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Almanac

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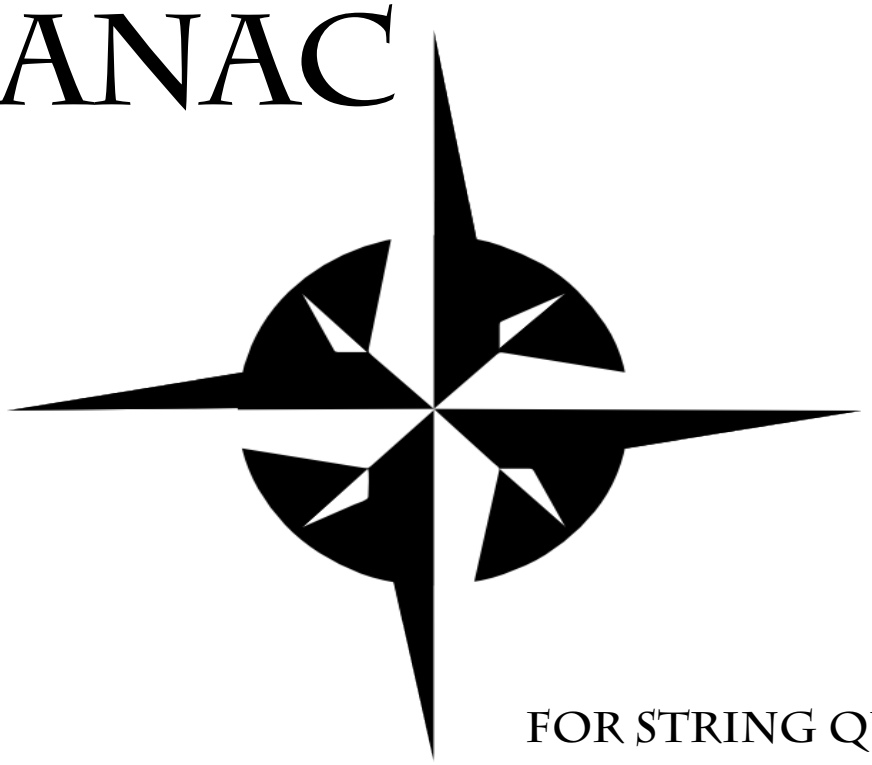
ALMANAC



FOR STRING QUARTET

SELENA WELLINGTON

For me, writing music can sometimes feel like a constant question of WHO AM I. Some pieces feel like battlegrounds, where identity asserts itself against all odds. Others are floating dreams, unconcerned and unaffected, identity trailing lightly behind. Others still, I am changed by the end.

This piece was hard to write. It felt like I was flailing through this question, doubting myself before putting my pen to paper. I've grown to appreciate being lost in flailing though, or at least finding it preferential to being lost in consistent or comfortable habit.

Amid this process, my teacher pointed out that my music sounds more sure of itself than I sound when I talk about it. Within this reflection, I realized that my music is a map. All of it is vulnerable, my internal landscape upended, drawn from this corner to that, on display in its nakedness, yet made more powerful in being witnessed. The music can be consulted along the way, a guide of sorts, of how things were before I had a verbal way to describe them. And thus, I wrote an almanac, music that is overly affected by being looked at, but earnest in its vulnerability and unashamed of its questing.

Selena Wellington
Boulder, Colorado 2017

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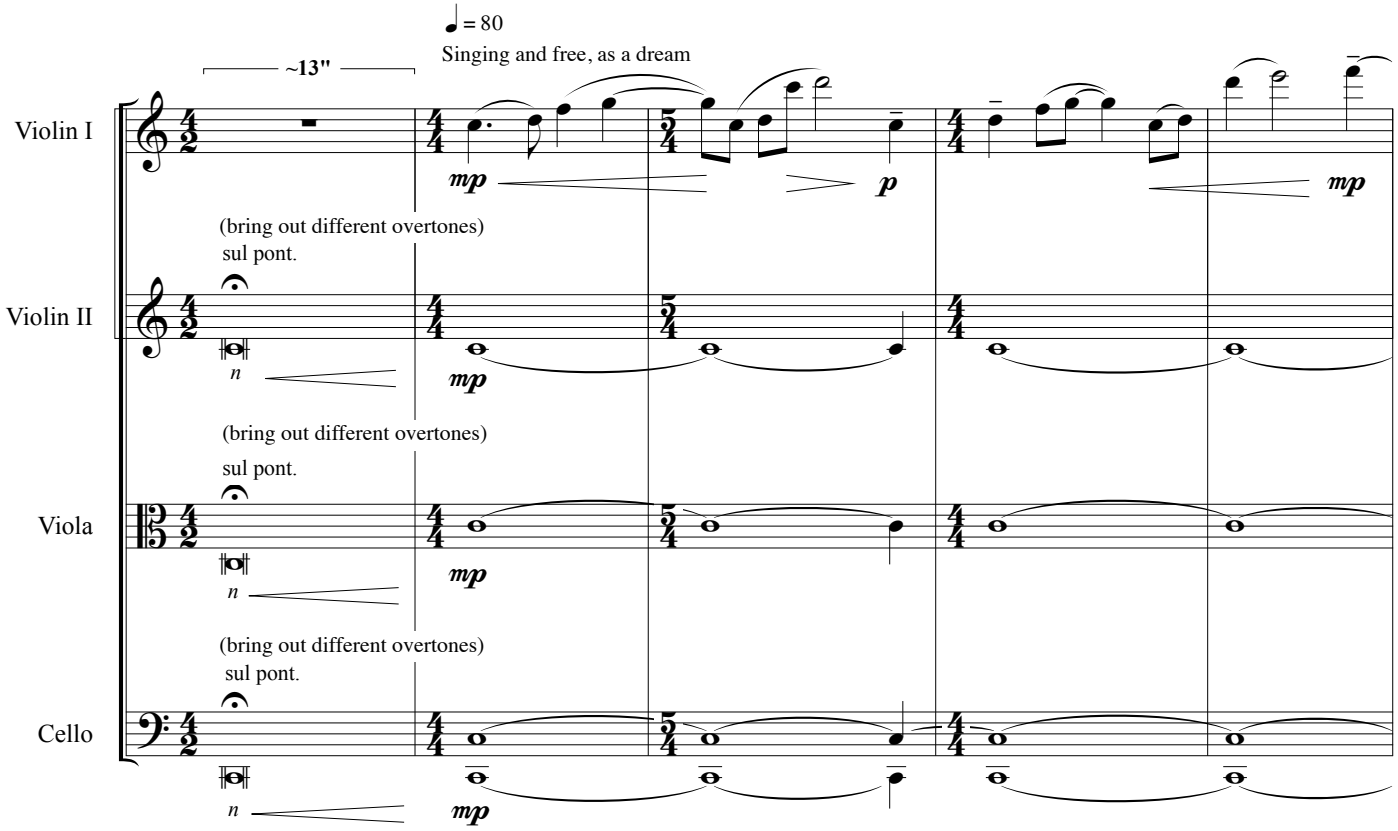
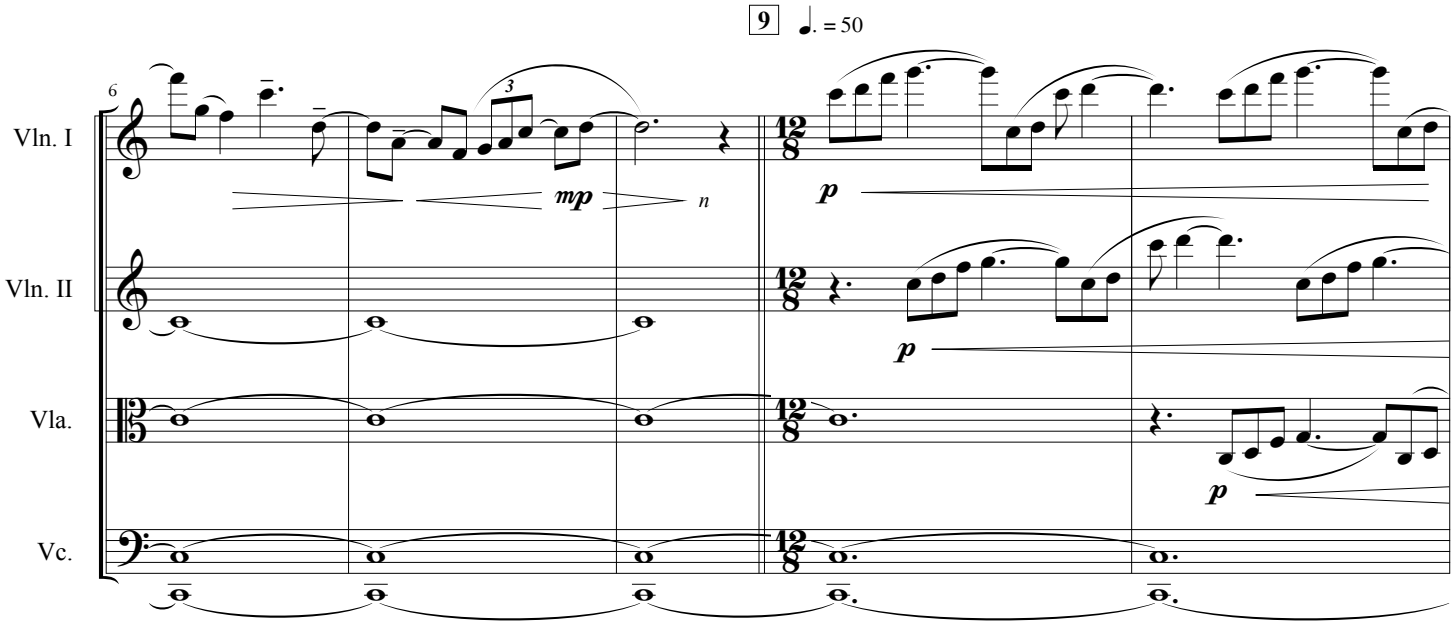
Score

ALMANAC

Selena Wellington





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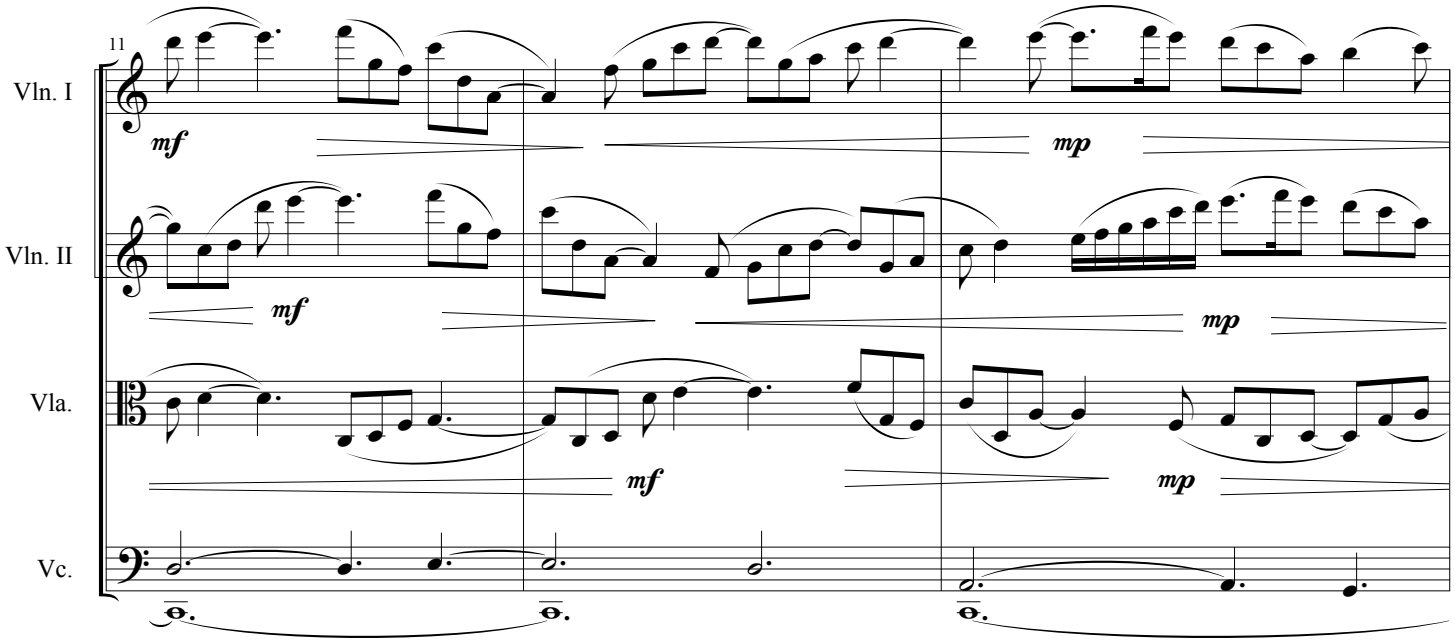
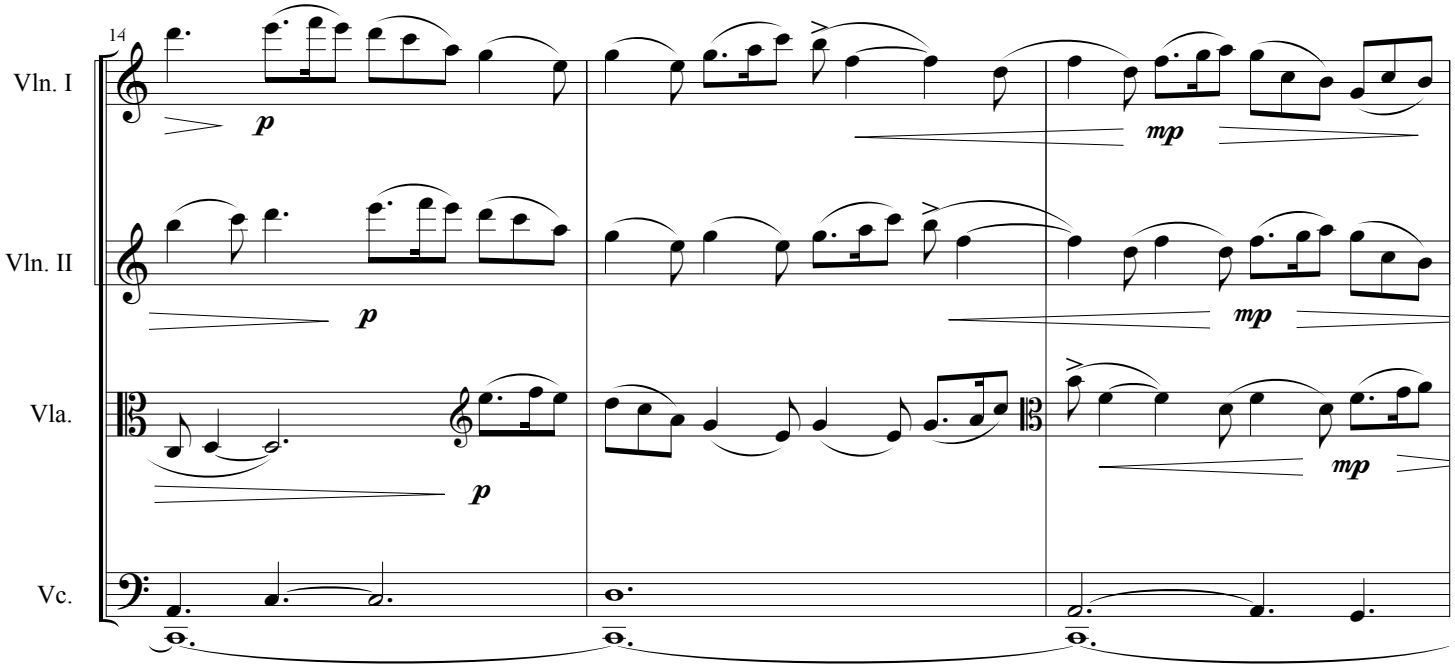
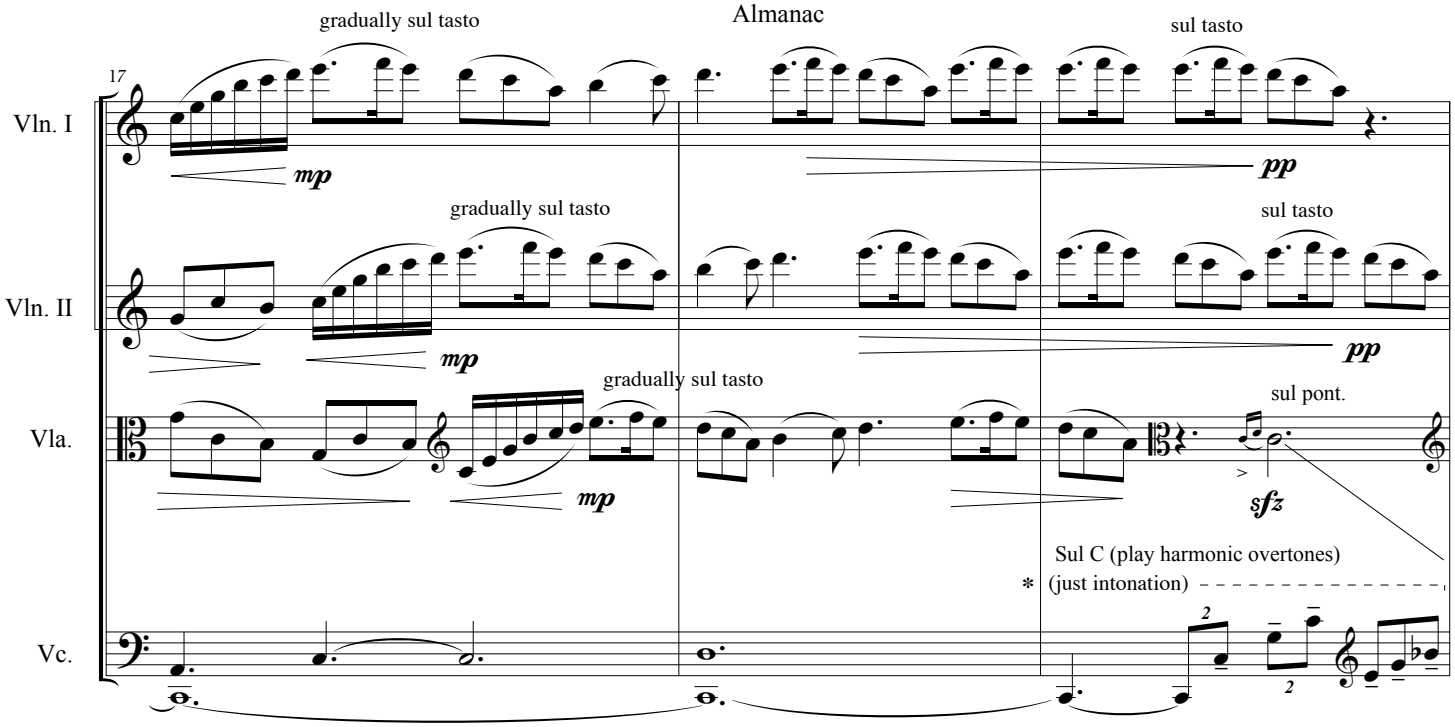
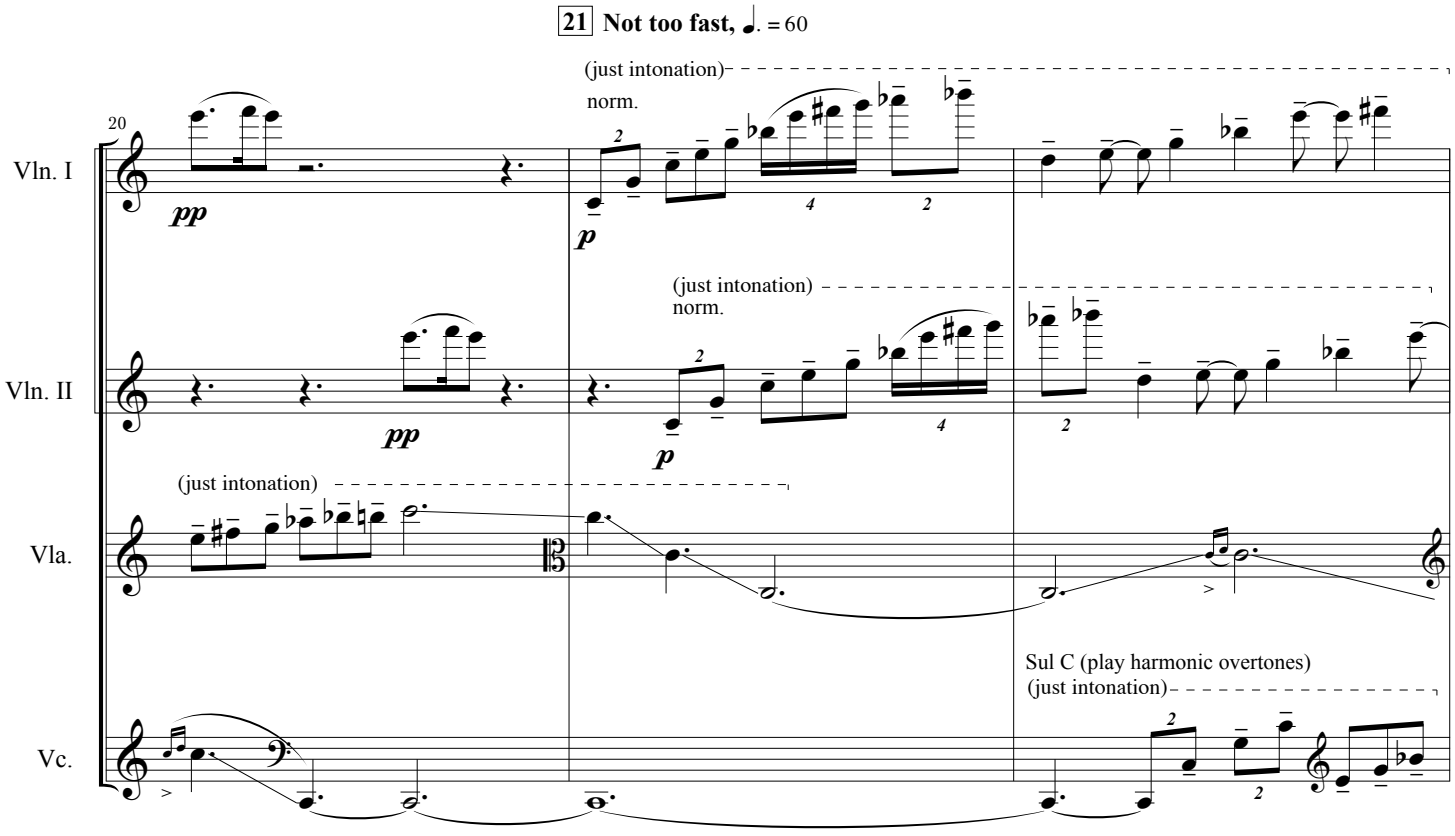
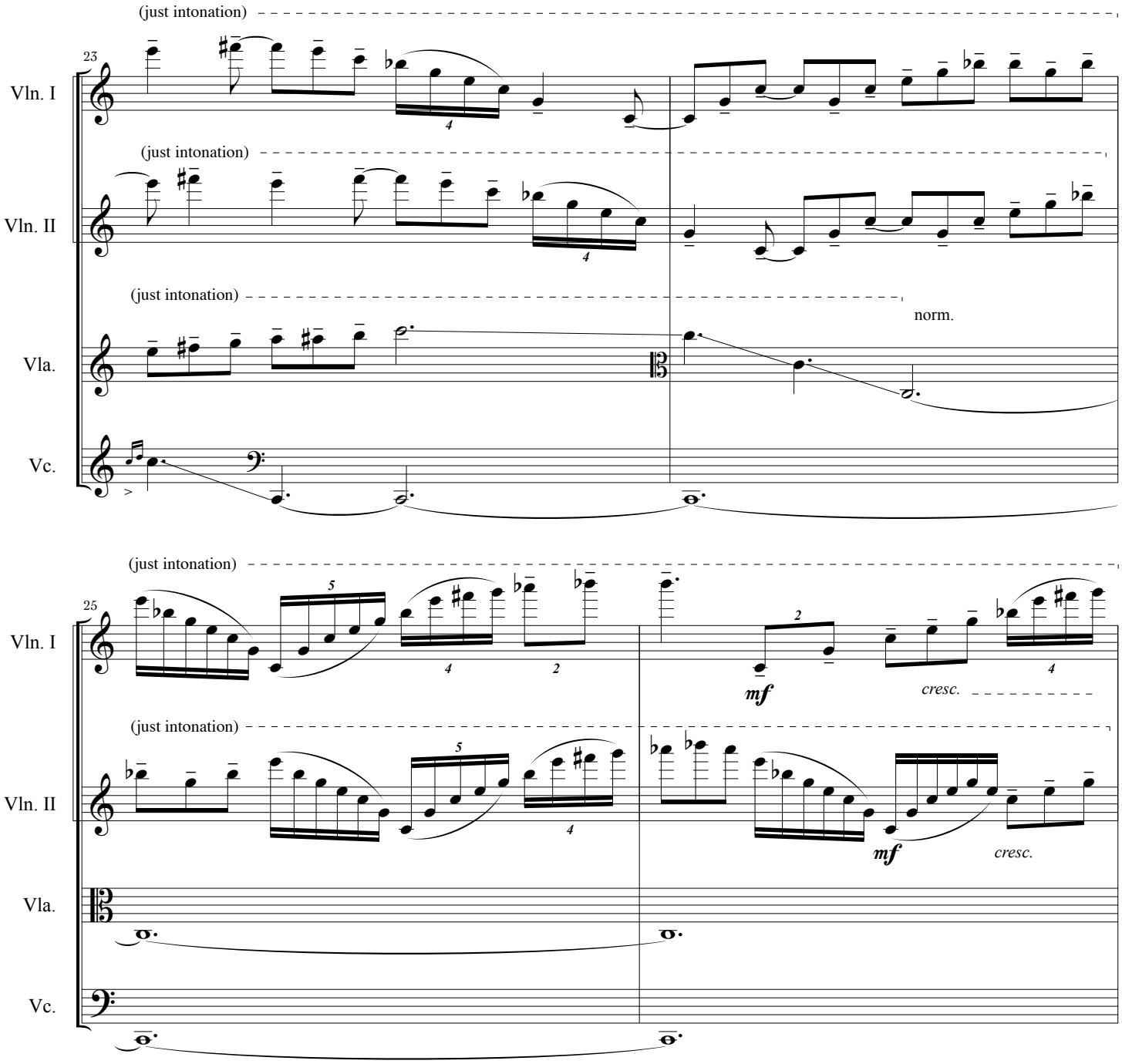

11
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
mp

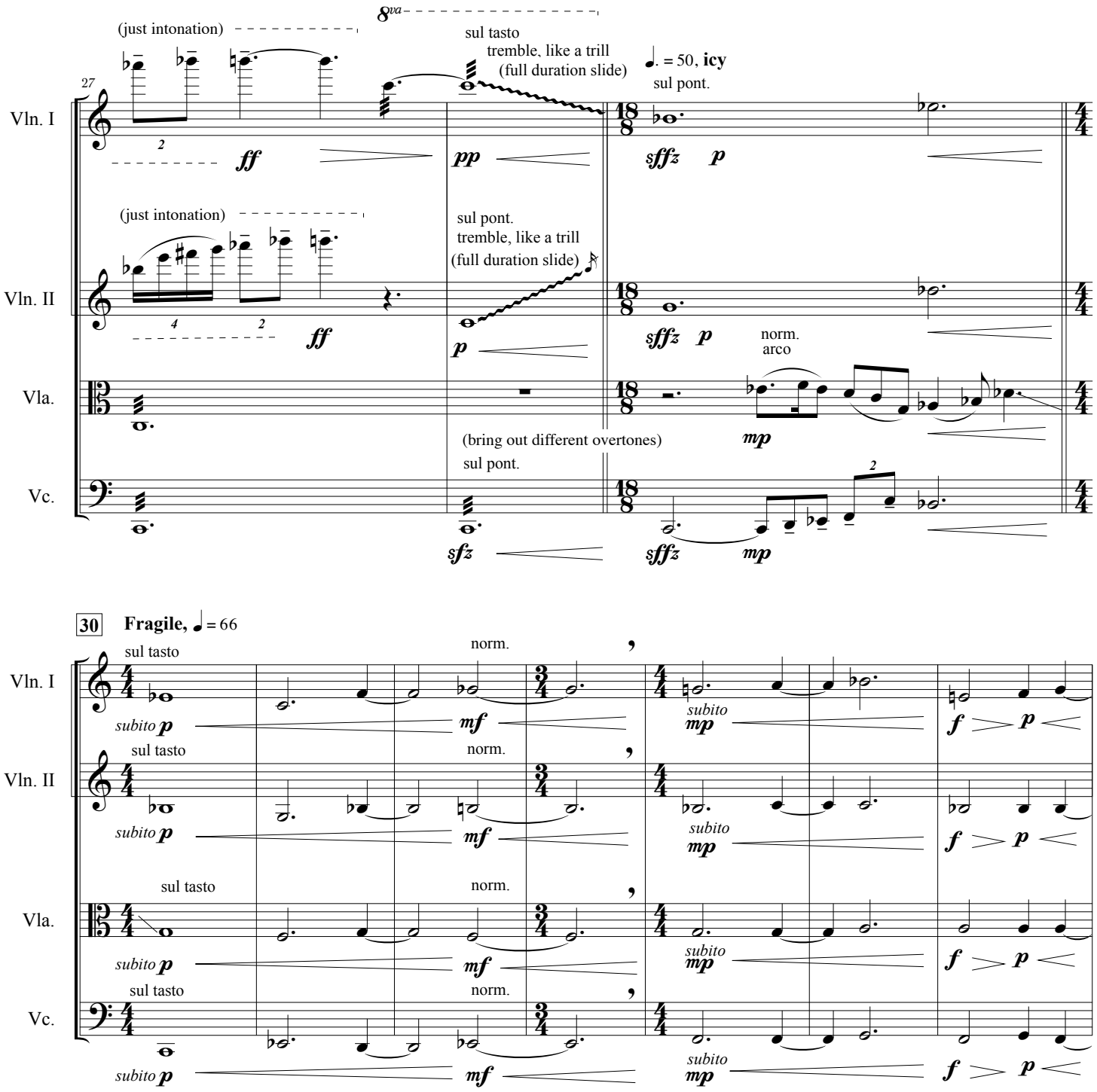

14
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
mp

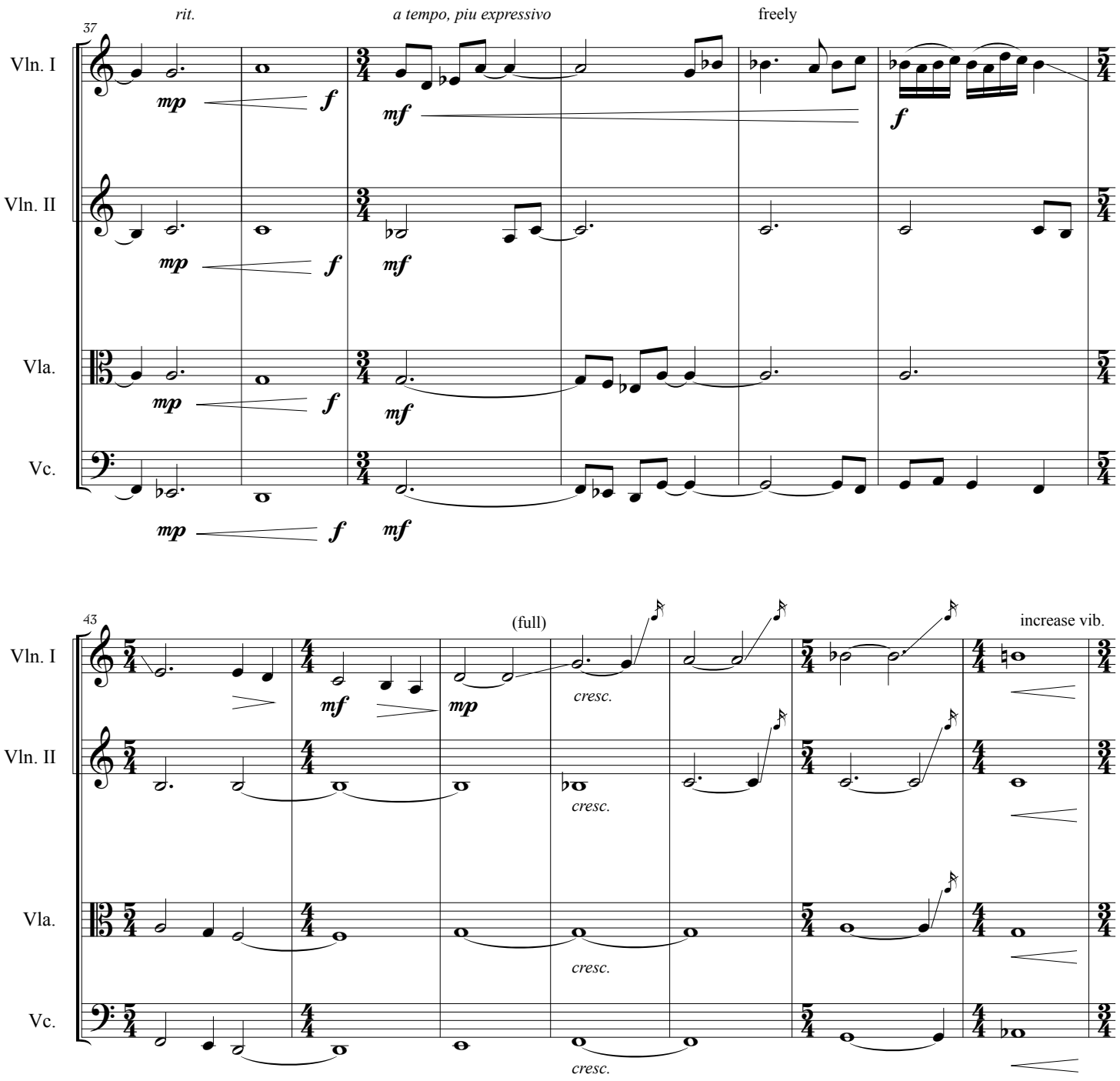


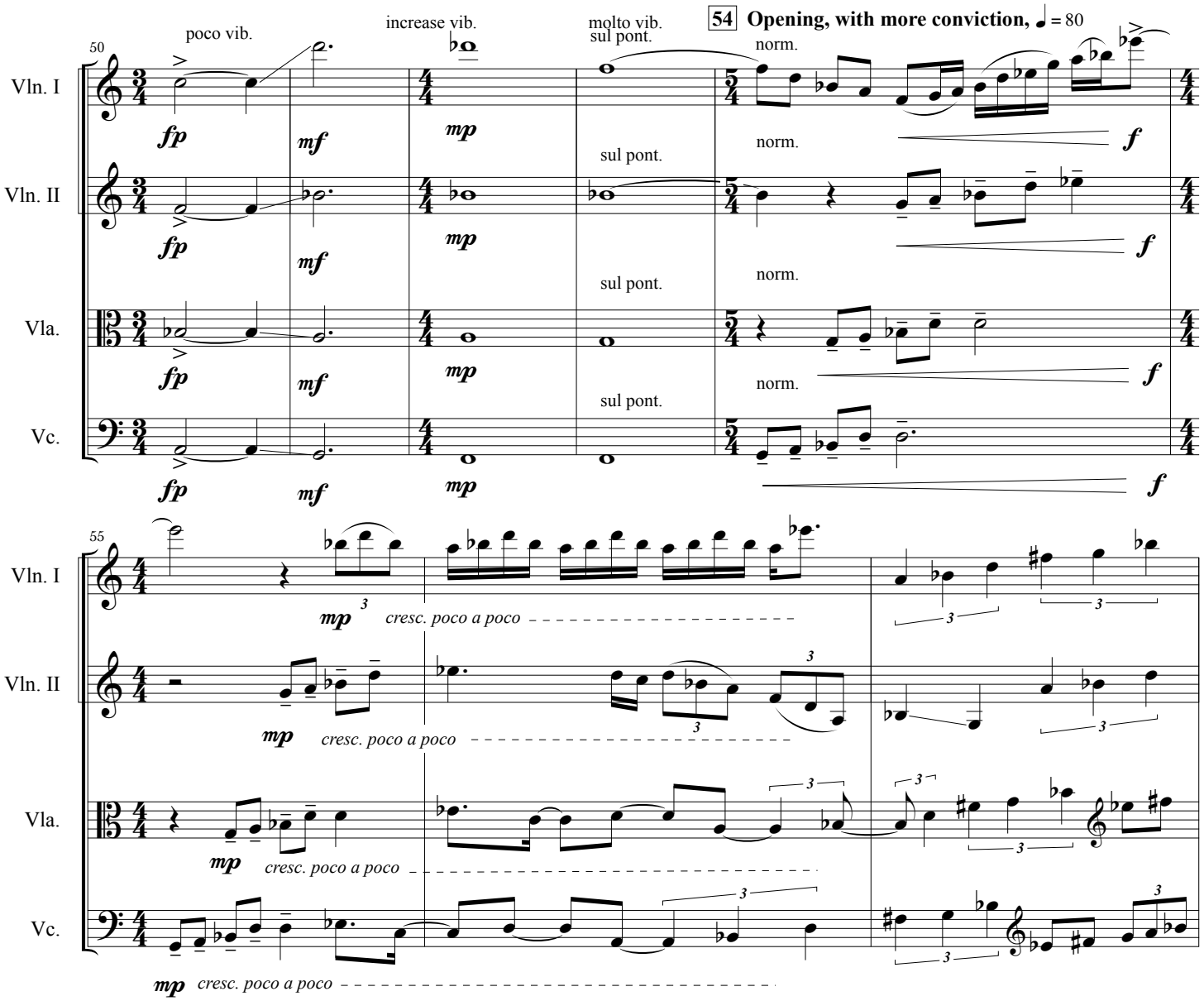


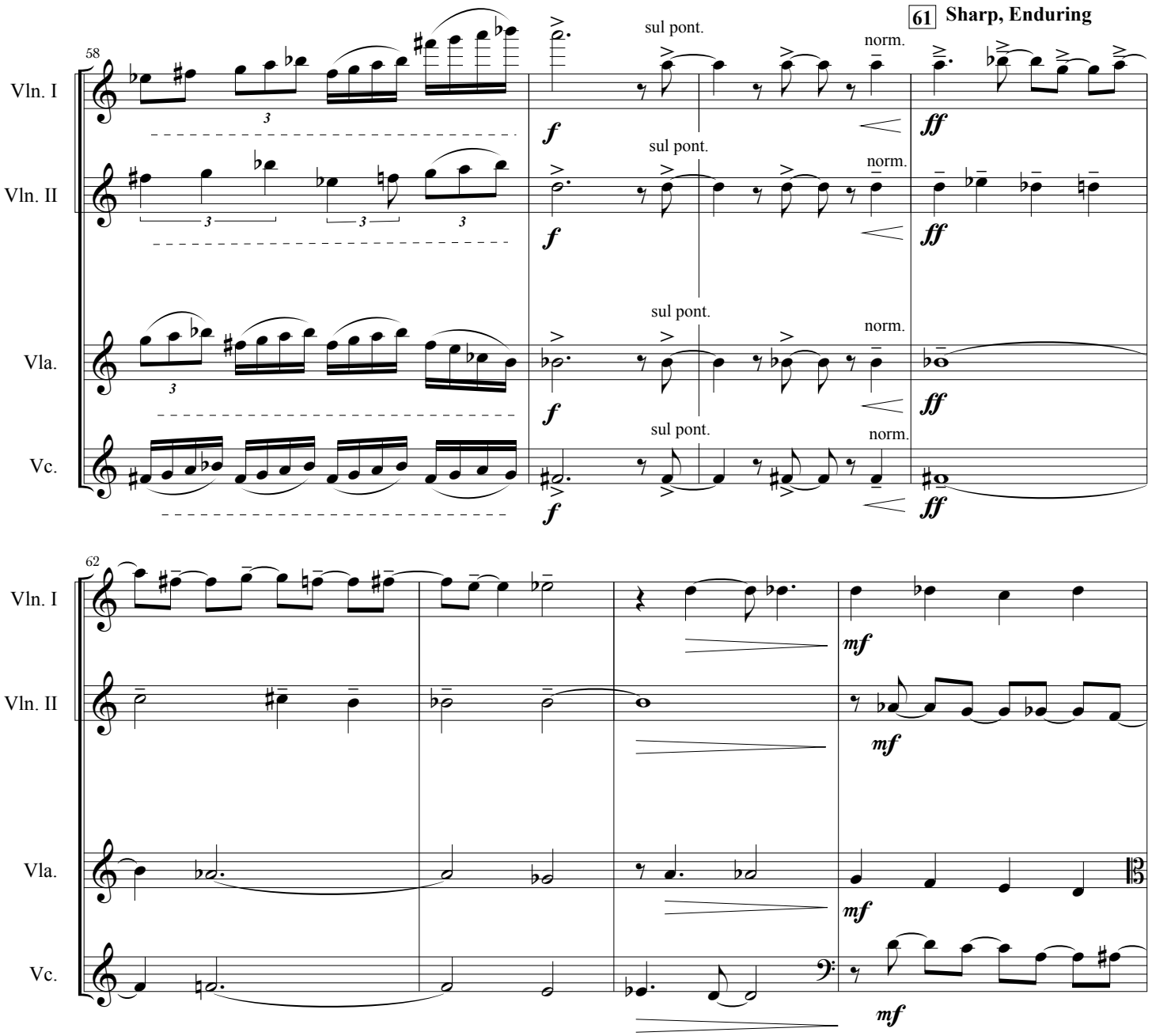
*All just intonation markings indicate to adjust the tuning of the notes marked with C as the fundamental. In other words, C tuned normally, G adjusted 2 cents sharp, E adjusted about 14 cents flat, Bb adjusted about 31 cents flat, F# about 49 cents flat, Ab about 41 cents sharp, D about 4 cents sharp, B about 12 cents flat.

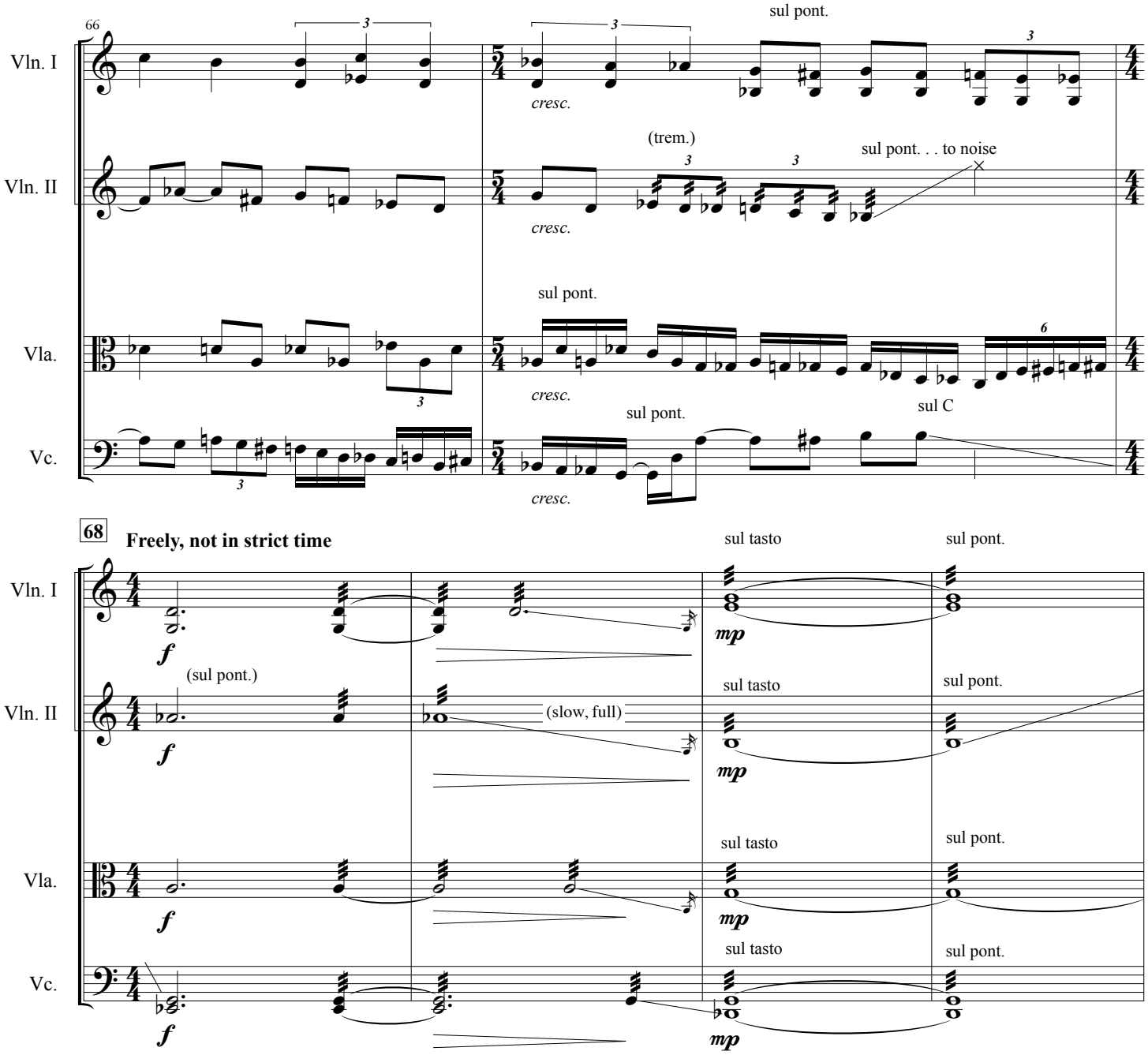

(just intonation)
23
Vln. I
(just intonation)
Vln. II
(just intonation)
norm.
Vla.
Vc.
(just intonation)
25
Vln. I
mf
cresc.
(just intonation)
Vln. II
mf
cresc.
Vla.
Vc.


27
8va
(just intonation)
sul tasto
tremble, like a trill
(full duration slide)
♩. = 50, icy
sul pont.
Vln. I
ff
pp
sffz
p
(just intonation)
sul pont.
tremble, like a trill
(full duration slide)
Vln. II
ff
p
sffz
p
norm.
arco
Vla.
mp
(bring out different overtones)
sul pont.
Vc.
sfz
sffz
mp
30
Fragile, ♩ = 66
sul tasto
norm.
Vln. I
subito p
mf
subito mp
f
p
sul tasto
norm.
Vln. II
subito p
mf
subito mp
f
p
sul tasto
norm.
Vla.
subito p
mf
subito mp
f
p
sul tasto
norm.
Vc.
subito p
mf
subito mp
f
p

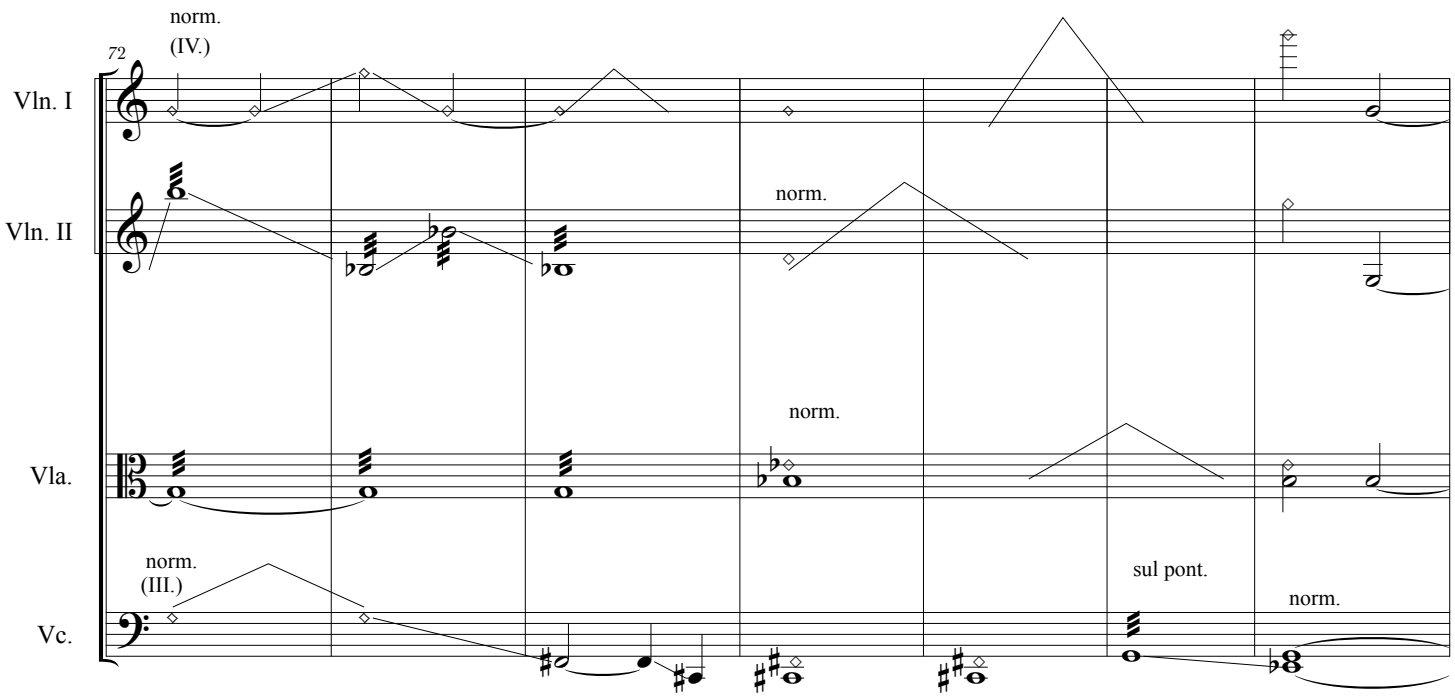

37
rit.
a tempo, piu expressivo
freely
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mp
f
mf
43
(full)
increase vib.
cresc.


50
poco vib.
increase vib.
molto vib.
sul pont.
54 Opening, with more conviction, ♩ = 80
norm.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
fp
mf
mp
f
sul pont.
norm.
55
cresc. poco a poco
3

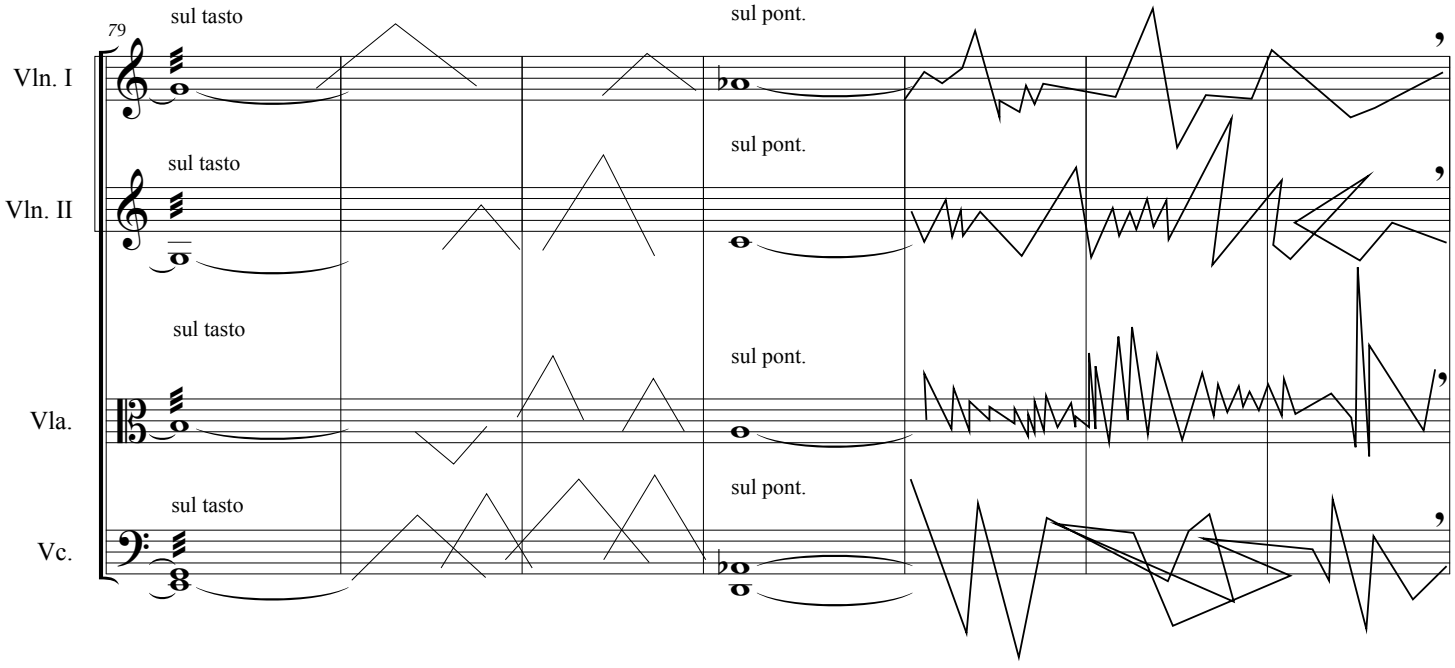

61 Sharp, Enduring
58
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sul pont.
norm.
f
ff
62
mf


66
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sul pont.
cresc.
(trem.)
sul pont. . . to noise
sul C
68
Freely, not in strict time
sul tasto
(sul pont.)
(slow, full)
f
mp

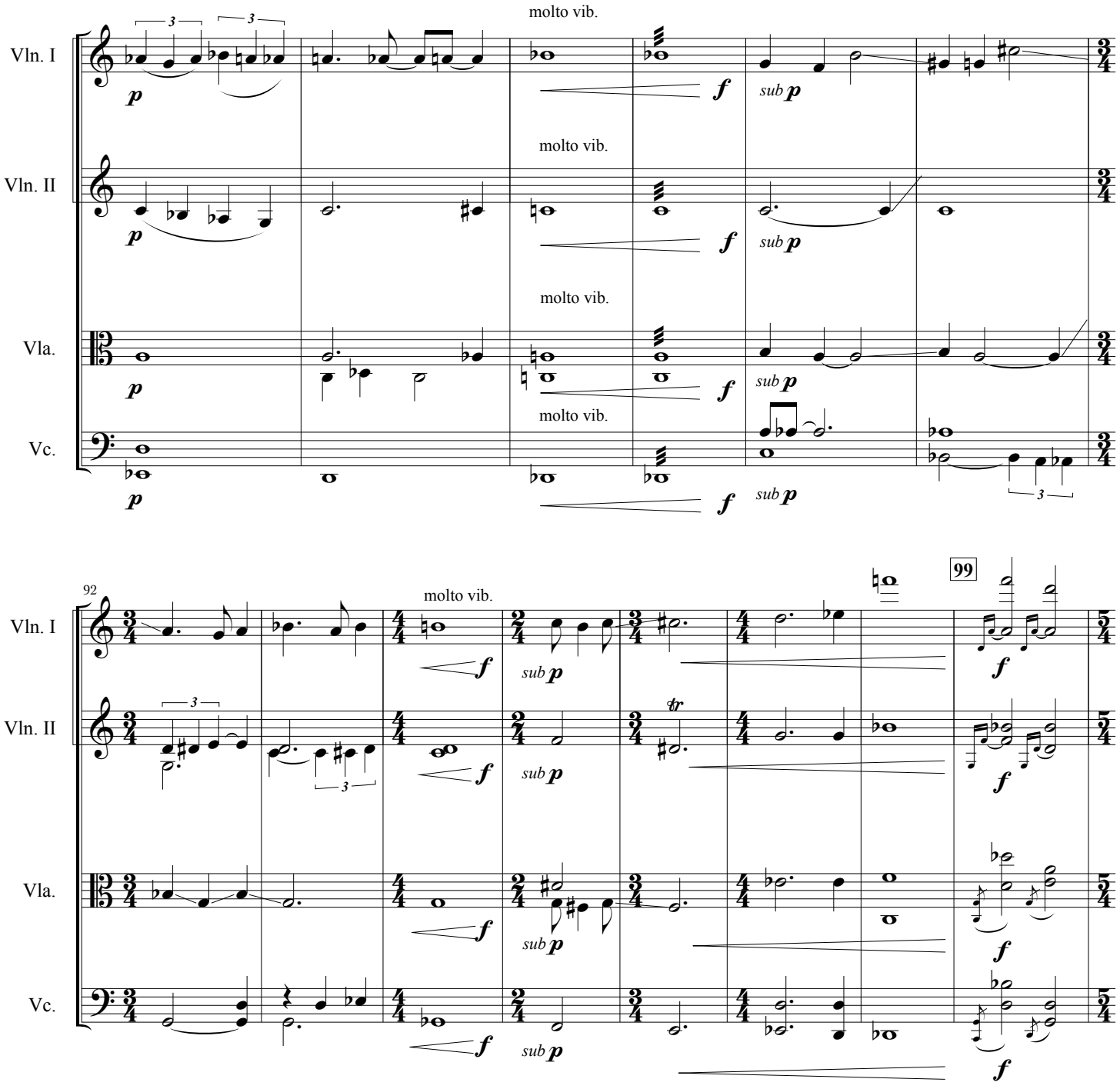
Always play a note,
Gliss up and down starting roughly
where the triangles begin, returning
to the previously notated pitch

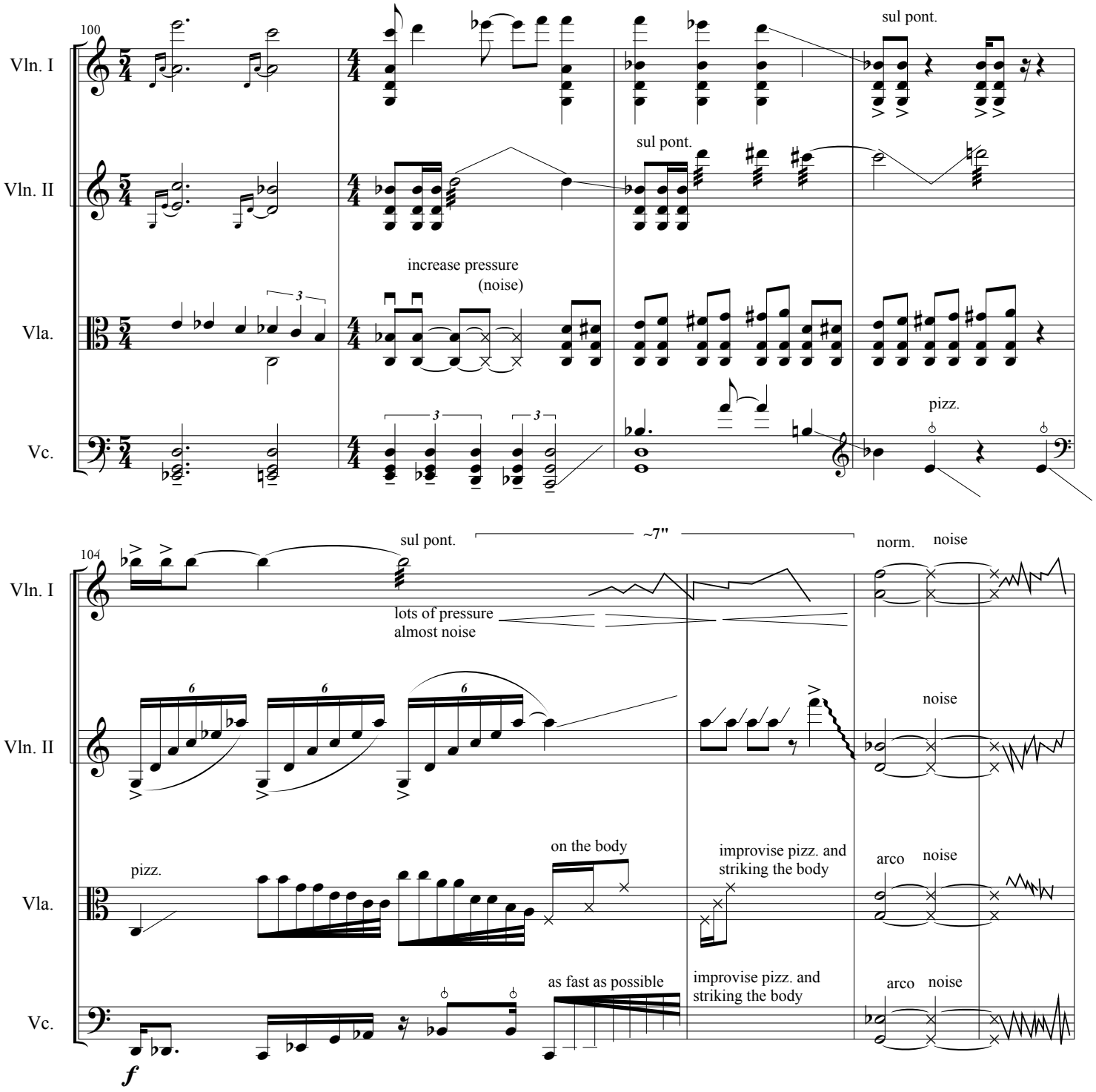


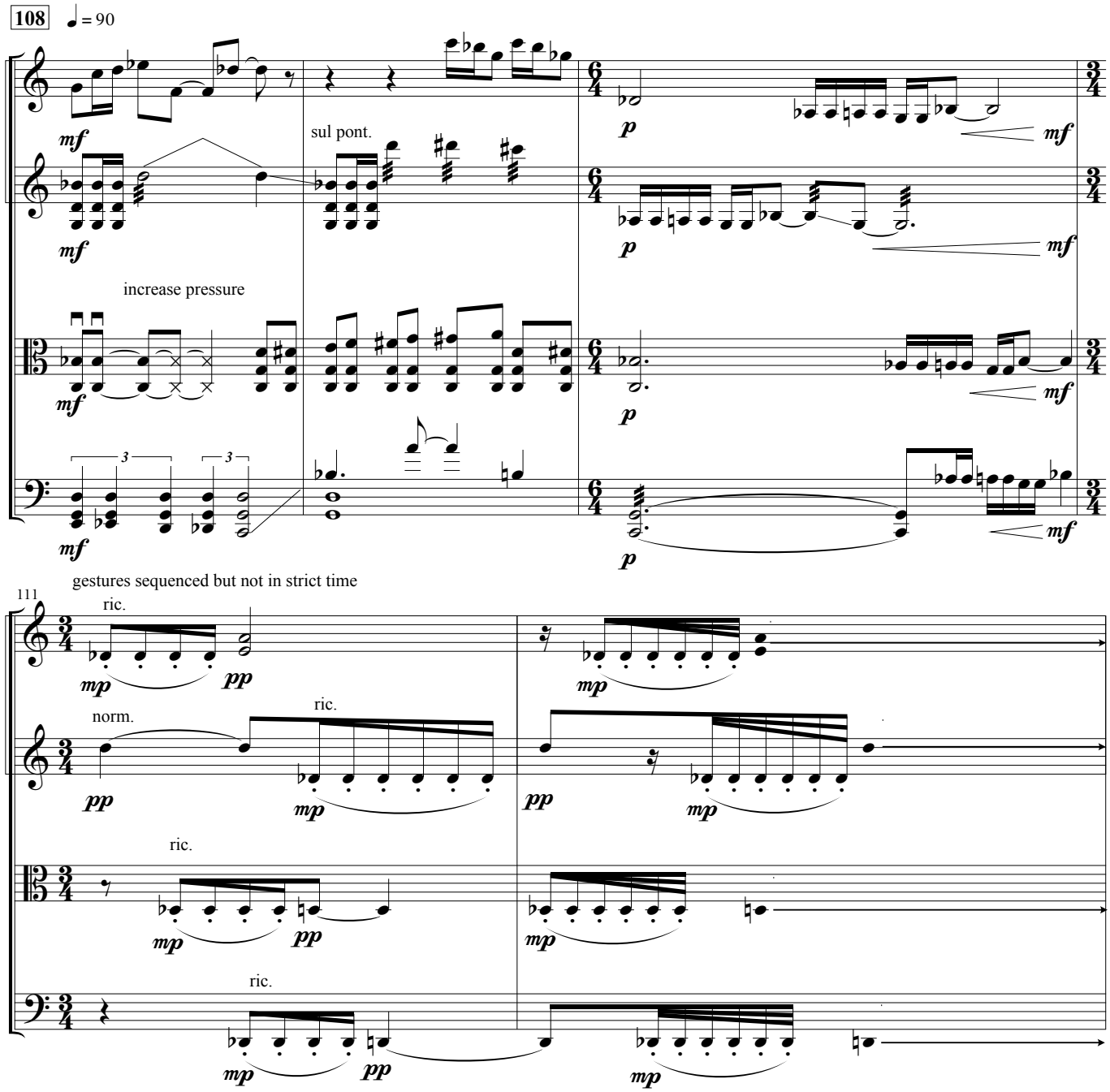
~13"
frenzied contours throughout entire range
alternate trem. and non-trem.

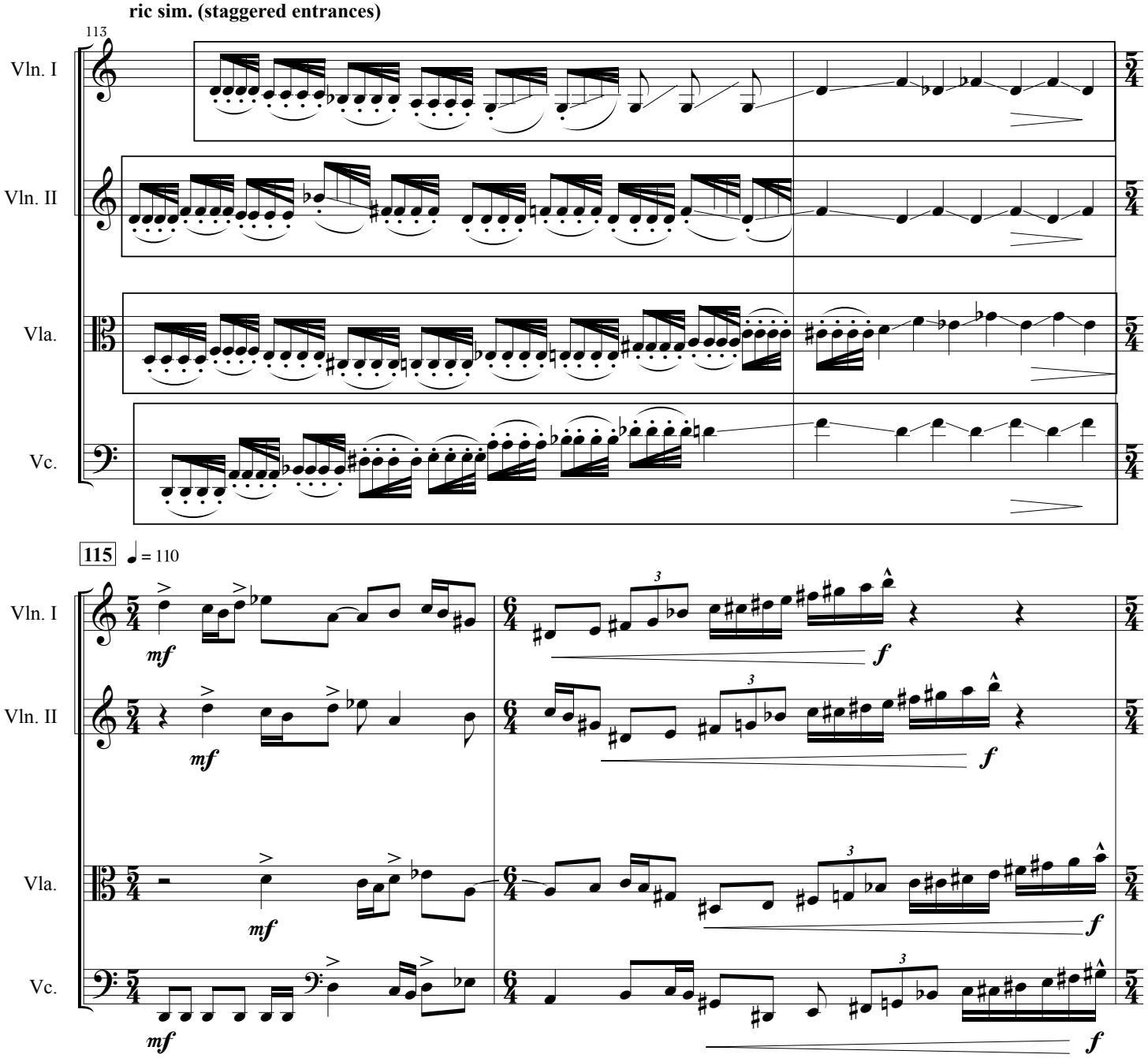


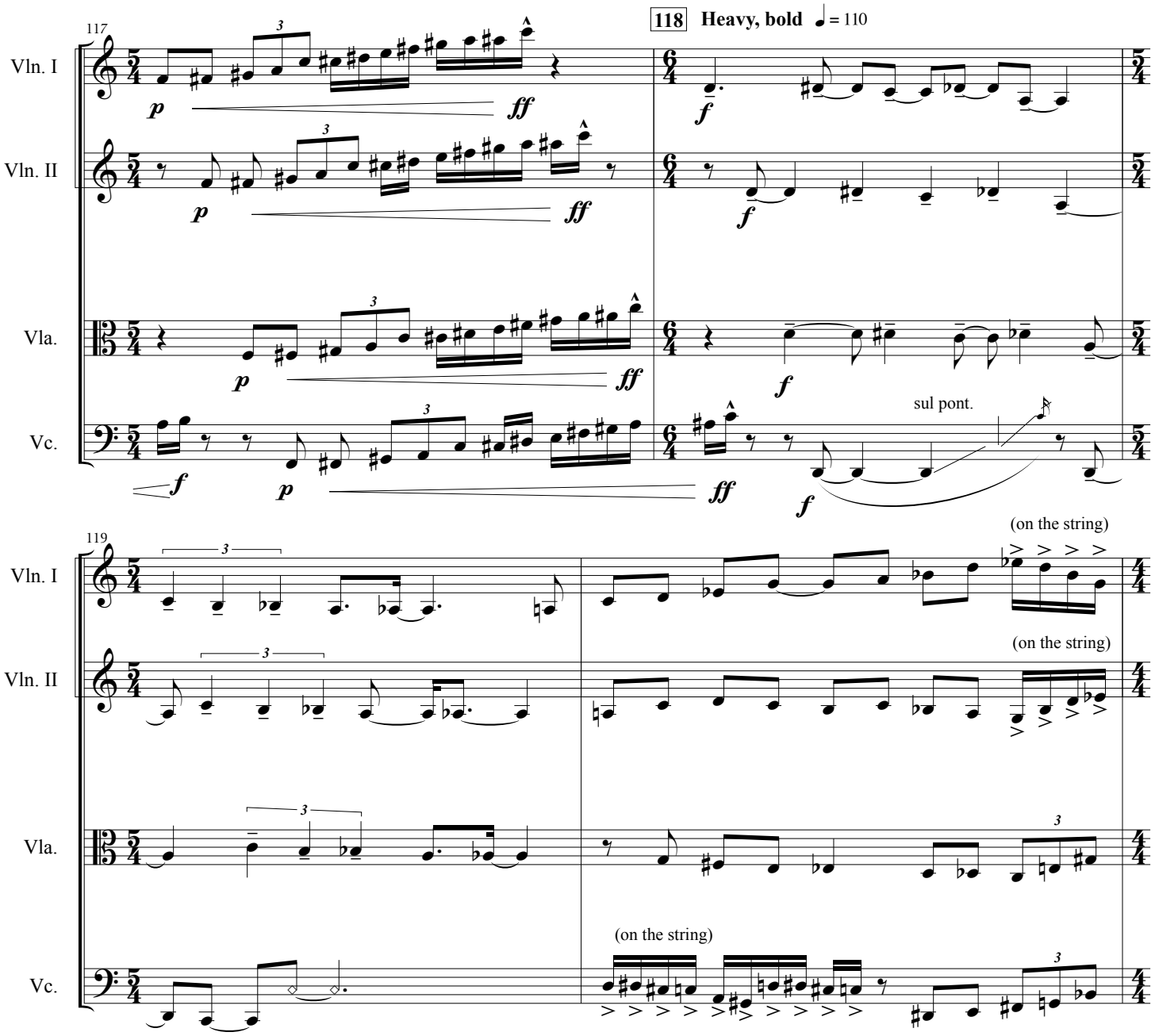
86 **Tentative, an unreachable tenderness** ♩ = 70

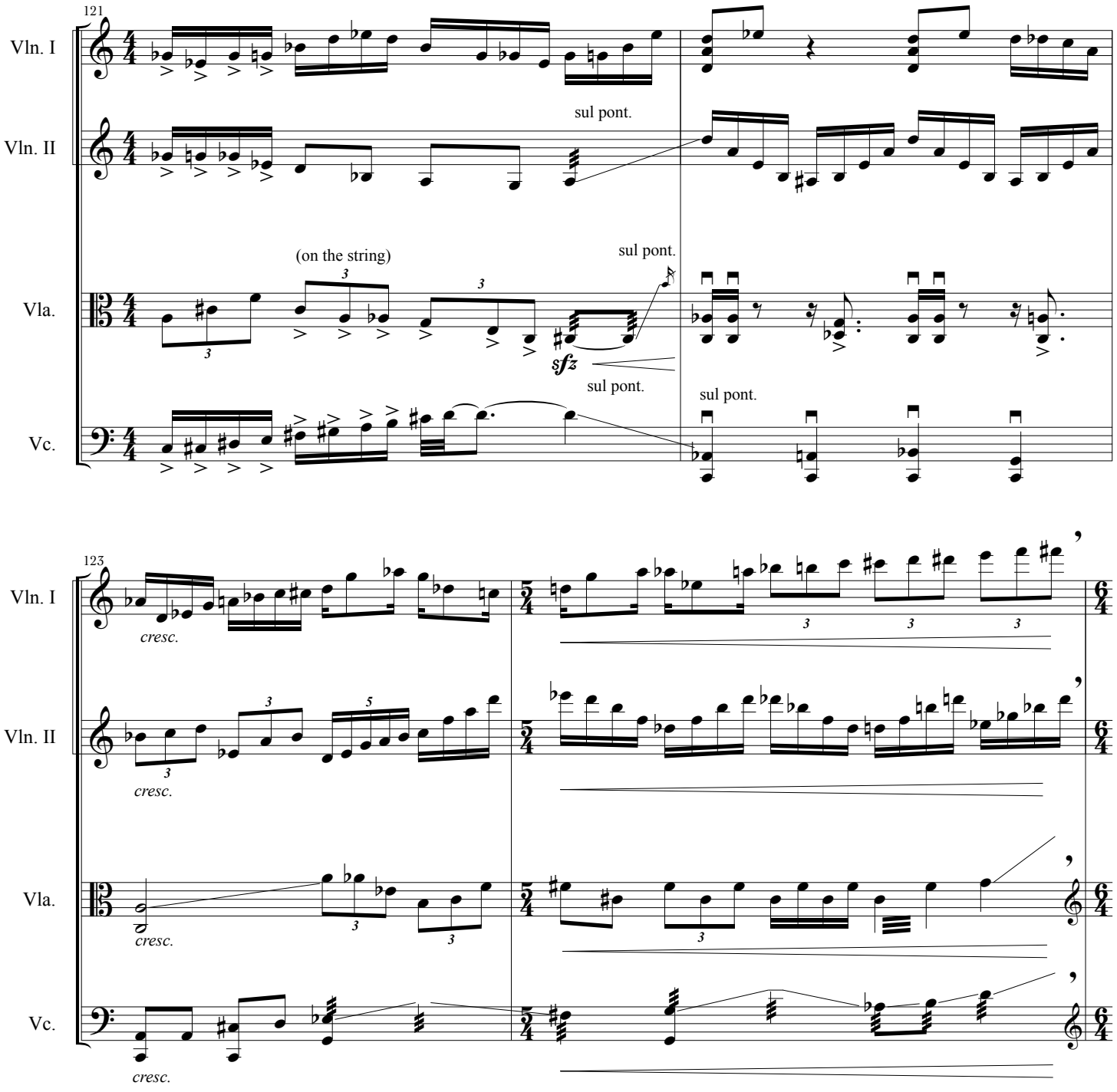


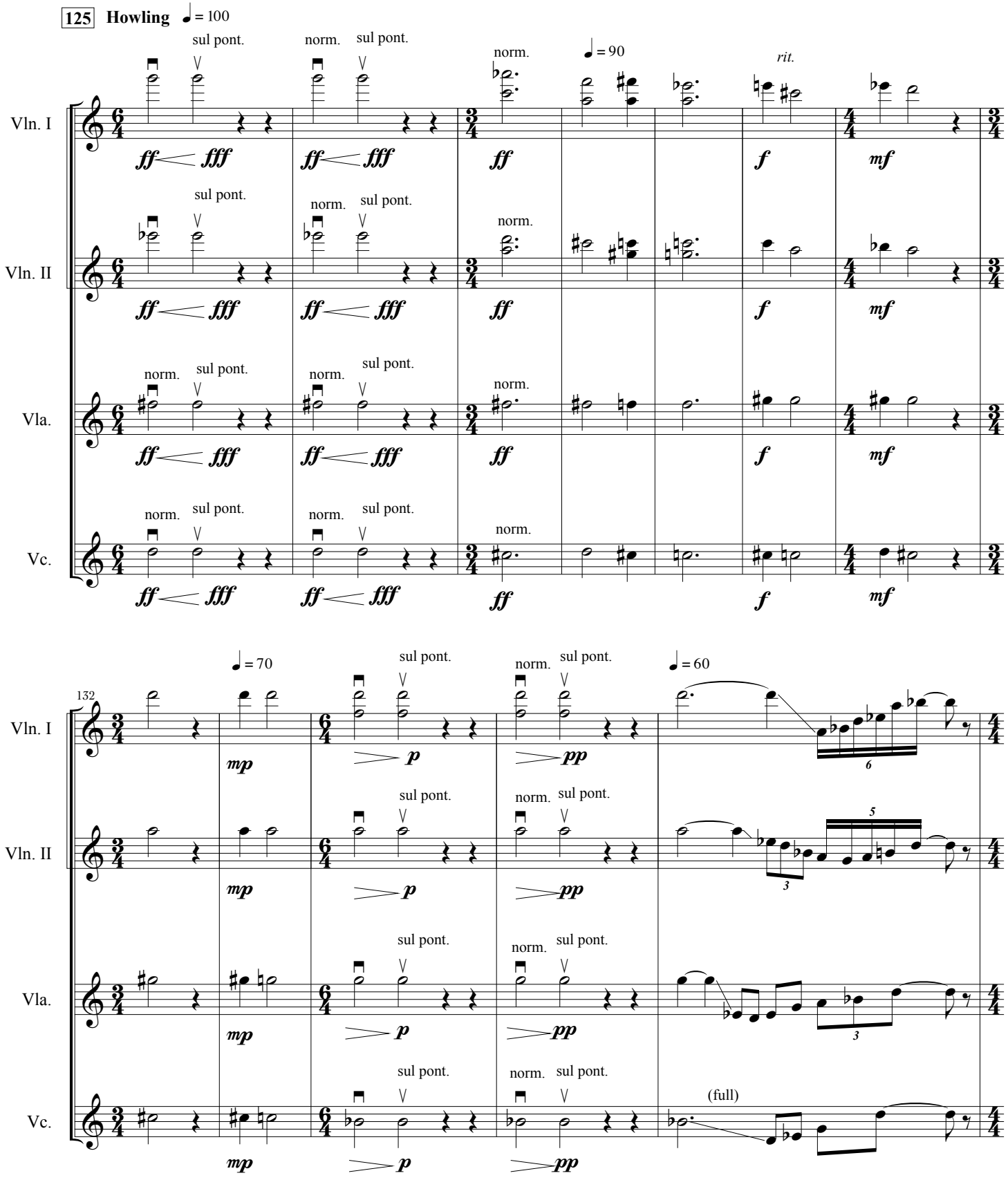

100
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sul pont.
sul pont.
increase pressure
(noise)
pizz.
104
sul pont.
~7"
norm.
noise
lots of pressure
almost noise
noise
pizz.
on the body
improvise pizz. and
striking the body
arco
noise
as fast as possible
improvise pizz. and
striking the body
arco
noise
f

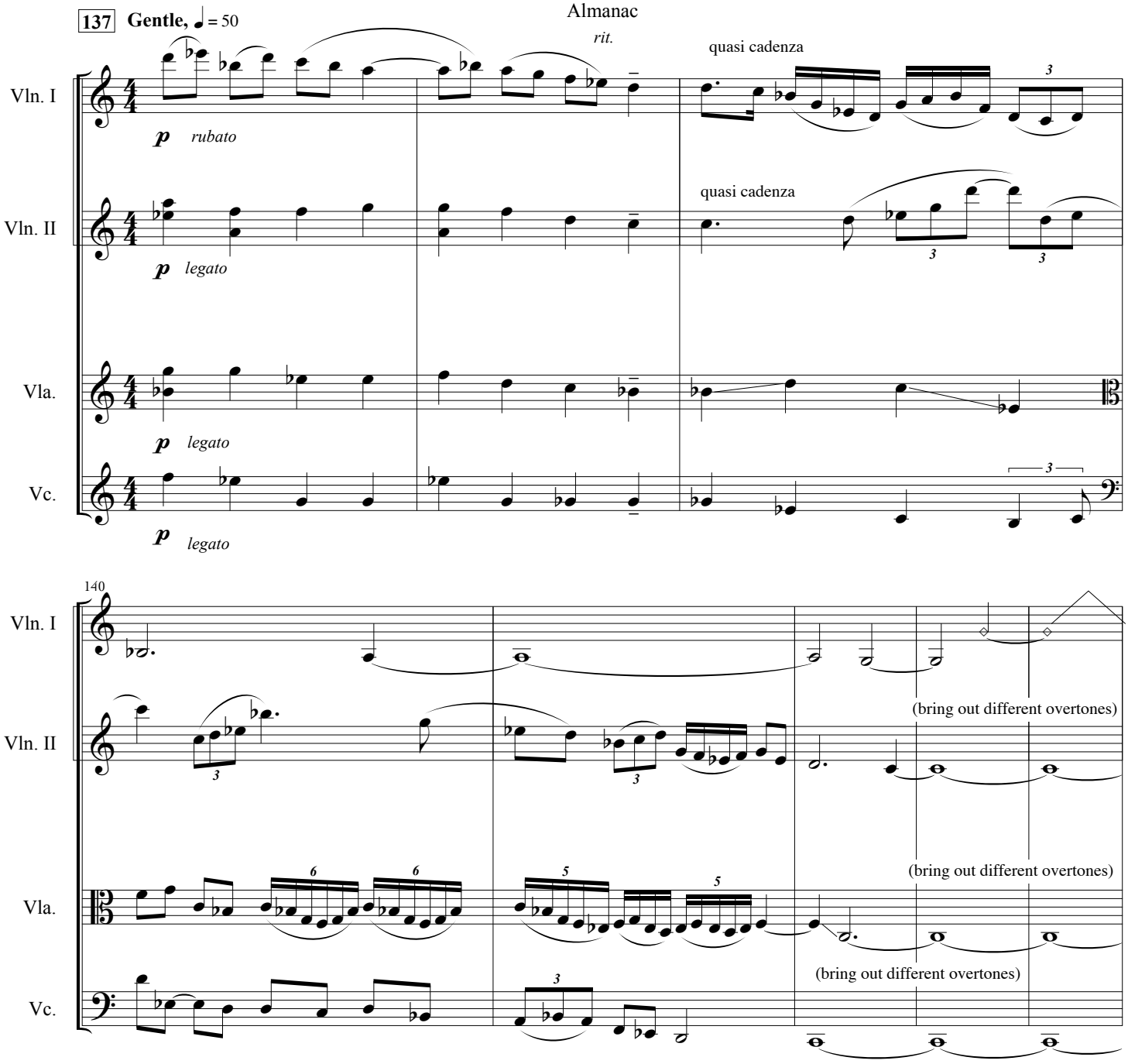

108
♩ = 90
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
sul pont.
increase pressure
p
mf
111
gestures sequenced but not in strict time
ric.
norm.
mp
pp

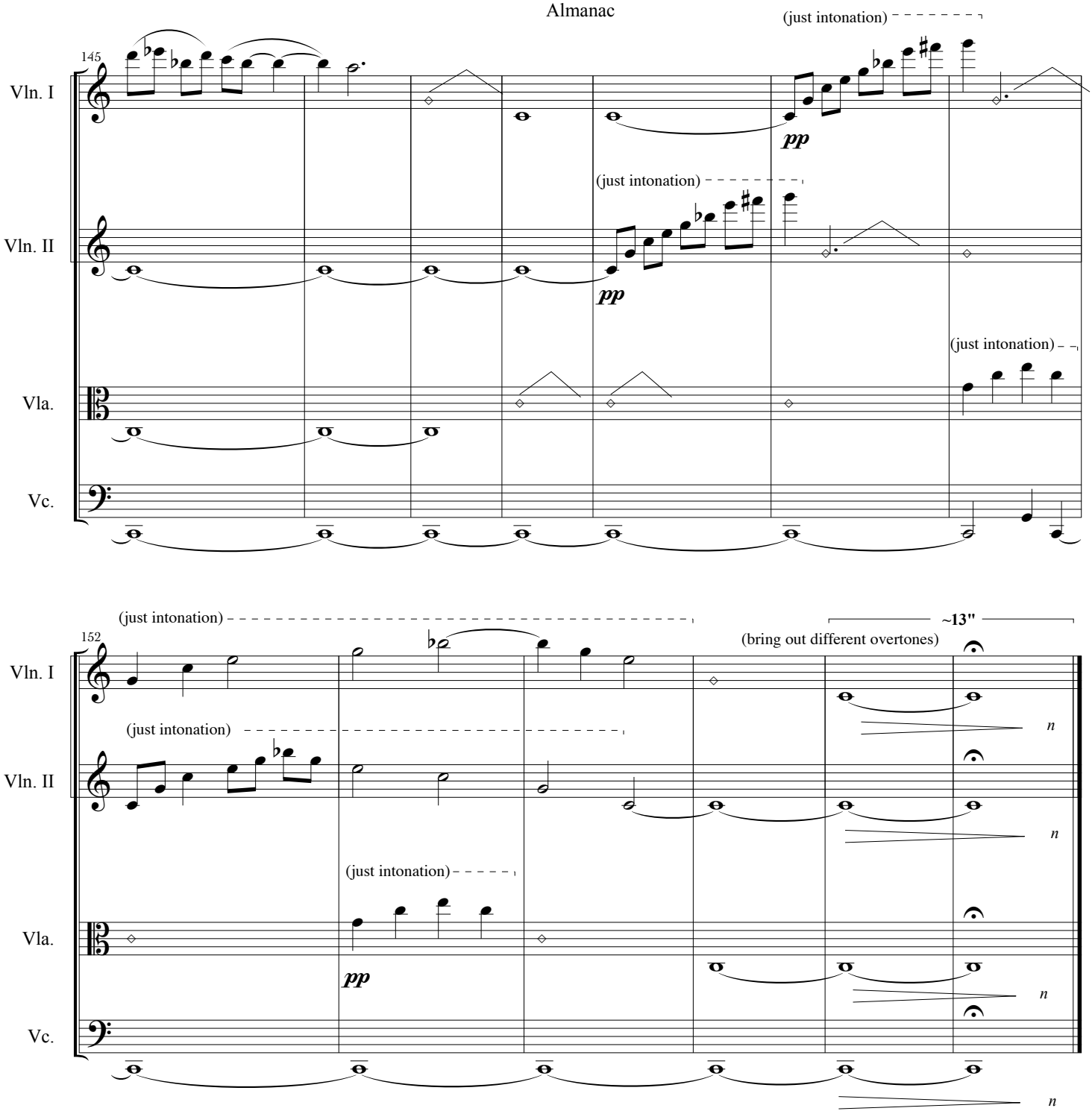

ric sim. (staggered entrances)
113
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
115
♩ = 110
mf
f


117
118 Heavy, bold ♩ = 110
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
ff
f
sul pont.
119
(on the string)


121
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sul pont.
(on the string)
sul pont.
sfz
sul pont.
sul pont.
123
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.


125 Howling ♩= 100
sul pont.
norm.
sul pont.
norm.
♩= 90
rit.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
ff
fff
f
mf
132
♩= 70
♩= 60
mp
p
pp
(full)


137 Gentle, ♩ = 50
rit.
quasi cadenza
Vln. I
p rubato
Vln. II
quasi cadenza
p legato
Vla.
p legato
Vc.
p legato
140
(bring out different overtones)
(bring out different overtones)
(bring out different overtones)


145
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
(just intonation)
pp
(just intonation)
pp
(just intonation)
152
(just intonation)
(just intonation)
(just intonation)
~13"
(bring out different overtones)
pp
n
n
n
n