Gwyneth Walker

North Country Concerto

for Cello and Orchestra

Program Notes

"Early in the Morning – at the Break of Day" refers to the energy one often has during the first part of the day. The opening rhythm of repeated 8th-notes in the accompaniment speaks the words of the title. The harmonies are open and sparse, perhaps with a morning freshness. The cello is spirited, with glissandi and rapid bowings of repeated notes.

"A Stillness" focuses on short patterns, which vary slightly and grow in intensity. The music unfolds slowly. Perhaps one might feel that one is in the forest, with the stillness of trees balanced against gentle calls of birds. The cello might be heard as the subjective voice responding to the sounds of the forest.

The third movement is influenced by rough-hewn folk music. The patterns of bowing across the strings suggest a crossing, or 'arcing' motion rising at the end into an image of "An Arc in the Sky."

The fourth movement is based on the familiar "Riddle Song" ["I gave my love a cherry that had no stone..I gave my love a baby with no cryin'."] The opening cello solo serves as a bridge between movements III and IV. Then, after an introduction in the accompaniment, the cello enters with the song-theme. The original melody is never fully presented. Rather, the image of "cryin'" engenders the rest of the movement. One might hear sighing motives throughout. Blues harmonies (a mixture of major and minor sonorities) and non-tonal excursions surround the simple tune.

Notes About the Composer

Dr. Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947) is a graduate of Brown University and the Hartt School of Music. She holds B.A., M.M. 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.

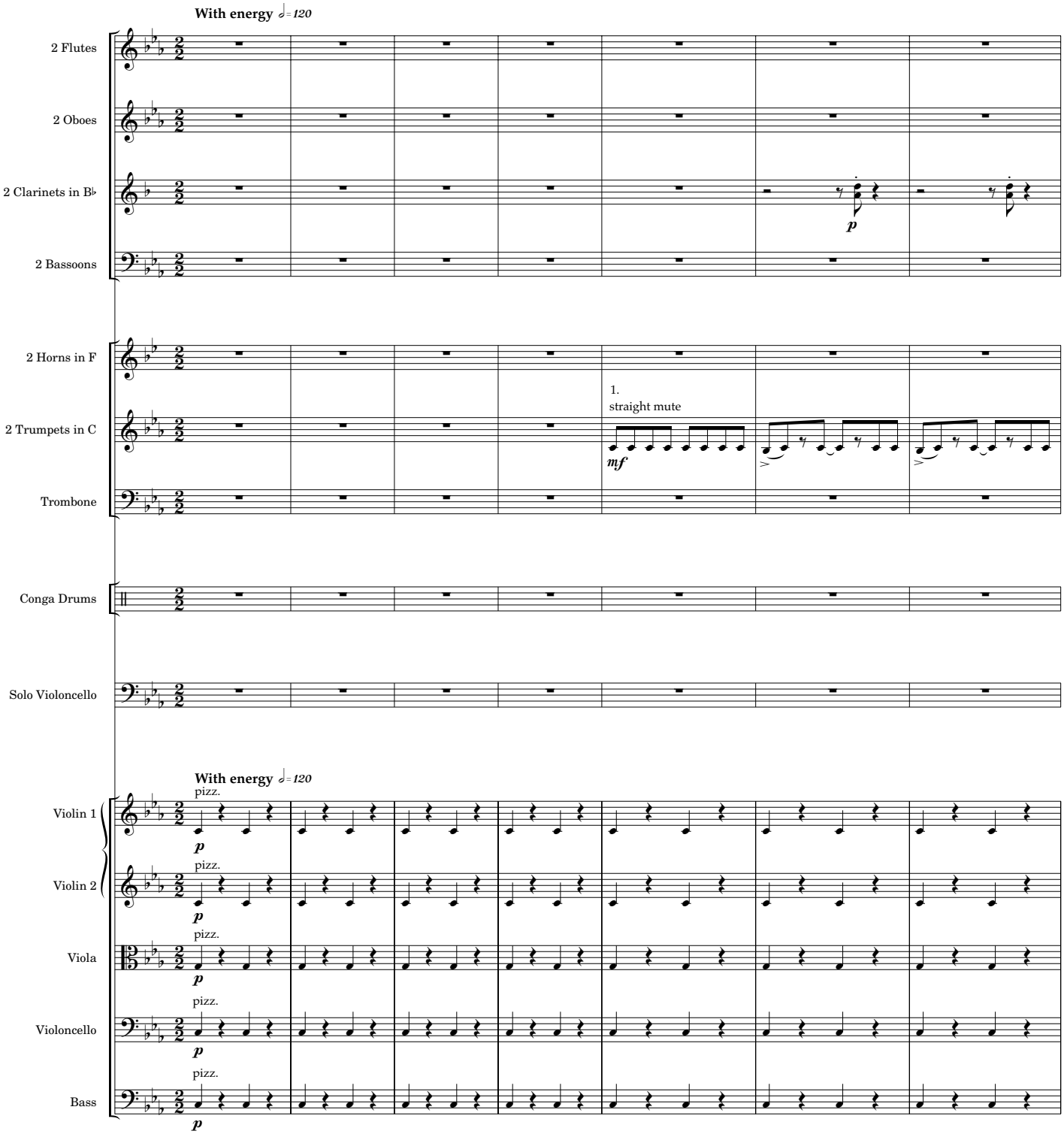
Walker's catalog includes over 130 commissioned works for orchestra, band, chorus and chamber ensembles. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E.C. Schirmer of Boston (choral/vocal music) and MMB Music of St. Louis (orchestral/instrumental music).

Gwyneth Walker is a proud resident of Vermont. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Vermont Arts Council. In addition, she has been awarded the Orchestral Commission from the Vermont High School All-State Festival for a new work to celebrate the 25th season of the Festival – 2002.

North Country Concerto

Gwyneth Walker

I. Early in the Morning — At the Break of Day



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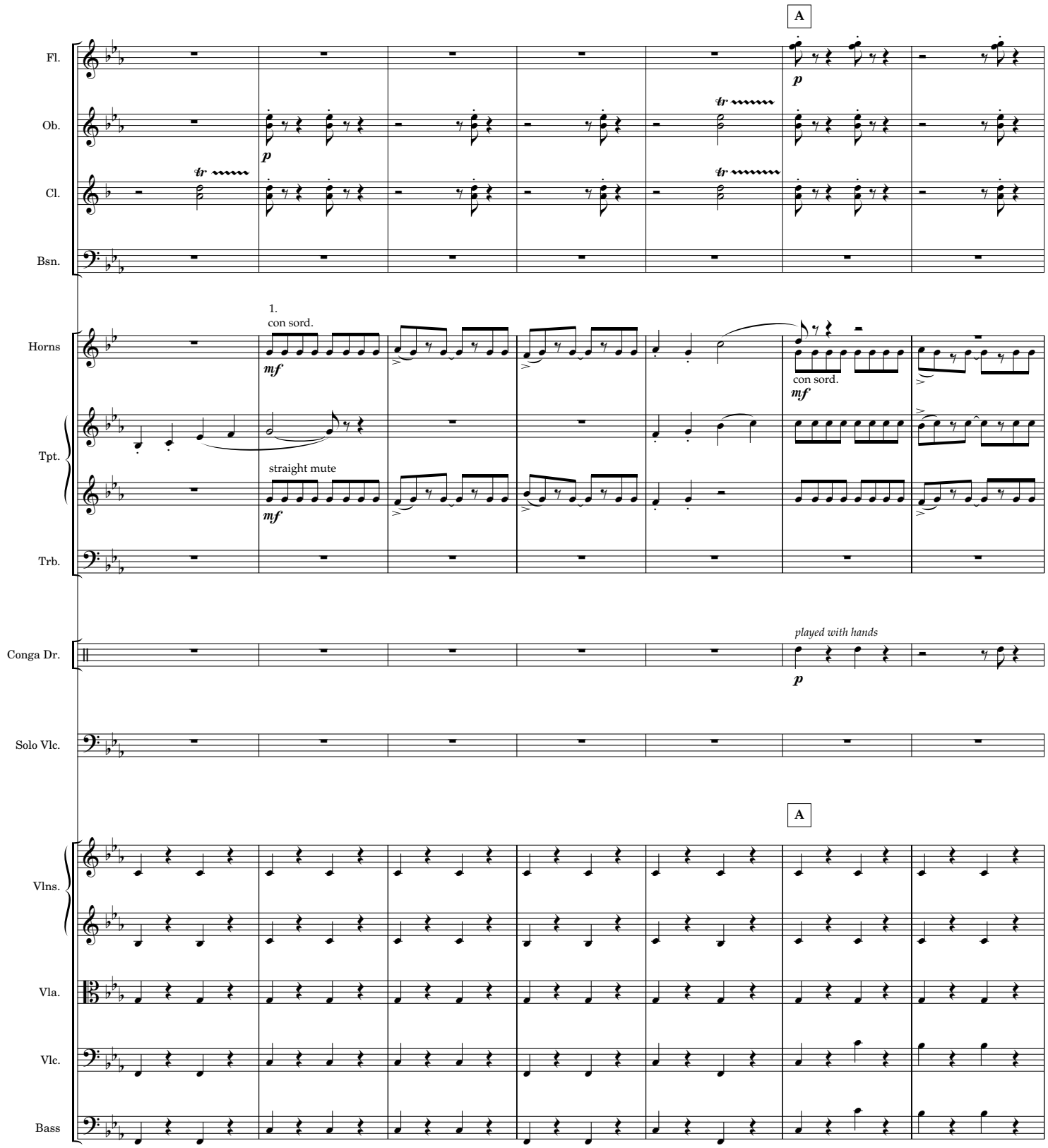
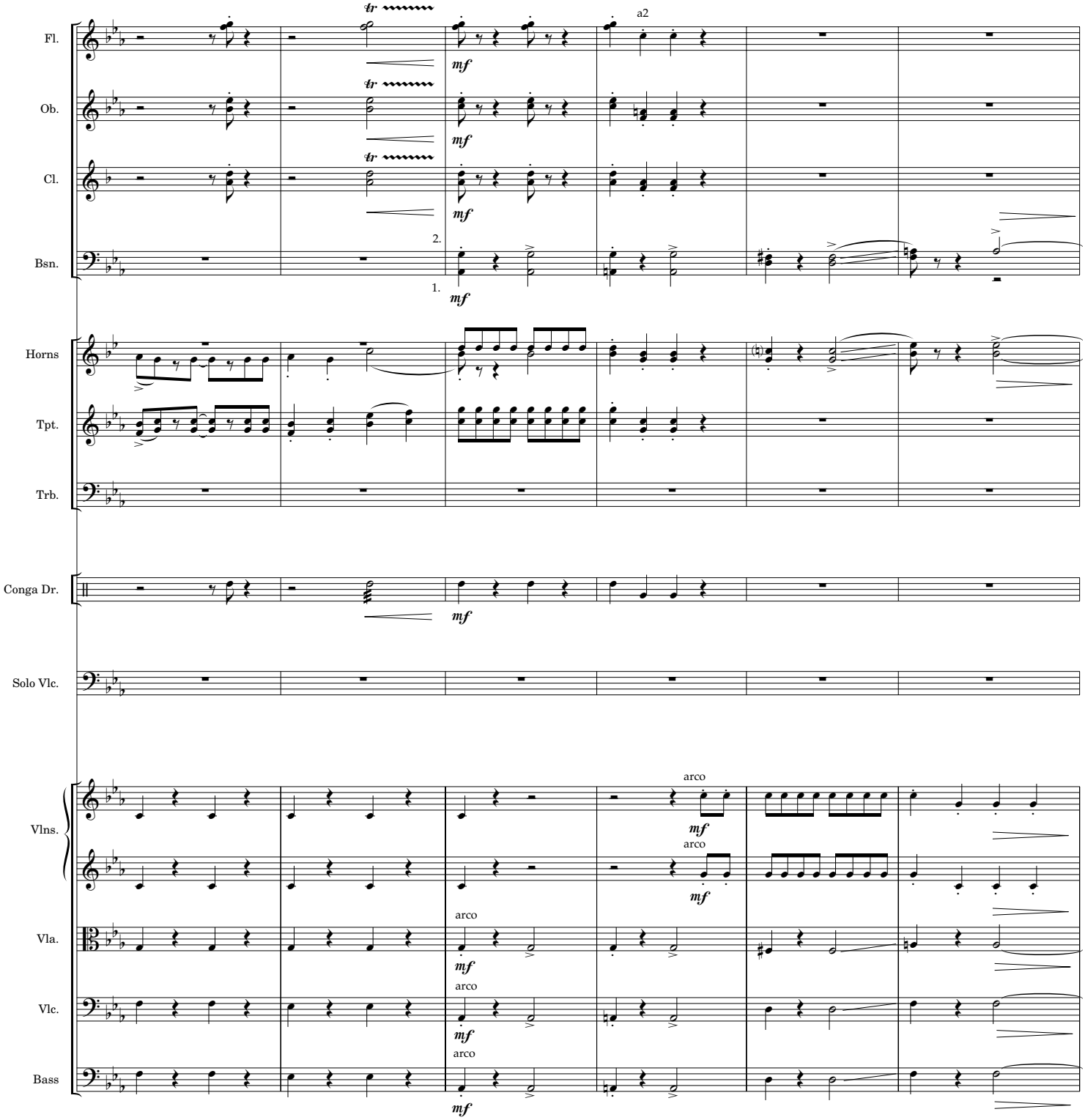
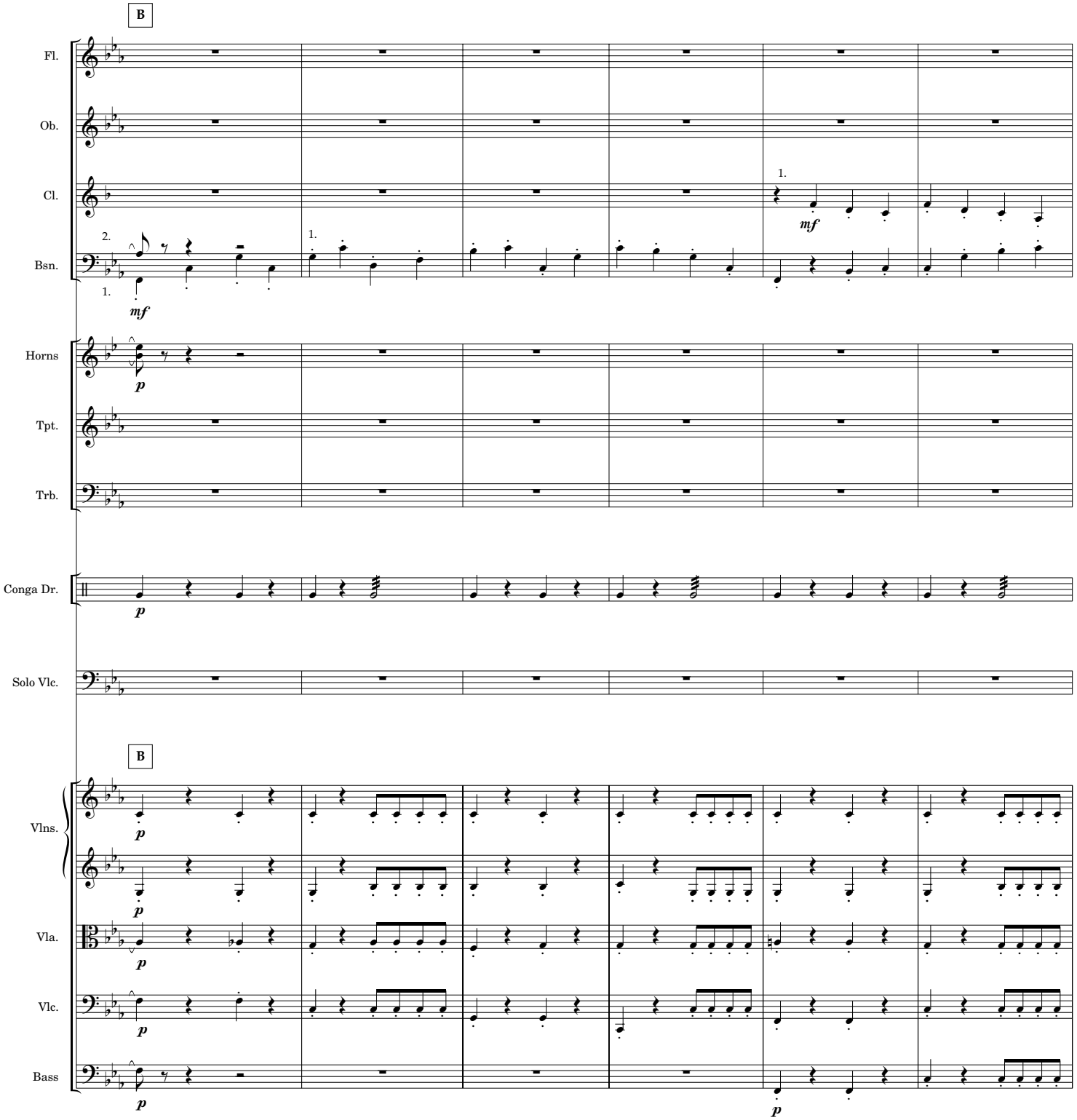
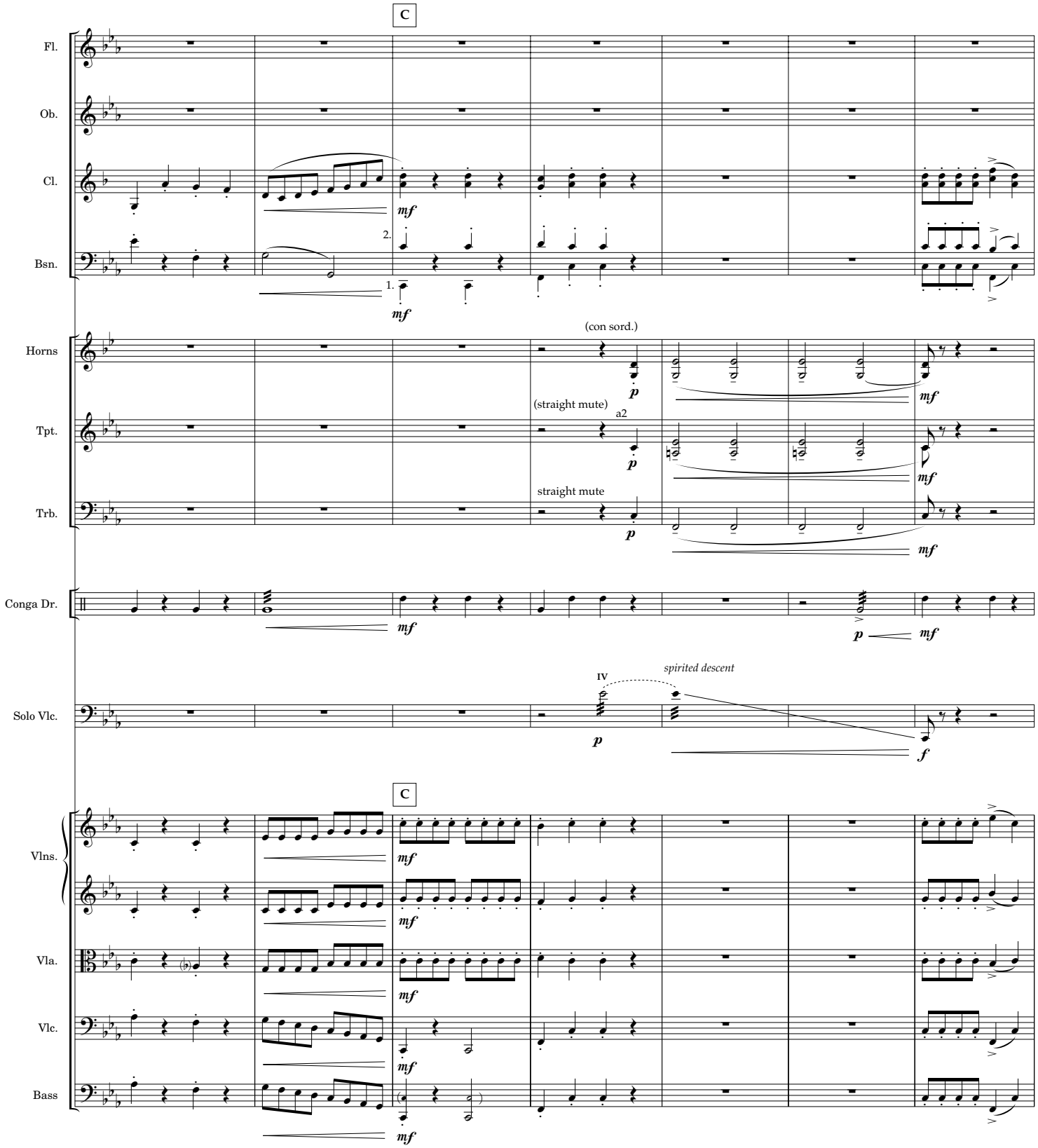
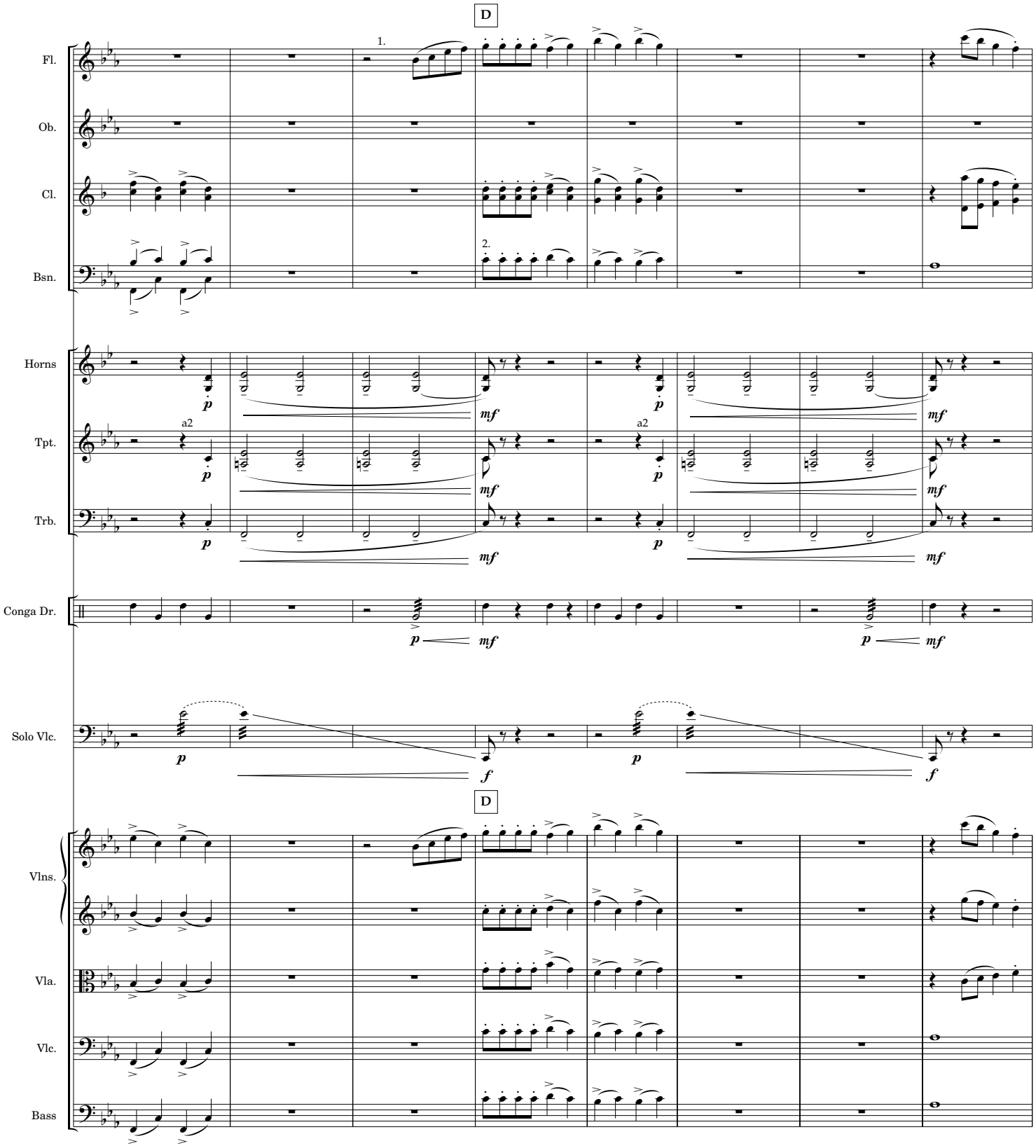
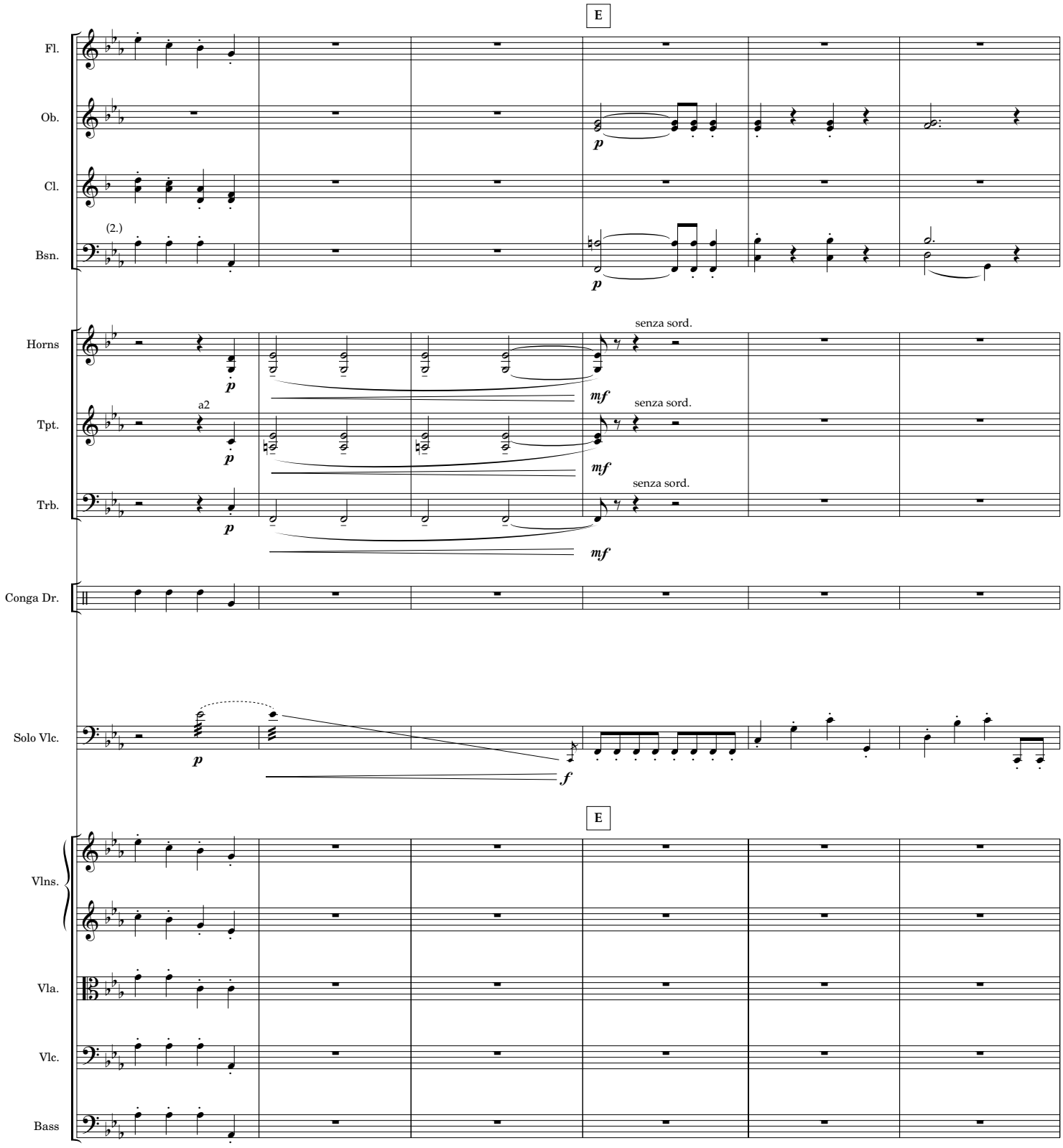

A
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
p
tr
1.
con sord.
mf
Horns
Tpt.
straight mute
Trb.
played with hands
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass

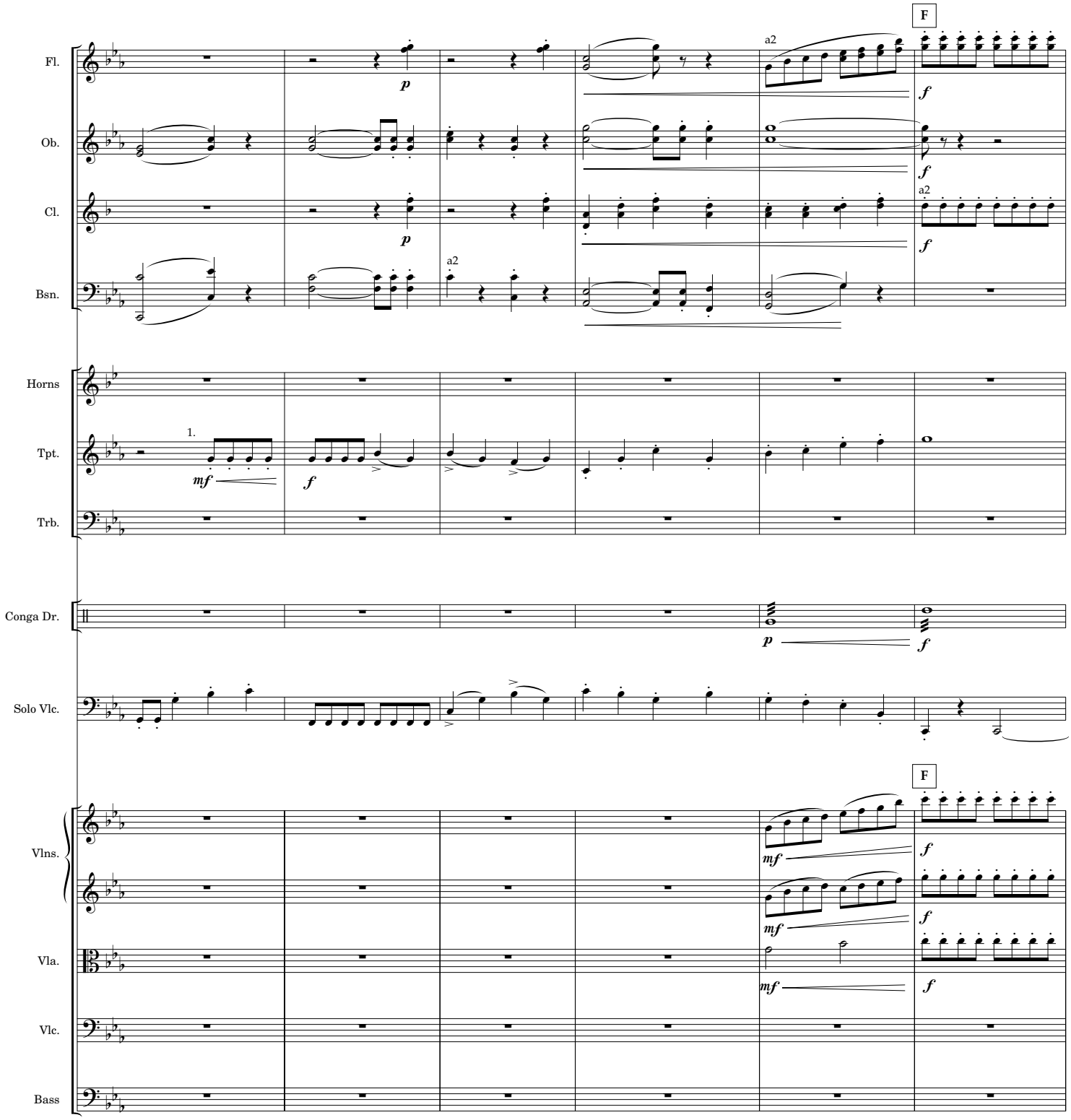

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
a2
arco
mf

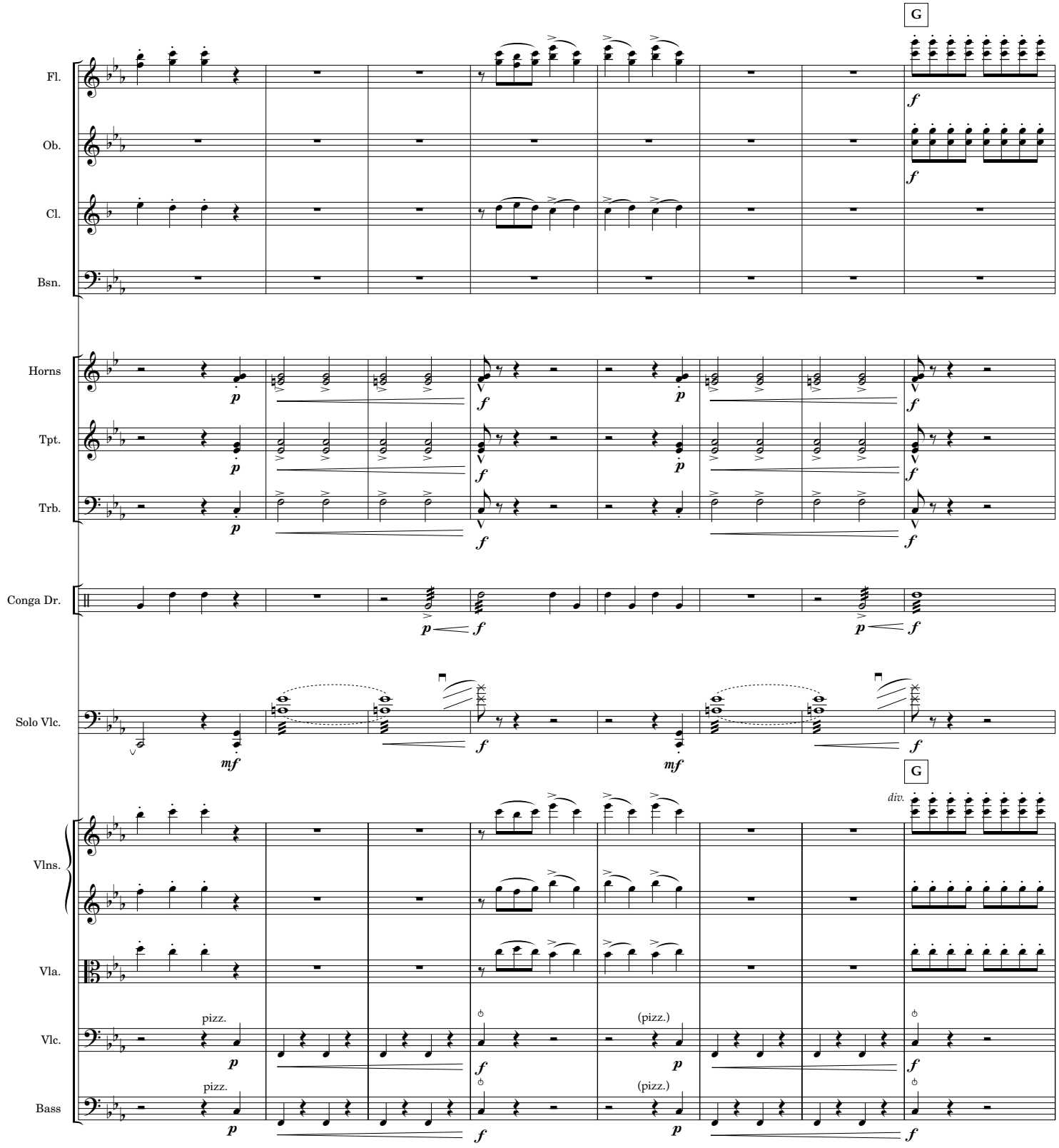

B
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
B
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
mf
p

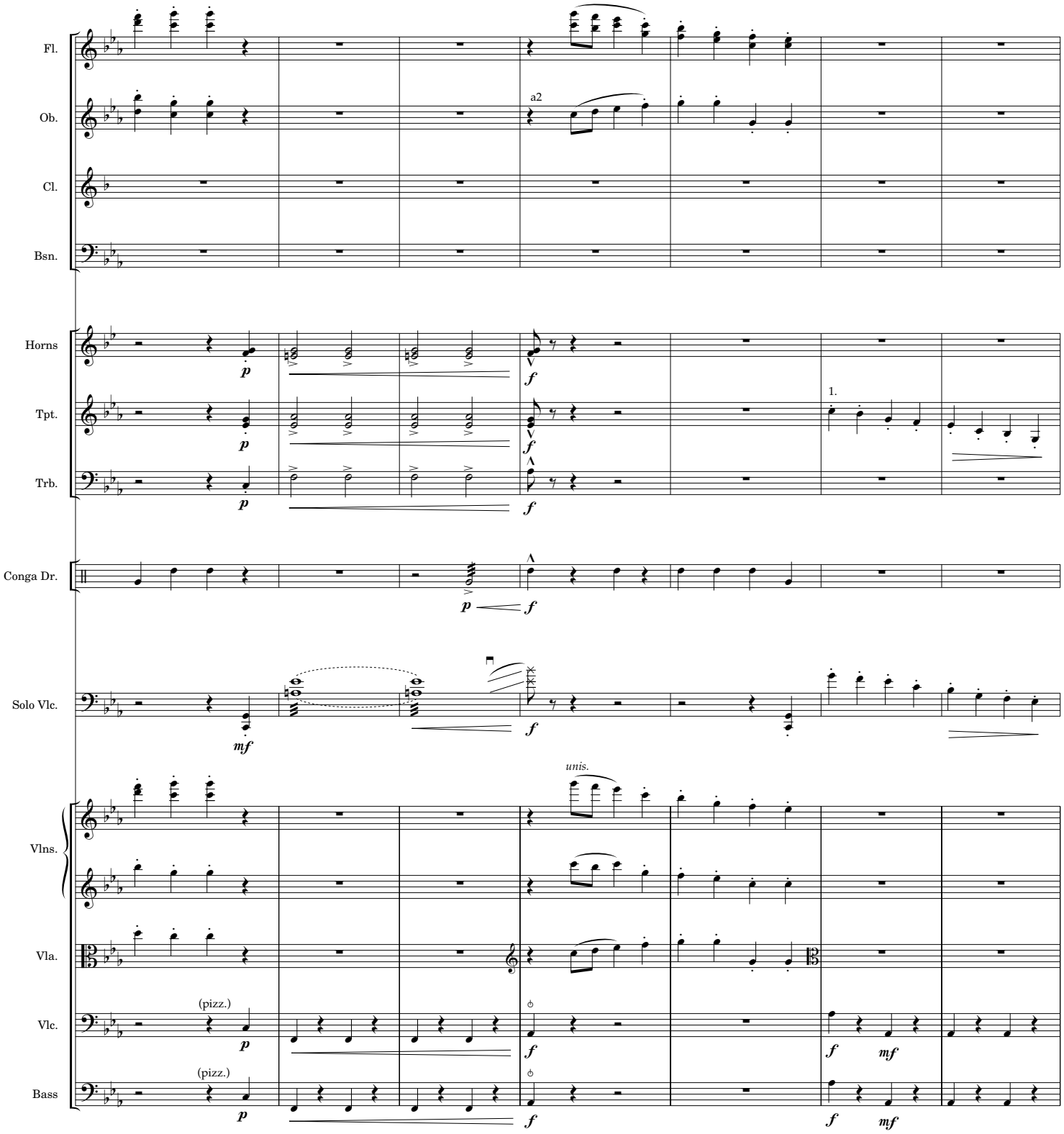

C
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
mf
2.
1.
mf
(con sord.)
Horns
p
mf
(straight mute)
a2
Tpt.
p
mf
straight mute
Trb.
p
mf
Conga Dr.
mf
p
mf
IV
spirited descent
Solo Vlc.
p
f
C
Vlns.
mf
mf
Vla.
mf
Vlc.
mf
Bass
mf

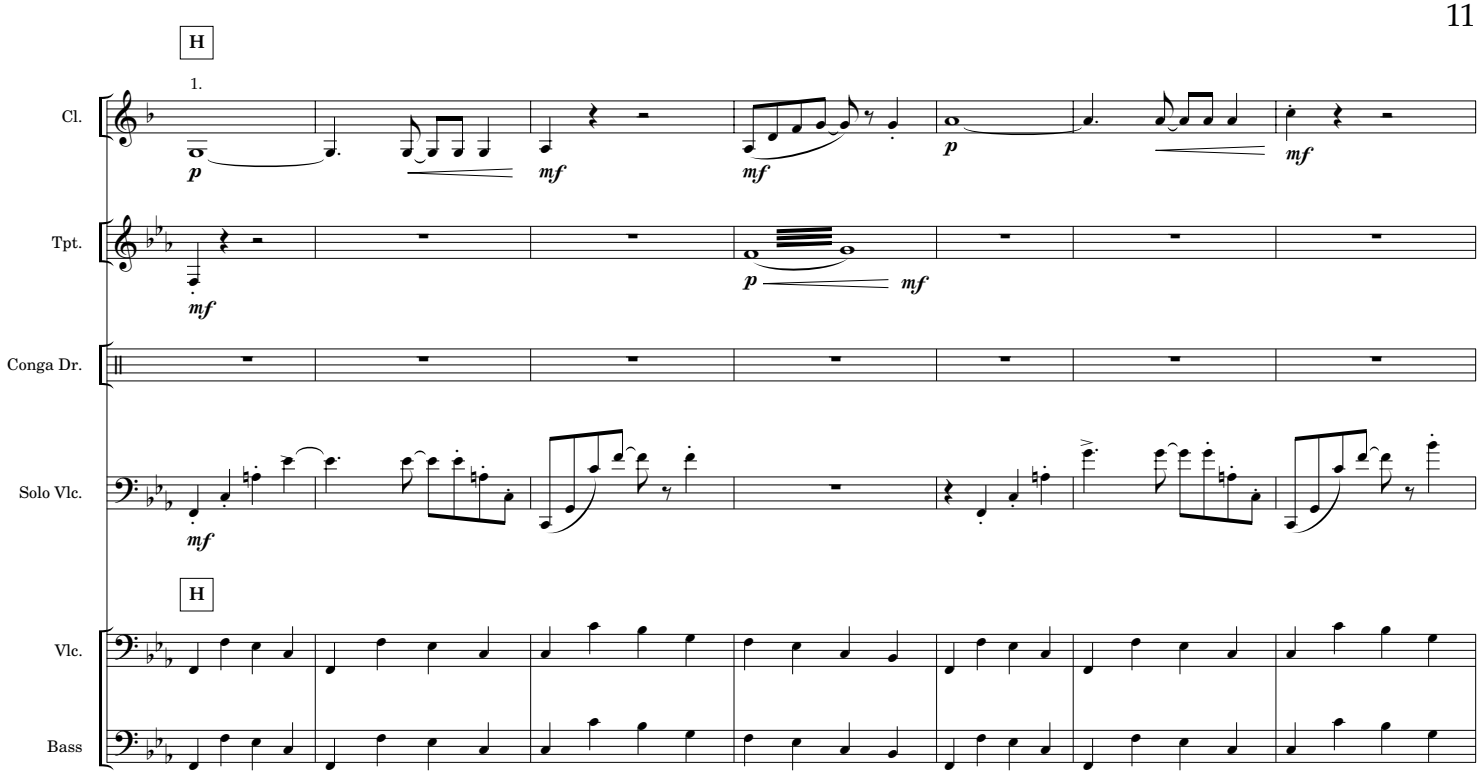

D
1.
2.
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
a2
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
D
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
p
mf
f

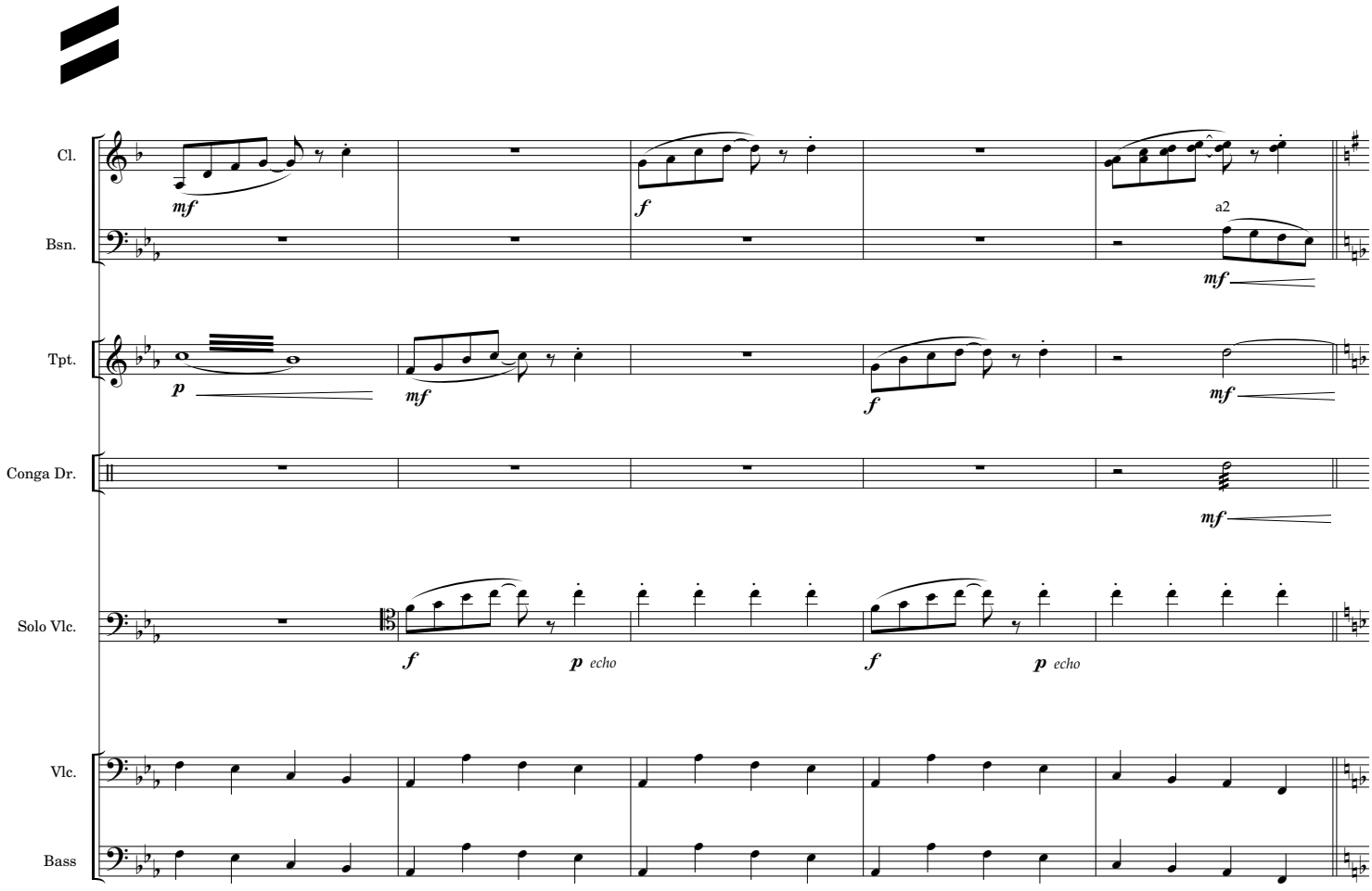

E
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
(2.)
Bsn.
p
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
a2
senza sord.
mf
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
f
E
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass

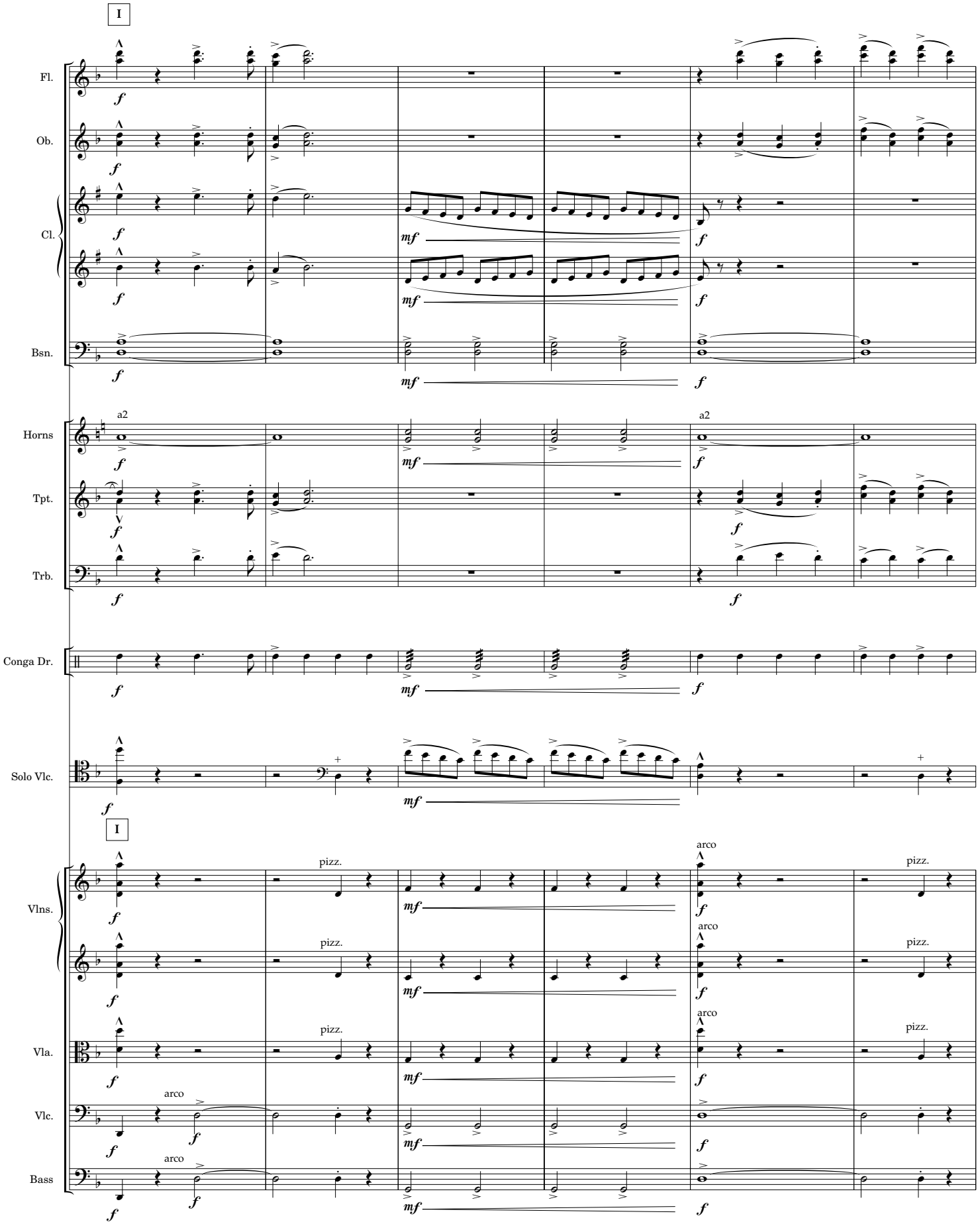

F
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
a2
1.
p
f
mf

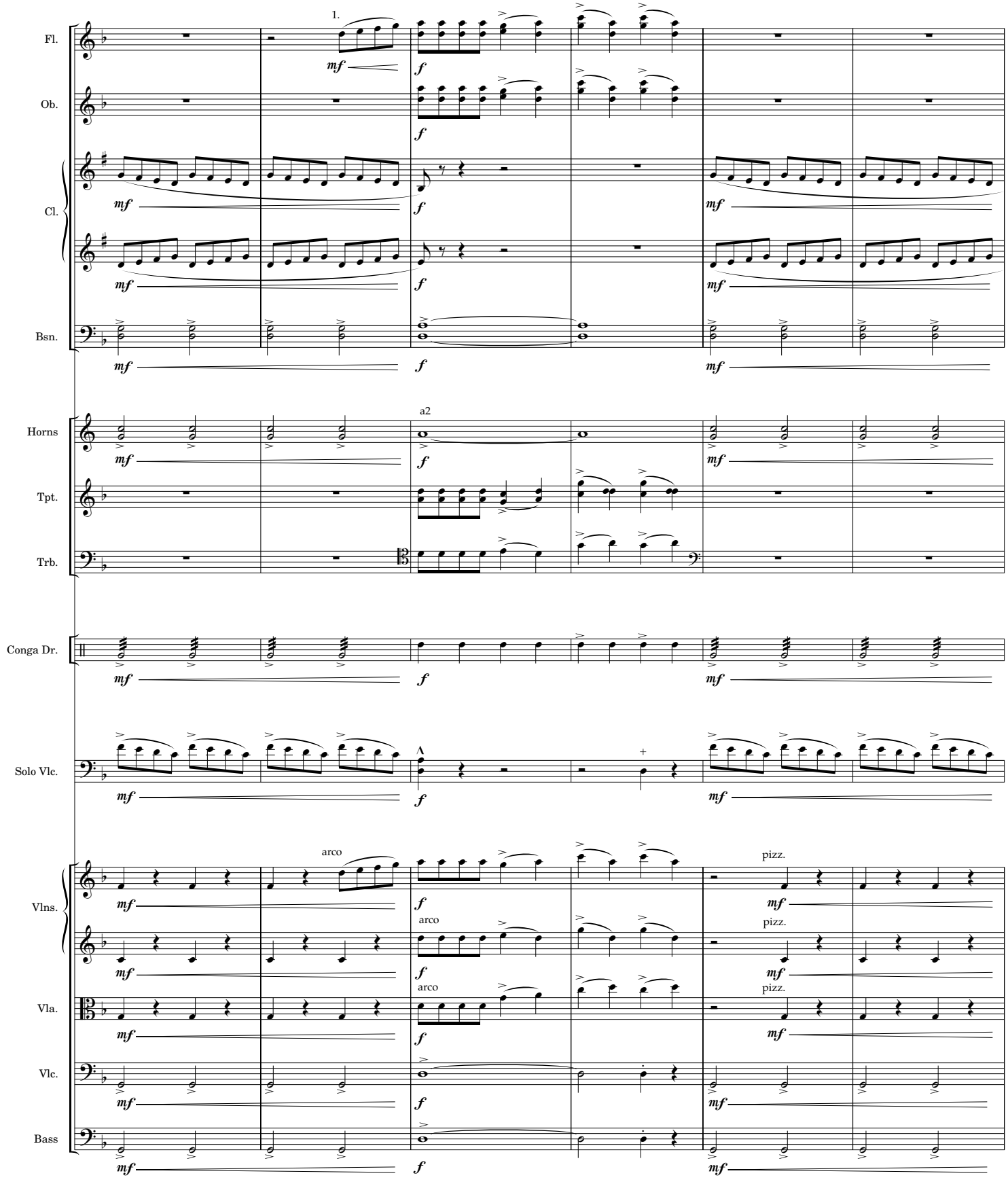

G
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
G
div.
Vlns.
Vla.
pizz.
(pizz.)
Vlc.
Bass

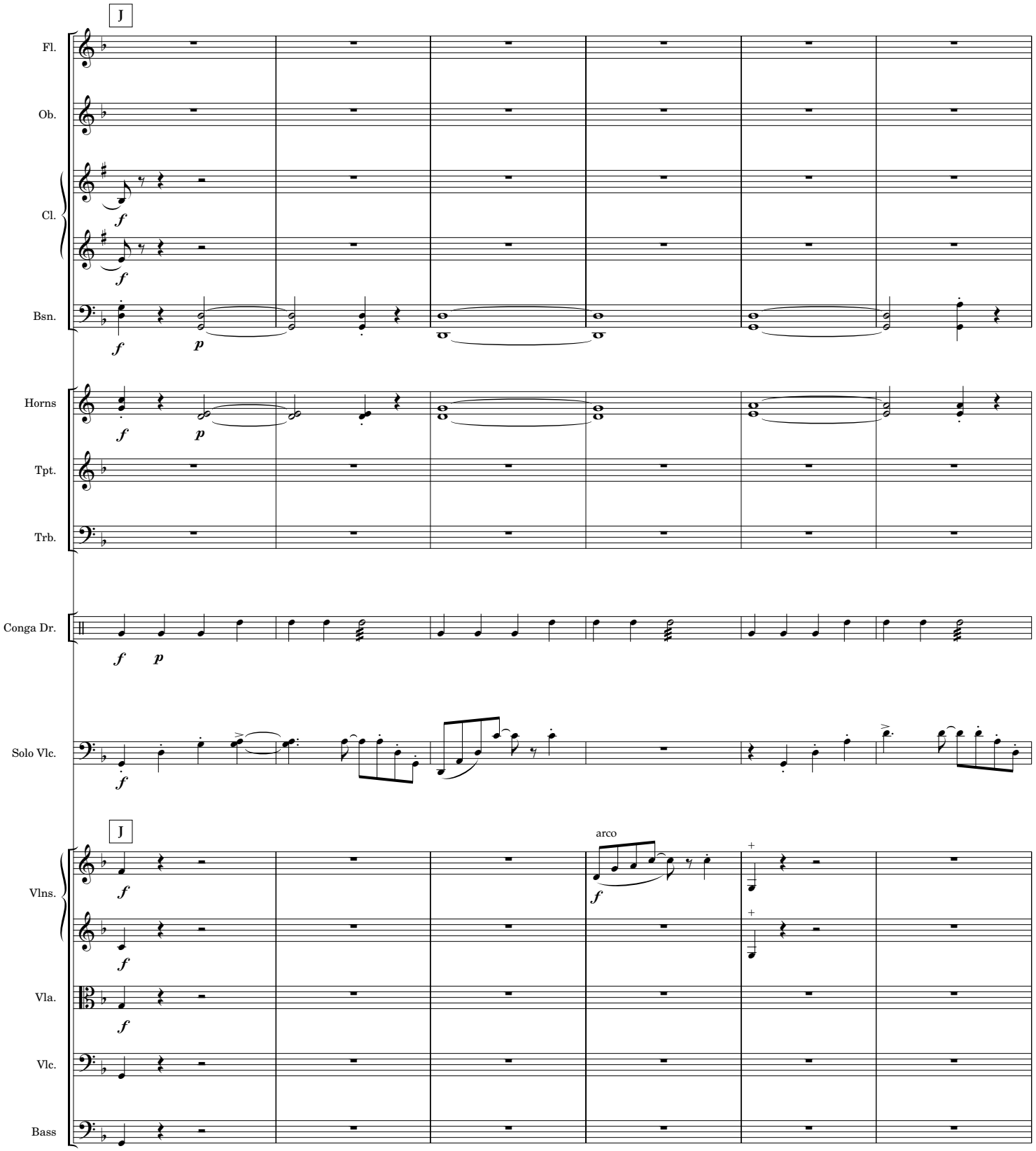

Fl.
Ob.
a2
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
1.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
unis.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
(pizz.)
Bass
(pizz.)

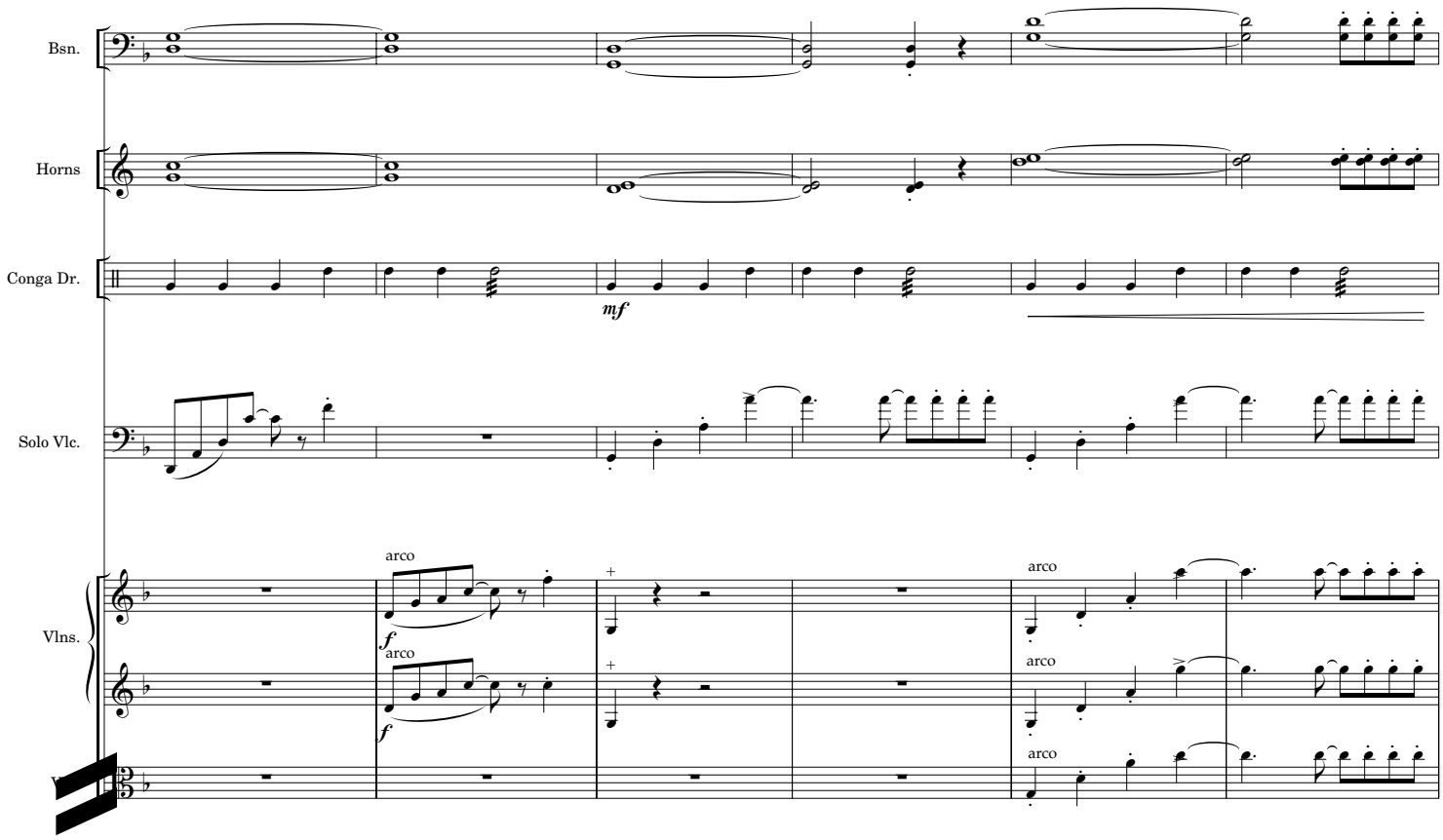

H
1.
Cl.
Tpt.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
H
Vlc.
Bass

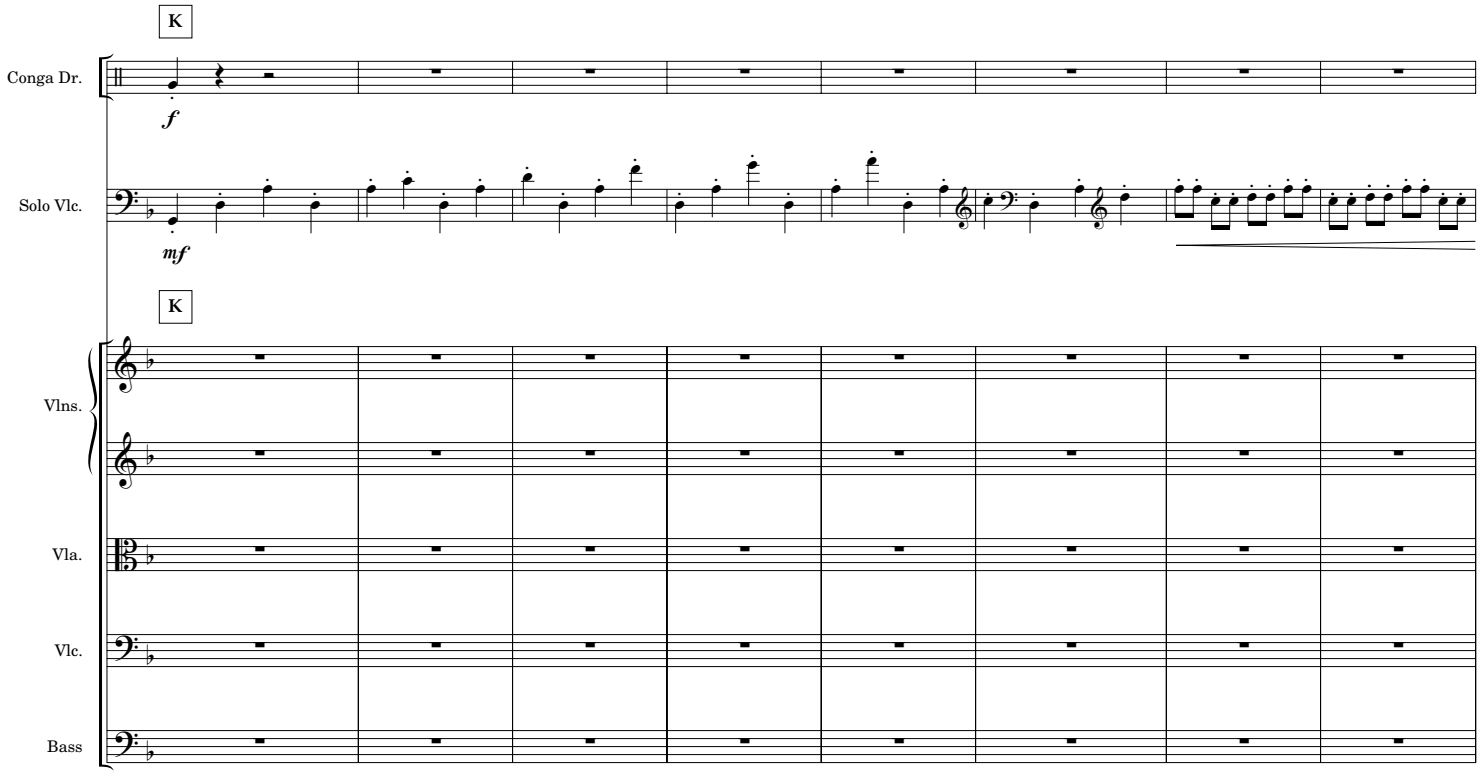

Cl.
Bsn.
a2
Tpt.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
p echo
p echo
Vlc.
Bass

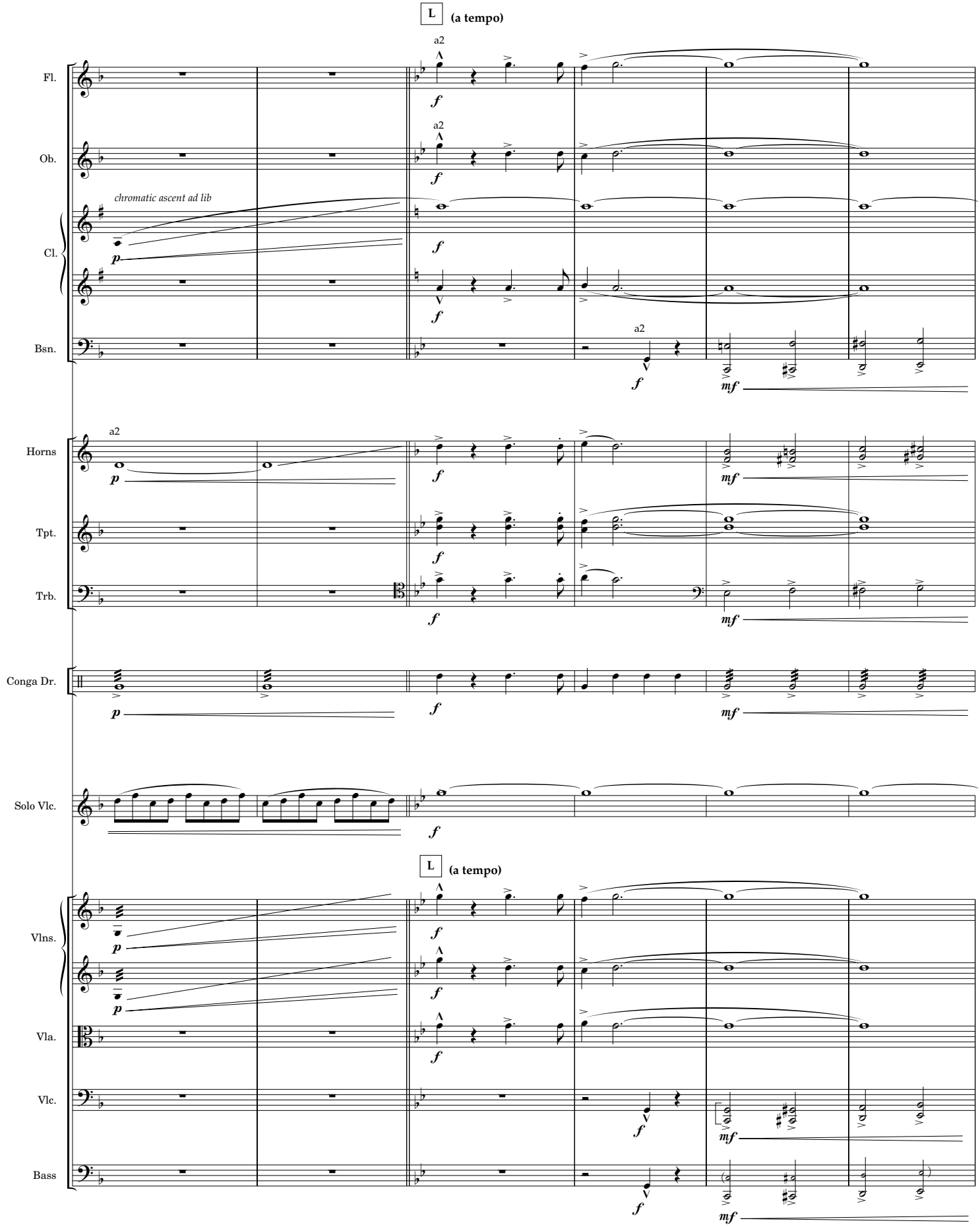

I
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
a2
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
I
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
pizz.
arco
mf
f

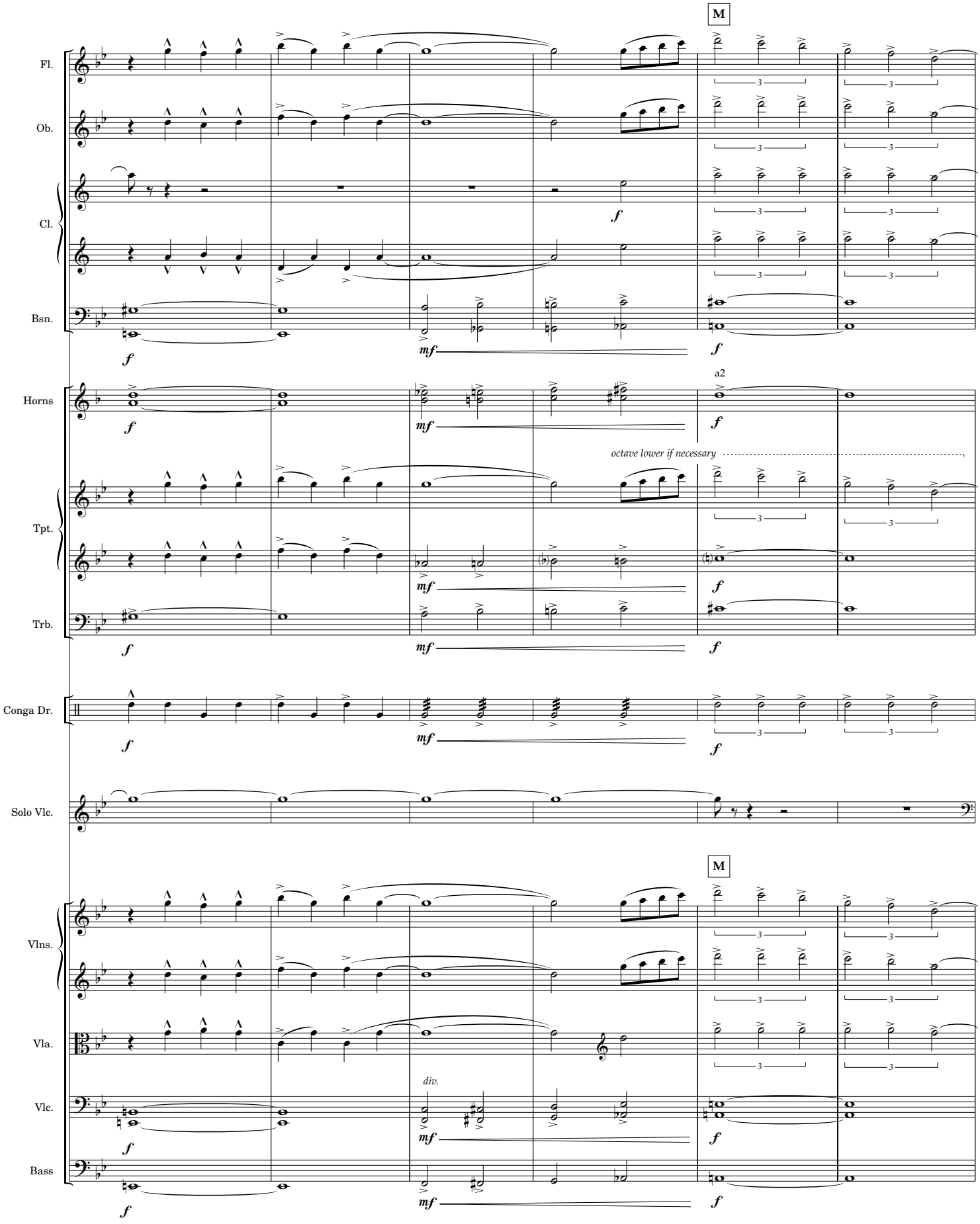

1.
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
a2
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
arco
pizz.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
mf
f

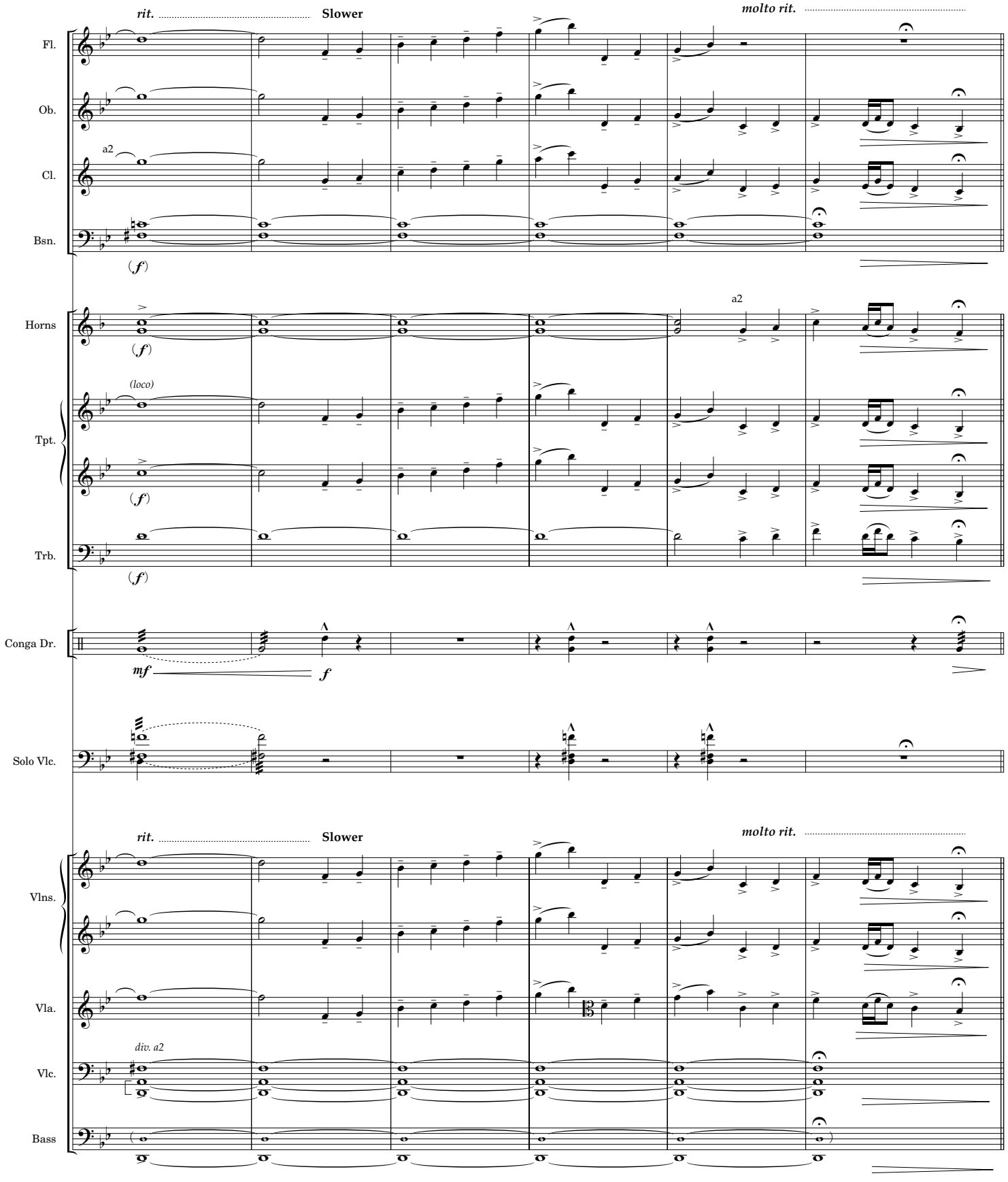

J
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
J
arco
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass

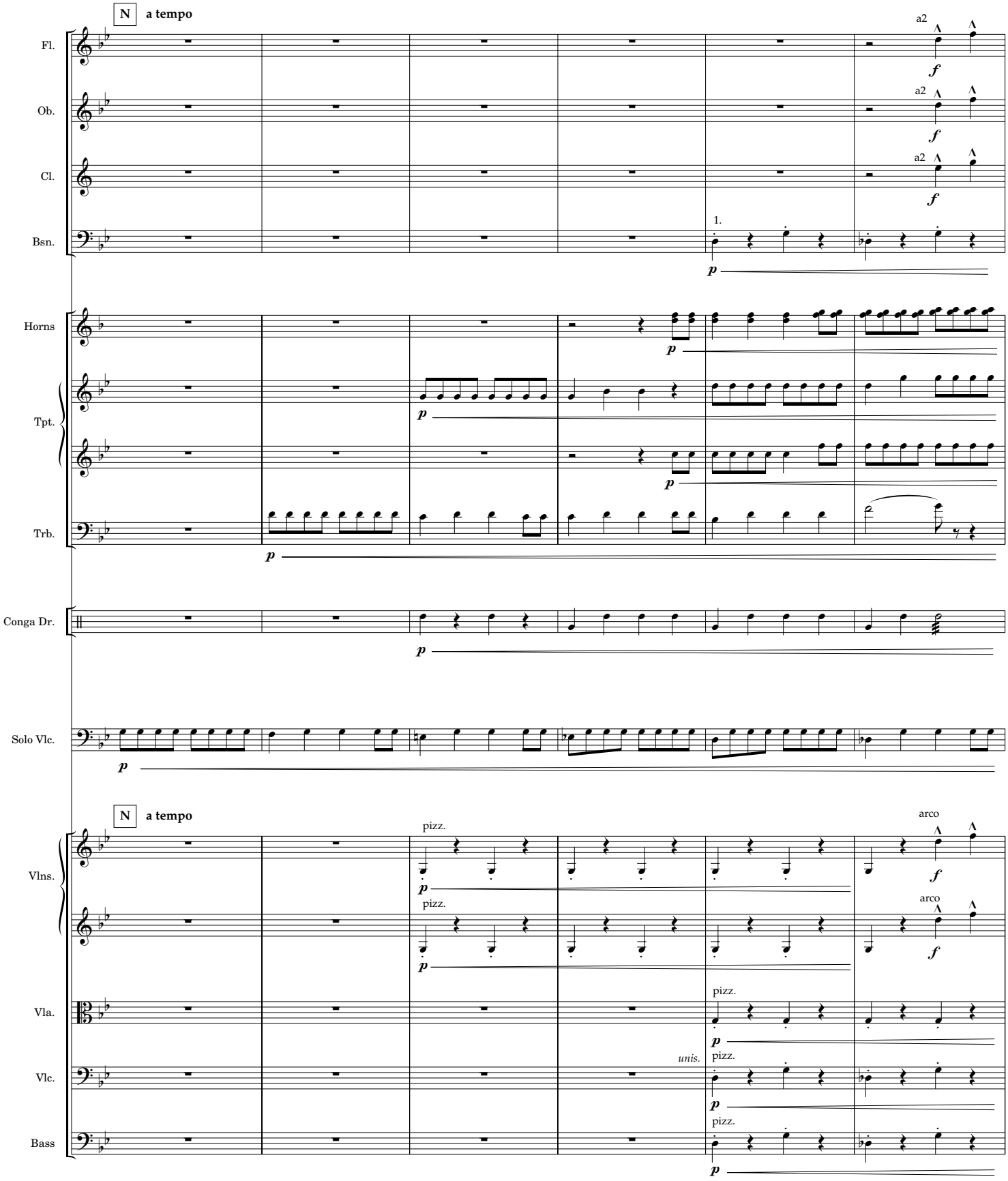

Bsn.
Horns
Conga Dr.
mf
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
arco
f
arco
f
arco
arco
arco

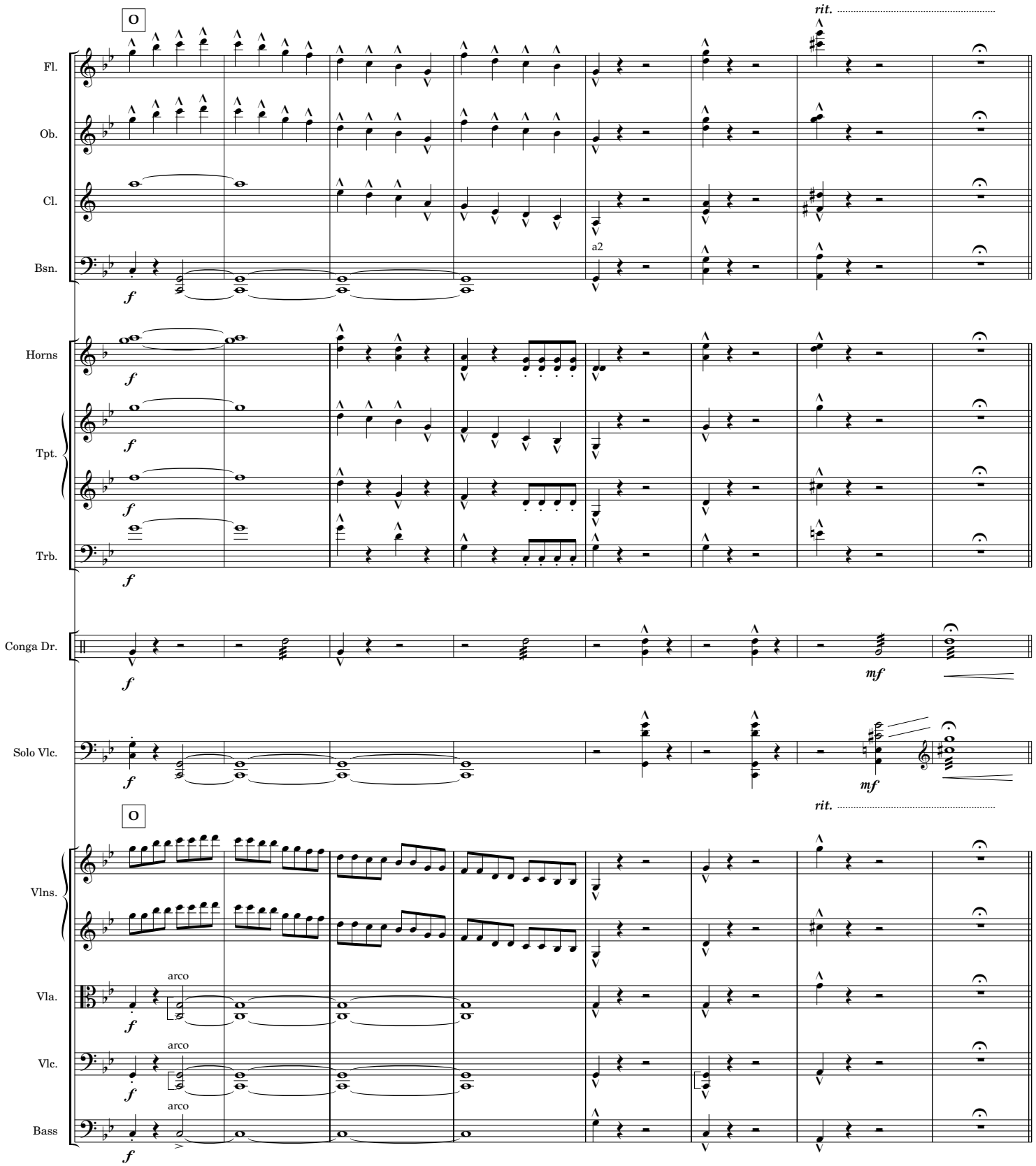

K
Conga Dr.
f
Solo Vlc.
mf
K
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass

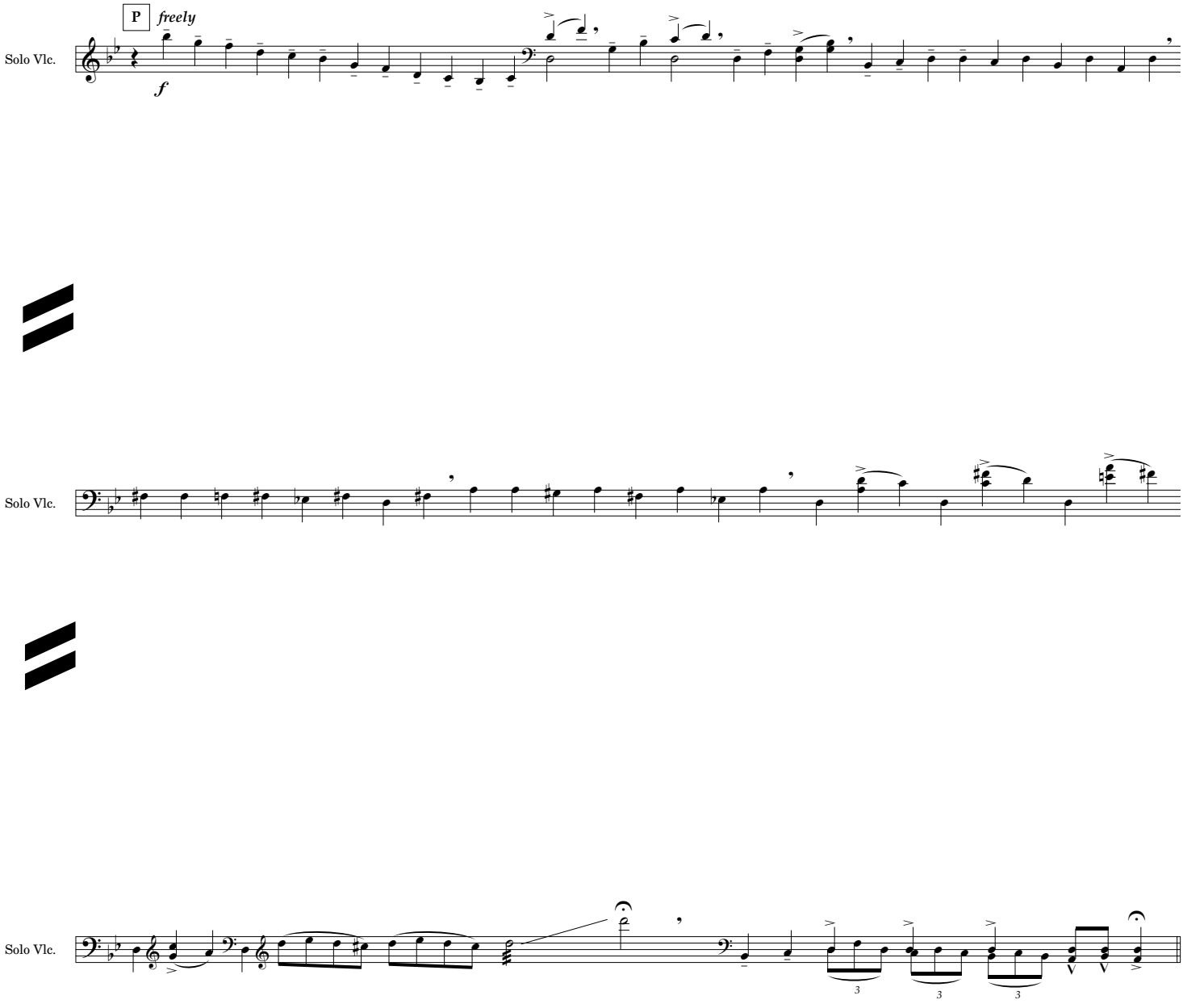

L
(a tempo)
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
a2
chromatic ascent ad lib
p
f
mf

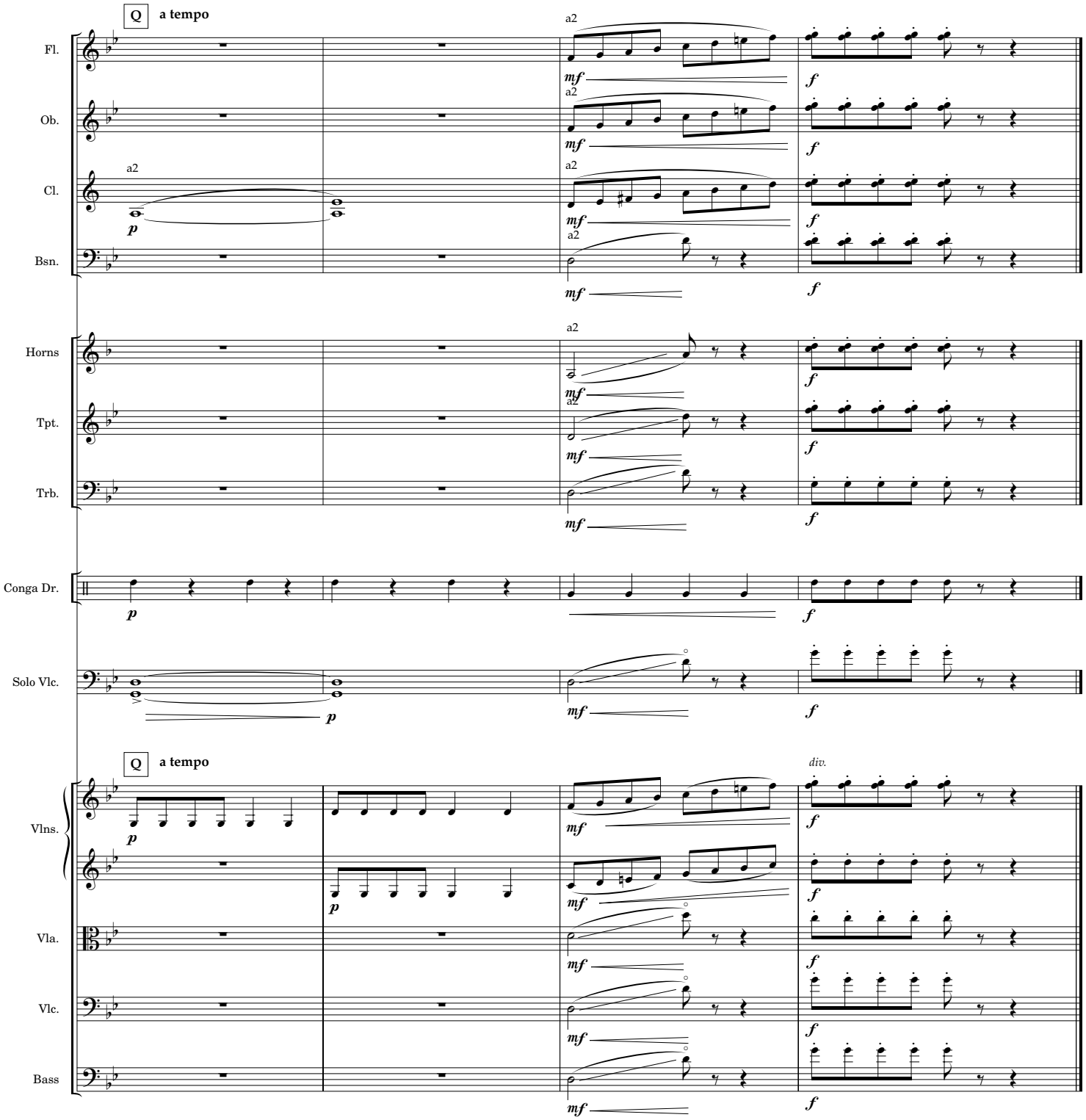

M
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
a2
octave lower if necessary
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
M
Vlns.
Vla.
div.
Vlc.
Bass


rit.
Slower
molto rit.
Fl.
Ob.
a2
Cl.
Bsn.
(f)
Horns
a2
(f)
(loco)
Tpt.
(f)
Trb.
(f)
Conga Dr.
mf
f
Solo Vlc.
rit.
Slower
molto rit.
Vlns.
Vla.
div. a2
Vlc.
Bass


N a tempo
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
a2
1.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
N a tempo
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
pizz.
arco
unis.

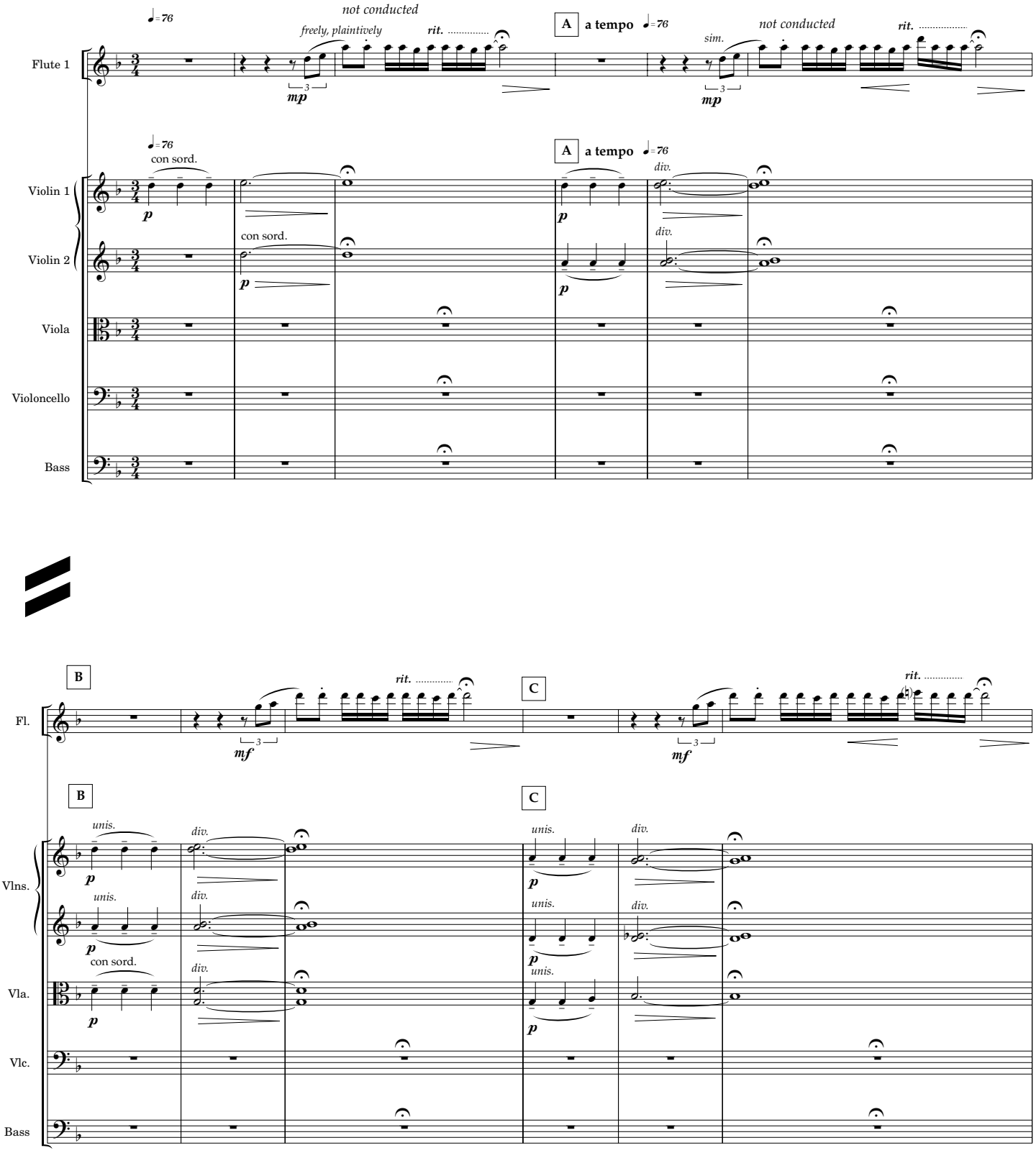

O
rit.
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
a2
f
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
mf
Solo Vlc.
O
rit.
Vlns.
Vla.
arco
Vlc.
Bass

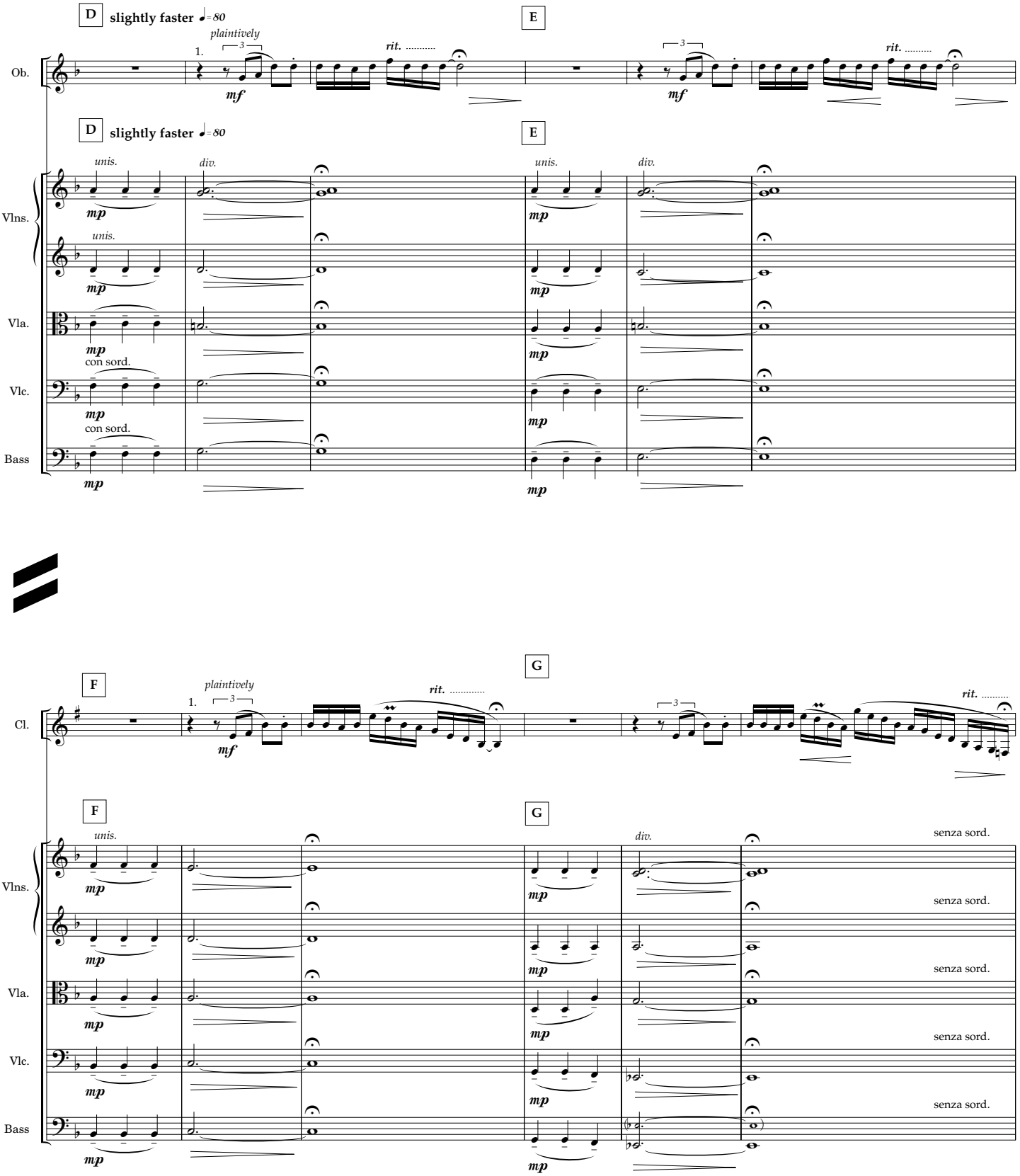

P
freely
f
Solo Vlc.
Solo Vlc.
Solo Vlc.

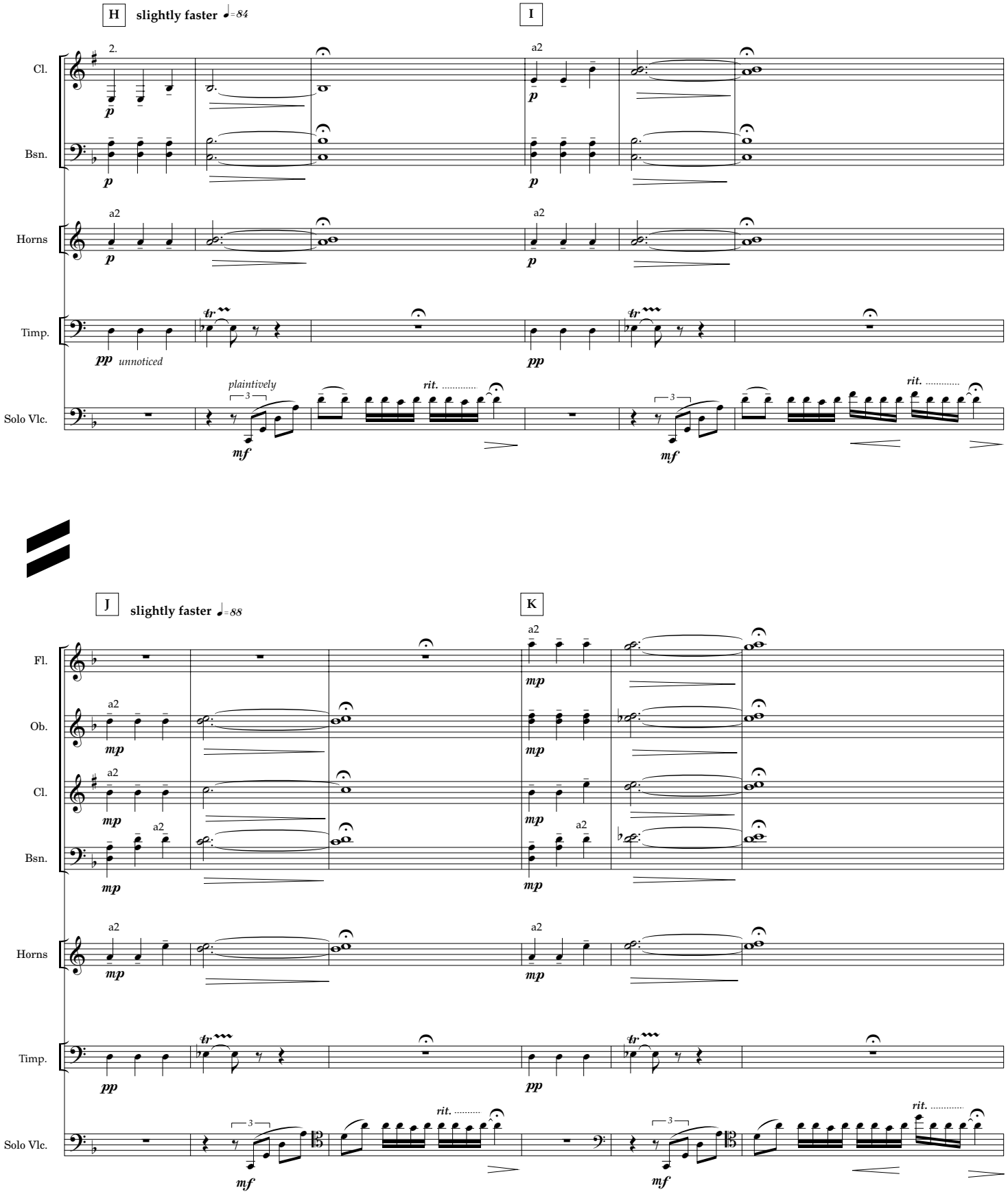


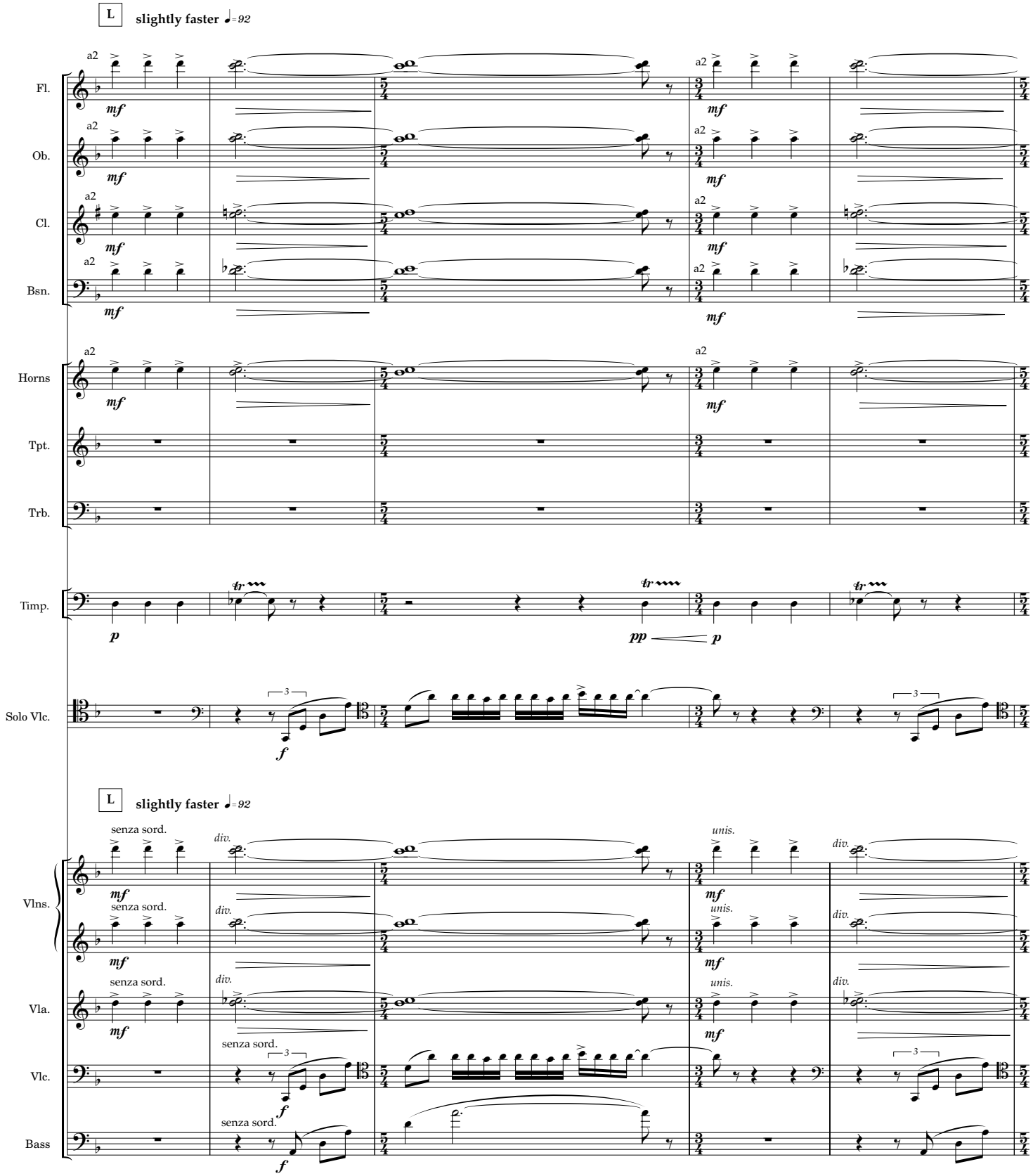
Duration: 2′45″

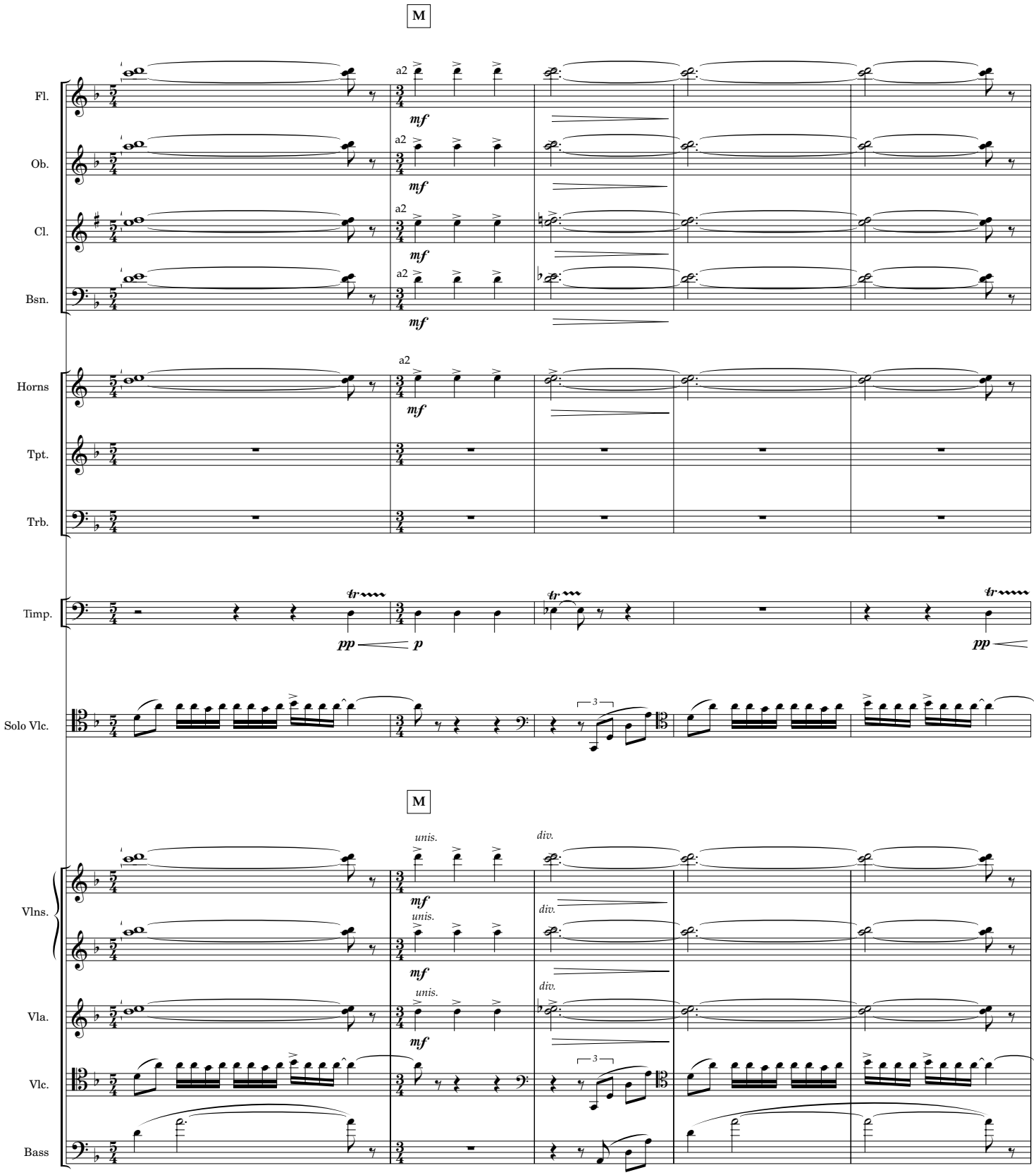
II. A Stillness

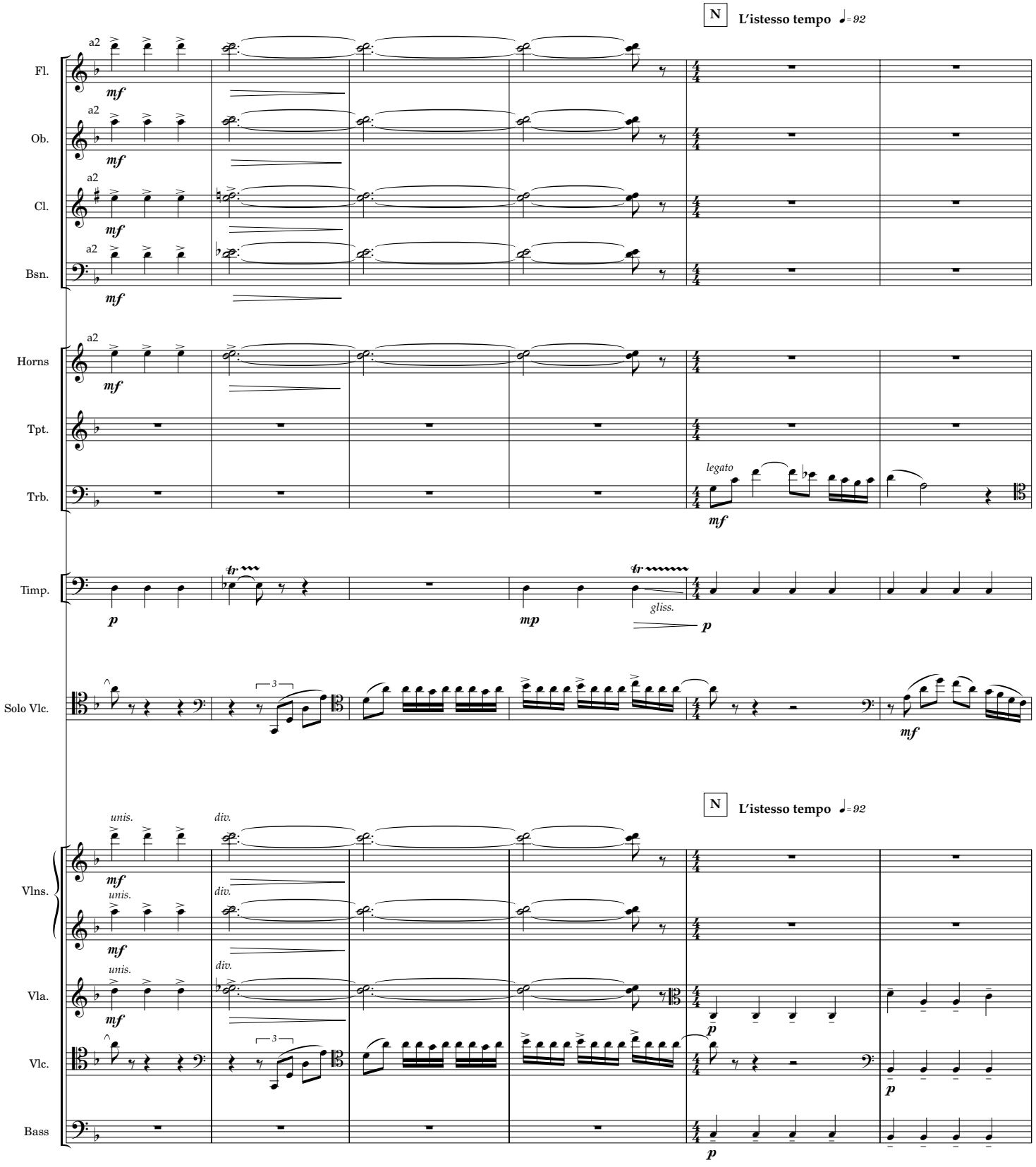


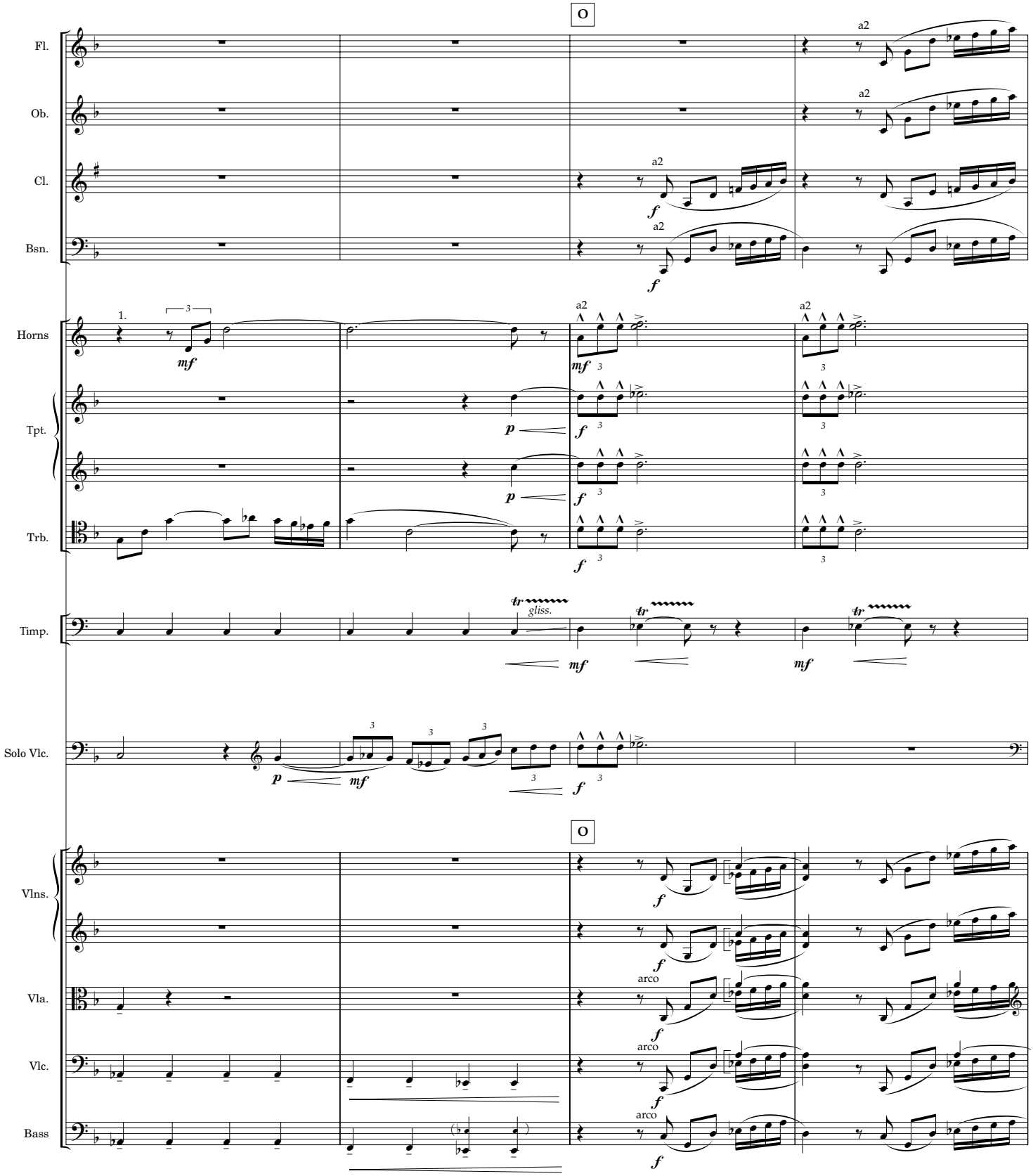

D
slightly faster ♩=80
plaintively
1.
rit.
E
Ob.
mf
unis.
div.
Vlns.
mp
Vla.
con sord.
Vlc.
Bass
F
G
Cl.
senza sord.

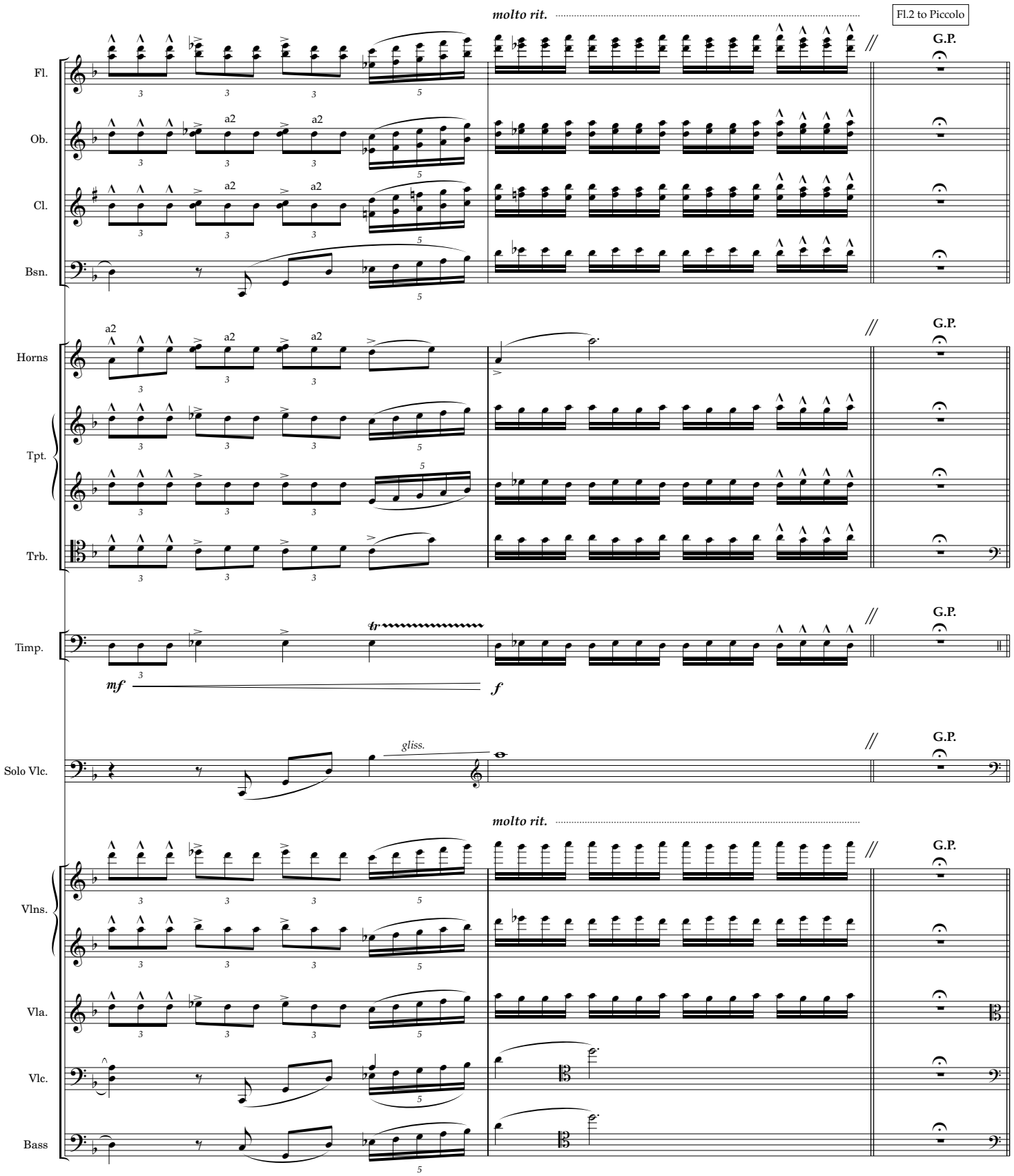

H
slightly faster ♩=84
I
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Timp.
Solo Vlc.
2.
a2
p
pp
unnoticed
plaintively
rit.
mf
J
slightly faster ♩=88
K
Fl.
Ob.
mp

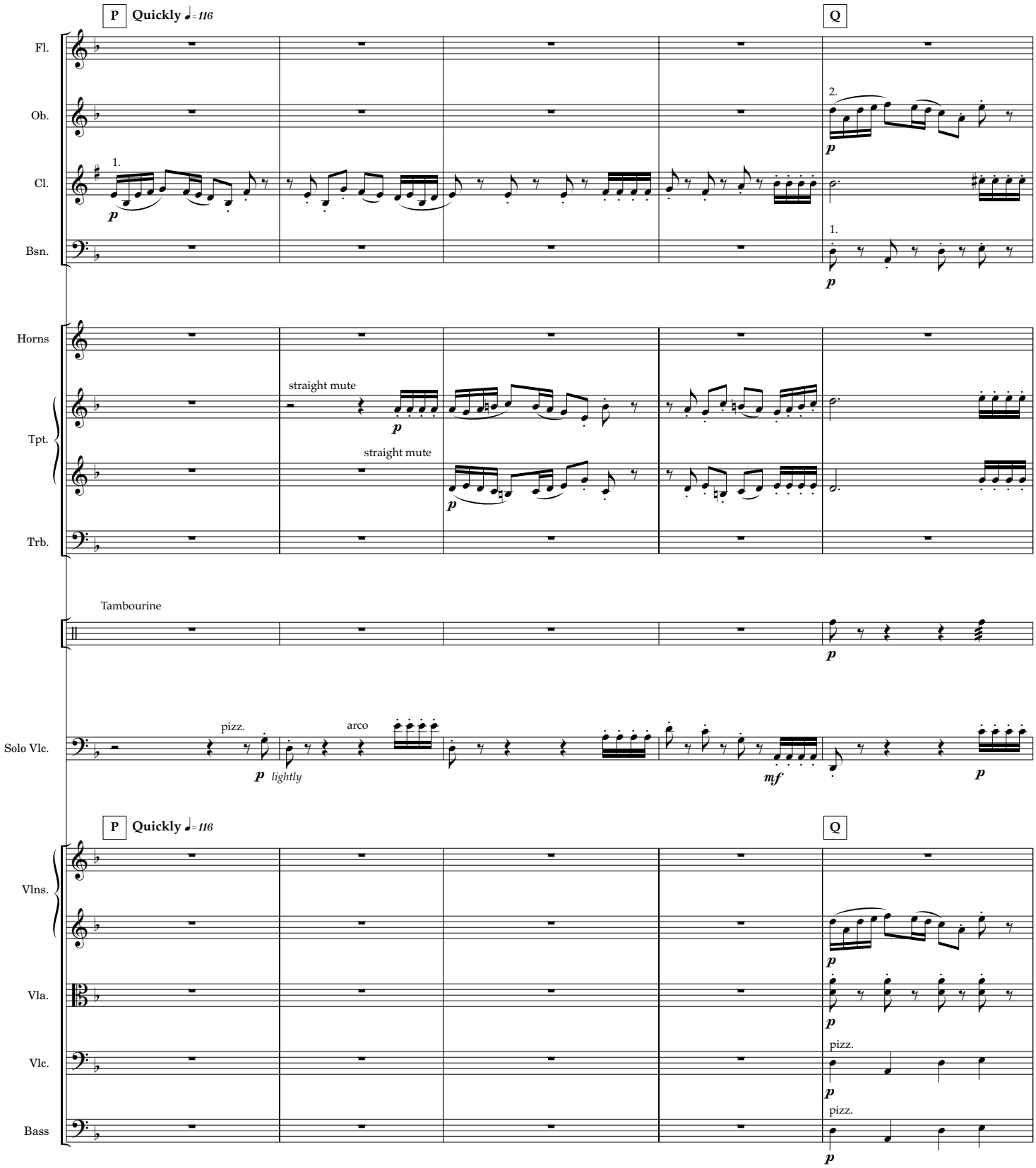

L
slightly faster ♩= 92
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Timp.
Solo Vlc.
L
slightly faster ♩= 92
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
a2
mf
p
pp
f
senza sord.
div.
unis.

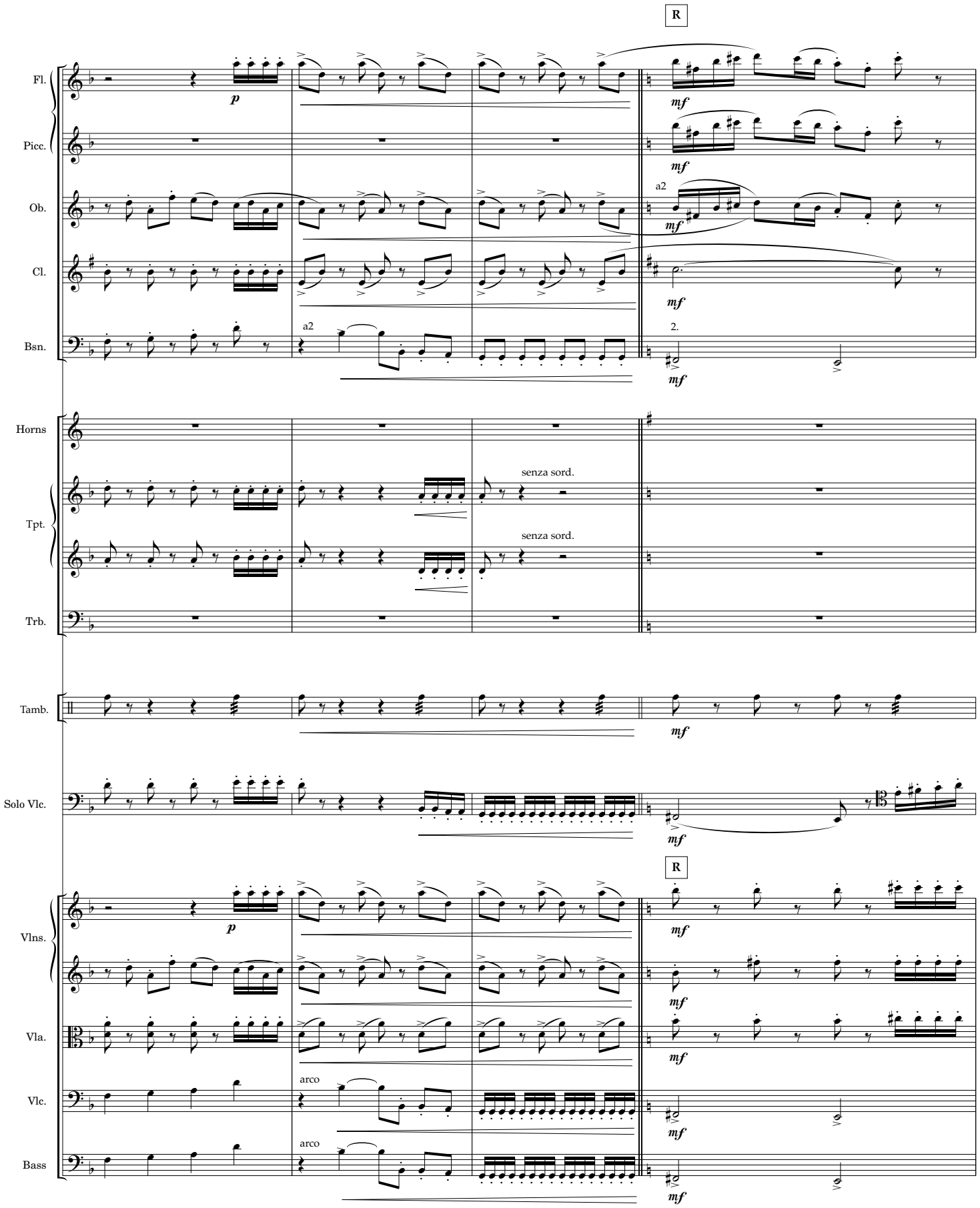

M
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Timp.
Solo Vlc.
M
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
a2
mf
pp
p
tr
unis.
div.
3

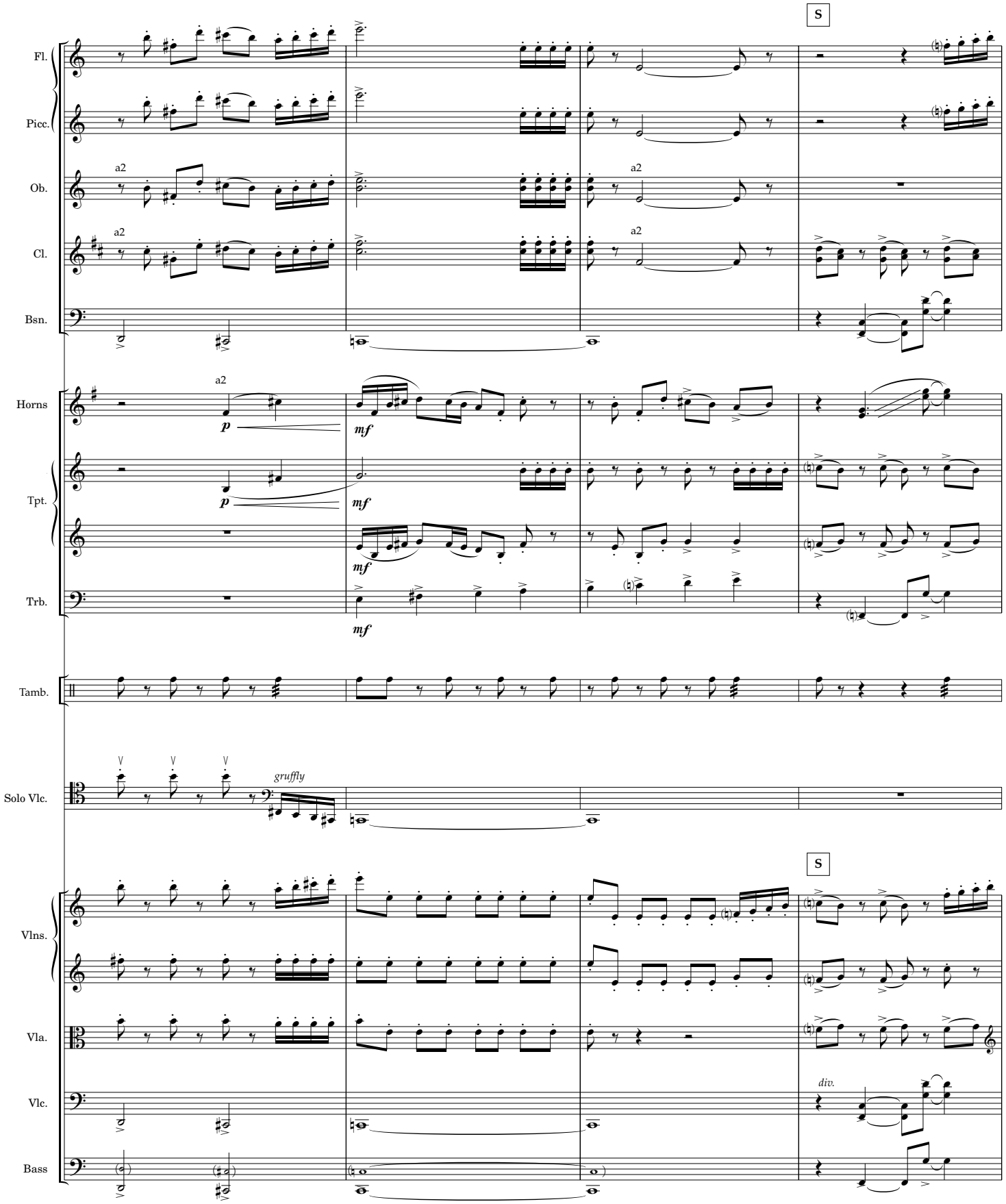

N
L'istesso tempo
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Timp.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
a2
mf
legato
gliss.
mp
p
unis.
div.

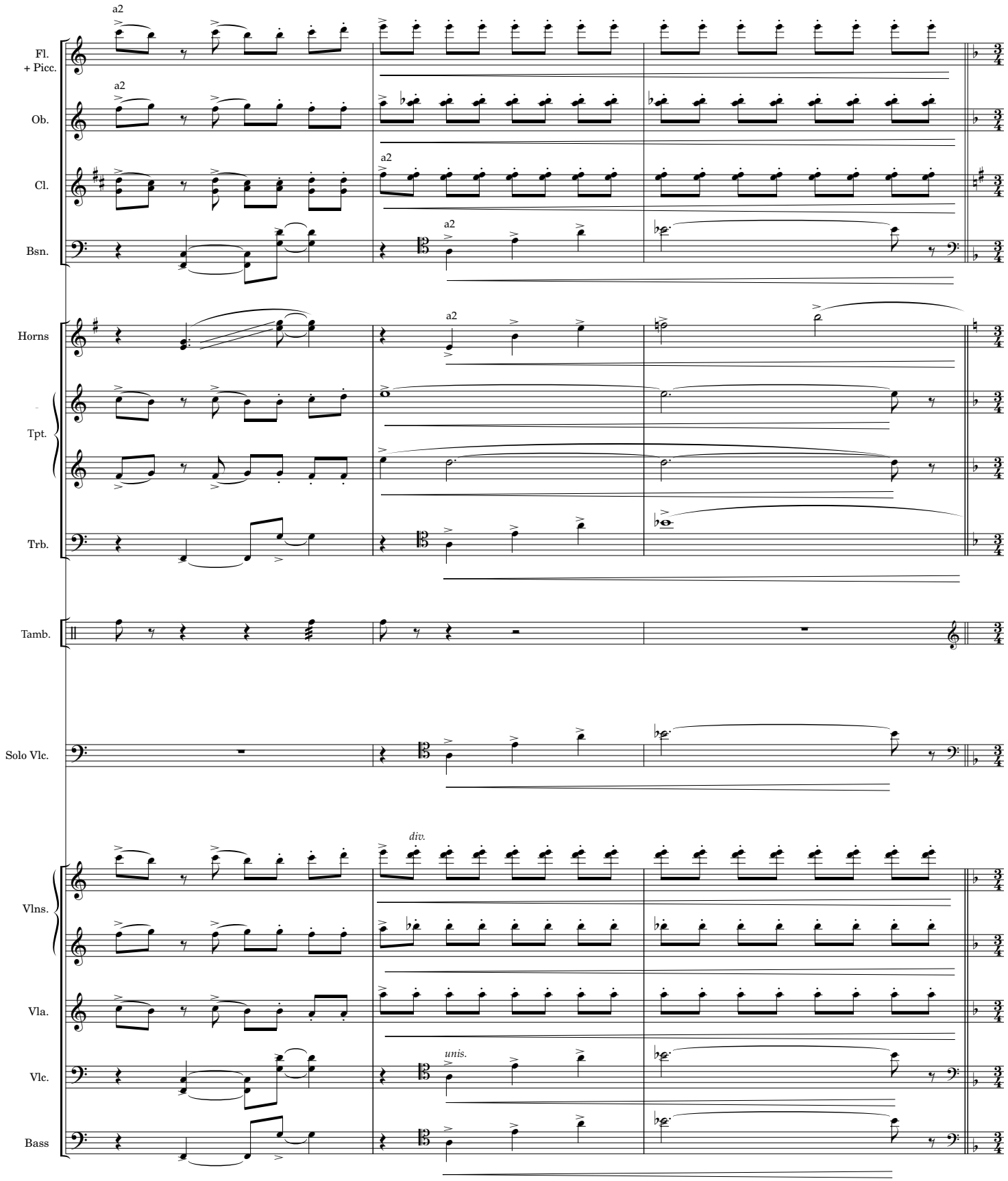

O
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Timp.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
a2
arco
gliss.
1.
mf
f
p

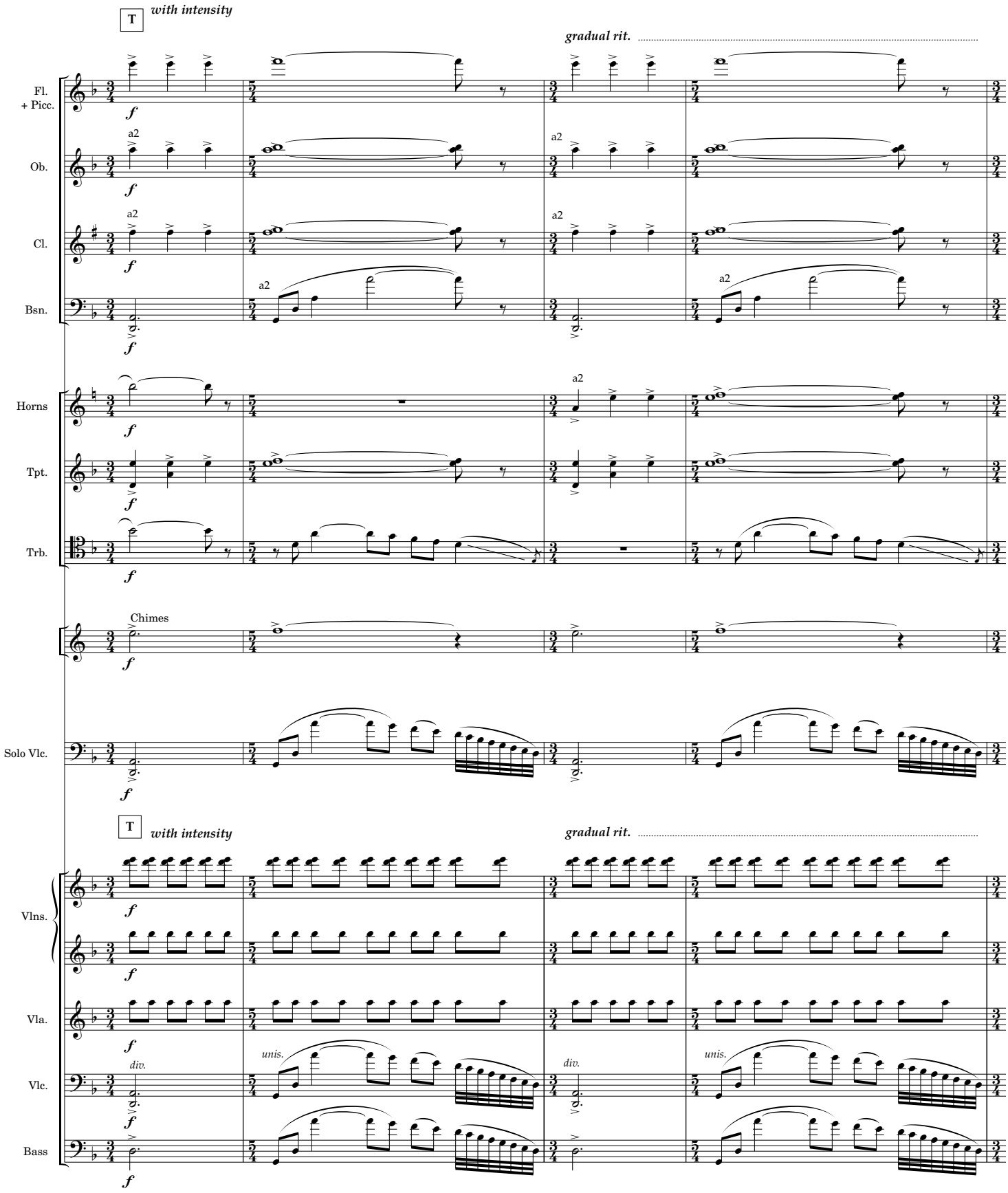

molto rit.
Fl.2 to Piccolo
G.P.
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
a2
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Timp.
mf
f
Solo Vlc.
gliss.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass

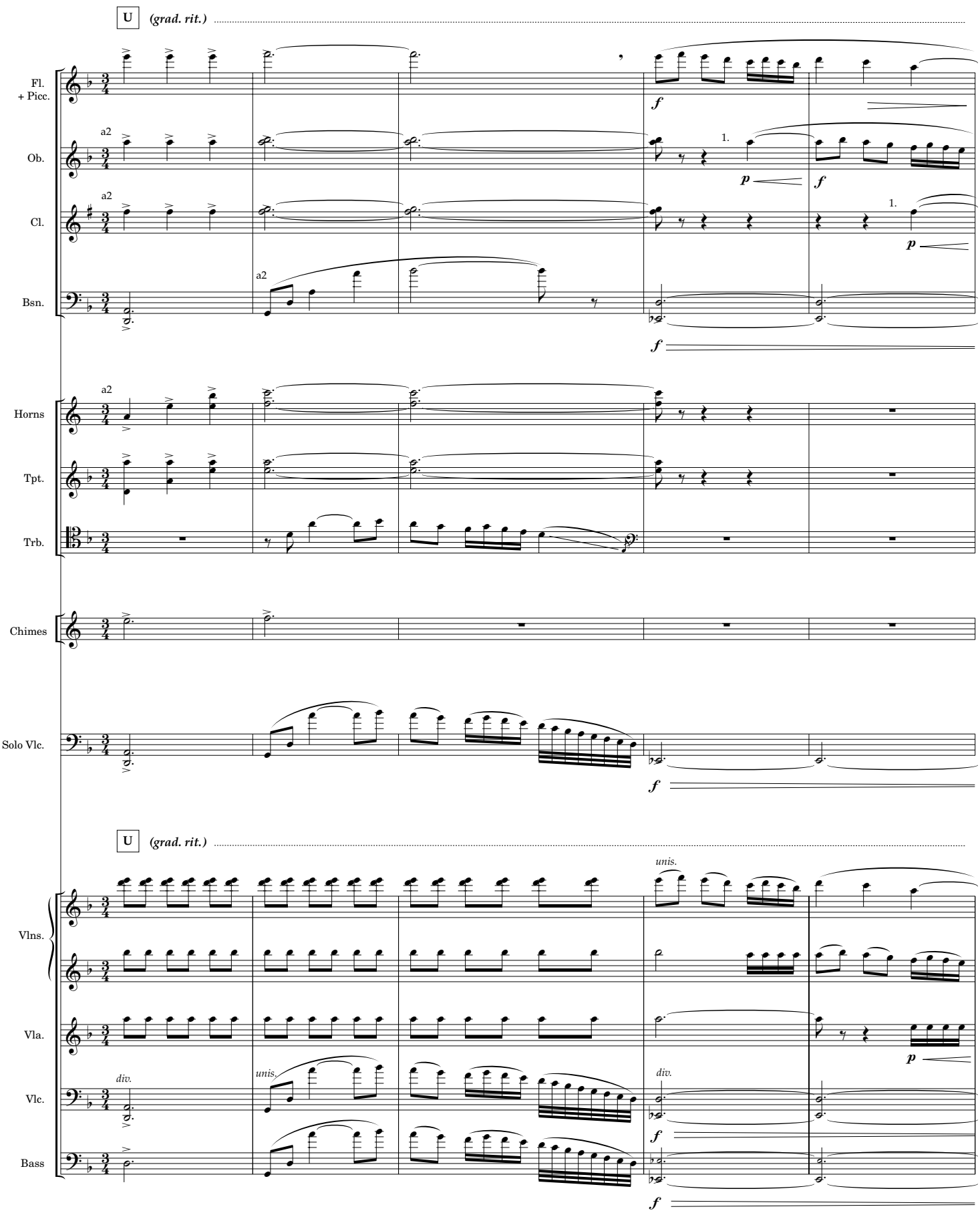

P
Quickly ♩= 116
Q
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Tambourine
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
straight mute
pizz.
arco
lightly
1.
2.

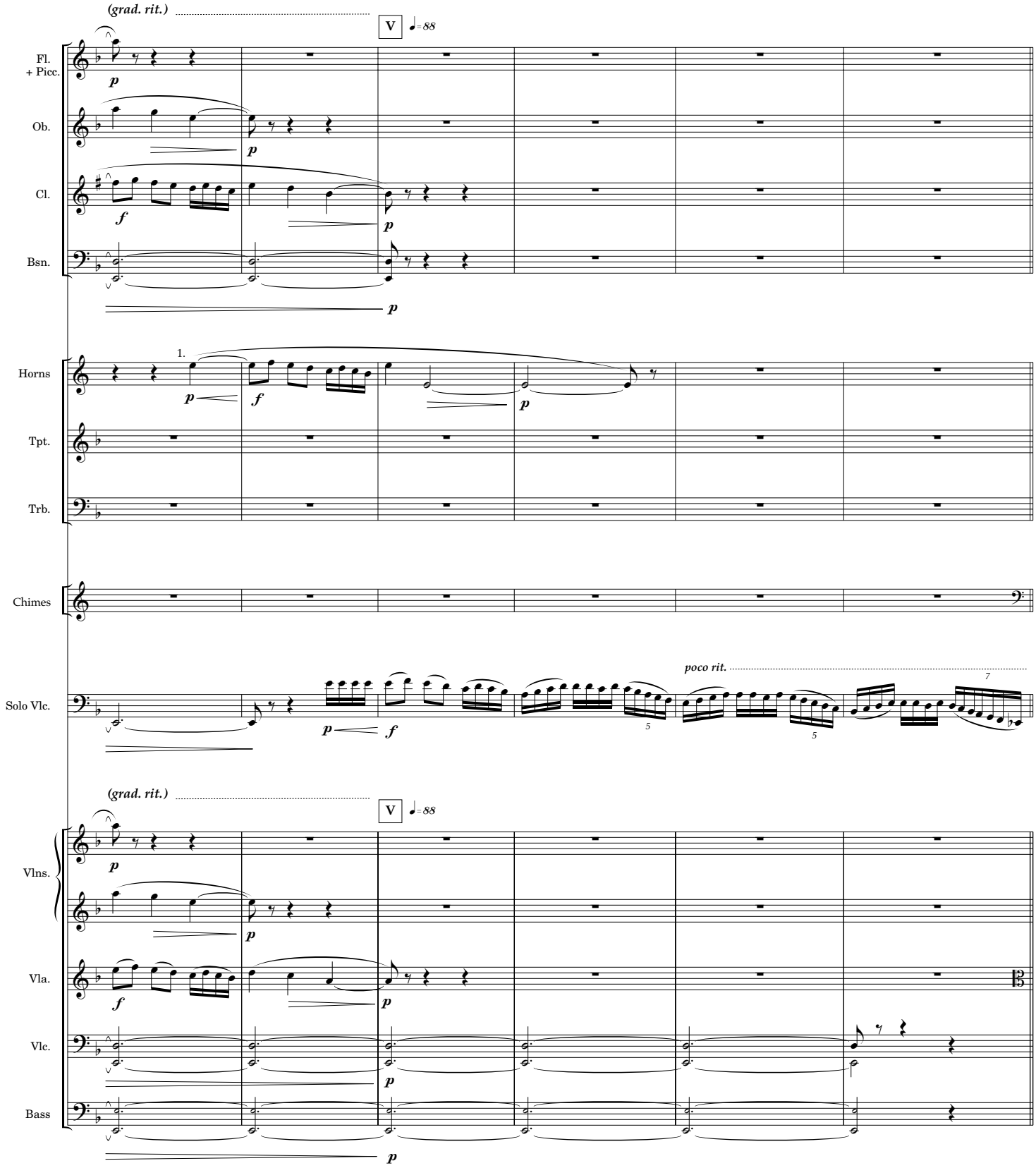

R
Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Tamb.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
p
mf
a2
2.
senza sord.
arco

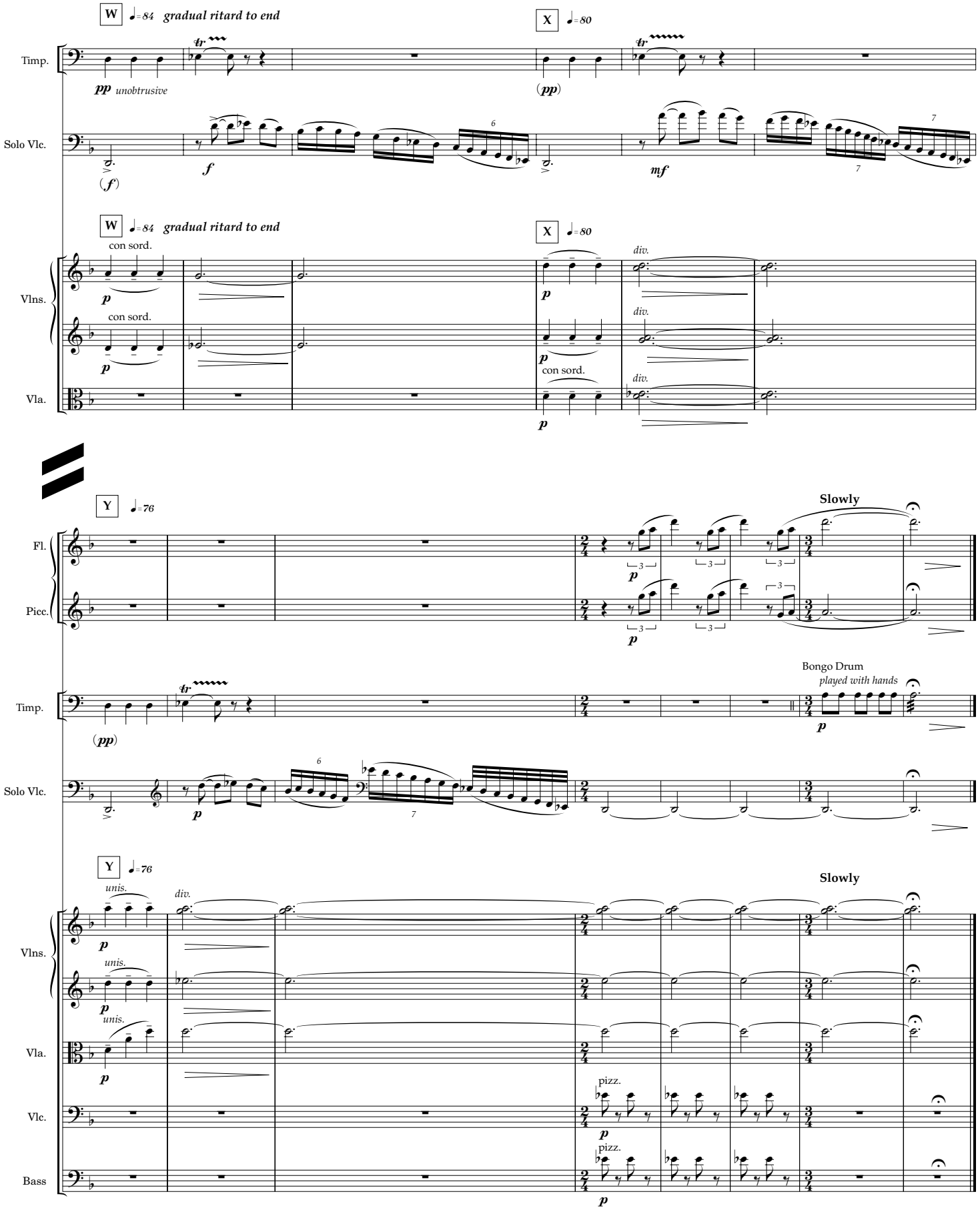

S
Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Tamb.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
a2
p
mf
gruffly
div.


Fl.
+ Picc.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Tamb.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
a2
div.
unis.


T
with intensity
gradual rit.
Fl.
+ Picc.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Chimes
Solo Vlc.
T
with intensity
gradual rit.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
a2
div.
unis.
f

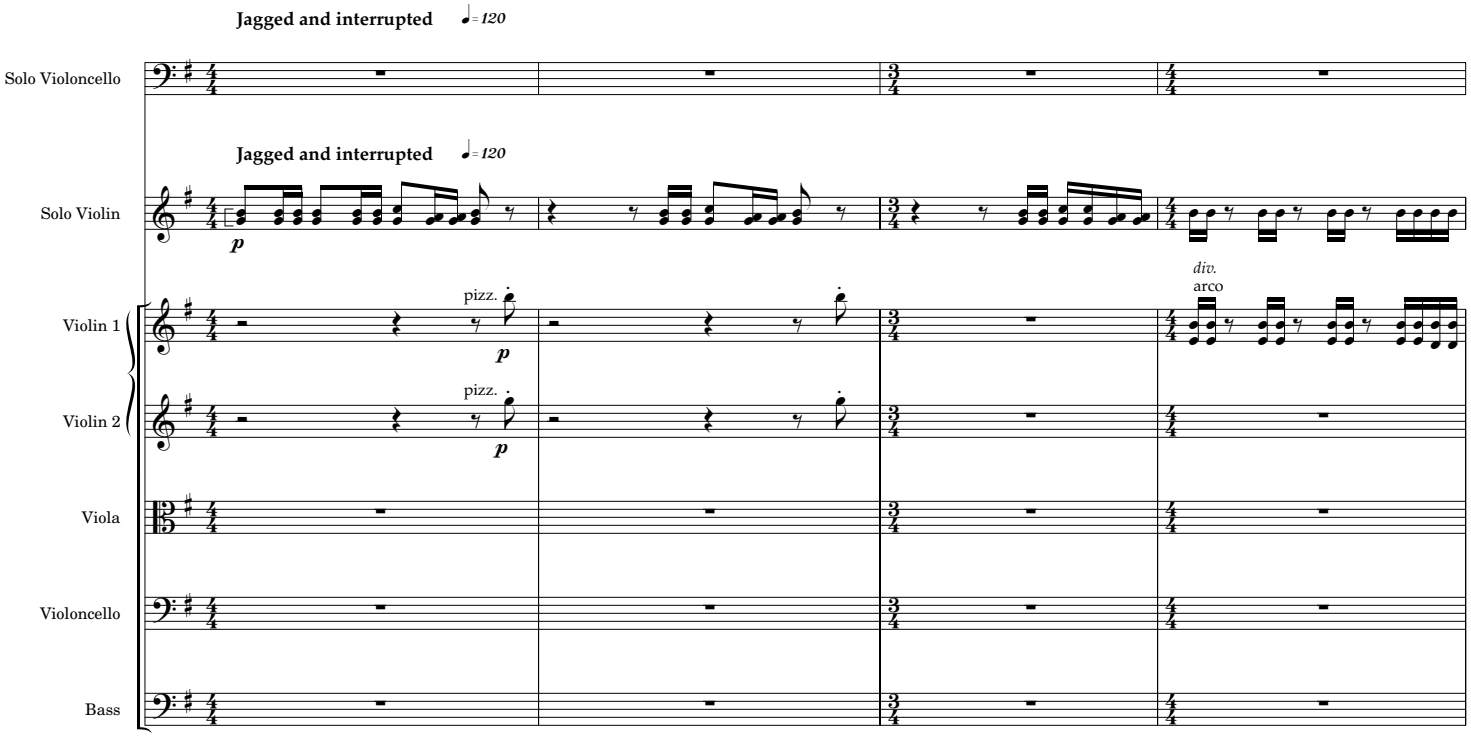

U
(grad. rit.)
Fl.
+ Picc.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Chimes
Solo Vlc.
U
(grad. rit.)
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
a2
div.
unis.
f
p
1.

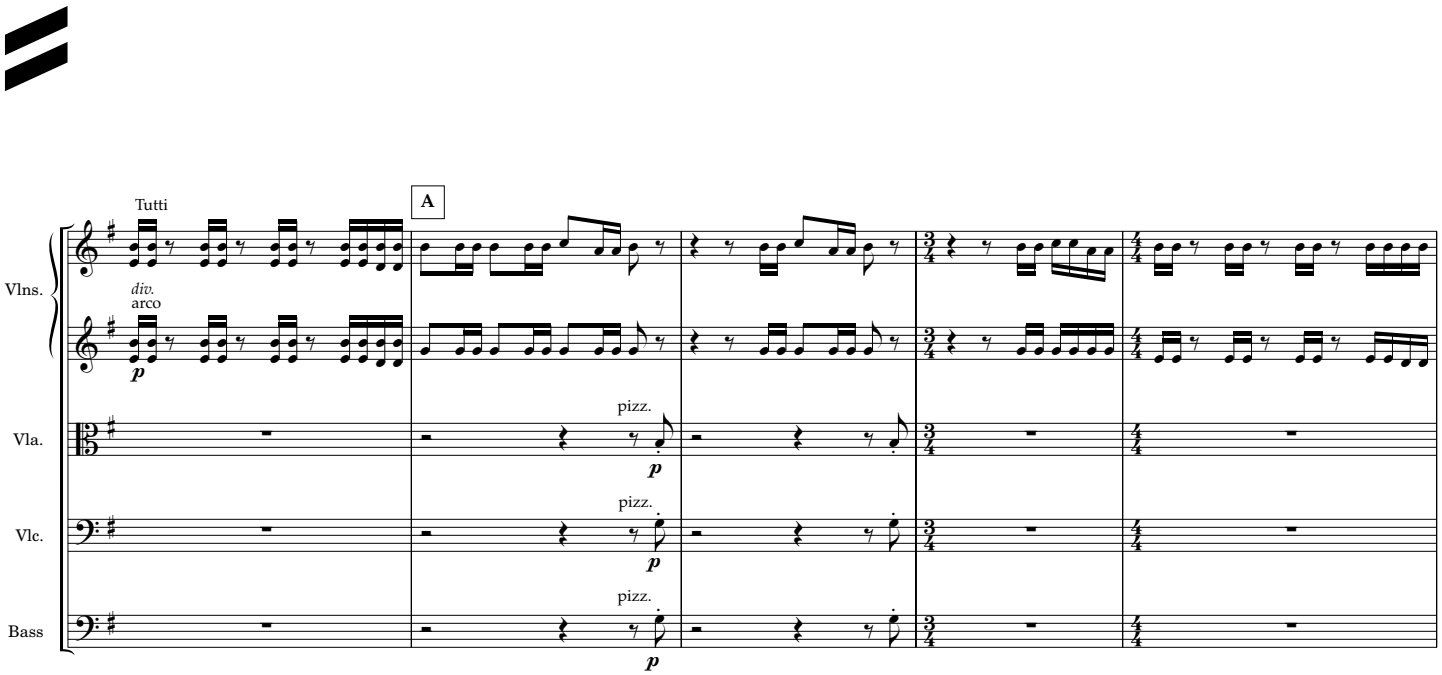

(grad. rit.)
V
♩= 88
Fl. + Picc.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Chimes
Solo Vlc.
poco rit.
(grad. rit.)
V
♩= 88
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass

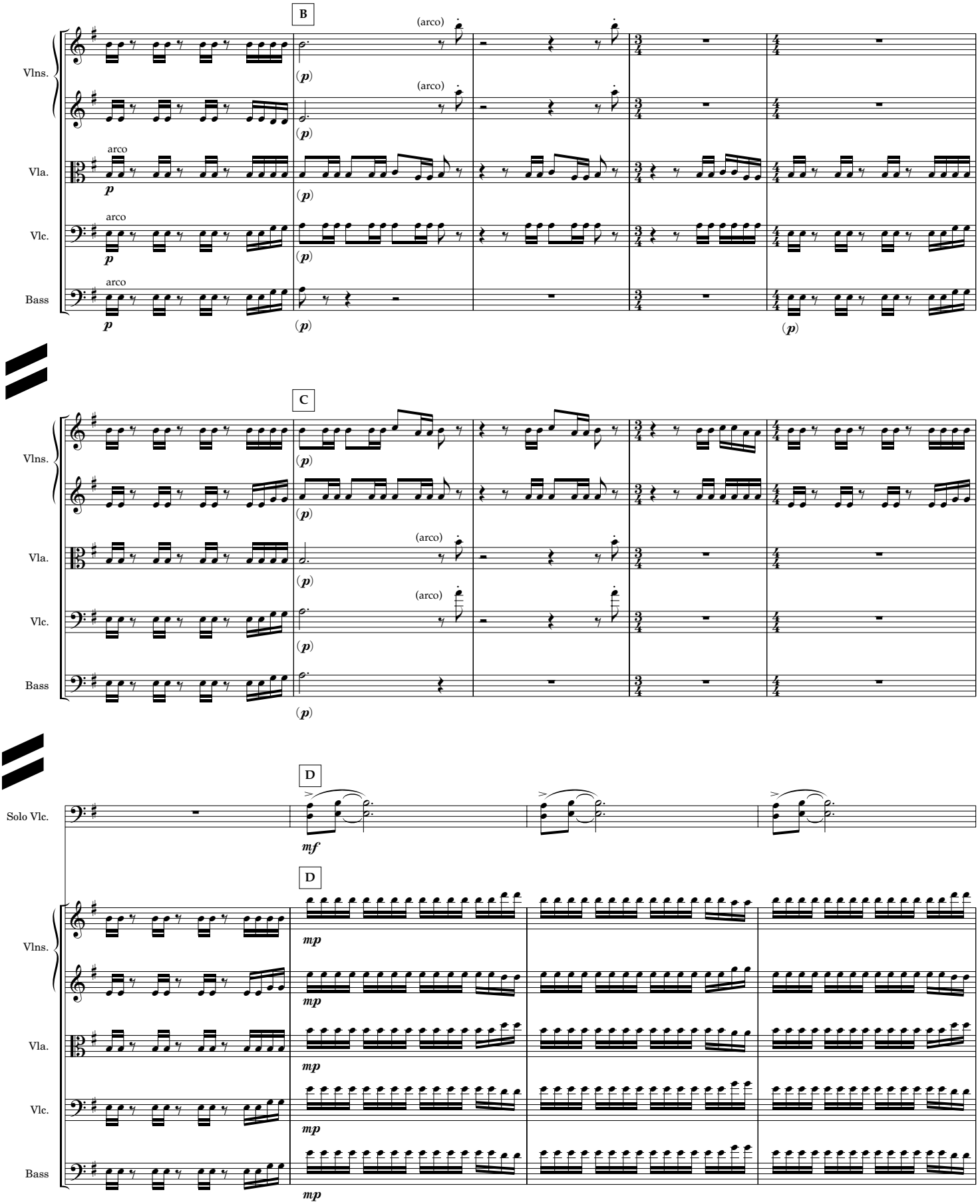


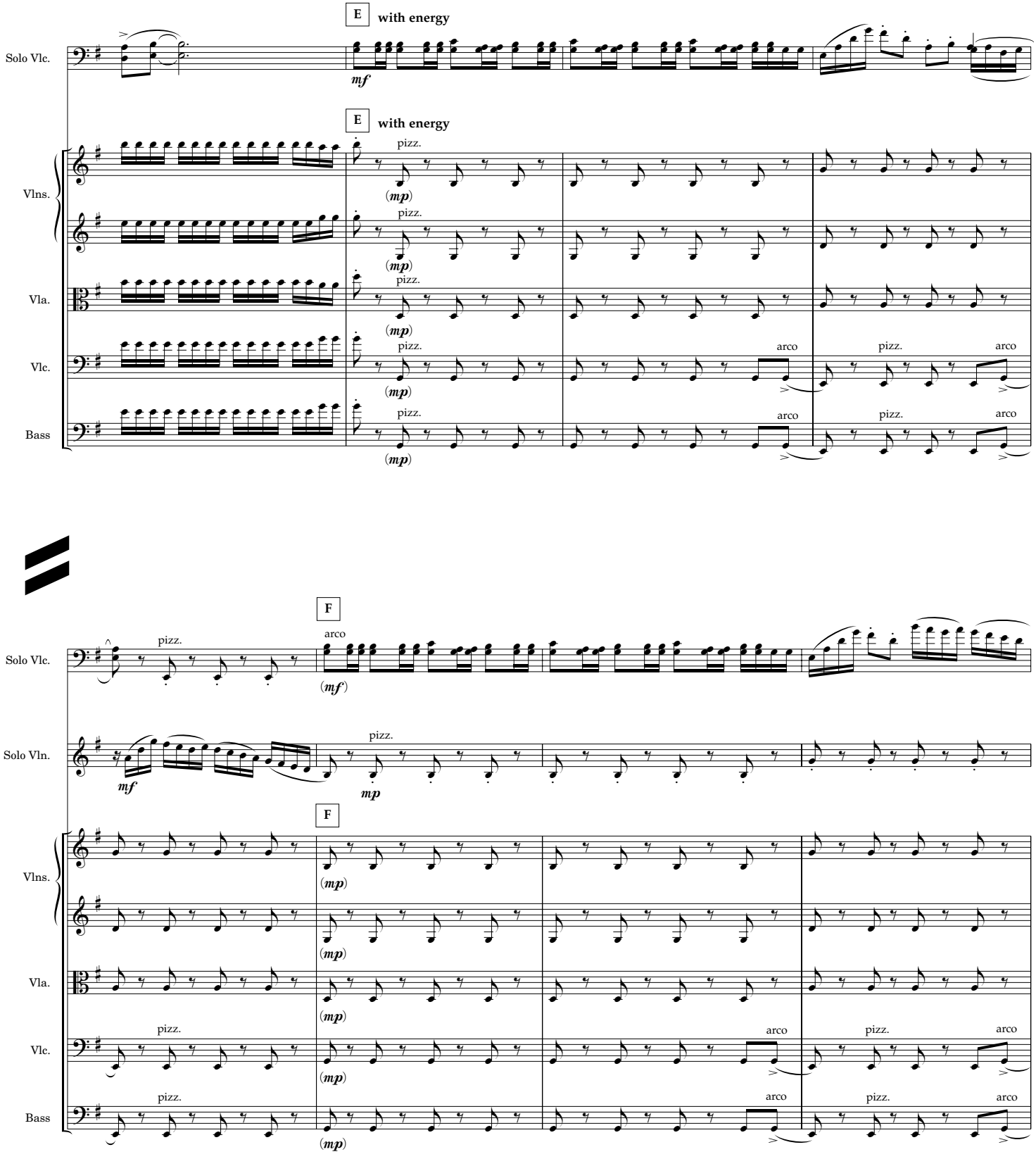
Duration: 4'30"

III. Arc in the Sky

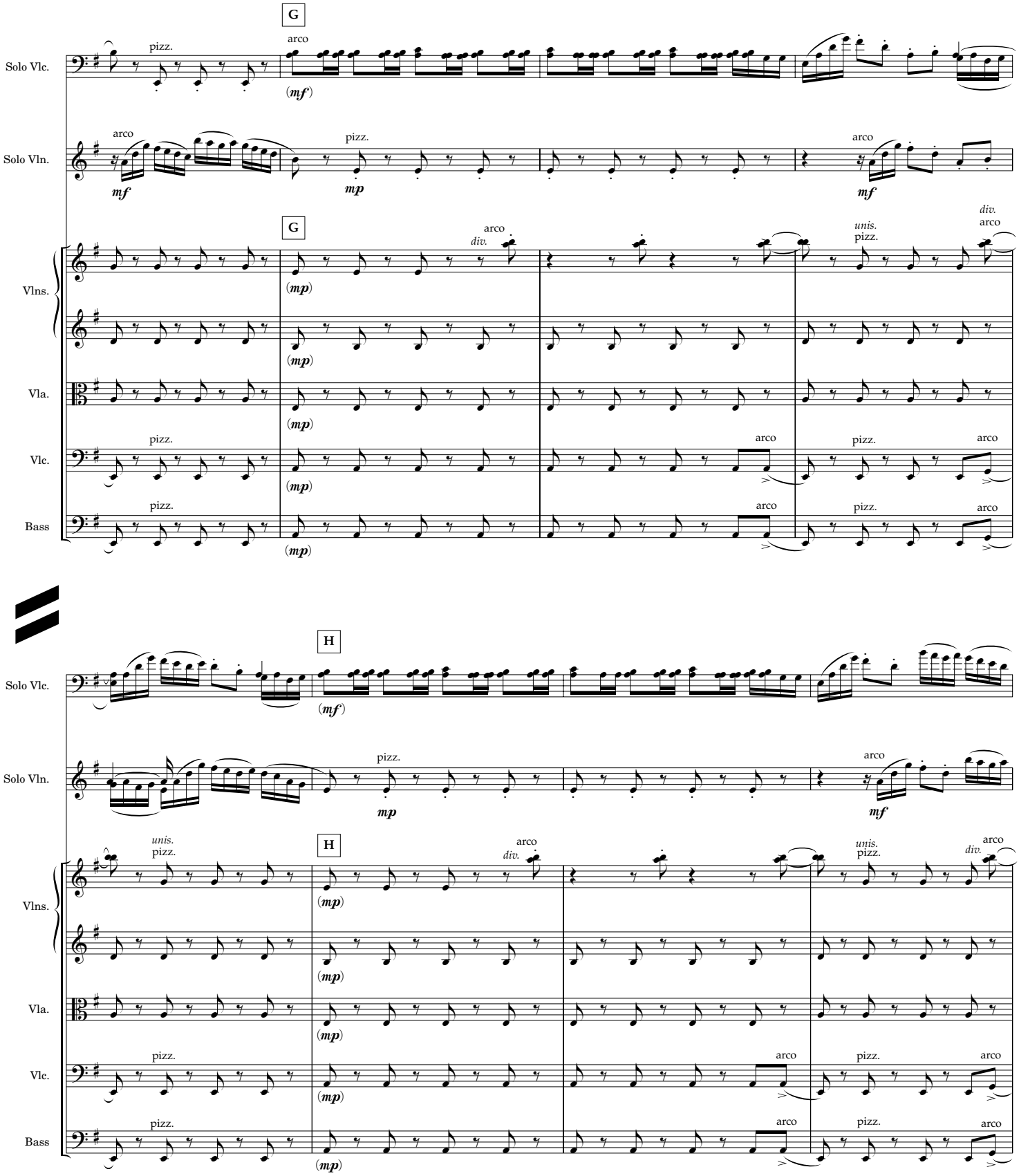


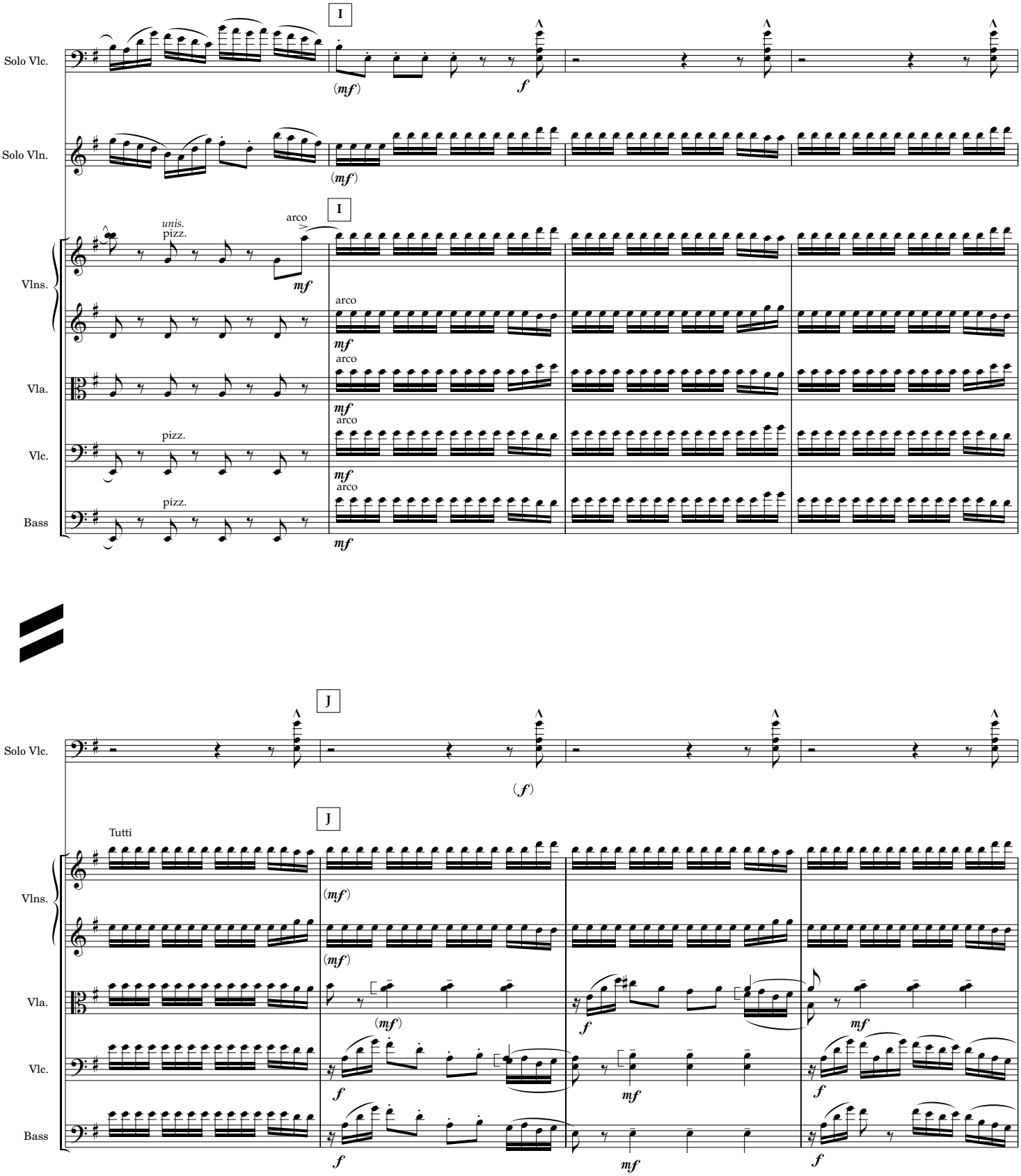


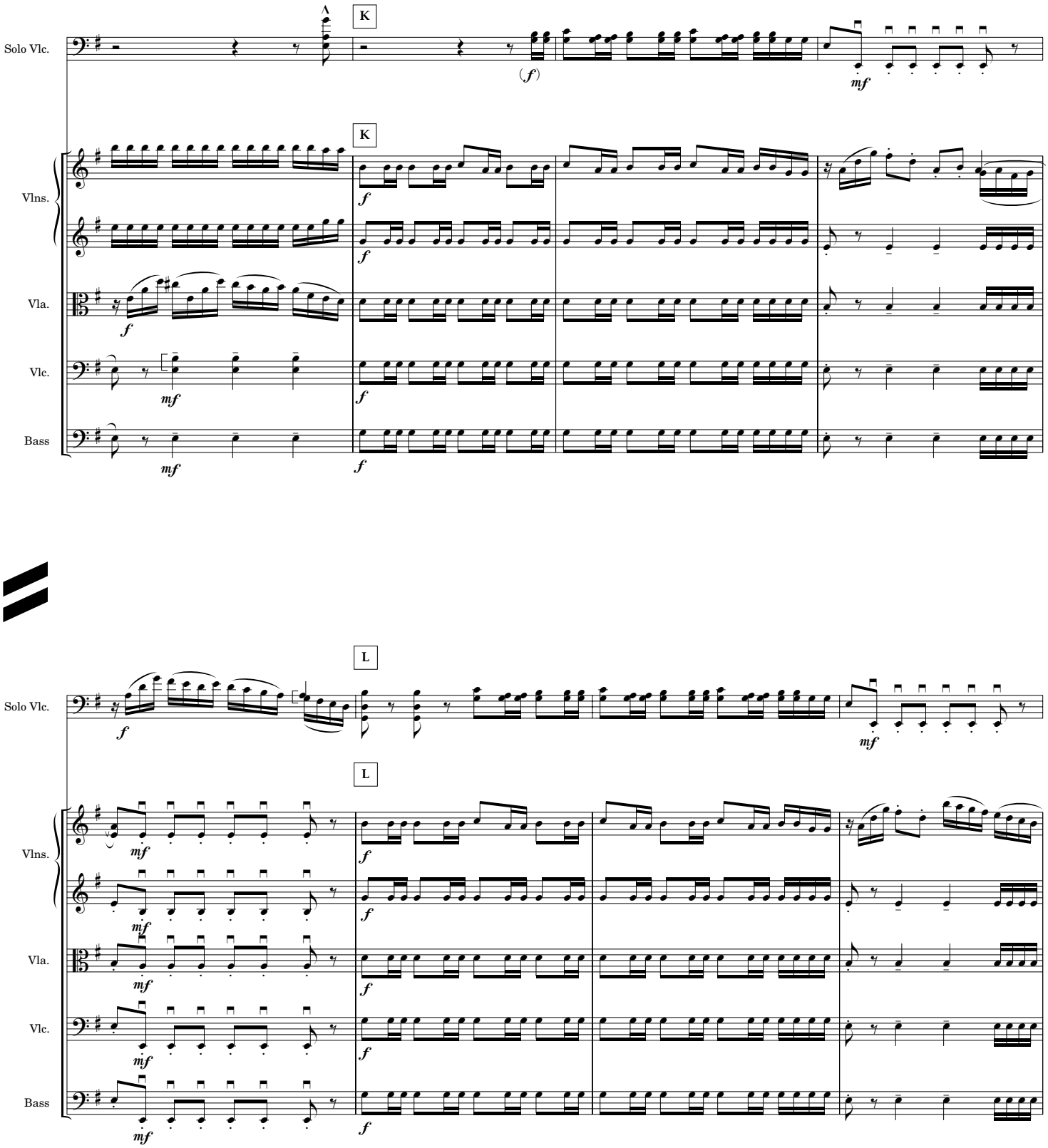

B
C
D
D
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
Solo Vlc.
arco
(arco)
p
(p)
mf
mp

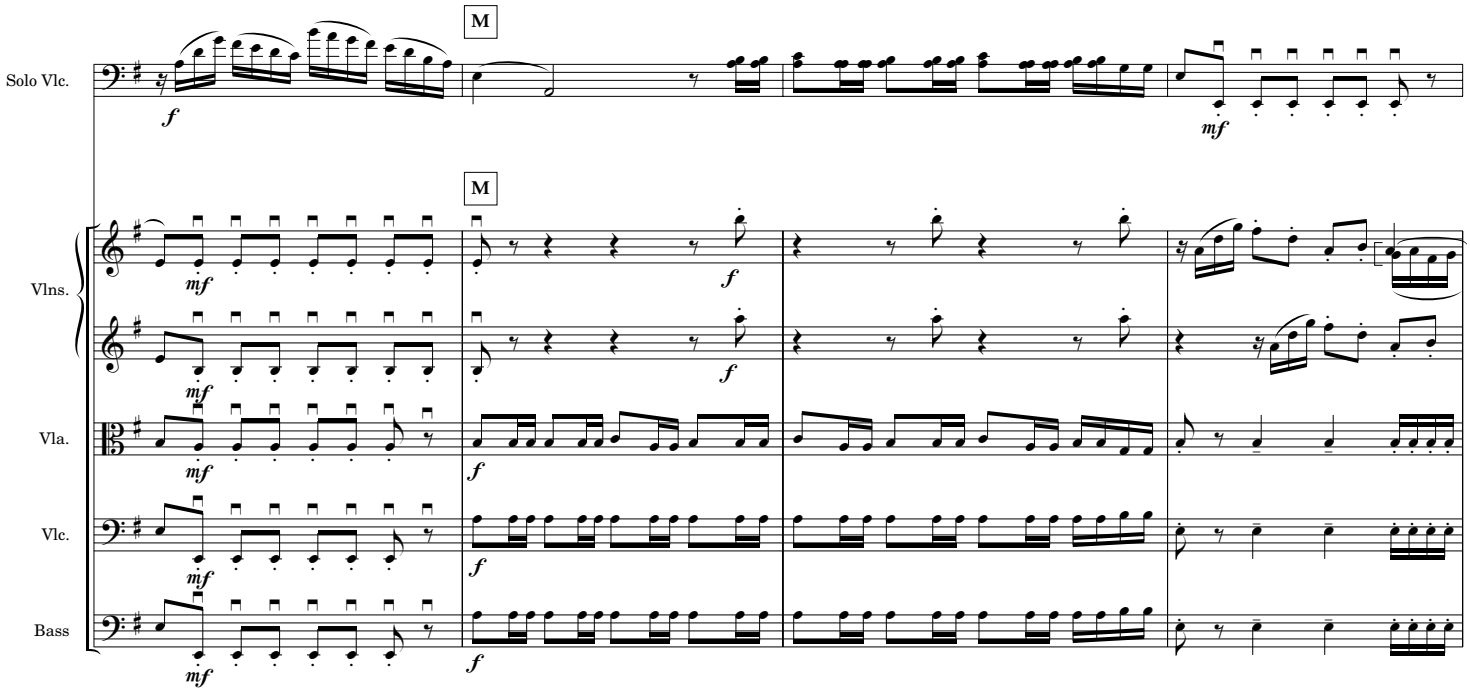

E
with energy
Solo Vlc.
mf
E
with energy
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
pizz.
(mp)
arco

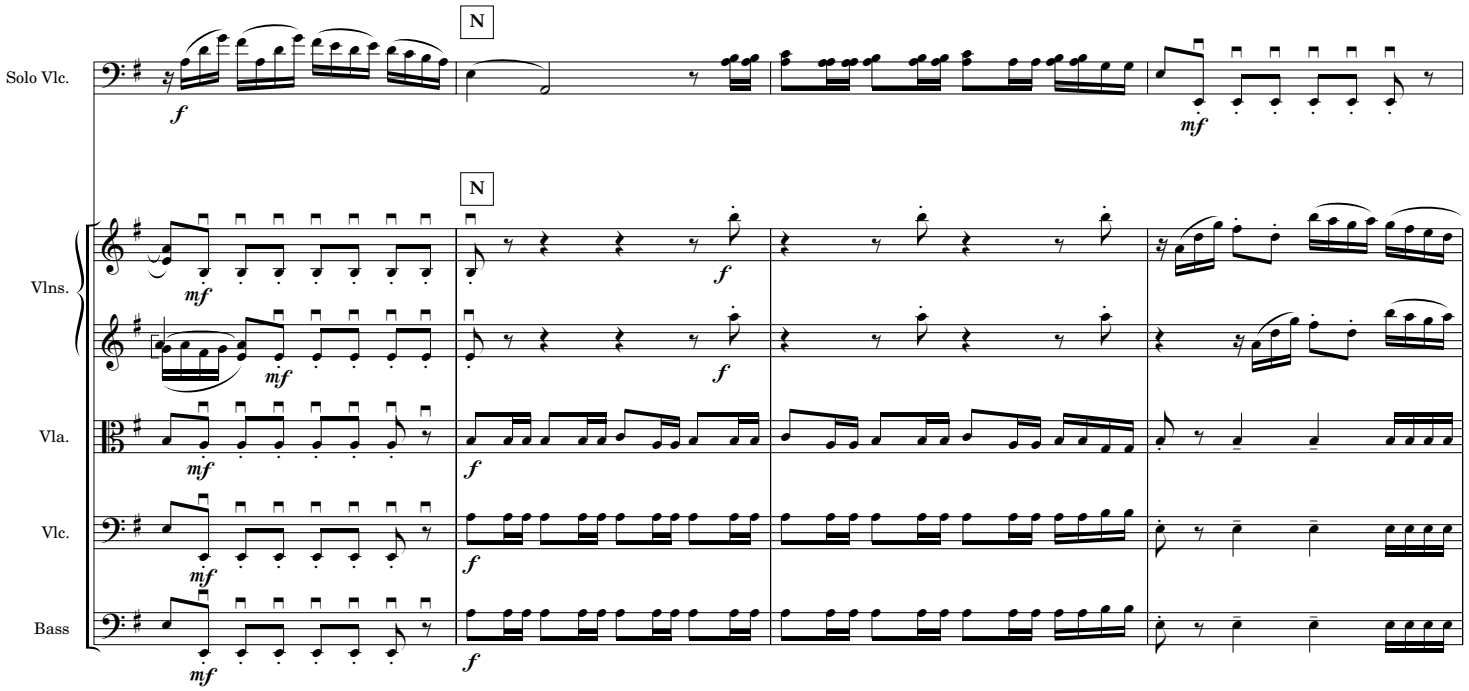
F
Solo Vlc.
Solo Vln.
arco
pizz.
(mf)
mf
mp
F
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
(mp)
arco

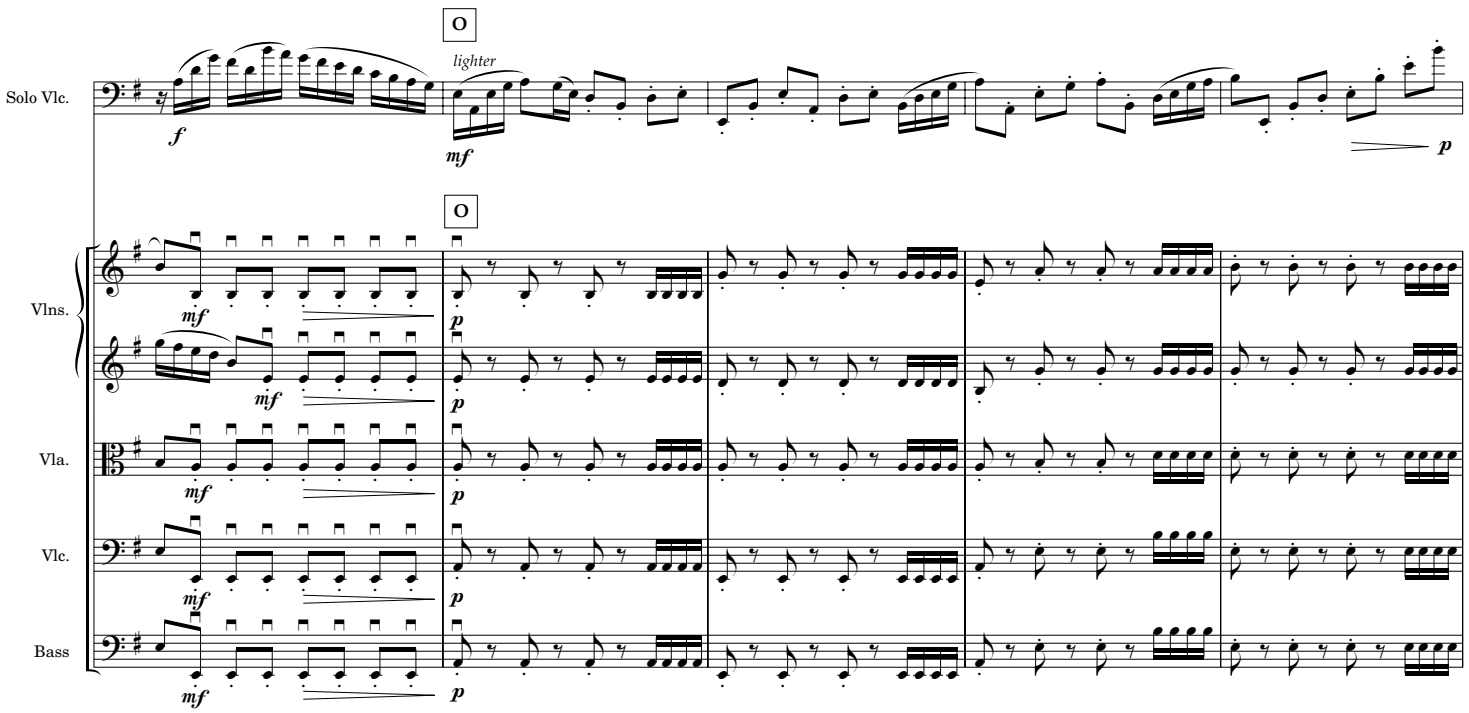

G
Solo Vlc.
pizz.
arco
(mf)
Solo Vln.
arco
mf
pizz.
mp
arco
mf
G
Vlns.
arco
div.
(mp)
unis.
pizz.
div.
arco
Vla.
Vlc.
pizz.
arco
Bass
H
Solo Vlc.
Solo Vln.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass

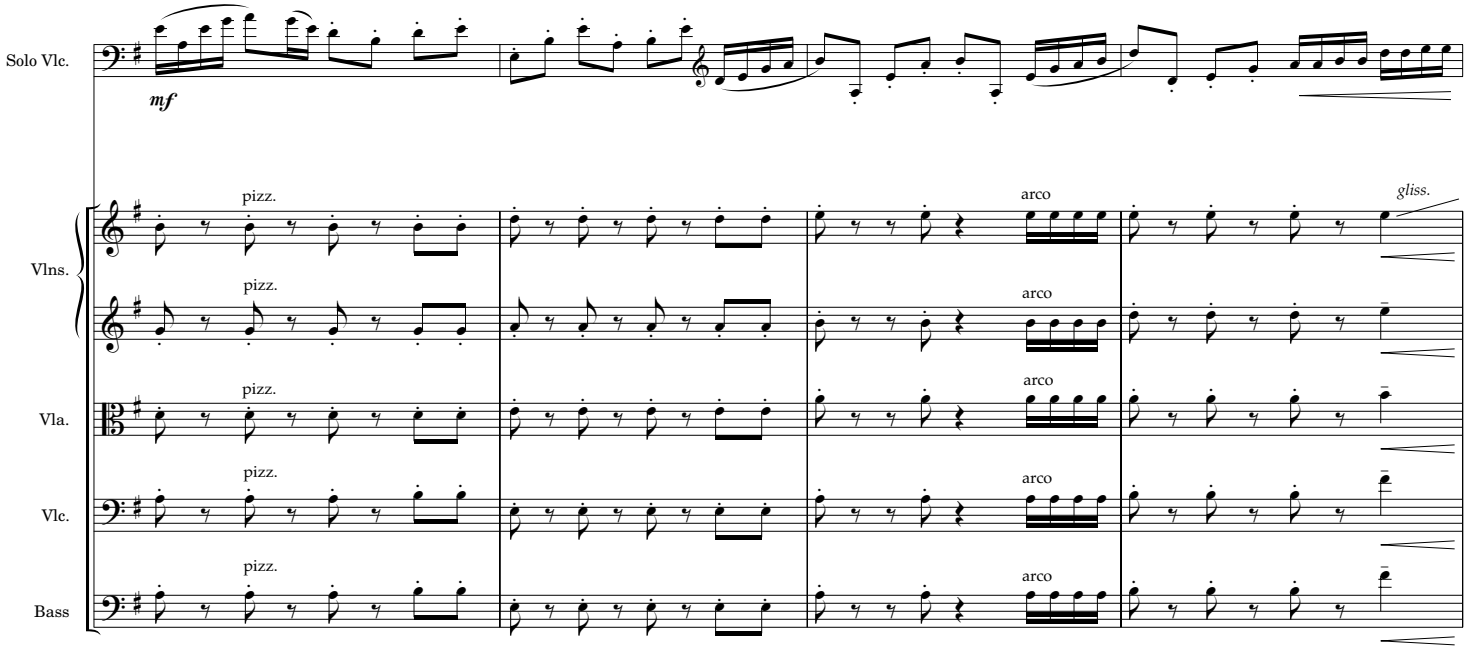

I
Solo Vlc.
(mf)
f
Solo Vln.
(mf)
I
unis.
pizz.
arco
mf
Vlns.
arco
mf
Vla.
arco
mf
pizz.
Vlc.
arco
mf
pizz.
Bass
arco
mf
J
Solo Vlc.
(f)
J
Tutti
Vlns.
(mf)
(mf)
Vla.
(mf)
f
mf
Vlc.
f
mf
f
Bass
f
mf
f

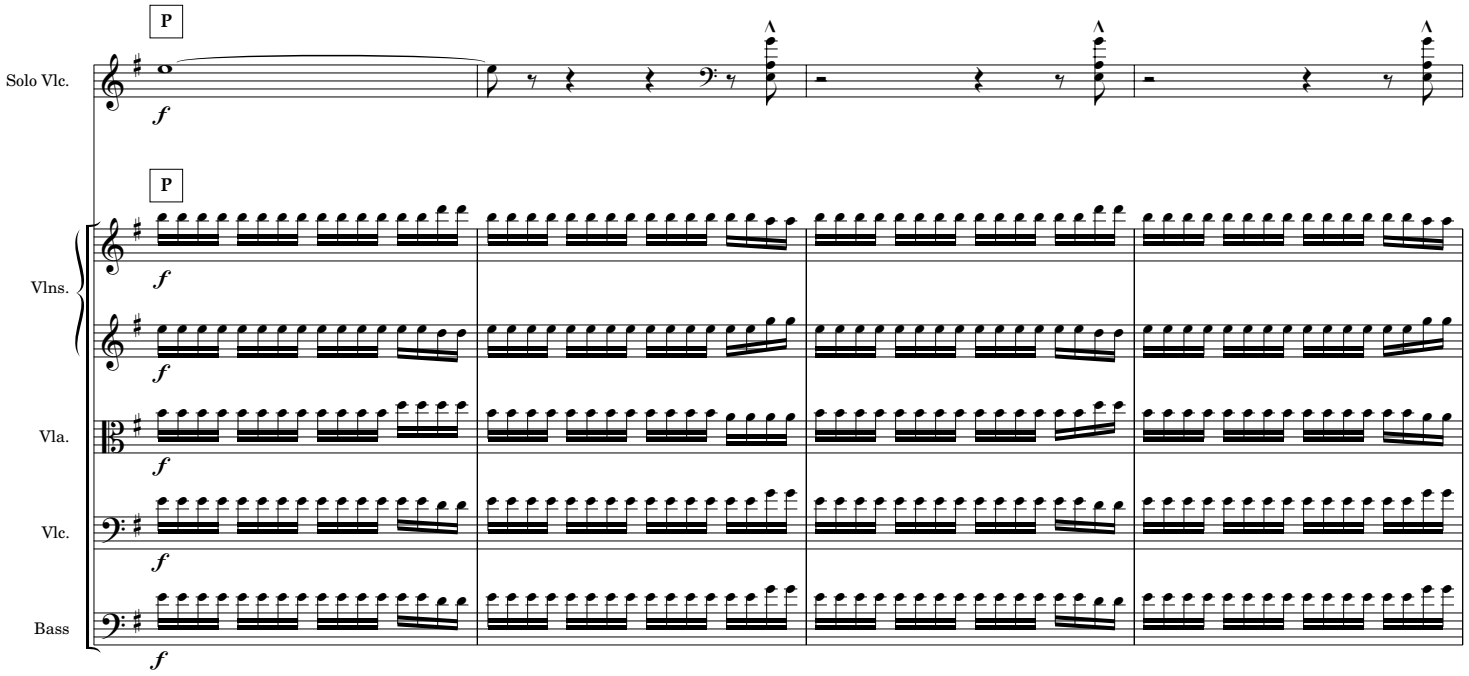

K
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
L

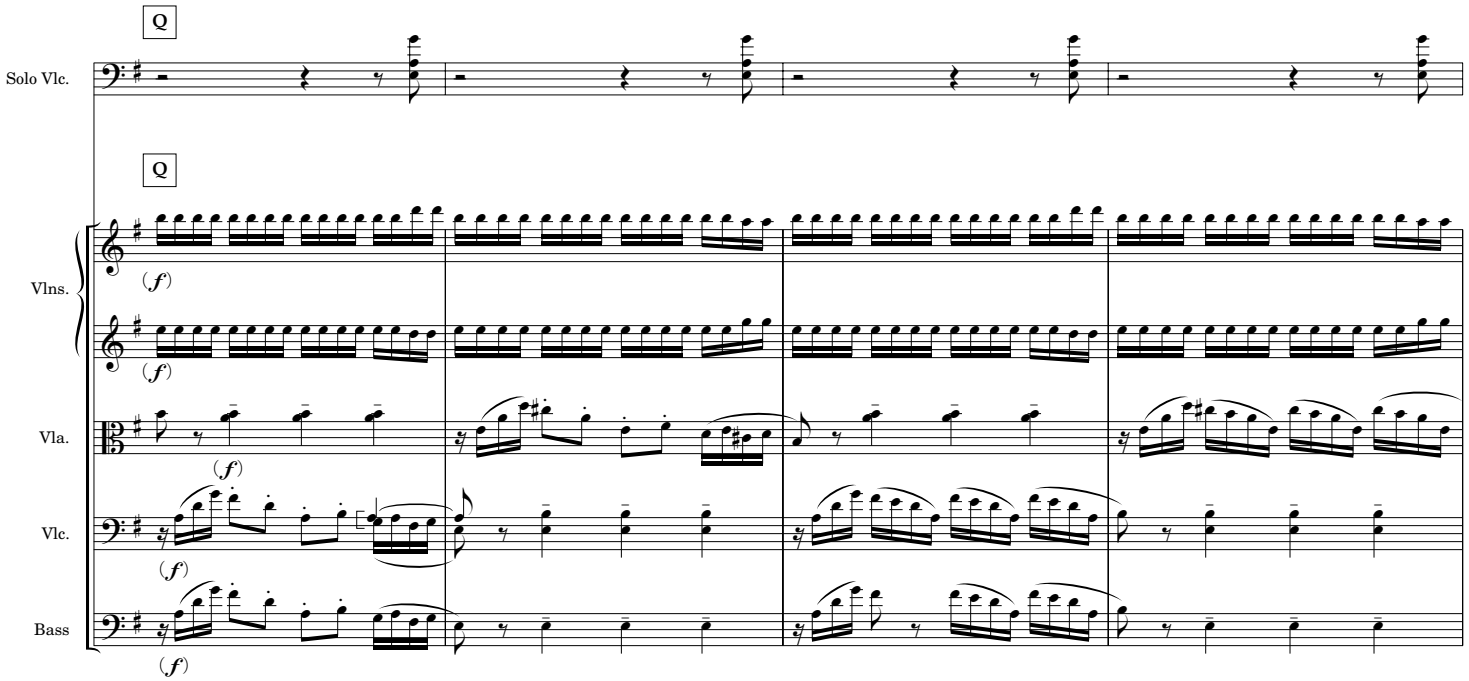

M
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
f
mf

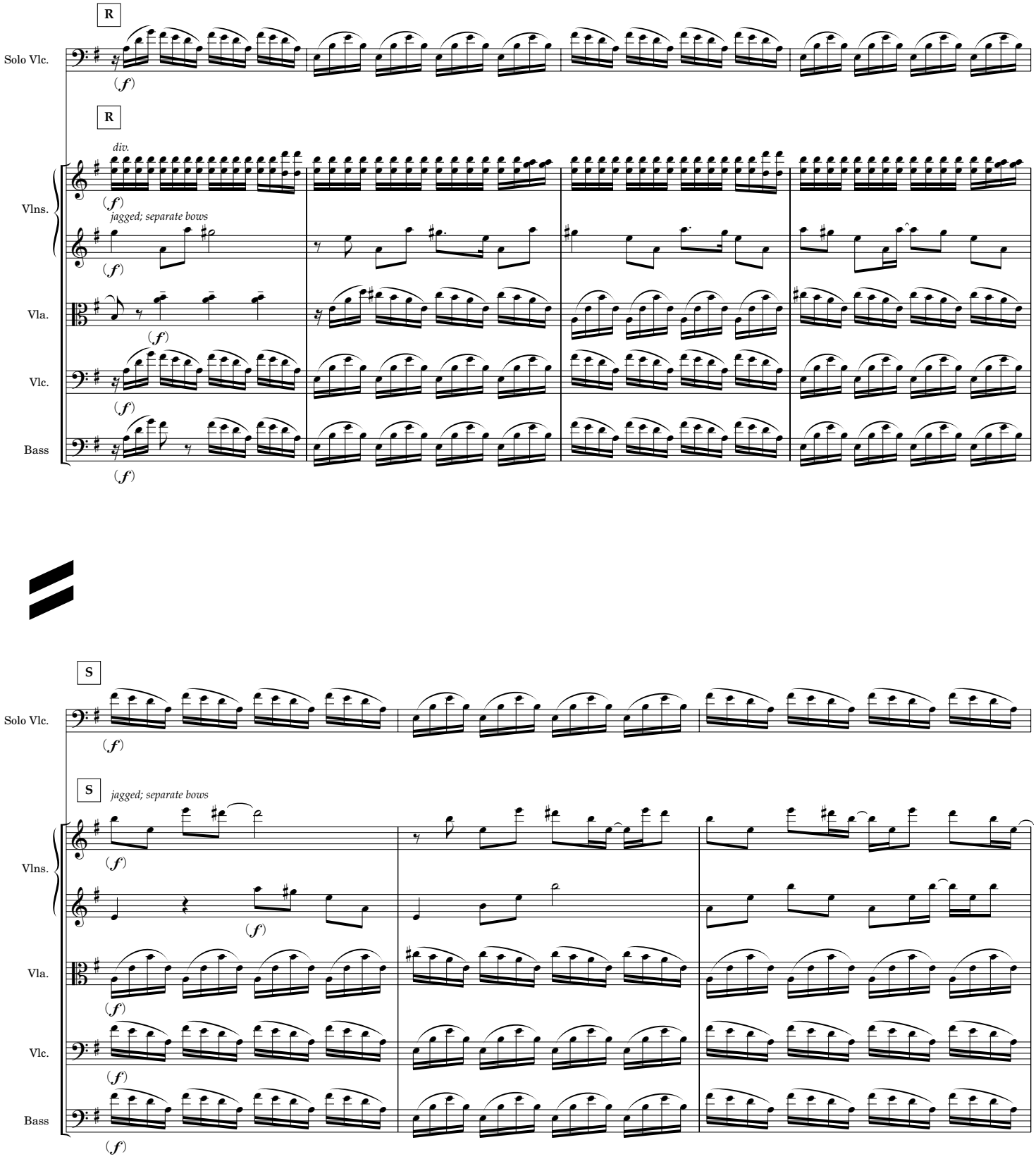

N
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
f
mf

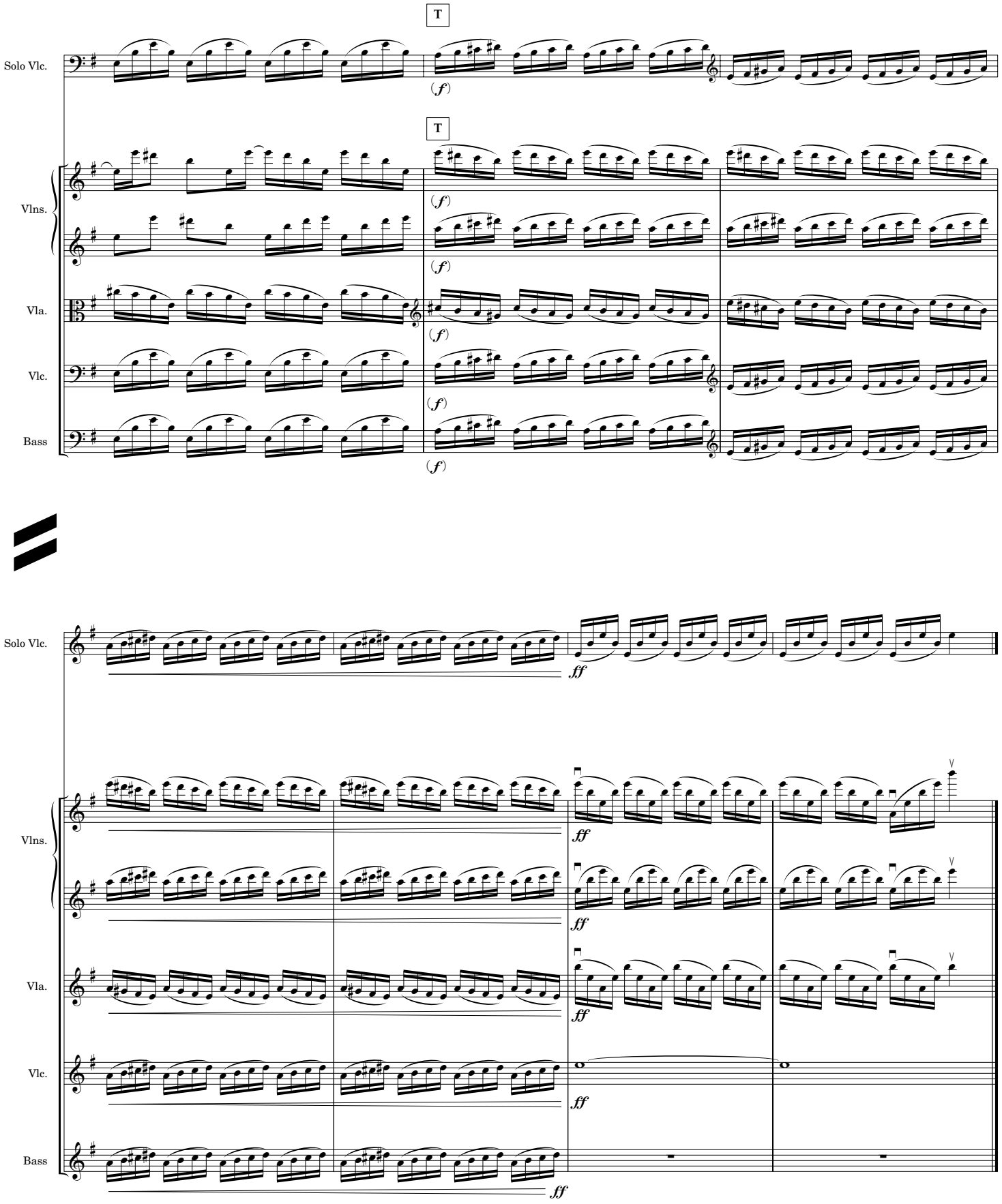

Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
lighter
f
mf
p


Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
mf
pizz.
arco
gliss.


P
Solo Vlc.
f
P
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass

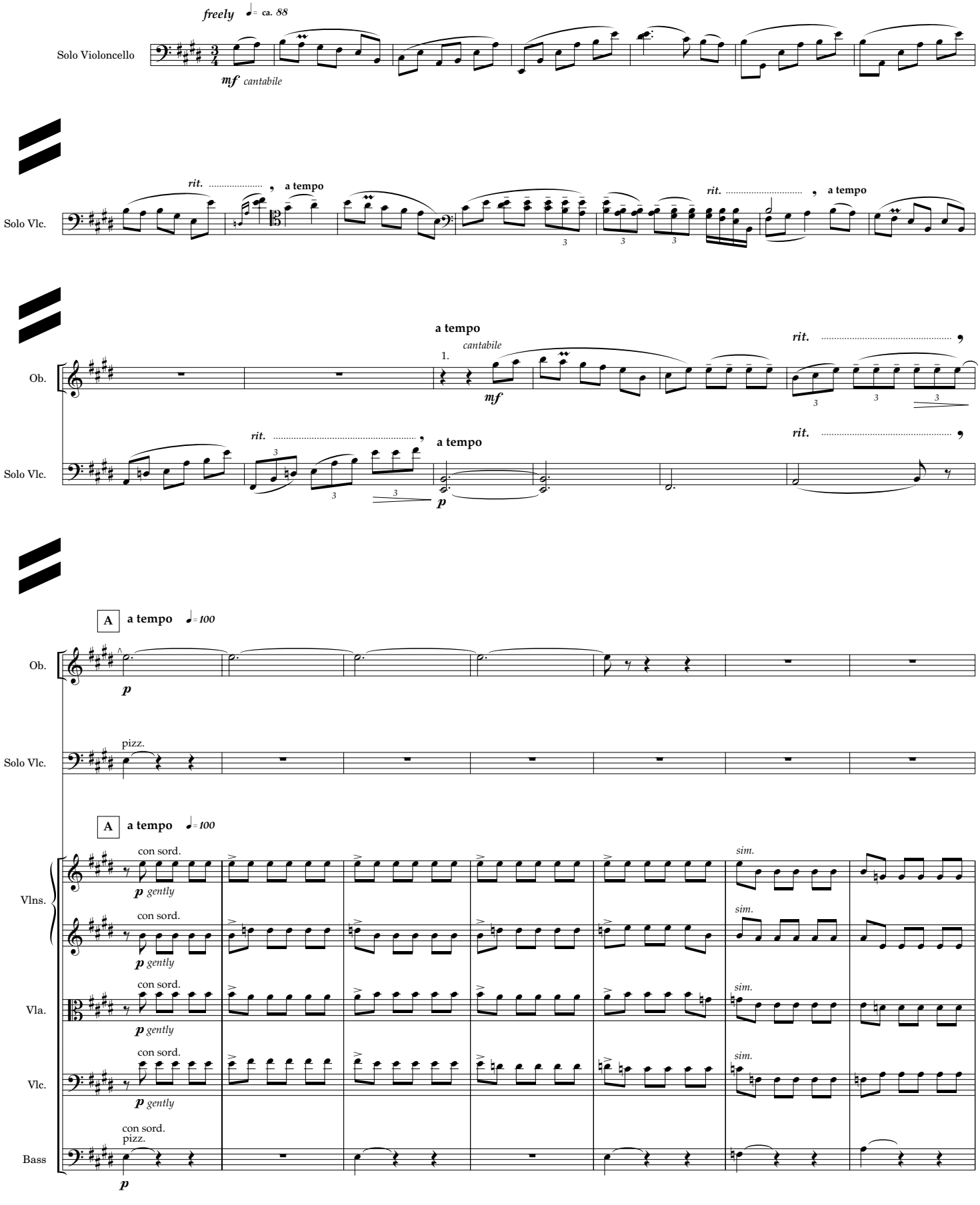

Q
Solo Vlc.
Q
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass

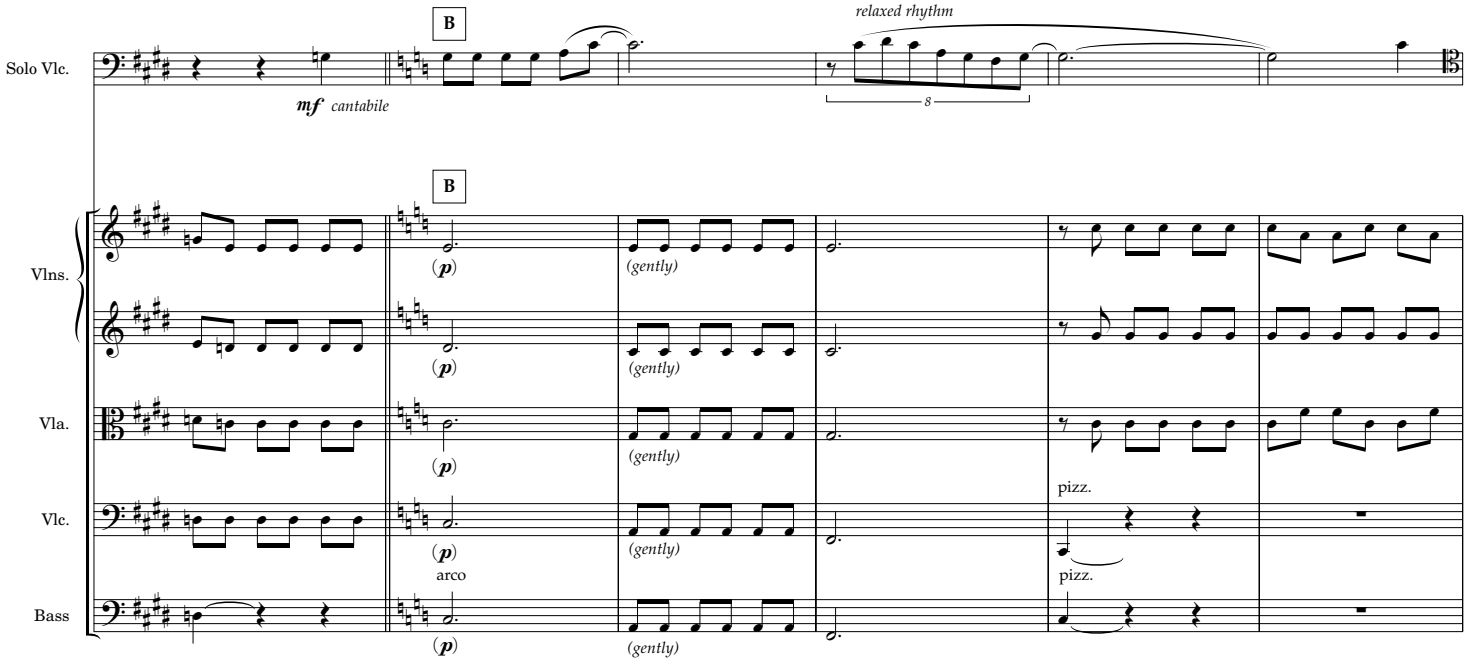

R
Solo Vlc.
(f)
R
div.
Vlns.
(f)
jagged; separate bows
(f)
Vla.
(f)
Vlc.
(f)
Bass
(f)
S
Solo Vlc.
(f)
S
jagged; separate bows
Vlns.
(f)
(f)
Vla.
(f)
Vlc.
(f)
Bass
(f)

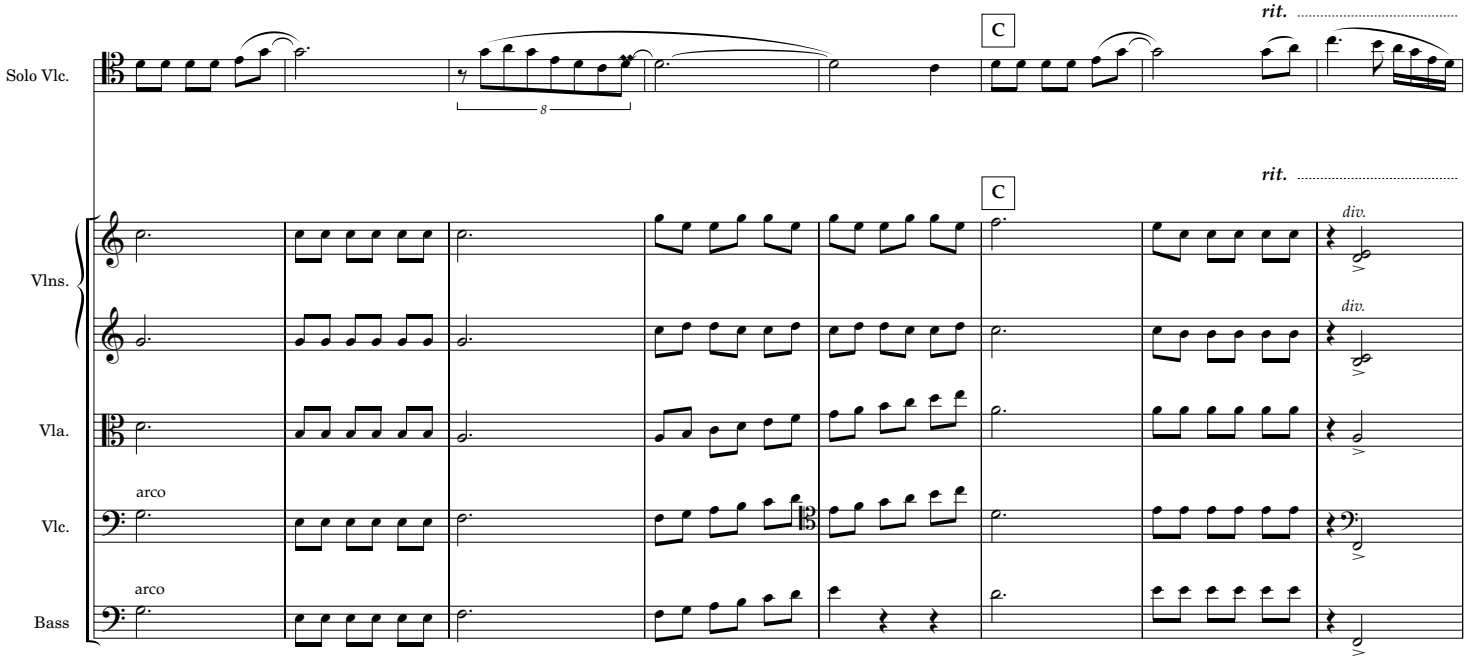


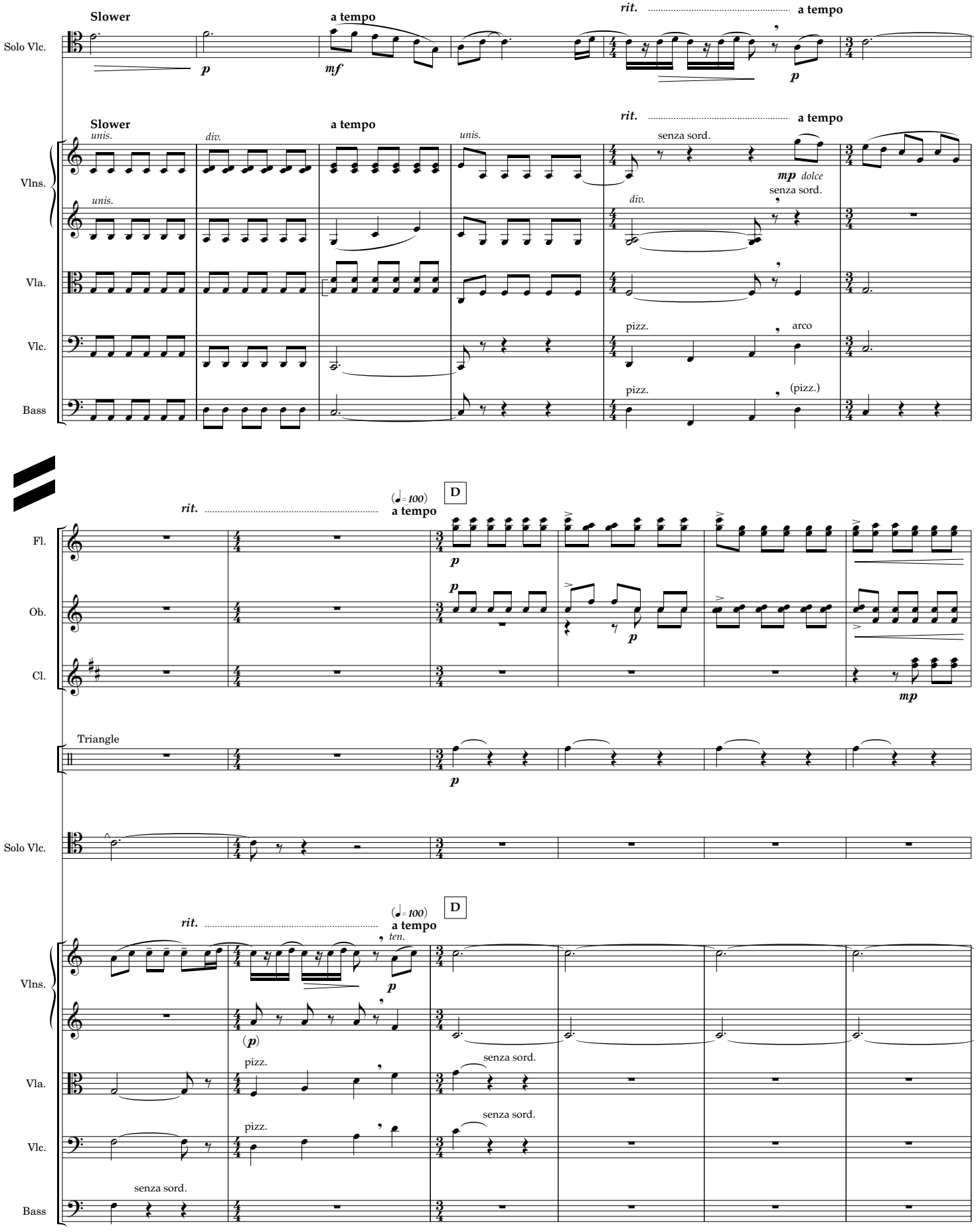
Duration: 3′30″

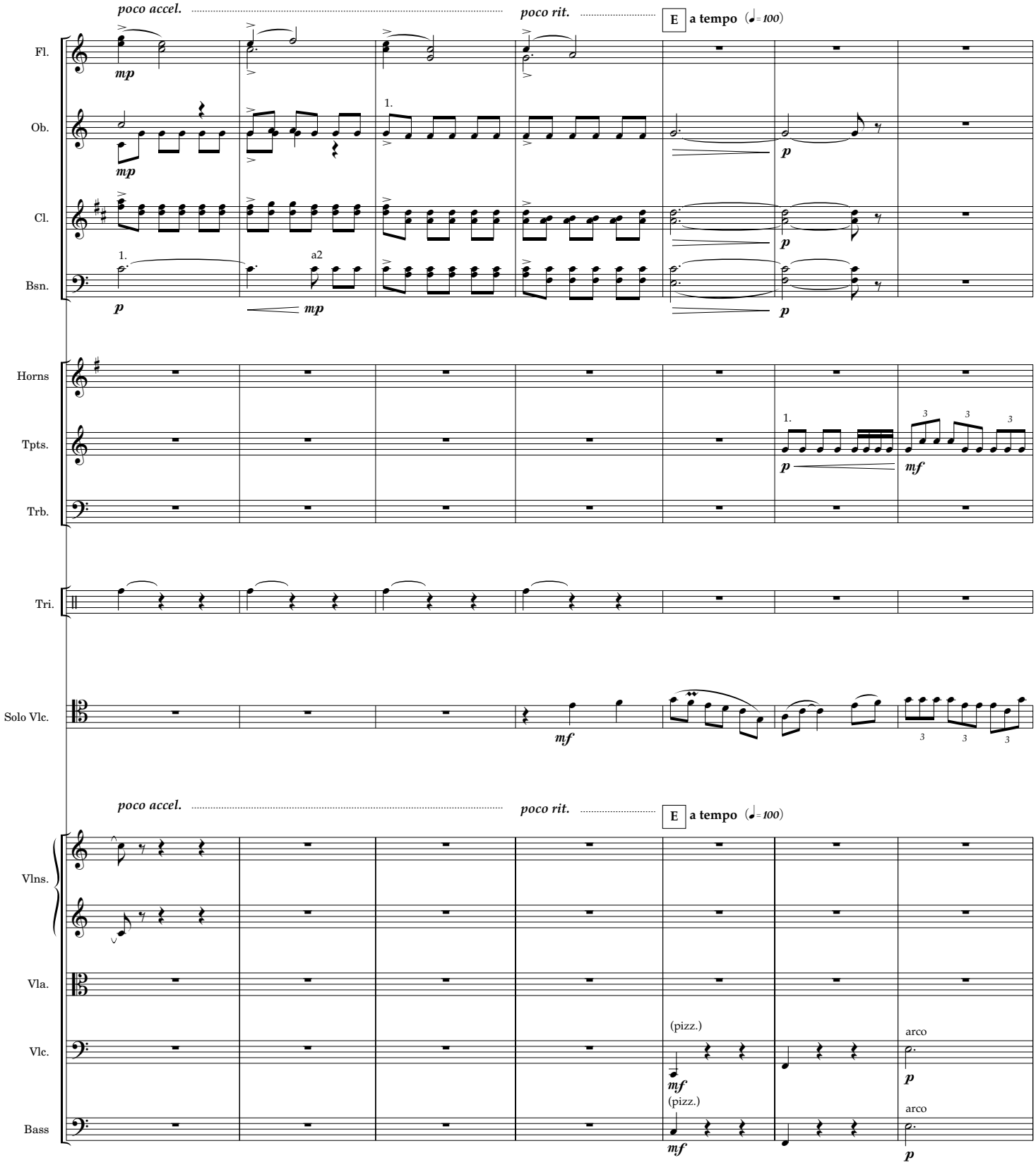
IV. No Cryin'

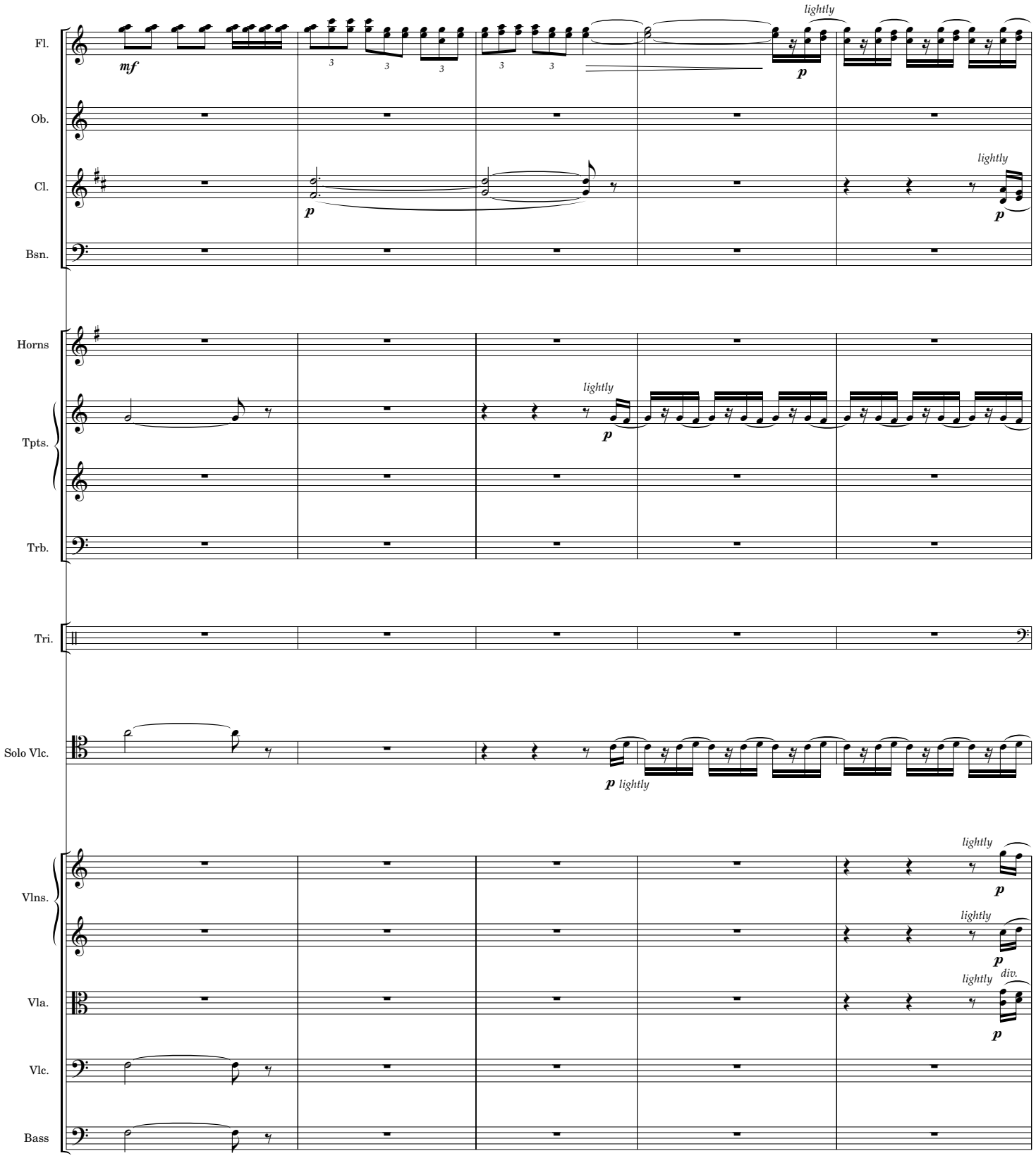

freely ♩= ca. 88
Solo Violoncello
mf cantabile
rit.
a tempo
Solo Vlc.
Ob.
1.
cantabile
mf
p
A
a tempo ♩= 100
pizz.
con sord.
p gently
sim.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass

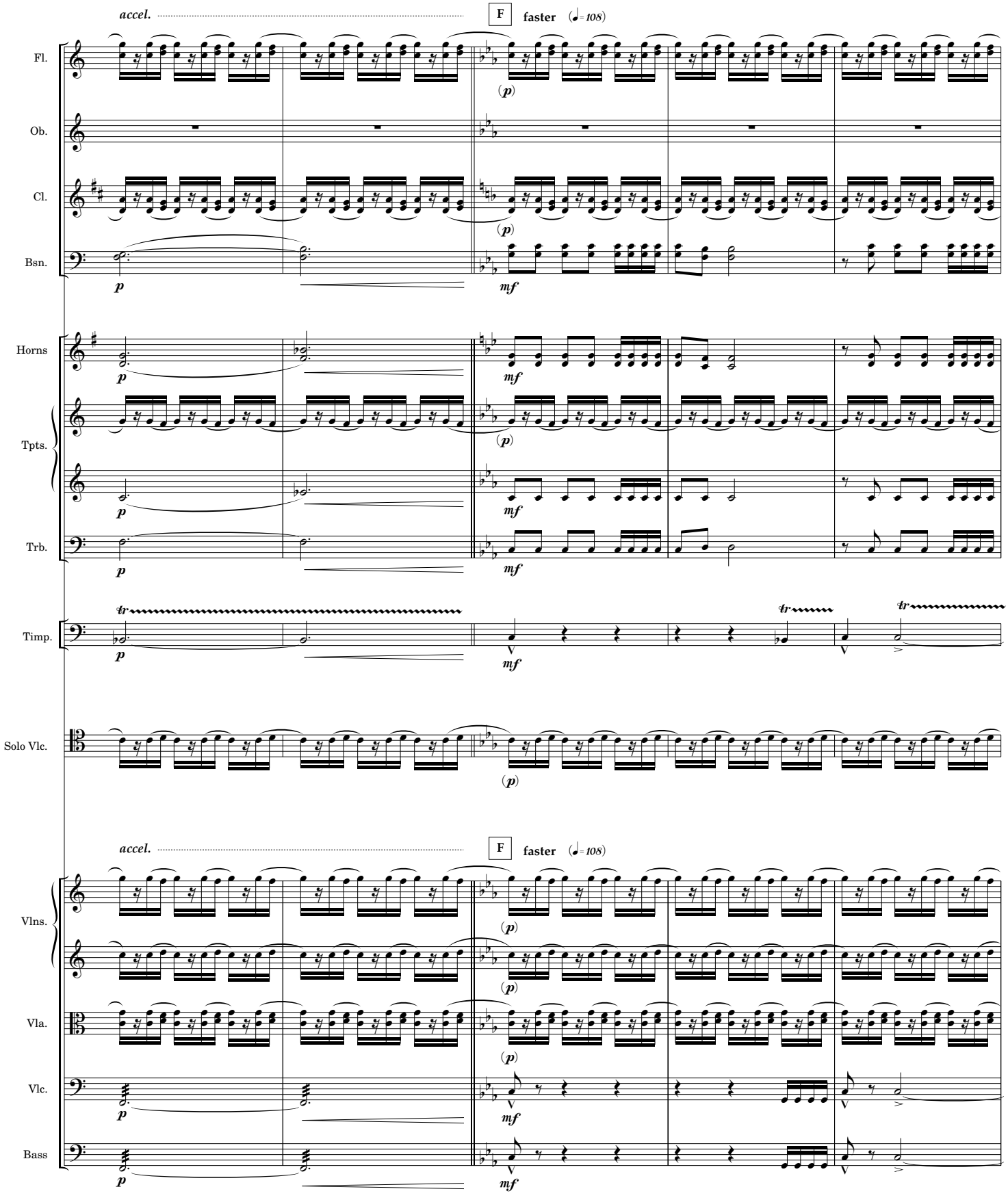

Solo Vlc.
B
relaxed rhythm
mf cantabile
8
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
(p)
(gently)
arco
pizz.

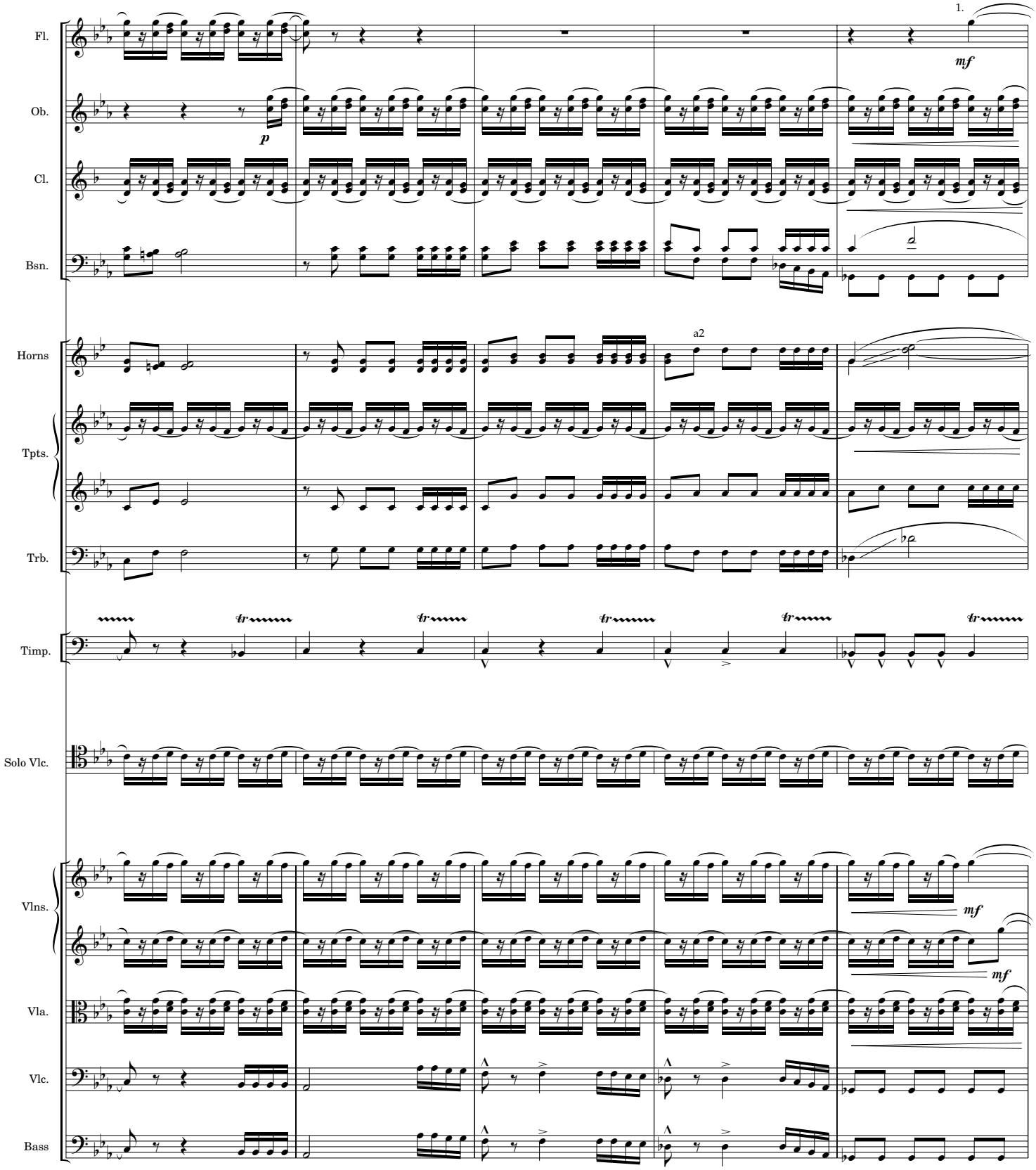

Solo Vlc.
C
rit.
8
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
arco
div.

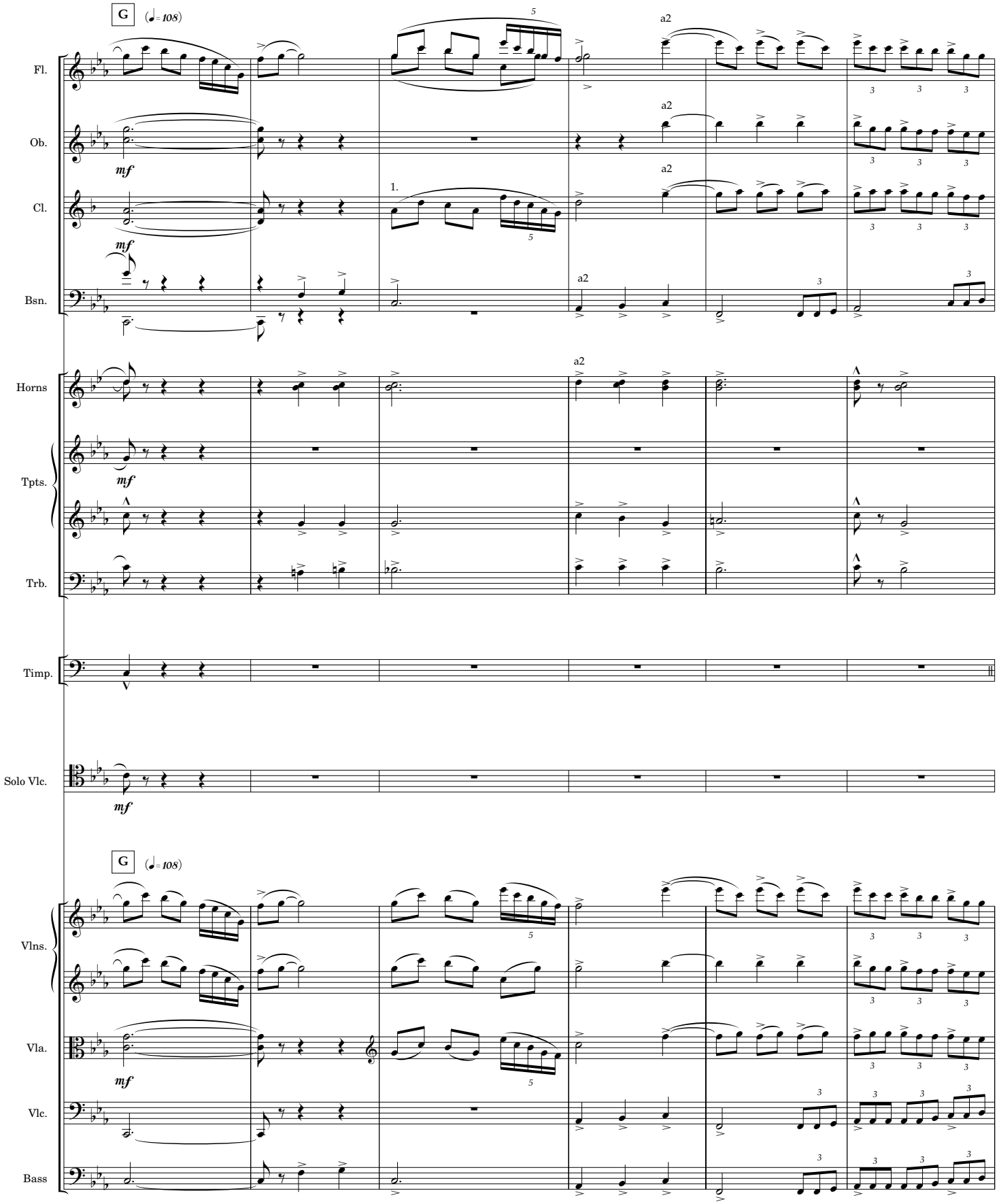

Slower
a tempo
rit.
a tempo
Solo Vlc.
p
mf
p
Slower
a tempo
rit.
a tempo
Vlns.
unis.
div.
unis.
senza sord.
mp dolce
senza sord.
Vla.
Vlc.
pizz.
arco
Bass
pizz.
(pizz.)
rit.
(♩= 100)
a tempo
D
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
p
mp
Triangle
Solo Vlc.
rit.
(♩= 100)
a tempo
D
ten.
Vlns.
(p)
Vla.
pizz.
senza sord.
Vlc.
pizz.
senza sord.
Bass
senza sord.

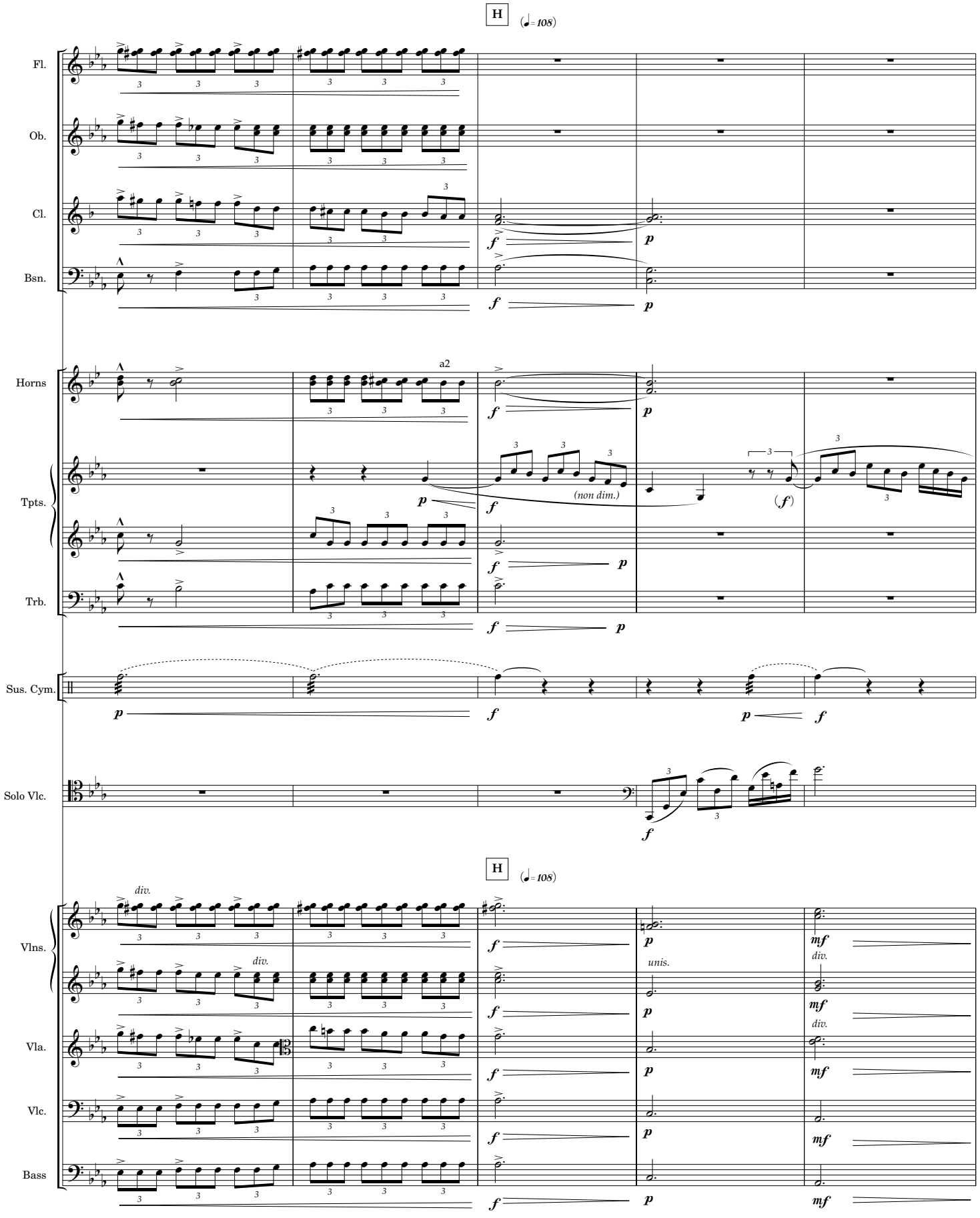

poco accel.
poco rit.
E a tempo (♩= 100)
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpts.
Trb.
Tri.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
(pizz.)
arco

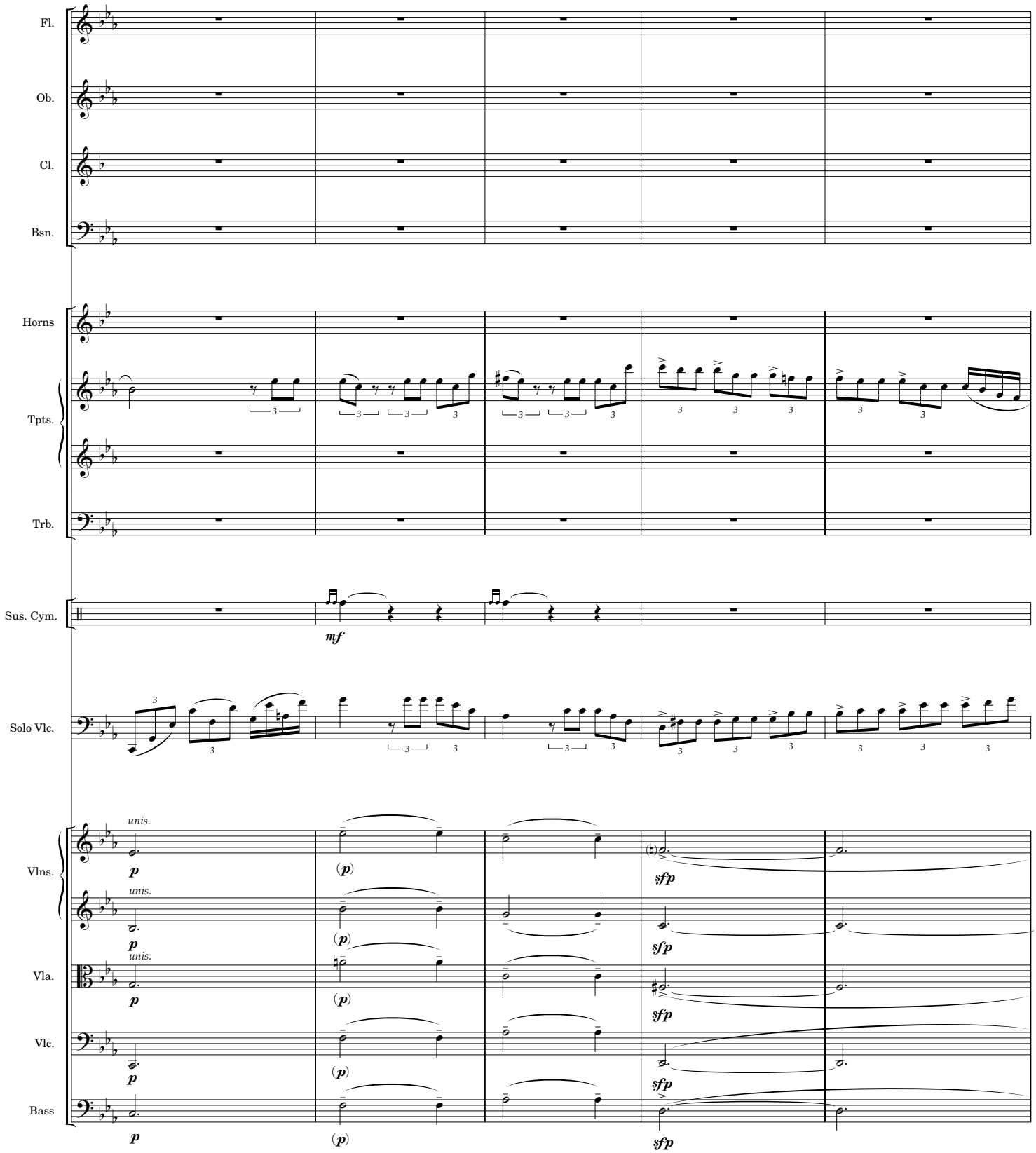

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpts.
Trb.
Tri.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
mf
p
lightly
div.

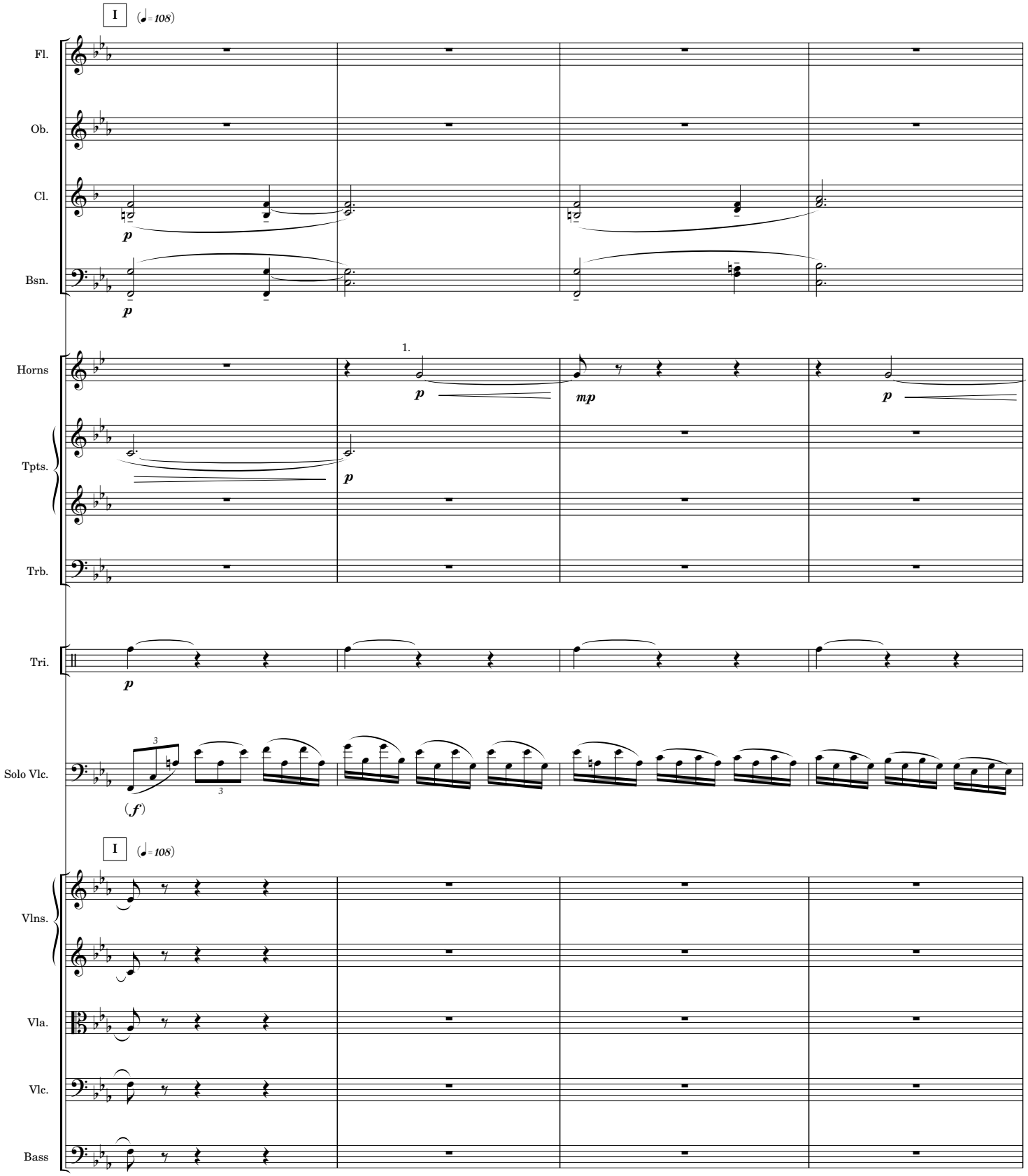

accel.
F
faster (♩= 108)
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpts.
Trb.
Timp.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass

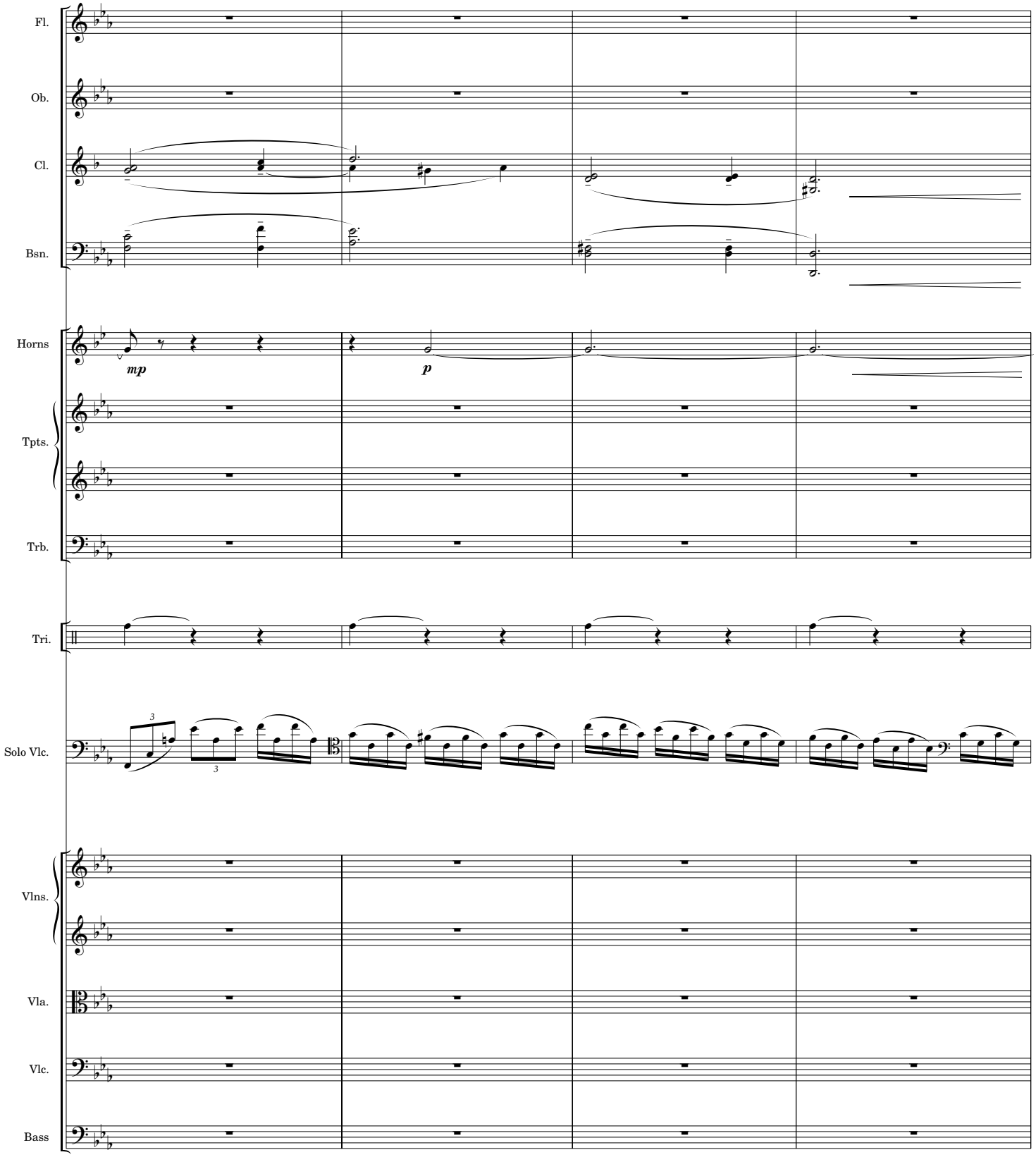

1.
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
a2
Tpts.
Trb.
Timp.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
mf
p
tr

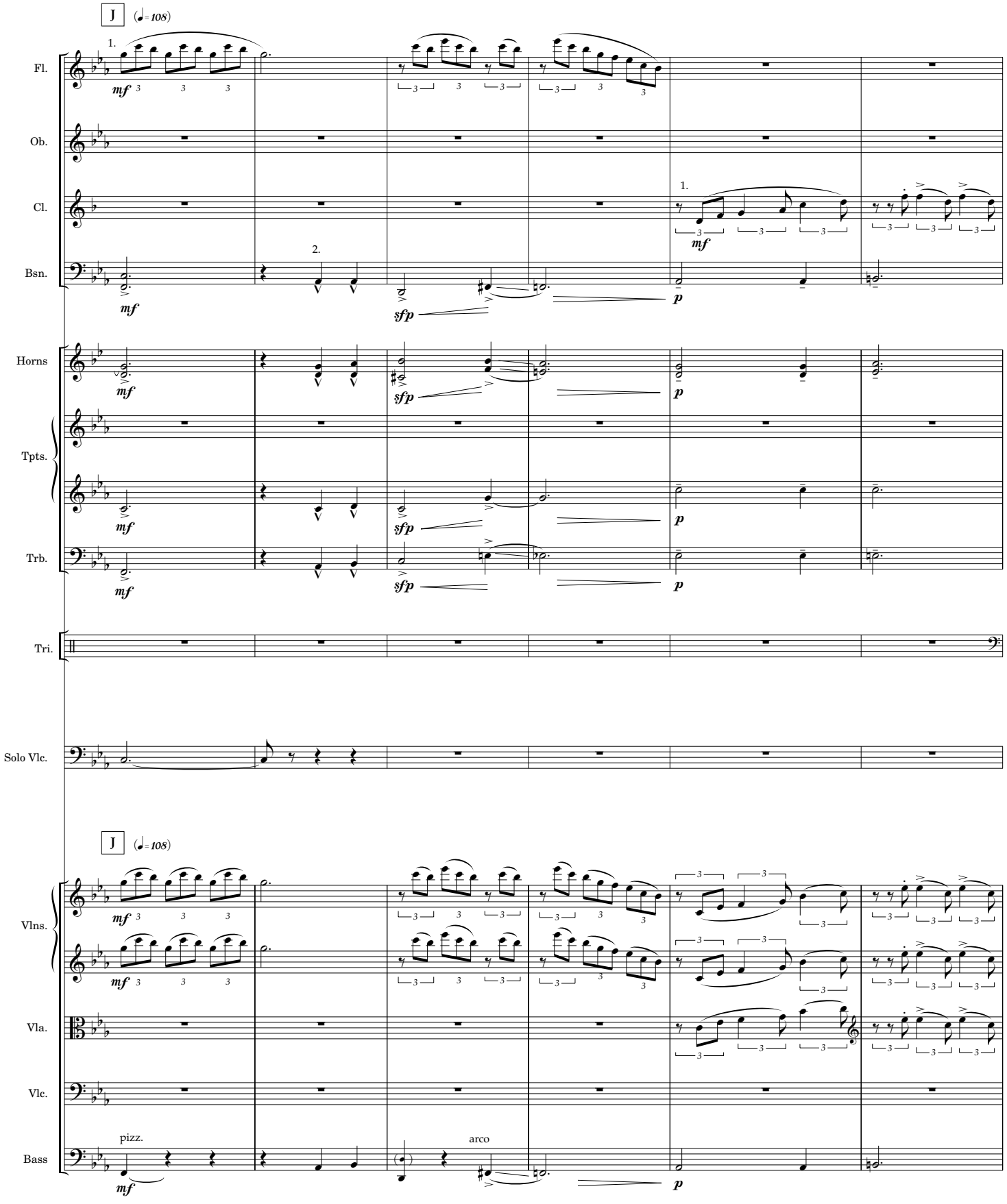

G
(♩= 108)
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpts.
Trb.
Timp.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
mf
a2
1.
5
3

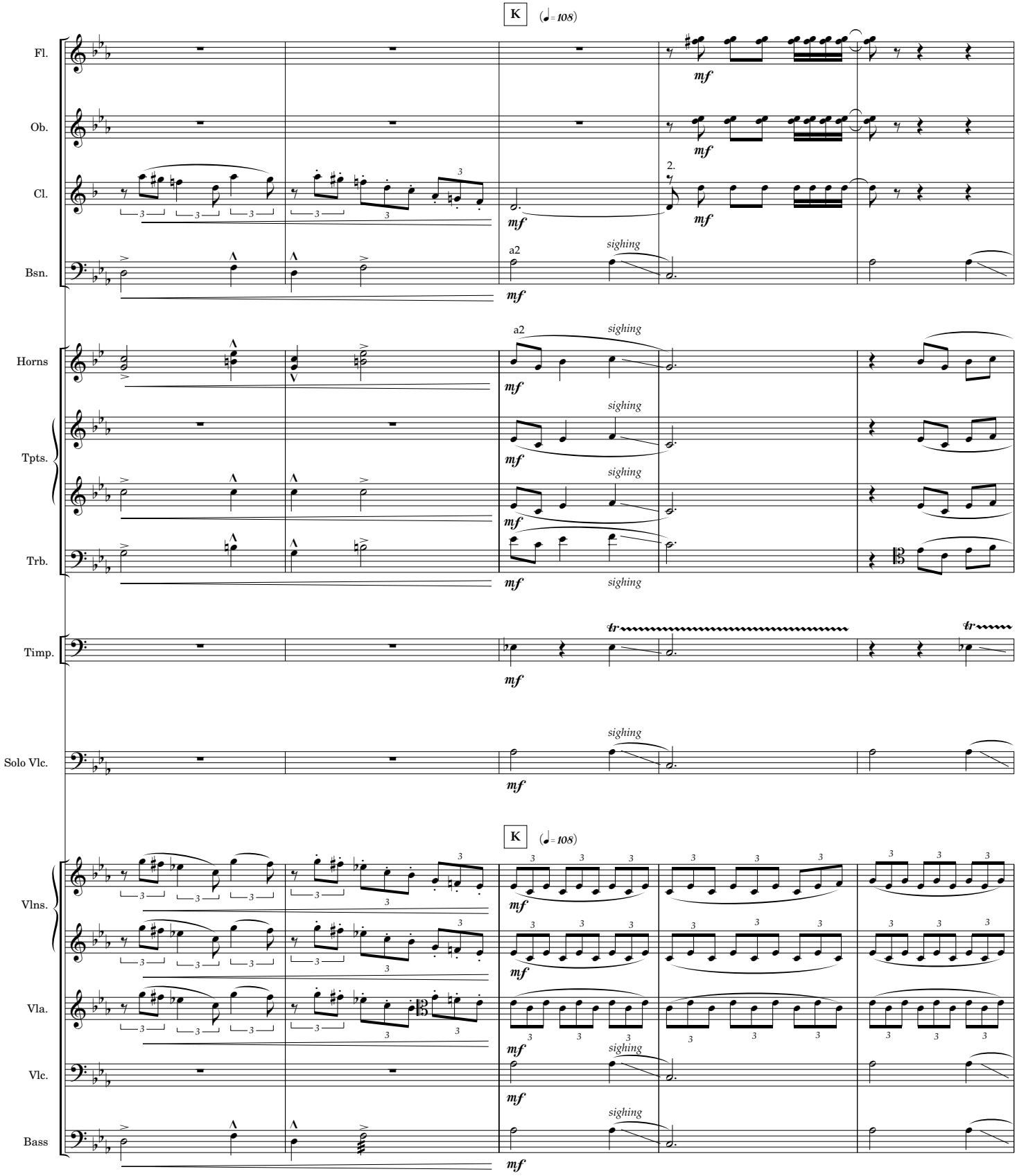

H
(♩= 108)
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
a2
Tpts.
Trb.
(non dim.)
Sus. Cym.
Solo Vlc.
H
(♩= 108)
div.
Vlns.
unis.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass

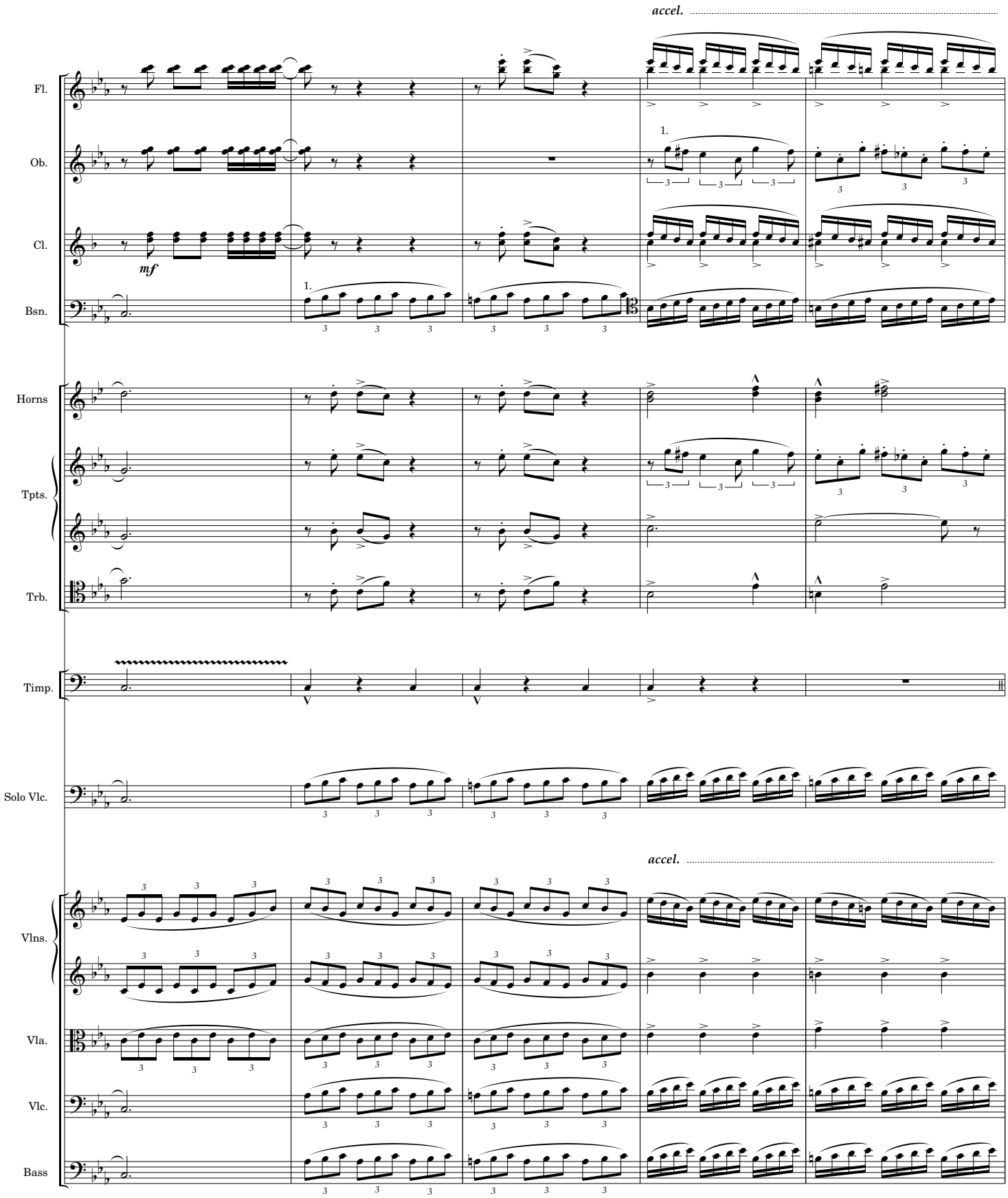

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpts.
Trb.
Sus. Cym.
mf
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
unis.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
p
(p)
sfp


I
(♩= 108)
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
p
p
Horns
Tpts.
Trb.
1.
p
mp
p
p
Tri.
p
Solo Vlc.
3
3
(f)
I
(♩= 108)
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass


Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
mp
p
Tpts.
Trb.
Tri.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass


J
(♩= 108)
1.
Fl.
mf
Ob.
Cl.
1.
mf
Bsn.
2.
mf
sfp
p
Horns
mf
sfp
p
Tpts.
mf
sfp
p
Trb.
mf
sfp
p
Tri.
Solo Vlc.
J
(♩= 108)
Vlns.
mf
mf
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
pizz.
mf
arco
p


K
(♩= 108)
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpts.
Trb.
Timp.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
mf
a2
sighing
2.
tr

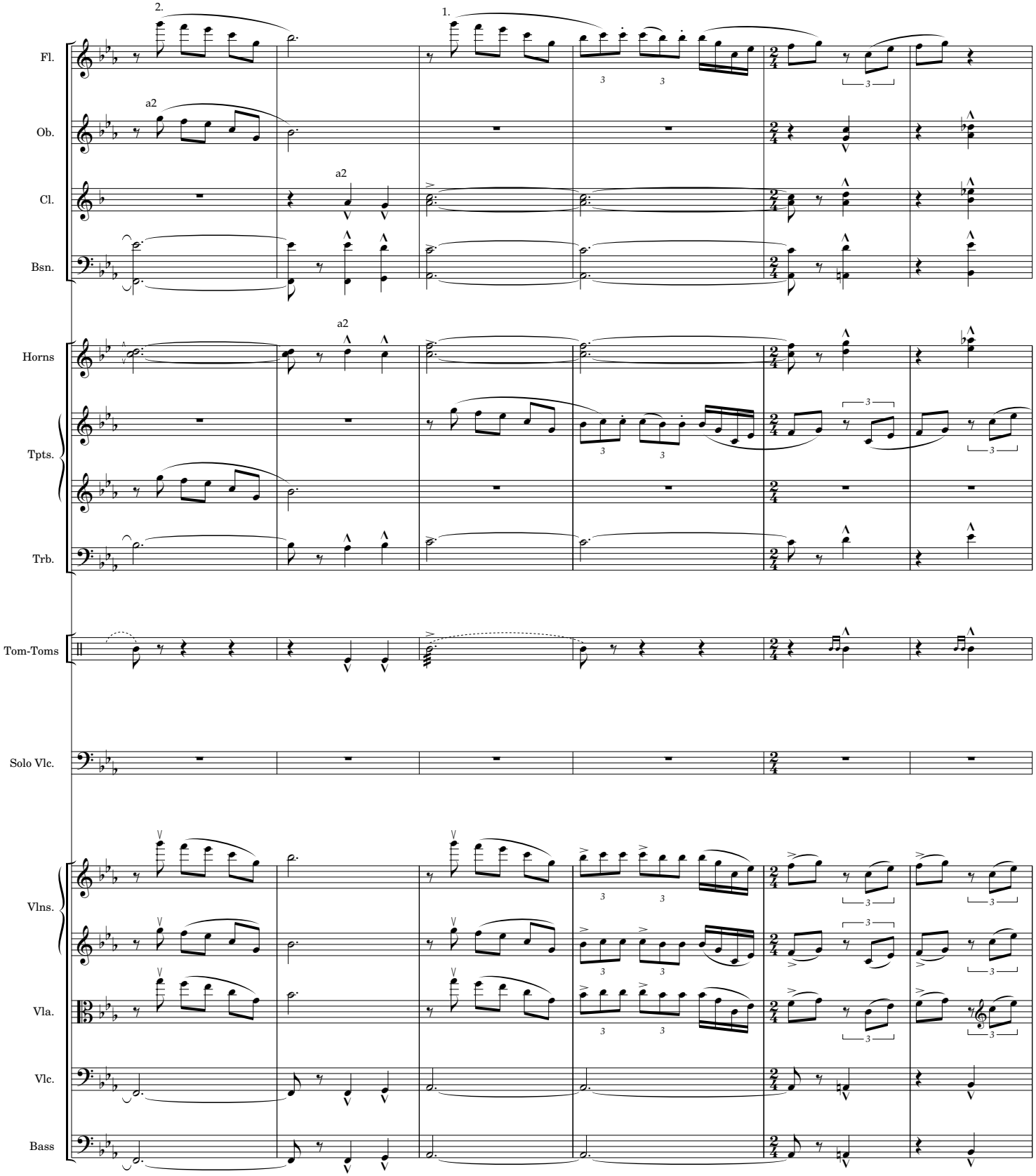

accel.
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpts.
Trb.
Timp.
Solo Vlc.
accel.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
mf
1.

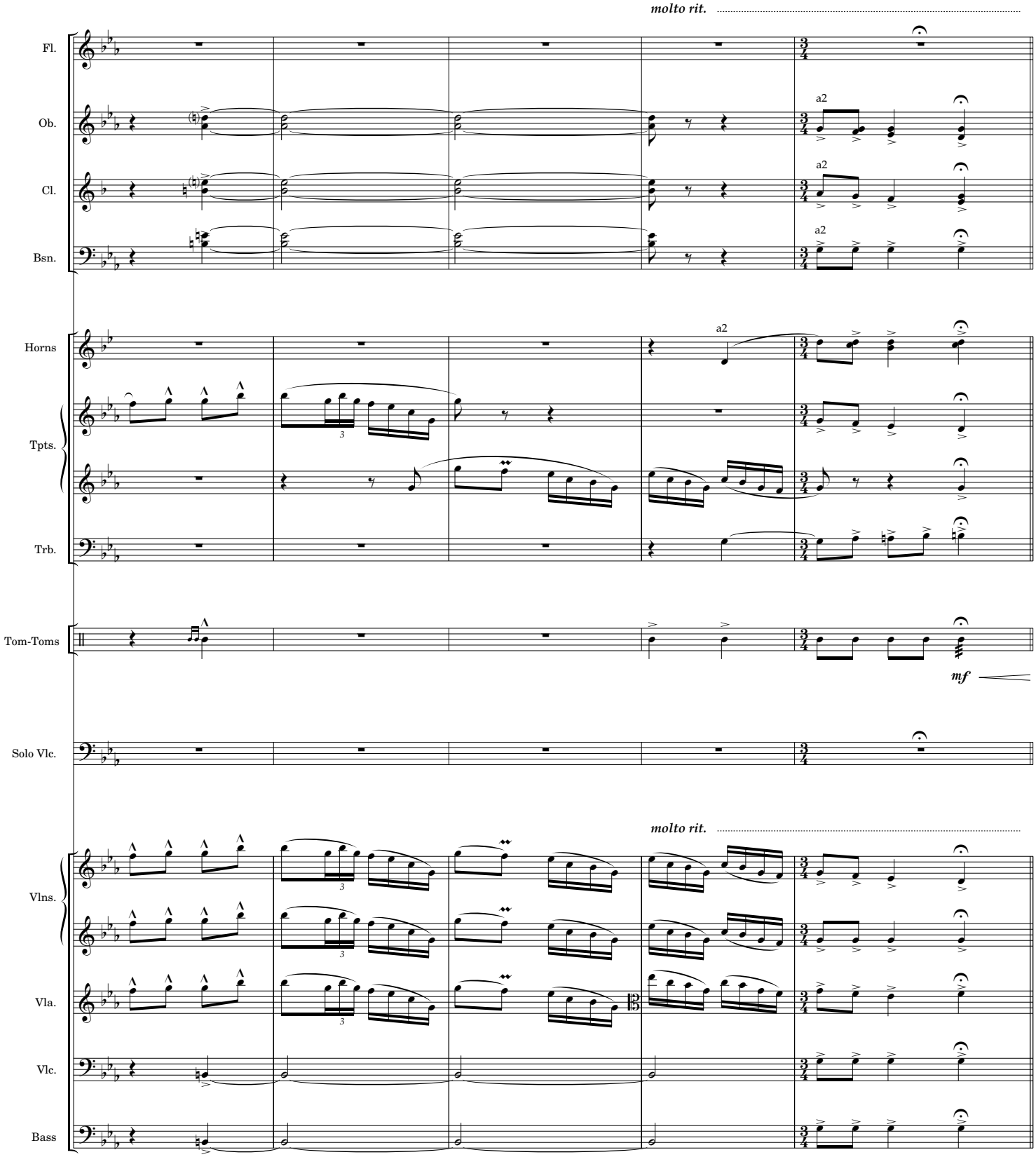
molto rit. Grandly L ♩=88 or slower

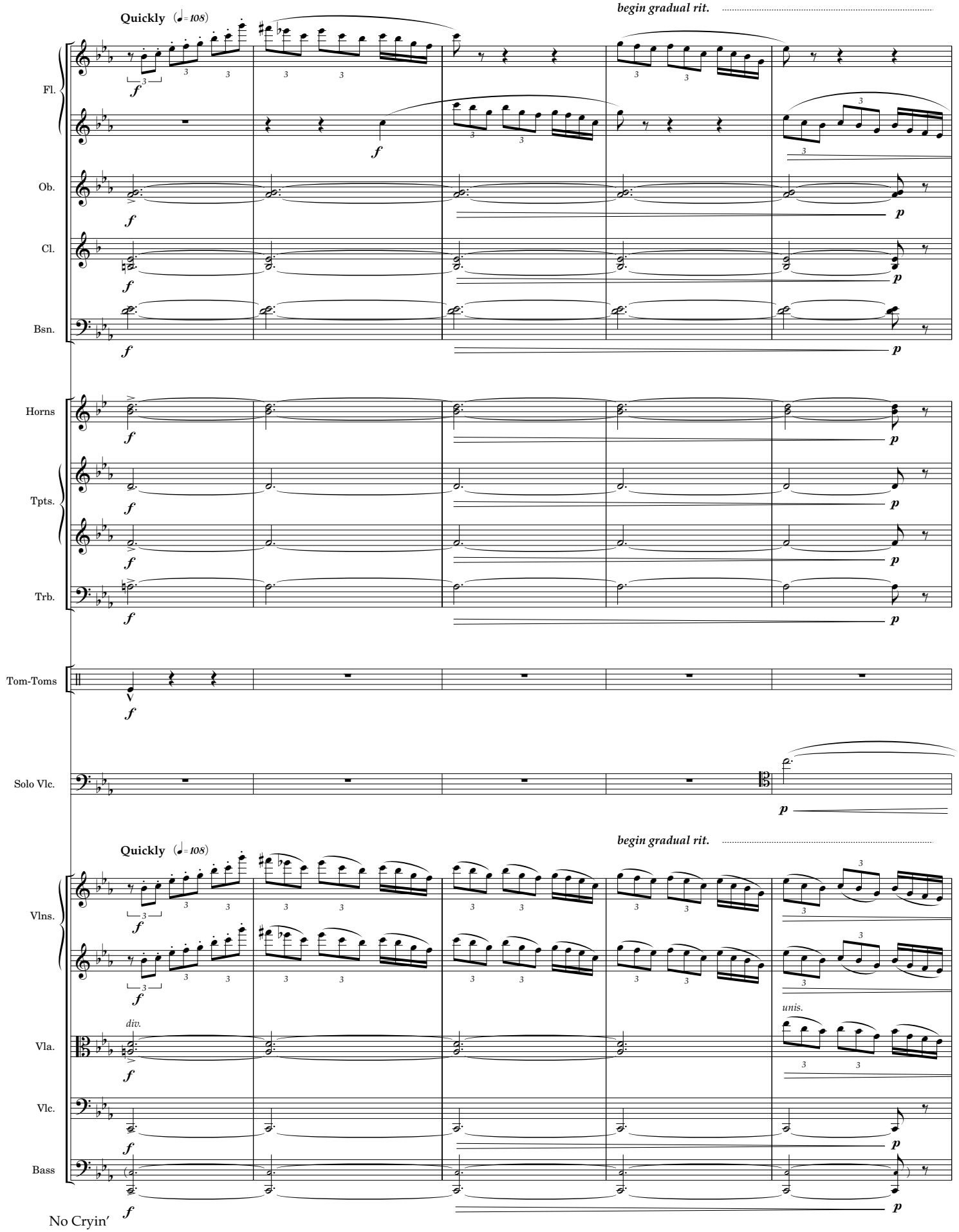
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpts.
Trb.
Sus. Cym.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass

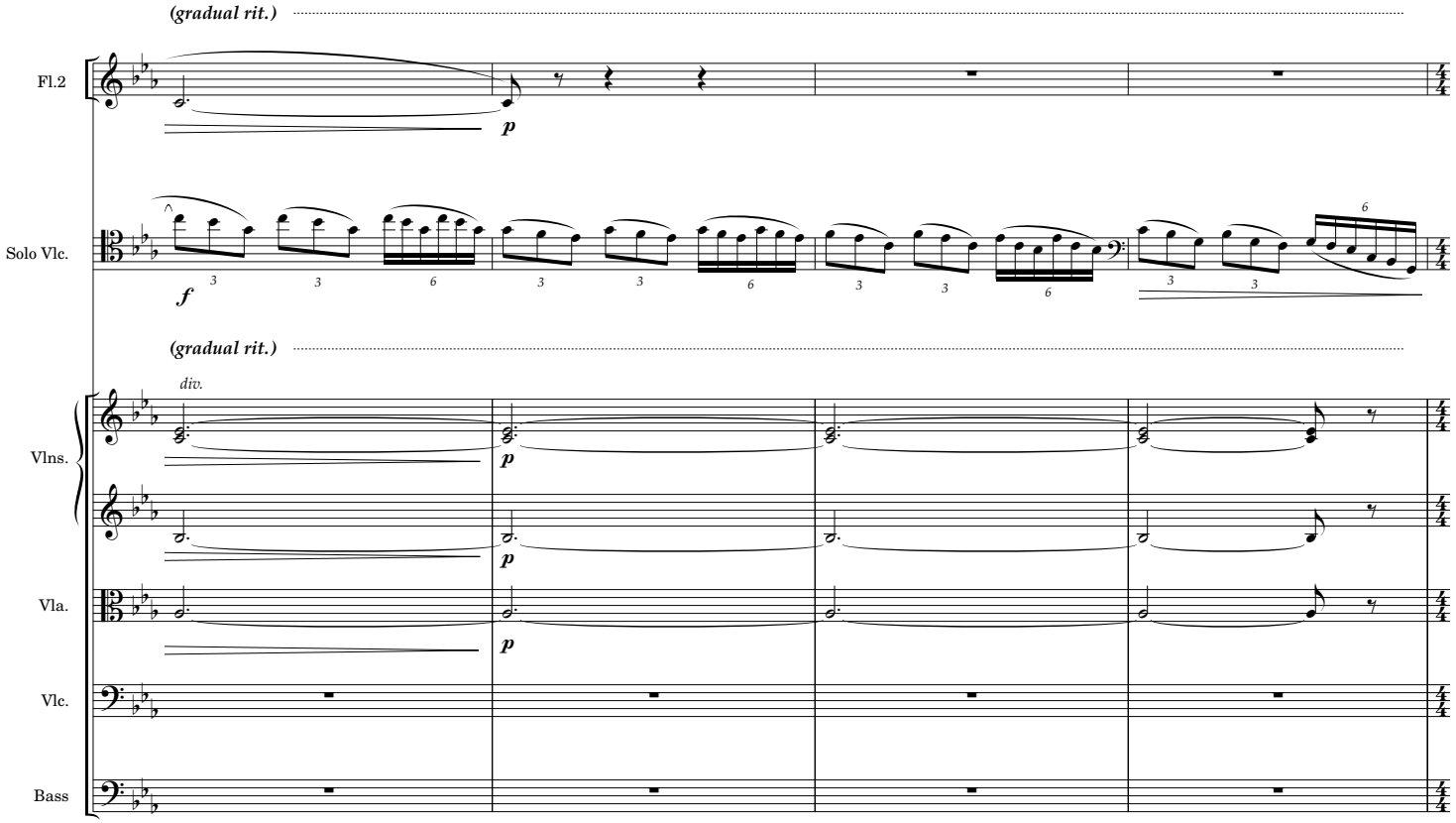
a2

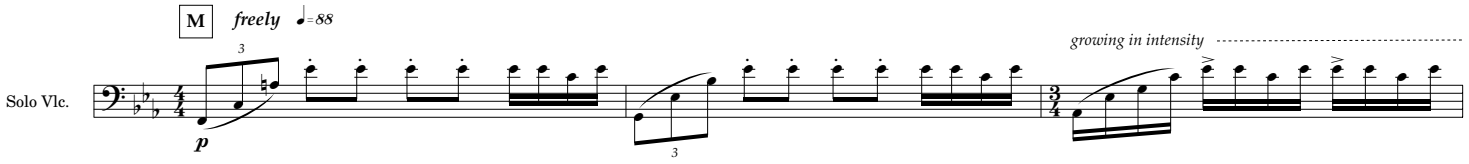
Tom-Toms
medium and low

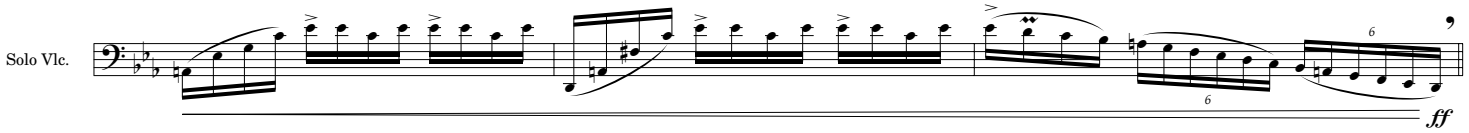

2.
1.
Fl.
a2
Ob.
a2
Cl.
Bsn.
a2
Horns
Tpts.
Trb.
Tom-Toms
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass

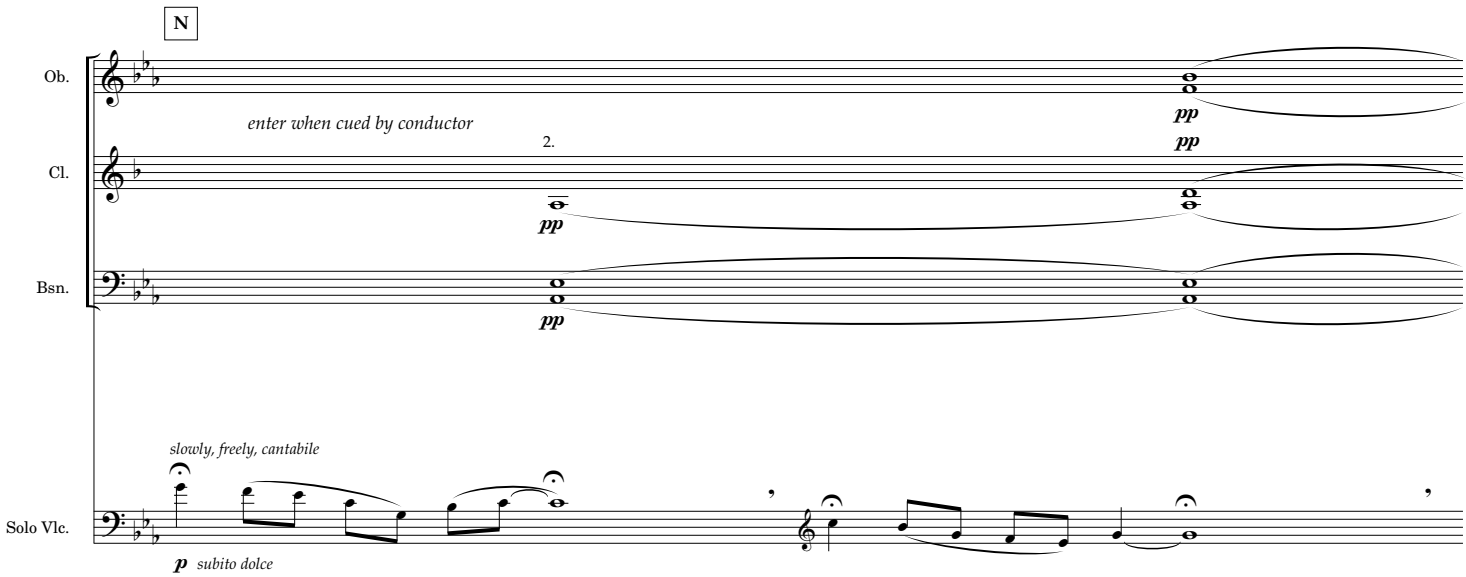

molto rit.
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
a2
a2
a2
Horns
a2
Tpts.
Trb.
Tom-Toms
mf
Solo Vlc.
molto rit.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass

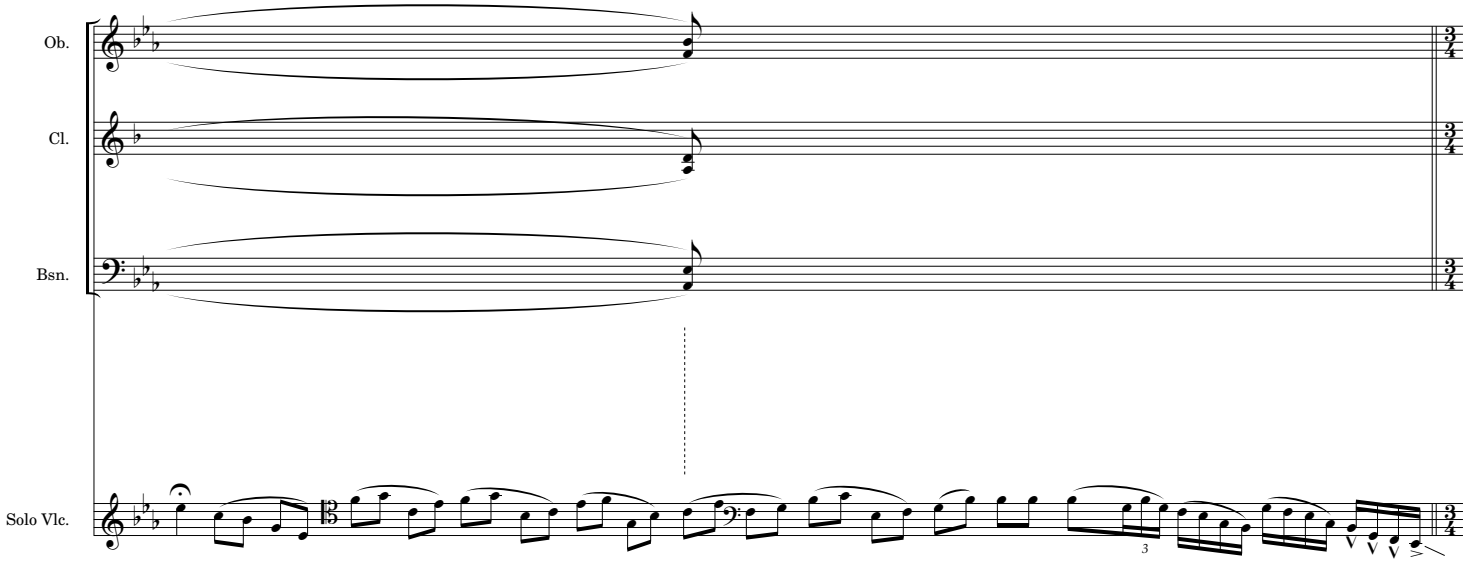

Quickly (♩= 108)
begin gradual rit.
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpts.
Trb.
Tom-Toms
Solo Vlc.
Quickly (♩= 108)
begin gradual rit.
Vlns.
Vla.
div.
unis.
Vlc.
Bass

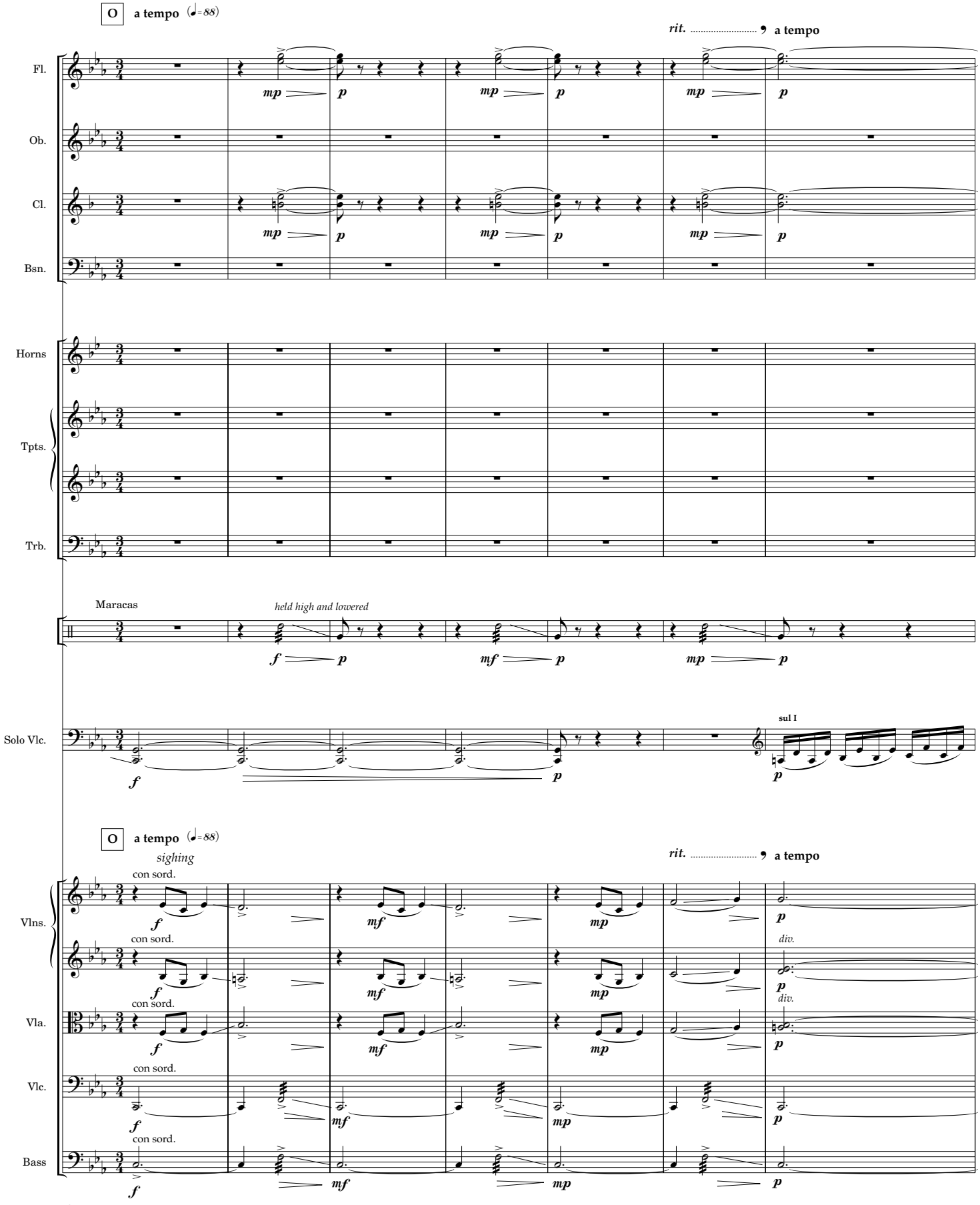

(gradual rit.)
Fl.2
p
Solo Vlc.
f
(gradual rit.)
div.
Vlns.
p
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass

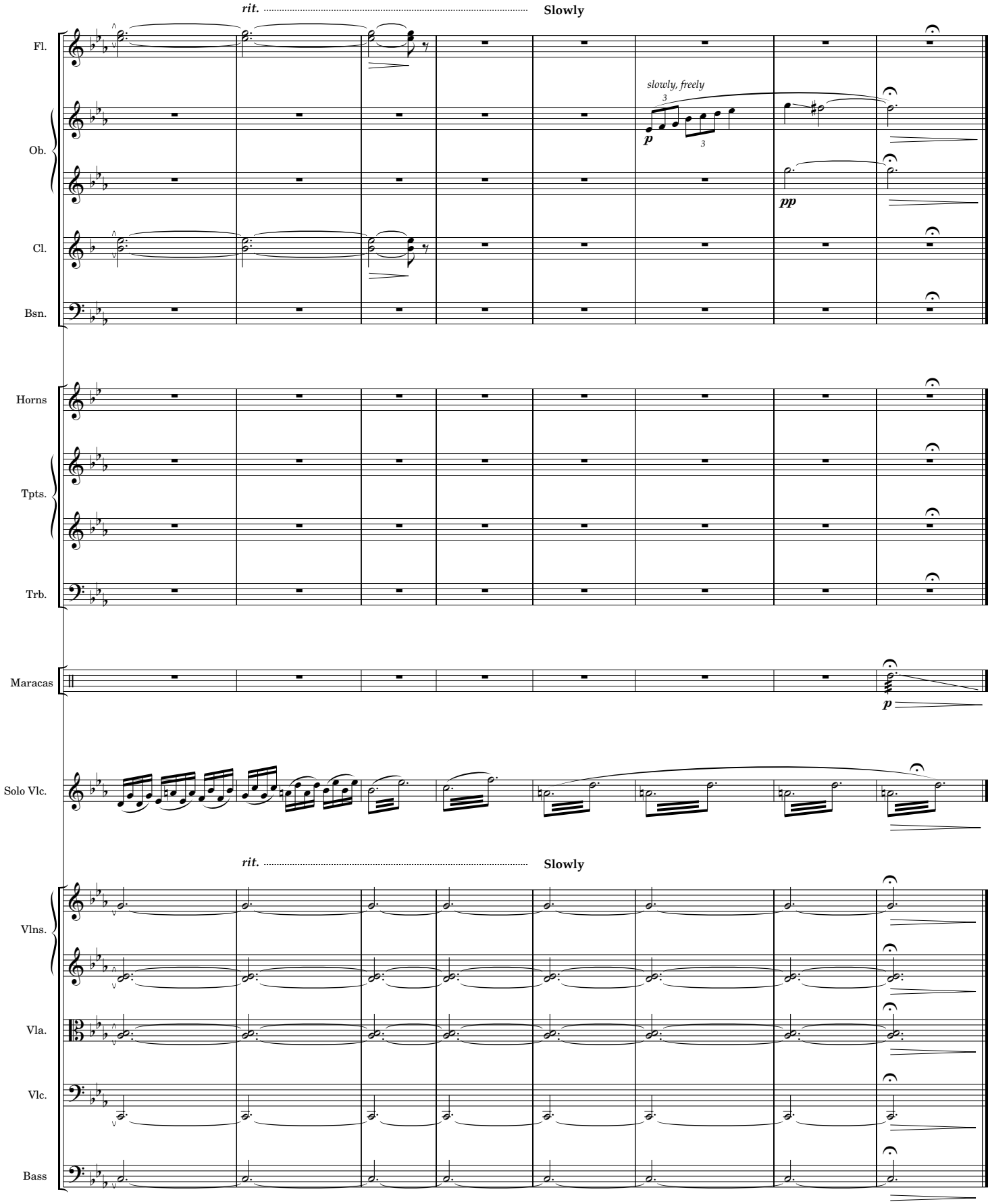

M
freely
♩=88
growing in intensity
Solo Vlc.
p


accel.
Solo Vlc.
ff


N
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Solo Vlc.
enter when cued by conductor
2.
pp
pp
pp
pp
slowly, freely, cantabile
p subito dolce

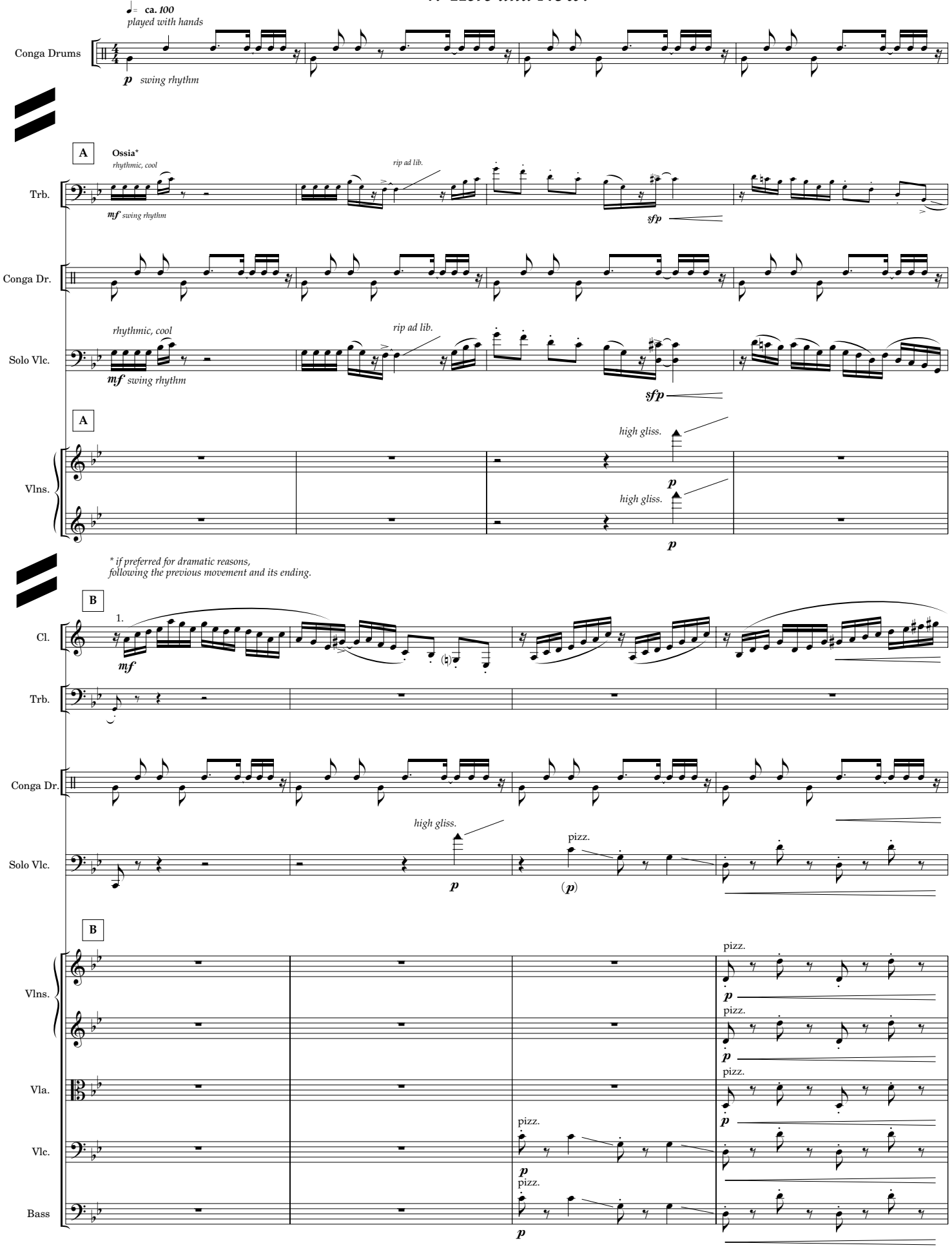

Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Solo Vlc.
3/4
3

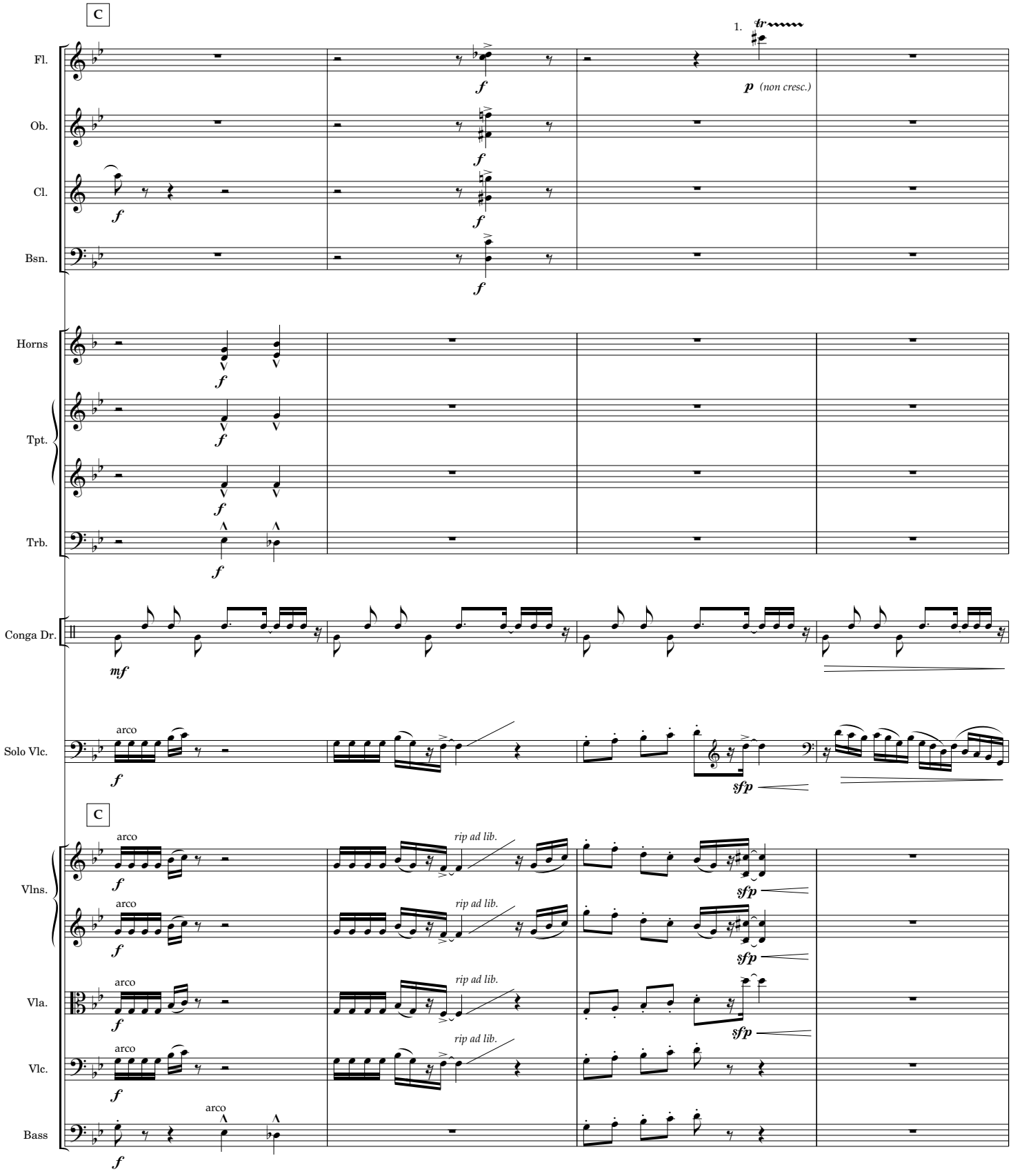

O a tempo (♩=88)
rit. a tempo
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpts.
Trb.
Maracas
held high and lowered
Solo Vlc.
sul I
O a tempo (♩=88)
rit. a tempo
sighing
con sord.
Vlns.
div.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass

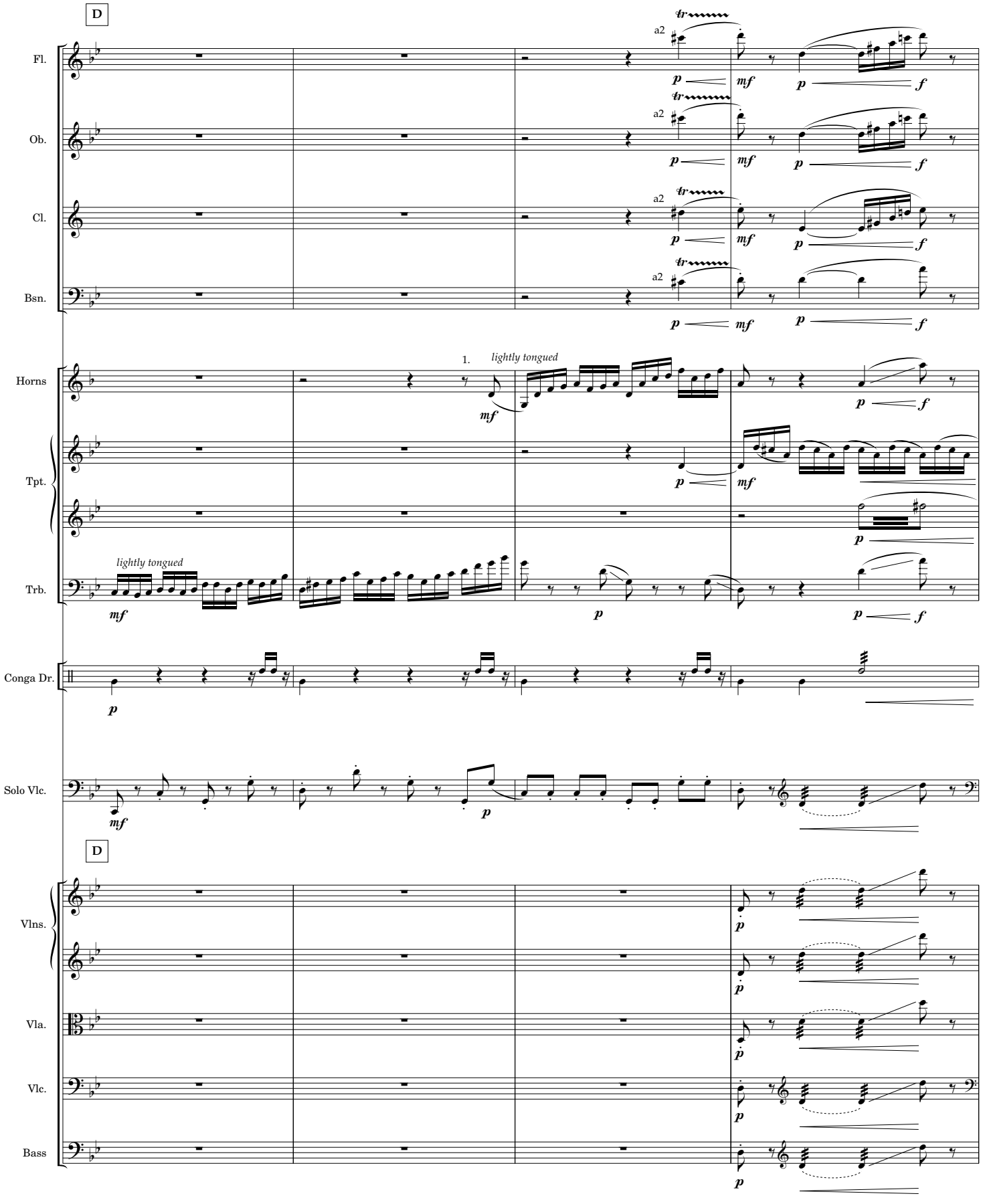


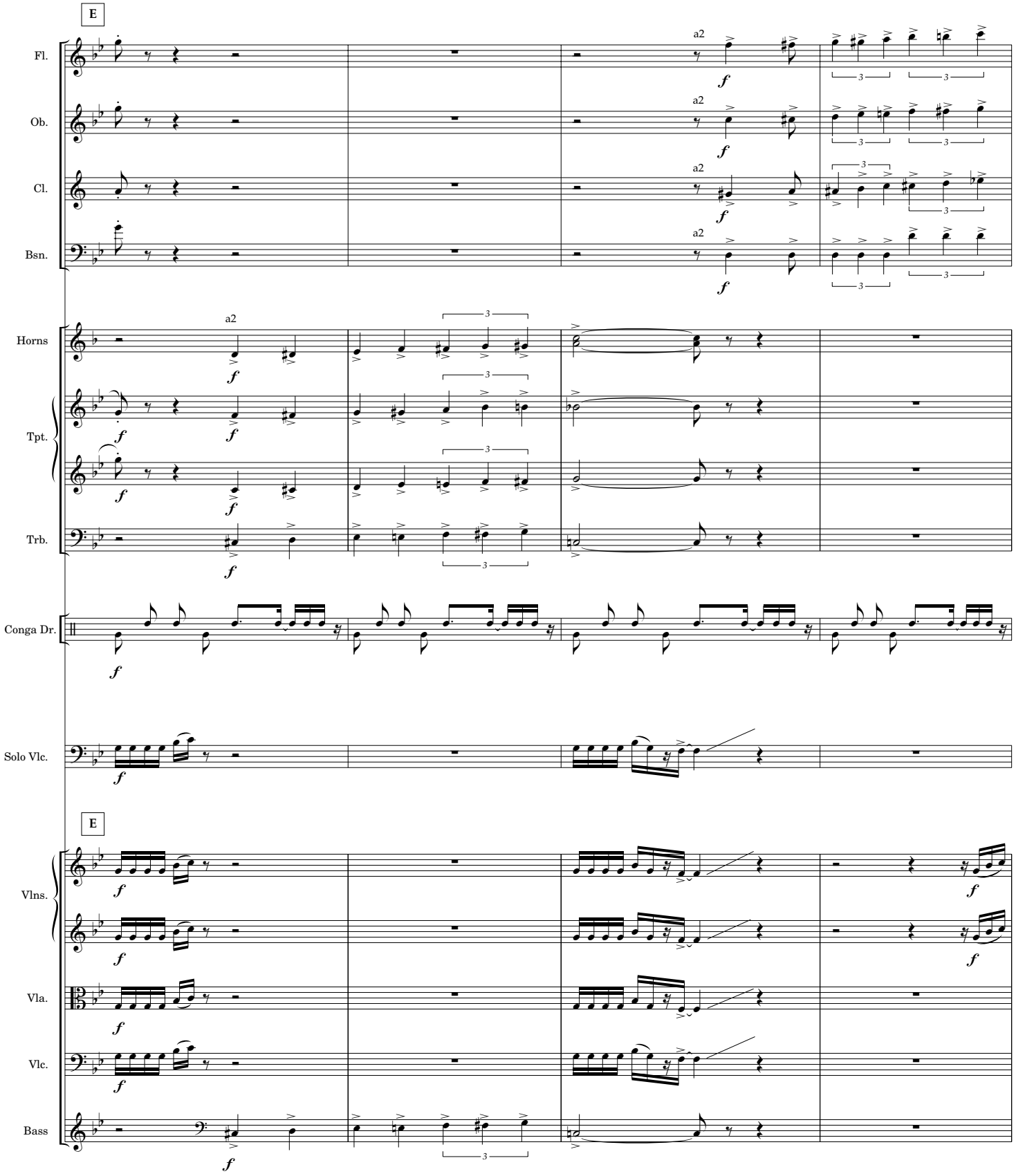
Duration: 5:00′

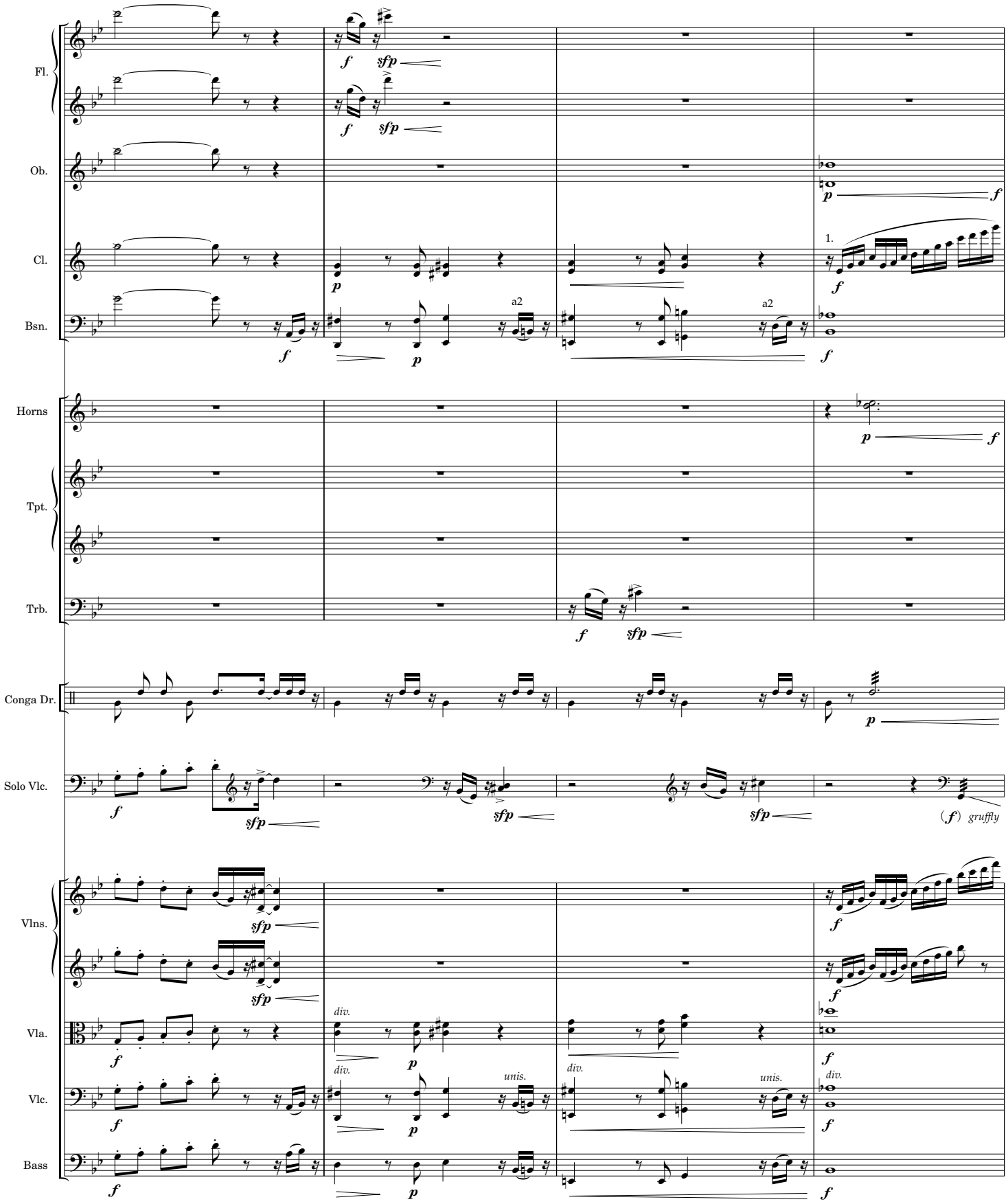
V. Here and Now!

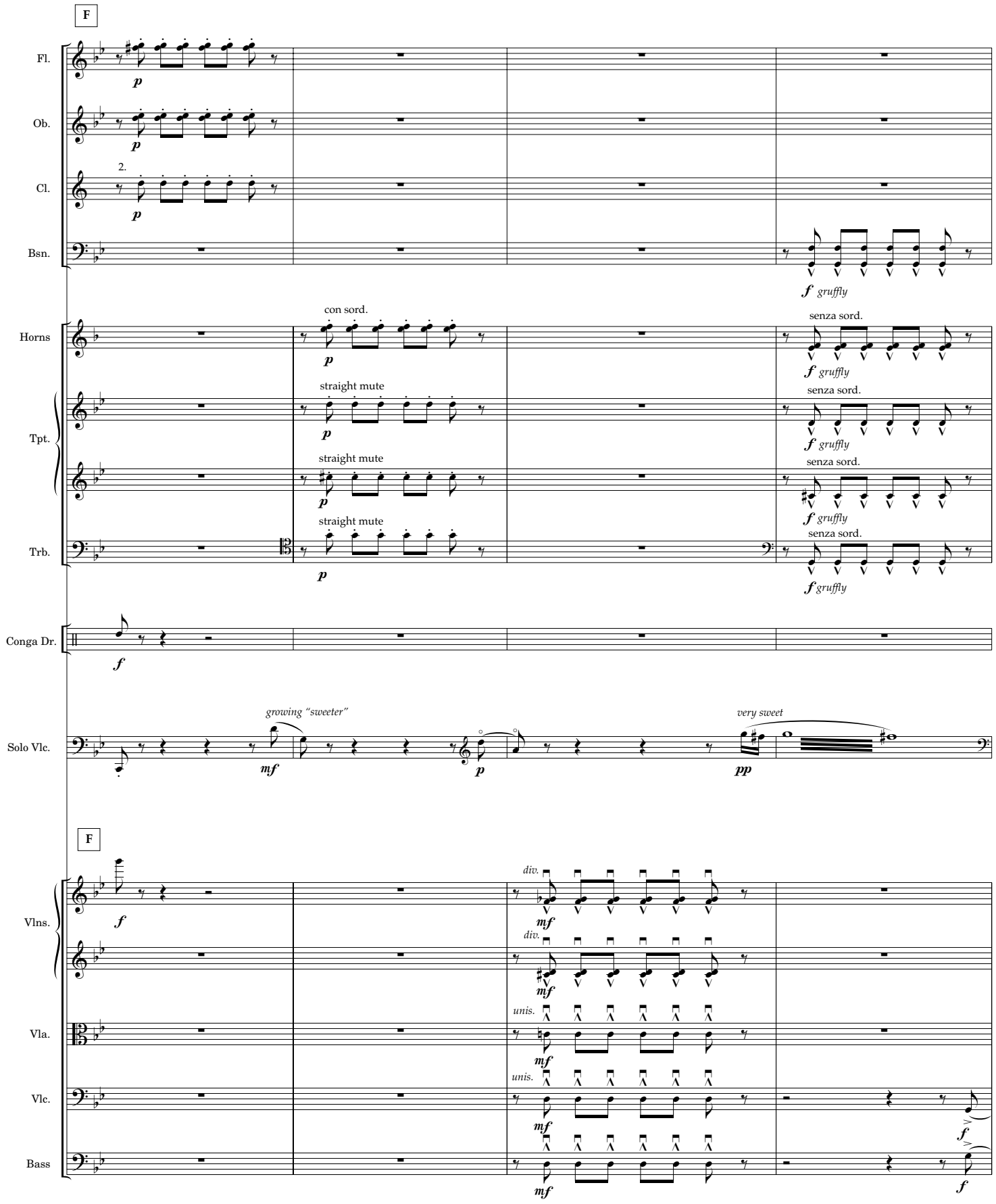


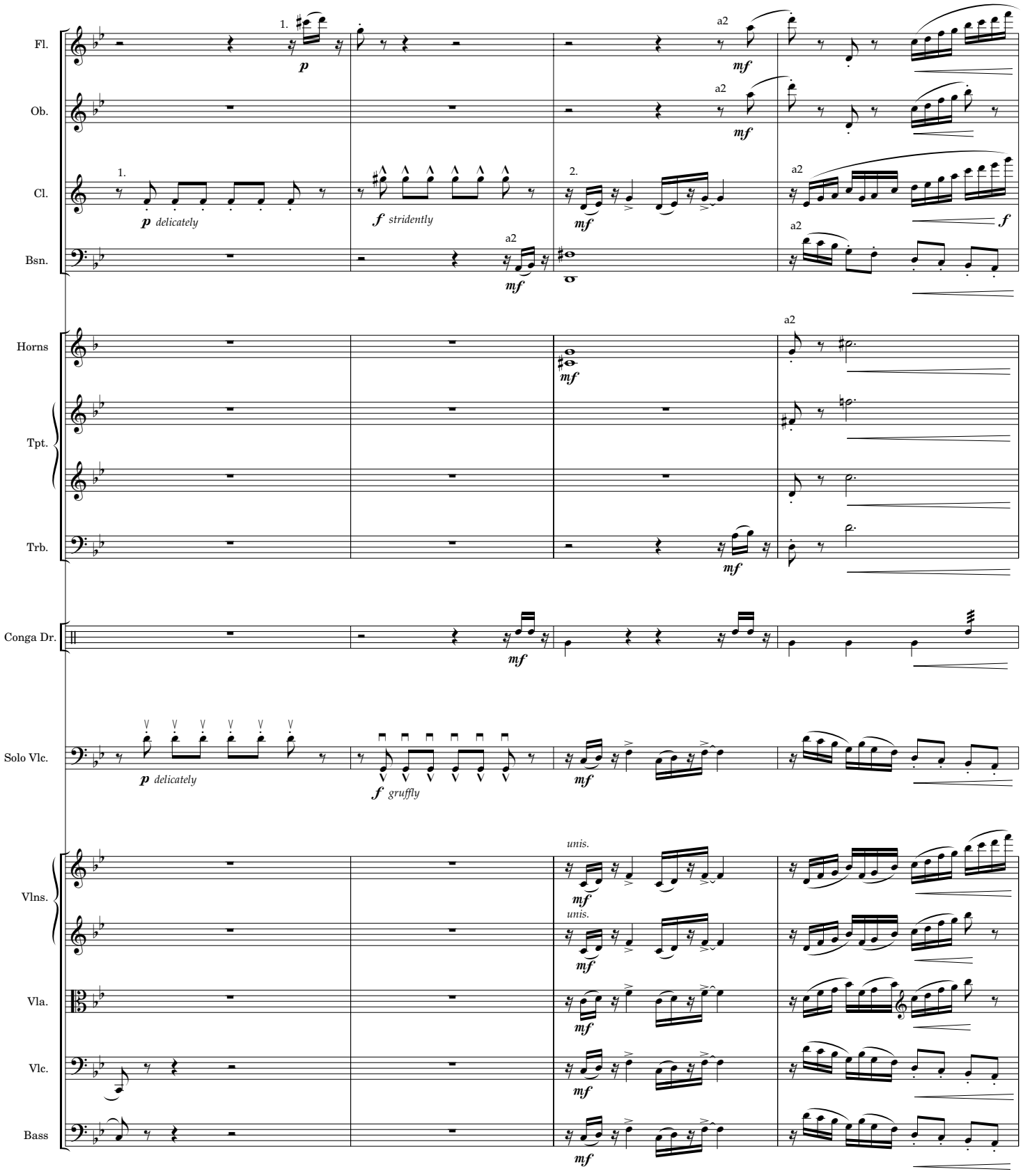

C
1.
tr
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
C
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
f
p (non cresc.)
mf
sfp
arco
rip ad lib.

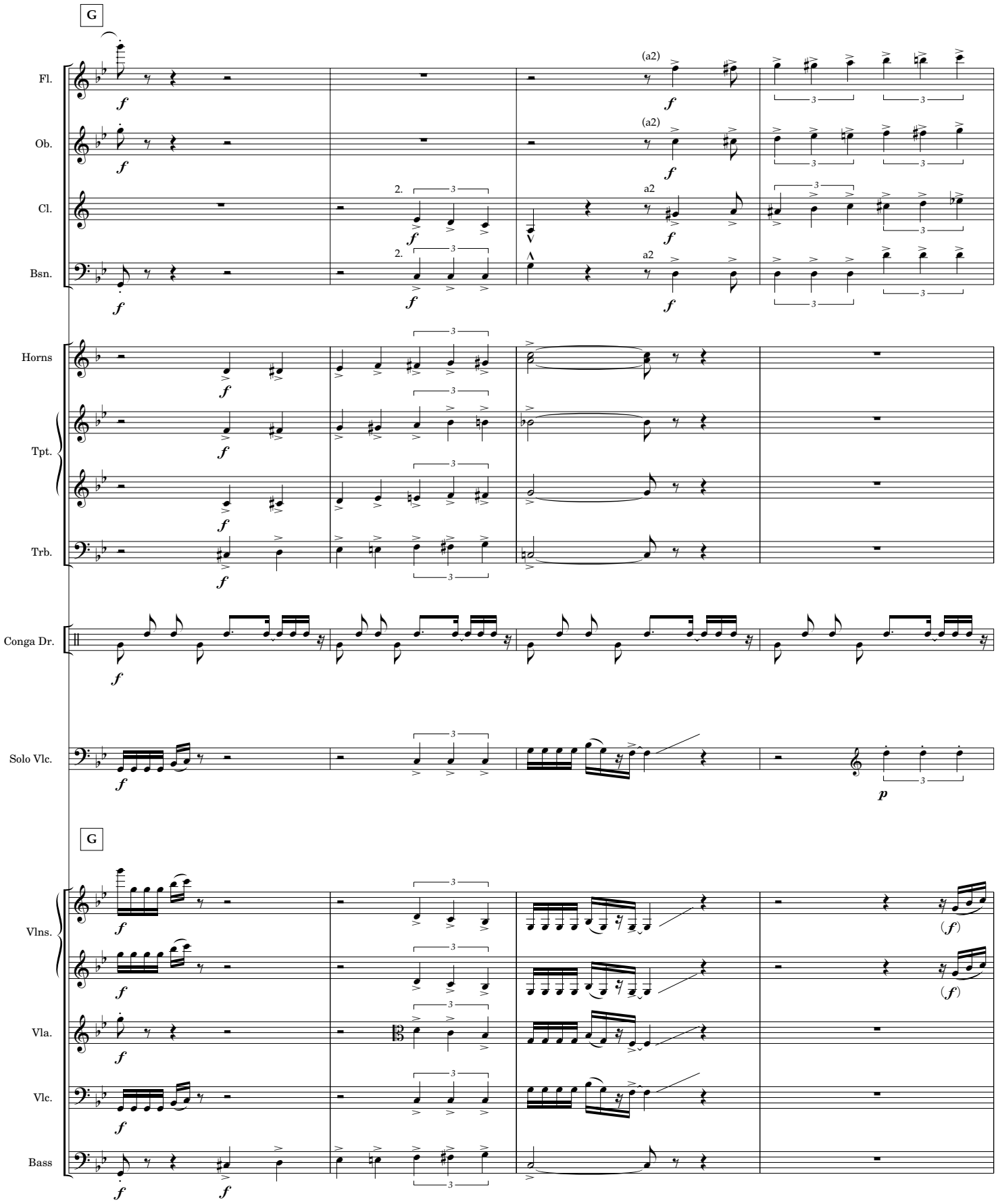

D
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
a2
tr
p
mf
f
Horns
1.
lightly tongued
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
D
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass

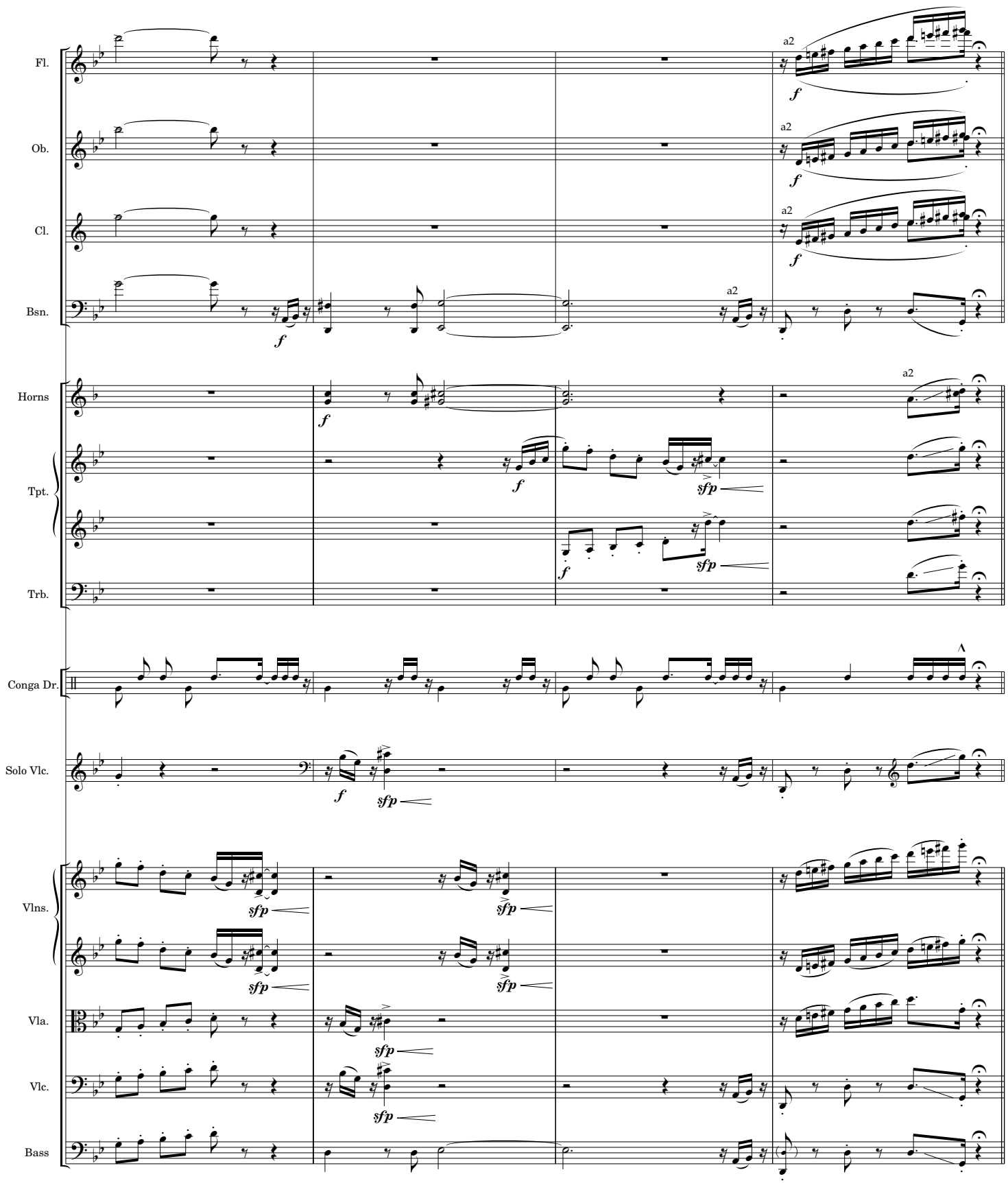

E
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
E
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
a2
f

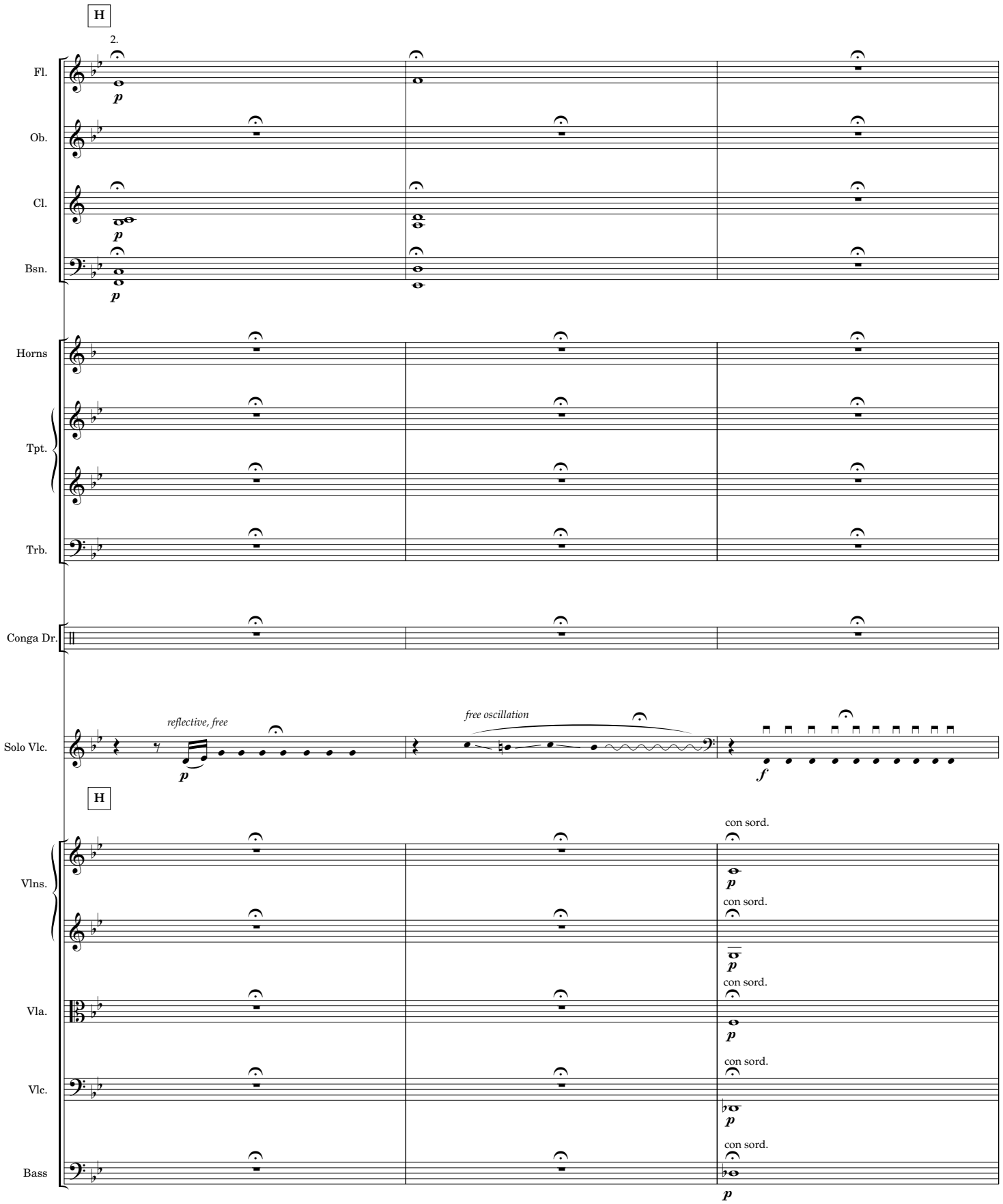

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
a2
a2
1.
div.
unis.
gruffly

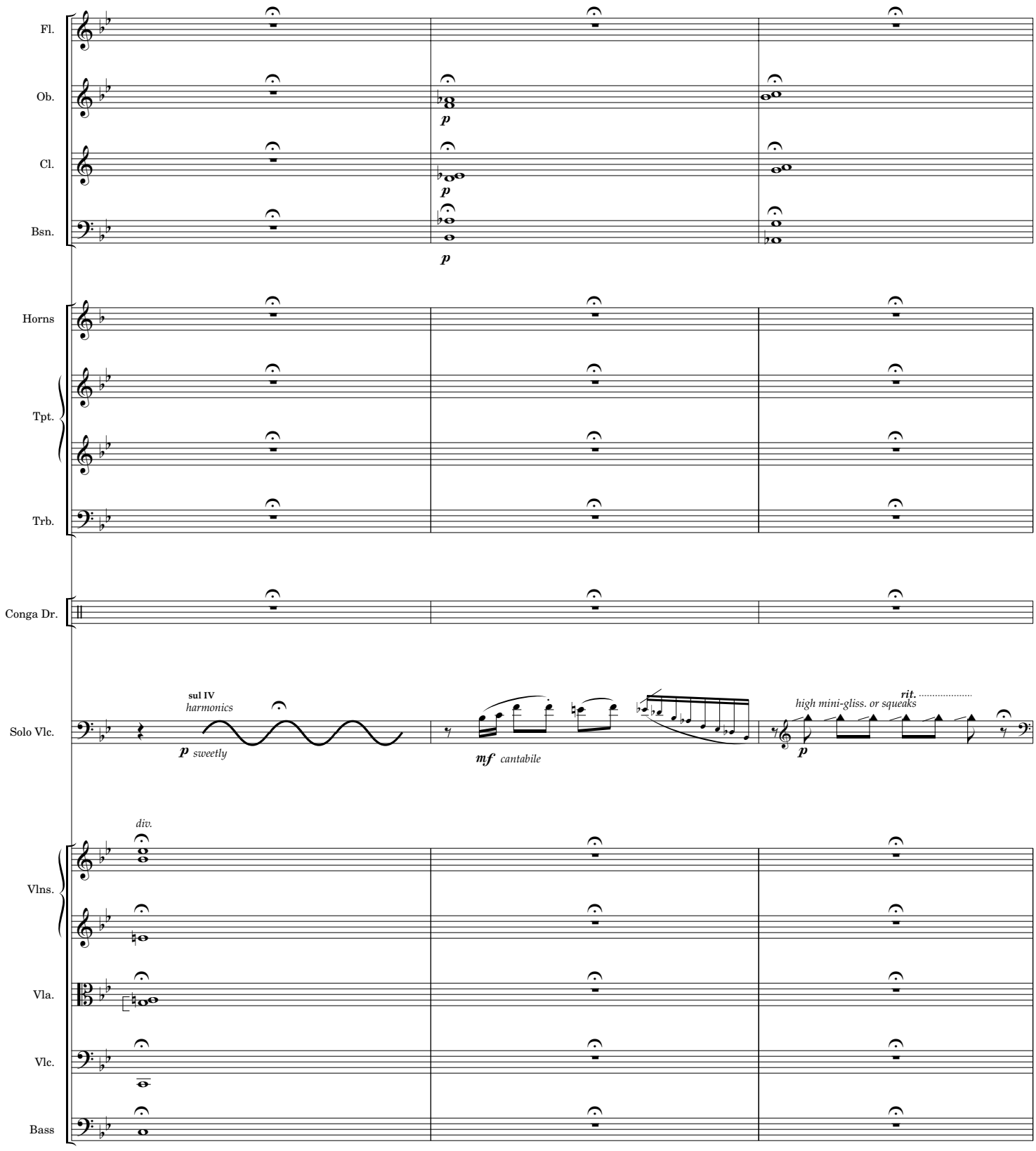

F
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
2.
Bsn.
Horns
con sord.
straight mute
Tpt.
Trb.
senza sord.
gruffly
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
growing "sweeter"
very sweet
F
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
div.
unis.

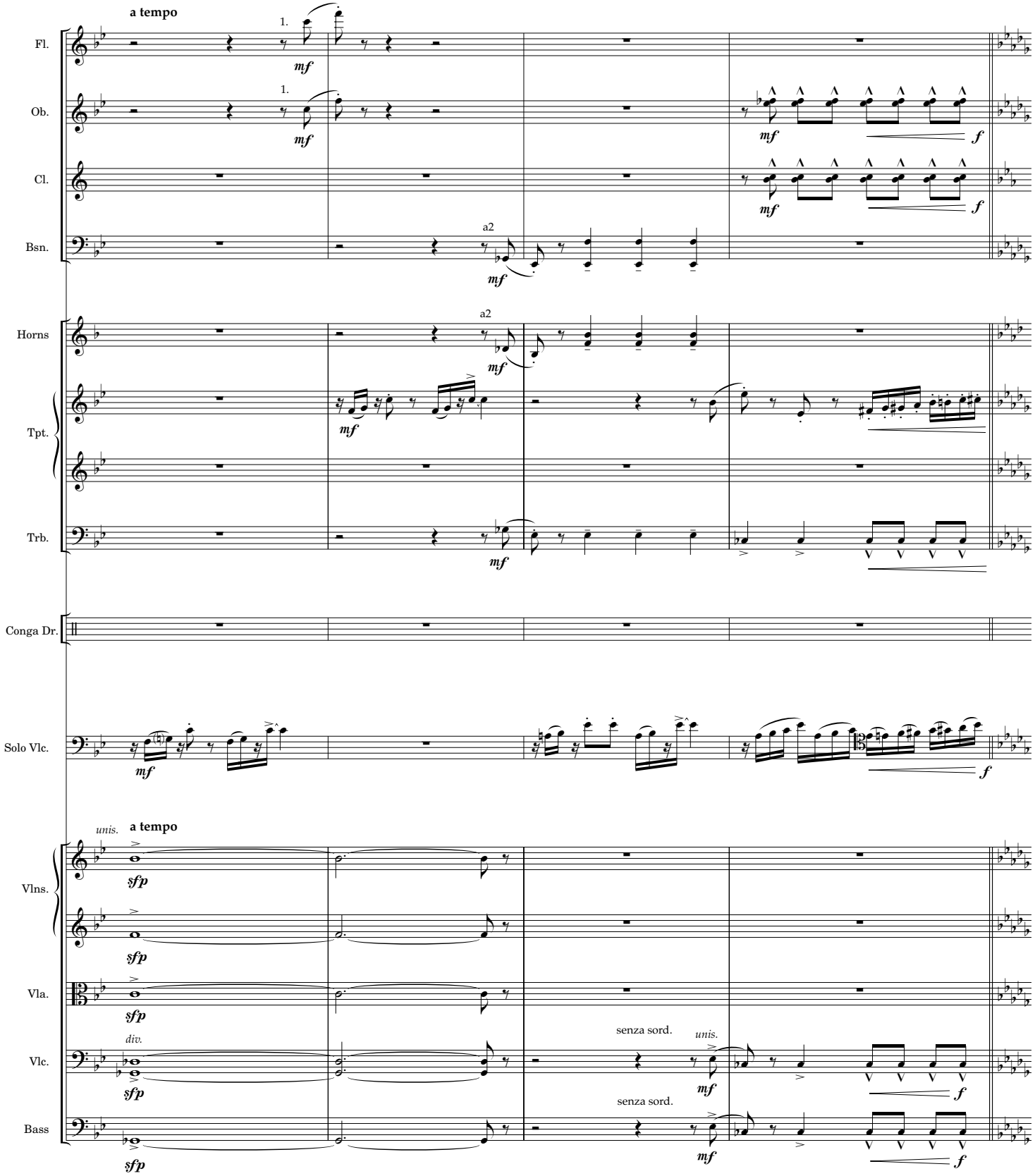

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
1.
2.
a2
unis.
p delicately
f stridently
mf
f
f gruffly

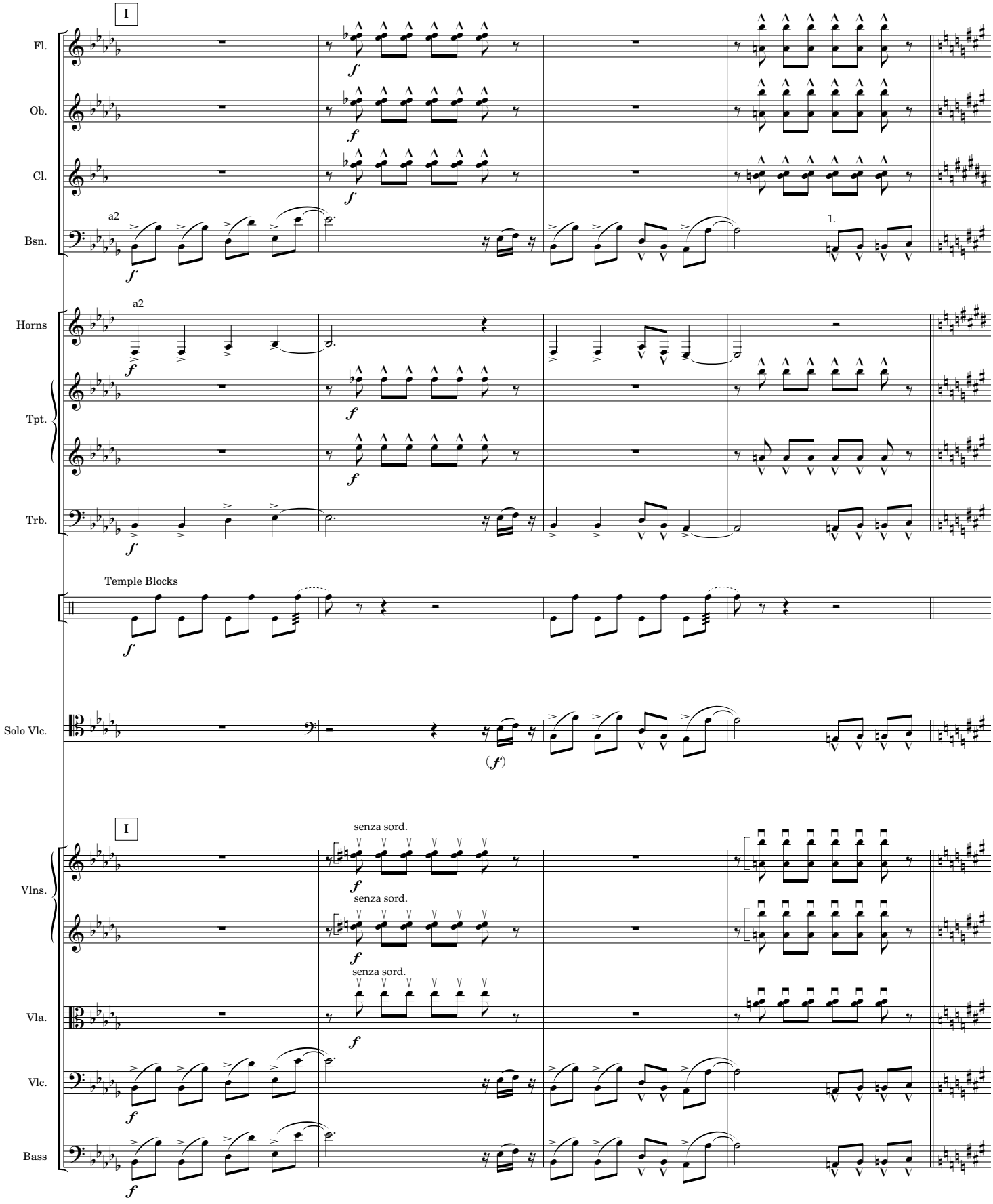

G
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
G
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
(a2)
a2
2.
f
p

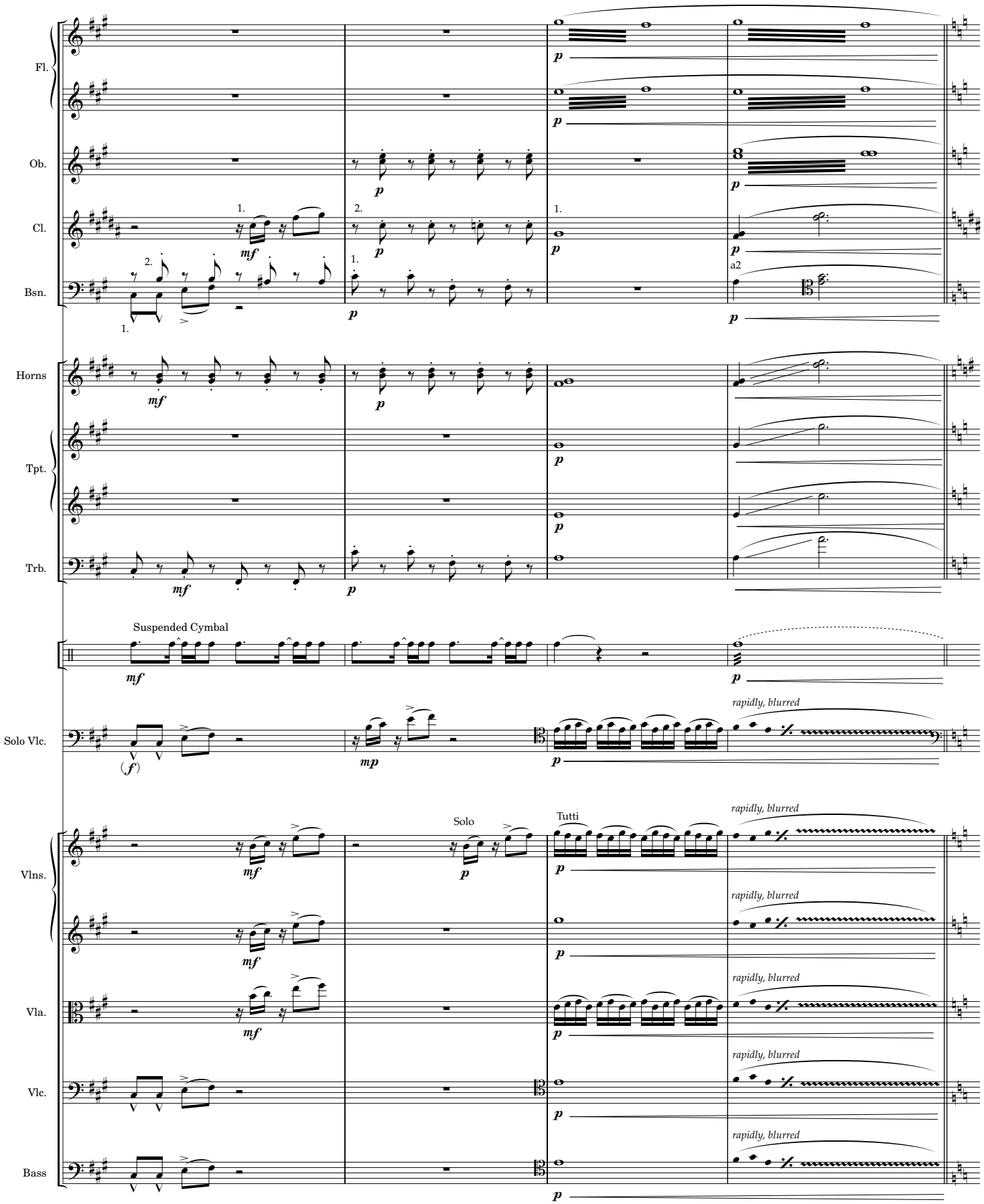

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
a2
f
sfp

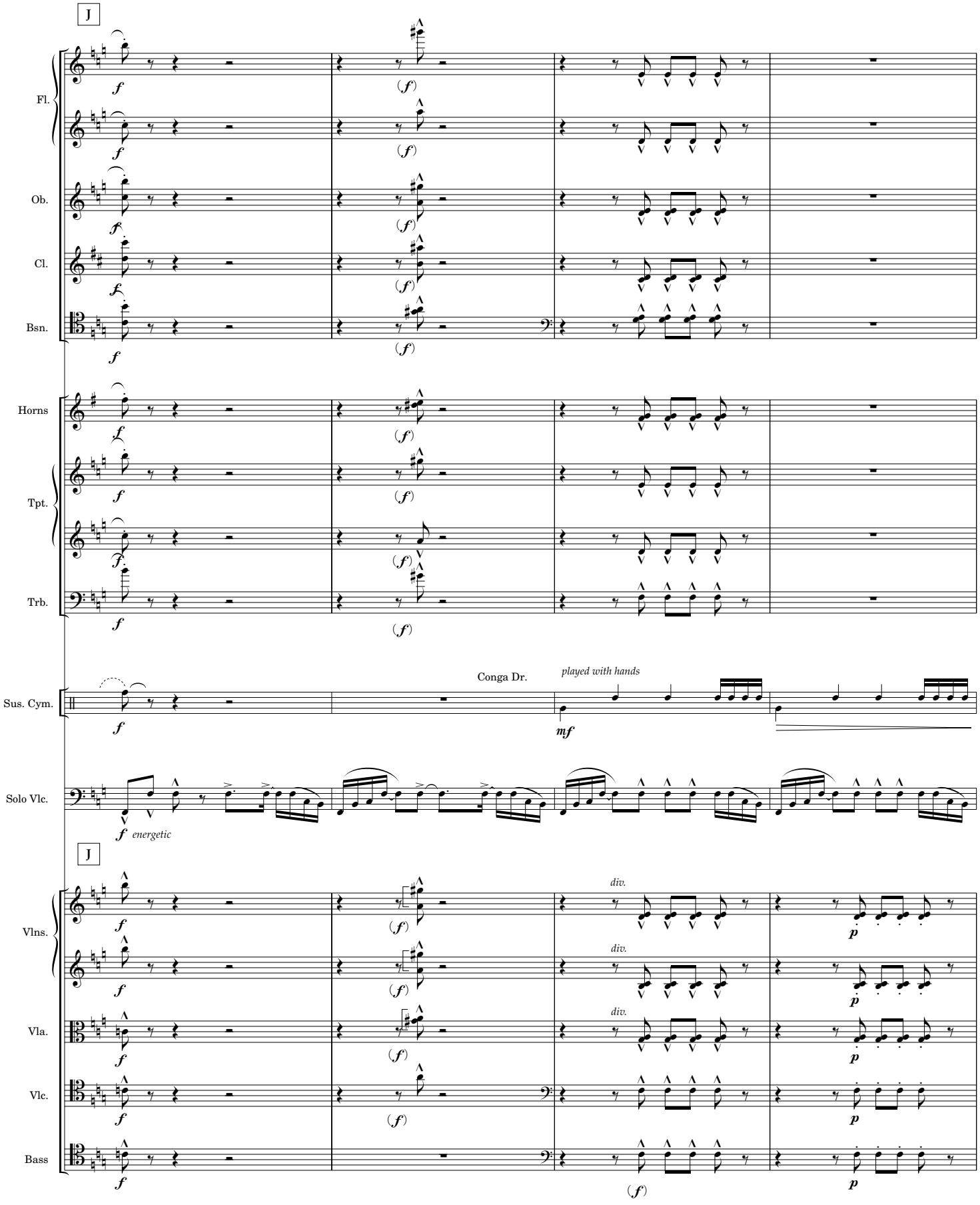

H
2.
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
reflective, free
free oscillation
H
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
con sord.

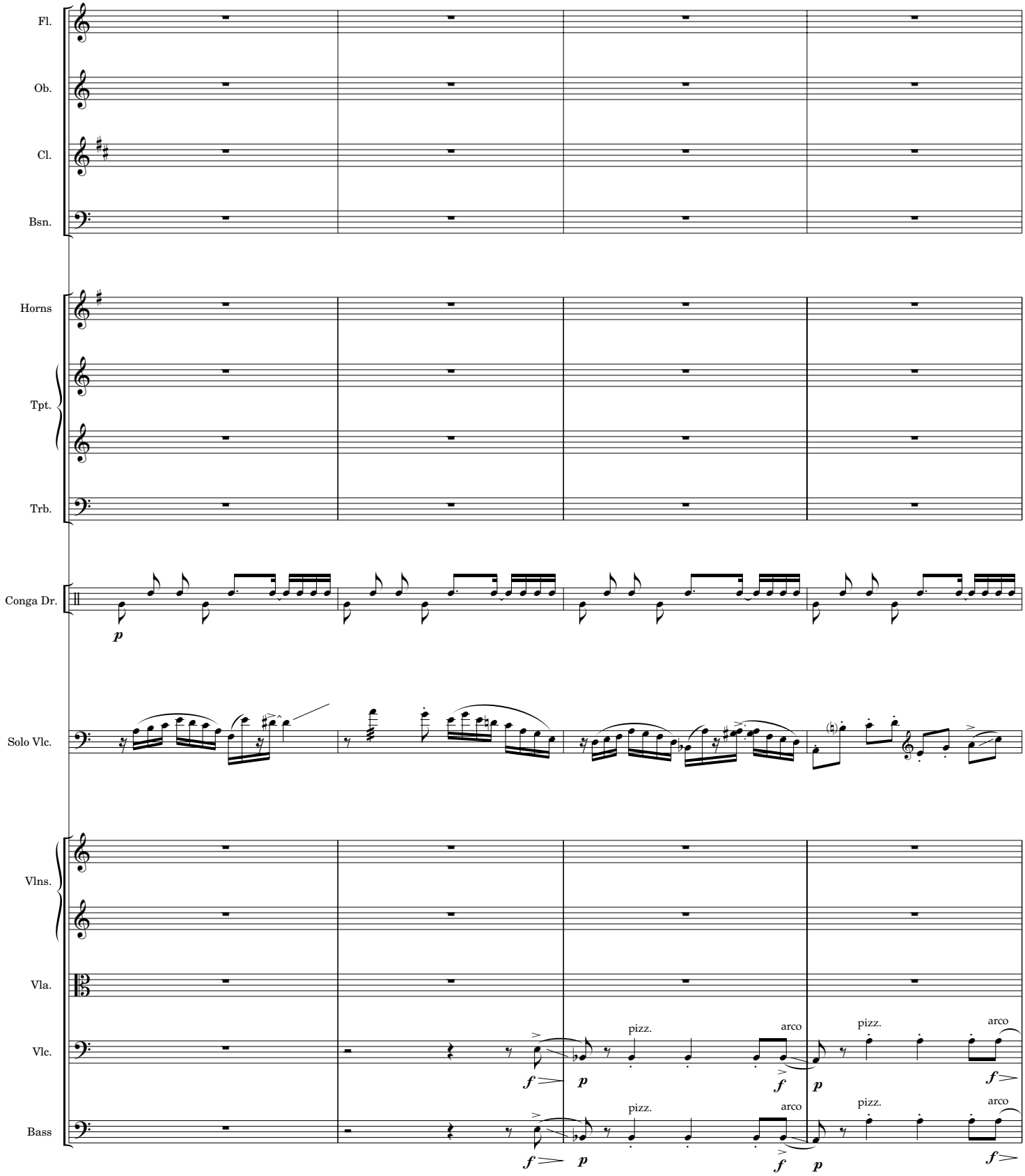

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
p
p
p
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
sul IV
harmonics
p sweetly
mf cantabile
high mini-gliss. or squeaks
rit.
p
div.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass

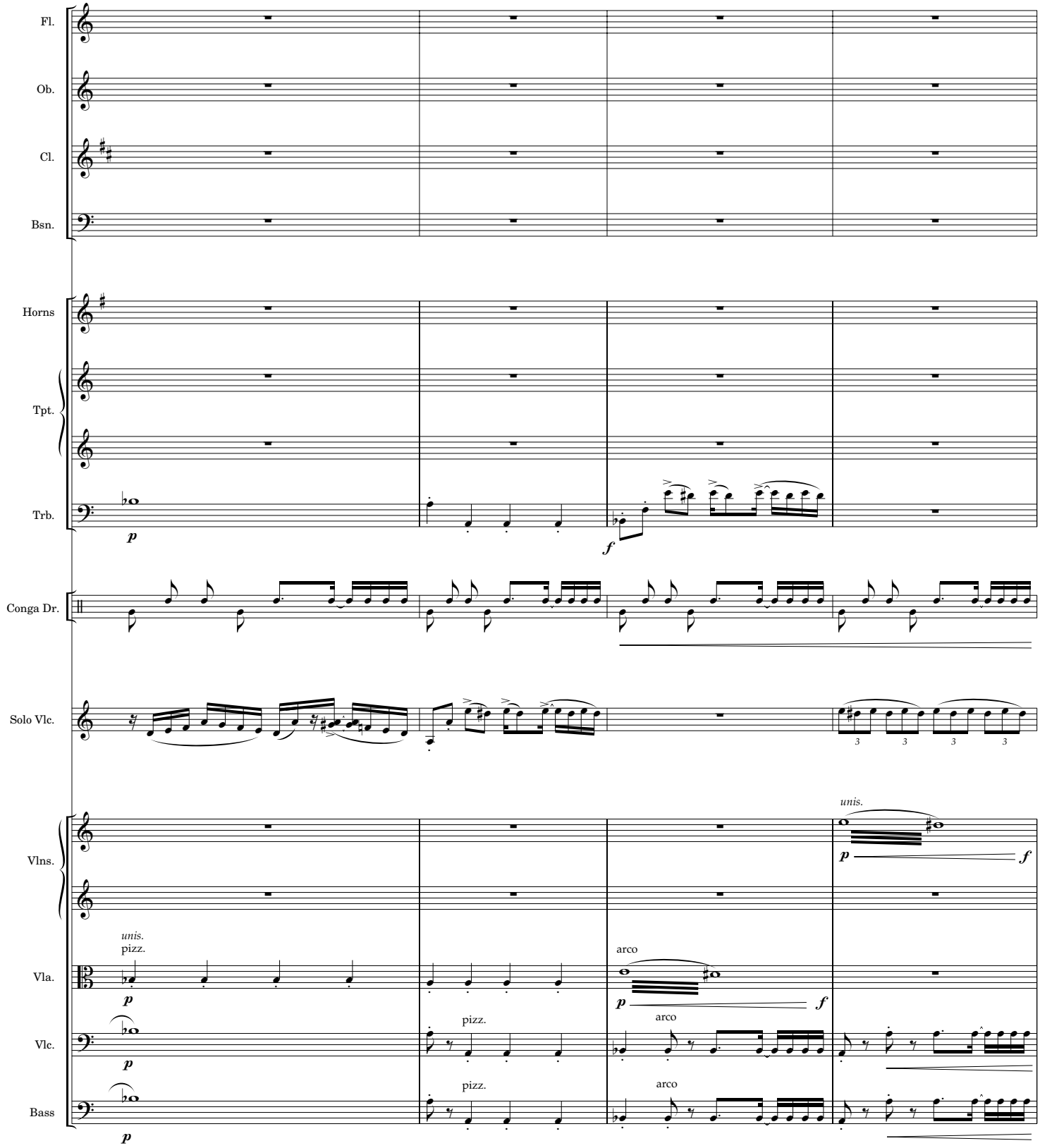

a tempo
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
1.
mf
a2
f
unis.
sfp
div.
senza sord.

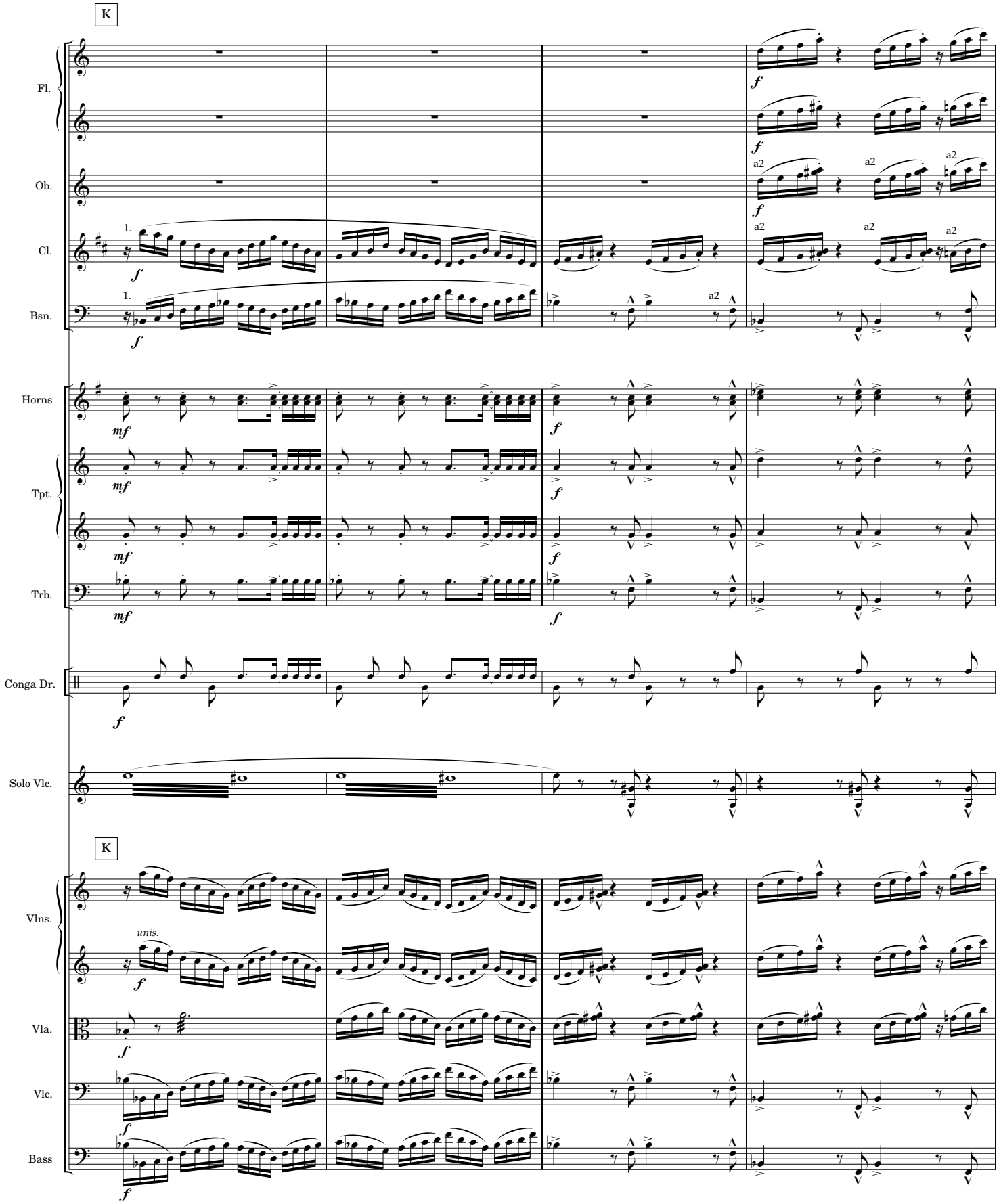

I
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
a2
Bsn.
1.
Horns
a2
Tpt.
Trb.
Temple Blocks
Solo Vlc.
I
senza sord.
Vlns.
senza sord.
senza sord.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass

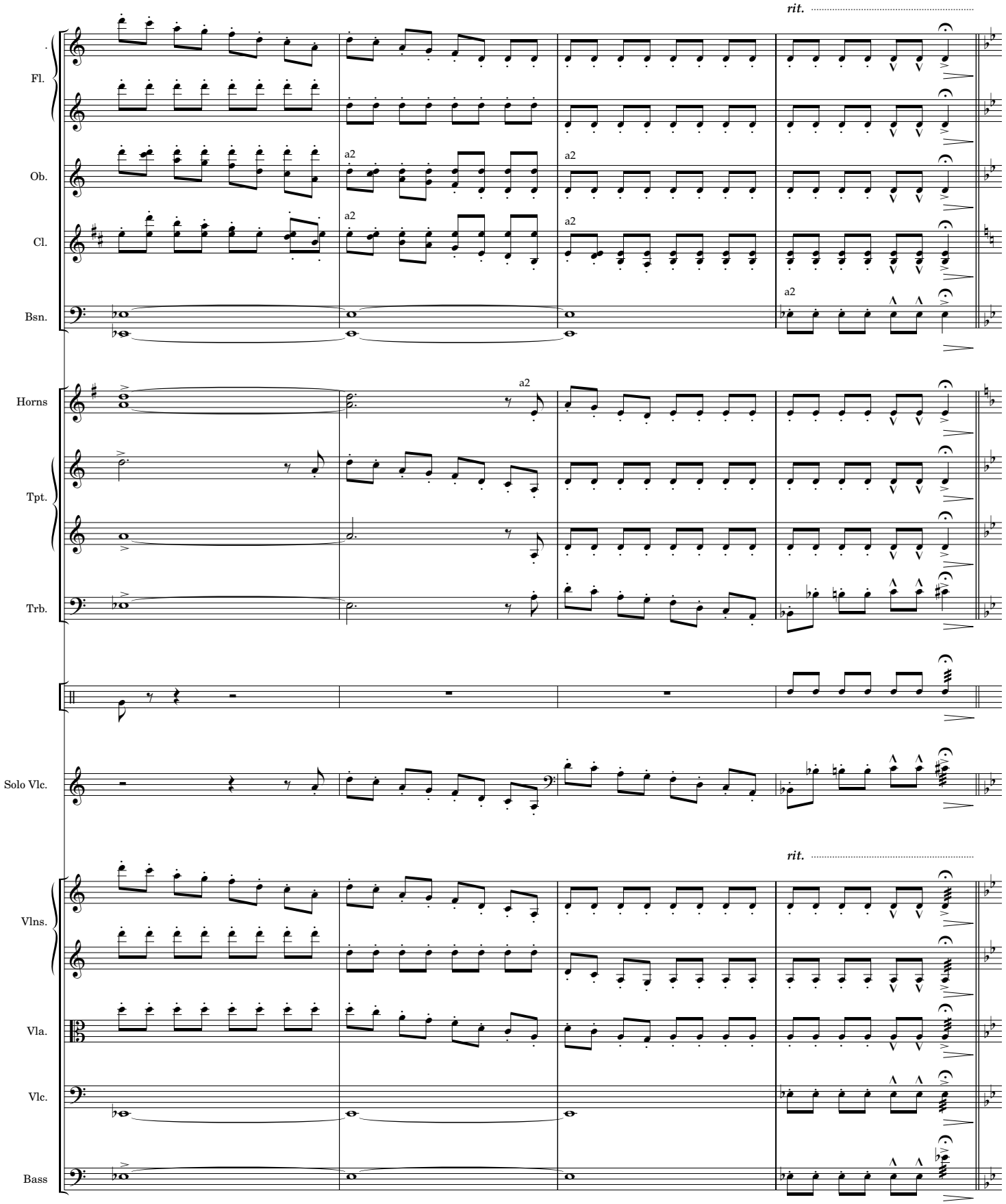

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Suspended Cymbal
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
Solo
Tutti
rapidly, blurred
a2

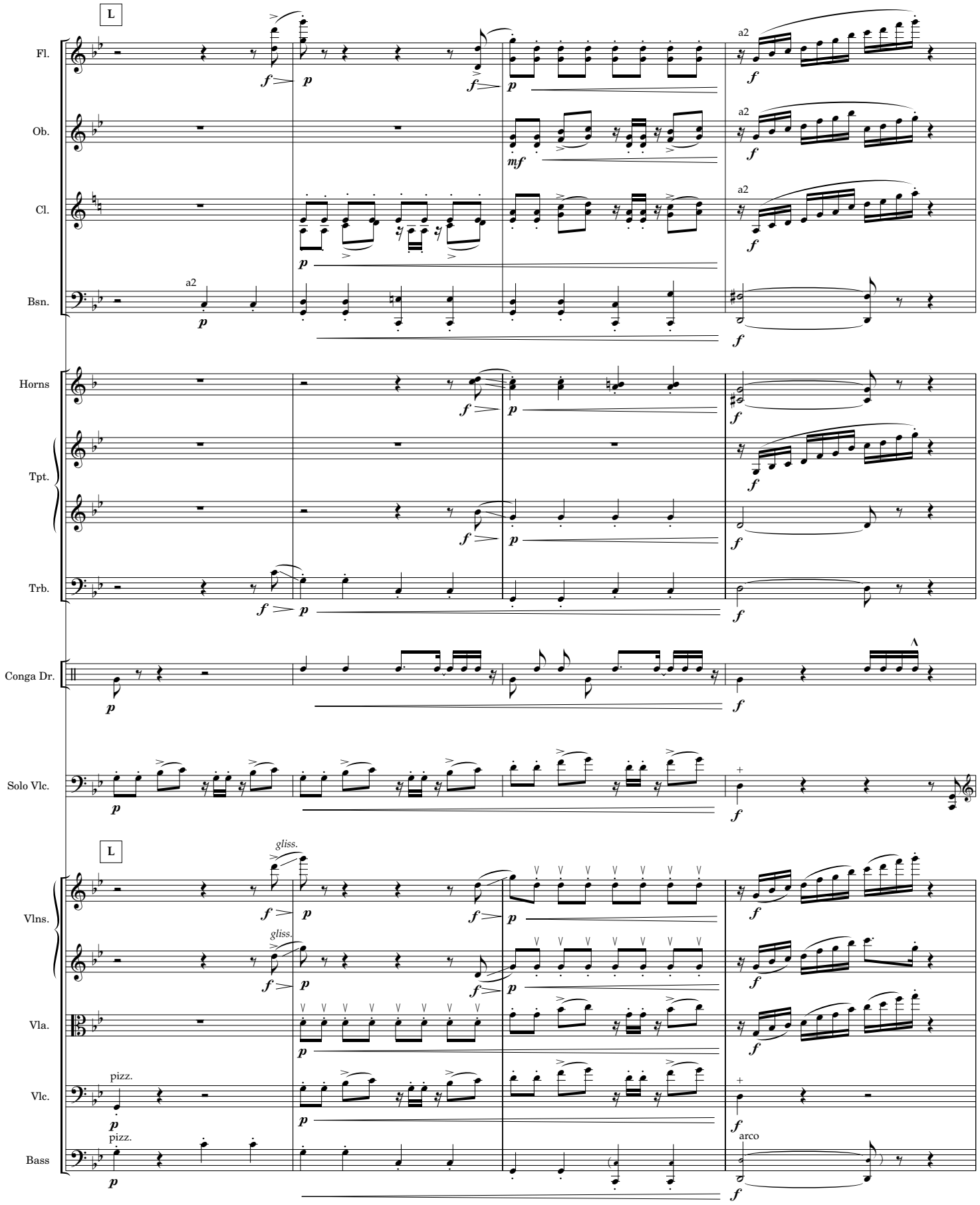

J
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
played with hands
Sus. Cym.
Solo Vlc.
energetic
J
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
div.

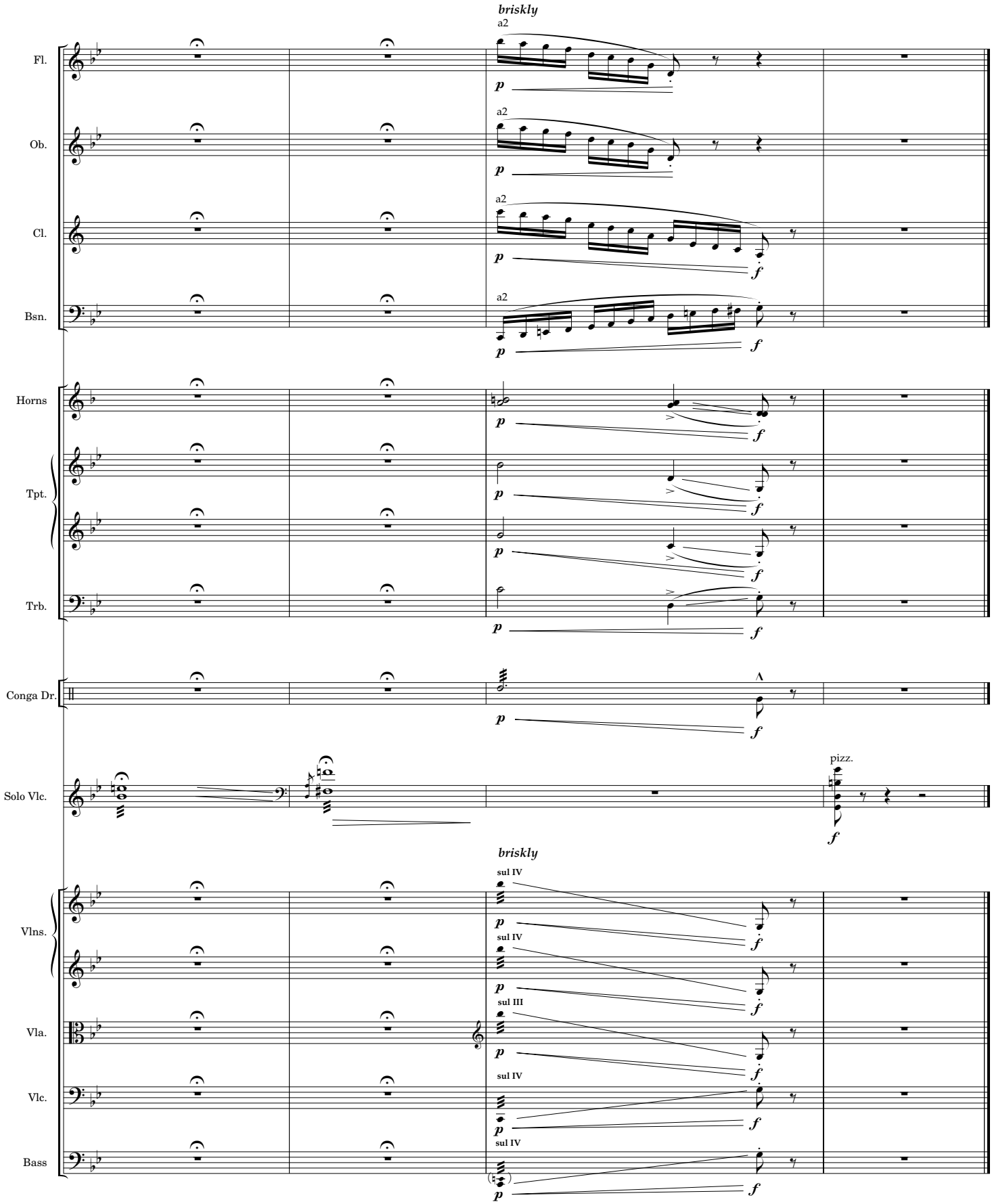

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
p
pizz.
arco
f


Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
unis.
pizz.
arco
p
f


K
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
K
Vlns.
unis.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass


rit.
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
a2
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Solo Vlc.
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass


L
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Horns
Tpt.
Trb.
Conga Dr.
Solo Vlc.
L
Vlns.
Vla.
Vlc.
Bass
a2
gliss.
pizz.
arco



Duration: 3′15″

Total duration: 19′

Here and Now!

April 14, 1995 Braintree, Vermont