Dark Matter - Late Light

For String Quaret

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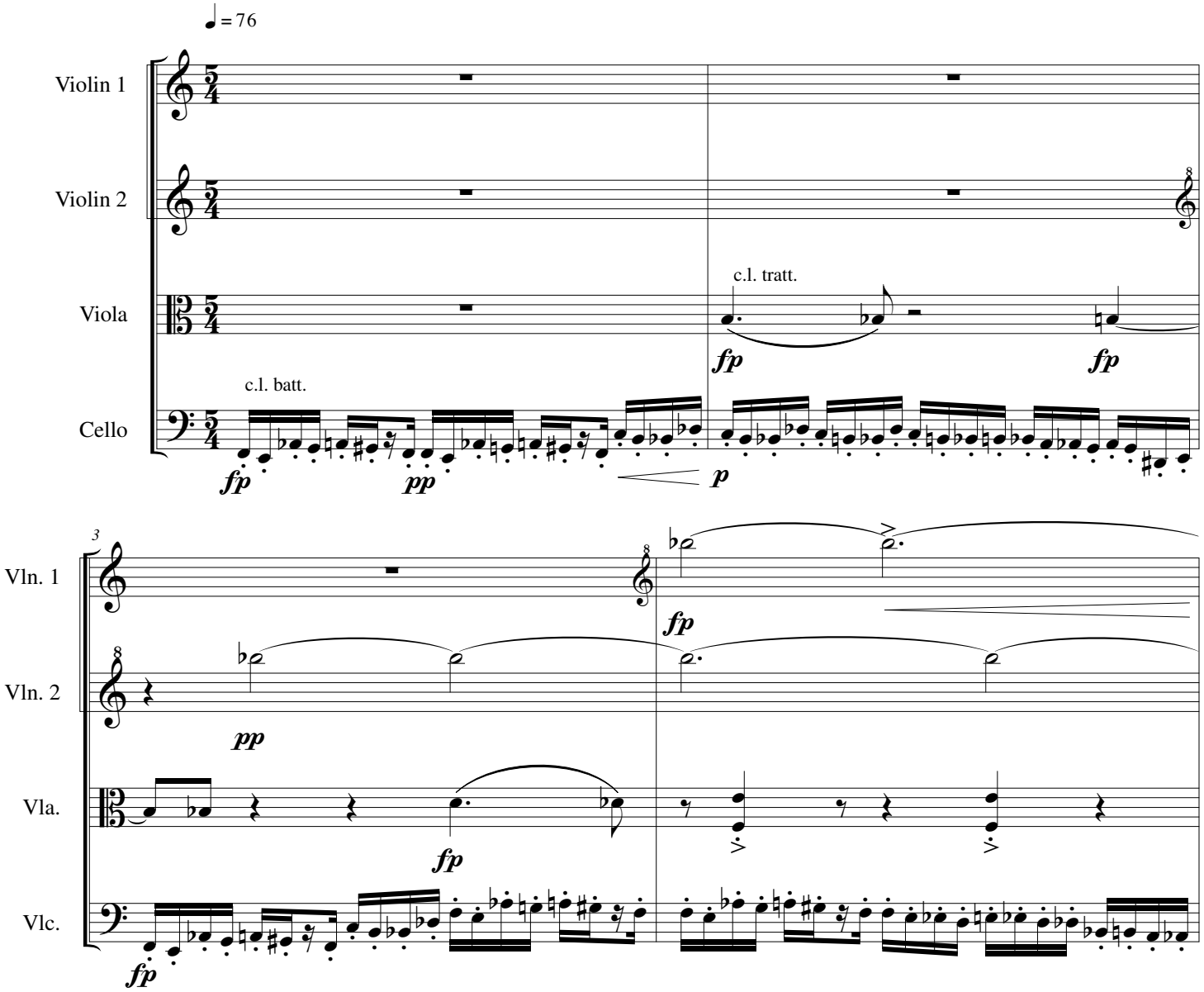
Dark Matter - Late Light for String Quartet (String Quartet no. 6) was composed in 2011. The first half of the title refers to the mysterious substance now known to compose most of the universe; the matter is "dark" not only because it does not appear in the visible spectrum but because we know next to nothing about it. This sense of an enigma at the bottom of things also gives a second sense to the half-title; in an older English usage, "dark matter" would refer to an enigmatic discourse, most often an allegory. Both senses apply to the vigorous but troubled first movement, which inhabits the sphere of enigma without trying to solve its riddles (at least not all of them). The second movement initially may seem the exact opposite of the first. Its figurative light, in the form of a transparent and melodious texture, is perfectly clear, however belated. But the impression proves to be not--not quite--true (though, enigmatically enough I suppose, not quite false either).

Duration: about fouteen minutes.

Dark Matter



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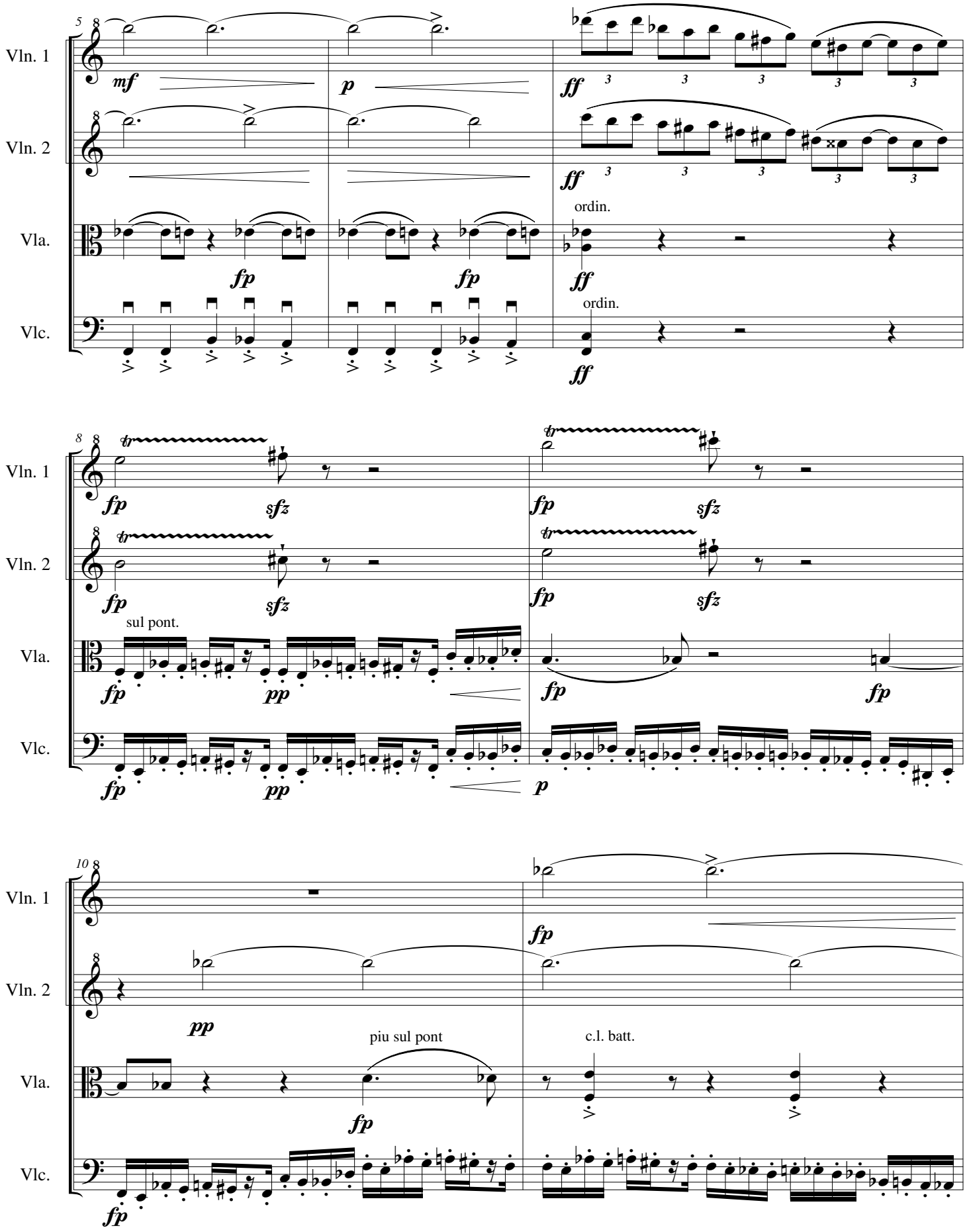
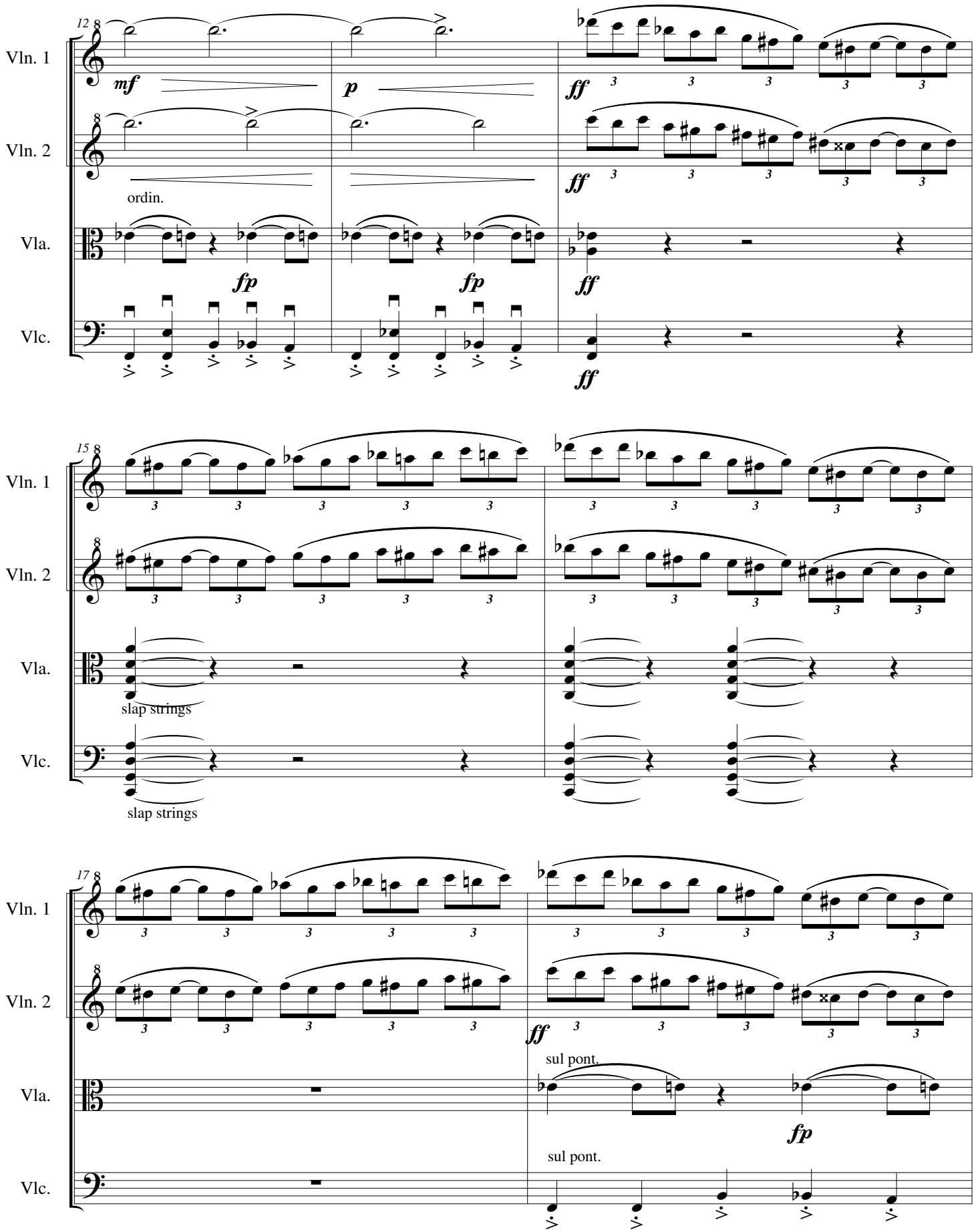
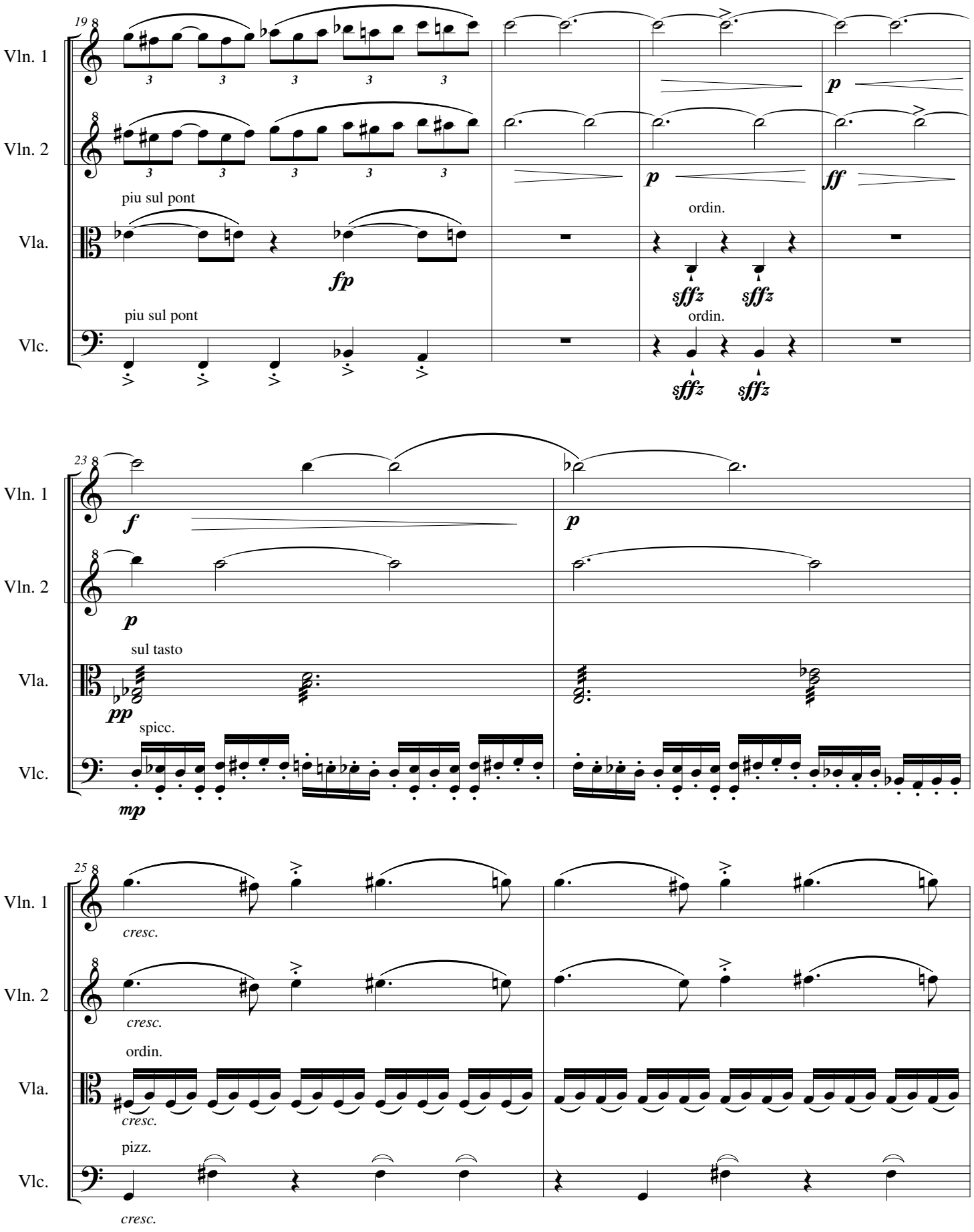
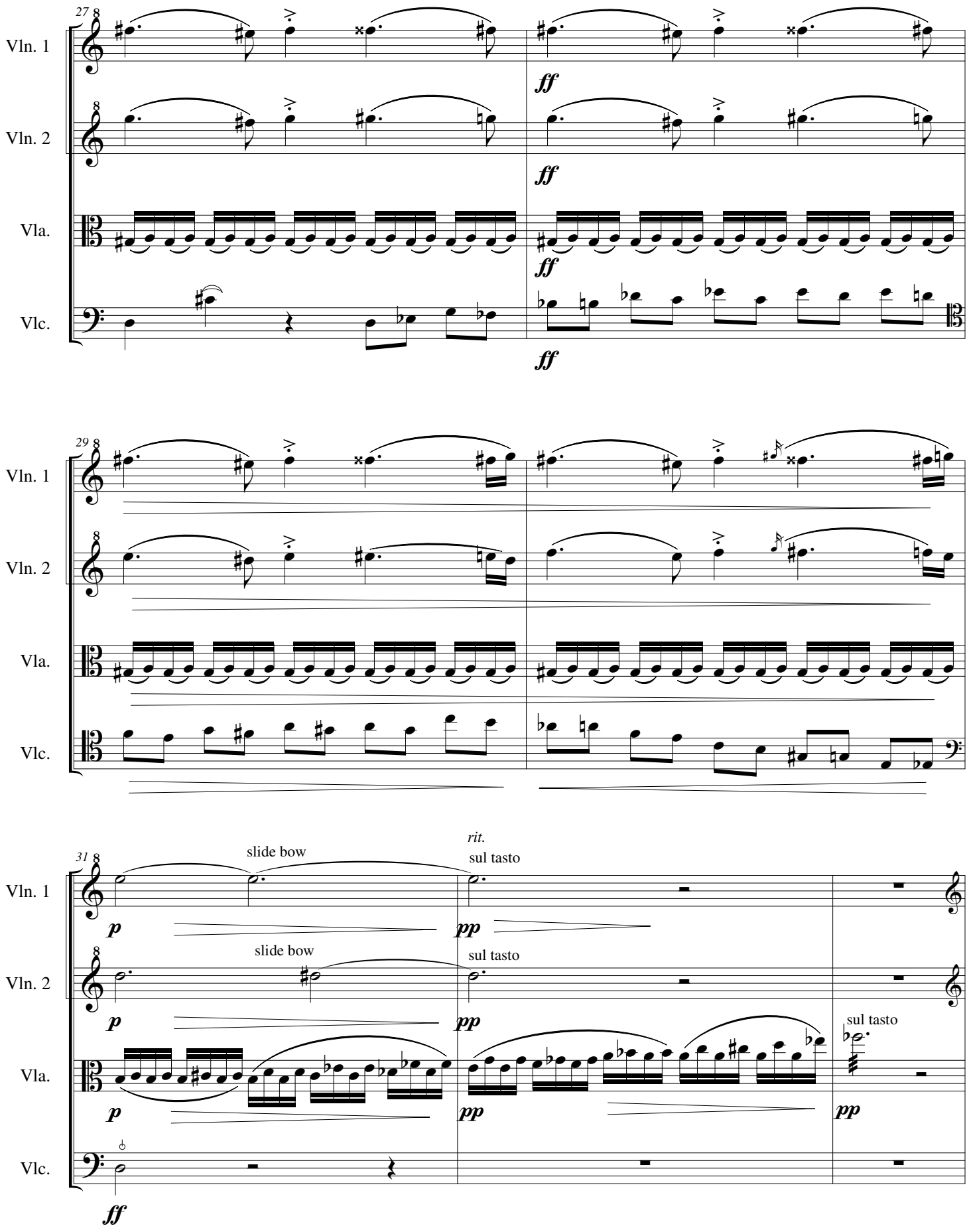
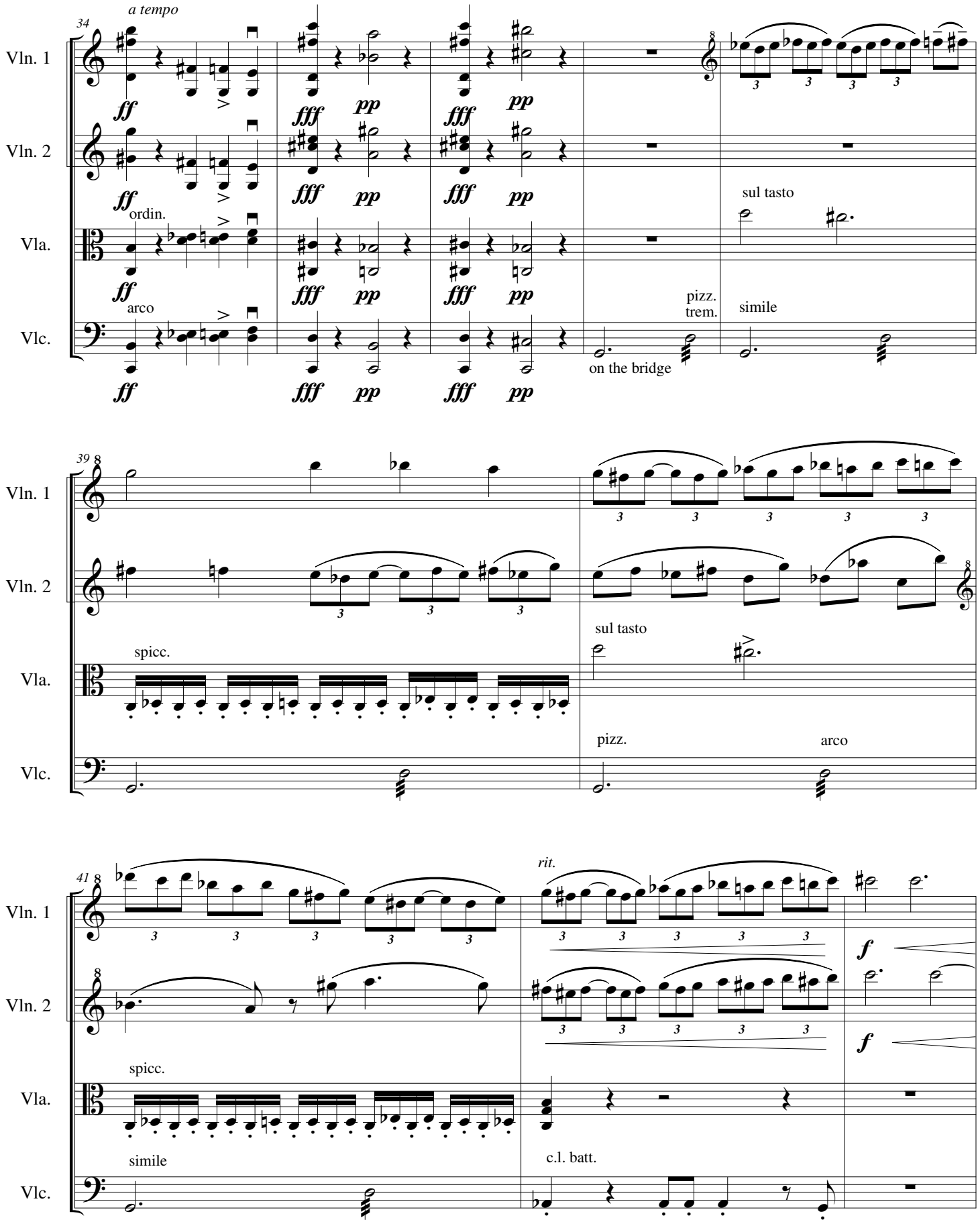
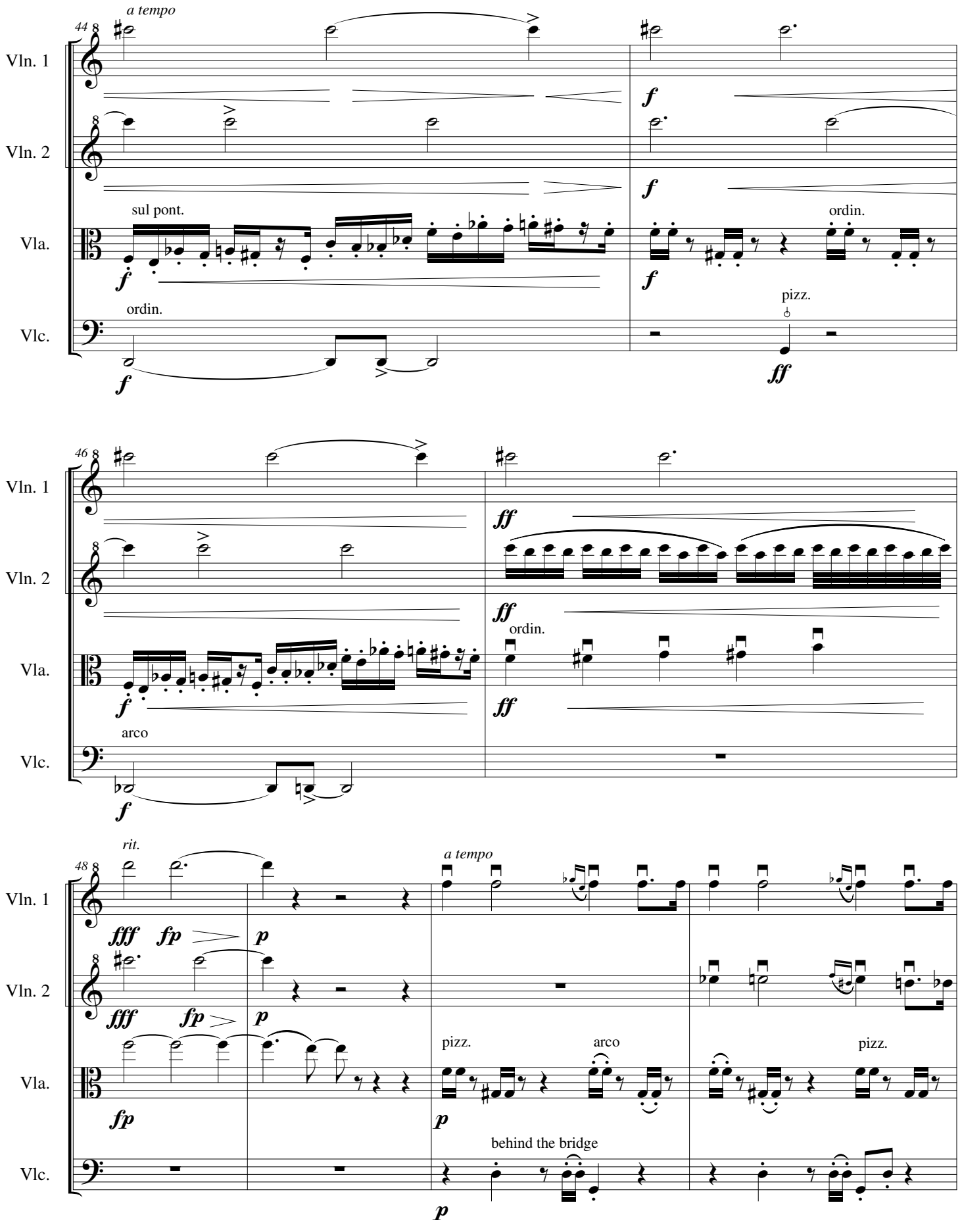

5
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
mf
p
ff
fp
ordin.
8
tr
sfz
sul pont.
pp
10
piu sul pont
c.l. batt.

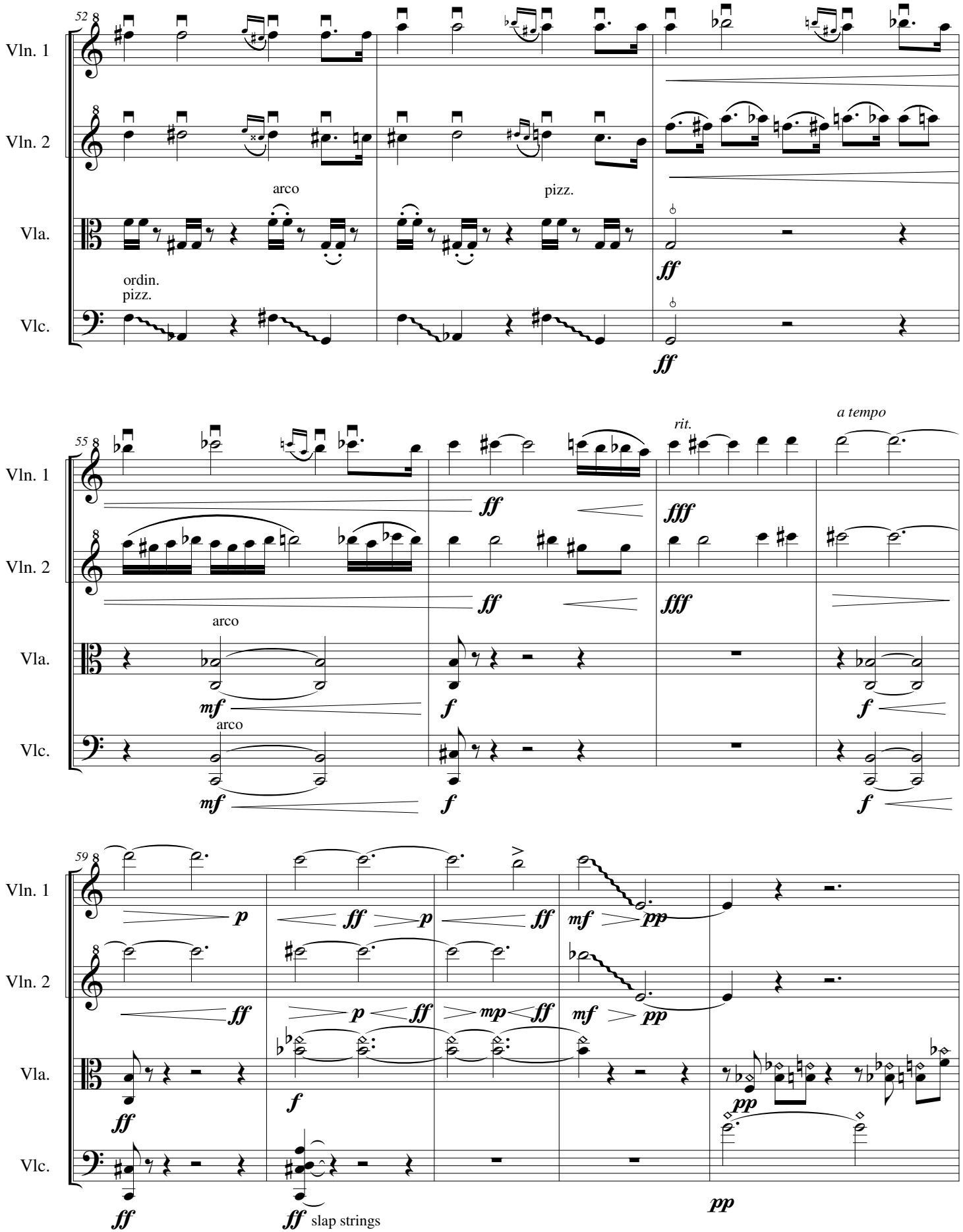

12
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
mf
p
ff
ordin.
fp
15
slap strings
17
sul pont.

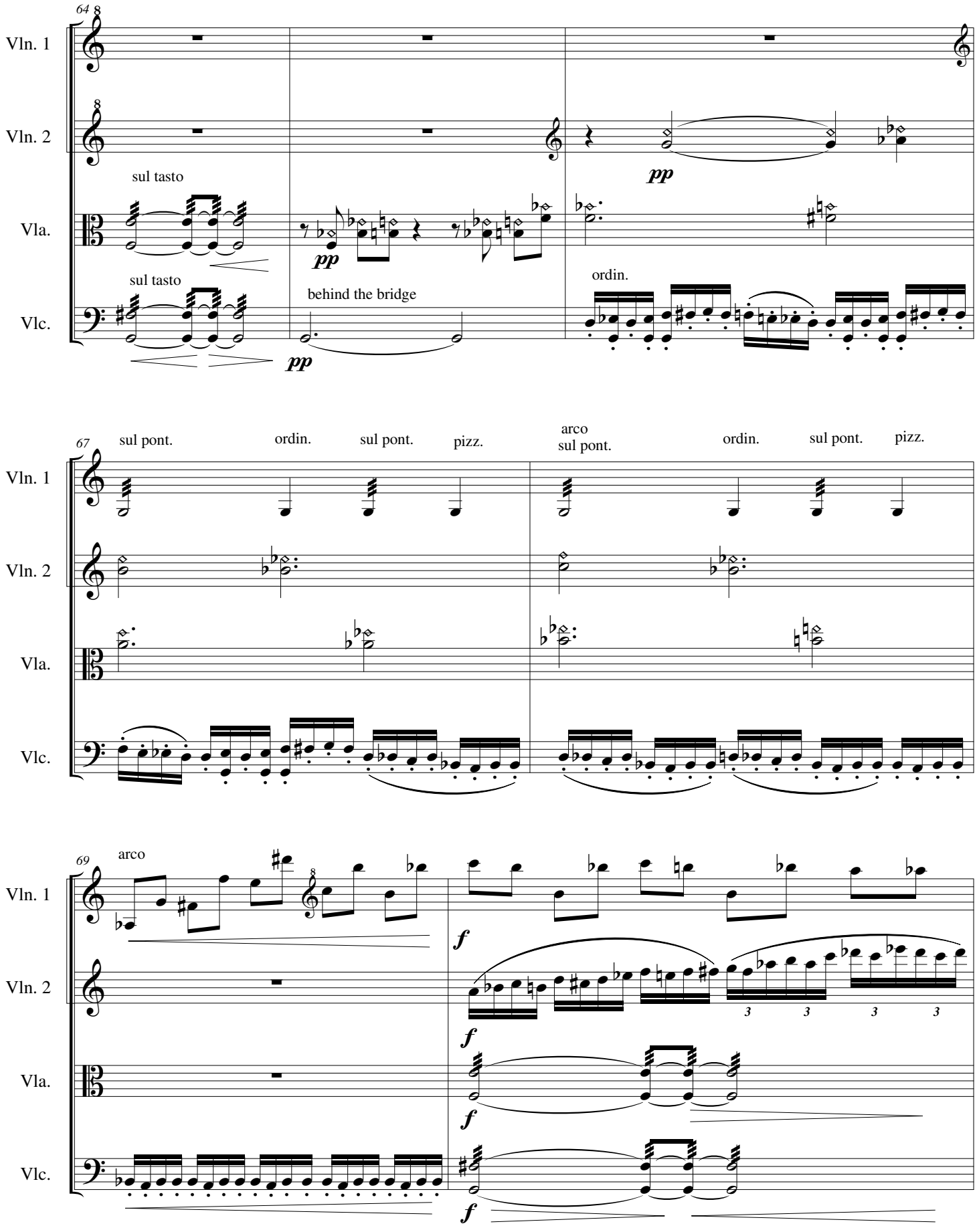

19
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
piu sul pont
fp
ordin.
sffz
sffz
piu sul pont
ordin.
sffz
sffz
p
p
ff
23
f
p
p
sul tasto
pp
spicc.
mp
25
cresc.
cresc.
ordin.
cresc.
pizz.
cresc.

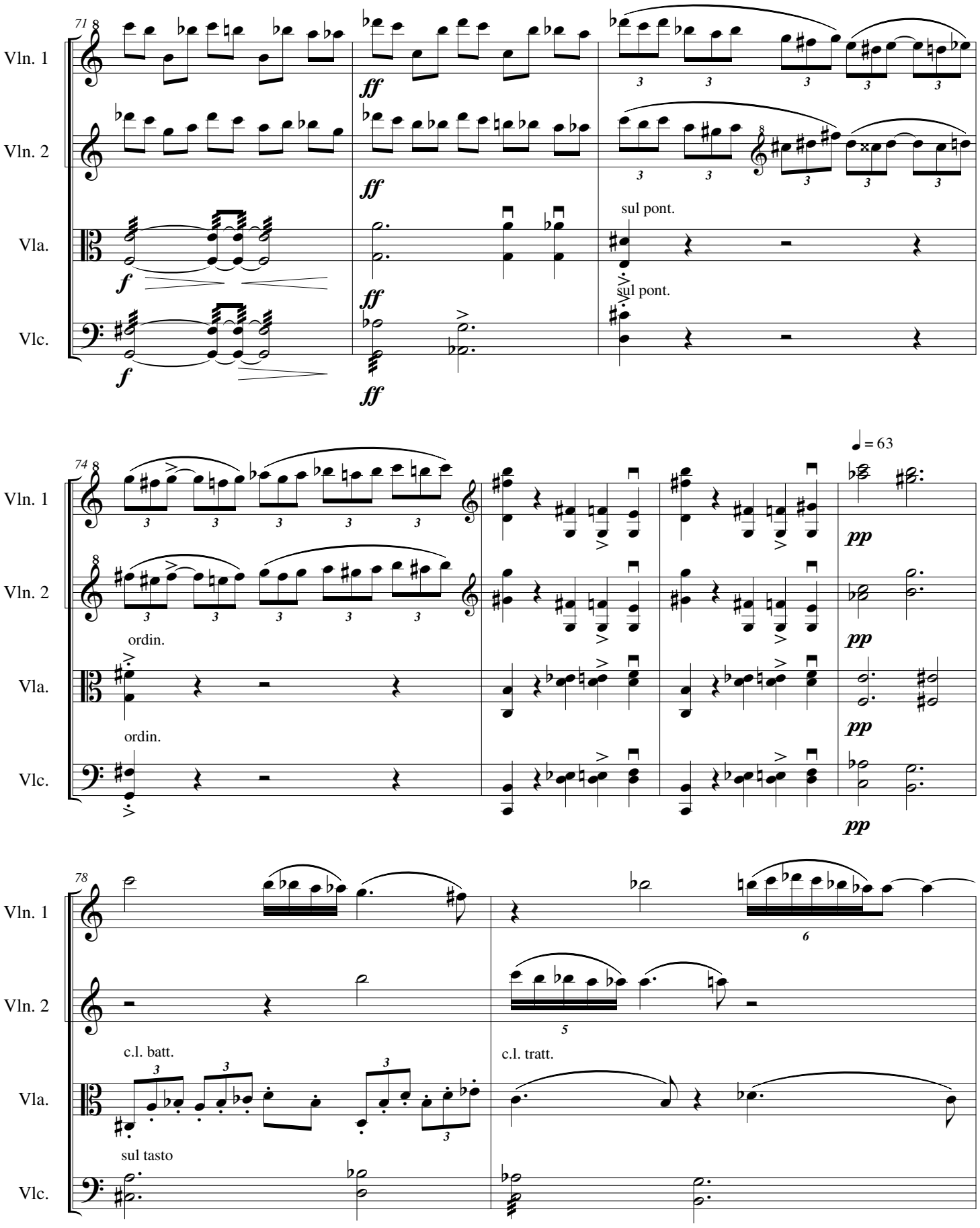

27
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
ff
29
31
slide bow
sul tasto
rit.
p
pp

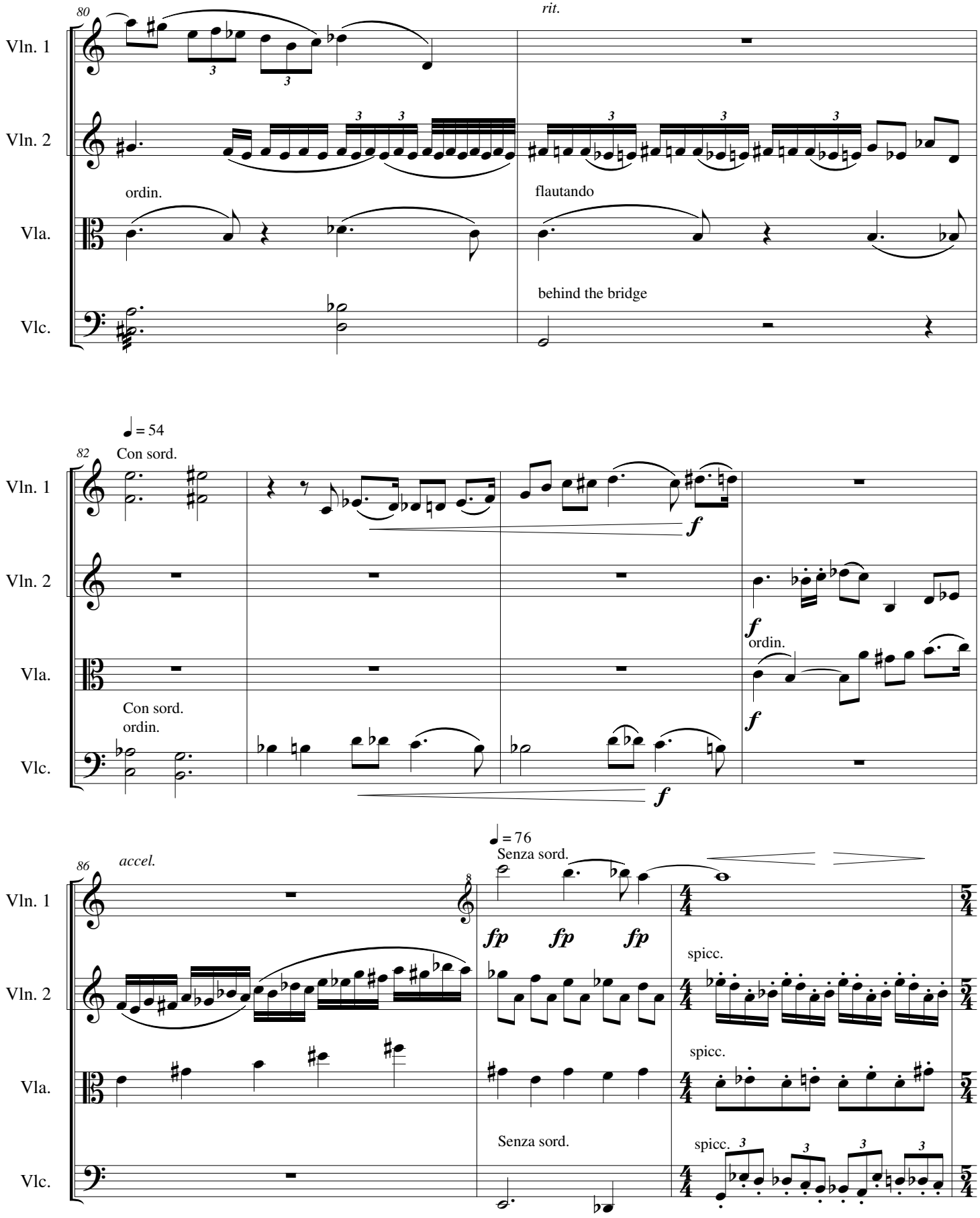

34
a tempo
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
ordin.
arco
sul tasto
pizz.
trem.
simile
on the bridge
39
spicc.
pizz.
arco
41
rit.
c.l. batt.

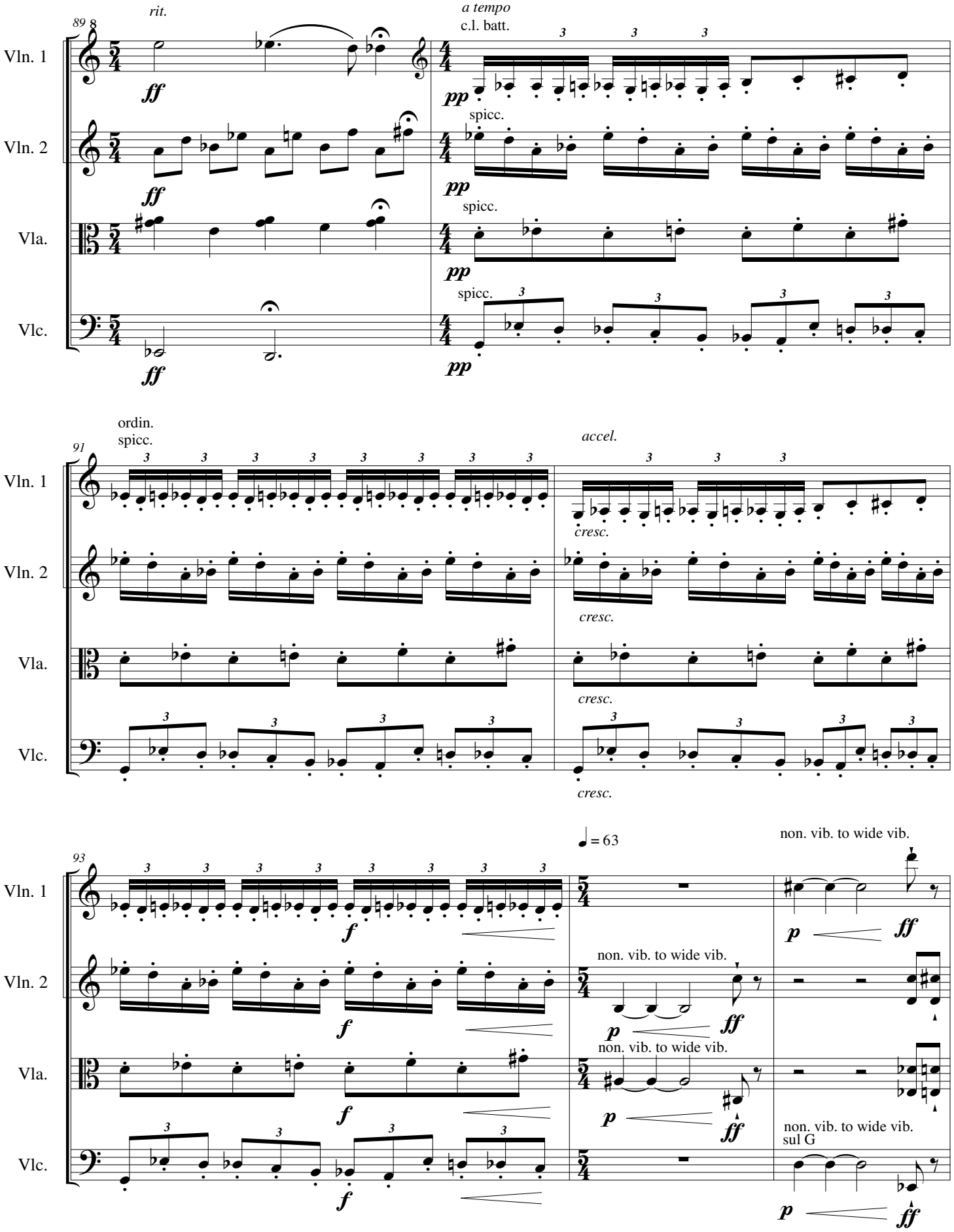

a tempo
44
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
sul pont.
ordin.
pizz.
46
arco
48
rit.
a tempo
behind the bridge

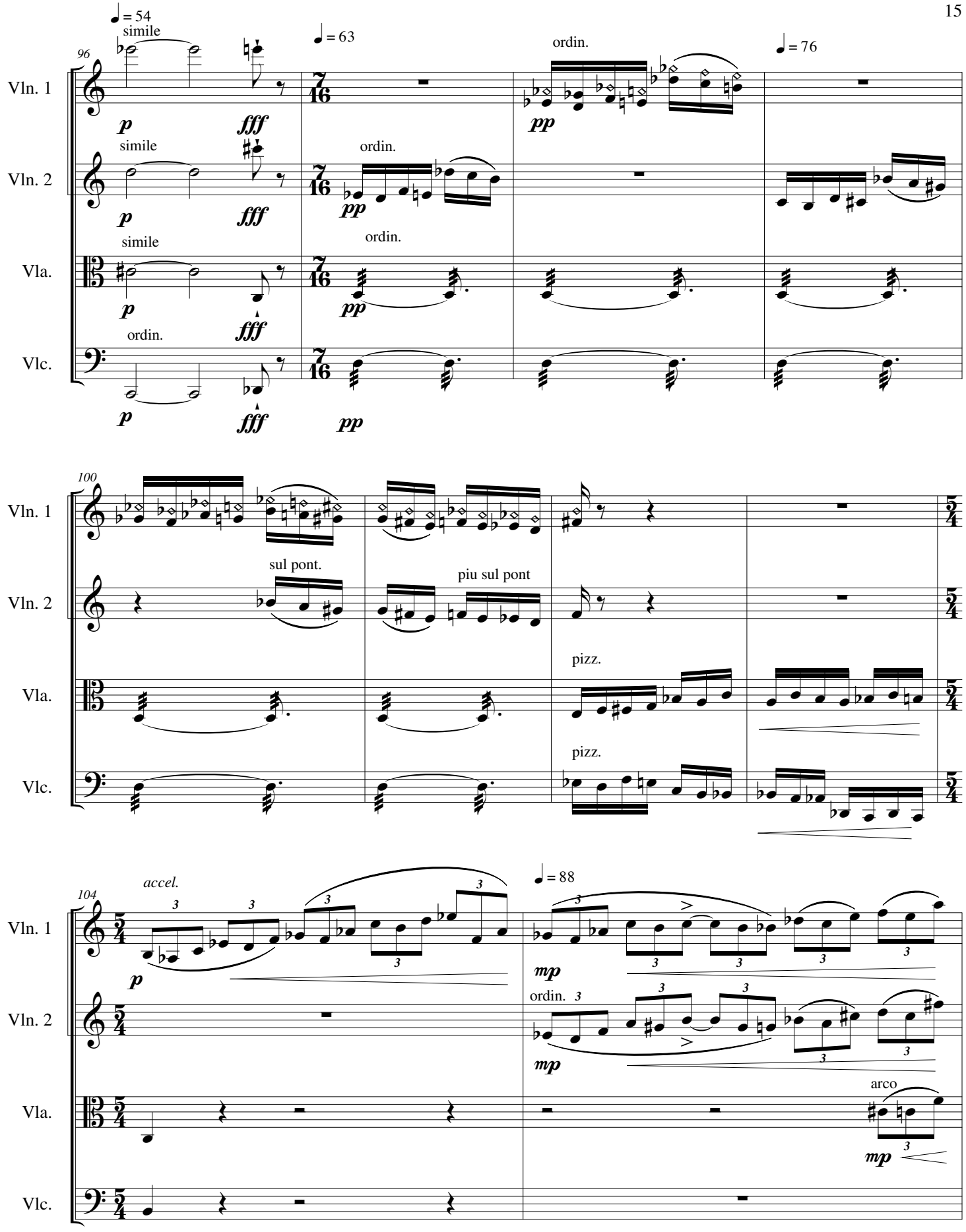

52
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
arco
pizz.
Vla.
ordin.
pizz.
Vlc.
ff
ff
55
rit.
a tempo
fff
mf
f
59
p
mp
pp
slap strings

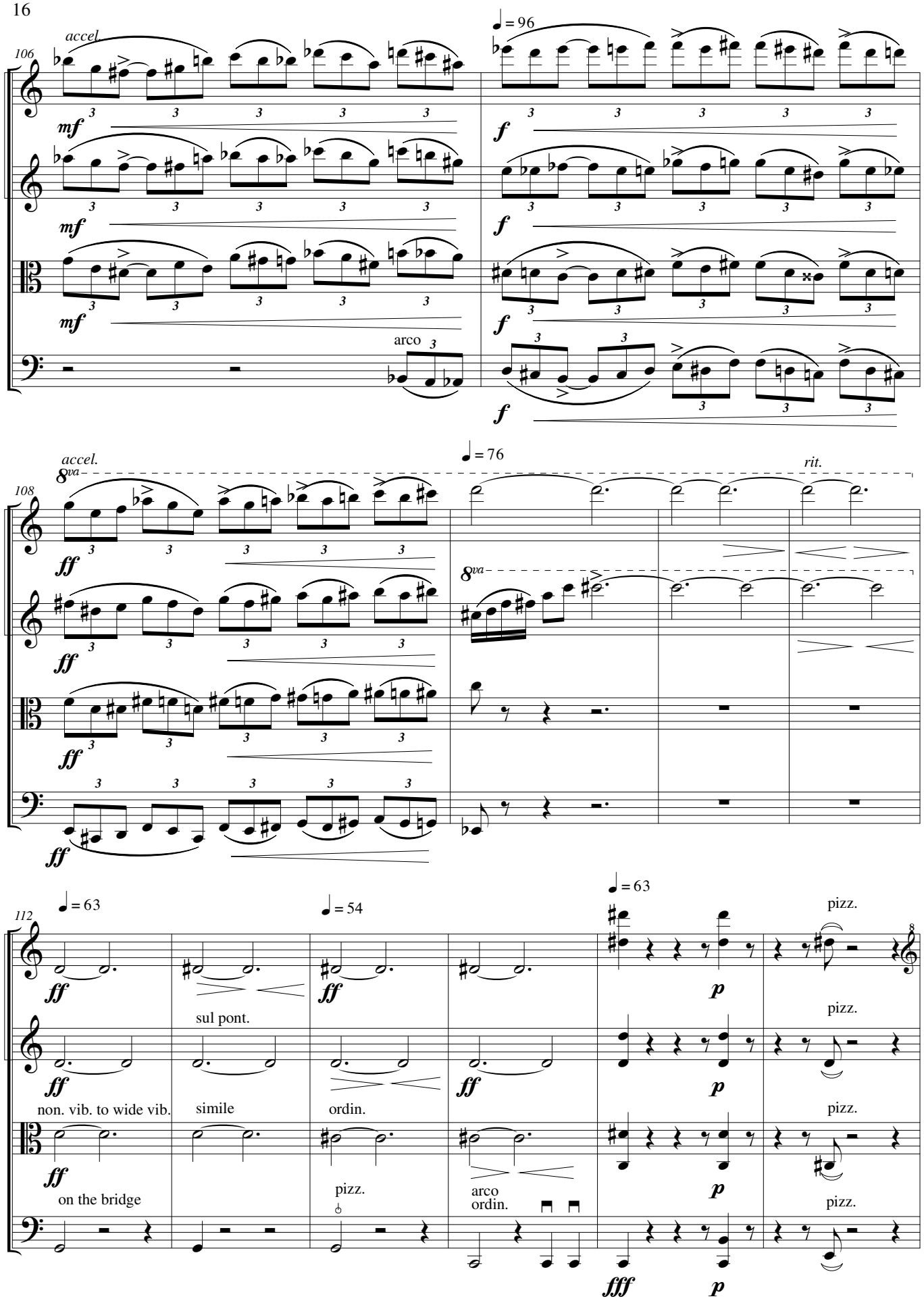

64
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
sul tasto
pp
sul tasto
behind the bridge
pp
pp
ordin.
67
sul pont.
ordin.
sul pont.
pizz.
arco
sul pont.
ordin.
sul pont.
pizz.
69
arco
f
f
f
f
3
3
3
3

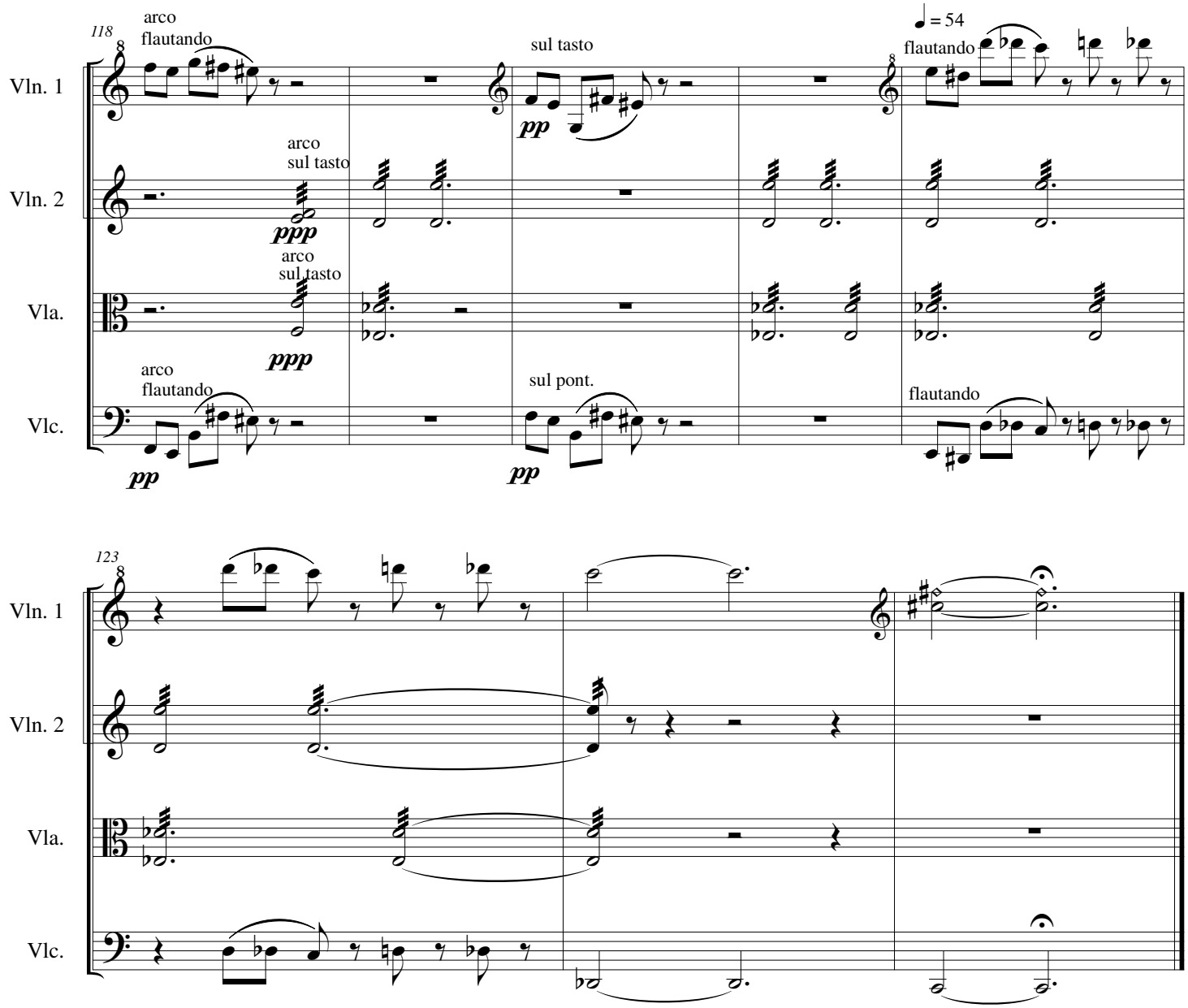

71
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
ff
f
sul pont.
74
ordin.
= 63
pp
78
c.l. batt.
c.l. tratt.
sul tasto


80
rit.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
ordin.
Vla.
flautando
behind the bridge
Vlc.
♩ = 54
82
Con sord.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
f
f
ordin.
Vla.
Con sord.
ordin.
f
Vlc.
f
♩ = 76
86
accel.
Senza sord.
Vln. 1
8
fp fp fp
spicc.
Vln. 2
spicc.
Vla.
Senza sord.
spicc.
Vlc.

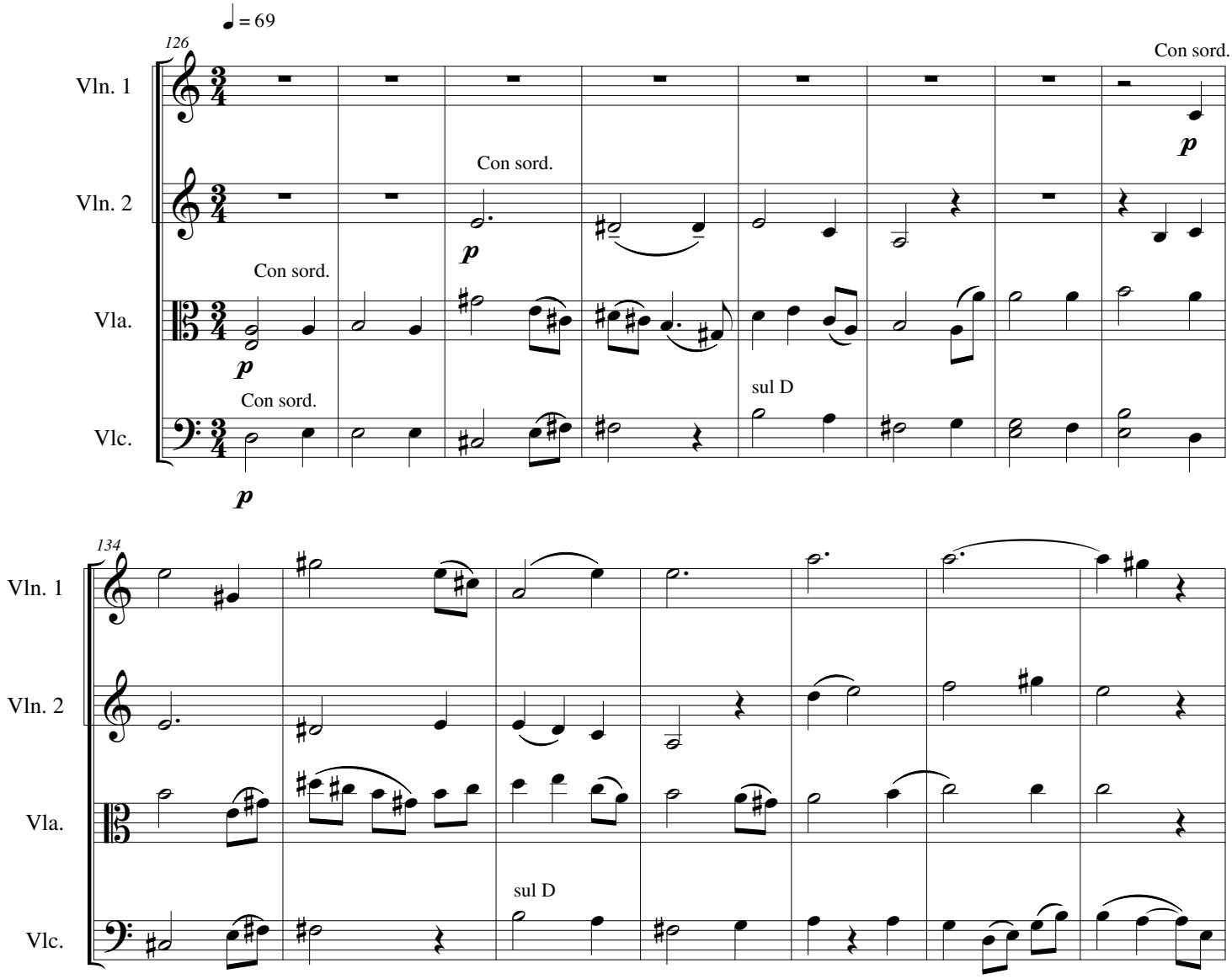

89
rit.
a tempo
c.l. batt.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
ff
pp
spicc.
91
ordin.
spicc.
accel.
cresc.
93
= 63
non. vib. to wide vib.
sul G
f
p


96
♩ = 54
simile
♩ = 63
ordin.
♩ = 76
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
p
fff
pp
100
sul pont.
piu sul pont
pizz.
104
accel.
♩ = 88
mp
arco


106
accel
♩ = 96
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
mf
f
arco
108
accel.
8va
♩ = 76
rit.
ff
112
♩ = 63
♩ = 54
♩ = 63
sul pont.
non. vib. to wide vib.
simile
ordin.
on the bridge
pizz.
arco
ordin.
fff
p


118
arco
flautando
sul tasto
♩ = 54
flautando
Vln. 1
arco
sul tasto
Vln. 2
arco
sul tasto
Vla.
arco
flautando
sul pont.
flautando
Vlc.
pp
ppp
pp
pp
123
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

Late Light



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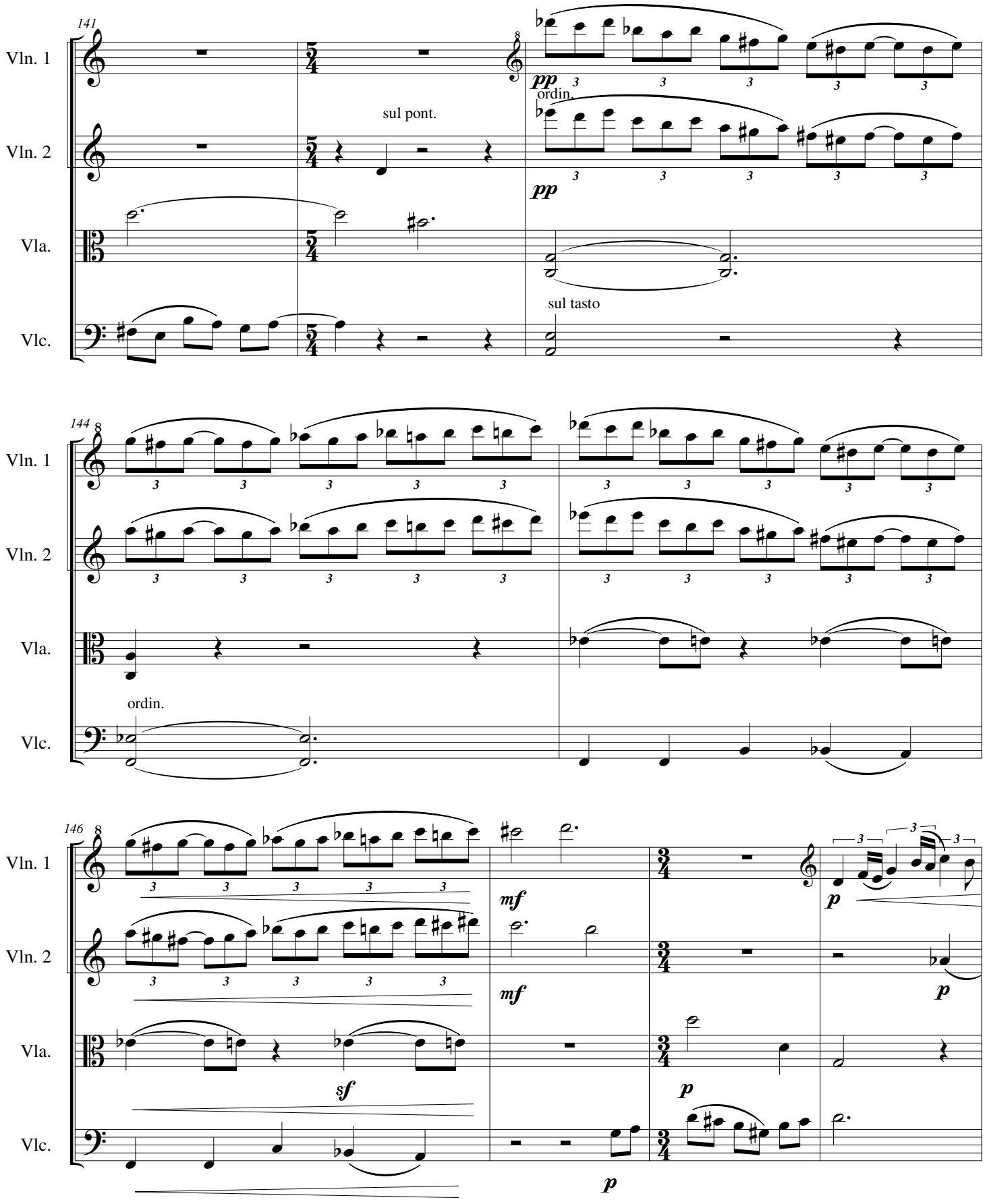
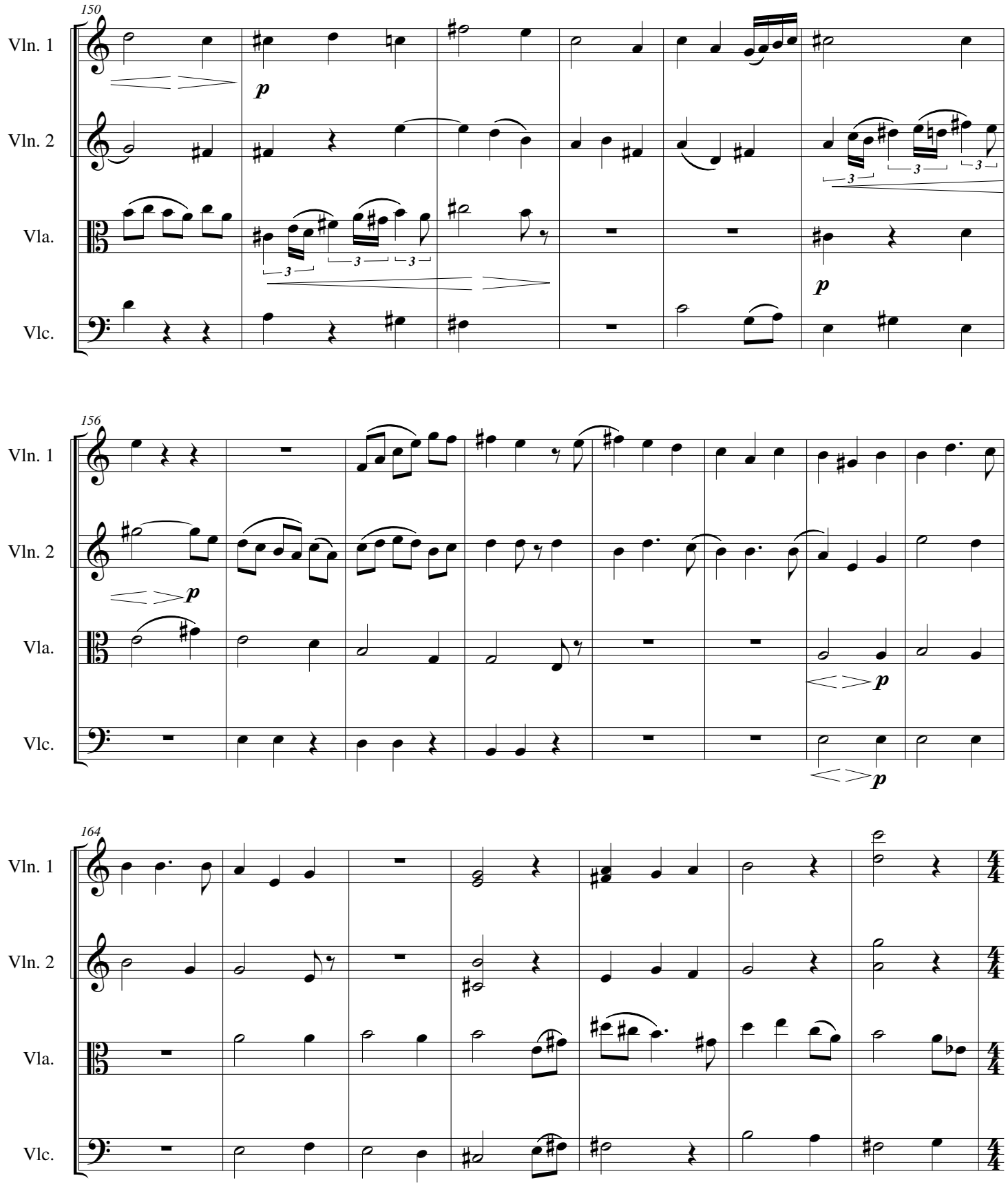
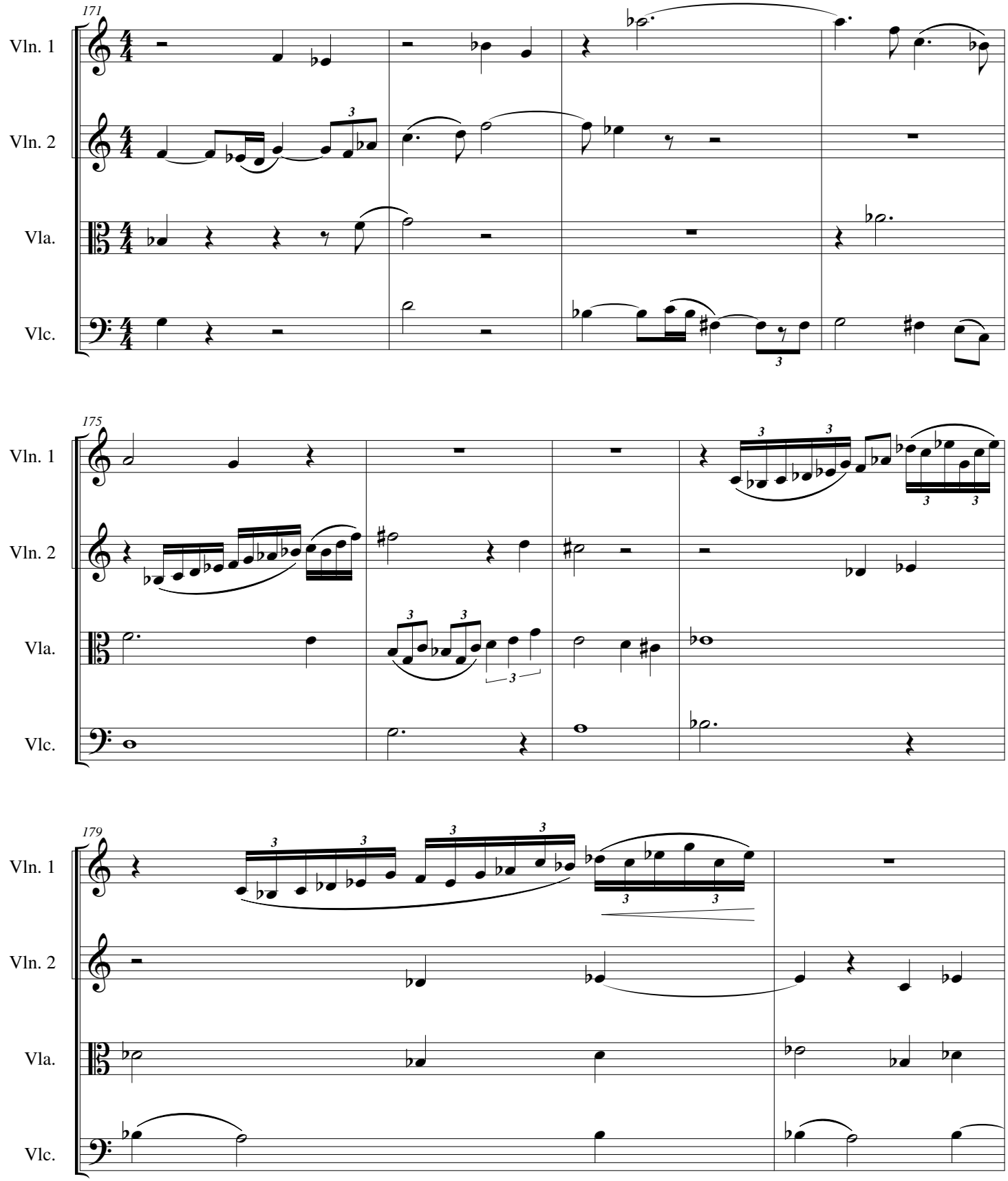
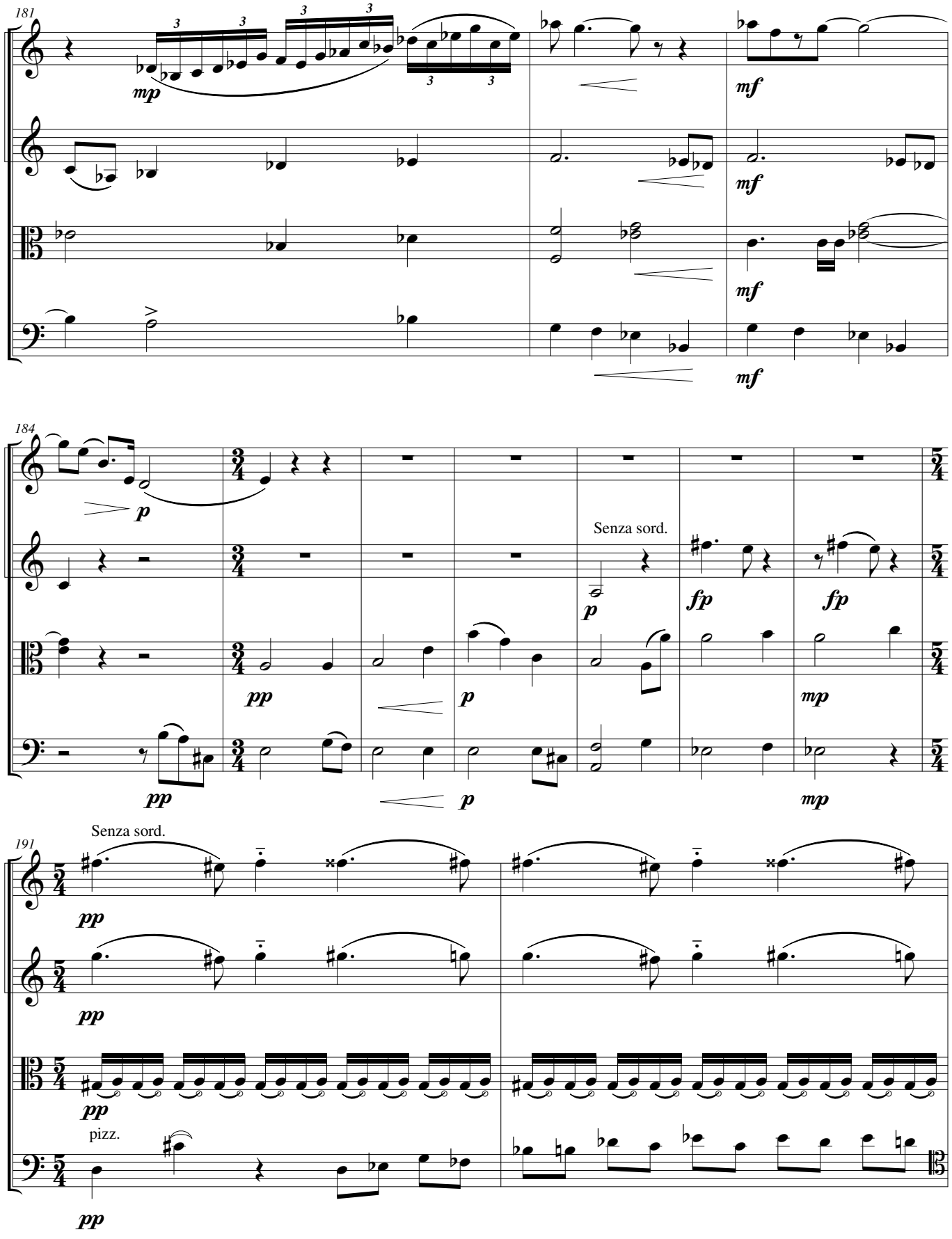
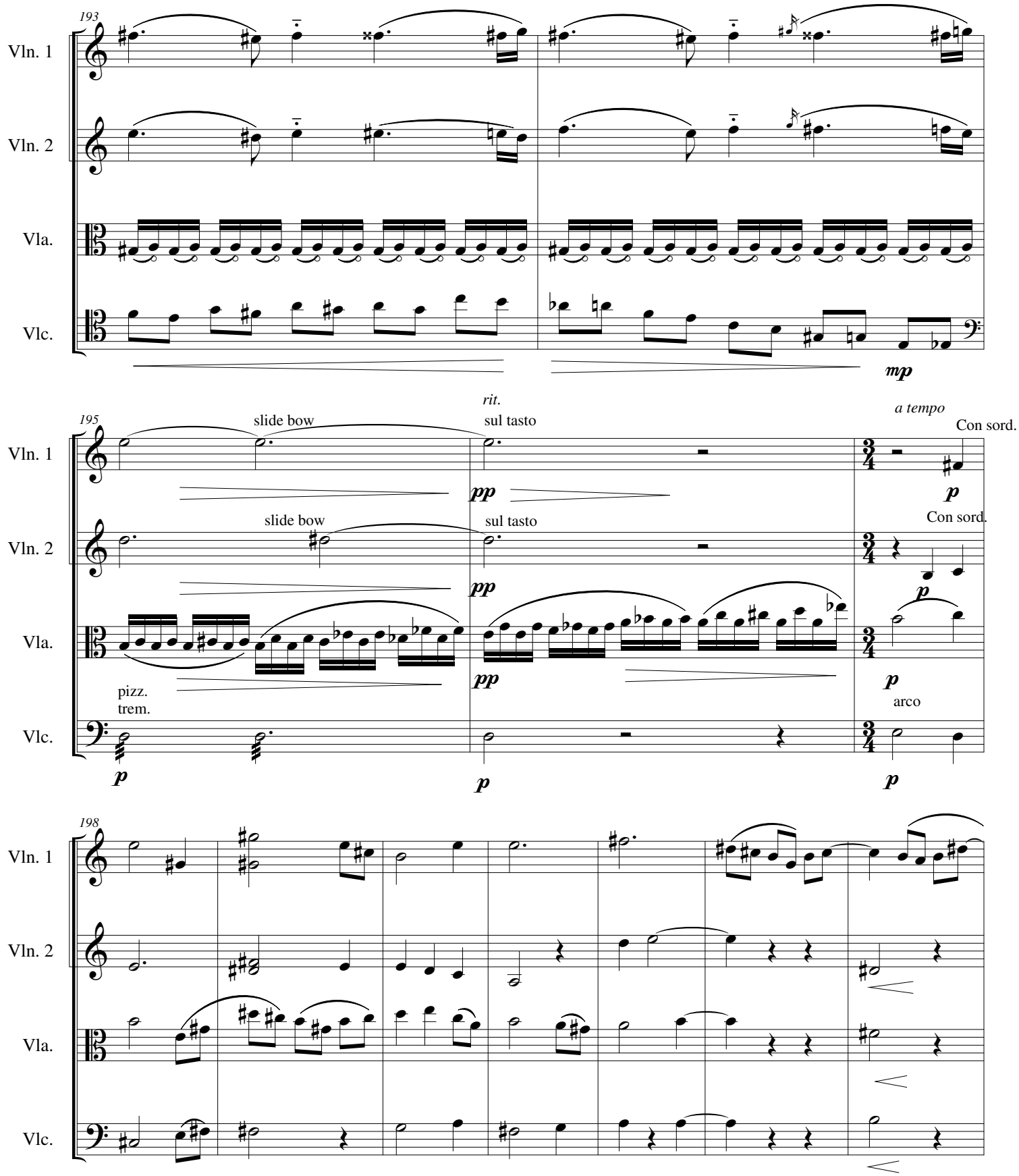
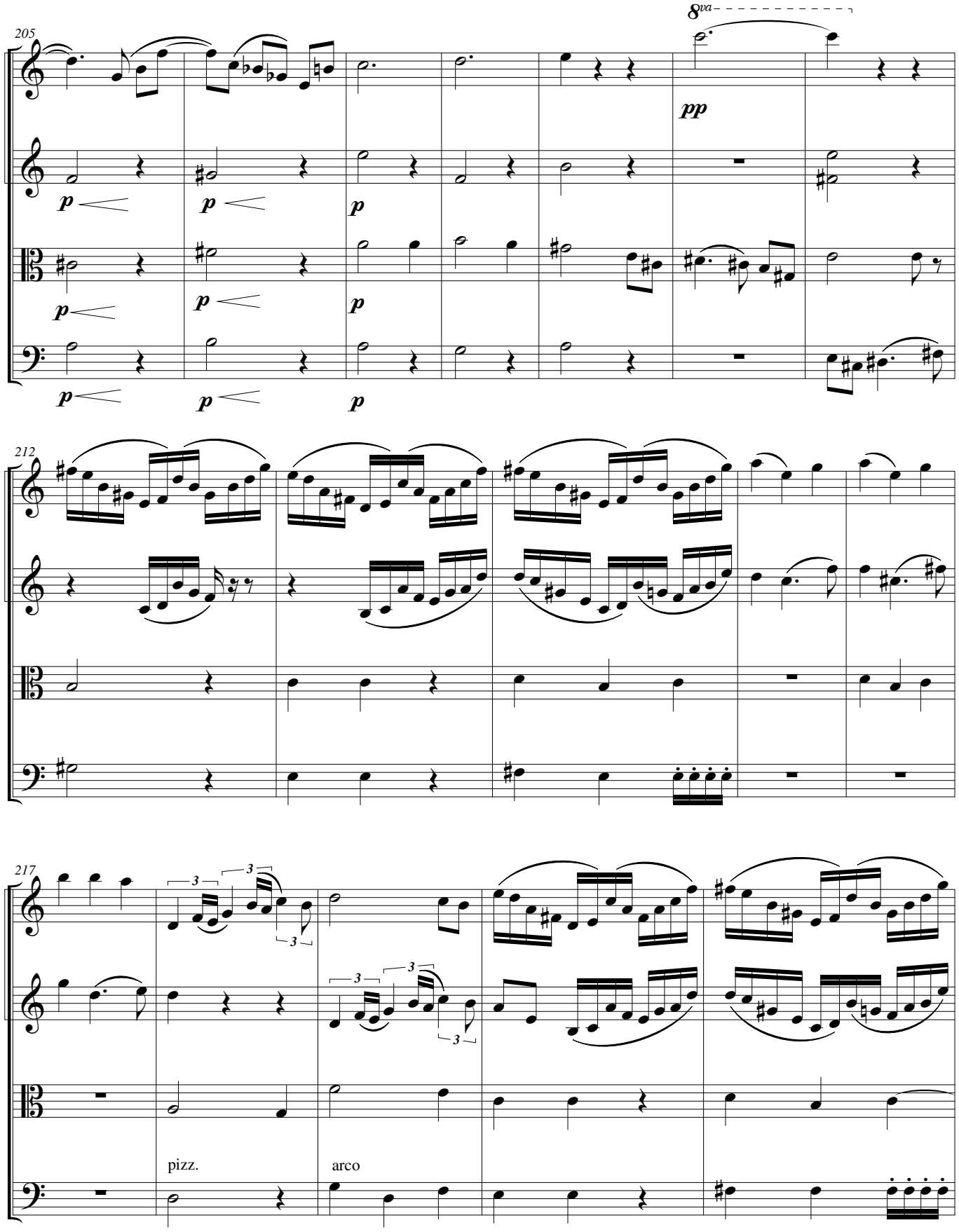

141
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
sul pont.
pp
ordin.
pp
sul tasto
144
ordin.
146
mf
mf
sf
p
p
p
p
p

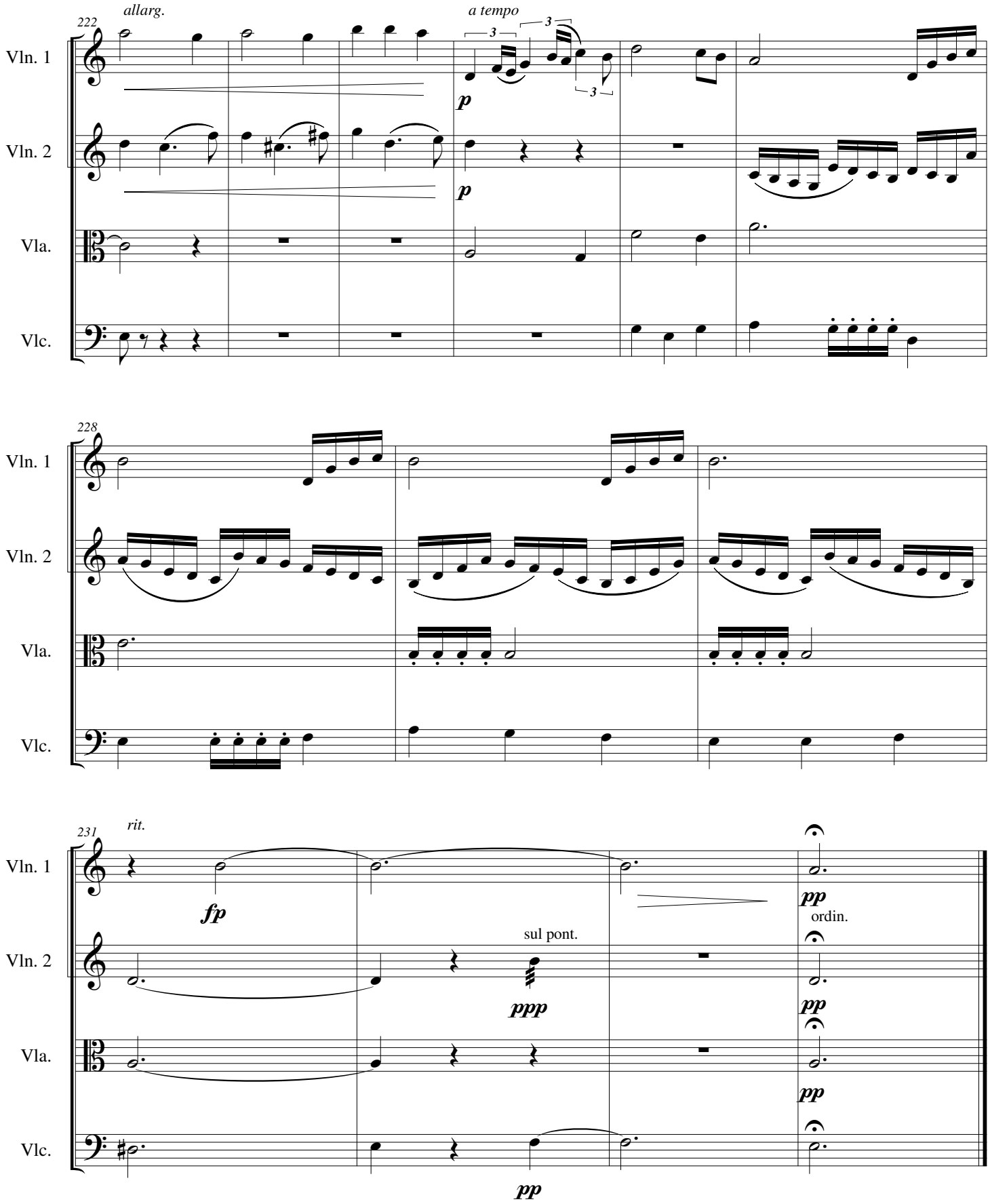

150
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
p
3
156
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
p
164
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.


171
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
175
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
179
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.


181
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
mp
mf
184
p
Senza sord.
fp
pp
mp
191
pizz.


193
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
mp
rit.
a tempo
195
slide bow
sul tasto
Con sord.
pp
p
pizz.
trem.
arco
198


205
8va
pp
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
p
212
217
3
pizz.
arco


222
allarg.
a tempo
3
3
3
p
p
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
228
231
rit.
fp
sul pont.
ppp
pp
ordin.
pp
pp
pp
pp