STRING QUARTET

(The Grandsire Doubles)

The writing of this quartet coincided with a period of interest in church bell ringing (change ringing) of which the Grandsire Doubles is one of the traditional 'odd bell' patterns. While some use has been made of the numerical sequence of this pattern, a more general characteristic of the piece is the sequential arches of descending pitches, sometimes rapid, as in the opening and penultimate passages, and at other times slow, as in the central duet for viola and cello. The climax of the piece brings into increasing opposition - two duets (violins and viola/cello) the former with descending patterns and the latter with rising ones.

On another level, anyone writing for this medium must be aware of the central place that the string quartet has played in so many composers' output. The tradition in this intimate genre is of four musicians 'talking to each other' on equal terms, or one against three, two against two, all against each other and the idea that this genre historically was really a laboratory medium projected onto the public stage, was constantly in my thinking.

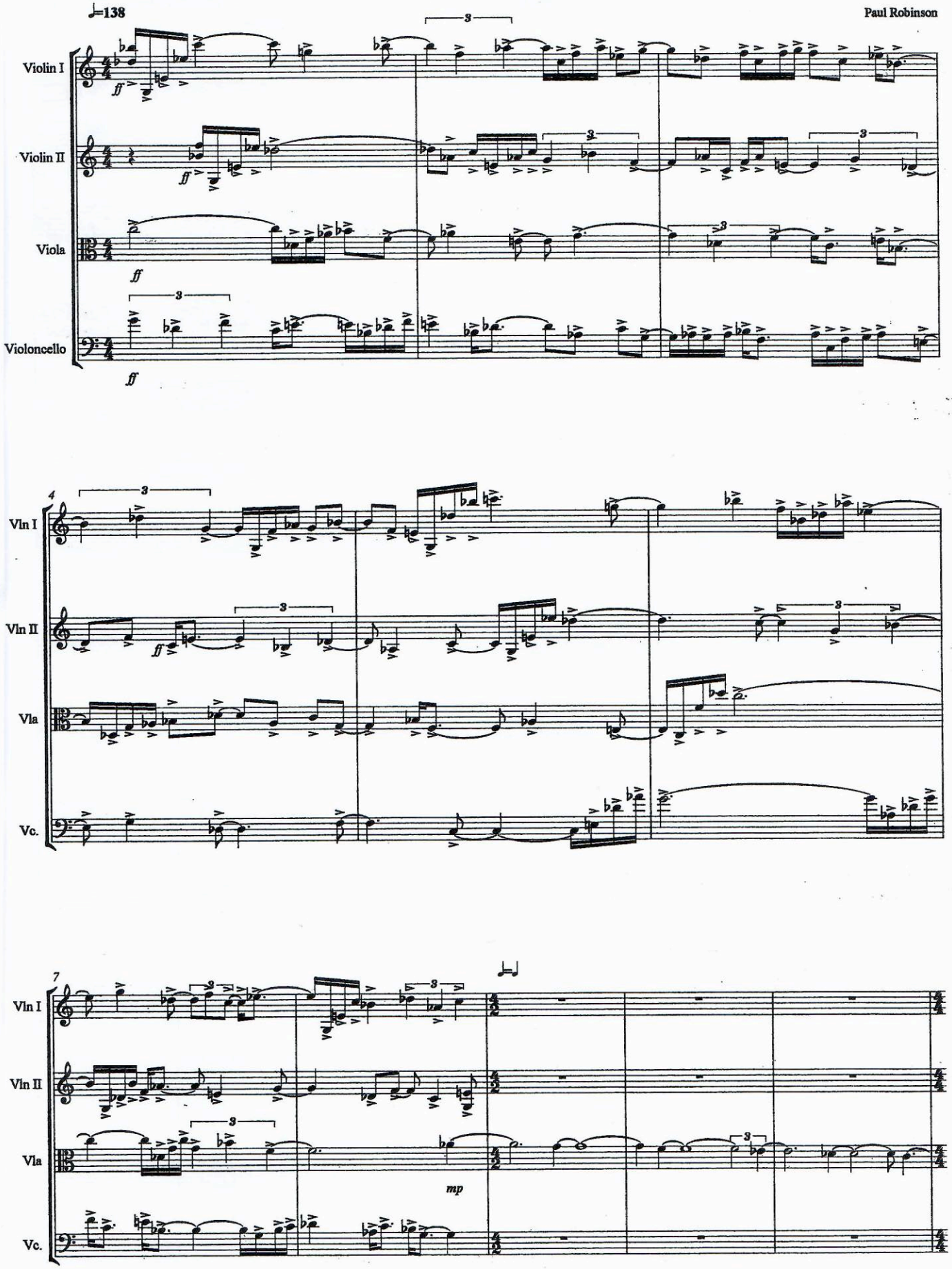
Duration: 9.5 minutes

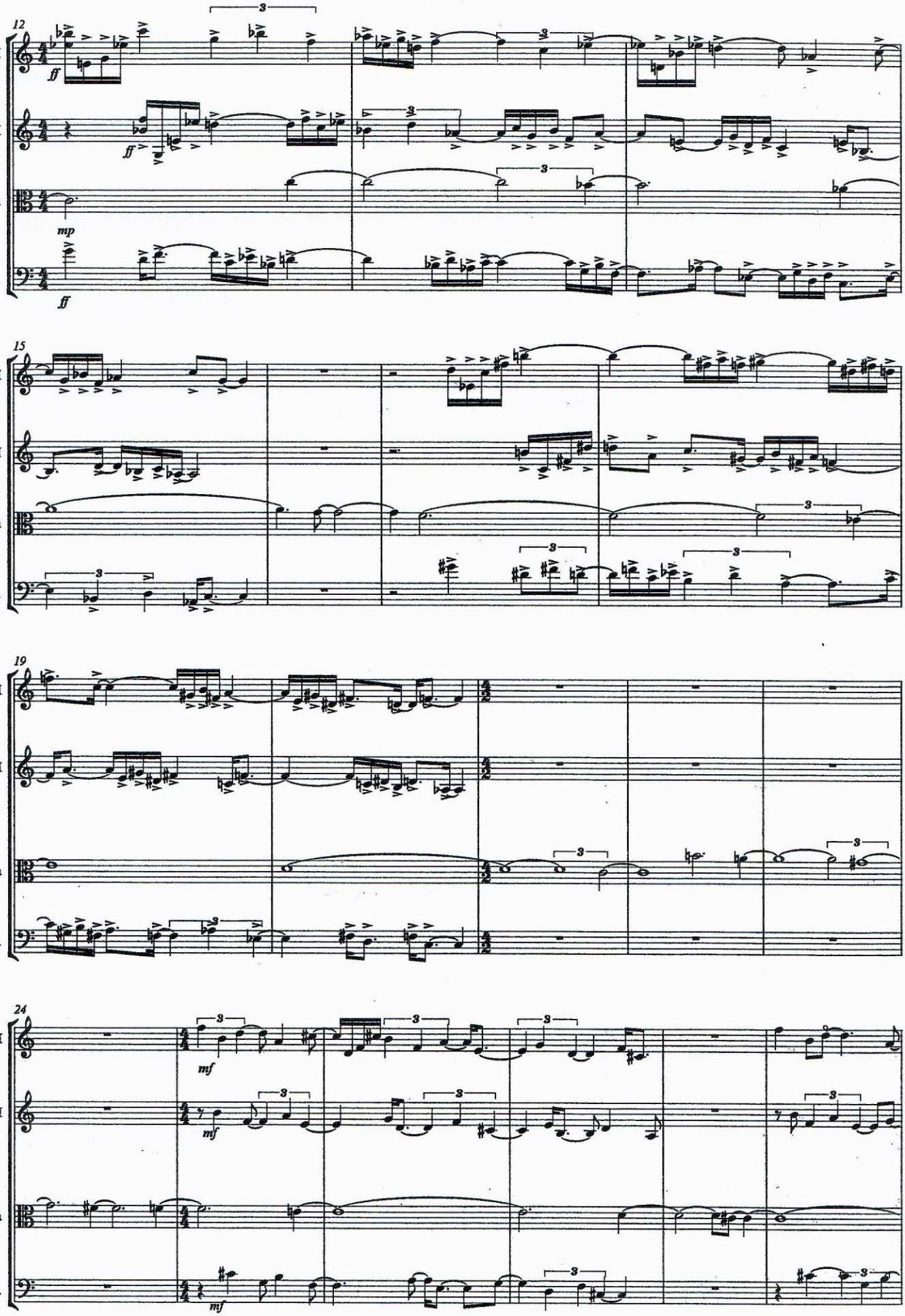
Date of origin: 2005

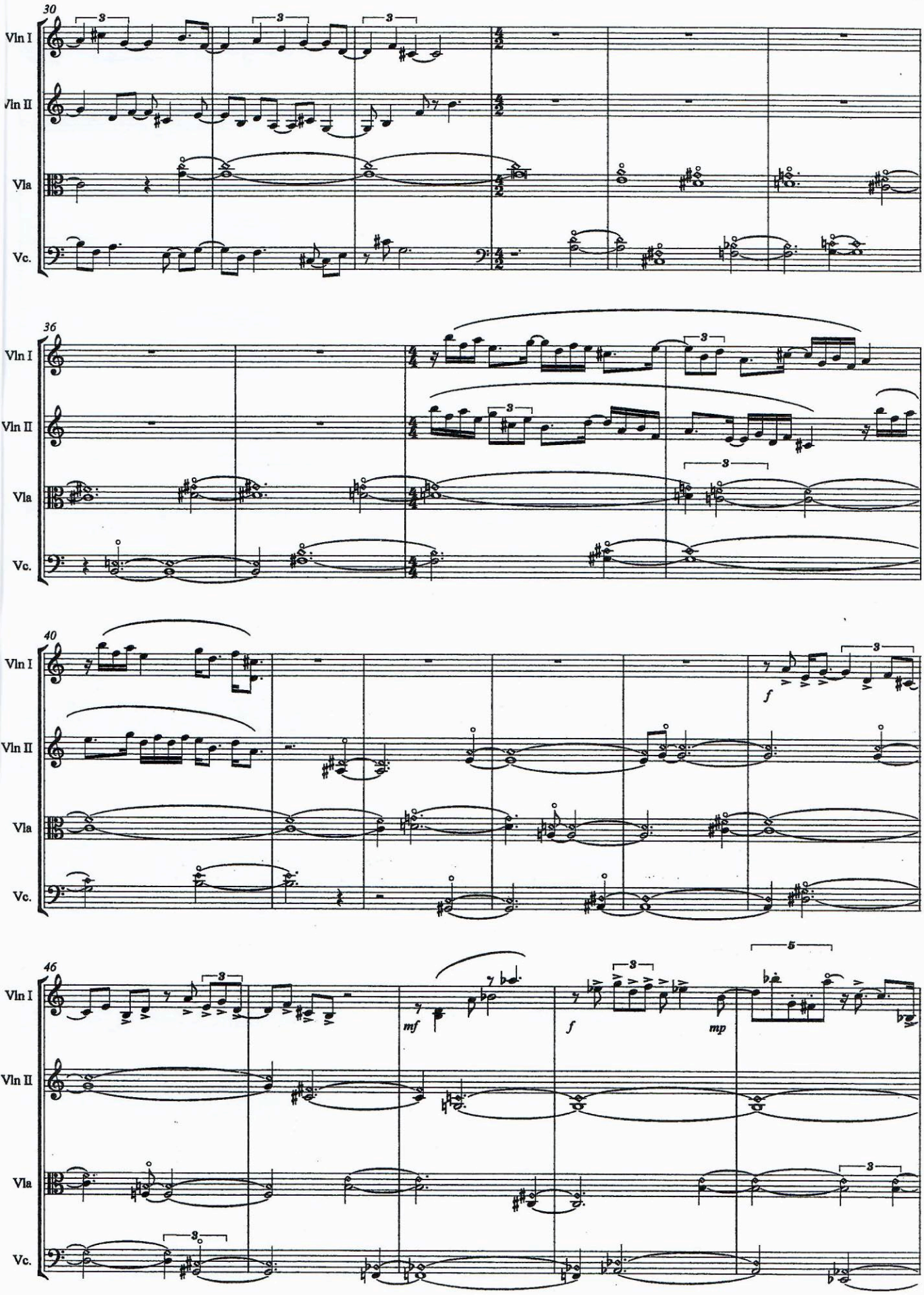
String Quartet

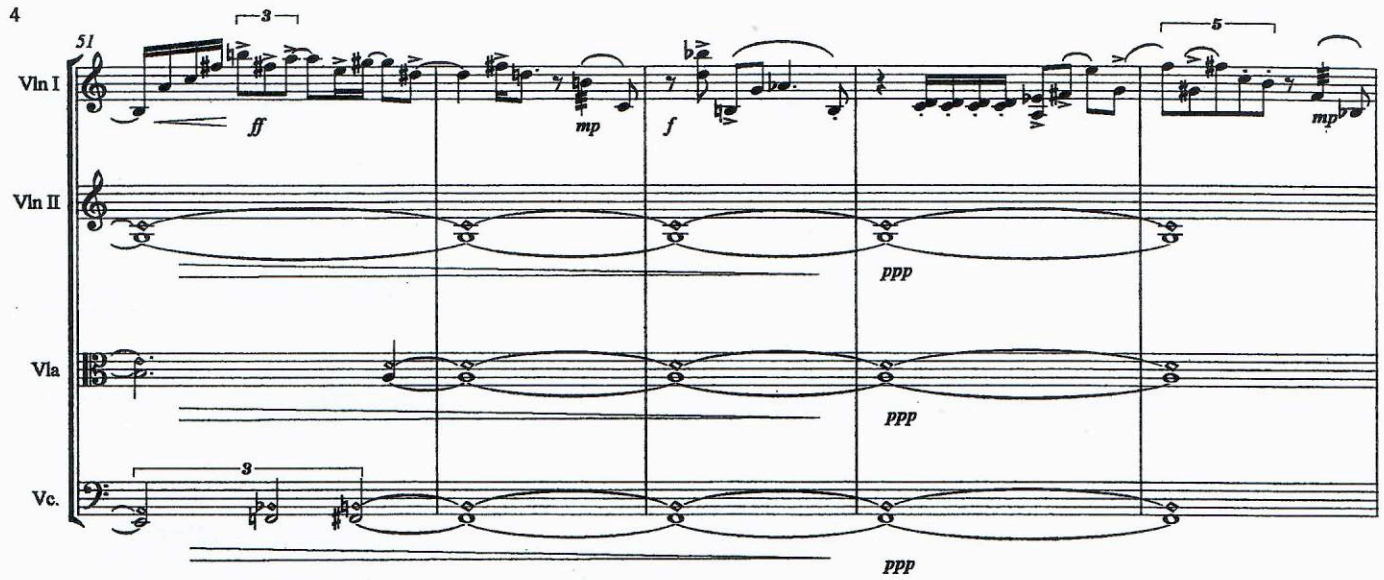
The Grandsire Doubles

Paul Robinson




12
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
ff
mp
15
19
24
mf
3

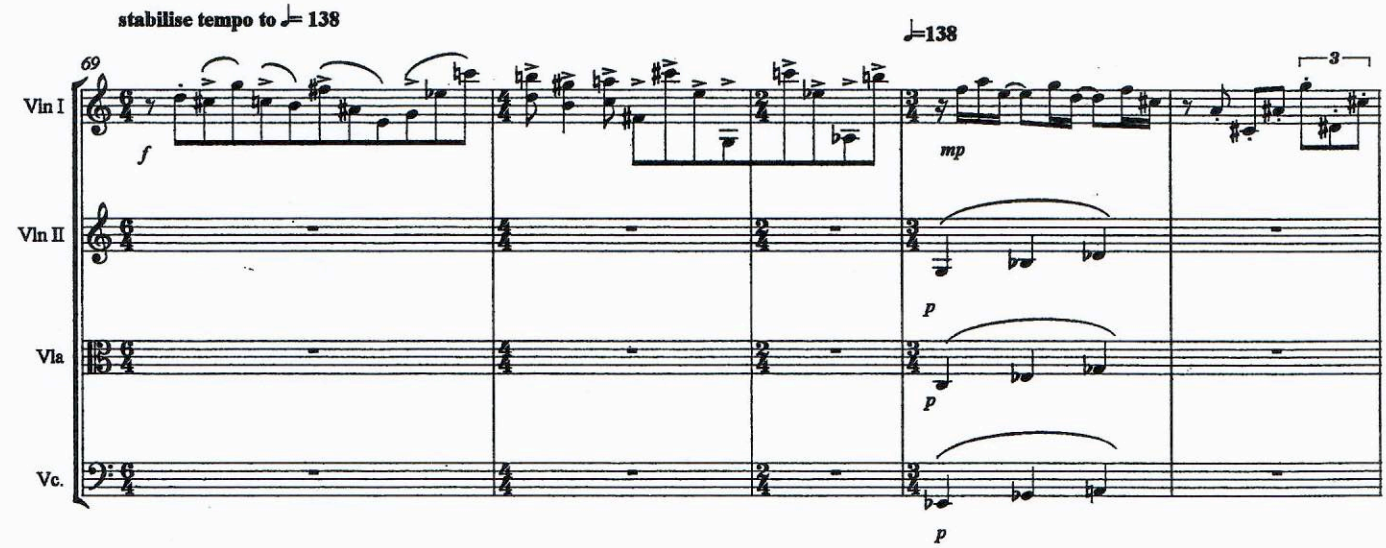

30
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
36
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
40
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
f
46
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
mf
f
mp

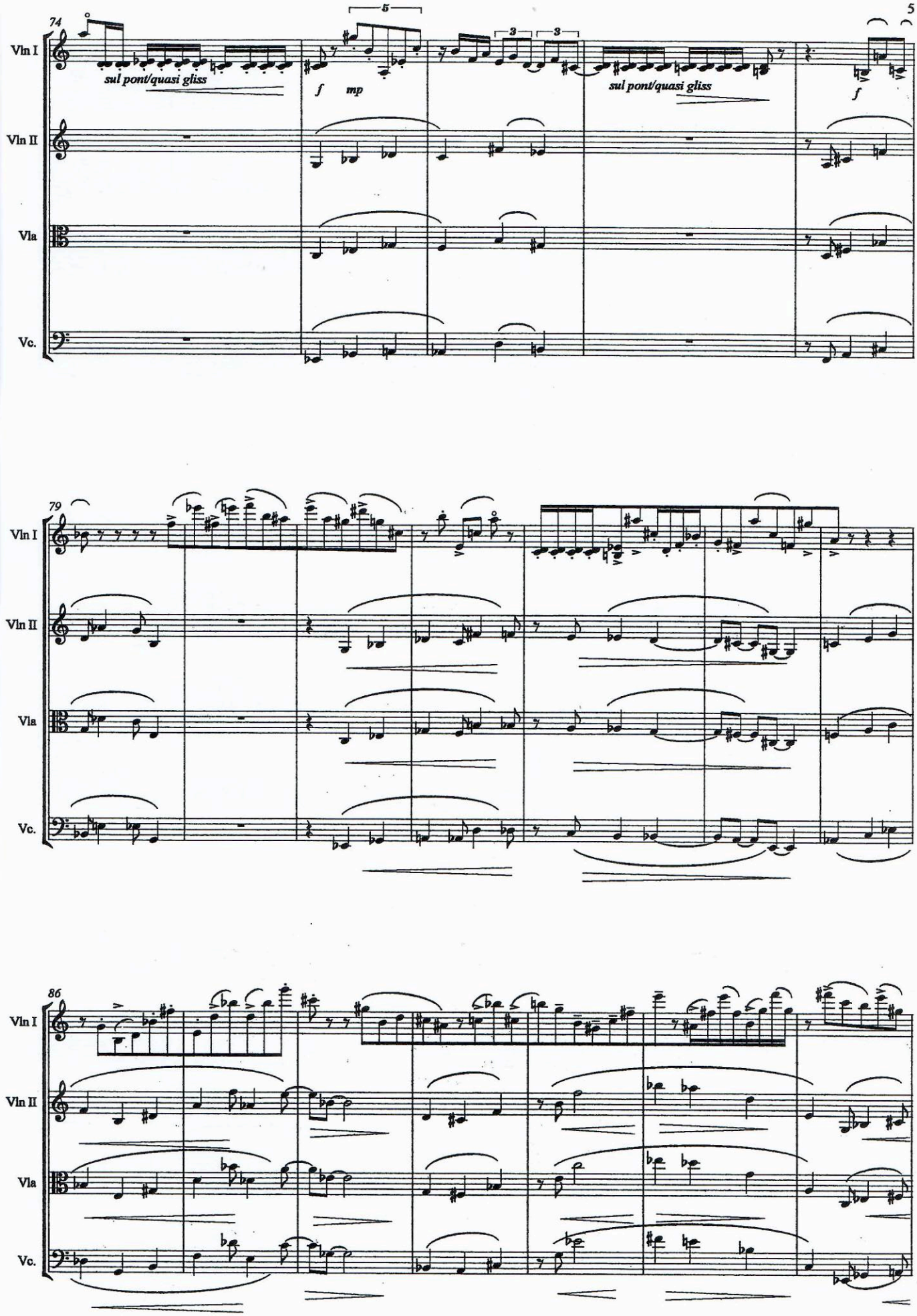

51
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
ff
mp
f
mp
ppp
ppp
ppp

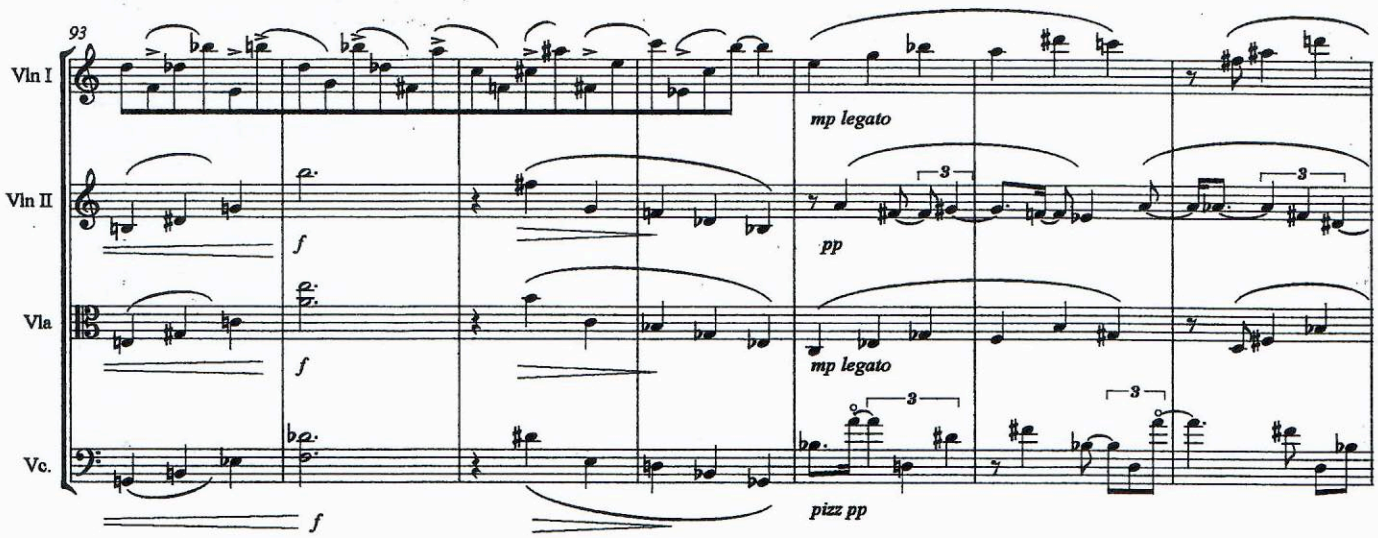
quasi rubato
56
Vln I
f
mp
sul pont

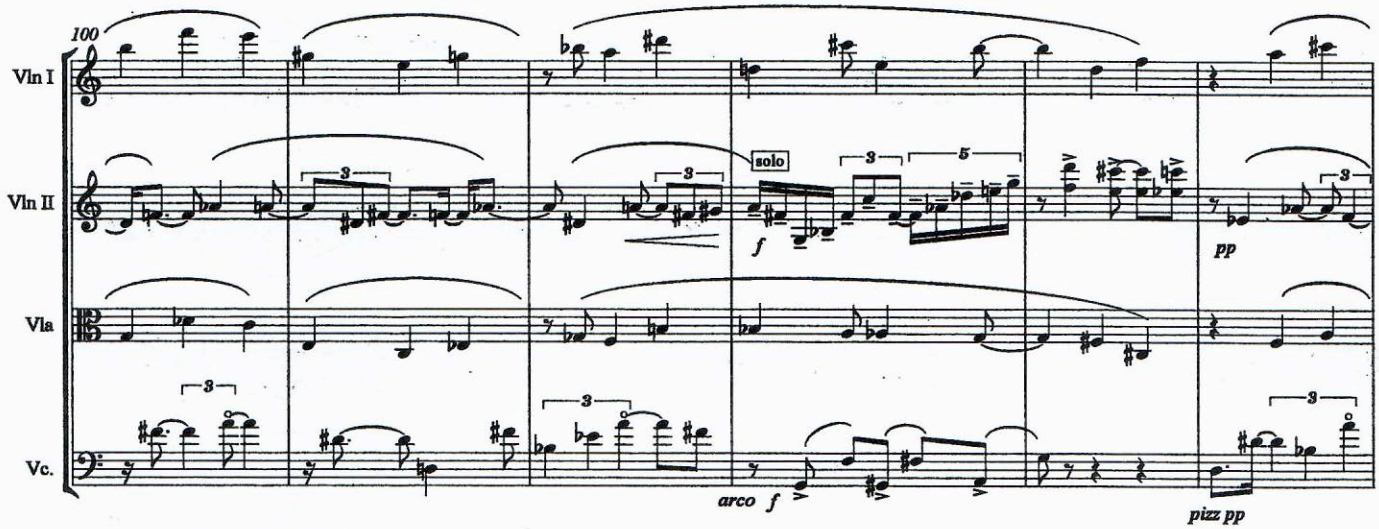
61
Vln I
f
f

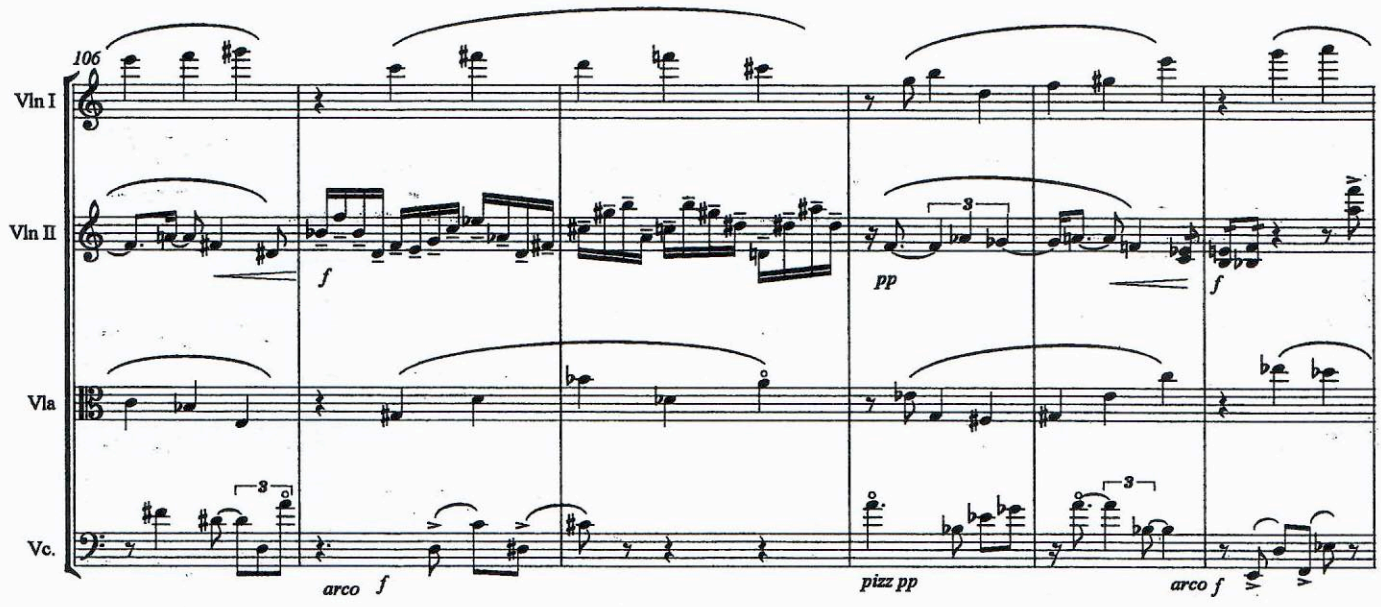
66
Vln I
mp
sul pont/quasi gliss
f

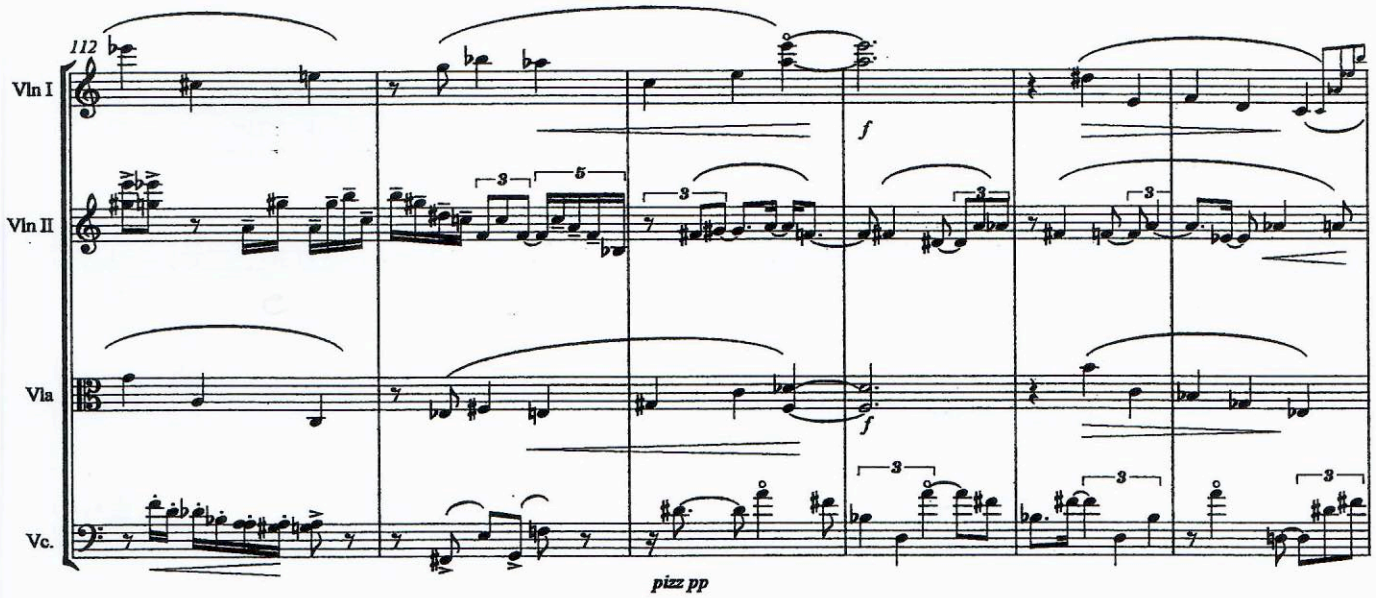

stabilise tempo to ♩= 138
♩=138
69
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
f
mp
p
p
p

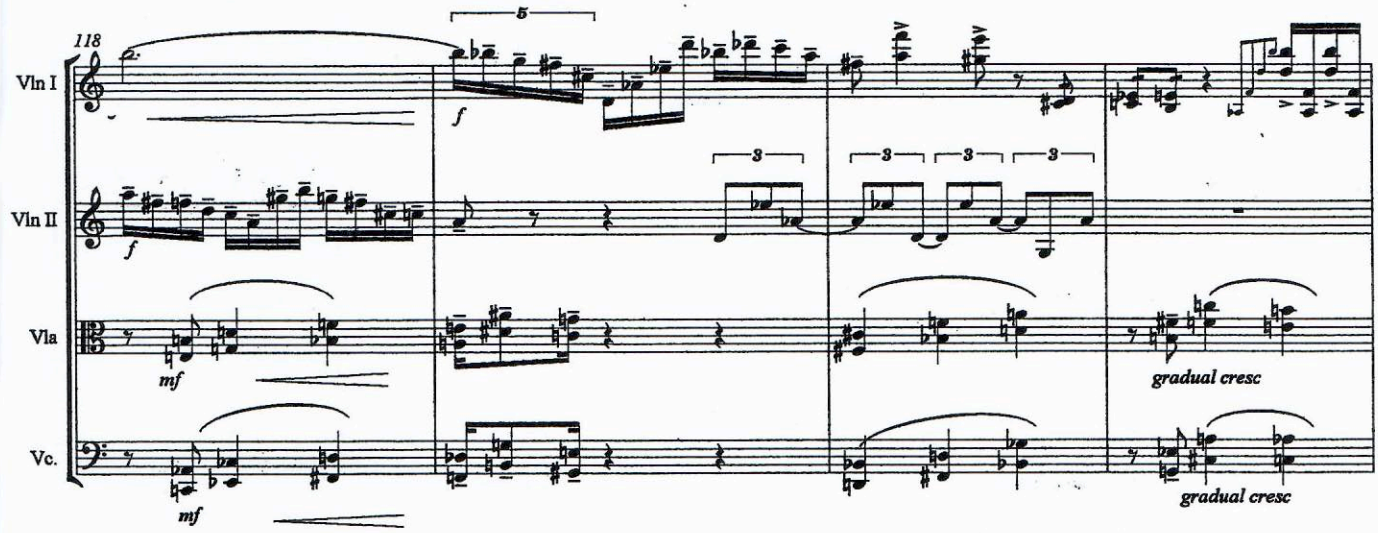

74
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
sul pont/quasi gliss
f
mp
5
3
3
sul pont/quasi gliss
f
79
86

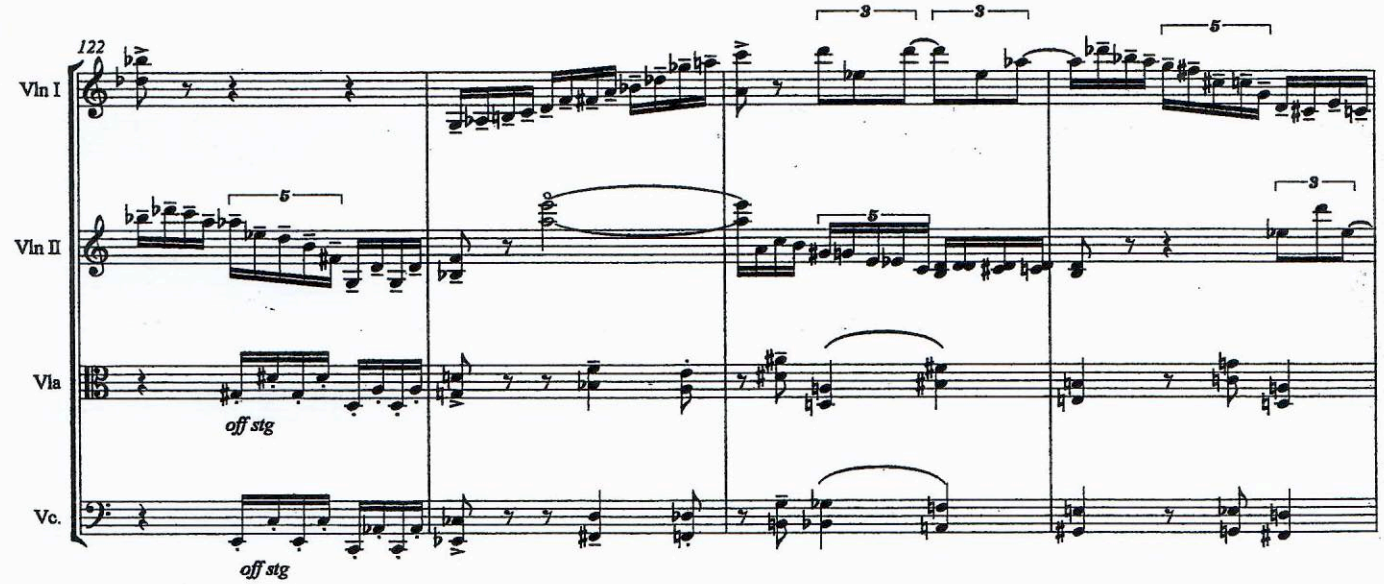

93
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
f
mp legato
pp
mp legato
pizz pp

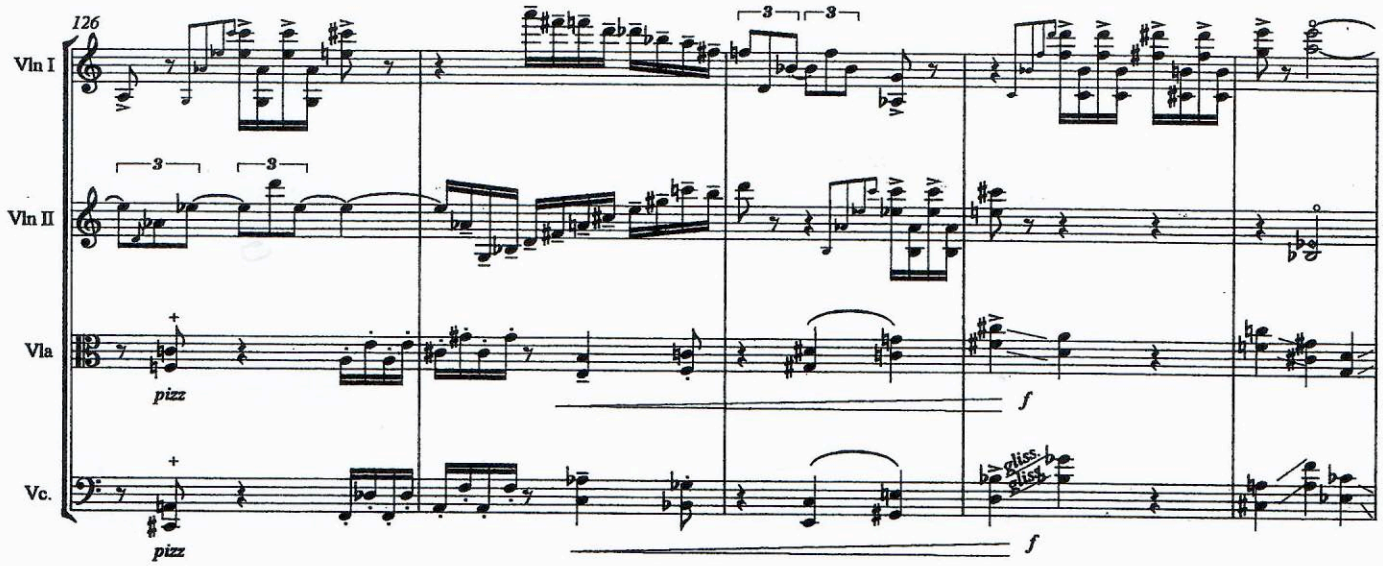

100
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
solo
f
pp
arco f
pizz pp

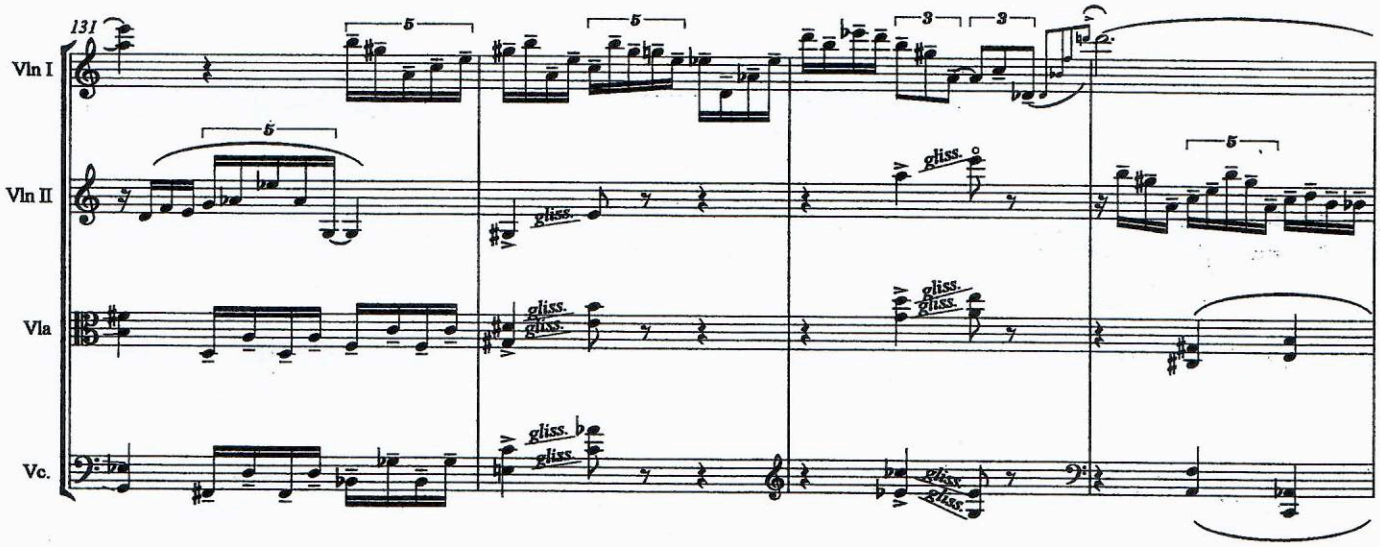

106
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
f
pp
f
arco f
pizz pp
arco f

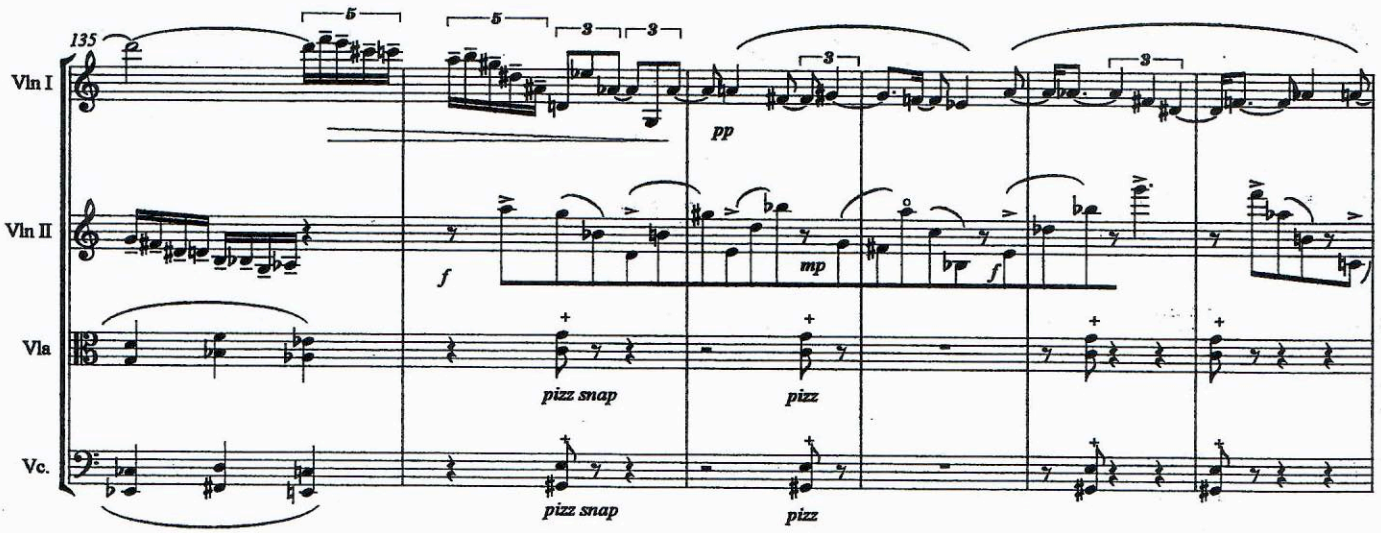

112
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
f
f
pizz pp

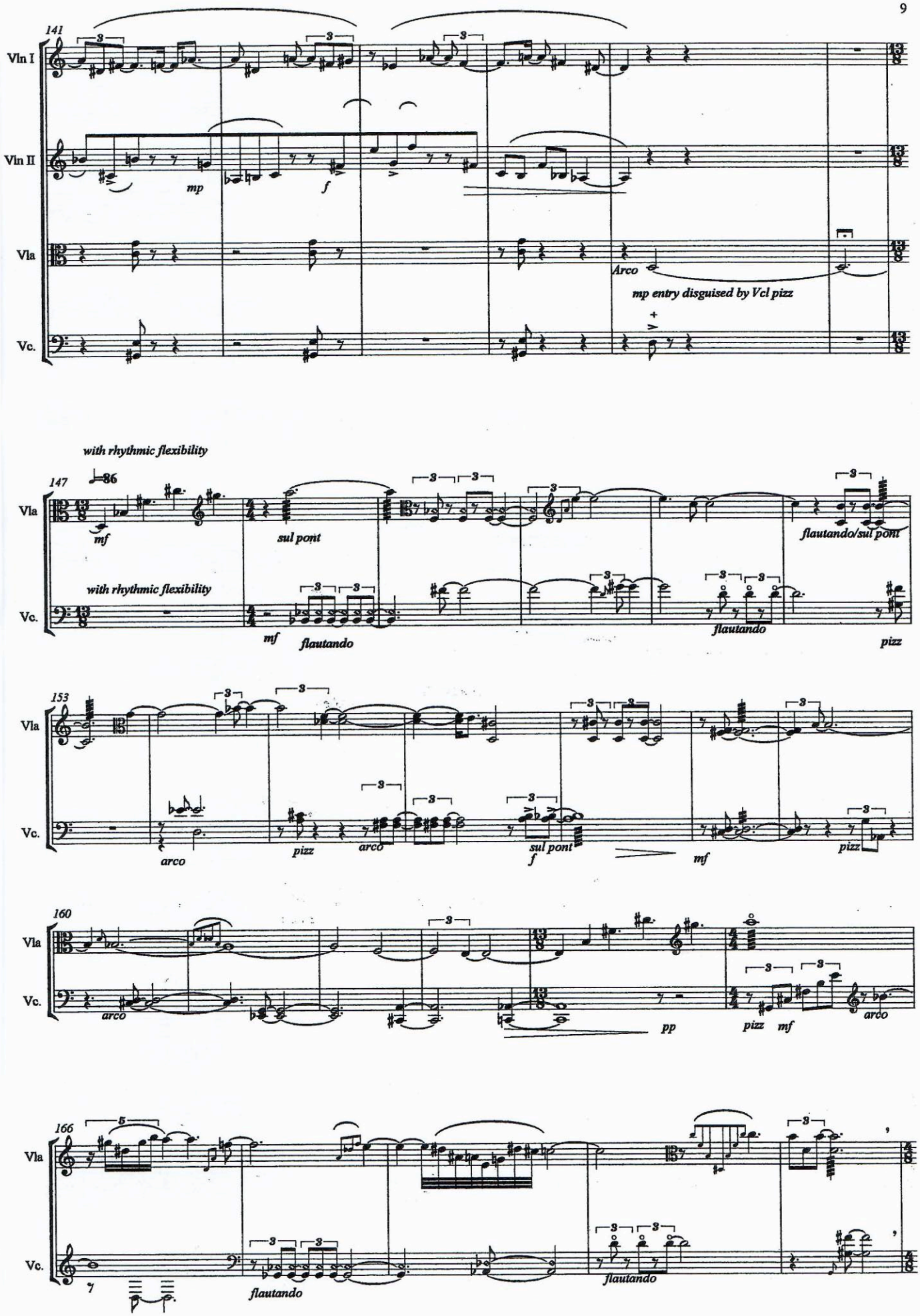

118
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
f
f
mf
mf
gradual cresc
gradual cresc

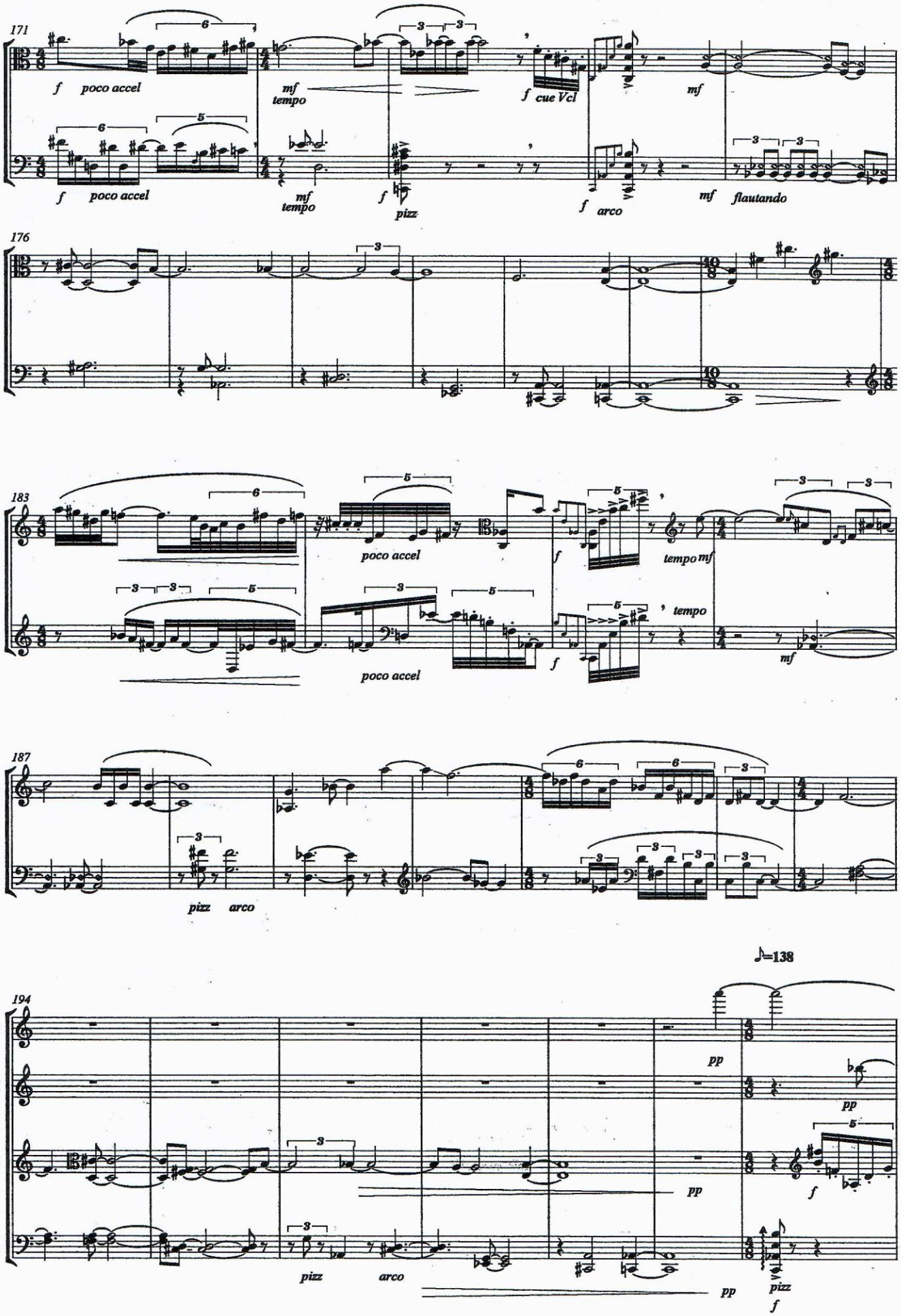

122
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
off stg
off stg

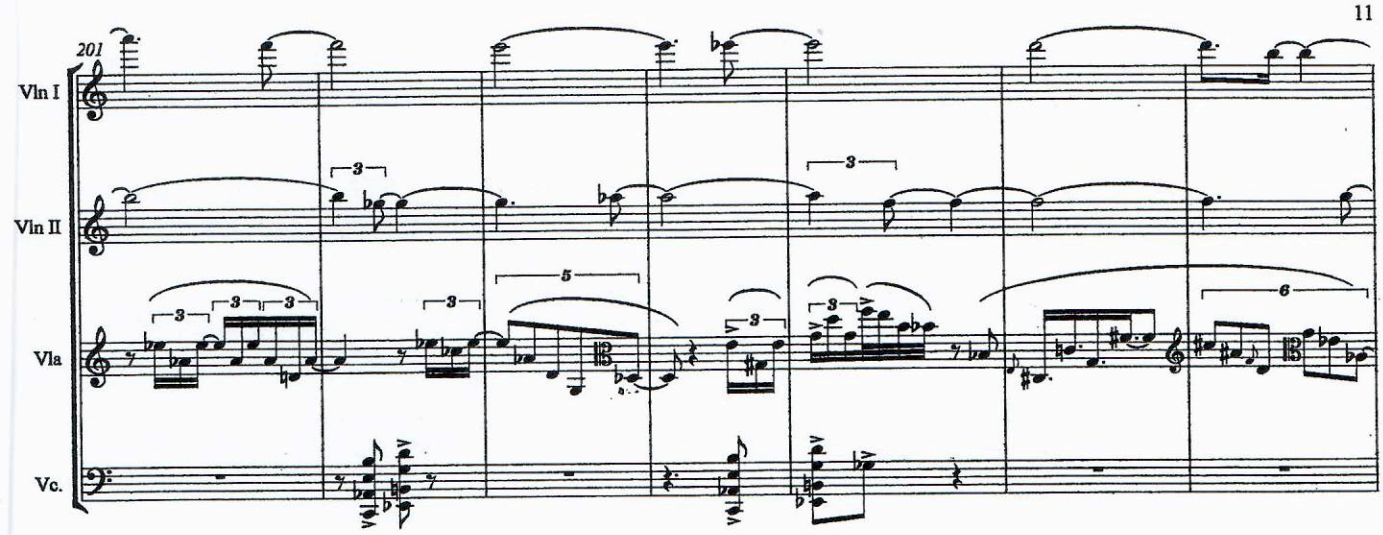

126
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
pizz
pizz
f
f
gliss.
gliss.

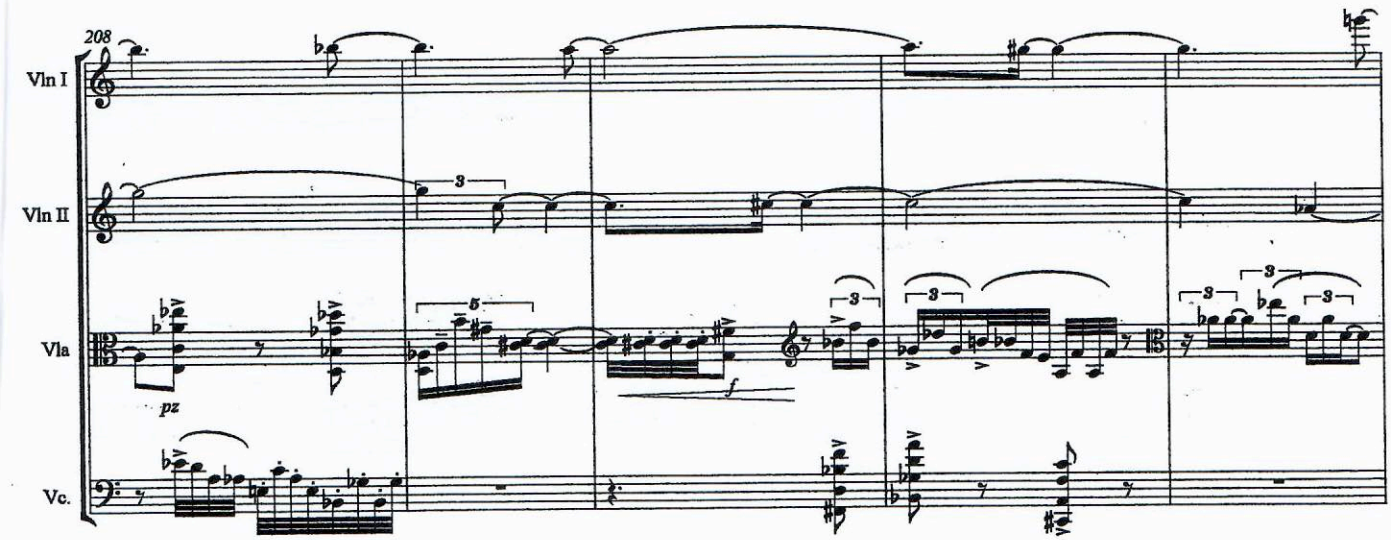

131
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.

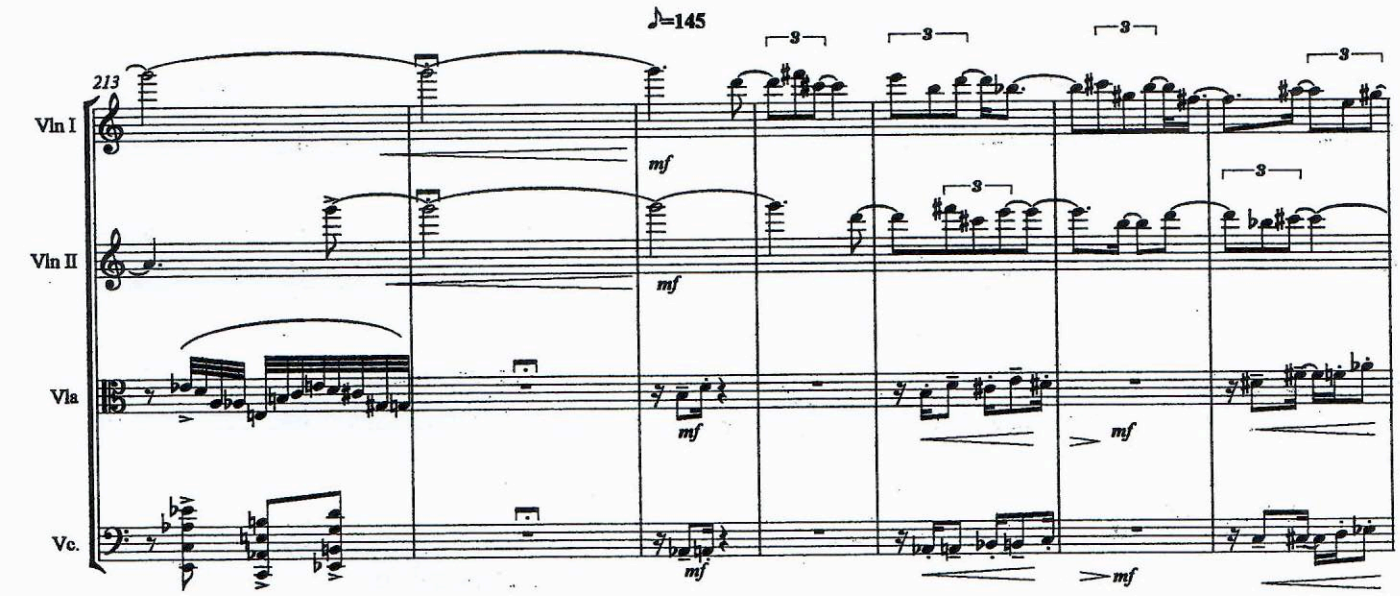

135
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
pp
f
mp
f
pizz snap
pizz
pizz snap
pizz

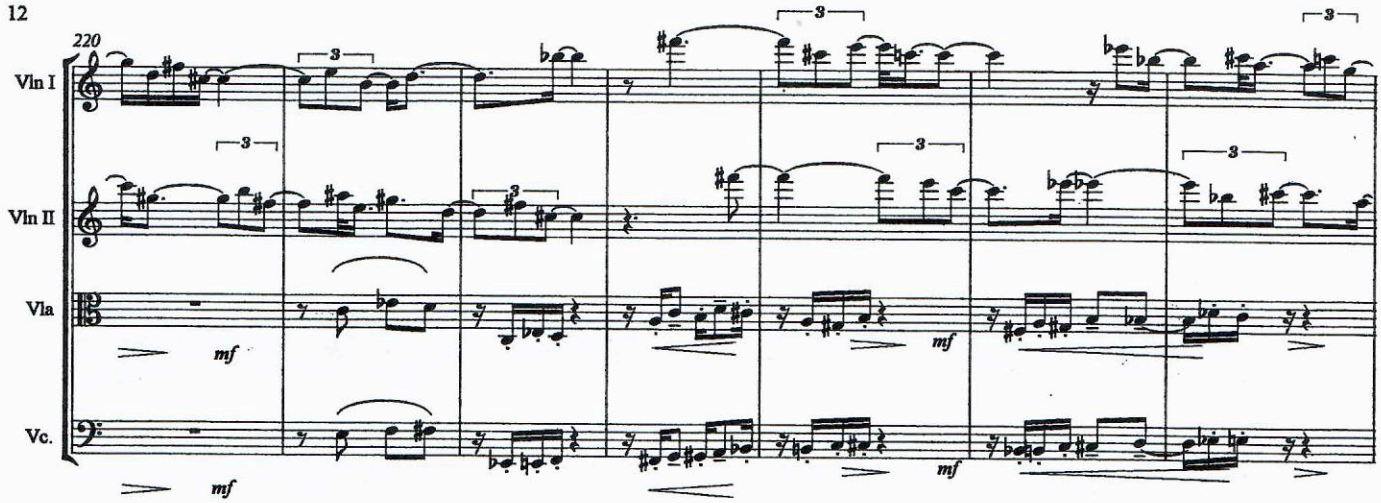

141
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
mp
f
Arco
mp entry disguised by Vcl pizz
with rhythmic flexibility
147
♩=86
mf
sul pont
flautando/sul pont
with rhythmic flexibility
mf
flautando
flautando
pizz
153
arco
pizz
arco
sul pont
f
mf
pizz
160
arco
pp
pizz
mf
arco
166
flautando
flautando

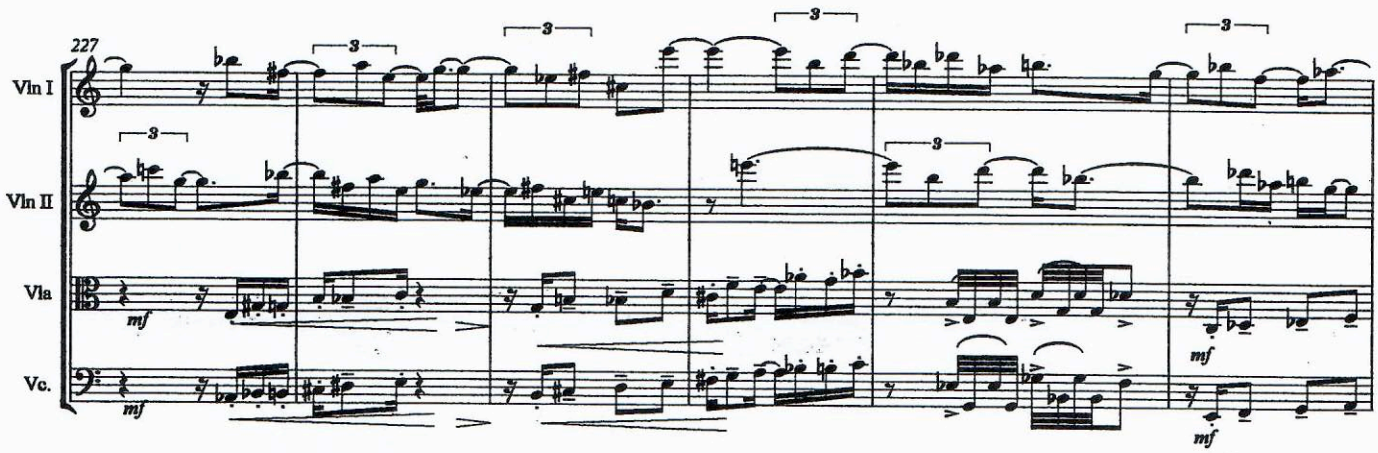

171
Vla
Vc.
f poco accel
mf tempo
f cue Vcl
mf
f poco accel
mf tempo
f pizz
f arco
mf flautando
176
Vla
Vc.
183
Vla
Vc.
poco accel
f
tempo mf
tempo
poco accel
f
mf
187
Vla
Vc.
pizz arco
♪=138
194
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
pp
pp
f
pp
pizz arco
pp
pizz
f

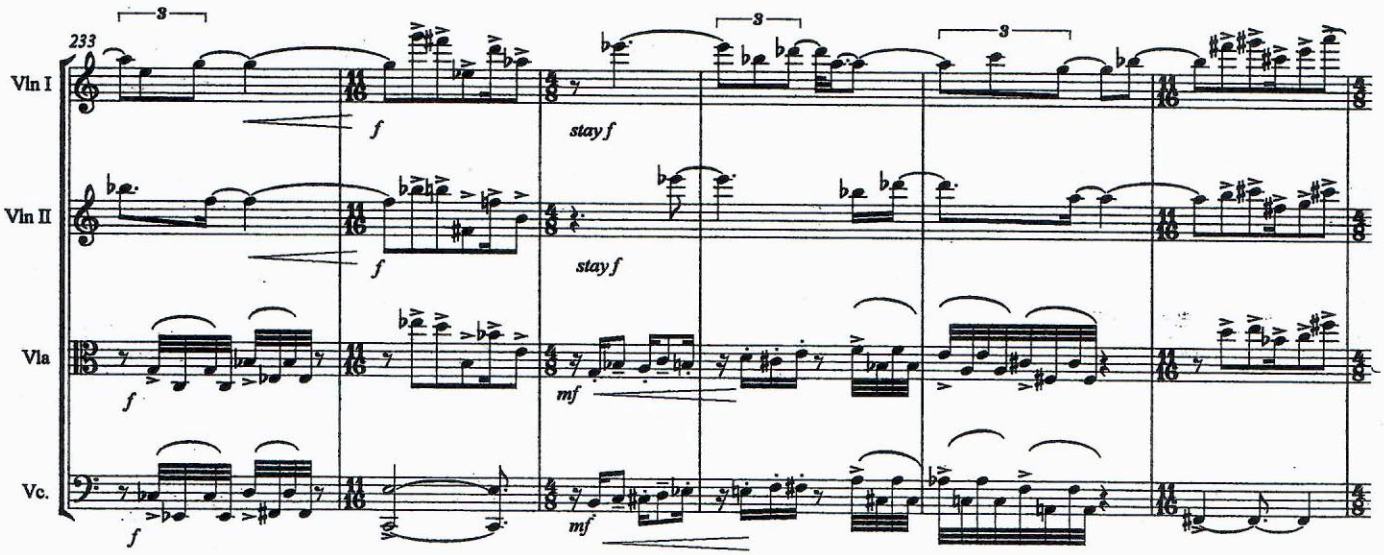

201
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.

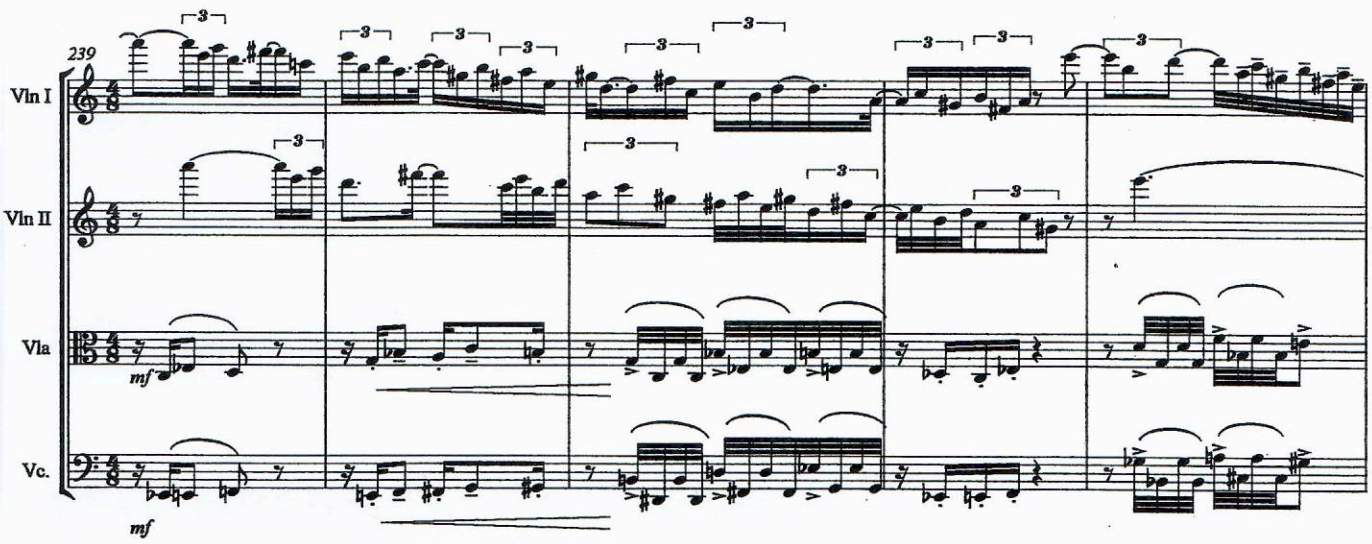

208
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
pz
f

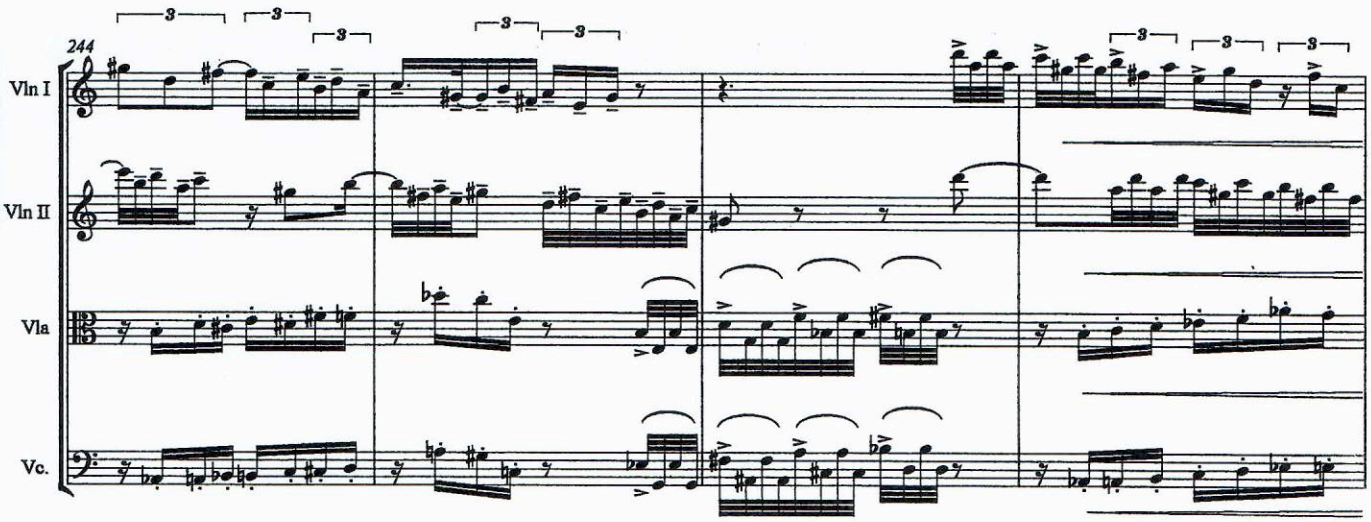

♪=145
213
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
mf

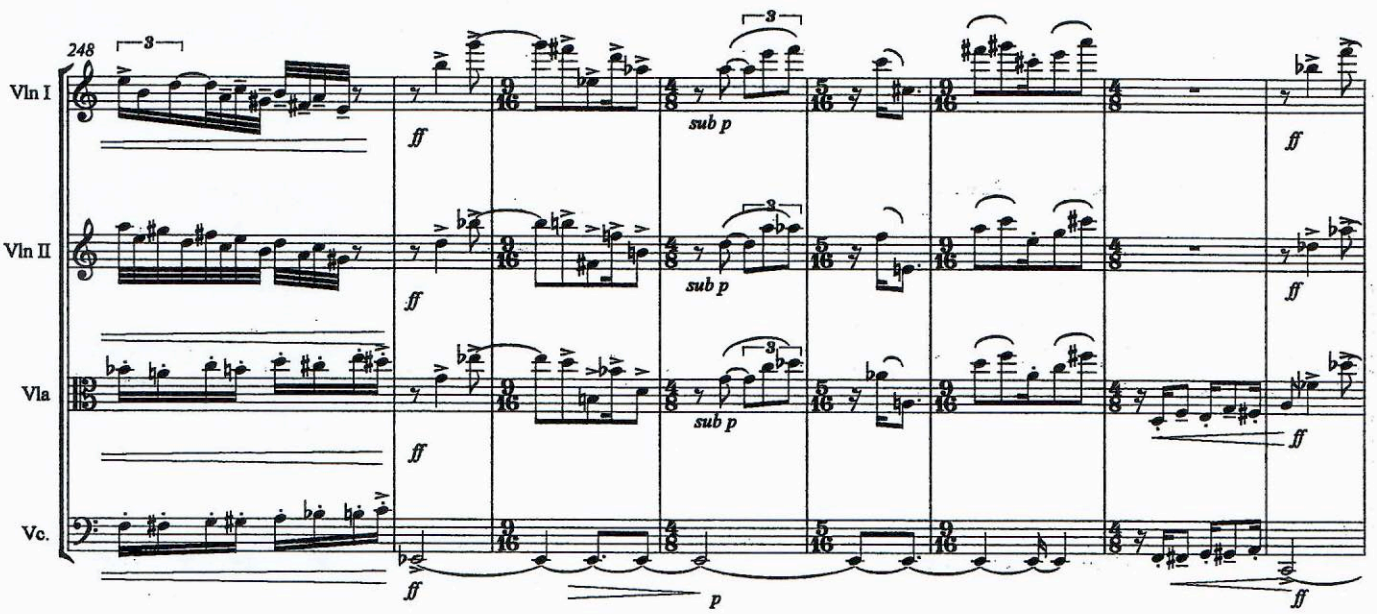

220
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
3
mf

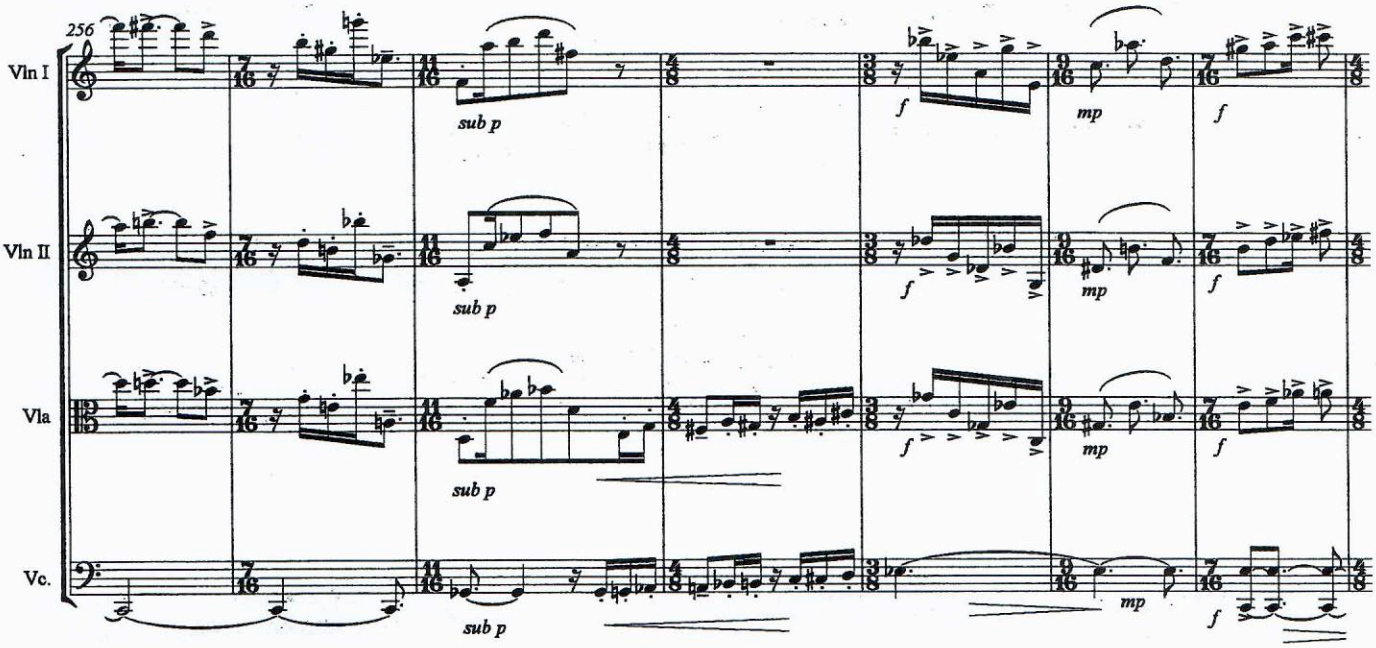

227
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
3
mf

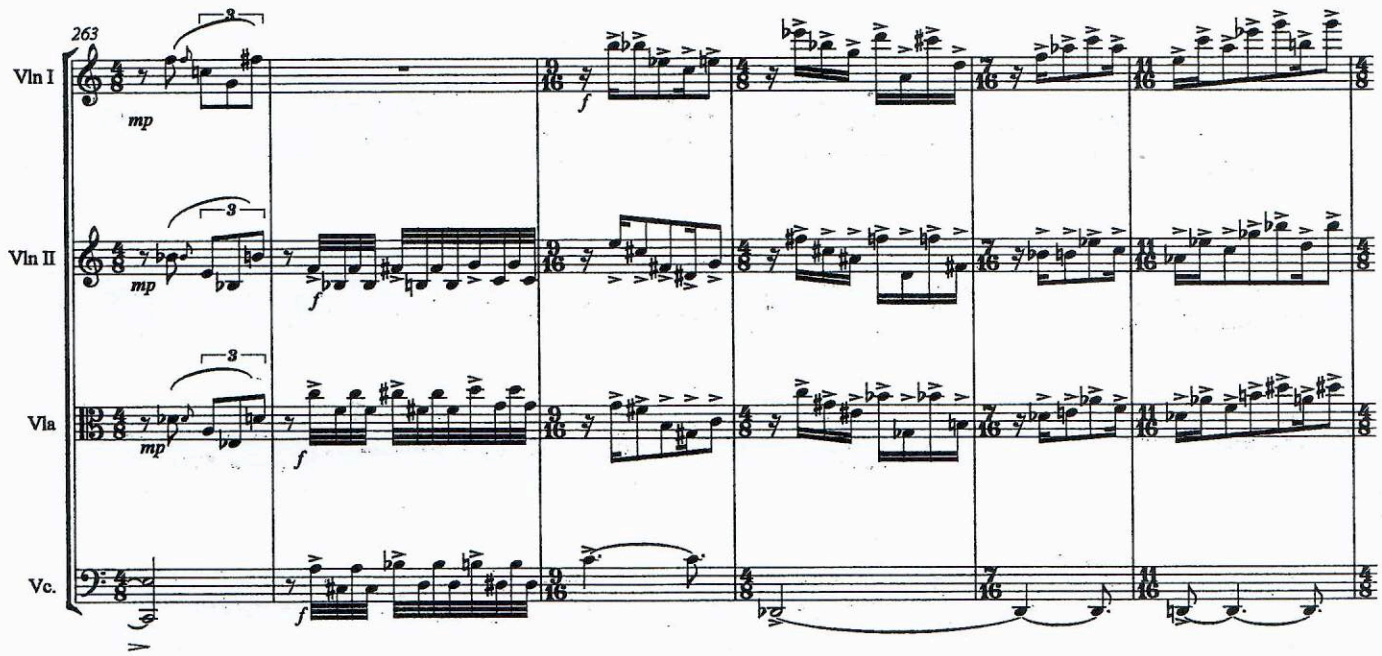

233
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
3
f
stay f
mf

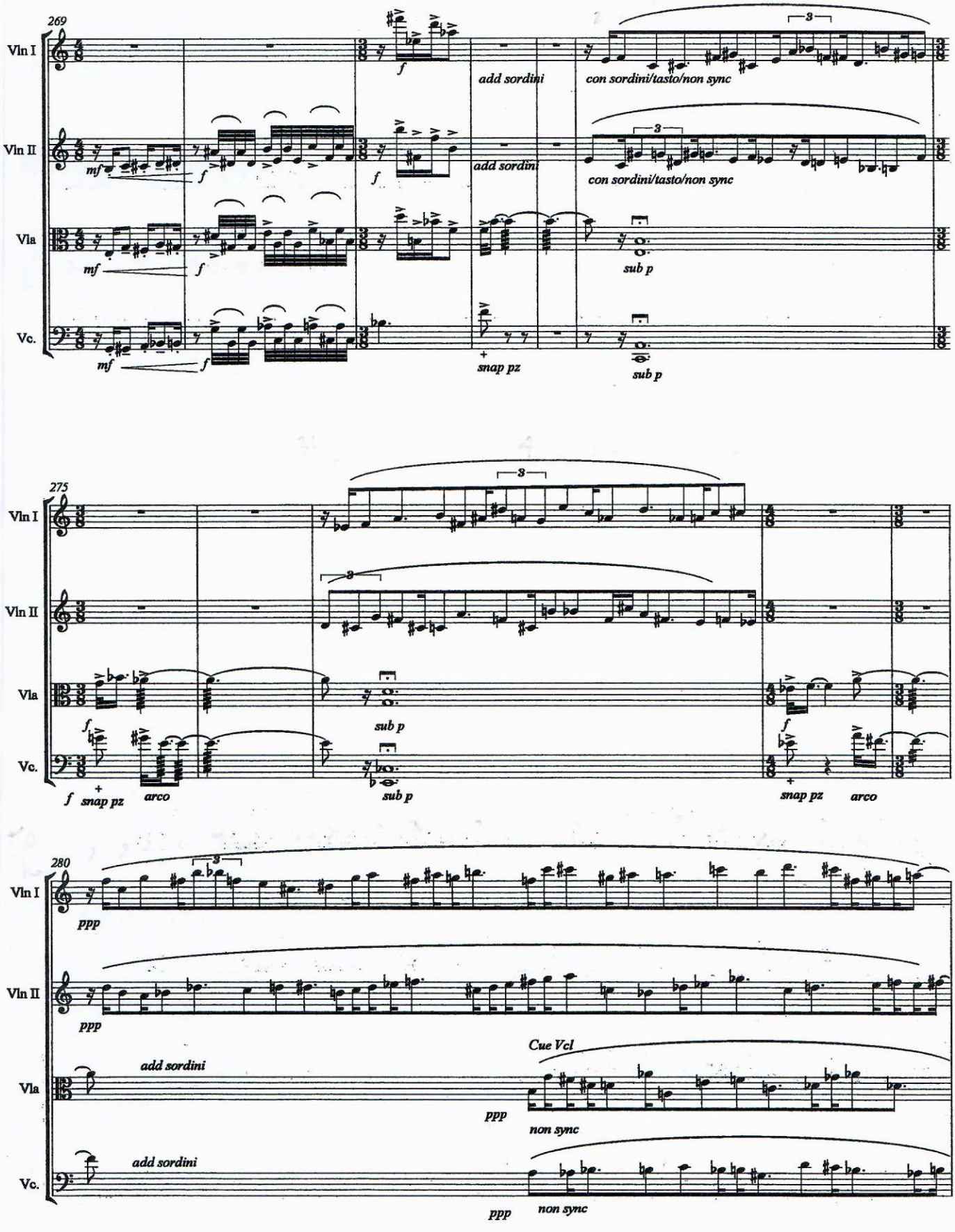

239
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
mf
mf

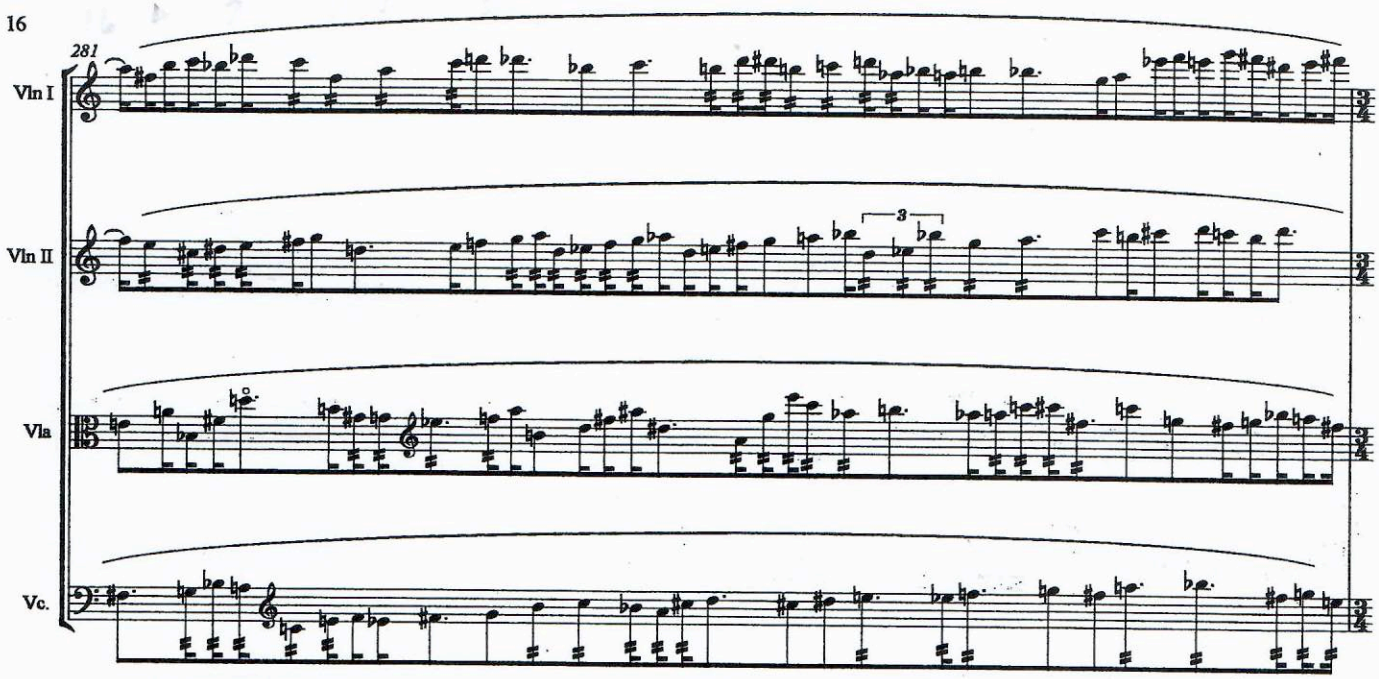

244
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.

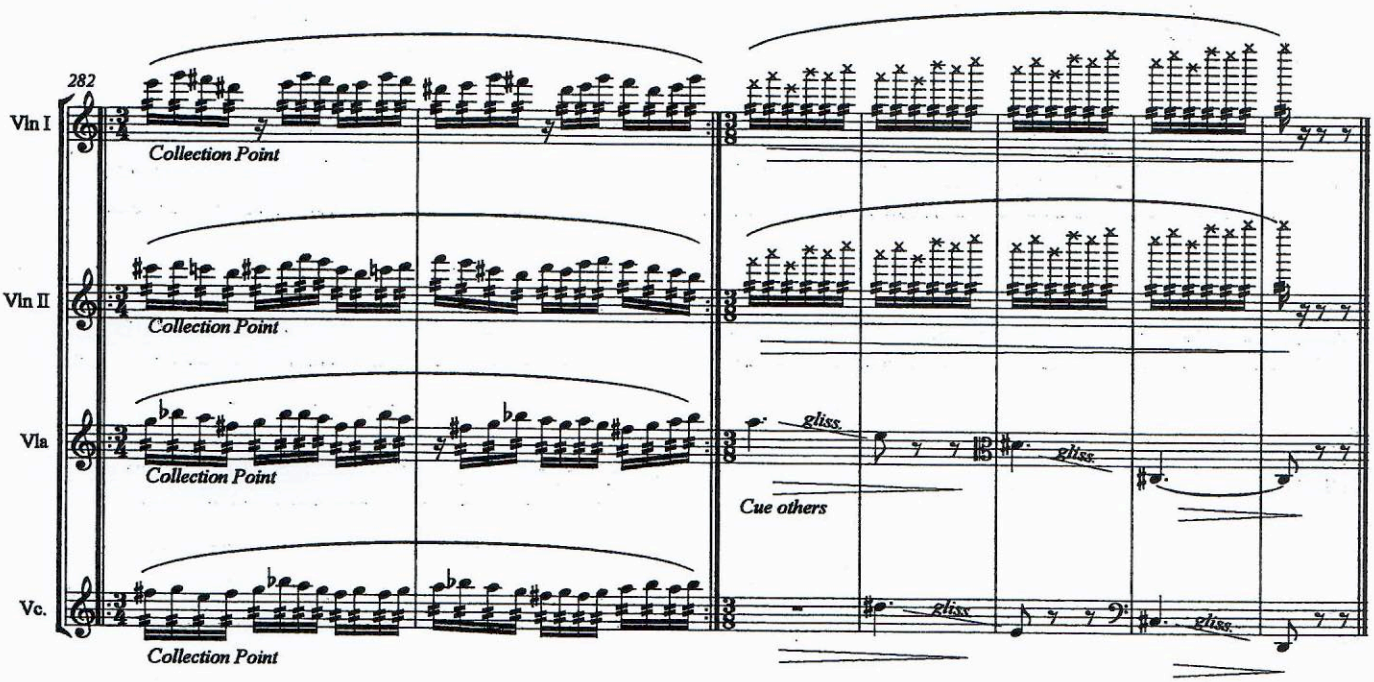

248
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
ff
sub p
ff
p
ff


256
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
sub p
f
mp


263
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
mp
f
3


269
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
mf
f
add sordini
con sordini/tasto/non sync
sub p
snap pz
275
arco
280
ppp
Cue Vcl
non sync


281
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
3


282
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Collection Point
Collection Point
Collection Point
Collection Point
gliss.
gliss.
Cue others
gliss.
gliss.