Noah Godard

Salon Music

for string trio

(full score)

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Completed December 28, 2024
Version: November 26, 2025

Movements:

I. Girandole
II. Rocaille I
III. À baldaquin
IV. Rocaille II
V. Boiseries
VI. Epilogue: des fenêtres

Performance notes:

- s.p. = sul ponticello; s.t. = sul tasto
- Triangle noteheads refer to pitchless air sounds. This can be achieved by laying the palm of the LH across the strings; using multiple fingers at harmonic pressure on the same string; or by another method of the player's choosing.
- "X" noteheads on snap pizzicato refer to a pitchless "click" sound. The same method for muting the string may be used as the air sounds above, but it is especially important that these clicks are pitchless.
- The feathered beam gesture at the beginning of "À baldaquin" should be very legato, as if melting into a sustained note. Do not sync up between players. The specific number of noteheads is not to be taken literally.
- The major second harmonics in "À baldaquin" are intended to be fingered on a single string (that is, as artificial harmonics not on a node); these should also produce a shimmery, somewhat unpitched sound.
- "Scoops" up from pizz. notes should produce a bouncy sound ("boing!"). Aim for a slow gliss. of about a minor third.

Program note:

When I was asked to write a piece by the Entraide Française, I mused about this presence of French culture on the Upper East Side, which brought to mind one of my favorite places in New York: the Met's collection of French decorative arts. I certainly love an 18th-century period room, so I planned this series of miniatures inspired by the galleries at the Met.

For the most part, the music is inspired simply by the visual language of these rooms – their lavish layouts, warm lighting, and gilt ornamentation. But the piece also takes a step back, musing on the strangeness of peering into someone's drawing room from within a museum. I began to think about the false sense of interiority – all the windows, of course, have only walls behind them – and the "museumification of domesticity," so to speak.

For the performer's sake, it's worth pointing out that my intention was not to depict these rooms in a literal way – structurally, culturally, or historically. Perhaps the charming lightness of Couperin or Ravel was in the back of my mind, but this is certainly not a piece intending to sound meaningfully "French." Rather, the music is based on my own collected impressions, with the rooms' sense of domestic comfort filtered through a lens of 21st century Americana.

Duration: ca. 11 mins.

Salon Music was commissioned by the Entraide Française. It was premiered on January 31, 2025 at the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in New York. The revised version was premiered as part of the second annual NowBeat Concert at the Tenri Cultural Institute, on May 2, 2025.

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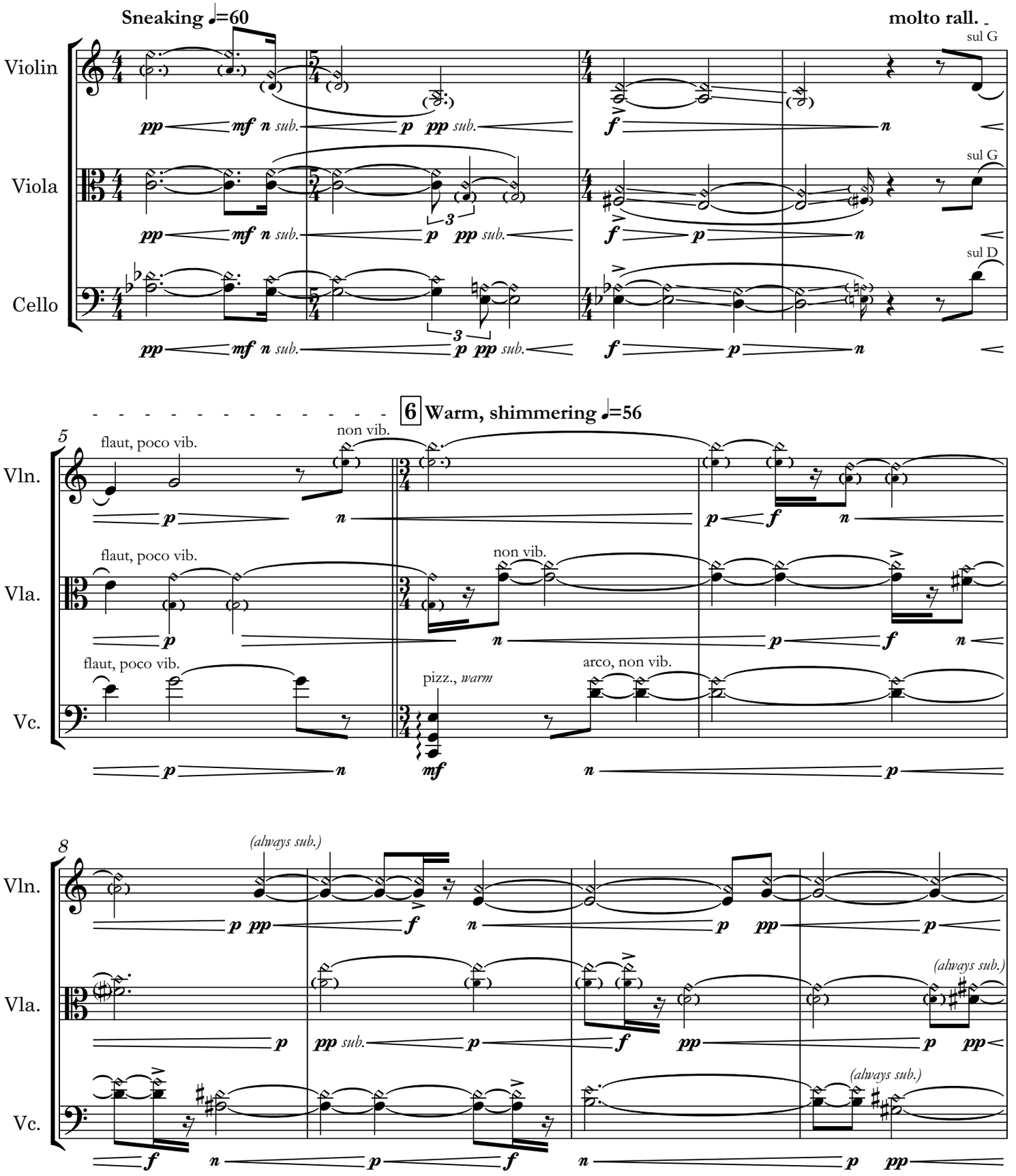
Salon Music

I. Girandole

Noah Godard



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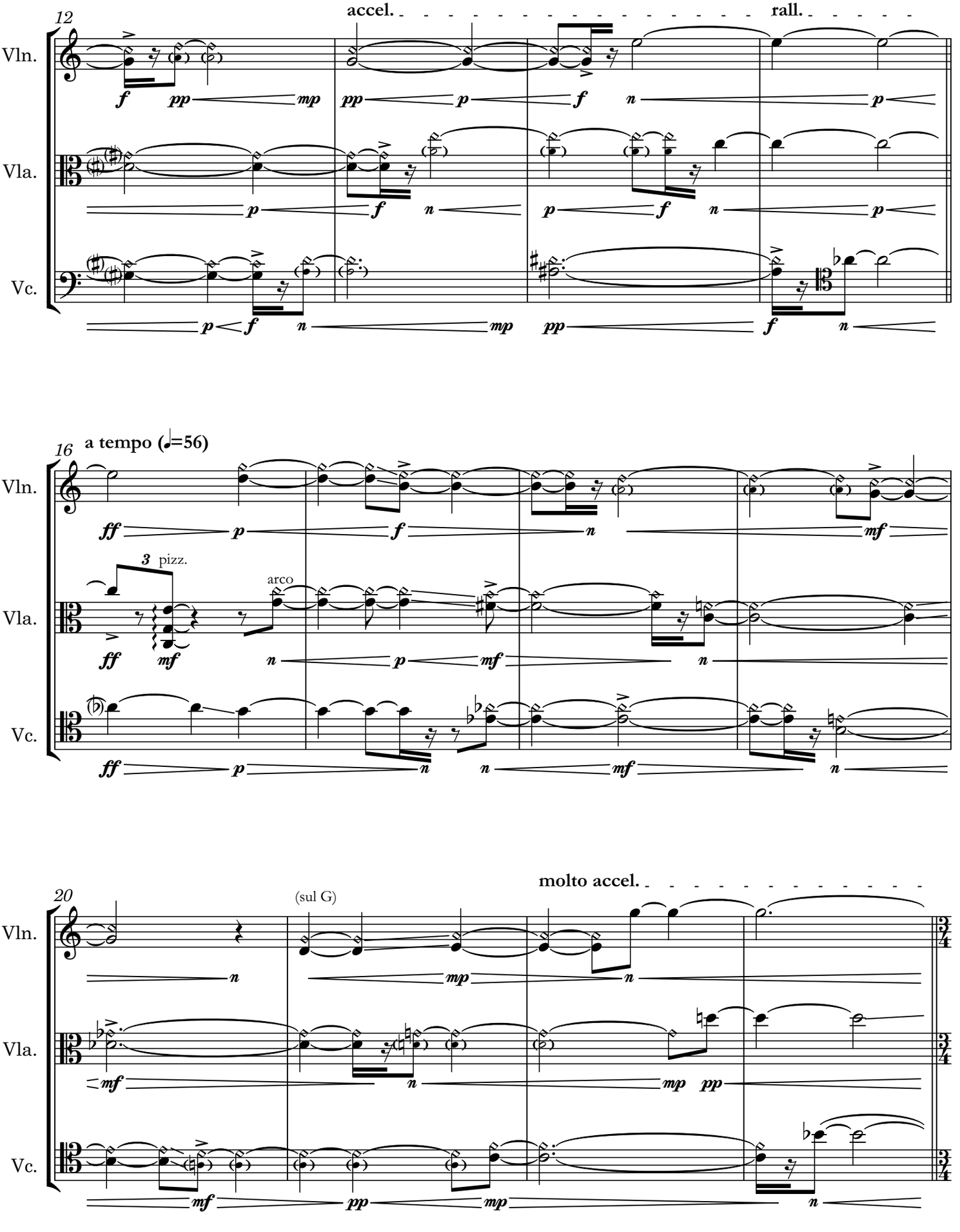
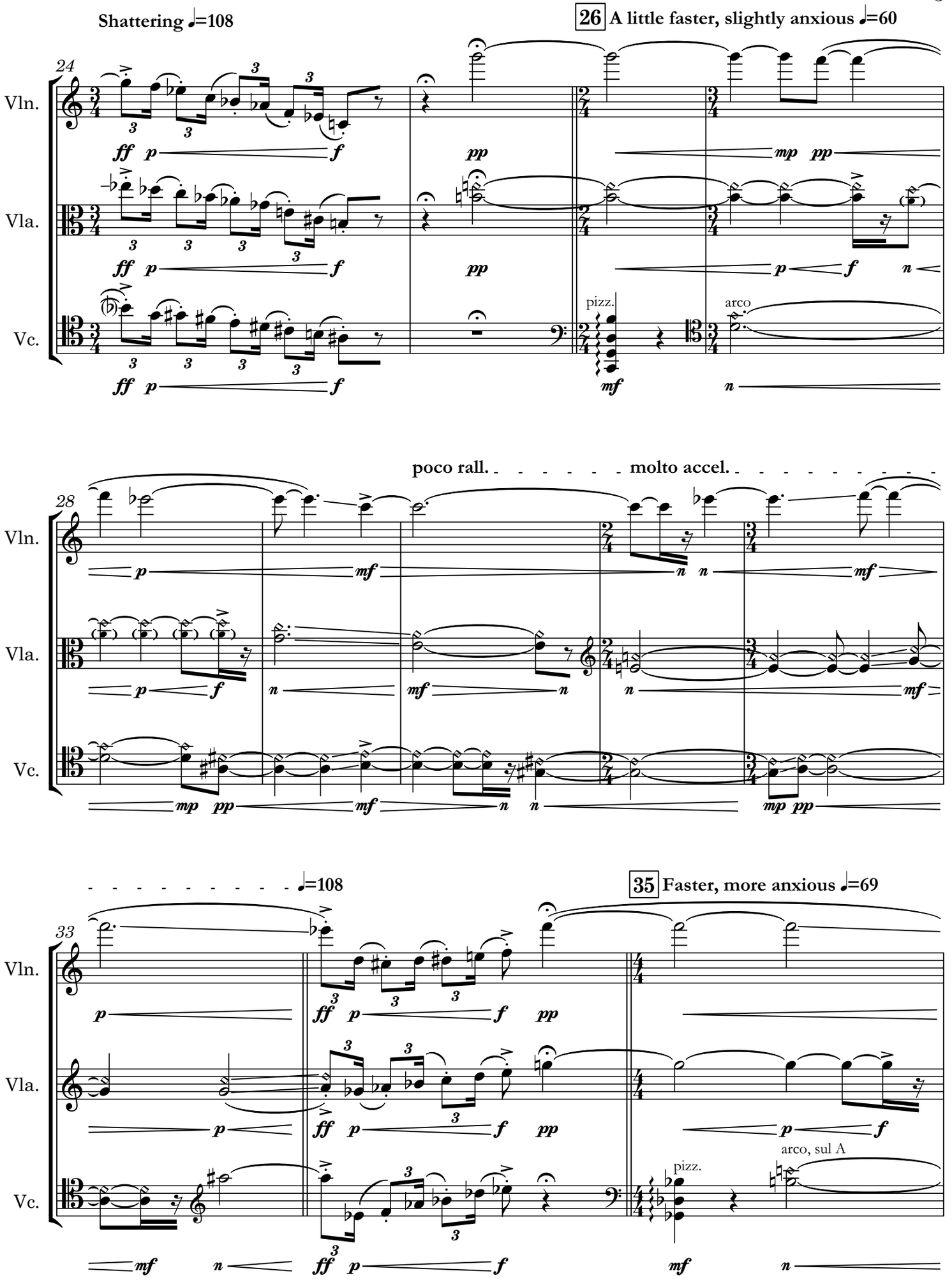
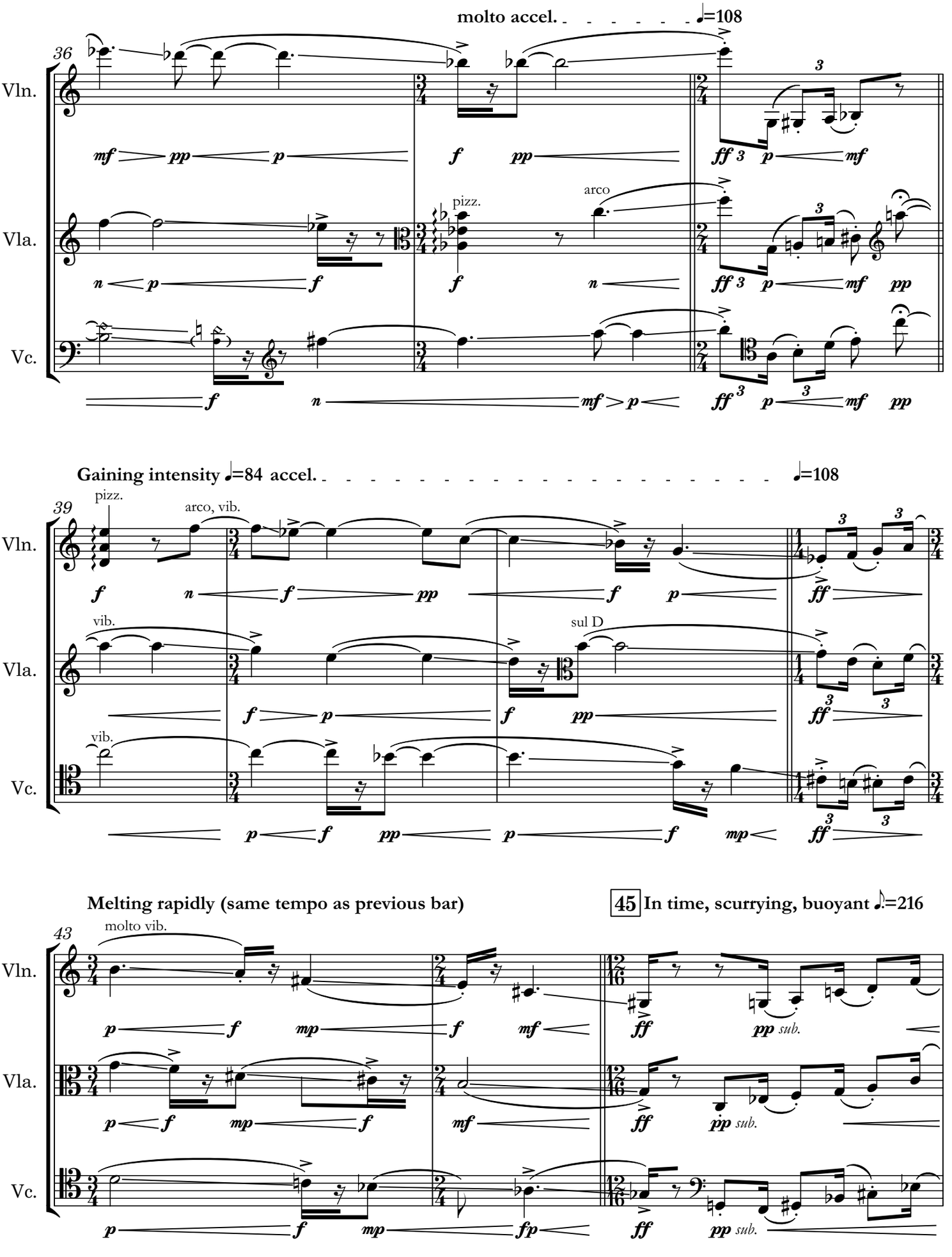
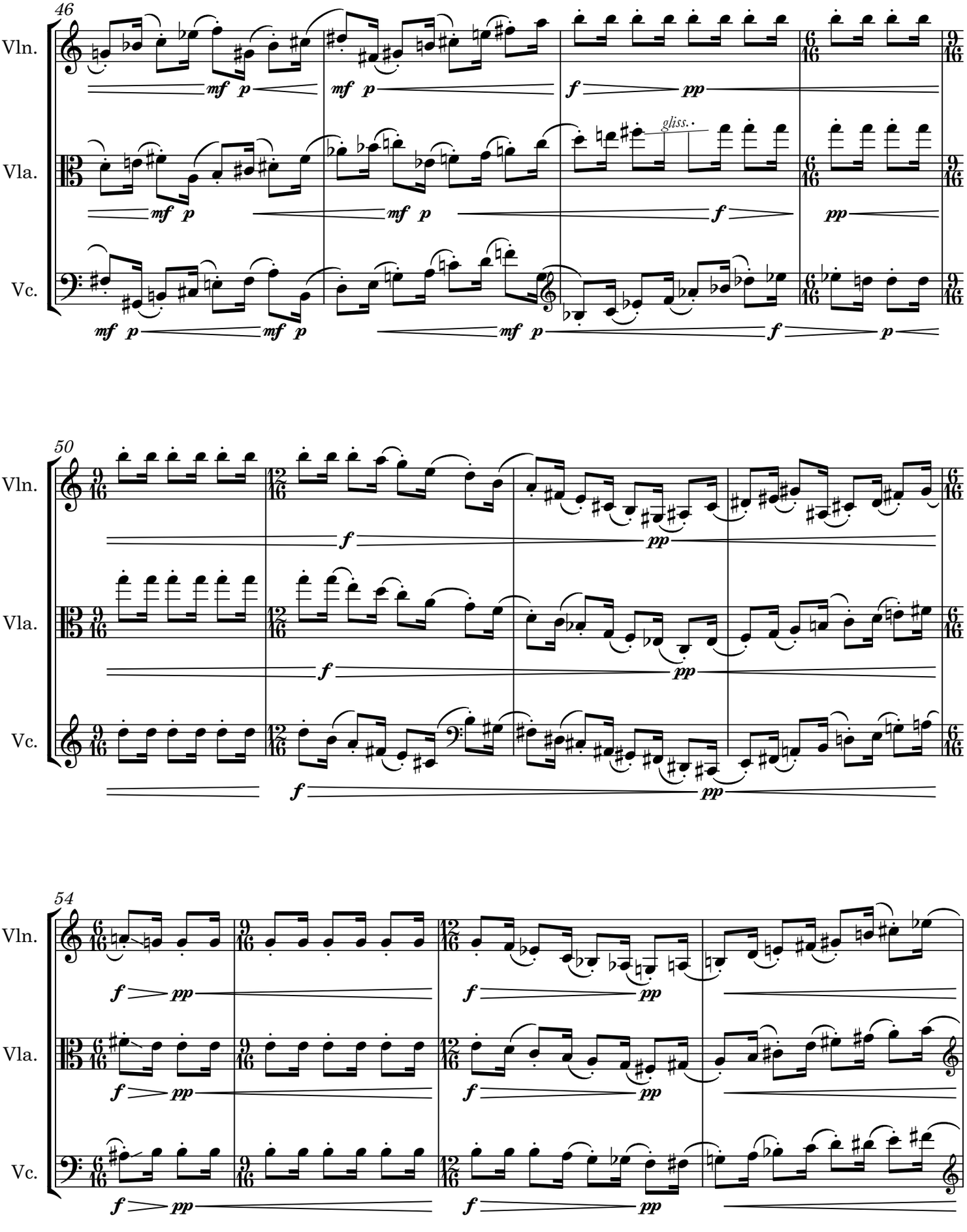
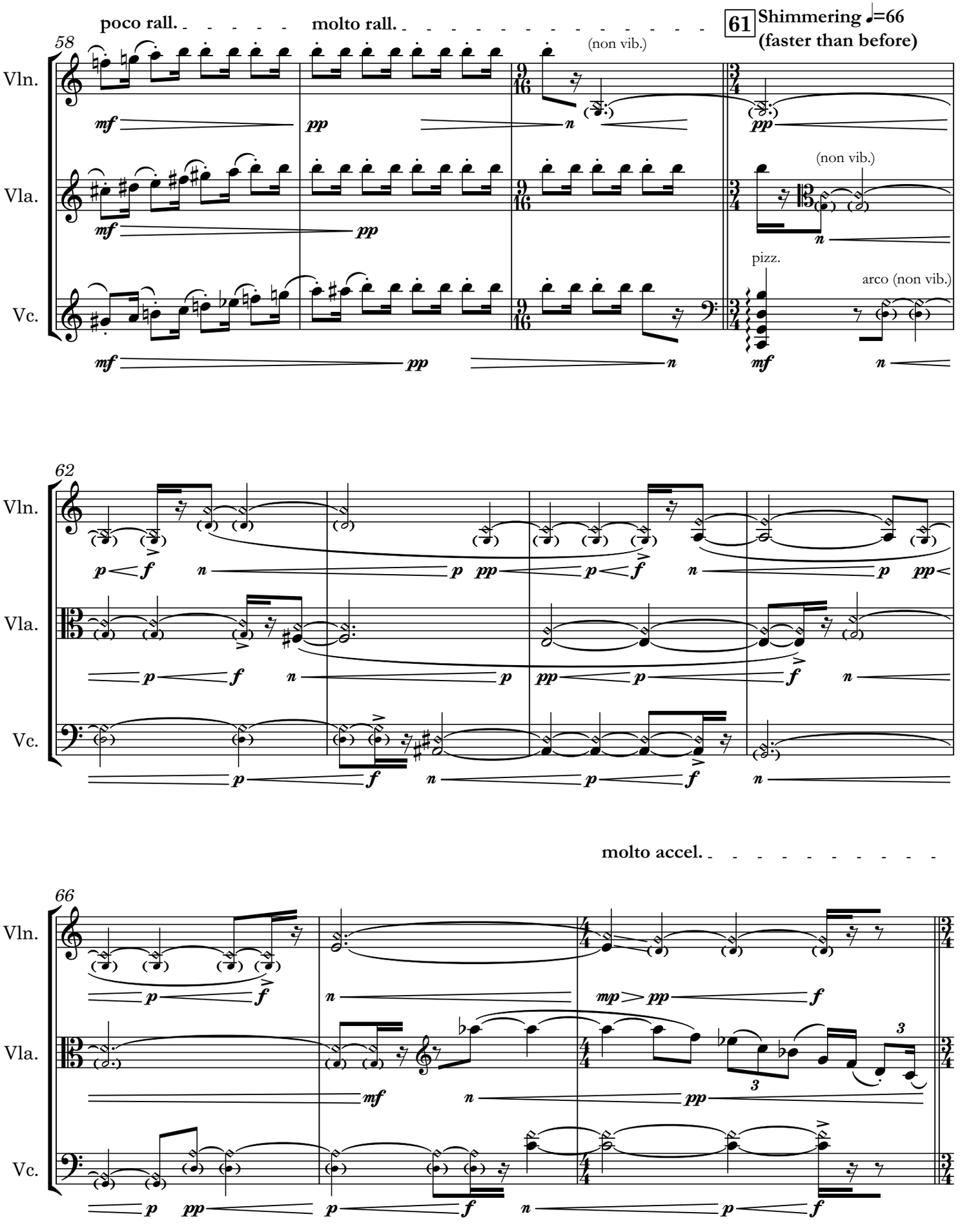
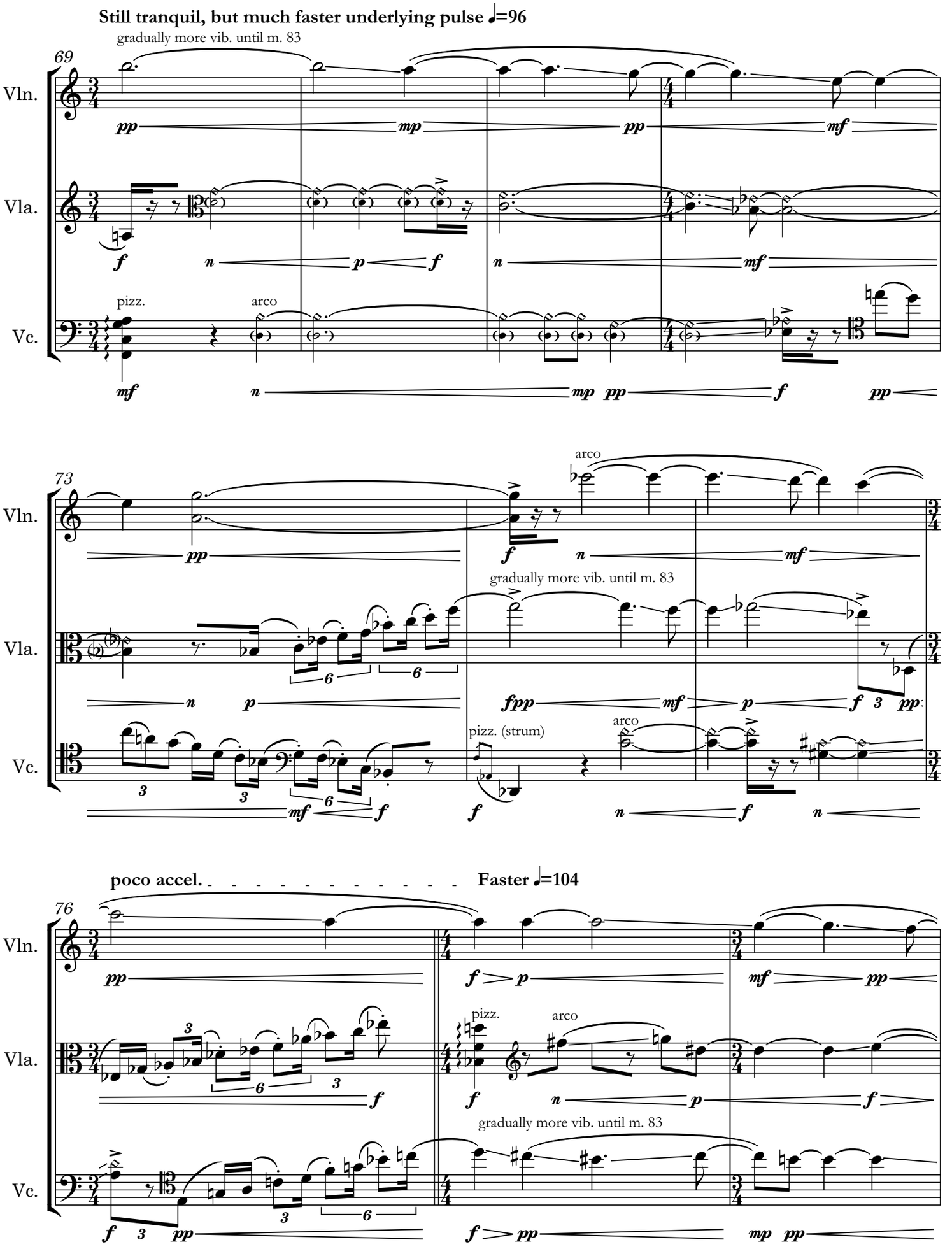

12
accel.
rall.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
16
a tempo (♩=56)
3 pizz.
arco
20
molto accel.
(sul G)

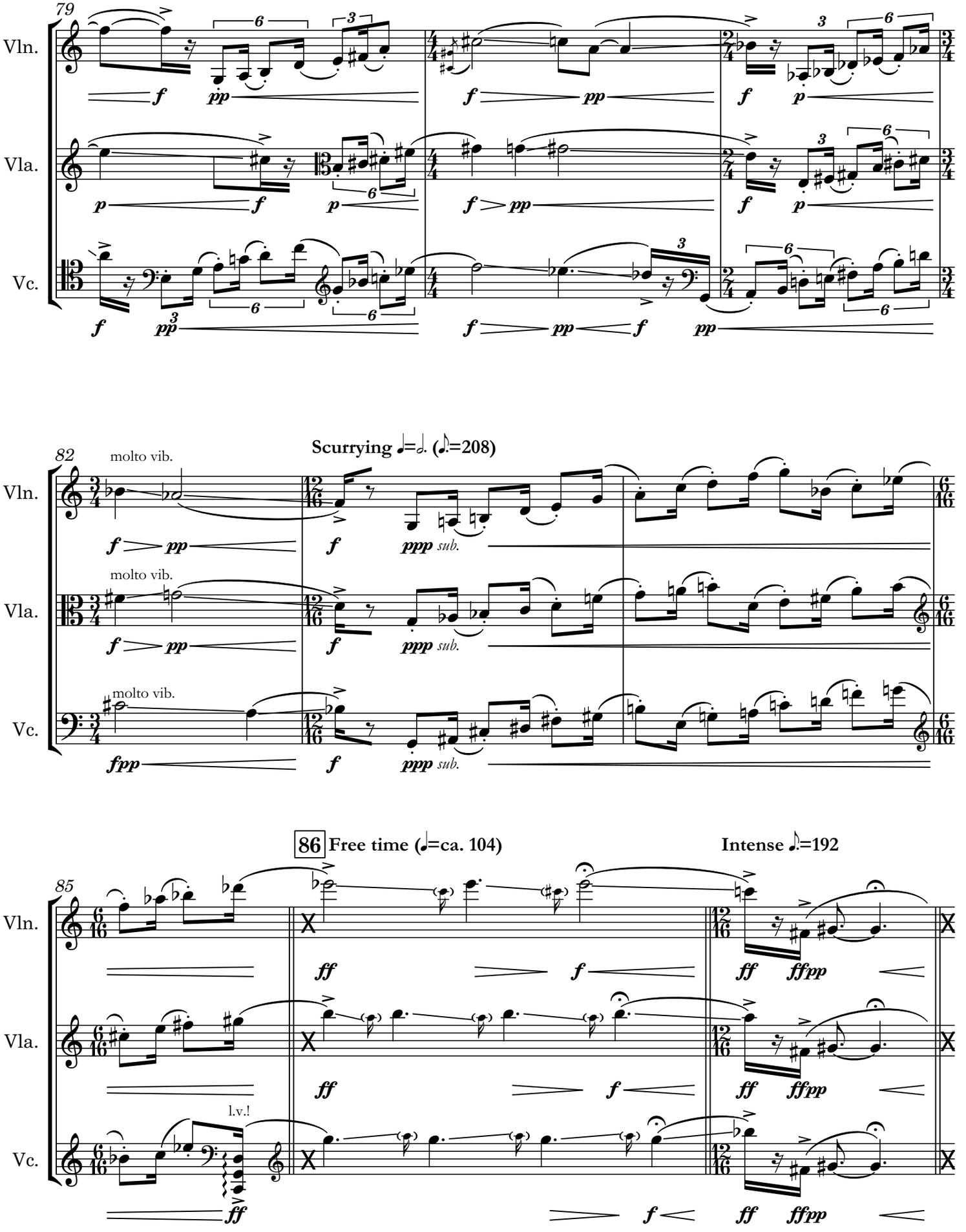

Shattering ♩=108
26 A little faster, slightly anxious ♩=60
24
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
poco rall.
molto accel.
28
♩=108
35 Faster, more anxious ♩=69
33
arco, sul A

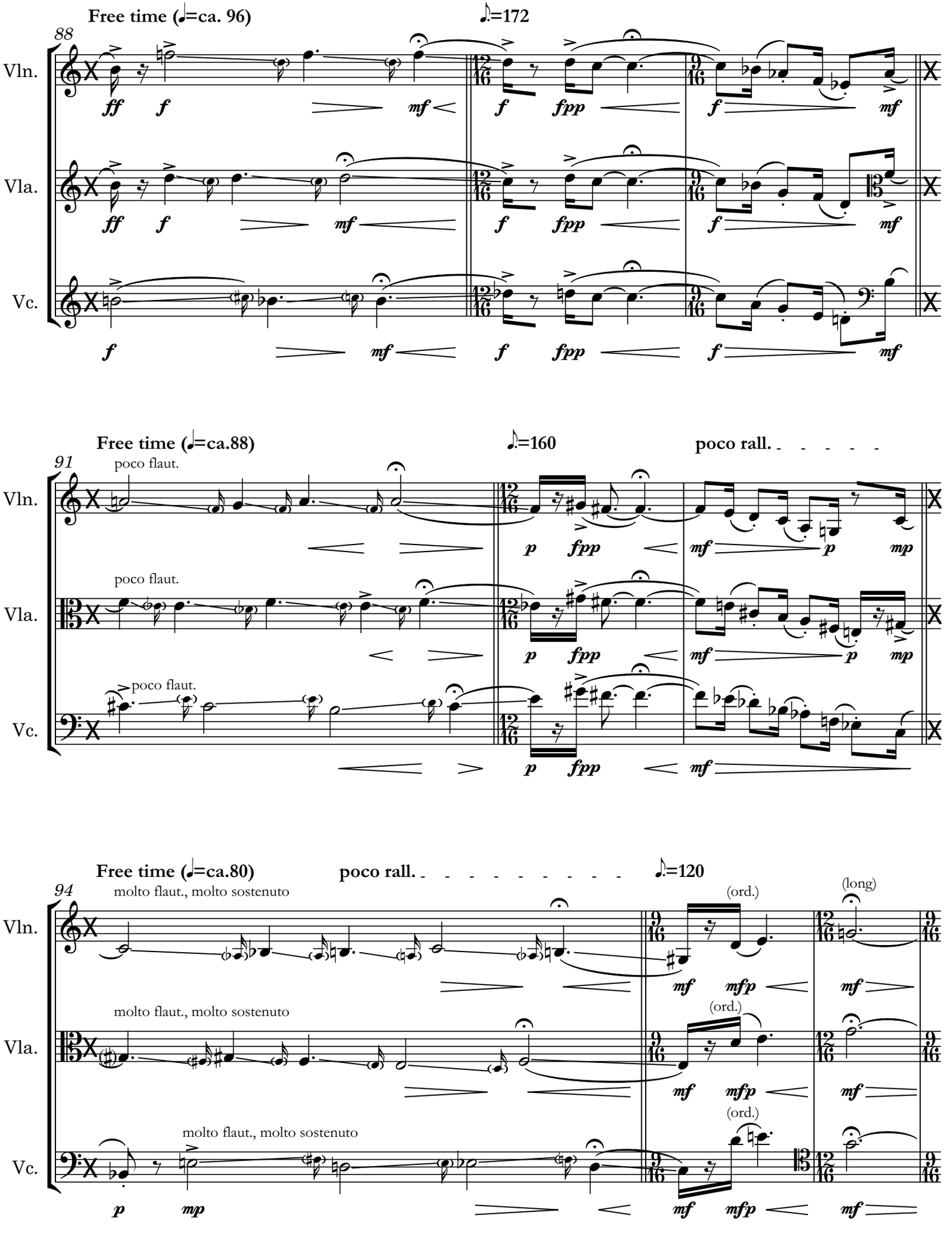

molto accel. ♩=108
36
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
Gaining intensity ♩=84 accel.
♩=108
39
pizz.
arco, vib.
vib.
sul D
Melting rapidly (same tempo as previous bar)
45 In time, scurrying, buoyant ♪.=216
43
molto vib.
sub.

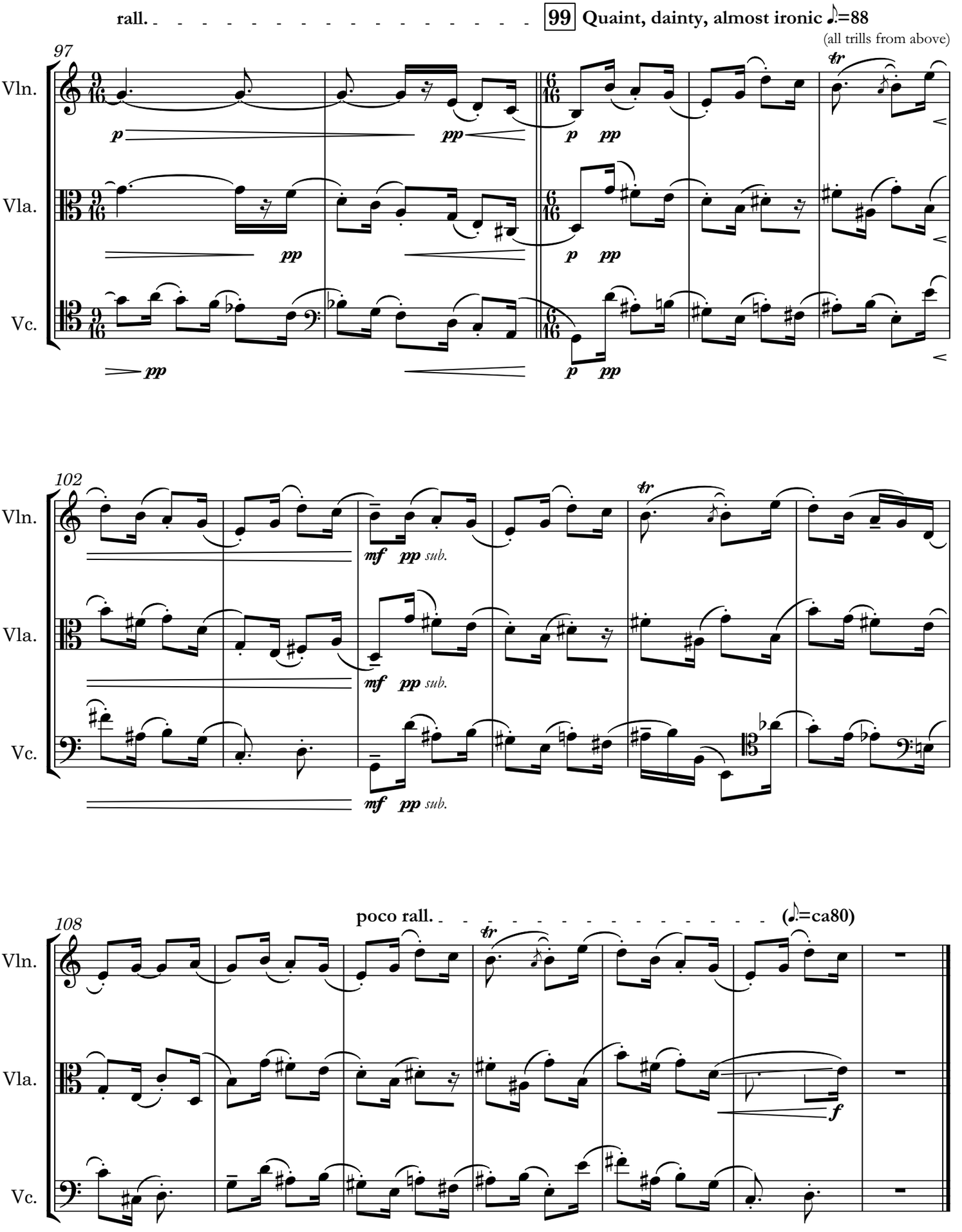

46
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
gliss.
50
54


poco rall.
molto rall.
61
Shimmering ♩=66
(faster than before)
58
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
(non vib.)
pizz.
arco (non vib.)
62
molto accel.
66

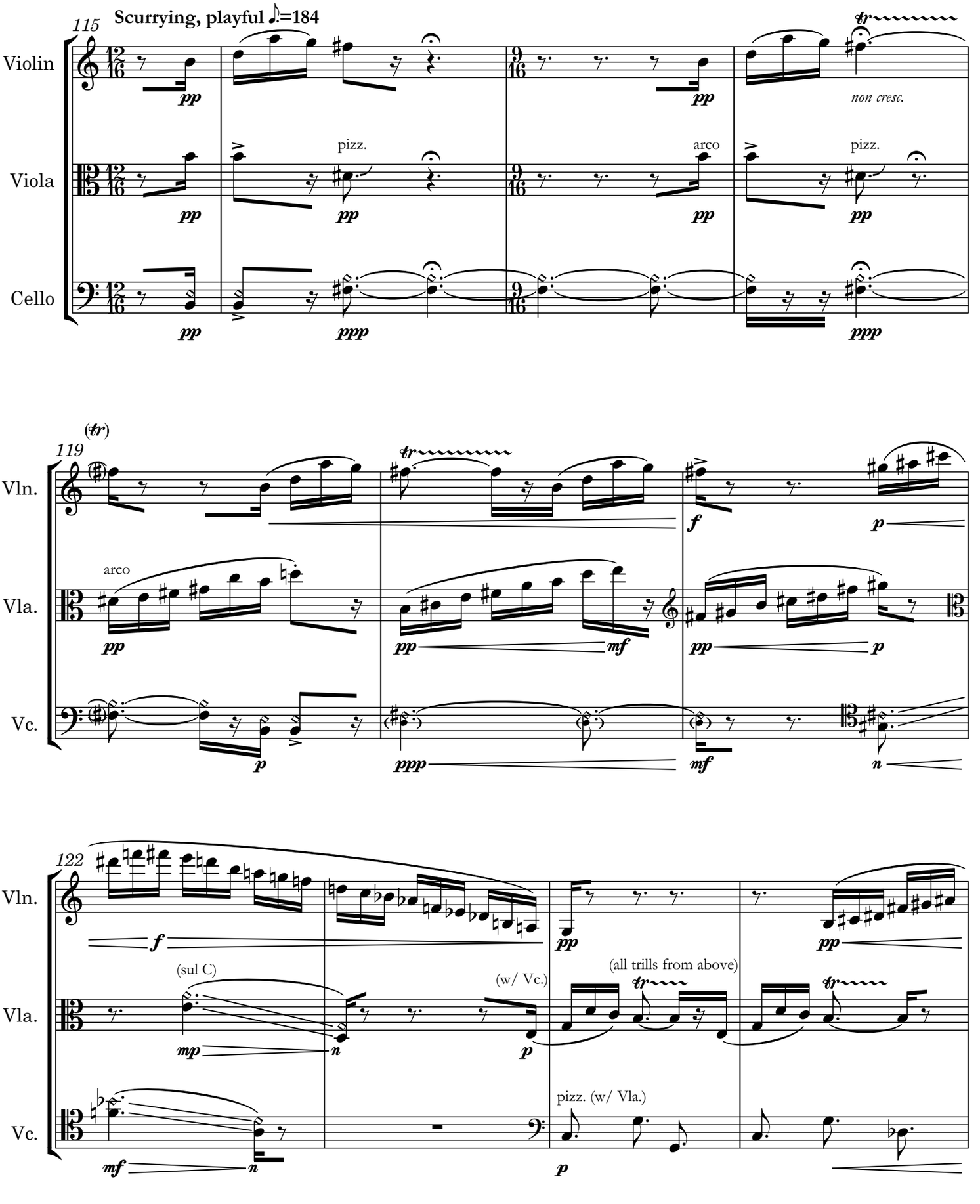

Still tranquil, but much faster underlying pulse ♩=96
gradually more vib. until m. 83
69
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
73
gradually more vib. until m. 83
pizz. (strum)
poco accel.
Faster ♩=104
76

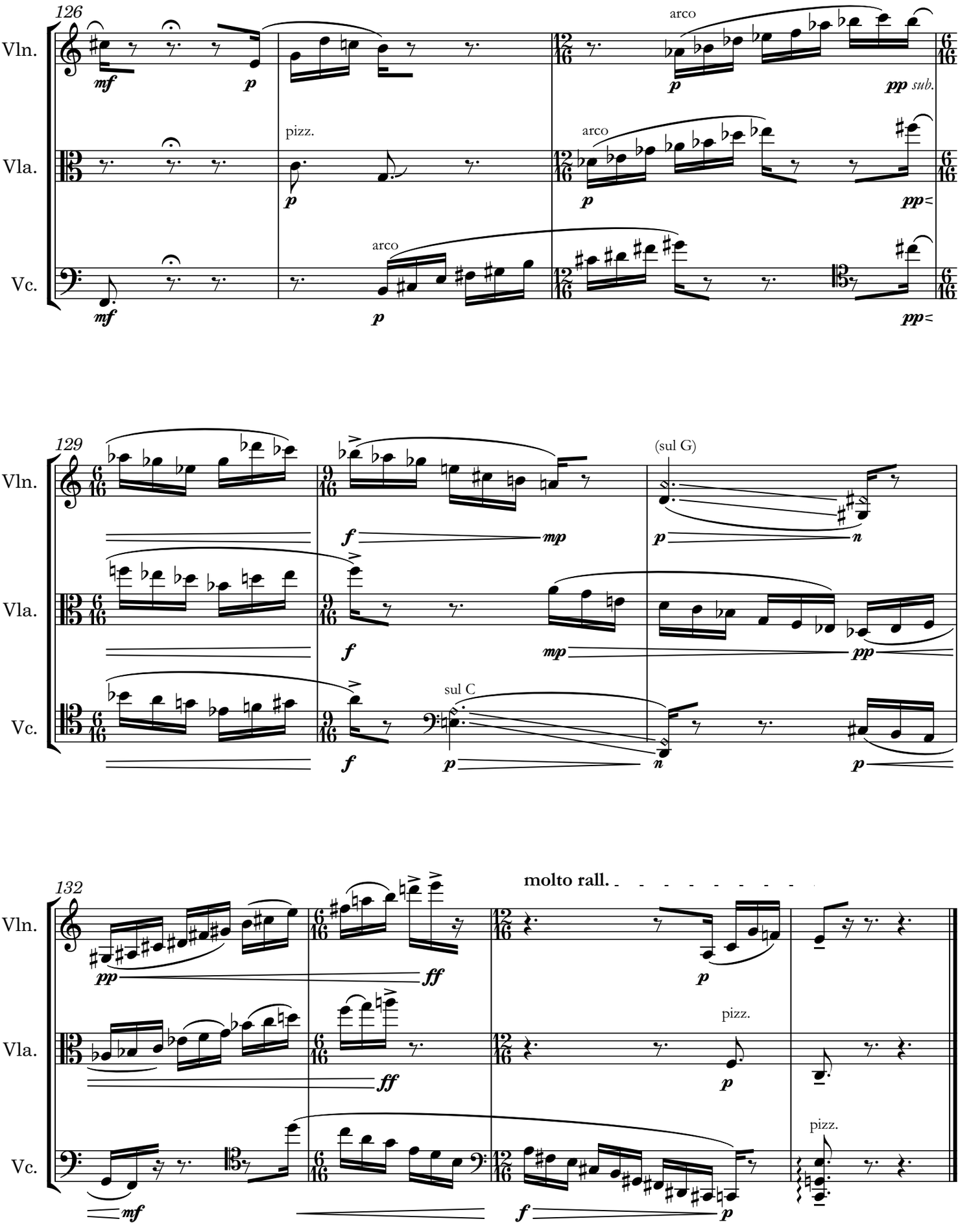

79
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
82
molto vib.
Scurrying ♩=𝅗𝅥. (♪.=208)
86 Free time (♩=ca. 104)
Intense ♪.=192
85
l.v.!


Free time (♩=ca. 96)
♪.=172
88
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
ff f mf
f fpp f mf
Free time (♩=ca.88)
♪.=160
poco rall.
91
poco flaut.
p fpp mf p mp
Free time (♩=ca.80)
poco rall.
♪.=120
94
molto flaut., molto sostenuto
(ord.)
(long)
mf mfp mf
p mp

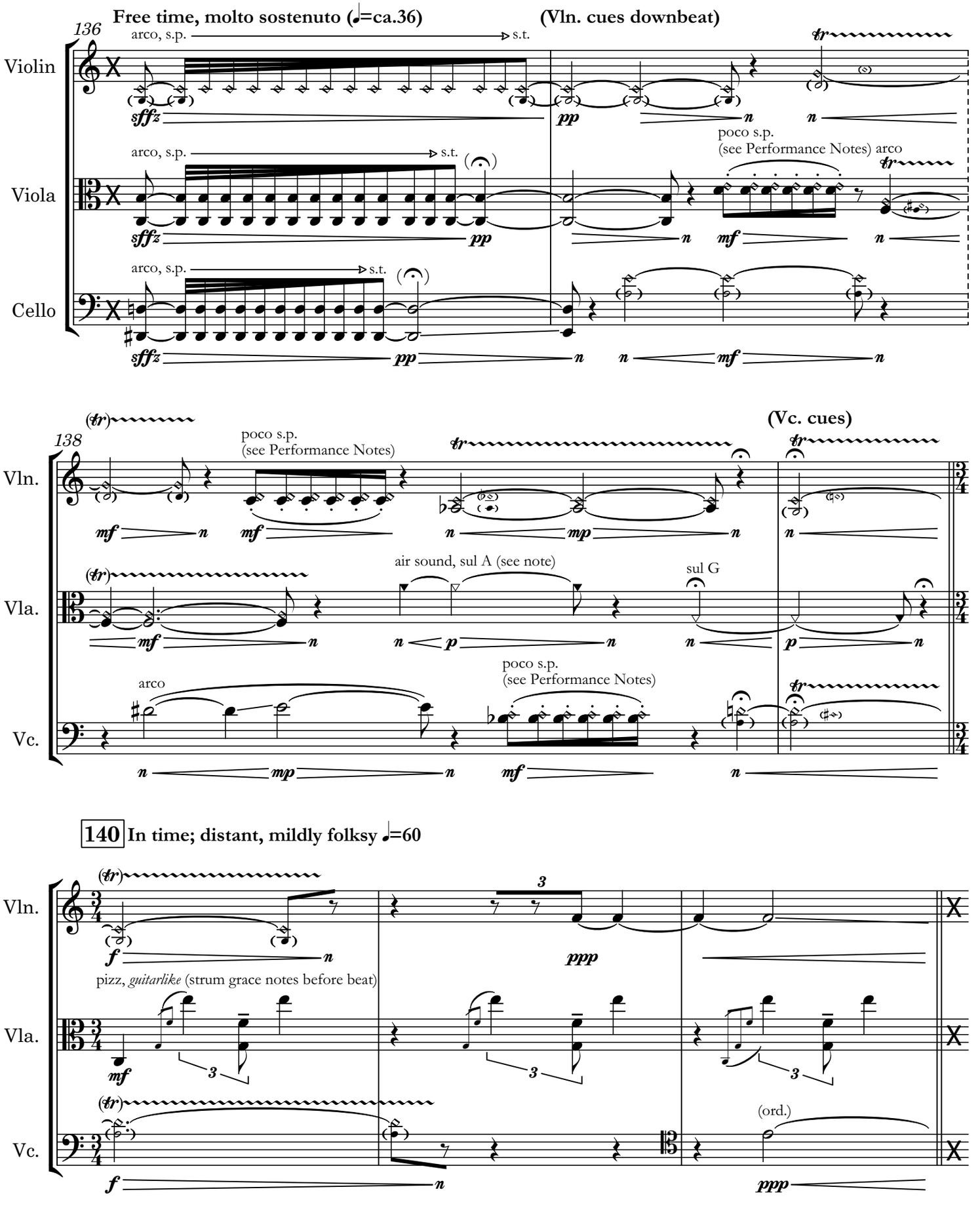

rall.
99
Quaint, dainty, almost ironic ♪.=88
(all trills from above)
97
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
p
pp
102
mf
pp sub.
108
poco rall.
(♪.=ca80)
f

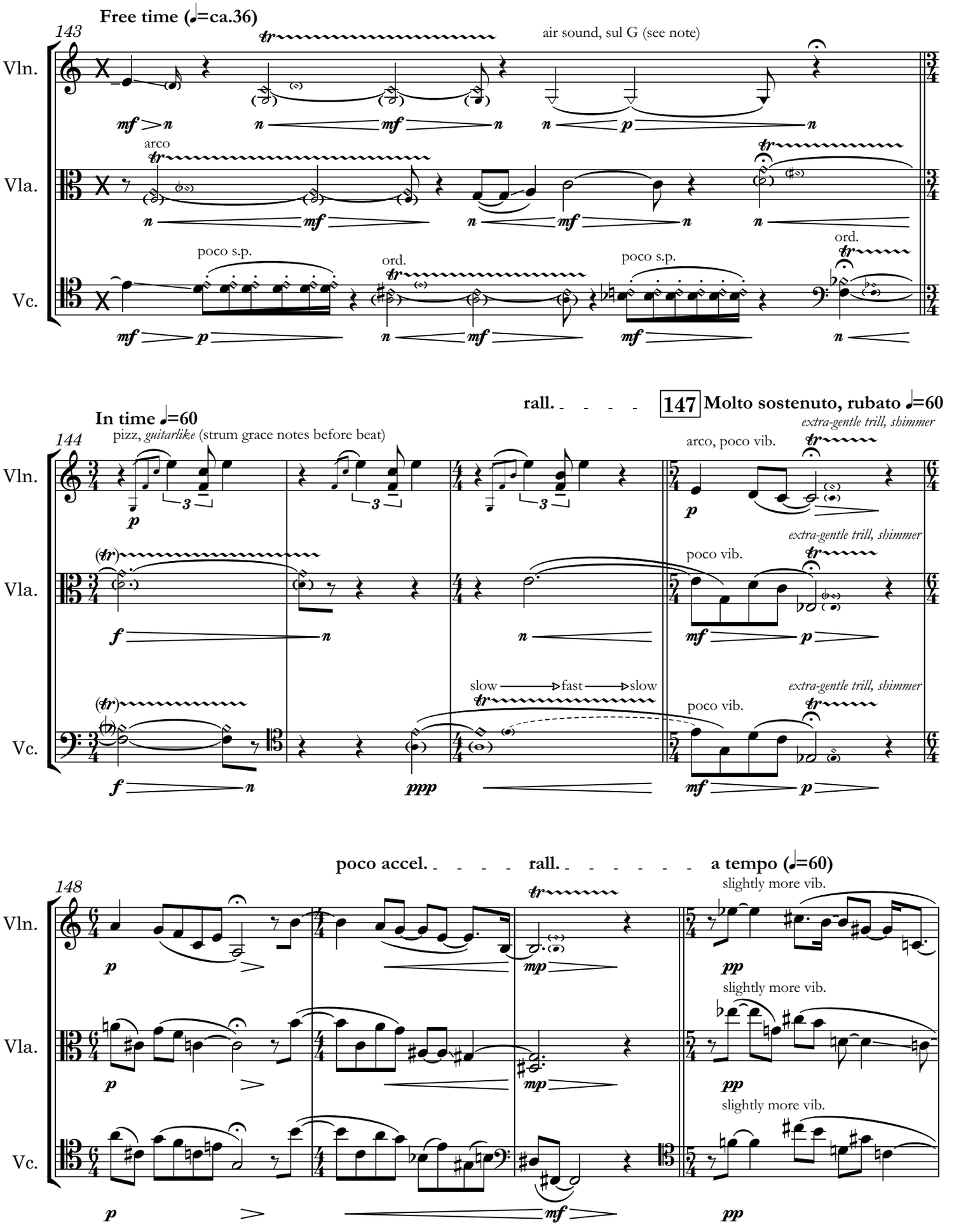
II. Rocaille I

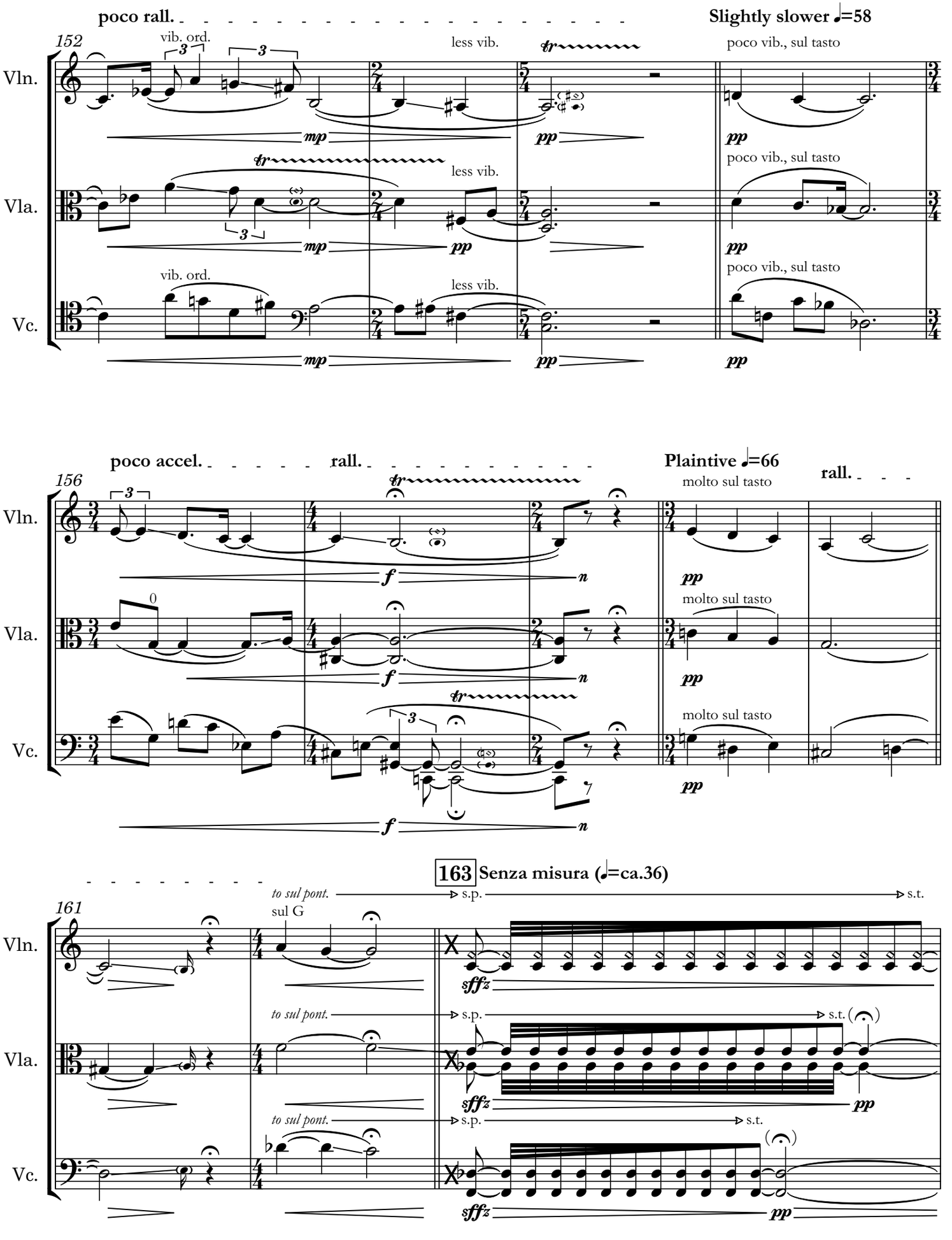


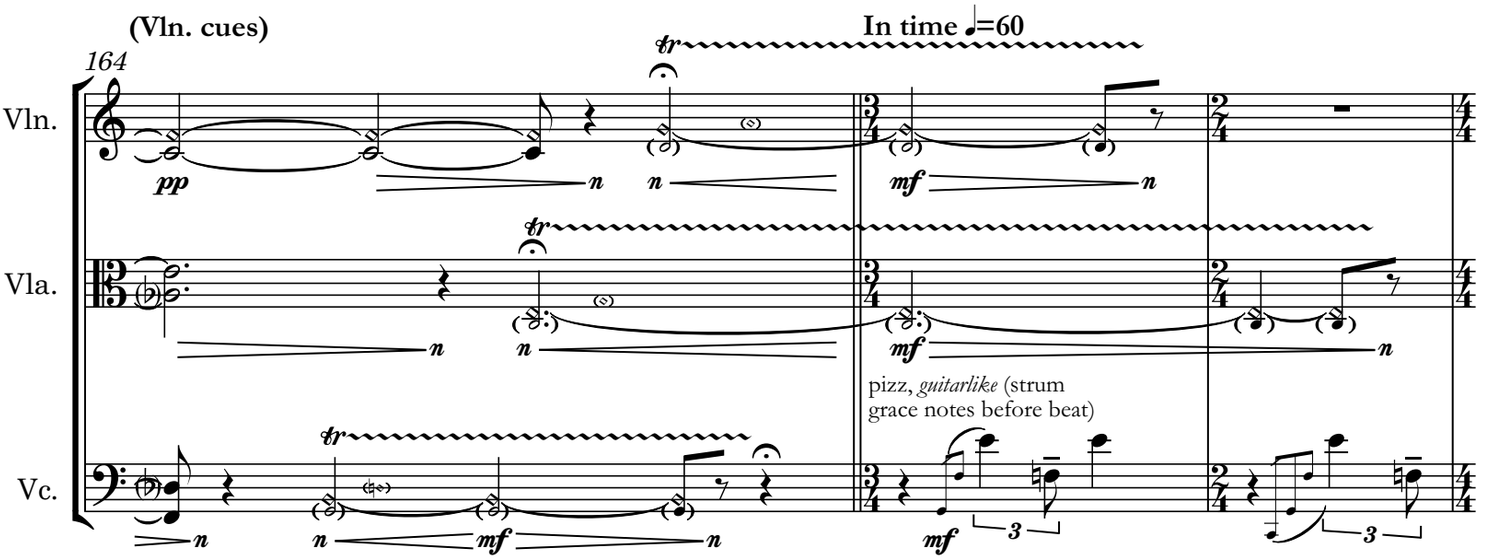

126
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
mf
p
arco
pp sub.
pizz.
129
(sul G)
f
mp
n
sul C
132
molto rall.
pp
ff

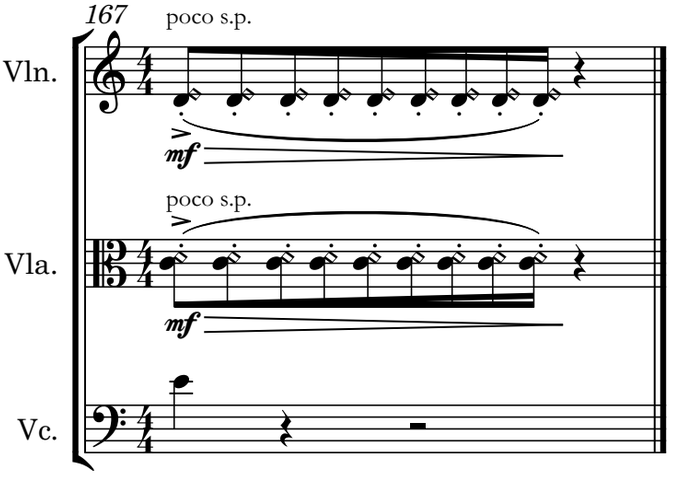
III. À baldaquin



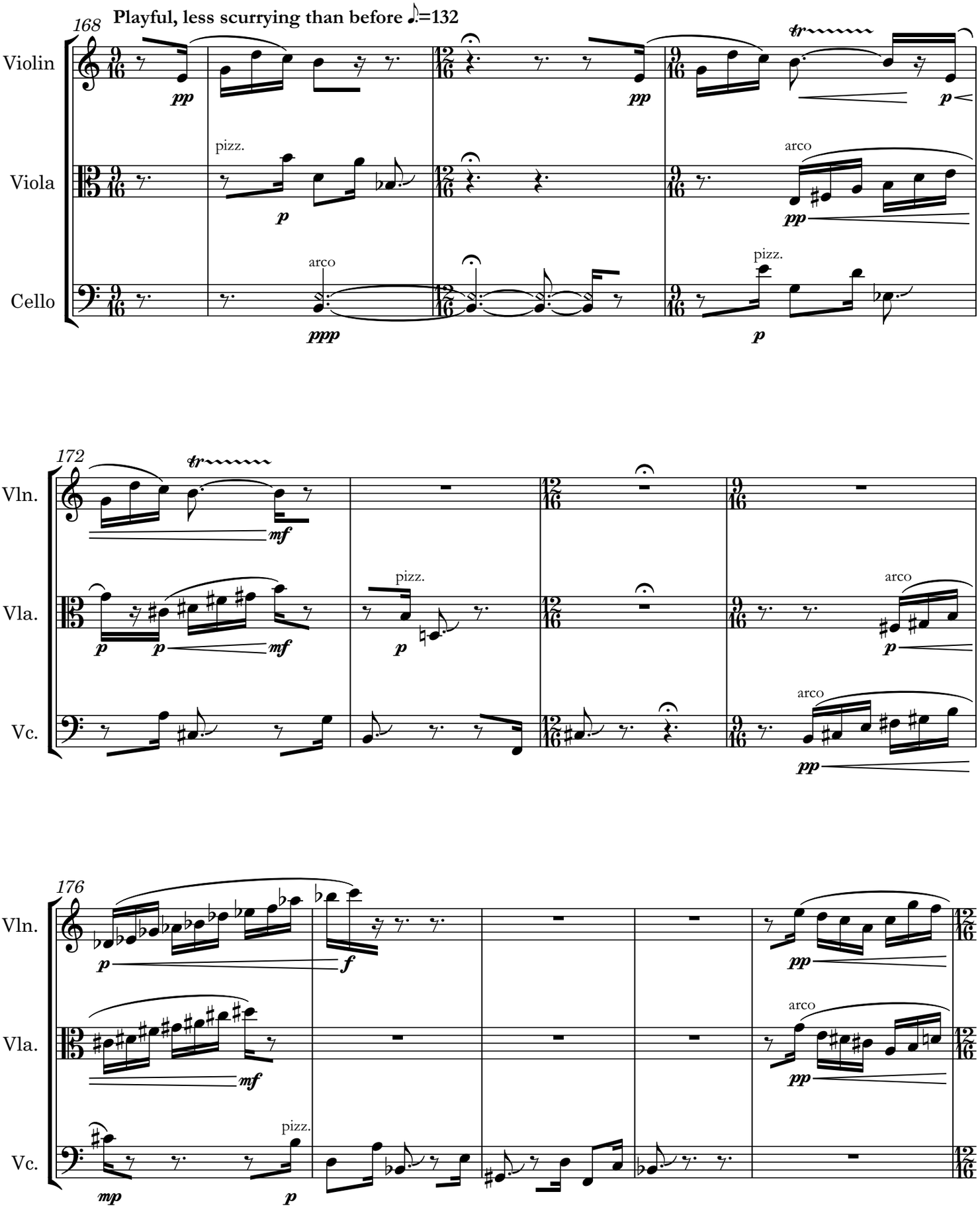

Free time (♩=ca.36)
143
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
air sound, sul G (see note)
arco
poco s.p.
ord.
poco s.p.
ord.
rall.
147
Molto sostenuto, rubato ♩=60
In time ♩=60
144
pizz, guitarlike (strum grace notes before beat)
arco, poco vib.
extra-gentle trill, shimmer
poco vib.
extra-gentle trill, shimmer
slow → fast → slow
extra-gentle trill, shimmer
poco vib.
poco accel.
rall.
a tempo (♩=60)
148
slightly more vib.
slightly more vib.
slightly more vib.

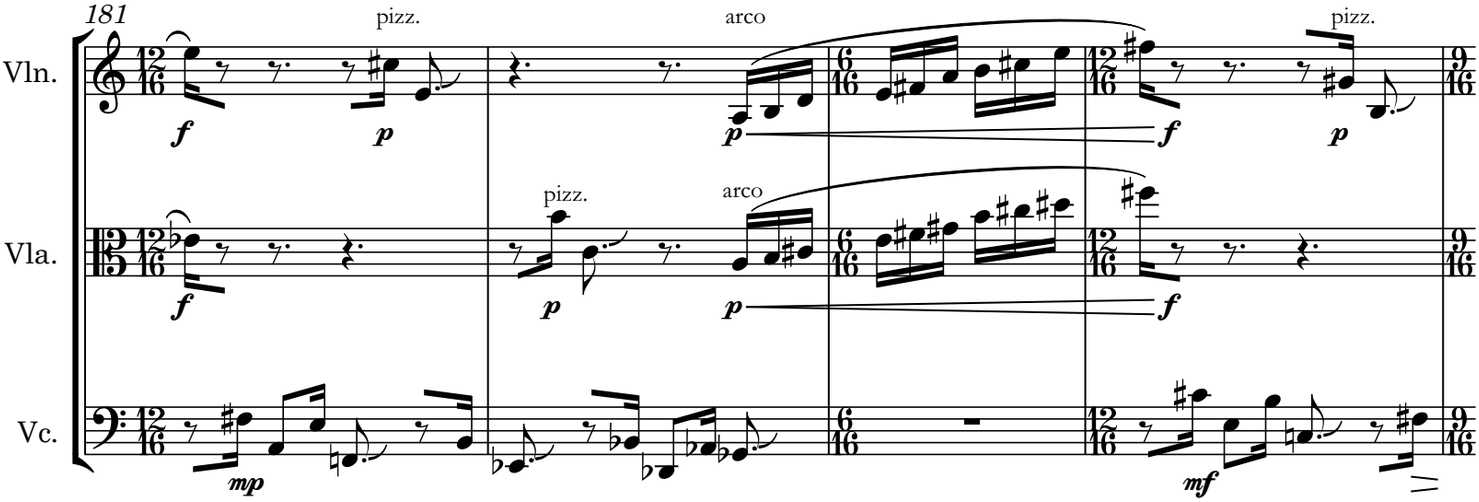

poco rall.
Slightly slower ♩=58
152
vib. ord.
less vib.
poco vib., sul tasto
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
mp
pp
poco accel.
rall.
Plaintive ♩=66
156
molto sul tasto
f
n
163 Senza misura (♩=ca.36)
161
to sul pont.
s.p.
s.t.
sul G
sffz

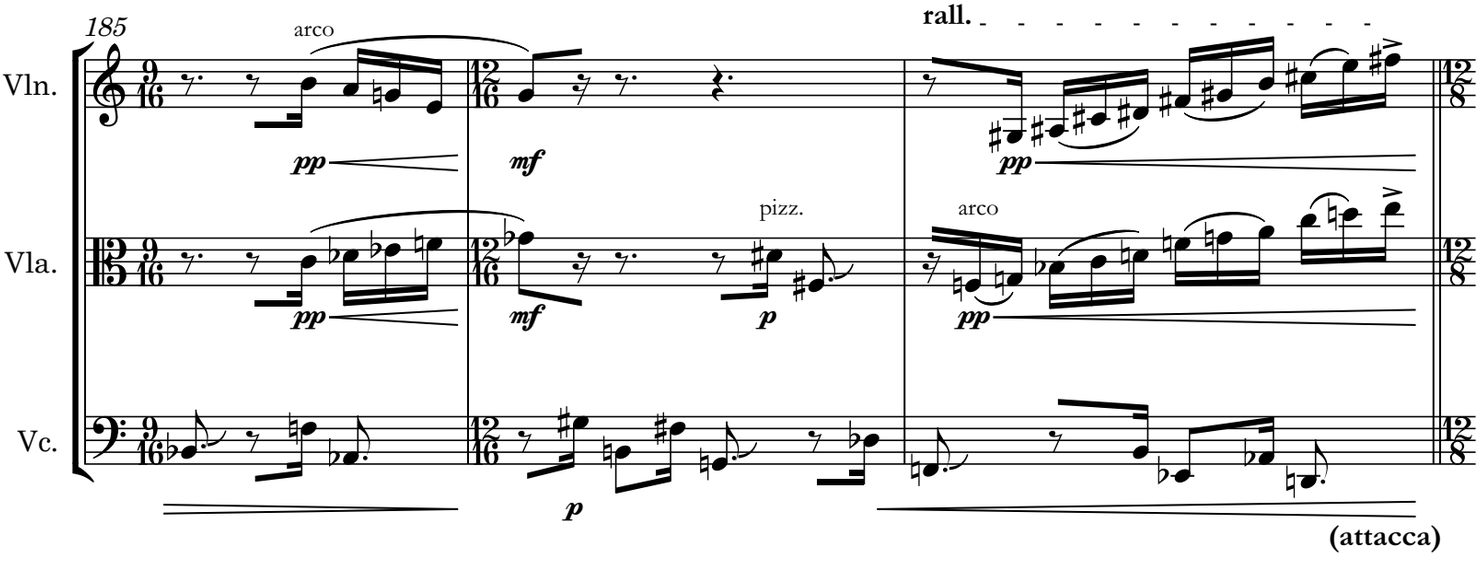

(Vln. cues)
In time ♩=60
164
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
pp
mf
pizz, guitarlike (strum
grace notes before beat)


167
poco s.p.
Vln.
poco s.p.
Vla.
Vc.
mf

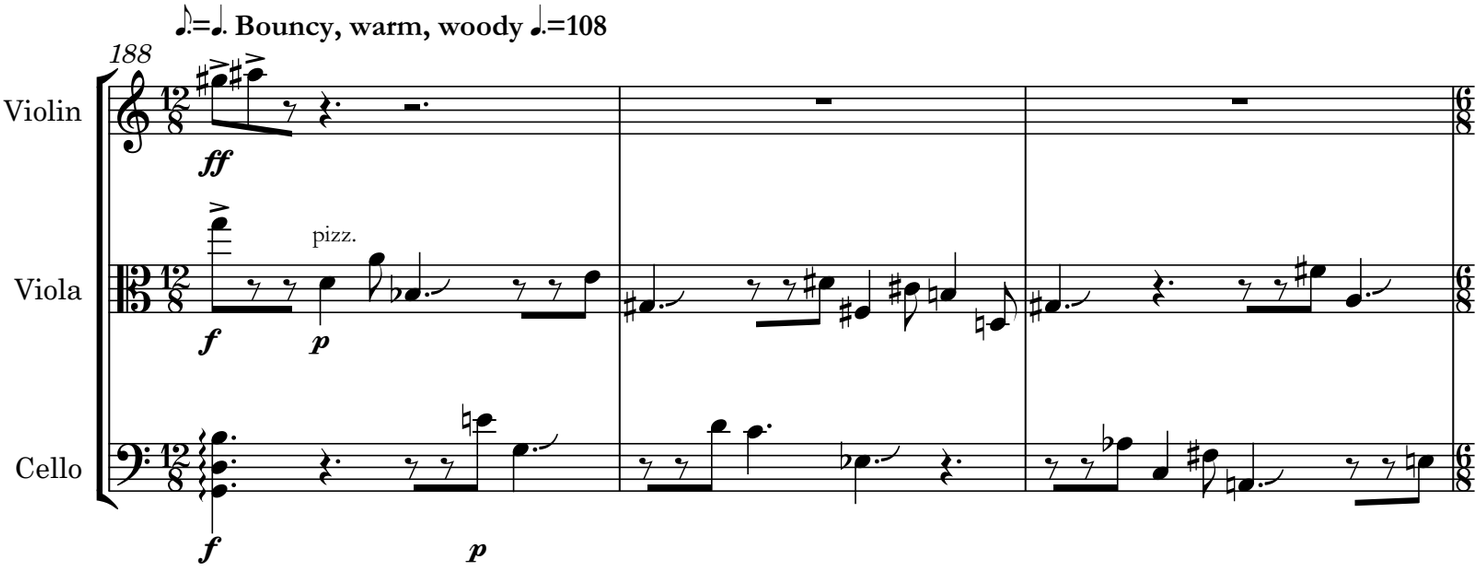
IV. Rocaille II

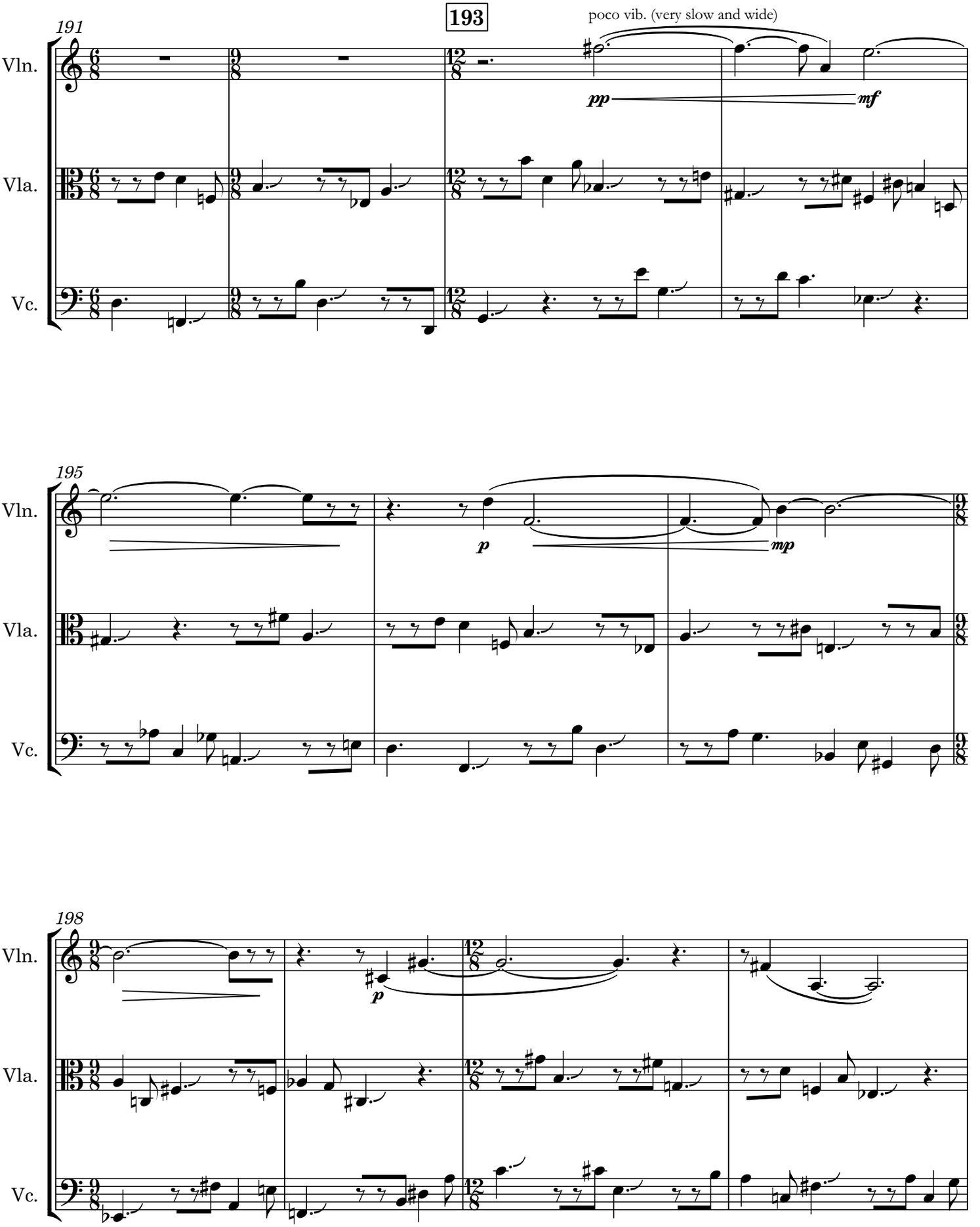


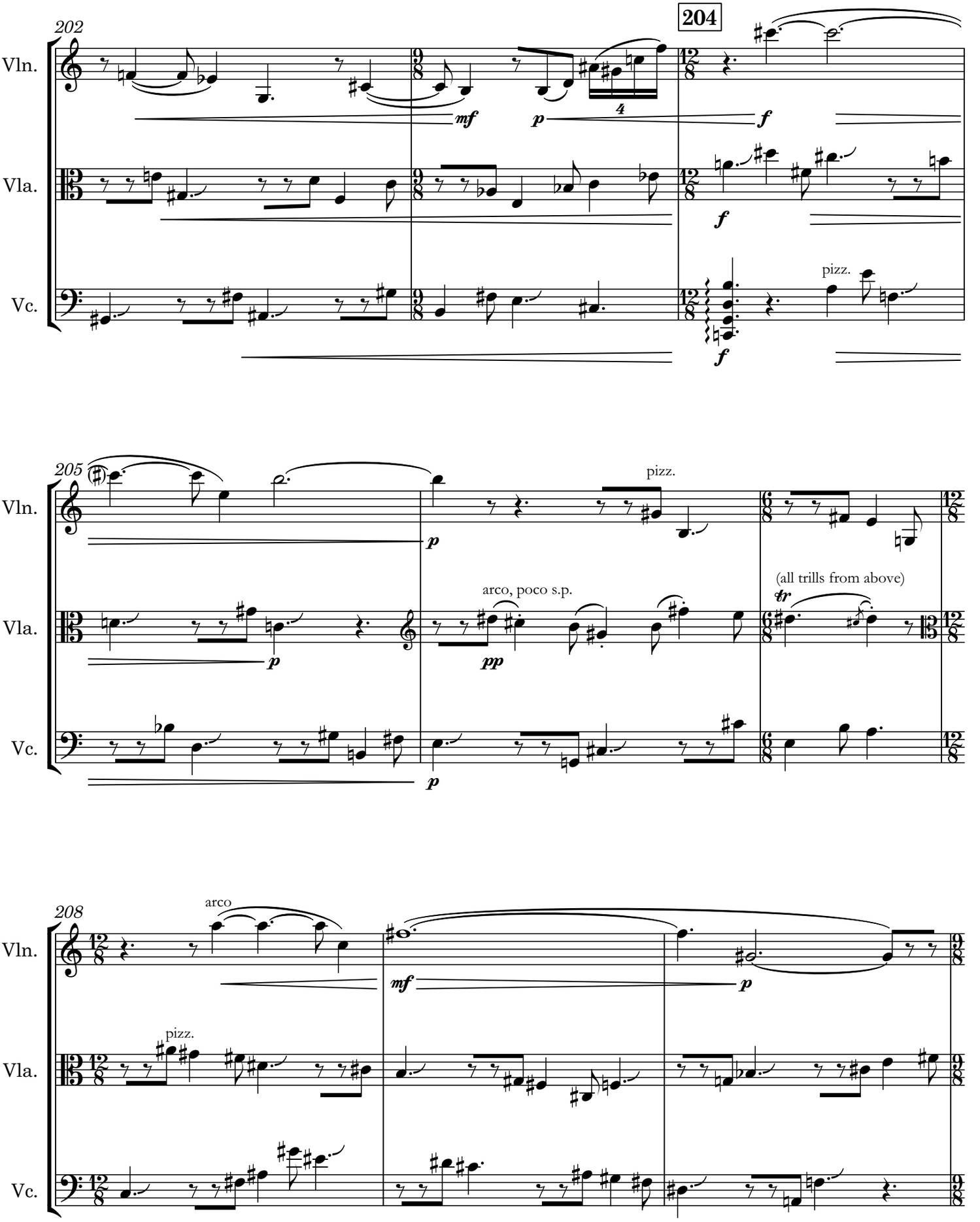

181
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.

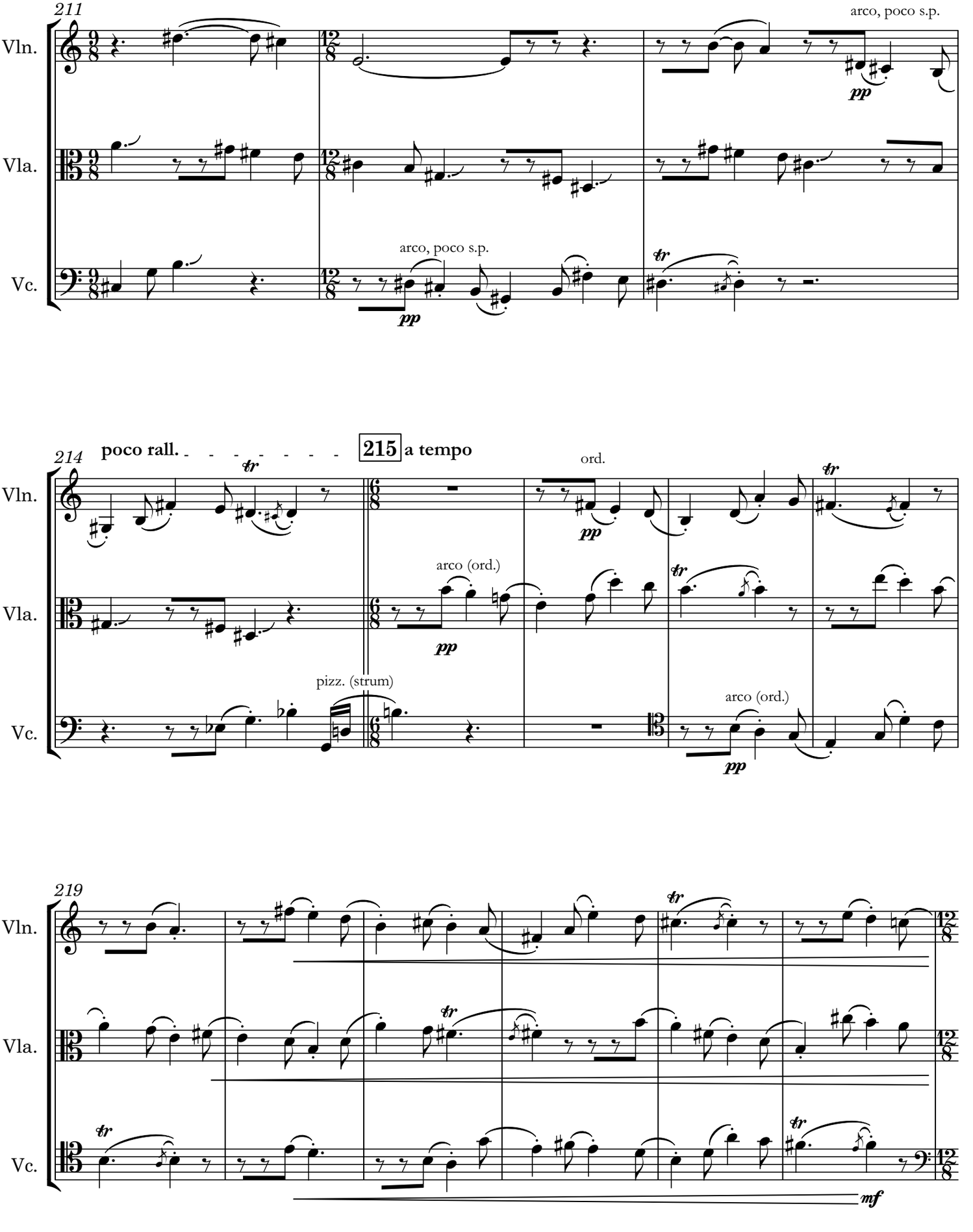

185
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
arco
rall.
pizz.
arco
(attacca)

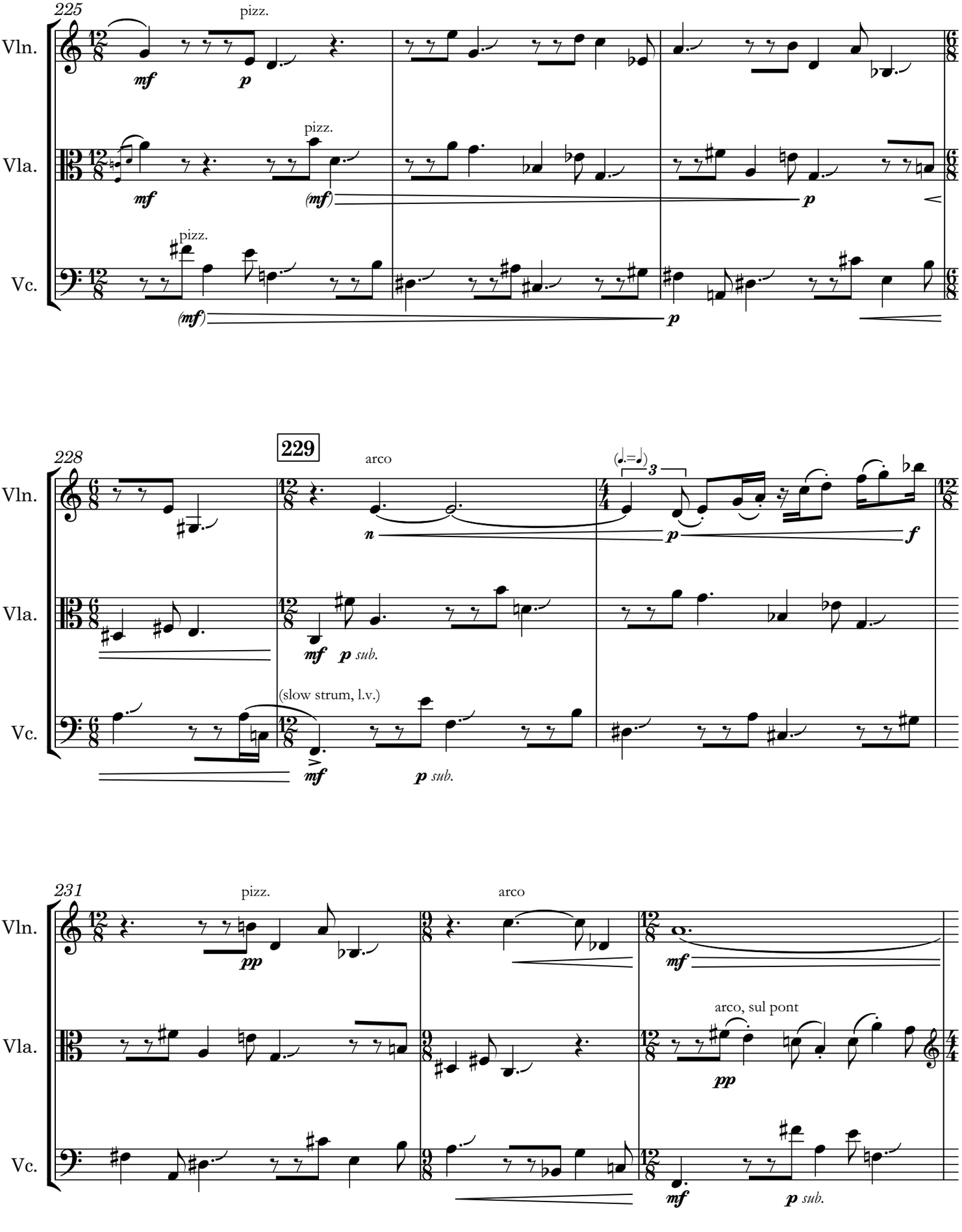
V. Boiseries

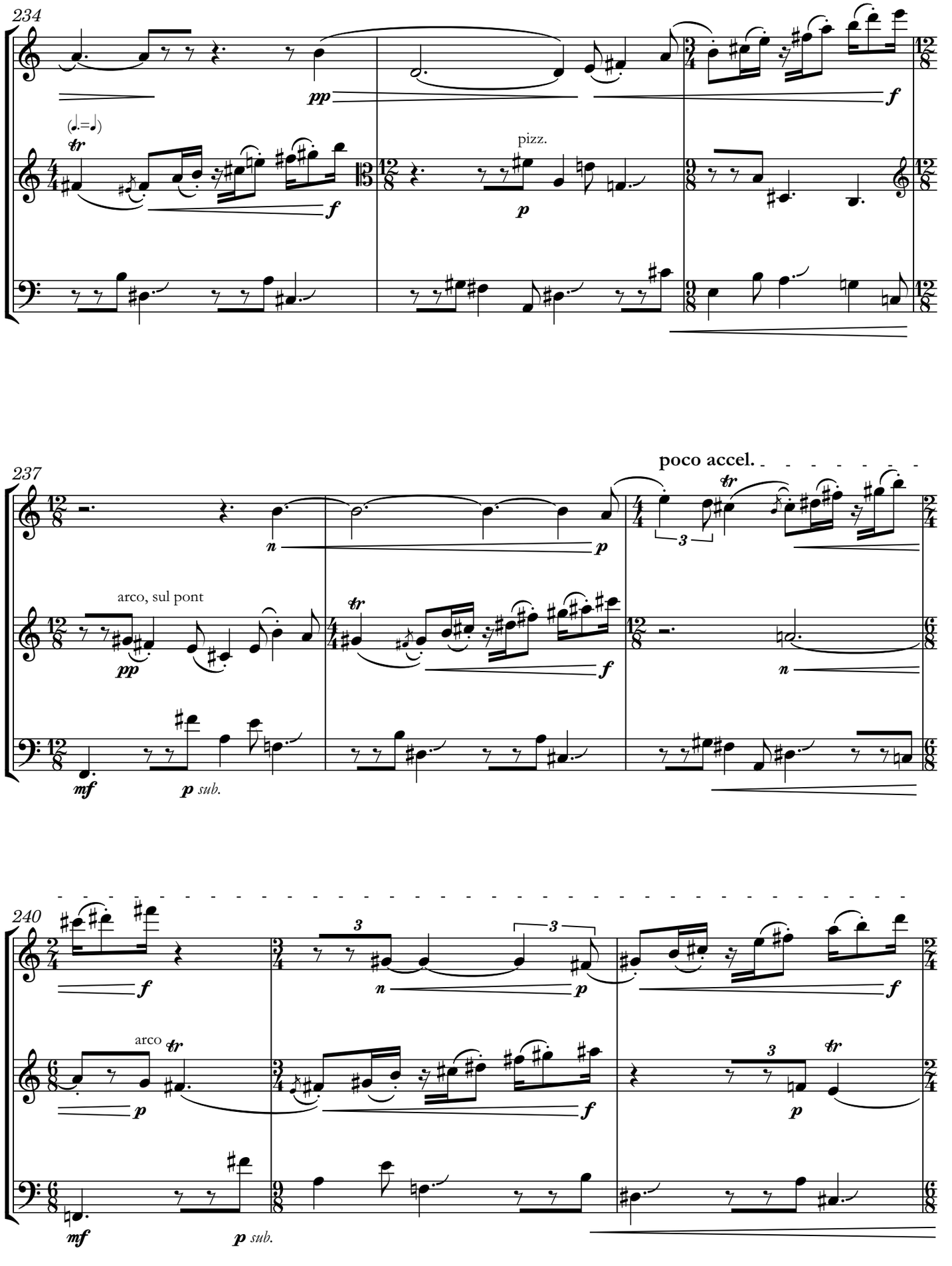

♪.=♩. Bouncy, warm, woody ♩.=108
188
Violin
Viola
Cello
pizz.

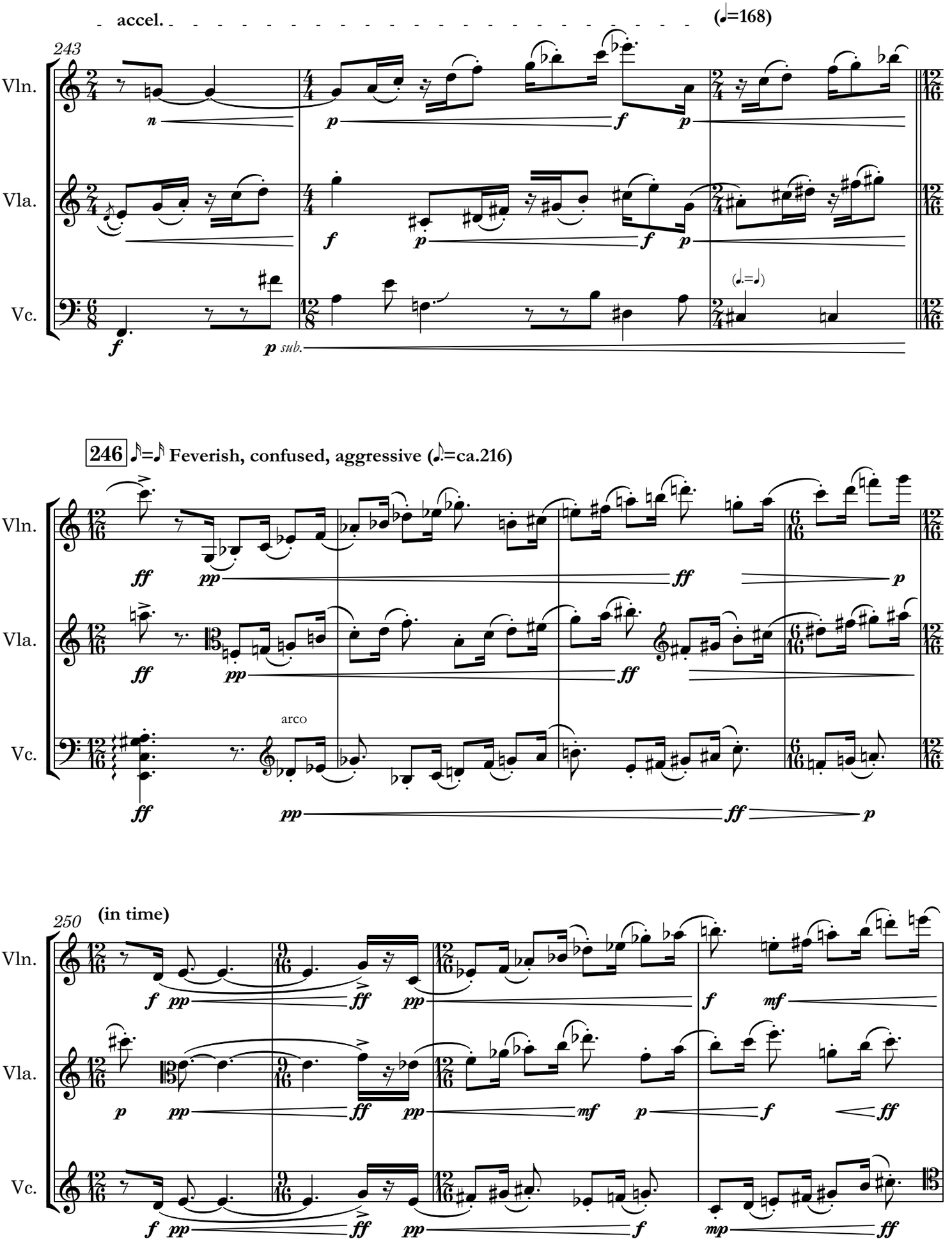

191
193
poco vib. (very slow and wide)
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
pp
mf
195
p
mp
198
p

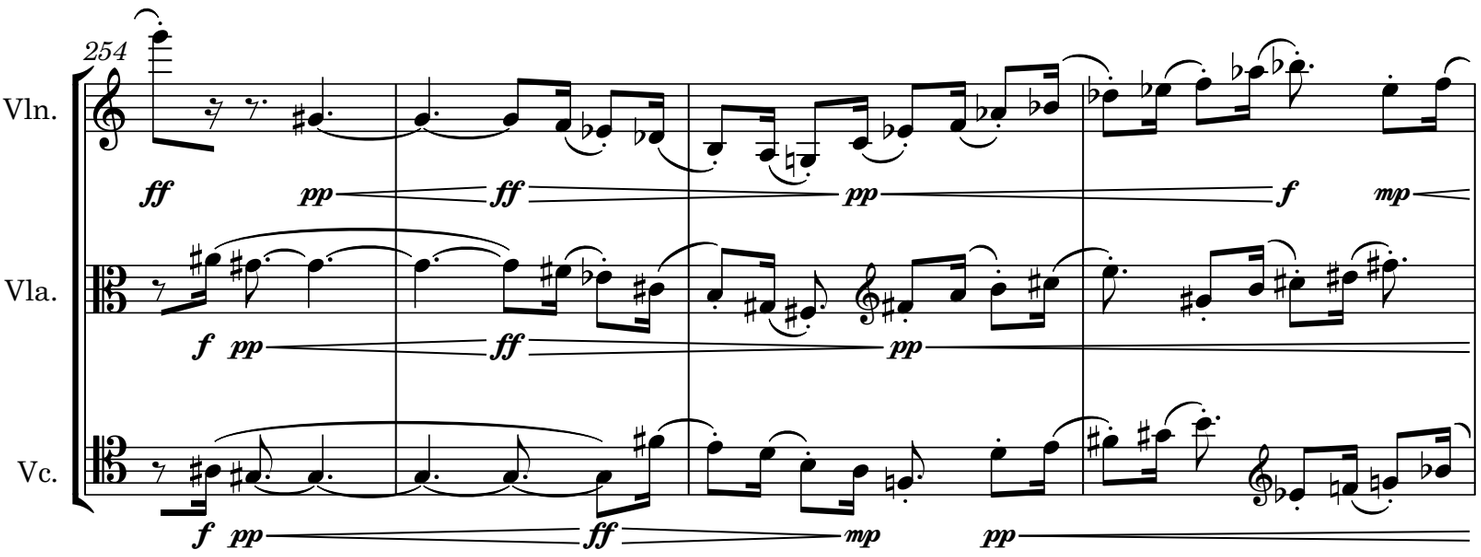

202
204
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
mf
p
f
pizz.
205
arco, poco s.p.
pp
(all trills from above)
tr
208
arco

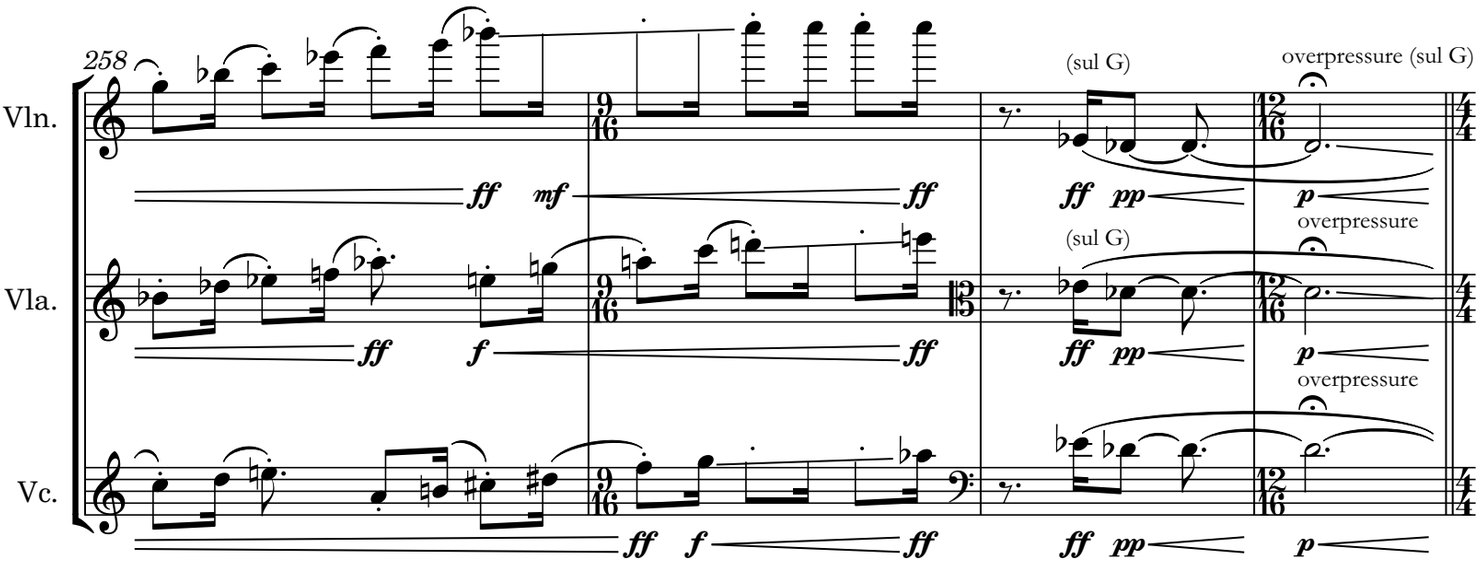

211
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
arco, poco s.p.
pp
arco, poco s.p.
pp
tr
214
poco rall.
215
a tempo
ord.
pp
tr
arco (ord.)
pp
tr
pizz. (strum)
arco (ord.)
pp
219
tr
tr
tr
tr
mf


225
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
mf
p
(mf)
228
229
arco
(slow strum, l.v.)
sub.
231
pp
arco, sul pont


234
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
237
poco accel.
arco, sul pont
240
arco
sub.

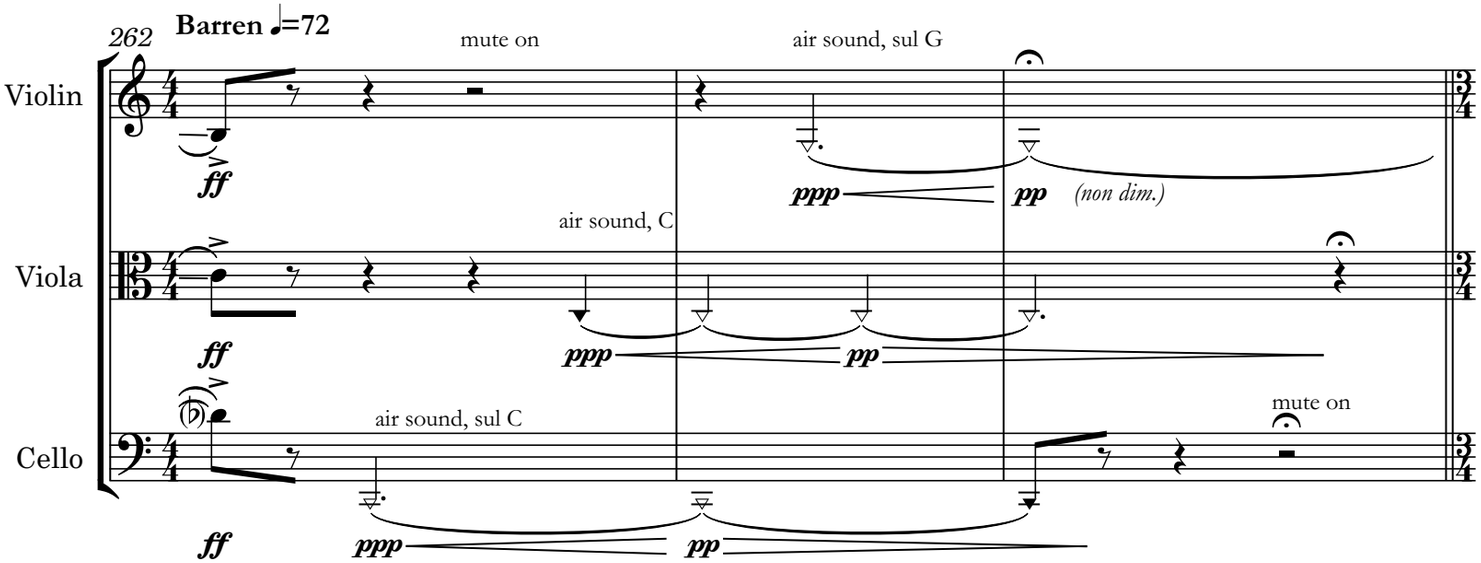

accel.
(♩=168)
243
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
n
p
f
p
f
p
f
p
sub.
(♩.=♩)
246
♪=♪ Feverish, confused, aggressive (♩.=ca.216)
arco
ff
pp
ff
p
250
(in time)
mf
mp

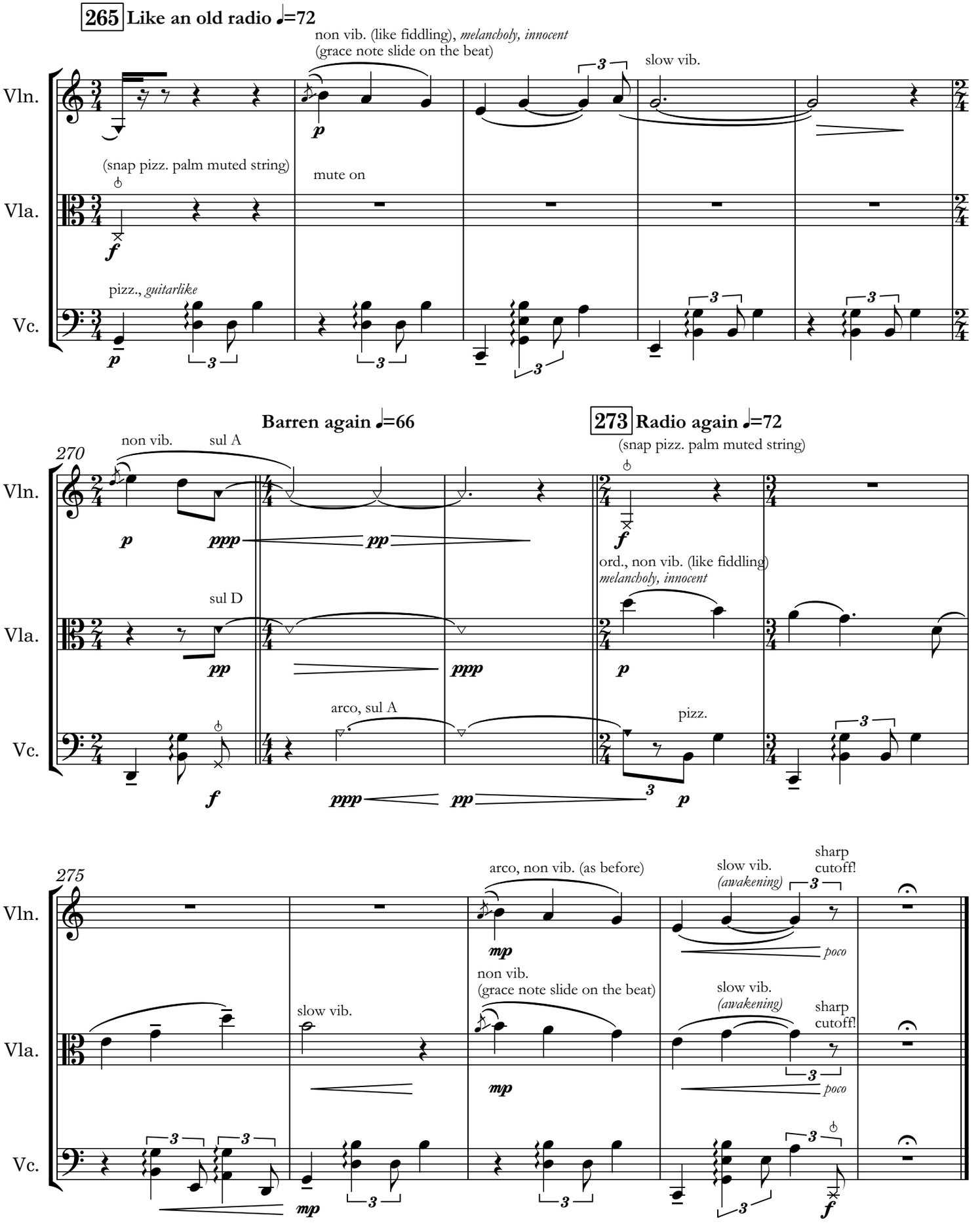




(attacca)

VI. Epilogue: des fenêtres




265 Like an old radio ♩=72
non vib. (like fiddling), melancholy, innocent
(grace note slide on the beat)
slow vib.
Vln.
(snap pizz. palm muted string)
mute on
Vla.
pizz., guitarlike
Vc.
Barren again ♩=66
273 Radio again ♩=72
270
non vib.
sul A
(snap pizz. palm muted string)
ord., non vib. (like fiddling)
melancholy, innocent
sul D
arco, sul A
pizz.
275
arco, non vib. (as before)
slow vib.
(awakening)
sharp
cutoff!
poco
non vib.
(grace note slide on the beat)