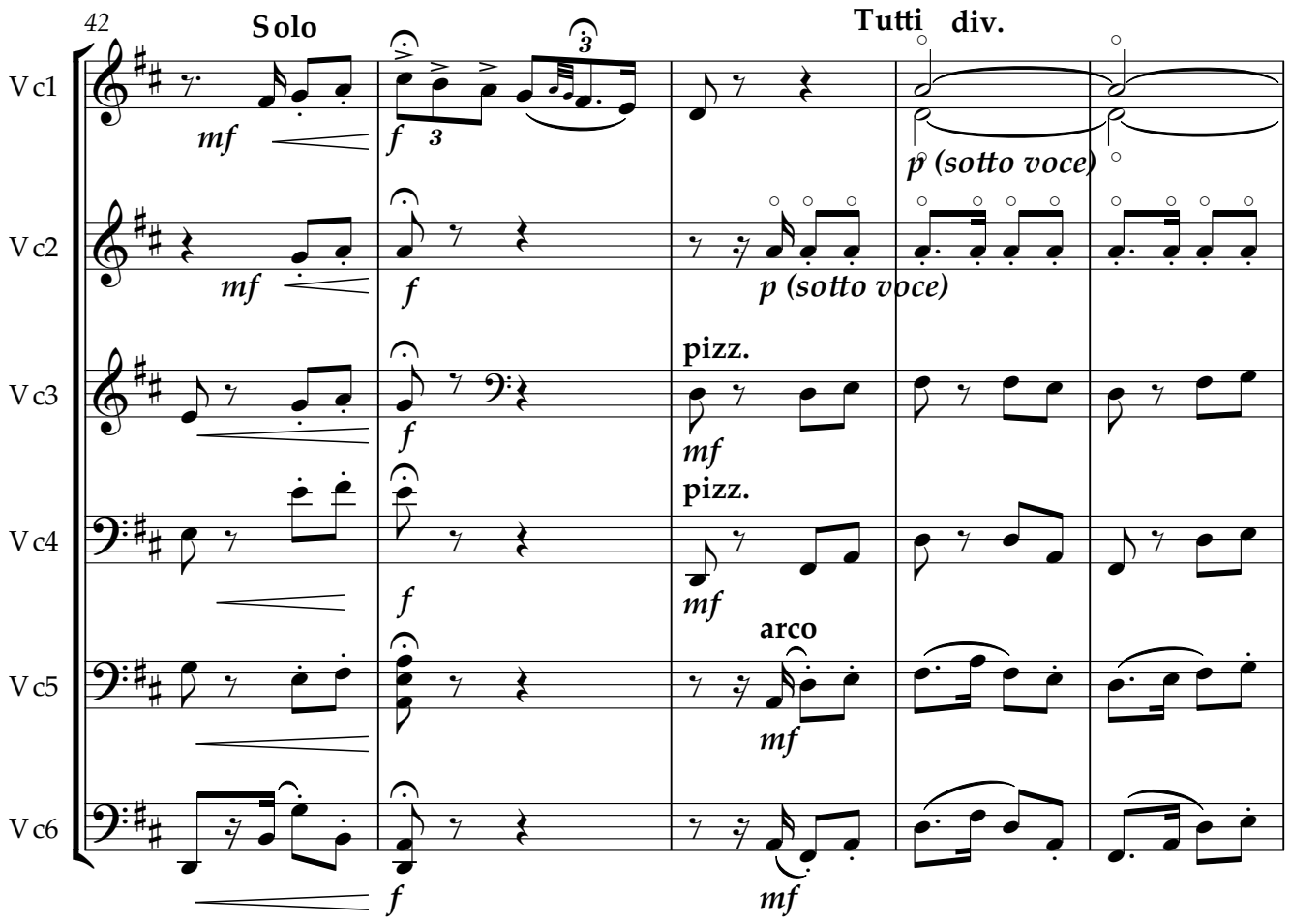


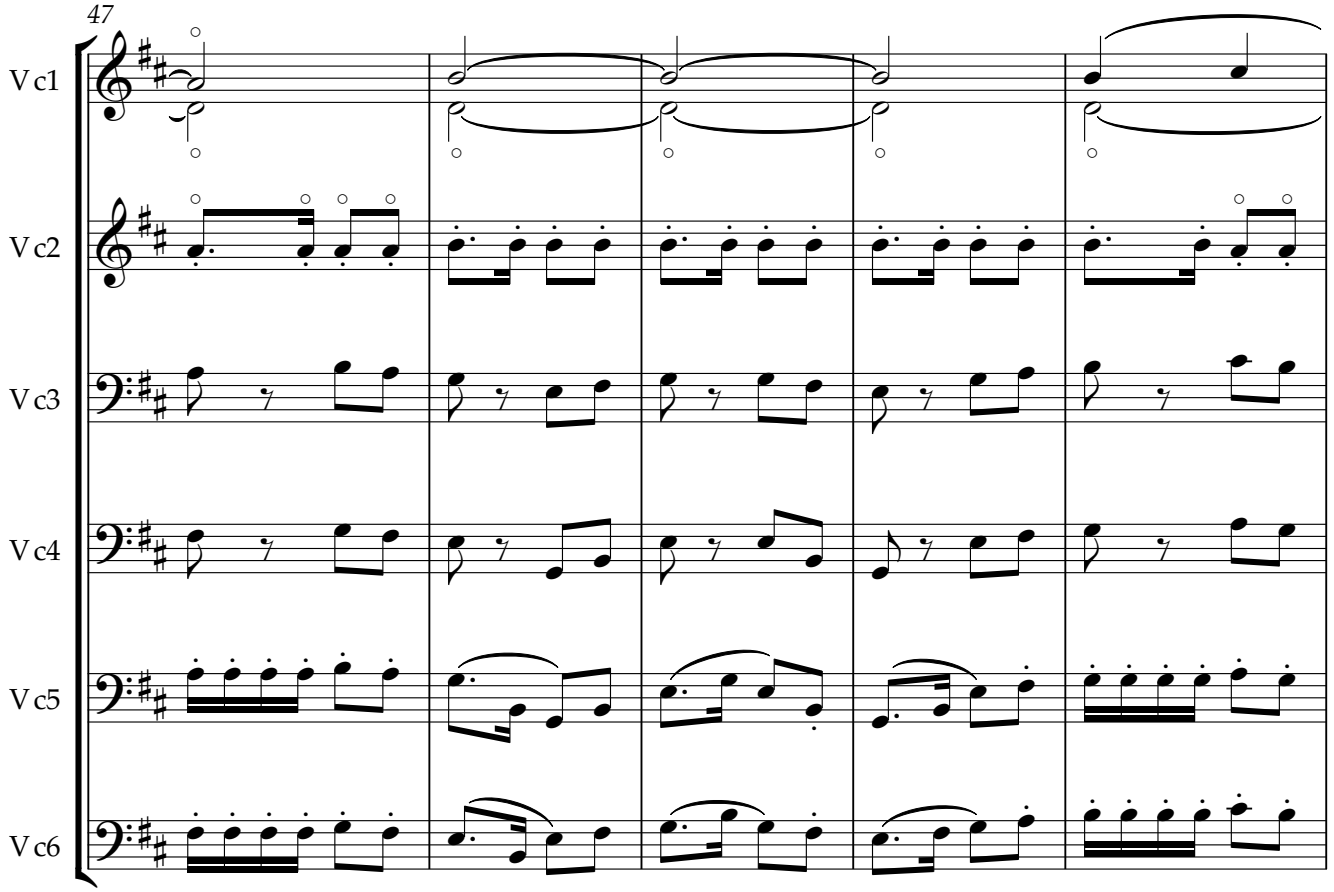

A
11
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
arco.
p
Soli
3
arco
p
Soli
3
gliss.
pizz.
pp
gliss.
pizz.
pp
15
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
3
3
3
3
arco.

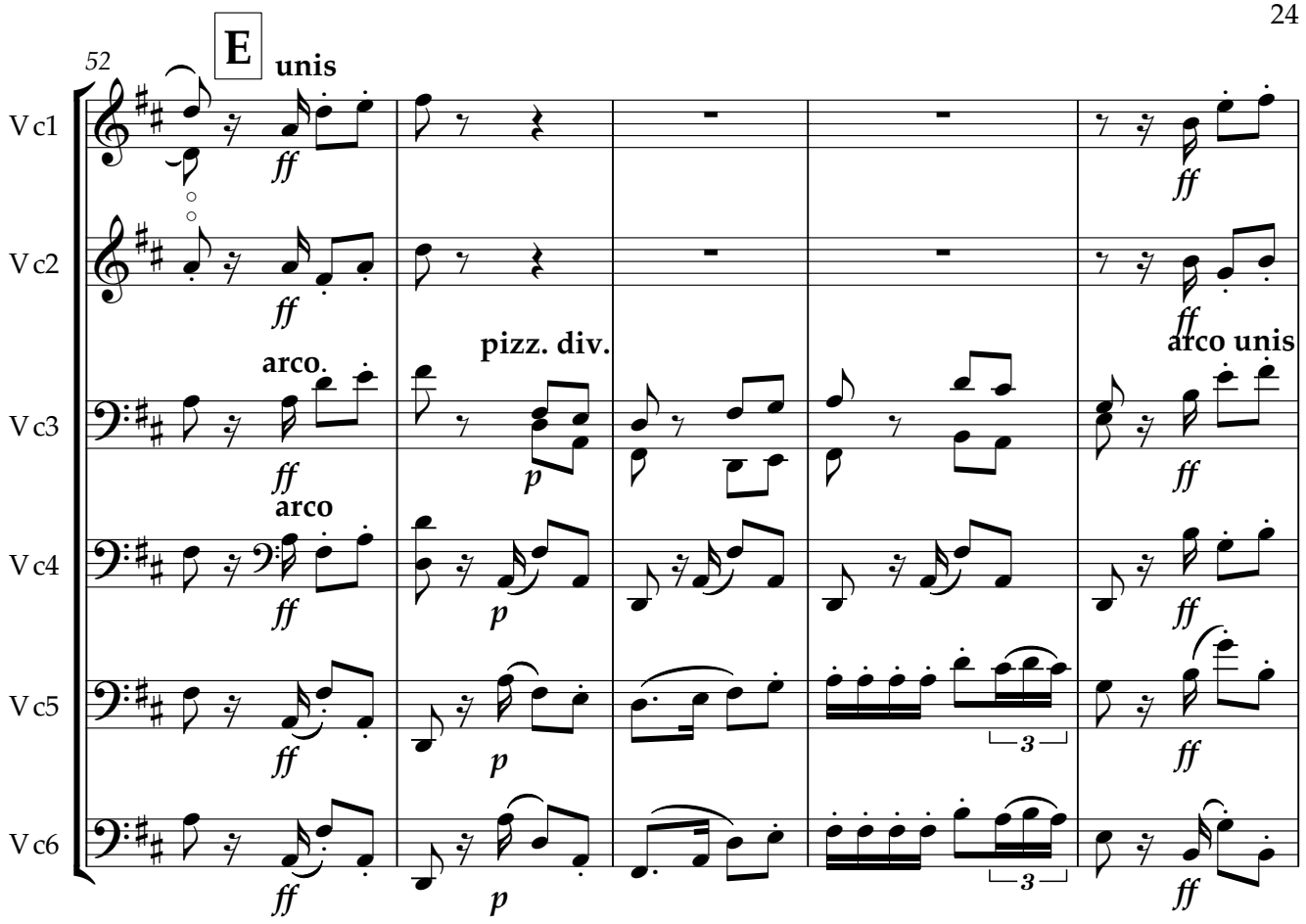

20
arco.
pizz.
pizz
pizz
(pizz.)
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6


26
B
pizz
(pizz.)
arco
(Soli)
arco
arco
pizz.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

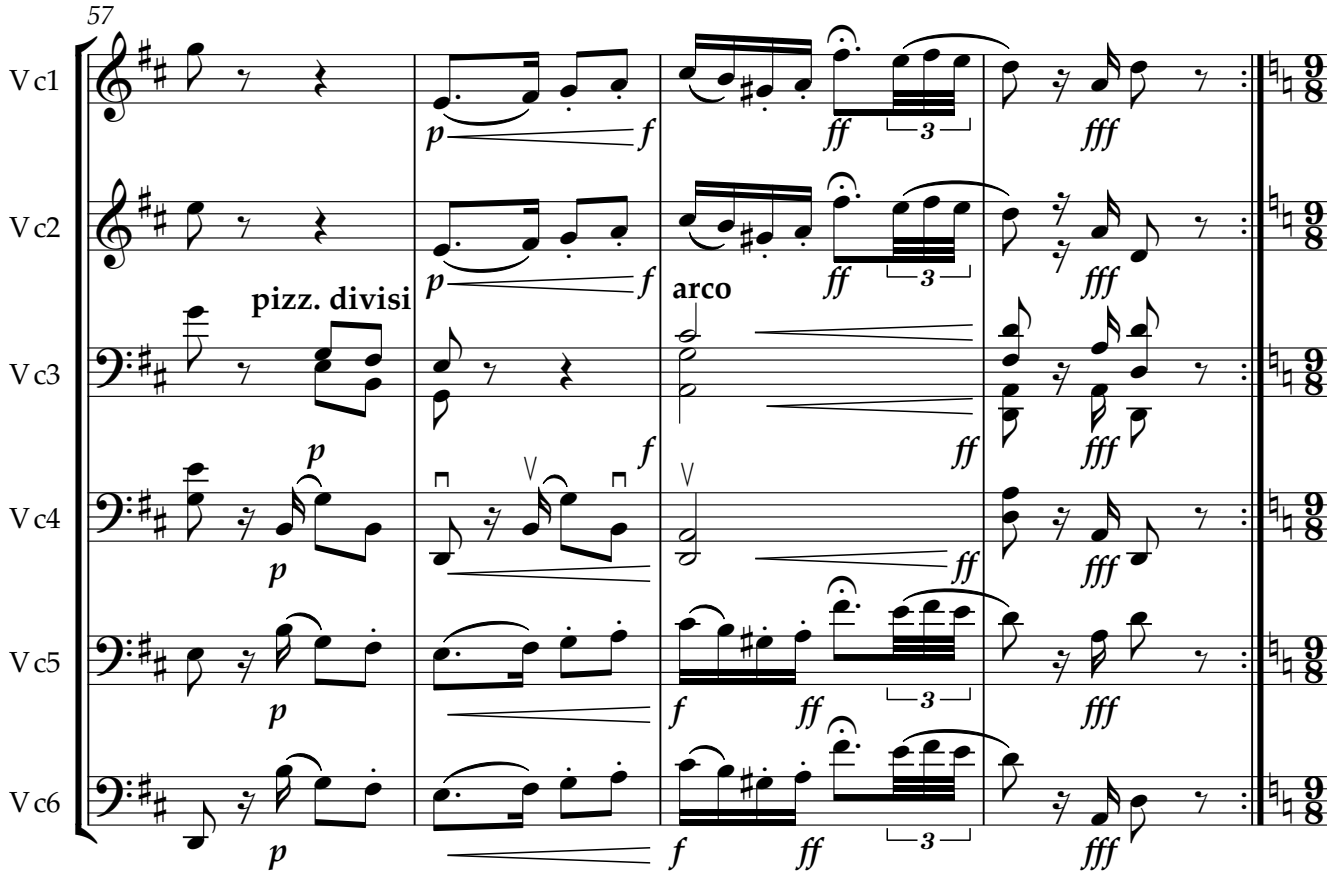

C
32
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
arco
pizz.
ff
D
37
p
pp

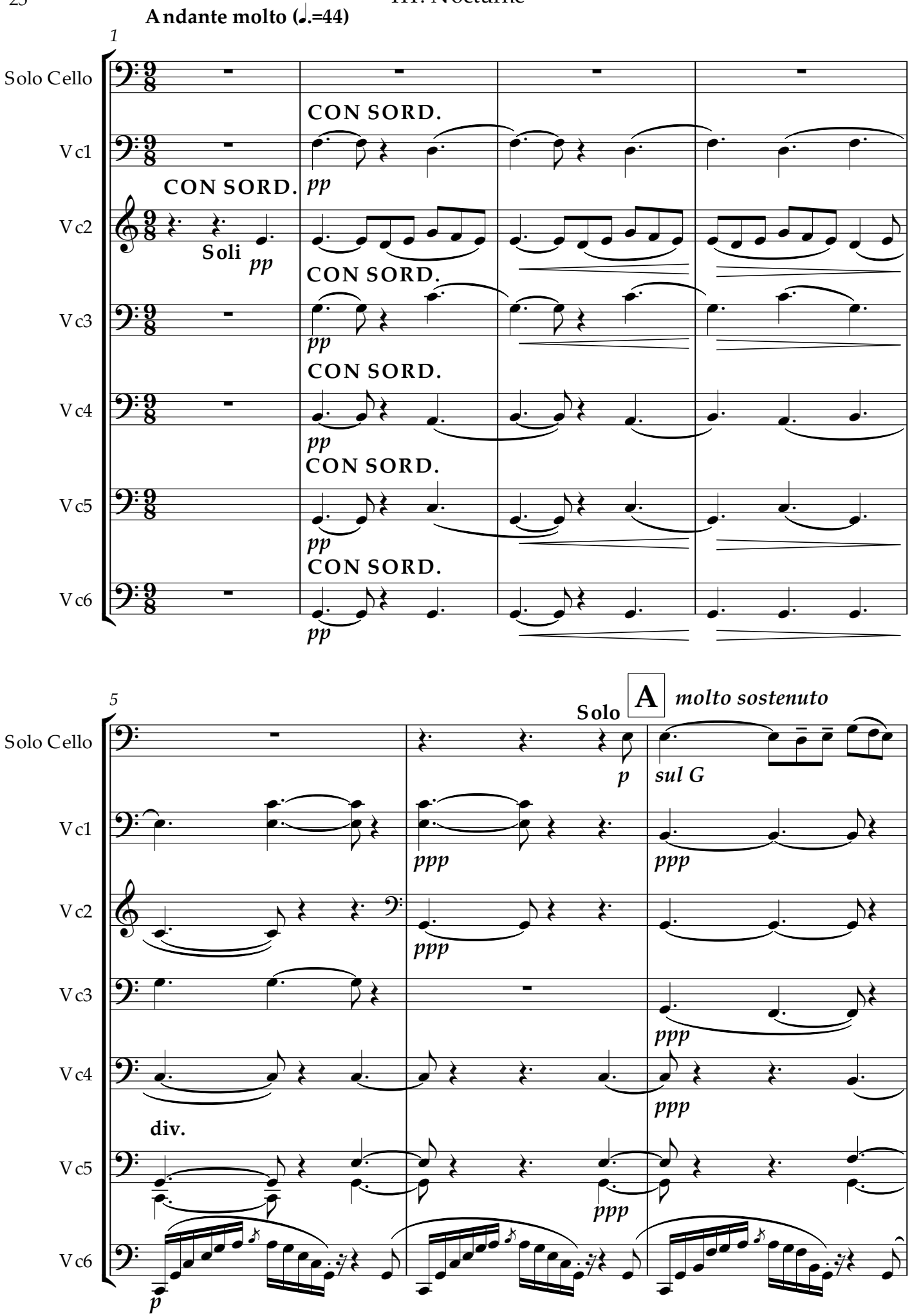

42
Solo
Tutti
div.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
mf
f
3
p (sotto voce)
pizz.
arco

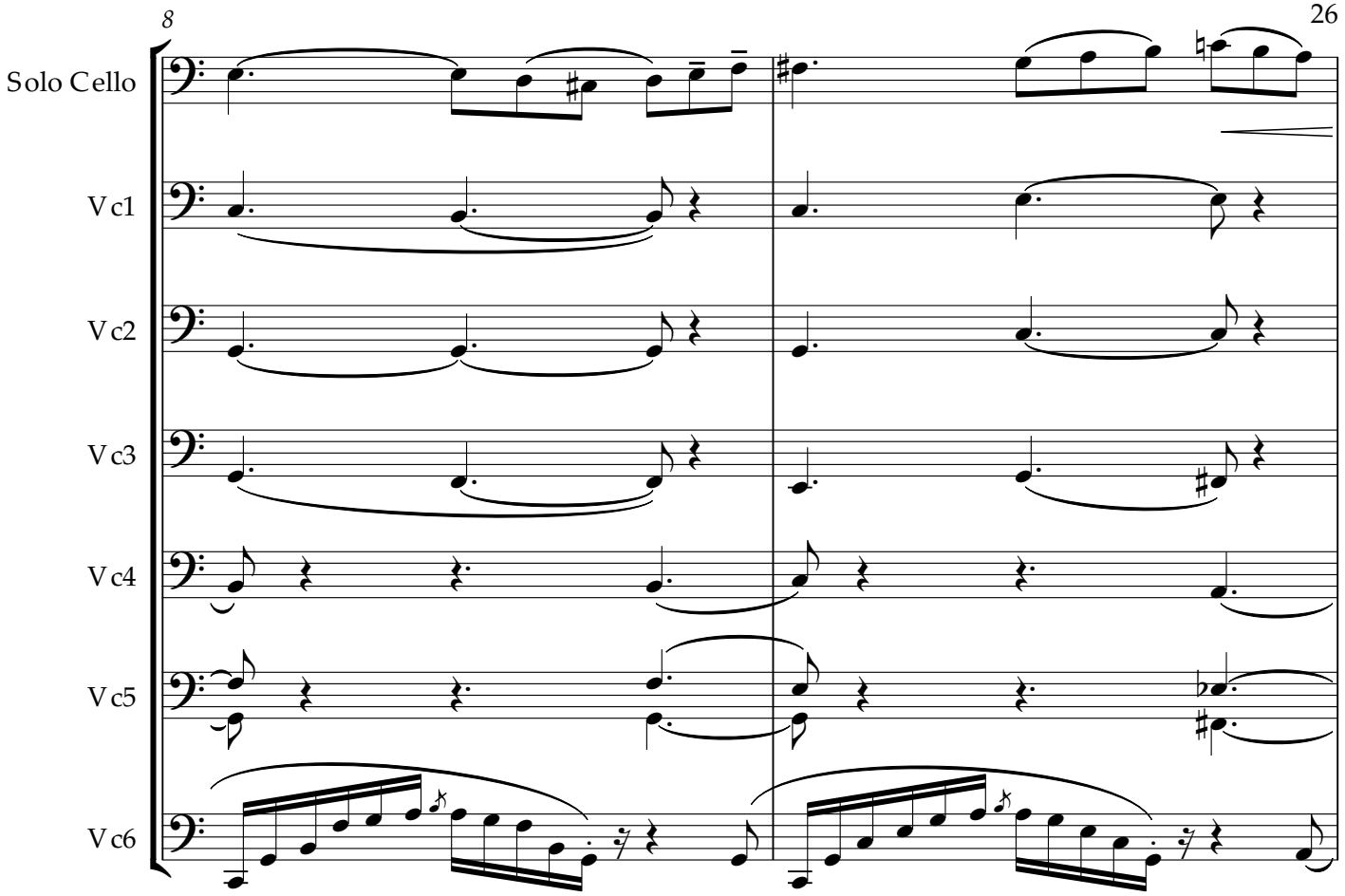

47
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

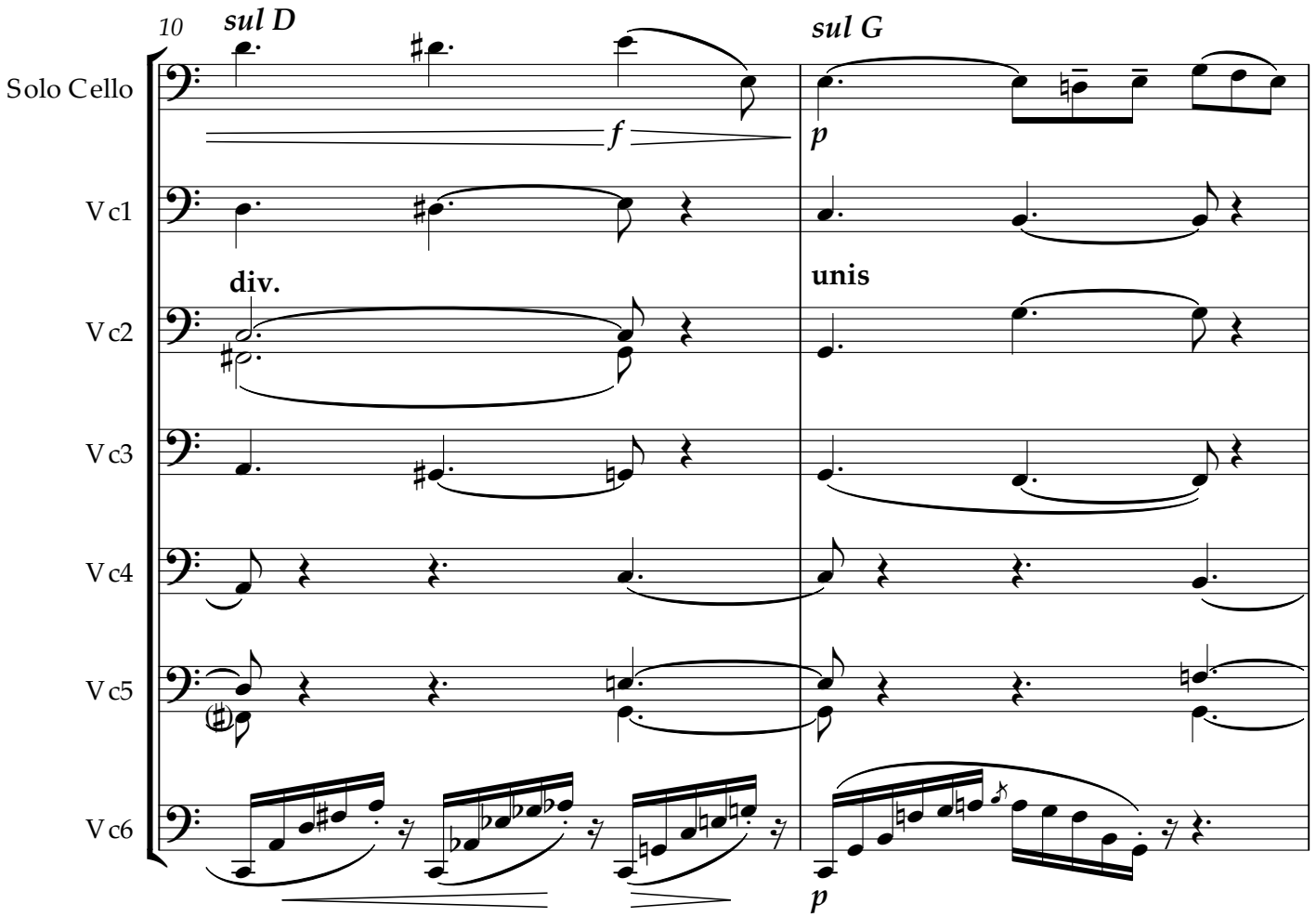


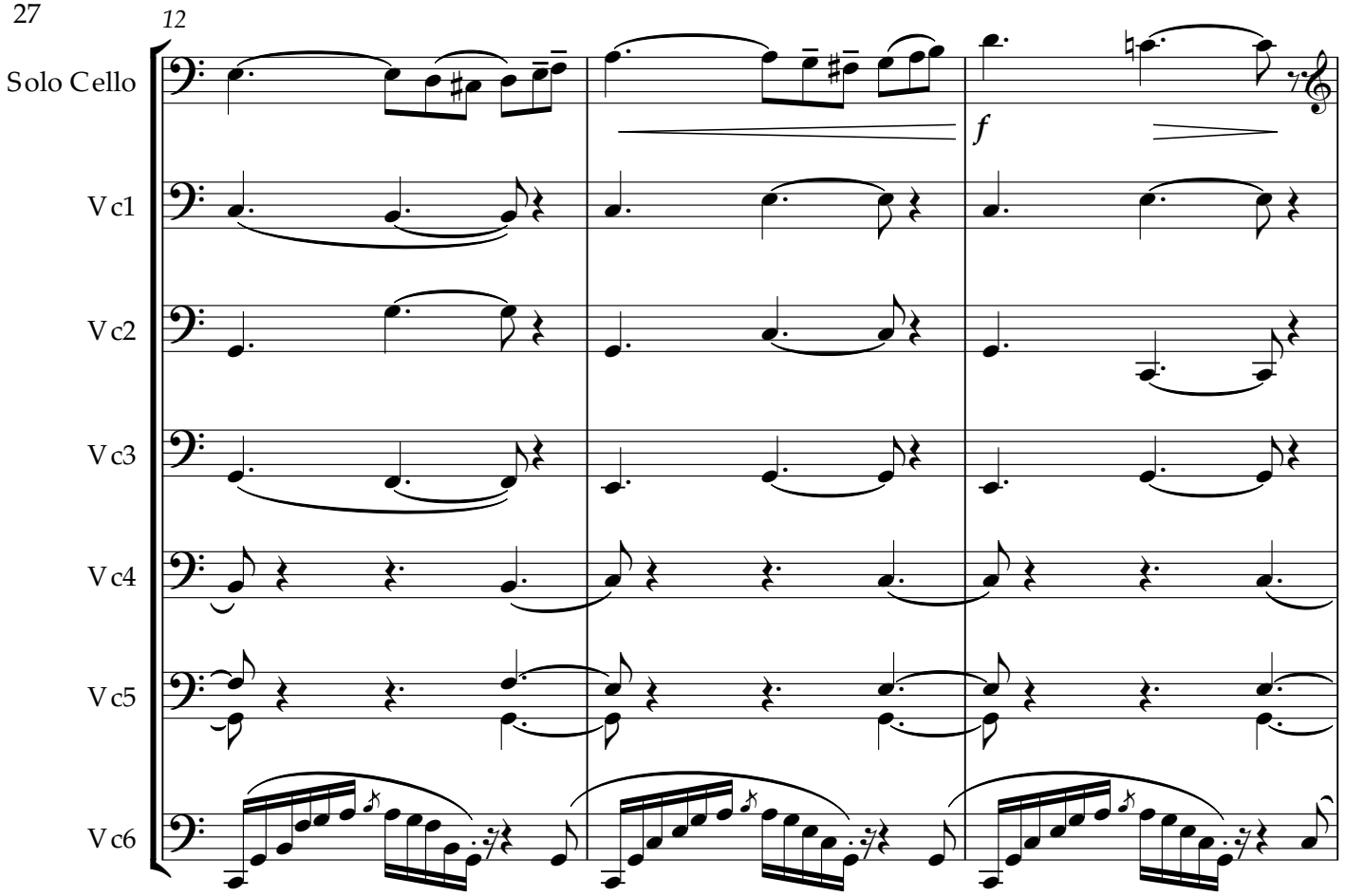
REPEAT FROM BEGINNING AD LIB

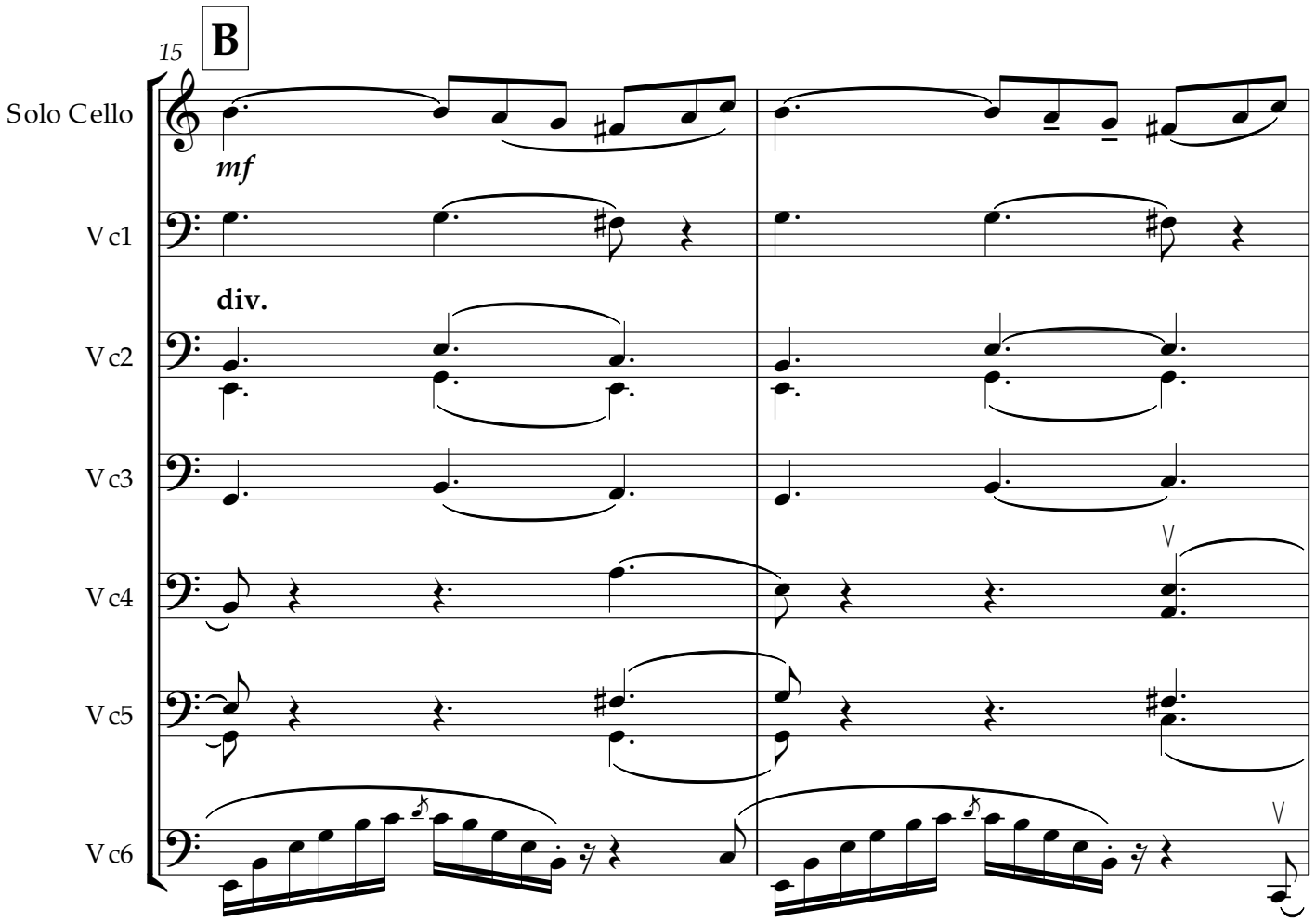


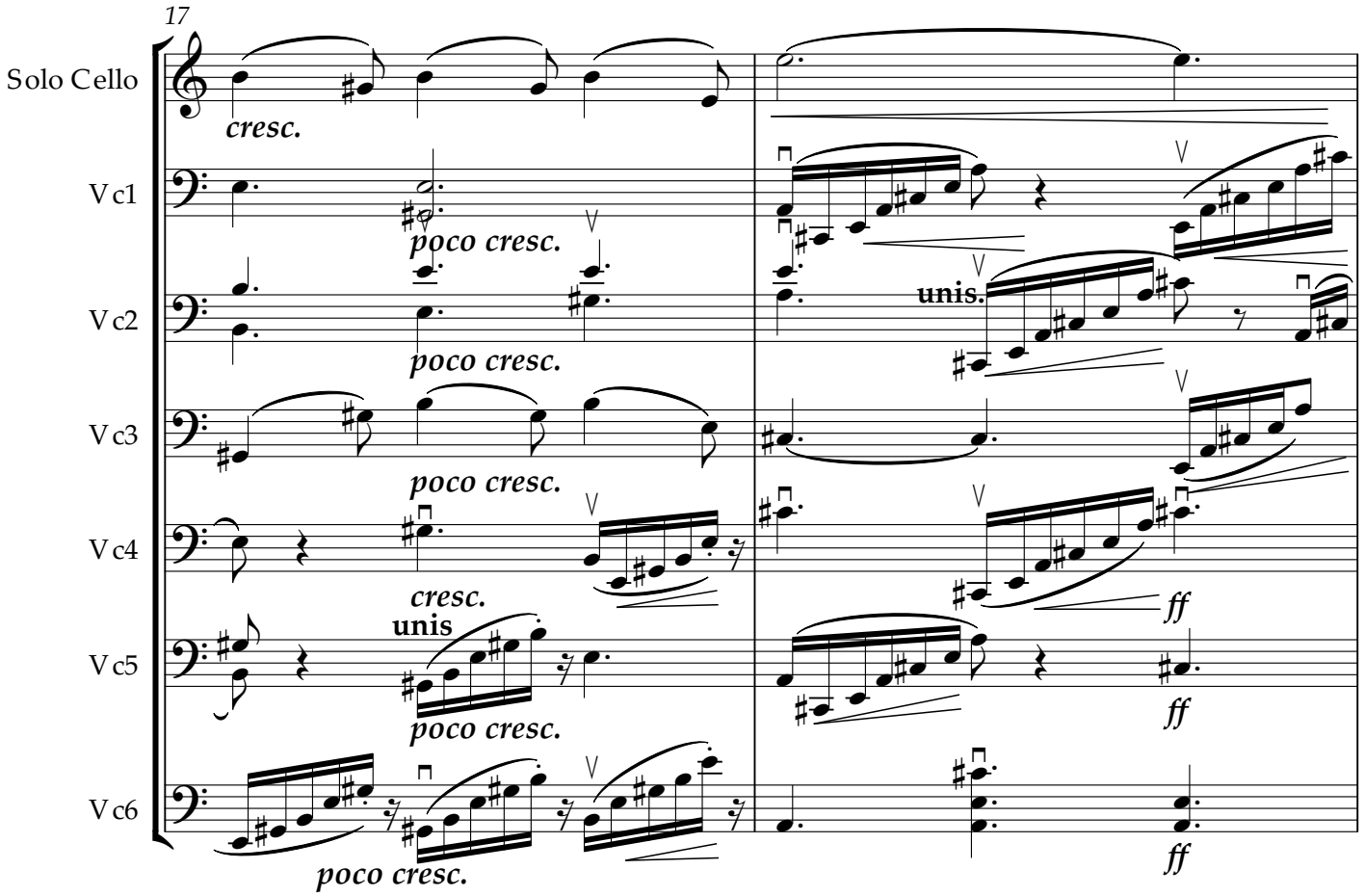

Andante molto (♩.=44)
1
Solo Cello
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
CON SORD.
pp
Soli
5
Solo
A
molto sostenuto
p
sul G
ppp
div.

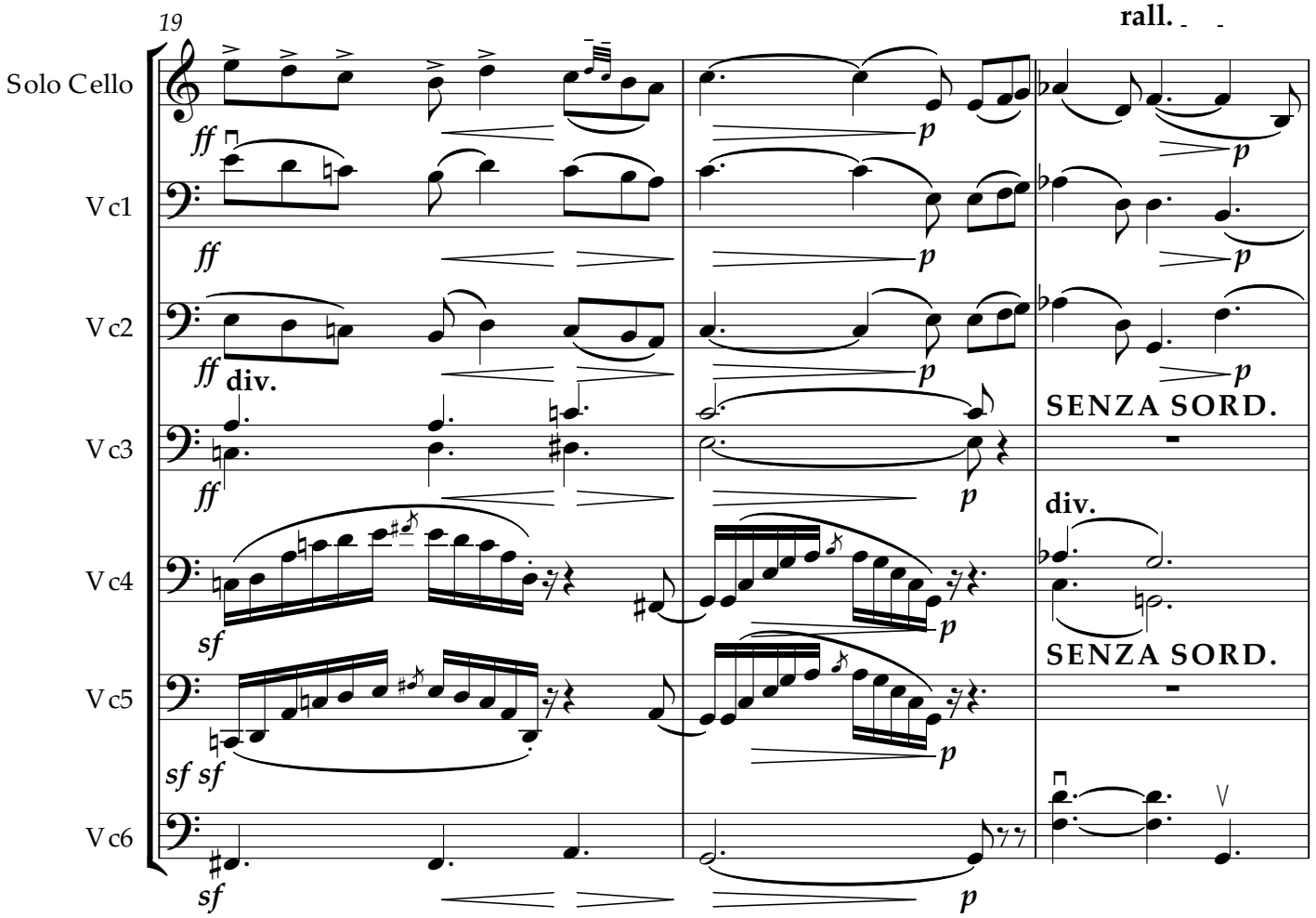

8
Solo Cello
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

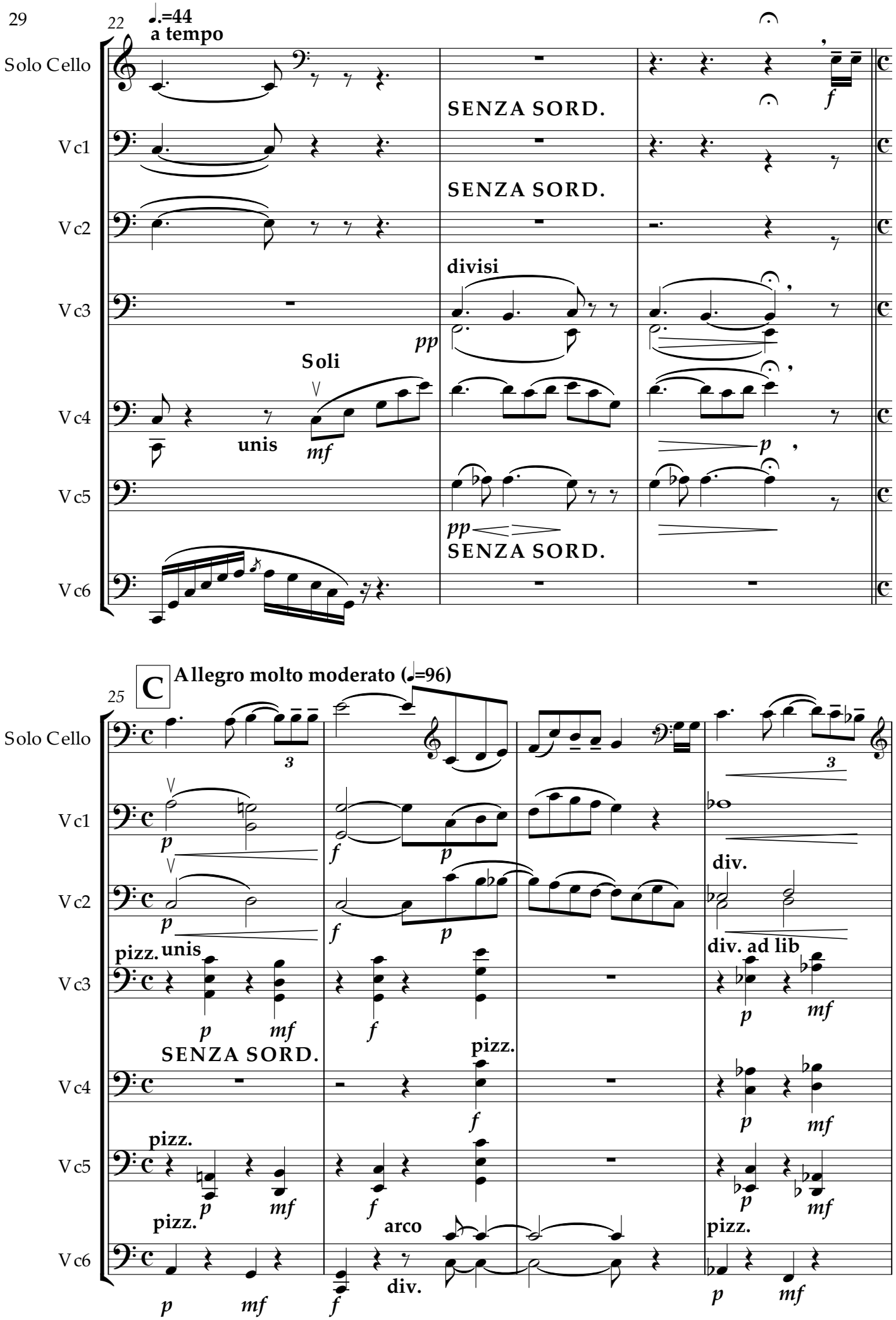

10
sul D
sul G
Solo Cello
f
p
Vc1
div.
unis
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
p

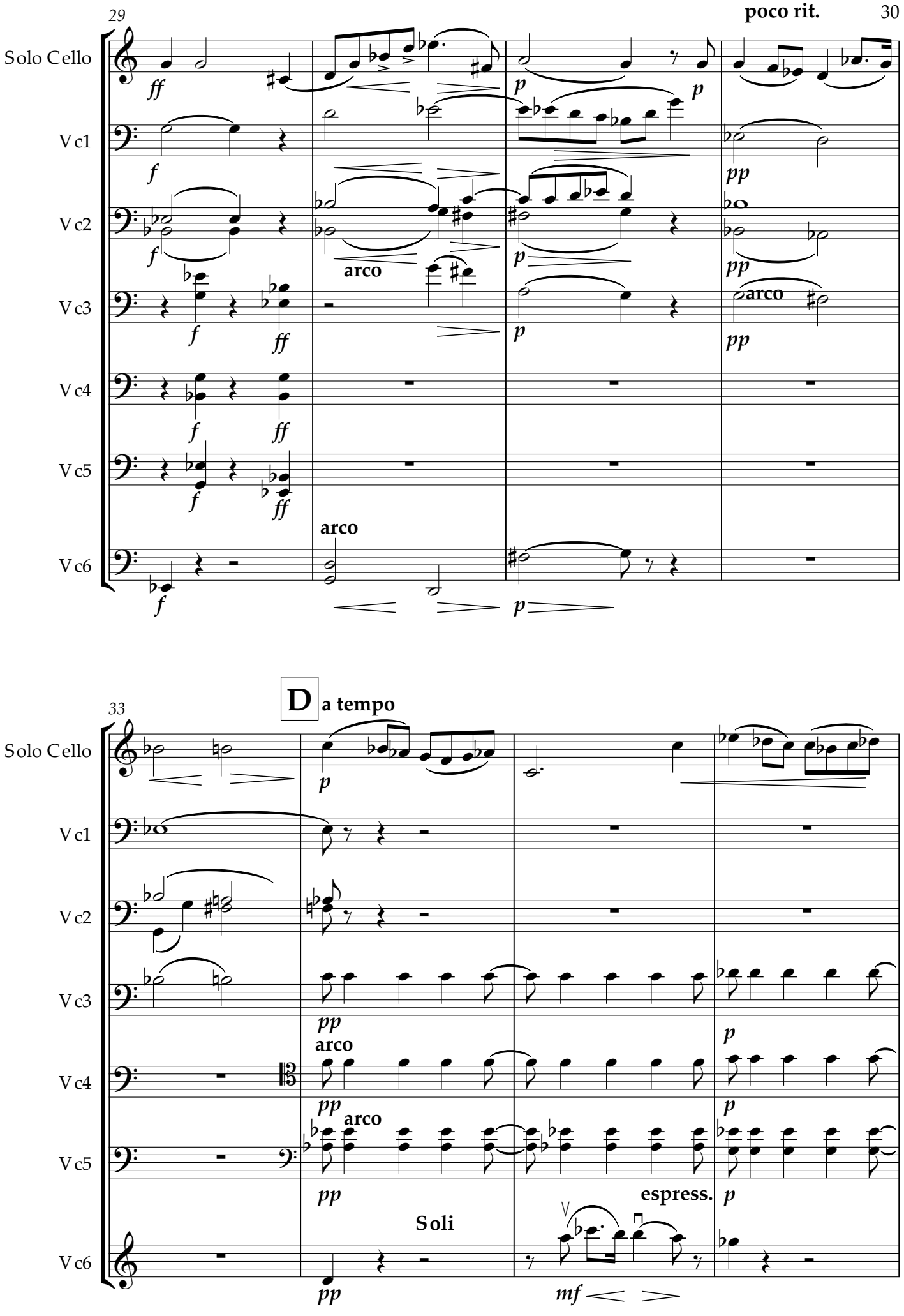

12
Solo Cello
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
f

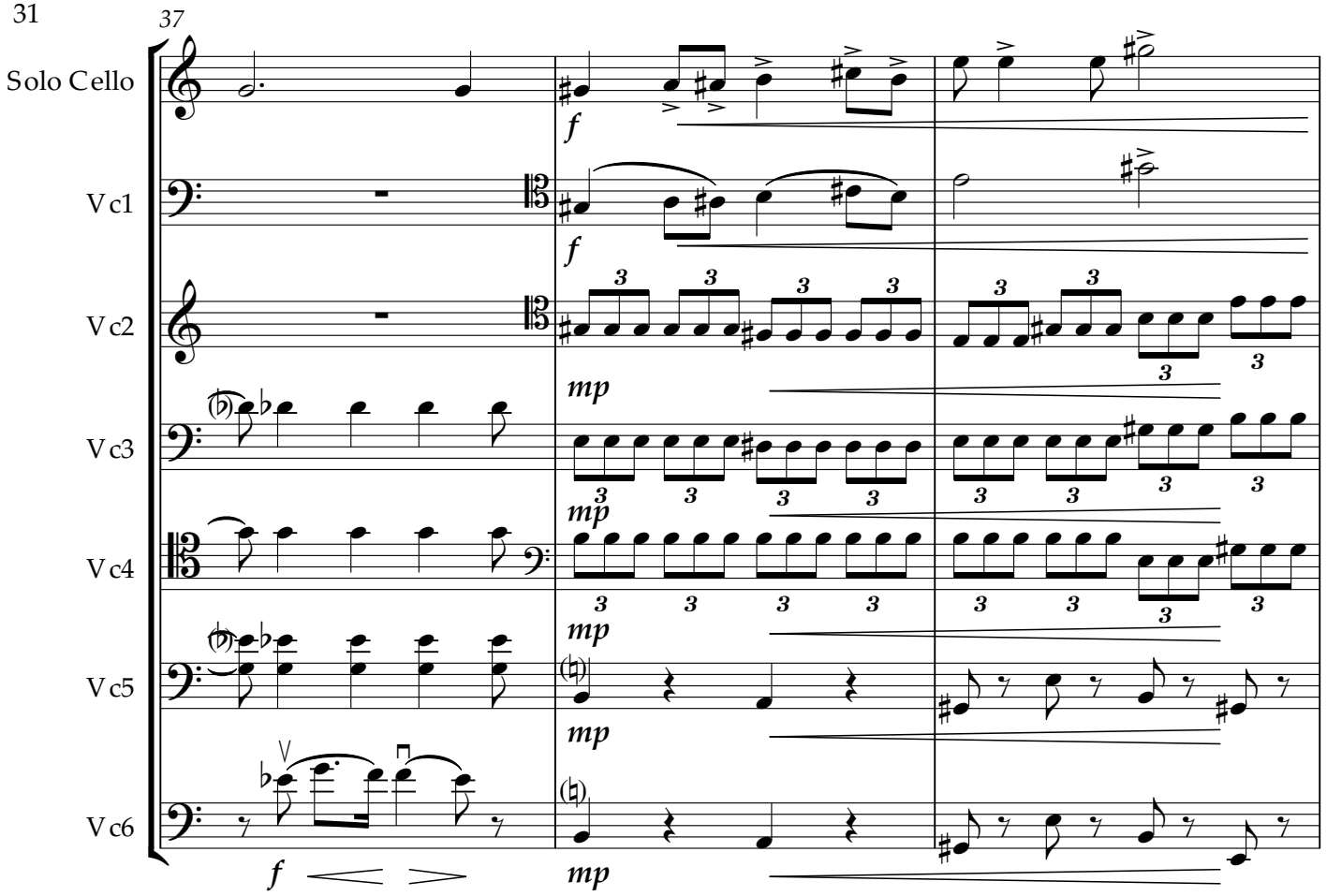

15
B
Solo Cello
mf
Vc1
div.
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
V
V

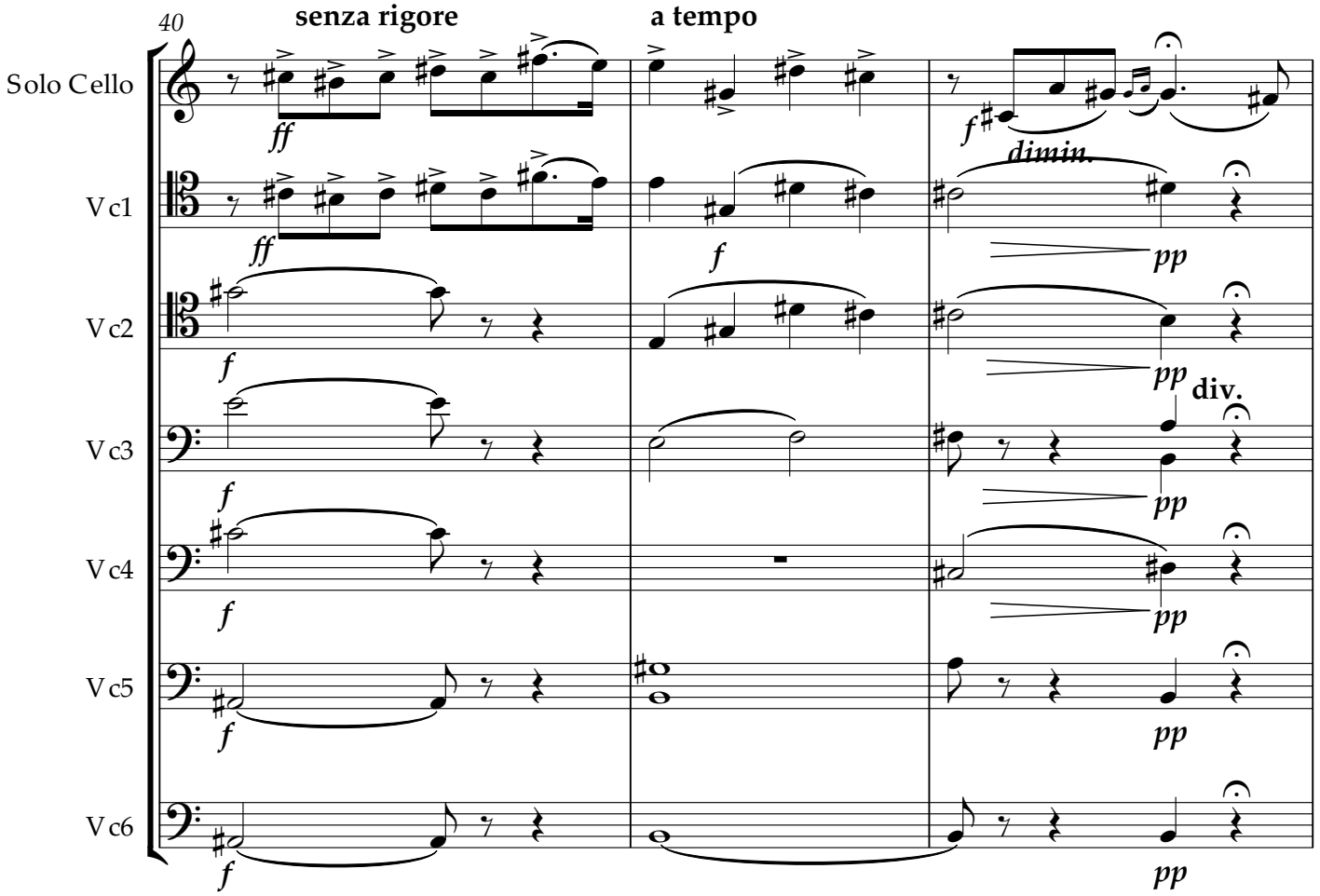

17
Solo Cello
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
cresc.
poco cresc.
unis.
ff

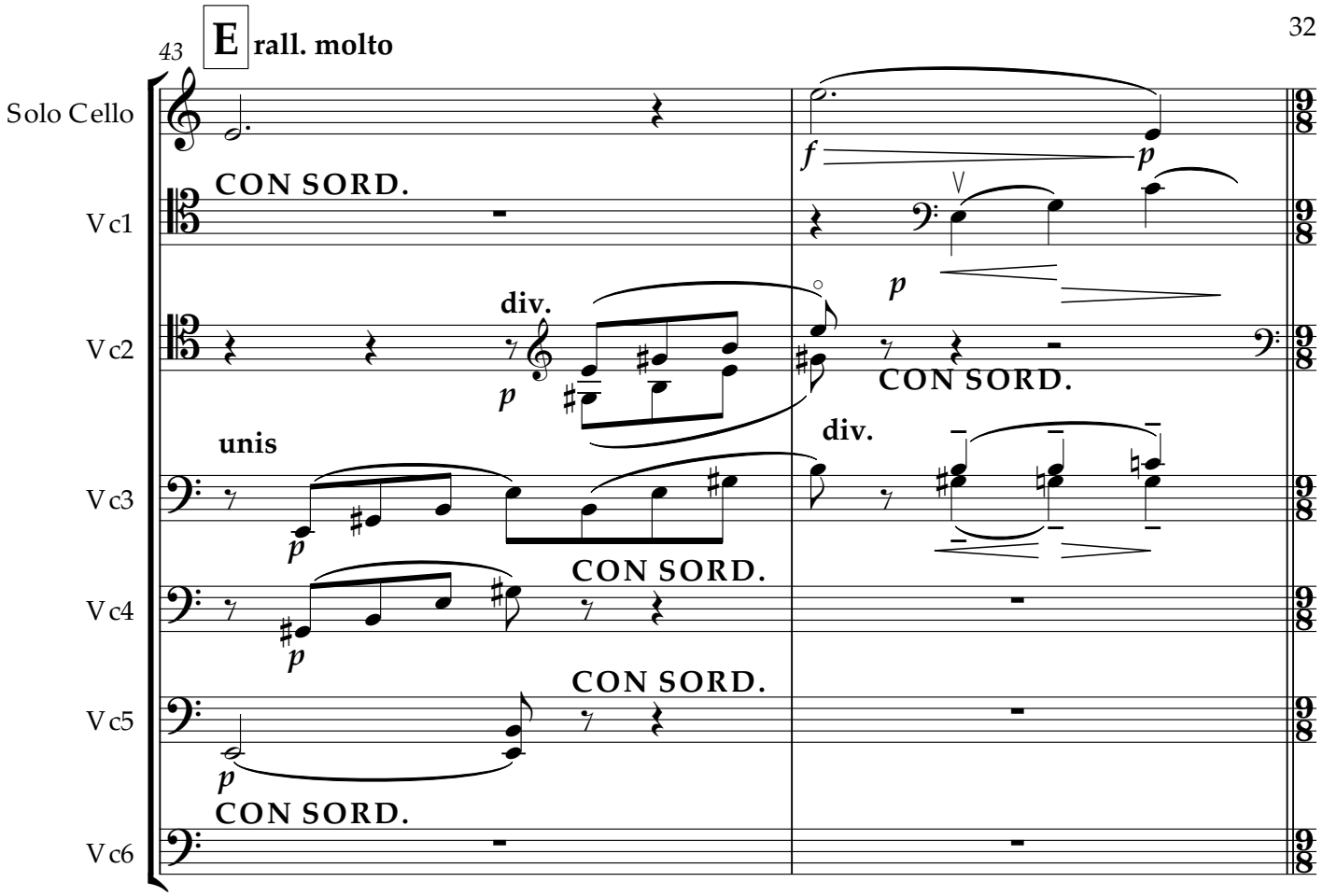

19
rall.
Solo Cello
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
ff
p
div.
SENZA SORD.
sf
sf sf

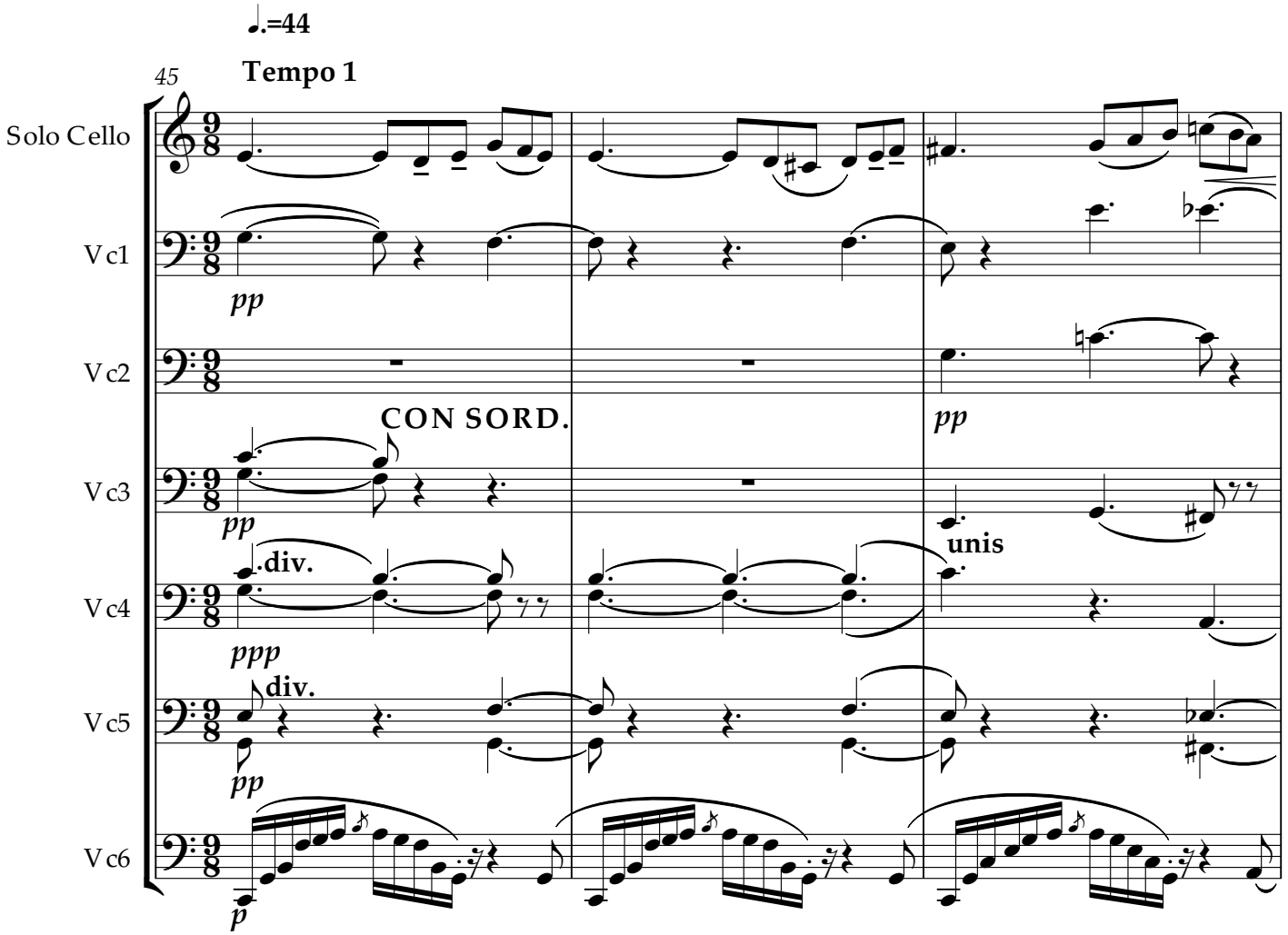

22
♩.=44
a tempo
Solo Cello
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
SENZA SORD.
SENZA SORD.
divisi
pp
Soli
unis
mf
p
pp
SENZA SORD.
f
25
C
Allegro molto moderato (♩=96)
3
p
f
div.
pizz.
unis
div. ad lib
mf
SENZA SORD.
pizz.
arco
div.

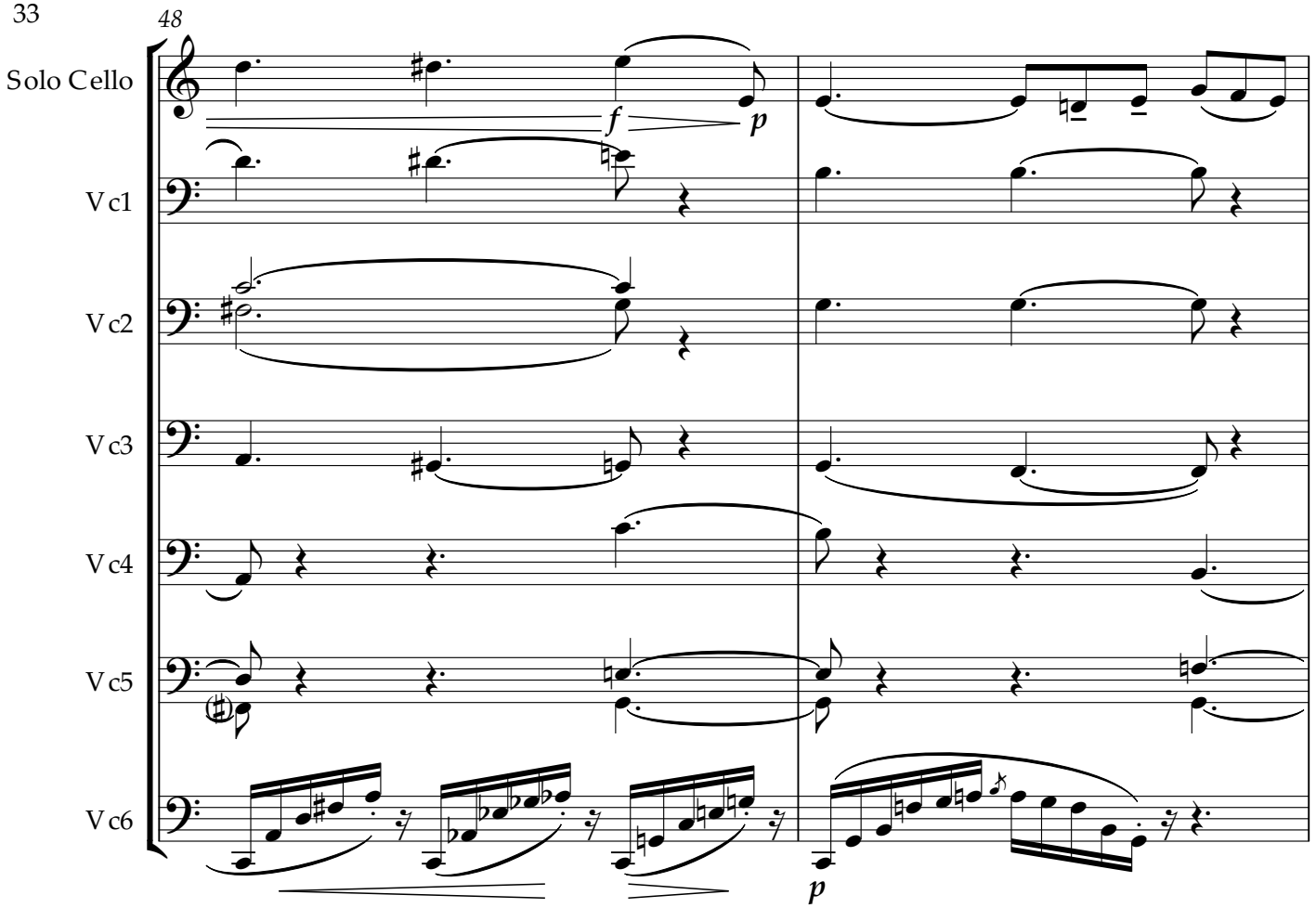

29
poco rit.
30
Solo Cello
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
arco
33
D
a tempo
Soli
espress.

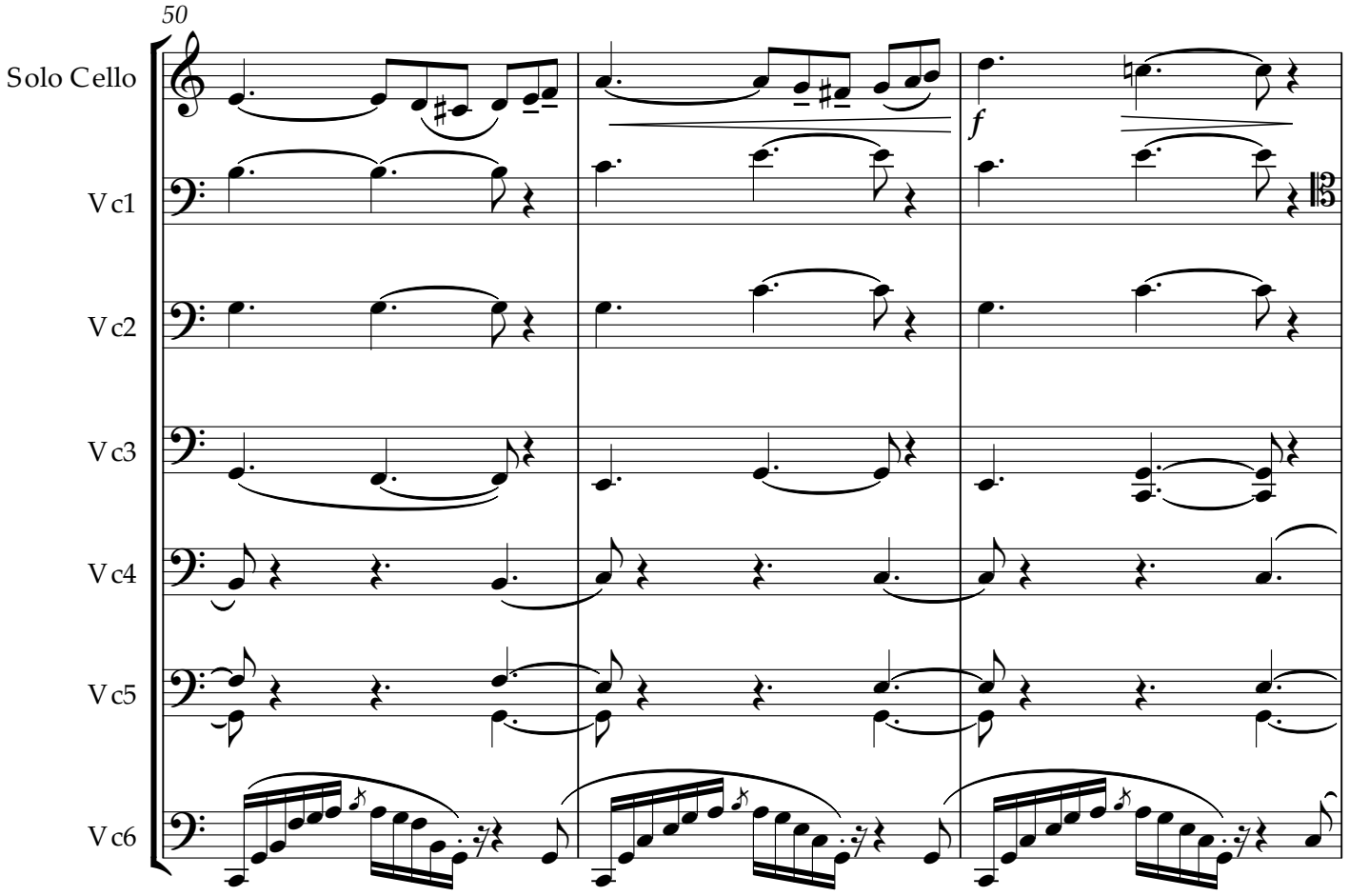

37
Solo Cello
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
f
mp

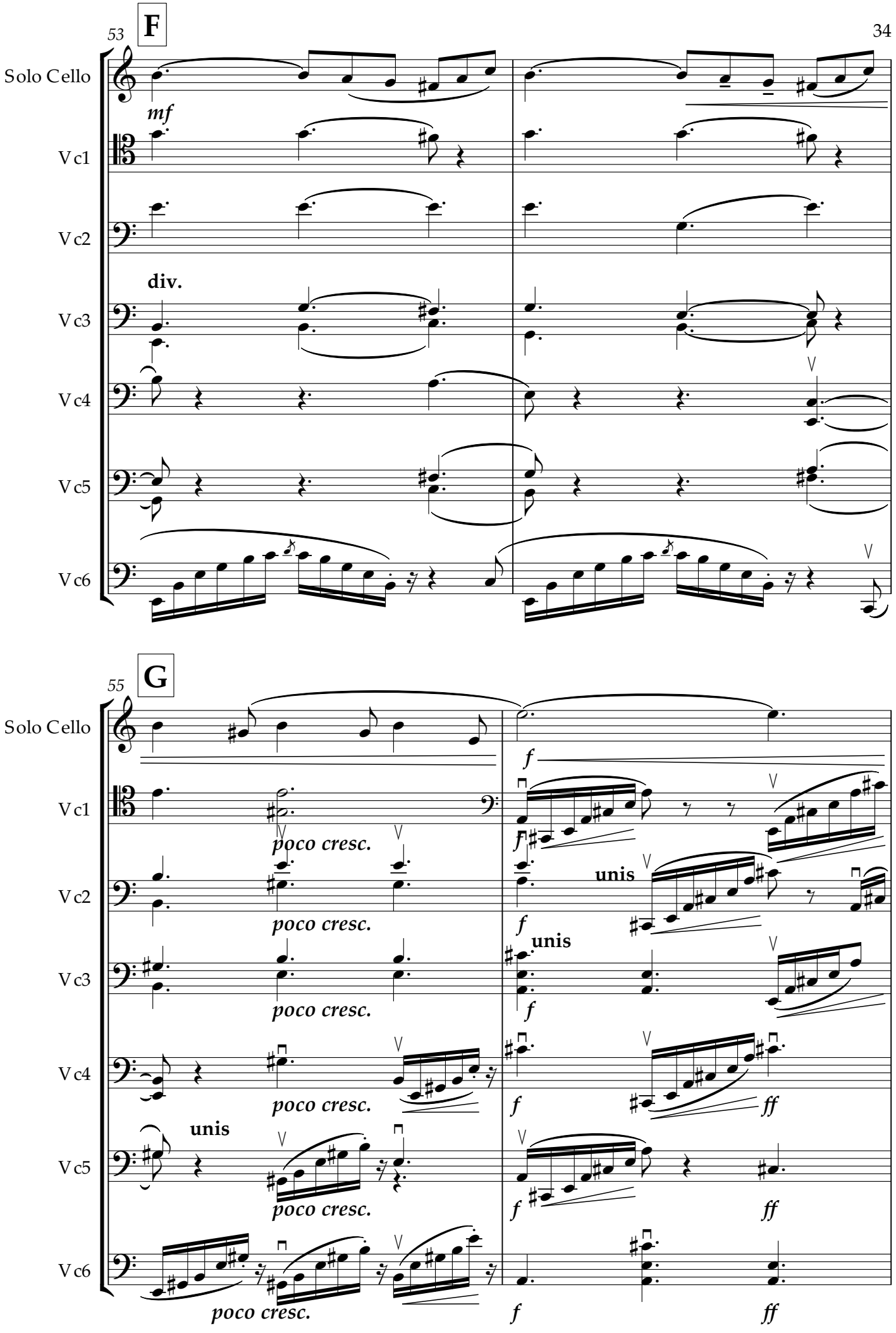

40
senza rigore
a tempo
Solo Cello
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
ff
f
dimin.
pp
div.

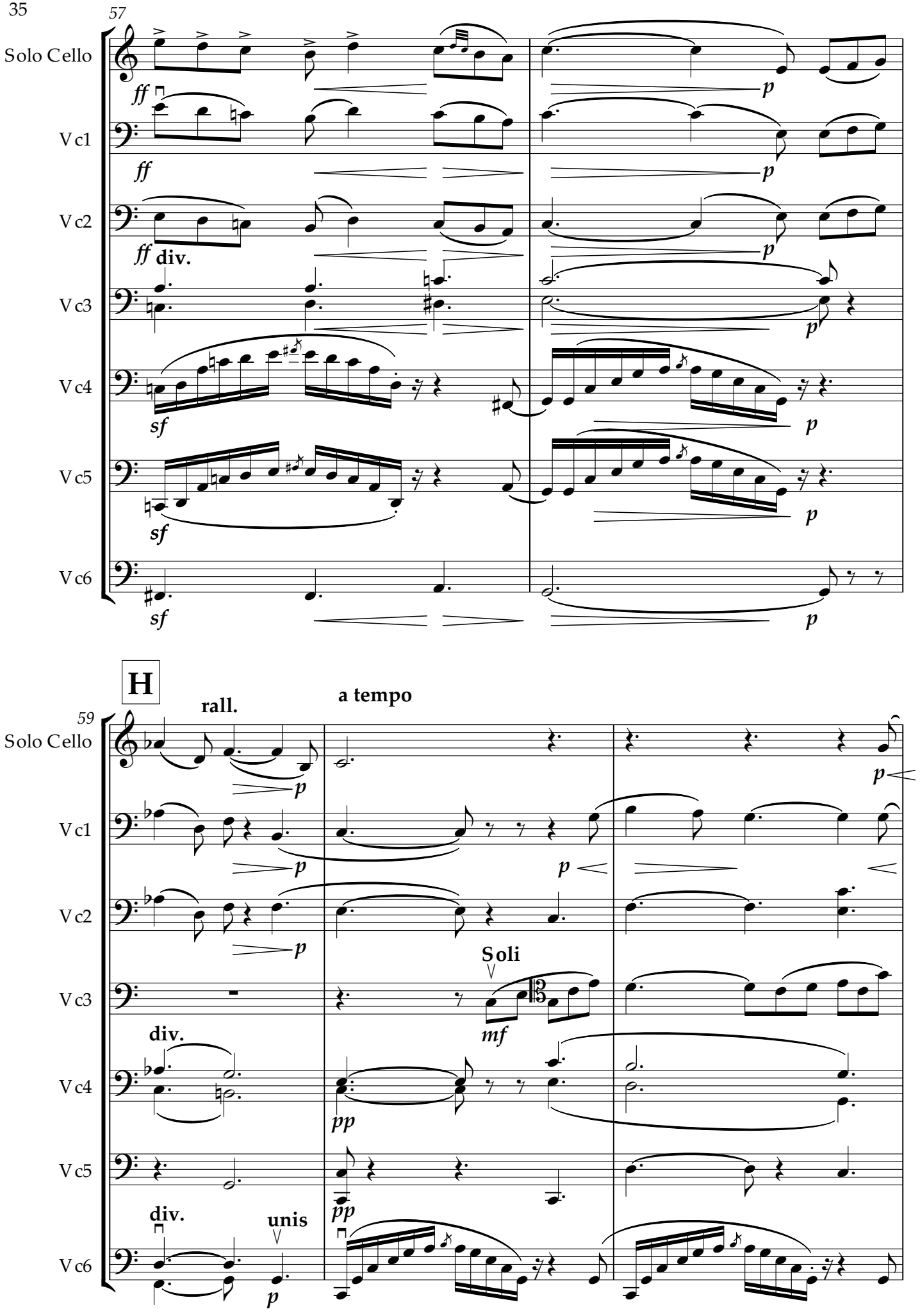

43
E
rall. molto
Solo Cello
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
CON SORD.
div.
unis
f
p
pp
ppp

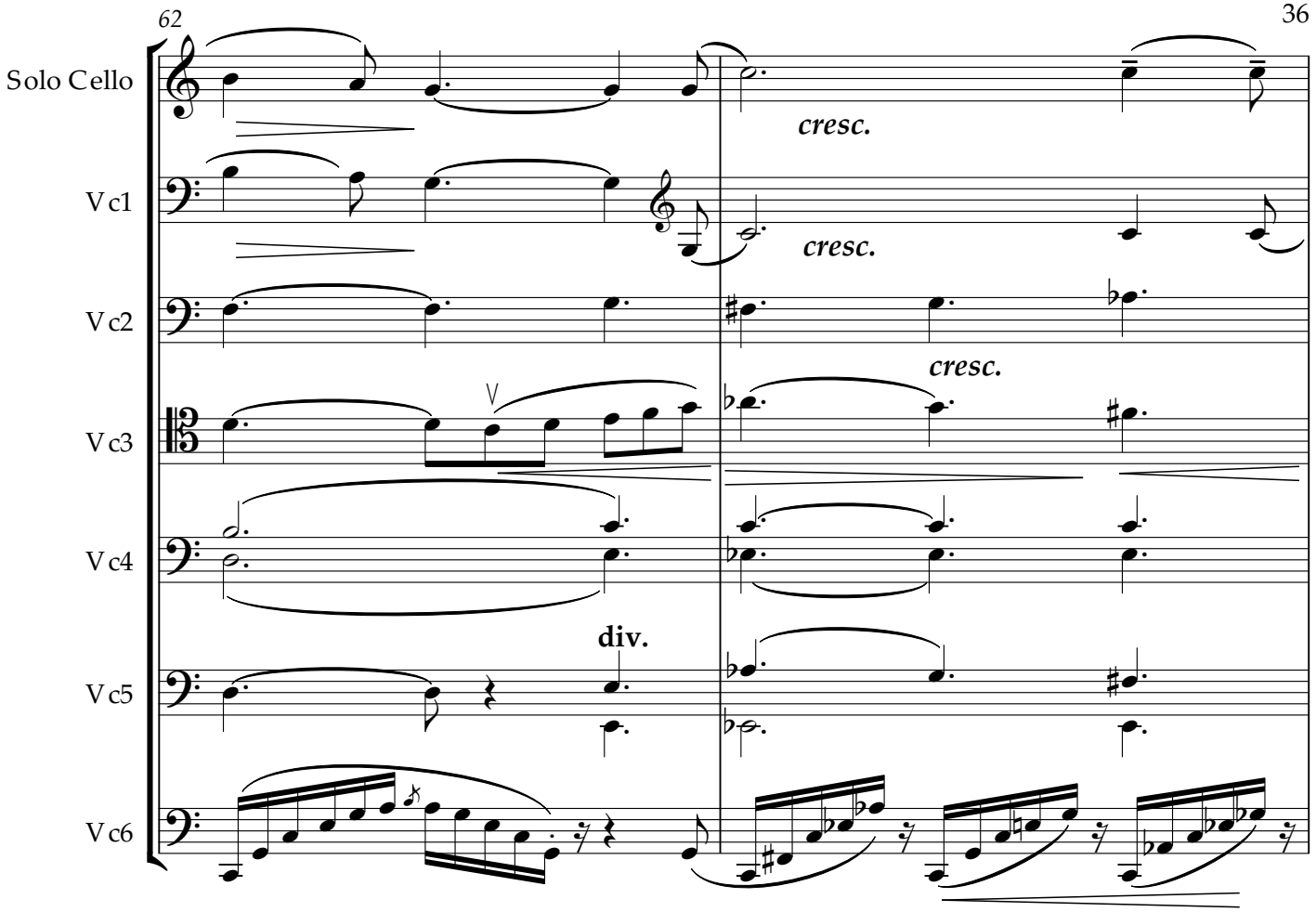

♩.=44
45
Tempo 1
Solo Cello
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
CON SORD.
div.
unis
pp
ppp
p

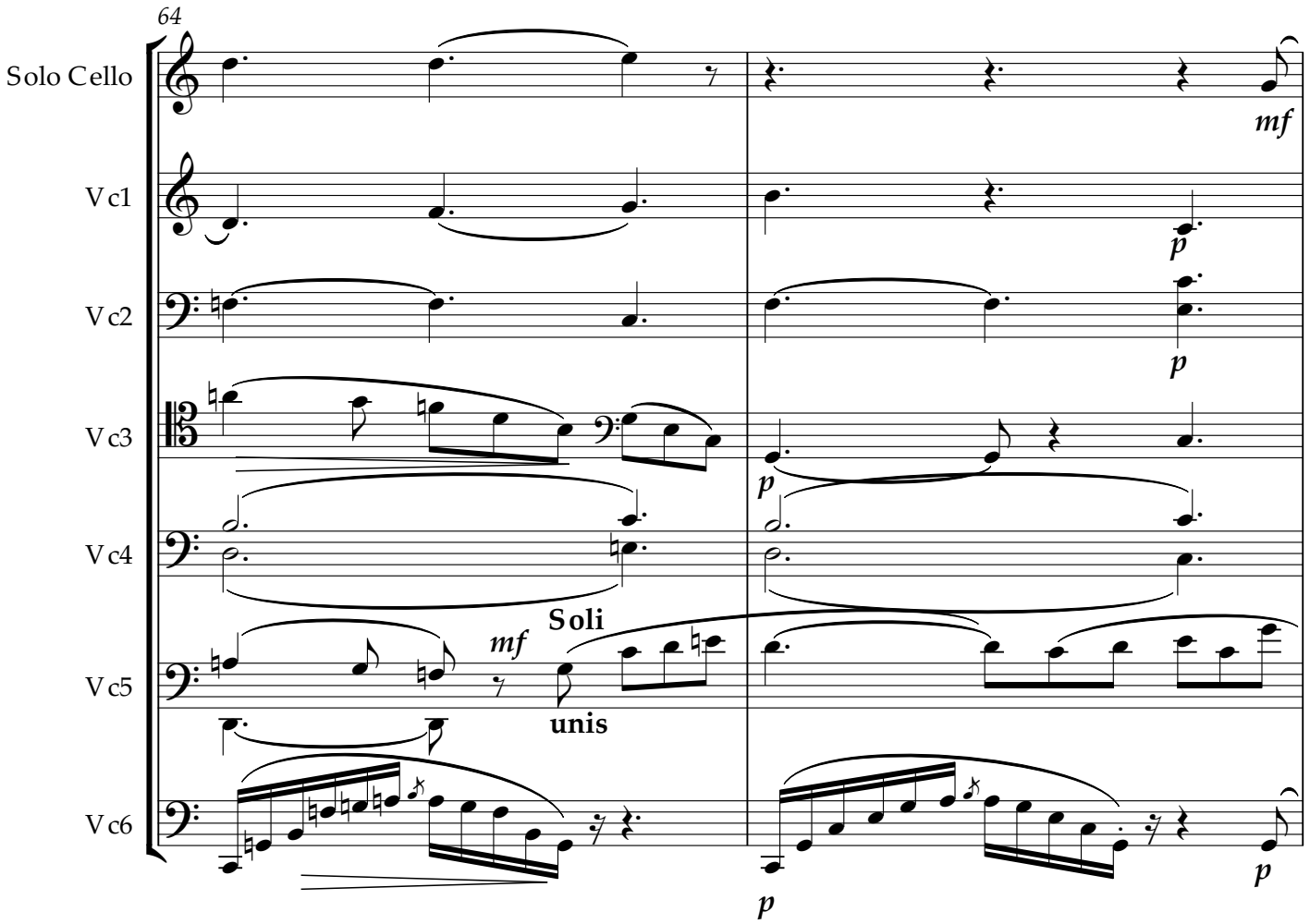

48
Solo Cello
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
f
p
p

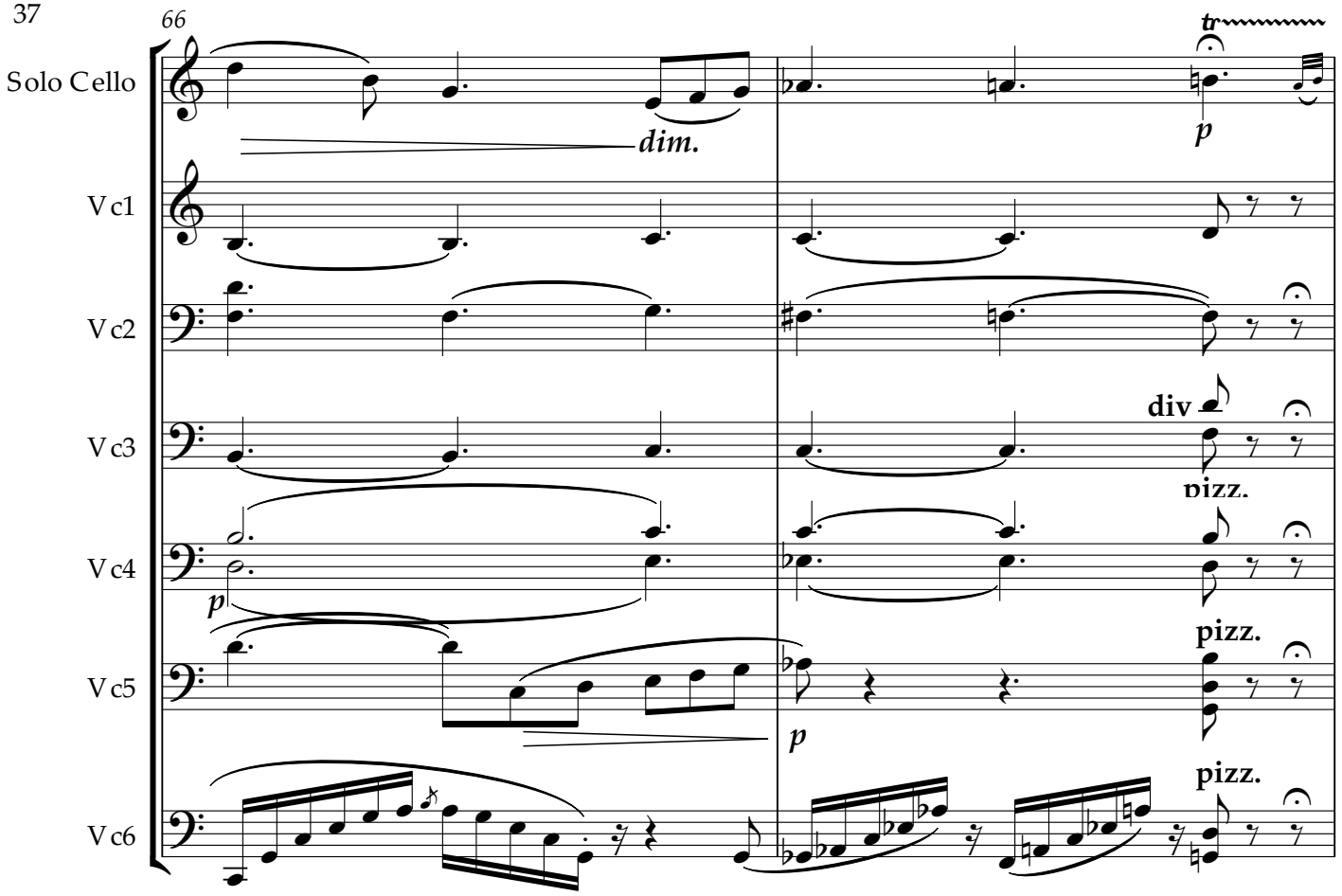

50
Solo Cello
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
f

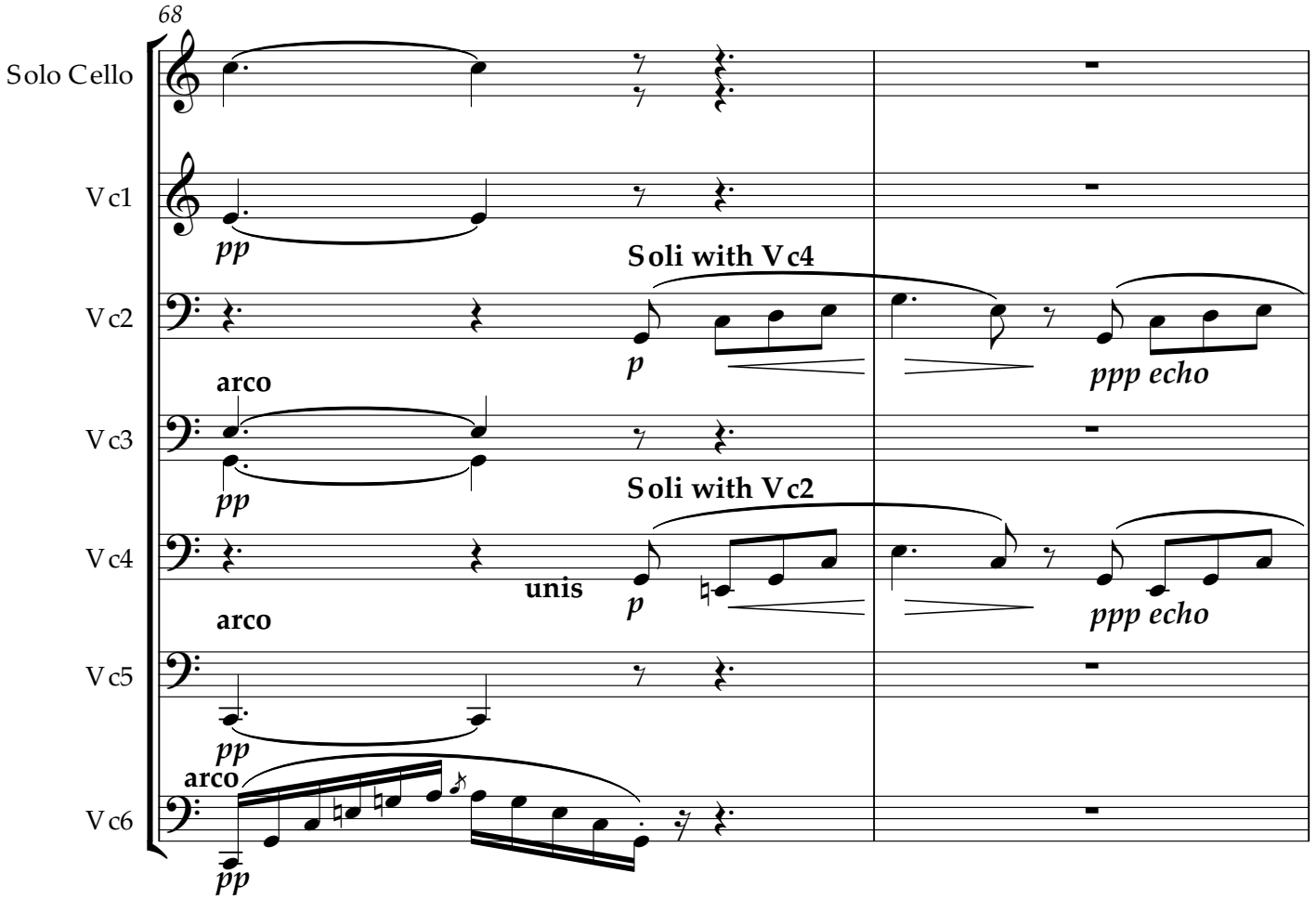

53
F
Solo Cello
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
mf
div.
55
G
poco cresc.
unis
f
ff

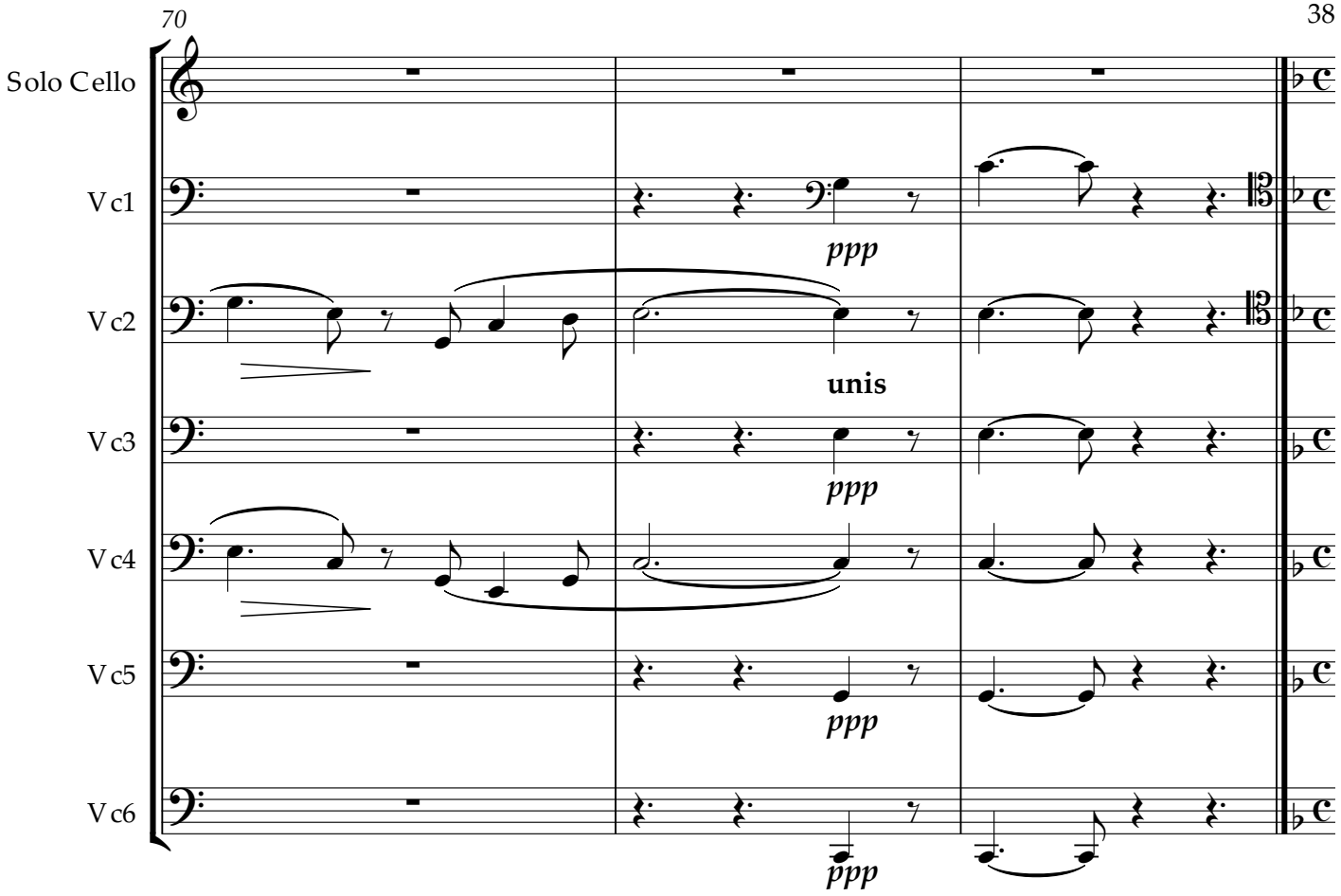

57
Solo Cello
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
ff
div.
sf
p
H
59
rall.
a tempo
Soli
mf
pp
unis


62
Solo Cello
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
div.

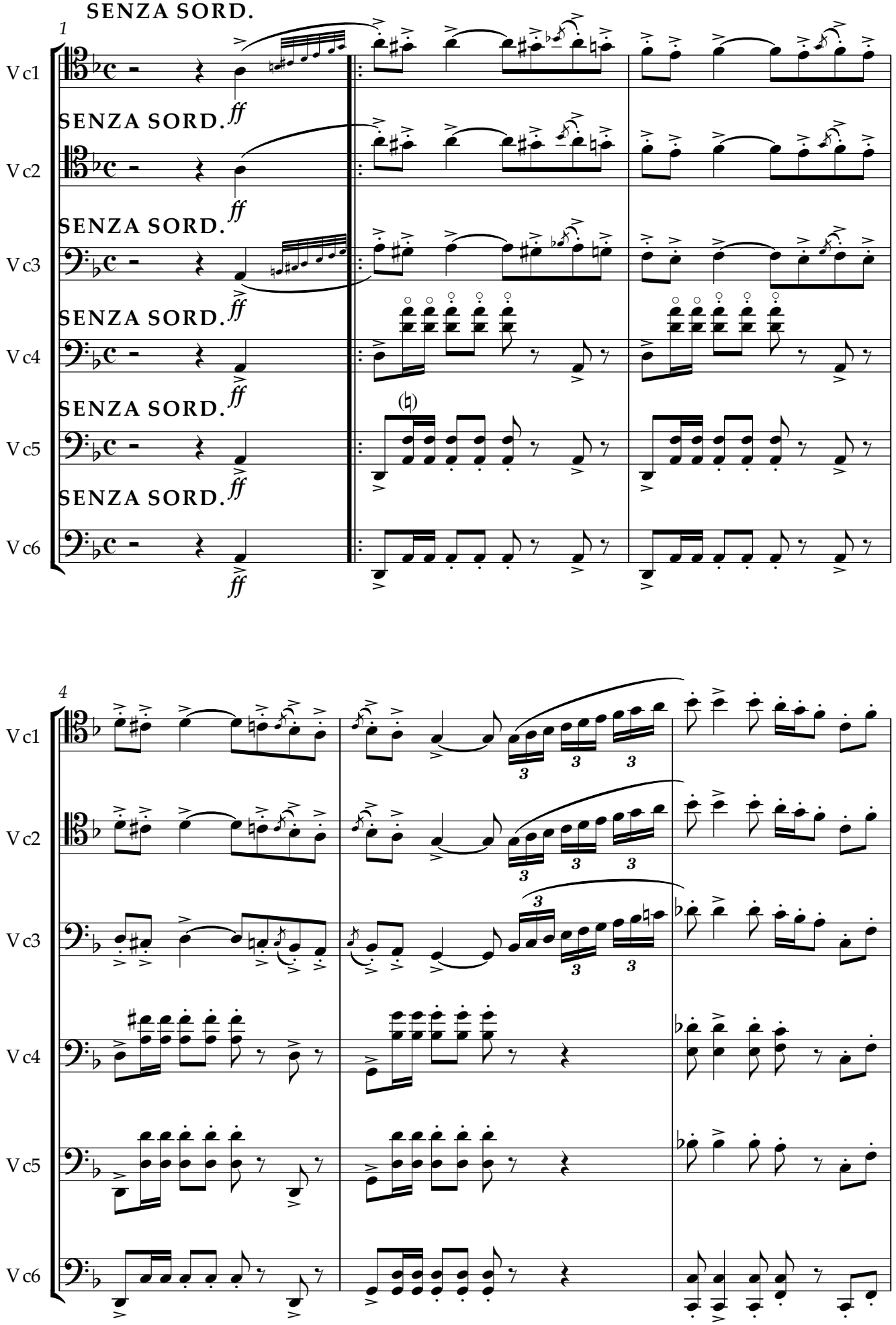

64
Solo Cello
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
mf
p
p
p
Soli
mf
unis
p
p

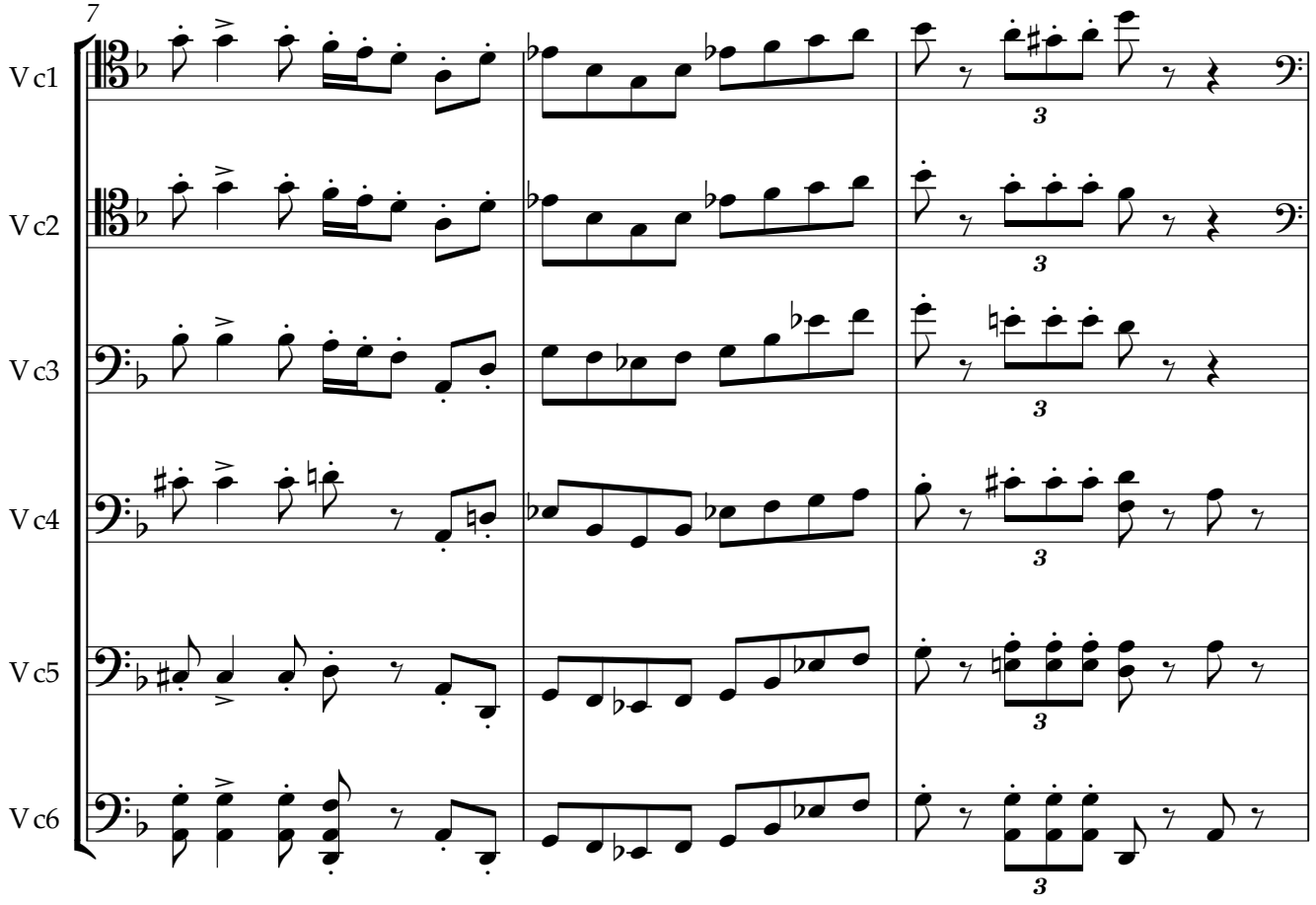

66
Solo Cello
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
dim.
tr
p
div
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
p
p

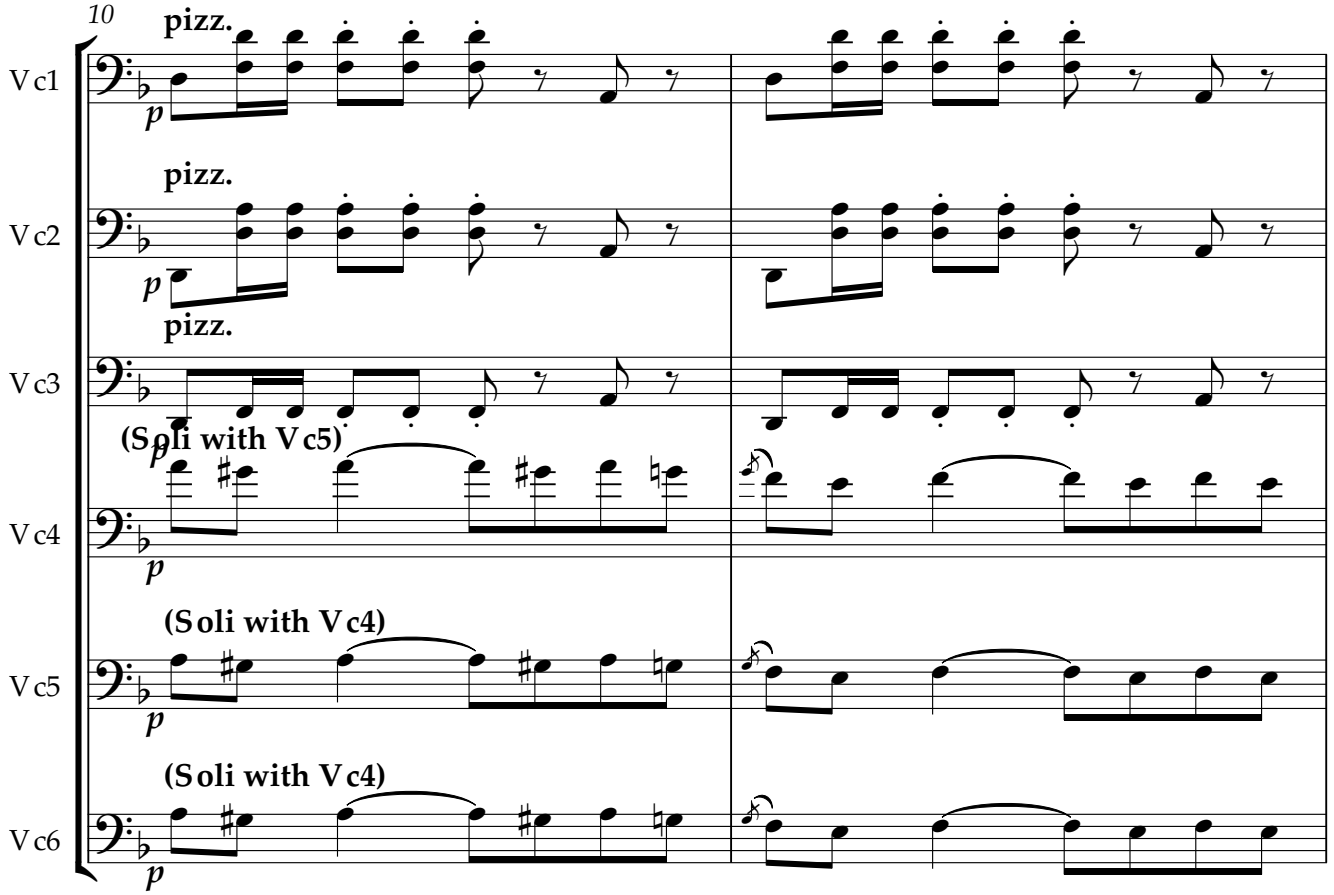

68
Solo Cello
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pp
Soli with Vc4
p
ppp echo
arco
pp
Soli with Vc2
unis
p
ppp echo
arco
pp
arco
pp

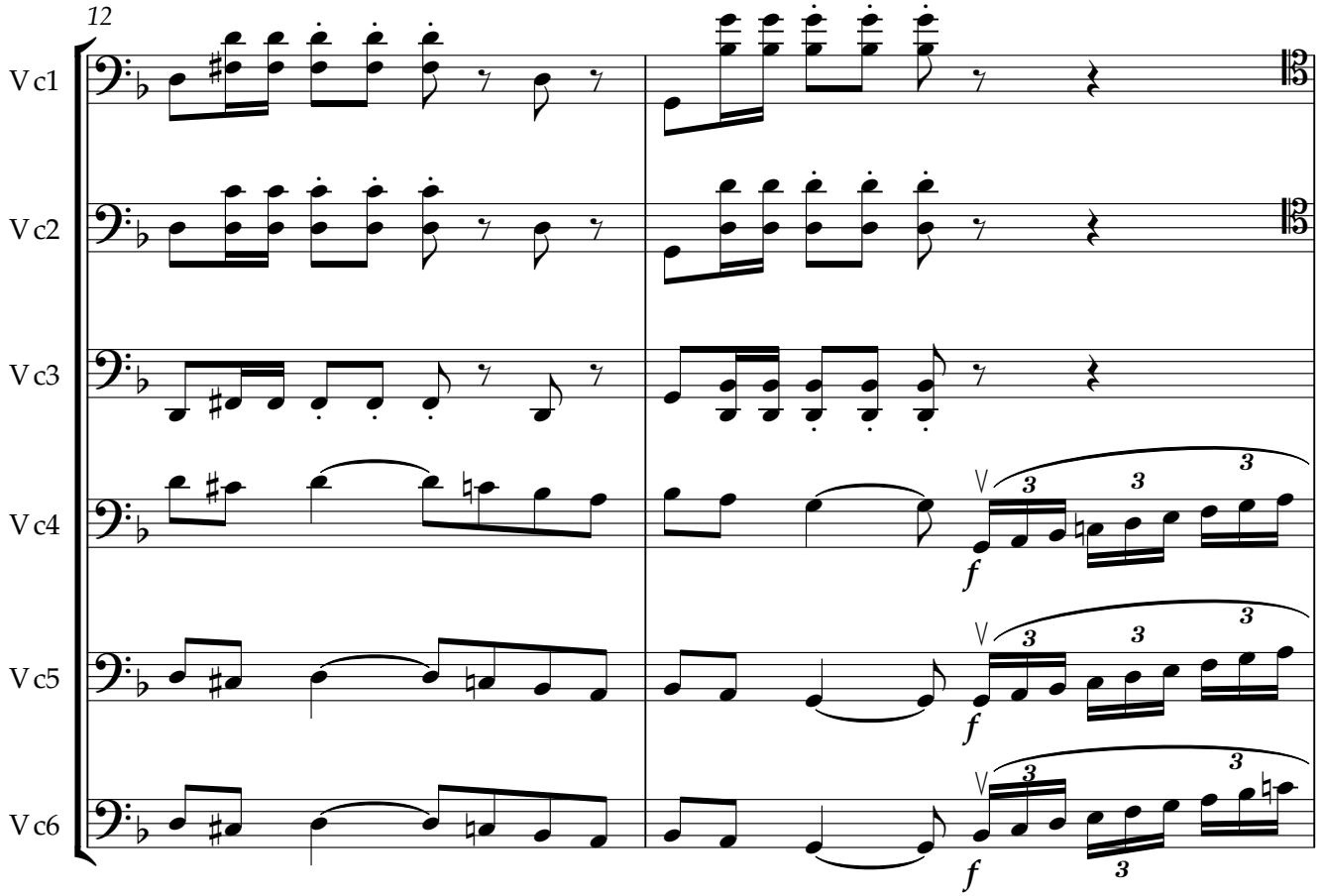

70
Solo Cello
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
ppp
unis
ppp
ppp
ppp

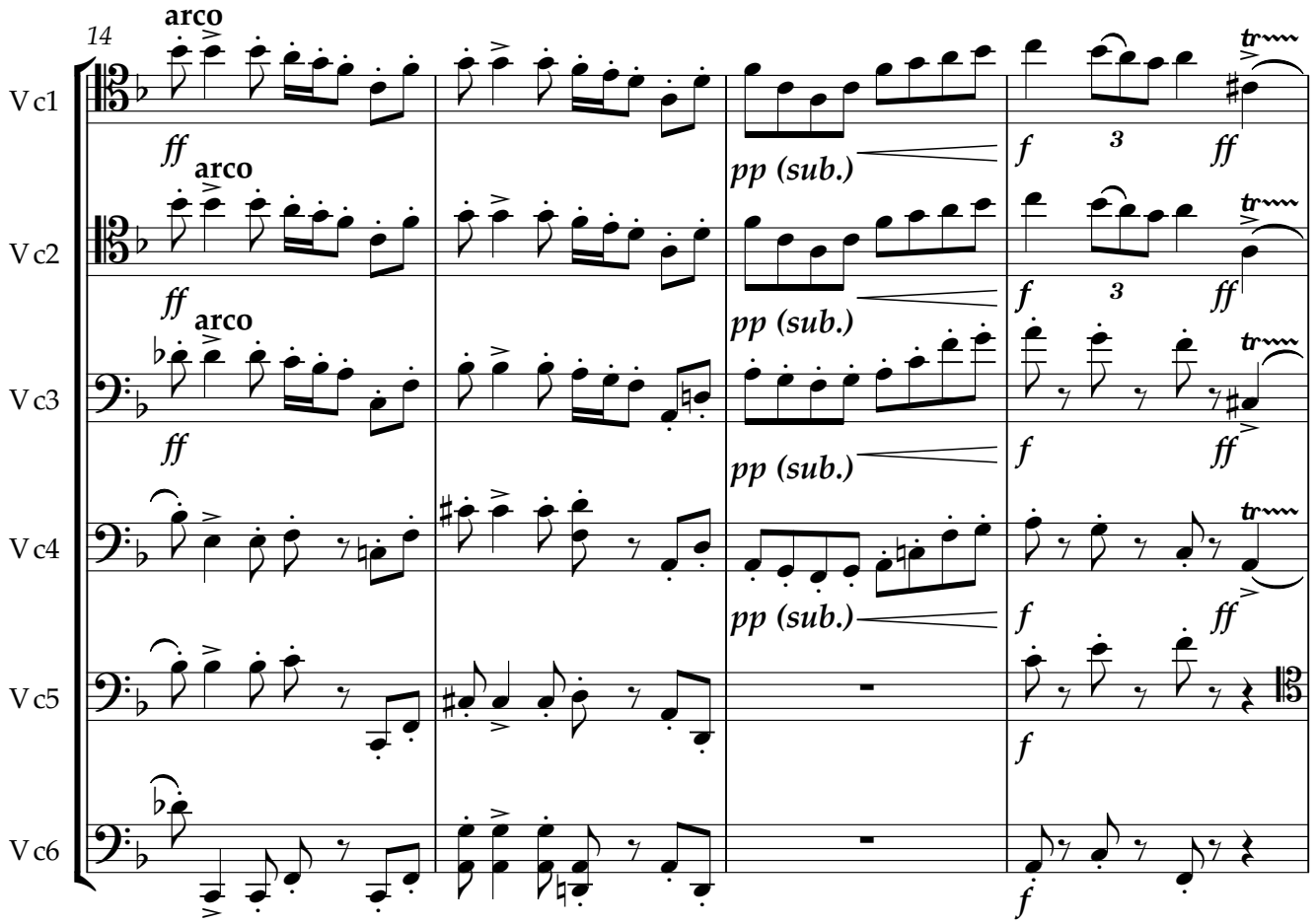
IV Chanson du Toreador

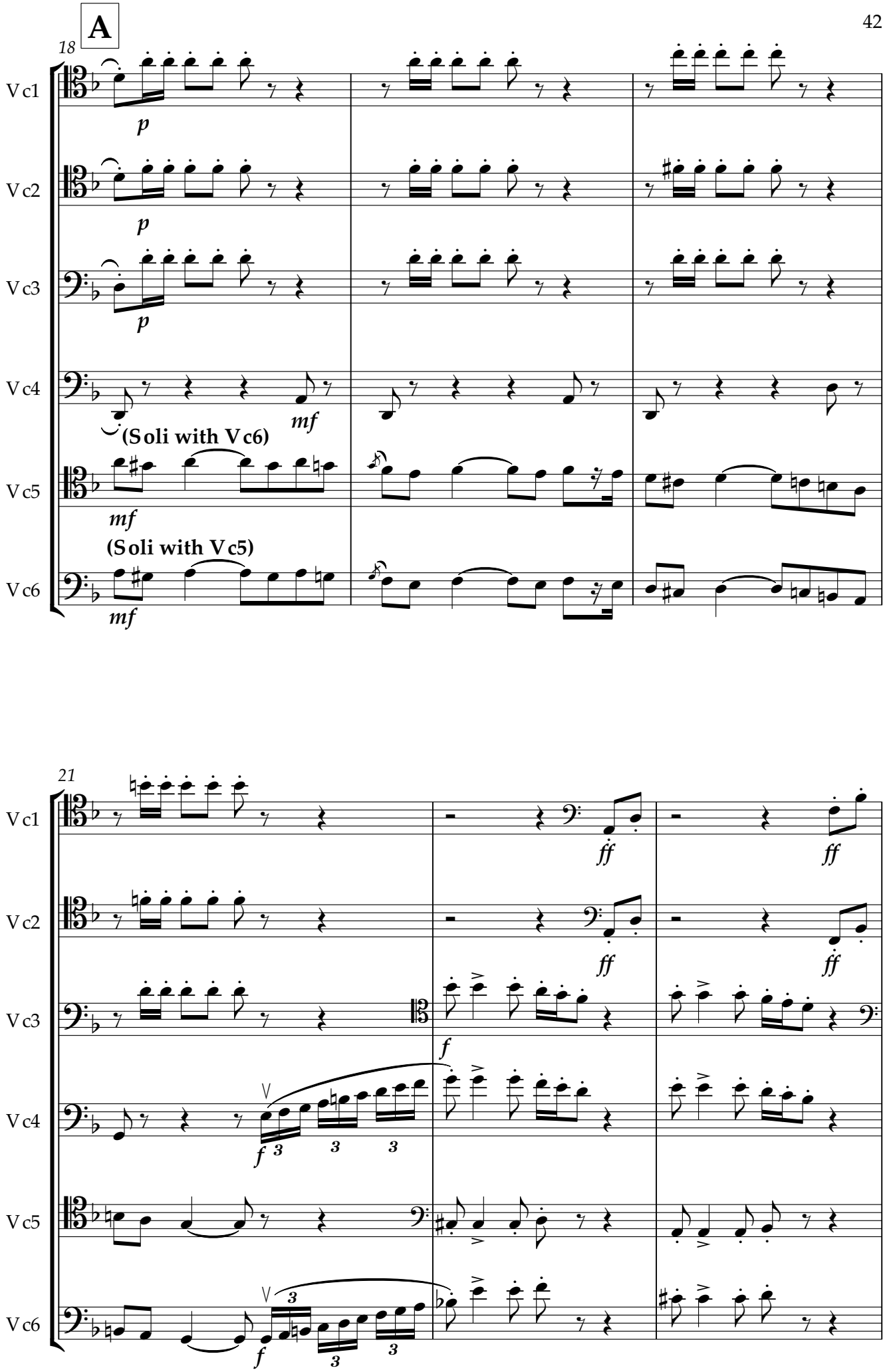


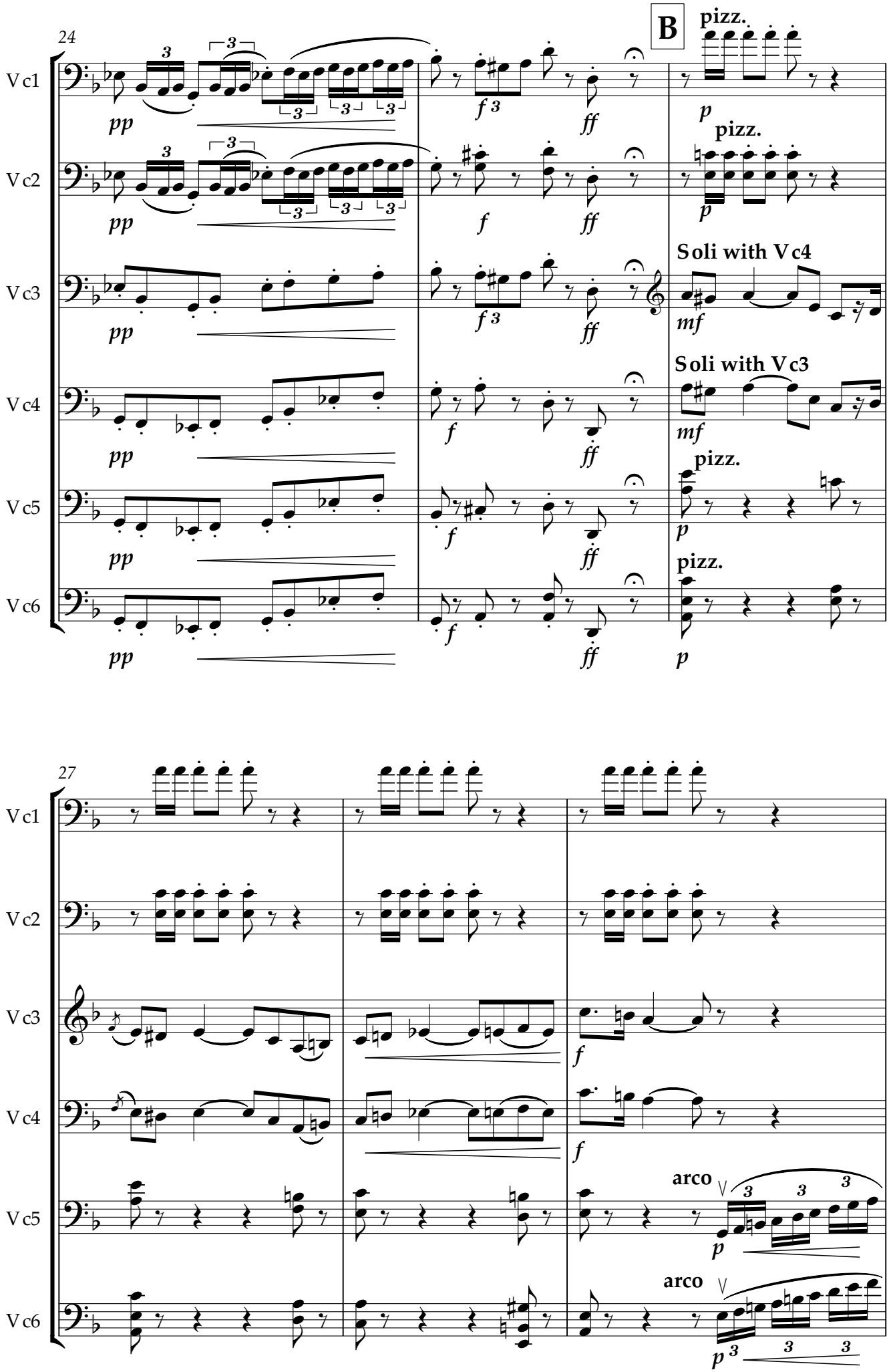

7
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
3

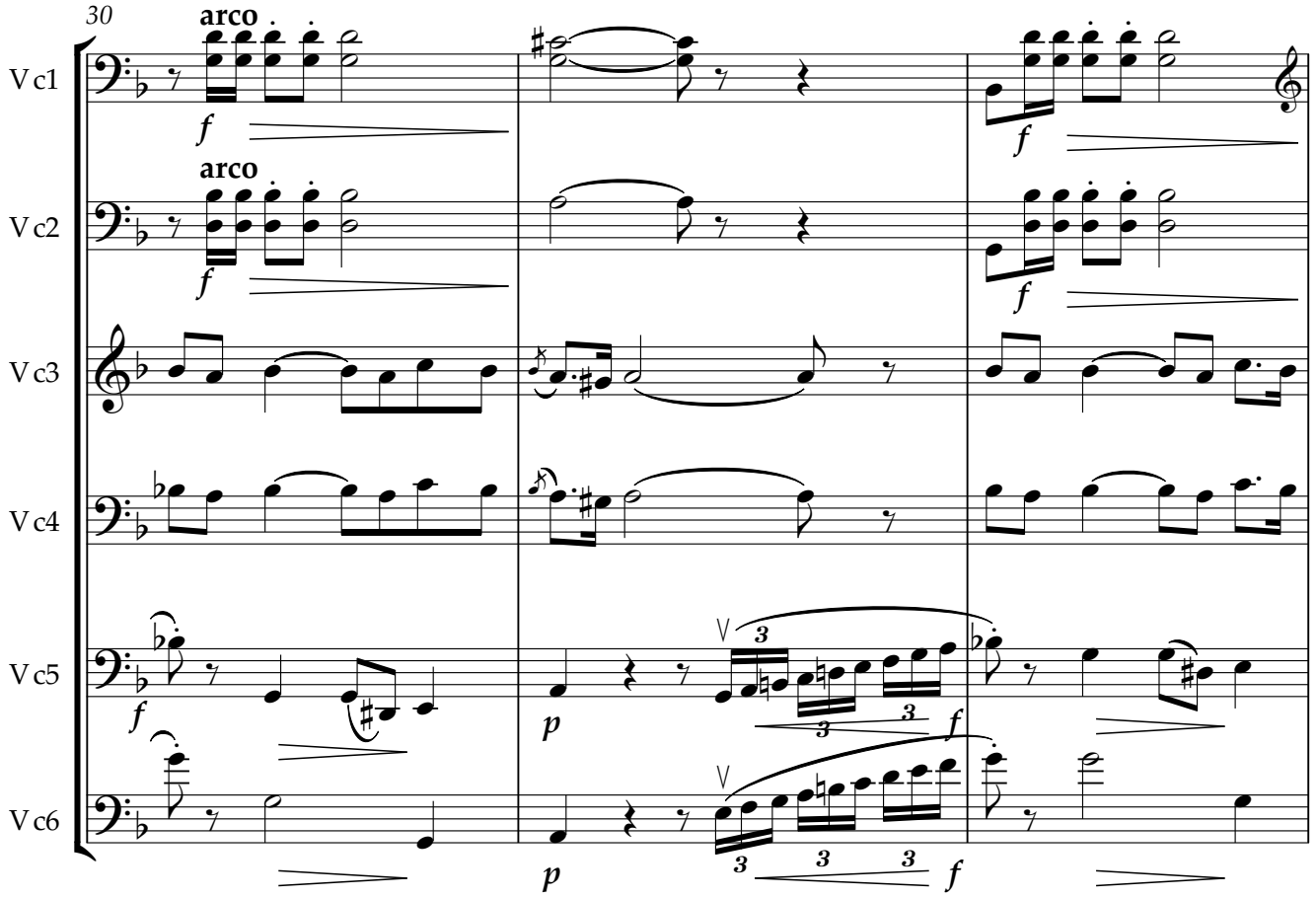

10
pizz.
p
Vc1
pizz.
Vc2
p
pizz.
Vc3
(Soli with Vc5)
p
Vc4
(Soli with Vc4)
Vc5
p
(Soli with Vc4)
Vc6
p

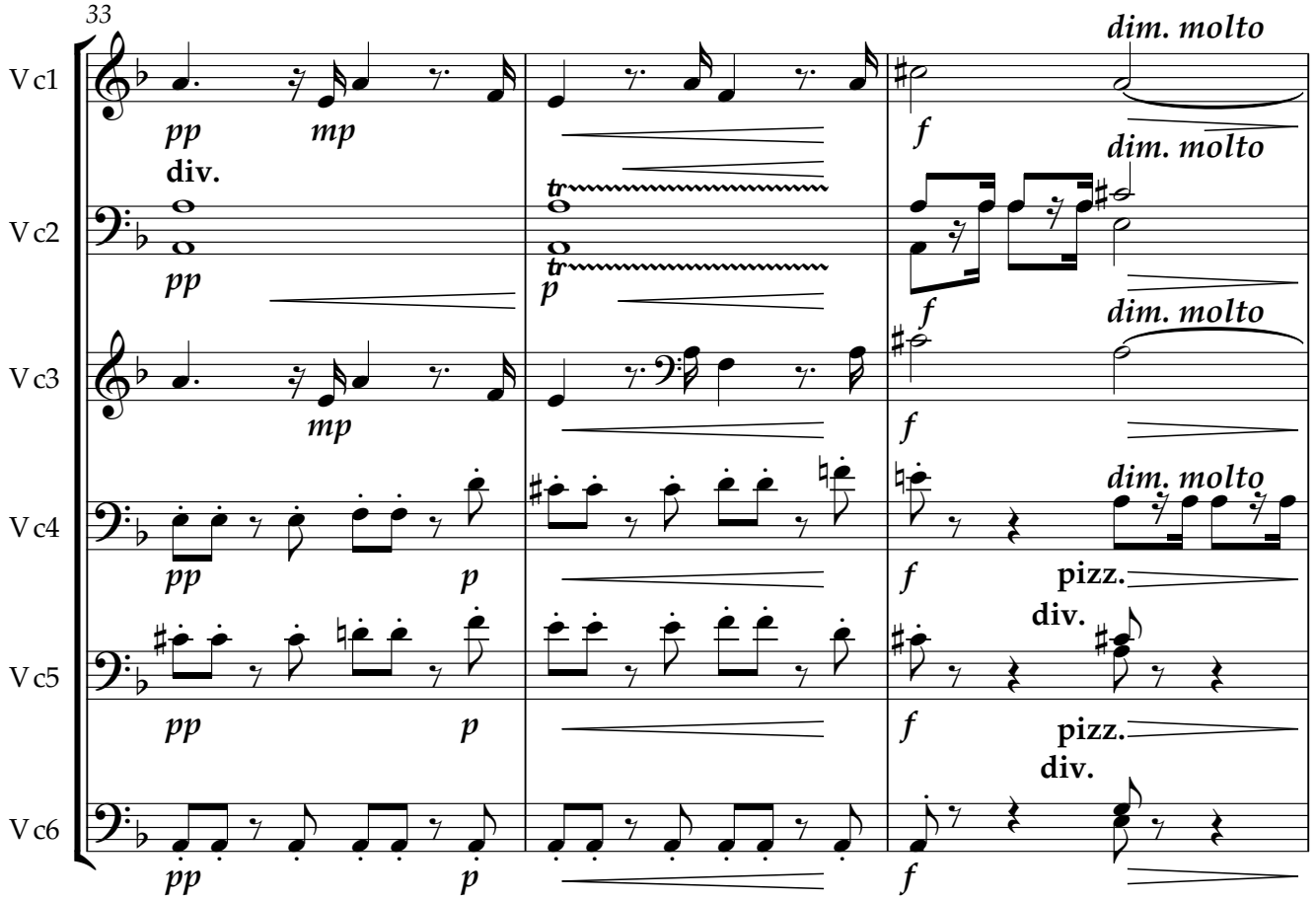

12
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
f

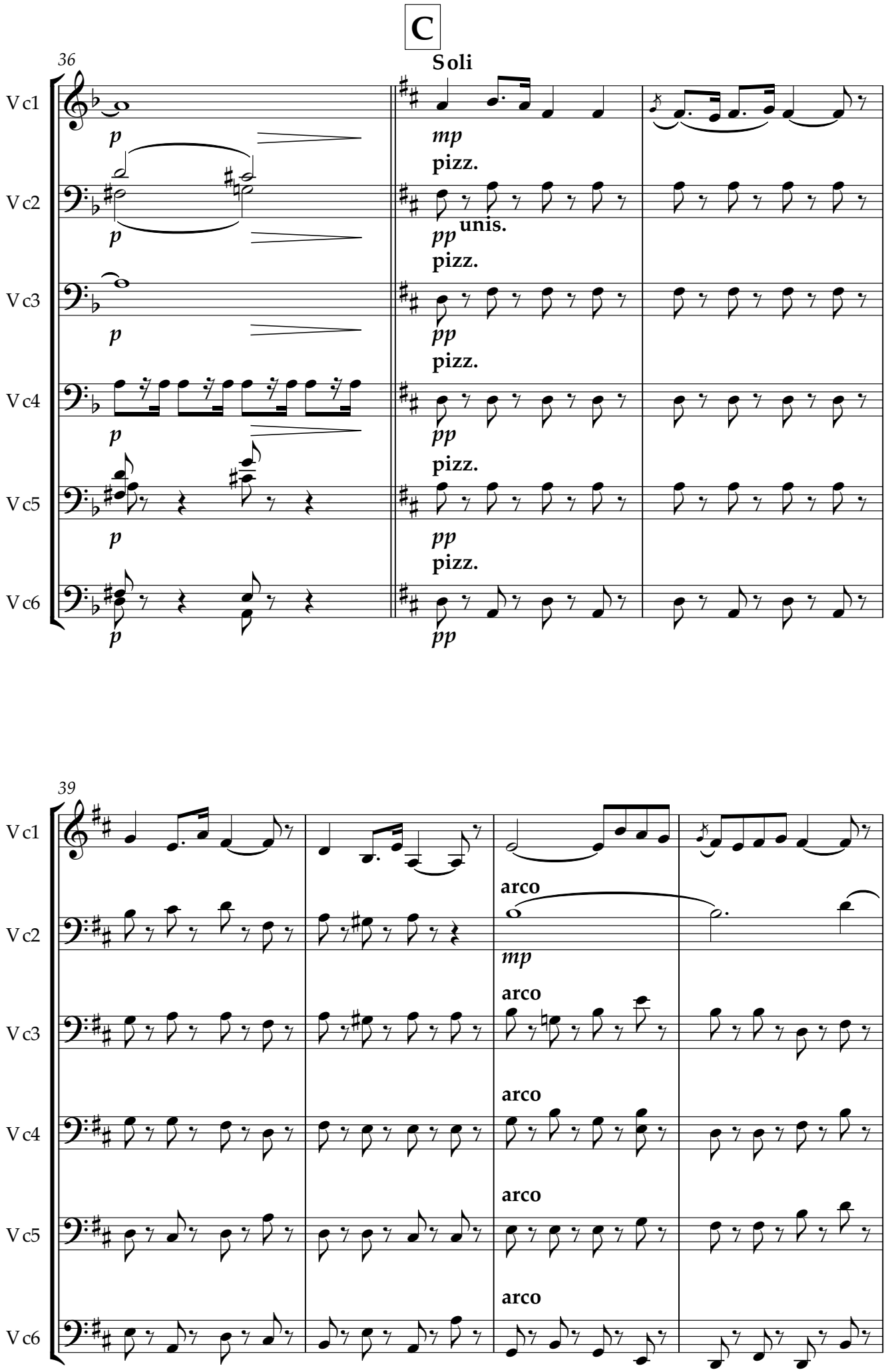

14
arco
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
ff
pp (sub.)
f

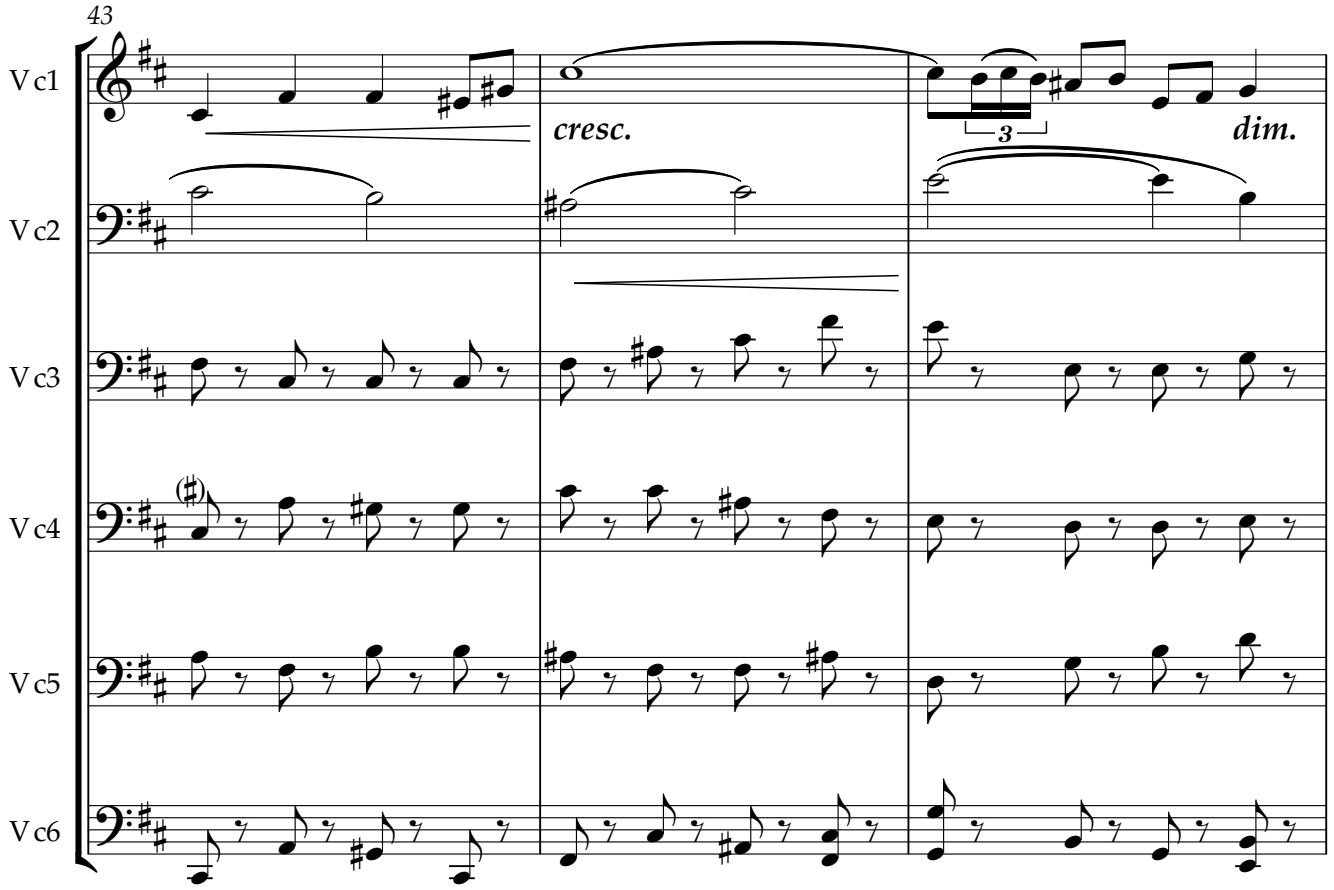

A
18
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
p
p
p
mf
(Soli with Vc6)
mf
(Soli with Vc5)
mf
21
ff
ff
ff
ff
f
f
3
3
3
f
3
3

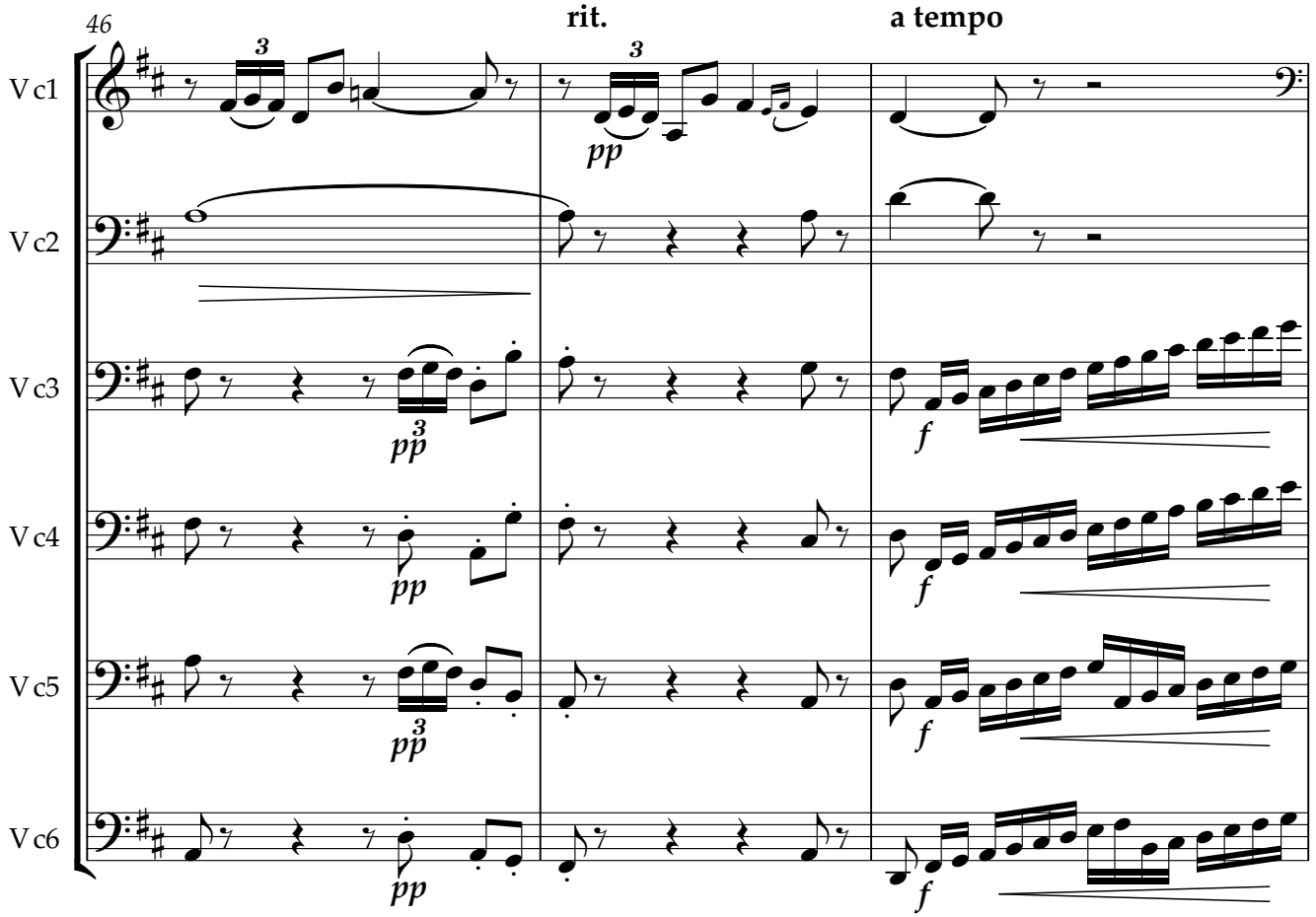

24
B
pizz.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pp
f 3
ff
p
pizz.
f
mf
Soli with Vc4
Soli with Vc3
pizz.
pizz.
27
arco
arco

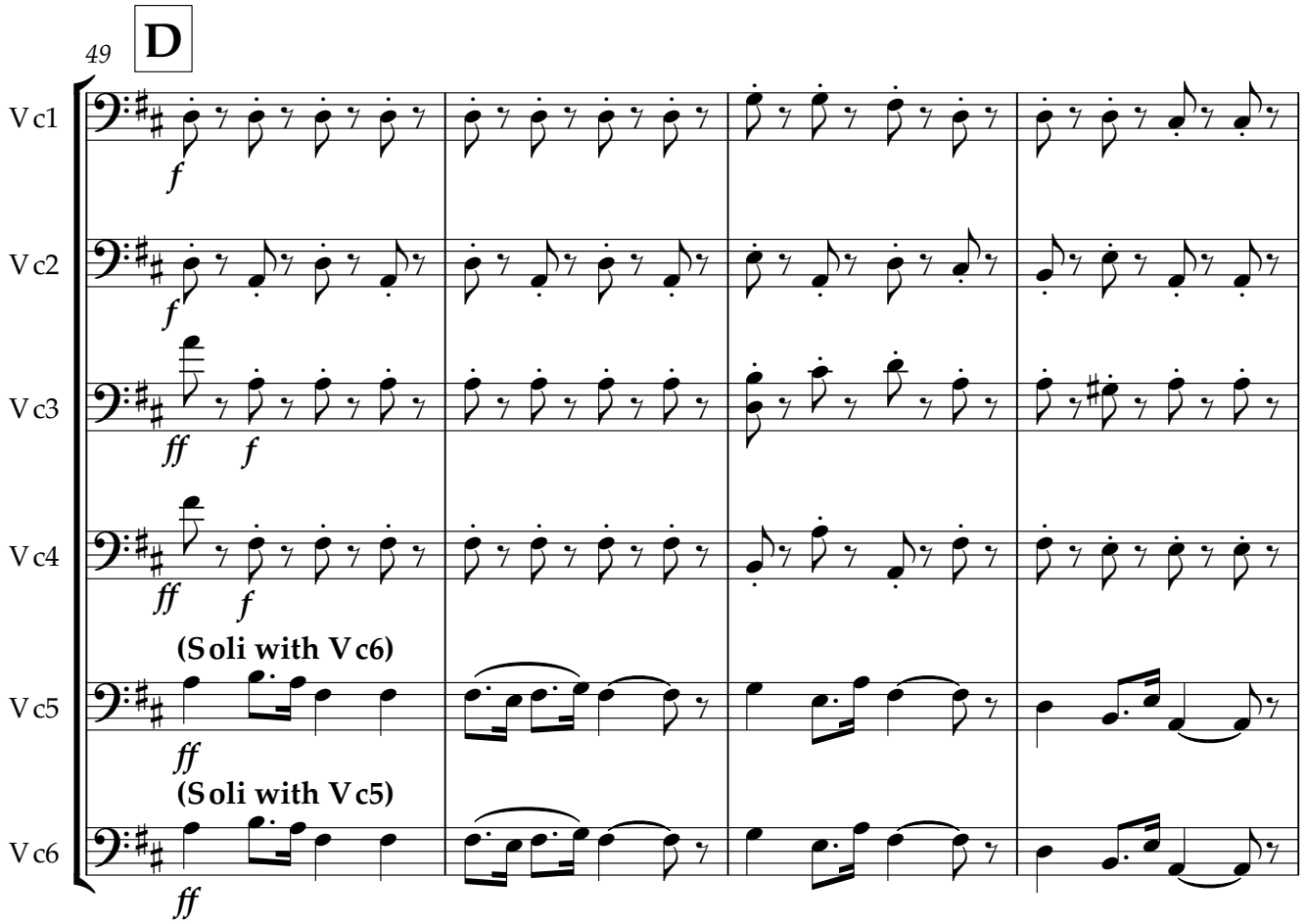

30
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
arco
arco
f
p
3

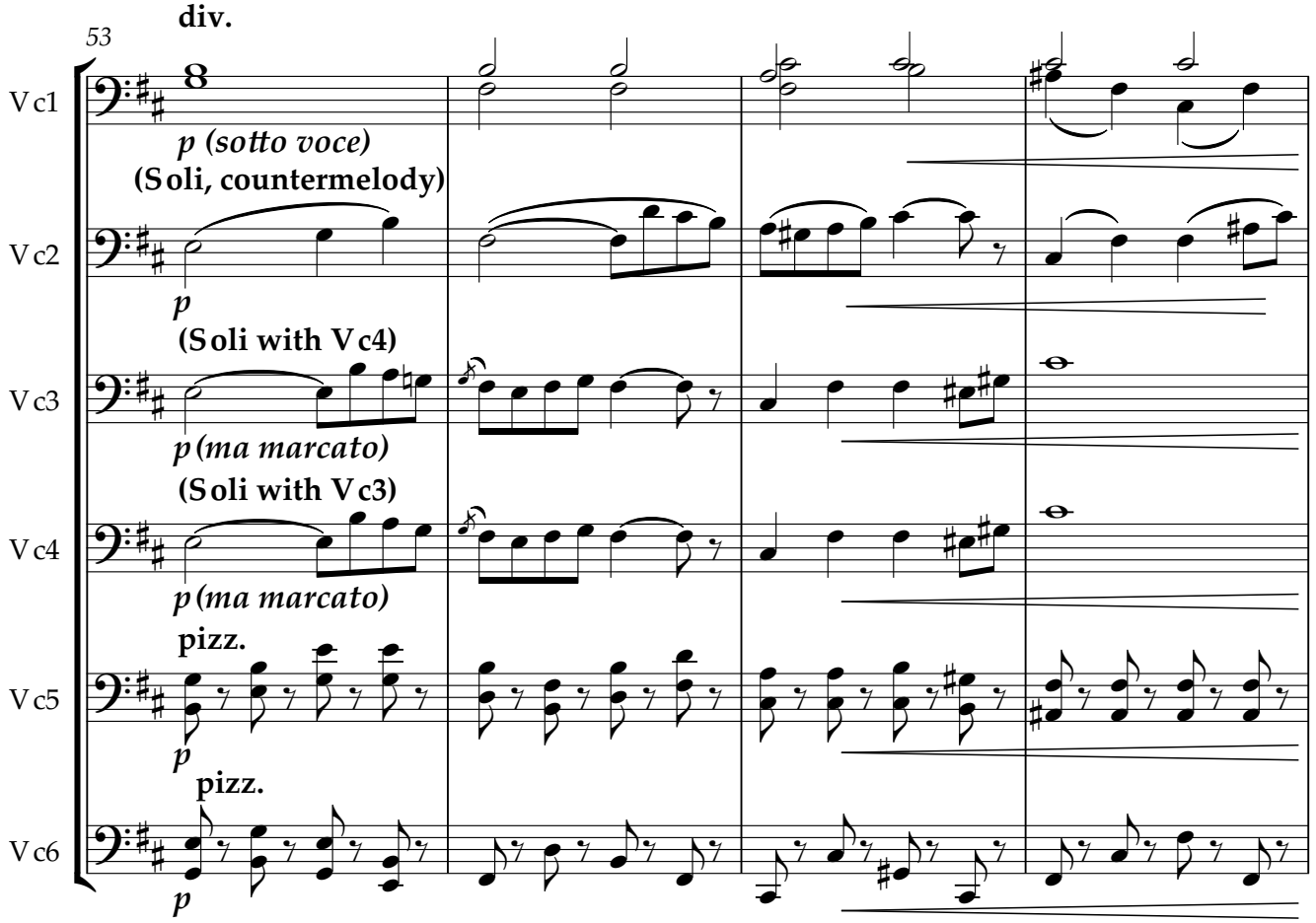

33
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pp
mp
p
f
div.
tr
dim. molto
pizz.


C
36
Soli
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
p
mp
pizz.
unis.
pp
39
arco

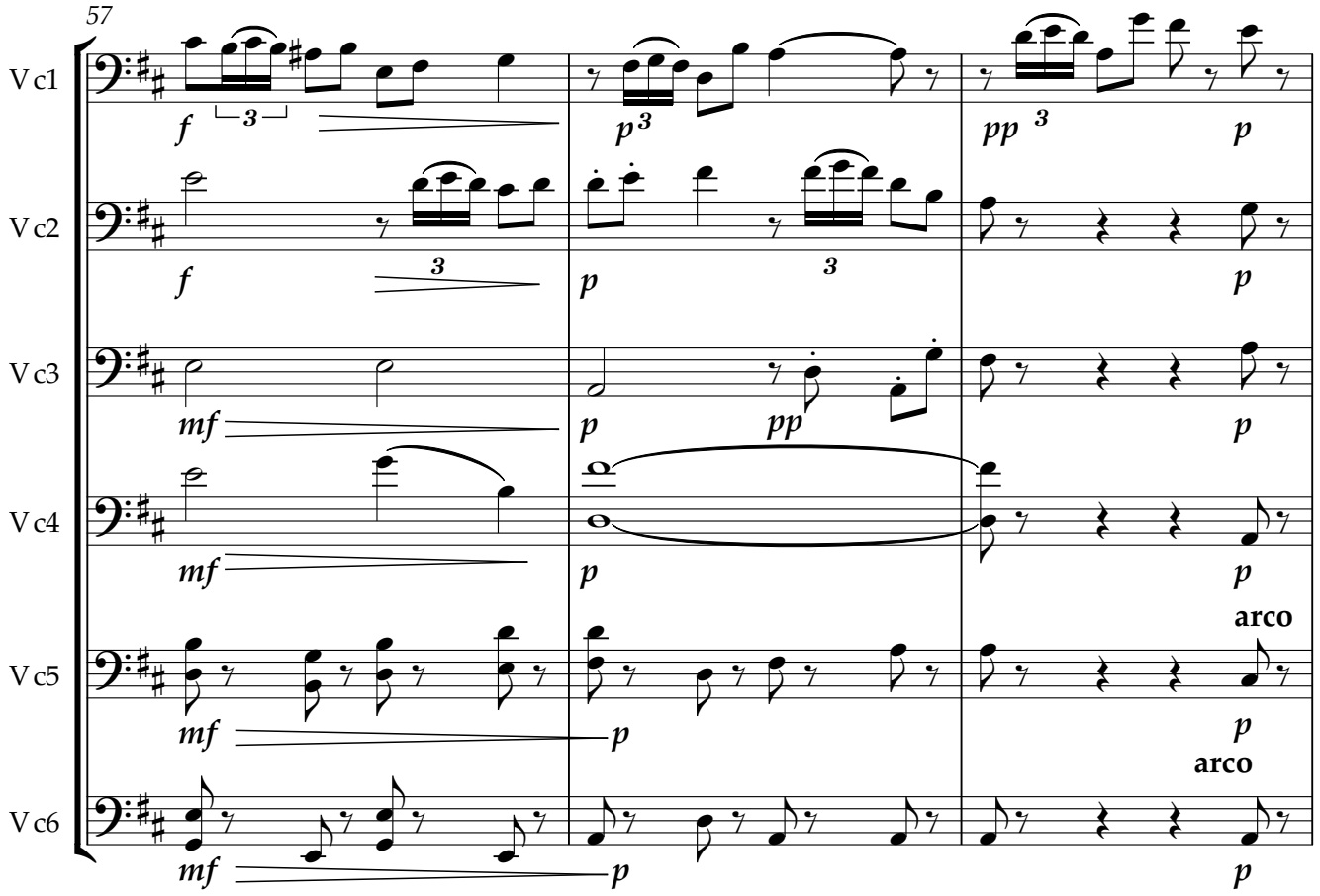

43
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
cresc.
dim.


46
rit.
a tempo
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pp
f


49
D
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
f
f
ff
f
ff
f
(Soli with Vc6)
ff
(Soli with Vc5)
ff

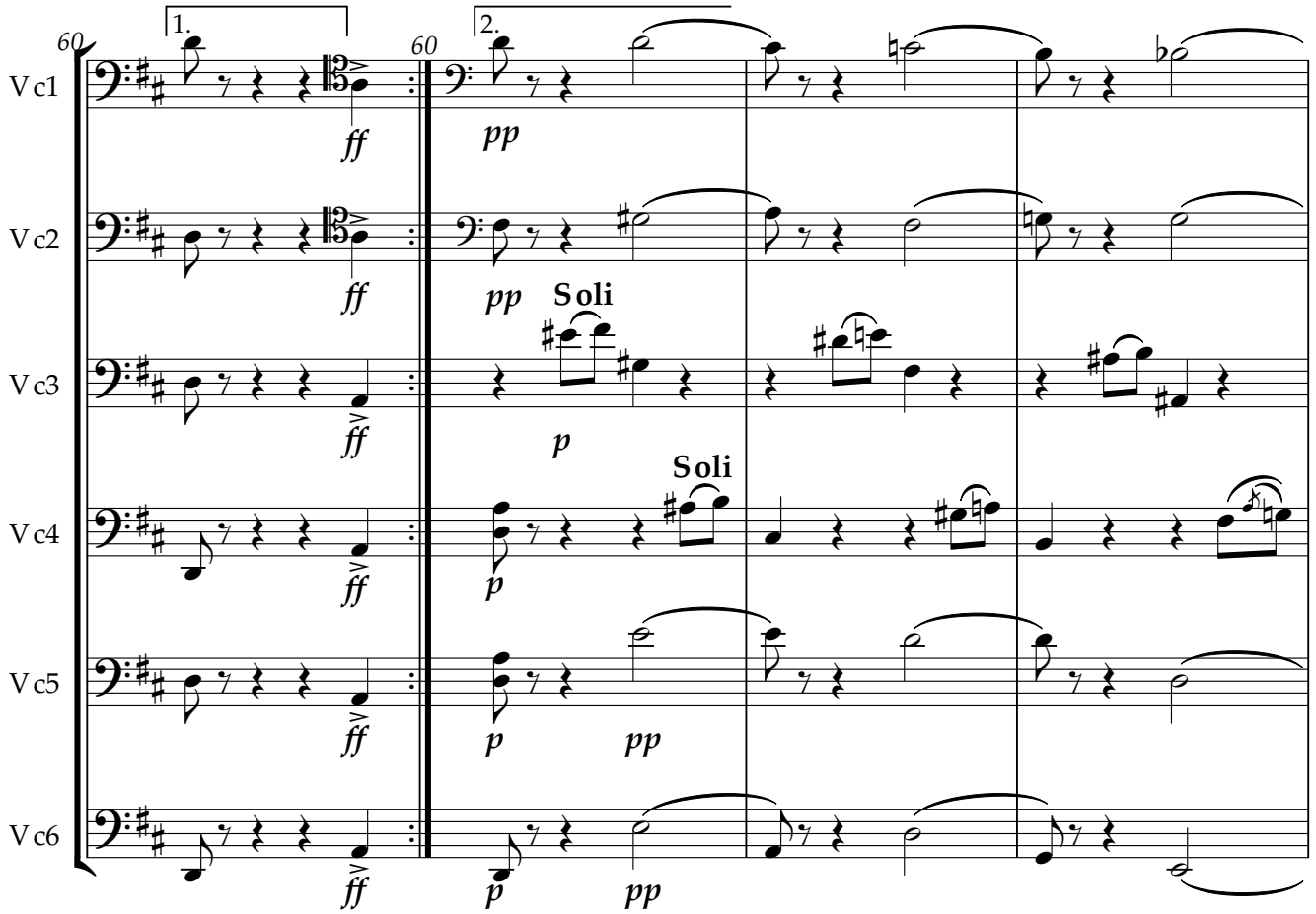

53
div.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
p (sotto voce)
(Soli, countermelody)
p
(Soli with Vc4)
p (ma marcato)
(Soli with Vc3)
p (ma marcato)
pizz.
p
pizz.
p

unis.

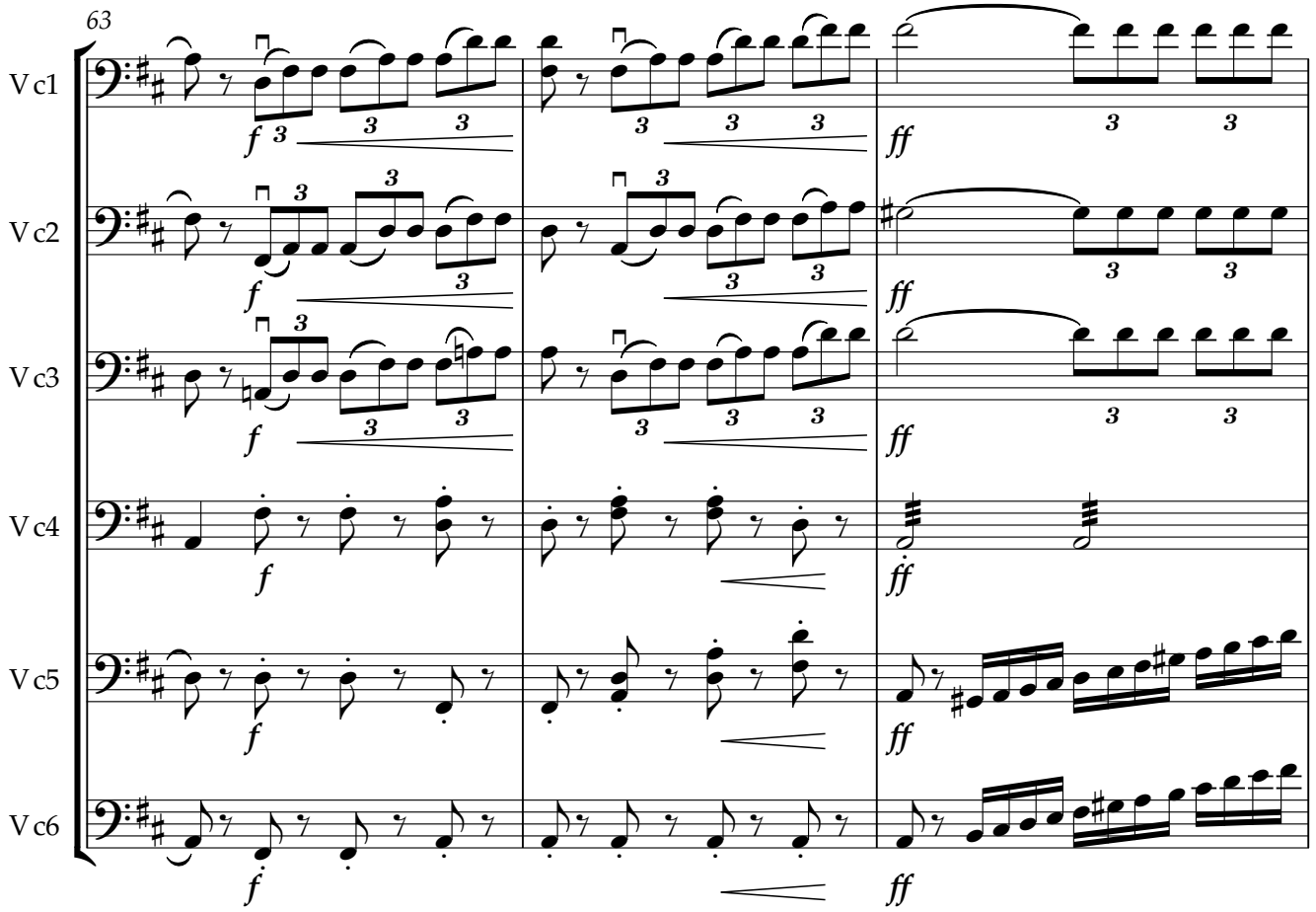


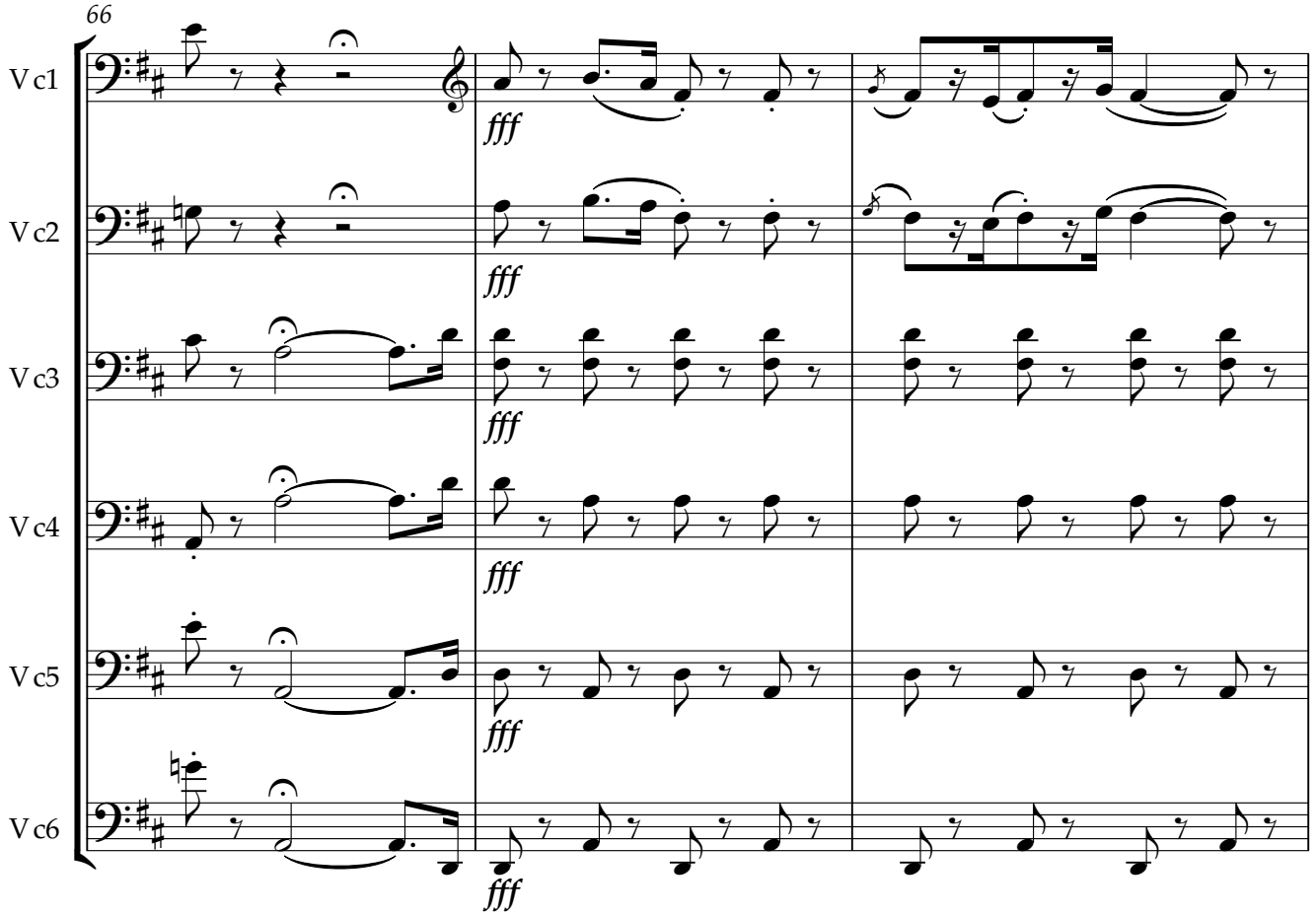
OPTIONAL REPEAT (AS IN THE ORIGINAL OPERA)

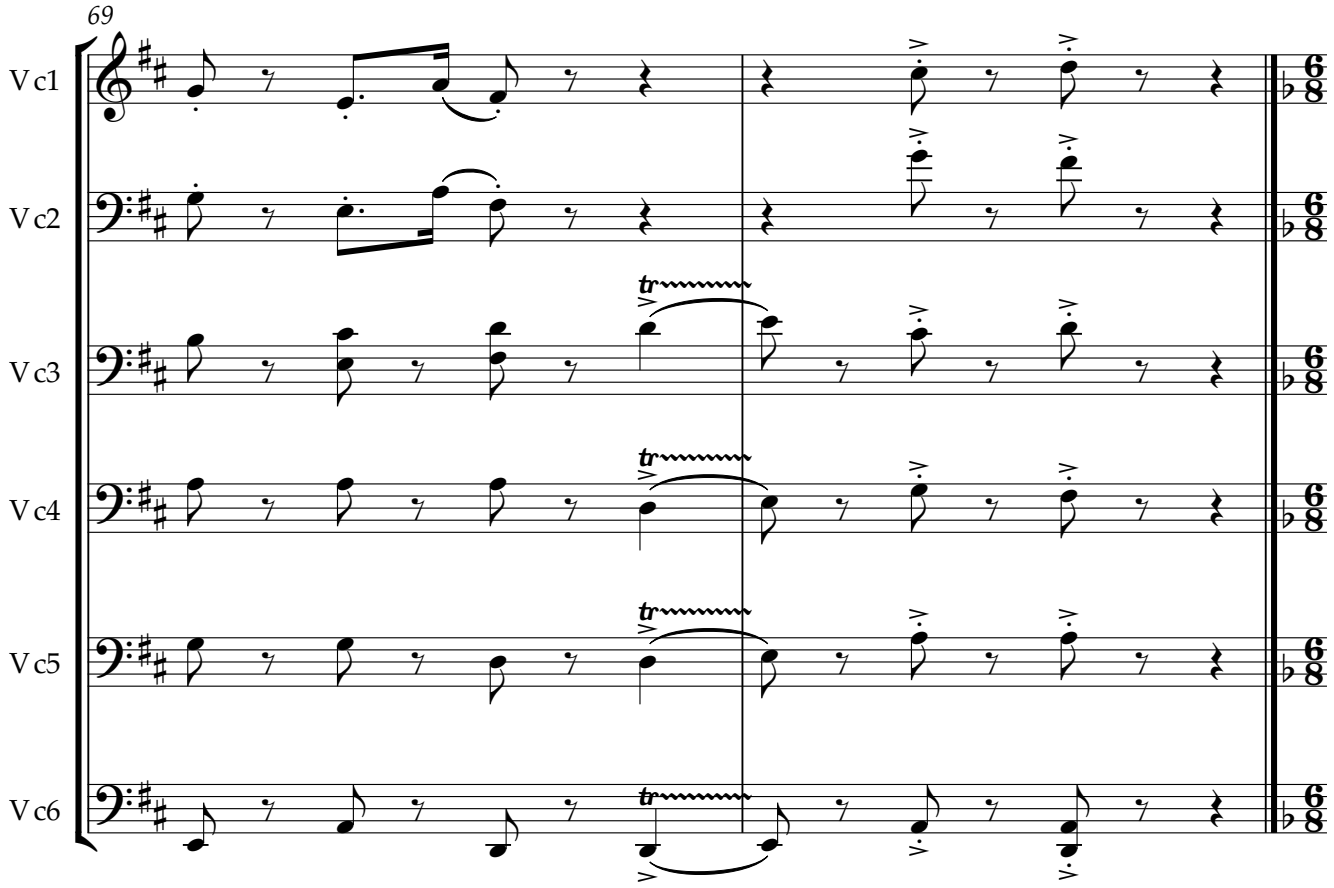
Plus Lent



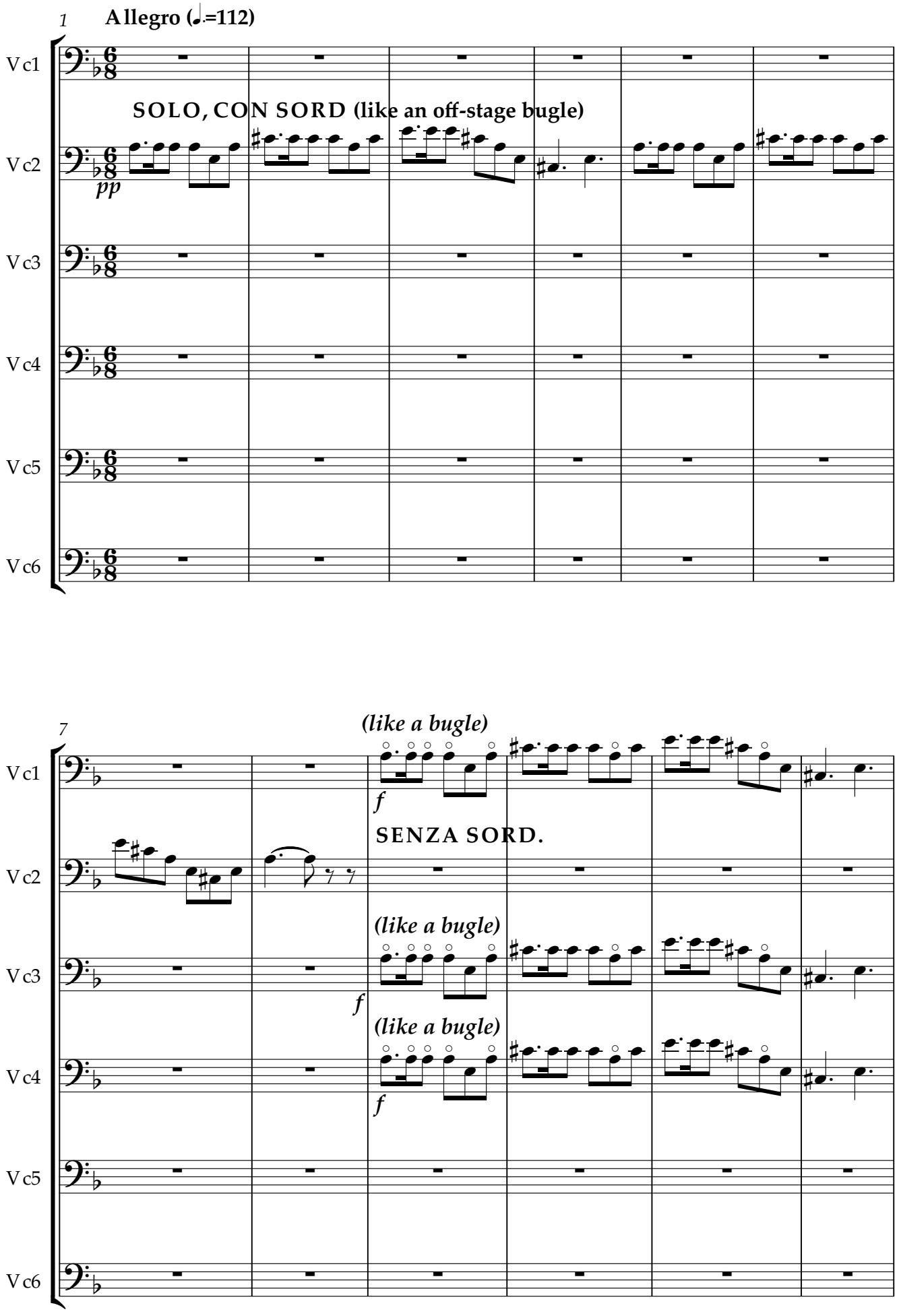
a tempo

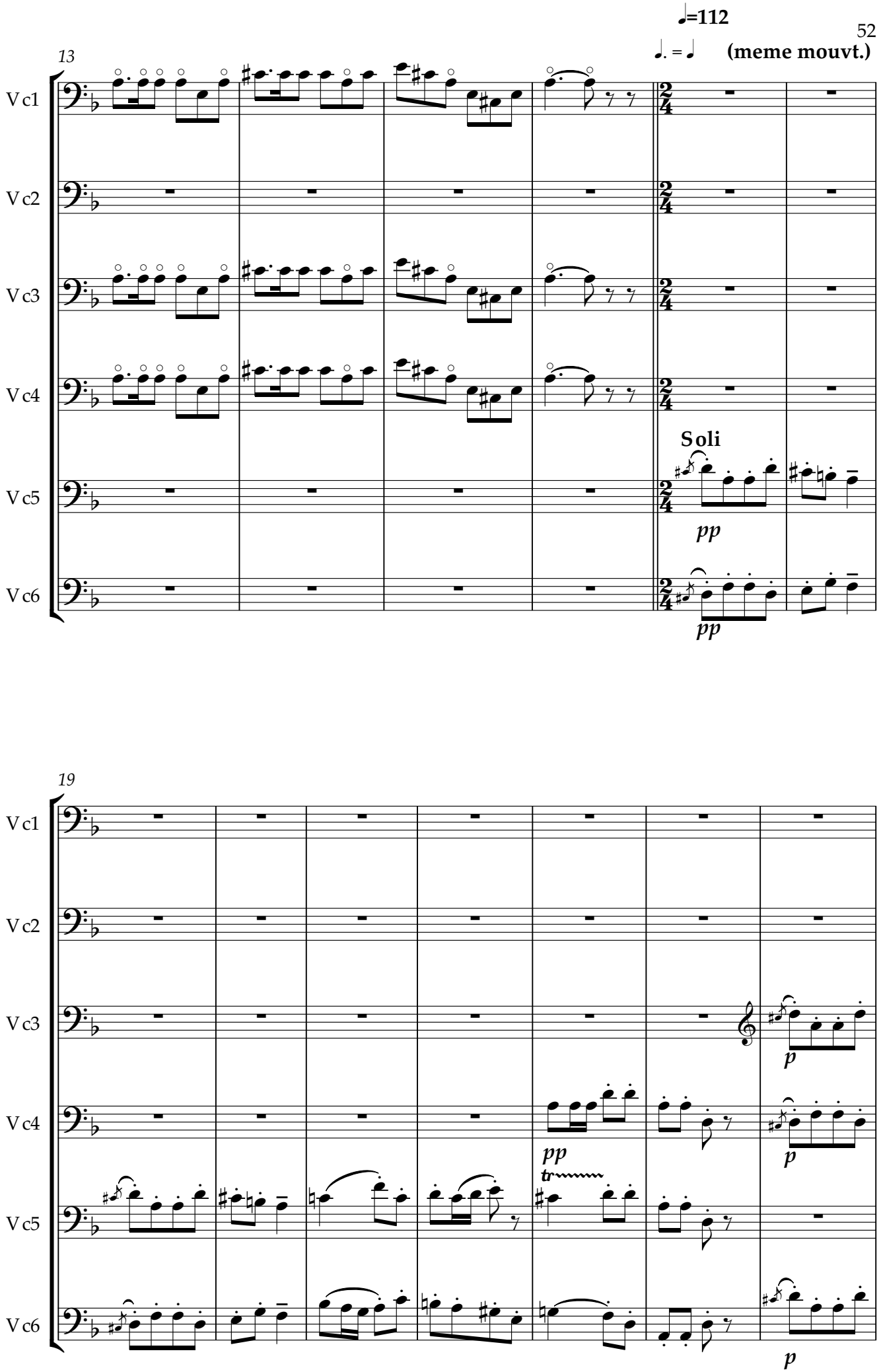


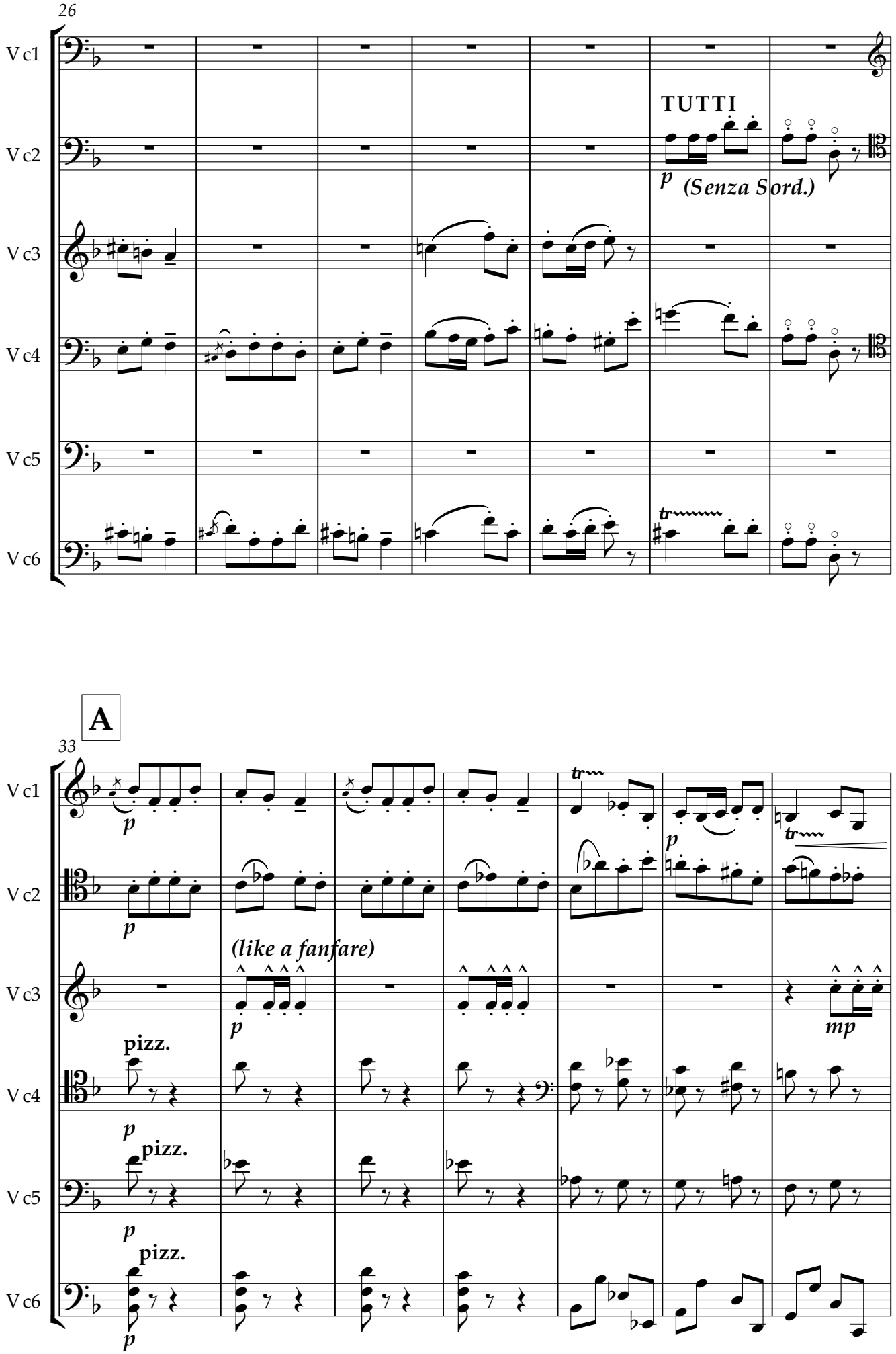


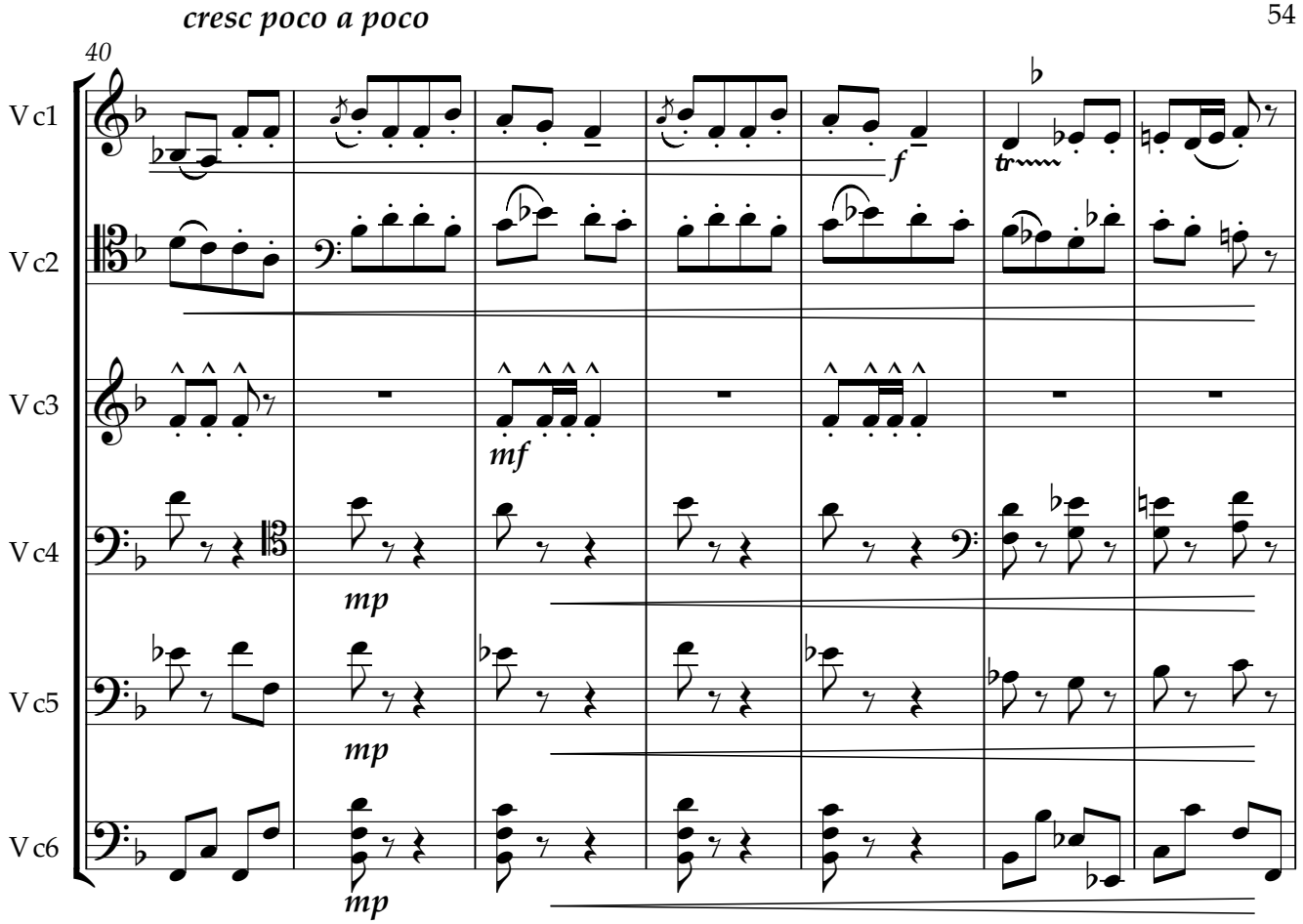

69
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
tr
6/8

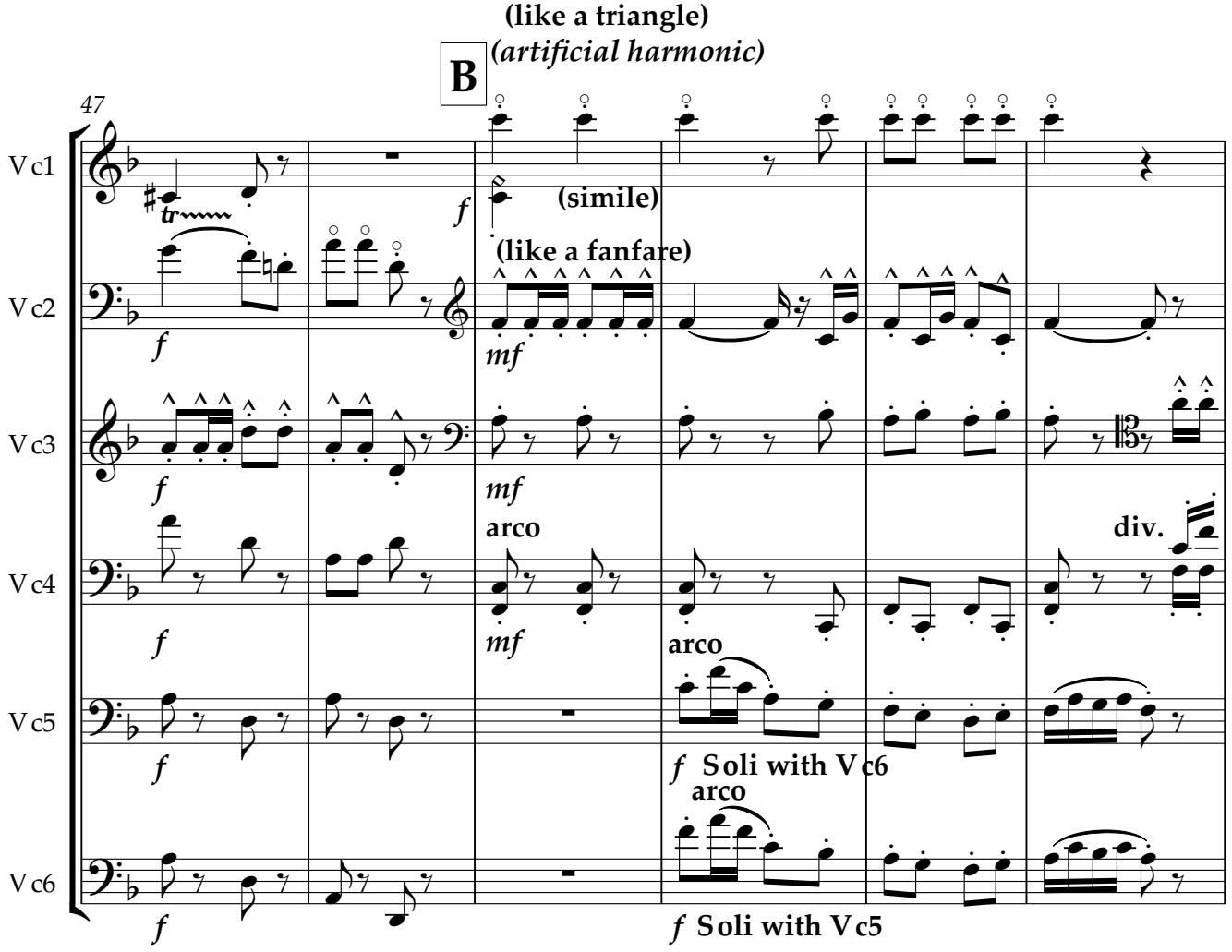
V. La Garde Montante

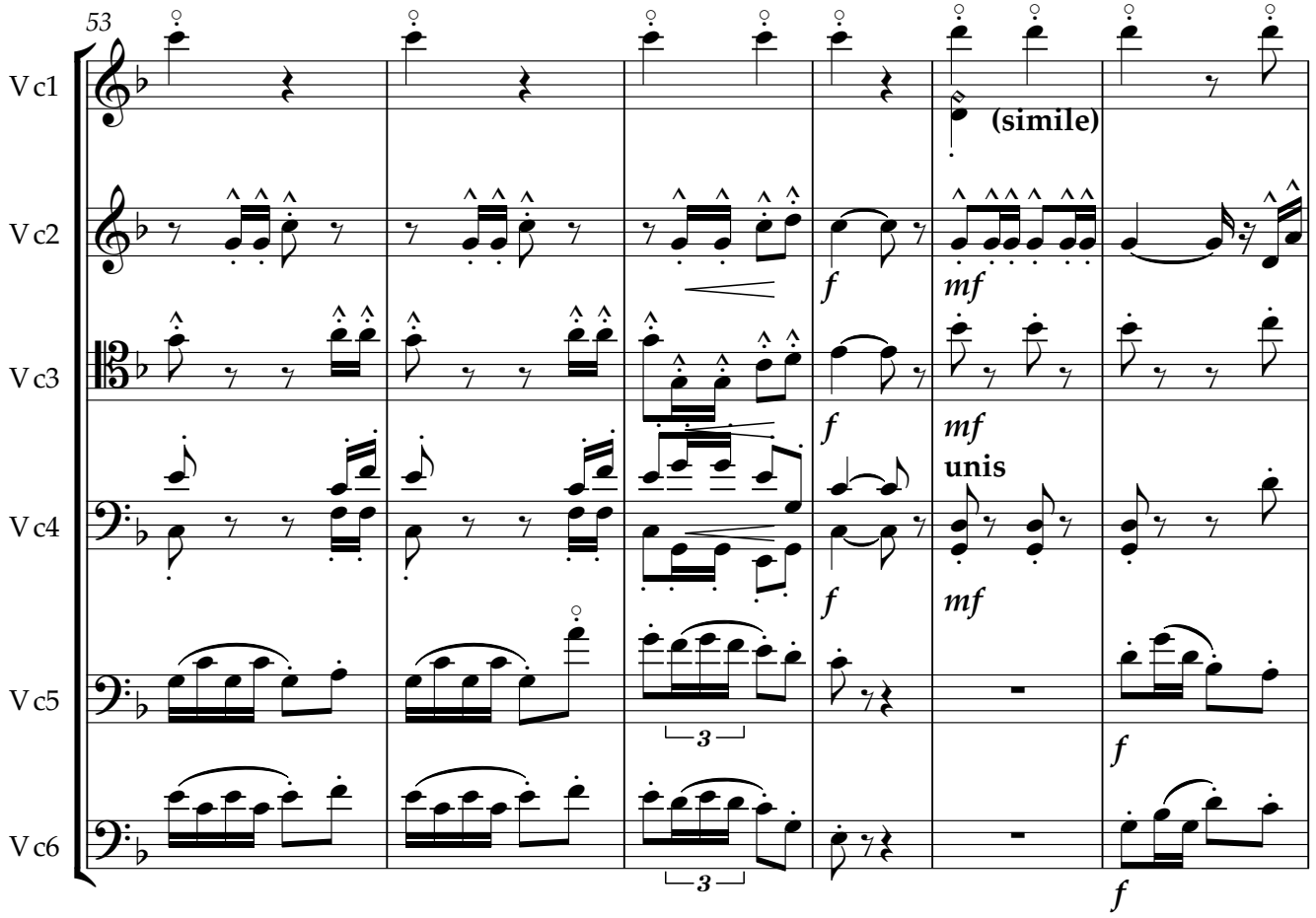


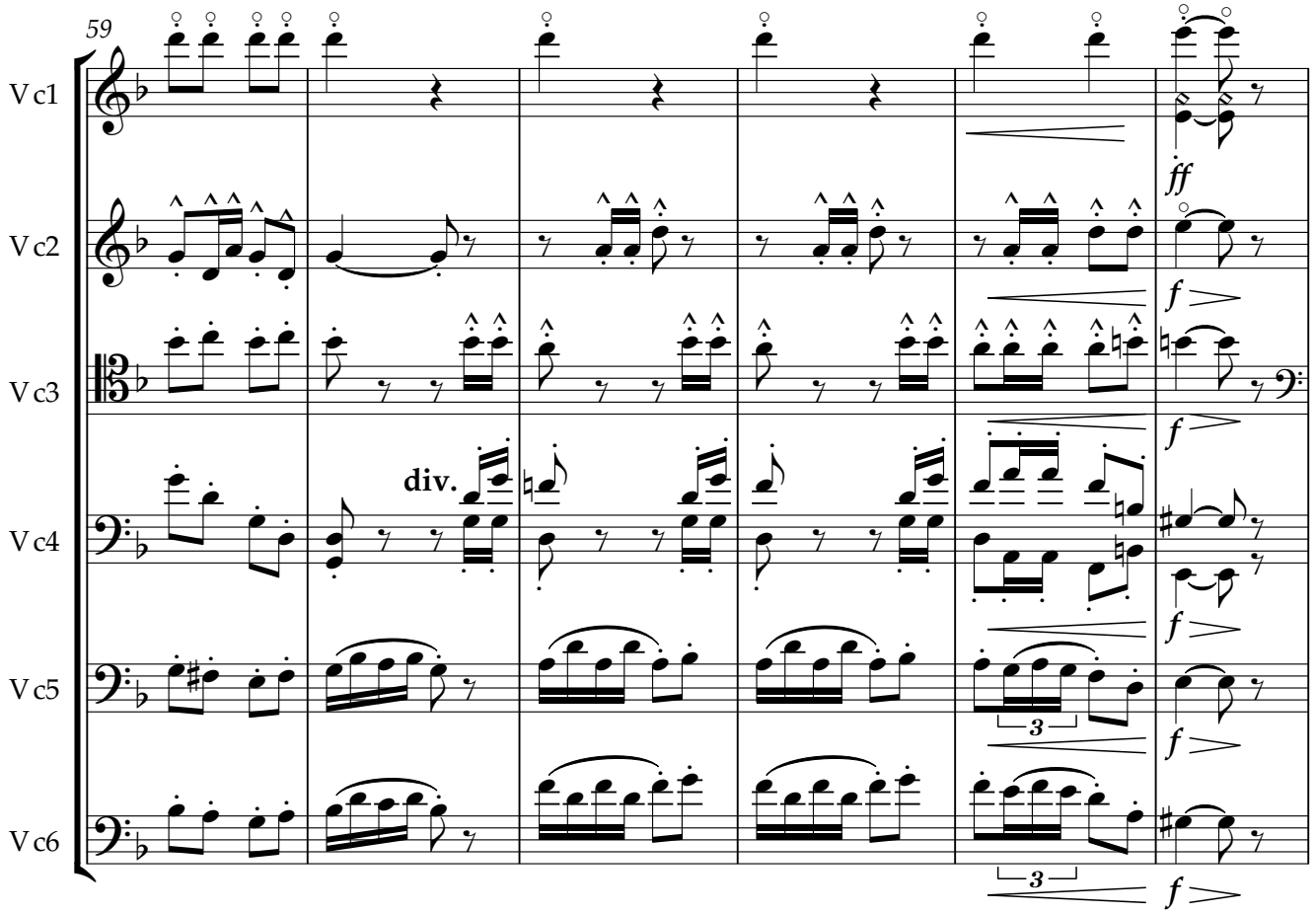

♩=112
♩. = ♩
(meme mouvt.)
13
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
Soli
pp
pp
19
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
p
pp
tr
p
p

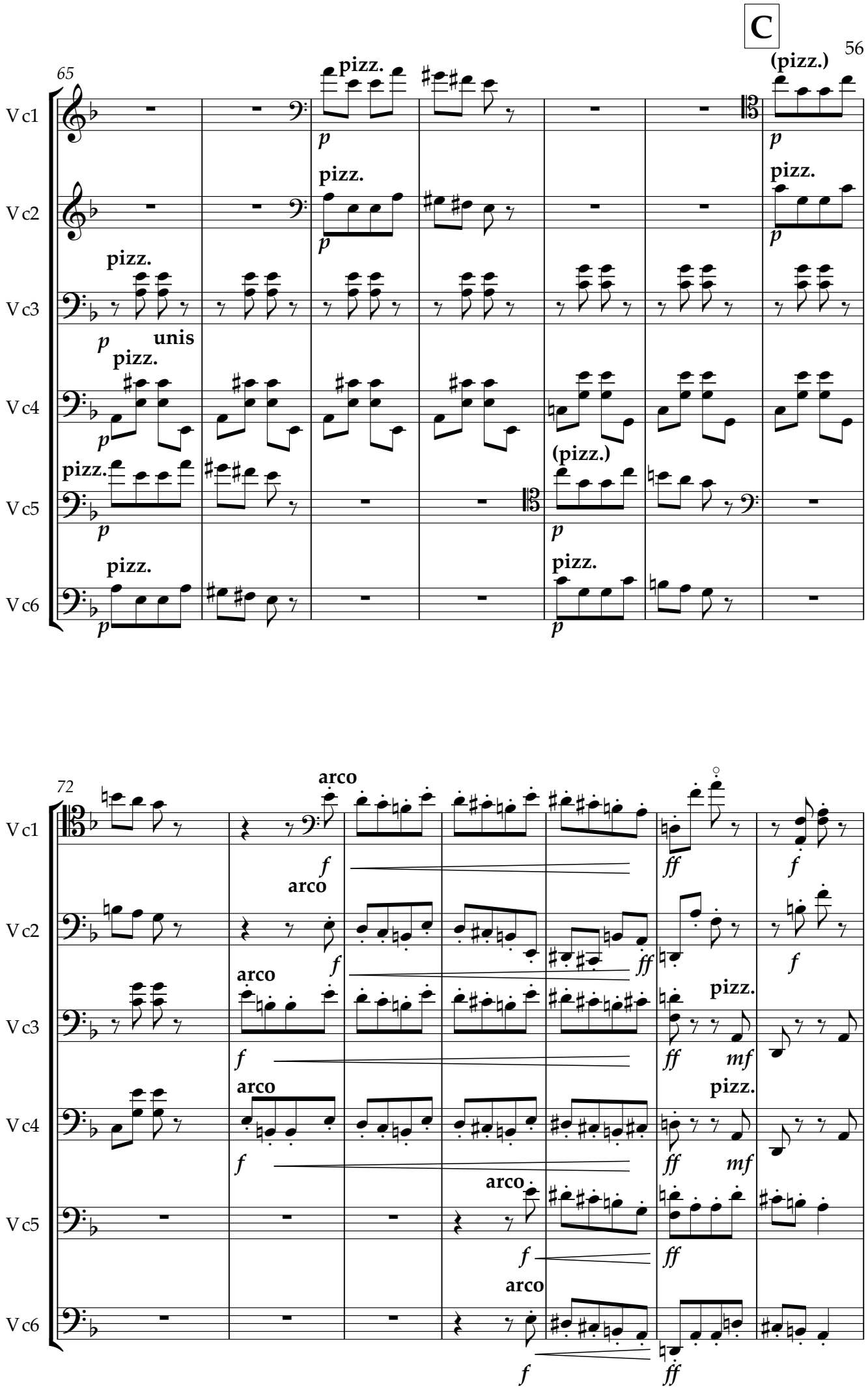

26
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
TUTTI
p
(Senza Sord.)
tr
A
33
p
(like a fanfare)
mp
pizz.

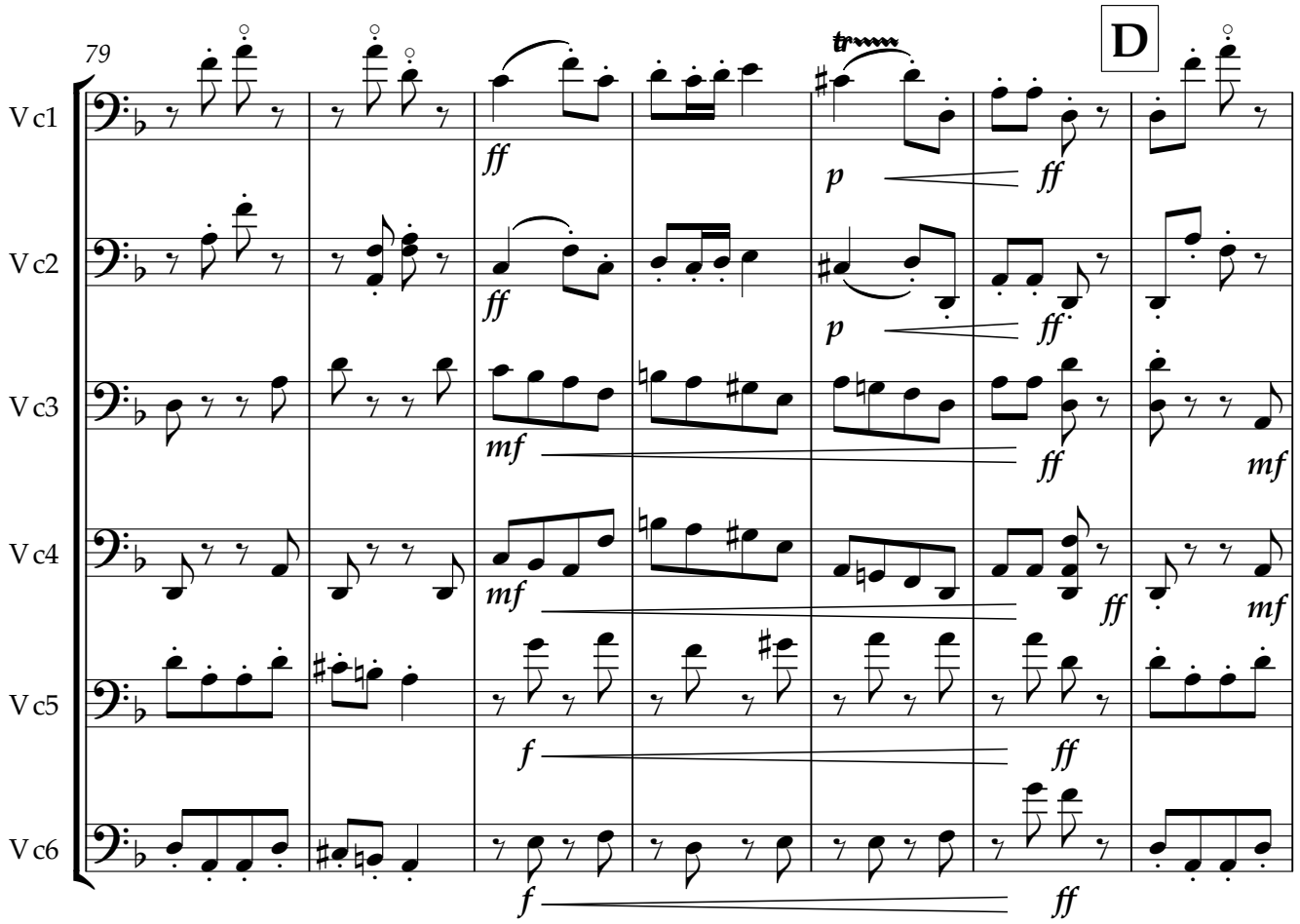

cresc poco a poco
40
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
f
mf
mp
mp
mp

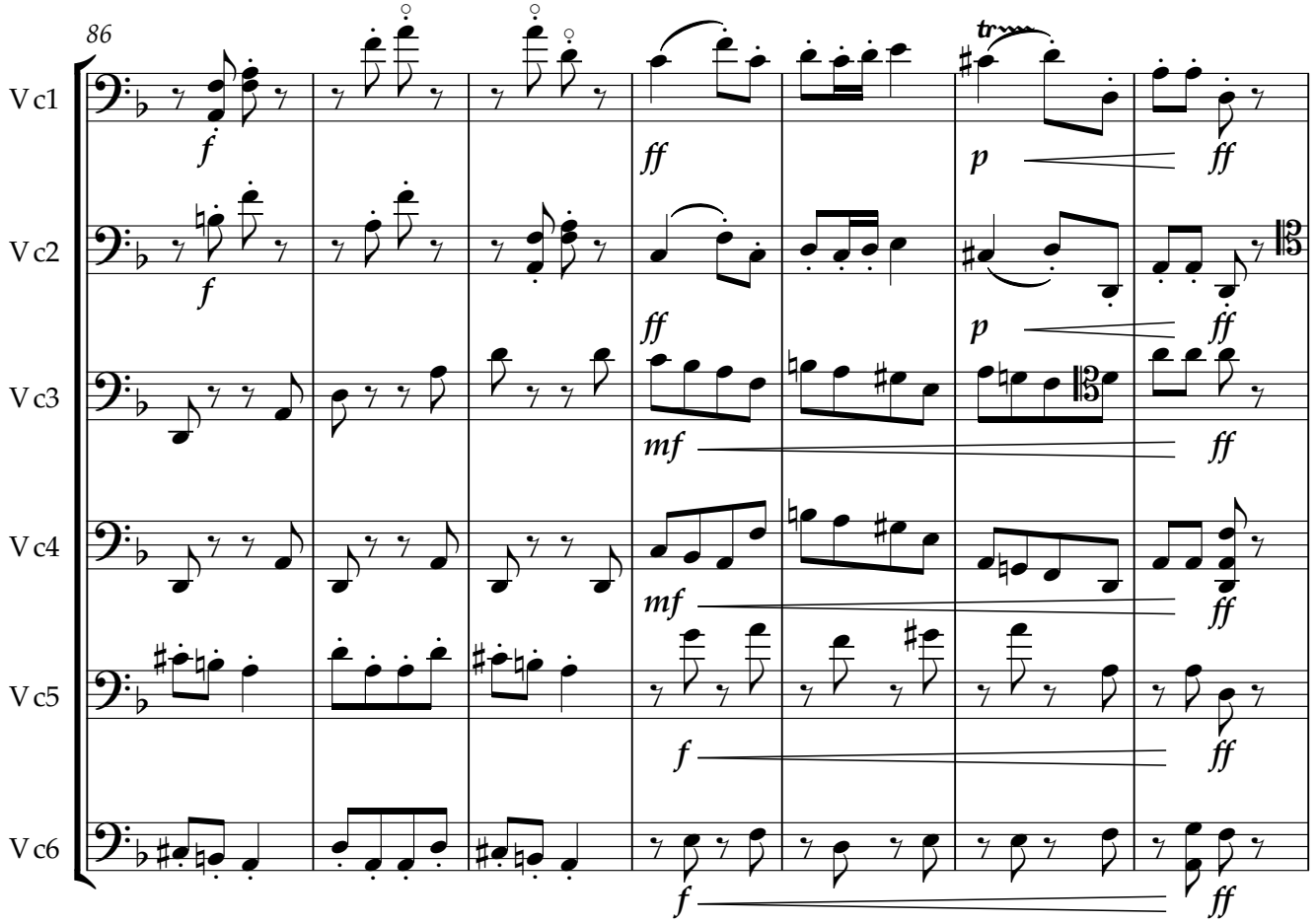

(like a triangle)
(artificial harmonic)
B
47
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
f
(simile)
(like a fanfare)
mf
arco
div.
arco
f Soli with Vc6
arco
f Soli with Vc5

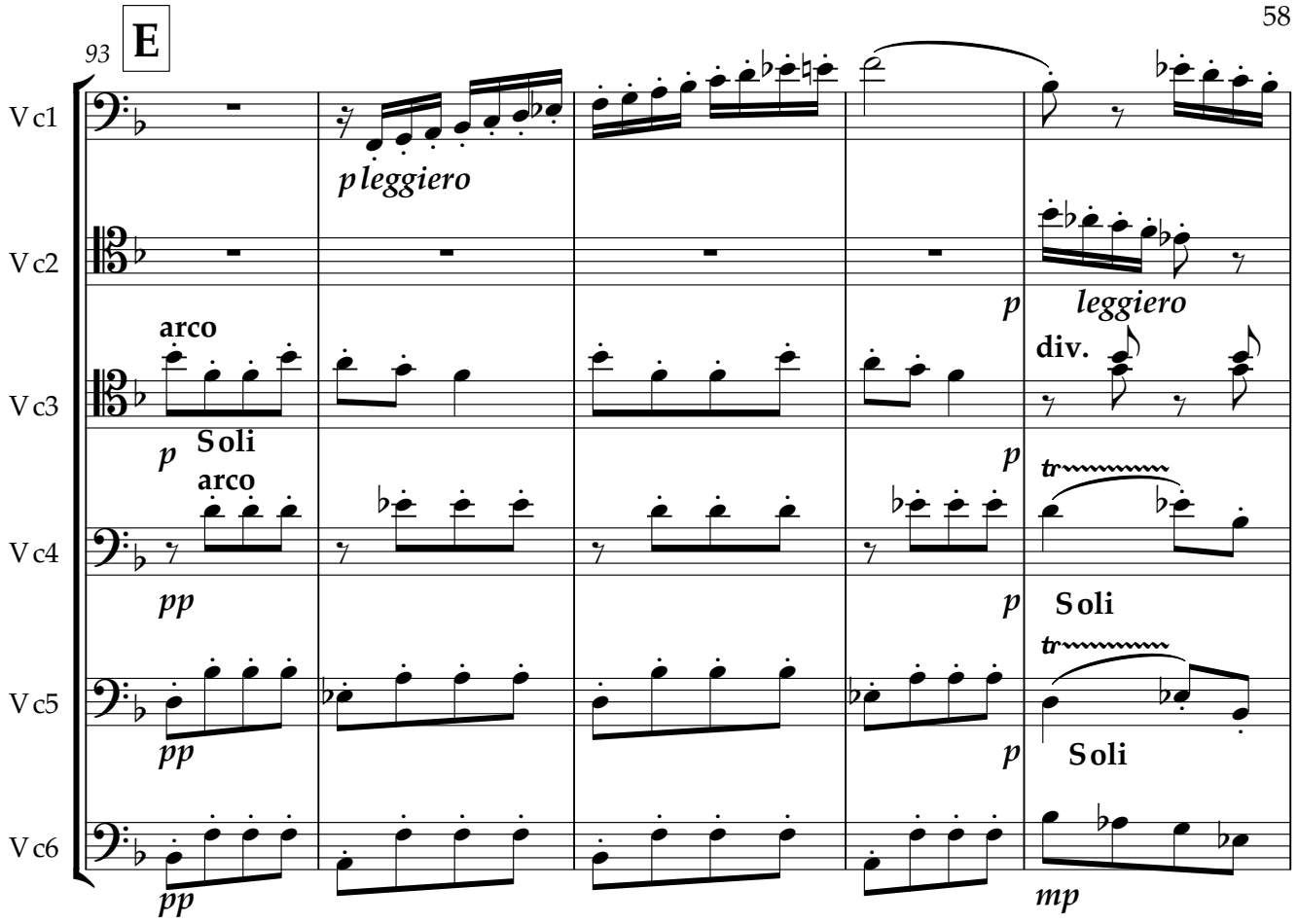

53
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
(simile)
f
mf
unis
3

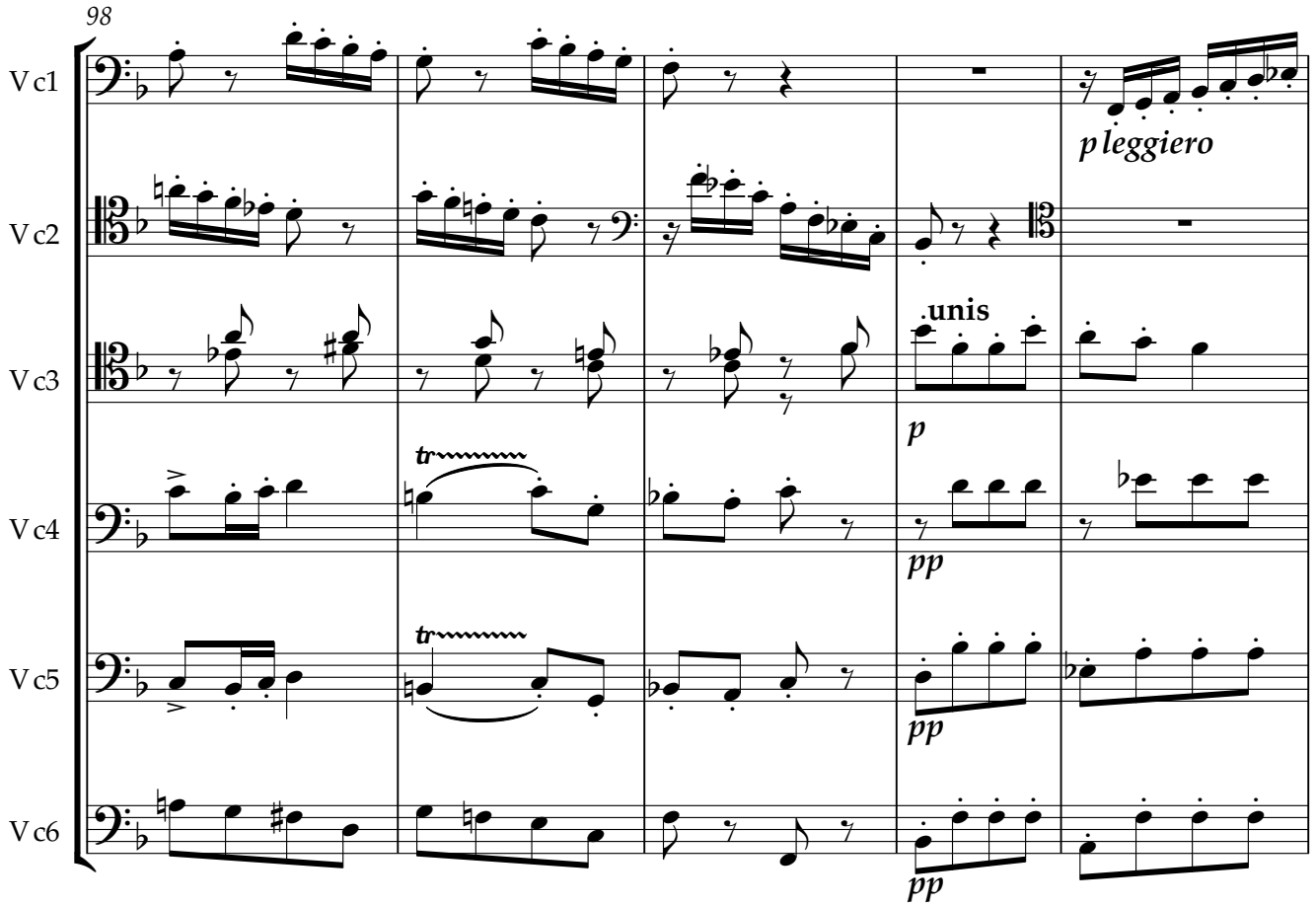

59
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
div.
ff
f
3

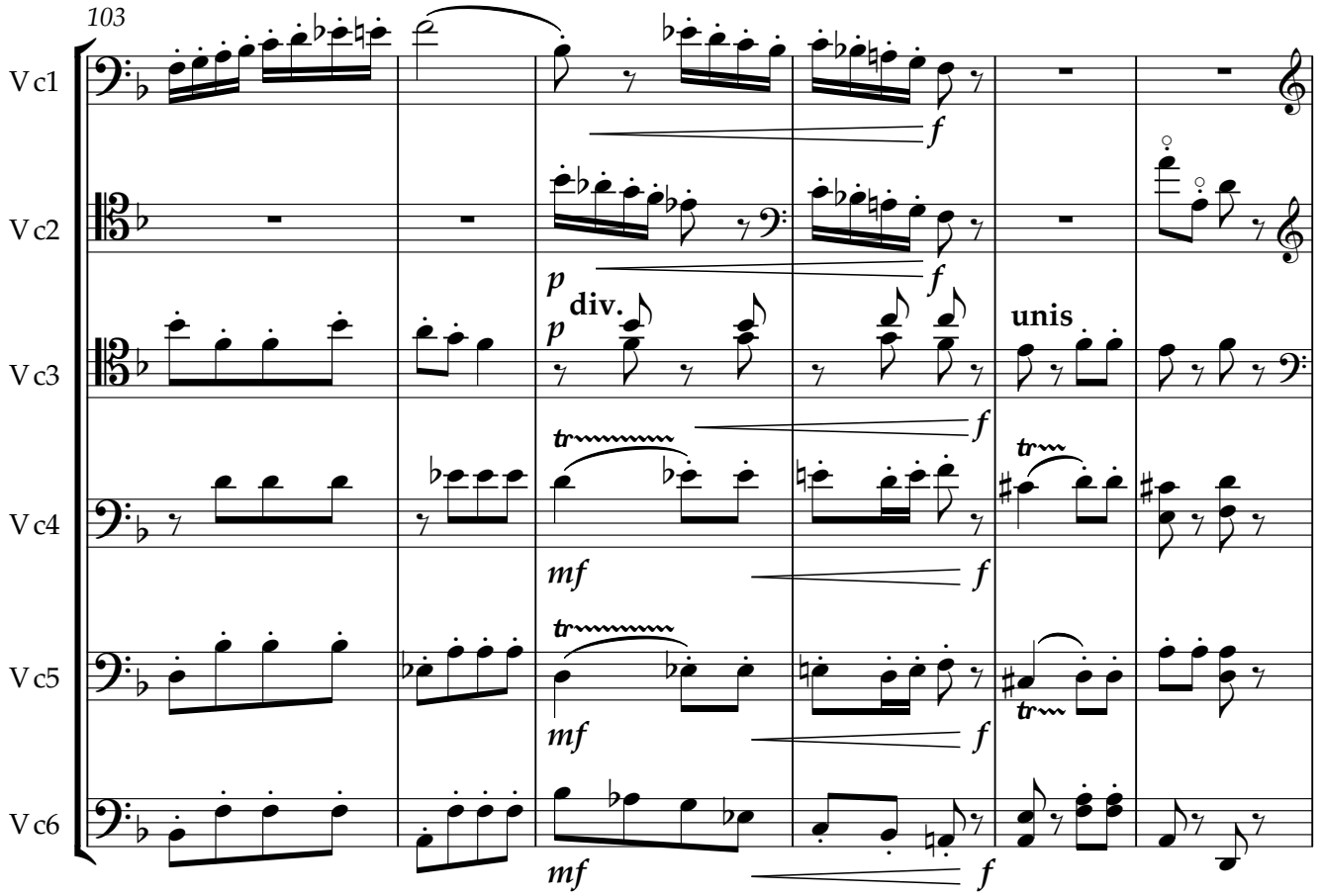

C
65
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pizz.
(pizz.)
unis
p
72
arco
f
ff
mf

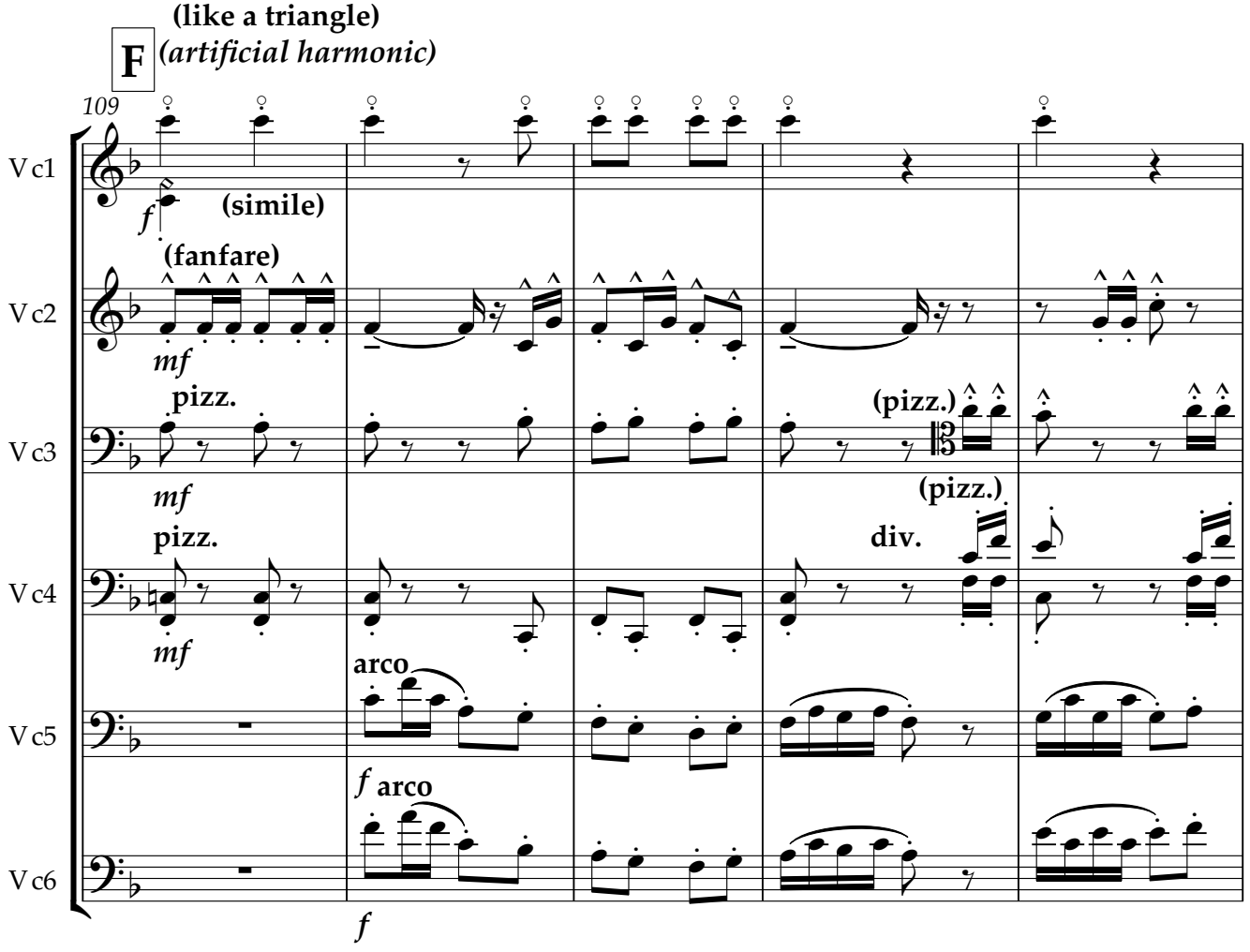

79
D
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
tr
ff
p
mf
f

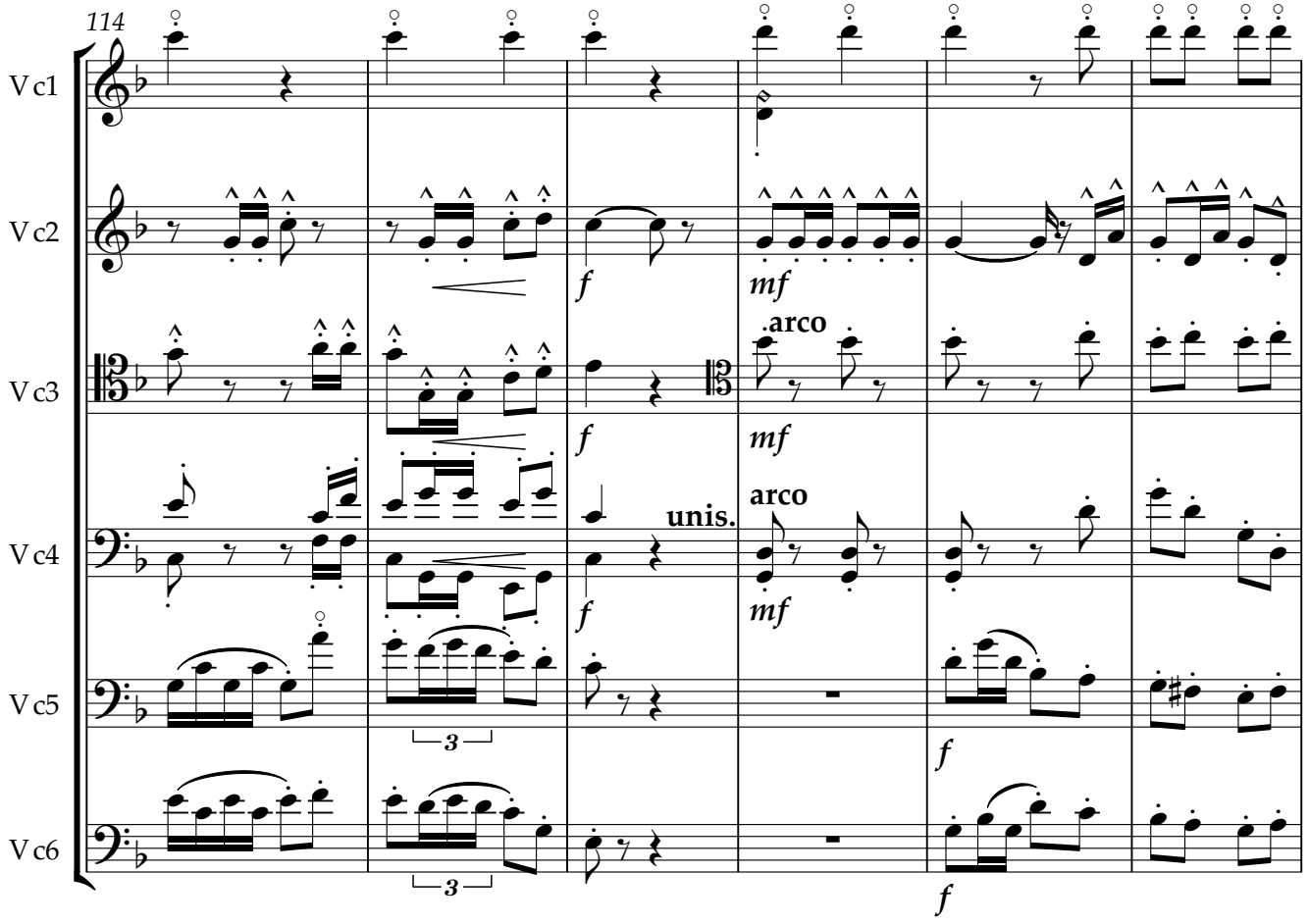

86
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
tr
f
ff
p
mf

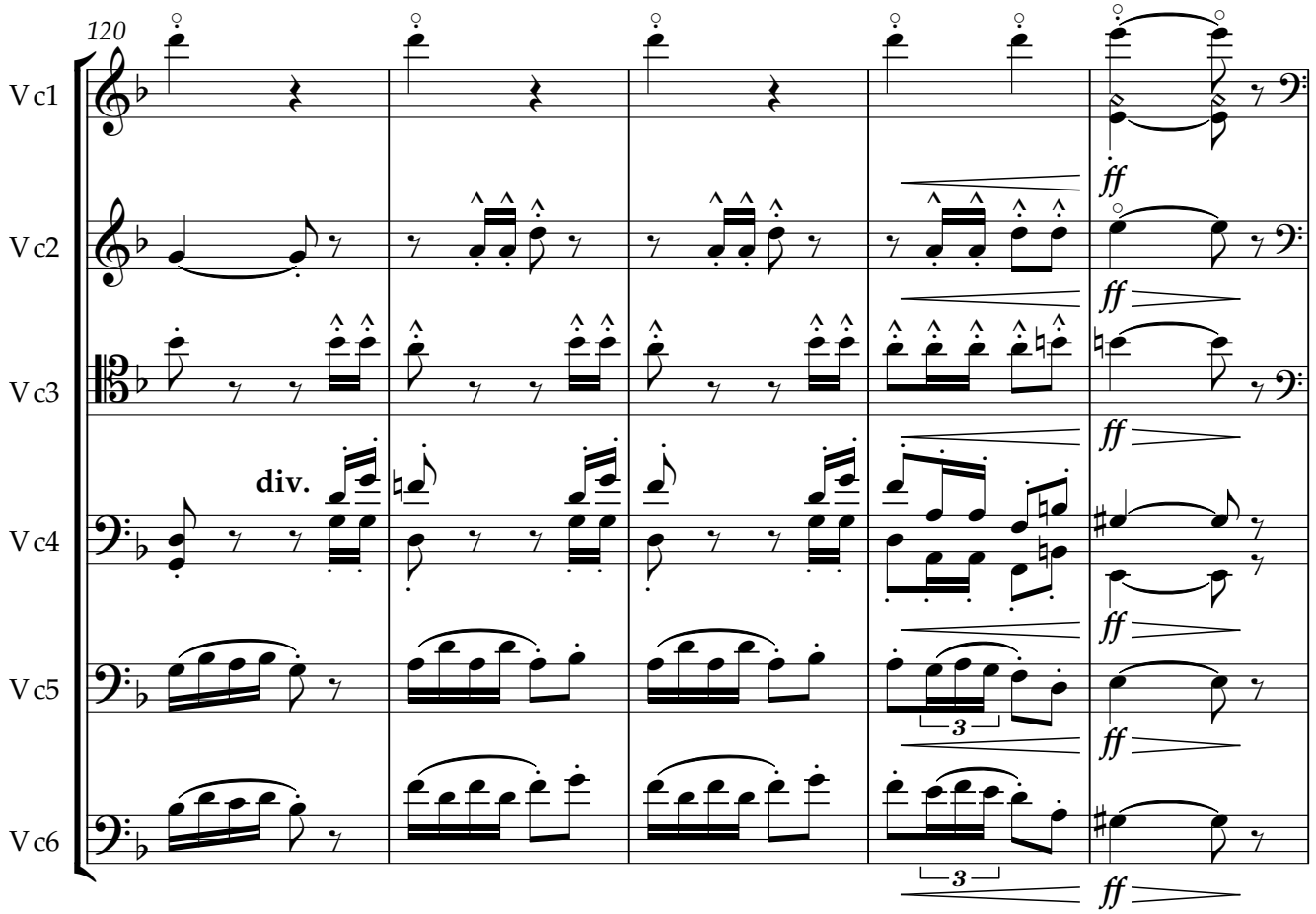

93
E
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
p leggiero
arco
p
Soli
arco
pp
pp
p
leggiero
div.
p
tr
Soli
p
tr
Soli
mp

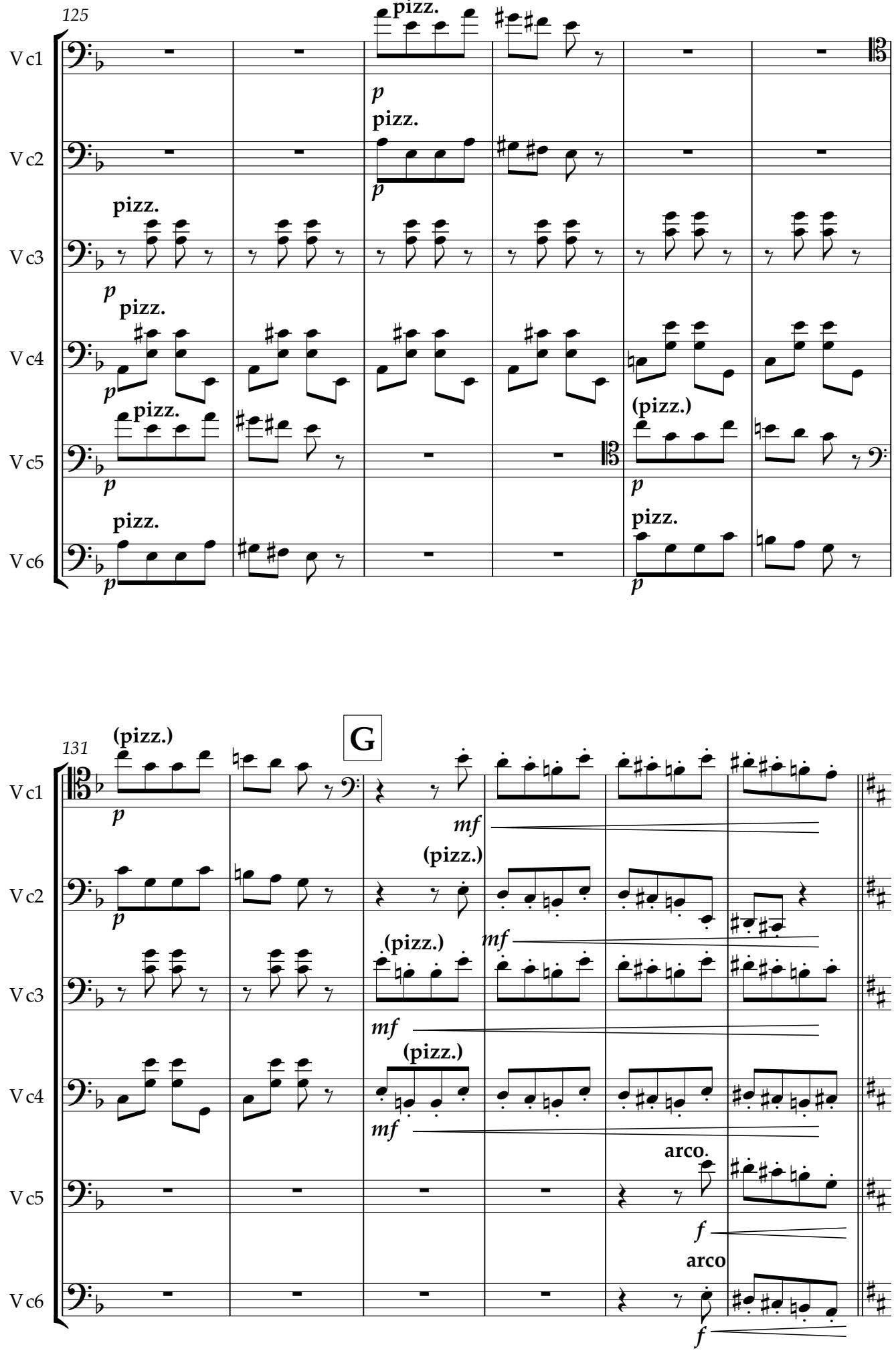

98
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
p leggiero
unis
p
pp
tr
tr
pp
pp

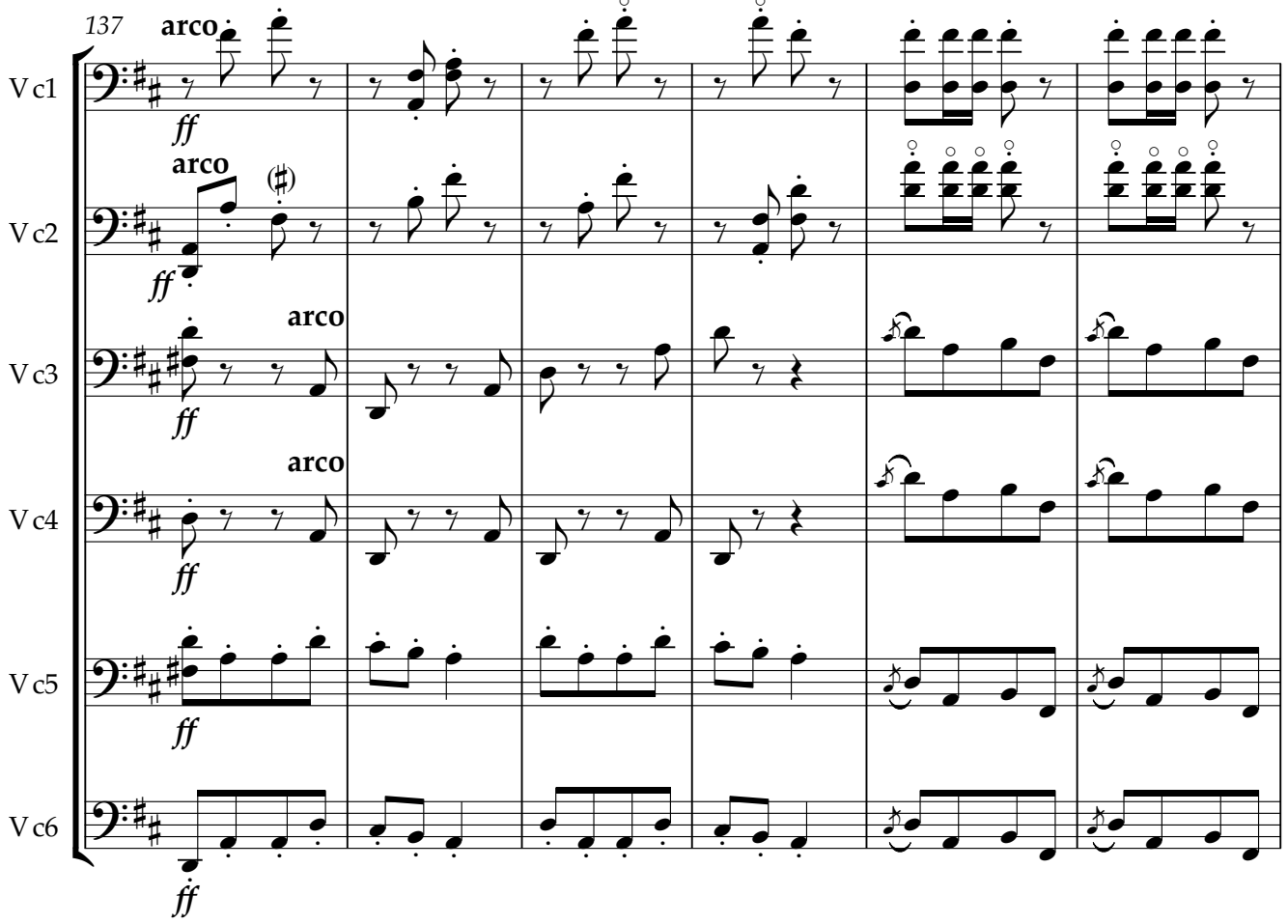

103
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
f
p
div.
unis
mf

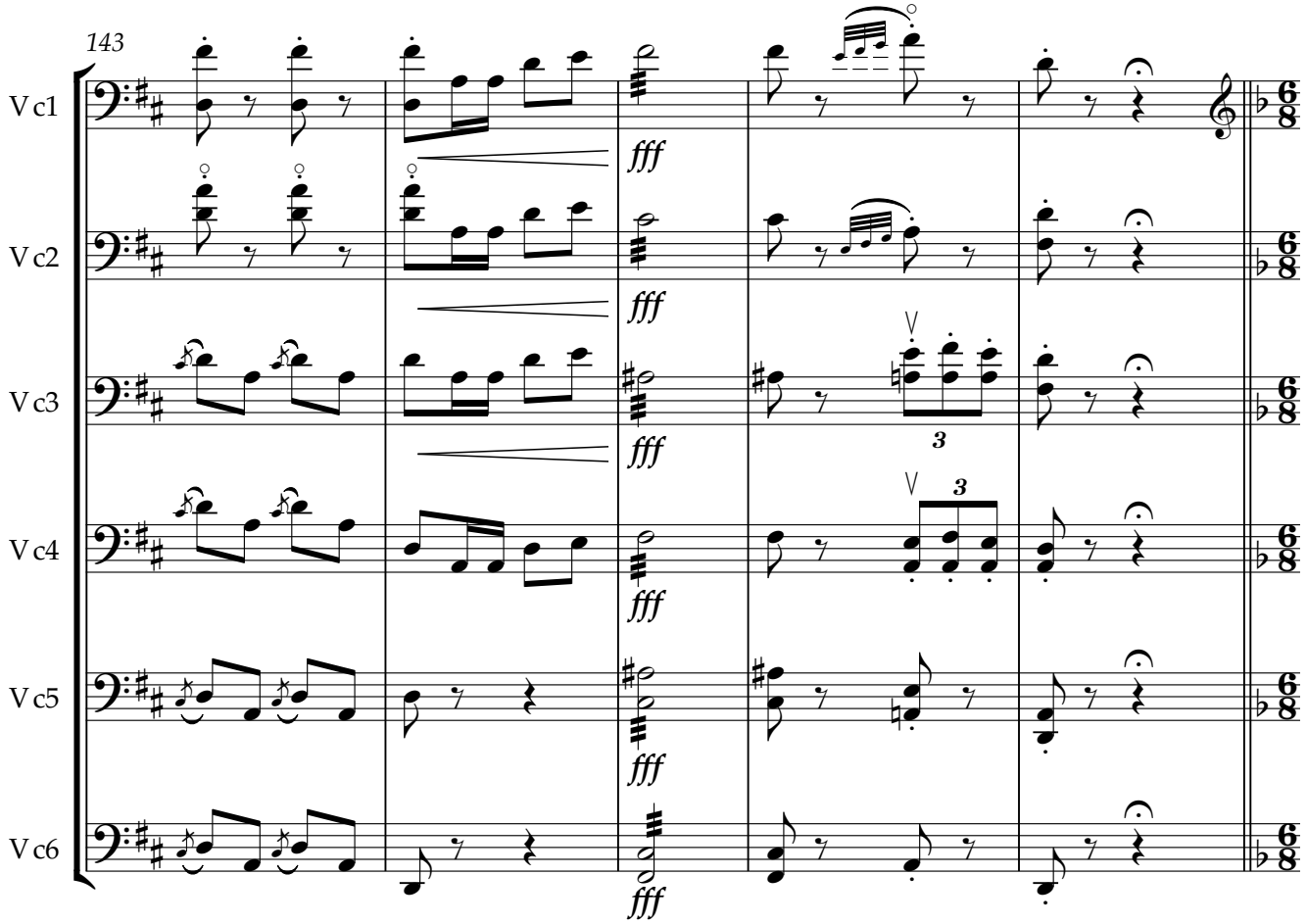

F
(like a triangle)
(artificial harmonic)
109
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
(simile)
(fanfare)
mf
pizz.
(pizz.)
div.
arco
f

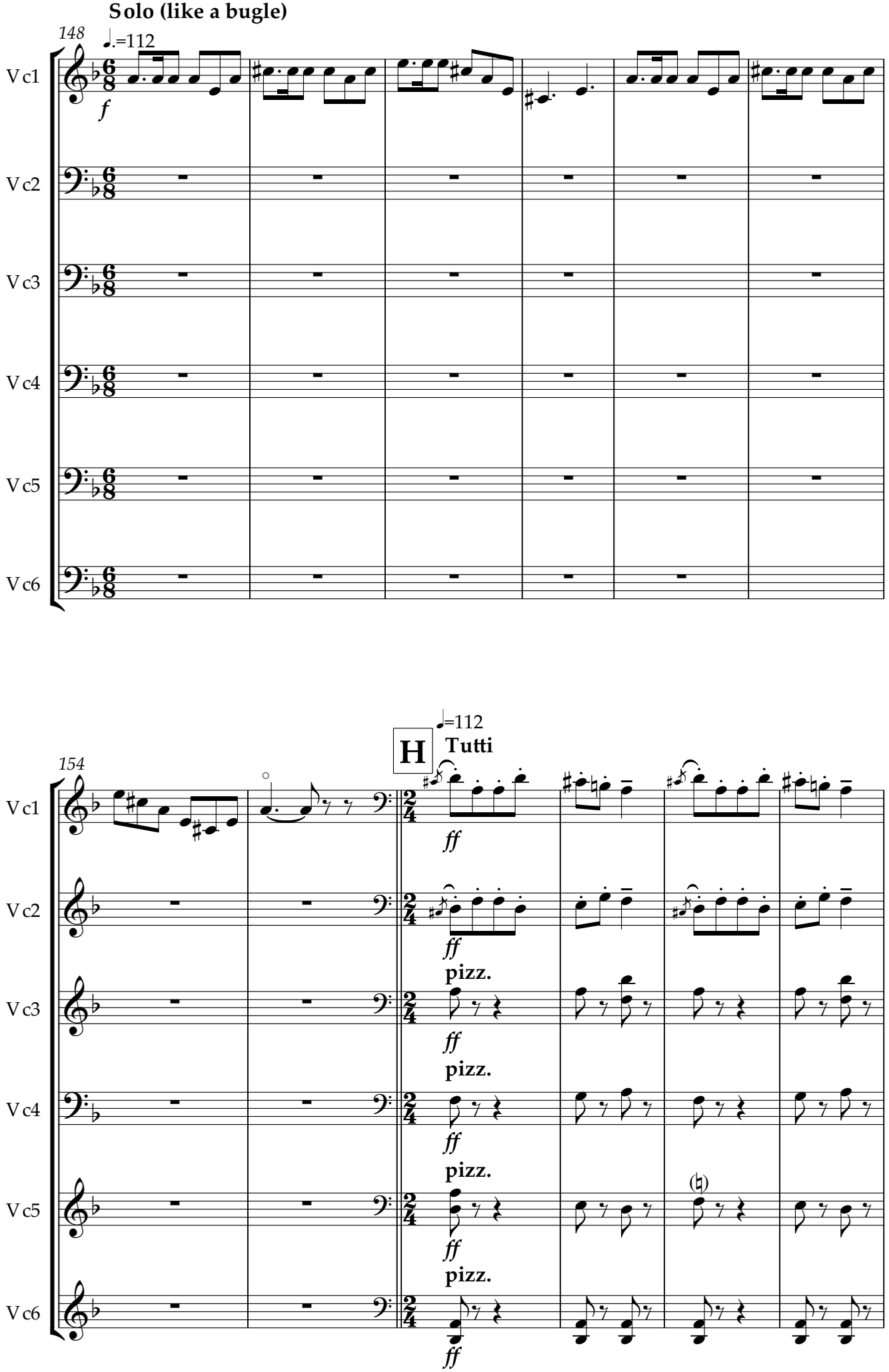

114
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
f
mf
arco
unis.
3

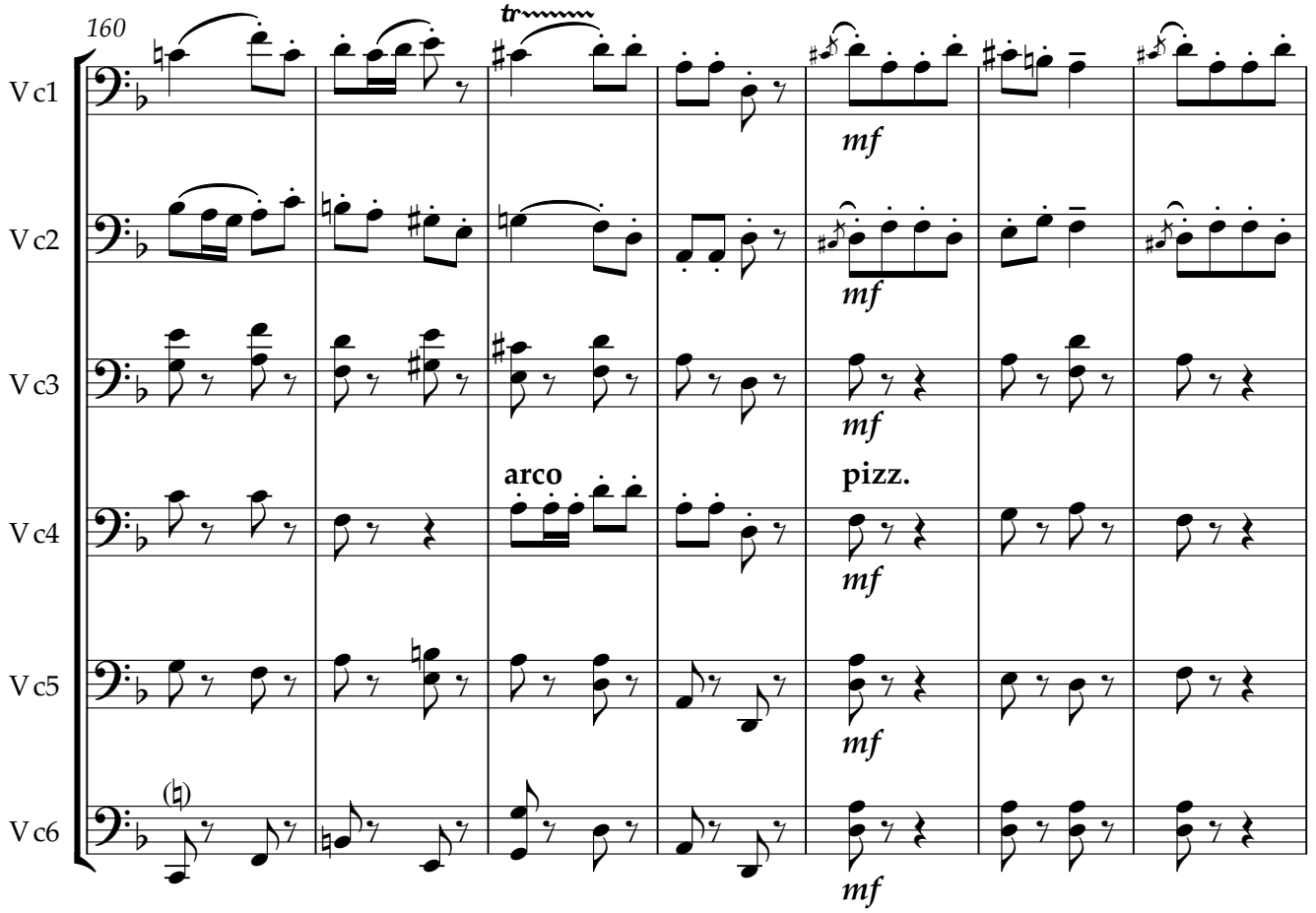

120
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
div.
ff
3

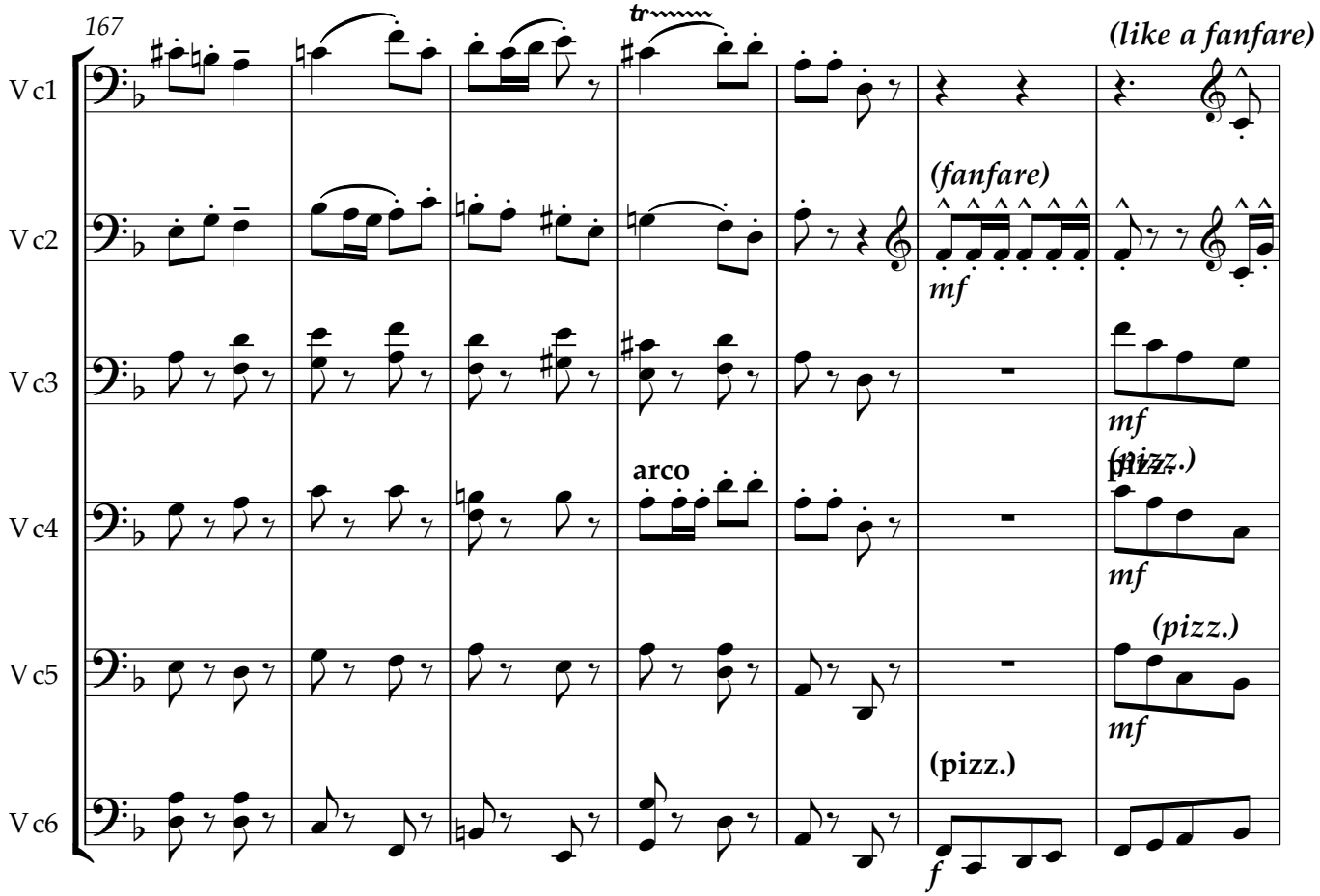

125
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pizz.
p
(pizz.)
131
G
mf
arco.
f
arco

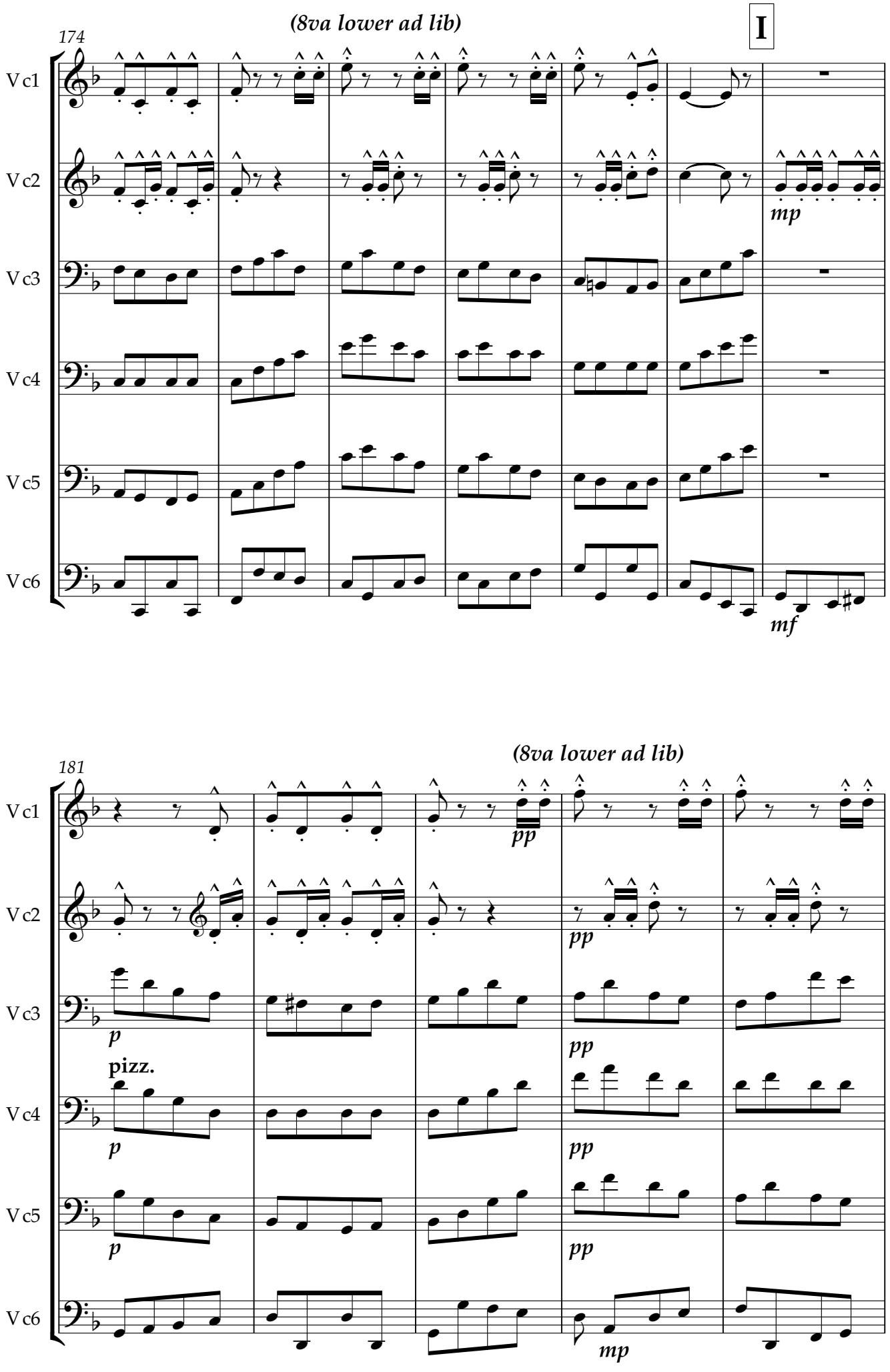

137
arco
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
ff

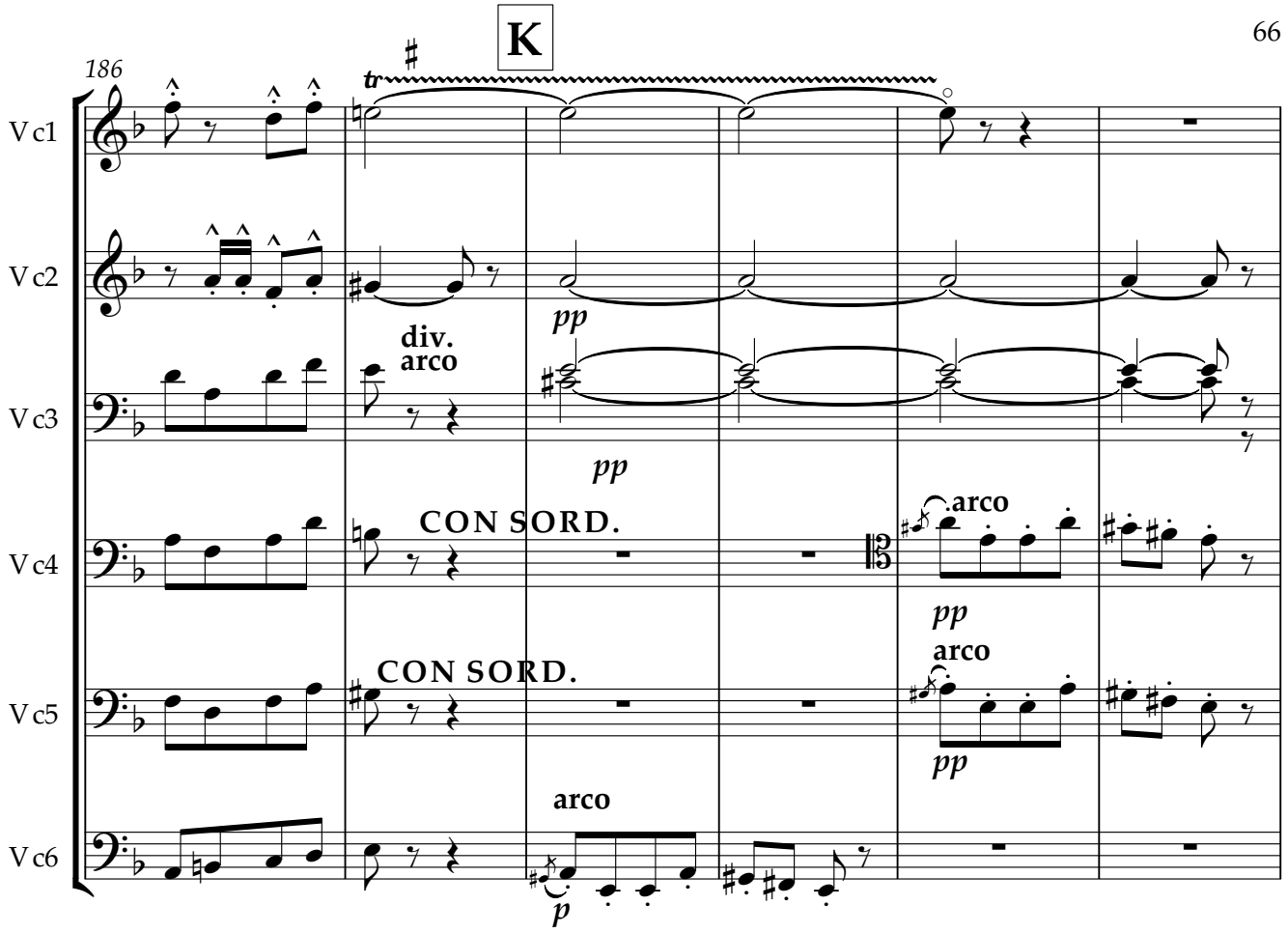

143
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
fff
3

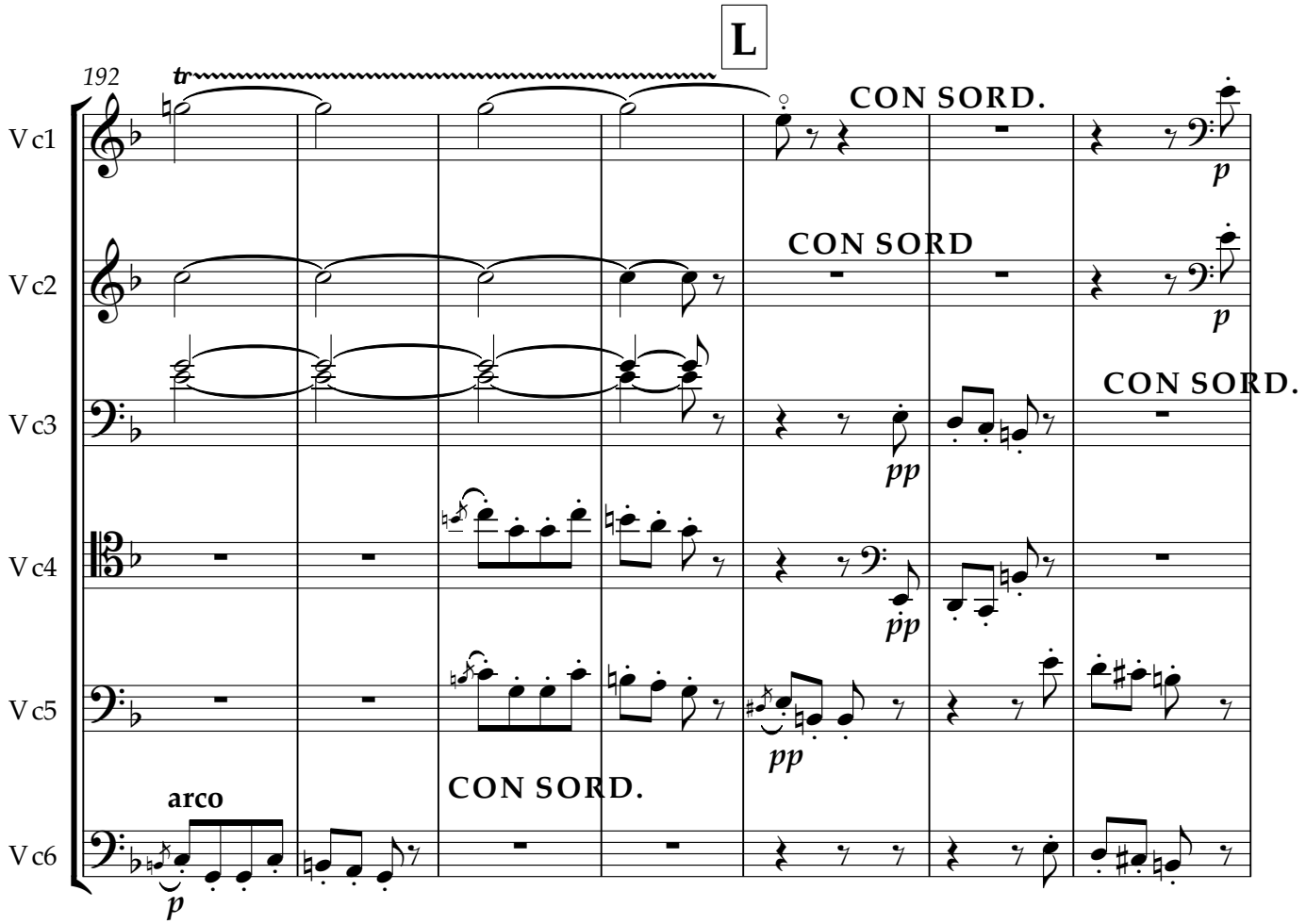

Solo (like a bugle)
148
♩.=112
f
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
154
H
♩=112
Tutti
ff
pizz.

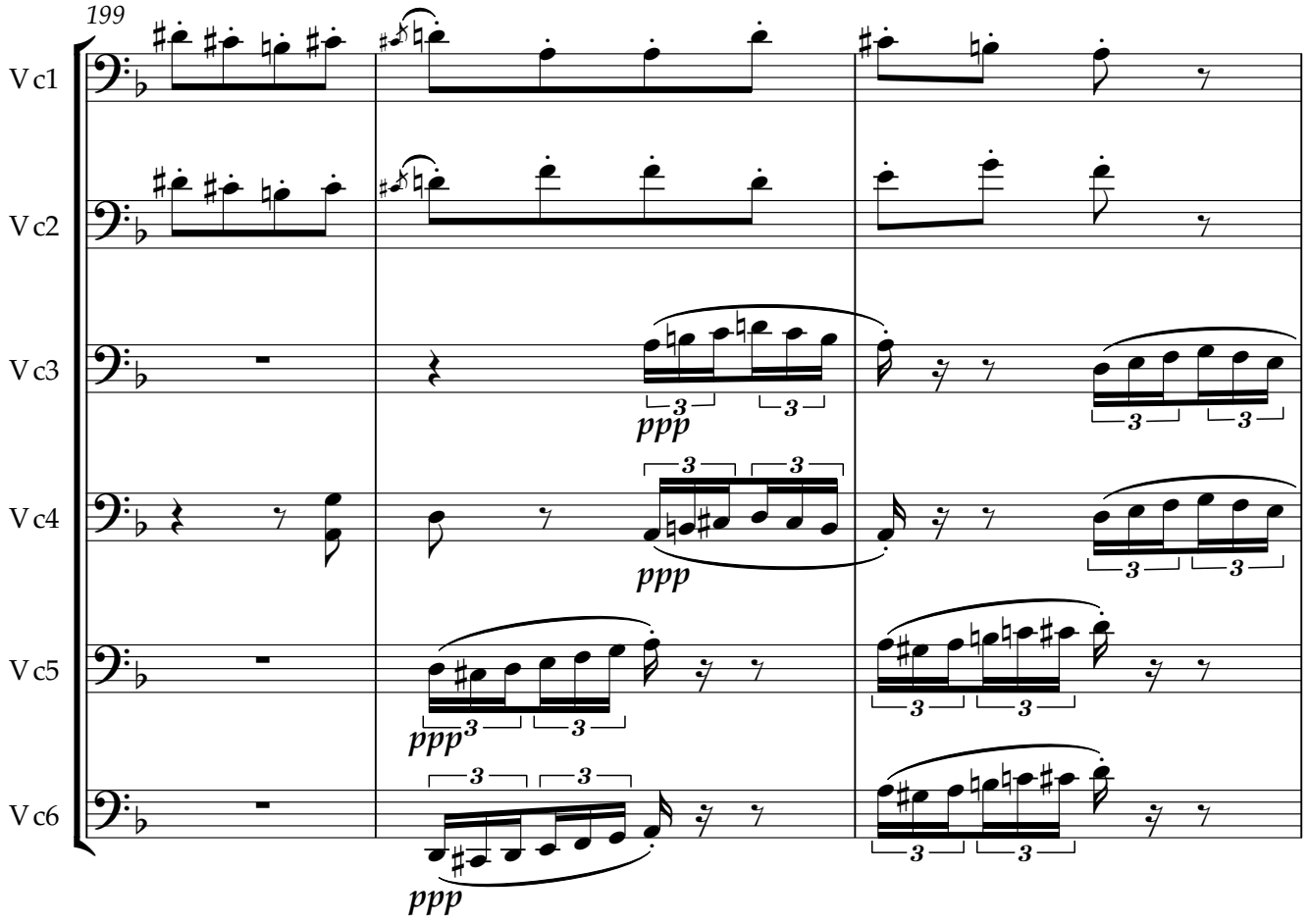

160
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
tr
mf
arco
pizz.

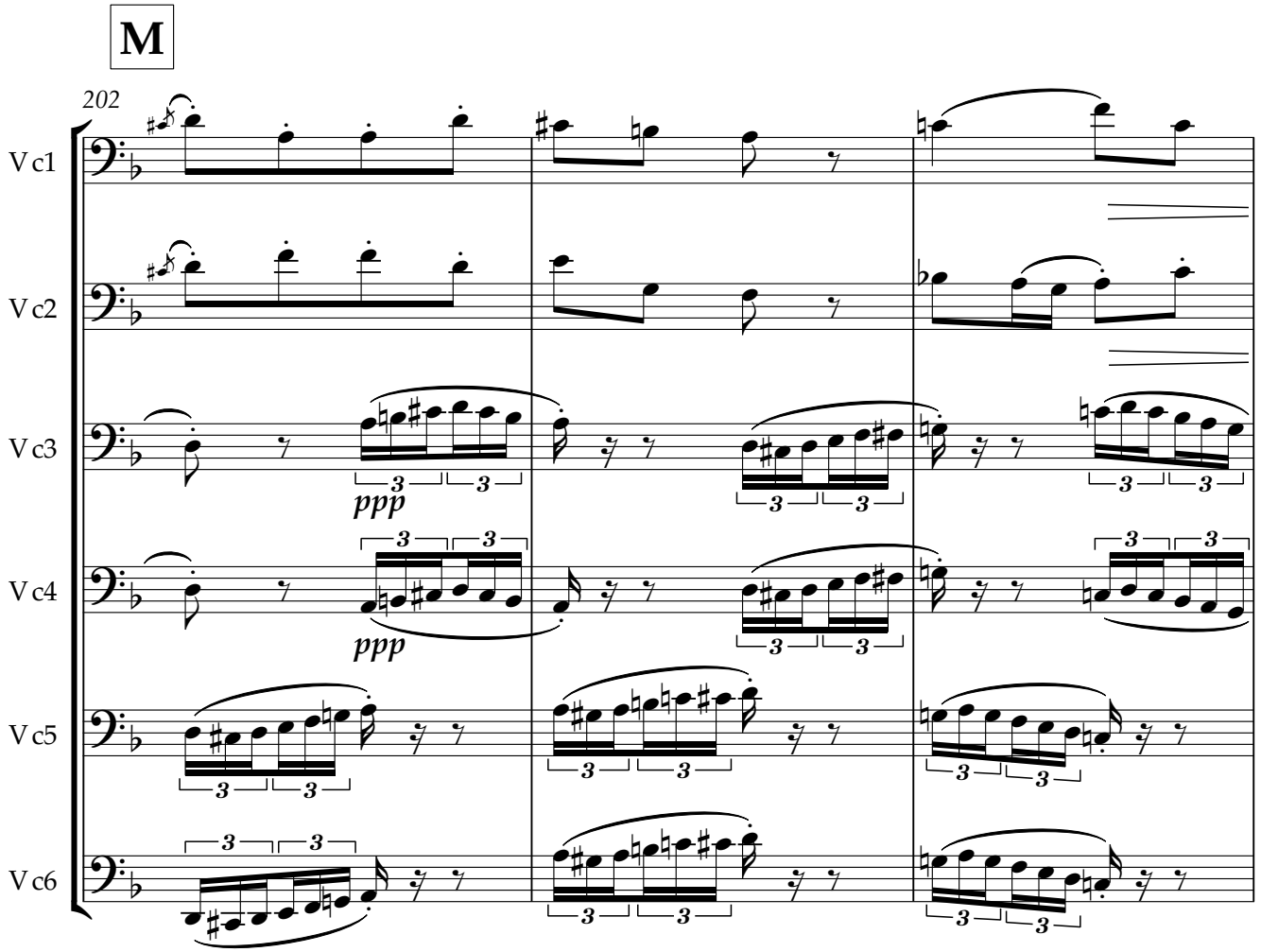

167
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
tr
(like a fanfare)
(fanfare)
mf
arco
pizz.
(pizz.)
(pizz.)
f

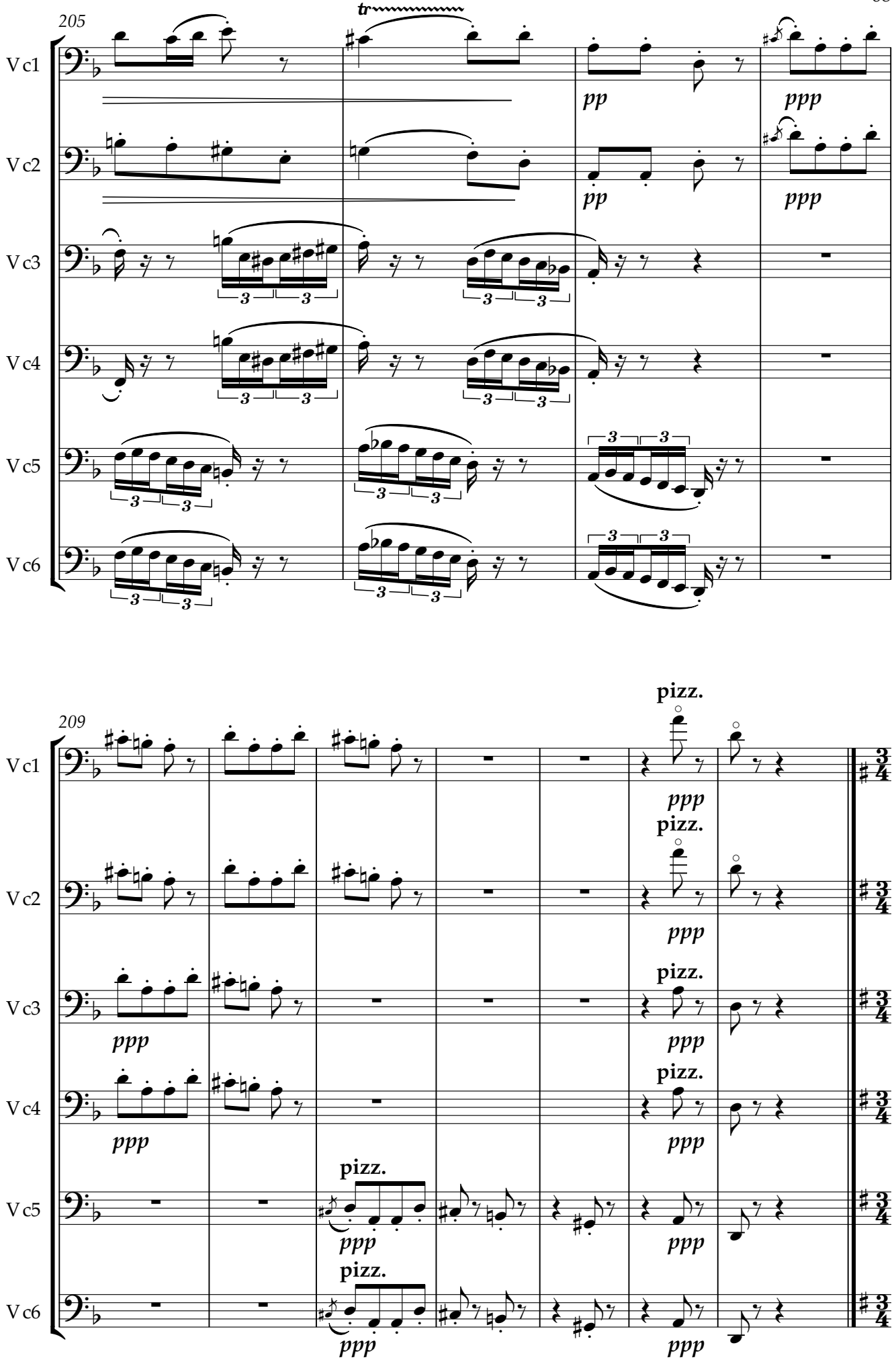

(8va lower ad lib)
I
174
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
mp
mf
(8va lower ad lib)
181
pp
p
pizz.
mp


K
186
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
tr
pp
div.
arco
CON SORD.
arco
pp
CON SORD.
arco
pp
arco
p


L
192
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
tr
CON SORD.
p
CON SORD
p
CON SORD.
pp
pp
pp
CON SORD.
arco
p


199
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
ppp
ppp
ppp
ppp


M
202
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
ppp
ppp


205
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
tr
pp
ppp
3
209
pizz.
ppp

VI. Danse Boheme

Andantino quasi allegretto (♩=100)

SENZA SORD.

1

Vc1 **pizz.** *pp*

Vc2 **pizz. SENZA SORD** *pp*

Vc3 **SENZA SORD** **pizz.** *pp*

Vc4 **pizz. SENZA SORD** *pp*

Vc5 **SENZA SORD** **arco** **Soli** *pp*

Vc6 **SENZA SORD** **arco** *pp*

5

Vc1

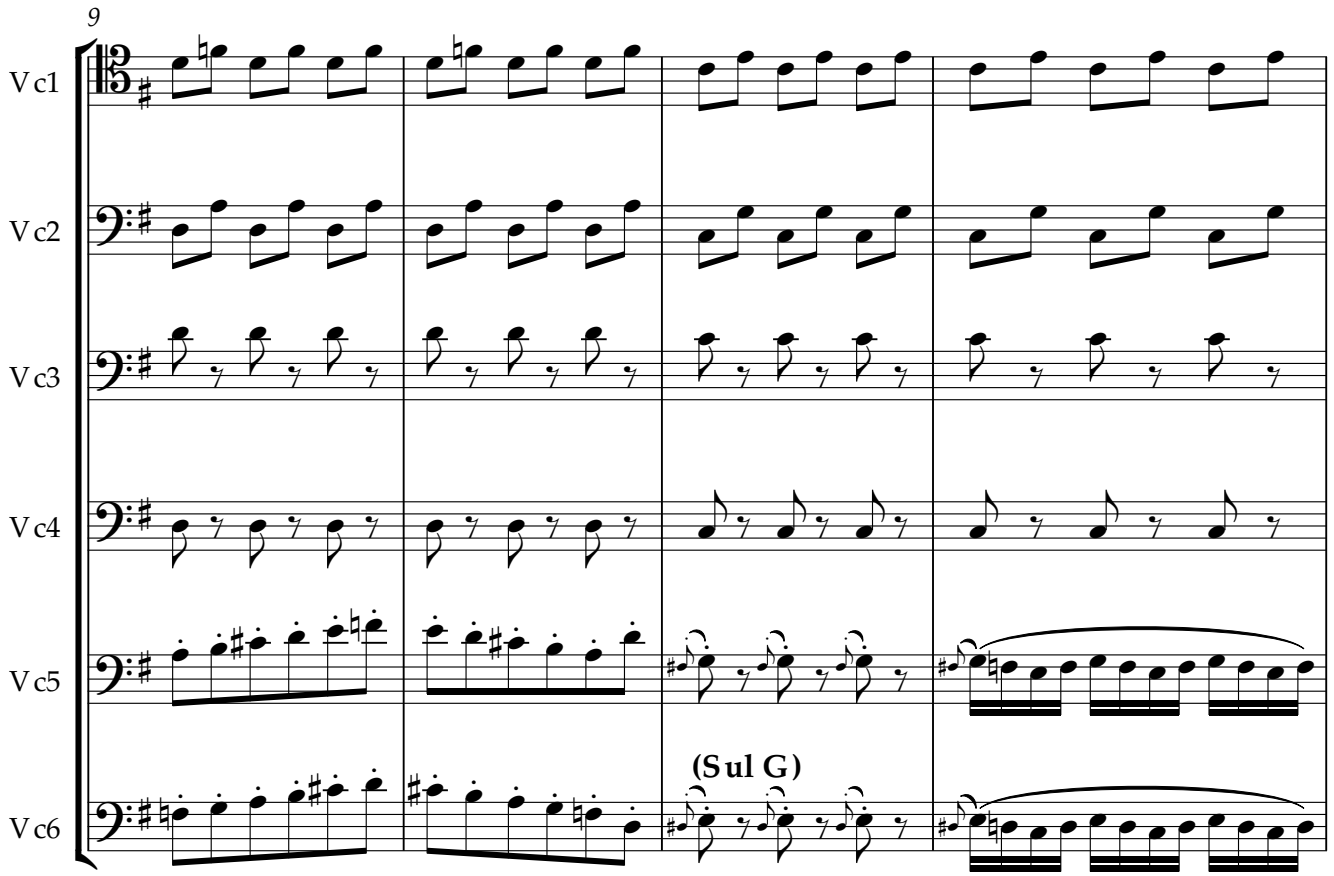
Vc2

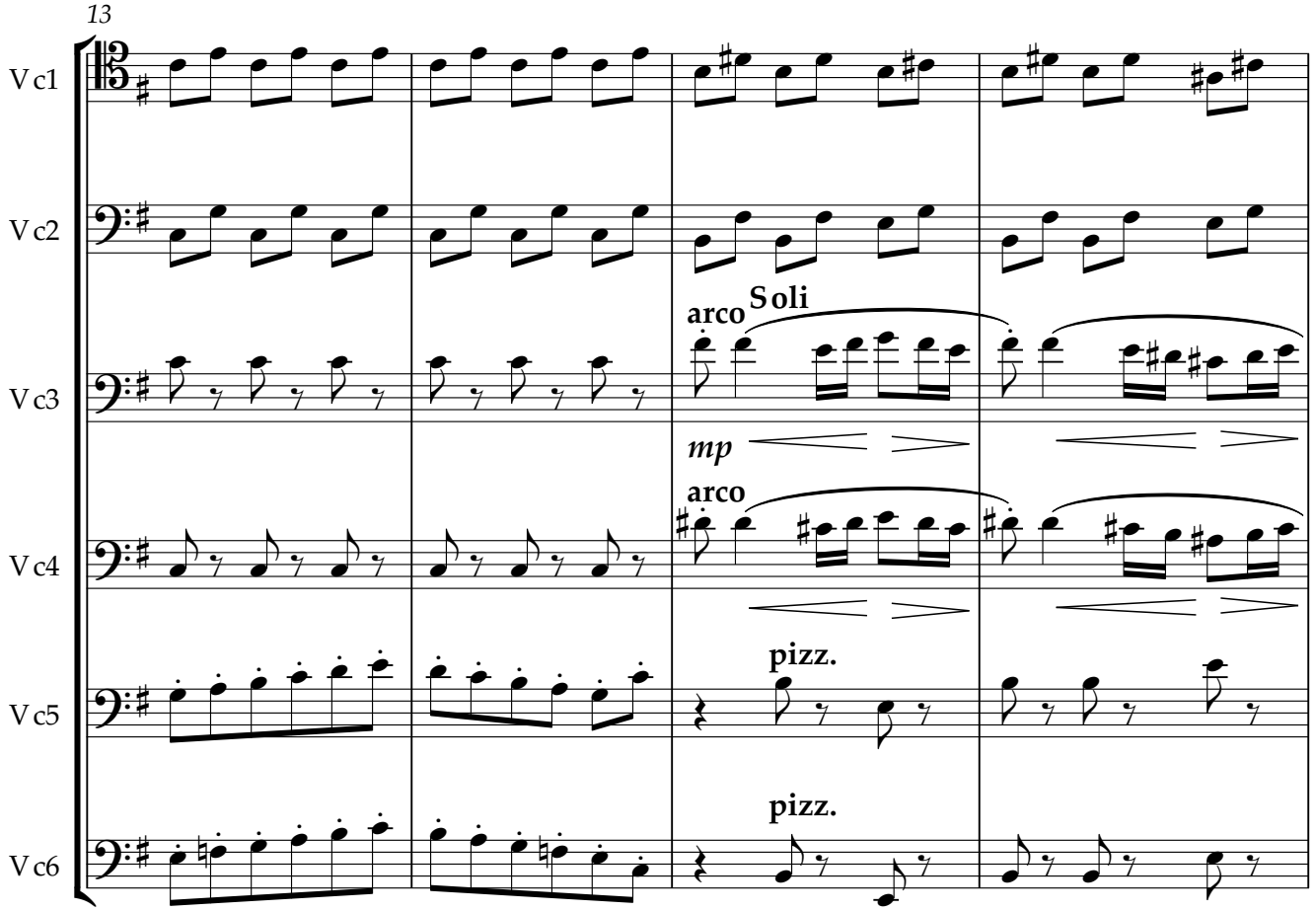
Vc3

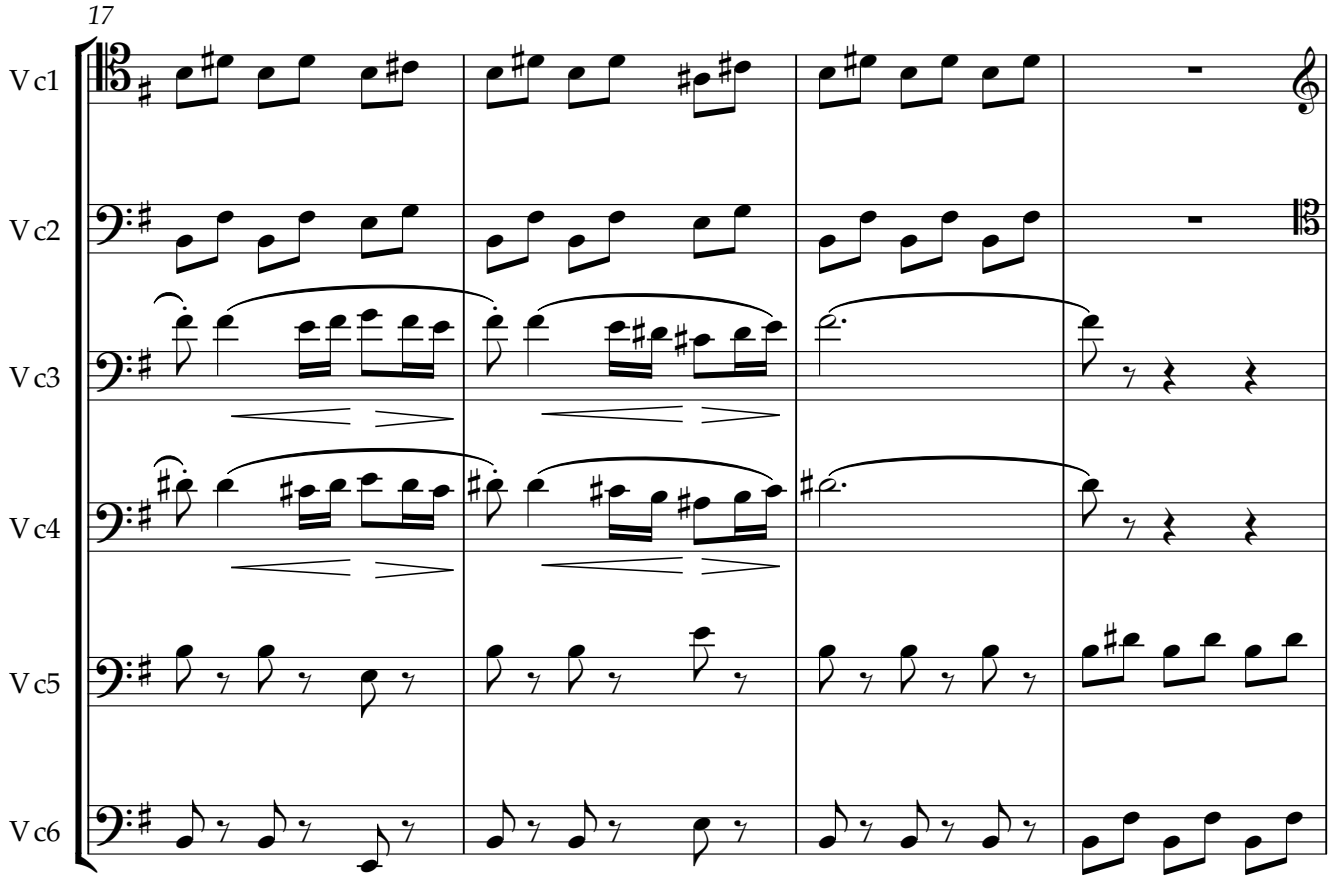
Vc4

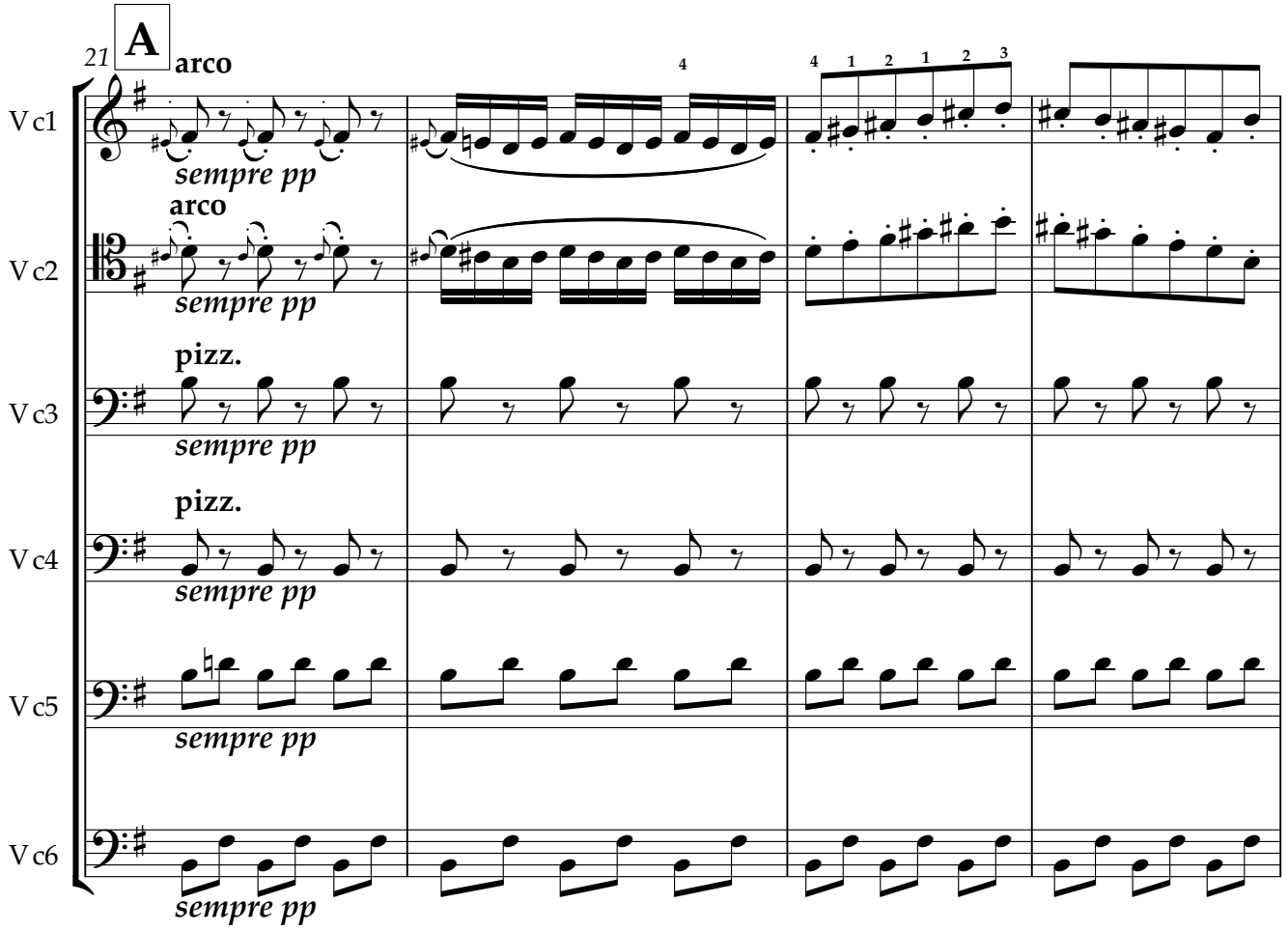
Vc5

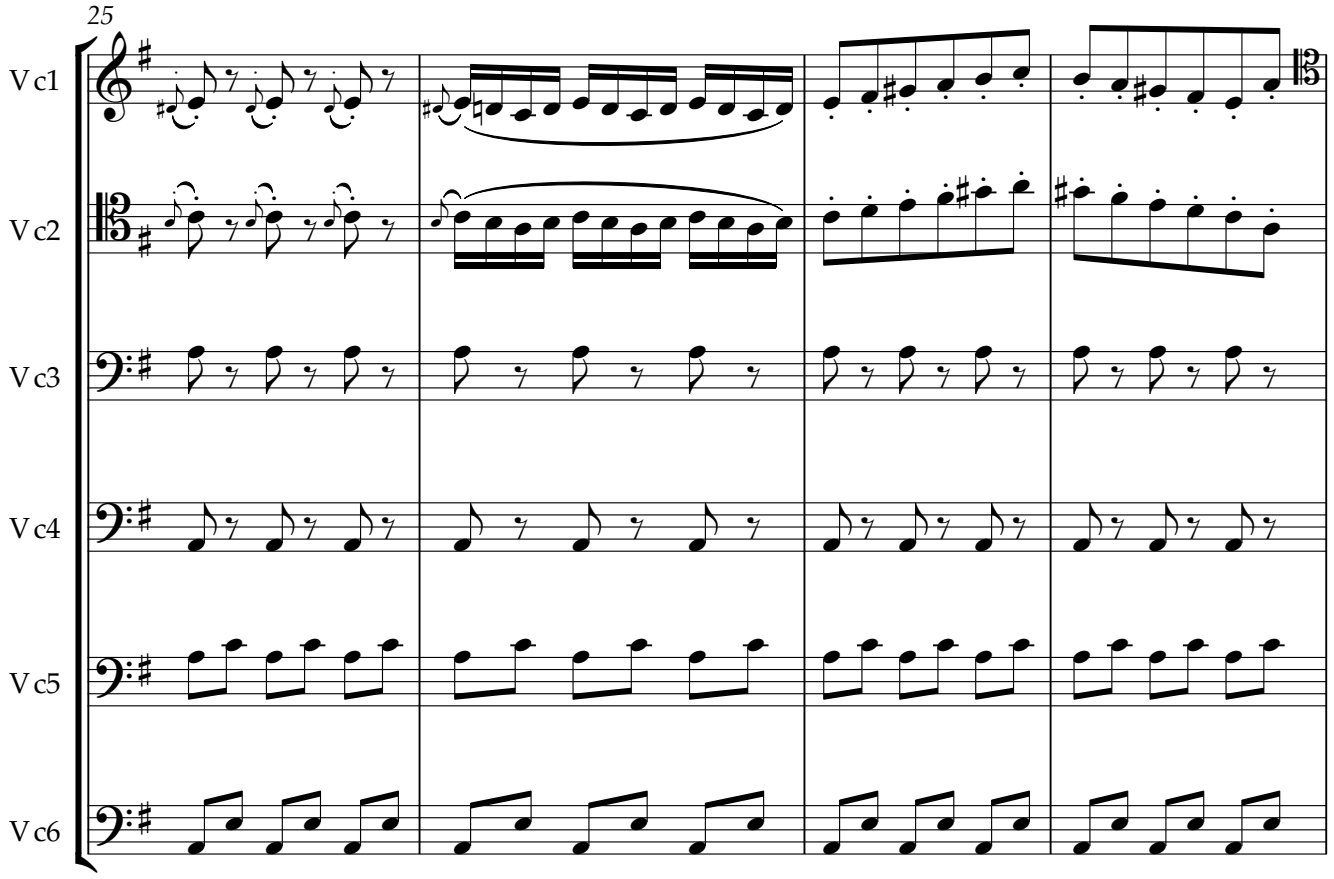
Vc6

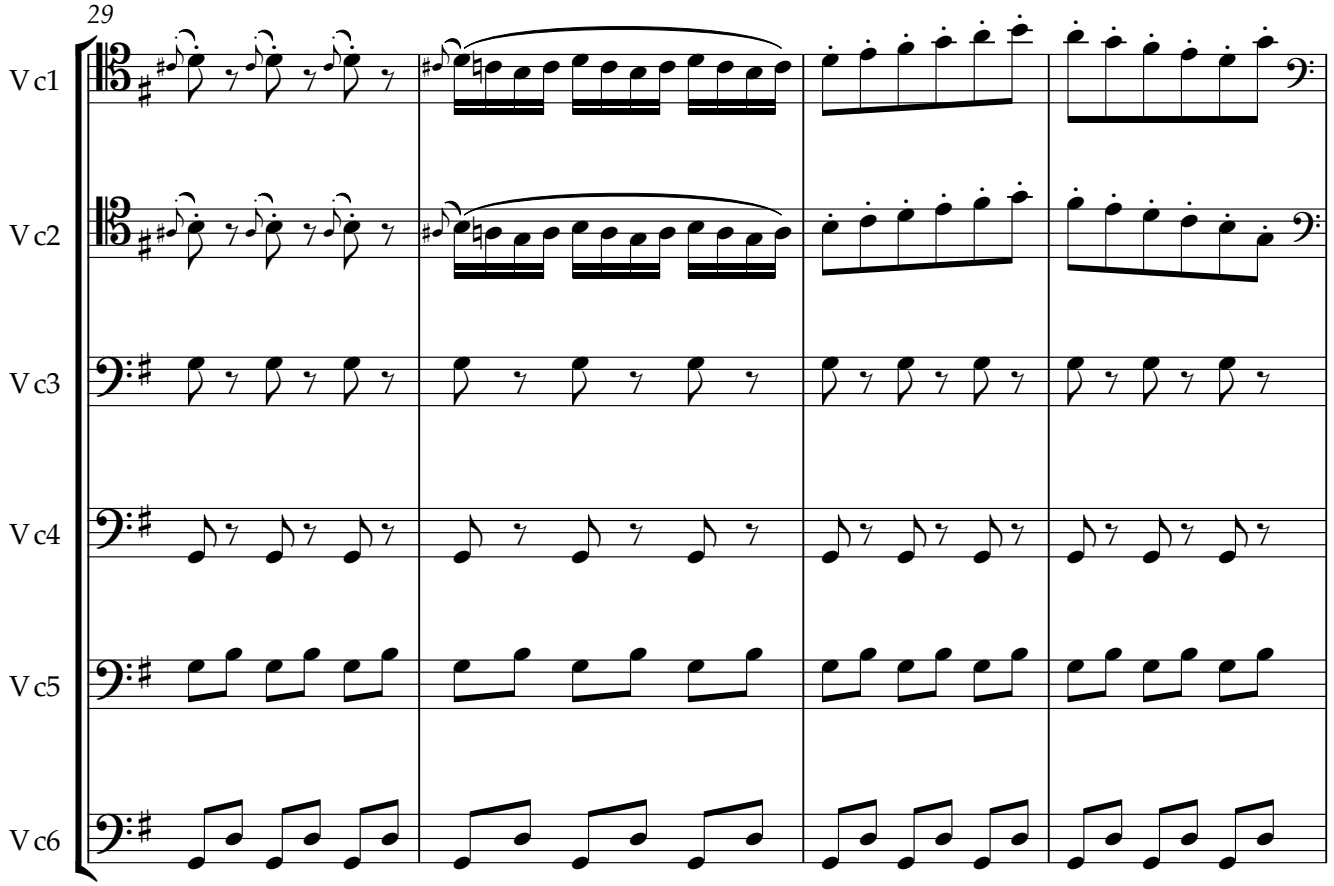

9
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
(Sul G)

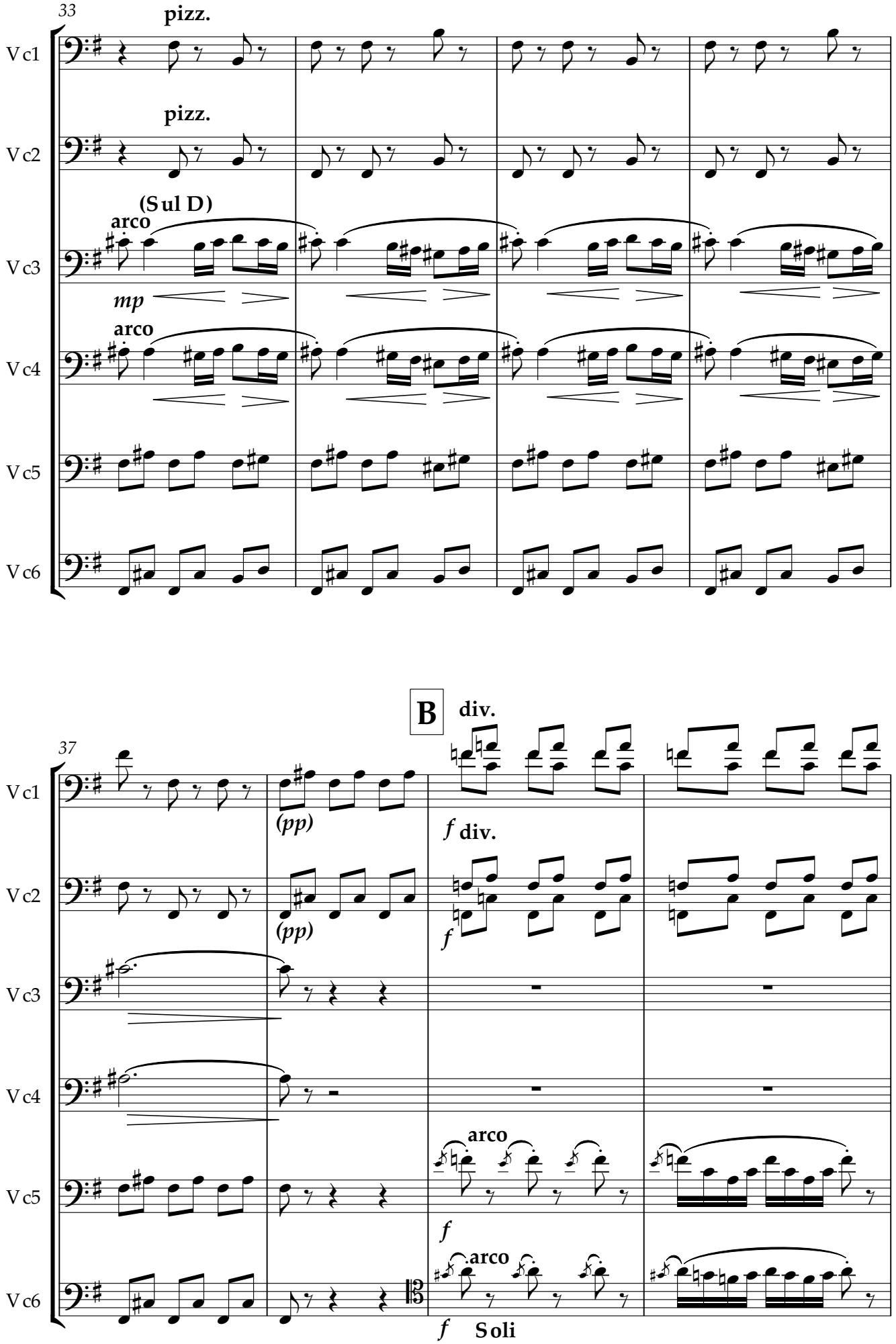

13
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
arco
Soli
mp
arco
pizz.
pizz.

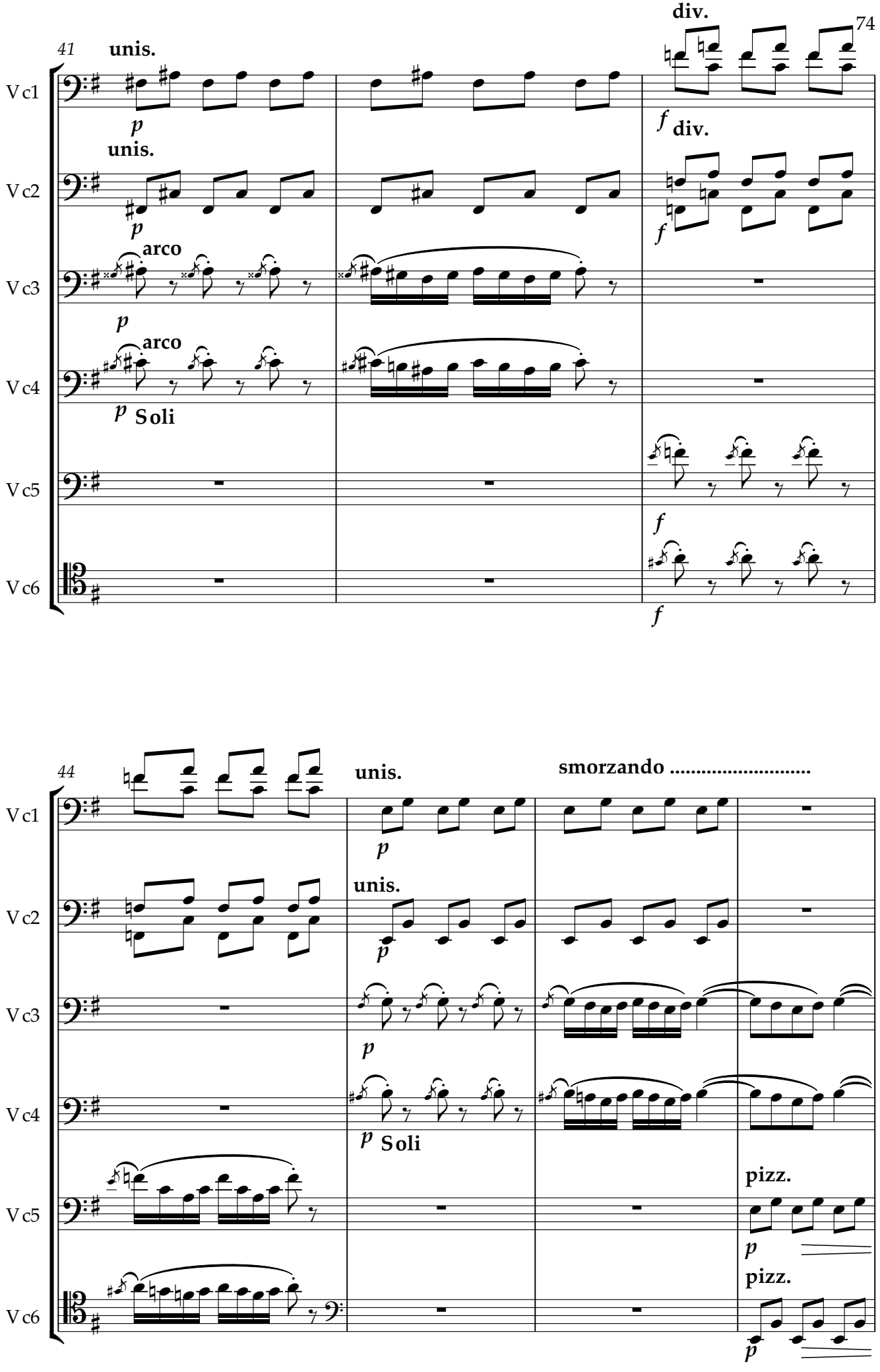

17
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

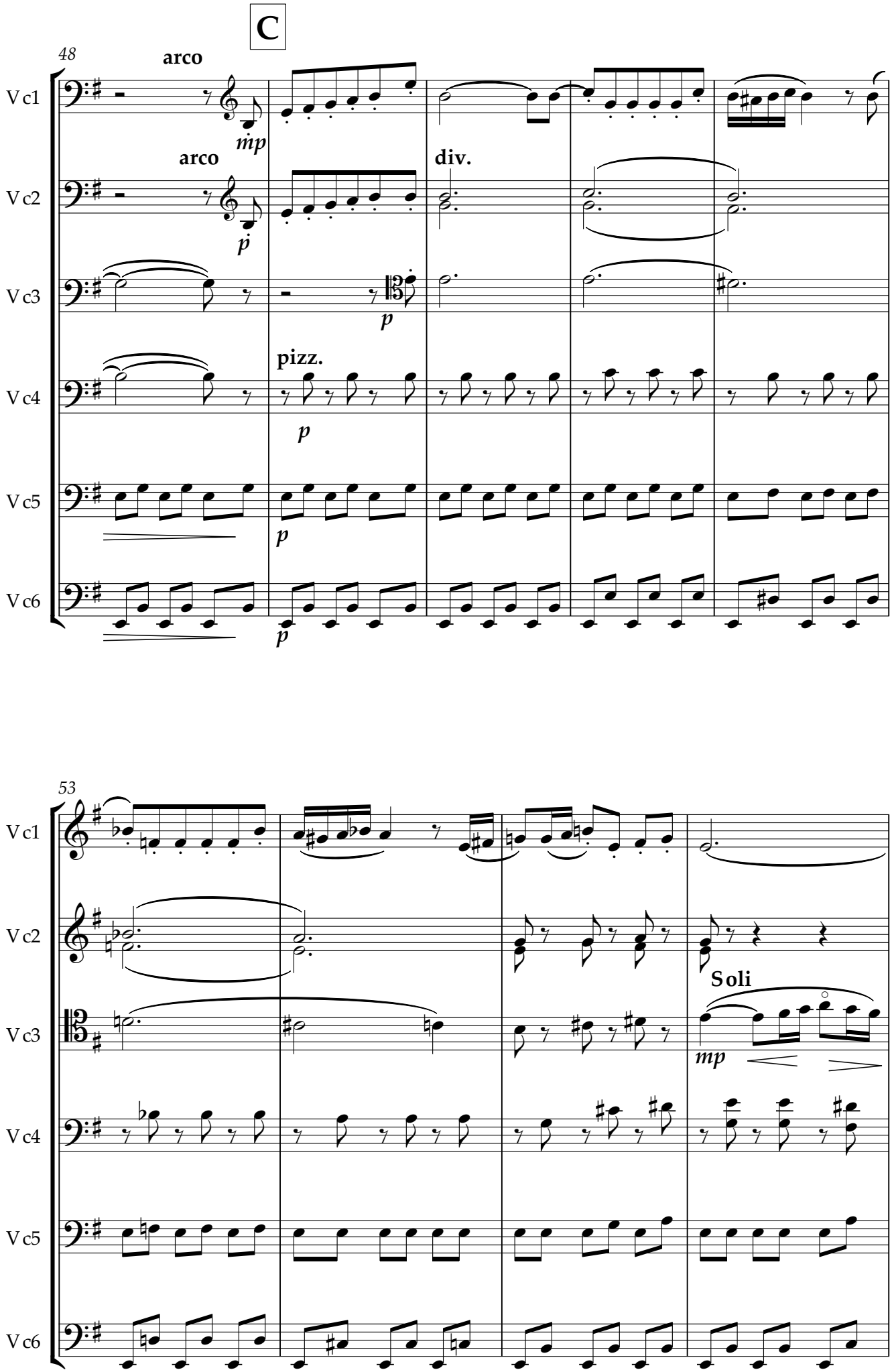

21
A
arco
sempre pp
arco
sempre pp
pizz.
sempre pp
pizz.
sempre pp
sempre pp
sempre pp
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

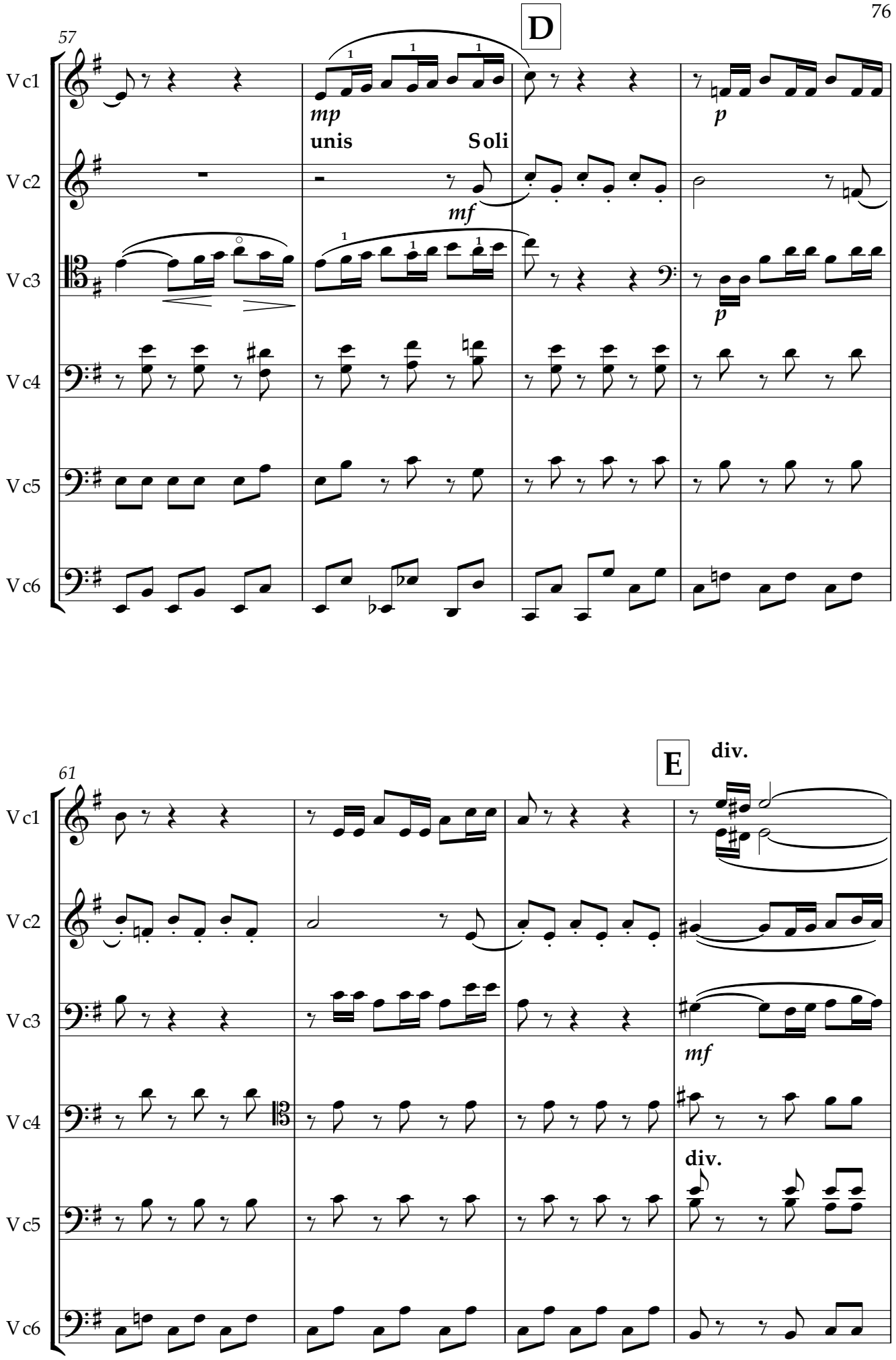

25
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

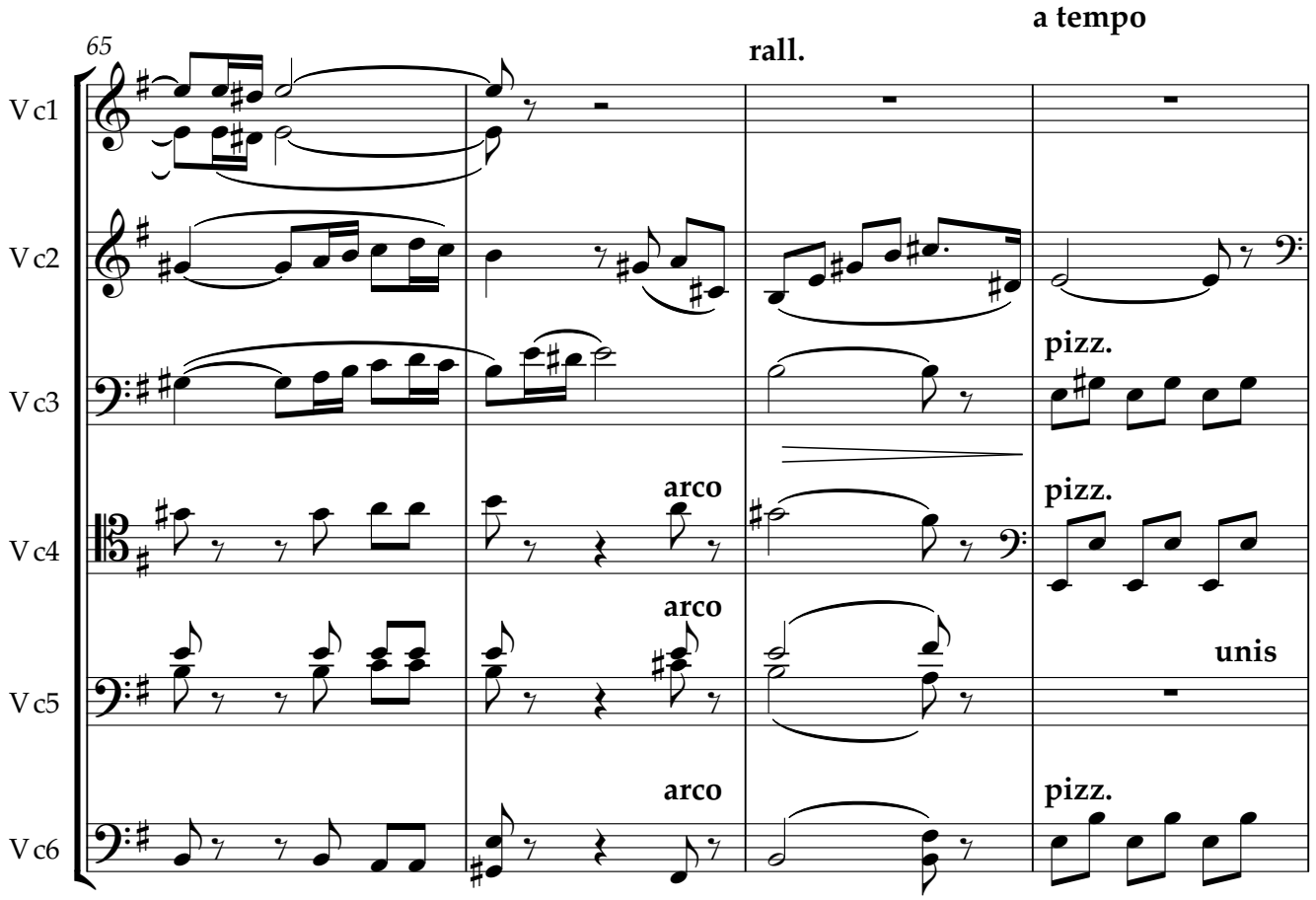

29
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

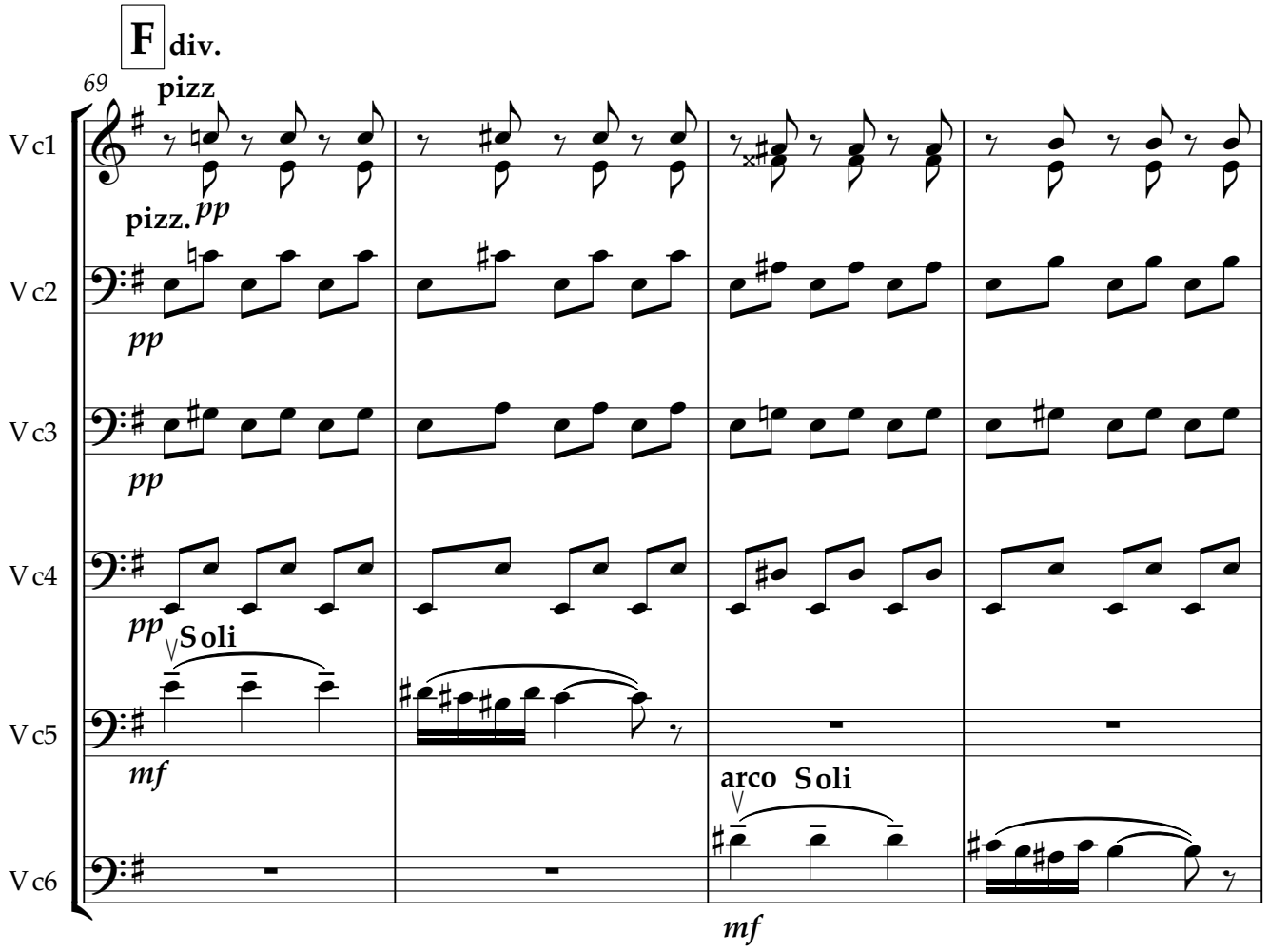

33
pizz.
Vc1
pizz.
Vc2
(Sul D)
arco
Vc3
mp
arco
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
B
div.
37
(pp)
f div.
(pp)
f
arco
f
arco
f Soli

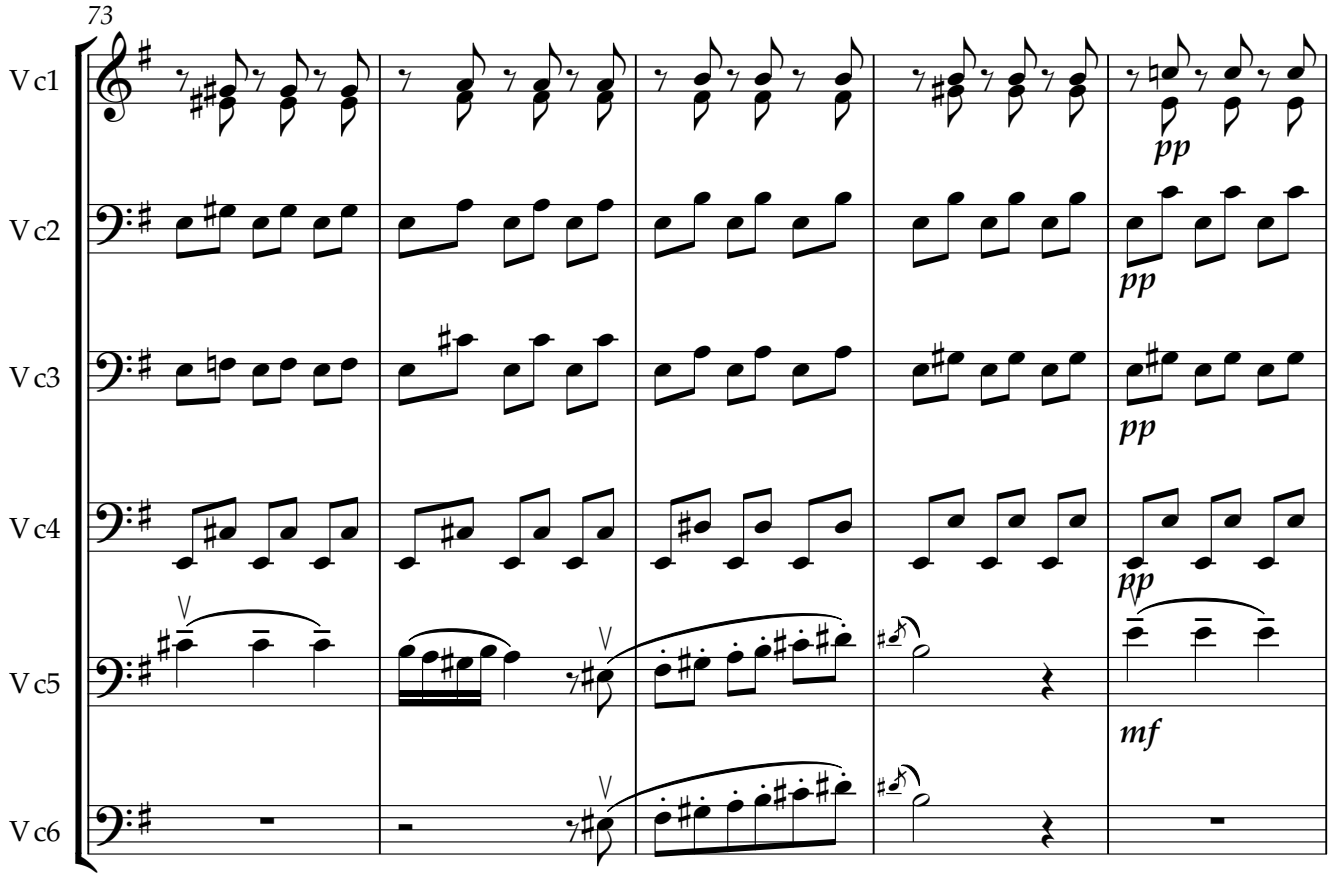

41
unis.
div.
Vc1
p
f
div.
unis.
Vc2
p
f
arco
Vc3
p
arco
Vc4
p
Soli
Vc5
f
Vc6
f
44
unis.
smorzando .....
Vc1
p
unis.
Vc2
p
Vc3
p
Vc4
p
Soli
pizz.
Vc5
p
pizz.
Vc6
p

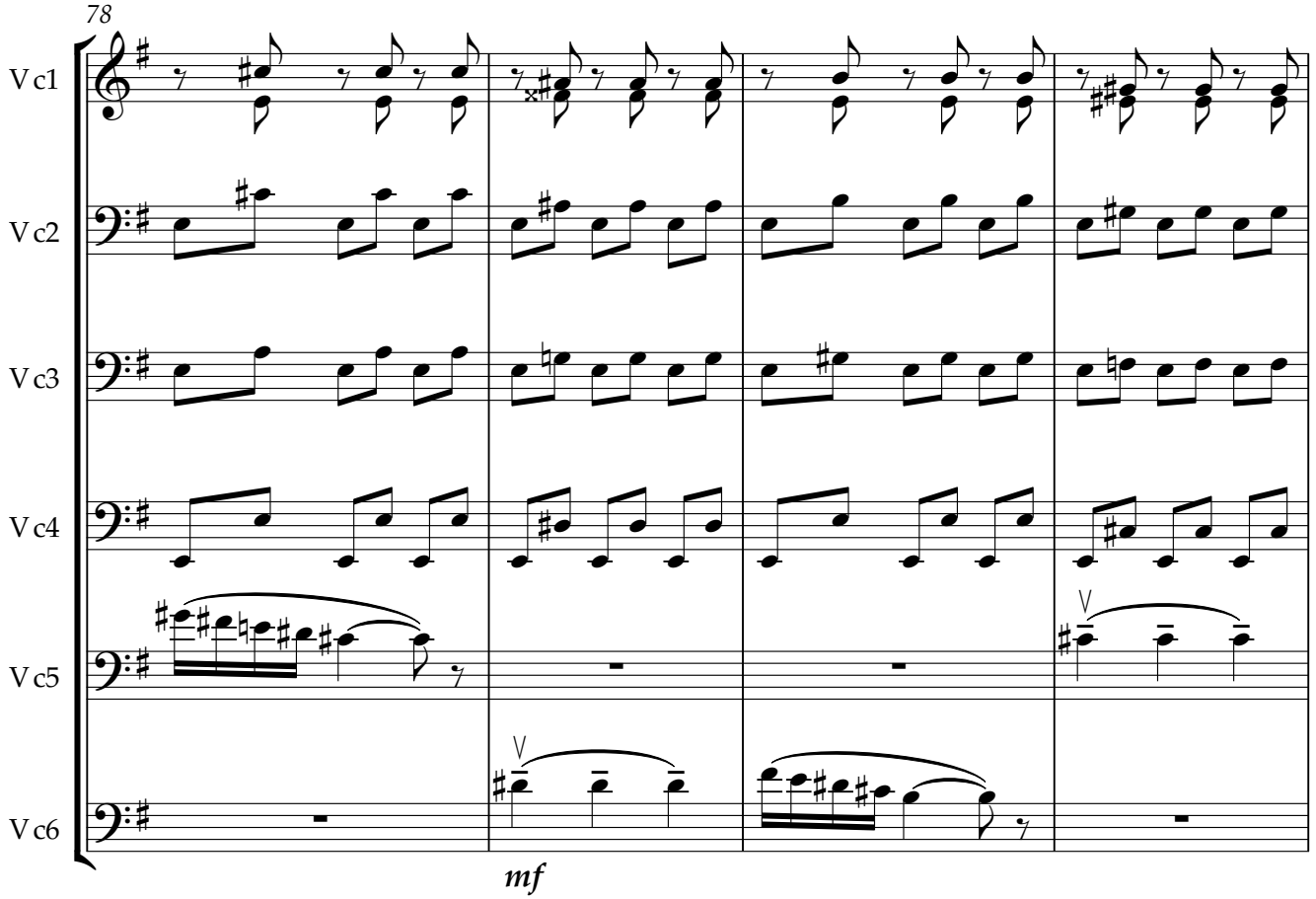

C
48
arco
Vc1
mp
arco
div.
Vc2
p
Vc3
p
pizz.
Vc4
p
Vc5
p
Vc6
p
53
Vc1
Vc2
Soli
Vc3
mp
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

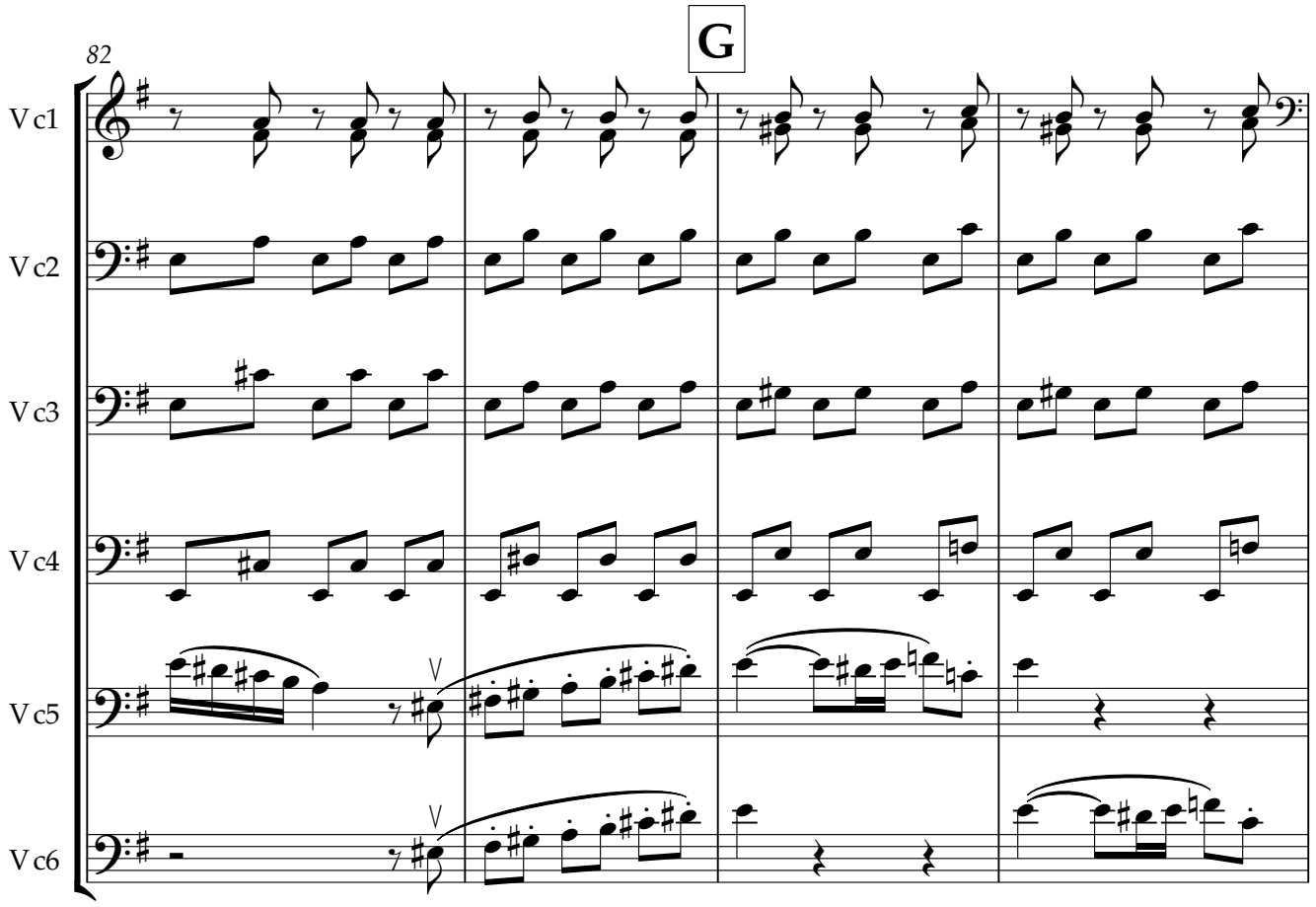

57
D
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
mp
unis
Soli
mf
p
p
61
E
div.
mf
div.

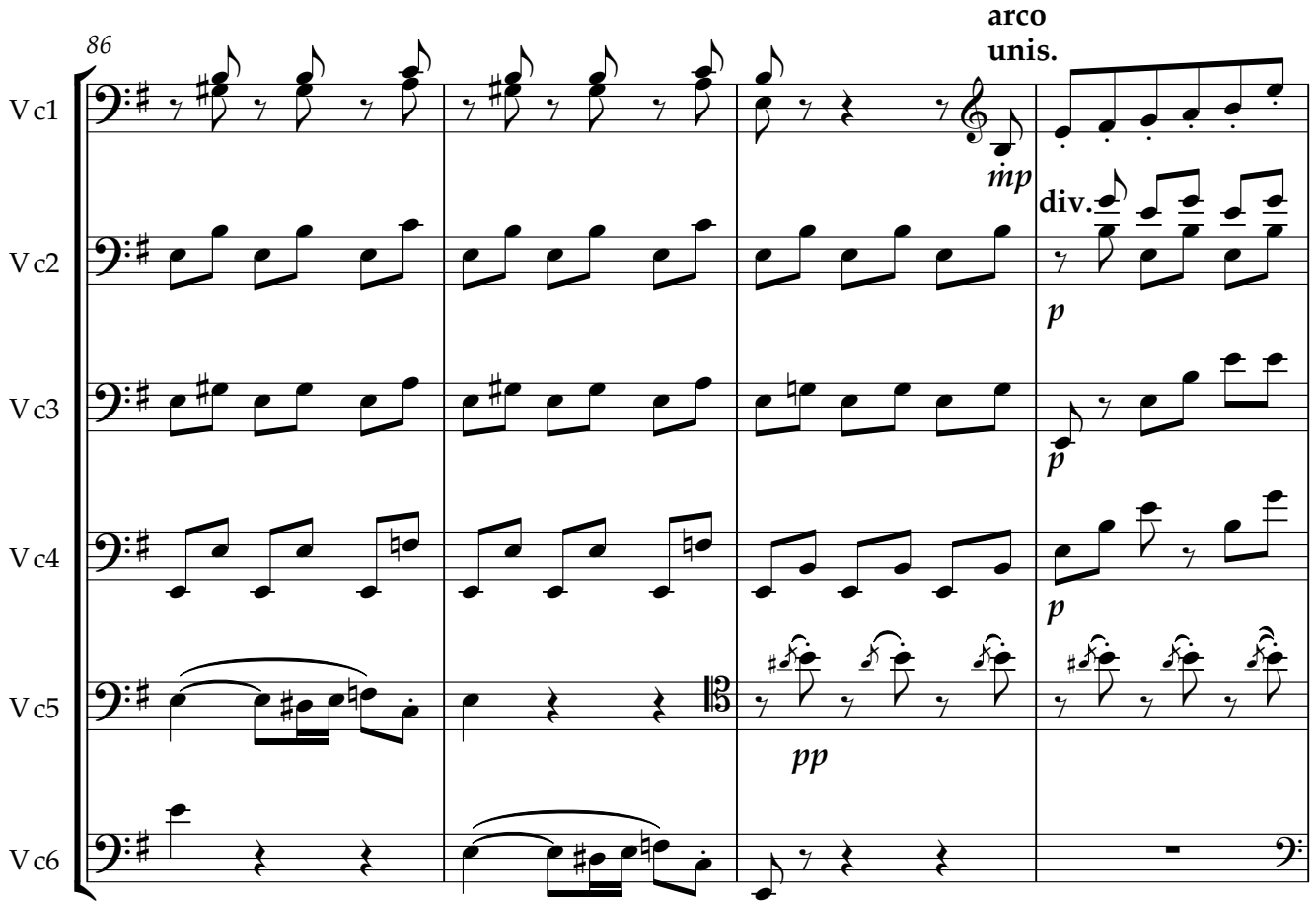

65
rall.
a tempo
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
unis
arco
pizz.

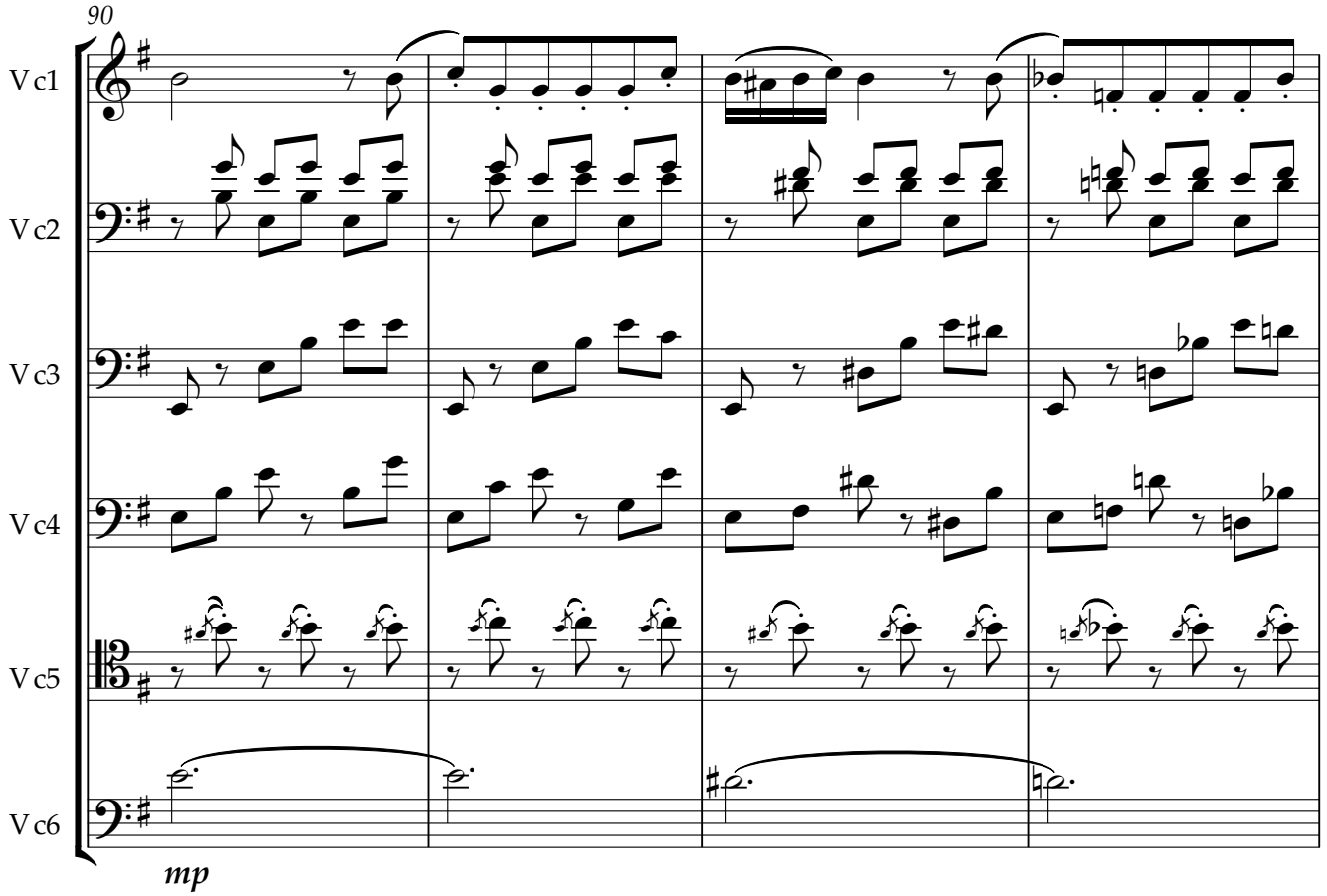

F
div.
69
pizz
Vc1
pizz.
pp
Vc2
pp
Vc3
pp
Vc4
pp
Soli
Vc5
mf
arco
Soli
Vc6
mf

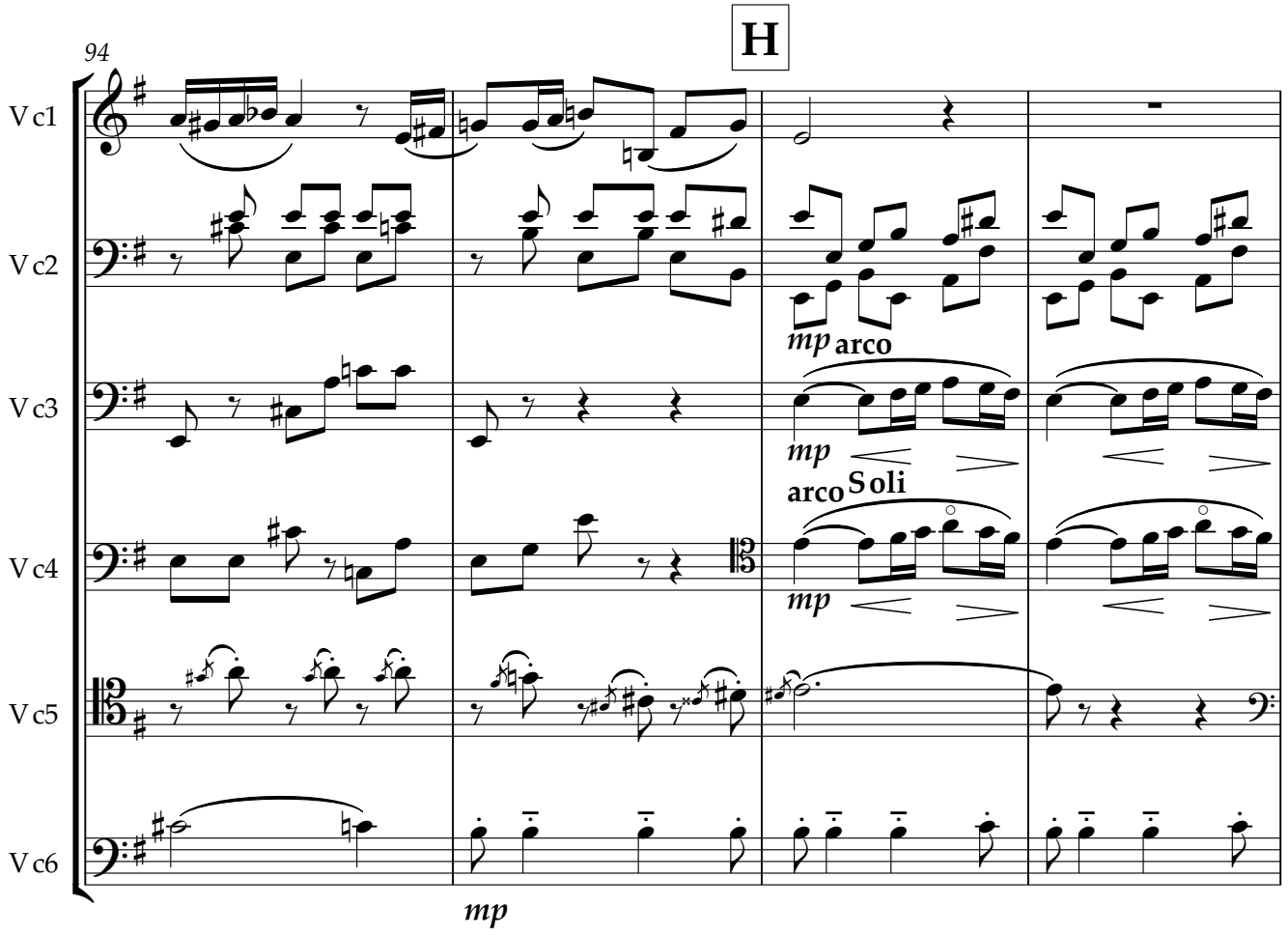

73
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pp
pp
pp
pp
mf

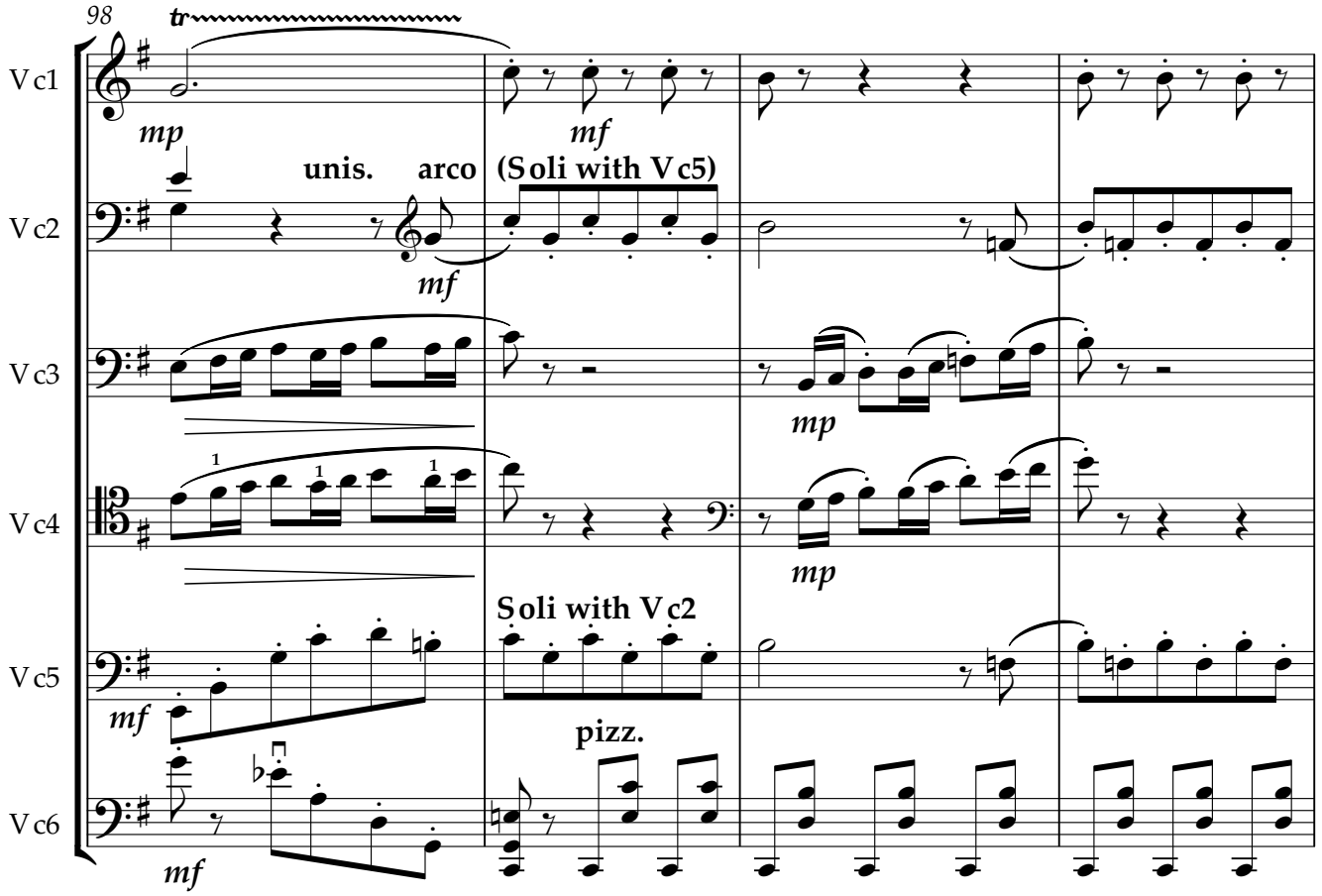

78
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
mf

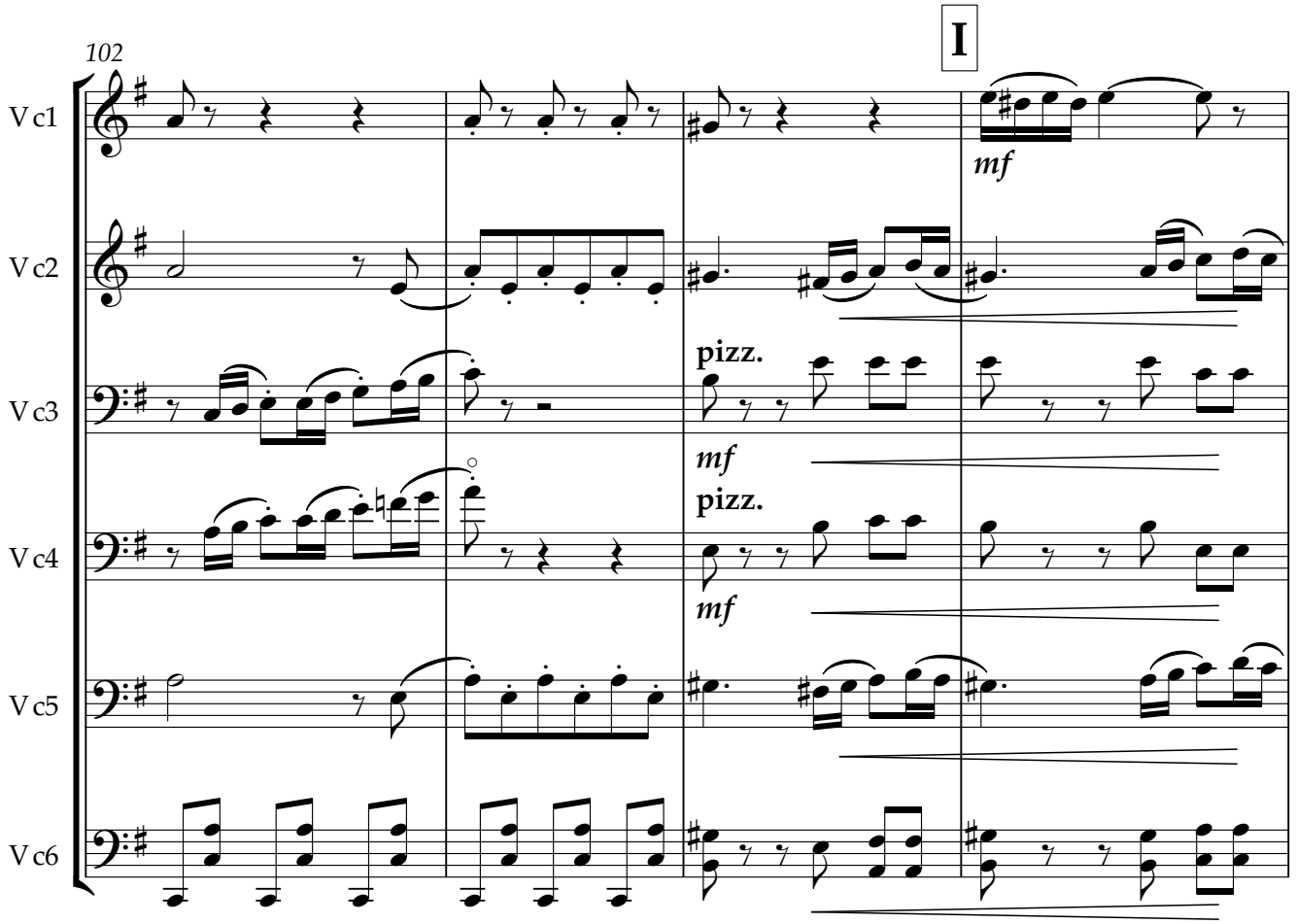

G
82
V c1
V c2
V c3
V c4
V c5
V c6

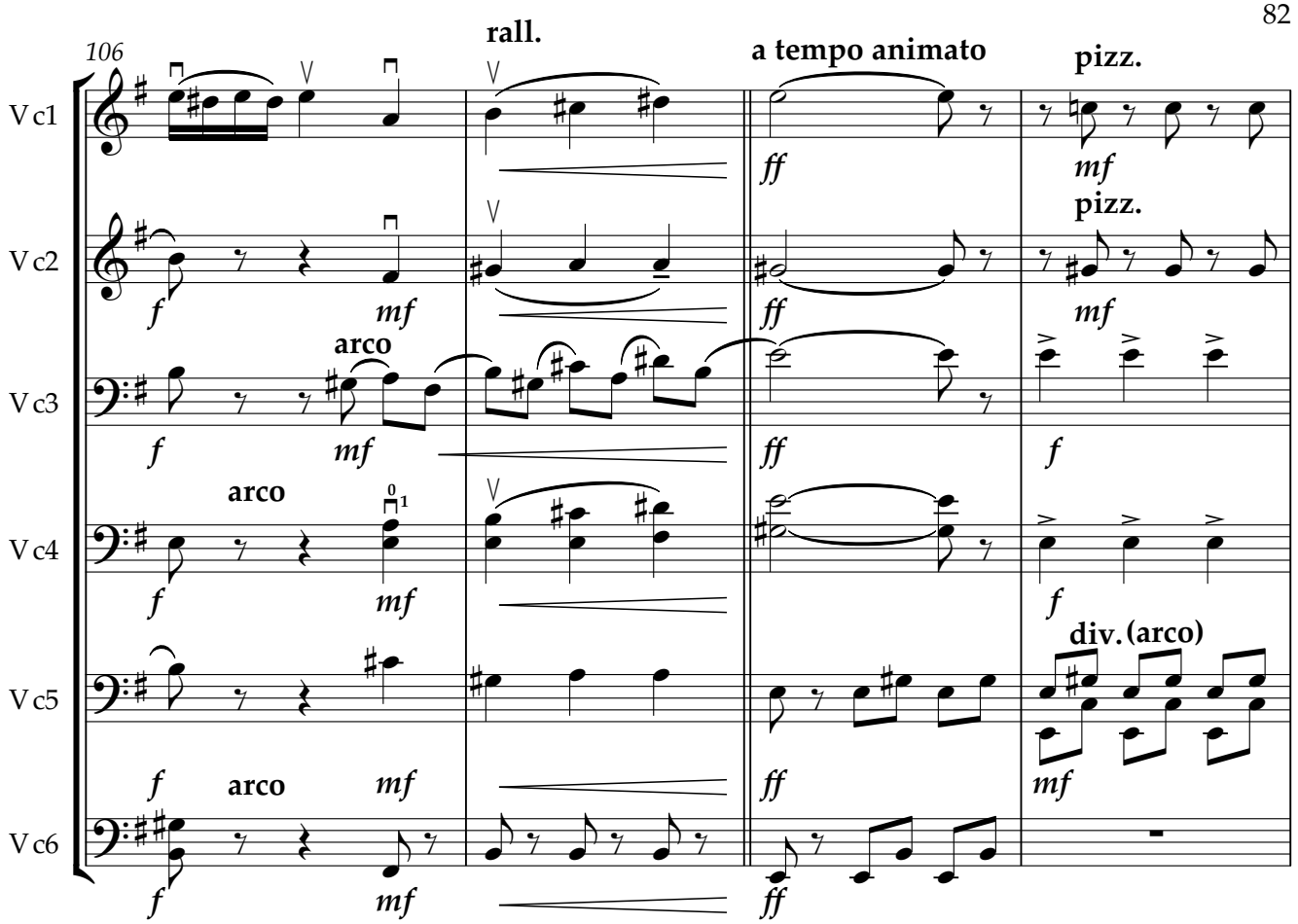

86
arco
unis.
mp
div.
p
p
p
pp
V c1
V c2
V c3
V c4
V c5
V c6

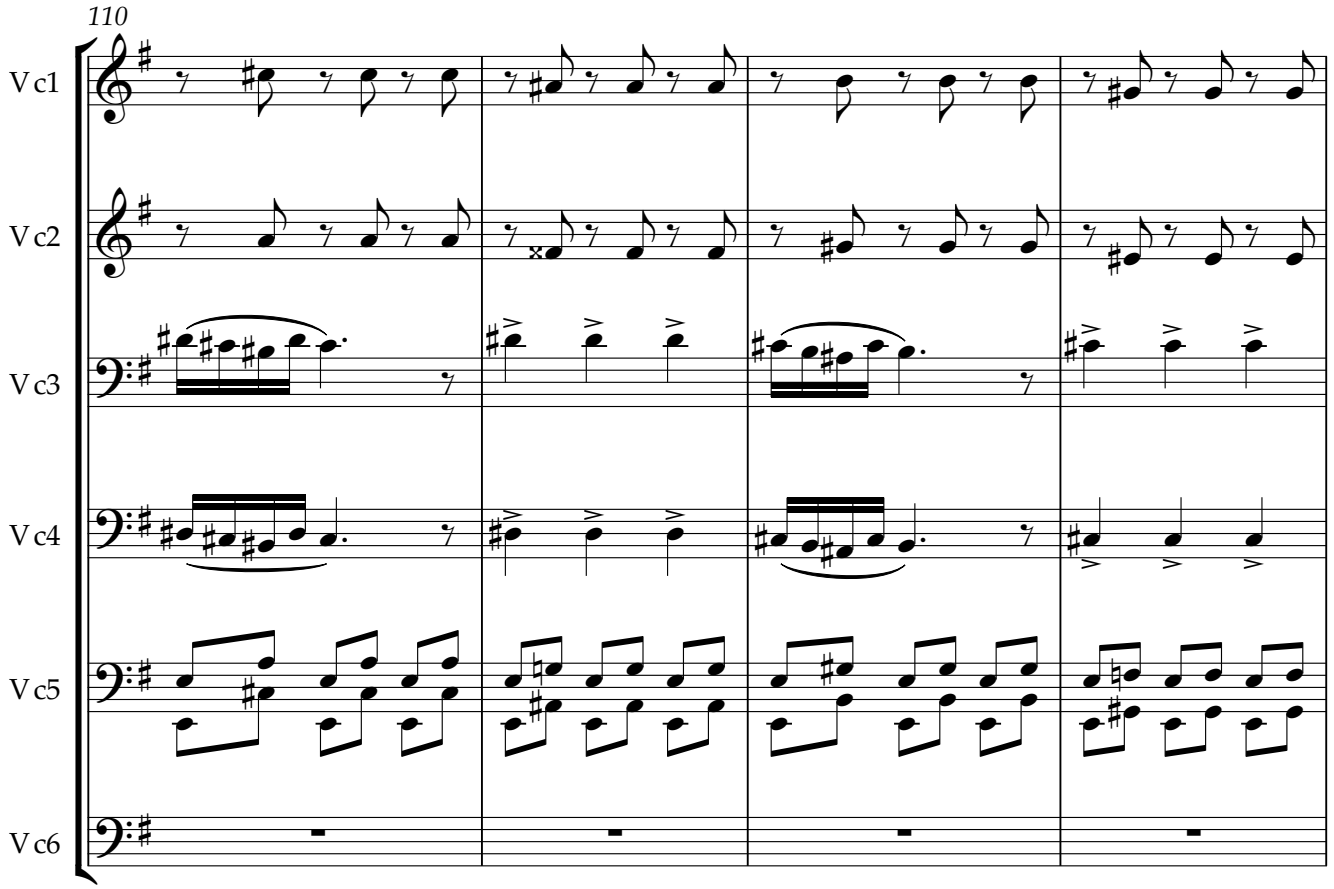

90
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
mp

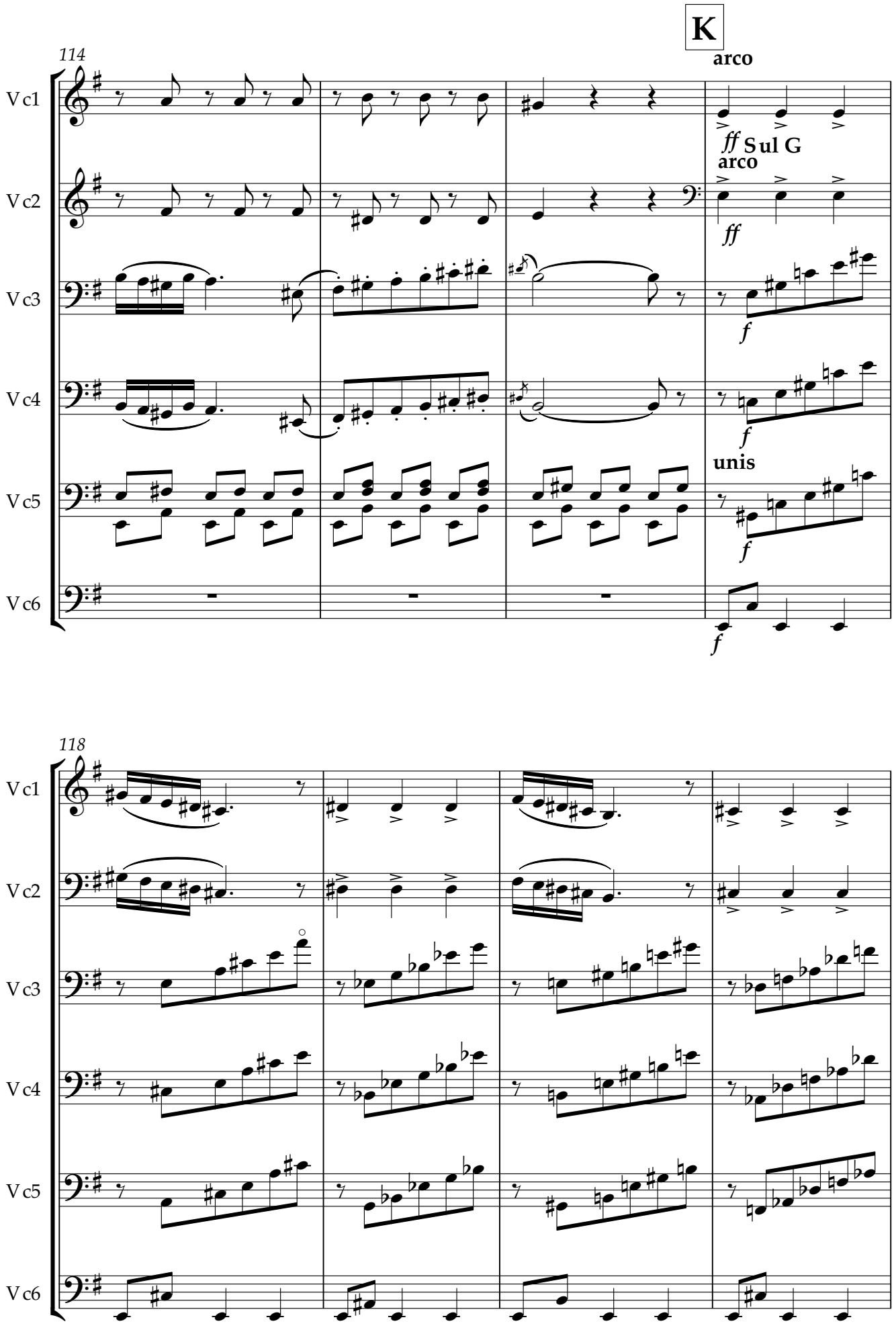

H
94
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
mp
arco
mp
arco
Soli
mp
mp

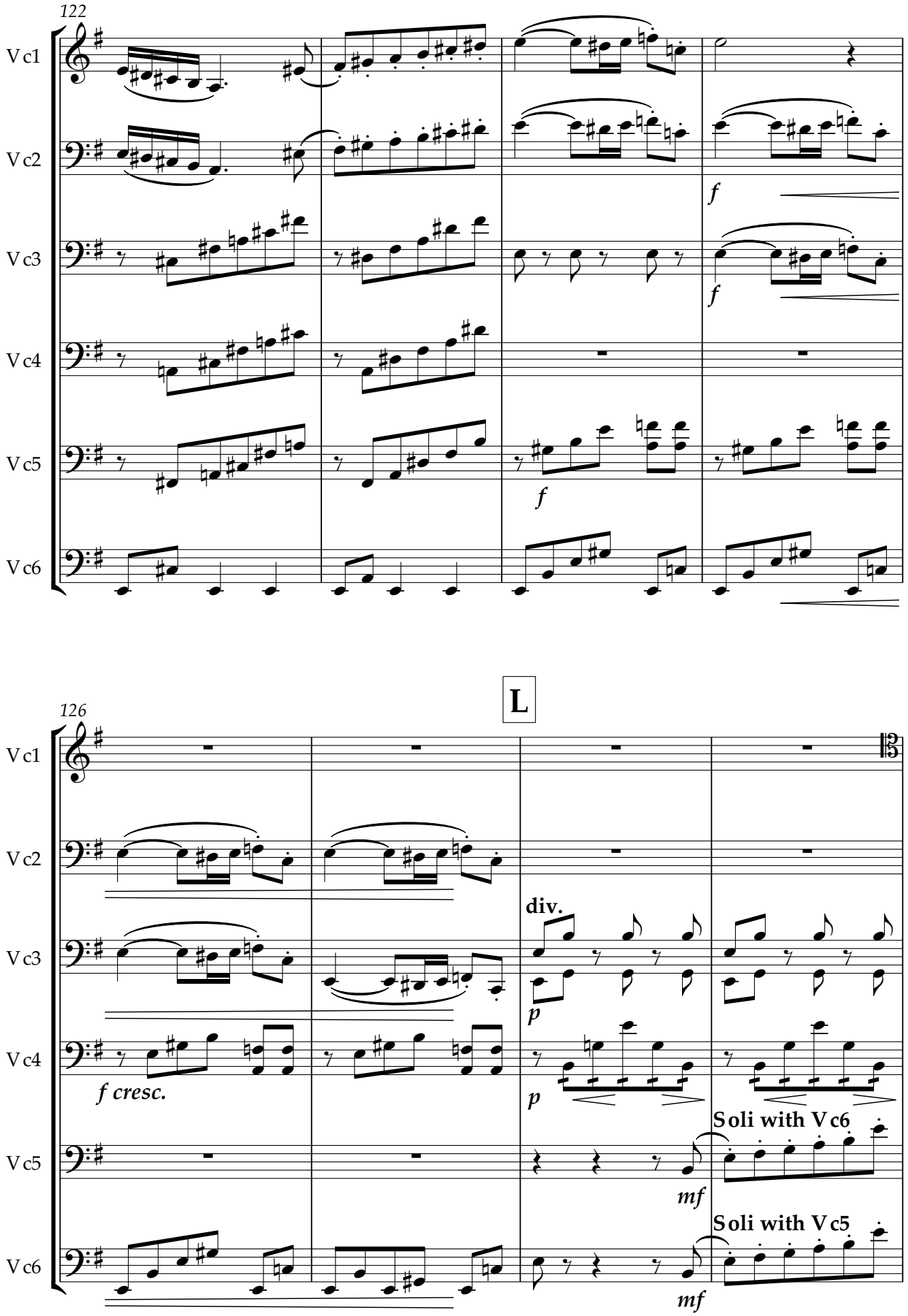

98
tr
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
mp
mf
unis.
arco
(Soli with Vc5)
Soli with Vc2
pizz.

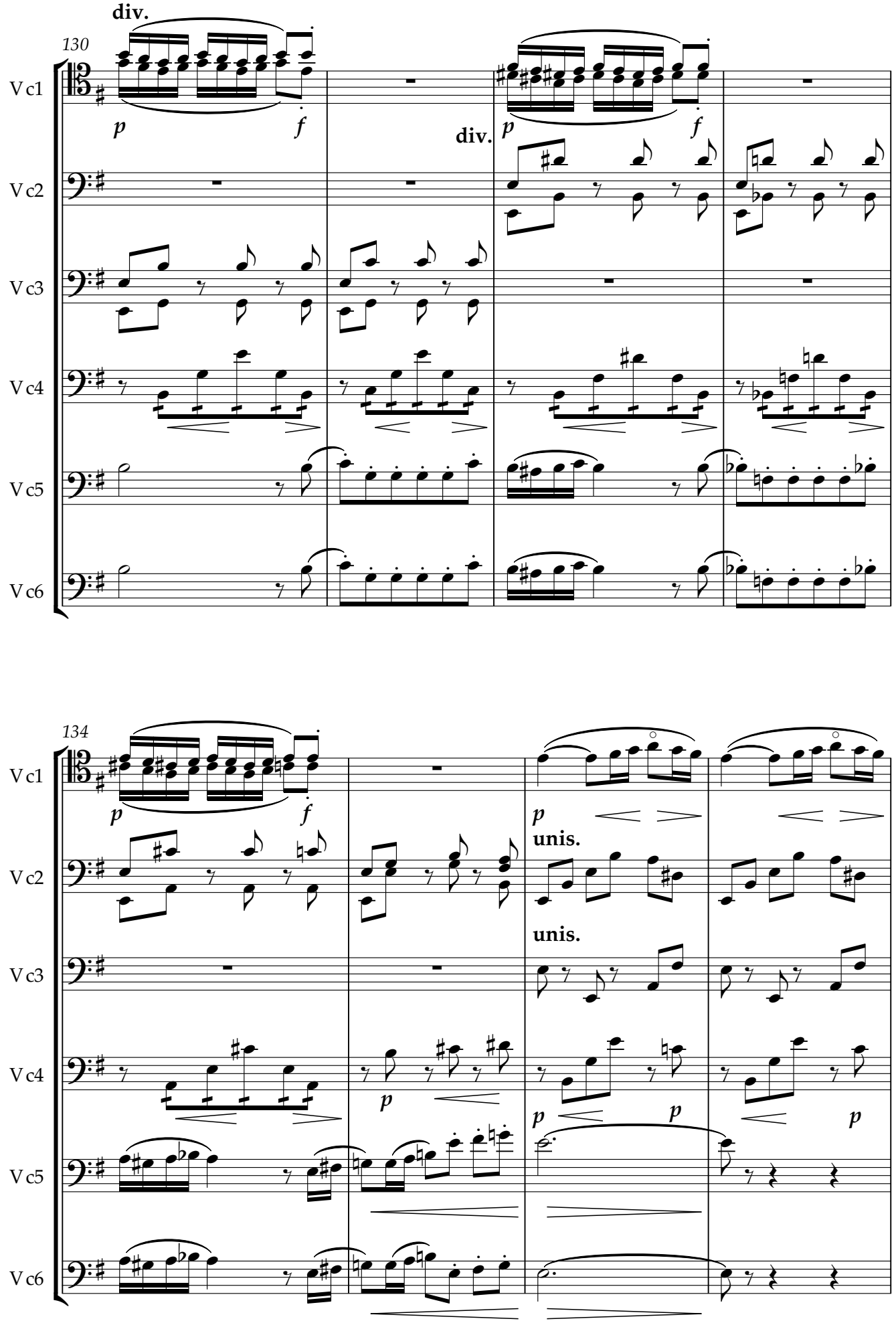

102
I
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
mf
pizz.

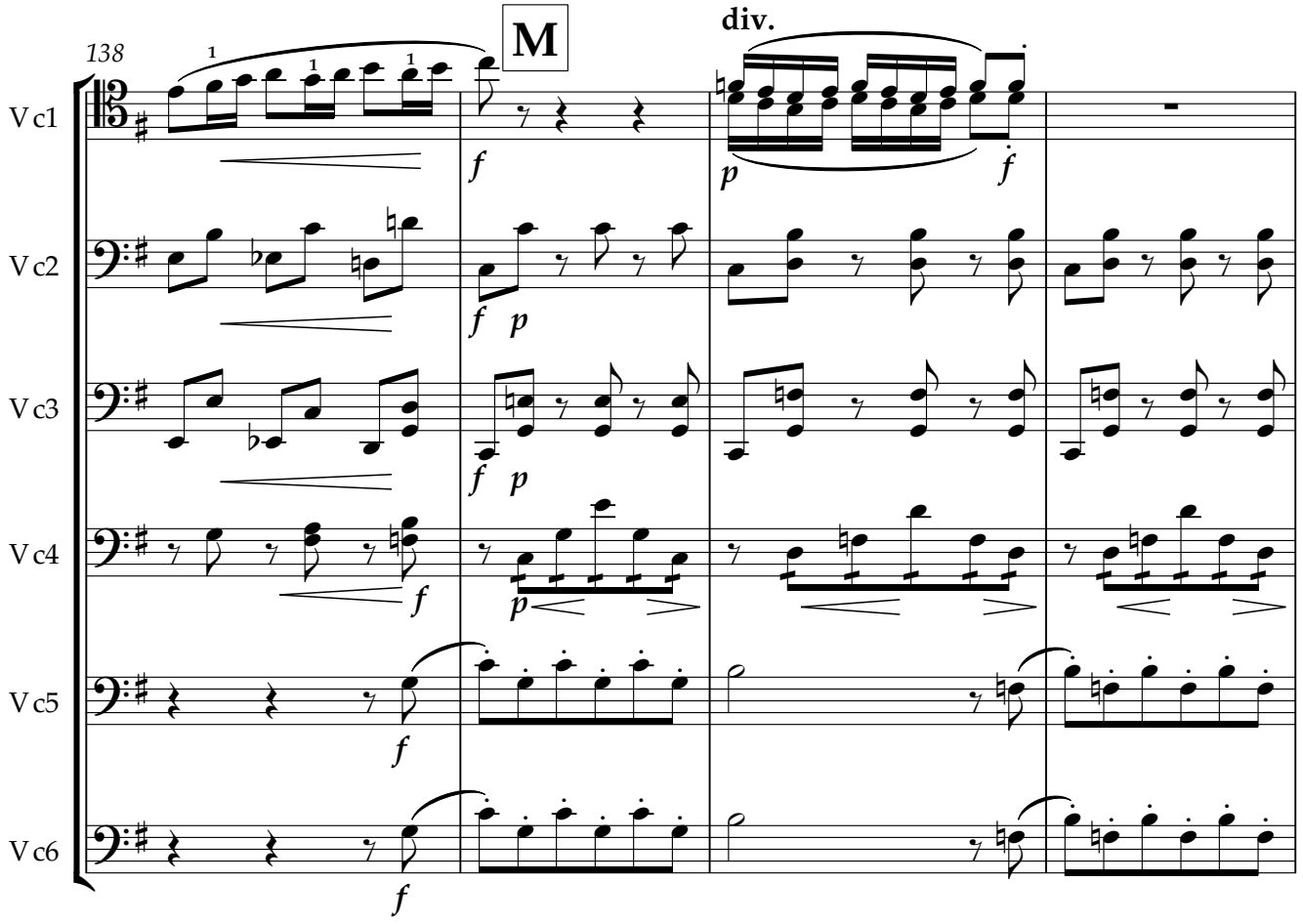

106
rall.
a tempo animato
pizz.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
arco
div.(arco)

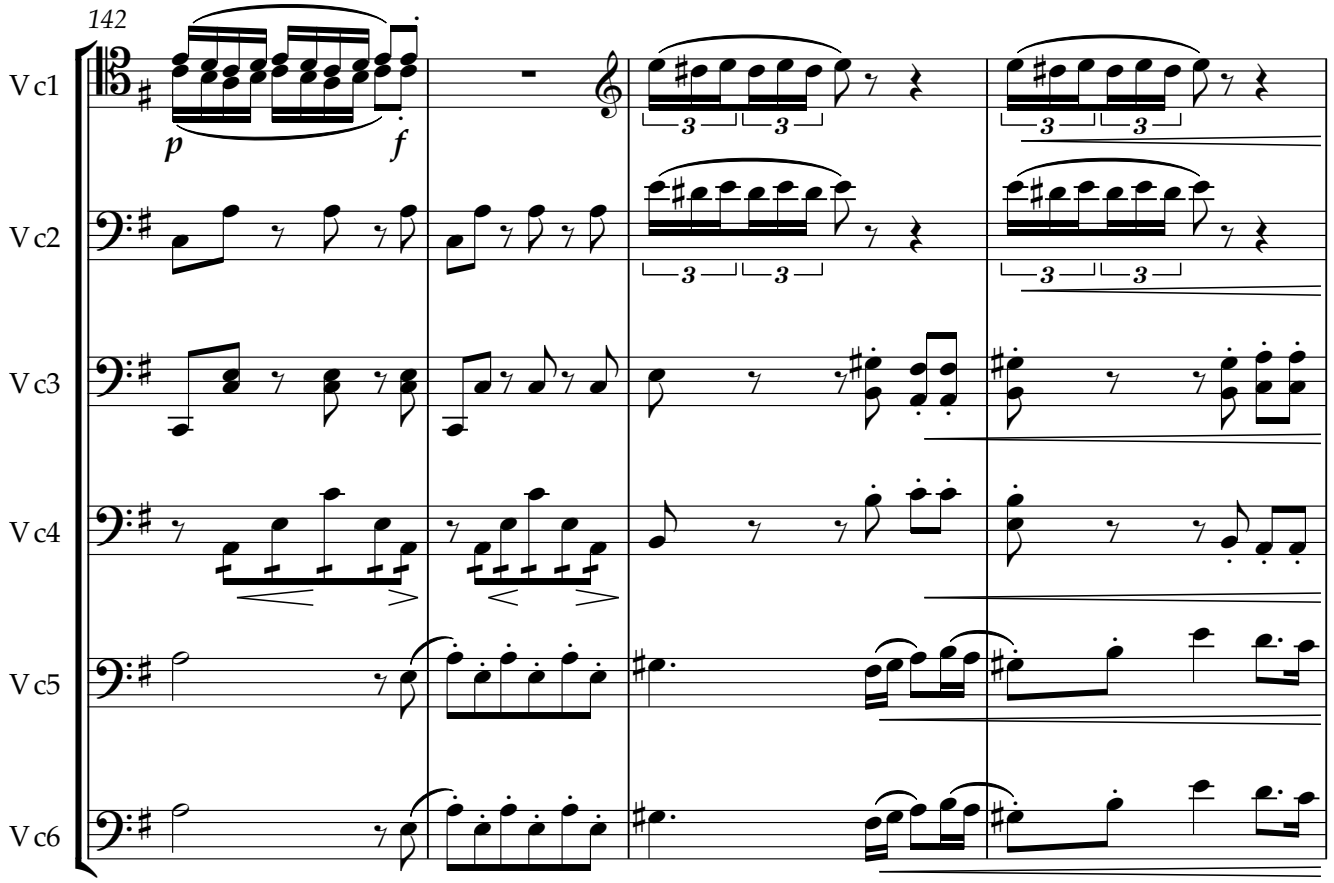

110
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

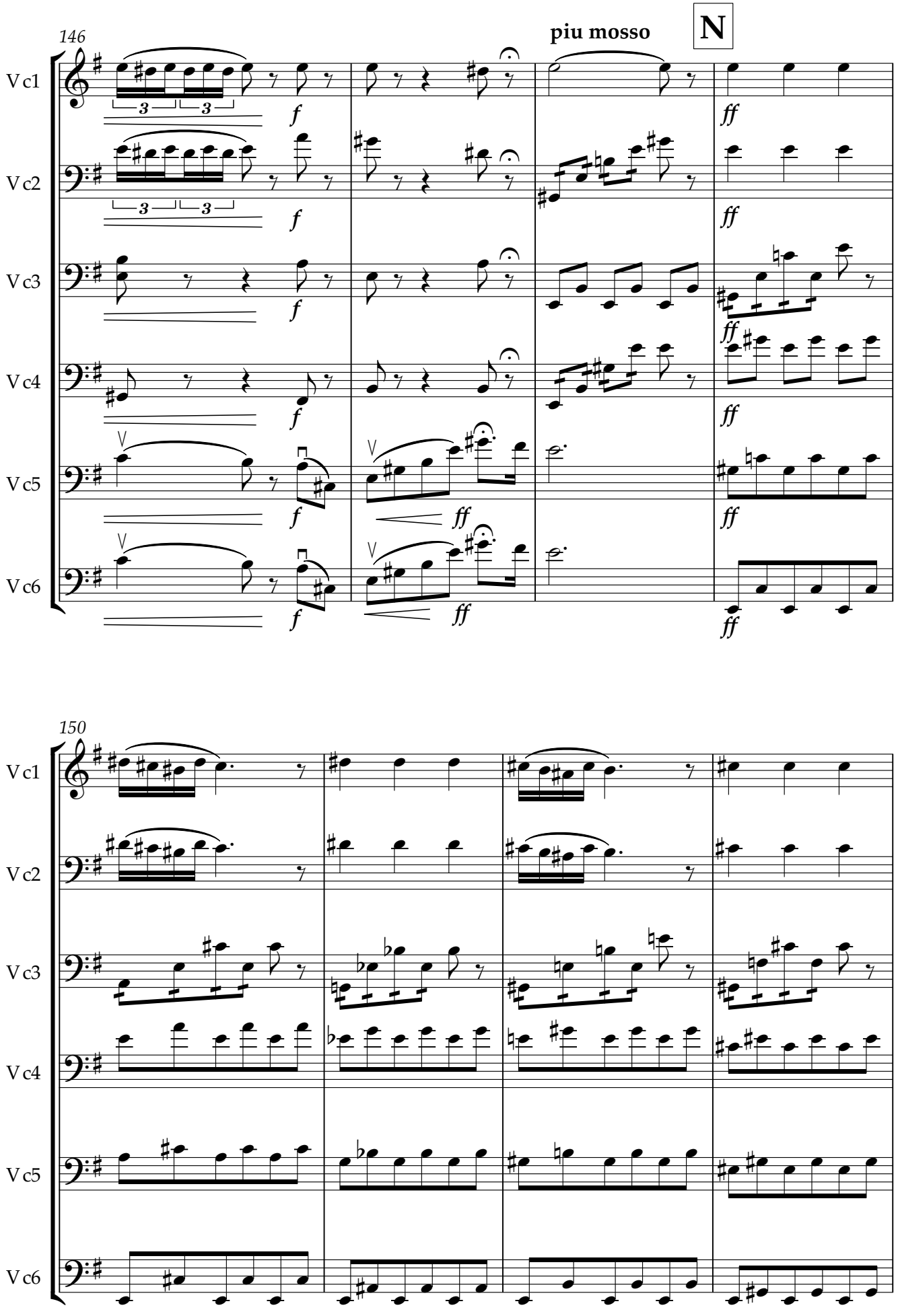

K
114
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
arco
ff
Sul G
arco
ff
f
f
unis
f
f
118
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

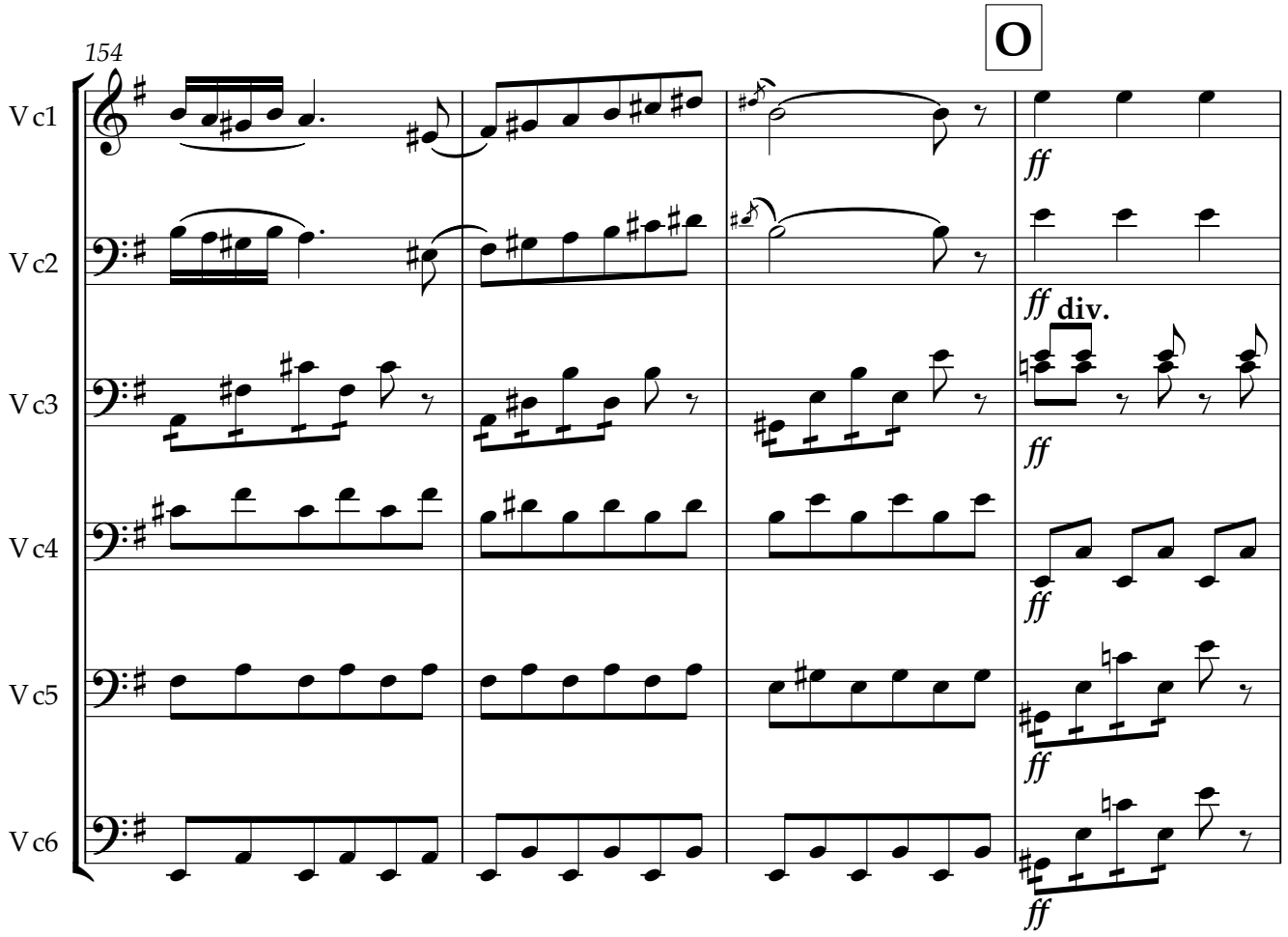

122
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
f
f
f
L
126
div.
p
p
f cresc.
Soli with Vc6
mf
Soli with Vc5
mf

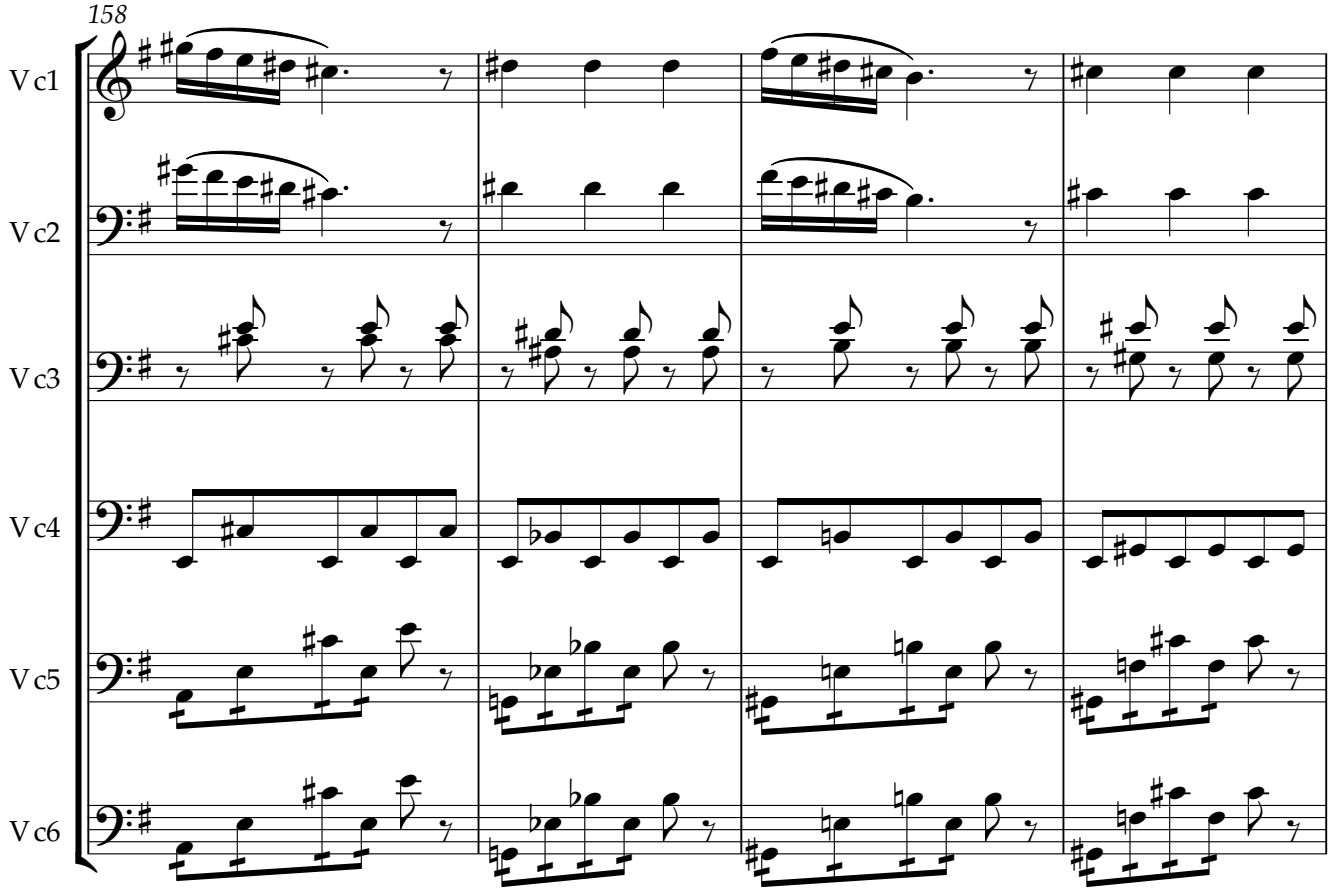

130
div.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
p
f
div.
134
unis.
unis.

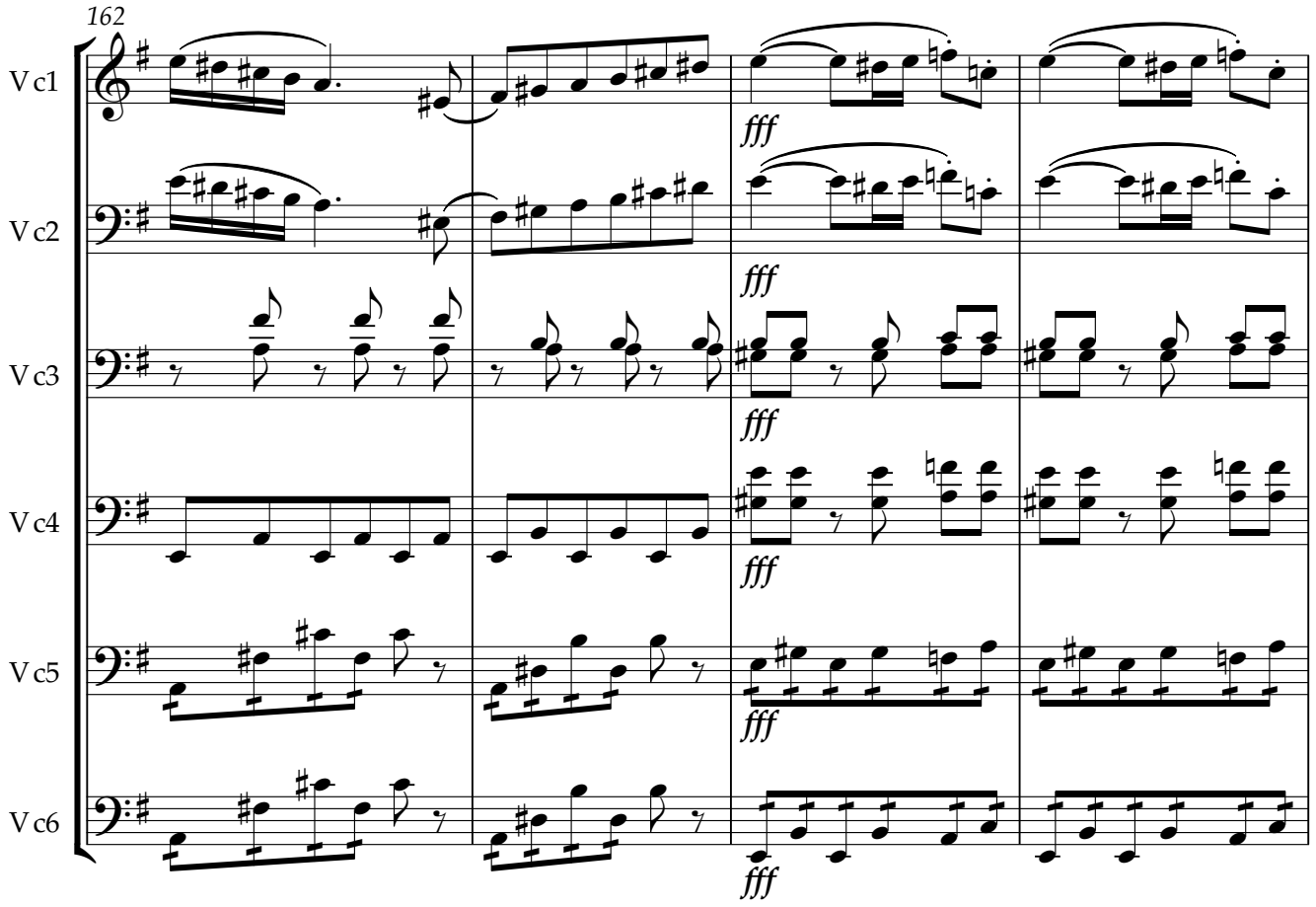

138
M
div.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

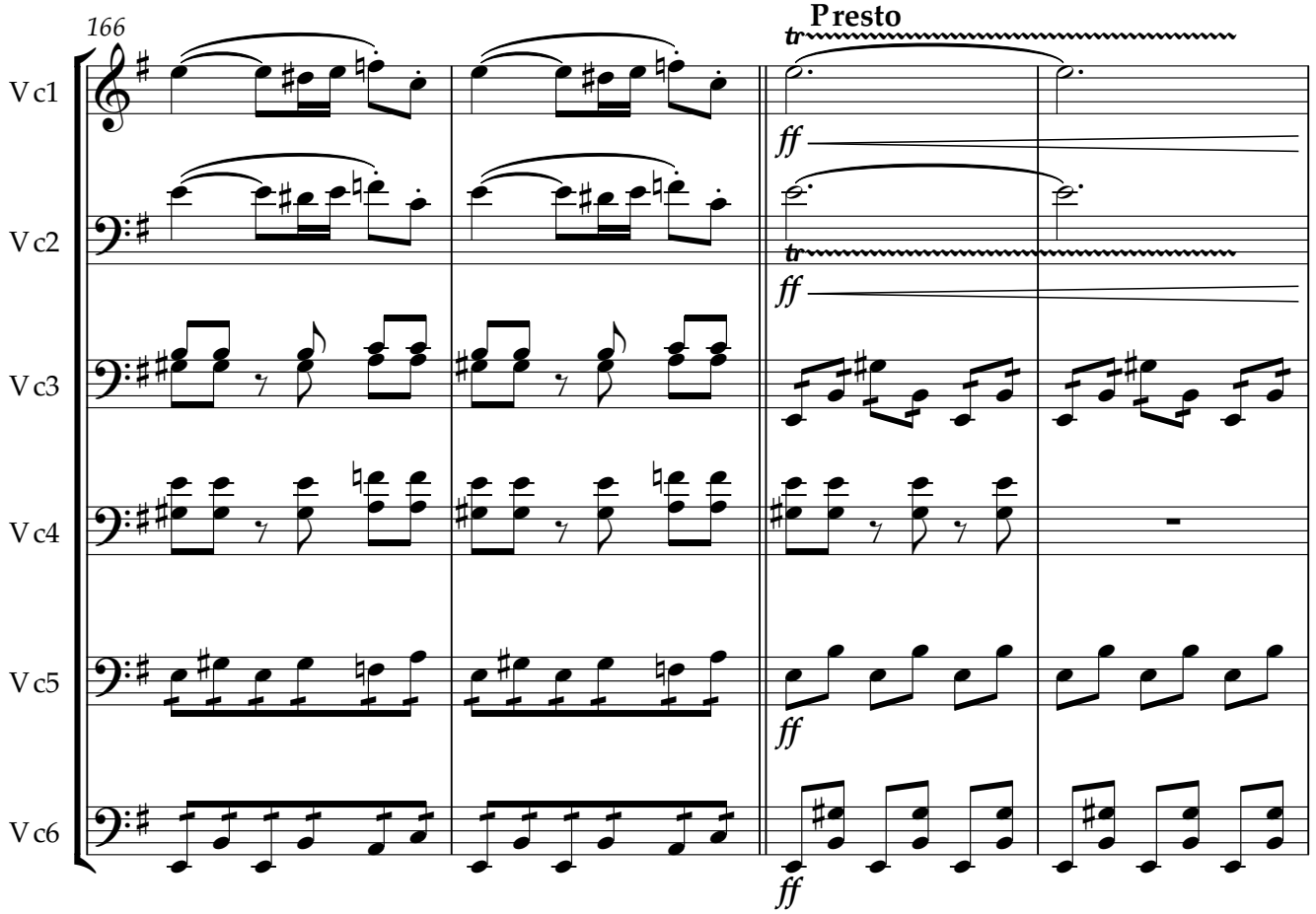

142
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

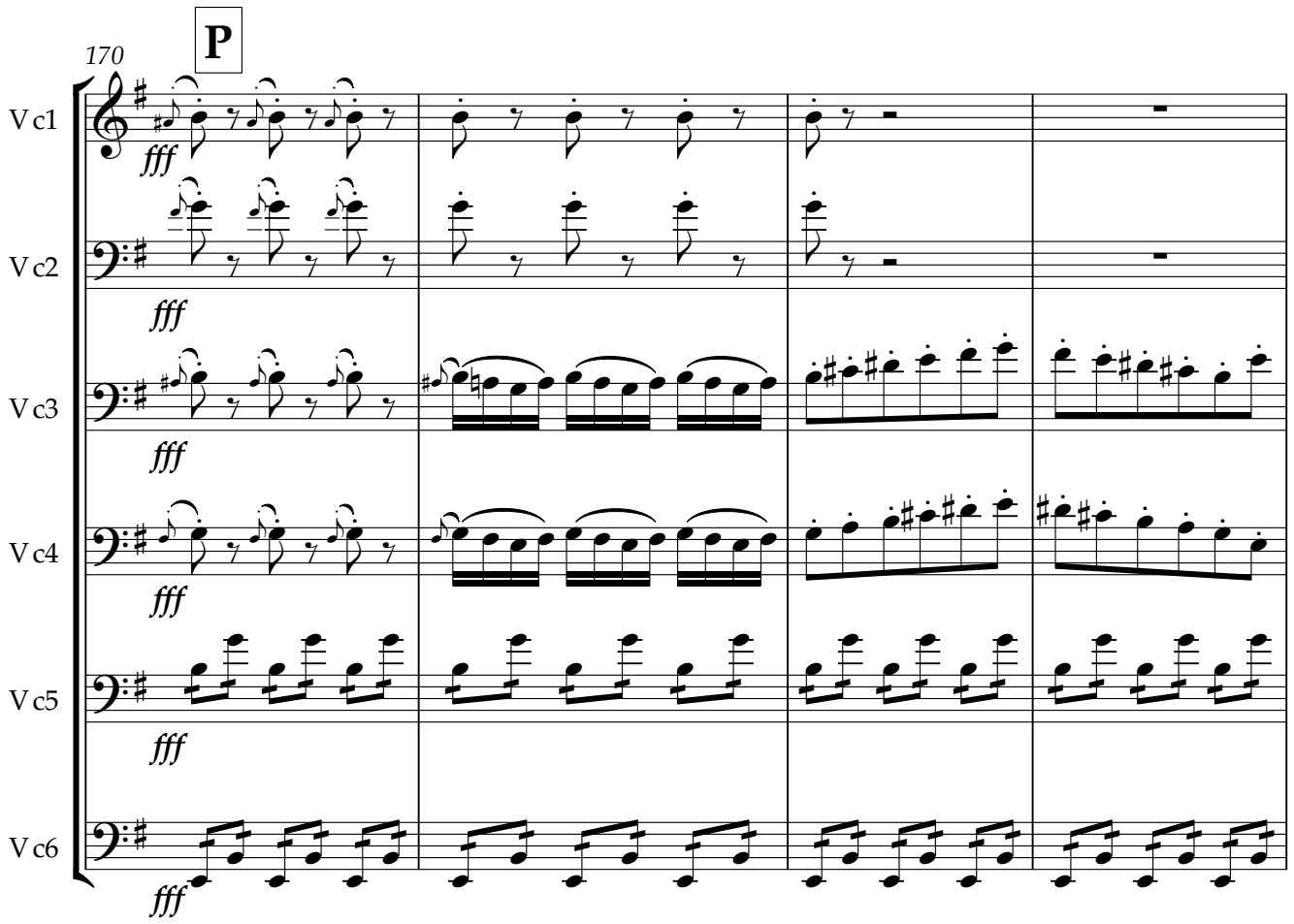

146
piu mosso
N
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
150

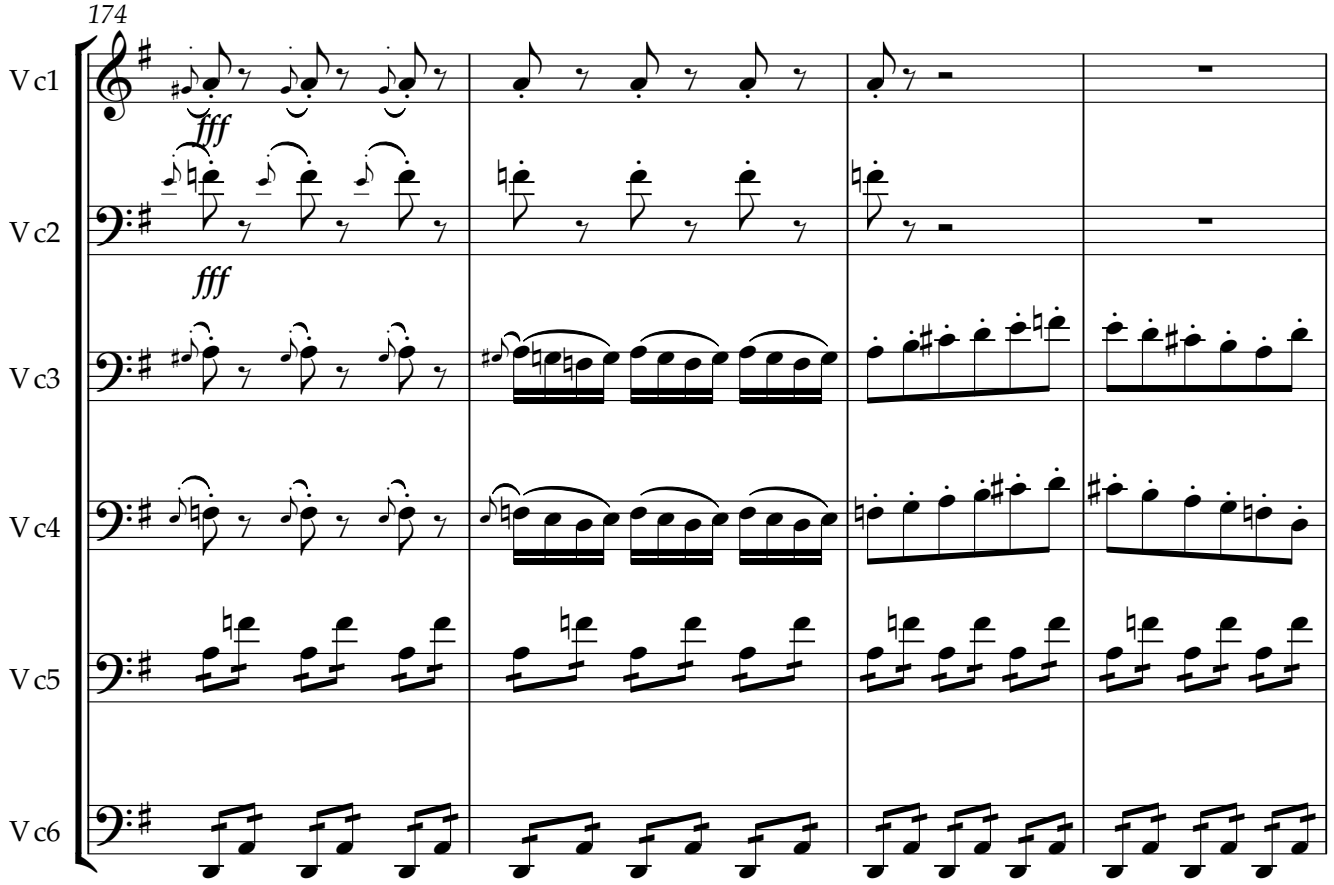

O
154
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
ff
ff
div.
ff
ff
ff

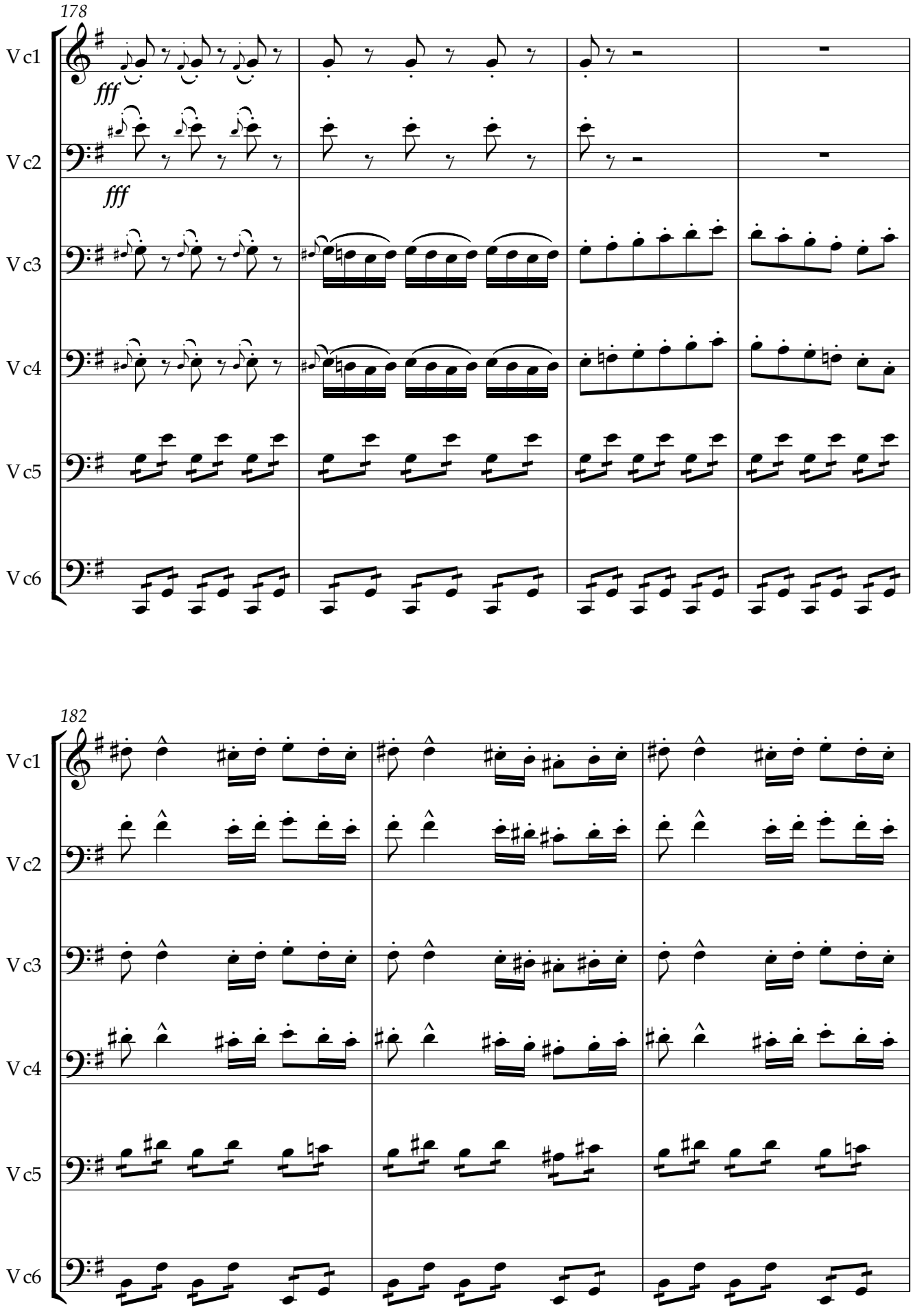

158
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6

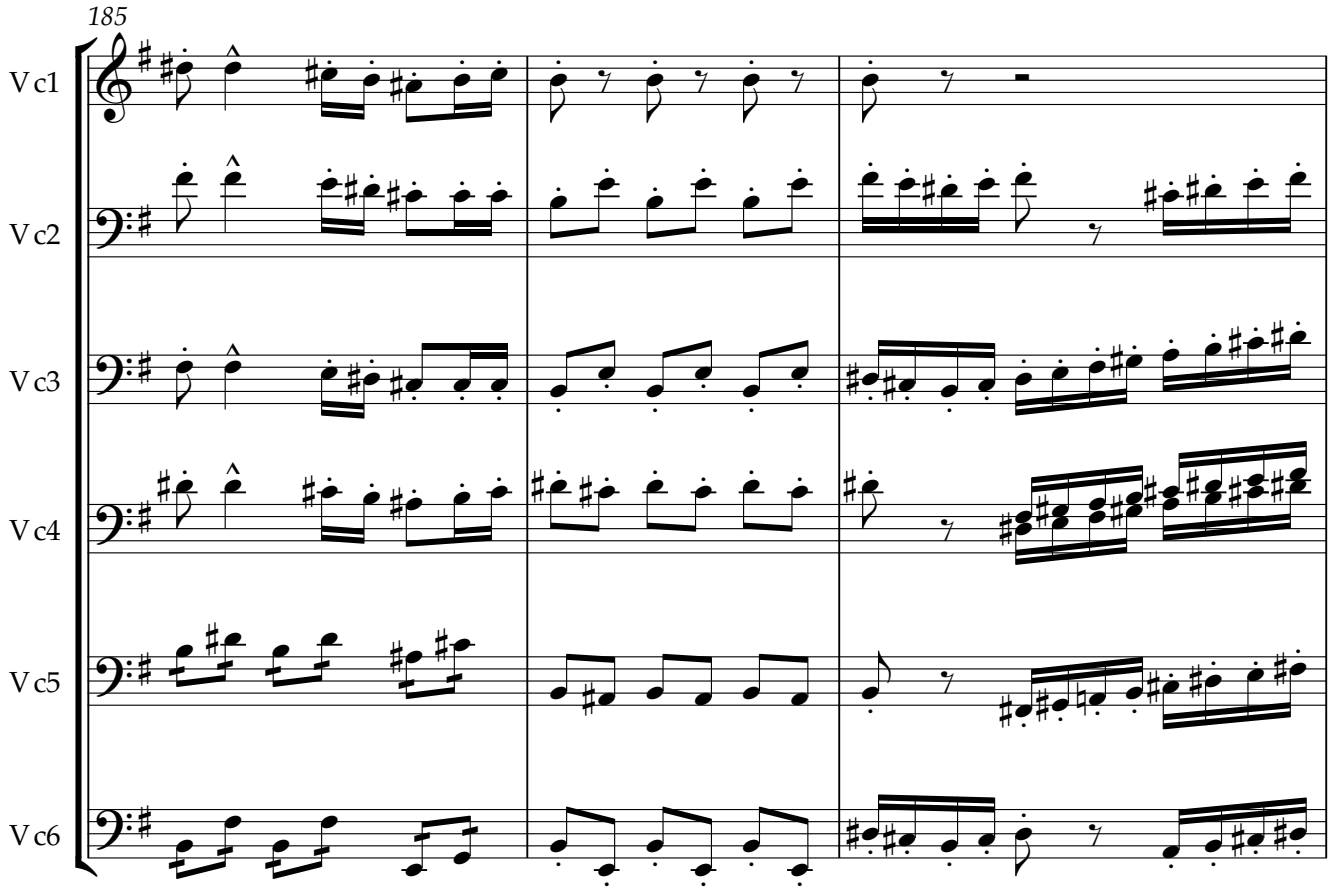

162
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
fff

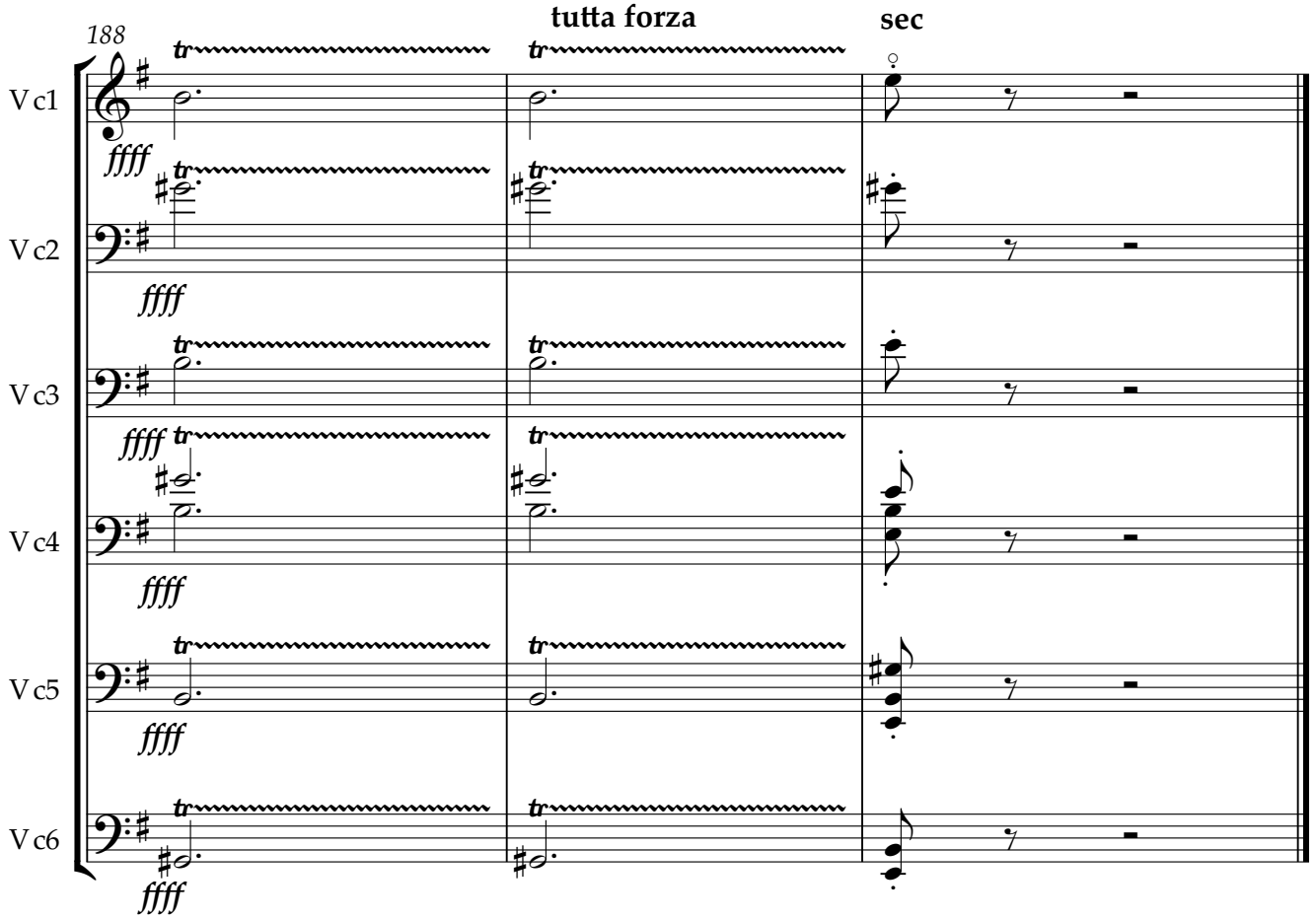

166
Presto
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
ff


170
P
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
fff


174
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
fff


178
Vc1
fff
Vc2
fff
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
182
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6


185
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6


188
tutta forza
sec
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
ffff