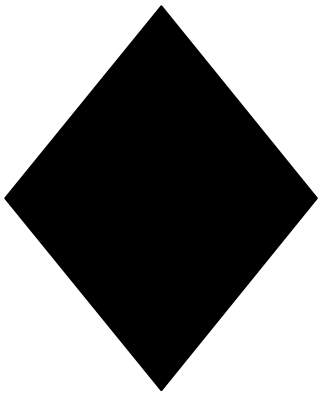
Aaron Grad



The Aeolian Harp

Commissioned by the Sherman Chamber Ensemble
World Premiere August 18, 2006 at St. Andrew's Church in Kent, CT

For flute, guitar, violin, viola and cello. Approximately 16 minutes.

Funded in part by a grant from the New England Foundation for the Arts and Meet the Composer, Inc., with additional support from ASCAP, The Virgil Thomson Fund, and with additional support from the six New England state arts agencies and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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♦

THE AEOLIAN HARP

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

My pensive Sara! thy soft cheek reclined
Thus on mine arm, most soothing sweet it is
To sit beside our Cot, our Cot o'ergrown
With white-flowered Jasmin, and the broad-leaved Myrtle,
(Meet emblems they of Innocence and Love!)
And watch the clouds, that late were rich with light,
Slow saddenning round, and mark the star of eve
Serenely brilliant (such should Wisdom be)
Shine opposite! How exquisite the scents
Snatched from yon bean-field! and the world *so* hushed!
The stilly murmur of the distant Sea
Tells us of silence.

And that simplest Lute,
Placed length-ways in the clasping casement, hark!
How by the desultory breeze caressed,
Like some coy maid half-yielding to her lover,
It pours such sweet upbraiding, as must needs
Tempt to repeat the wrong! And now, its strings
Boldlier swept, the long sequacious notes
Over delicious surges sink and rise,
Such a soft floating witchery of sound
As twilight Elfins make, when they at eve
Voyage on gentle gales from Fairy-Land,
Where Melodies round honey-dropping flowers,
Footless and wild, like birds of Paradise,
Nor pause, nor perch, hovering on untamed wing!
O! the one Life within us and abroad,
Which meets all motion and becomes its soul,
A light in sound, a sound-like power in light,
Rhythm in all thought, and joyance every where—
Methinks, it should have been impossible
Not to love all things in a world so filled;
Where the breeze warbles, and the mute still air
Is Music slumbering on her instrument.

And thus, my Love! as on the midway slope
Of yonder hill I stretch my limbs at noon,
Whilst through my half-closed eyelids I behold
The sunbeams dance, like diamonds, on the main,
And tranquil muse upon tranquility;
Full many a thought uncalled and undetained,
And many idle flitting phantasies,
Traverse my indolent and passive brain,
As wild and various, as the random gales
That swell and flutter on this subject Lute!

And what if all of animated nature
Be but organic Harps diversely framed,
That tremble into thought, as o'er them sweeps
Plastic and vast, one intellectual breeze,
At once the Soul of each, and God of all?

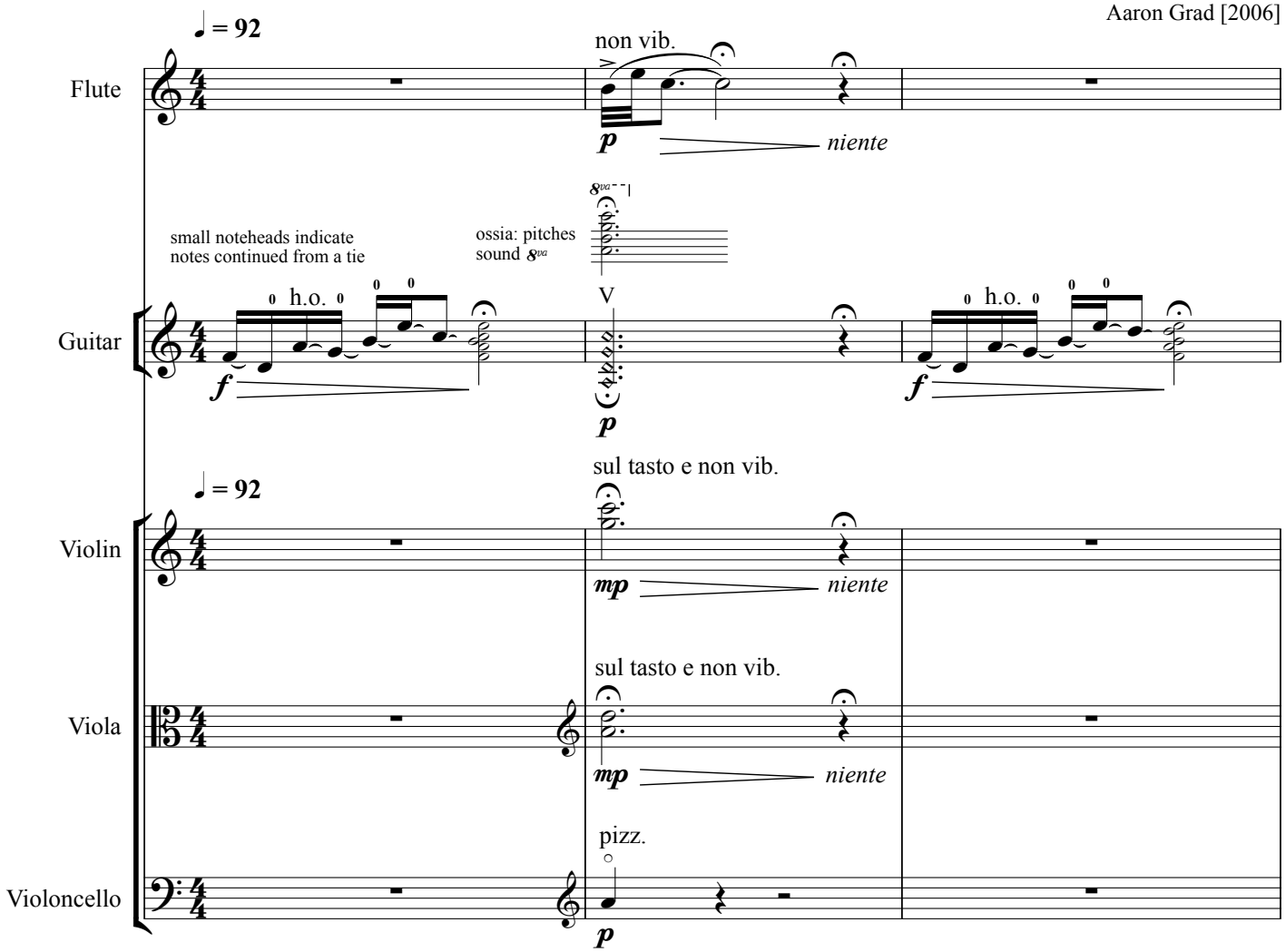
But thy more serious eye a mild reproof
Darts, O belovéd Woman! nor such thoughts
Dim and unhallowed dost thou not reject,
And biddest me walk humbly with my God.
Meek Daughter in the family of Christ!
Well hast thou said and holily dispraised
These shapings of the unregenerate mind;
Bubbles that glitter as they rise and break
On vain Philosophy's aye-babbling spring.
For never guiltless may I speak of him,
The Incomprehensible! save when with awe
I praise him, and with Faith that inly *feels*;
Who with his saving mercies healéd me,
A sinful and most miserable man,
Wildered and dark, and gave me to possess
Peace, and this Cot, and thee, heart-honored Maid!

In Memory of Walter Reinhold

The Aeolian Harp

After the poem by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Aaron Grad [2006]



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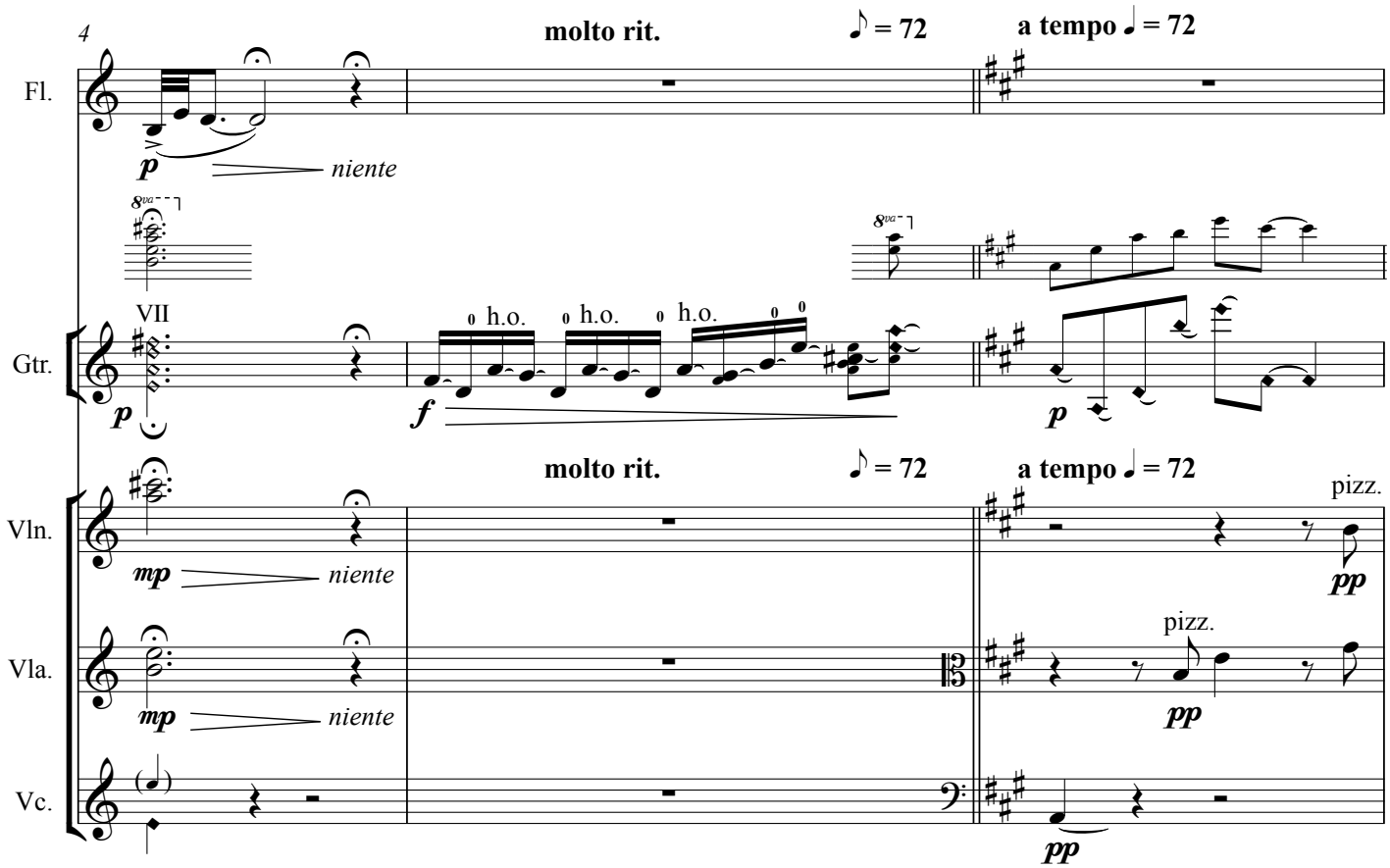
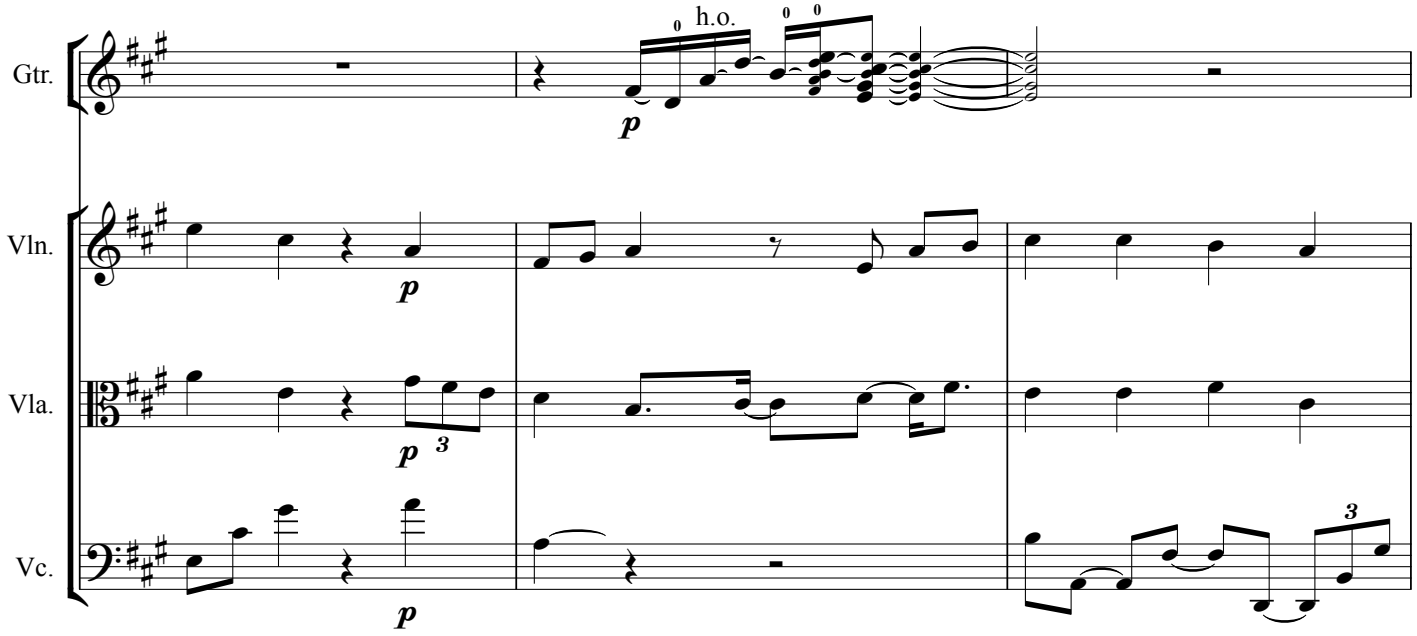
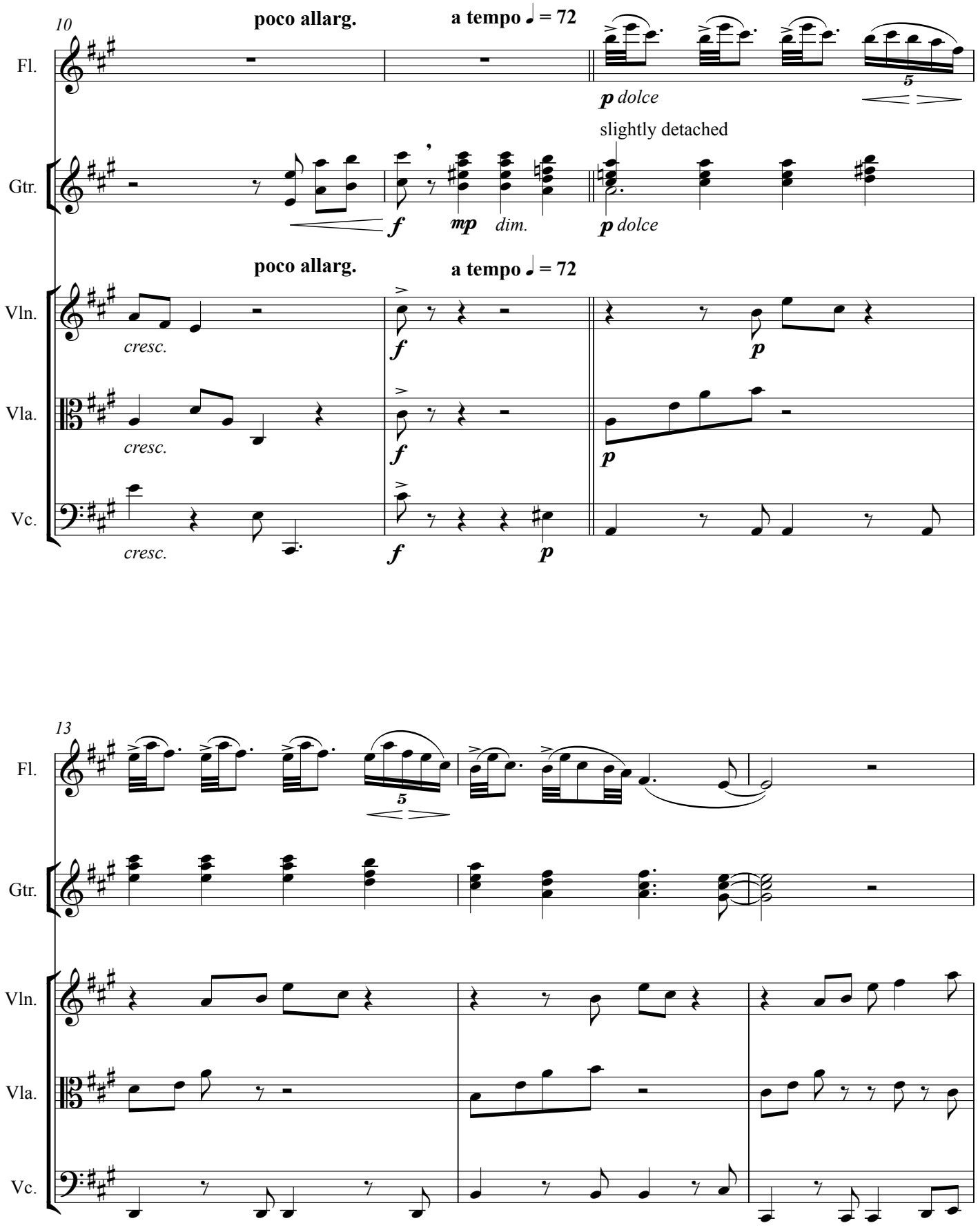
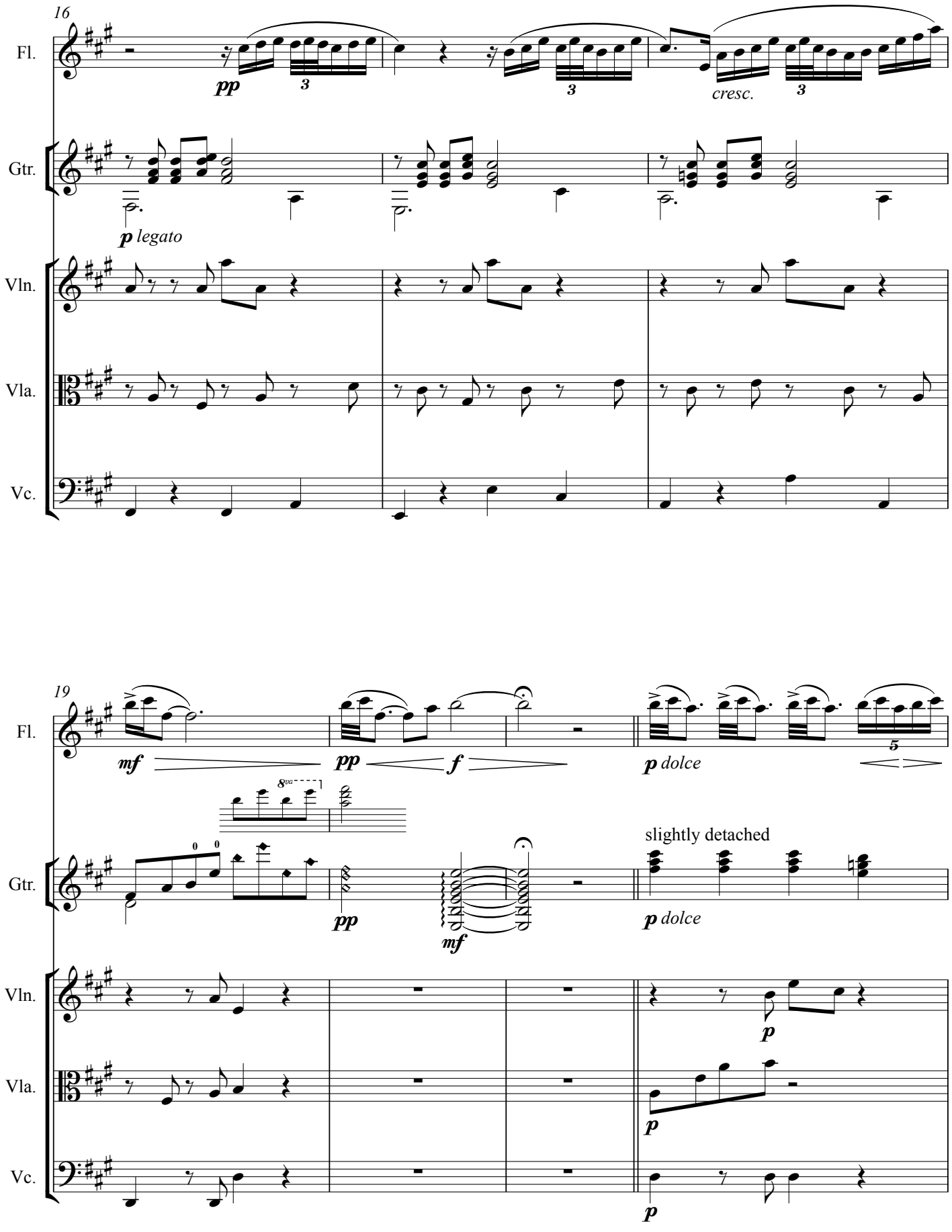
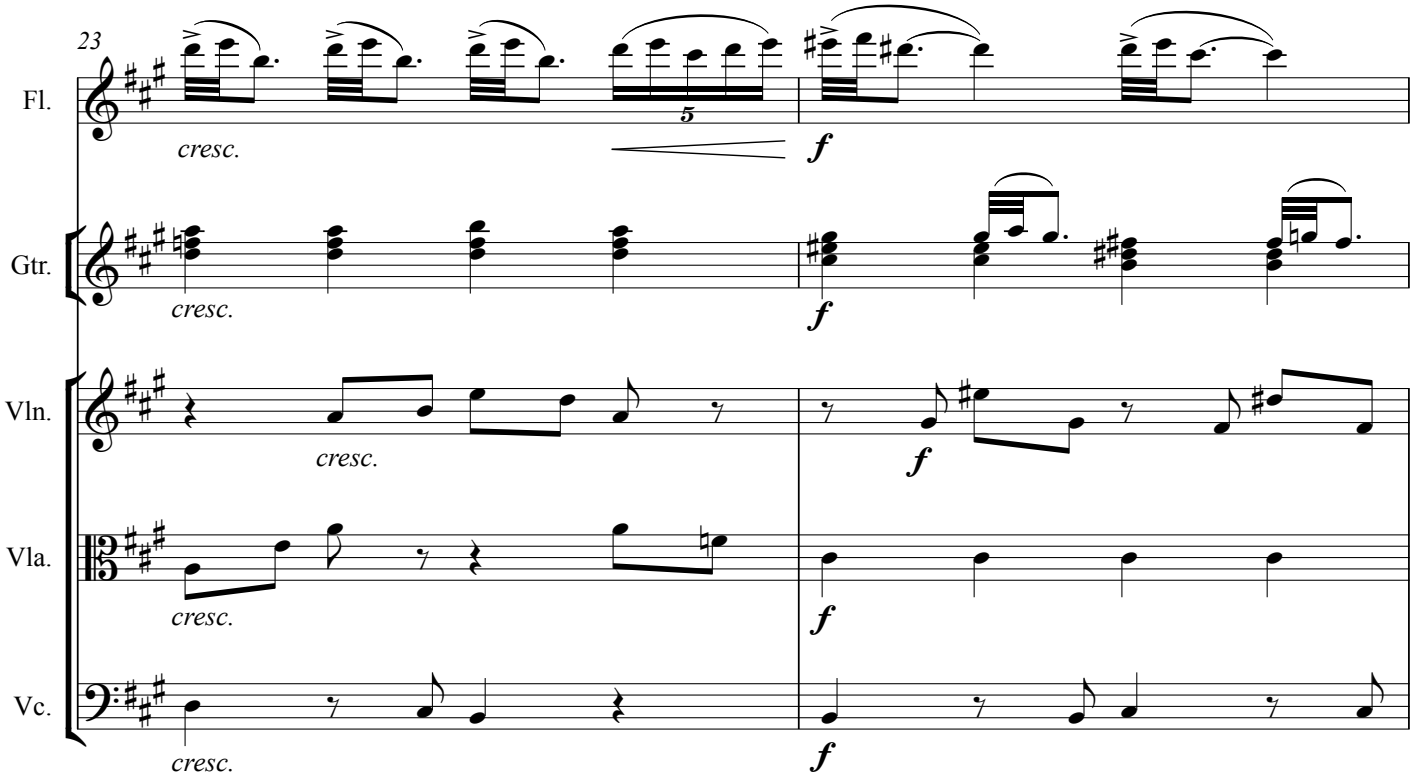
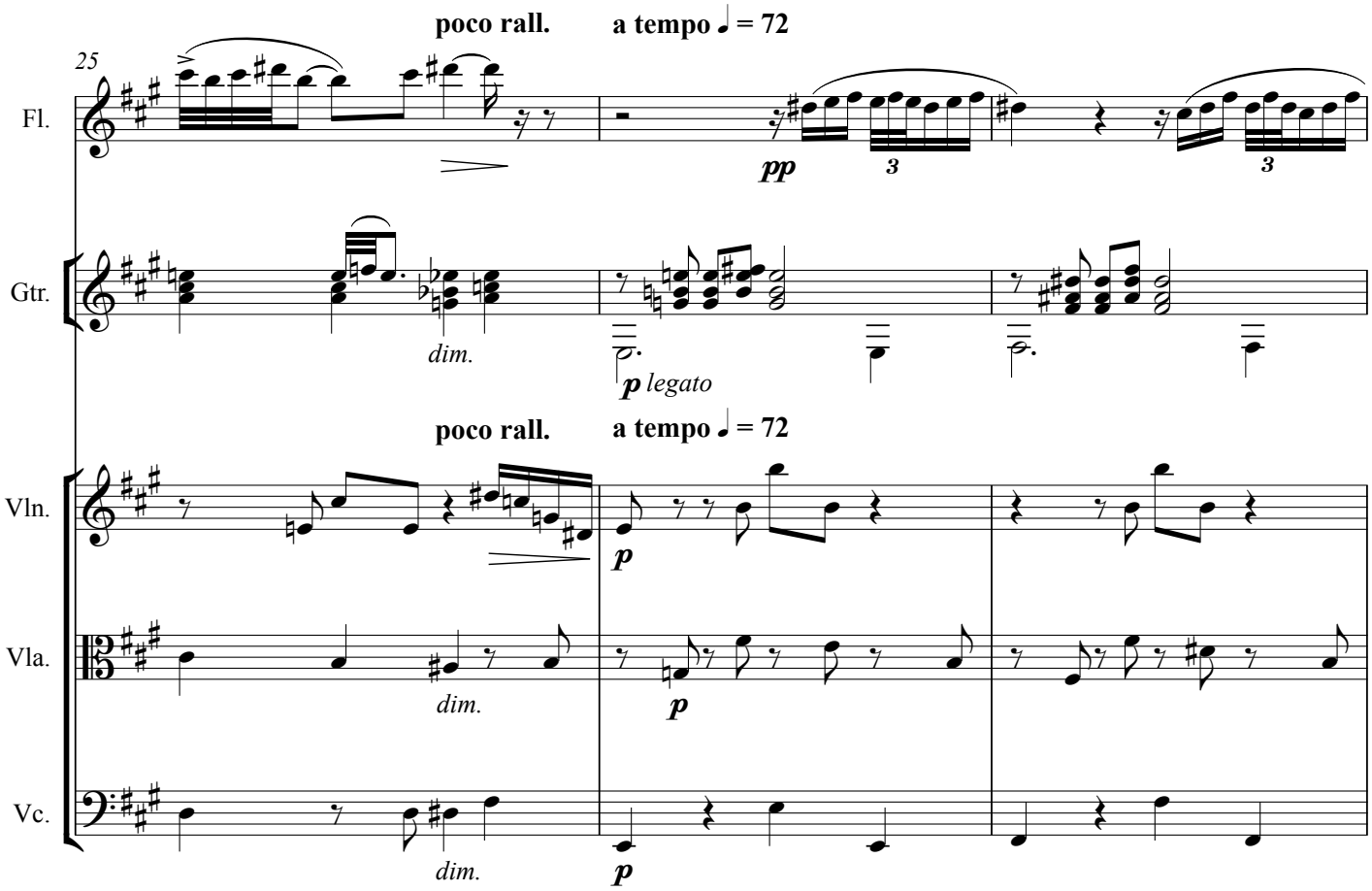

4
molto rit.
♪ = 72
a tempo ♩ = 72
Fl.
p
niente
8va
VII
Gtr.
h.o.
f
molto rit.
♪ = 72
a tempo ♩ = 72
Vln.
mp
niente
pizz.
pp
Vla.
Vc.

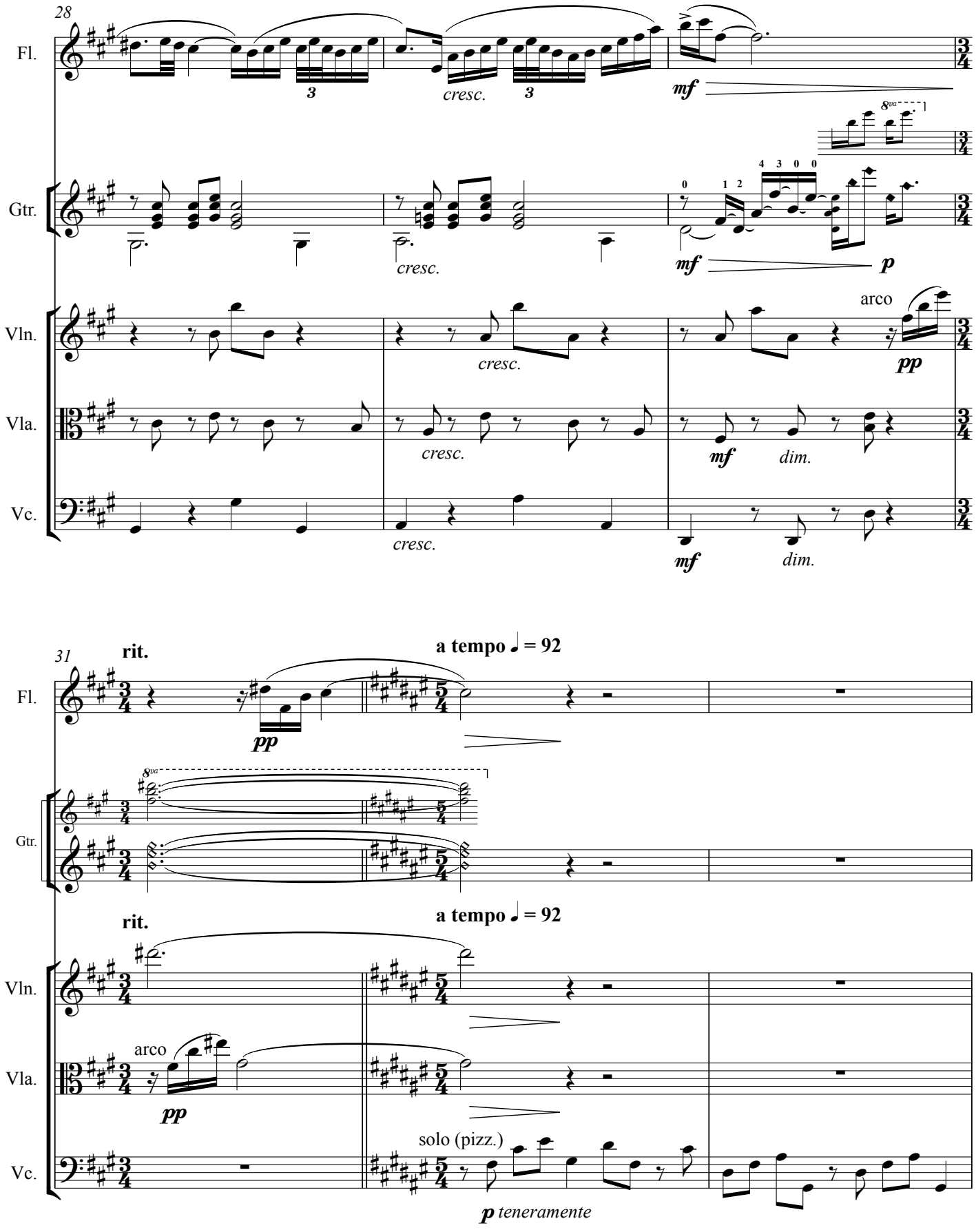

Gtr.
h.o.
p
Vln.
Vla.
3
Vc.

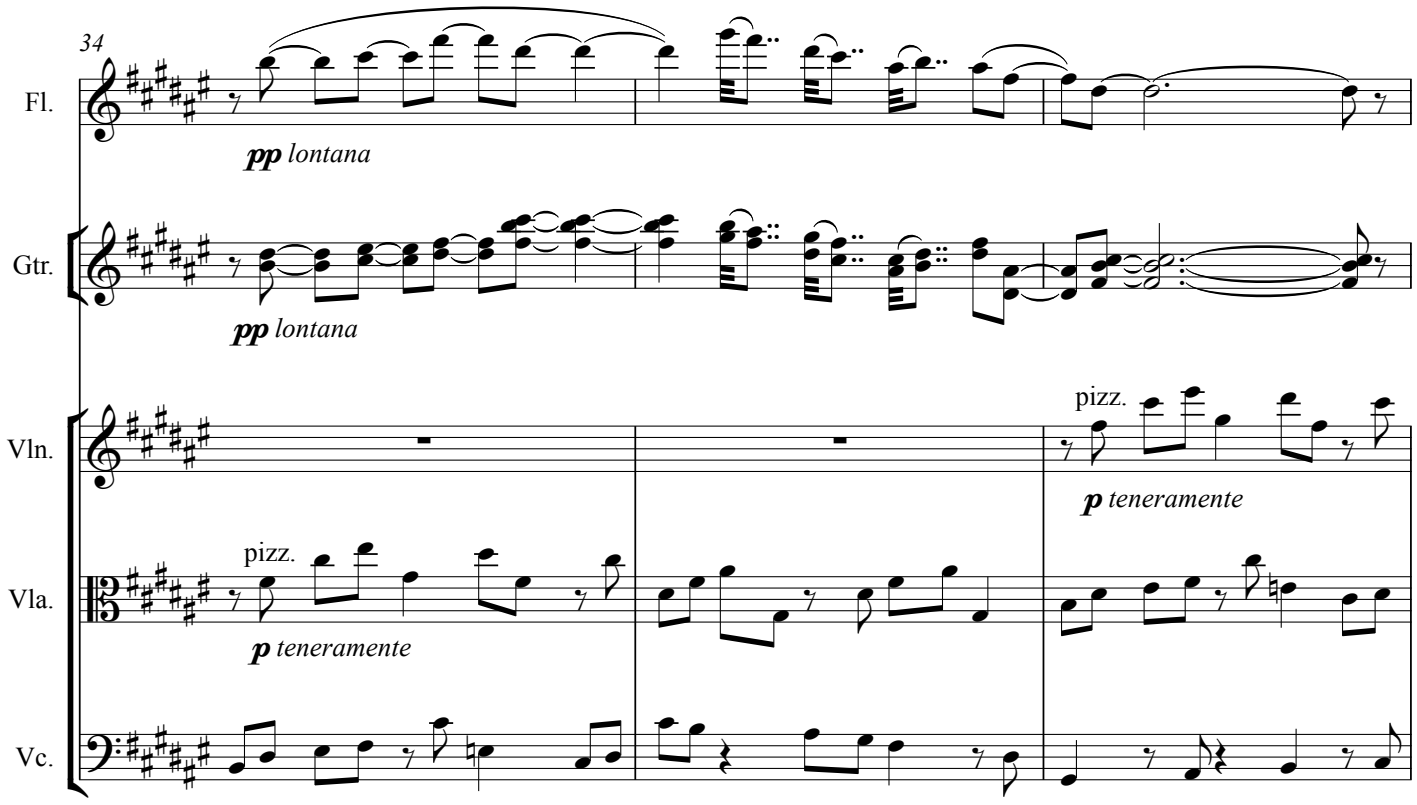

10
poco allarg.
a tempo ♩ = 72
Fl.
p dolce
slightly detached
Gtr.
f
mp
dim.
p dolce
poco allarg.
a tempo ♩ = 72
Vln.
cresc.
f
p
Vla.
cresc.
f
p
Vc.
cresc.
f
p
13
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.

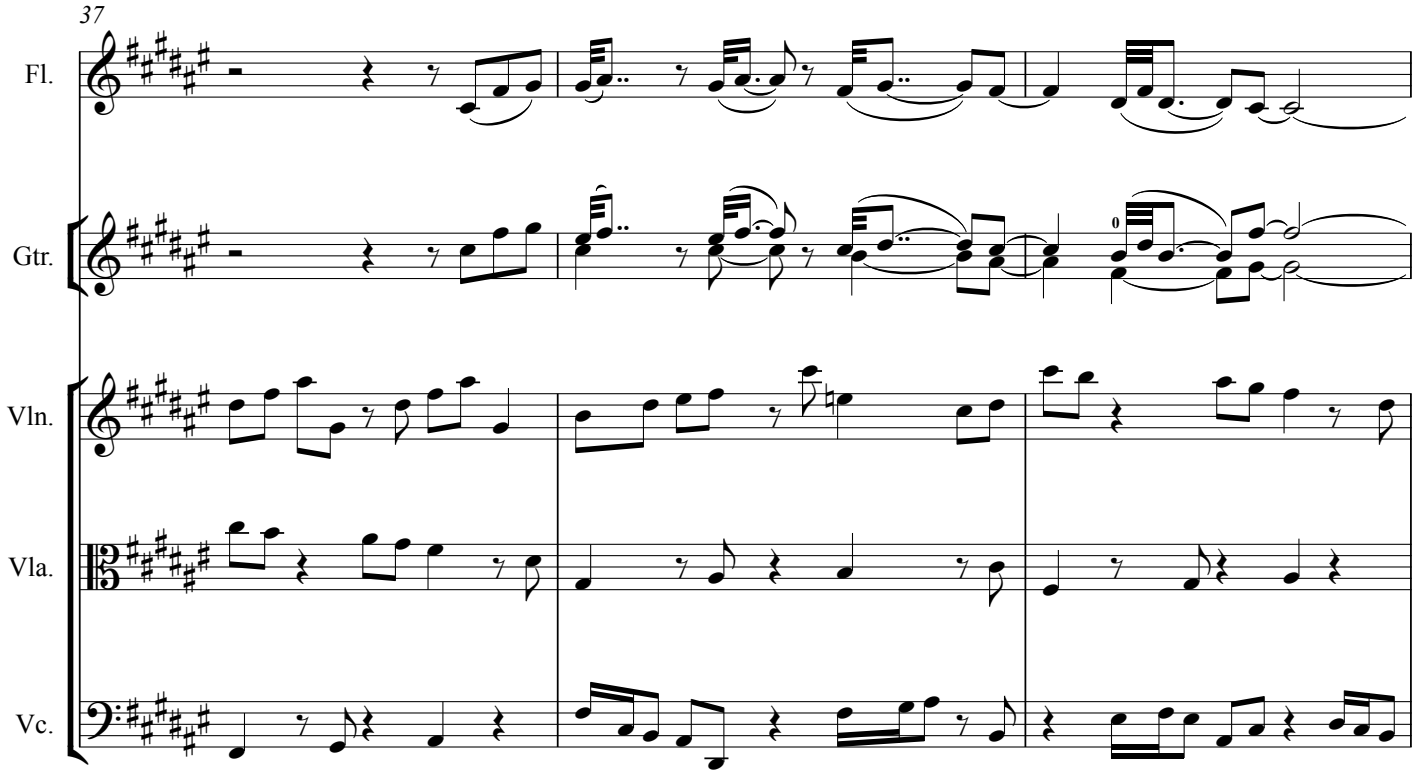

16
Fl.
pp
3
3
cresc.
3
Gtr.
p legato
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
19
Fl.
mf
pp
f
p dolce
5
8va
Gtr.
pp
mf
slightly detached
p dolce
Vln.
p
Vla.
p
Vc.
p

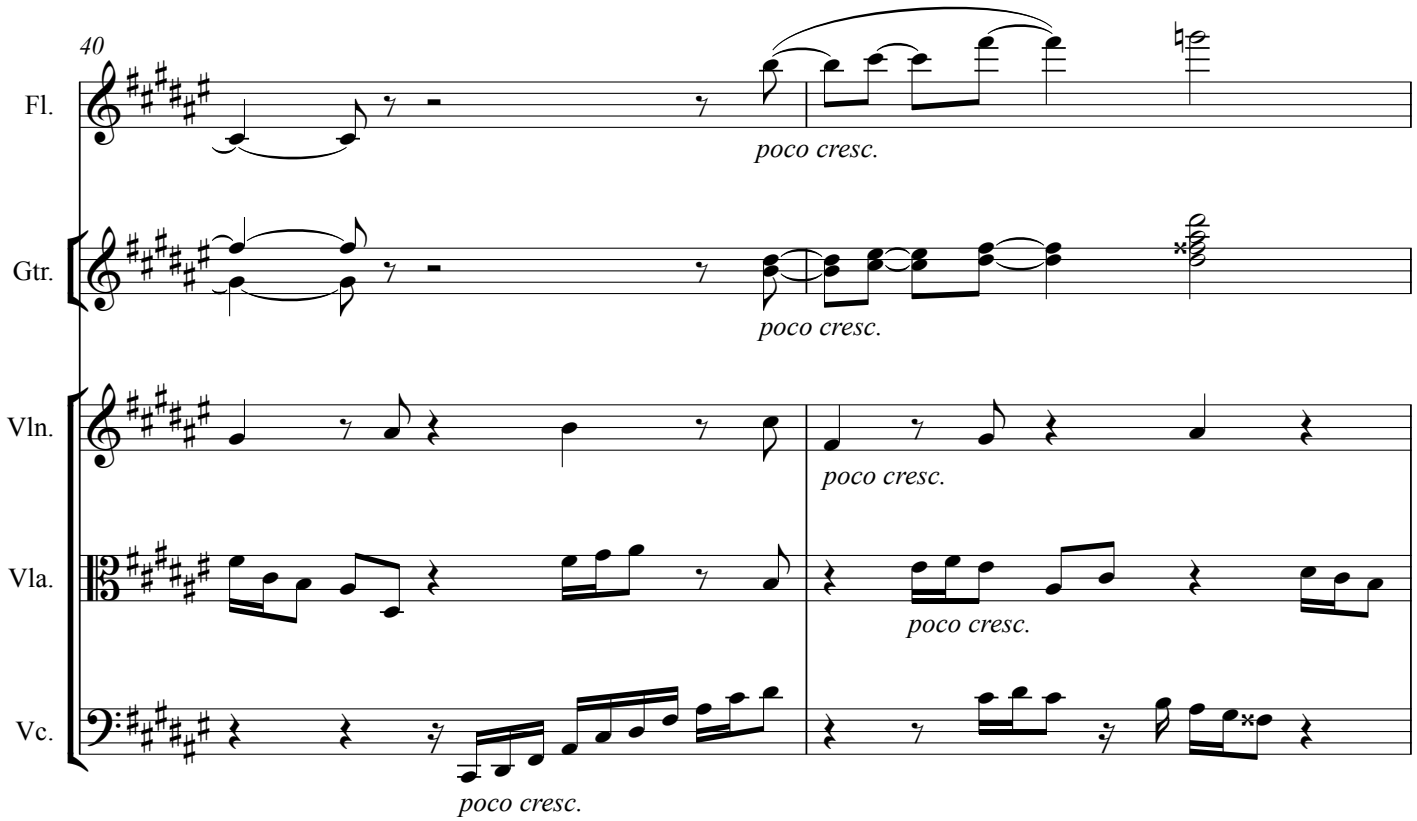

23
Fl.
cresc.
5
f
Gtr.
cresc.
f
Vln.
cresc.
f
Vla.
cresc.
f
Vc.
cresc.
f

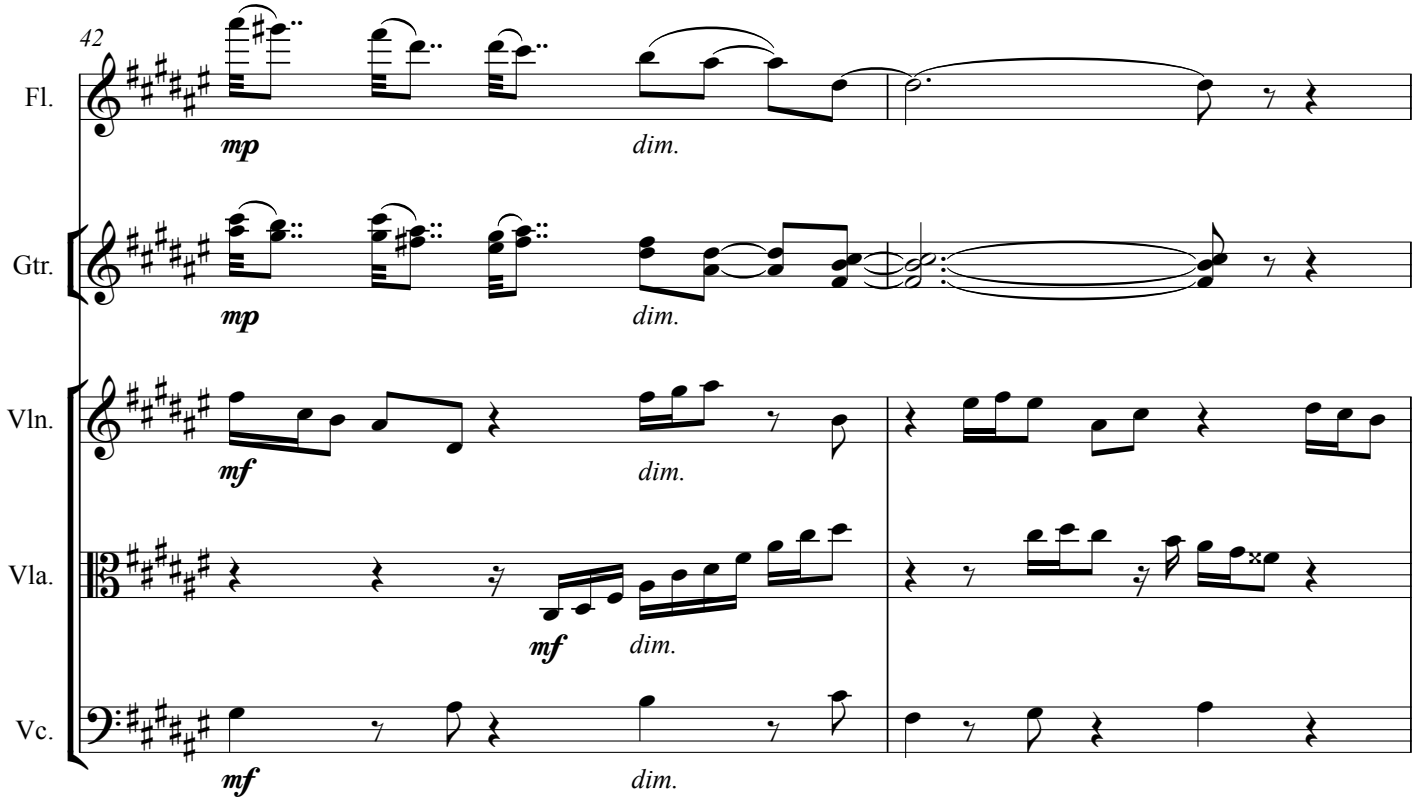

poco rall.
a tempo ♩ = 72
25
Fl.
pp
3
3
Gtr.
dim.
p legato
poco rall.
a tempo ♩ = 72
Vln.
p
Vla.
dim.
p
Vc.
dim.
p

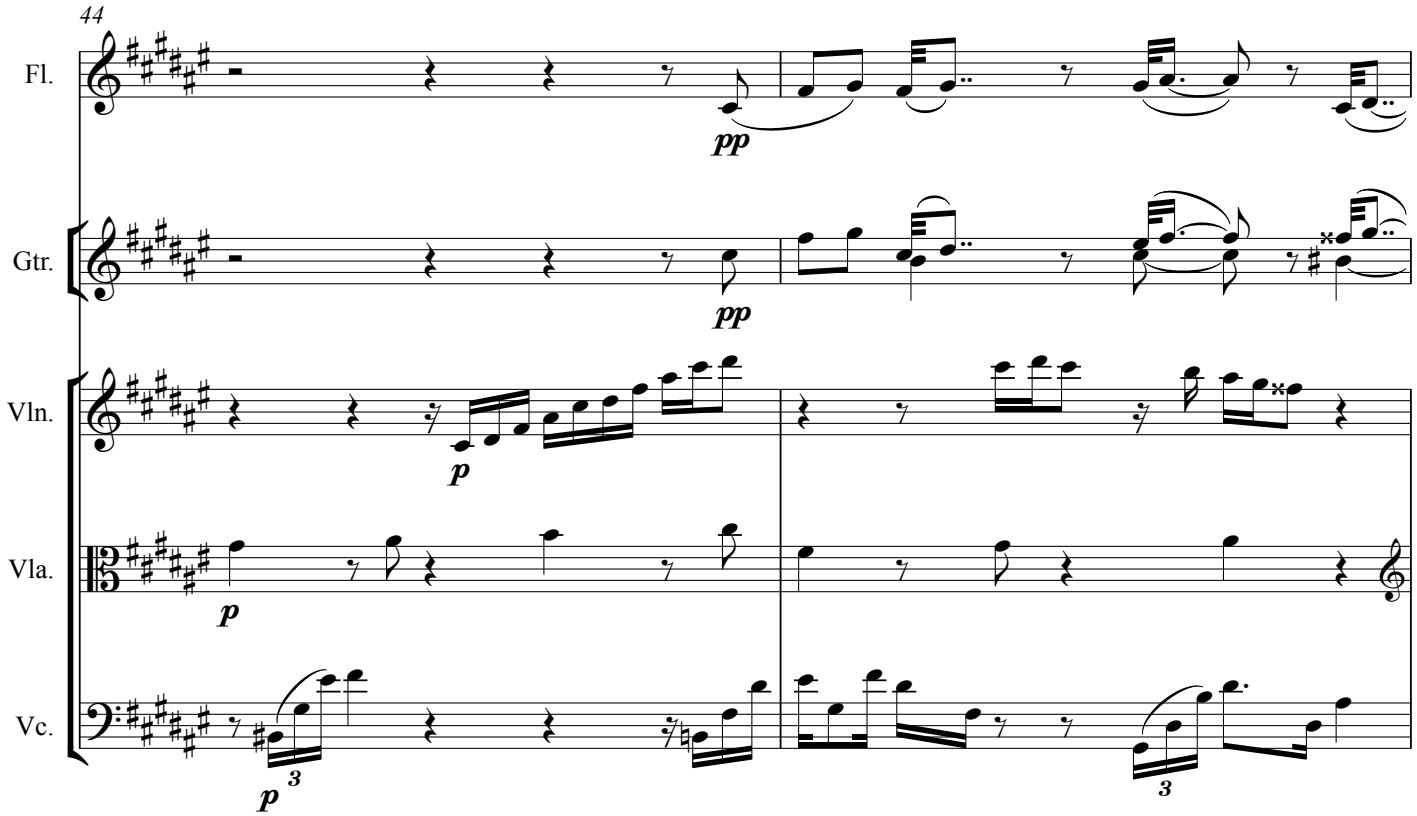

28
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
cresc.
mf
p
pp
arco
dim.
31
rit.
a tempo ♩ = 92
solo (pizz.)
p teneramente

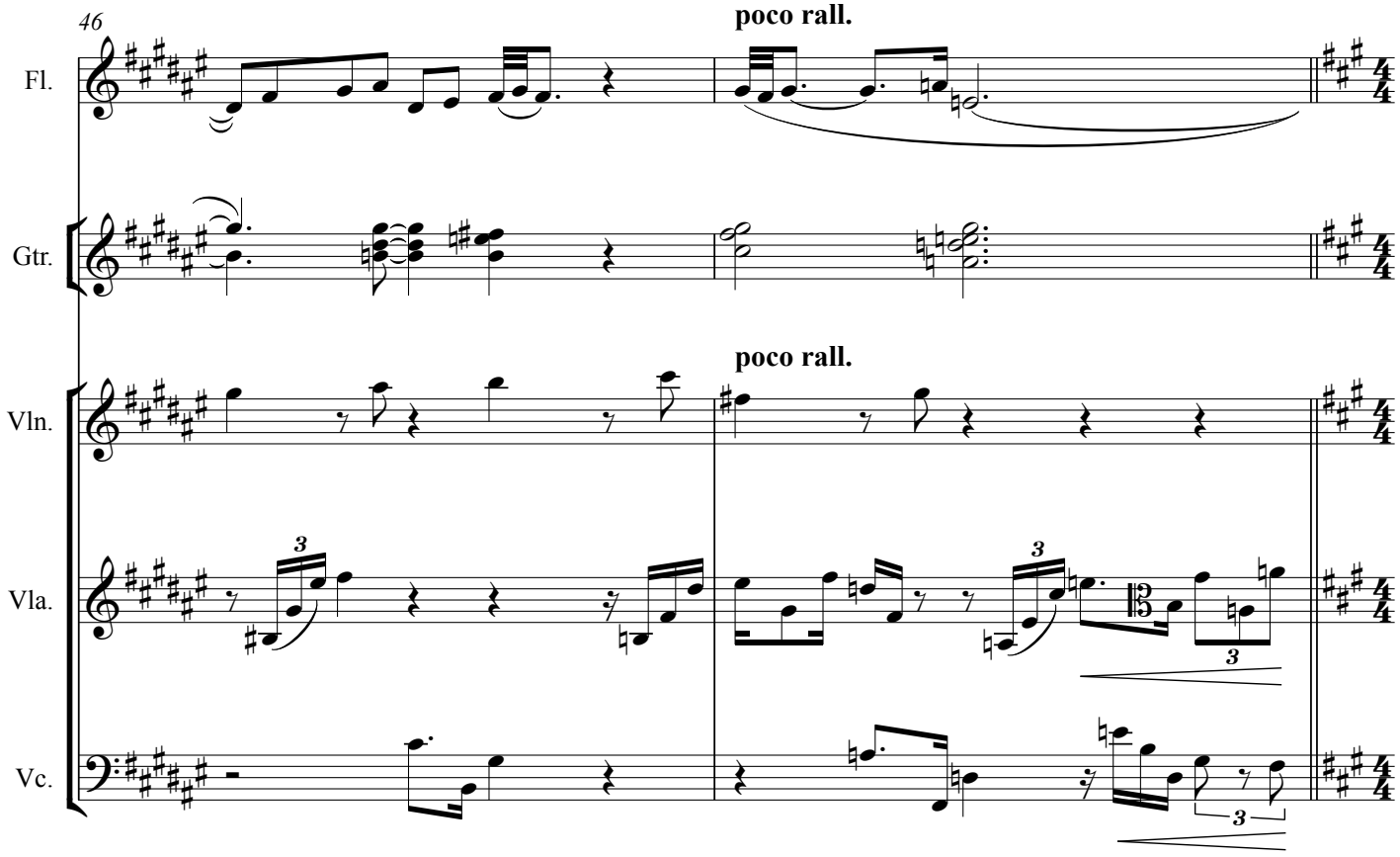

34
Fl.
pp lontana
Gtr.
pp lontana
Vln.
pizz.
p teneramente
Vla.
pizz.
p teneramente
Vc.

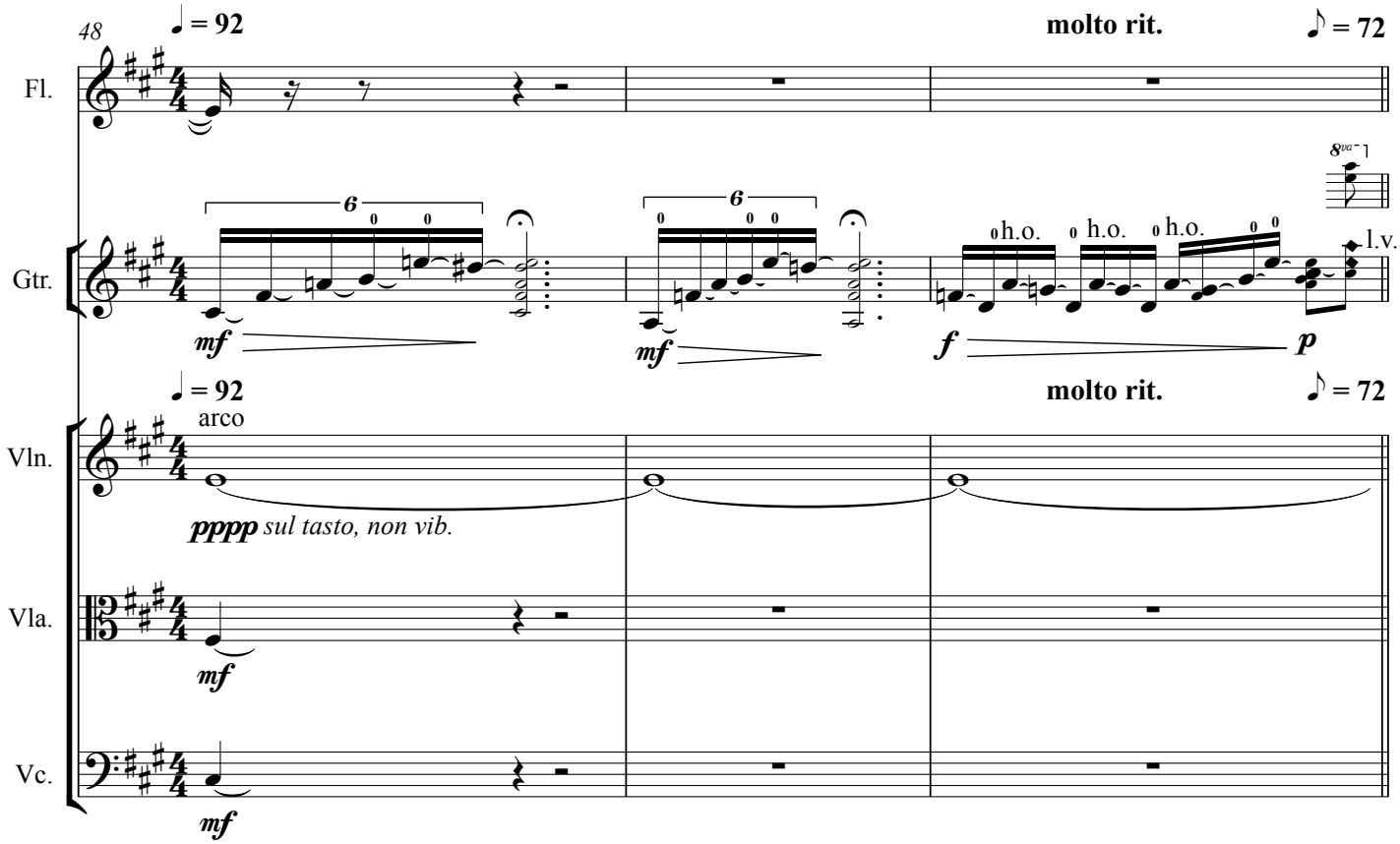

37
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.

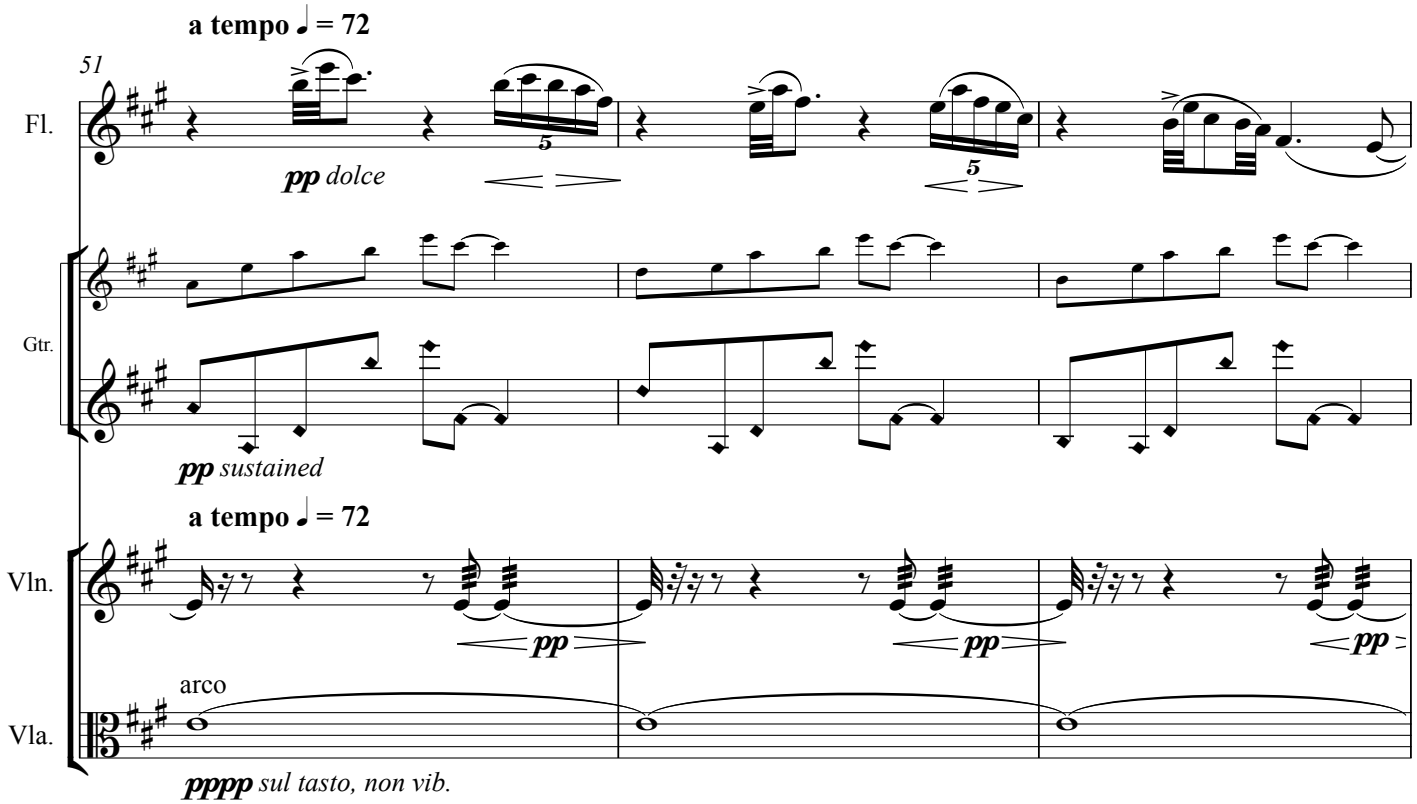

40
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
poco cresc.
poco cresc.
poco cresc.
poco cresc.
poco cresc.

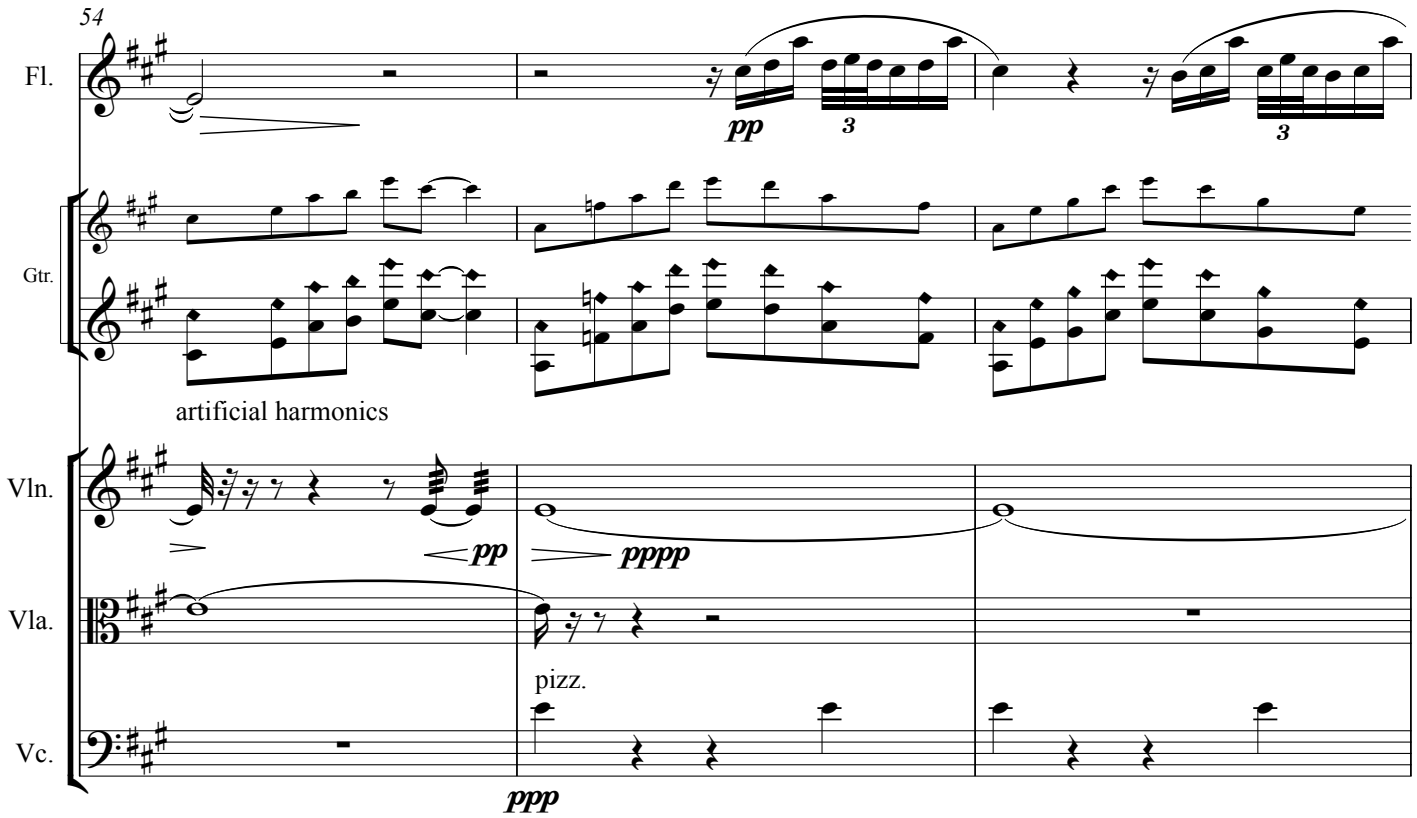

42
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
mp
dim.
mp
dim.
mf
dim.
mf
dim.
mf
dim.

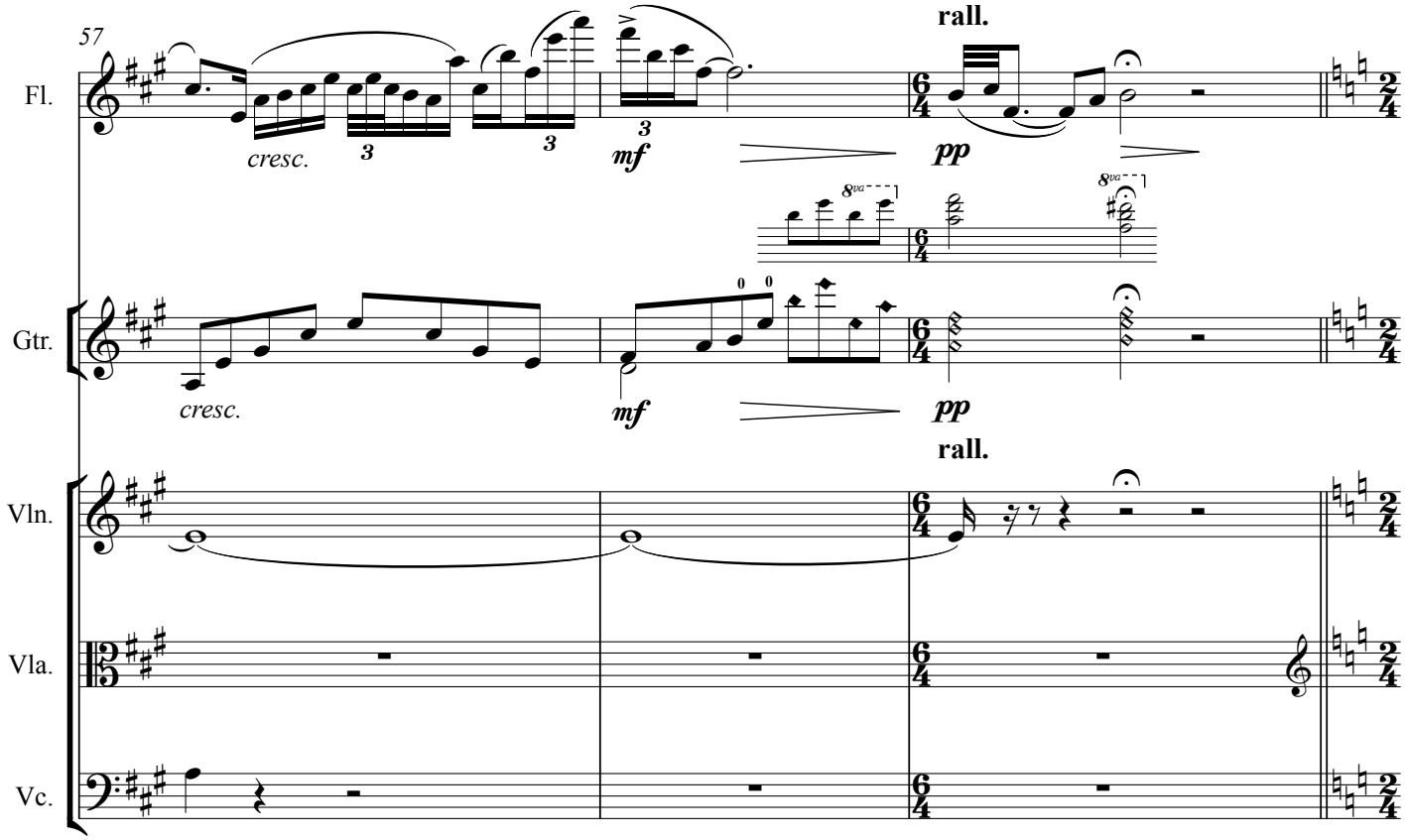

44
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
pp
pp
p
p
p
3
3

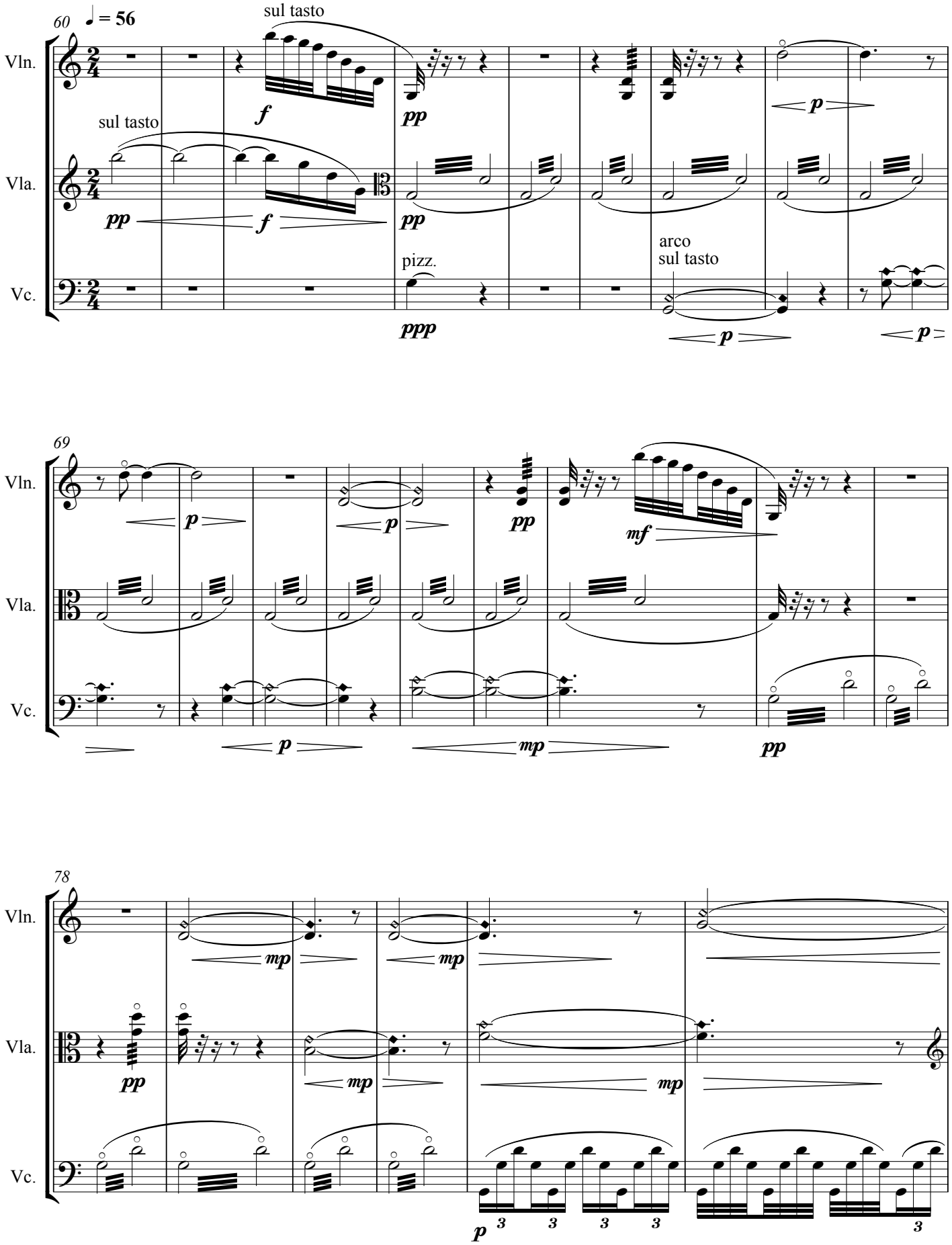

46
poco rall.
poco rall.
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
3
3
3
3
3

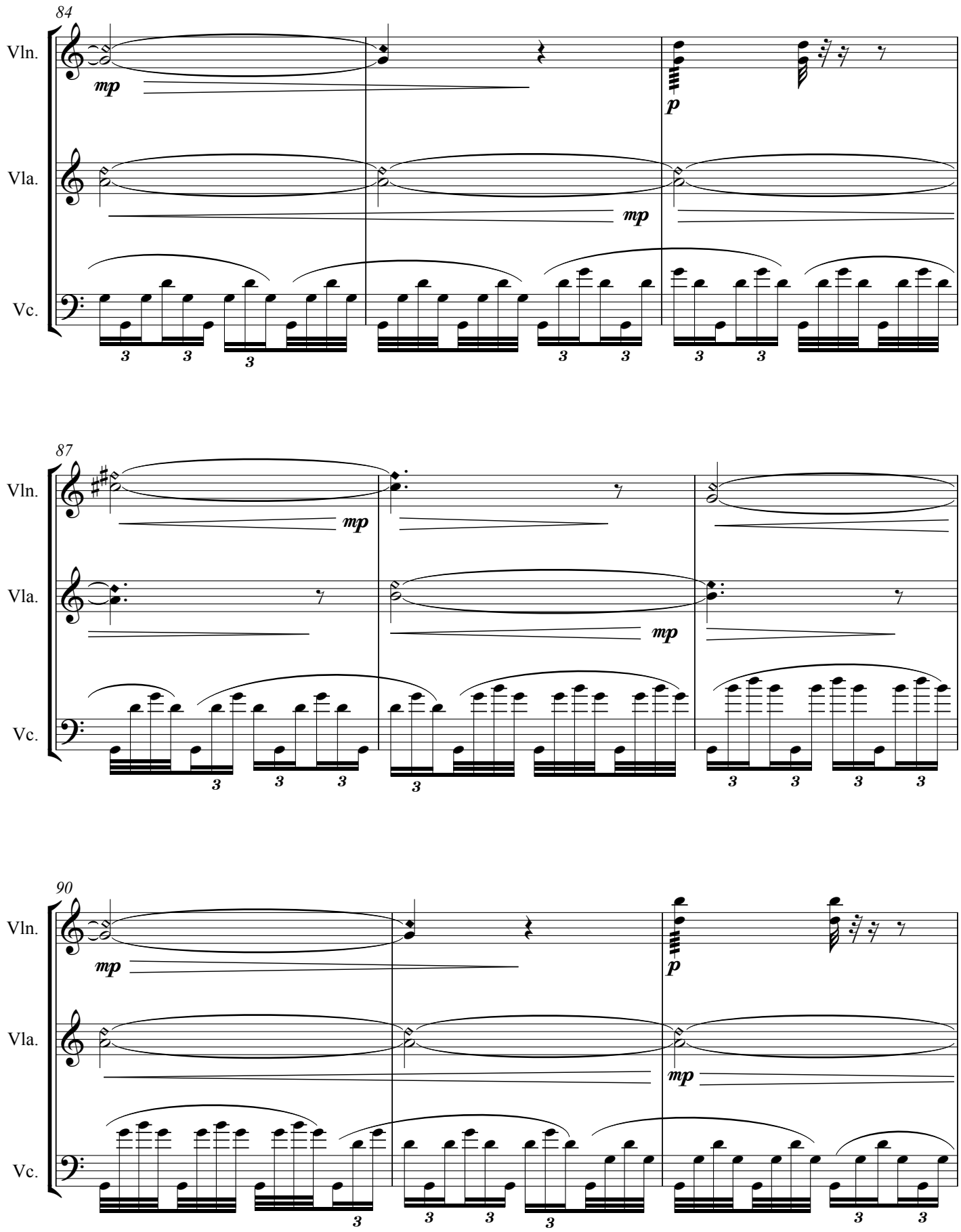

48
♩ = 92
molto rit.
♪ = 72
Fl.
Gtr.
8va
h.o.
h.o.
h.o.
l.v.
mf
mf
f
p
♩ = 92
molto rit.
♪ = 72
Vln.
arco
pppp sul tasto, non vib.
Vla.
mf
Vc.
mf

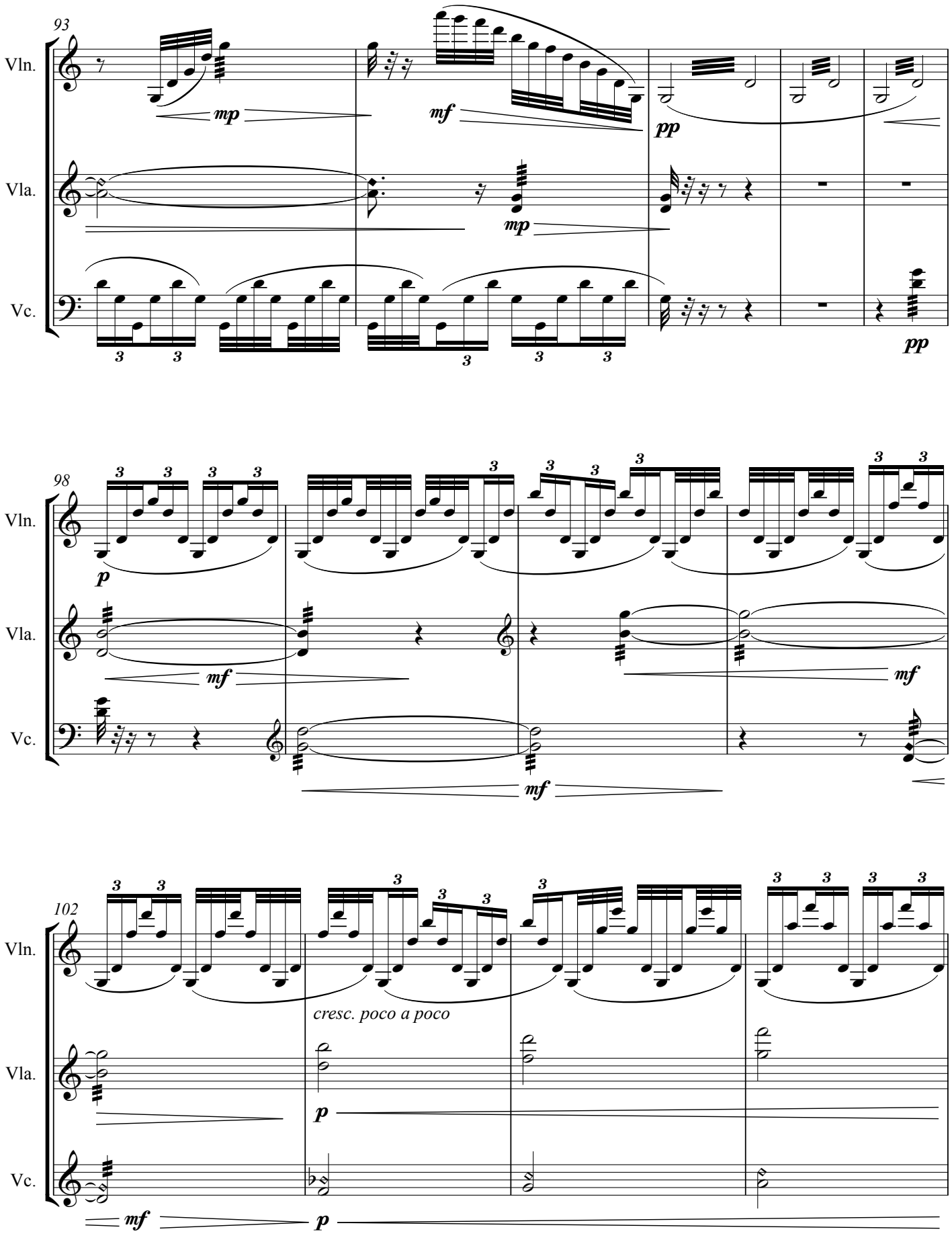

a tempo ♩ = 72
51
Fl.
pp dolce
Gtr.
pp sustained
a tempo ♩ = 72
Vln.
pp
pp
pp
Vla.
arco
pppp sul tasto, non vib.

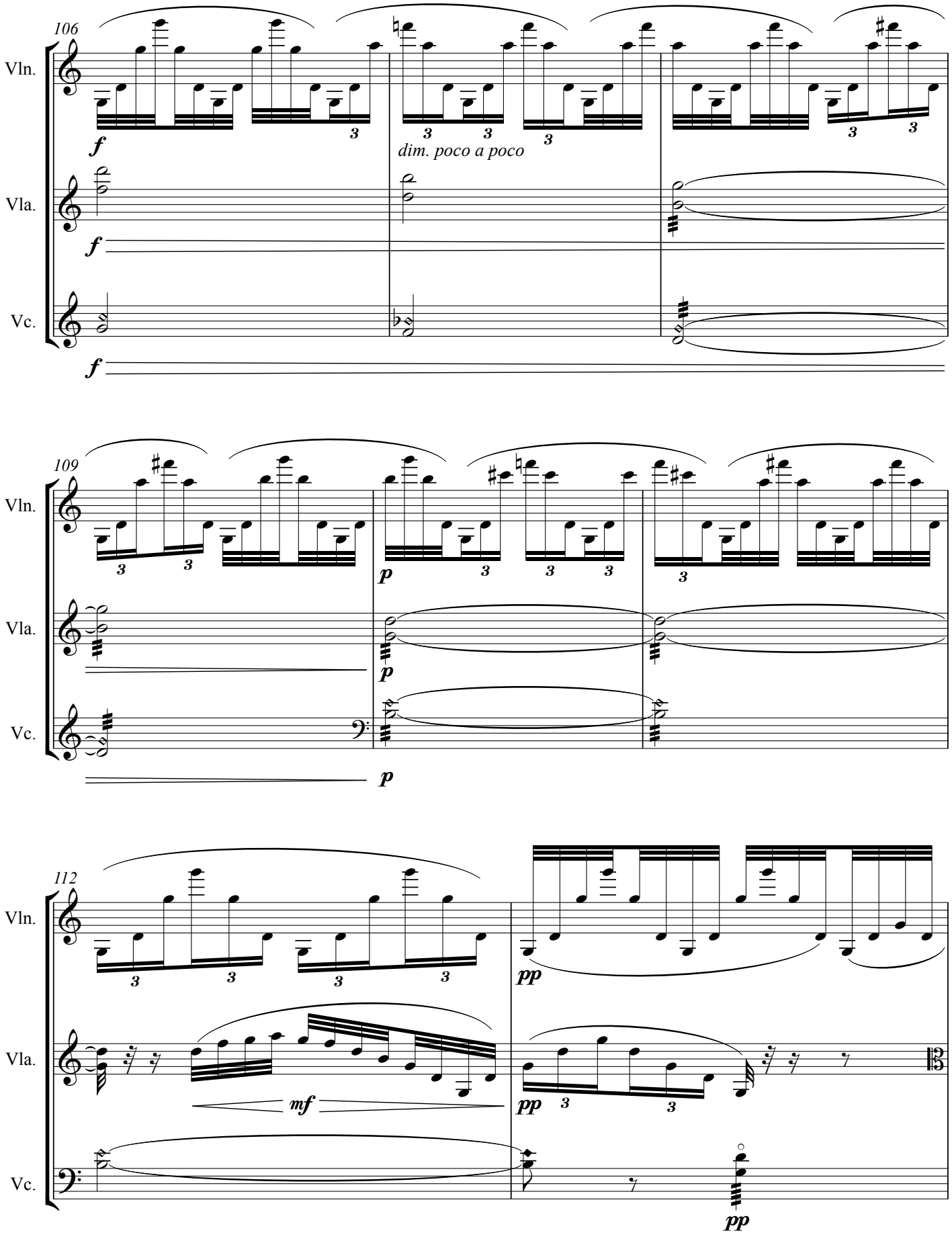

54
Fl.
pp
3
3
Gtr.
artificial harmonics
Vln.
pp
pppp
Vla.
pizz.
Vc.
ppp

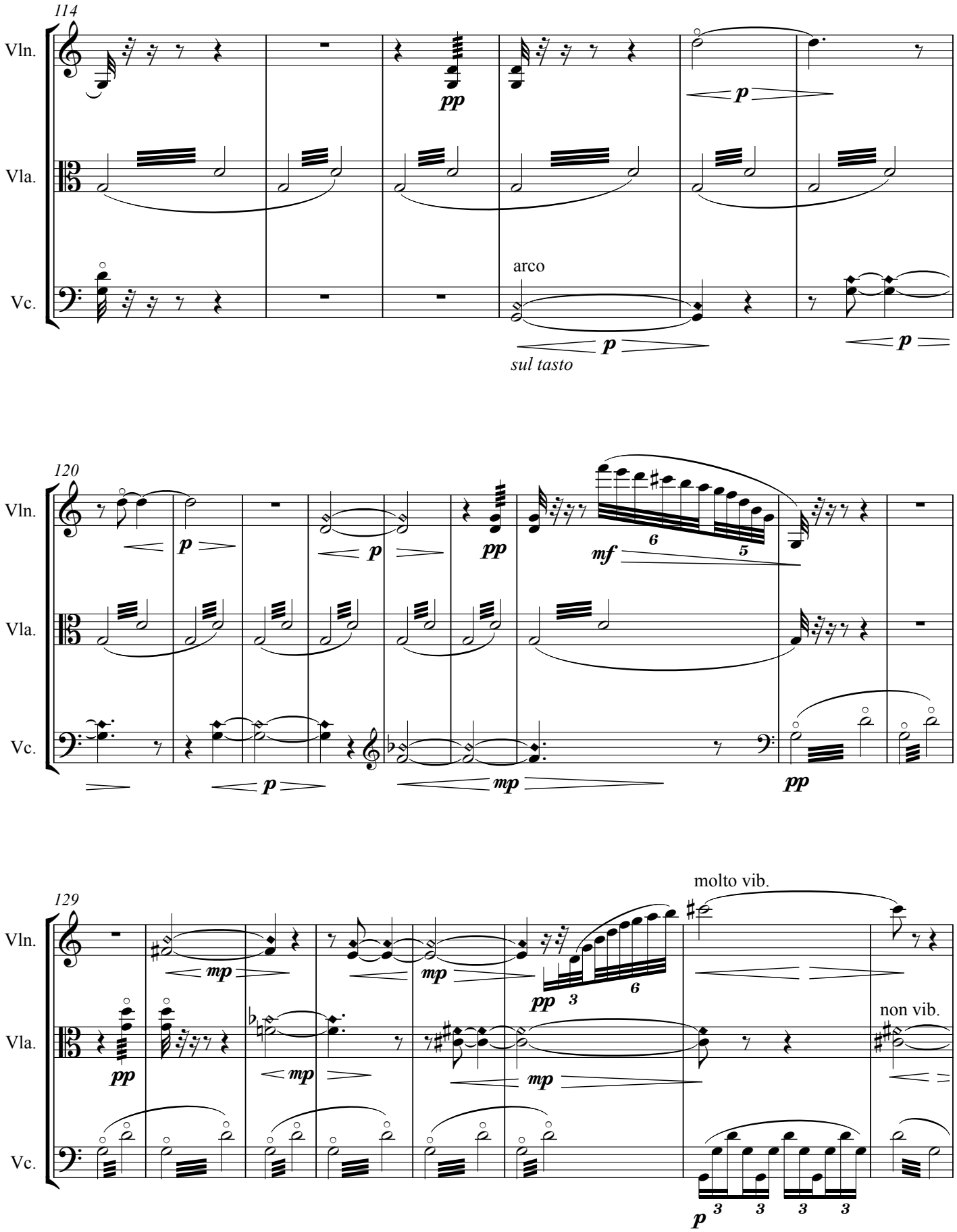

57
Fl.
cresc.
3
3
3
mf
rall.
pp
8va
Gtr.
cresc.
mf
pp
rall.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.

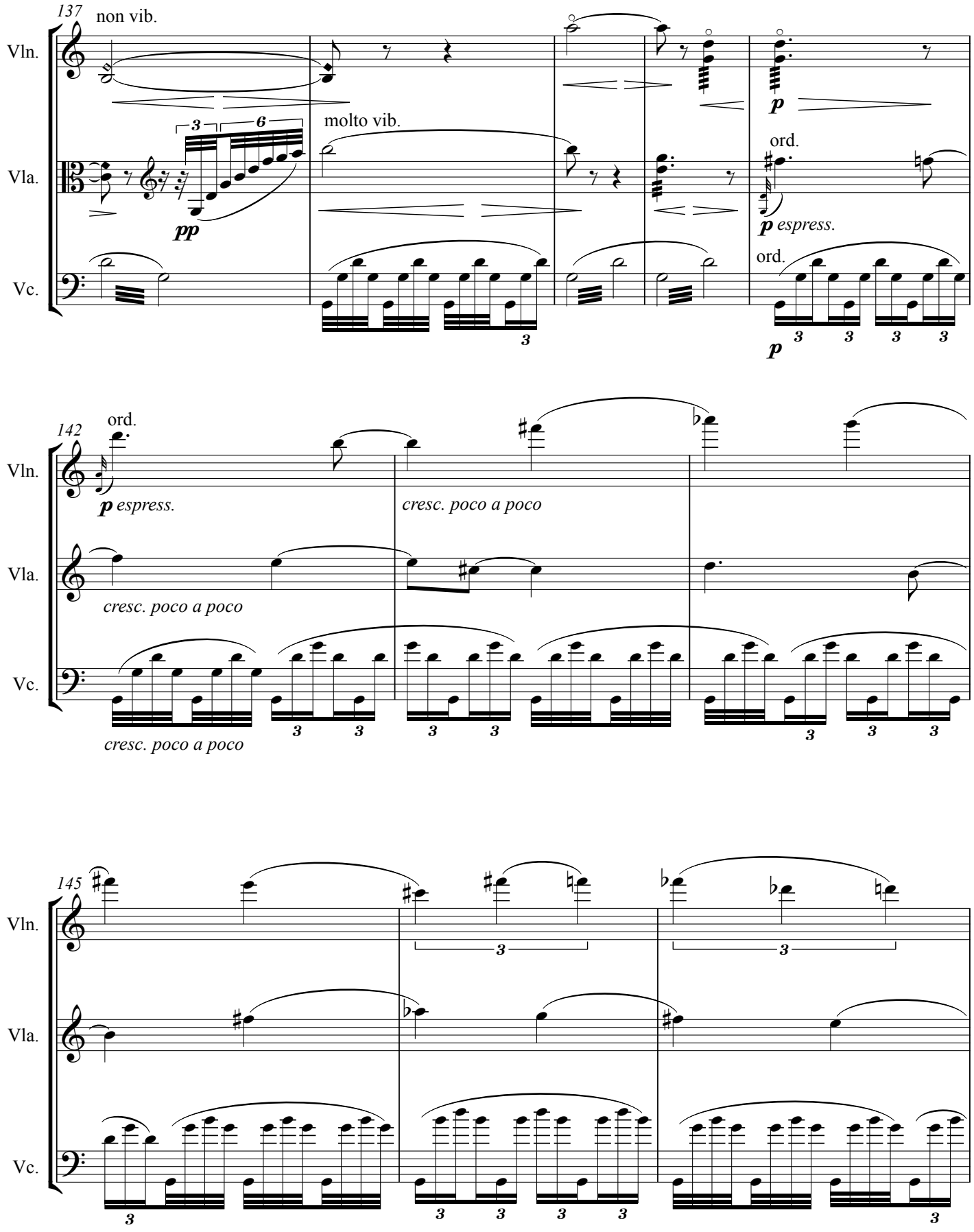

60
♩ = 56
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
sul tasto
sul tasto
pizz.
arco
sul tasto
69
78

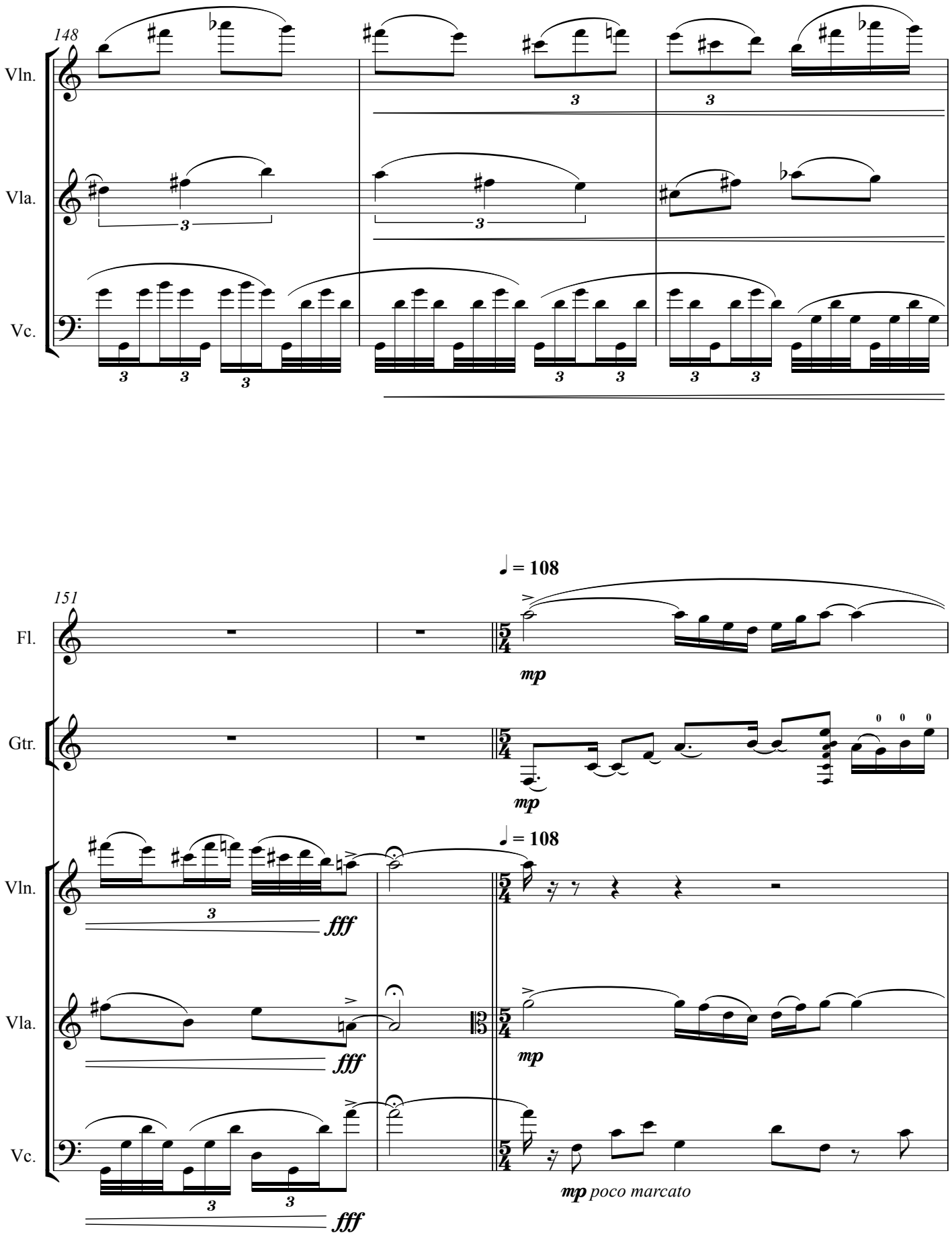

84
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
mp
p
mp
87
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
mp
mp
90
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
mp
p
mp

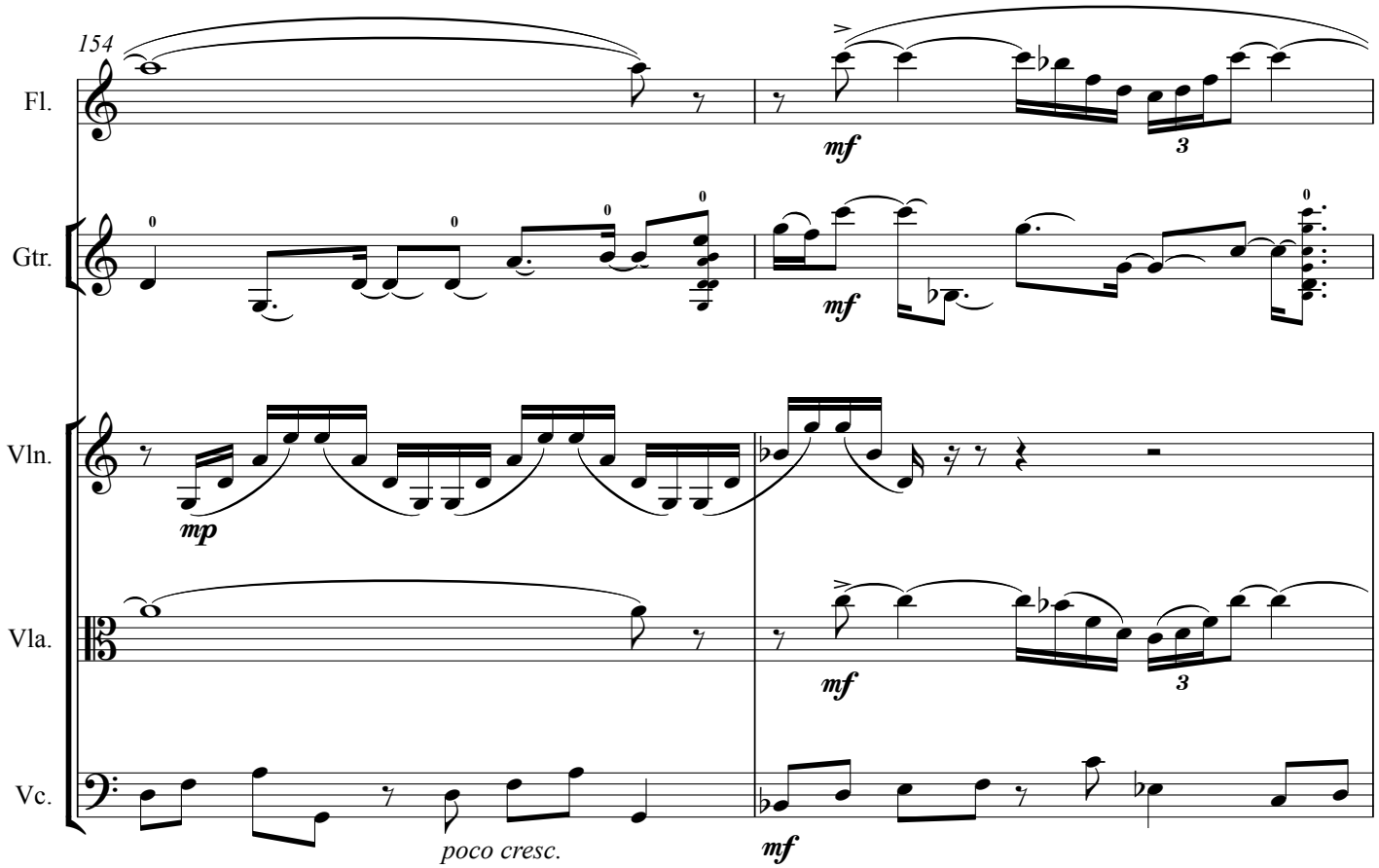

93
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
mp
mf
pp
98
p
mf
102
cresc. poco a poco

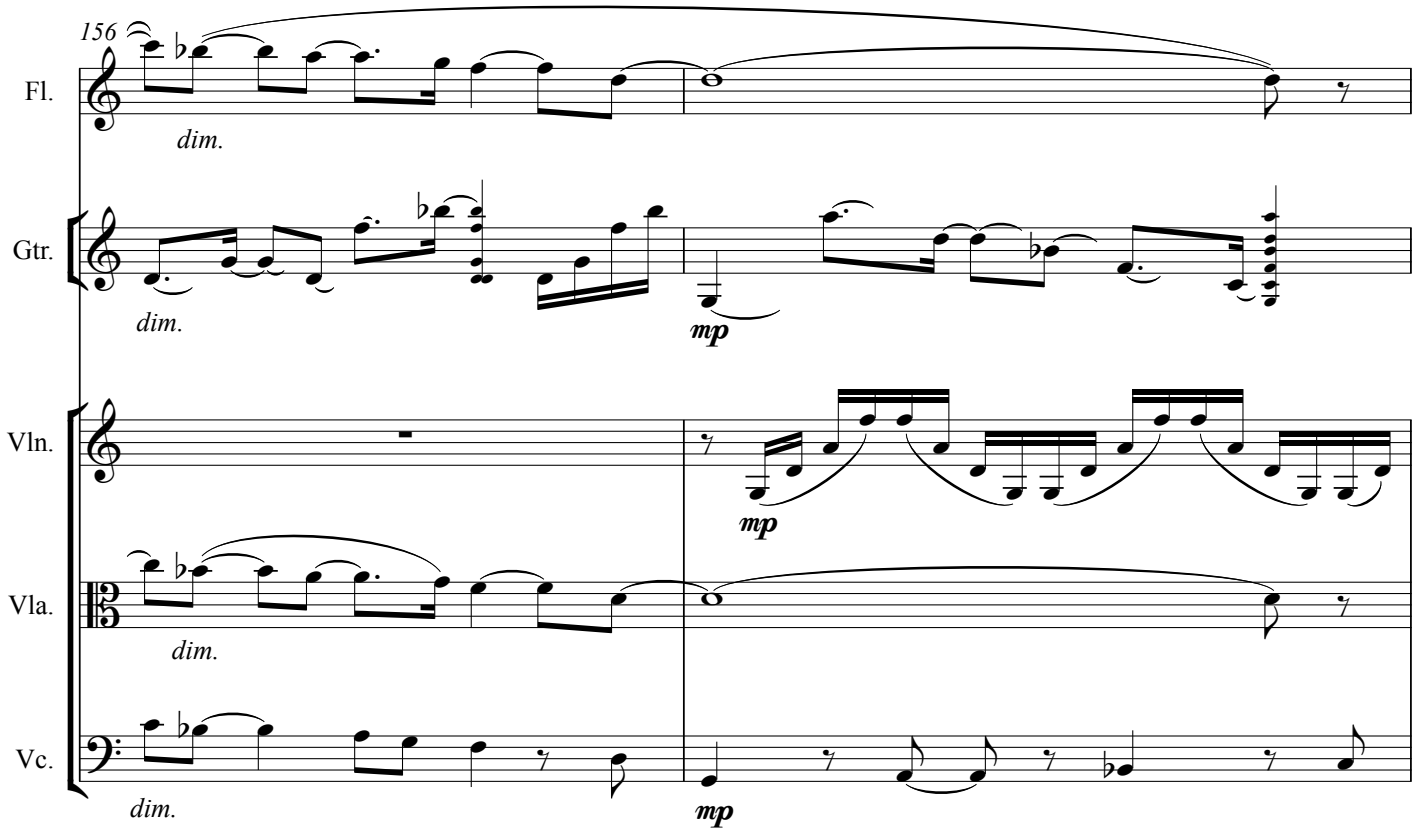

106
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
f
dim. poco a poco
109
p
112
mf
pp

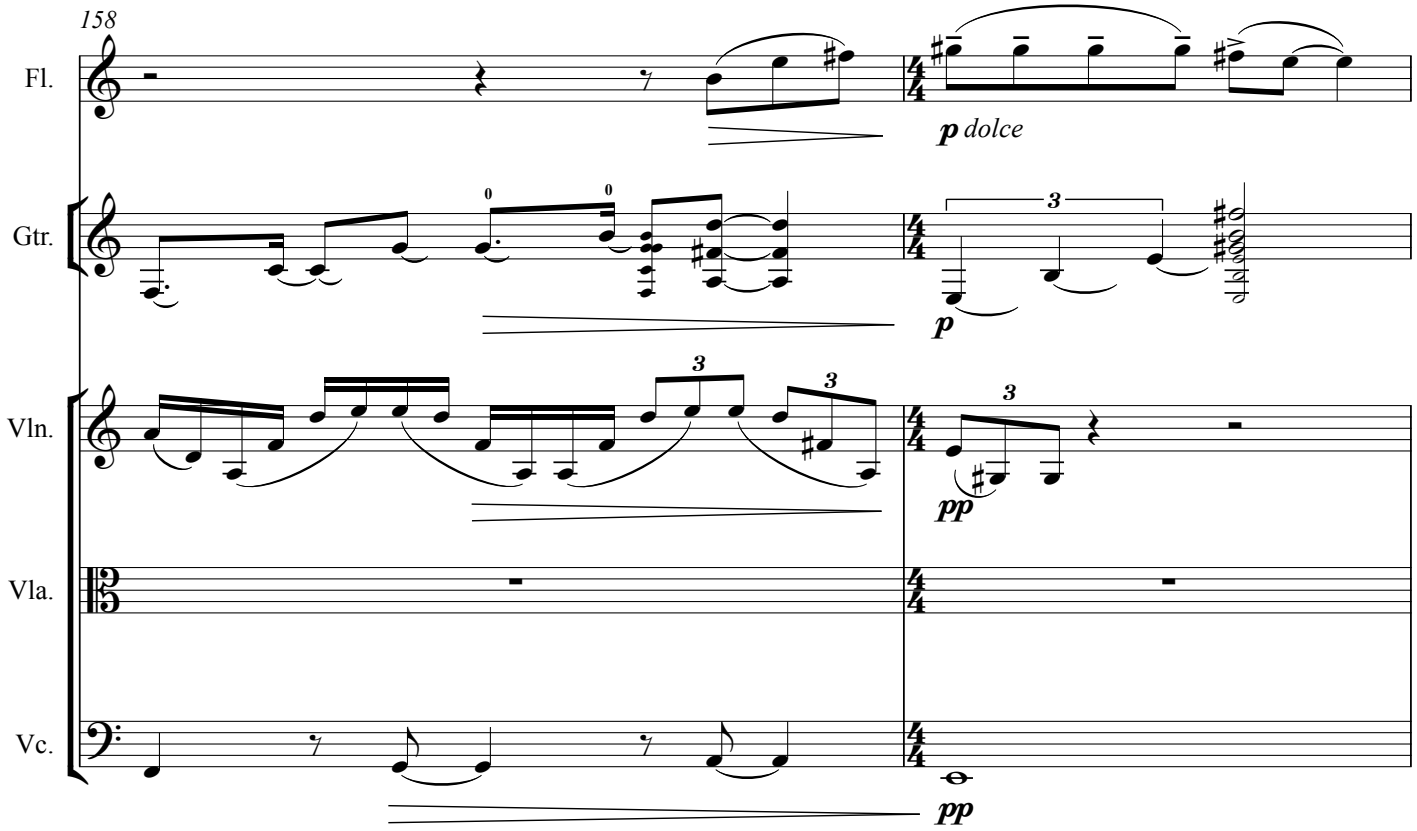

114
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
pp
p
arco
p
sul tasto
p
120
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
p
p
pp
mf
6
5
p
mp
pp
129
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
mp
mp
pp
3
6
molto vib.
pp
mp
mp
non vib.
p
3
3
3
3

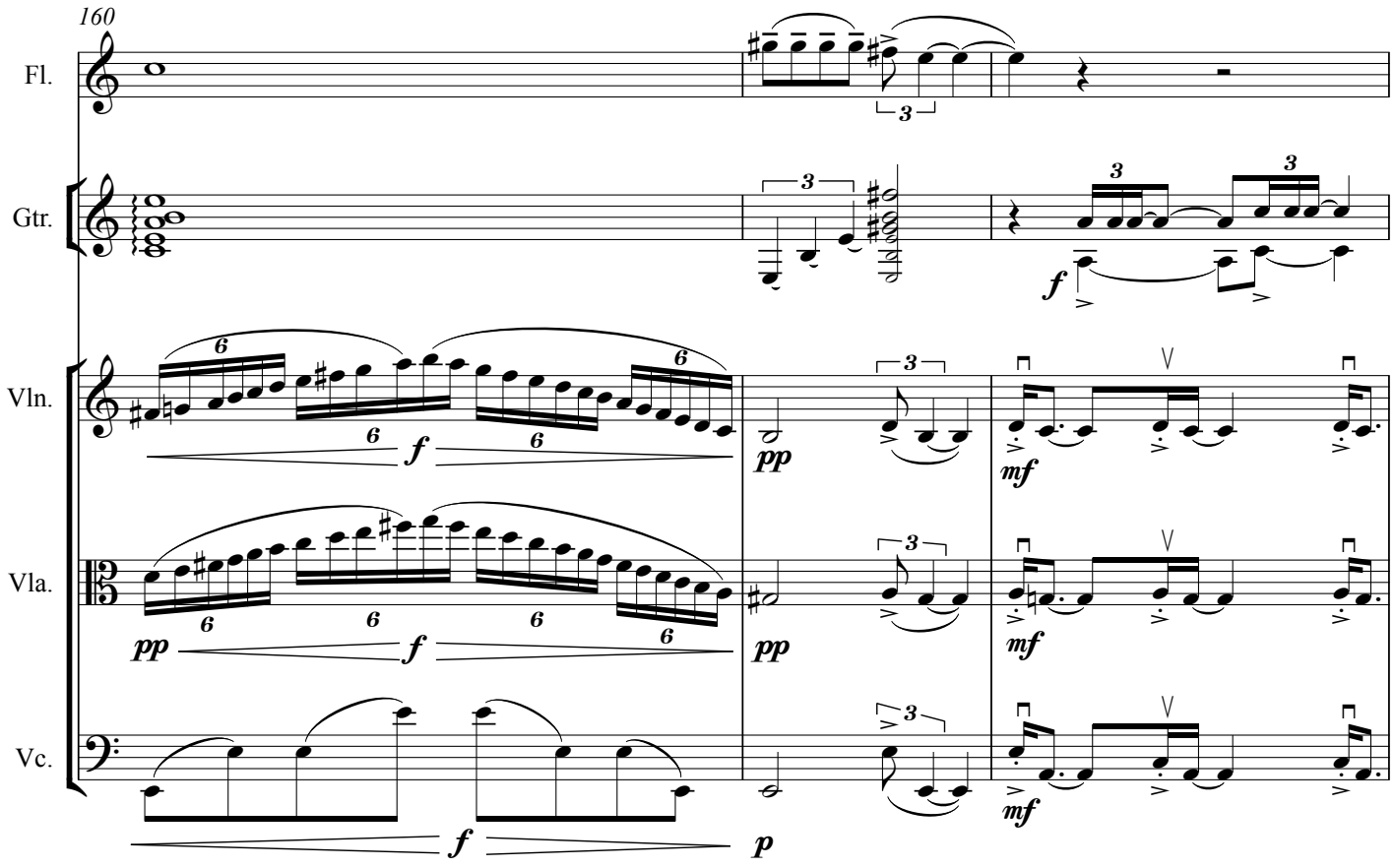

137
non vib.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
molto vib.
ord.
espress.
142
ord.
espress.
cresc. poco a poco
cresc. poco a poco
cresc. poco a poco
145

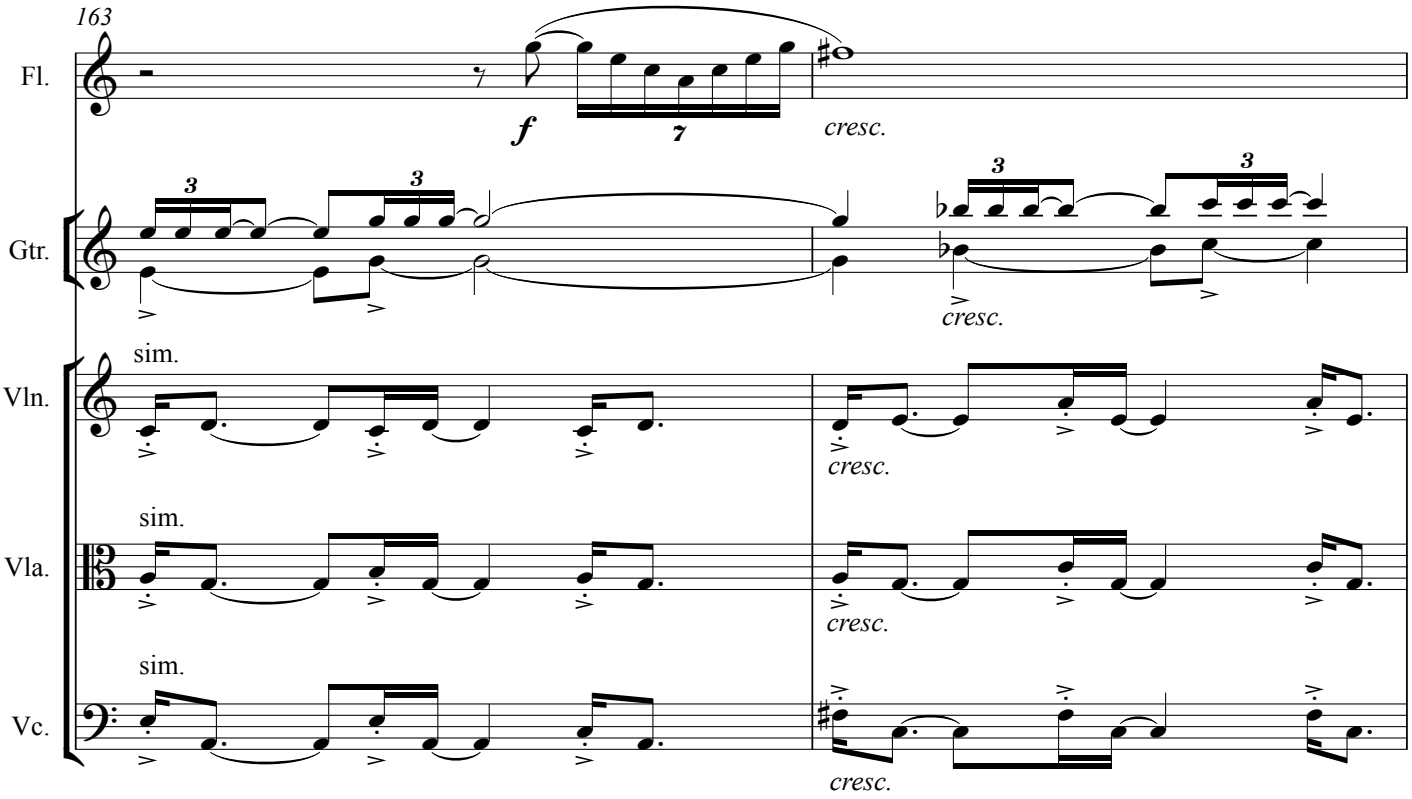

148
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
151
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
♩ = 108
mp
fff
mp poco marcato

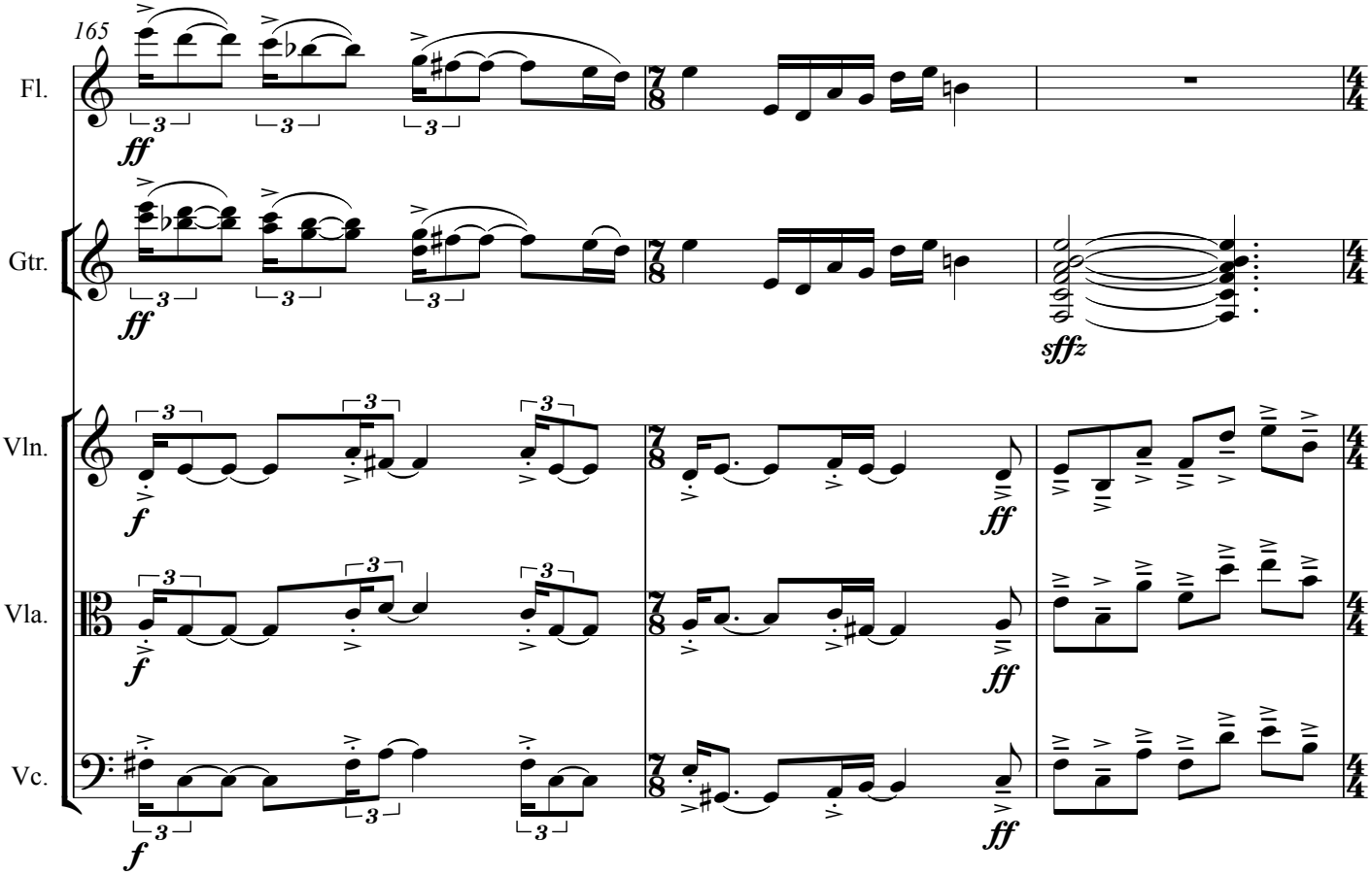

154
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
mf
mp
poco cresc.
3

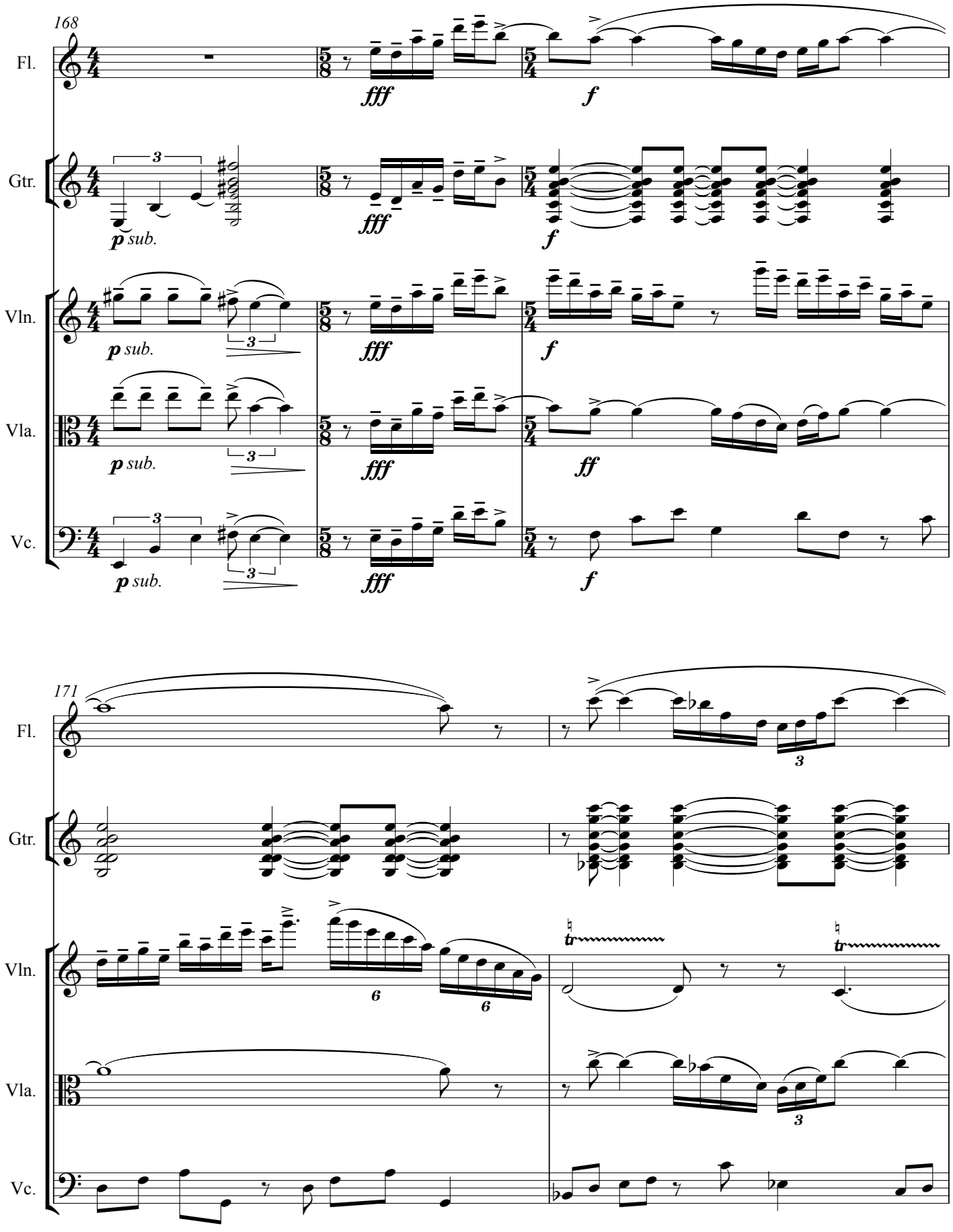

156
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
dim.
mp

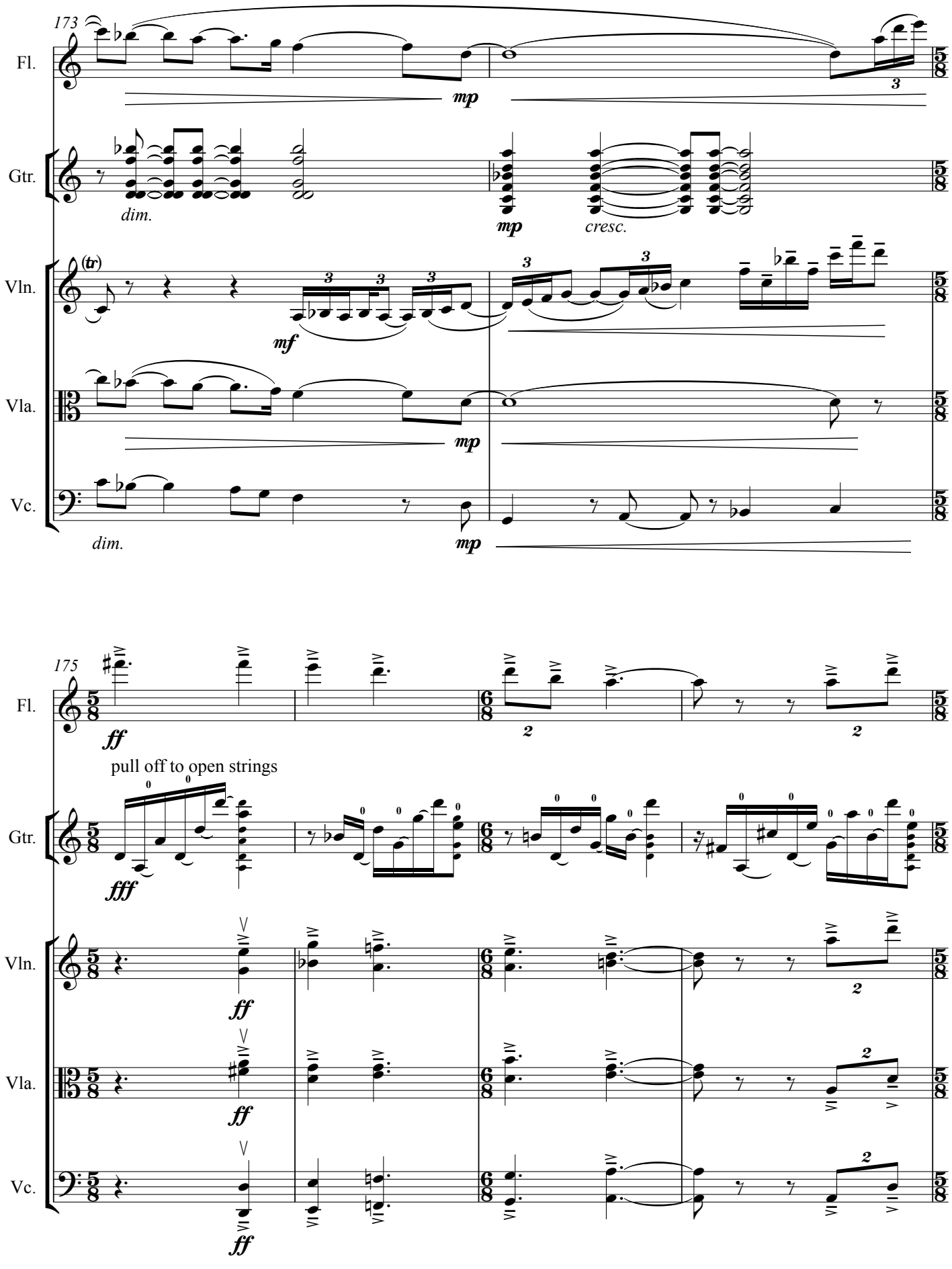

158
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
p dolce
p
pp
pp

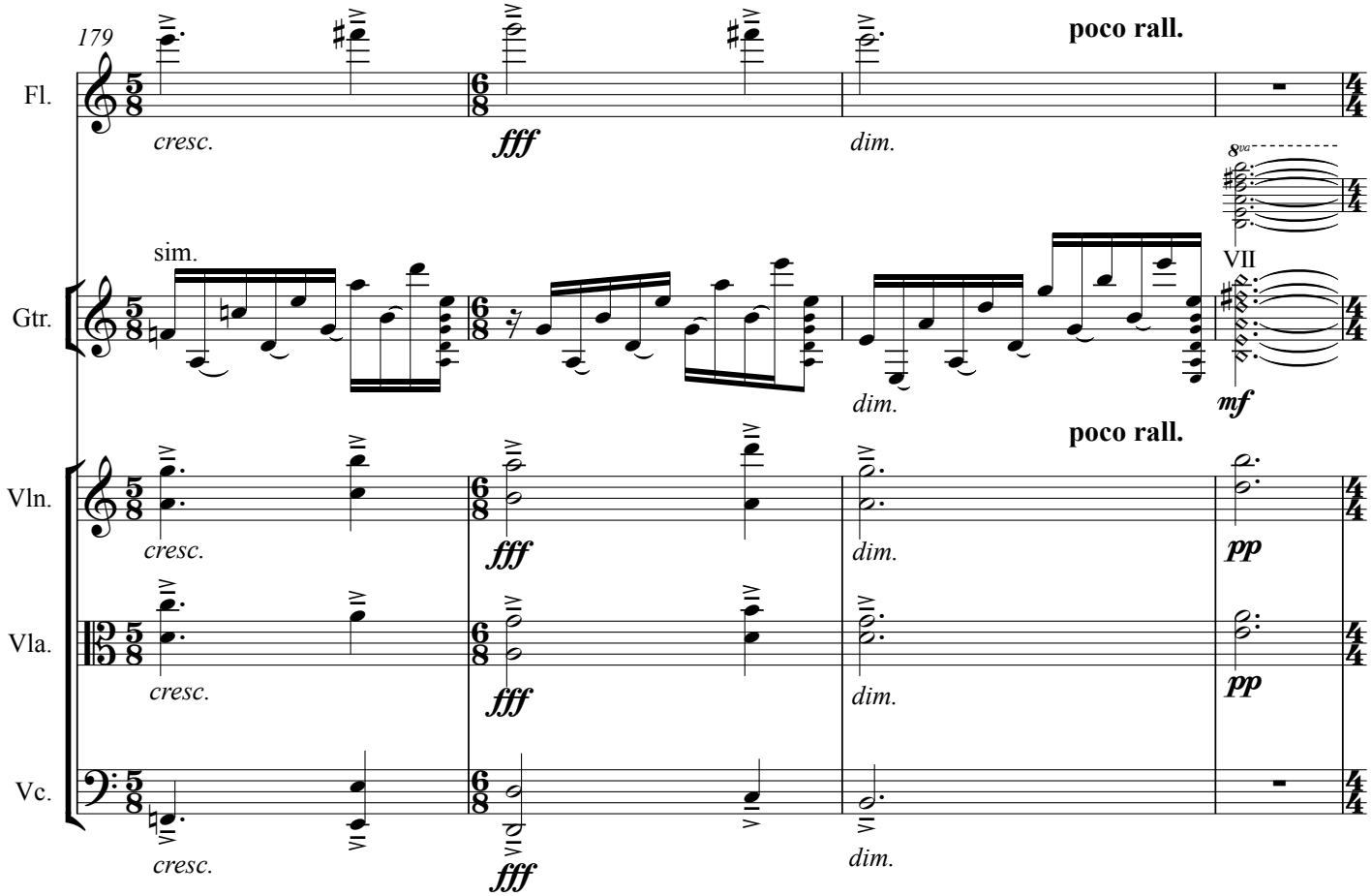

160
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
f
pp
mf
pp
f
pp
mf
f
p
mf

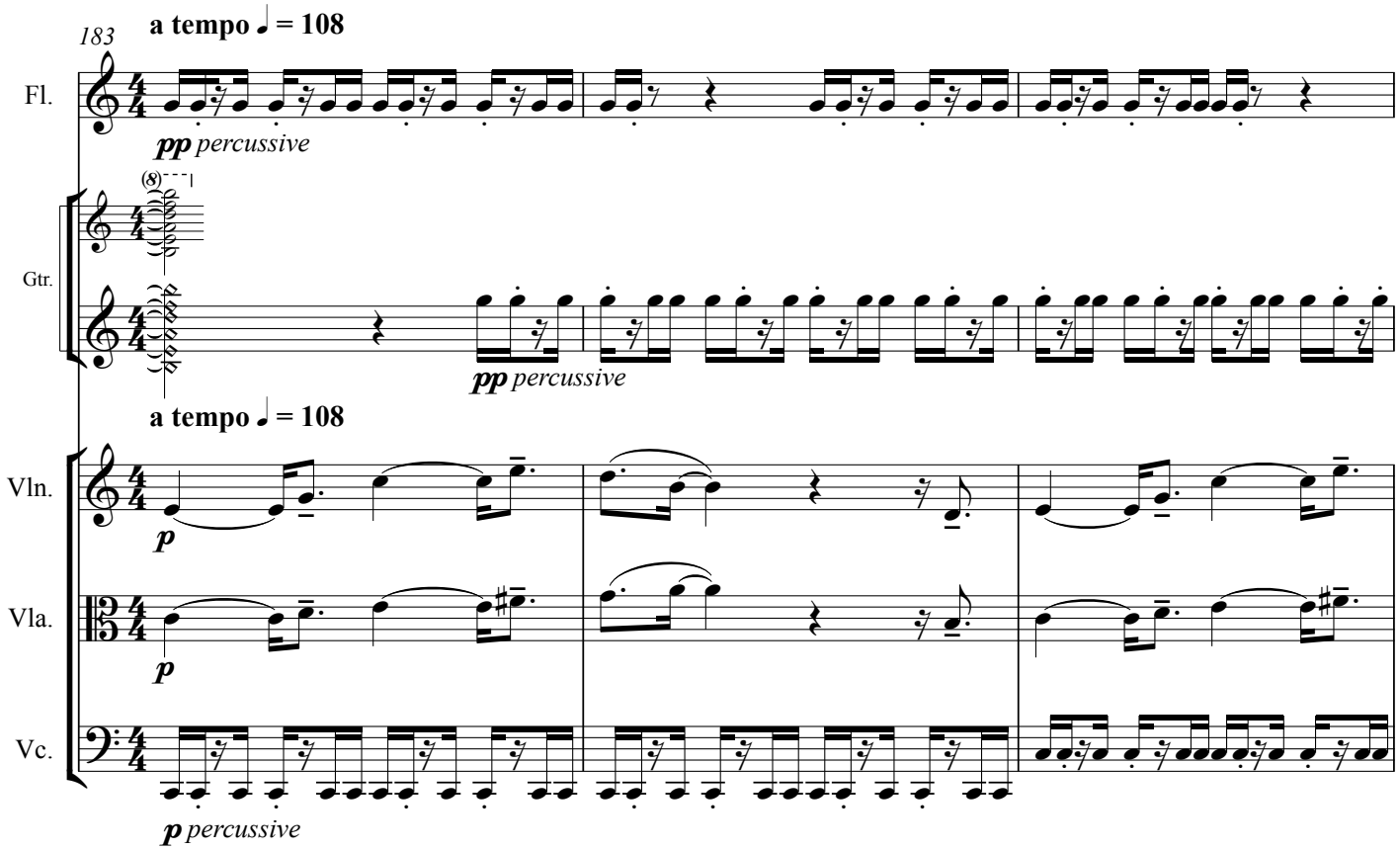

163
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
sim.
f
cresc.

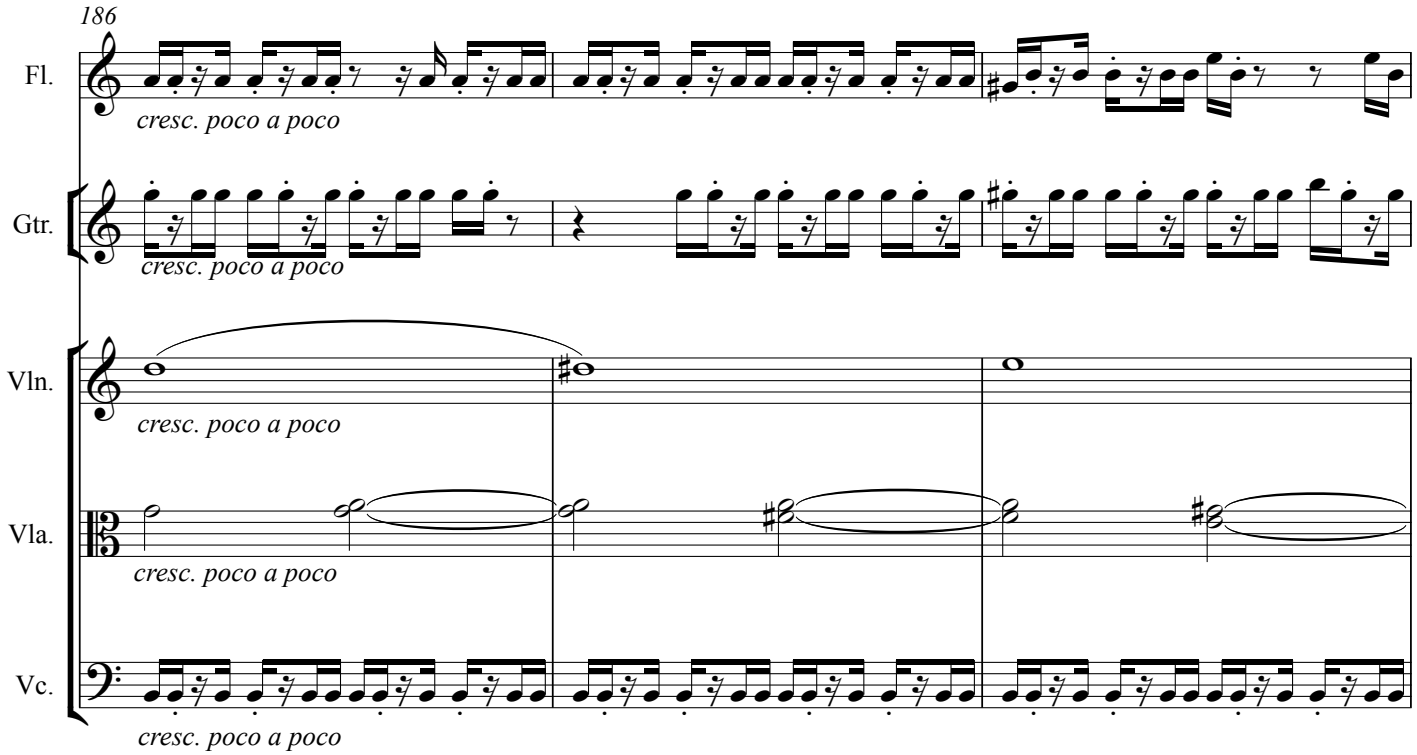

165
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
ff
sffz
f

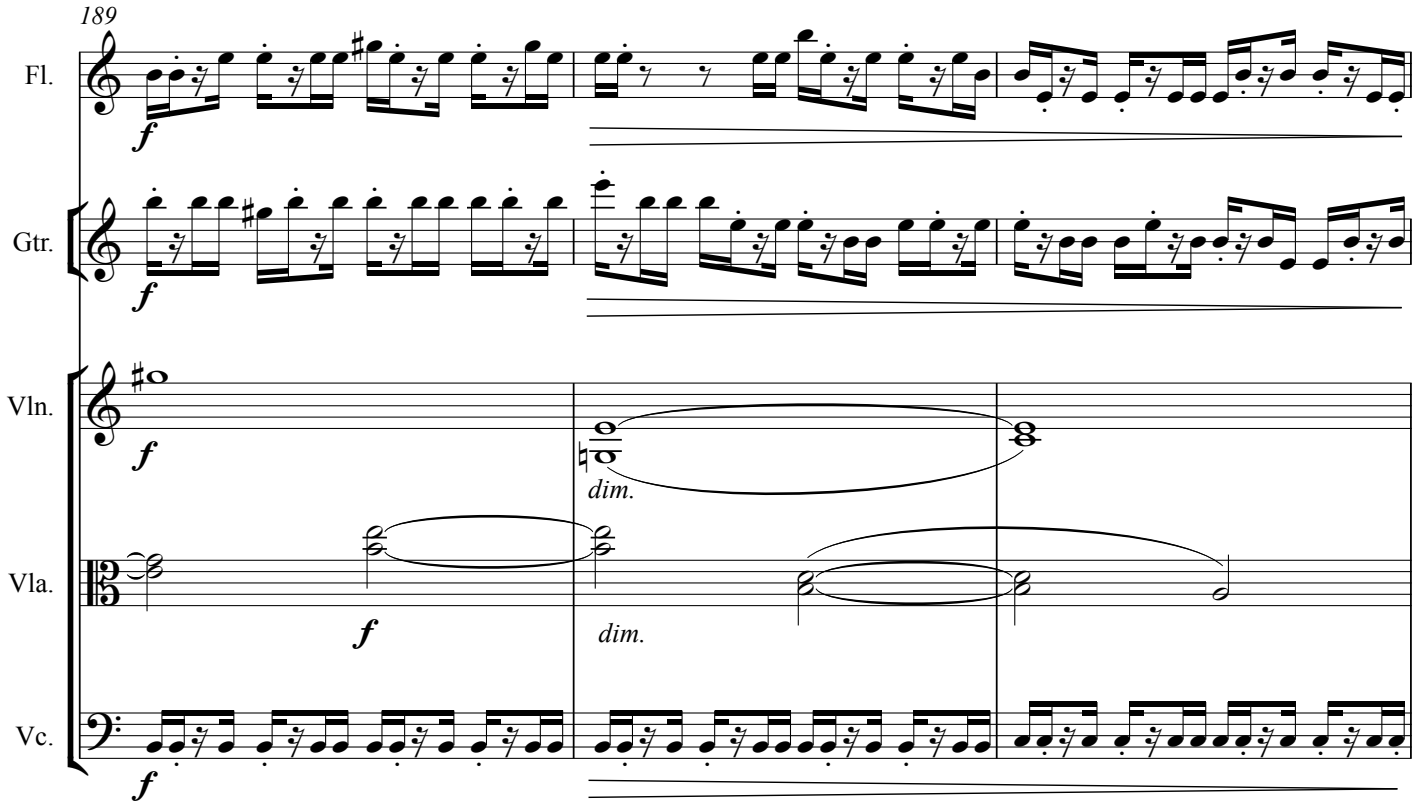

168
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
fff
f
p sub.
ff
171
tr

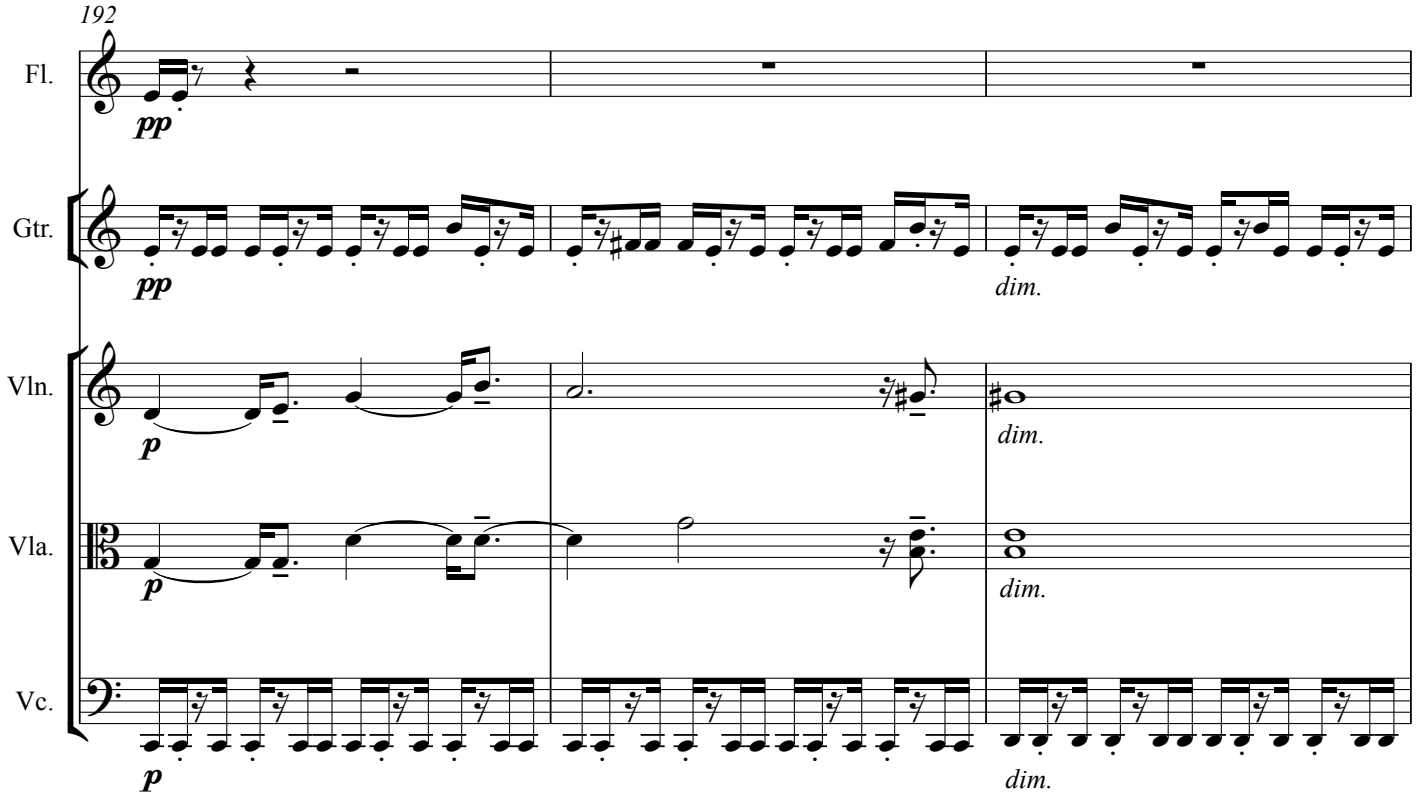

173
Fl.
mp
Gtr.
dim.
mp
cresc.
(tr)
Vln.
mf
Vla.
mp
Vc.
dim.
mp
175
Fl.
ff
pull off to open strings
Gtr.
fff
Vln.
ff
Vla.
ff
Vc.
ff

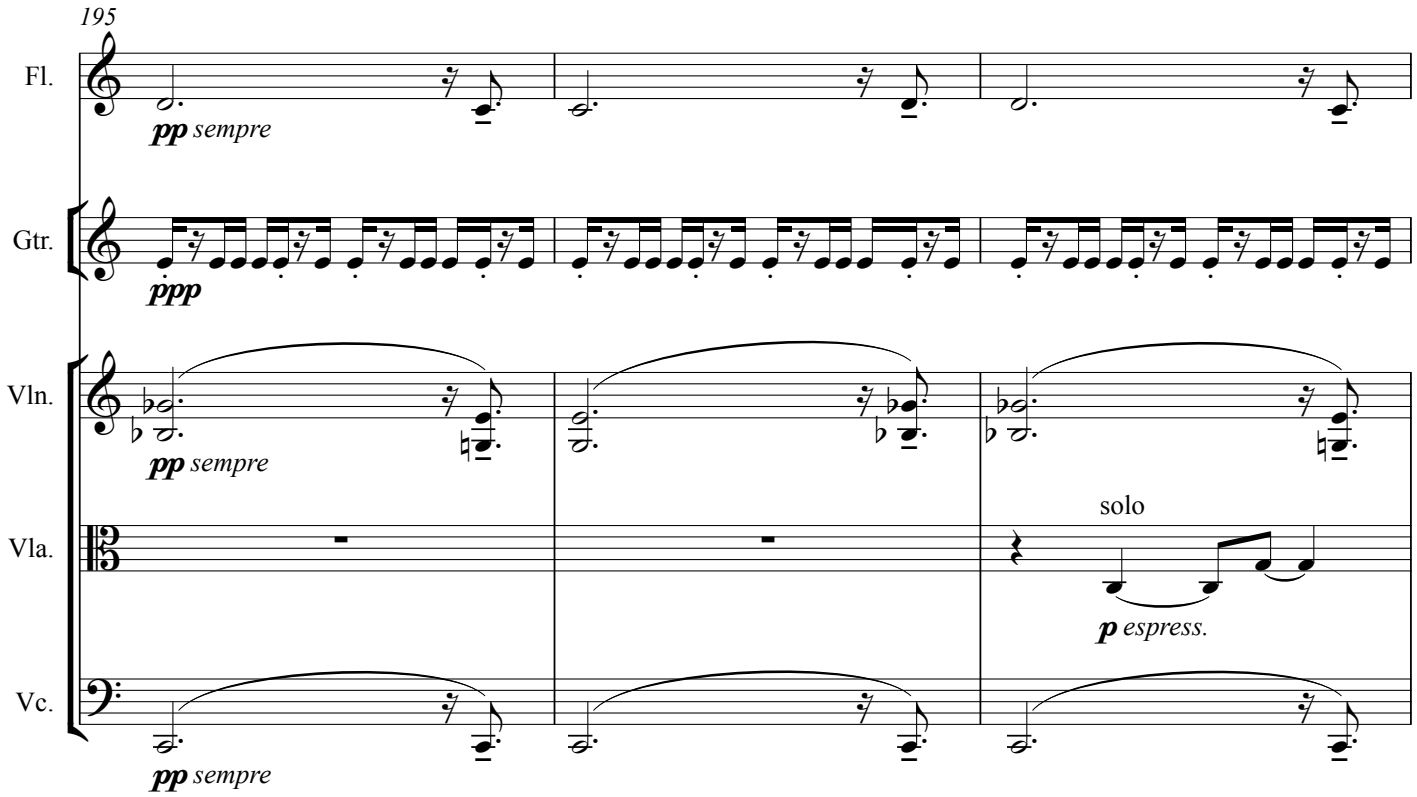

179
Fl.
cresc.
fff
dim.
poco rall.
sim.
Gtr.
8va
VII
mf
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
pp

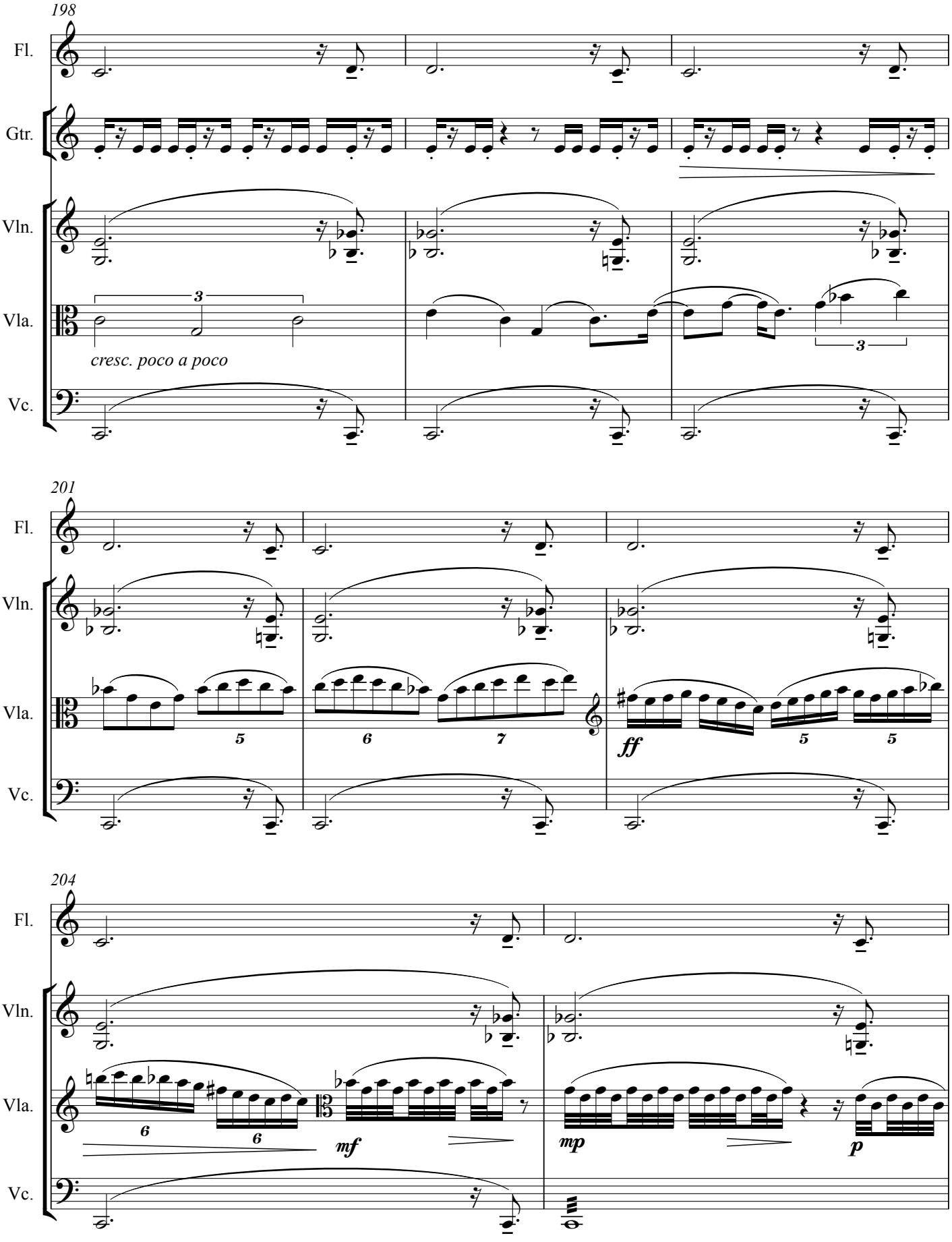

183
a tempo ♩ = 108
Fl.
pp percussive
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
p
p percussive

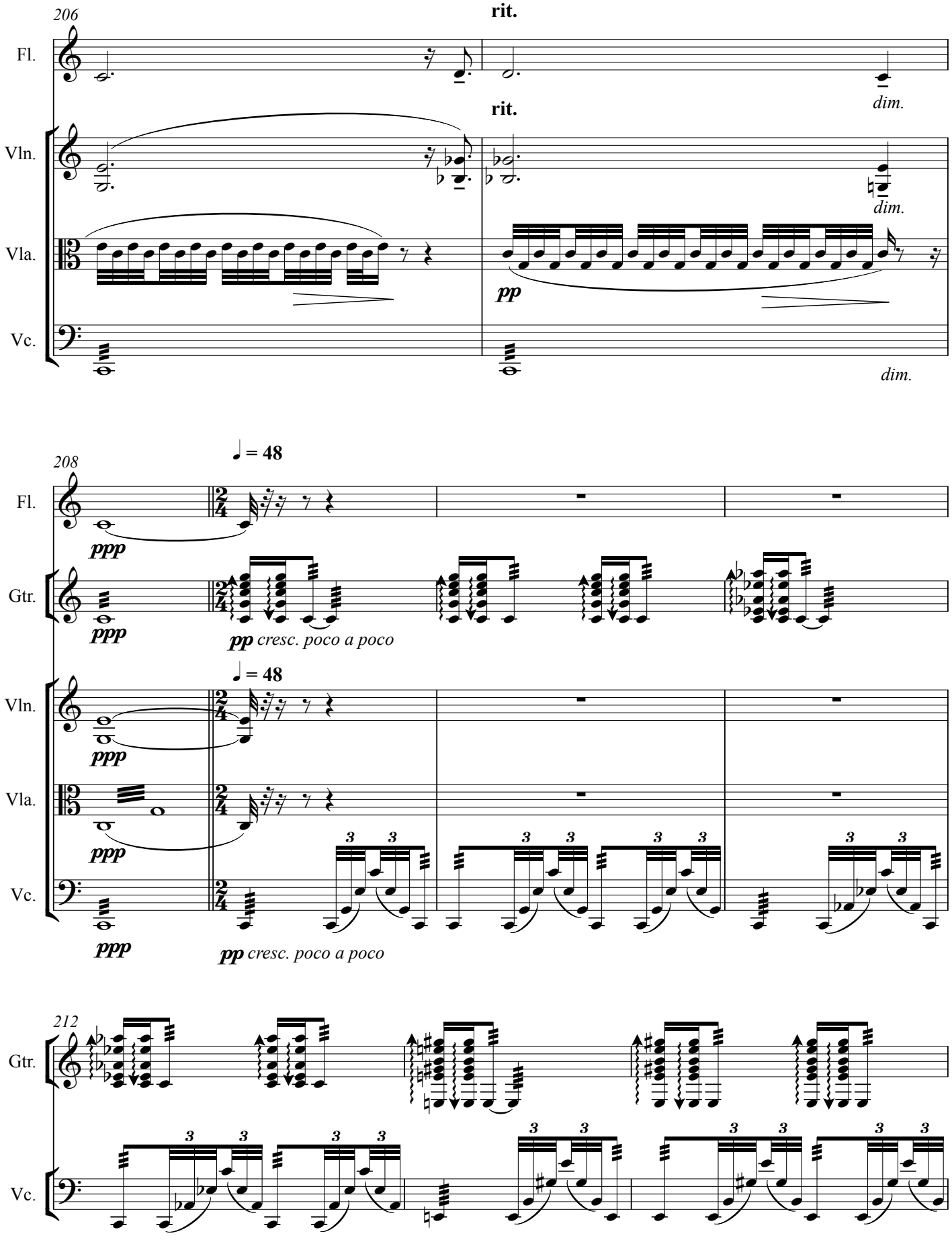

186
Fl.
cresc. poco a poco
Gtr.
cresc. poco a poco
Vln.
cresc. poco a poco
Vla.
cresc. poco a poco
Vc.
cresc. poco a poco

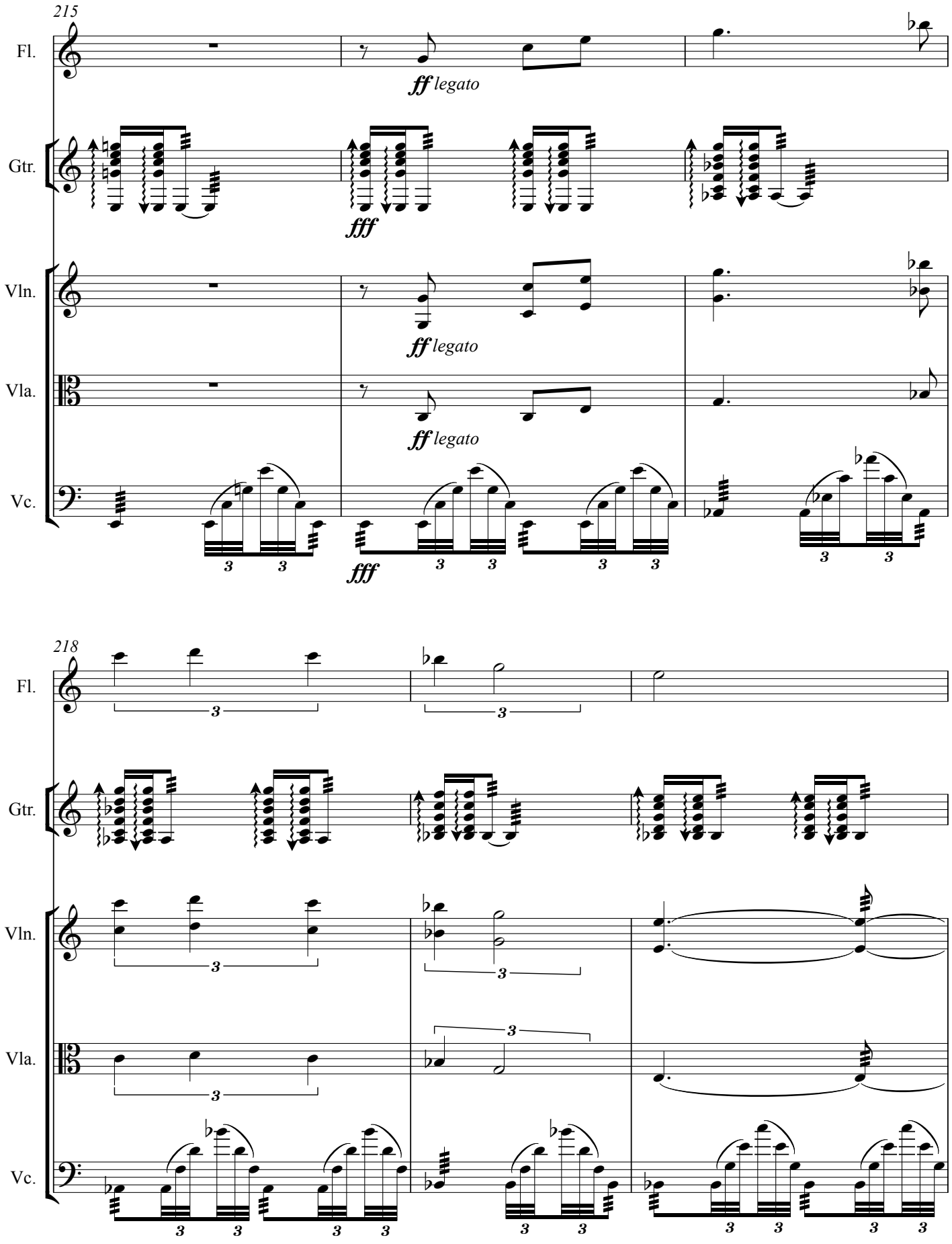

189
Fl.
f
Gtr.
f
Vln.
f
dim.
Vla.
f
dim.
Vc.
f

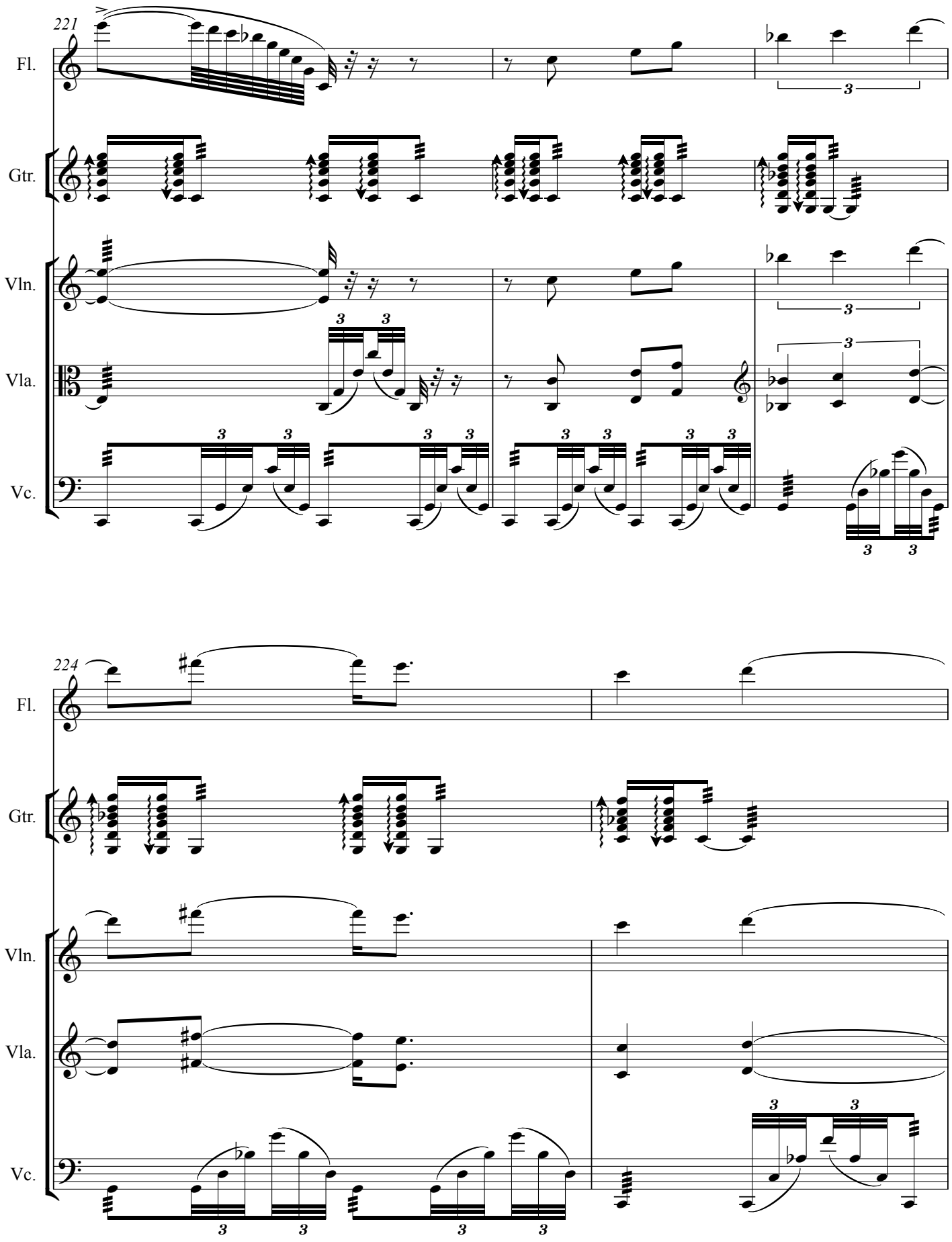

192
Fl.
pp
Gtr.
pp
dim.
Vln.
p
dim.
Vla.
p
dim.
Vc.
p
dim.

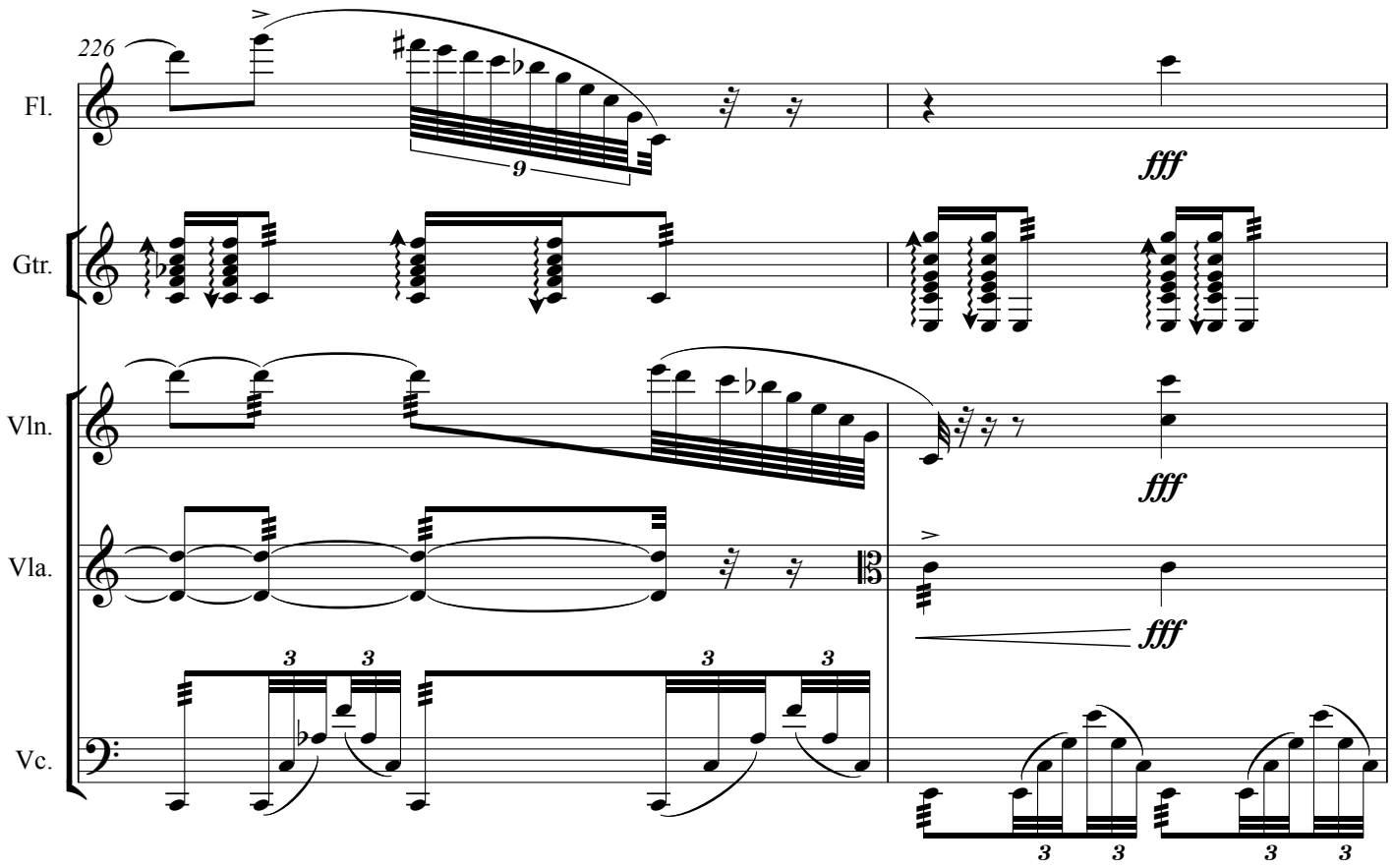

195
Fl.
pp sempre
Gtr.
ppp
Vln.
pp sempre
Vla.
solo
p espress.
Vc.
pp sempre

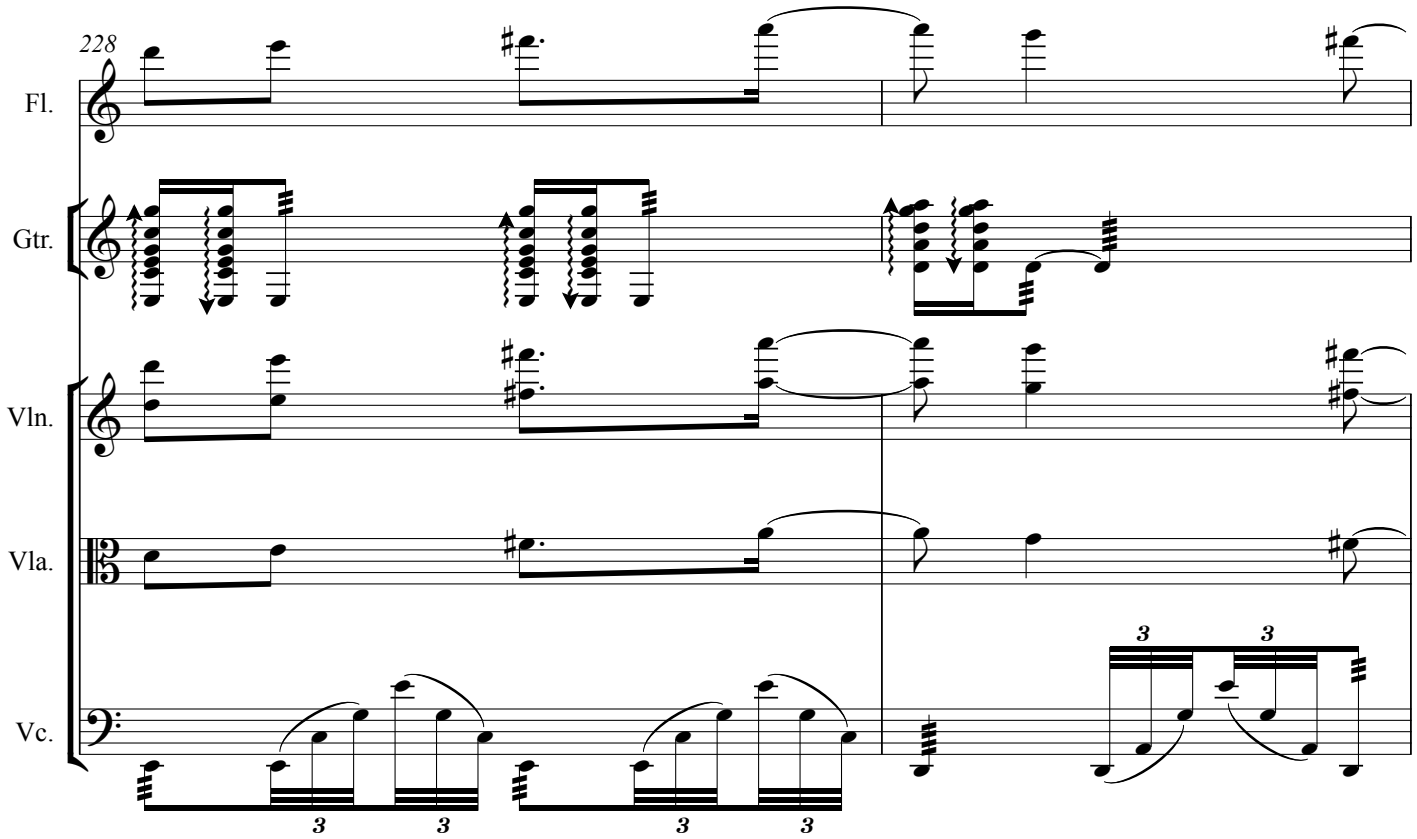

198
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
3
cresc. poco a poco
3
Vc.
201
Fl.
Vln.
Vla.
5
6
7
ff
5
5
Vc.
204
Fl.
Vln.
Vla.
6
6
mf
mp
p
Vc.

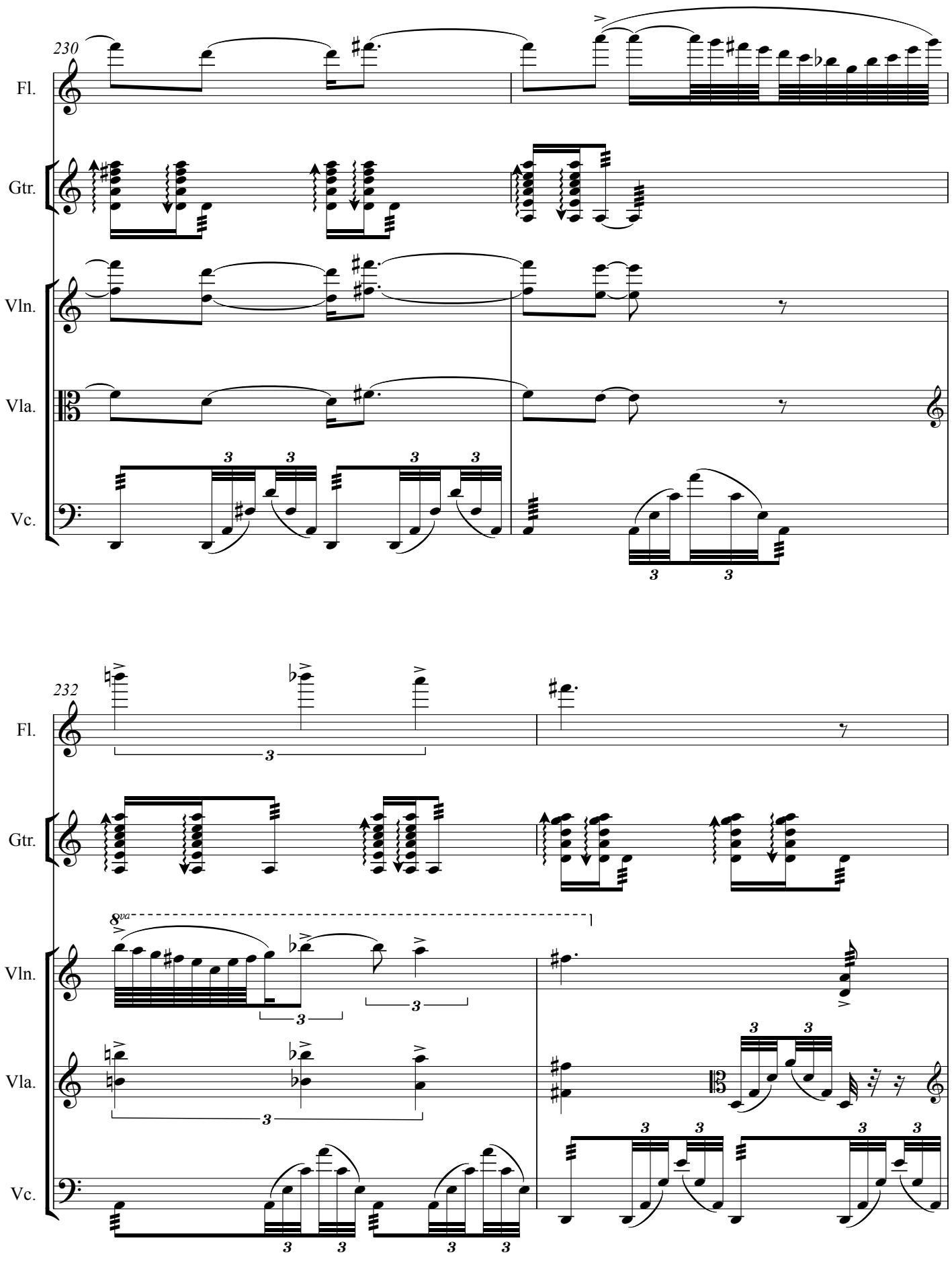

206
rit.
Fl.
dim.
rit.
Vln.
dim.
Vla.
pp
Vc.
dim.
208
♩ = 48
Fl.
ppp
Gtr.
ppp
pp cresc. poco a poco
♩ = 48
Vln.
ppp
Vla.
ppp
Vc.
ppp
pp cresc. poco a poco
212
Gtr.
Vc.

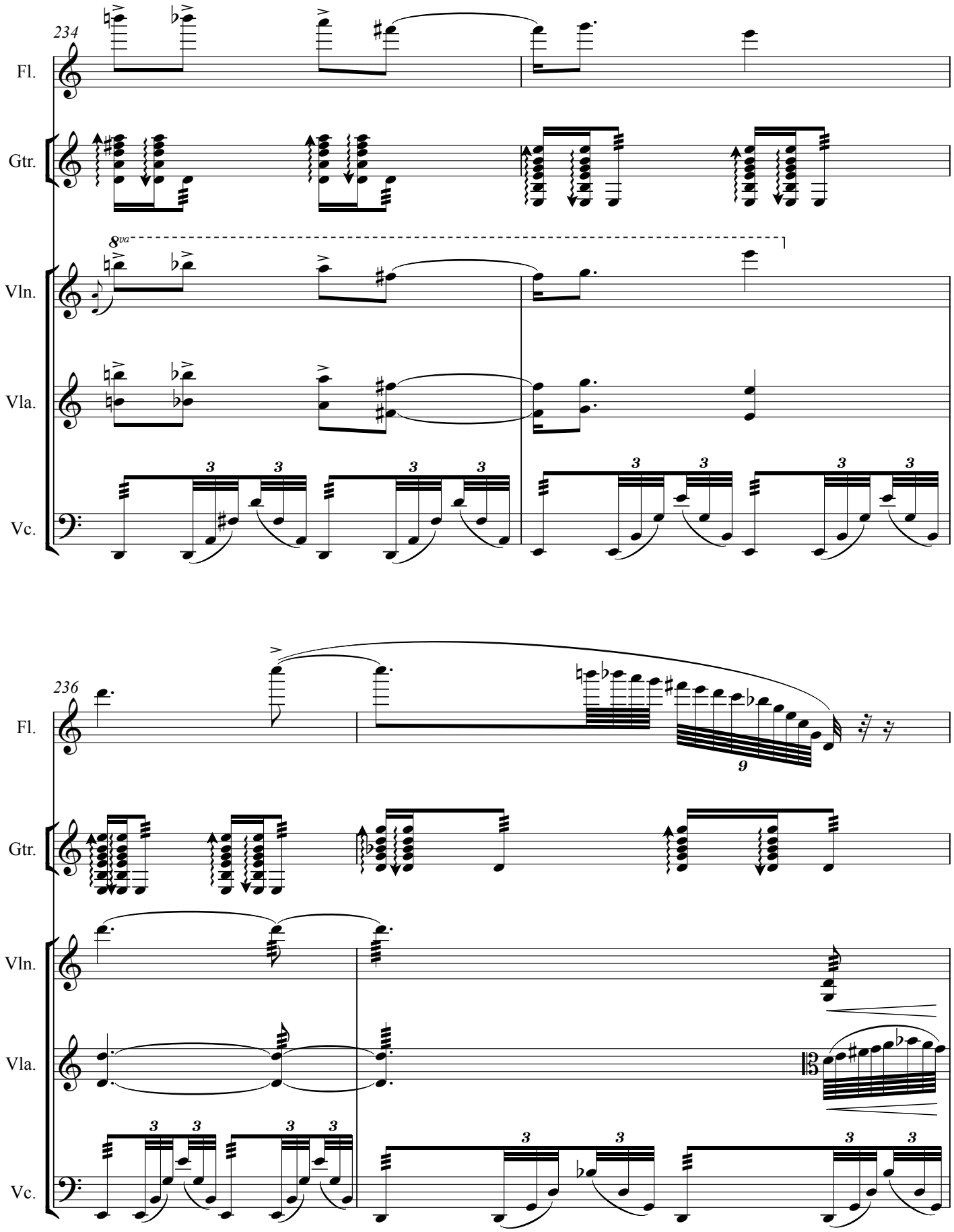

215
Fl.
ff legato
Gtr.
fff
Vln.
ff legato
Vla.
ff legato
Vc.
fff
218
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.

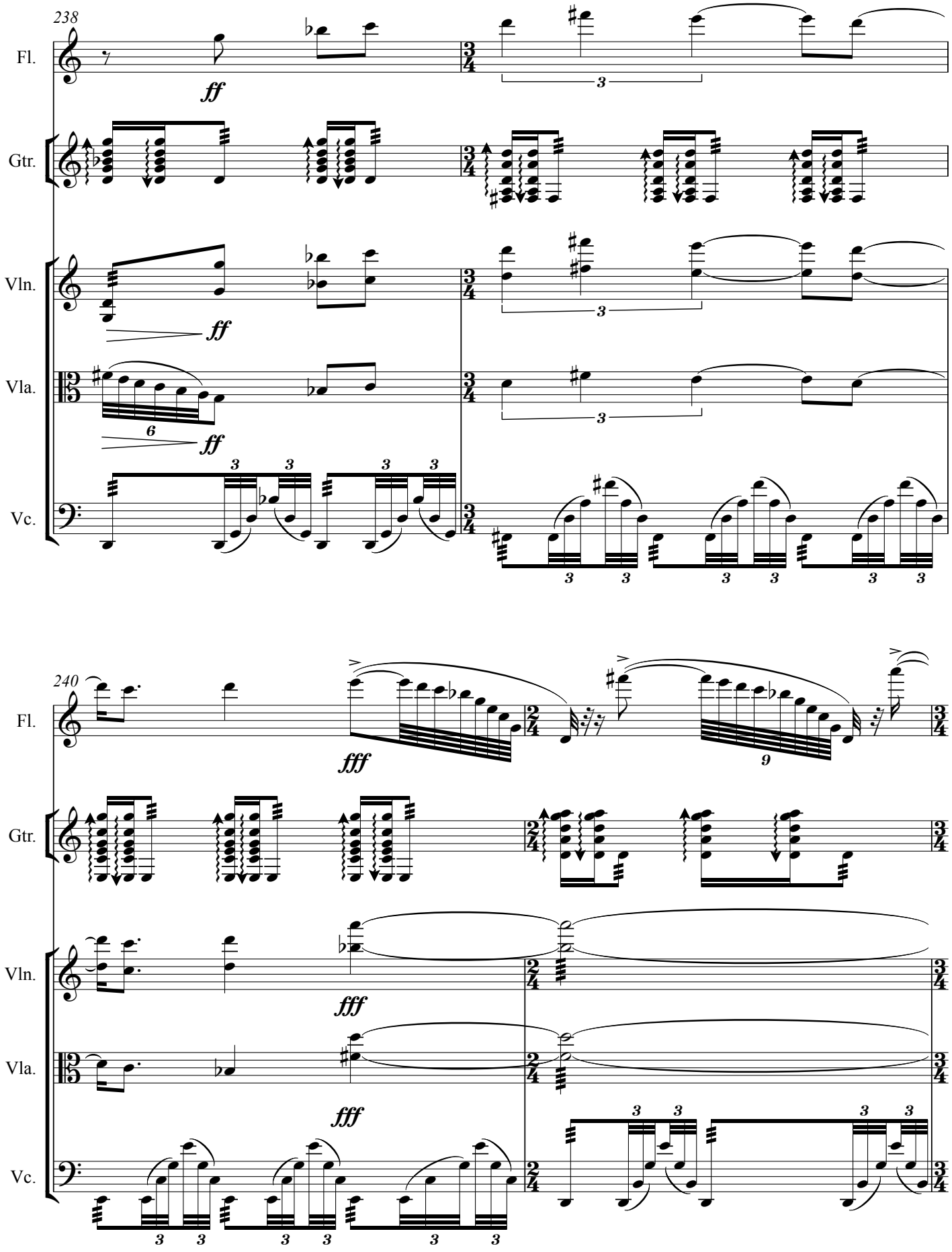

221
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
224
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.

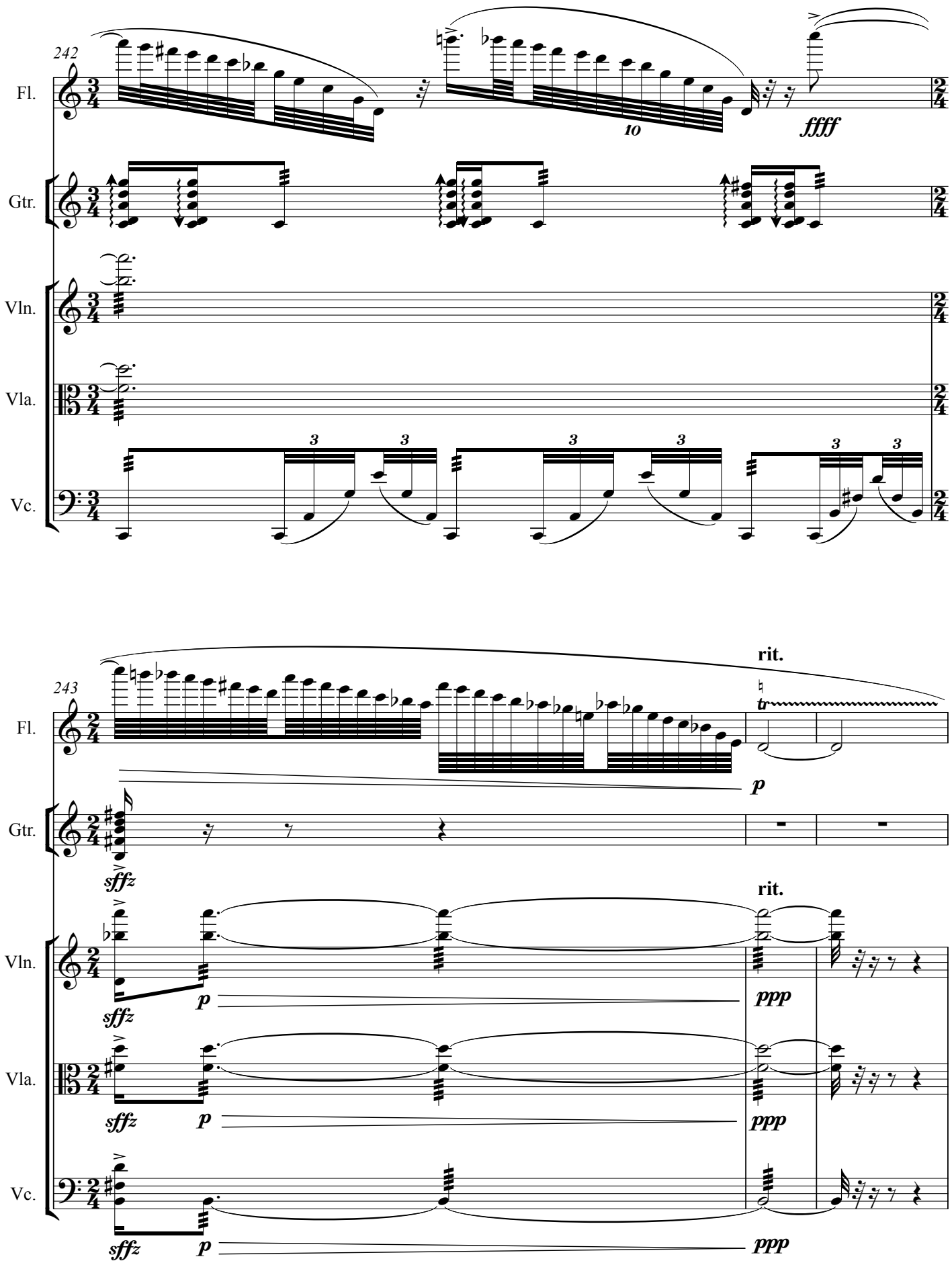

226
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
9
fff
fff
fff
3
3
3
3
3
3
3
3

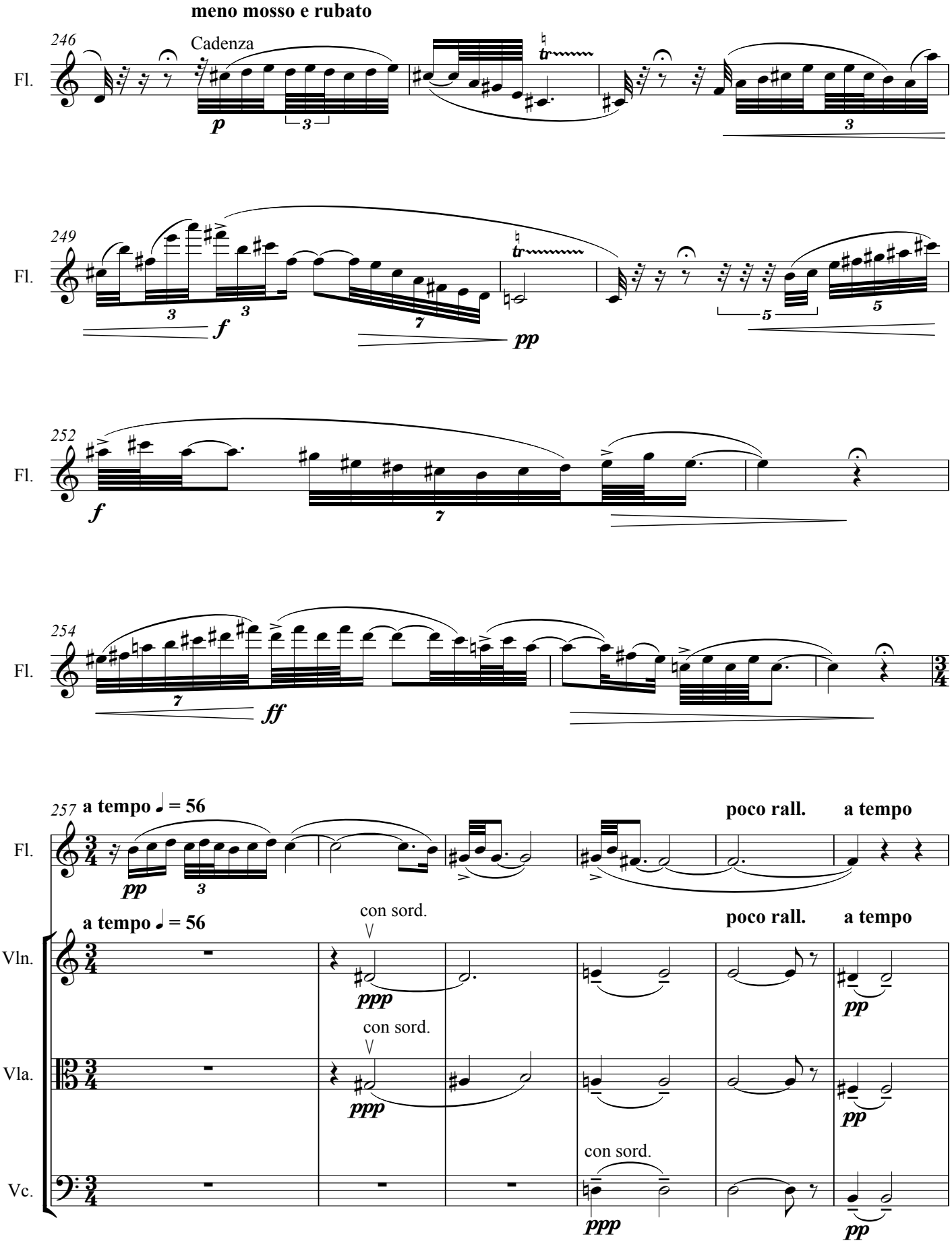

228
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
3
3
3
3
3
3

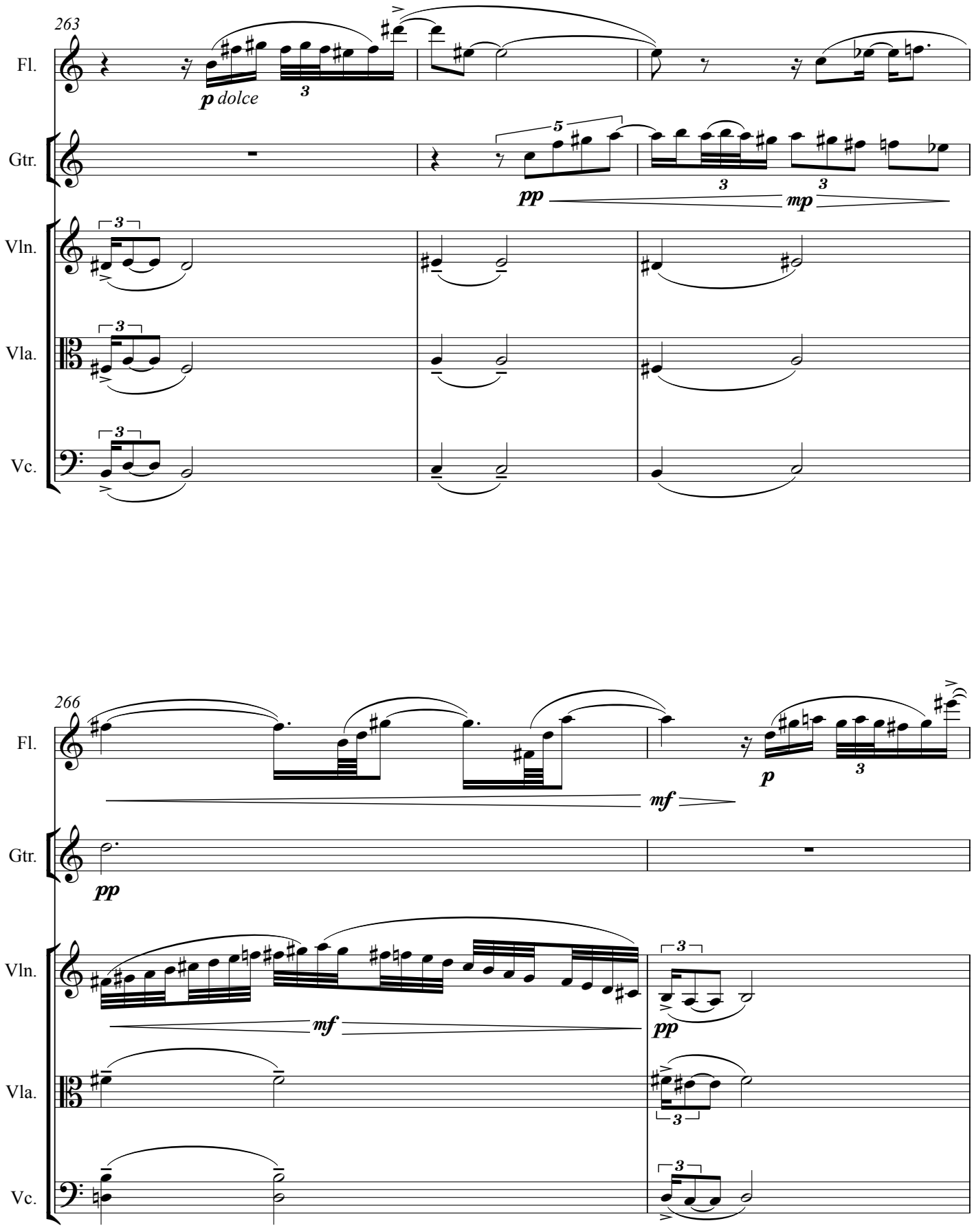

230
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
232
Fl.
Gtr.
8va
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.

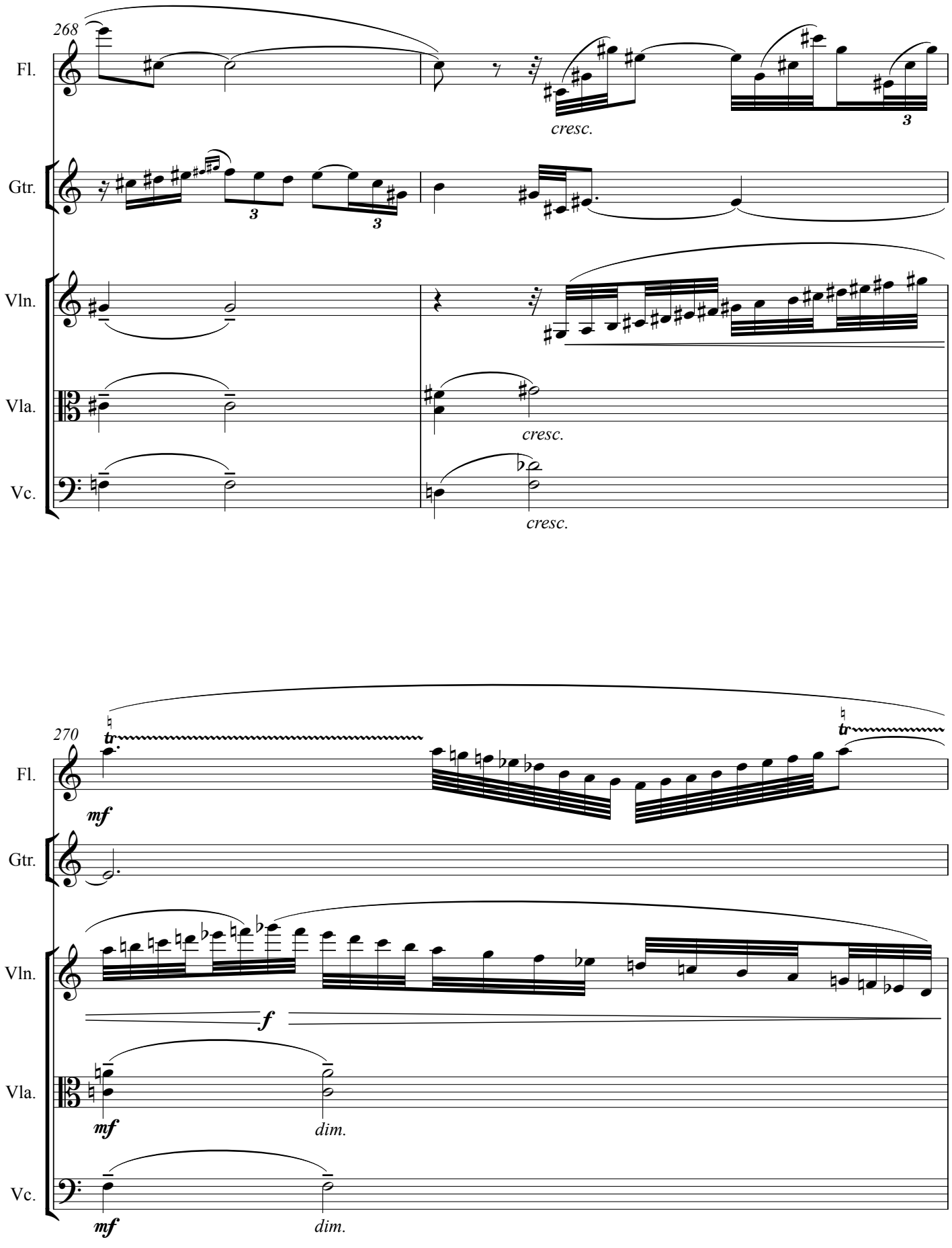

234
Fl.
Gtr.
8va
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
236
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.

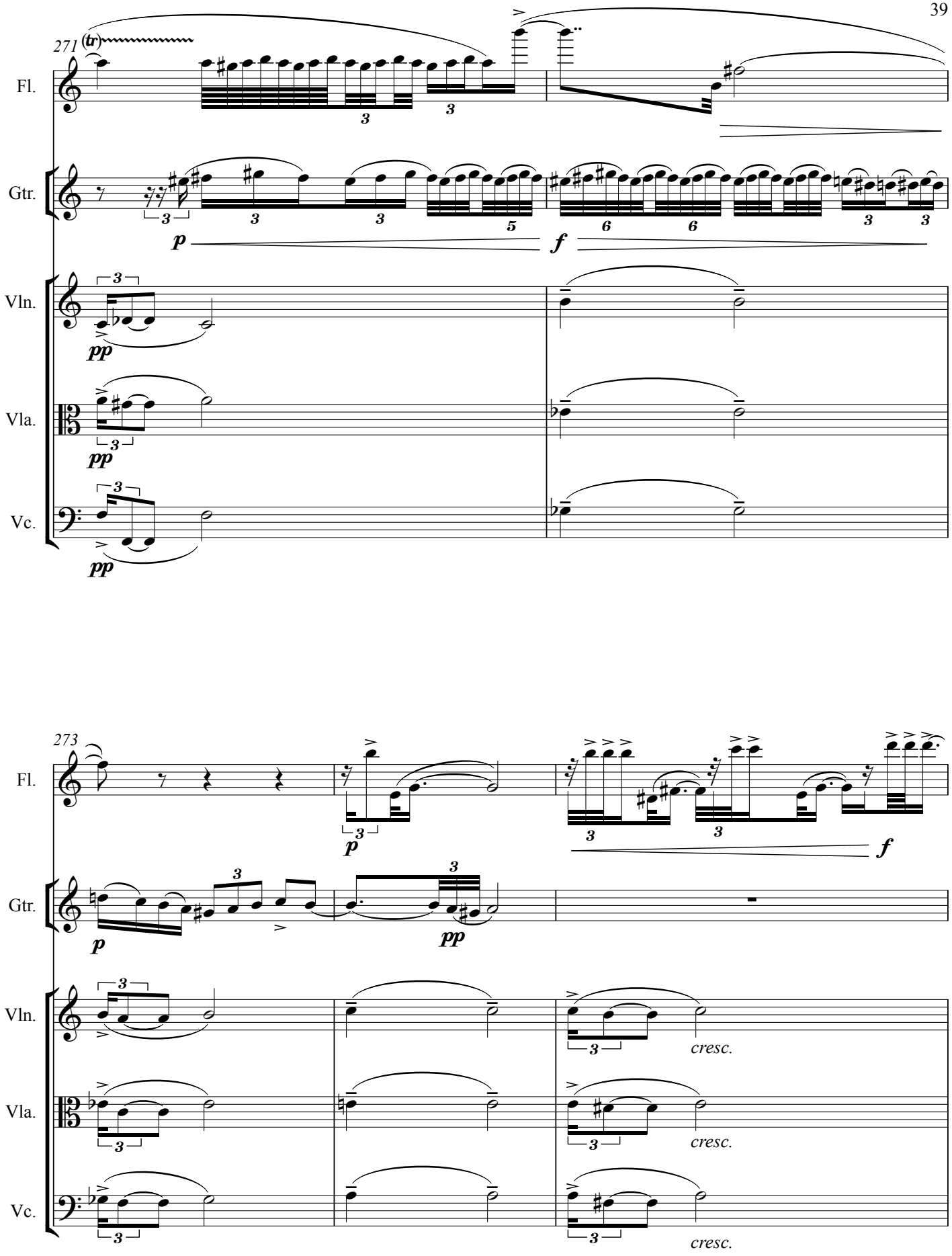

238
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
ff
240
fff

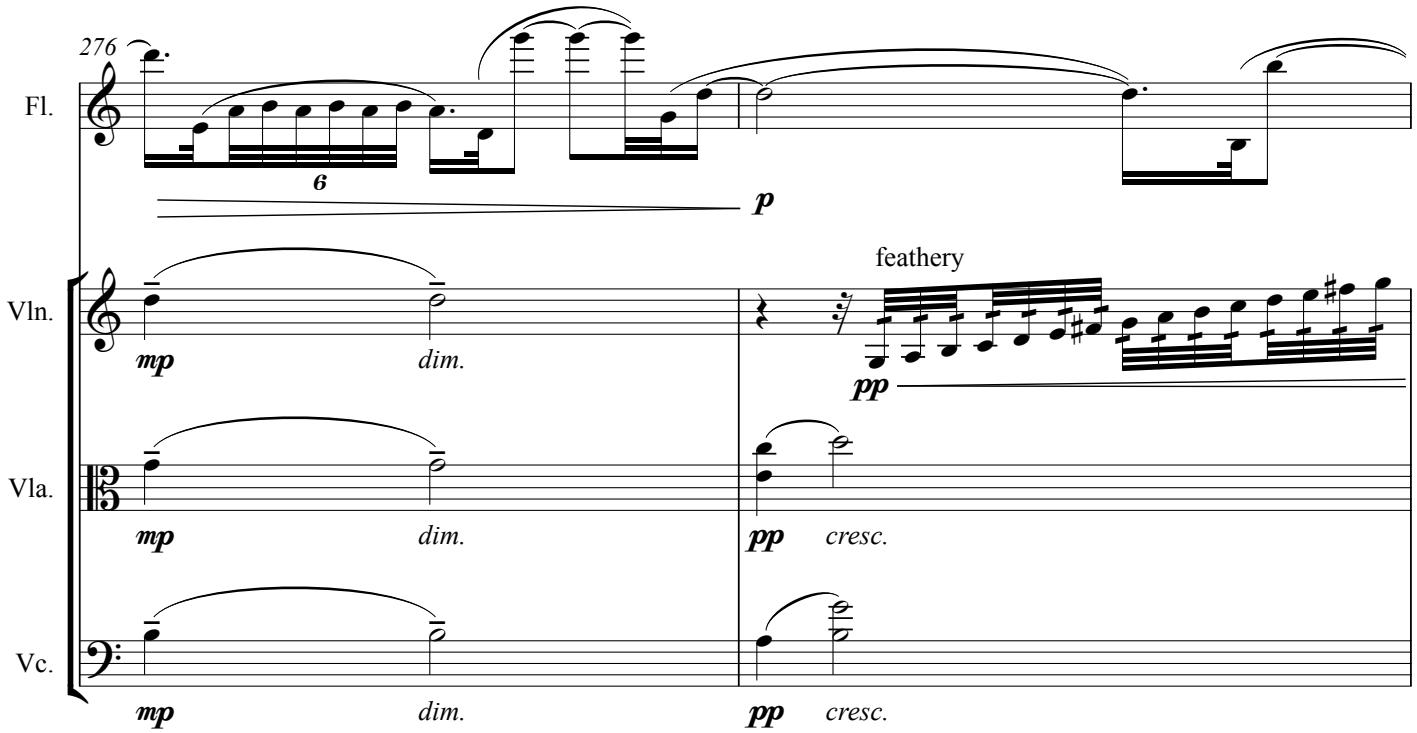

242
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
10
ffff
243
rit.
tr
p
sffz
ppp

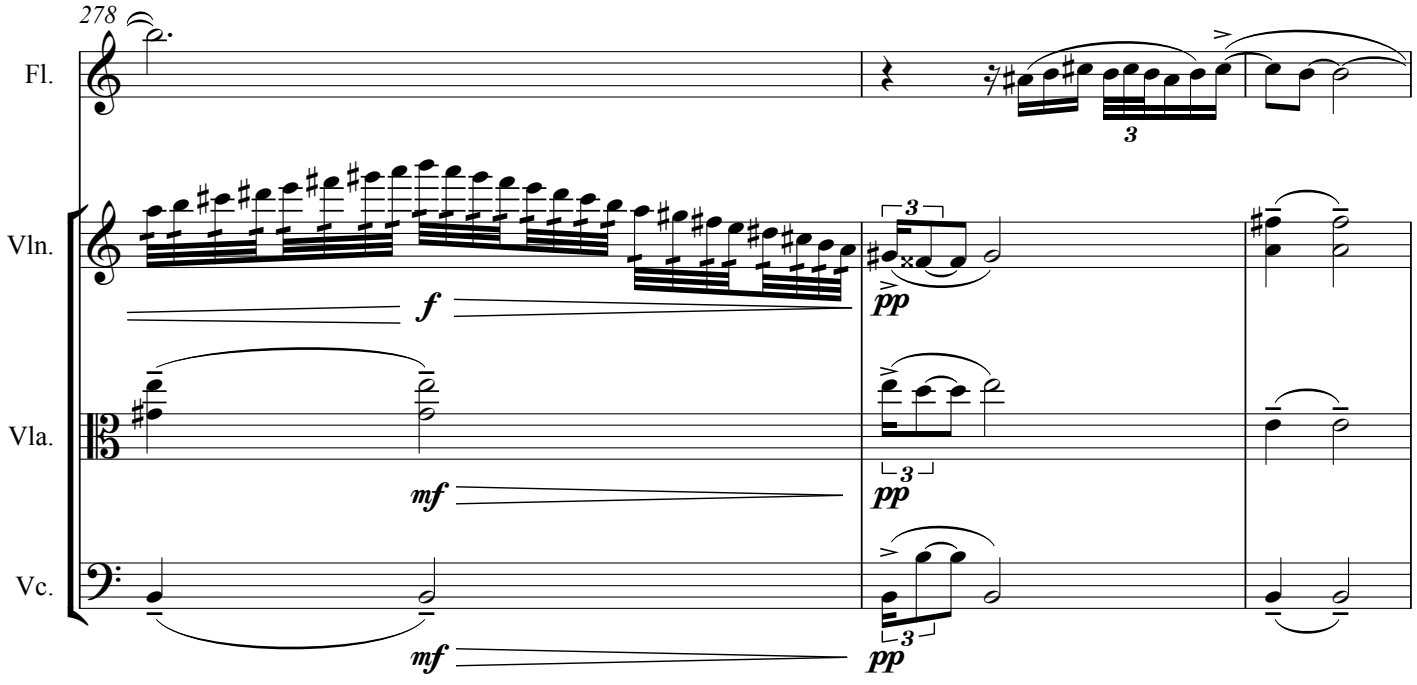

meno mosso e rubato
246
Cadenza
Fl.
249
Fl.
252
Fl.
254
Fl.
257
a tempo ♩ = 56
poco rall.
a tempo
Fl.
a tempo ♩ = 56
con sord.
poco rall.
a tempo
Vln.
con sord.
Vla.
con sord.
Vc.

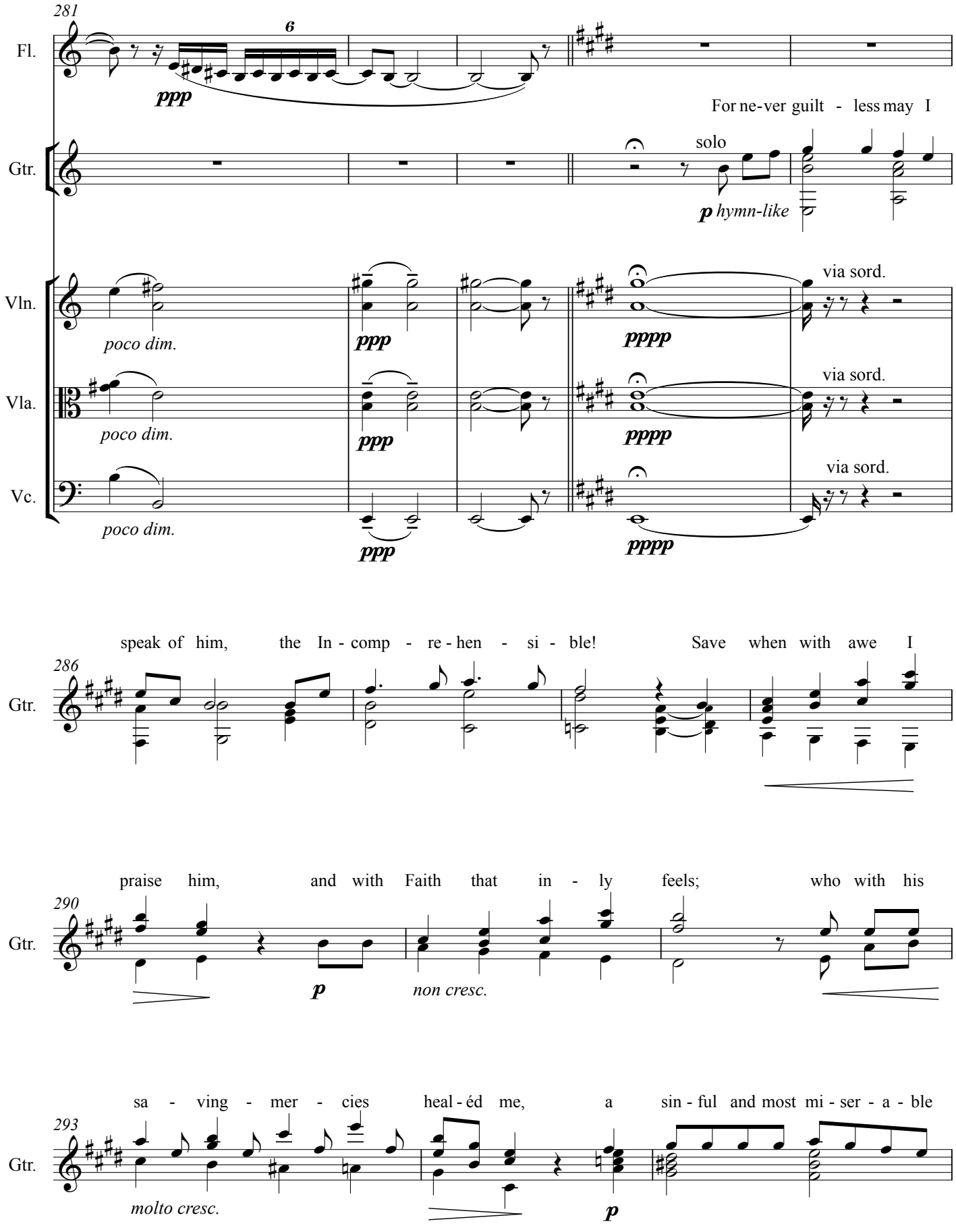

263
Fl.
p dolce
3
Gtr.
5
pp
3
3
mp
Vln.
3
Vla.
3
Vc.
3
266
Fl.
mf
p
3
Gtr.
pp
Vln.
mf
3
pp
Vla.
3
3
Vc.
3

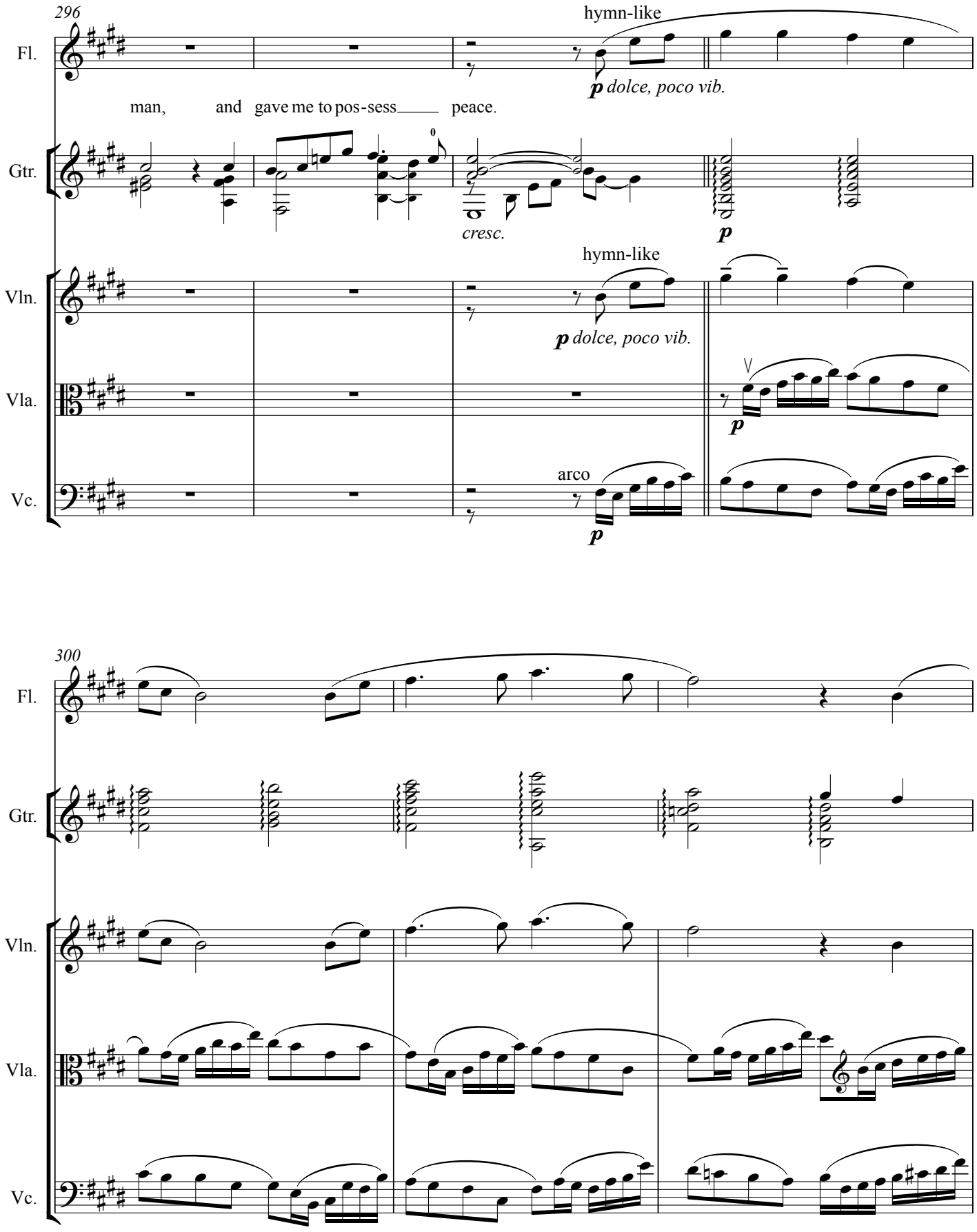

268
Fl.
cresc.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
cresc.
Vc.
cresc.
270
tr
mf
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
f
Vla.
mf
dim.
Vc.
mf
dim.

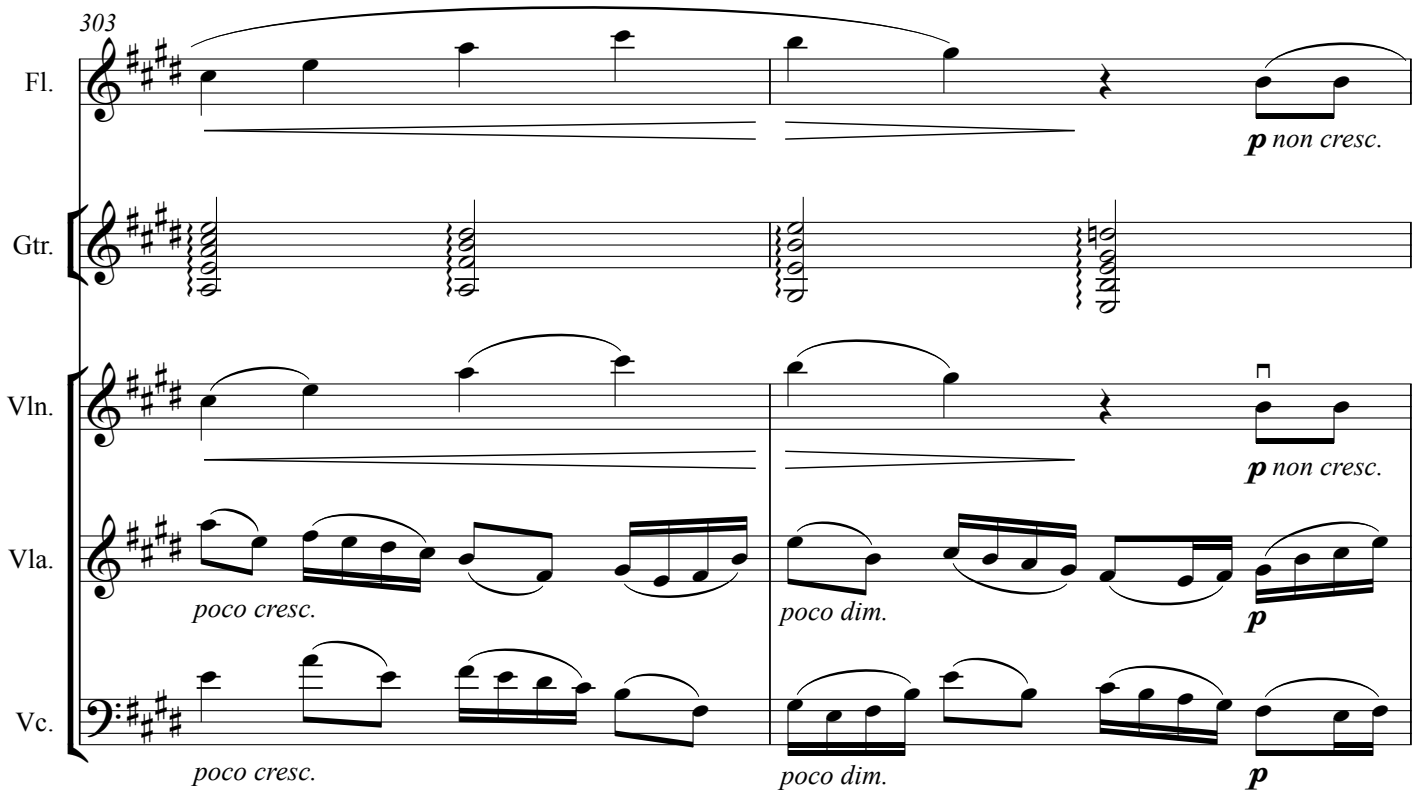

271
(tr)
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
p
f
pp
273
cresc.

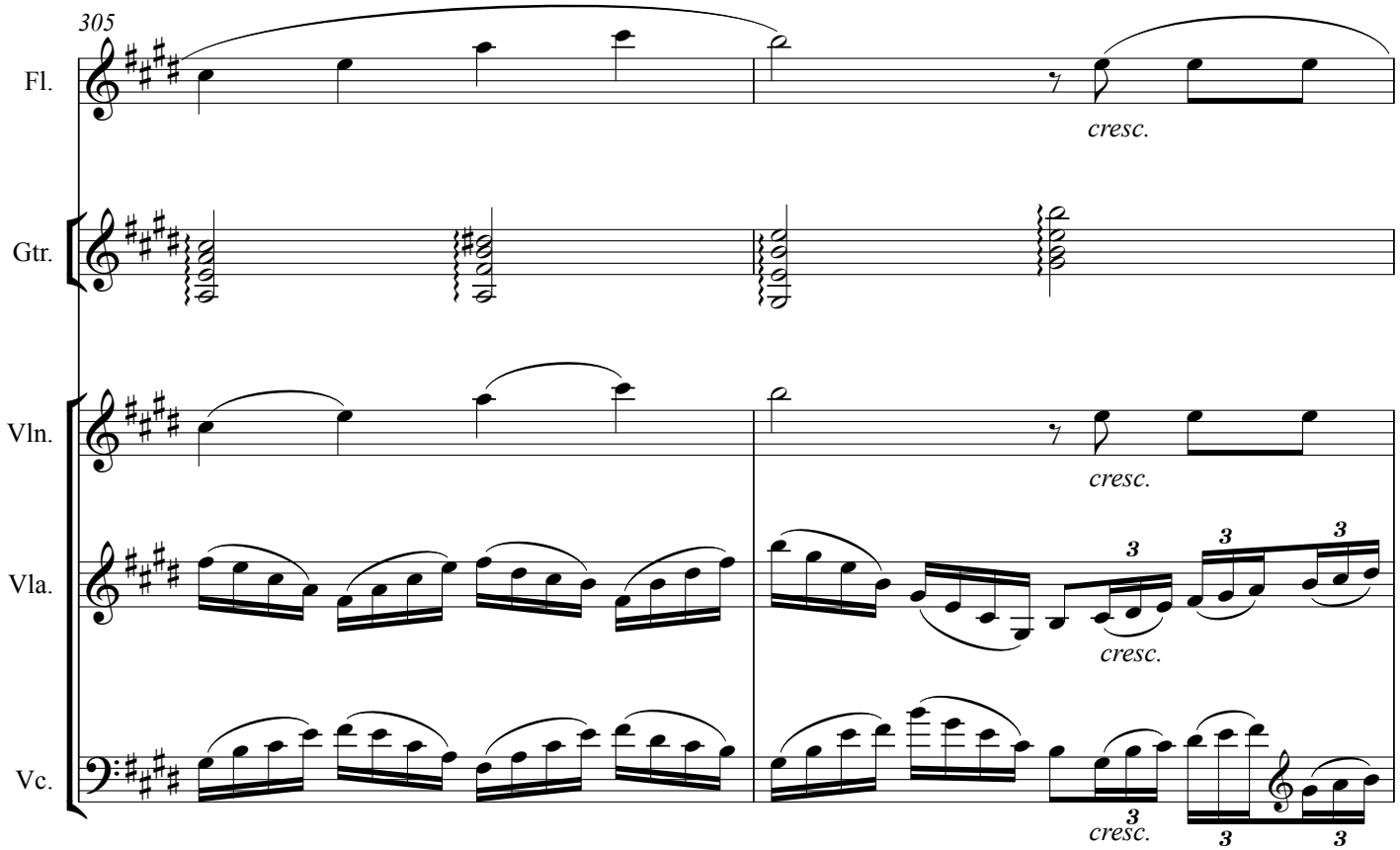

276
Fl.
6
p
Vln.
mp
dim.
feathery
pp
Vla.
mp
dim.
pp
cresc.
Vc.
mp
dim.
pp
cresc.

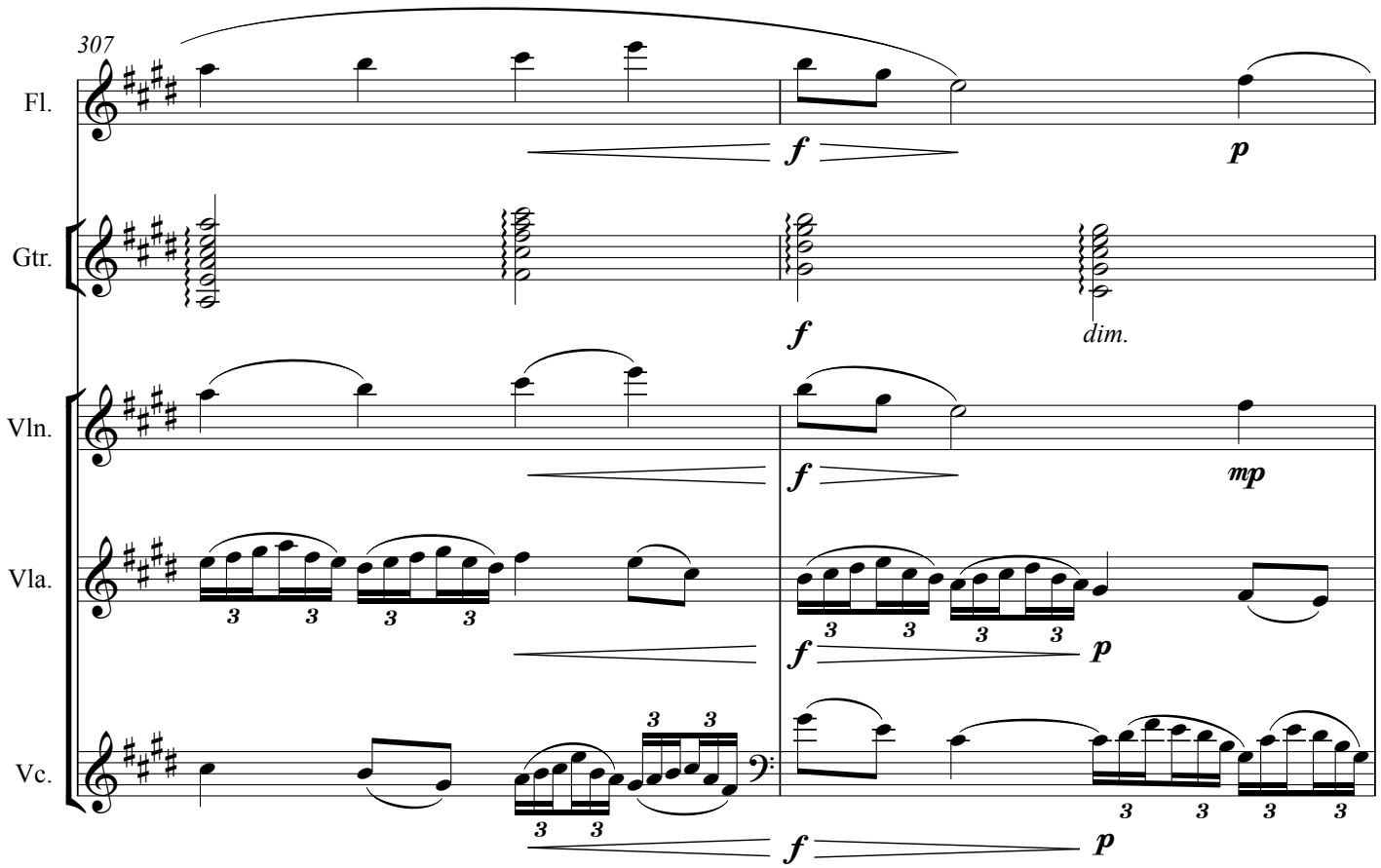

278
Fl.
3
Vln.
f
3
pp
Vla.
mf
3
pp
Vc.
mf
3
pp

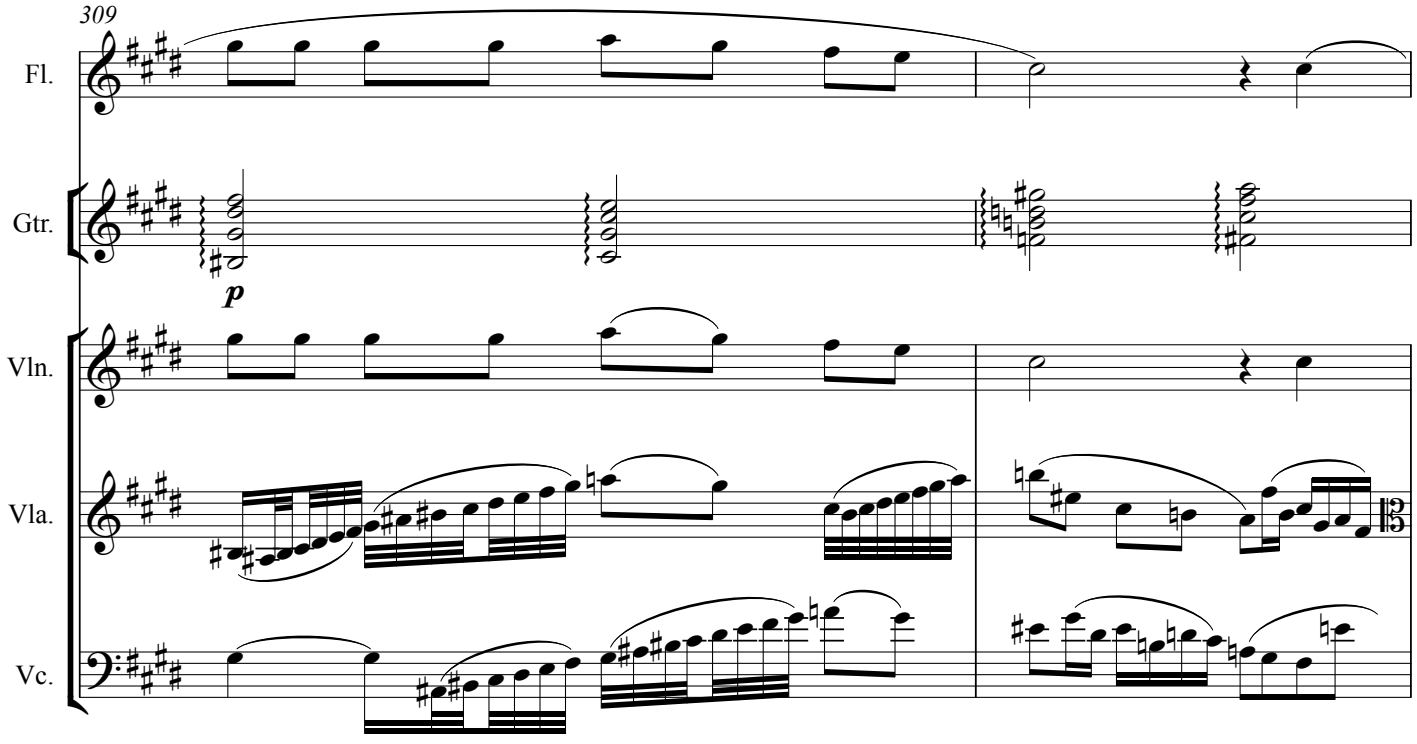

281
Fl.
6
ppp
For ne-ver guilt - less may I
Gtr.
solo
p hymn-like
Vln.
poco dim.
ppp
pppp
via sord.
Vla.
poco dim.
ppp
pppp
via sord.
Vc.
poco dim.
ppp
pppp
via sord.
speak of him, the In - comp - re - hen - si - ble! Save when with awe I
286
Gtr.
praise him, and with Faith that in - ly feels; who with his
290
Gtr.
p
non cresc.
sa - ving - mer - cies heal - éd me, a sin - ful and most mi - ser - a - ble
293
Gtr.
molto cresc.
p

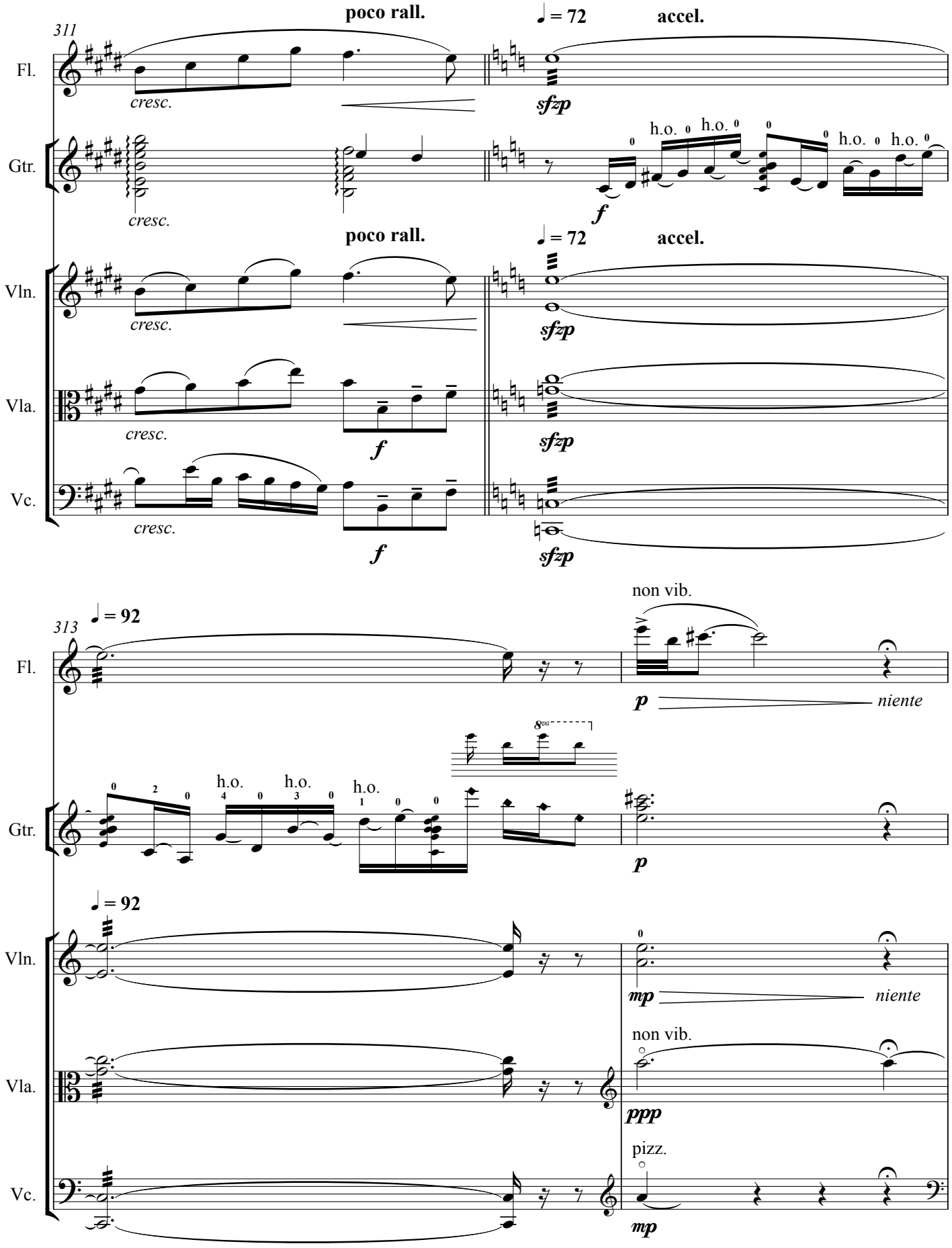

296
Fl.
hymn-like
p dolce, poco vib.
man, and gave me to pos-sess peace.
Gtr.
cresc.
p
Vln.
hymn-like
p dolce, poco vib.
Vla.
p
Vc.
arco
p
300
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.

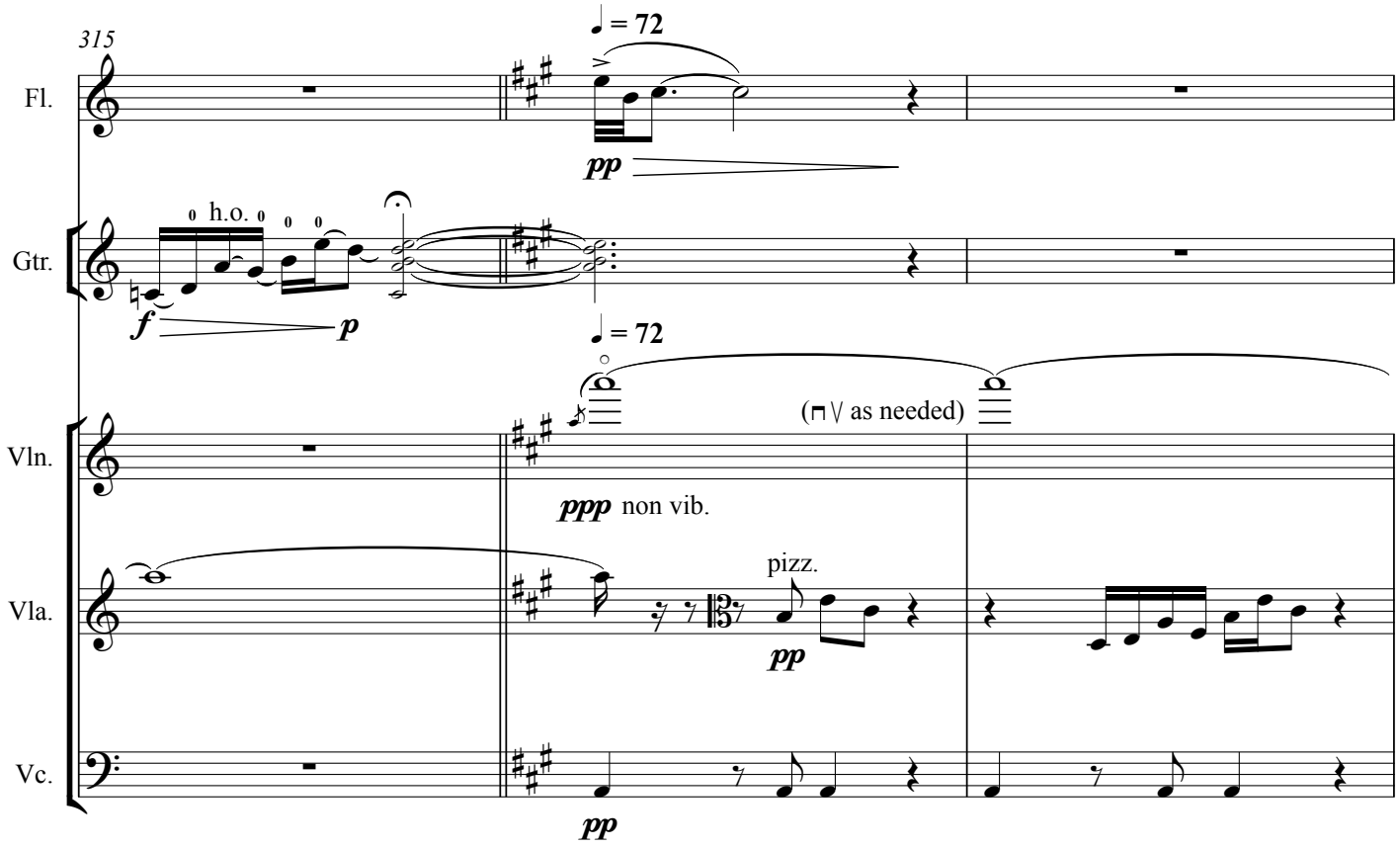

303
Fl.
p non cresc.
Gtr.
Vln.
p non cresc.
Vla.
poco cresc.
poco dim.
p
Vc.
poco cresc.
poco dim.
p

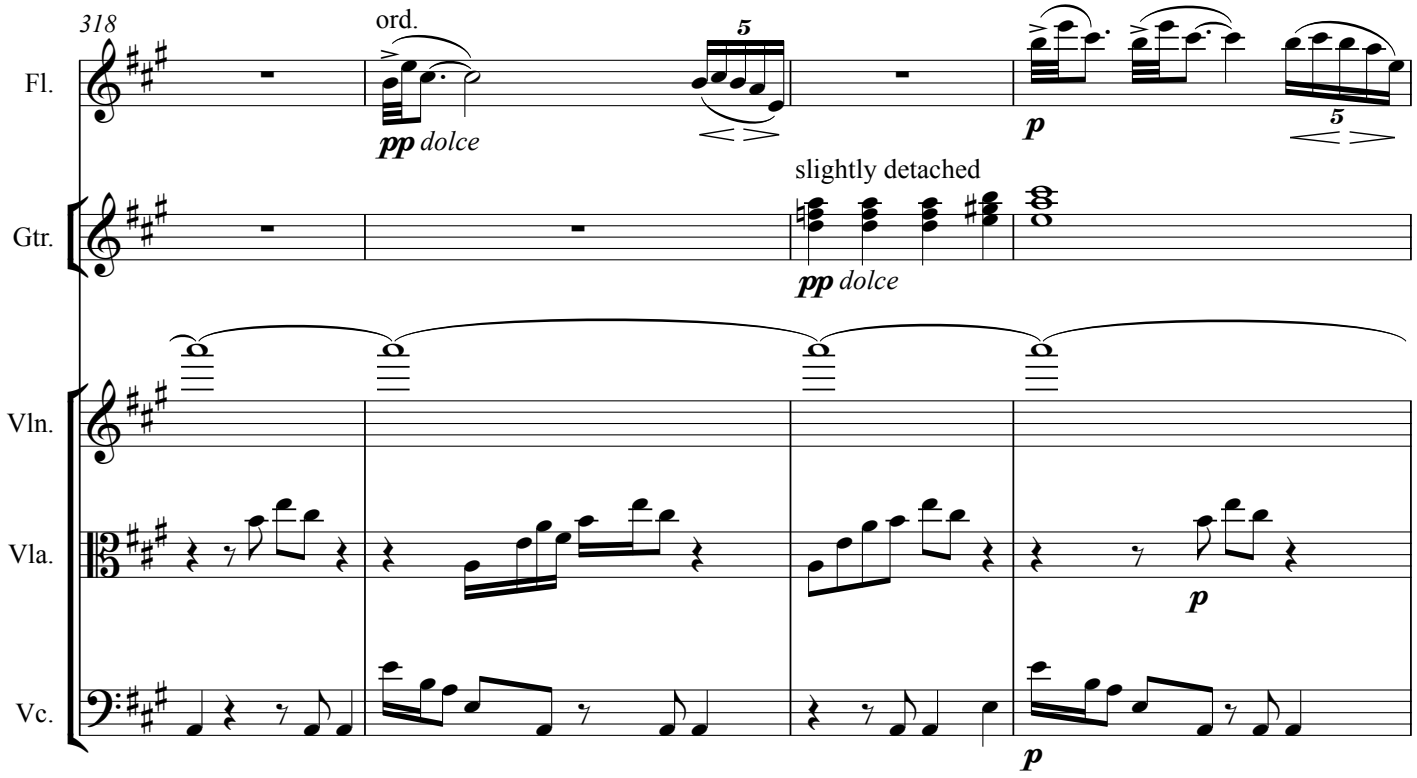

305
Fl.
cresc.
Gtr.
Vln.
cresc.
Vla.
3
3
3
cresc.
Vc.
3
cresc.
3
3

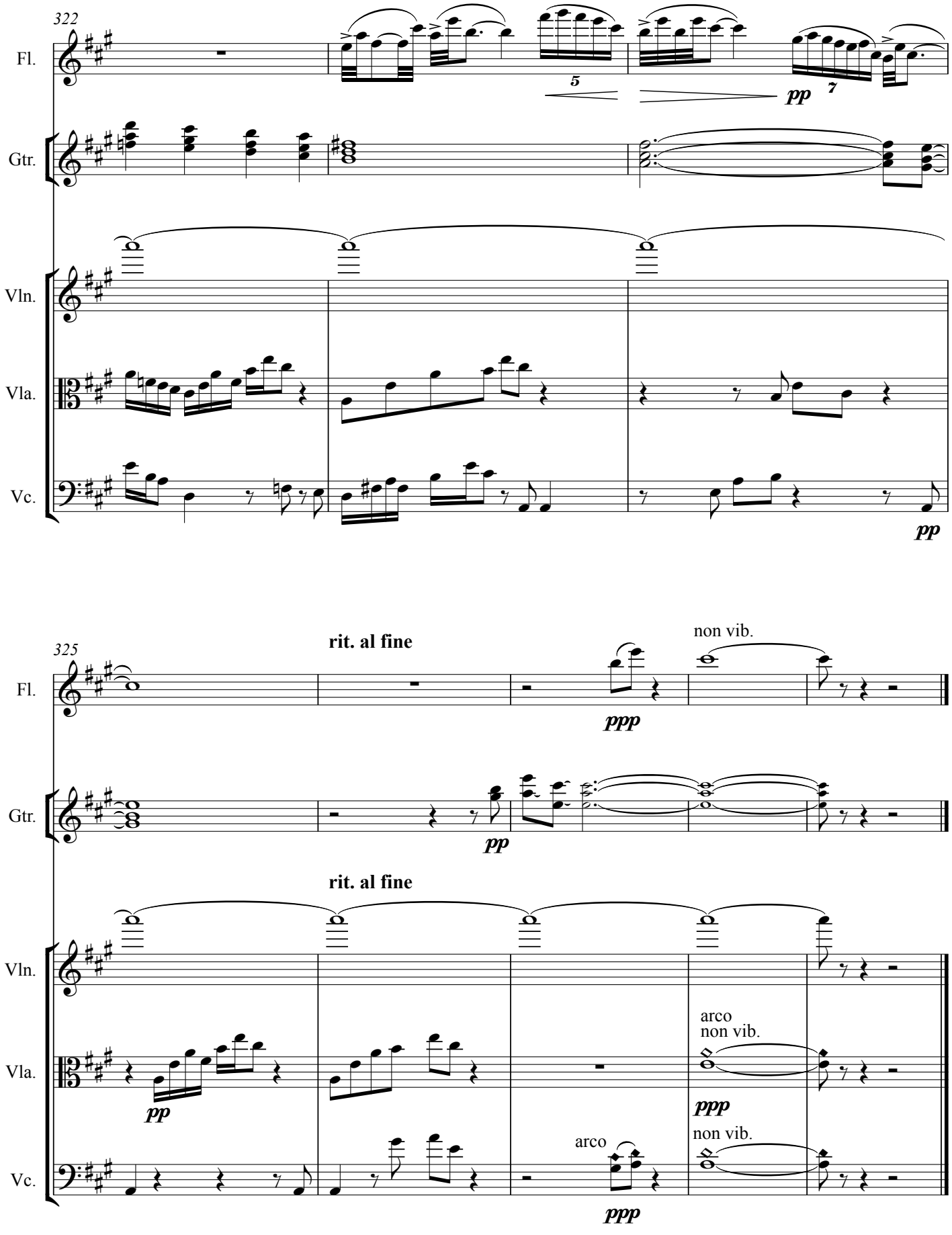

307
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
f
p
dim.
mp


309
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
p


311
poco rall.
♩ = 72
accel.
Fl.
cresc.
sfzp
Gtr.
h.o.
f
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
313
♩ = 92
non vib.
p
niente
8va
mp
ppp
pizz.


315
♩ = 72
Fl.
pp
Gtr.
h.o.
f
p
♩ = 72
(⊓\/ as needed)
Vln.
ppp non vib.
Vla.
pizz.
pp
Vc.
pp


318
ord.
5
Fl.
pp dolce
p
5
slightly detached
Gtr.
pp dolce
Vln.
Vla.
p
Vc.
p


322
Fl.
Gtr.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
5
7
pp
pp
325
rit. al fine
non vib.
ppp
pp
rit. al fine
arco
non vib.
pp
ppp
arco
non vib.
ppp