Seared Valor

for String Quartet

By Alicia Bachorik

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Seared Valor

for String Quartet

5' 30"

Just before writing this piece I read a series of short interviews that photographer Brandon Stanton held with veterans of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Their stories highlighted both the physical dangers they faced and the inner turmoil of trying to do the right thing without always knowing what that right thing was. I have the deepest respect for those who have served in the armed forces, and while we honor those who have shown great courage in battle, we sometimes forget to recognize those who continue to live courageously with the memories of their experiences.

Around the same time a dear friend and retired army captain who had been like a grandfather to me passed away. Watching him persevere through failing health told the same story of a man living with courage through incredibly difficult circumstances and finding peace at the end of his journey.

Performance note: The solos at rehearsal letters B and D are meant to be much slower and freely improvisatory in rhythm and tempo while the other instruments maintain the steady marching tempo from the beginning of the piece as they fade far into the background.

AB

Score

in memory of Dennis Alan Potts

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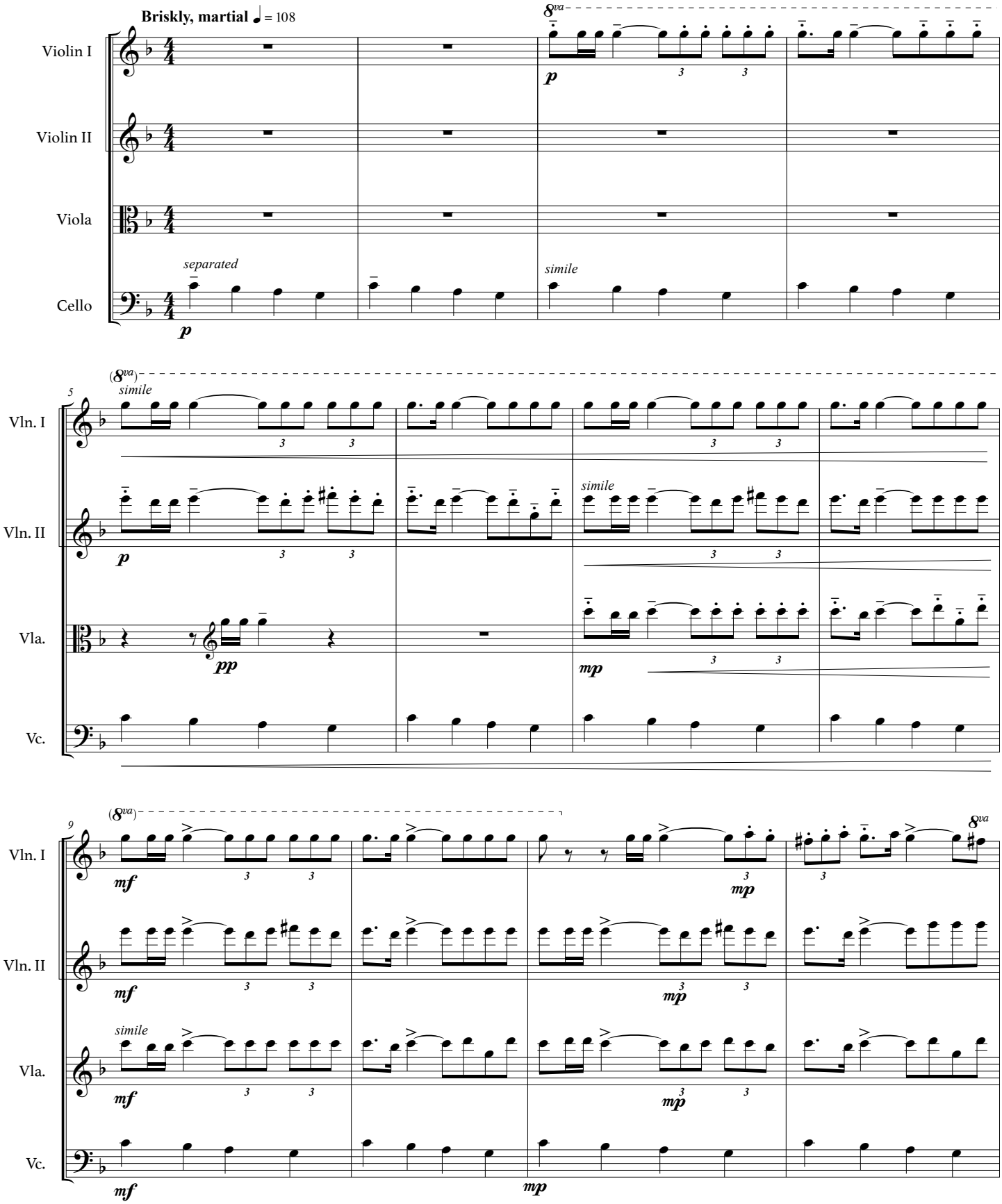

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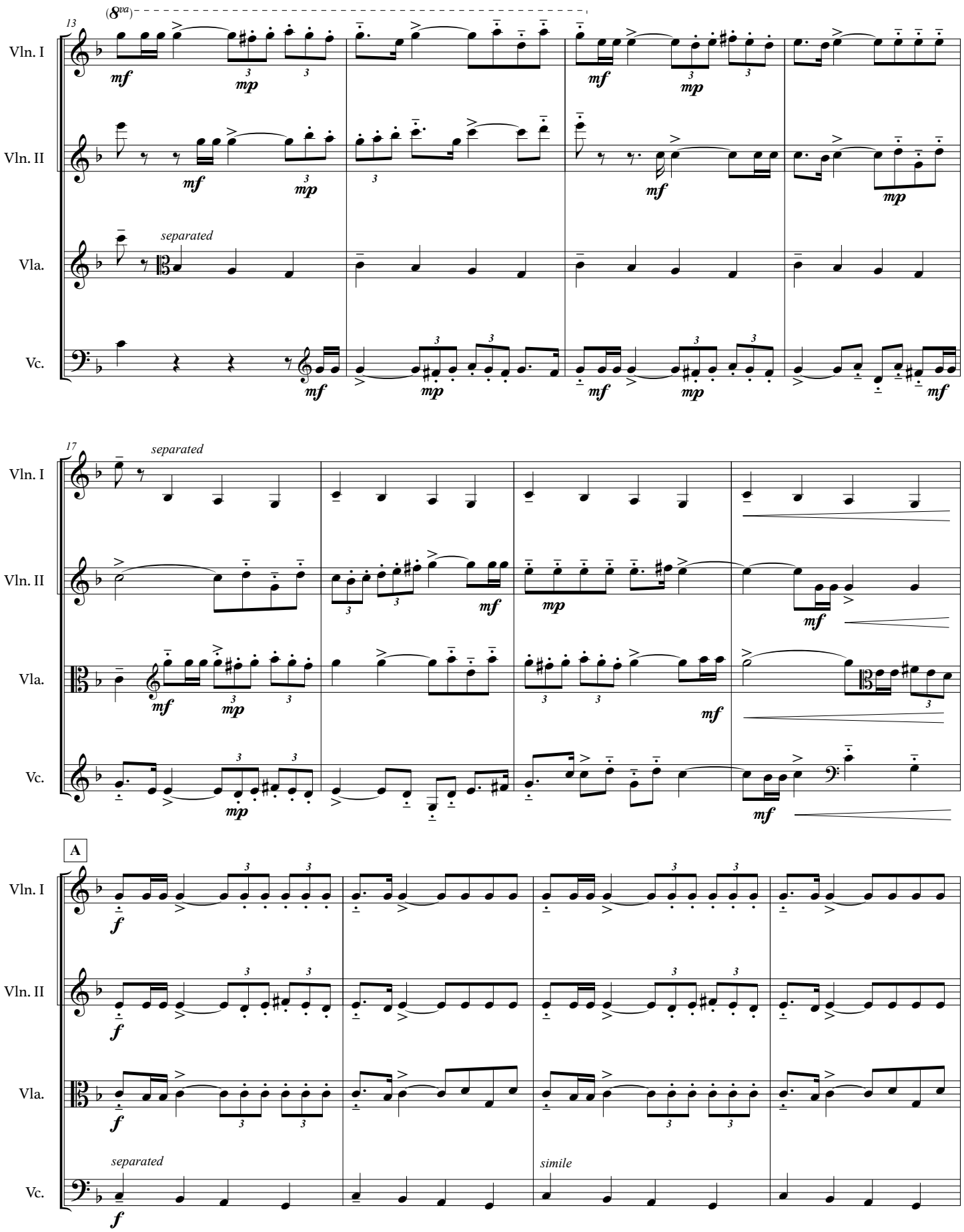
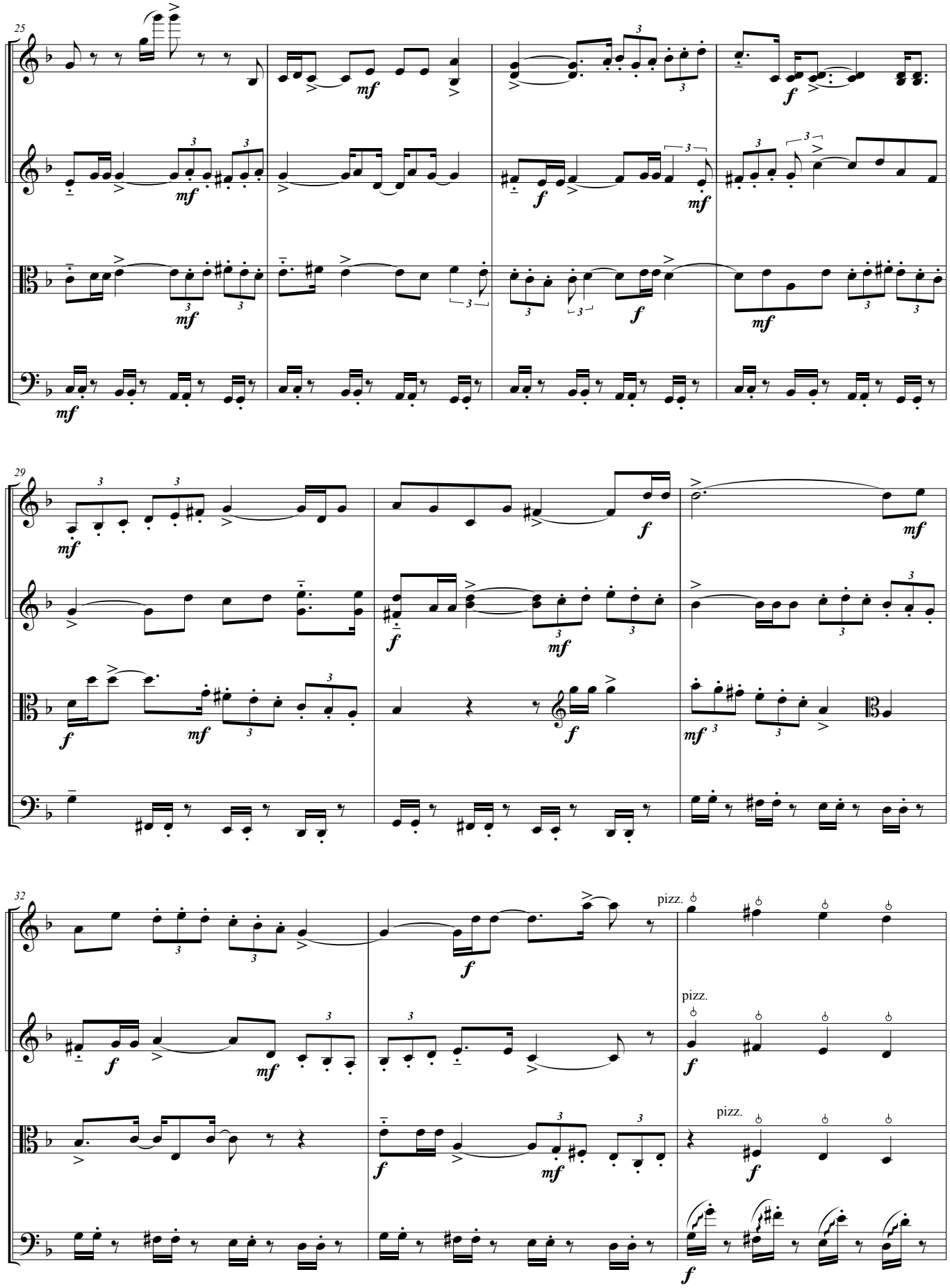
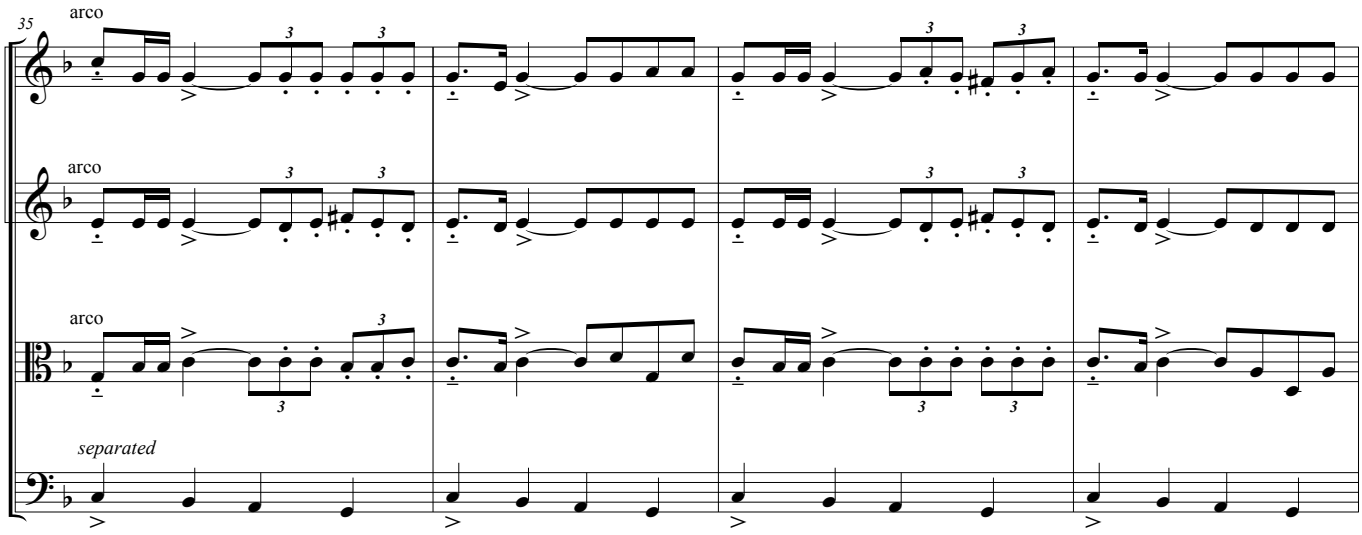
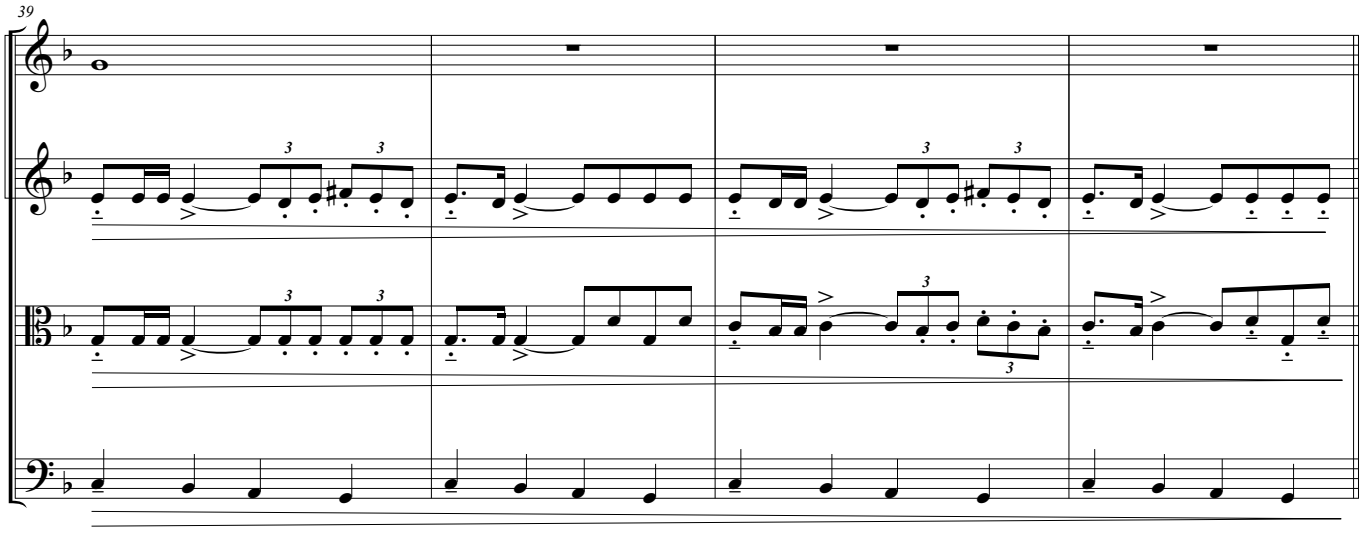
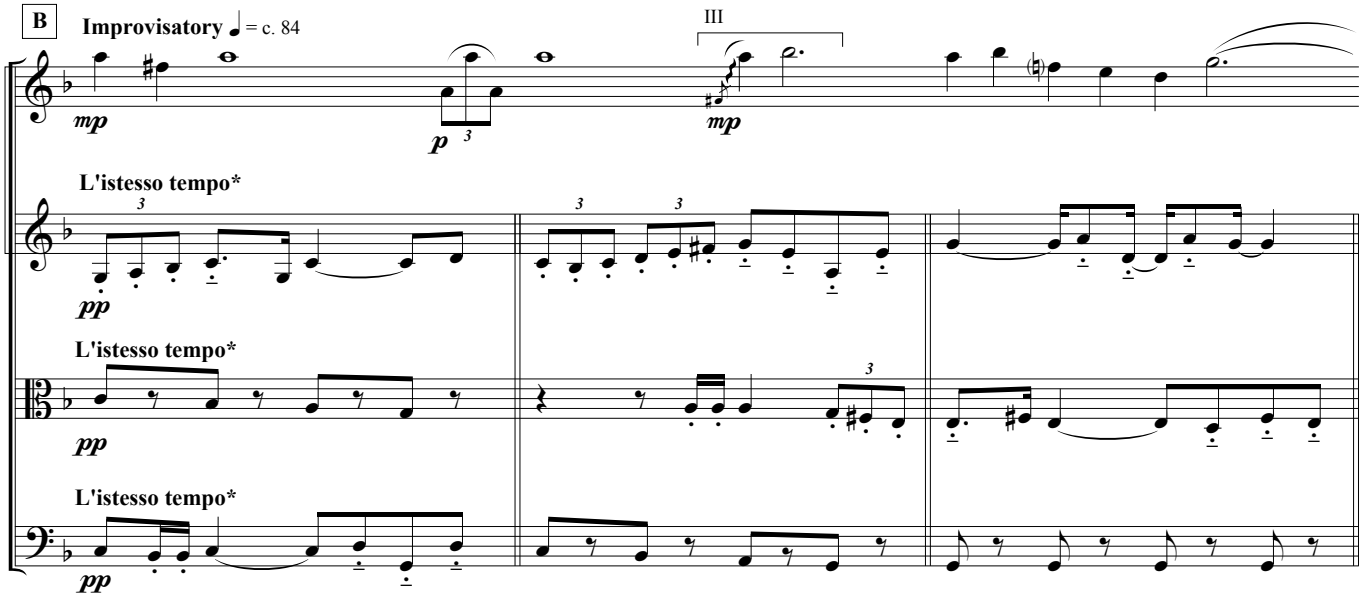

13
(8va)
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
mp
separated
17
separated
A
f
simile

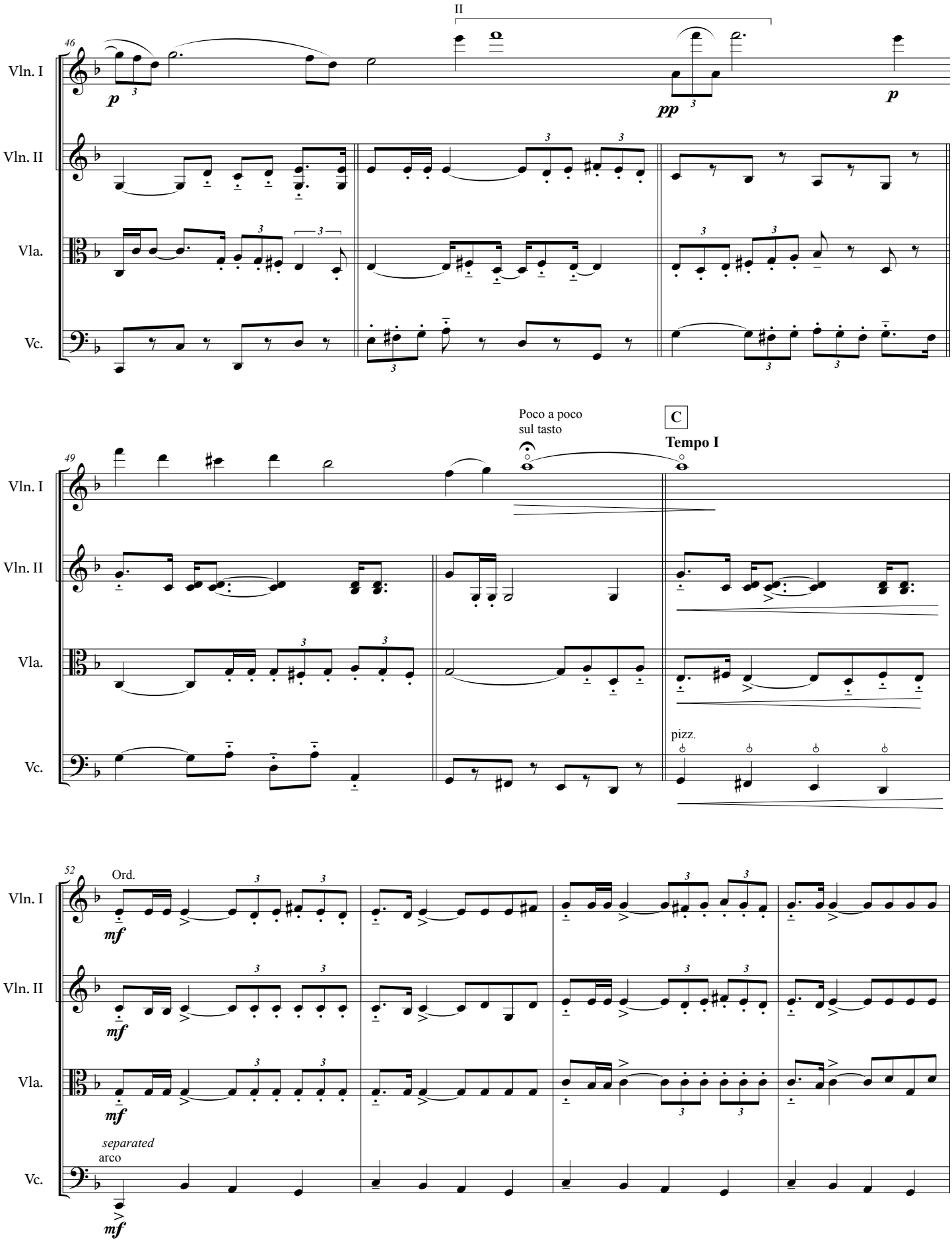

25
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
29
32
pizz.

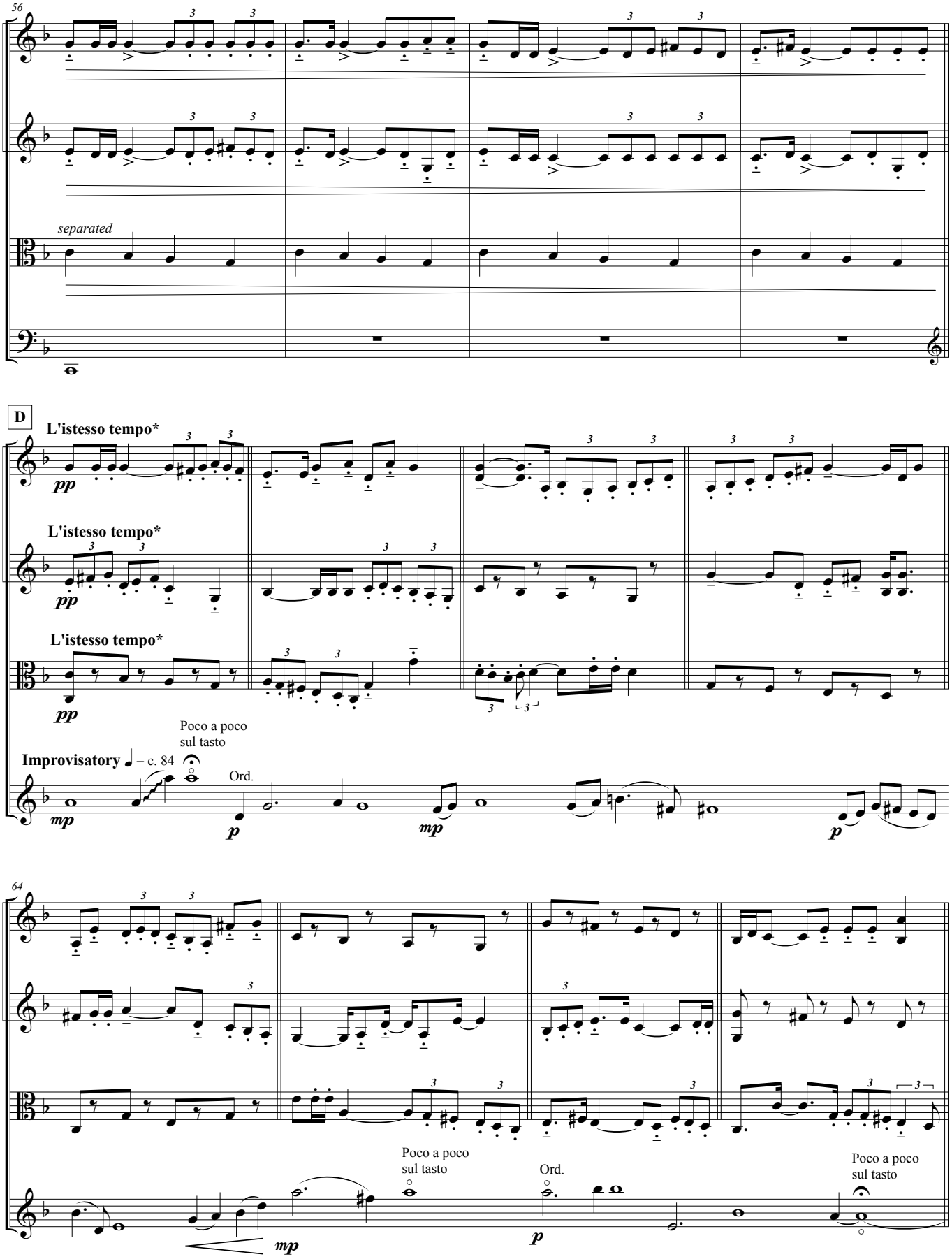




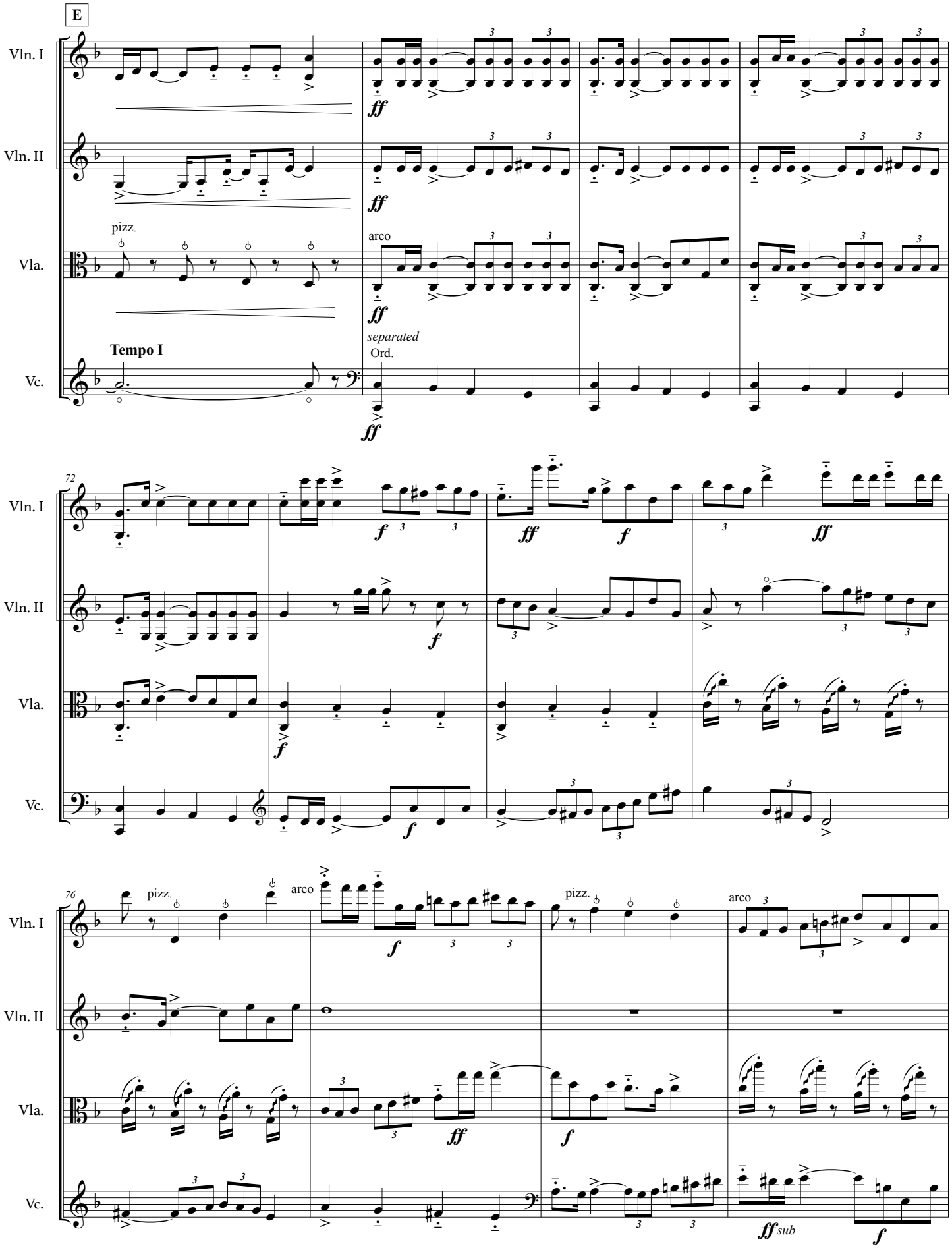


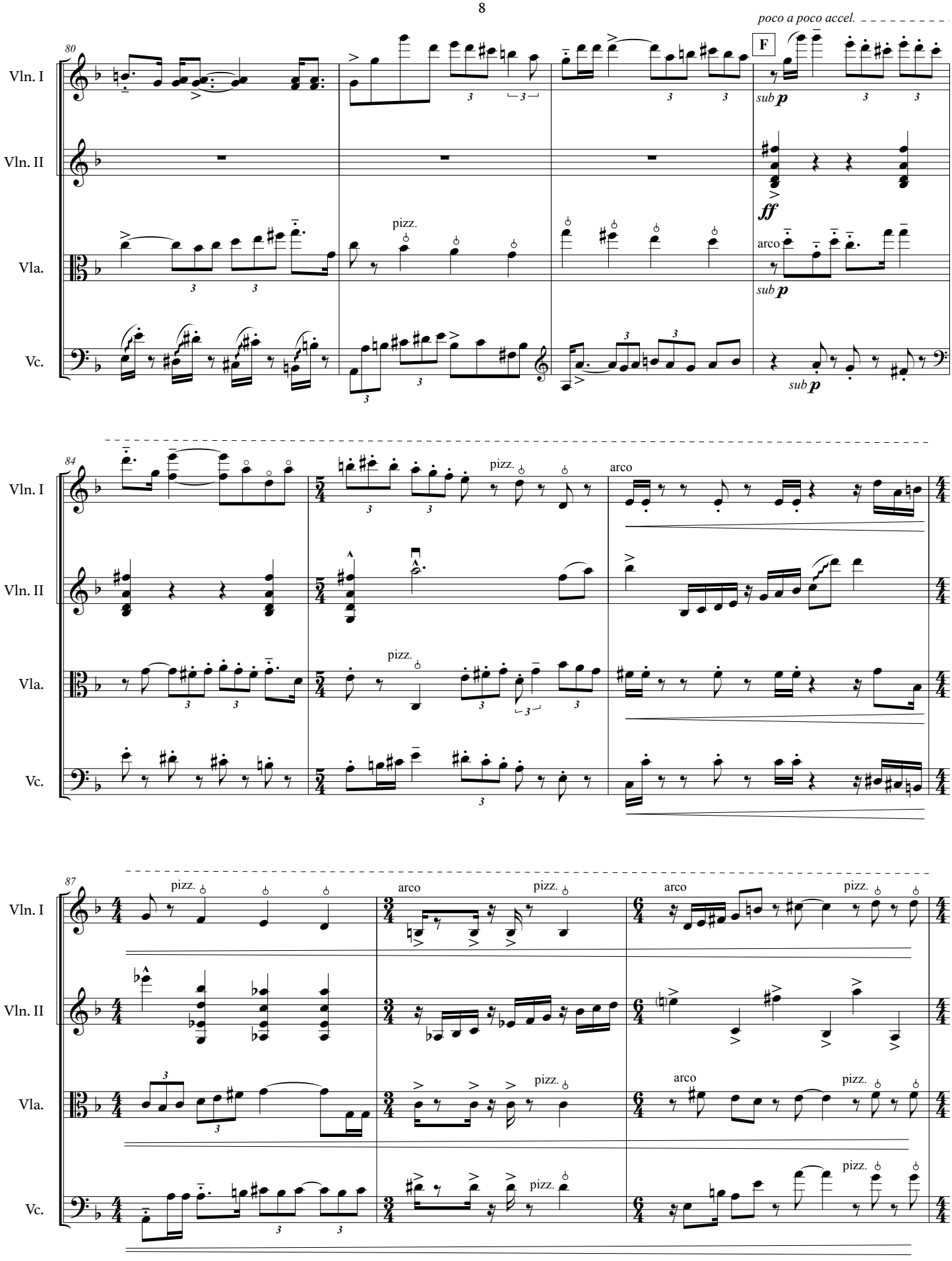
*NOTE: At letter B, play m. 43-50 in any order repeating as necessary until violin I begins final harmonic. Violin II, viola, and cello should maintain the same tempo while playing different bars.

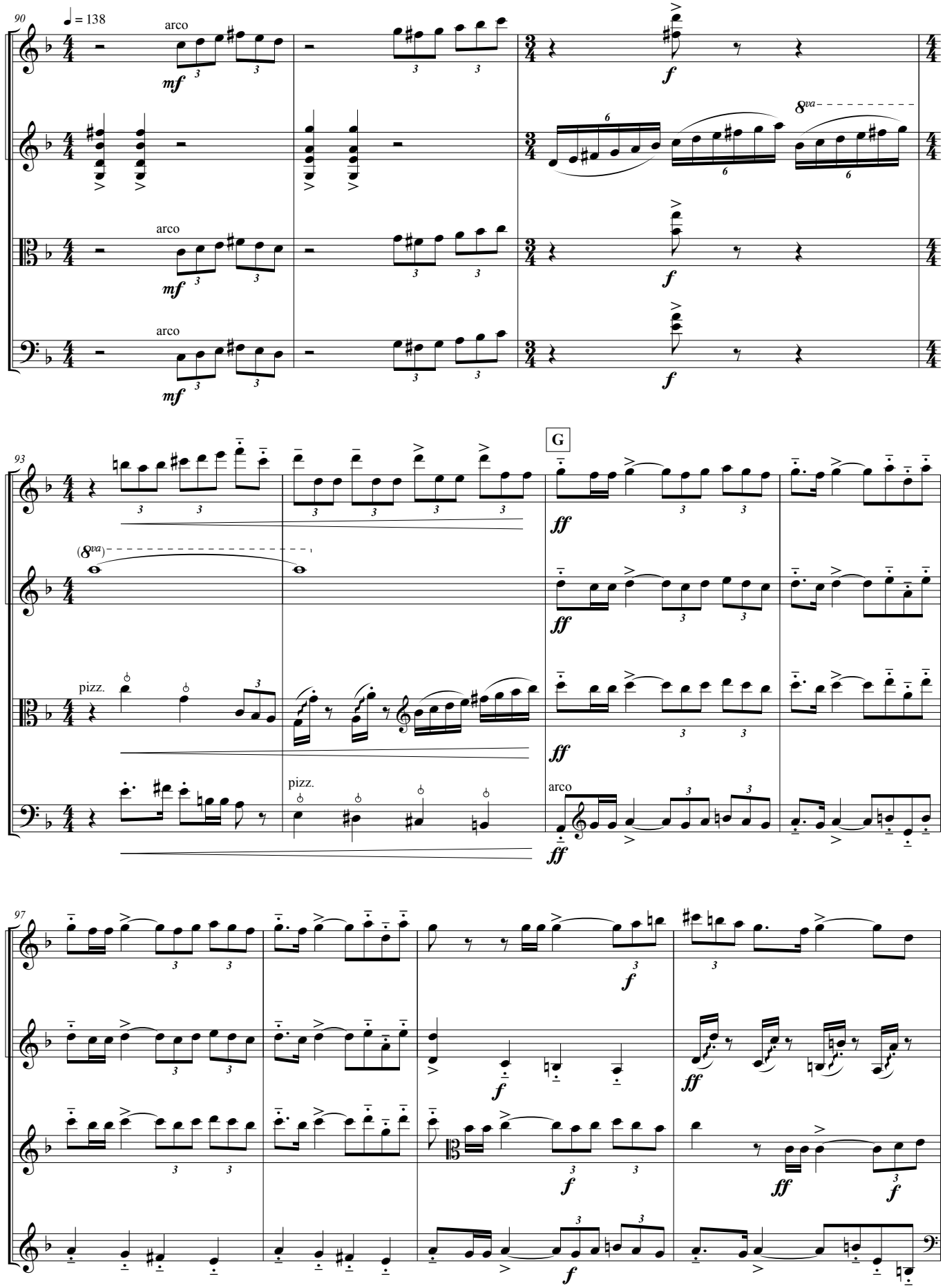

II
46
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
pp
p
49
Poco a poco
sul tasto
C
Tempo I
pizz.
52
Ord.
mf
separated
arco

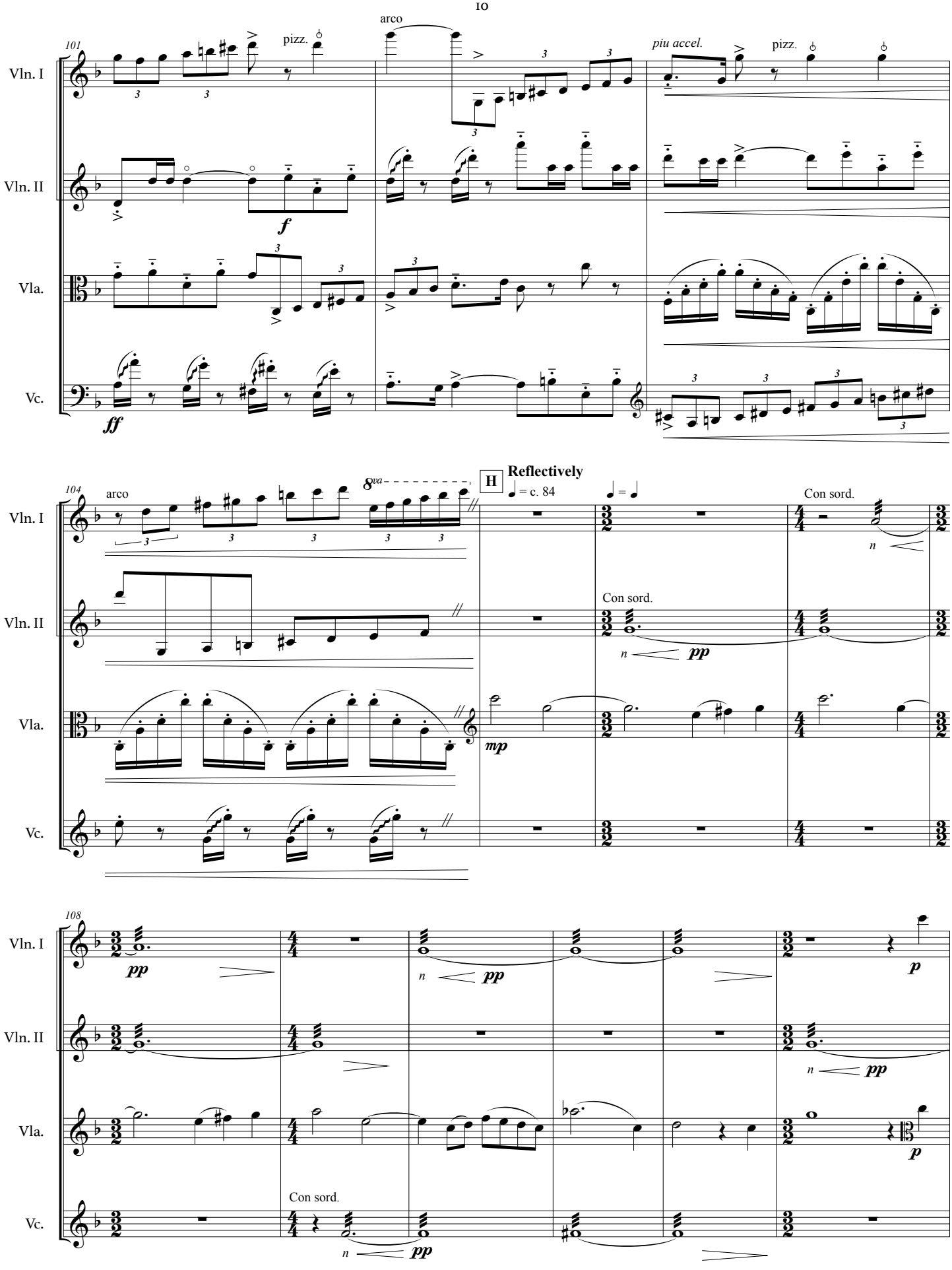


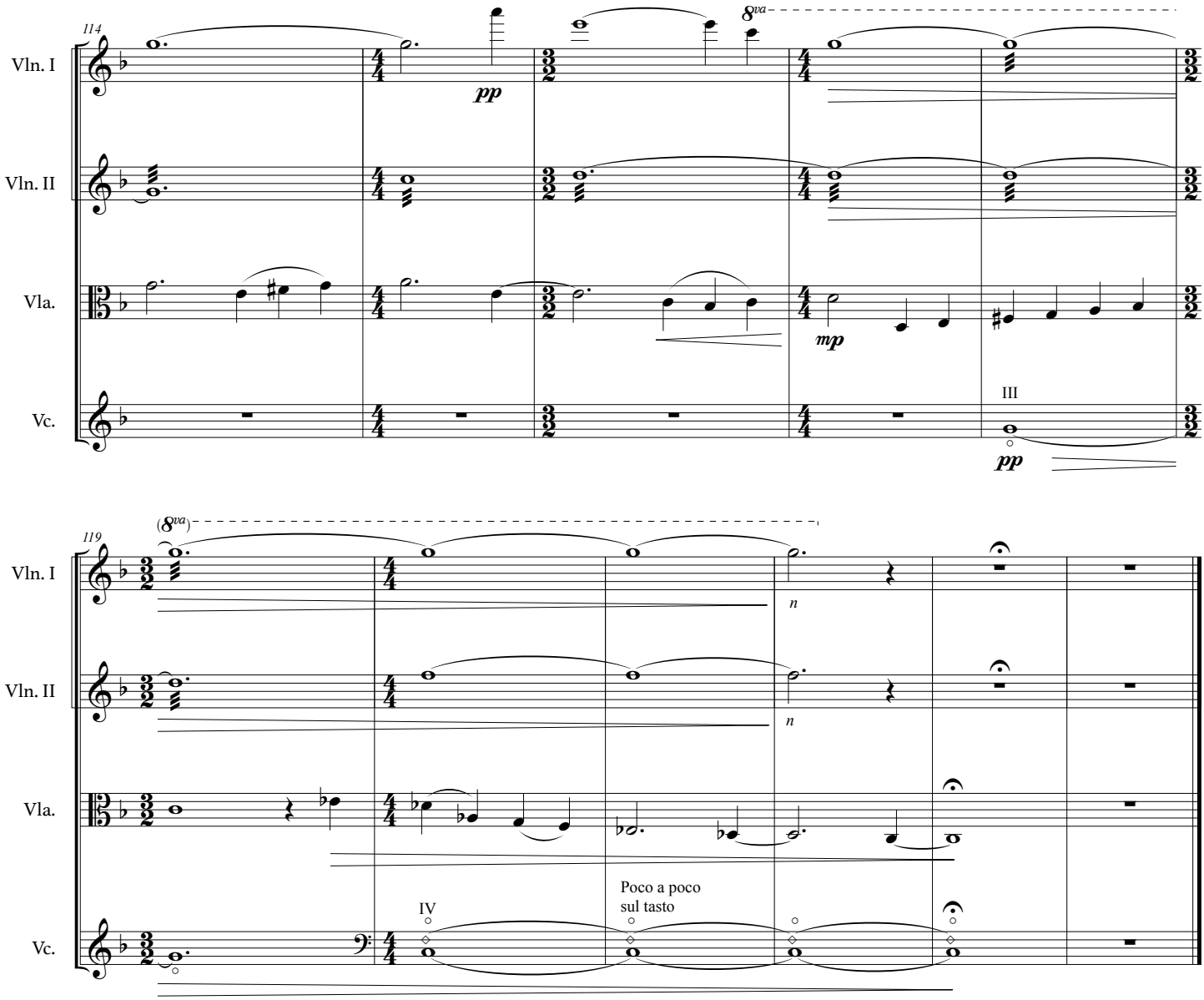
*NOTE: At letter D, play m. 60-67 in in any order repeating as necessary until cello begins final harmonic. Violin I, violin II, and viola should maintain the same tempo while playing different bars.


E
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
Tempo I
separated
Ord.
ff
72
f
76
pizz.
arco
ff sub


poco a poco accel.
80
F
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sub p
ff
pizz.
arco
84
87


90
♩ = 138
arco
mf
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
f
8va
93
G
ff
(8va)
pizz.
arco
97


101
arco
pizz.
piu accel.
pizz.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
f
ff
104
arco
8va
H
Reflectively
♩ = c. 84
♩ = ♩
Con sord.
mp
pp
108
p
n


114
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pp
8va
mp
III
pp
119
(8va)
n
n
IV
Poco a poco
sul tasto