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Gonçalo Gato

Dégradé

Instruments:

Flute, Piccolo
Clarinet in B♭, Bass Clarinet in B♭
Violin
Violoncello
Piano

Program notes

Dégradé is a french term that we use in Portugal to describe a gradual shift from one colour to another. This work for ensemble conveys a shift of composition focus from figure to sound. In the beginning, I focused on shapes of melodic figuration and their orchestration. Gradually, the focus on harmonic colour and overall sound shape becomes more important. I guess one can also hear these 'gradations' on a smaller scale.

London, 11th of June of 2012

This piece was premiered in London, UK, at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama's Music Hall on the 5th of July of 2012 by the Chroma Ensemble, conducted by Christopher Austin.

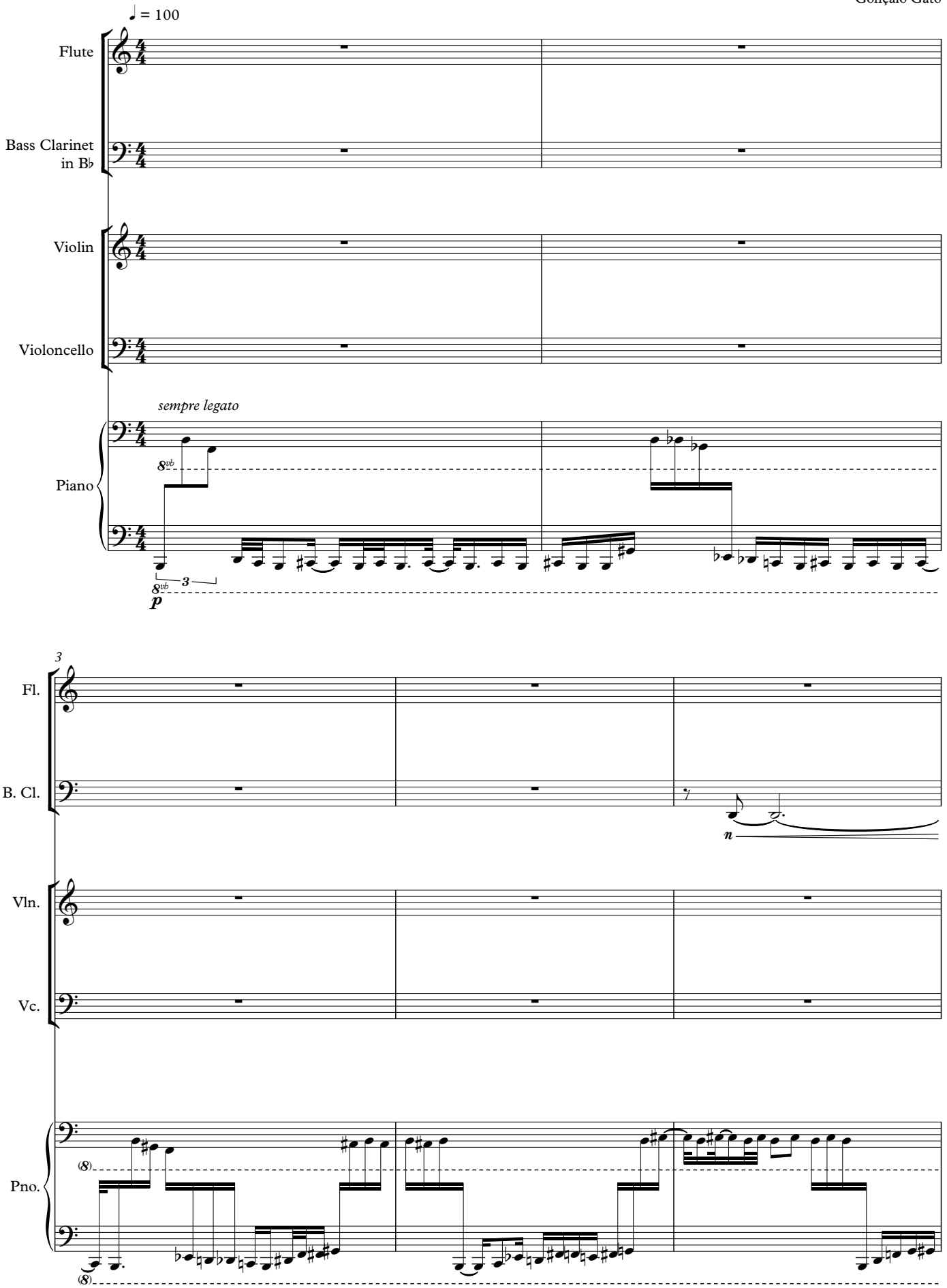
Execution notes:

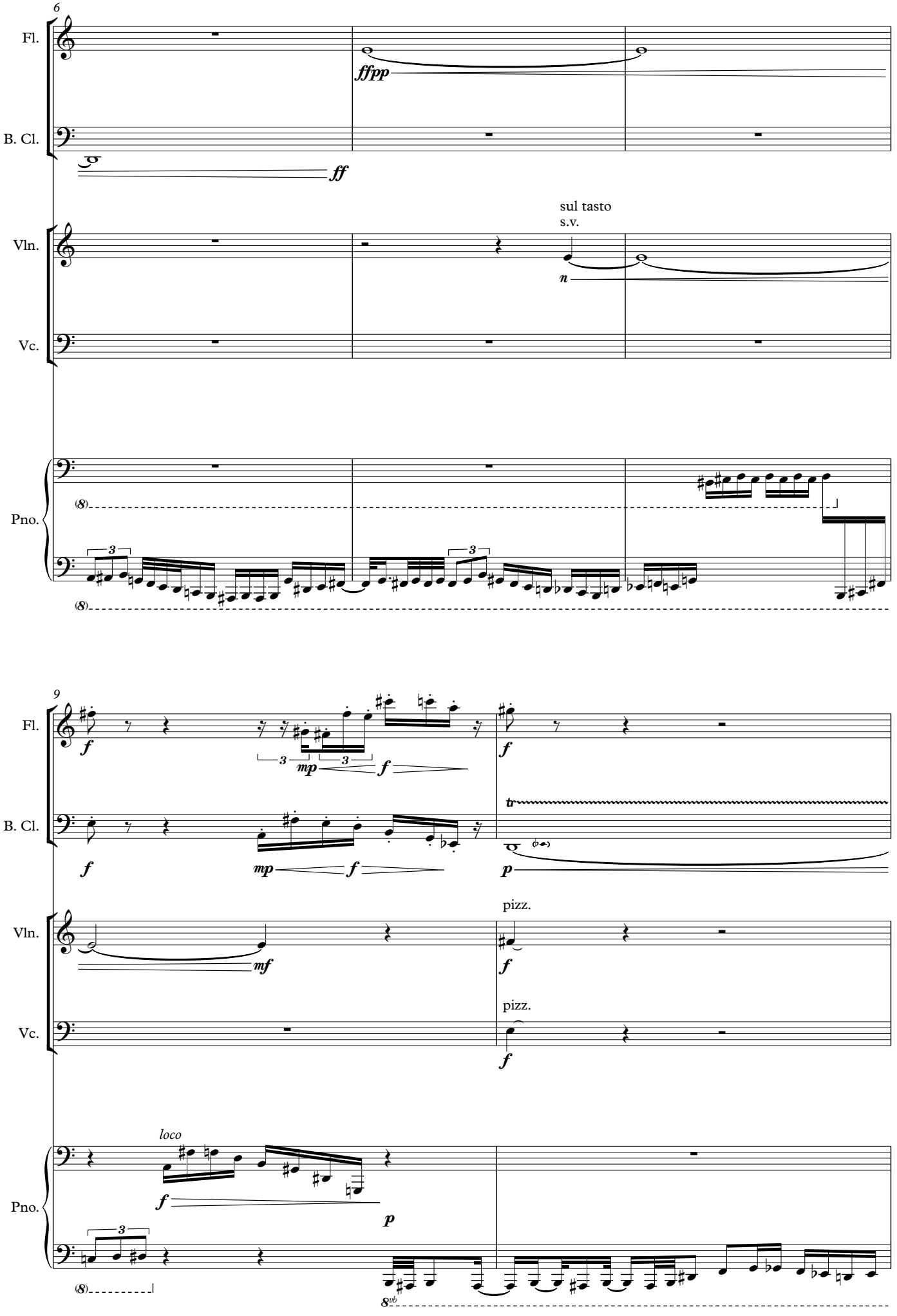
- Accidentals last one bar, affecting only the octave on which they appear.
- In this piece, the changes of harmonic 'colour' and musical texture are of paramount importance. Many times they occur as a kind of fade-out/fade-in.
- There are two main characters in this piece. From the beginning to F the music is energetic, eventful, a little agitated. From F onwards the music is soft, sensitive, "silky", even a little lyrical. From E to F a sort of transition exists.

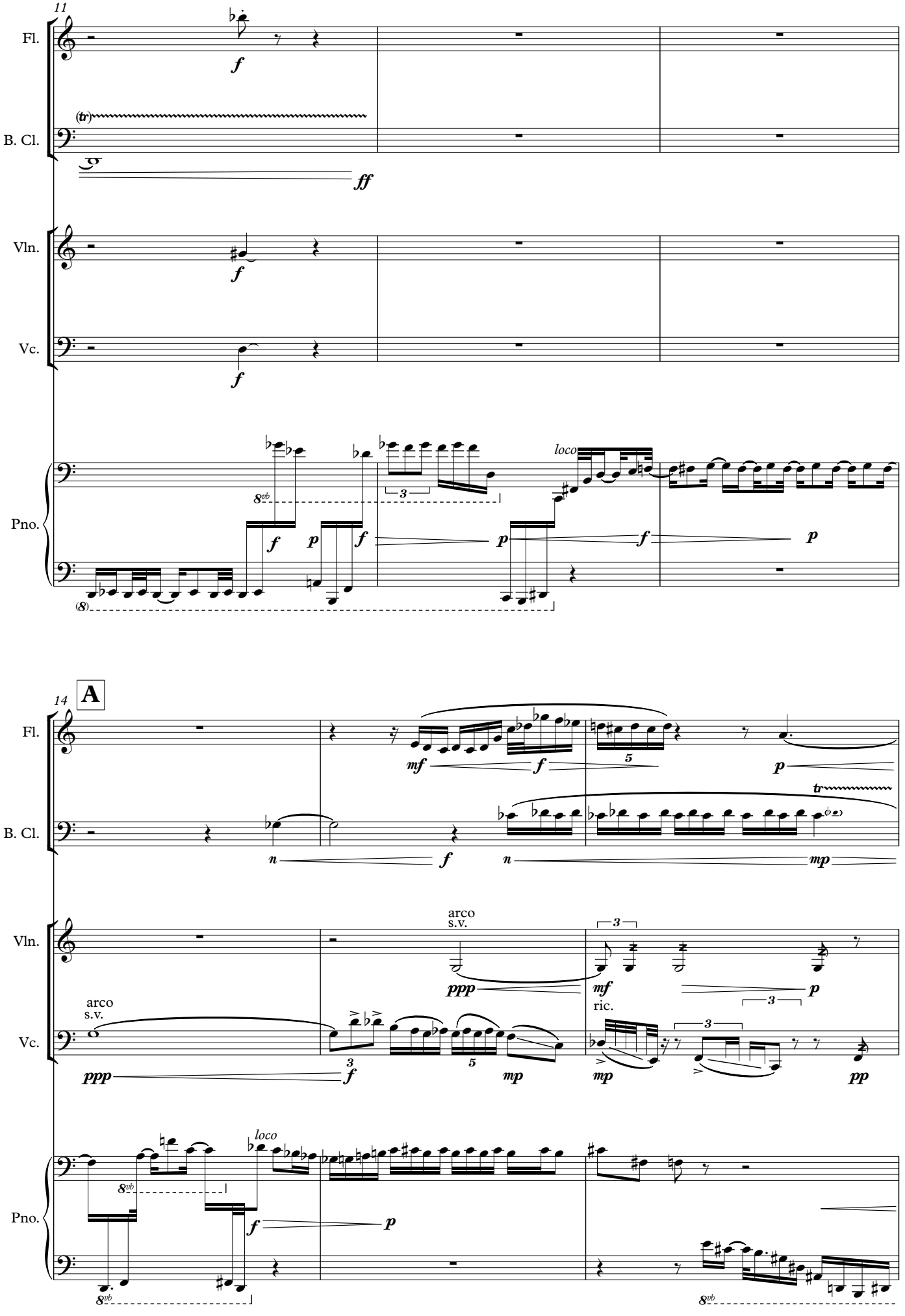
Dégradé

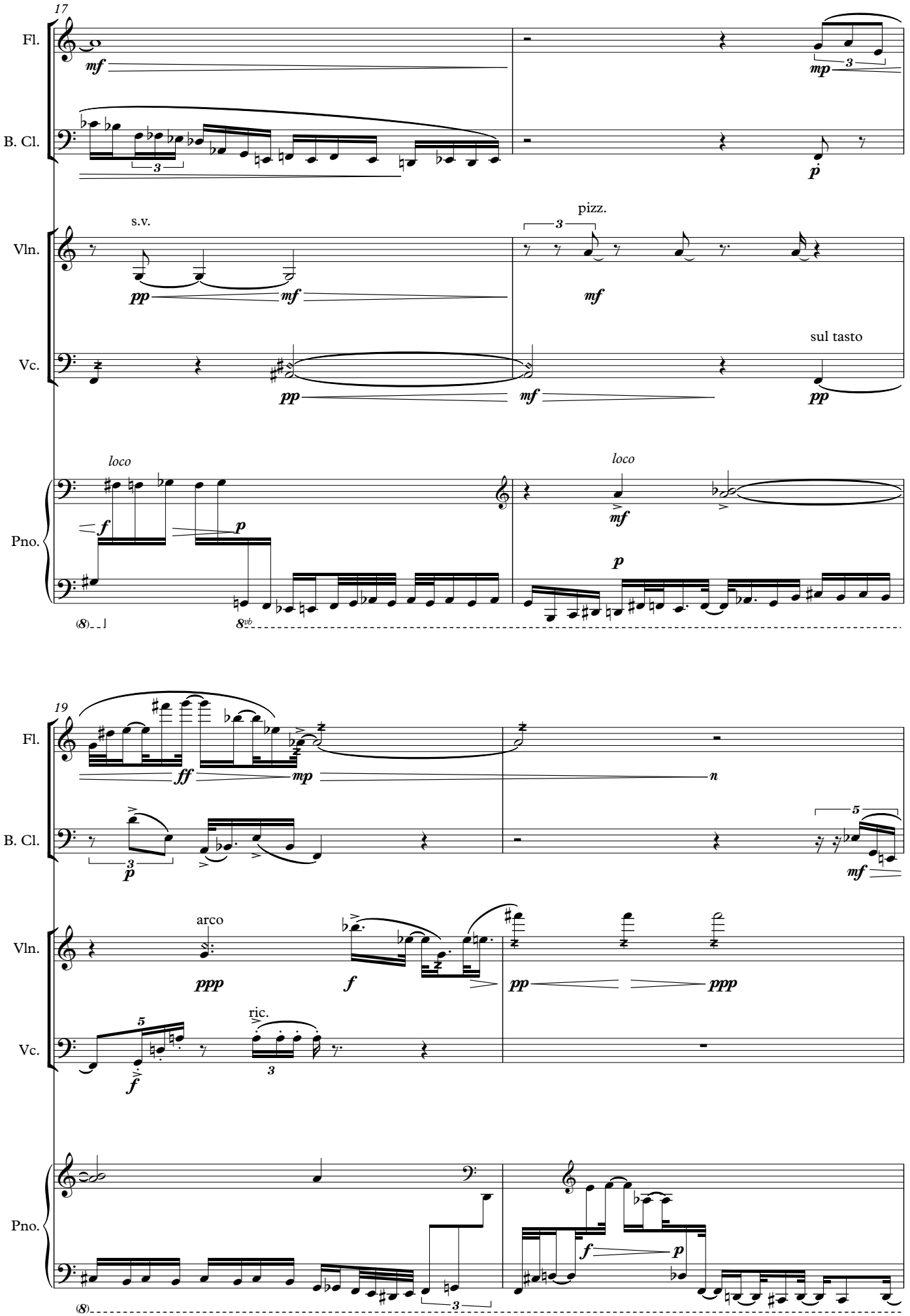
Score in C
at concert pitch

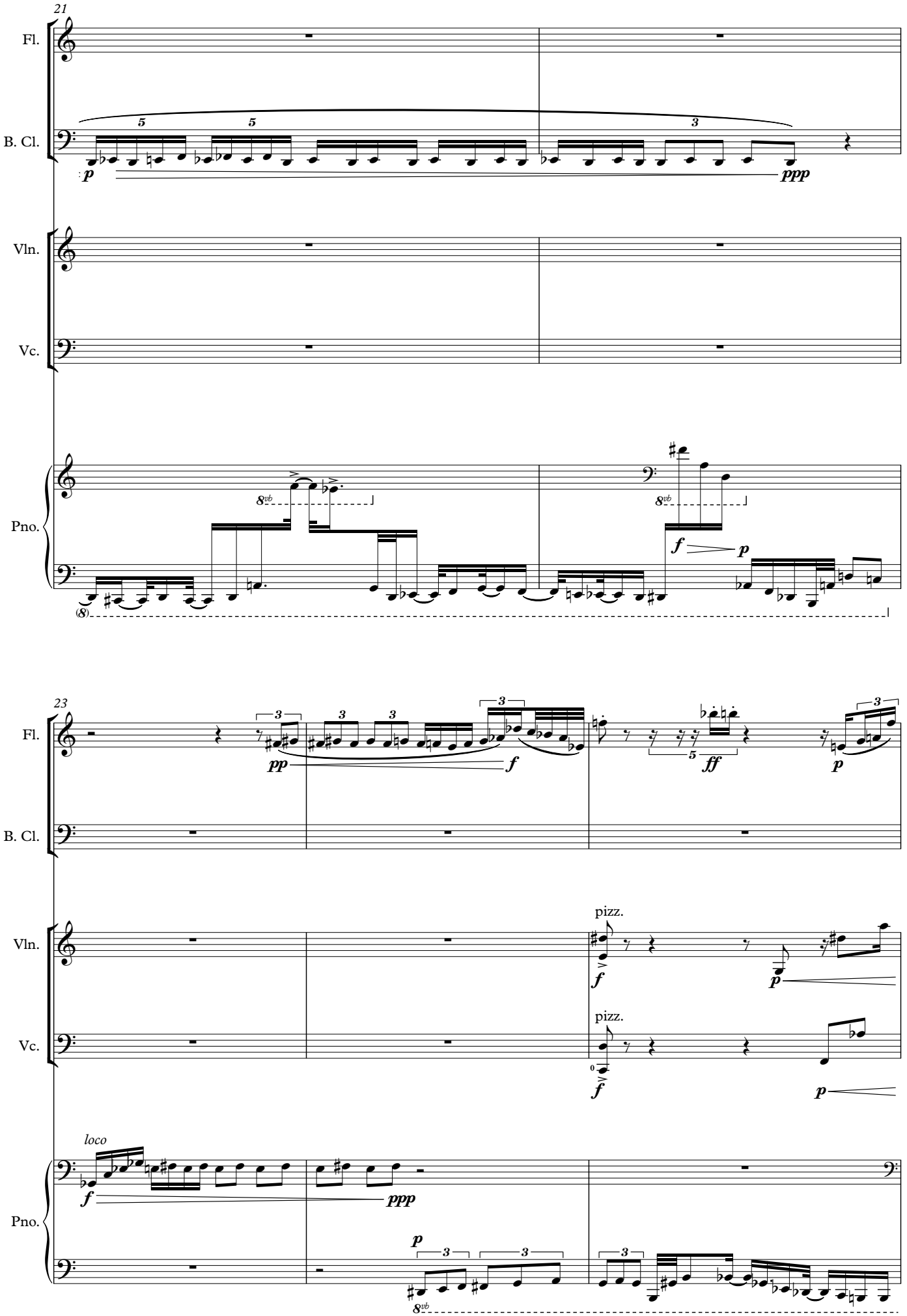
Gonçalo Gato

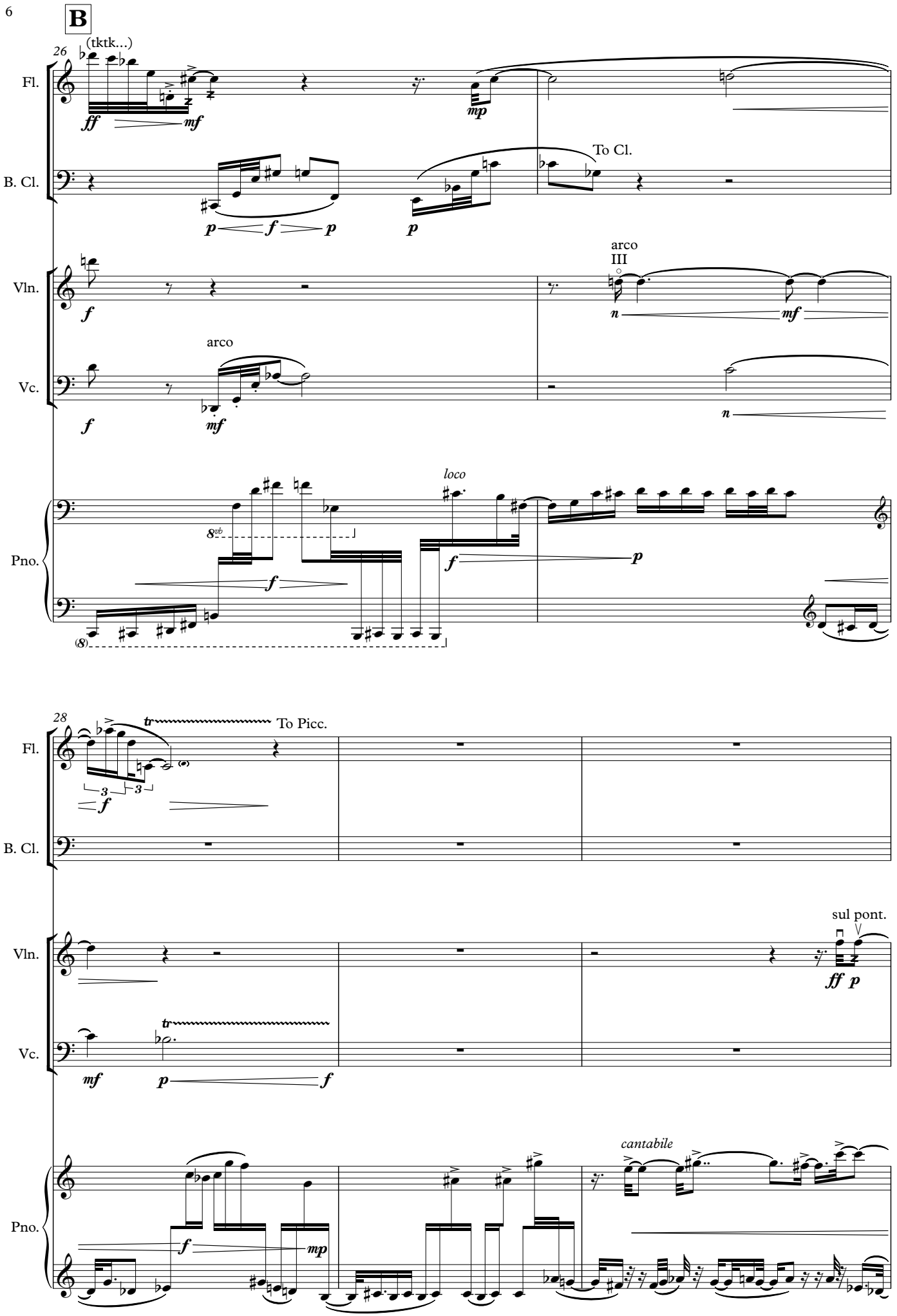


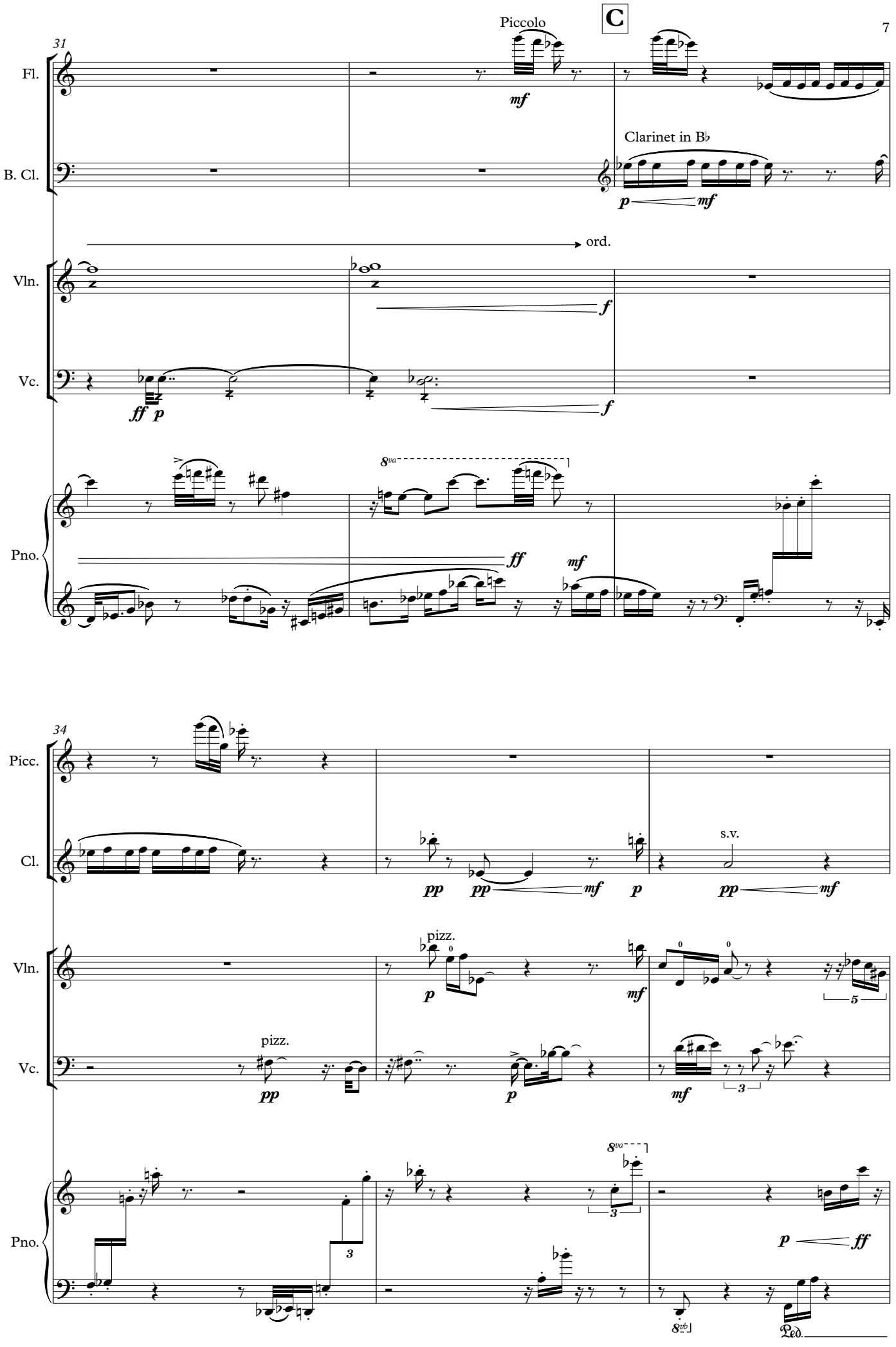

6
Fl.
B. Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
ffpp
ff
sul tasto
s.v.
n
(8)
3
9
f
mp
tr
p
mf
pizz.
loco
8vb

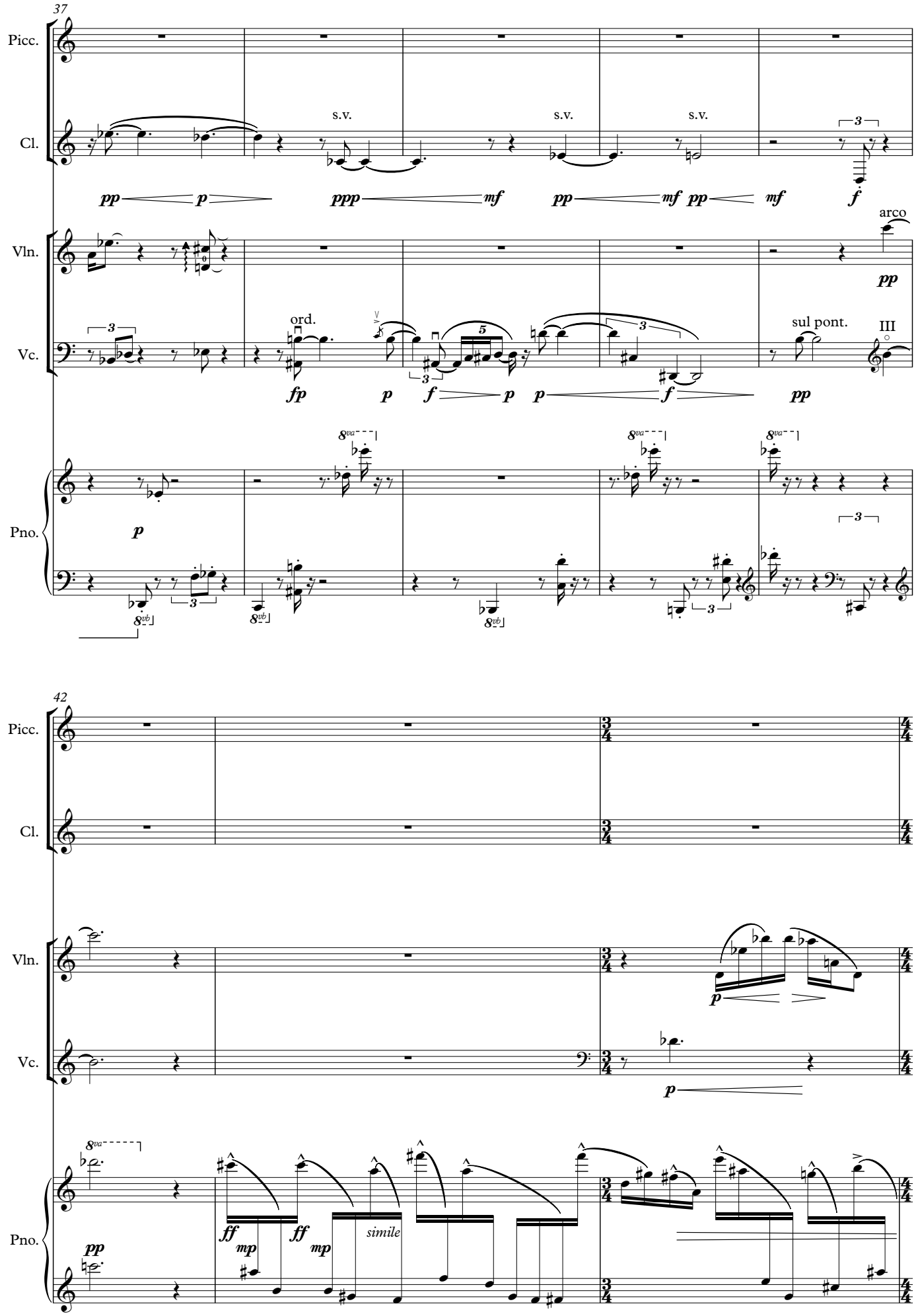

11
Fl.
B. Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
loco
A
14
arco
s.v.
ric.

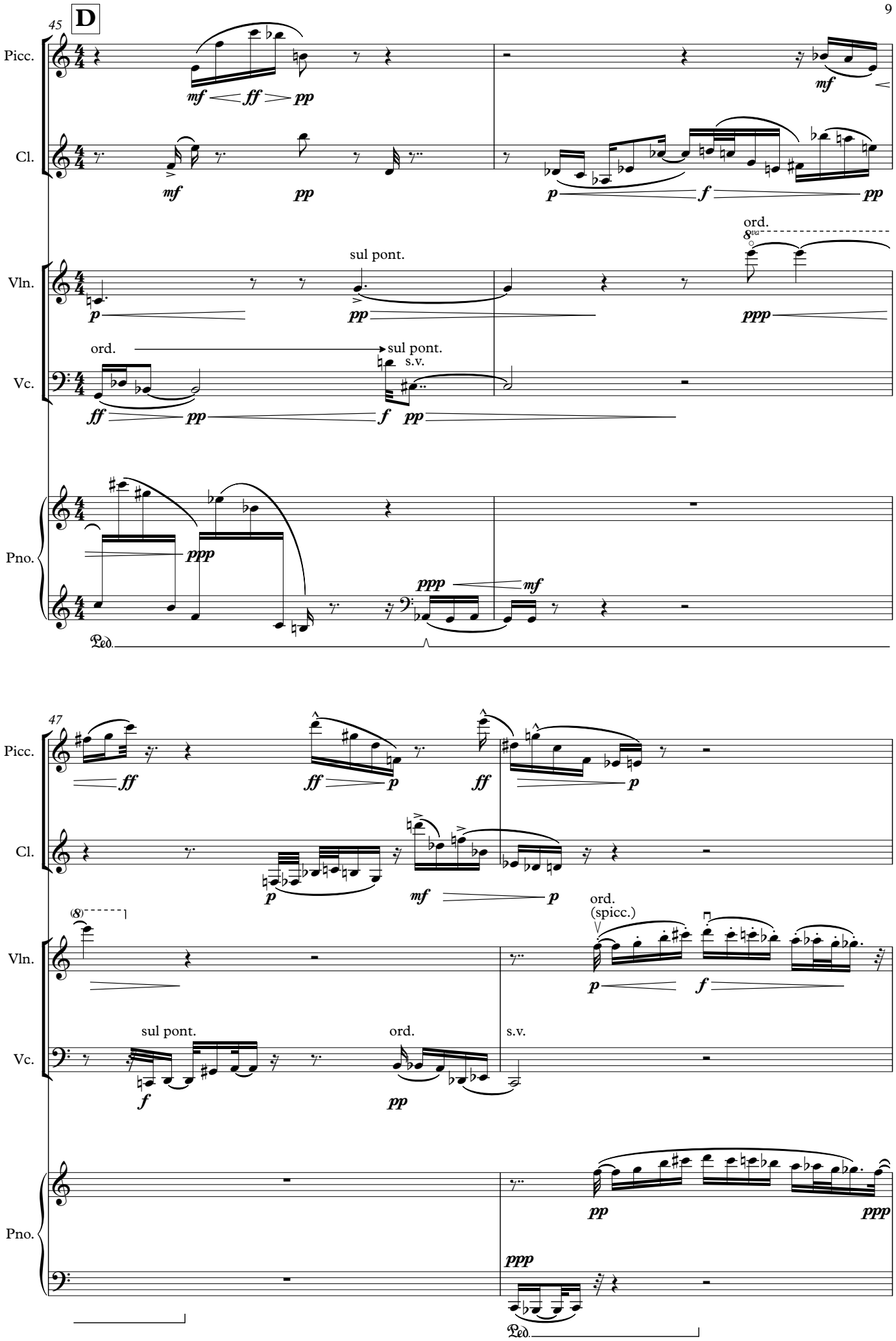

17
Fl.
mf
mp
3
B. Cl.
3
p
s.v.
pizz.
Vln.
pp
mf
3
mf
Vc.
sul tasto
pp
mf
pp
loco
loco
Pno.
f
p
mf
p
(8)
8vb
19
Fl.
ff
mp
n
B. Cl.
3
p
5
mf
arco
Vln.
ppp
f
pp
ppp
5
ric.
Vc.
f
3
Pno.
f
p
(8)
3

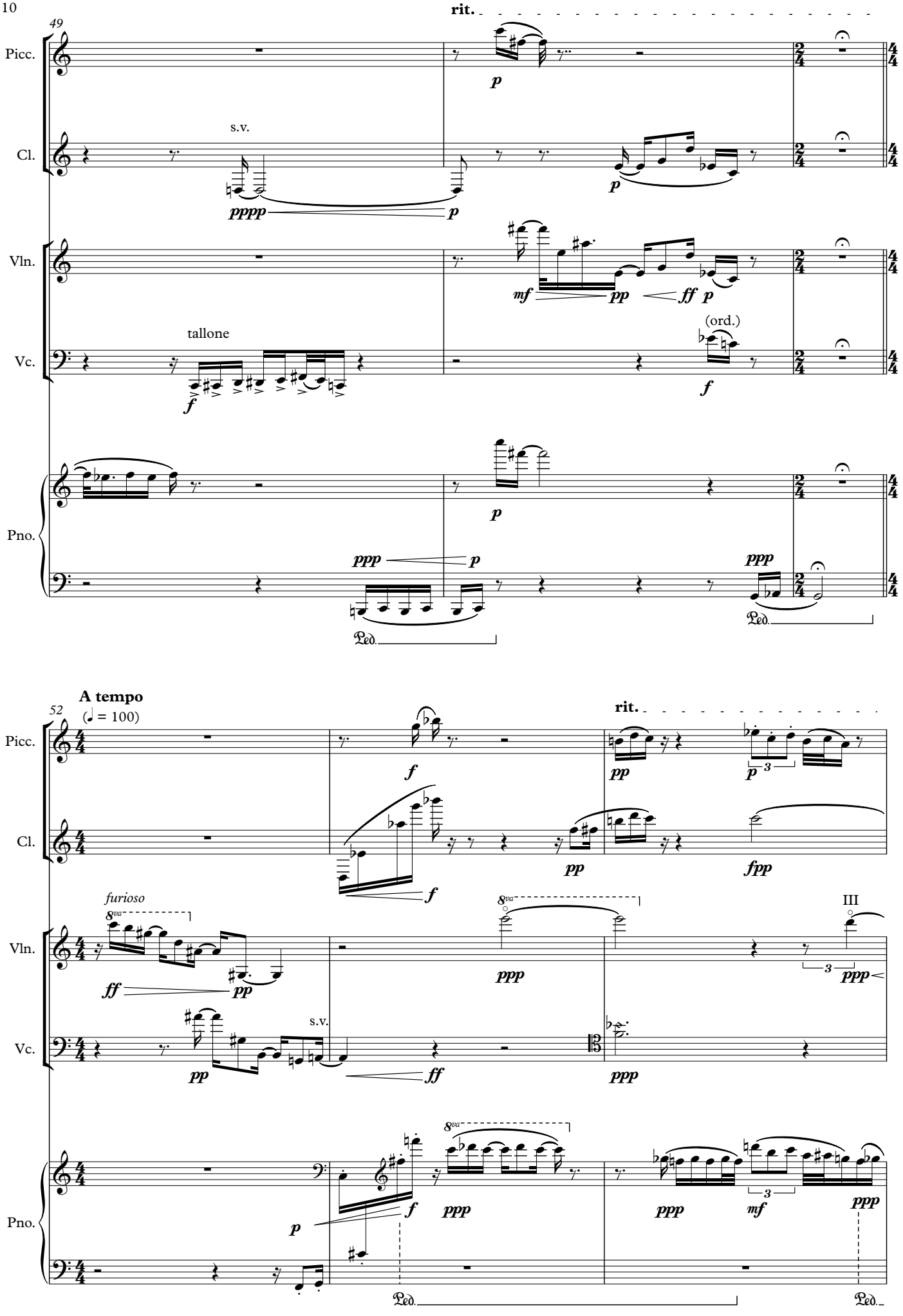

21
Fl.
B. Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
p
ppp
8vb
f
p
(8)
23
pp
ff
pizz.
loco

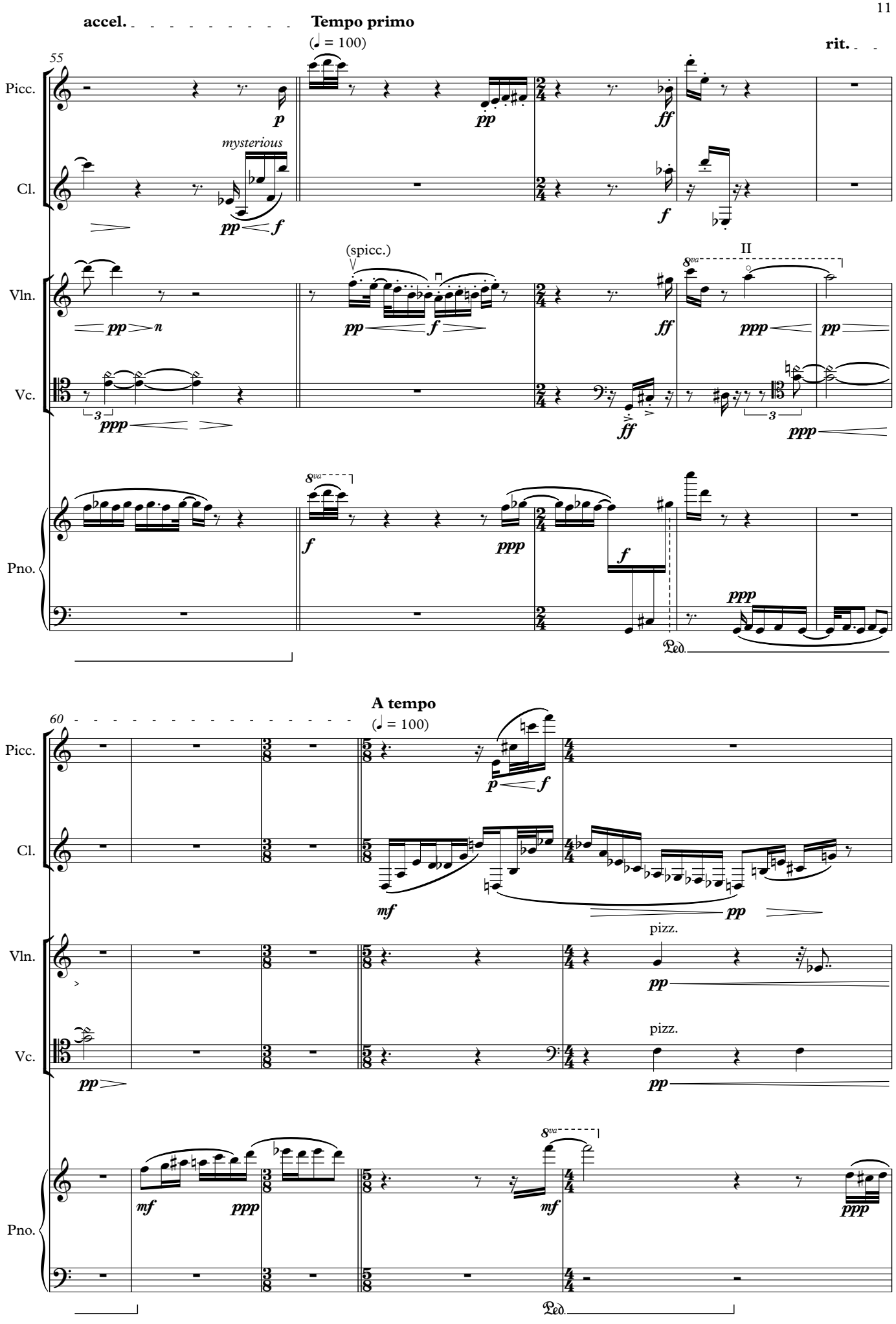

B
26
(tktk...)
Fl.
B. Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
To Cl.
arco
III
arco
loco
8vb
28
To Picc.
sul pont.
cantabile

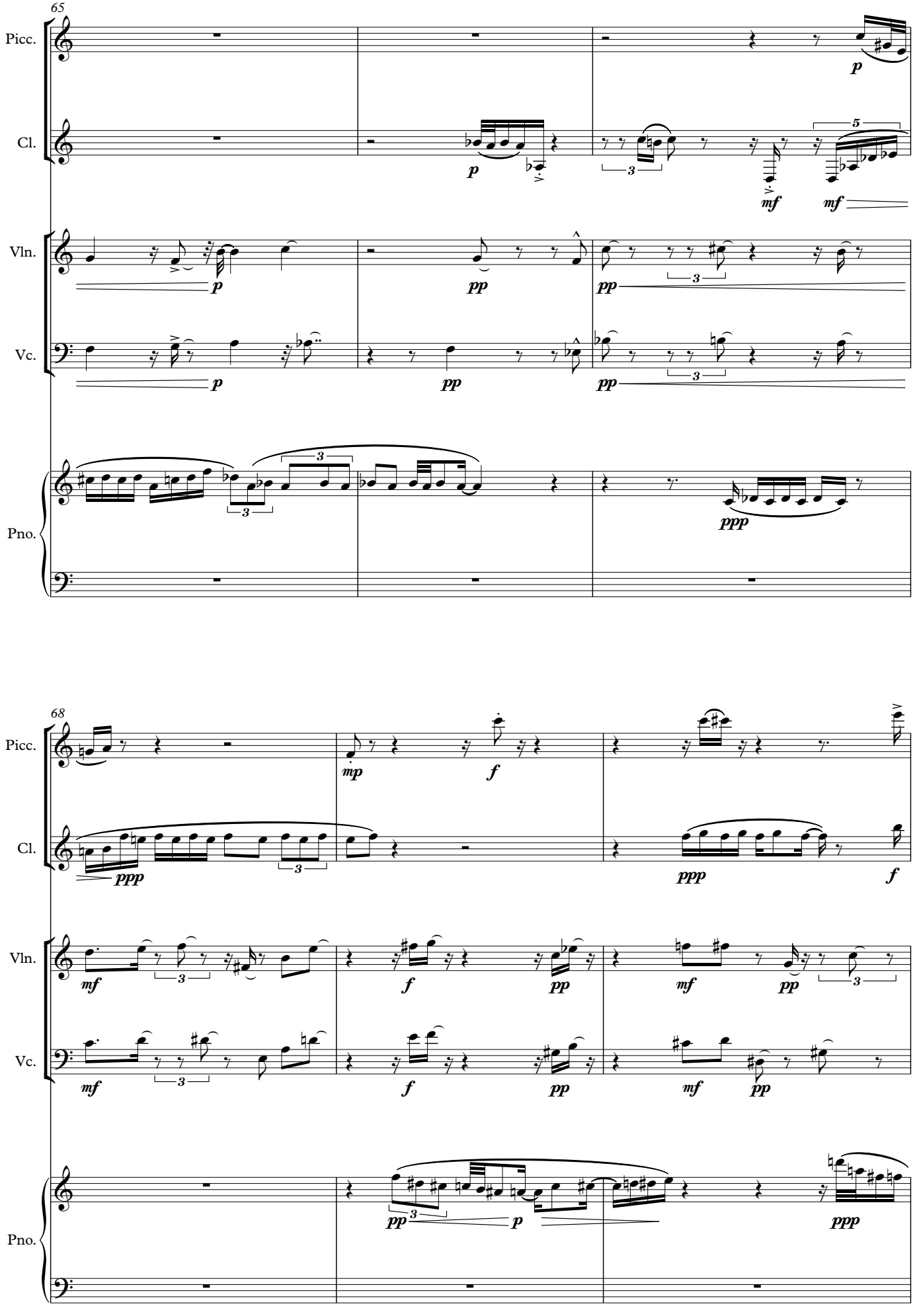

C
Piccolo
31
Fl.
mf
Clarinet in B♭
B. Cl.
p
mf
ord.
Vln.
f
Vc.
ff p
f
8va
Pno.
ff
mf
34
Picc.
Cl.
pp
pp
mf
p
s.v.
pp
mf
pizz.
Vln.
p
mf
5
pizz.
Vc.
pp
p
mf
3
8va
3
3
Pno.
p
ff
8vb
Ped.

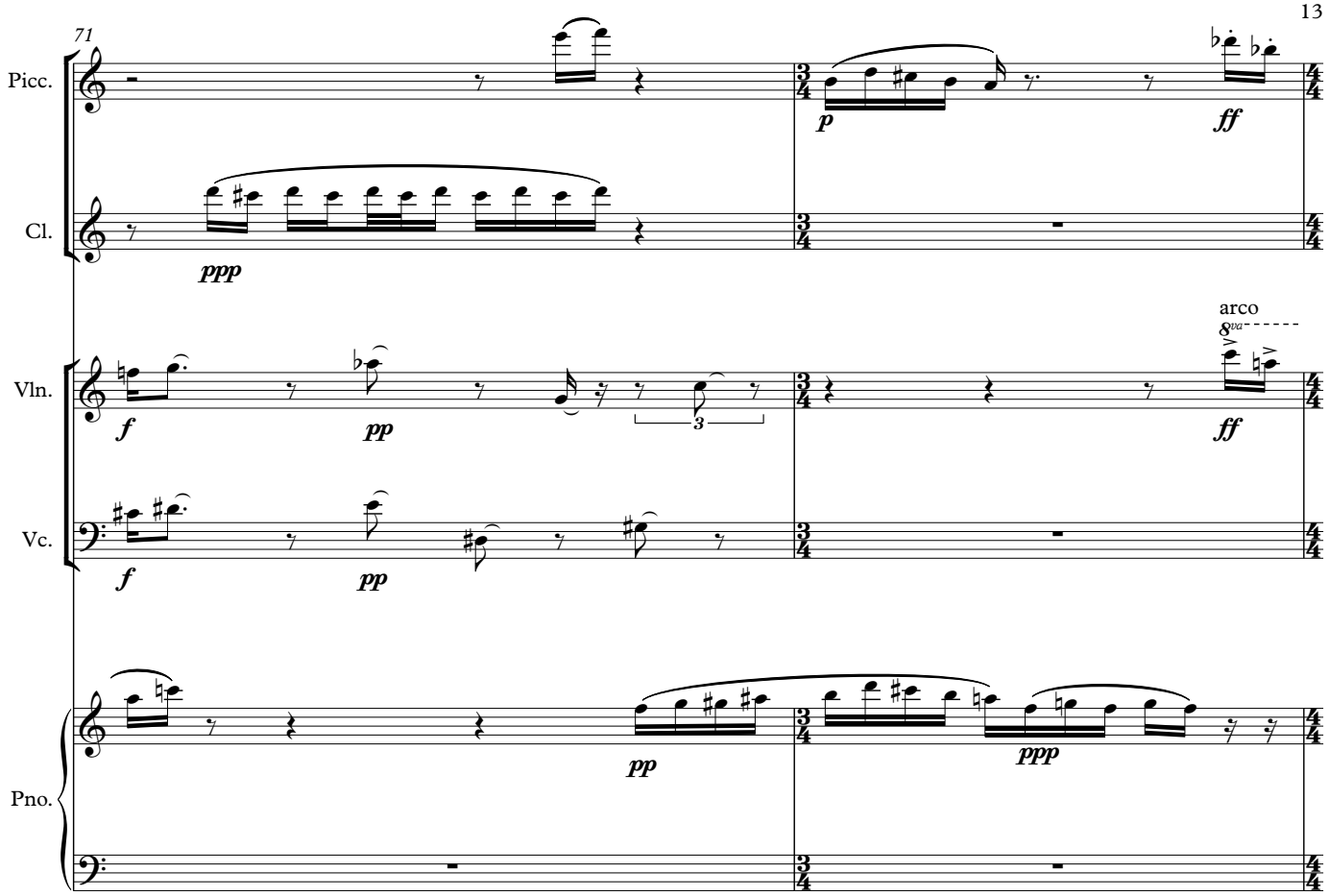

37
Picc.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
s.v.
s.v.
s.v.
arco
ord.
sul pont.
III
simile
42
Picc.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.

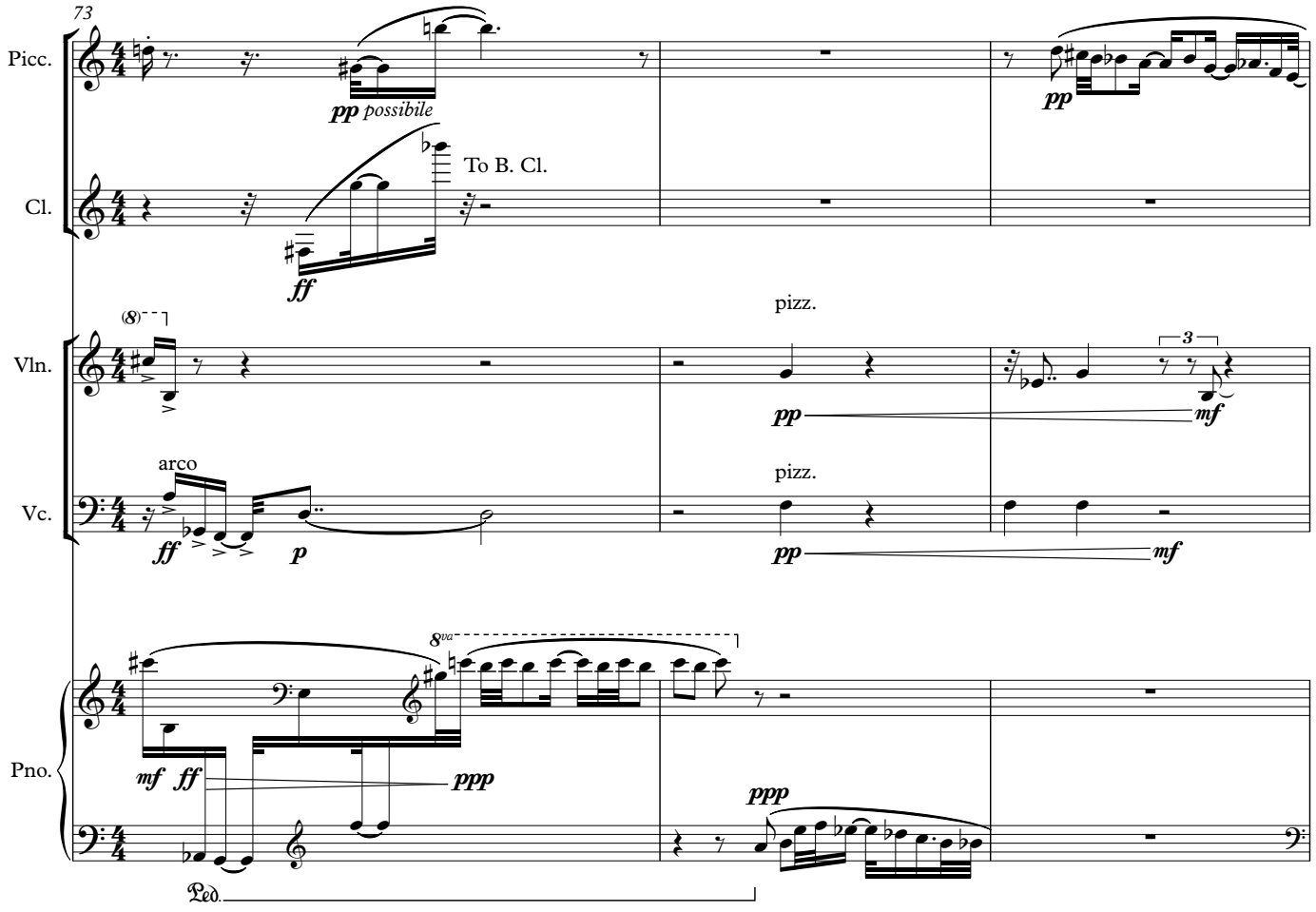

D
45
Picc.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
sul pont.
ord.
s.v.
ord.
(spicc.)
47

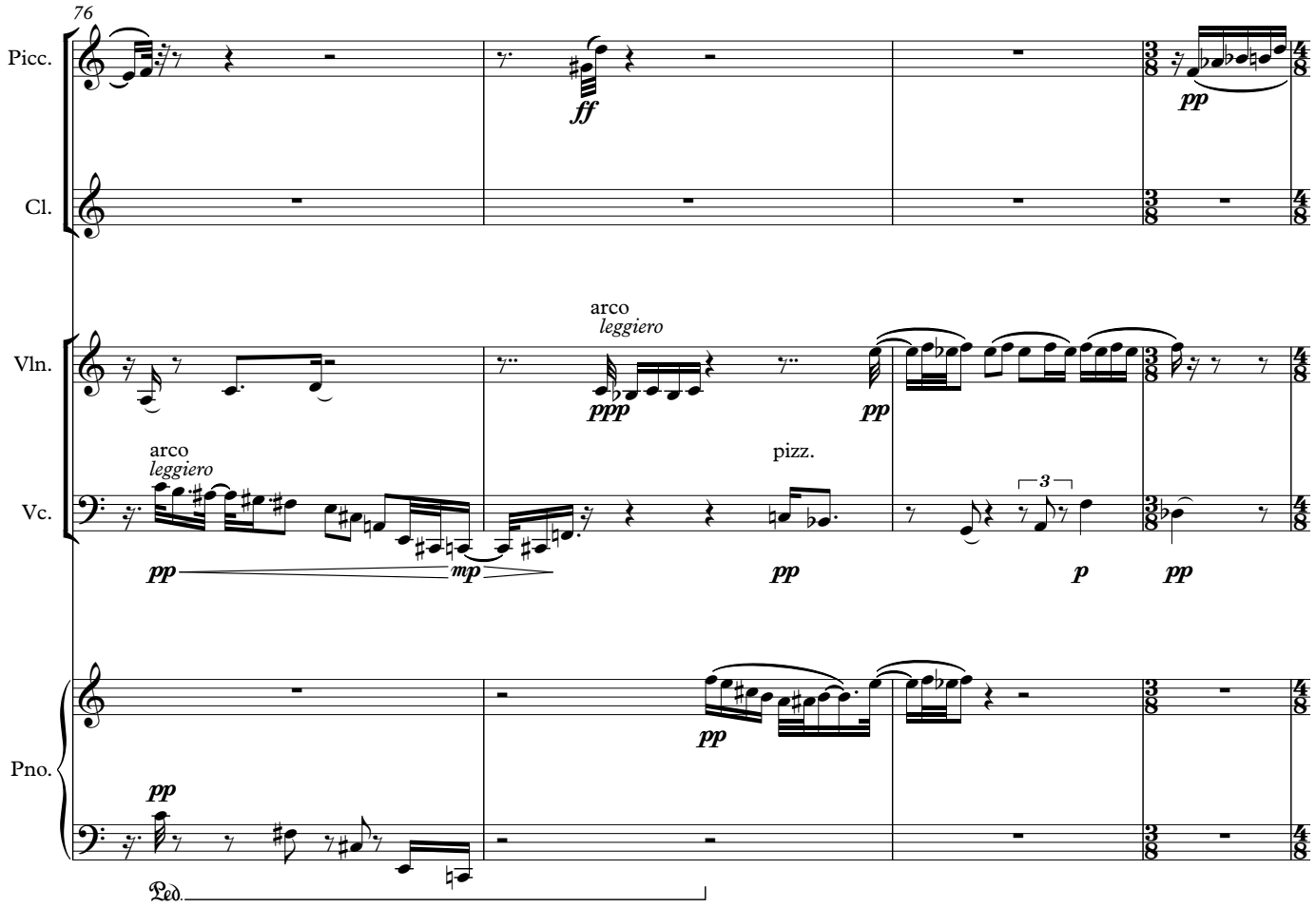

49
rit.
Picc.
Cl.
s.v.
Vln.
Vc.
tallone
(ord.)
Pno.
Ped.
52
A tempo
(♩ = 100)
rit.
furioso
8va
III
s.v.
Ped.

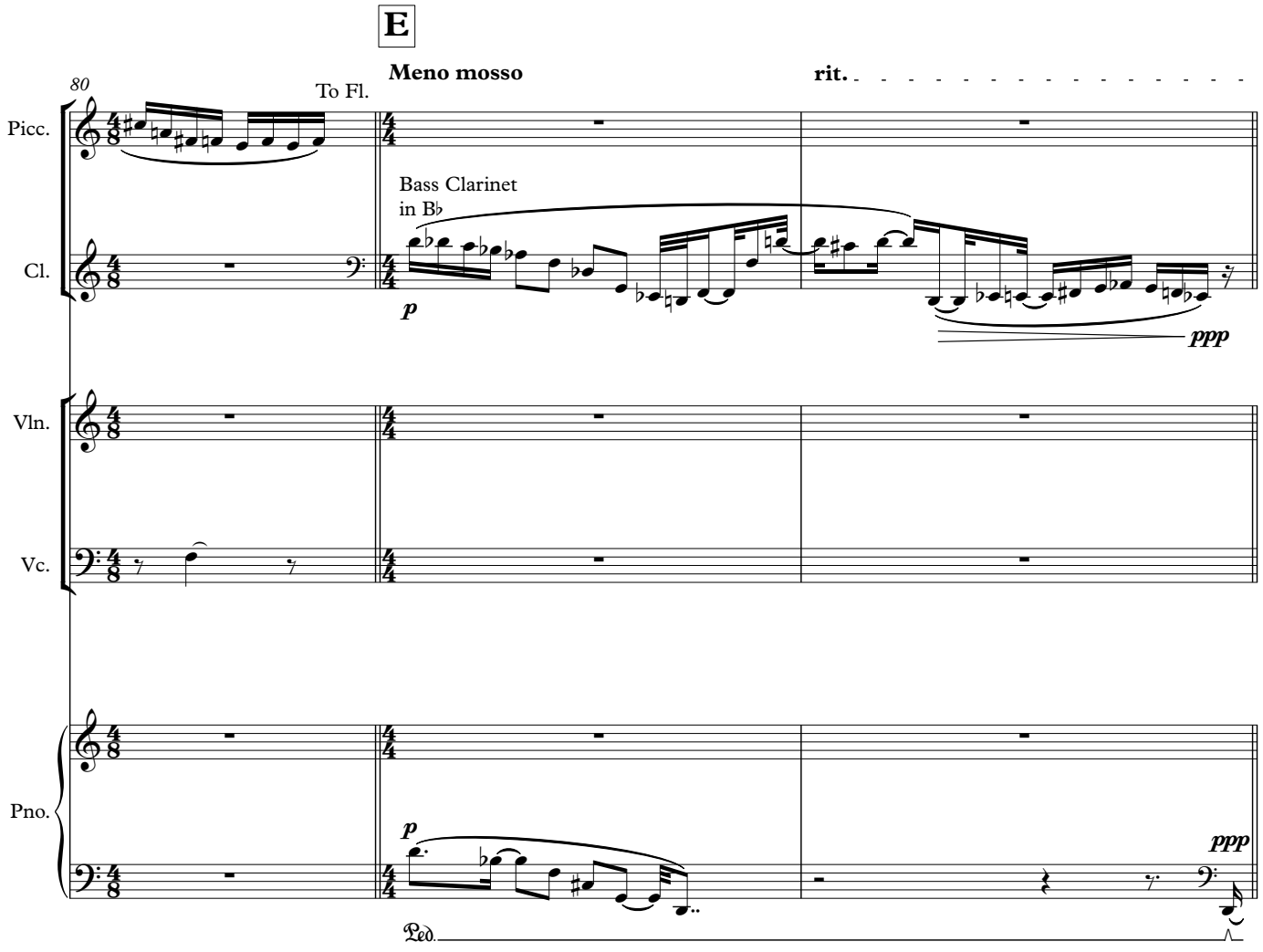

accel.
Tempo primo
(♩ = 100)
rit.
55
Picc.
Cl.
mysterious
Vln.
(spicc.)
II
Vc.
Pno.
60
A tempo
(♩ = 100)
pizz.
pizz.


65
Picc.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
68
Picc.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.


71
Picc.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
arco
8va
ppp
p
ff
f
pp
3
ppp


73
Picc.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
pp possibile
To B. Cl.
ff
pizz.
arco
8va
mf
ppp
Ped.


76
Picc.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
ff
pp
arco
leggiero
ppp
pizz.
mp
p
Ped.


E
Meno mosso
rit.
80
To Fl.
Picc.
Bass Clarinet
in B♭
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
p
ppp
Ped.

Meno mosso

83 ♩ = 60

Picc.

B. Cl.

To Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

88

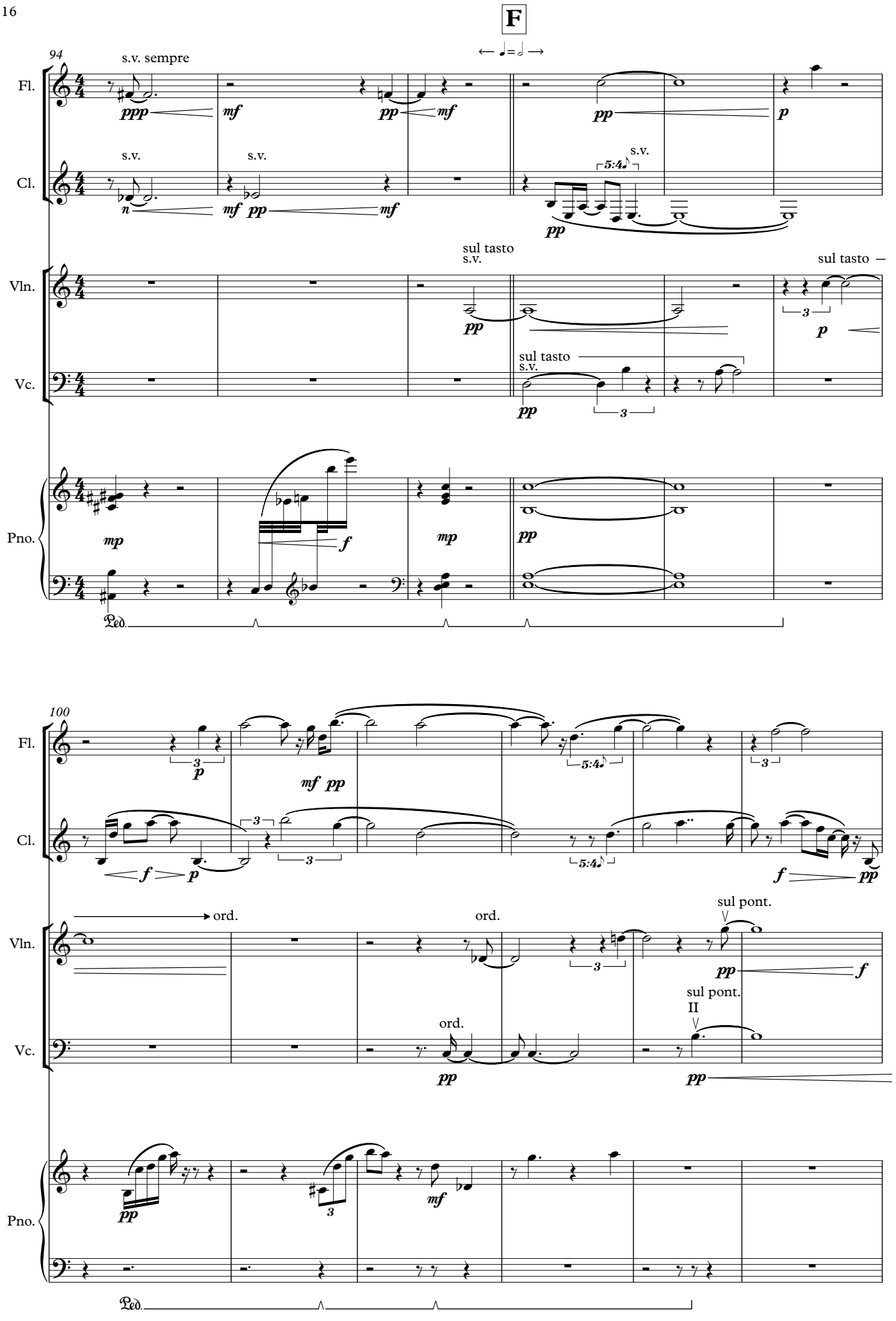
Flute

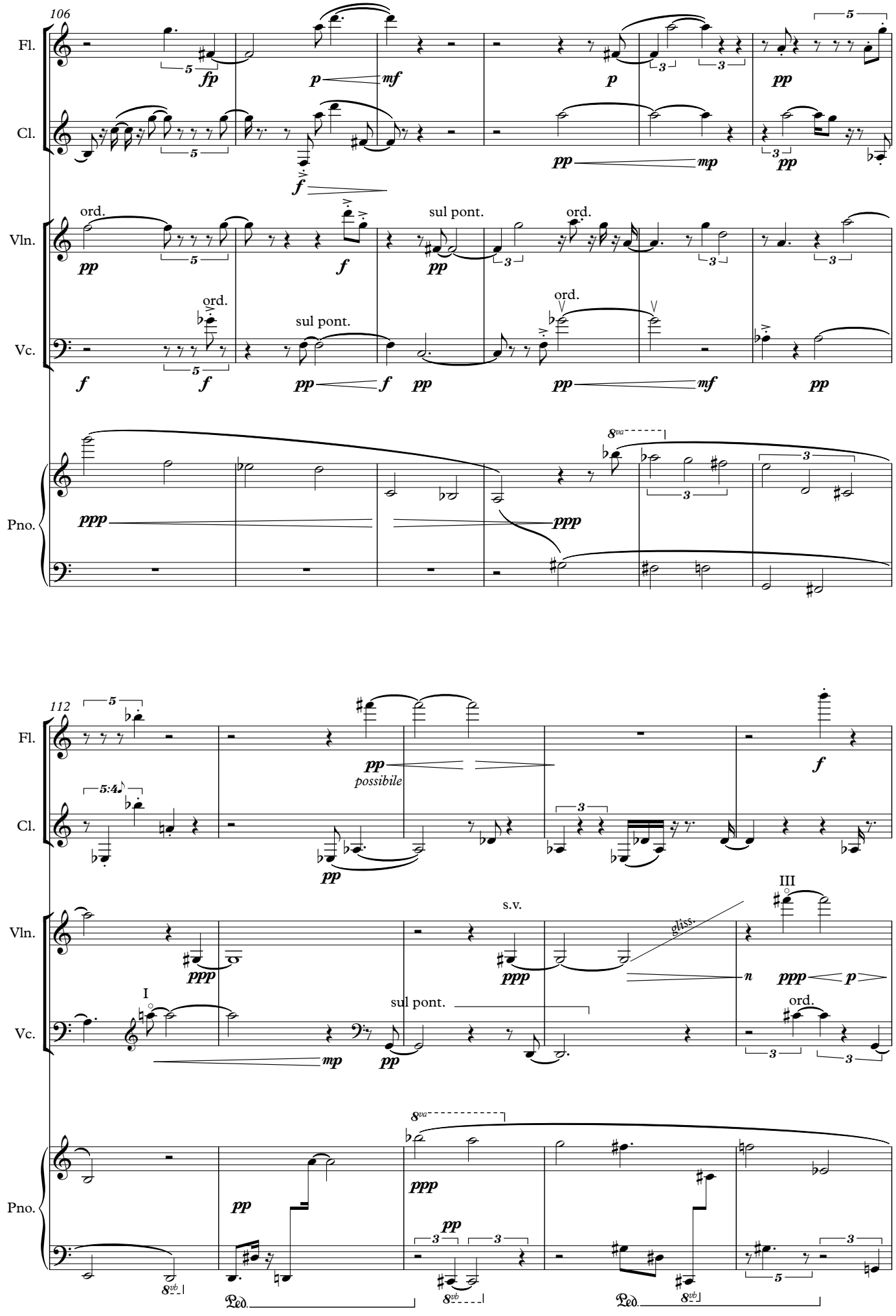
Clarinet in B♭

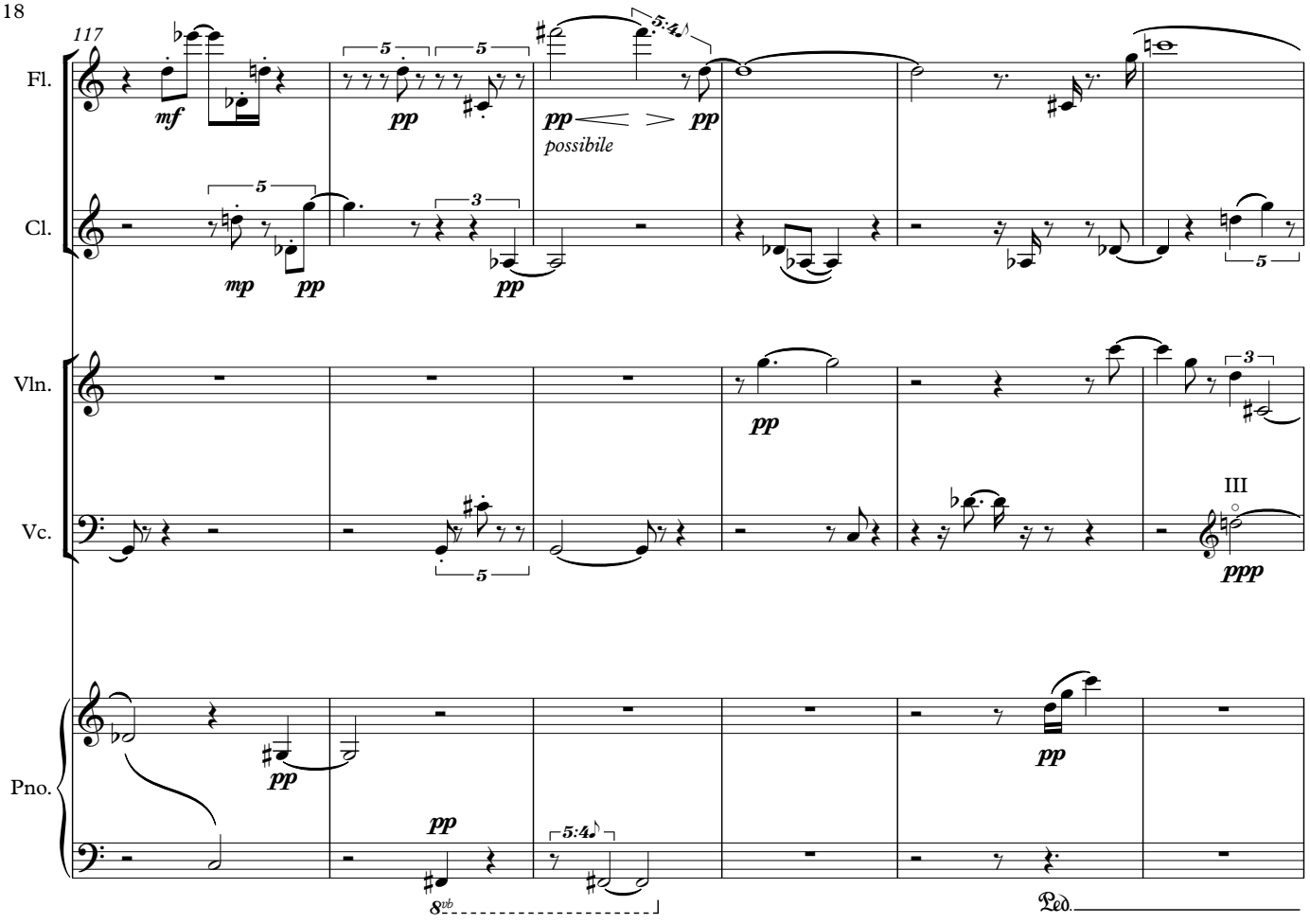
III

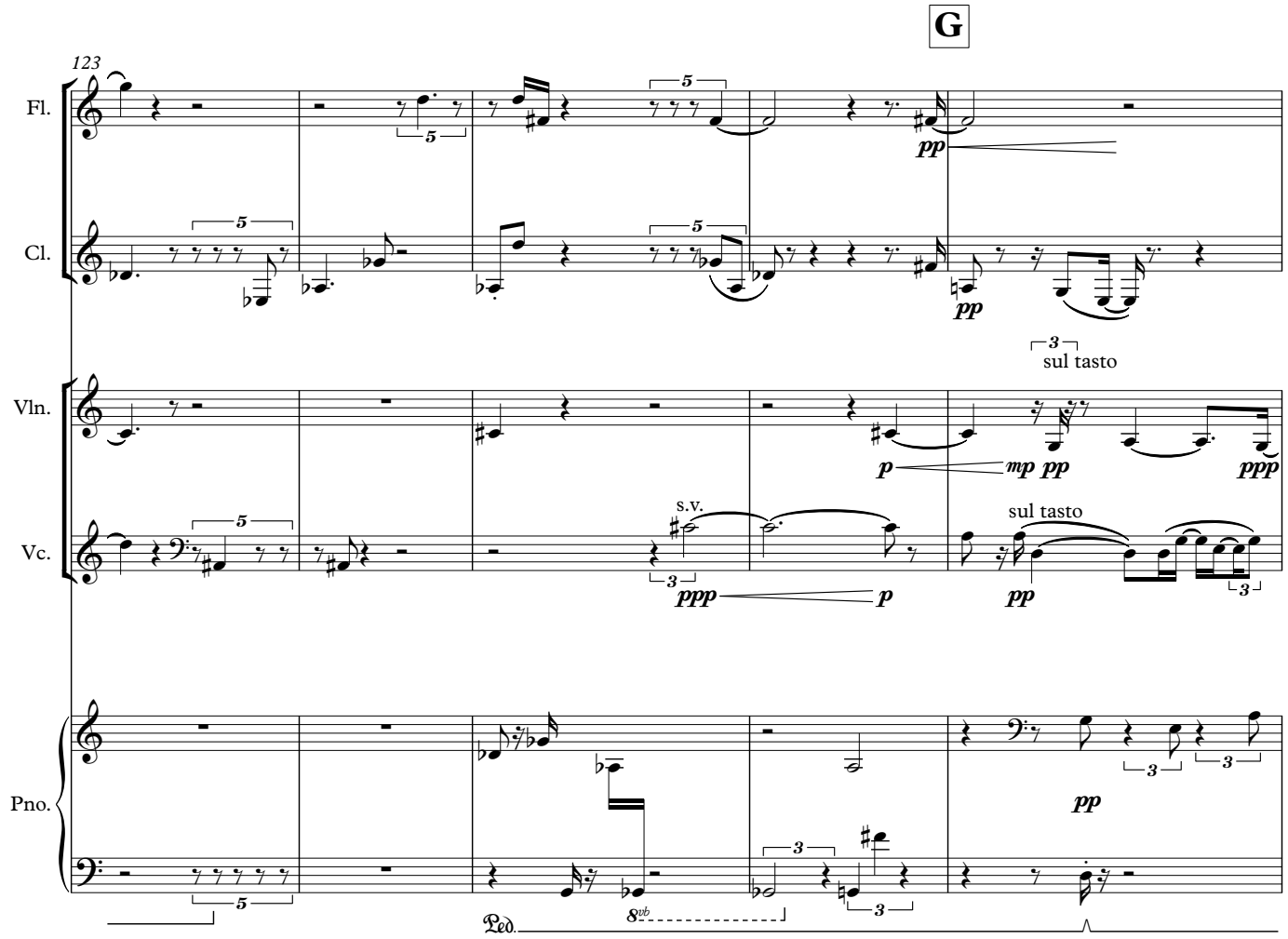
II

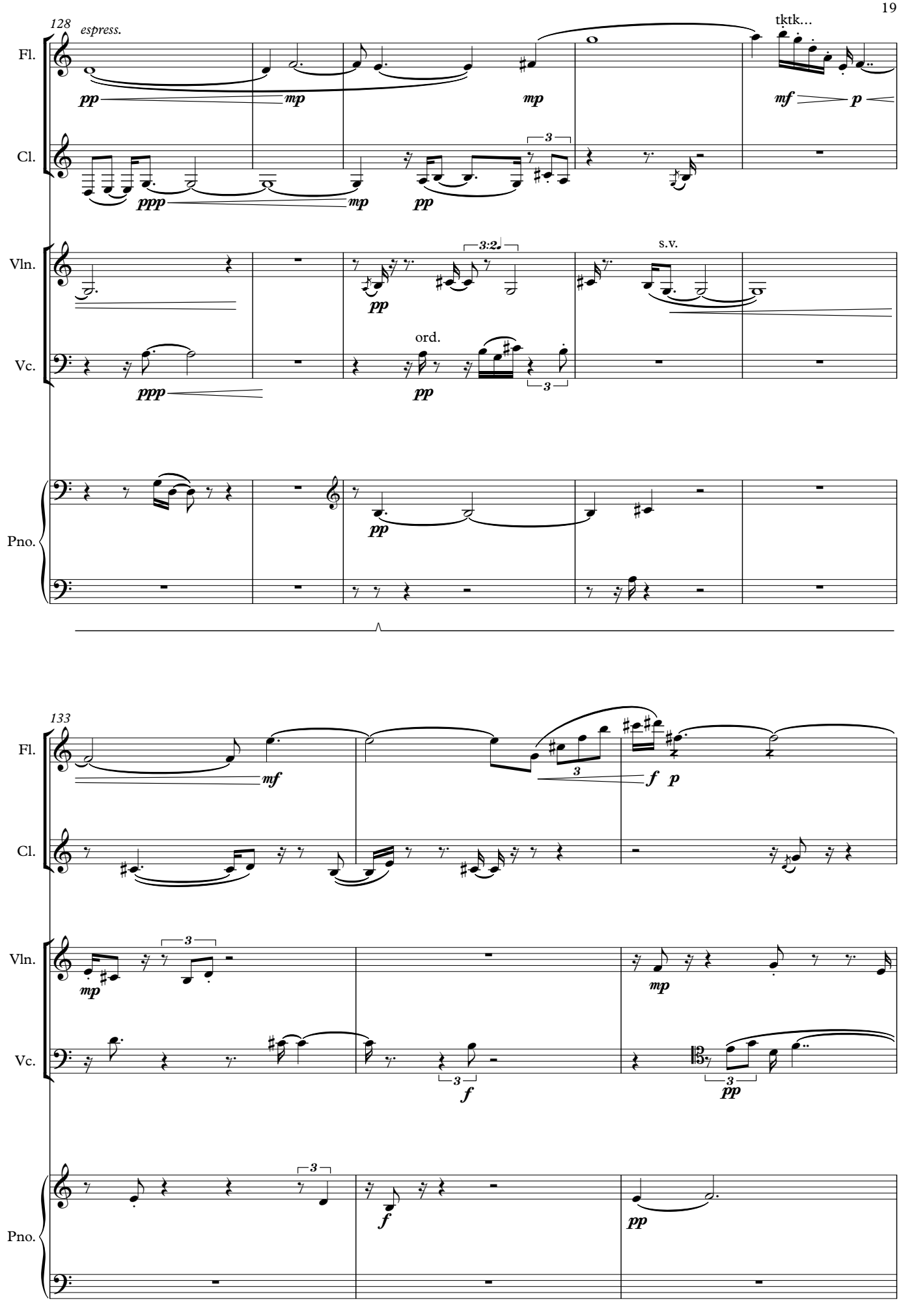
8va

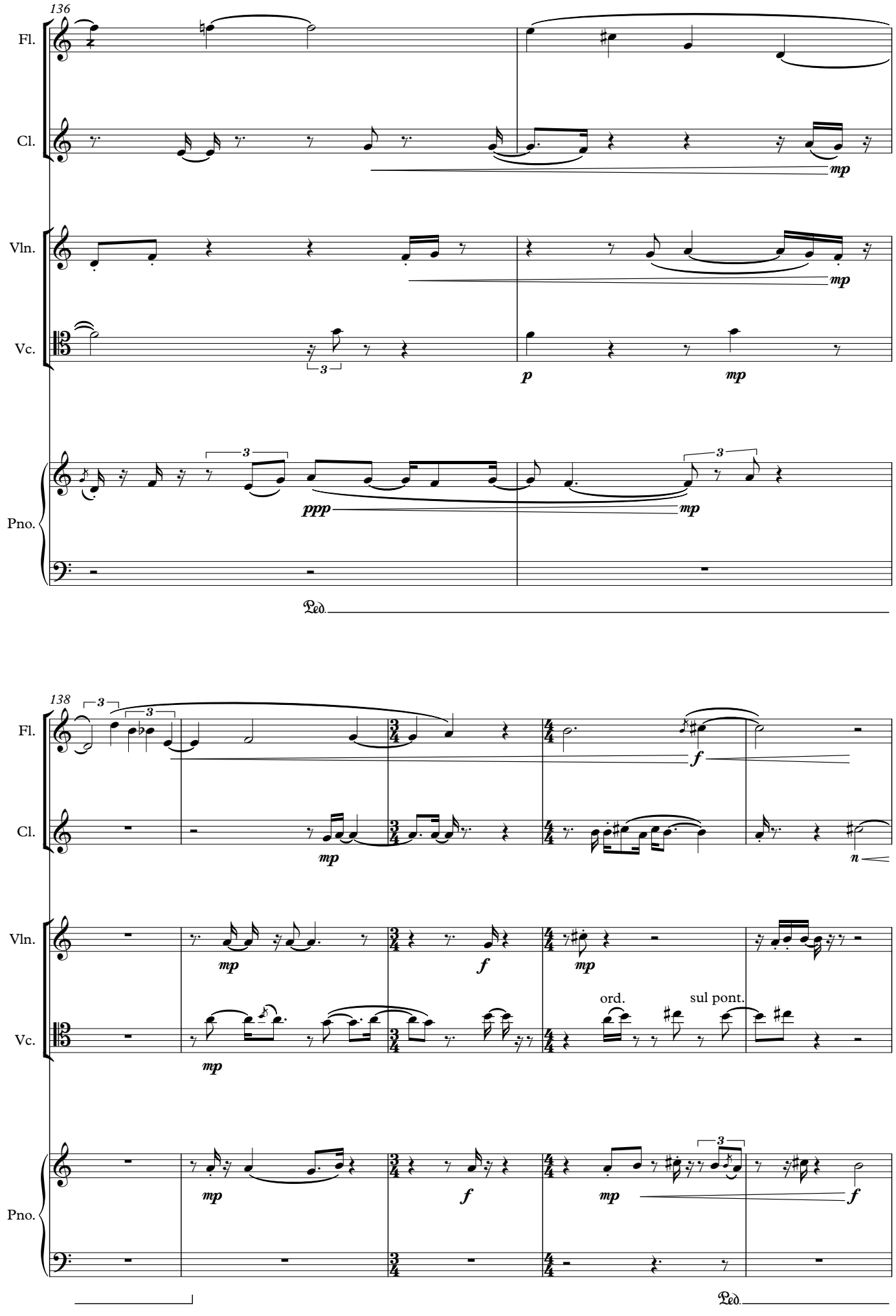

F
94
s.v. sempre
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
sul tasto
s.v.
sul tasto —
Ped.
100
ord.
sul pont.
sul pont.
II

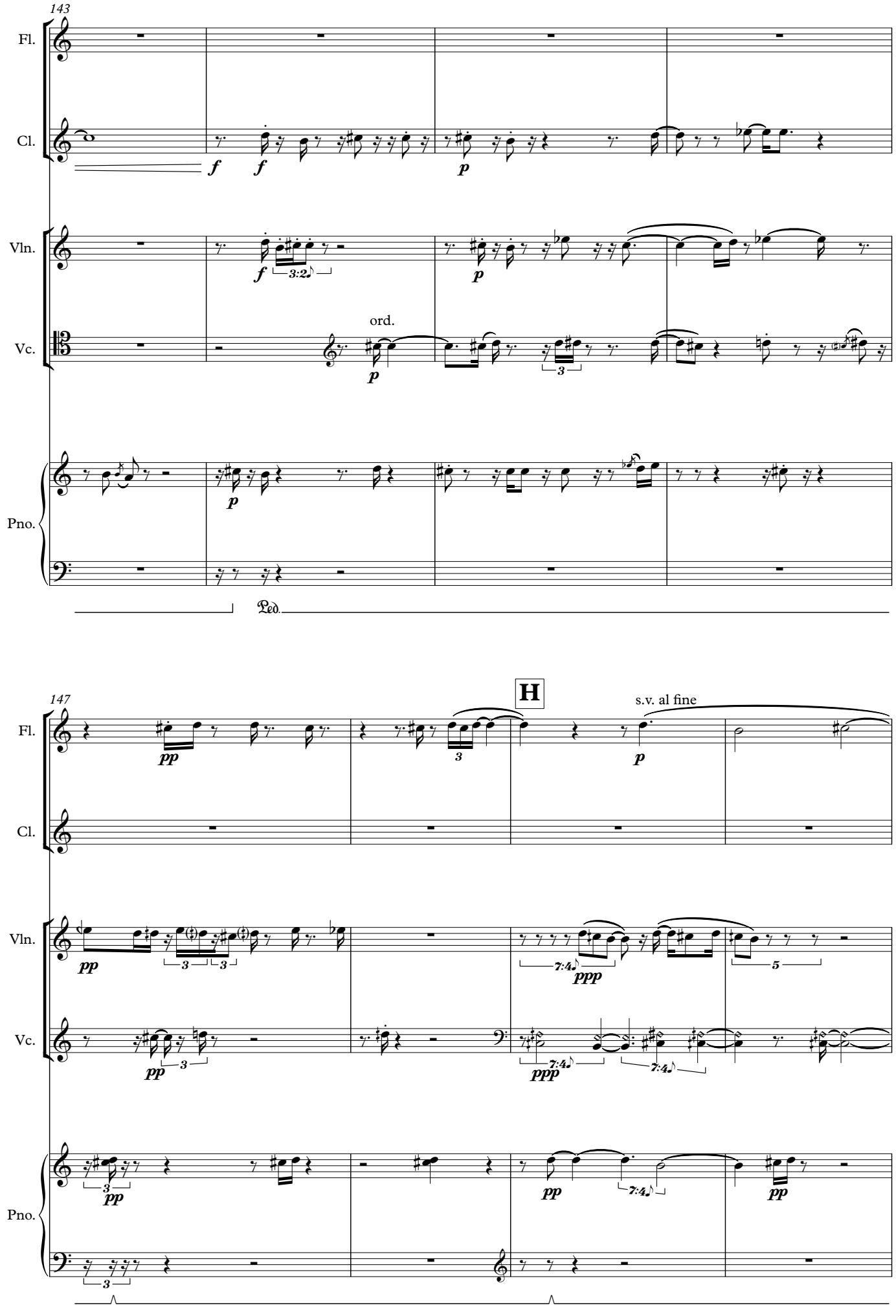

106
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
ord.
sul pont.
112
possibile
s.v.
gliss.
I
III
8va
8vb
Ped.

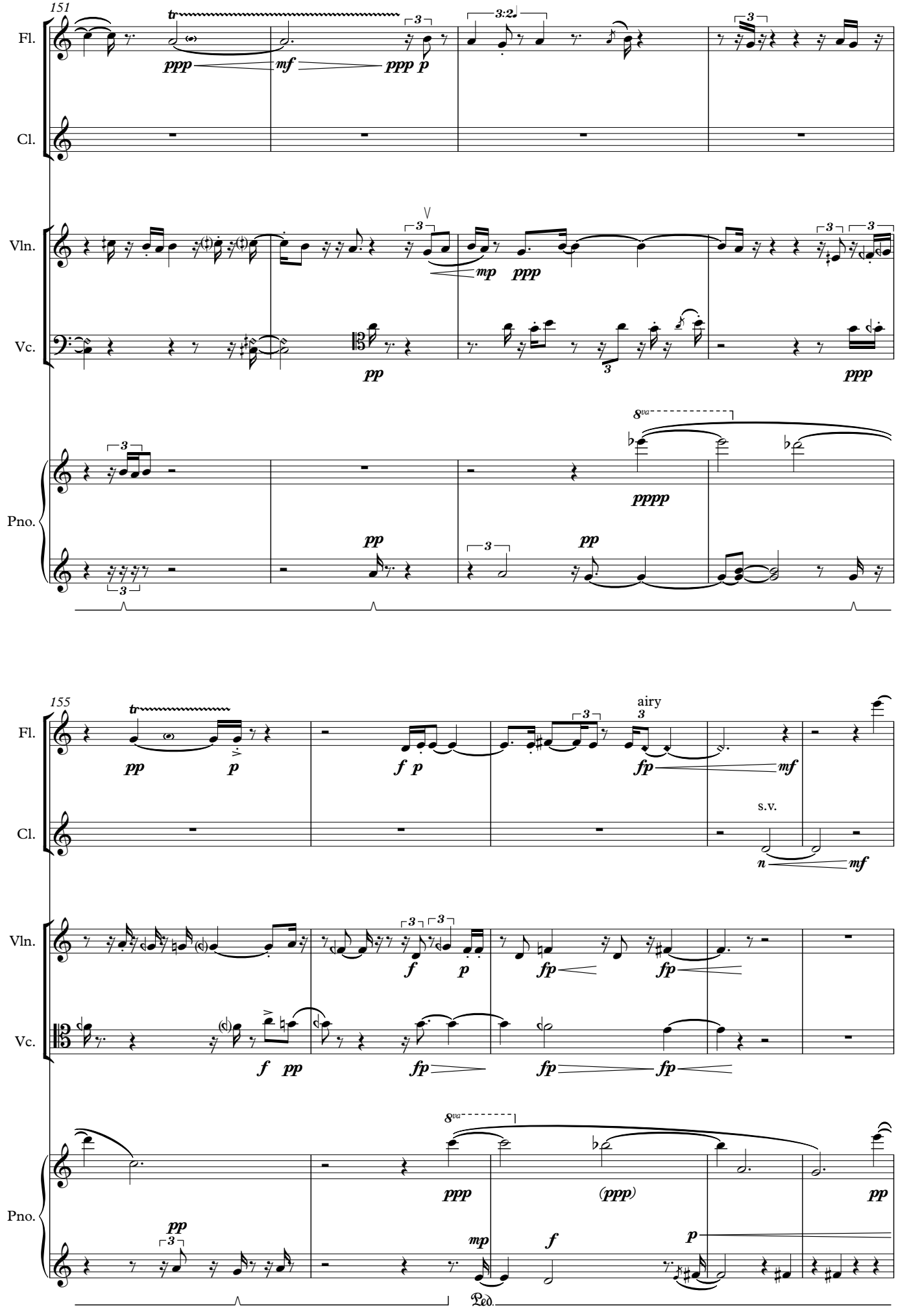

117
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
possibile
III
Ped.

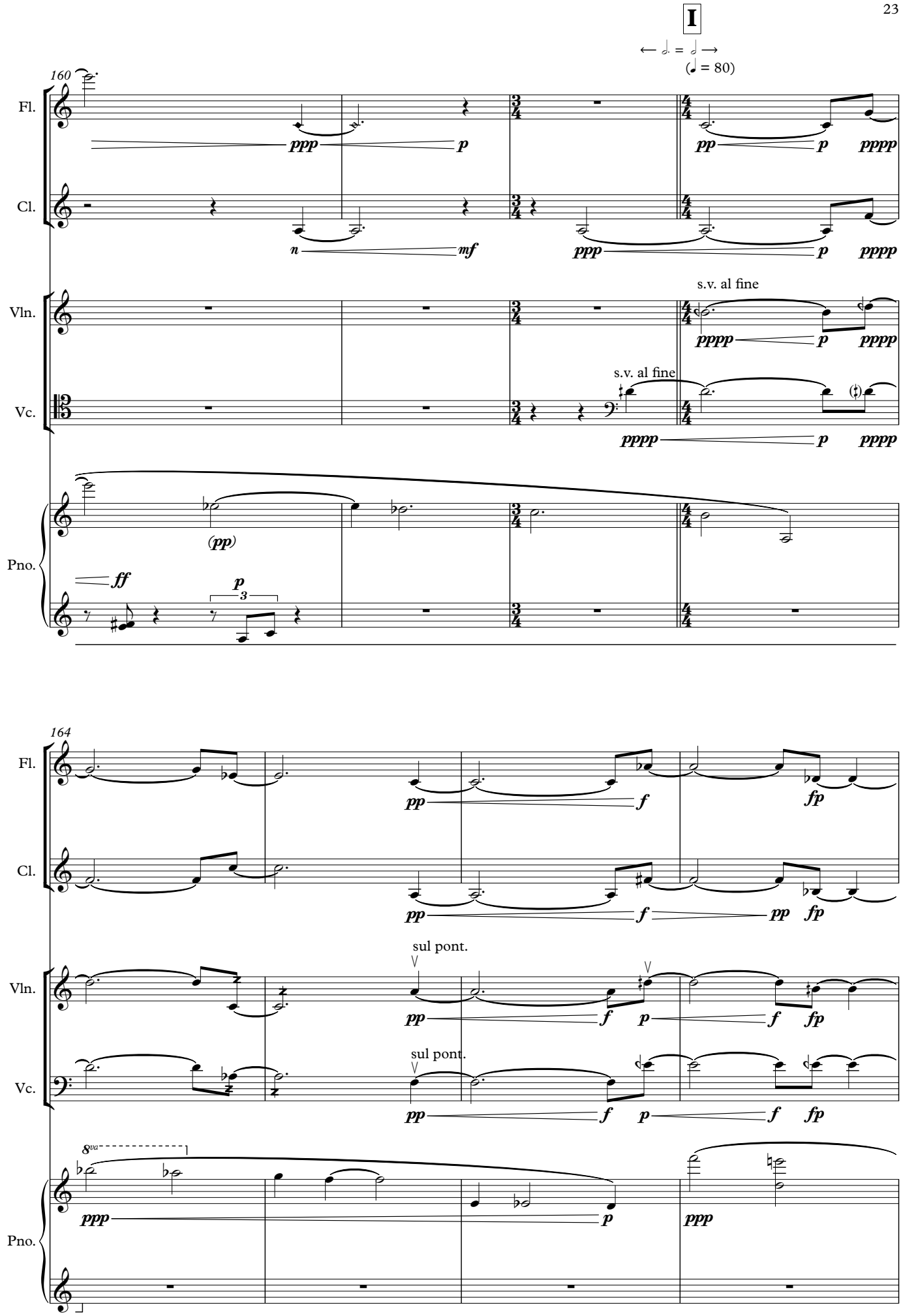

G
123
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
sul tasto
s.v.
sul tasto
Ped.

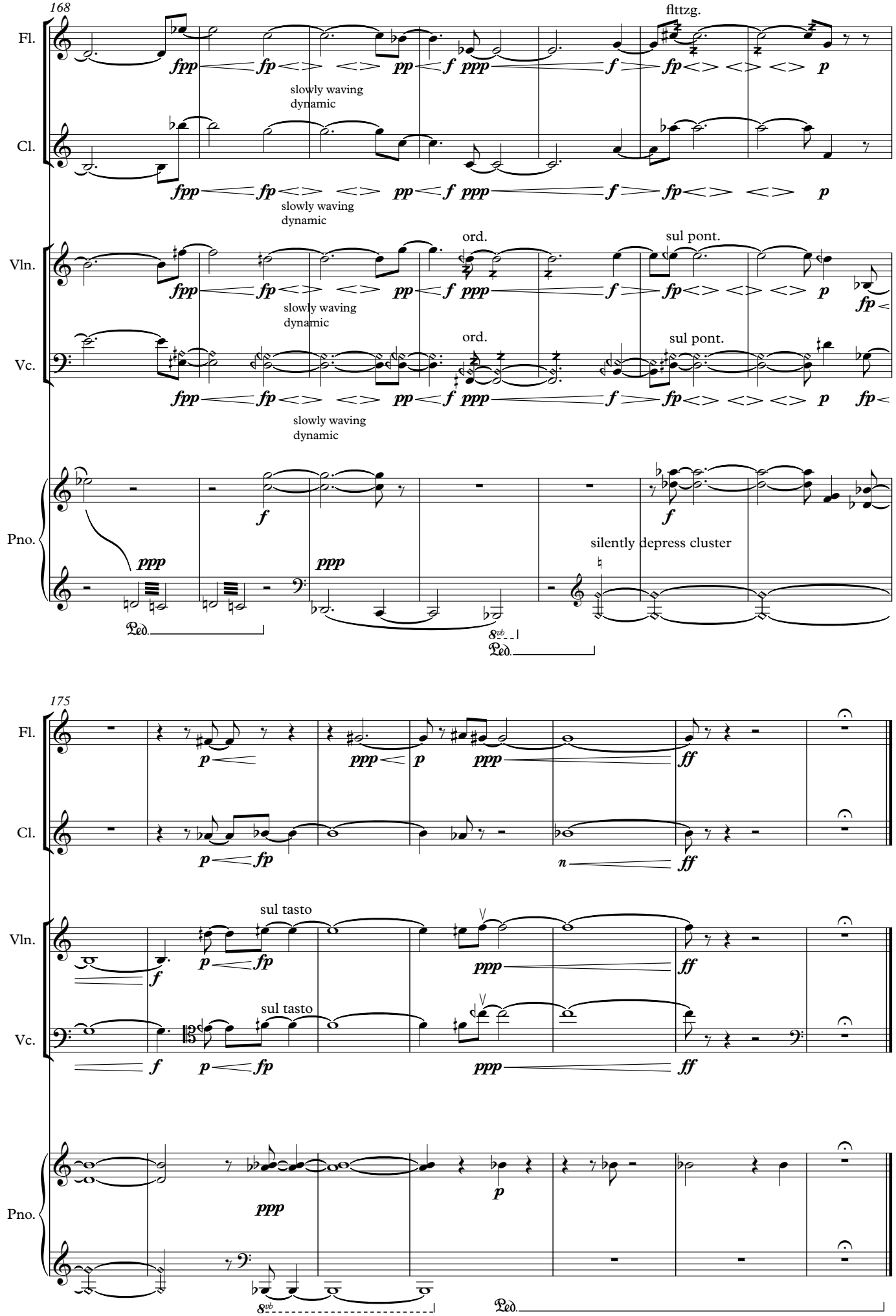

128
espress.
tktk...
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
s.v.
ord.
133


136
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
mp
p
mp
ppp
mp
Ped.
138
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
mp
f
n
mp
f
mp
ord.
sul pont.
mp
f
mp
f
Ped.


143
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
ord.
Ped.
147
H
s.v. al fine


151
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
tr
ppp
mf
ppp p
3:2
mp
ppp
pp
ppp
8va
pppp
pp
pp
155
airy
fp
mf
s.v.
n
mf
f p
f
p
fp
fp
f pp
fp
fp
fp
8va
ppp
(ppp)
pp
pp
mp
f
p
Ped.


I
← 𝅗𝅥. = 𝅗𝅥 →
(𝅗𝅥 = 80)
160
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
s.v. al fine
s.v. al fine
164
sul pont.
sul pont.
8va


168
Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
fltzg.
slowly waving dynamic
ord.
sul pont.
silently depress cluster
Ped.
8vb
175
sul tasto