El testament de n'Amèlia

"Amelia's Testament"

a sardana dance from Catalunya

from an original arrangement for cobla band by

JOAN LAMOTE DE GRIGNON

and arranged for orchestra

by

JOHN MORRISON

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Instrumentation

Piccolo, pairs of flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons and horns, tambori (or small drum or side drum without snares), string section.

Notes by the arranger

This version is arranged from maestro Joan Lamote de Grignon's version for cobla band, in turn inspired by the traditional Catalan song "El testament de n'Amèlia" (Amelia's Testament), more well-known as an arrangement for guitar by Miguel Llobet. My arrangement follows the harmony and form of the cobla version, and the intention is to match its sprit with carefully chosen instrumentation and restrained orchestration. No trumpets, trombones or timpani are asked for, and there are parts for a quartet of soloists from the strings.

The introduction, played here by the piccolo, was written for the cobla band's *flabiol*. This *introit* should be played slowly and very freely, in the manner of the song, terminated by a pause, after which the player goes briskly into the sardana tempo, ending on a trill and a drum tap which signals the start of the sardana dance.

The *tambori* ideally should be that small drum played by the *flibiolist* in the cobla band. It could be played on a side drum without snares, or better on a suitable little drum to produce a high "popping" sound.

Following the usual form of the sardana, the dance consists of an introduction followed by two sections called *curts* and *llargs*, each of which is repeated, followed by both played without repeat. The composer himself wrote the *introit*, unusual because it is usually a characteristic invention of the performing cobla. In the *llargs* the ternary rhythm of the song (3/4) is developed most originally and impressively alongside the dactyls (2/4) of the sardana.

According to Jordí Leon, director of the Cobla Sant Jordí, Barcelona, Joan Lamote de Grignon's version for cobla was written in 1907. The score was lost but restored in 1931 when the composer wrote a version performed by the Municipal Band of Barcelona.

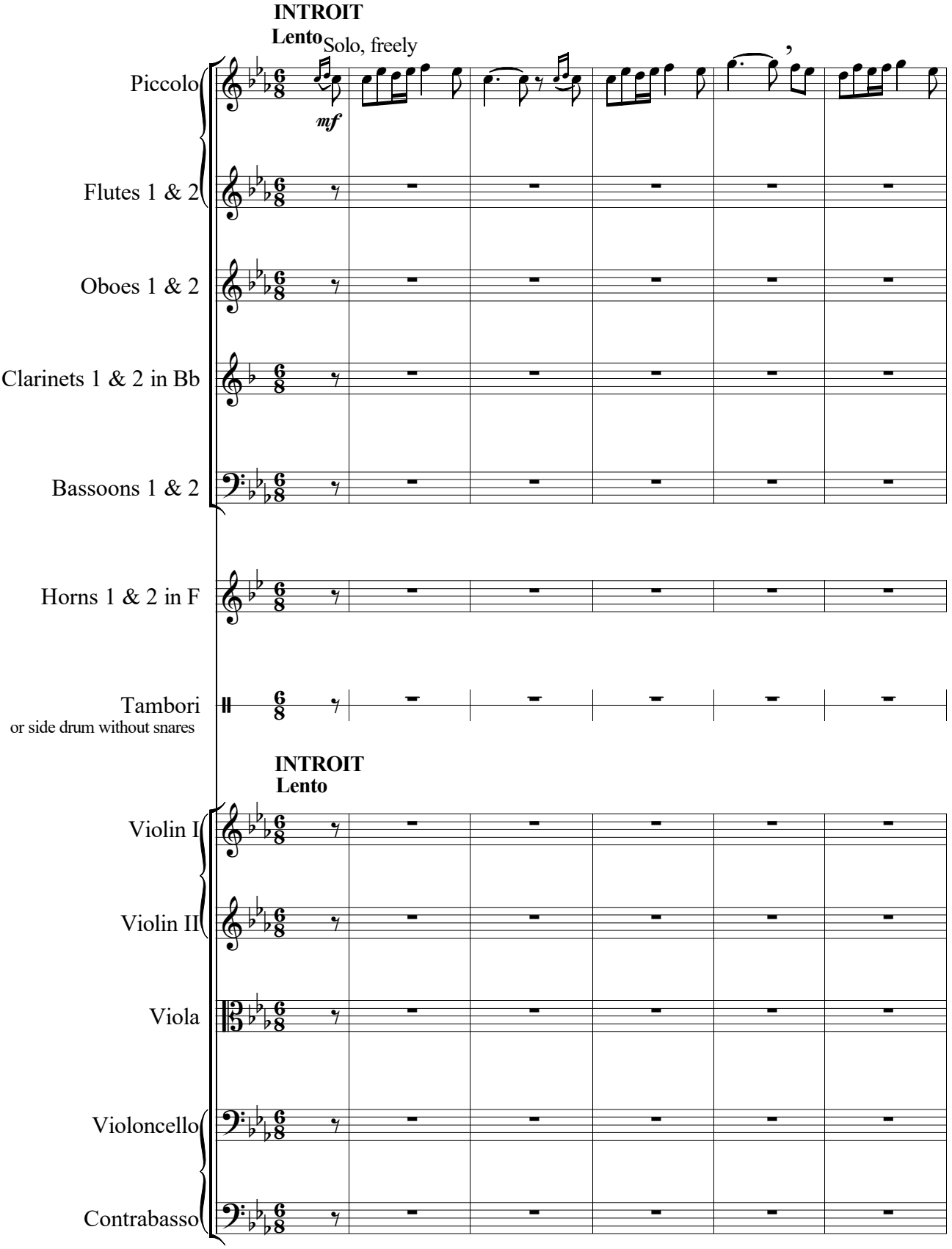
John Morrison
Richmond, Surrey, UK, 8 May 2020

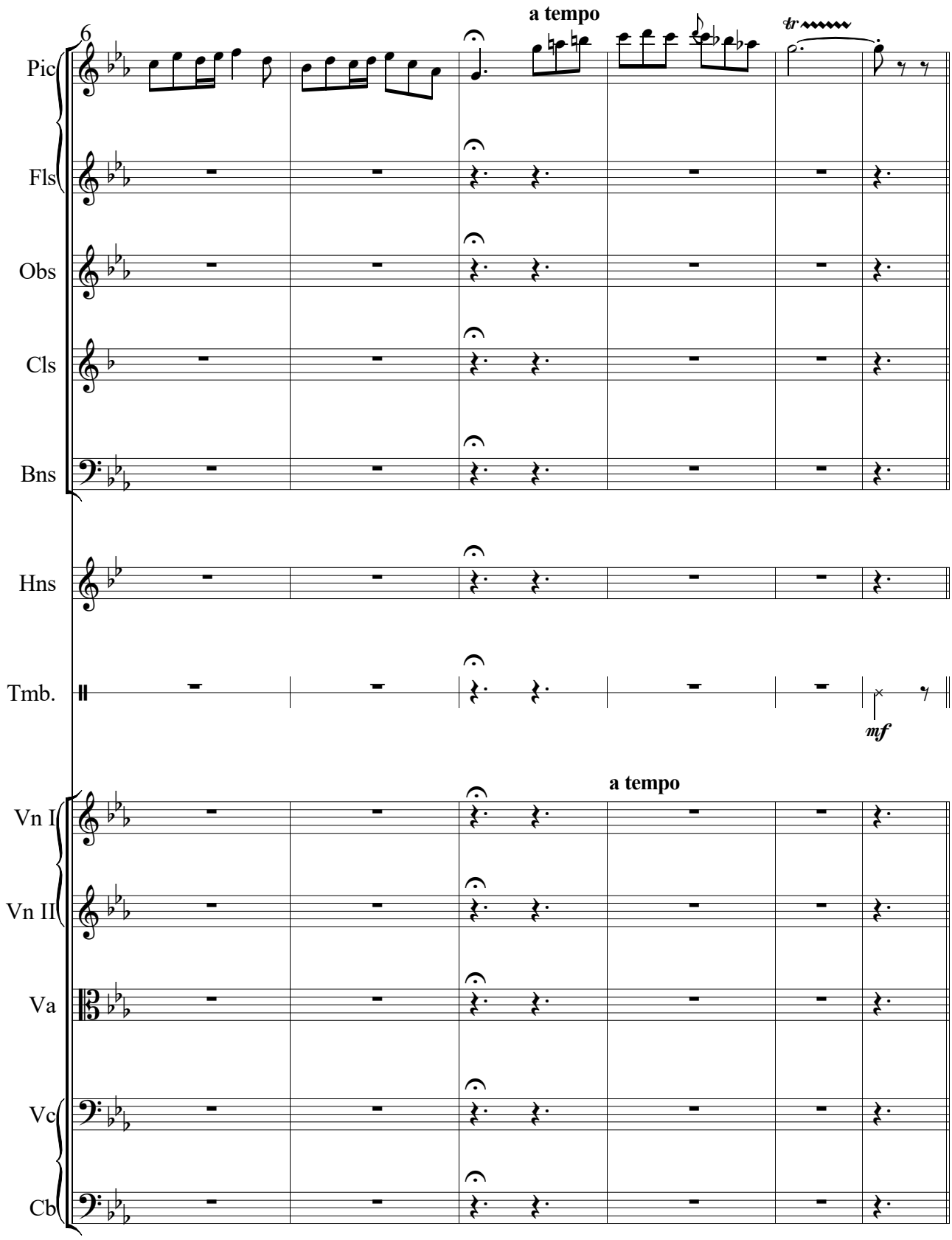
EL TESTAMENT DE N'AMÈLIA

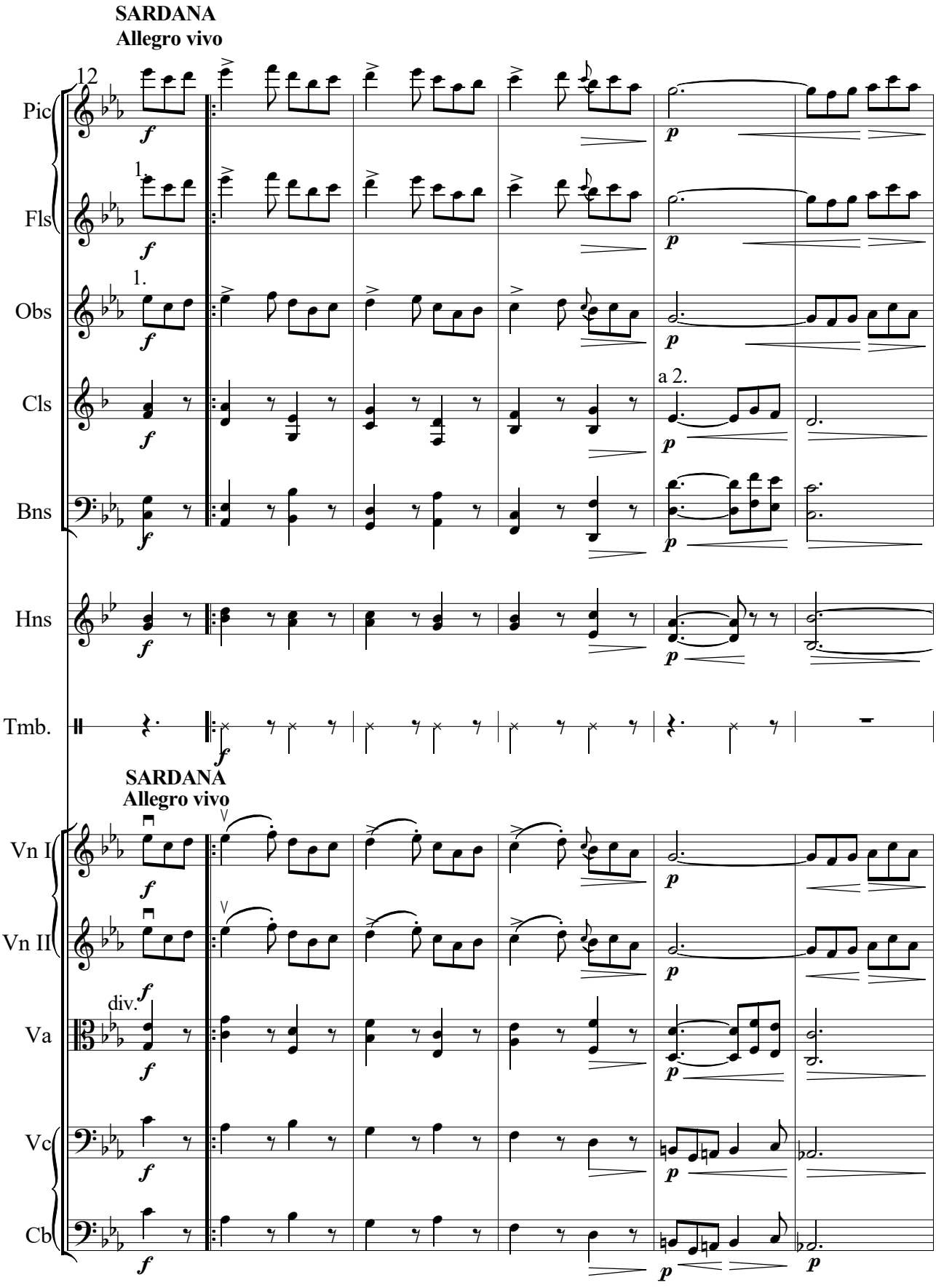
Joan Lamote de Grignon

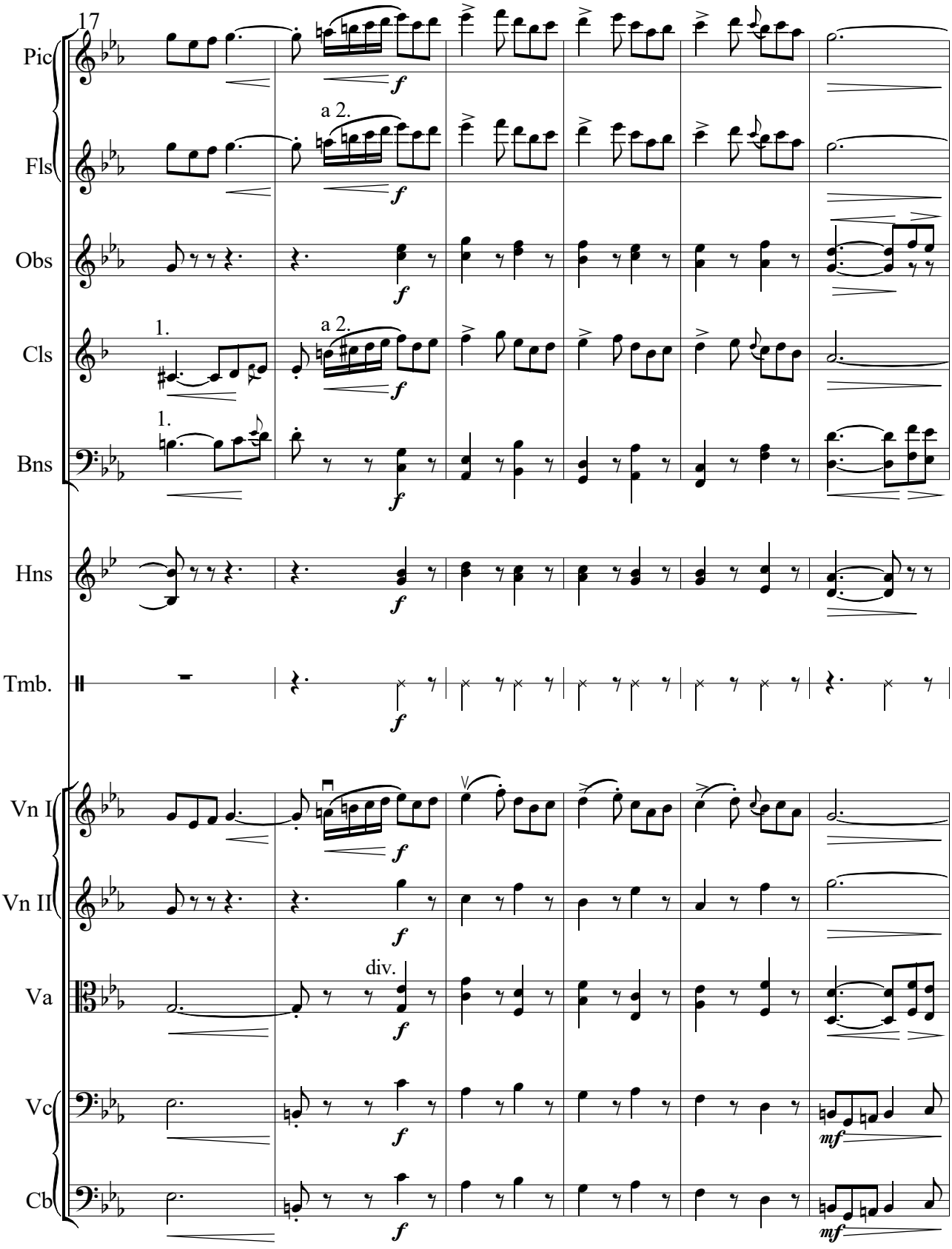
(Barcelona, 1907)

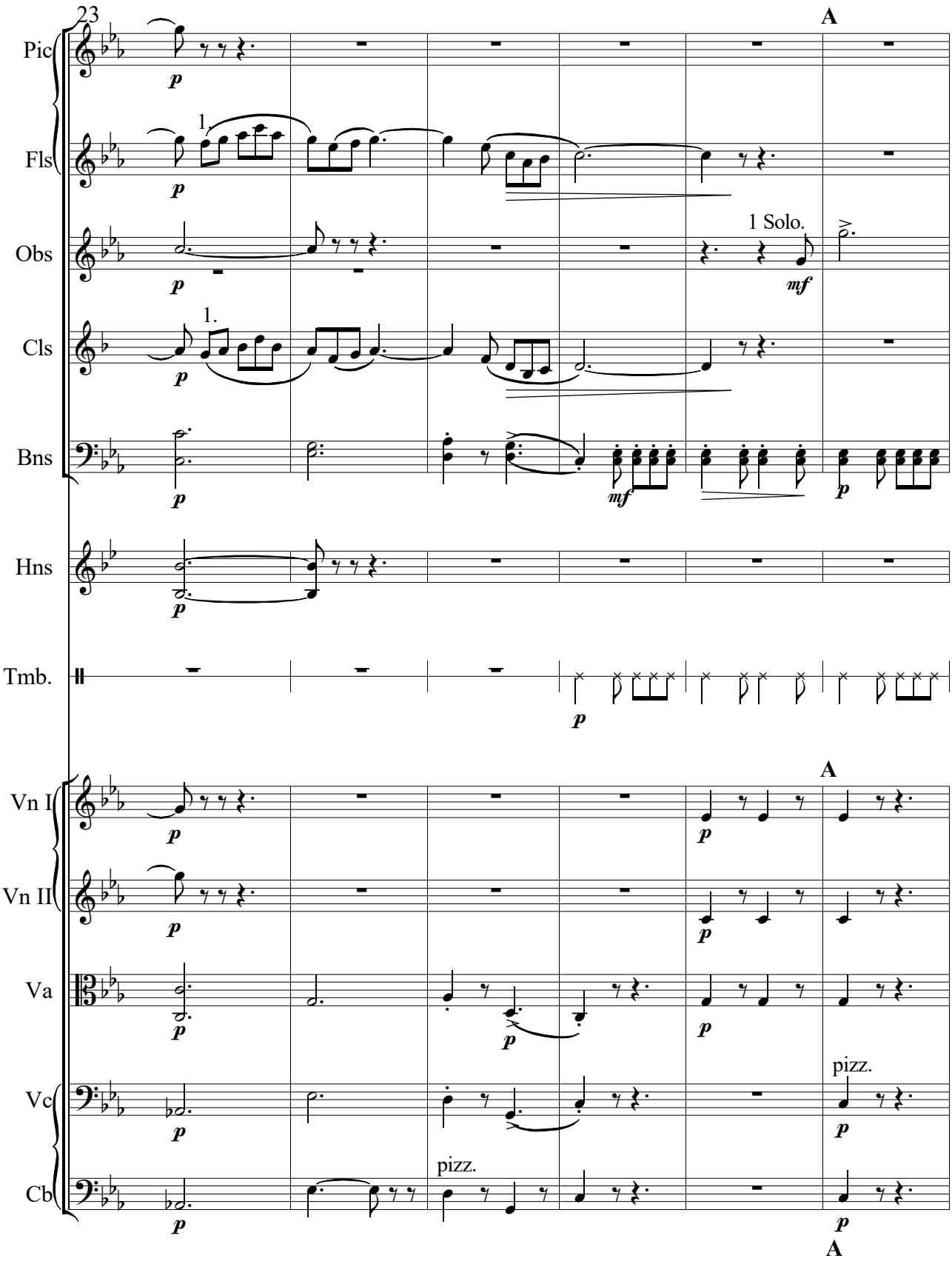
arranged for orchestra by John Morrison

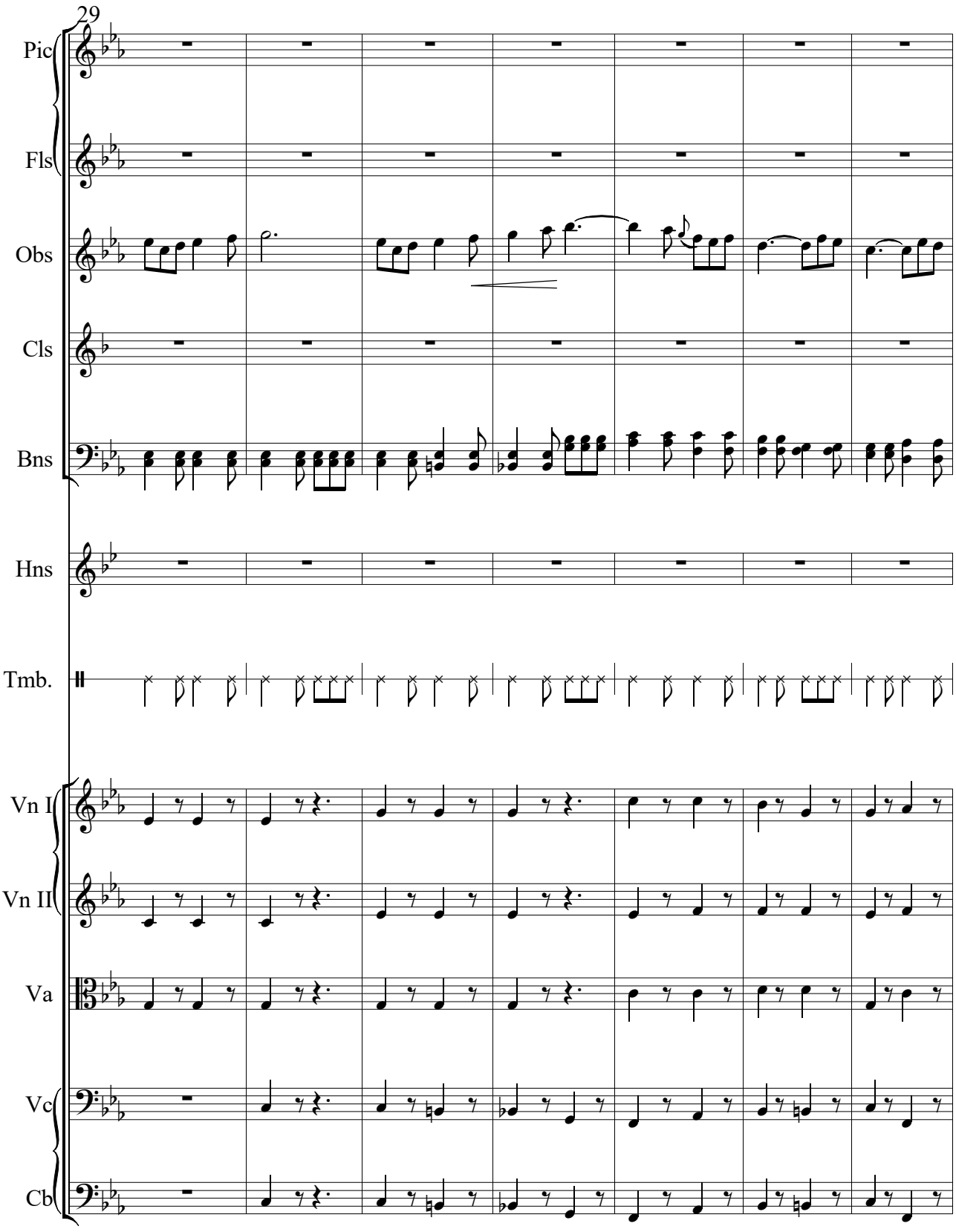


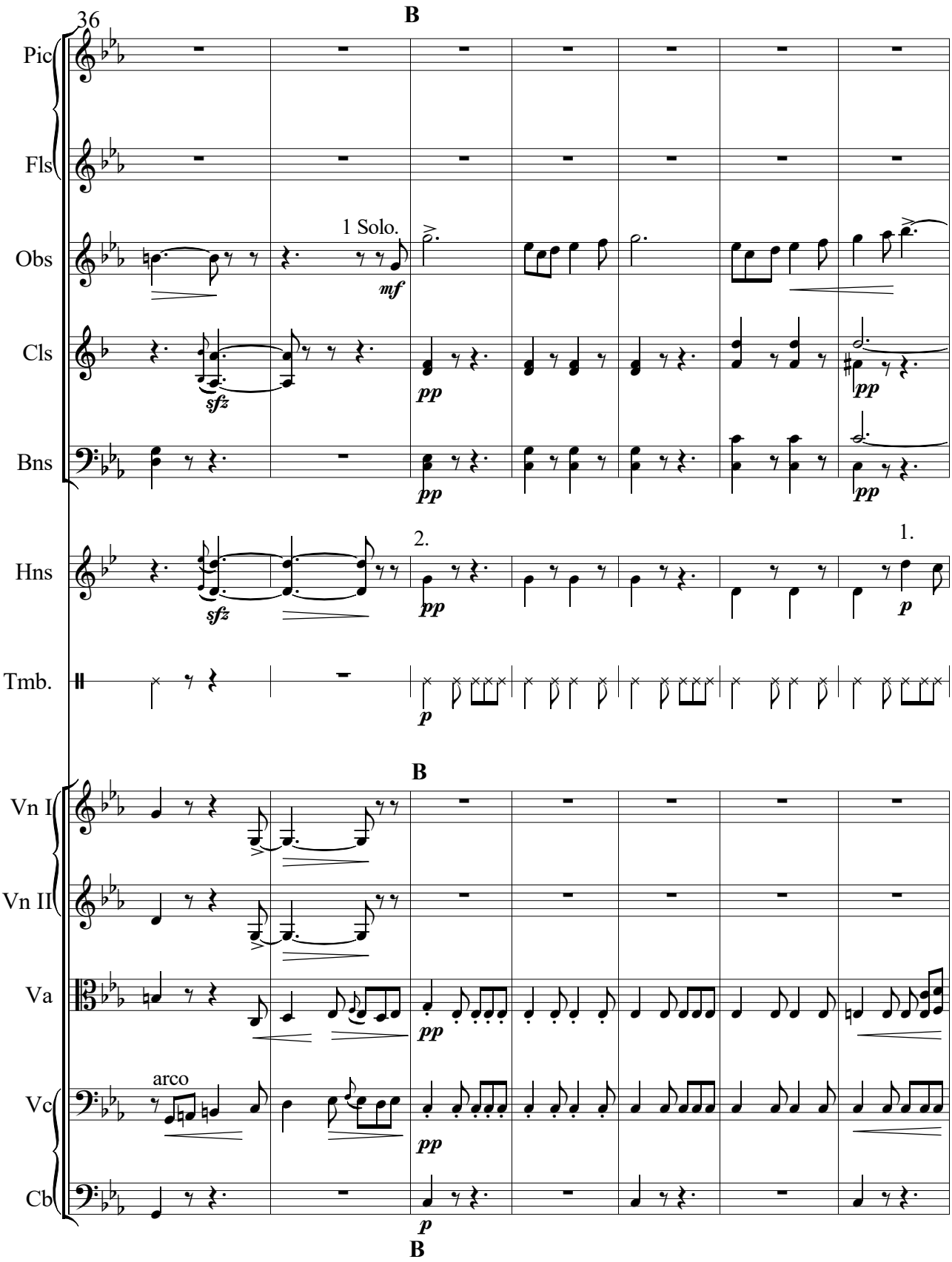

6
a tempo
tr
Pic
Fls
Obs
Cls
Bns
Hns
Tmb.
mf
a tempo
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
Cb

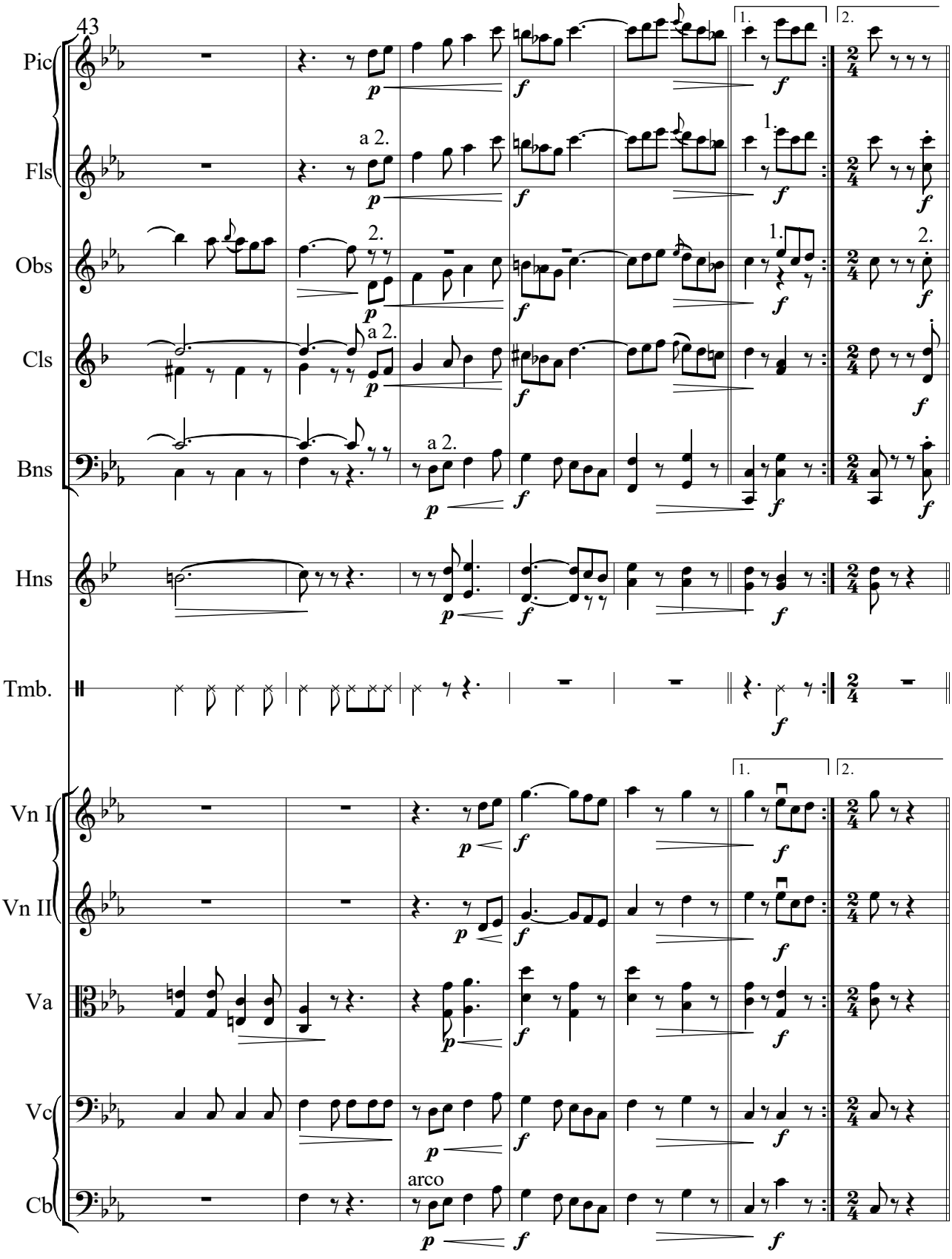

SARDANA
Allegro vivo
12
Pic
Fls
Obs
Cls
Bns
Hns
Tmb.
1.
a 2.
SARDANA
Allegro vivo
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
Cb
div.

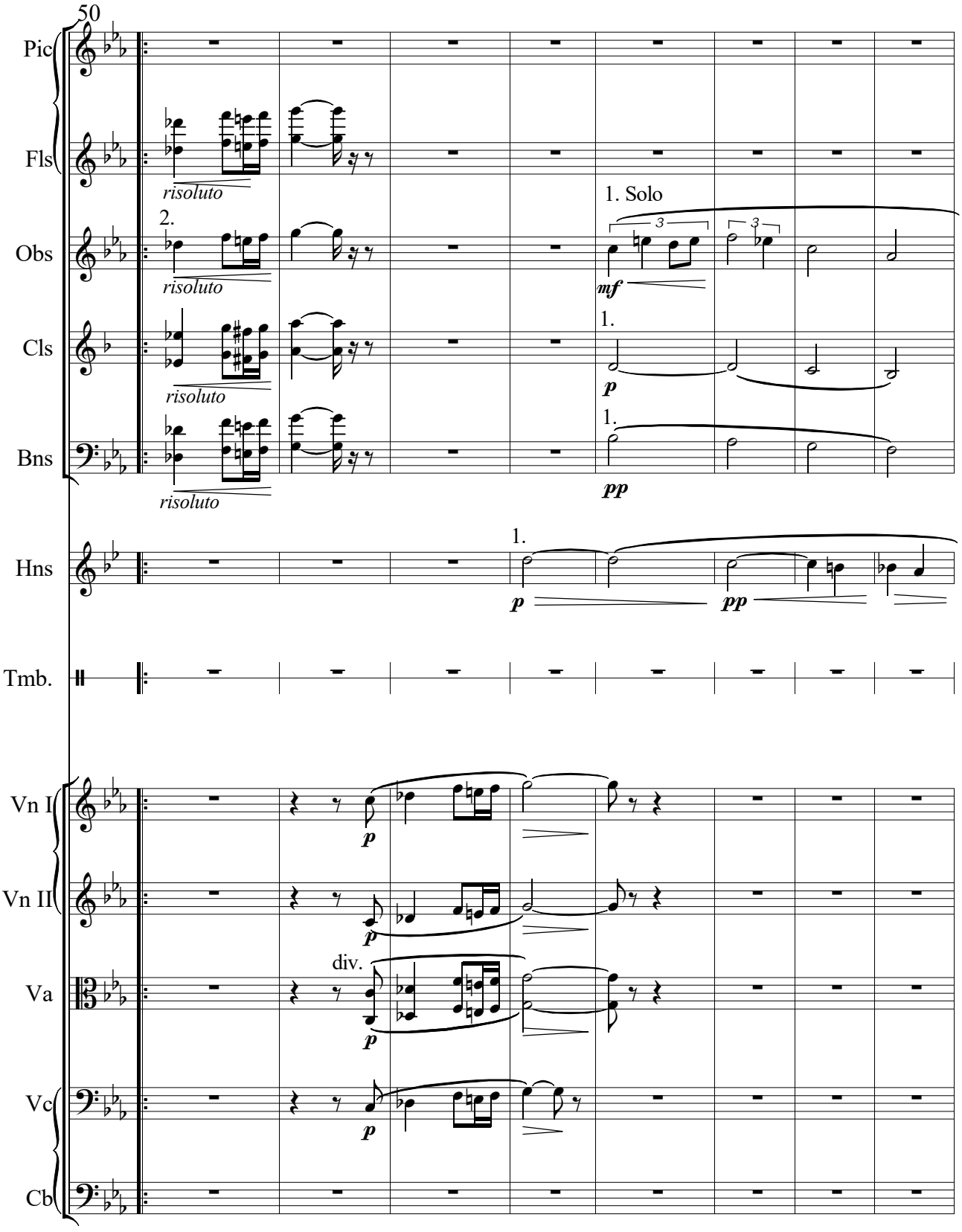

17
Pic
Fls
Obs
Cls
Bns
Hns
Tmb.
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
Cb
a 2.
1.
div.
f
mf

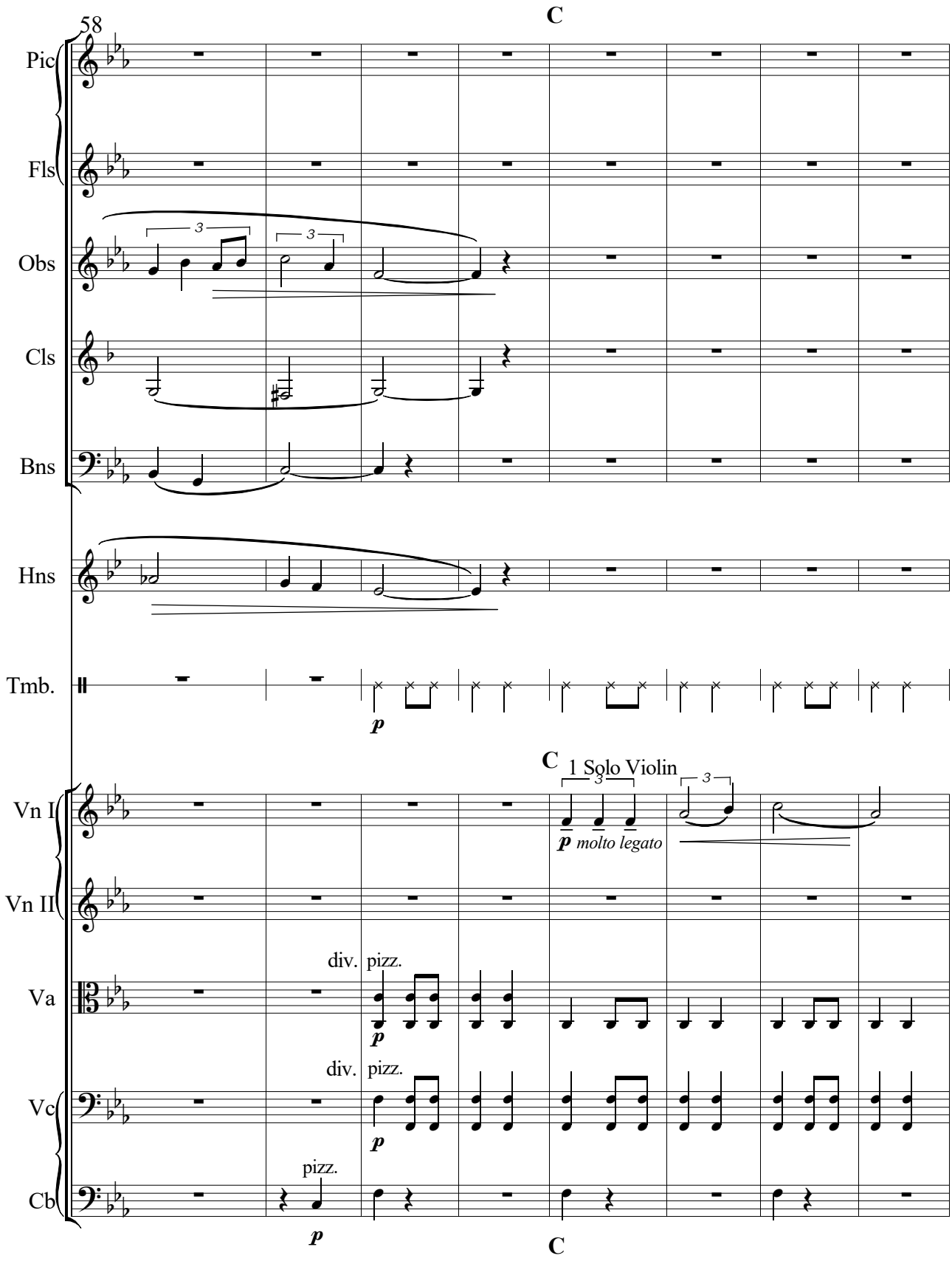

23
A
Pic
Fls
Obs
Cls
Bns
Hns
Tmb.
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
Cb
1.
1 Solo.
pizz.
A

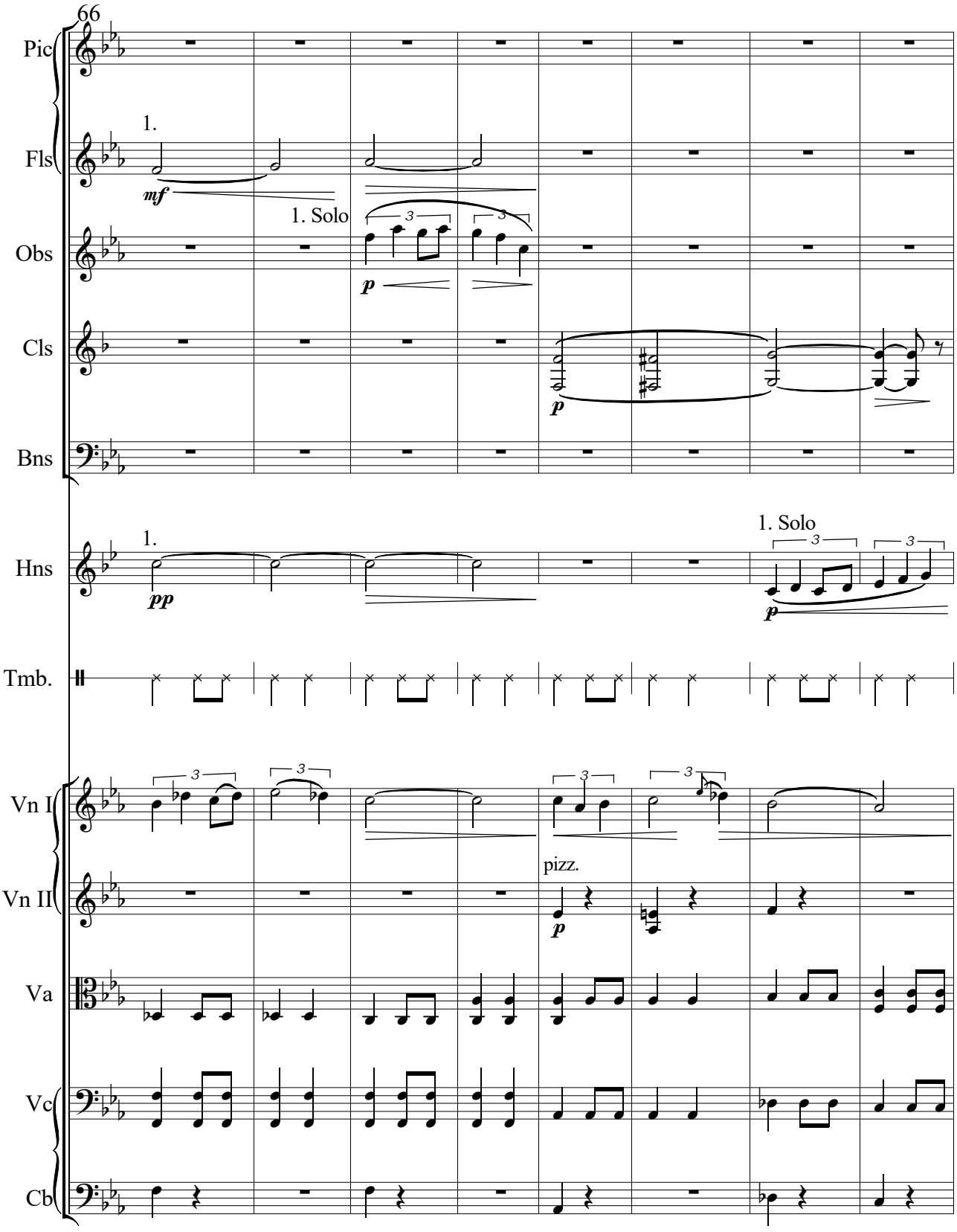

29
Pic
Fls
Obs
Cls
Bns
Hns
Tmb.
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
Cb

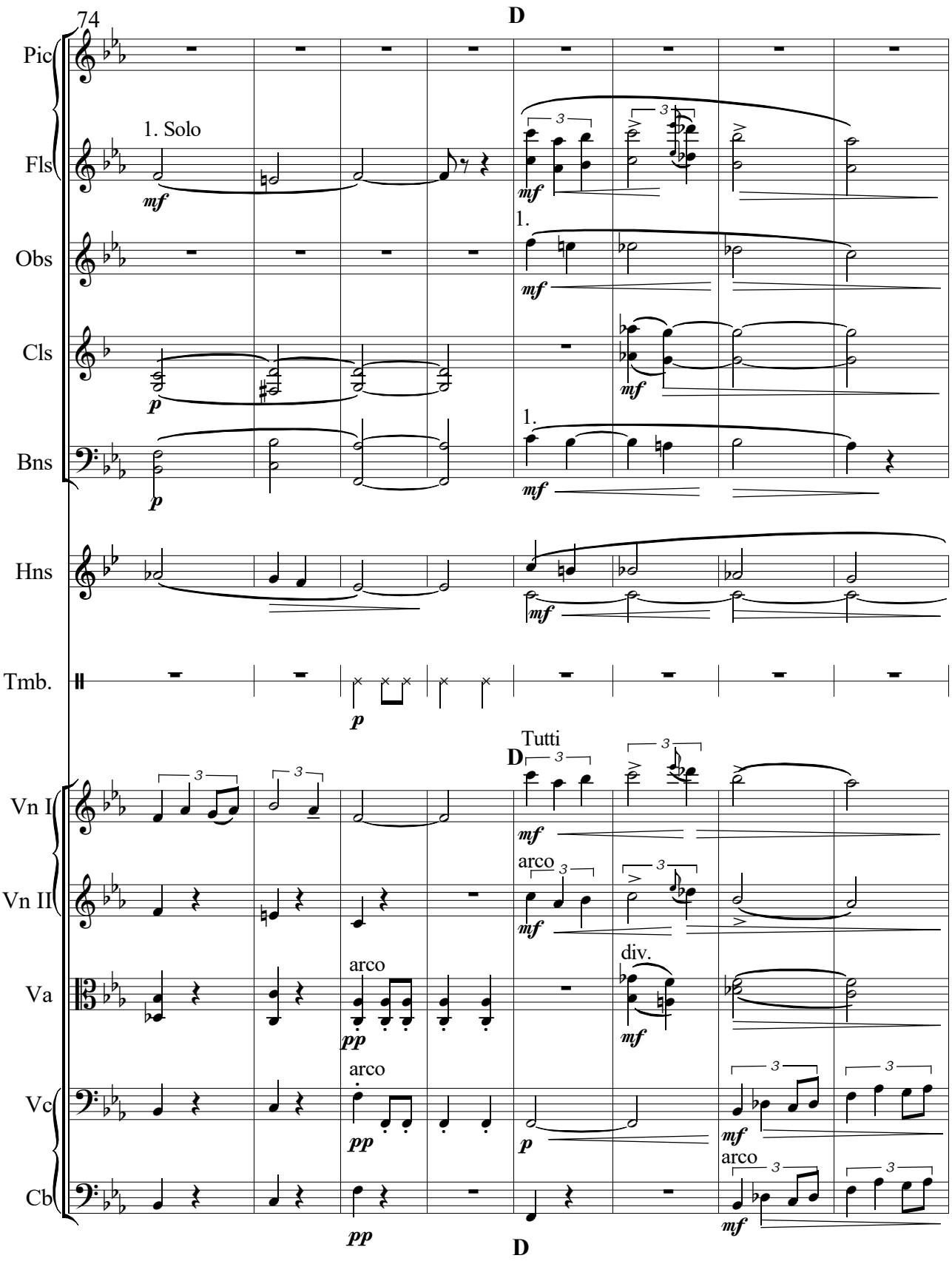

36
B
Pic
Fls
Obs
1 Solo.
mf
Cls
sfz
pp
Bns
pp
Hns
2.
1.
sfz
pp
p
Tmb.
p
B
Vn I
Vn II
Va
pp
Vc
arco
pp
Cb
p
B

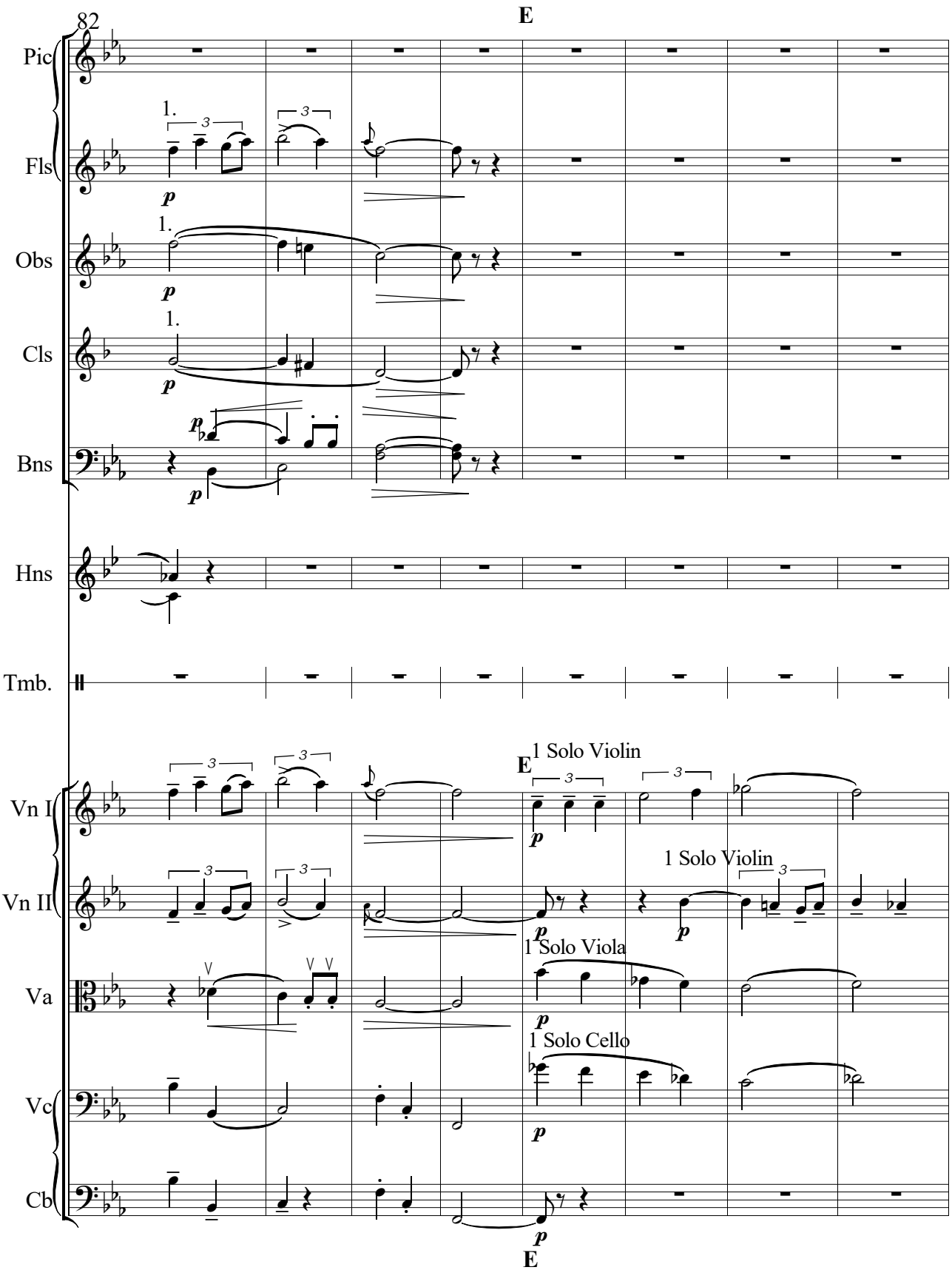

43
Pic
Fls
Obs
Cls
Bns
Hns
Tmb.
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
Cb
a 2.
arco
1.
2.
p
f

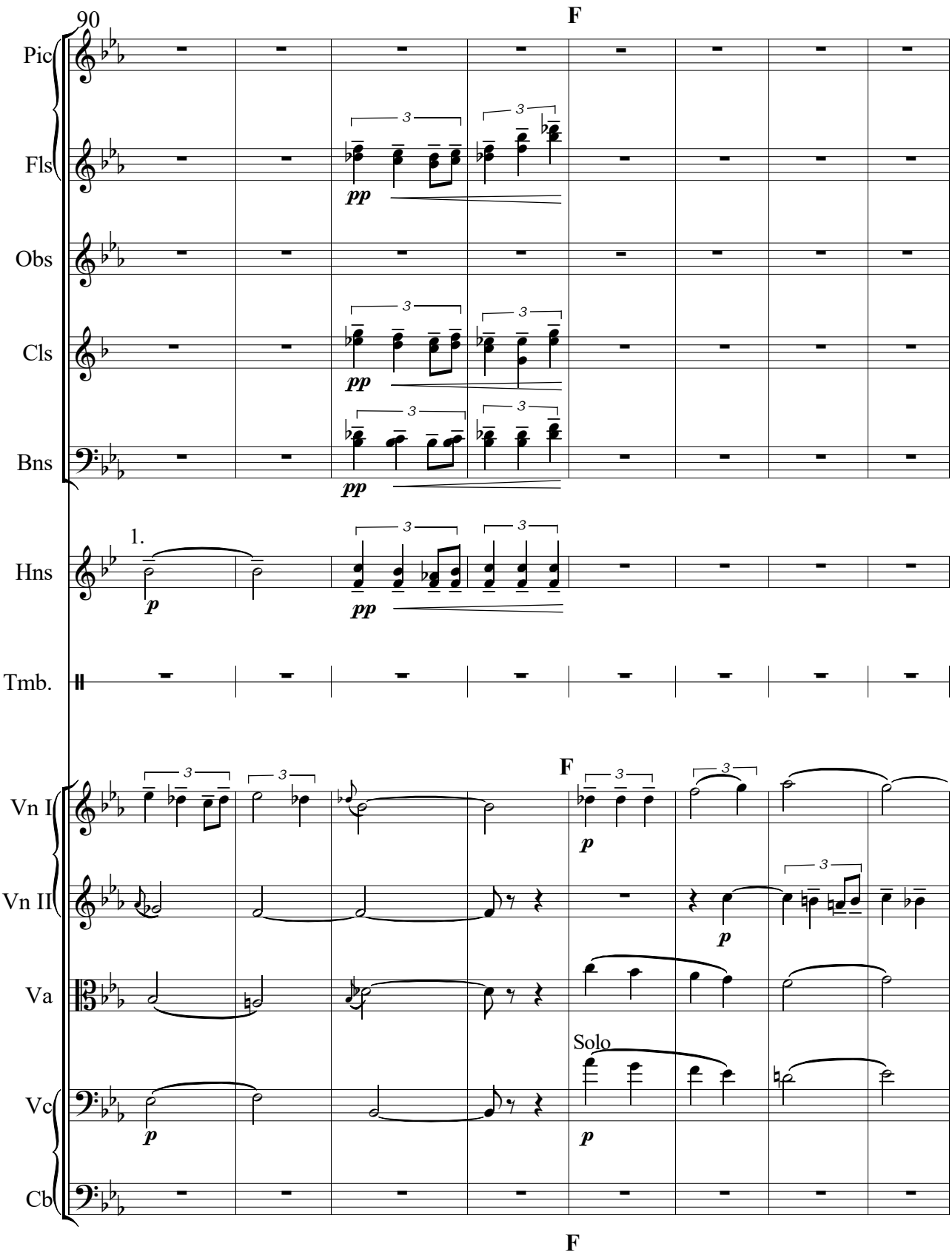

50
Pic
Fls
Obs
Cls
Bns
Hns
Tmb.
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
Cb
risoluto
2.
1. Solo
mf
p
pp
div.

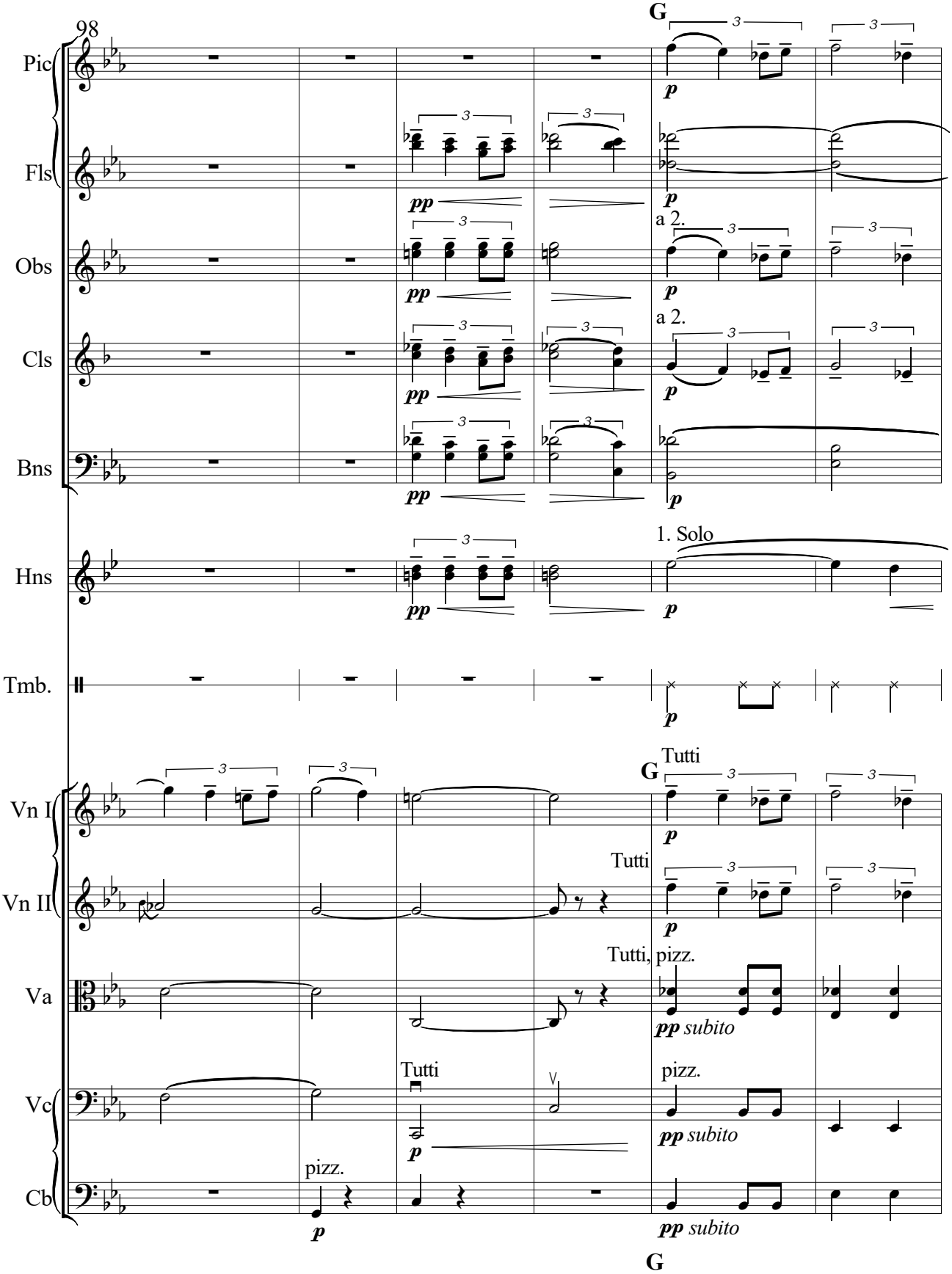

58
C
Pic
Fls
Obs
Cls
Bns
Hns
Tmb.
p
C
1 Solo Violin
p molto legato
Vn I
Vn II
div. pizz.
Va
p
div. pizz.
Vc
p
pizz.
Cb
p
C

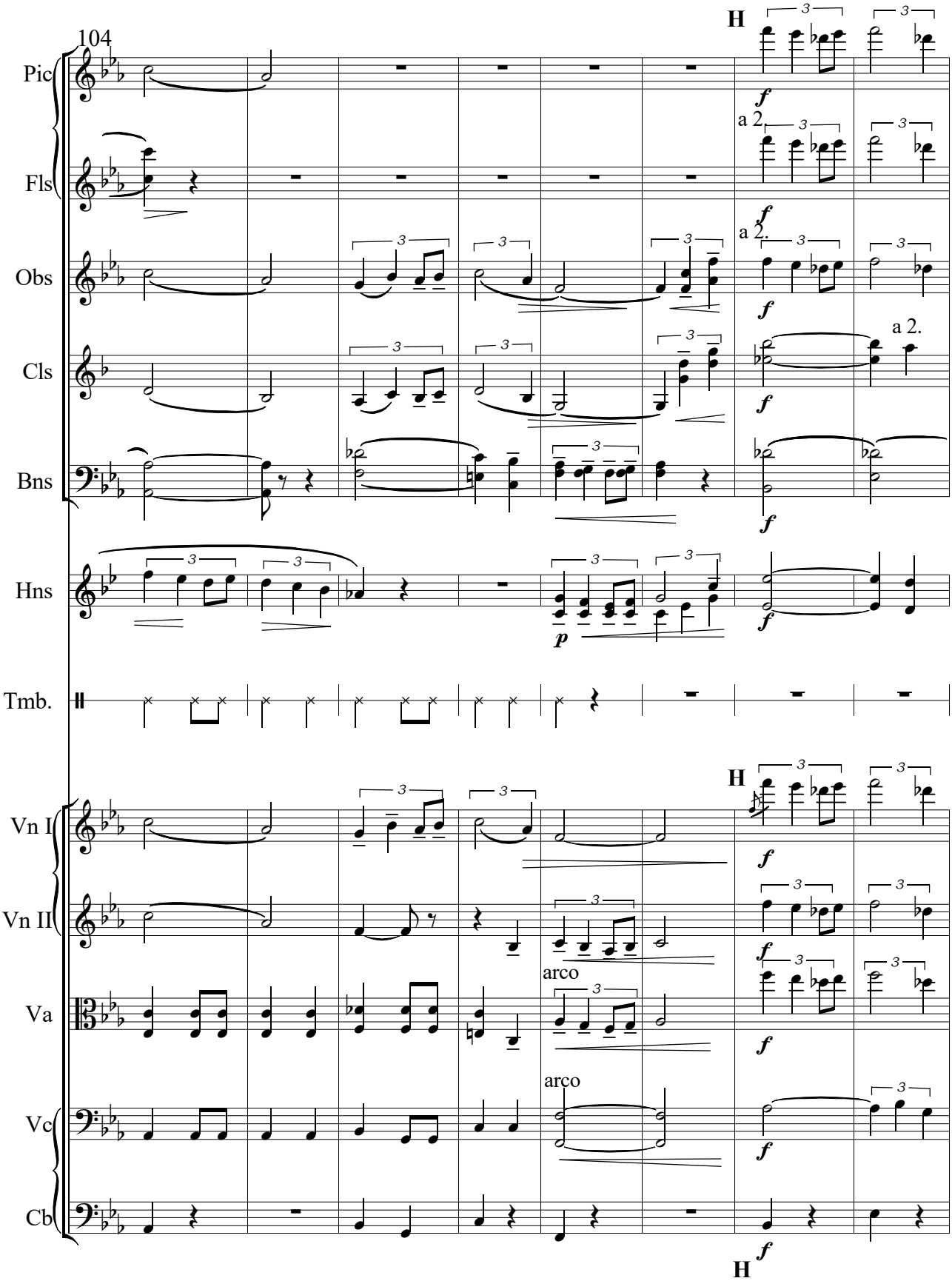

66
Pic
Fls
1.
mf
1. Solo
Obs
p
Cls
p
Bns
Hns
1.
pp
1. Solo
p
Tmb.
Vn I
Vn II
pizz.
p
Va
Vc
Cb

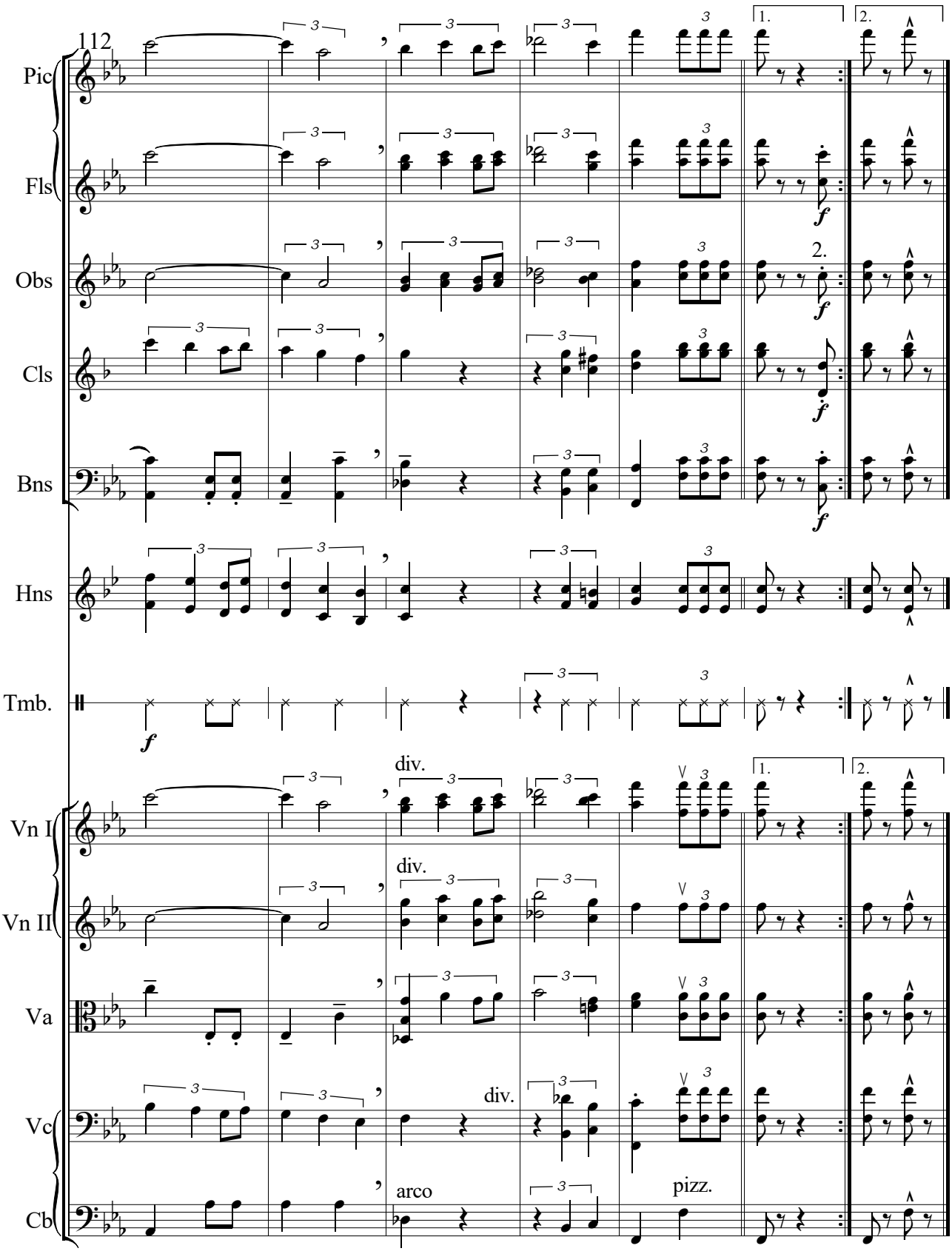

74
D
Pic
Fls
1. Solo
mf
Obs
1.
Cls
p
Bns
Hns
Tmb.
Tutti
Vn I
Vn II
arco
Va
div.
pp
Vc
Cb
D


82
E
Pic
Fls
Obs
Cls
Bns
Hns
Tmb.
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
Cb
1.
p
1 Solo Violin
1 Solo Violin
1 Solo Viola
1 Solo Cello
E


90
F
Pic
Fls
Obs
Cls
Bns
Hns
1.
Tmb.
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Solo
Vc
Cb
F
F


98
G
Pic
Fls
Obs
Cls
Bns
Hns
Tmb.
Vn I
Vn II
Va
Vc
Cb
a 2.
a 2.
1. Solo
Tutti
Tutti
Tutti, pizz.
Tutti
pizz.
pizz.
pp subito
pp subito
pp subito
G


104
H
Pic
Fls
a 2
Obs
a 2.
Cls
a 2.
Bns
Hns
Tmb.
Vn I
Vn II
Va
arco
Vc
arco
Cb
H



John Morrison, April 2020