First Trip to the Symphony

David Ott

Commissioned for the Des Moines Symphony
in celebration of Music Director Joseph Giunta's
fiftieth birthday.

First Trip to the Symphony

Piccolo
Flute
Oboe
Clarinetin Bb
Bassoon

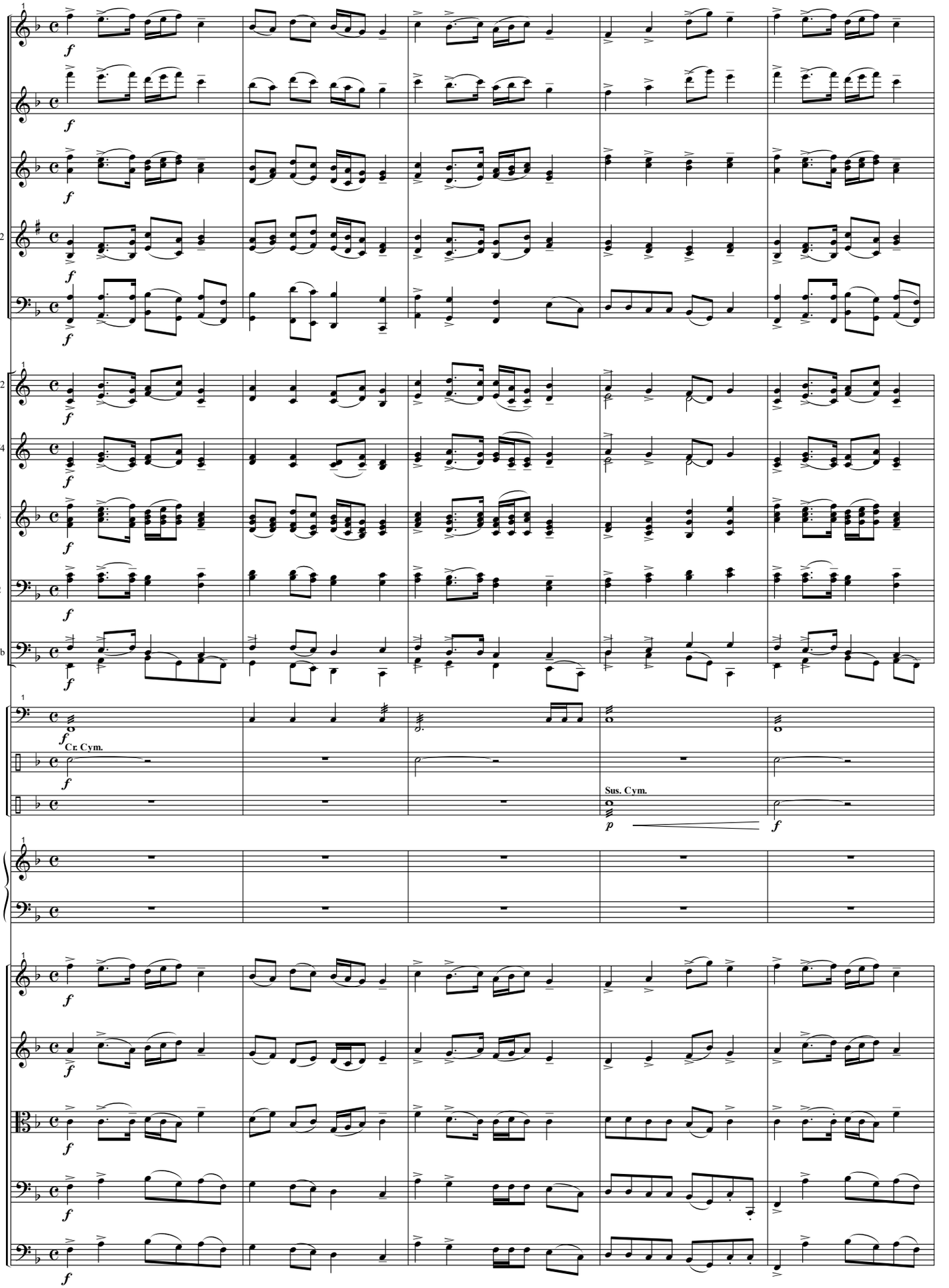
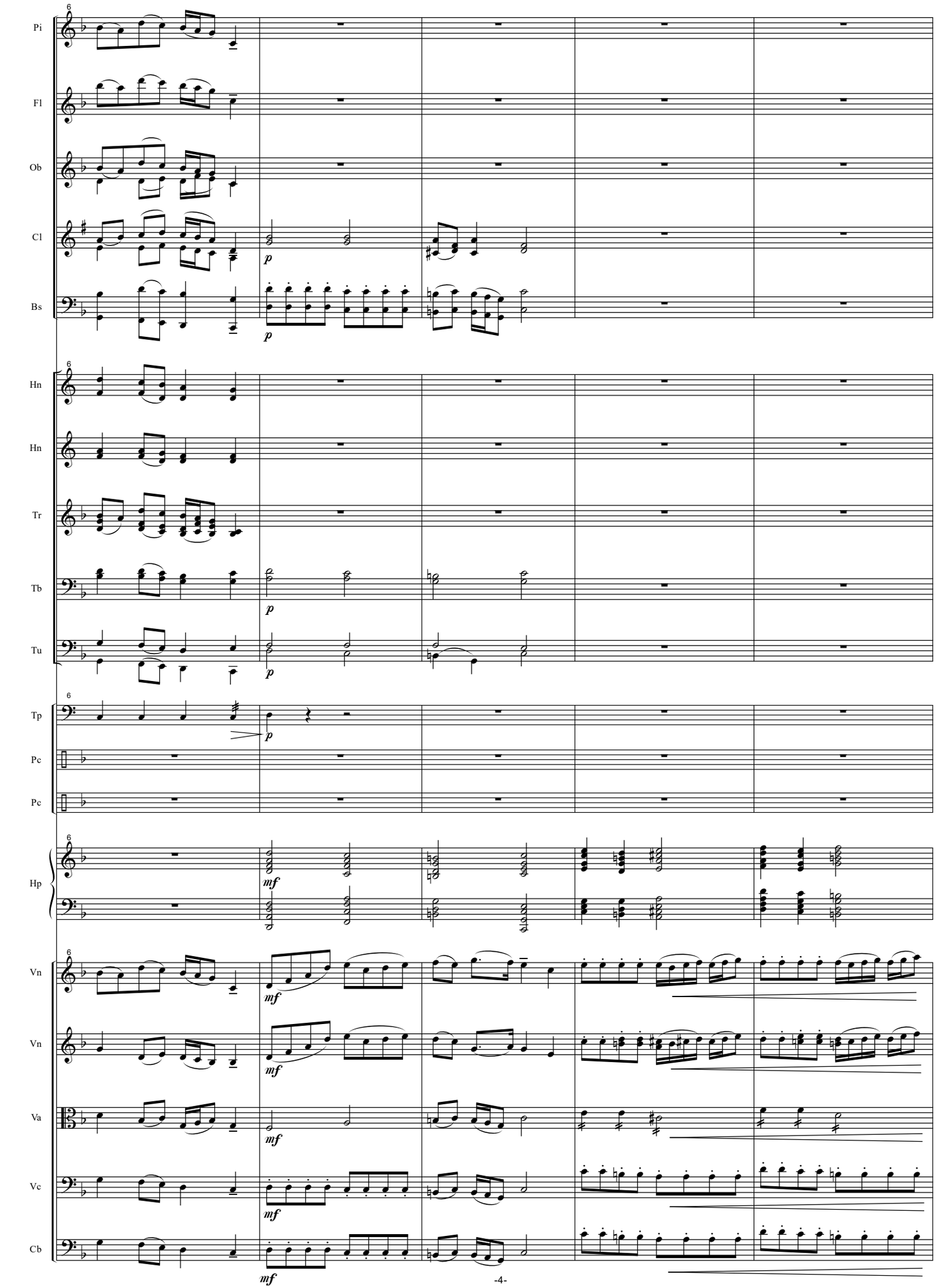
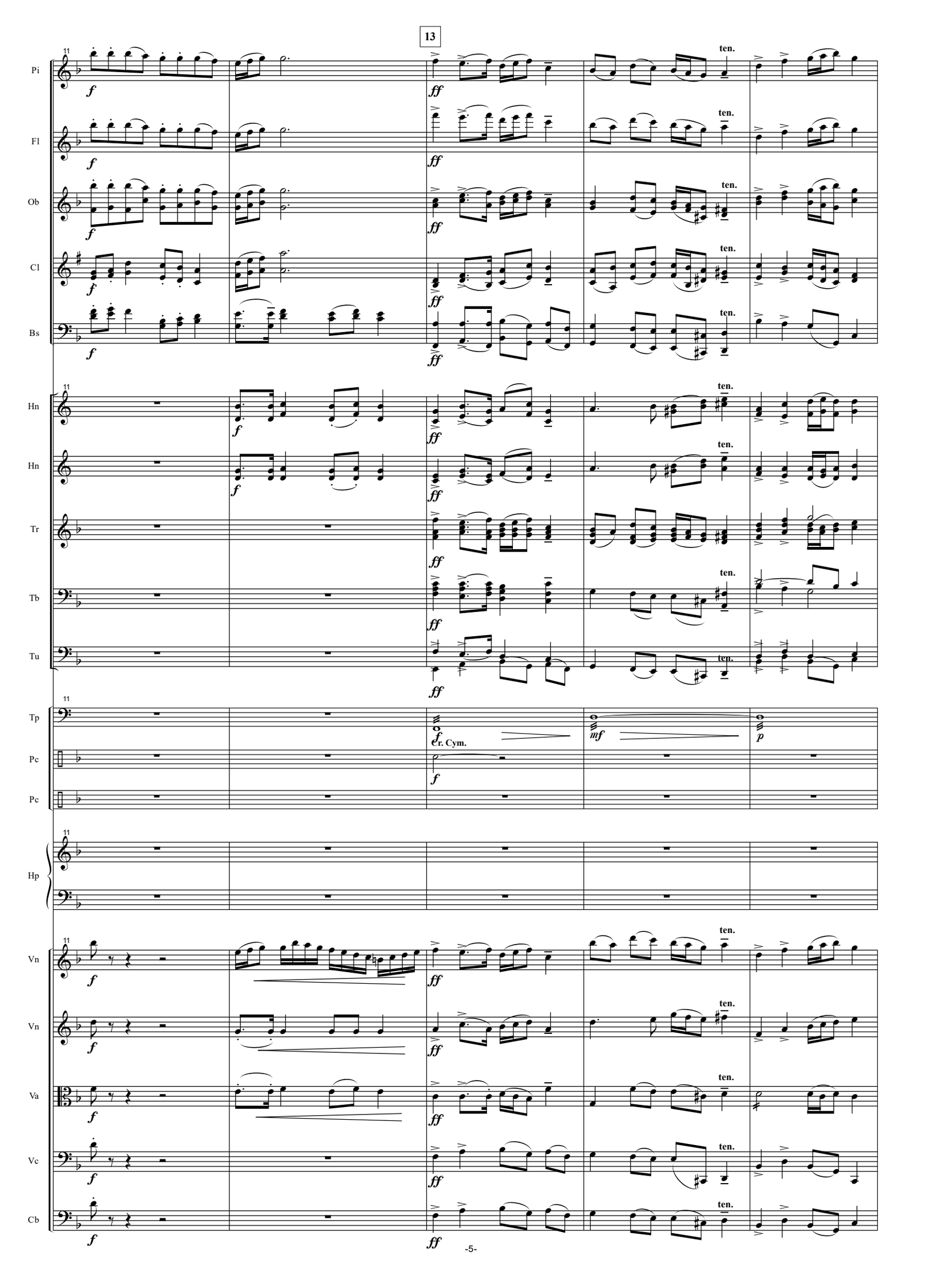
Horn in F
Trumpet in C
Trombone
Tuba

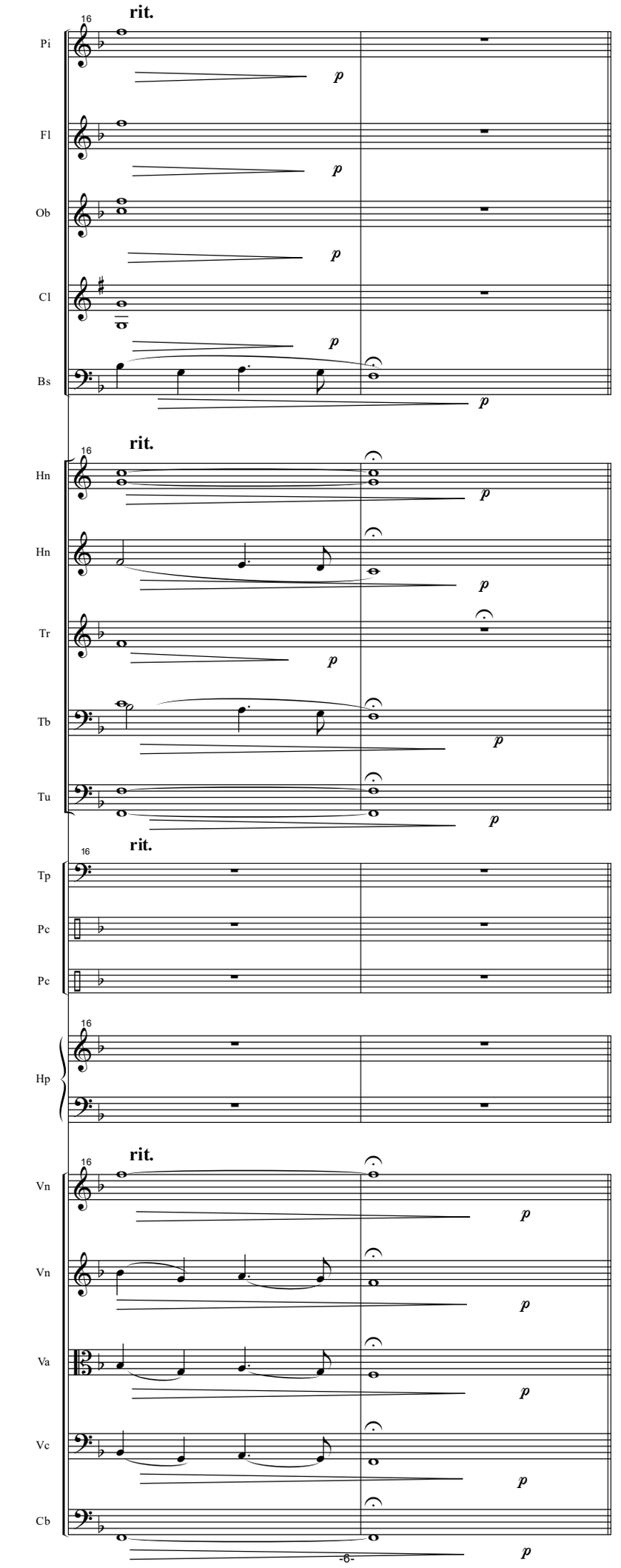
Timpani
Percussion
- Snare Drum
- Triangle
- Orchestra Bells
- Bass Drum
- Whip
- Crash Cymbals
- Suspended Cymbal
- Chimes
- Xylophone

Harp
Violin
Violin
Viola
Cello
Contrabass

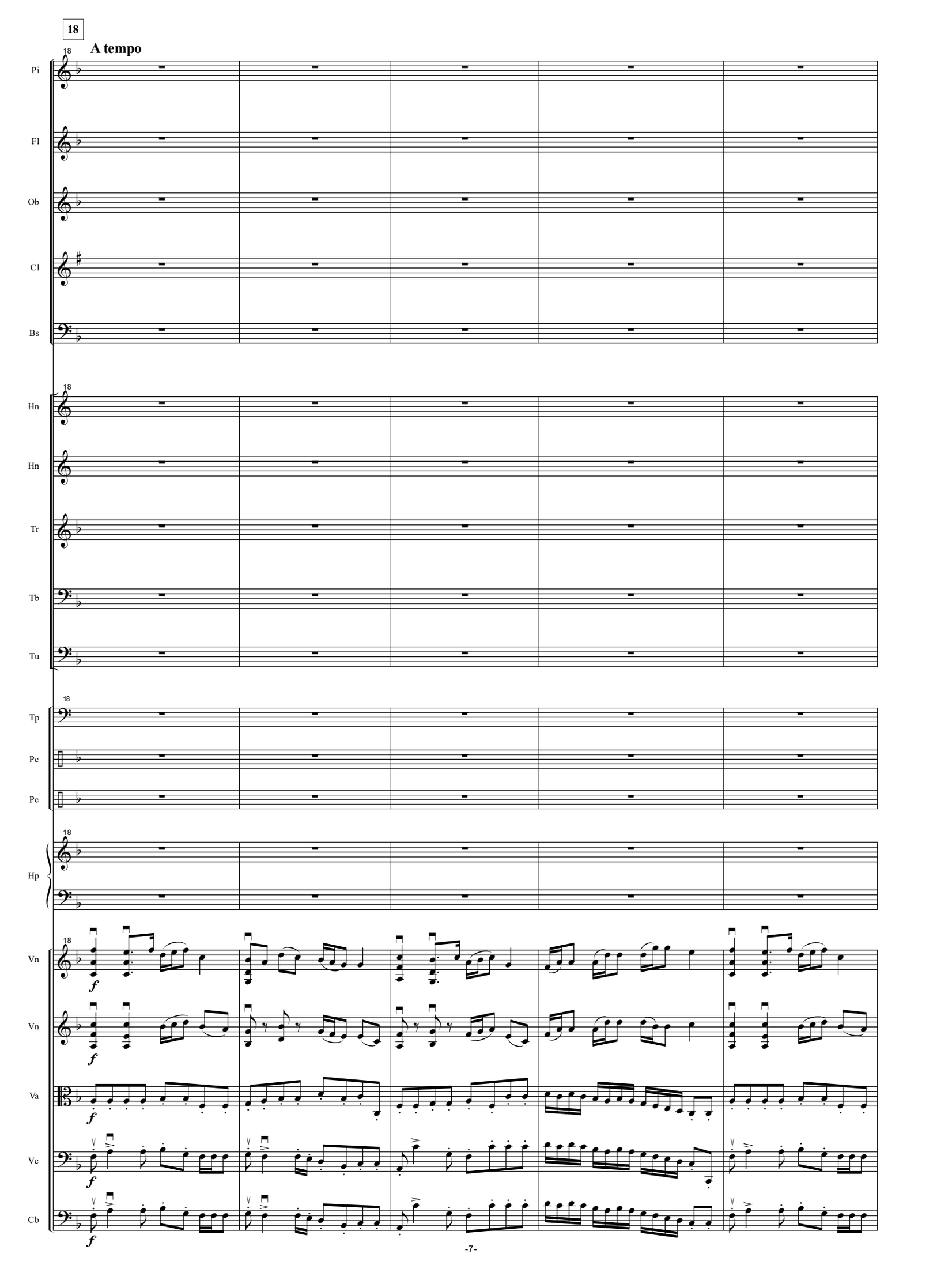
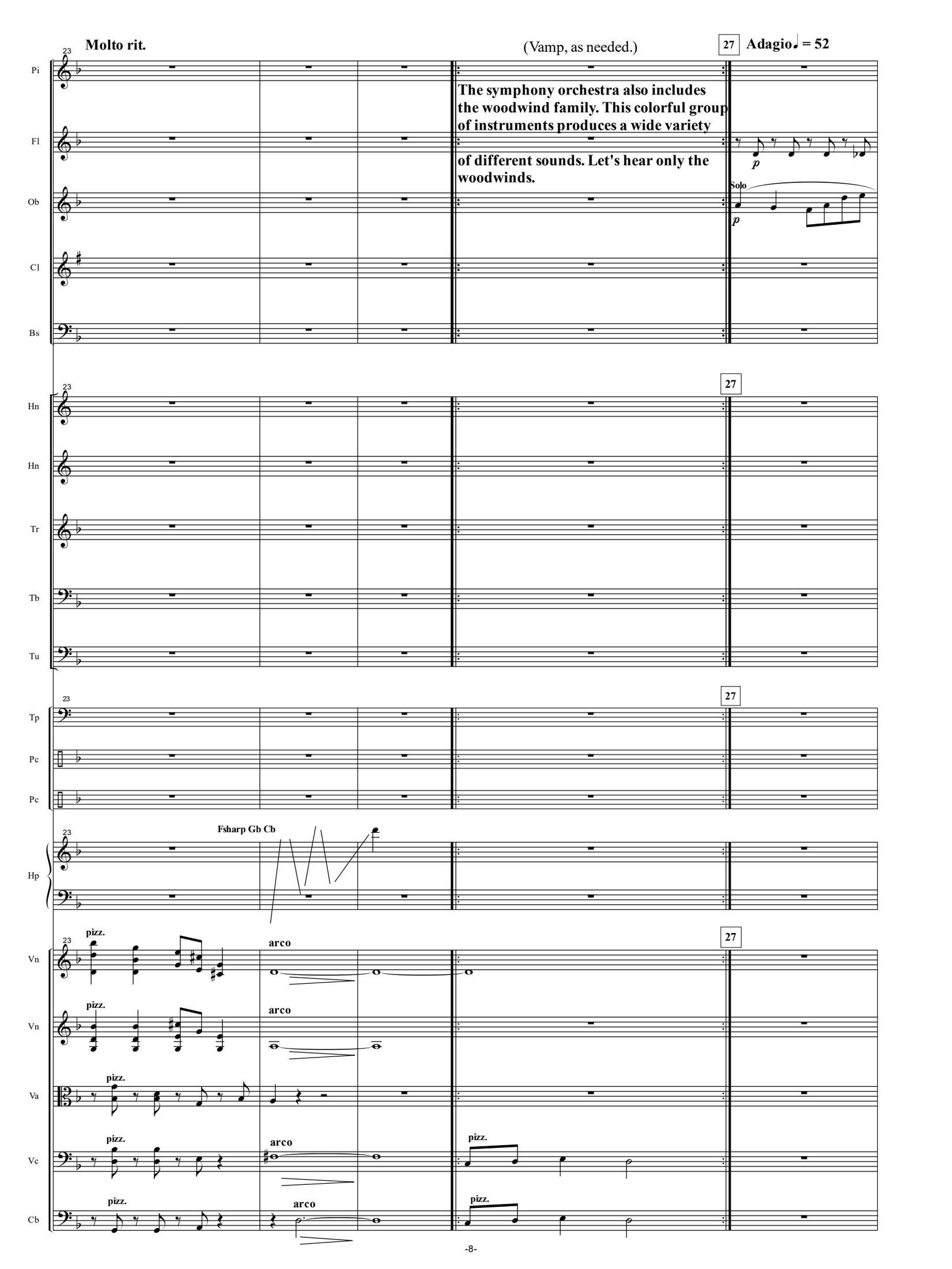
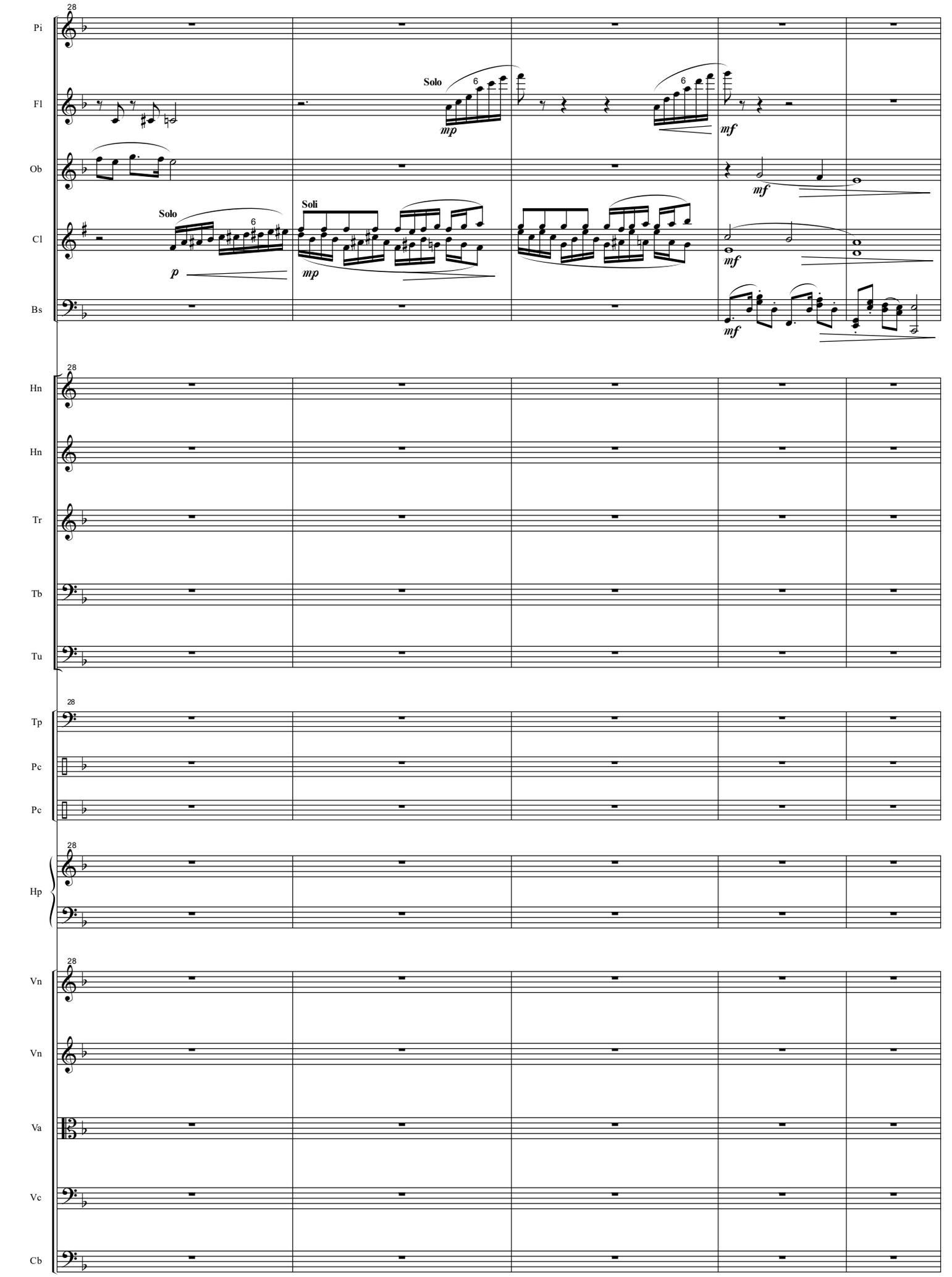
First Trip to the Symphony

Maestoso ♩ = 72

David Ott

Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
6
p
mf

13
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
11
f
ff
ten.
mf
p
r. Cym.



(Motioning to the symphony orchestra.) This is the modern symphony orchestra! Isn't it magnificent? The wonderful sound of the symhony! Listen to its splendor! Hear its variety of sound. The symphony orchestra is the most exciting sound ever created. Although there are many different instruments played by so many musicians, the sound of the symphony is rooted in the string family of instruments. Let's hear just the strings of the orchestra.


18
A tempo
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
f

Molto rit.
(Vamp, as needed.)
27
Adagio ♩ = 52
23
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
The symphony orchestra also includes the woodwind family. This colorful group of instruments produces a wide variety of different sounds. Let's hear only the woodwinds.
Solo
p
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
Tp
Pc
Pc
Fsharp Gb Cb
Hp
pizz.
arco
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb

28
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
Solo
Soli
6
p
mp
mf
28
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
28
Tp
Pc
Pc
28
Hp
28
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb

Andante ♩ = 76

33

Pi

Beside woodwinds and strings, the orchestra includes the mighty brass family. These powerful instruments are constructed of brass and other metals and give dramatic impact to the symphony orchestra. We now hear the majestic sounds of the brass family.

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bs

33

Hn *ff* 2. *mp*

Hn *ff* *mp*

Tr *ff* *mp*

Tb *ff* a2 *mf*

Tu *ff* a2 *mf*

33

Tp

Pc

Pc

33

Hp

Andante ♩ = 76

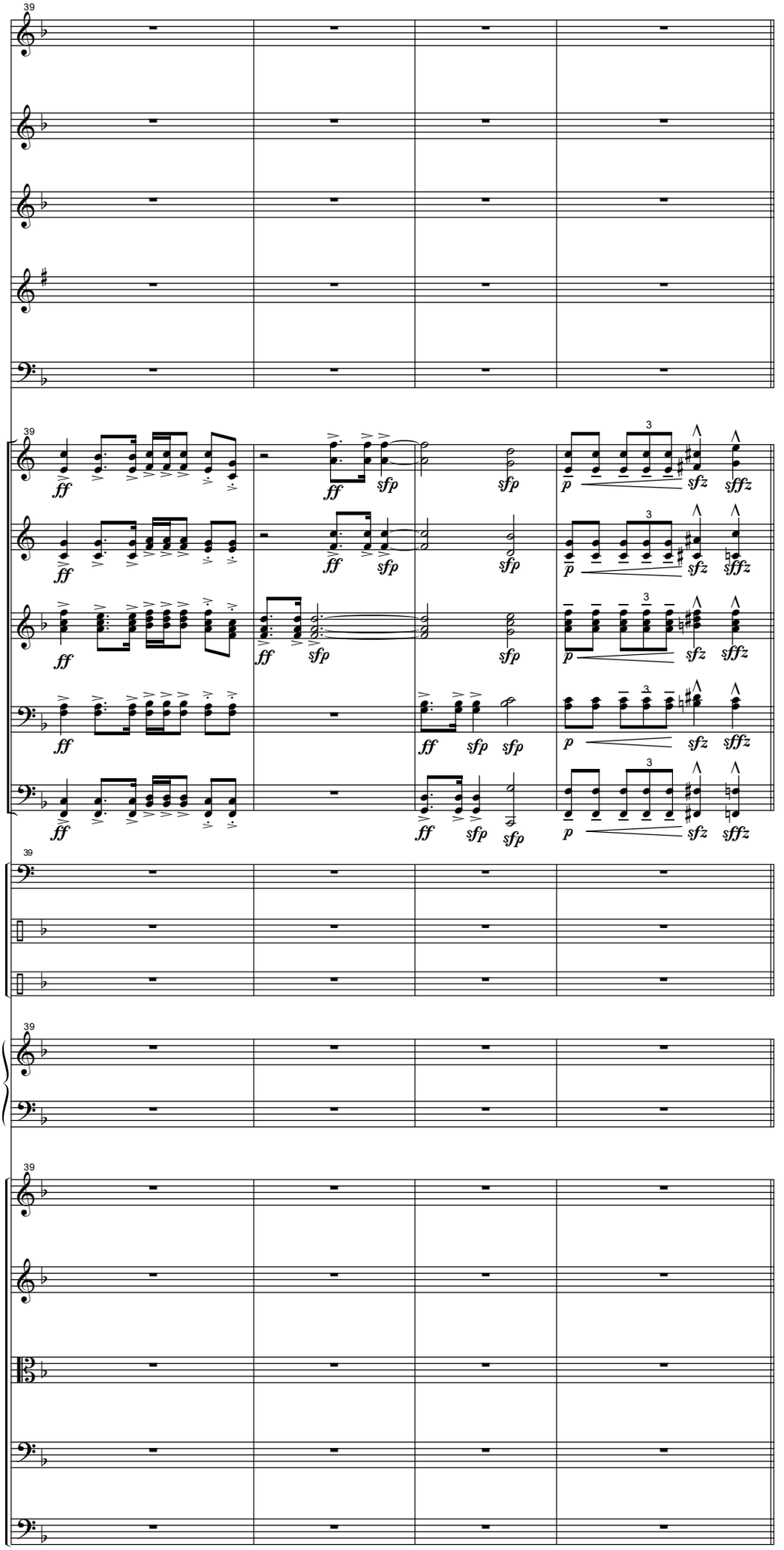
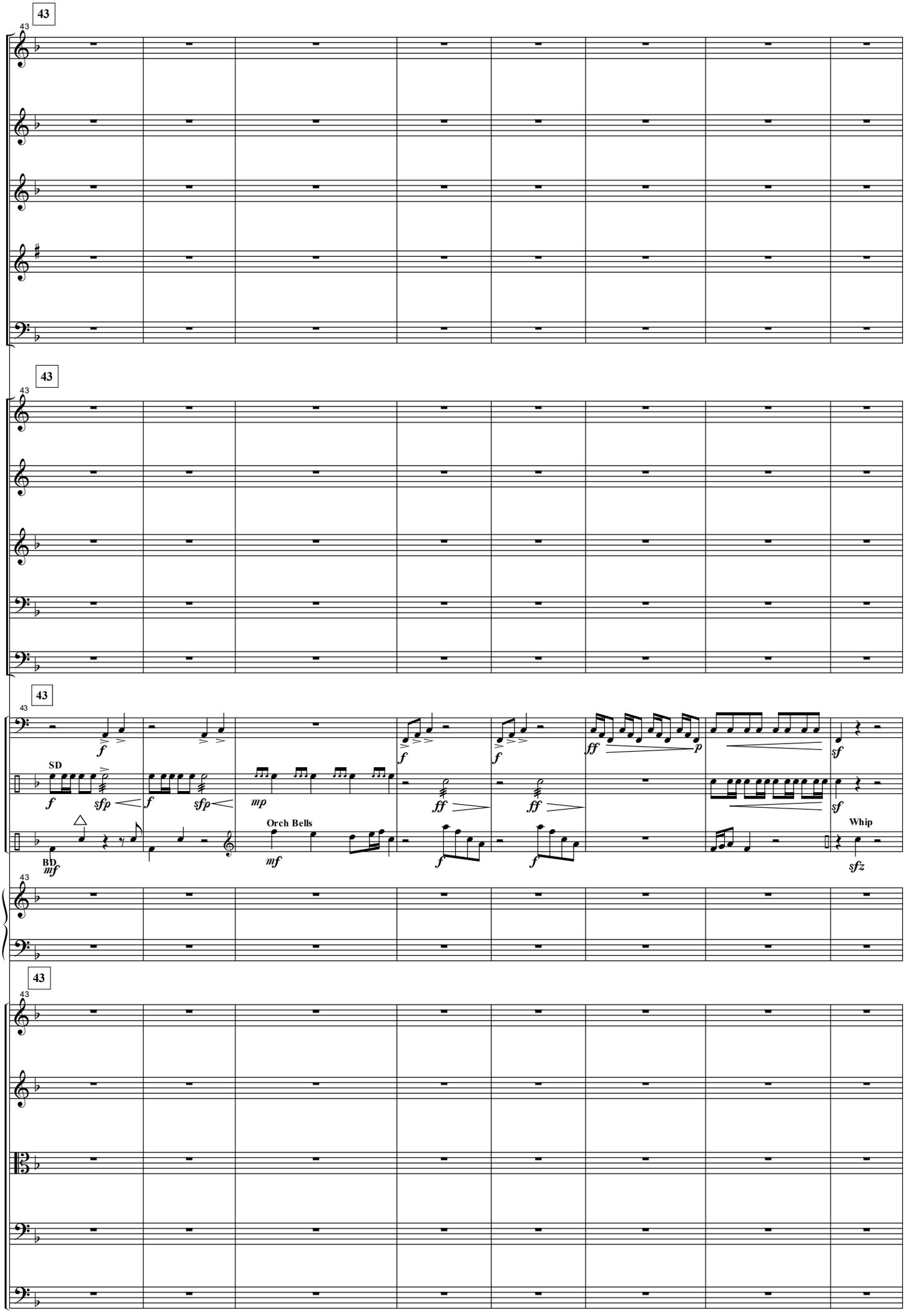
33

Vn muted div. *pp* mute off

Vn muted div. *pp* mute off

Va arco muted *pp* mute off

Vc arco muted *pp* mute off

Cb

The newest family added to the symphony orchestra and also the most fun to watch is the percussion section. To produce sounds on a percussion instrument, the player strikes or hits it. Because there are so many different instruments, they produce a wide variety of colors and sounds.

43
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
43
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
43
Tp
Pc
Pc
SD
BD
Orch Bells
Whip
Hp
43
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb

51

Pi

The symphony orchestra began over 250 years ago, but not with all the instruments we see today. At its beginning, the orchestra included just 12 or 15 players, mostly from the string family. Slowly over the next two centuries, it became the magificent orchestra we hear today. You've been introduced to the families, now to the individual instruments. We begin with the basses of the string family. The basses are very tall. Because they are tall, they play the lowest notes of the strings. They can also play surprisingly high. Just listen.

Fl

Ob

Cl

Solo

pp

Bs

51

Hn

Hn

Tr

Tb

Tu

51

Tp

Pc

Pc

51

Hp

51

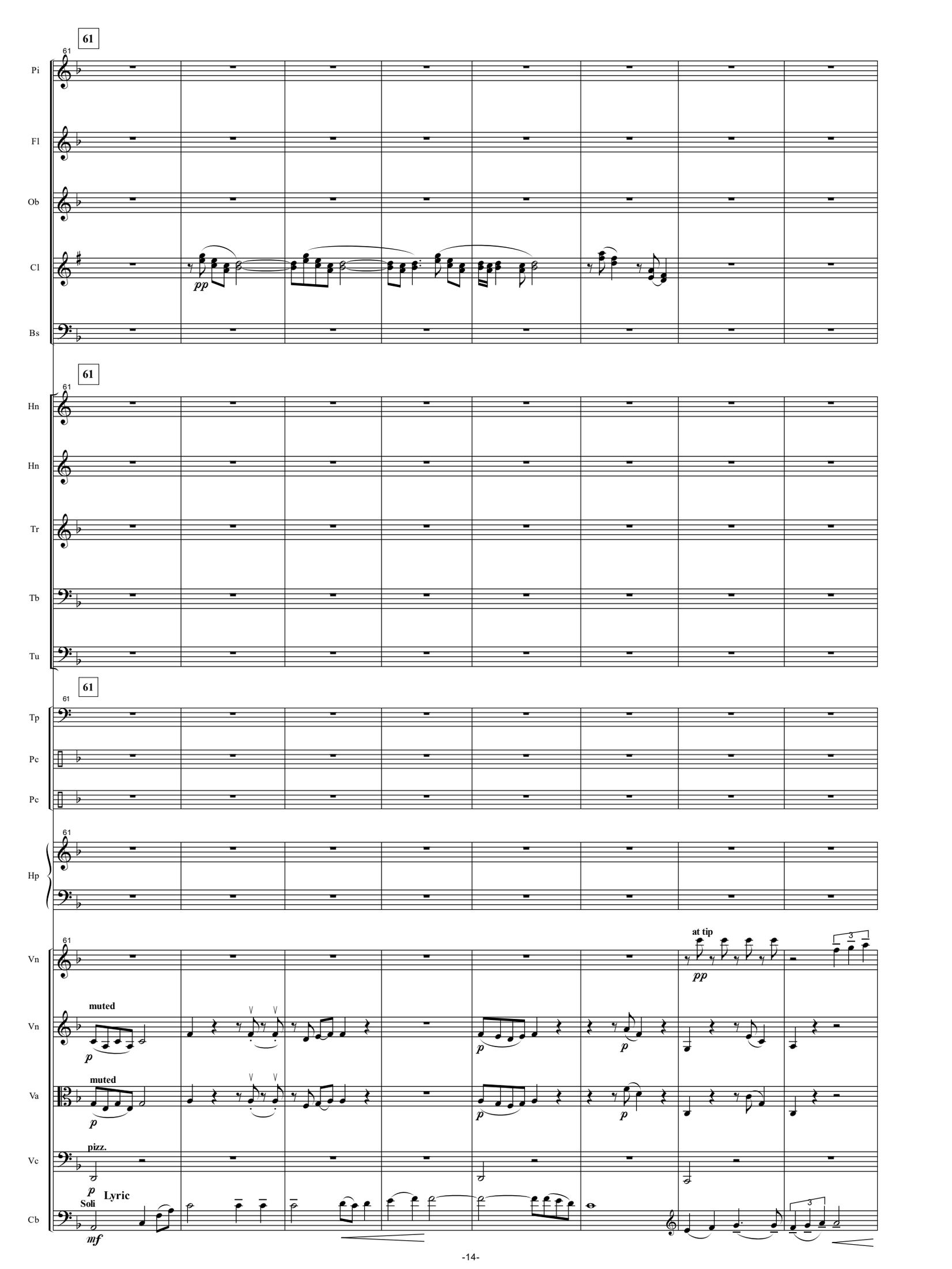
Vn

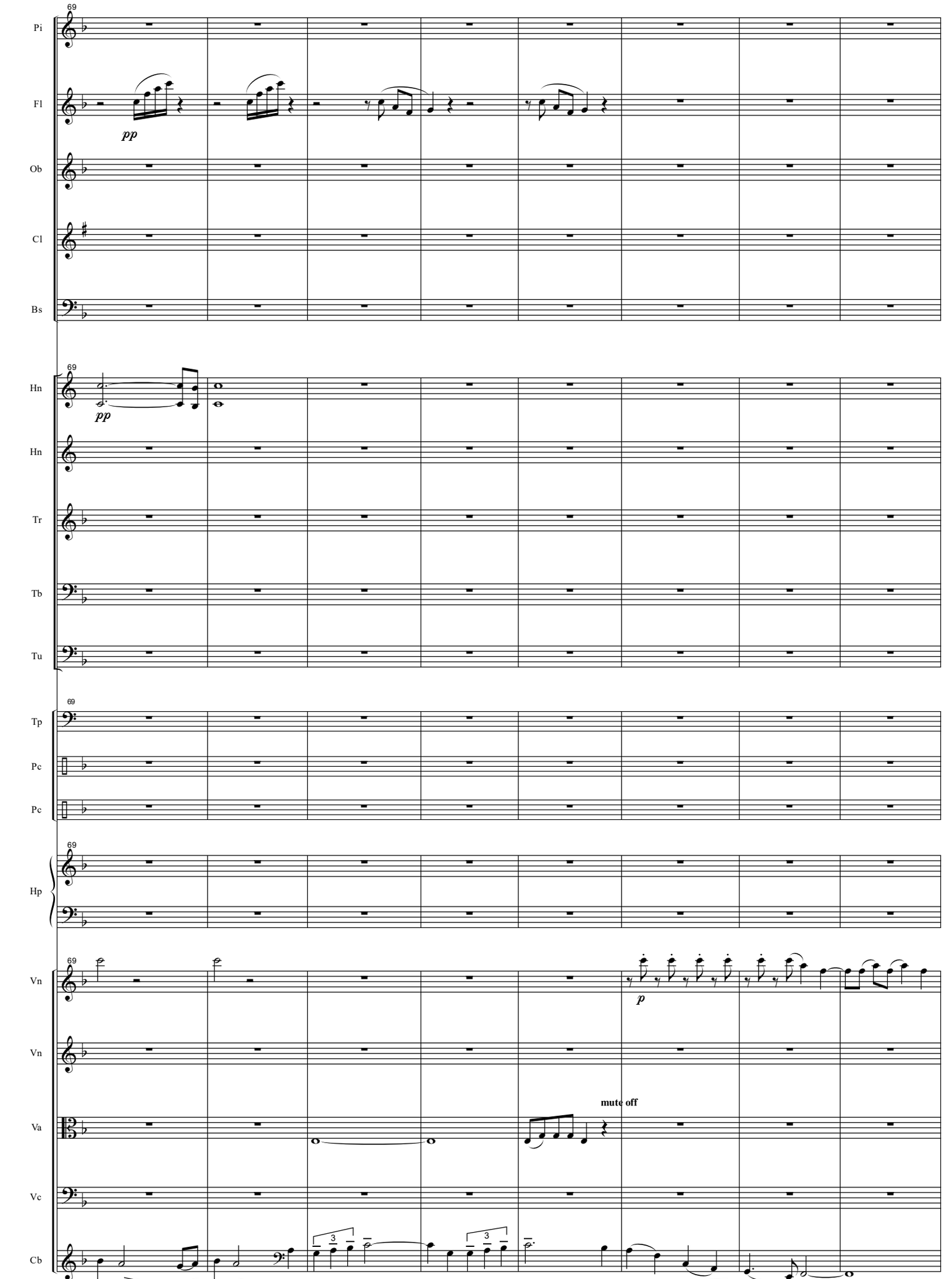
Vn

Va

p

Vc

Cb

61
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
pp
Bs
61
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
61
Tp
Pc
Pc
61
Hp
61
Vn
at tip
pp
muted
Vn
p
p
p
muted
Va
p
p
p
pizz.
Vc
p
Soli
Lyric
Cb
mf


69
Pi
Fl
pp
Ob
Cl
Bs
69
Hn
pp
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
69
Tp
Pc
Pc
69
Hp
69
Vn
p
Vn
mute off
Va
Vc
Cb

77

Pi

The cellos are the singing giants of the strings and of the whole orchestra too. The cellos can soar like eagles. The soulful sound of the cello has inspired composers for hundreds of years.

Fl

Ob

Cl

6 6

pp

Bs

77

Hn

pp

Hn

3.

pp

Tr

Tb

Tu

77

Tp

Pc

Pc

77

Hp

77

Vn

Vn

Va

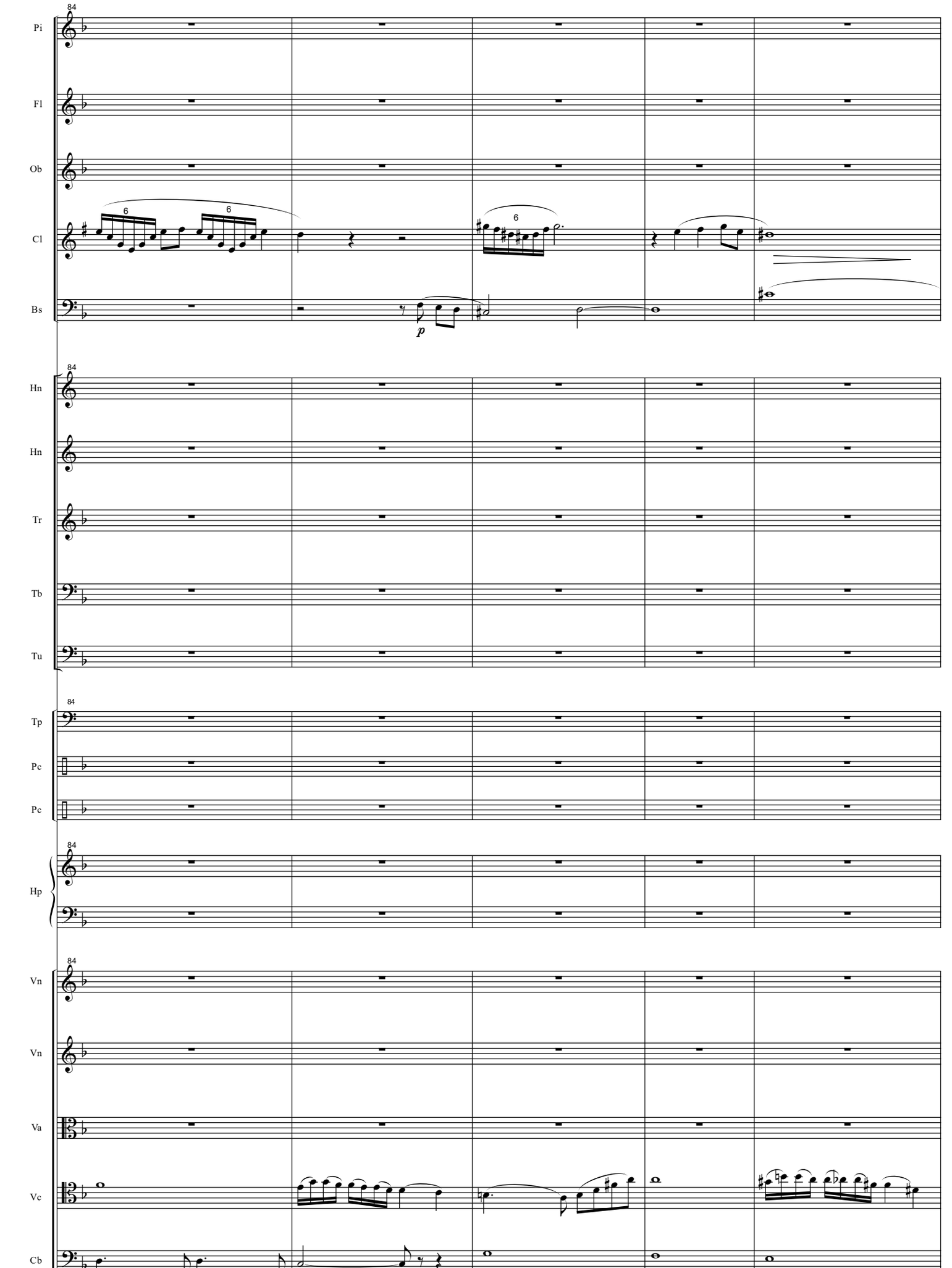
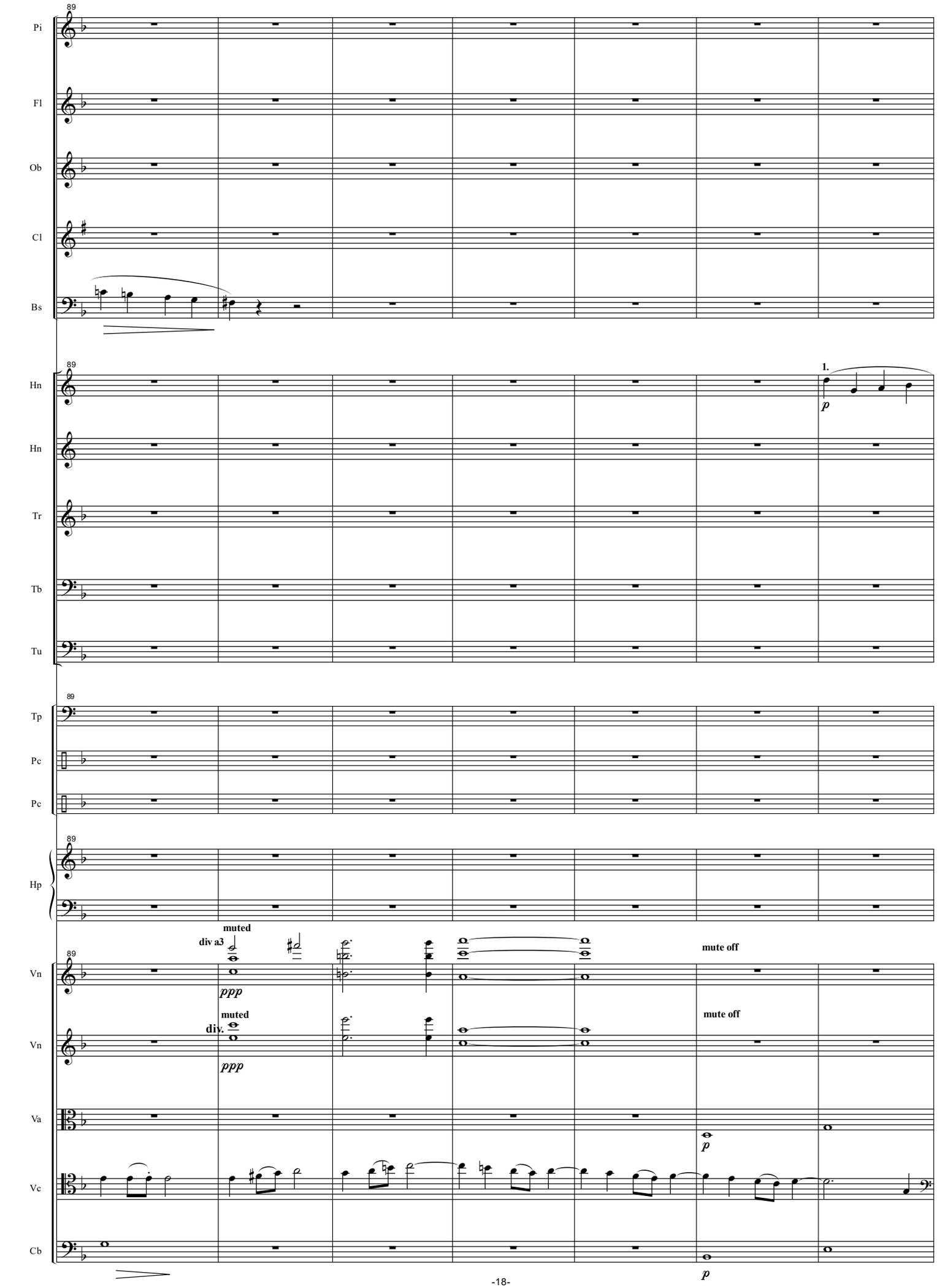
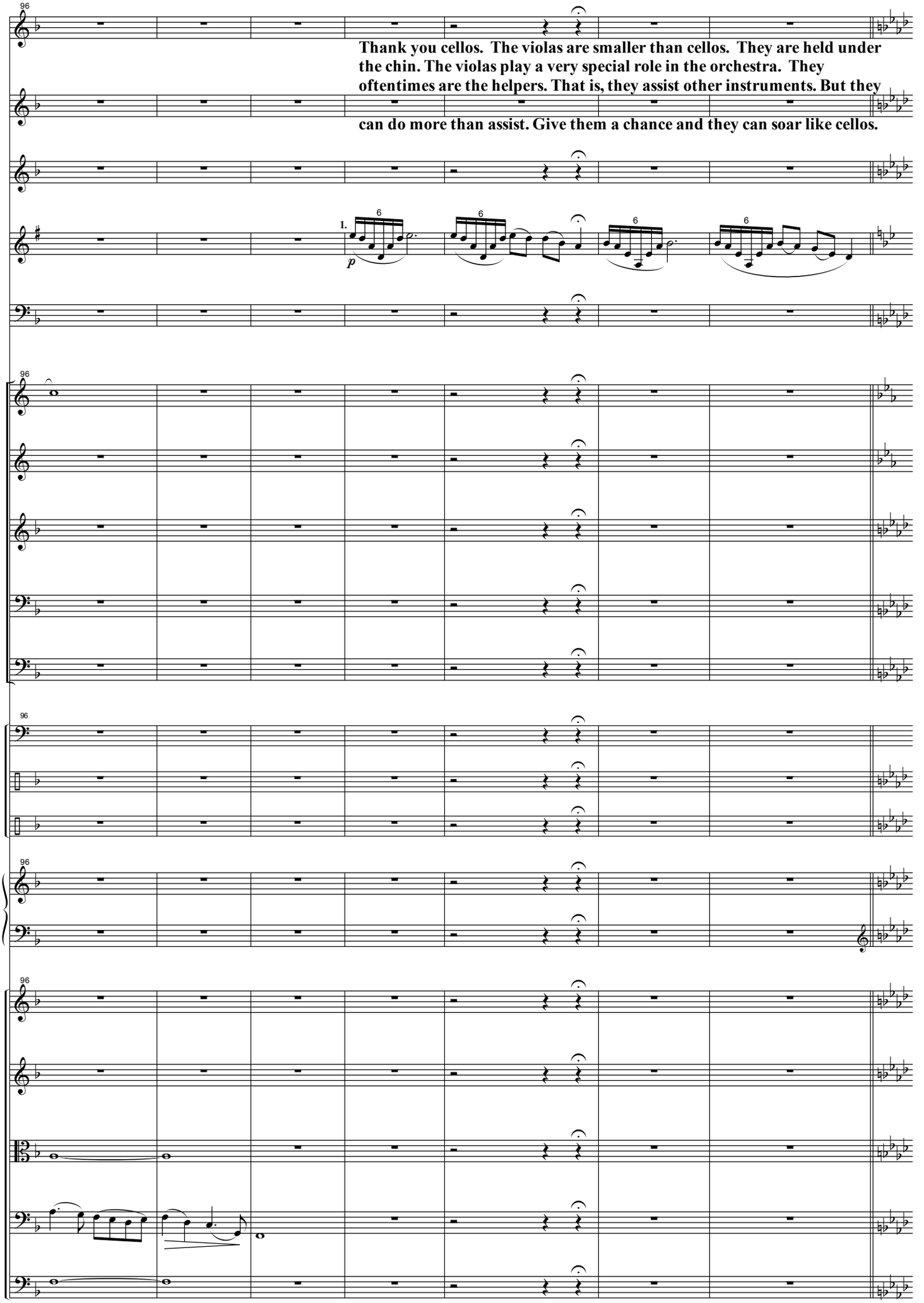
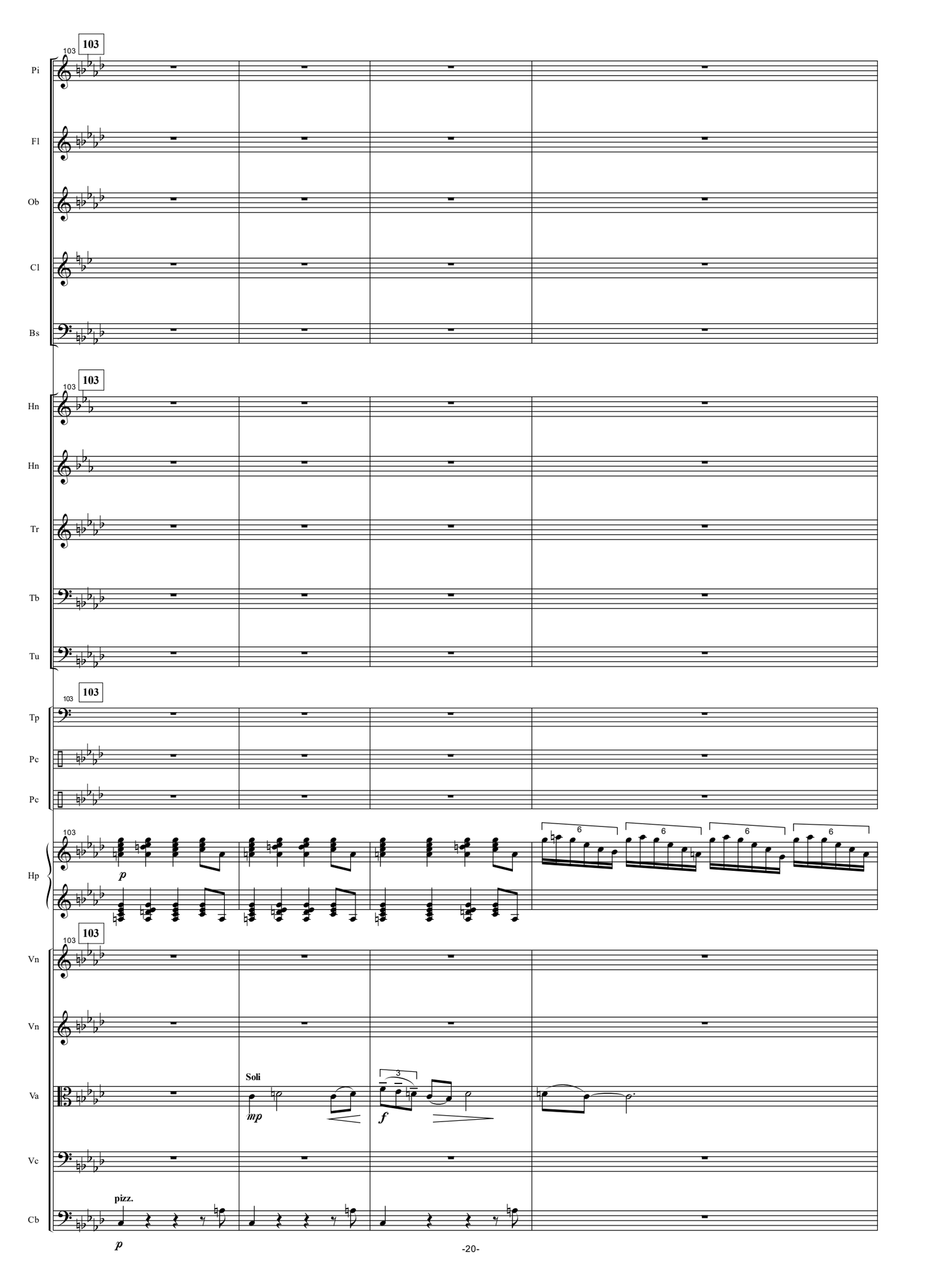
arco

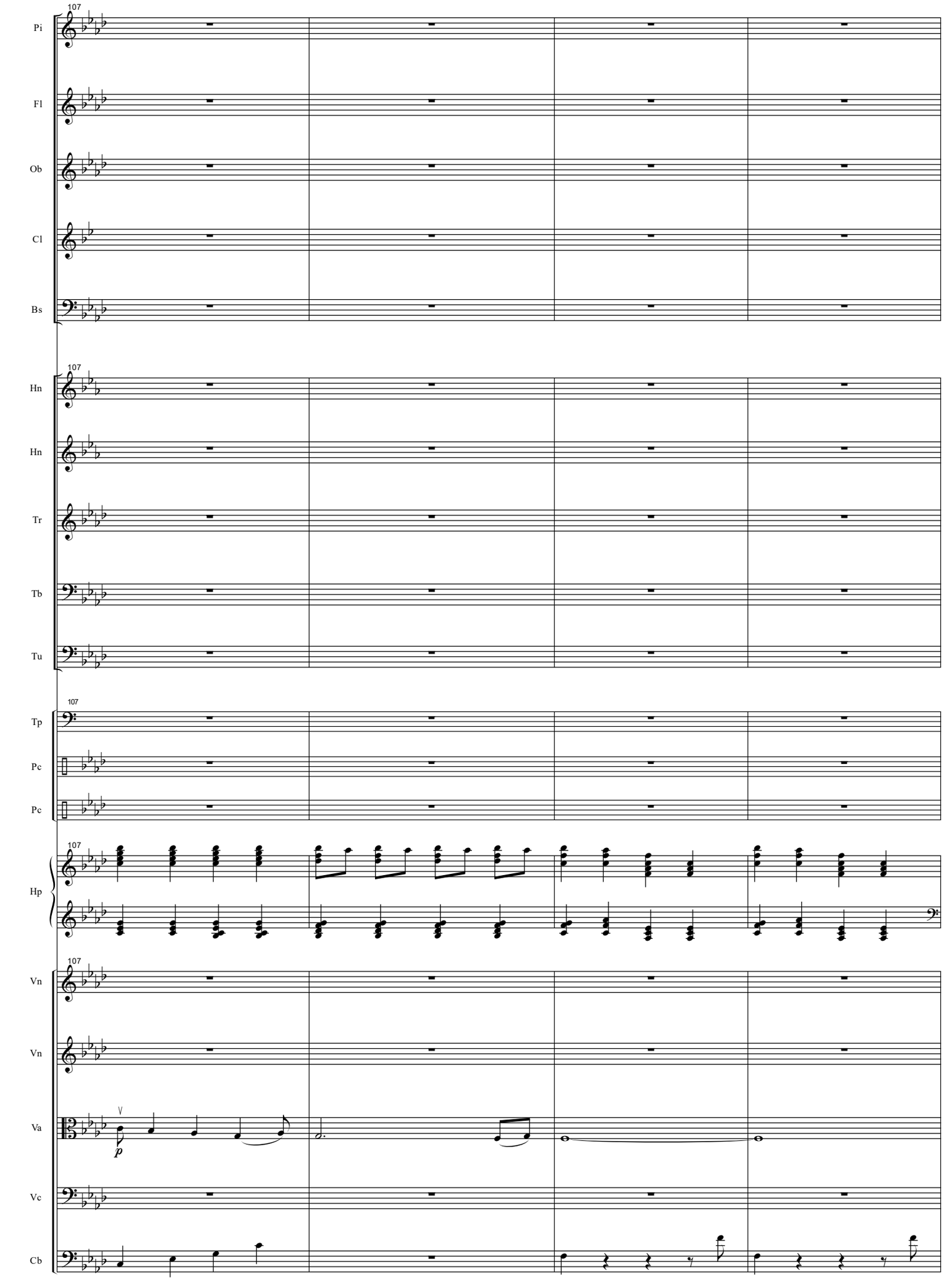
Soli

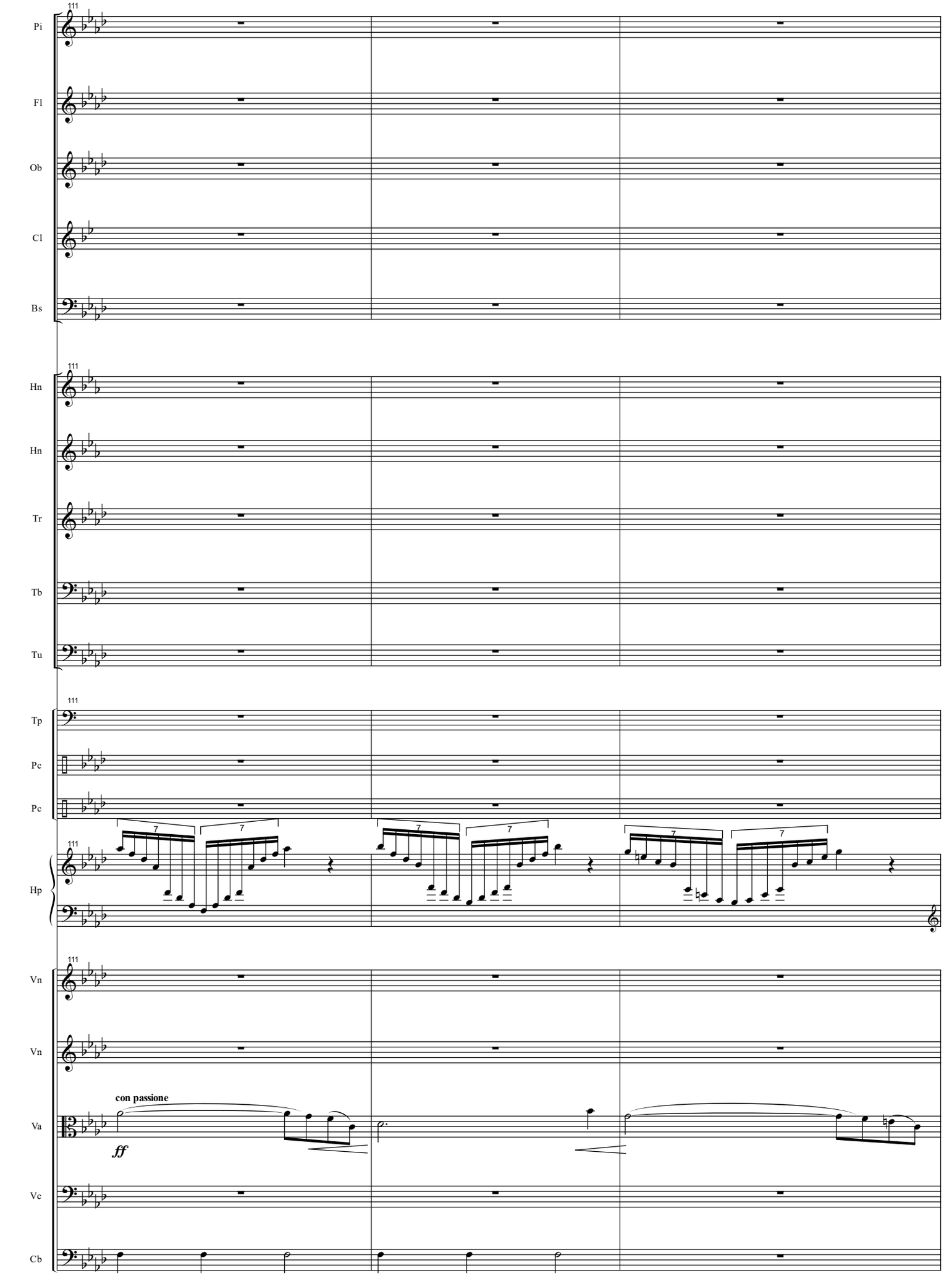
mp

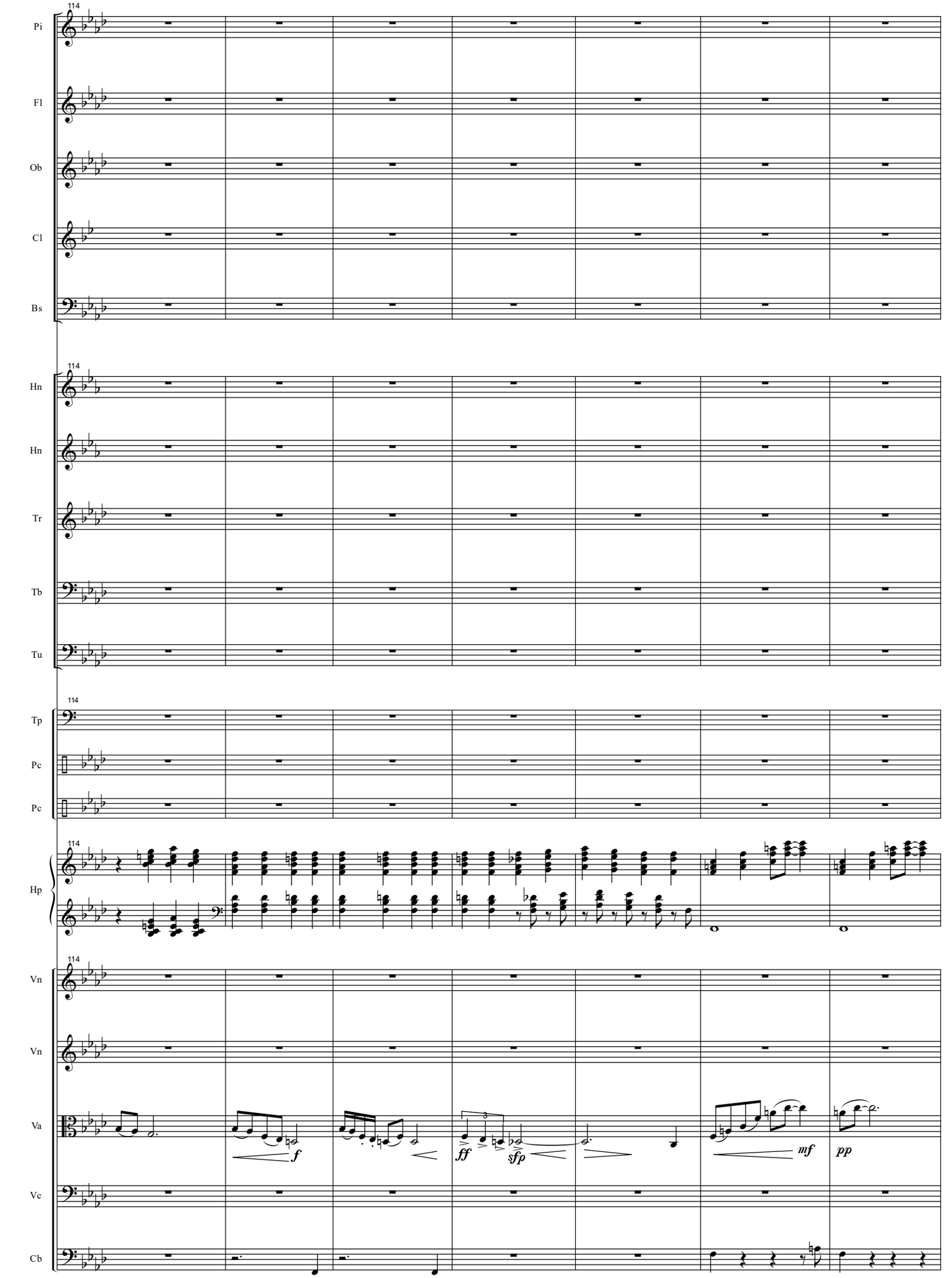
Vc

Cb

p

84
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
6
6
6
p
84
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
84
Tp
Pc
Pc
84
Hp
84
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb

89
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
89
Hn
1.
p
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
89
Tp
Pc
Pc
89
Hp
muted
div a3
ppp
mute off
89
Vn
muted
div.
ppp
mute off
Vn
Va
p
Vc
Cb
p

96
Pi
Thank you cellos. The violas are smaller than cellos. They are held under the chin. The violas play a very special role in the orchestra. They oftentimes are the helpers. That is, they assist other instruments. But they
Fl
can do more than assist. Give them a chance and they can soar like cellos.
Ob
Cl
1.
p
Bs
96
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
96
Tp
Pc
Pc
96
Hp
96
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb

103
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
Soli
pizz.
p
mp
f
6
3

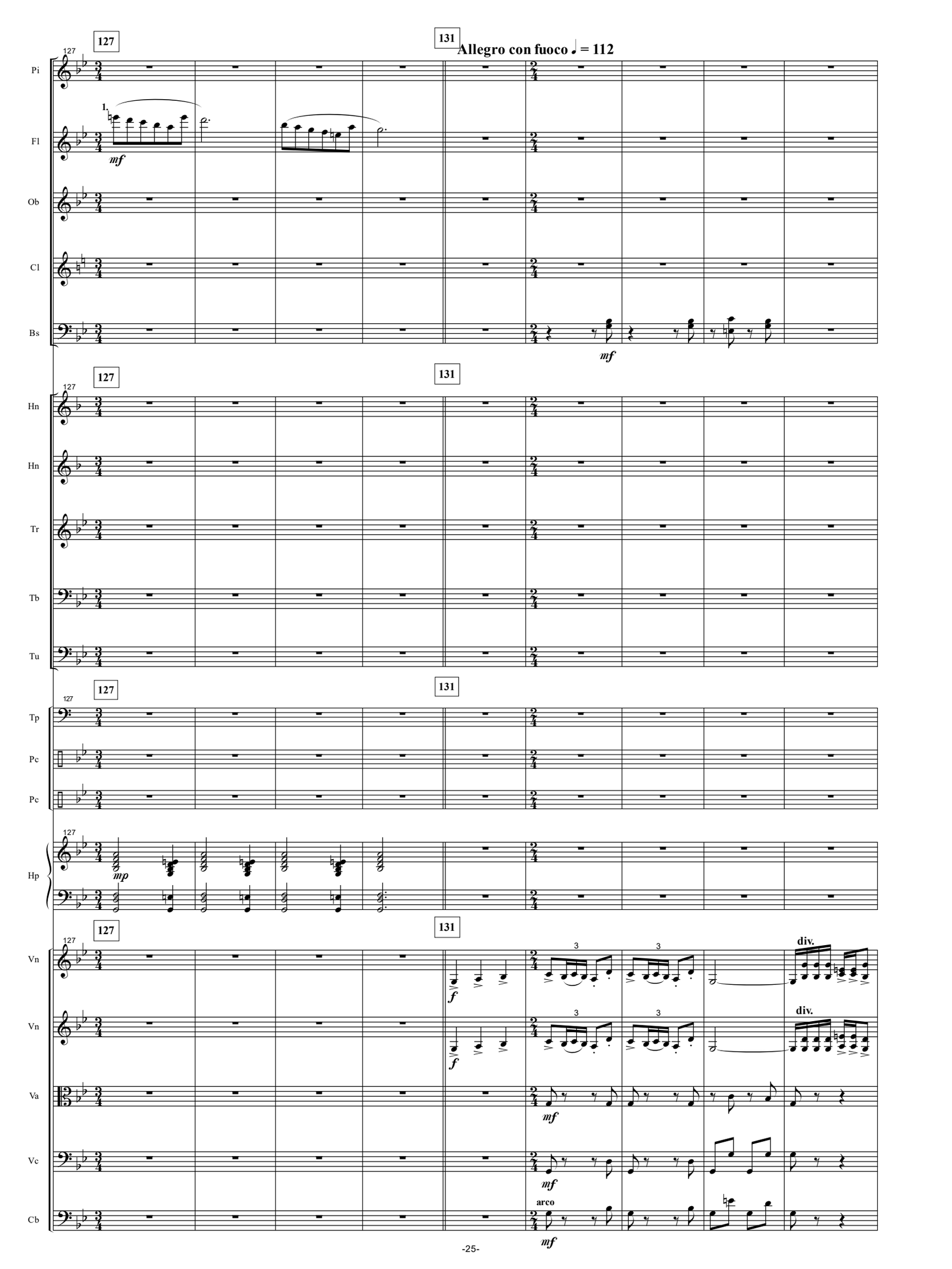
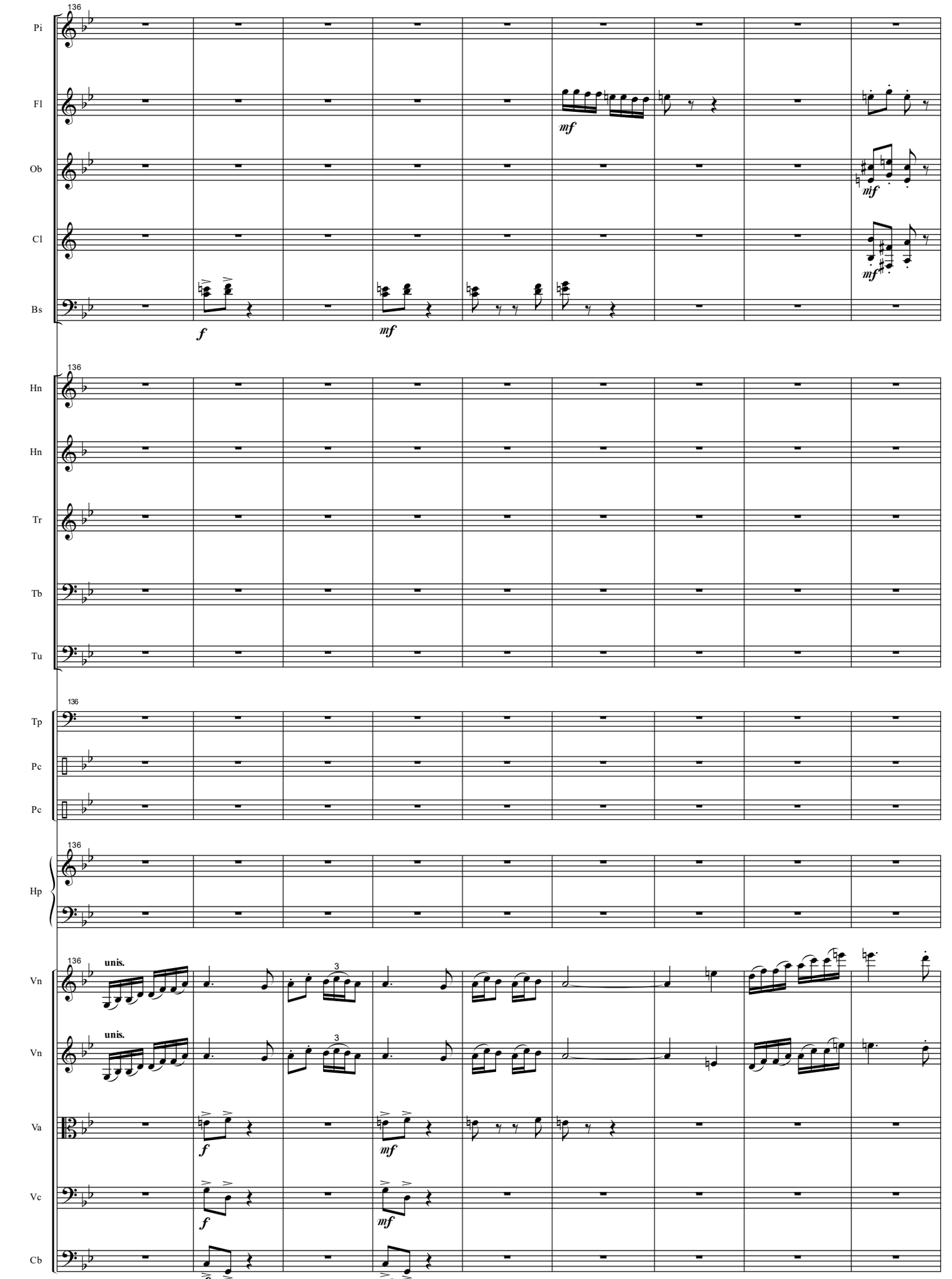

107
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
107
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
107
Tp
Pc
Pc
107
Hp
107
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
p

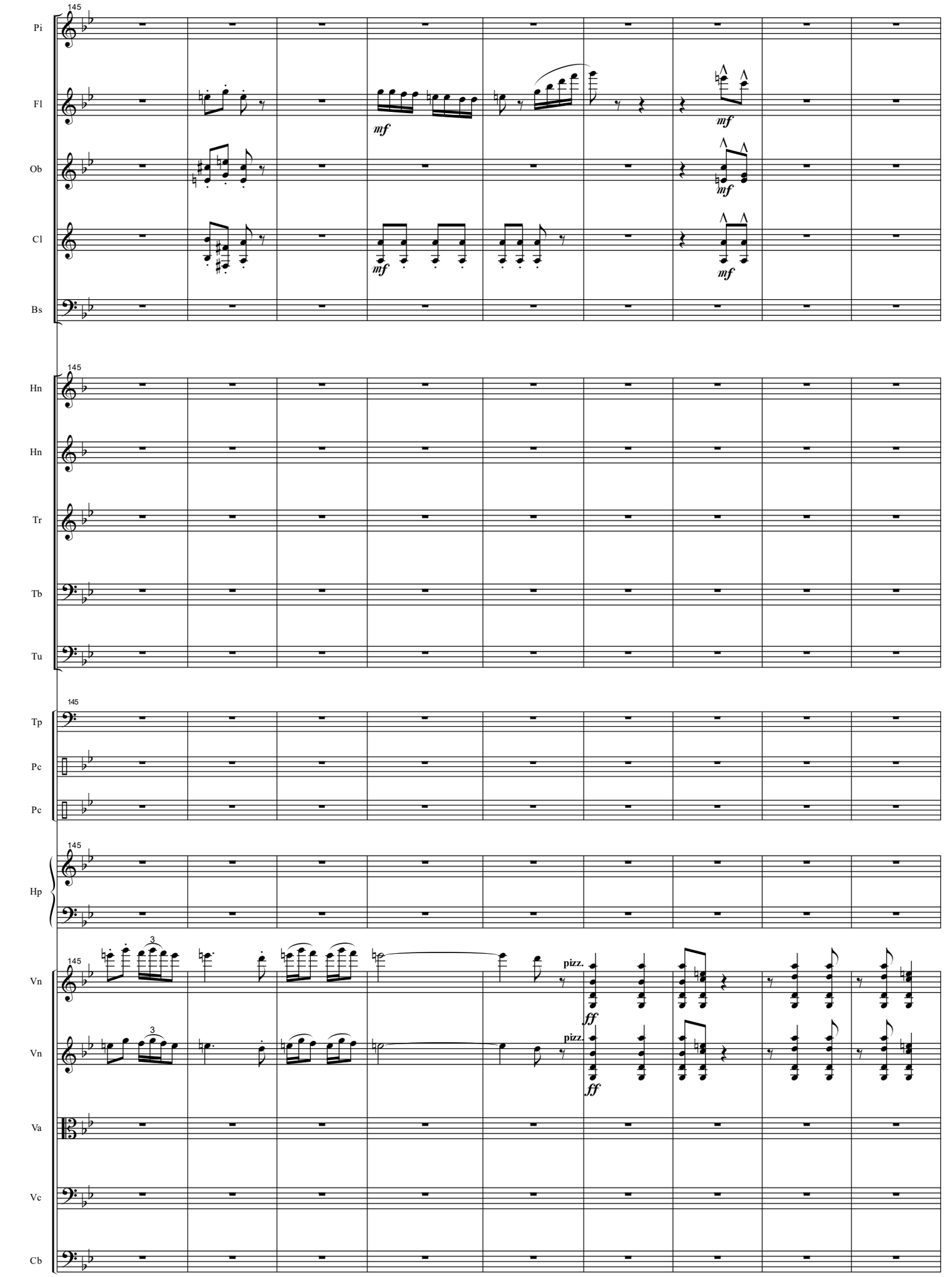

111
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
111
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
111
Tp
Pc
Pc
111
Hp
7
7
7
7
7
7
111
Vn
Vn
con passione
ff
Va
Vc
Cb

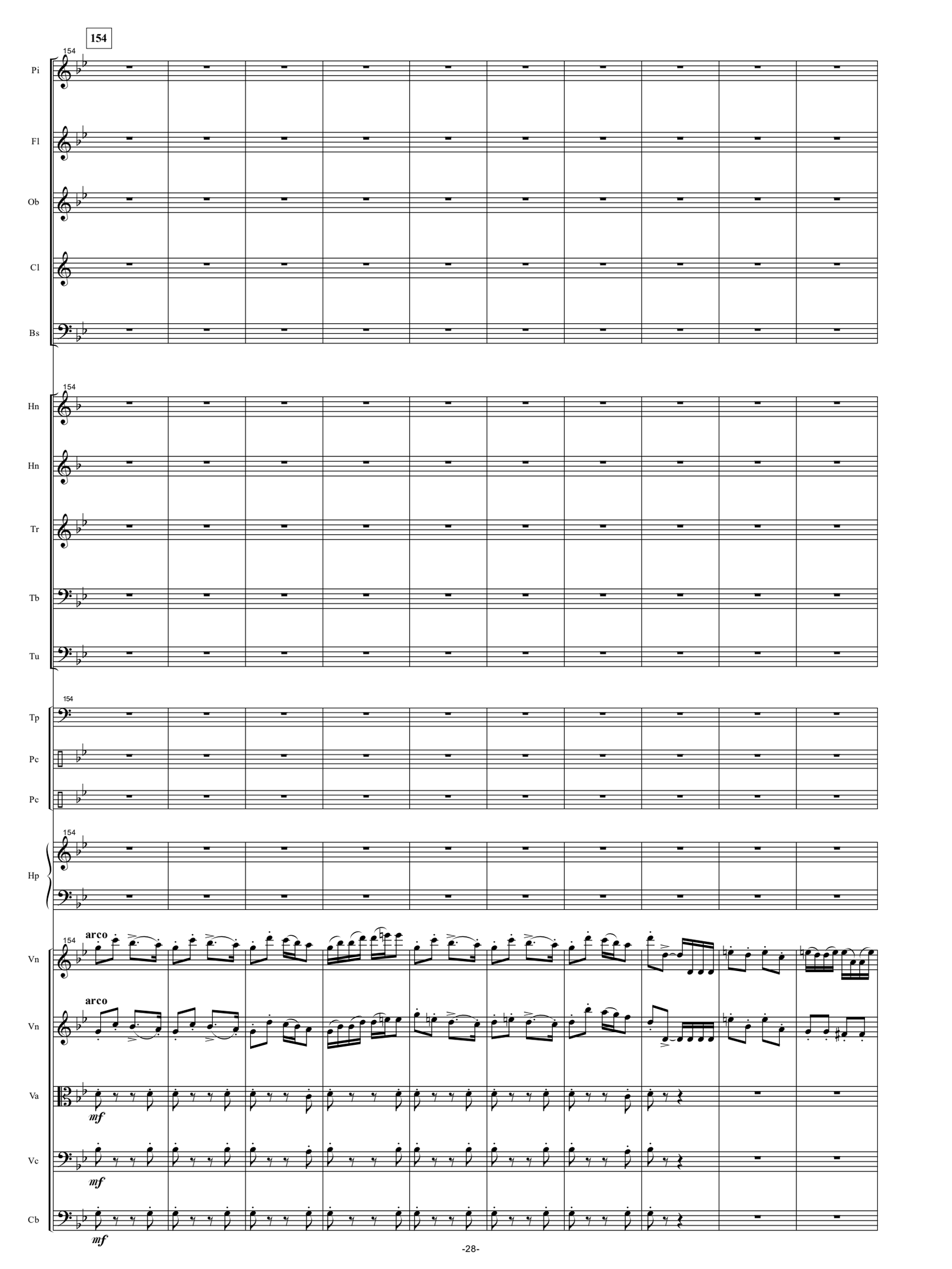
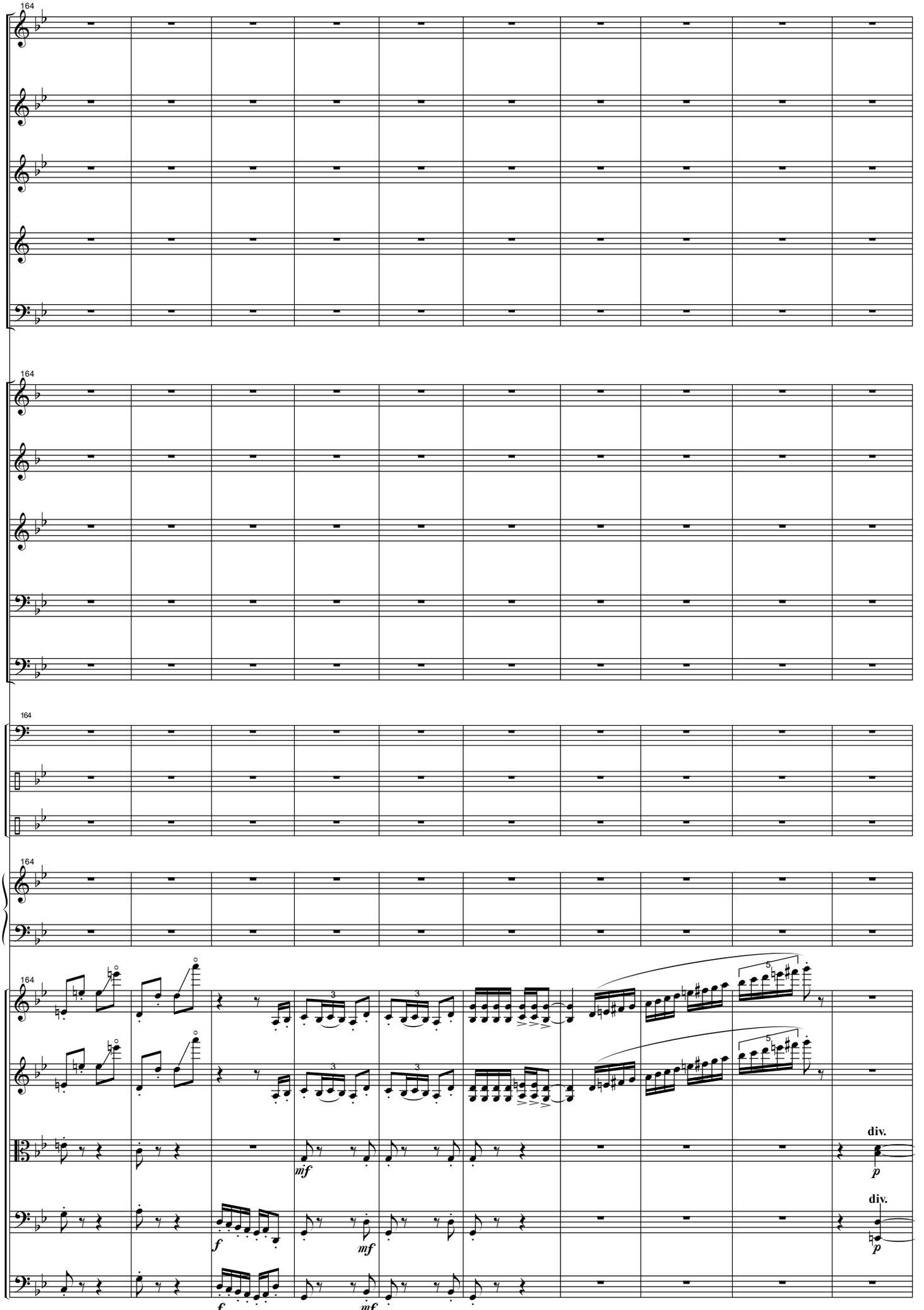

114
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
114
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
114
Tp
Pc
Pc
114
Hp
114
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
f
ff
sfp
mf
pp

The string family is completed by the violin, the smallest of the group. They are the workhorse of the orchestra. Thes facile, light-footed instruments fairly fly over the notes. The sweet sound of the violin is the identifying trademark of the symphony orchestra. The violins can also play with flair and excitement!

Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb


127
131
Allegro con fuoco ♩ = 112
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
1.
mf
mf
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
mp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
f
f
mf
mf
mf
arco
div.
div.
3
3

136
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
mf
f
mf
mf
mf
136
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
136
Tp
Pc
Pc
136
Hp
136
unis.
Vn
unis.
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
3
3
f
mf
f
mf
f
mf


145
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
mf
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
3
pizz.
ff


154
154
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
154
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
154
Tp
Pc
Pc
154
Hp
154
arco
Vn
arco
Vn
Va
mf
Vc
mf
Cb
mf

164
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
164
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
164
Tp
Pc
Pc
164
Hp
164
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
mif
f
mf
div.
p
div.
p
f
mf

175 **Andante ♩ = 76**

Pi

All the members of the string family produce sounds the same way: by drawing a bow across a set of strings or by plucking the strings with the fingertip. The woodwind family is different. Here the instruments use a variety of ways to create sound. It is also interesting to see that there are not as many woodwinds in the orchestra as there are strings. Woodwinds make use

Fl

of the buddy system; these instruments come in pairs. We begin with the bassoon which looks a bit like a bedpost. If played just right, the bassoon can be either comical or it can be beautiful.

Ob

Cl

Bs

Hn

Hn

Tr

Tb

Tu

Tp

Pc

Pc

Hp

Vn

Vn

Va

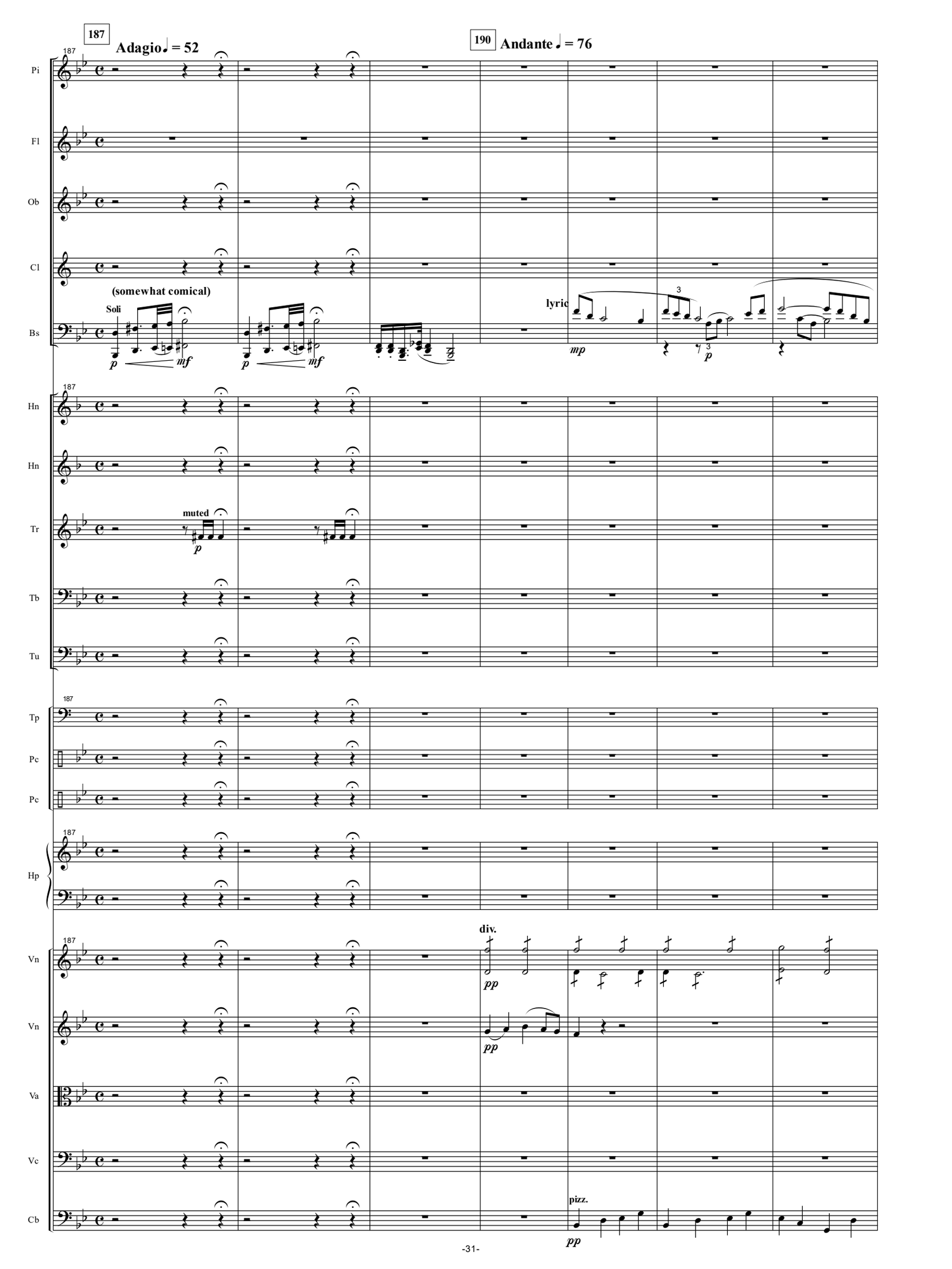
p

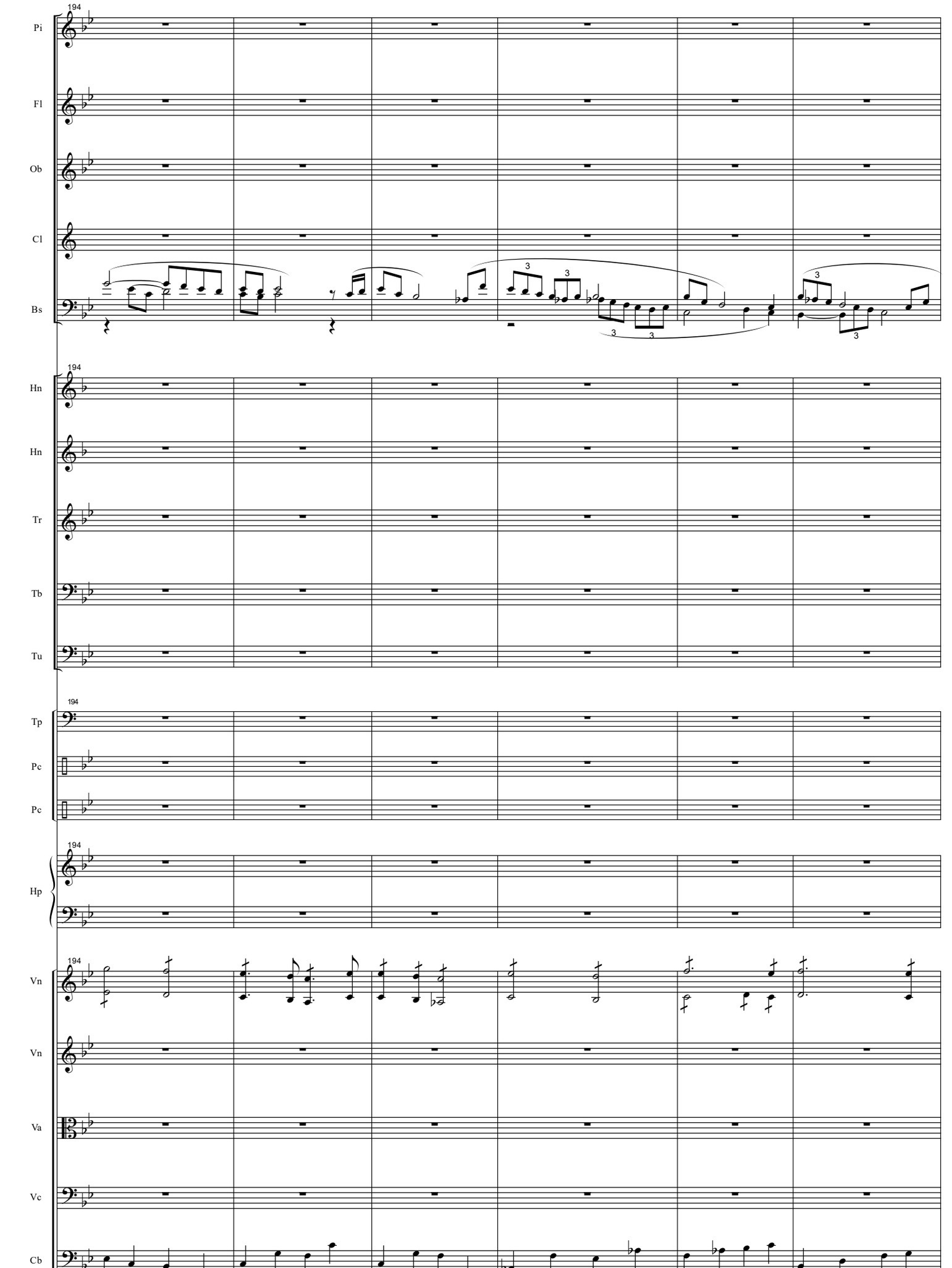
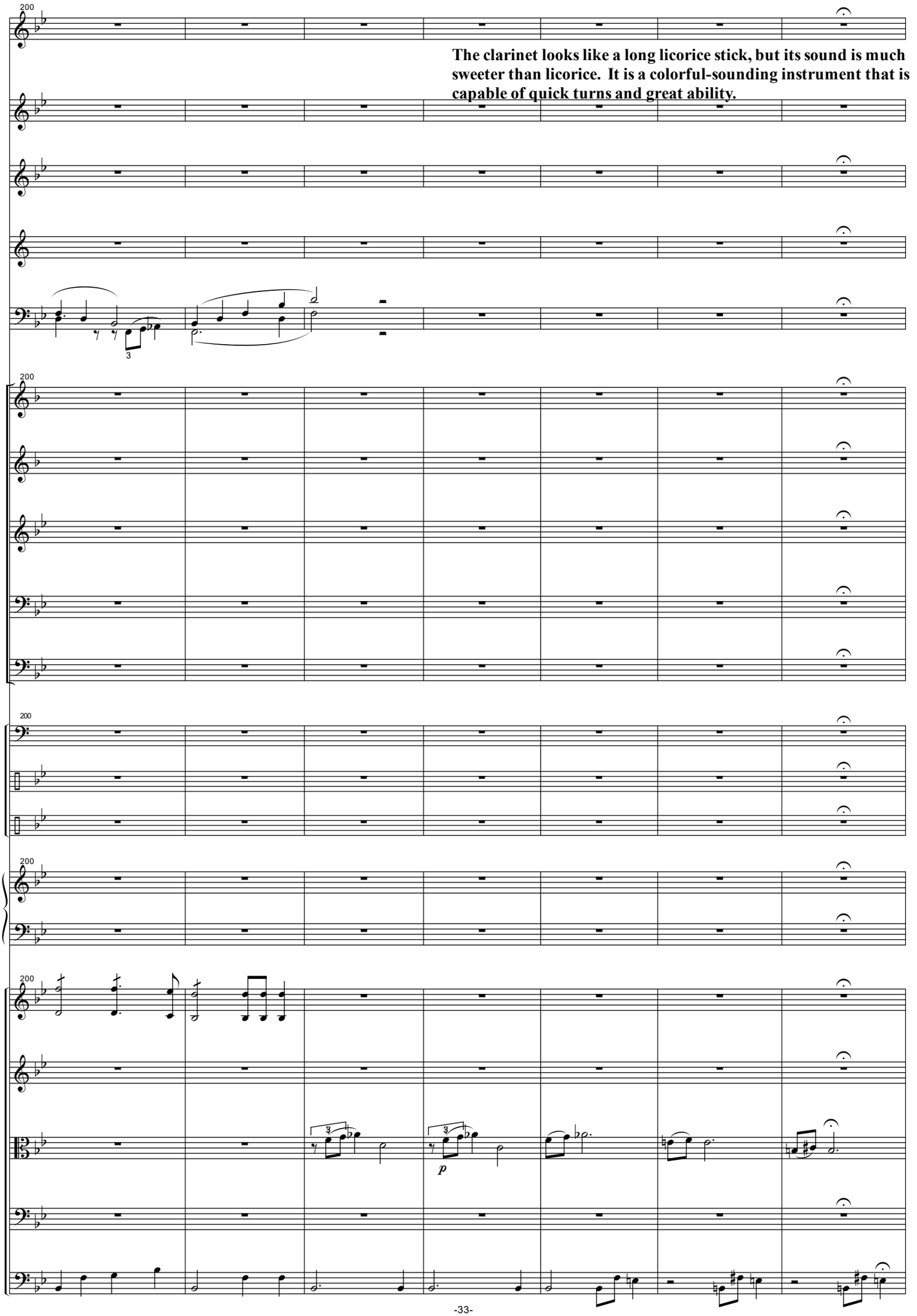
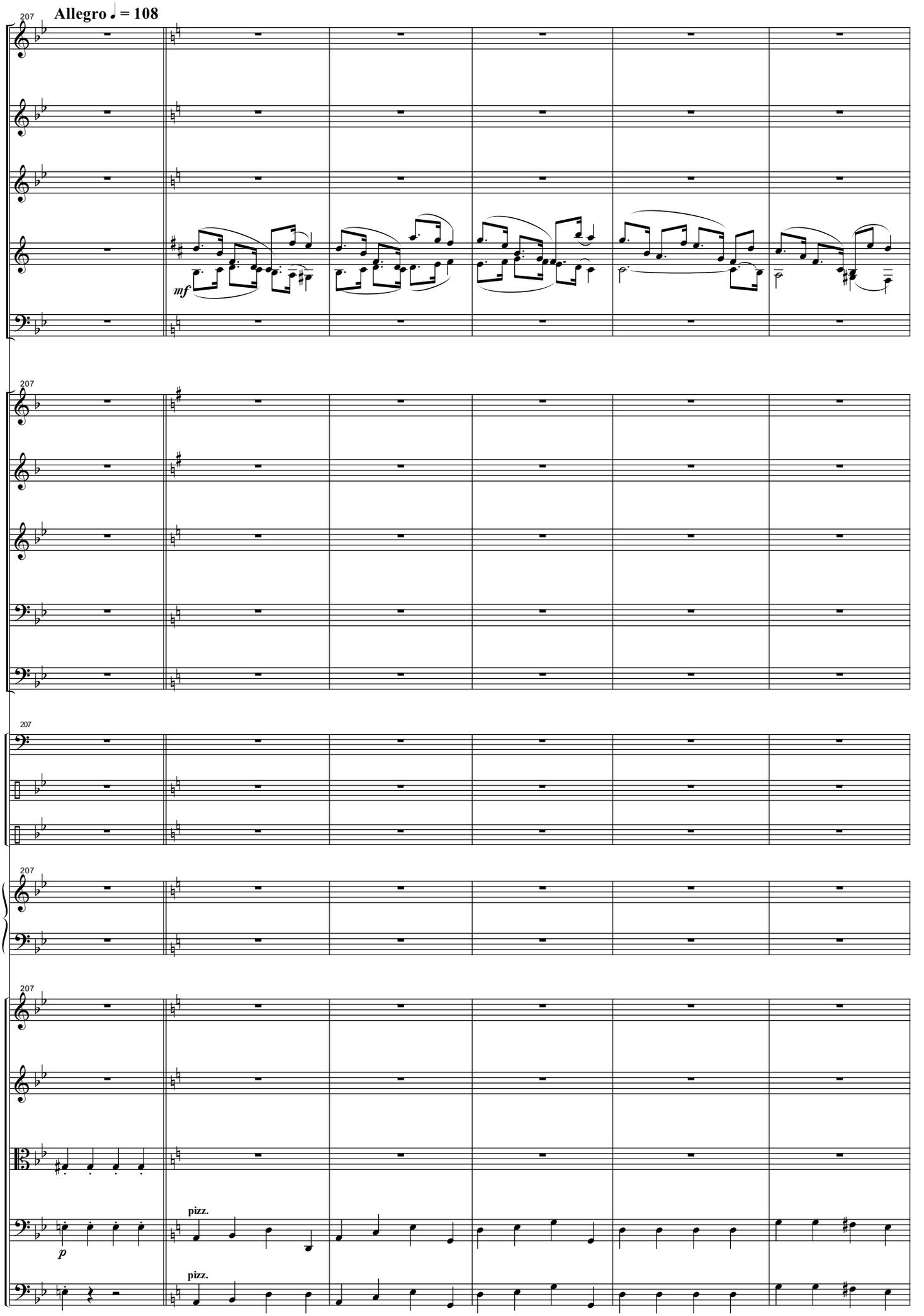
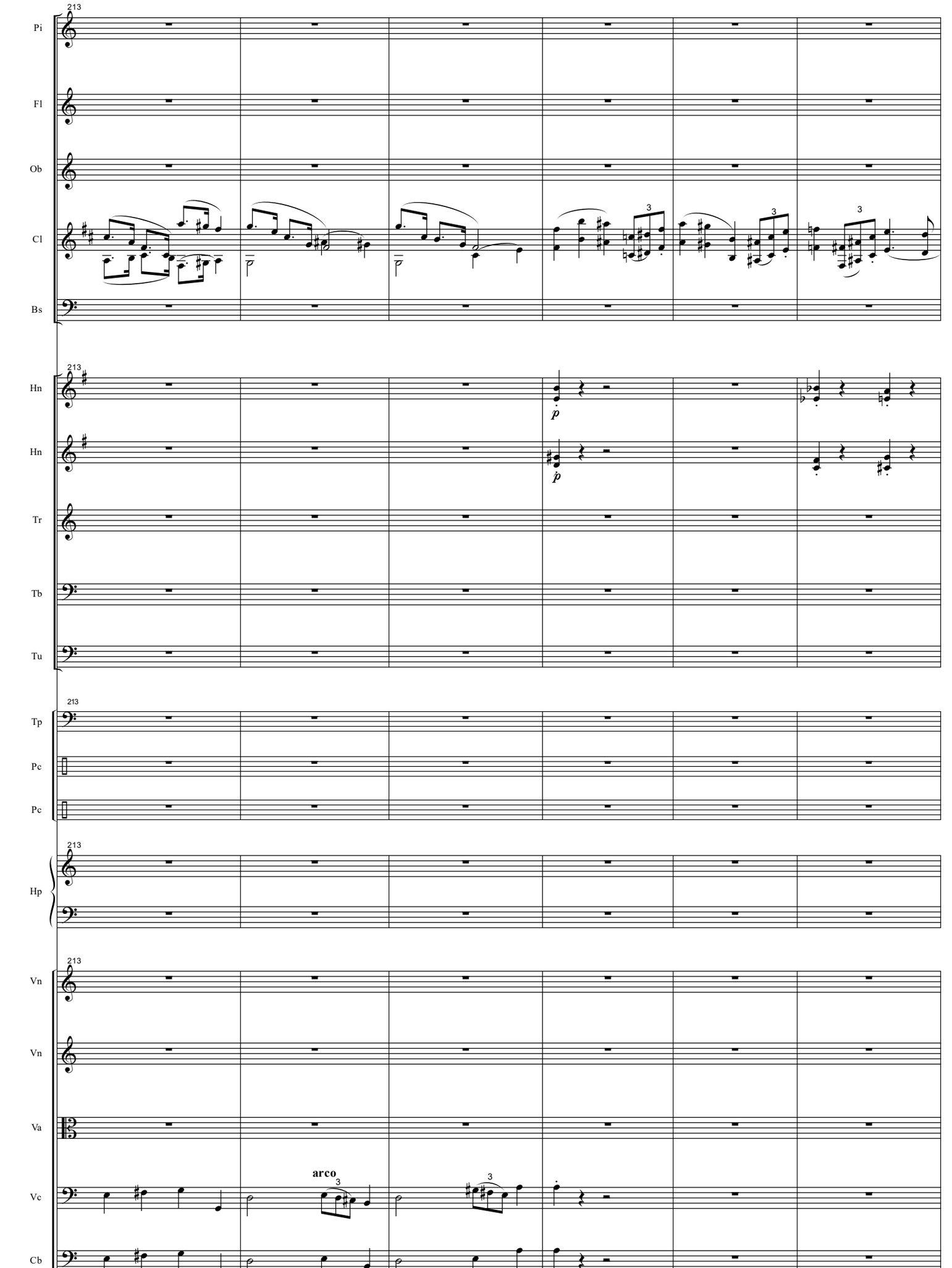
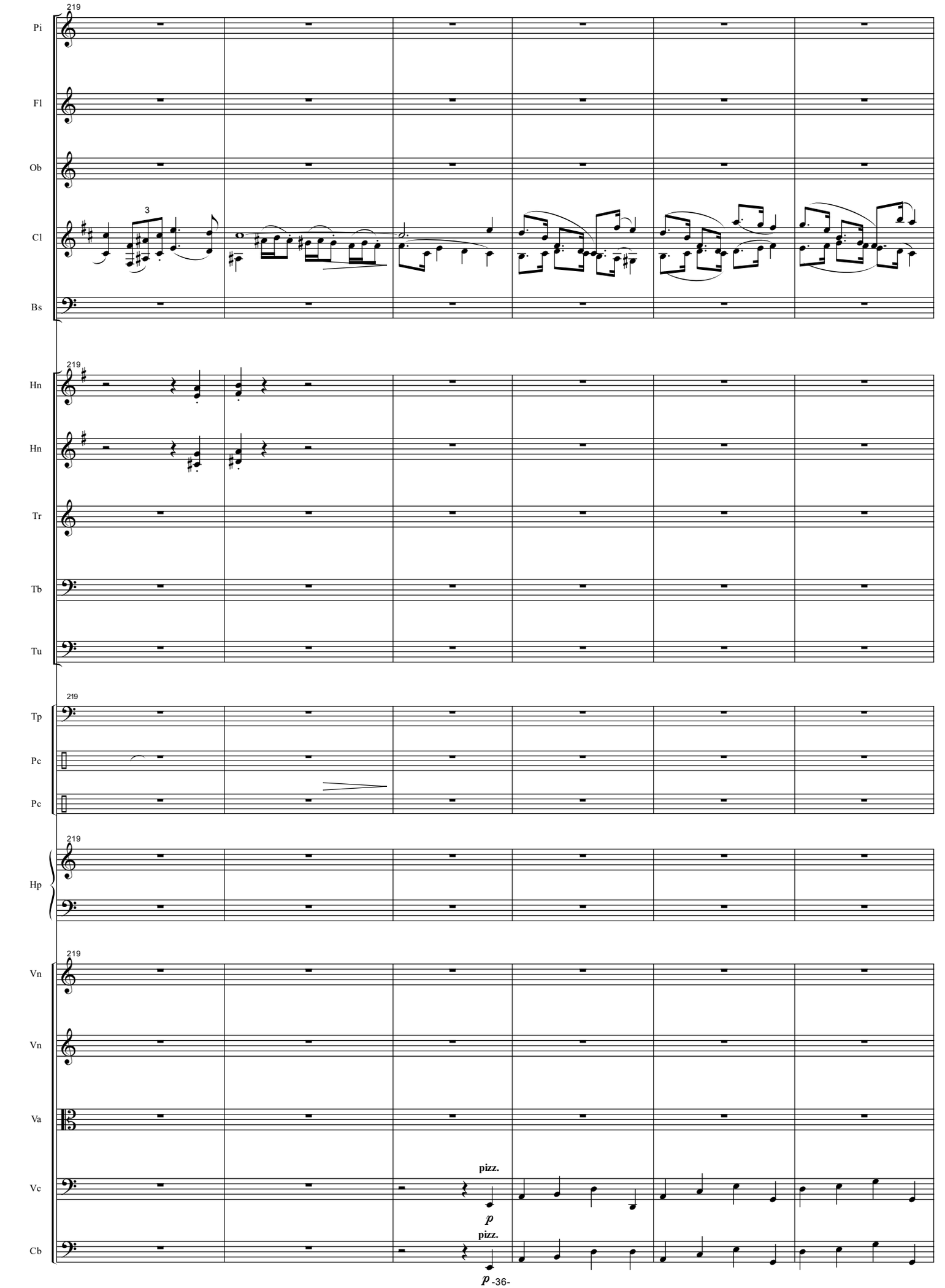
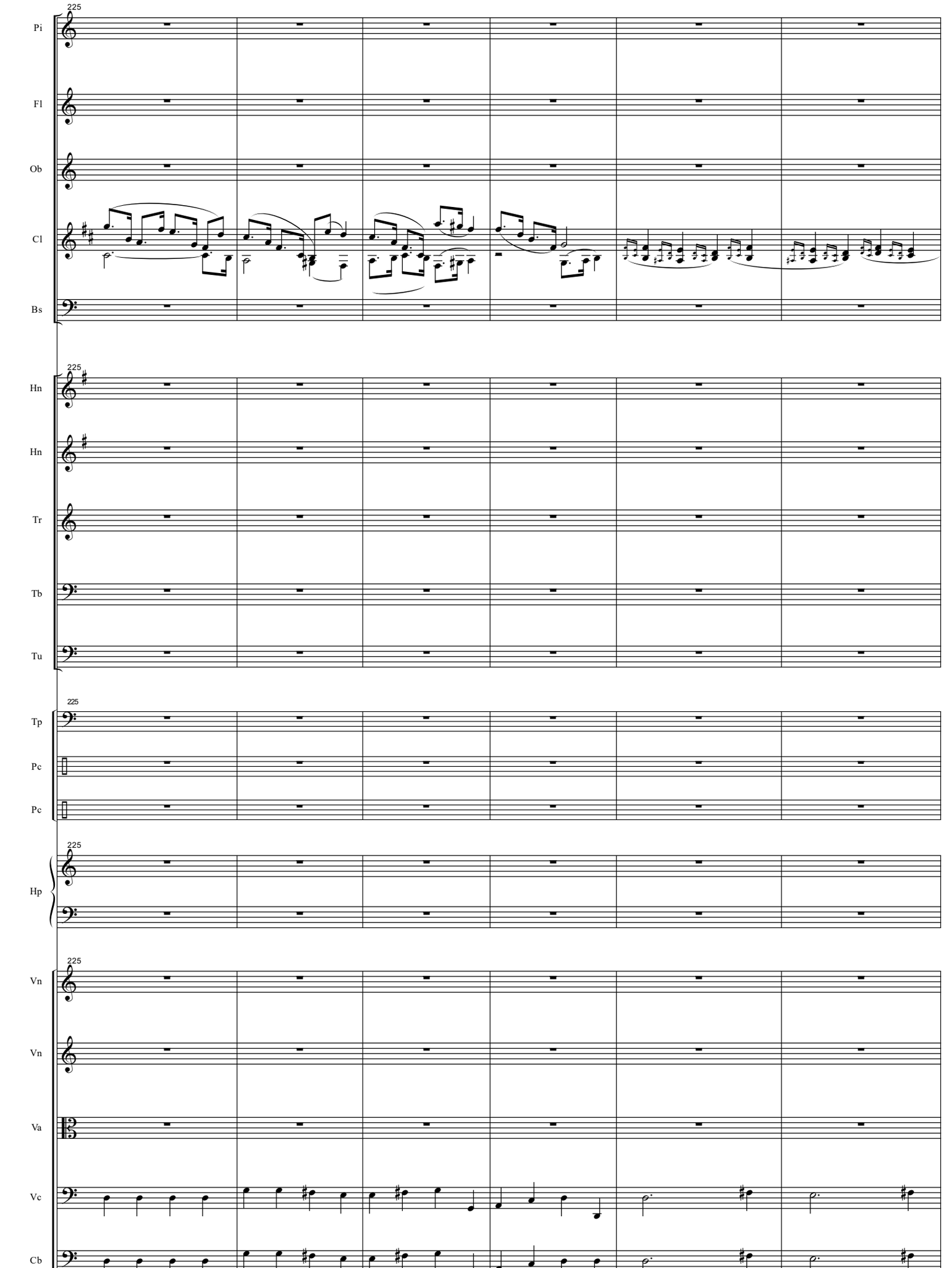
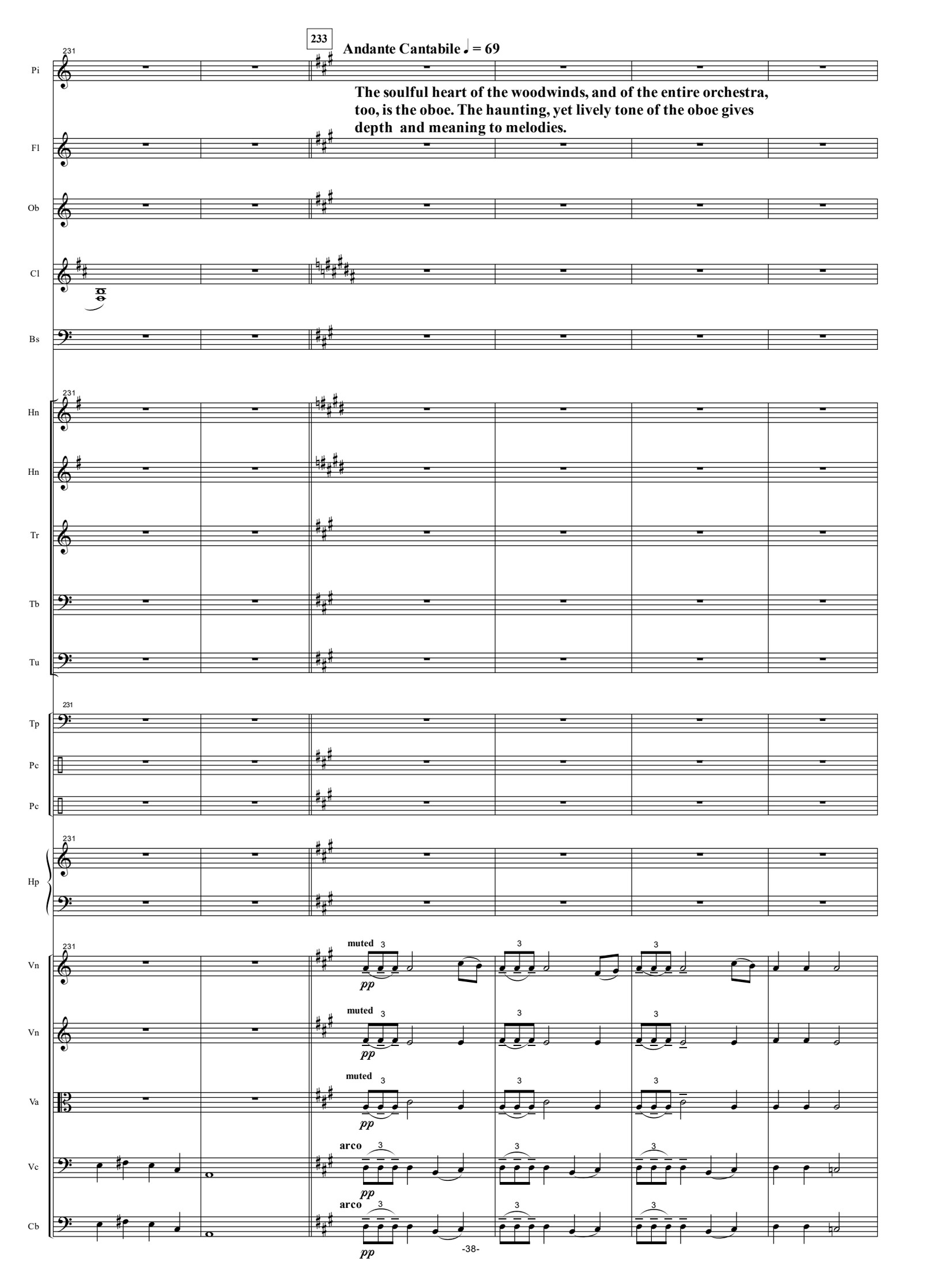
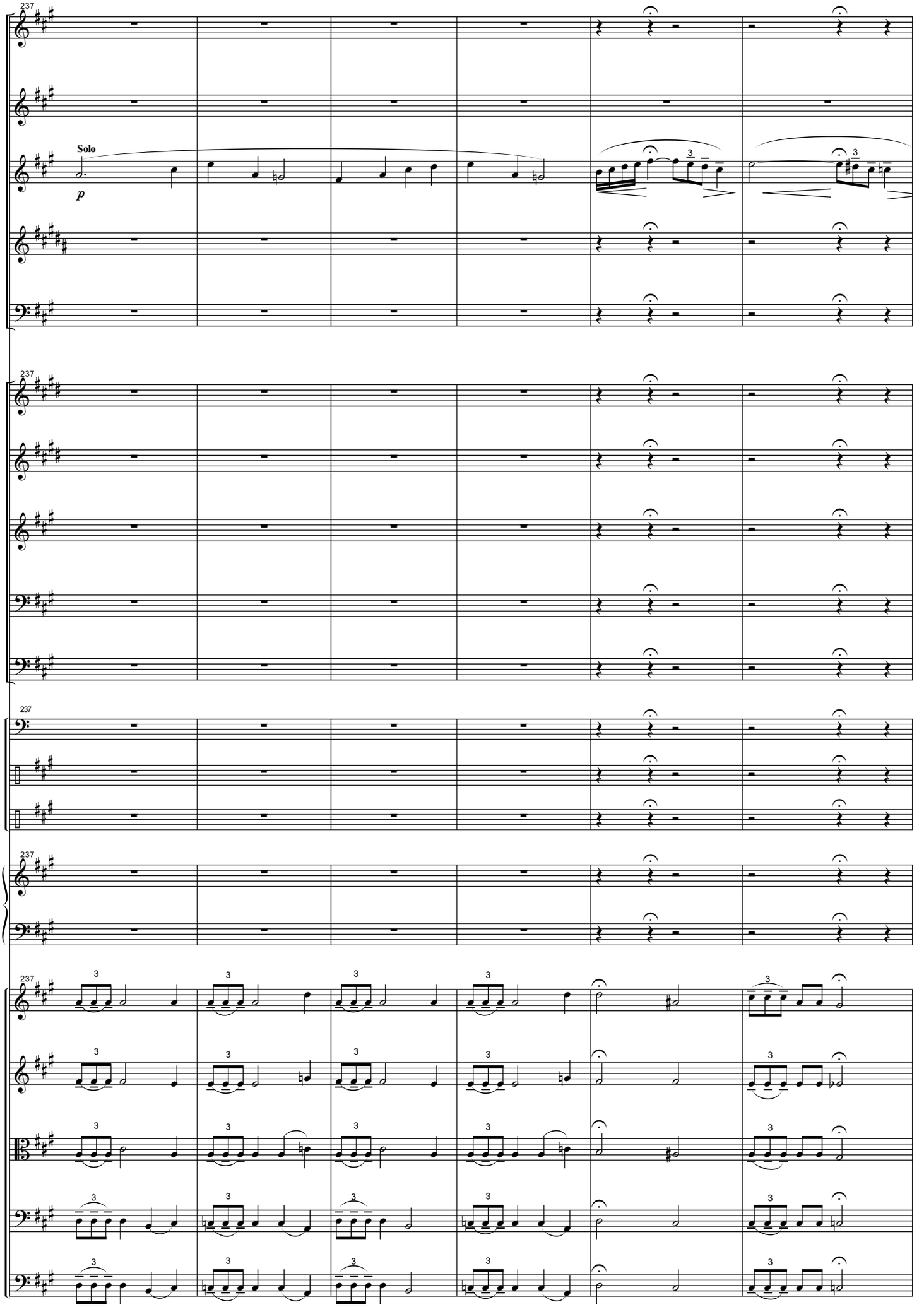
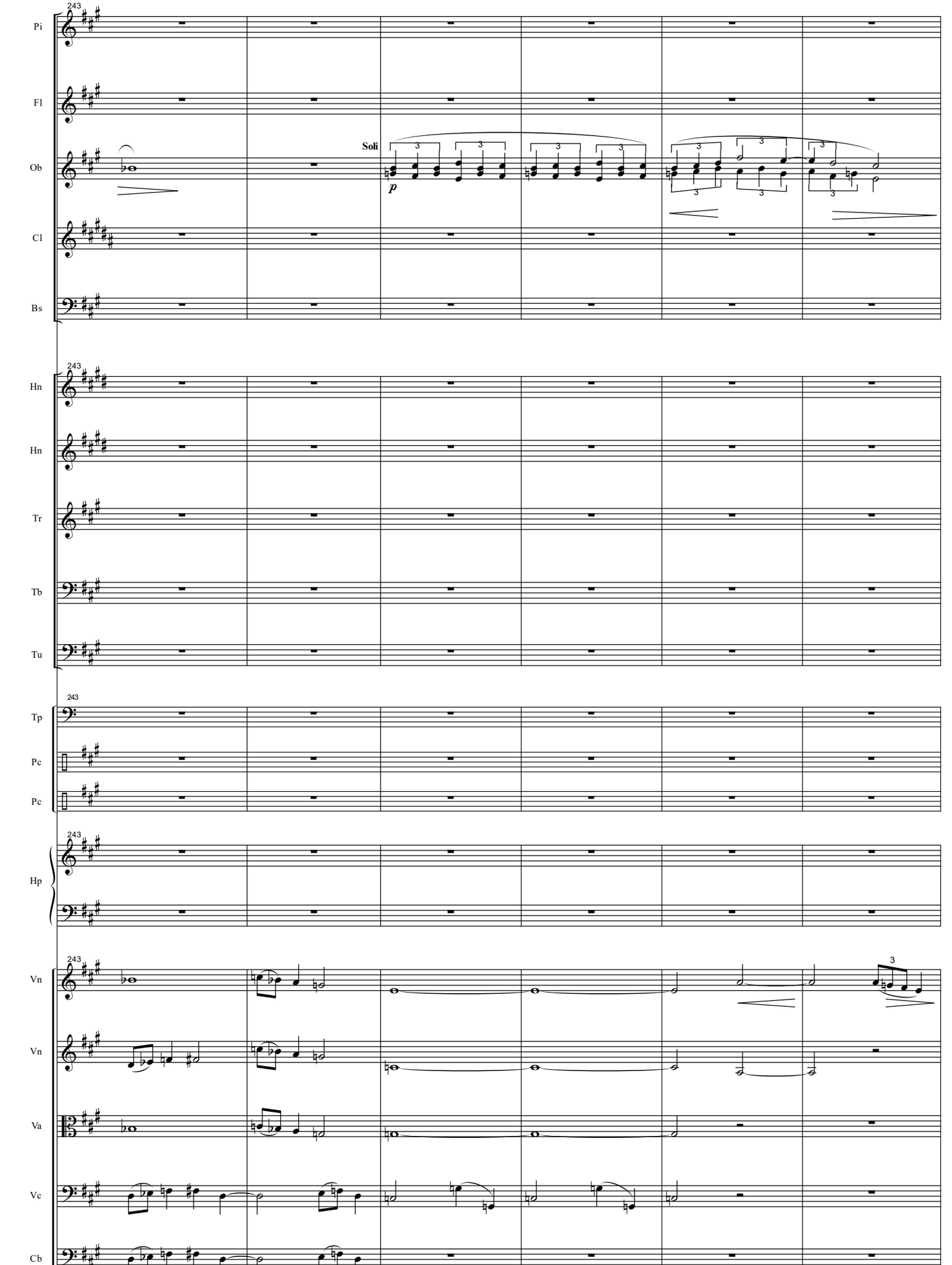
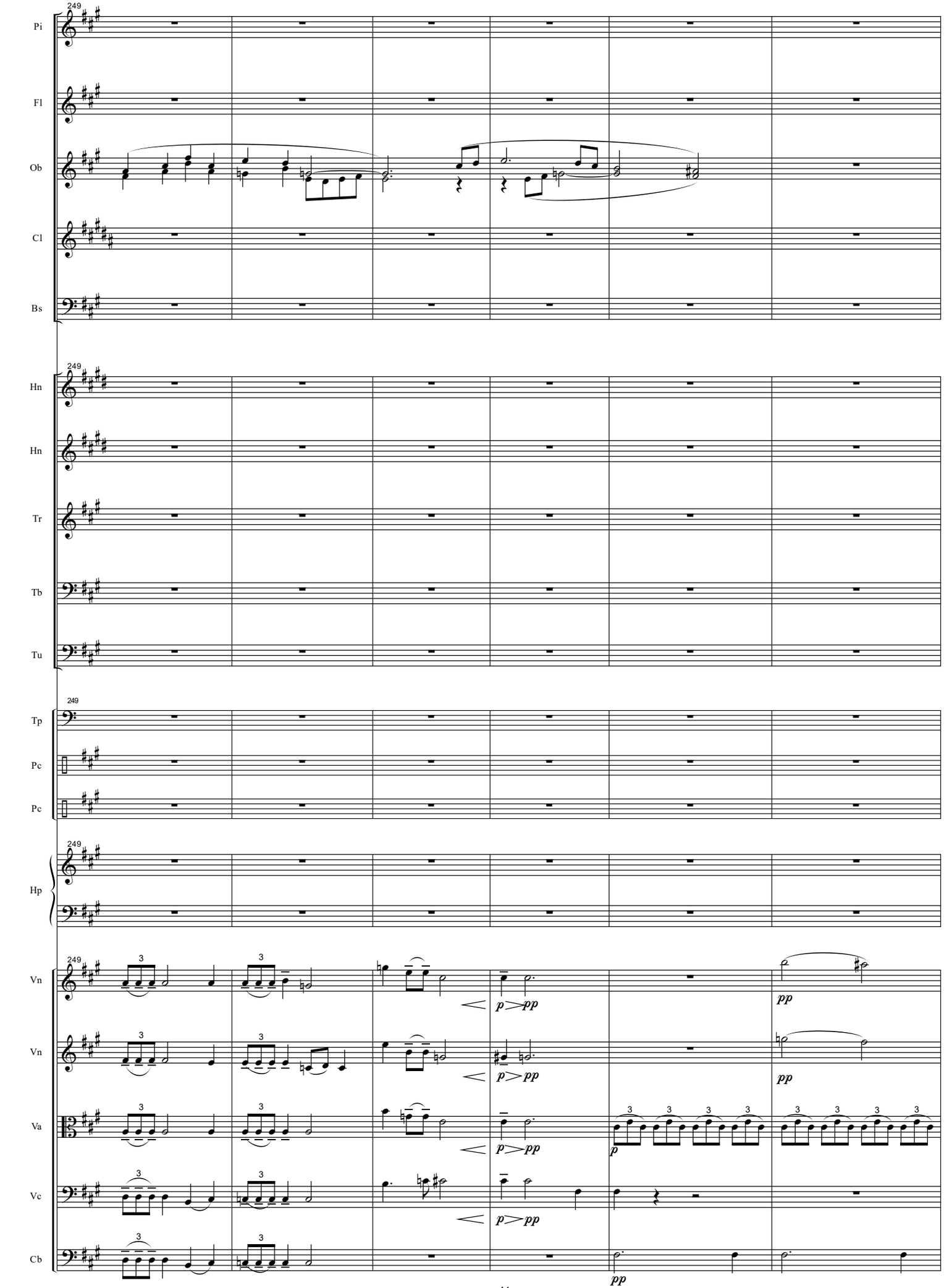
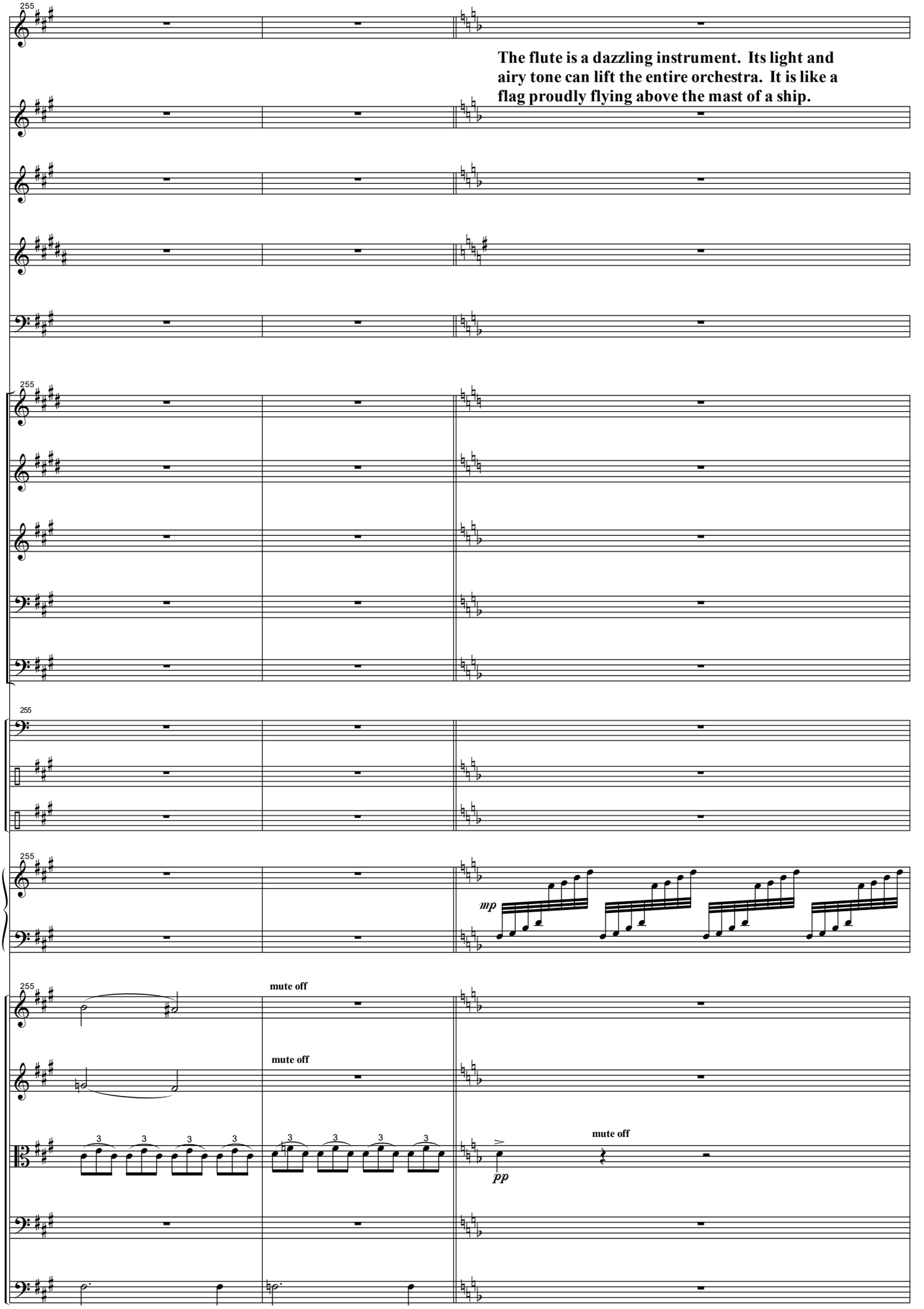
rit.

Vc

p

rit.

Cb

187
Adagio ♩ = 52
190
Andante ♩ = 76
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
(somewhat comical)
Soli
p
mf
lyric
mp
3
Bs
Hn
Hn
muted
Tr
Tb
Tu
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
div.
pp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
pizz.
Cb


194
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
194
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
194
Tp
Pc
Pc
194
Hp
194
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb

200
Pi
The clarinet looks like a long licorice stick, but its sound is much sweeter than licorice. It is a colorful-sounding instrument that is capable of quick turns and great ability.
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
3
200
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
200
Tp
Pc
Pc
200
Hp
200
Vn
Vn
Va
3
3
p
Vc
Cb

Allegro ♩ = 108
207
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
mf
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
pizz.
p

213
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
213
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
213
Tp
Pc
Pc
213
Hp
213
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
arco

219
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
3
Bs
219
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
219
Tp
Pc
Pc
219
Hp
219
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
pizz.
p
pizz.
Cb
p

225
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
225
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
225
Tp
Pc
Pc
225
Hp
225
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb

233
Andante Cantabile ♩ = 69
The soulful heart of the woodwinds, and of the entire orchestra, too, is the oboe. The haunting, yet lively tone of the oboe gives depth and meaning to melodies.
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
231
muted
arco
pp

237
Pi
Fl
Ob
Solo
p
Cl
Bs
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb

243
Pi
Fl
Ob
Soli
p
Cl
Bs
243
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
243
Tp
Pc
Pc
243
Hp
243
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb

249
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
249
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
249
Tp
Pc
Pc
249
Hp
249
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
p pp
pp

255
Pi
The flute is a dazzling instrument. Its light and airy tone can lift the entire orchestra. It is like a flag proudly flying above the mast of a ship.
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
255
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
255
Tp
Pc
Pc
255
Hp
mp
255
Vn
mute off
Vn
mute off
Va
mute off
pp
Vc
Cb

In an easy manner ♩ = 60-63

258

Pi

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bs

Hn

Hn

Tr

Tb

Tu

Tp

Pc

Pc

Hp

Vn

Vn

Va

Vc

Cb

f

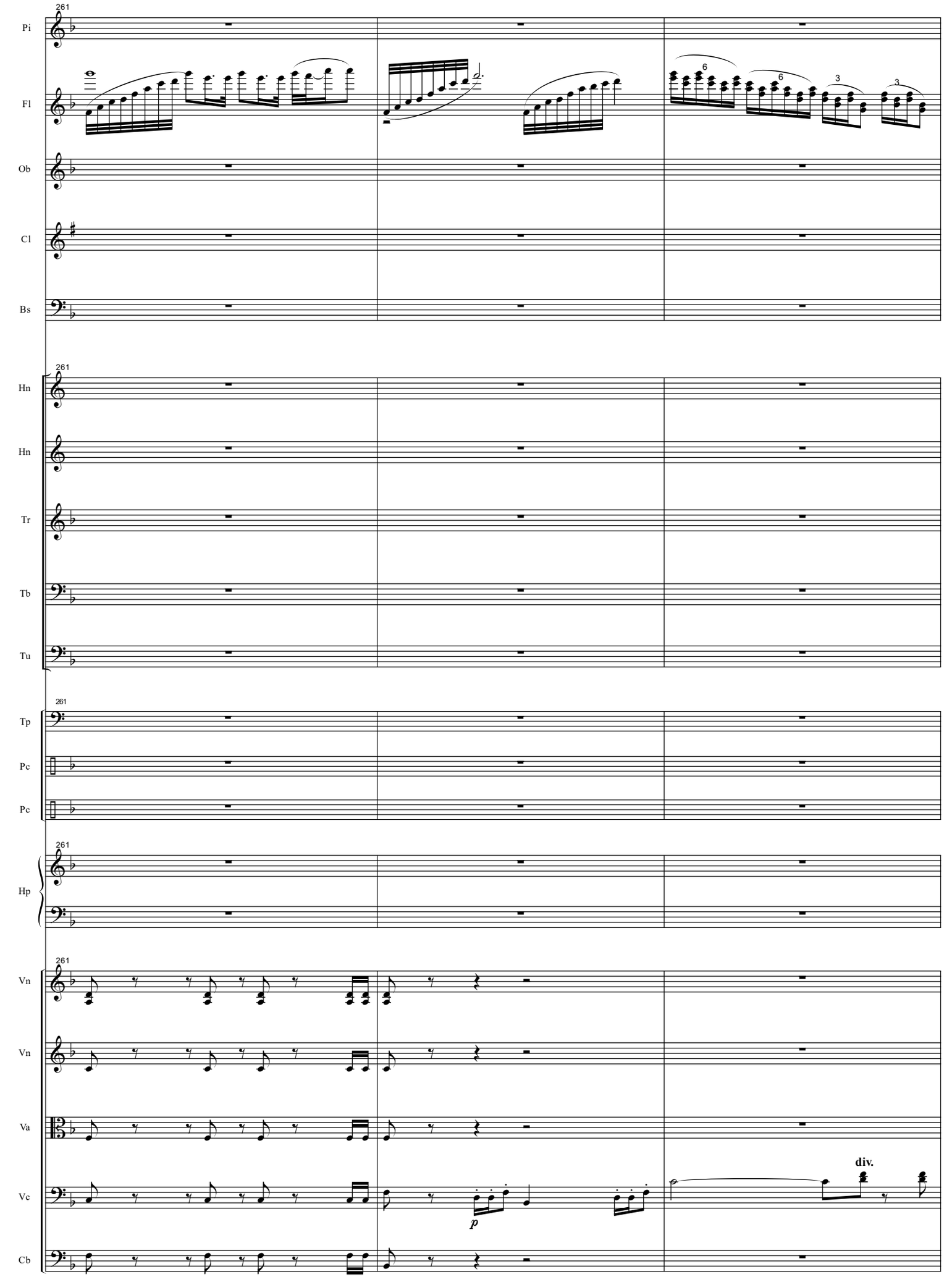
mf

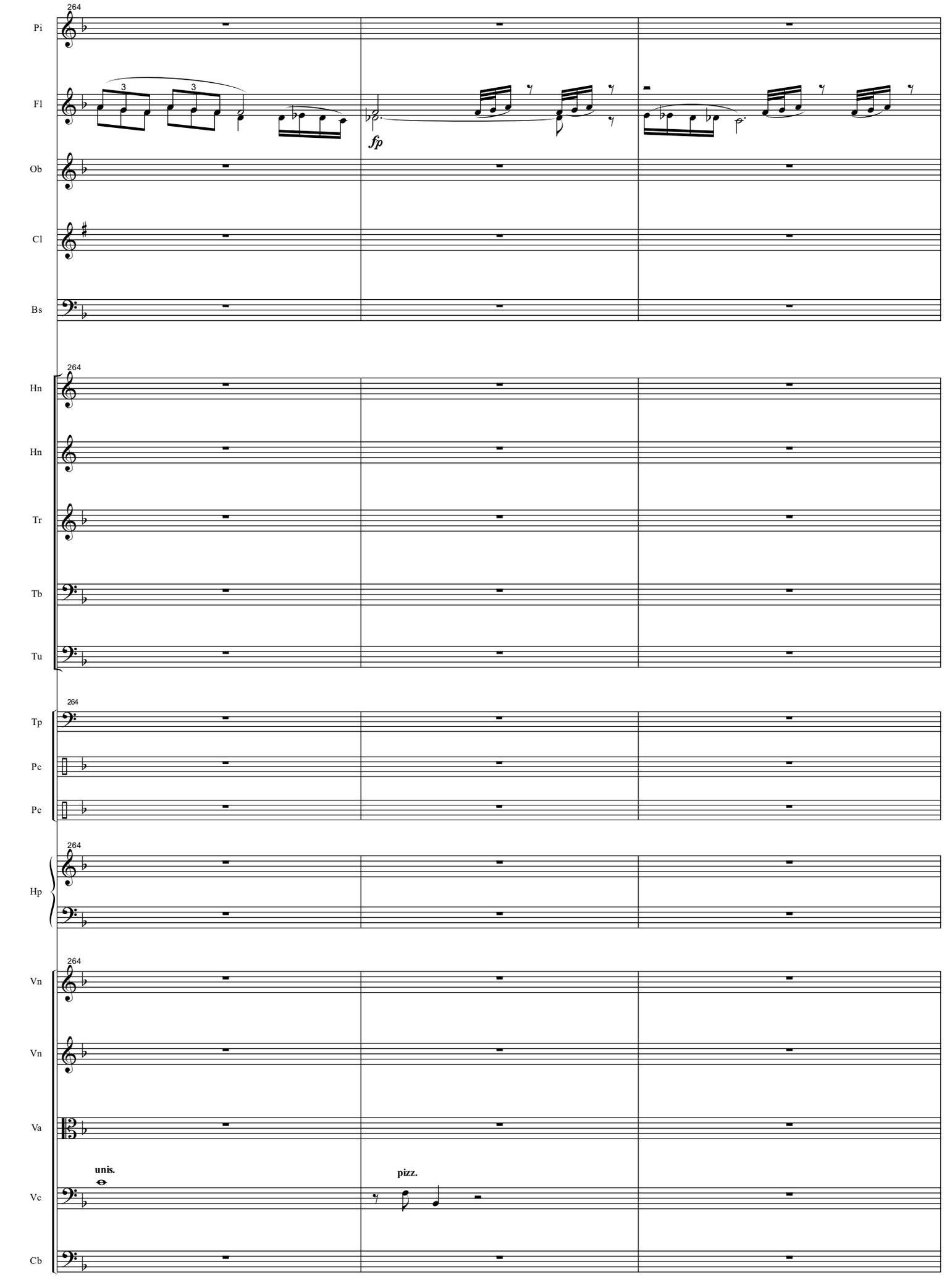
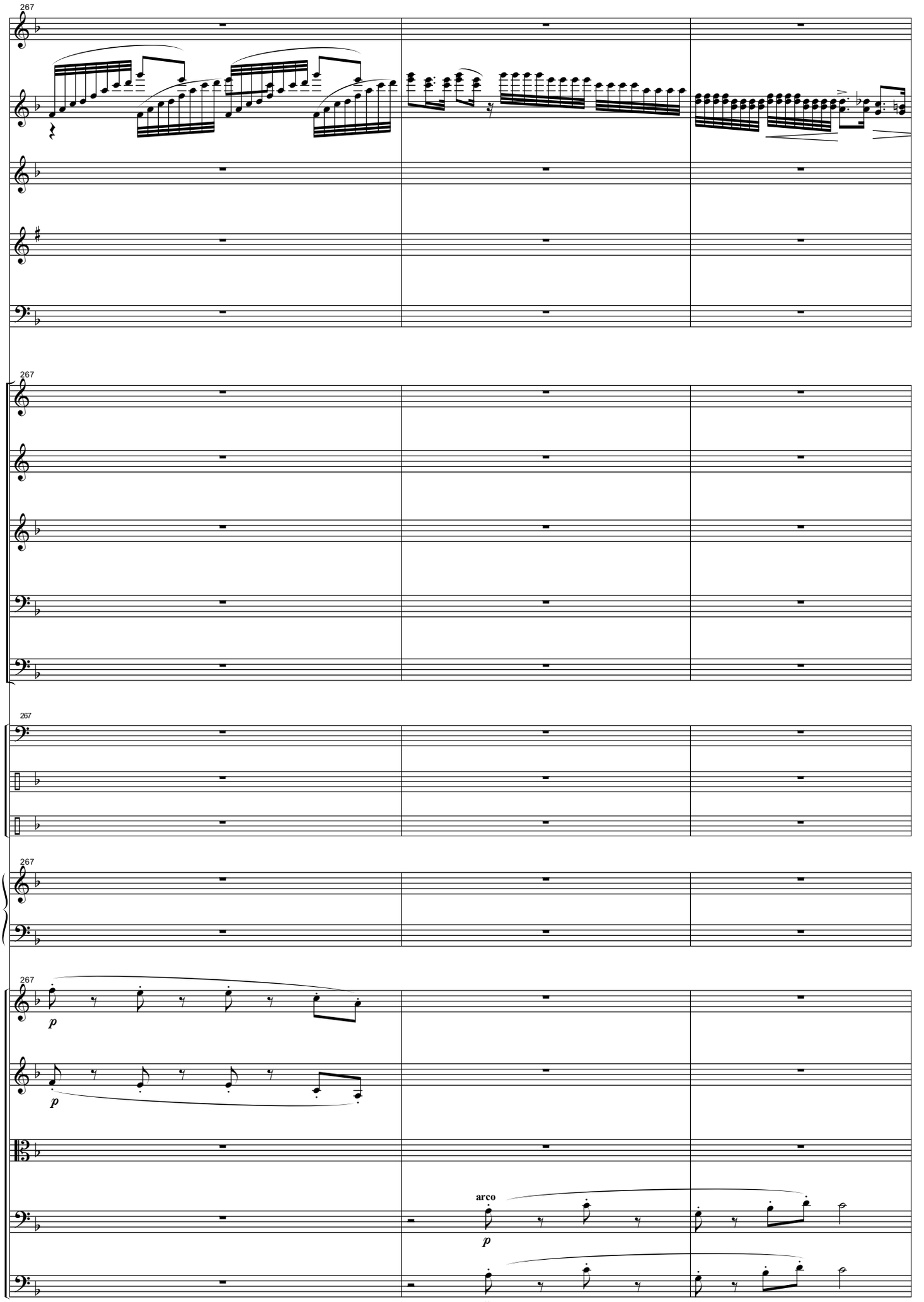
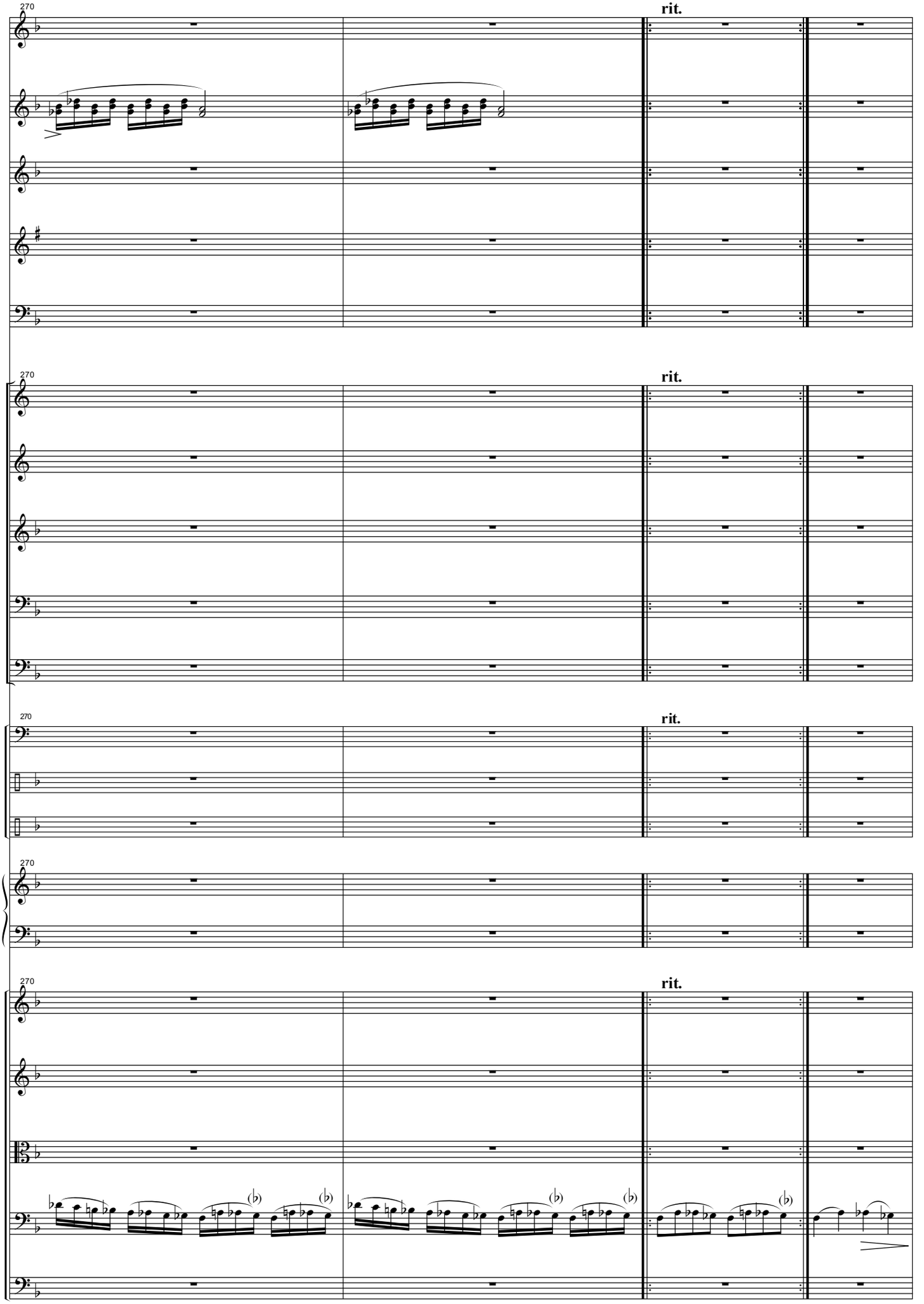
mp

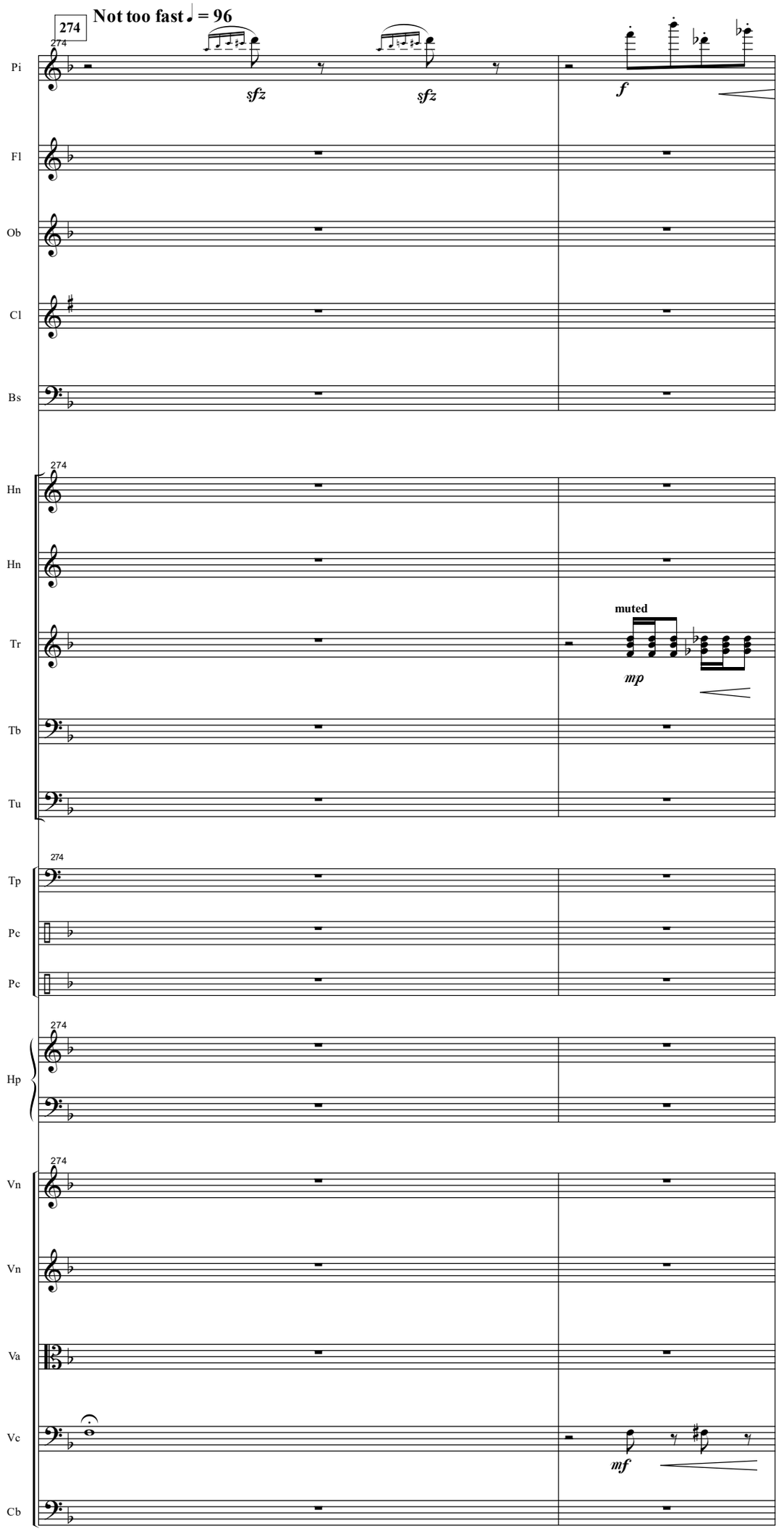
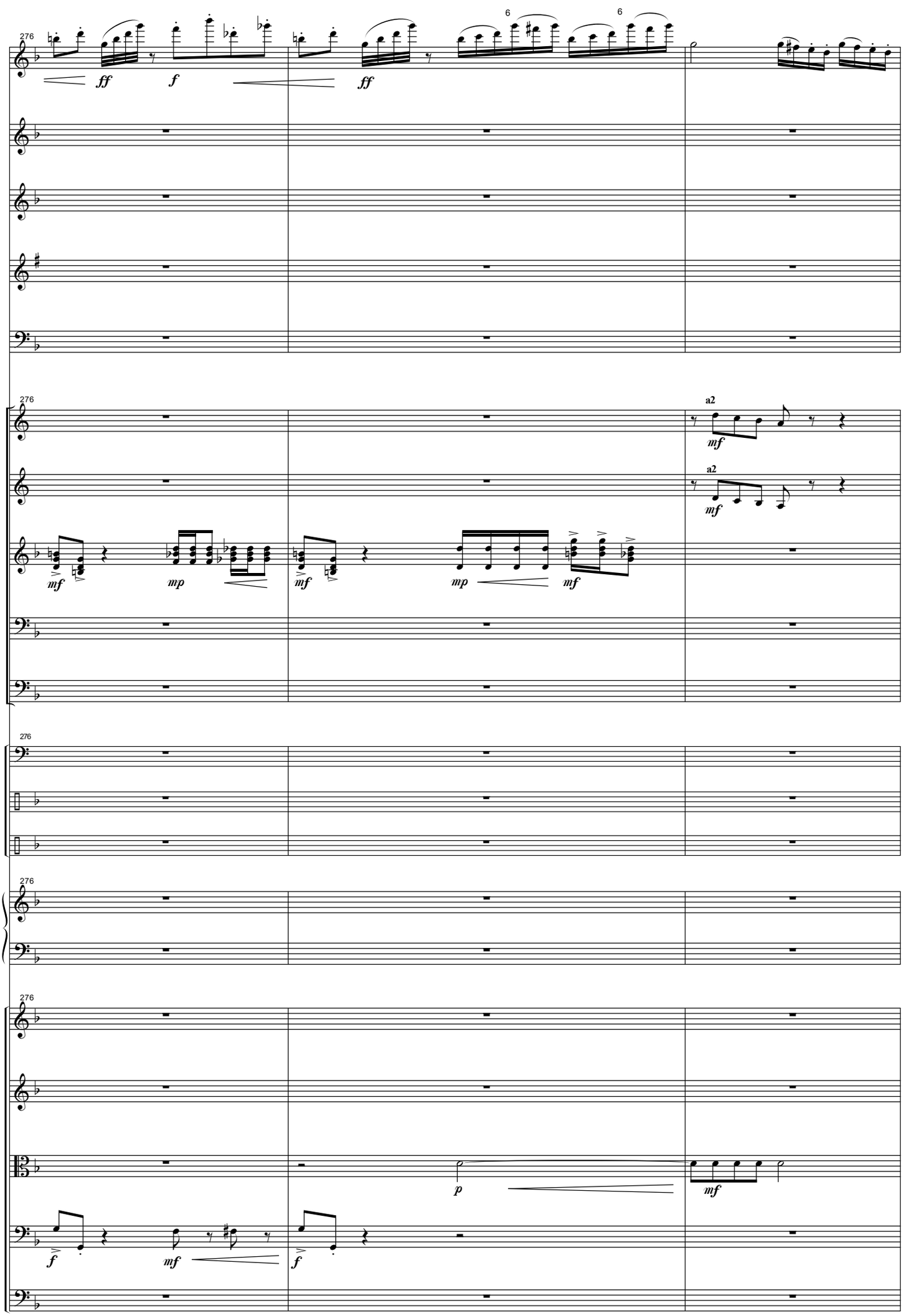
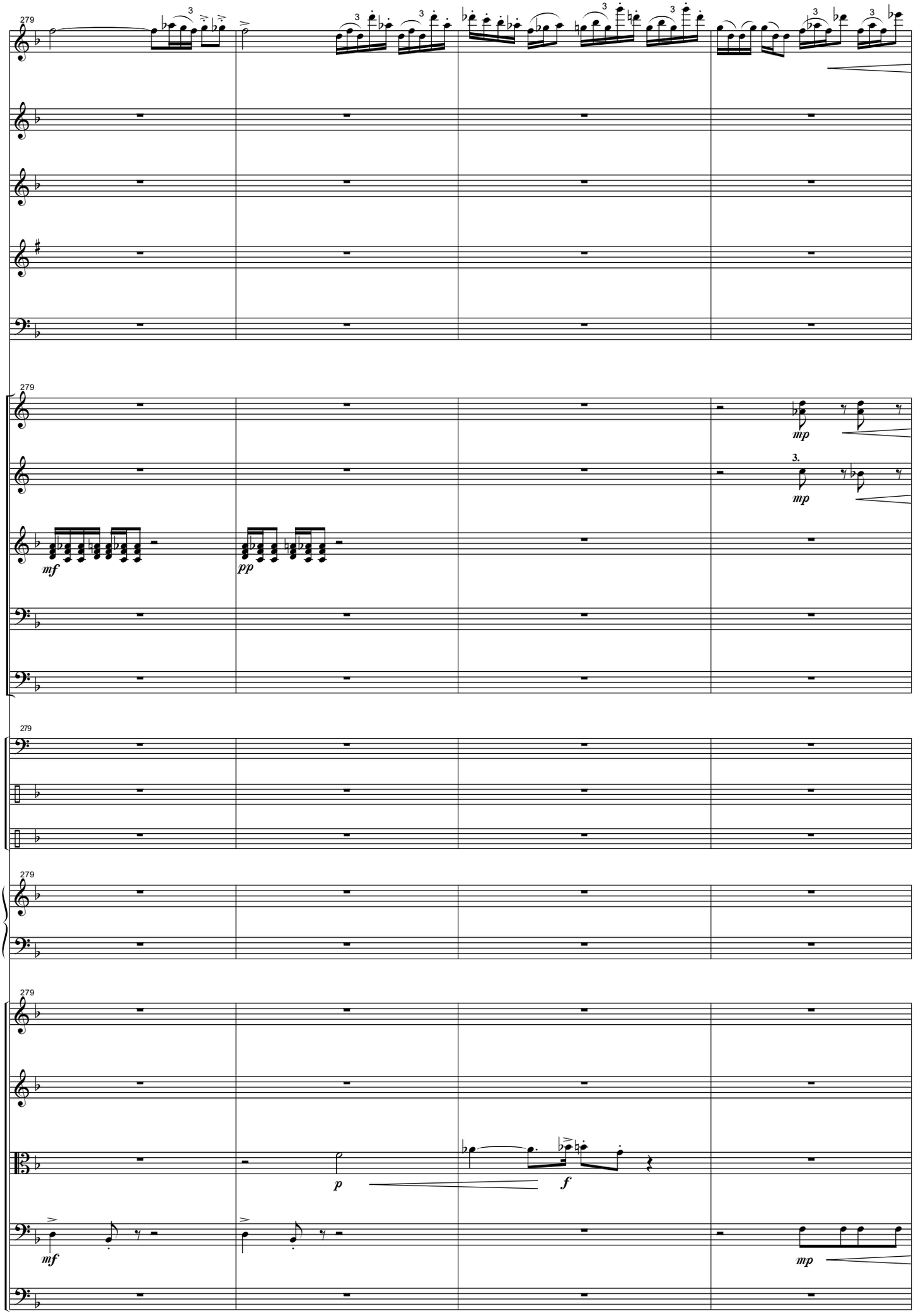
div e pizz

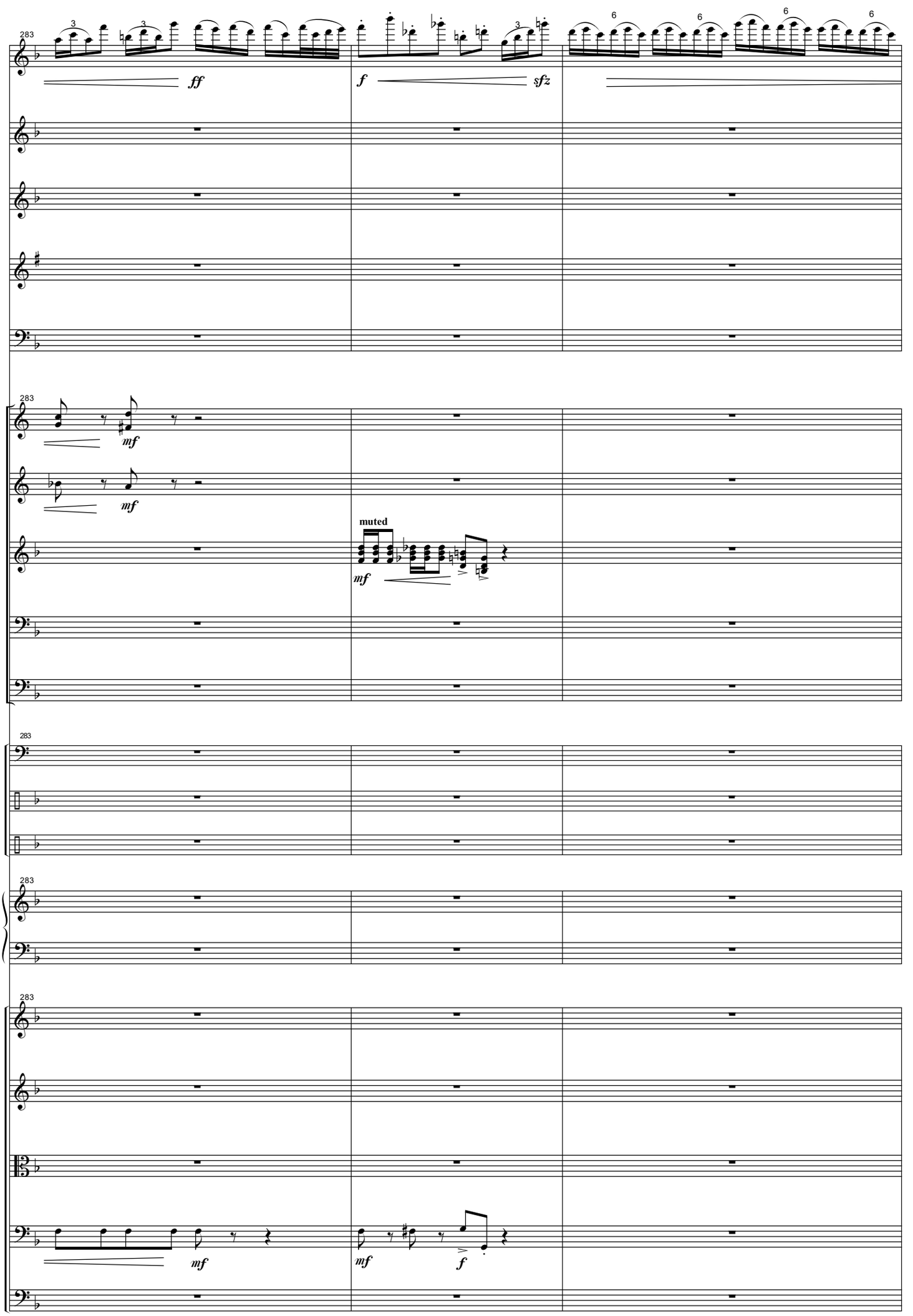
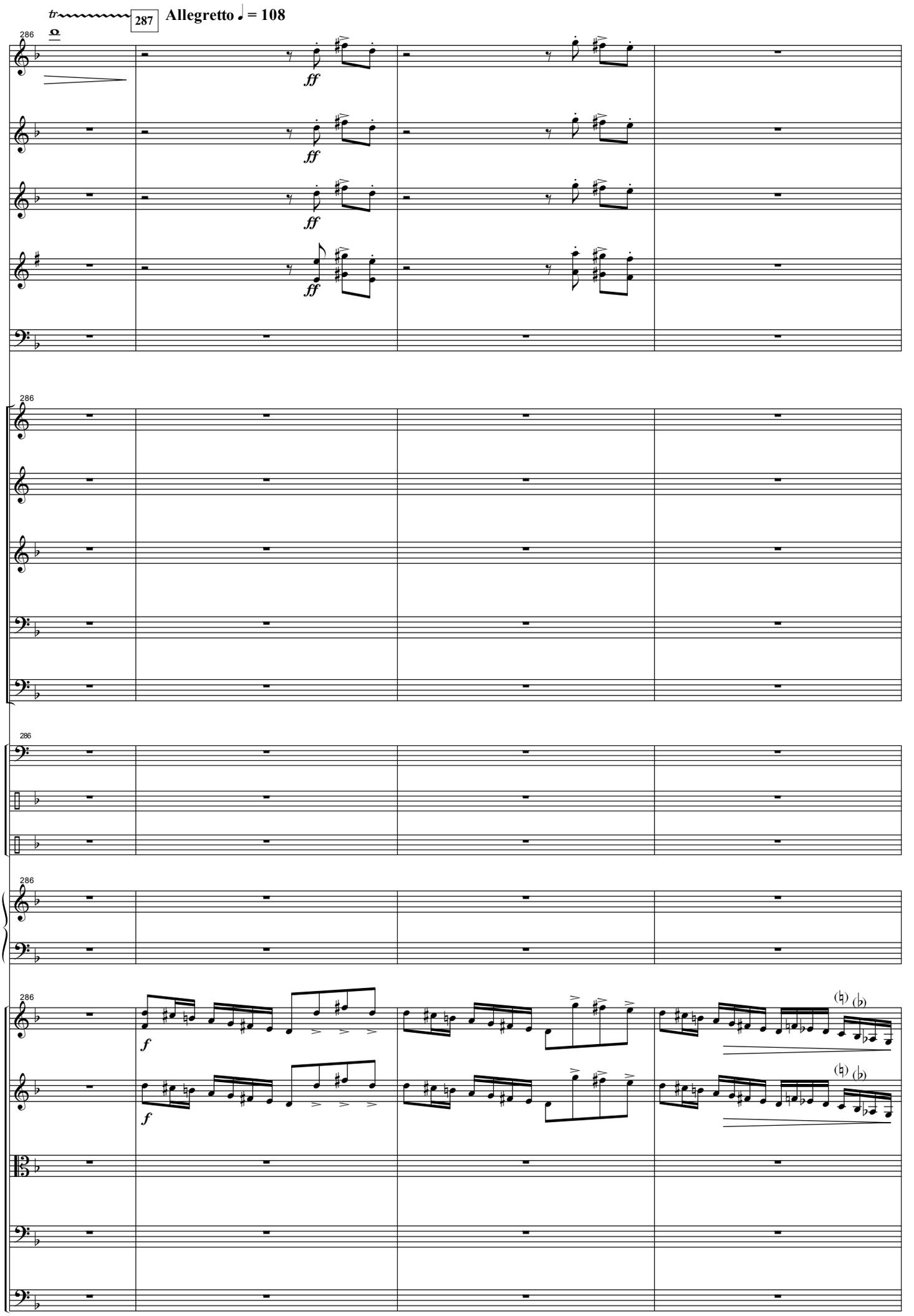
arco

pizz.


261
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
261
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
261
Tp
Pc
Pc
261
Hp
261
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
6
6
3
3
p
div.


264
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
fp
264
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
264
Tp
Pc
Pc
264
Hp
264
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
unis.
pizz.

267
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
267
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
267
Tp
Pc
Pc
267
Hp
267
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
p
p
arco
p
p

270
rit.
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb

The most efficient instrument of the entire orchestra is the piccolo. Though short in stature, it is never to be over-shadowed. Its high, shrill sound penetrates even the loudest orchestra passages.

276
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
ff
f
ff
6
6
a2
a2
mf
mf
mf
mp
mf
mp
mf
p
mf
f
mf
f

279
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
279
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
mf
pp
mp
3.
mp
279
Tp
Pc
Pc
279
Hp
279
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
p
f
mf
mp


283
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
ff
f
sfz
mf
muted

287
Allegretto ♩ = 108
286
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
ff
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
f

290

Pi

So far we have learned about the strings and woodwinds. These two families carry the bulk of the symphony's work. Now we add the reinforcements: the brass. Brass instruments are powerful and can raise the orchestra to stupendous levels. The French horns are the most versatile of the brass, ranging from loud hunting sounds to sweet and lyrical melodies.

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bs

290

Hn

Hn

Tr

Tb

Tu

290

Tp

Pc

Pc

290

Hp

290

Vn

p

p

Vn

p

p

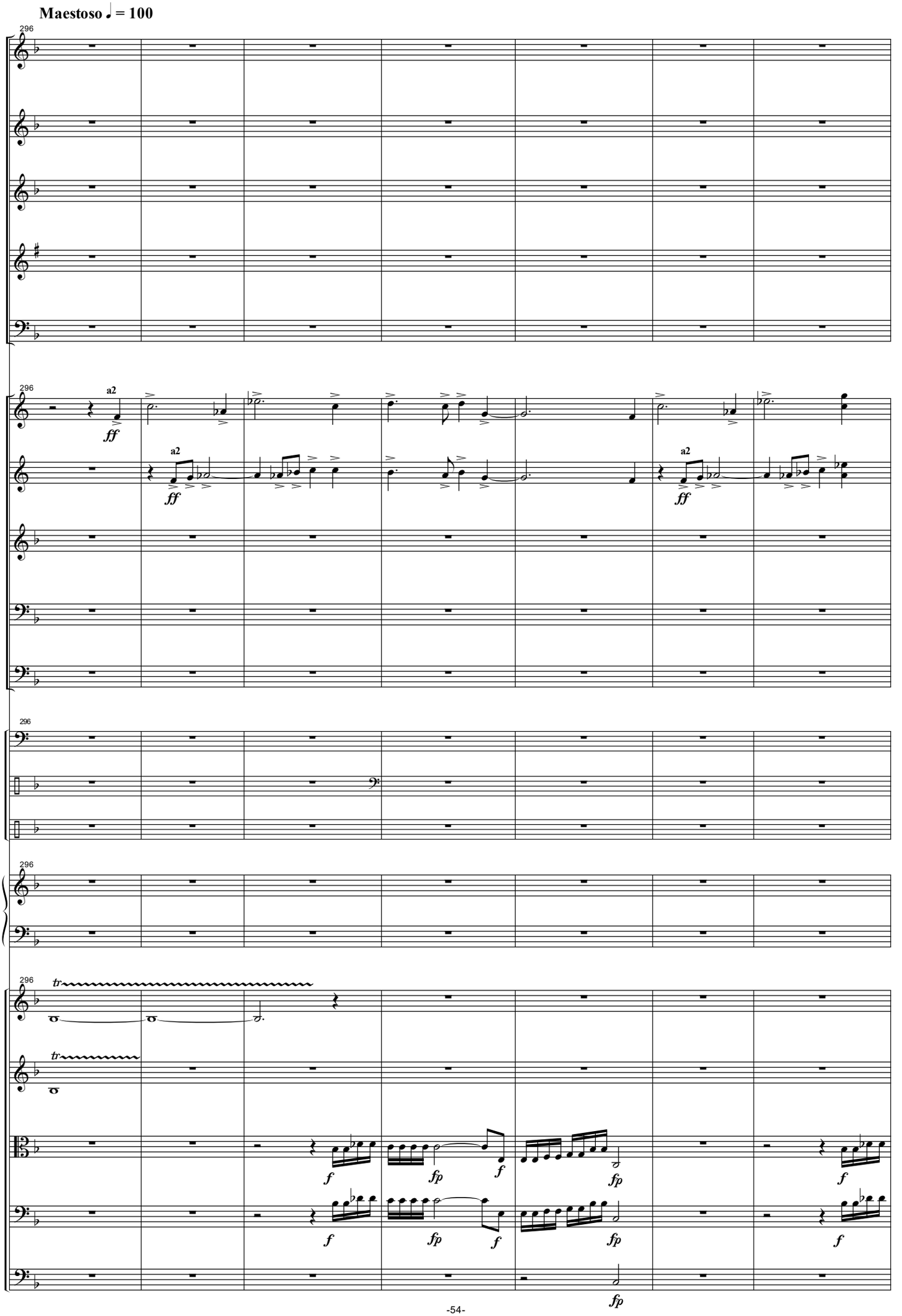
Va

p

Vc

p

Cb

p

Maestoso ♩ = 100
296
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
a2
ff
tr
f
fp

303

Pi

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bs

303

Hn

Hn

Tr

Tb

Tu

303

Tp

Pc

Pc

303

Hp

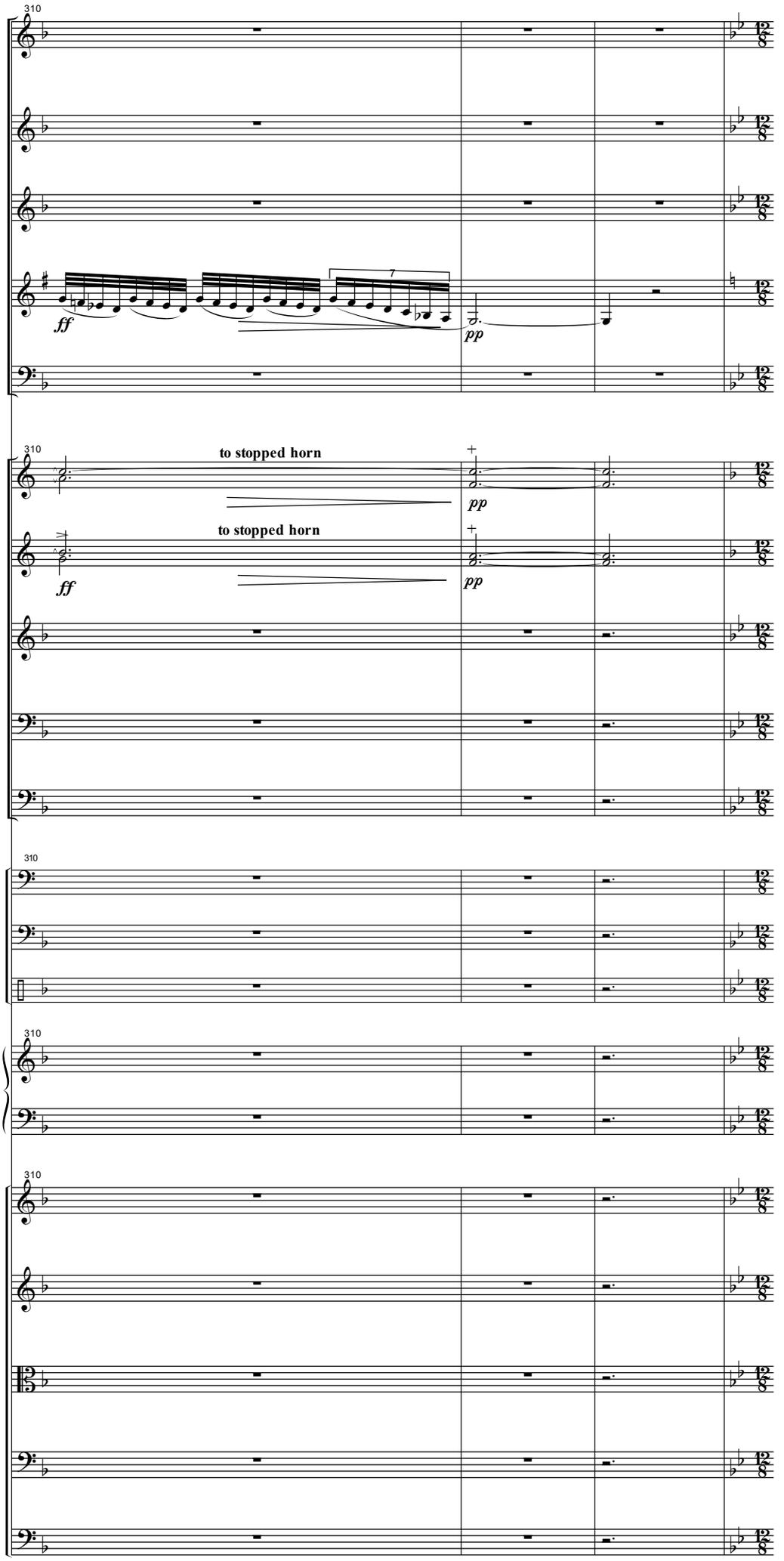
303

Vn

Vn

Va

Vc

Cb

The leader of the brass is the trumpet section. The trumpet has been associated with kings and kingly courts for centuries. The heroic sound of the trumpet is regal and awe-inspiring.

313 **Allegretto** ♩ = 108

Pi

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bs

Hn

Hn

Tr

Tb

Tu

Tp

Pc

Pc

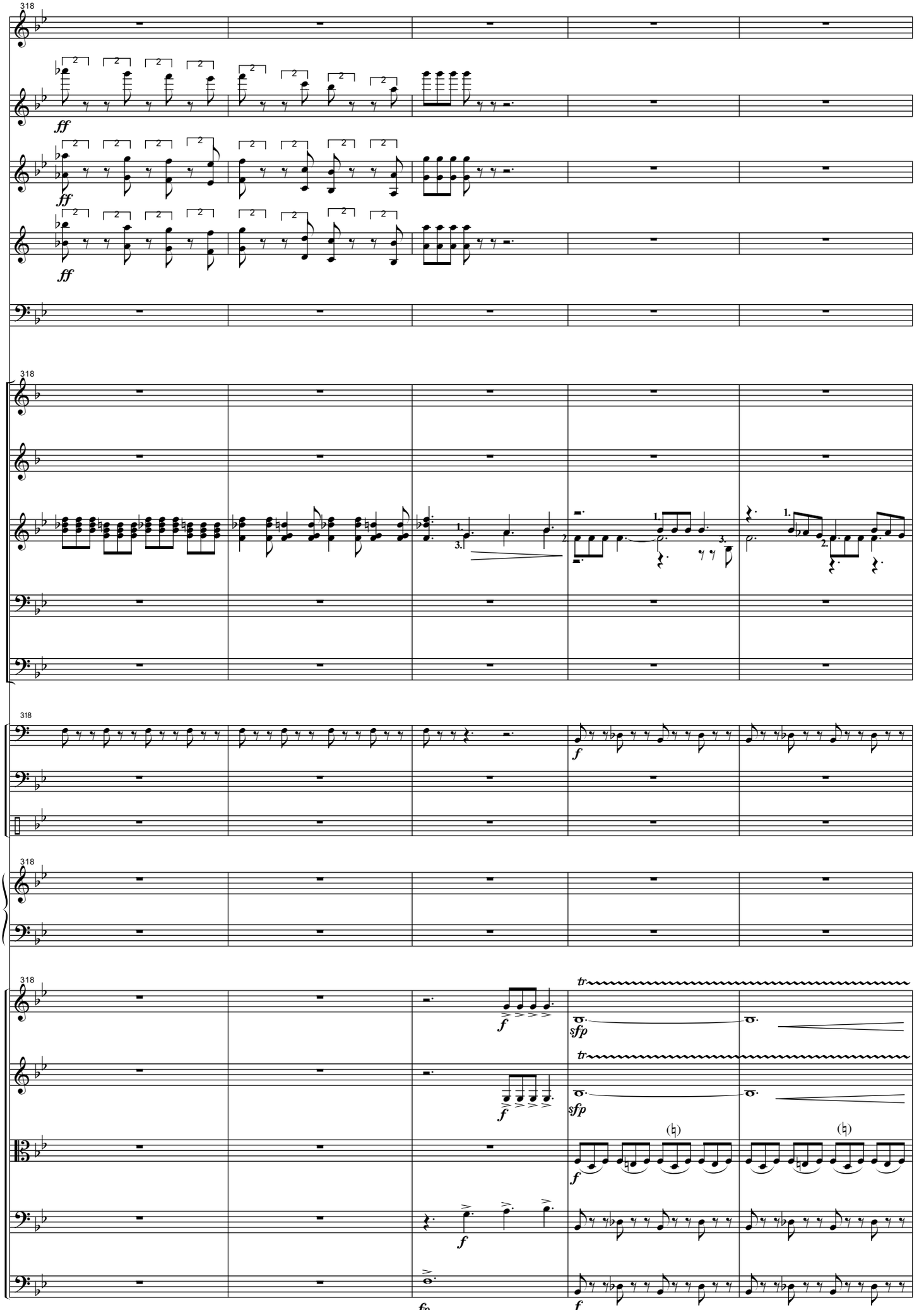
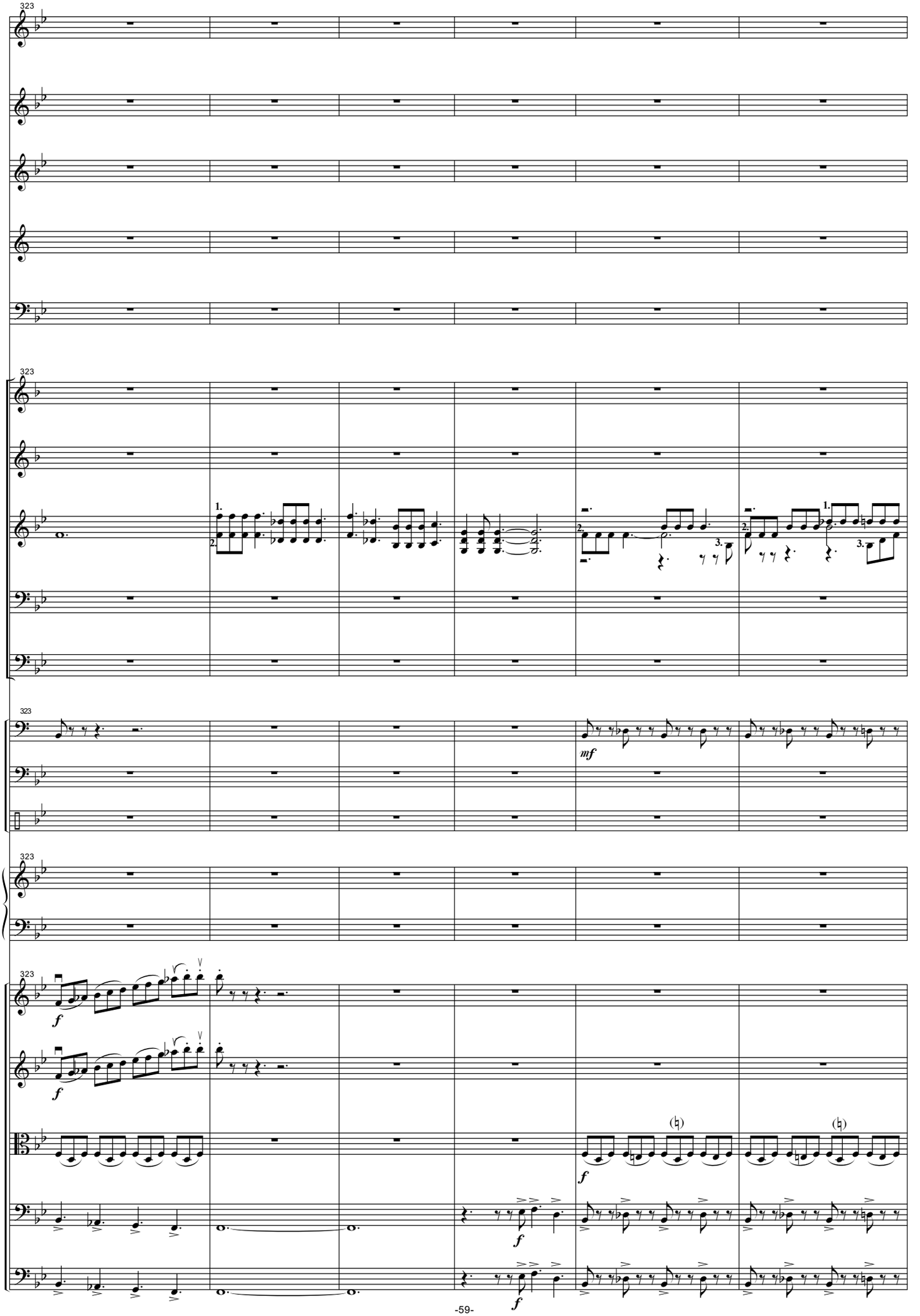
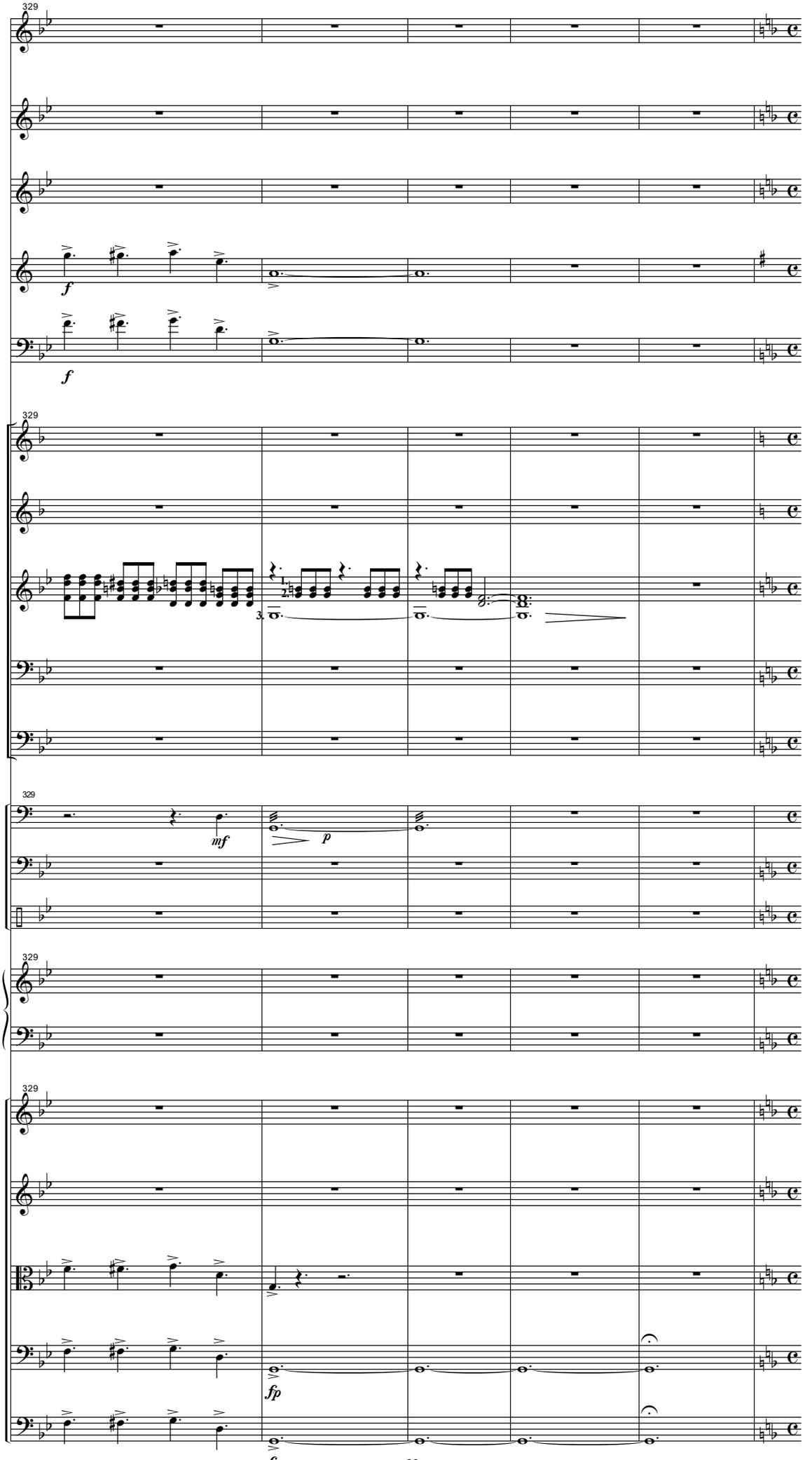
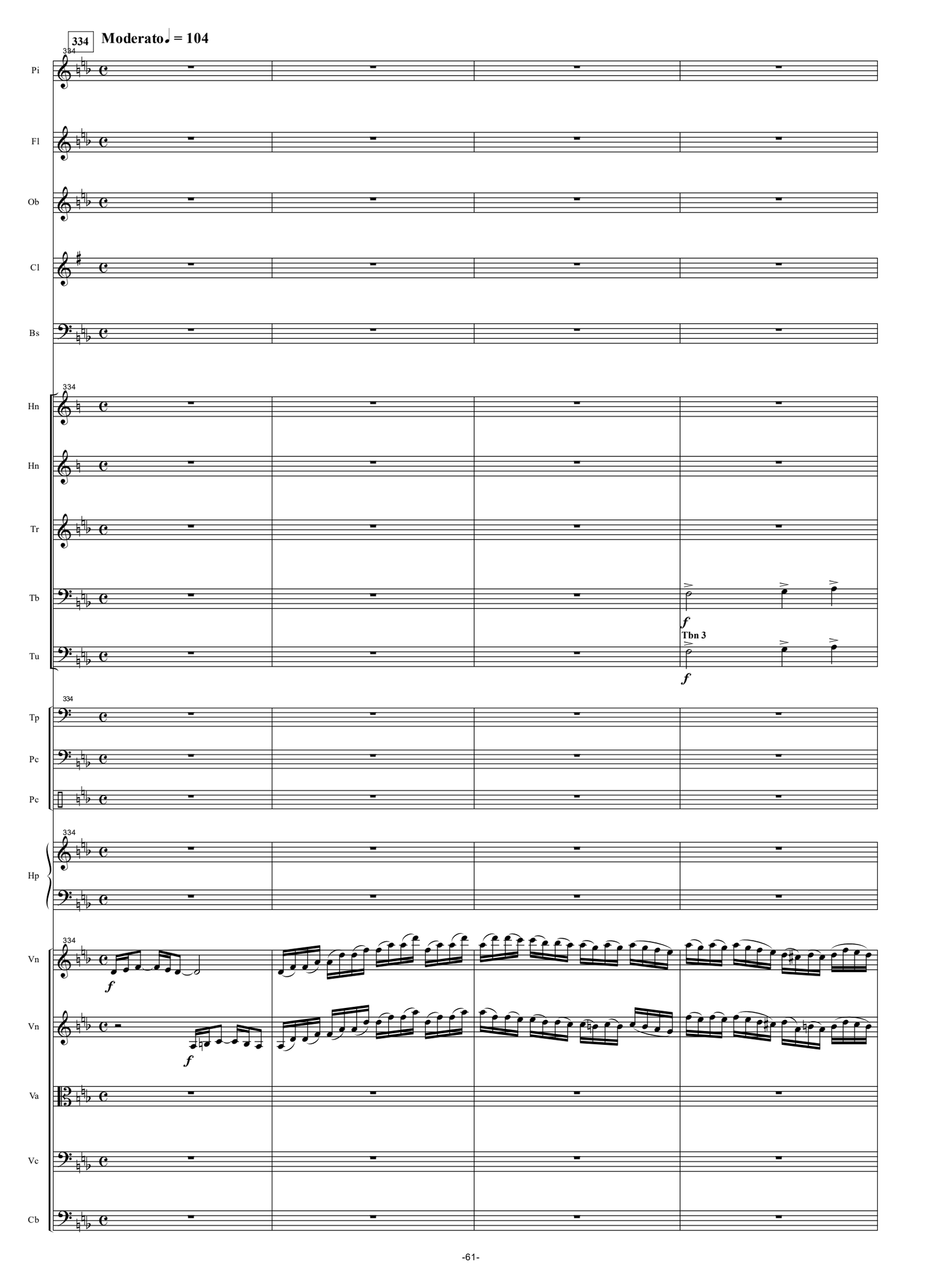
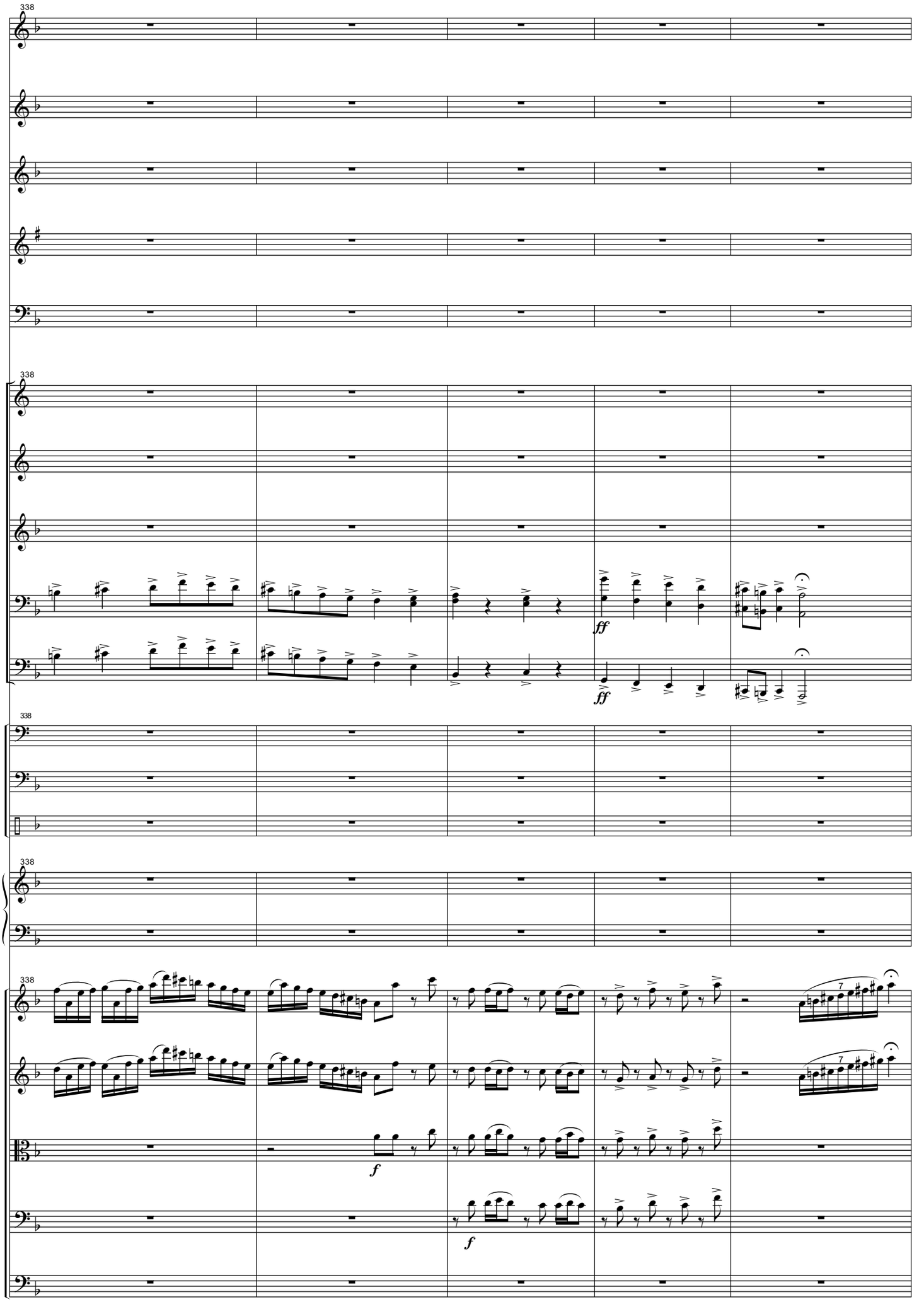
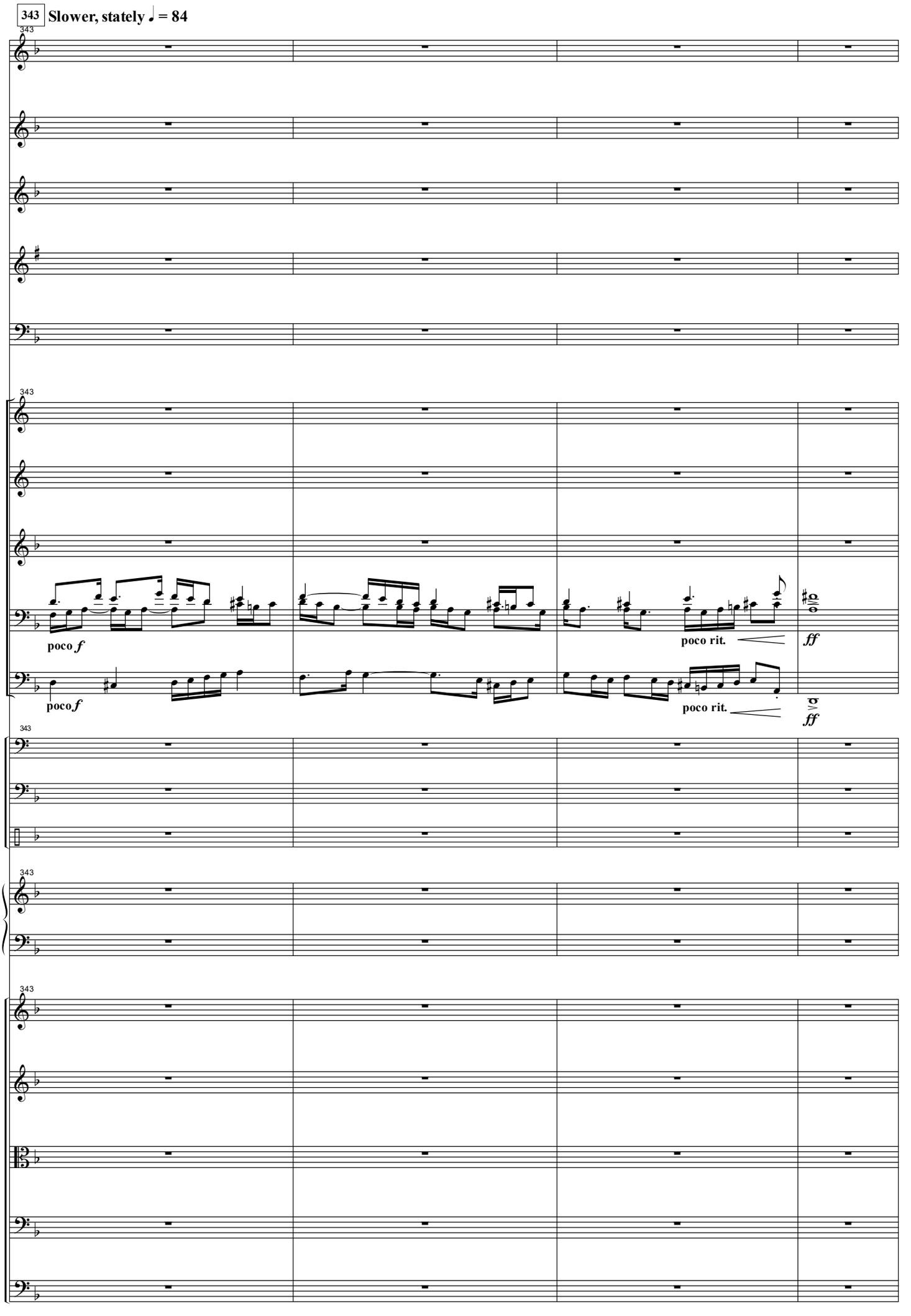
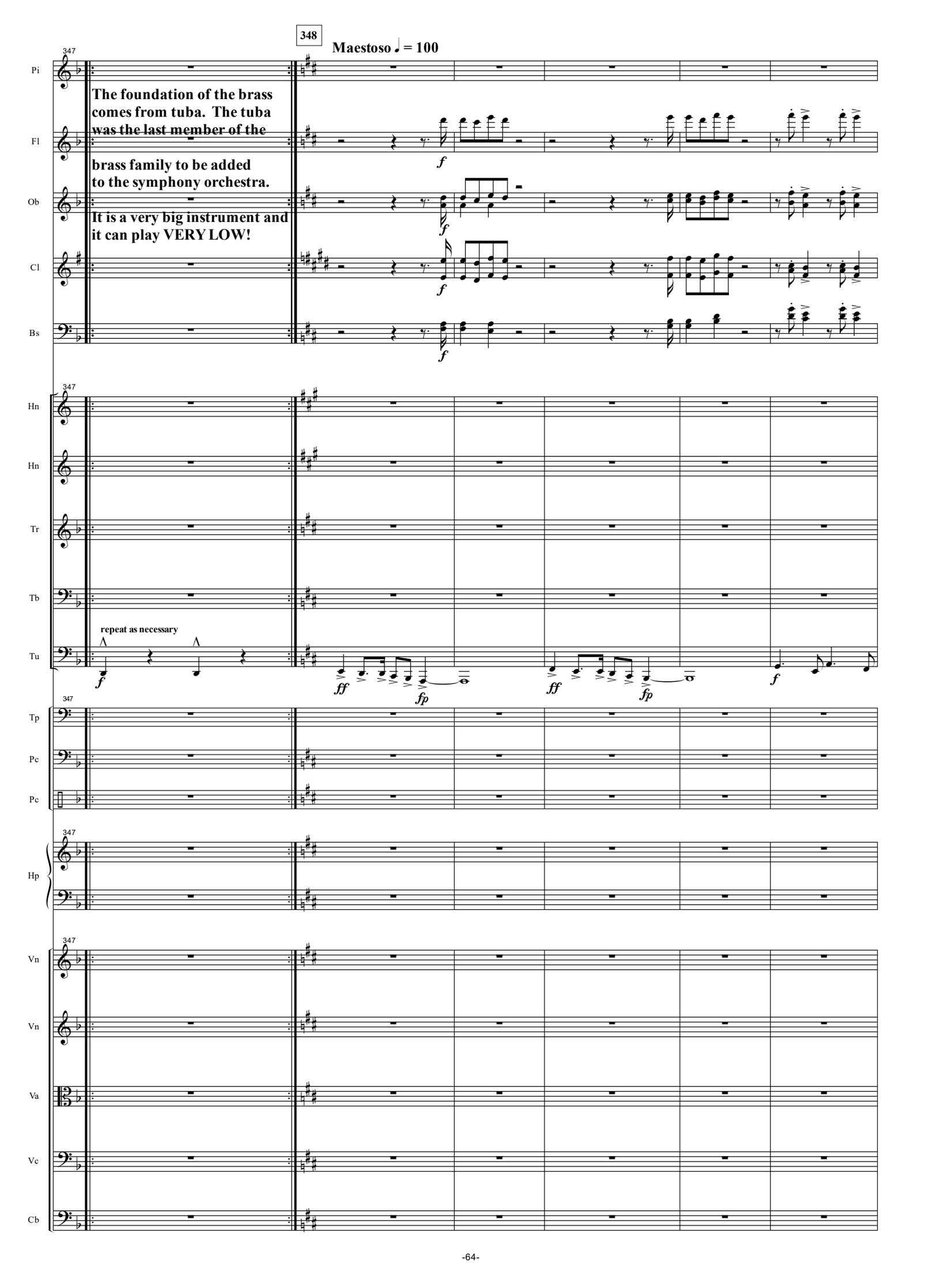
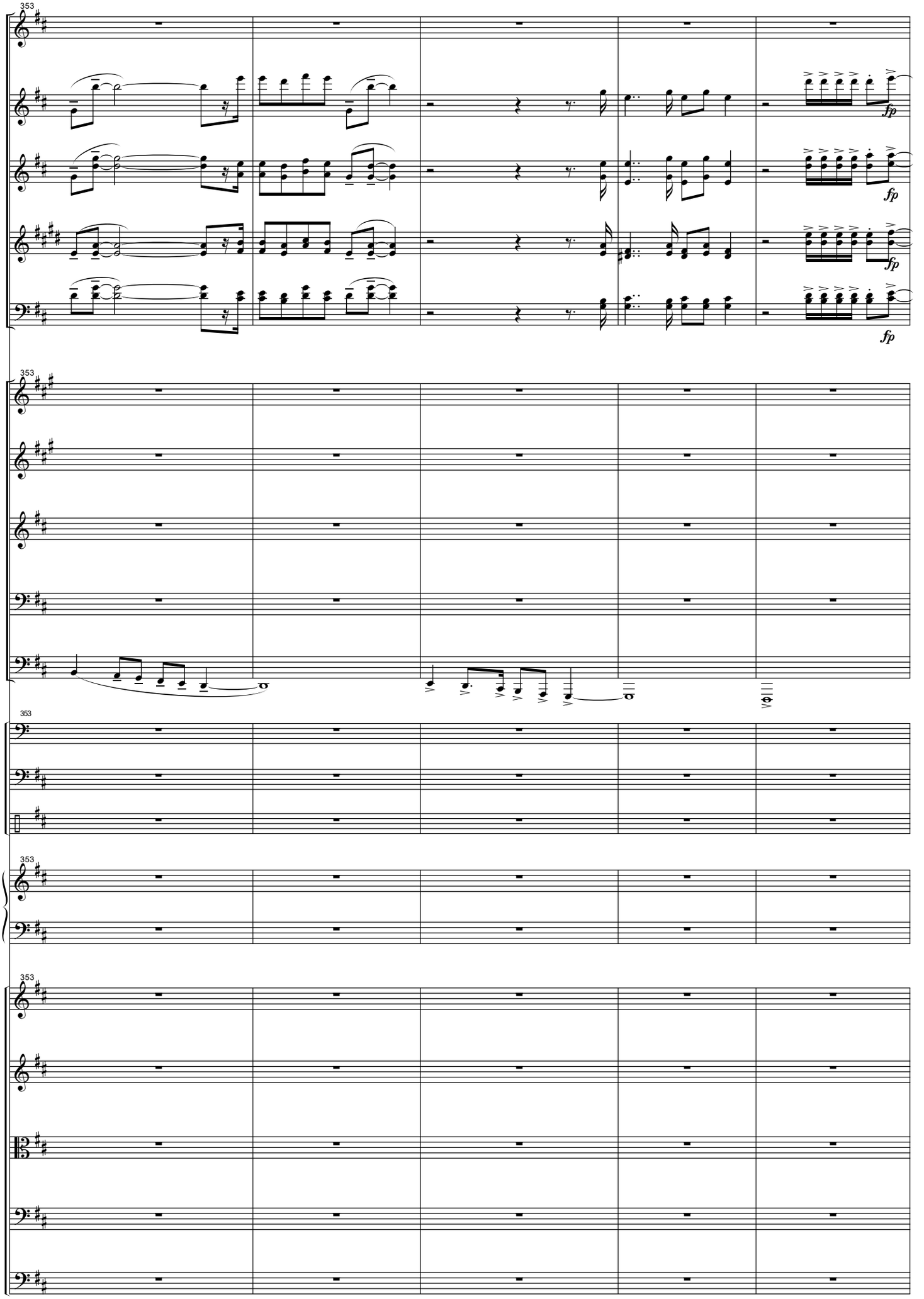
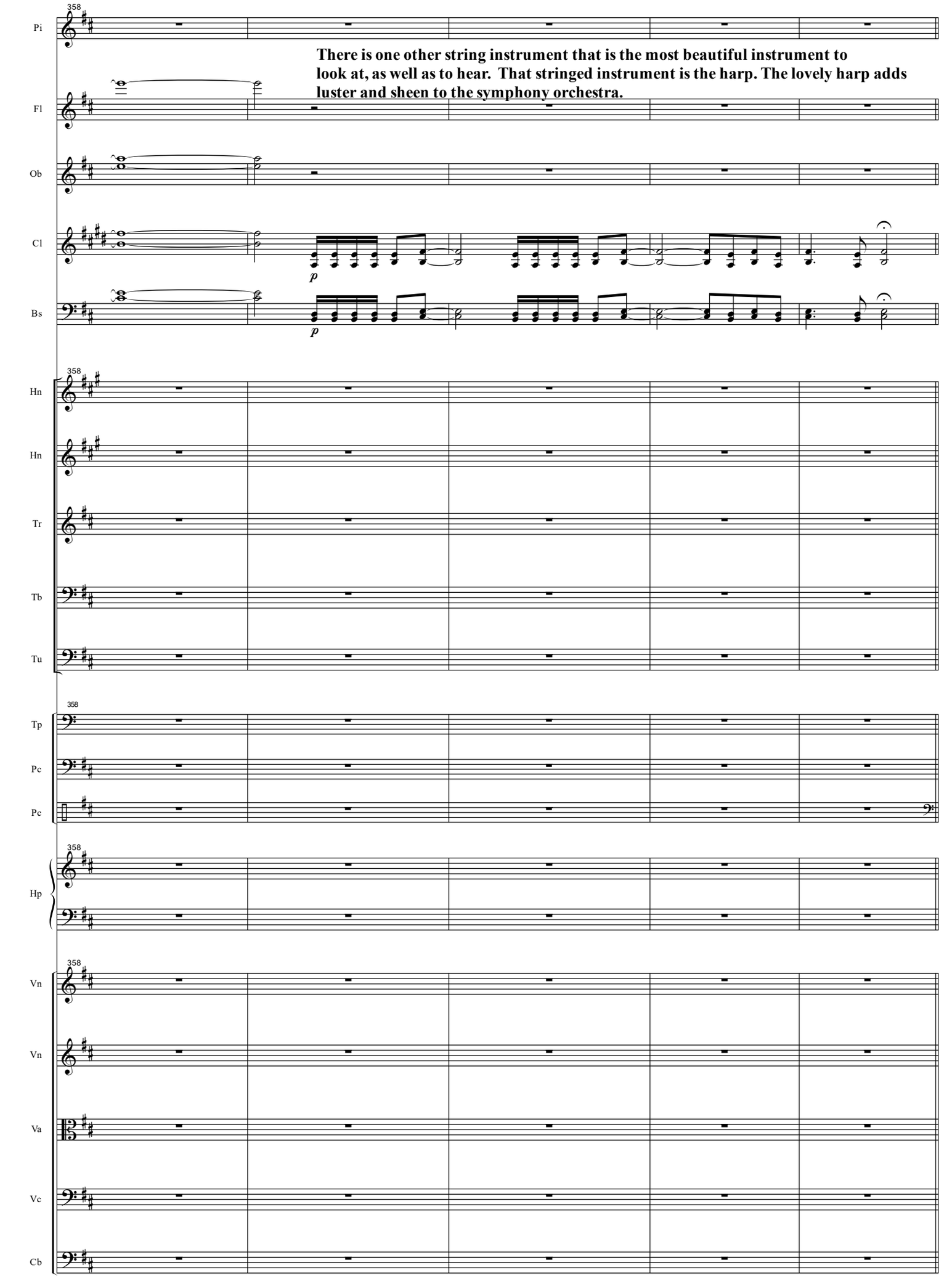
Hp

Vn

Vn

Va

Vc

Cb

318
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
ff
f
sfp
fp
tr

323
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
mf
f

The darkest sounds of the brass come from the trombones. They change notes by use of a slide. Listen to the powerful, rich and lower sounds of the trombone.

334
Moderato ♩ = 104
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
f
Tbn 3
f
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
Vn
Vn
f
f
Va
Vc
Cb

338
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
338
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
ff
ff
338
Tp
Pc
Pc
338
Hp
338
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
f
f
7
7

343
Slower, stately ♩ = 84
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
poco f
poco f
poco rit.
poco rit.
ff
ff
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb

348
Maestoso ♩ = 100
347
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
The foundation of the brass comes from tuba. The tuba was the last member of the brass family to be added to the symphony orchestra. It is a very big instrument and it can play VERY LOW!
repeat as necessary
f
ff
fp

353
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
fp
fp
fp
fp
353
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
353
Tp
Pc
Pc
353
Hp
353
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb

358
Pi
There is one other string instrument that is the most beautiful instrument to look at, as well as to hear. That stringed instrument is the harp. The lovely harp adds luster and sheen to the symphony orchestra.
Fl
Ob
Cl
p
Bs
p
358
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
358
Tp
Pc
Pc
358
Hp
358
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb

Andante cantabile ♩ = 88

363

Pi

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bs

363

Hn

Hn

Tr

Tb

Tu

363

Tp

Pc

Pc

363

ad.lib.

f

Hp

363

Vn

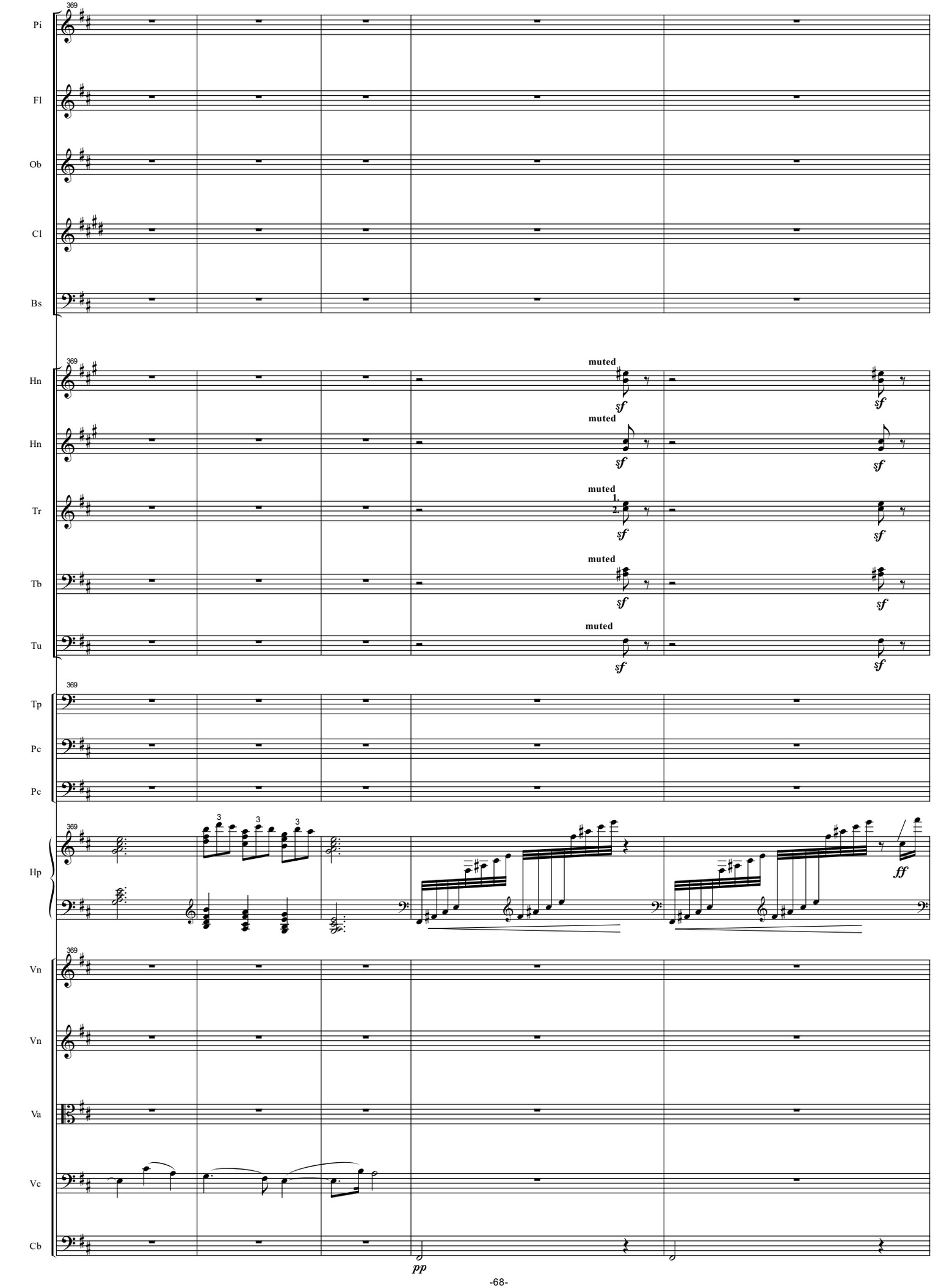
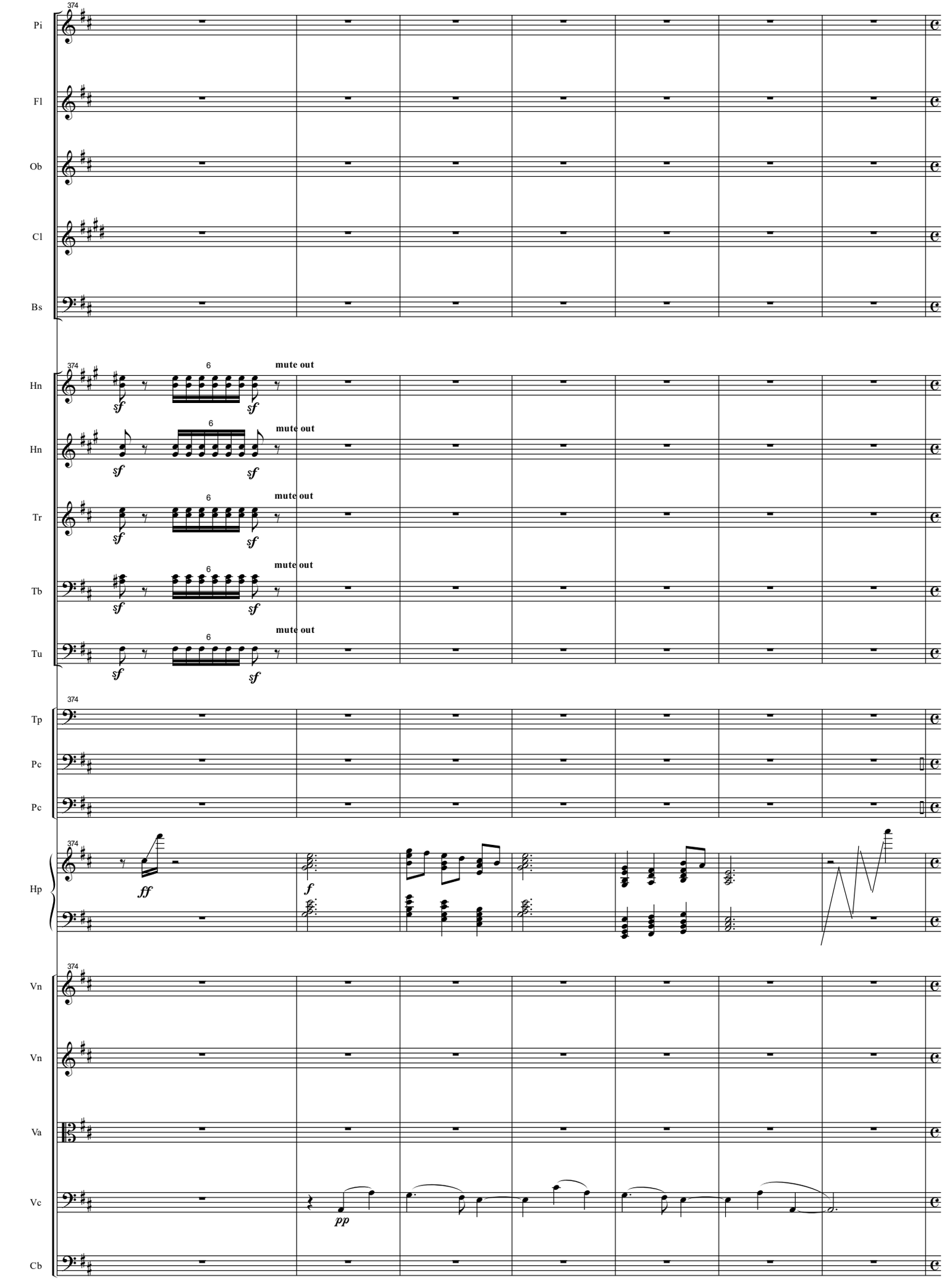
Vn

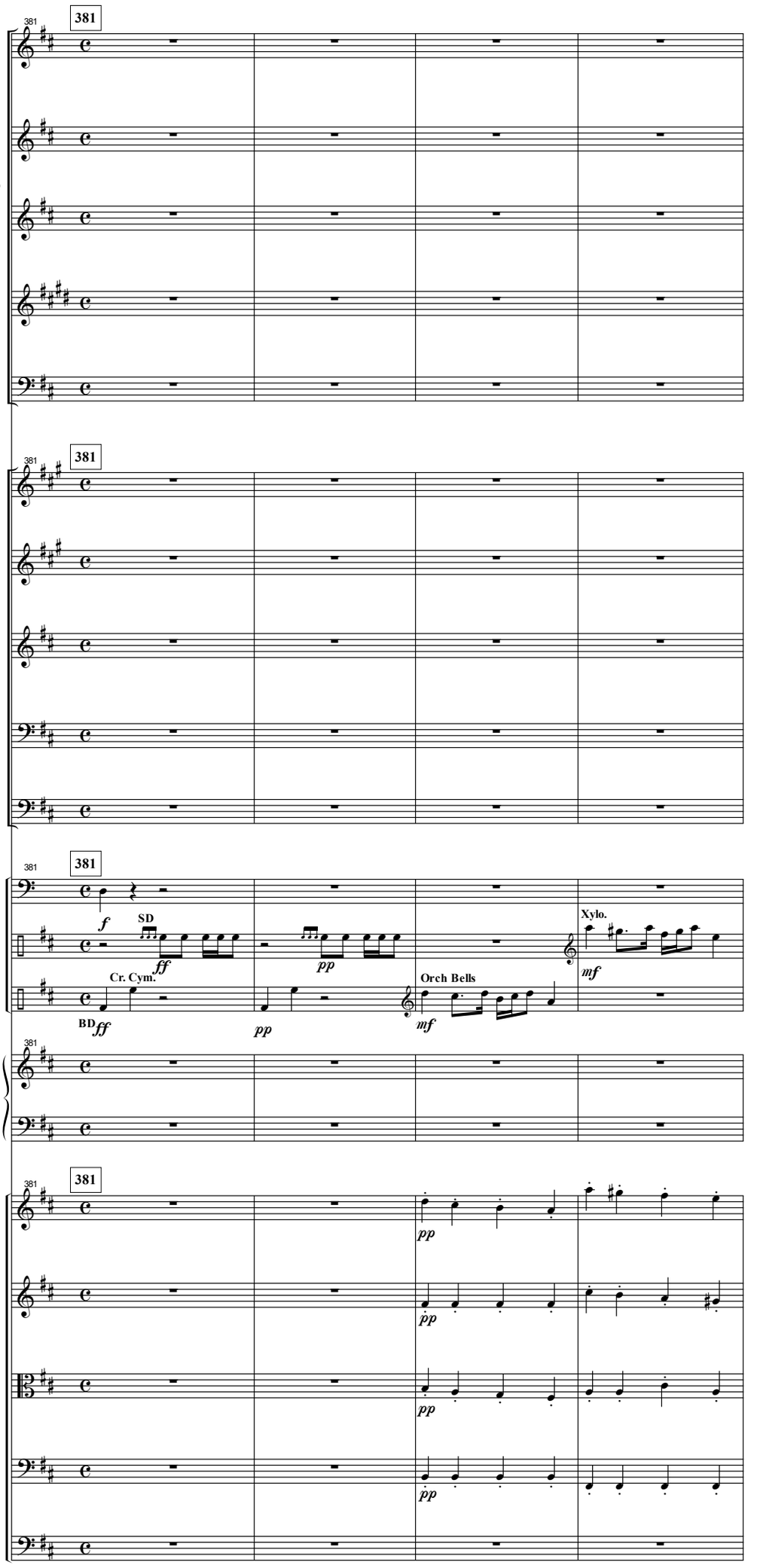
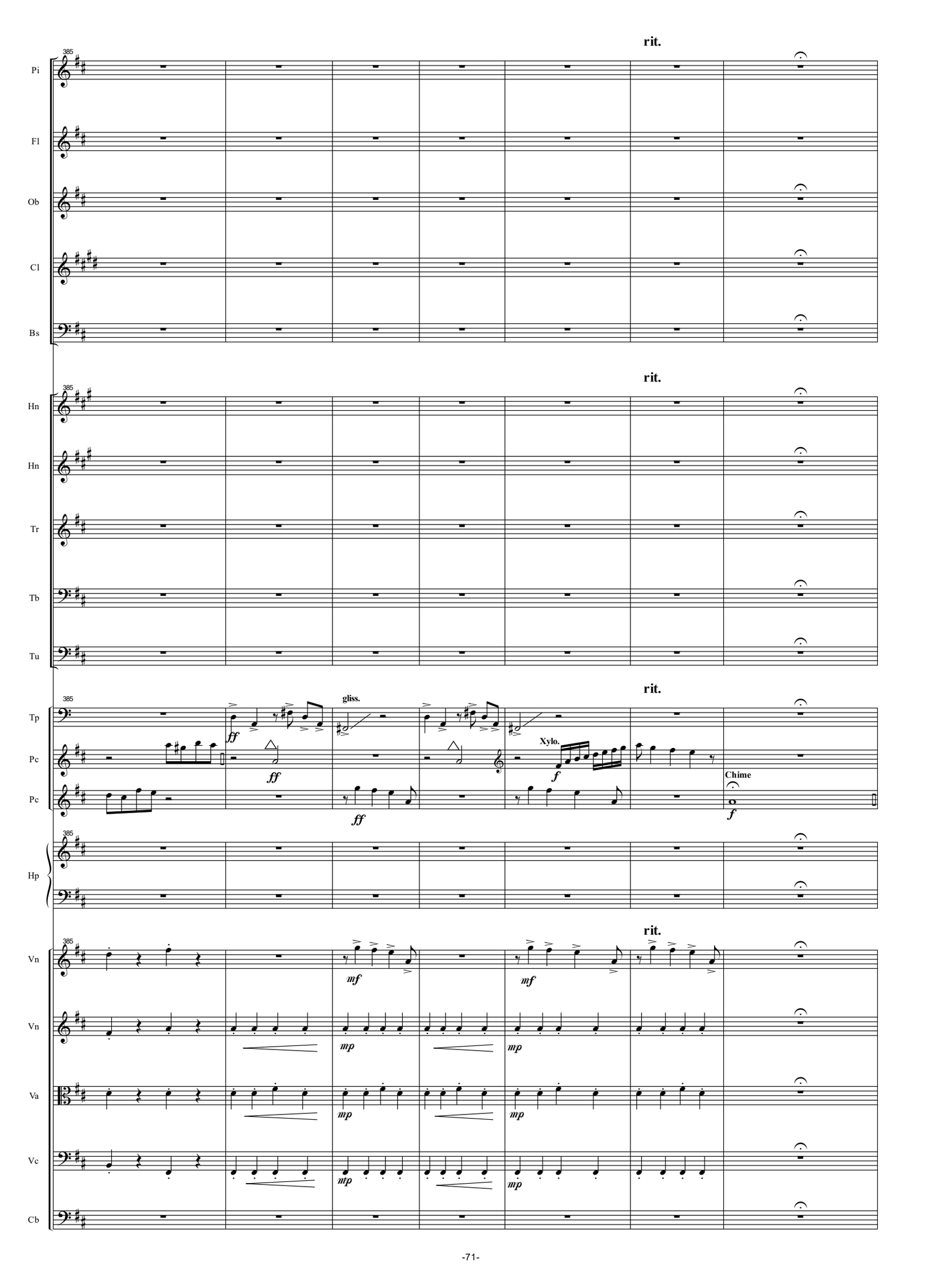
Va

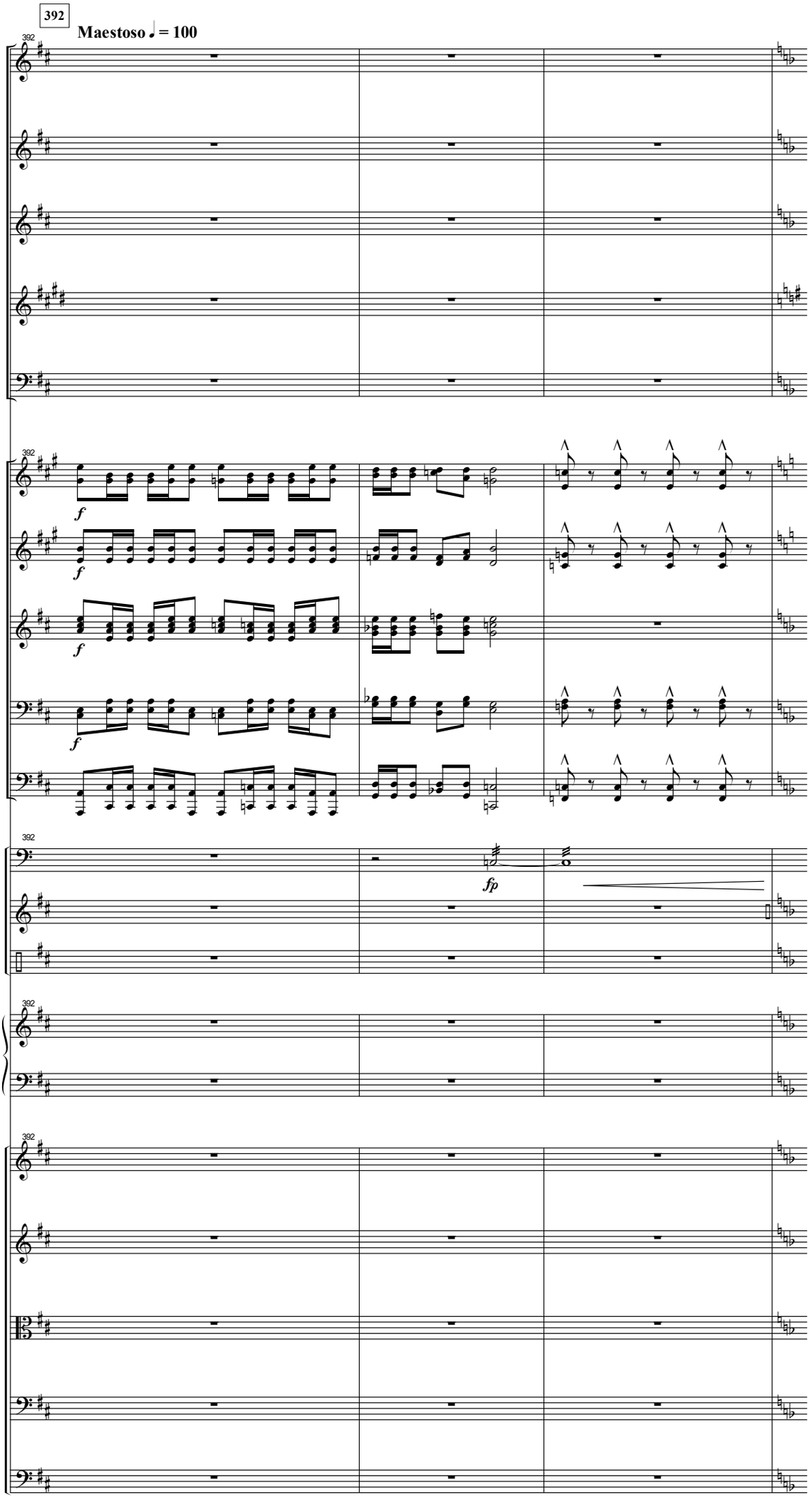
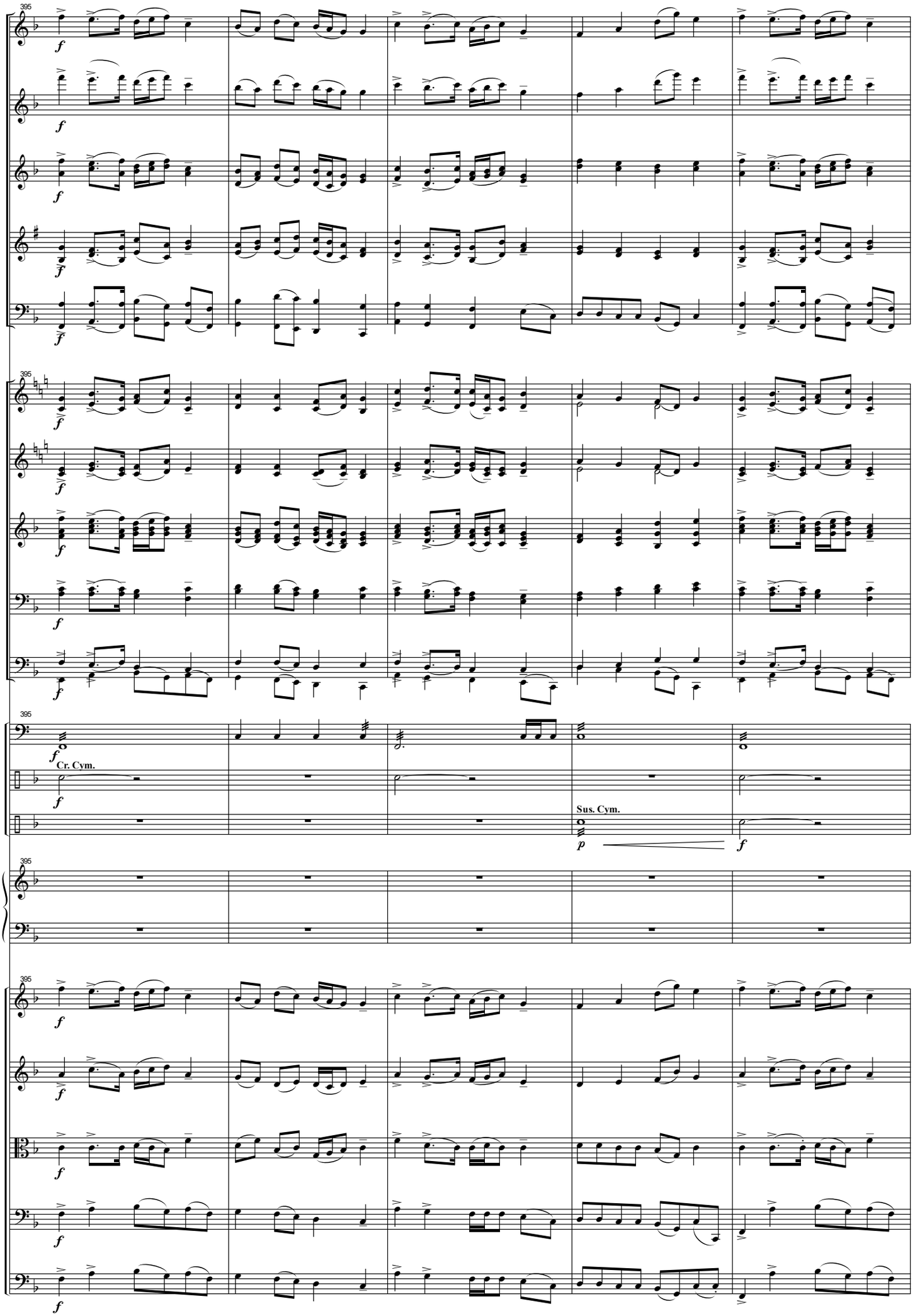
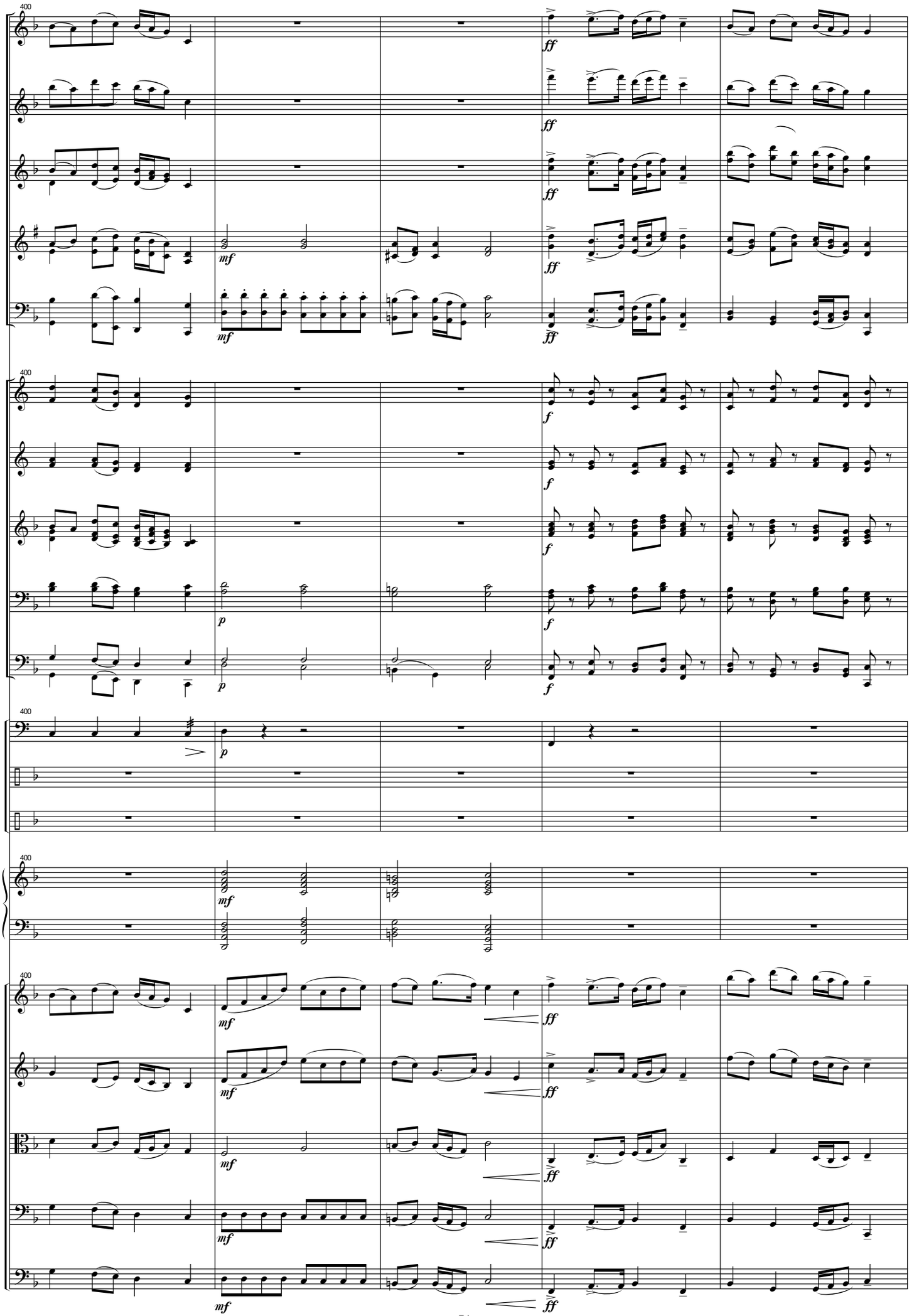
Vc

lyric

pp

Cb

369
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
muted
sf
1.
2.
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
3
ff
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
pp

374
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
mute out
Tp
Pc
Pc
Hp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb
sf
ff
f
pp

And then there is the percussion. Here we have a wide array of instruments, some of which play actual pitches and others simply make sounds. Percussion instruments include the timpani, cymbals, drums, chimes, bells, triangles, xylophones, and even a whip. Listen to these instruments that must be hit to create sounds.


rit.
385
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
rit.
385
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
rit.
385
Tp
Pc
Pc
gliss.
Xylo.
Chime
385
Hp
rit.
385
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb

Now we put them all together again, and create the magnificent sounds of the symphony orchestra.

395
Pi
Fl
Ob
Cl
Bs
Hn
Hn
Tr
Tb
Tu
Tp
Pc
Pc
Cr. Cym.
Sus. Cym.
Hp
Vn
Vn
Va
Vc
Cb

400
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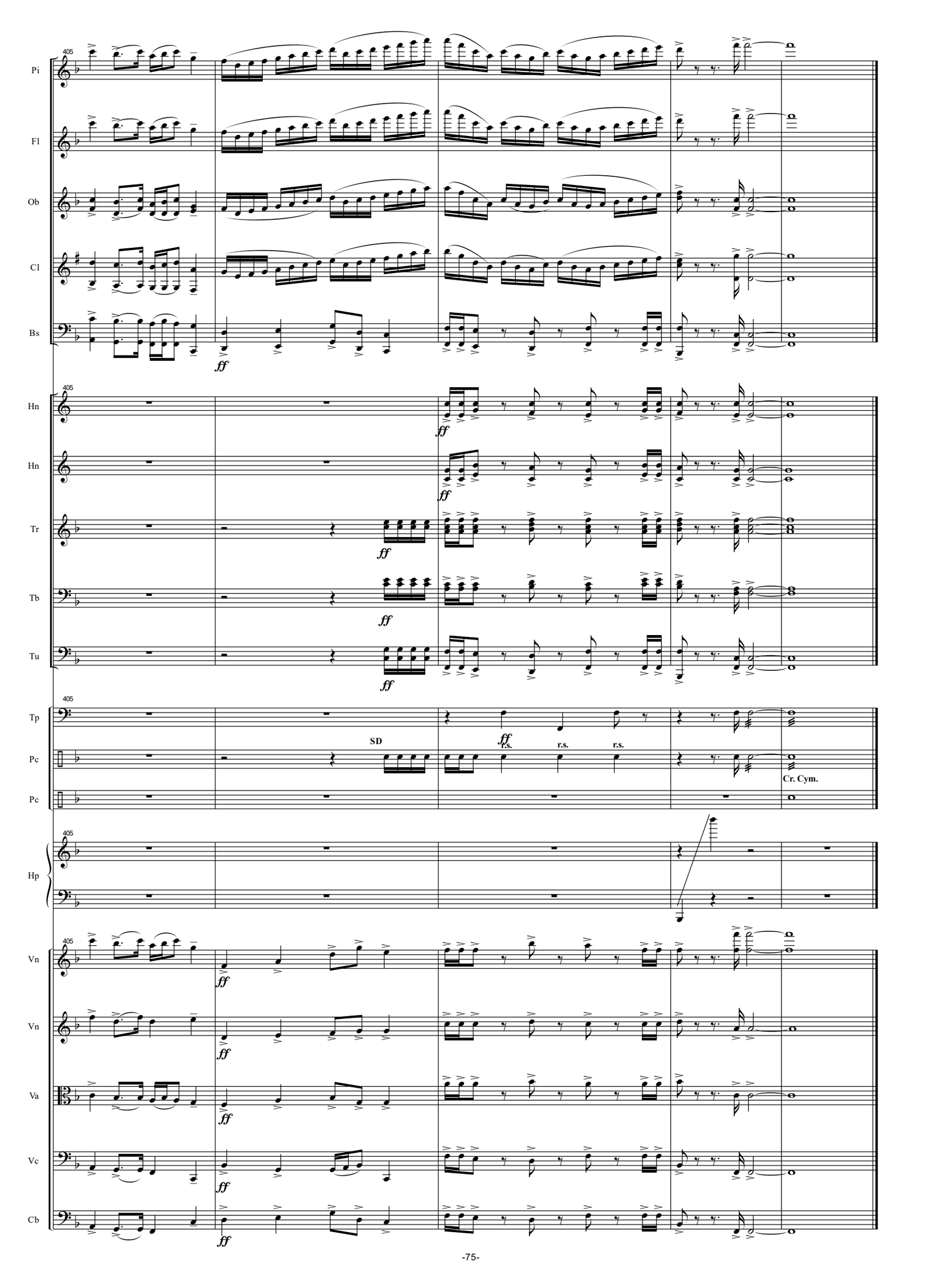
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