MEMENTO MORI

FOR STRING QUARTET

PHASE I:

ut cuspis sic vita fluit dum stare videtur

(life flies on like an arrow, while it seems to stand still)

NINA C. YOUNG

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Memento Mori
[Phase I of IV]
Written for the JACK Quartet
February 2013
Approximate Duration: 7'10"

Phase I:
ut cuspis sic vita fluit dum stare videtur
(life flies on like an arrow, while it seems to stand still)

PROGRAM NOTE:

A *memento mori* (from Latin 'remember that you will die') is an artistic or symbolic reminder of the inevitability of death. The association of sundials with time has inspired their artisans over the centuries to display mottoes as part of their design. Often these mottoes cast the device in the role of *memento mori*. The subtitle of Phase I, meaning 'life flies on like an arrow, while it seems to stand still', is one such motto, inscribed on a sundial in the Jardin des Plantes in Paris.

This work is a meditation on life and the perception of time. In our daily activities, the constant influx of information, sensations, and stimuli saturates our consciousness. By stepping out of time, we can zoom in and out of our perceptual systems, allowing us to focus on their intricacies and beauty.

The musical material of *Memento Mori* is drawn from *Contrapunctus I*, from Bach's *The Art of Fugue*. Phase I isolates the first five notes of the D minor subject, stretching them out and zooming into the interstices, analyzing and manipulating in minute detail their interactions over time. The listener is thus invited to find interest in the subtle fluctuations in amplitude, texture, and periodicity in the music.

Memento Mori [Phase I] was premiered by the JACK Quartet on March 12, 2013 at the DiMenna Center for Classical Music in New York, NY.

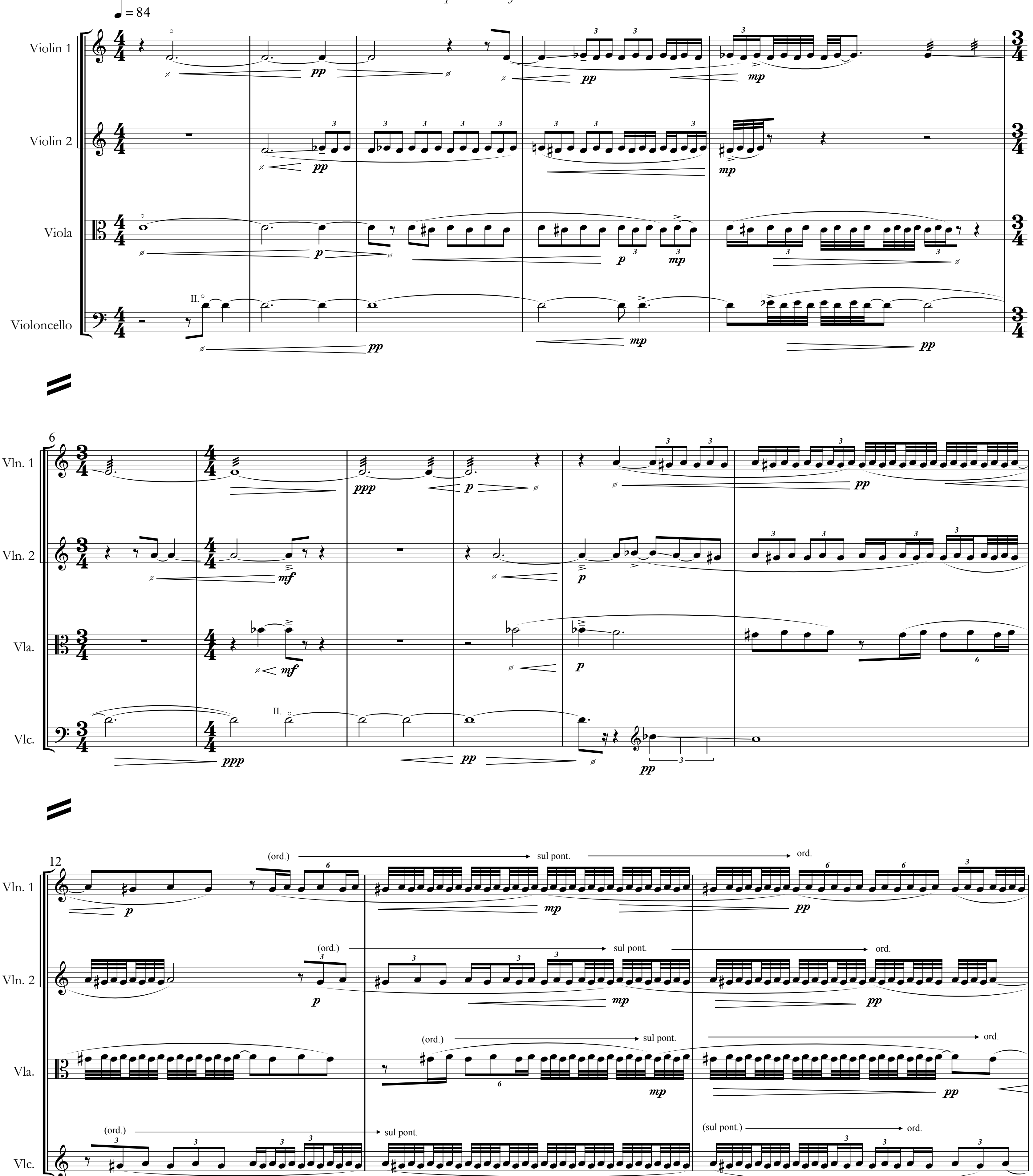
SCORE

MEMENTO MORI

Phase I

ut cuspis sic vita fluit dum stare videtur

NINA C. YOUNG


♩ = 84
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
6
12
II.
pp
mp
p
ppp
mf
(ord.)
sul pont.
ord.
(sul pont.)

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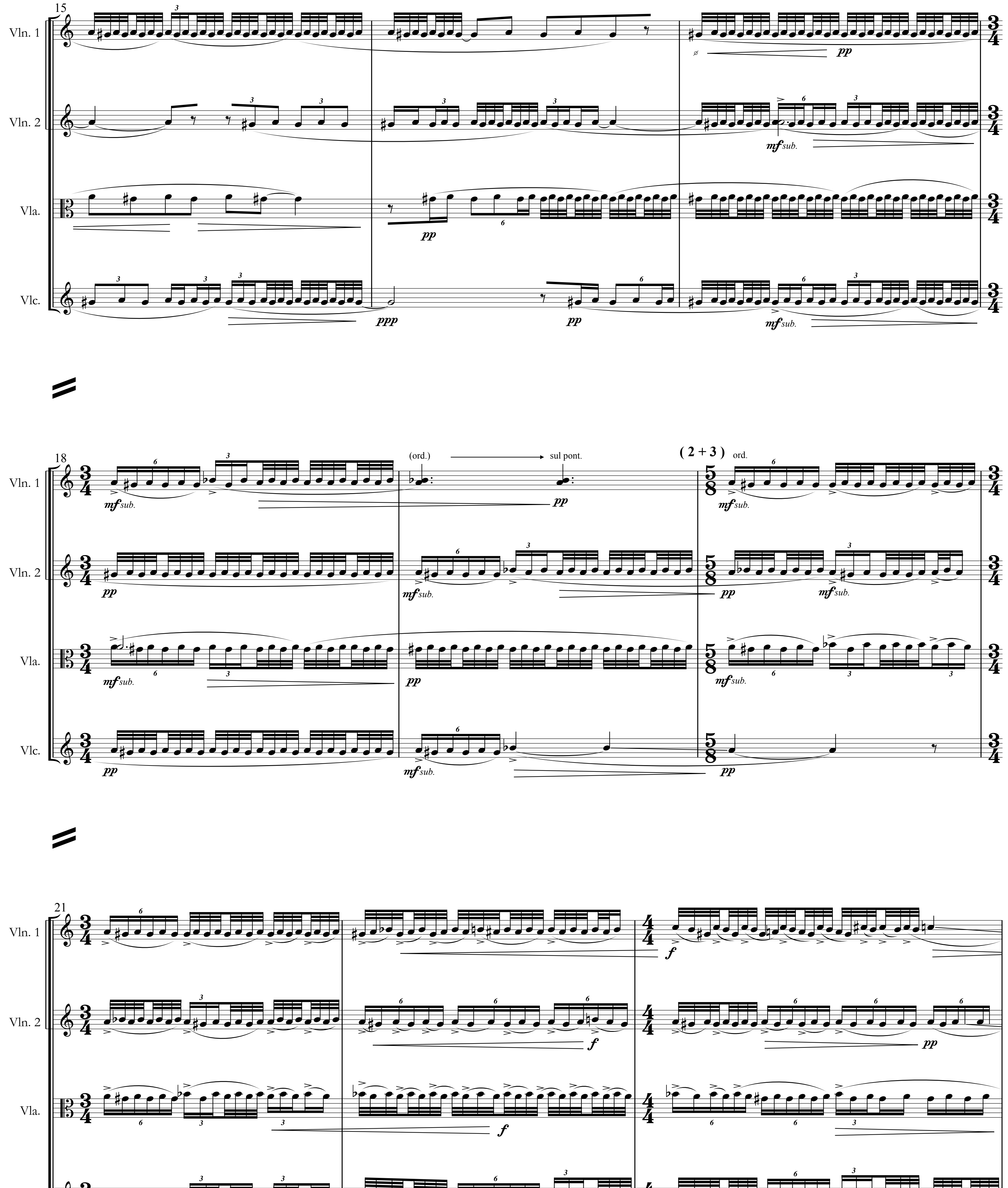
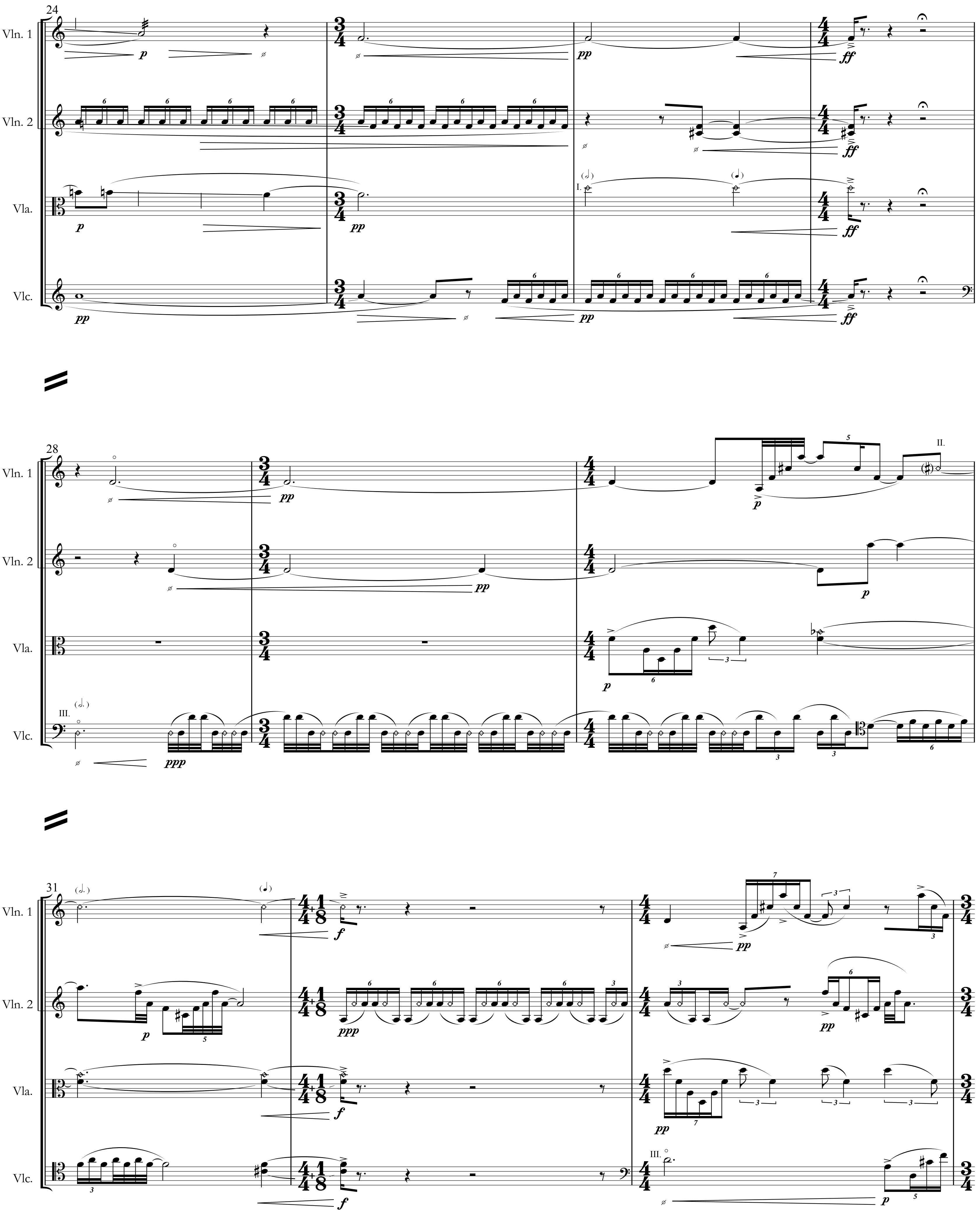
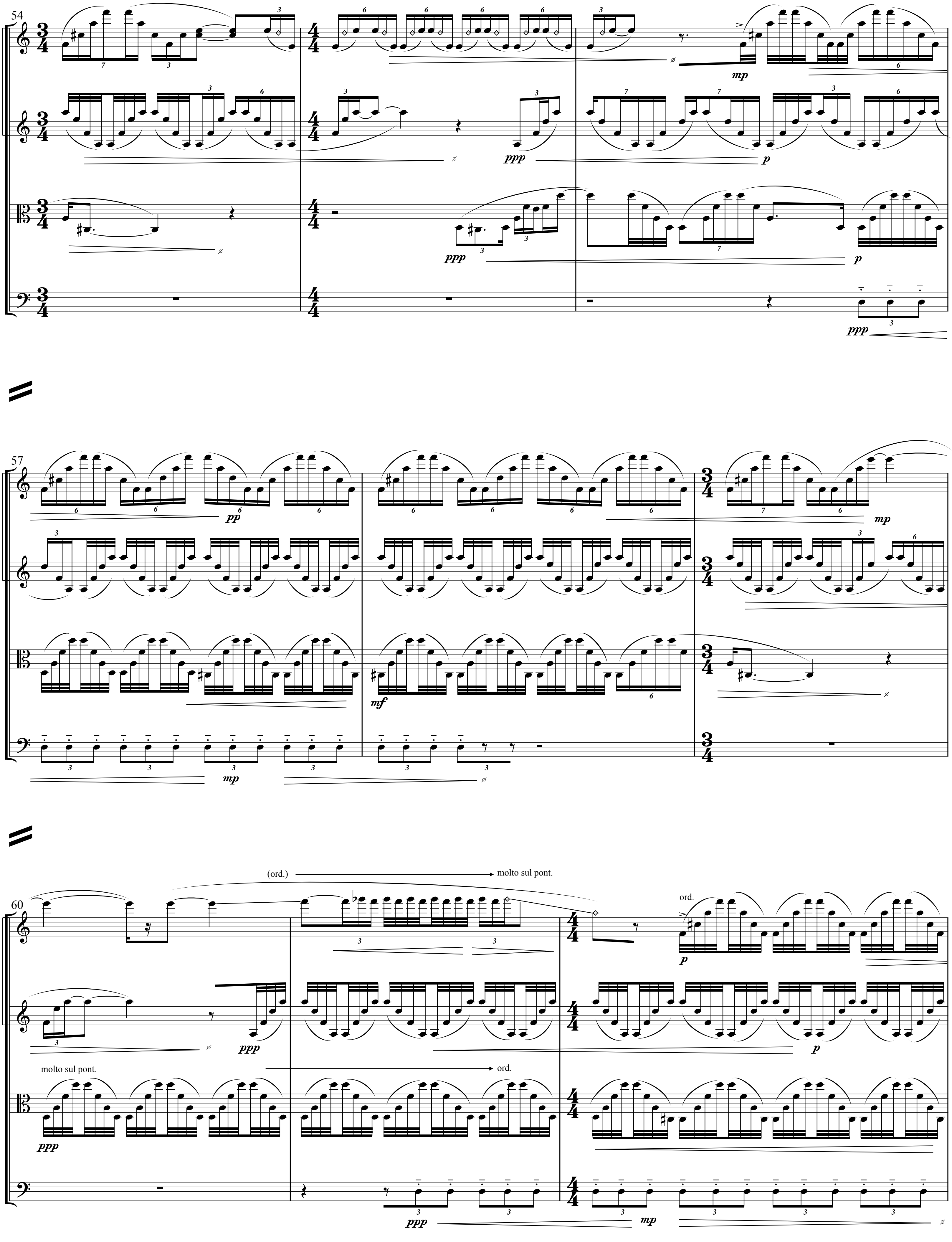
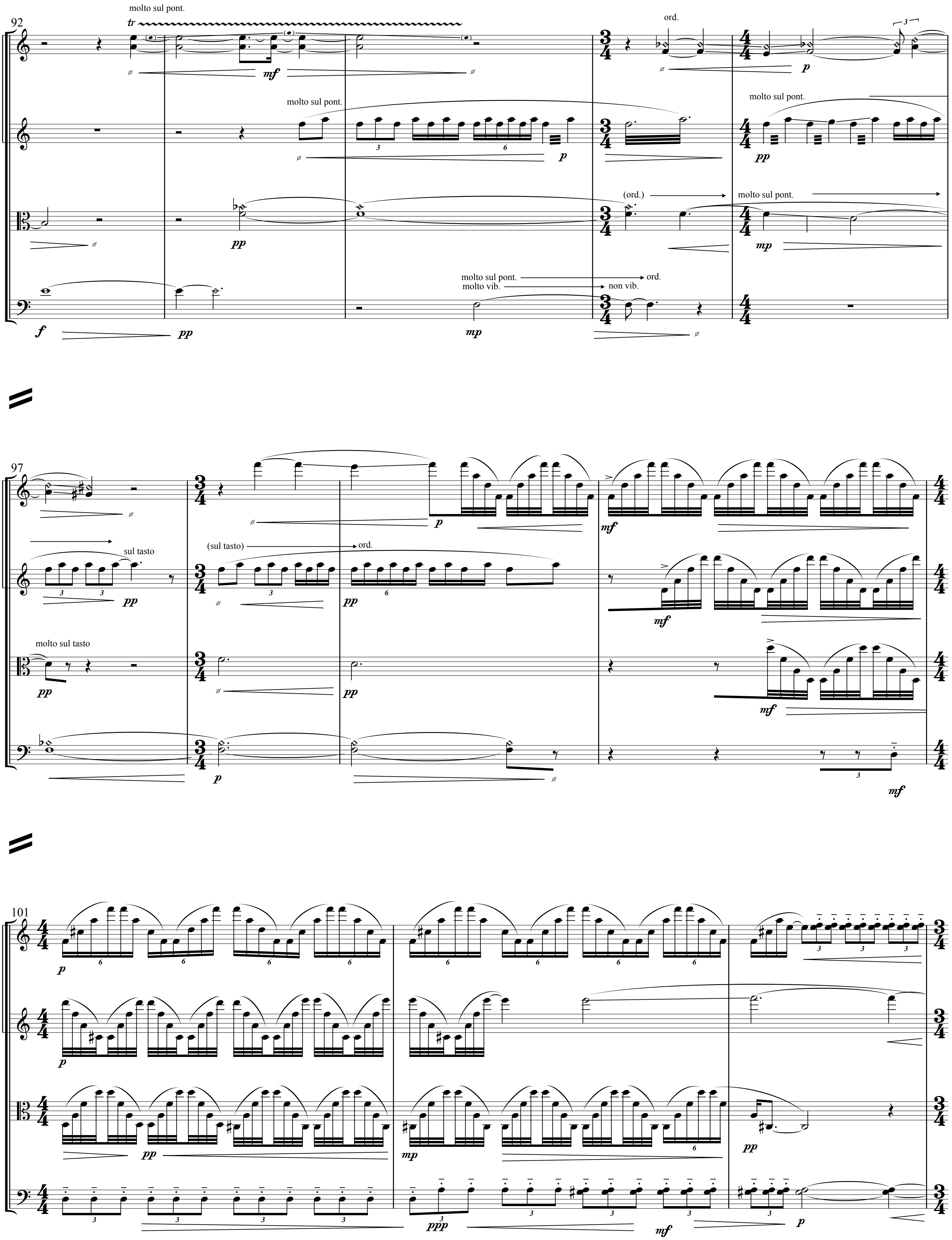
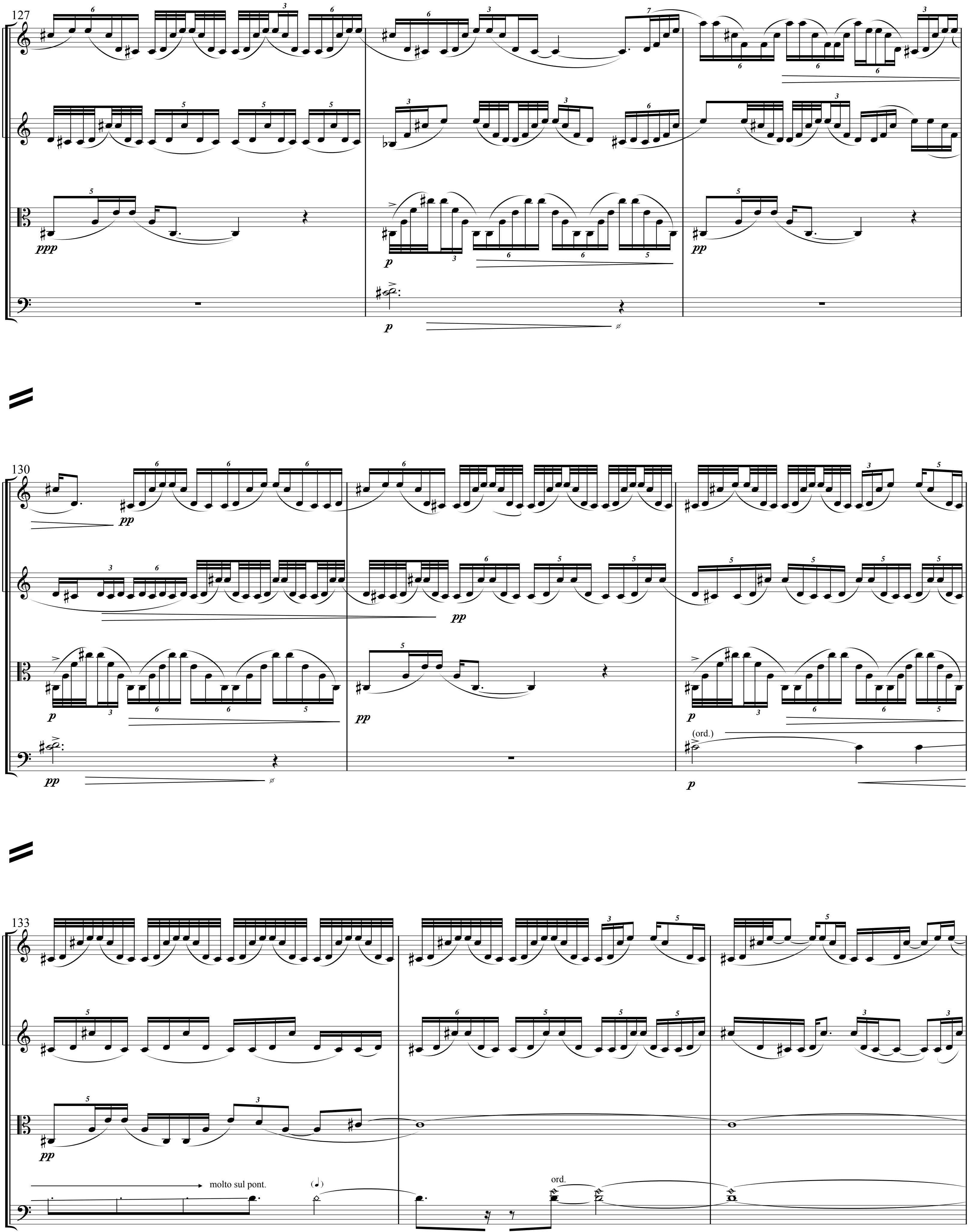
2013.06.15

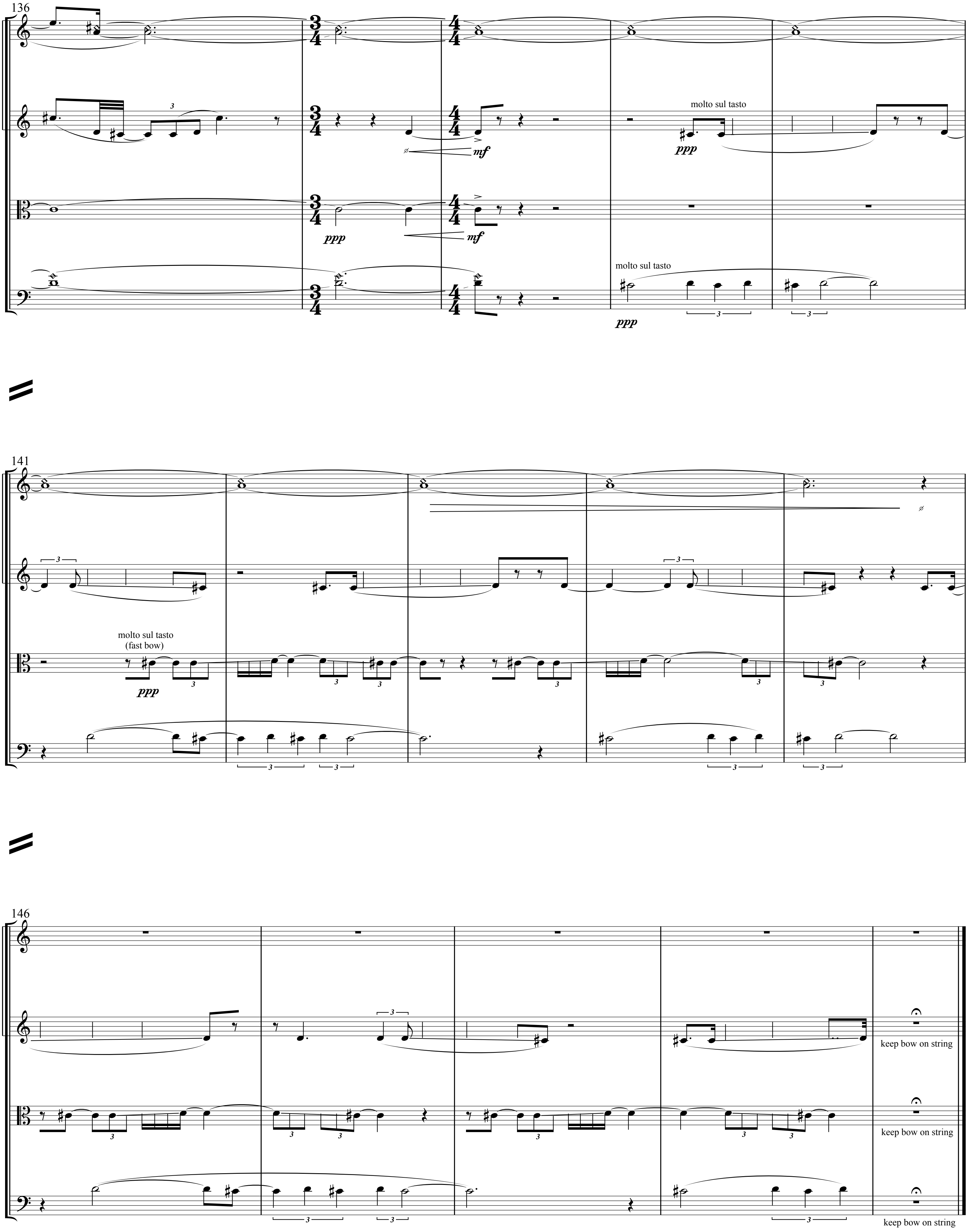

15
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
pp
mf sub.
ppp
pp
pp
mf sub.
18
(ord.)
sul pont.
(2 + 3)
ord.
mf sub.
pp
mf sub.
pp
mf sub.
pp
mf sub.
mf sub.
pp
mf sub.
mf sub.
pp
mf sub.
pp
21
f
f
pp
f
p
mf
f


24
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
p
pp
ff
I.
28
ppp
III.
II.
31
f


54
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
mp
ppp
p
57
pp
mp
mf
60
(ord.)
molto sul pont.
ord.
molto sul pont.
ord.
ppp
mp
p


92
molto sul pont.
tr
mf
ord.
p
3
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
molto sul pont.
3
6
p
molto sul pont.
pp
Vla.
(ord.)
molto sul pont.
pp
mp
Vlc.
molto sul pont.
molto vib.
ord.
non vib.
f
pp
mp
97
mf
sul tasto
(sul tasto)
ord.
3
pp
6
mf
molto sul tasto
pp
pp
mf
p
3
mf
101
p
6
p
pp
mp
6
pp
3
ppp
mf
p


127
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
ppp
p
pp
130
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
pp
p
(ord.)
133
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
pp
molto sul pont.
mp
ord.
pp


136
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
ppp
mf
molto sul tasto
ppp
molto sul tasto
ppp
141
molto sul tasto
(fast bow)
ppp
146
keep bow on string
keep bow on string
keep bow on string