Fantasy for String Quartet

by

John M. Tarrh

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Program Notes

This single-movement work revolves around resolution of the opening chords of a slow introduction. The cello has a brief lyrical solo, wandering into new key areas, but is brought back to the opening theme by her colleagues. The viola and cello have a lyrical duet, with accompanying figurations in the violins foreshadowing the main body of the quartet. A rapid, angry section follows. The second half of the piece is a strict mirror inversion of the first half. Inverting the melodic intervals also inverts the harmony, so that major chords become minor. The voices are inverted, with the first violin playing what was the cello part. High becomes low, loud becomes soft and, to a limited degree, tempi are inverted. Angry becomes delicate. The work concludes with a coda in which the opening dissonance is resolved as we race to the finish.

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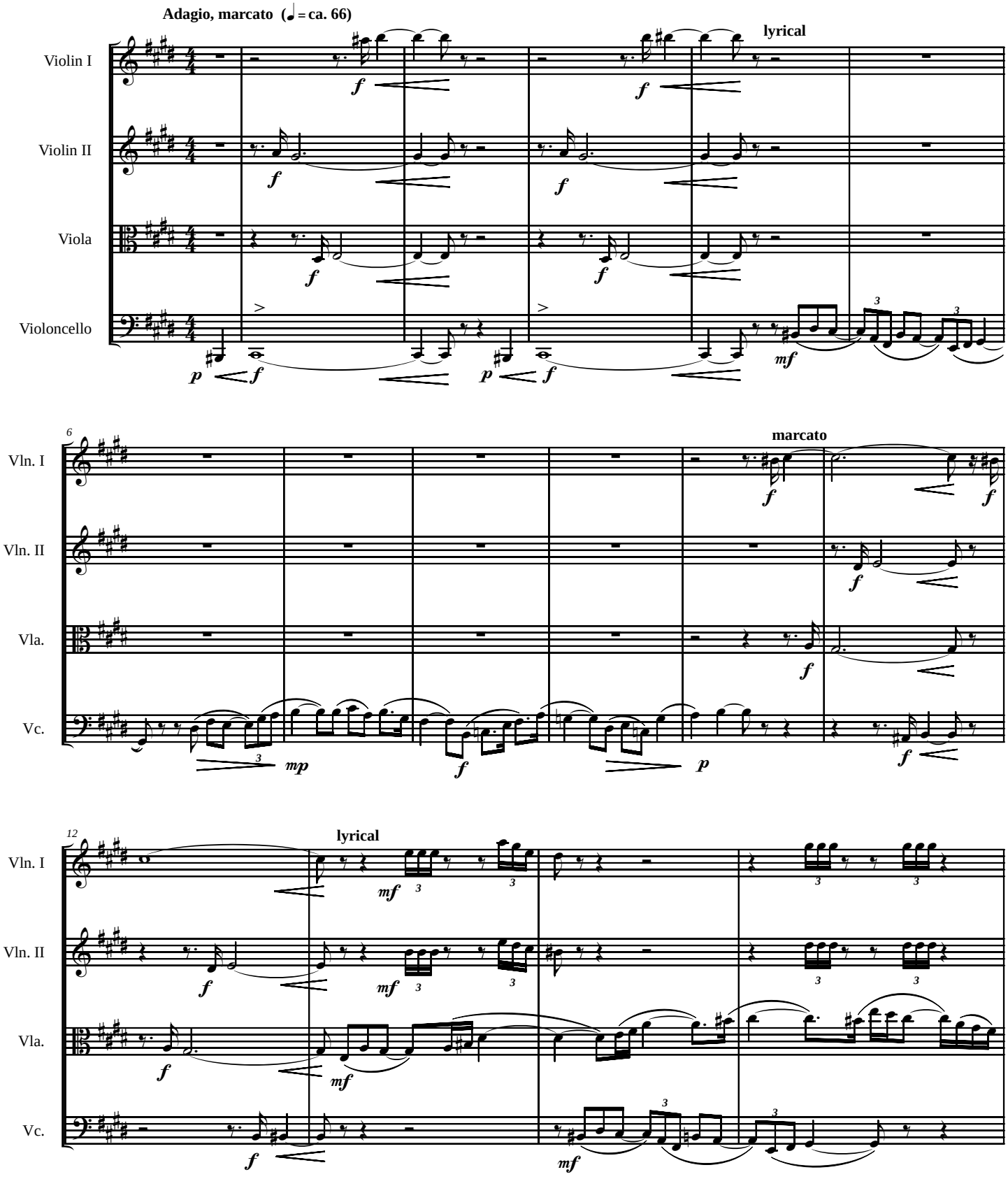

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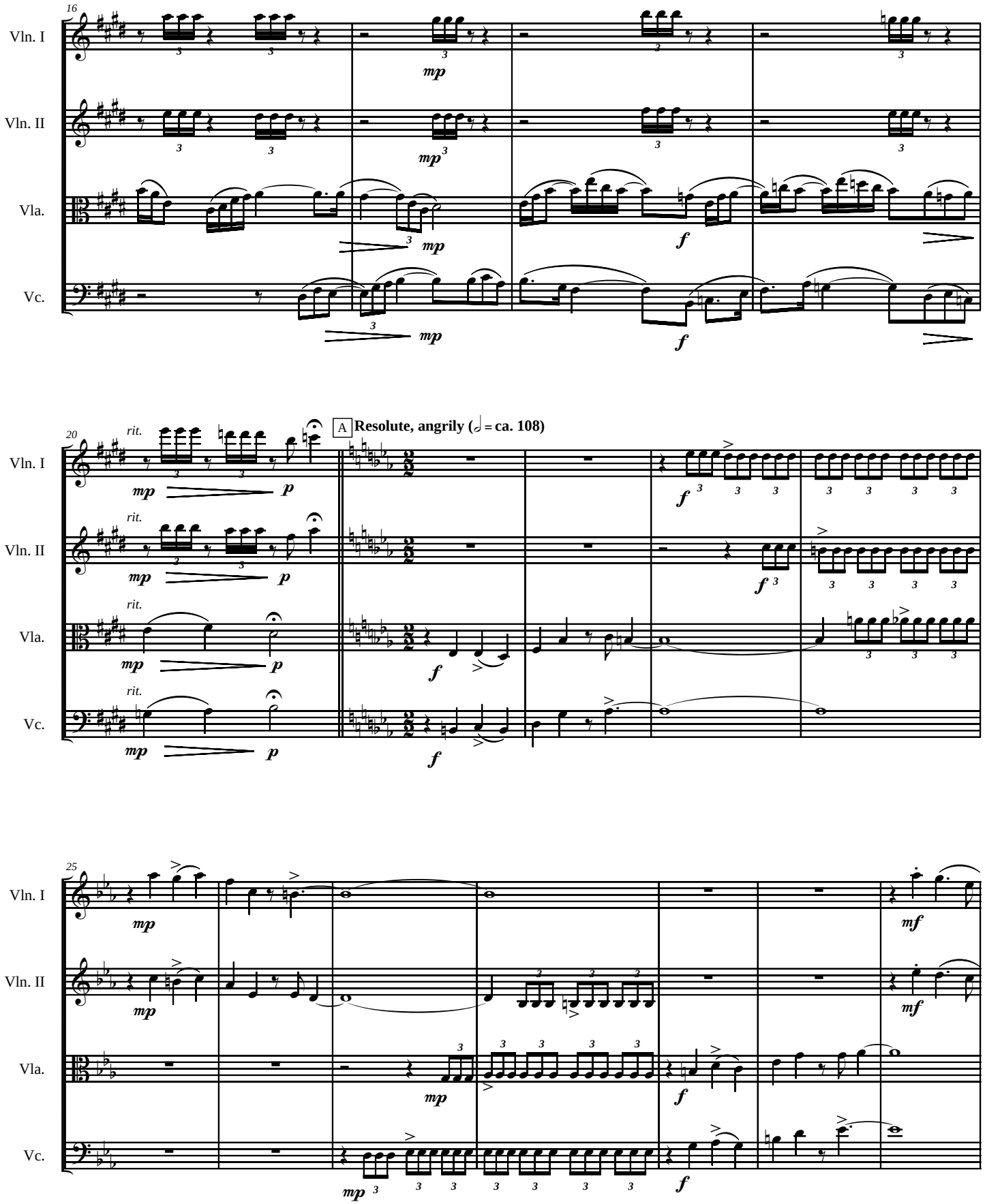
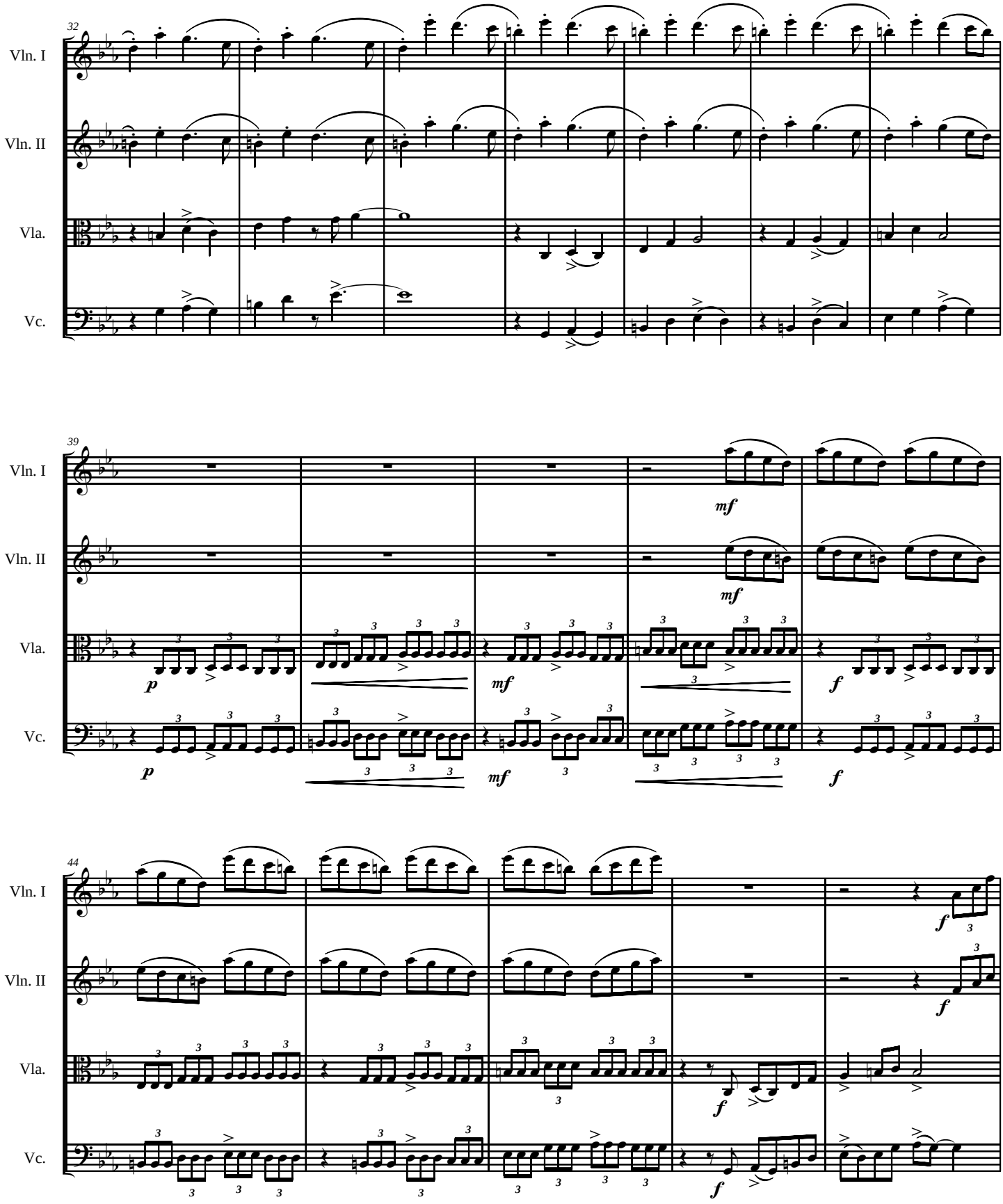
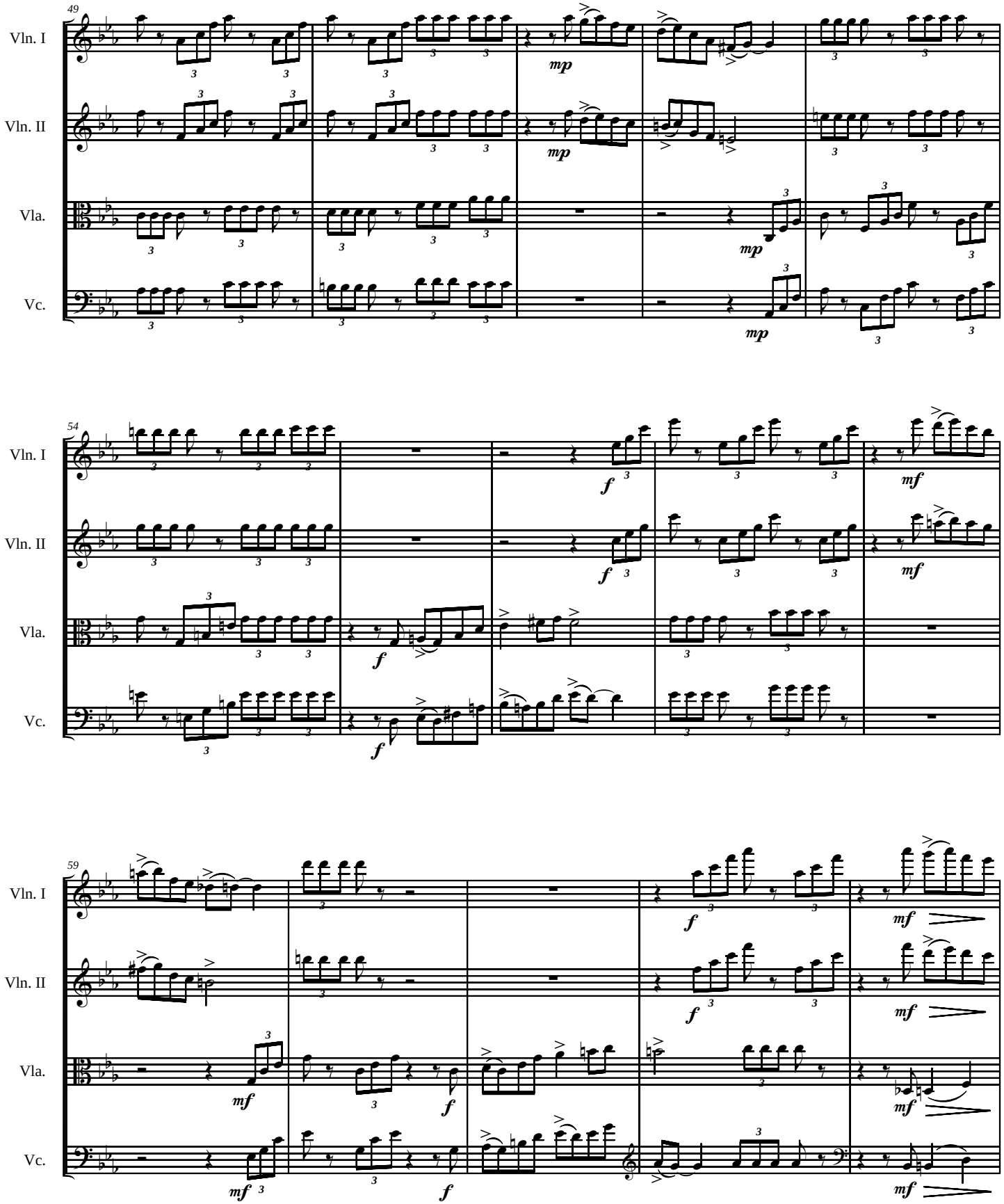
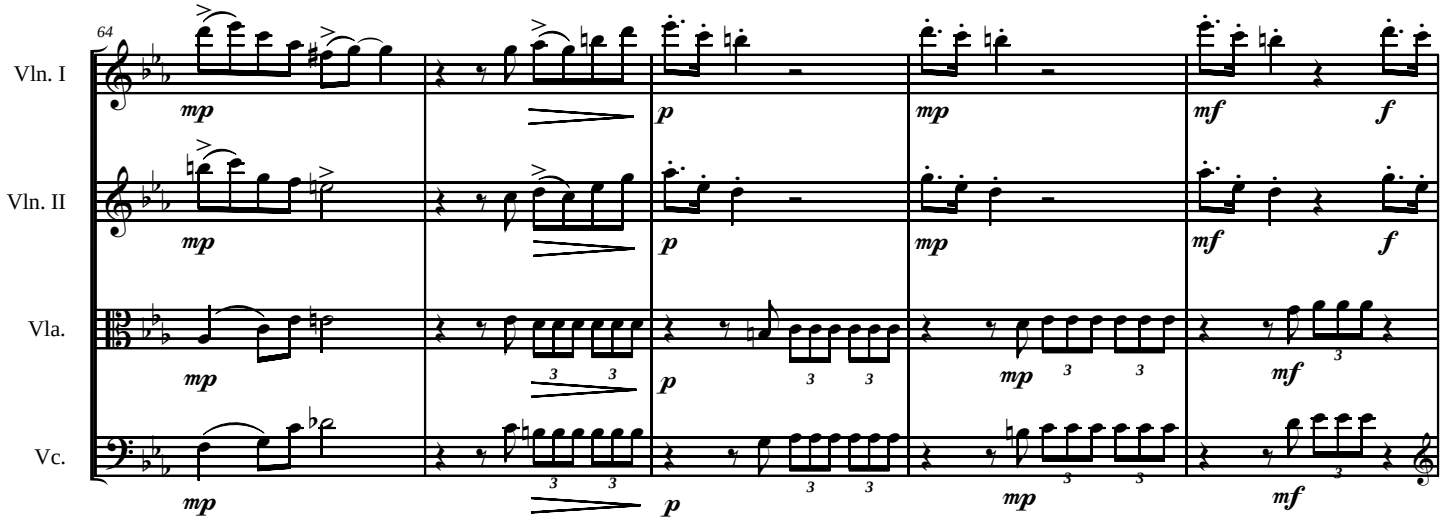
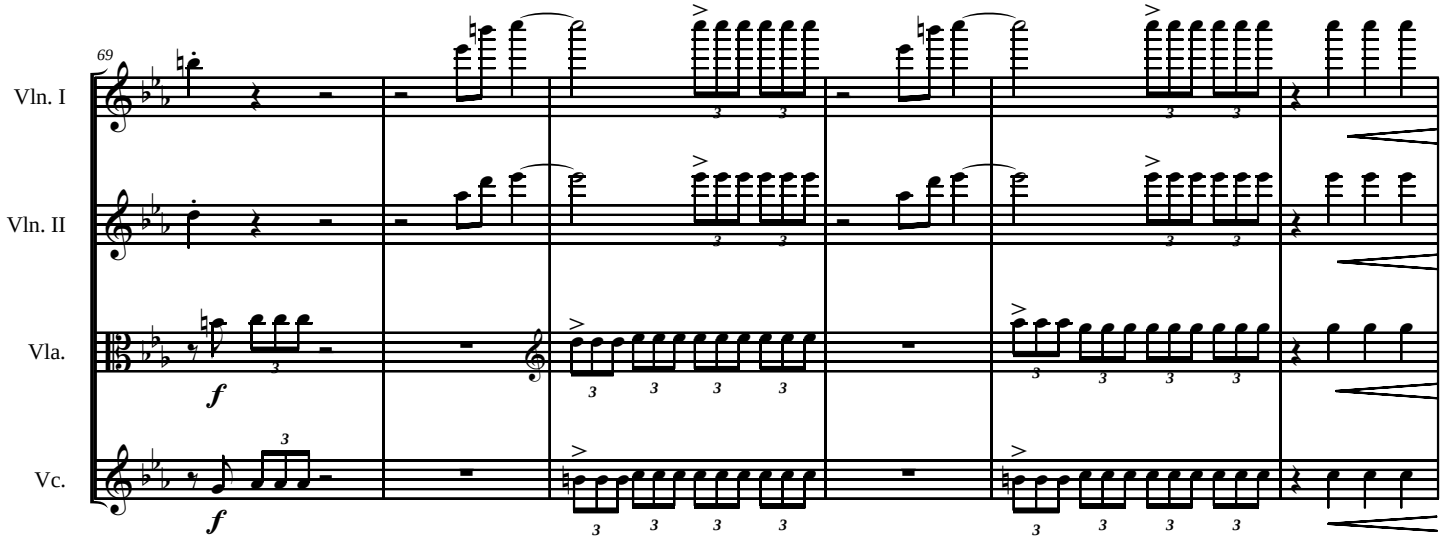
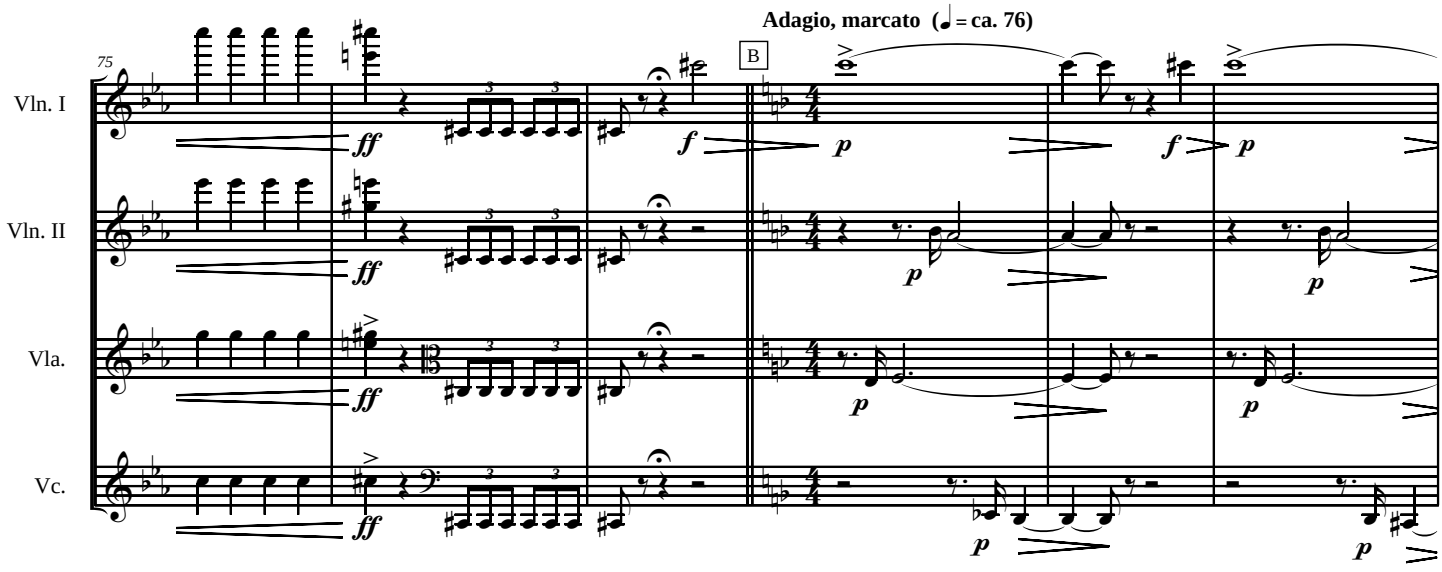

16
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mp
f
20
rit.
A
Resolute, angrily (𝅗𝅥 = ca. 108)
p
25
mf

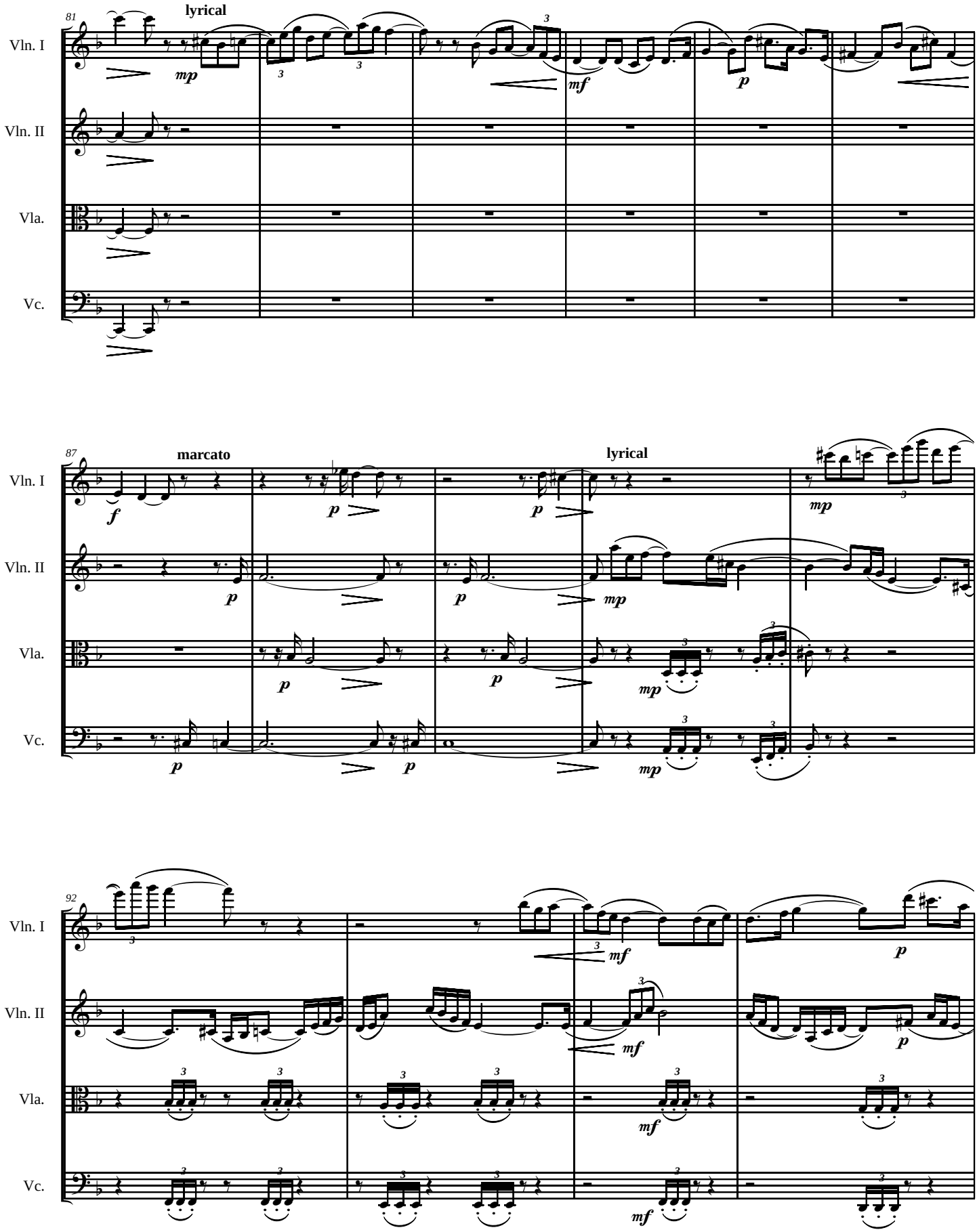

32
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
39
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
mf
f
44
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
f

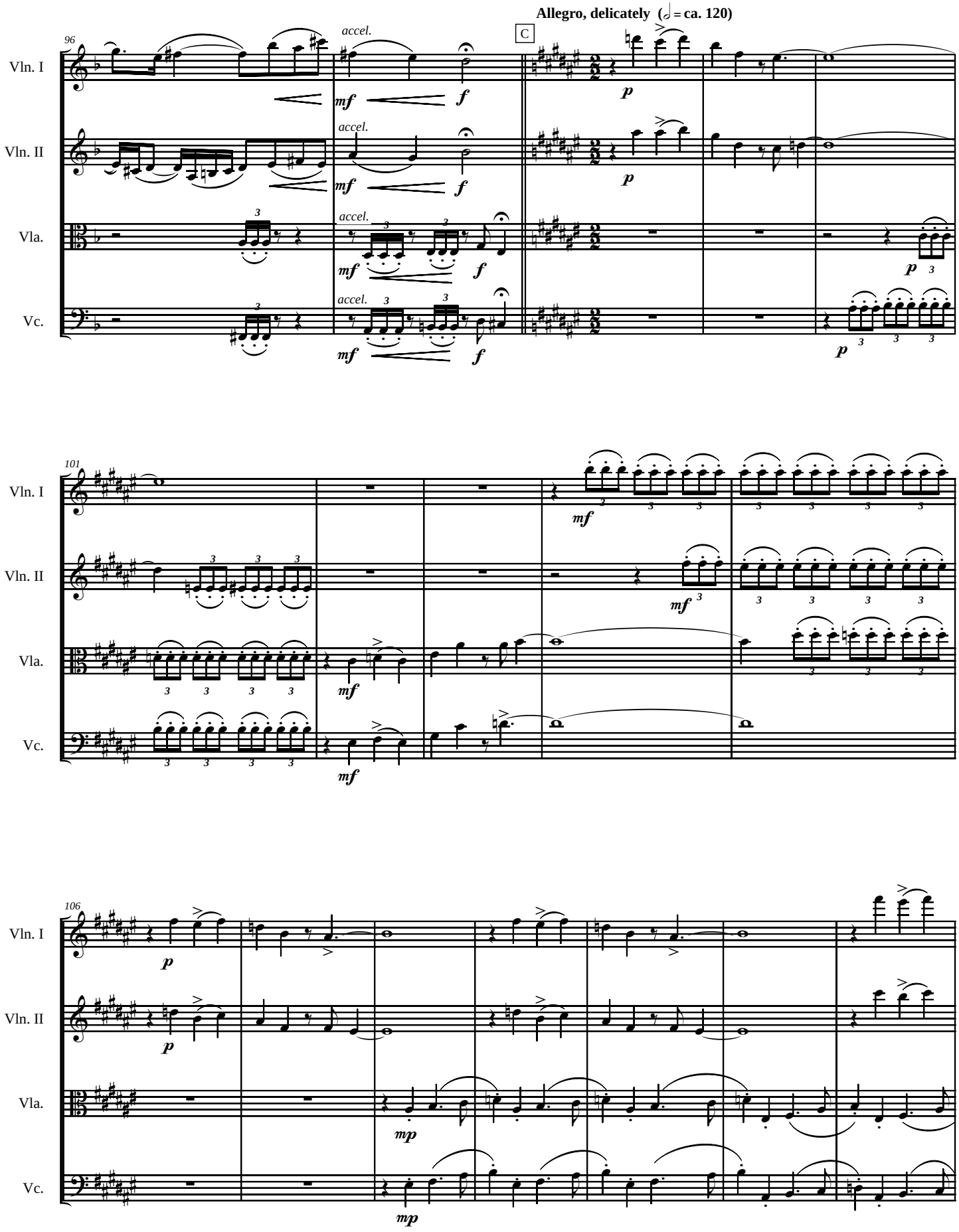

49
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mp
54
f
mf
59
mf
f

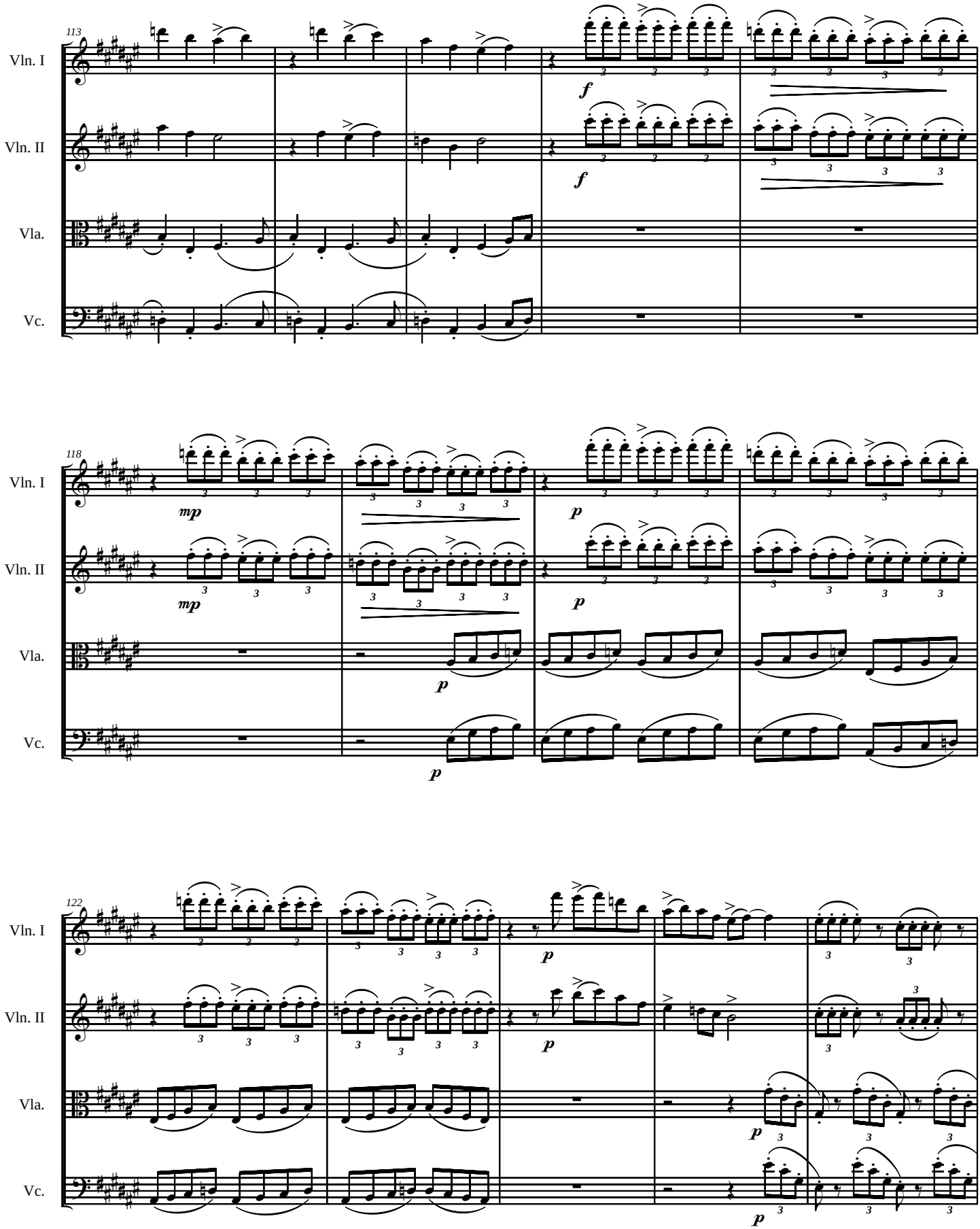

64
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mp
p
mf
f

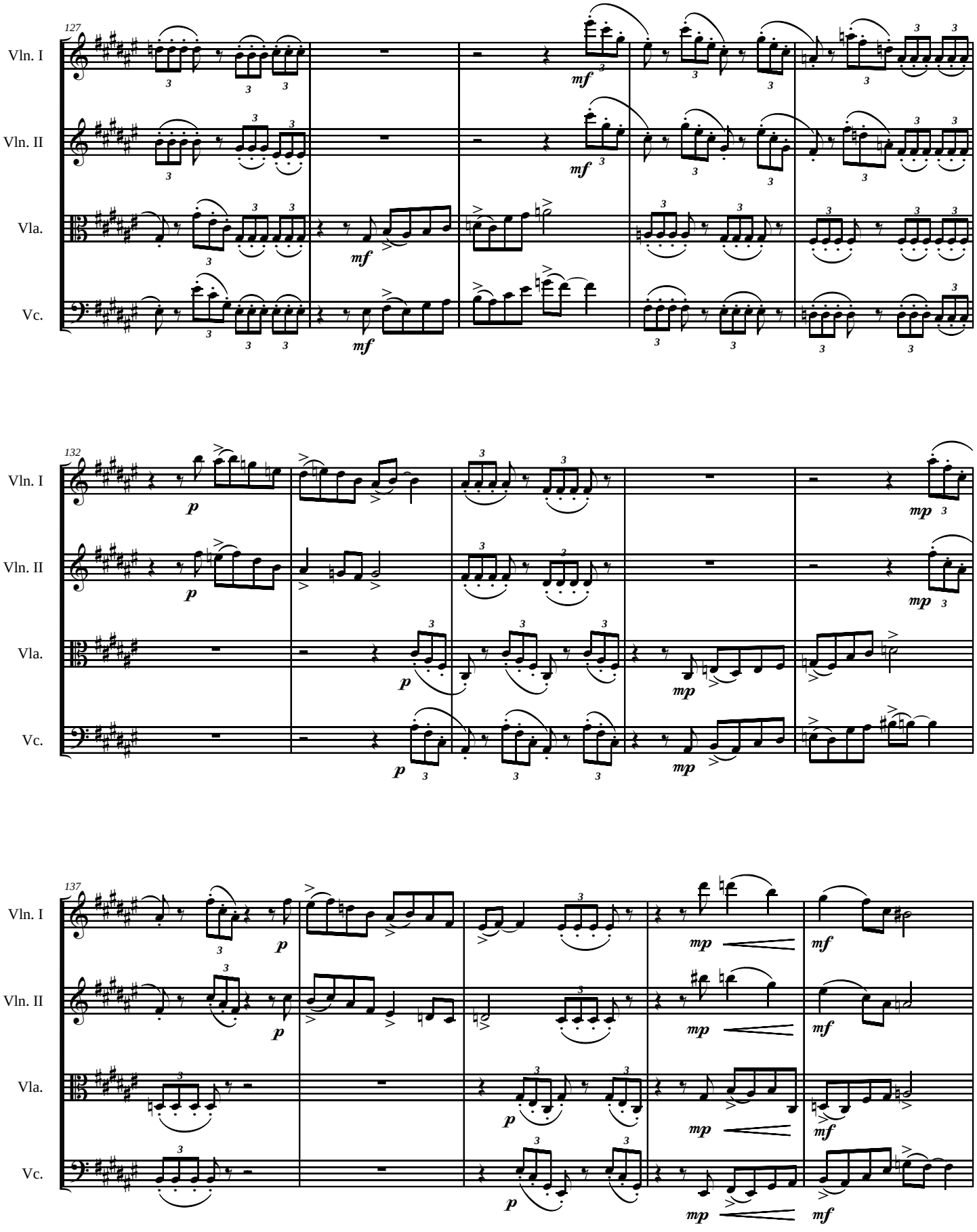

69
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
f

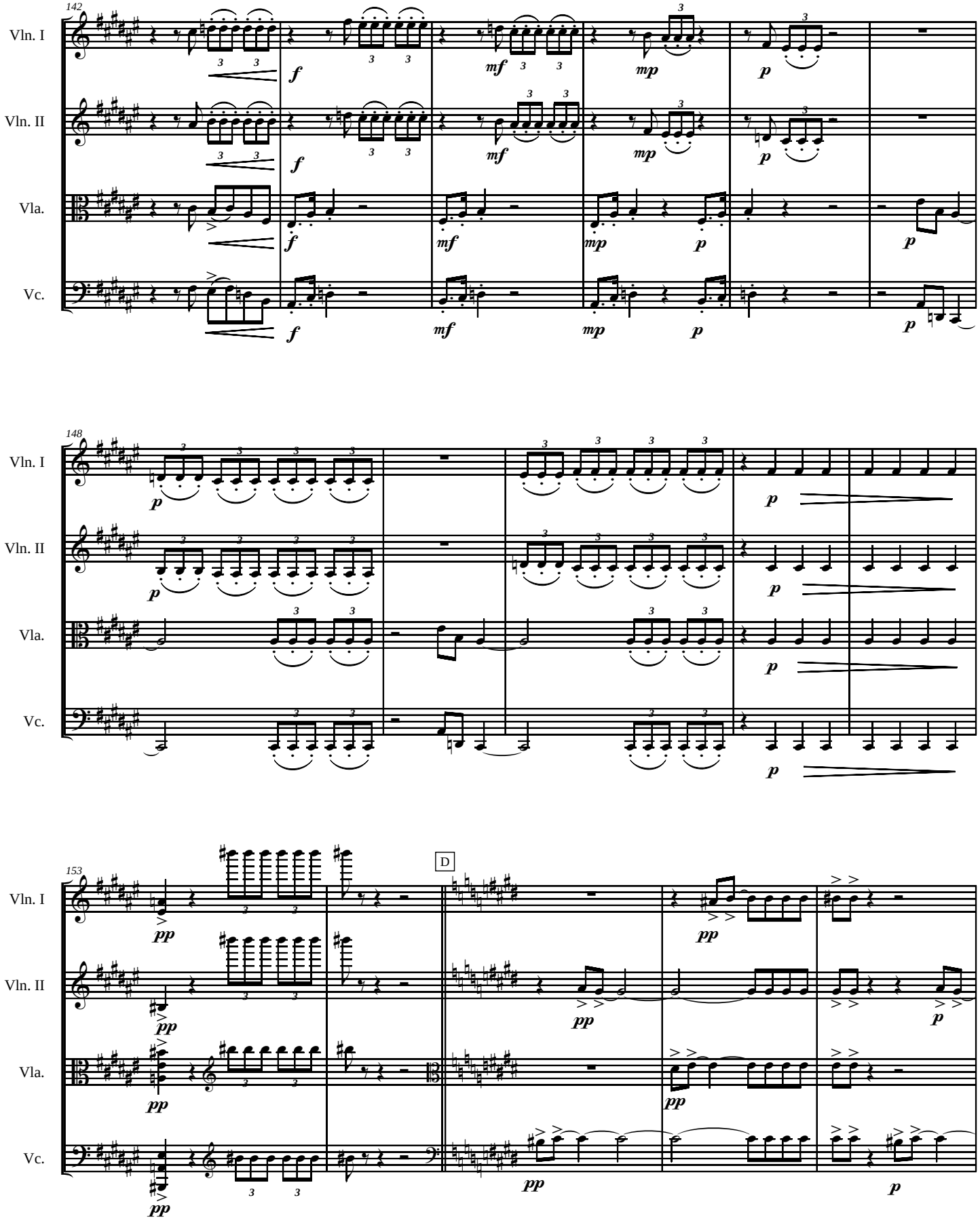

Adagio, marcato (♩ = ca. 76)
B
75
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
ff
f
p

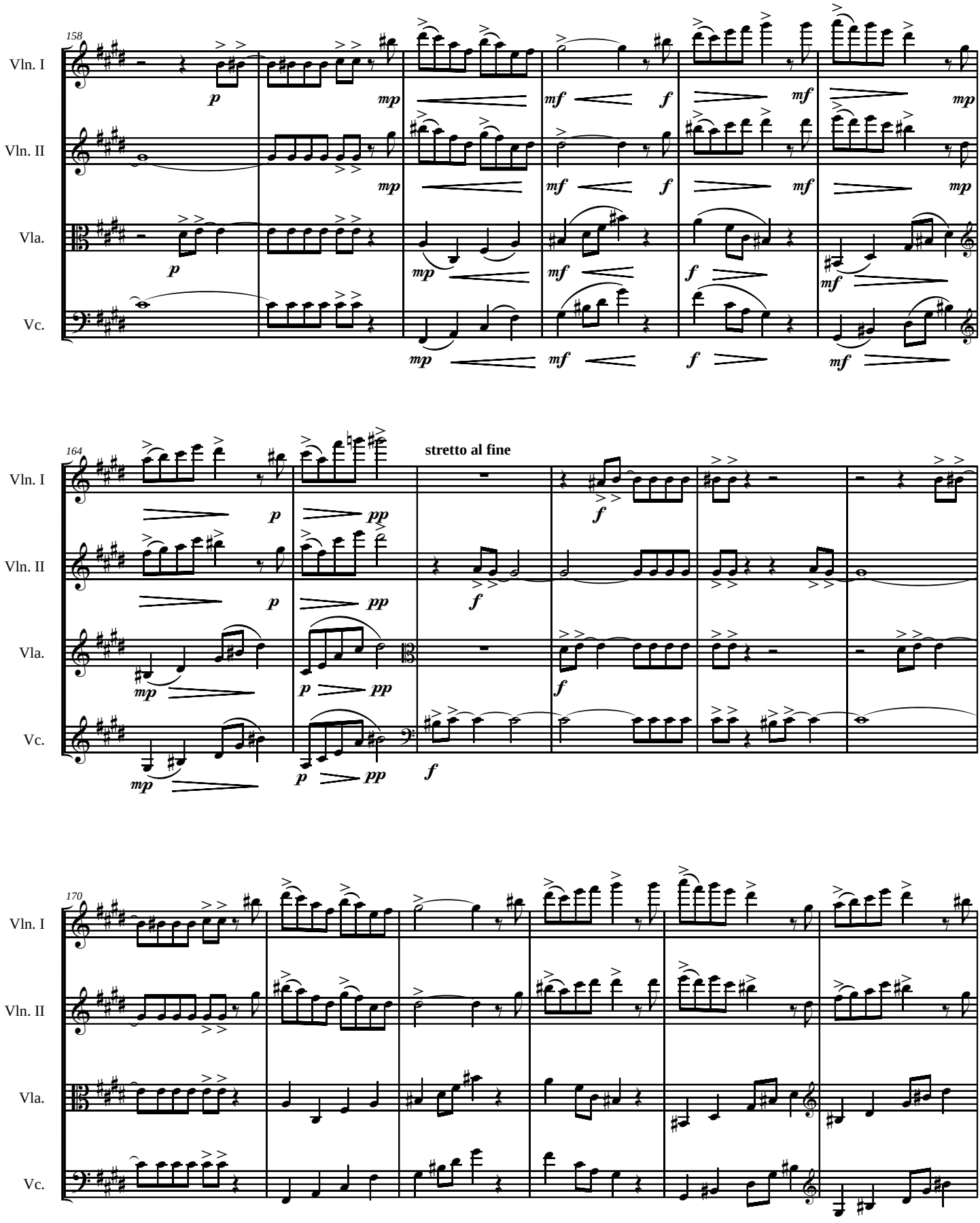

81
lyrical
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mp
mf
p
87
marcato
lyrical
f
mp
92

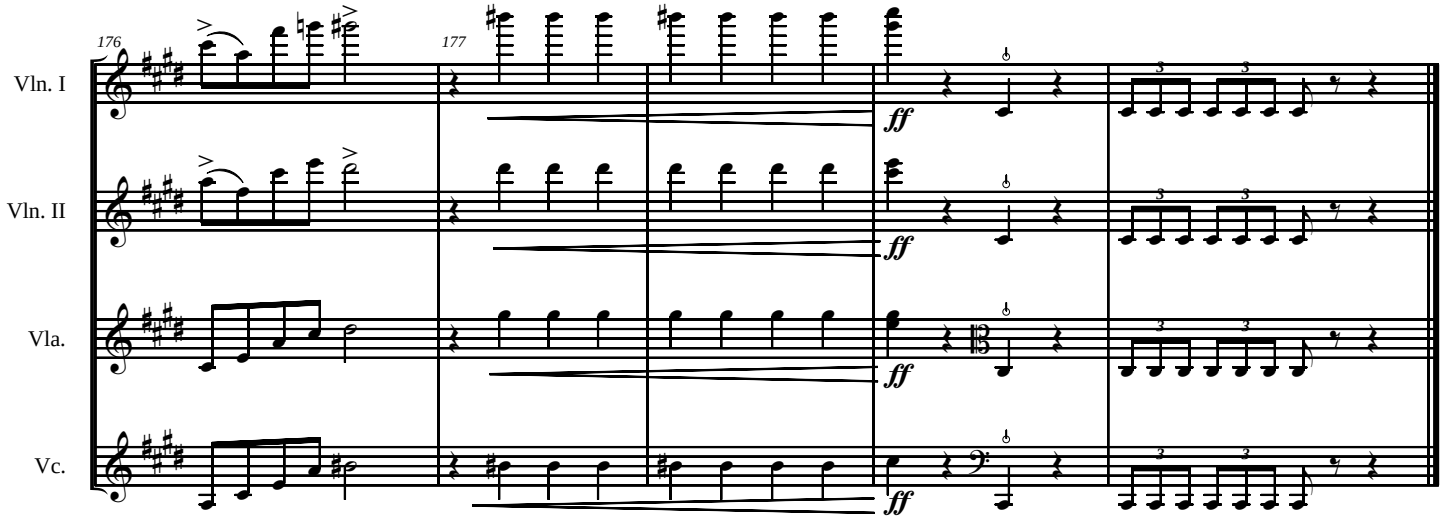

Allegro, delicately (𝅗𝅥 = ca. 120)
96
C
101
106
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
accel.
mf
f
p
mp


113
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
f
f
118
mp
mp
p
p
p
p
122
p
p
p
p


127
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
132
p
mp
137


142
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
148
153
D


158
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
164
stretto al fine
170


176
177
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
ff
ff
ff
ff