Gwyneth Walker

Duets at Home

for Viola and Cello

Duets at Home were composed during the Spring of 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic kept many musicians isolated at home, away from their customary concert travels. For the fortunate "paired musicians" (married couples, partners living under the same roof), duets offered a solution for music-making. Hence, **Duets at Home** were composed for Suzanne Corey-Sahlin (Viola) and her husband Gunnar Sahlin (Cello), friends and neighbors of the composer.

The first three movements of this suite represent indoor activities – a "Morning Call" to awaken, "Listening" to one another, and "Scurrying" about the house with restless energy. Finally, the players feel confident that they will survive this time of isolation. In triumph, they play a unison theme, "We Shall Return!"

"Familiar Encounter" is an adaptation of an earlier duet (for Trumpet and Bassoon) which seemed especially appropriate for a married couple. This intimate "encounter" (a dance) incorporates strains from the song "Tea for Two." At the end, the players bow to one another. Formal manners are still valued, even during this *Stay-at-Home* time!

Duets at Home

for Viola and Violoncello

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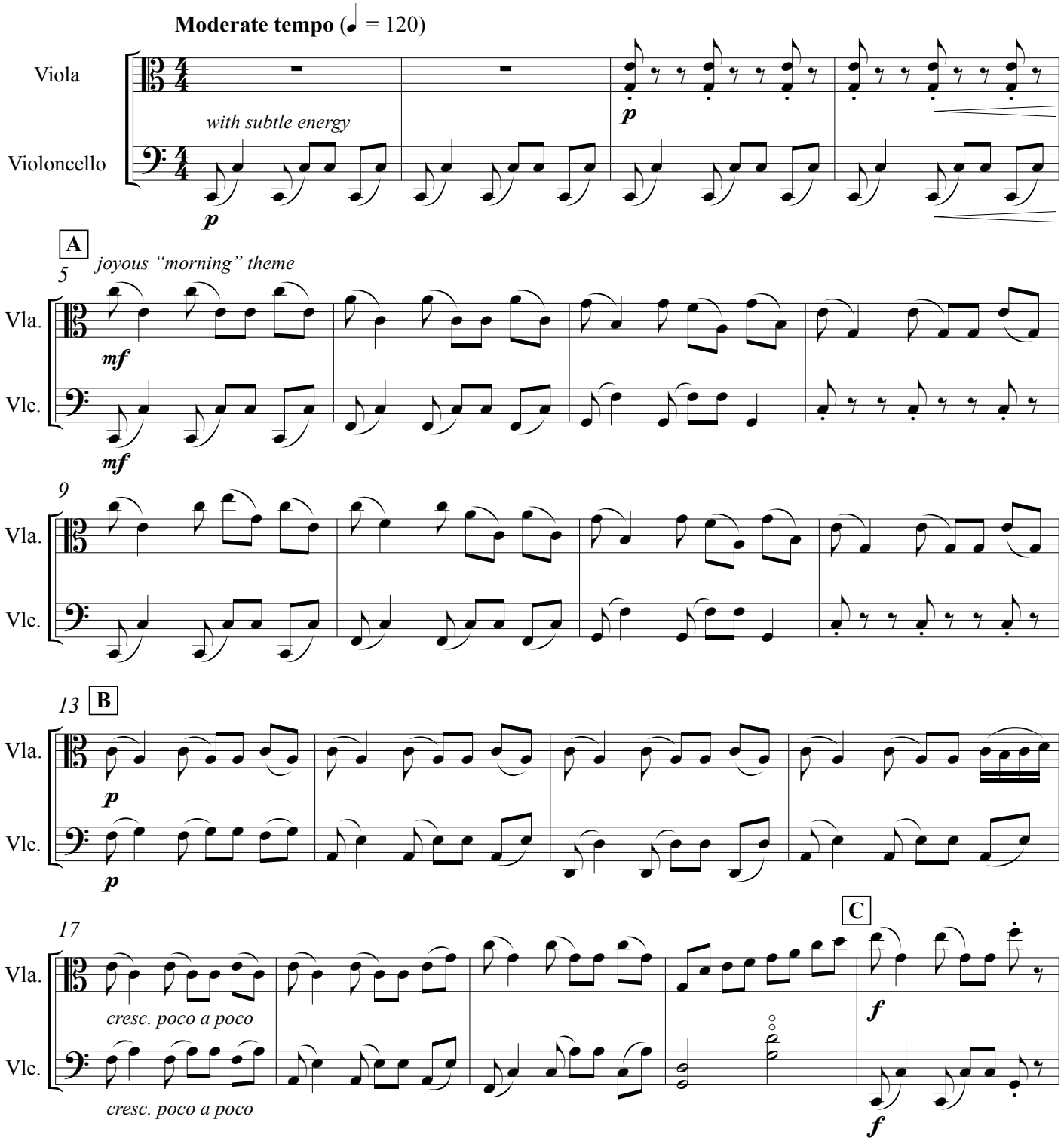
1. Morning Call



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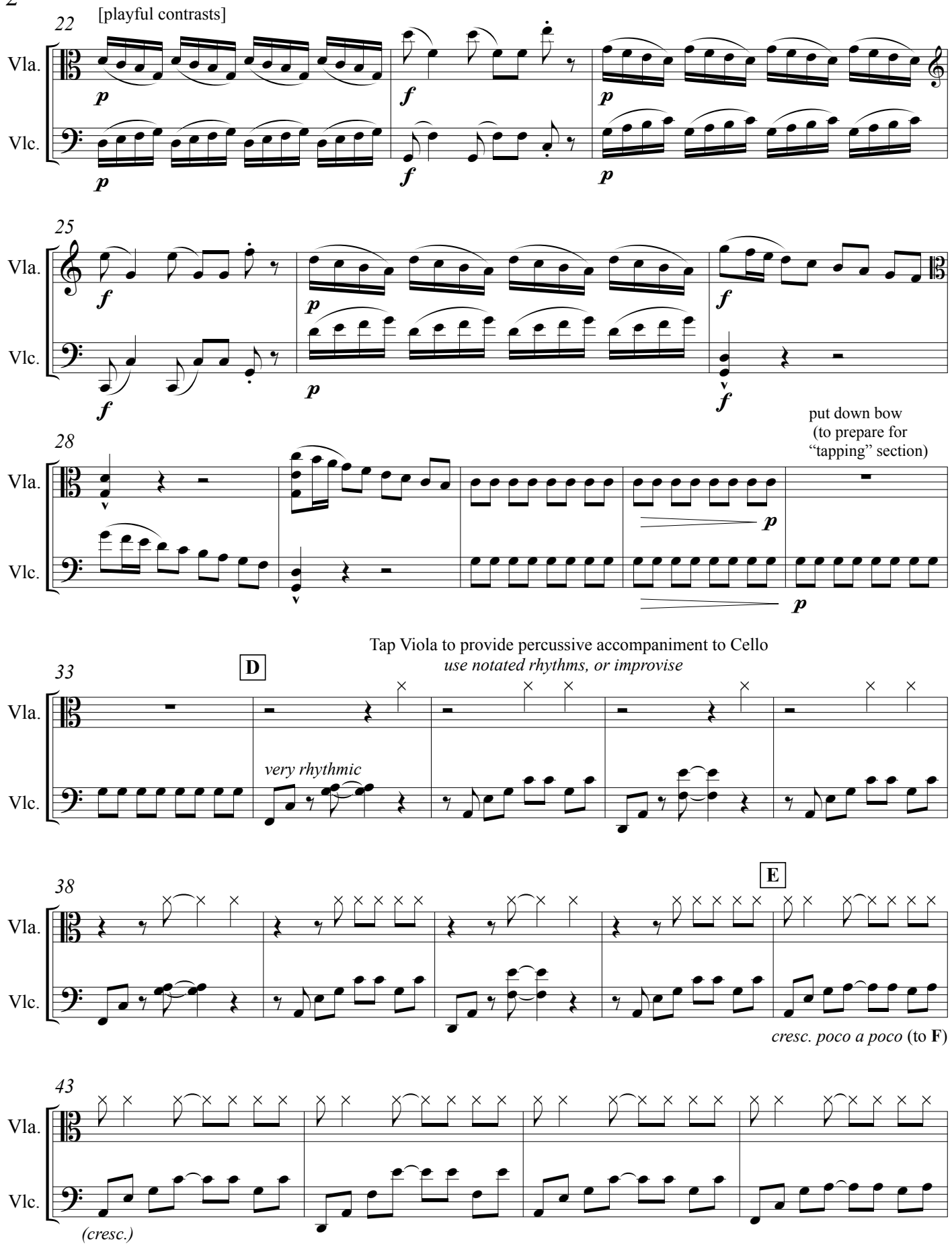
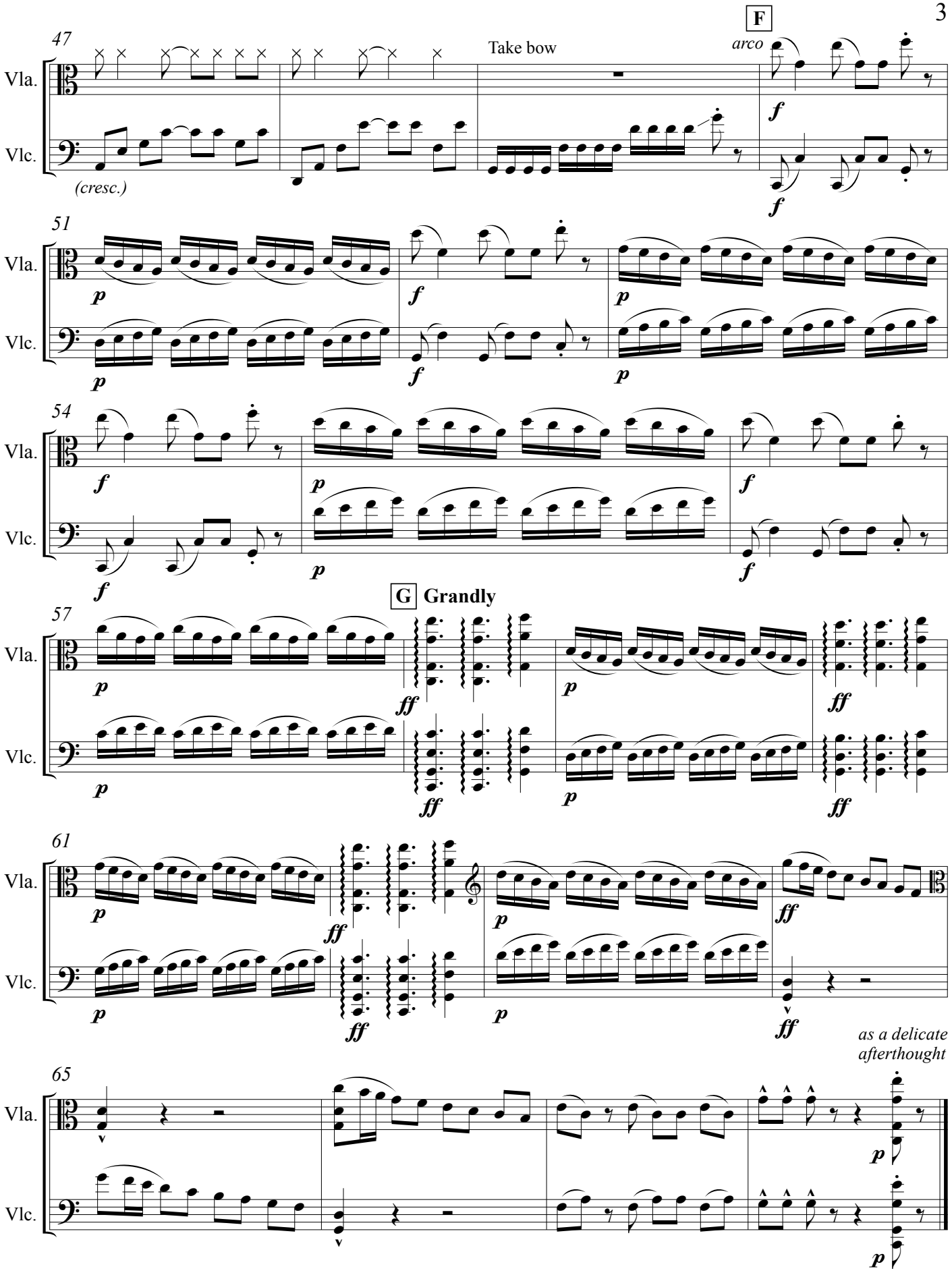
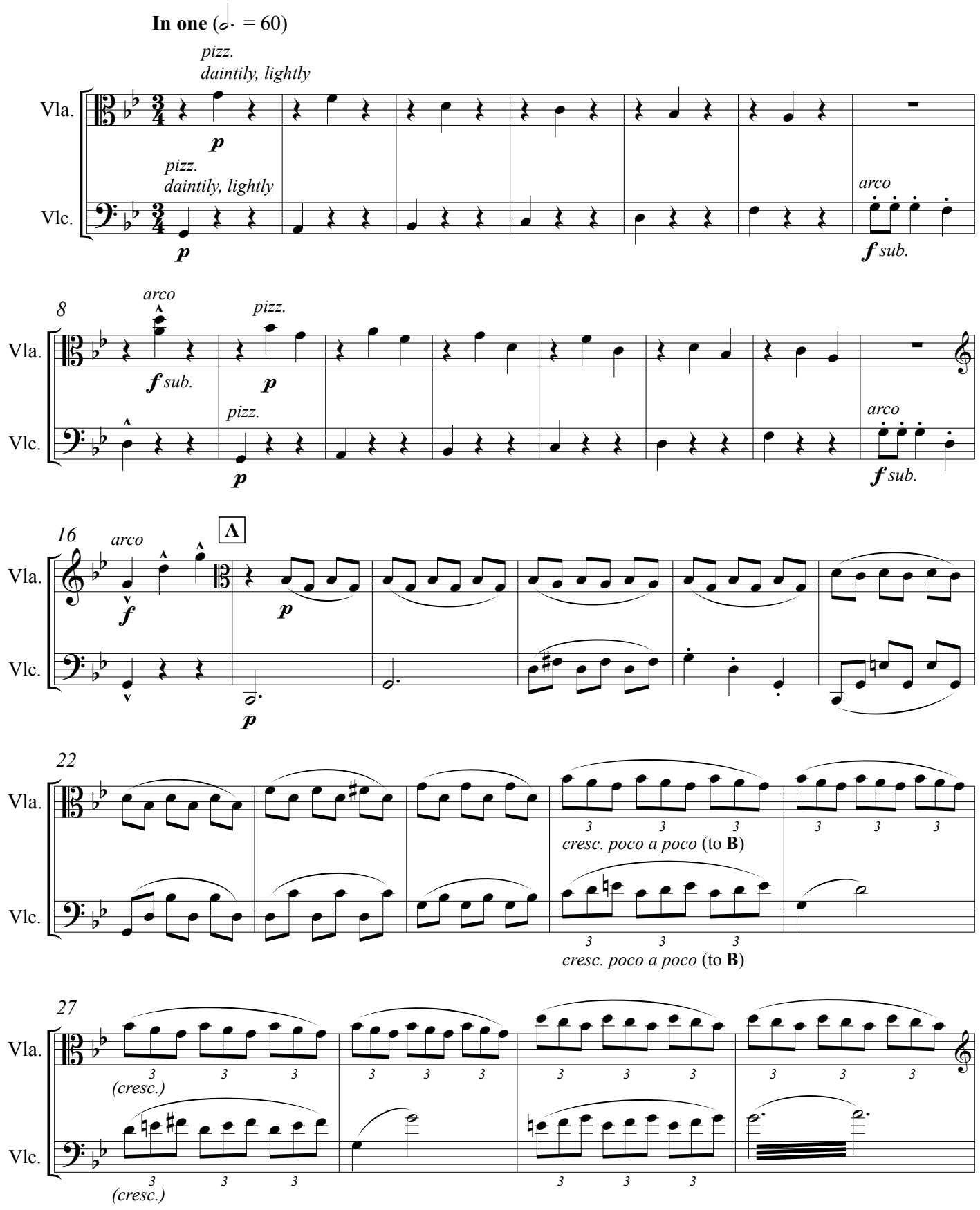
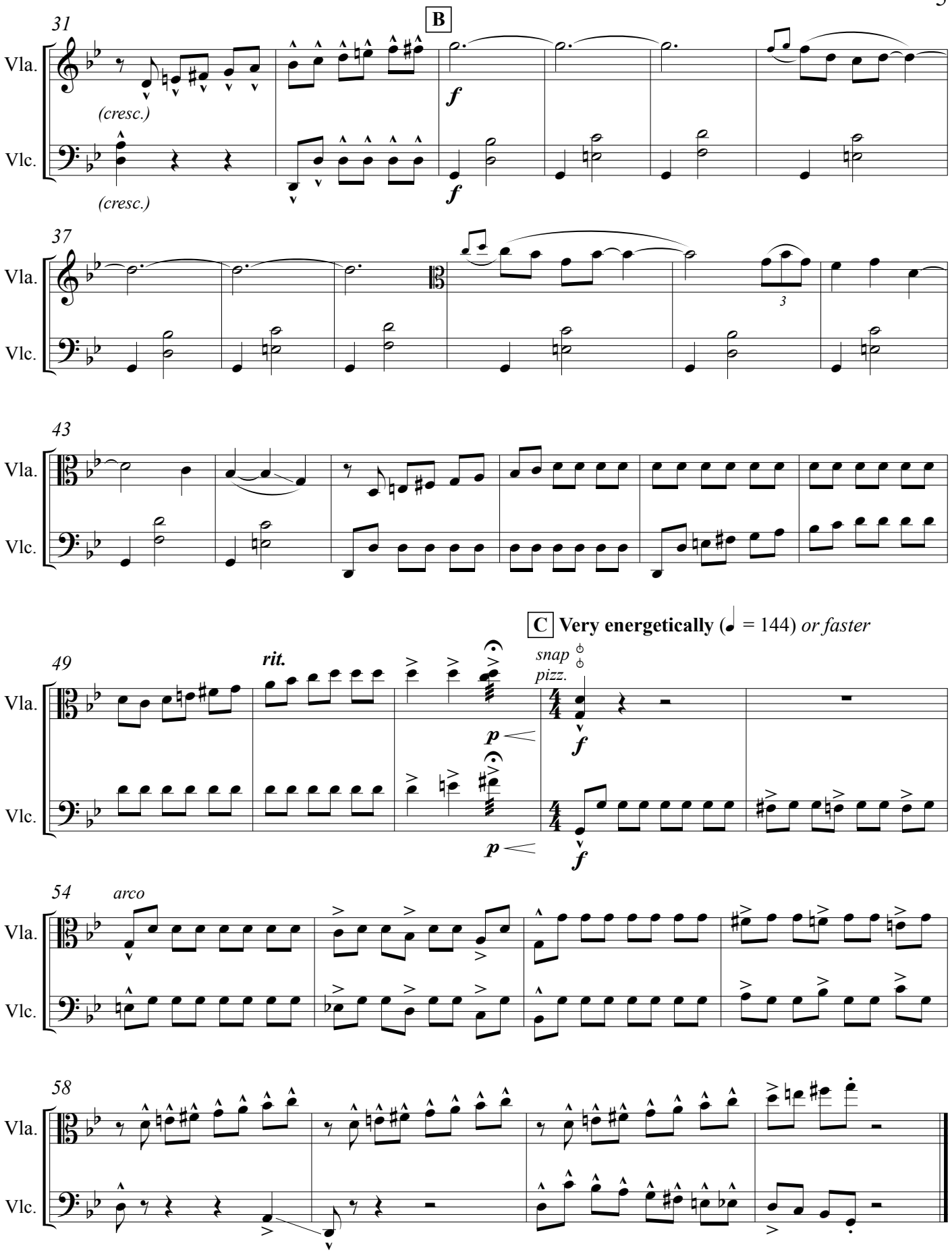

[playful contrasts]
22
Vla.
Vlc.
25
28
put down bow
(to prepare for
"tapping" section)
Tap Viola to provide percussive accompaniment to Cello
use notated rhythms, or improvise
33
D
very rhythmic
38
E
cresc. poco a poco (to F)
43
(cresc.)

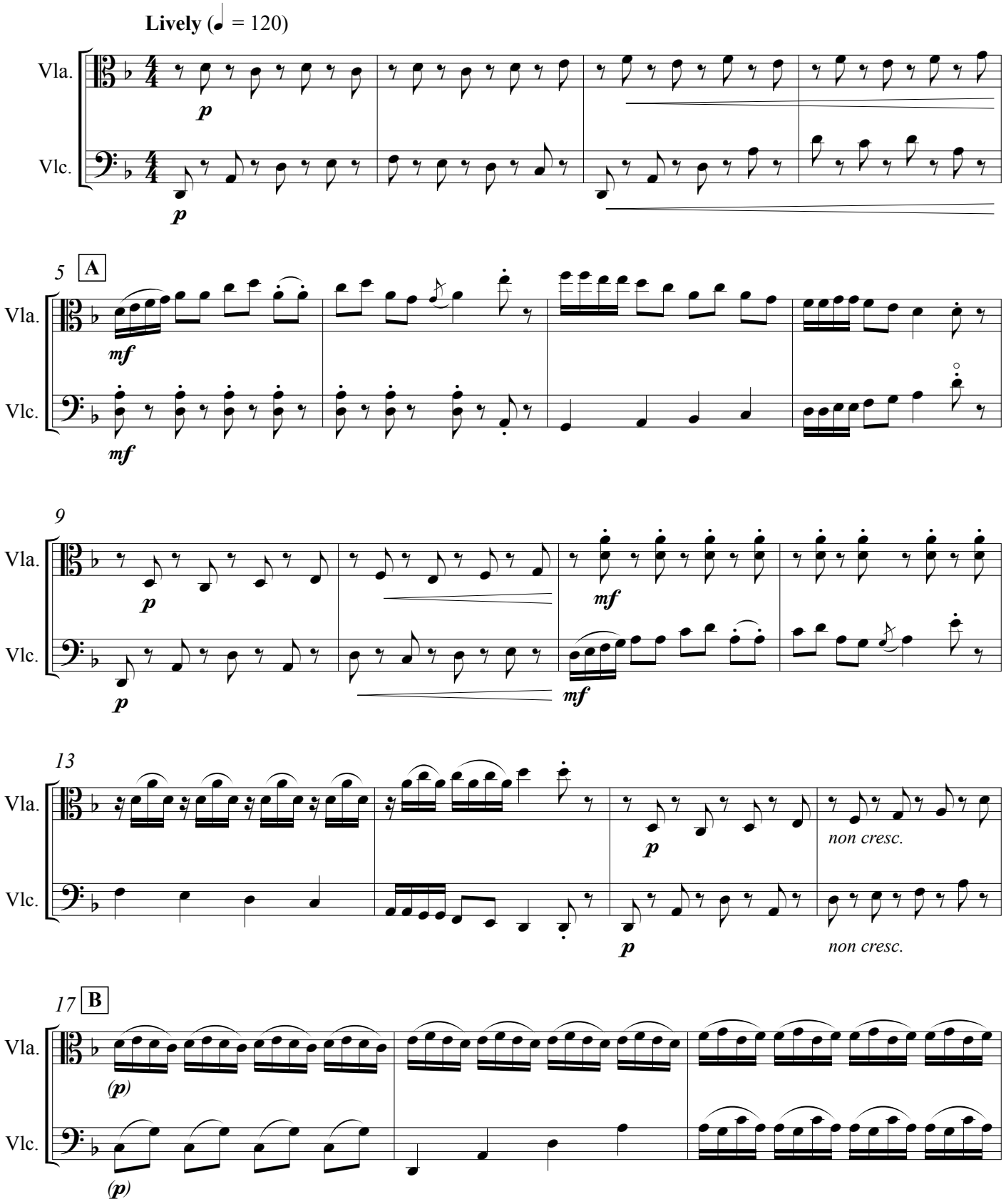

47
Take bow
F
arco
Vla.
Vlc.
(cresc.)
51
54
57
G Grandly
61
as a delicate afterthought
65

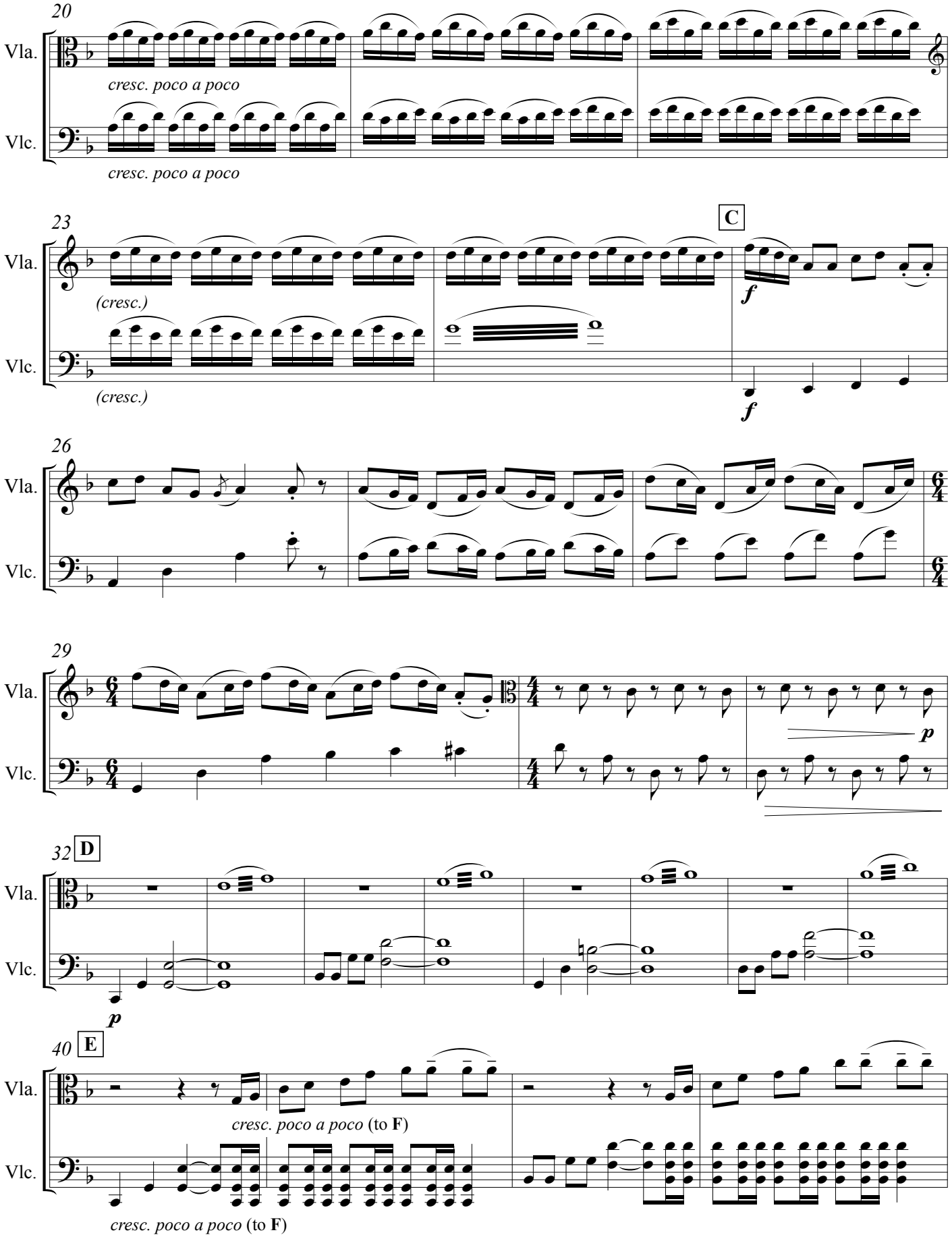
2. Listening

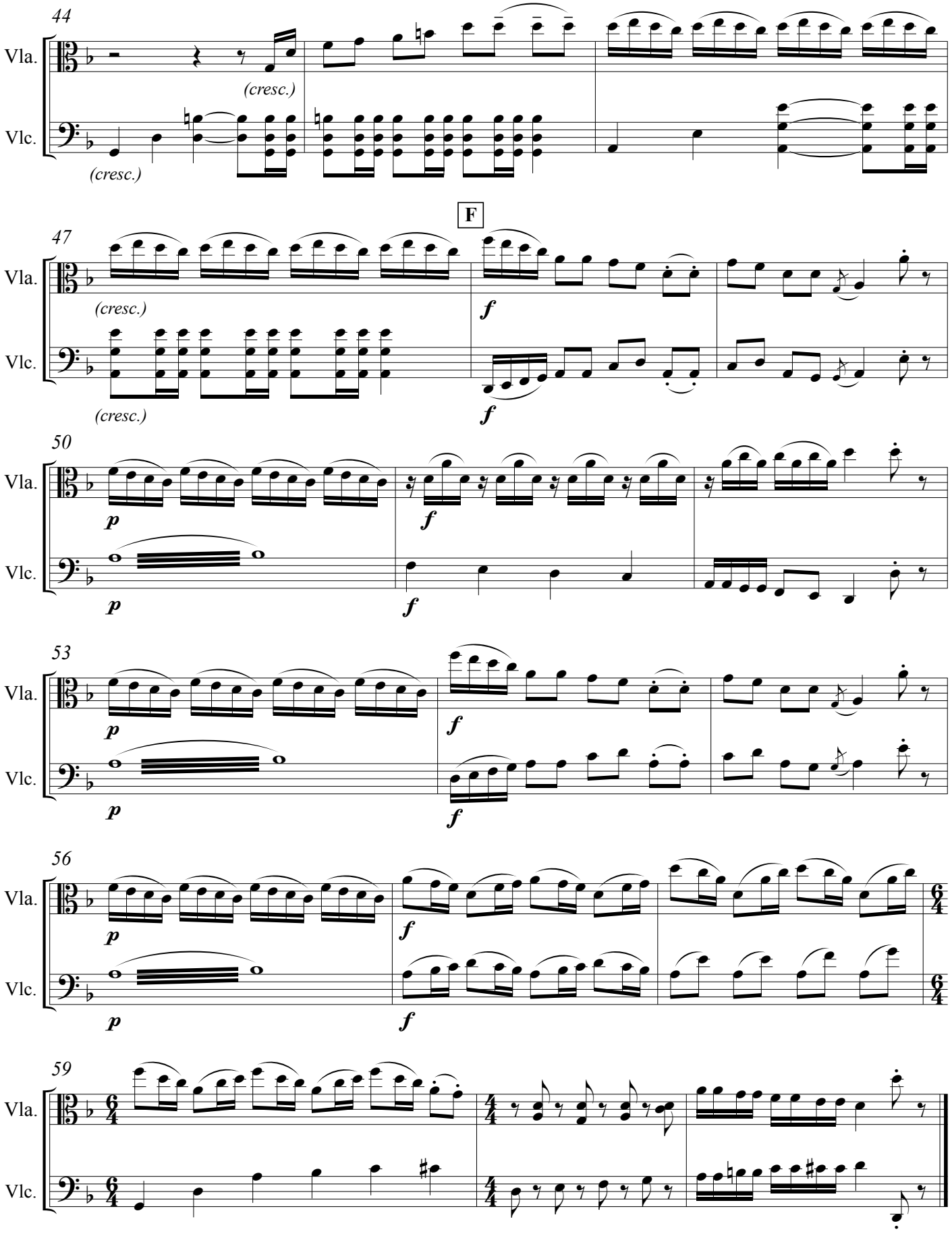

In one (𝅗𝅥. = 60)
pizz.
daintily, lightly
Vla.
Vlc.
p
pizz.
daintily, lightly
arco
f sub.
8
arco
f sub.
pizz.
p
pizz.
p
arco
f sub.
16
arco
A
f
p
p
22
cresc. poco a poco (to B)
cresc. poco a poco (to B)
27
(cresc.)
(cresc.)


31
B
Vla.
Vlc.
(cresc.)
(cresc.)
f
f
37
3
43
C Very energetically (♩ = 144) or faster
49
rit.
snap pizz.
p
f
p
f
54
arco
58

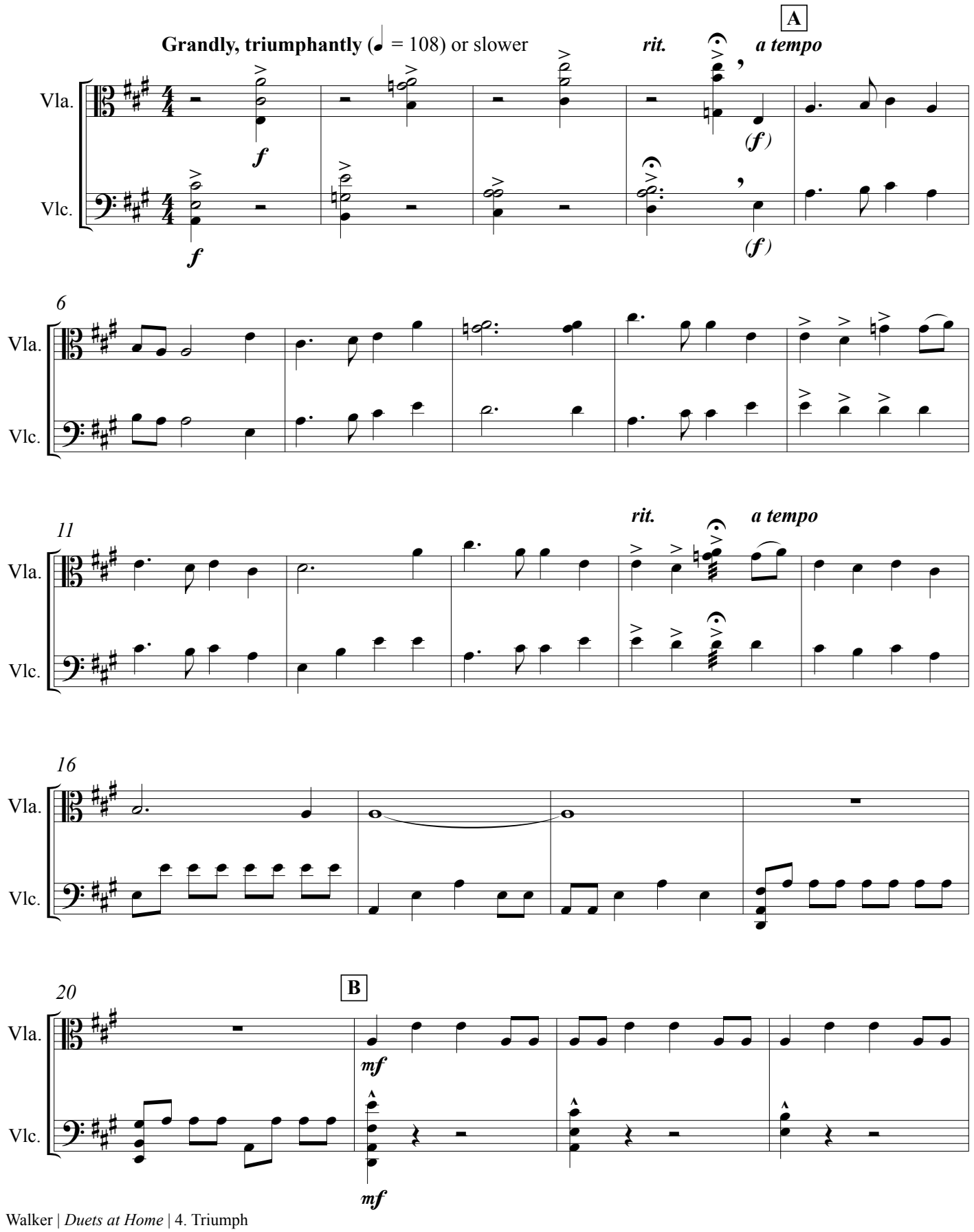
3. Scurrying

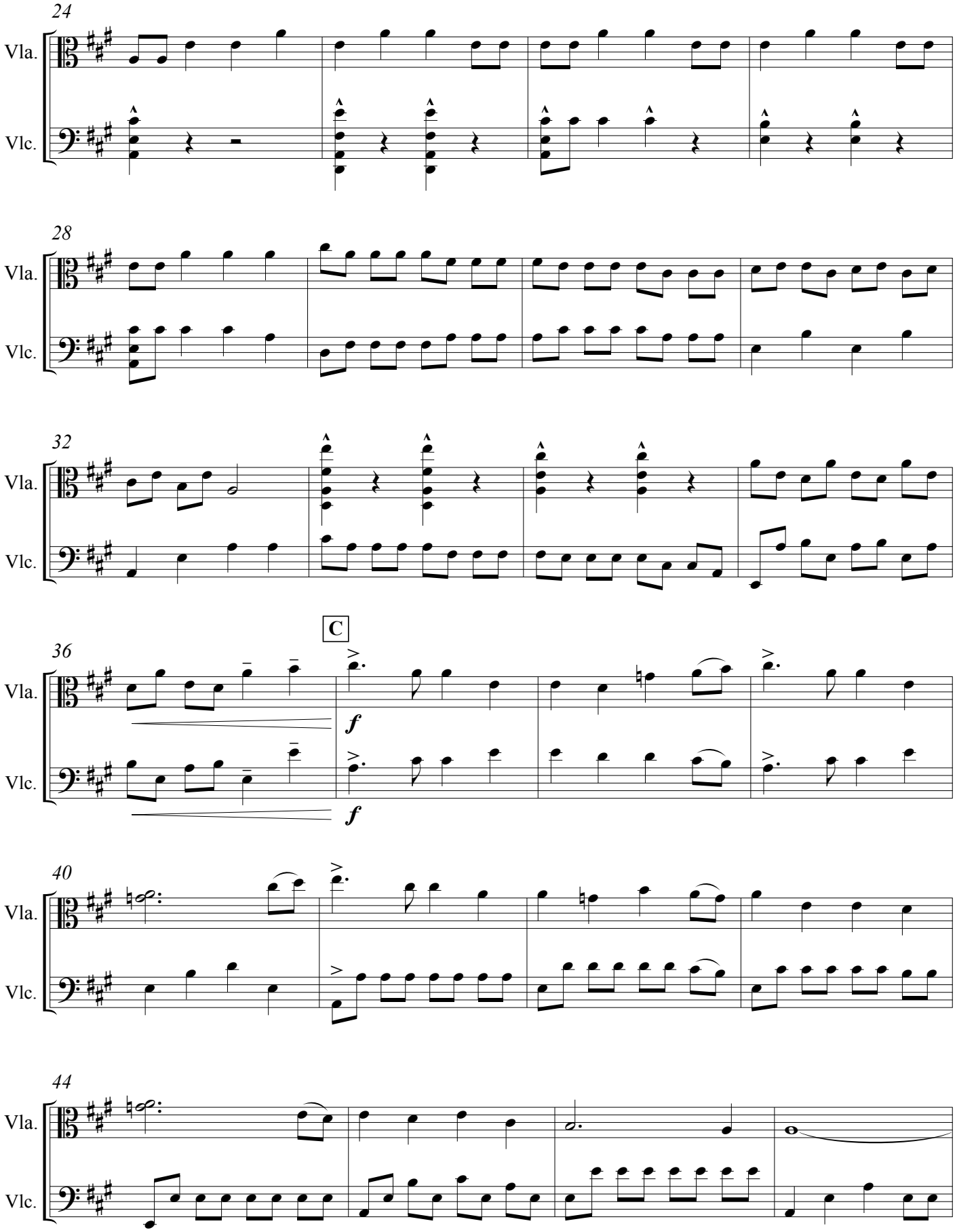


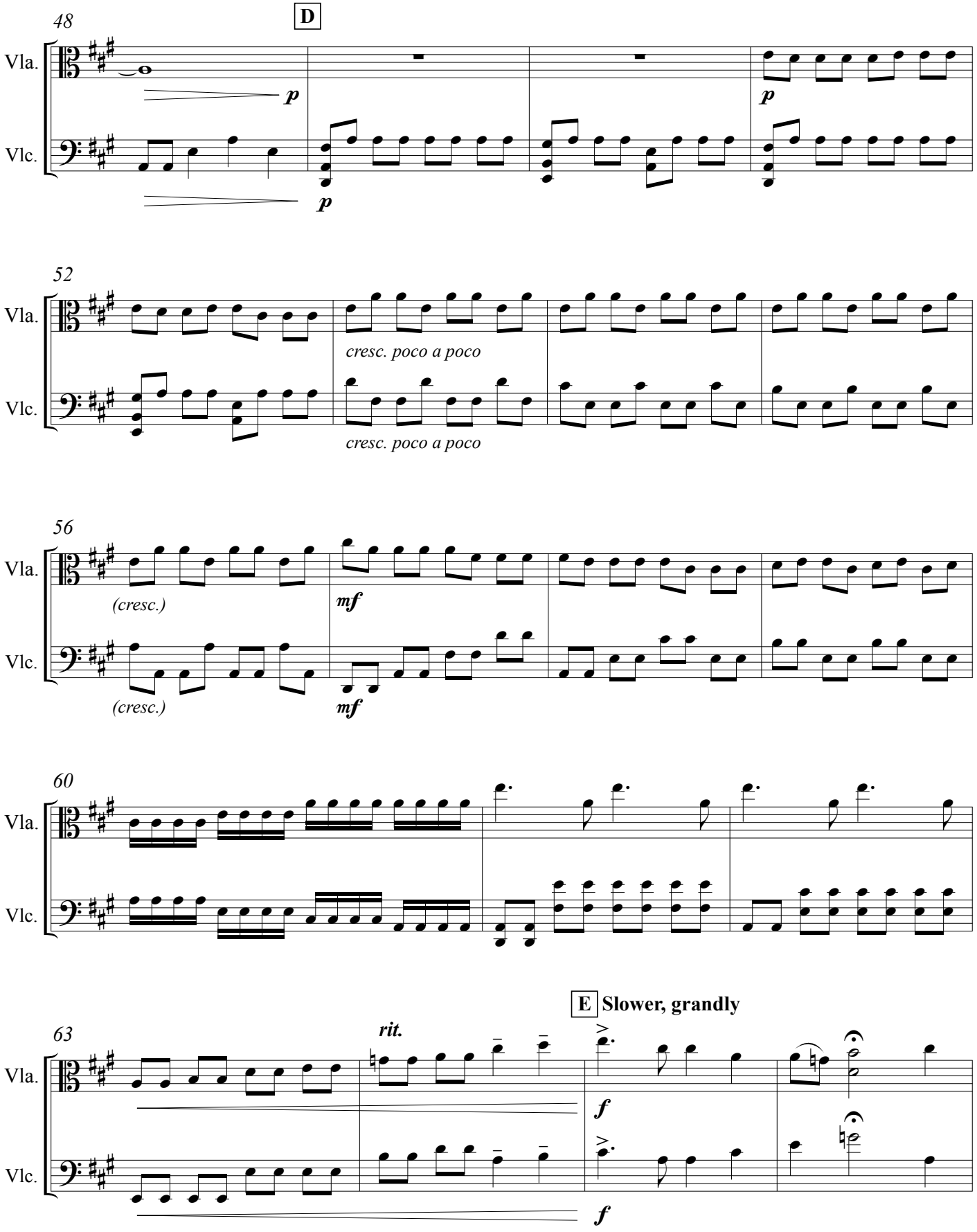

20
Vla.
cresc. poco a poco
Vlc.
cresc. poco a poco
23
C
Vla.
(cresc.)
f
Vlc.
(cresc.)
f
26
Vla.
Vlc.
29
Vla.
p
Vlc.
32 D
Vla.
Vlc.
p
40 E
Vla.
cresc. poco a poco (to F)
Vlc.
cresc. poco a poco (to F)

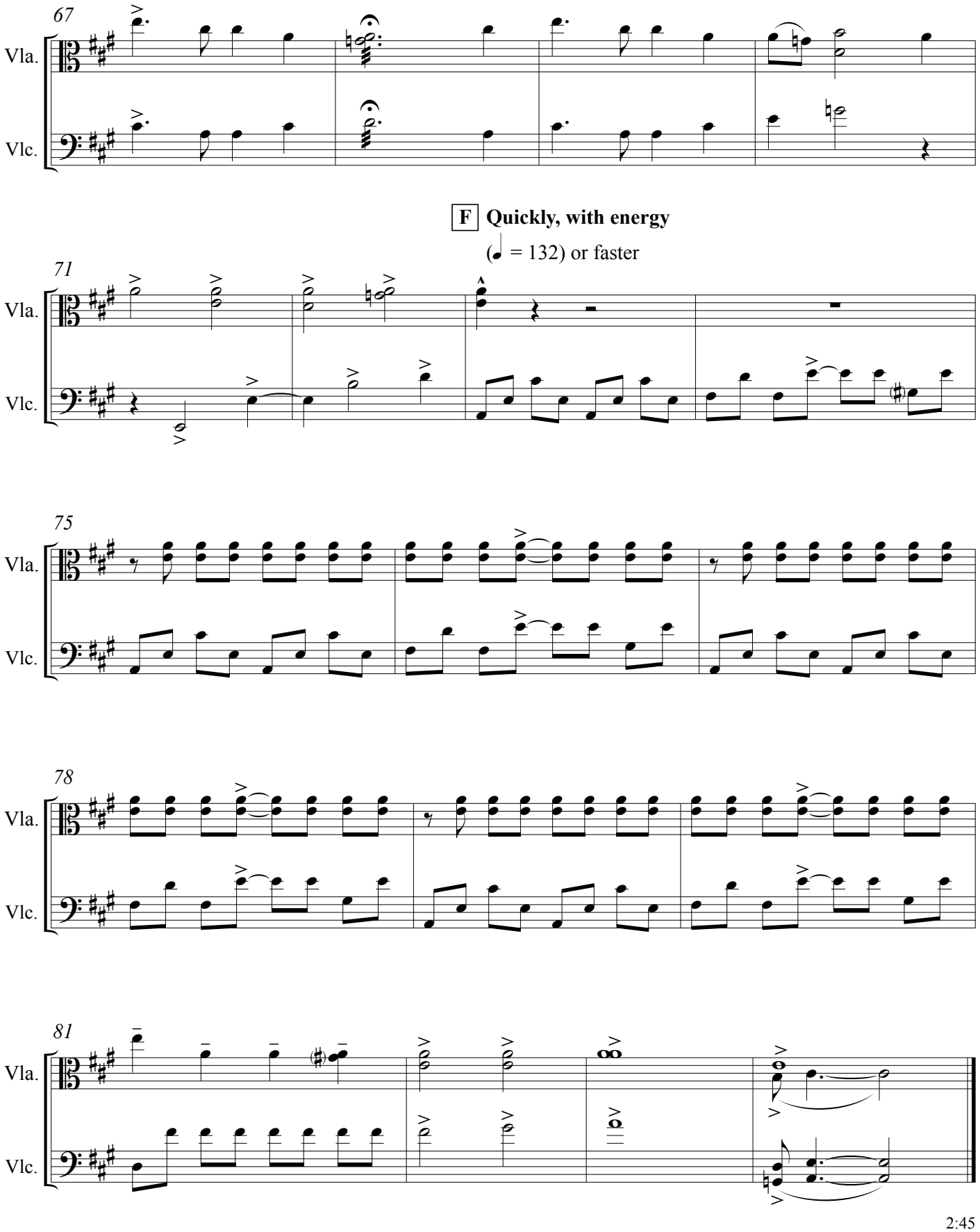

44
Vla.
(cresc.)
Vlc.
(cresc.)
F
47
Vla.
(cresc.)
f
Vlc.
(cresc.)
f
50
Vla.
p
f
Vlc.
p
f
53
Vla.
p
f
Vlc.
p
f
56
Vla.
p
f
Vlc.
p
f
59
Vla.
Vlc.

4. Triumph – We Shall Return!

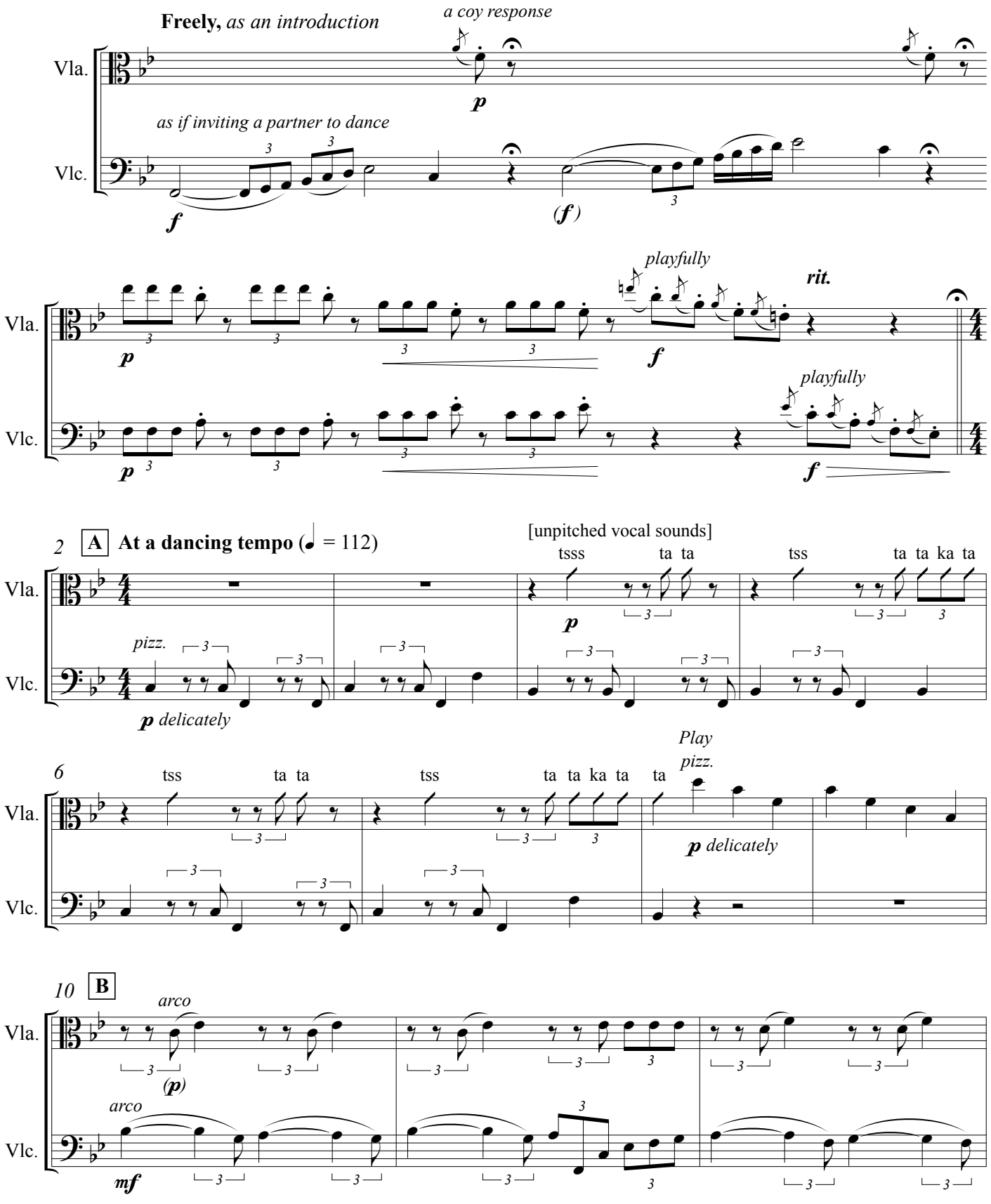


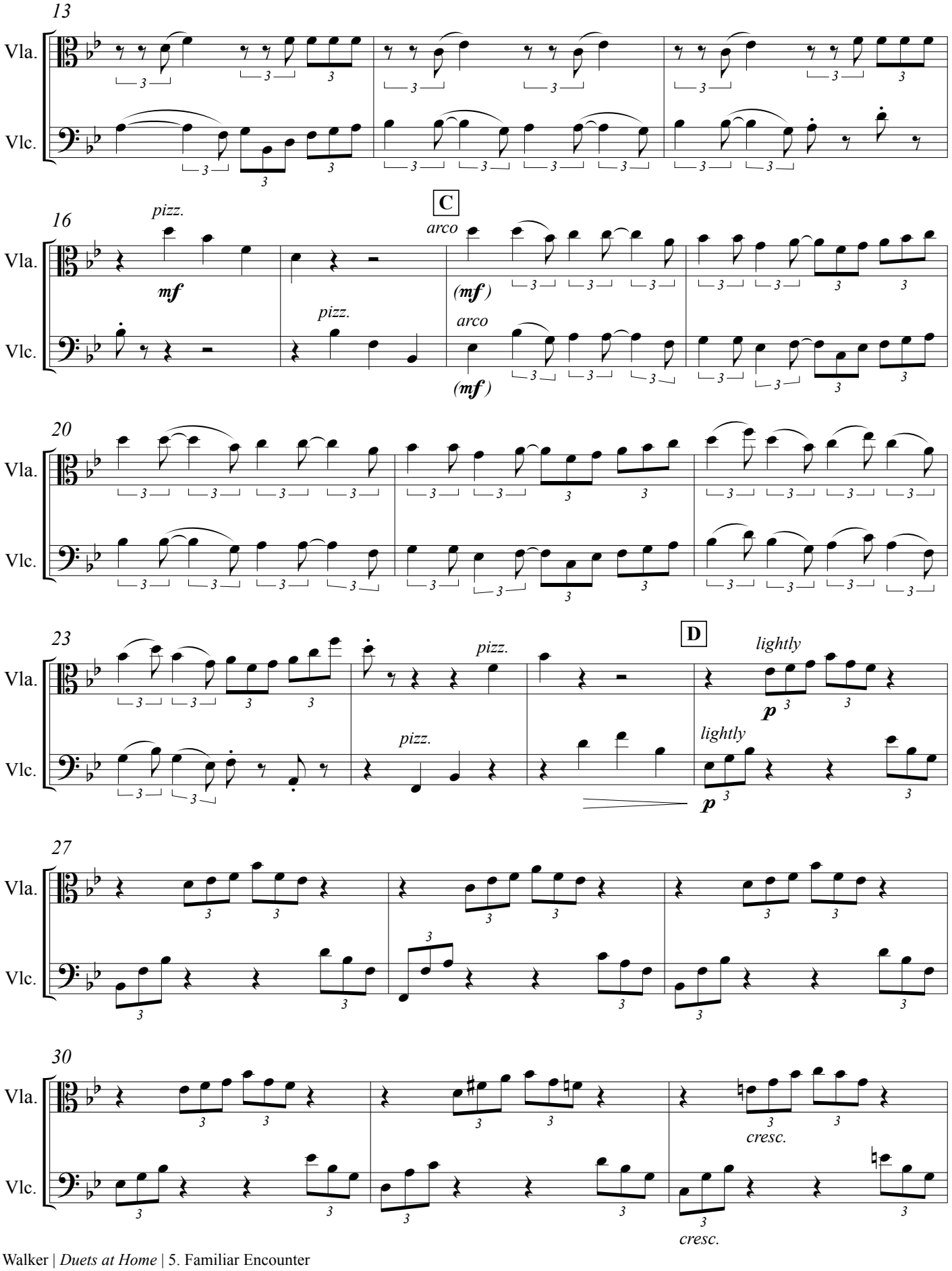

24
Vla.
Vlc.
28
Vla.
Vlc.
32
Vla.
Vlc.
C
36
Vla.
f
Vlc.
f
40
Vla.
Vlc.
44
Vla.
Vlc.

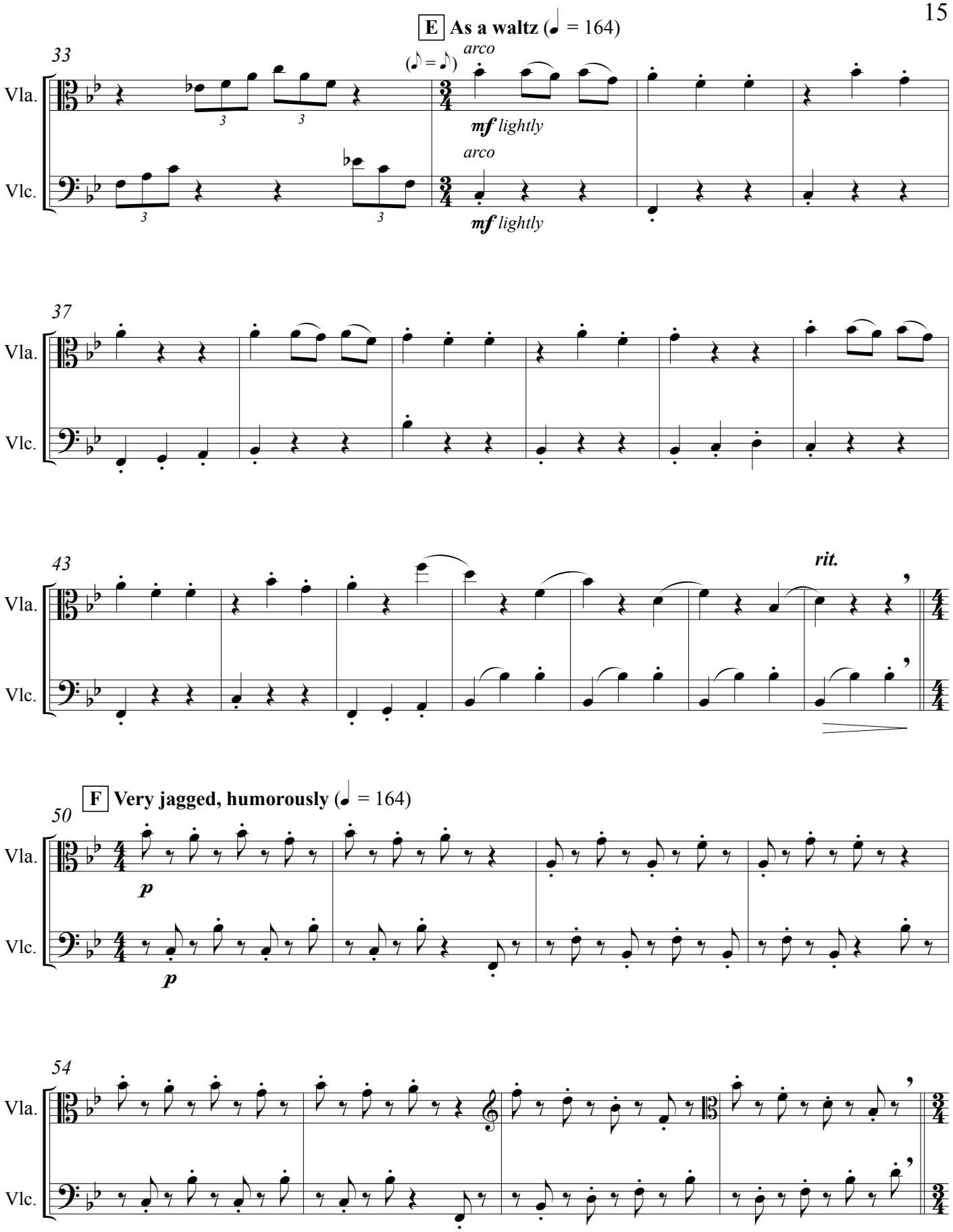

48
D
Vla.
Vlc.
p
p
p
52
Vla.
Vlc.
cresc. poco a poco
cresc. poco a poco
56
Vla.
Vlc.
(cresc.)
mf
(cresc.)
mf
60
Vla.
Vlc.
63
rit.
E Slower, grandly
Vla.
Vlc.
f
f

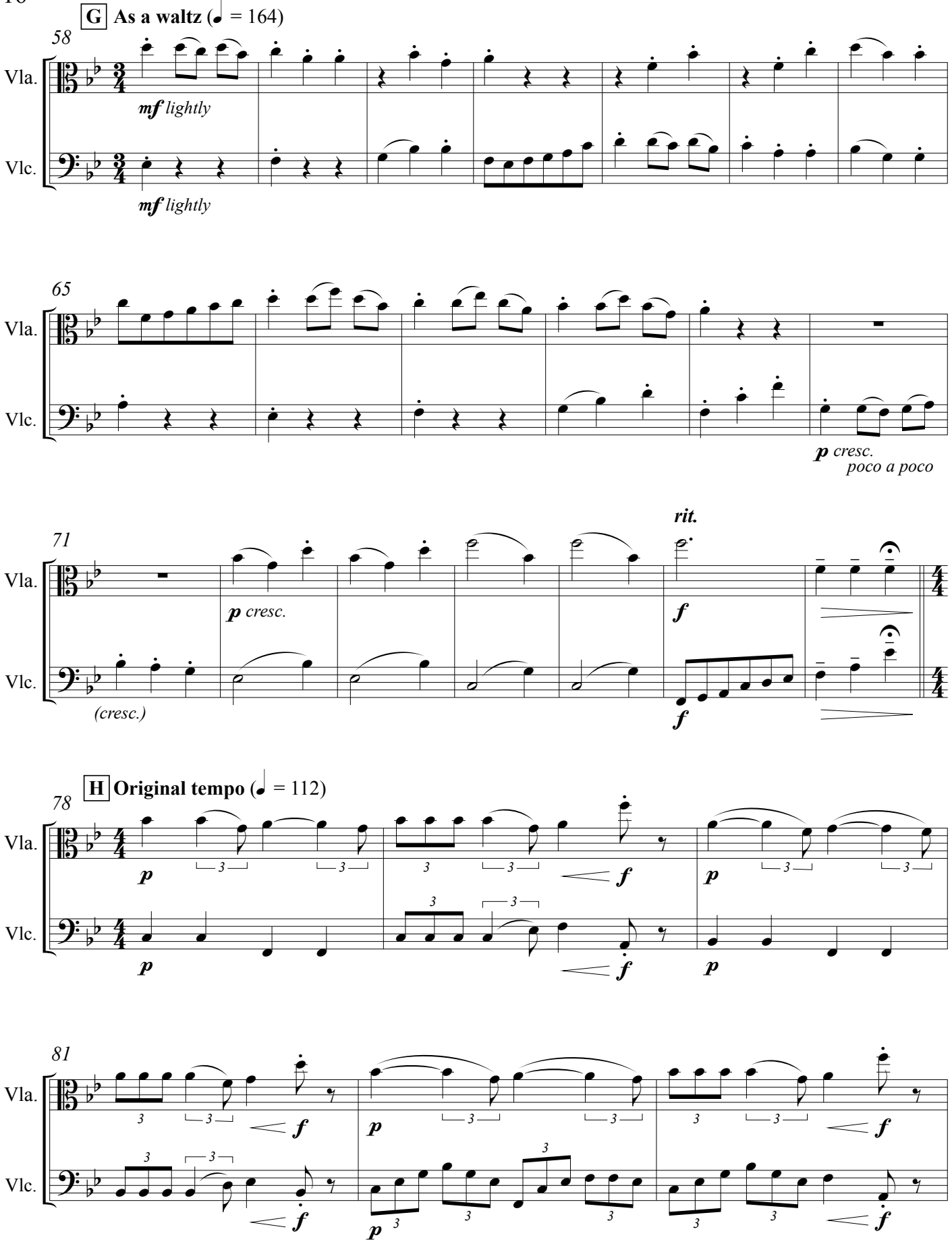

67
Vla.
Vlc.
F Quickly, with energy
(♩ = 132) or faster
71
75
78
81
2:45

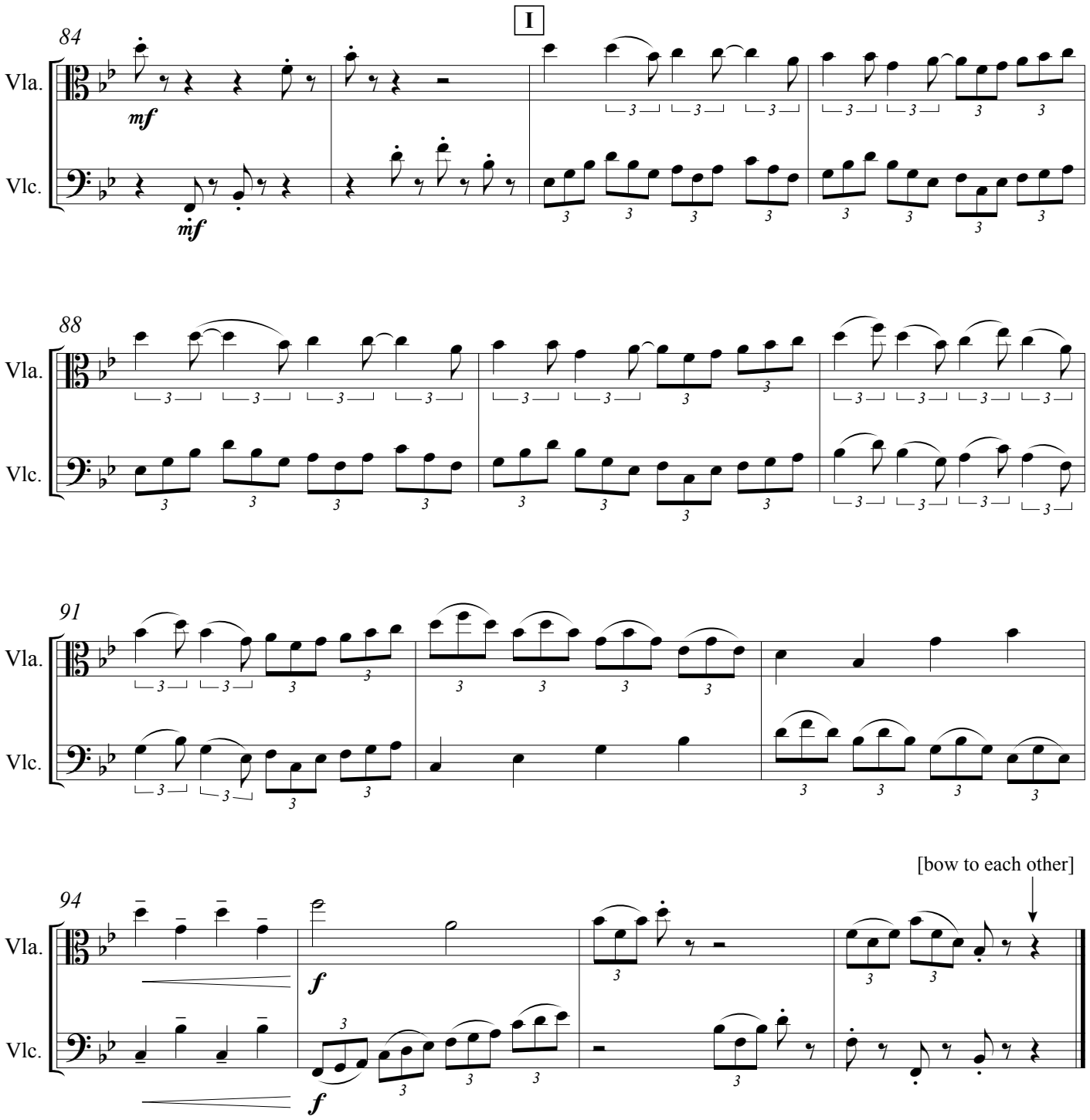
5. Familiar Encounter (a dance)




13
Vla.
Vlc.
16
pizz.
mf
pizz.
C
arco
(mf)
arco
(mf)
20
23
pizz.
pizz.
D
lightly
p
lightly
p
27
30
cresc.
cresc.


E As a waltz (♩ = 164)
33
(♪ = ♪)
arco
mf lightly
arco
mf lightly
Vla.
Vlc.
37
43
rit.
F Very jagged, humorously (♩ = 164)
50
p
p
54


G As a waltz (♩ = 164)
58
Vla.
mf lightly
Vlc.
mf lightly
65
Vla.
Vlc.
p cresc.
poco a poco
71
rit.
Vla.
p cresc.
f
Vlc.
(cresc.)
f
H Original tempo (♩ = 112)
78
Vla.
p
f
p
Vlc.
p
f
p
81
Vla.
f
p
f
Vlc.
f
p
f



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June 10, 2020
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