The Oval Portrait

a dance-cantata

for baritone solo, choir
and instrumental ensemble

by

Edward Lambert

text adapted by the composer from the short story by
Edgar Allan Poe

The Narrator: *baritone solo*

The Book: *mixed-voiced choir (or soli) SATB*

Instruments

Clarinet (in Bb)
Bass-clarinet (in Bb)
Viola
Cello
Piano

Duration: 22 minutes

The score is notated in C

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Score

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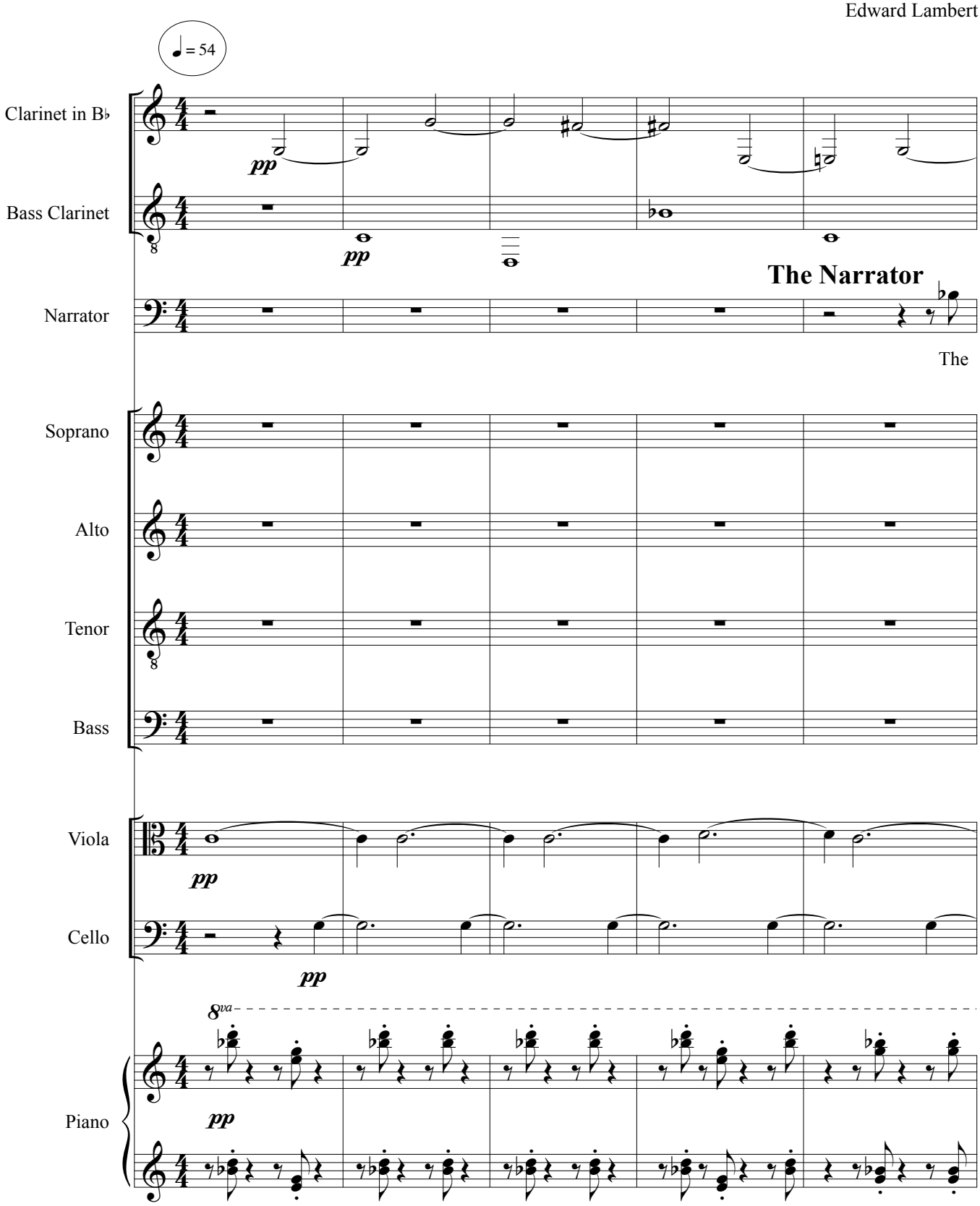

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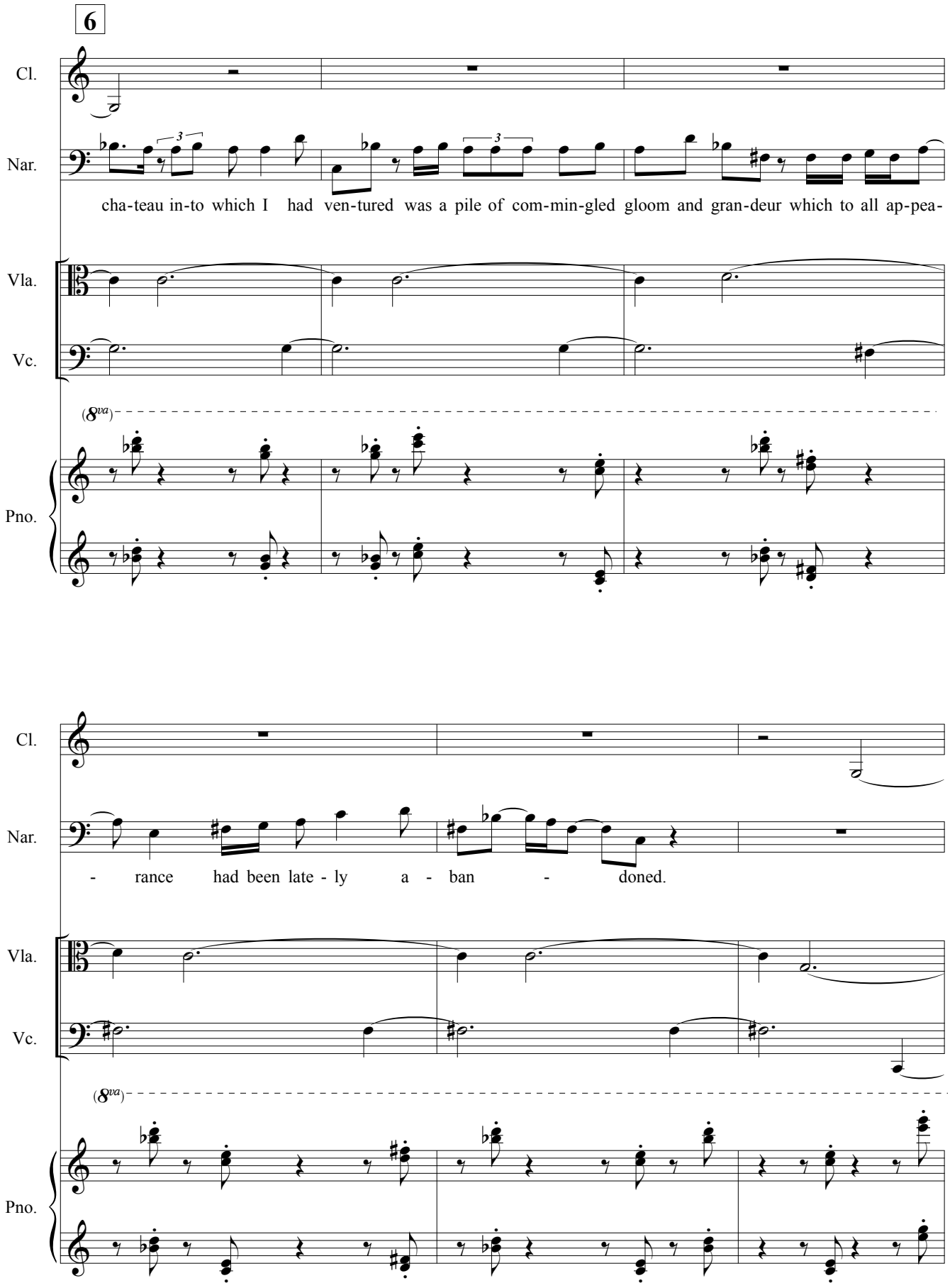
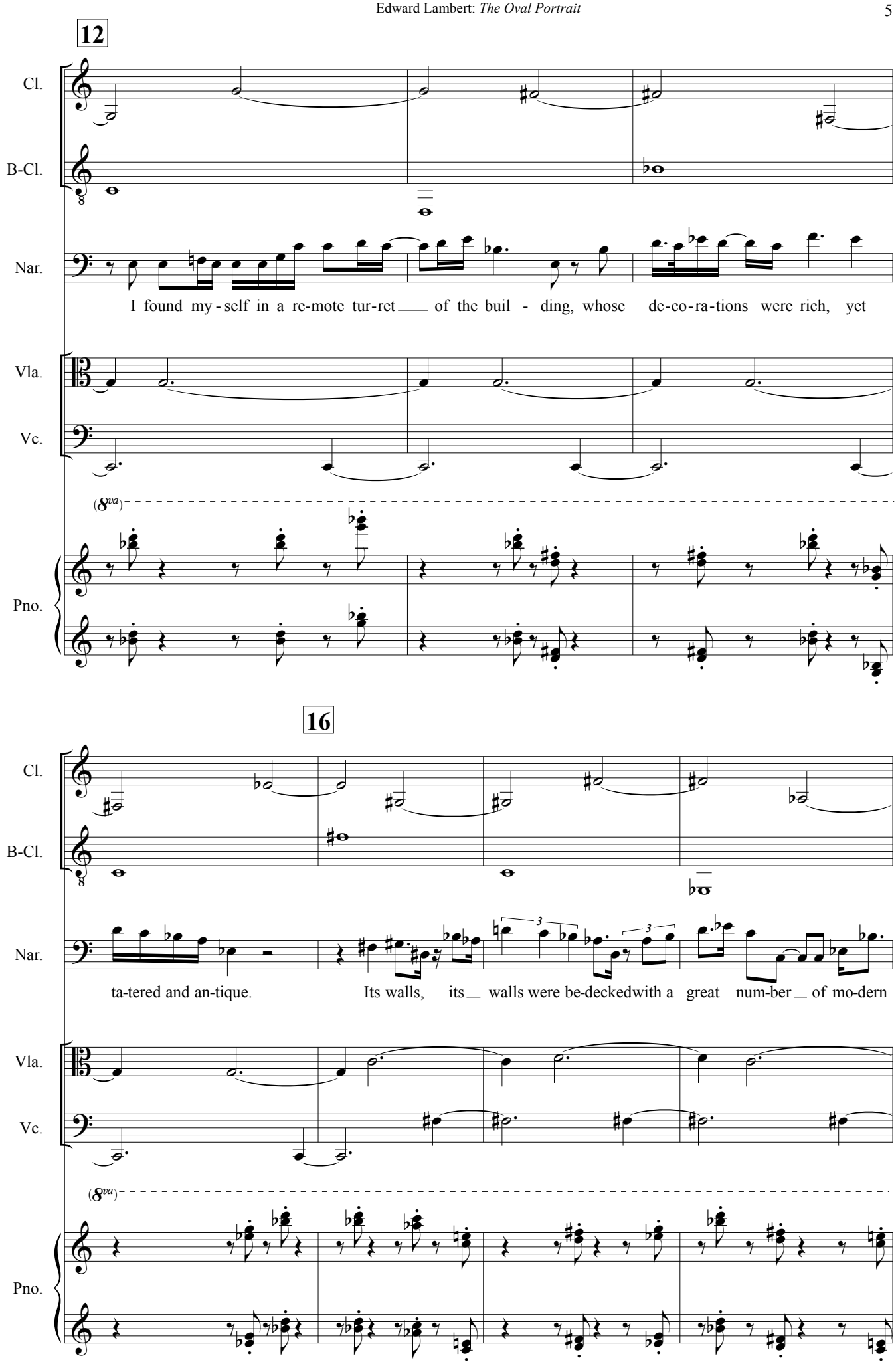
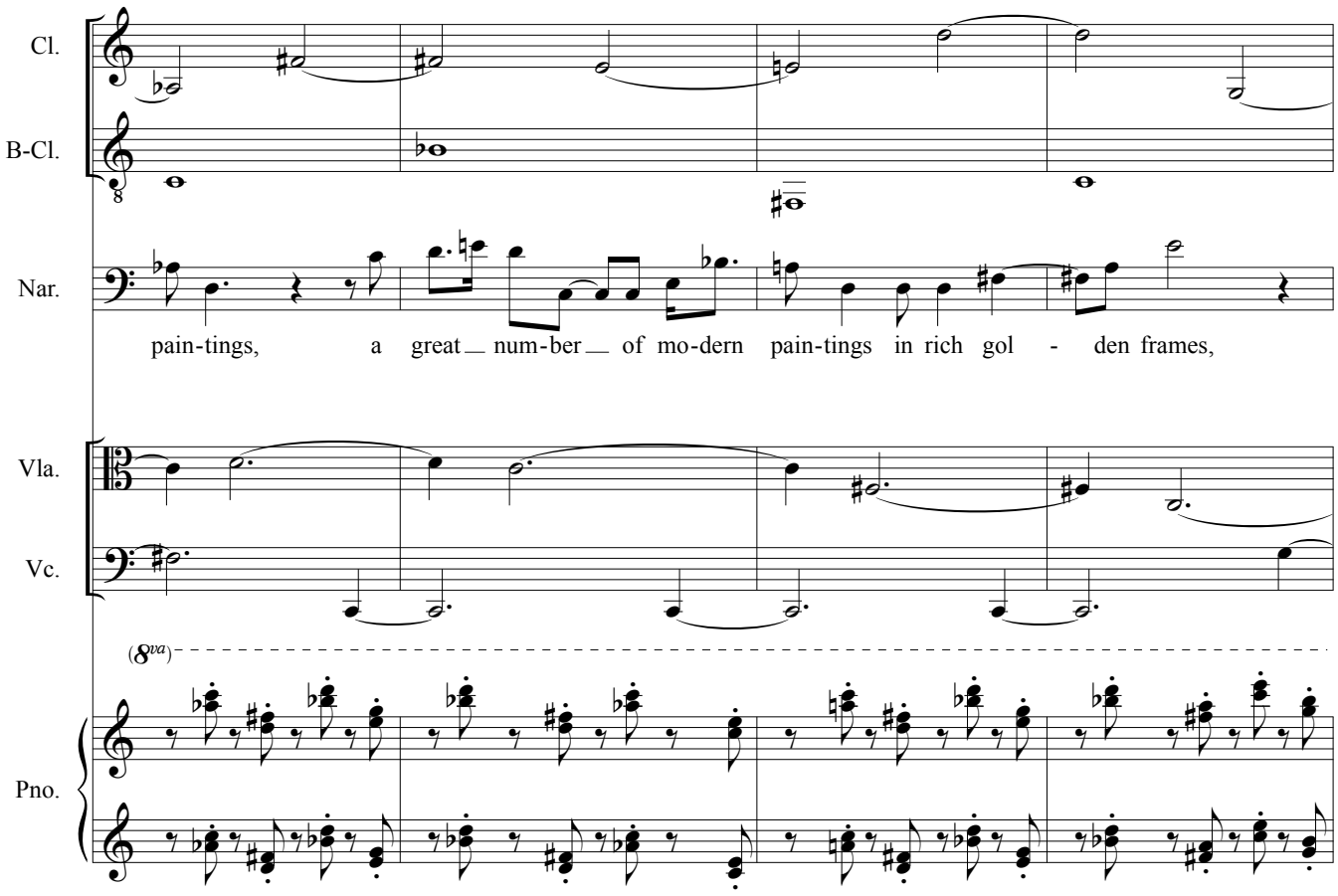
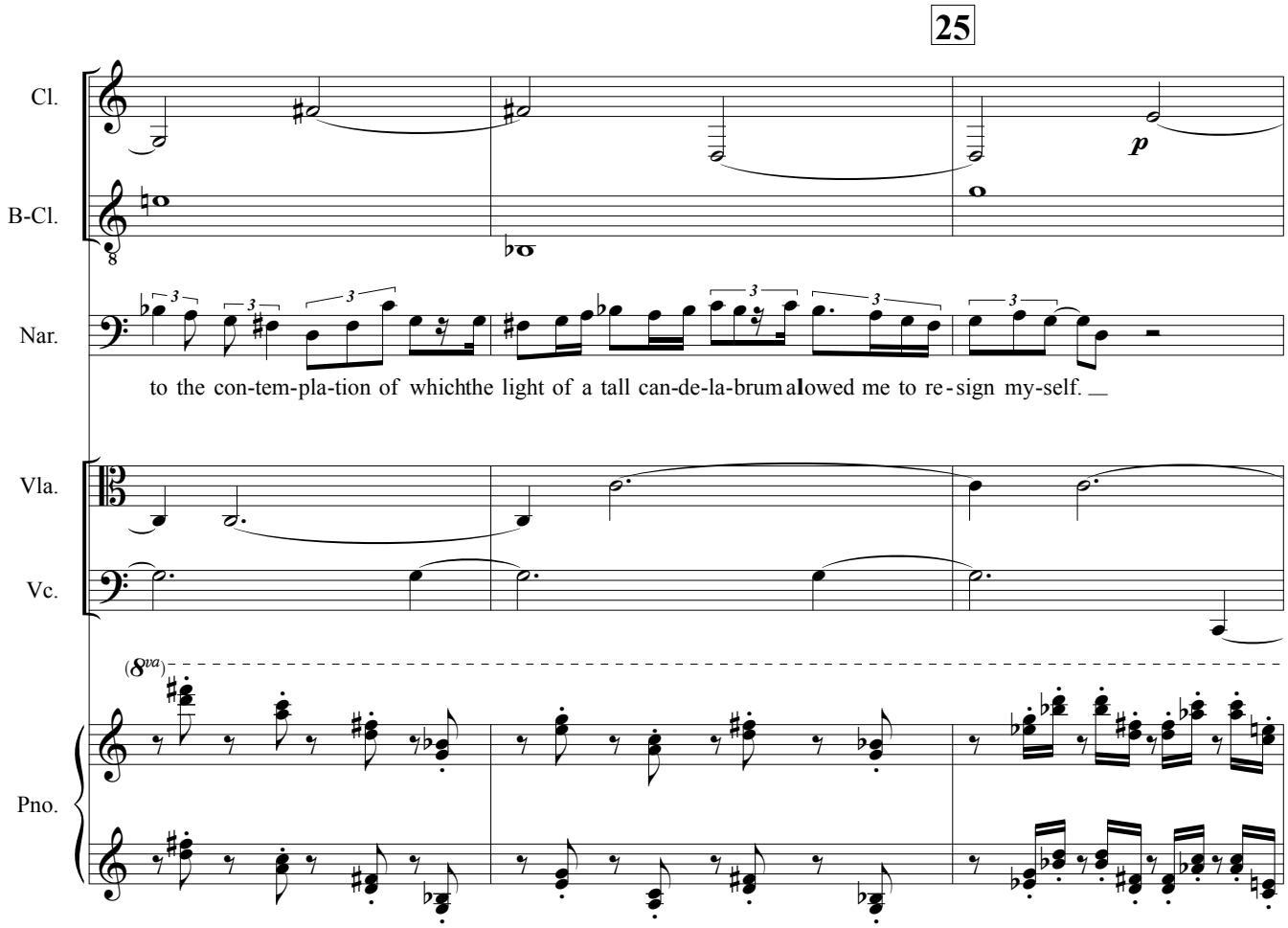
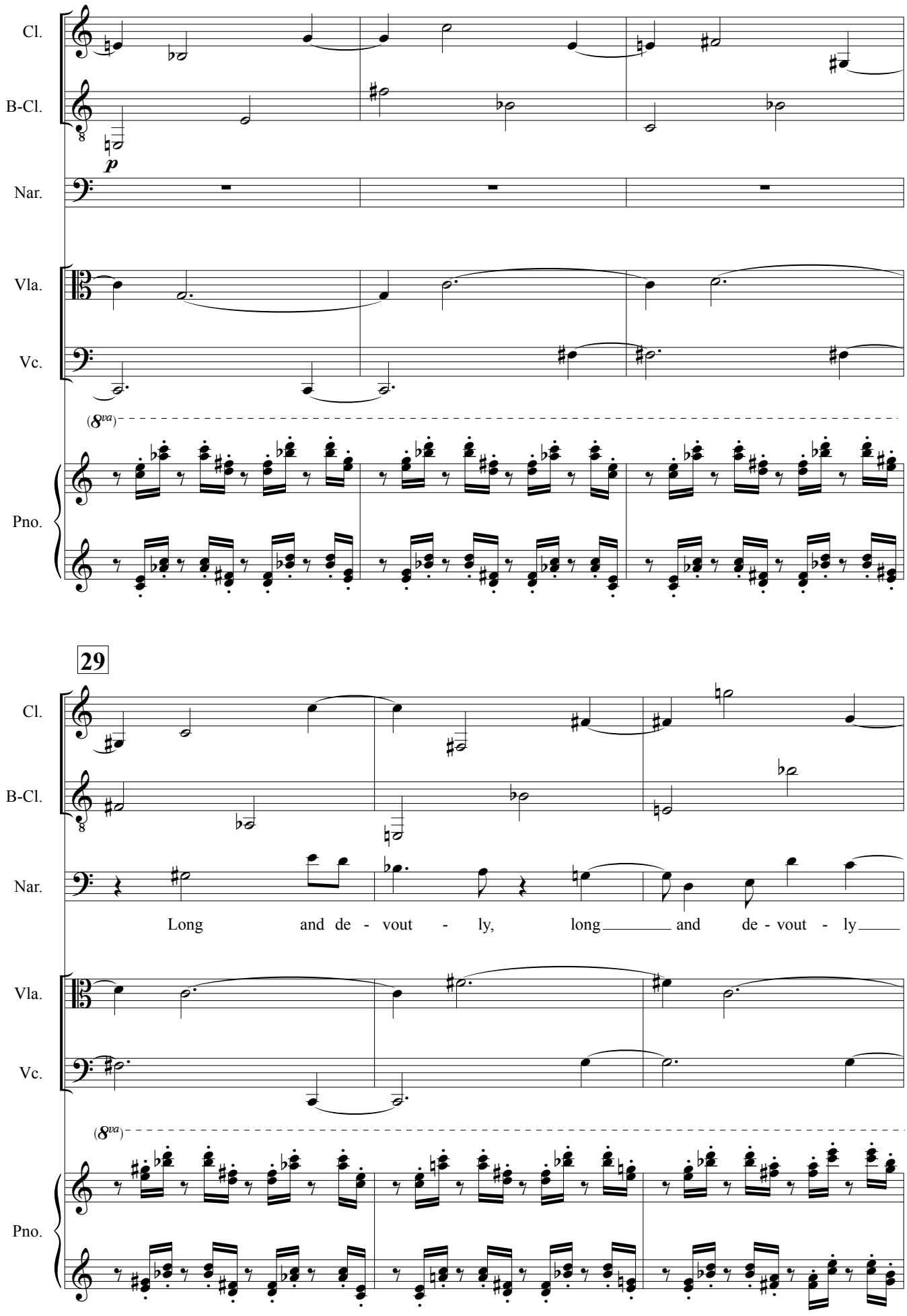
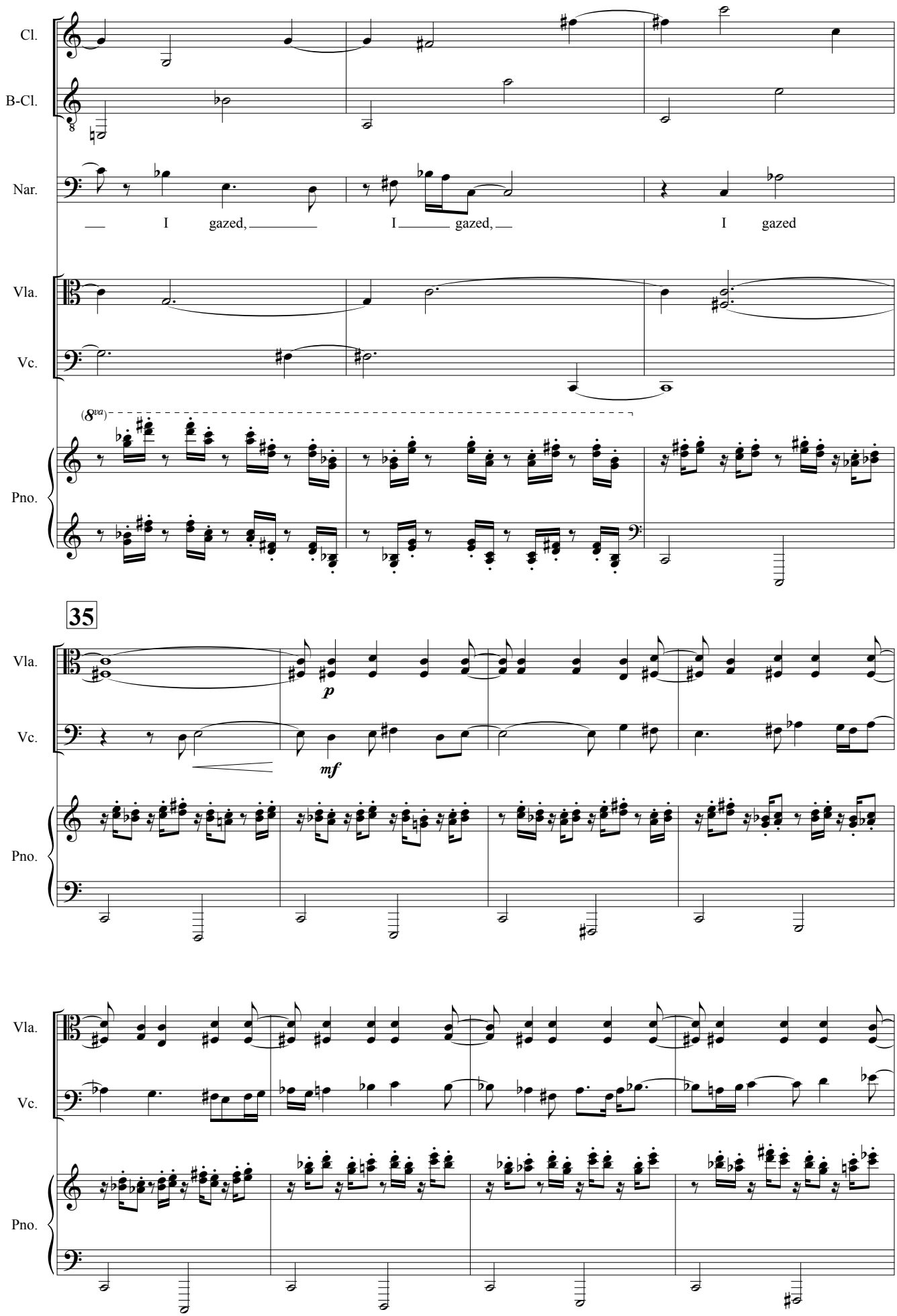

6
Cl.
Nar.
cha-teau in-to which I had ven-tured was a pile of com-min-gled gloom and gran-deur which to all ap-pea-
Vla.
Vc.
(8va)
Pno.
Cl.
Nar.
- rance had been late - ly a - ban - doned.
Vla.
Vc.
(8va)
Pno.


12
Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
I found my - self in a re-mote tur-ret of the buil - ding, whose de-co-ra-tions were rich, yet
Vla.
Vc.
(8va)
Pno.
16
Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
ta-tered and an-tique. Its walls, its walls were be-deckedwith a great num-ber of mo-dern
Vla.
Vc.
(8va)
Pno.

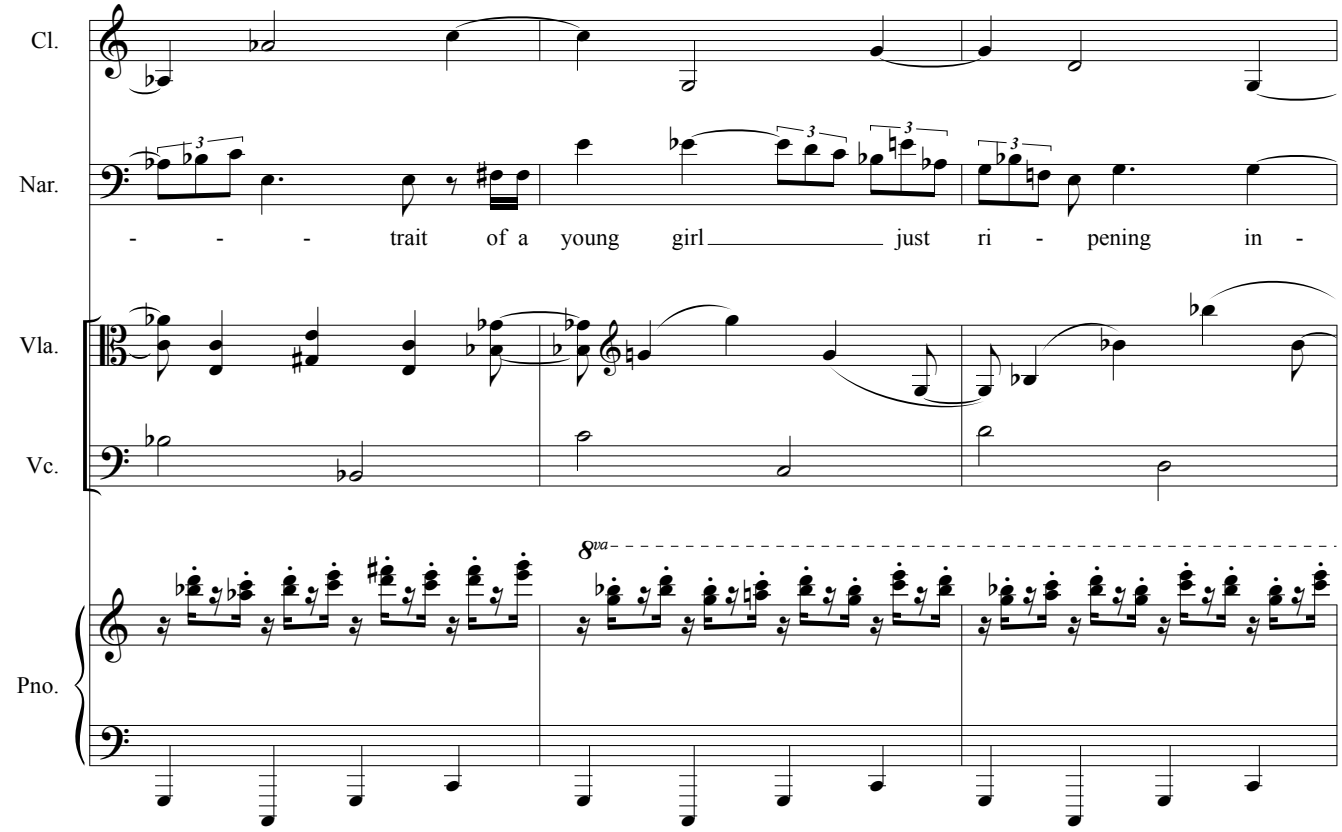

Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
pain-tings, a great num-ber of mo-dern pain-tings in rich gol - den frames,
Vla.
Vc.
(8va)
Pno.

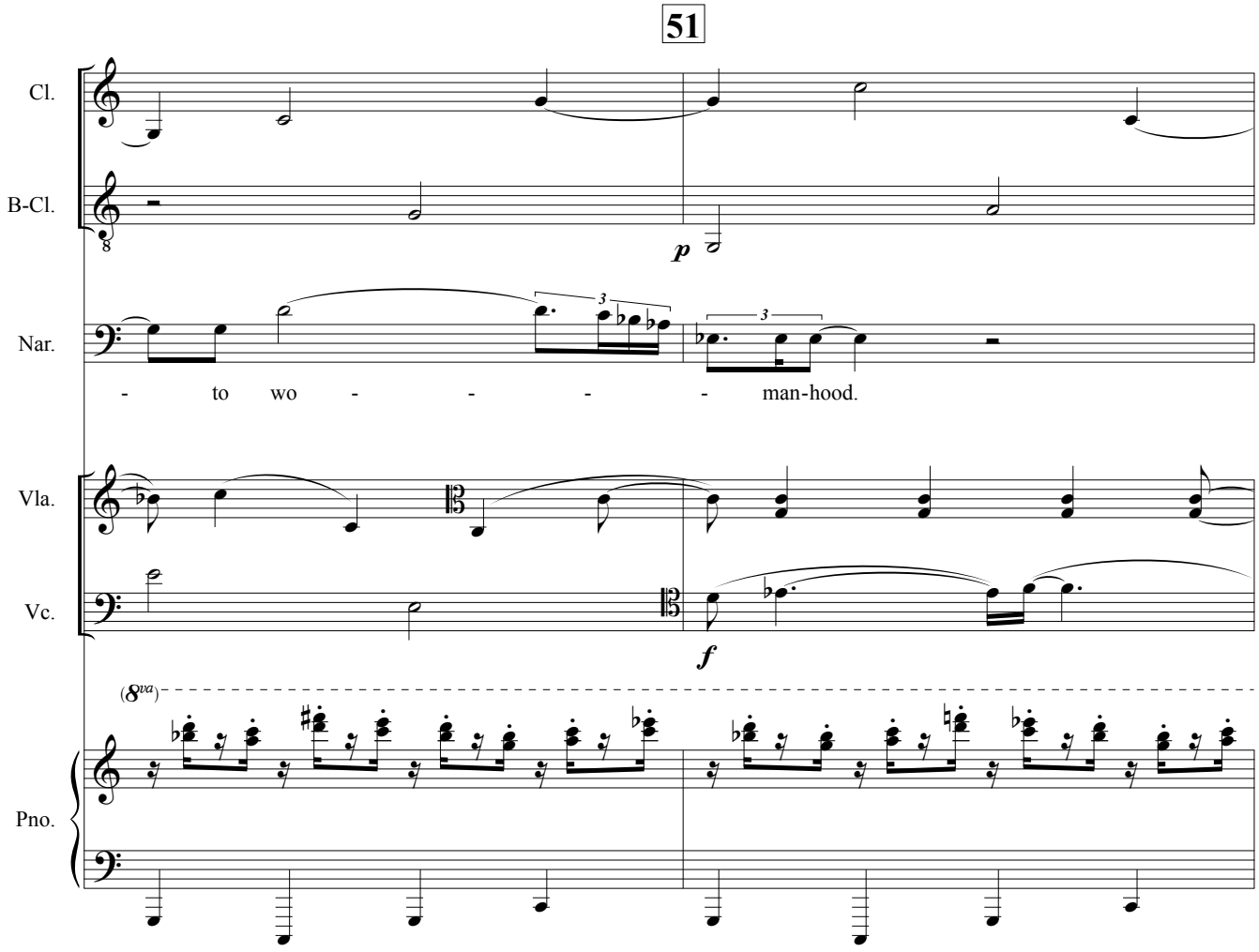

25
Cl.
B-Cl.
p
Nar.
to the con-tem-pla-tion of whichthe light of a tall can-de-la-brum allowed me to re-sign my-self.
Vla.
Vc.
(8va)
Pno.

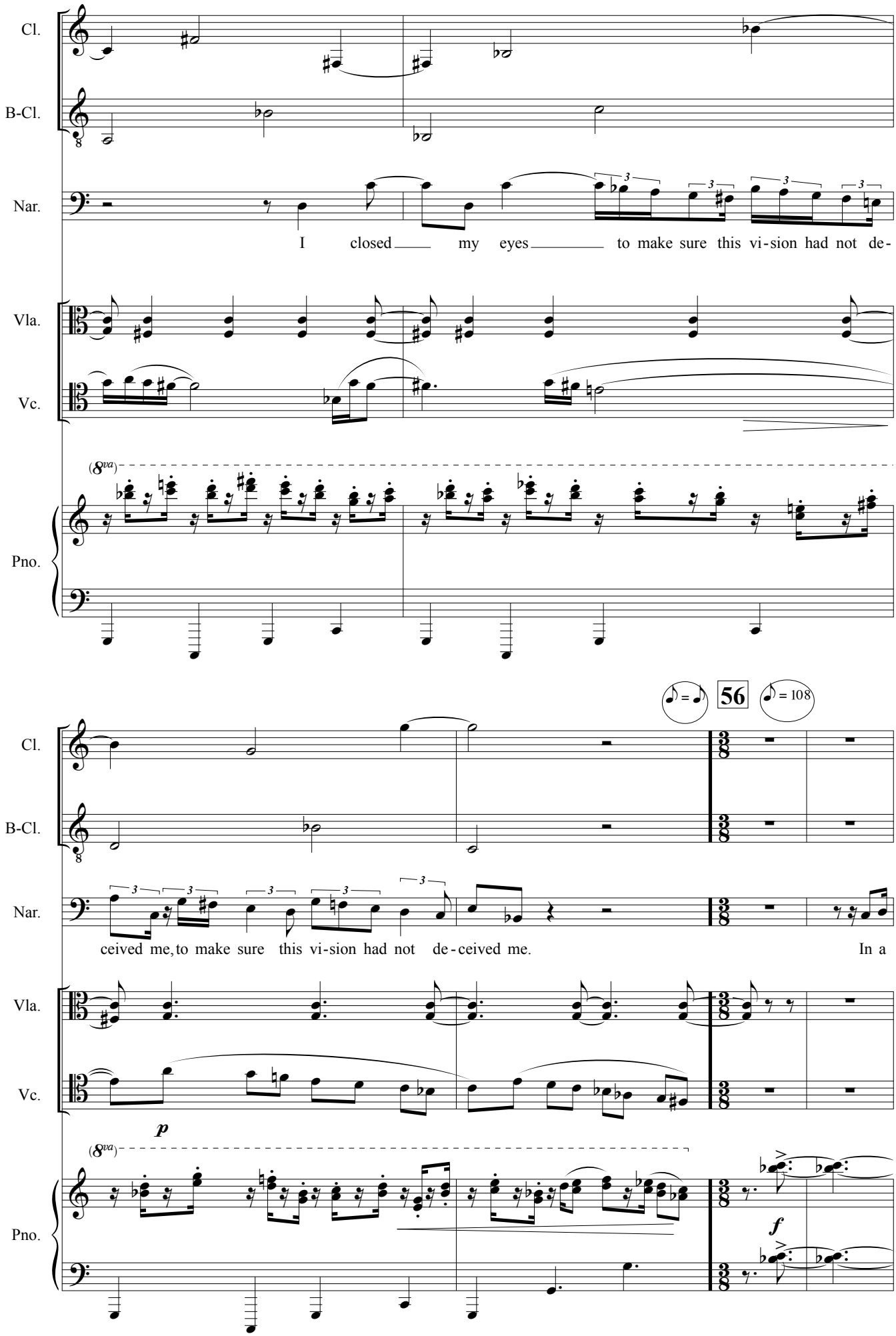

Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
p
(8va)
29
Long and de - vout - ly, long and de - vout - ly

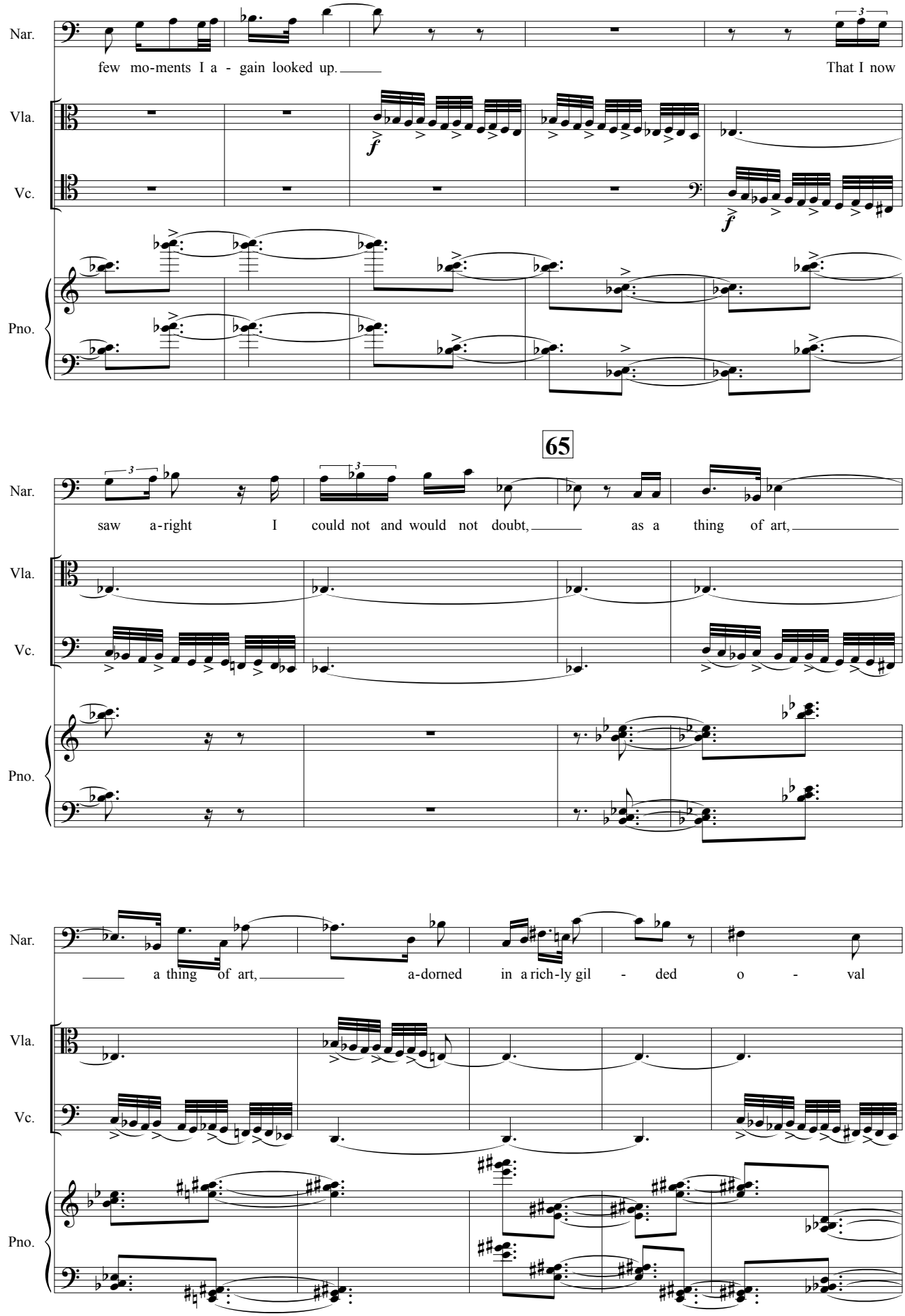

Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
I gazed, I gazed, I gazed
Vla.
Vc.
(8va)
Pno.
35
Vla.
Vc.
p
mf
Pno.
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

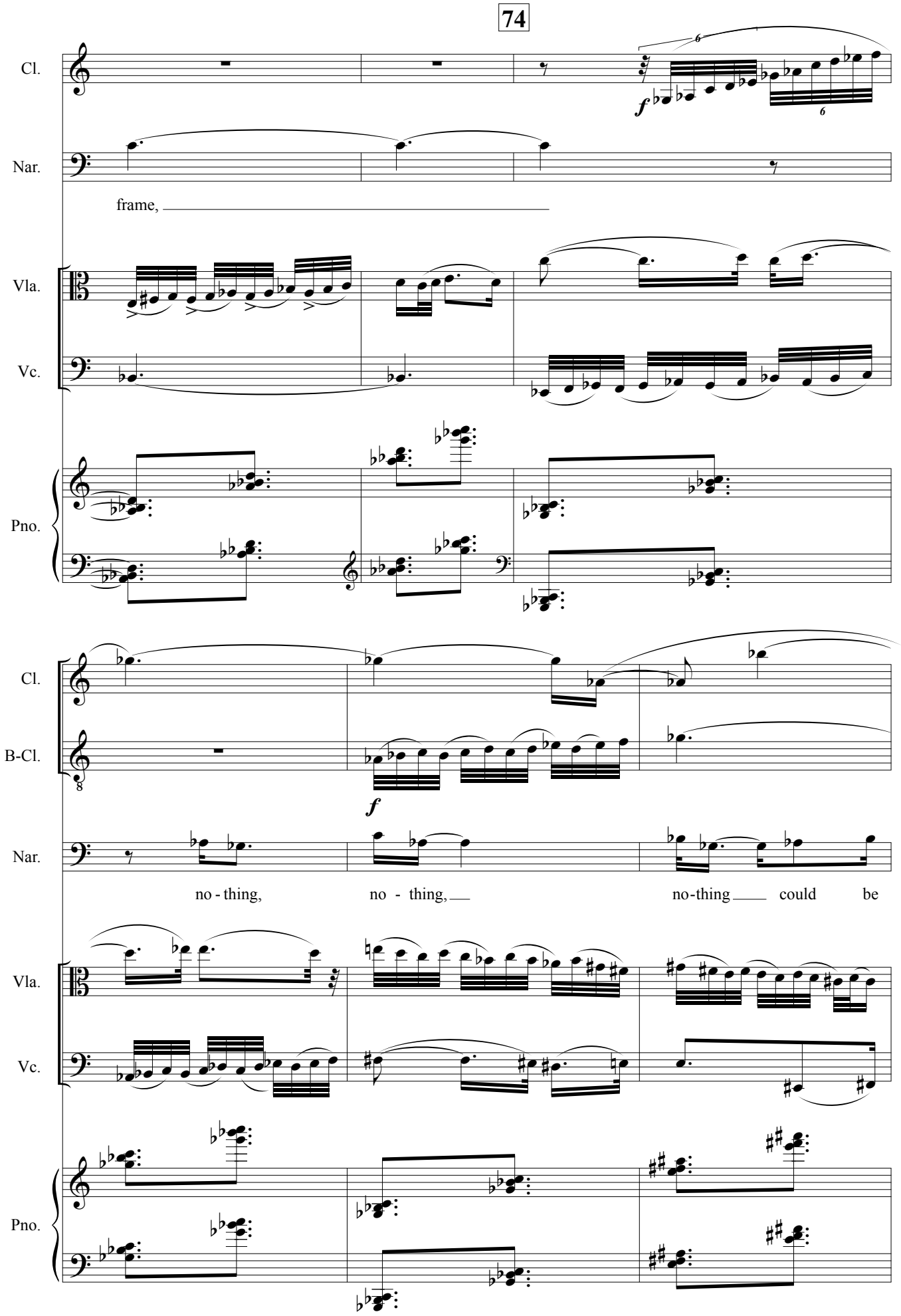
44
Cl.
Nar.
un - til I sud - den - ly glanced in vi - vid light,
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
Cl.
Nar.
I sud - den - ly glanced in vi - vid light a por - - - - -
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

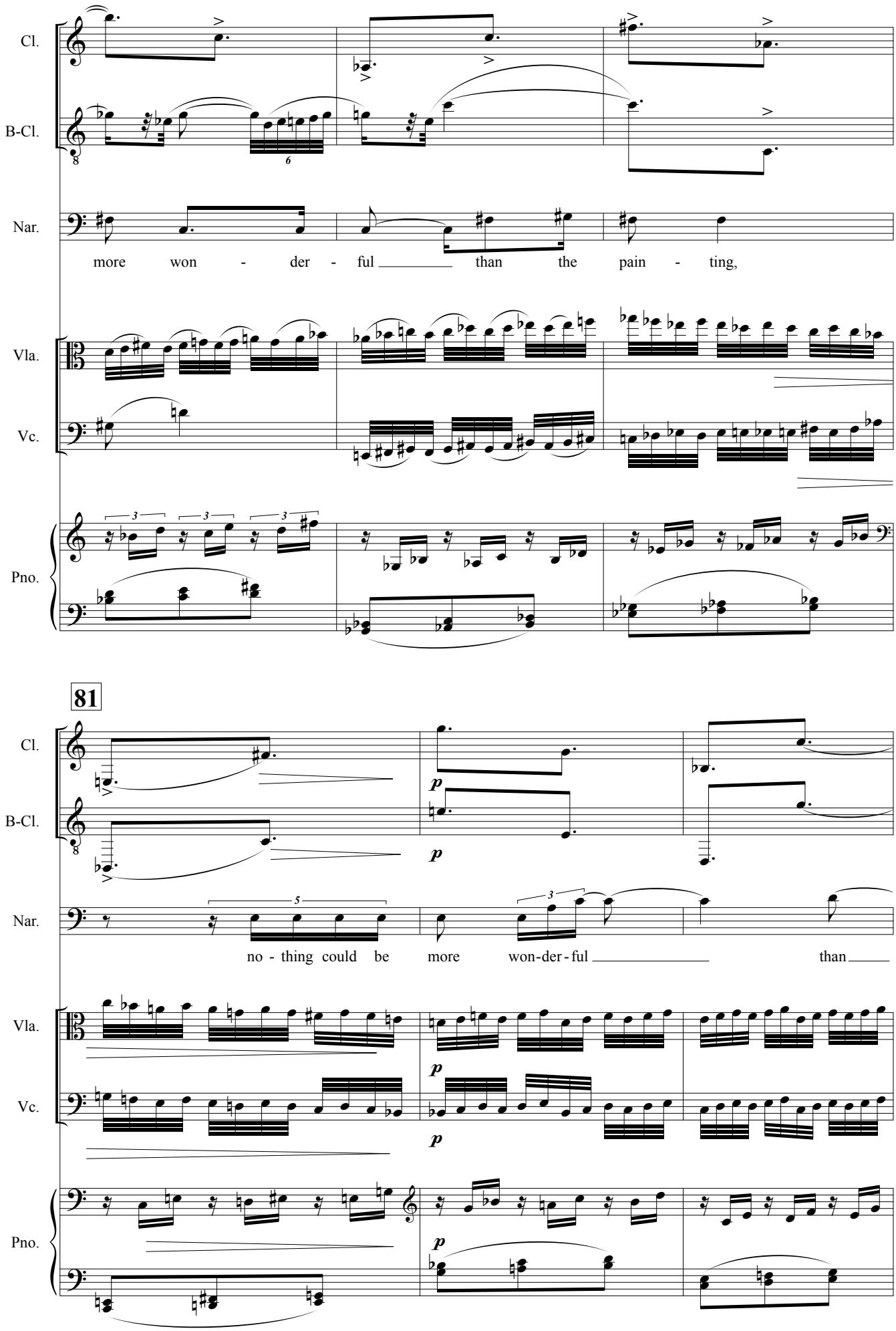

Cl.
Nar.
- - - trait of a young girl just ri - pening in -
Vla.
Vc.
8va
Pno.

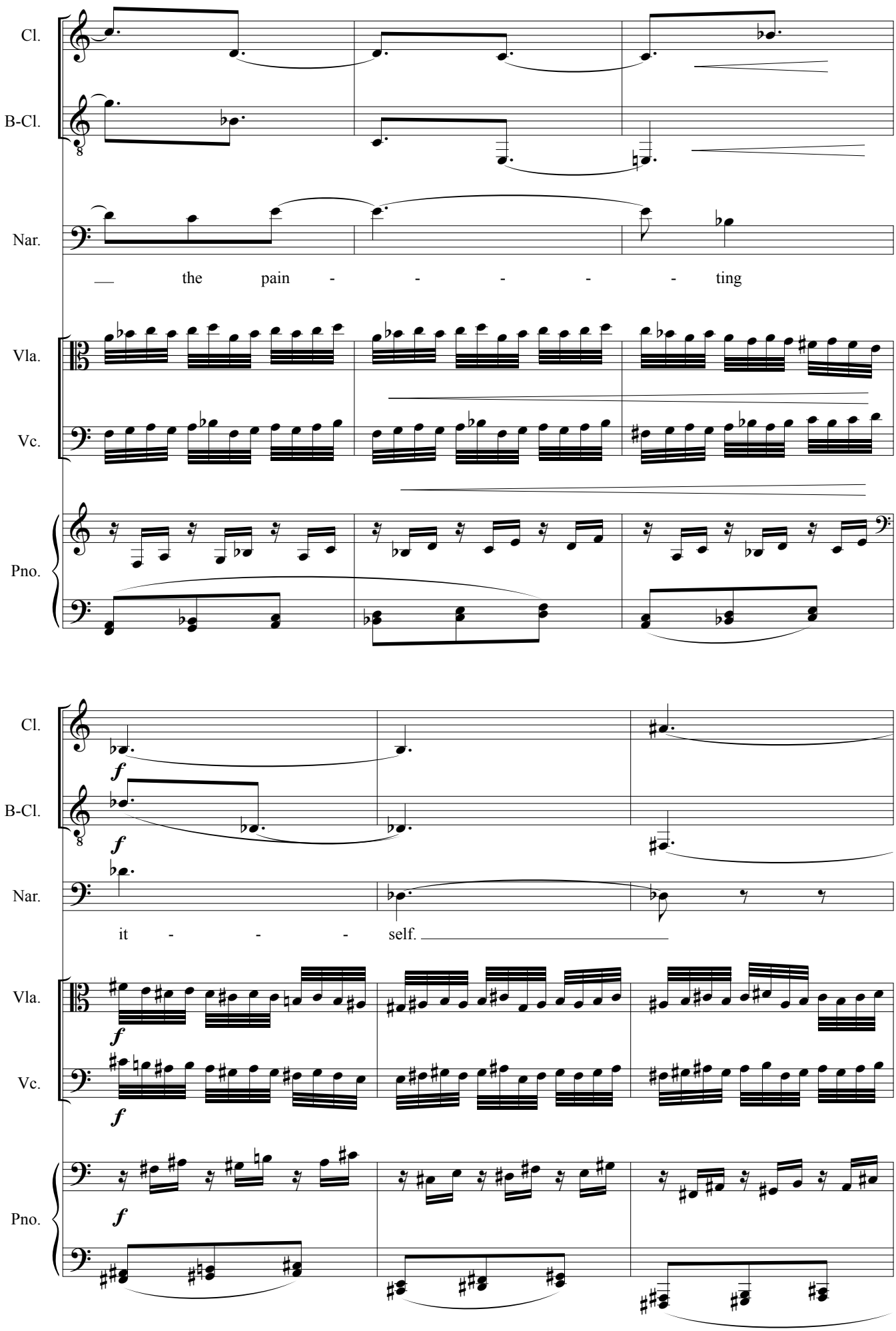

51
Cl.
B-Cl.
p
Nar.
- to wo - - - - man-hood.
Vla.
Vc.
f
(8va)
Pno.

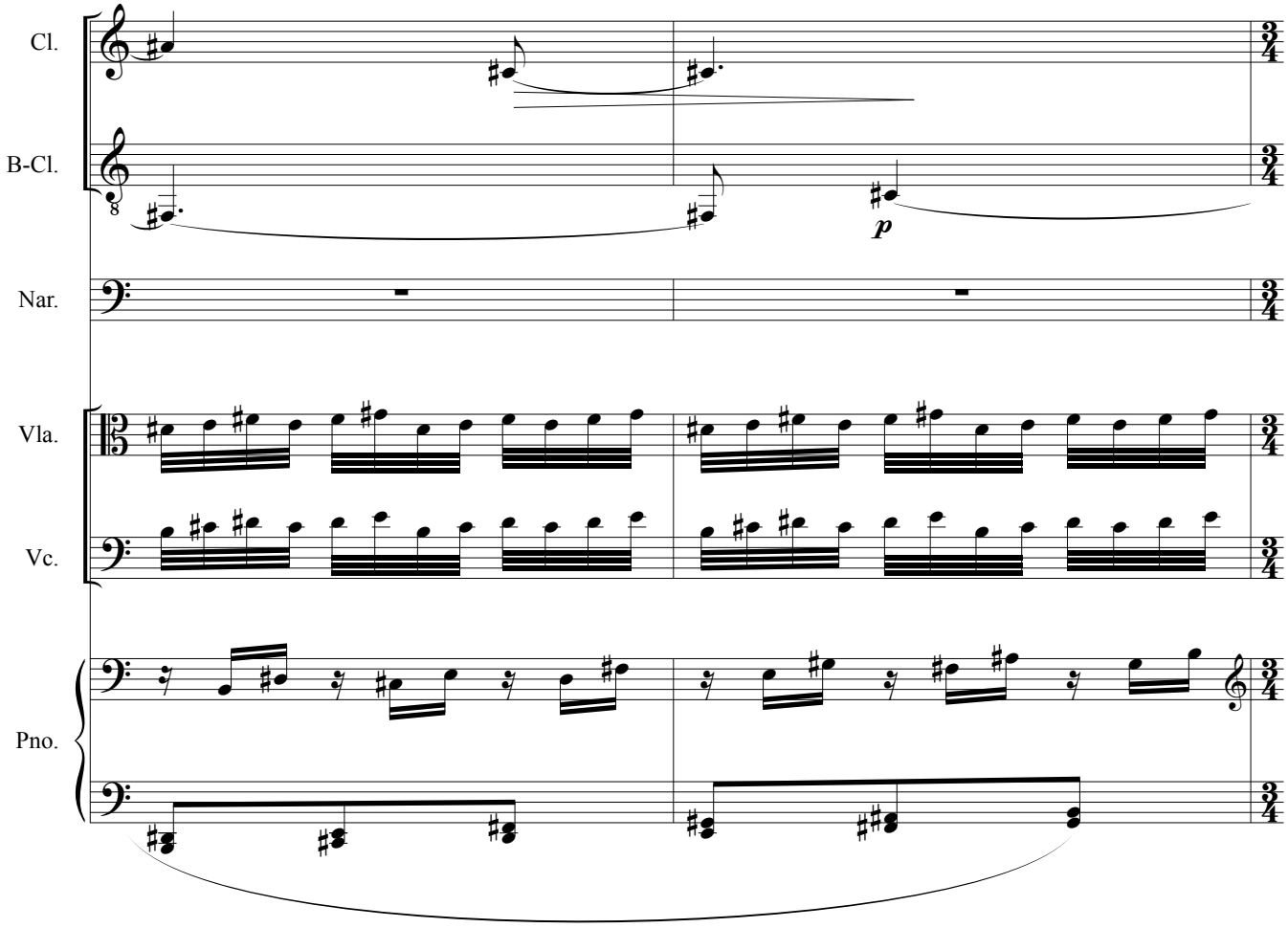

Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
I closed my eyes to make sure this vi-sion had not de-
Vla.
Vc.
(8va)
Pno.
56
♪ = ♪
♪ = 108
ceived me, to make sure this vi-sion had not de-ceived me. In a
p
f

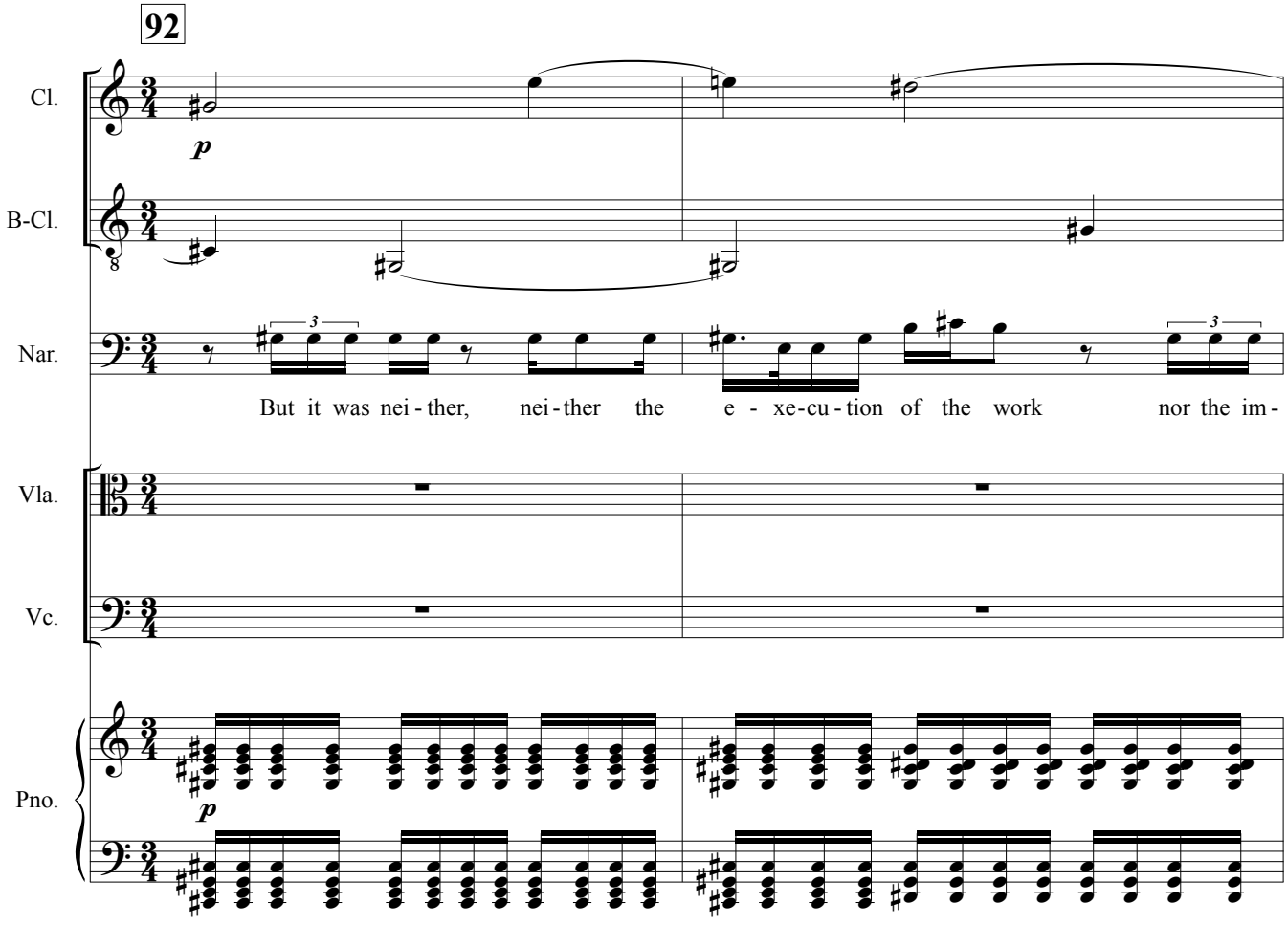

Nar.
few mo-ments I a - gain looked up.
That I now
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
65
saw a-right I could not and would not doubt, as a thing of art,
a thing of art, a-dorned in a rich-ly gil - ded o - val

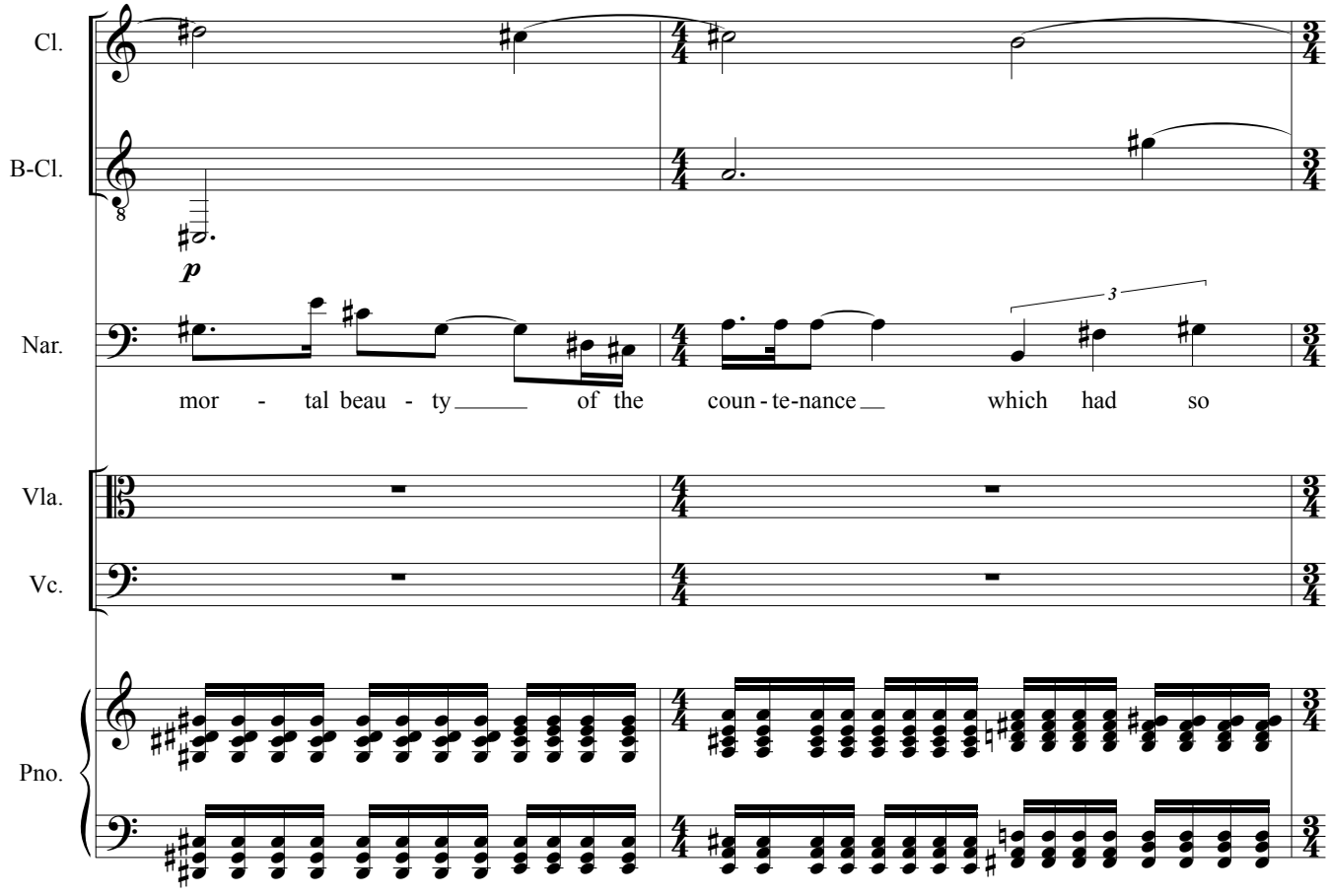

74
Cl.
Nar.
frame,
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
no - thing,
no - thing,
no-thing
could
be
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

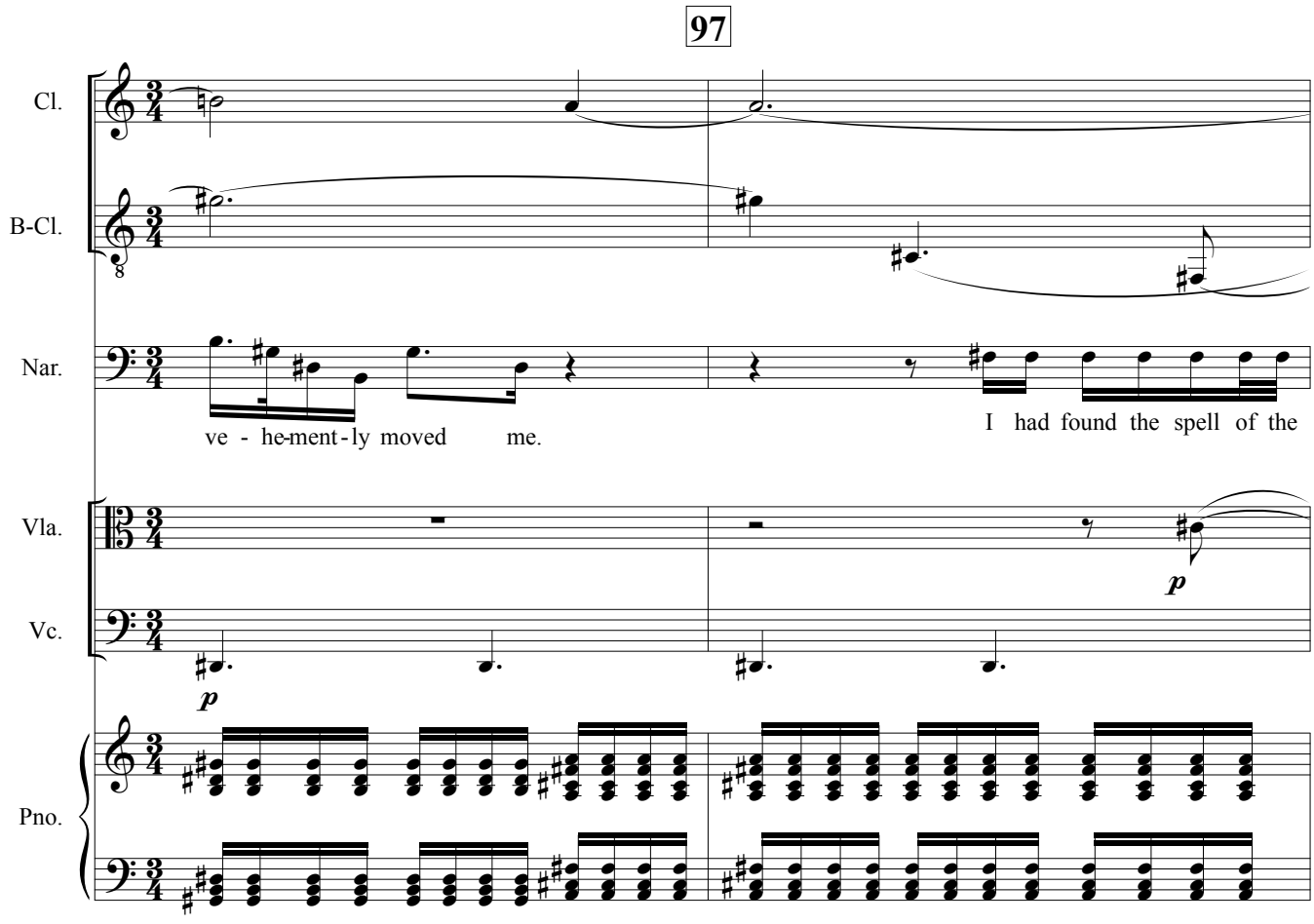

Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
more won - der - ful than the pain - ting,
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
81
Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
no - thing could be more won-der-ful than
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

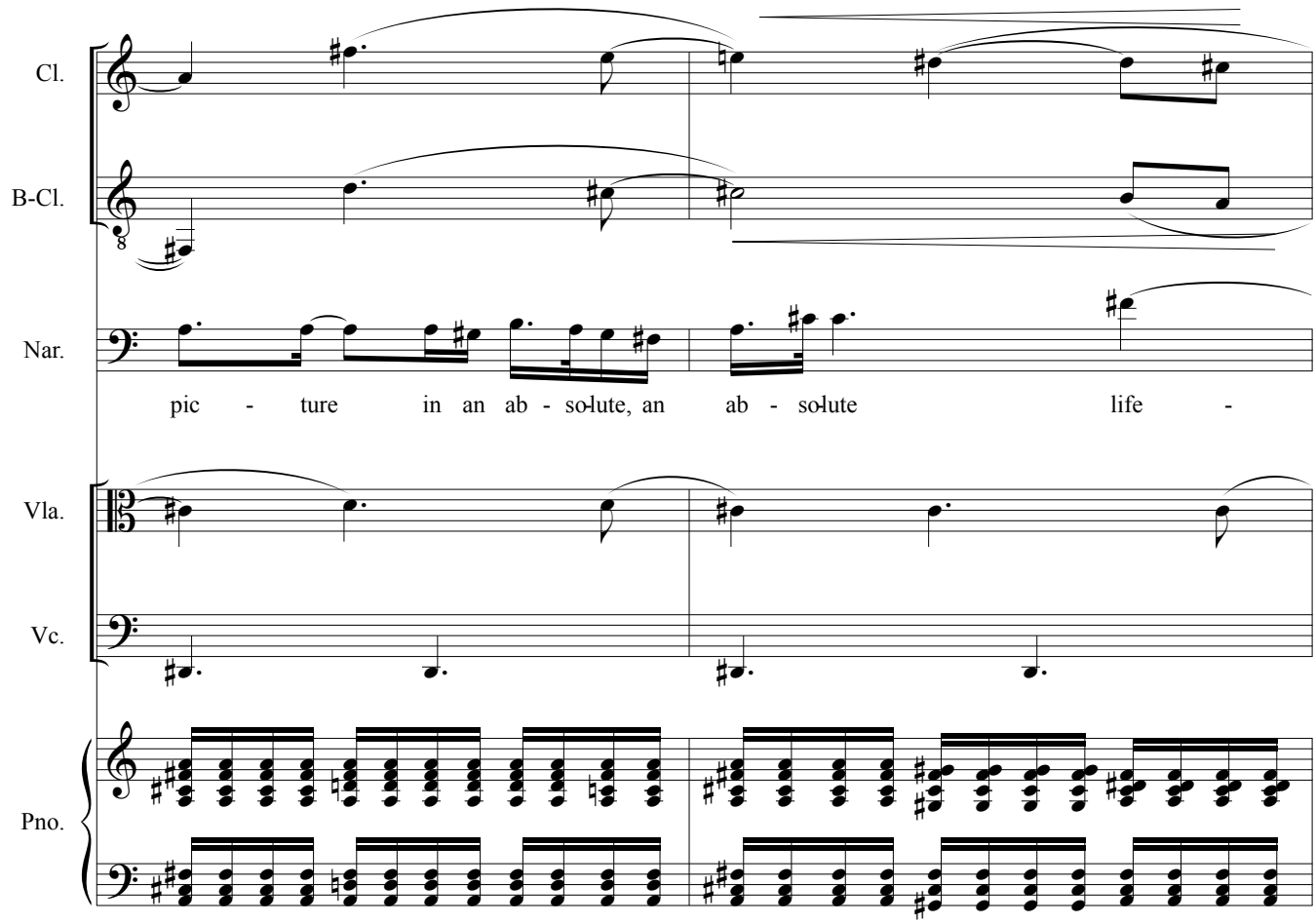

Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
— the pain - - - - - ting
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
it - - - self. —
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

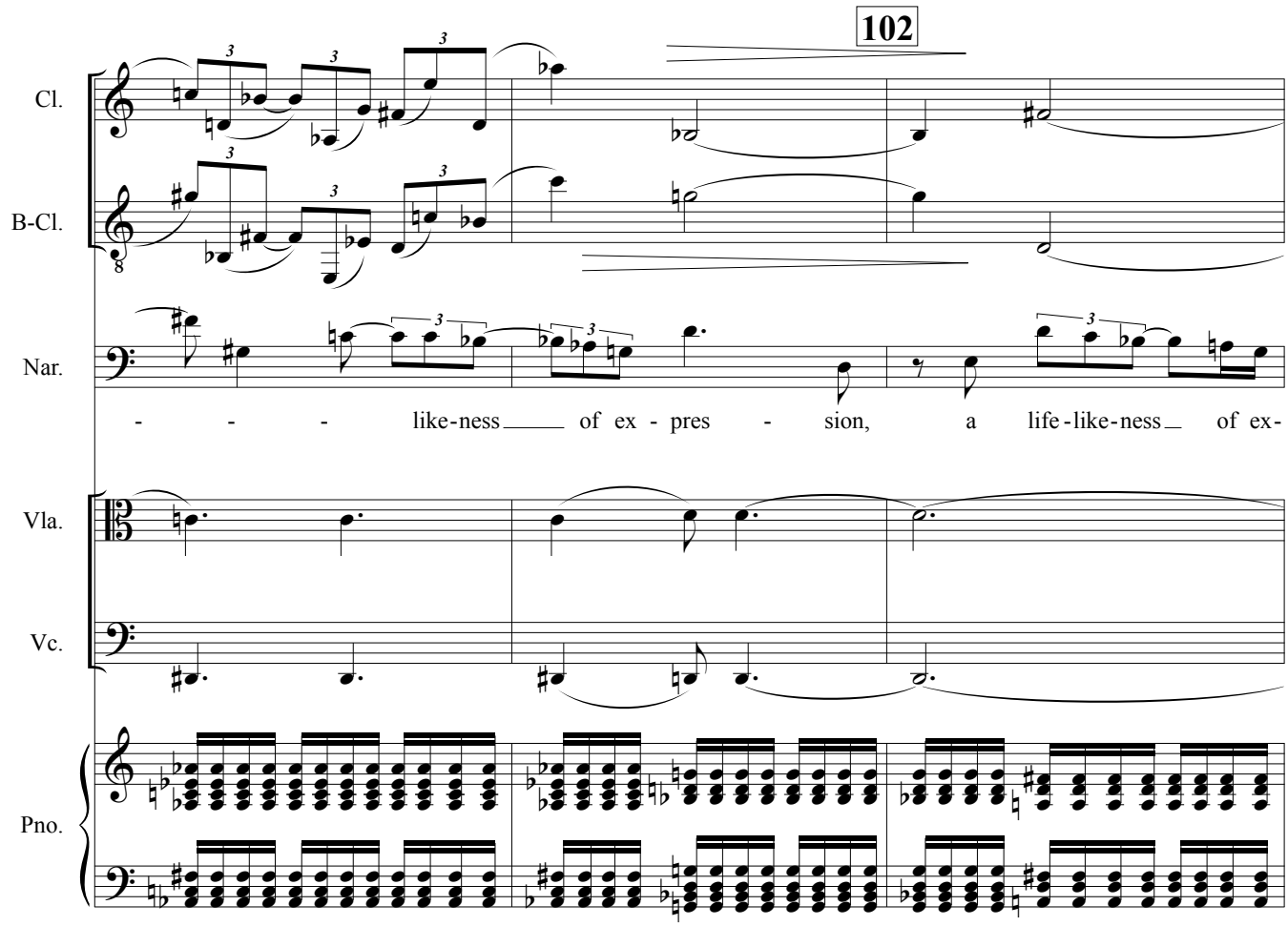

Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
p

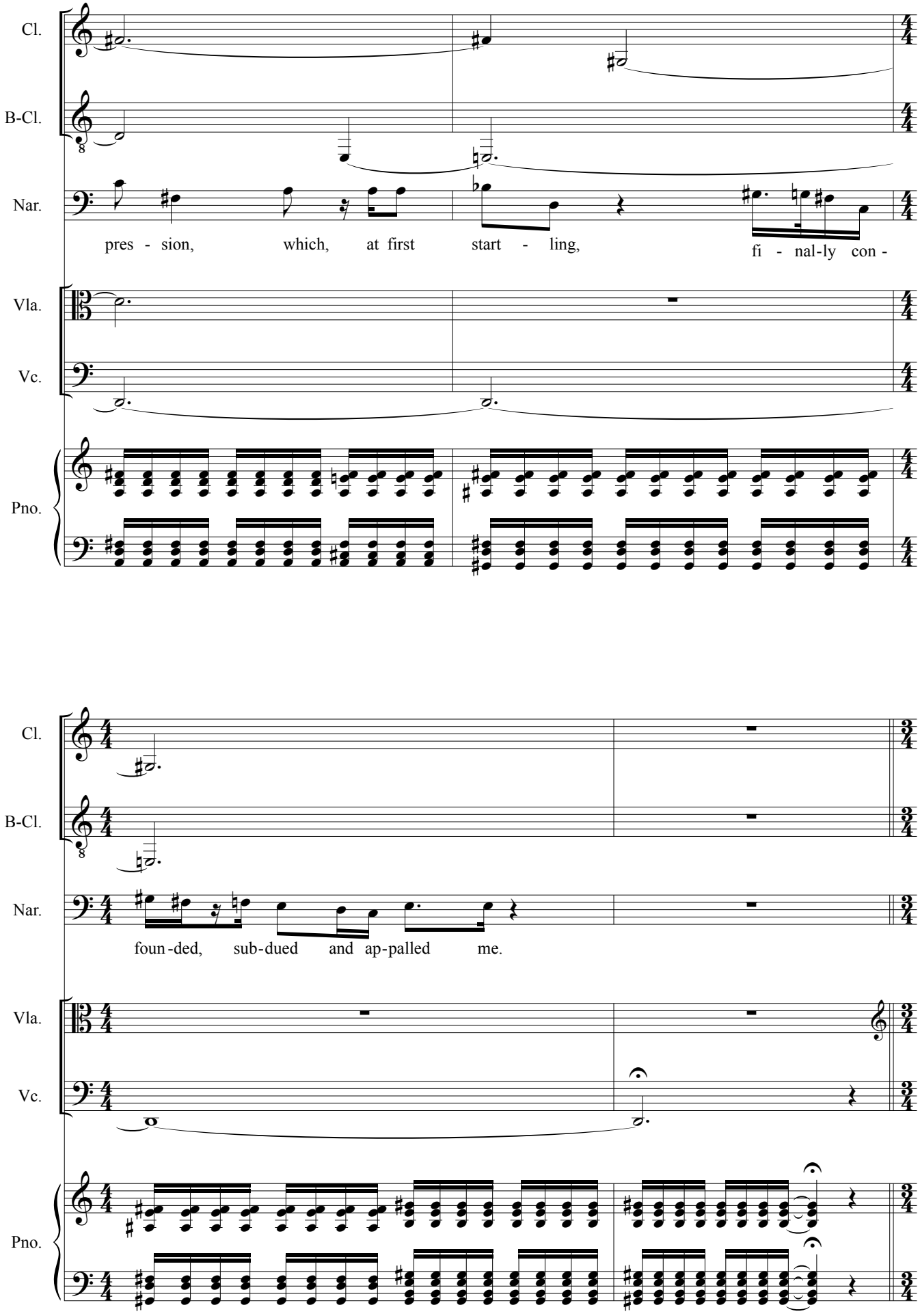

92
Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
p
But it was nei - ther, nei - ther the e - xe-cu - tion of the work nor the im -

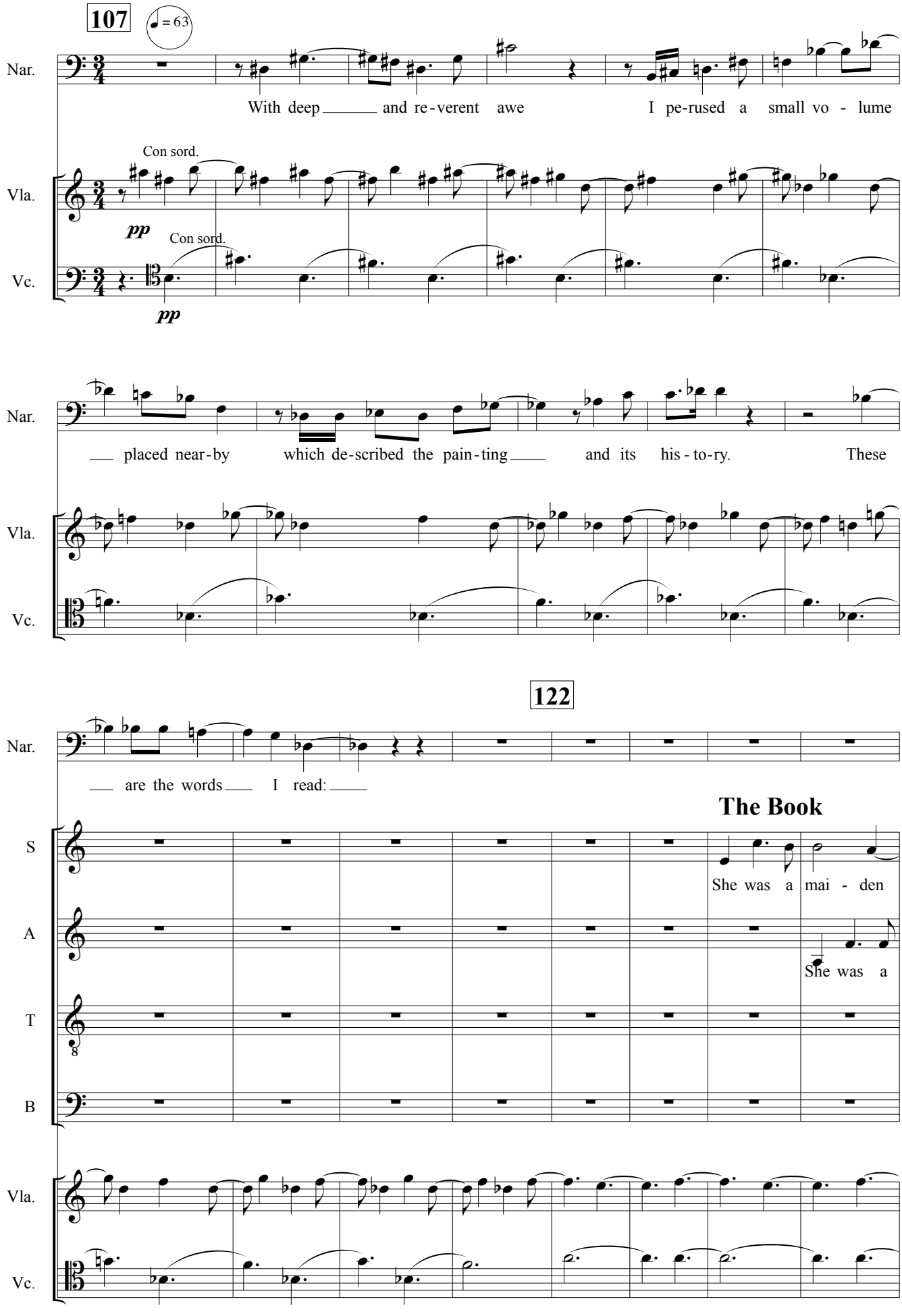

Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
mor - tal beau - ty of the coun - te-nance which had so
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

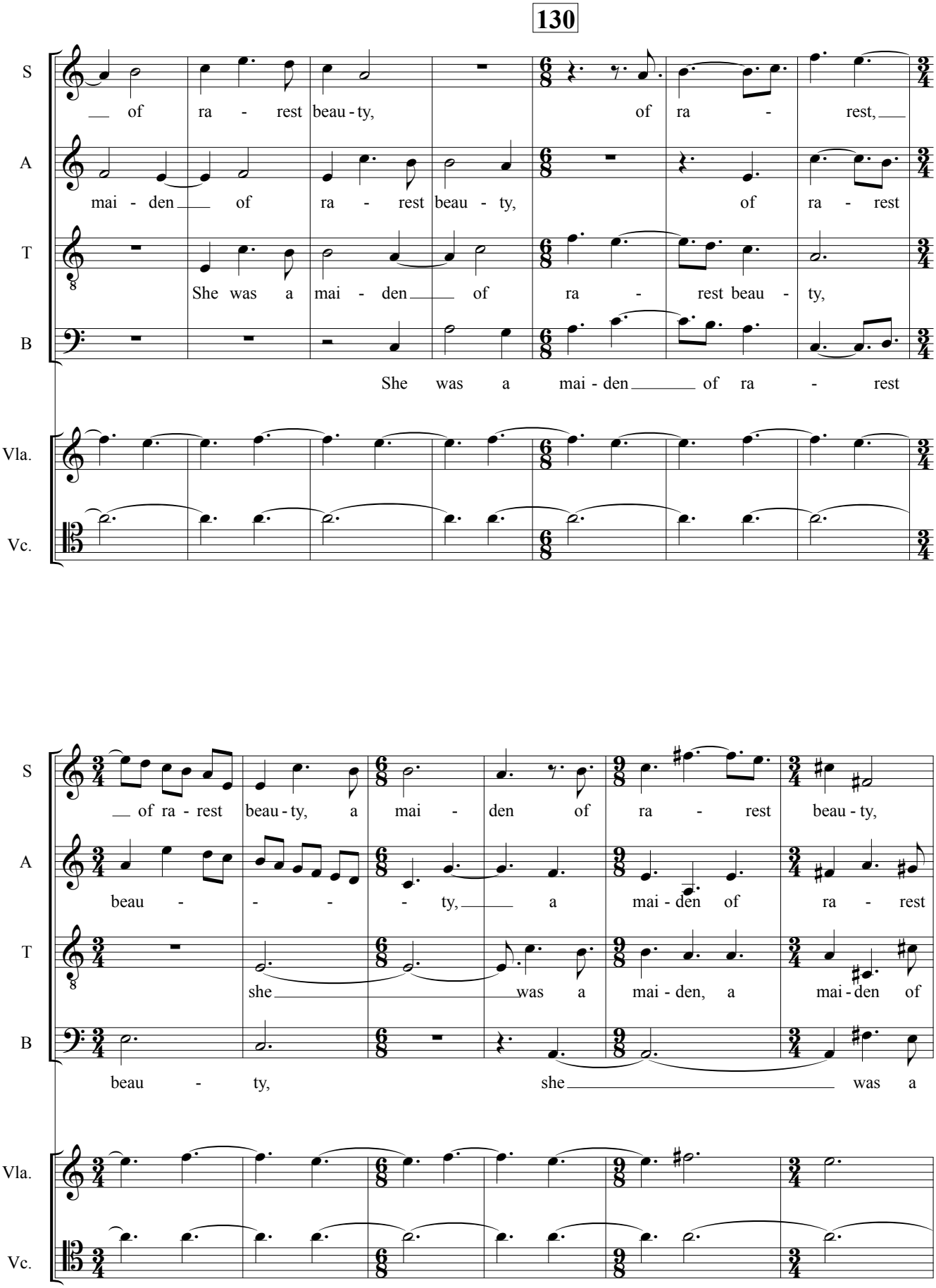

97
Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
ve - he-ment-ly moved me.
I had found the spell of the
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

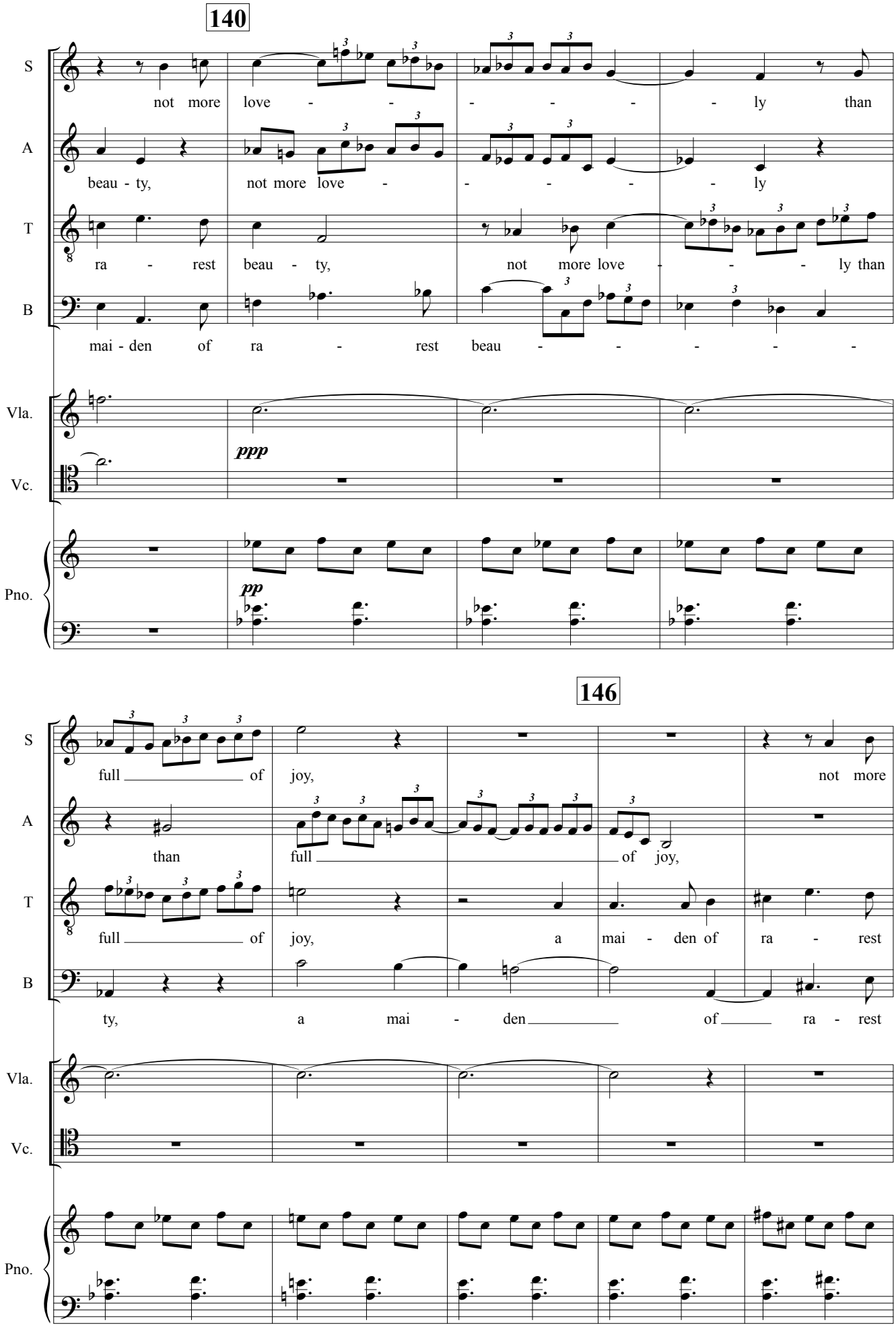

Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
pic - ture in an ab - so-lute, an ab - so-lute life -
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

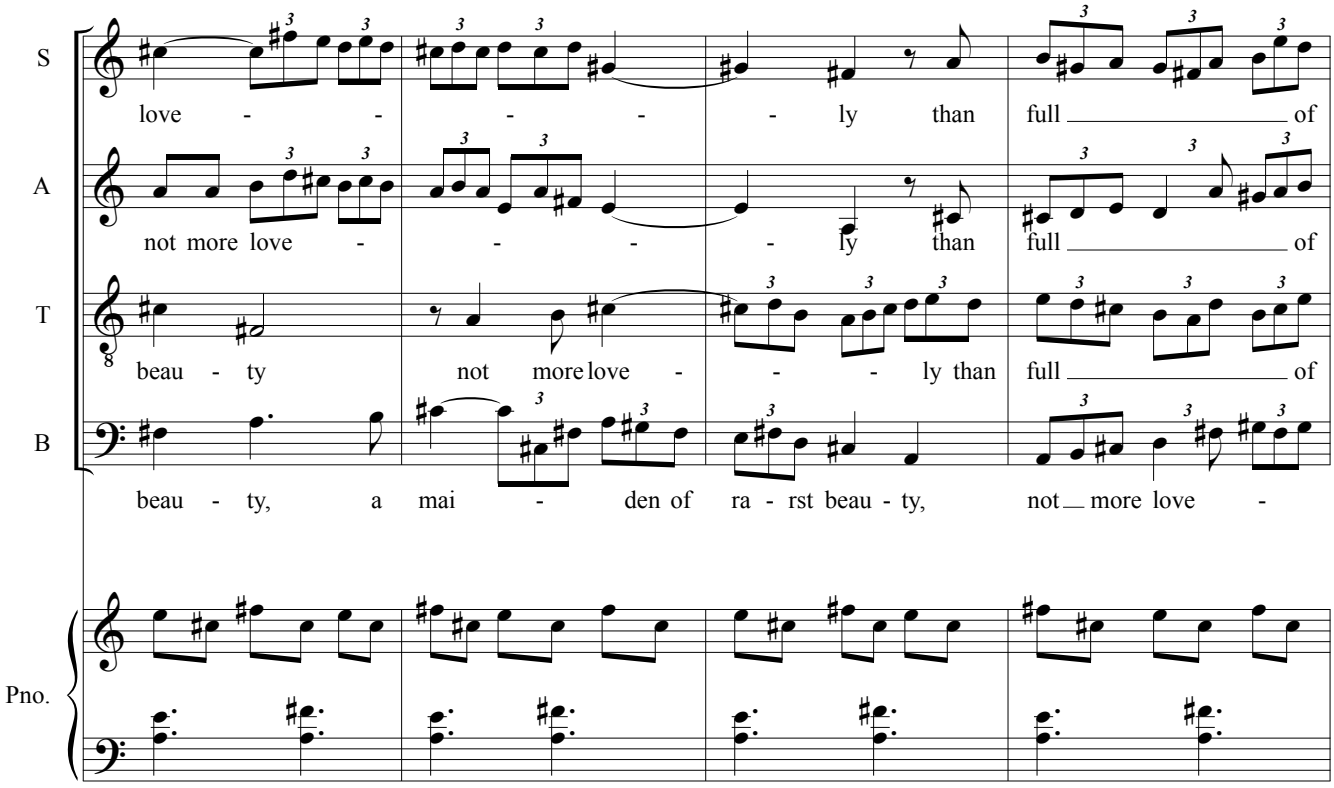

102
Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
- - - like-ness of ex - pres - sion, a life-like-ness of ex-
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

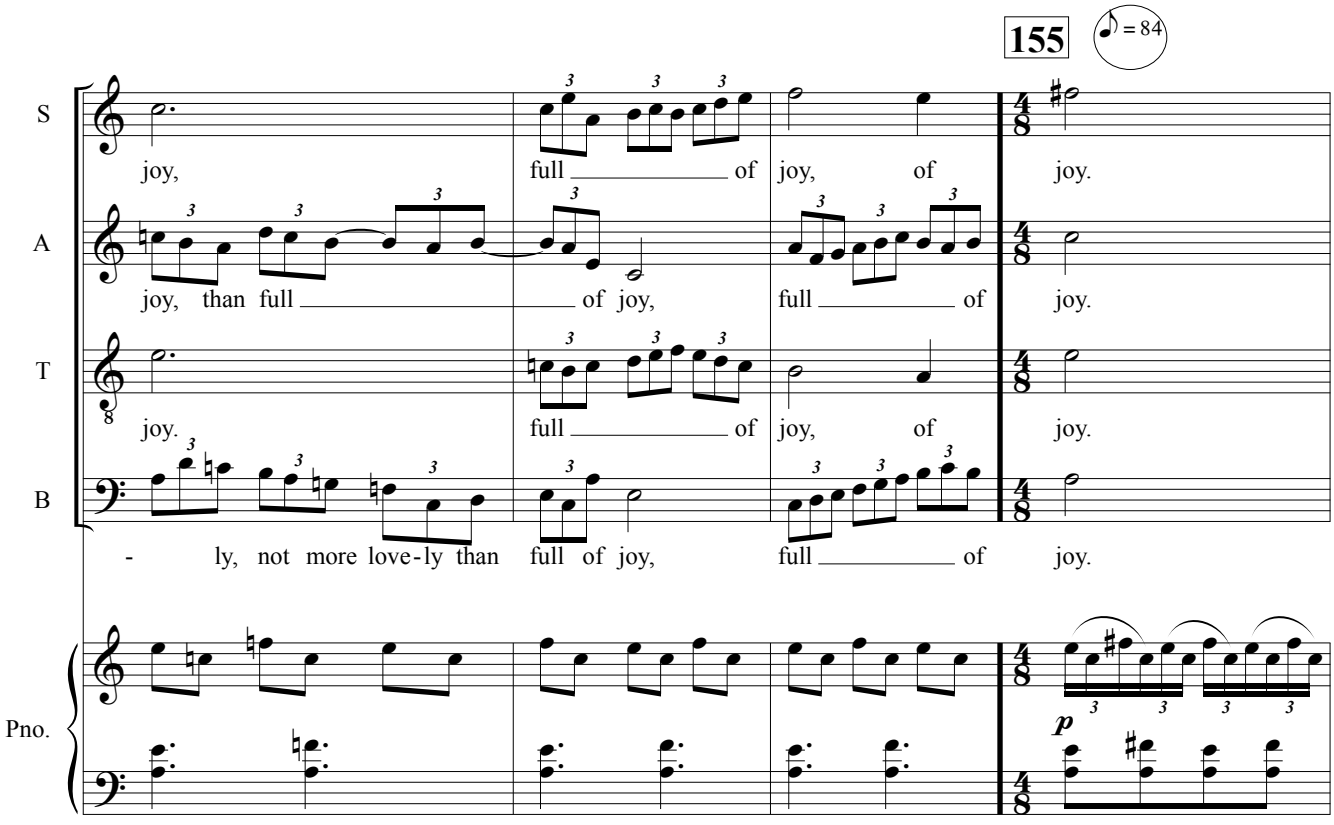

Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
pres - sion, which, at first start - ling, fi - nal-ly con -
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
foun-ded, sub-dued and ap-palled me.
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

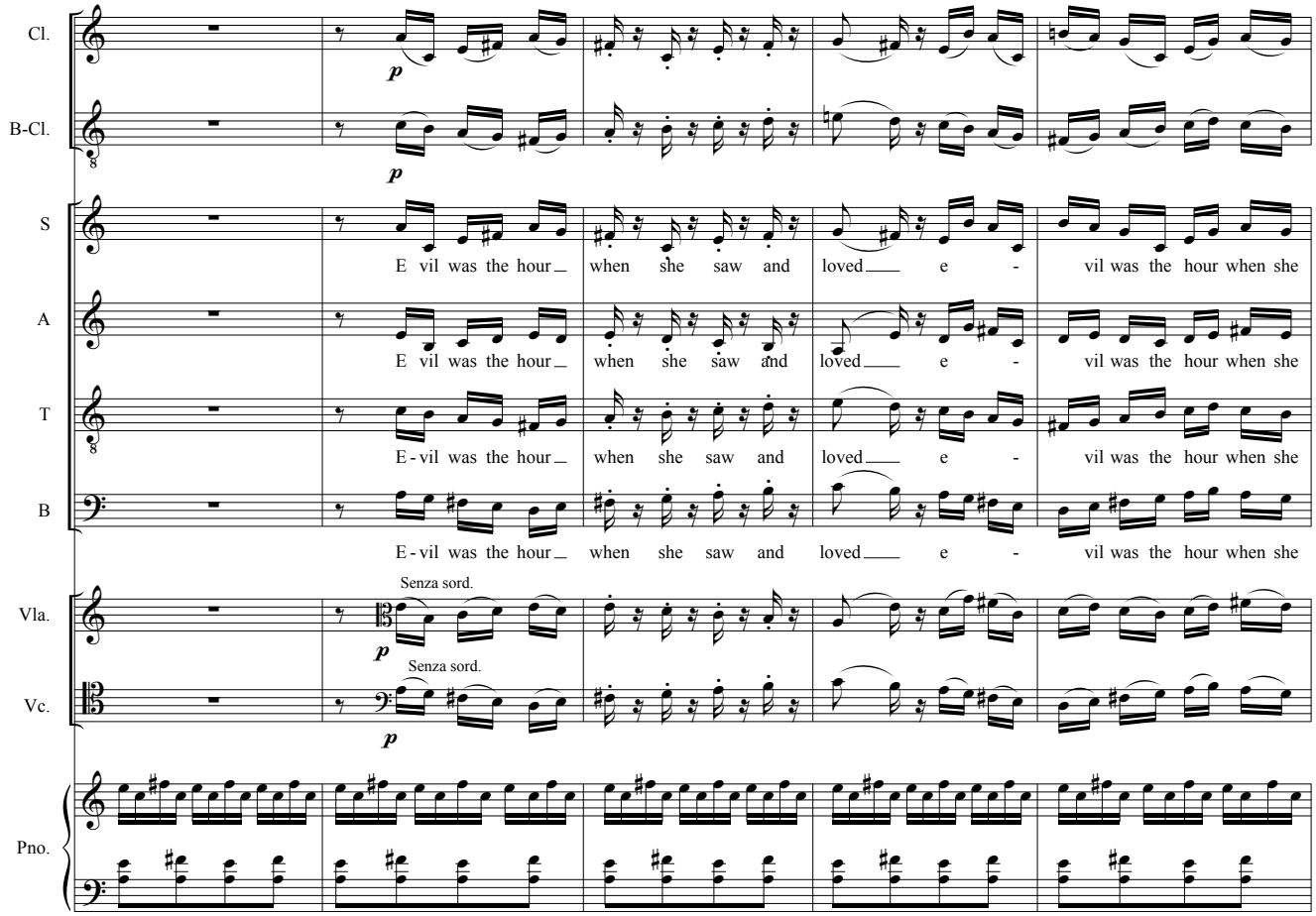

107
♩ = 63
Nar.
With deep and re - verent awe I pe-rused a small vo - lume
Con sord.
Vla.
pp
Con sord.
Vc.
pp
Nar.
placed near-by which de-scribed the pain-ting and its his - to-ry. These
Vla.
Vc.
122
Nar.
are the words I read:
The Book
S
She was a mai - den
A
She was a
T
B
Vla.
Vc.

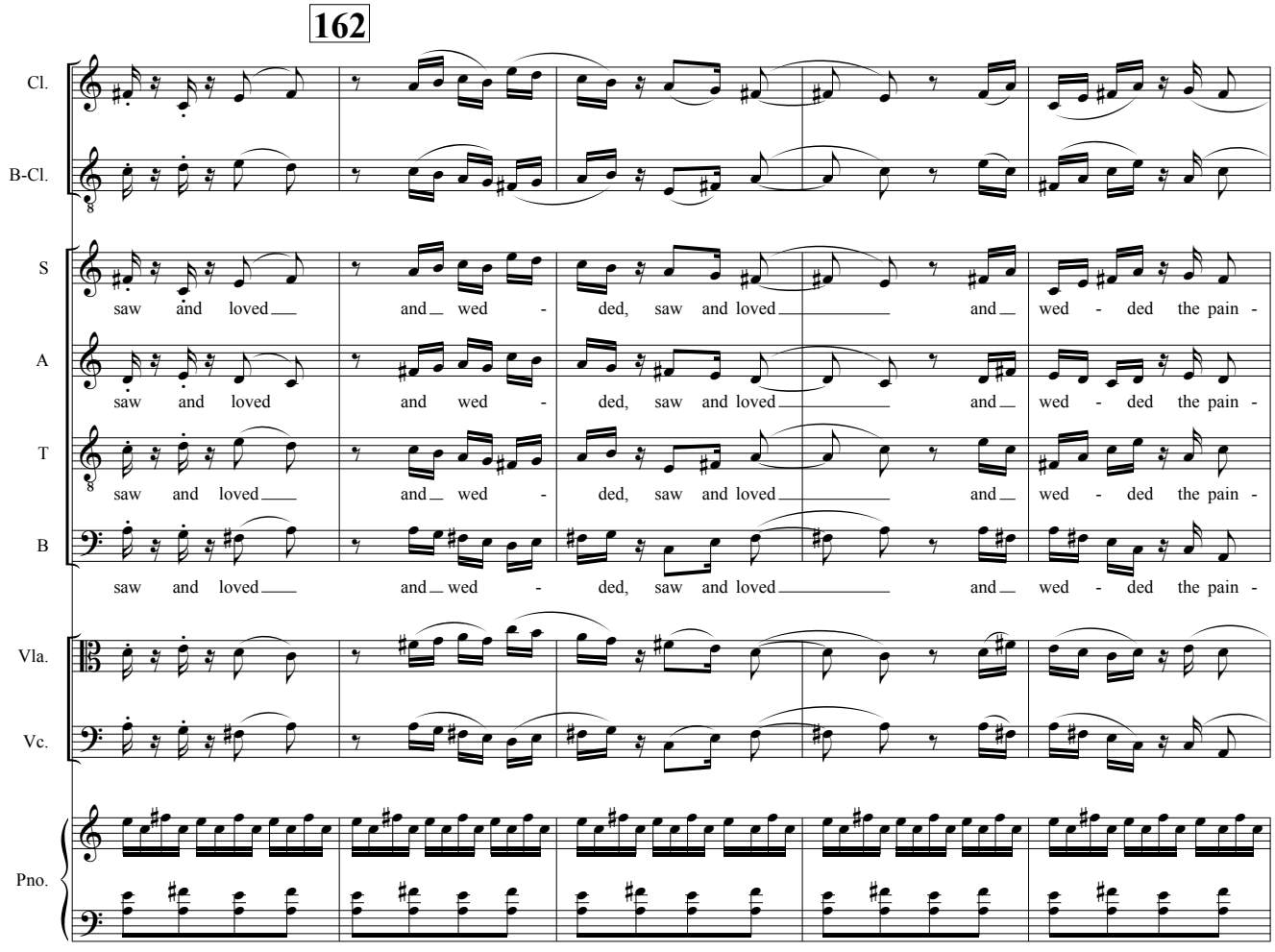

130
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
of ra - rest beau - ty, of ra - rest,
mai - den of ra - rest beau - ty, of ra - rest
She was a mai - den of ra - rest beau - ty,
She was a mai - den of ra - rest
of ra - rest beau - ty, a mai - den of ra - rest beau - ty,
beau - - - - ty, a mai - den of ra - rest
she was a mai - den, a mai - den of
beau - ty, she was a

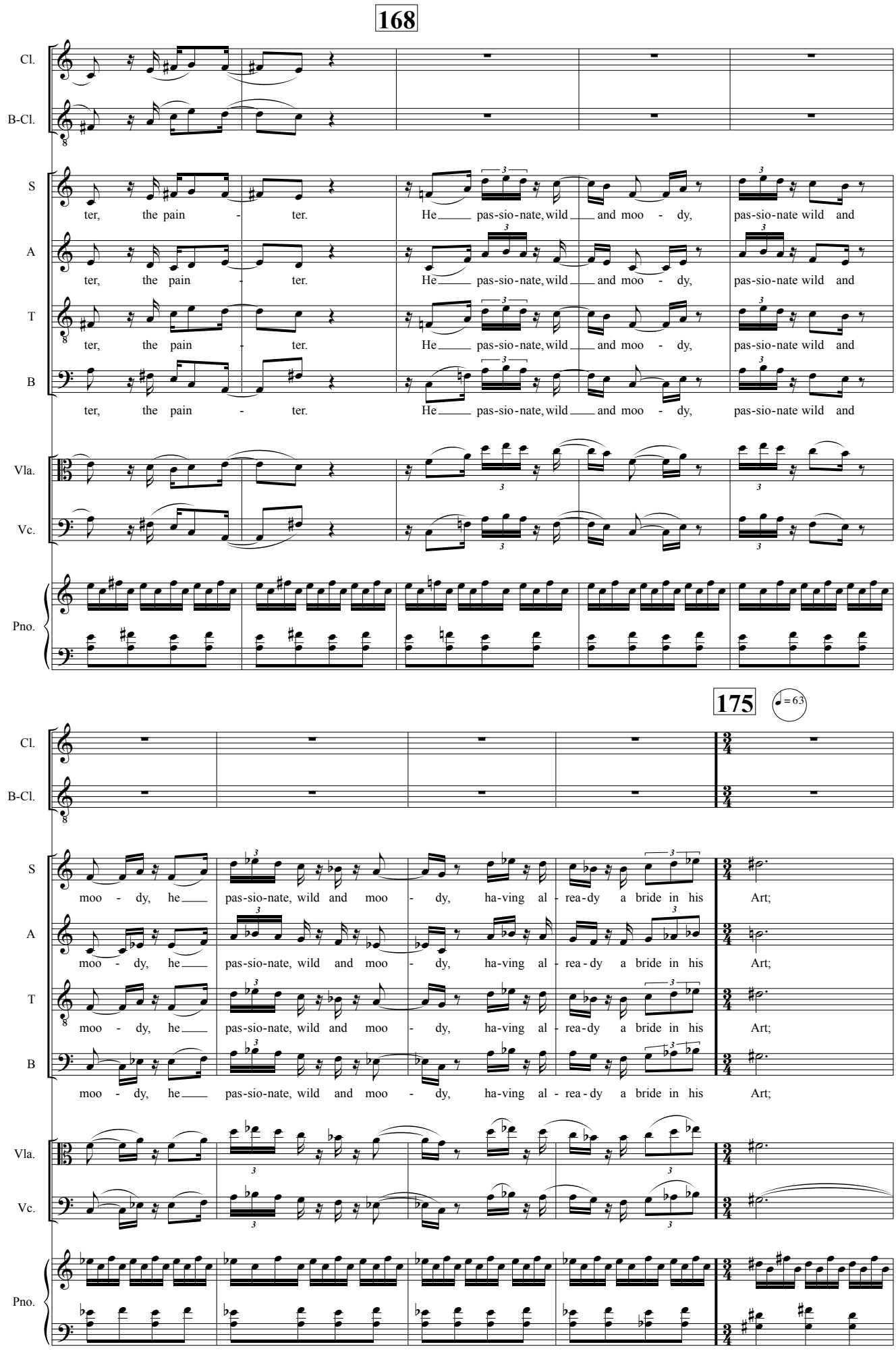

140
S
not more love - - - - - ly than
A
beau - ty, not more love - - - - - ly
T
ra - rest beau - ty, not more love - - - ly than
B
mai - den of ra - rest beau - - - - -
Vla.
Vc.
ppp
Pno.
pp
146
S
full of joy, not more
A
than full of joy,
T
full of joy, a mai - den of ra - rest
B
ty, a mai - den of ra - rest
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

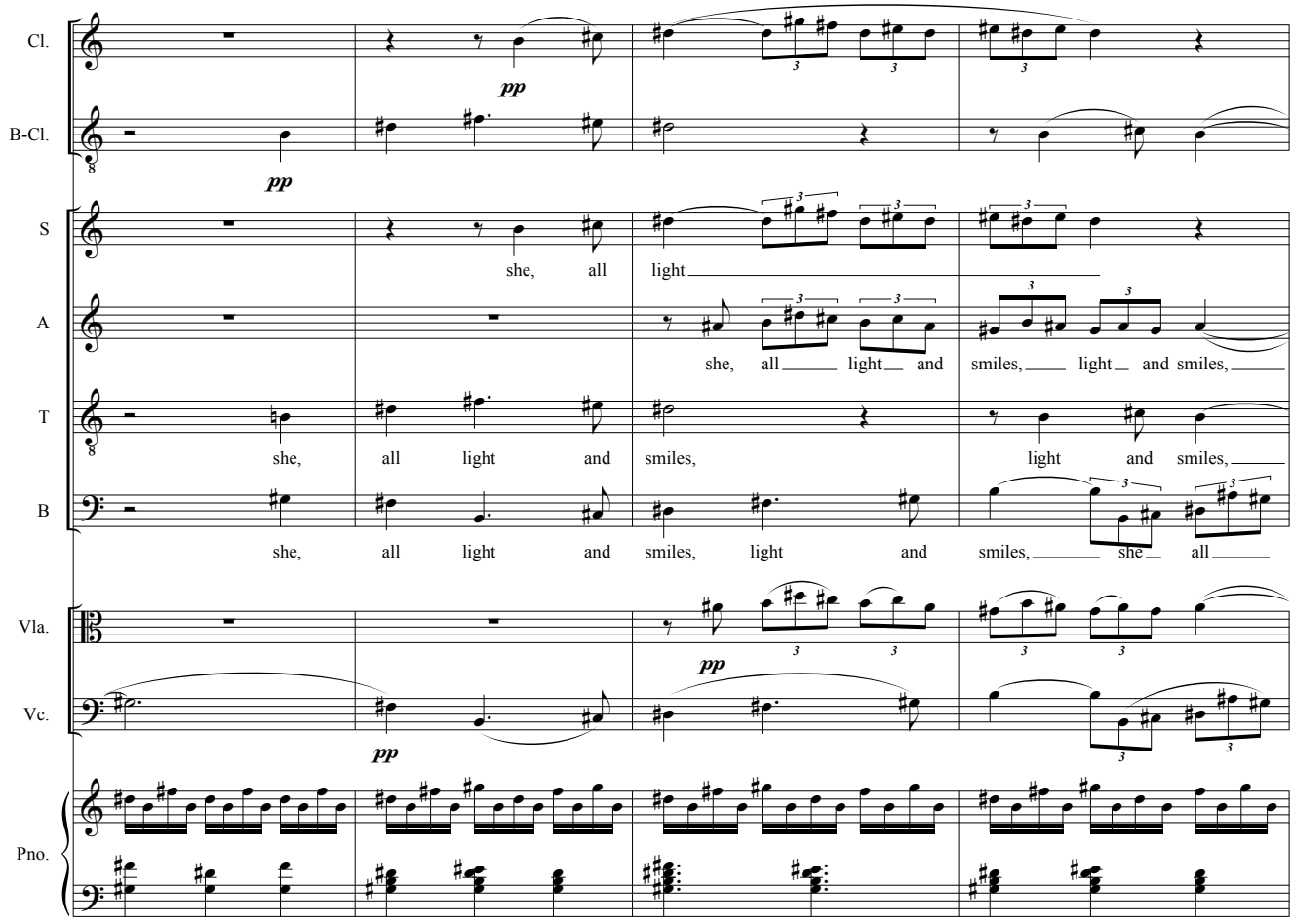

S
love - - - - - ly than full of
A
not more love - - - - ly than full of
T
beau - ty not more love - - - ly than full of
B
beau - ty, a mai - den of ra - rst beau - ty, not more love -
Pno.

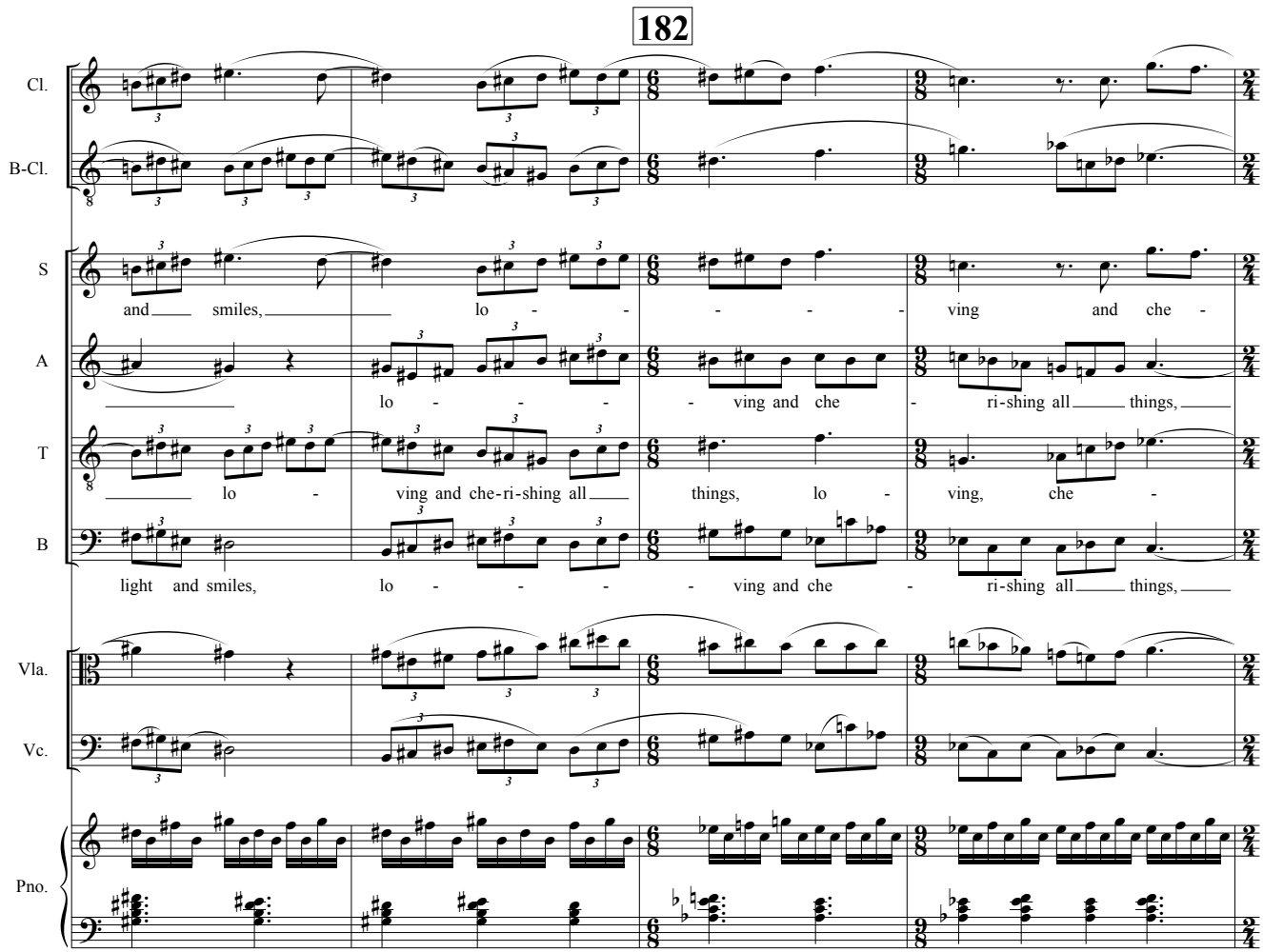

155
♪ = 84
S
joy, full of joy, of joy.
A
joy, than full of joy, full of joy.
T
joy. full of joy, of joy.
B
- ly, not more love-ly than full of joy, full of joy.
Pno.
p

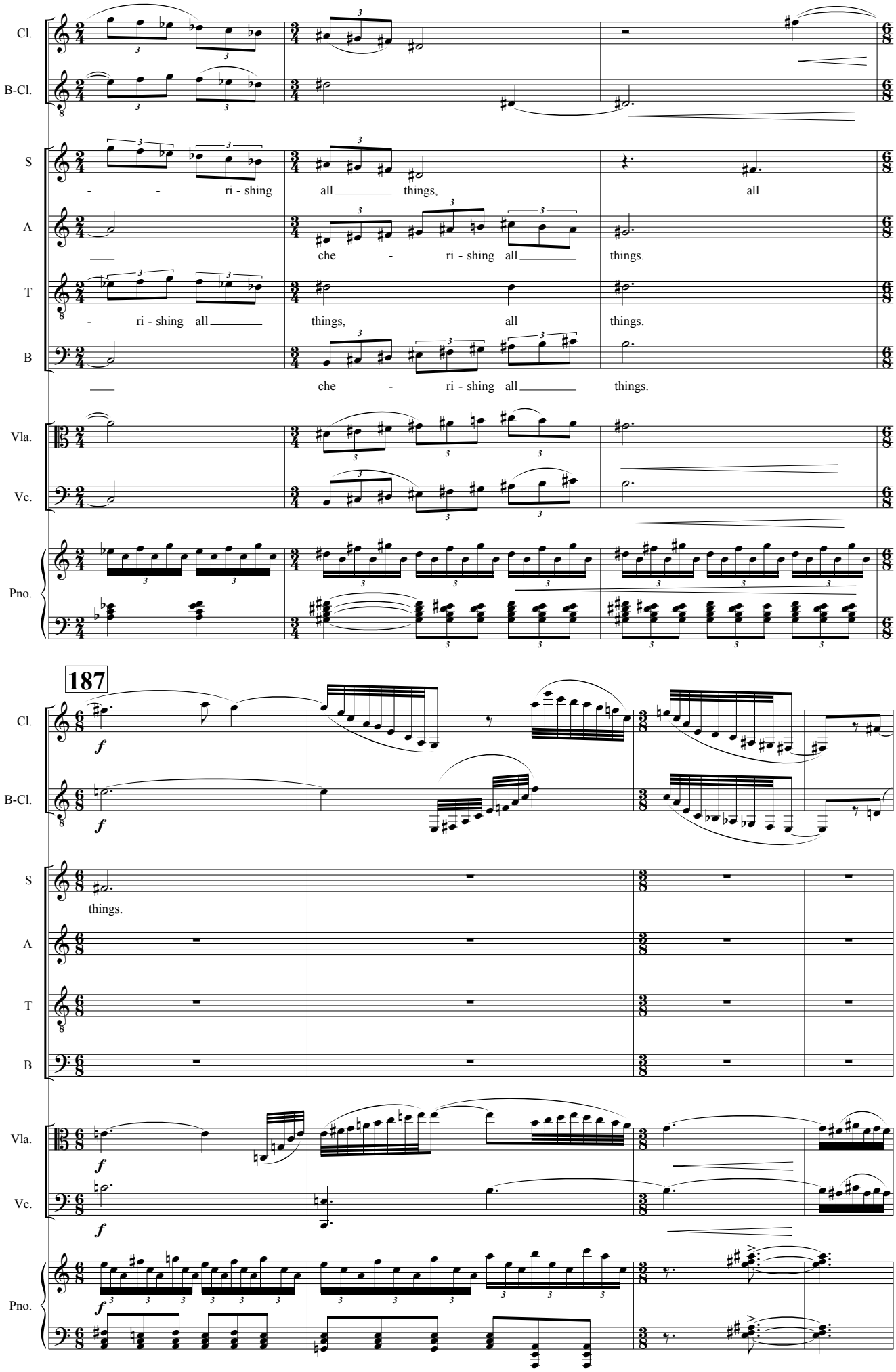

Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
p
Senza sord.
E vil was the hour when she saw and loved e - vil was the hour when she
E - vil was the hour when she saw and loved e - vil was the hour when she

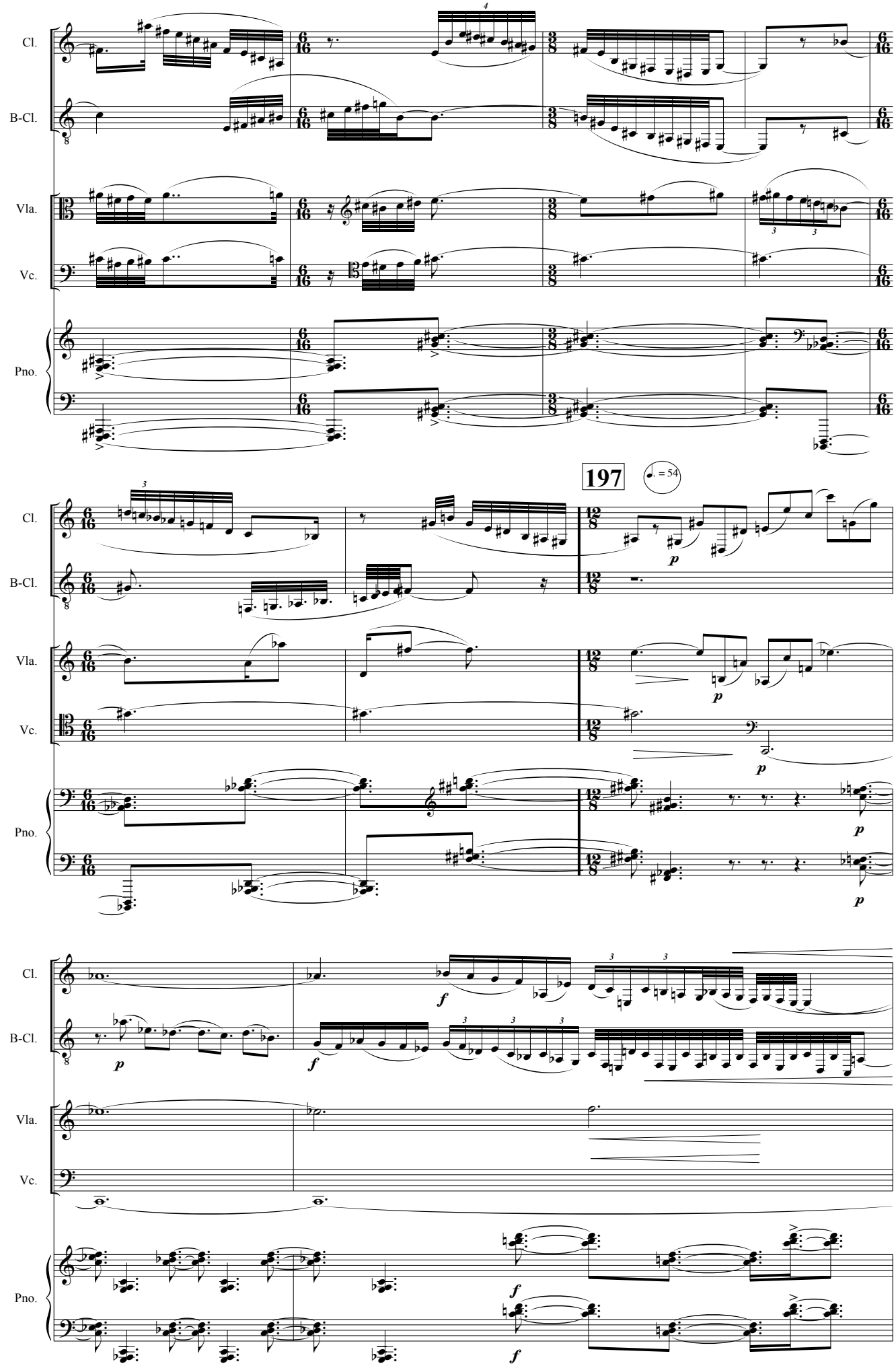

162
Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
saw and loved and wed - ded, saw and loved and wed - ded the pain -

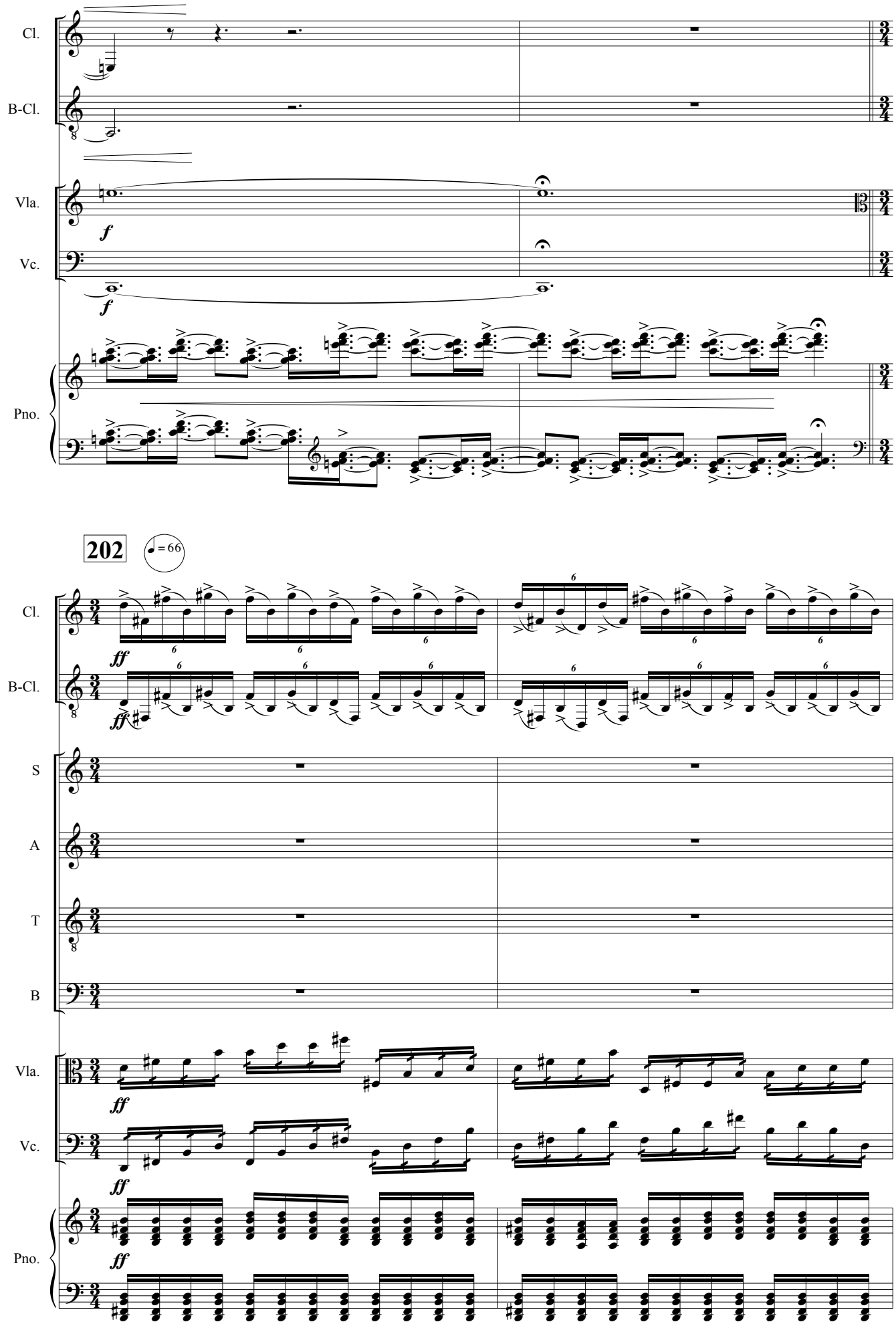

168
Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
ter, the pain - ter. He pas-sio-nate, wild and moo - dy, pas-sio-nate wild and
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
175
♩= 63
moo - dy, he pas-sio-nate, wild and moo - dy, ha-ving al - rea-dy a bride in his Art;

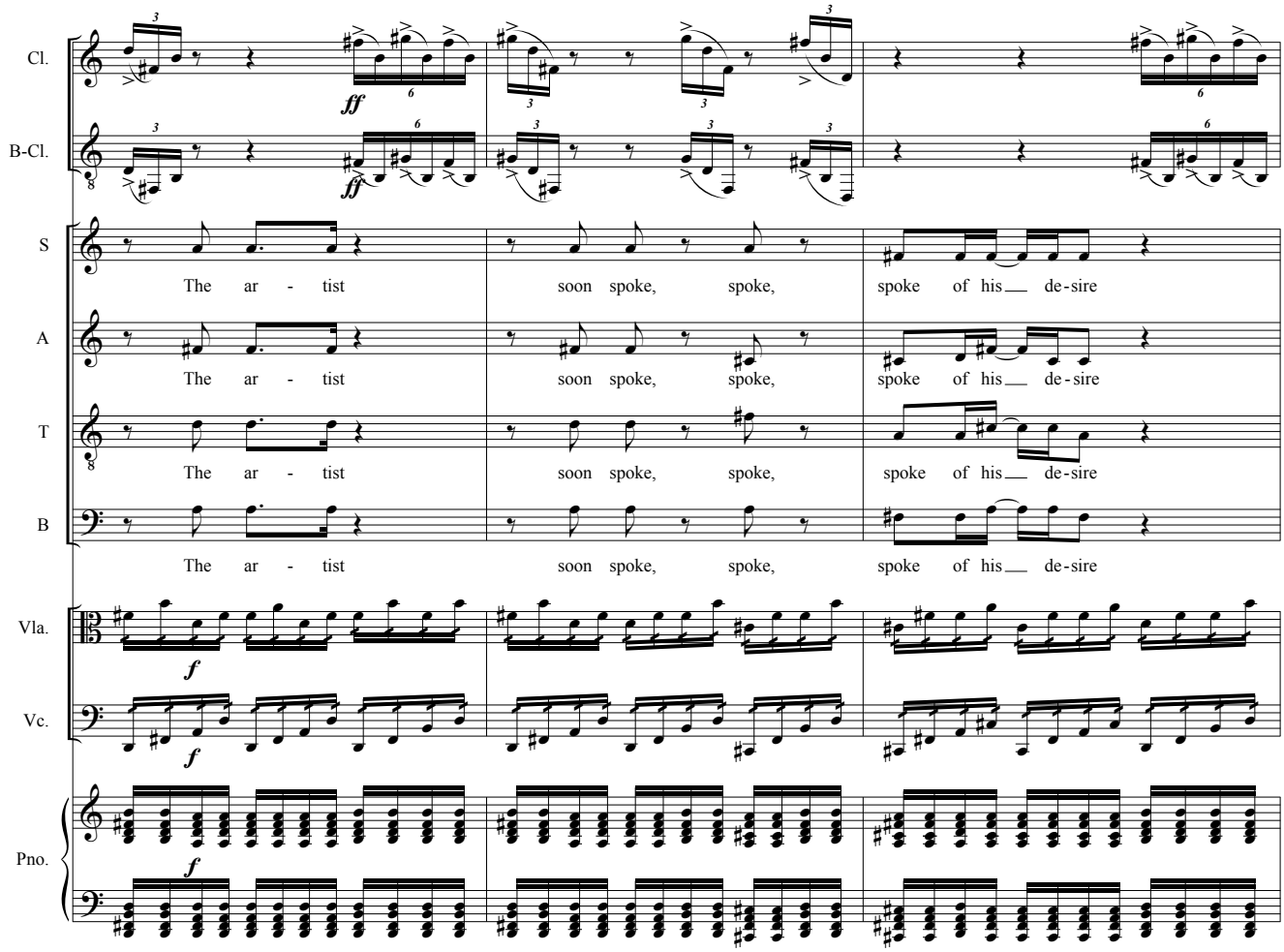

Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
pp
she, all light
she, all light and smiles, light and smiles,
she, all light and smiles, light and smiles, she all

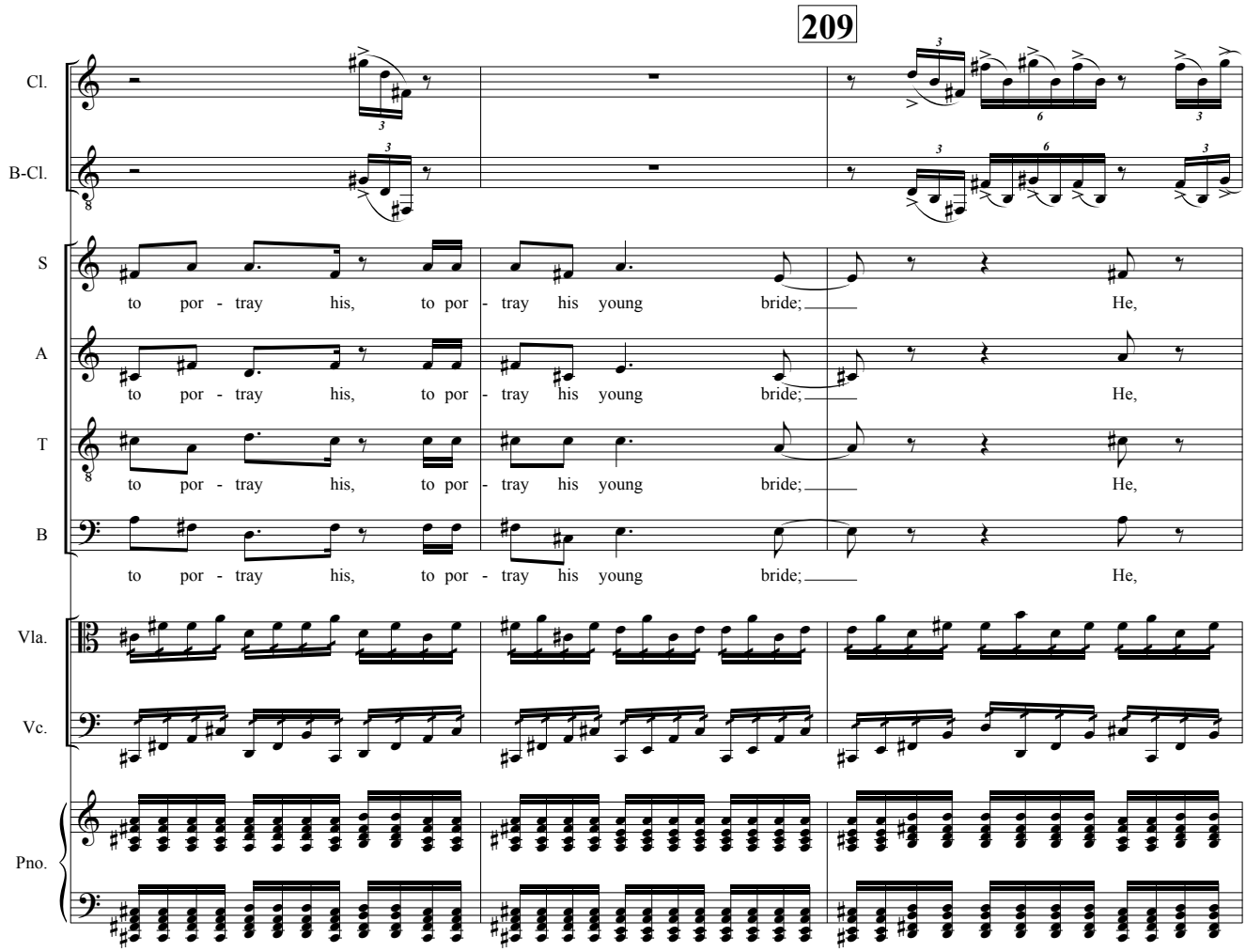

182
Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
and smiles, lo - - - - - ving and che -
lo - - - - ving and che - ri-shing all things,
lo - ving and che-ri-shing all things, lo - ving, che -
light and smiles, lo - - - - ving and che - ri-shing all things,

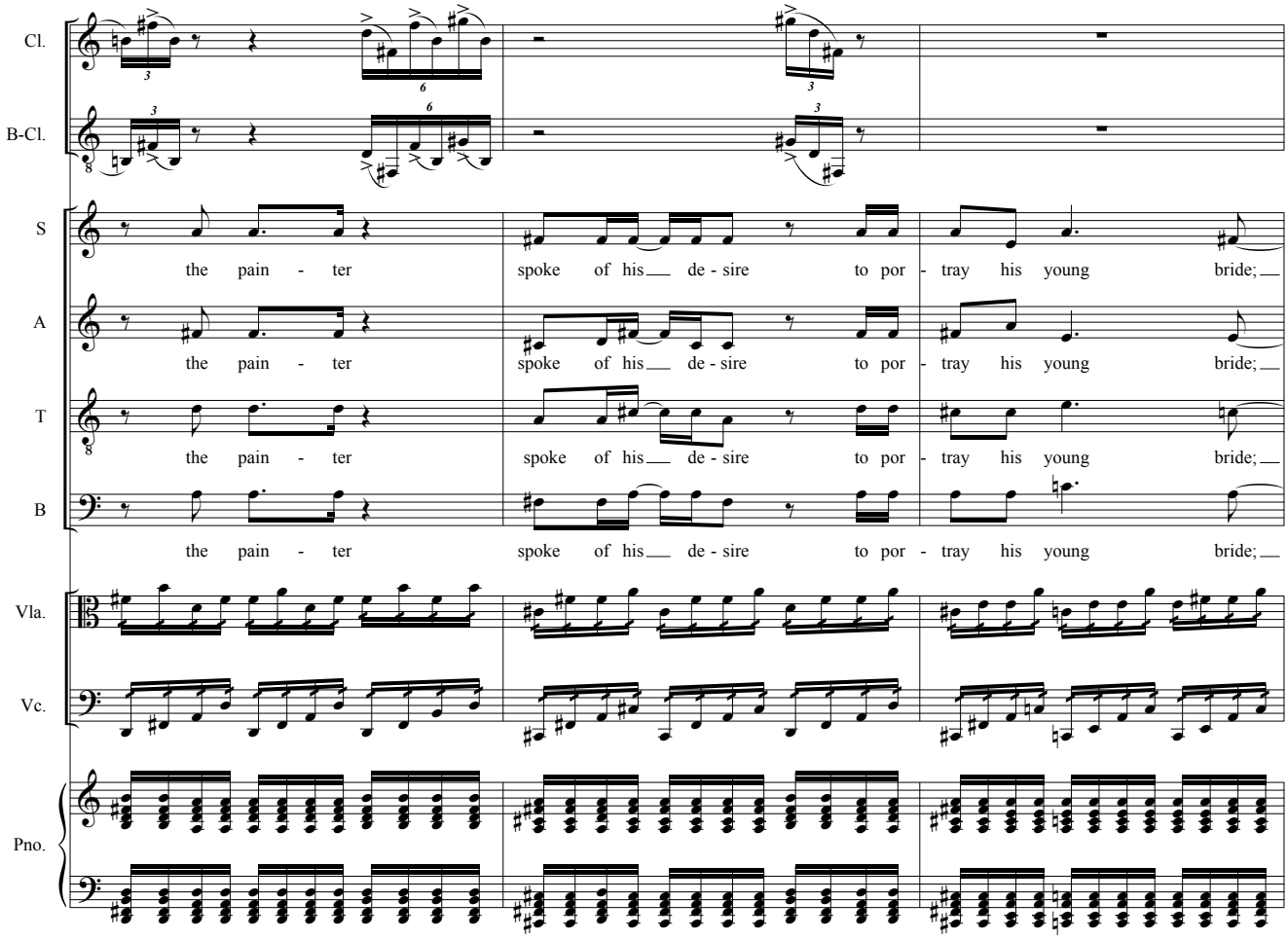

Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
- - ri - shing all things, all
che - ri - shing all things.
- ri - shing all things, all things.
che - ri - shing all things.
187
f
things.

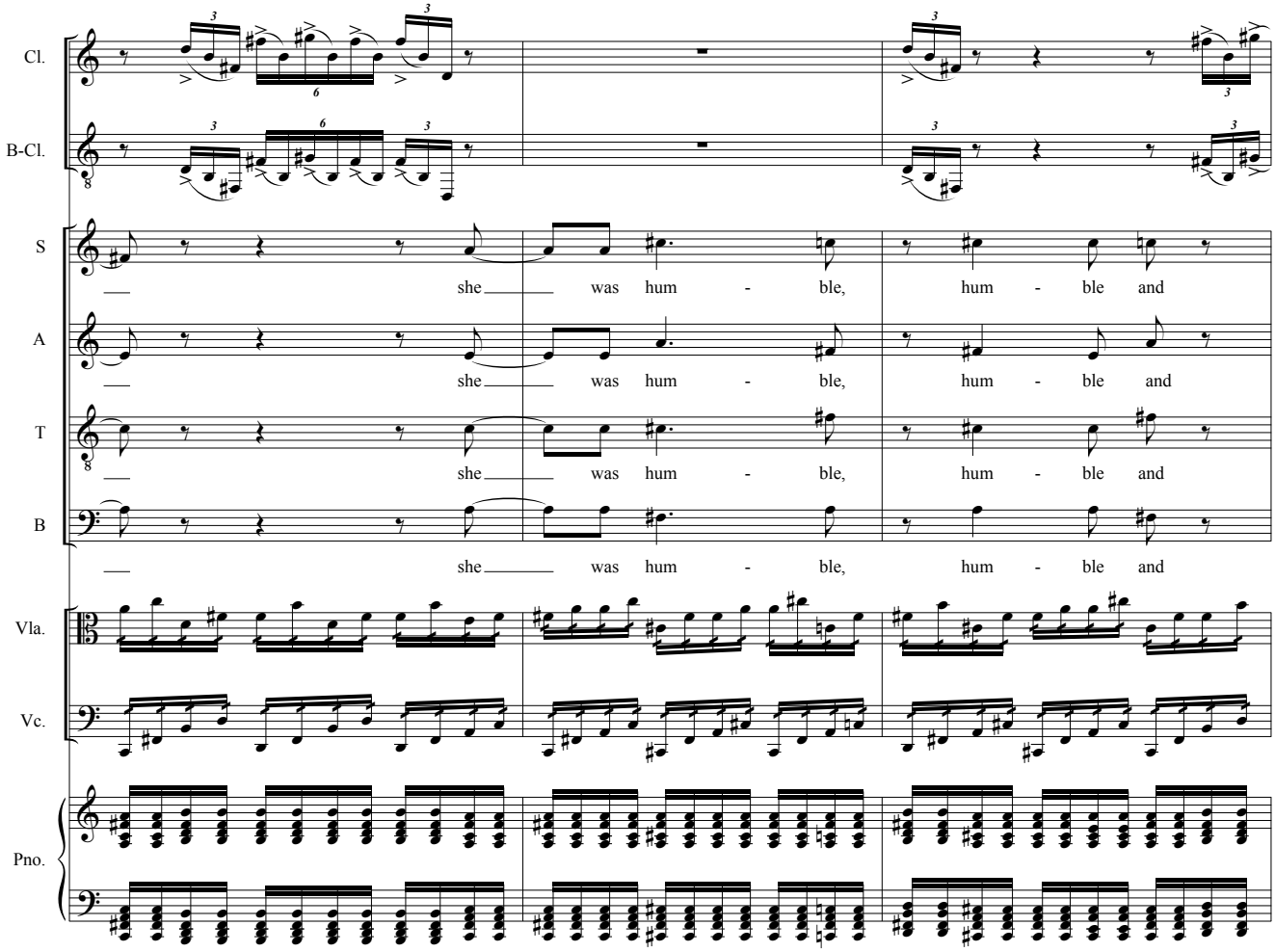

Cl.
B-Cl.
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
197
♩. = 54
p
f

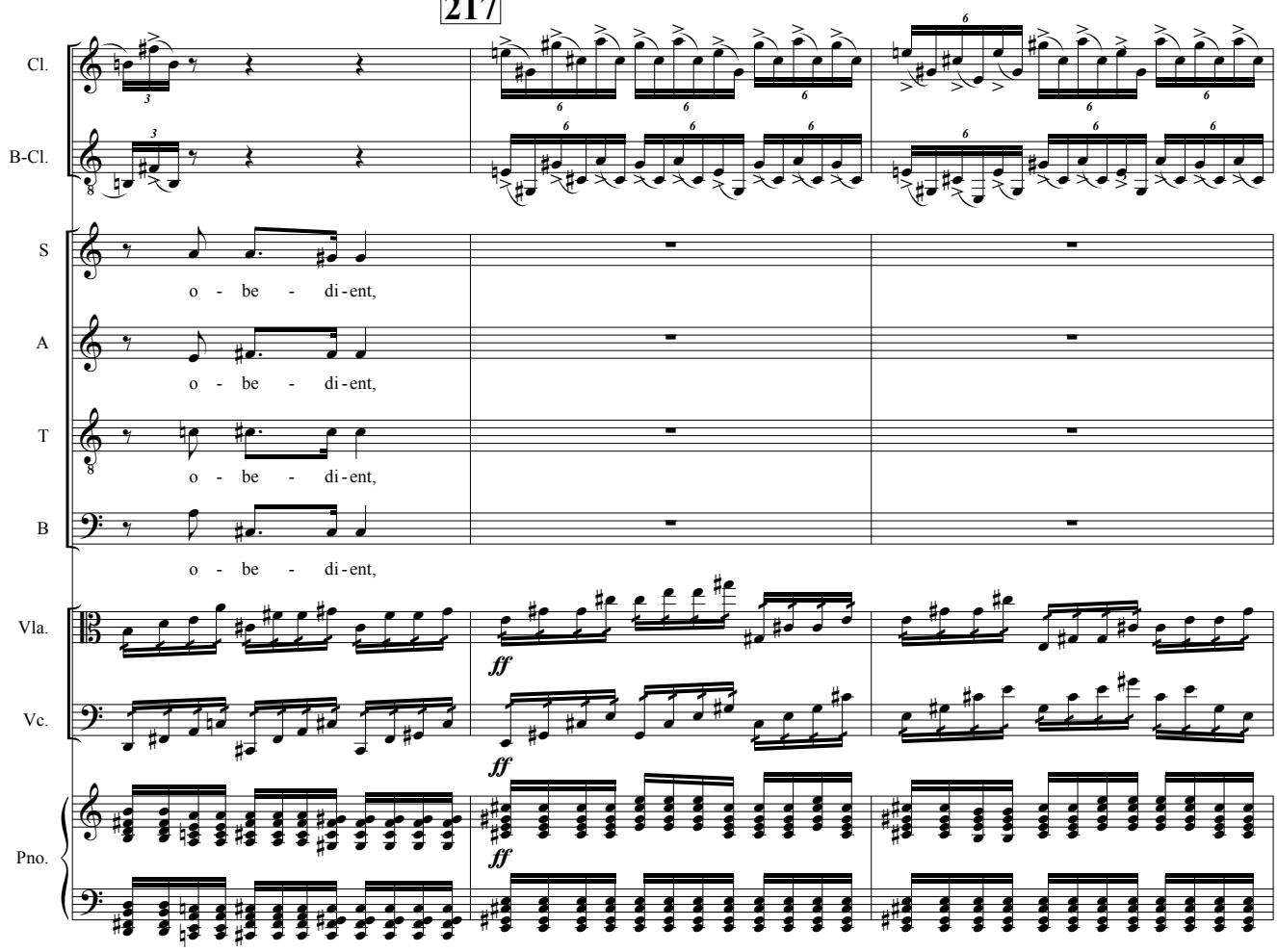

Cl.
B-Cl.
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
202
♩= 66
S
A
T
B

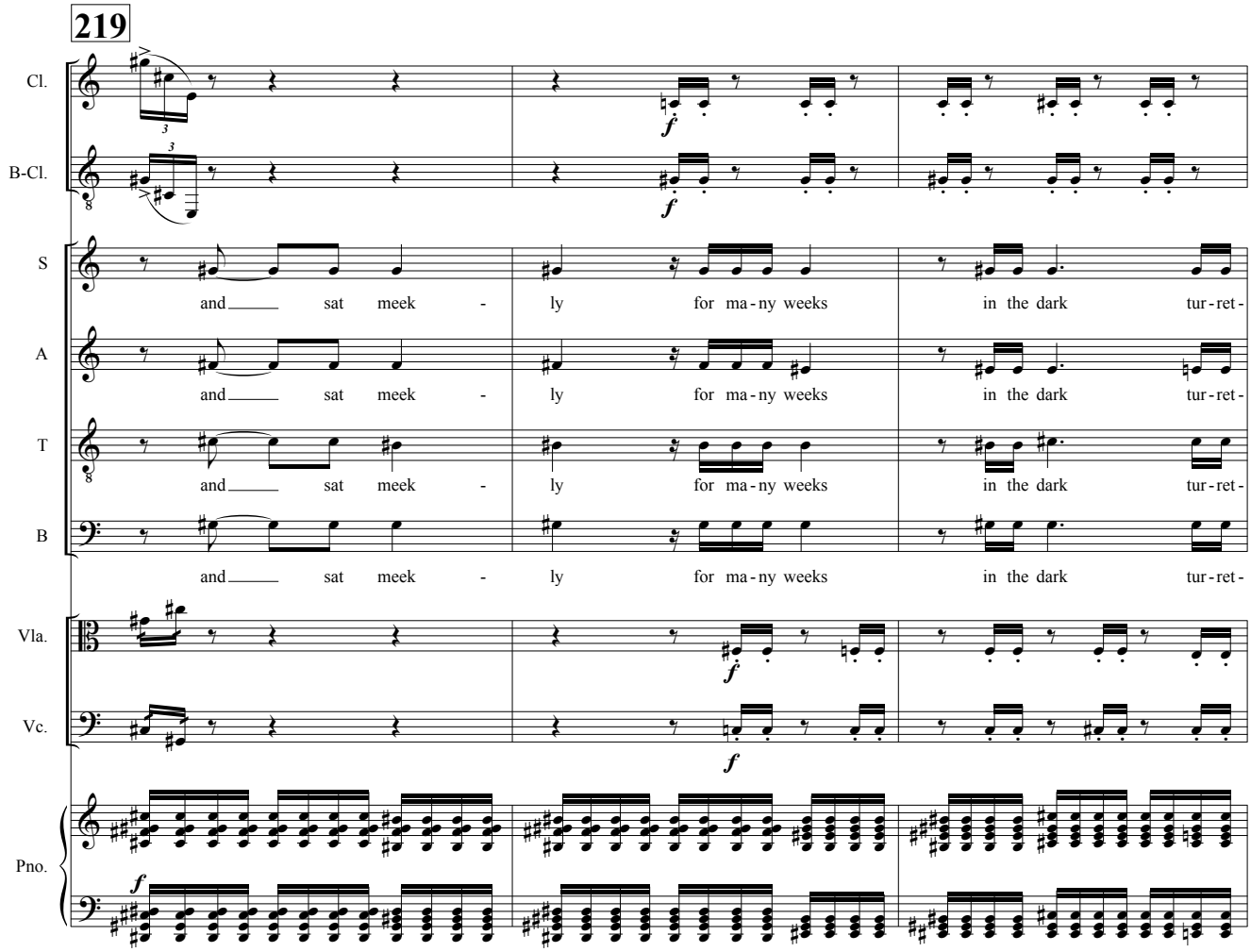

Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
ff
ff
The ar - tist soon spoke, spoke, spoke of his de-sire
f
f
f

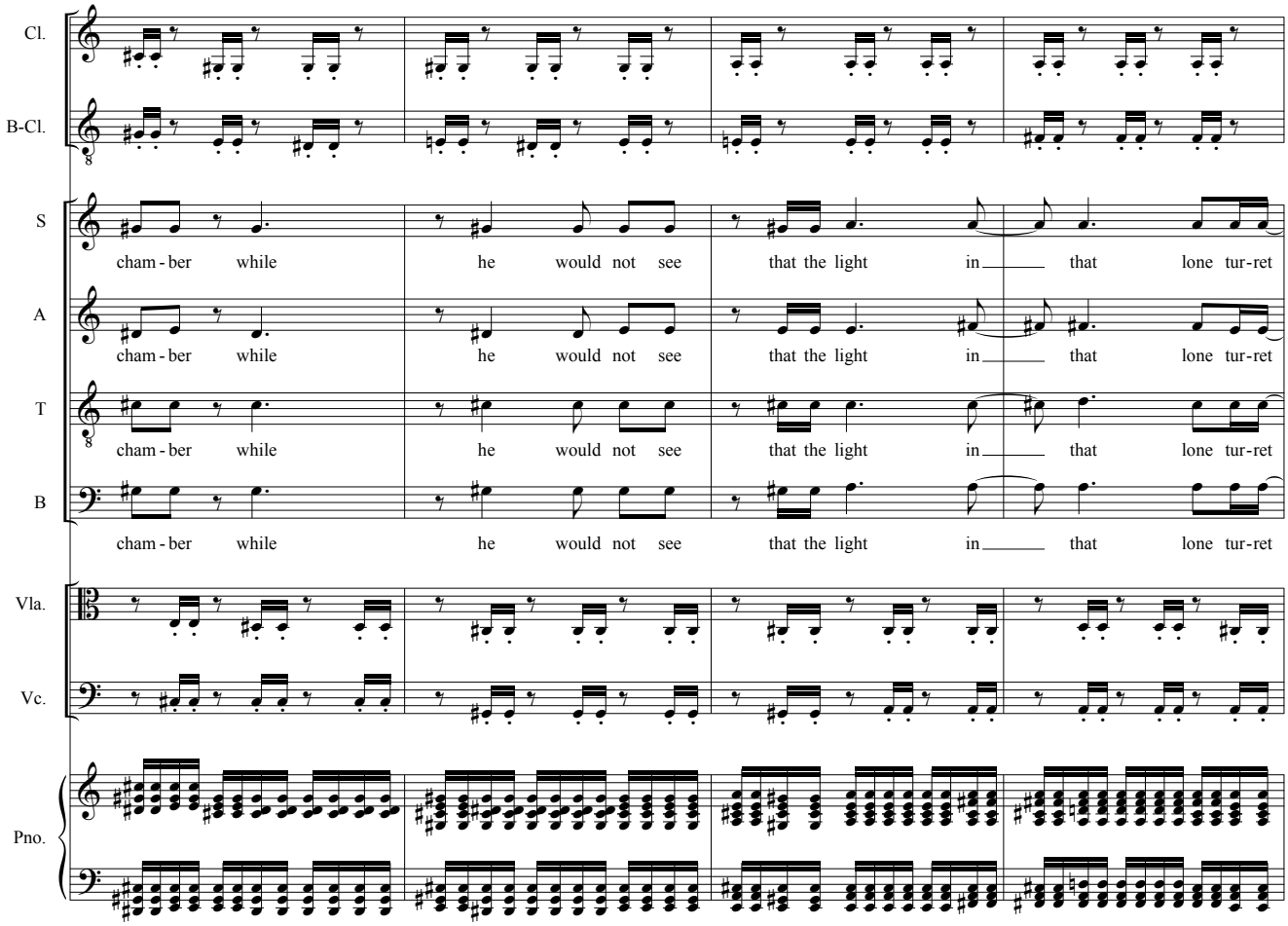

209
Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
to por - tray his, to por - tray his young bride; He,

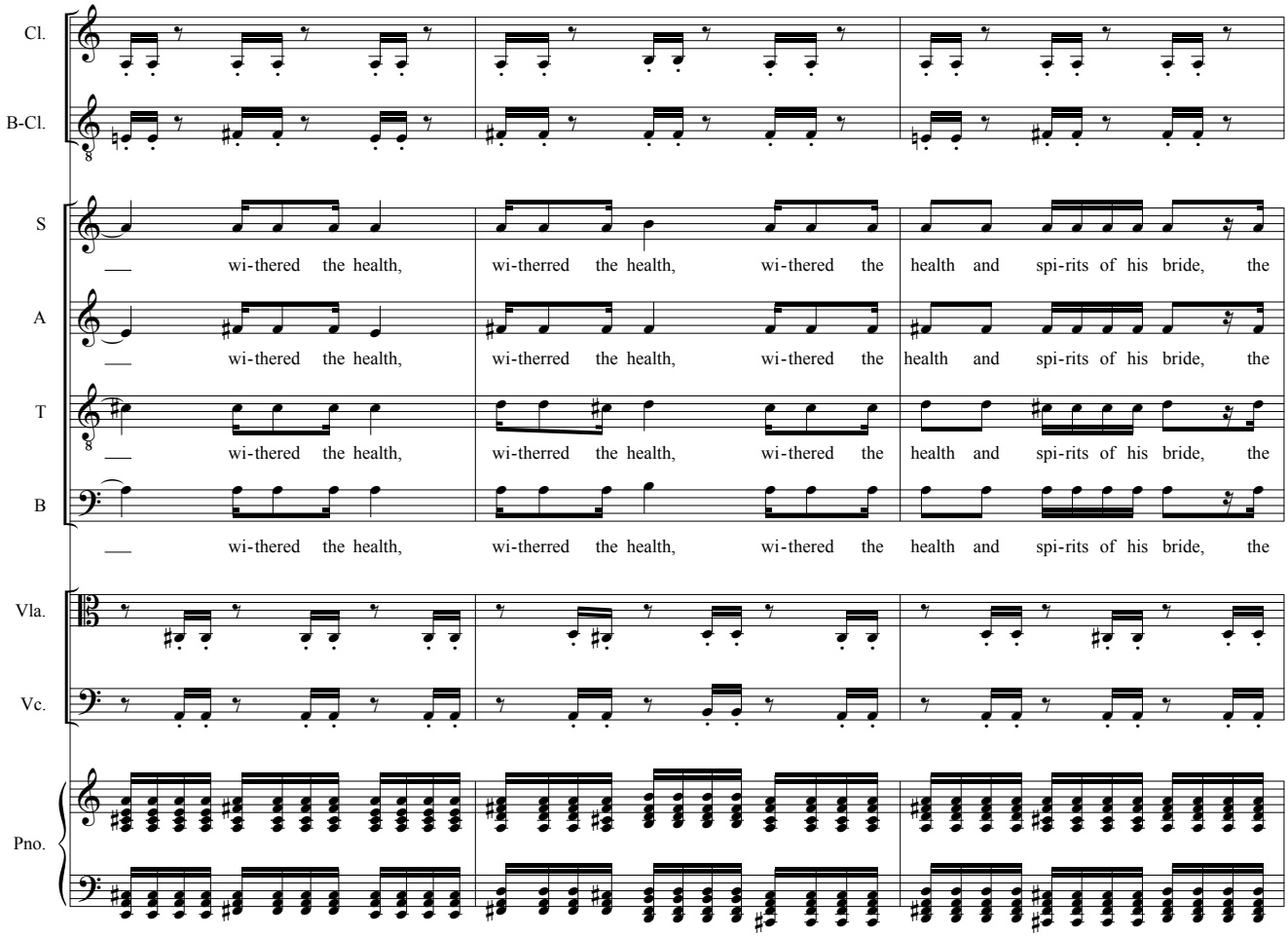

Cl.
B-Cl.
S
the pain - ter spoke of his de - sire to por - tray his young bride;
A
the pain - ter spoke of his de - sire to por - tray his young bride;
T
the pain - ter spoke of his de - sire to por - tray his young bride;
B
the pain - ter spoke of his de - sire to por - tray his young bride;
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

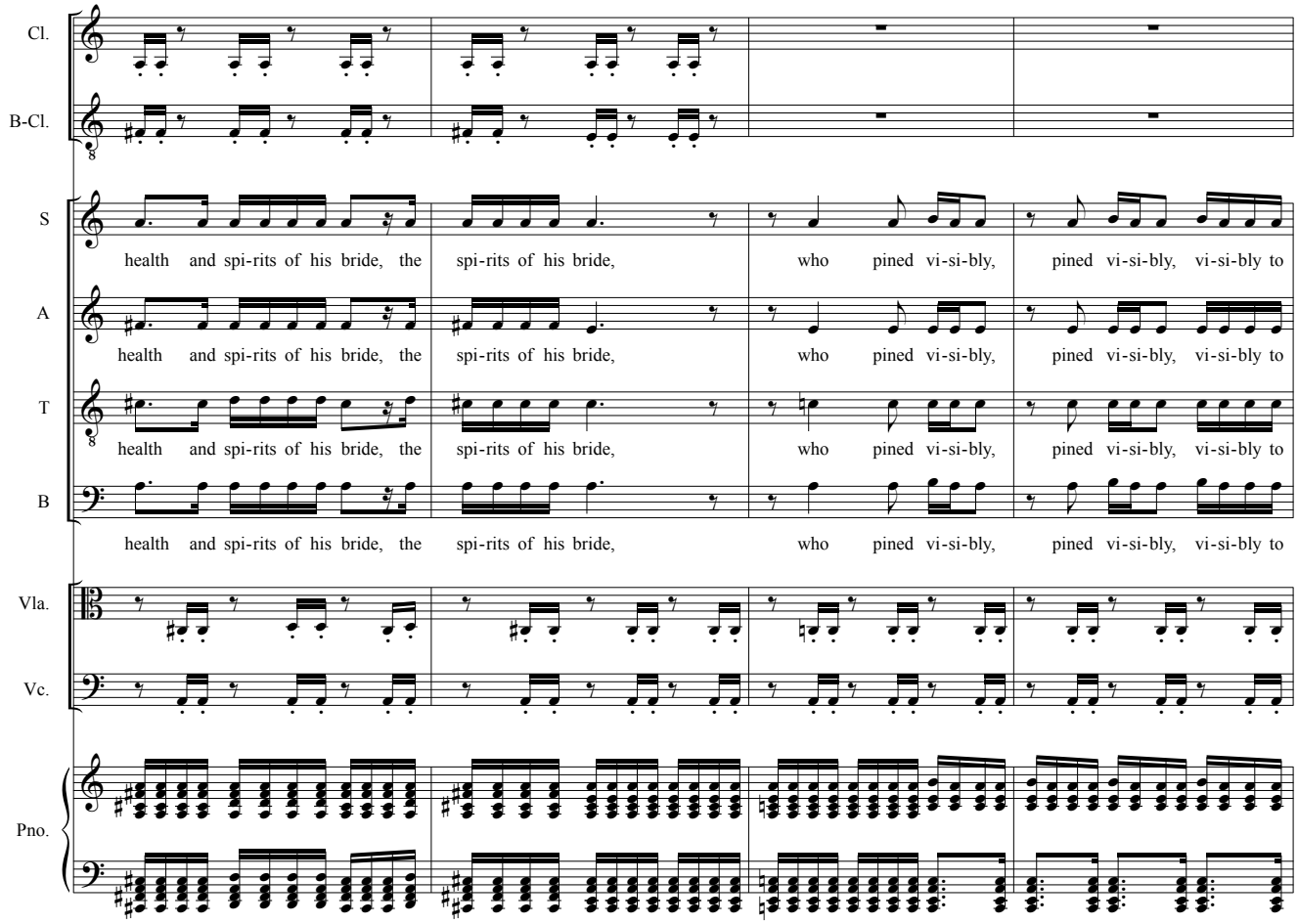

Cl.
B-Cl.
S
she was hum - ble, hum - ble and
A
she was hum - ble, hum - ble and
T
she was hum - ble, hum - ble and
B
she was hum - ble, hum - ble and
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

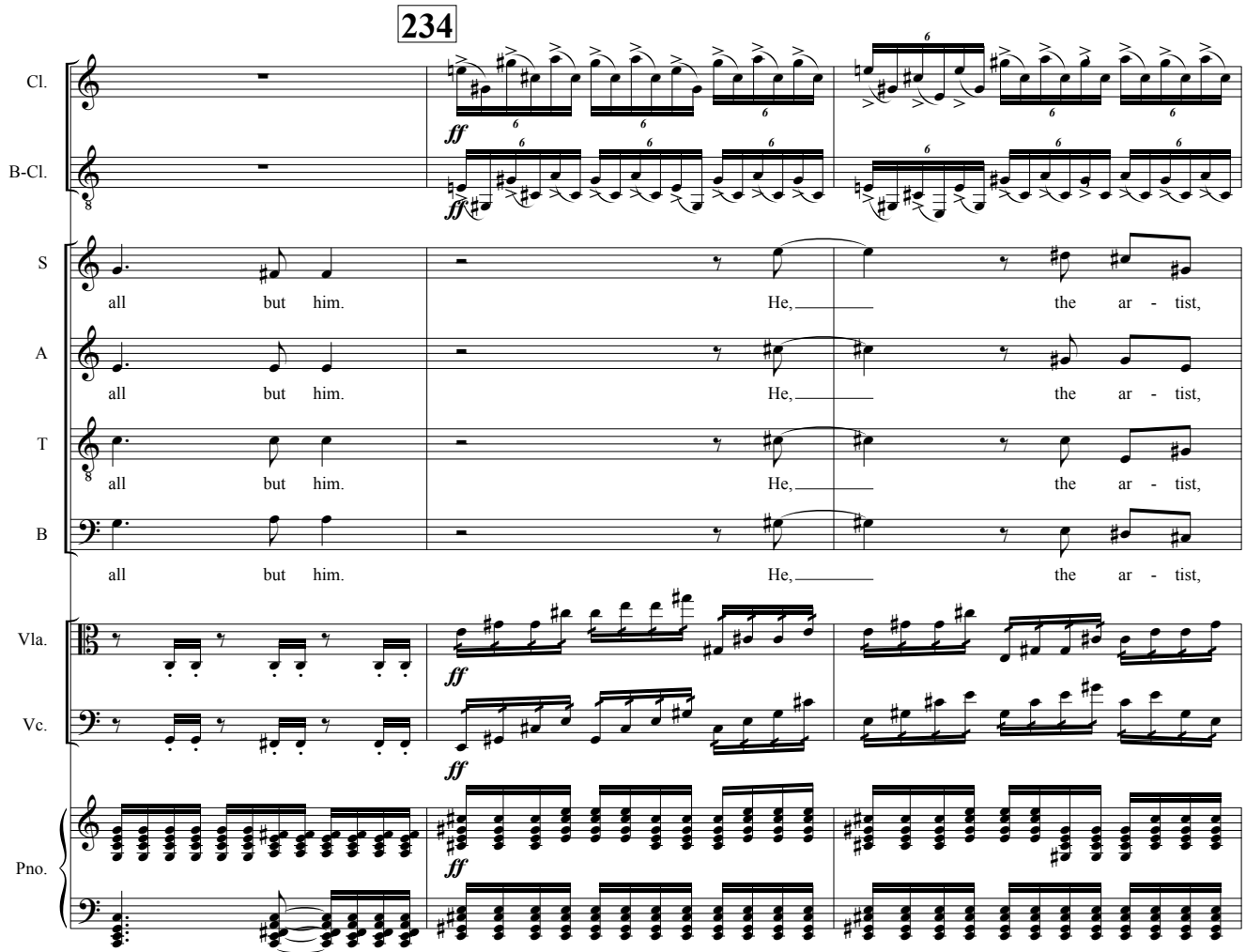

217
Cl.
B-Cl.
S
o - be - di-ent,
A
o - be - di-ent,
T
o - be - di-ent,
B
o - be - di-ent,
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
ff

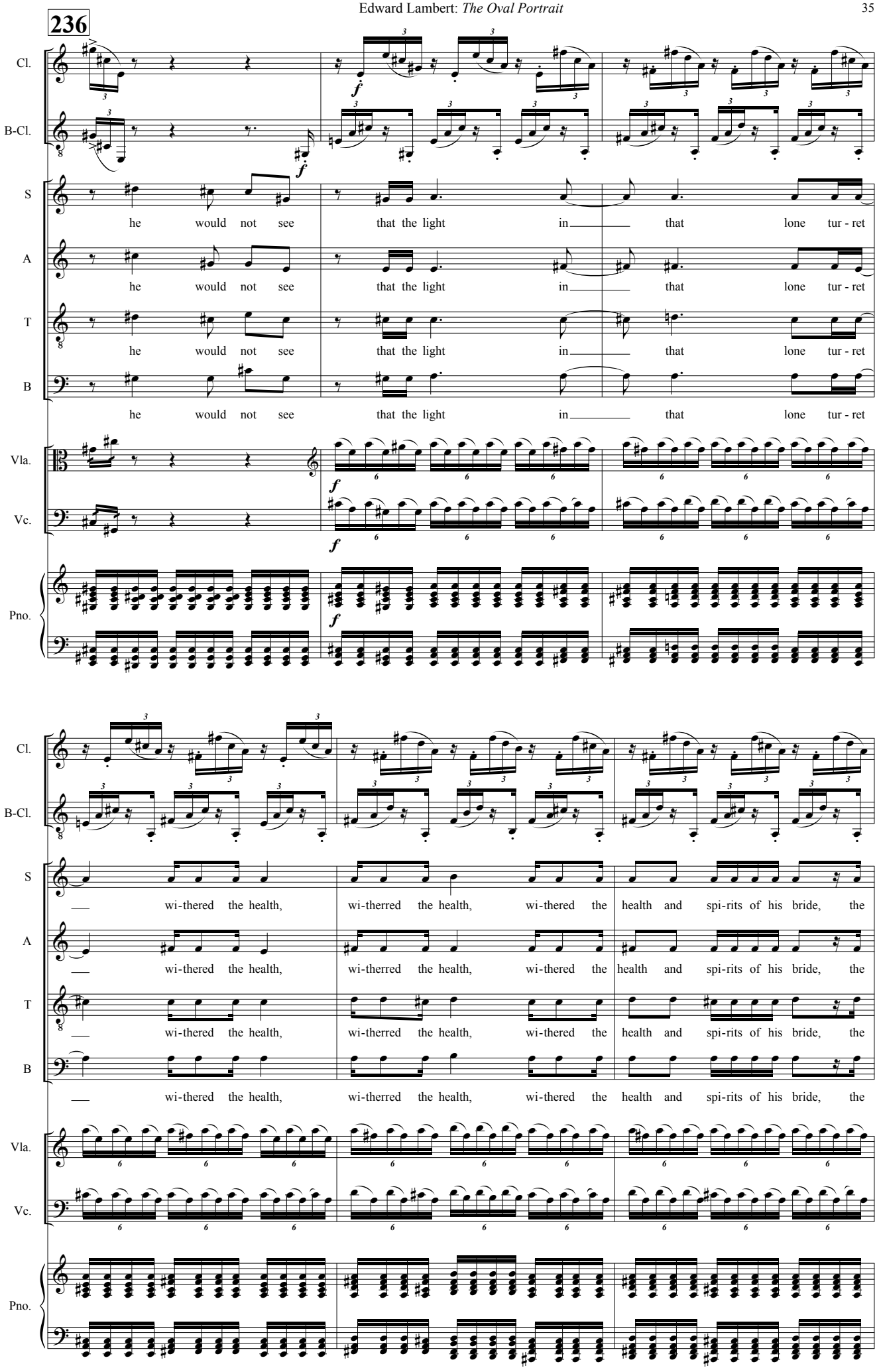

219
Cl.
B-Cl.
S
and sat meek - ly for ma-ny weeks in the dark tur-ret-
A
and sat meek - ly for ma-ny weeks in the dark tur-ret-
T
and sat meek - ly for ma-ny weeks in the dark tur-ret-
B
and sat meek - ly for ma-ny weeks in the dark tur-ret-
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
f

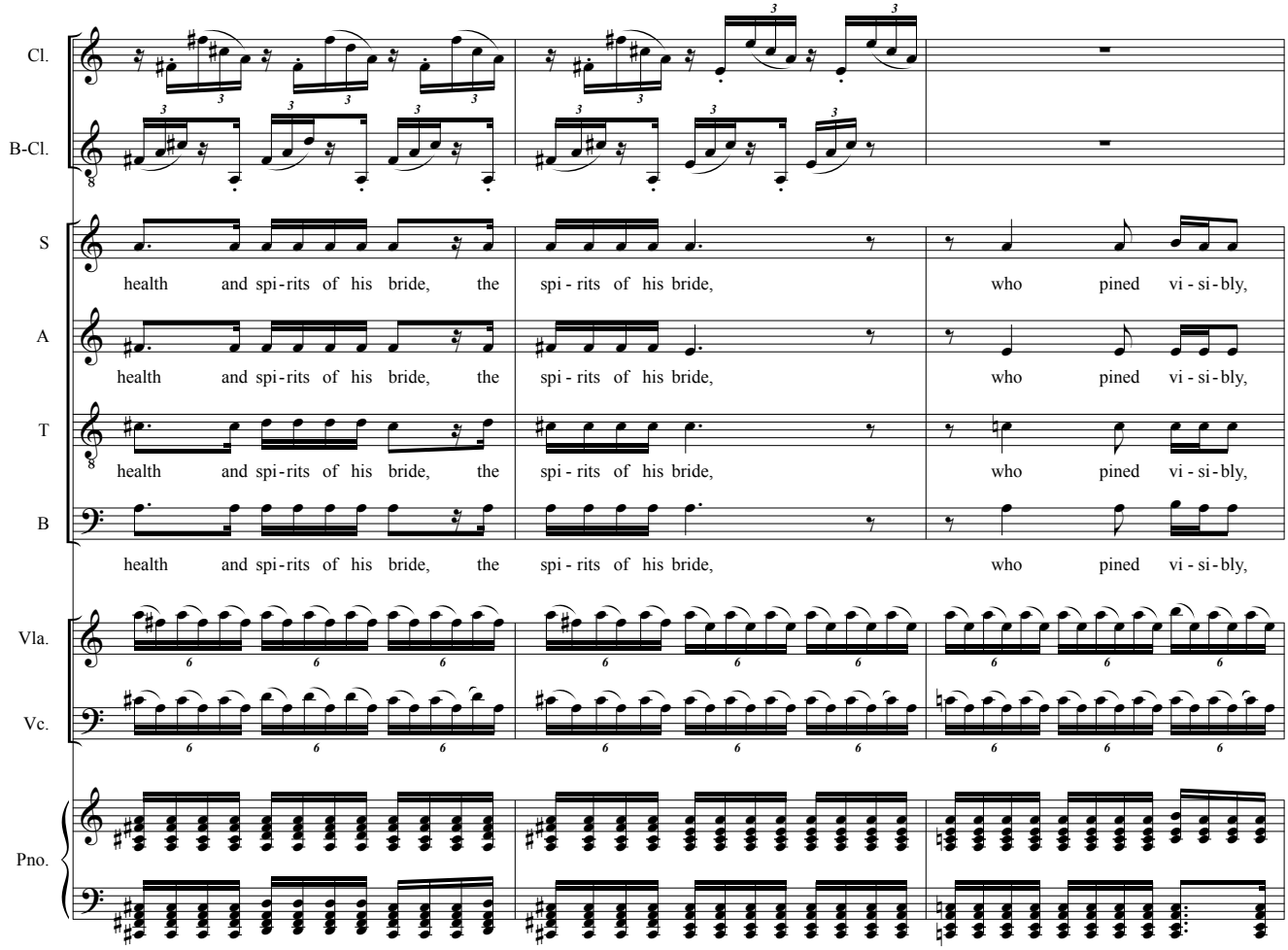

Cl.
B-Cl.
S
cham - ber while he would not see that the light in that lone tur-ret
A
cham - ber while he would not see that the light in that lone tur-ret
T
cham - ber while he would not see that the light in that lone tur-ret
B
cham - ber while he would not see that the light in that lone tur-ret
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

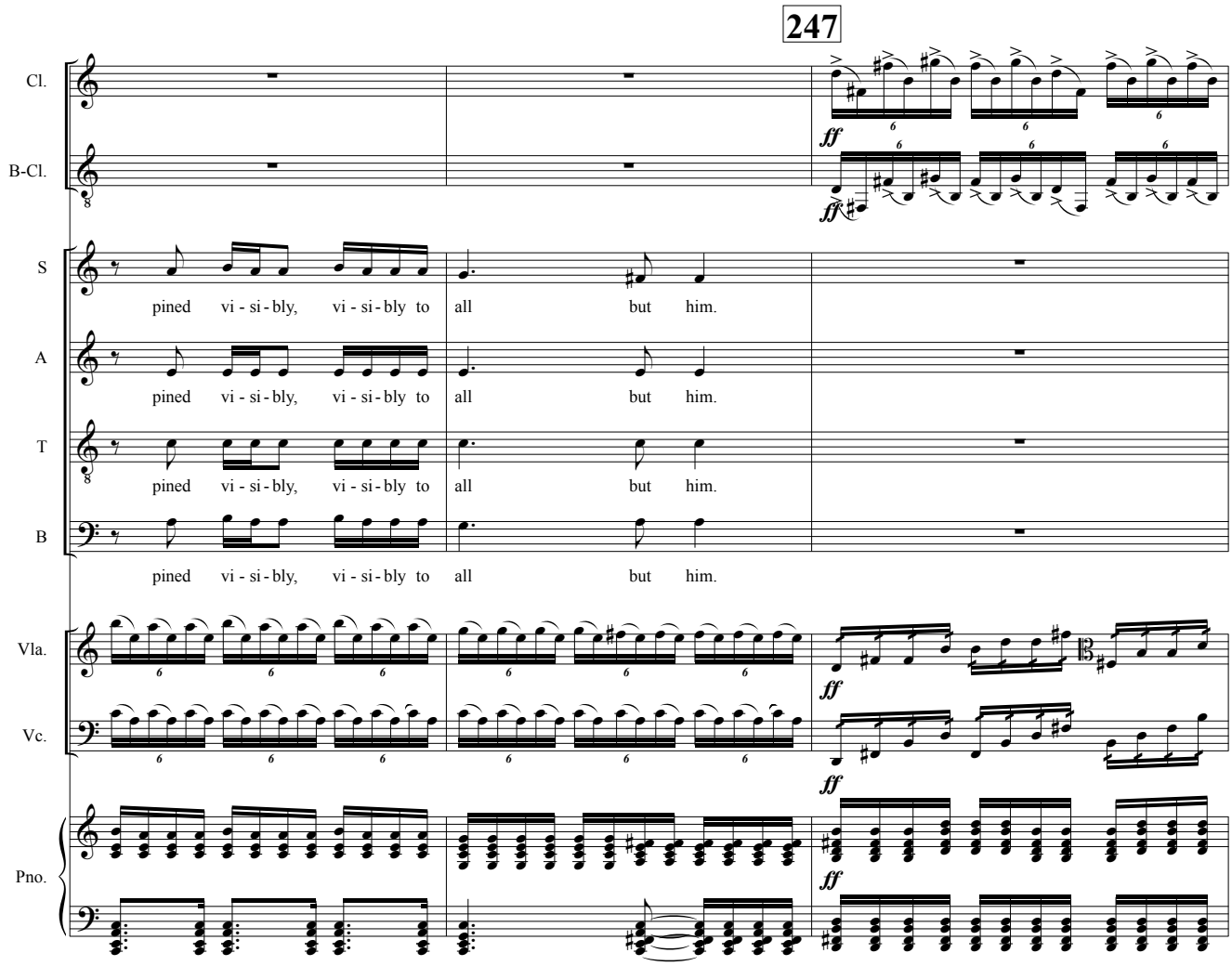

Cl.
B-Cl.
S
wi-thered the health, wi-therred the health, wi-thered the health and spi-rits of his bride, the
A
wi-thered the health, wi-therred the health, wi-thered the health and spi-rits of his bride, the
T
wi-thered the health, wi-therred the health, wi-thered the health and spi-rits of his bride, the
B
wi-thered the health, wi-therred the health, wi-thered the health and spi-rits of his bride, the
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

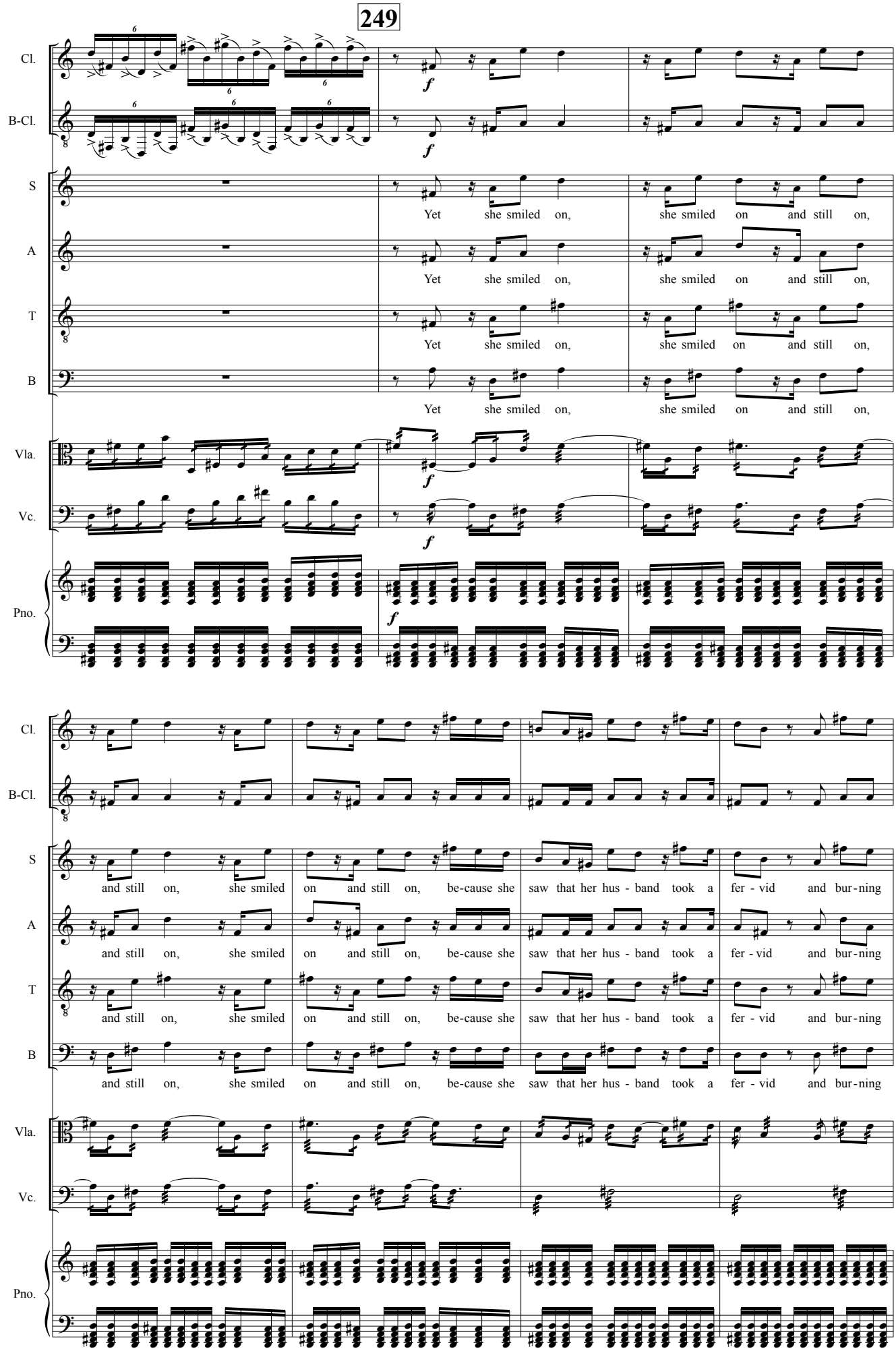

Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
health and spi-rits of his bride, the spi-rits of his bride, who pined vi-si-bly, pined vi-si-bly, vi-si-bly to
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

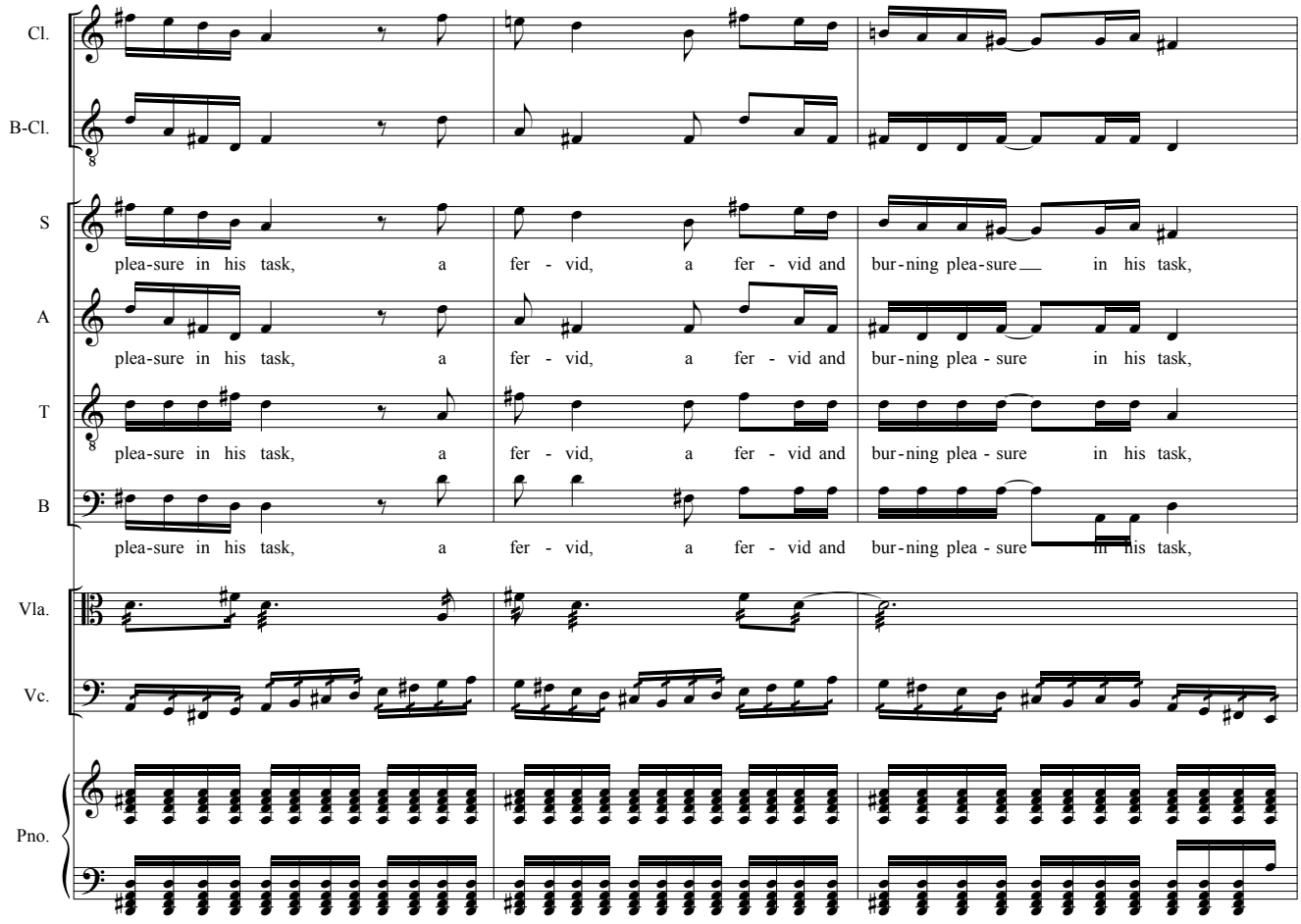

234
Cl.
B-Cl.
ff
S
A
T
B
all but him. He, the ar - tist,
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

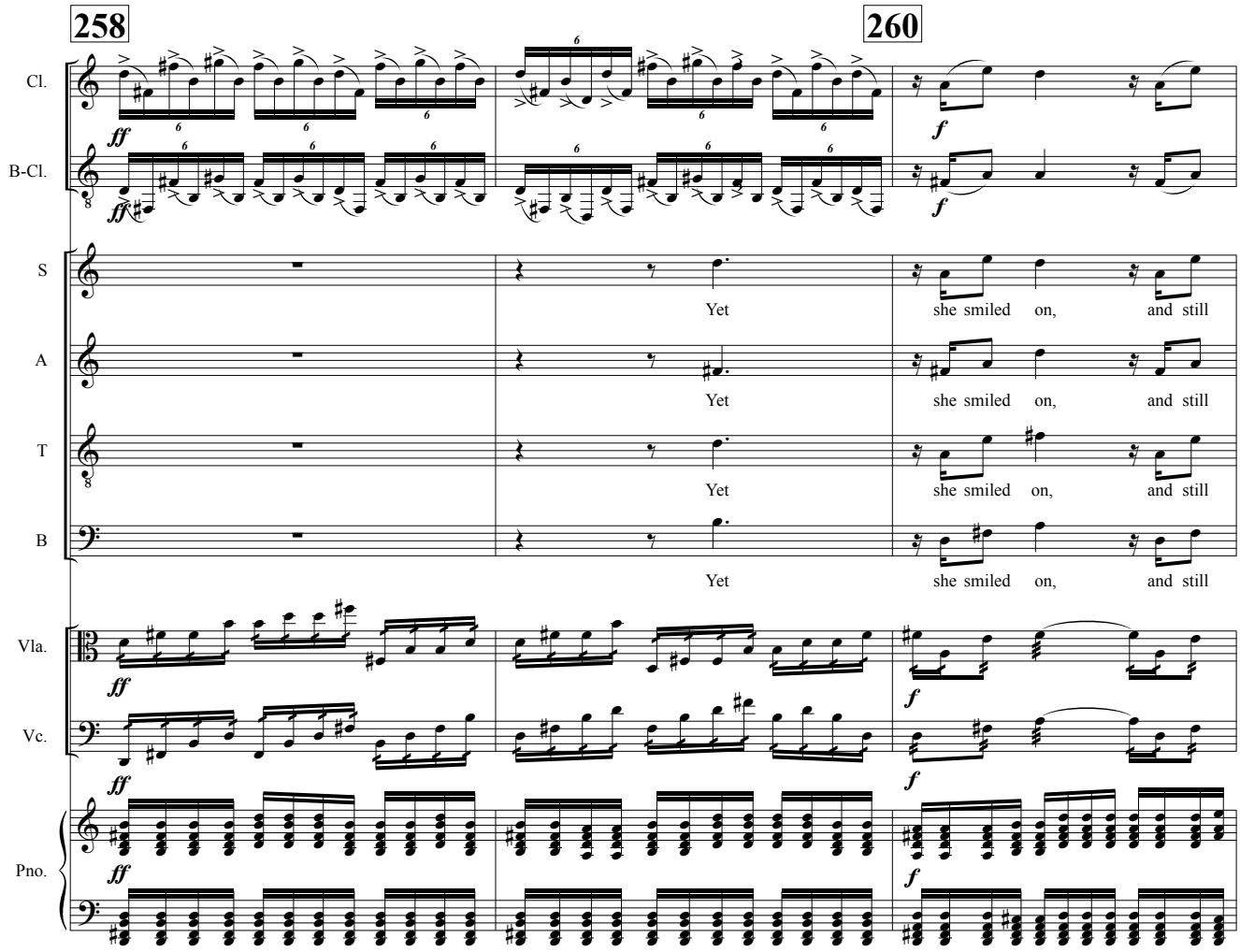

236
Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
he would not see that the light in that lone tur - ret
wi-thered the health, wi-therred the health, wi-thered the health and spi-rits of his bride, the

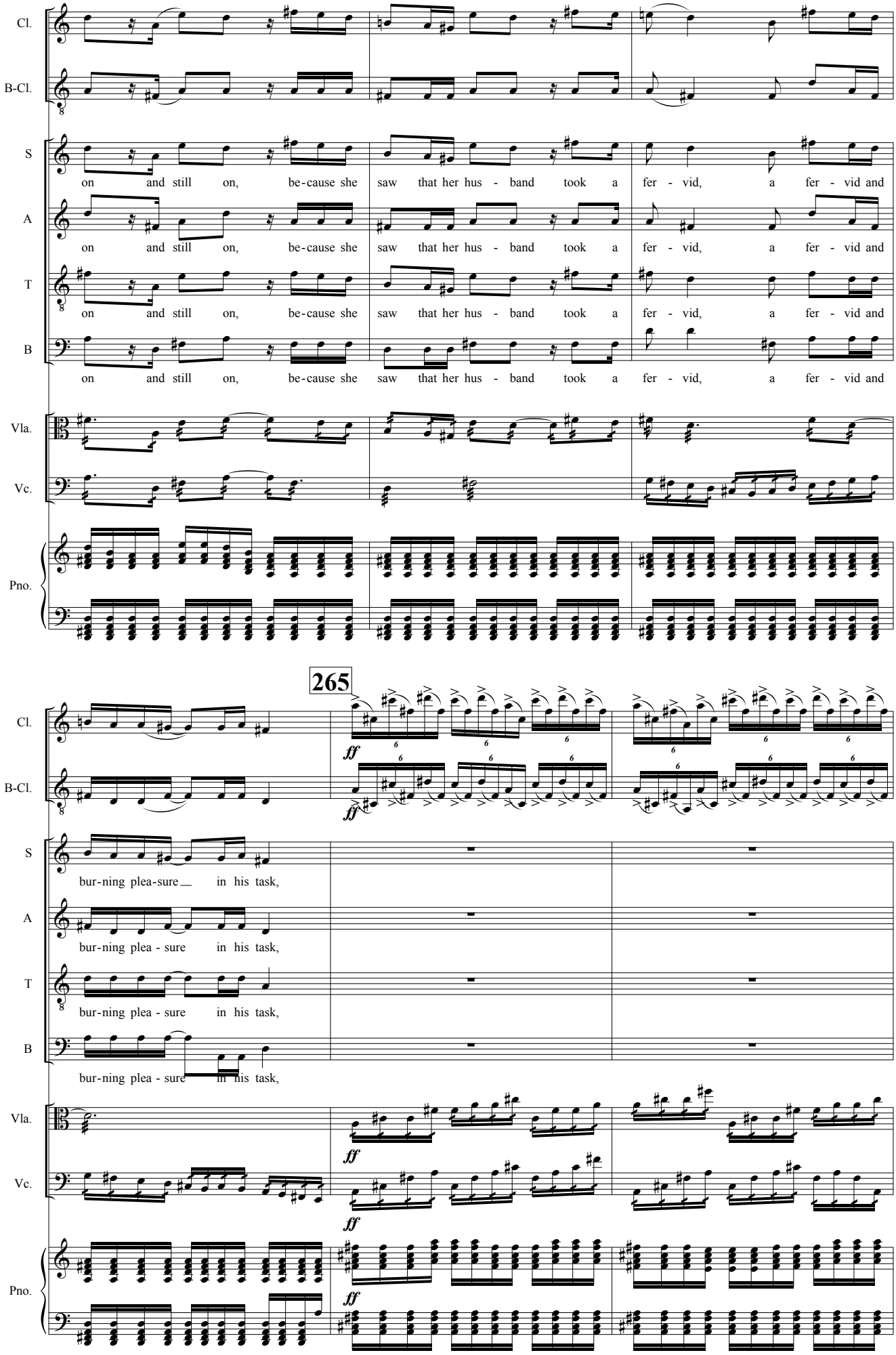

Cl.
B-Cl.
S
health and spi-rits of his bride, the spi-rits of his bride, who pined vi-si-bly,
A
health and spi-rits of his bride, the spi-rits of his bride, who pined vi-si-bly,
T
health and spi-rits of his bride, the spi-rits of his bride, who pined vi-si-bly,
B
health and spi-rits of his bride, the spi-rits of his bride, who pined vi-si-bly,
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

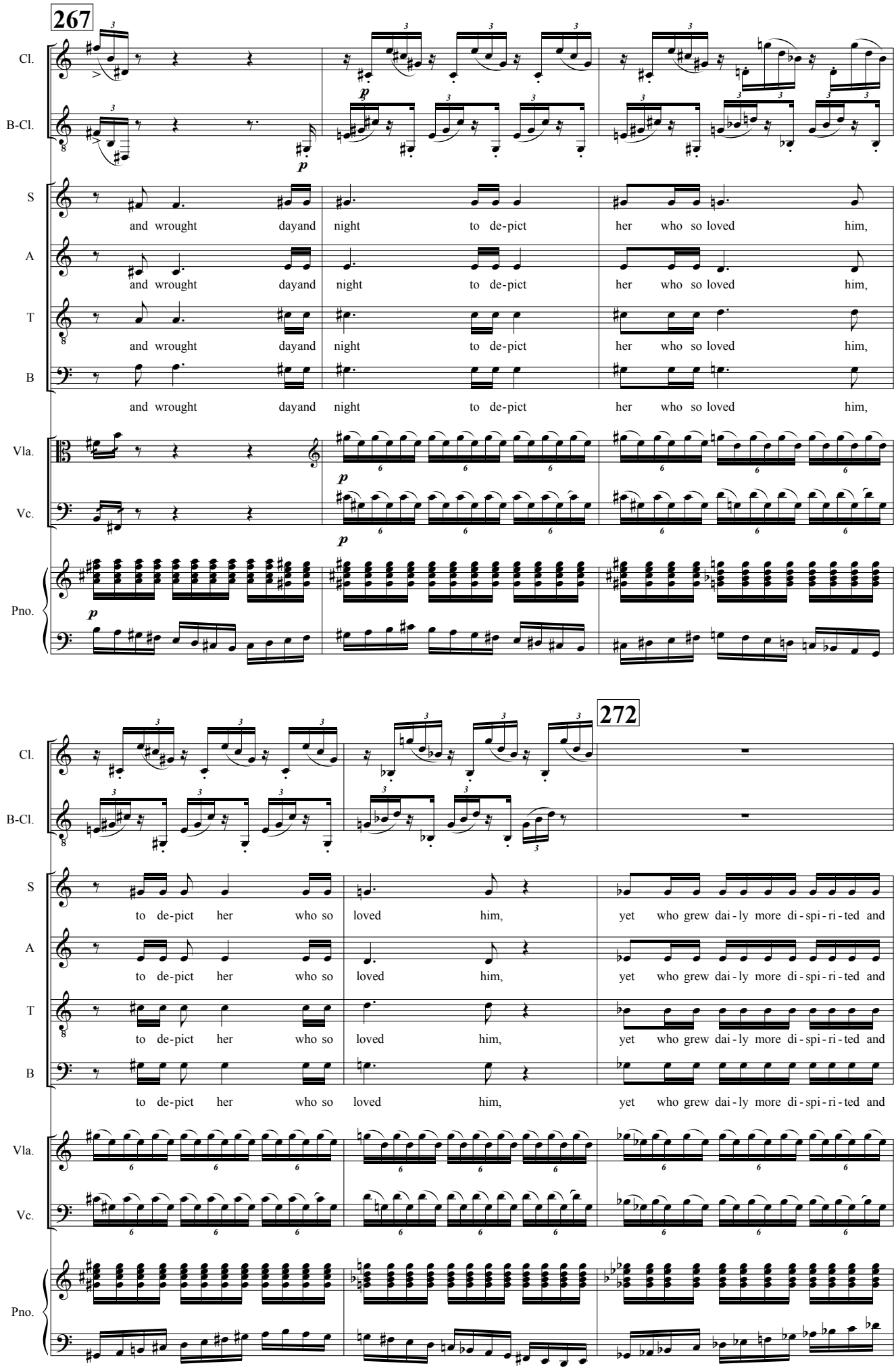

247
Cl.
B-Cl.
ff
S
pined vi-si-bly, vi-si-bly to all but him.
A
pined vi-si-bly, vi-si-bly to all but him.
T
pined vi-si-bly, vi-si-bly to all but him.
B
pined vi-si-bly, vi-si-bly to all but him.
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

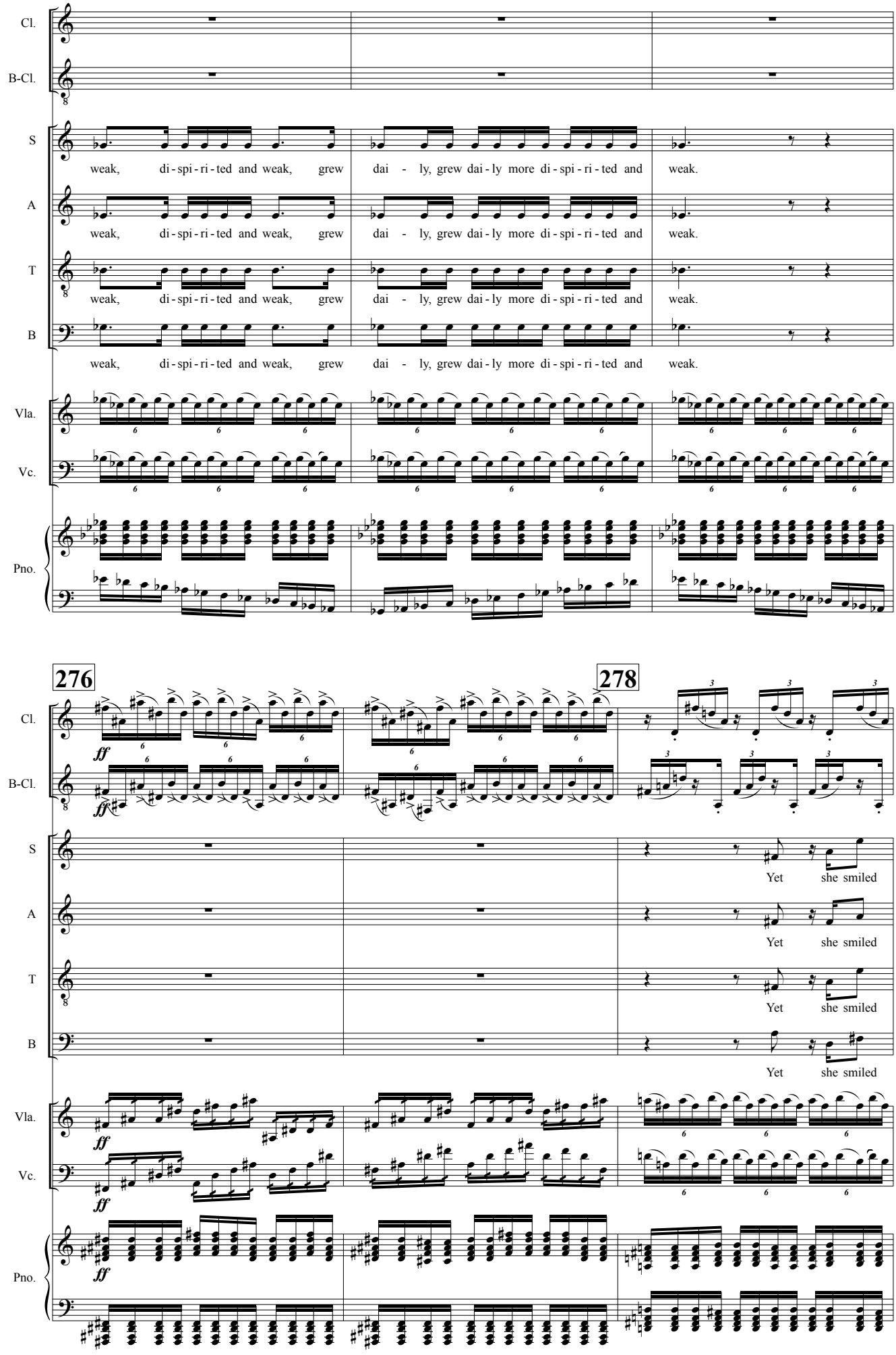

249
Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
Yet she smiled on, she smiled on and still on,
and still on, she smiled on and still on, be-cause she saw that her hus - band took a fer - vid and bur-ning

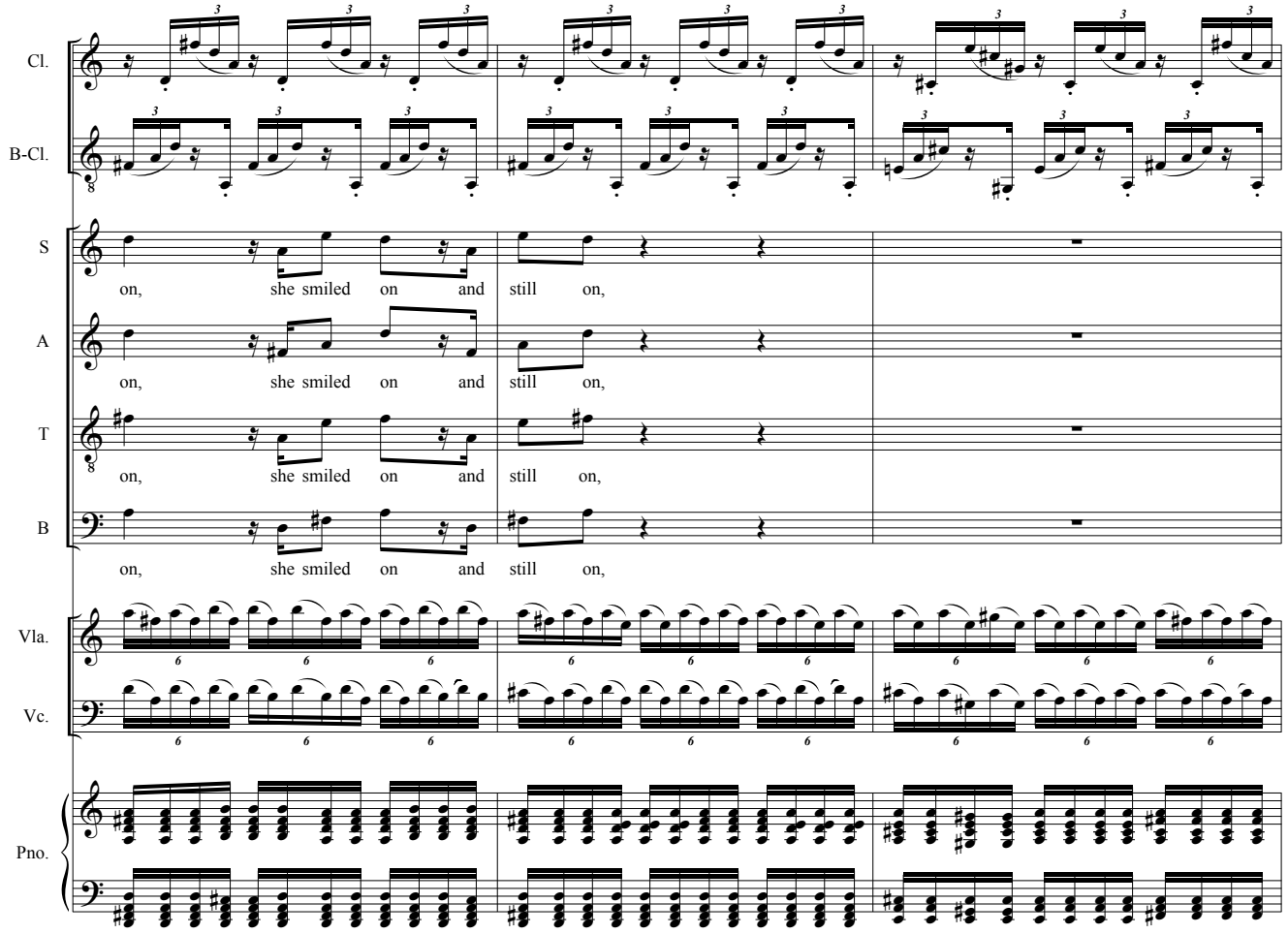

Cl.
B-Cl.
S
plea-sure in his task, a fer - vid, a fer - vid and bur-ning plea-sure in his task,
A
plea-sure in his task, a fer - vid, a fer - vid and bur-ning plea - sure in his task,
T
plea-sure in his task, a fer - vid, a fer - vid and bur-ning plea - sure in his task,
B
plea-sure in his task, a fer - vid, a fer - vid and bur-ning plea - sure in his task,
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

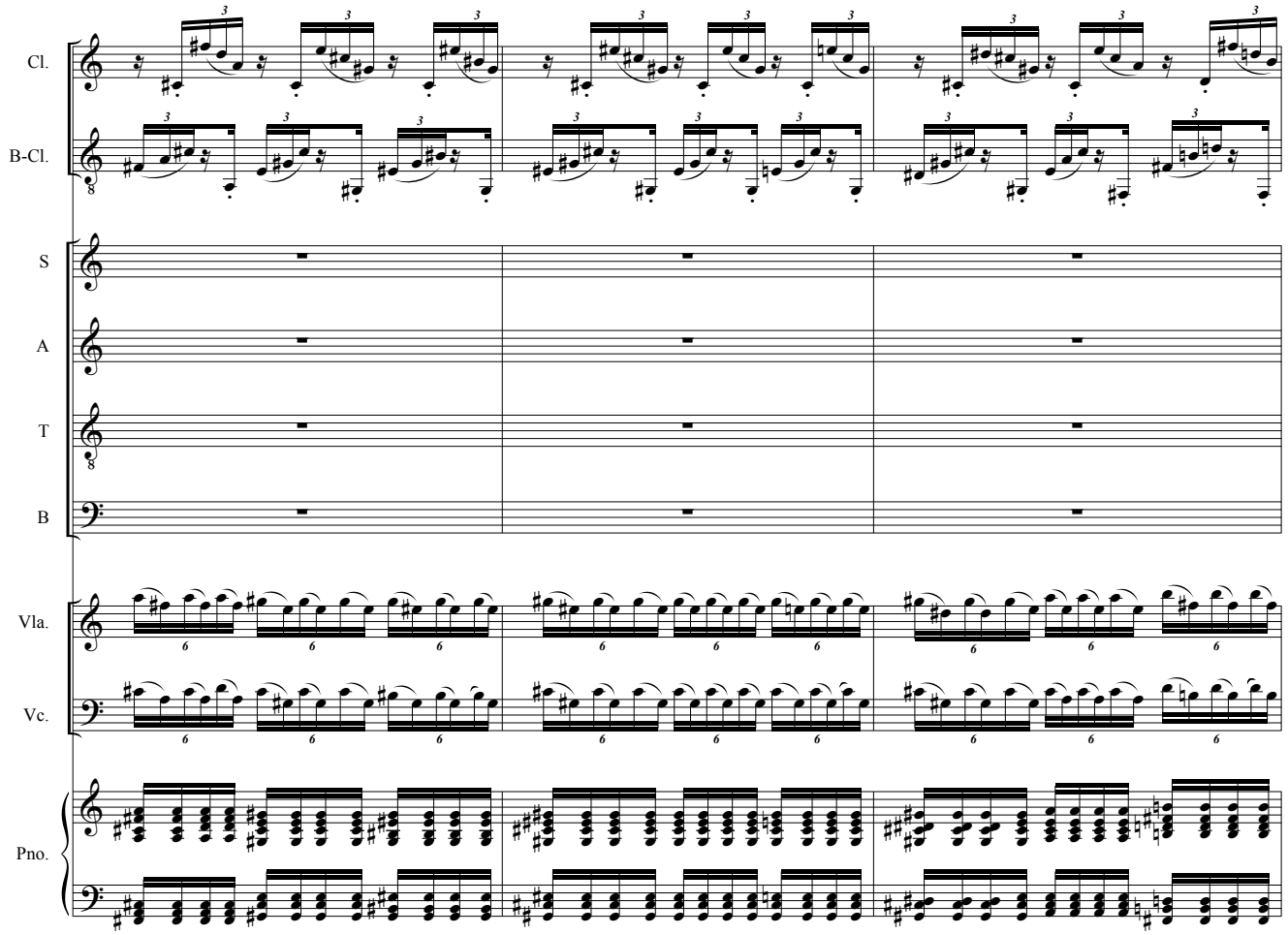

258
260
Cl.
B-Cl.
ff
f
S
Yet she smiled on, and still
A
Yet she smiled on, and still
T
Yet she smiled on, and still
B
Yet she smiled on, and still
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

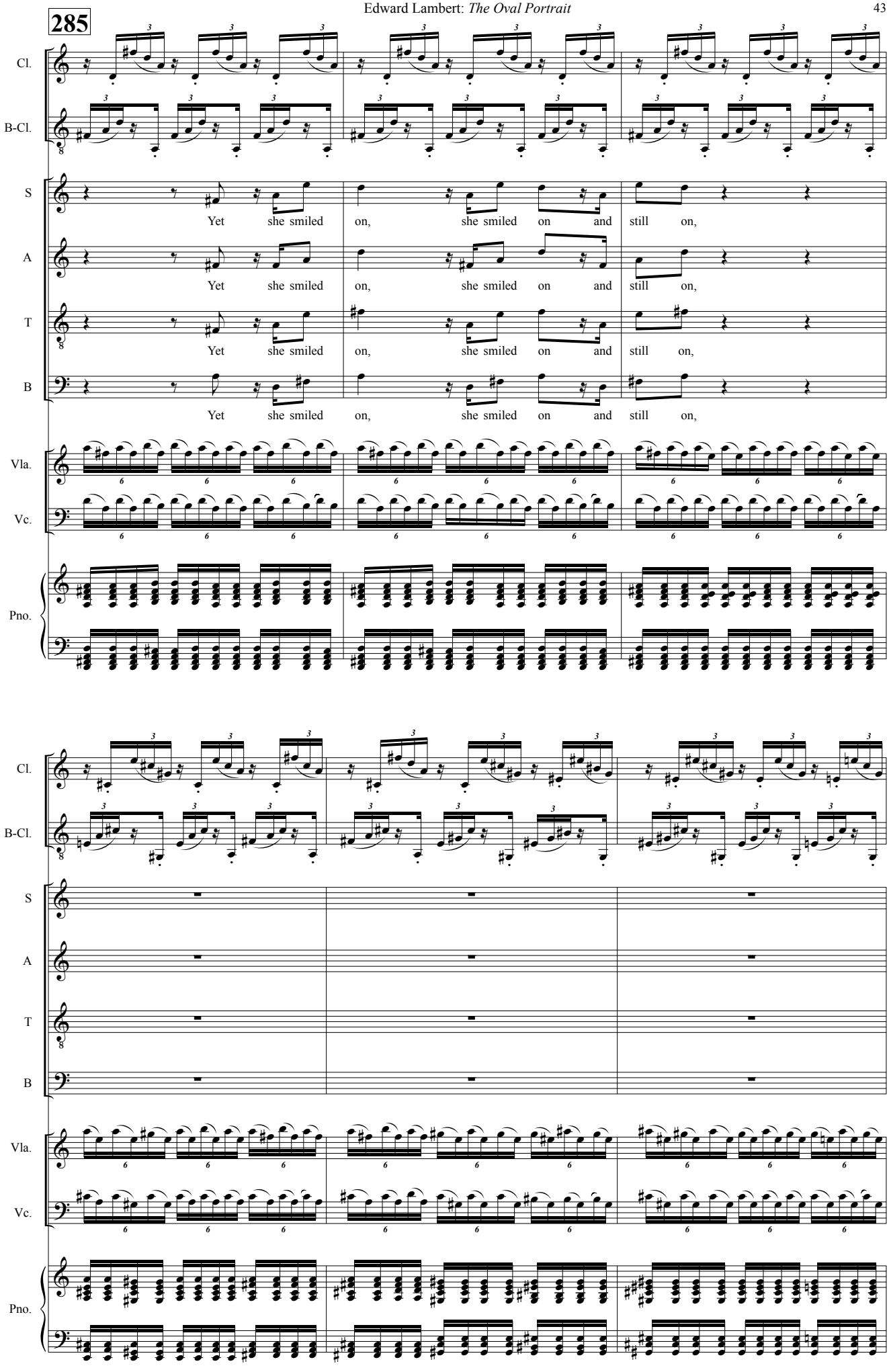

Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
on and still on, be-cause she saw that her hus - band took a fer - vid, a fer - vid and
265
ff
bur-ning plea-sure in his task,
bur-ning plea - sure in his task,

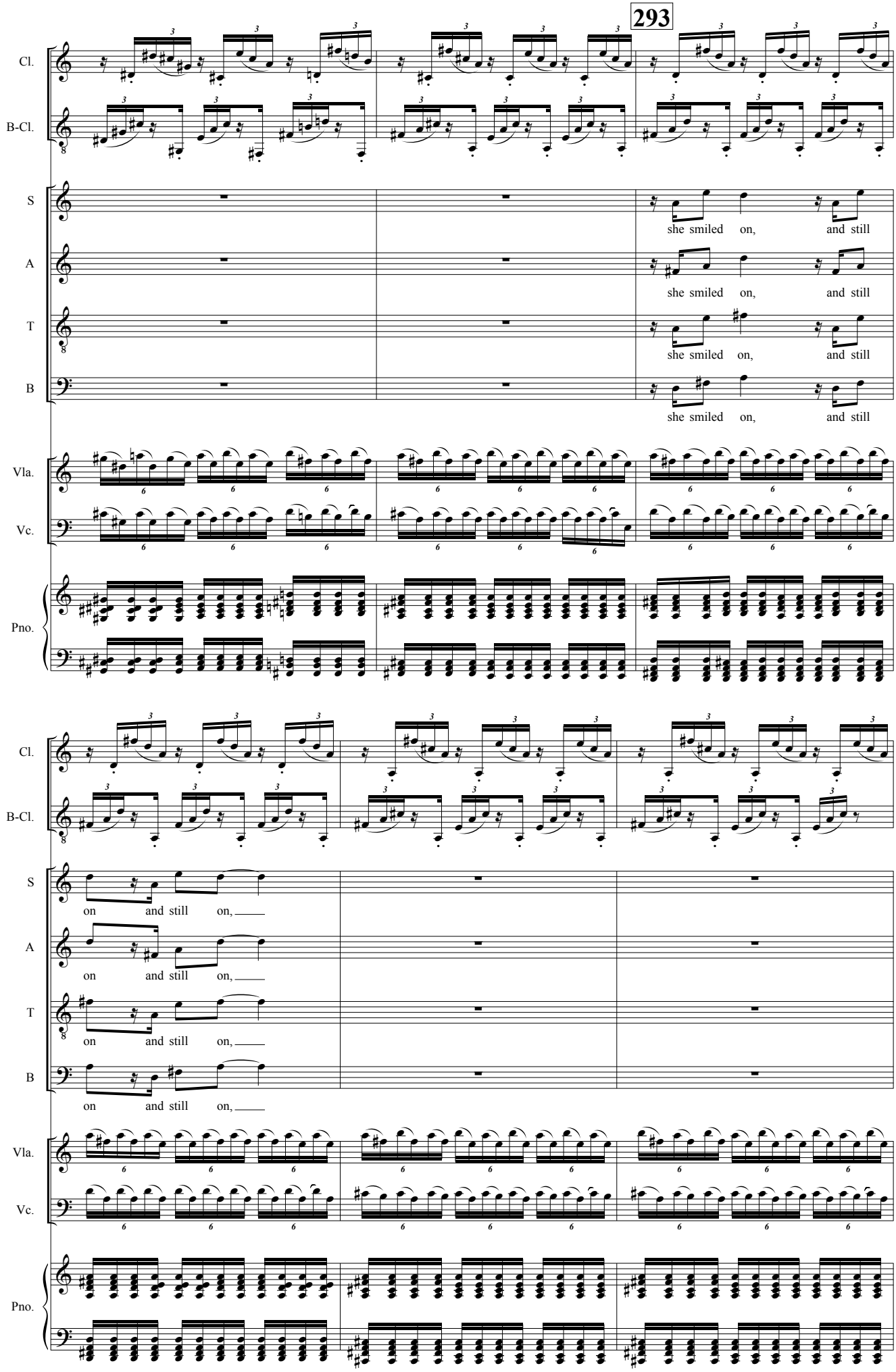

267
Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
and wrought dayand night to de-pict her who so loved him,
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
p
272
to de-pict her who so loved him, yet who grew dai-ly more di-spi-ri-ted and

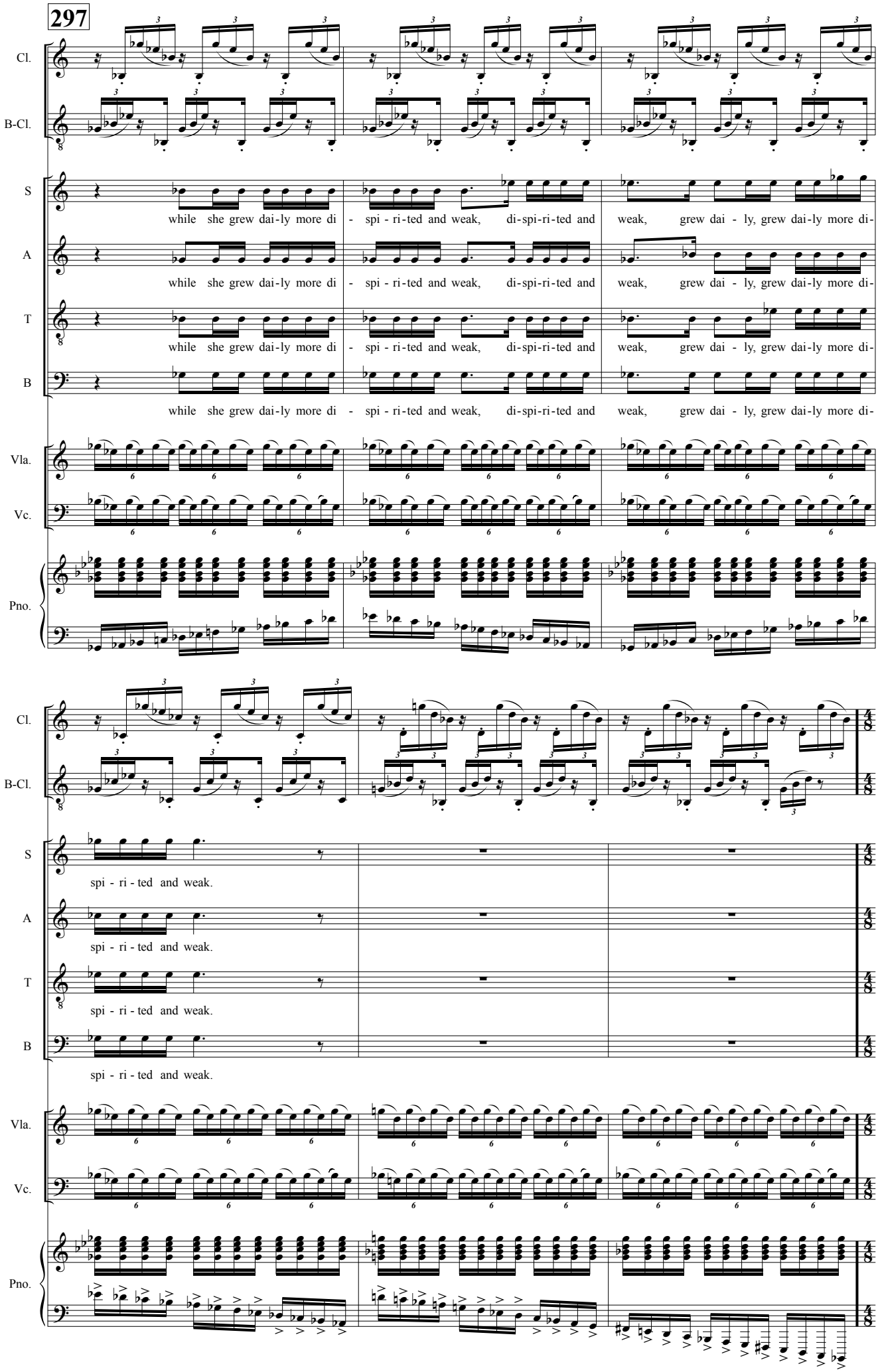

Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
weak, di - spi - ri - ted and weak, grew dai - ly, grew dai - ly more di - spi - ri - ted and weak.
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
276
278
ff
Yet she smiled

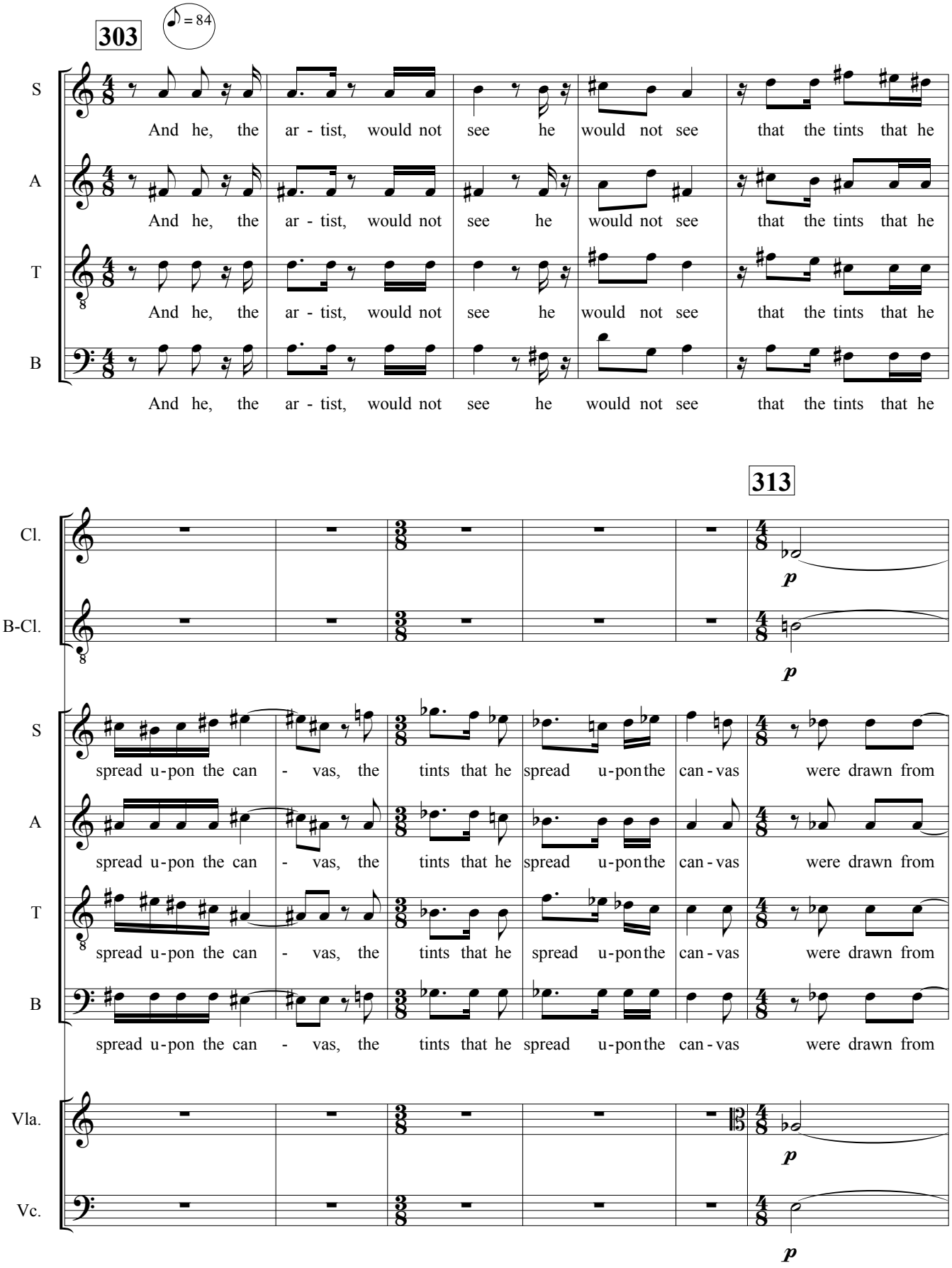

Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
on, she smiled on and still on,
on, she smiled on and still on,
on, she smiled on and still on,
on, she smiled on and still on,

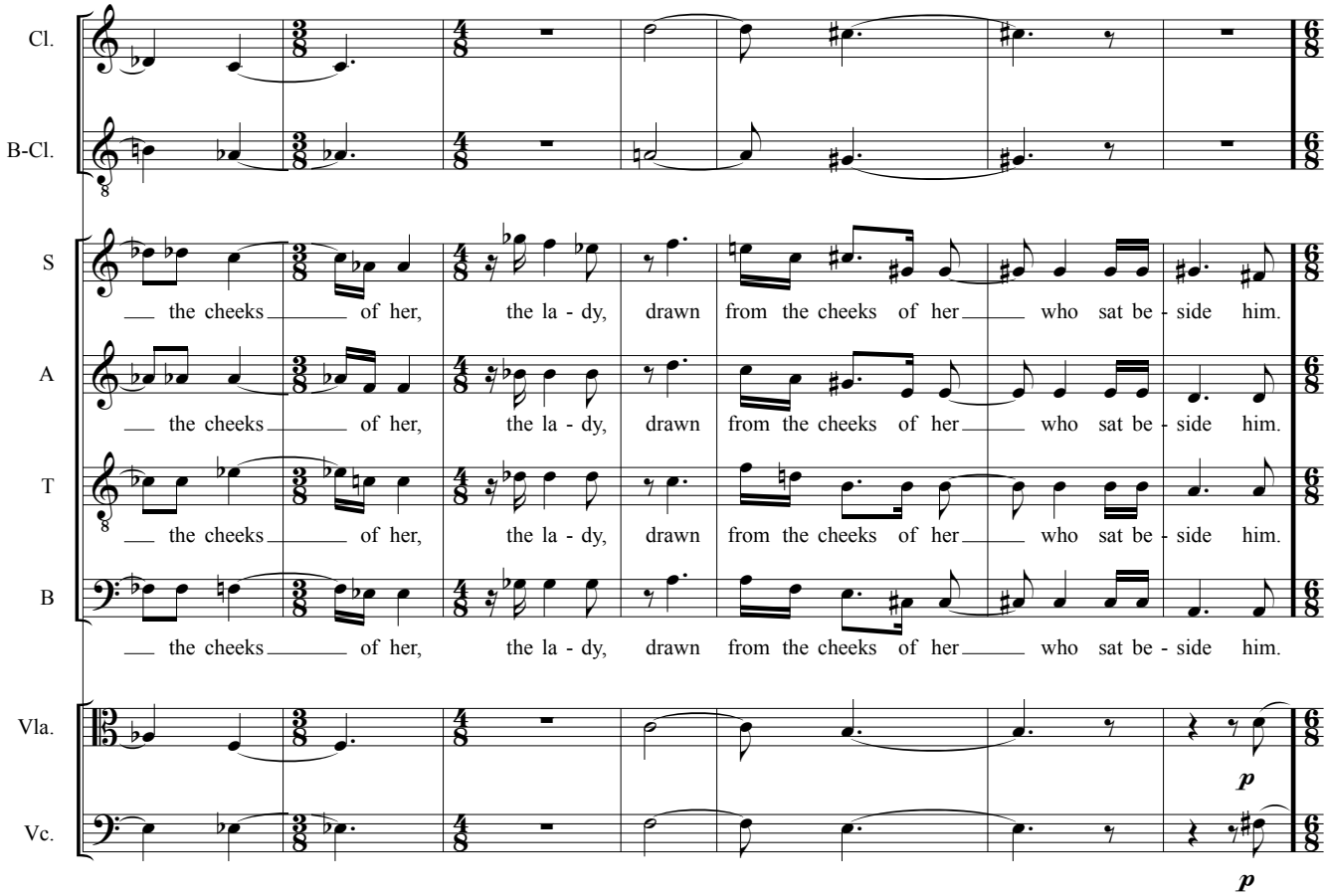

Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

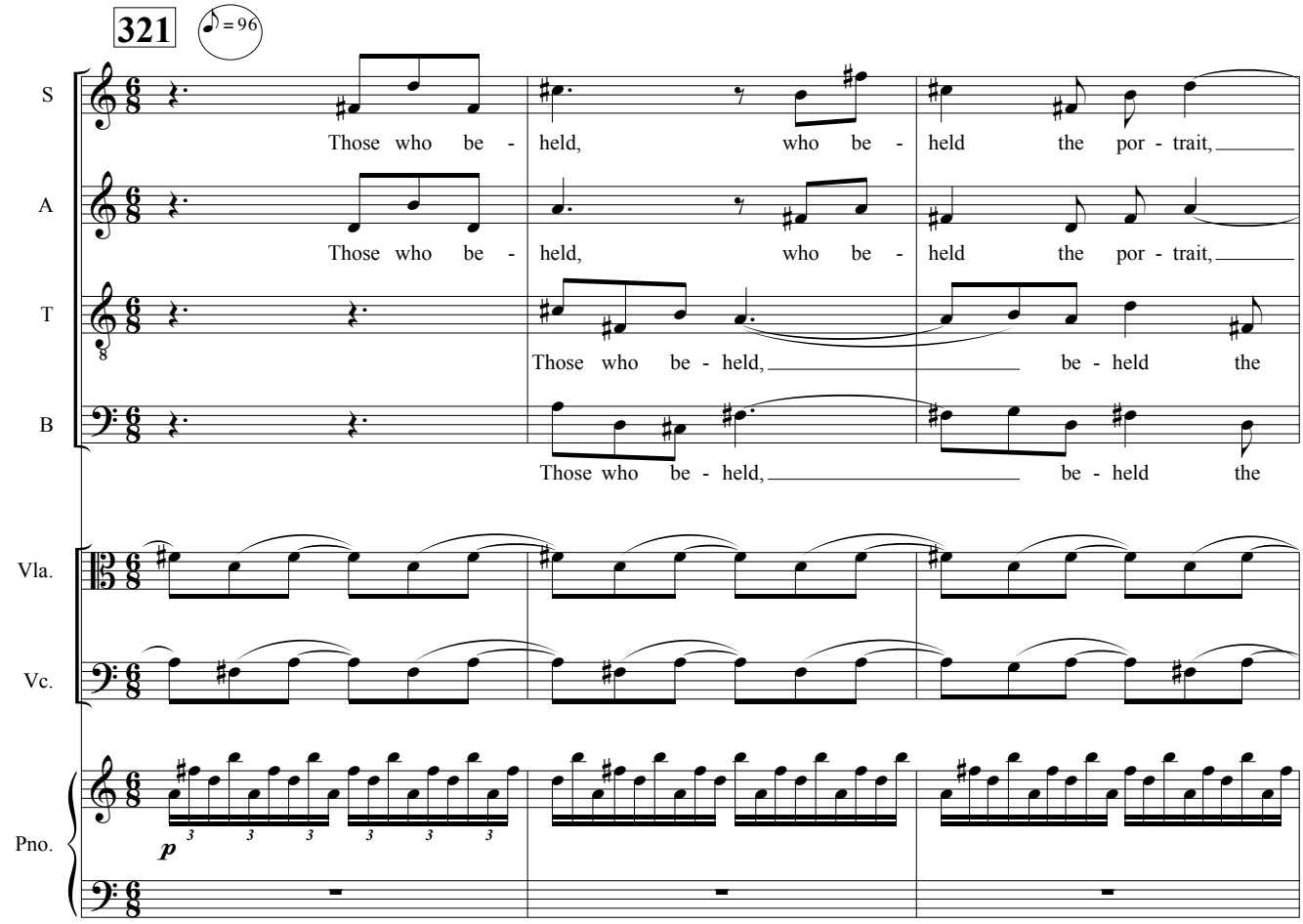

285
Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Yet she smiled on, she smiled on and still on,
Yet she smiled on, she smiled on and still on,
Yet she smiled on, she smiled on and still on,
Yet she smiled on, she smiled on and still on,
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

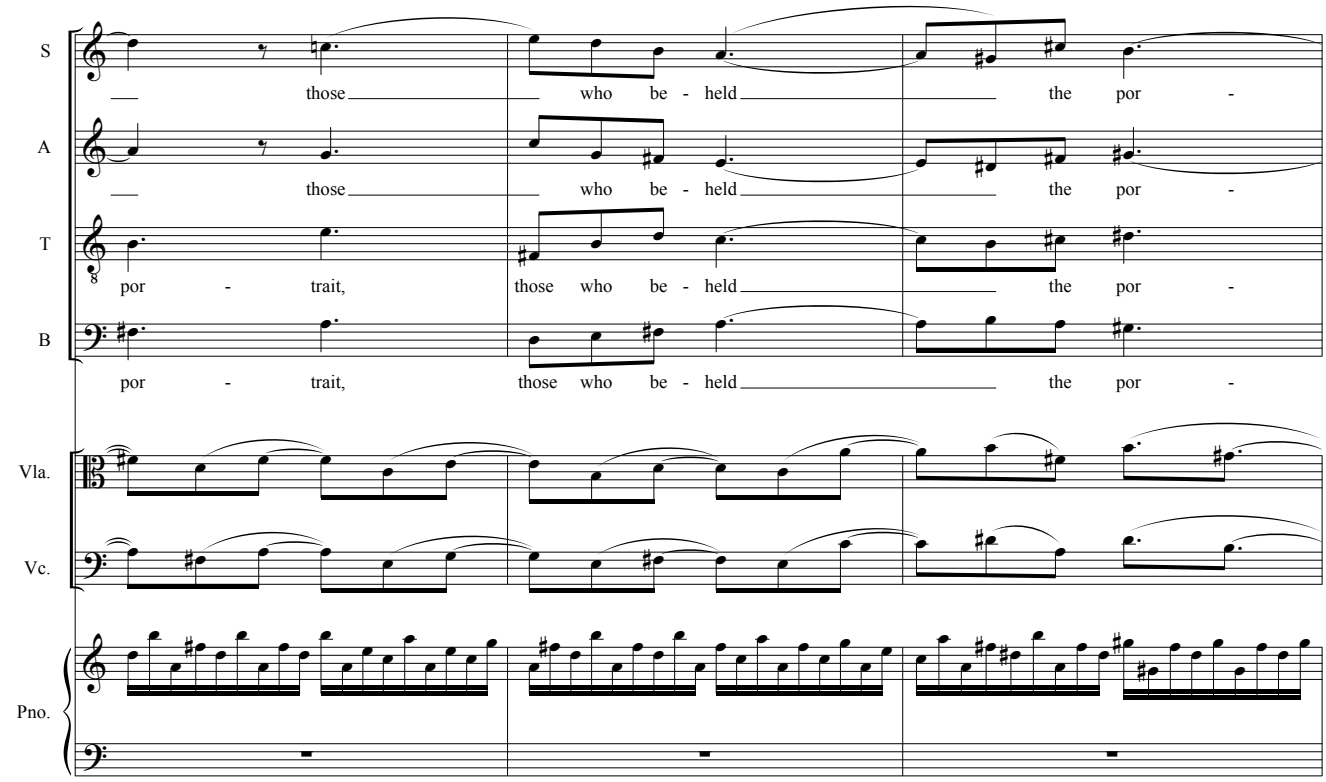

293
Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
she smiled on, and still
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
on and still on,

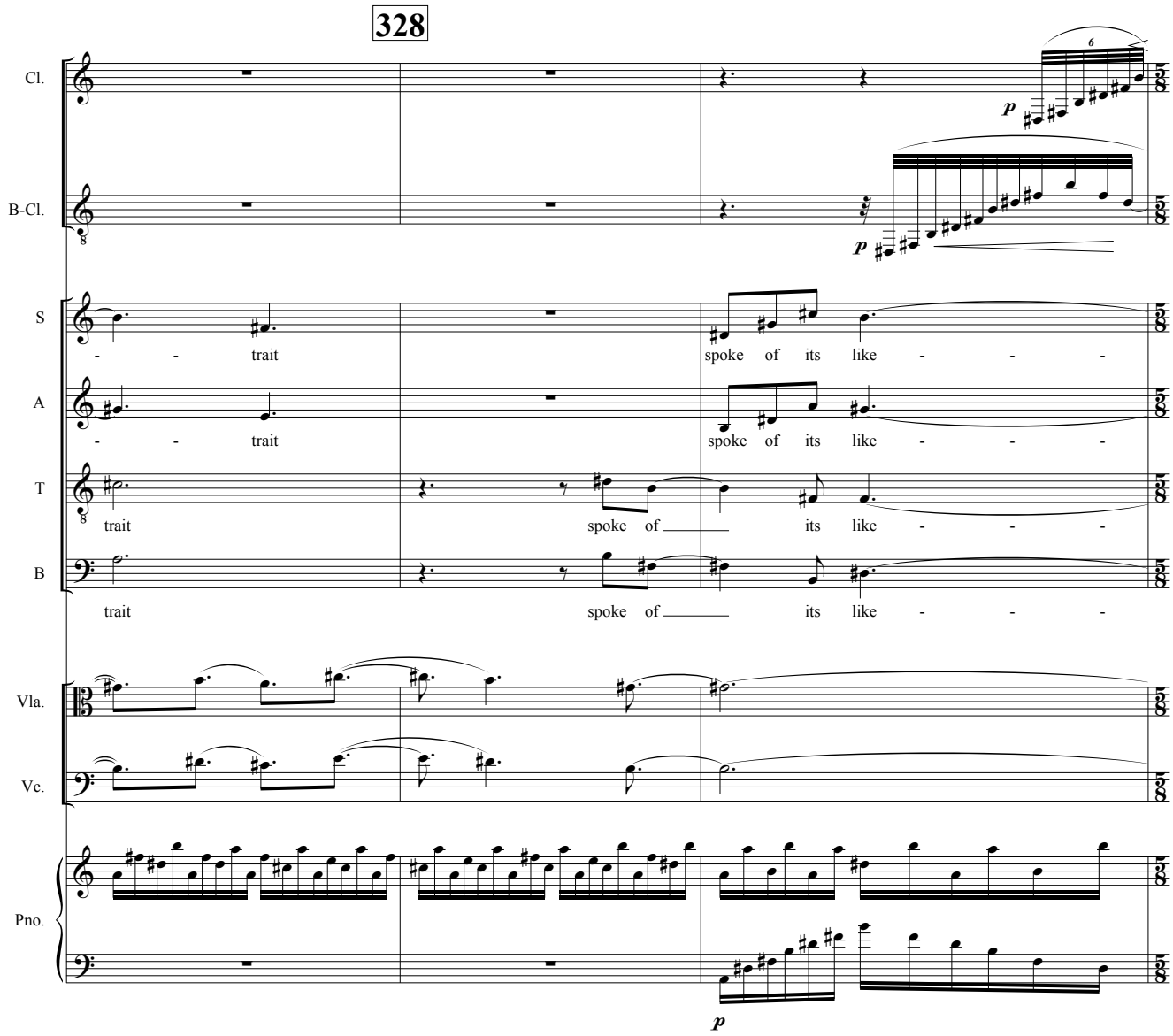

297
Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
while she grew dai-ly more di - spi - ri-ted and weak, di-spi-ri-ted and weak, grew dai - ly, grew dai-ly more di-
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
spi - ri - ted and weak.

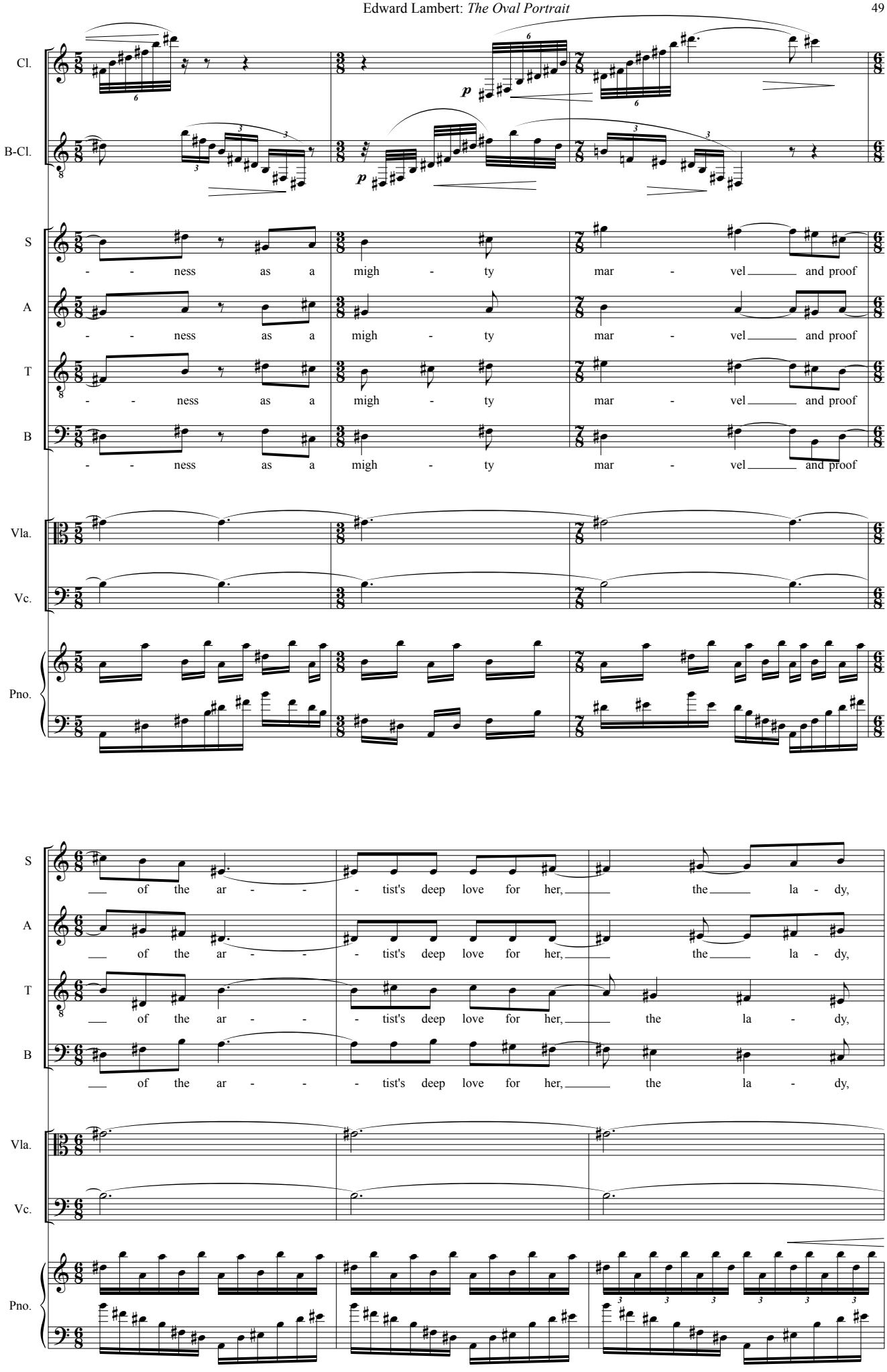

303
♪ = 84
S
A
T
B
And he, the ar - tist, would not see he would not see that the tints that he
313
Cl.
B-Cl.
p
spread u-pon the can - vas, the tints that he spread u-pon the can - vas were drawn from
Vla.
Vc.

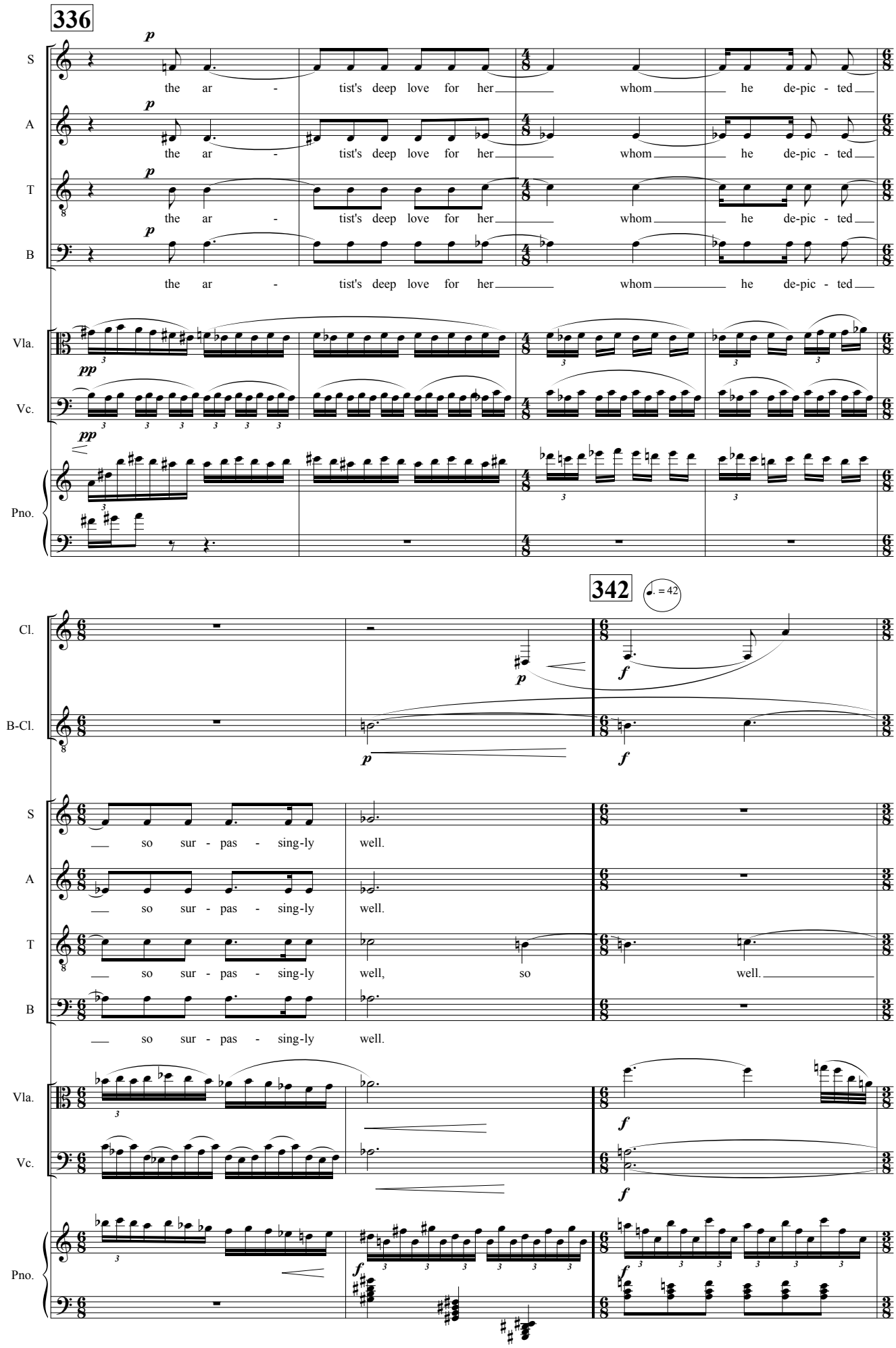

Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
the cheeks of her, the la - dy, drawn from the cheeks of her who sat be - side him.
p

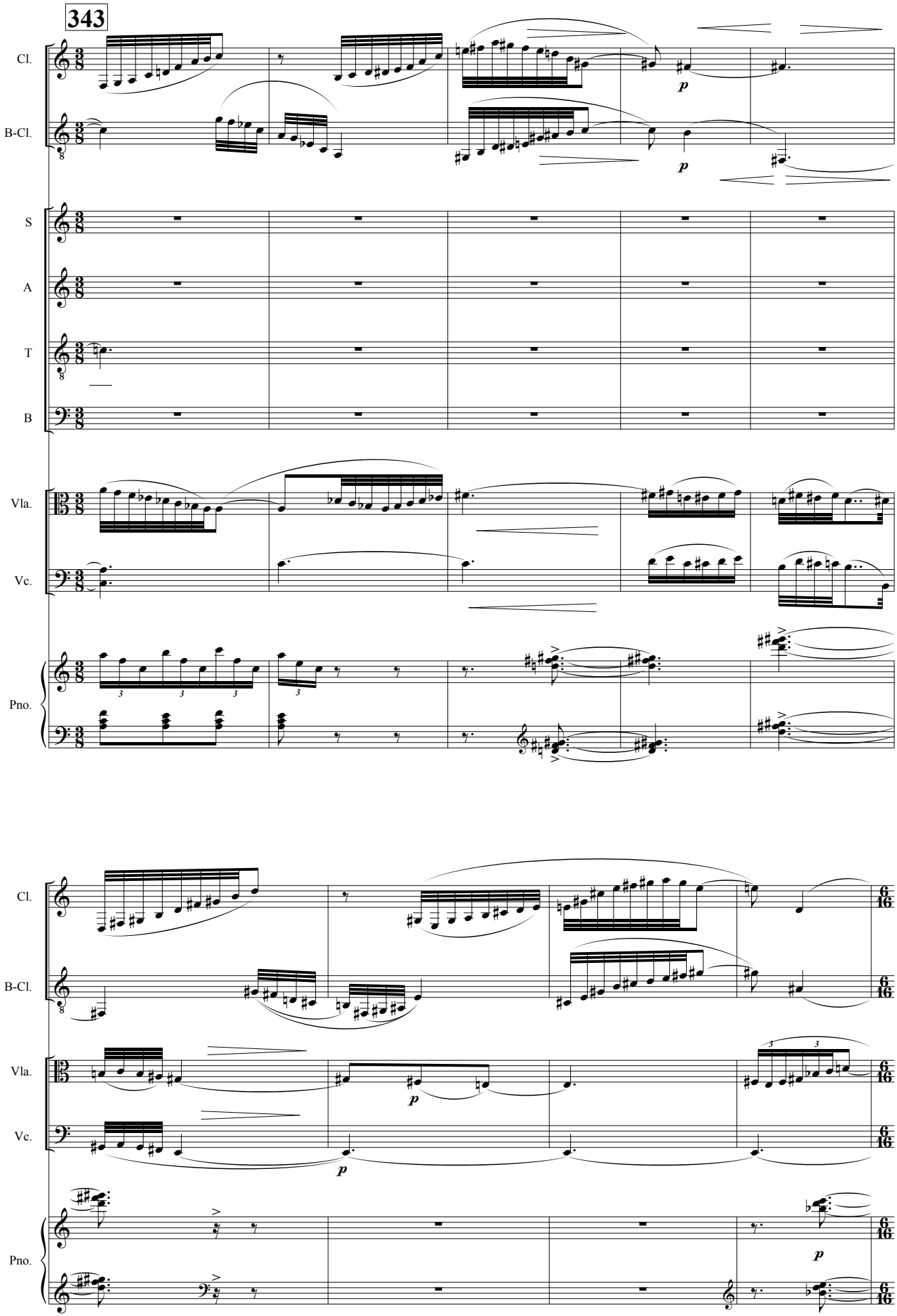

321
♪ = 96
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
Those who be - held, who be - held the por - trait,
Those who be - held, be - held the
p

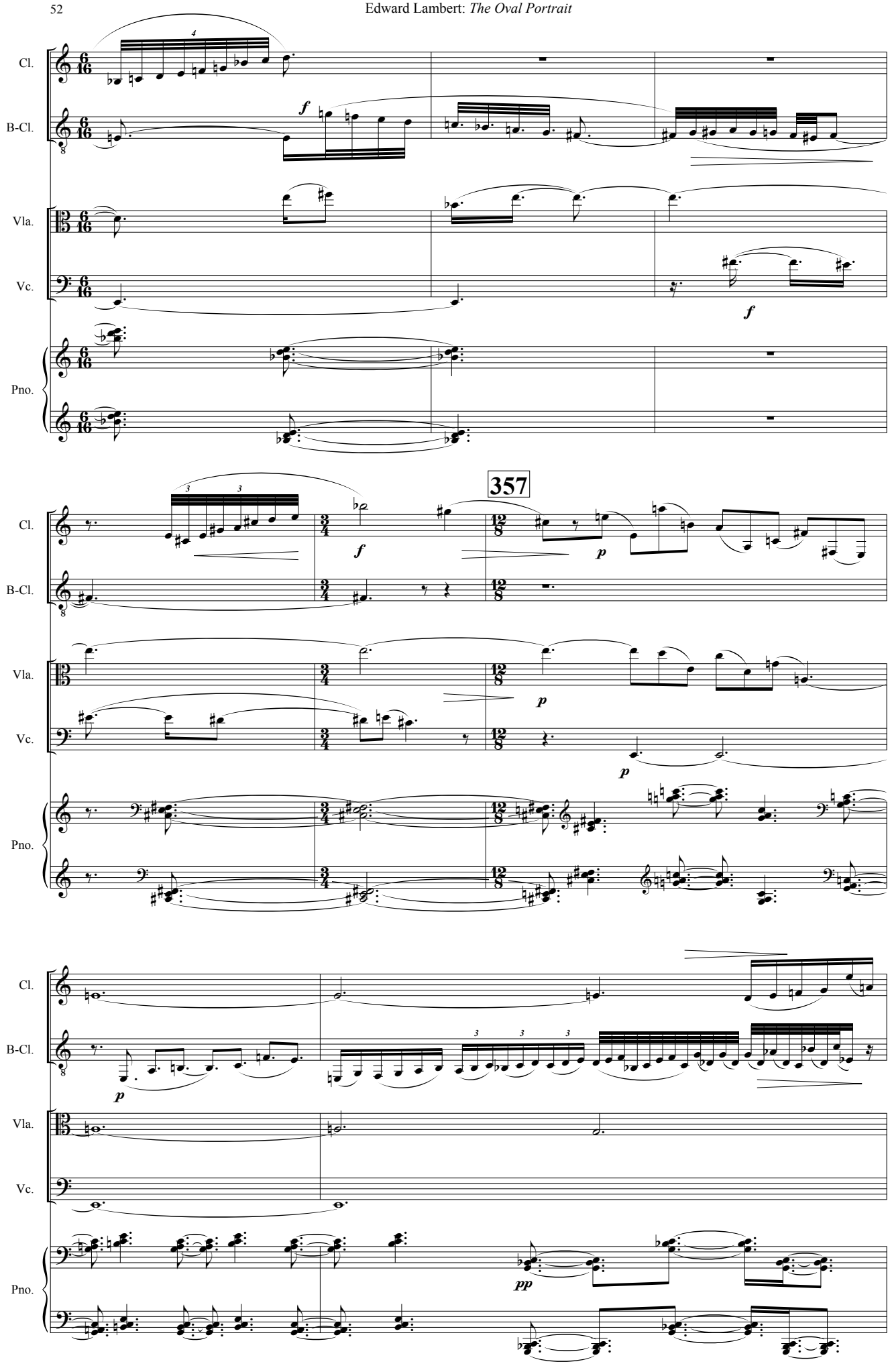

S
those who be - held the por -
A
those who be - held the por -
T
por - trait, those who be - held the por -
B
por - trait, those who be - held the por -
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

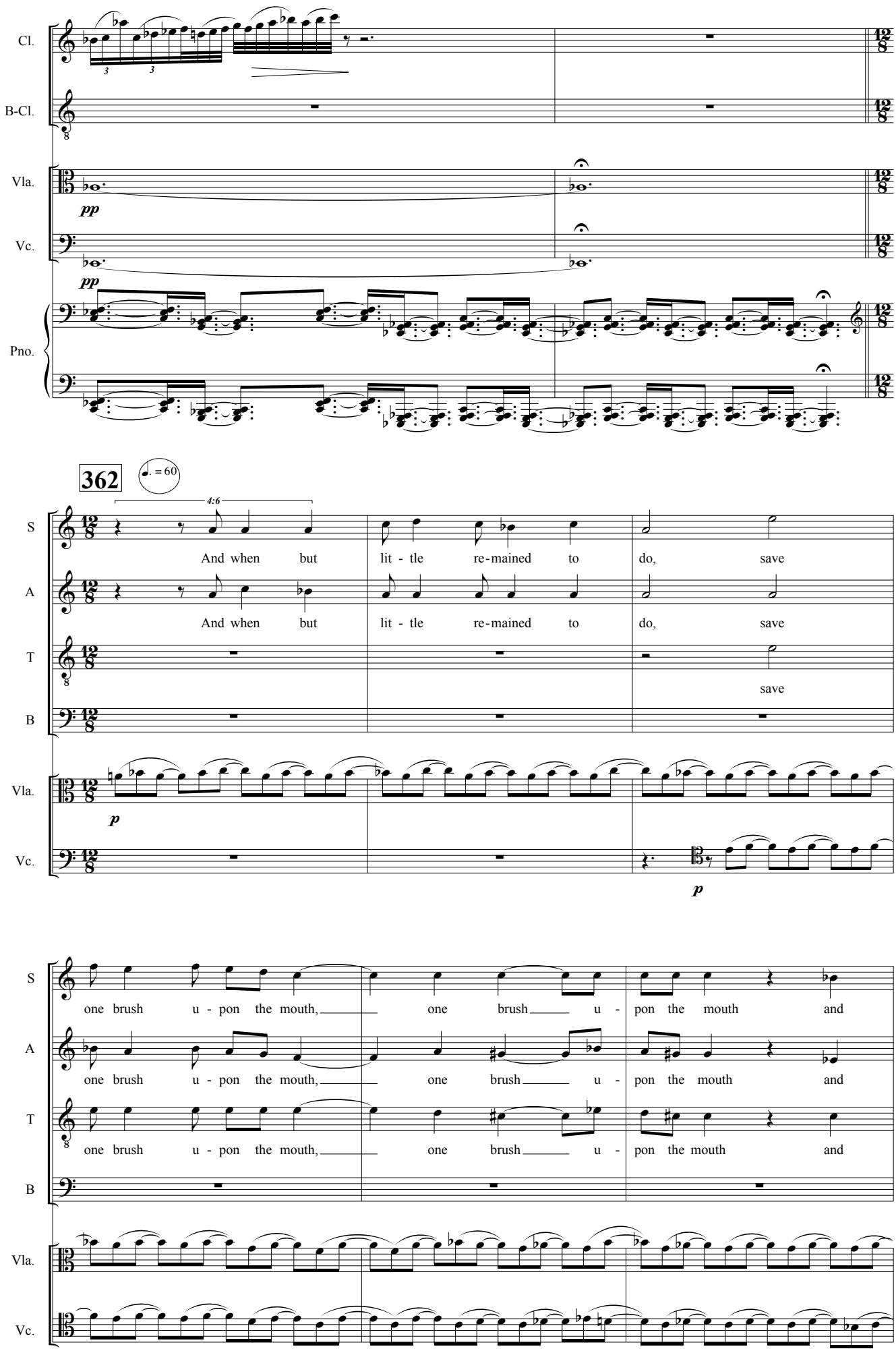

328
Cl.
B-Cl.
p
S
- - trait spoke of its like - - -
A
- - trait spoke of its like - - -
T
trait spoke of its like - - -
B
trait spoke of its like - - -
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
p

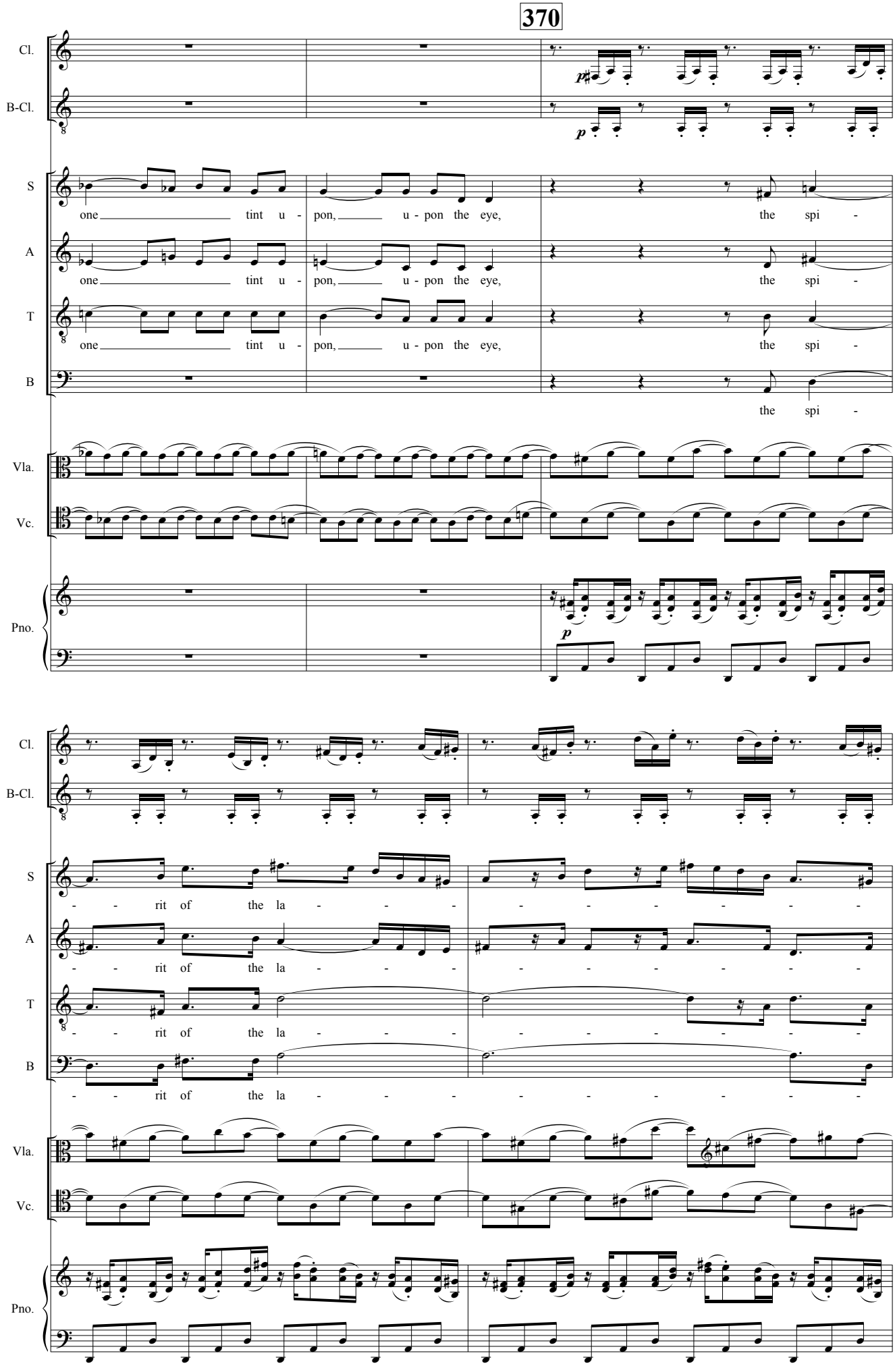

Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
- - ness as a migh - ty mar - vel and proof
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
p
p
S
A
T
B
of the ar - - - tist's deep love for her, the la - dy,
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

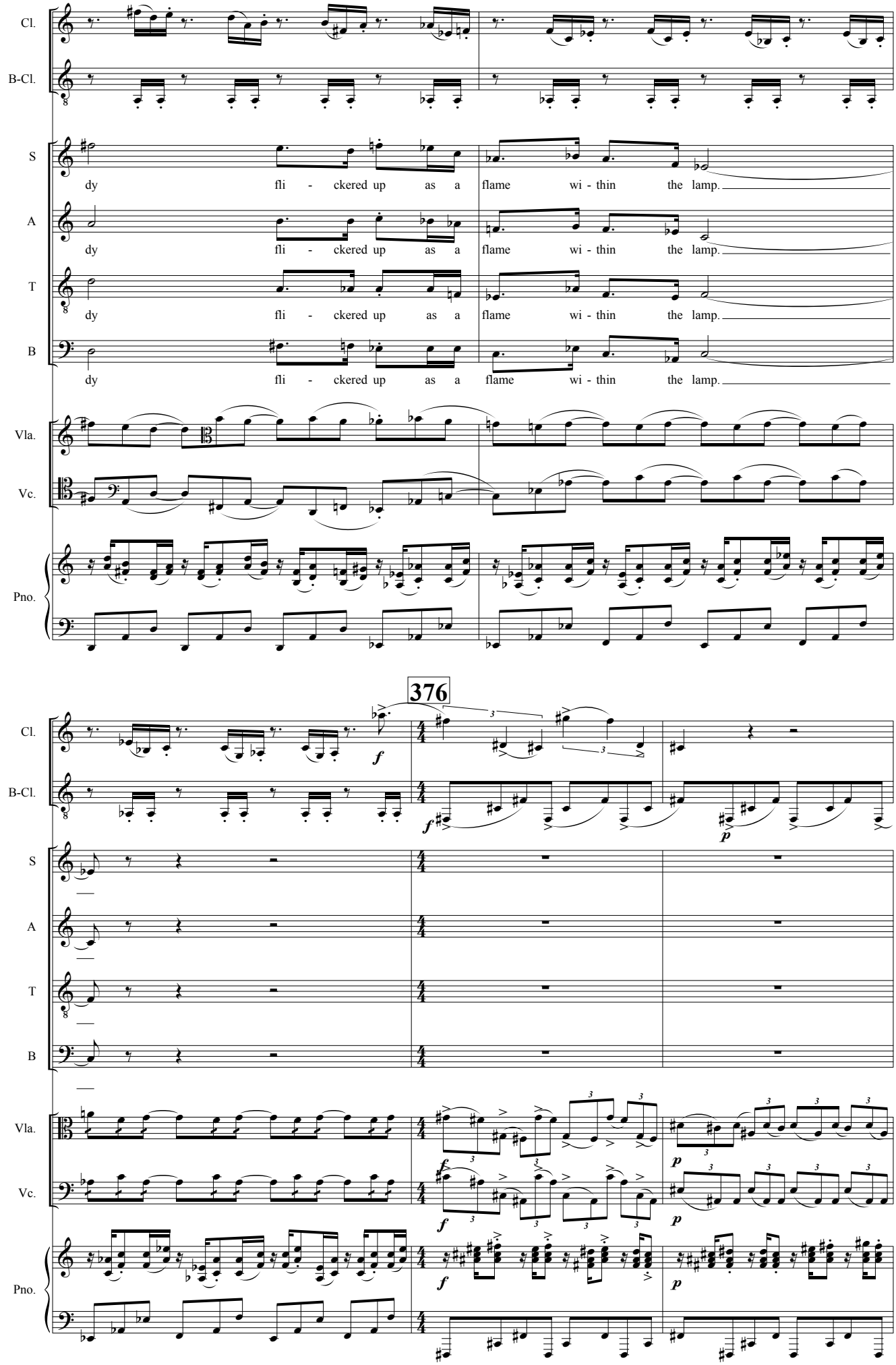

336
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
p
pp
the ar - tist's deep love for her whom he de-pic - ted
342
Cl.
B-Cl.
f
so sur - pas - sing-ly well.
well, so well.

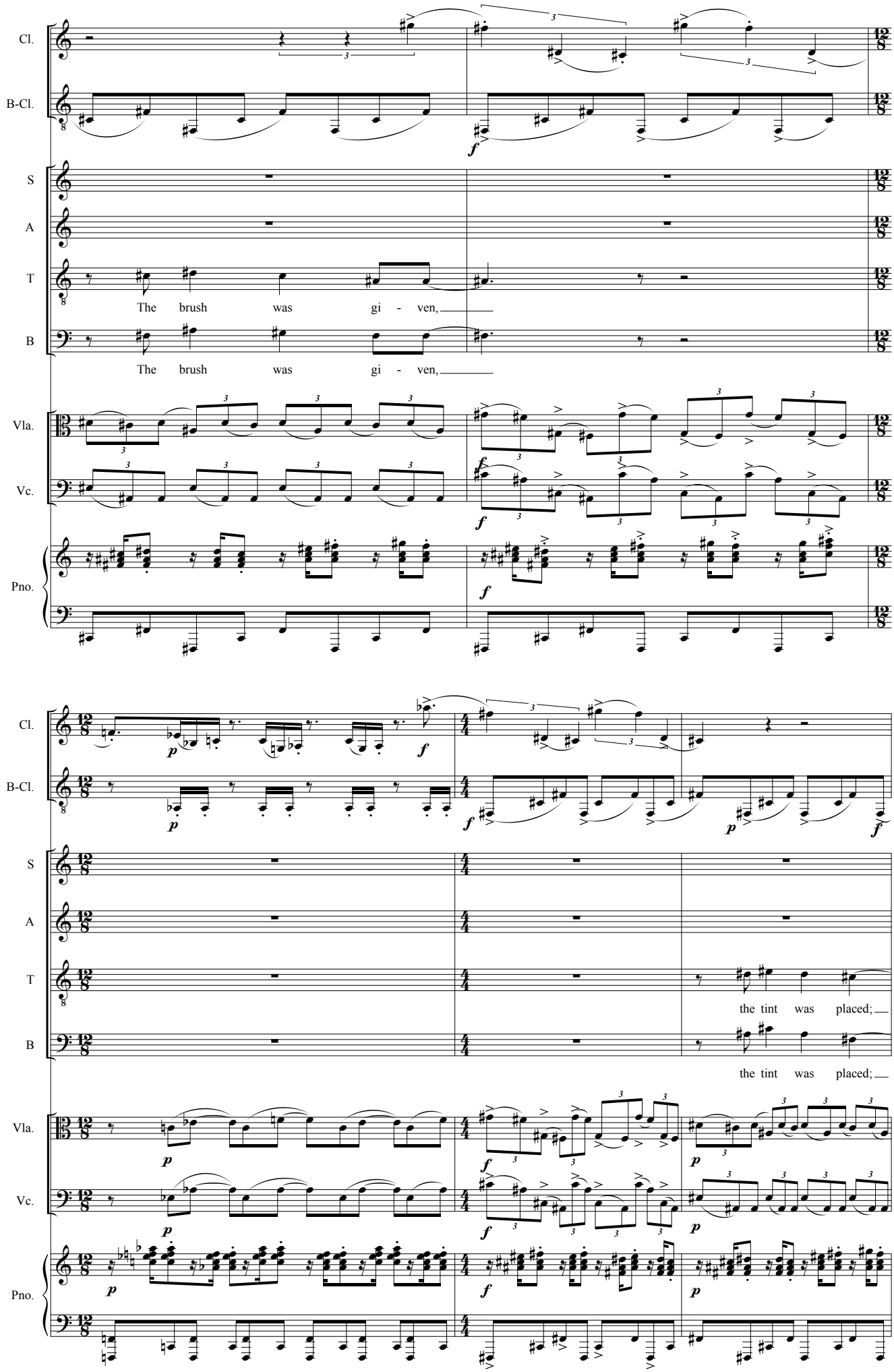

343
Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
p
p
p
p
6/16

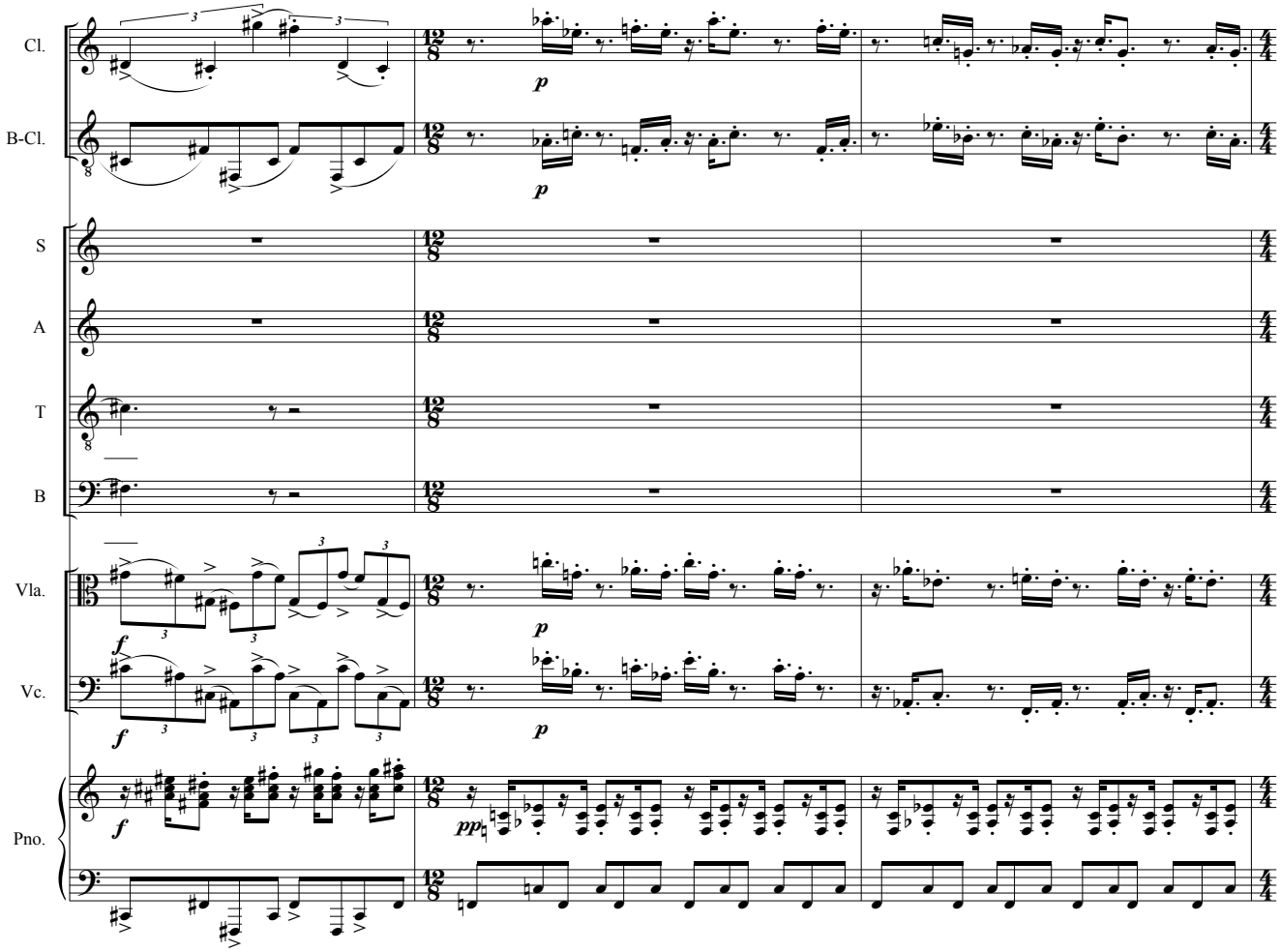

Cl.
B-Cl.
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
f
357
p
pp


Cl.
B-Cl.
Vla.
pp
Vc.
pp
Pno.
362
♩. = 60
4:6
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
And when but lit - tle re-mained to do, save
And when but lit - tle re-mained to do, save
save
p
p
one brush u - pon the mouth, one brush u - pon the mouth and
one brush u - pon the mouth, one brush u - pon the mouth and
one brush u - pon the mouth, one brush u - pon the mouth and

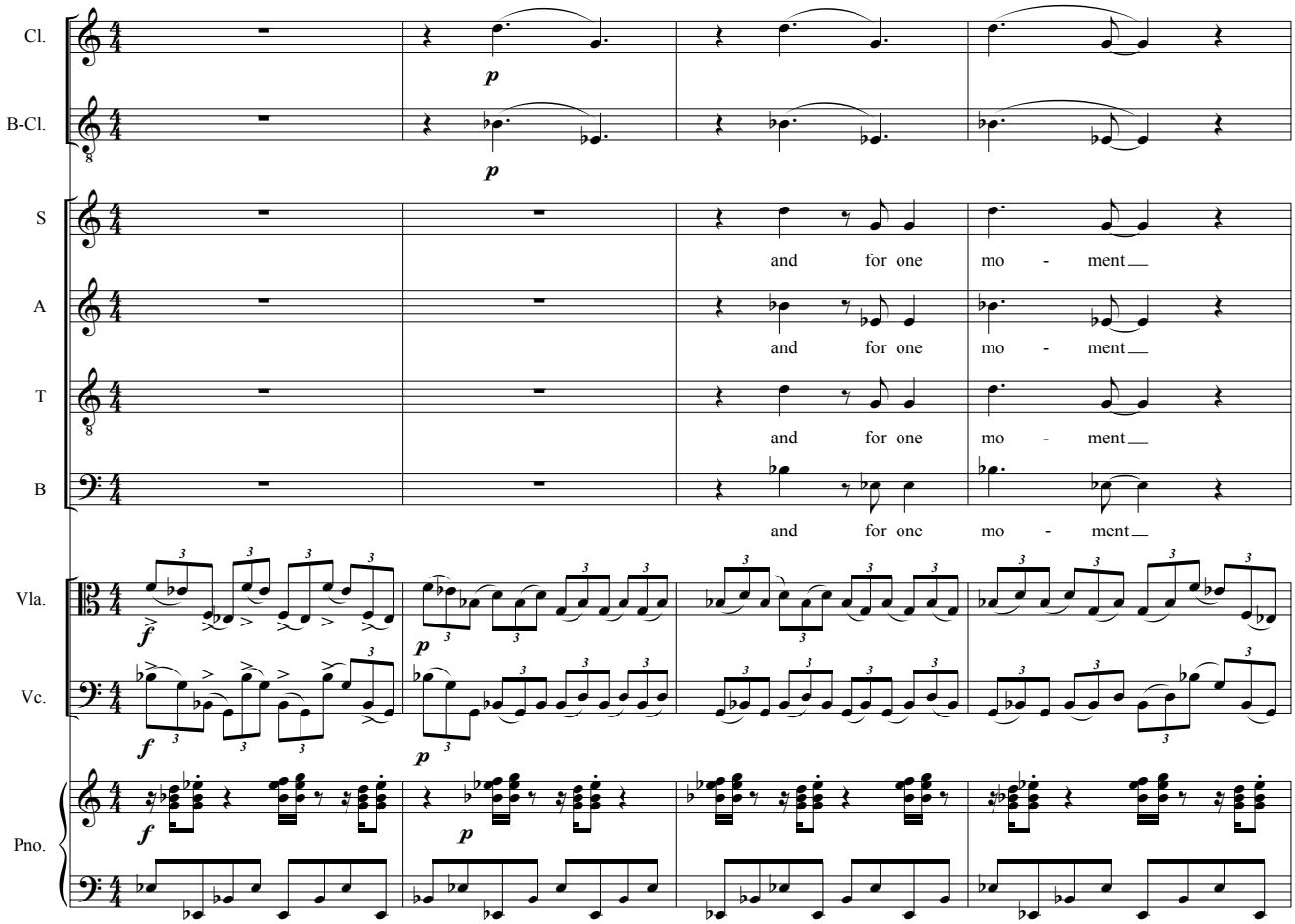

370
Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
one tint u - pon, u - pon the eye, the spi -
one tint u - pon, u - pon the eye, the spi -
one tint u - pon, u - pon the eye, the spi -
the spi -
- - rit of the la - - - - - - - - - - -
- - rit of the la - - - - - - - - - - -
- - rit of the la - - - - - - - - - - -
- - rit of the la - - - - - - - - - - -

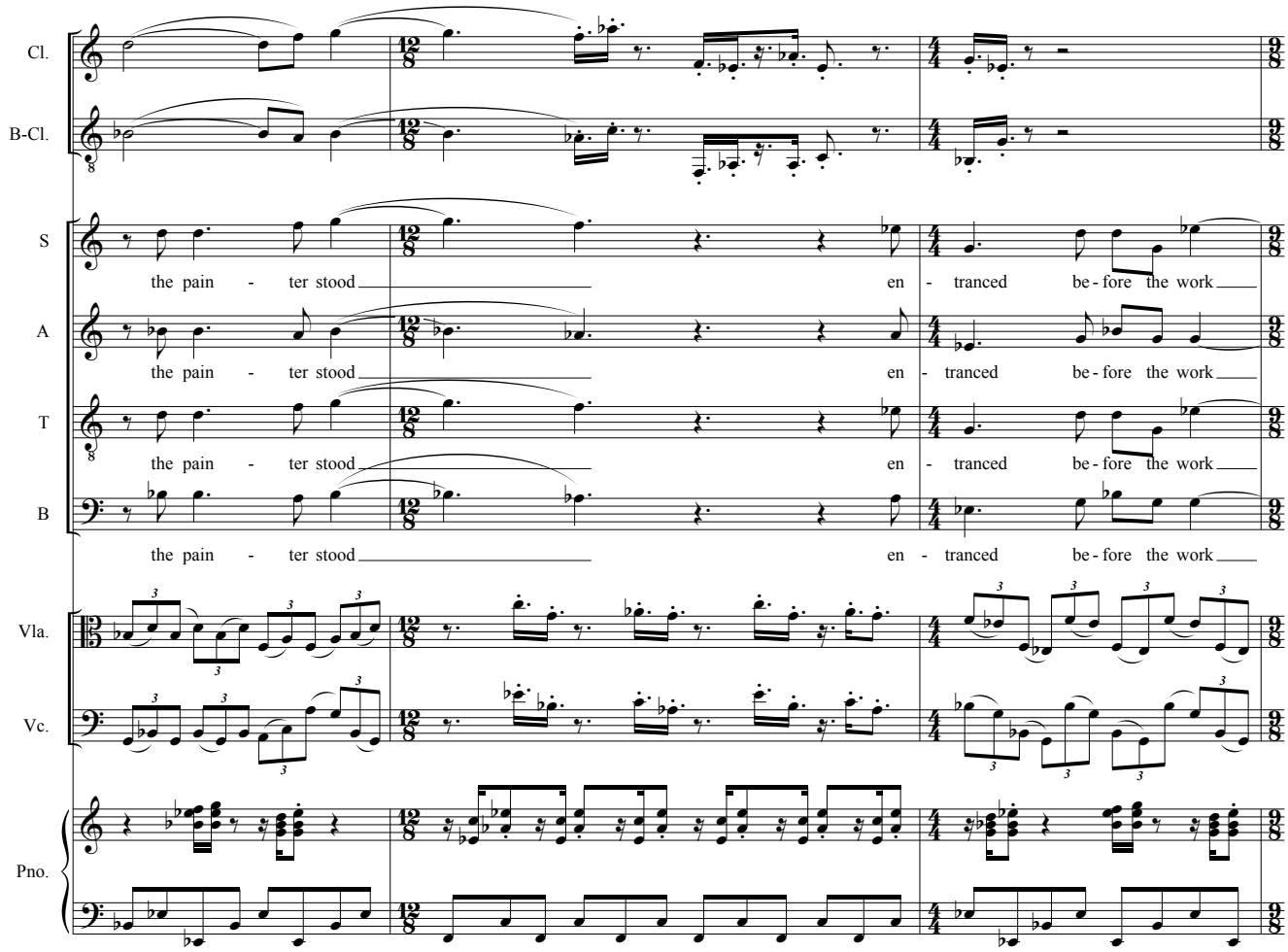

Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
dy fli - ckered up as a flame wi - thin the lamp.
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
376
f
p


Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
The brush was gi - ven,
The brush was gi - ven,
the tint was placed;
the tint was placed;

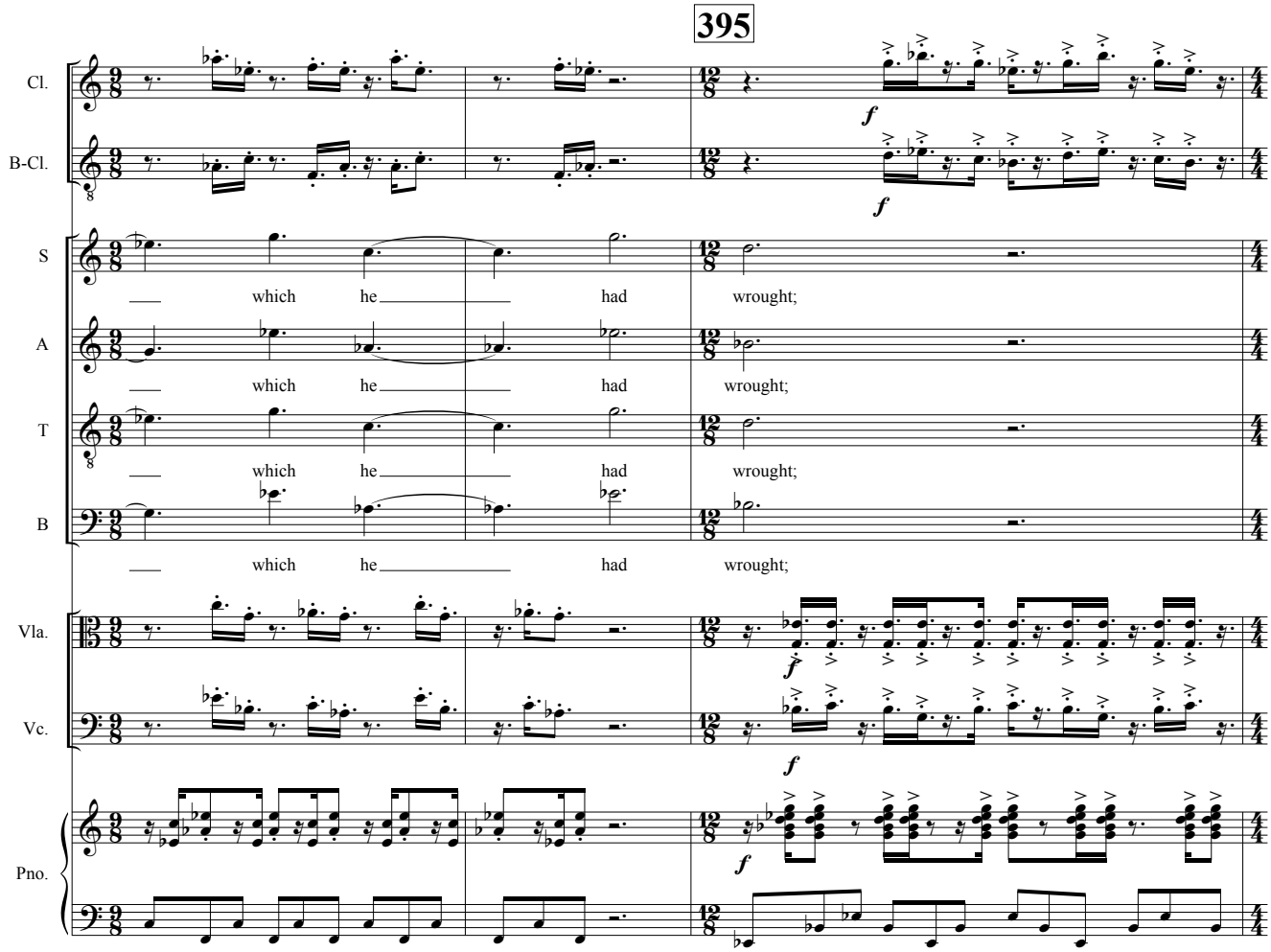

Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

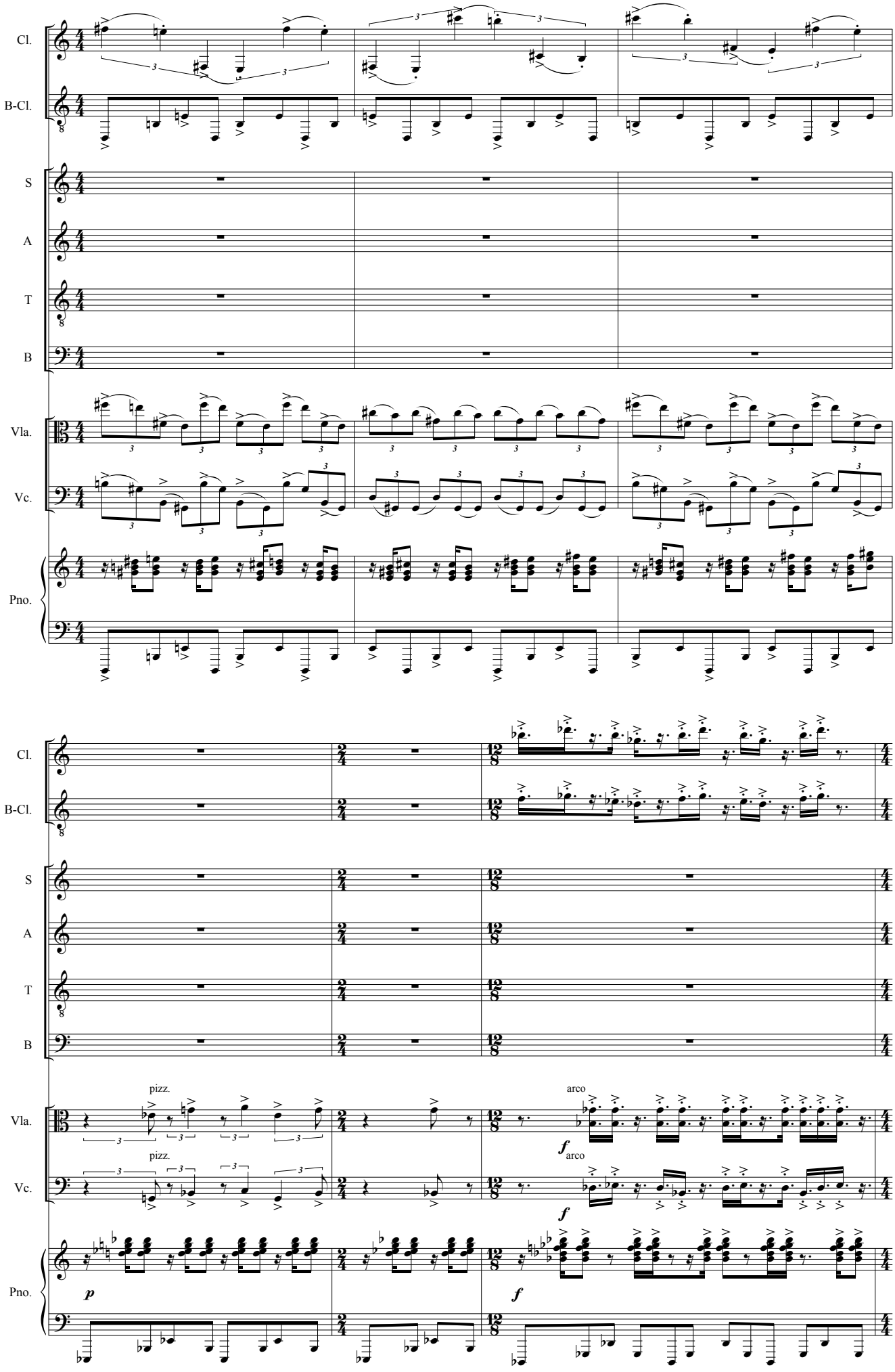
386


Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
and for one mo - ment
and for one mo - ment
and for one mo - ment
and for one mo - ment


Cl.
B-Cl.
S
the pain - ter stood en - tranced be - fore the work
A
the pain - ter stood en - tranced be - fore the work
T
the pain - ter stood en - tranced be - fore the work
B
the pain - ter stood en - tranced be - fore the work
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.

395


Cl.
B-Cl.
f
f
S
which he had wrought;
A
which he had wrought;
T
which he had wrought;
B
which he had wrought;
Vla.
f
Vc.
f
Pno.
f


Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
pizz.
arco
p
f

402

Cl.

B-Cl.

S — cry - ing with a loud voice, 'This is in - deed,

A — cry - ing with a loud voice, 'This is in - deed,

T — cry - ing with a loud voice, 'This is in - deed,

B — cry - ing with a loud voice, 'This is in - deed,

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

Cl.

B-Cl.

S — in-deed life it - self, life it - self,

A — in-deed life it - self, life it - self,

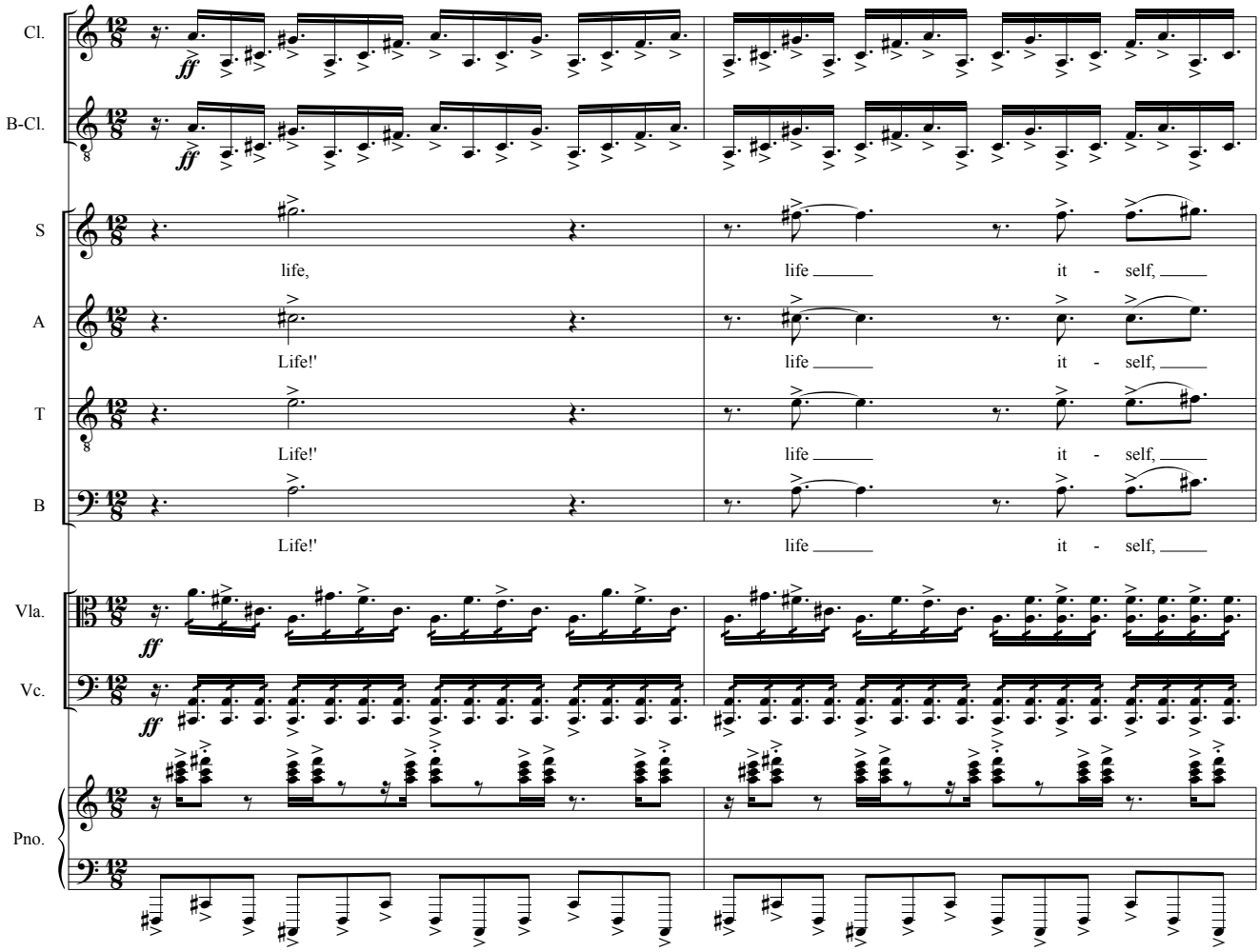
T — in-deed life it - self, life it - self,

B — in-deed life it - self, life it - self,

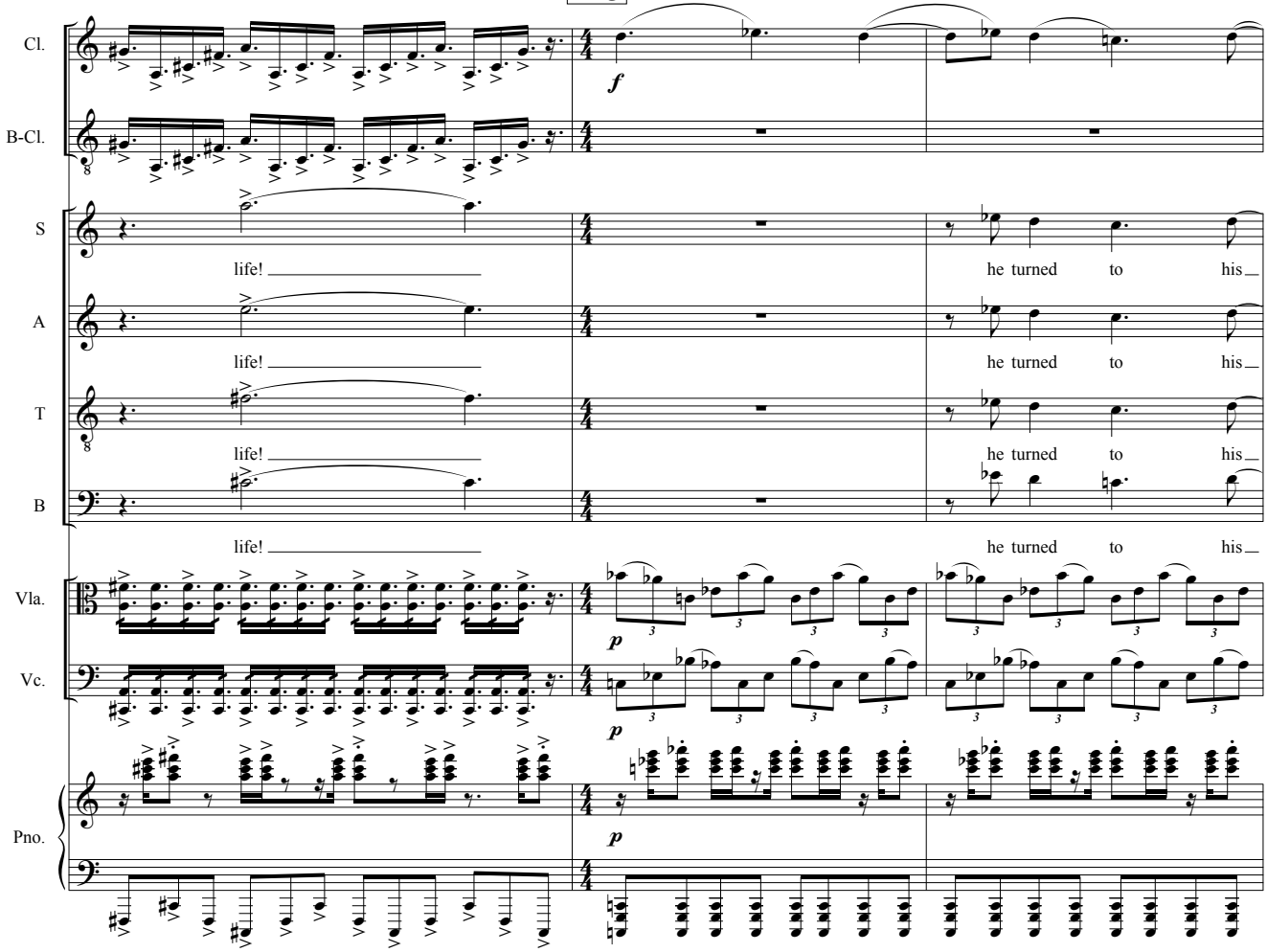
Vla.

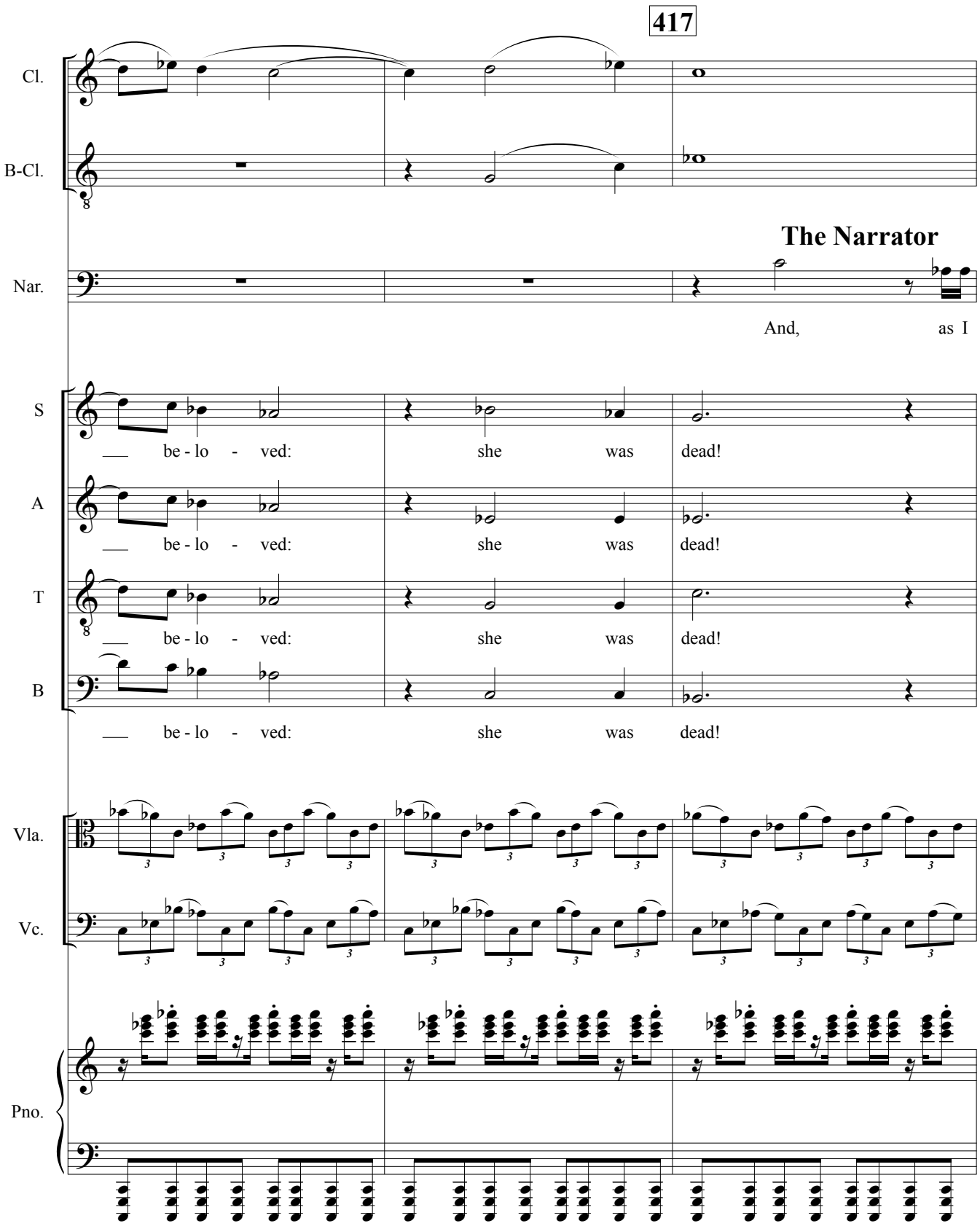
Vc.

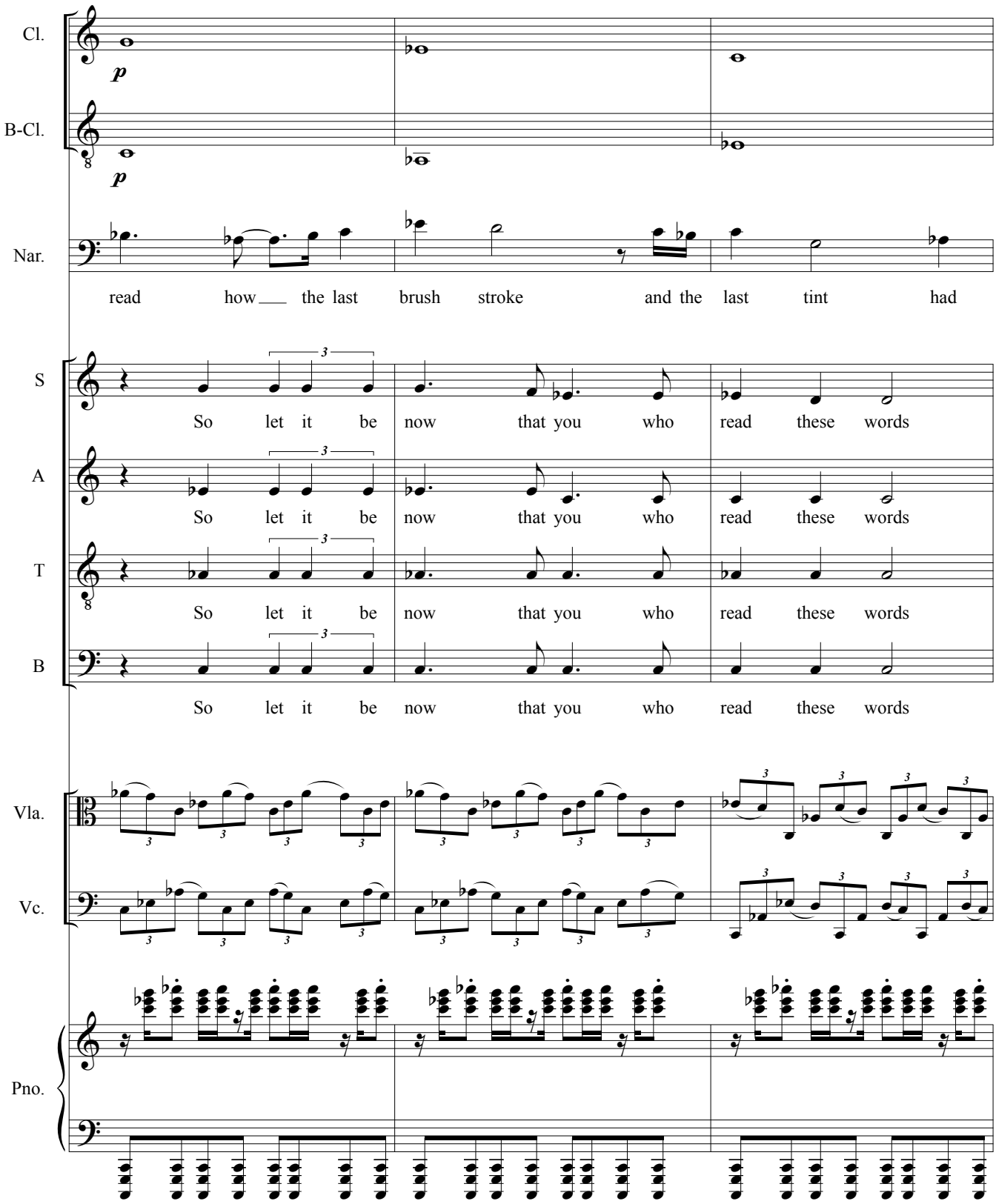
Pno.

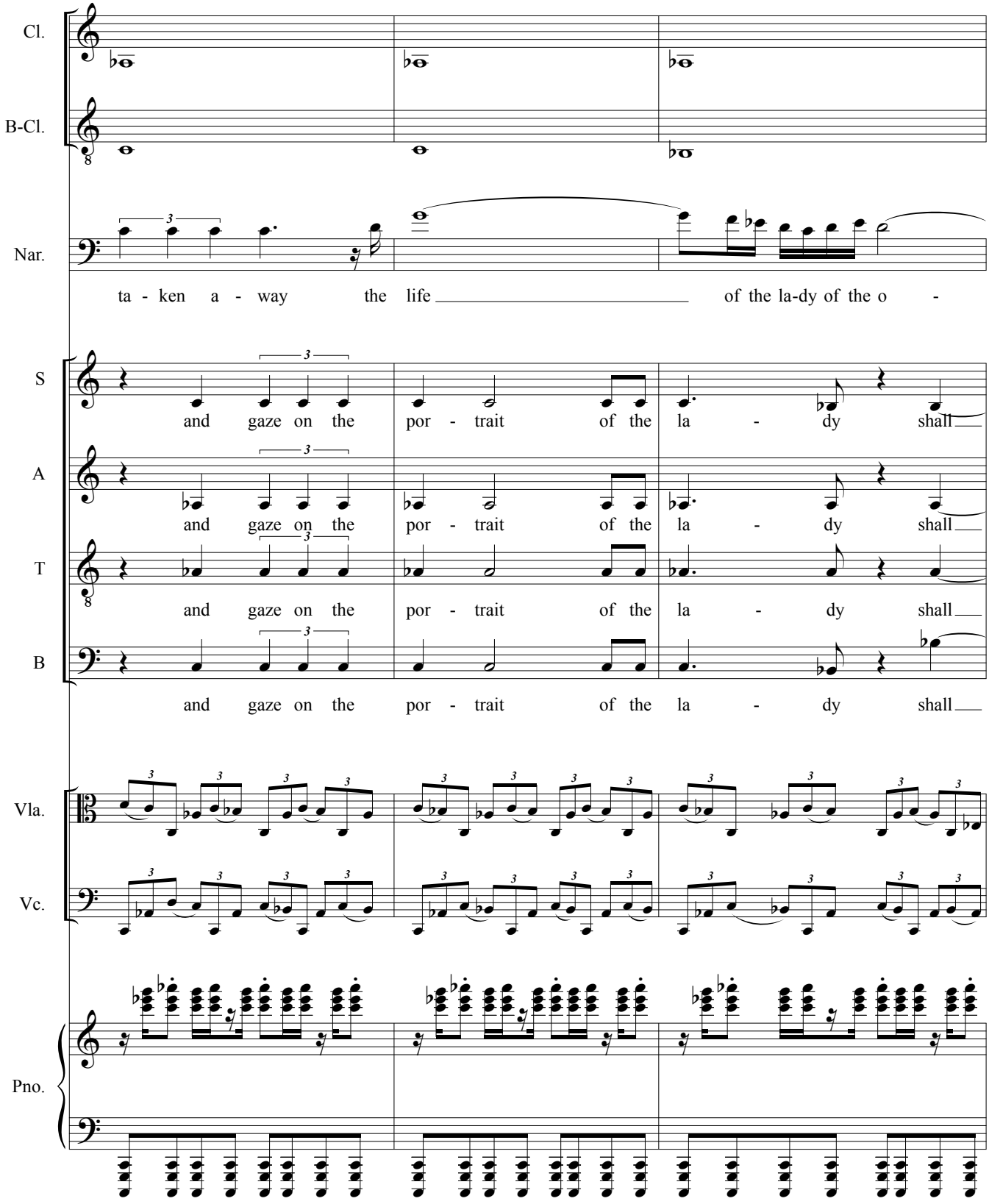

Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
ff
life,
life ___ it - self, ___
Life!'
life ___ it - self, ___
Life!'
life ___ it - self, ___
Life!'
life ___ it - self, ___

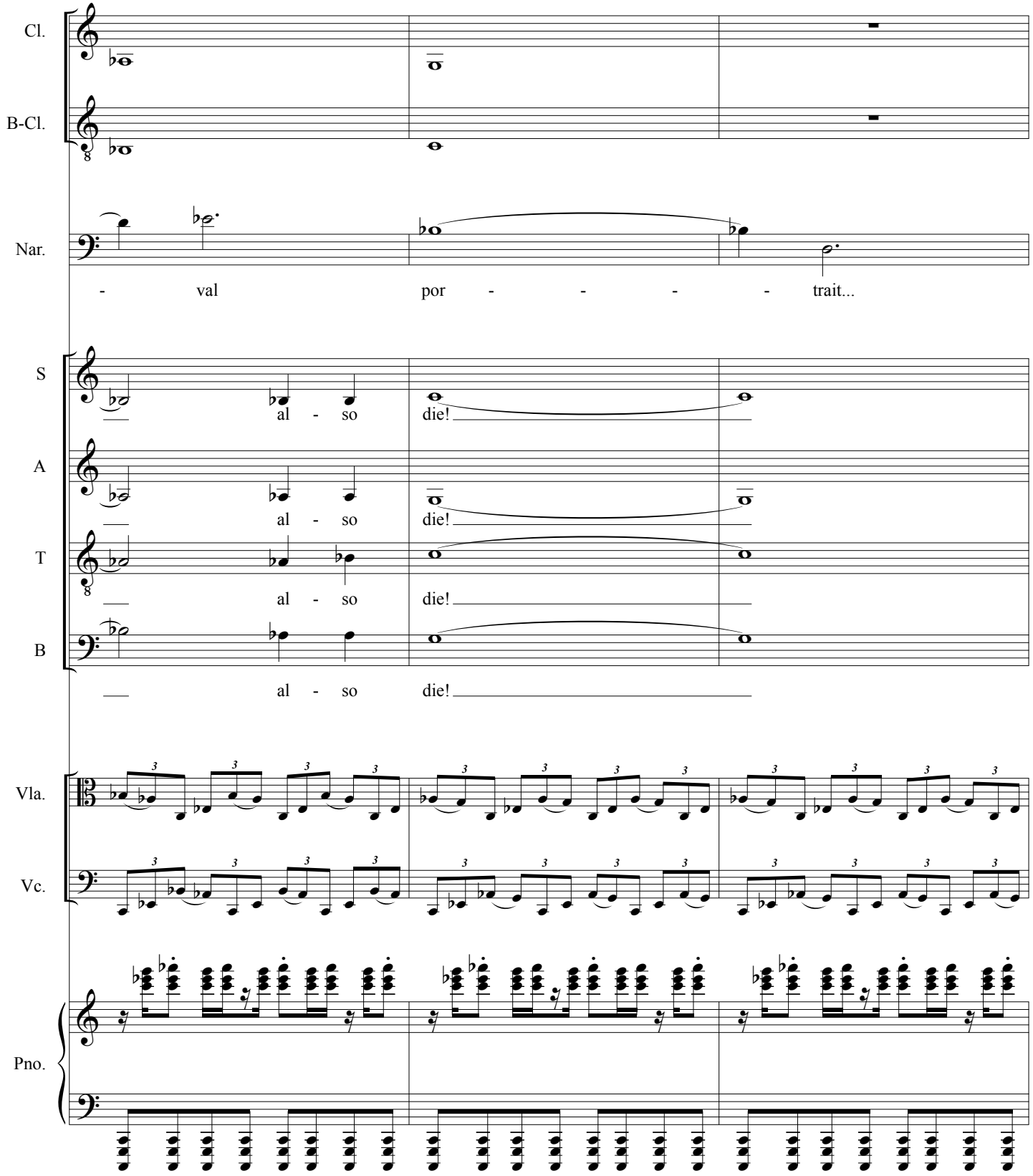
413

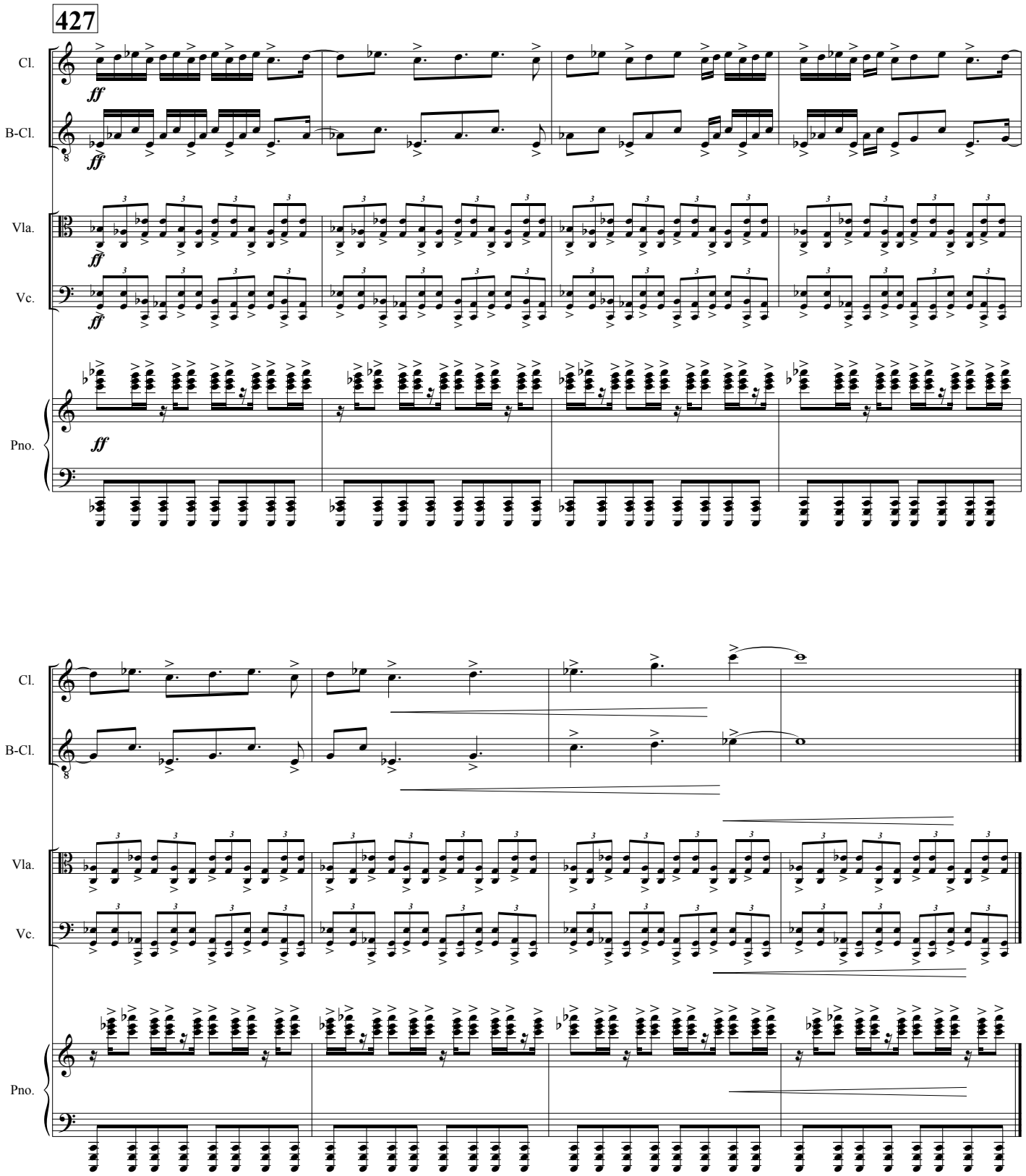

Cl.
B-Cl.
S
A
T
B
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
f
p
life! ___
he turned to his ___
life! ___
he turned to his ___
life! ___
he turned to his ___
life! ___
he turned to his ___


417
Cl.
B-Cl.
The Narrator
Nar.
And, as I
S
A
T
B
be - lo - ved: she was dead!
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.


Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
read how the last brush stroke and the last tint had
S
A
T
B
So let it be now that you who read these words
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.


Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
ta - ken a - way the life of the la-dy of the o -
S
A
T
B
and gaze on the por - trait of the la - dy shall
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.


Cl.
B-Cl.
Nar.
- val por - - - - trait...
S
al - so die!
A
al - so die!
T
al - so die!
B
al - so die!
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.


427
Cl.
B-Cl.
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
ff