Greg Sandow

Symphony

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duration c. 13 minutes

for Delta David Gier and the South Dakota Symphony

with thanks to Scott Lawrence

I	Adagio-Allegro	1
II	Ballad	23
III	Scherzo (Palindrome)	46
IV	Finale	54

Instrumentation

2 oboes

2 horns in F

bassoon

solo string quartet

strings

The players in solo string quartet should be concertante soloists, playing the main string parts when they don't have solo lines.

Ideally — and especially because of the divisi passages in the second movement — I'd love to have six first violins and six seconds, including (if necessary) the soloists. But (again because of those divisi passages) four of each should be the minimum, along with four violas and three cellos (once more including the soloists). Four cellos might be better, though, to give the bass line in the second movement the proper heft. A single bass should be enough, but if there's more than one, the part at rehearsal 13 in the last movement might be played as a solo, with the full section resuming in the bar just before rehearsal 14.

Unslurred notes, in my music, should always be sustained. Even repeated unslurred notes should never be played detached, unless they're marked that way. In a few crucial places, I've marked repeated notes "sustained," but only as a reminder. Similar places without that marking should be played the same way. Note, though, that in the last movement, the repeated unslurred notes in the strings should be rhythmic, as well as sustained.

NOTES

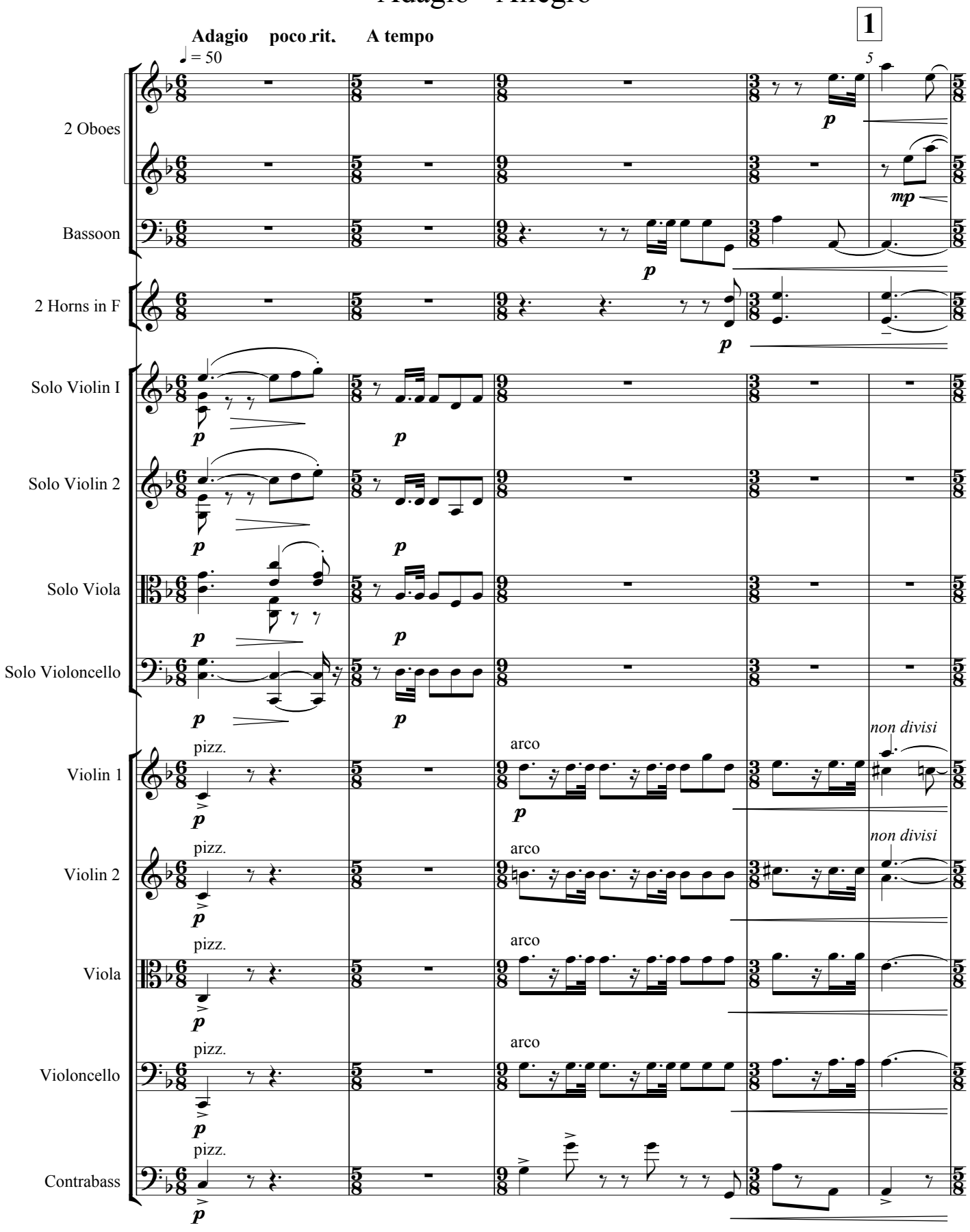
In our time, a symphony would be a large piece, full of striving and important thoughts. But this symphony isn't like that. It returns to the 18th century notion of a symphony, which was that symphonies — think of Haydn writing them at the Esterhazy summer palace — were entertainment. So I've used what I hope will be comfortable musical materials, including more than a trace of pop.

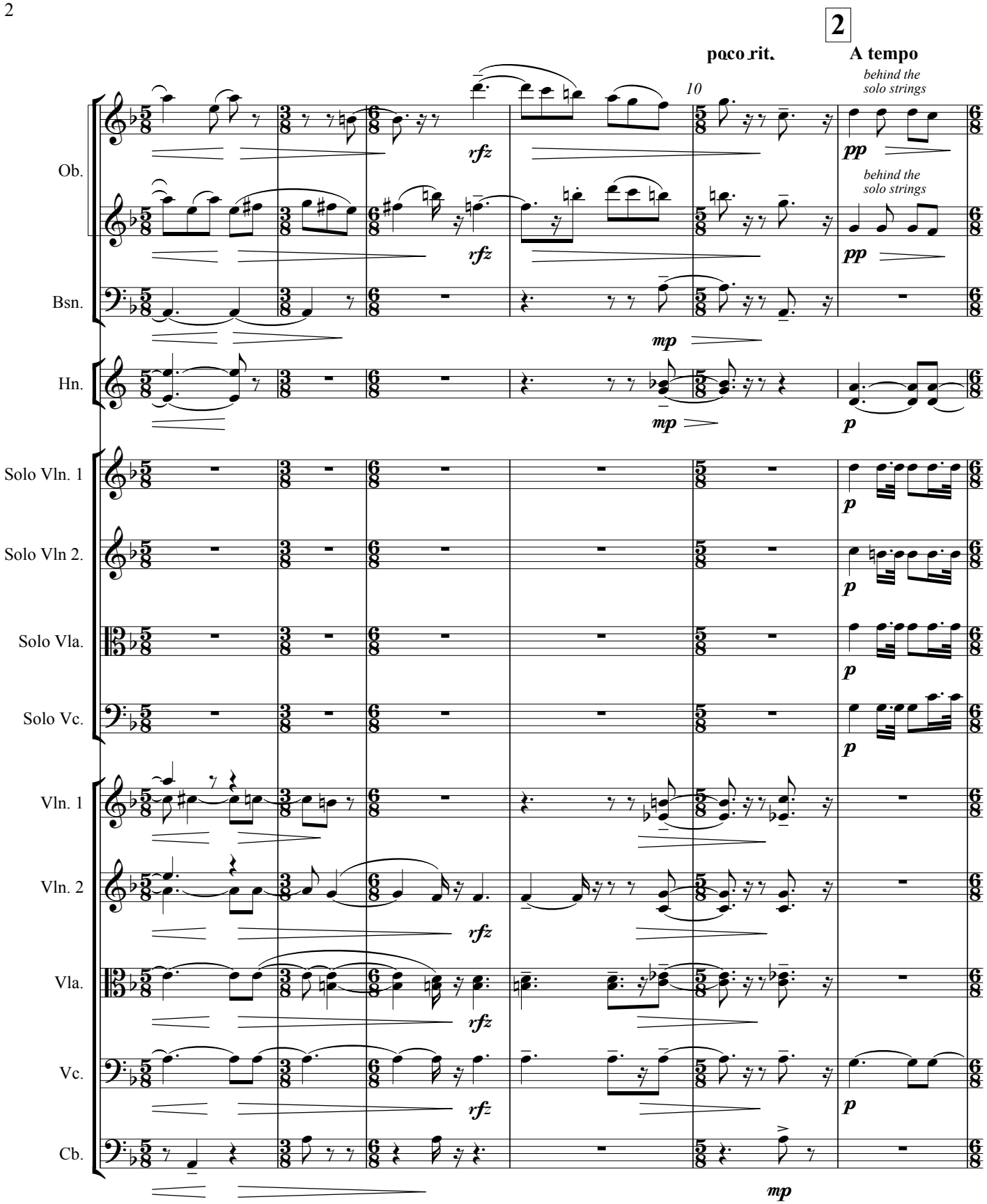
I've also played with Haydn's forms. The first movement is sonata form, of a sort (in which the recapitulation unorthodoxly functions as a coda). Note the quiet fanfares at the start. I was thinking of movie fanfares, like the ones at the start of films from 20th Century Fox. The second movement, true to 18th century practice, is relaxed and lyrical, though musically it's a doowop ballad, or maybe a lounge music version of one, which means it also glances back to the 1950s.

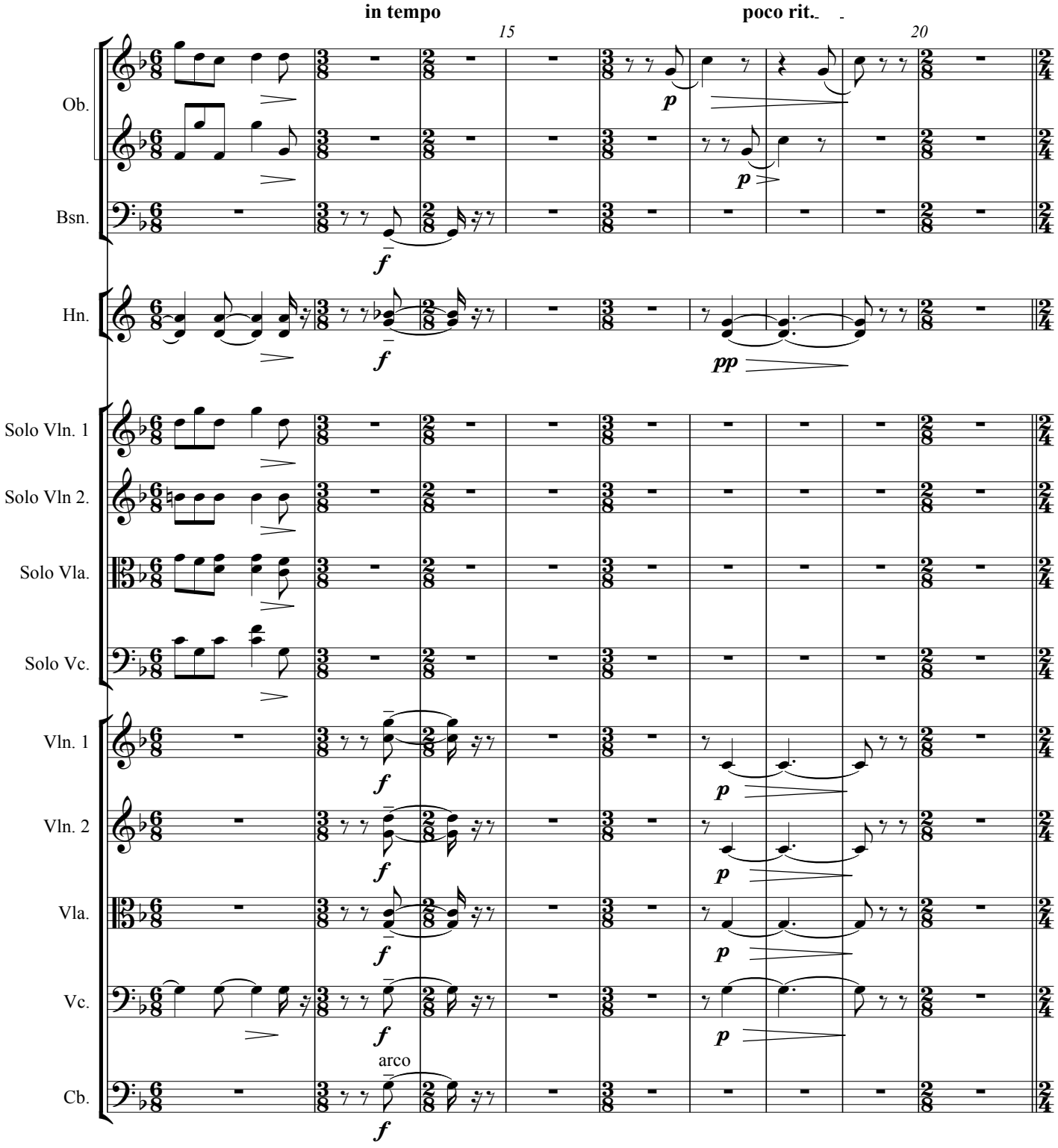
The third movement, a scherzo, again follows 18th century practice because the trio is unabashed ear candy. (Listen to the symphonies of Antonio Rosetti, 1750-1792, for some delightfully unabashed examples.) There's also a little composer's entertainment: In the middle of the trio, the music starts to play backwards, so the repeat of the scherzo, when it comes, is the exact retrograde of what was heard at the beginning.

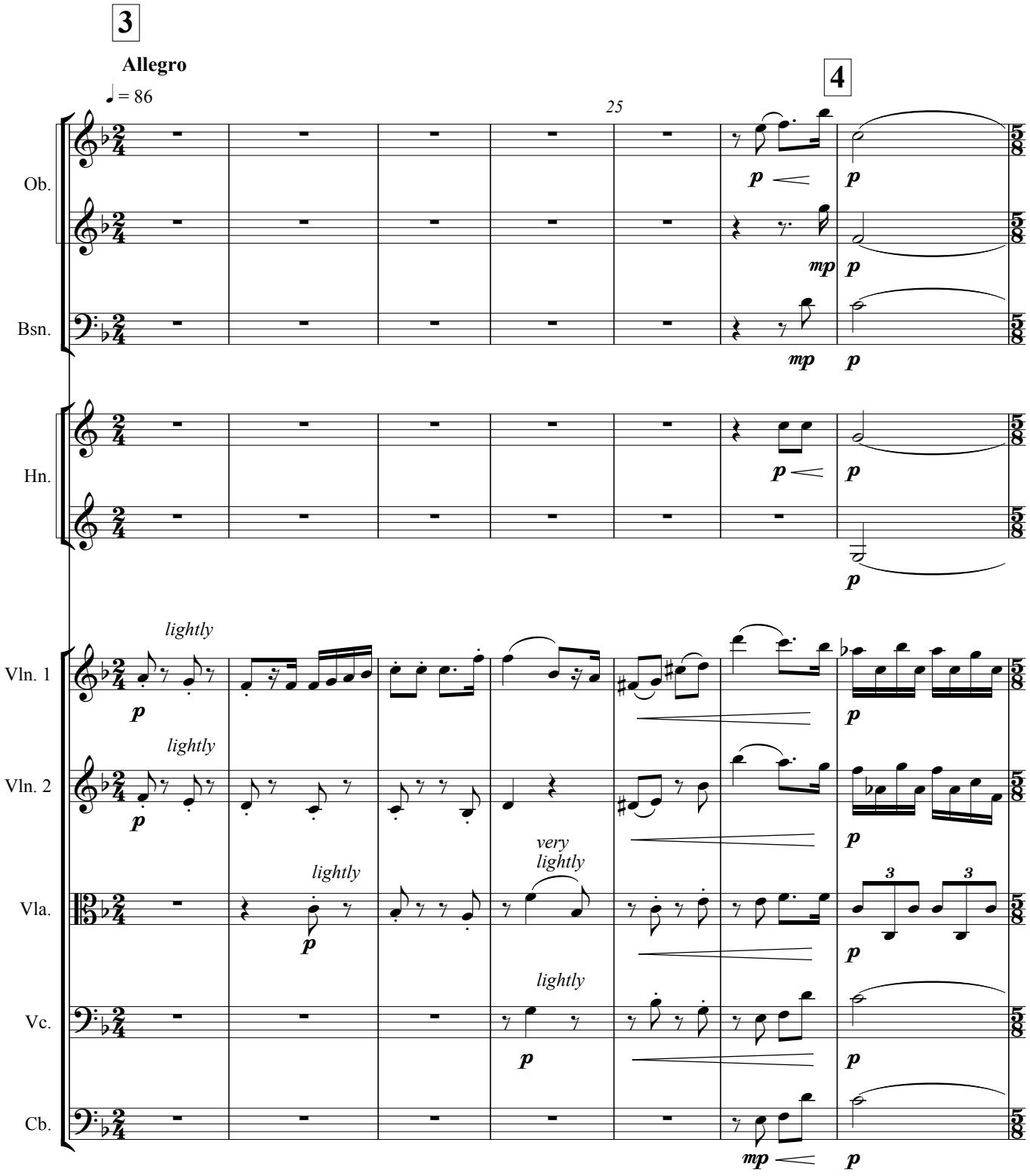
The finale (also in sonata form, of a sort) is a romp, though it's also the most intricately scored of all the movements. And really (as the game in the third movement helps to demonstrate) the whole symphony is intricate. Don't be fooled because I call it entertainment. It's full of compositional stuff; even the second movement, my loving tribute to the '50s, lavishes three separate melodies over its simple pop-song form, all of them equipped with counterpoints. Not that this is any guarantee of quality. But for better or worse, I've written a dense little piece, and one reason it ended up so short, I think, is that there's quite a lot going on.

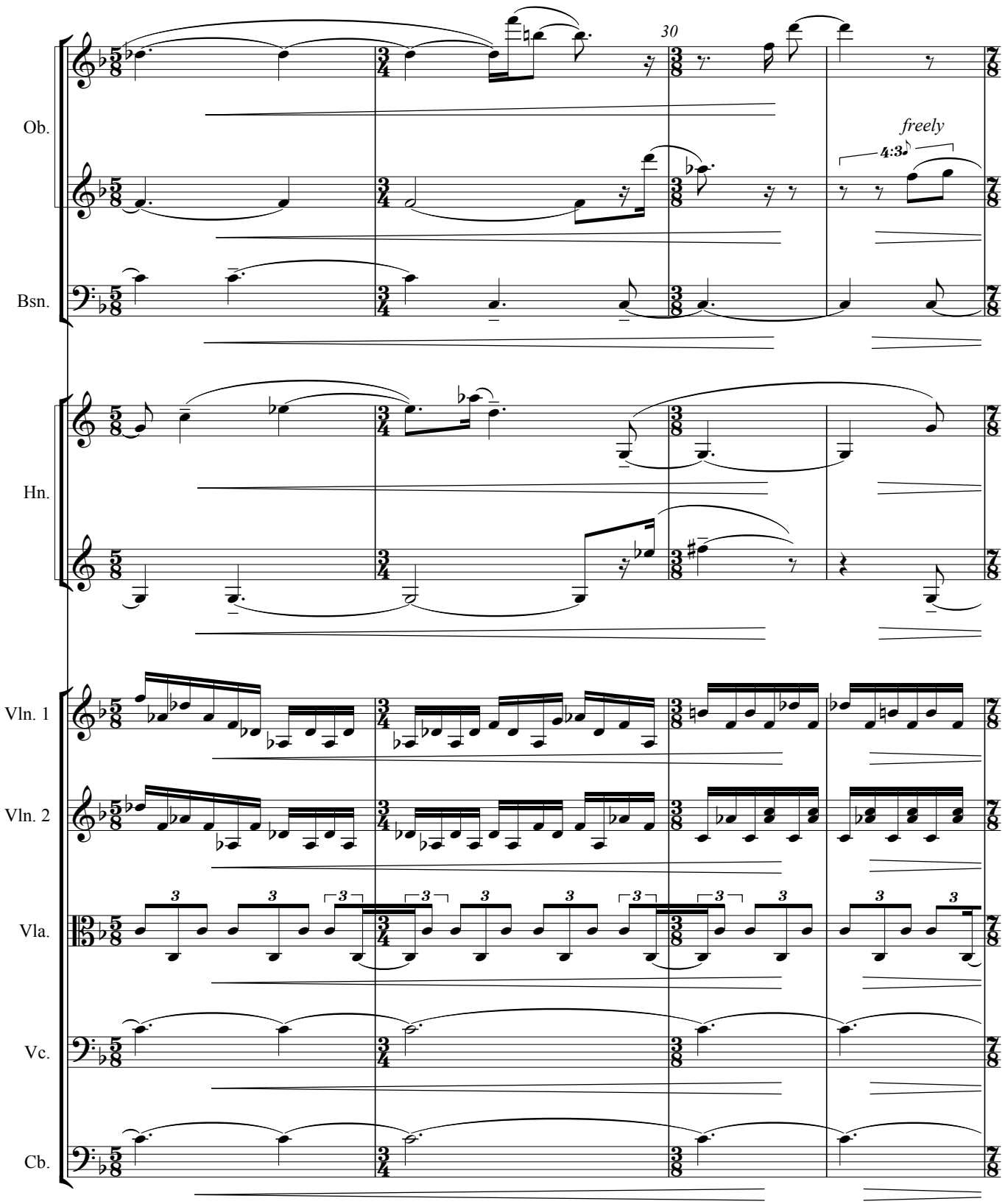
I
Adagio - Allegro

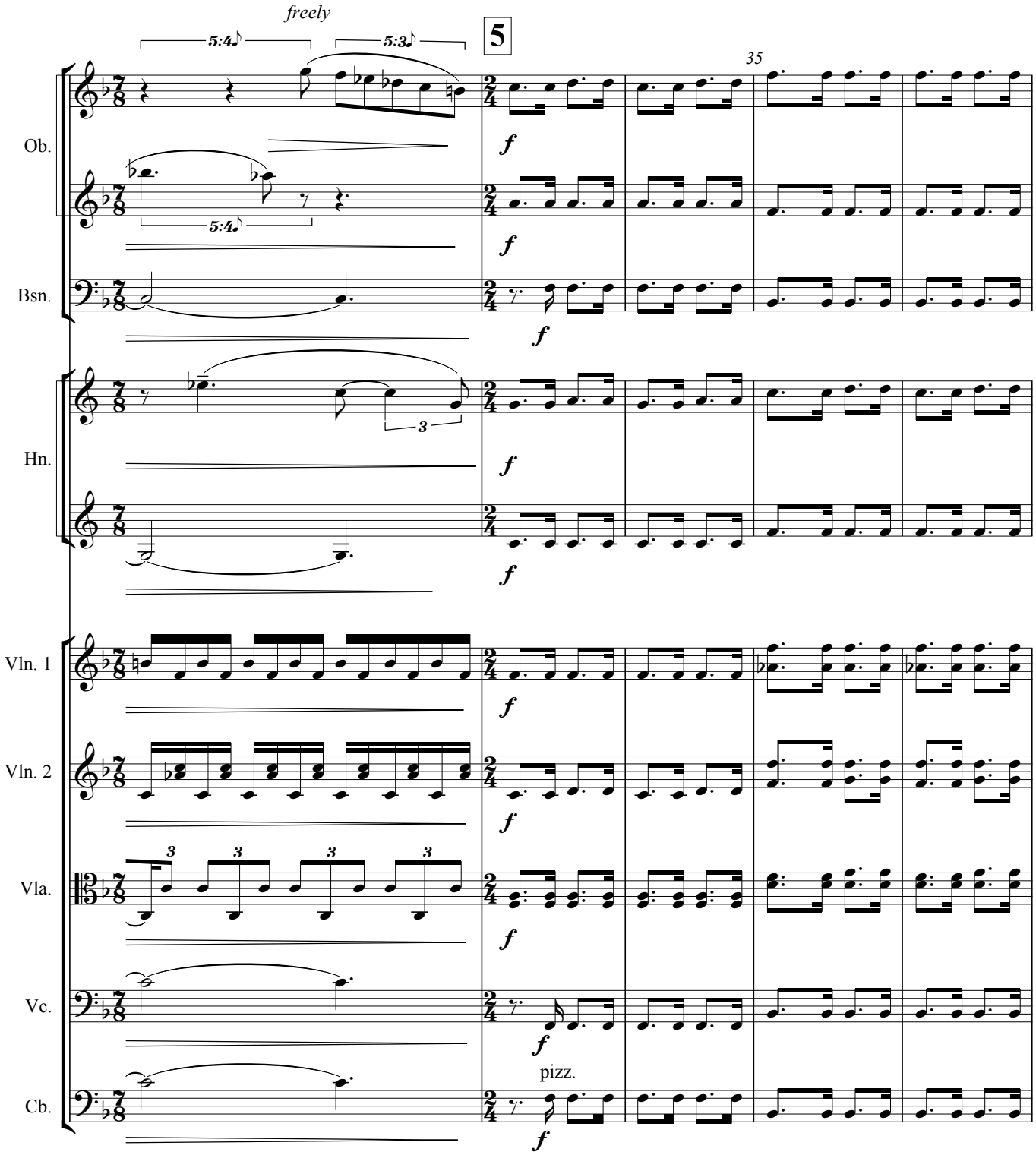


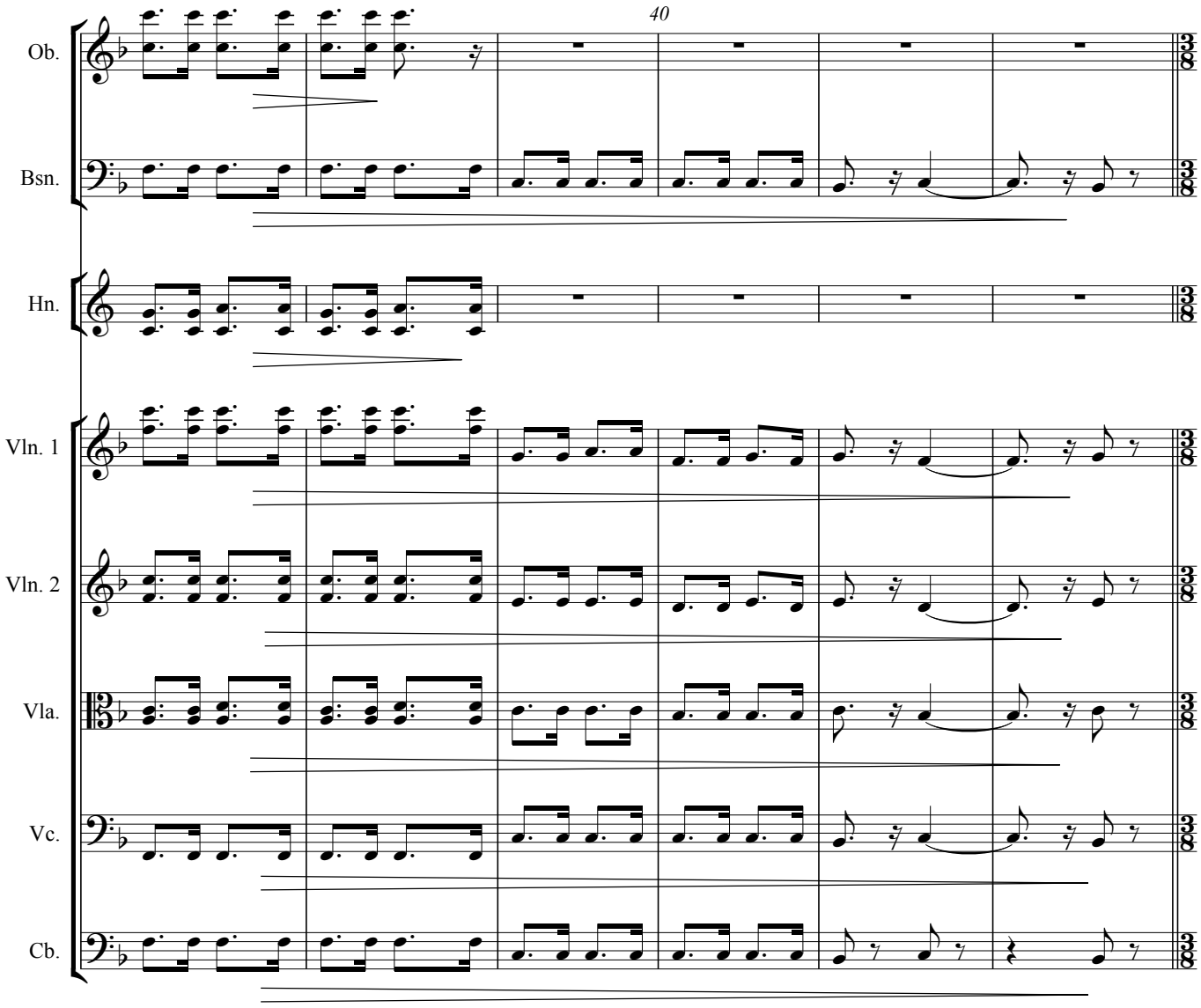

2
poco rit.
A tempo
10
behind the solo strings
behind the solo strings
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2.
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
rfz
pp
mp
p

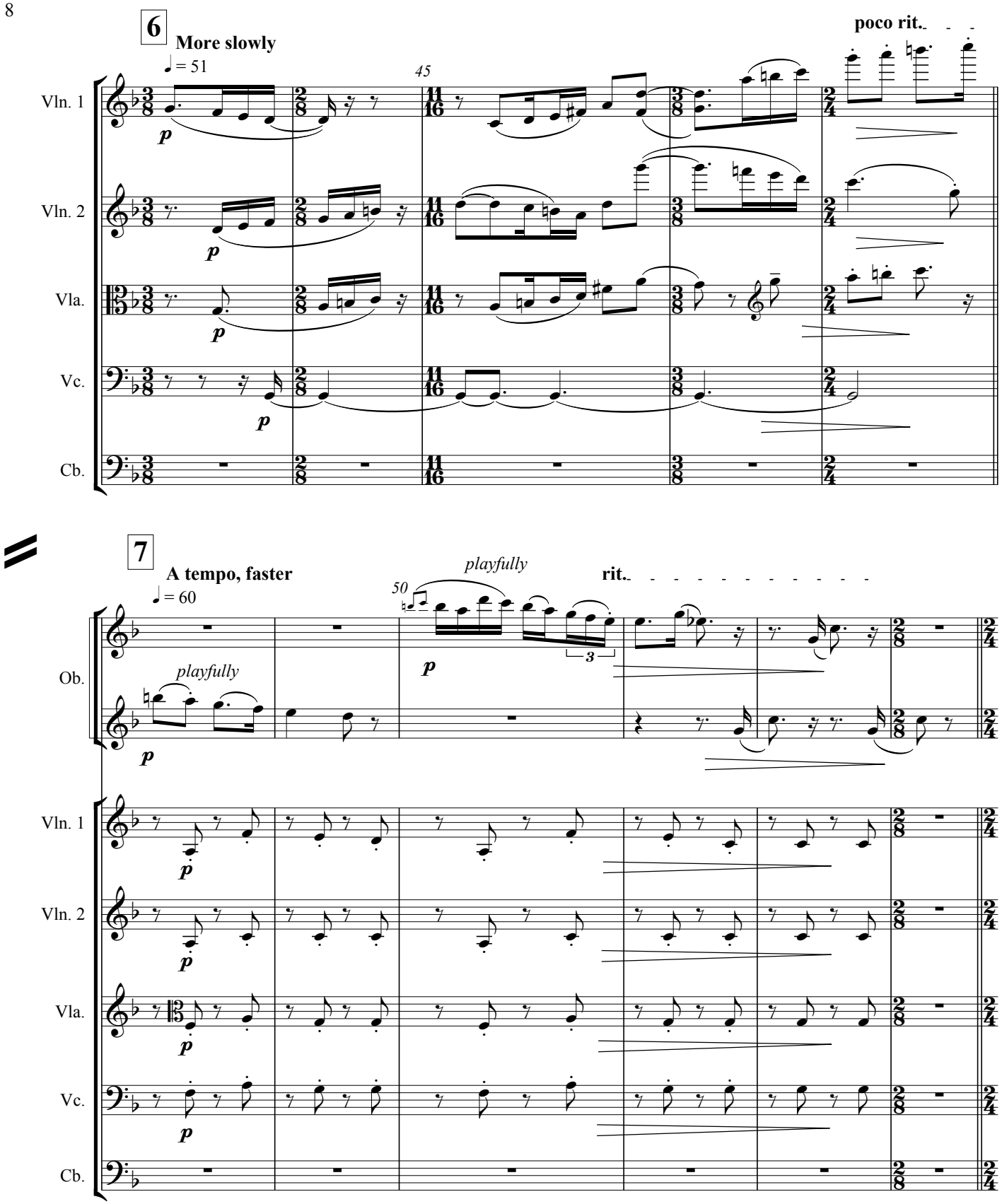

in tempo
poco rit.
15
20
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2.
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
arco

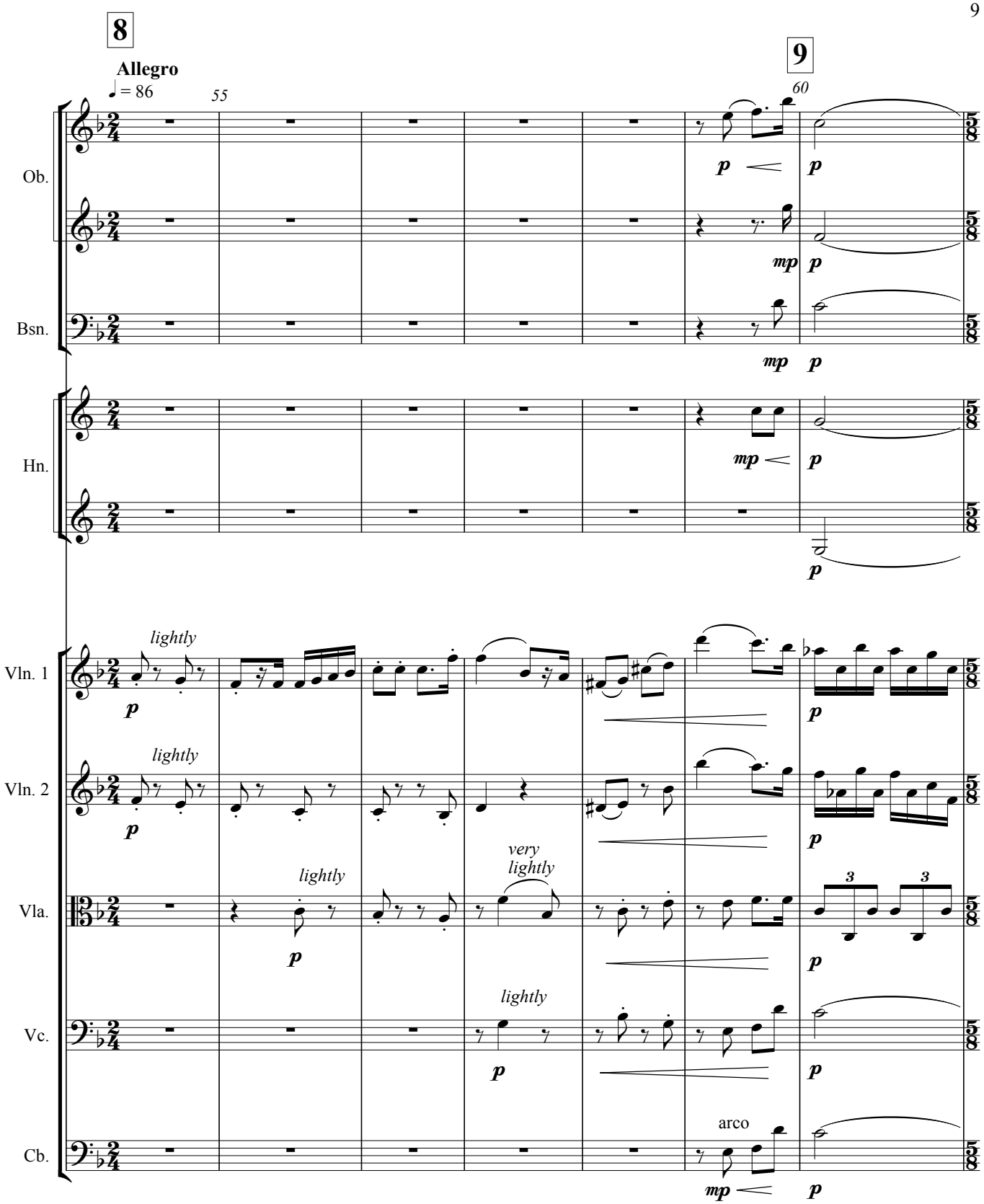

3
Allegro
♩ = 86
25
4
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
lightly
very lightly
p
mp
3

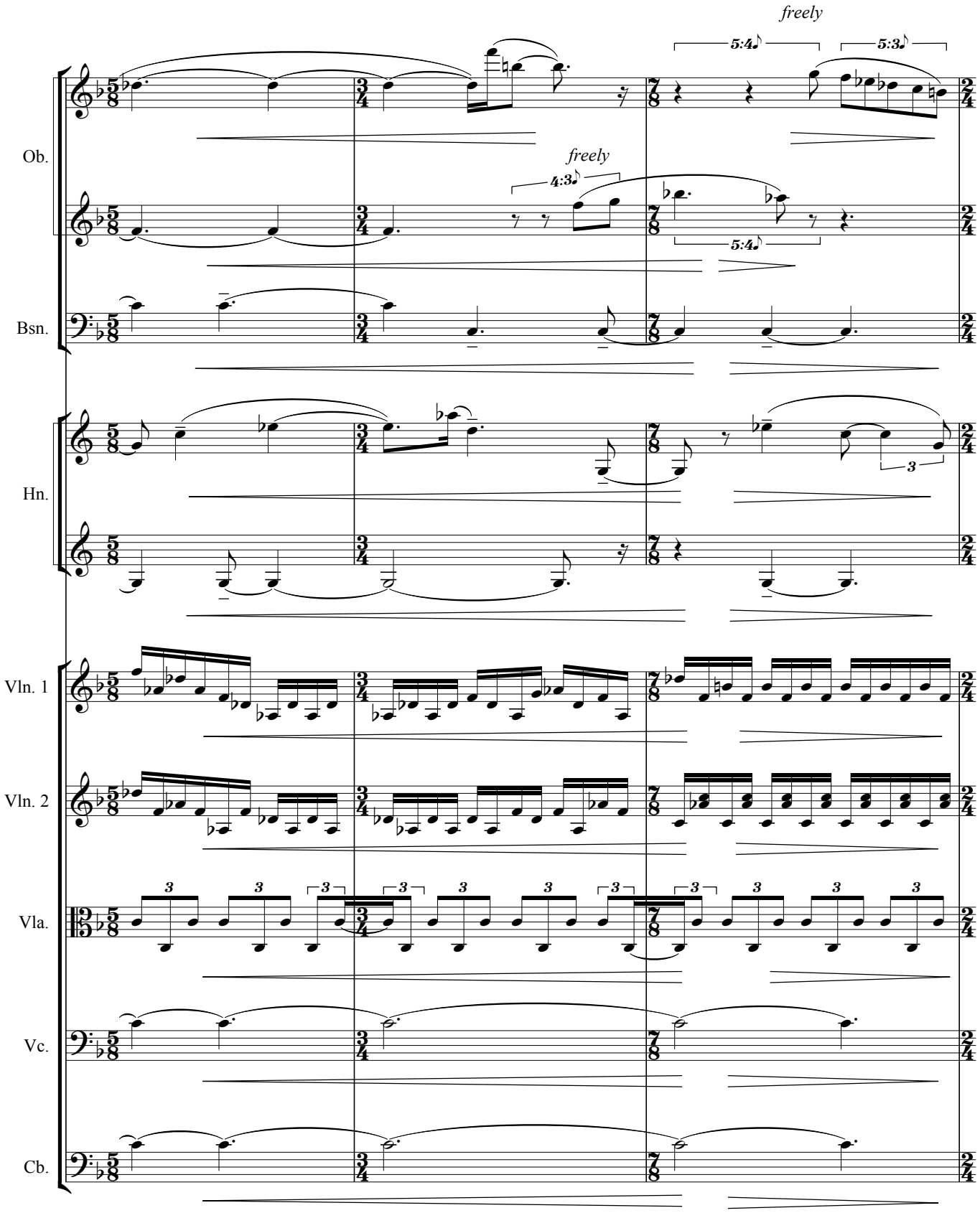

30
freely
4:3
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

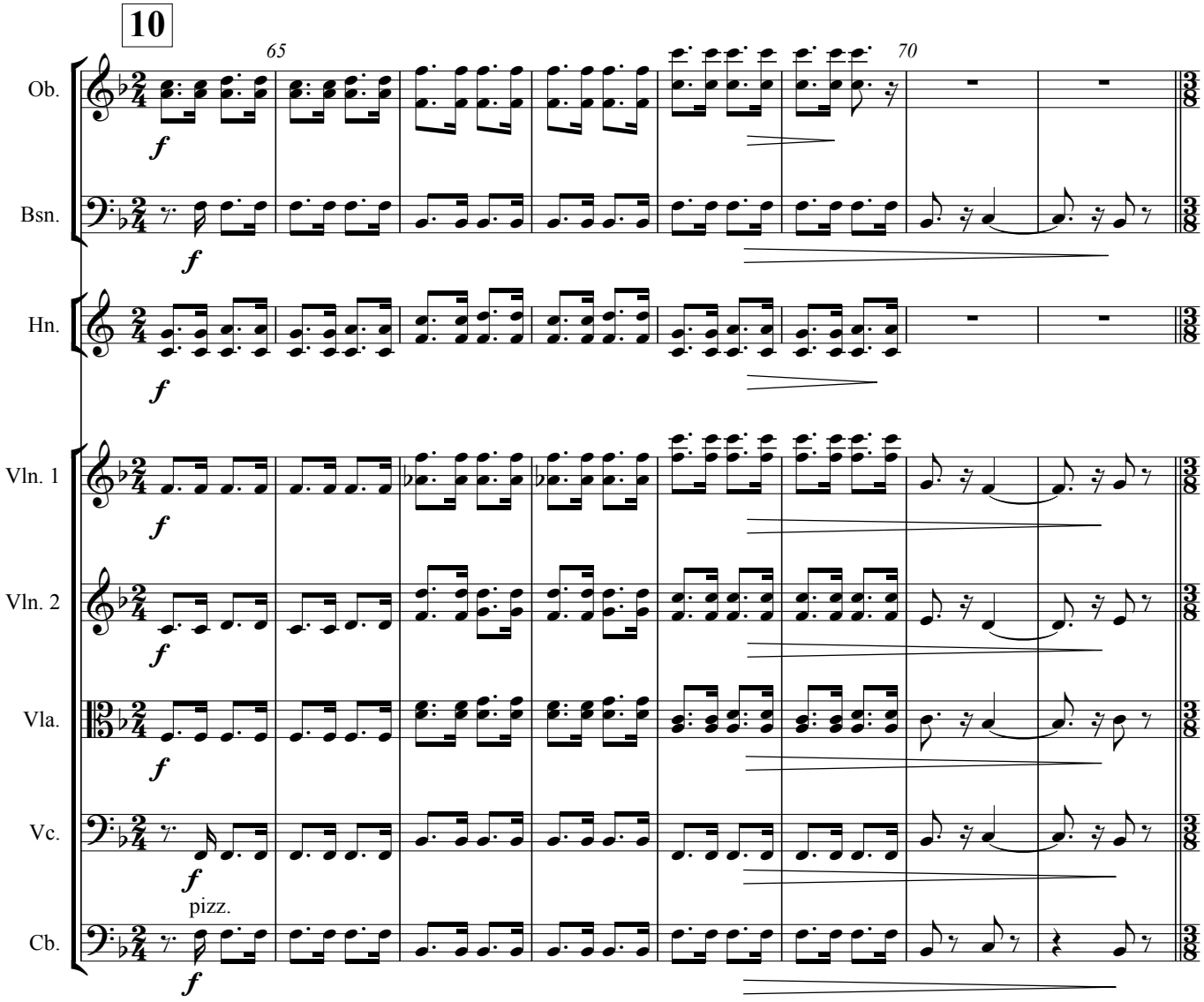

freely
5:4
5:3
5
35
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pizz.

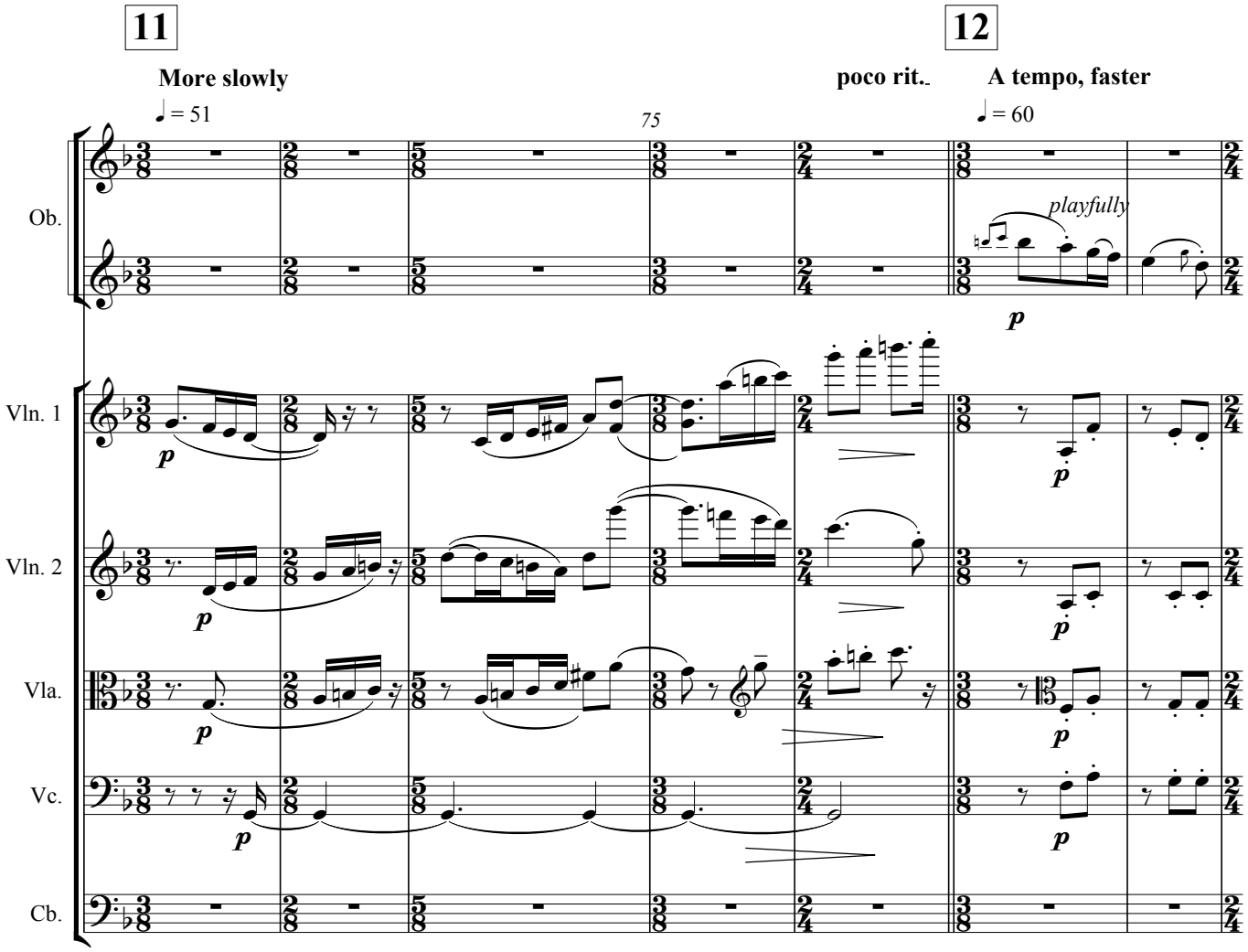

40
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

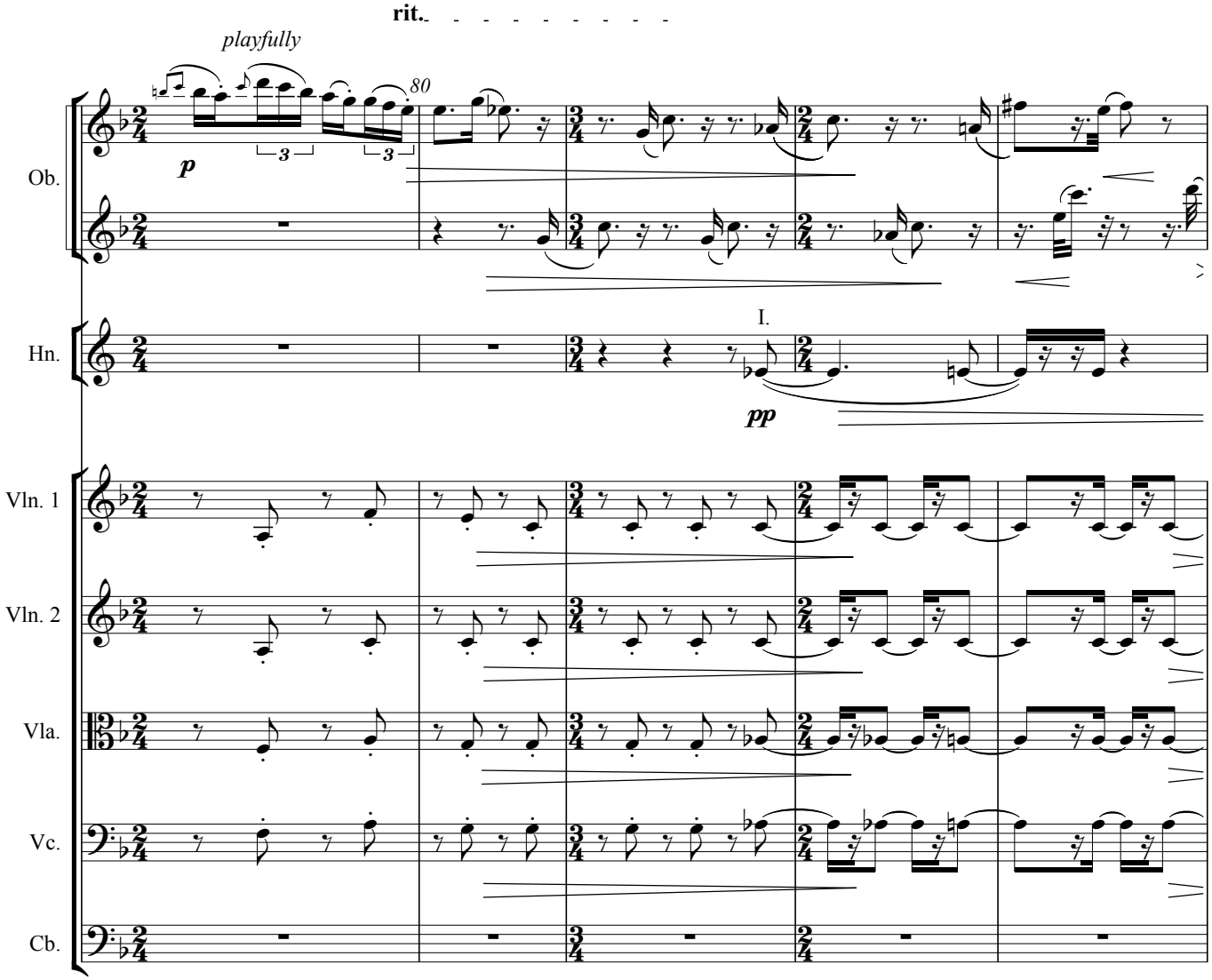

6
More slowly
♩ = 51
45
poco rit.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p
7
A tempo, faster
♩ = 60
50
playfully
rit.
Ob.
3

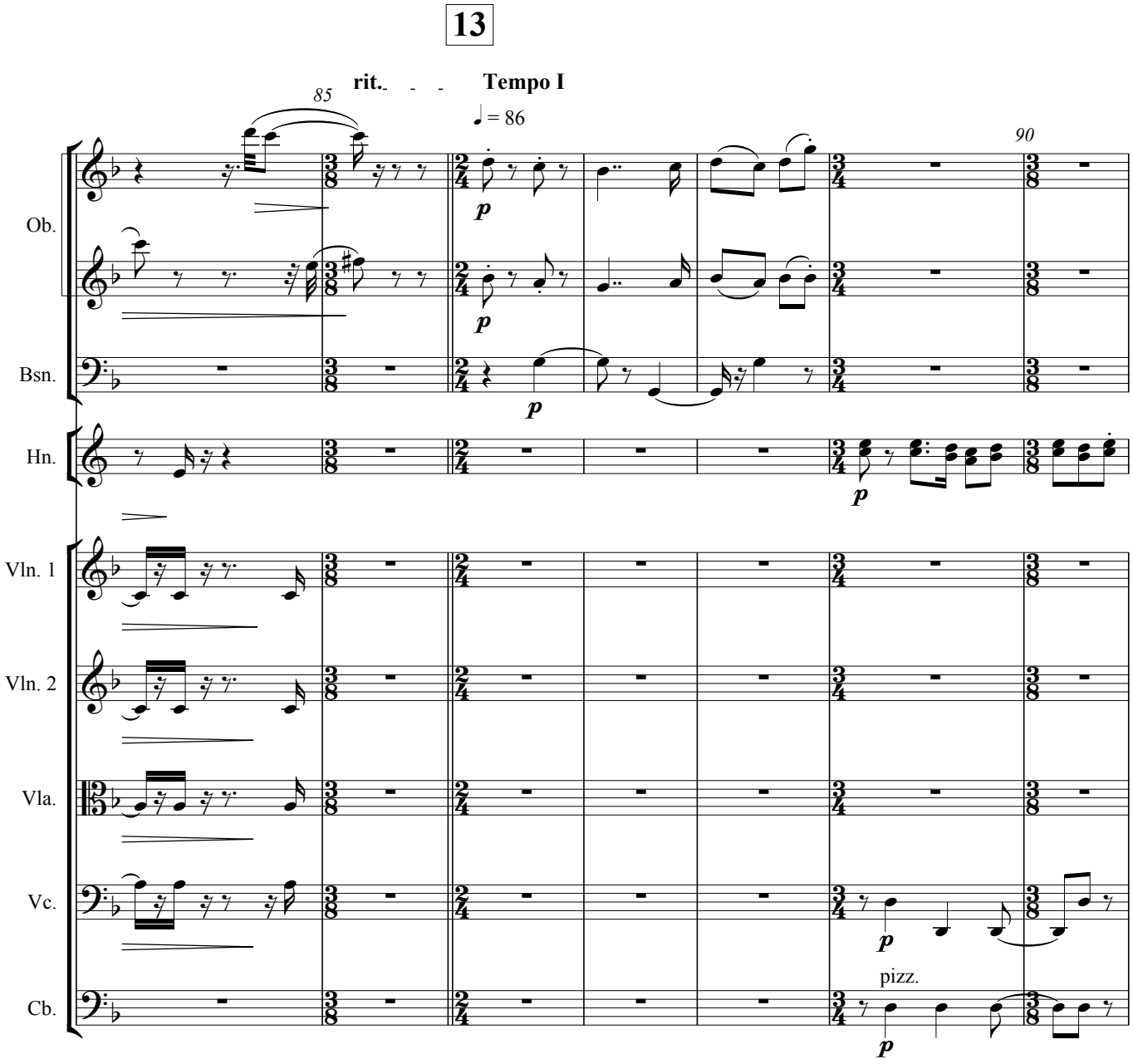

8
Allegro
♩ = 86
55
9
60
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
lightly
very lightly
arco
p
mp

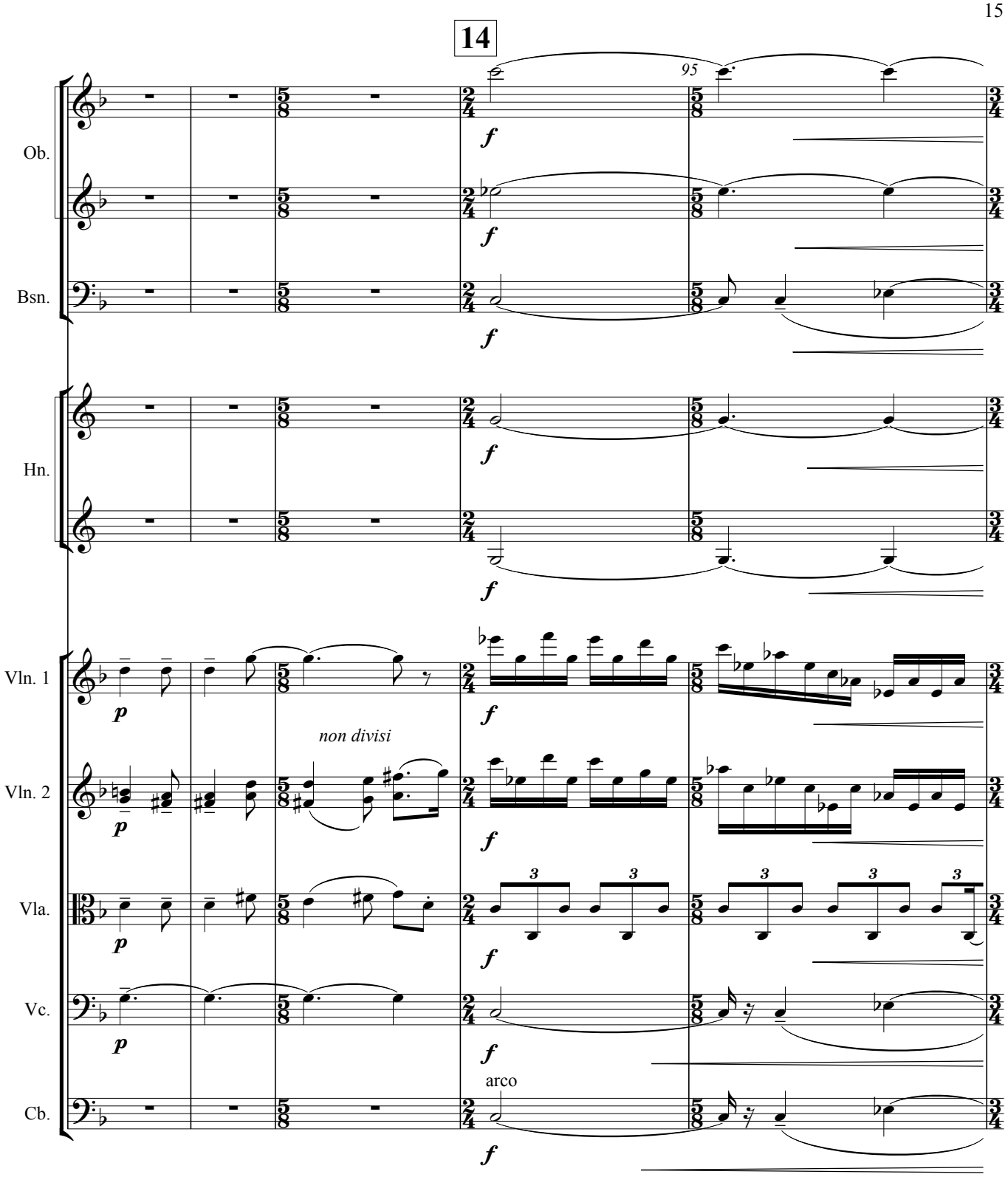

freely
5:4
5:3
Ob.
freely
4:3
5:4
Bsn.
Hn.
3
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

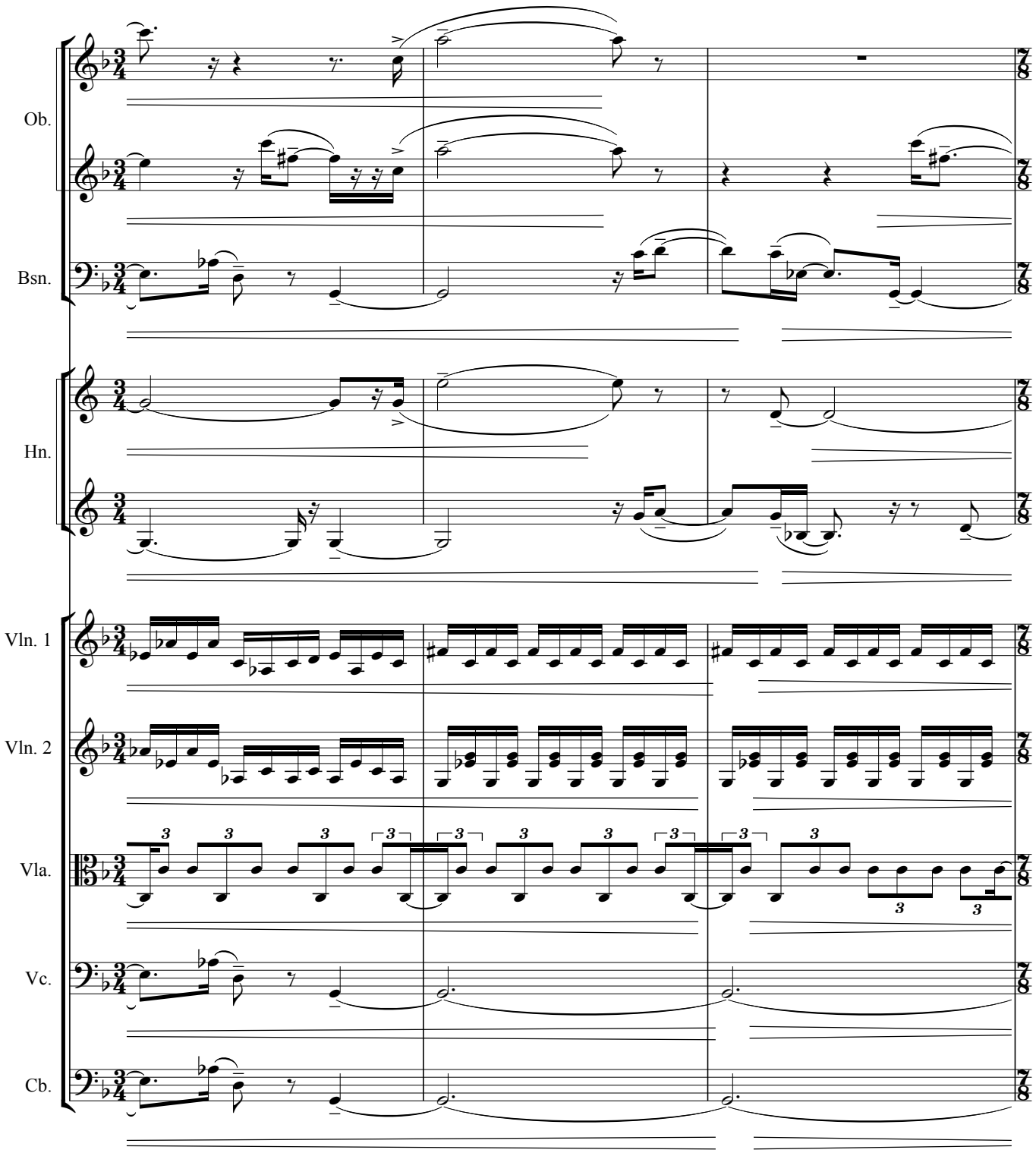

10
65
70
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
pizz.


11
More slowly
♩ = 51
75
12
poco rit.
A tempo, faster
♩ = 60
playfully
Ob.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p


rit.
playfully
80
p
Ob.
Hn.
I.
pp
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

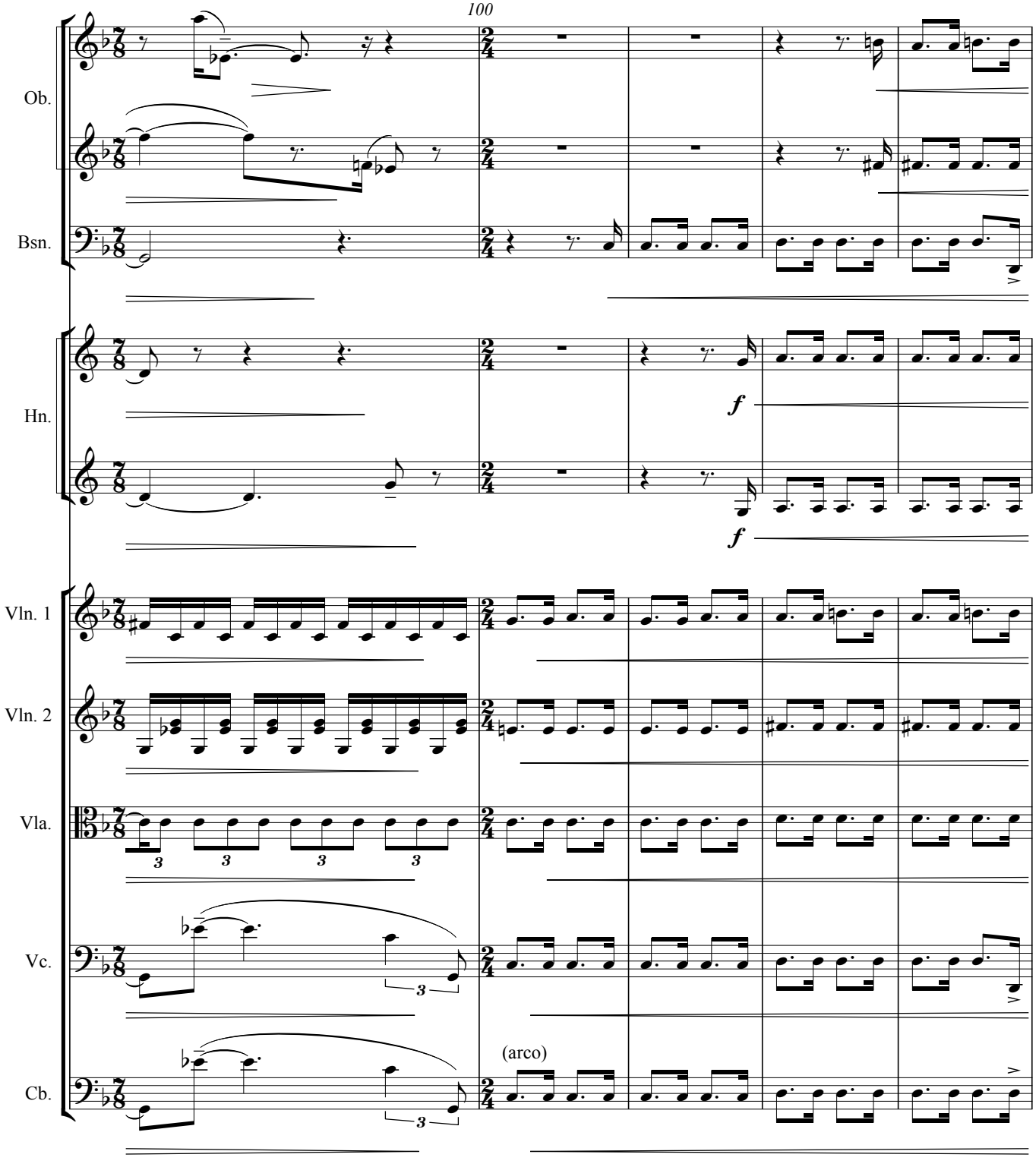

13
rit.
Tempo I
85
♩ = 86
90
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p
pizz.


14
95
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
non divisi
arco


Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

15

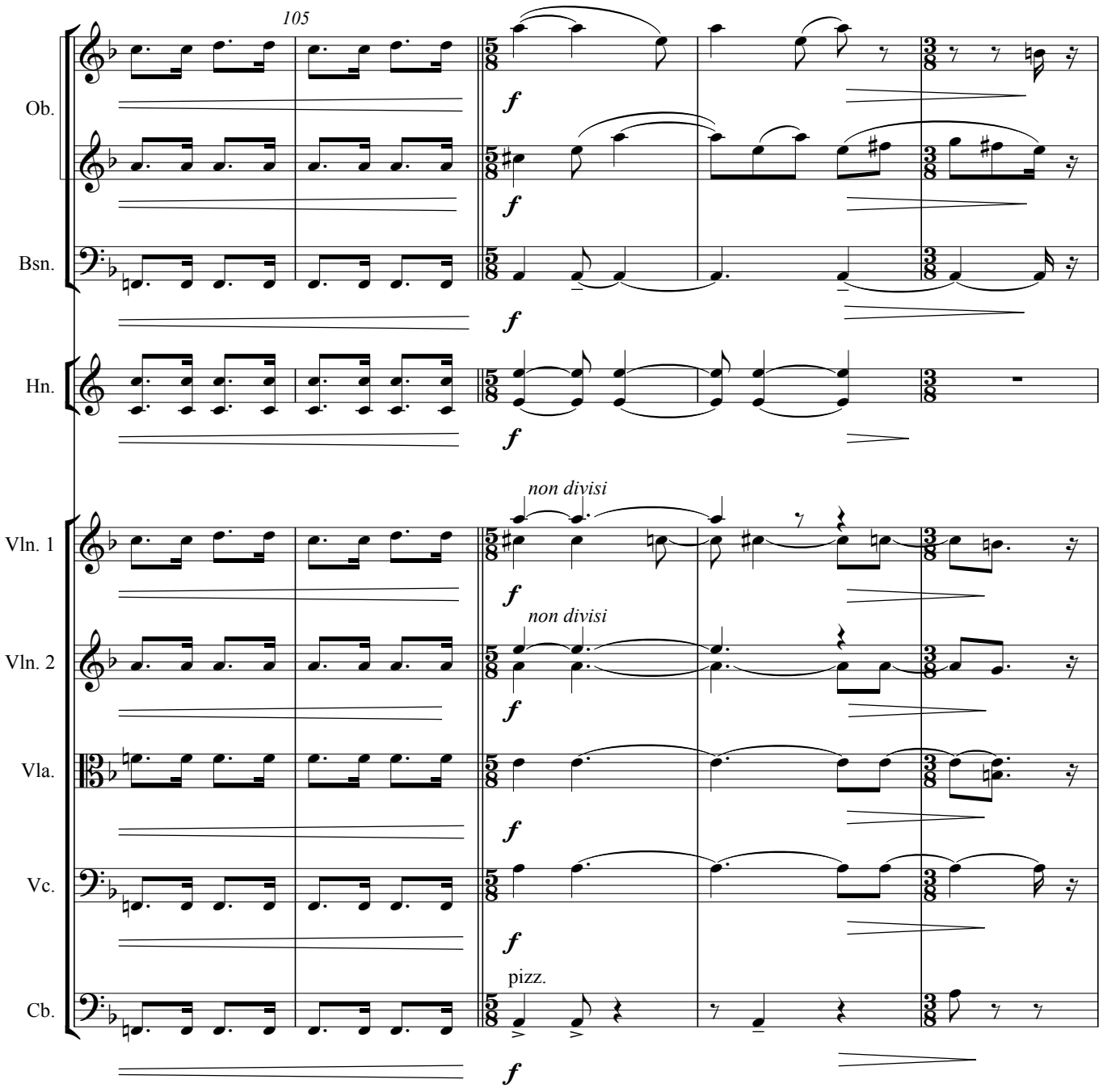
100

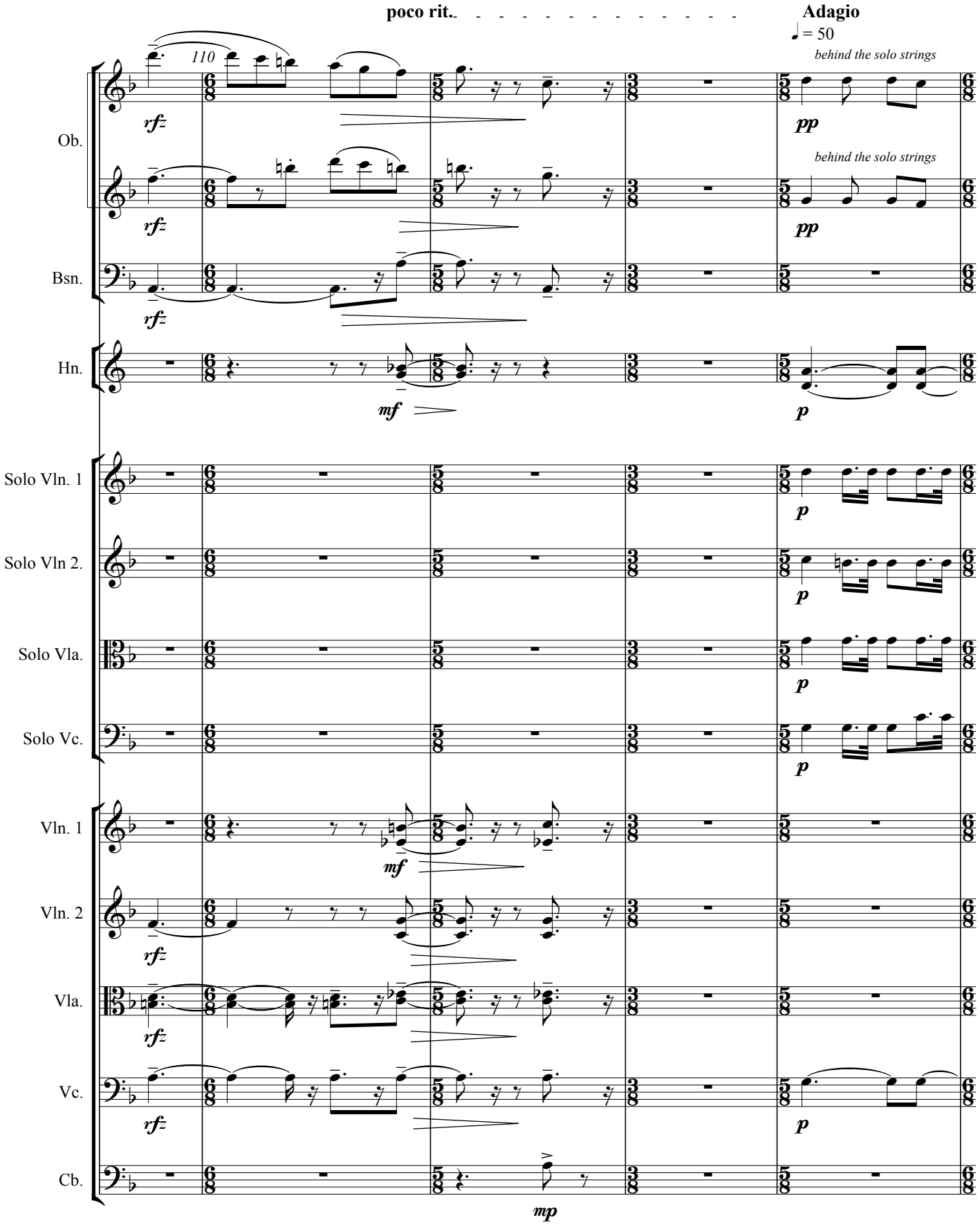


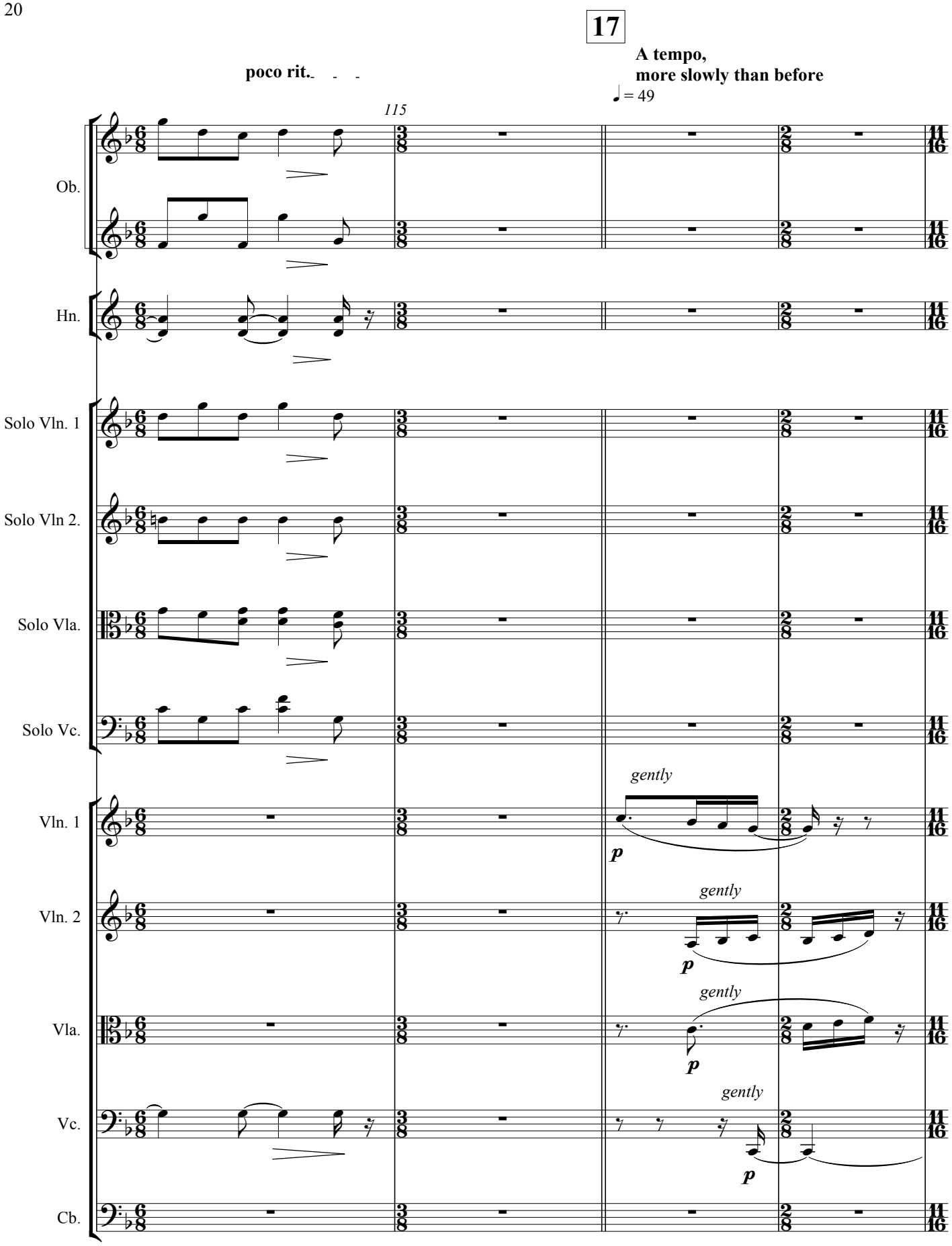
16

Not as slowly as before

♩ = 60




poco rit.
Adagio
♩ = 50
110
behind the solo strings
behind the solo strings
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2.
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
rfz
mf
p
pp
mp


17
poco rit.
A tempo,
more slowly than before
♩ = 49
115
Ob.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2.
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
gently
p

18

A tempo, faster

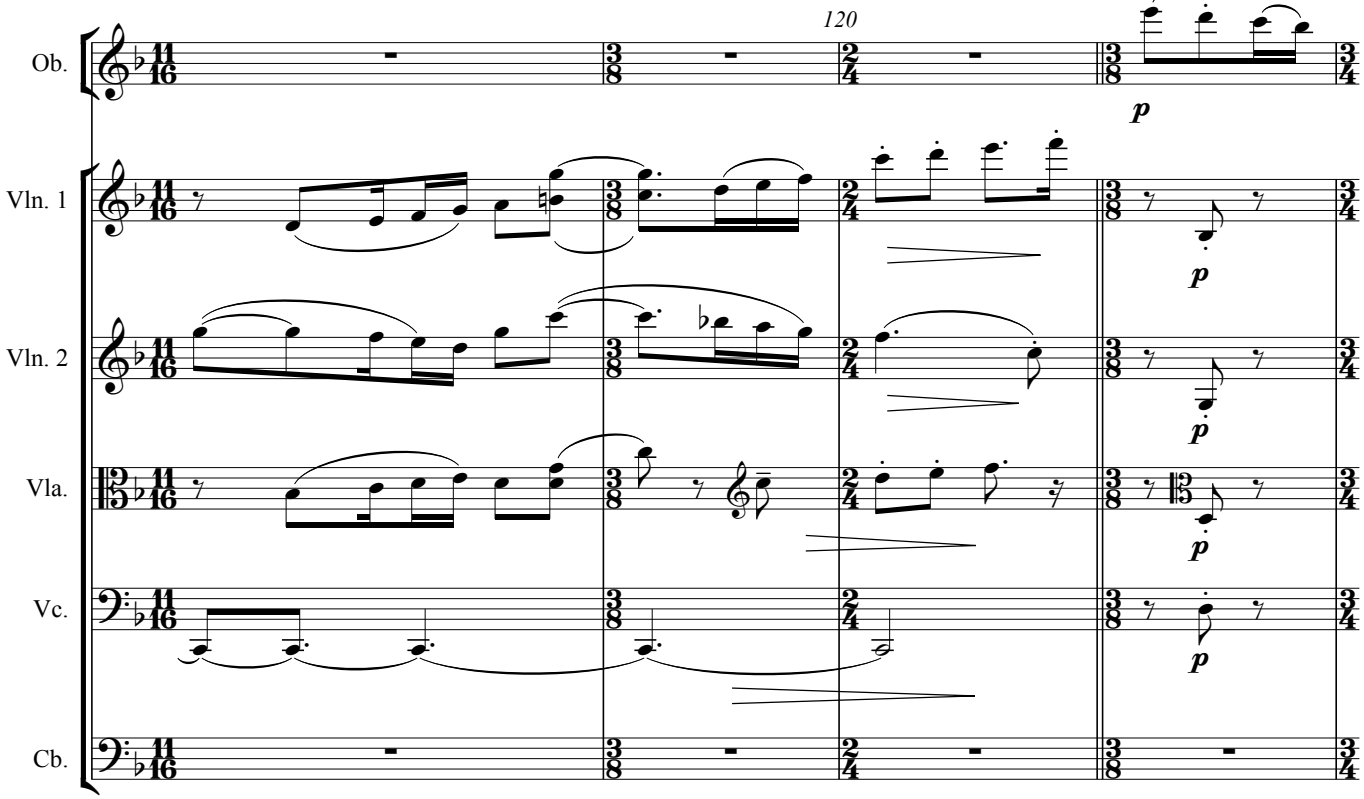
♩ = 59

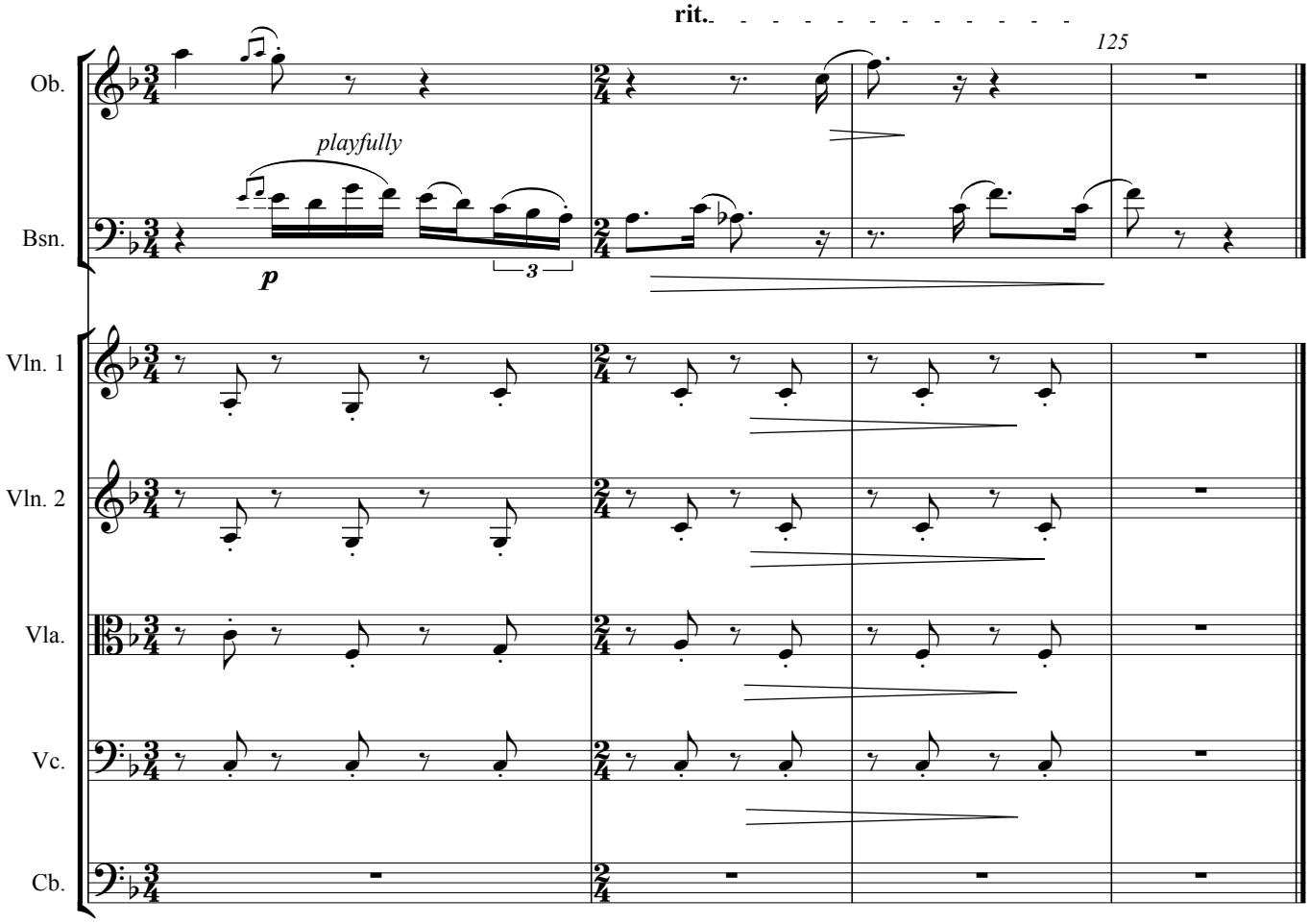
playfully

poco rit.

I.

120

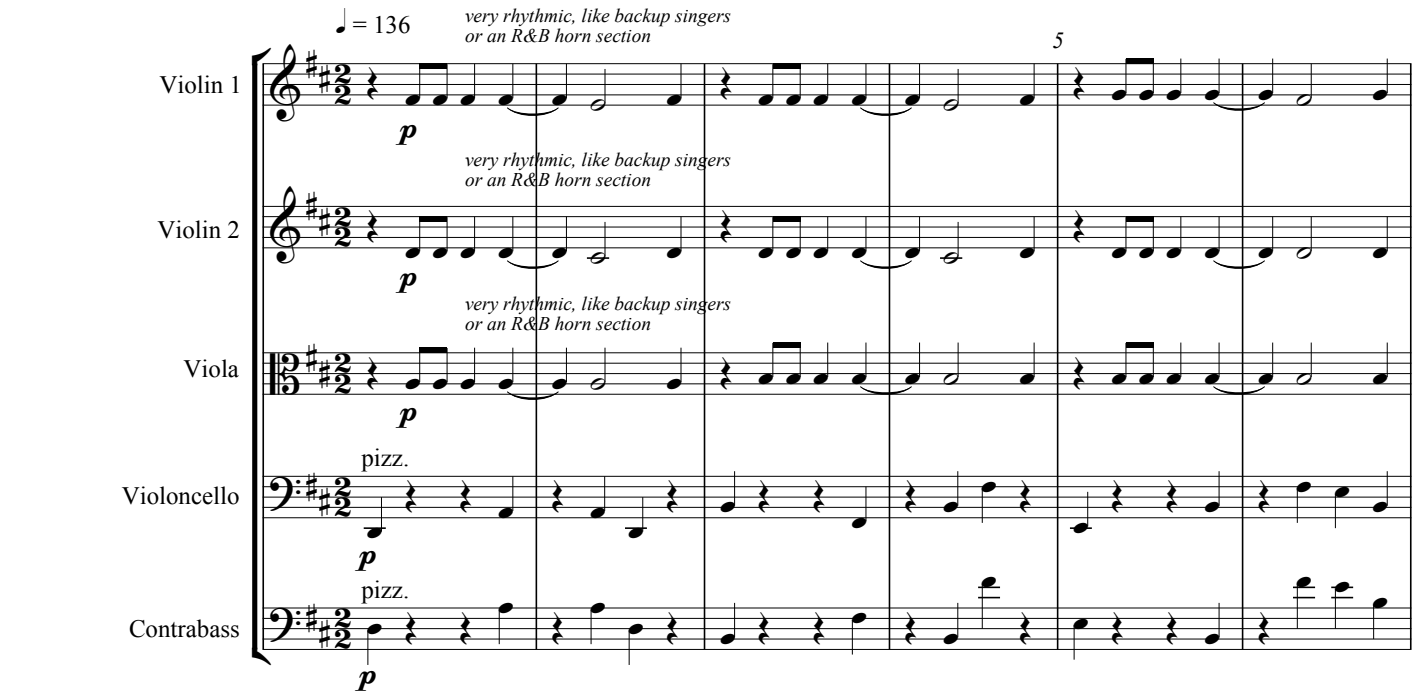


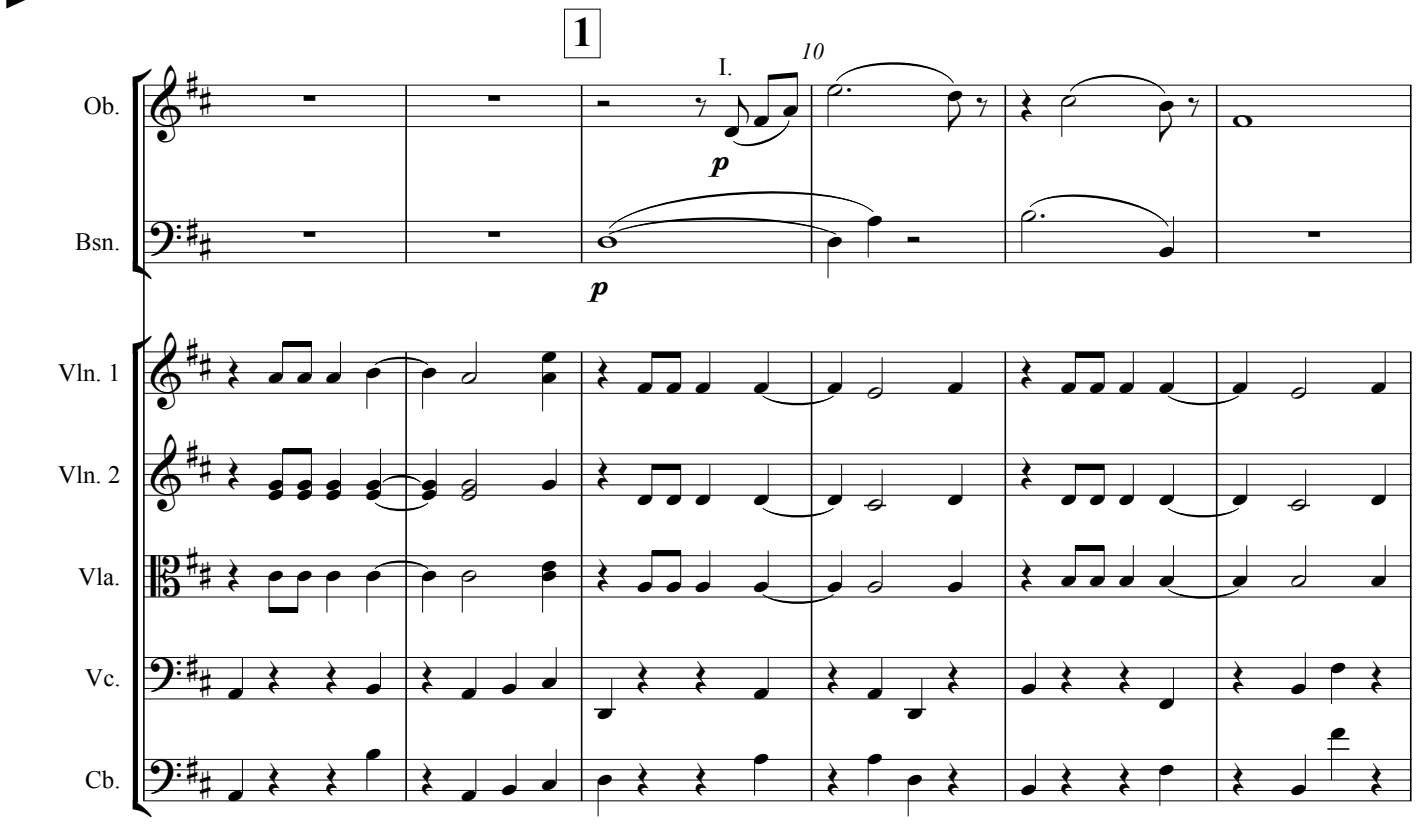

rit.
125
Ob.
playfully
Bsn.
p
3
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

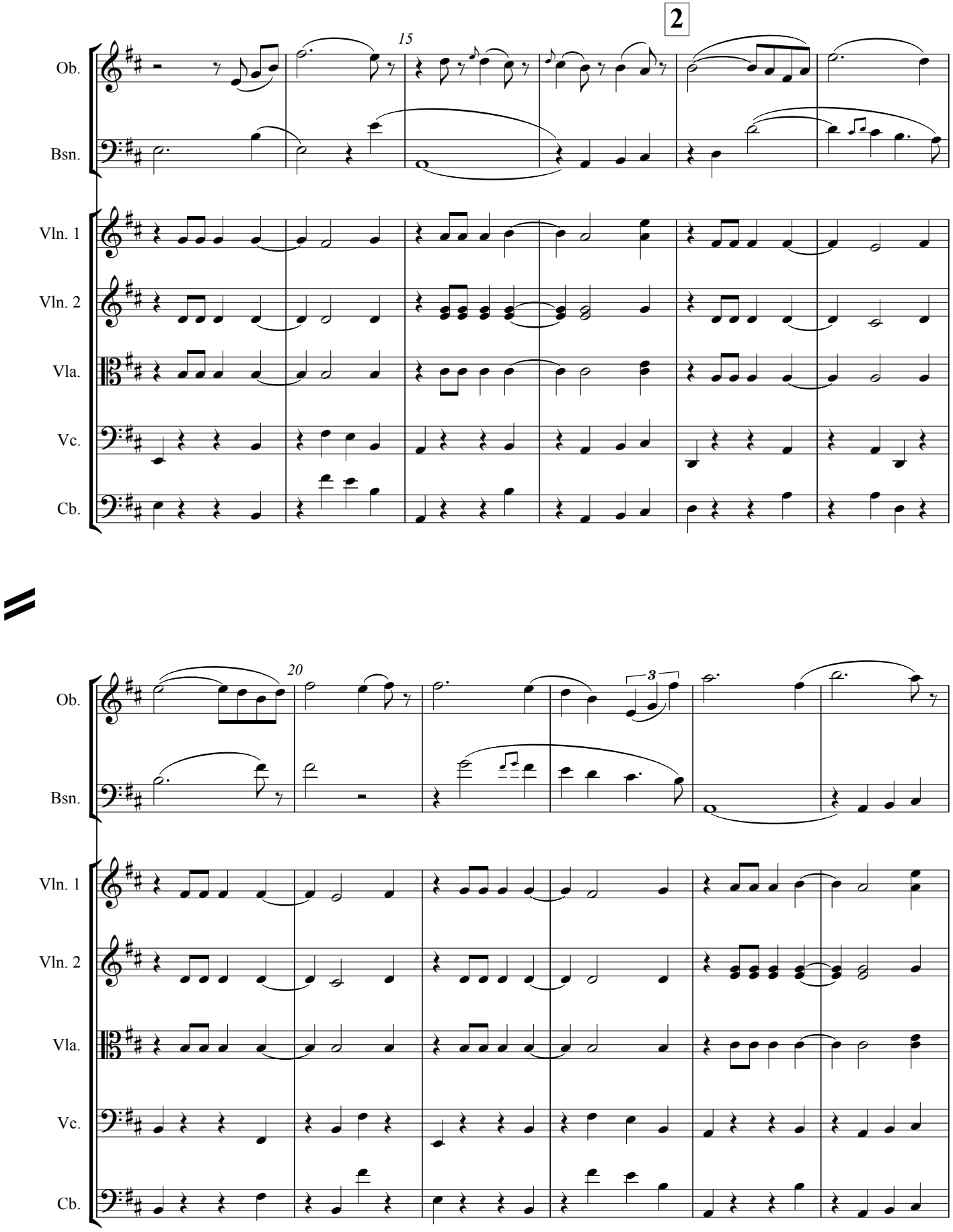
II
Ballad

to the memory of so many Fifties songs I've loved

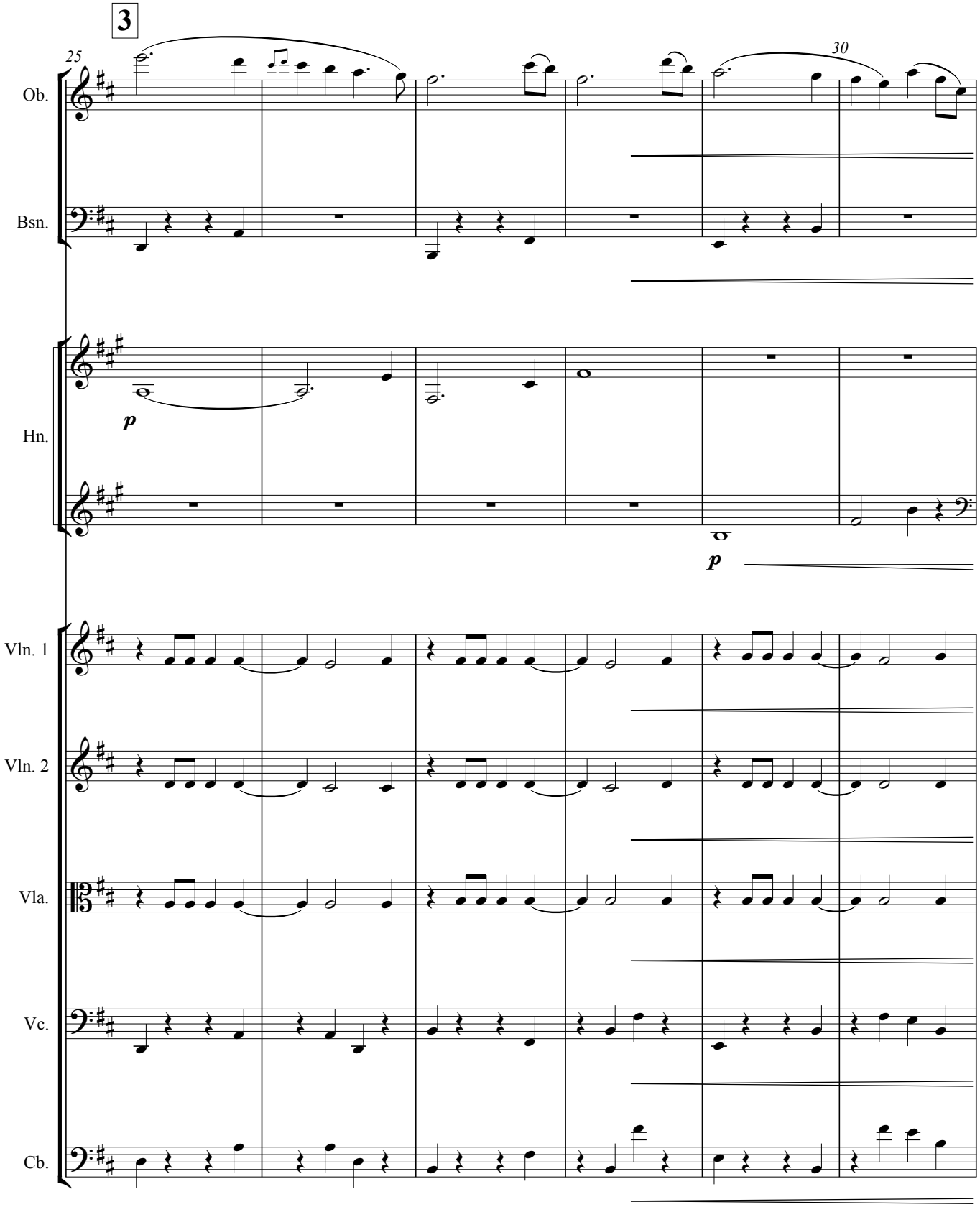
Lightly, rhythmic, always smooth

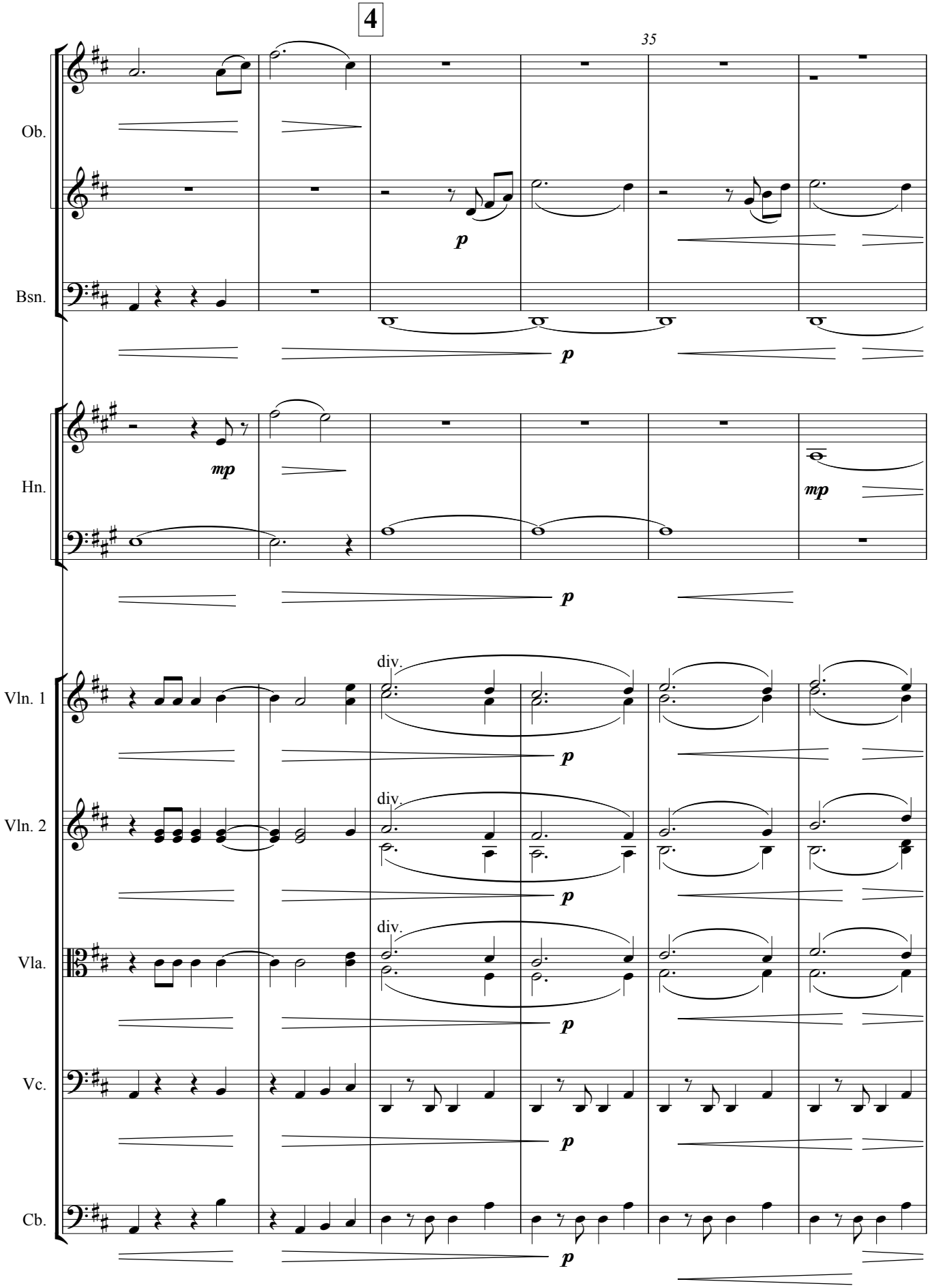


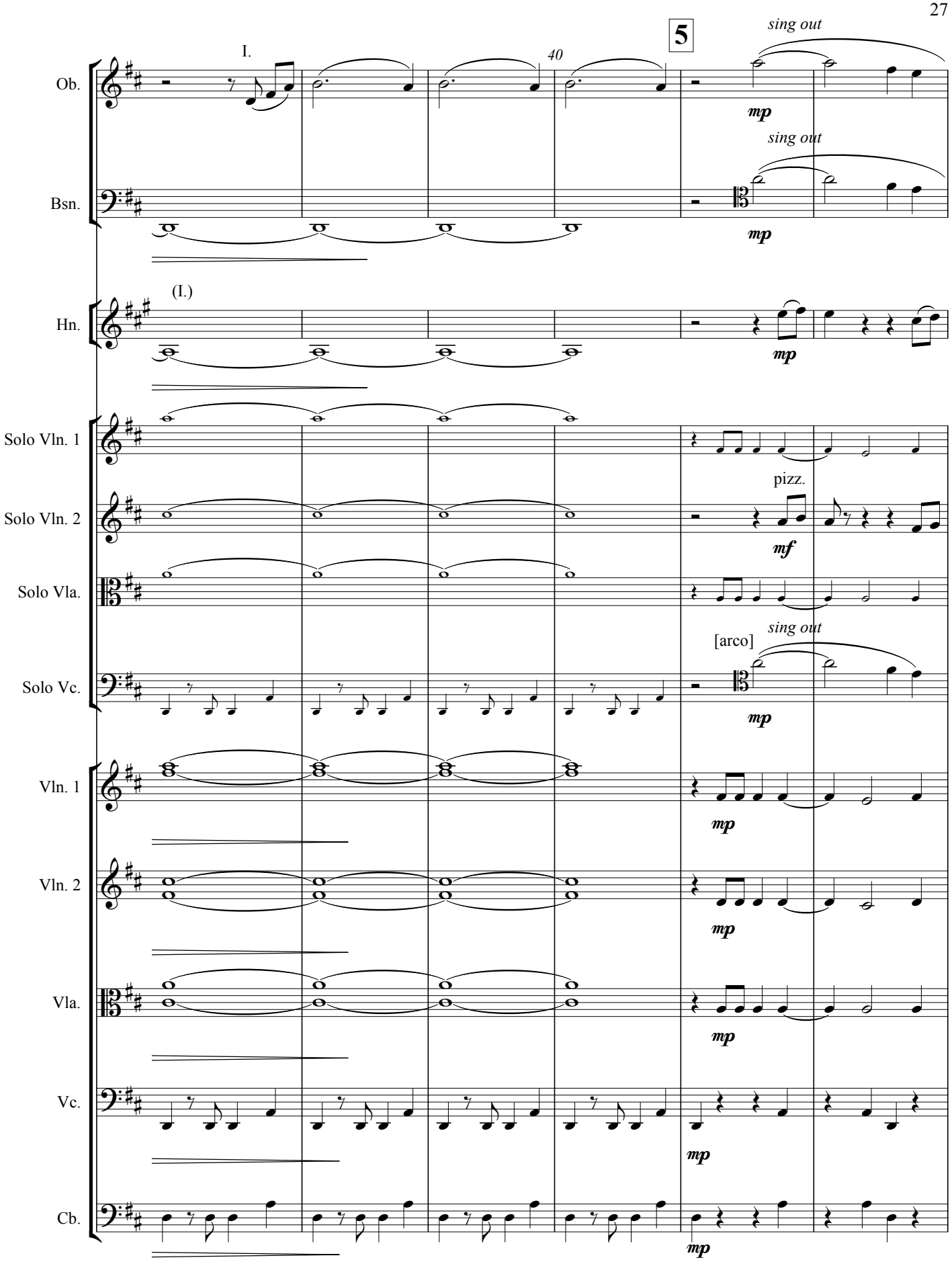


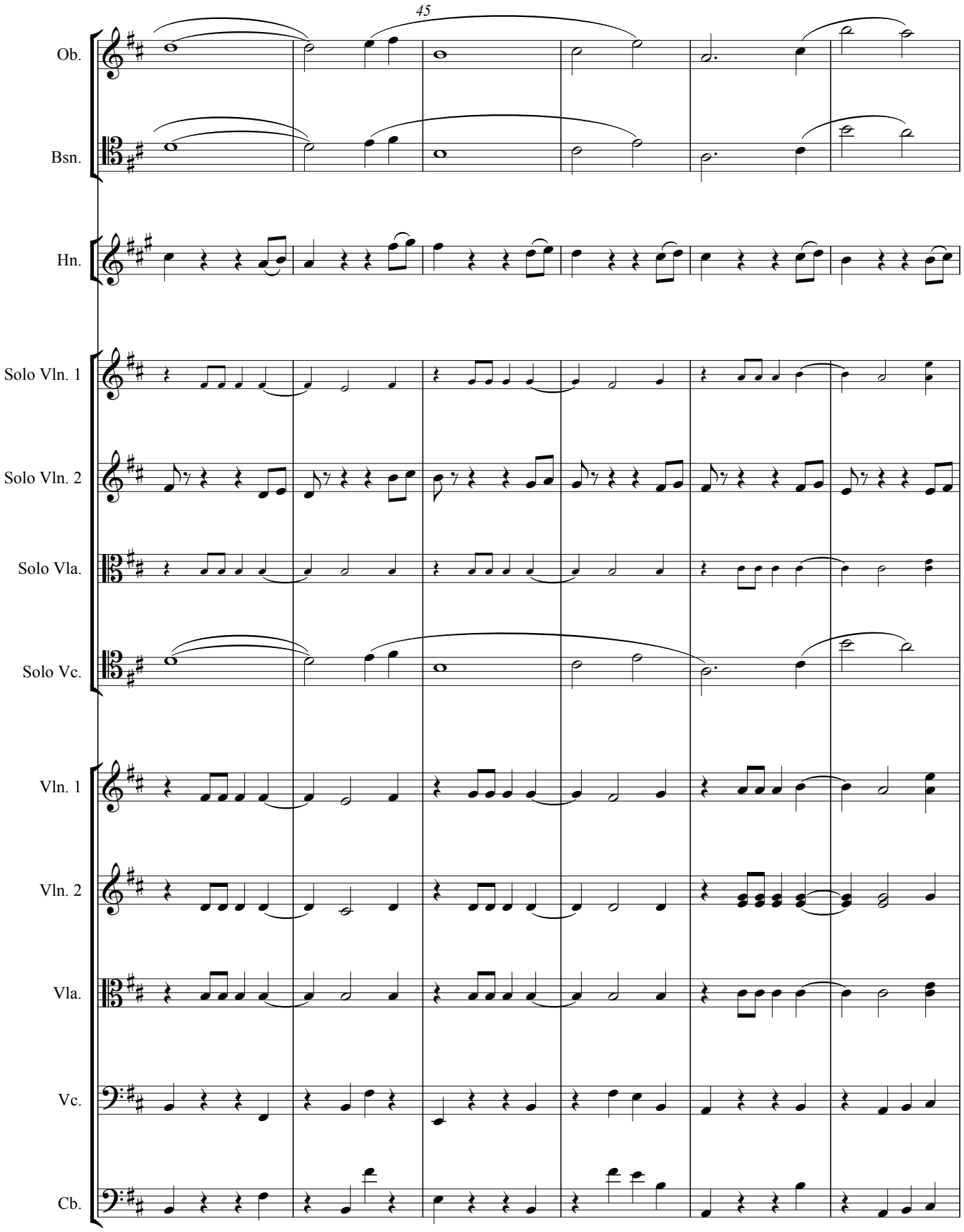

2
15
Ob.
Bsn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

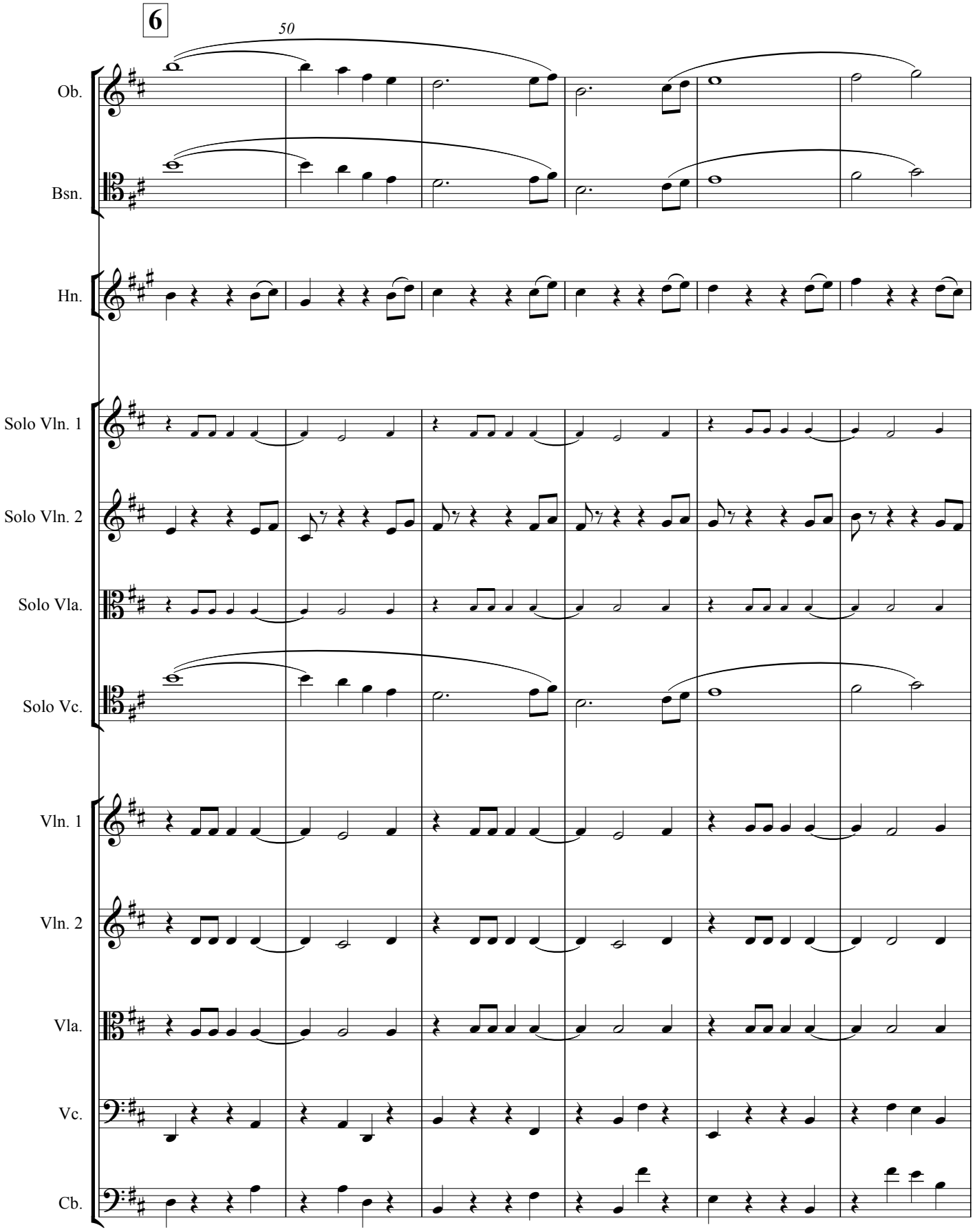
20
3
Ob.
Bsn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

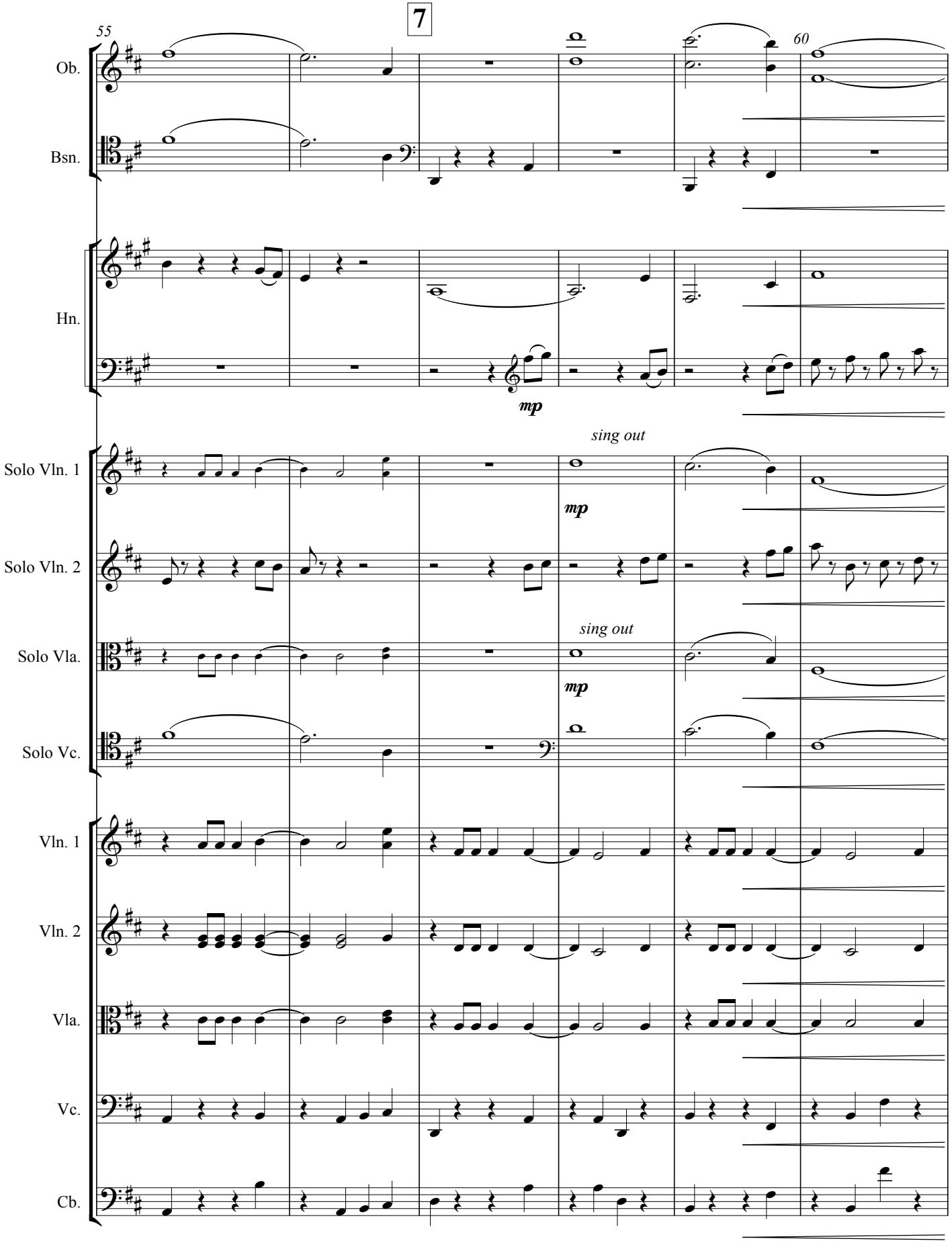

3
25
30
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
p
p
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

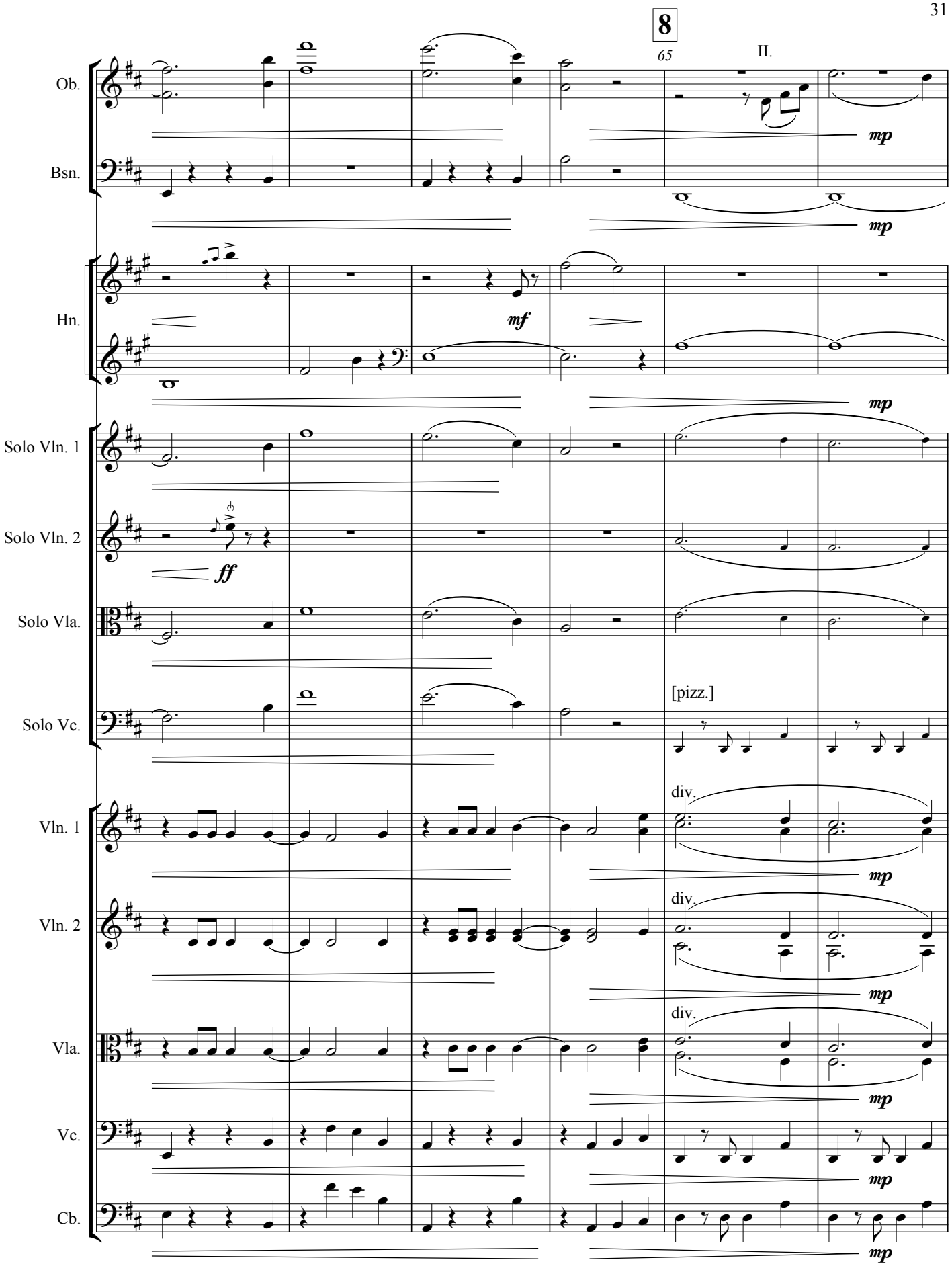

4
35
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p
mp
div.

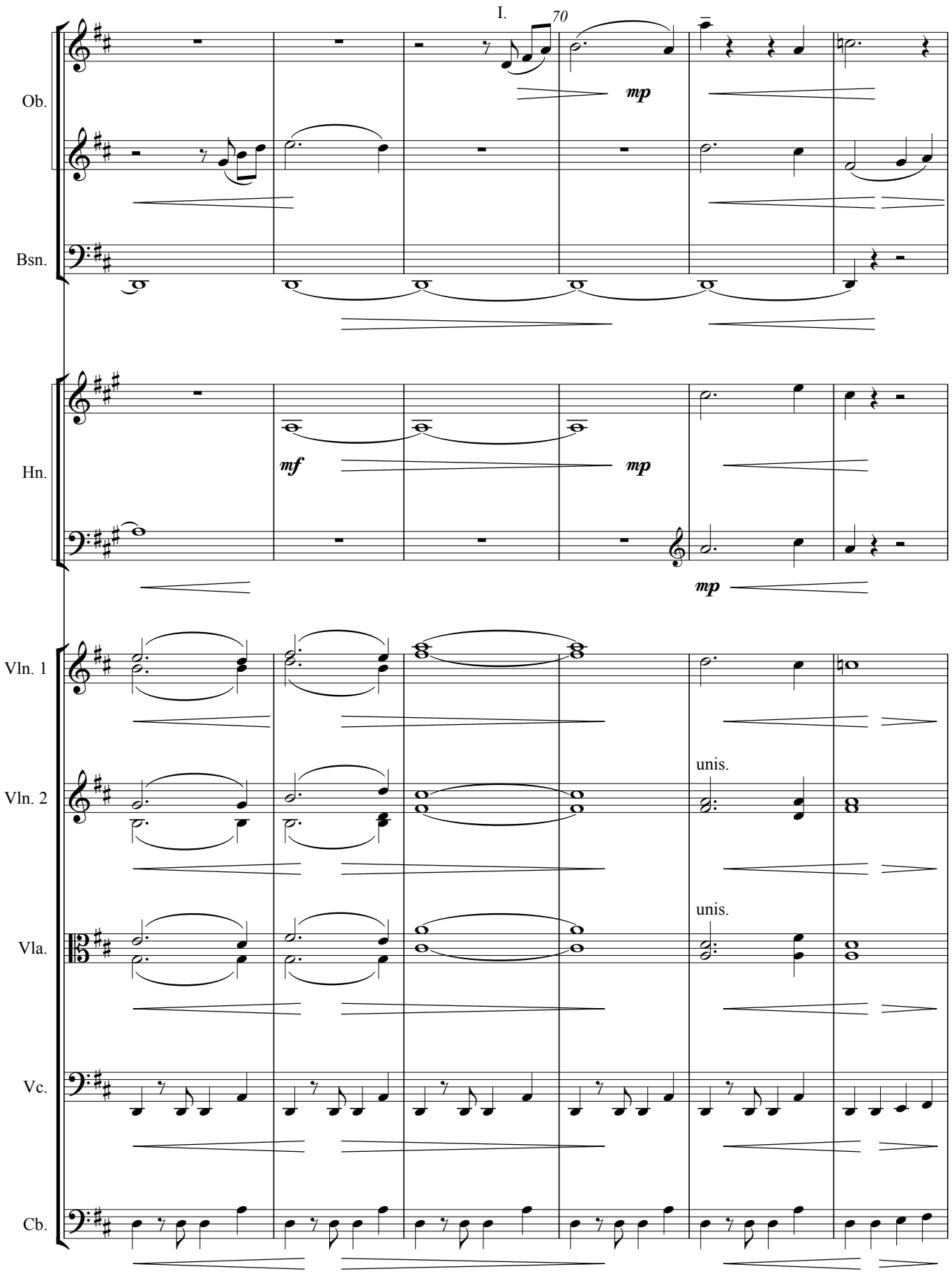

I.
40
5
sing out
mp
Ob.
sing out
mp
Bsn.
(I.)
mp
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
pizz.
mf
Solo Vln. 2
Solo Vla.
sing out
[arco]
mp
Solo Vc.
mp
Vln. 1
mp
Vln. 2
mp
Vla.
mp
Vc.
mp
Cb.

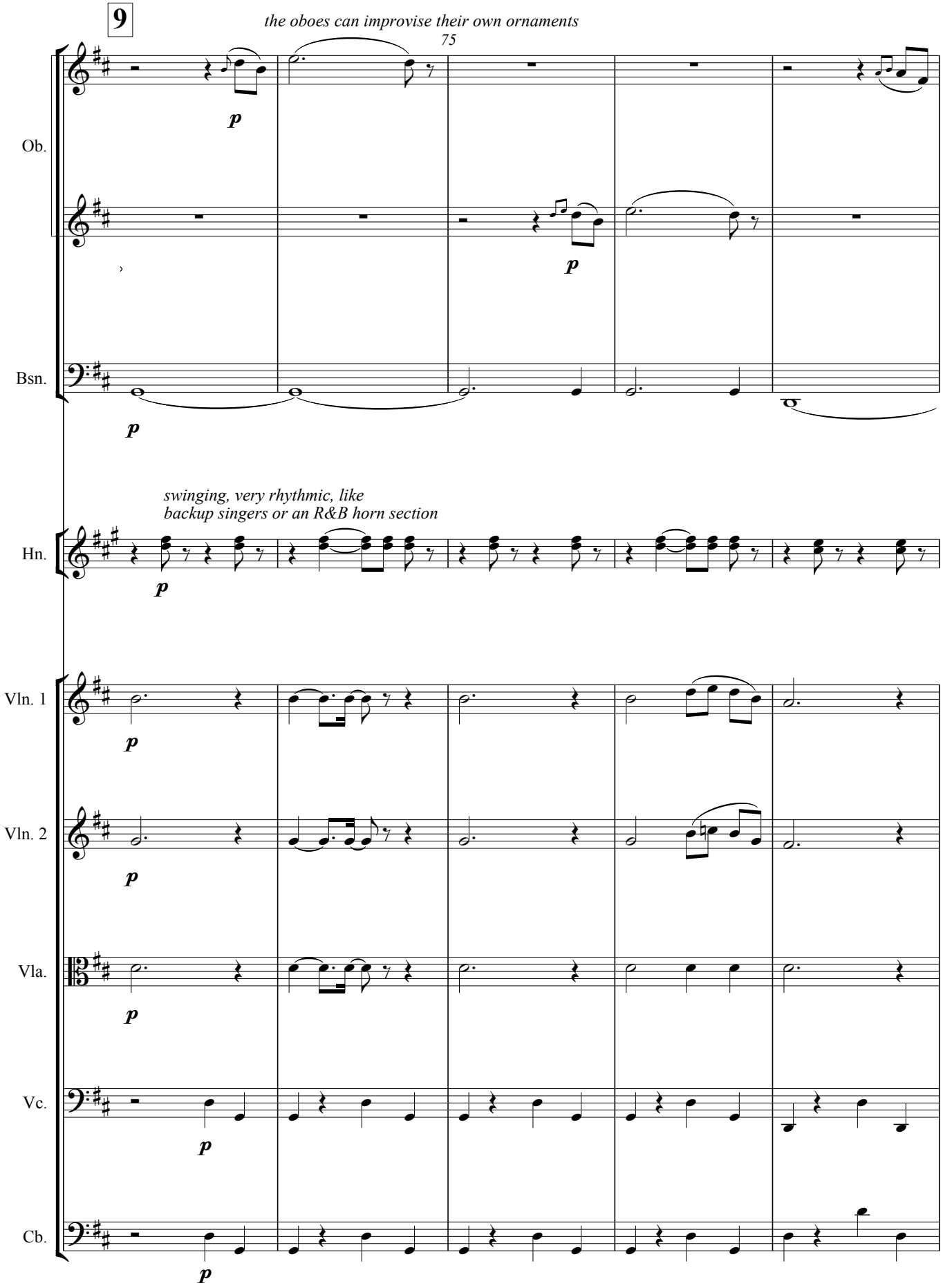

45
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln. 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

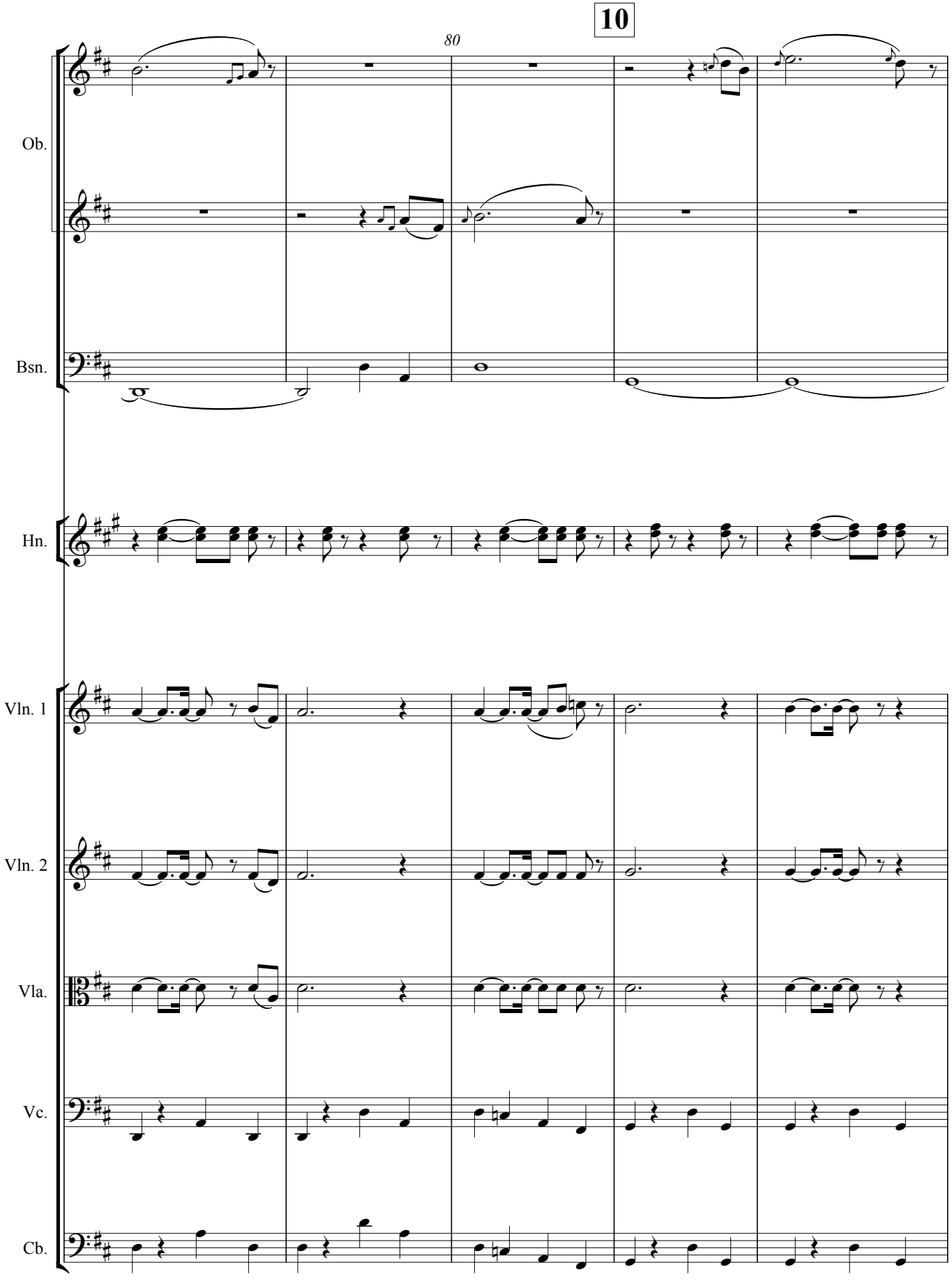

6
50
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln. 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

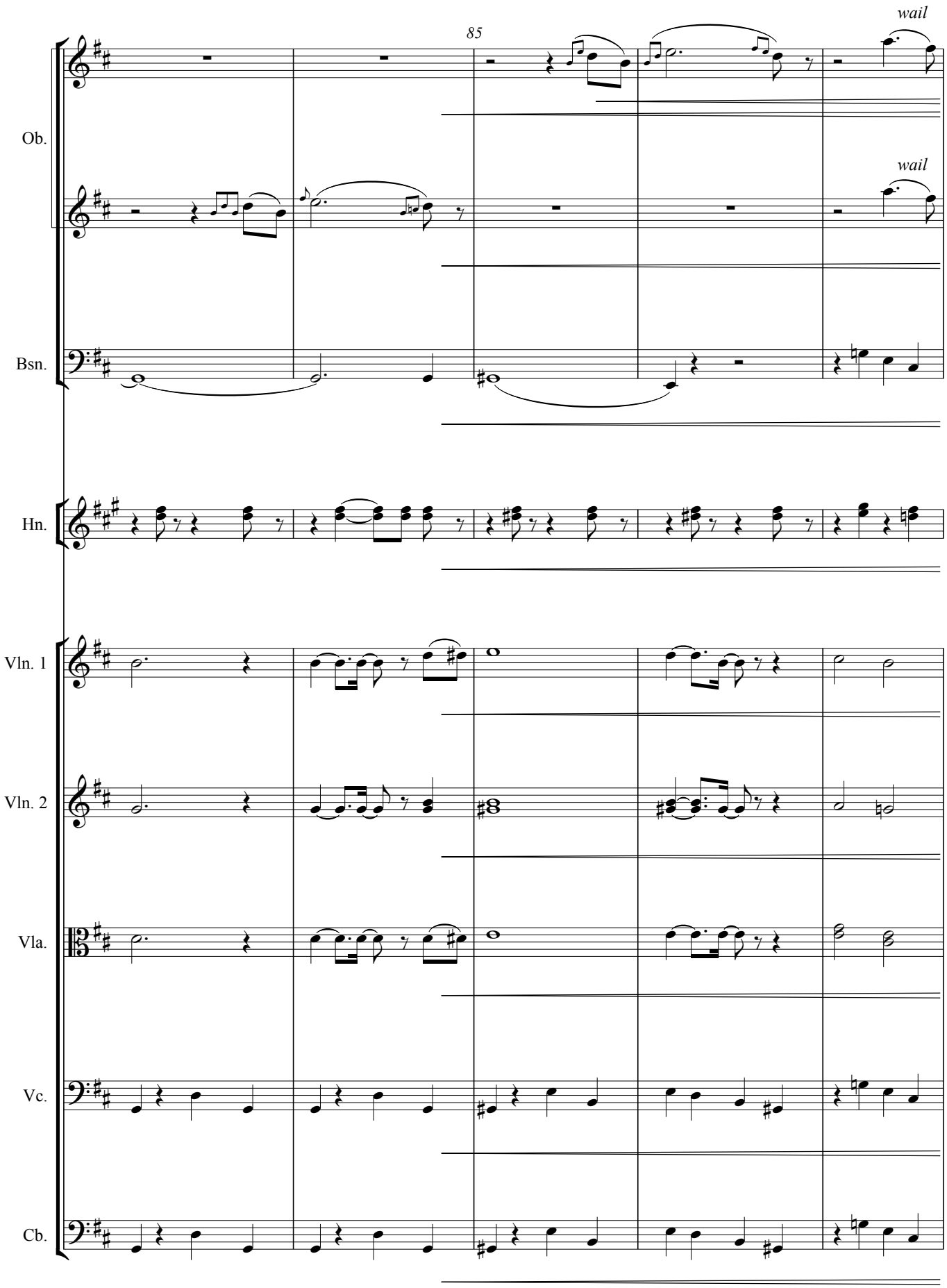

7
55
60
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
mp
sing out
Solo Vln. 1
mp
Solo Vln. 2
sing out
Solo Vla.
mp
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

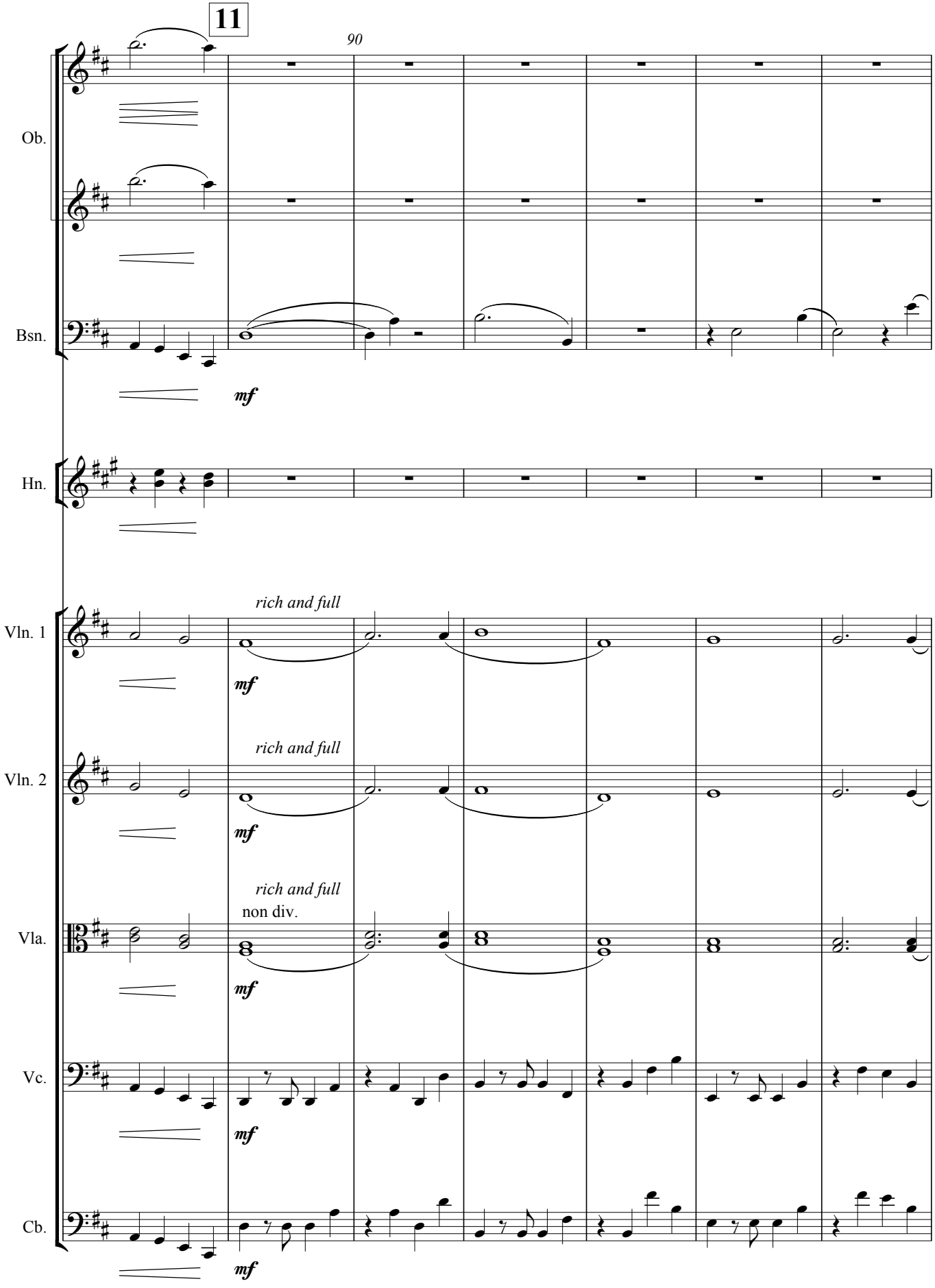

8
65
II.
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln. 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
mf
ff
[pizz.]
div.

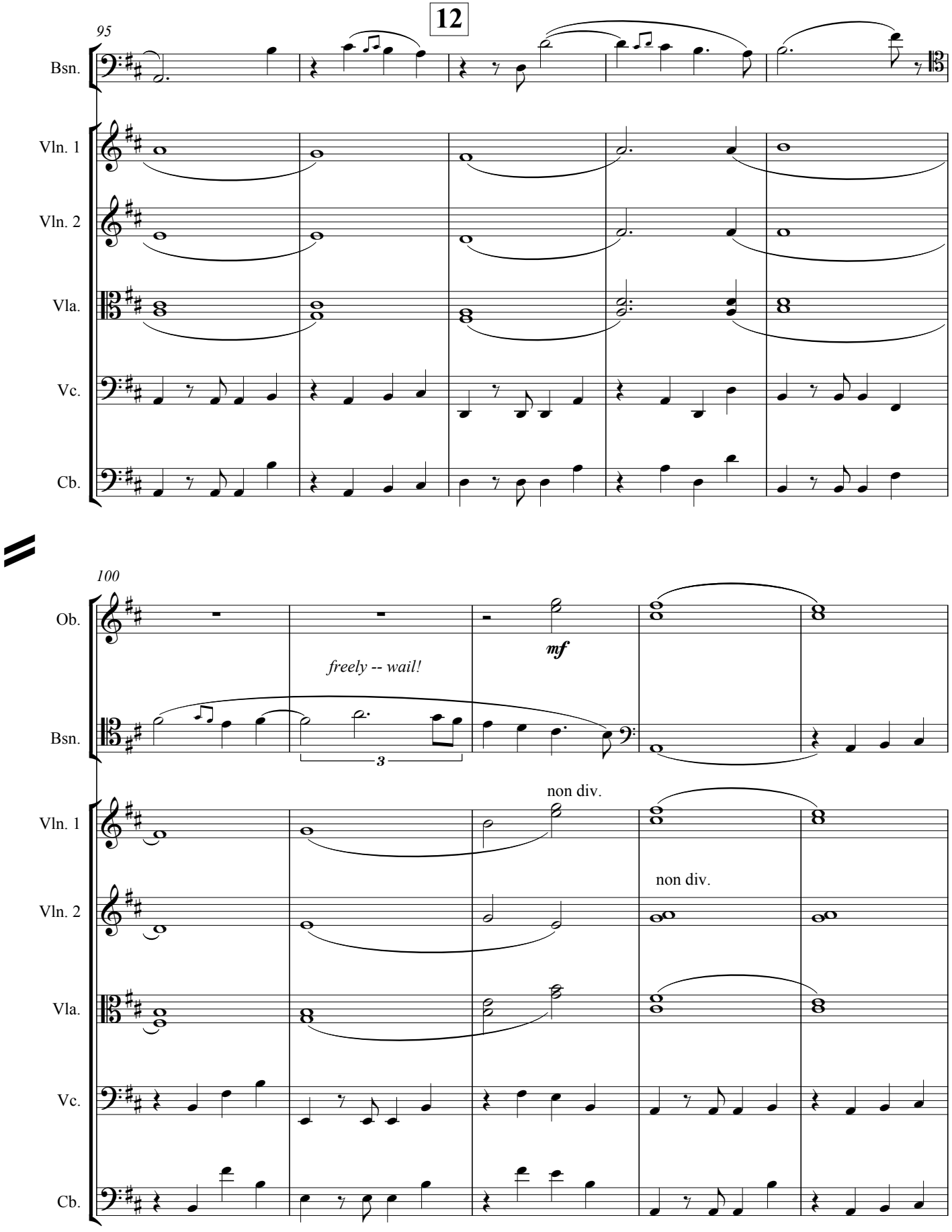

I.
70
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
mf
mp
mp
unis.
unis.

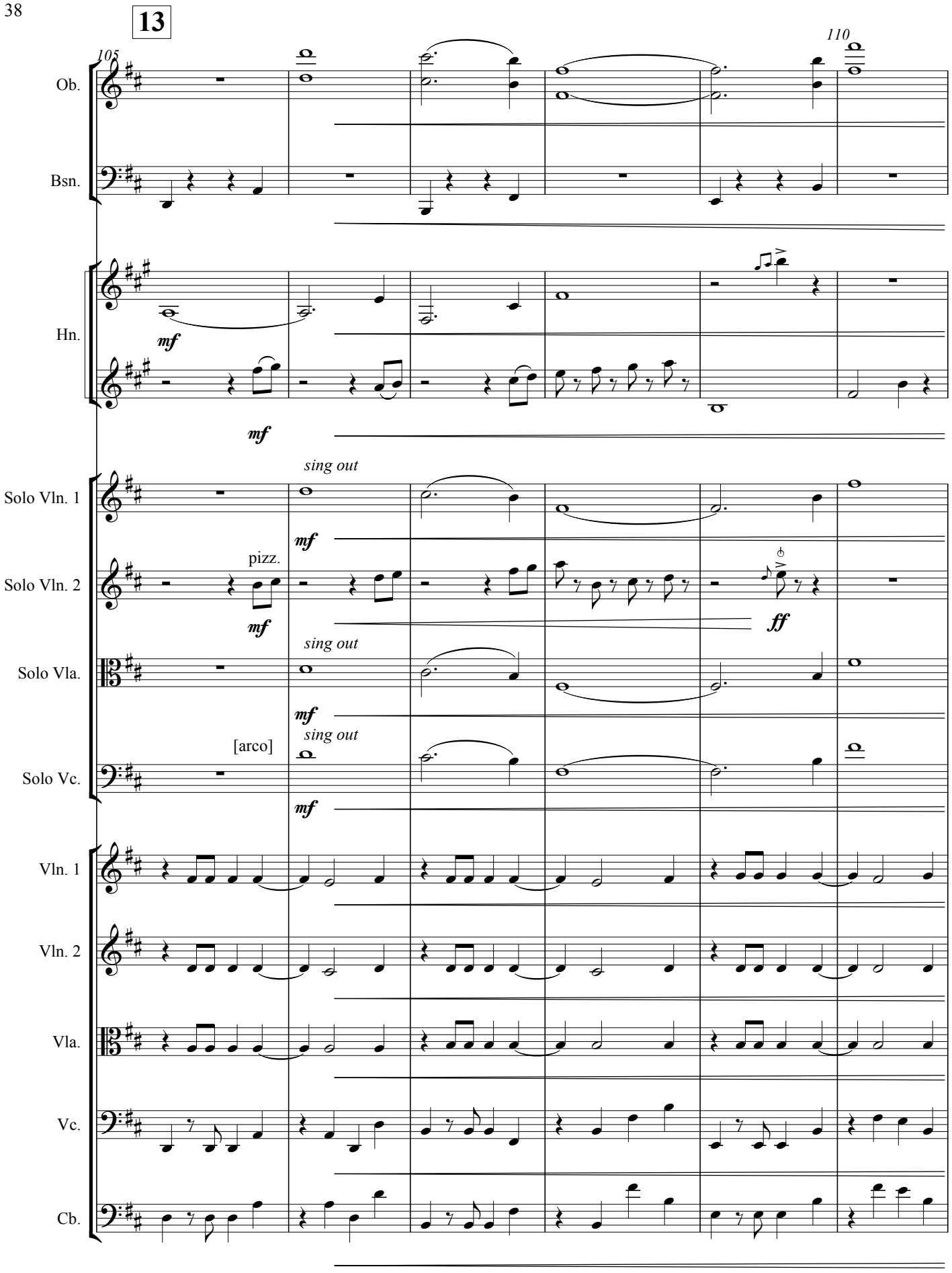

9
the oboes can improvise their own ornaments
75
Ob.
Bsn.
swinging, very rhythmic, like
backup singers or an R&B horn section
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p

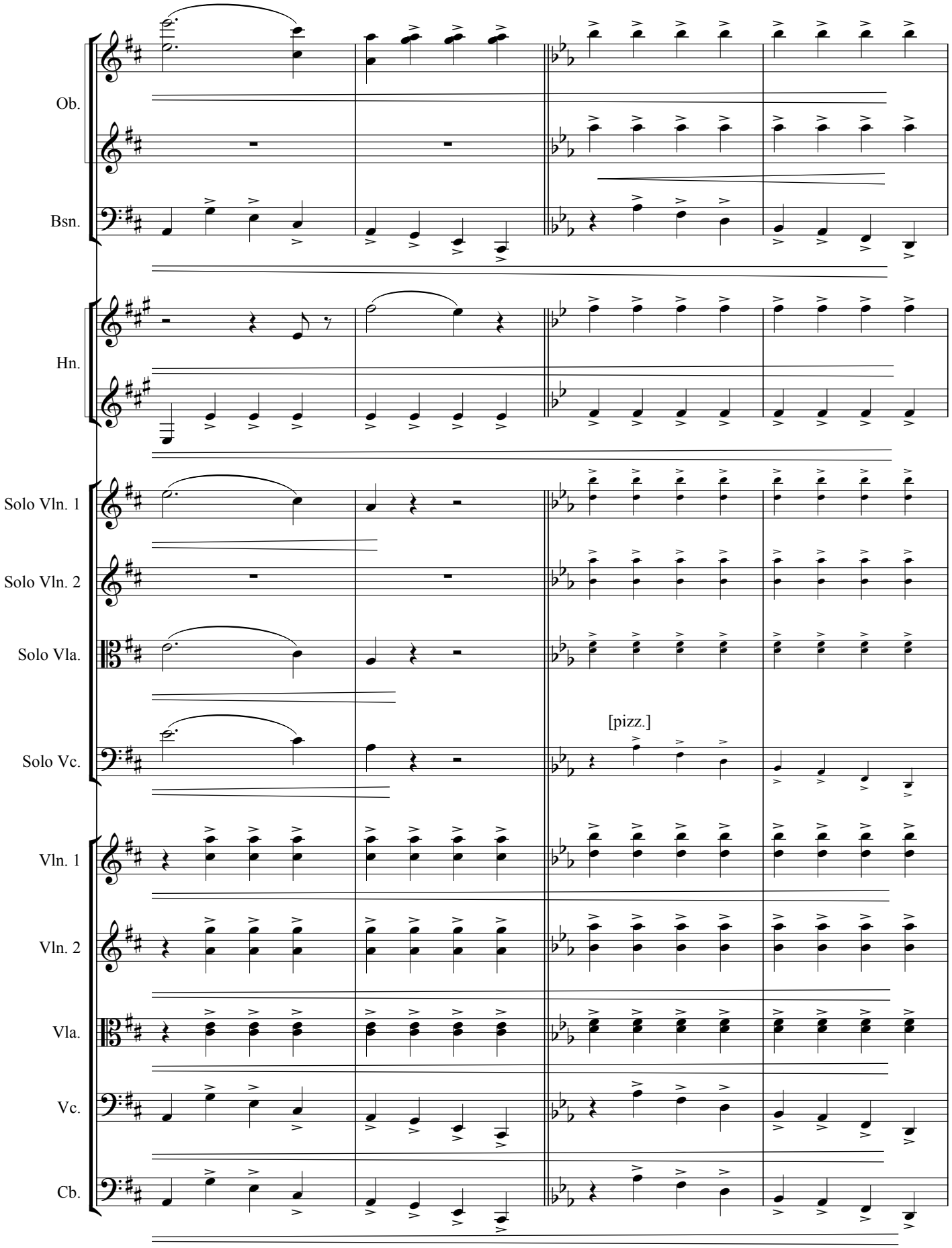

10
80
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

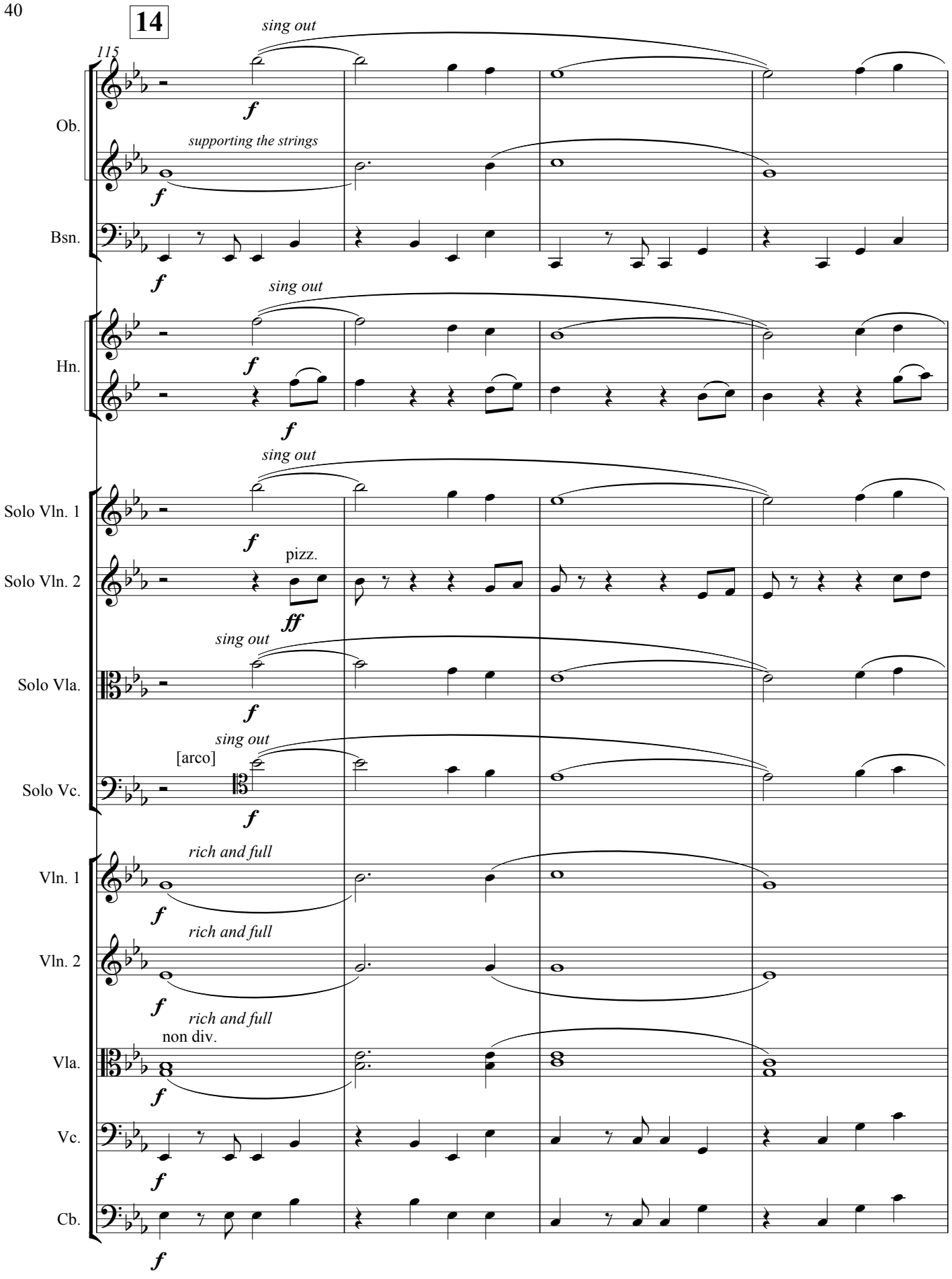

85
wail
wail
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

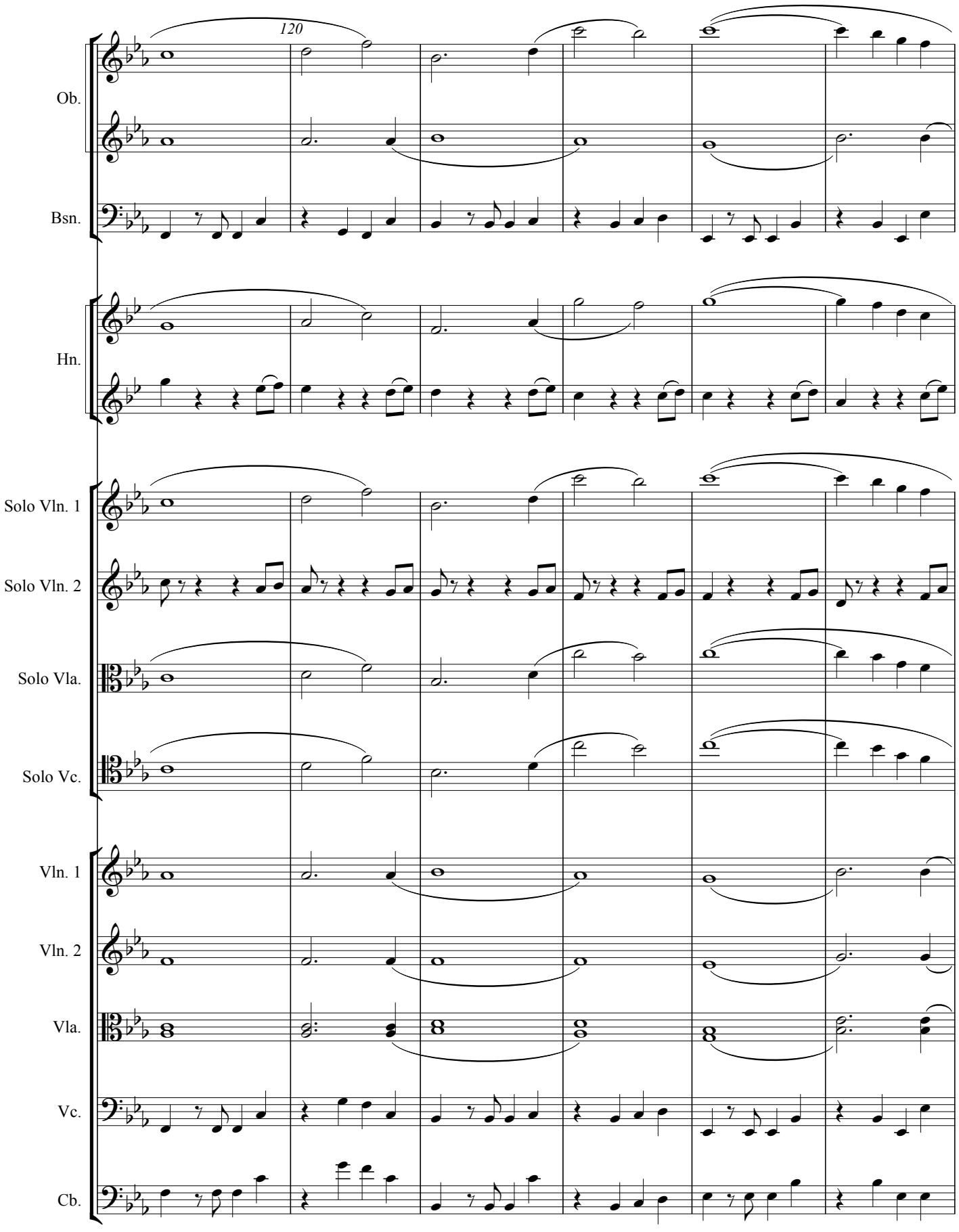

11
90
Ob.
Bsn.
mf
Hn.
rich and full
Vln. 1
mf
rich and full
Vln. 2
mf
rich and full
non div.
Vla.
mf
Vc.
mf
Cb.
mf

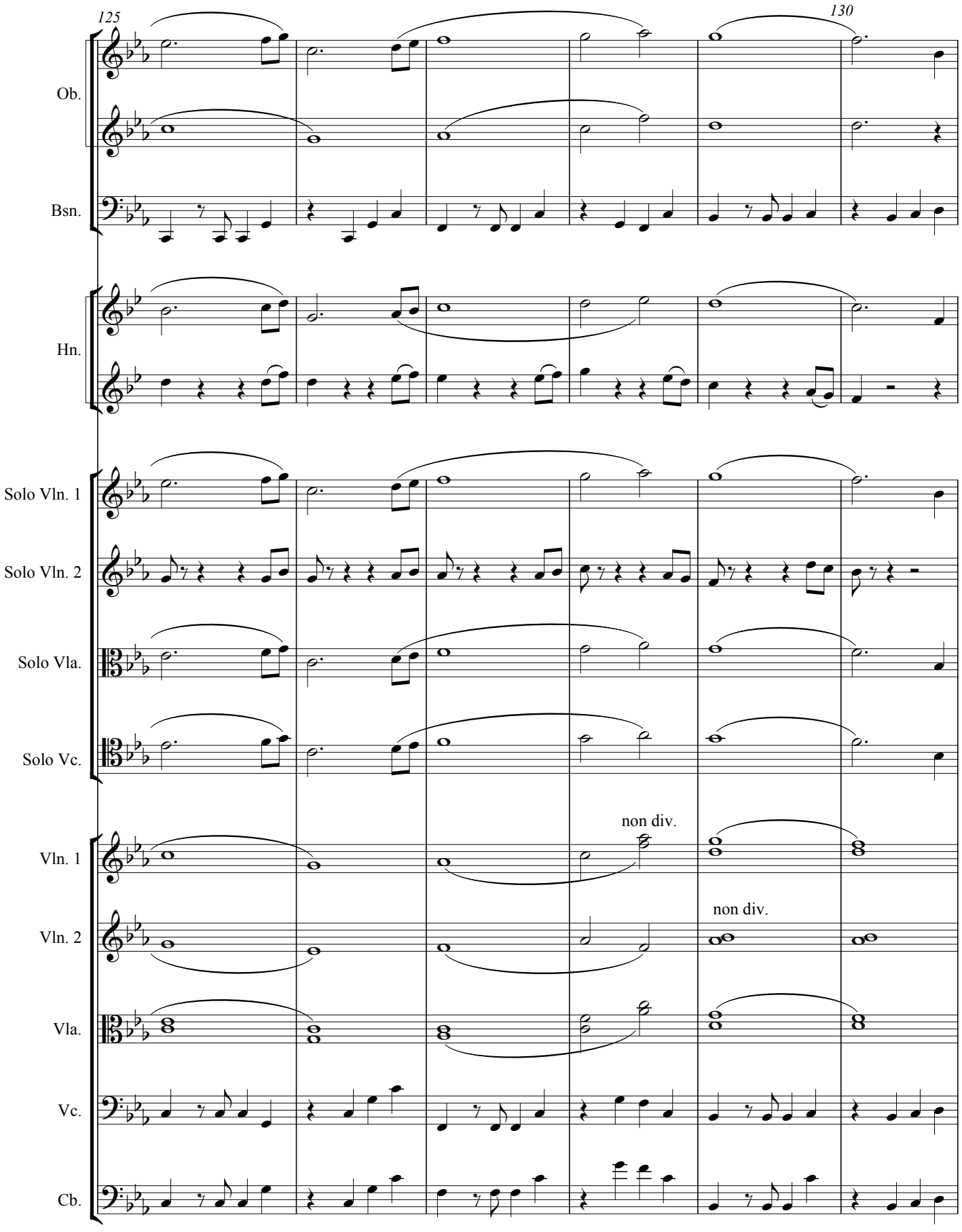

12
95
Bsn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
100
Ob.
mf
freely -- wail!
3
non div.
non div.

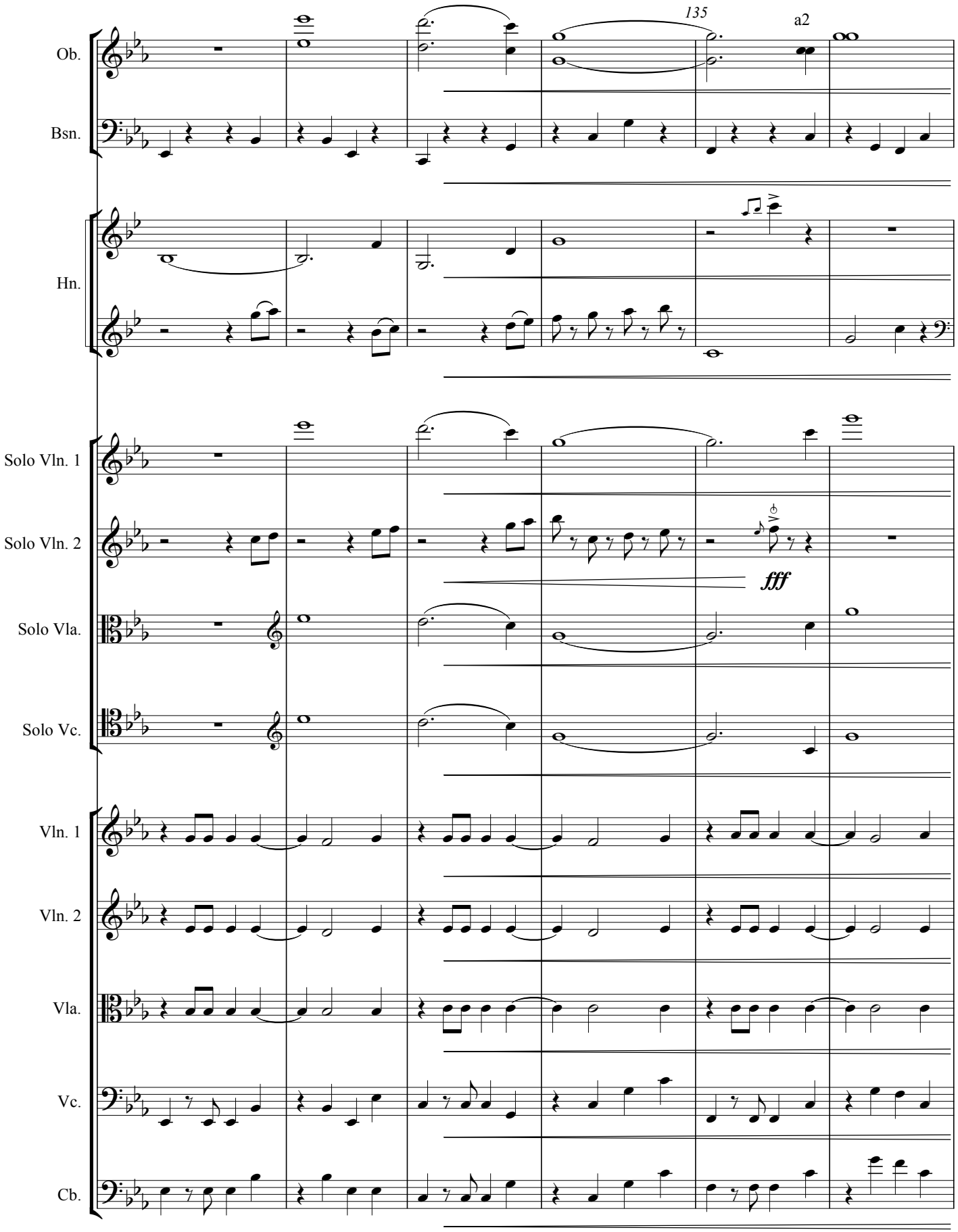

13
105
110
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
mf
mf
Solo Vln. 1
sing out
mf
Solo Vln. 2
pizz.
mf
ff
Solo Vla.
sing out
mf
Solo Vc.
[arco]
sing out
mf
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

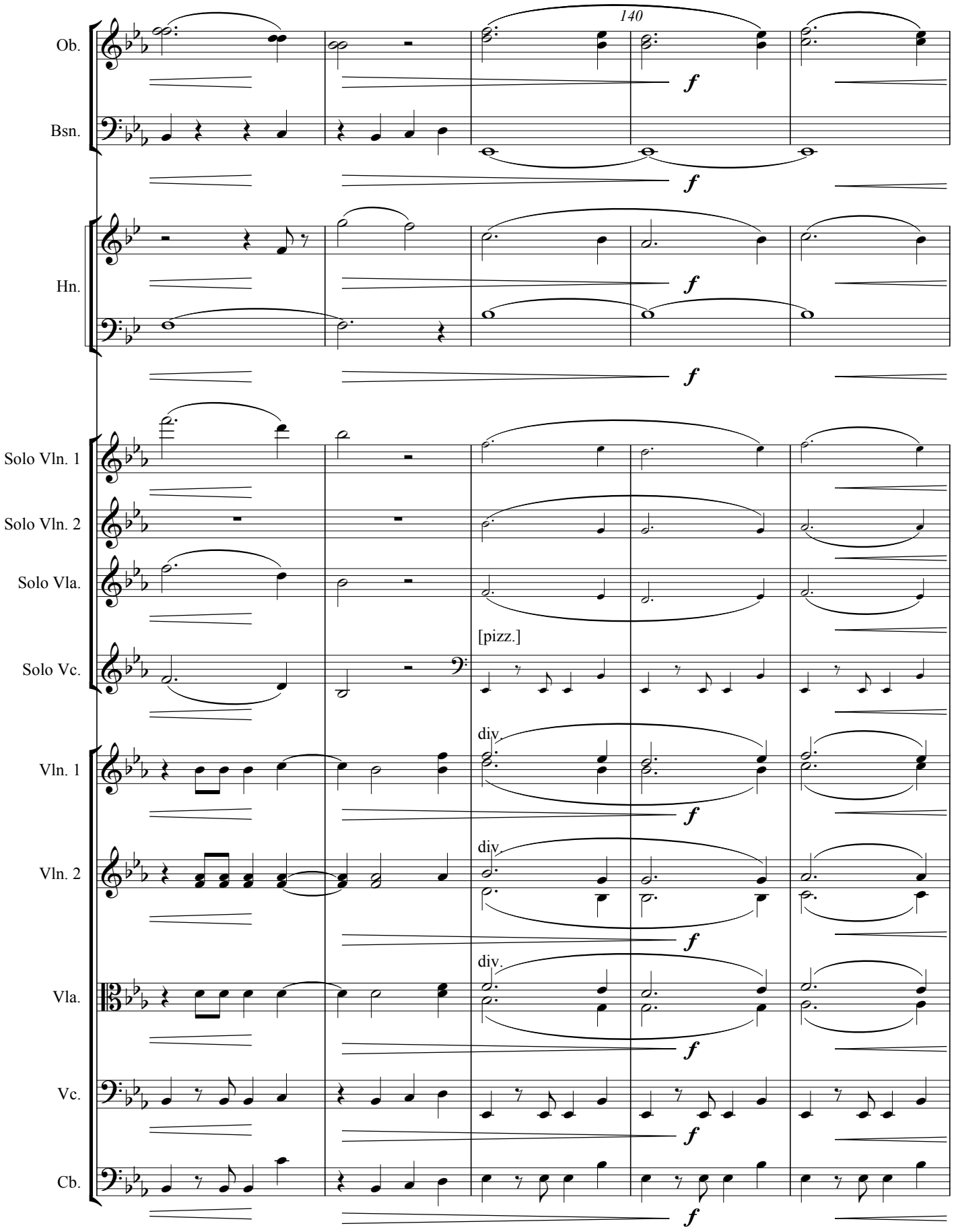

Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln. 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
[pizz.]
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

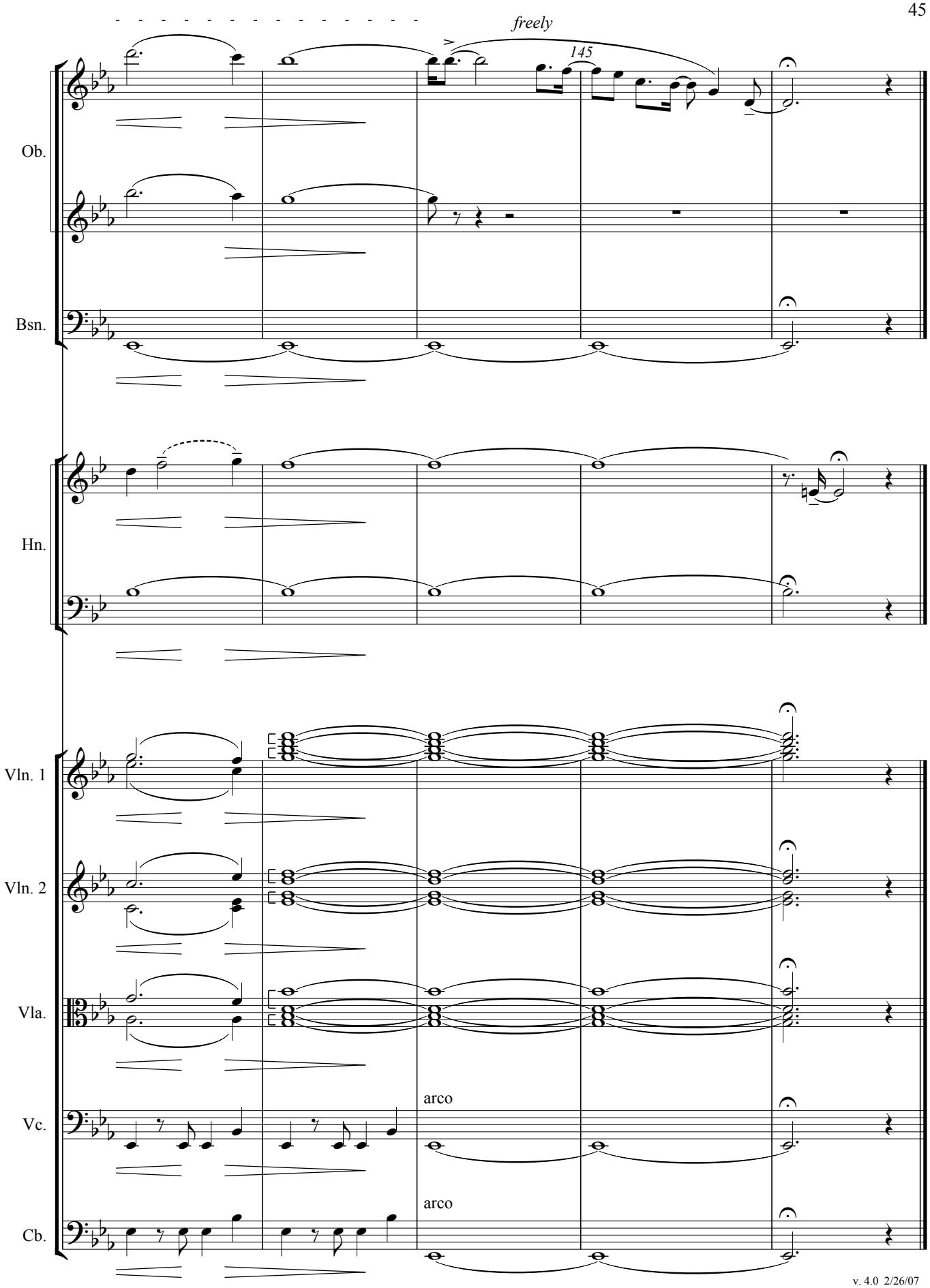

14
115
sing out
Ob.
supporting the strings
Bsn.
sing out
Hn.
sing out
Solo Vln. 1
pizz.
Solo Vln. 2
sing out
Solo Vla.
sing out
[arco]
Solo Vc.
rich and full
Vln. 1
rich and full
Vln. 2
rich and full
non div.
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.


120
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln. 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

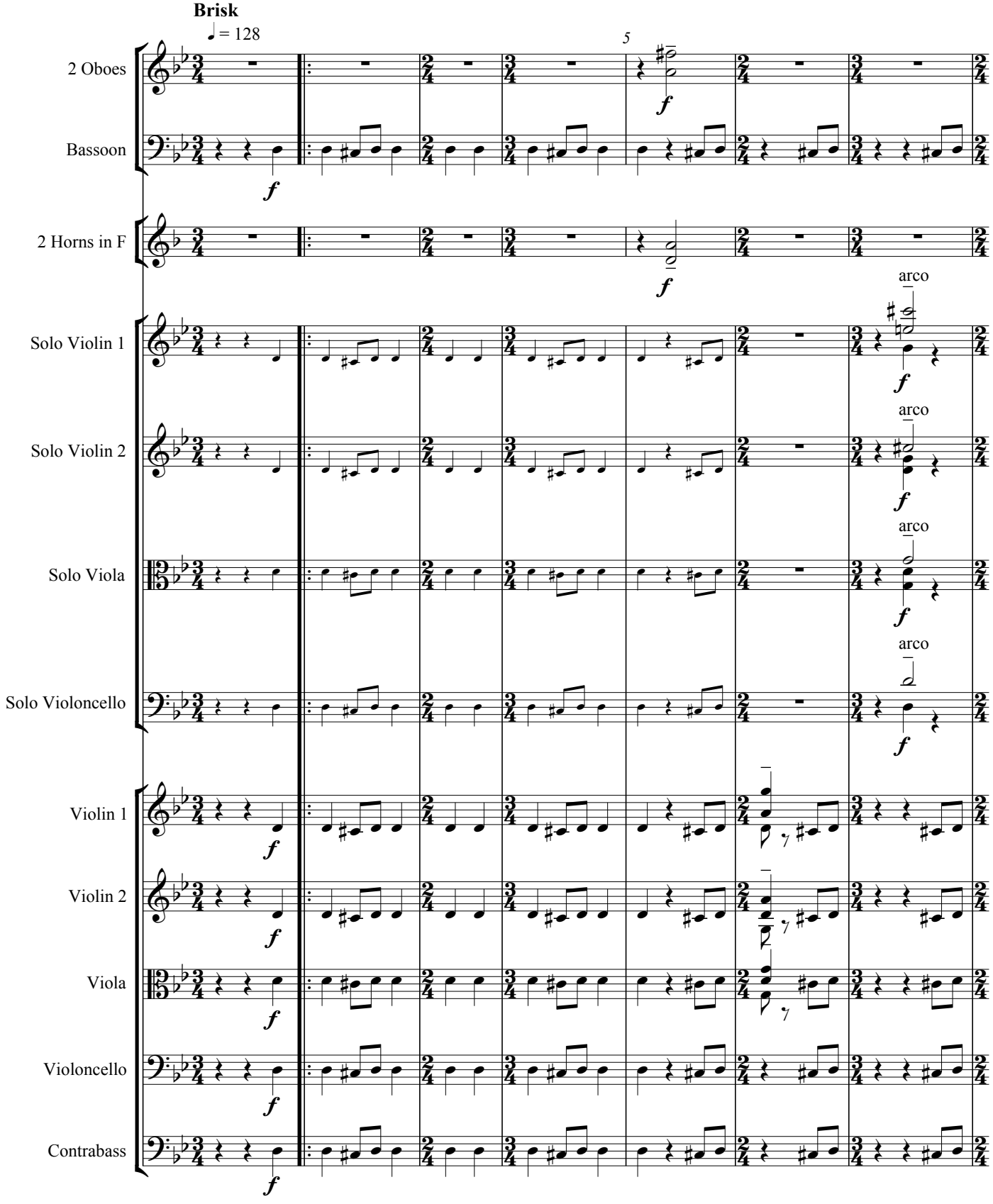

125
130
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln. 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
non div.
Vln. 1
non div.
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

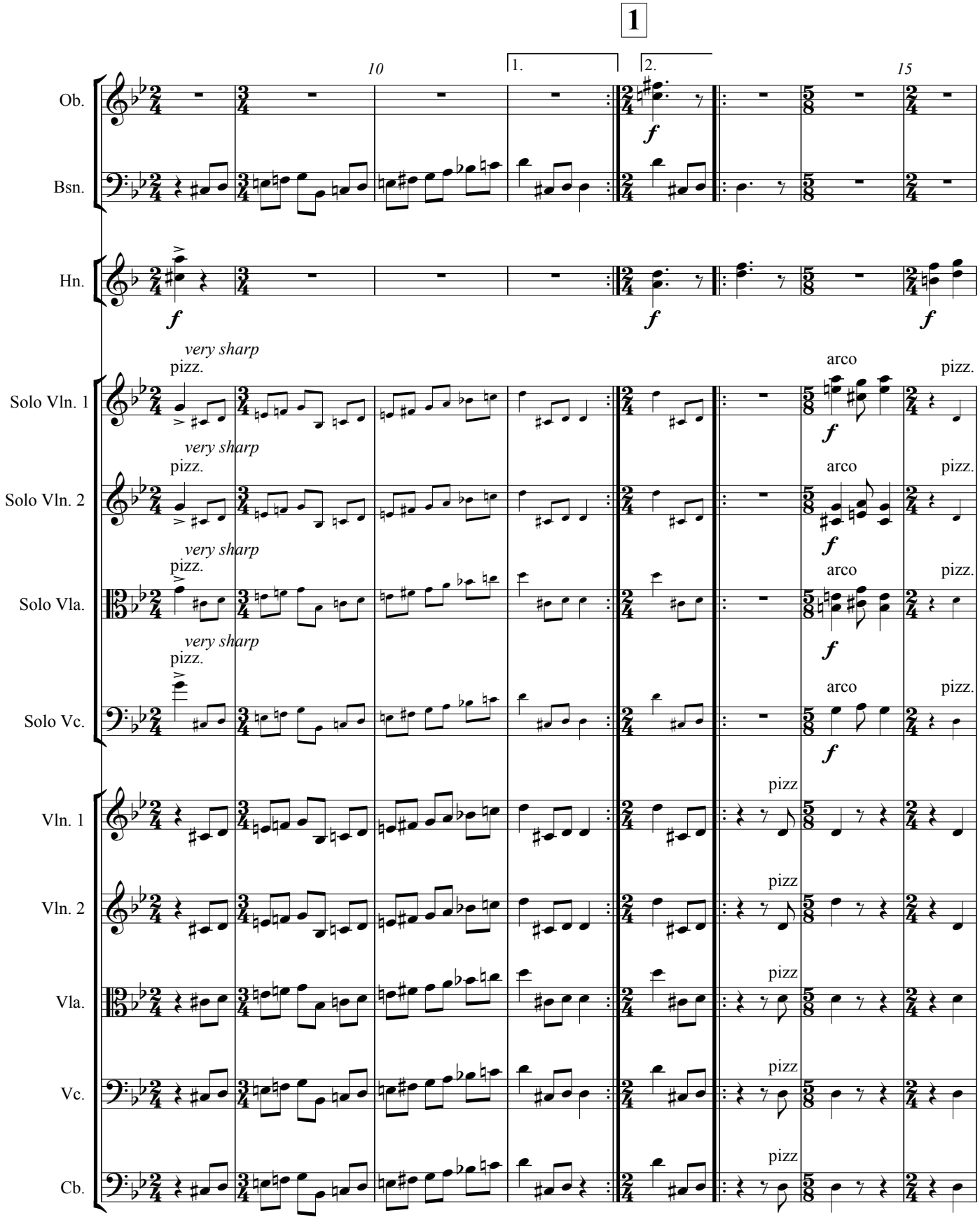

135
a2
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln. 2
fff
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

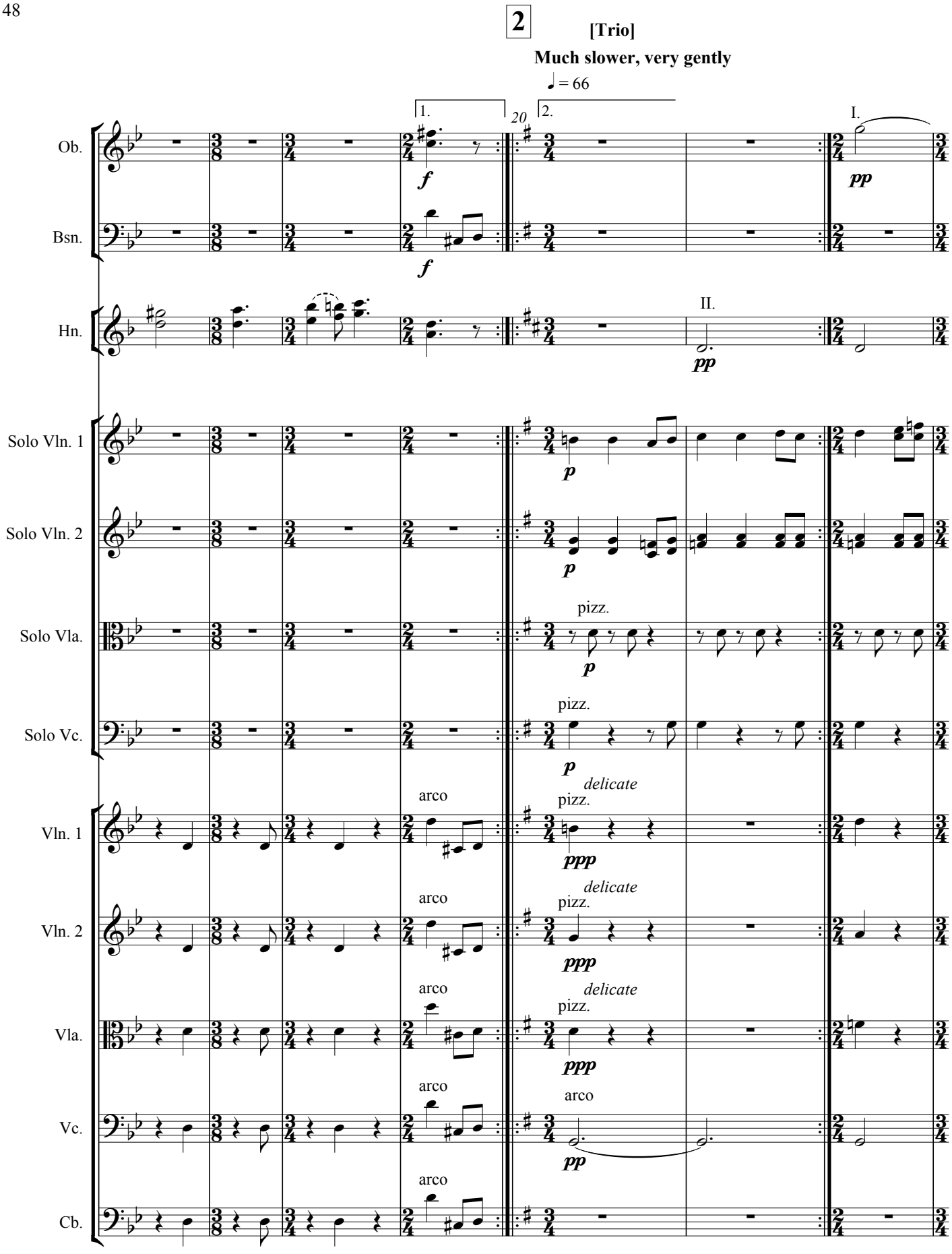

rit.
140
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln. 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
[pizz.]
Vln. 1
div.
Vln. 2
div.
Vla.
div.
Vc.
Cb.
f

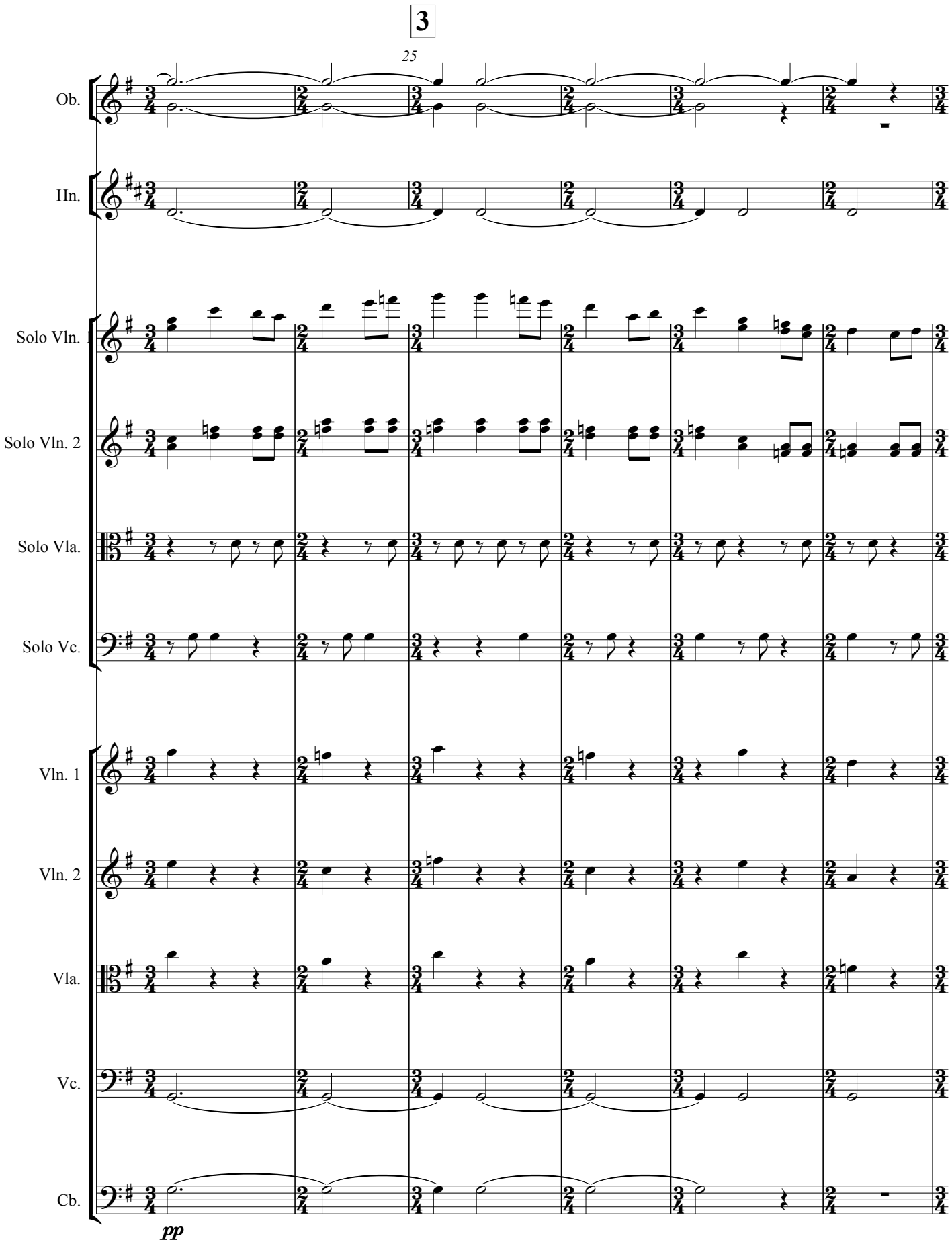

freely
145
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
arco
Vc.
arco
Cb.

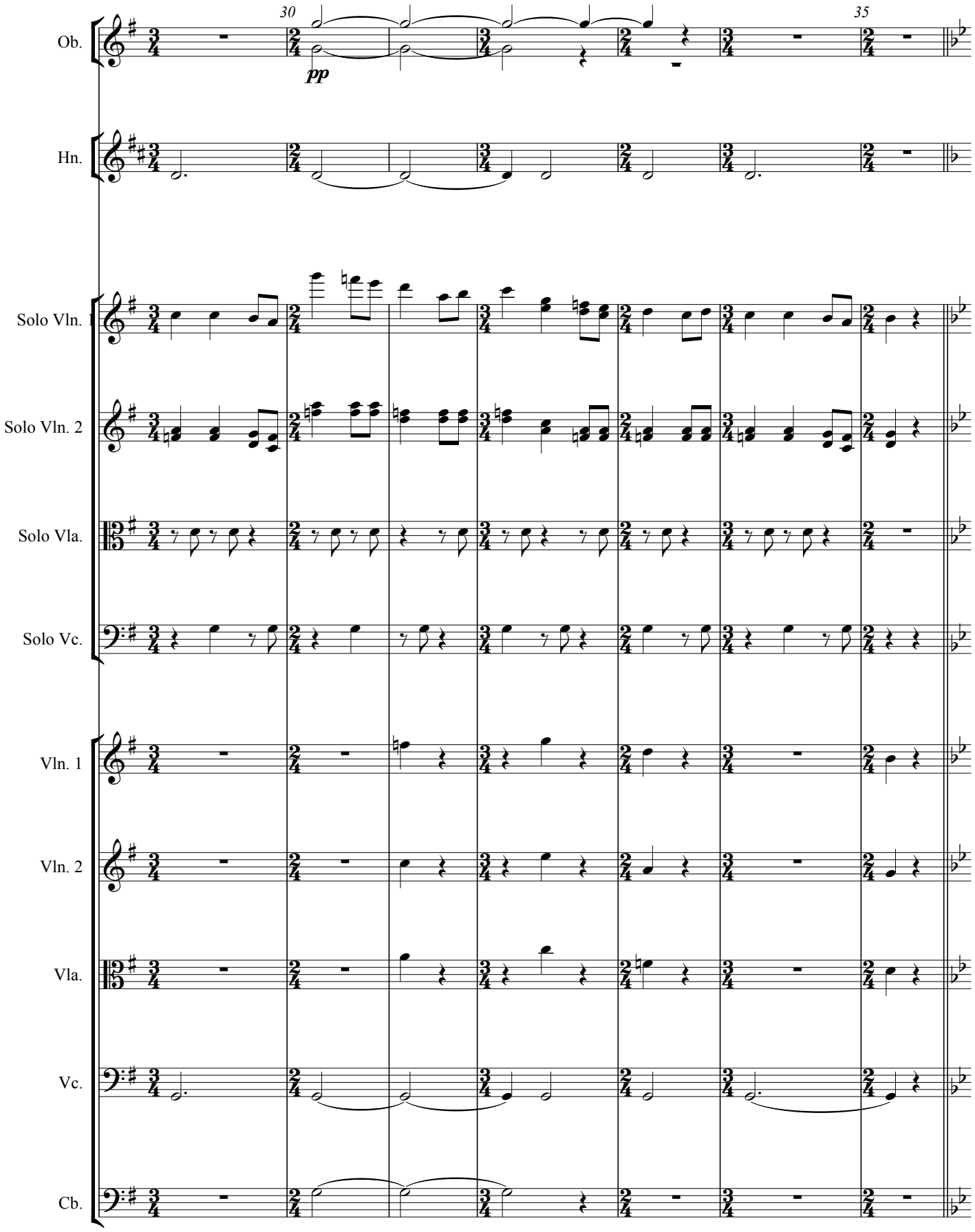
III
Scherzo (Palindrome)

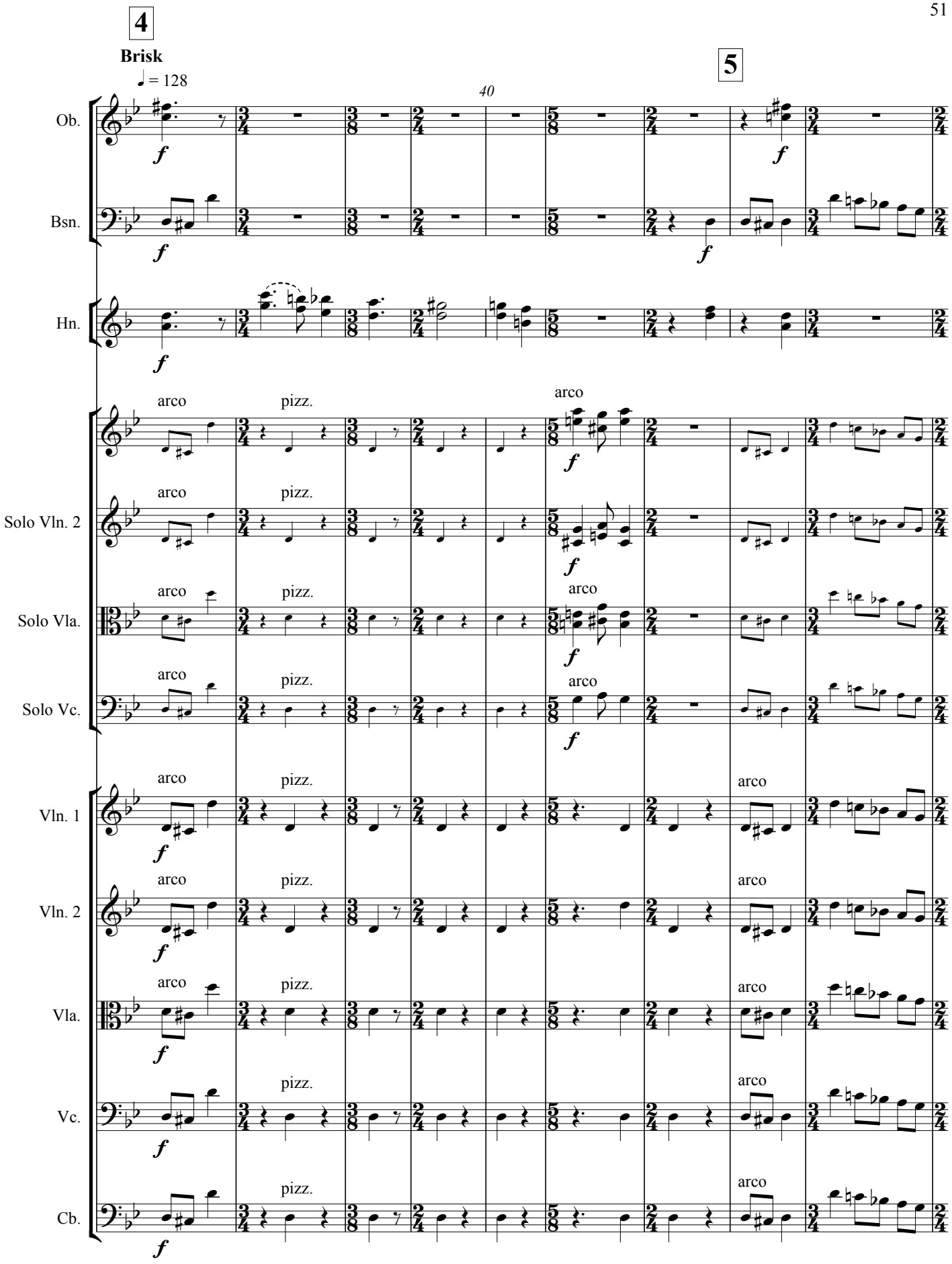


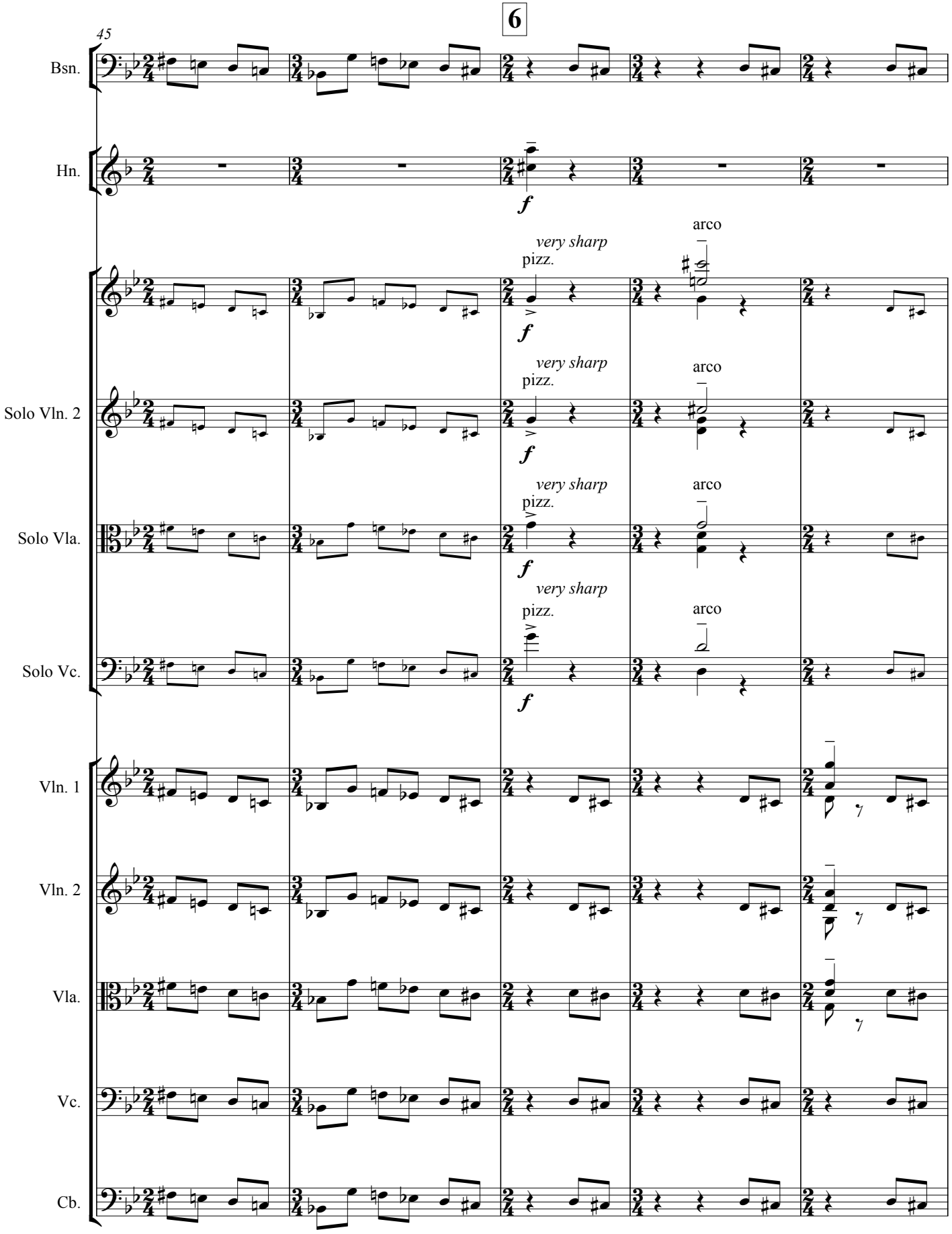

1
10
1.
2.
15
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln. 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
very sharp
pizz.
arco
f

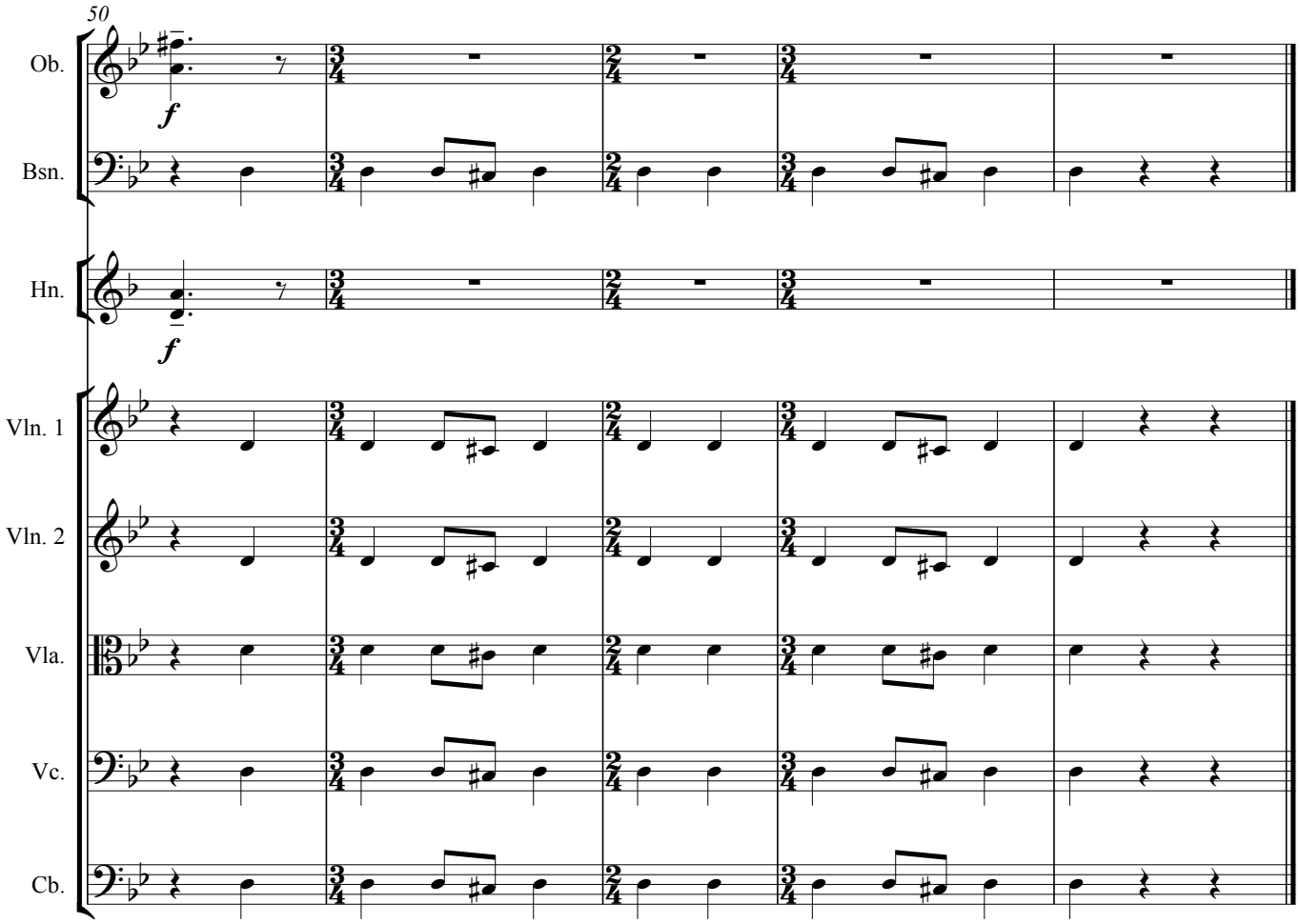

2
[Trio]
Much slower, very gently
♩ = 66
1.
20
2.
I.
II.
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln. 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
pp
p
pizz.
arco
delicate
ppp


3
25
Ob.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln. 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pp

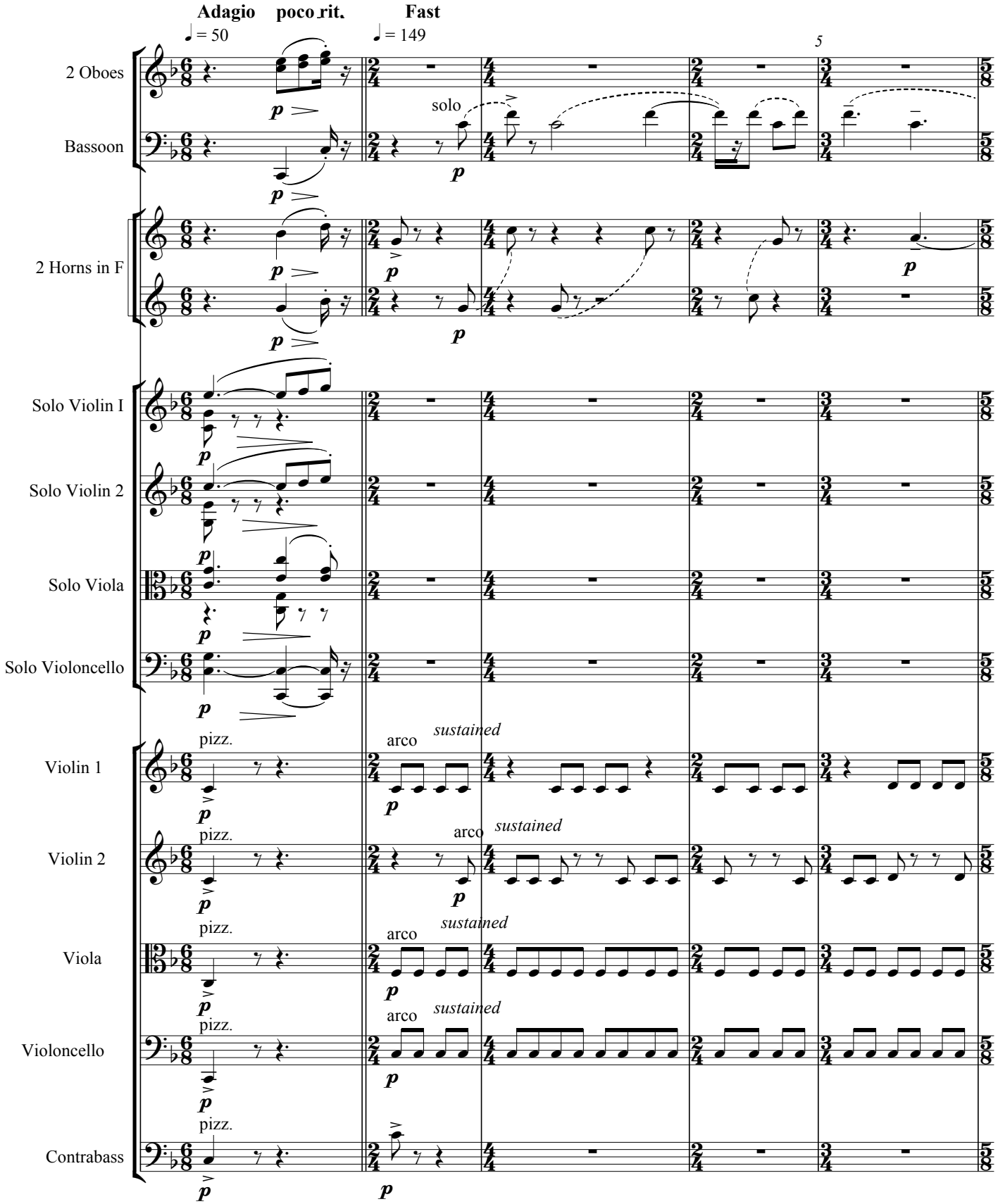

30
35
pp
Ob.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln. 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

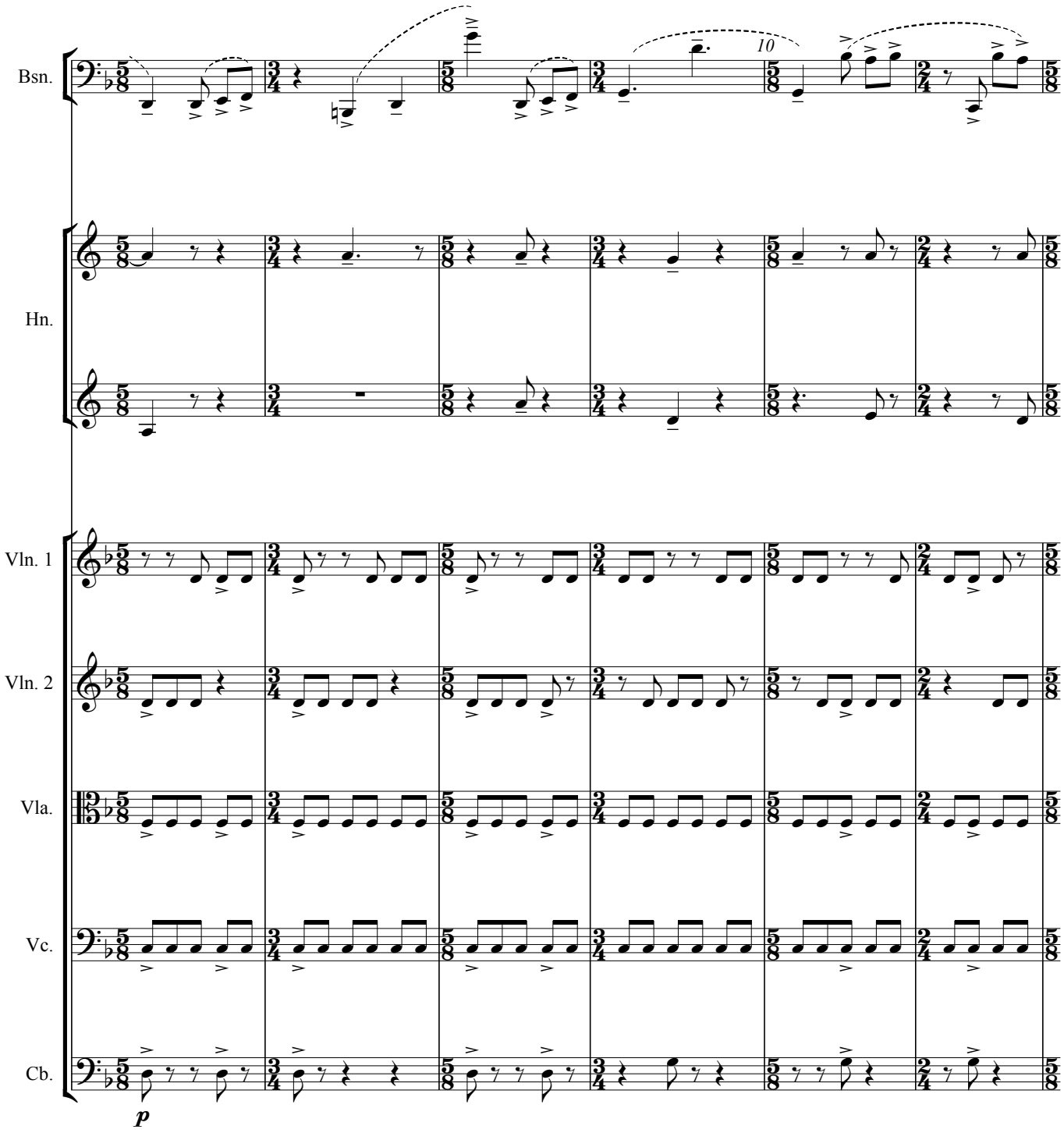

4
Brisk
♩ = 128
40
5
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
arco
pizz.
f

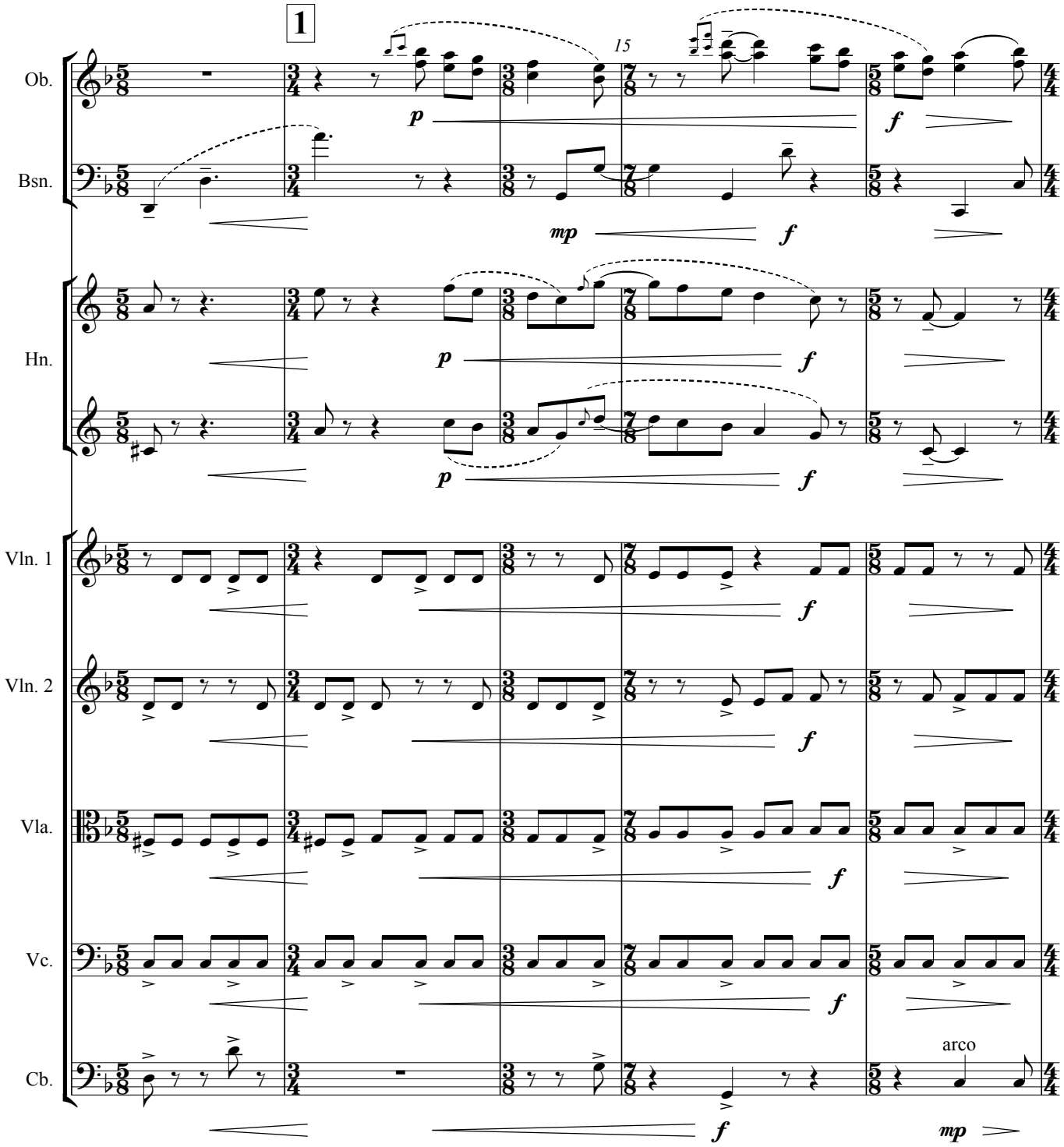

6
45
Bsn.
Hn.
f
very sharp
pizz.
arco
Solo Vln. 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

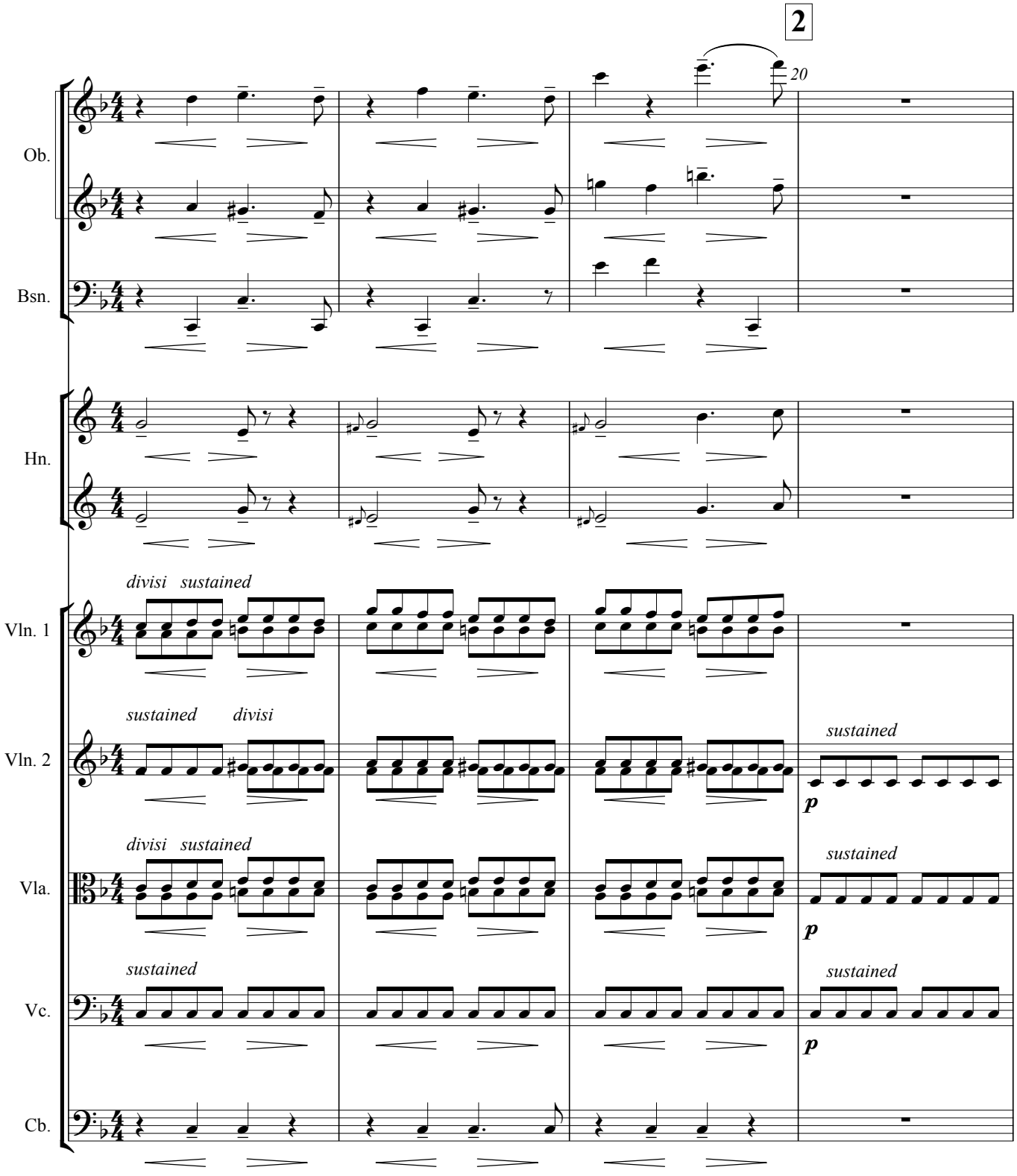

50
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
f

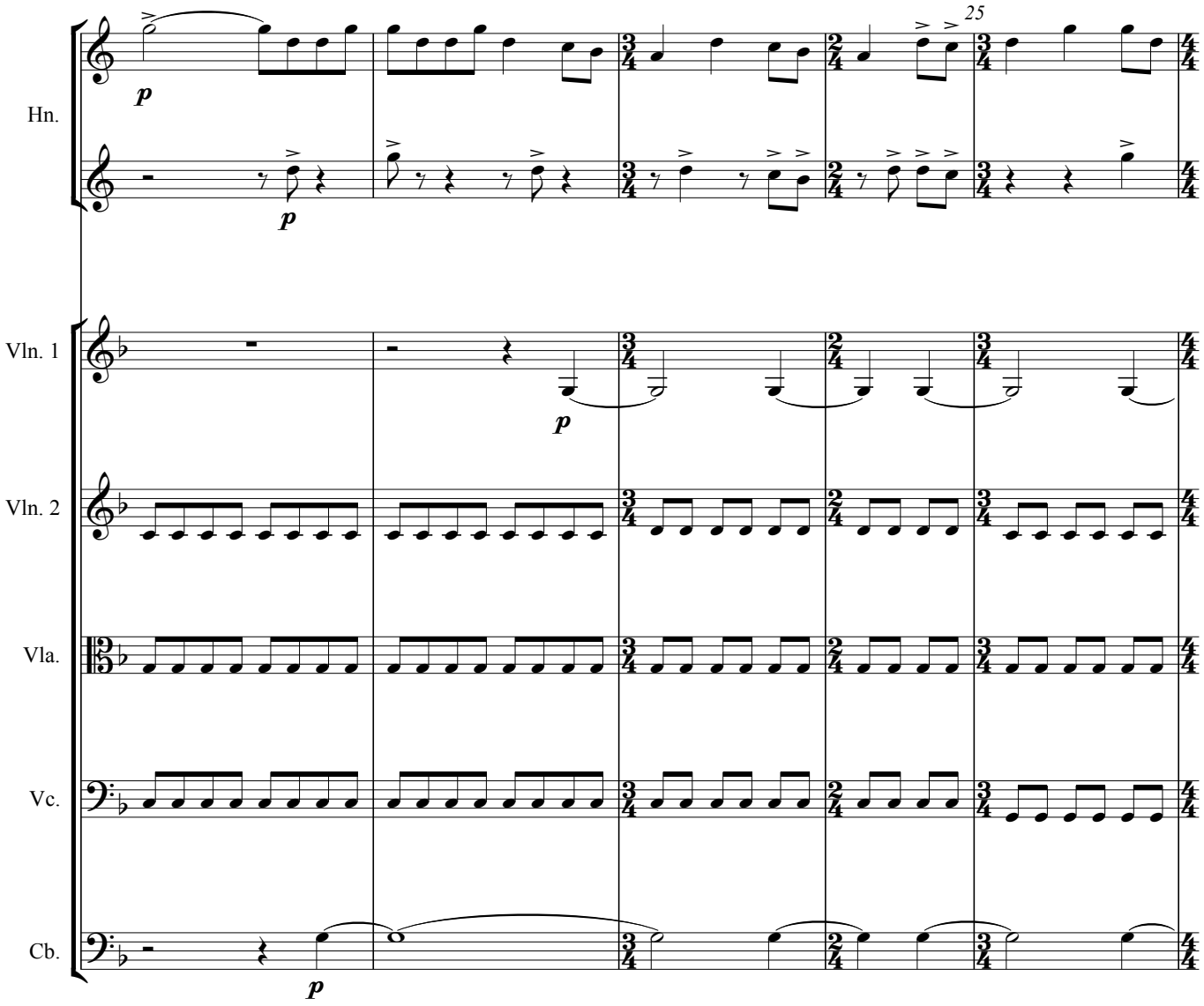
IV
Finale

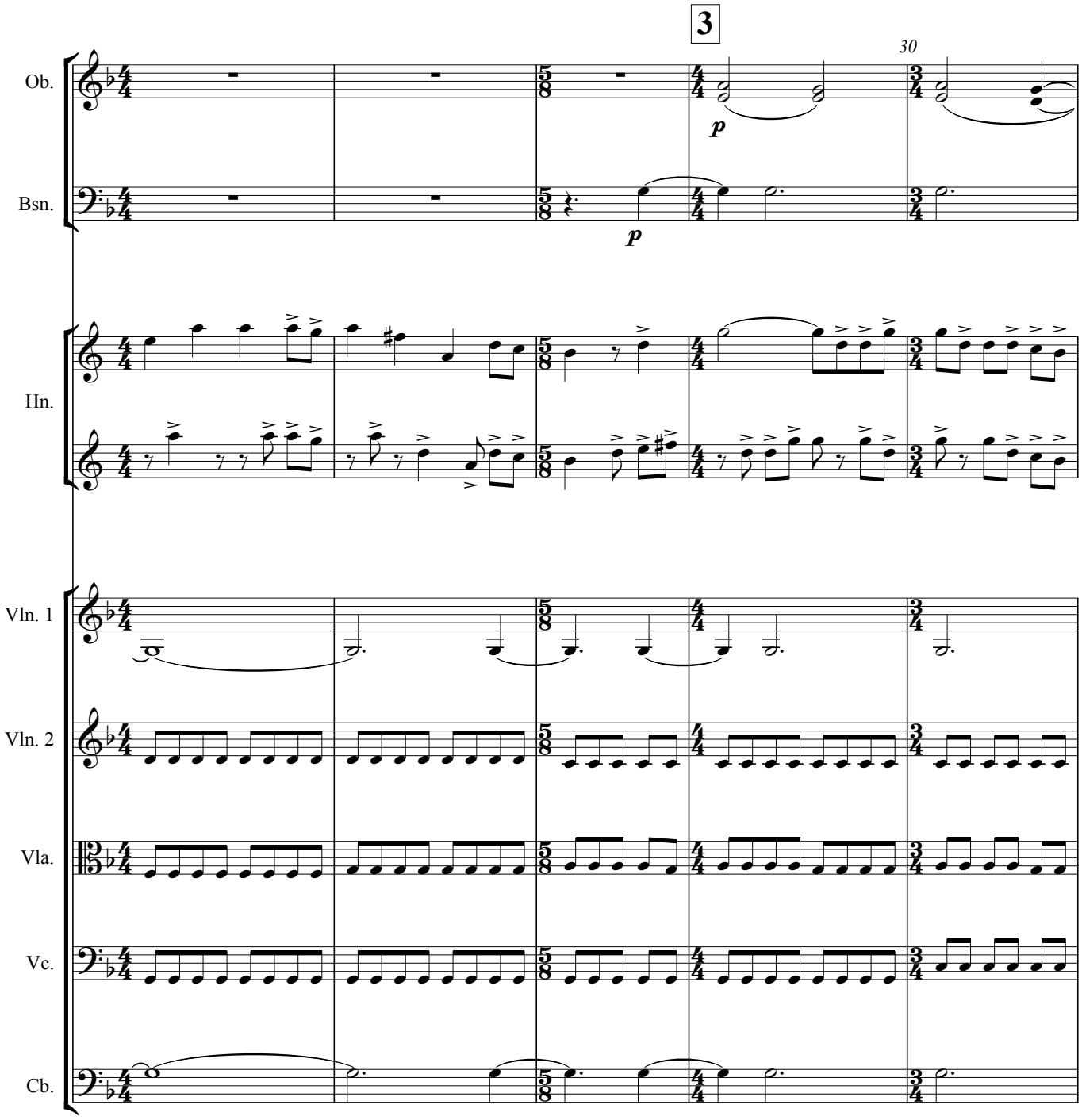

Adagio
poco rit.
Fast
♩ = 50
♩ = 149
5
2 Oboes
Bassoon
2 Horns in F
Solo Violin I
Solo Violin 2
Solo Viola
Solo Violoncello
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello
Contrabass
solo
pizz.
arco
sustained
p

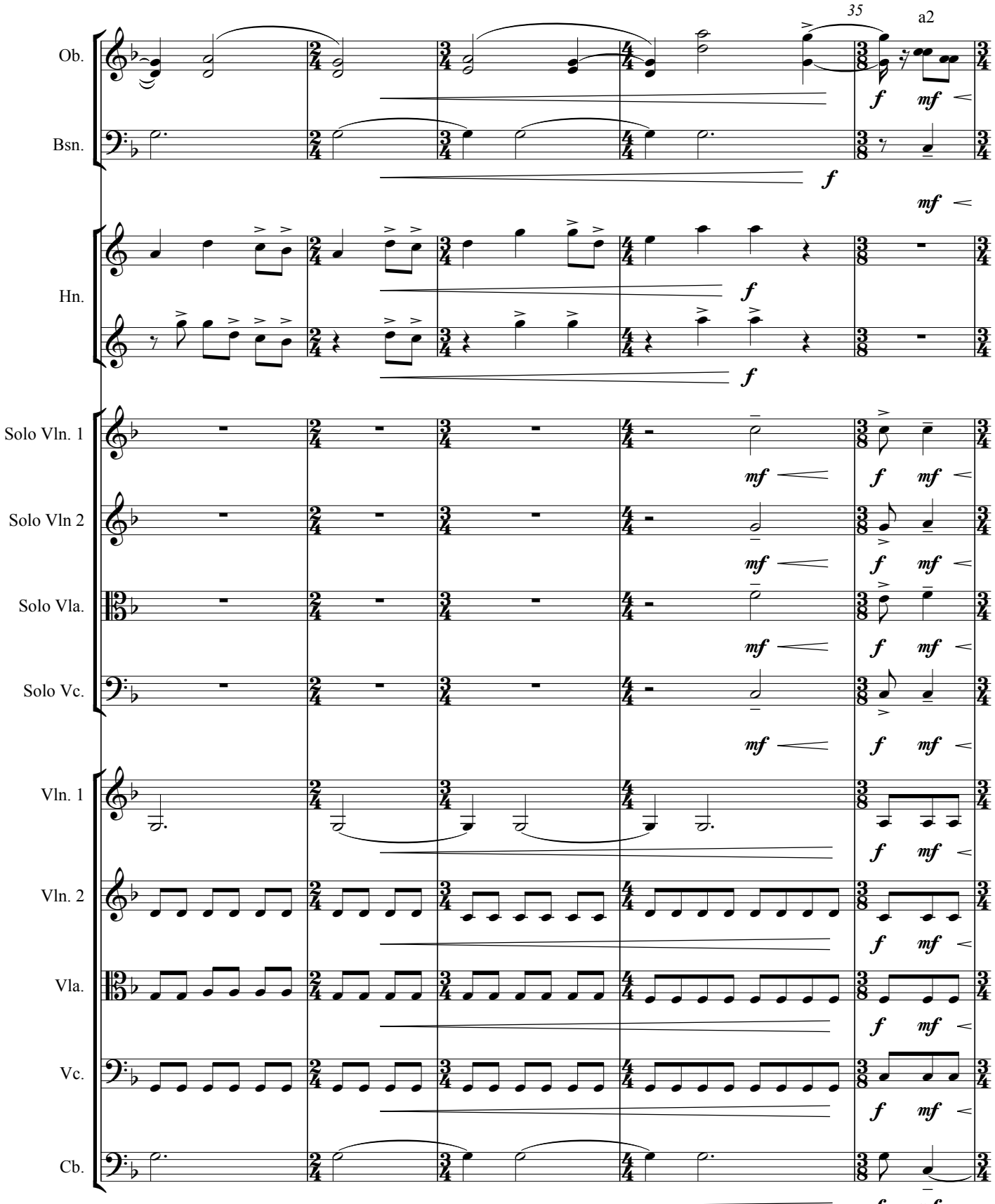

Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
10
p

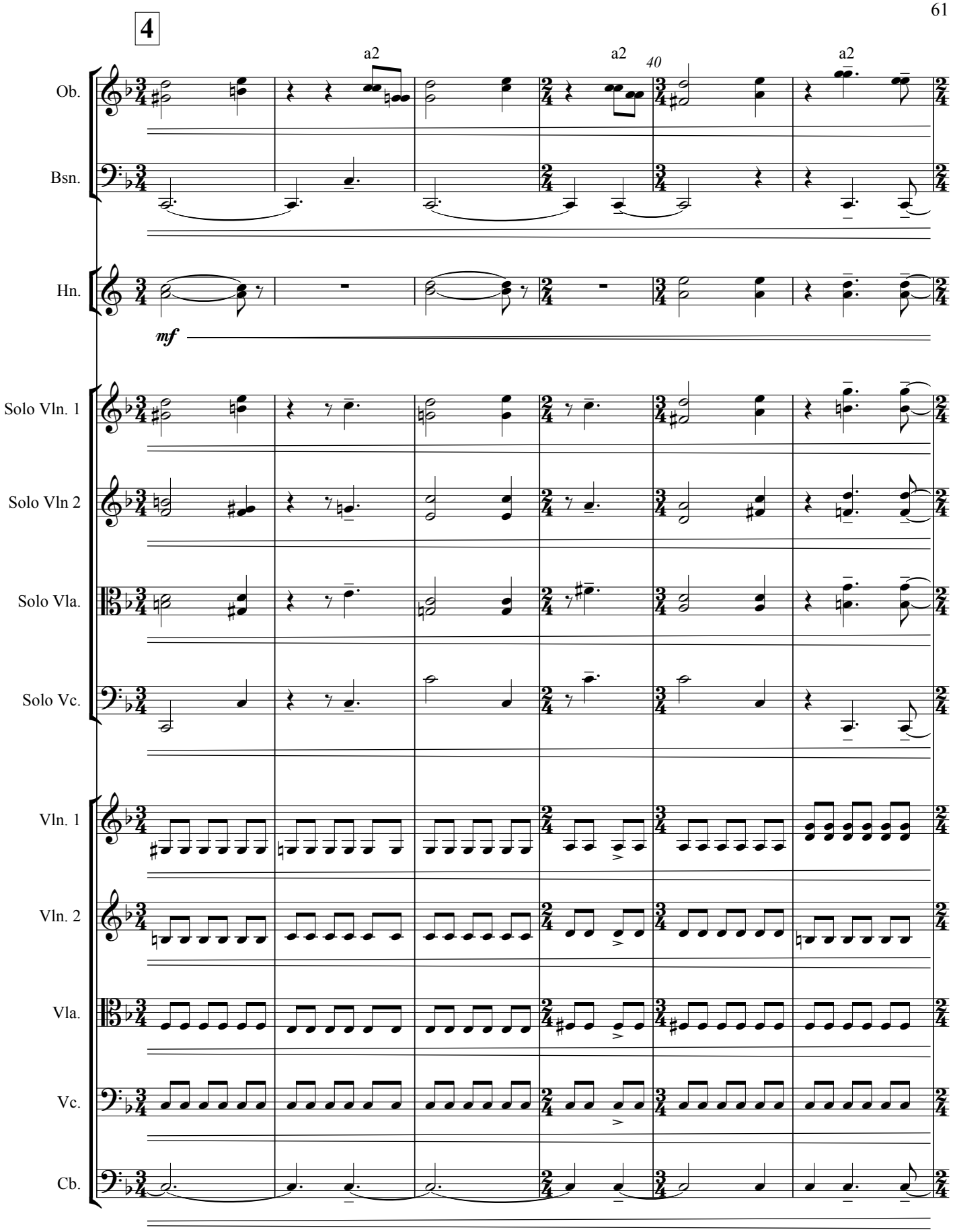

1
15
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
arco

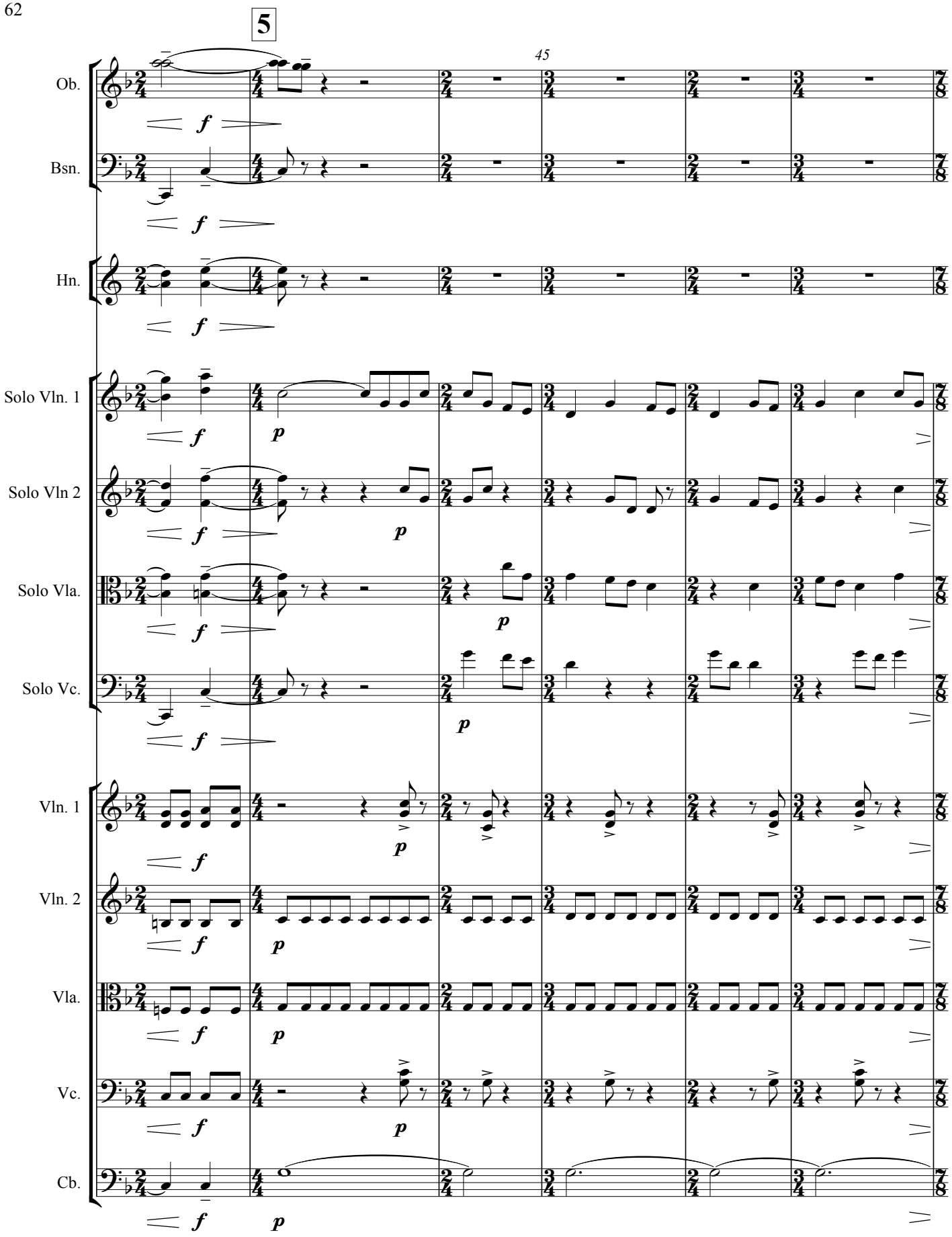

2
20
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
divisi sustained
Vln. 1
sustained divisi
Vln. 2
sustained
p
divisi sustained
Vla.
sustained
p
sustained
Vc.
sustained
p
Cb.


25
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p

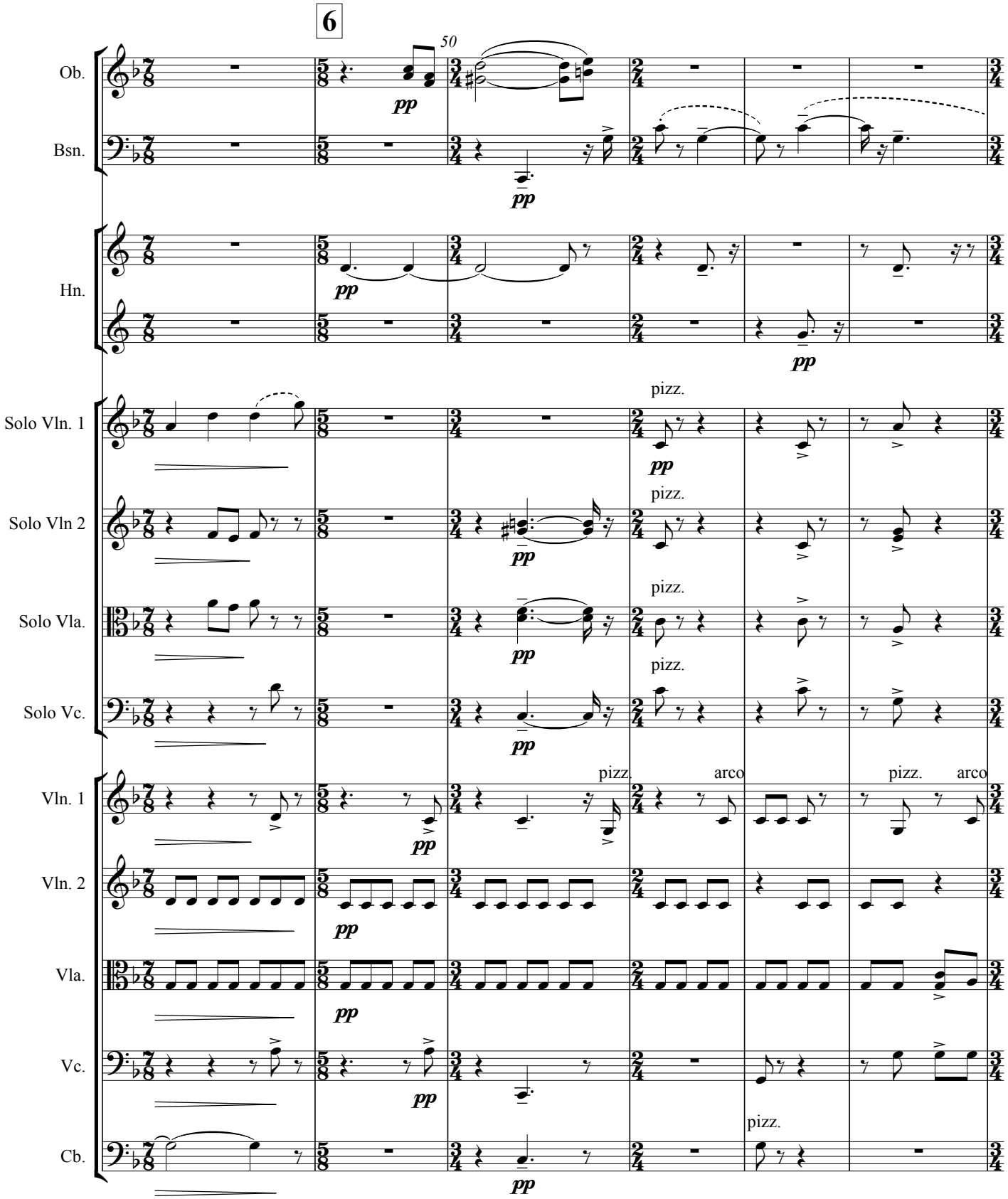

3
30
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p
p

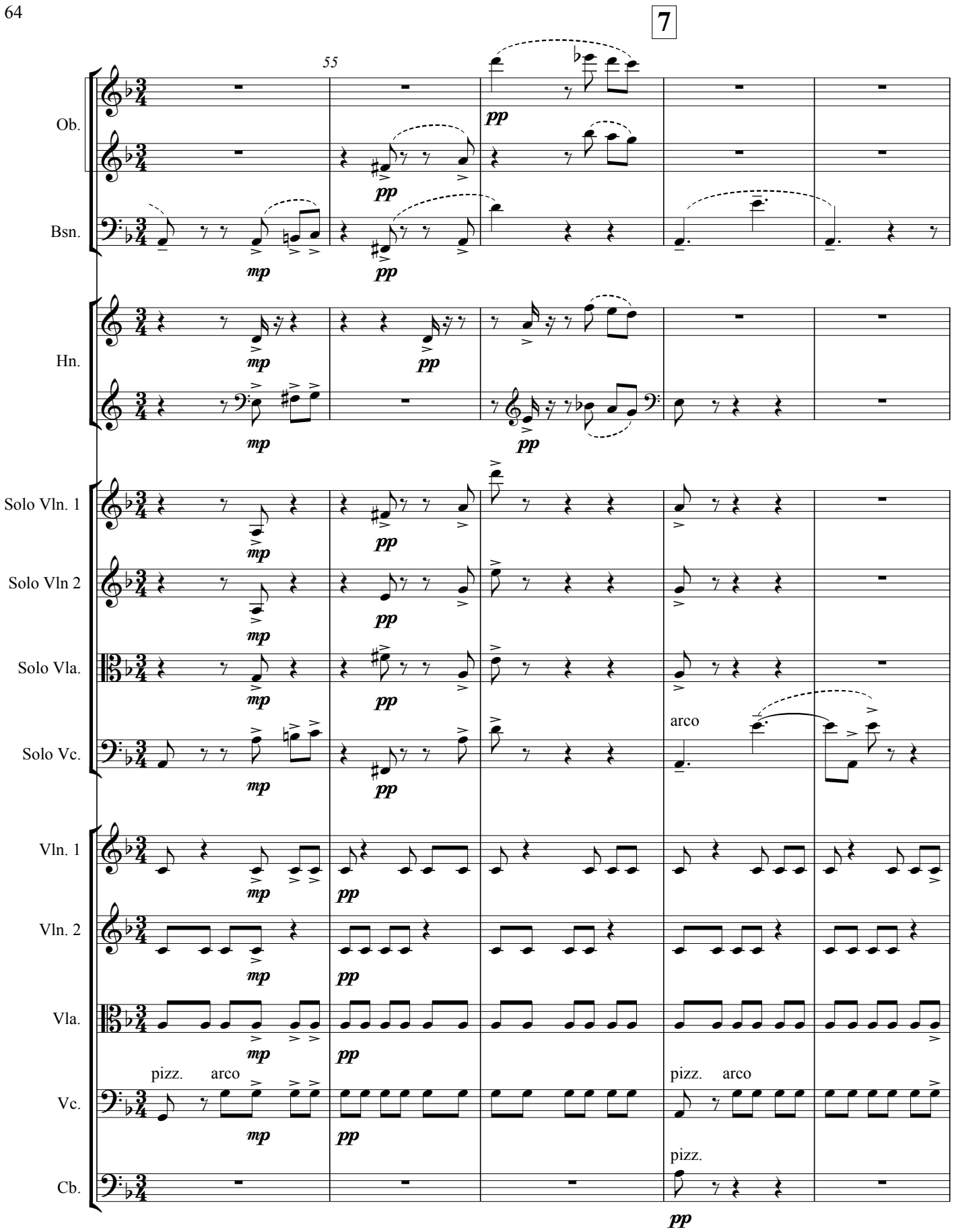

35
a2
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
mf

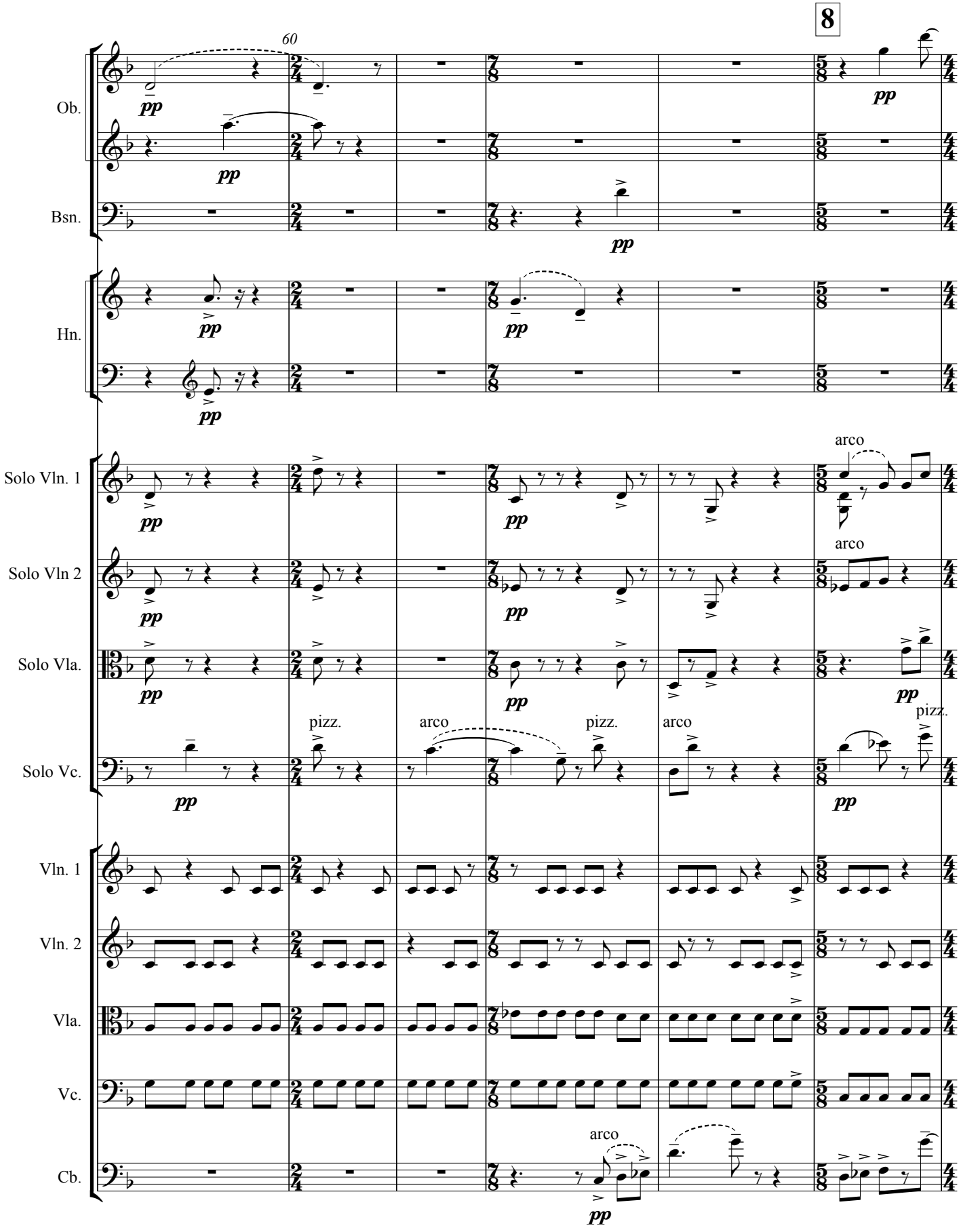

4
a2
a2
40
a2
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
mf
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

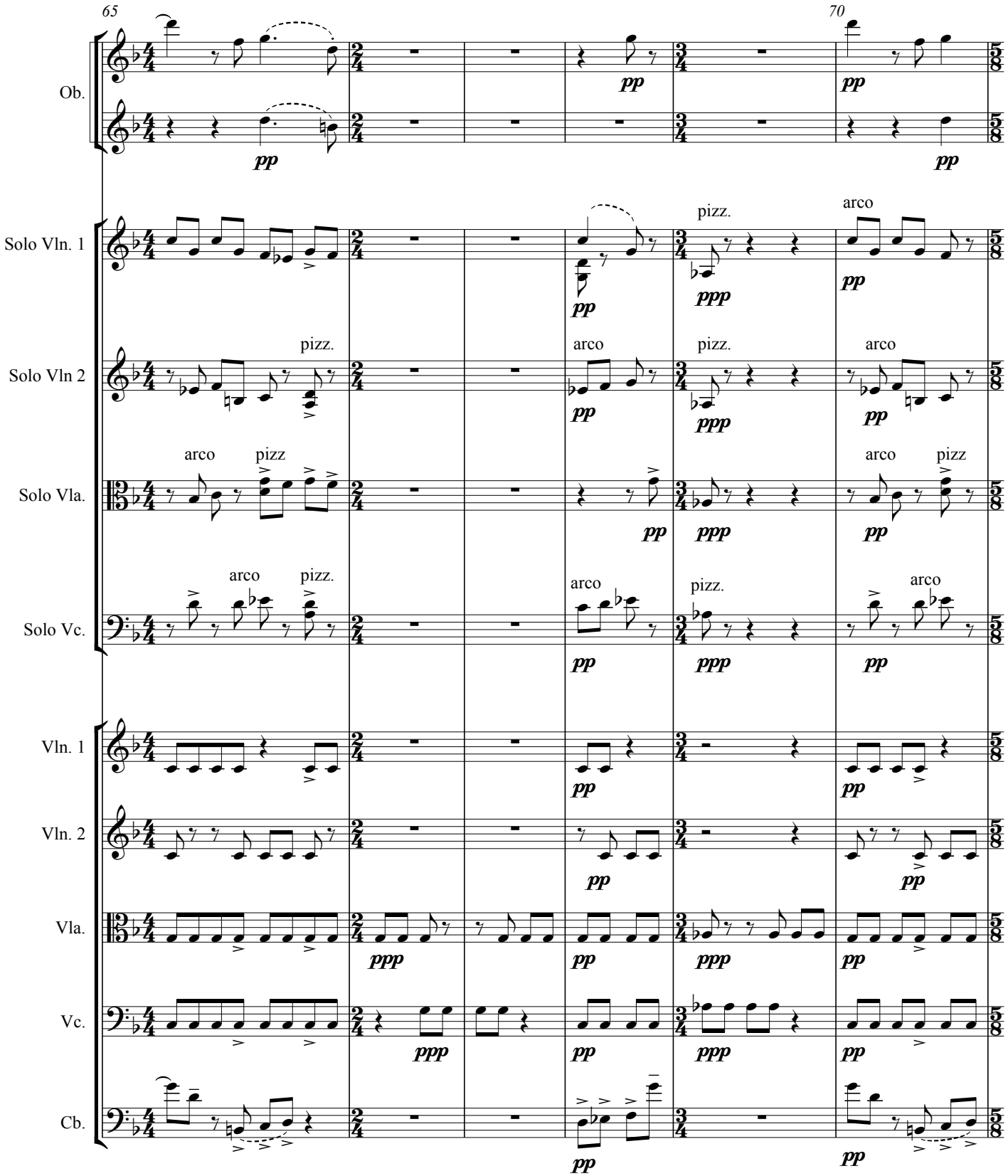

5
45
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
p

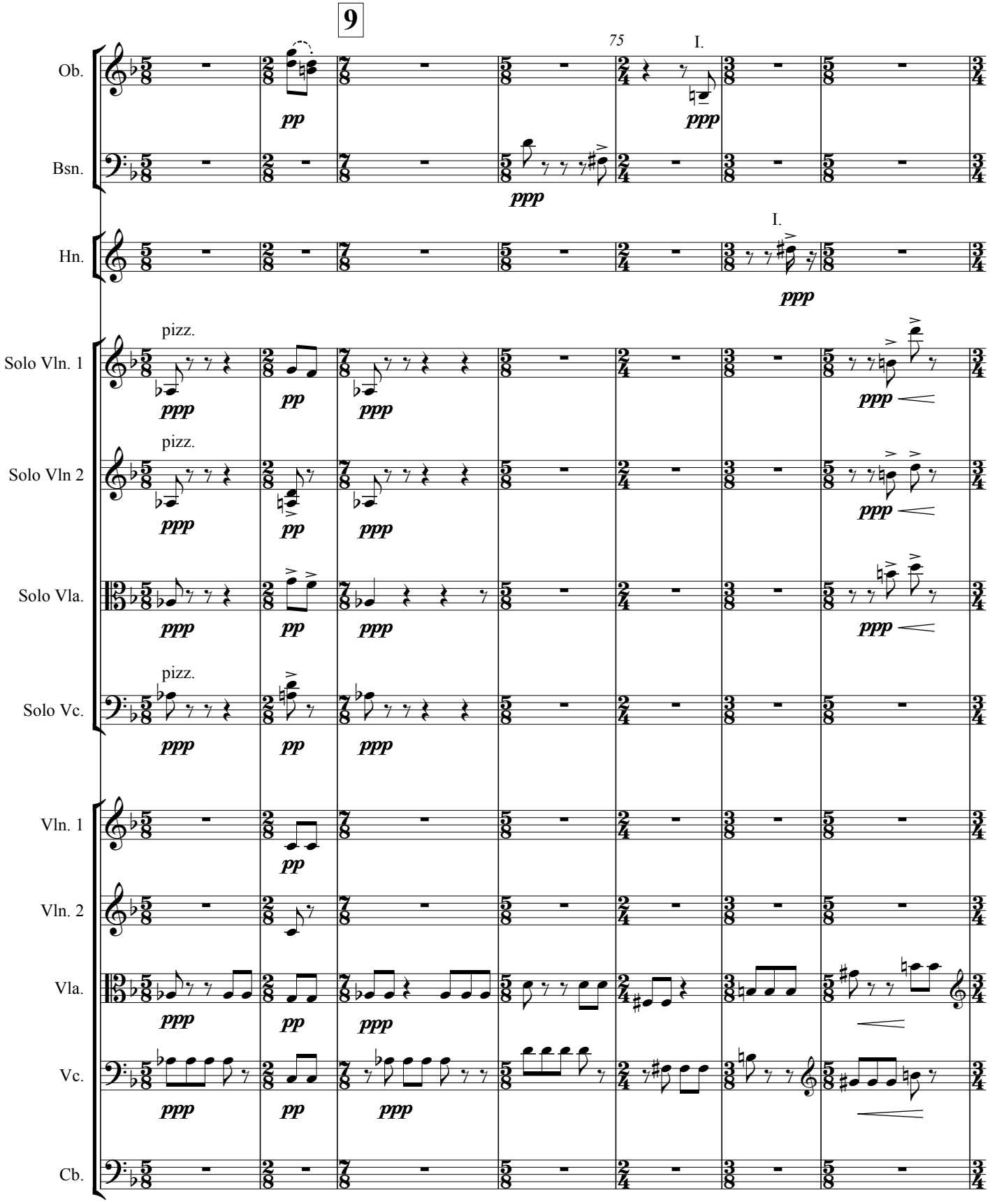
[the entire development section should be quiet, even hushed]

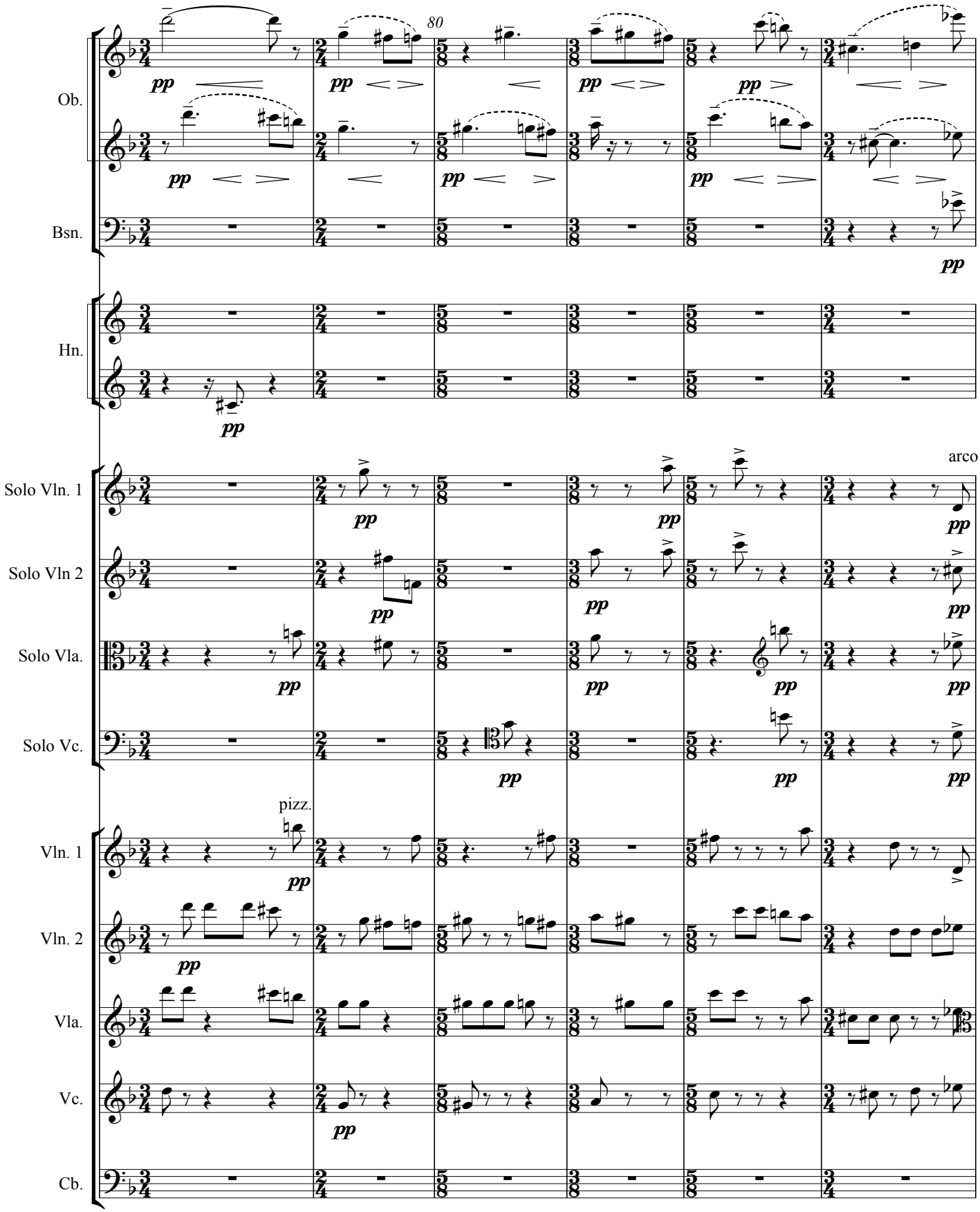


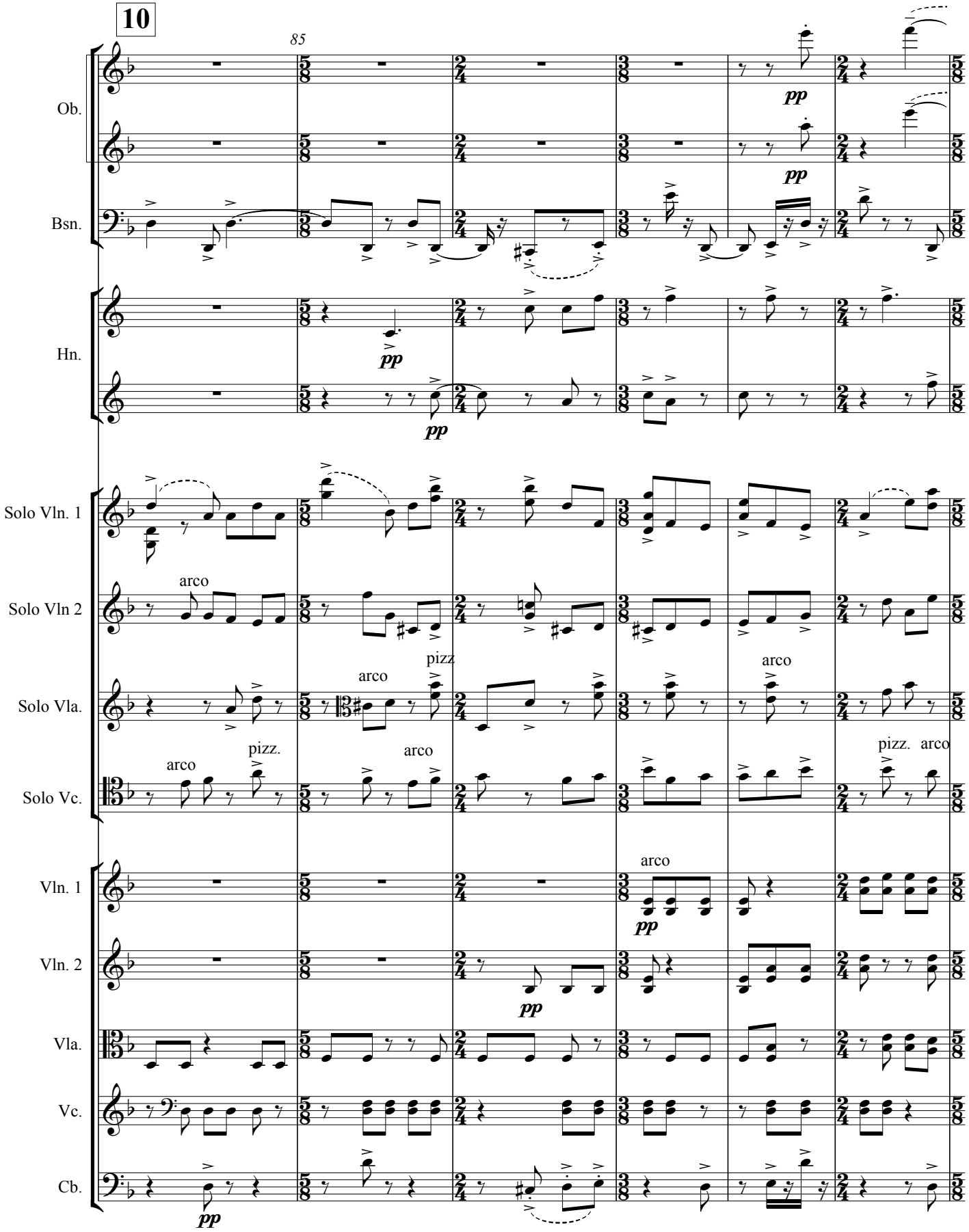

7
55
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
mp
pp

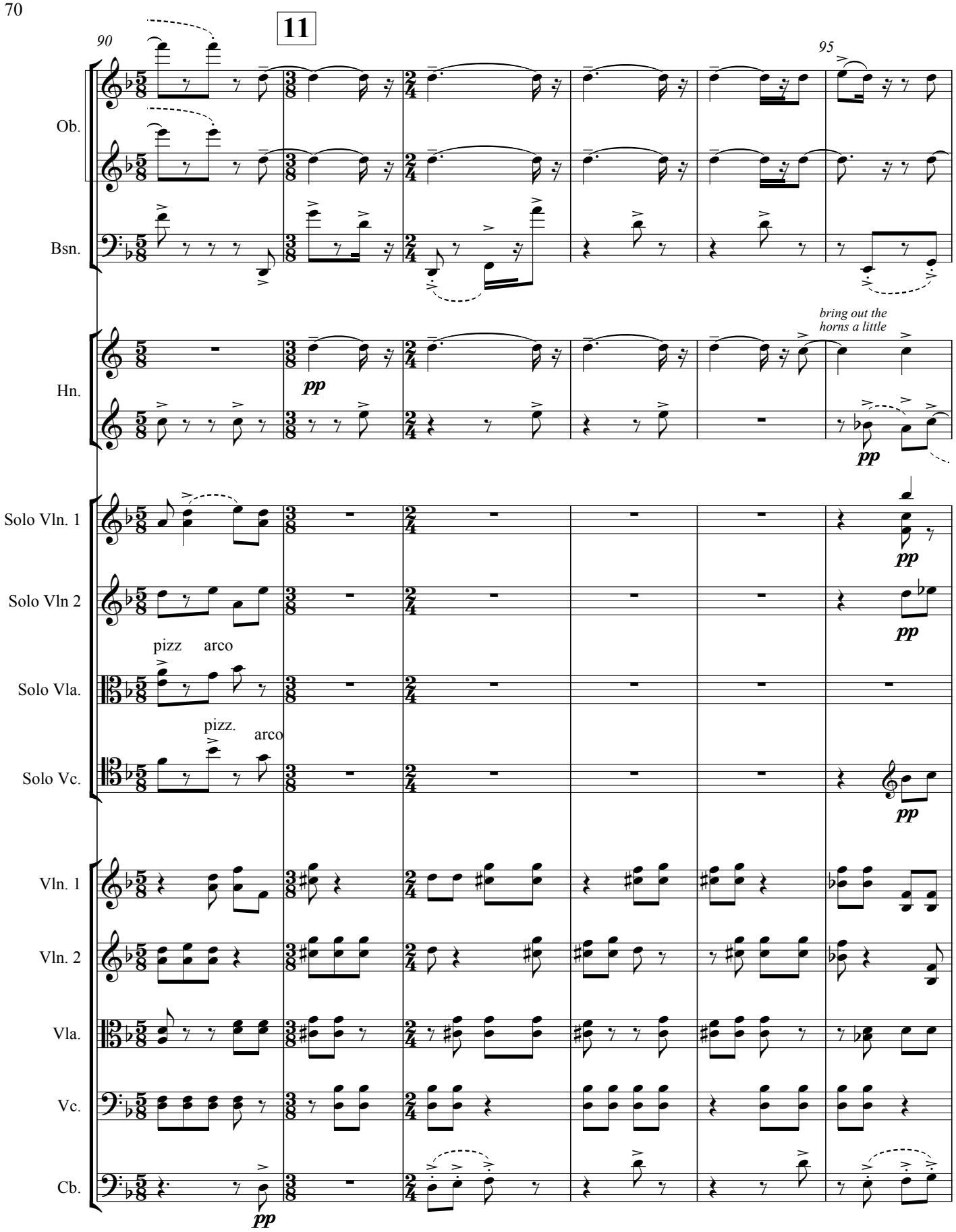

8
60
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pp
arco
pizz.

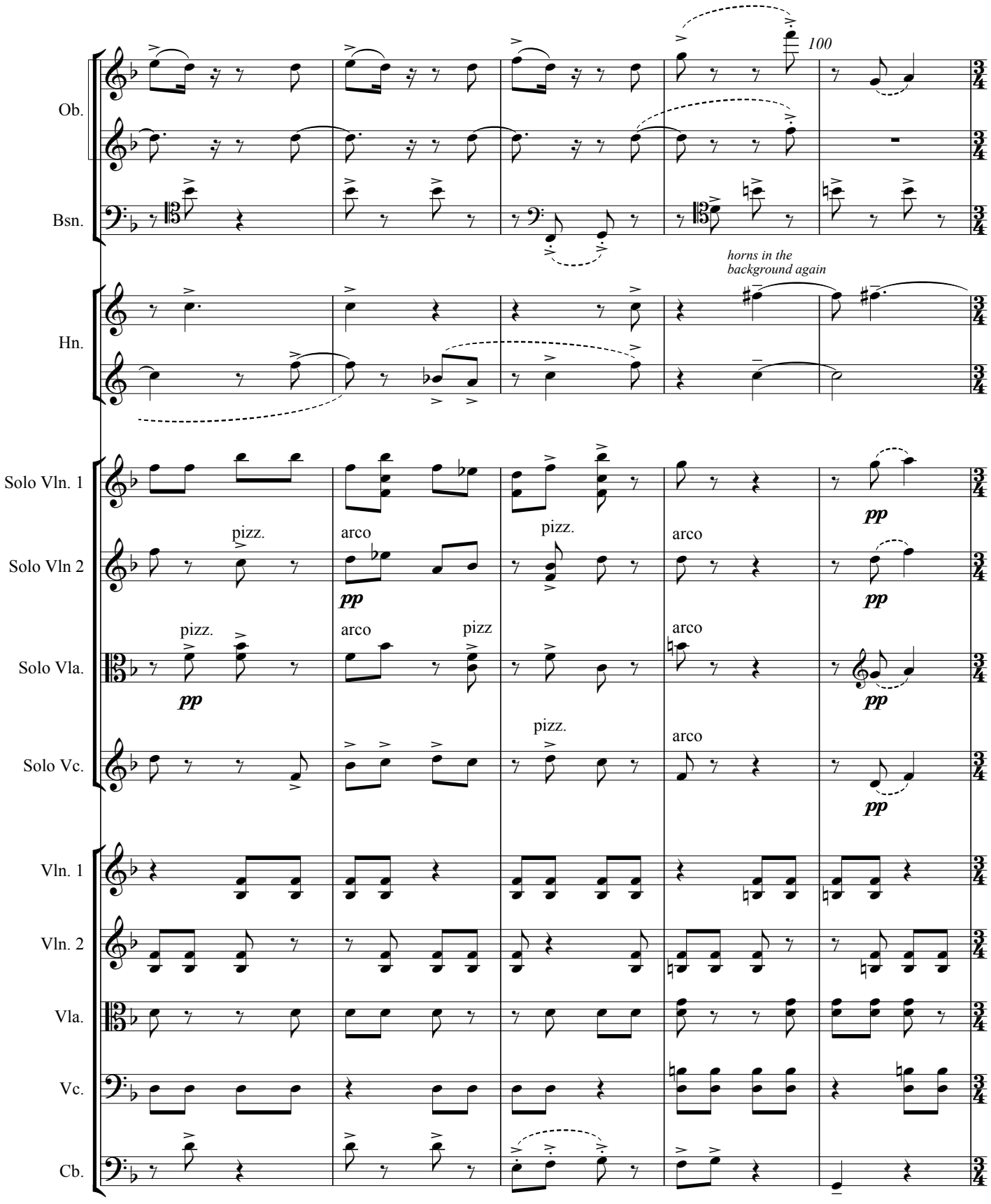

65
70
Ob.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pizz.
arco
pizz
pp
ppp

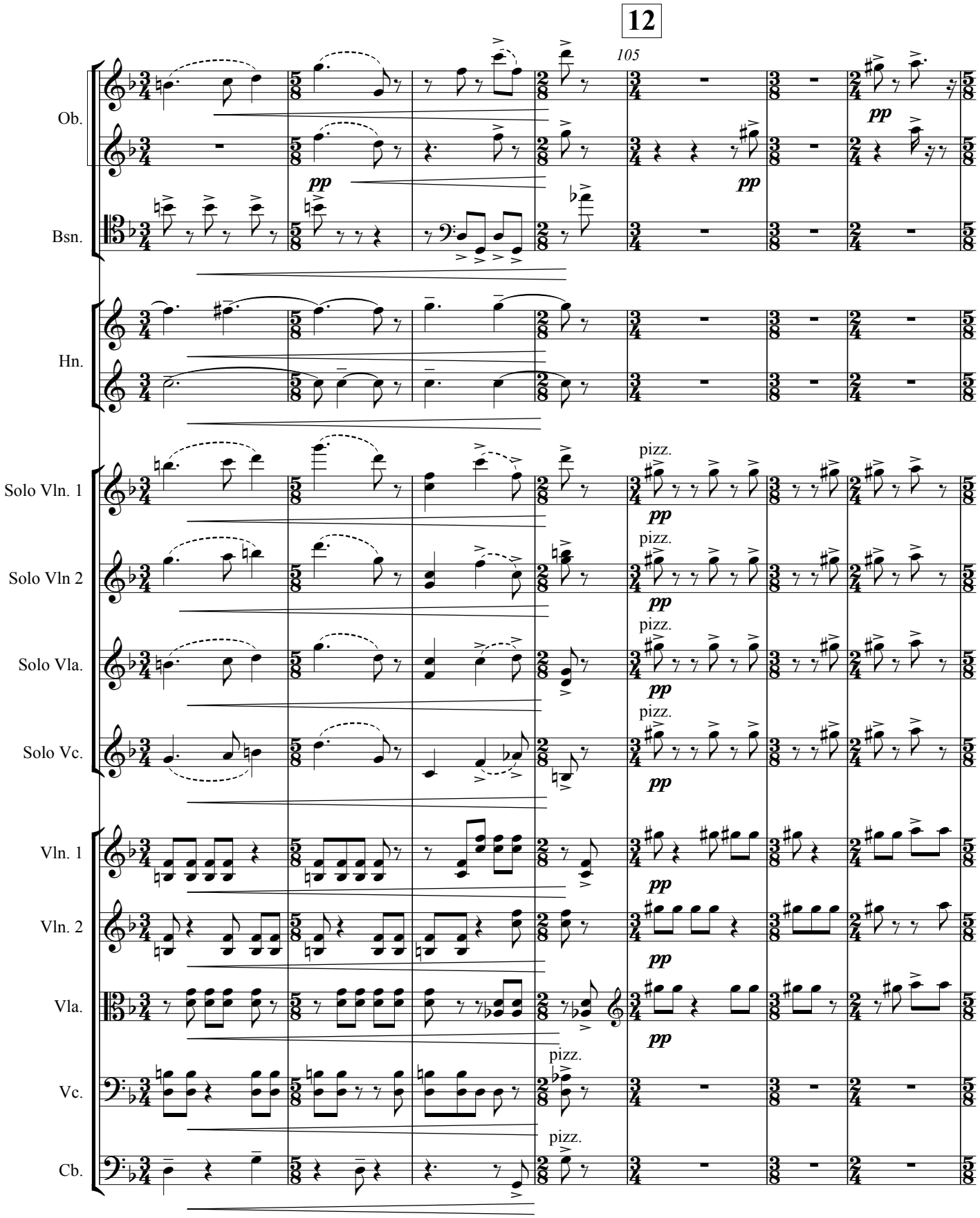

9
75
I.
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pizz.
ppp
pp

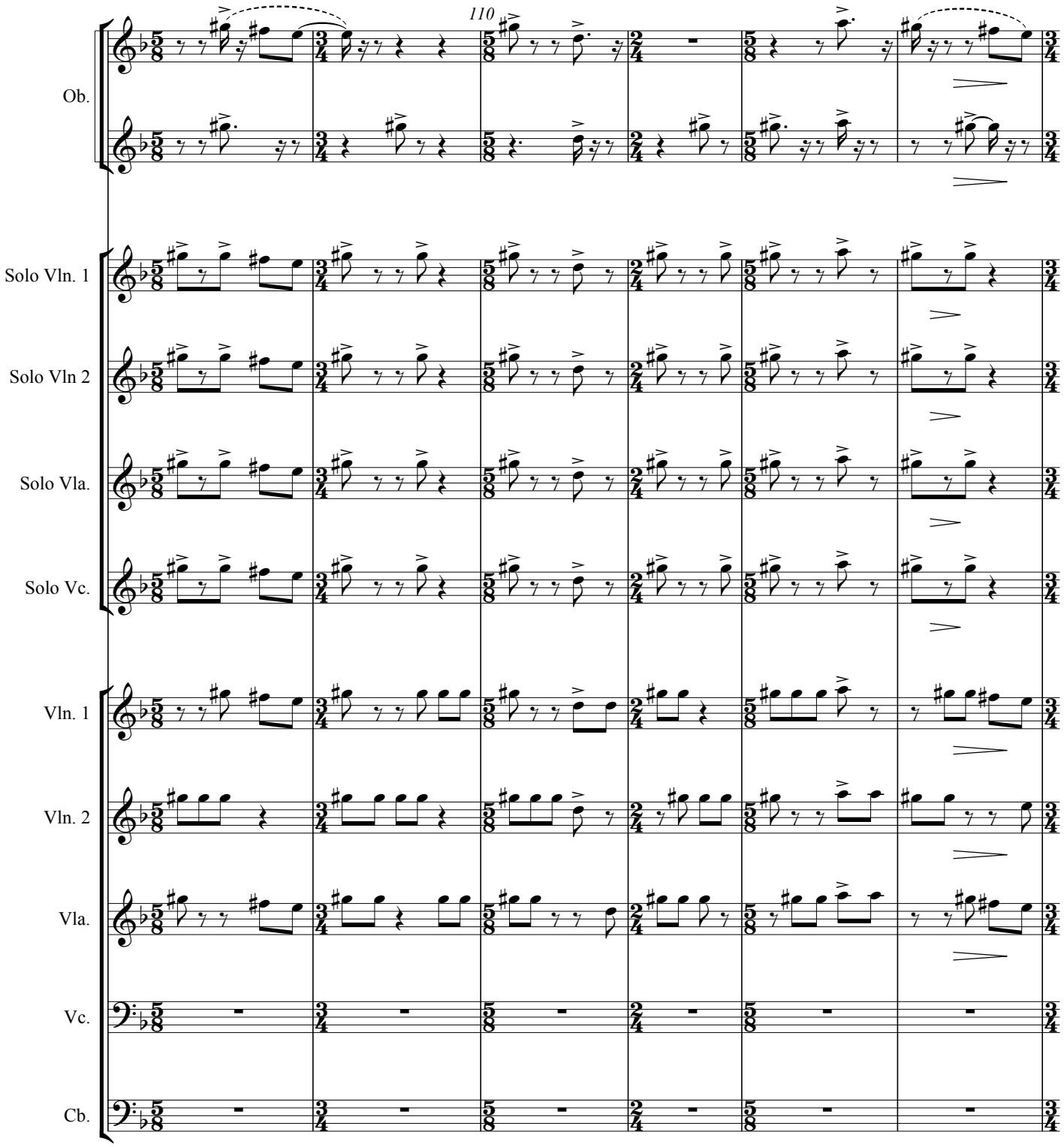

80
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pizz.
arco
pp

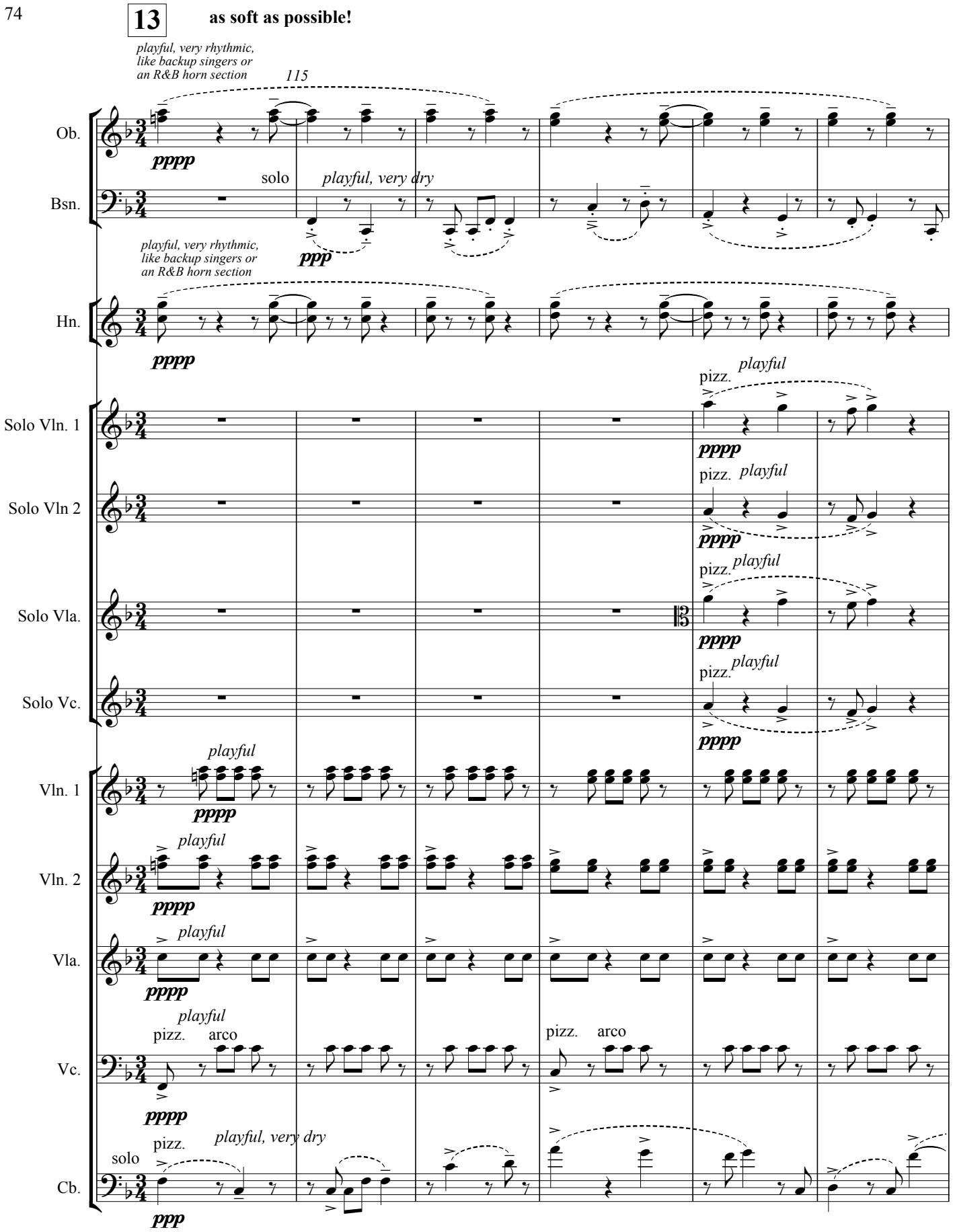

10
85
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pp
arco
pizz
pizz. arco

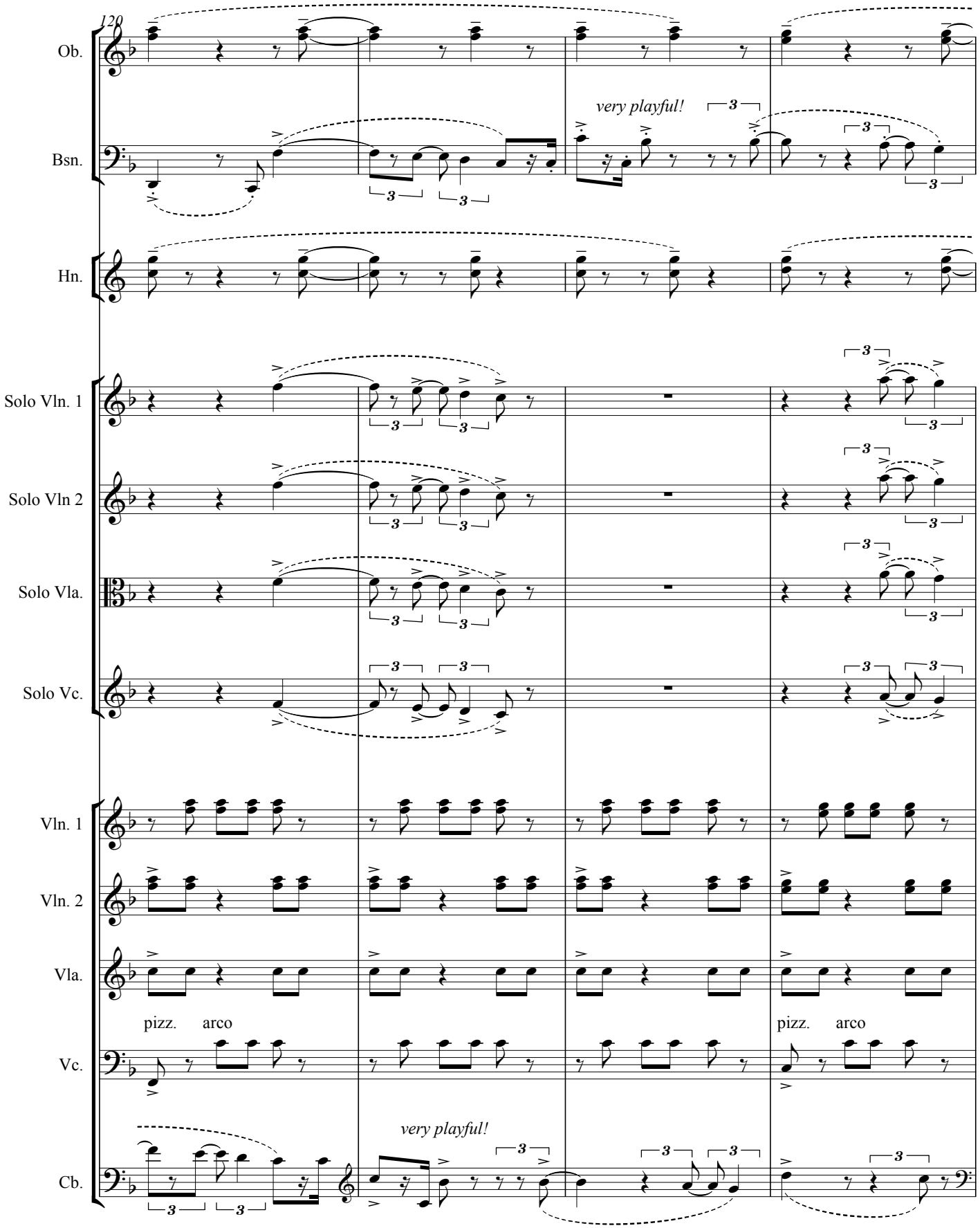

11
90
95
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
bring out the horns a little
pp
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2
pizz
arco
Solo Vla.
pizz.
arco
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

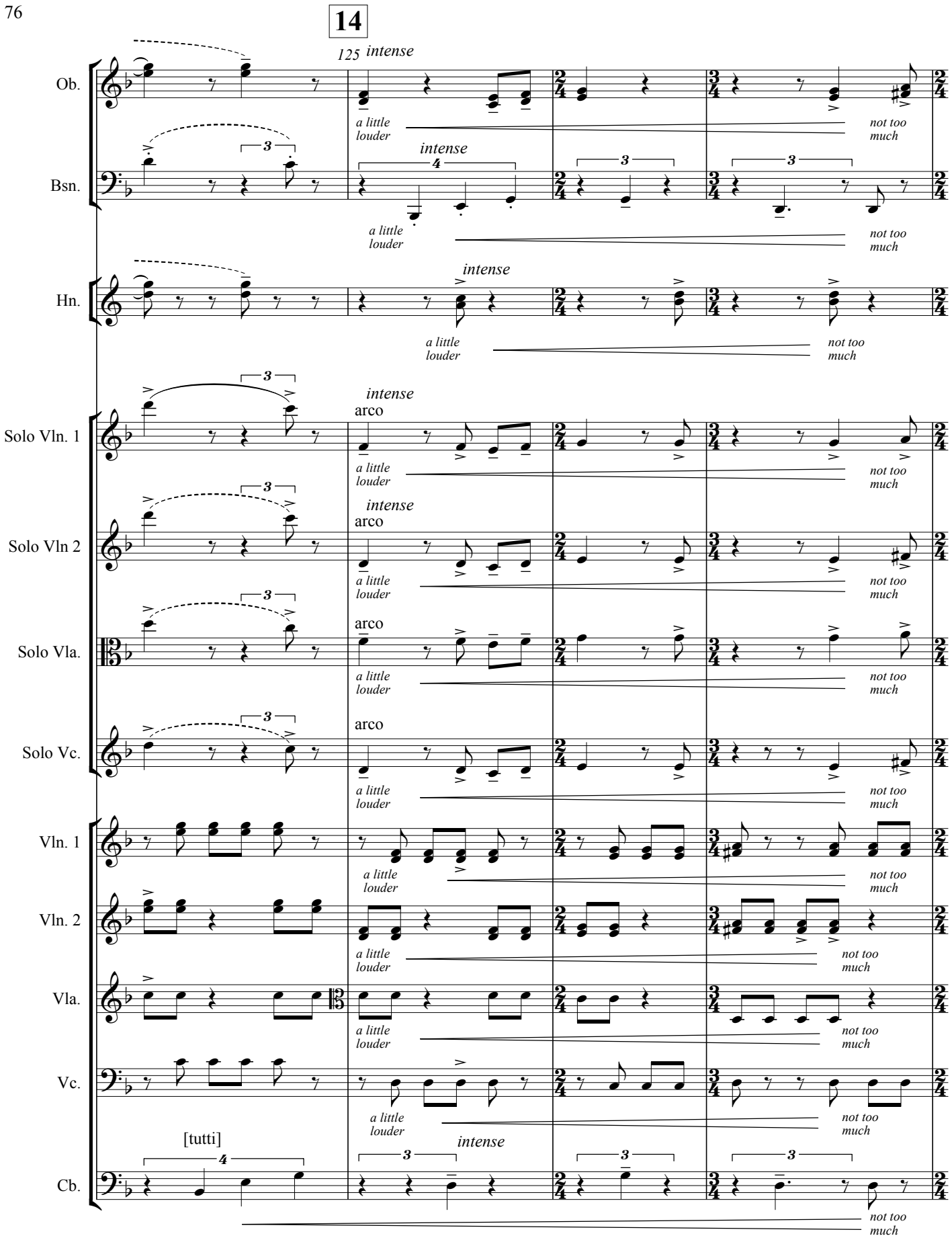

100
Ob.
Bsn.
horns in the
background again
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pizz.
arco
pizz
pp

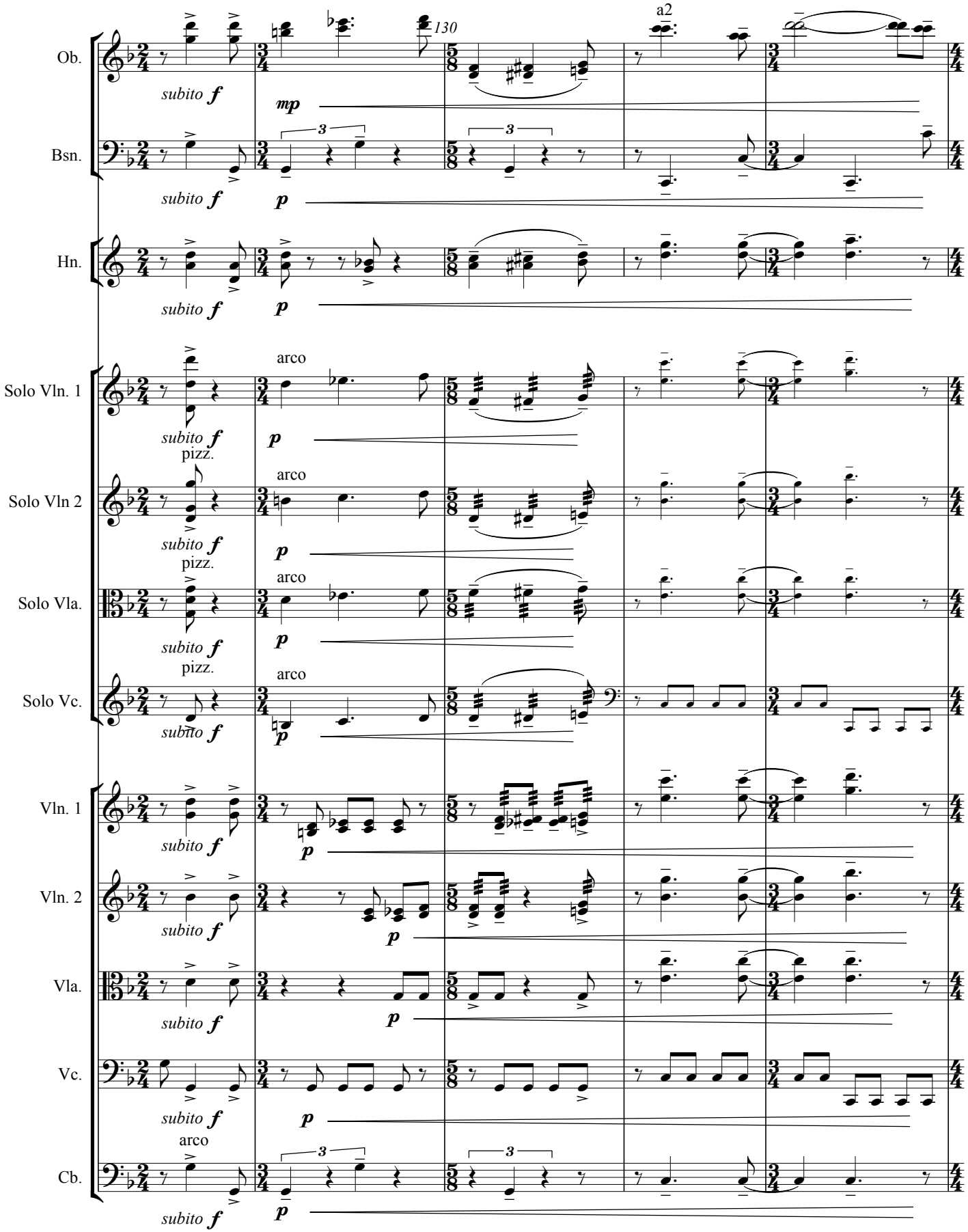

12
105
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pp
pizz.

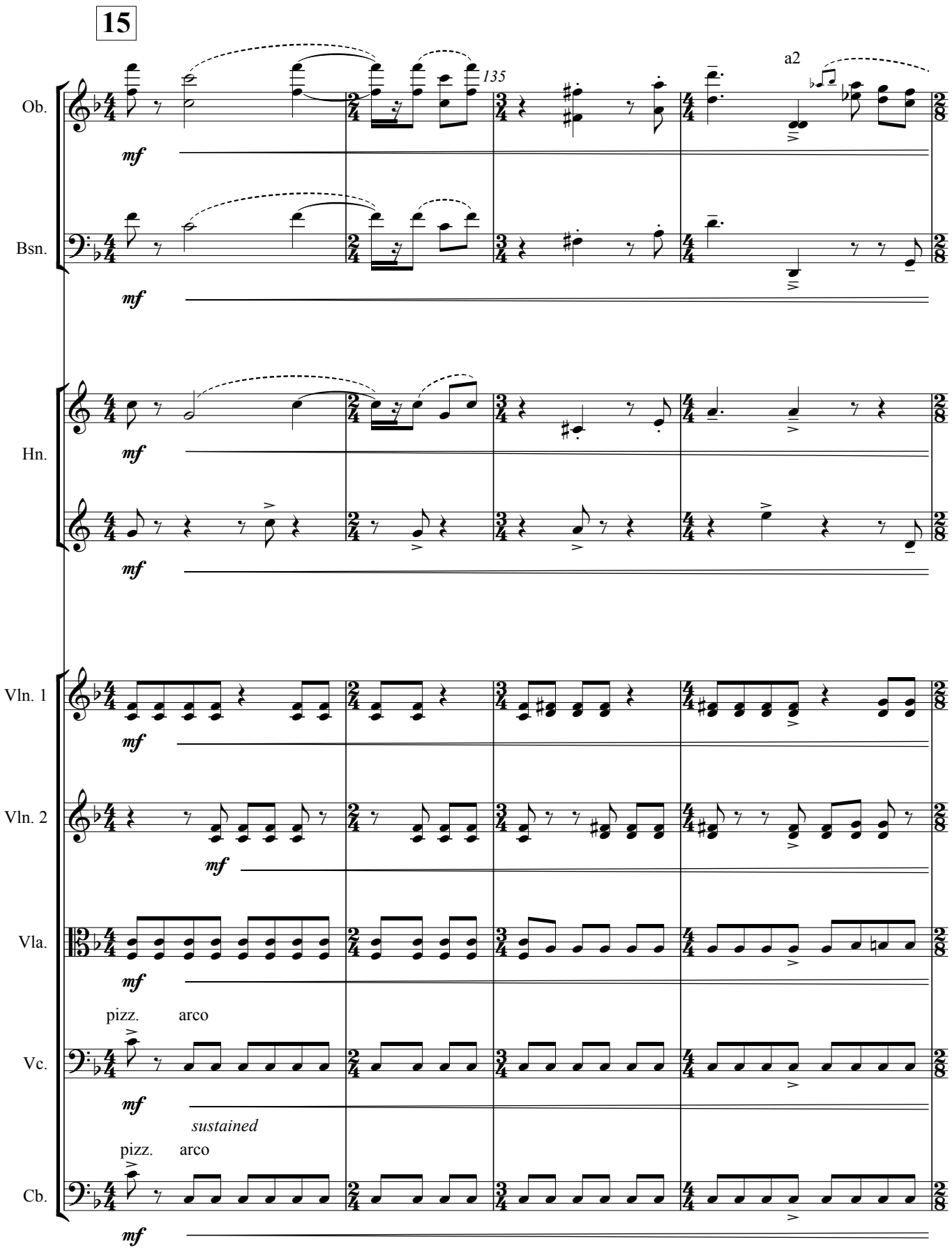

110
Ob.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

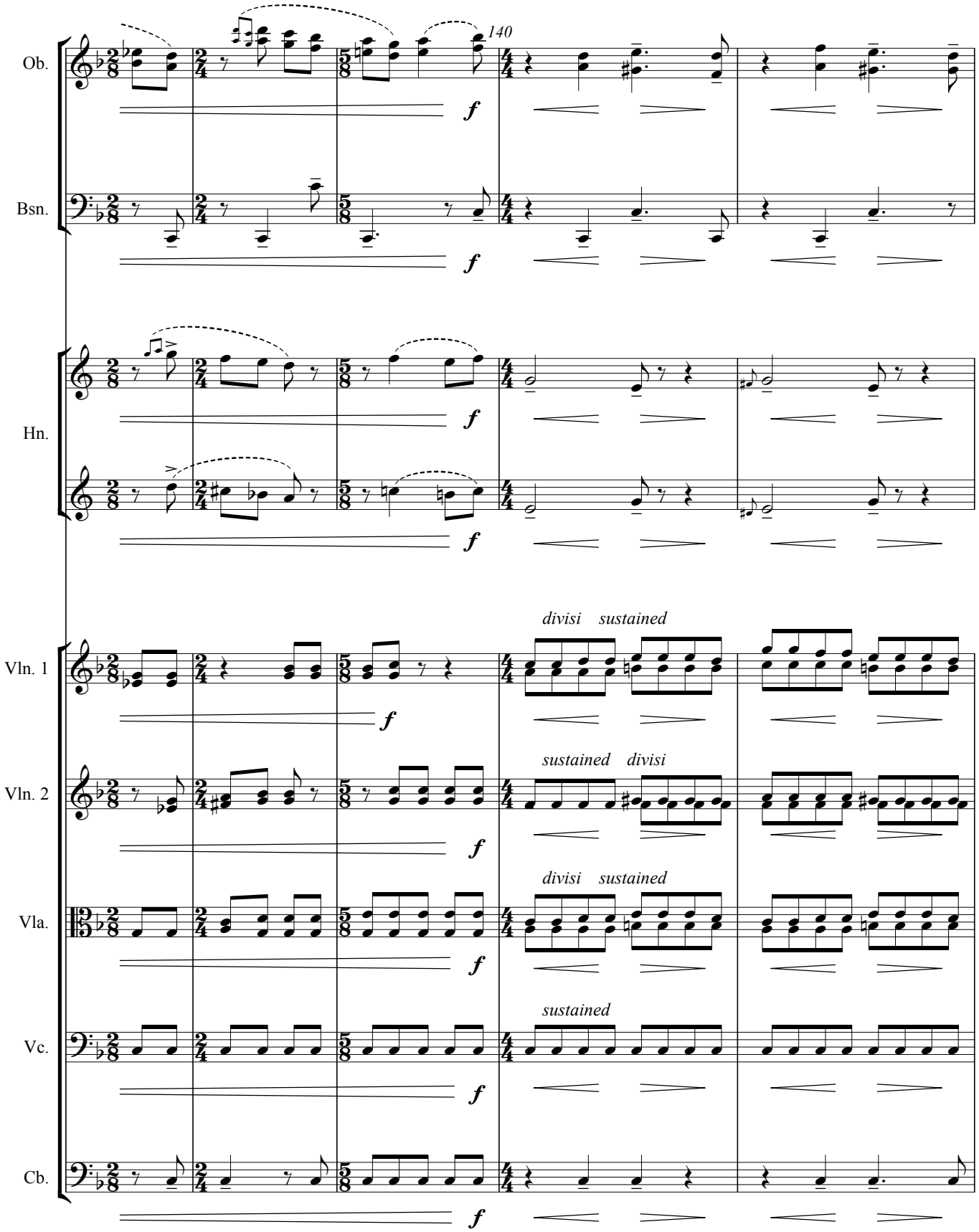

13
as soft as possible!
playful, very rhythmic, like backup singers or an R&B horn section
115
Ob.
pppp
solo
playful, very dry
Bsn.
ppp
playful, very rhythmic, like backup singers or an R&B horn section
Hn.
pppp
Solo Vln. 1
pizz.
playful
pppp
Solo Vln 2
pizz.
playful
pppp
Solo Vla.
pizz.
playful
pppp
Solo Vc.
pizz.
playful
pppp
Vln. 1
playful
pppp
Vln. 2
playful
pppp
Vla.
playful
pppp
Vc.
playful
pizz.
arco
pppp
pizz.
arco
Cb.
solo
pizz.
playful, very dry
ppp

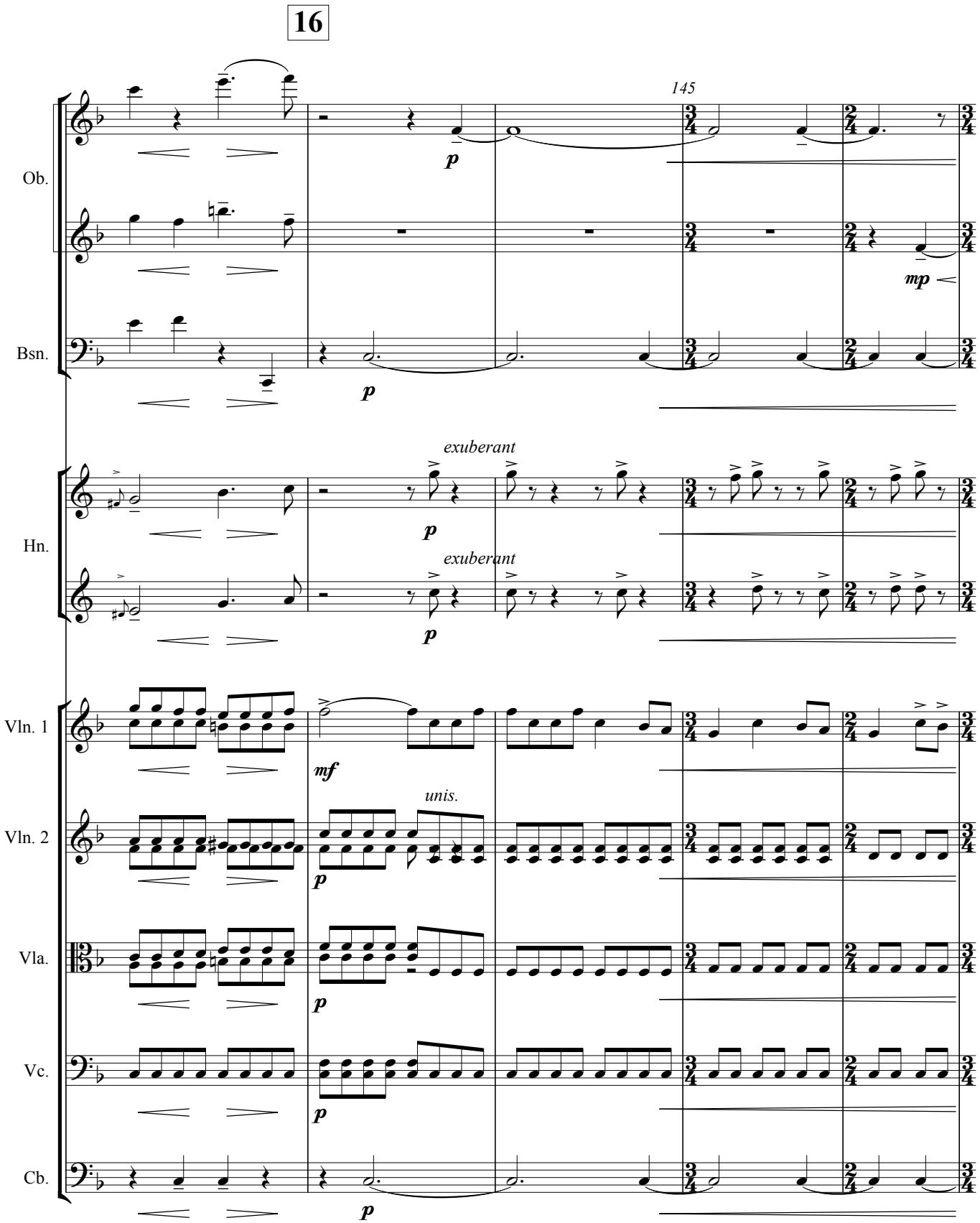

120
Ob.
Bsn.
very playful!
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
pizz. arco
pizz. arco
Vc.
very playful!
Cb.

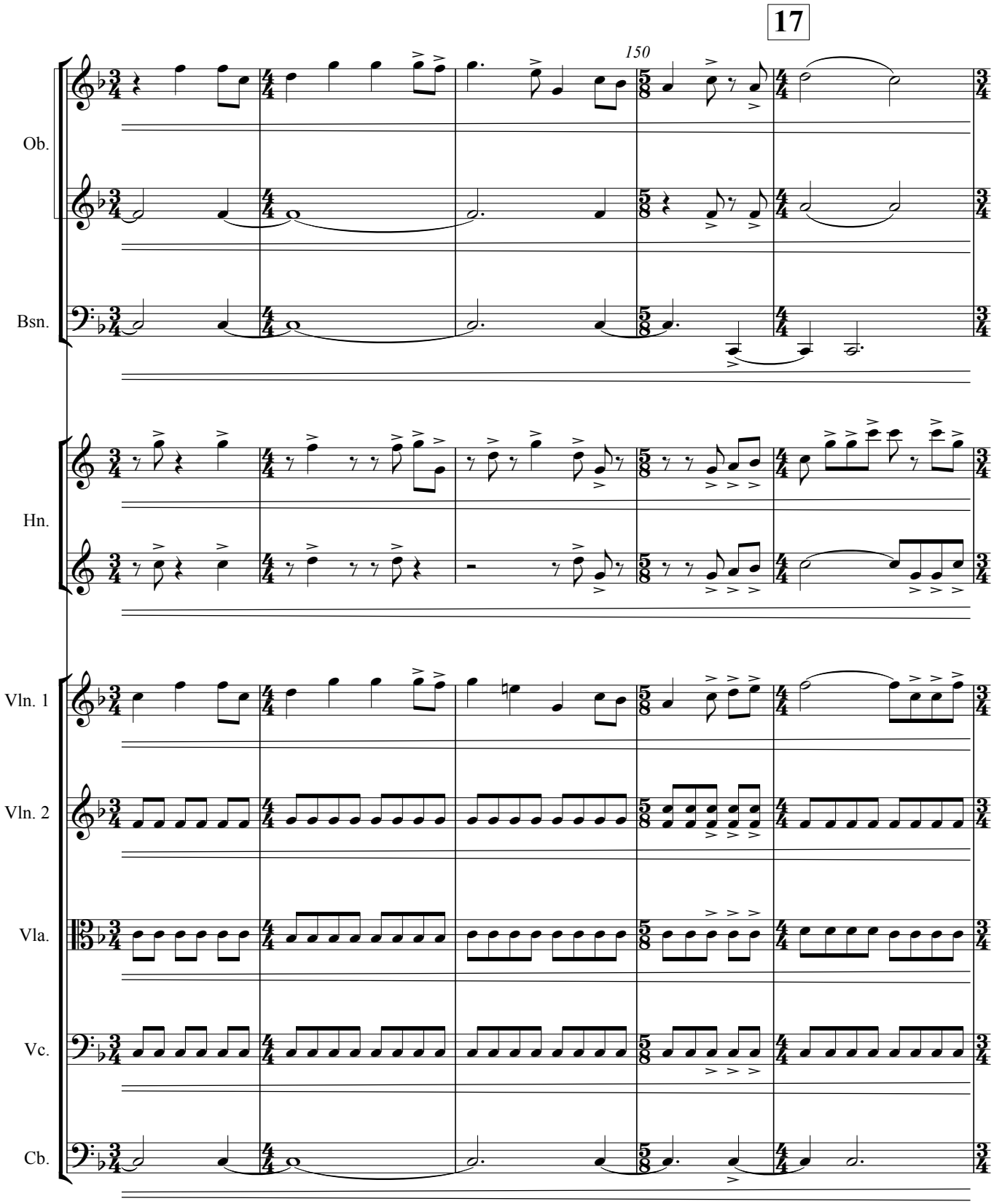

14
125
intense
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
arco
[tutti]
a little louder
not too much

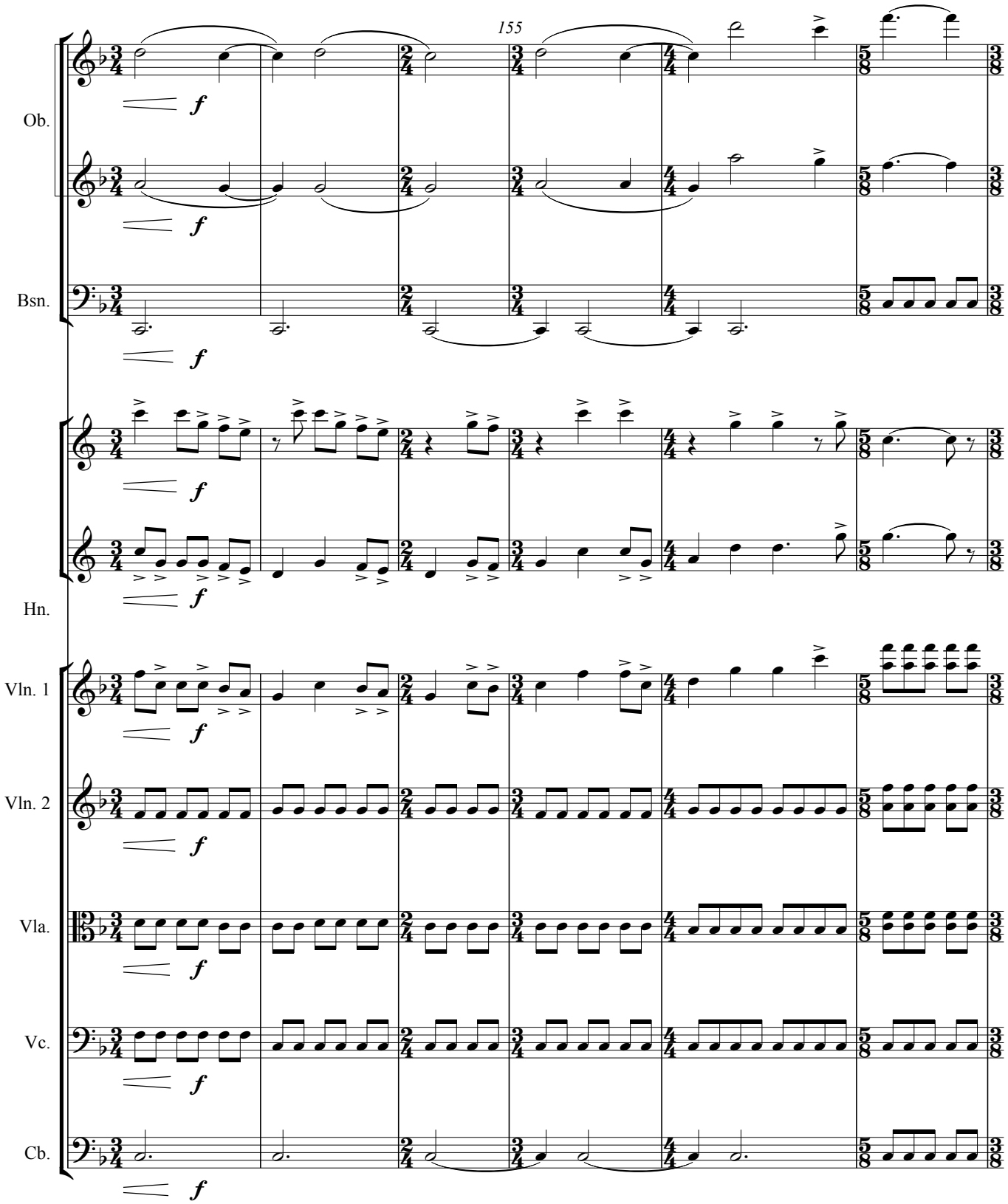

Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
a2
130
subito f
mp
p
arco
pizz.
3

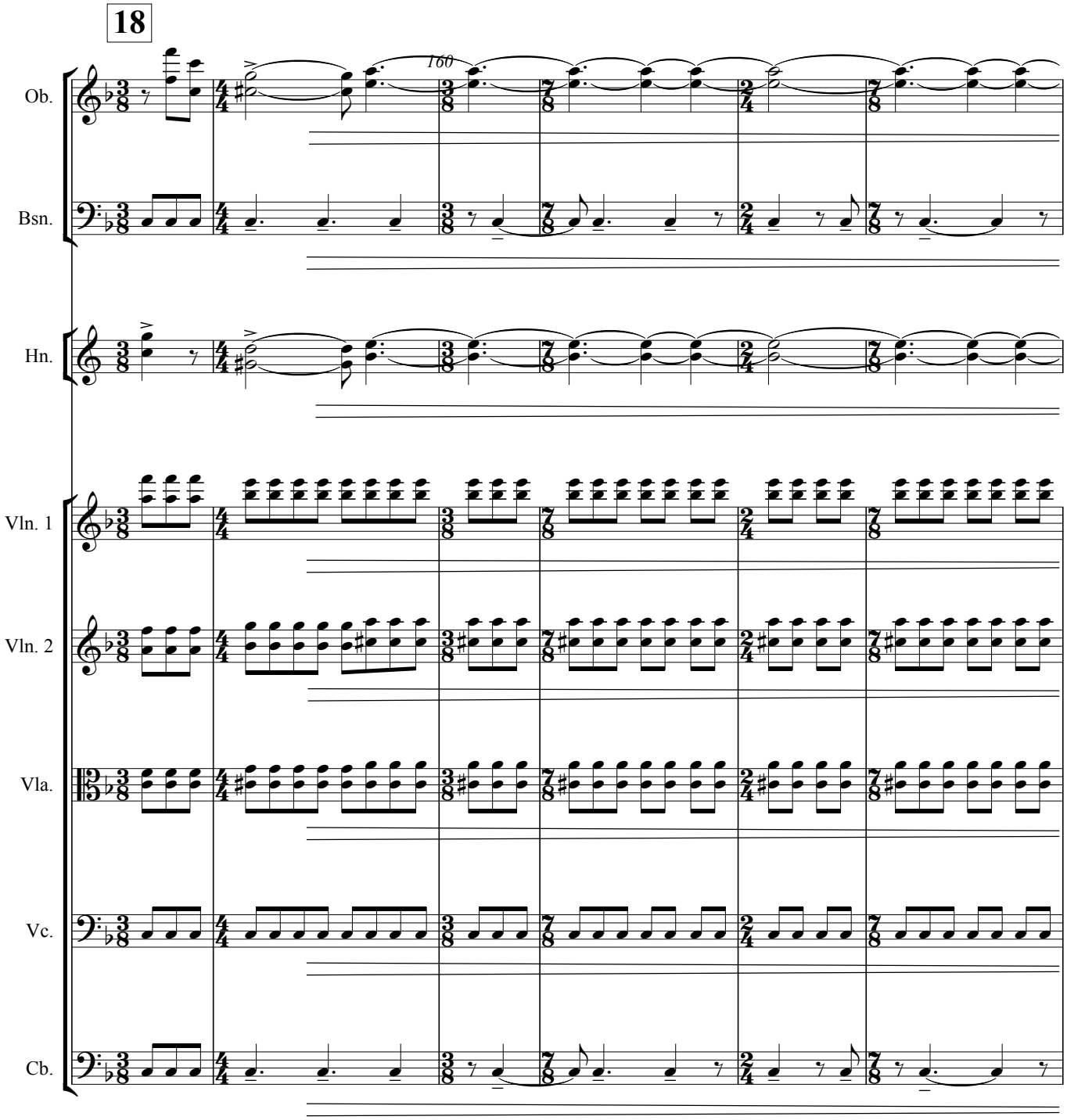

15
135
a2
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf
pizz.
arco
sustained

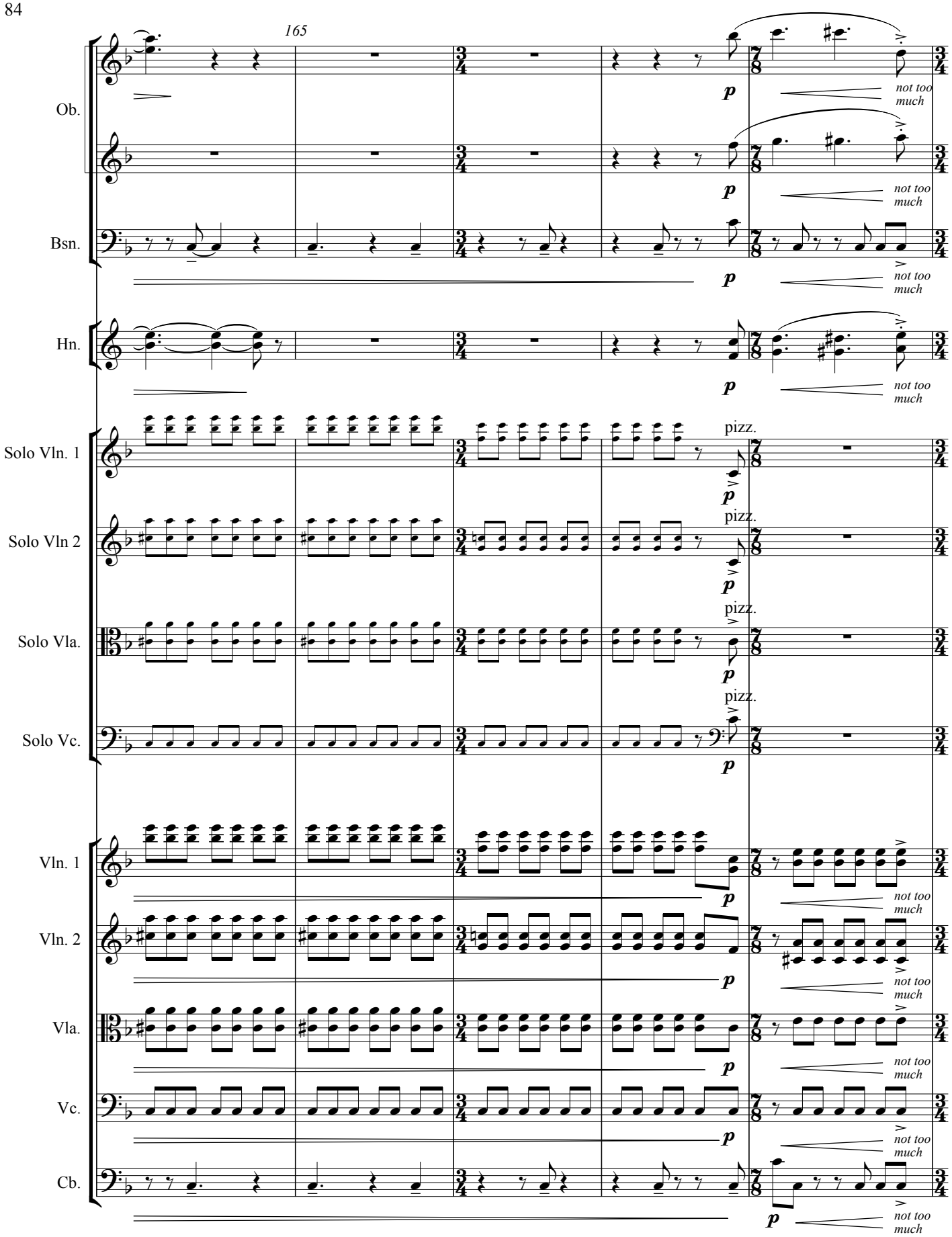

Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
140
f
divisi sustained
sustained divisi
divisi sustained
sustained

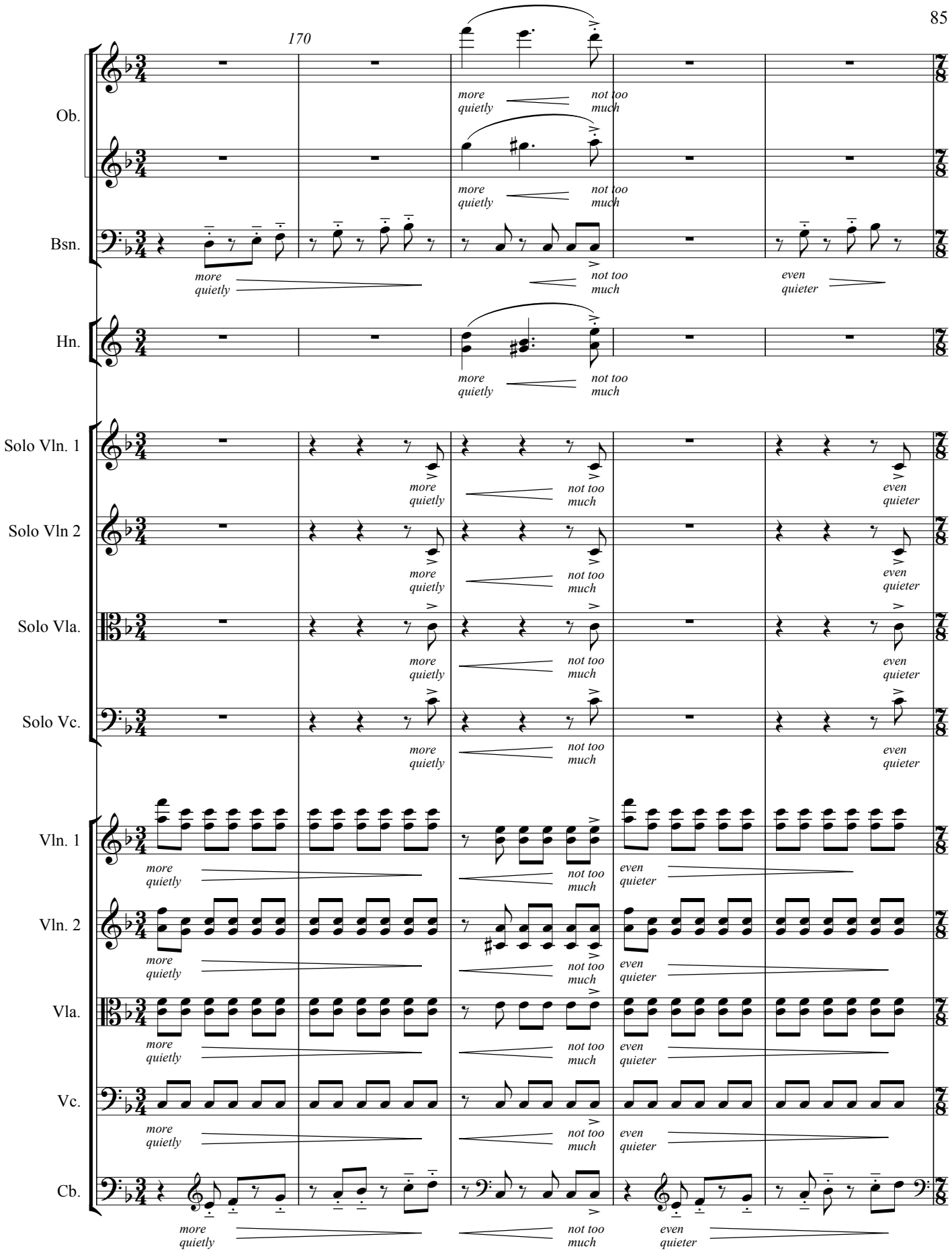

16
145
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p
mp
exuberant
mf
unis.

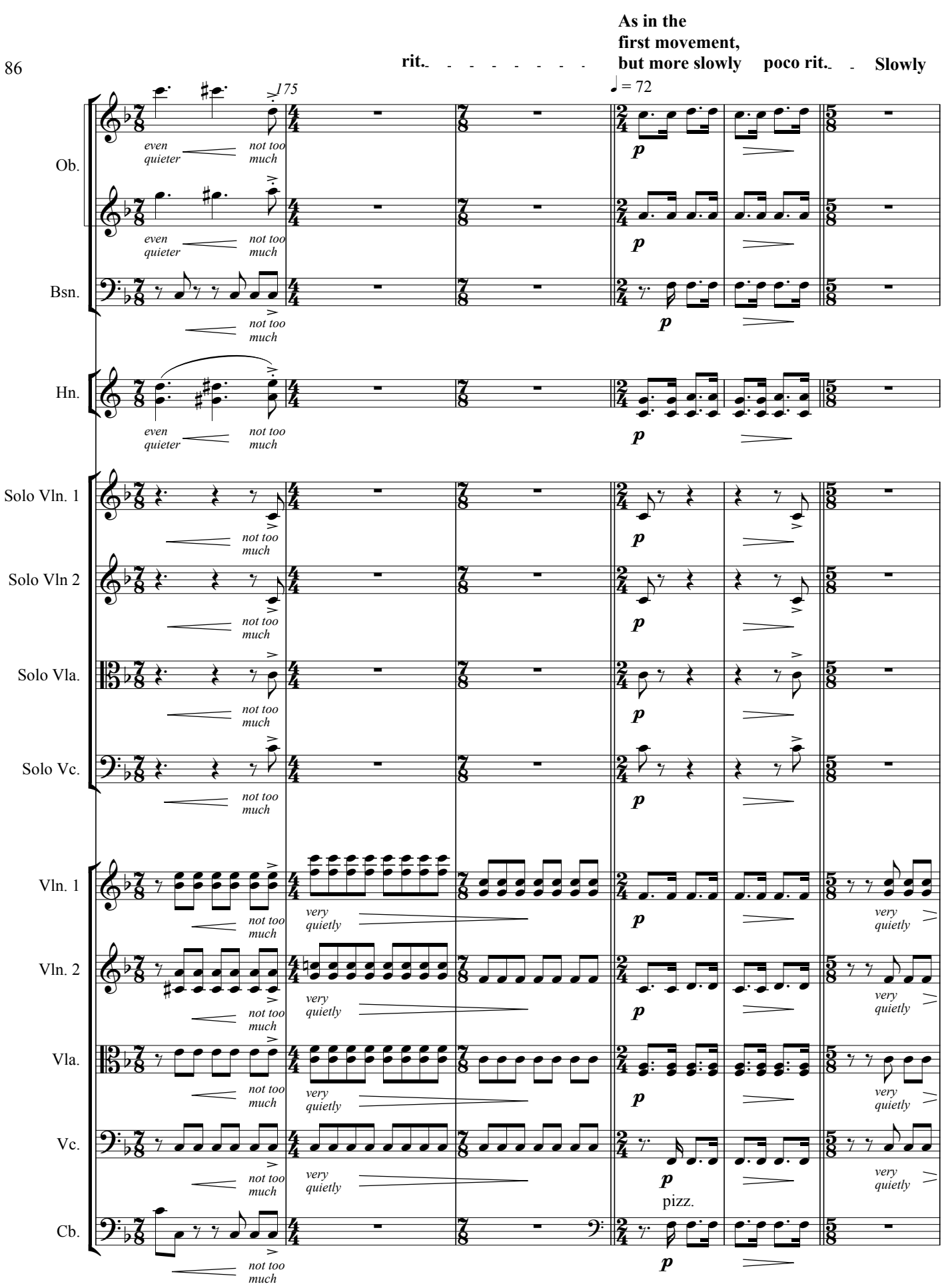

17
150
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

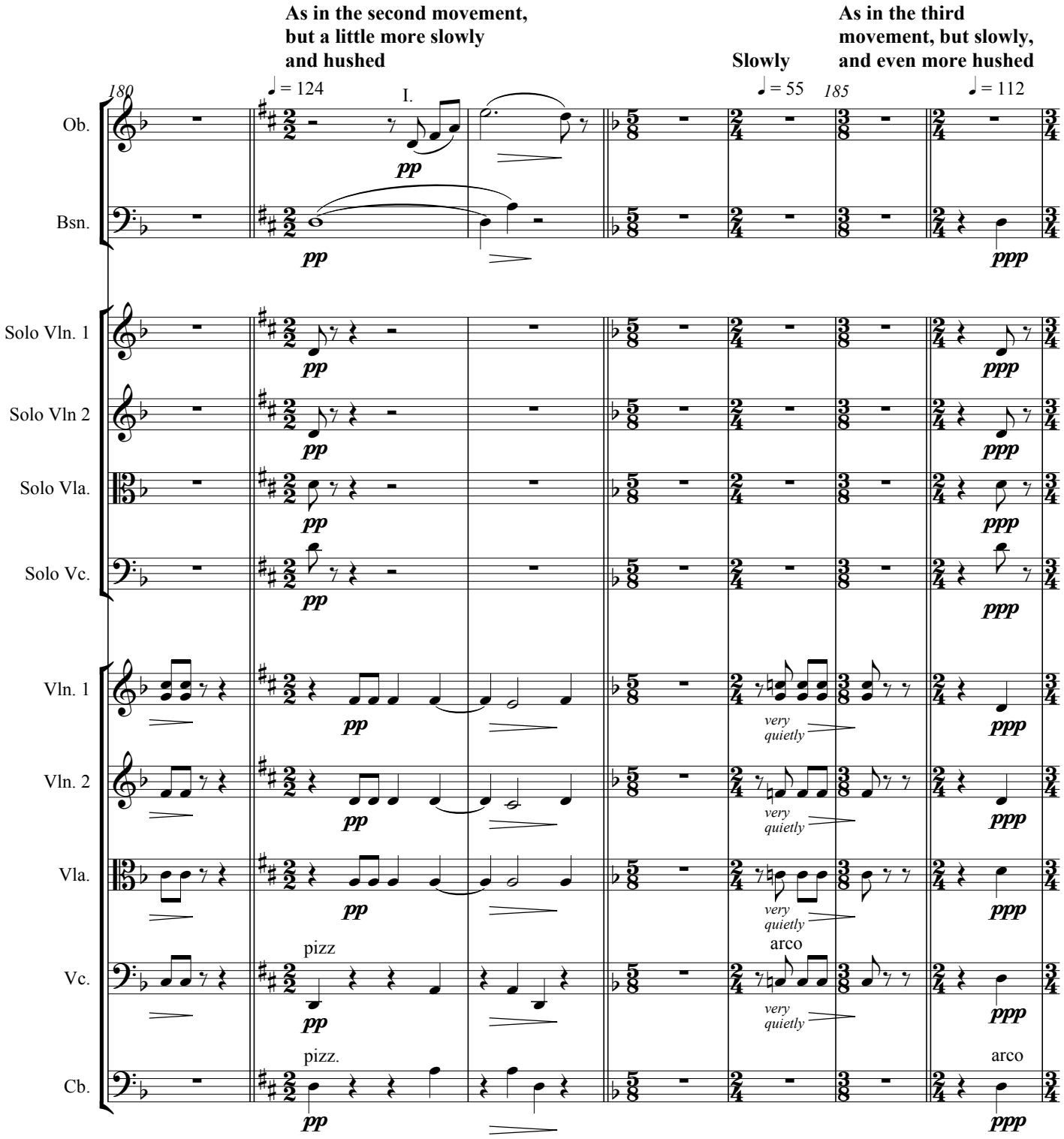

155
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f

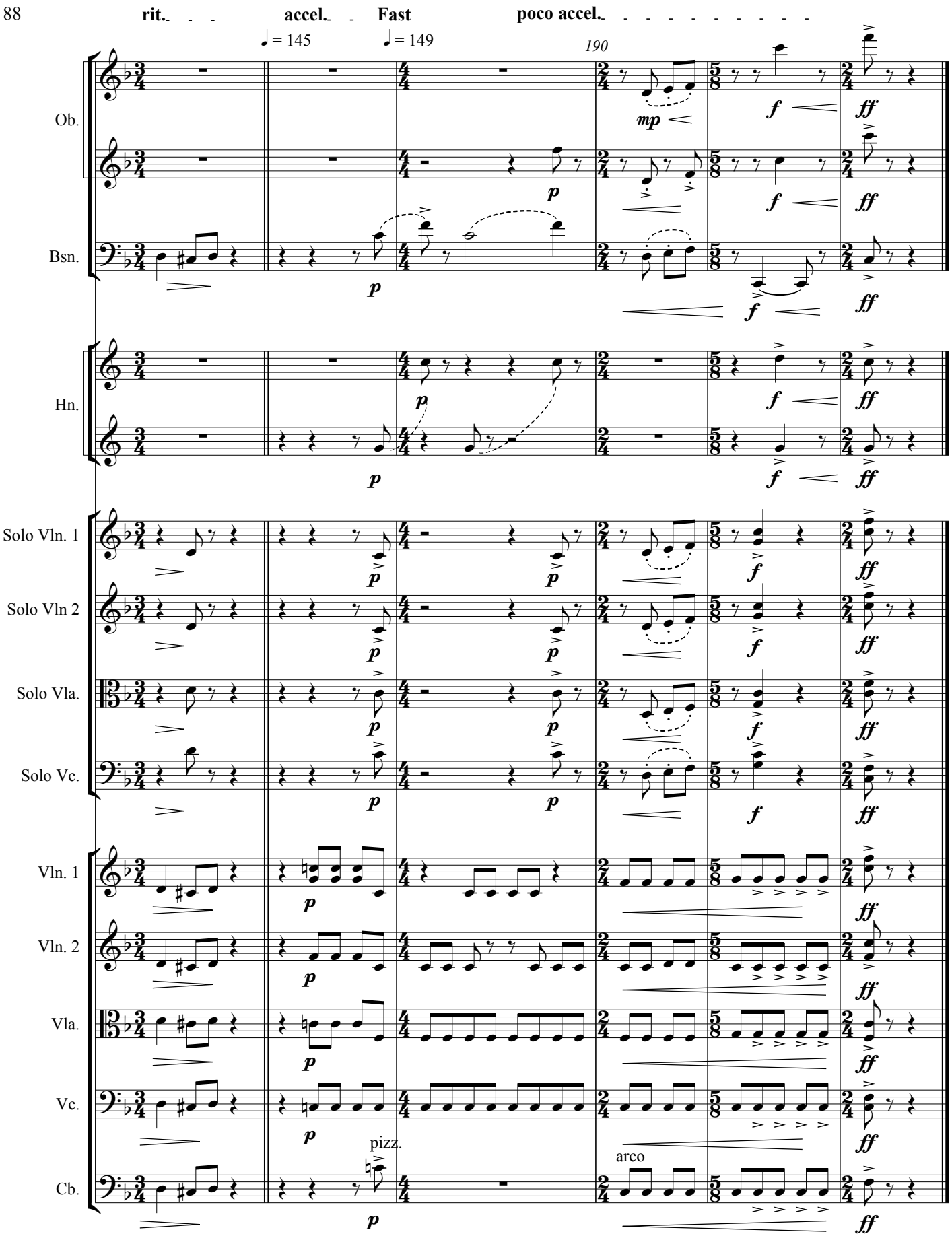

18
160
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.


165
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p
not too much
pizz.


170
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
more quietly
not too much
even quieter


rit.
As in the
first movement,
but more slowly
poco rit.
Slowly
♩ = 72
175
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
even
quieter
not too
much
very
quietly
p
pizz.


As in the second movement, but a little more slowly and hushed
Slowly
As in the third movement, but slowly, and even more hushed
180
♩ = 124
I.
♩ = 55
185
♩ = 112
Ob.
Bsn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pp
ppp
very quietly
pizz
arco
pizz.
arco


rit.
accel.
Fast
poco accel.
♩ = 145
♩ = 149
190
Ob.
Bsn.
Hn.
Solo Vln. 1
Solo Vln 2
Solo Vla.
Solo Vc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pizz.
arco