String Quartet No. 1

- Space - Time - Inertia -

[Full Score]

Nina C. Young

Space - Time - Inertia
for String Quartet
(3 movements to be played without pause)

Approximate Duration - 13:00

Premiered August 2009 at Domaine Forget Festival, St-Irénée QC

Program Notes:

Space – Time – Inertia is a string quartet in three movements drafted in the summer of 2007, revised and completed during July 2009. Each separate movement delves into sonic representations of images created from the words 'space', 'time', and 'inertia'. The first movement, Space, creates a suspended sense of time focusing on detailed sonic nuance. The movement asks the listener to focus on affect changes created by the contrast of dense and wide dispositions of harmonies and timbre changes created by varying string techniques. The second movement, Time, contrasts the first focusing mainly on an incessant, rhythmic driving energy. The movement is in 7-8, with each voice playing with different metrical subdivisions of the meter and motivic material. The quartet is playing pizzicato, with two formal interruptions of bowed passages evoking the material of the previous movement. The third movement, Inertia, evolves directly out of the energy provided by the ending of the second movement. Inertia reconciles the dimensions of 'space' and 'time', through more conventional string quartet writing based on an assimilation of the motivic and the sonic-conceptual ideas of the previous movements.

Score

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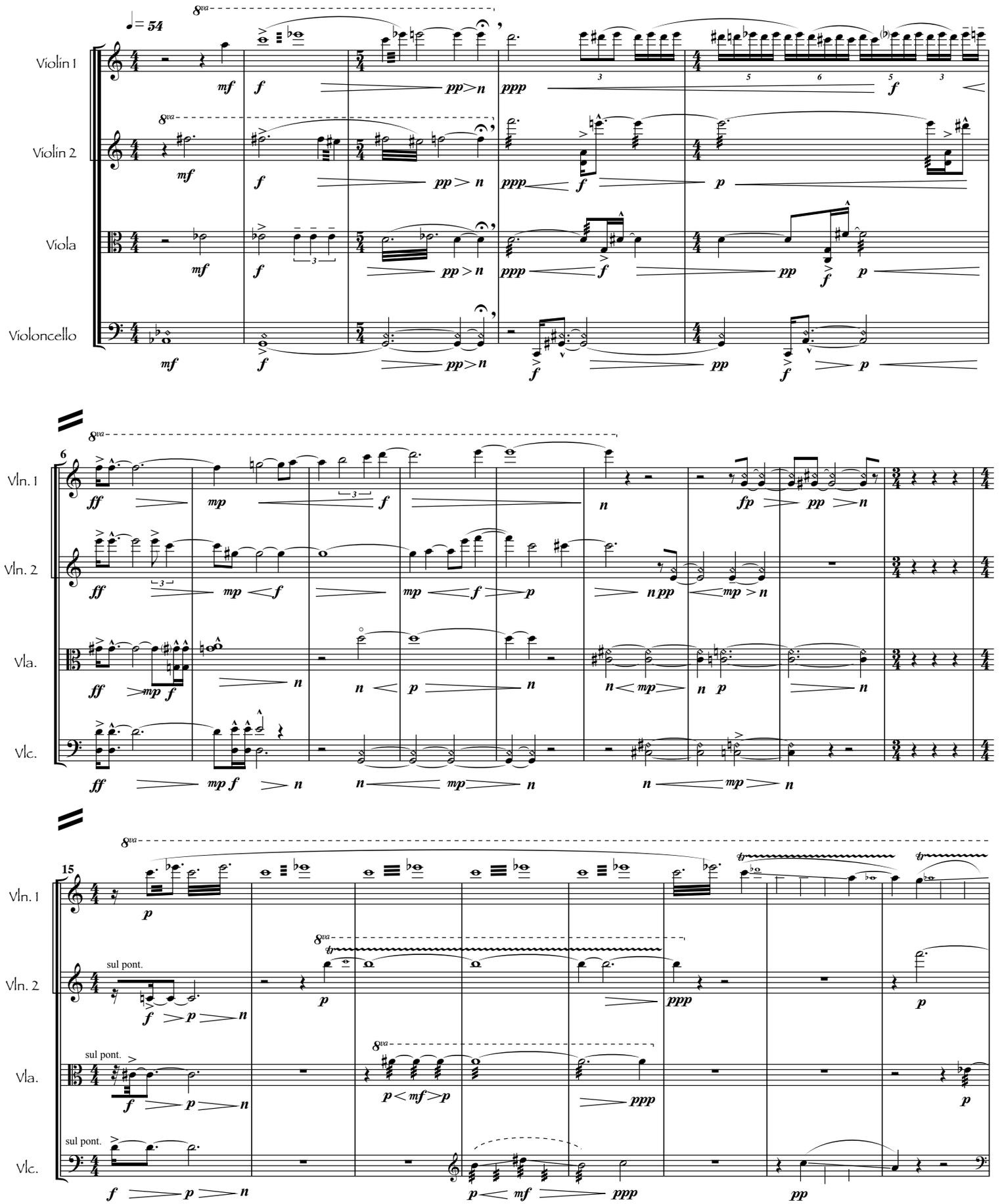
I. - Space



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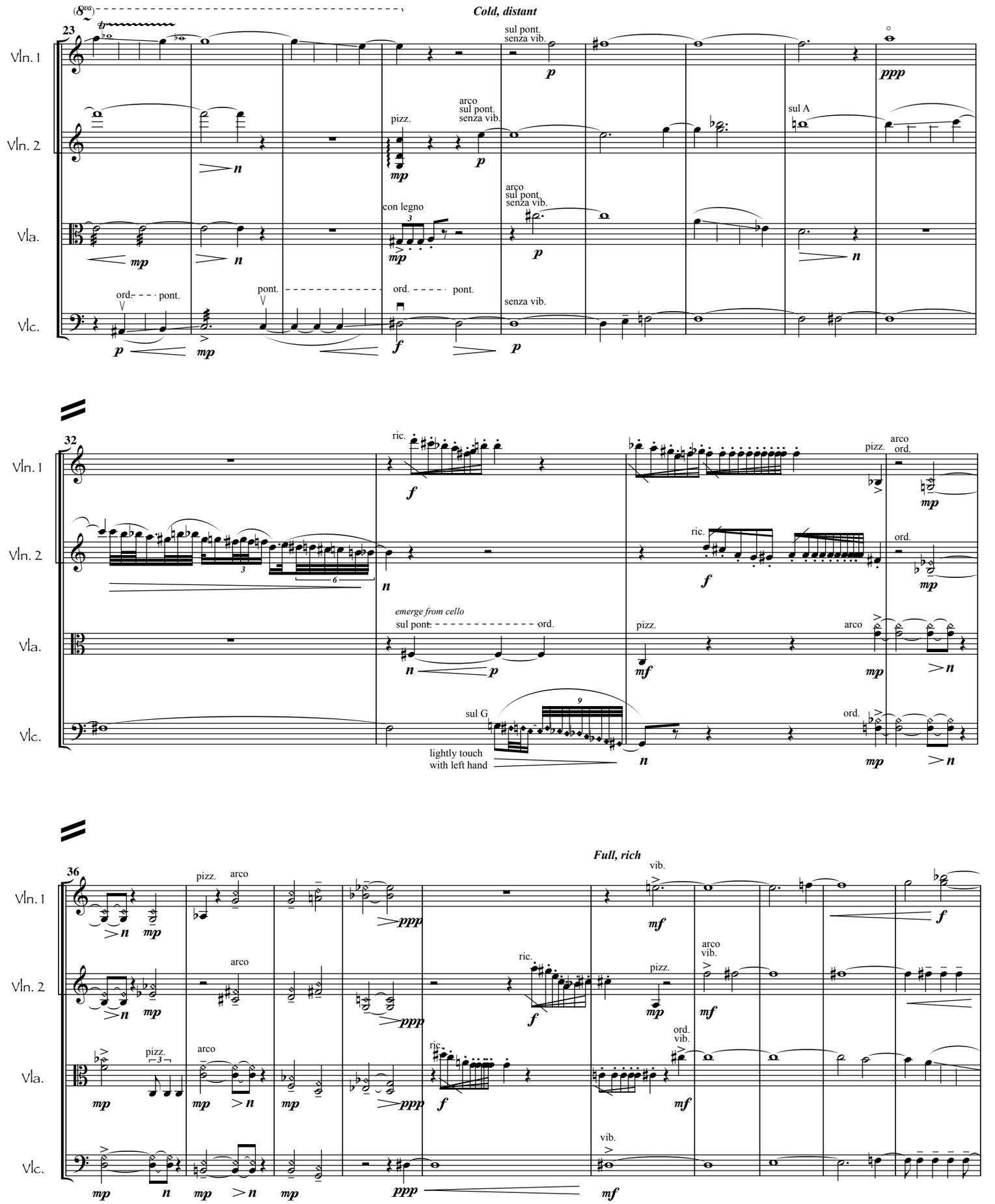
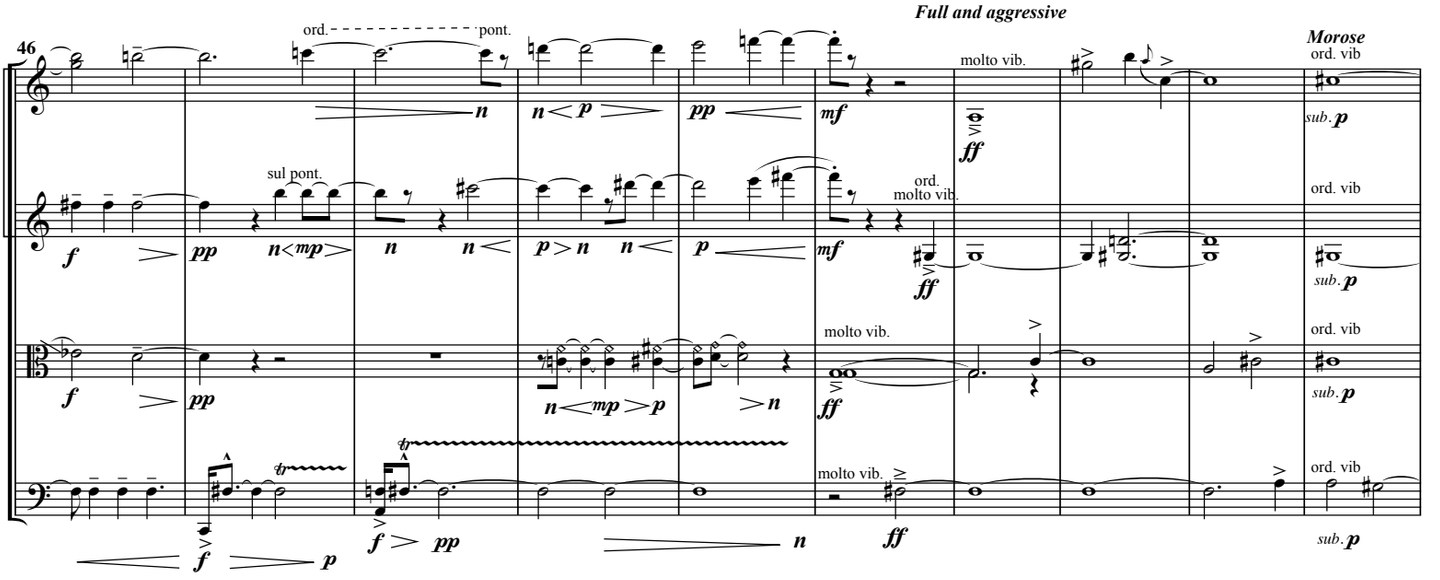
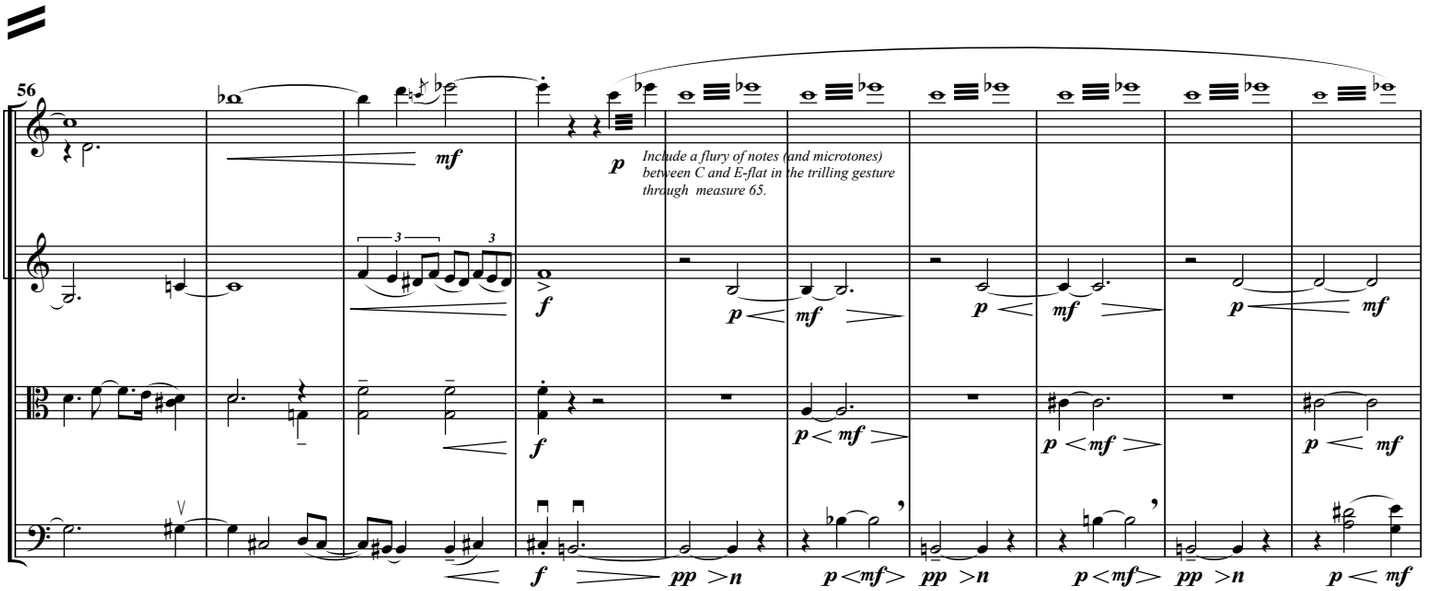
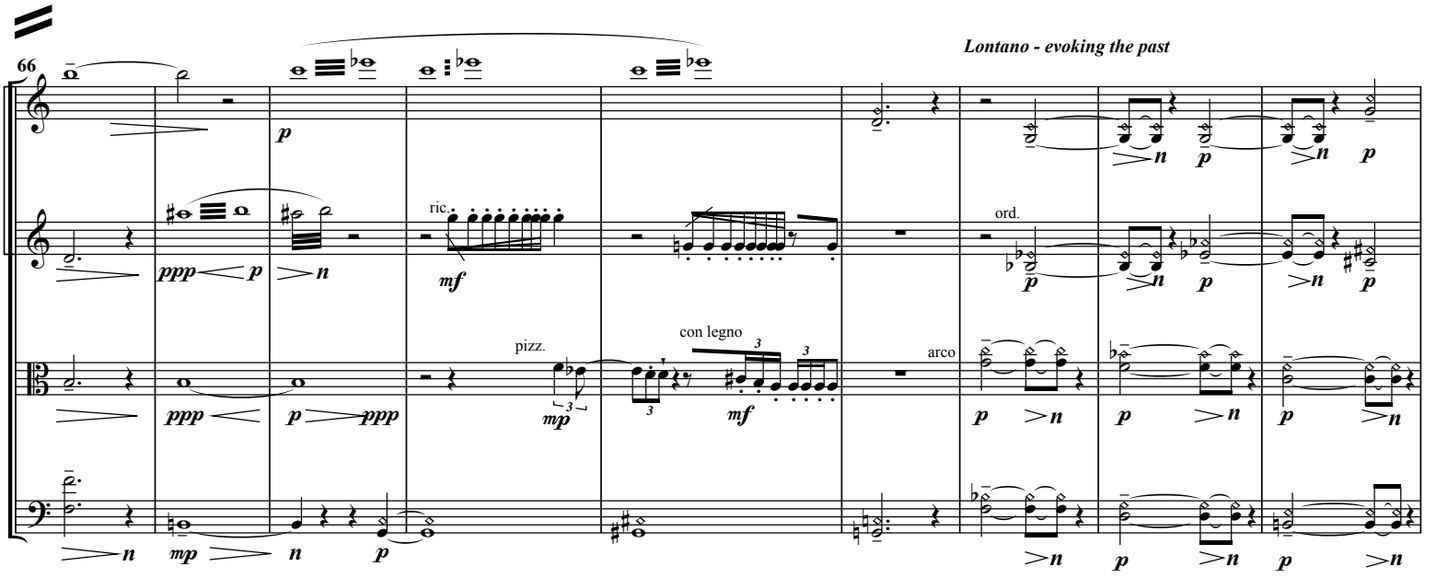
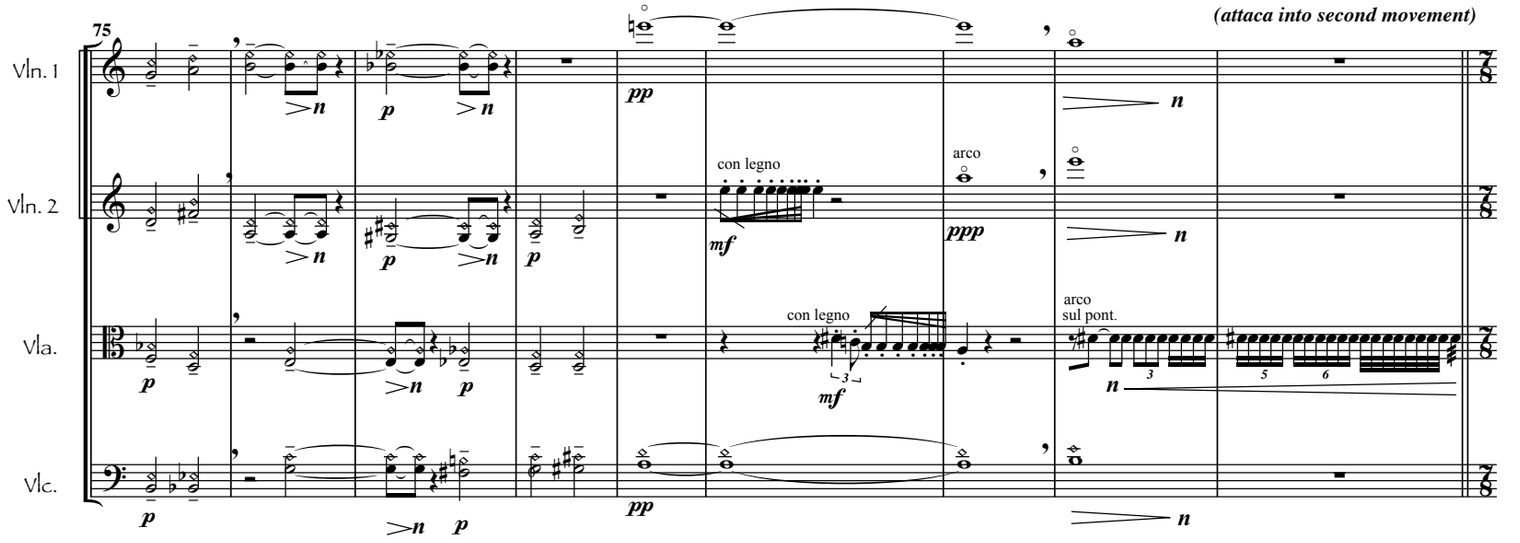

Cold, distant
23
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
sul pont.
senza vib.
pizz.
arco
sul pont.
senza vib.
sul A
con legno
ord.
pont.
32
ric.
arco
ord.
emerge from cello
sul G
lightly touch
with left hand
36
Full, rich
vib.

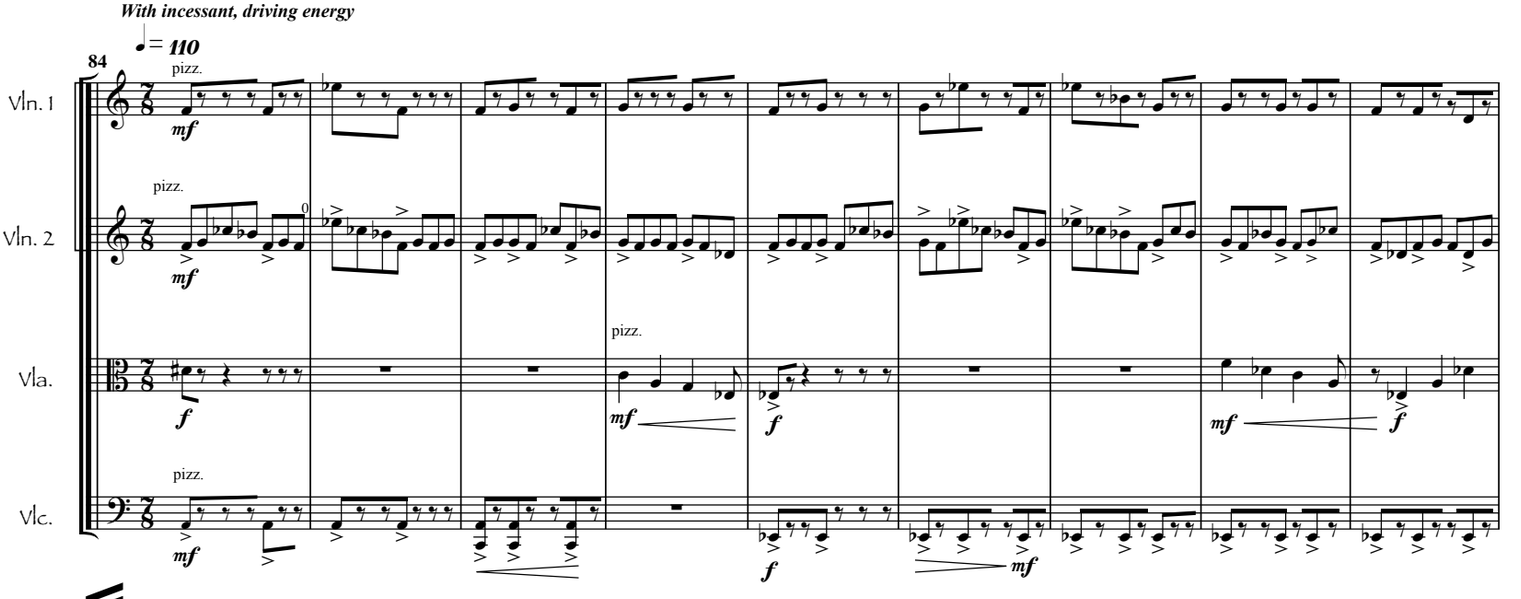

Full and aggressive
Morose
46
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
ord.
pont.
sul pont.
molto vib.
ord. vib
sub. p

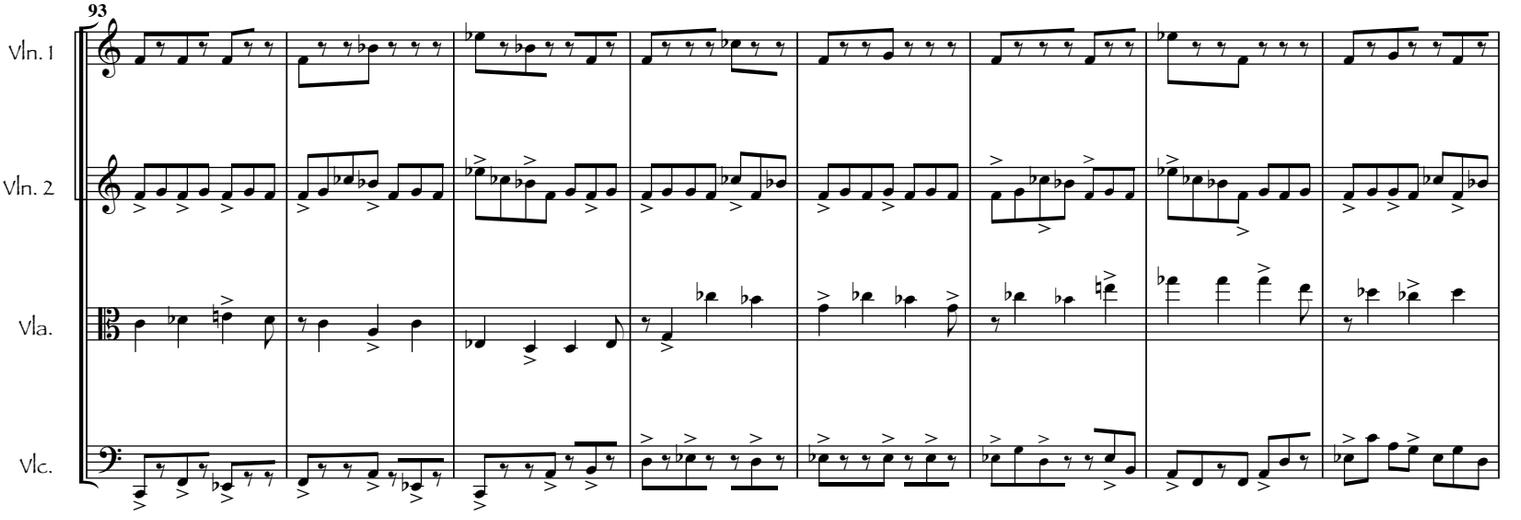

56
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
Include a flury of notes (and microtones) between C and E-flat in the trilling gesture through measure 65.

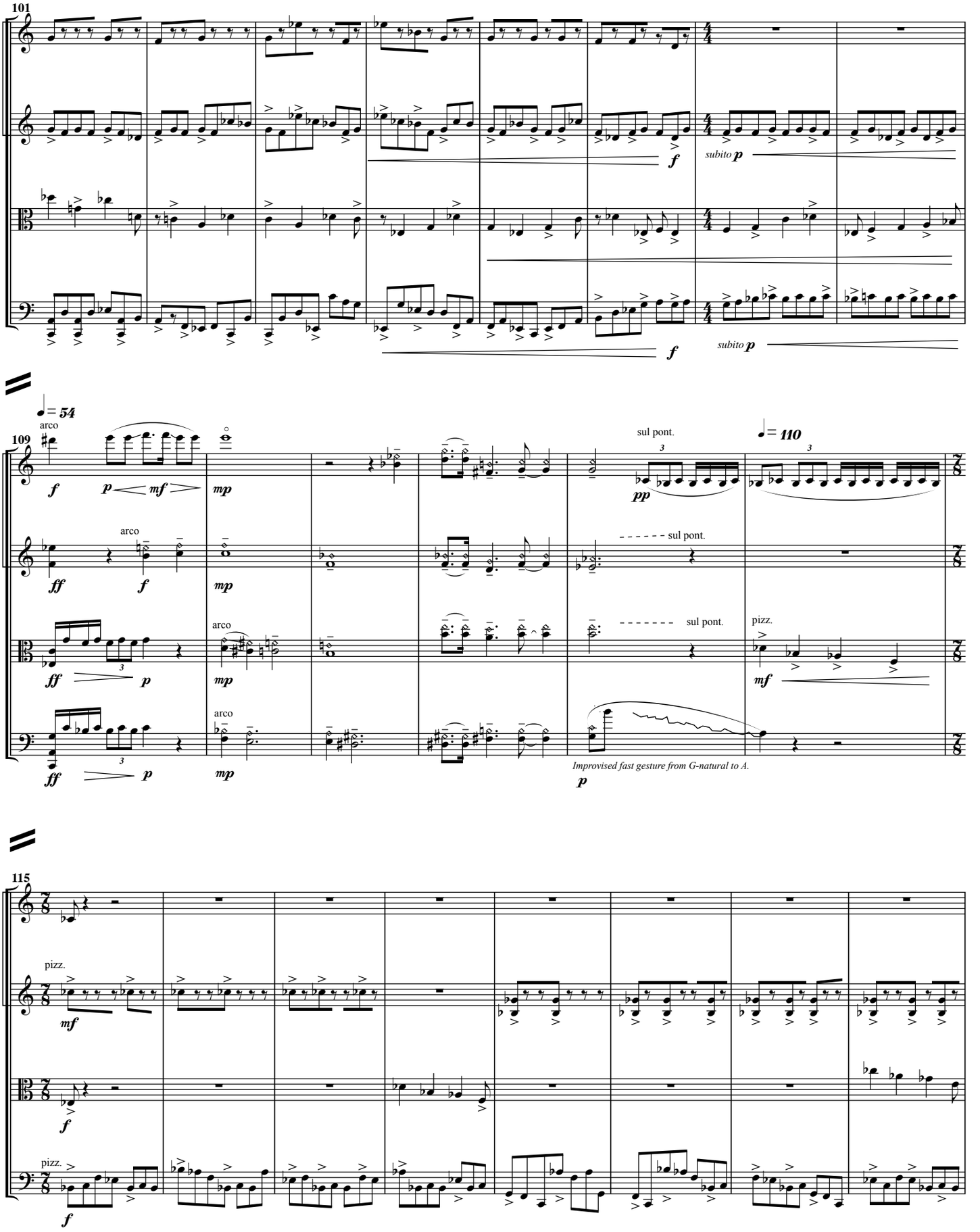

Lontano - evoking the past
66
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
ric.
ord.
pizz.
con legno
arco

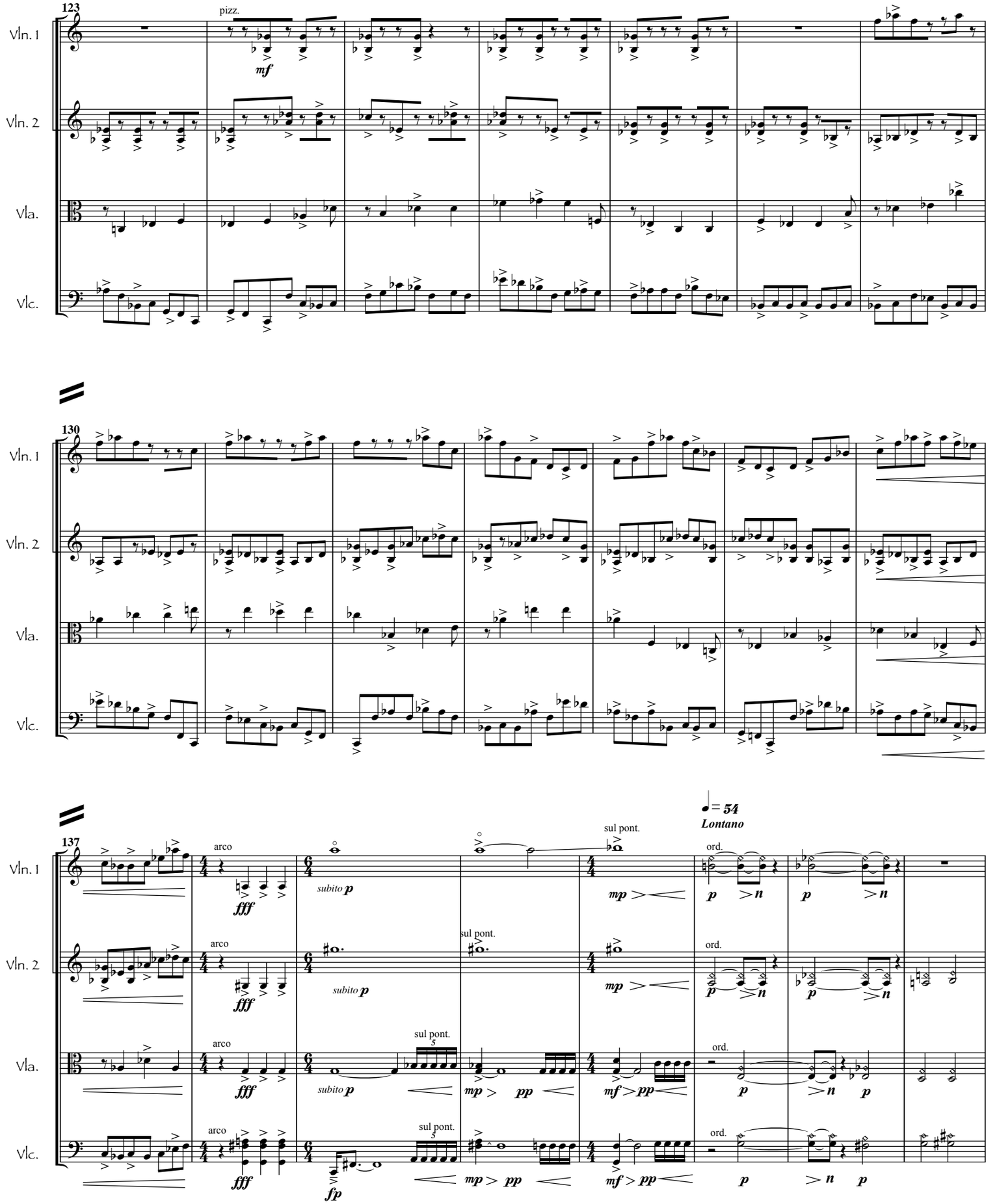

75
(attaca into second movement)
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
con legno
arco
con legno
arco
sul pont.

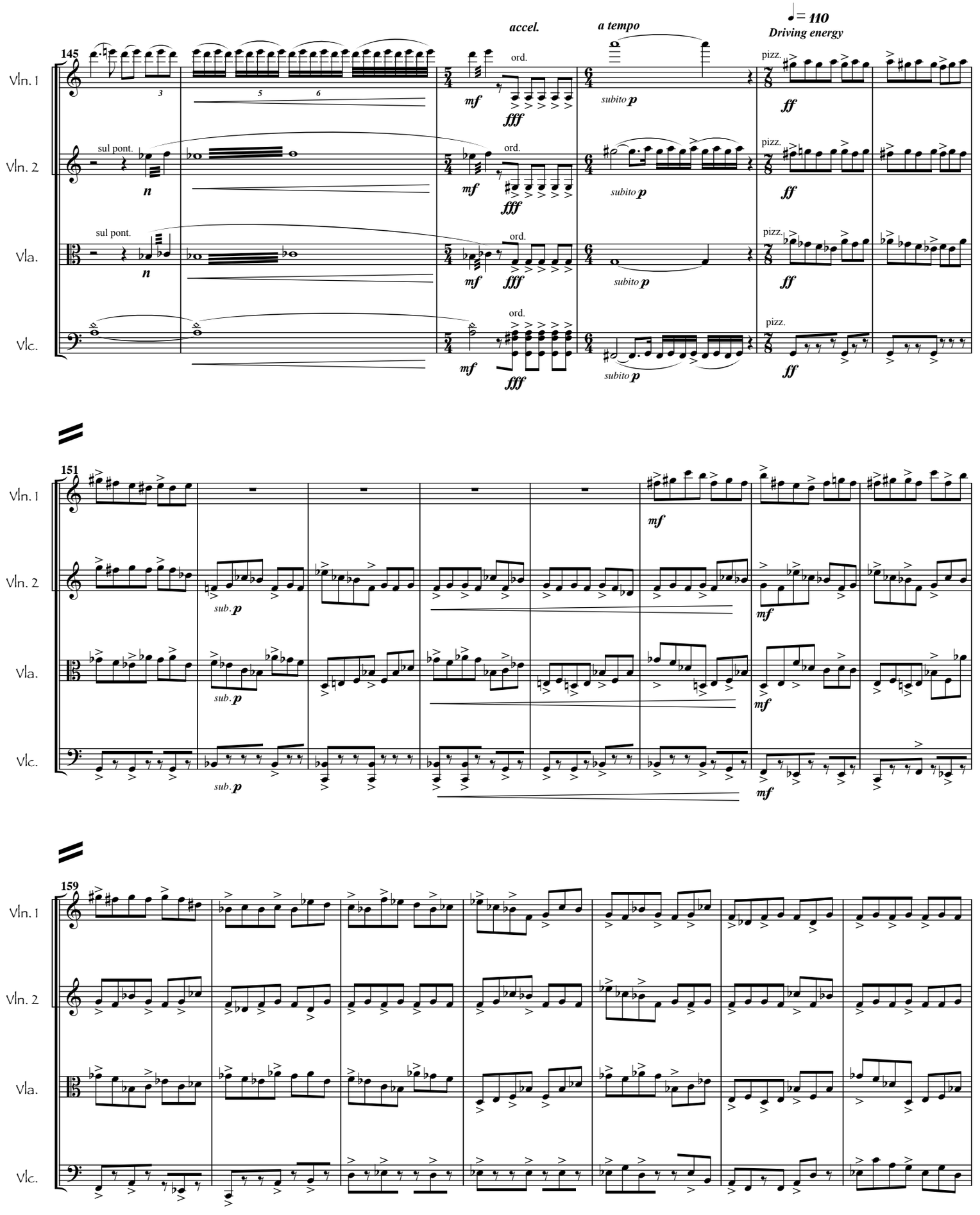
II. - Time

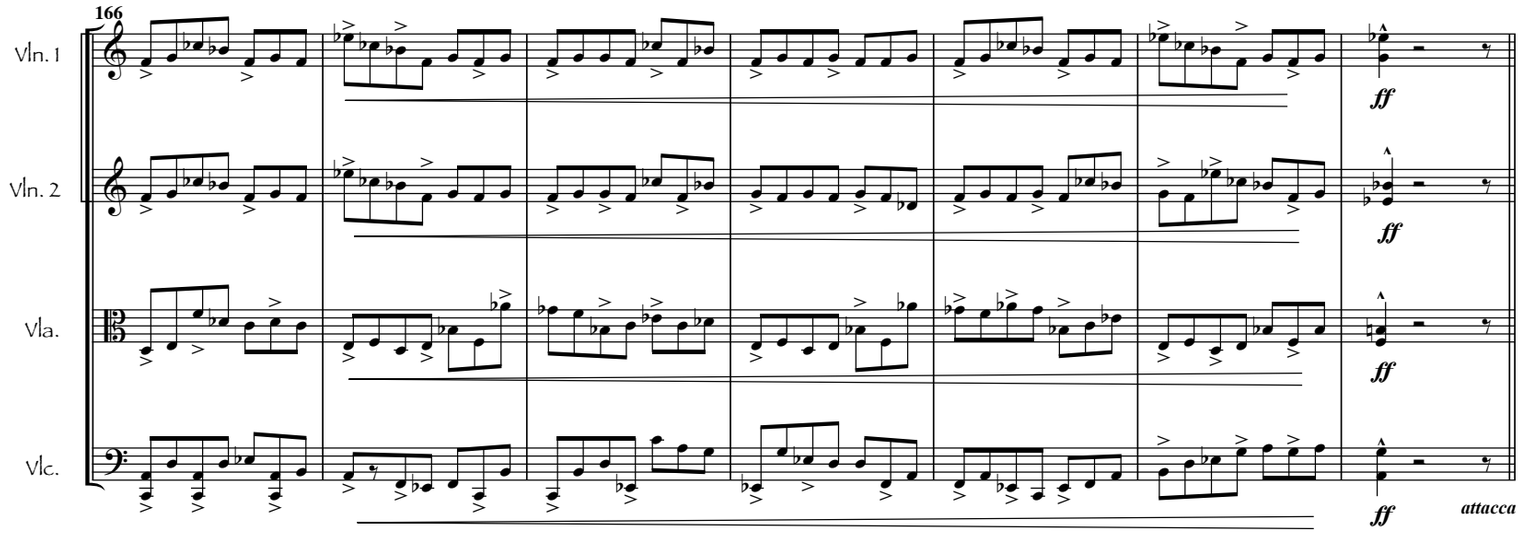

With incessant, driving energy
84
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
pizz.


93
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.

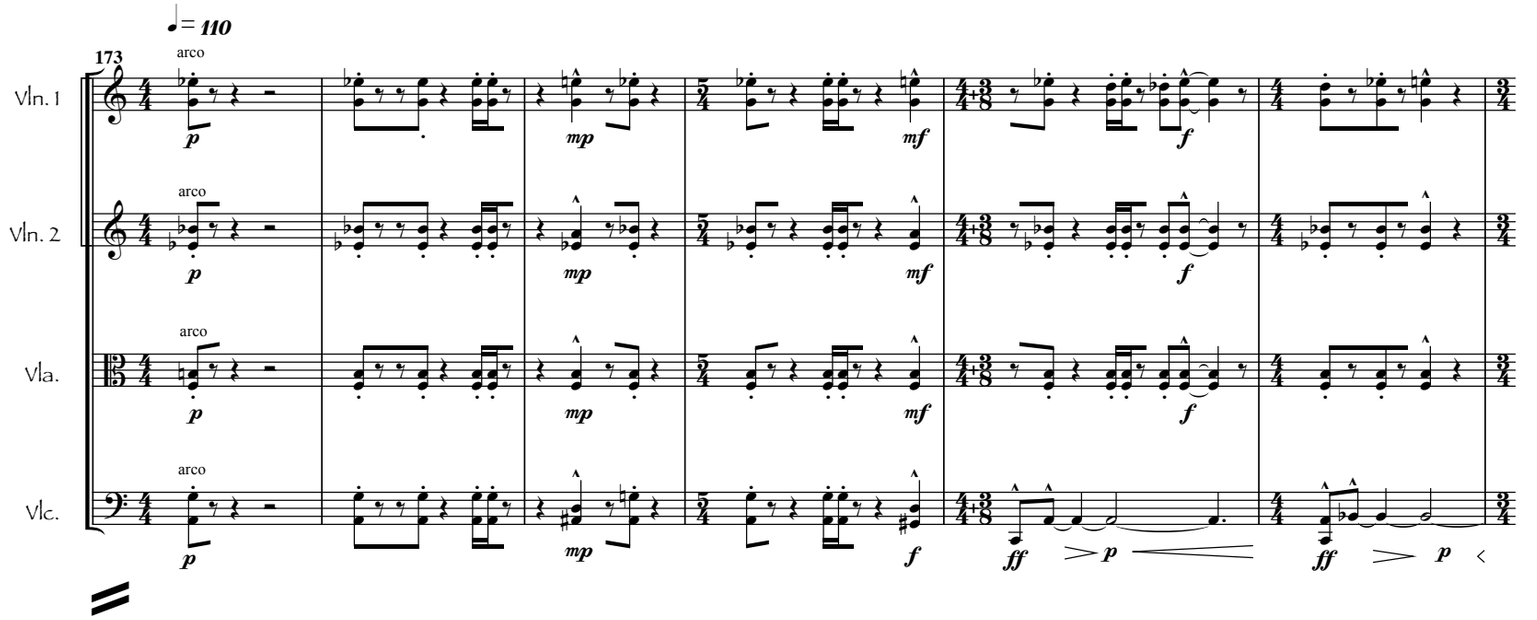

101
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
f
subito p
♩= 54
arco
109
ff
mp
sul pont.
pp
♩= 110
pizz.
mf
Improvised fast gesture from G-natural to A.
115
f

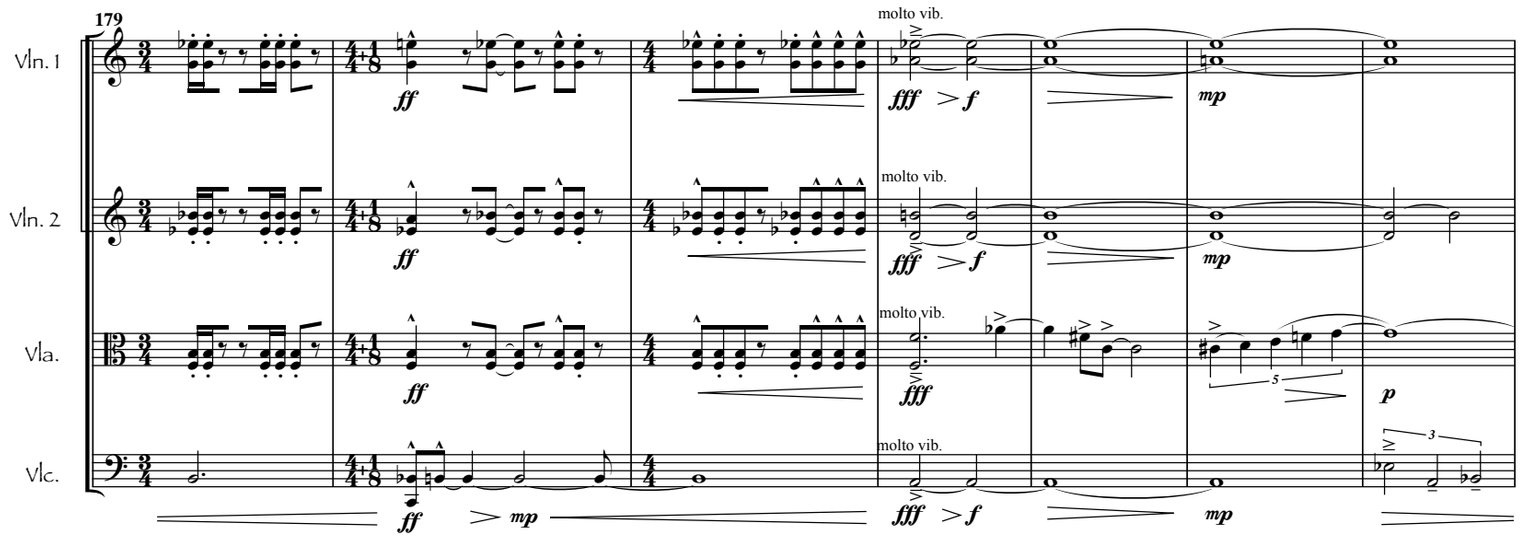

123
pizz.
mf
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
130
137
arco
fff
subito p
sul pont.
fp
mp
pp
mf
= 54
Lontano
ord.
p
n

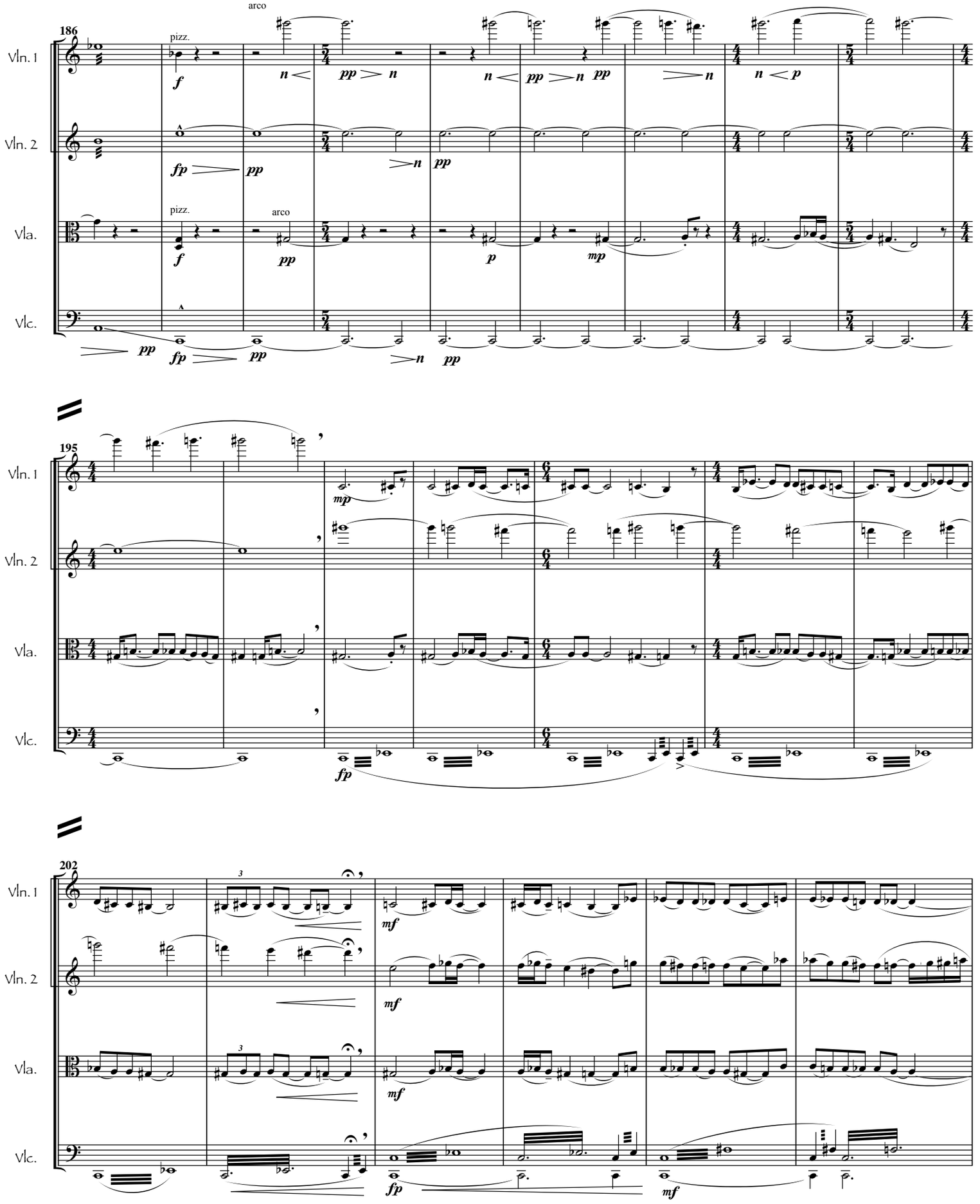

145
accel.
a tempo
♩= 110
Driving energy
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
sul pont.
ord.
pizz.
mf
fff
subito p
ff
151
sub. p
159

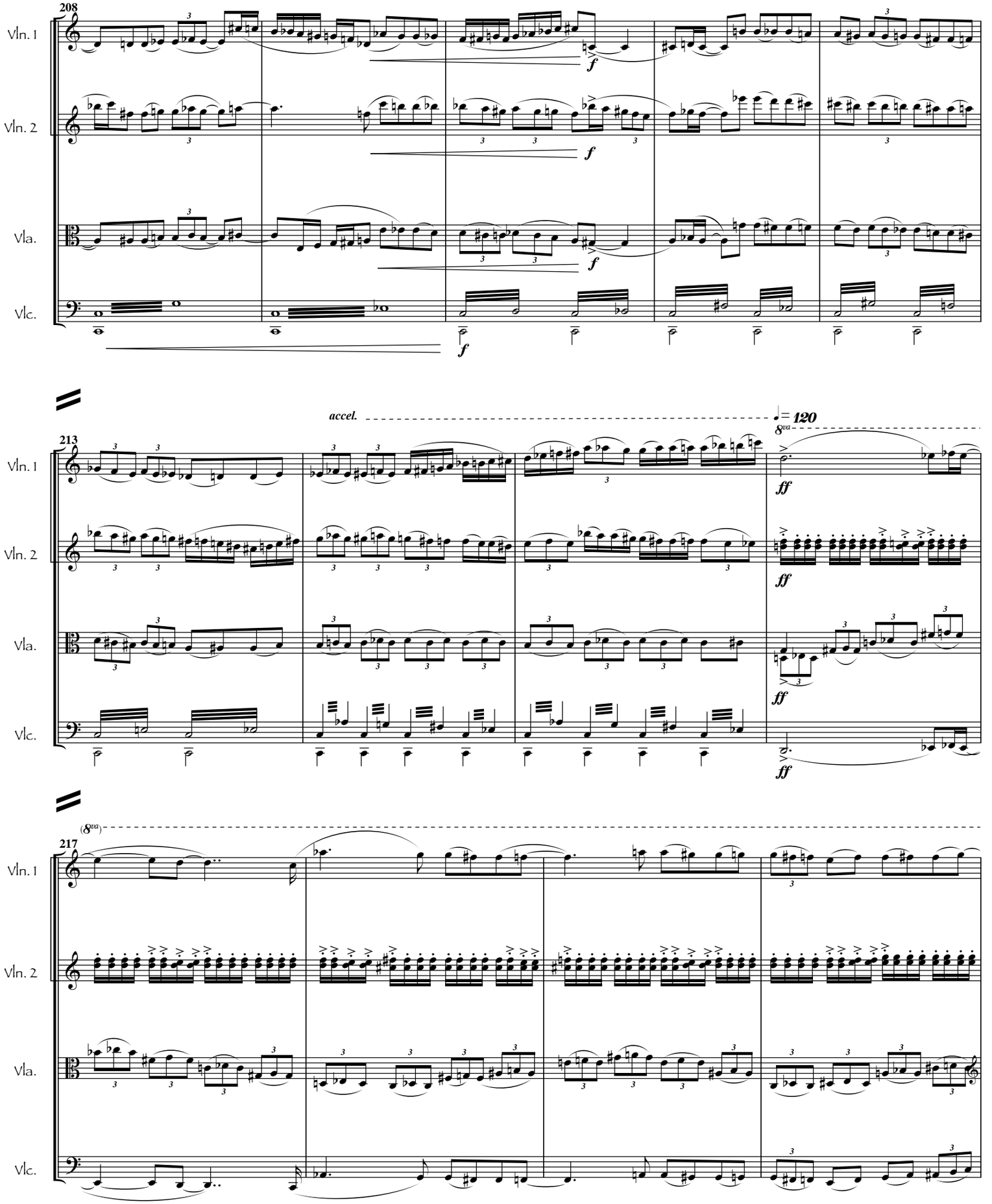

166
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
ff
attacca

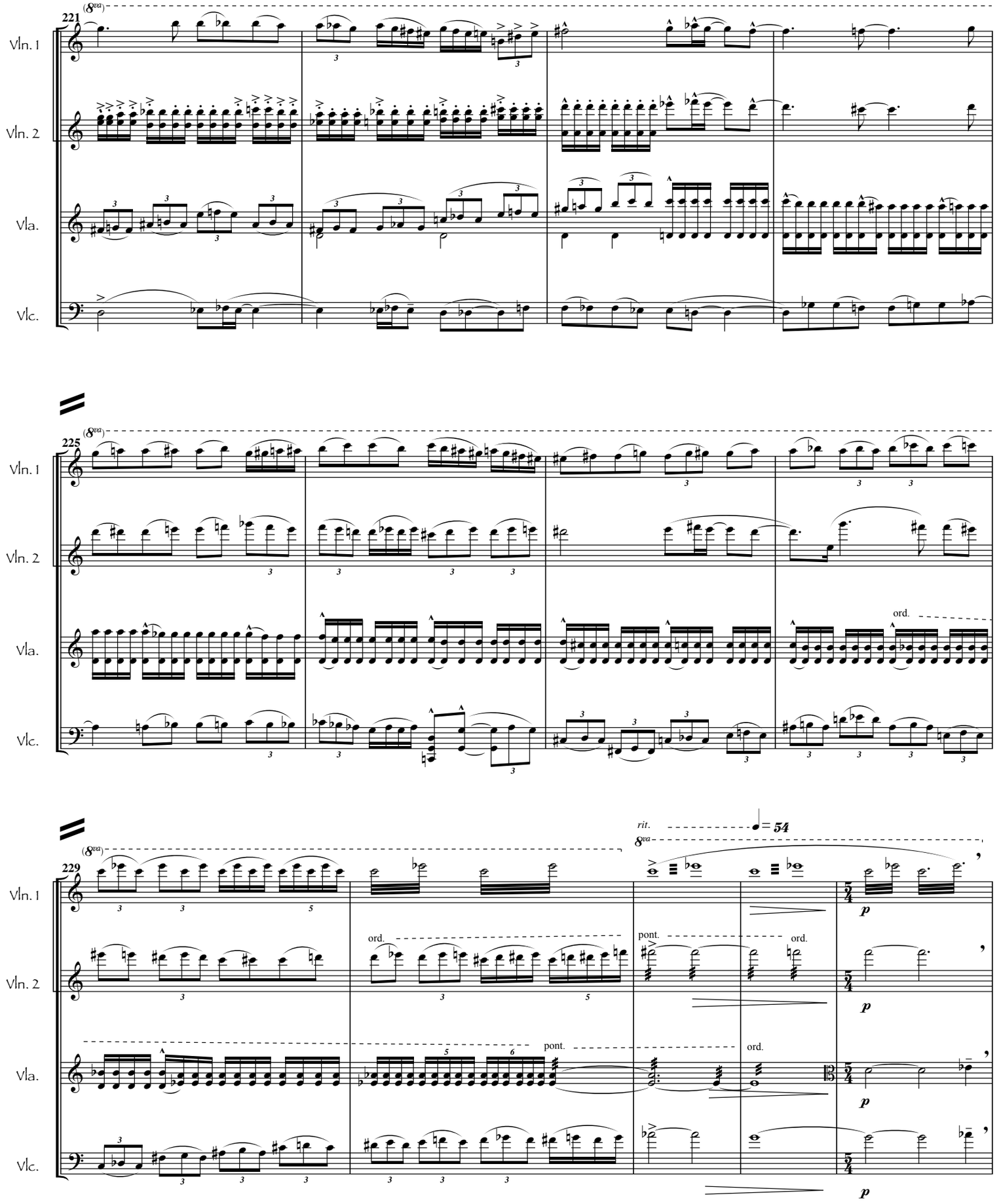
III. - Inertia

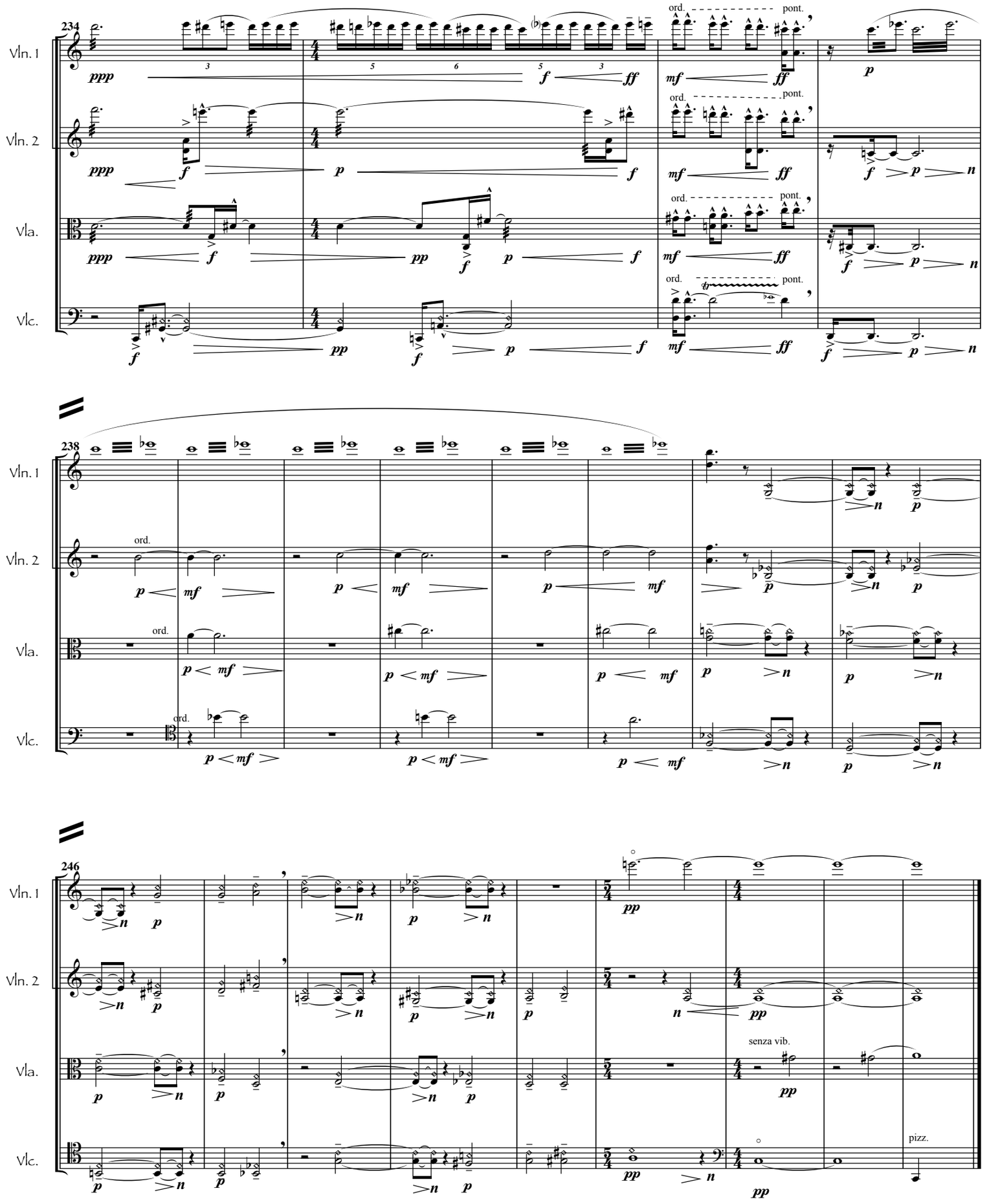

♩= 110
173
arco
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
p
mp
mf
f
ff


179
molto vib.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
ff
fff
f
mp
p


186
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
pizz.
arco
195
202


208
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
f
213
accel.
♩= 120
8va
ff
217
(8va)


221
(8va)
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
225
(8va)
ord.
229
(8va)
rit.
= 54
8va
ord.
pont.
ord.
pont.
ord.
p



Rome
August 3, 2009