Gwyneth Walker

Language of the Soul

for Trumpet and Strings

Duration: 15 minutes

It is often said that music is the language of the soul. This sentiment originates with Plato, and resounds through musical writings over the centuries. Thus, with a focus on the humanistic and expressive nature of music, this four-movement work for trumpet and string orchestra aims to explore several of the "messages" which the soul might choose to speak: peace, wonder, freedom and joy. Words cannot always adequately convey these concepts and emotions. Music has the capacity to powerfully capture moods – to touch upon the outpourings of the soul.

"The Soul Speaks of Peace" focuses upon a cantabile melody introduced by the trumpet. This theme is repeated and expanded in dynamics and range, leading to a middle section of falling patterns in the strings. A secondary theme is heard in the trumpet. The opening material returns, including a cadenza in the trumpet. The ending is quiet, fading away.

"Wonder" might be heard in the opening overlapping tones played by the strings, marked "as stars appearing in the sky." Each note is perhaps a different star, appearing briefly and then becoming part of the entire night view. The trumpet enters, filled with wonder at the beauty of the canopy of stars. Ascending lines, often heard in the strings, draw the attention back upwards to the sky. An energetic section arrives, perhaps expressing the exuberance of experiencing the surrounding wonder of the universe. A solo violin remains at the end – one lone star.

An impish, playful character appears as the "Free Spirit." The trumpet and strings dialogue in a series of short, bouncy patterns. Eventually, the mood switches to that of the blues, with a "soft shoe" rhythm. Although the instruments occasionally play together, the texture is predominantly a "back-and-forth" of ideas, trying to decide who gets the last word!

"The Soul Sings with Joy" is a highly energetic expression of the thrill of being ALIVE! The music races along, often filled with upward scales and upward glissandi. This is not intended for the faint-hearted violist! Yet it will be the trumpeter who is called upon to give the utmost energy to a role which is truly celebratory.

***Language of the Soul** was commissioned by, and is dedicated to, trumpeter Tim Hudson of Greensboro, NC. Tim Hudson and Gwyneth Walker met several years ago, and have been collaborating on new works ever since.*

* * * * *

Dr. Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947) is a graduate of Brown University and the Hartt School of Music. She holds B.A., MM. and D.M.A. Degrees in Music Composition. A former faculty member of the Oberlin College Conservatory, she resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. She now lives on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont.

Gwyneth Walker is a proud resident of Vermont. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Vermont Arts Council as well as the 2008 "Athenaeum Award for Achievement in the Arts and Humanities" from the St. Johnsbury (VT) Athenaeum.

Walker's catalog includes over 180 commissioned works for orchestra, chamber ensembles, chorus and voice. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E. C. Schirmer of Boston (choral and vocal music) and MMB Music of St. Louis (orchestral and instrumental music).

Commissioned by Tim Hudson

Language of the Soul

for Trumpet and String Orchestra

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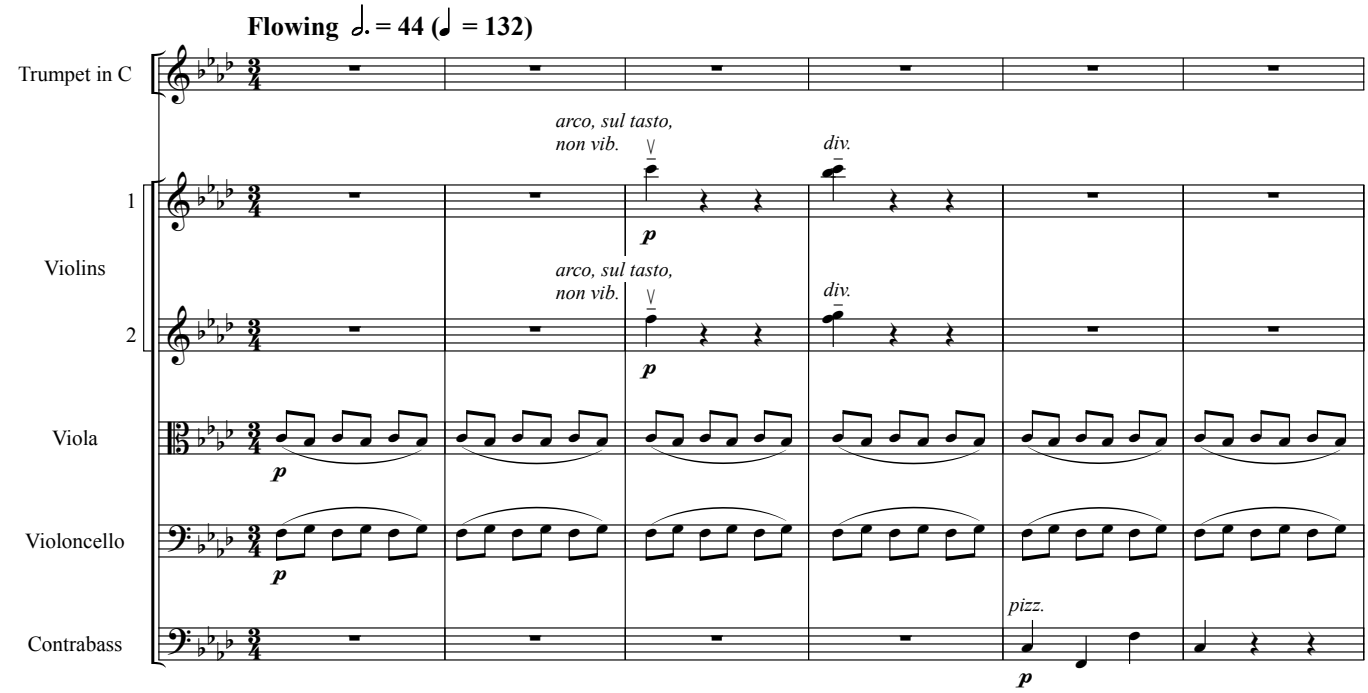
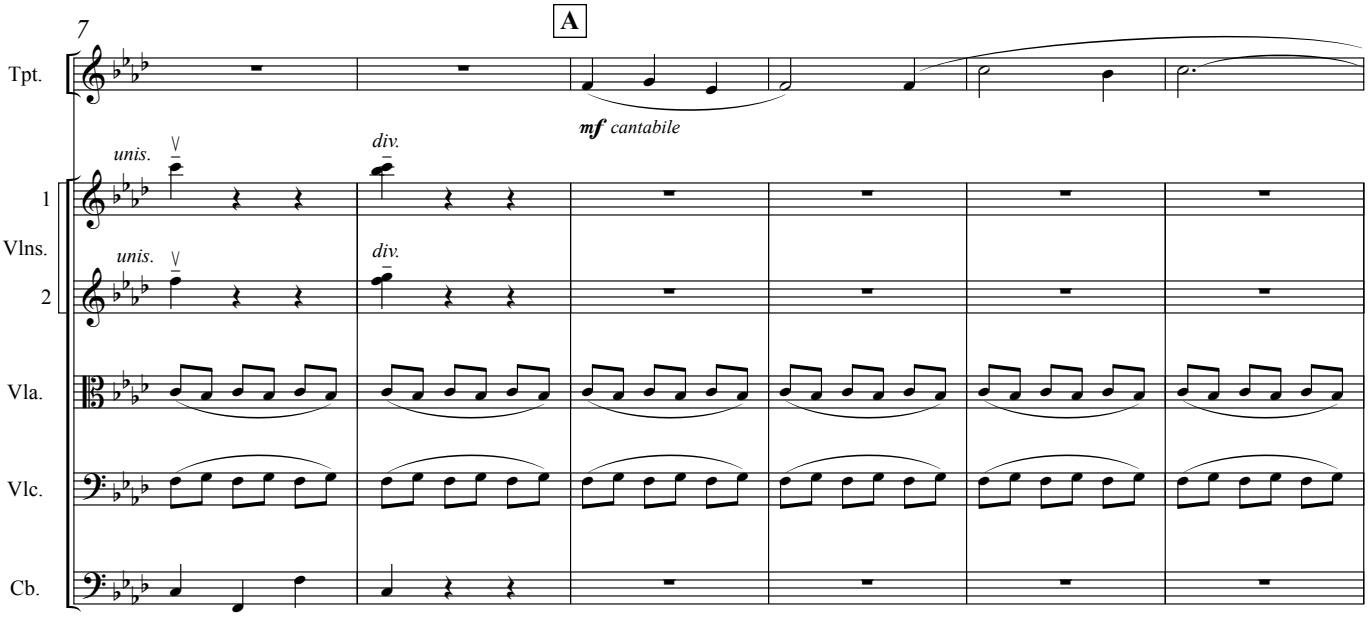
1. The Soul Speaks of Peace





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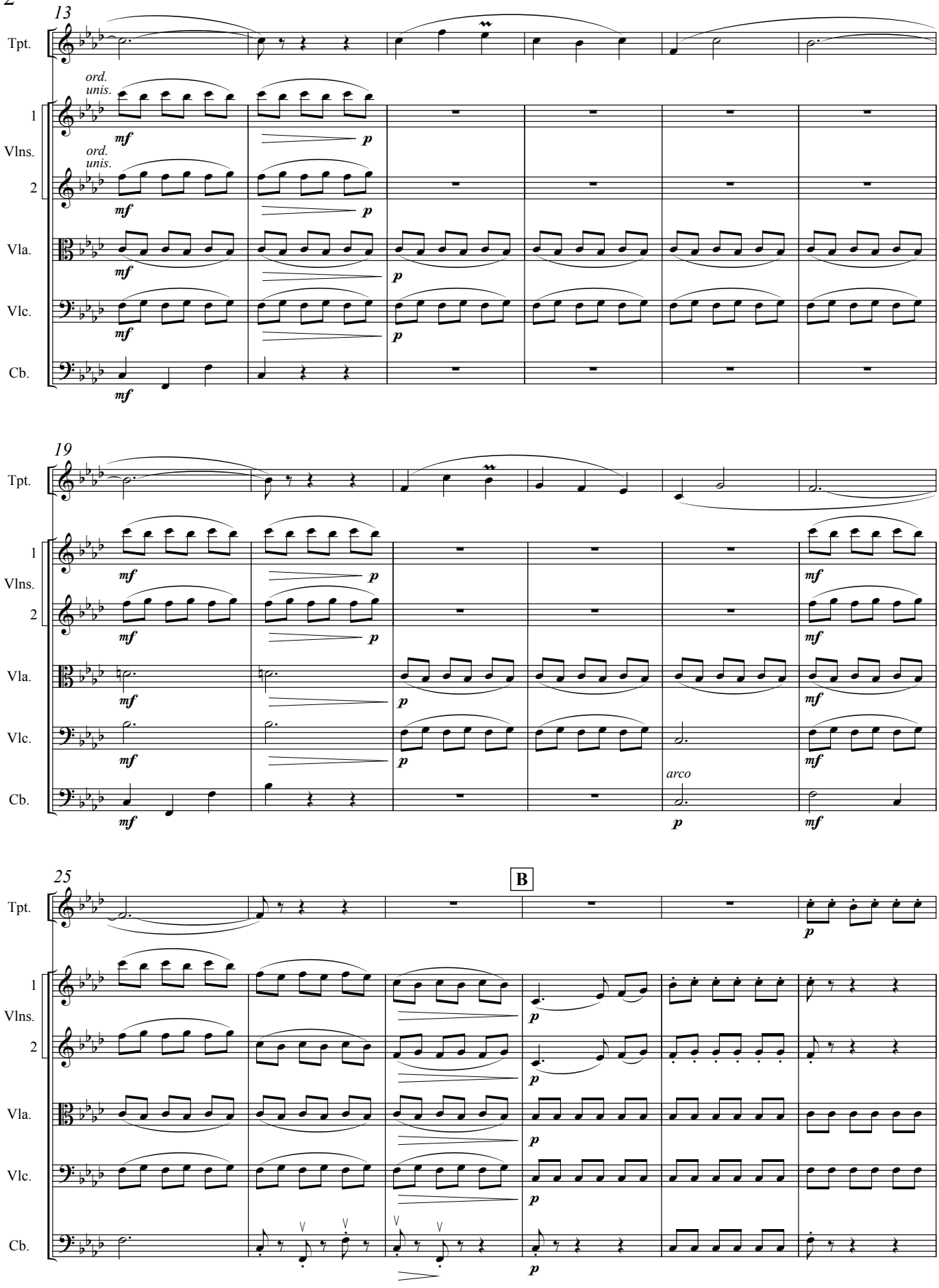
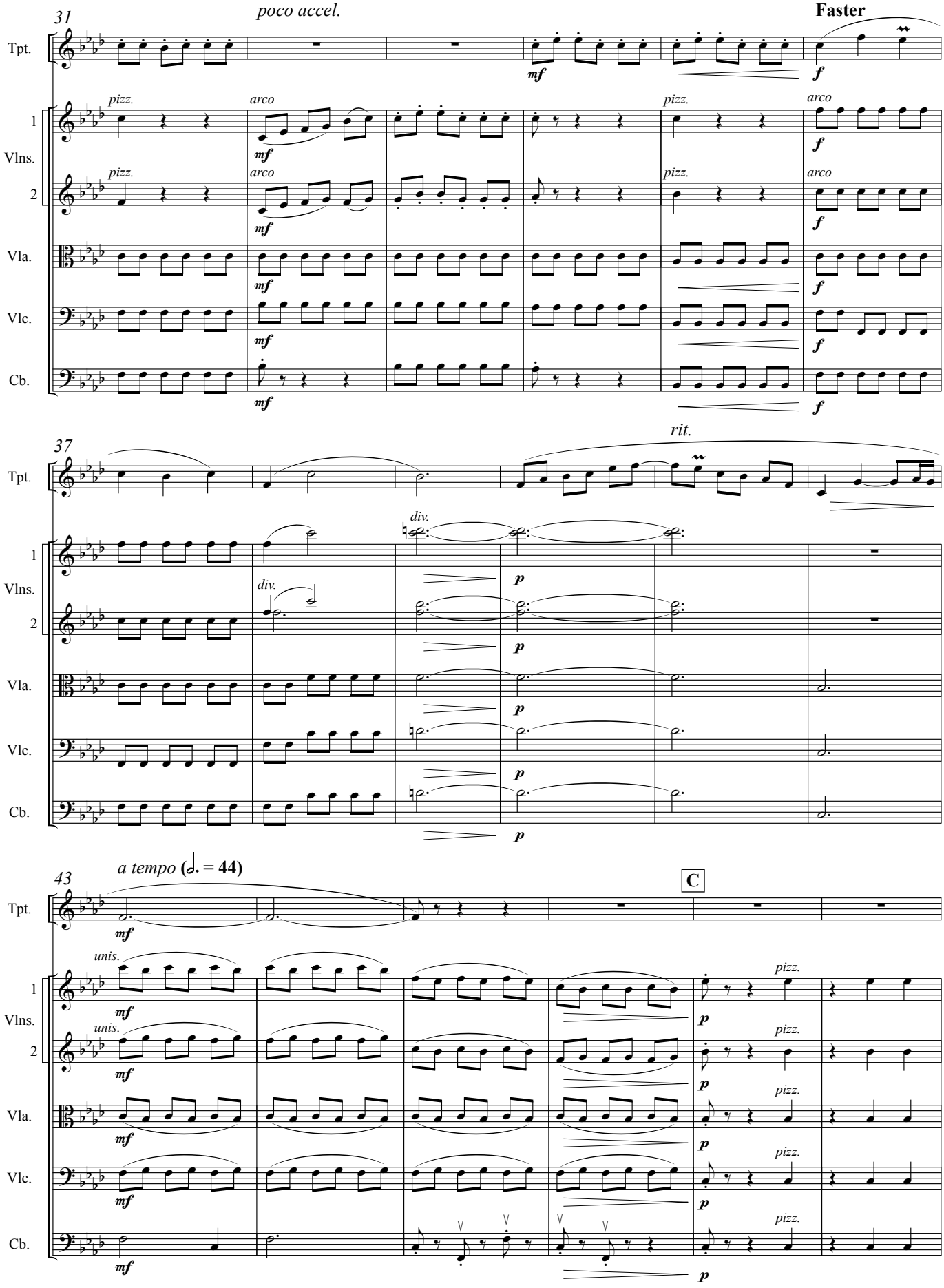
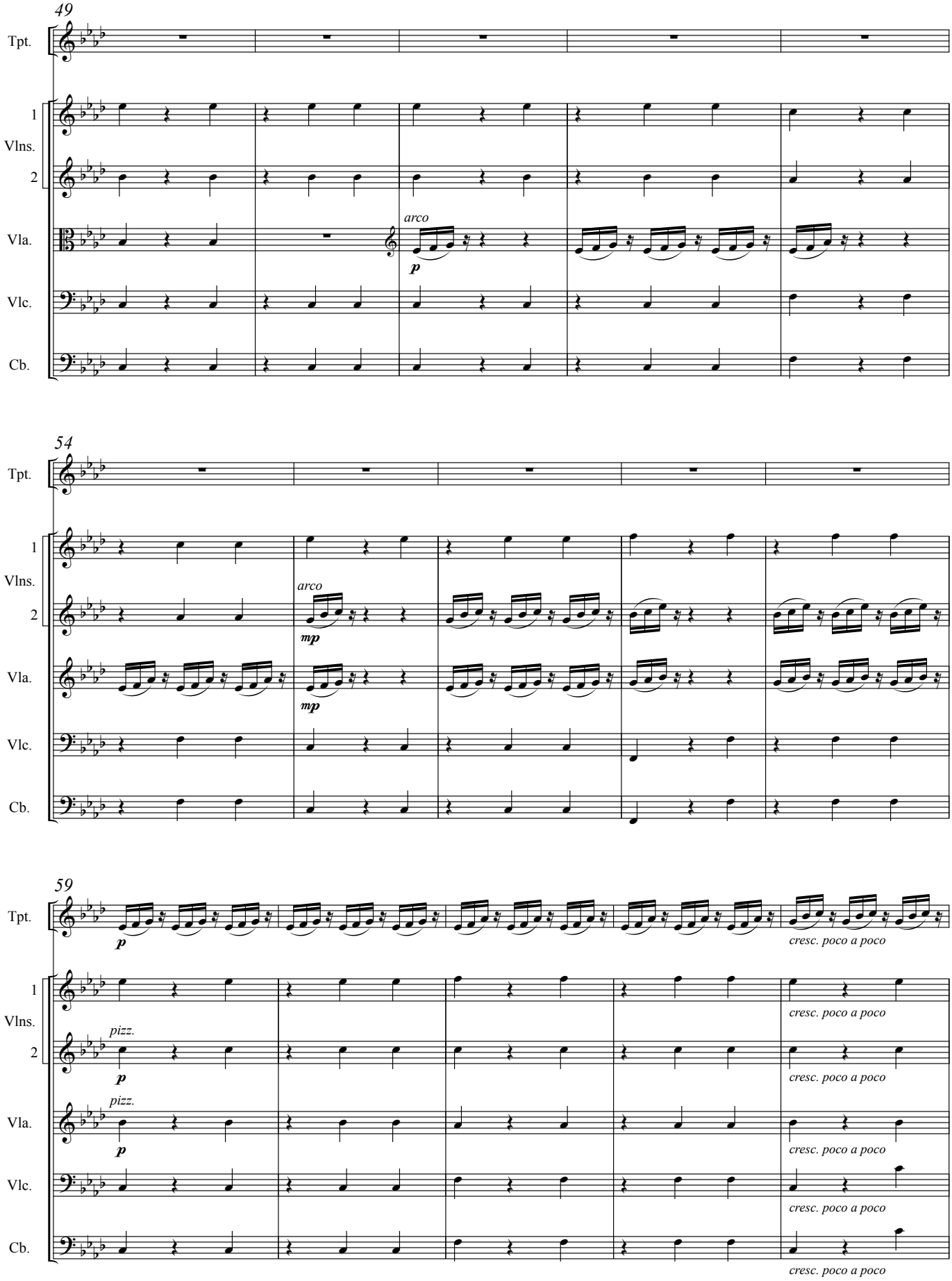
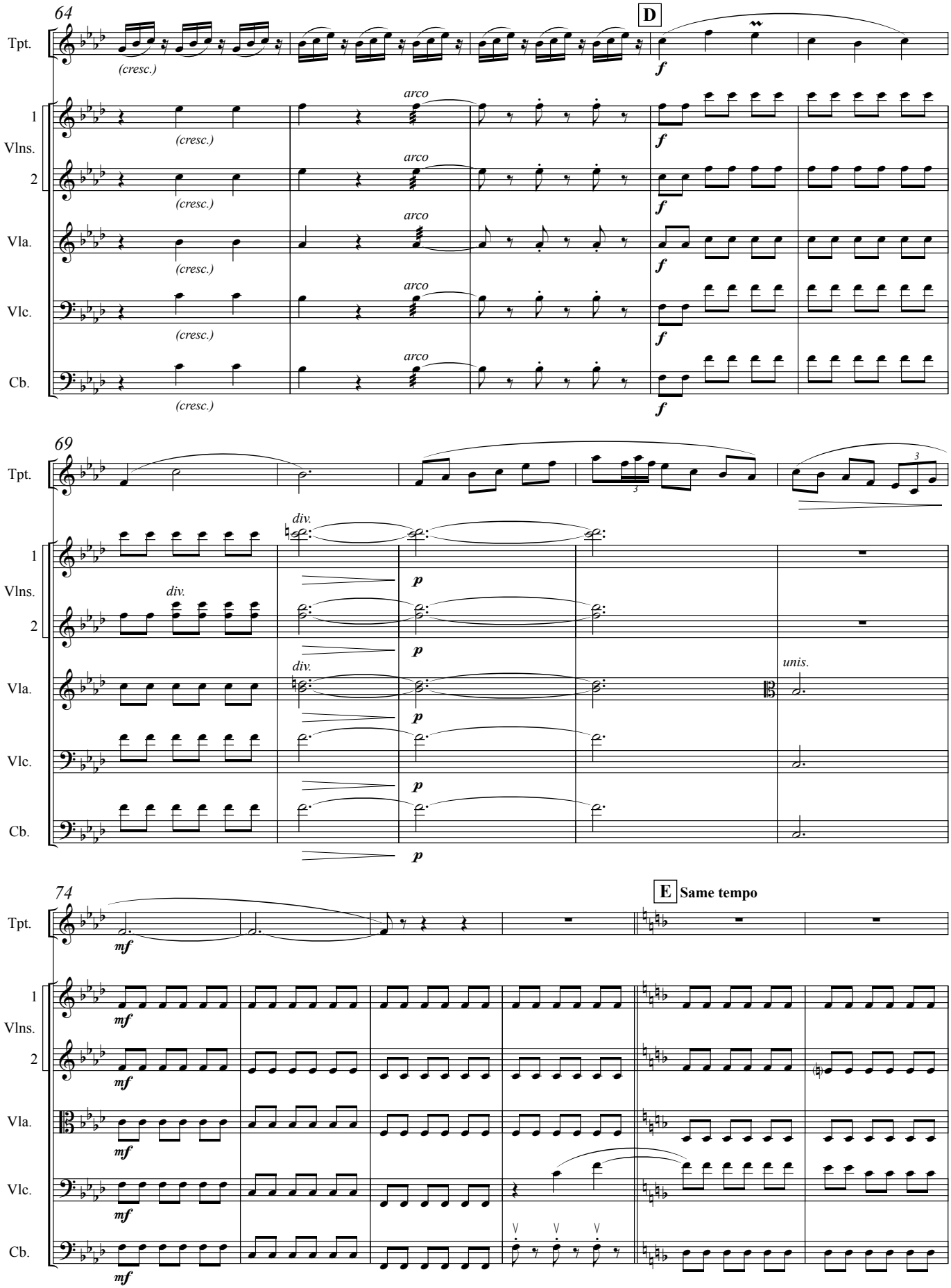
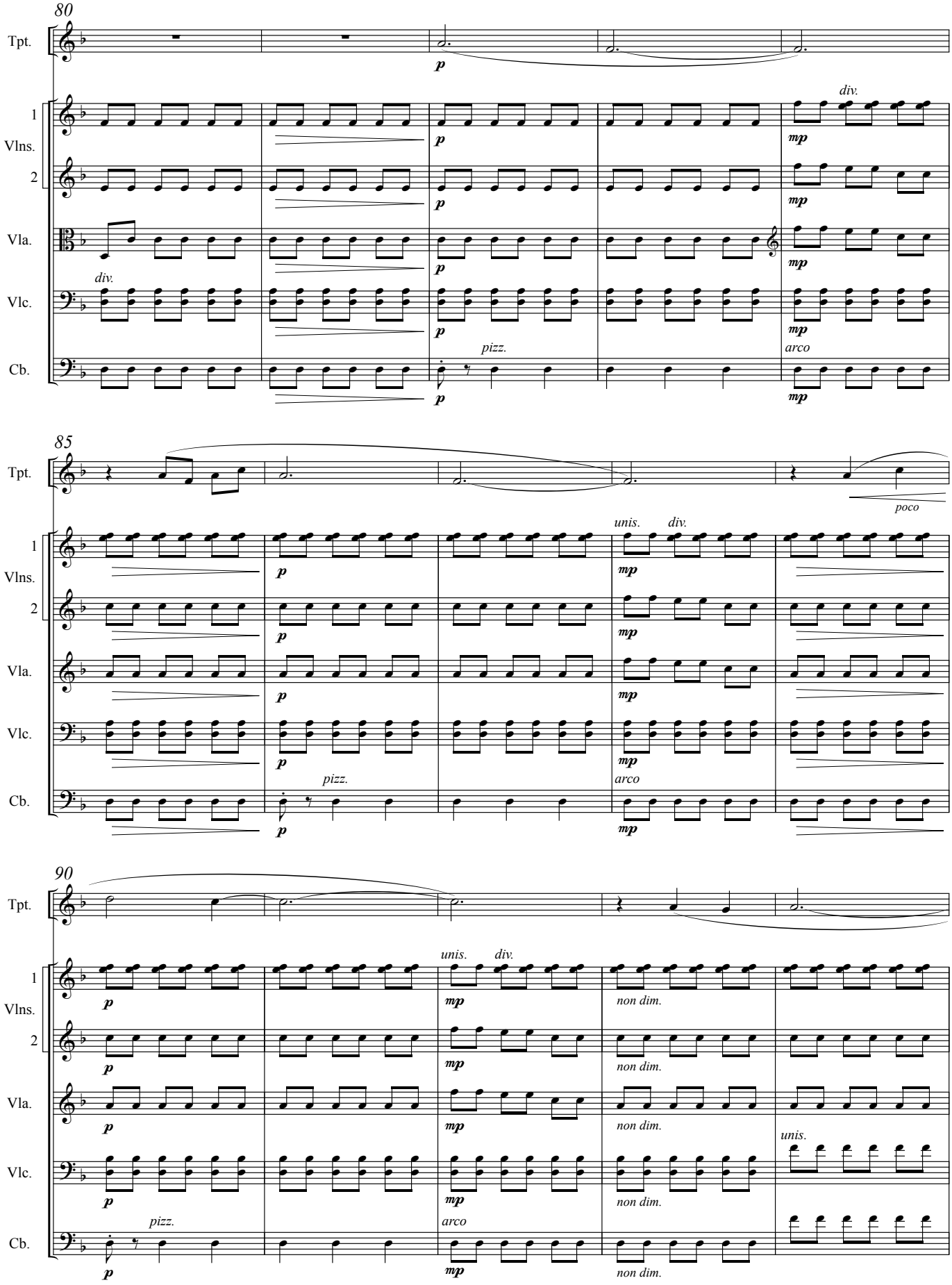
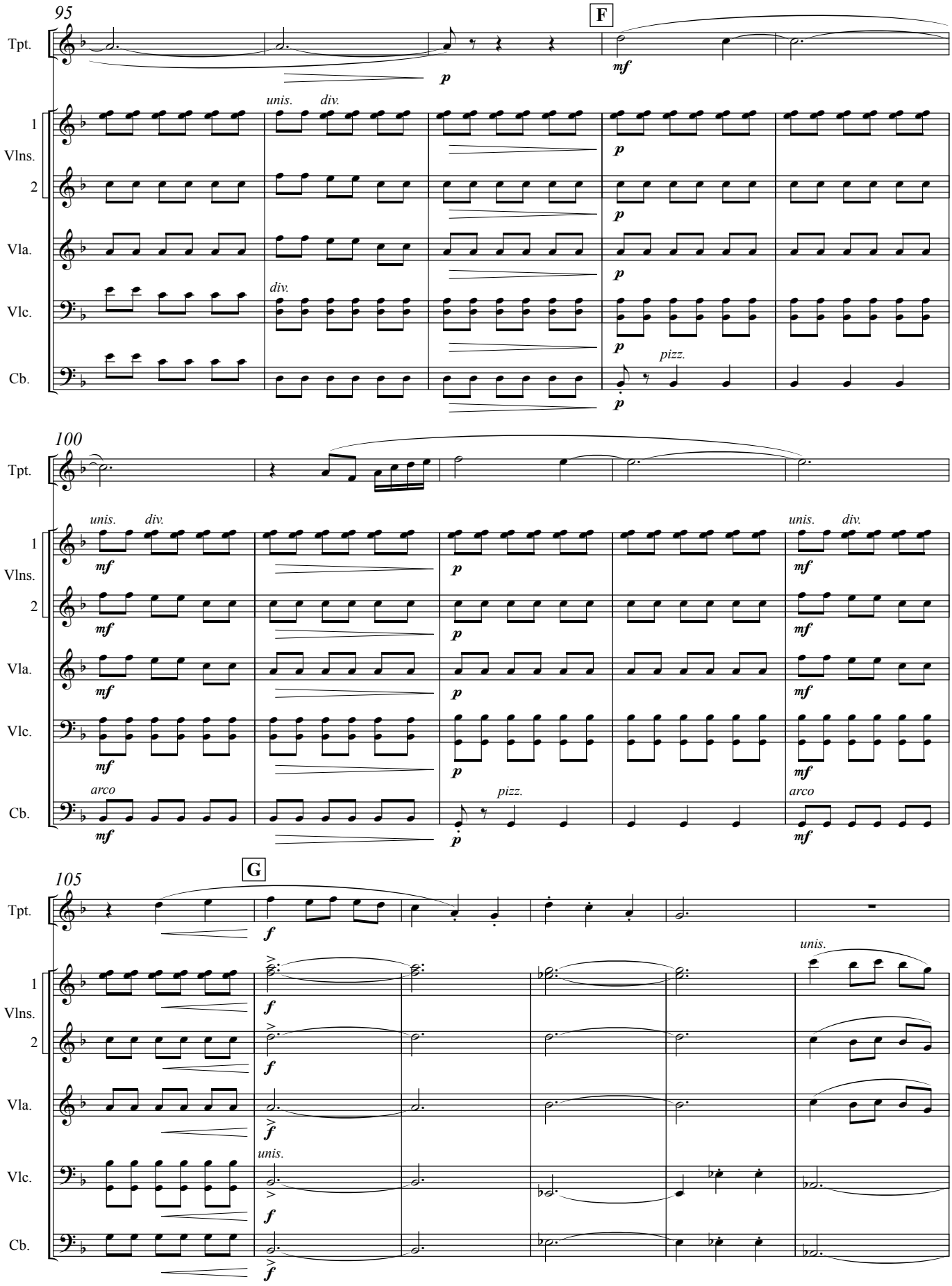

13
Tpt.
ord.
unis.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
mf
p
19
arco
25
B

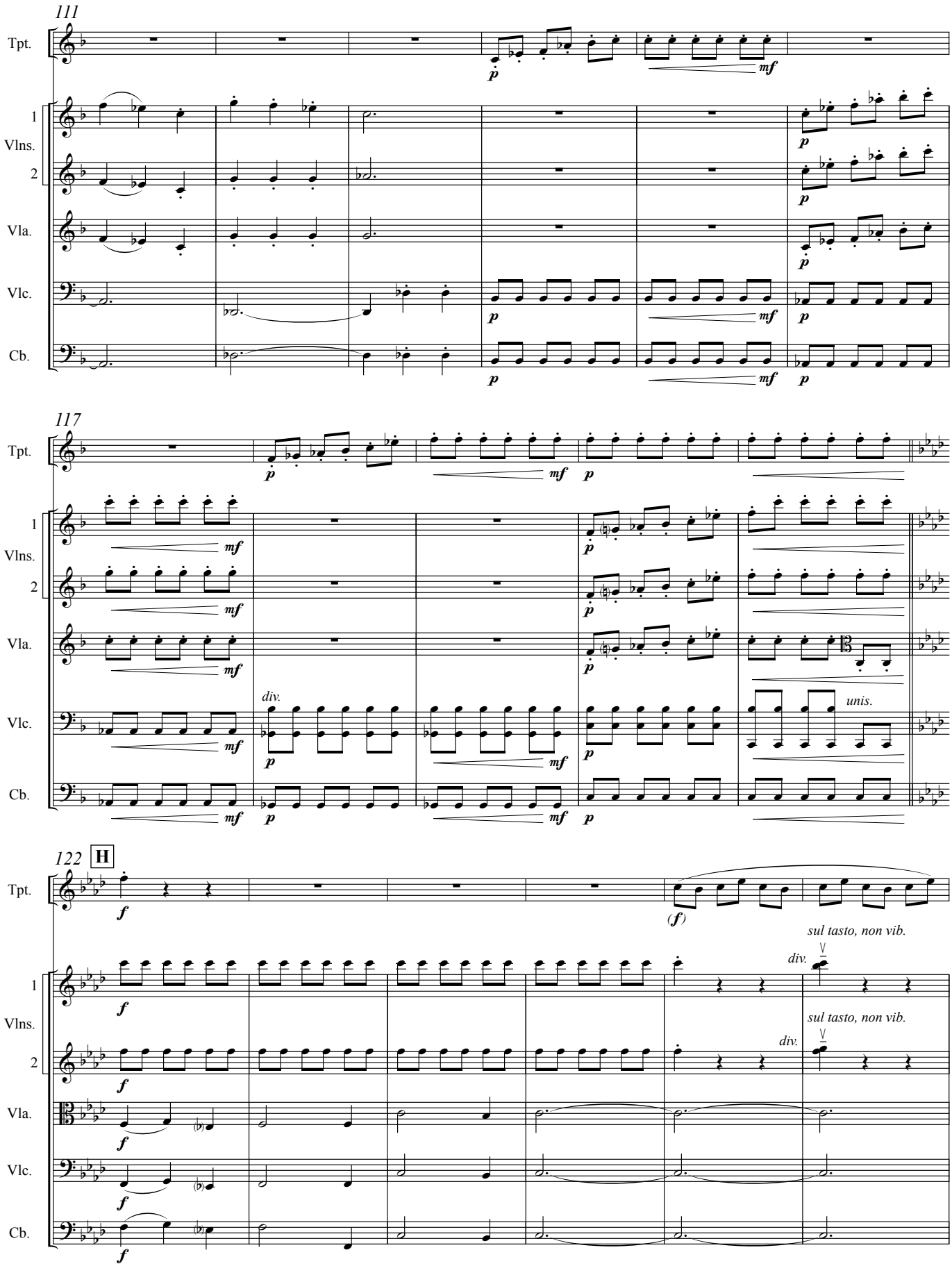

31
poco accel.
Faster
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
pizz.
arco
mf
f
37
rit.
div.
p
43
a tempo (𝅗𝅥. = 44)
C
unis.
pizz.

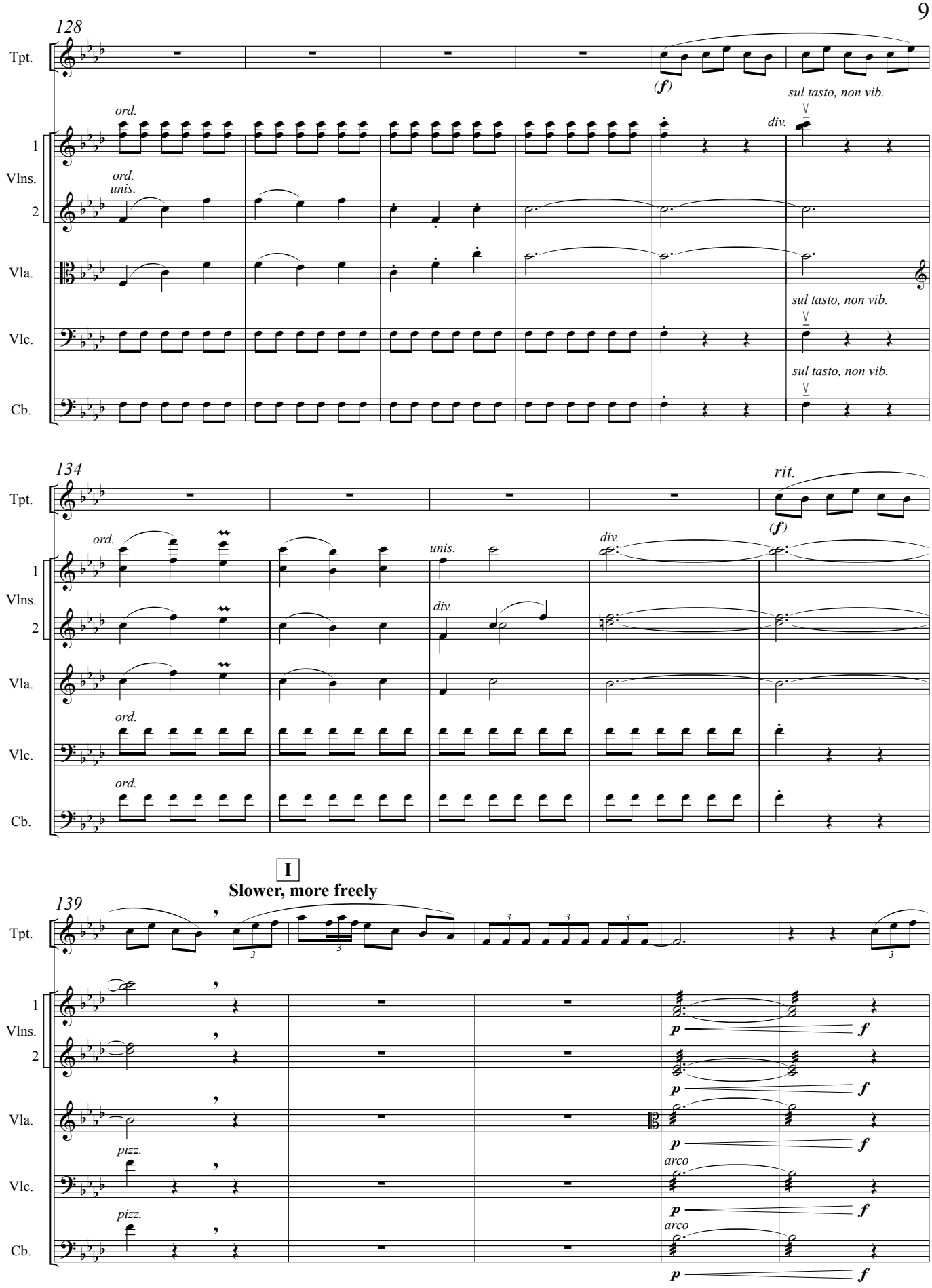

49
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
arco
p
54
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
arco
mp
mp
59
Tpt.
p
cresc. poco a poco
1
Vlns.
2
pizz.
p
cresc. poco a poco
Vla.
pizz.
p
cresc. poco a poco
Vlc.
cresc. poco a poco
Cb.
cresc. poco a poco

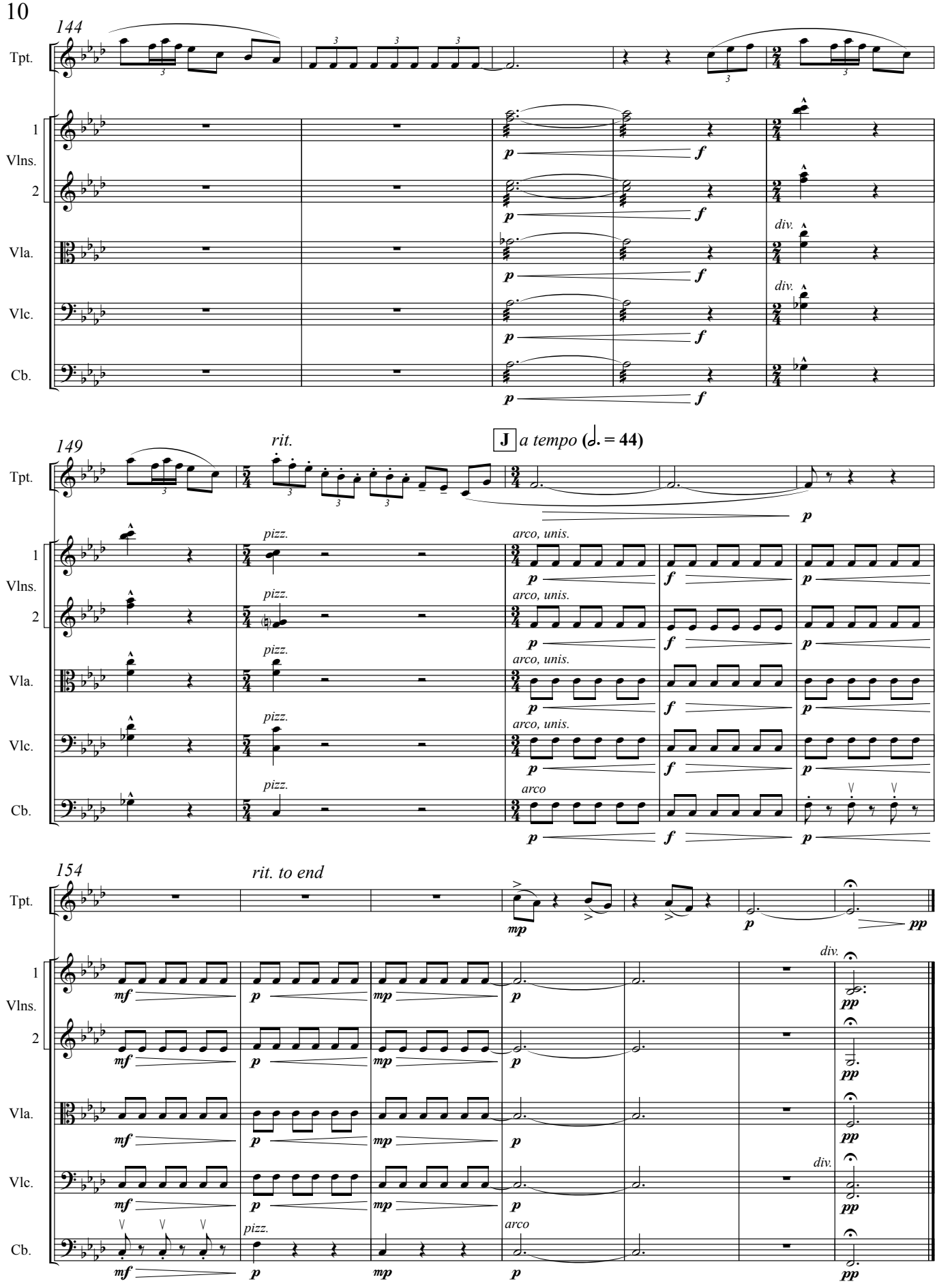

64
D
Tpt.
(cresc.)
f
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
arco
(cresc.)
f
69
div.
p
unis.
74
E
Same tempo
mf


80
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
p
mp
div.
pizz.
arco
85
poco
unis.
90
non dim.

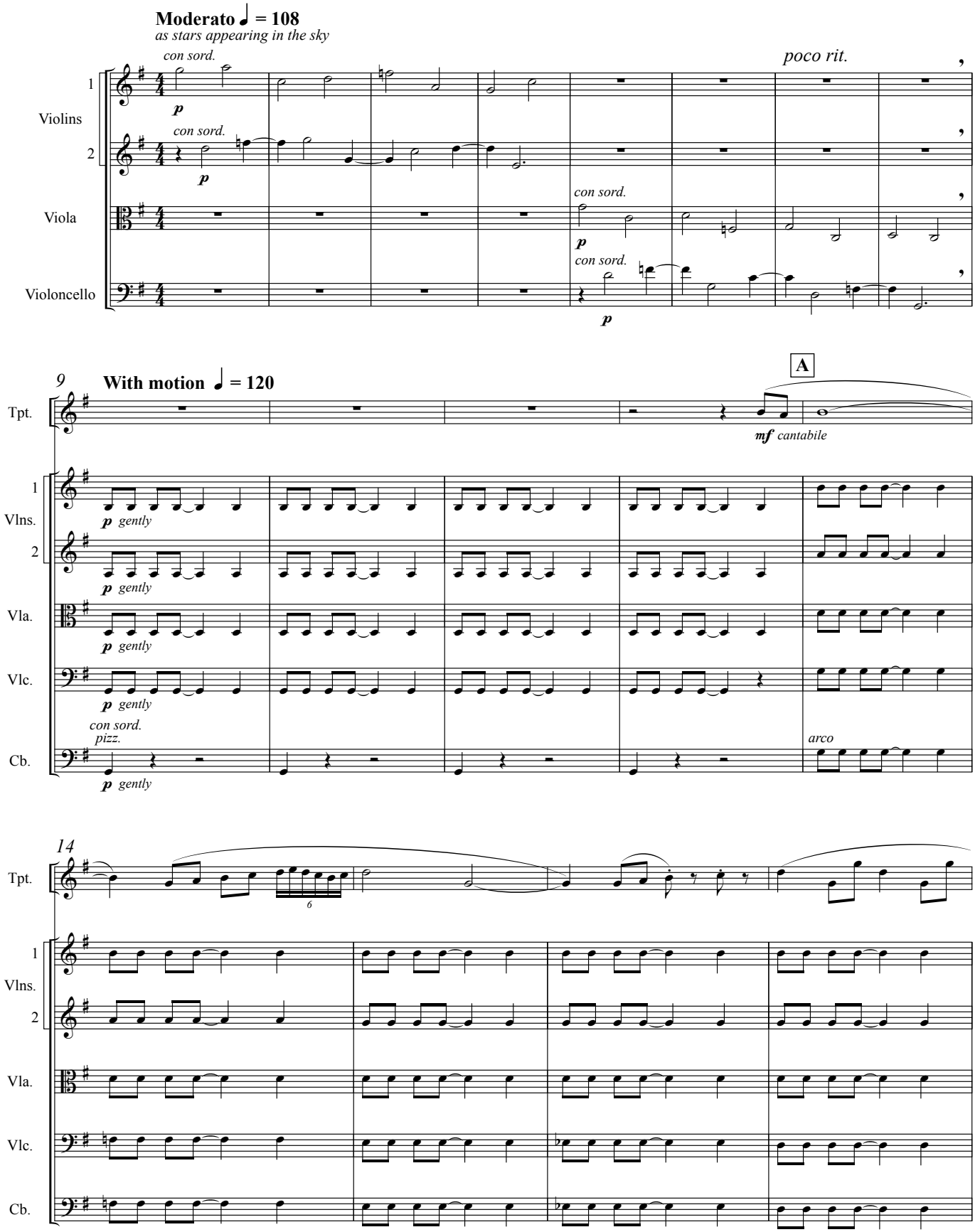

95
F
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
unis.
div.
pizz.
100
arco
105
G

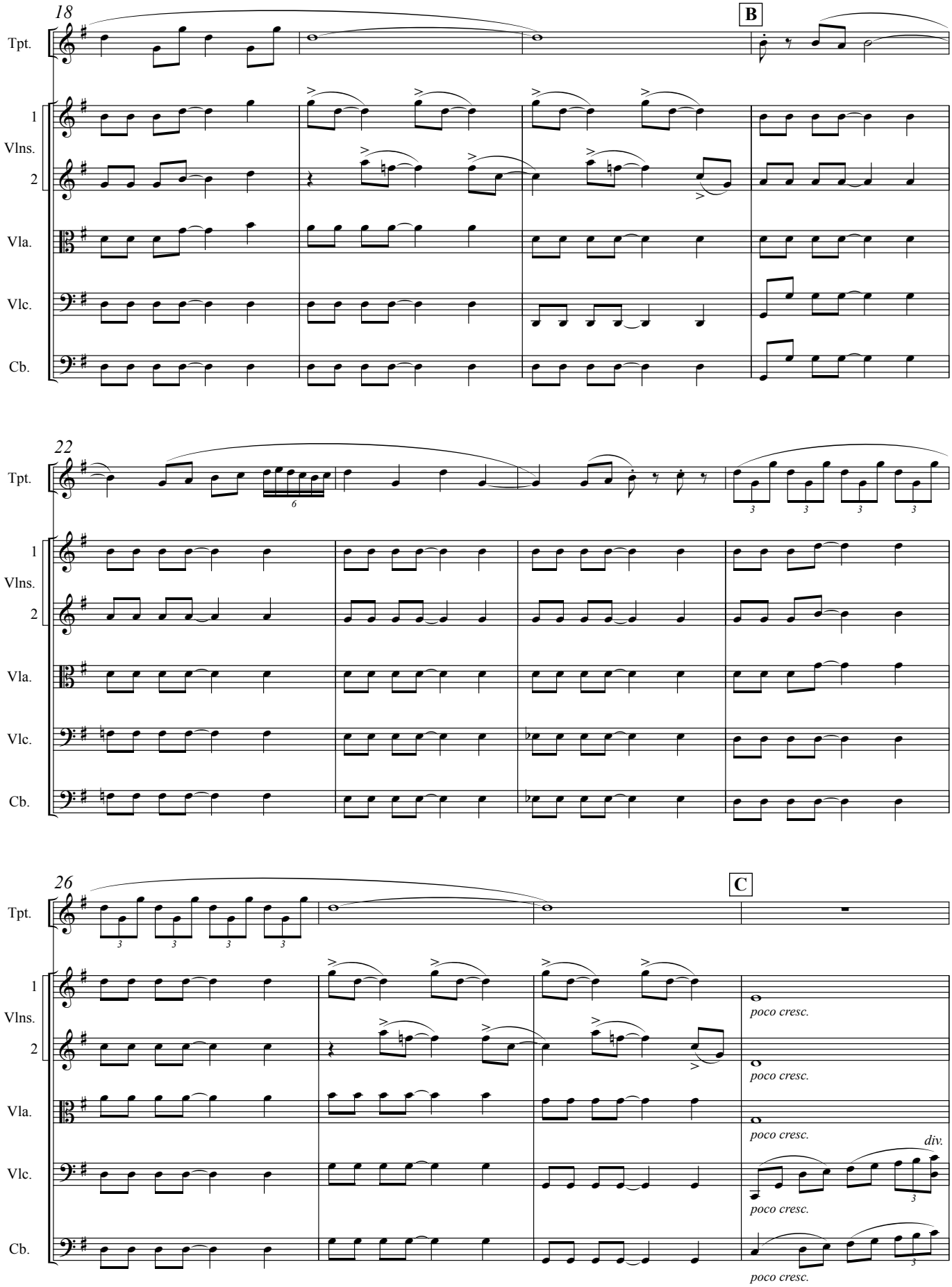

111
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
117
div.
unis.
122
H
(f)
sul tasto, non vib.
div.

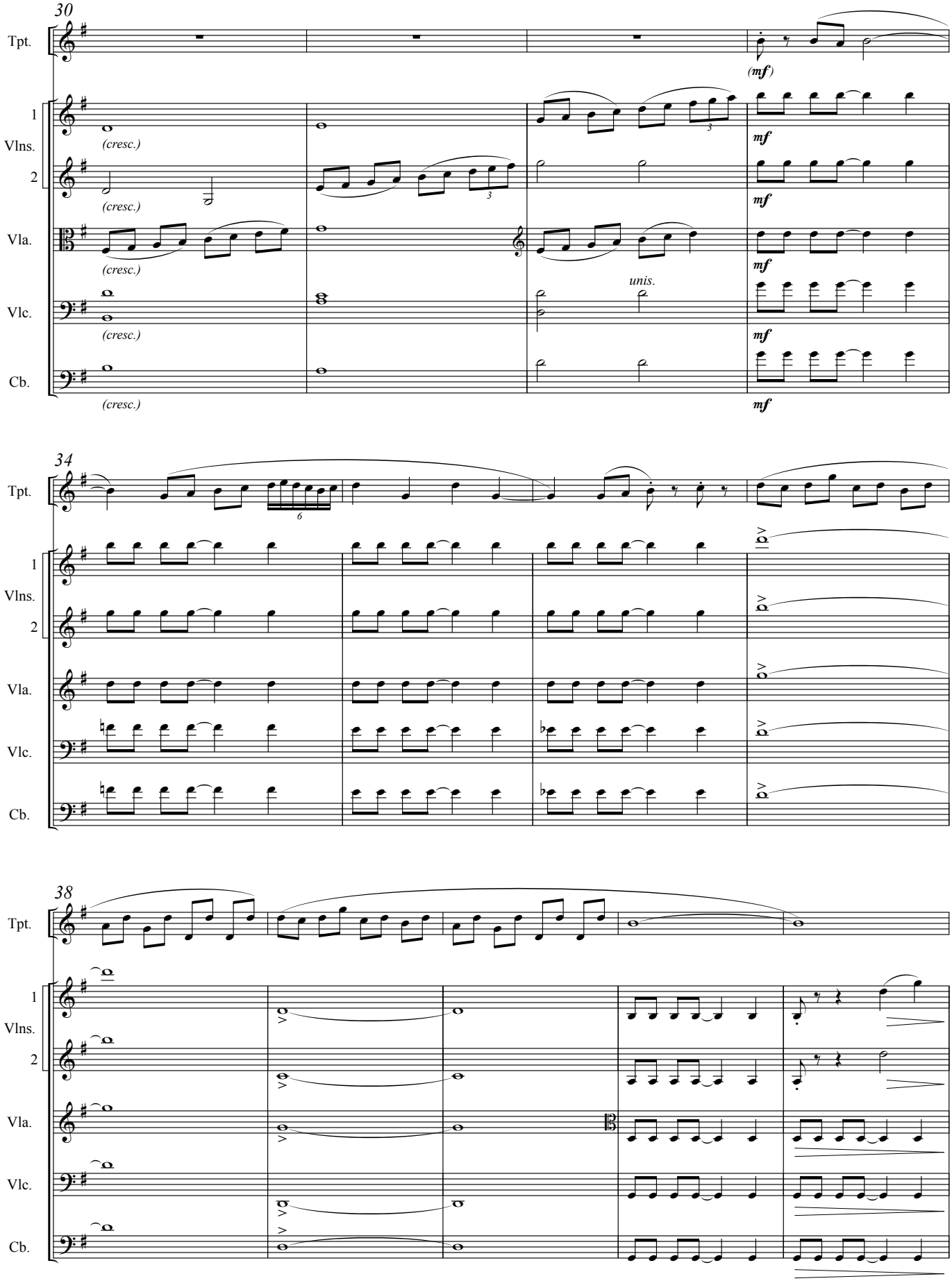

128
Tpt.
(f)
sul tasto, non vib.
ord.
div.
1
Vlns.
ord.
unis.
2
Vla.
sul tasto, non vib.
Vlc.
sul tasto, non vib.
Cb.
134
rit.
Tpt.
(f)
ord.
unis.
div.
1
Vlns.
div.
2
Vla.
ord.
Vlc.
ord.
Cb.
I
Slower, more freely
139
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
p
f
2
p
f
Vla.
p
f
pizz.
arco
Vlc.
p
f
pizz.
arco
Cb.
p
f

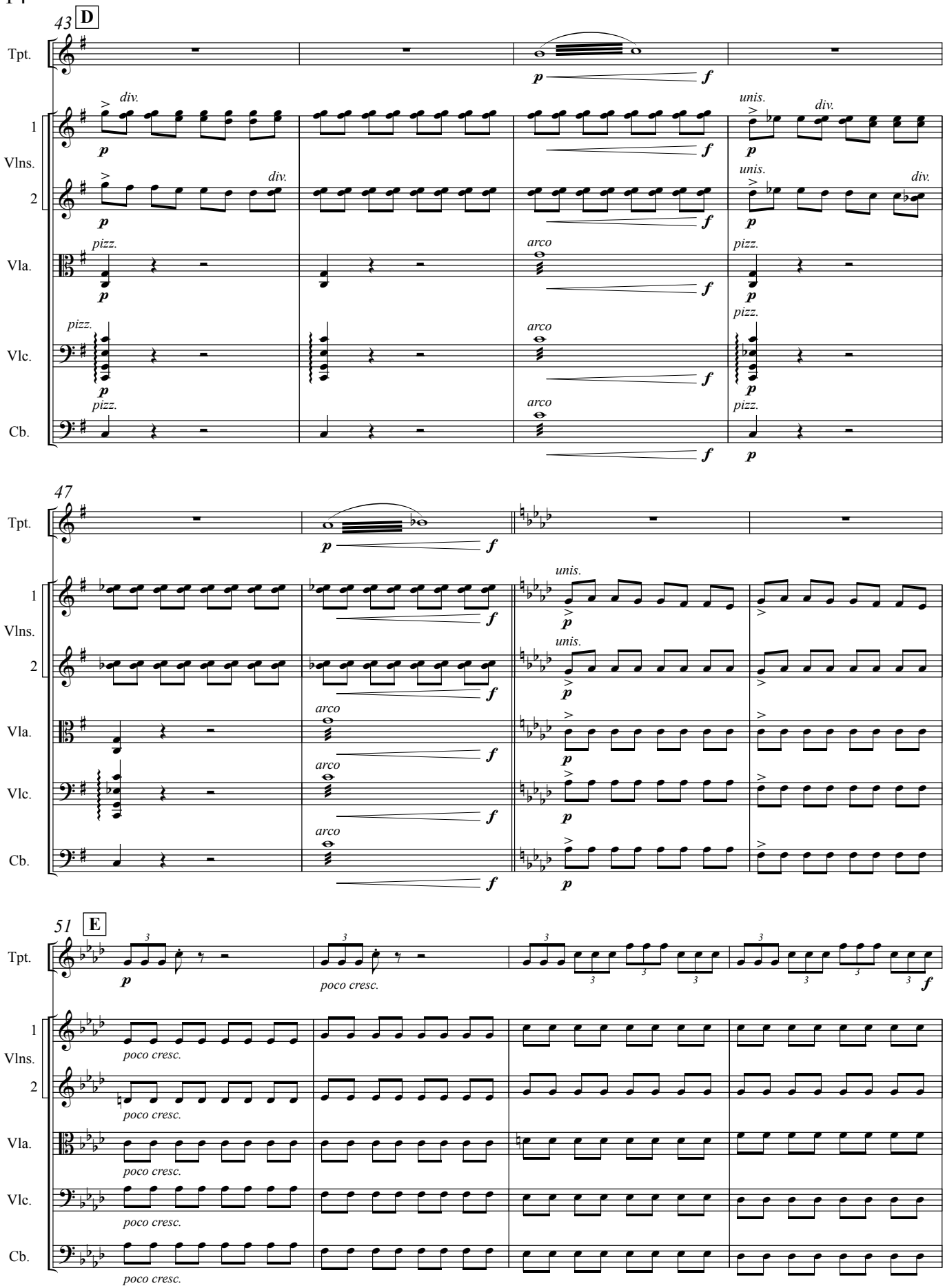

144
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
div.
149
rit.
J a tempo (𝅗𝅥. = 44)
pizz.
arco, unis.
arco
154
rit. to end

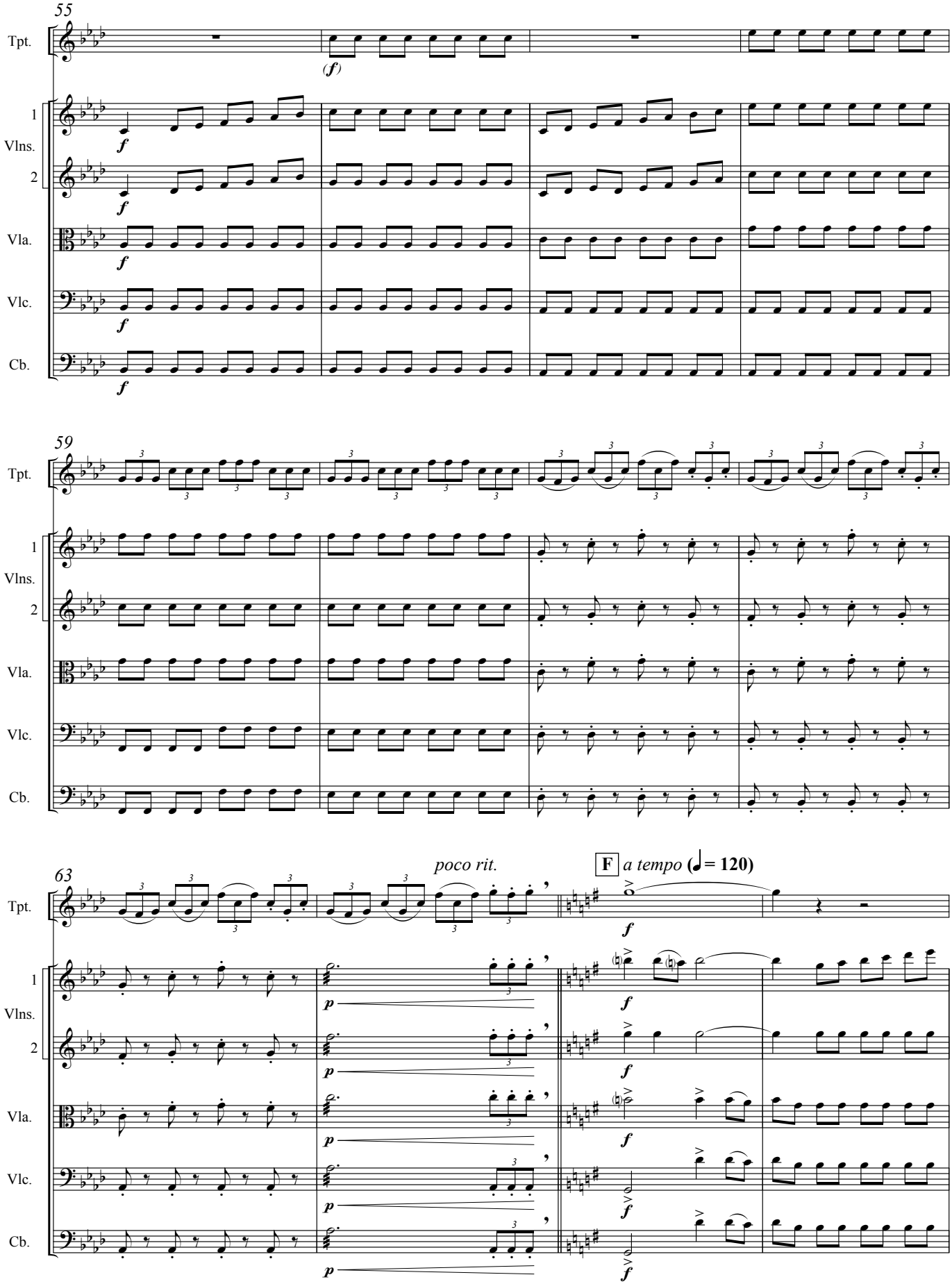
2. The Soul Speaks of Wonder

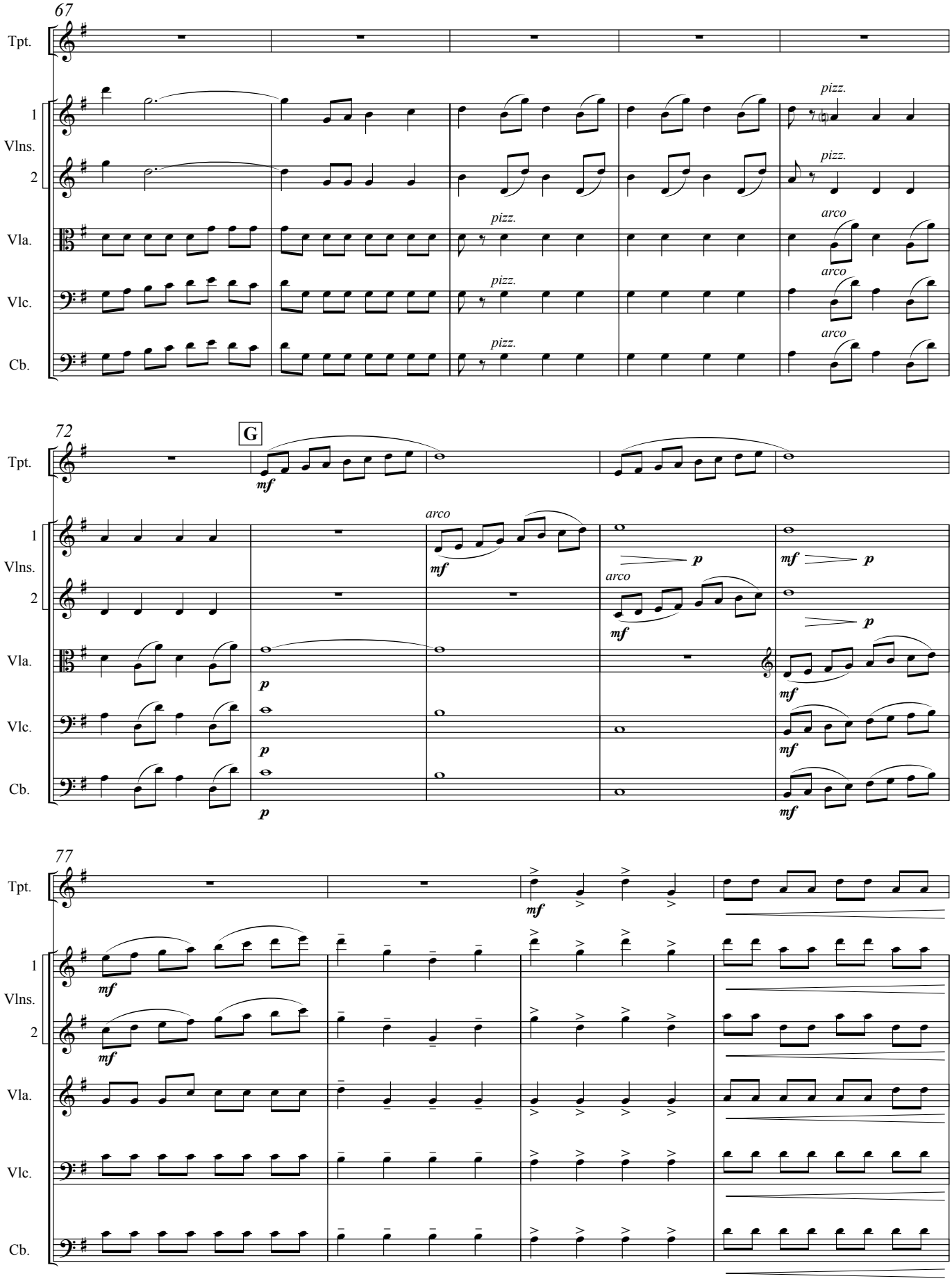


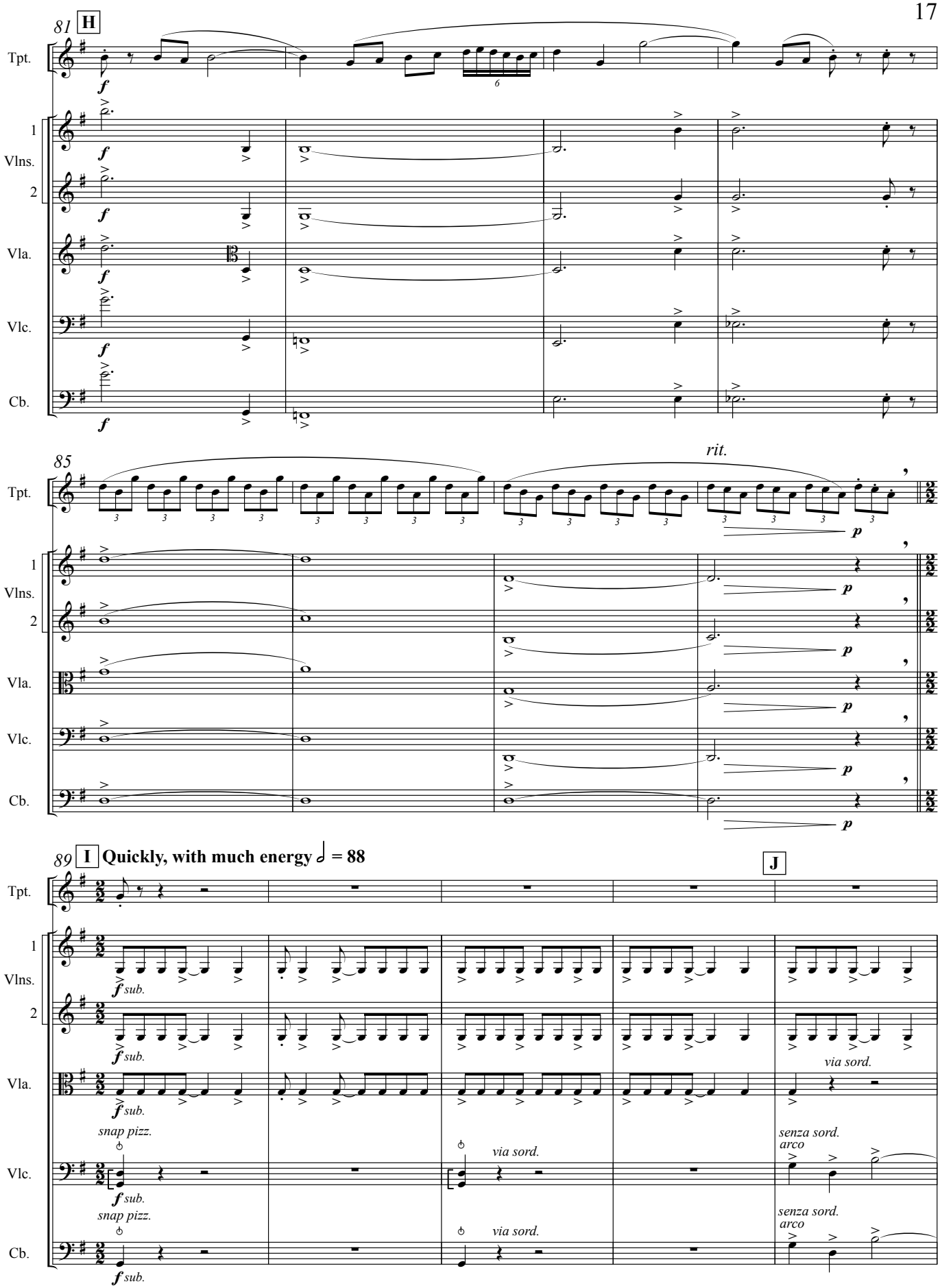

18
B
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
22
6
3
26
C
poco cresc.
div.

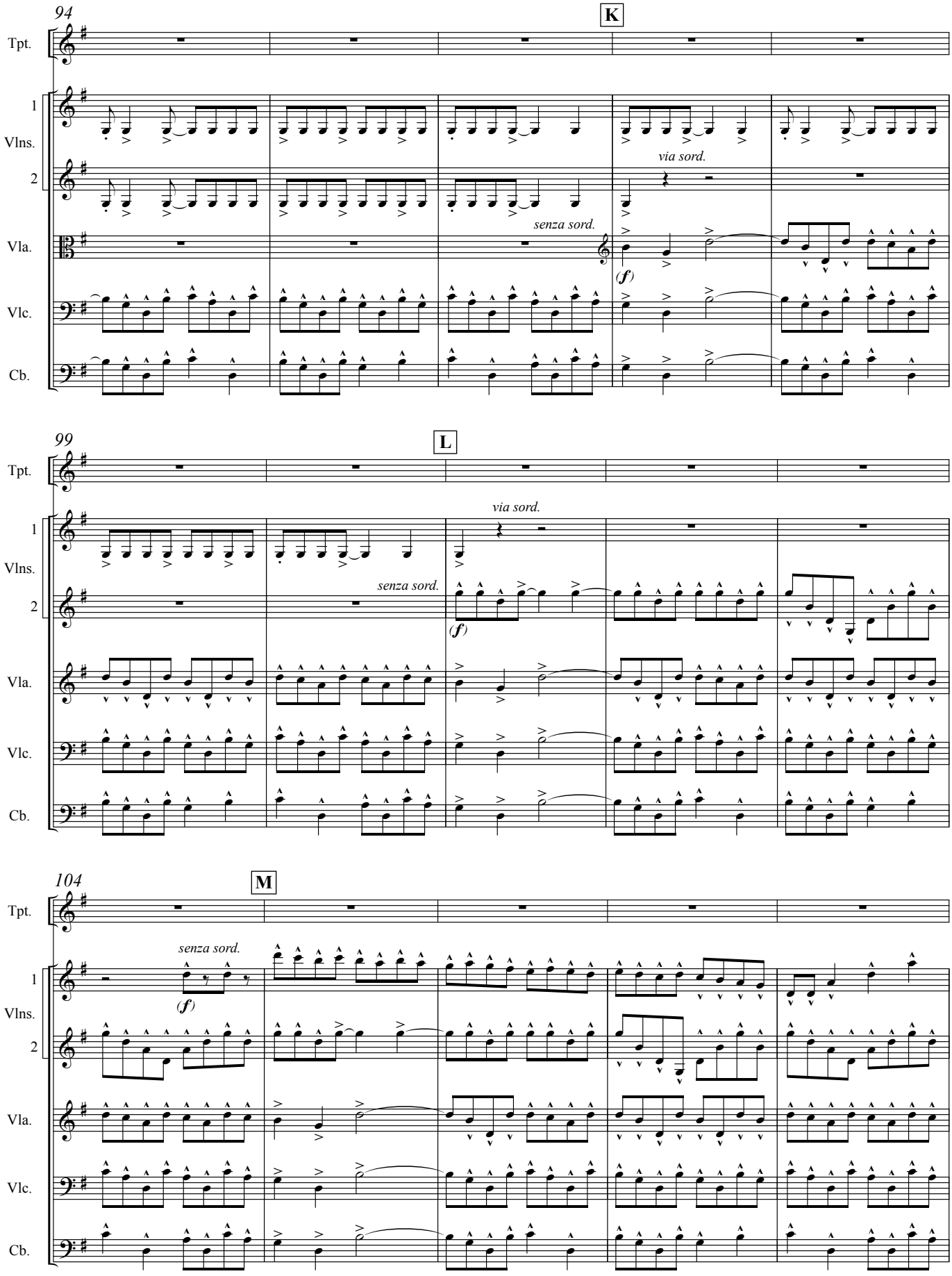

30
Tpt.
(mf)
1
Vlns.
2
(cresc.)
mf
Vla.
unis.
Vlc.
Cb.
34
38

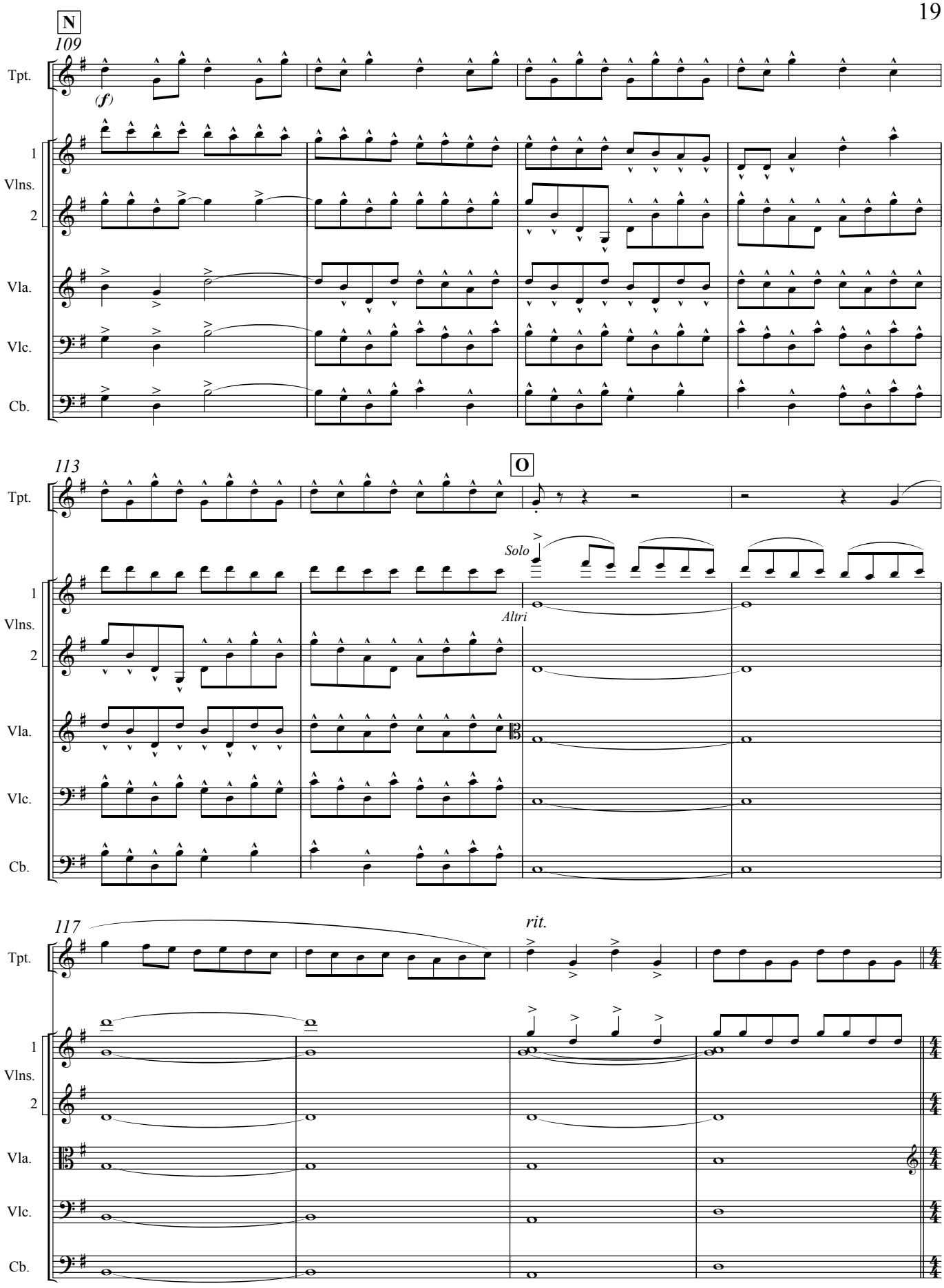

43
D
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
p
f
div.
unis.
pizz.
arco
47
51
E
poco cresc.

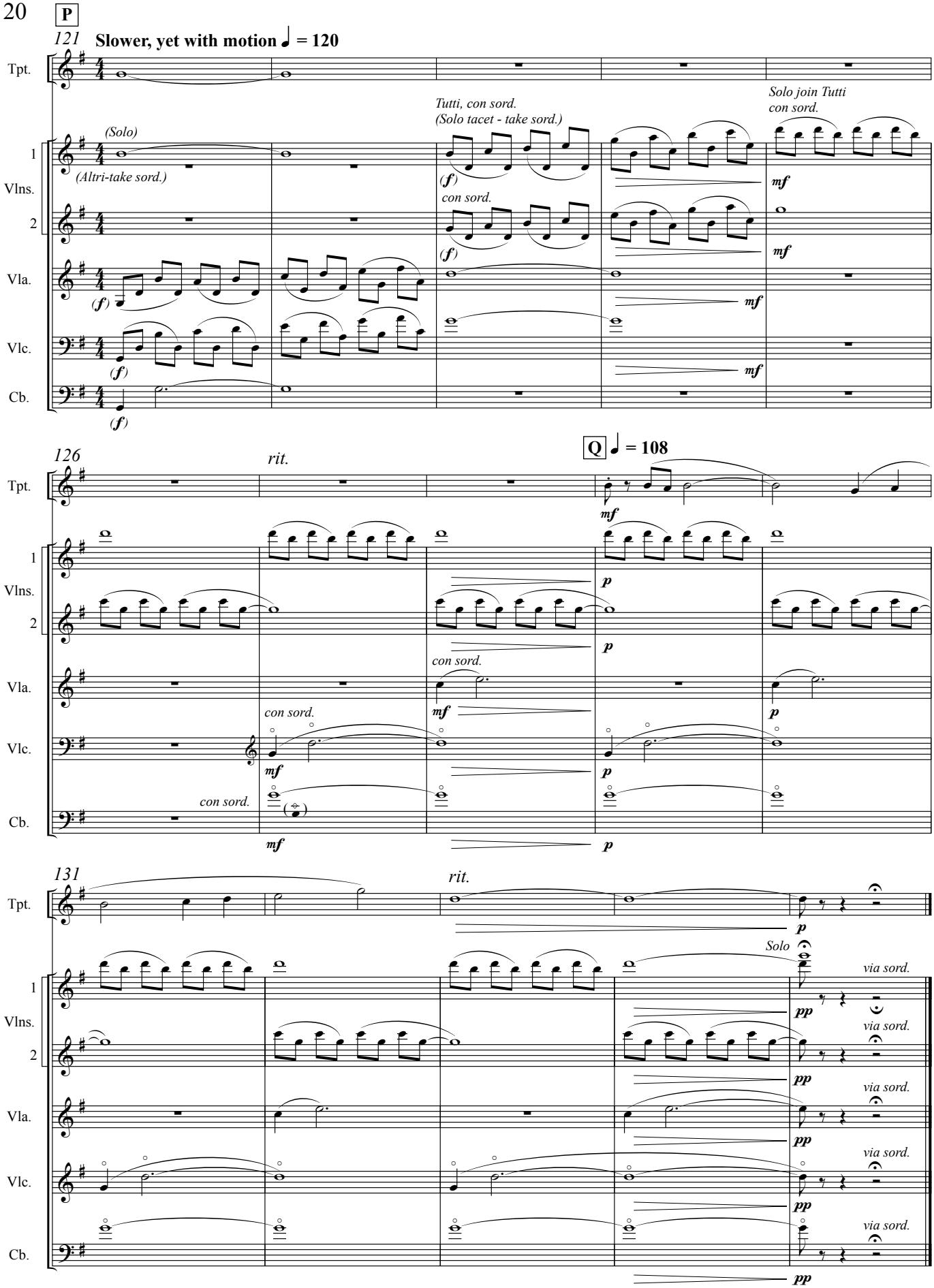

55
Tpt.
(f)
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
f
59
63
poco rit.
F a tempo (♩= 120)
p


67
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
pizz.
arco
72
G
mf
p
77

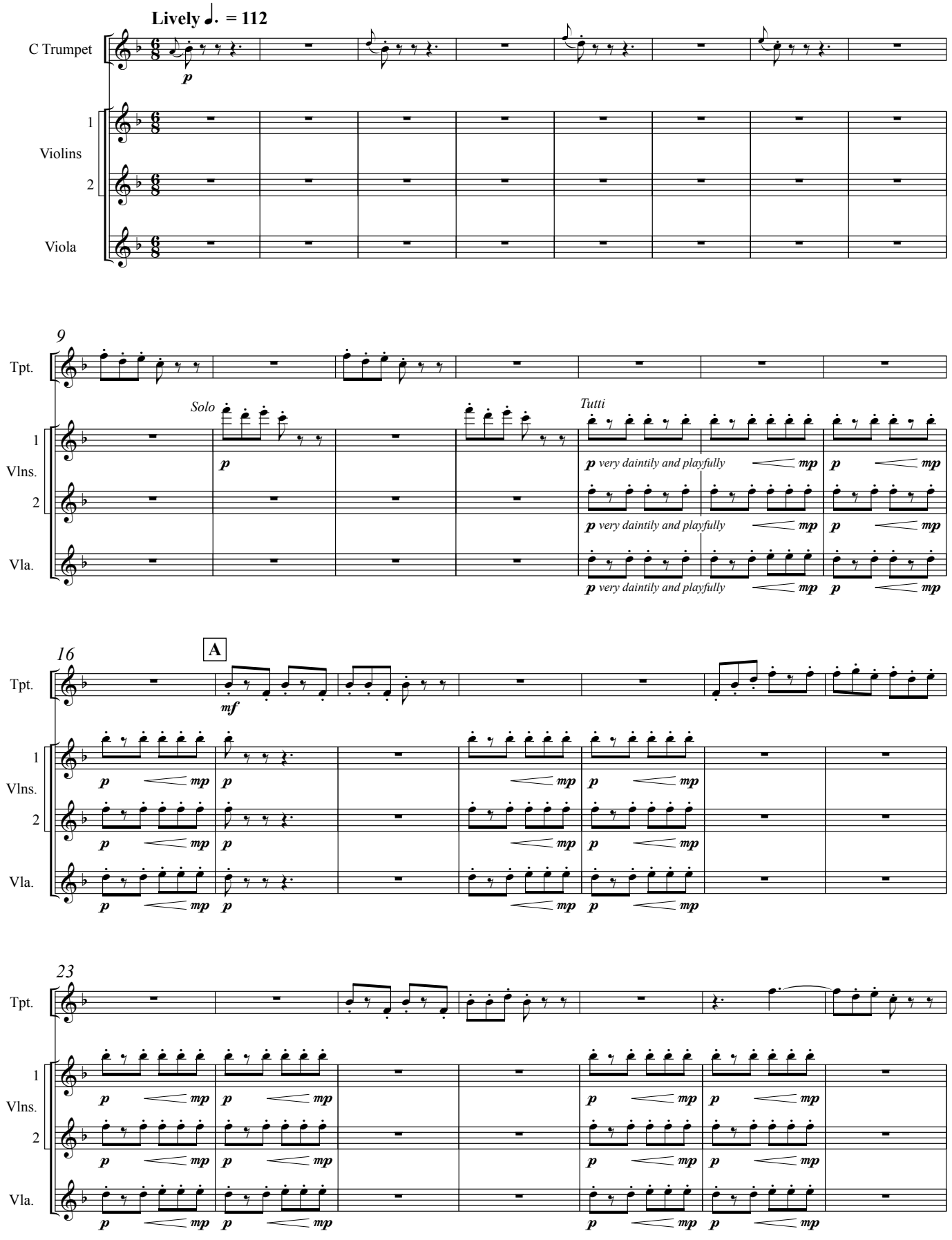

81
H
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
f
85
rit.
p
89
I
Quickly, with much energy ♩ = 88
J
f sub.
snap pizz.
via sord.
senza sord.
arco

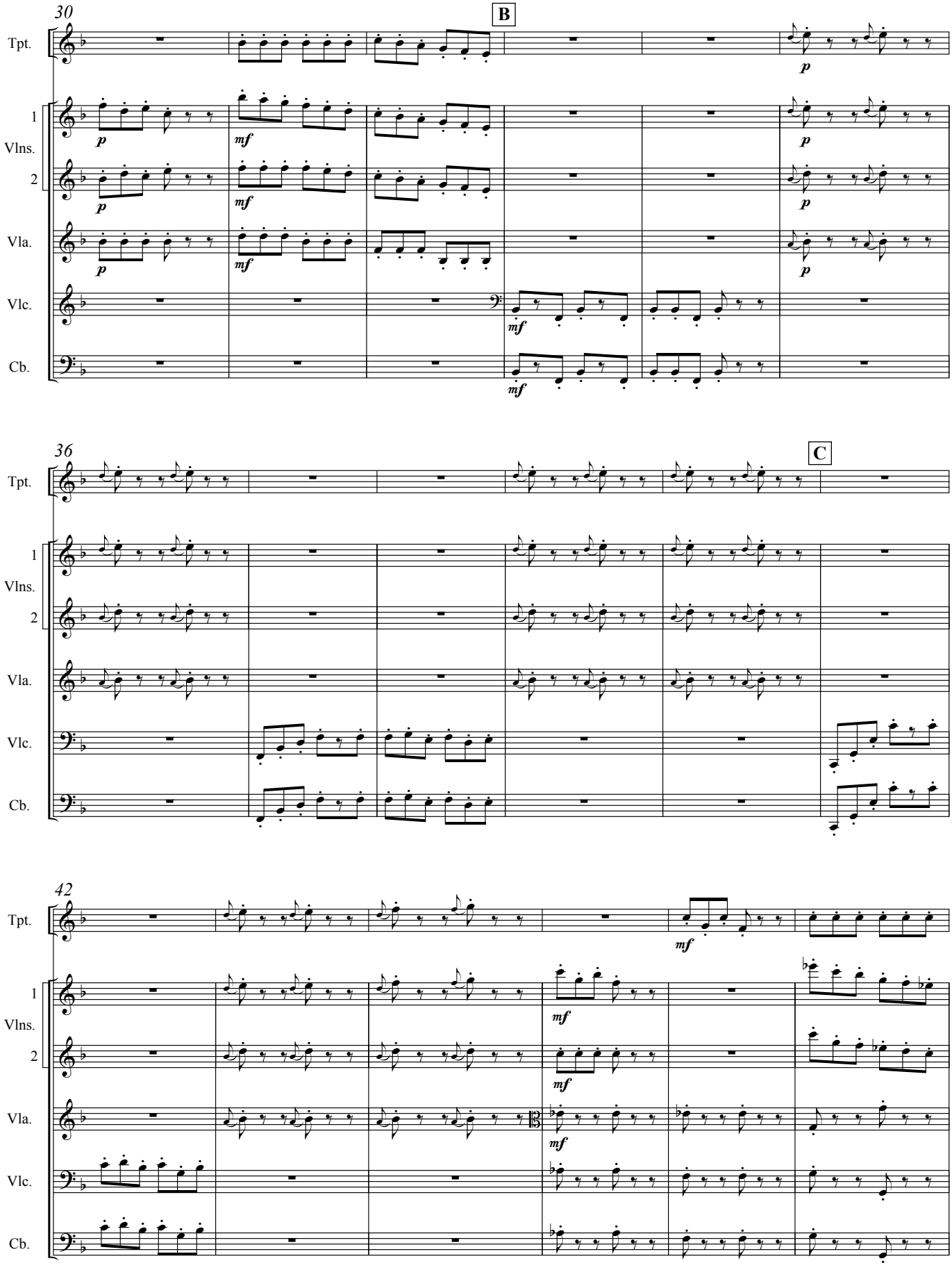

94
K
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
via sord.
senza sord.
(f)
99
L
via sord.
senza sord.
(f)
104
M
senza sord.
(f)

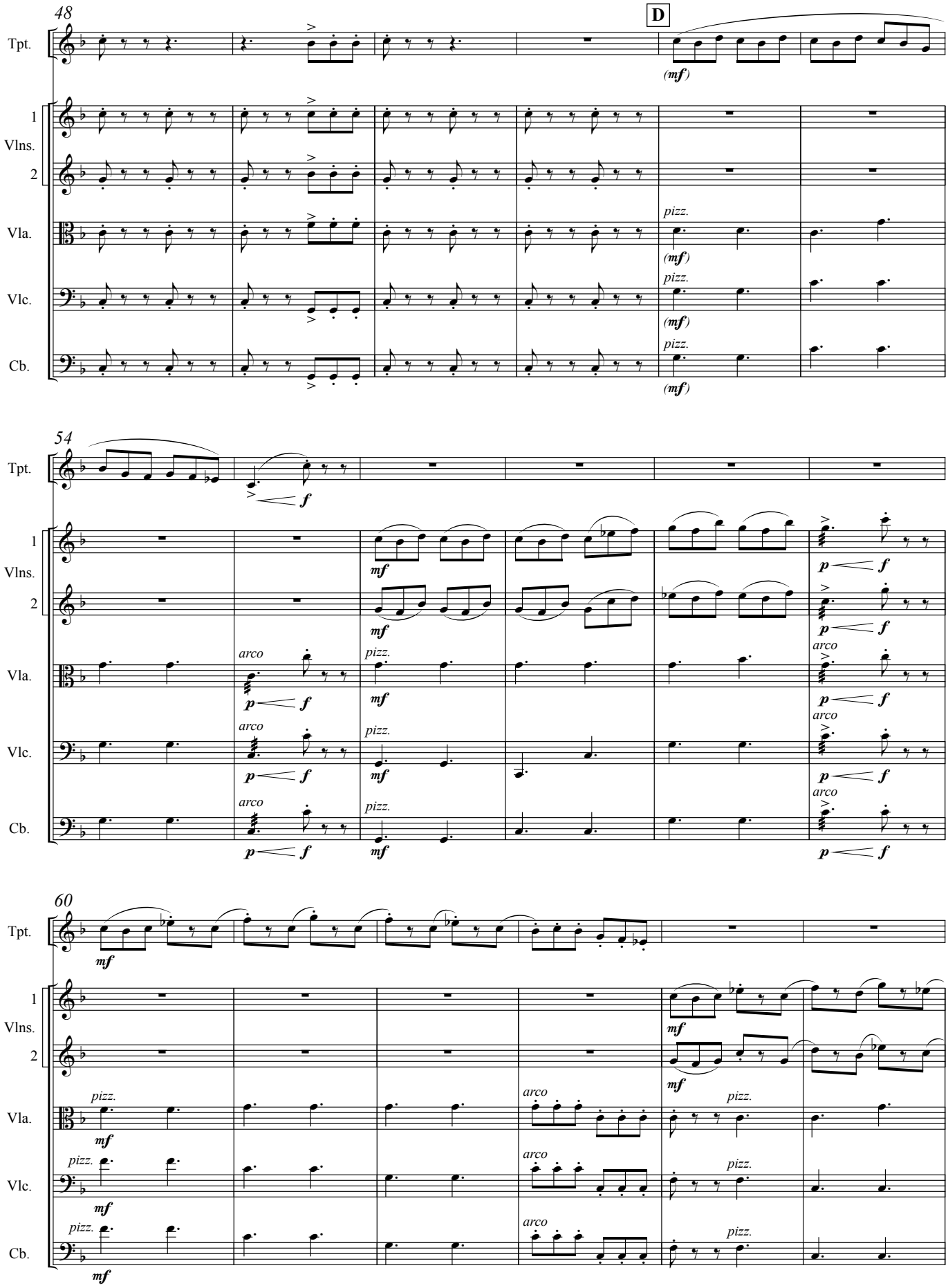

N
109
Tpt.
(f)
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
113
O
Solo
Altri
117
rit.

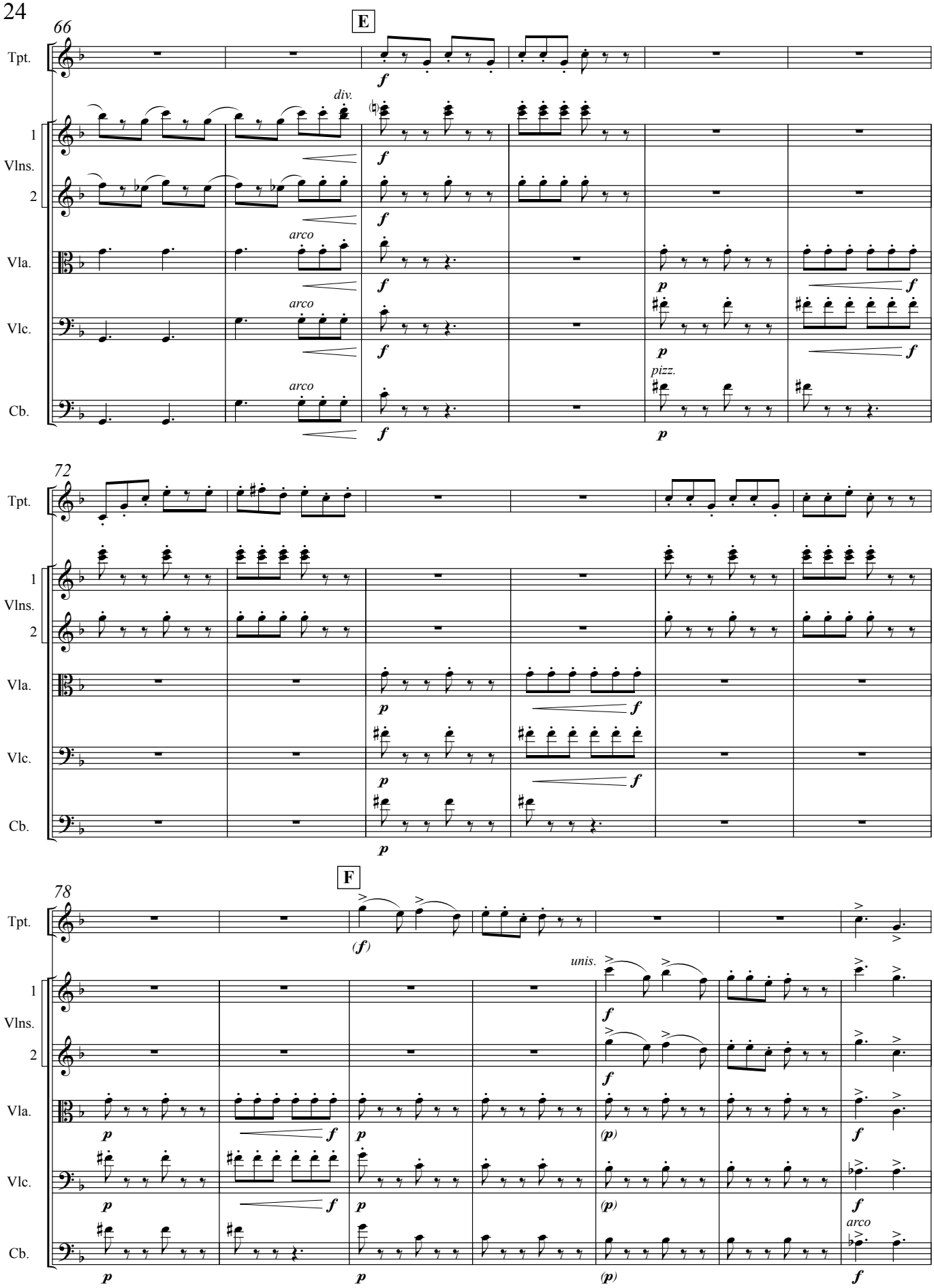

P
121
Slower, yet with motion ♩ = 120
Tpt.
(Solo)
(Altri-take sord.)
Tutti, con sord.
(Solo tacet - take sord.)
Solo join Tutti
con sord.
1
Vlns.
2
con sord.
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
(f)
mf
126
rit.
Q
♩ = 108
p
con sord.
131
Solo
via sord.
pp

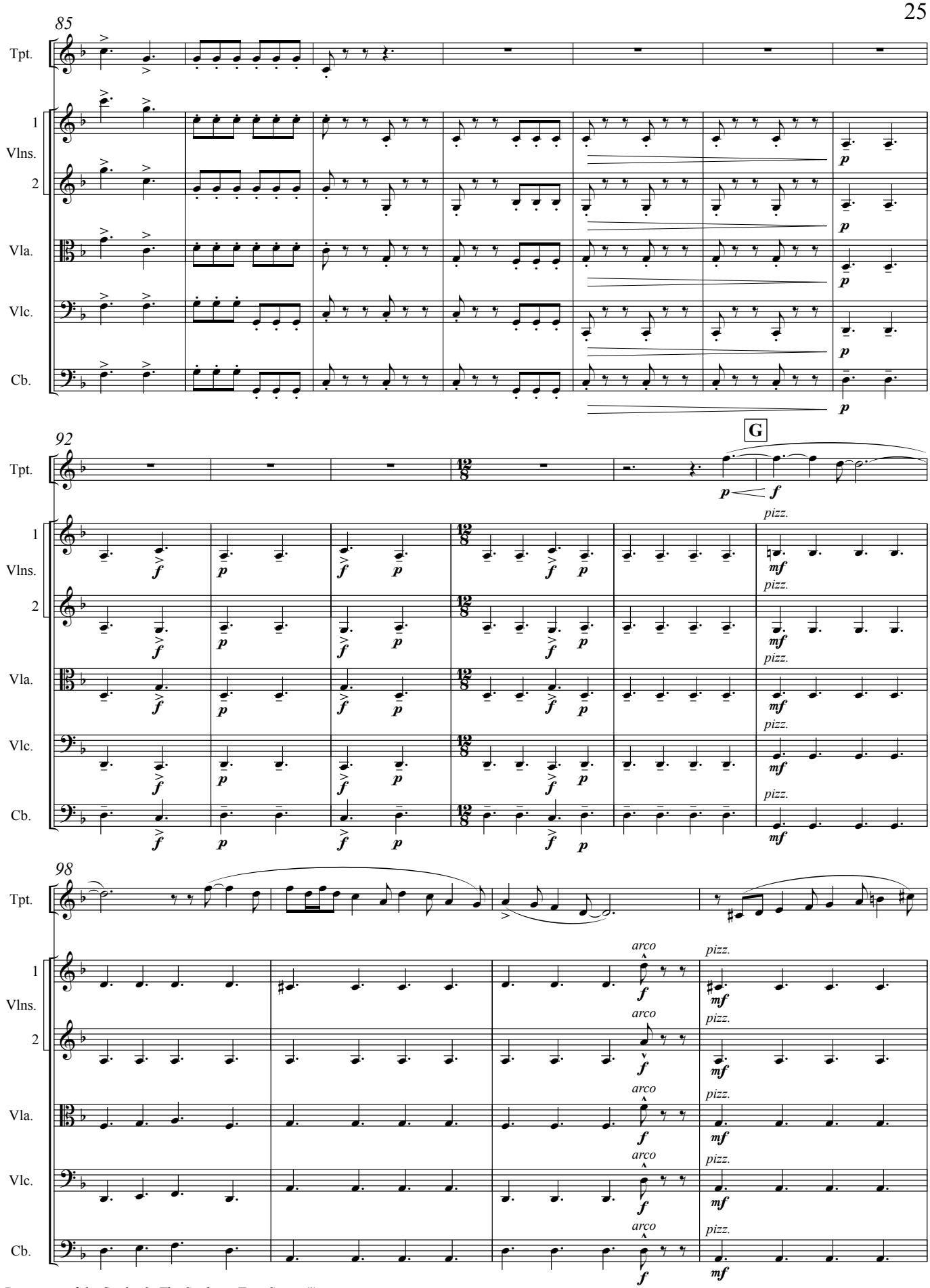
3. The Soul is a Free Spirit (!)

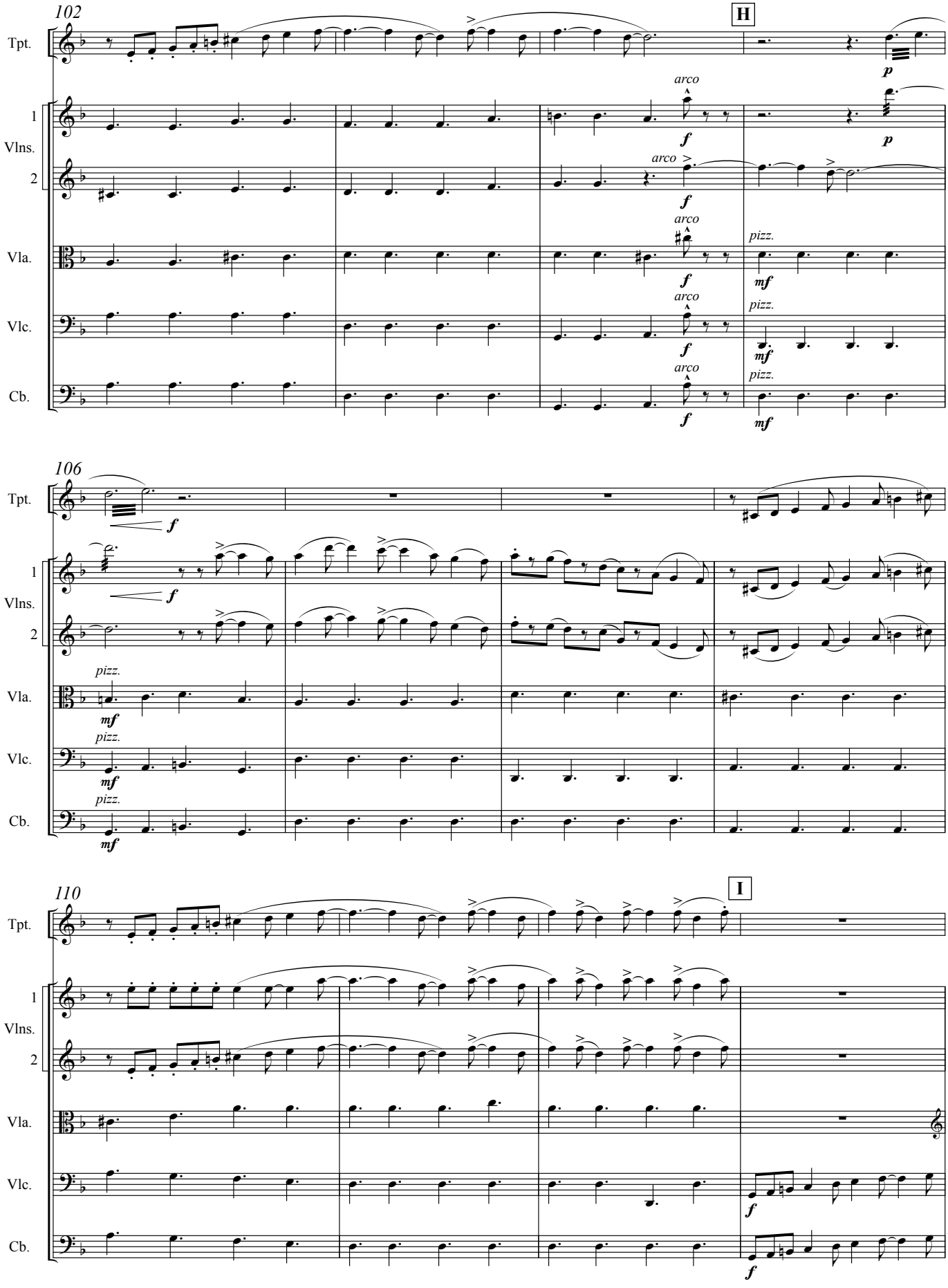


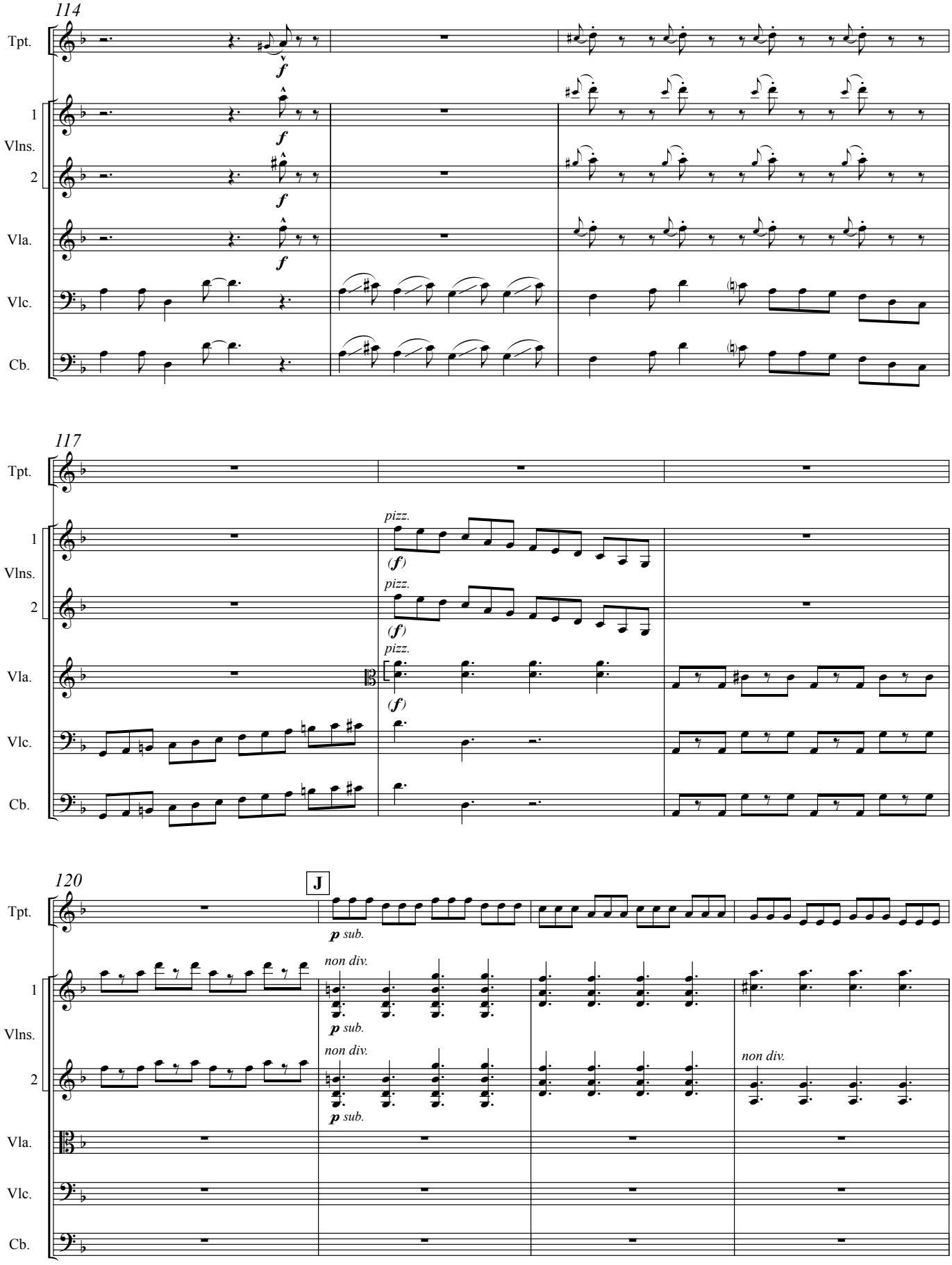

30
B
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
p
mf
36
C
42

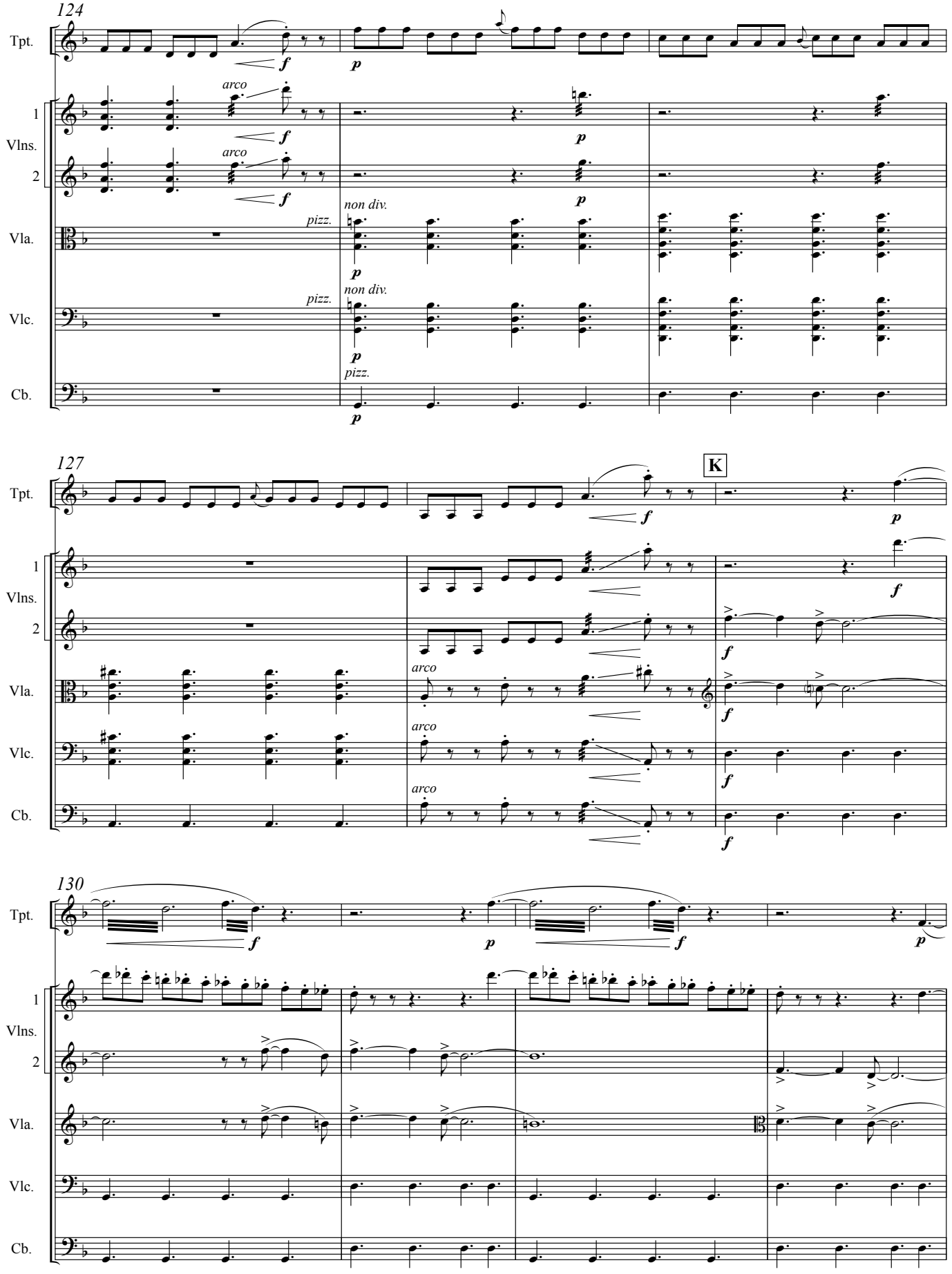

48
D
Tpt.
1 Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
(mf)
pizz.
54
f
mf
p
arco
60

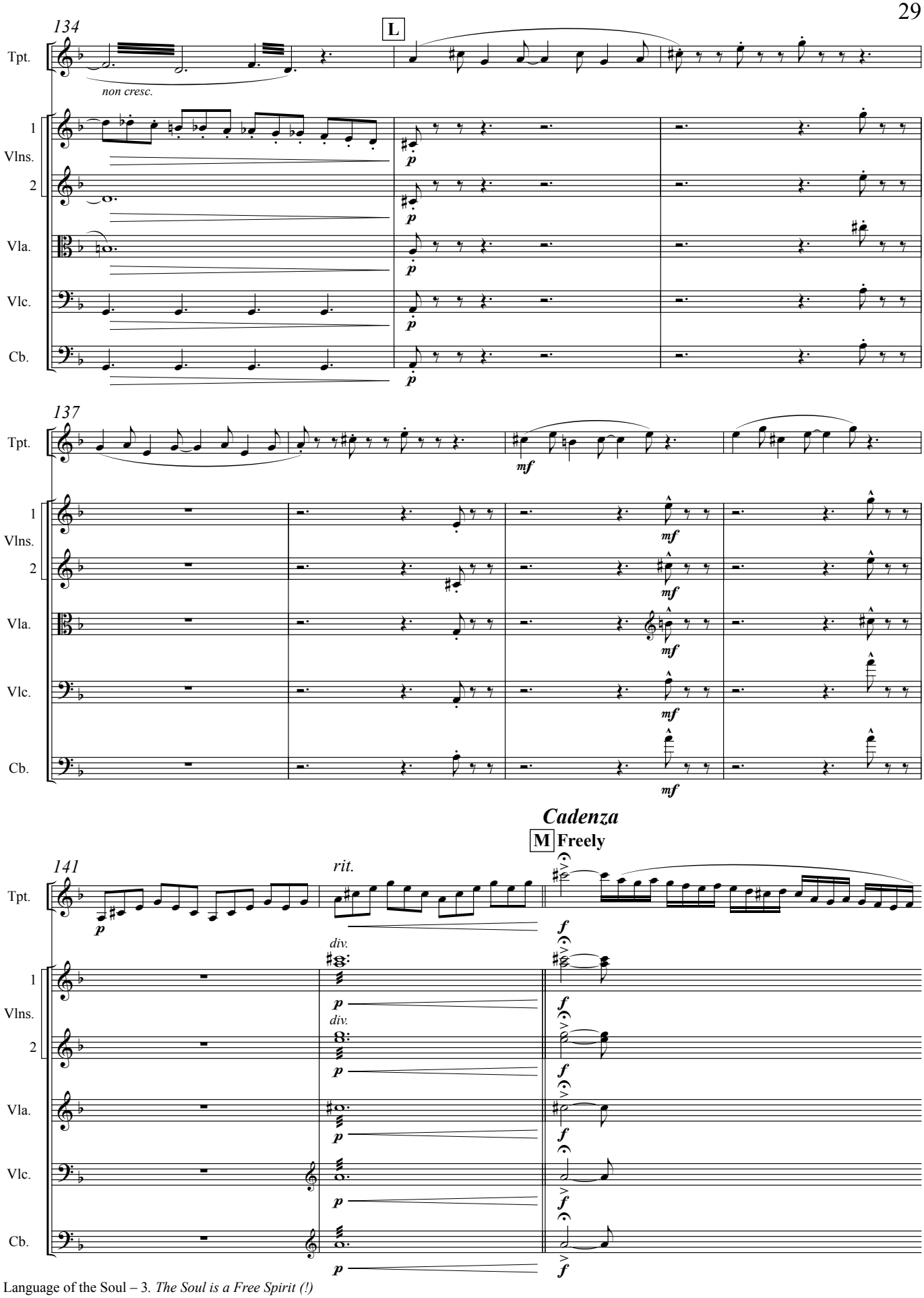

66
E
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
div.
arco
pizz.
72
78
F
unis.
(f)
(p)

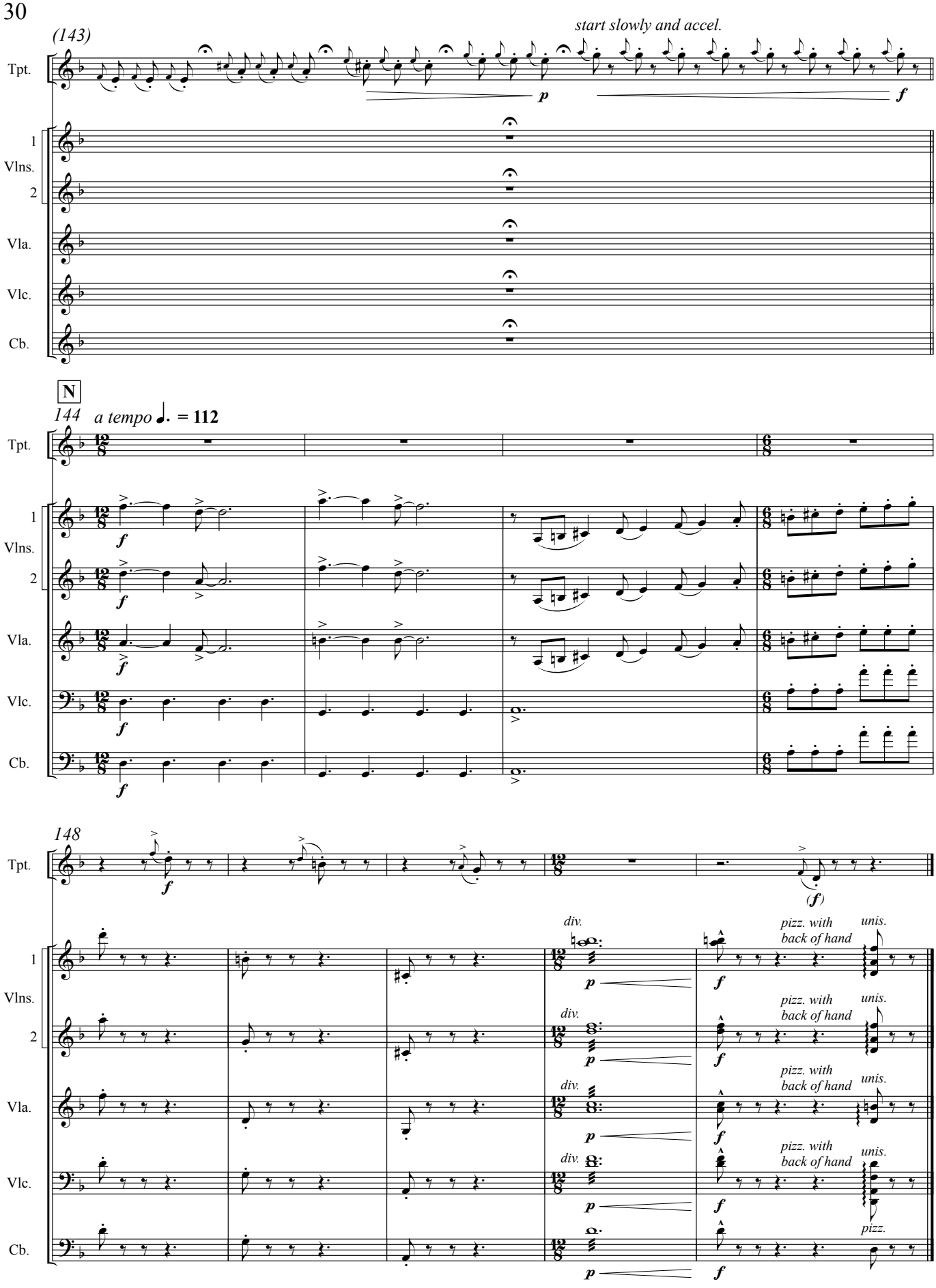

85
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
92
G
pizz.
98
arco
pizz.


102
H
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
arco
pizz.
106
110
I

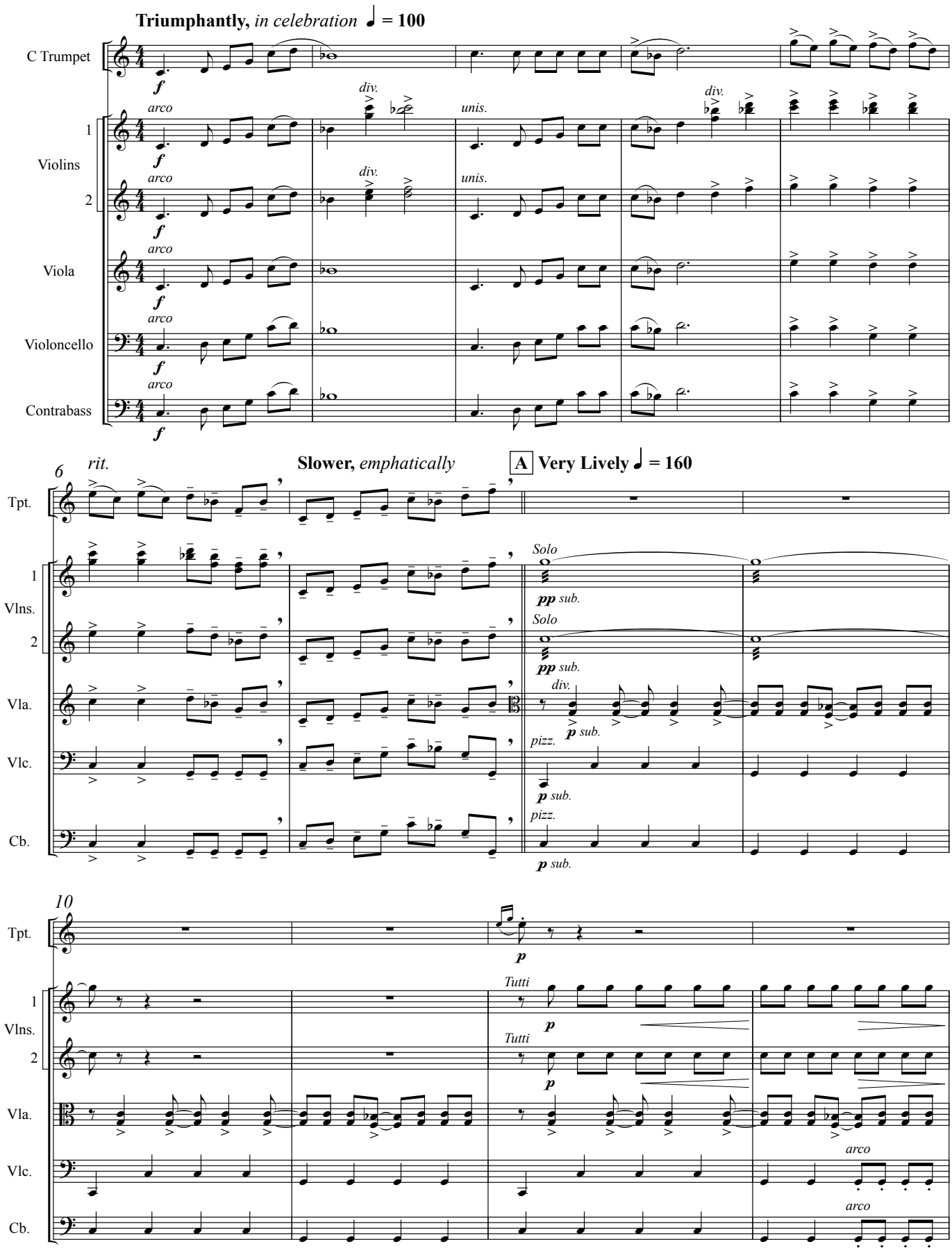

114
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
f
117
pizz.
(f)
120
J
p sub.
non div.

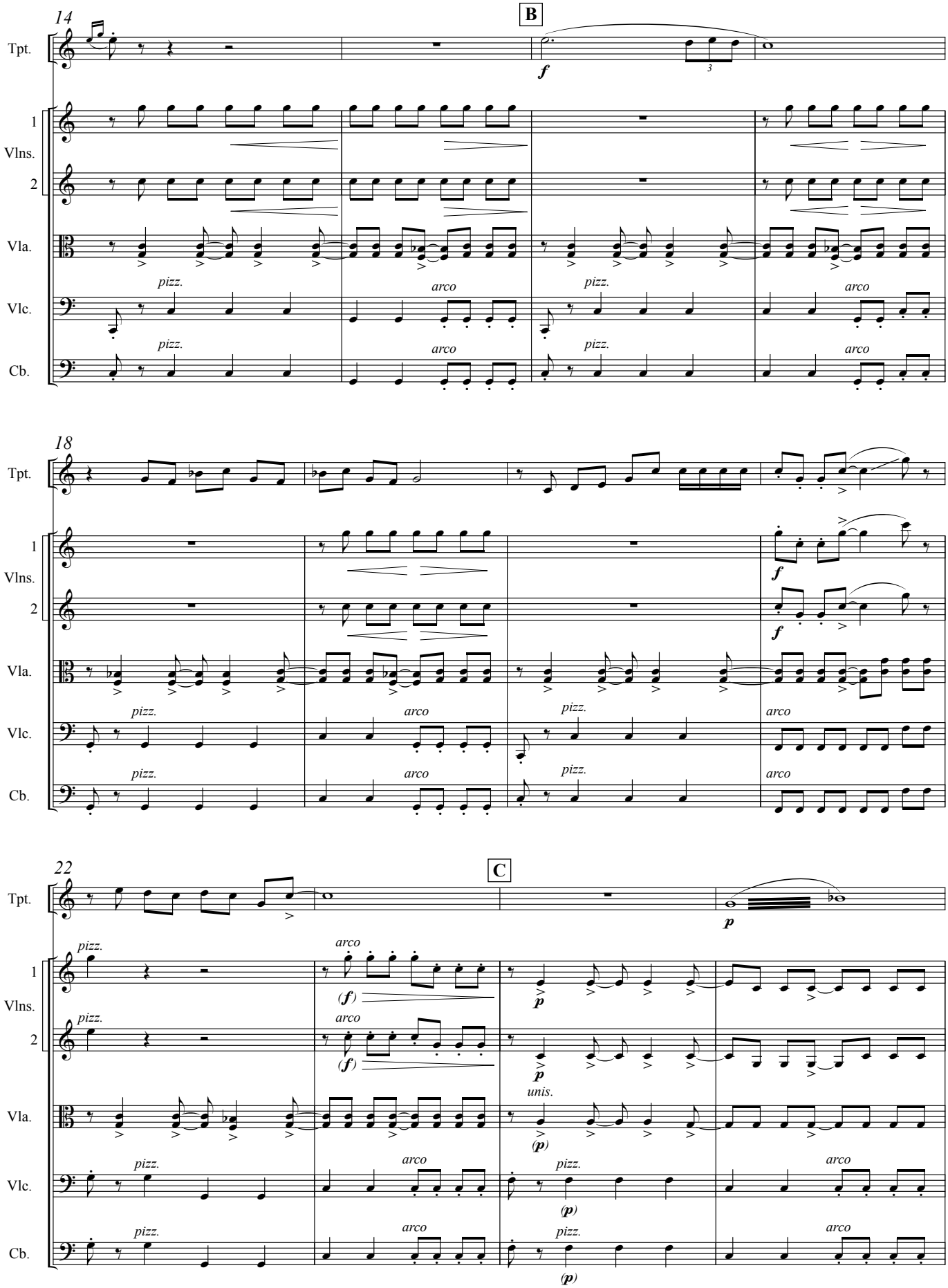

124
Tpt.
1 Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
arco
pizz.
non div.
127
K
130

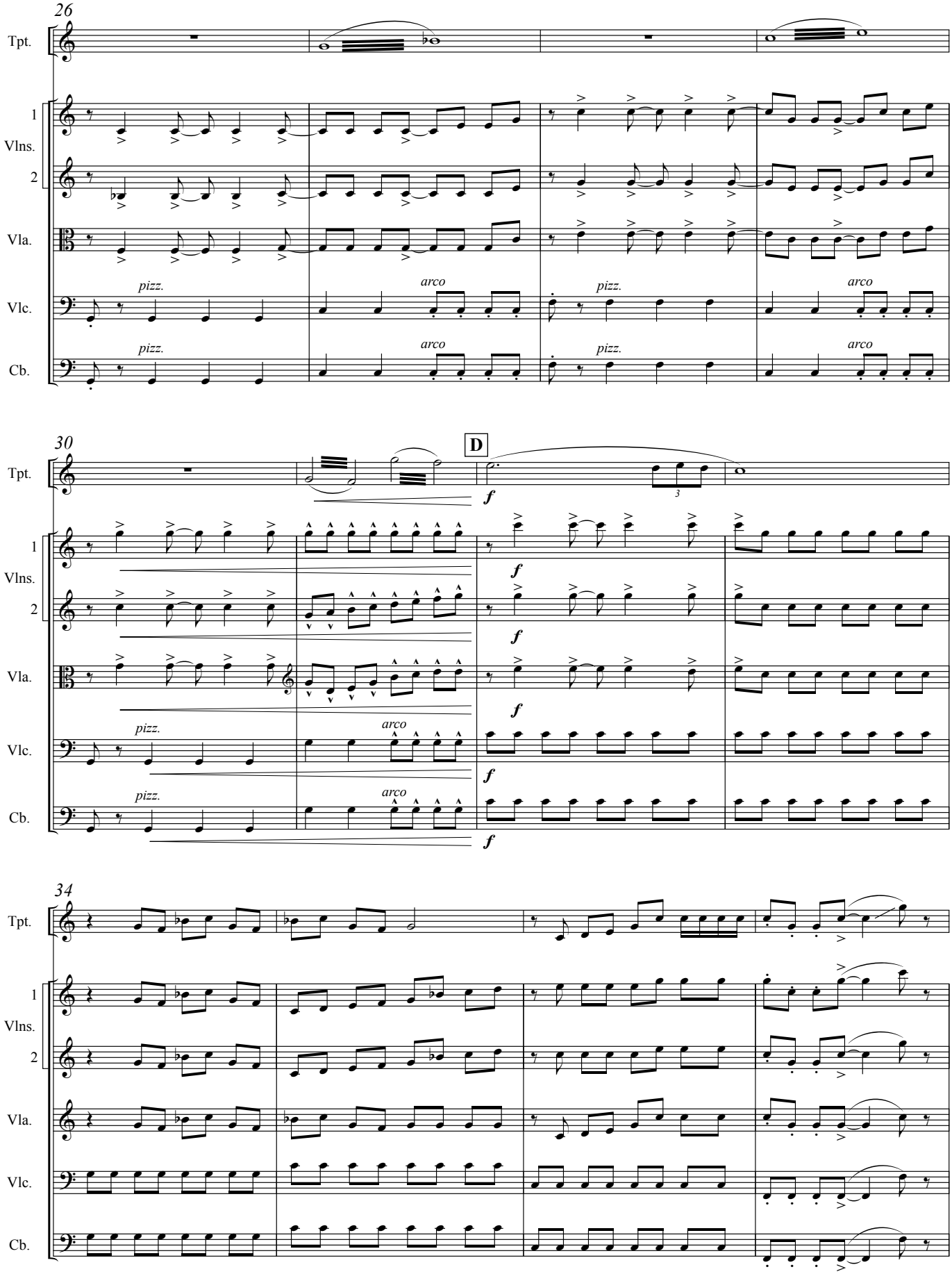

134
L
Tpt.
non cresc.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
p
137
mf
Cadenza
M Freely
141
rit.
div.
f

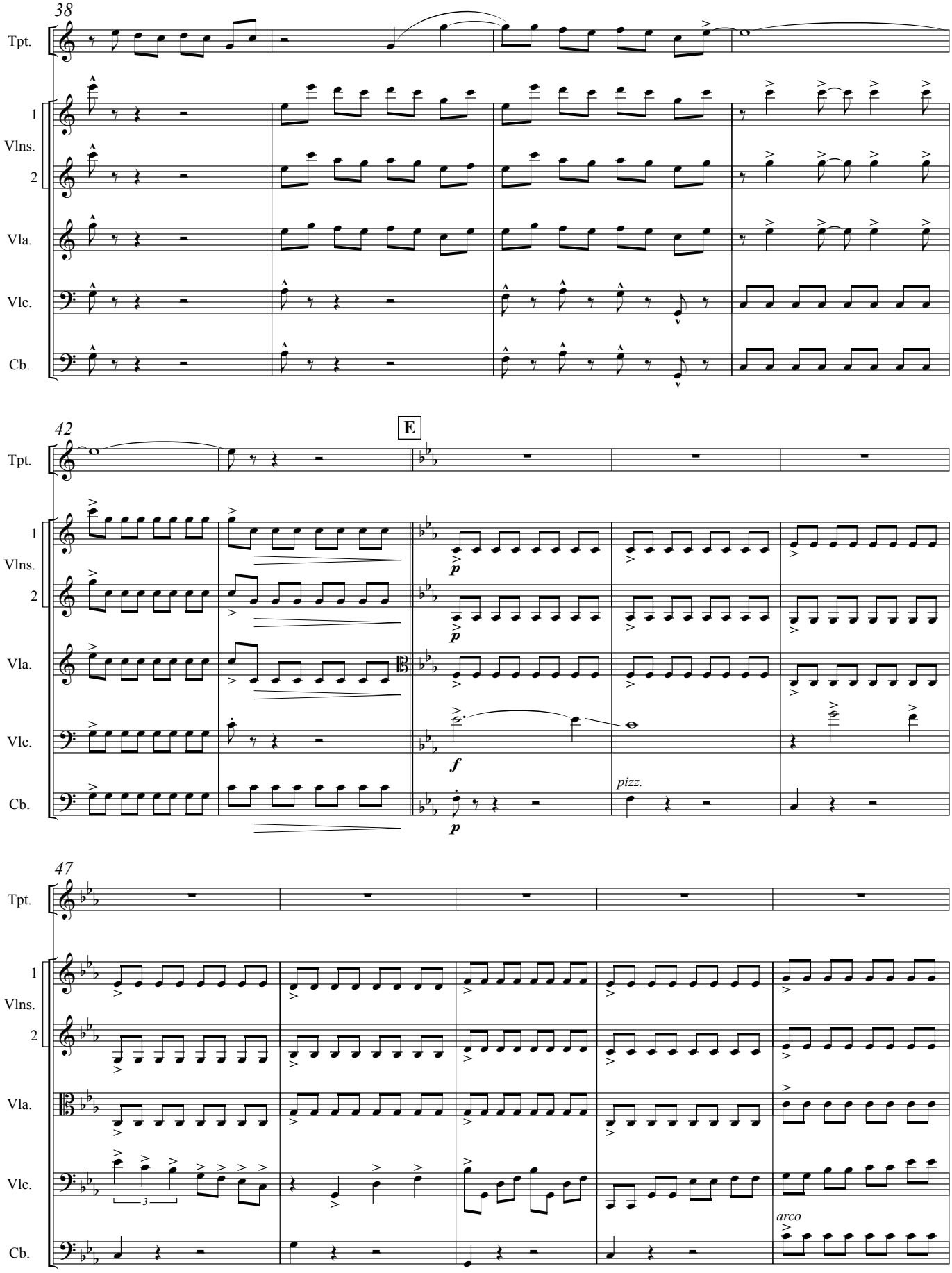

(143)
start slowly and accel.
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
p
f
N
144
a tempo ♩. = 112
f
148
(f)
div.
pizz. with back of hand
unis.
pizz.

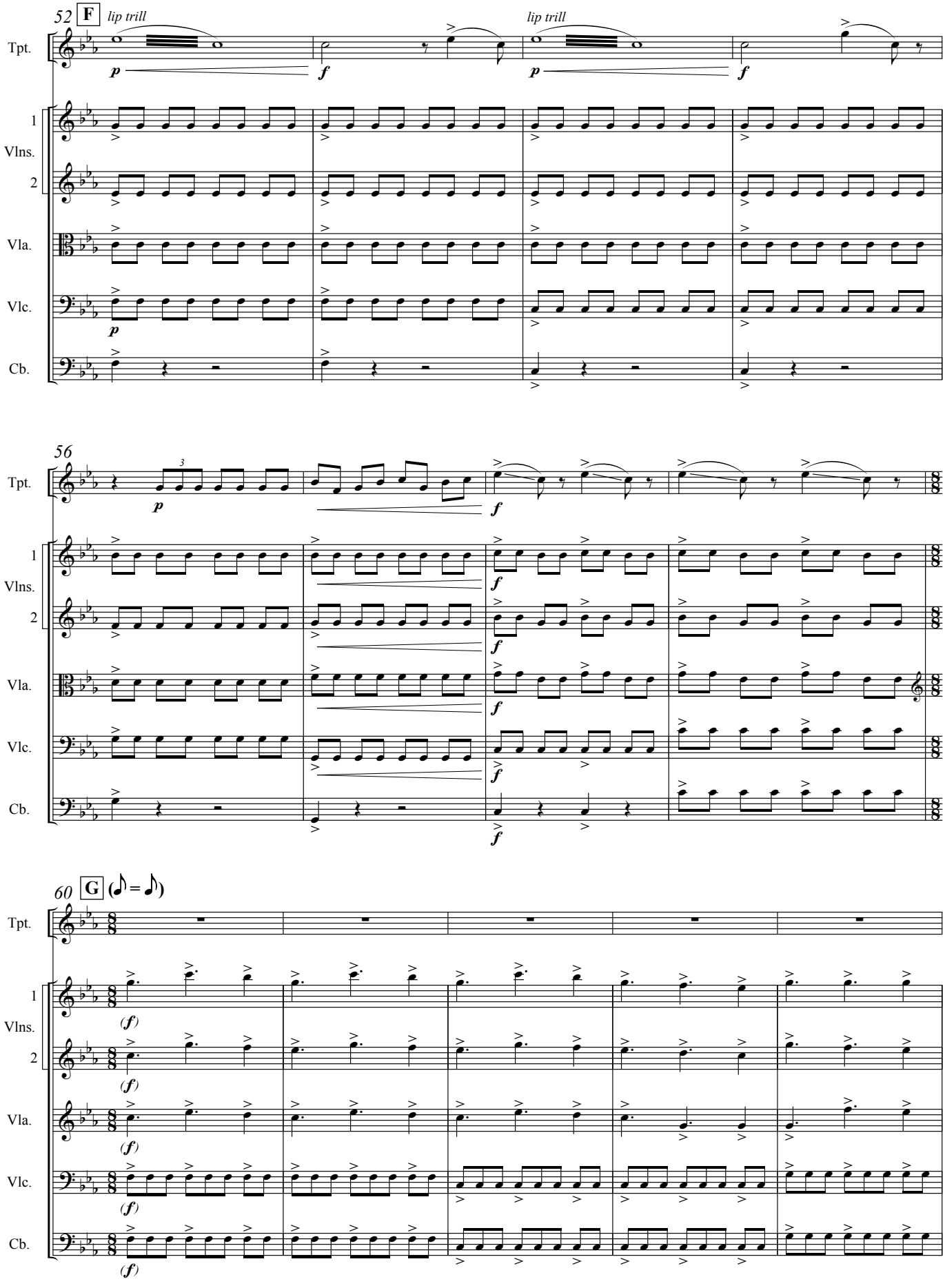
4. The Soul Sings With Joy

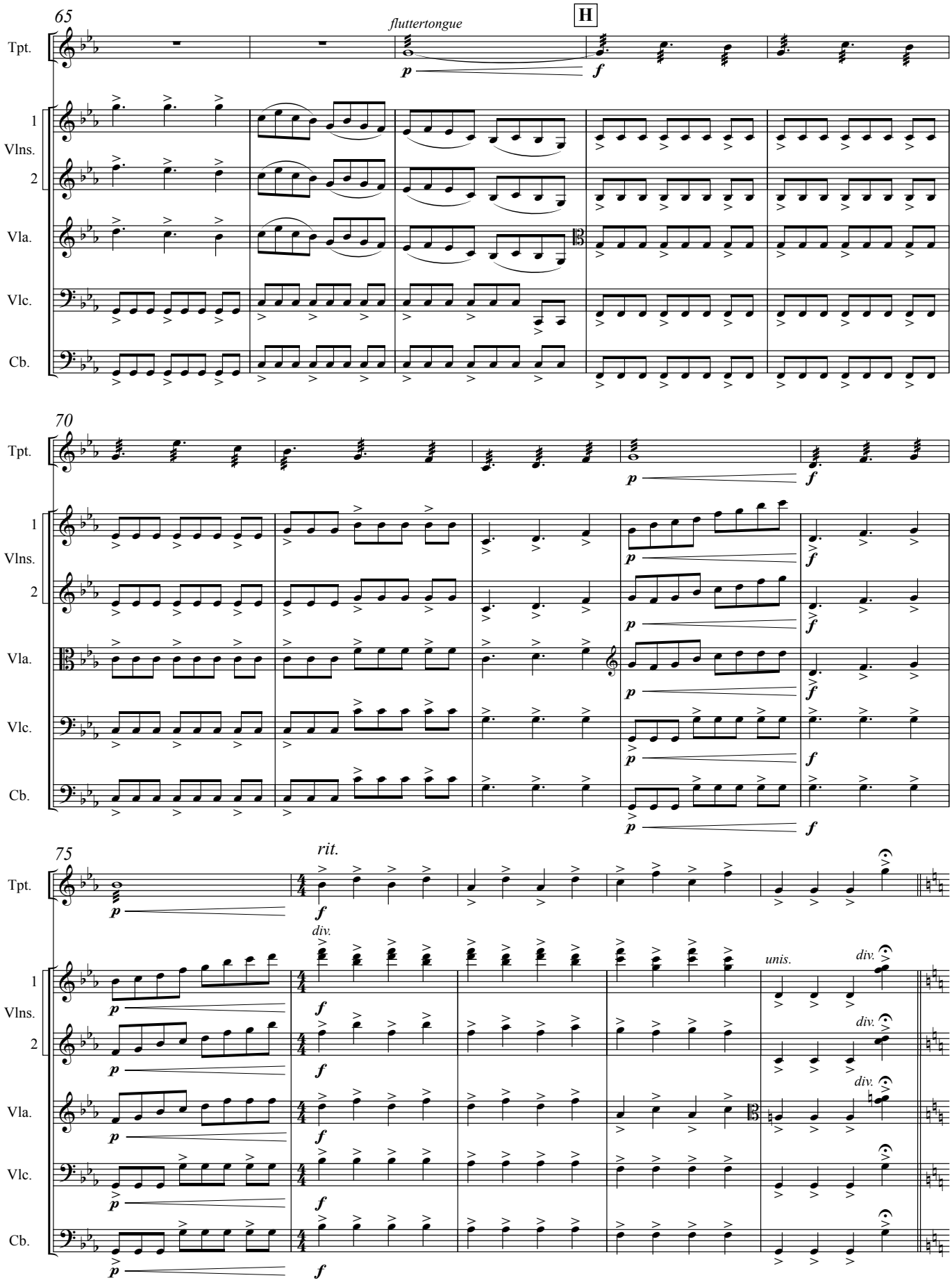


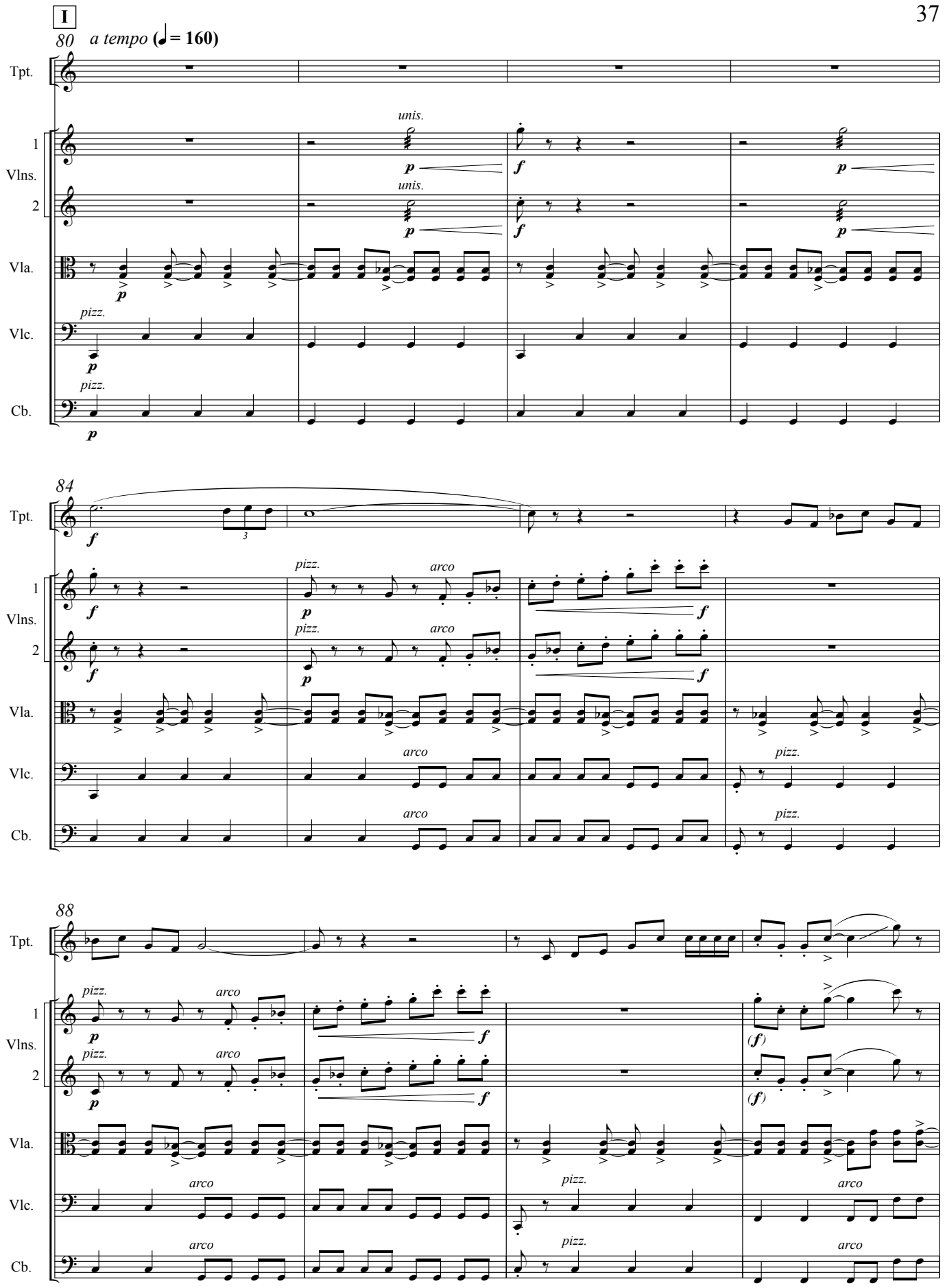

14
B
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
pizz.
arco
18
22
C
unis.

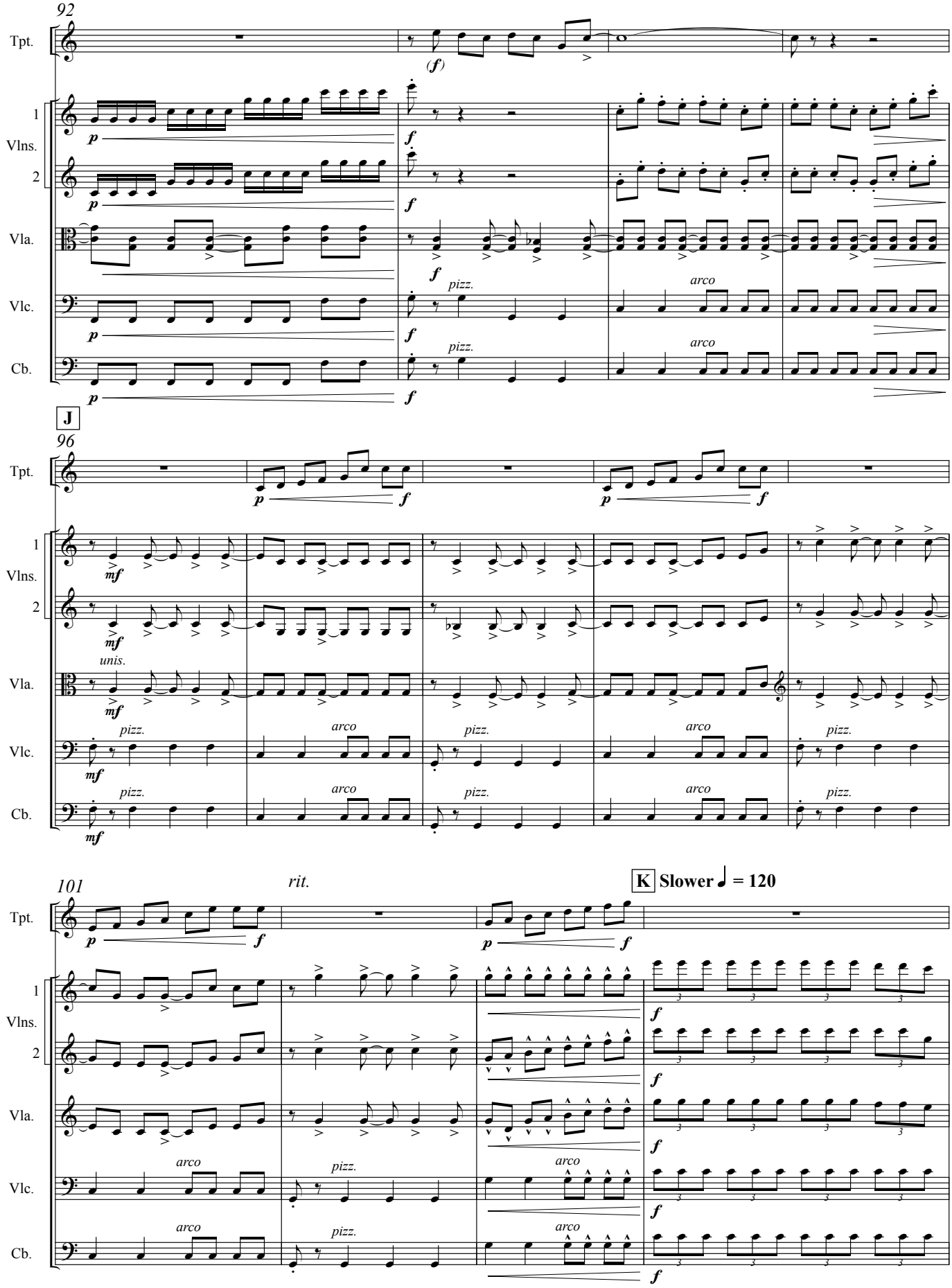

26
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
pizz.
arco
30
D
f
34

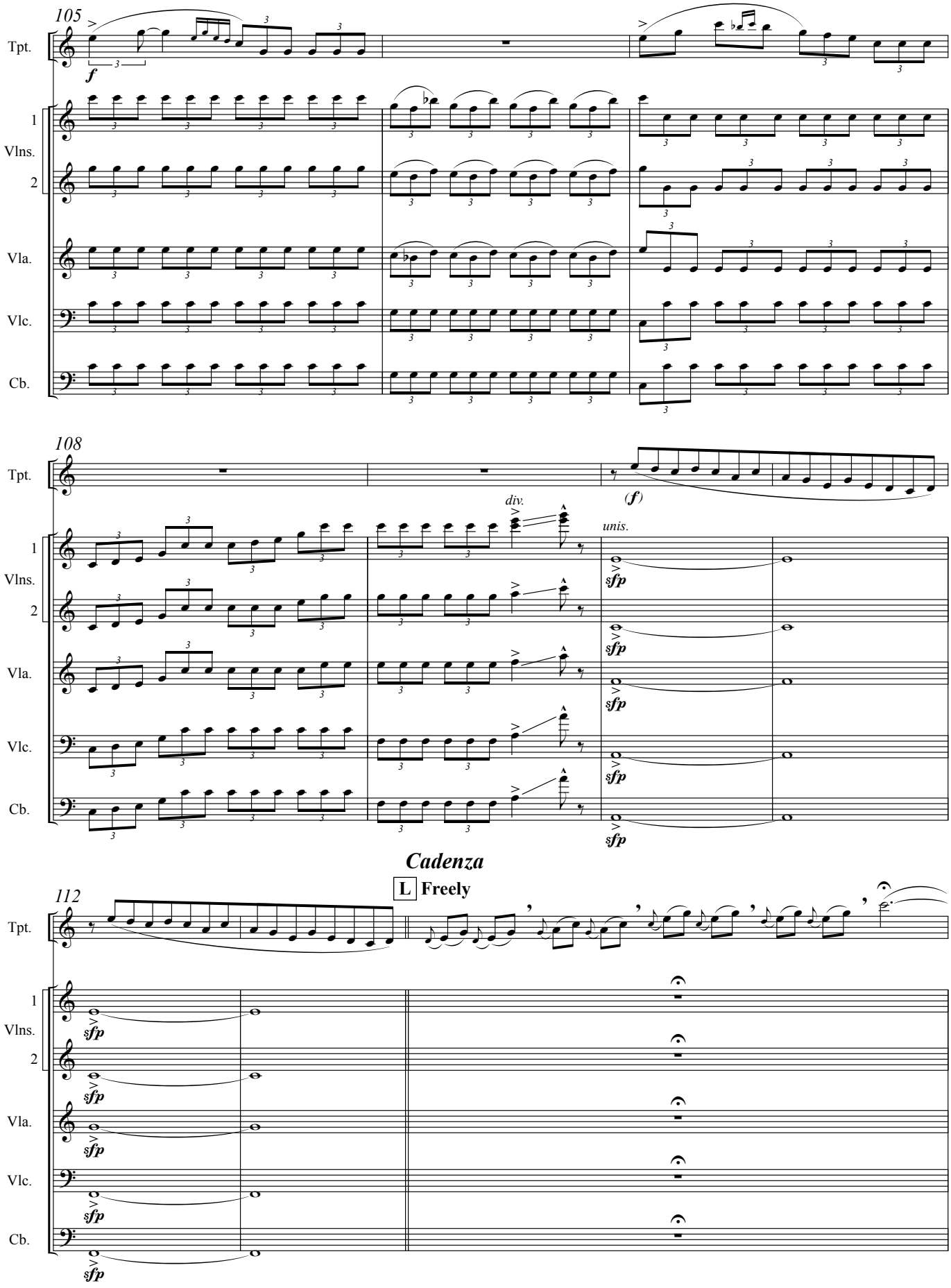

38
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
42
E
p
f
pizz.
47
3
arco

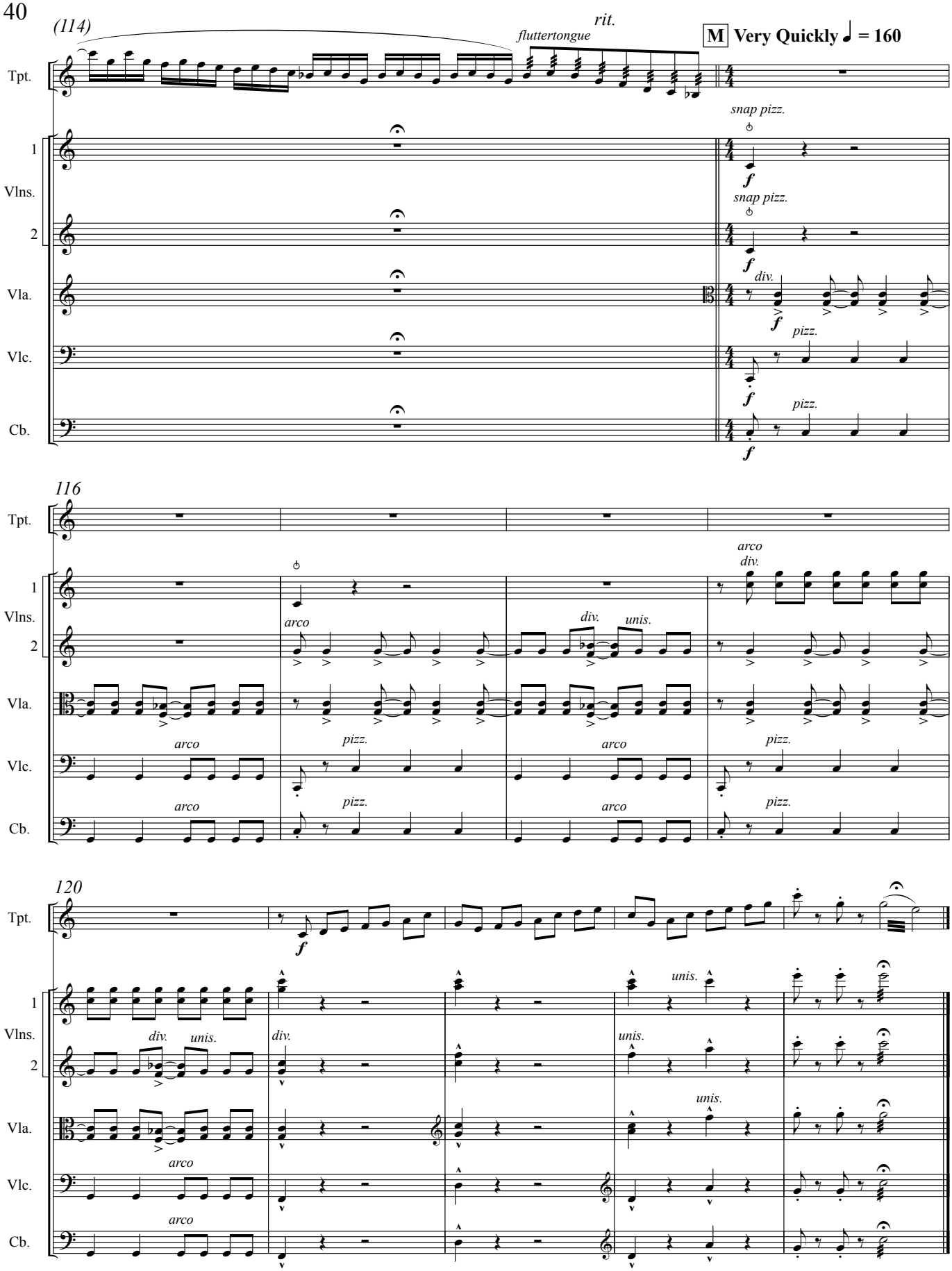

52
F
lip trill
lip trill
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
56
60
G
(♪ = ♪)


65
fluttertongue
H
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
70
75
rit.
div.
unis.


I
80
a tempo (♩= 160)
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
unis.
pizz.
arco
84
88


92
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
pizz.
arco
J
96
unis.
101
rit.
K Slower ♩ = 120


105
Tpt.
f
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
108
Tpt.
(f)
div.
unis.
sfp
Cadenza
L Freely
112
Tpt.
1
Vlns.
2
Vla.
Vlc.
Cb.
sfp



3'15" / Total: 15'00"
August 6, 2008
Braintree, Vermont