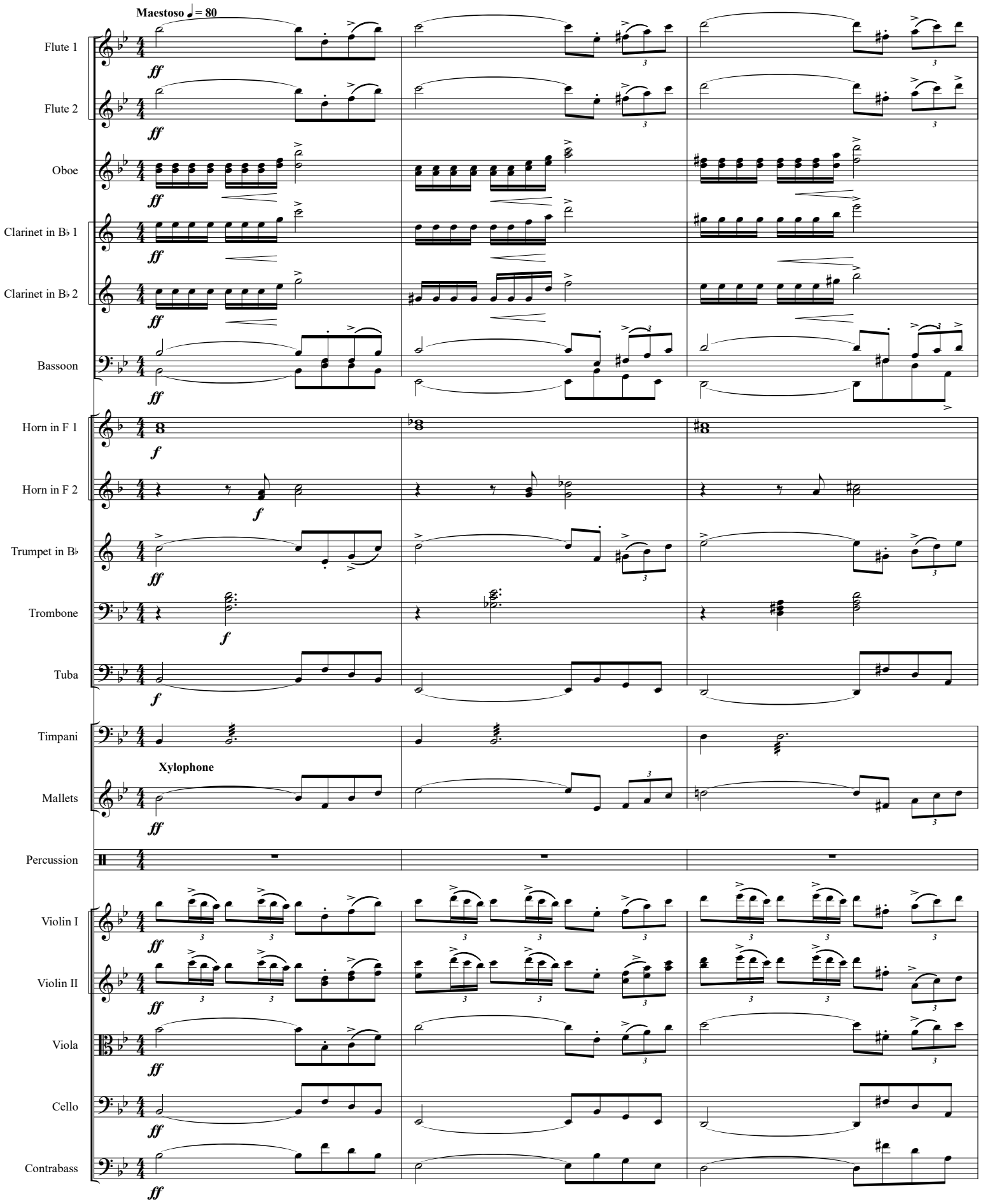
Score

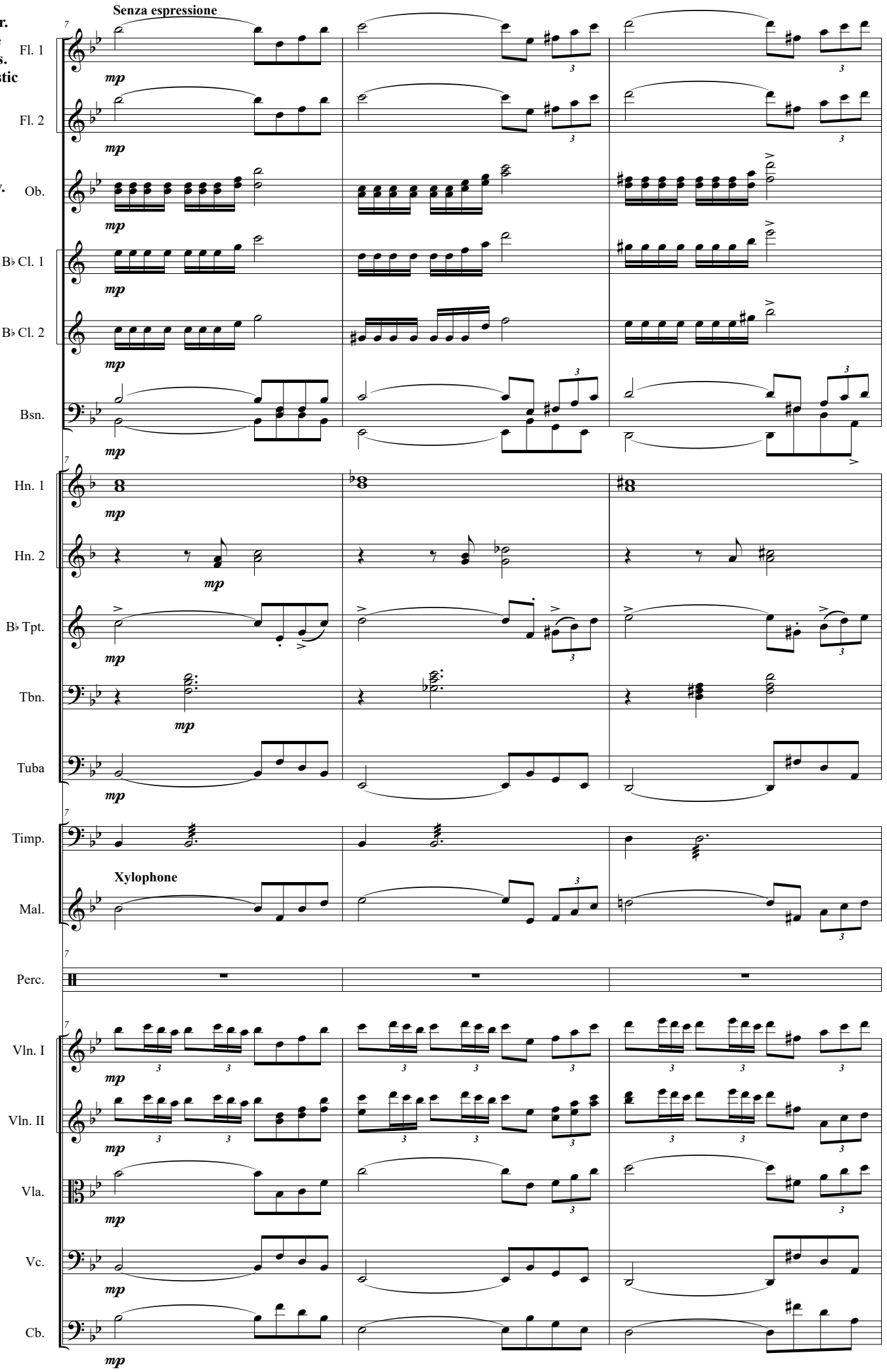
Power of Expression



©2024

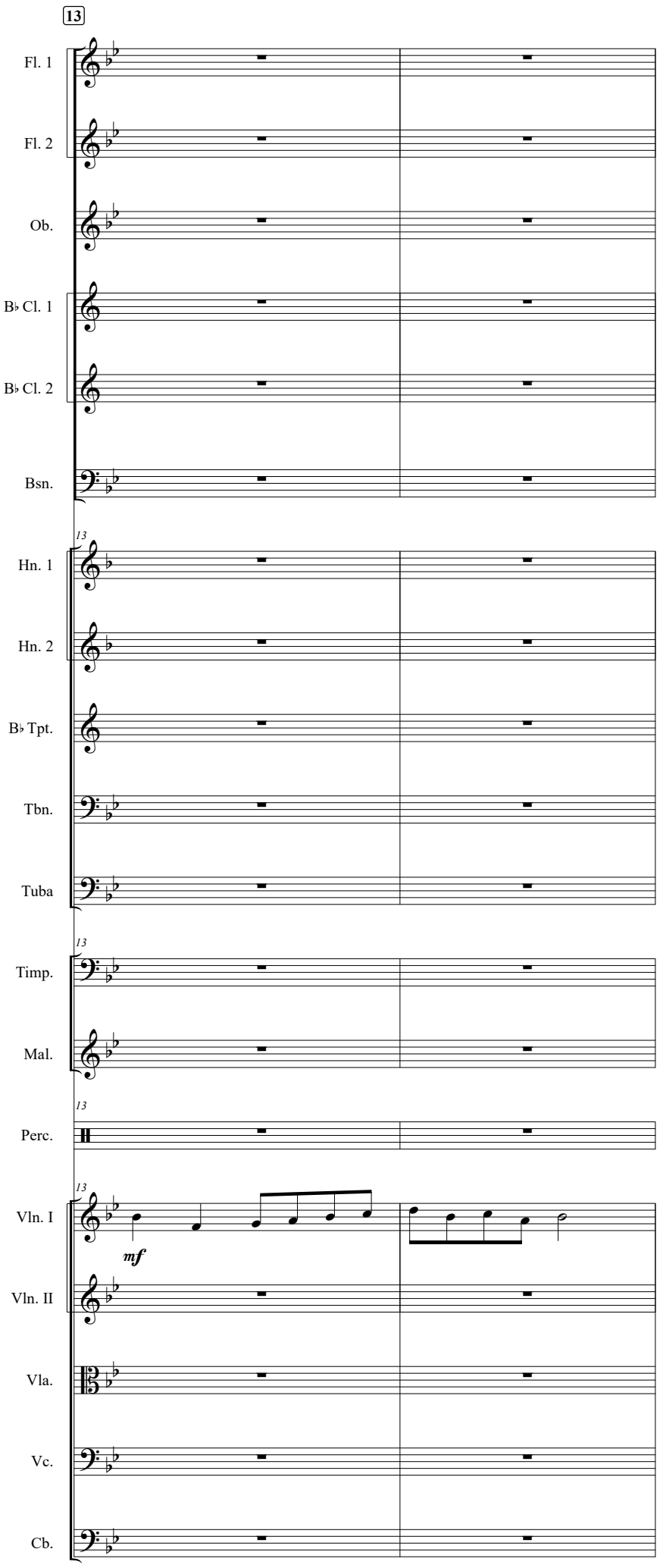
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
Bsn.
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tuba
Timp.
Mal.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

That was a display of symphonic splendor. It was played by these magnificent musicians. That music was majestic and powerful. Let's discover the Power of Expression.
We'll hear the music once again but played but in a different way.



Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
Bsn.
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tuba
Timp.
Mal.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

The second version was not exciting at all. The music was dull, boring...dead. So, what's the difference? The first time the musicians played with expression. That gave the music interest and power. How did each musicians know how and when to make the music more expressive? Let's explore that question. Listen to this short example of music.



That music can be changed in many ways. If the composer wants the notes to be separated, dots are placed above or below the notes. That tells the musicians to shorten each note creating a series of separated notes. That's called STACCATO.

If the music is to be played smooth and connected, a curved line is placed over the music. Then the music would sound like this.

15

Fl. 1

mf

Fl. 2

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

Bsn.

15

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

B♭ Tpt.

Tbn.

Tuba

15

Timp.

Mal.

15

Perc.

15

Vln. I

Vln. II

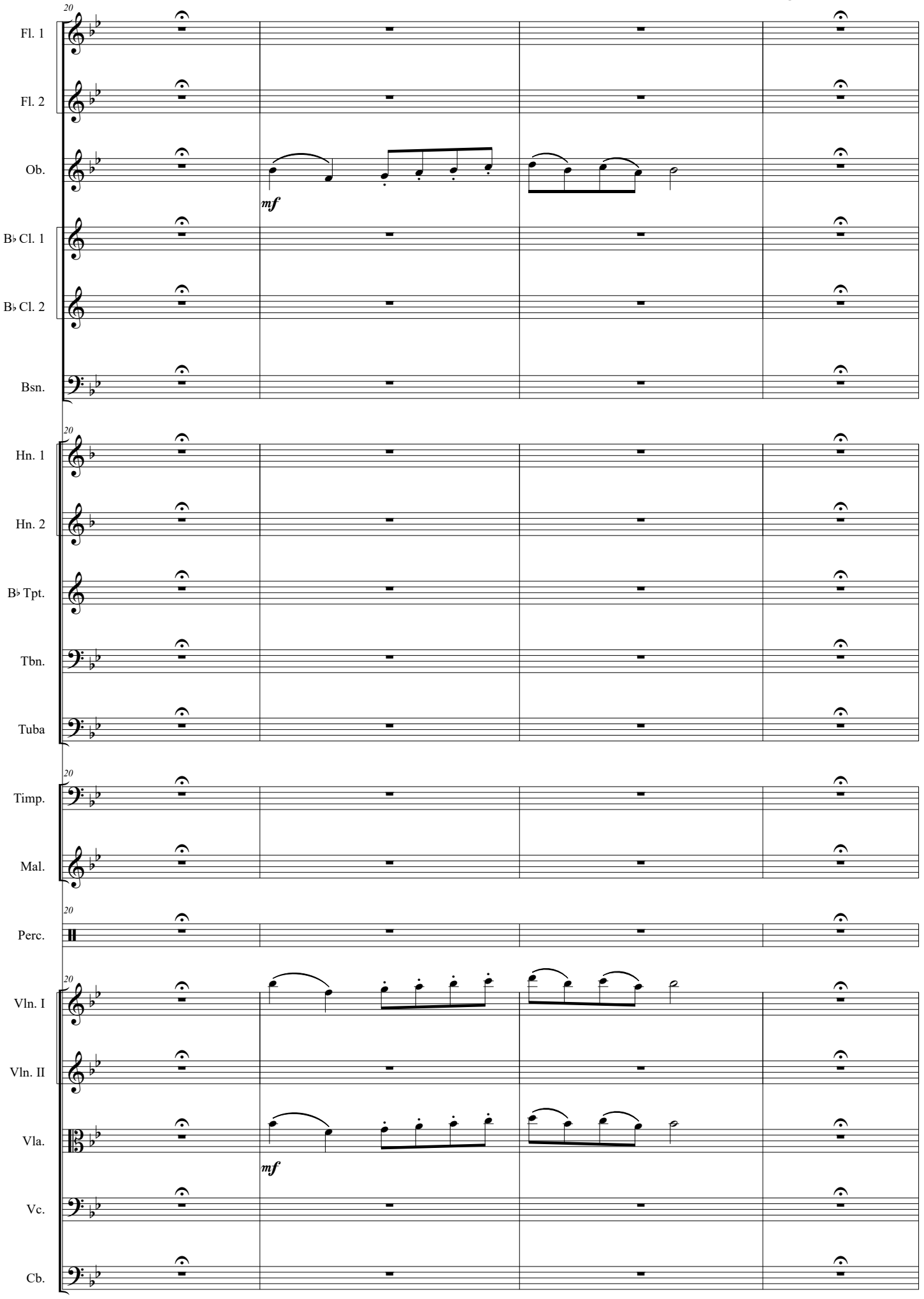
Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

The composer can mix connected and separated notes for added effect.

Dots and curved lines are called articulations. Articulation tells the musicians how to begin each note.



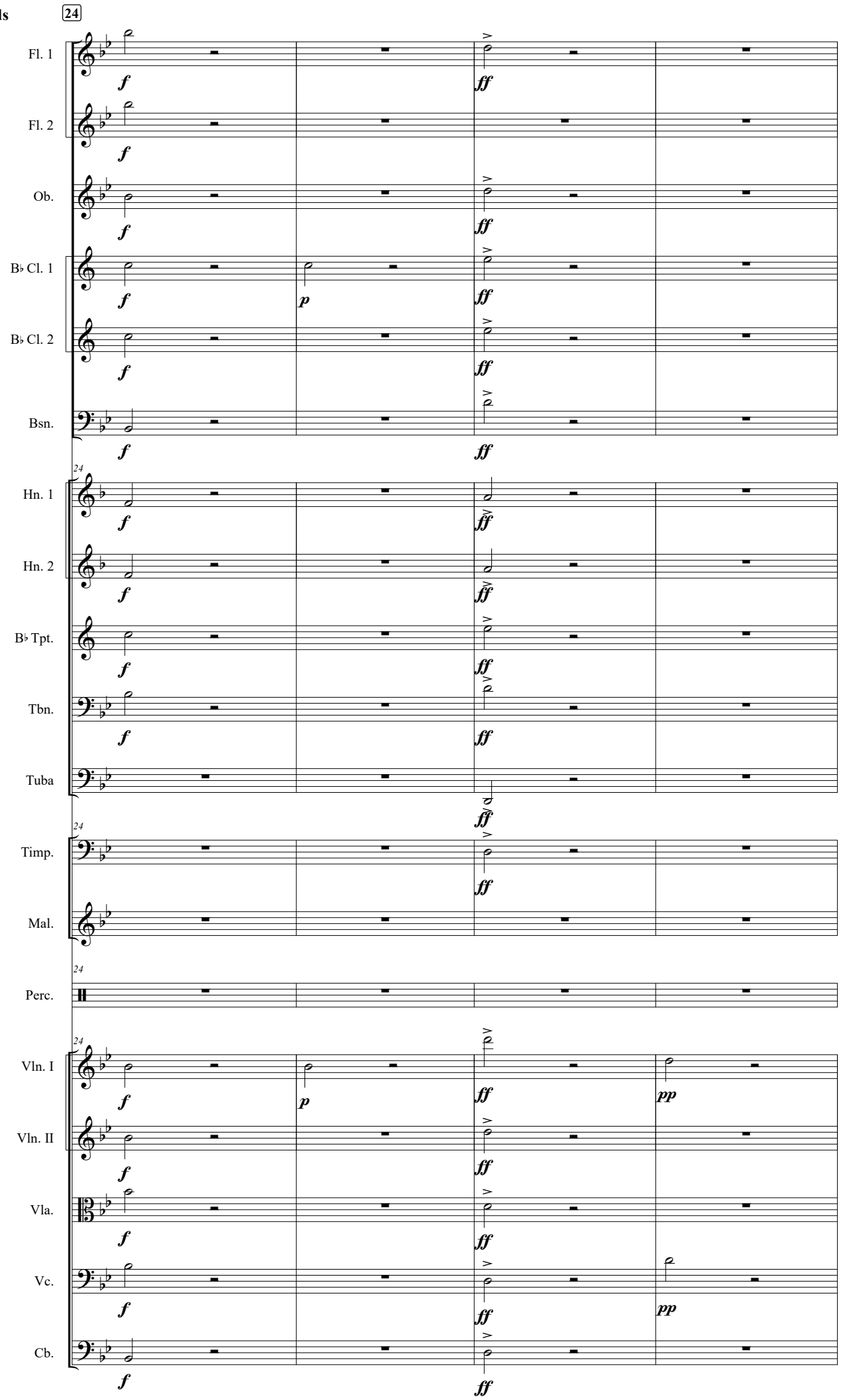
Music gets more dramatic and interesting when we add dynamics. Dynamics are the ever-changing louds and softs in the music. Forte means loud.

Piano means soft.

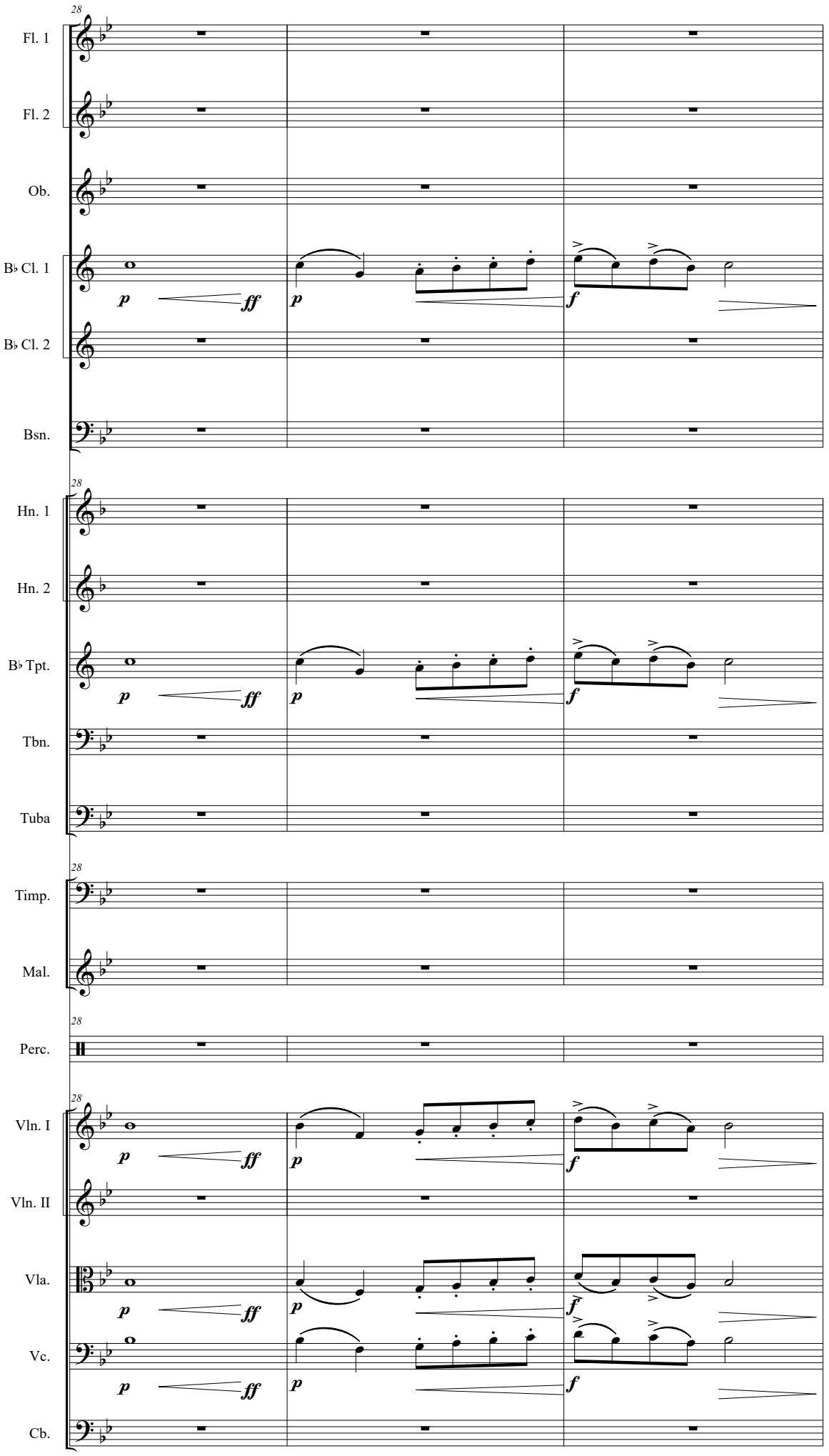
Fortissimo means very loud.

Pianissimo mean very soft.

These are words that come from Italy, the home of music.



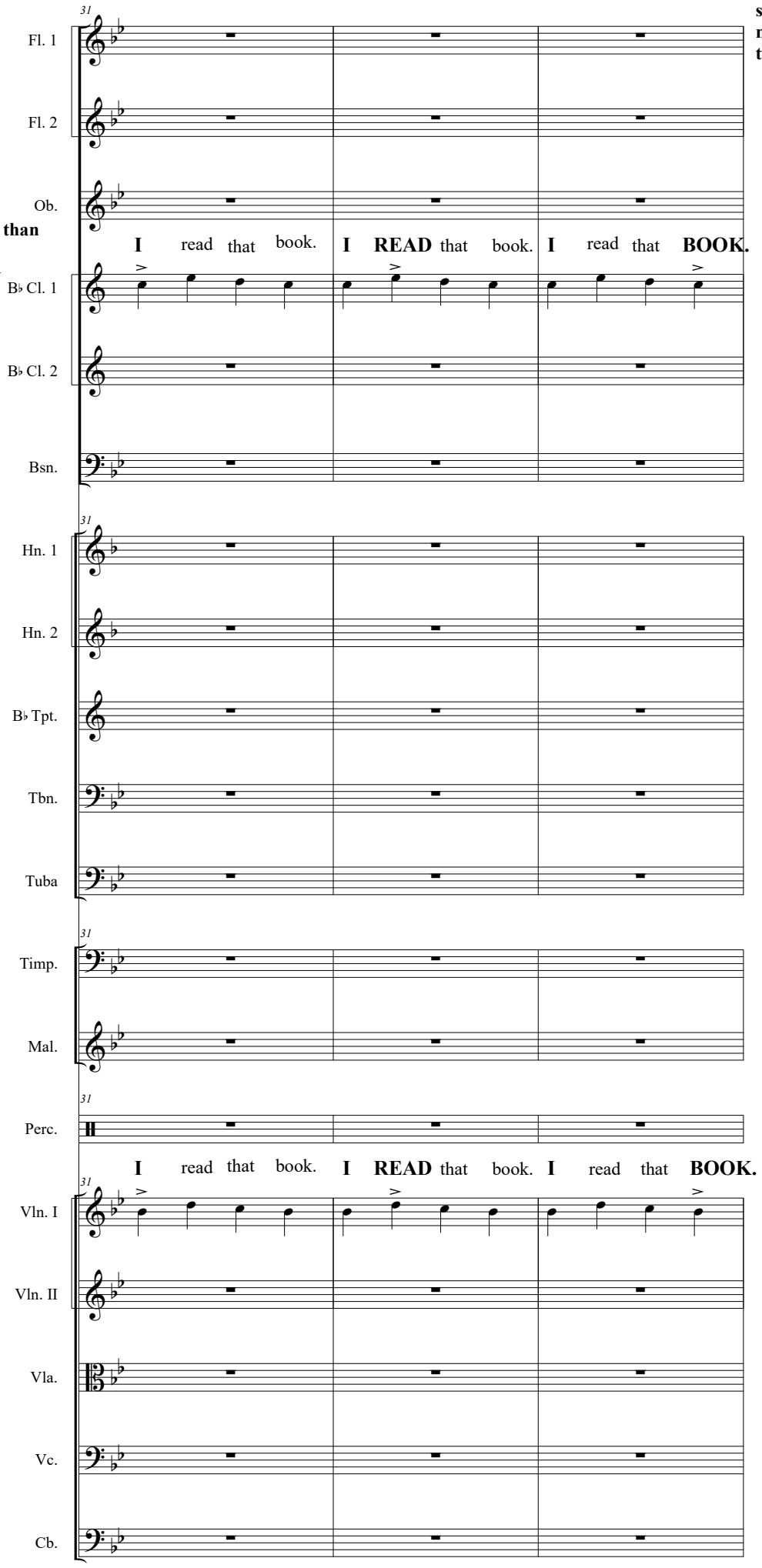
Now let's hear the melody played with articulation and dynamics marked in the music. You will hear that makes the music expressive.

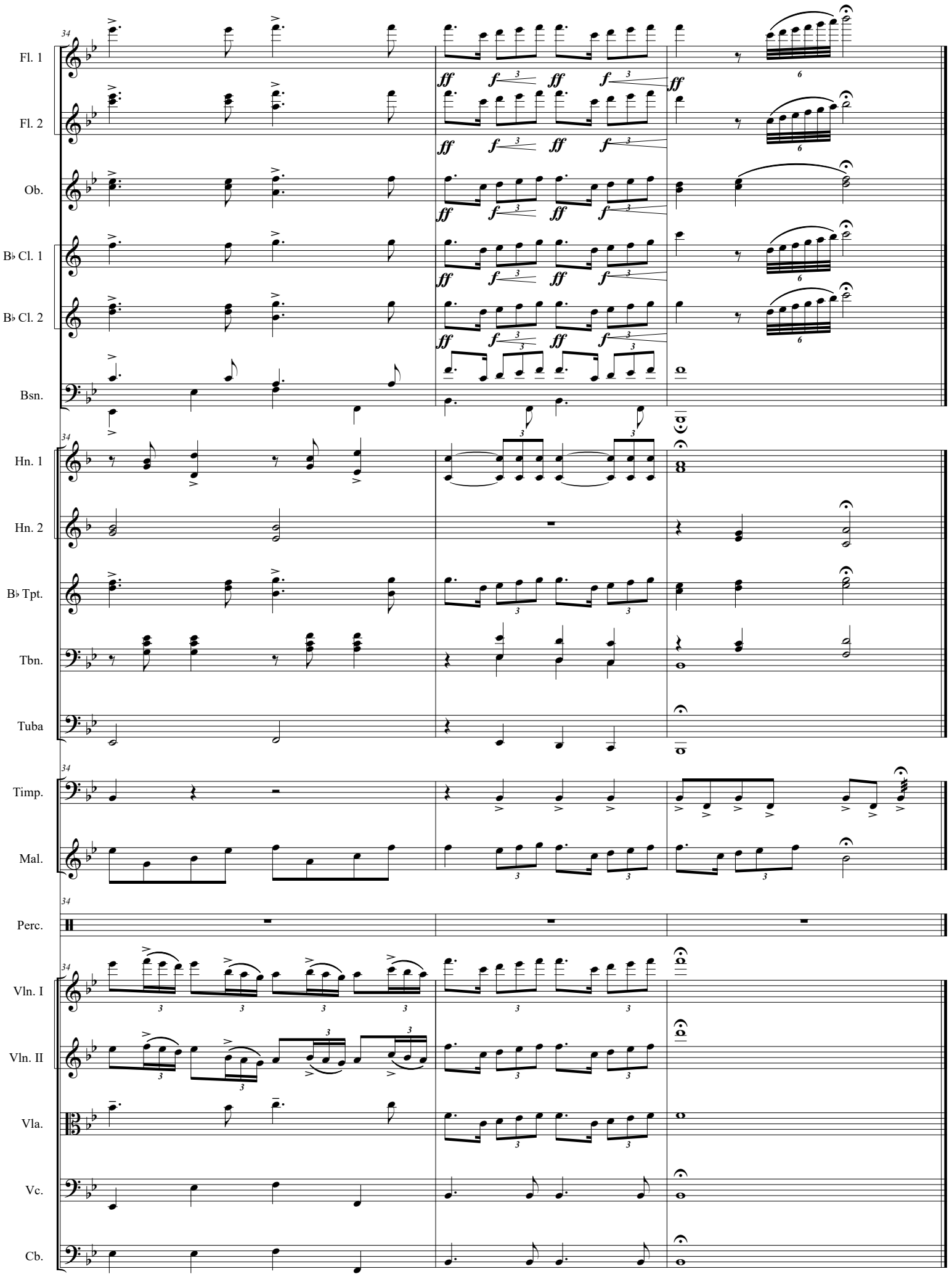


One more thing, then we will move onto a story.
Take this sentence. I read that book. You could say this in several different ways. If you emphasize a certain word, the sentence has more meaning.

I read that book. That tells who read the book. If you emphasize the word READ, that says you have finished the book. Or, if you want to emphasize that you've read a BOOK, rather than a magazine or seen a movie about the story. A composer may choose to emphasize a certain note by placing an accent mark on that note. Here are three examples.

Now that you've learned a little about dynamics and articulation, it's time for the story of Cinderella told with music to more fully release the Power of Expression.




34
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
Bsn.
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tuba
Timp.
Mal.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
ff
f