Reflections

for

String Orchestra

John Newell

ABIERTO MUSIC

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Reflections

This work is a set of three musical essays that began its life as a string sextet in 1994. In 2013 I revised and re-cast it for string orchestra. Here are the brief poems that came to me as inspiration for each movement.

I. The Voice of the Stream

In the morning I walk
Through sun and shadow.
I pass the stream below.
I hear its voice.
I walk on,
But the voice stays with me
In my wanderings.

II. Danse Profane (an homage to Claude Debussy)

This life, this profane world --
Is it a dance?
Does this dance reveal anything?

Caught in the music, we dance.
Can we but dance?

Through this world of appearance and movement
The music propels us on, sweeps us in its ecstasy.

We hear, we dance.
Can we stop in the hearing and dancing
And truly listen?

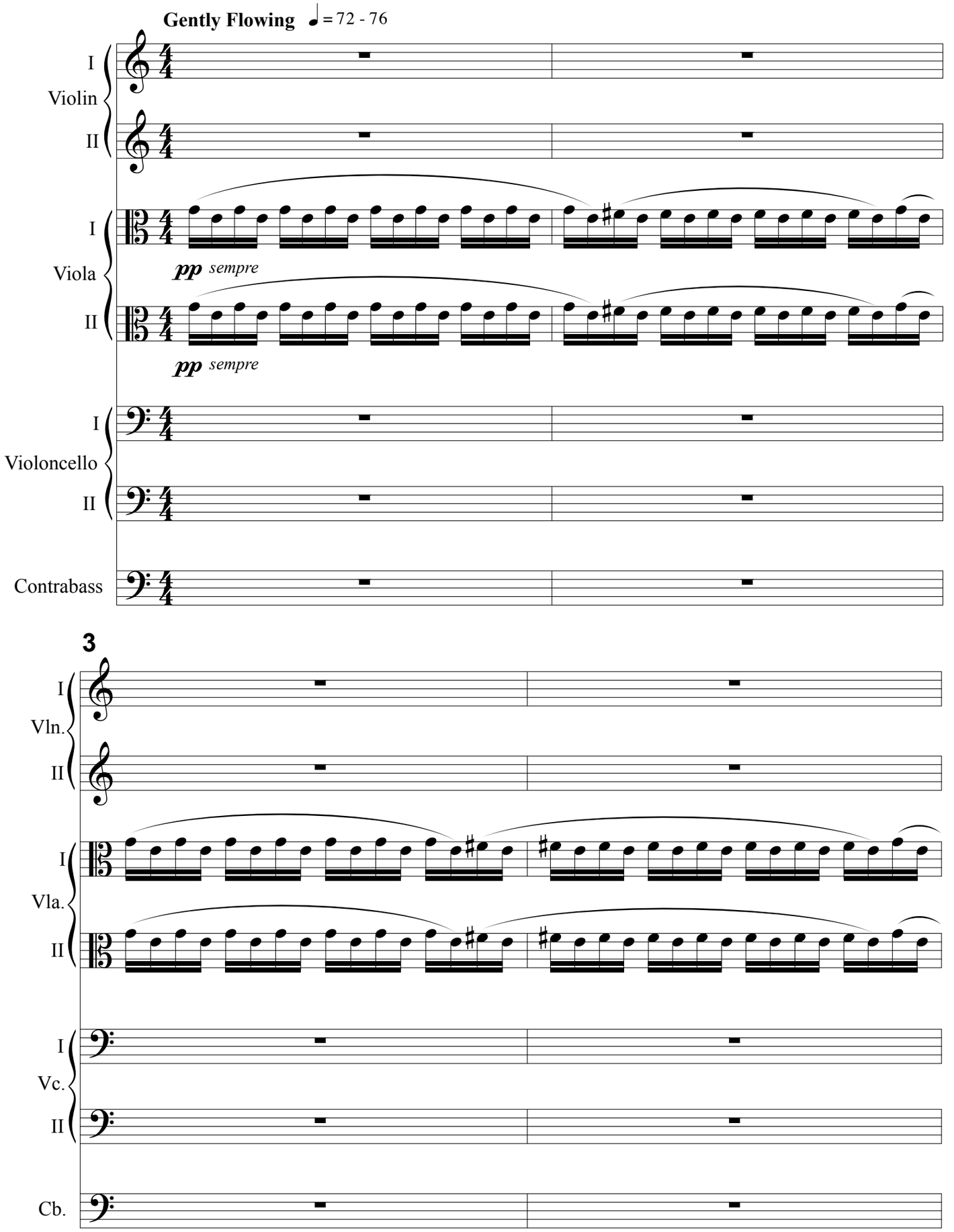
III. Memory

I remember the valley of darkness.
I remember the shadow of death,
And the delusion.

But I also remember the light,
Radiant and transforming.
The light, which does not change,
And sings through it all.

- John Newell

I. The Voice of the Stream



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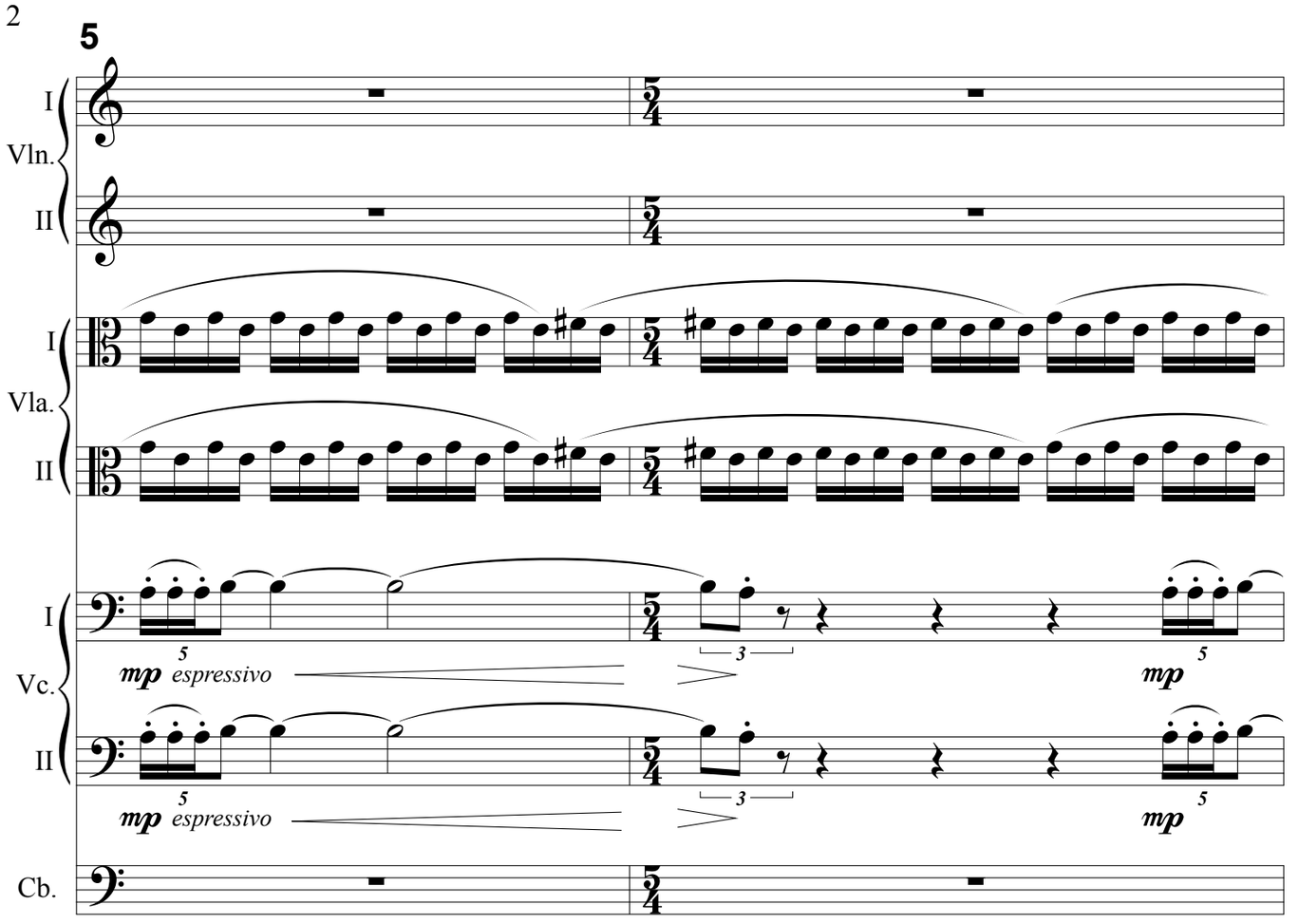
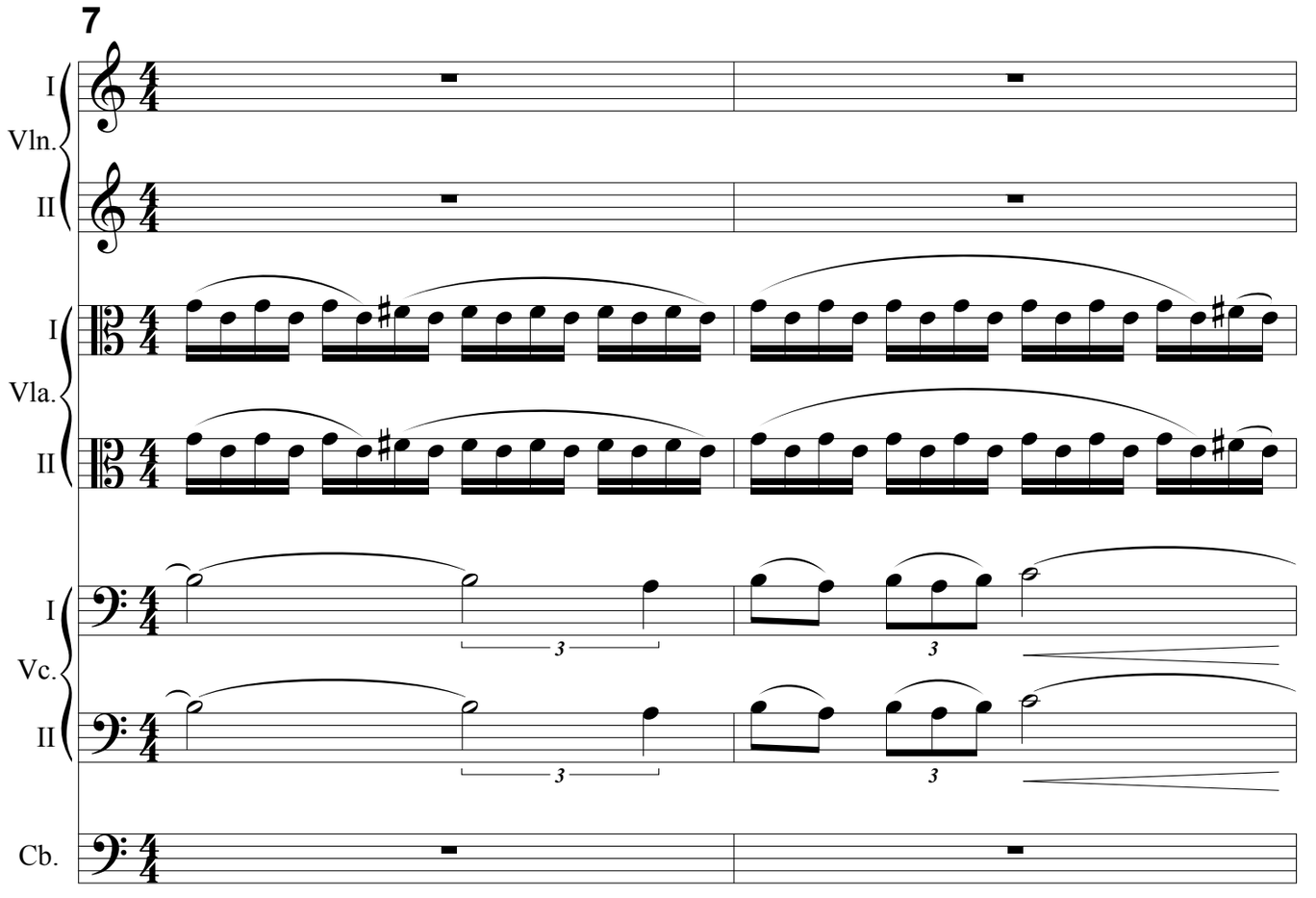

5
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
mp espressivo
mp espressivo
mp
mp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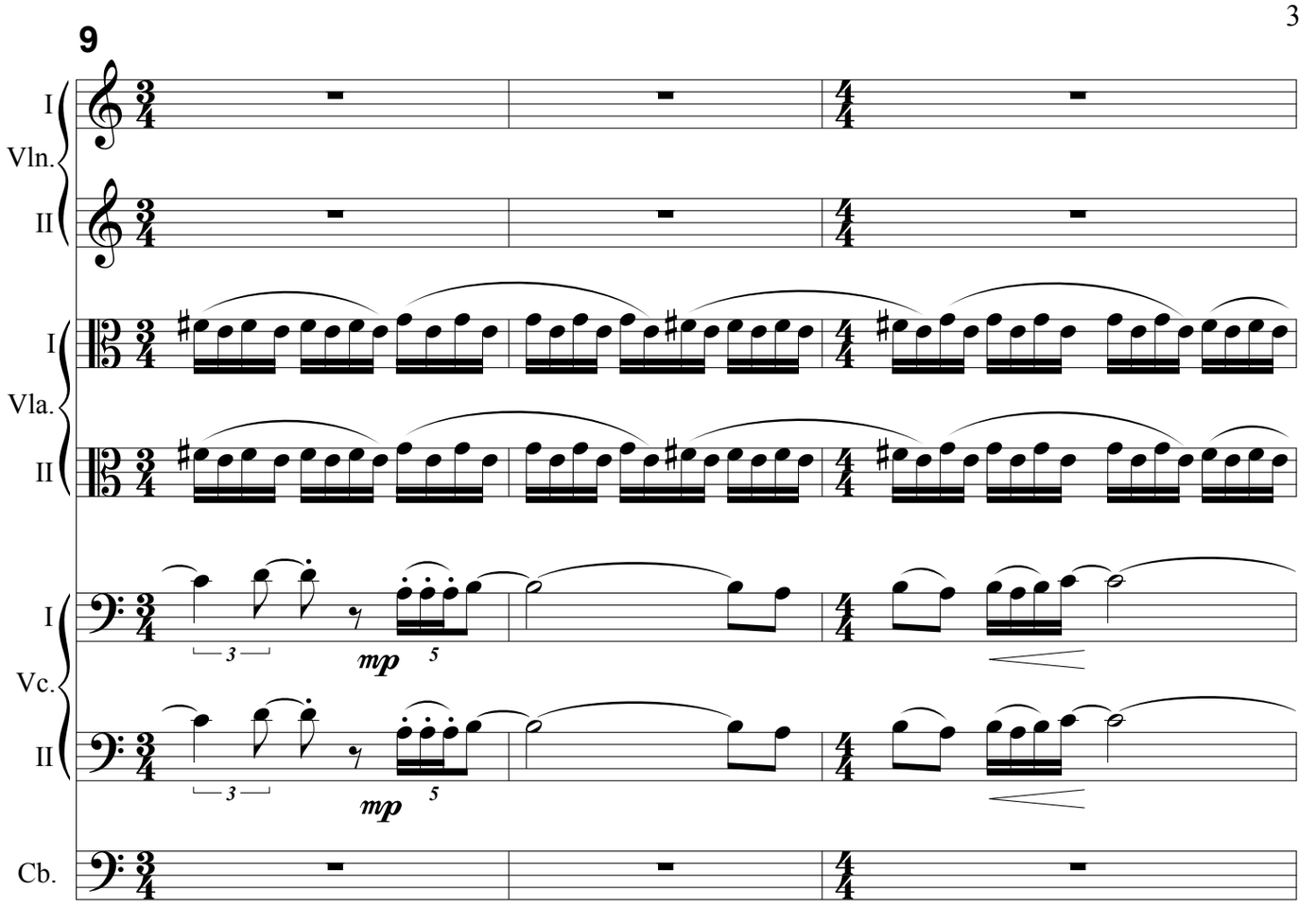
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.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Vla.
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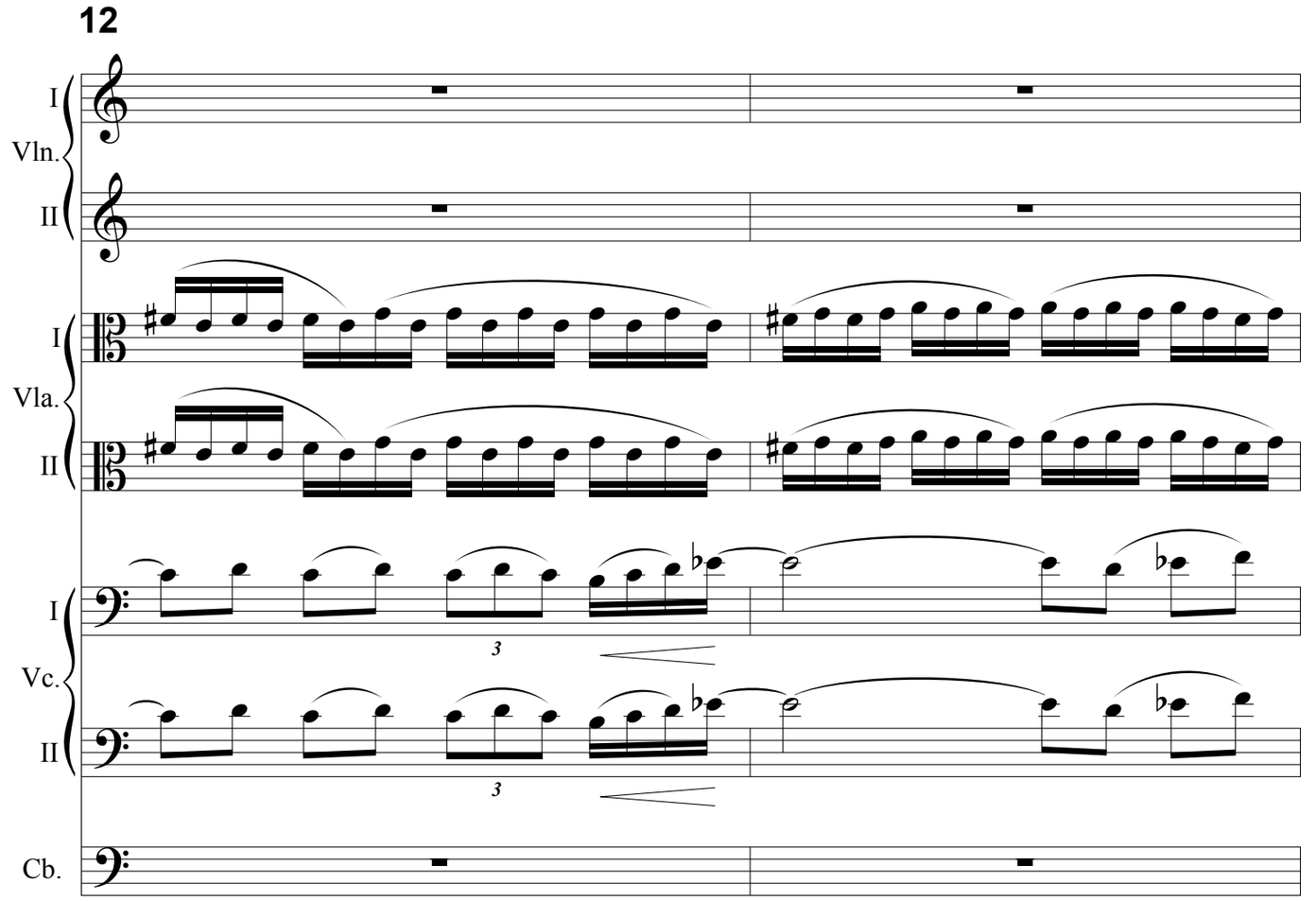
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
3
mp
5
3
mp
5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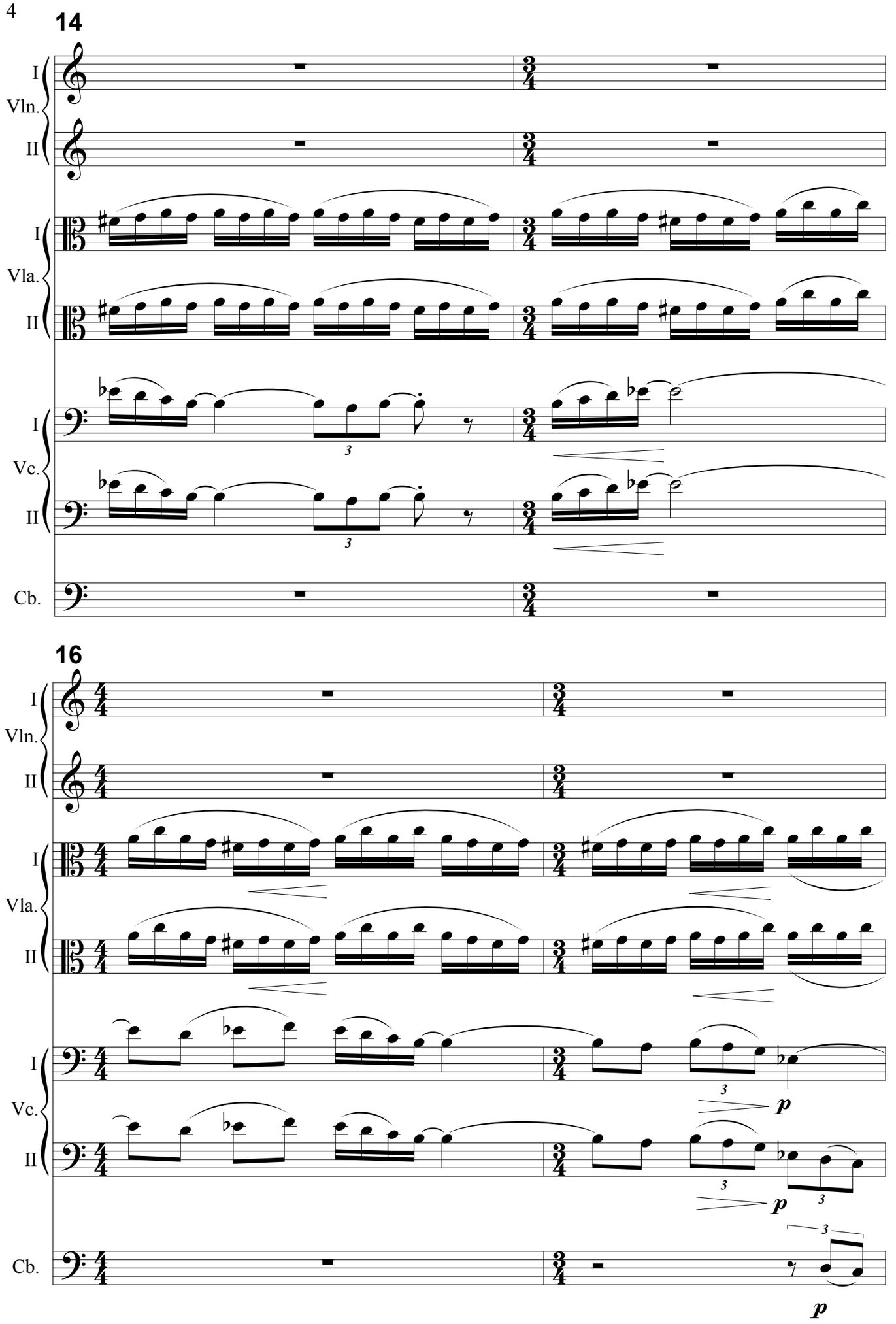
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
3
3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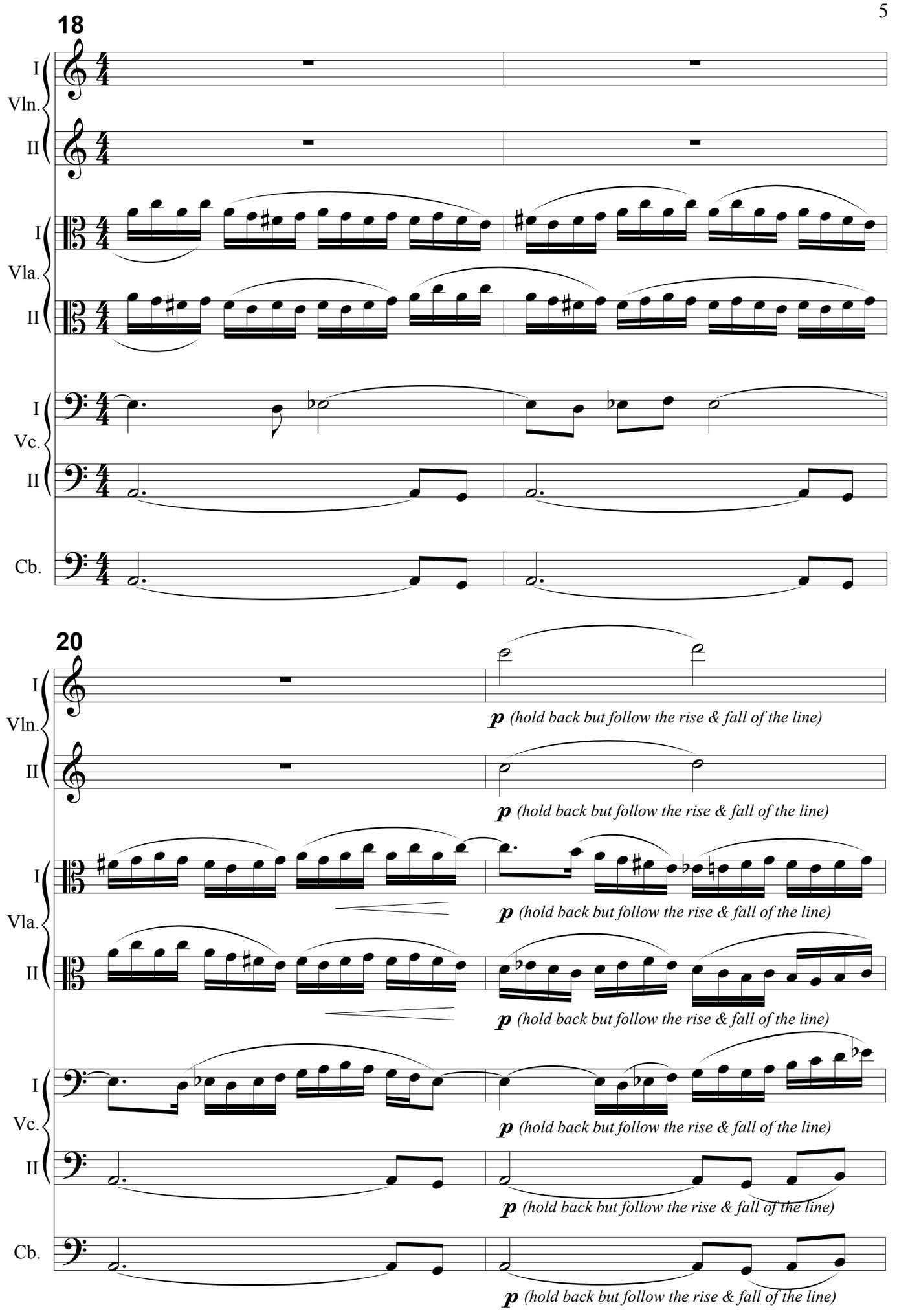
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
16
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
p
p
p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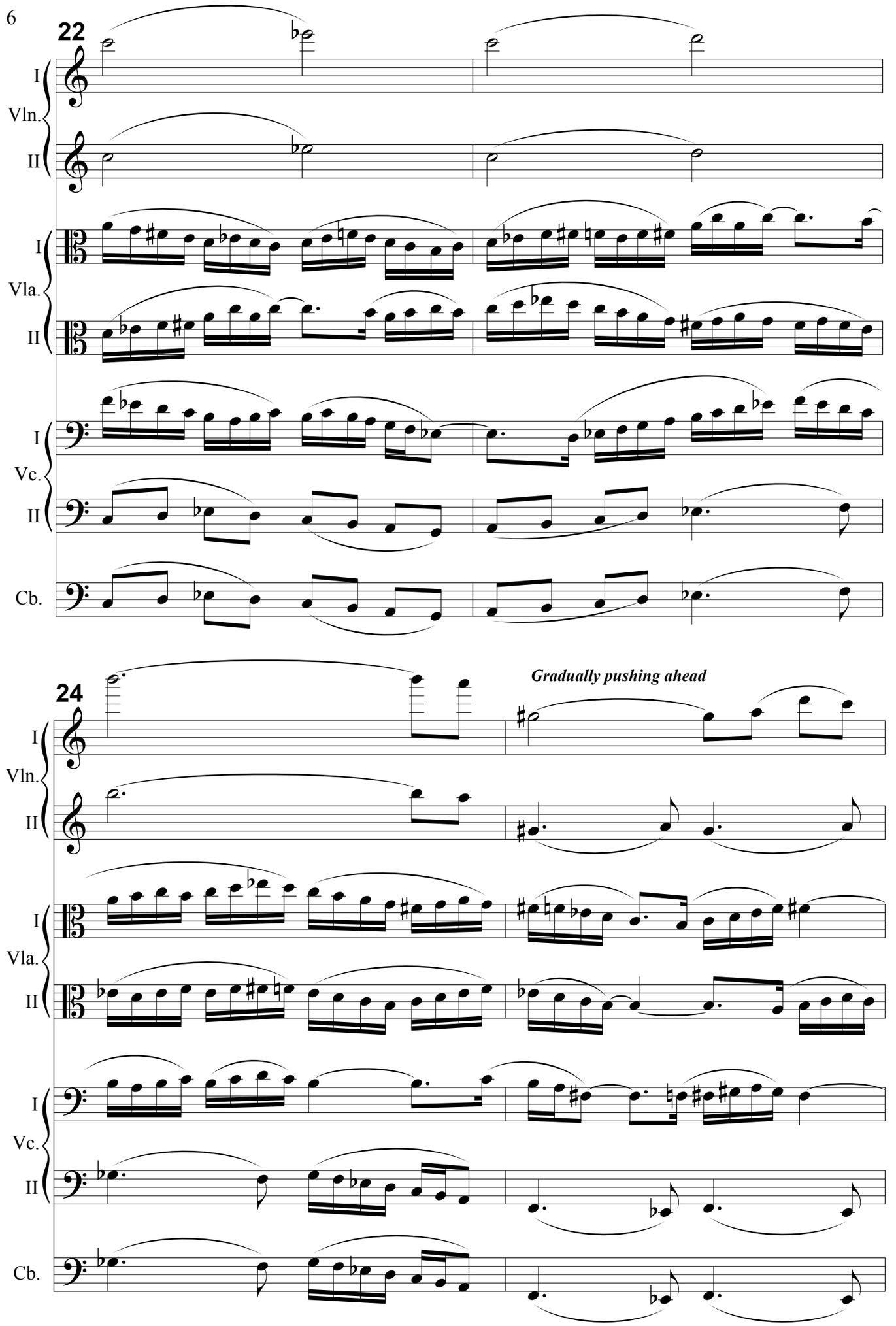
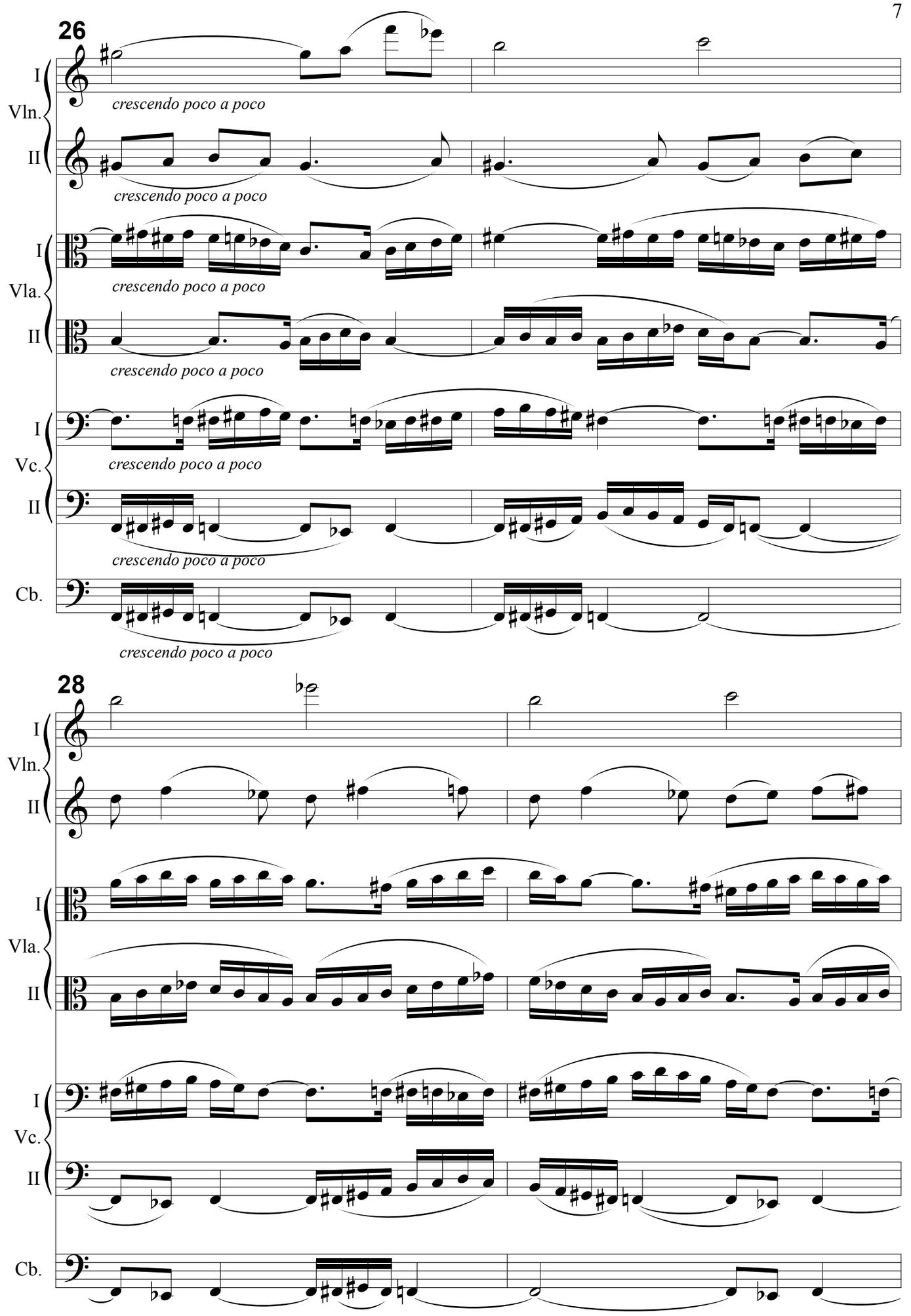
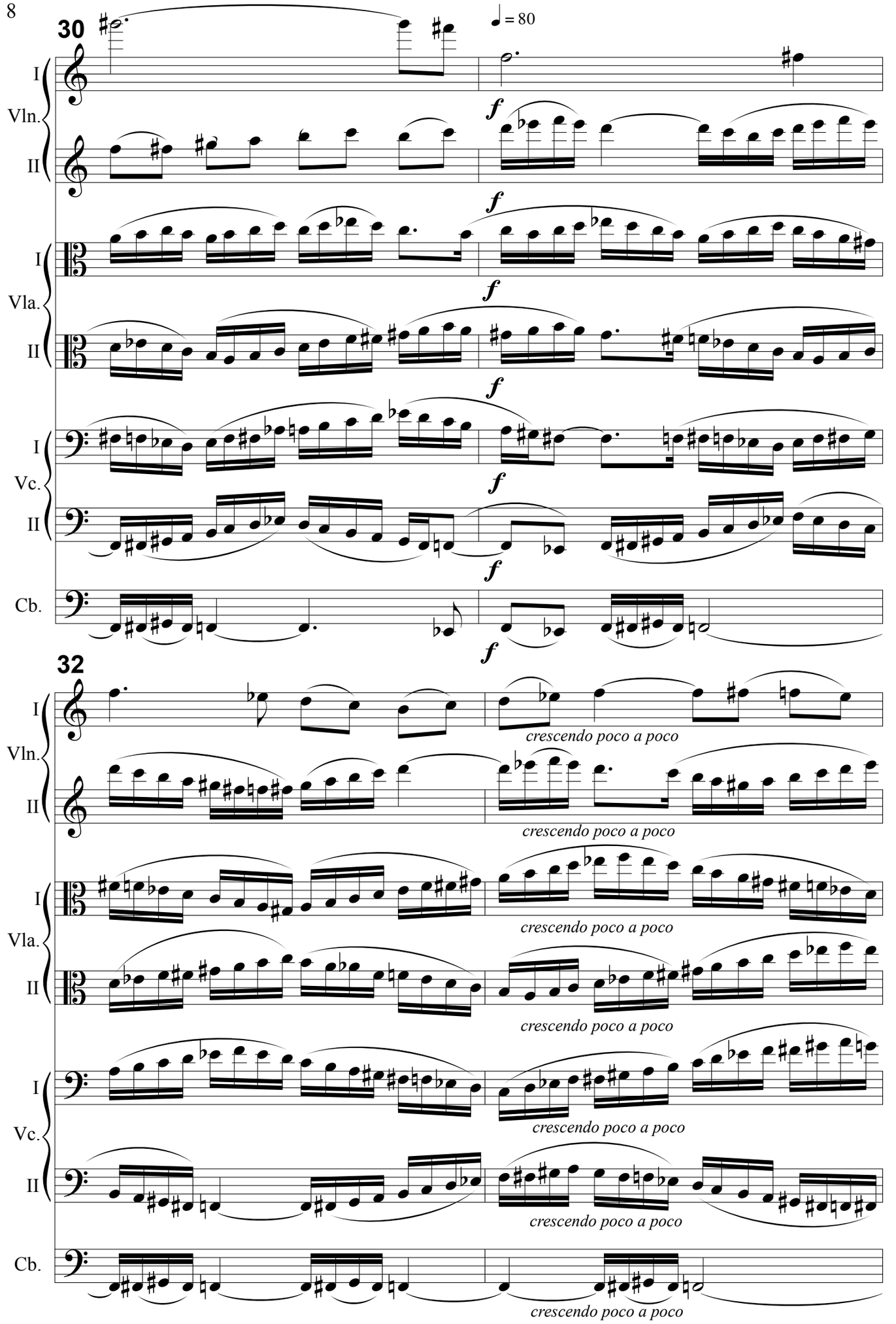
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
20
I
Vln.
II
p (hold back but follow the rise & fall of the line)
p (hold back but follow the rise & fall of the line)
I
Vla.
II
p (hold back but follow the rise & fall of the line)
p (hold back but follow the rise & fall of the line)
I
Vc.
II
p (hold back but follow the rise & fall of the line)
p (hold back but follow the rise & fall of the line)
Cb.
p (hold back but follow the rise & fall of the line)


22
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
24
Gradually pushing ahead
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.


26
I
Vln.
II
crescendo poco a poco
I
Vla.
II
crescendo poco a poco
I
Vc.
II
crescendo poco a poco
Cb.
crescendo poco a poco
28
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.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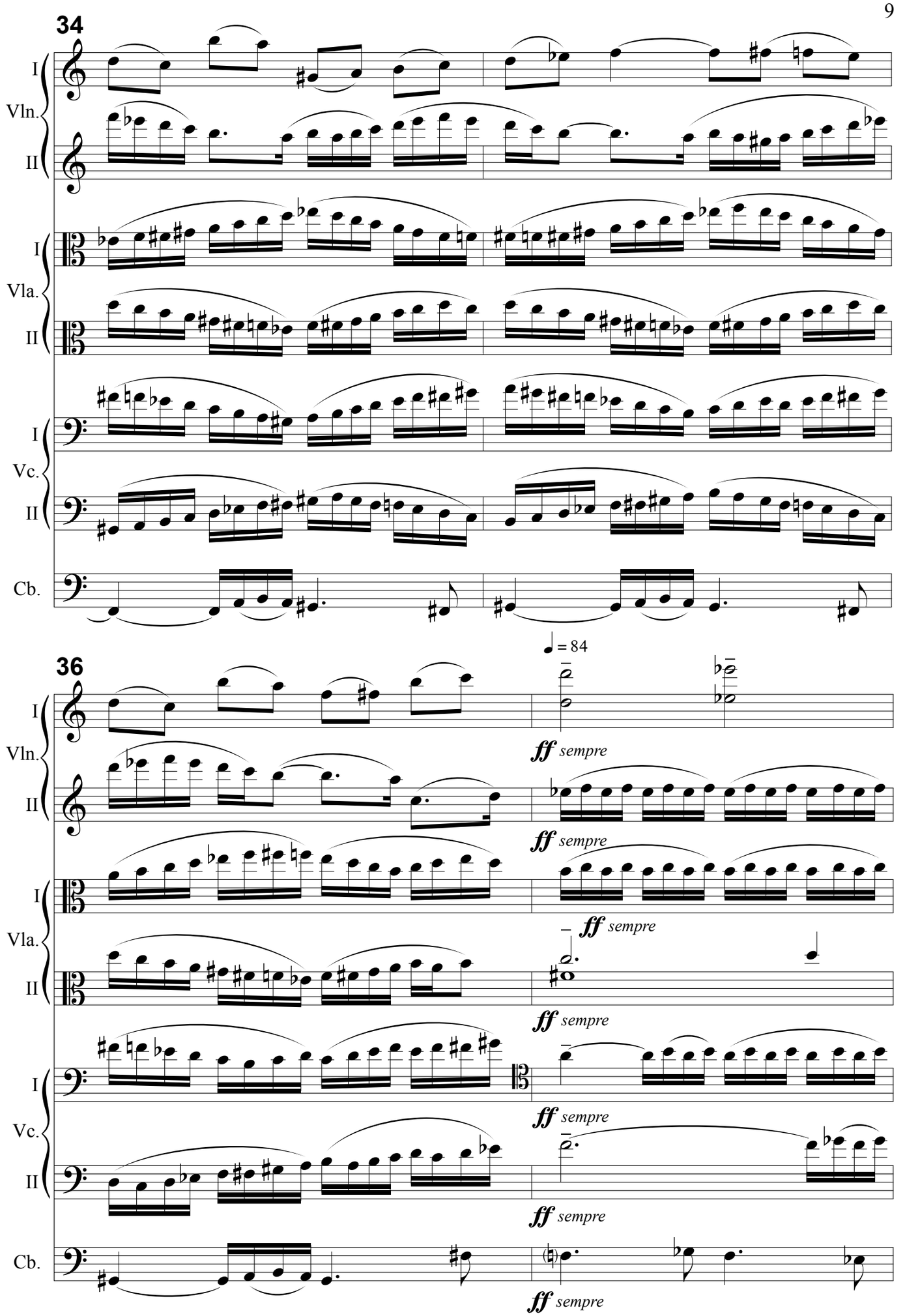
♩ = 80
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
f
32
crescendo poco a poco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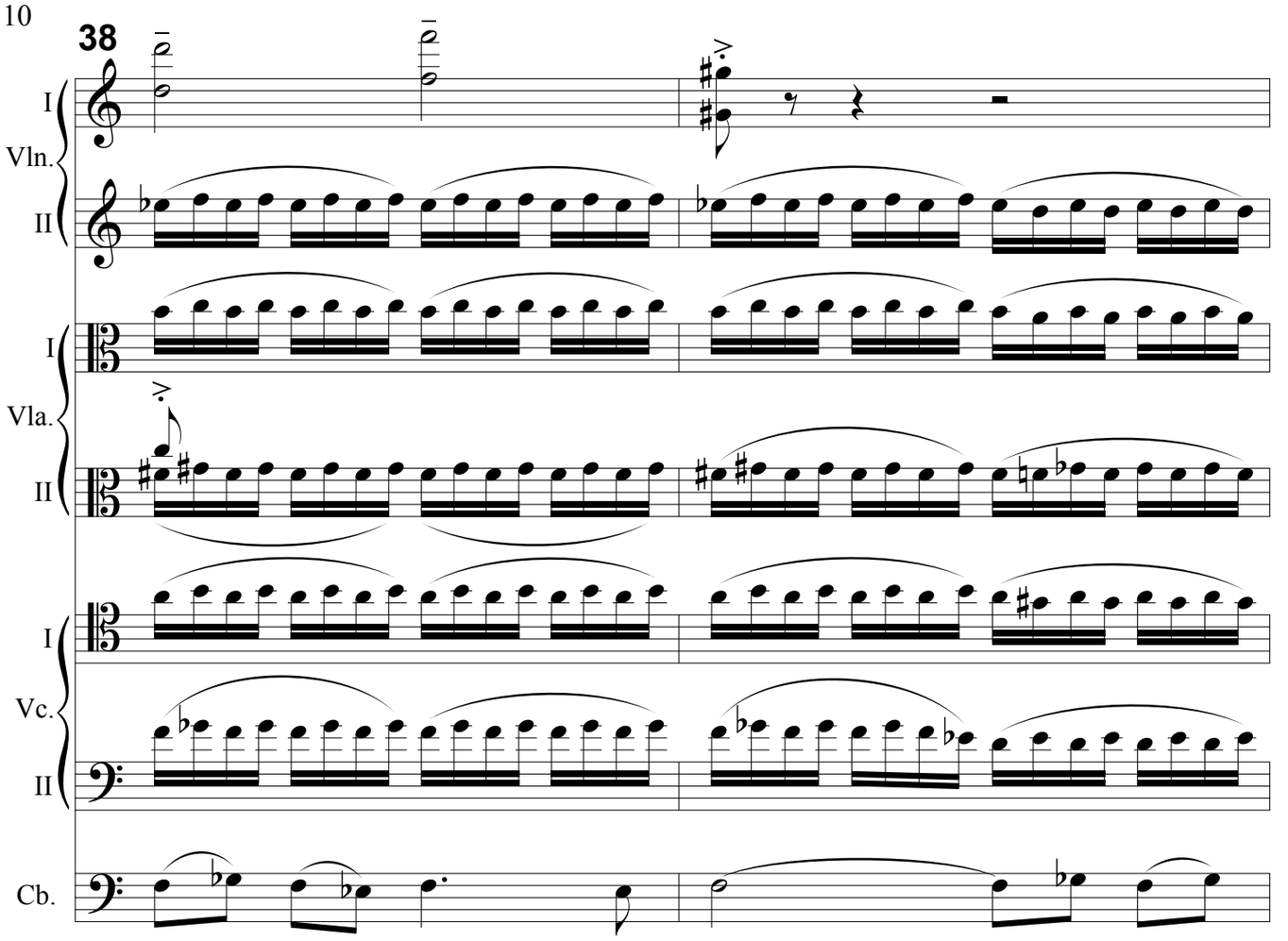
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
36
♩ = 84
ff sempre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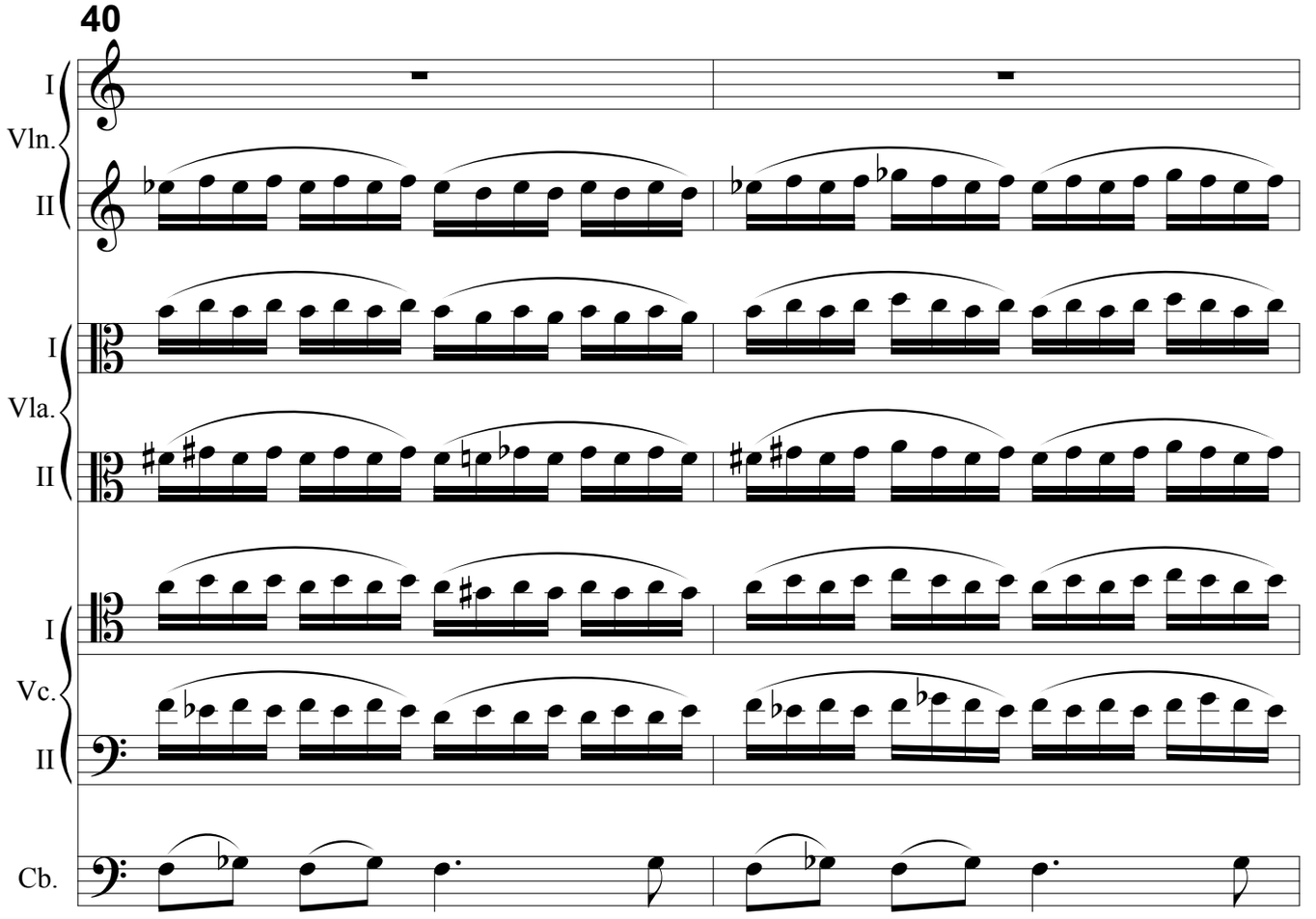
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.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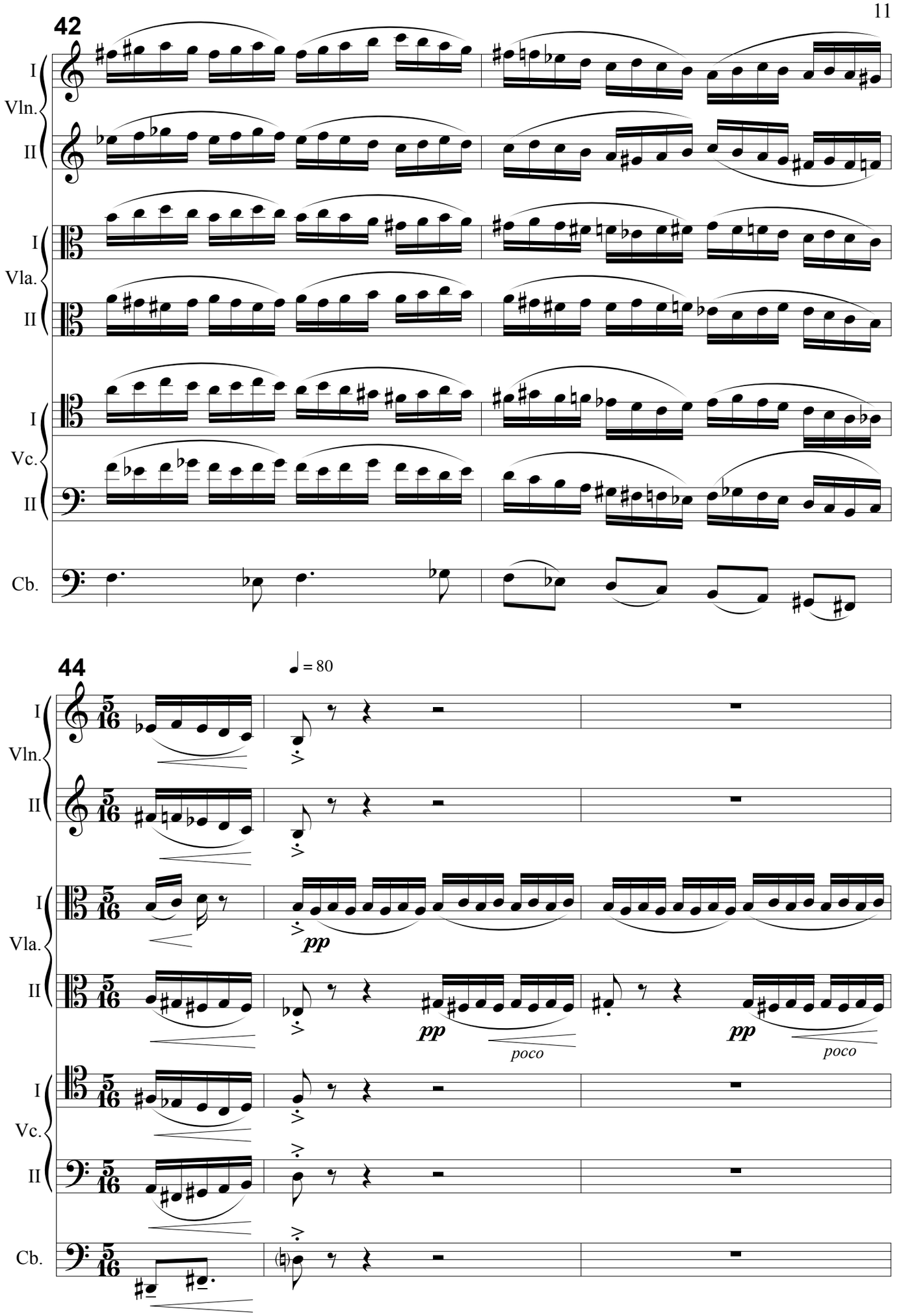
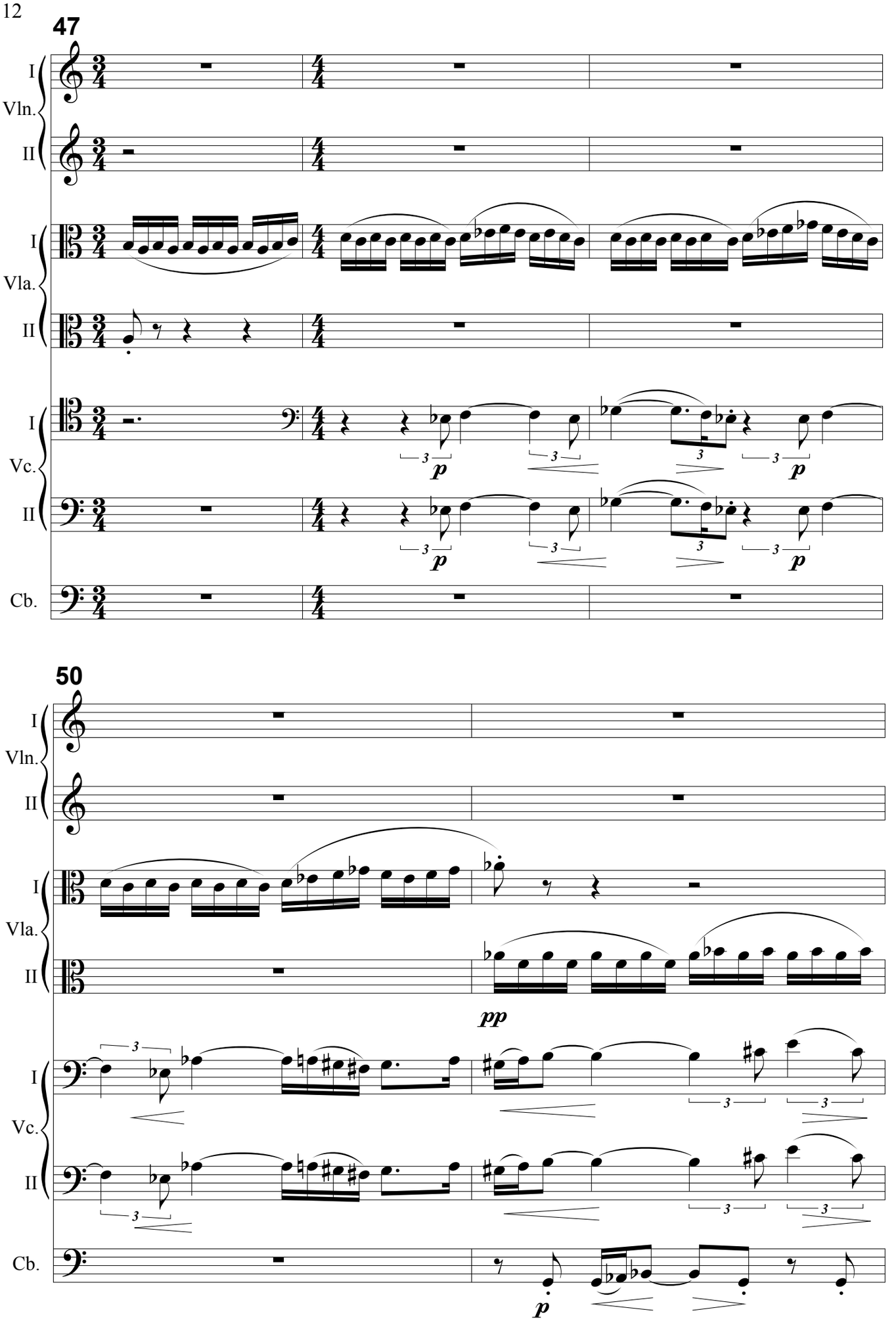
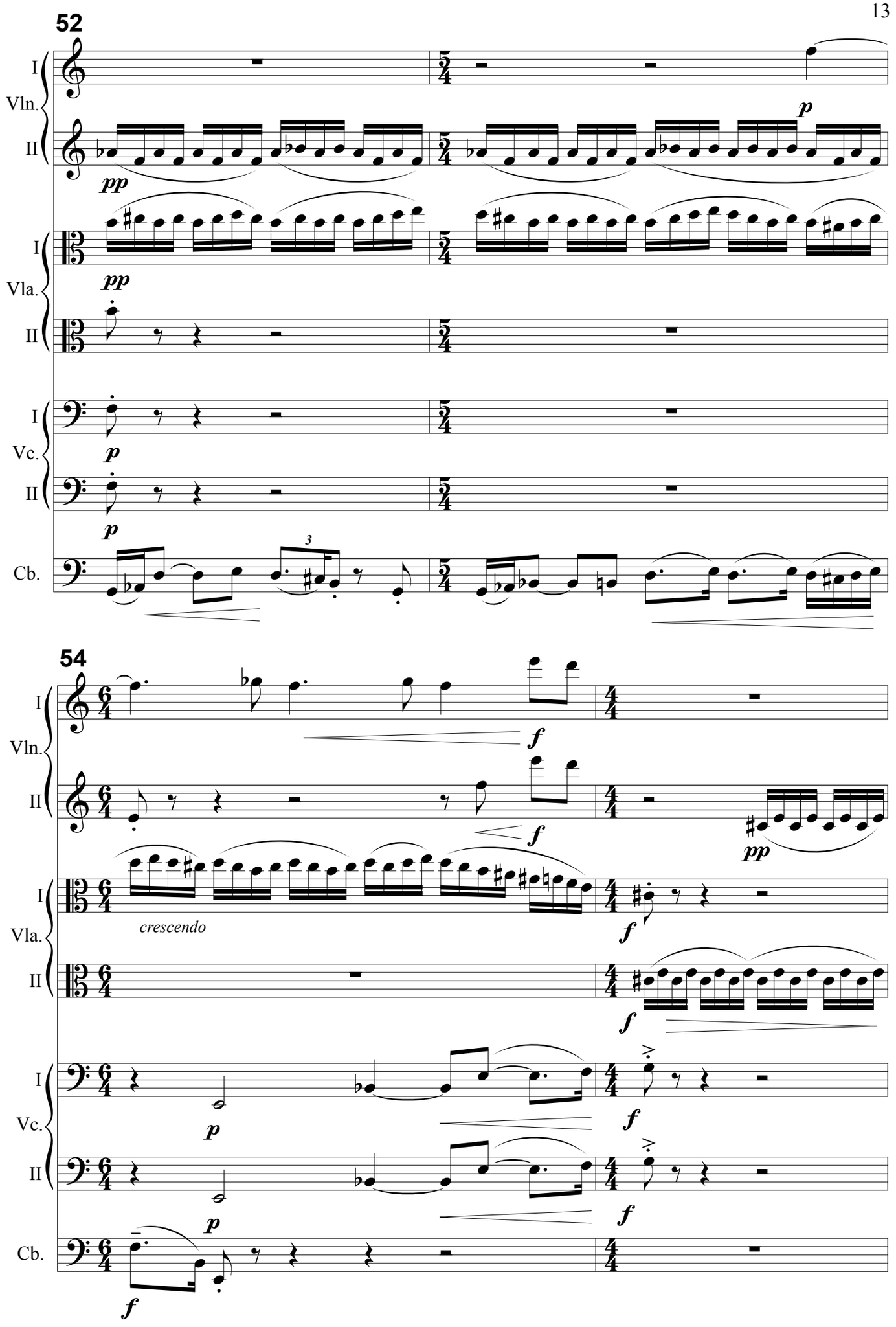
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.


42
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
44
♩ = 80
pp
poco
pp
poco


47
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
p
50
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
pp
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
p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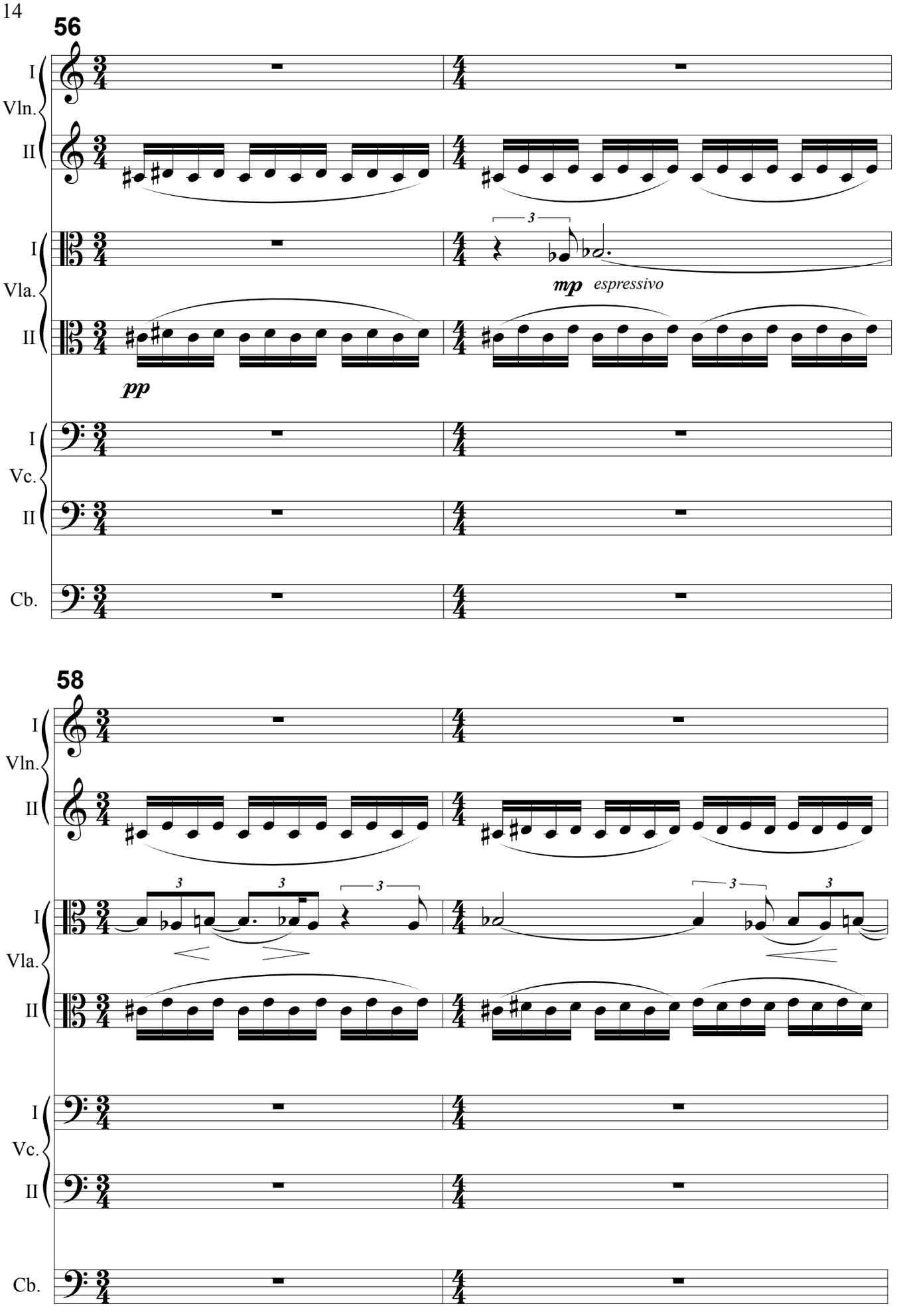
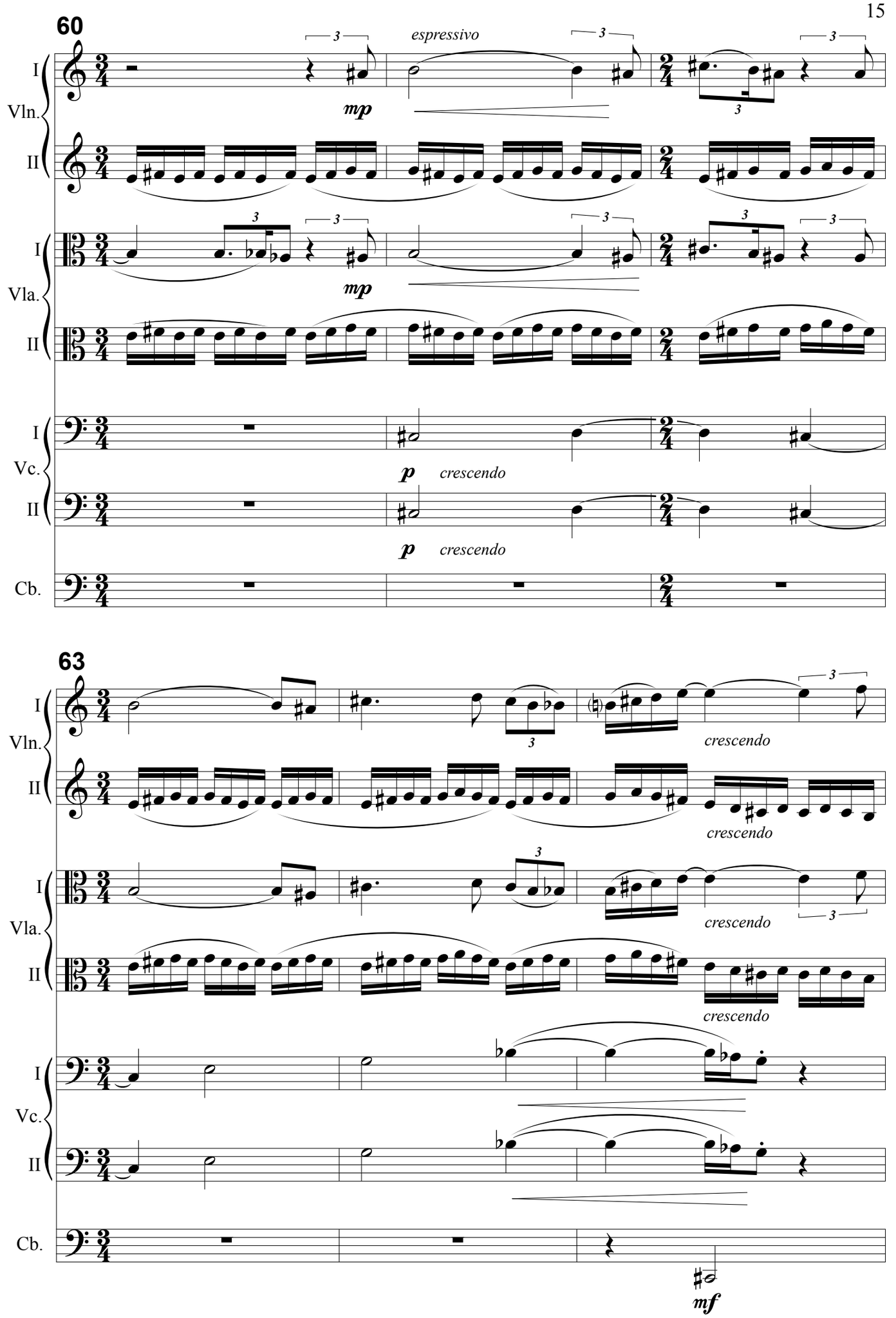
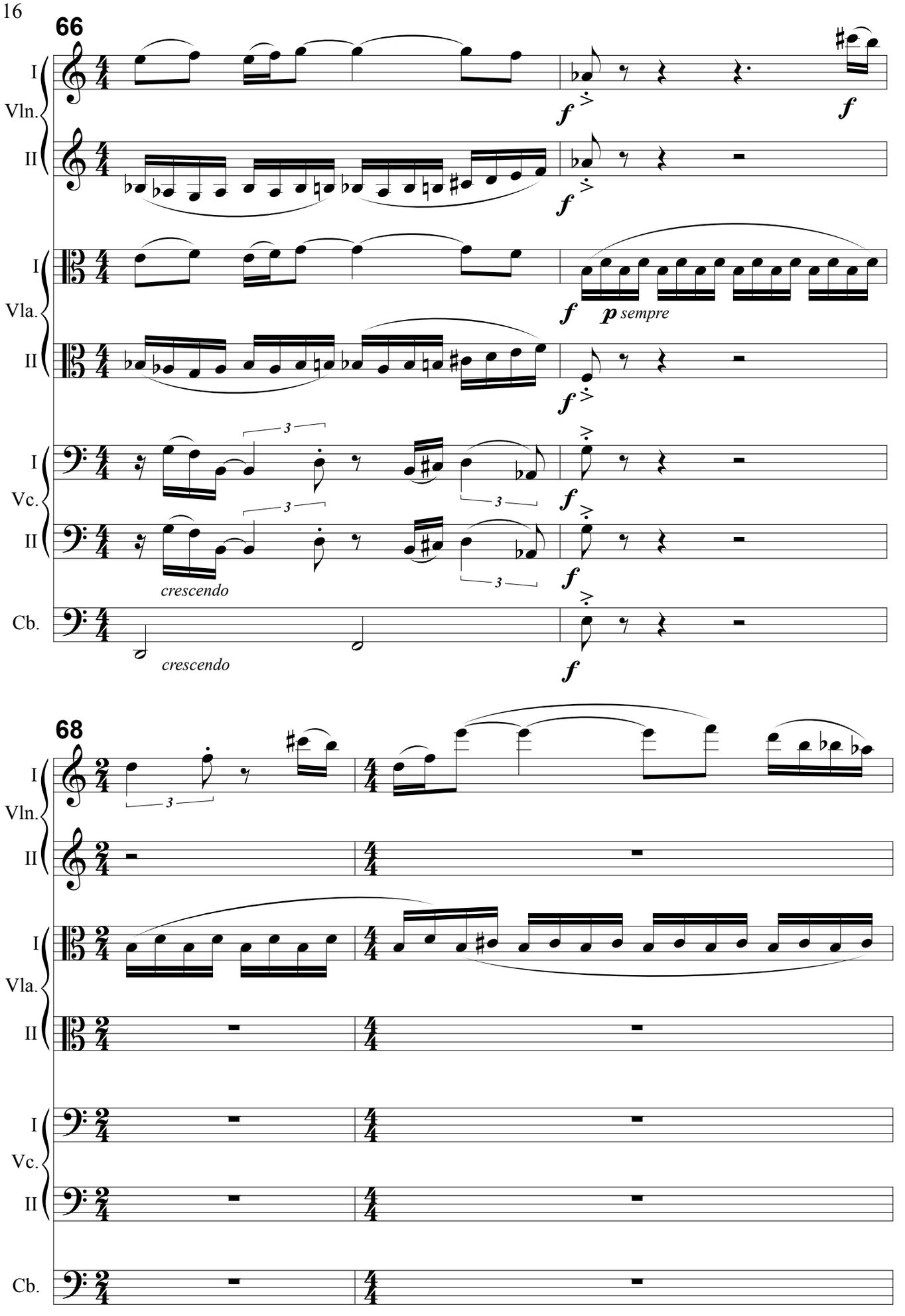
I
Vln.
II
pp
p
I
Vla.
II
pp
I
Vc.
II
p
p
Cb.
3
54
I
Vln.
II
f
f
pp
I
Vla.
II
crescendo
f
f
I
Vc.
II
p
f
p
f
Cb.
f


56
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
3
mp espressivo
pp
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
58
I
Vln.
II
3
3
3
3
3
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.


60
espressivo
mp
mp
p
crescendo
p
crescendo
63
crescendo
crescendo
crescendo
crescendo
mf
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.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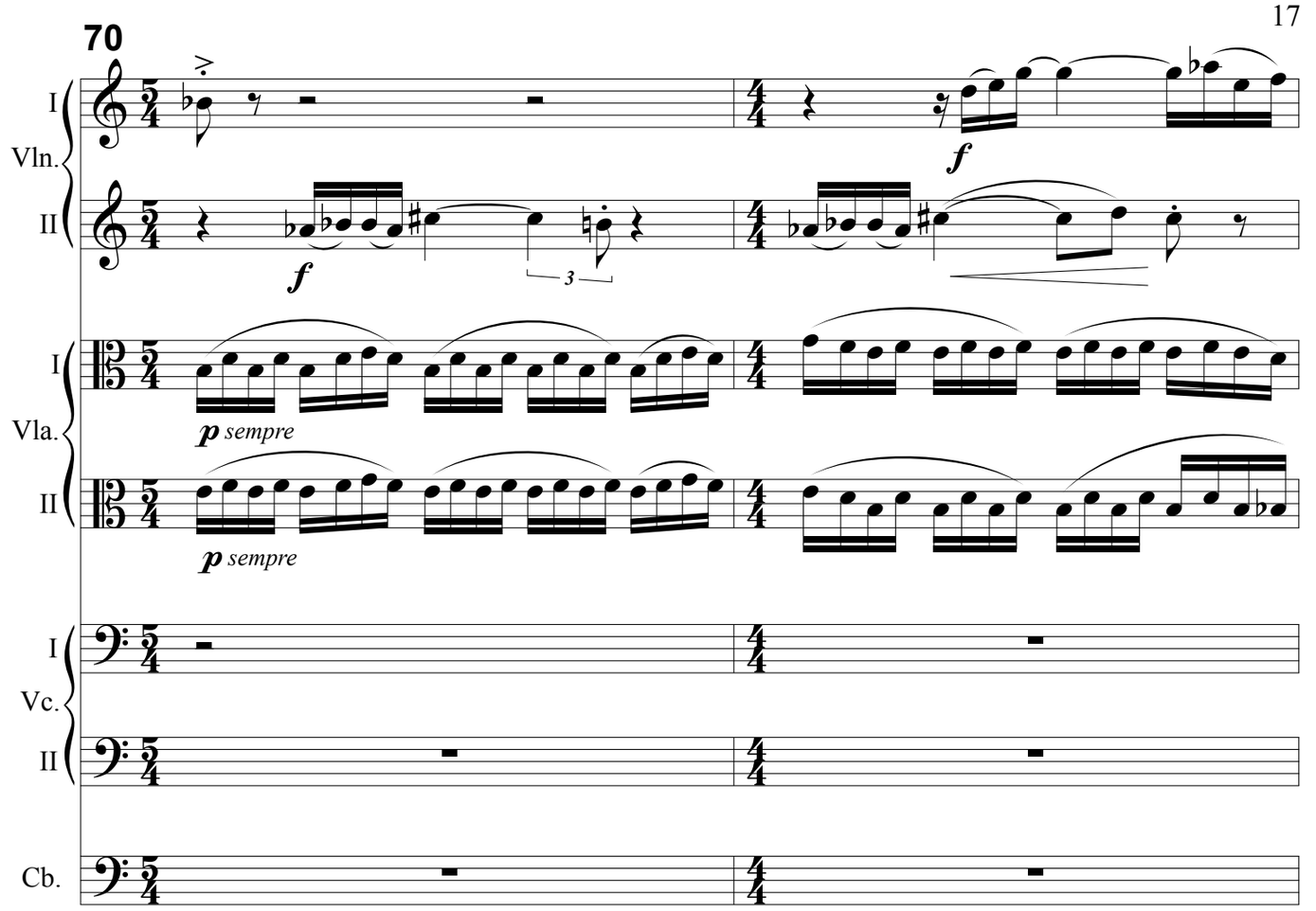
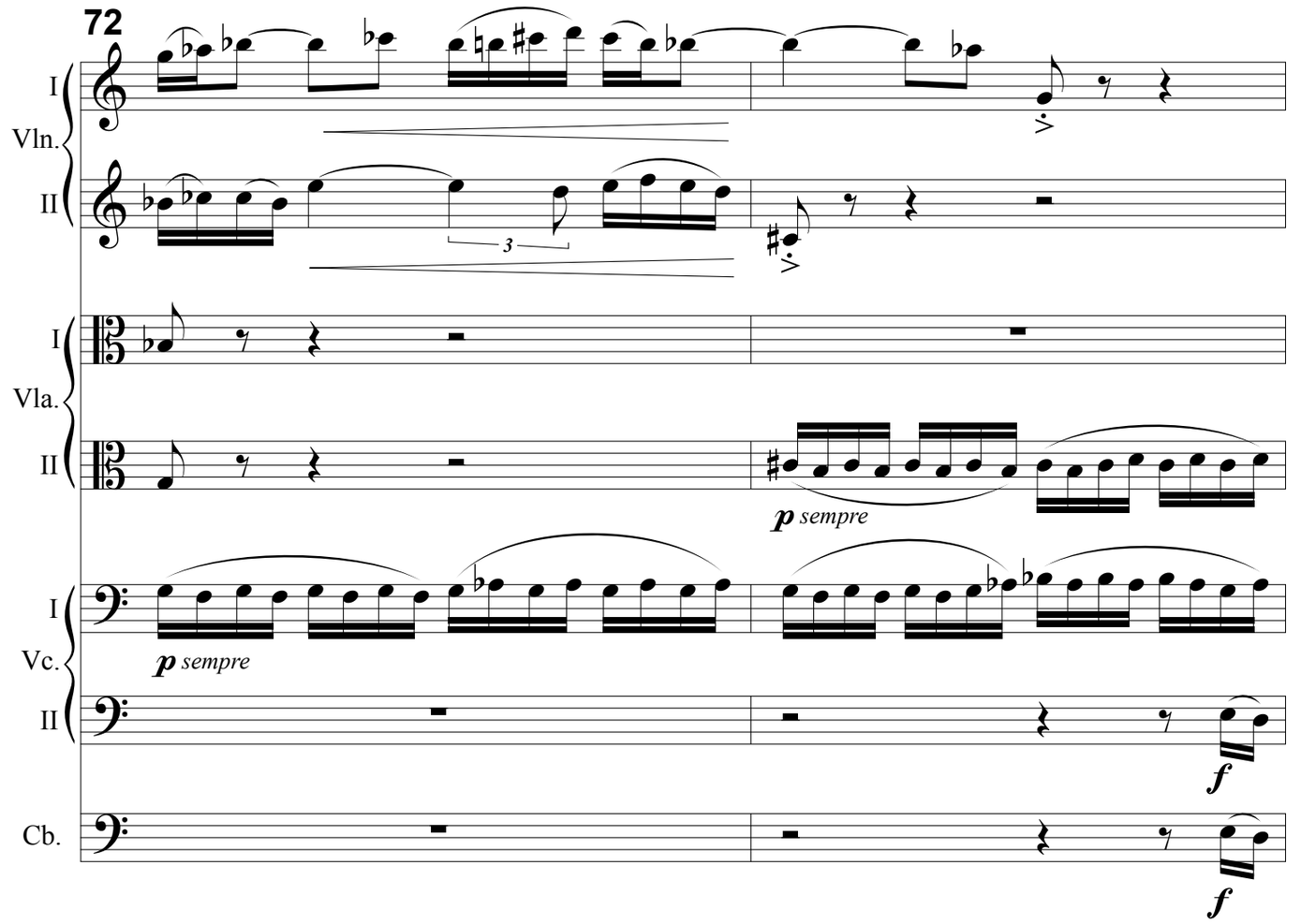
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
f
p sempre
crescendo
crescendo
3
68


70
I
Vln.
II
f
3
I
Vla.
II
p sempre
p sempre
I
Vc.
II
Cb.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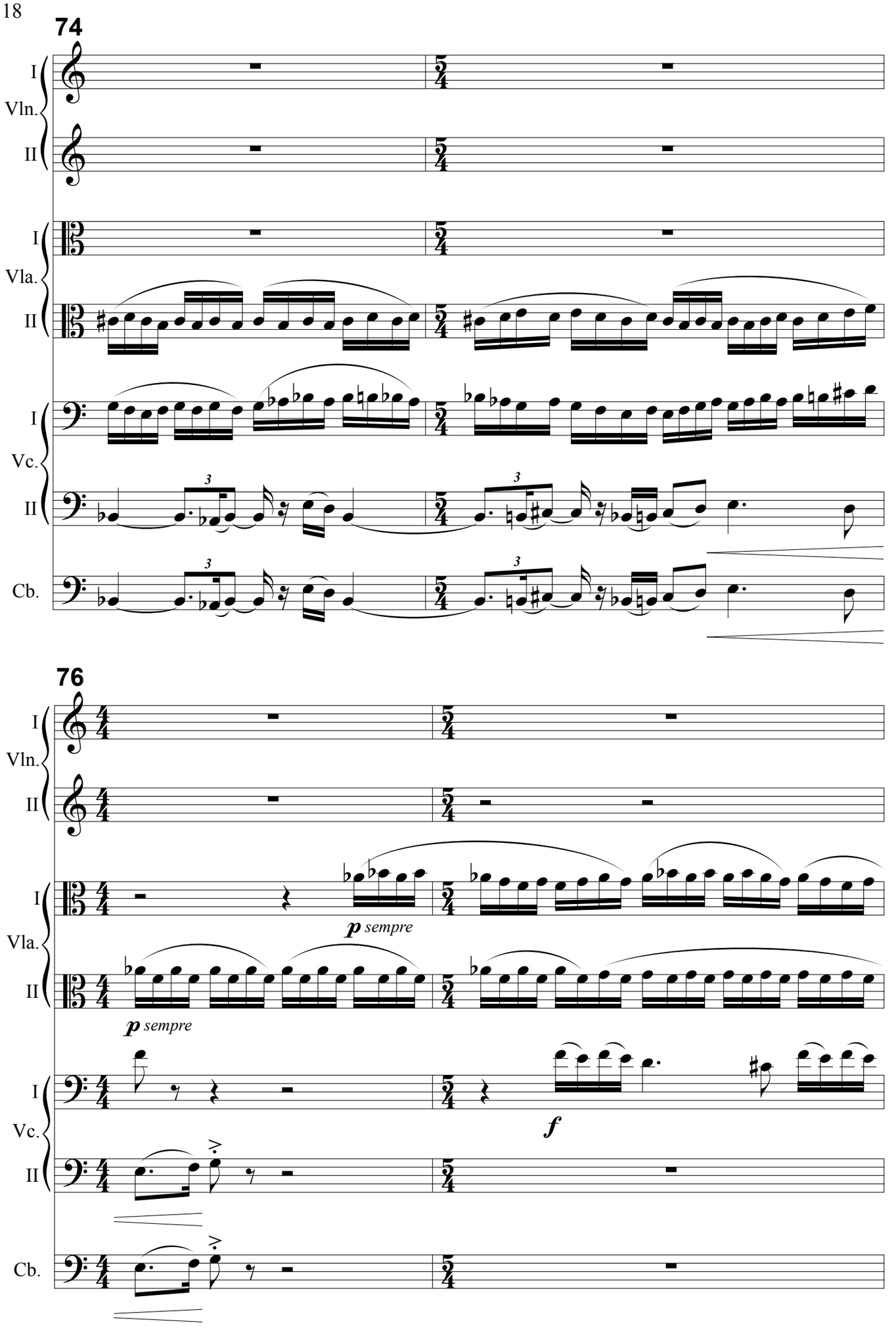
I
Vln.
II
3
I
Vla.
II
p sempre
I
Vc.
II
p sempre
f
Cb.
f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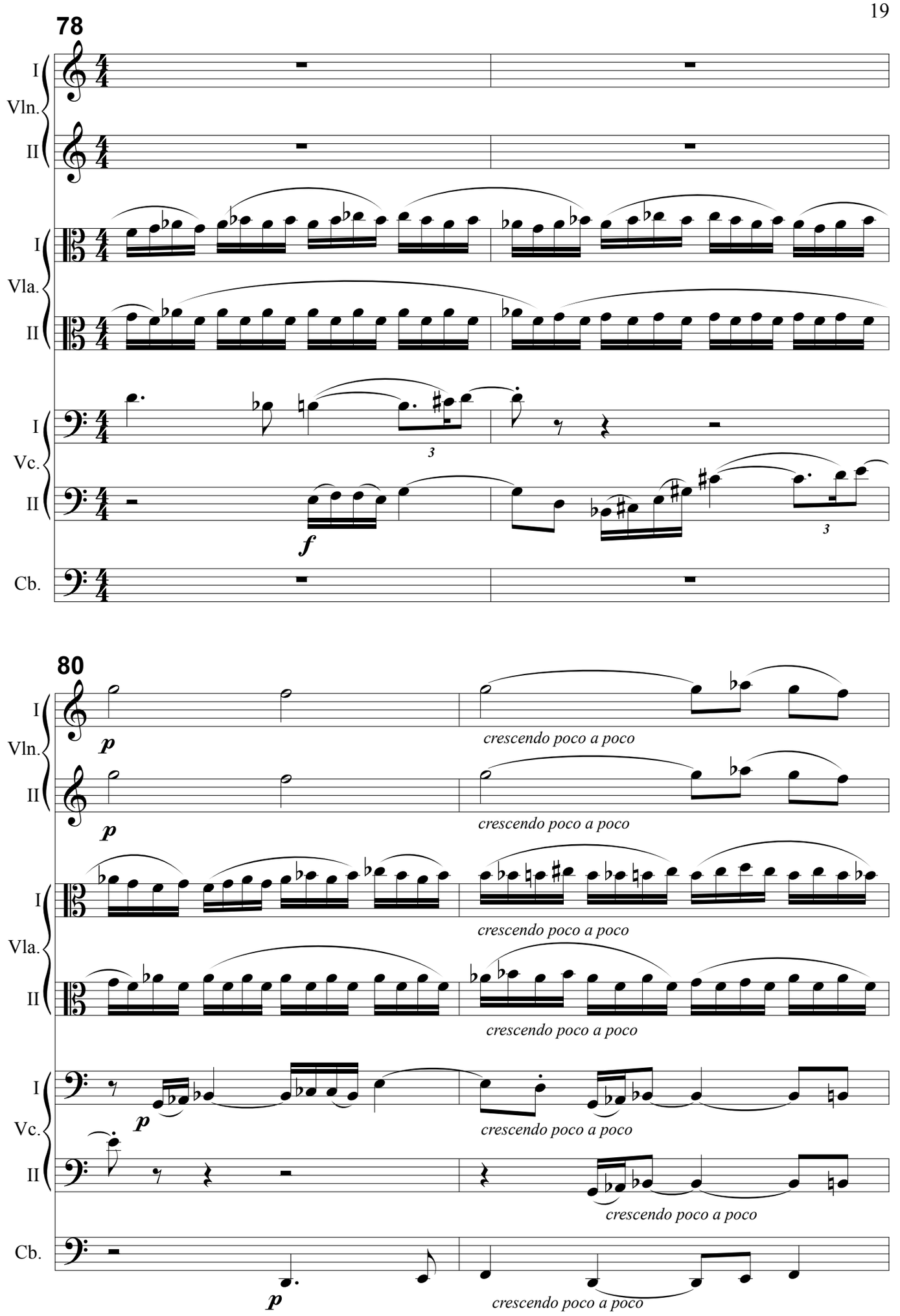
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
3
3
3
3
76
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
p sempre
p sempre
I
Vc.
II
f
Cb.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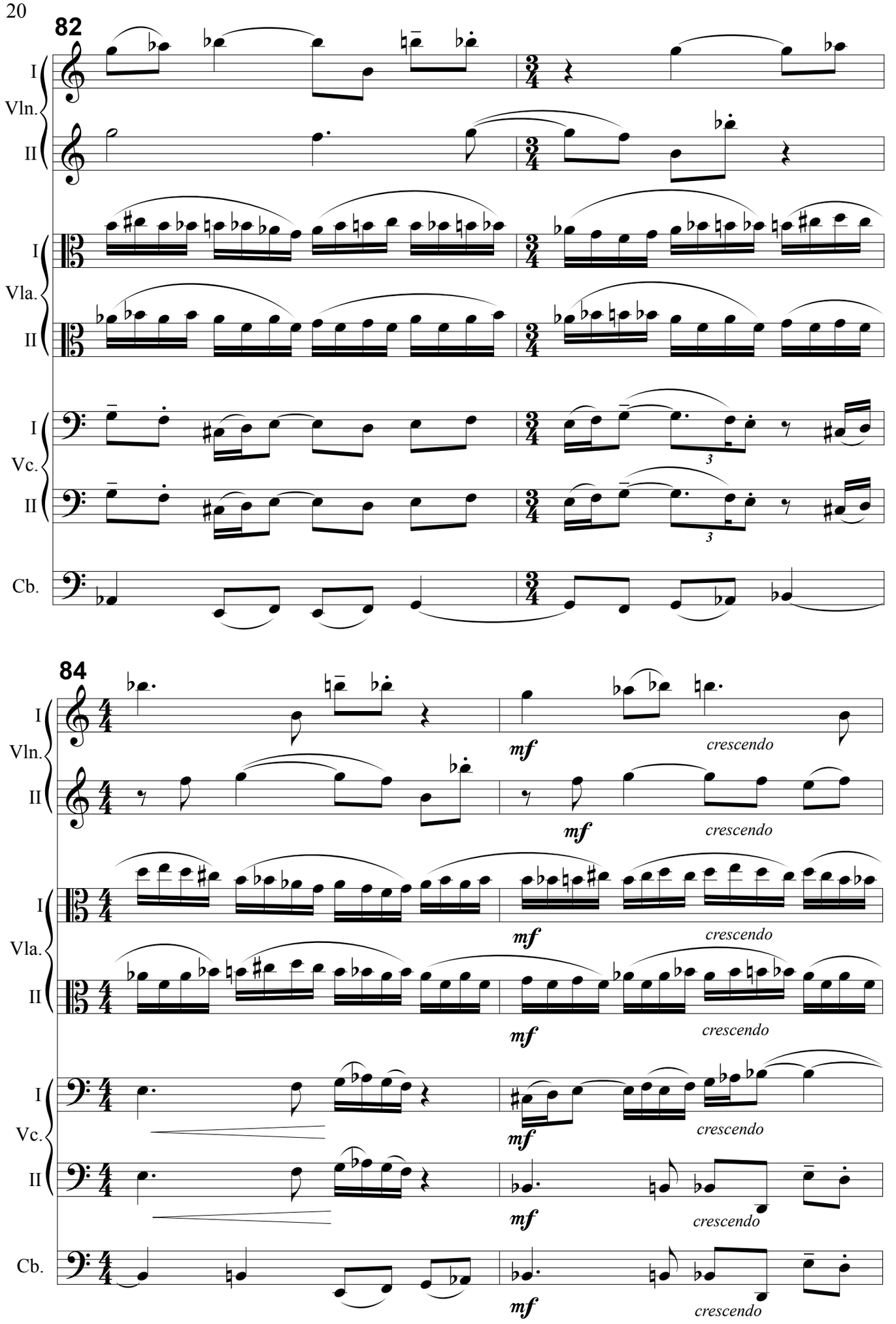
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
3
f
3
80
p
crescendo poco a poco
p
crescendo poco a poco
crescendo poco a poco
crescendo poco a poco
p
crescendo poco a poco
crescendo poco a poco
p
crescendo poco a poco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I
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Vc.
II
Cb.
3
3
84
I
Vln.
II
mf
crescendo
mf
crescendo
I
Vla.
II
mf
crescendo
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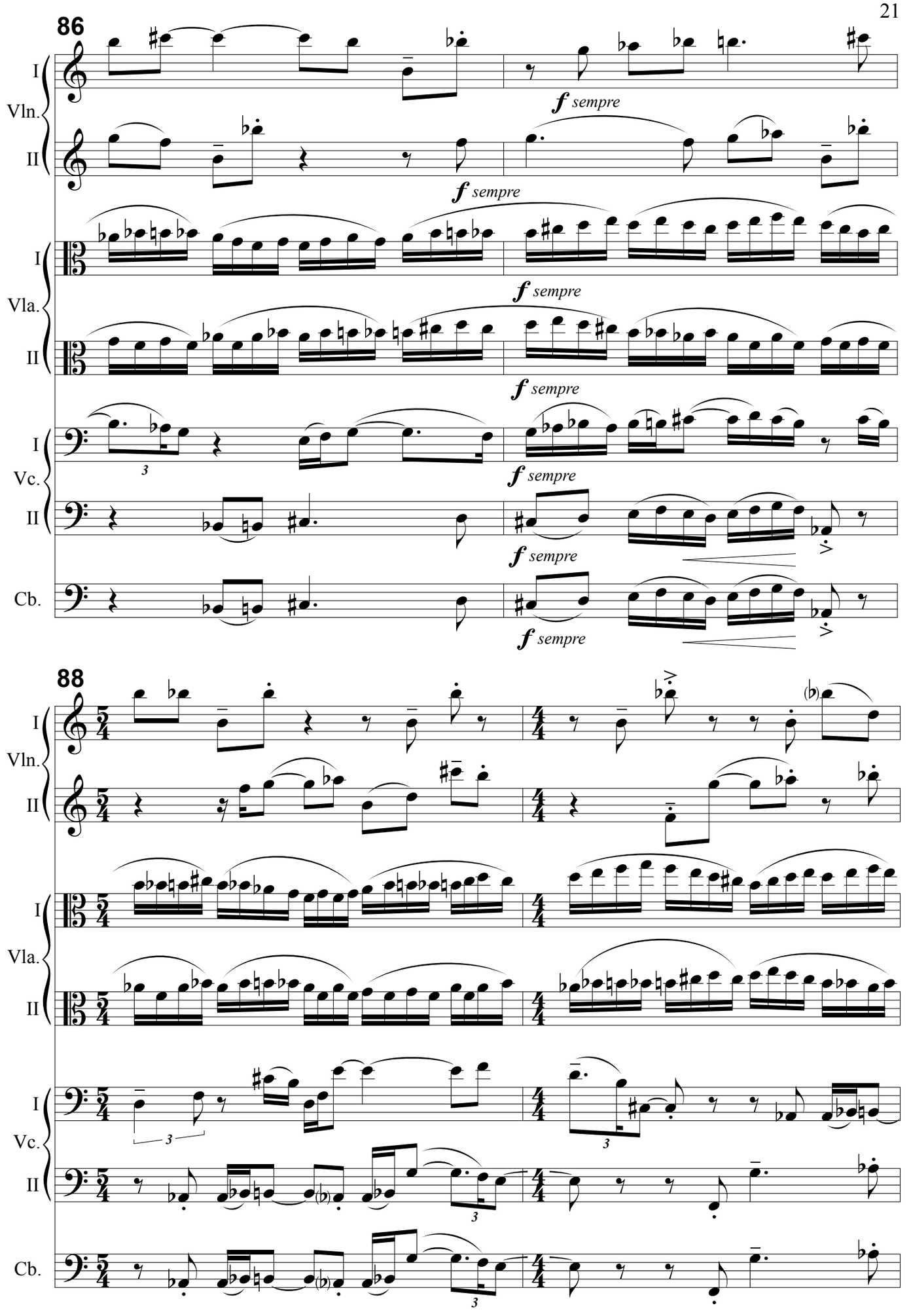
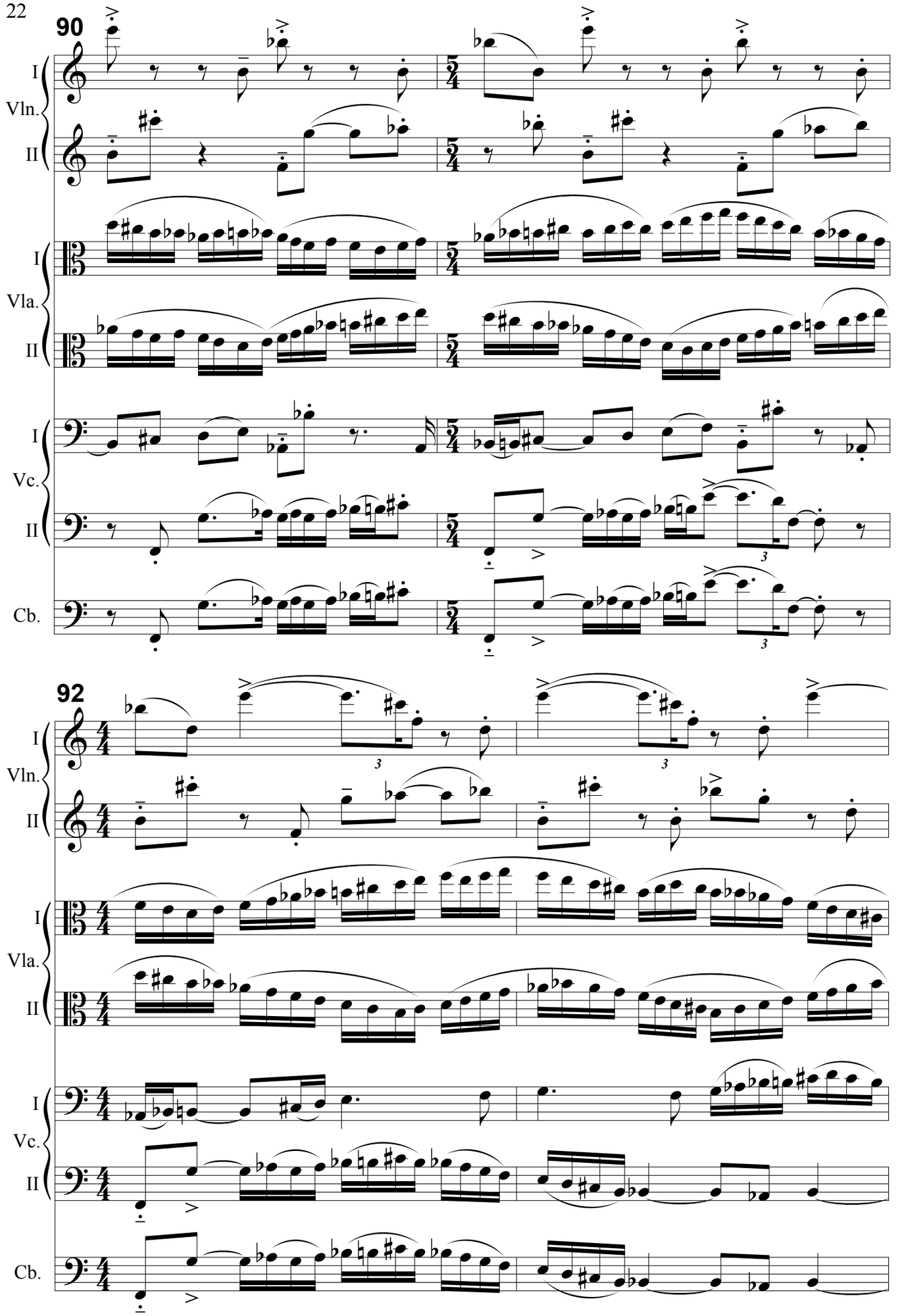
mf
crescendo
Cb.
mf
crescendo


86
I
Vln.
II
f sempre
I
Vla.
II
f sempre
I
Vc.
II
f sempre
Cb.
f sempre
88
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.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I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
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I
Vc.
II
Cb.
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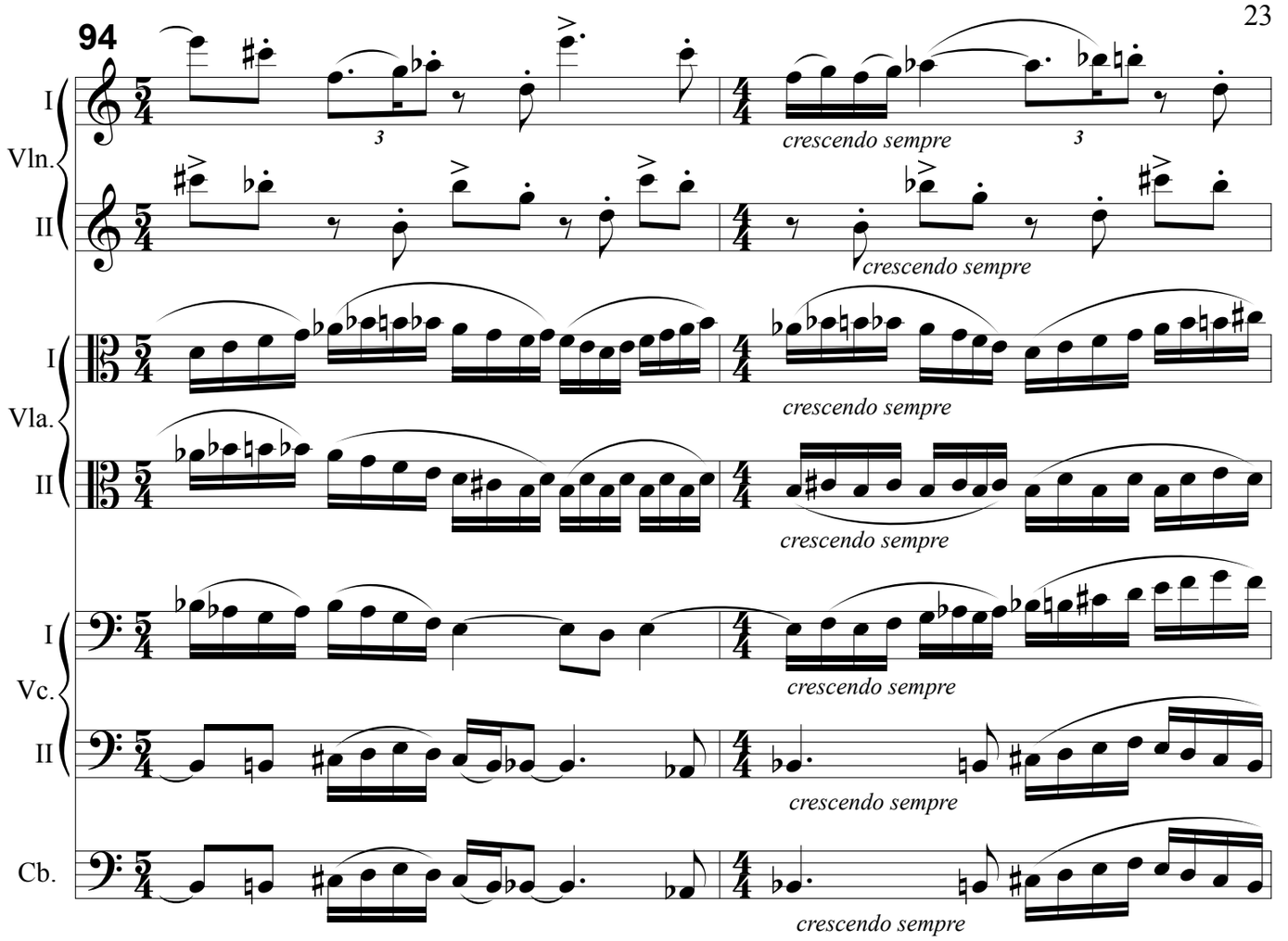
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.


94
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
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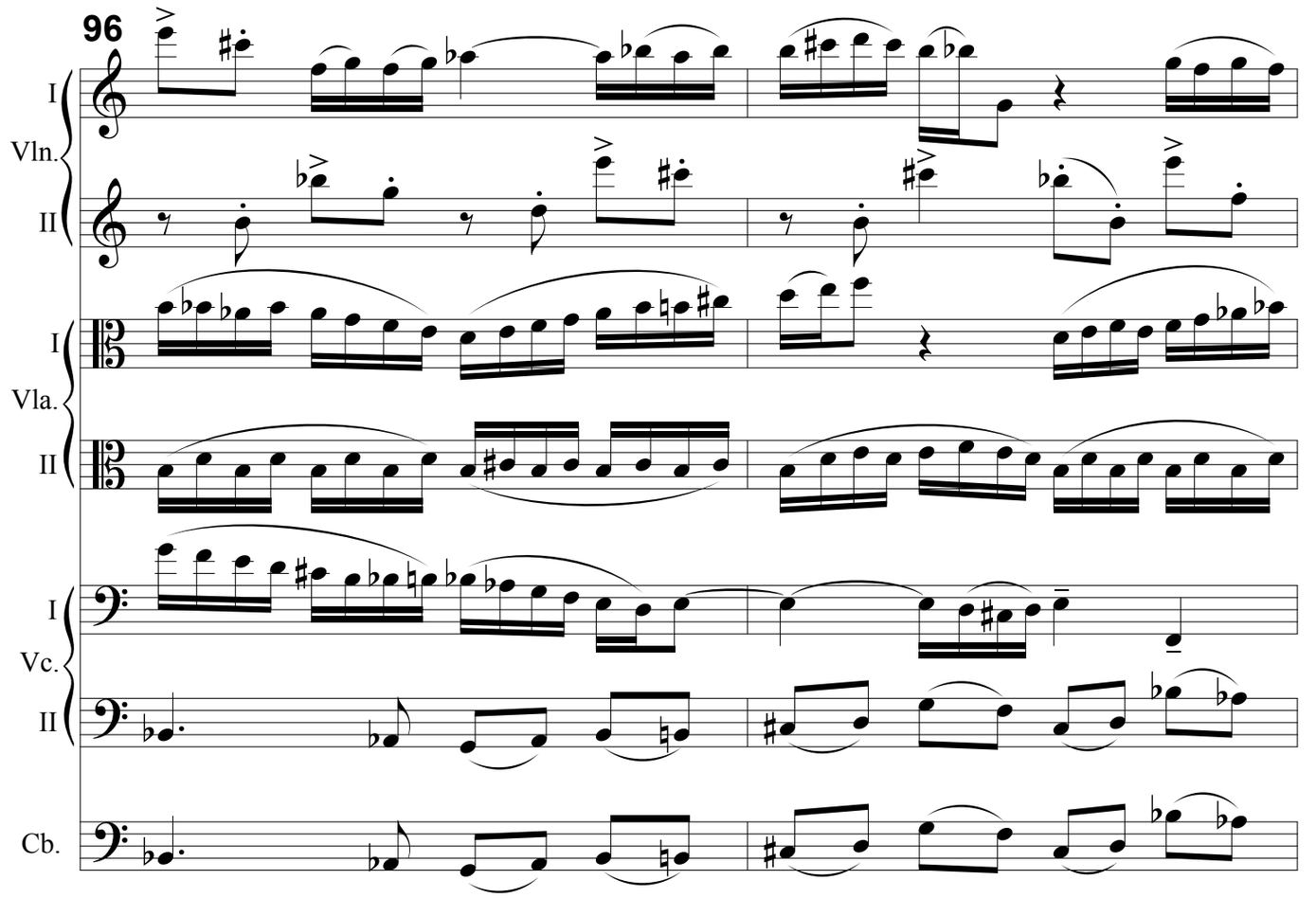
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
crescendo sempre
3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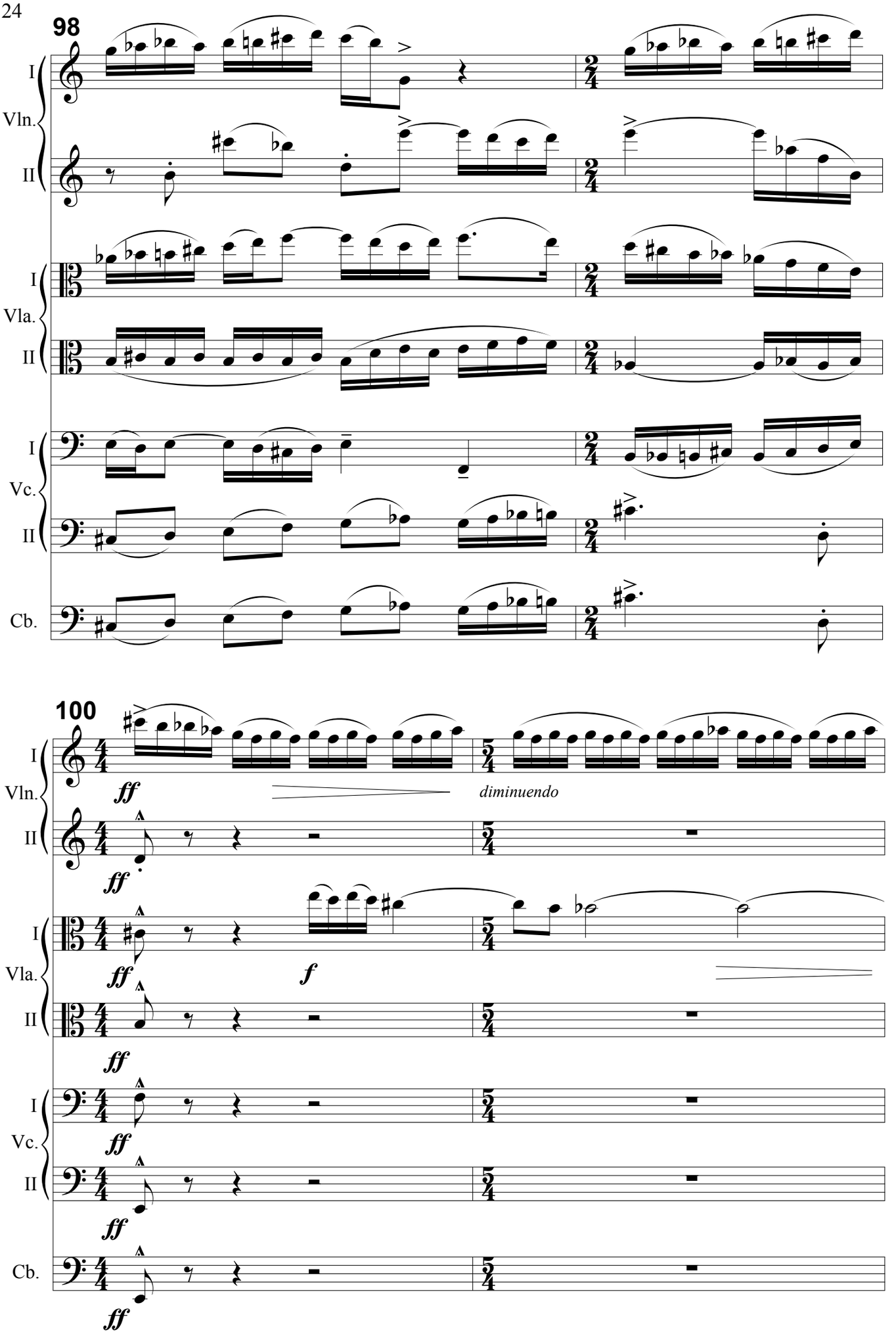
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I
Vln.
II
I
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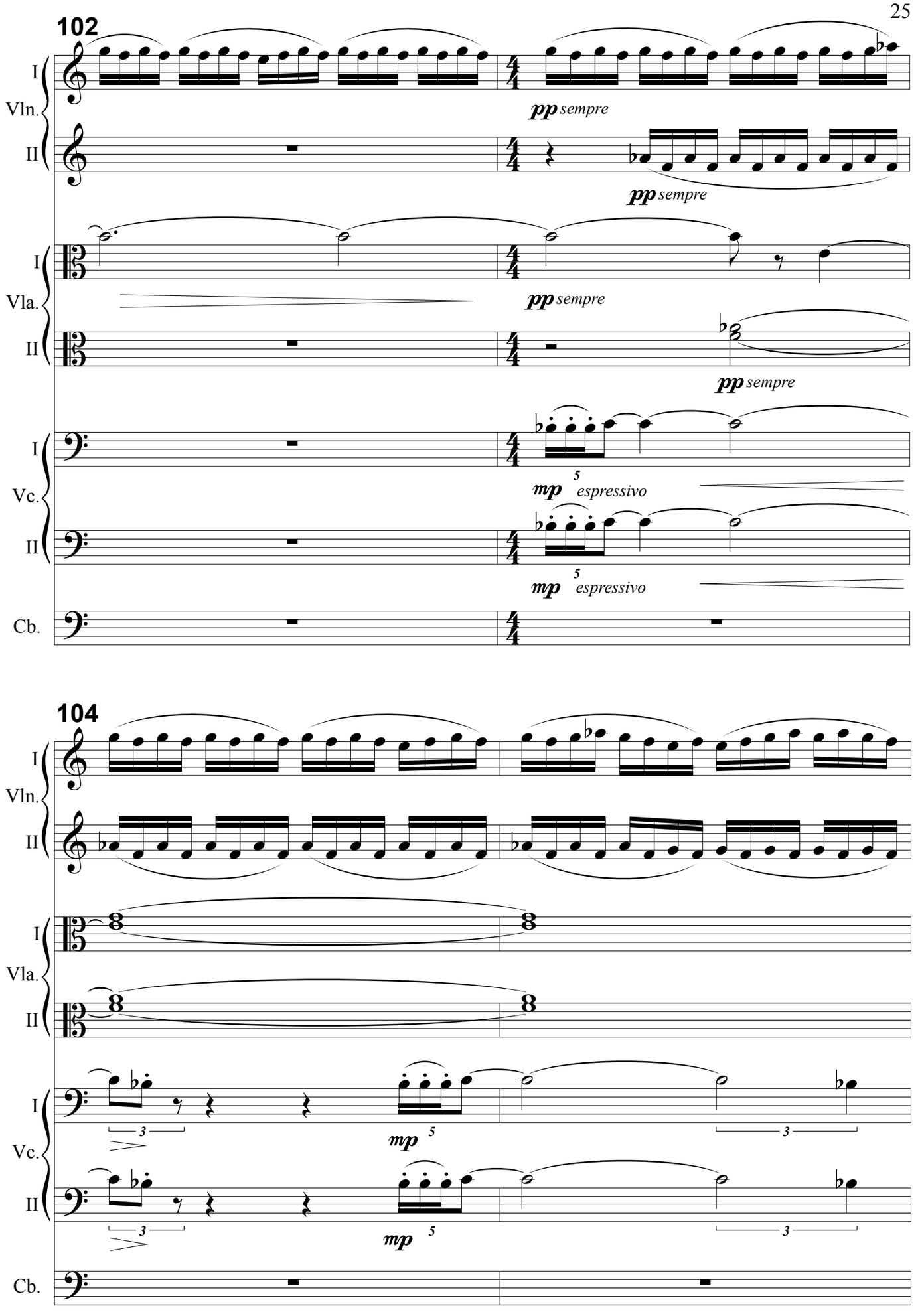
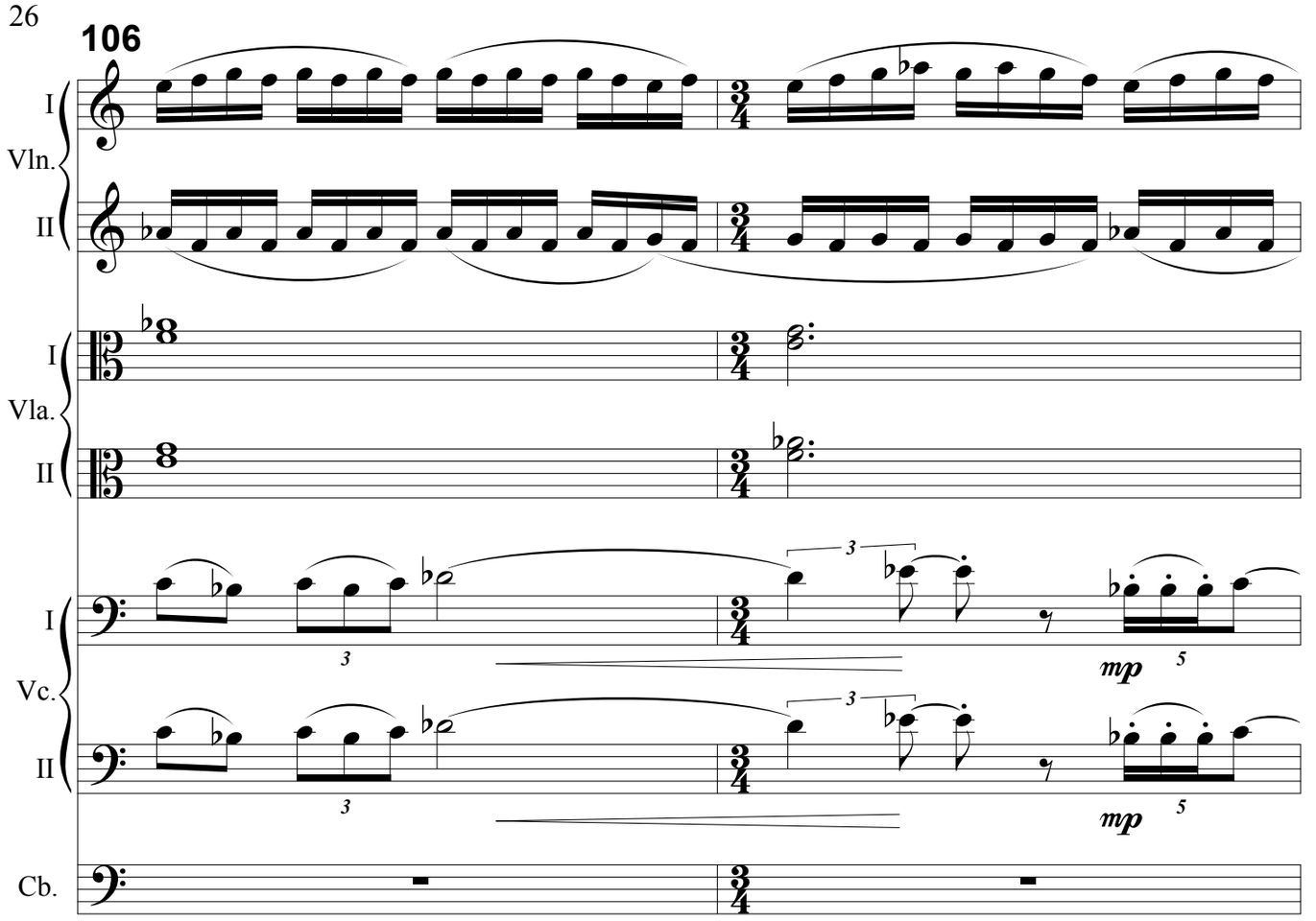
Vc.
II
Cb.
100
ff
diminuendo
ff
ff
f
ff
ff
ff
ff
ff


102
I
Vln.
II
pp sempre
pp sempre
I
Vla.
II
pp sempre
pp sempre
I
Vc.
II
5
mp espressivo
5
mp espressivo
Cb.
104
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
3
mp
5
3
3
mp
5
3
Cb.


106
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Cb.
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mp
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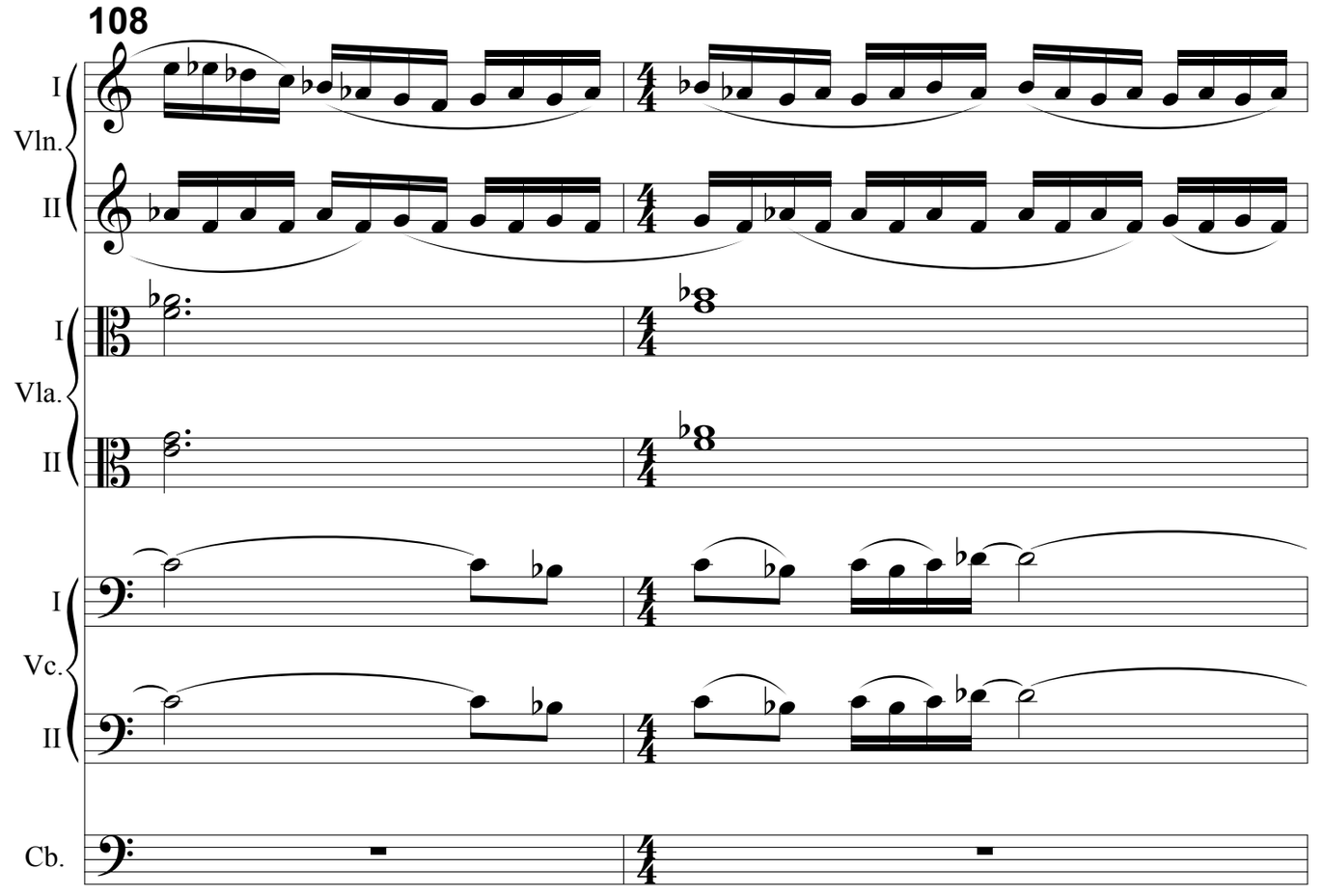
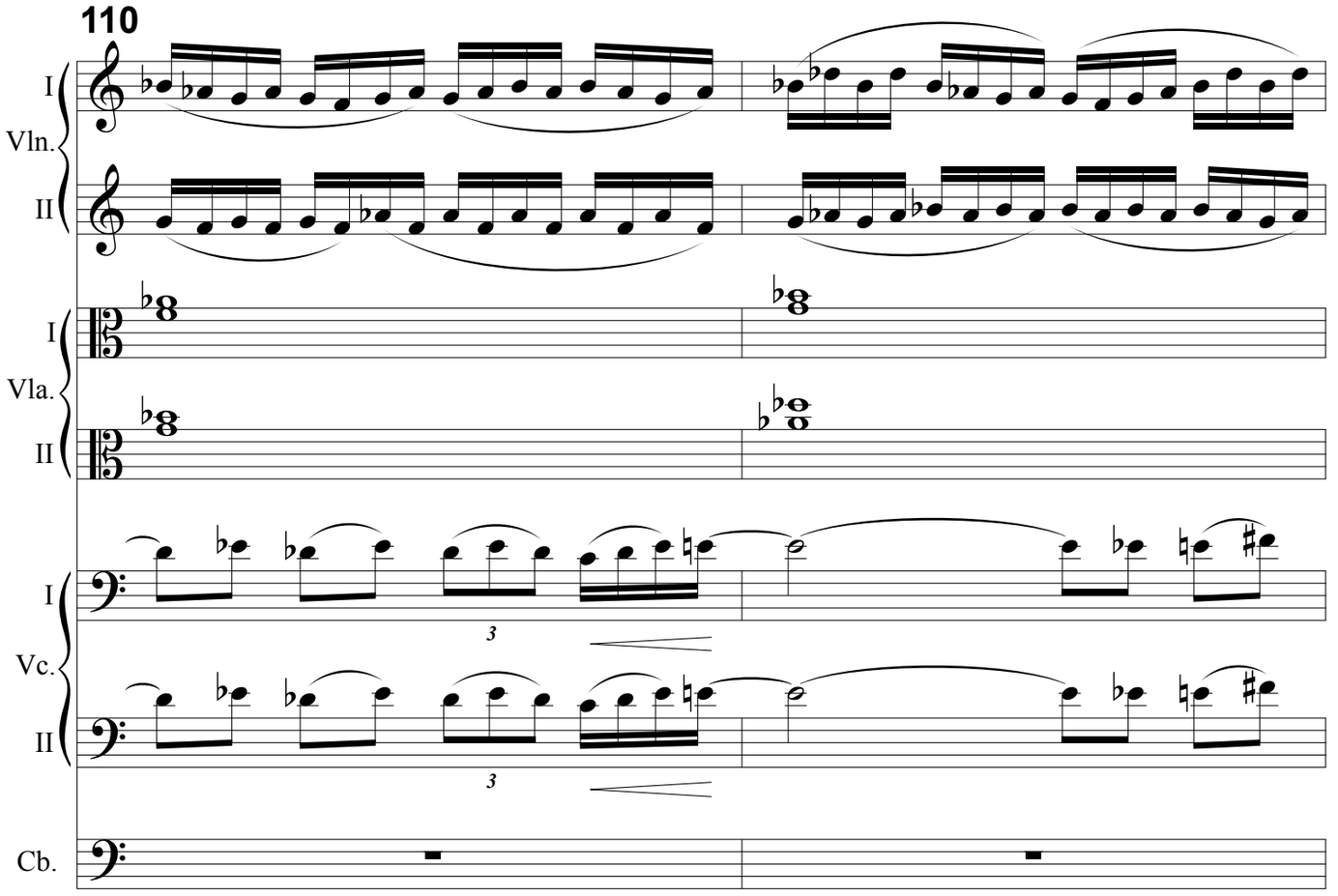
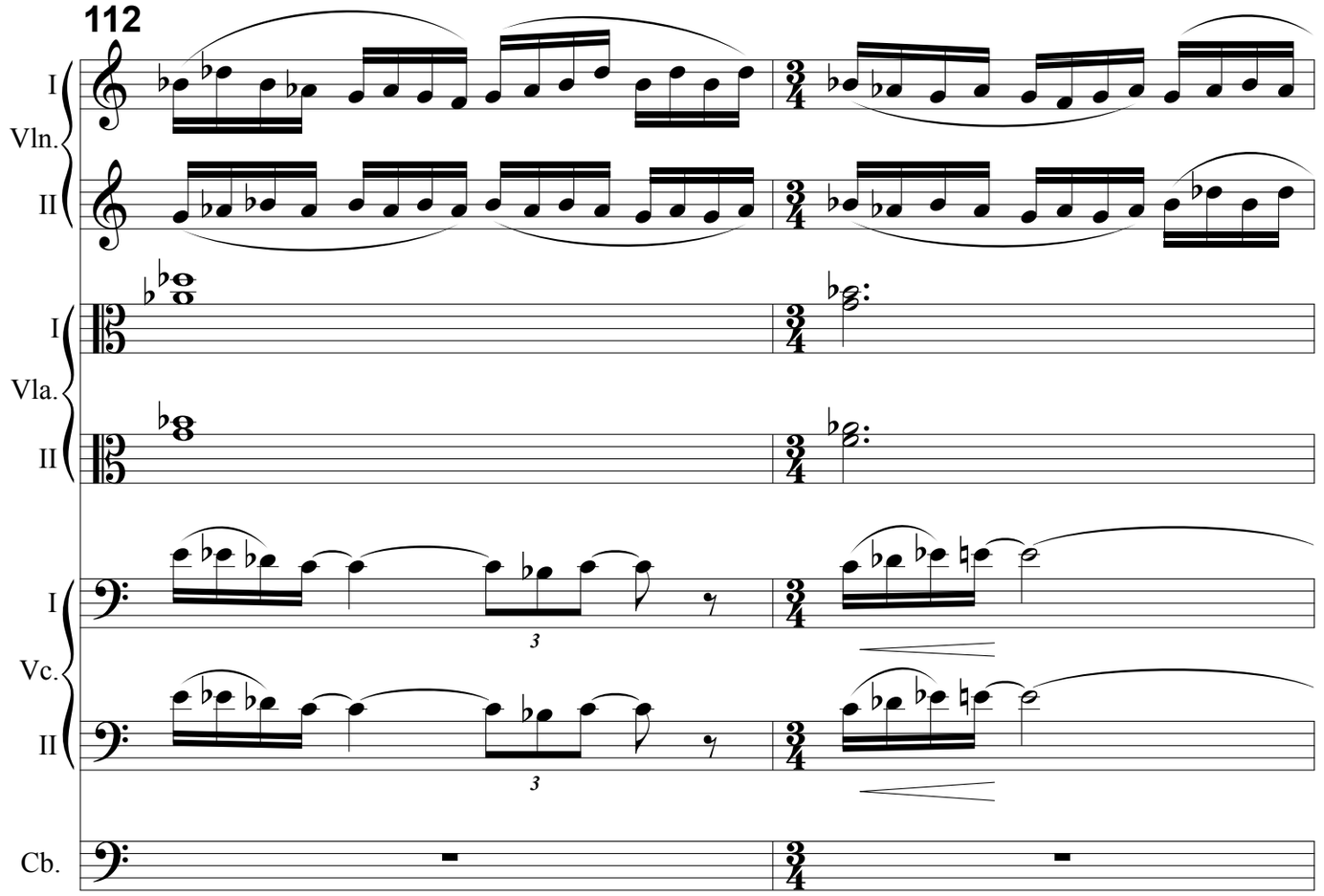
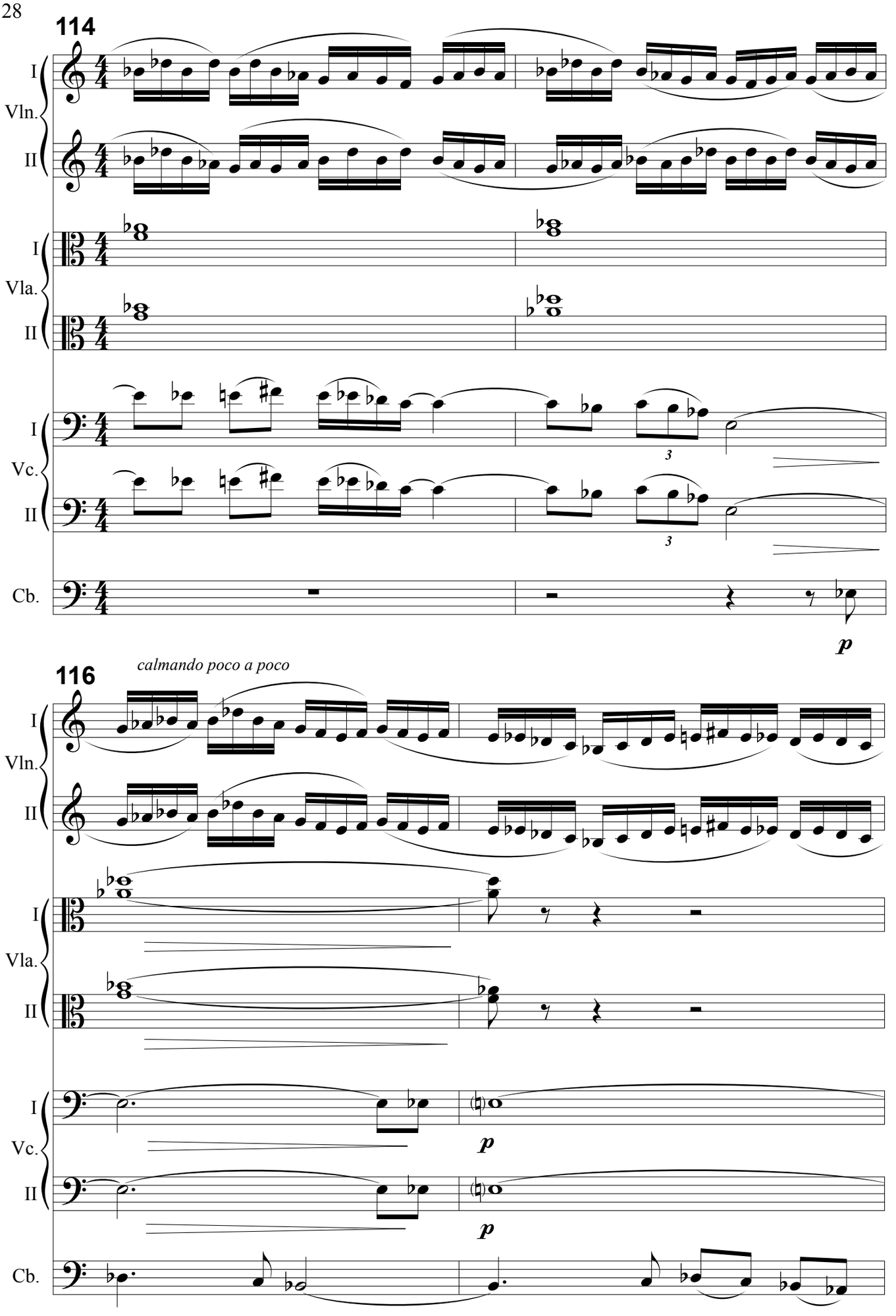
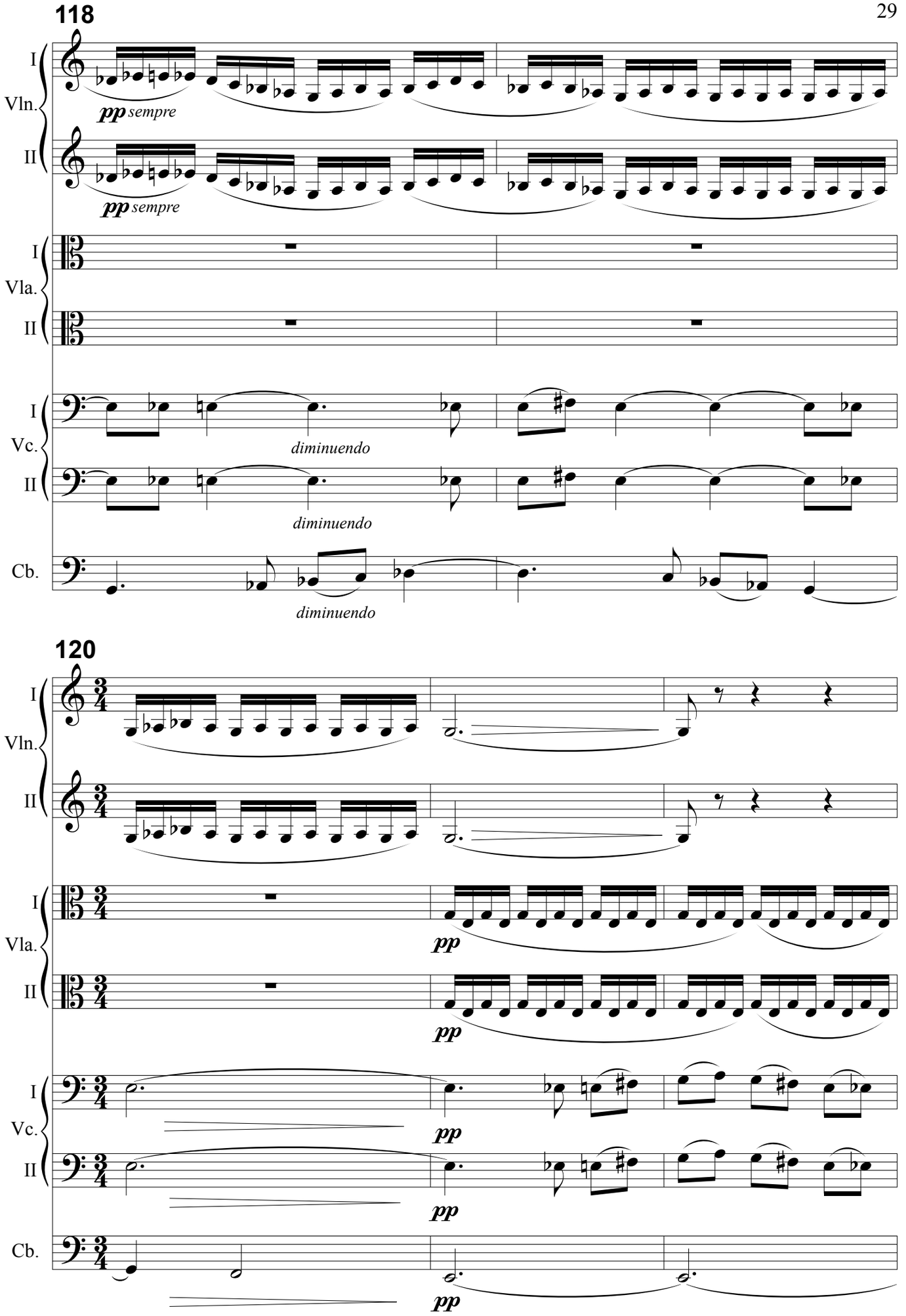
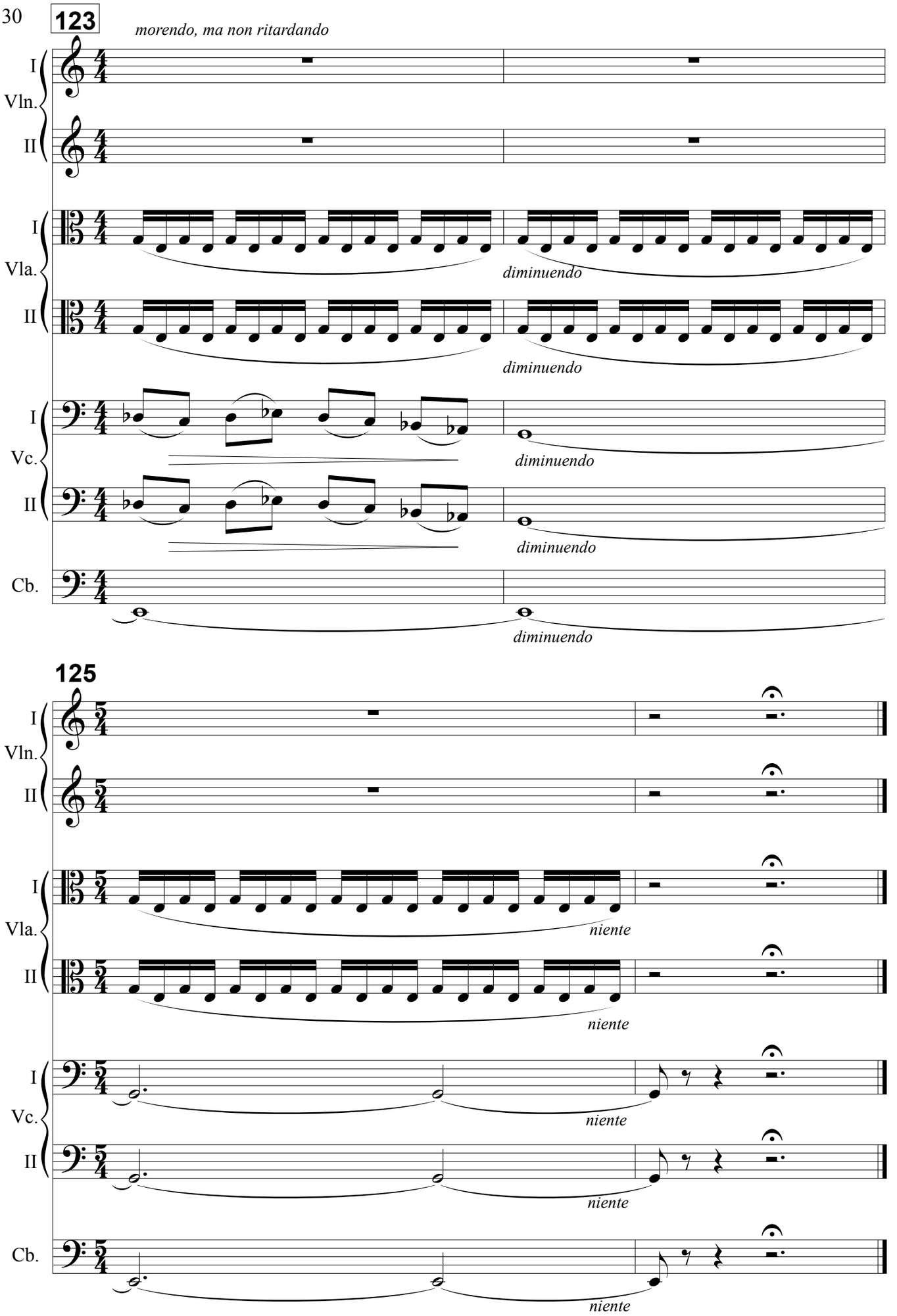

108
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.


110
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
3
3

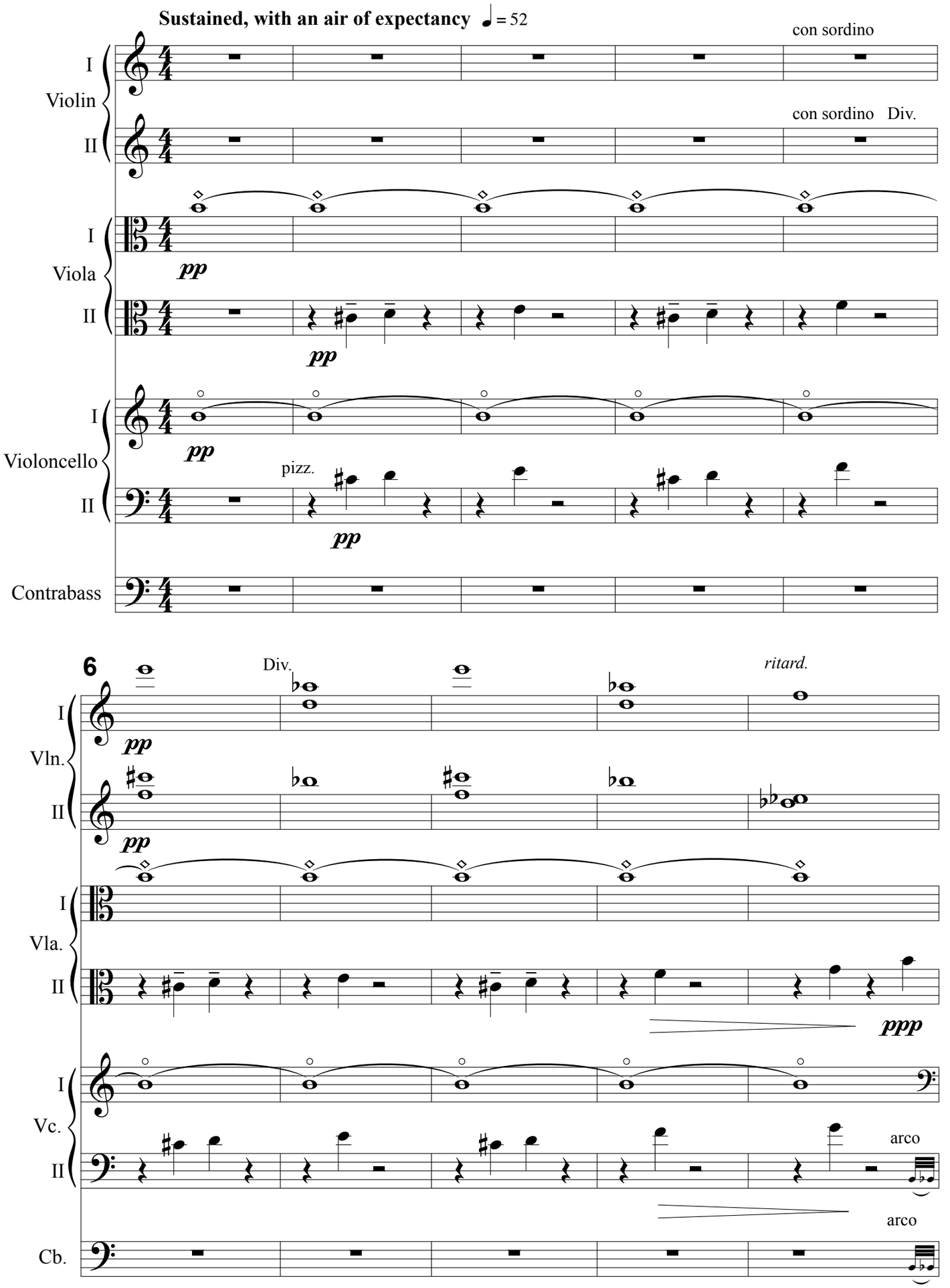

112
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
3
3


114
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
3
3
p
116
calmando poco a poco
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
p
p


118
I
Vln.
II
pp sempre
pp sempre
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
diminuendo
diminuendo
Cb.
diminuendo
120
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
pp
pp
I
Vc.
II
pp
pp
Cb.
pp


123
morendo, ma non ritardando
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
diminuendo
diminuendo
I
Vc.
II
diminuendo
diminuendo
Cb.
diminuendo
125
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
niente
niente
I
Vc.
II
niente
niente
Cb.
niente

II. Danse Profane



Playful, exuberant and ecstatic throughout ♩. = 62-66

11

senza sordino pizz.

I Vln.

senza sordino pizz.

II

I Vla.

II

I Vc.

II

Cb.

18

I Vln.

II

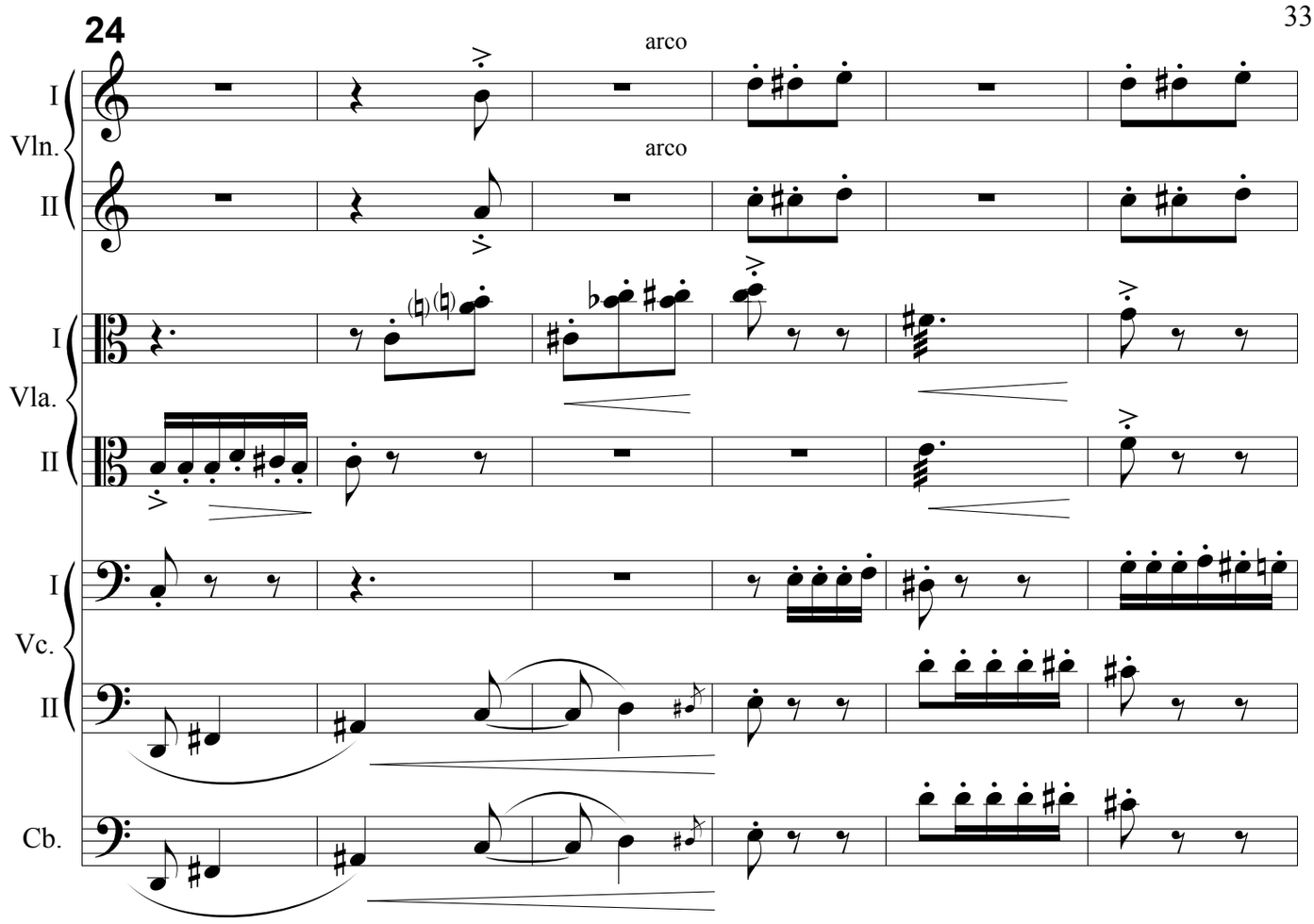
I Vla.

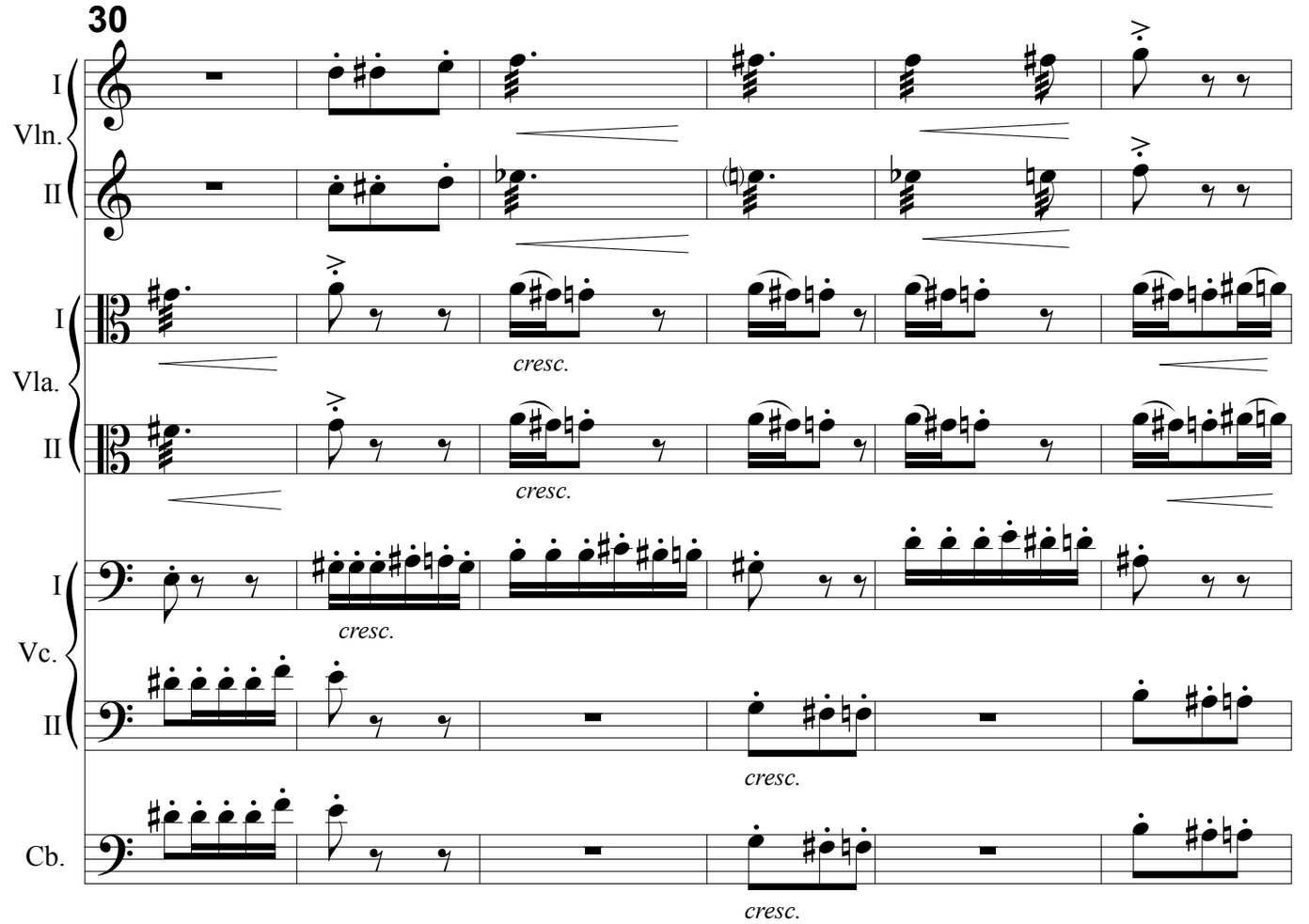
II

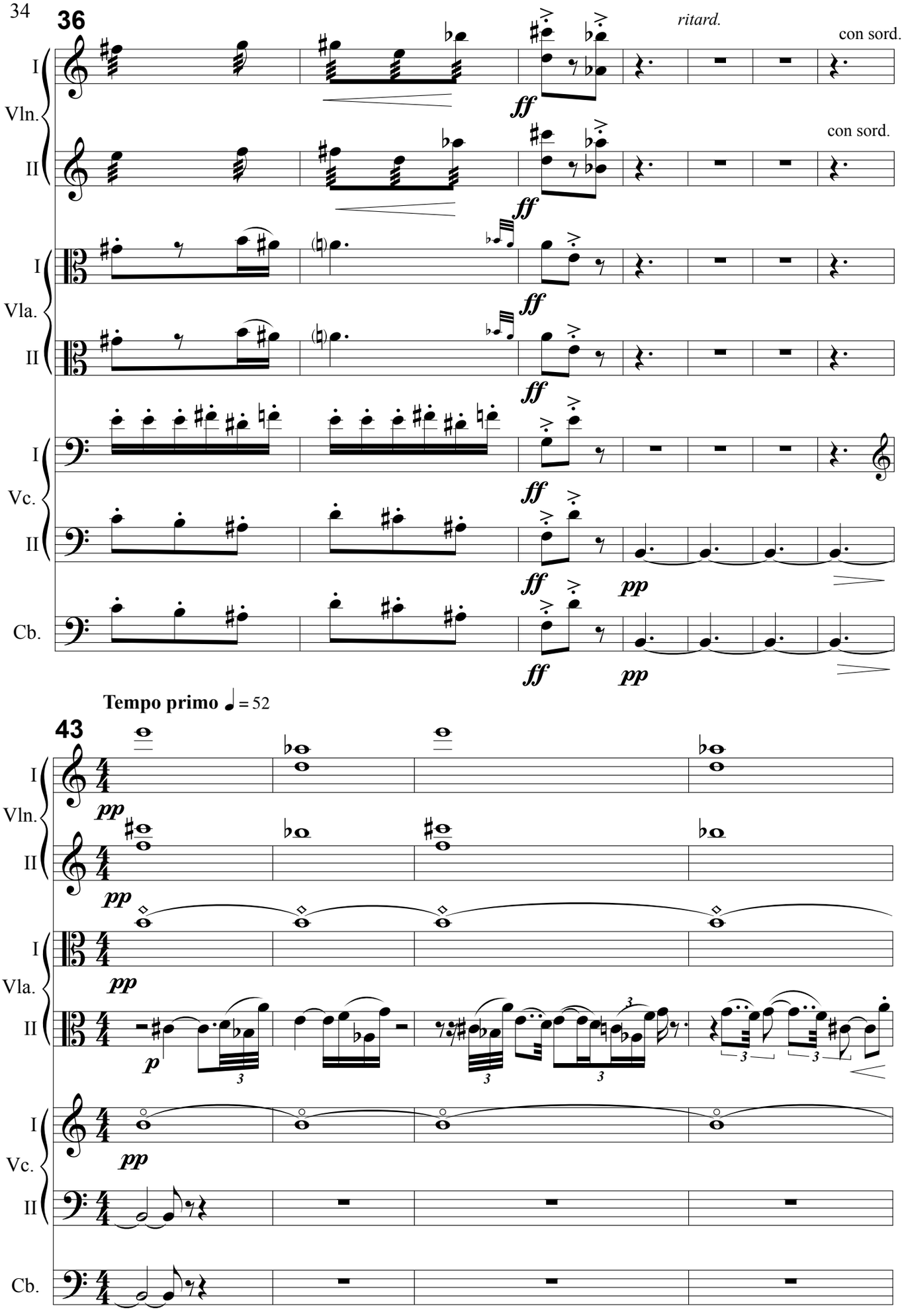
I Vc.

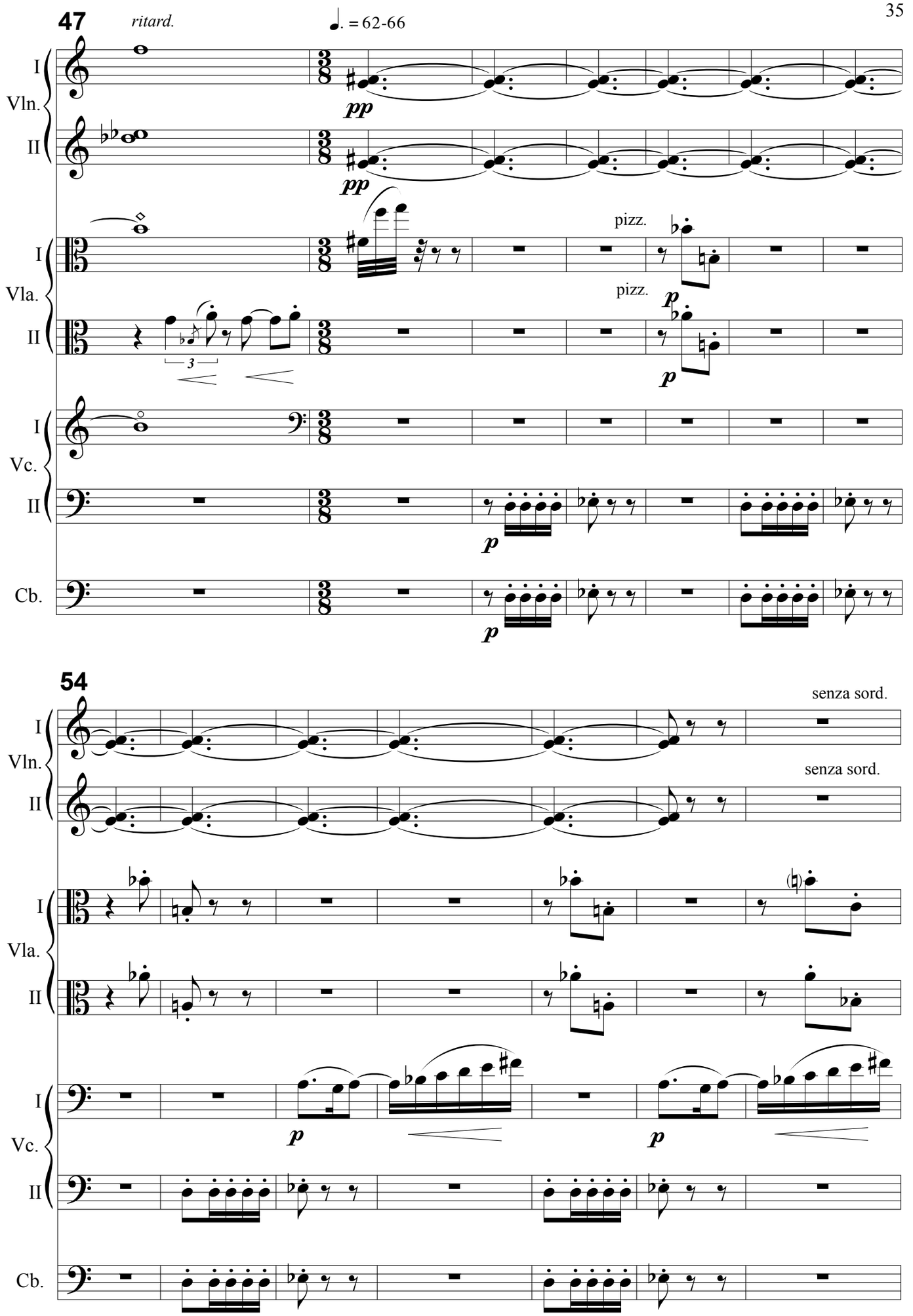
II

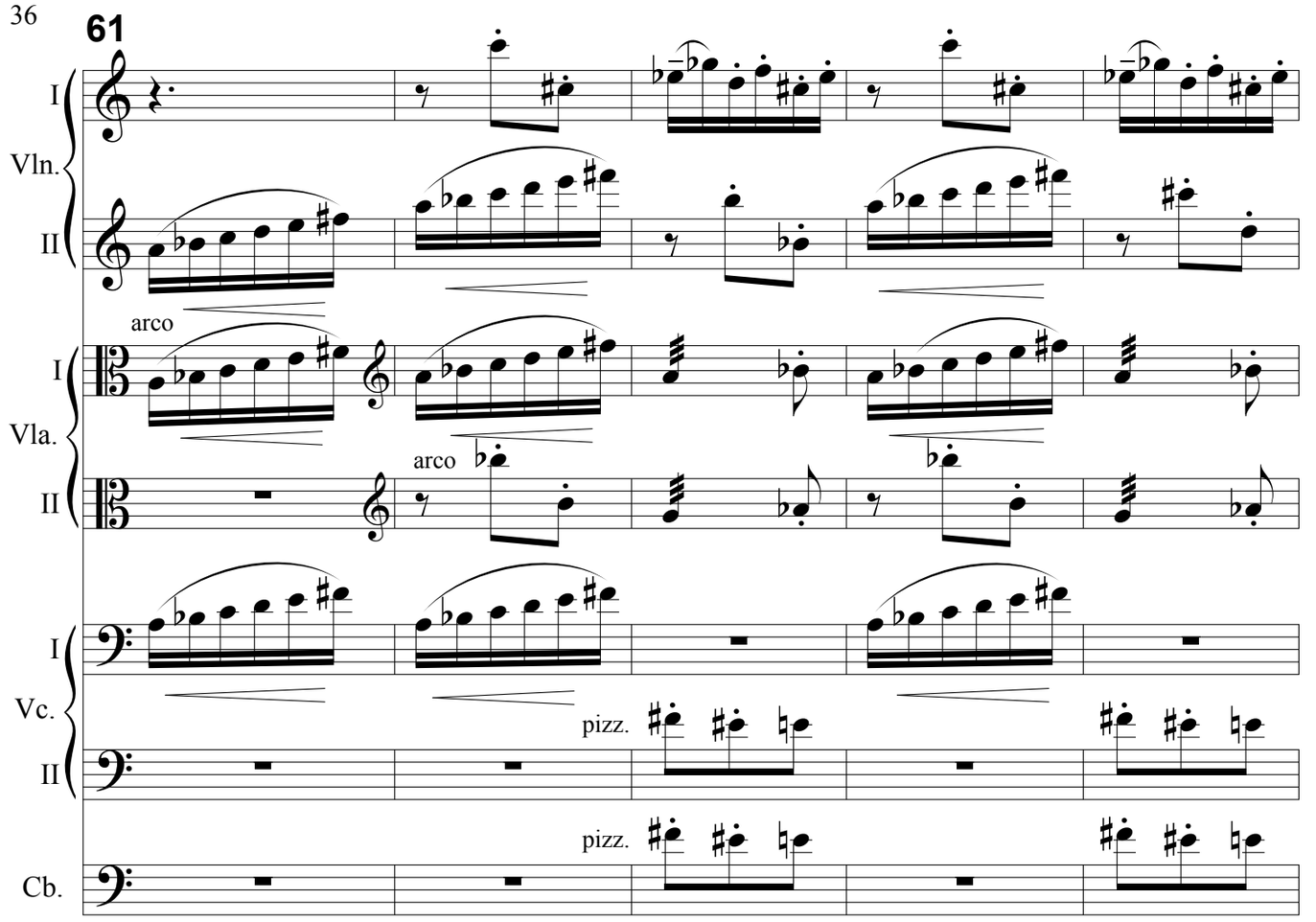
Cb.

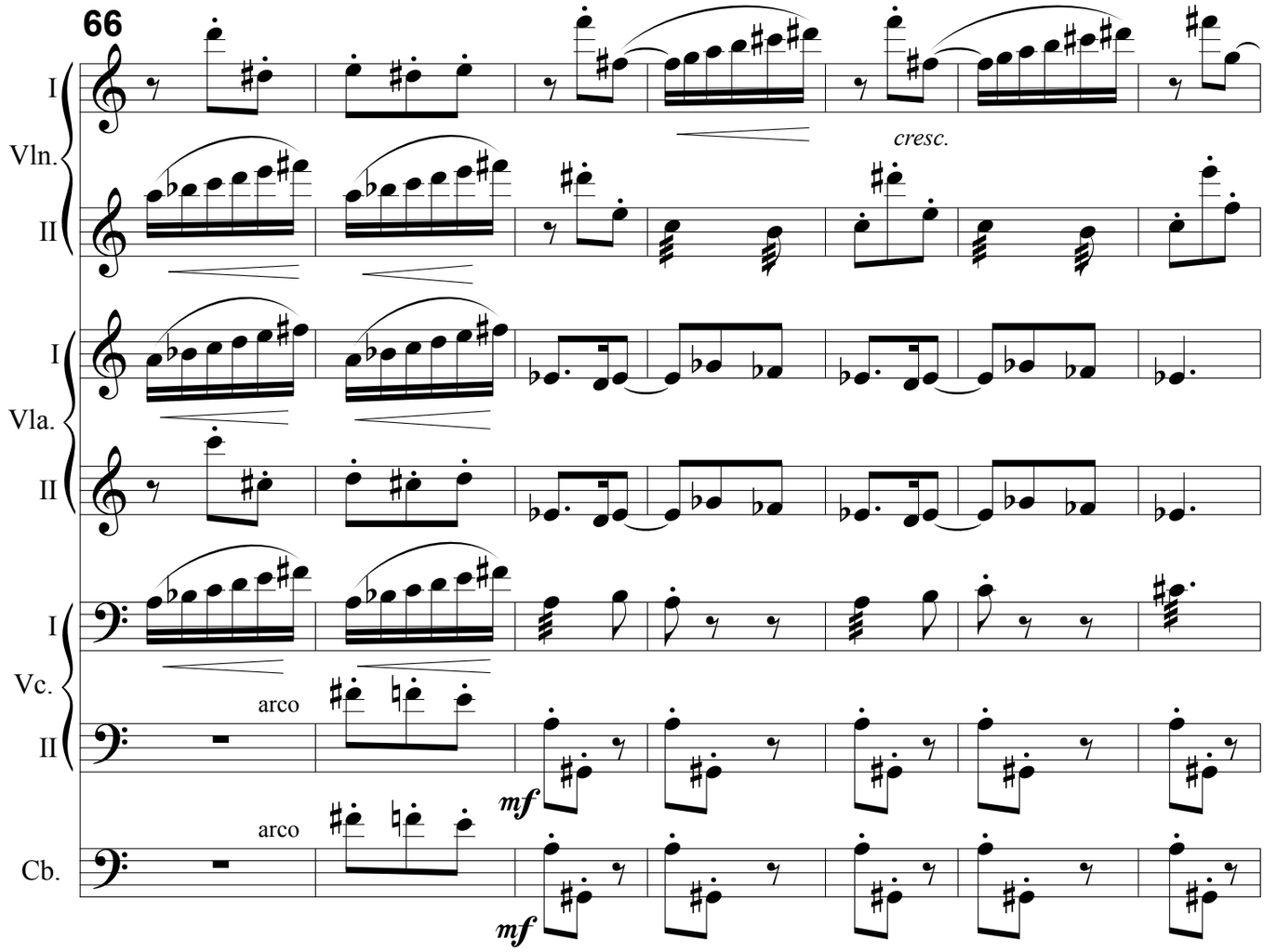

24
arco
arco
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.

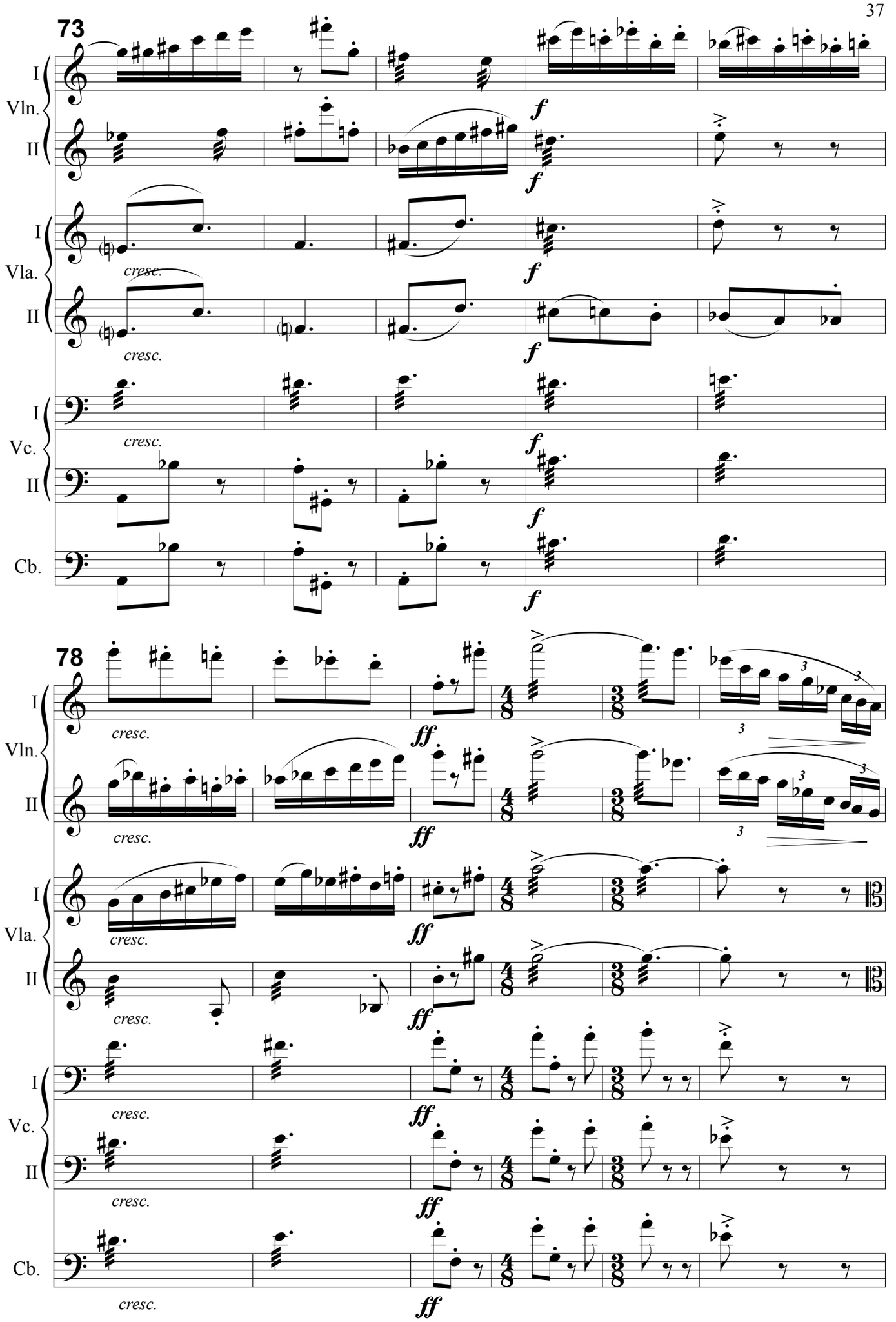

30
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
cresc.
cresc.
I
Vc.
II
cresc.
cresc.
Cb.

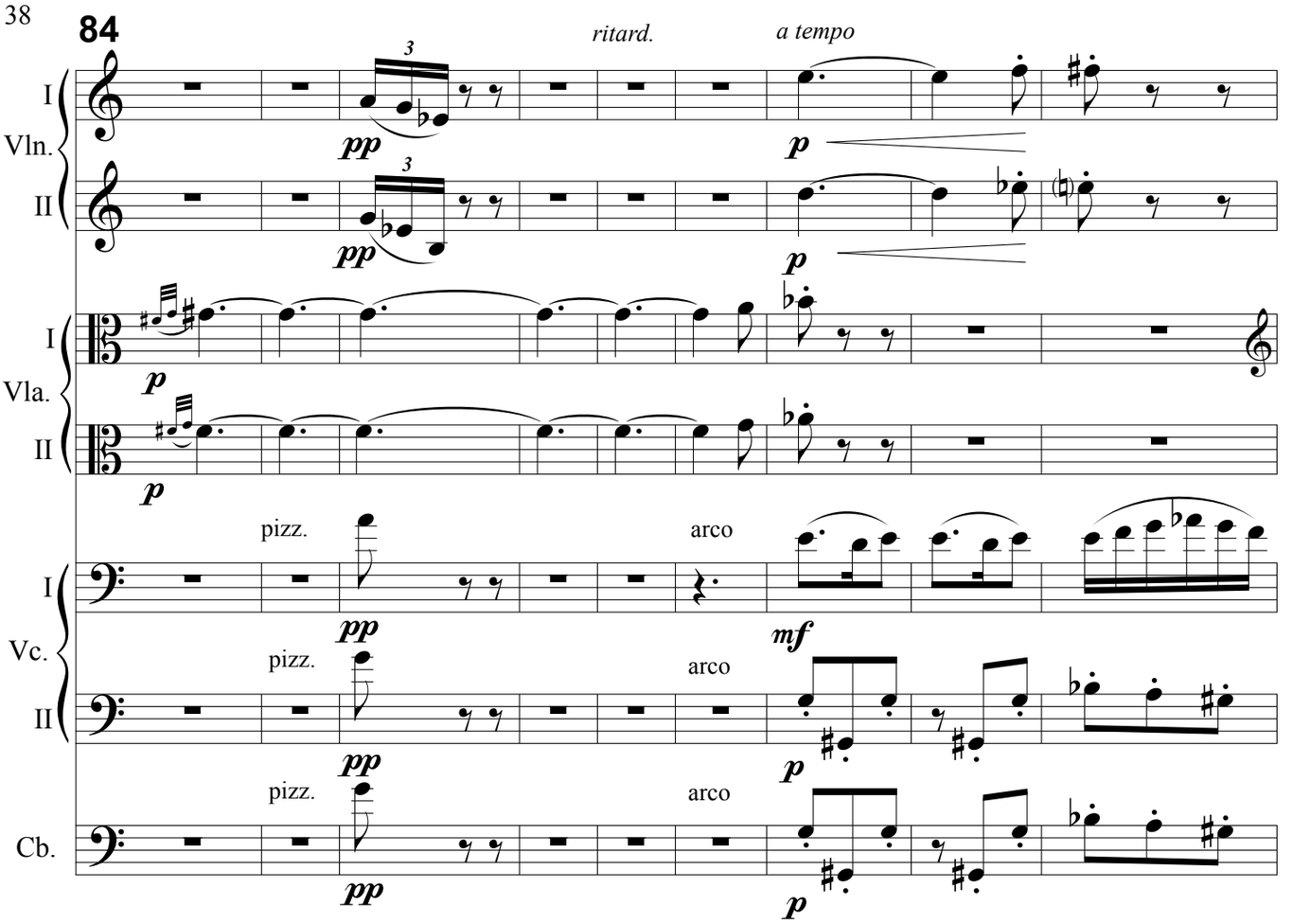

36
ritard.
con sord.
con sord.
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
ff
pp
Tempo primo ♩ = 52
43
pp
p

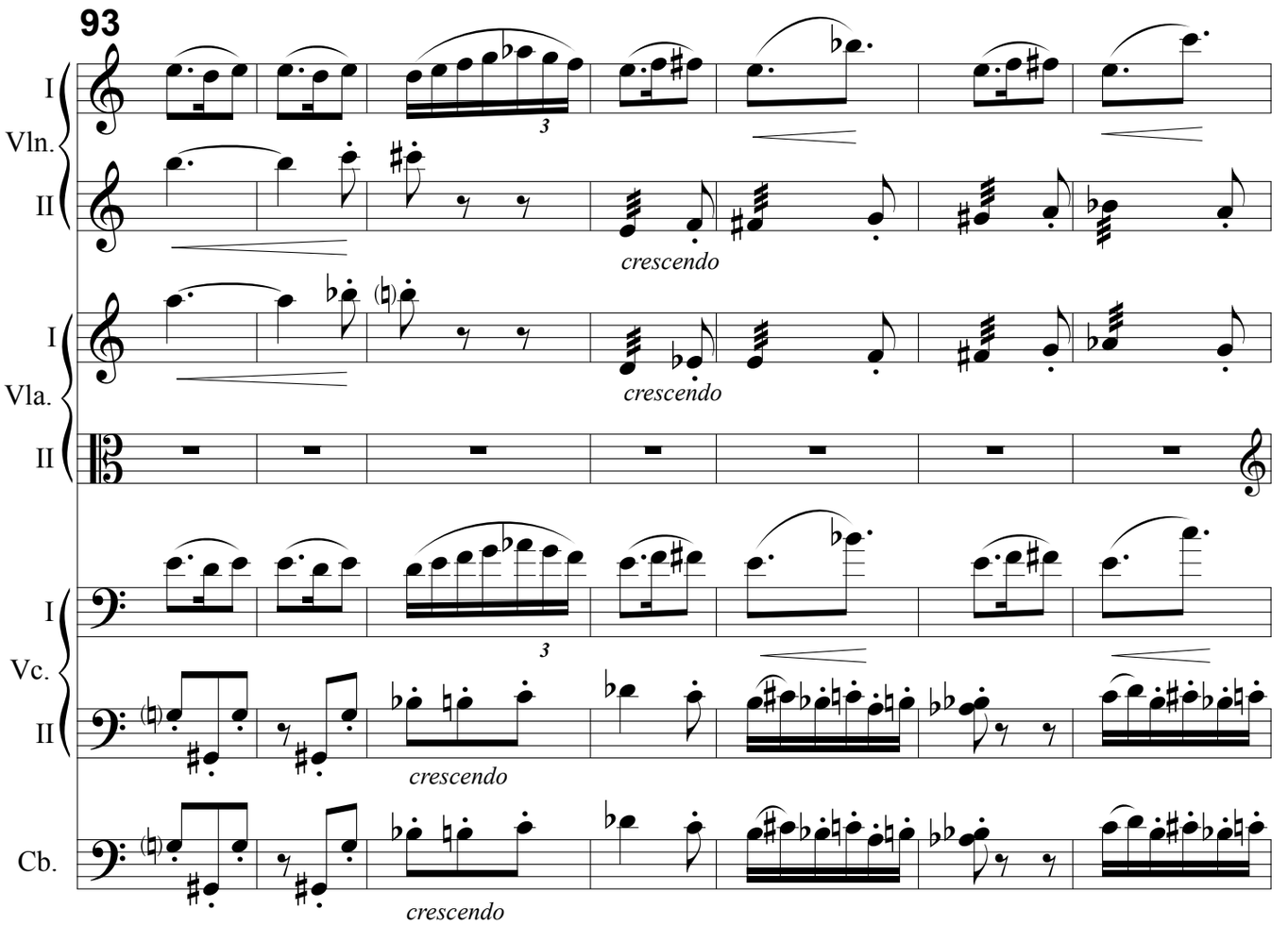

47
ritard.
♩. = 62-66
I
Vln.
II
pp
pp
I
Vla.
II
pizz.
pizz.
p
p
3
I
Vc.
II
p
Cb.
p
54
senza sord.
senza sord.
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
p
p
Cb.

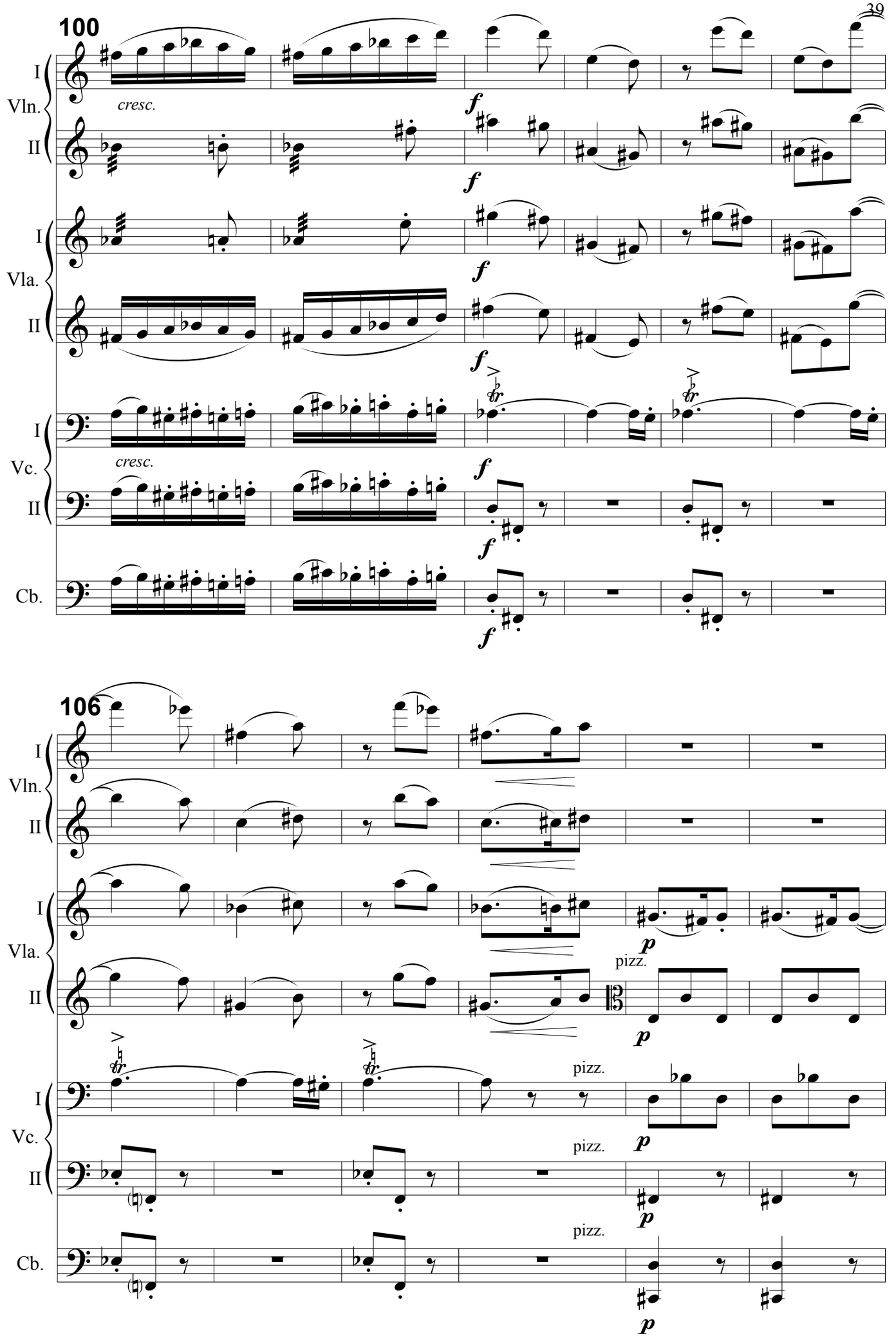

61
I
Vln.
II
arco
I
Vla.
II
arco
I
Vc.
II
pizz.
pizz.
Cb.

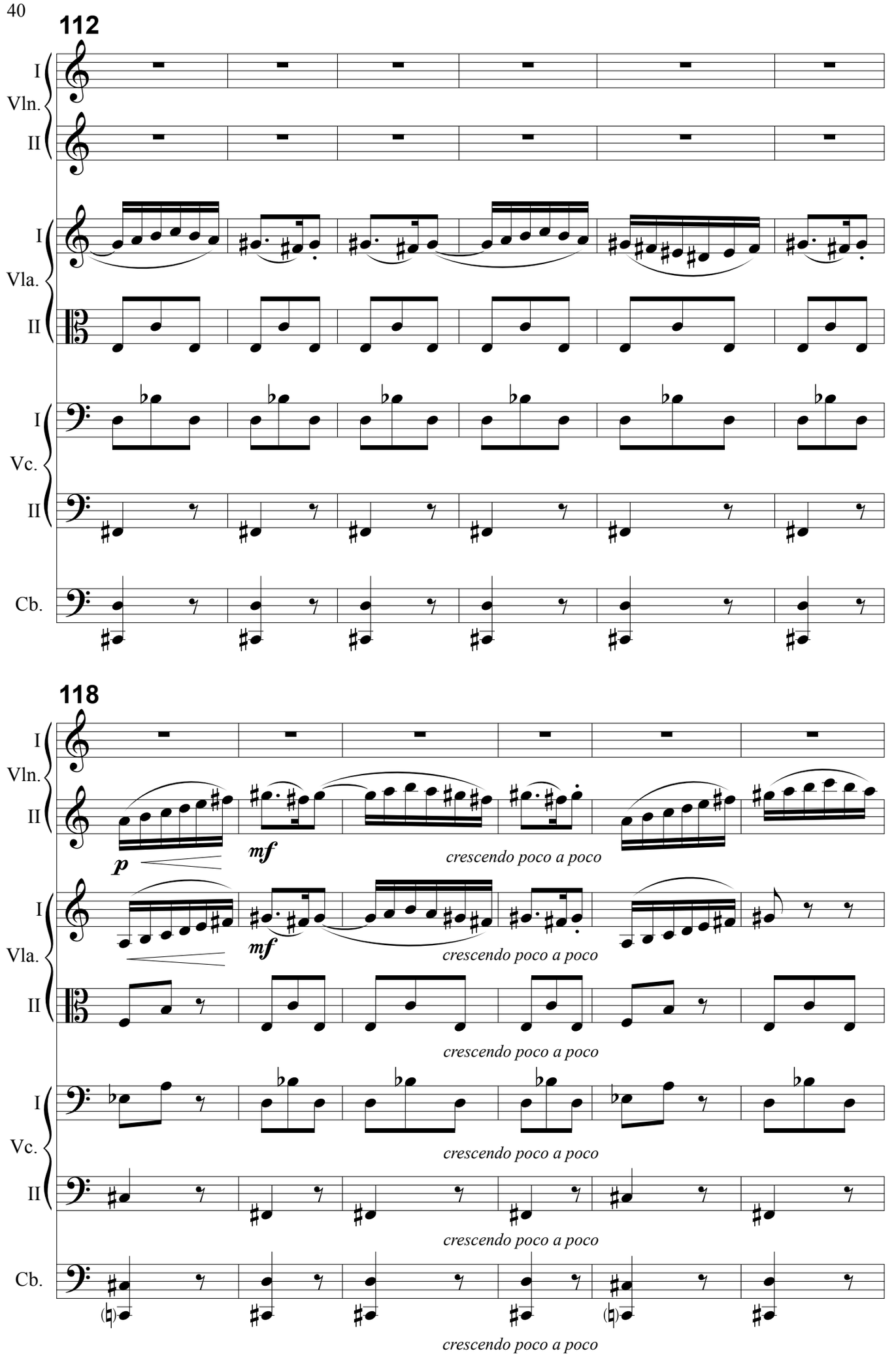

66
I
Vln.
II
cresc.
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
arco
mf
arco
Cb.
mf

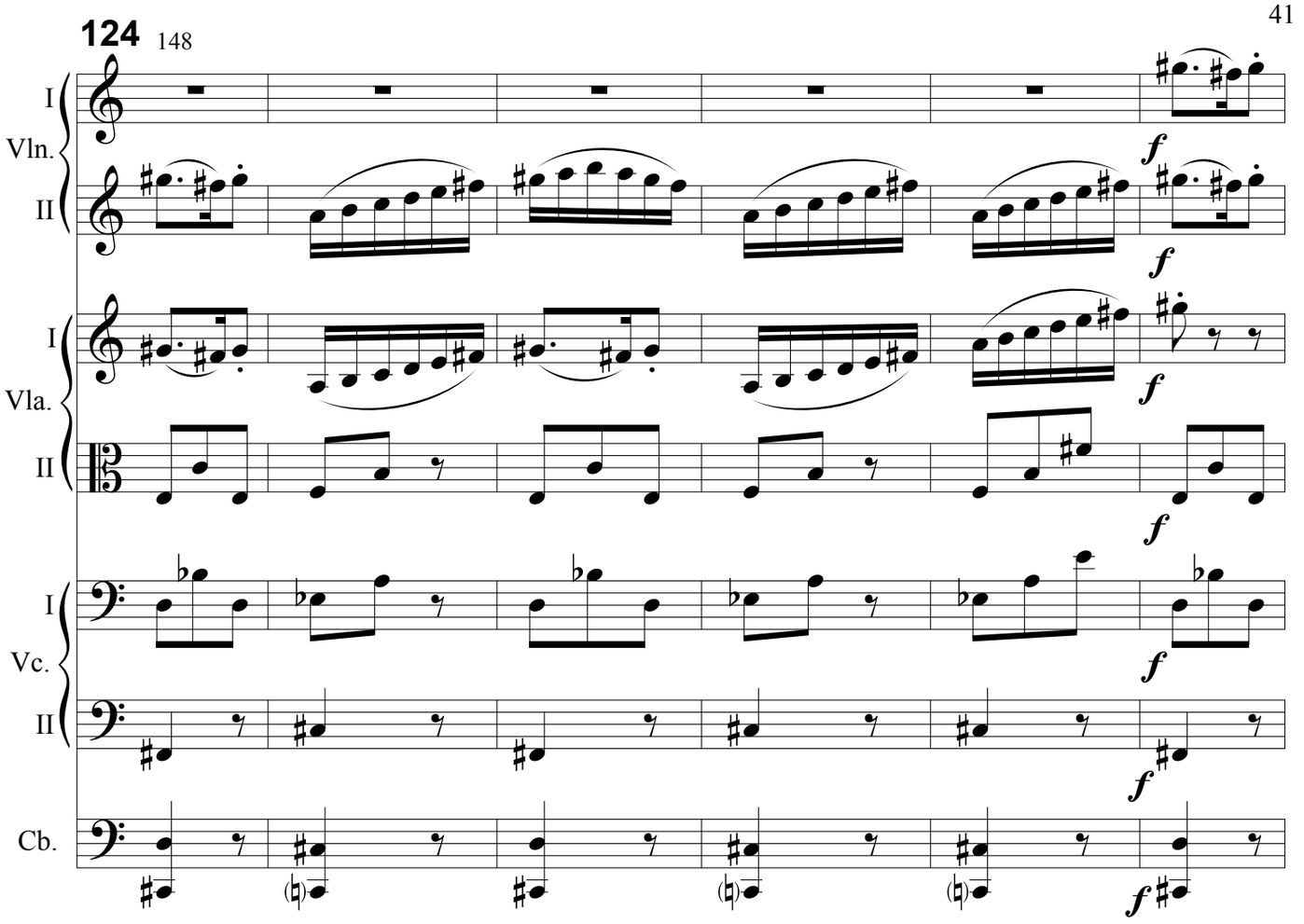

73
I
Vln.
II
f
cresc.
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
78
ff
3

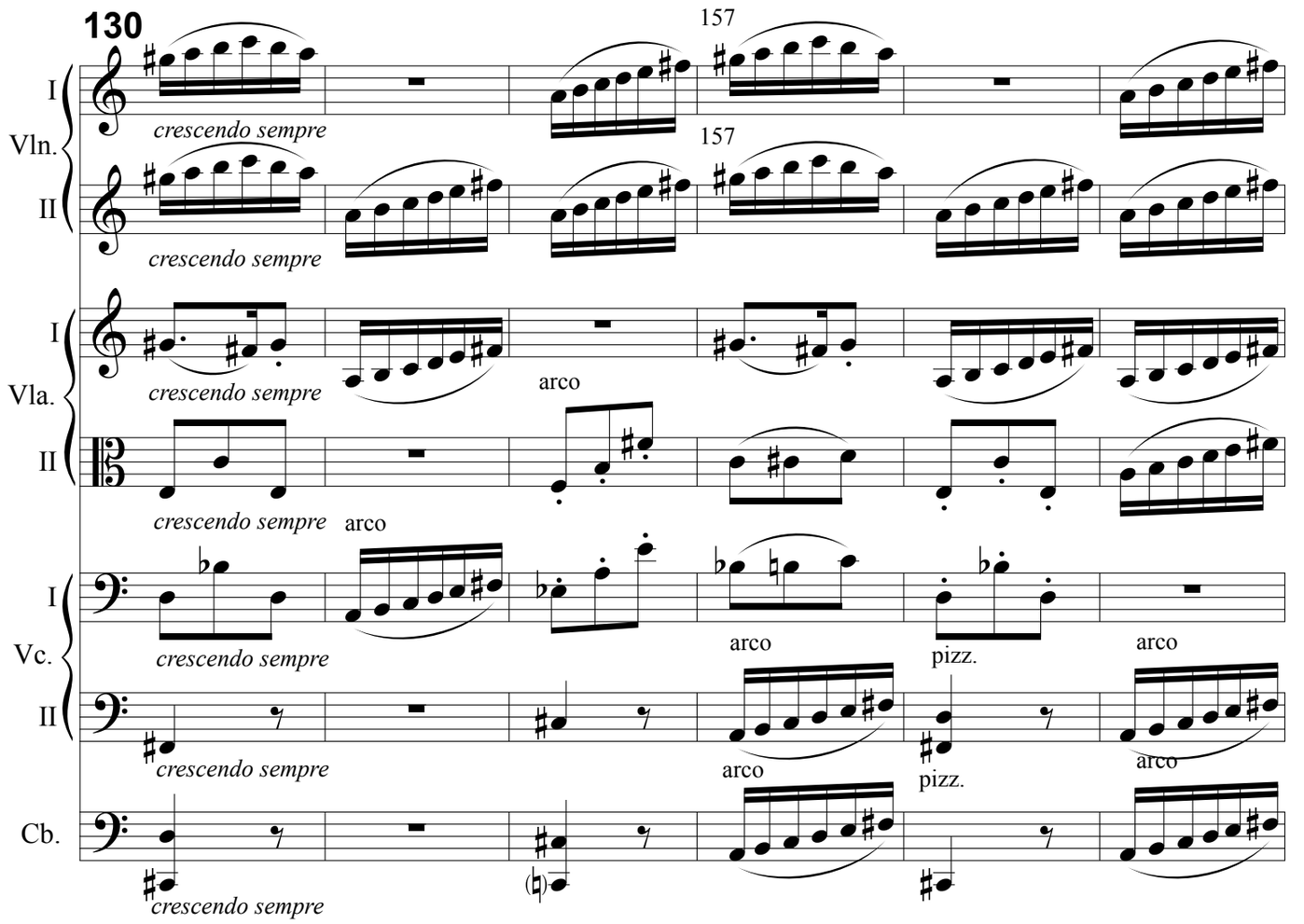

84
ritard.
a tempo
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla. I
Vla. II
Vc. I
Vc. II
Cb.
pizz.
arco

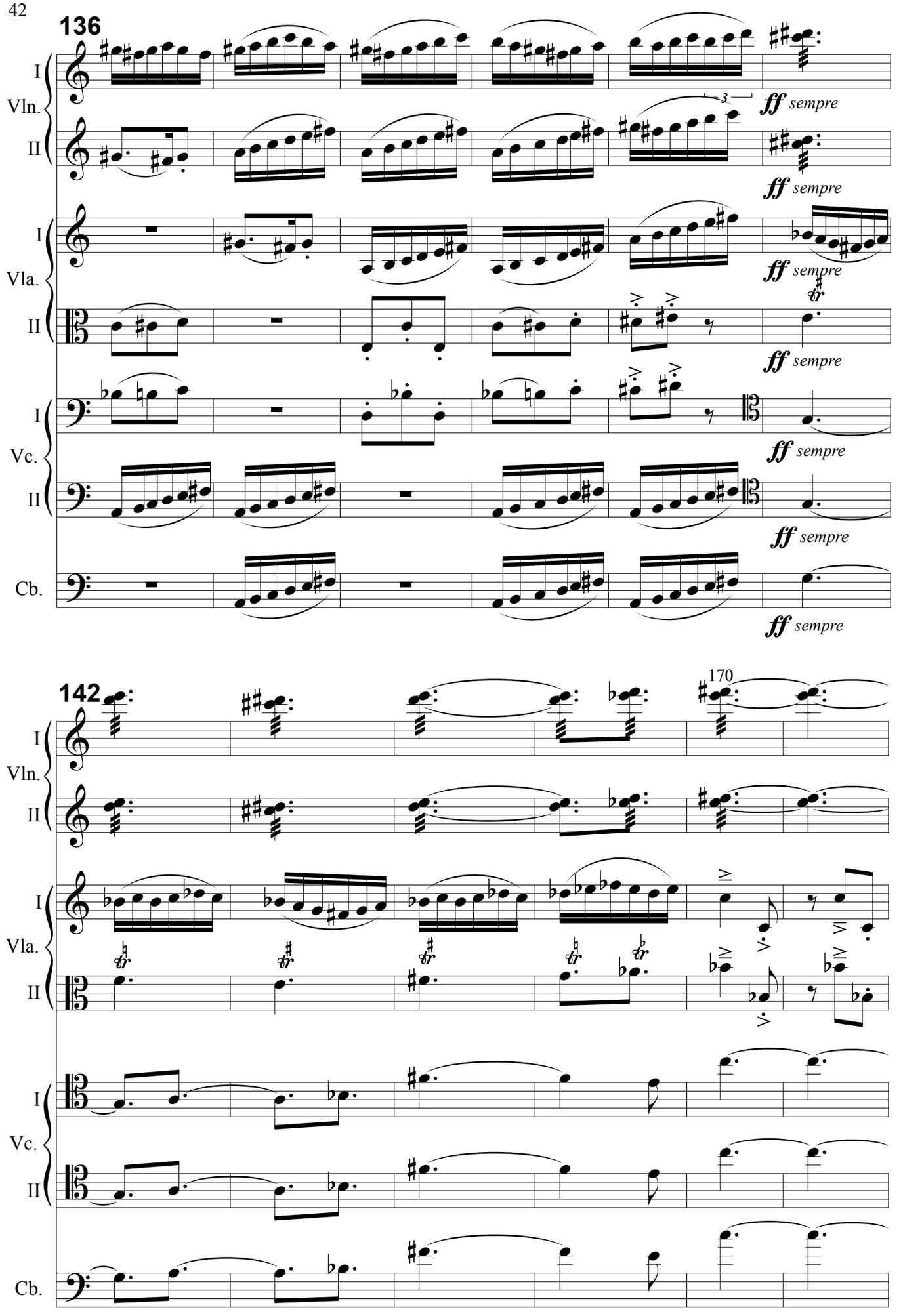

93
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla. I
Vla. II
Vc. I
Vc. II
Cb.
crescendo

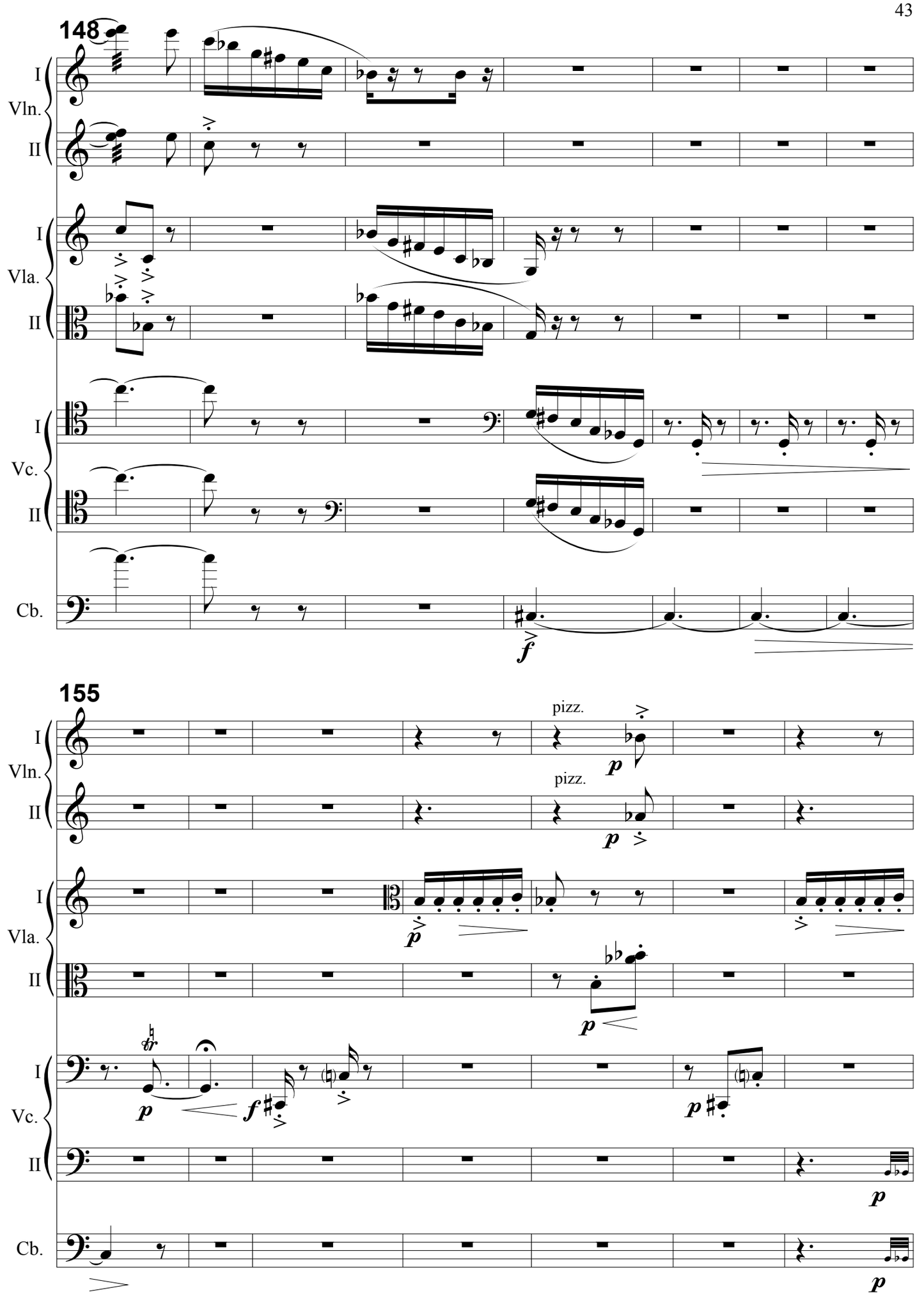

100
I
Vln.
II
cresc.
f
I
Vla.
II
f
I
Vc.
II
cresc.
f
Cb.
106
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
p
pizz.
I
Vc.
II
pizz.
Cb.
pizz.

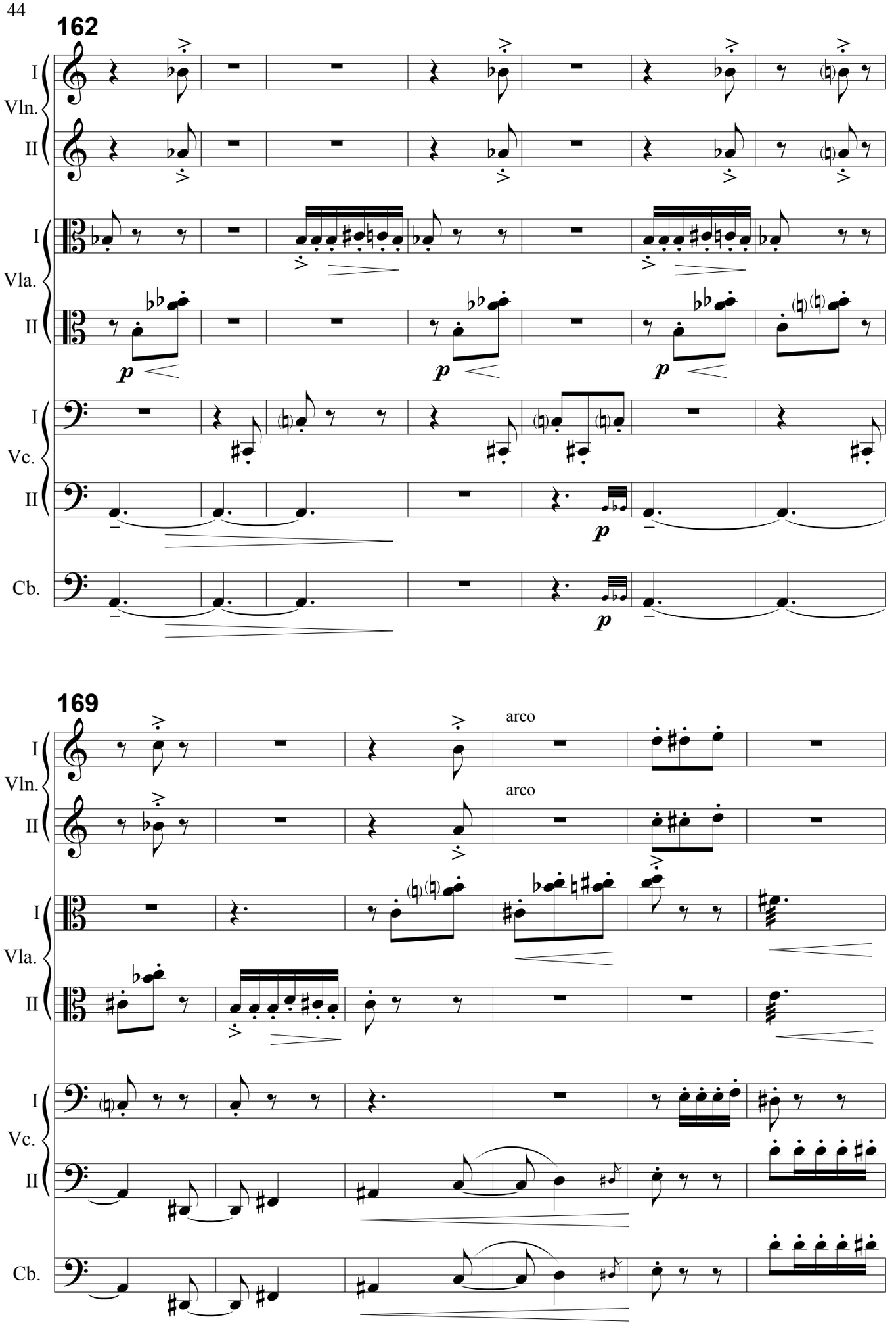

112
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
118
I
Vln.
II
p
mf
crescendo poco a poco
I
Vla.
II
mf
crescendo poco a poco
crescendo poco a poco
I
Vc.
II
crescendo poco a poco
crescendo poco a poco
Cb.
crescendo poco a poco

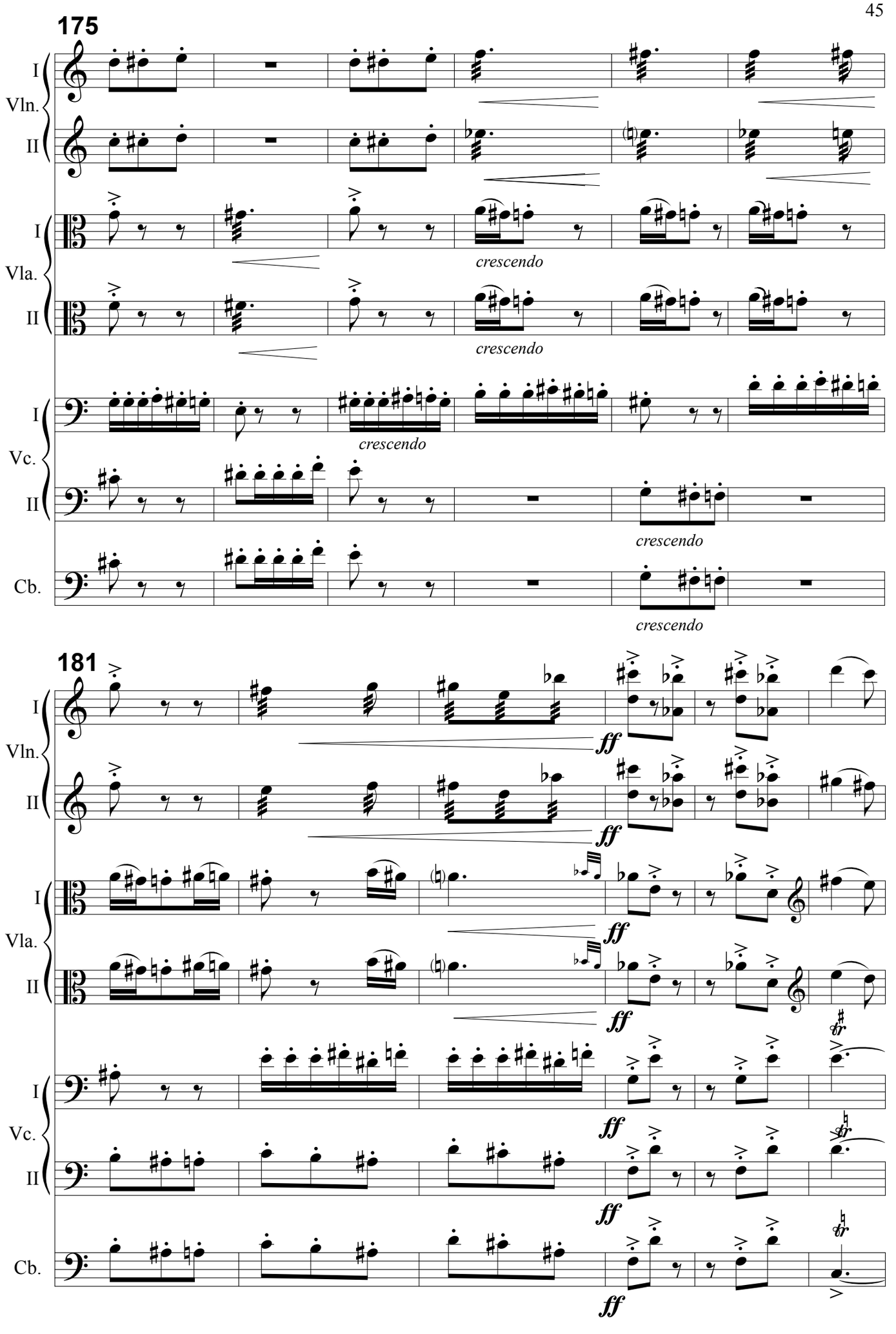

124
148
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
f

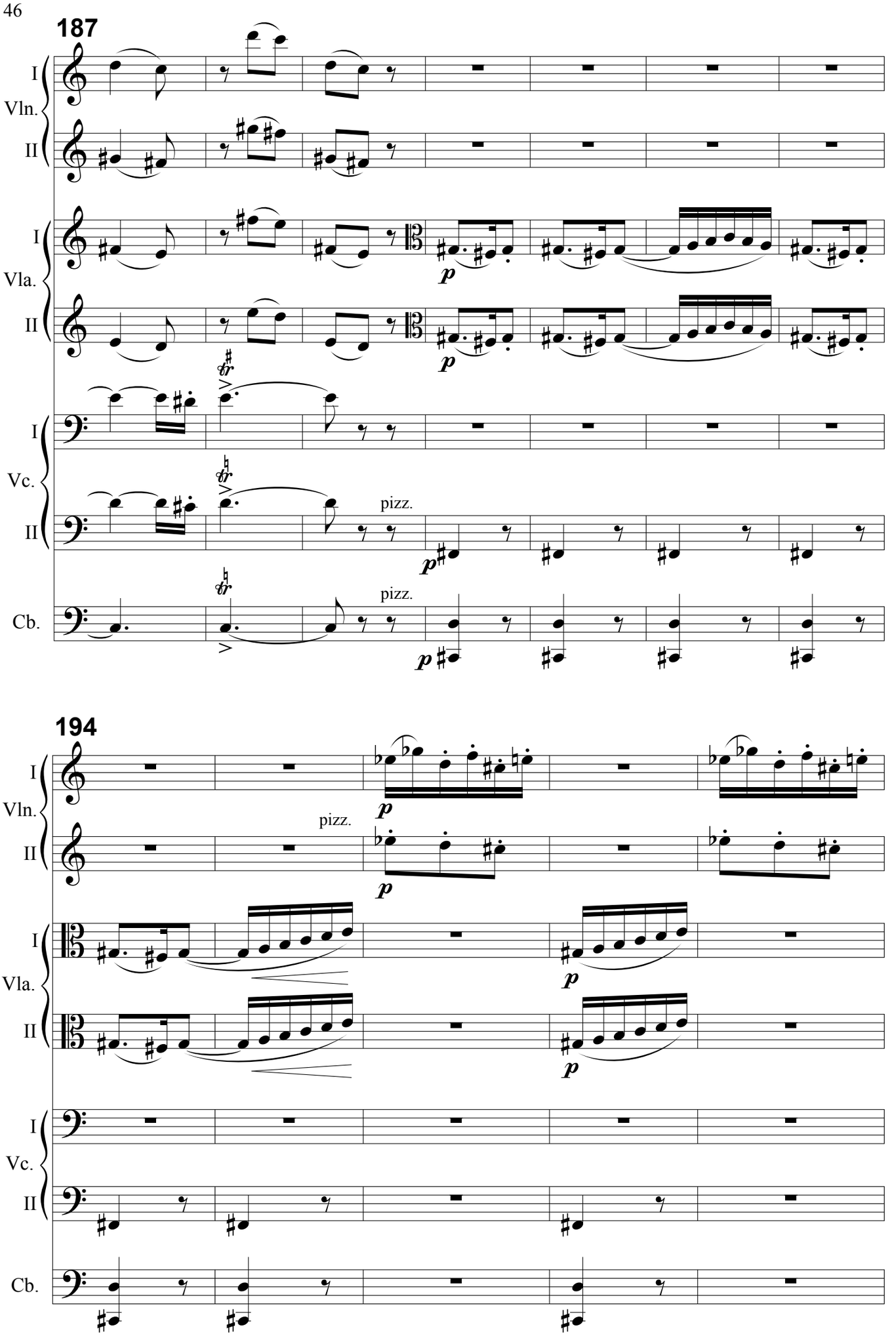

130
157
157
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
crescendo sempre
arco
pizz.

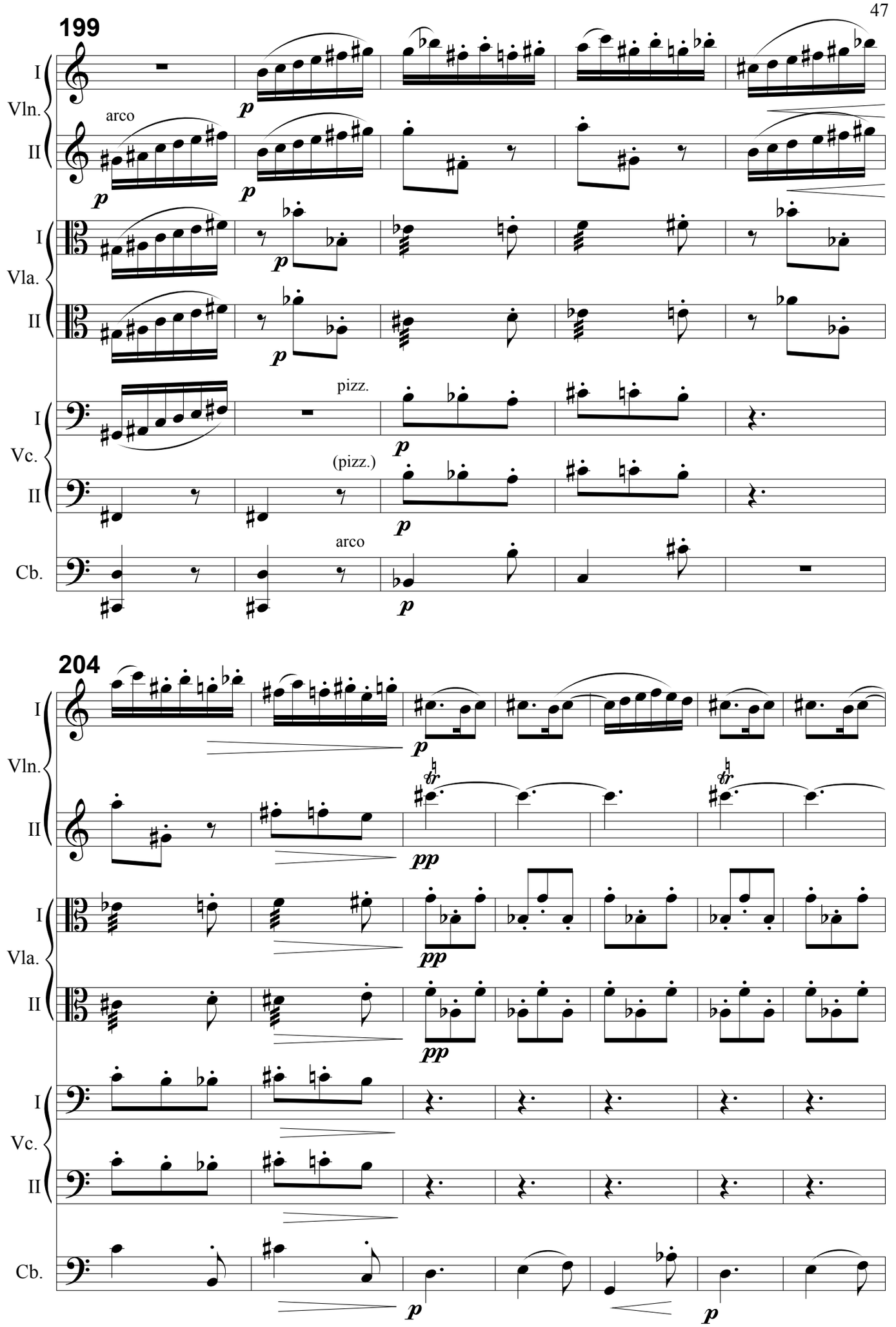

136
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
3
ff sempre
142
170

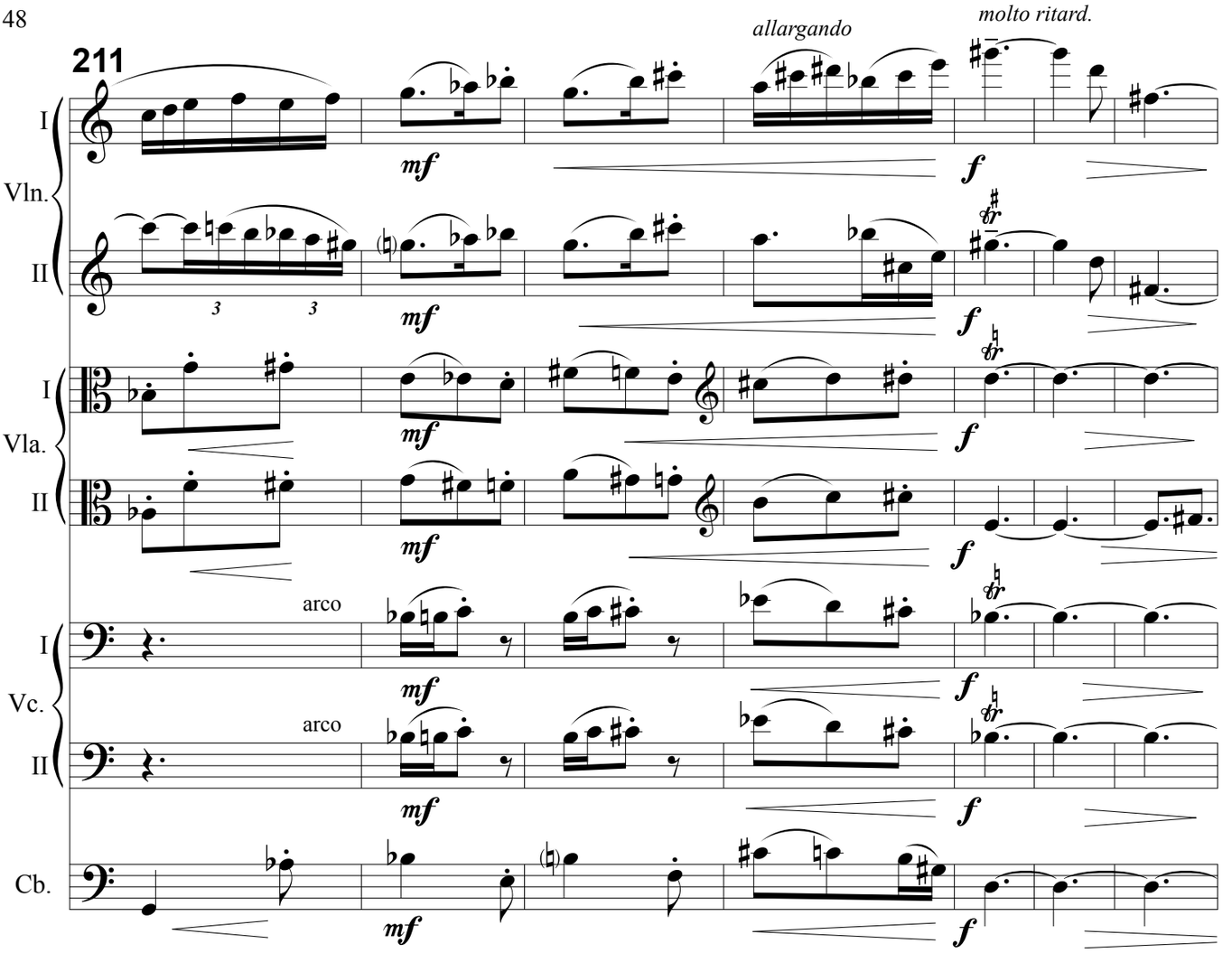

148
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
f
155
pizz.
p
pizz.
p
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
p
I
Vc.
II
p
f
p
p
Cb.
p

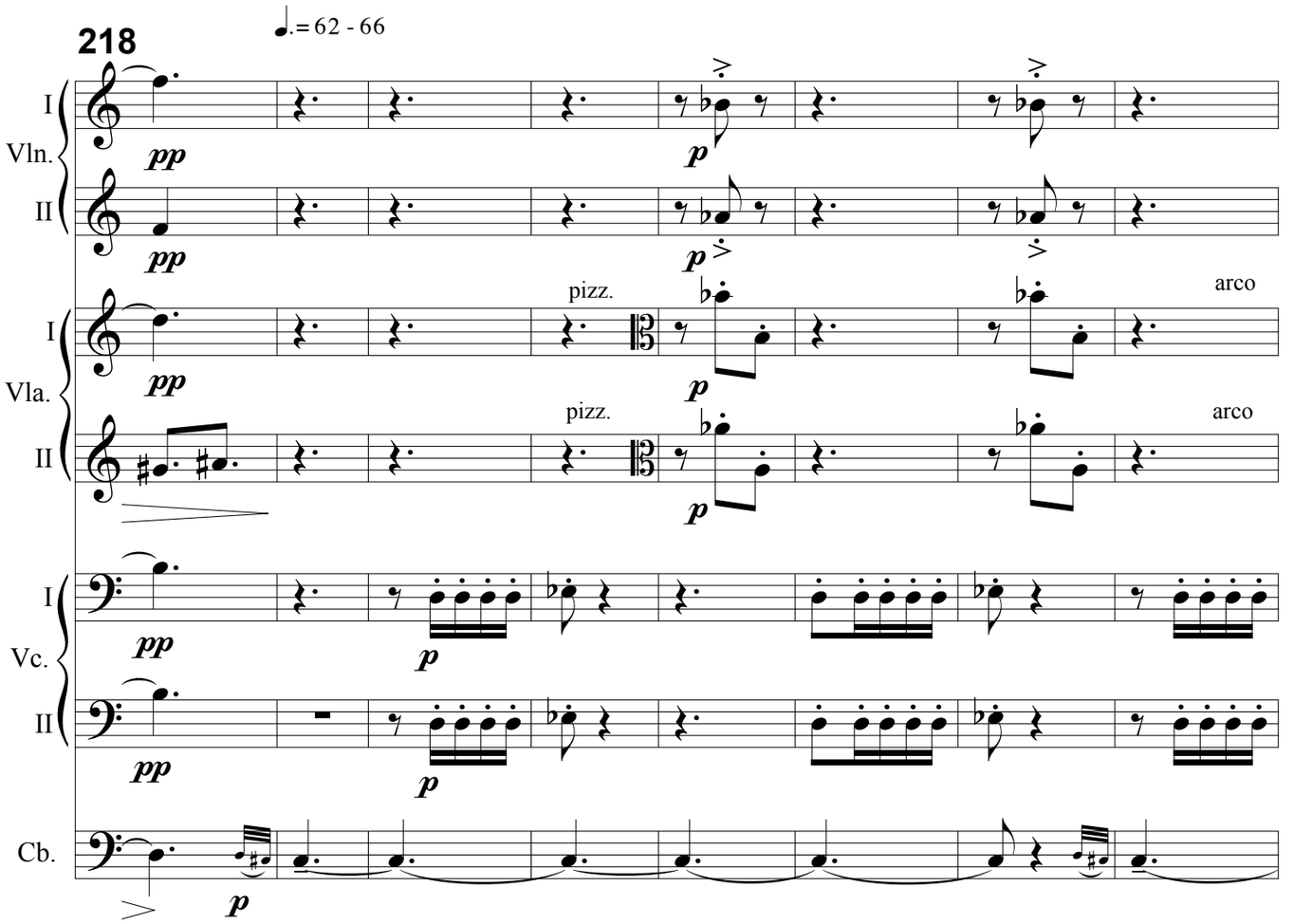

162
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
p
169
arco
arco

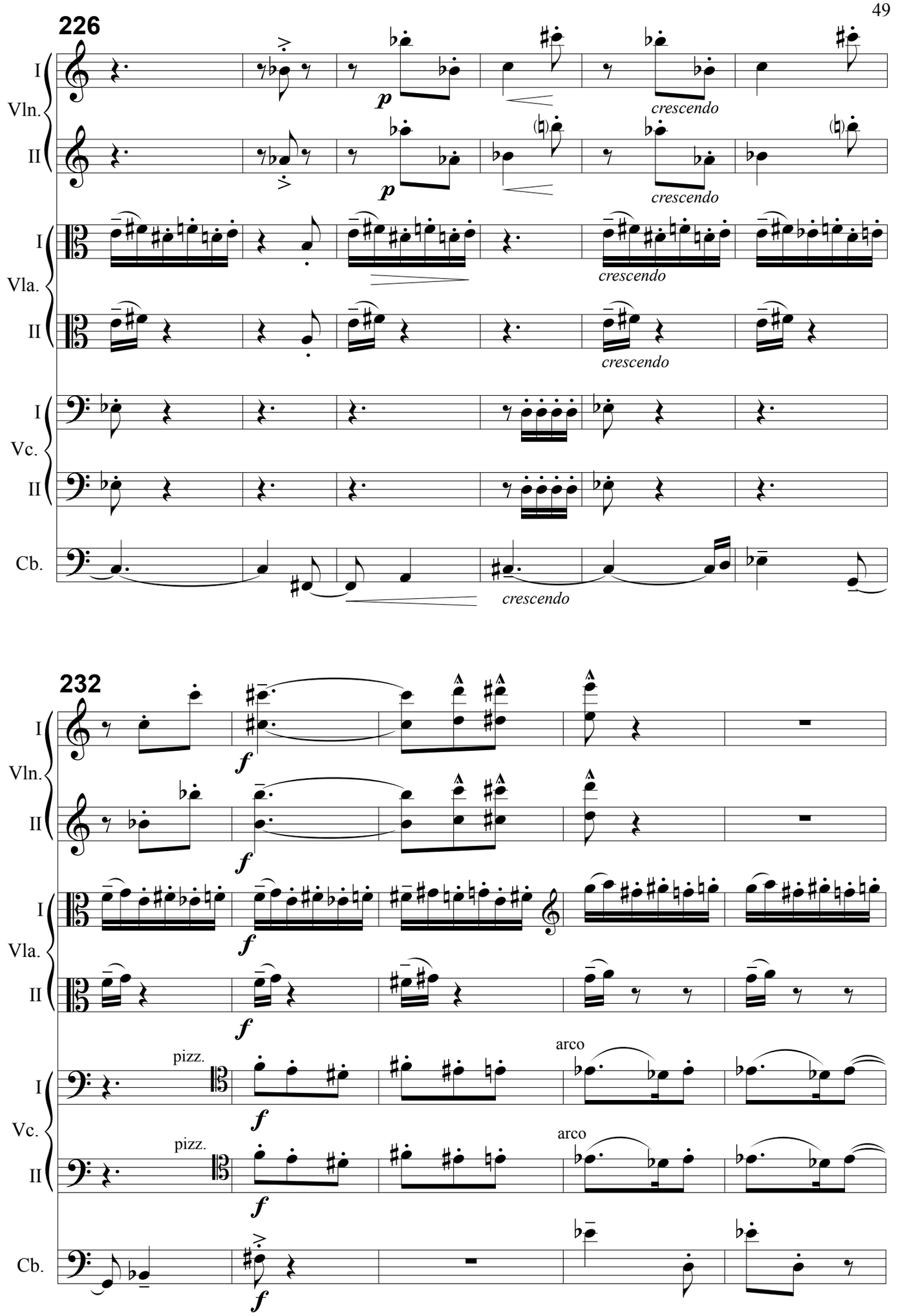

175
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
crescendo
crescendo
I
Vc.
II
crescendo
crescendo
Cb.
crescendo
181
I
Vln.
II
ff
ff
I
Vla.
II
ff
ff
I
Vc.
II
ff
ff
Cb.
ff

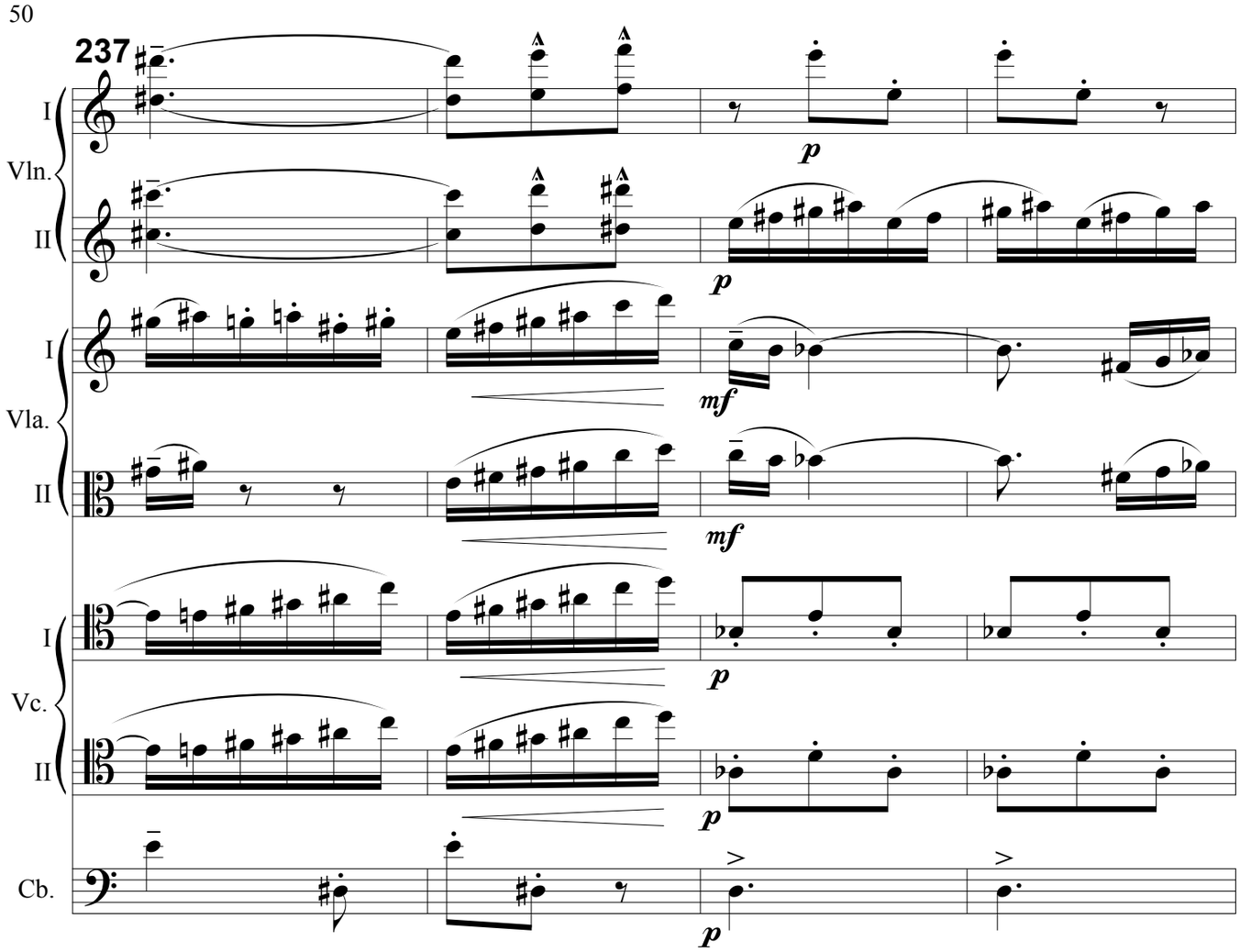

187
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
pizz.
Cb.
pizz.
194
I
Vln.
II
pizz.
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.

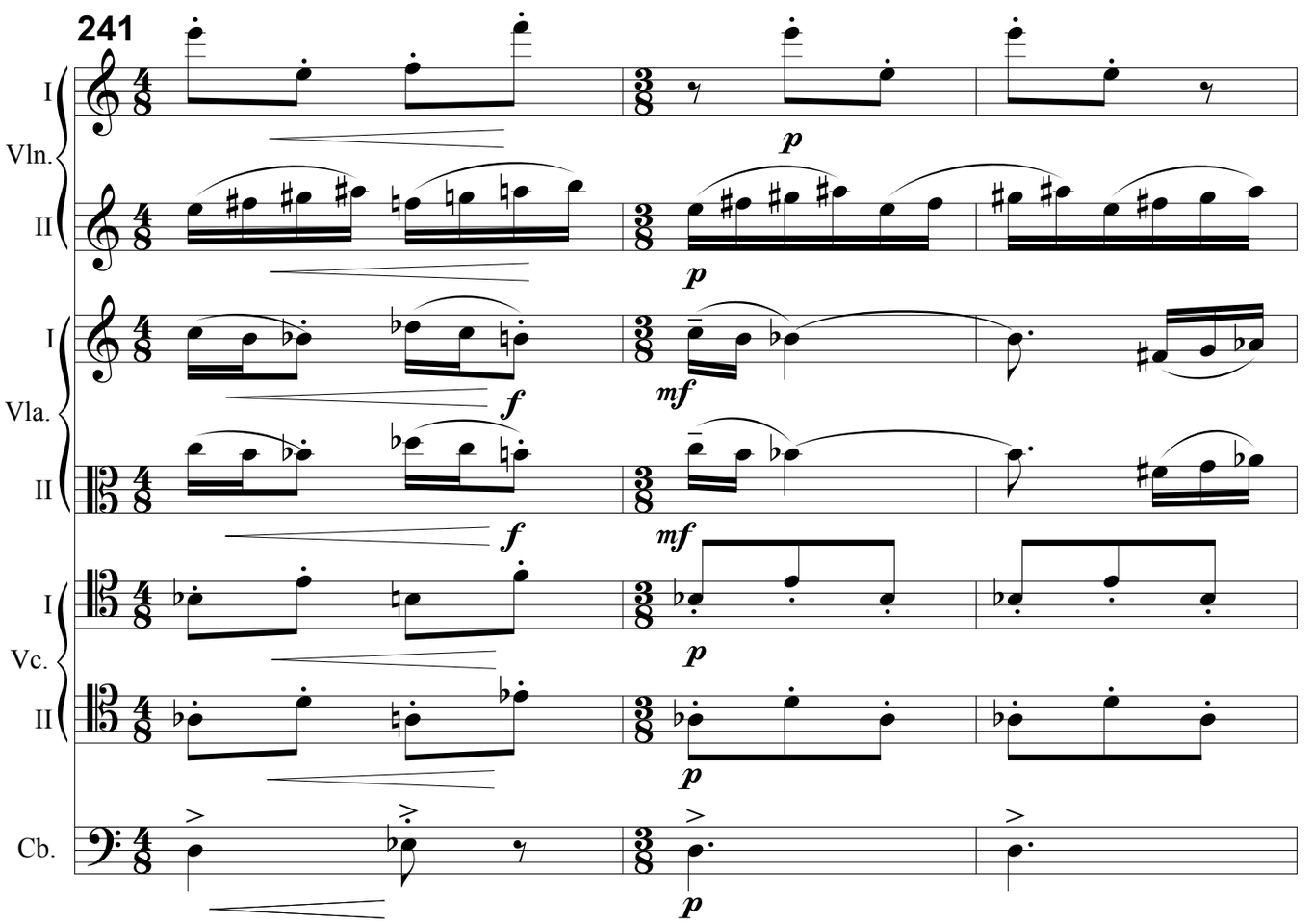

199
I
Vln.
II
arco
p
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
pizz.
(pizz.)
arco
Cb.
204
pp
tr

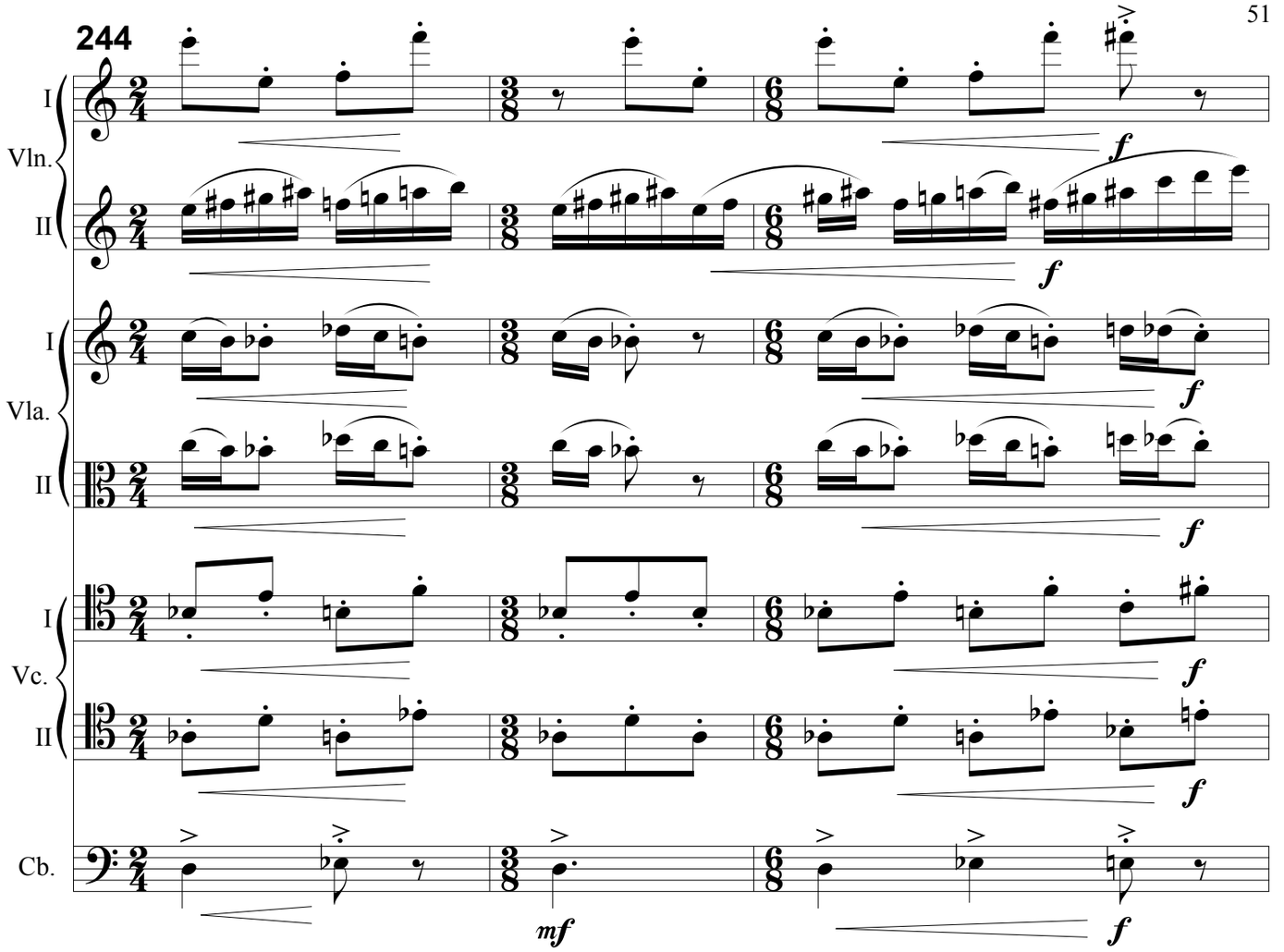

211
allargando
molto ritard.
I
Vln.
II
mf
f
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
arco
Cb.

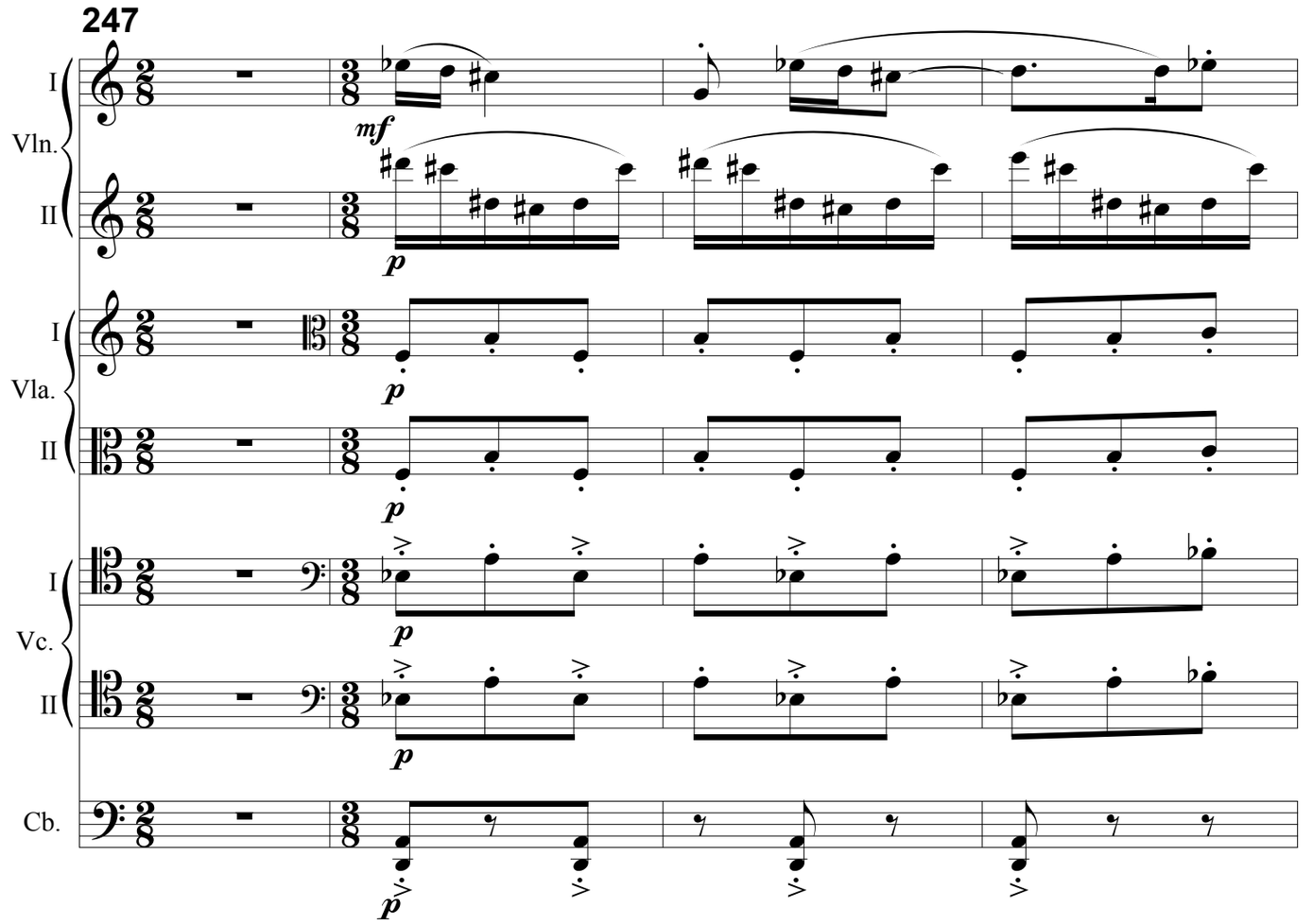

218
♩.= 62 - 66
I
Vln.
II
pp
p
pizz.
arco
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.

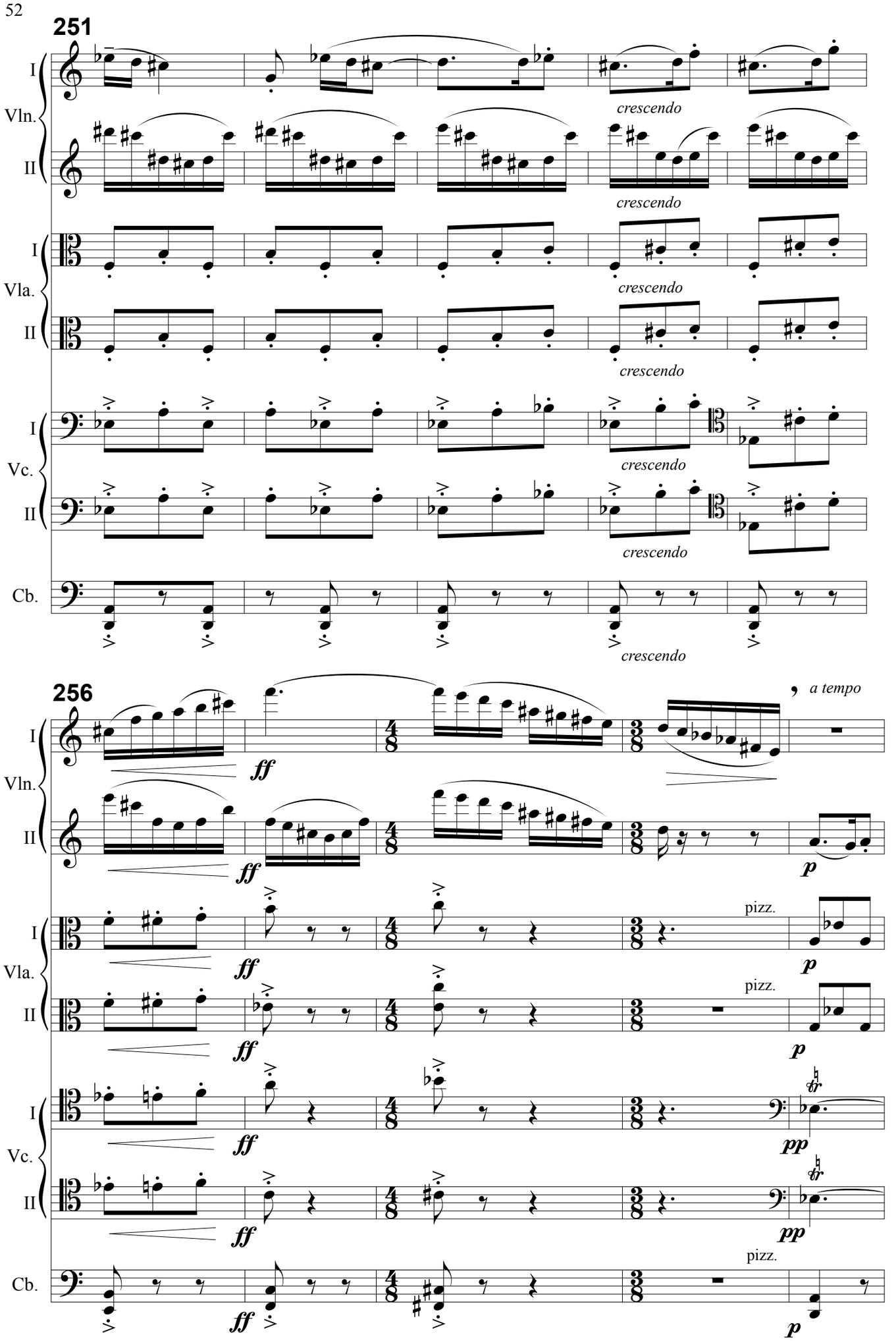

226
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
p
crescendo
232
f
pizz.
arco

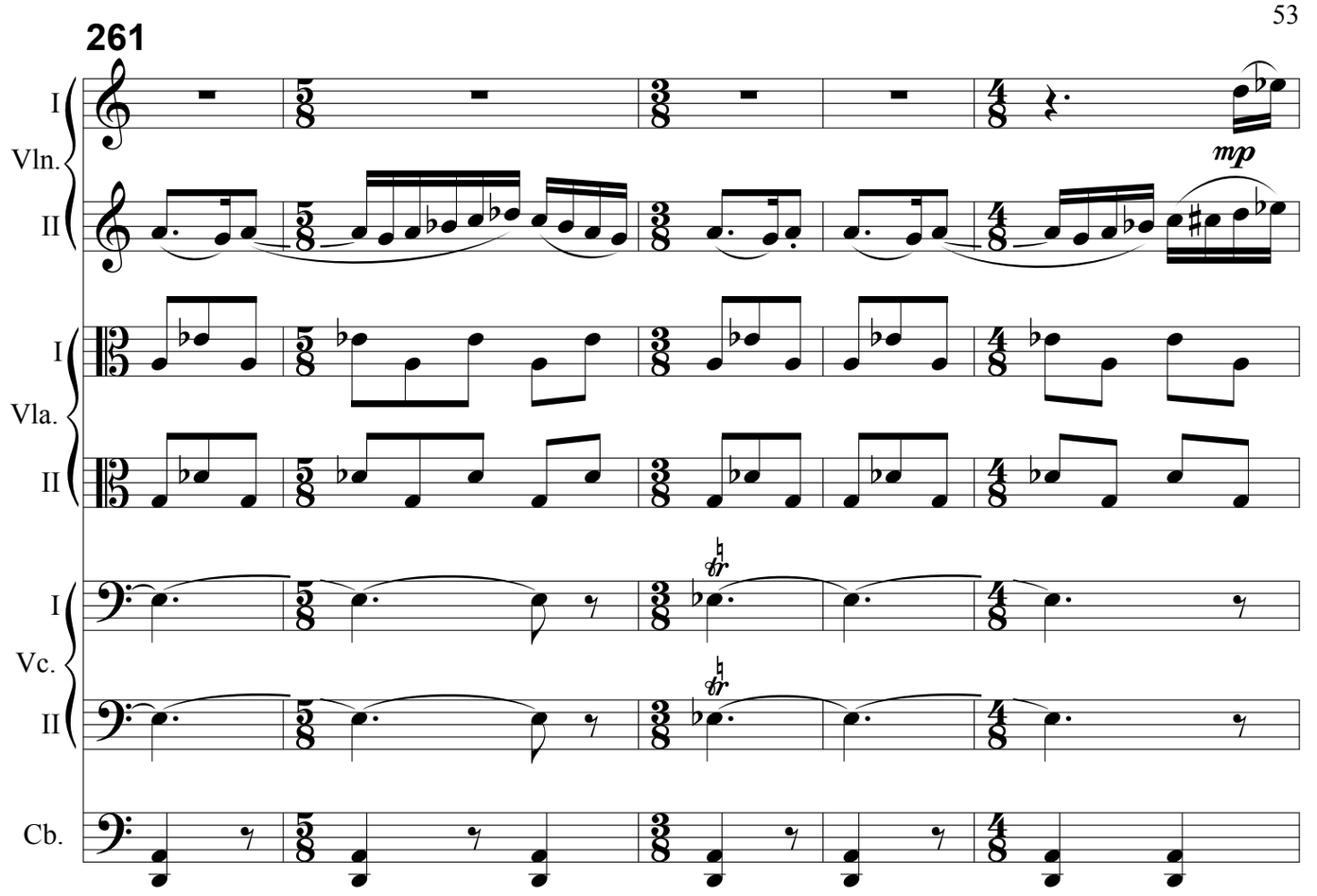

237
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
p
mf

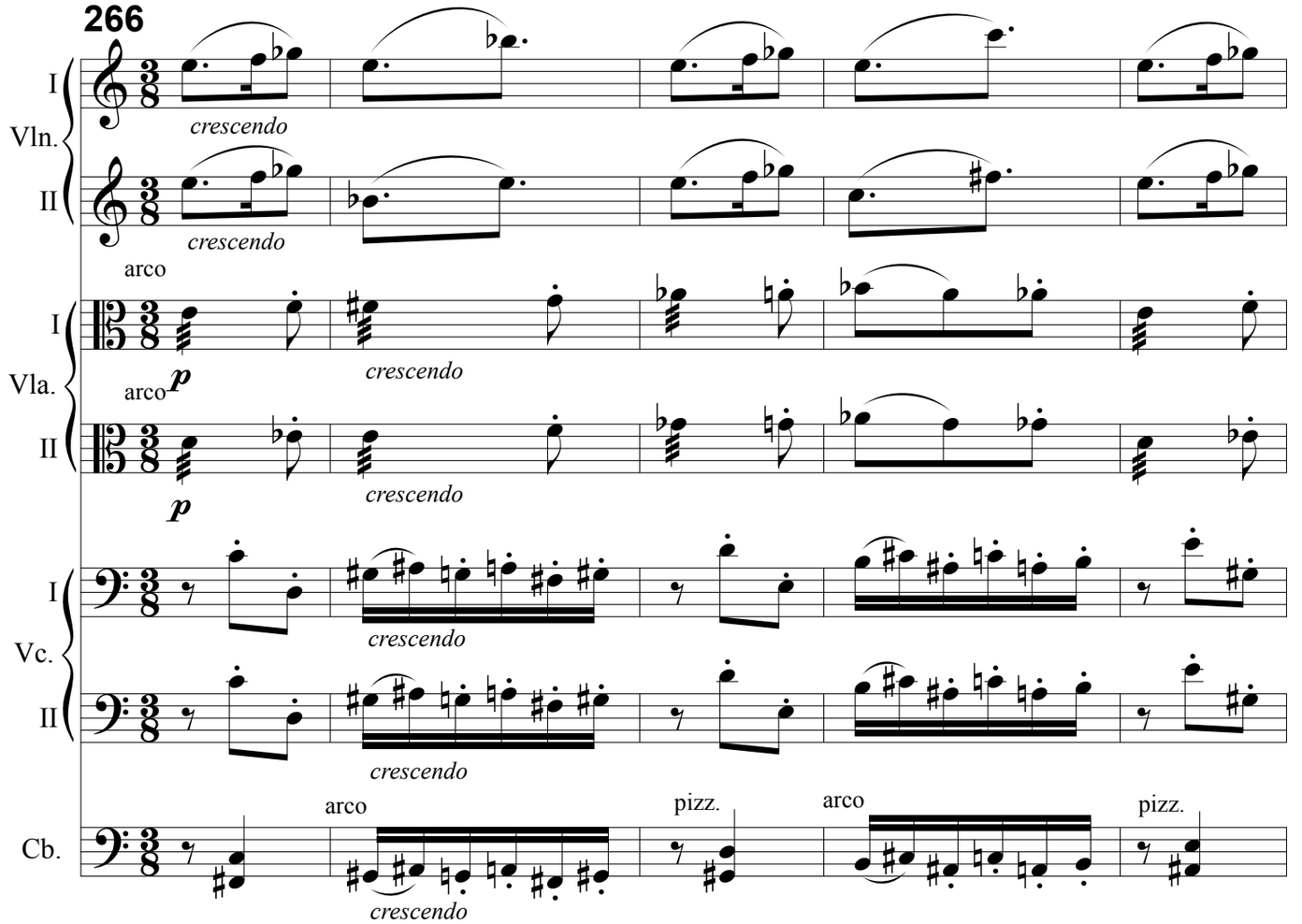

241
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
p
mf
f

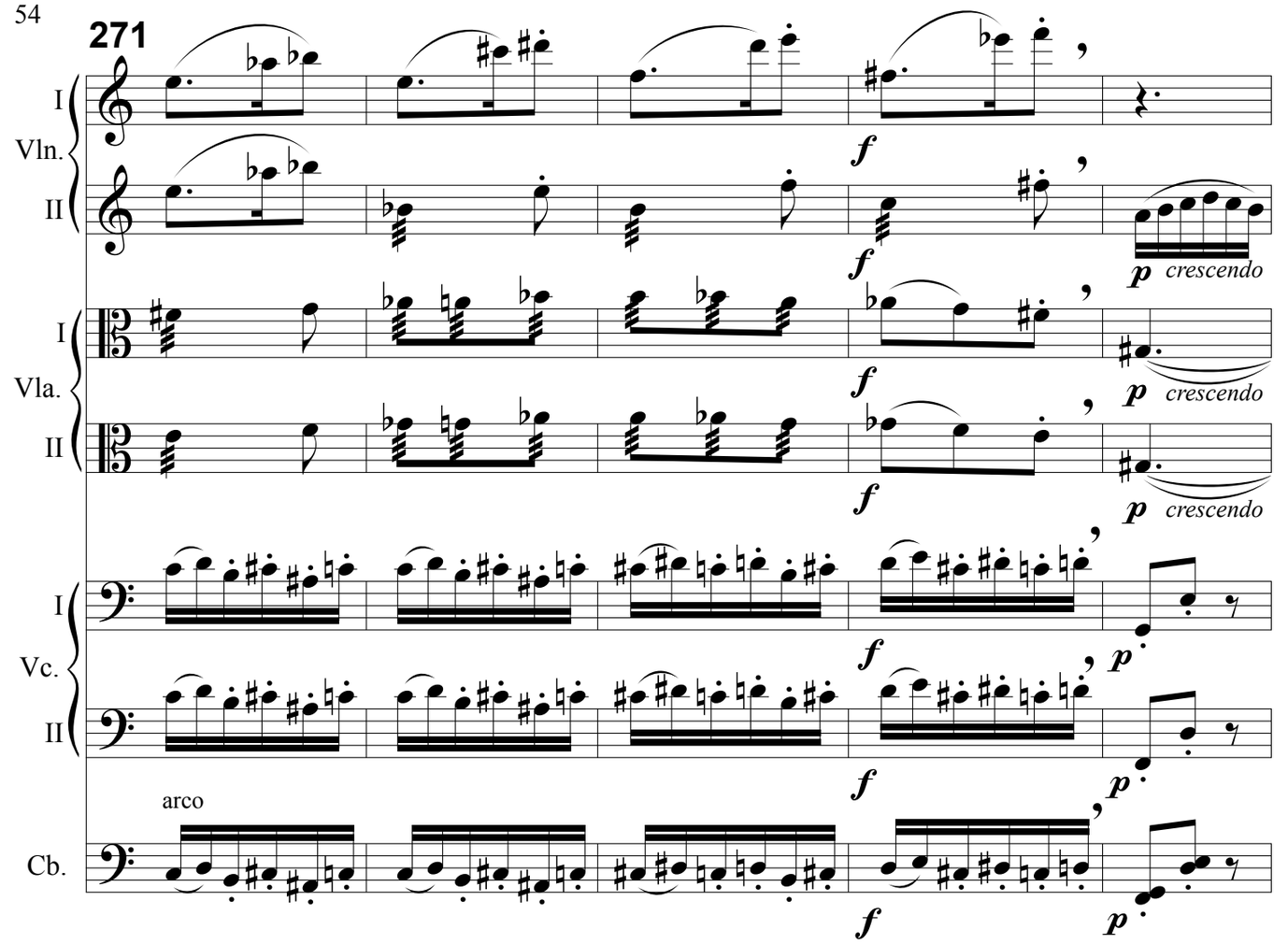

244
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
f
mf

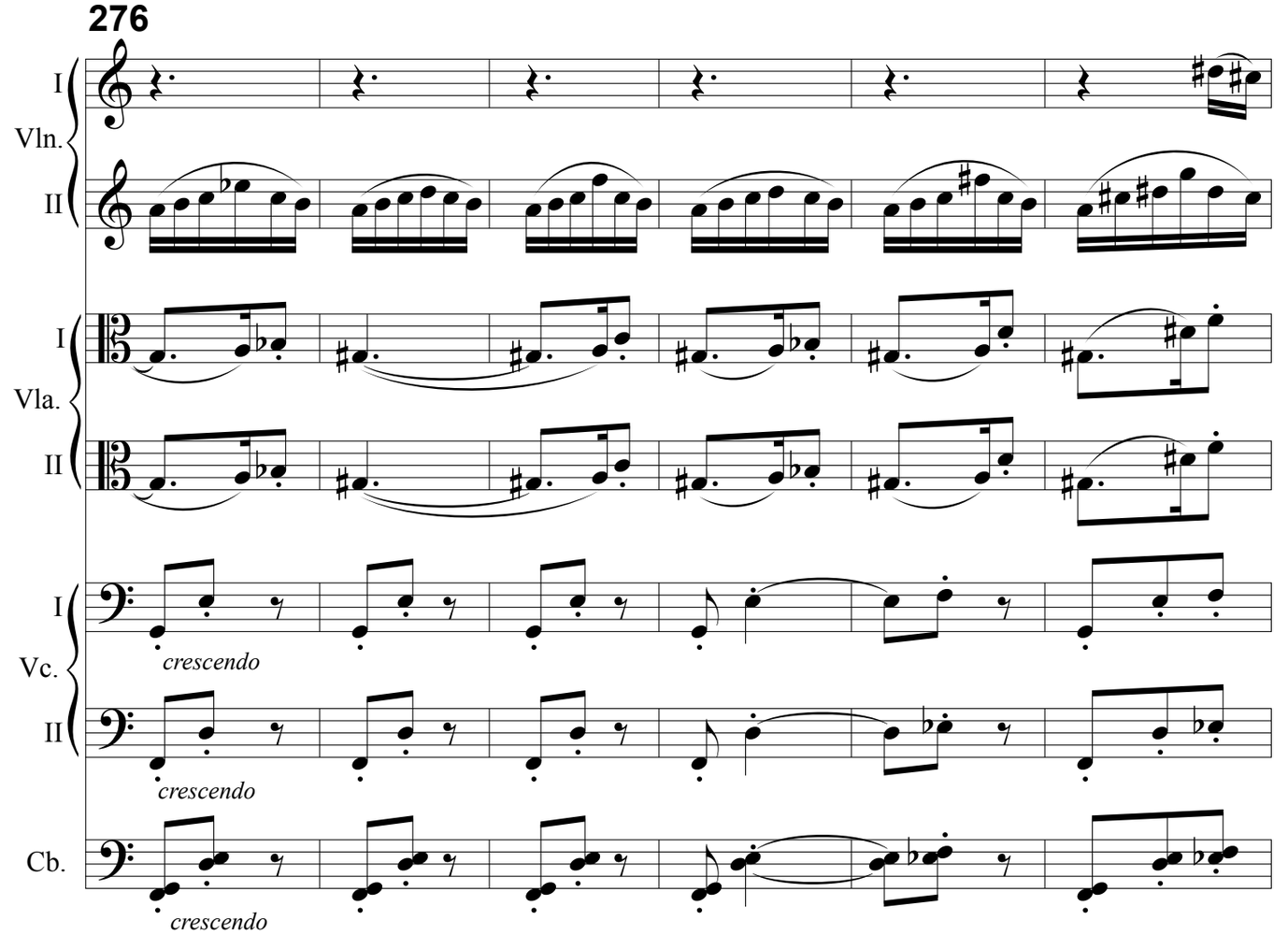

247
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
mf
p

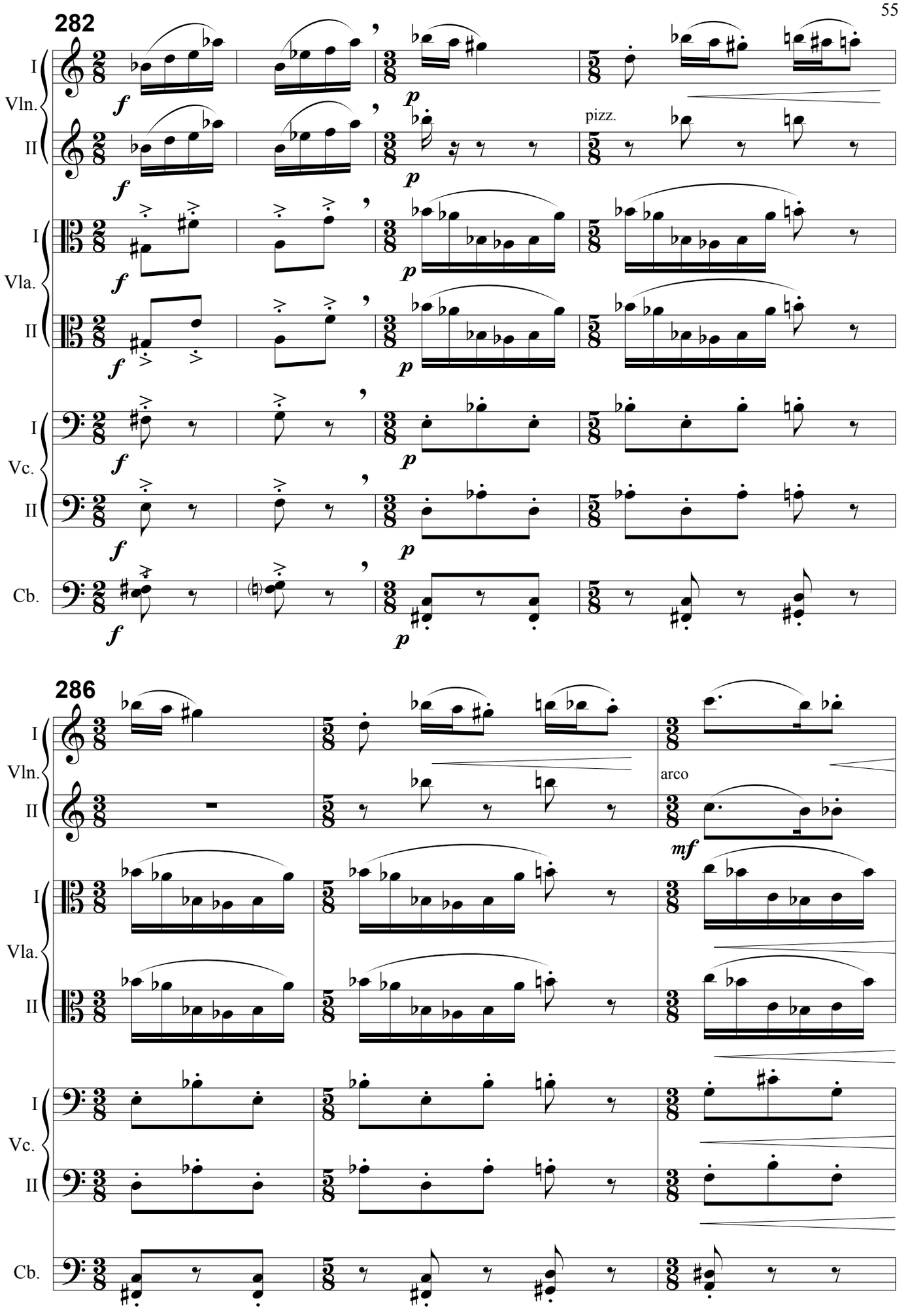

251
I
Vln.
II
crescendo
I
Vla.
II
crescendo
I
Vc.
II
crescendo
Cb.
crescendo
256
a tempo
ff
p
pizz.
pp

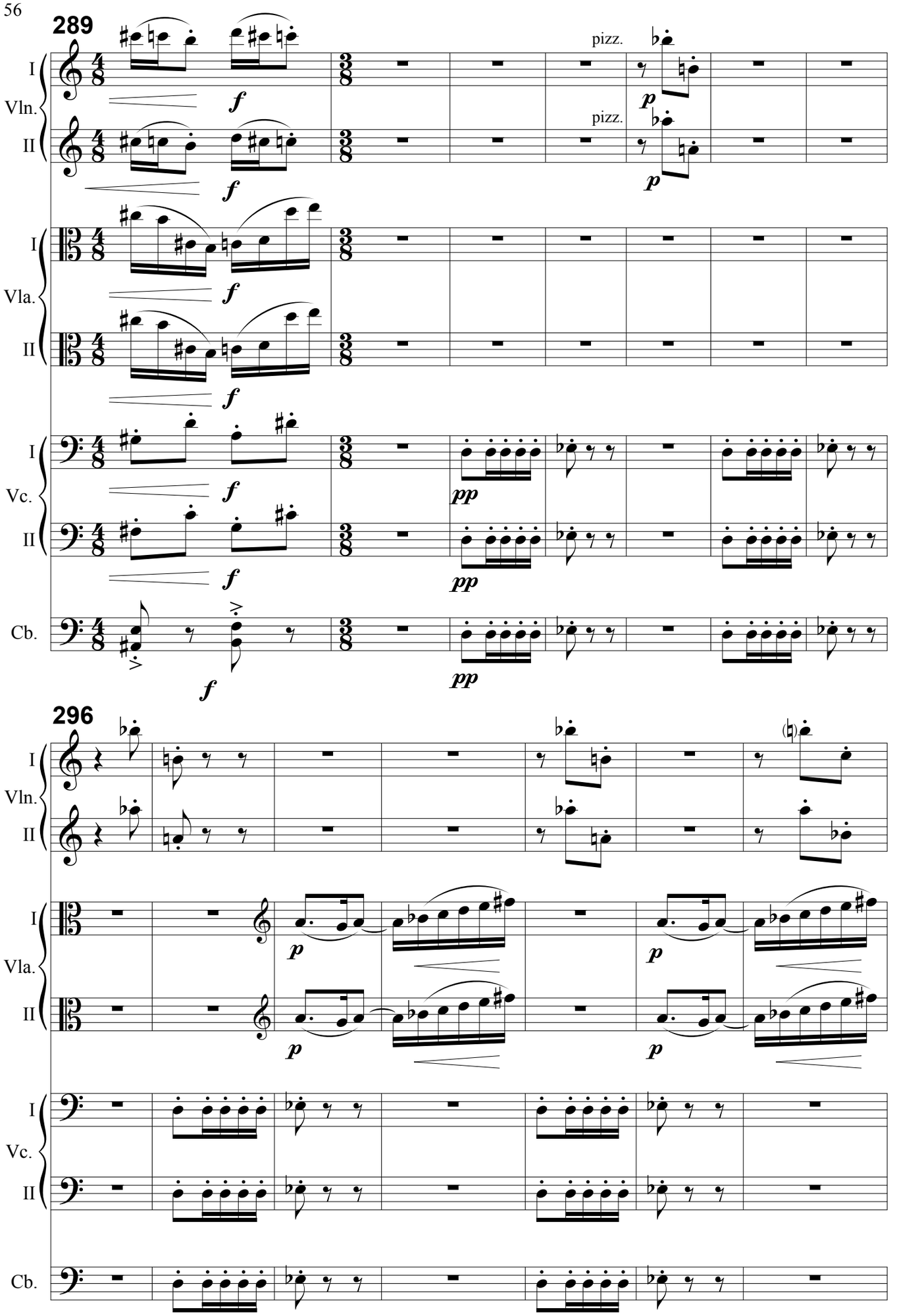

261
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
mp

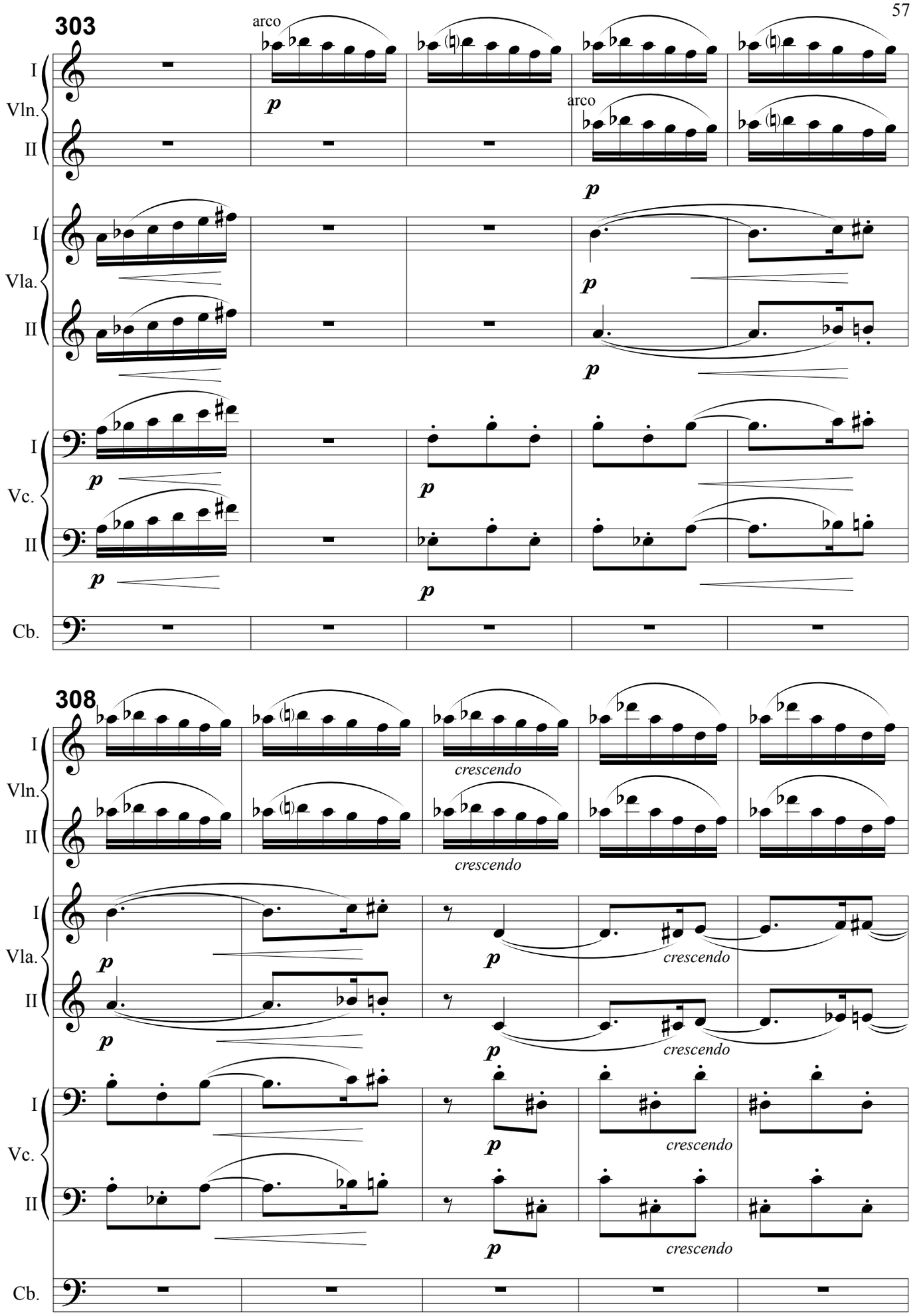

266
I
Vln.
II
crescendo
crescendo
arco
I
Vla.
arco
p
II
p
crescendo
crescendo
I
Vc.
II
crescendo
crescendo
Cb.
arco
crescendo
pizz.
arco
pizz.

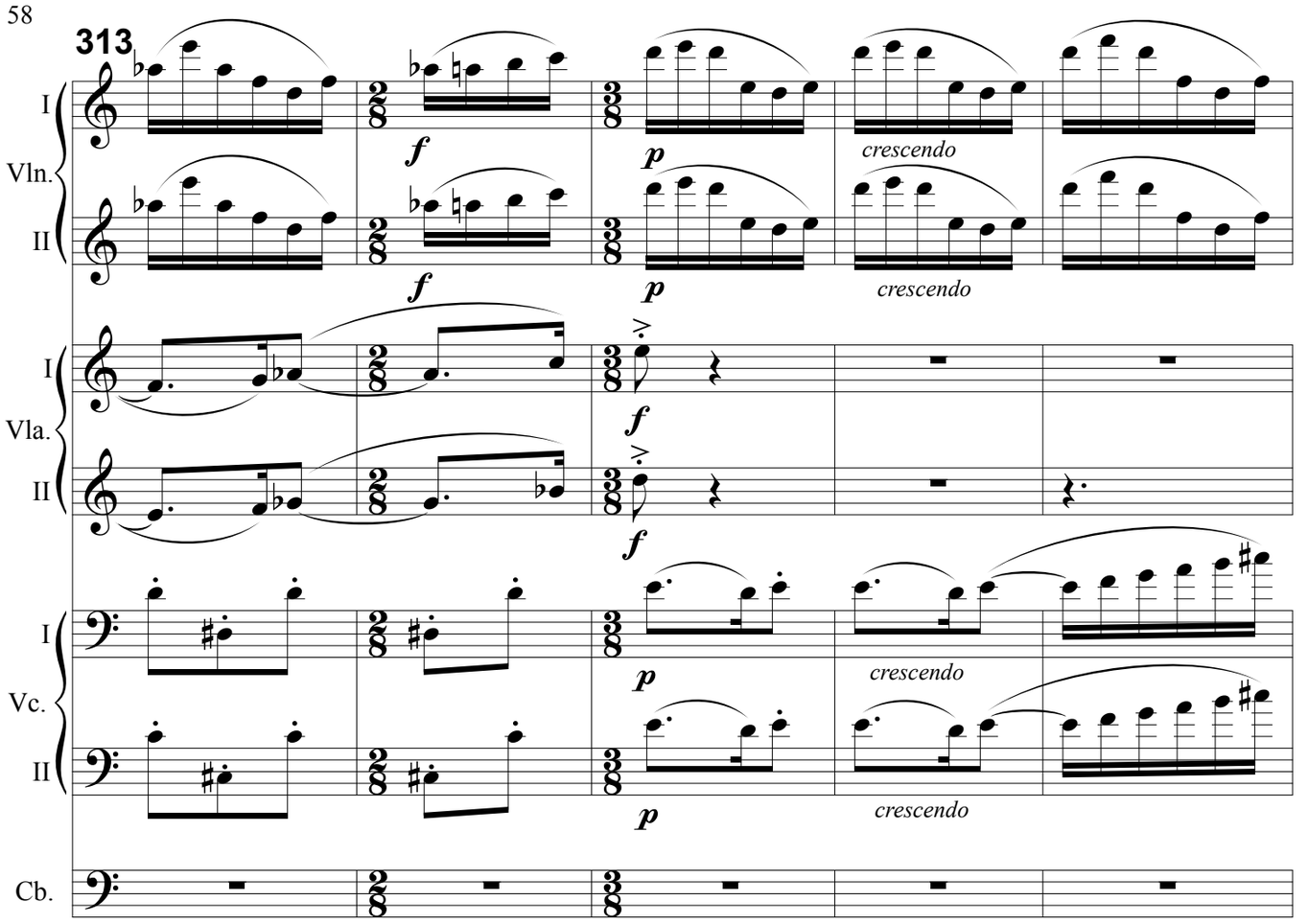

271
I
Vln.
II
f
p crescendo
I
Vla.
II
f
p crescendo
I
Vc.
II
f
p
arco
Cb.

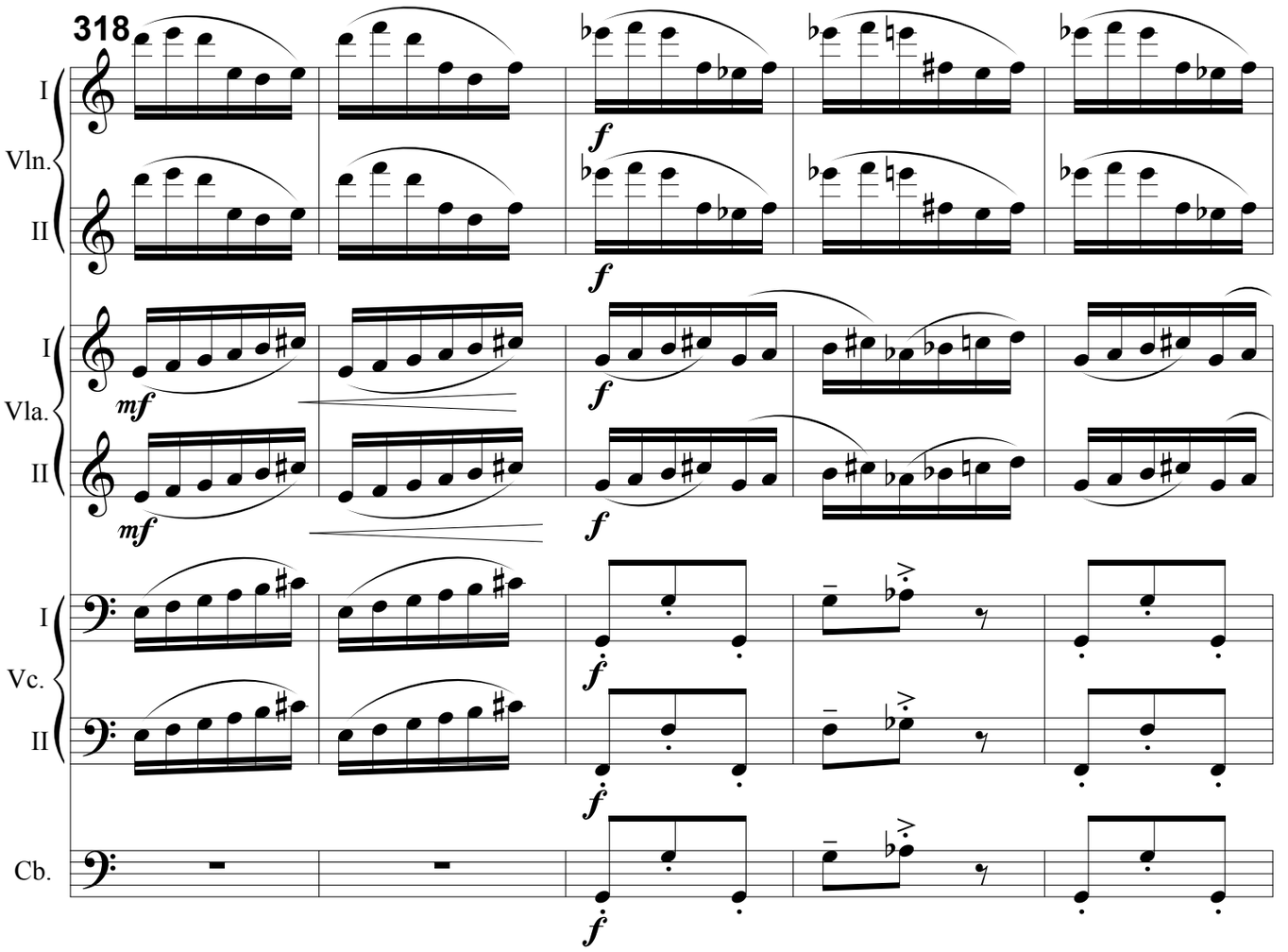

276
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
crescendo
Cb.
crescendo

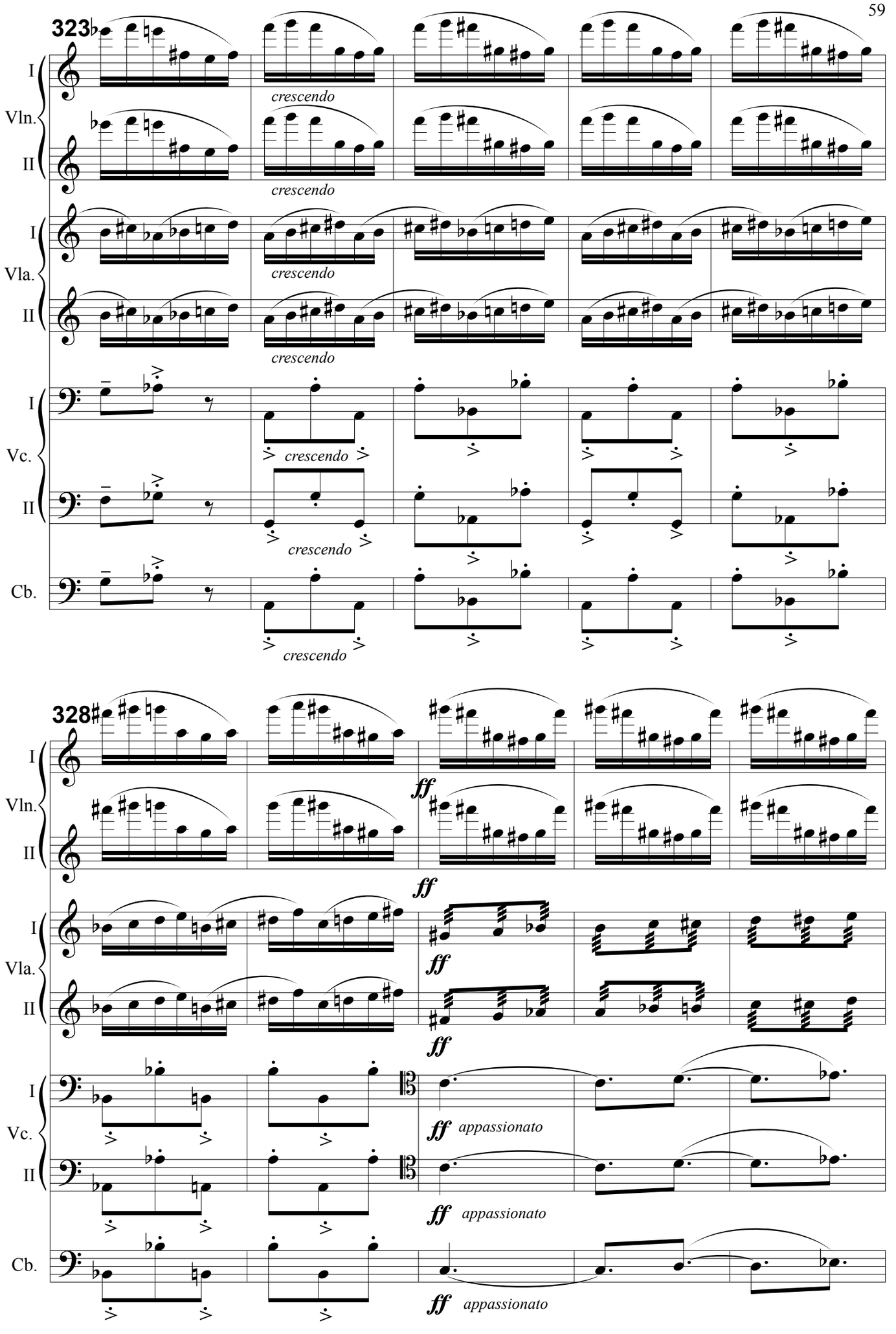

282
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
f
p
pizz.
286
arco
mf
crescendo

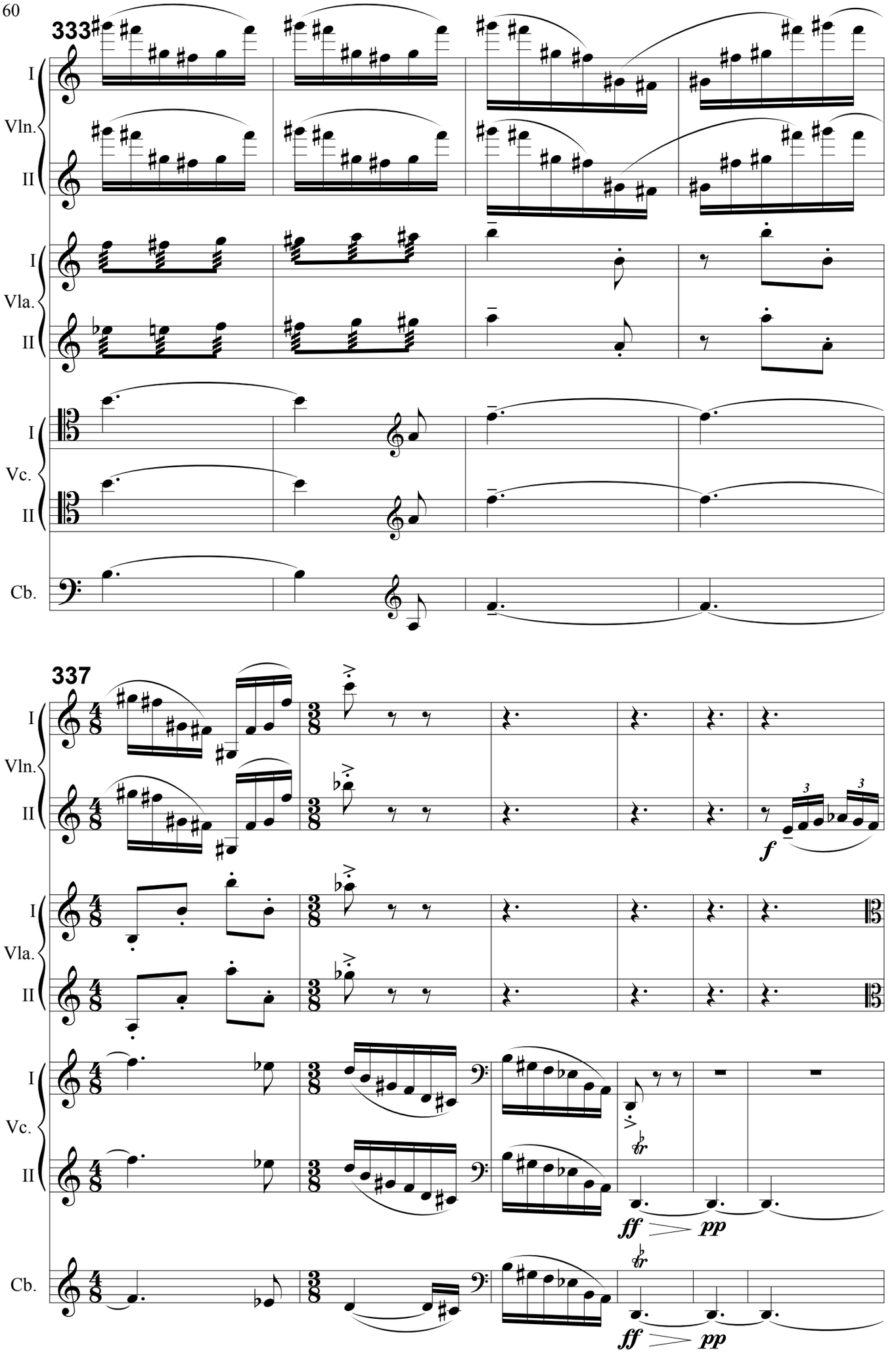

289
I
Vln.
II
pizz.
pizz.
f
p
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
pp
Cb.
296
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.

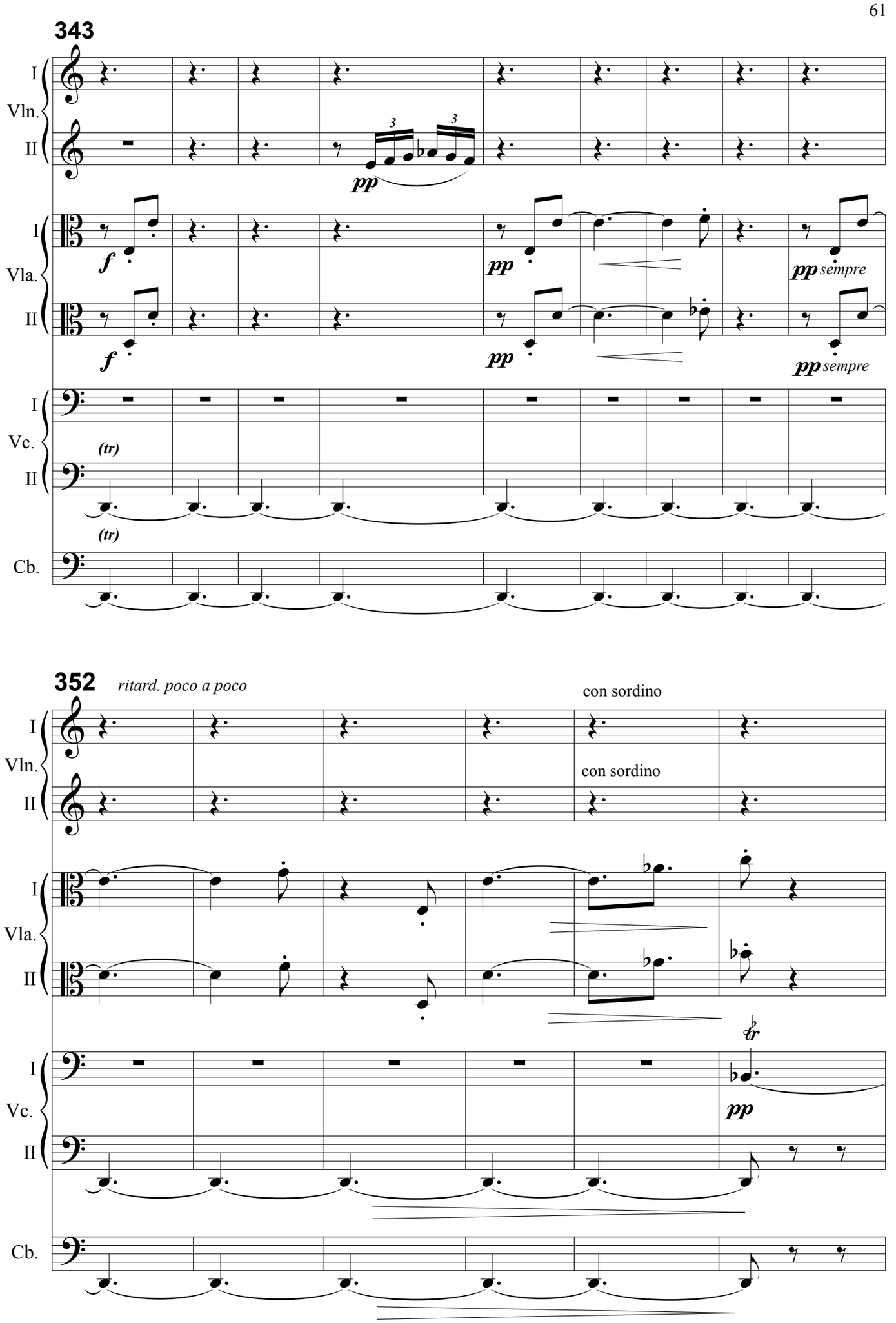

303
arco
arco
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
308
crescendo
crescendo
crescendo
crescendo
crescendo
crescendo

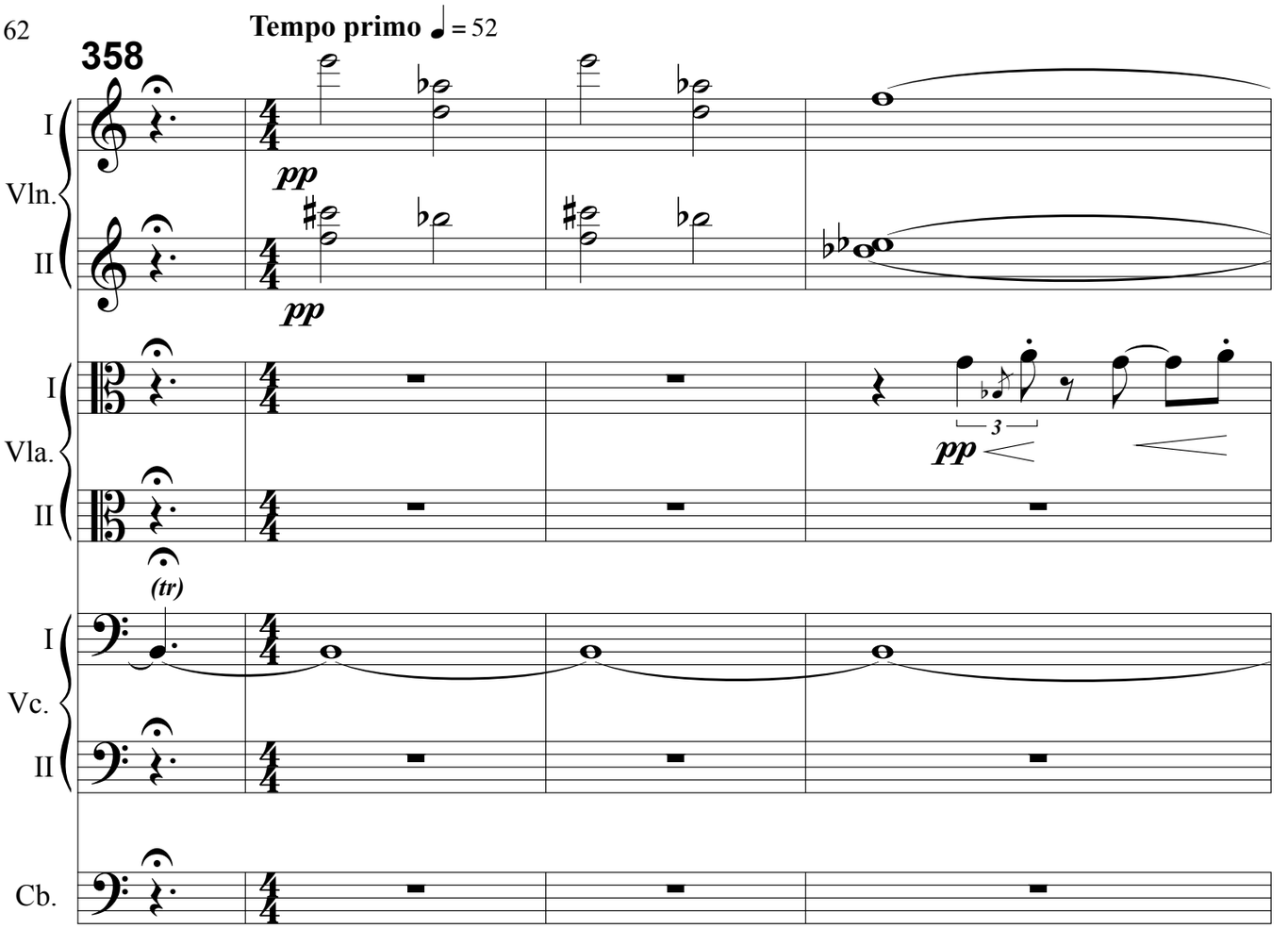

313
I
Vln.
II
f
p
crescendo
I
Vla.
II
f
p
crescendo
I
Vc.
II
p
crescendo
Cb.

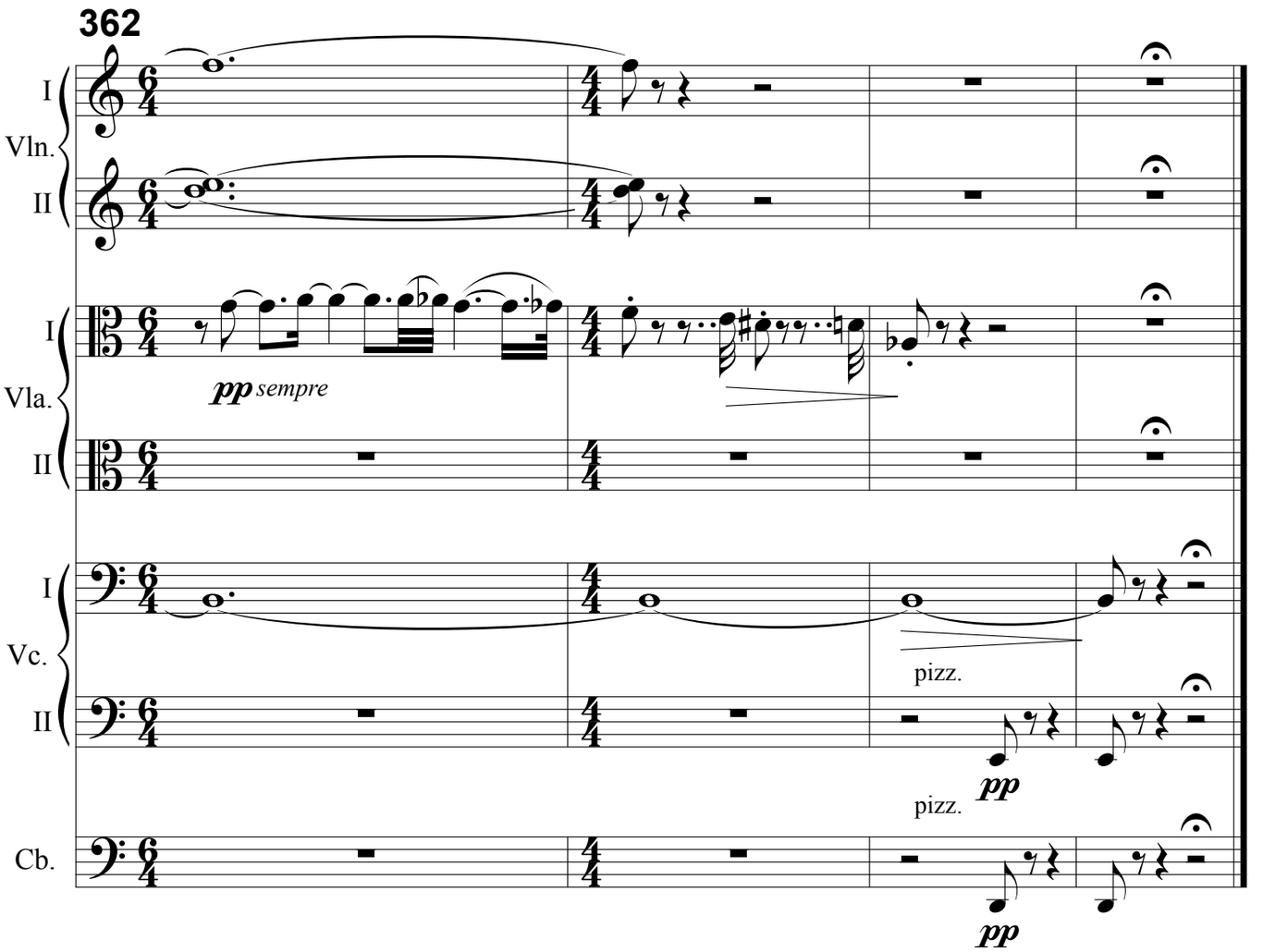

318
I
Vln.
II
f
I
Vla.
II
mf
f
I
Vc.
II
f
Cb.


323
I
Vln.
II
crescendo
crescendo
I
Vla.
II
crescendo
crescendo
I
Vc.
II
crescendo
crescendo
Cb.
crescendo
328
I
Vln.
II
ff
ff
I
Vla.
II
ff
ff
I
Vc.
II
ff appassionato
ff appassionato
Cb.
ff appassionato

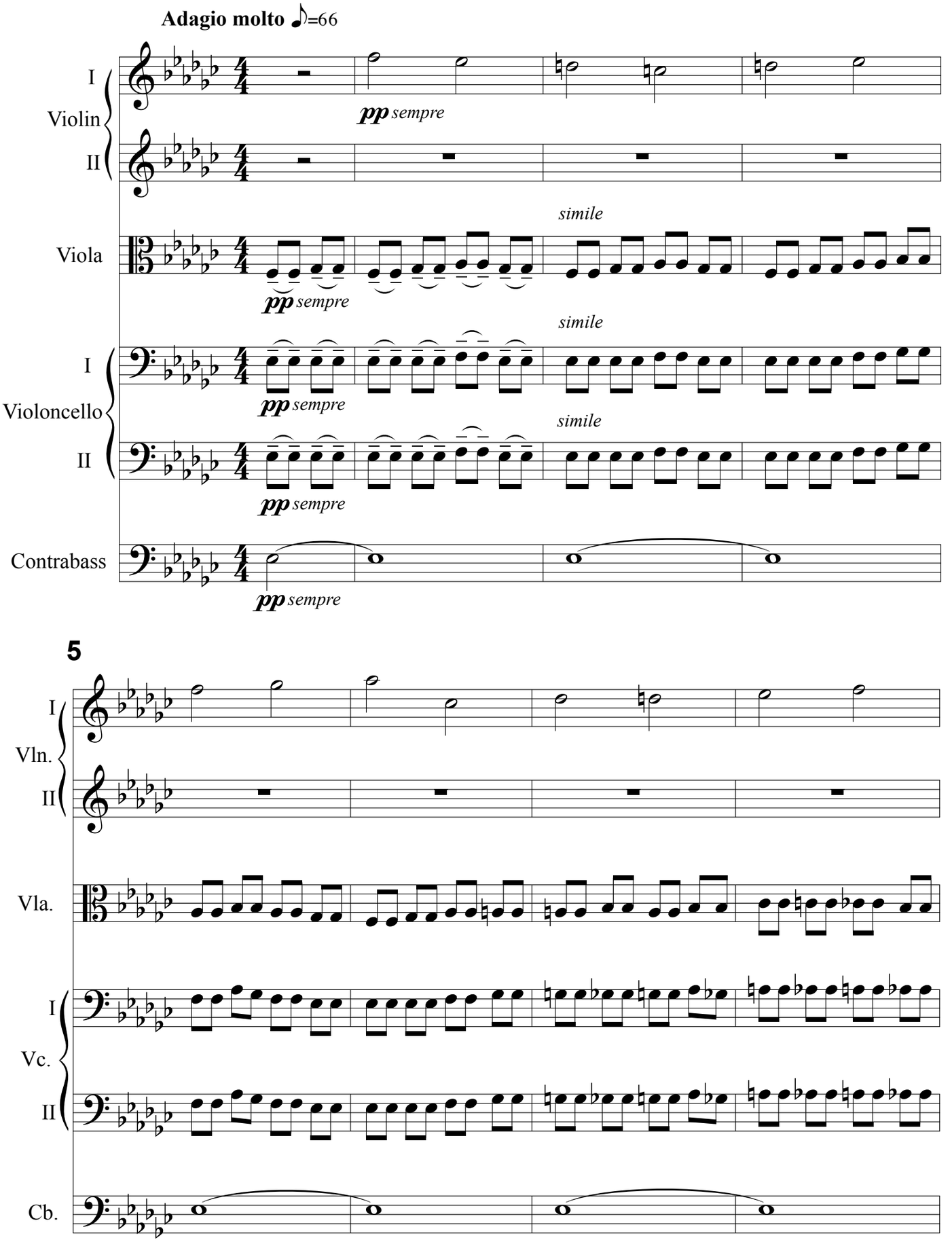

333
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
337
I
Vln.
II
f
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
ff
pp
Cb.
ff
pp

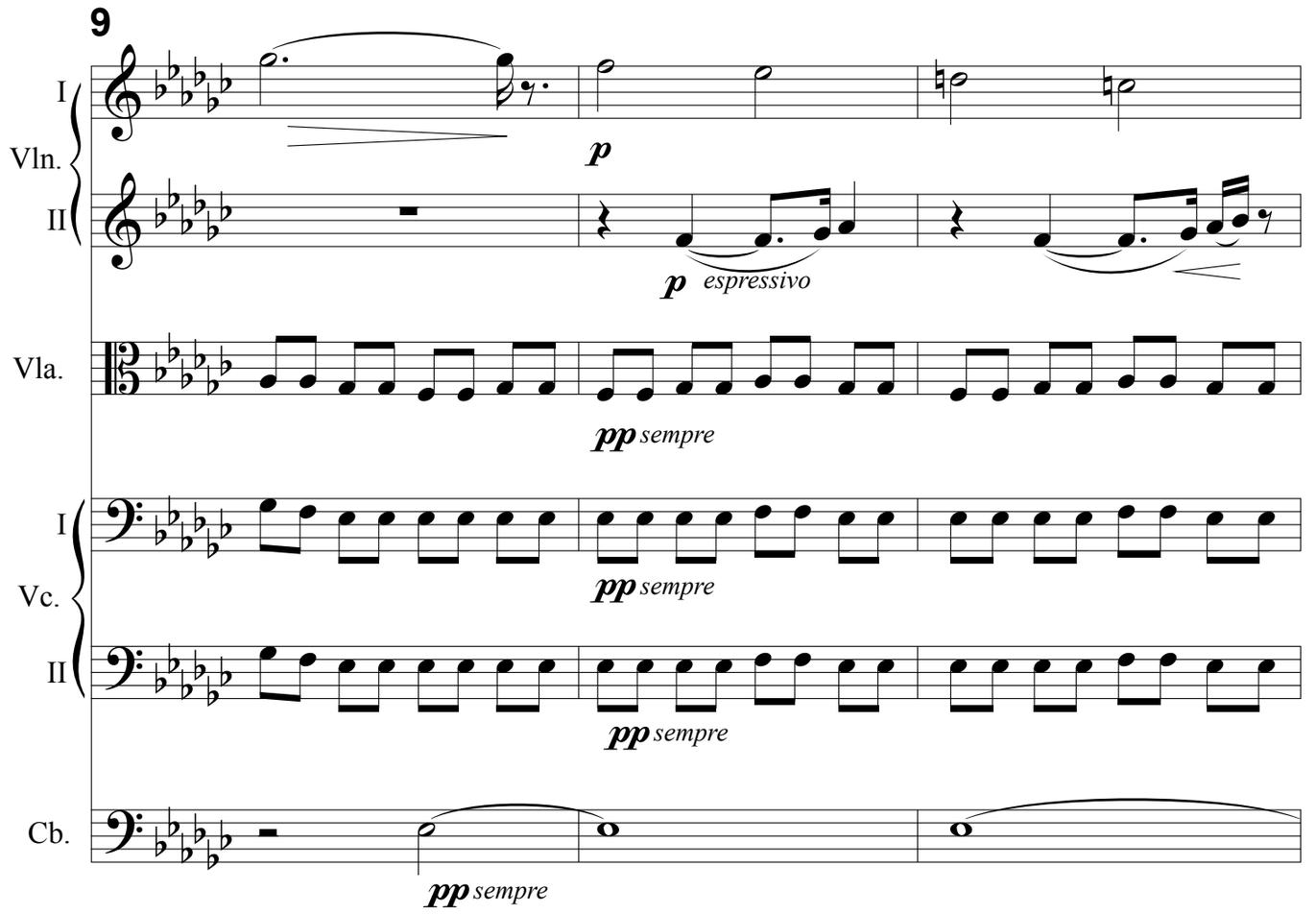

343
I
Vln.
II
pp
I
Vla.
II
f
pp
pp sempre
f
pp
pp sempre
I
Vc.
II
(tr)
(tr)
Cb.
352
ritard. poco a poco
con sordino
con sordino
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
I
Vc.
II
pp
Cb.

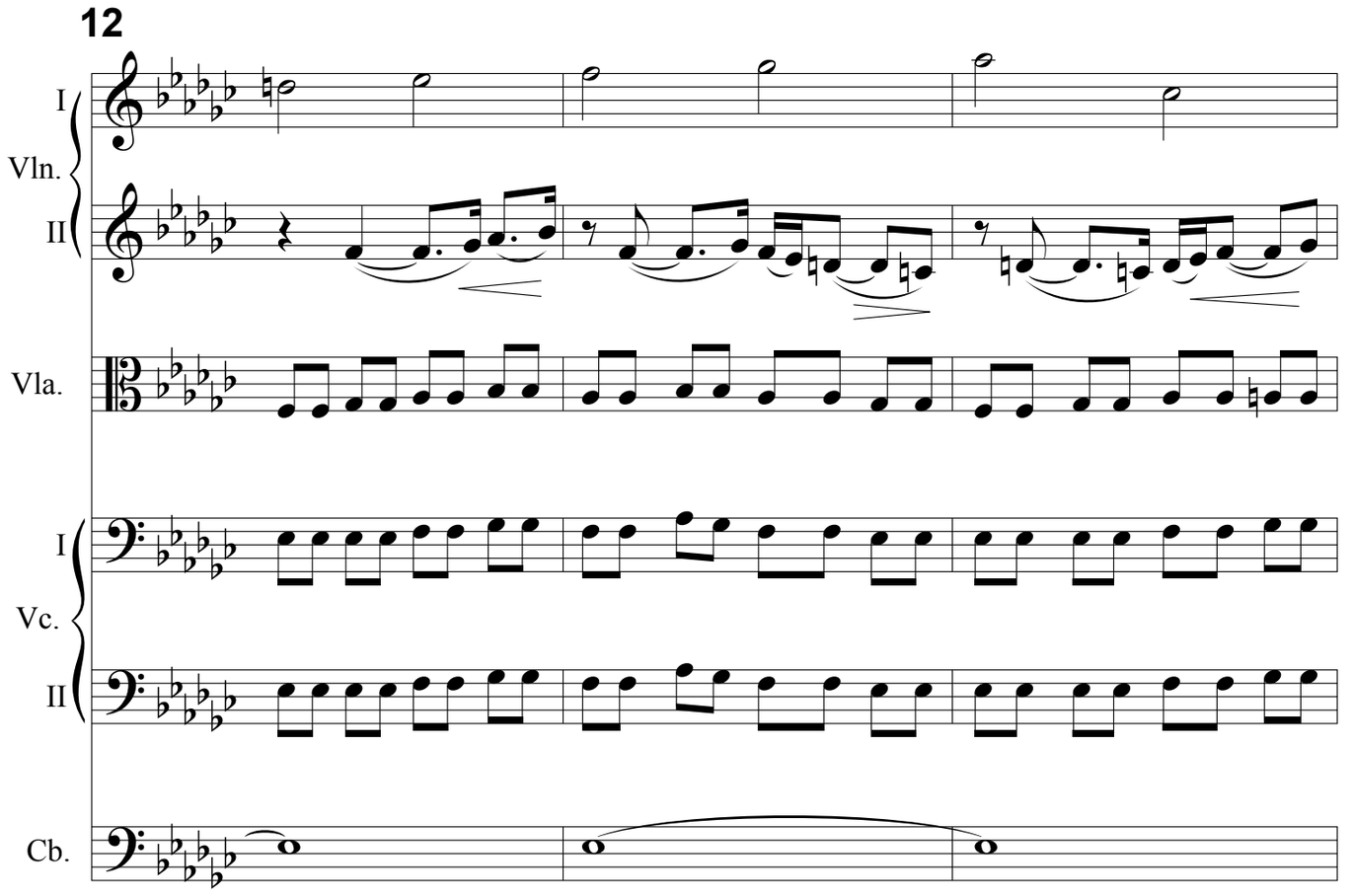

Tempo primo ♩ = 52
358
I
Vln.
II
pp
pp
I
Vla.
II
3
pp
(tr)
I
Vc.
II
Cb.

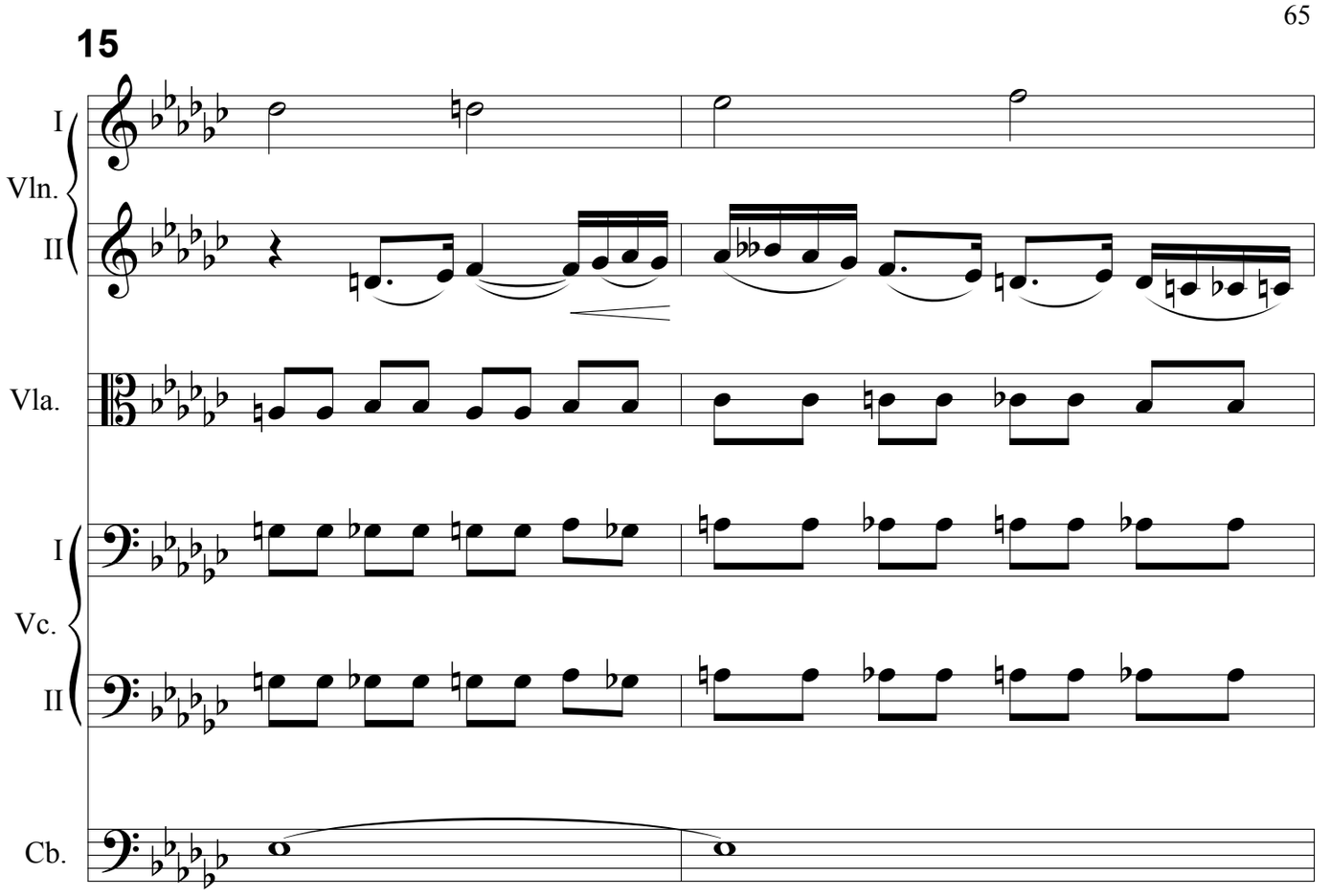

362
I
Vln.
II
I
Vla.
II
pp sempre
I
Vc.
II
pizz.
pp
pizz.
Cb.
pp

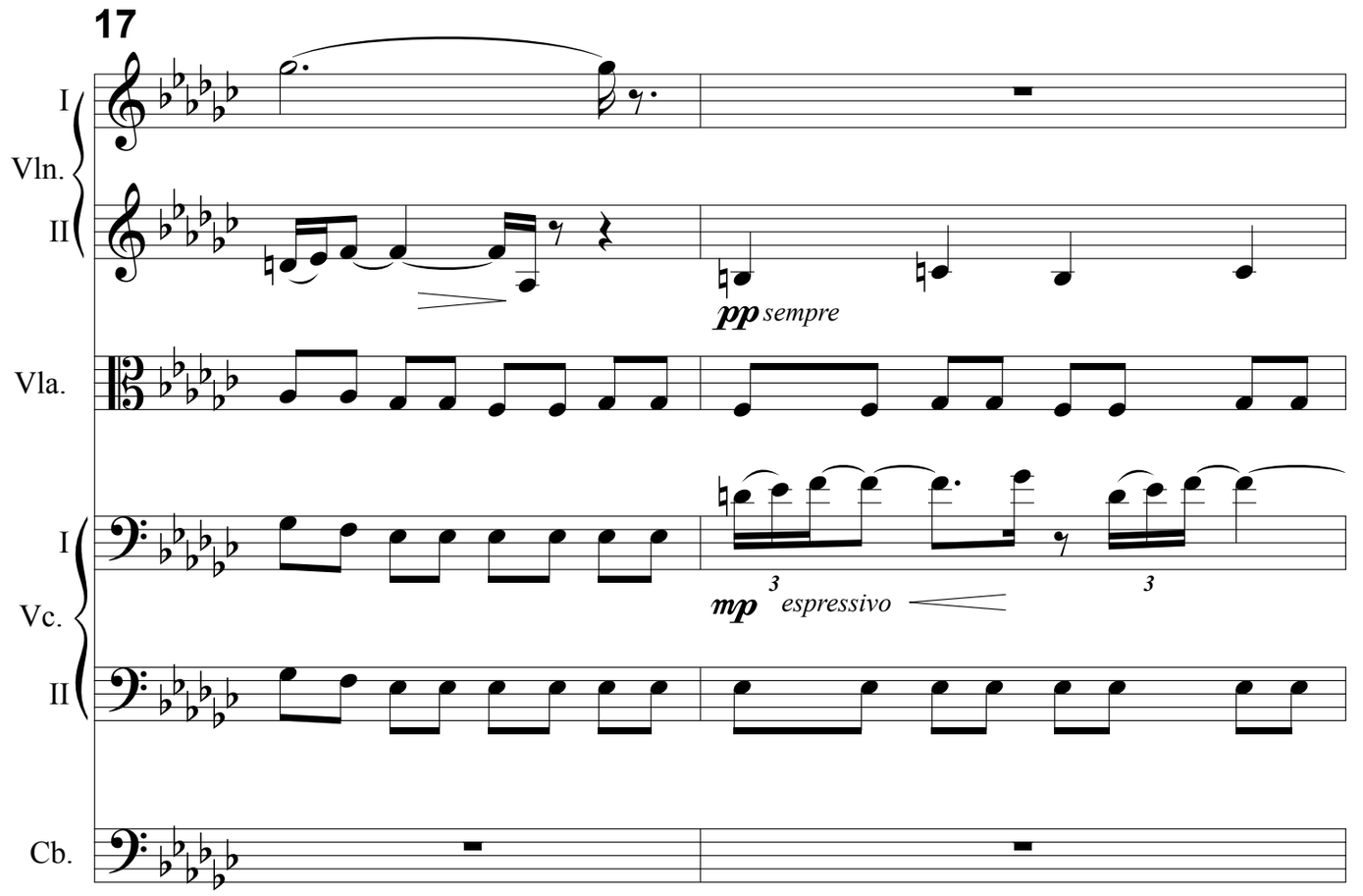
III. Memory

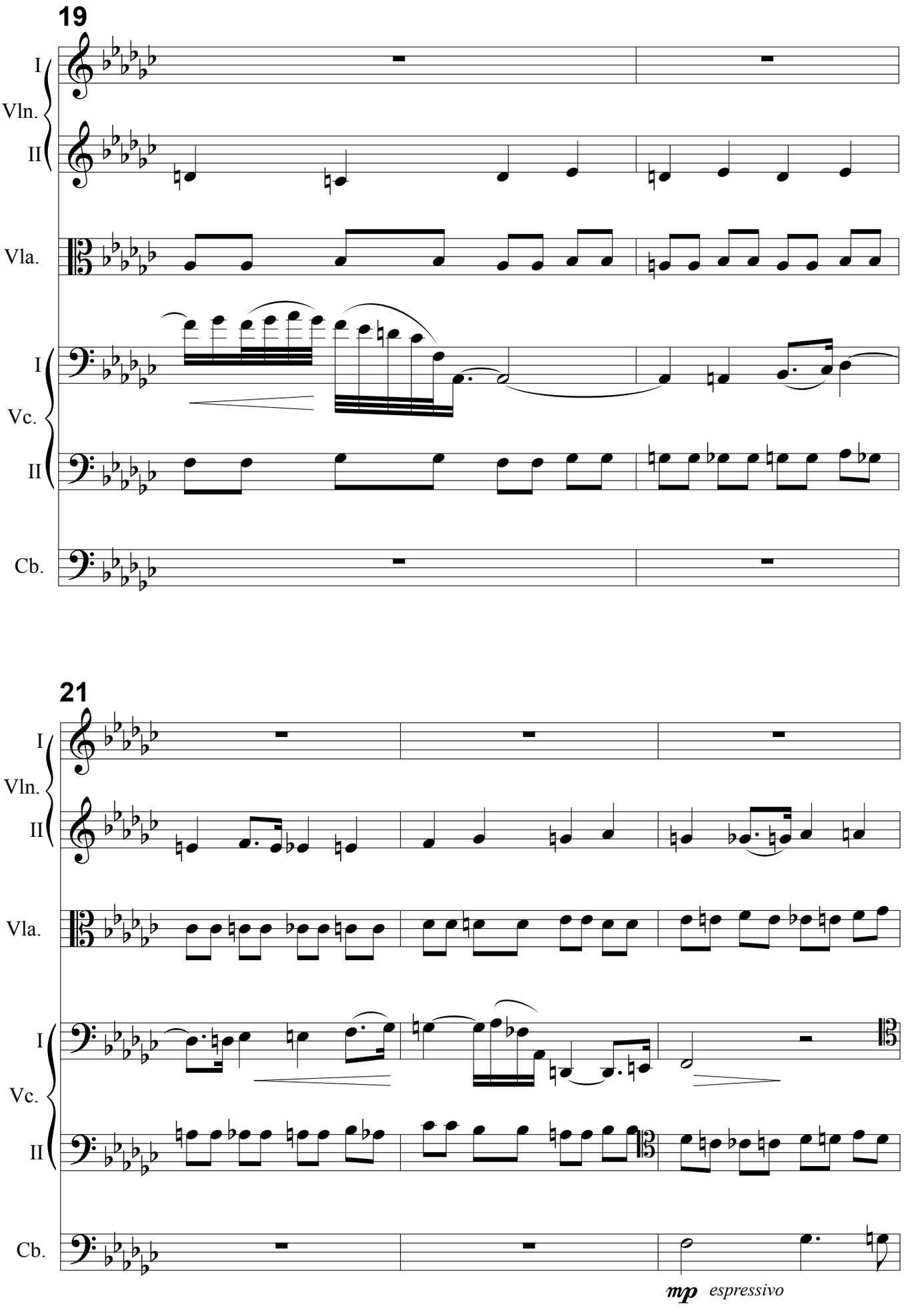

Adagio molto ♪=66
I
Violin
II
pp sempre
simile
Viola
pp sempre
simile
I
Violoncello
II
pp sempre
simile
pp sempre
Contrabass
pp sempre
5
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.

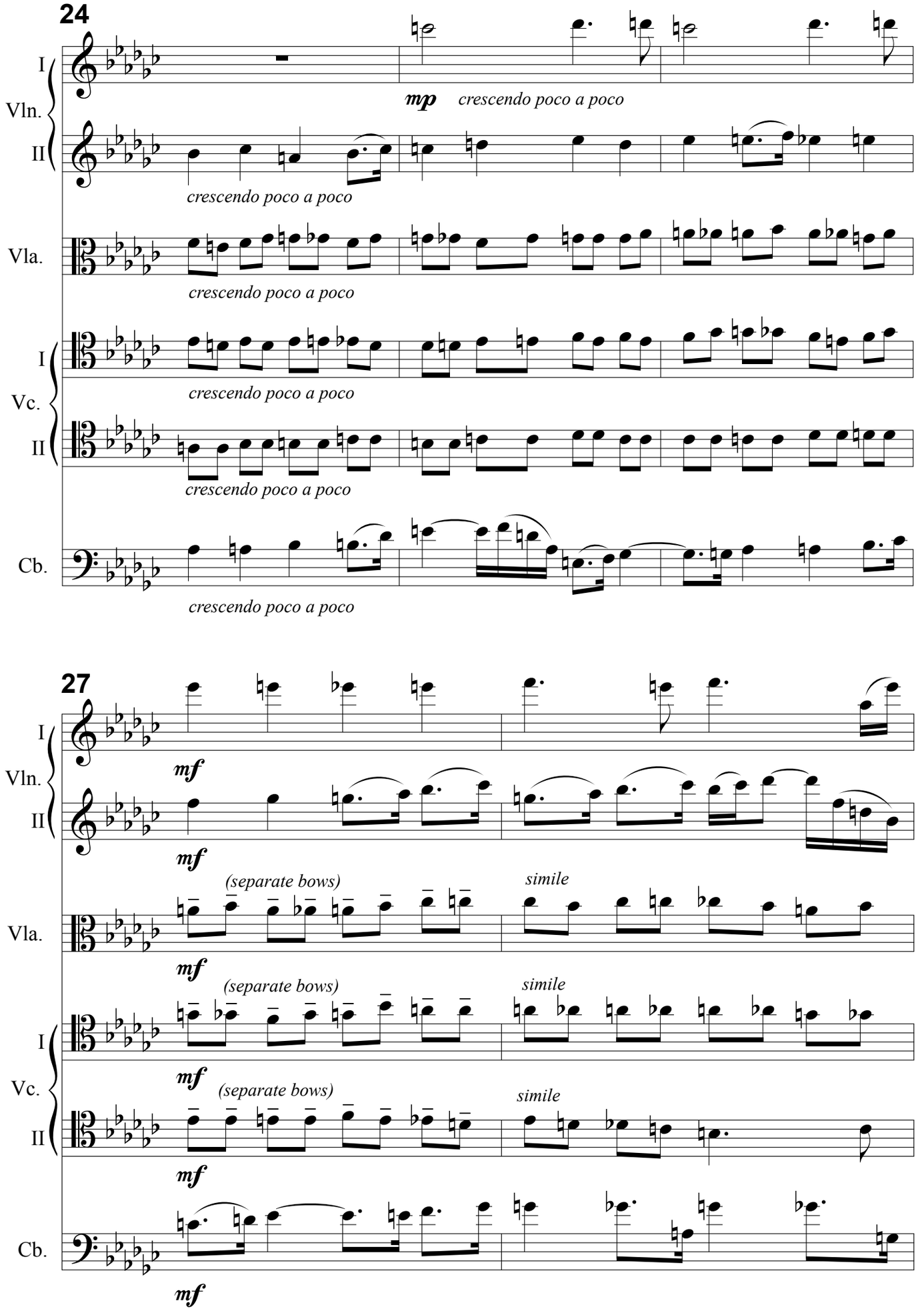

9
I
Vln.
II
p
p espressivo
Vla.
pp sempre
I
Vc.
II
pp sempre
pp sempre
Cb.
pp sempre

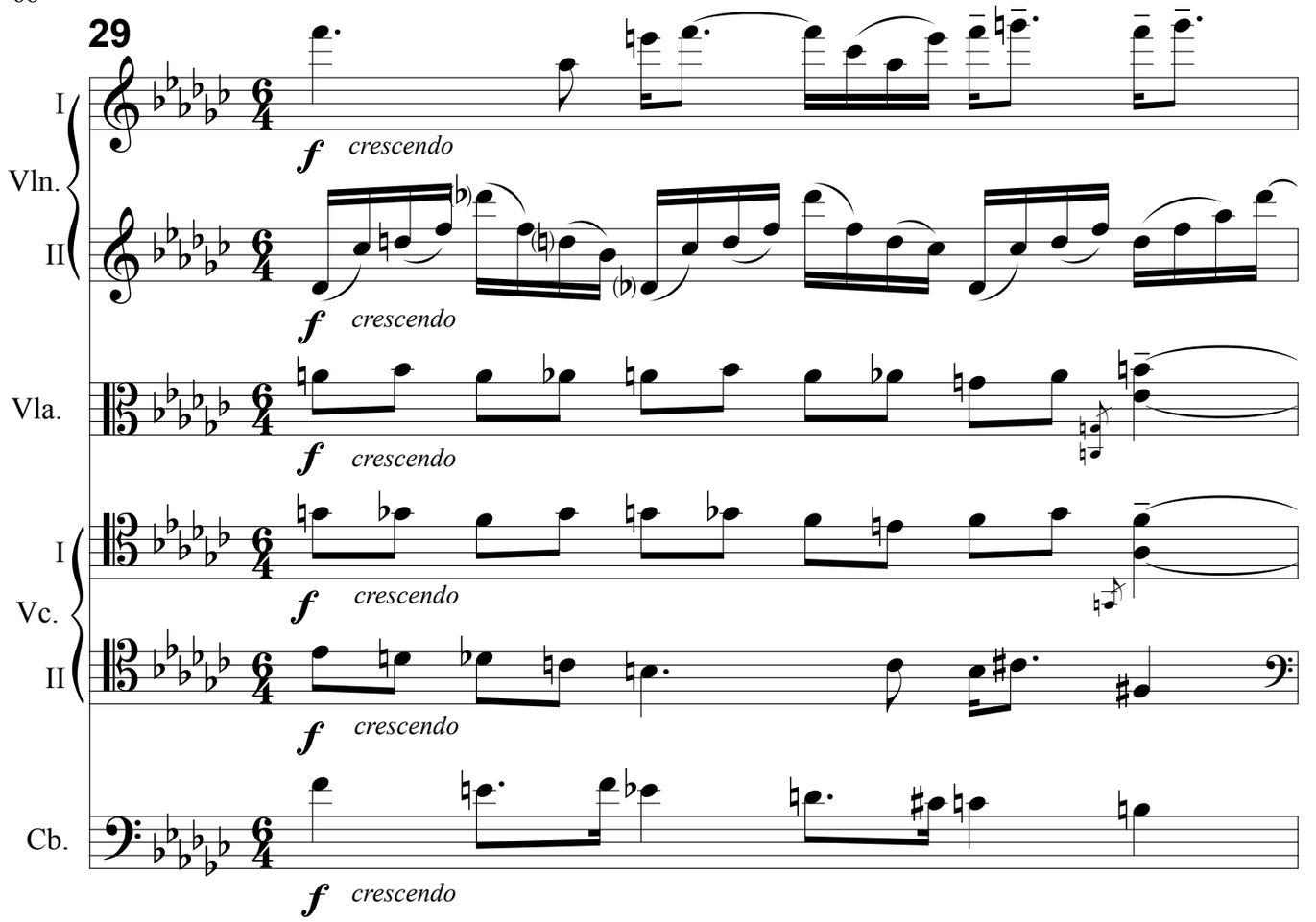

12
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.

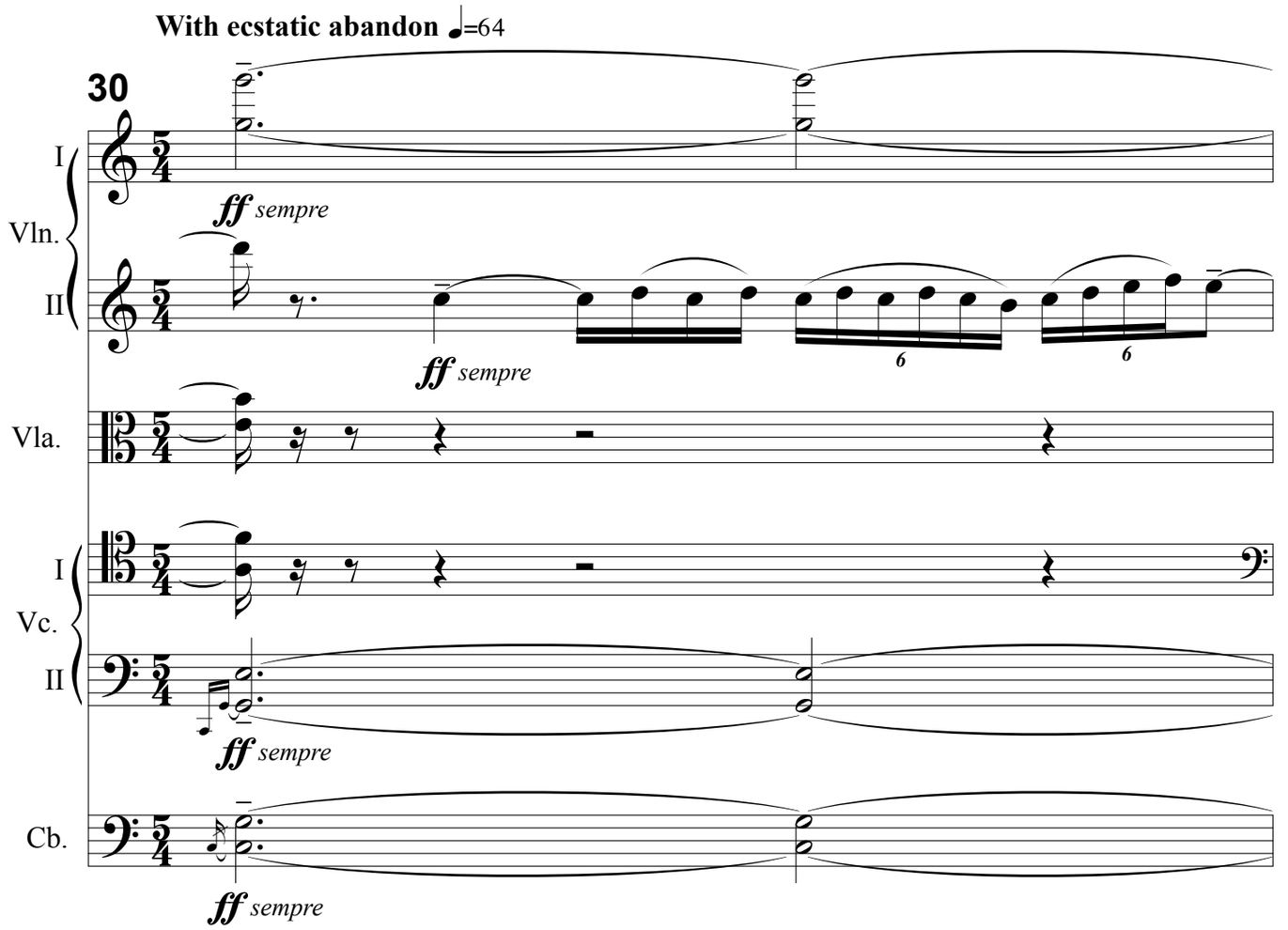

15
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.

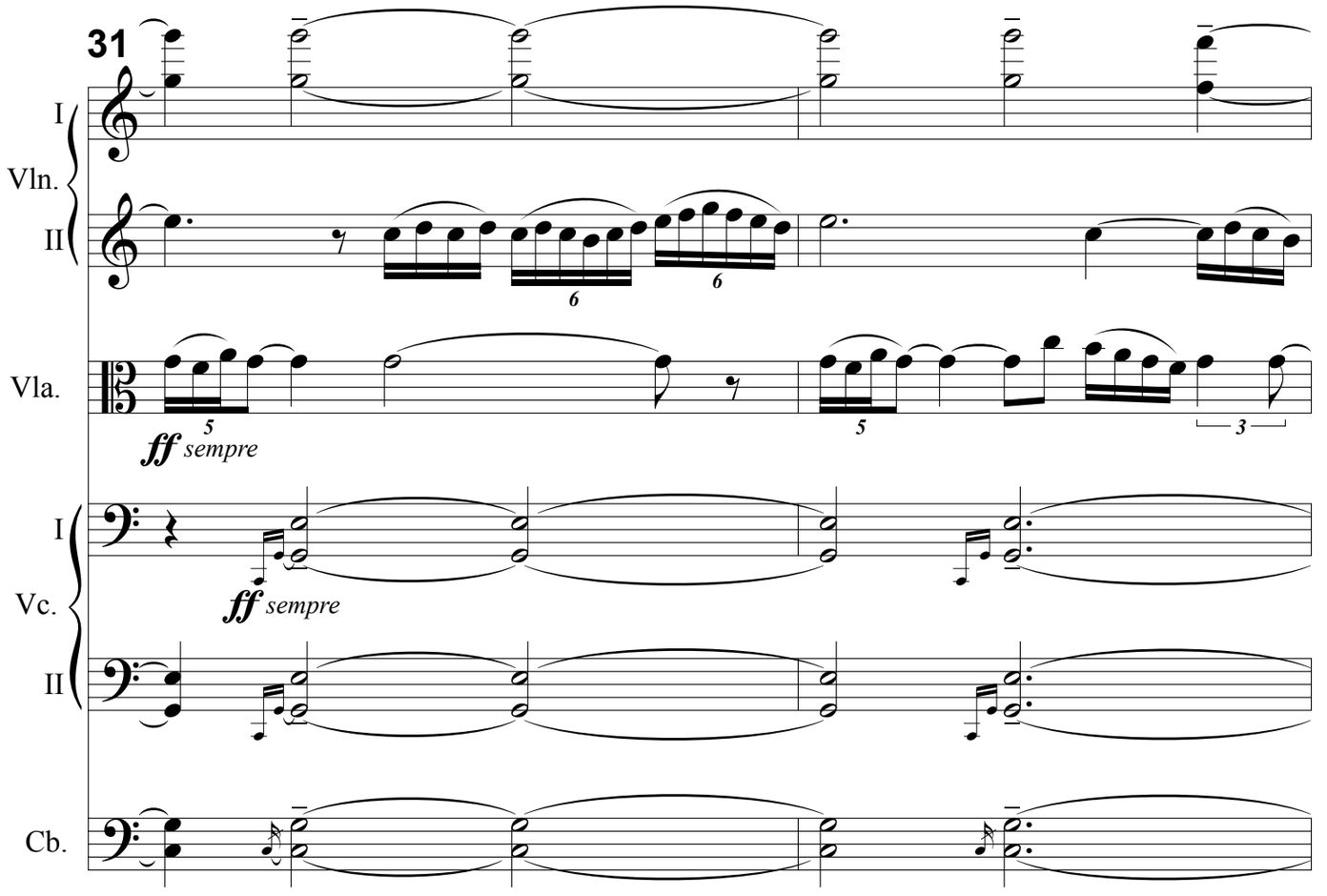

17
I
Vln.
II
pp sempre
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
mp espressivo
3
3
Cb.

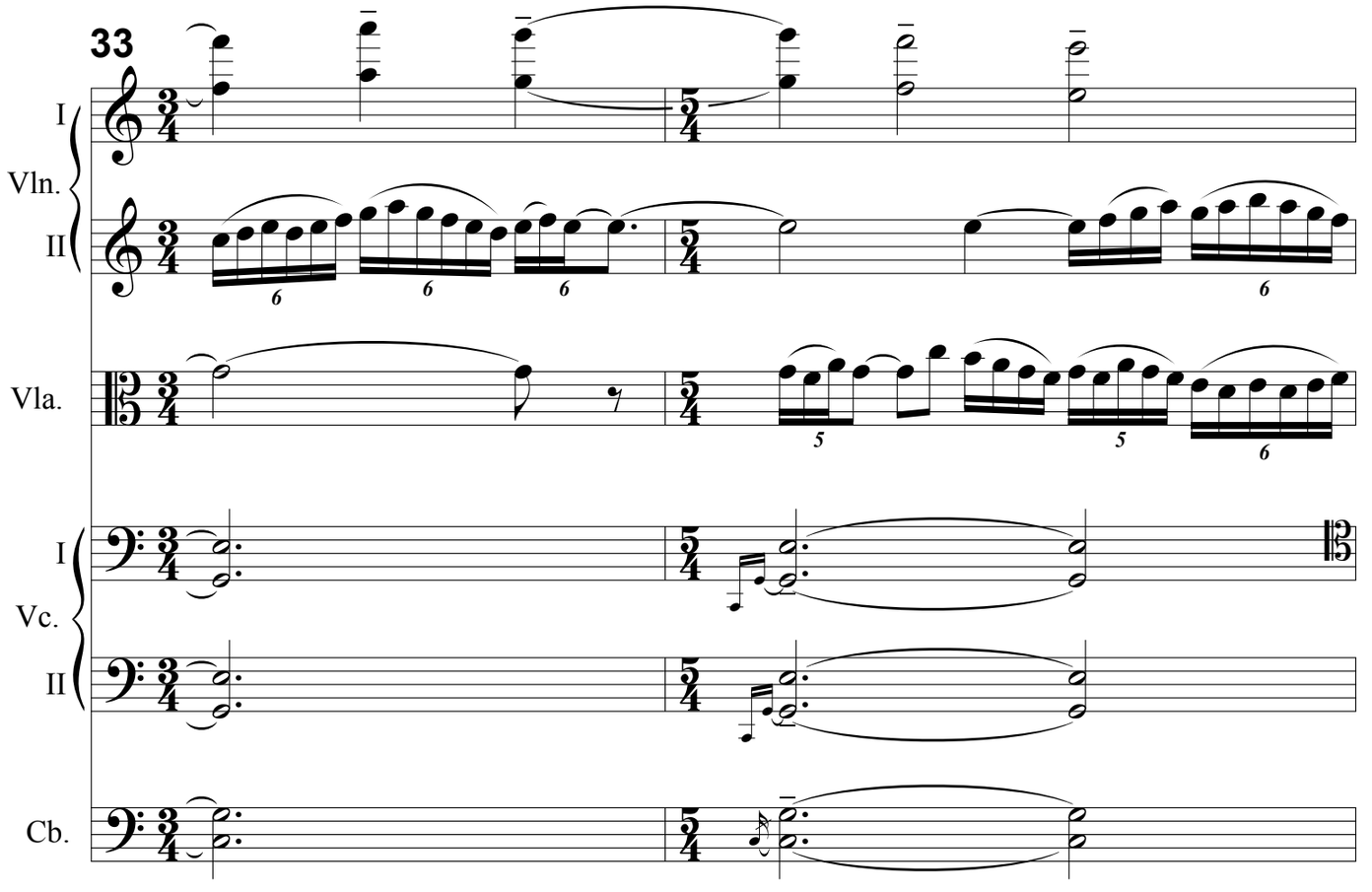

19
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
21
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
mp espressivo

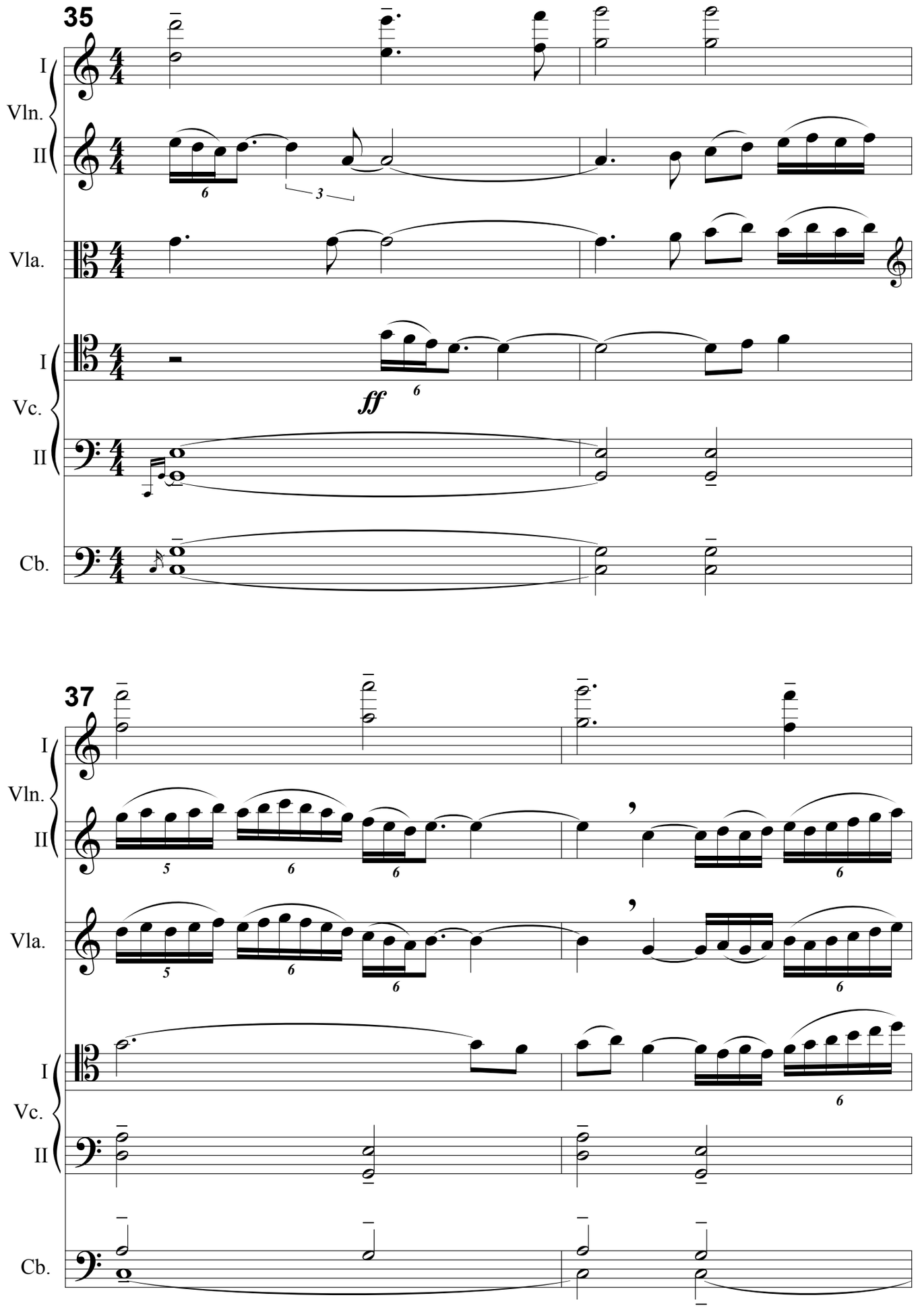

24
I
Vln.
II
mp
crescendo poco a poco
crescendo poco a poco
Vla.
crescendo poco a poco
I
Vc.
II
crescendo poco a poco
crescendo poco a poco
Cb.
crescendo poco a poco
27
I
Vln.
II
mf
mf
Vla.
(separate bows)
simile
mf
I
Vc.
II
(separate bows)
simile
mf
(separate bows)
simile
mf
Cb.
mf

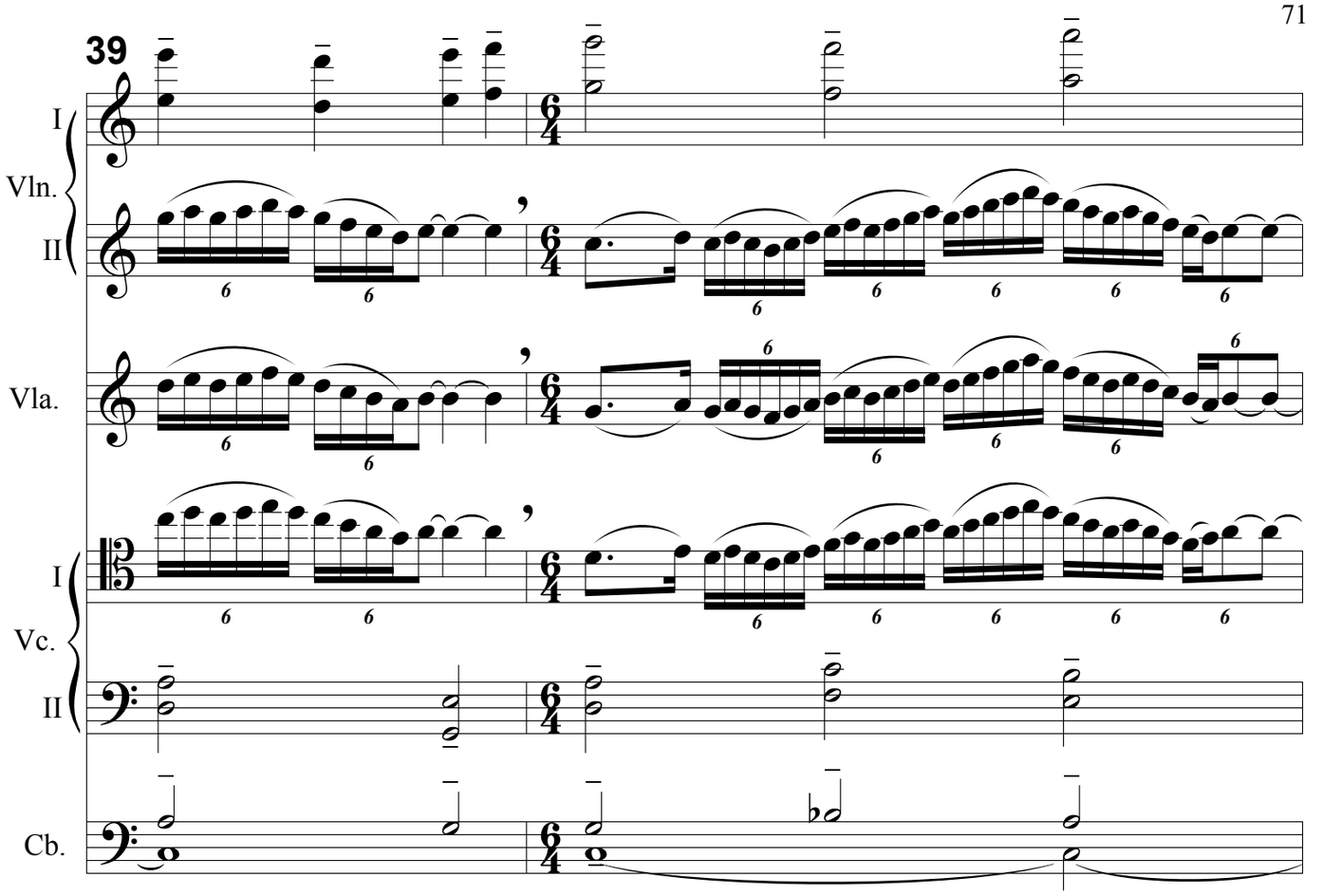

29
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
f crescendo

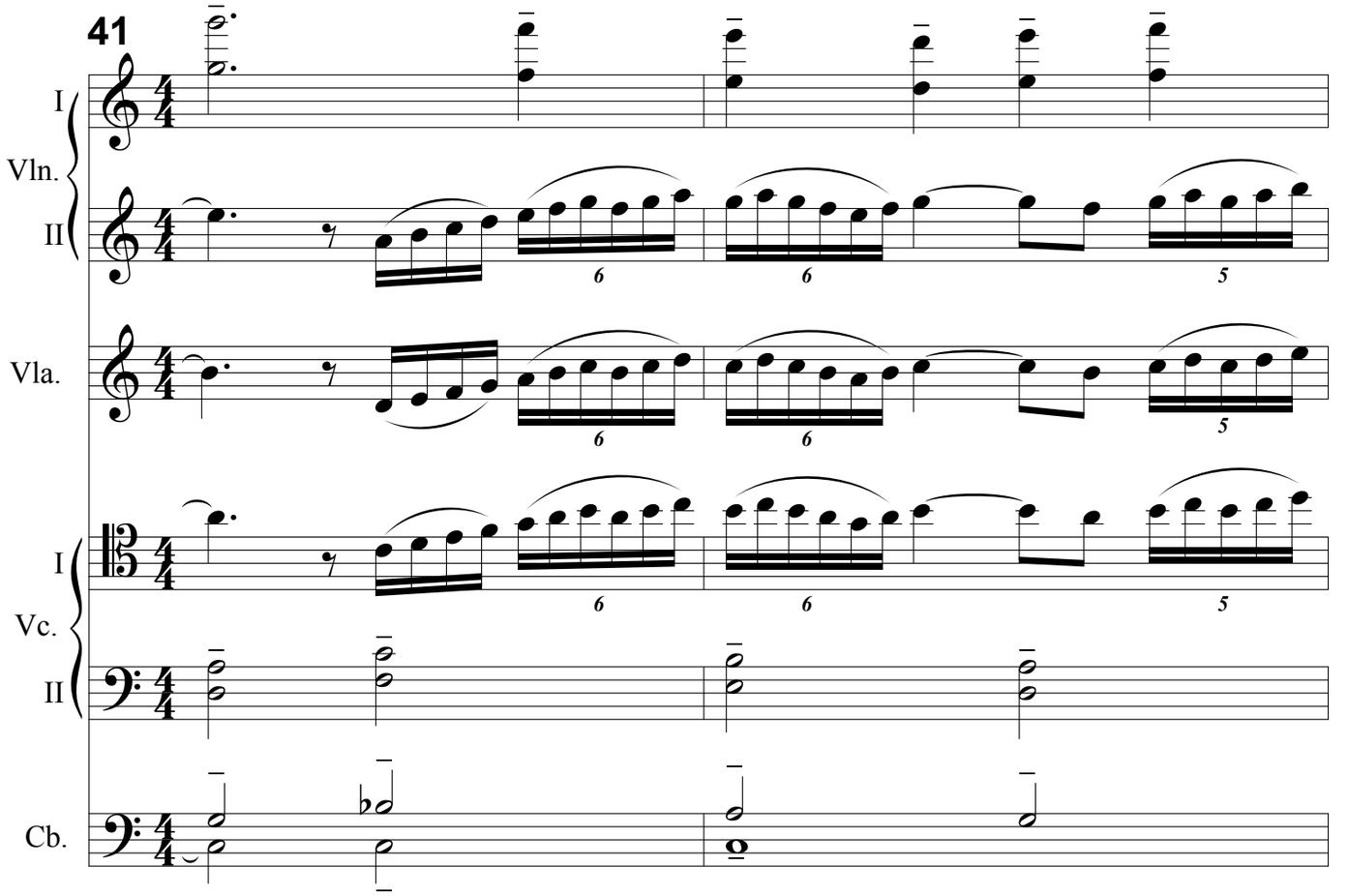

With ecstatic abandon ♩=64
30
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
ff sempre
6

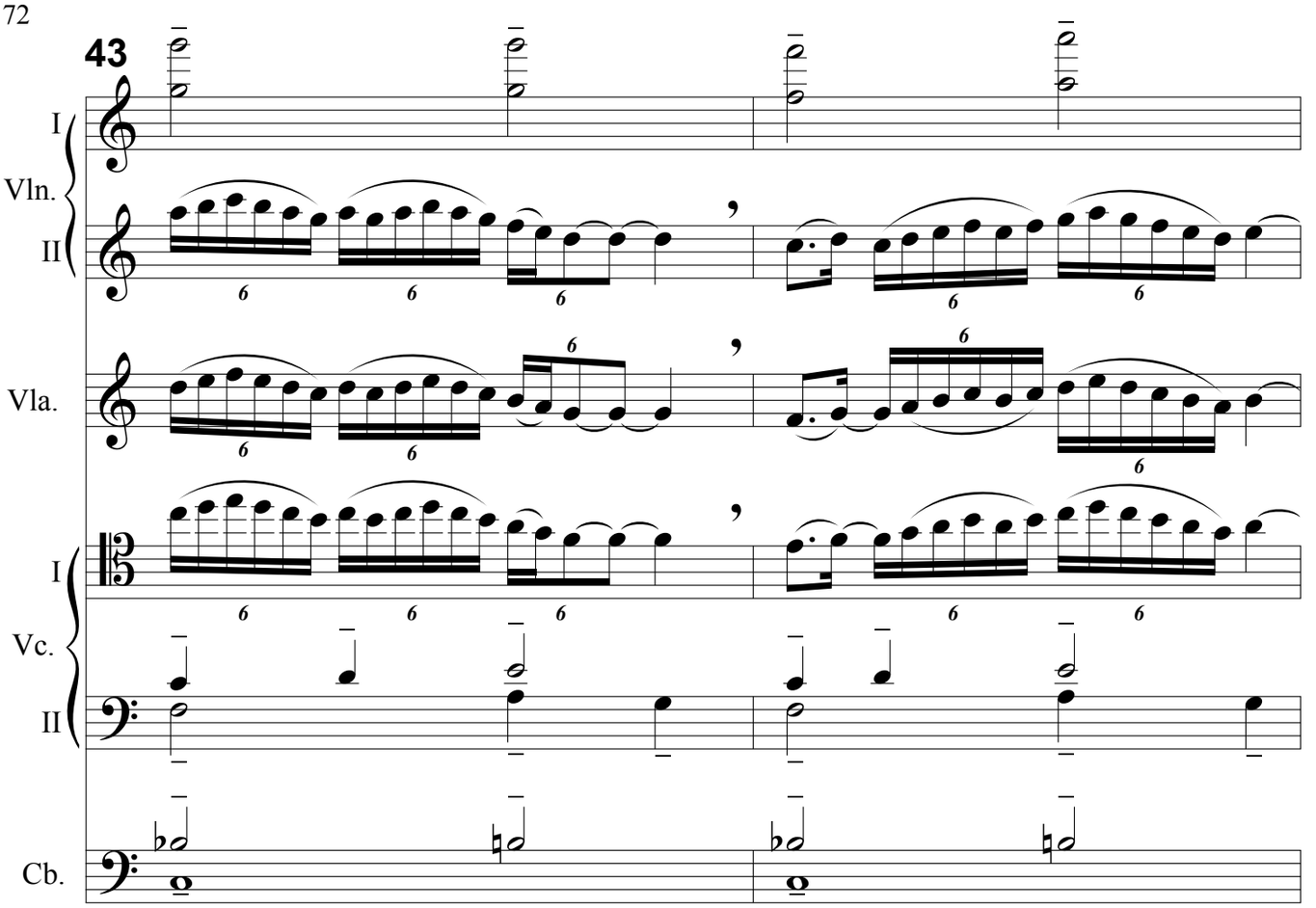

31
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
ff sempre
I
Vc.
ff sempre
II
Cb.

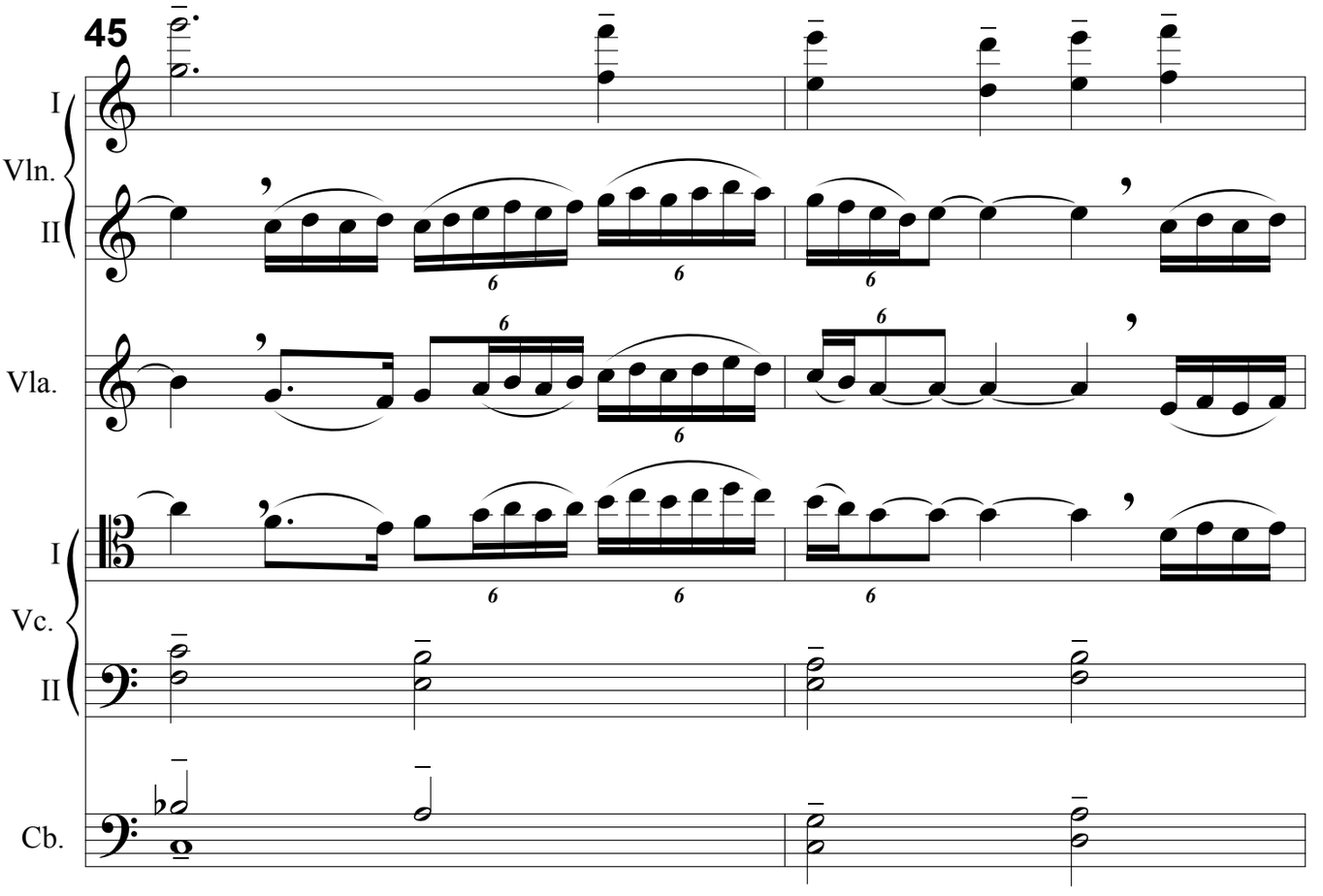

33
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.

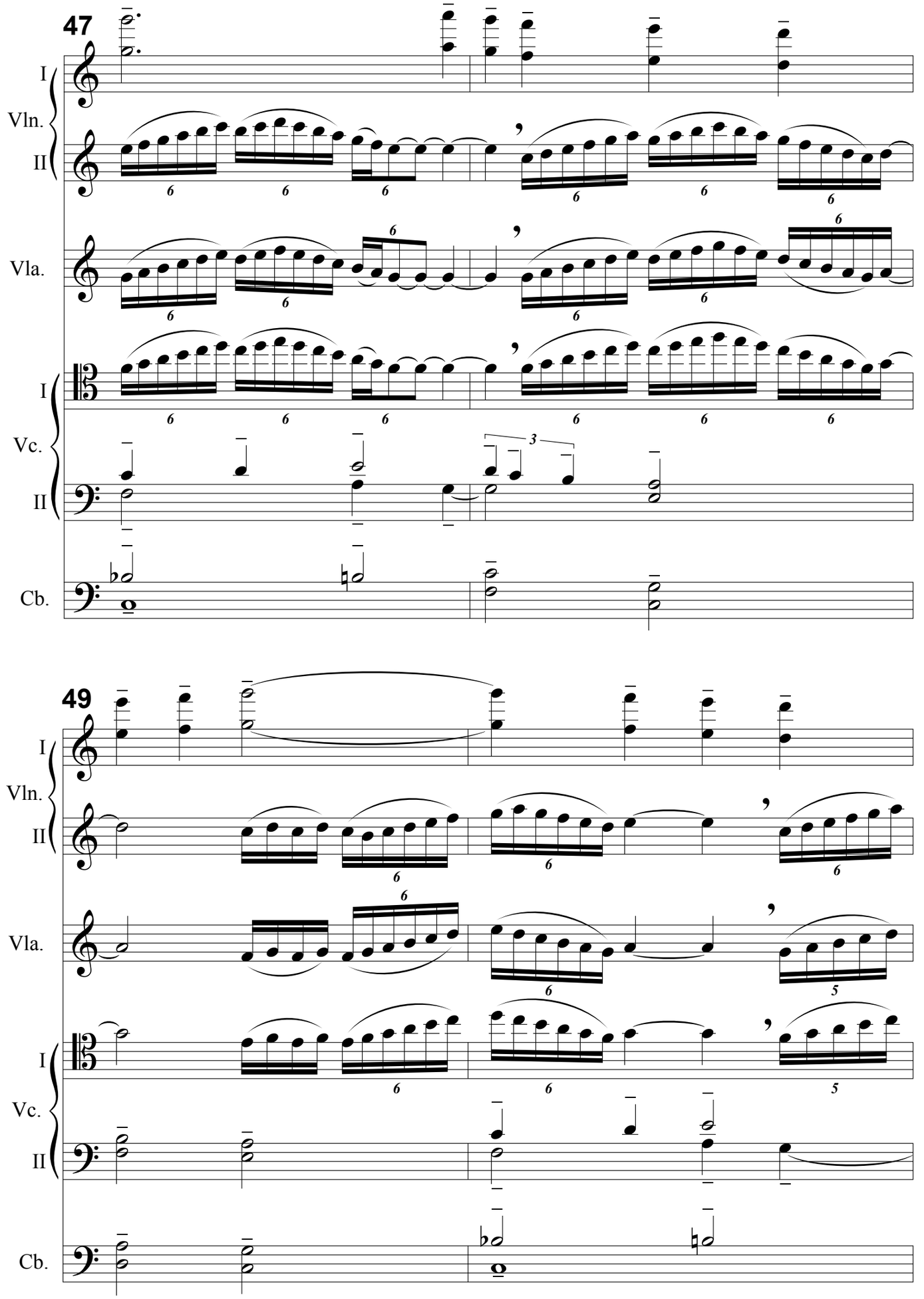

35
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
ff
37
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.

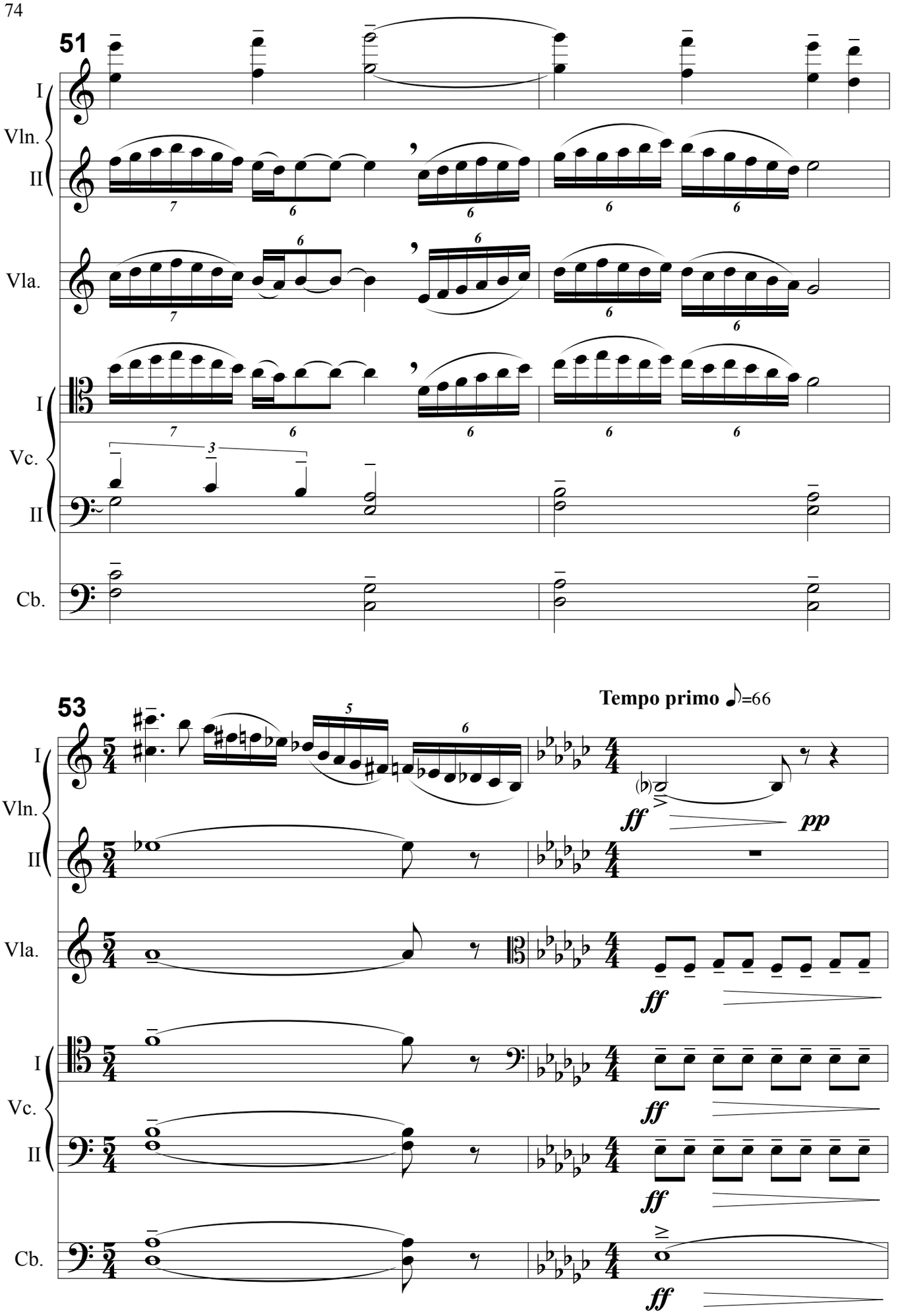

39
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.

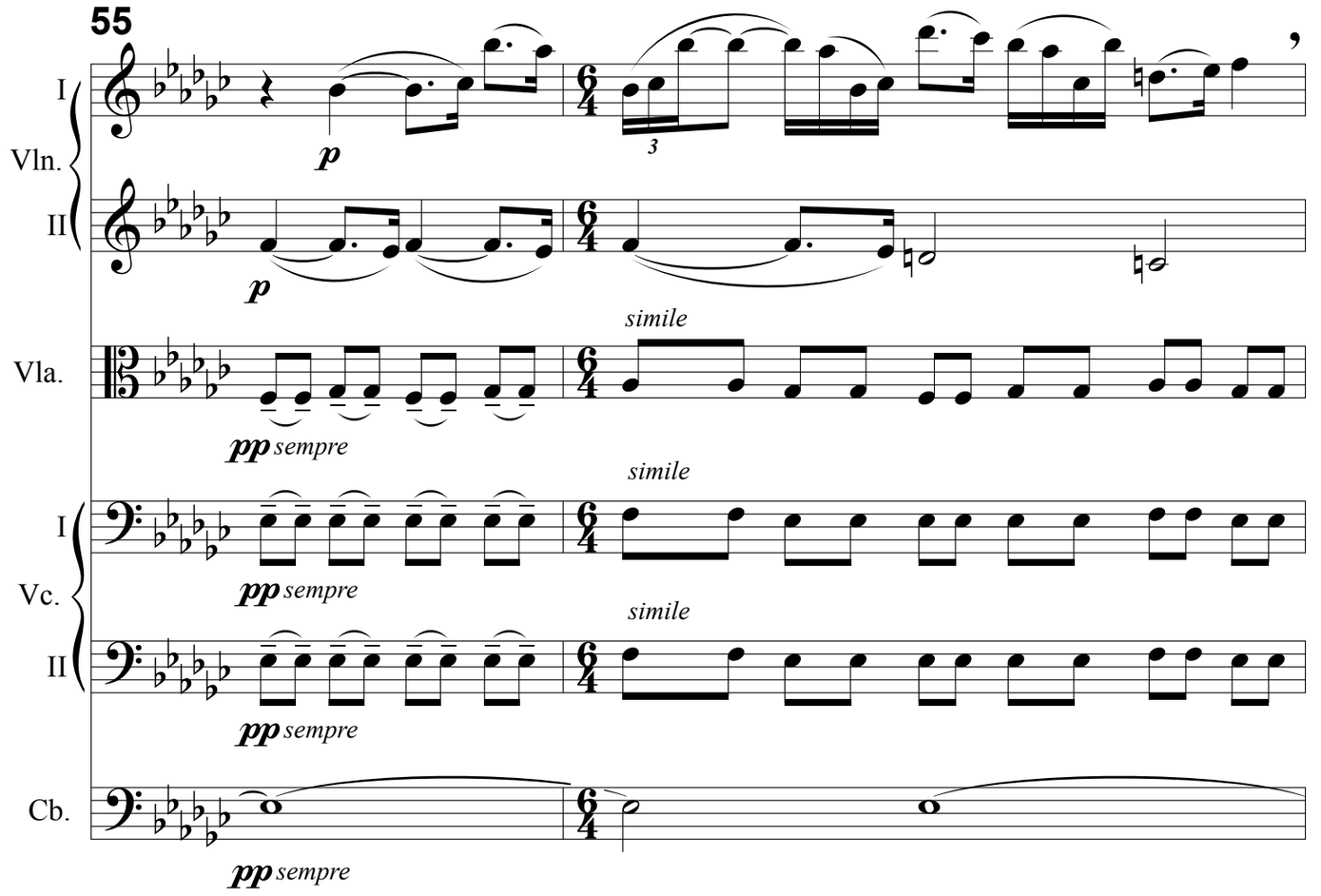

41
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.

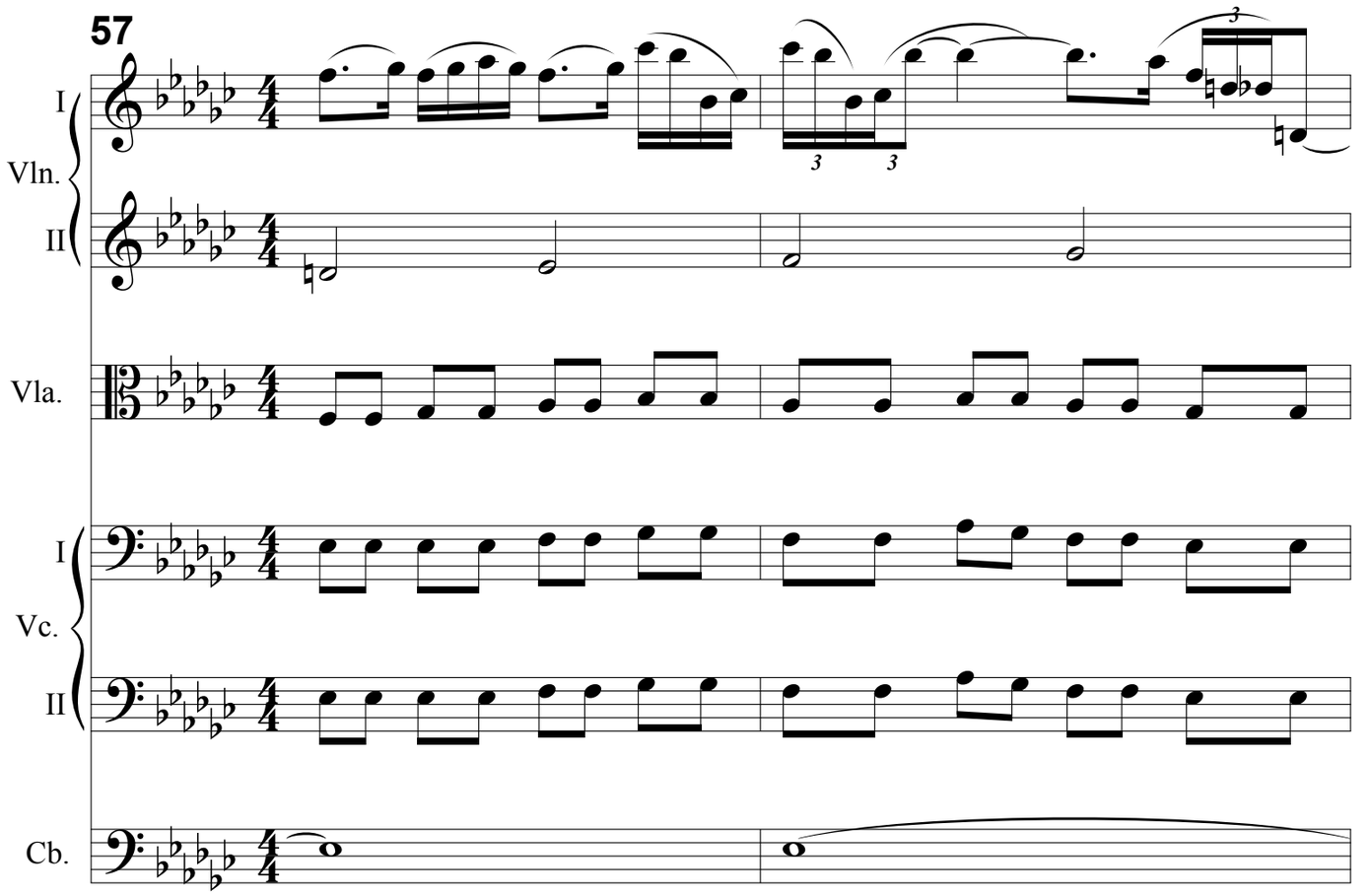

43
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.

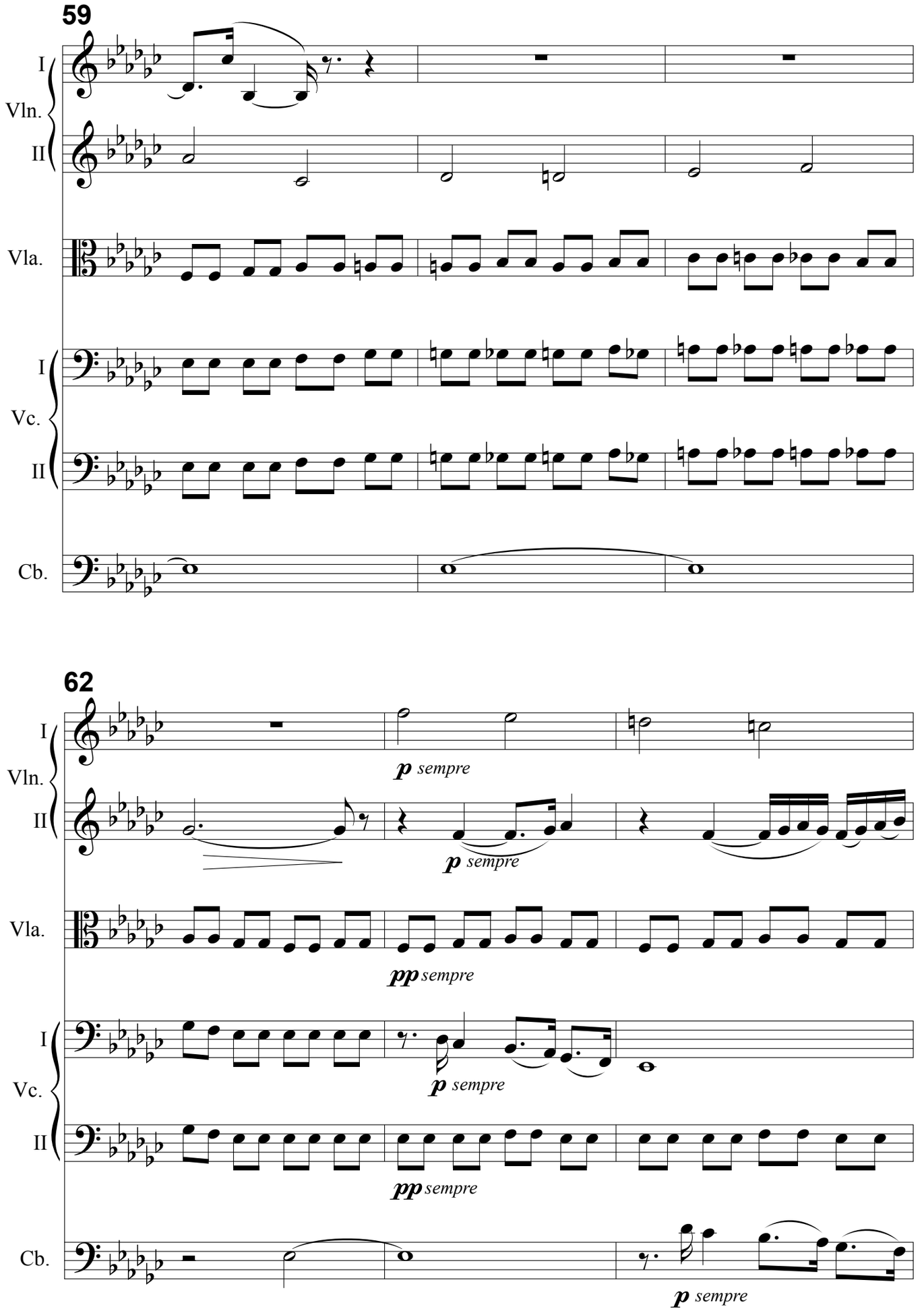

45
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.

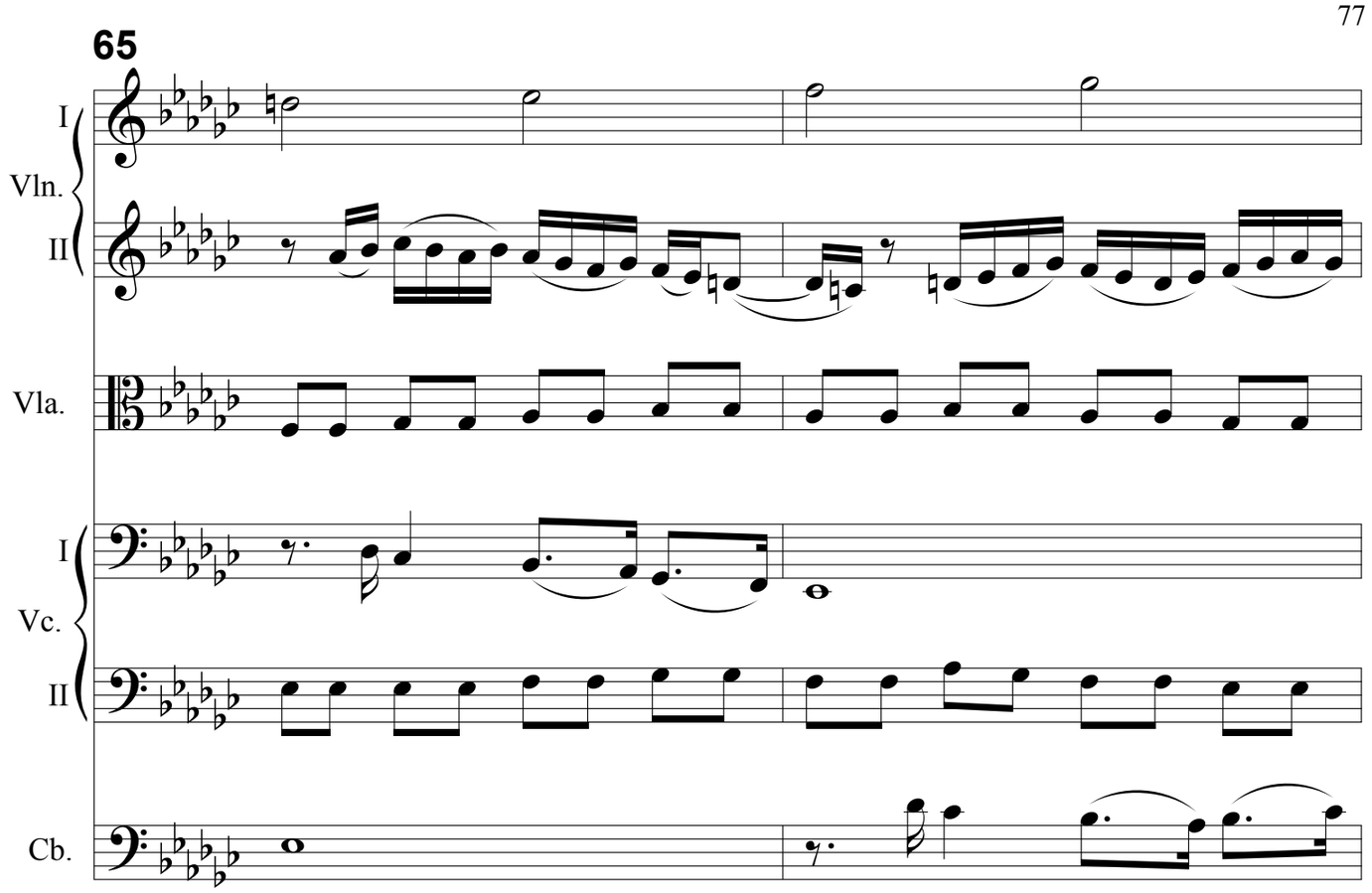

47
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
49
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.

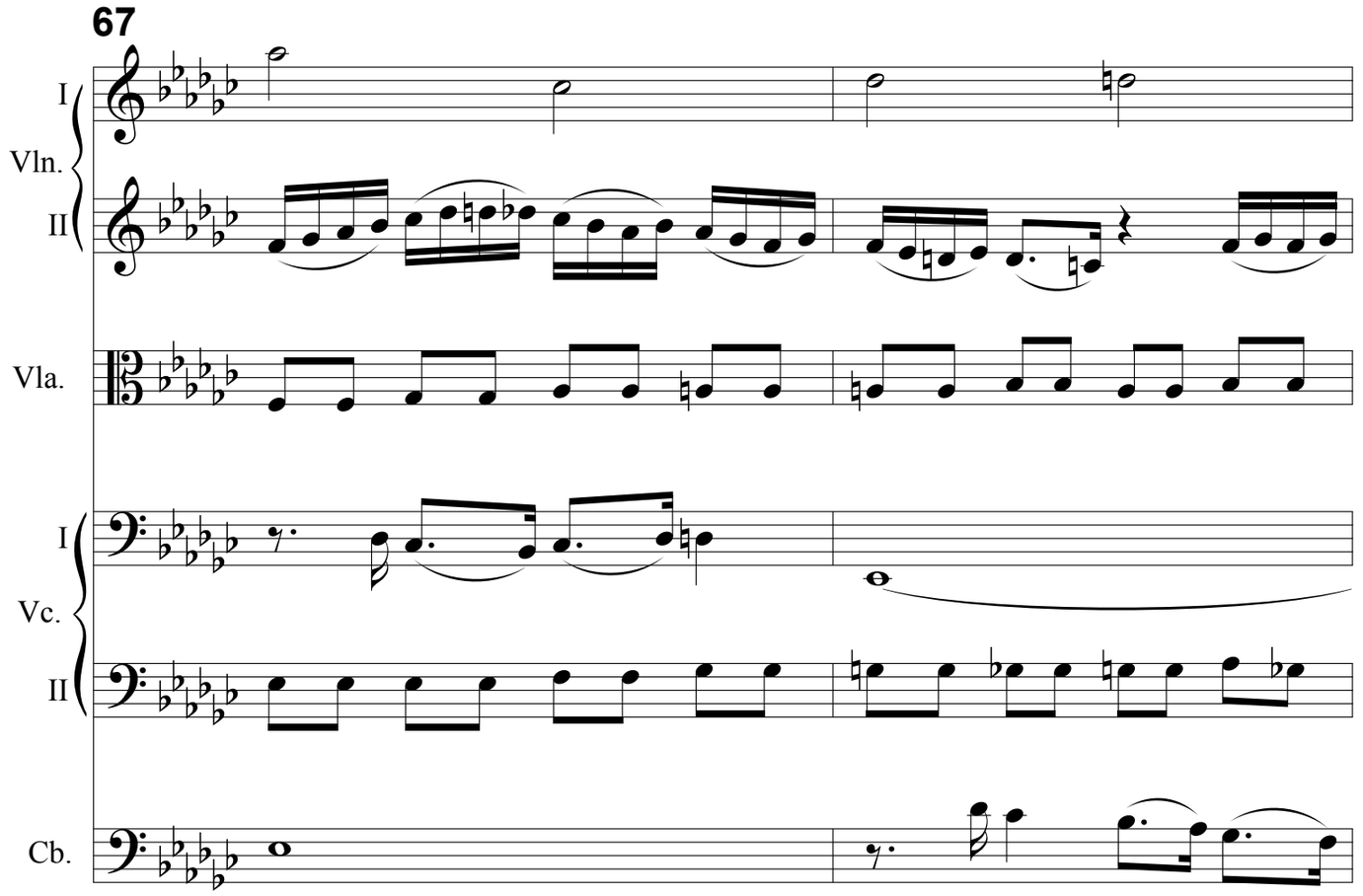

51
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
53
Tempo primo ♪=66
ff
pp
ff
ff
ff
ff

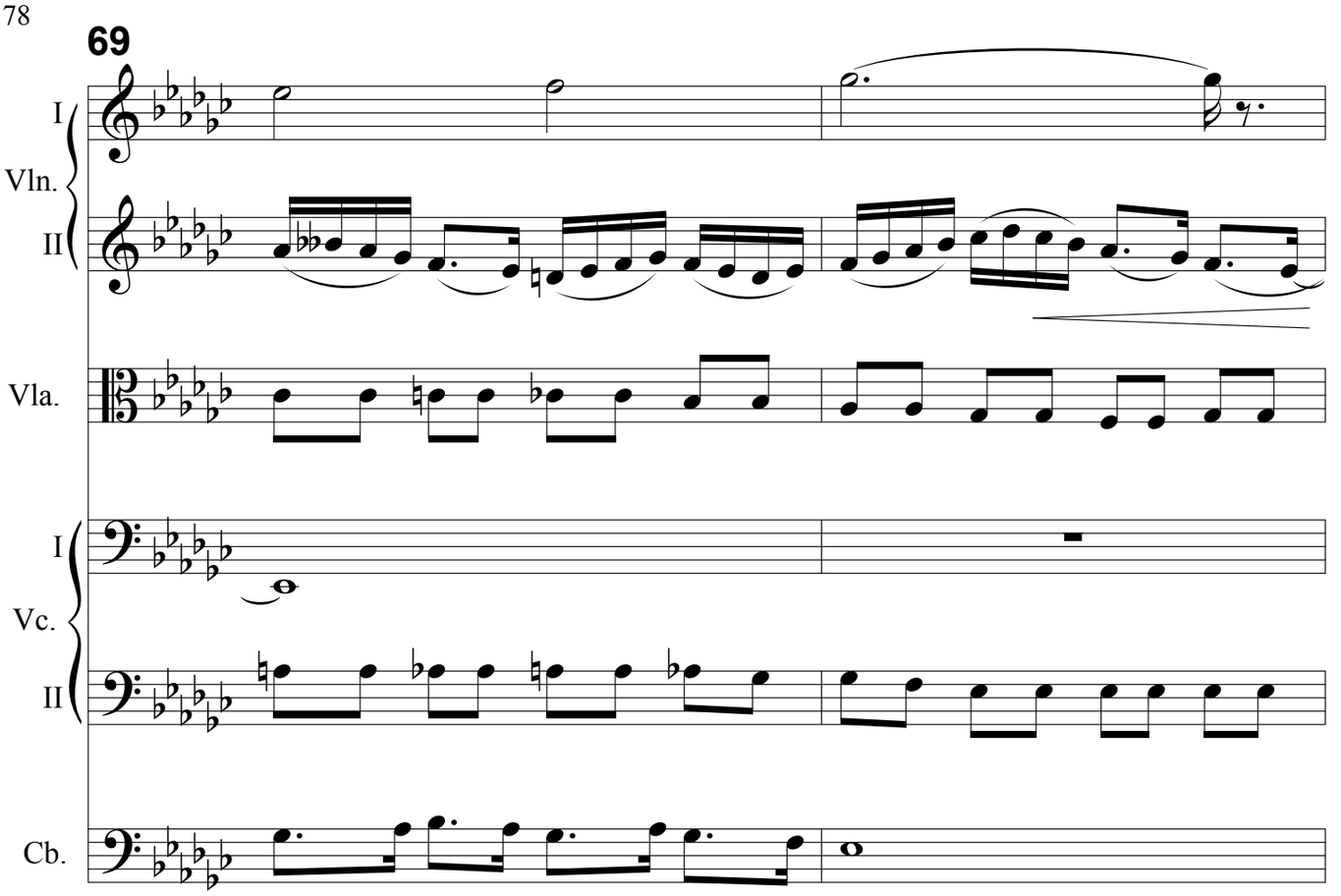

55
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
p
simile
pp sempre

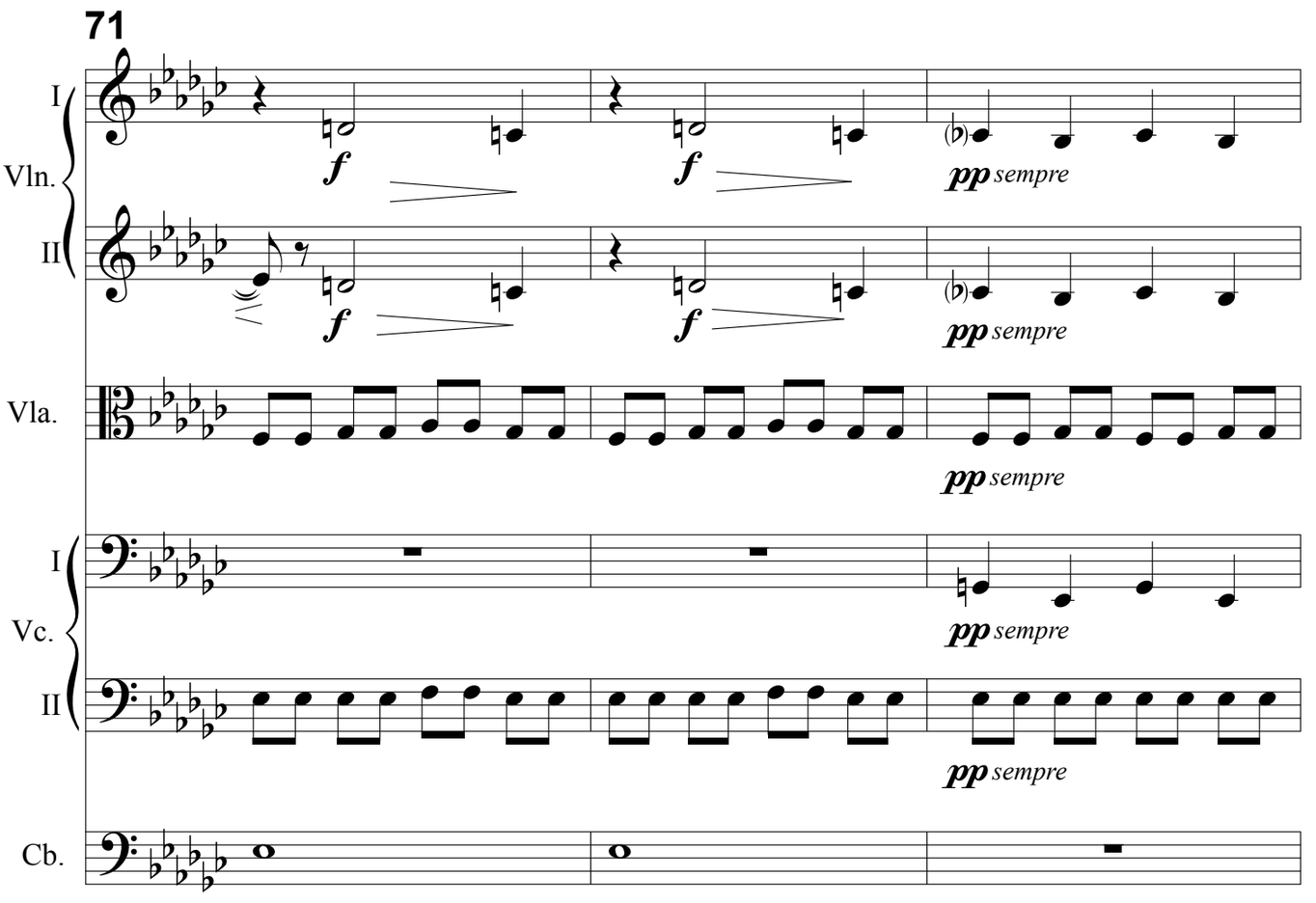

57
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.

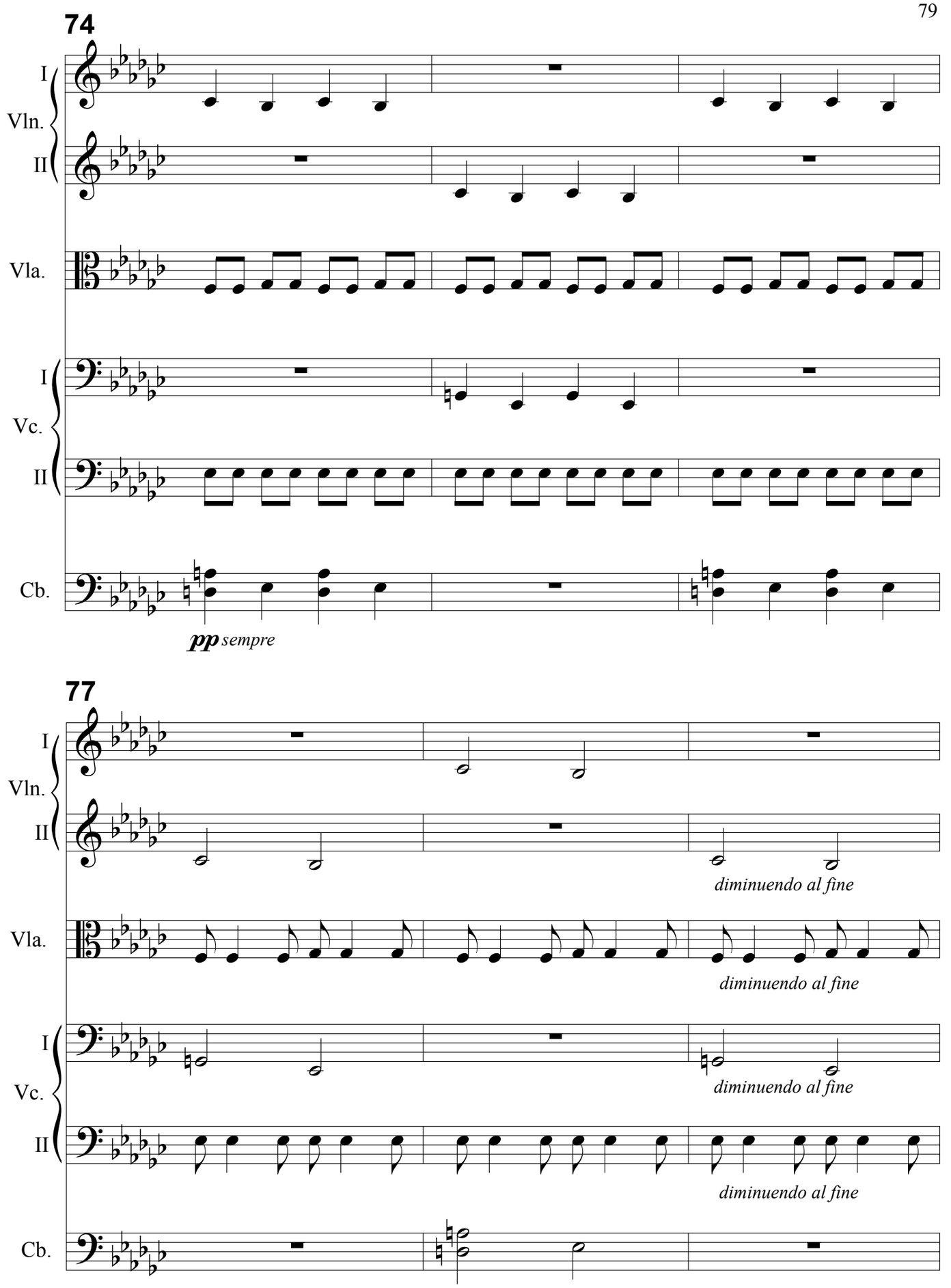

59
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
62
I
Vln.
II
p sempre
p sempre
Vla.
pp sempre
I
Vc.
II
p sempre
pp sempre
Cb.
p sempre

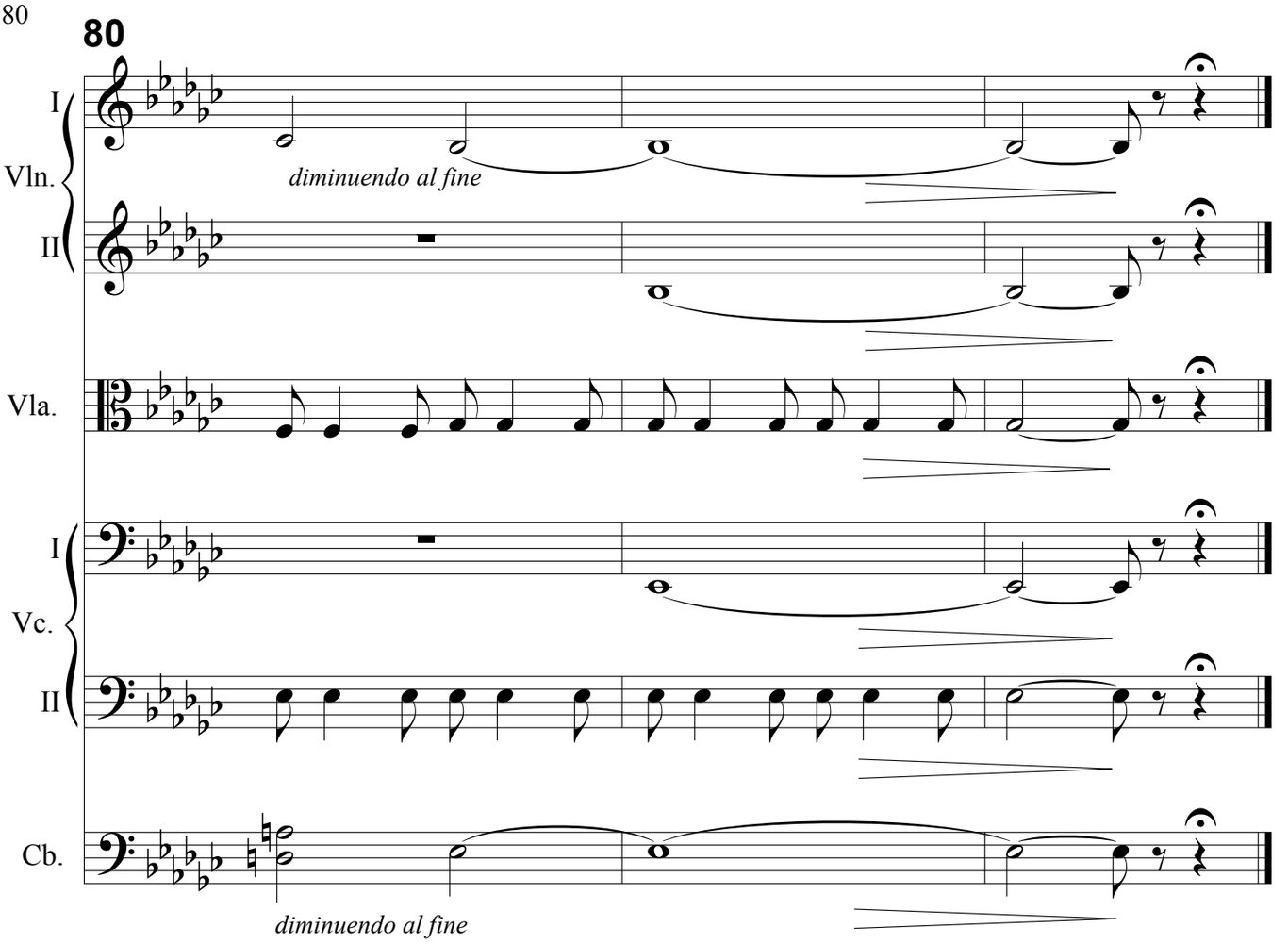

65
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.


67
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.


69
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.


71
I
Vln.
II
f
f
pp sempre
f
f
pp sempre
Vla.
pp sempre
I
Vc.
II
pp sempre
Cb.


74
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
pp sempre
77
I
Vln.
II
diminuendo al fine
Vla.
diminuendo al fine
I
Vc.
II
diminuendo al fine
diminuendo al fine
Cb.


80
I
Vln.
II
diminuendo al fine
Vla.
I
Vc.
II
Cb.
diminuendo al fine

John Newell

Like many composers today John draws from a variety of musical traditions. Not belonging to any “school” of composition, his objective is to create works that reflect his personal sensibility, that are inspiring and rewarding for performers and listeners alike. John’s works have been noted for their originality, clarity, and expressive power. He is equally at home composing for orchestra, solo instruments, vocal ensembles and chamber groups.

Born in Charlotte, North Carolina, John graduated from Duke University, having pursued studies in composition, piano and conducting. He earned his M.F.A from California Institute of the Arts, where his primary teacher was Mel Powell. John completed his formal training at SUNY Buffalo, working with Morton Feldman as recipient of the first Edgard Varèse Fellowship. Since earning his Ph.D. in 1979 he has pursued an independent creative path.

Organizations that have commissioned works include Eight Strings & a Whistle, Atlantic Sinfonietta and The Bowery Ensemble (New York), Monday Evening Concerts (Los Angeles), the Enid Symphony Orchestra (Oklahoma), as well as a number of amateur ensembles such as Passamaquoddy Bay Symphony Orchestra (Maine). His work has received support from the American Music Center, the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Meet the Composer. John's works are self-published through Abierto Music and he is a member of Broadcast Music Inc. More information is available at his web site: johnnewellmusic.com.

An accomplished pianist and conductor, John is experienced in collaborating with performers to create and present new works. He lives in Eastport, Maine; he is on the faculty of the Summerkeys program and founding director of the choral ensemble *Quoddy Voices*.

John Newell

Selected Instrumental Works

Fantasy viola, 'cello, piano

Signals From the Edge orchestra

The Story Told timpani, chimes, harp, strings

In Autumn violin, piano

Reflections String orchestra

…and nothing remains the same. flute, viola, 'cello

Three Preludes flute

Samsara Breakdown Orchestra

A Day's Journey string quartet

Concerto Piano and orchestra

Variations on Amazing Grace piano

Sequoia Quintet flute/piccolo, clarinet, oboe, horn, bassoon

Sky Music flute, clarinet, harp

Companions II piano

Song of Compassion 2 violas, keyboard, percussion

Rhapsody horn, piano

Lavender Axes flute/picc, clarinet, oboe/eh, bassoon, percussion, piano

Rondos Eb clarinet, trumpet, trombone, tuba, percussion

Knossos piano

Heterophony alto voices, violin, viola, english horn

Text soprano, violin, flute, clarinet, guitar, percussion

Image, Song, Vision flute, clarinet, violin, 'cello

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www.johnnewellmusic.com