Full Score

Béla Bartók

Romanian Folk Dances (arranged for 6-part Cello orchestra)

The Romanian Folk Dances is a suite of six short piano pieces composed by Béla Bartók in 1915 which he later orchestrated for small orchestral ensemble in 1917. It is based on seven Romanian tunes from Transylvania, originally played on fiddle or shepherd's flute.

The present arrangement for a 6-part cello orchestra has been made from the orchestral version. The metronome marks given in this arrangement are those given in the piano original, which would mean that the whole suite would last less than 5 minutes. However in performance, slower tempi are often used, and this is recommended for this arrangement, particularly in the third movement where a number of acoustic effects (such as ponticello and artificial harmonics) are suggested to try to produce some of the unusual sounds of a shepherd's fulte. It is also suggested that the second movement, which lasts less than half a minute in its original form, is played twice. Similarly, an optional repeat is suggested in the third movement, but this is also not in the original score. With the optional repeats and the given metronome markings, the arrangement lasts for 6 minutes and 40 seconds.

The movements should follow on from one another as quickly as is feasible. In the original score, all are marked "attacca".

The bowings of the melodies are taken, as far as possible, from the violin parts in Bartok's original orchestral score, but it should be noted that where melodies are played jointly by a woodwind instrument and violin (for example in the first movement), Bartok's phrasing and accent marks in the two parts are sometimes different.

This arrangement has been made for James Halsey (director and conductor), and members of the Giant Cello Ensemble to perform during the annual Aboyne Cello Festival (in North-East Scotland), in July 2016

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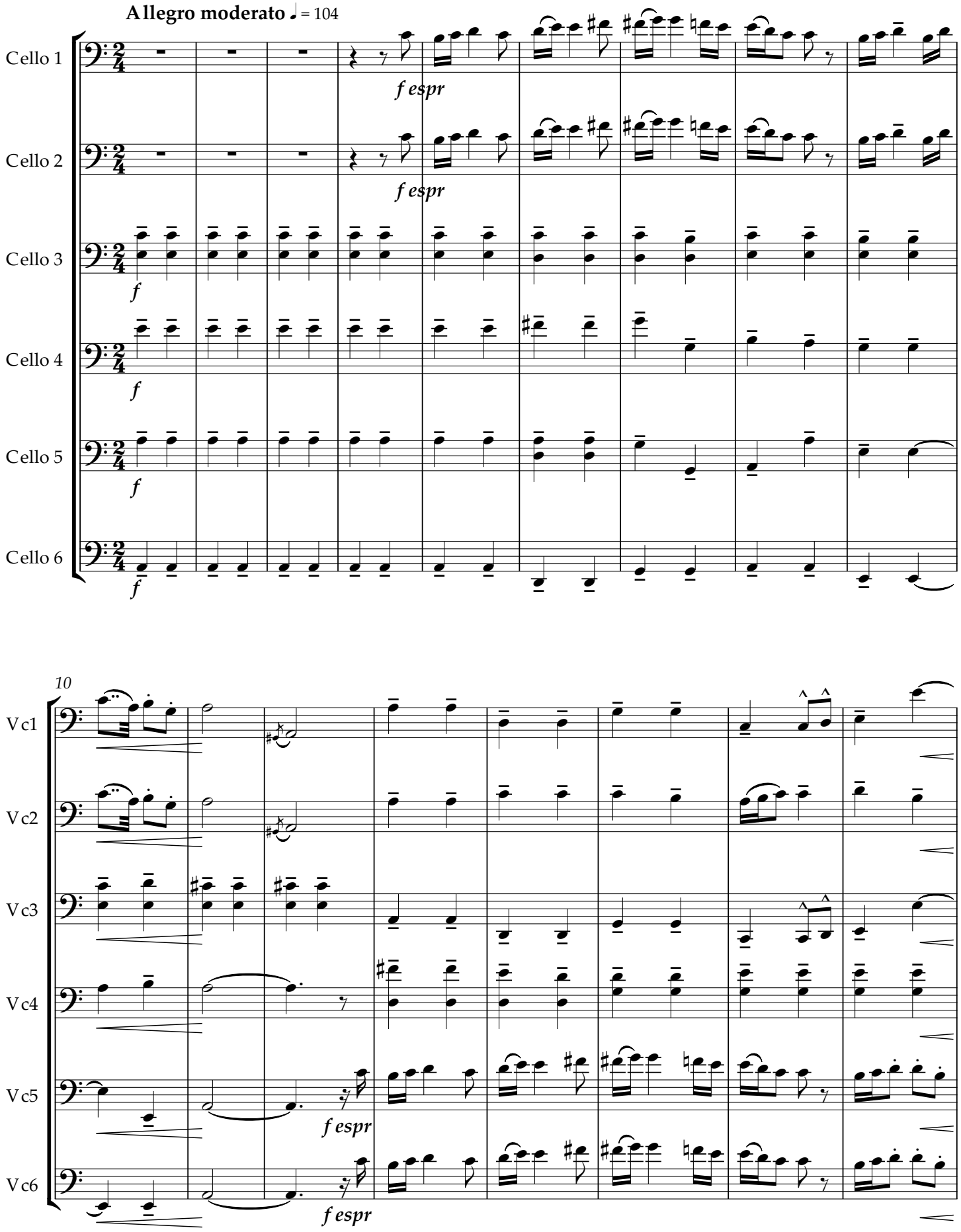
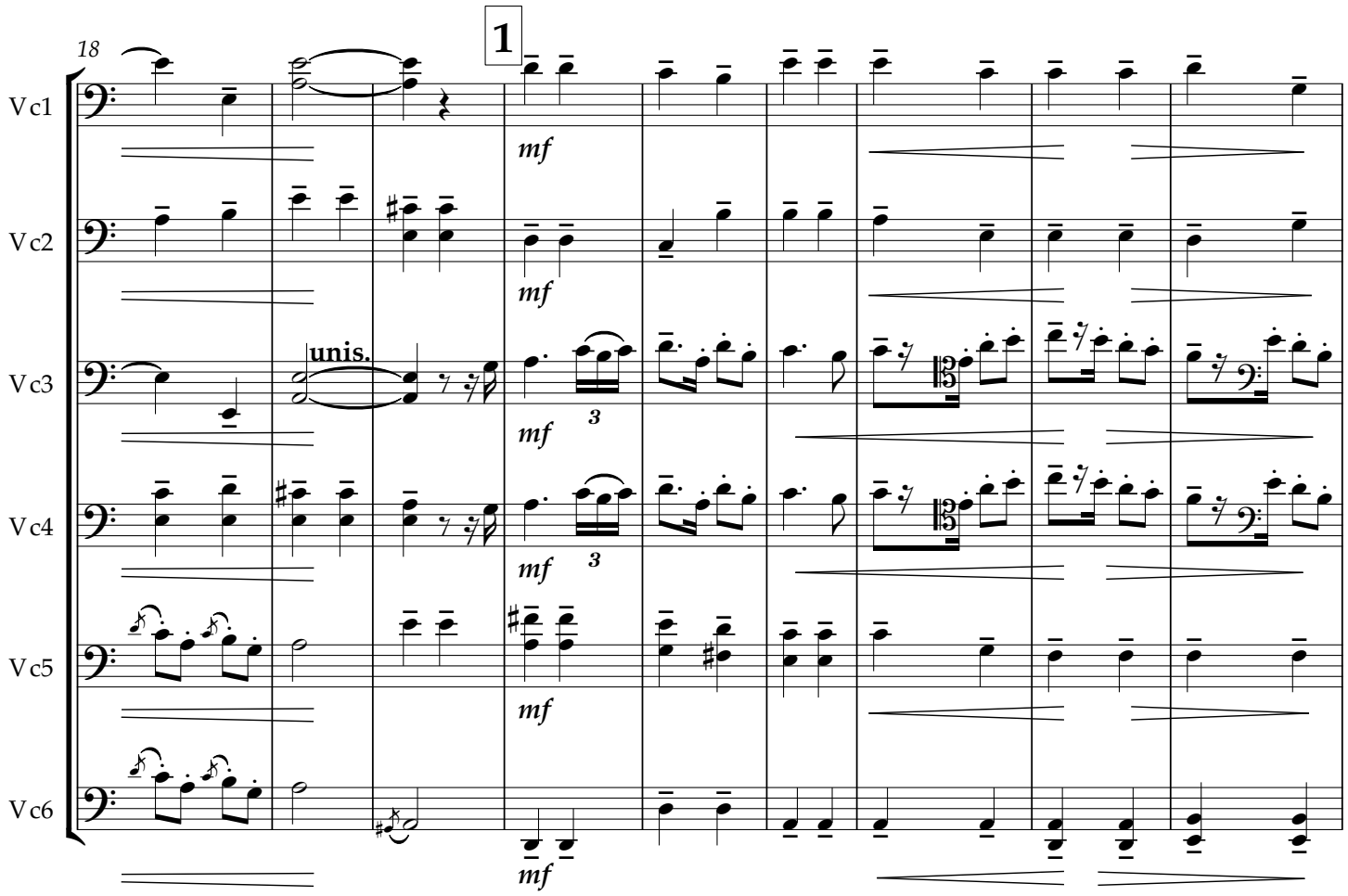
d.g.seymour@abdn.ac.uk

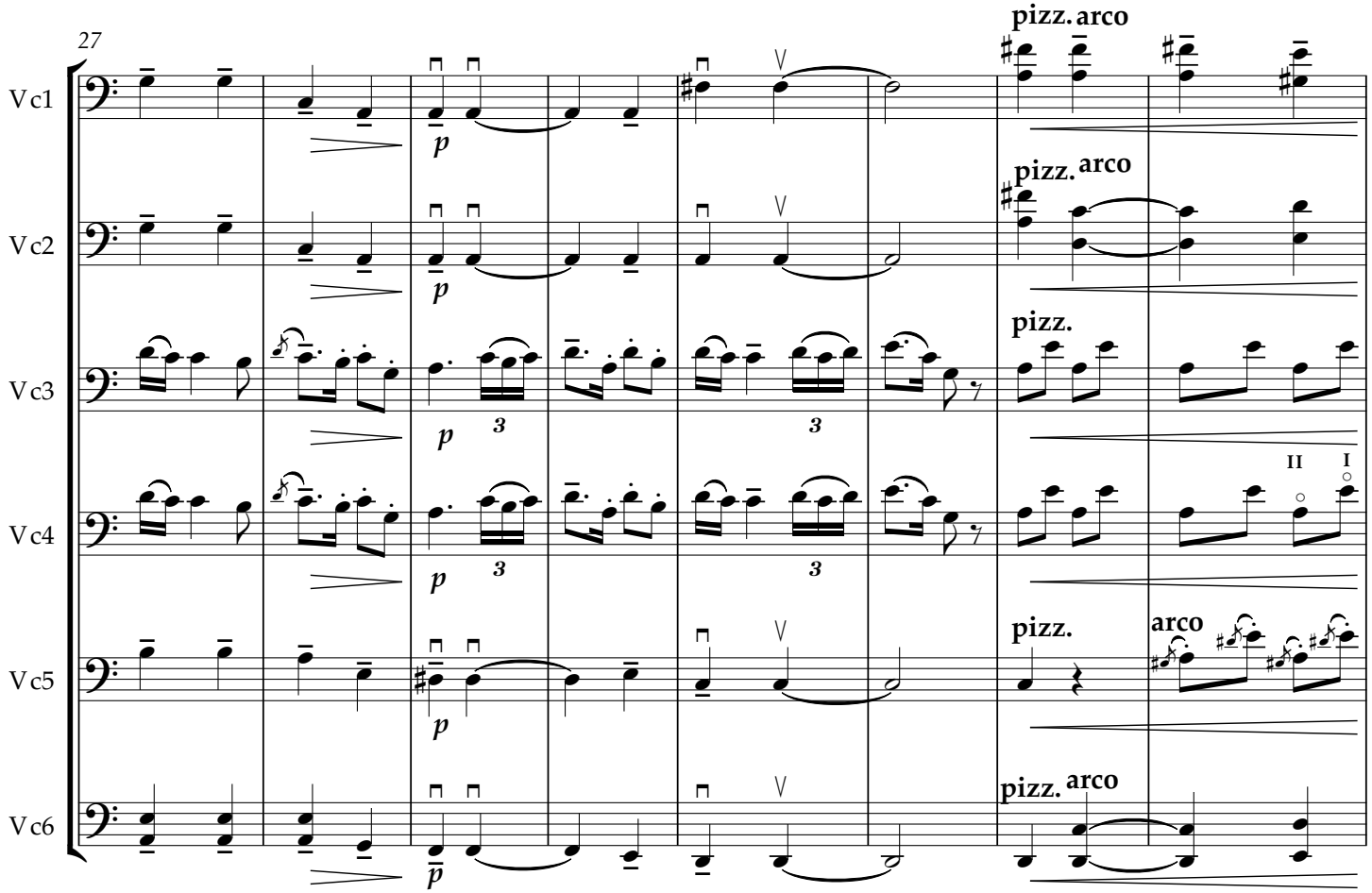
Romanian Folk Dances

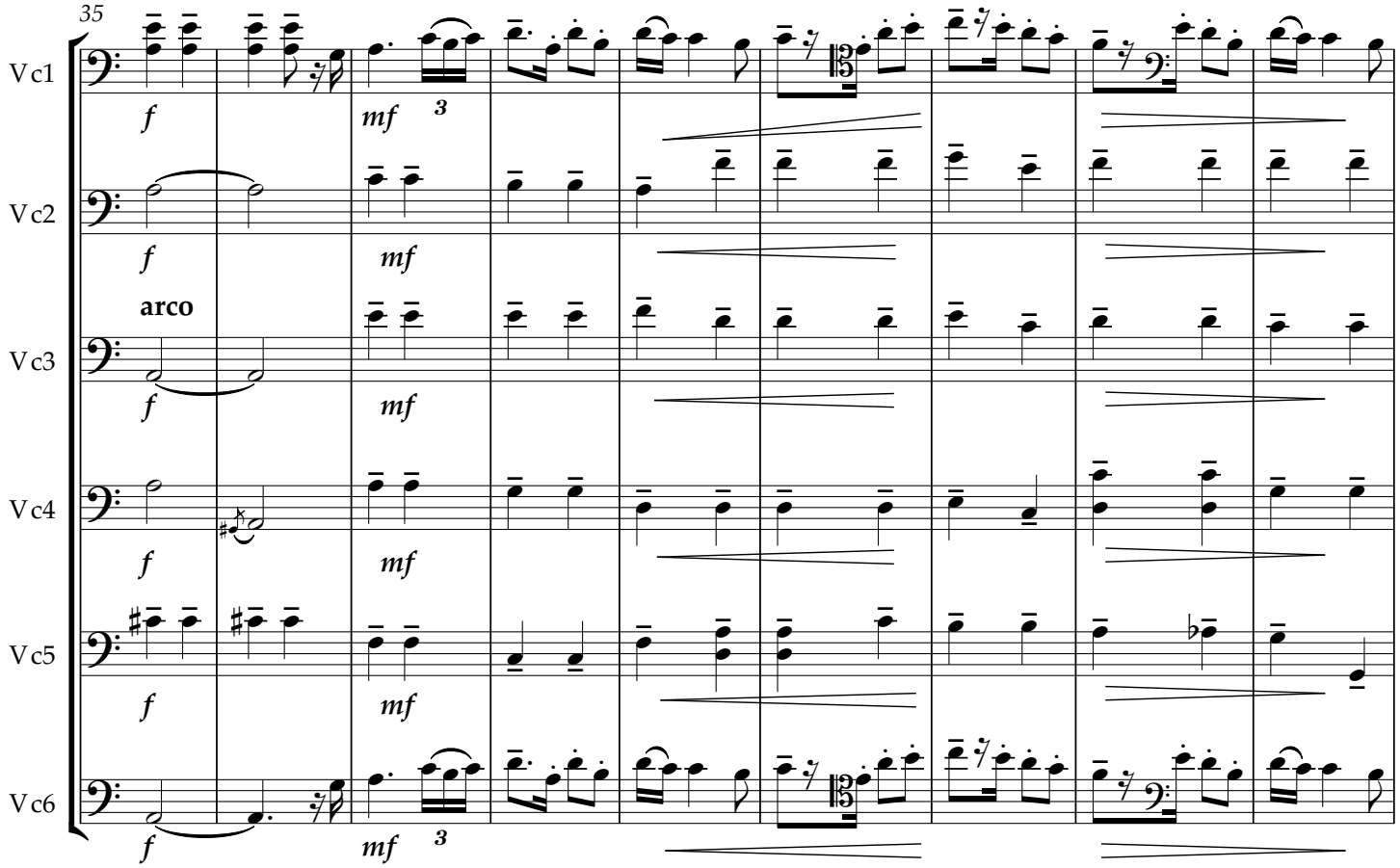
I. Jocul cu bâtă (Stick Dance)

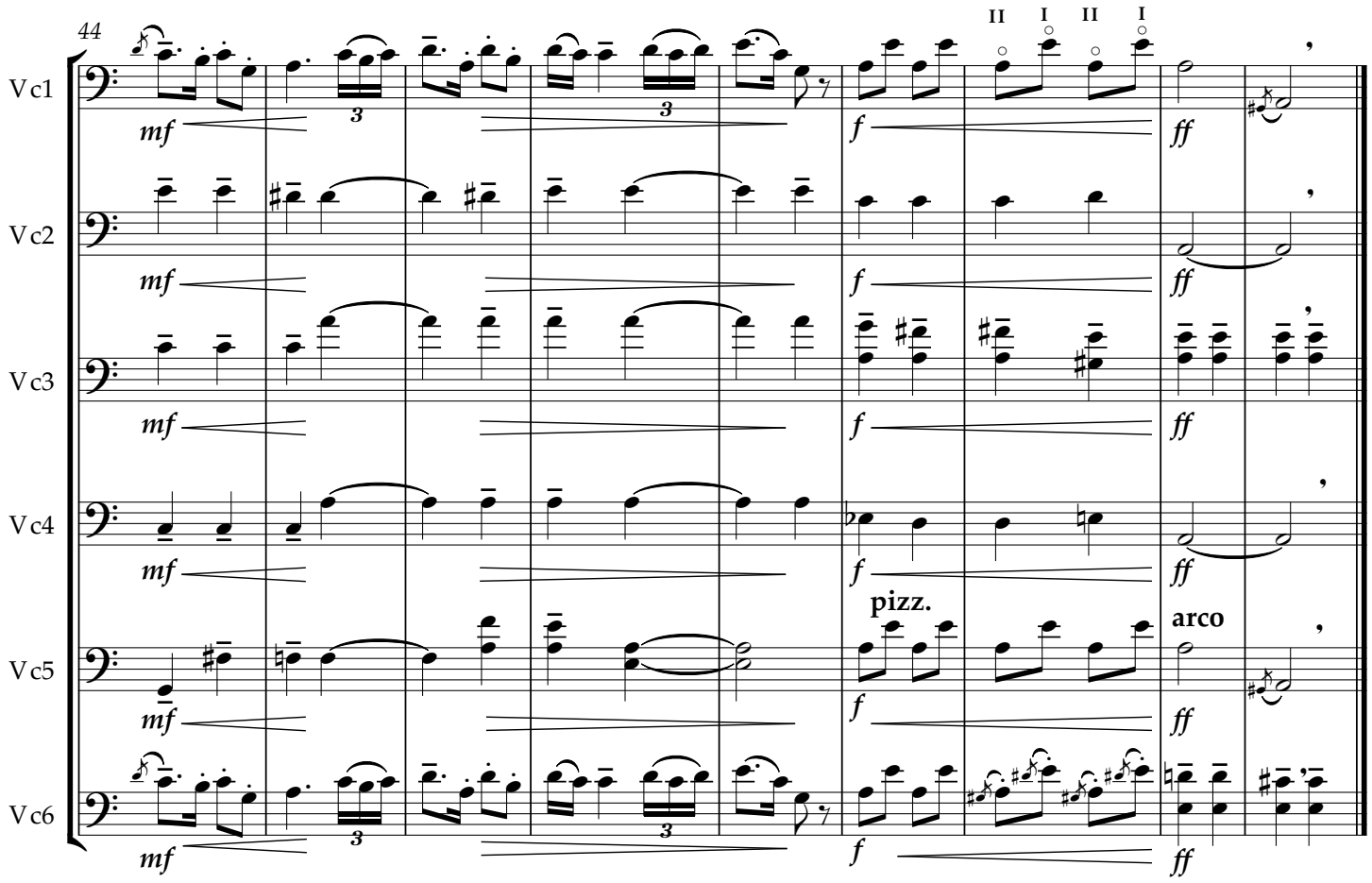
Béla Bartók [1881-1945]
arr Gwyn Seymour,
d.g.seymour@abdn.ac.uk




18
1
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
mf
unis.
3


27
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
p
3
pizz. arco
pizz.
II
I
arco


35
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
arco

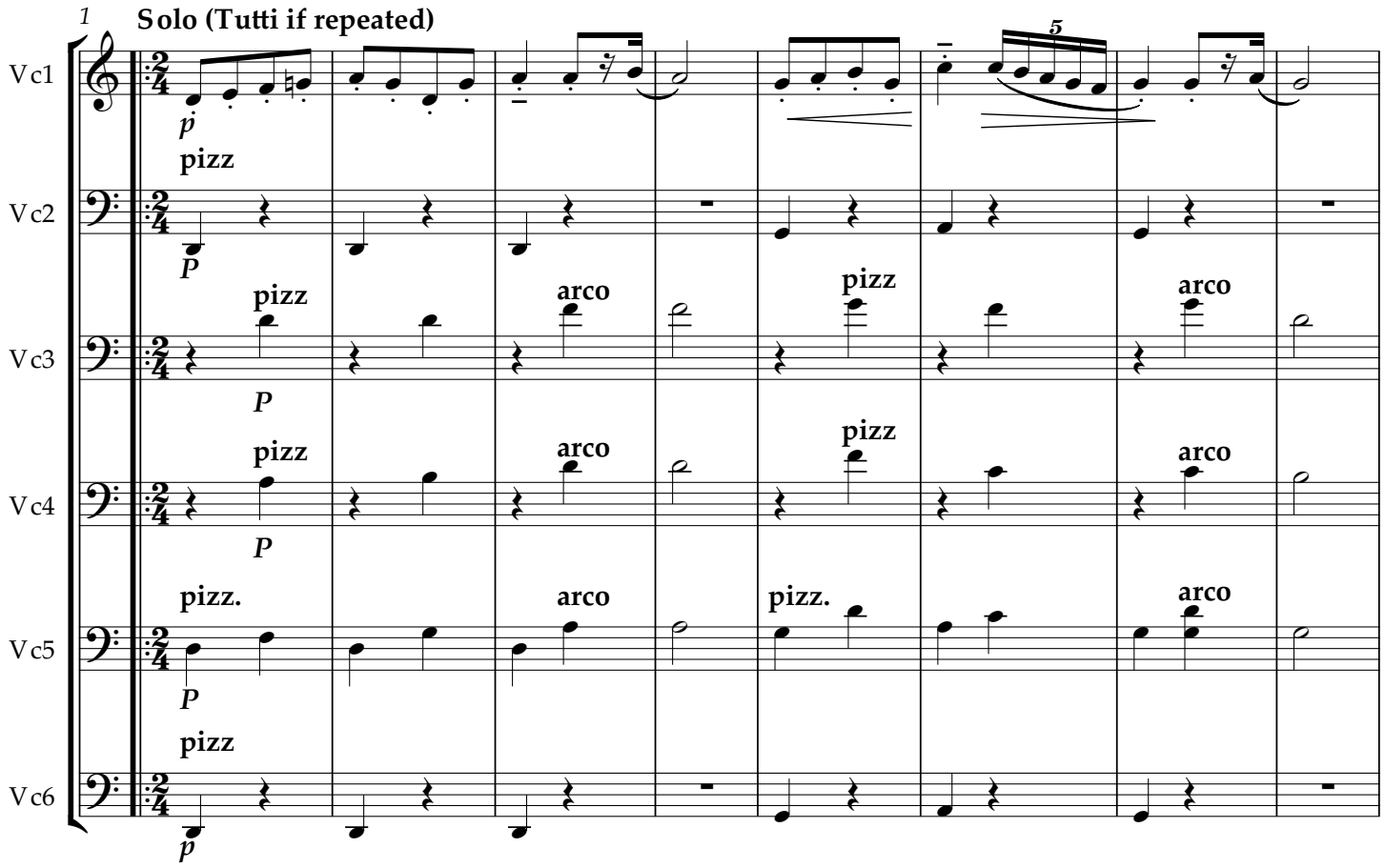

44
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
II I II I
pizz.
arco

Allegro ♩=134

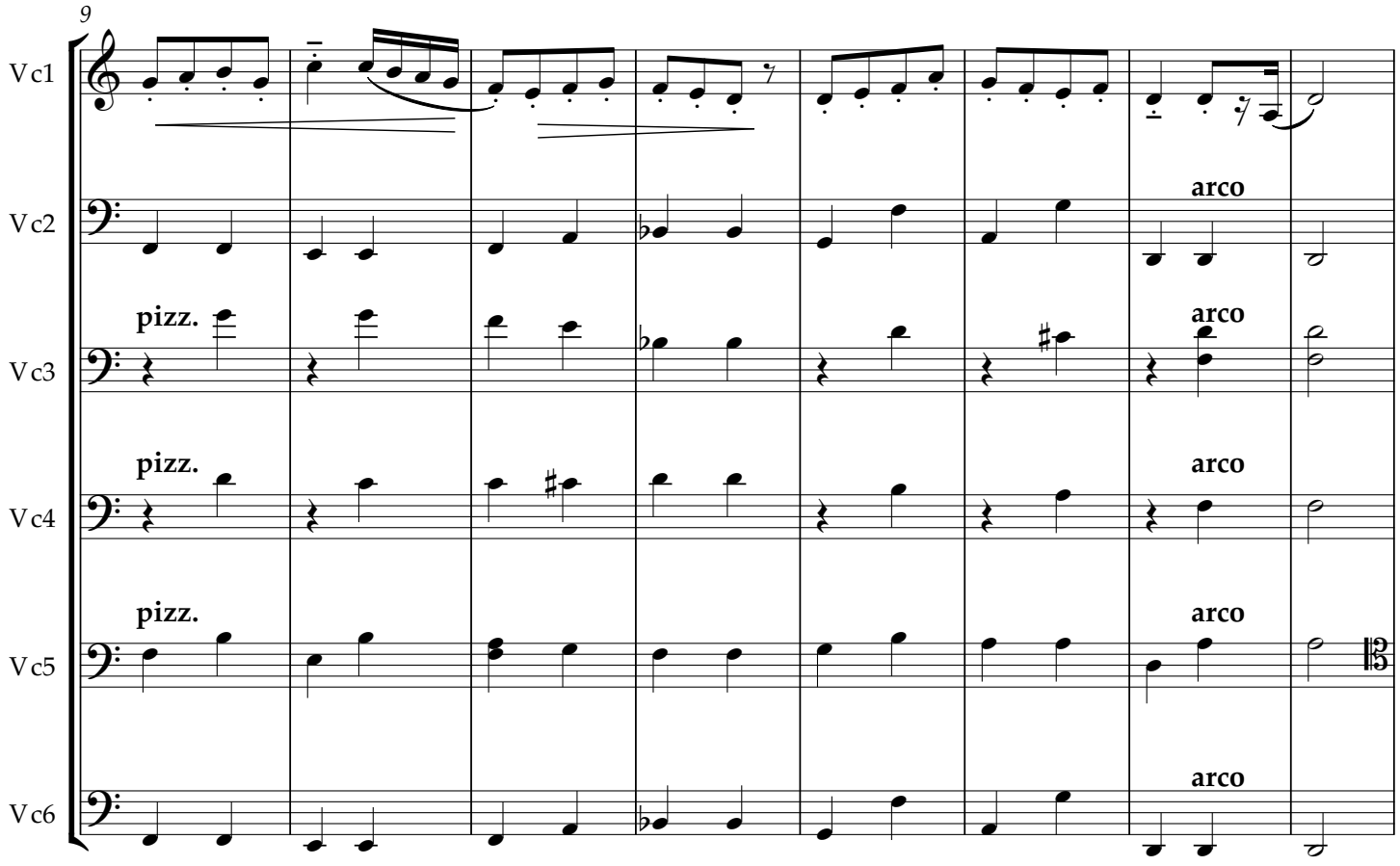
II. Brâul (Sash Dance)

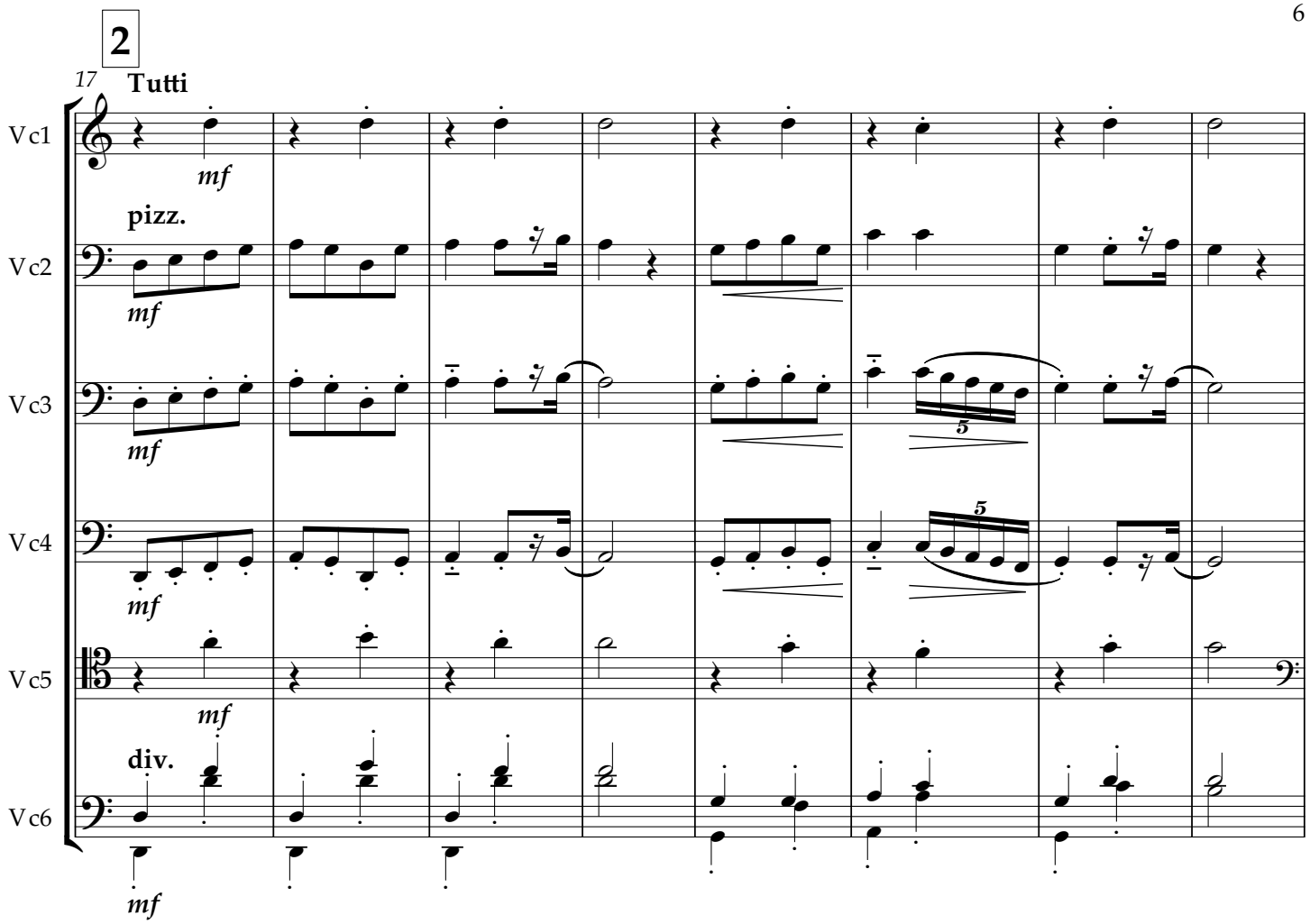
1

Solo (Tutti if repeated)

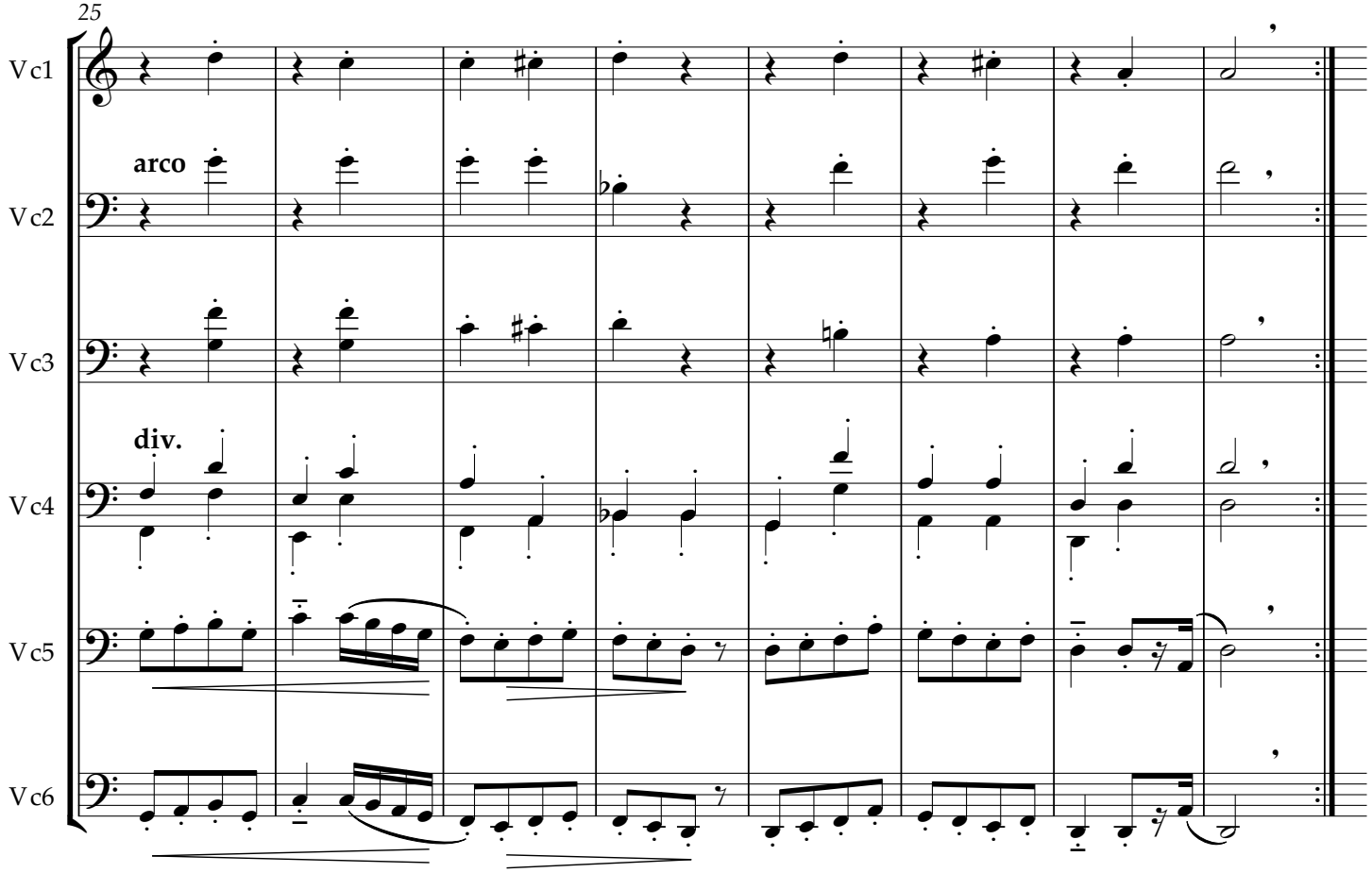


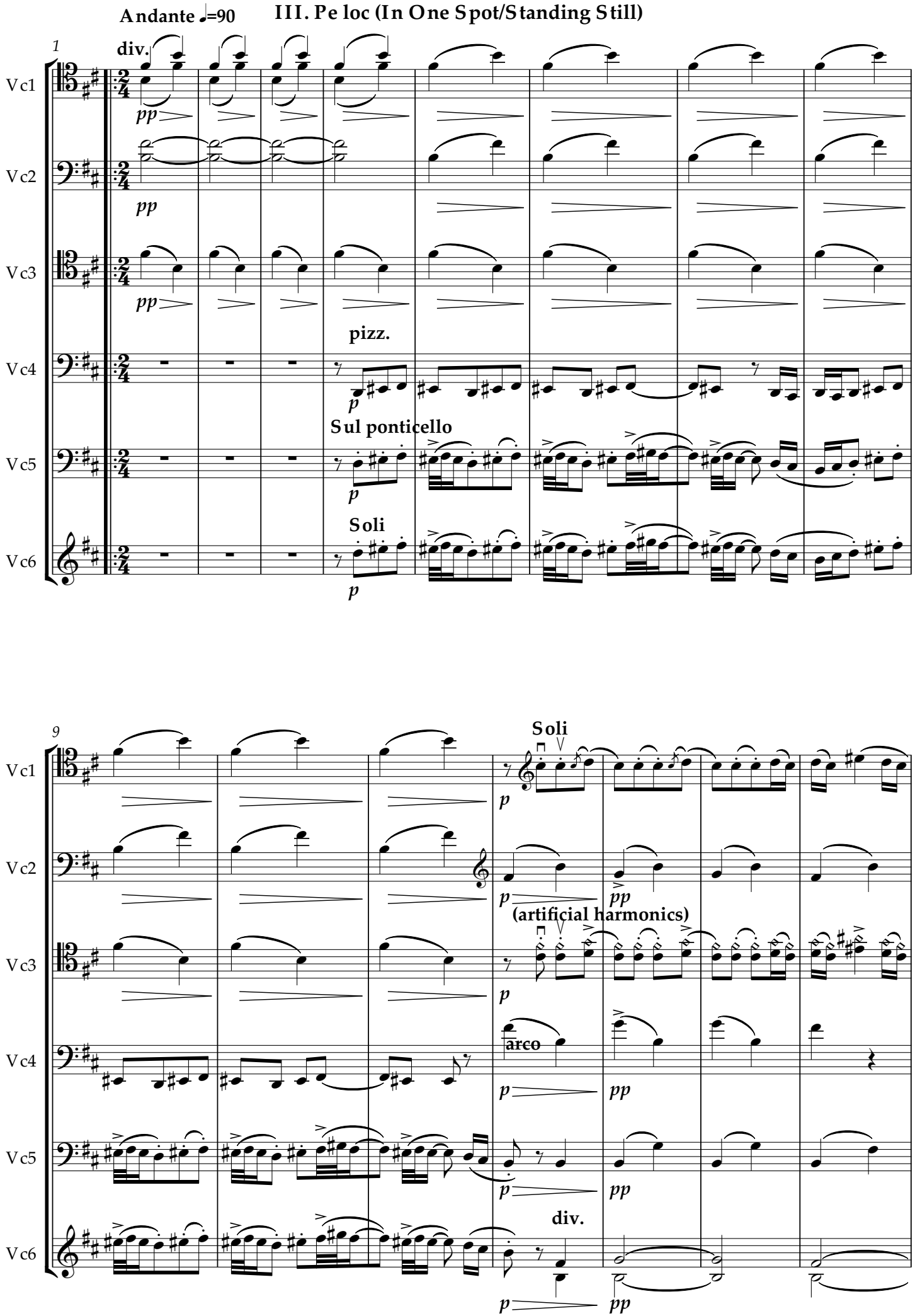
9

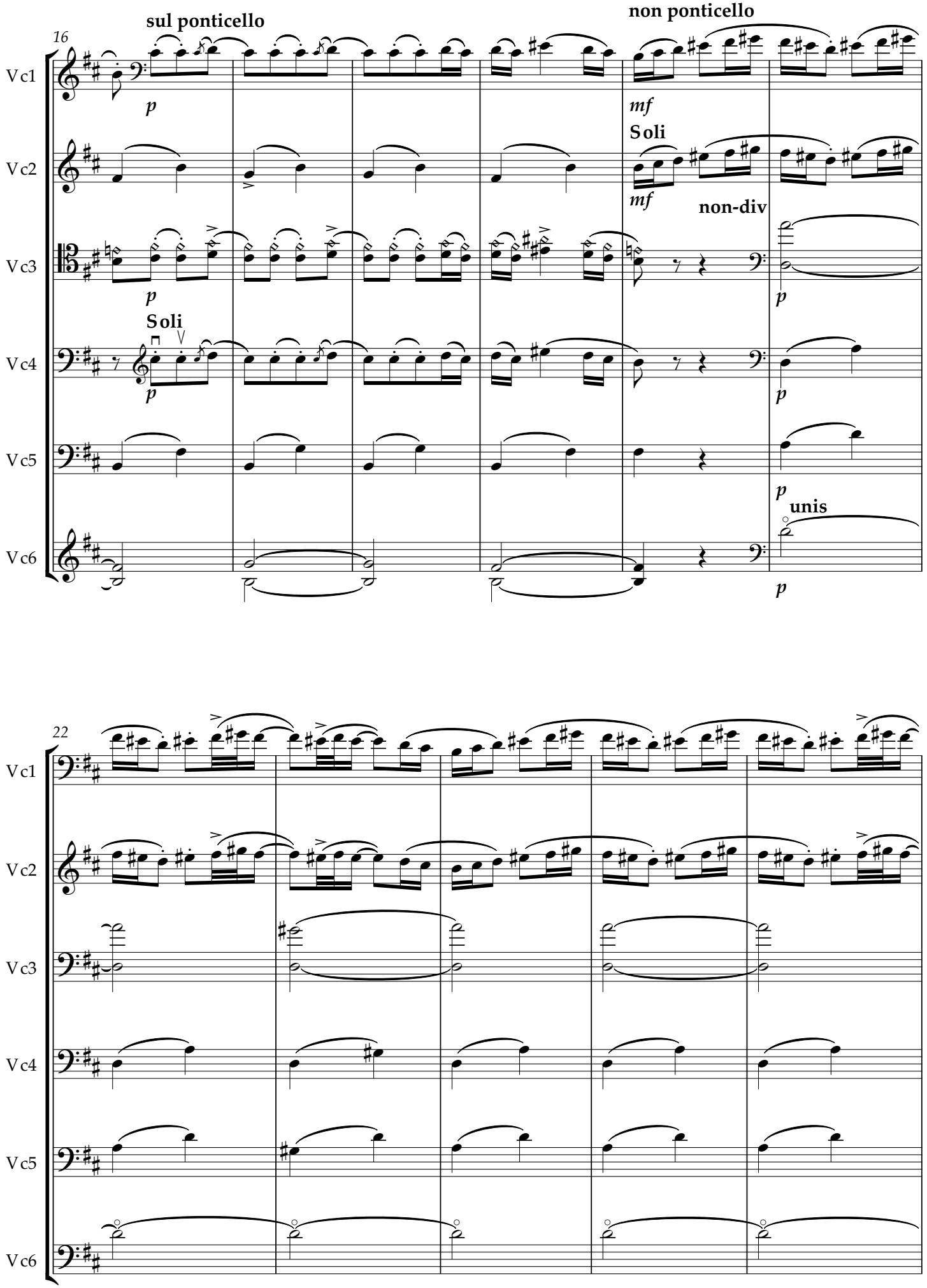


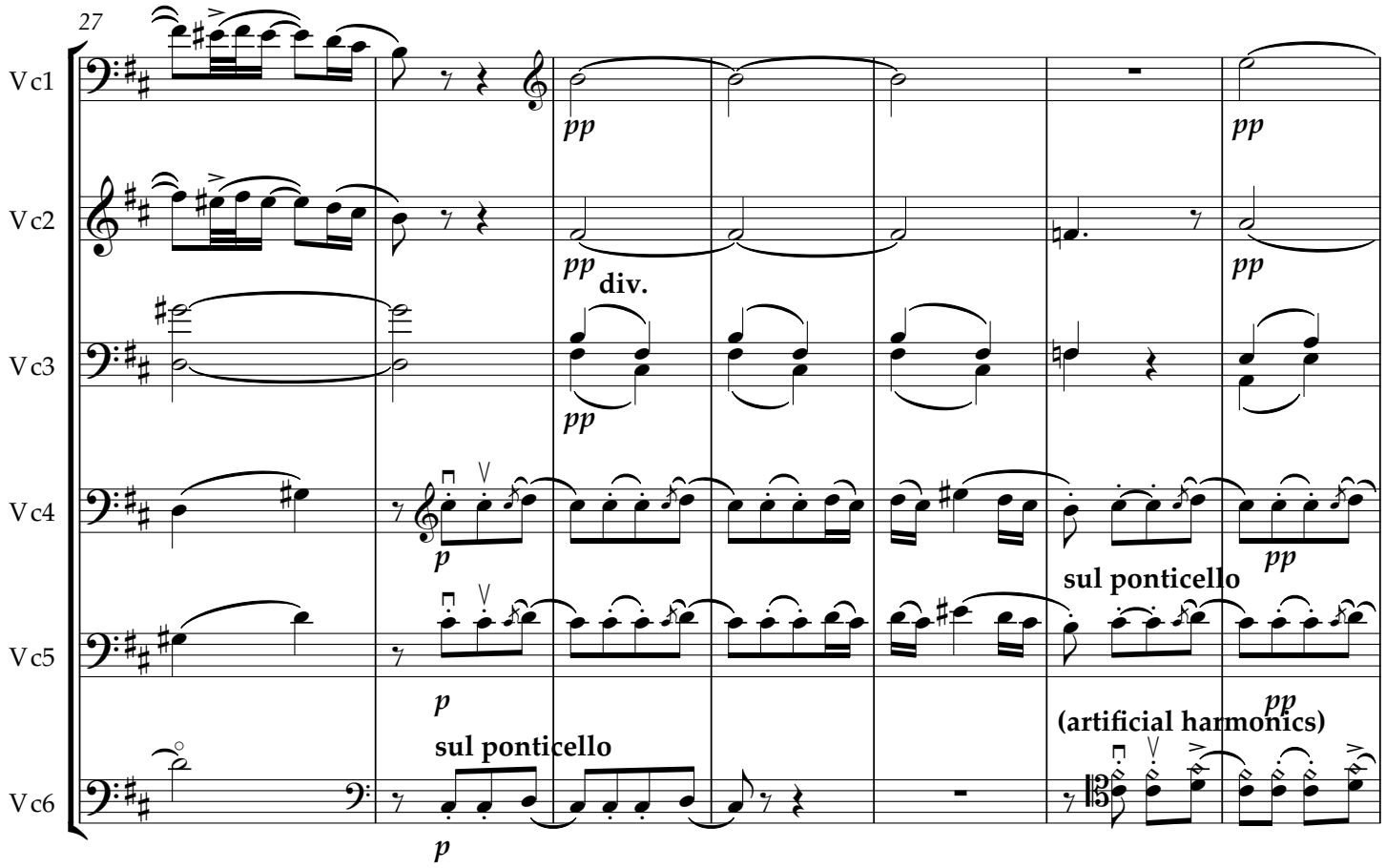


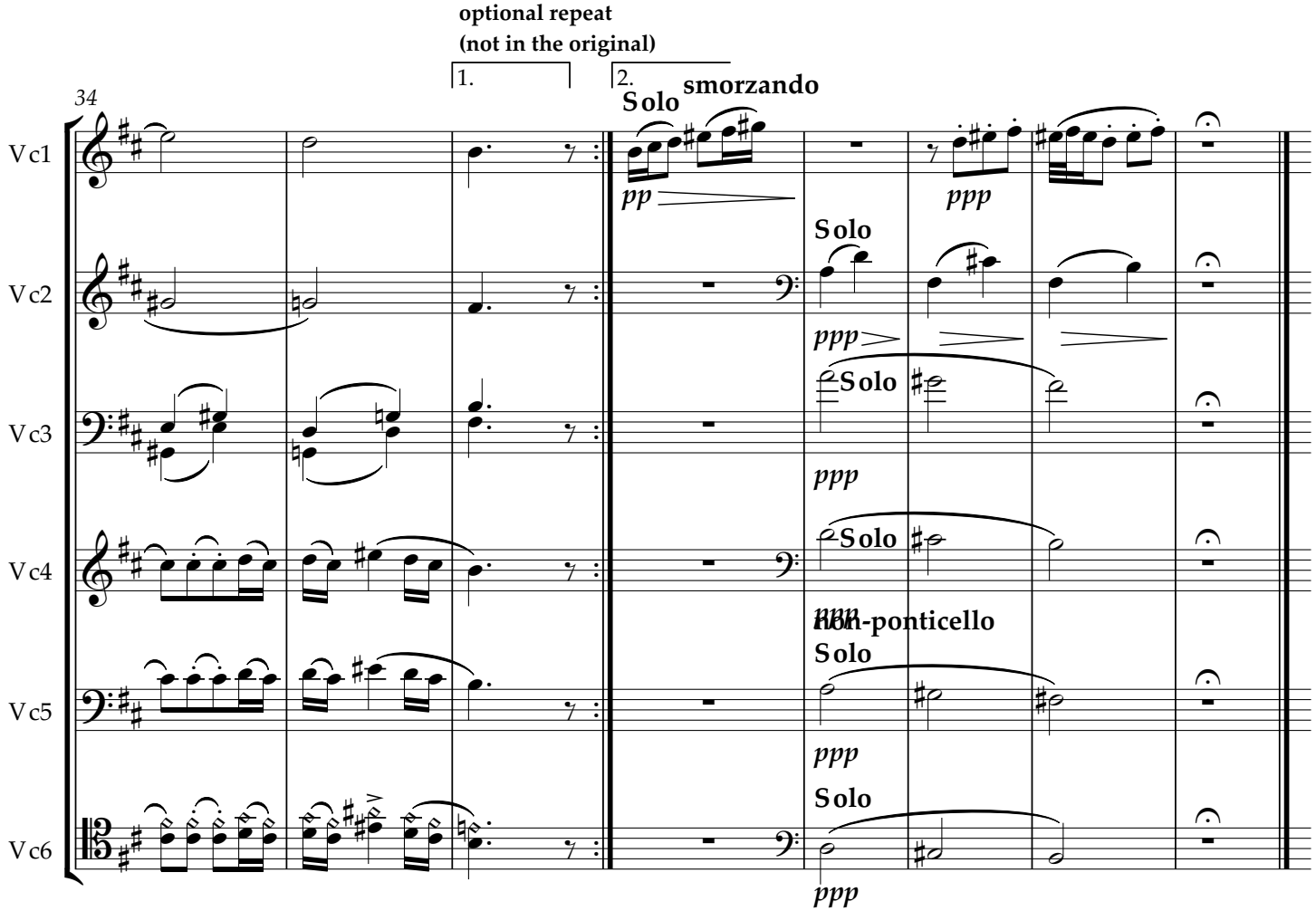
optional repeat
(not in the original)




Andante ♩=90
III. Pe loc (In One Spot/Standing Still)
1
div.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pp
pizz.
p
Sul ponticello
Soli
9
(artificial harmonics)
arco
pp
div.

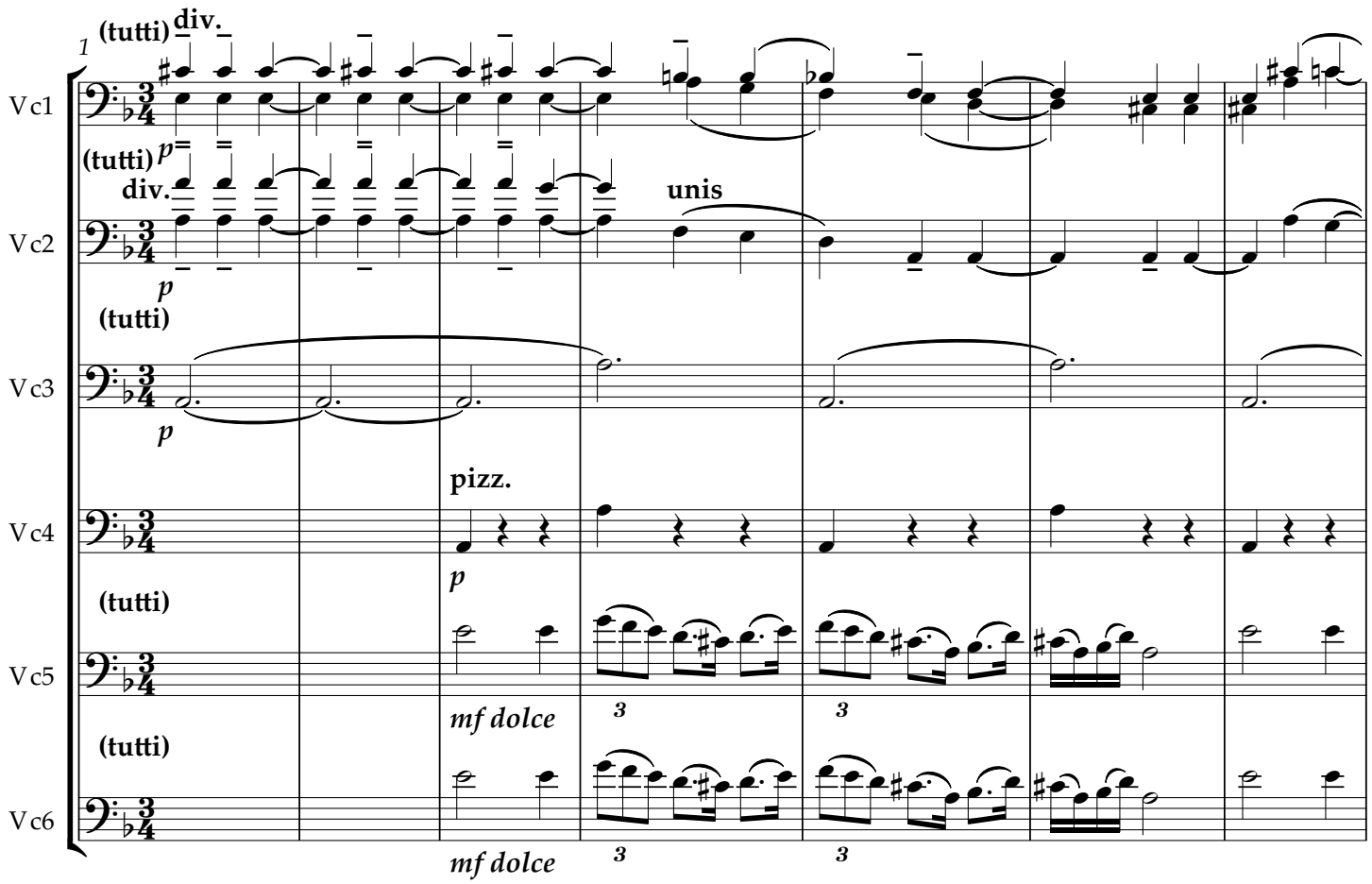

16
sul ponticello
non ponticello
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
p
mf
Soli
non-div
unis
22

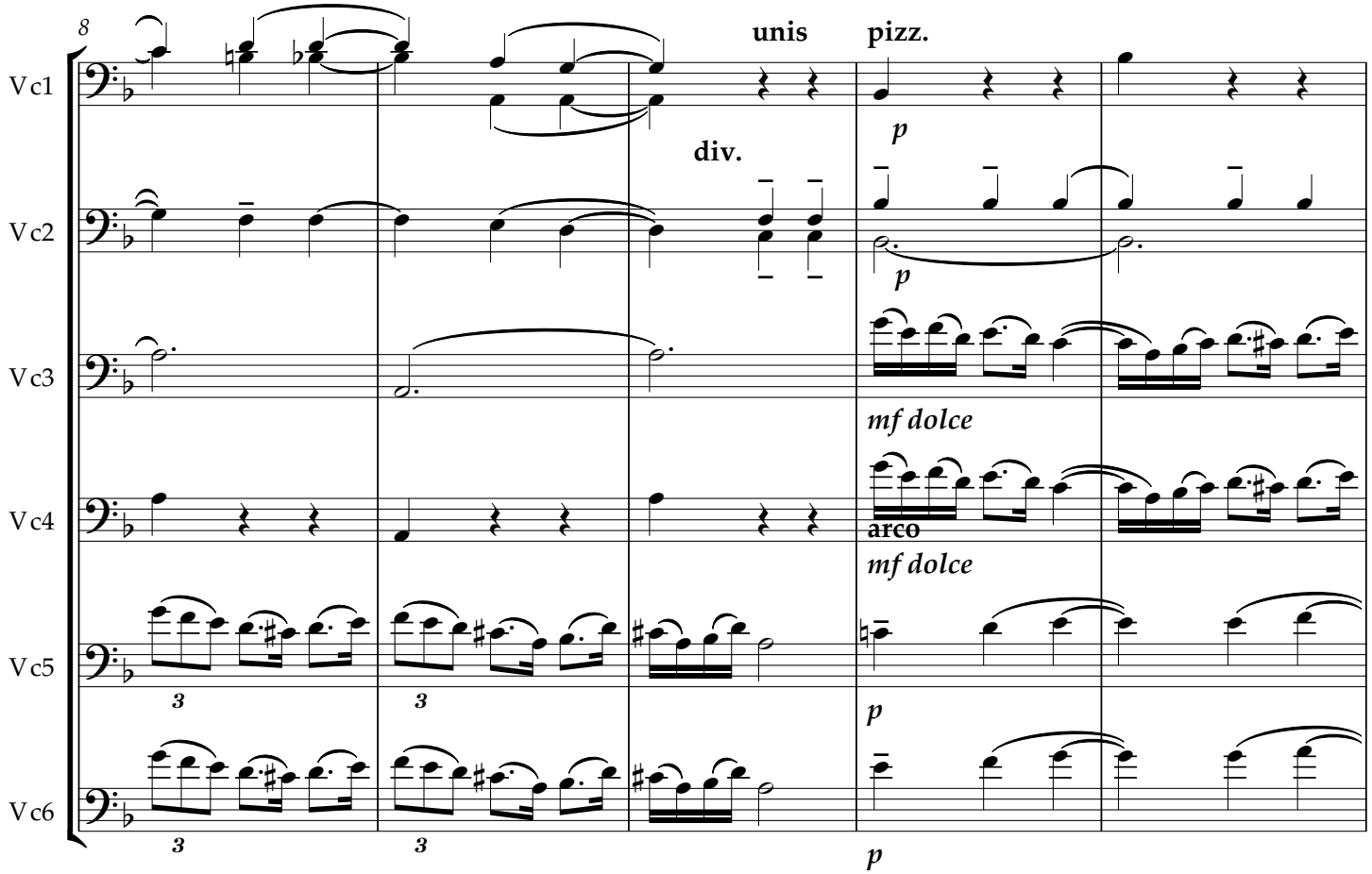

27
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pp
div.
p
sul ponticello
(artificial harmonics)

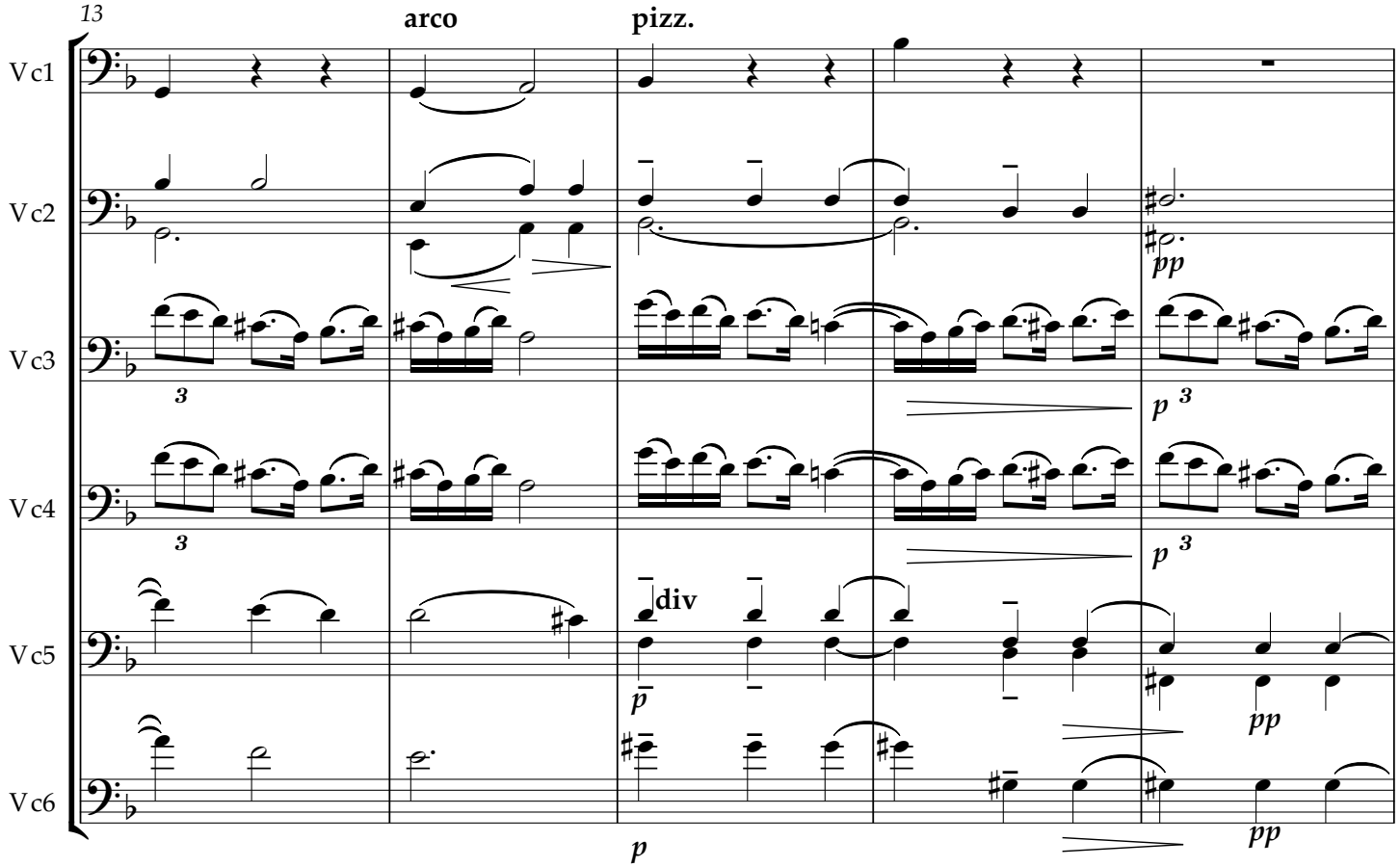

optional repeat
(not in the original)
1.
2.
34
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
Solo
smorzando
pp
ppp
non-ponticello

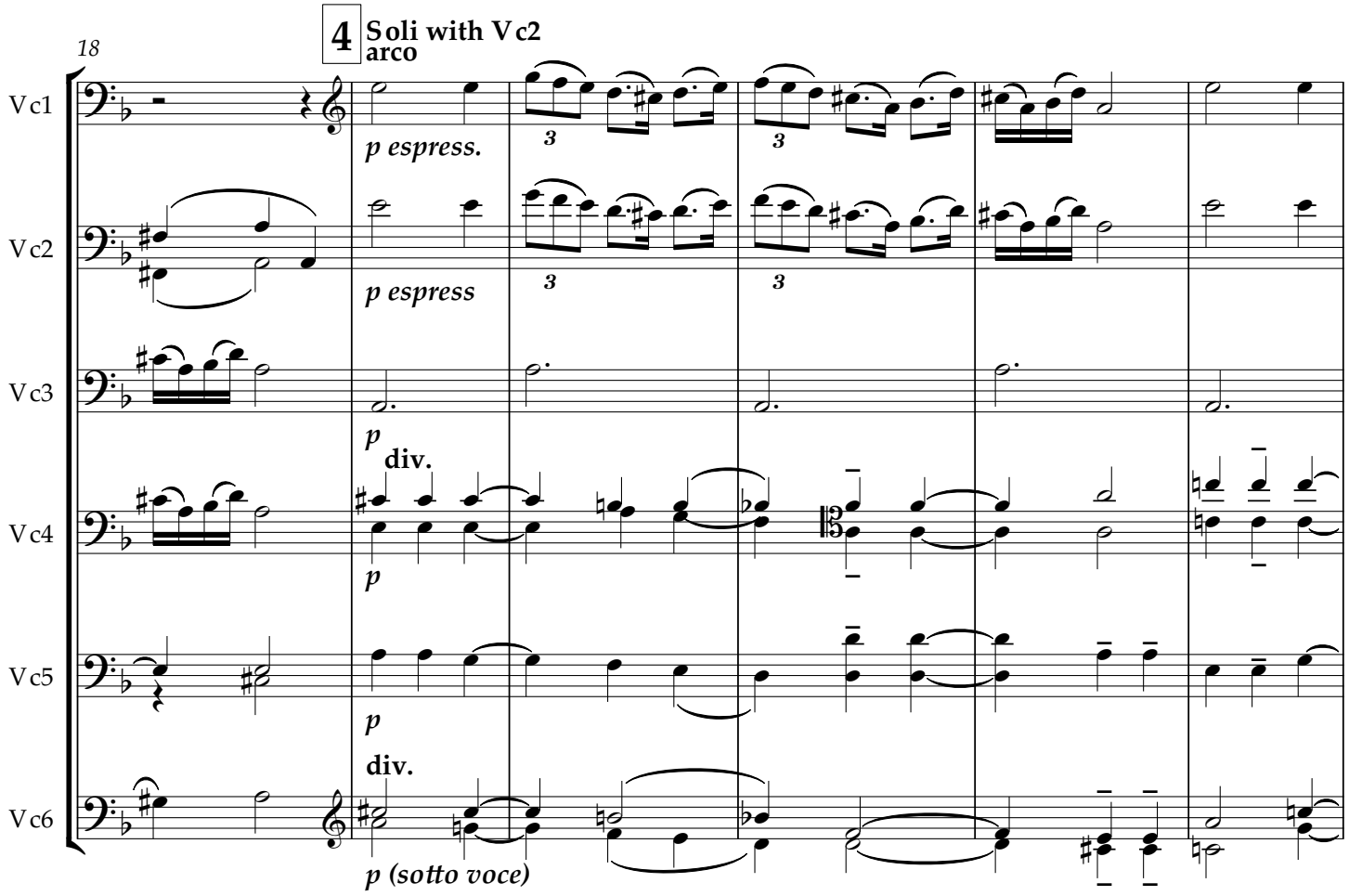
Moderato ♩=74

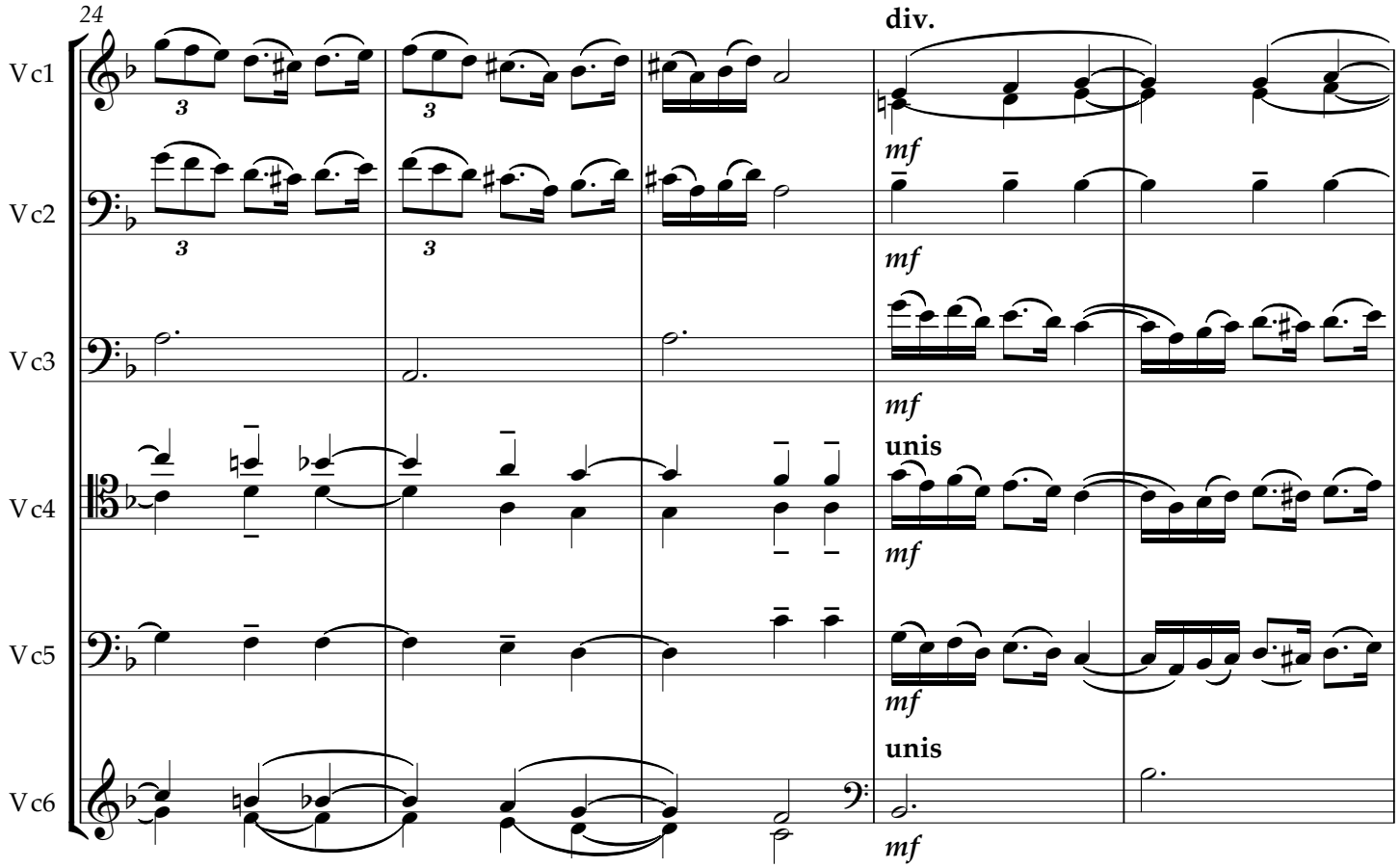
IV. Buciumeana (Dance from Bucsum)

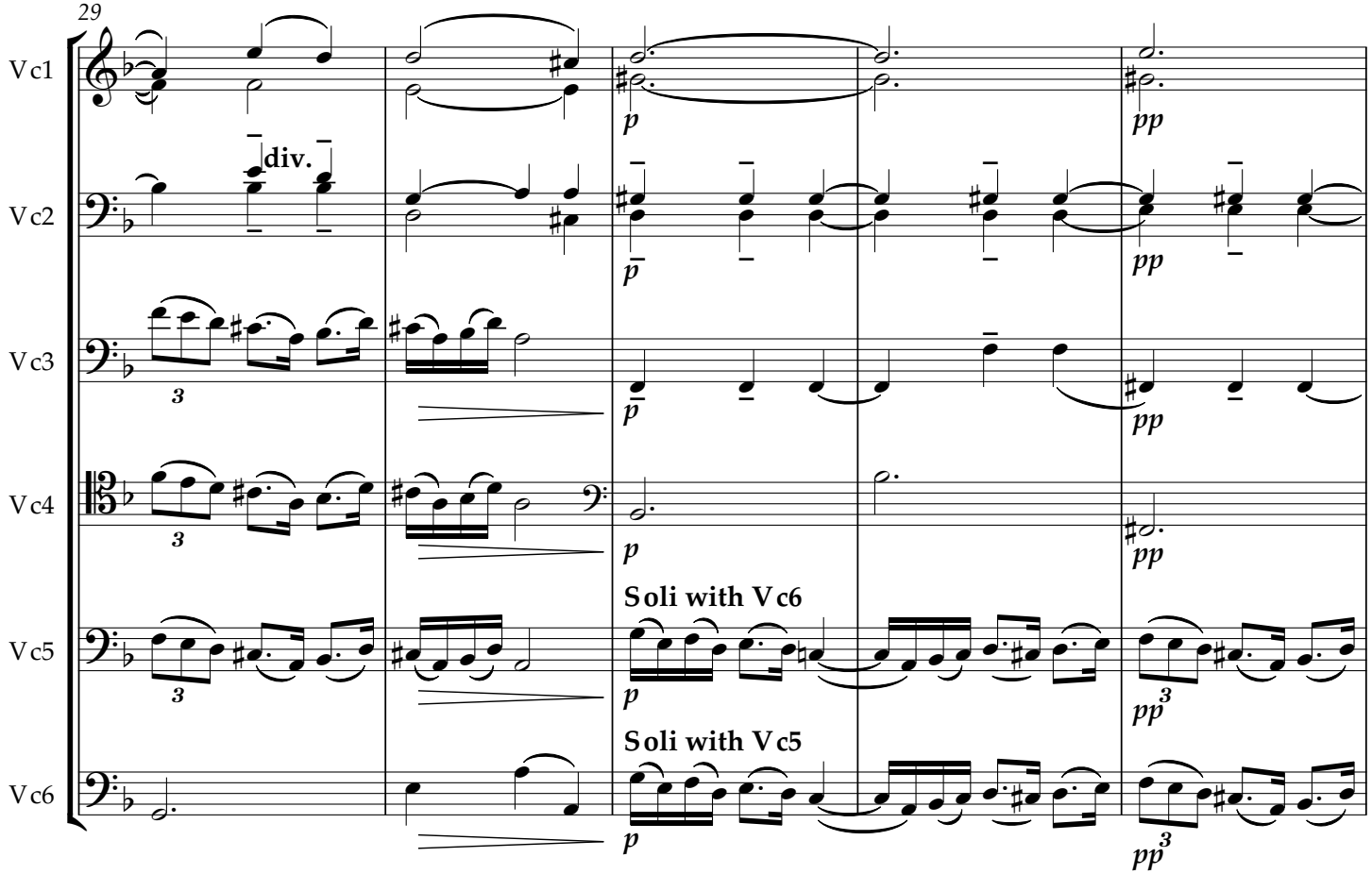




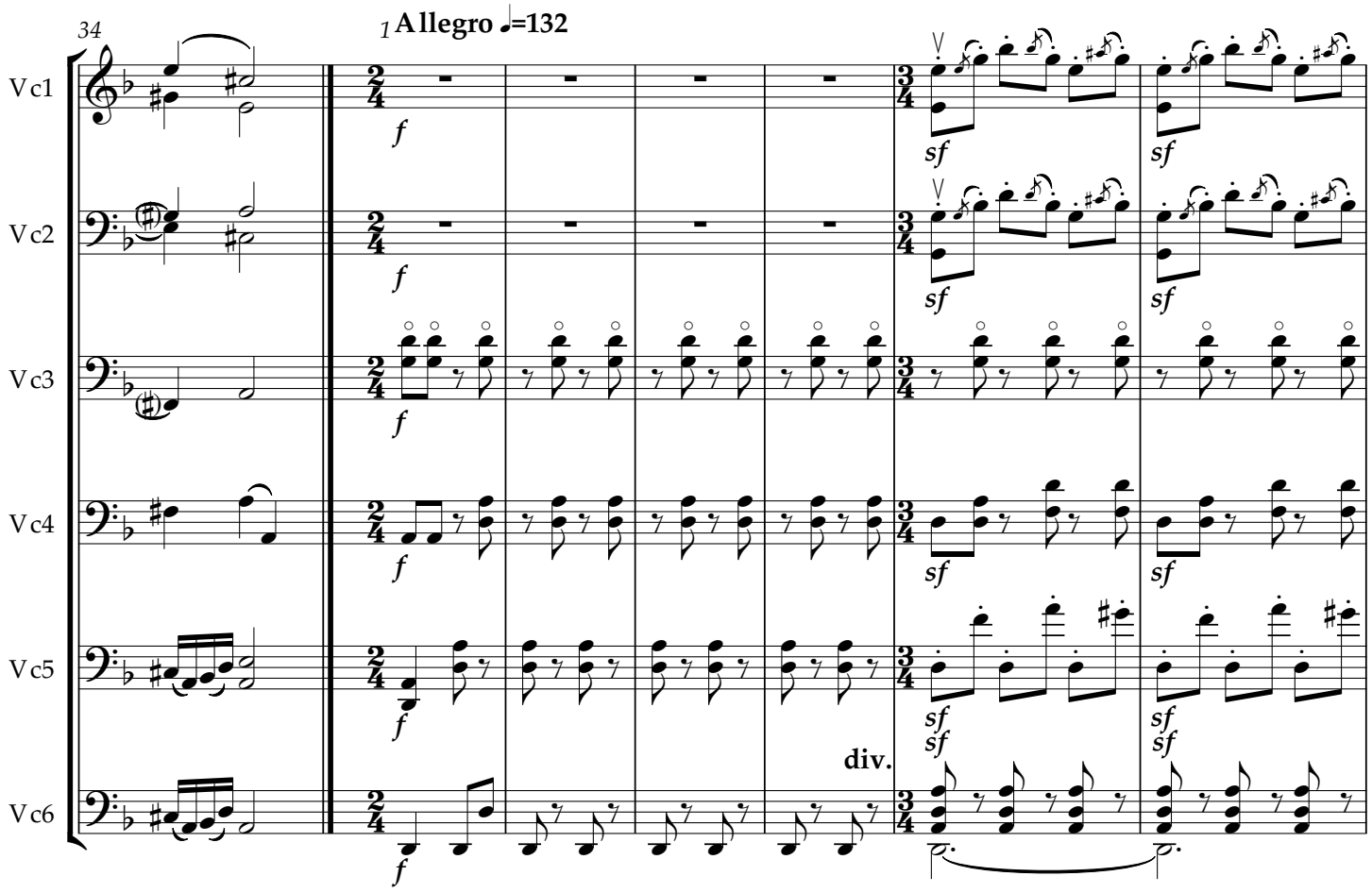

13
arco
pizz.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
pp
p 3
p 3
div
p
pp
p
pp

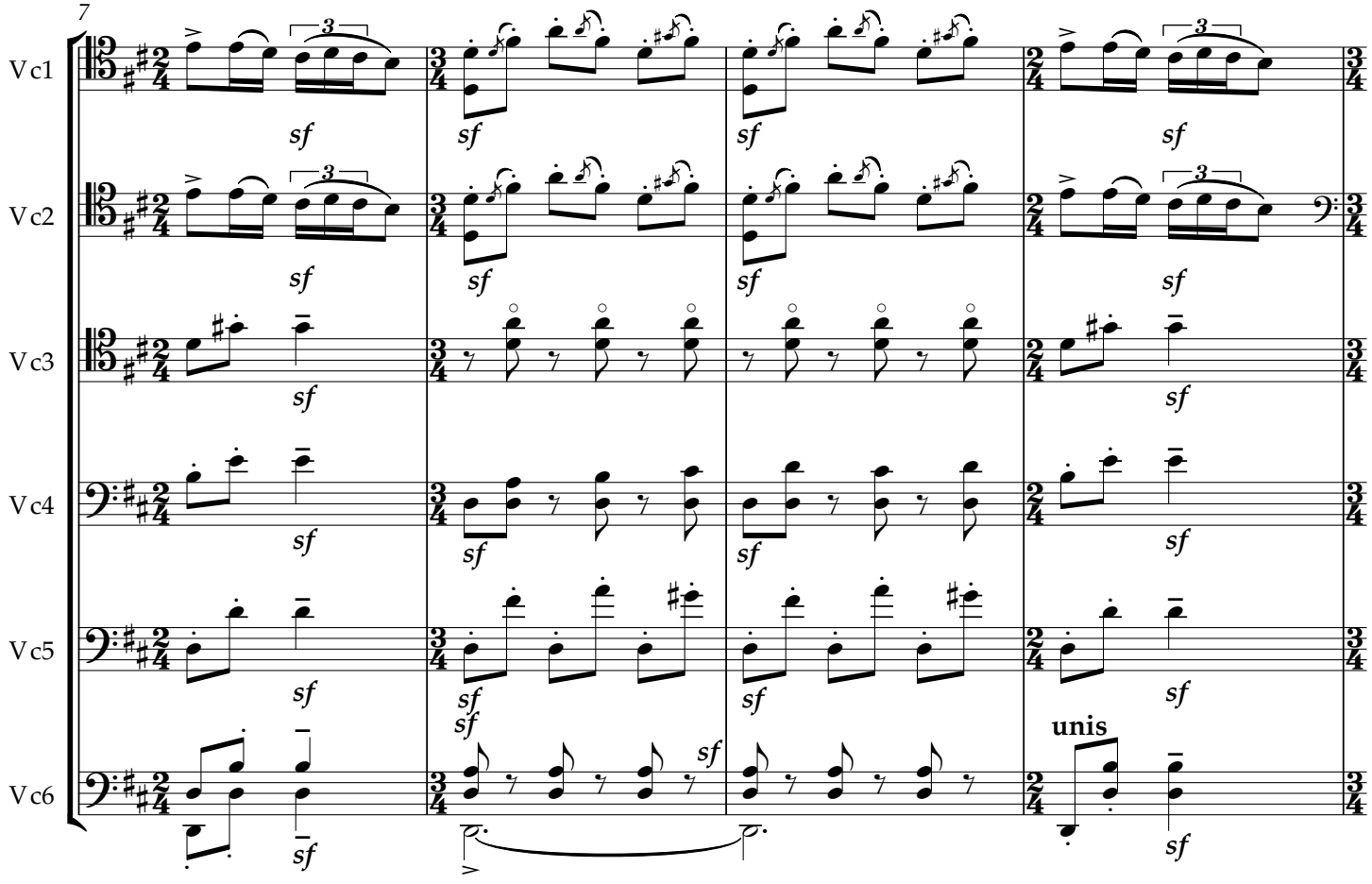

18
4
Soli with Vc2
arco
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
p espress.
p espress
p
div.
p
p
div.
p (sotto voce)

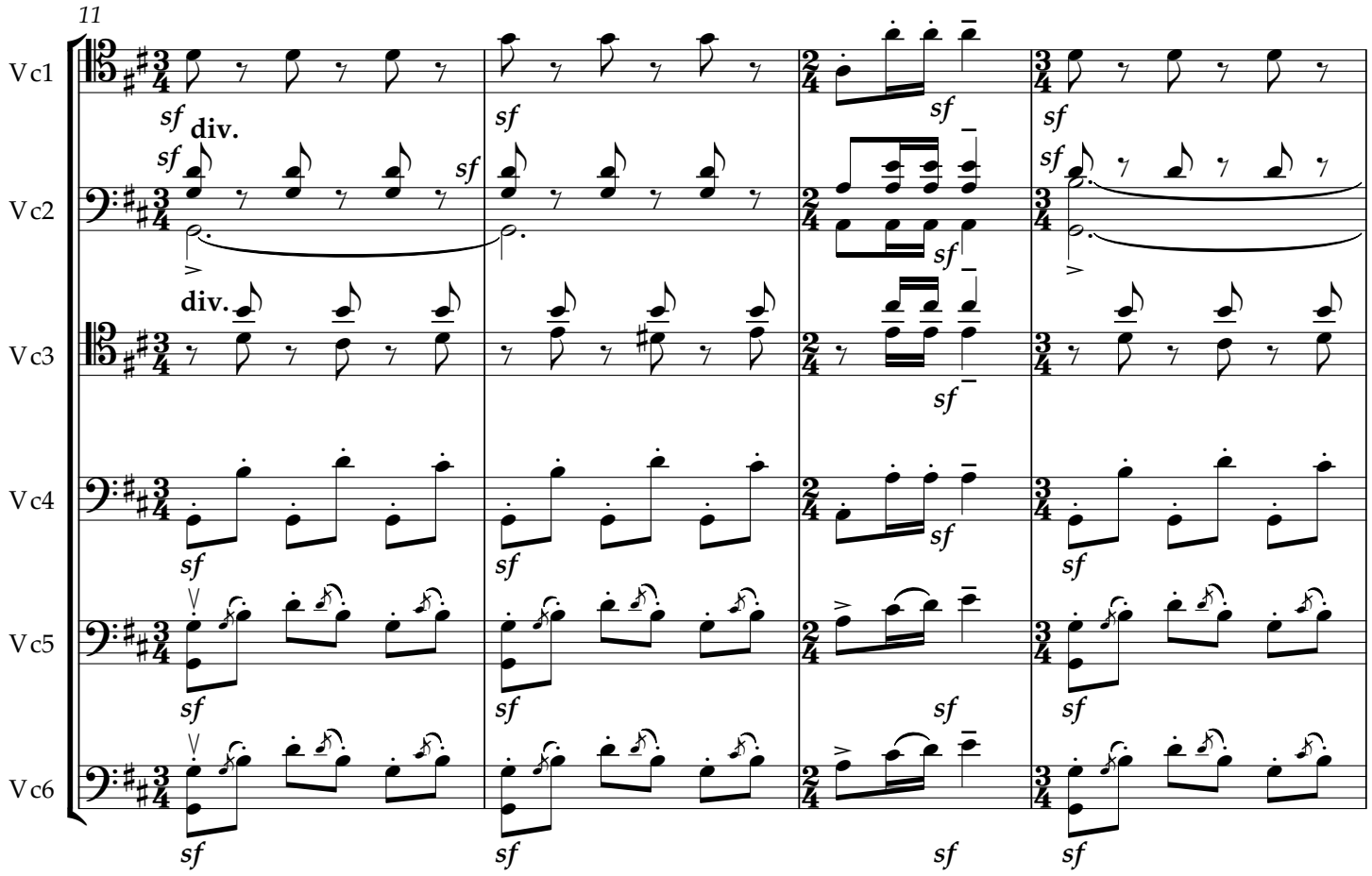

24
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
div.
mf
mf
mf
unis
mf
unis
mf

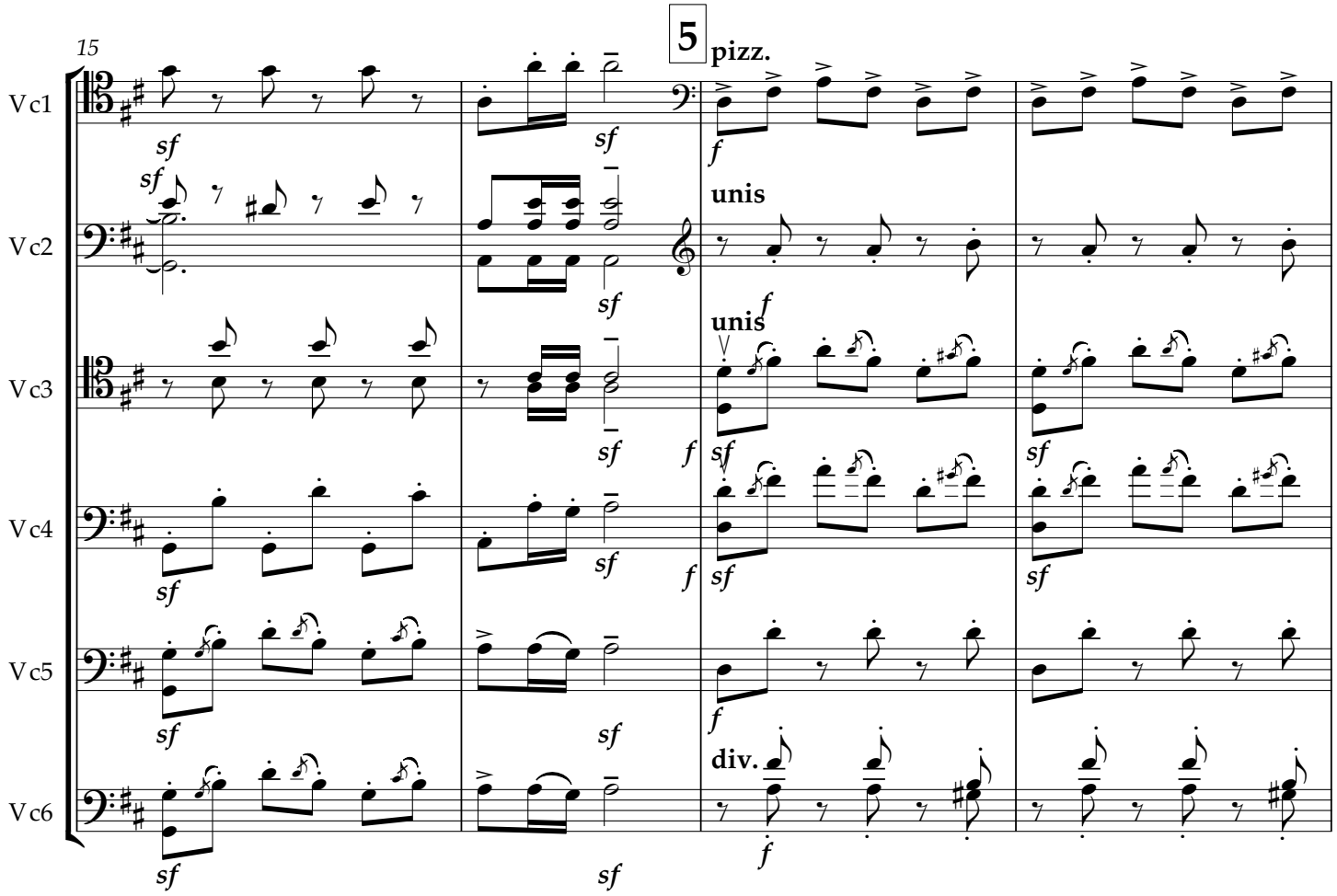

29
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
div.
p
pp
p
pp
p
pp
p
pp
Soli with Vc6
p
pp
Soli with Vc5
p
pp

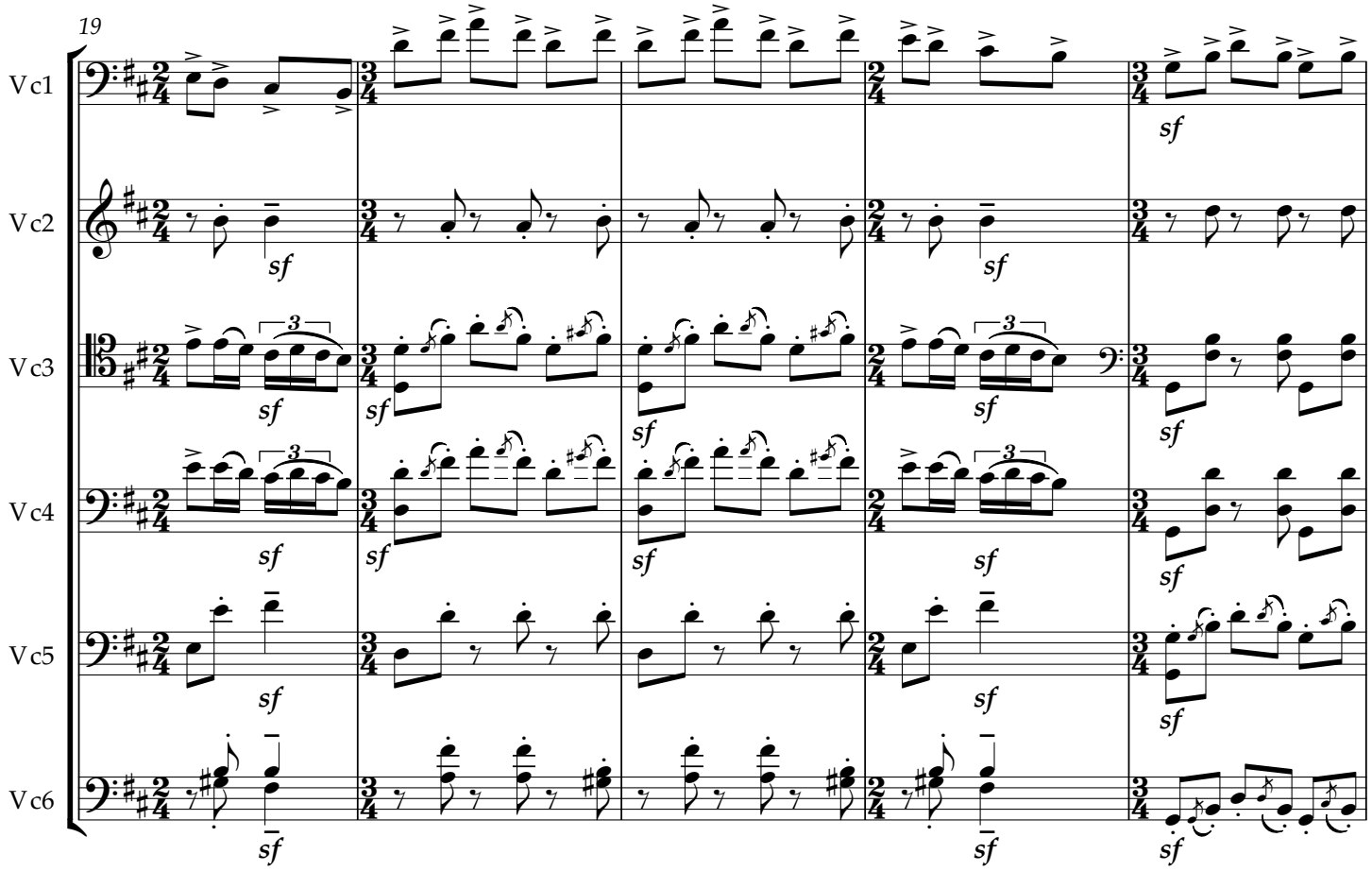
V. Poargâ Românească (Romanian Polka)

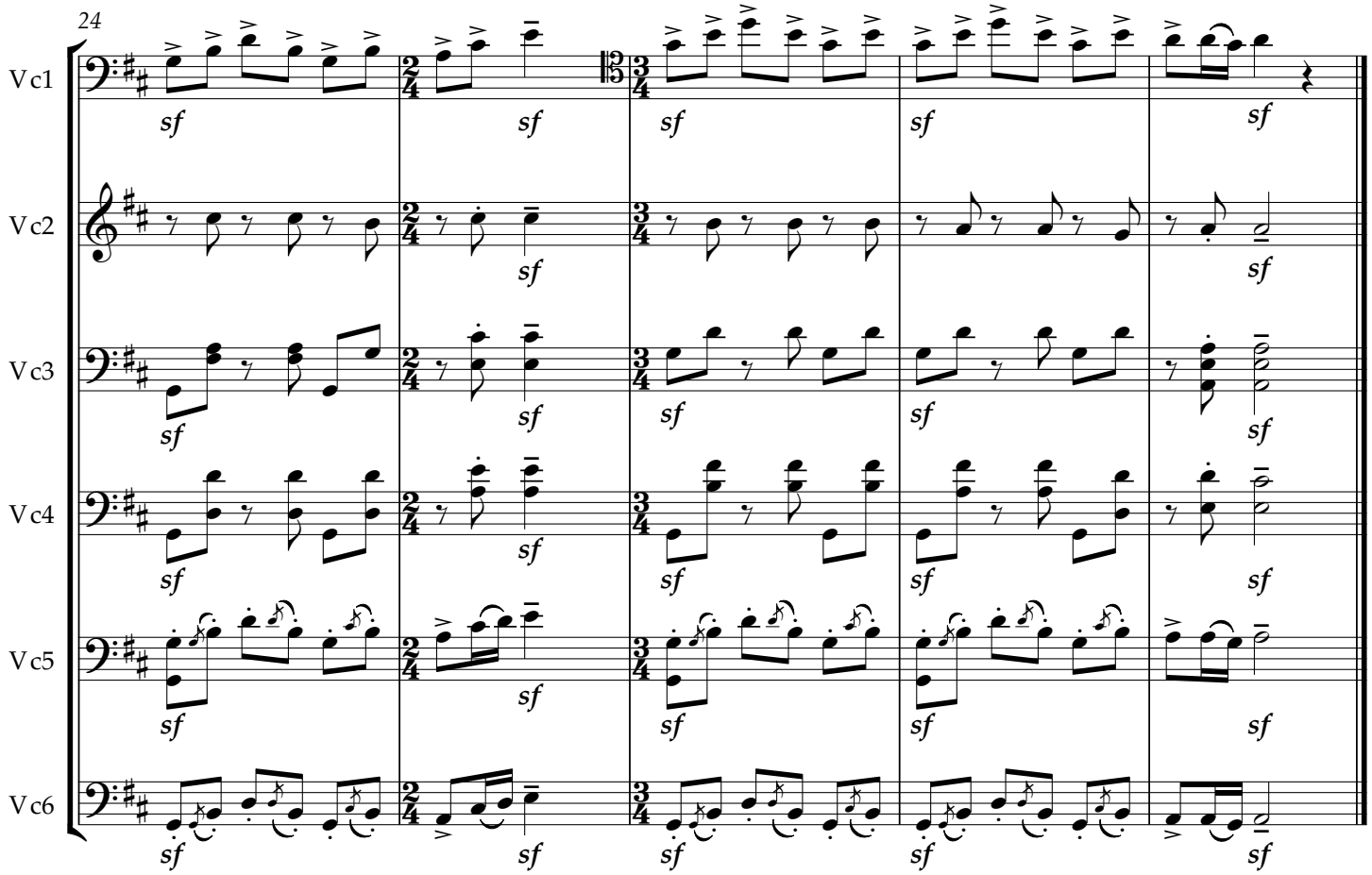





11
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
sf
div.


15
5
pizz.
unis
unis
div.
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
sf
f

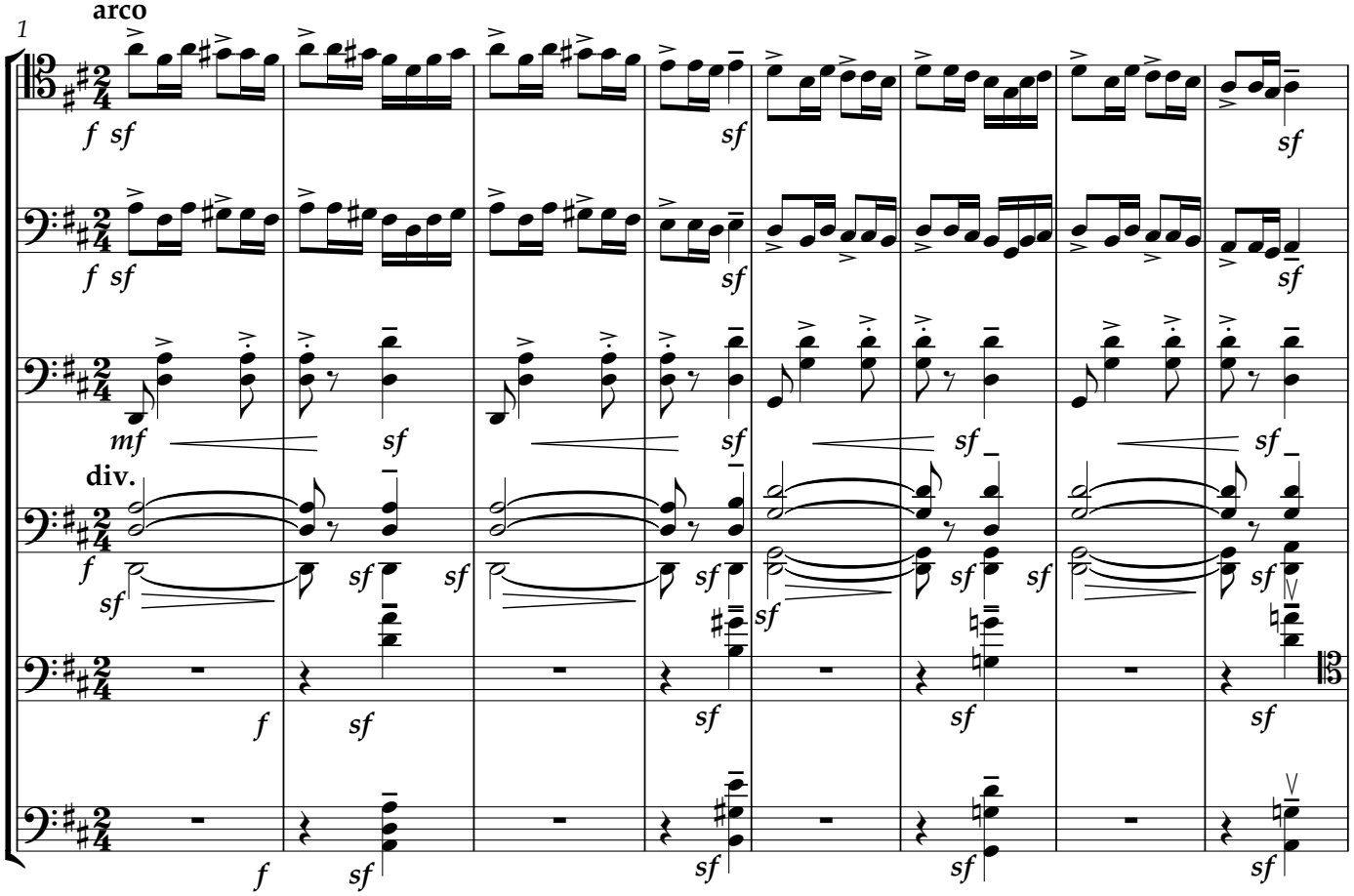

19
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
sf

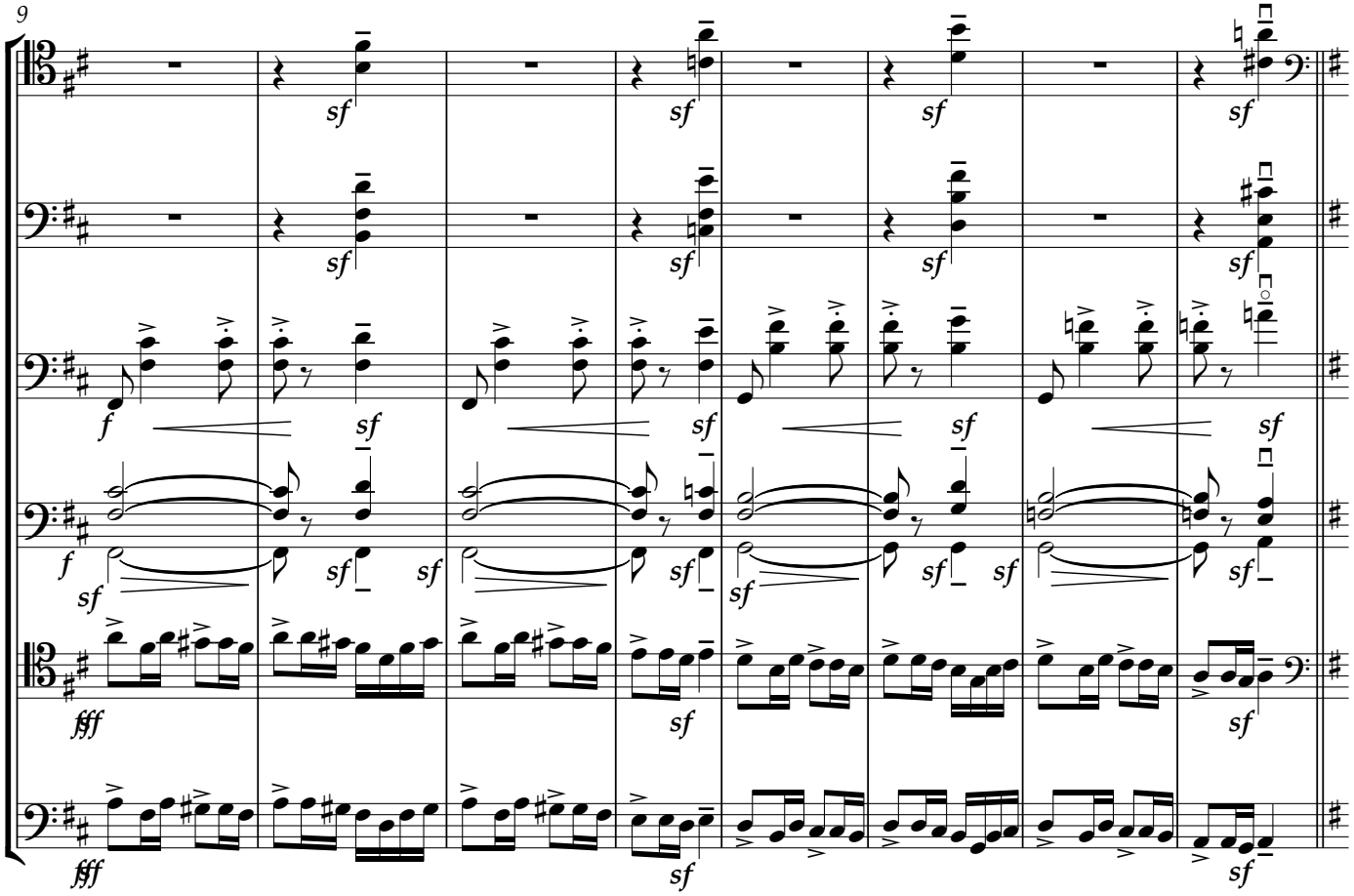

24
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
sf

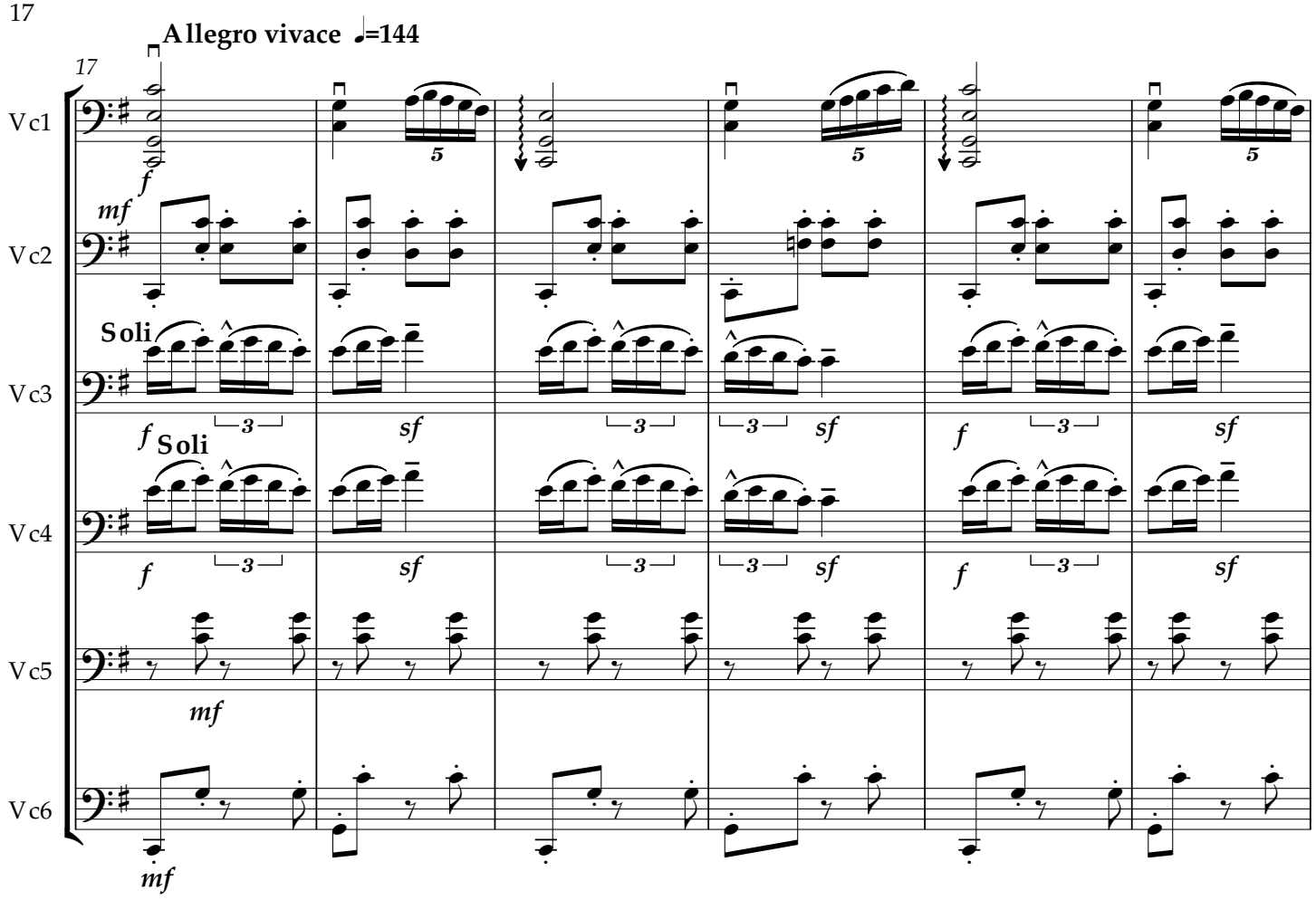
VI. Mărunțel (Fast Dance)

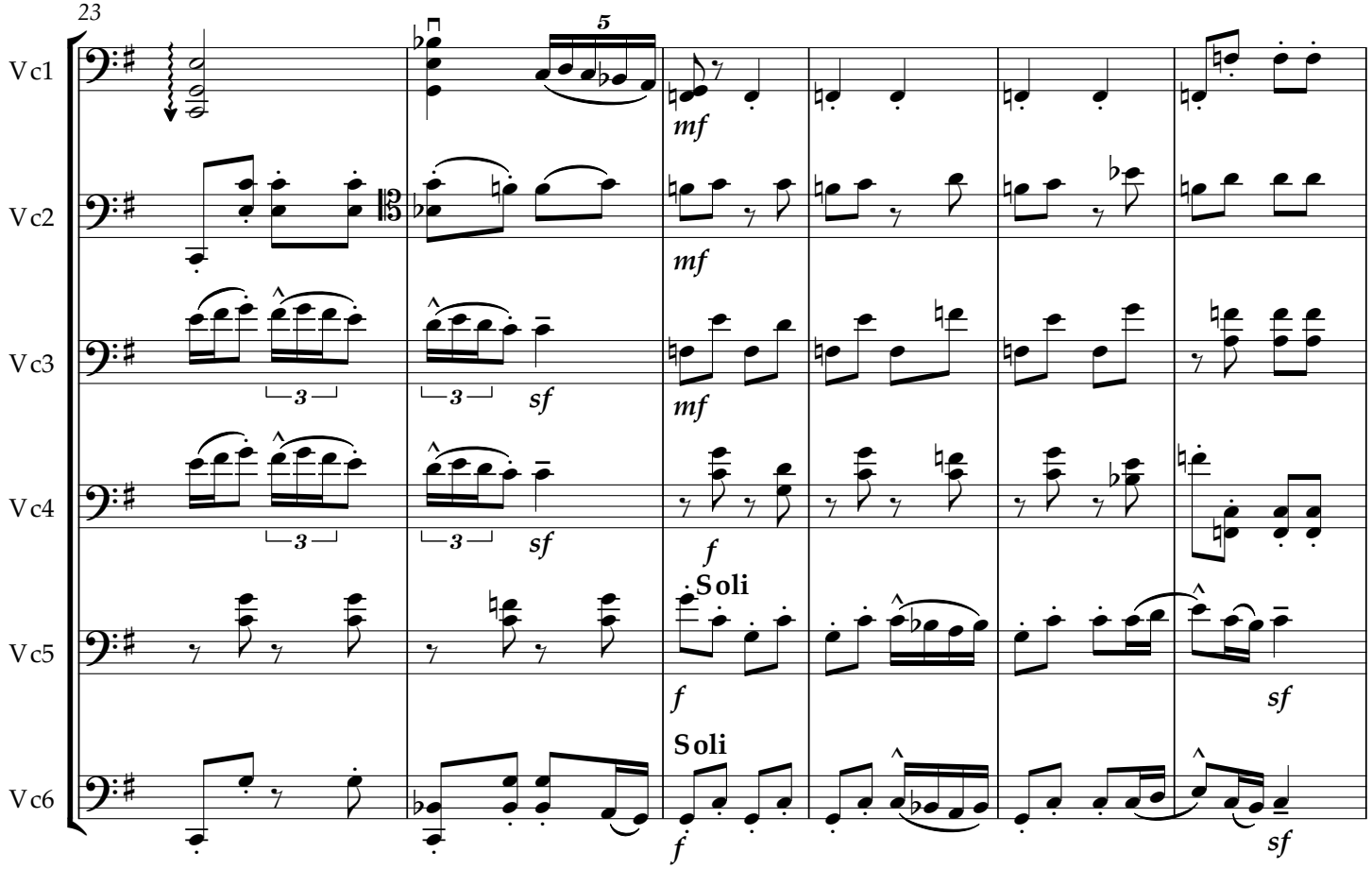
Allegro ♩=132

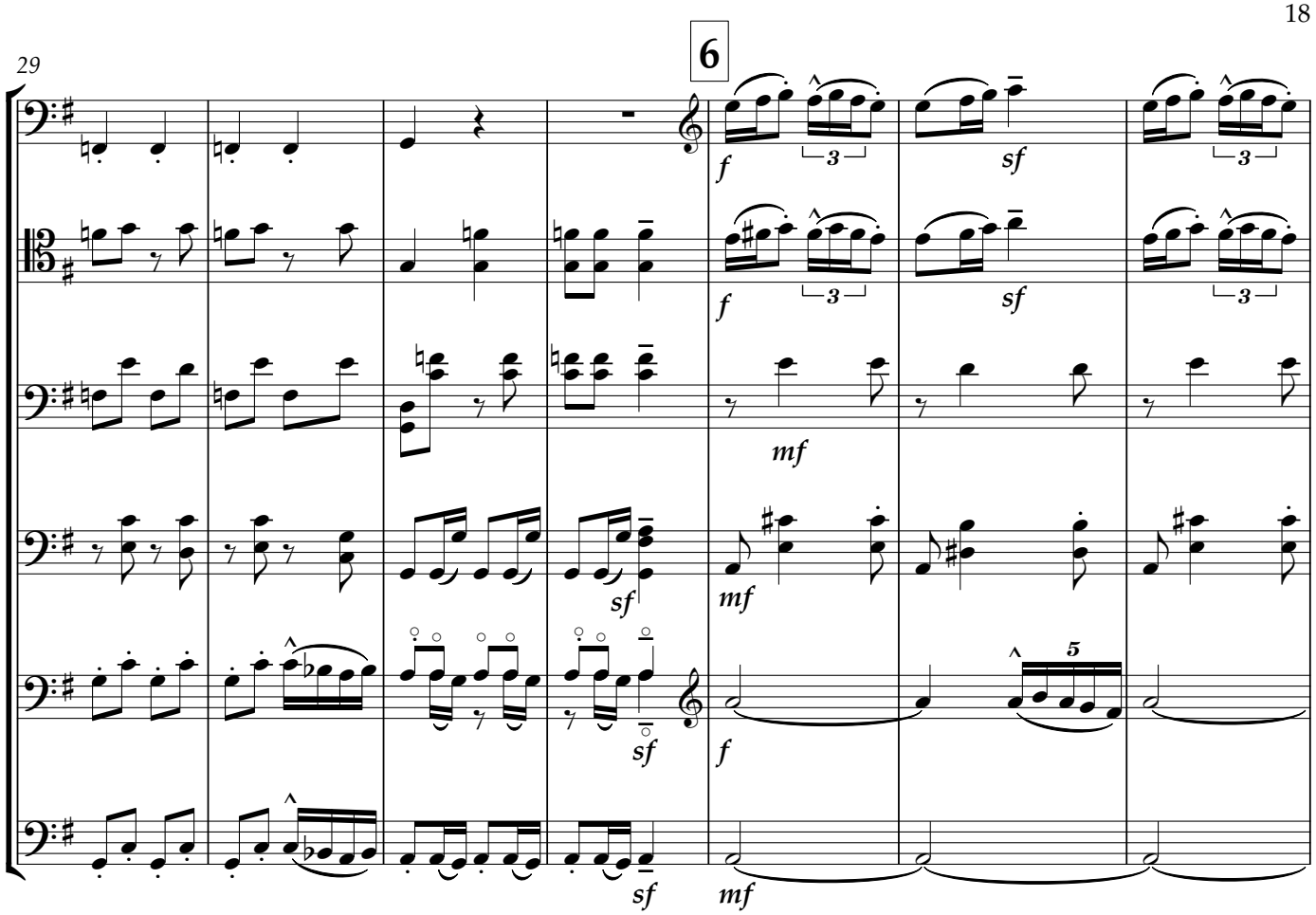
arco

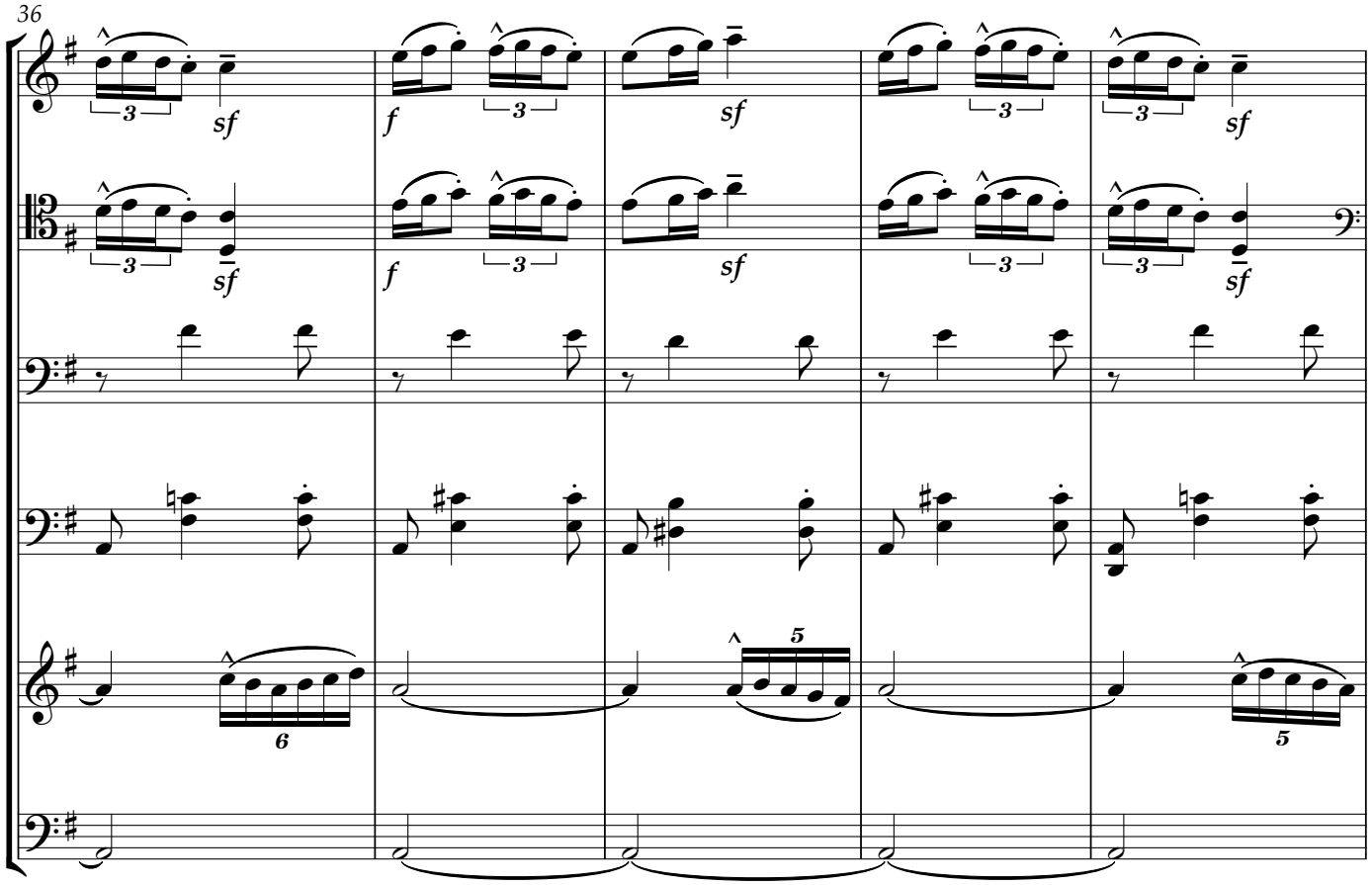


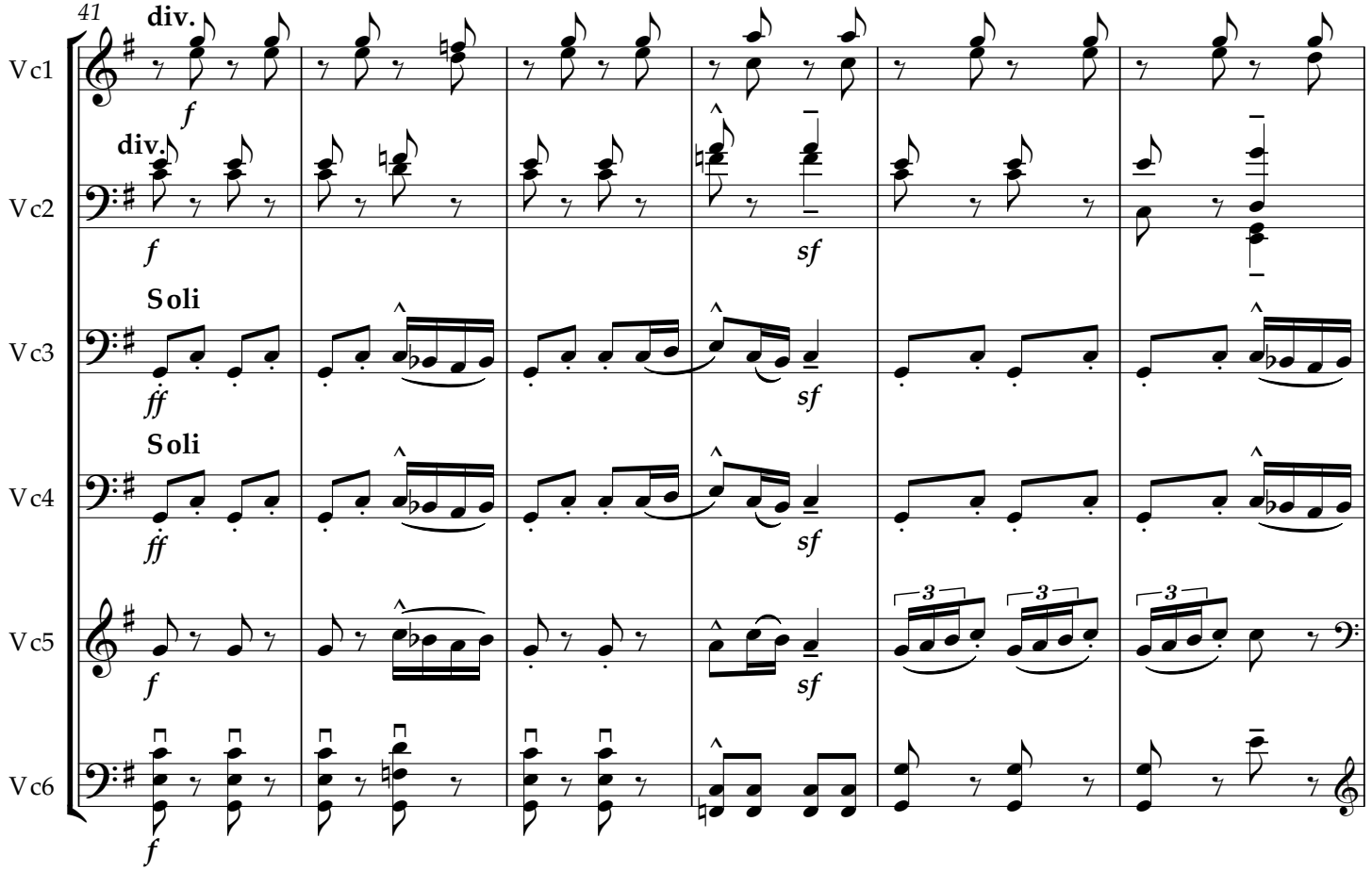


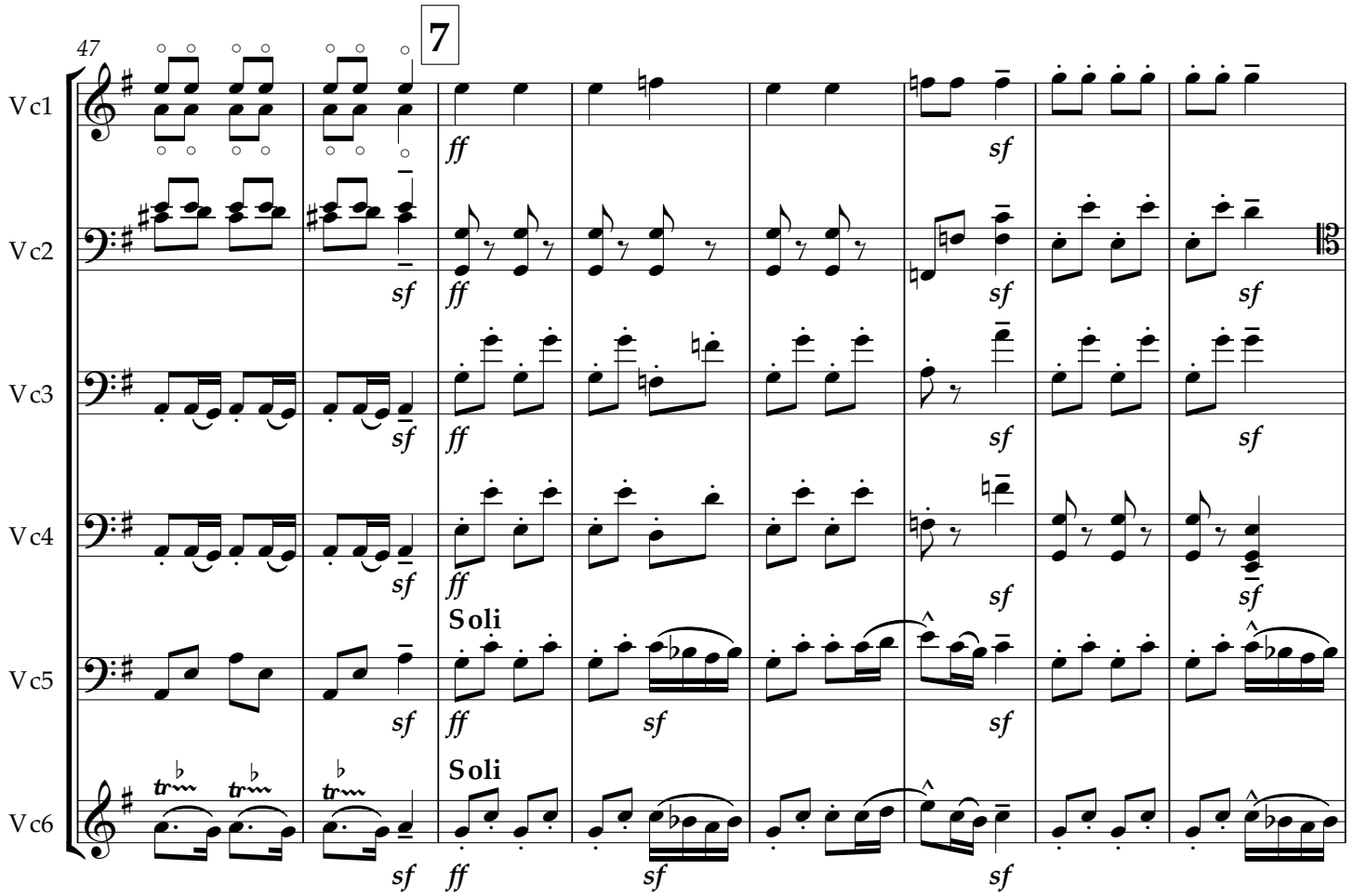

Allegro vivace ♩=144
17
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
Soli
Soli

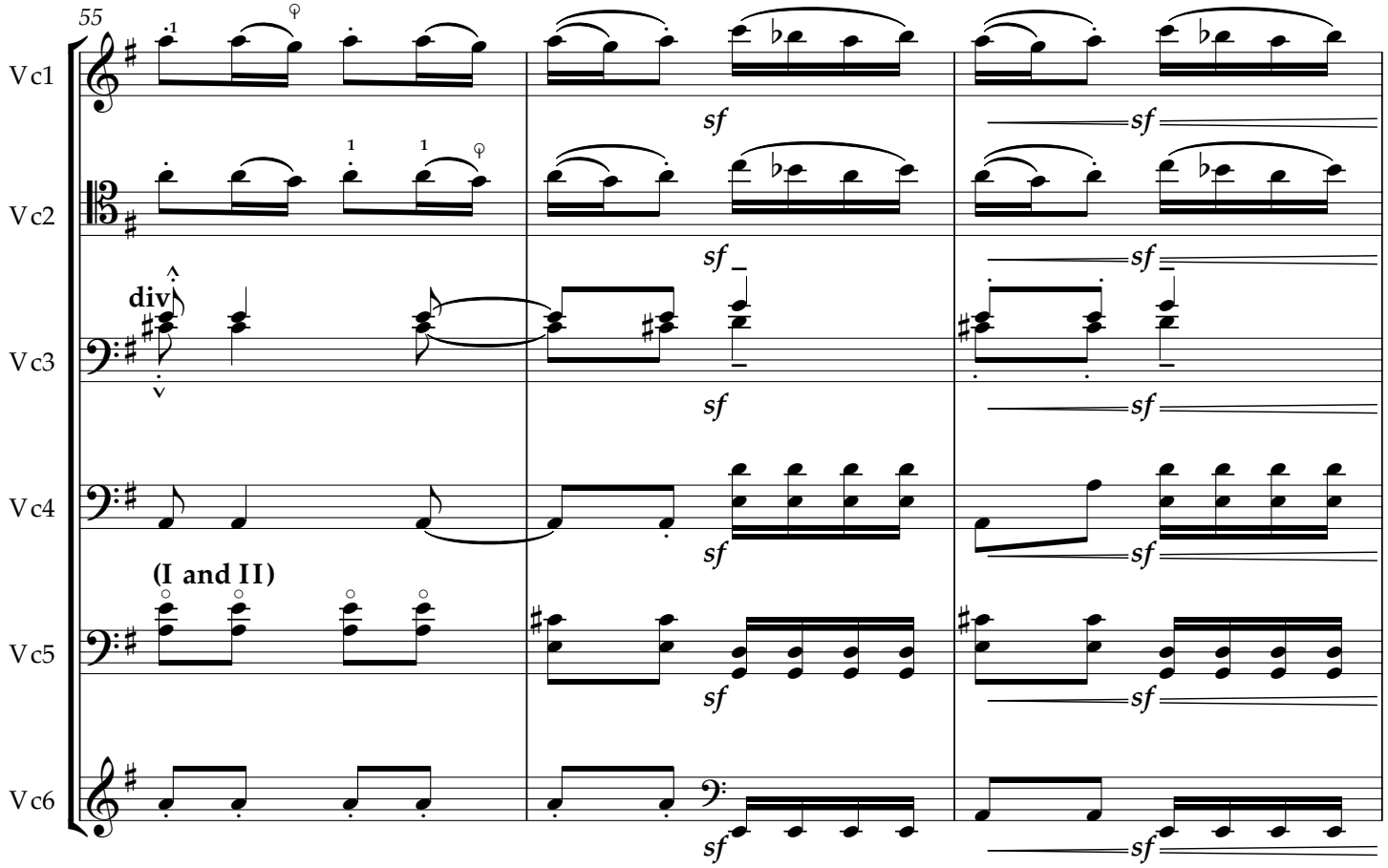

23
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
Soli
Soli

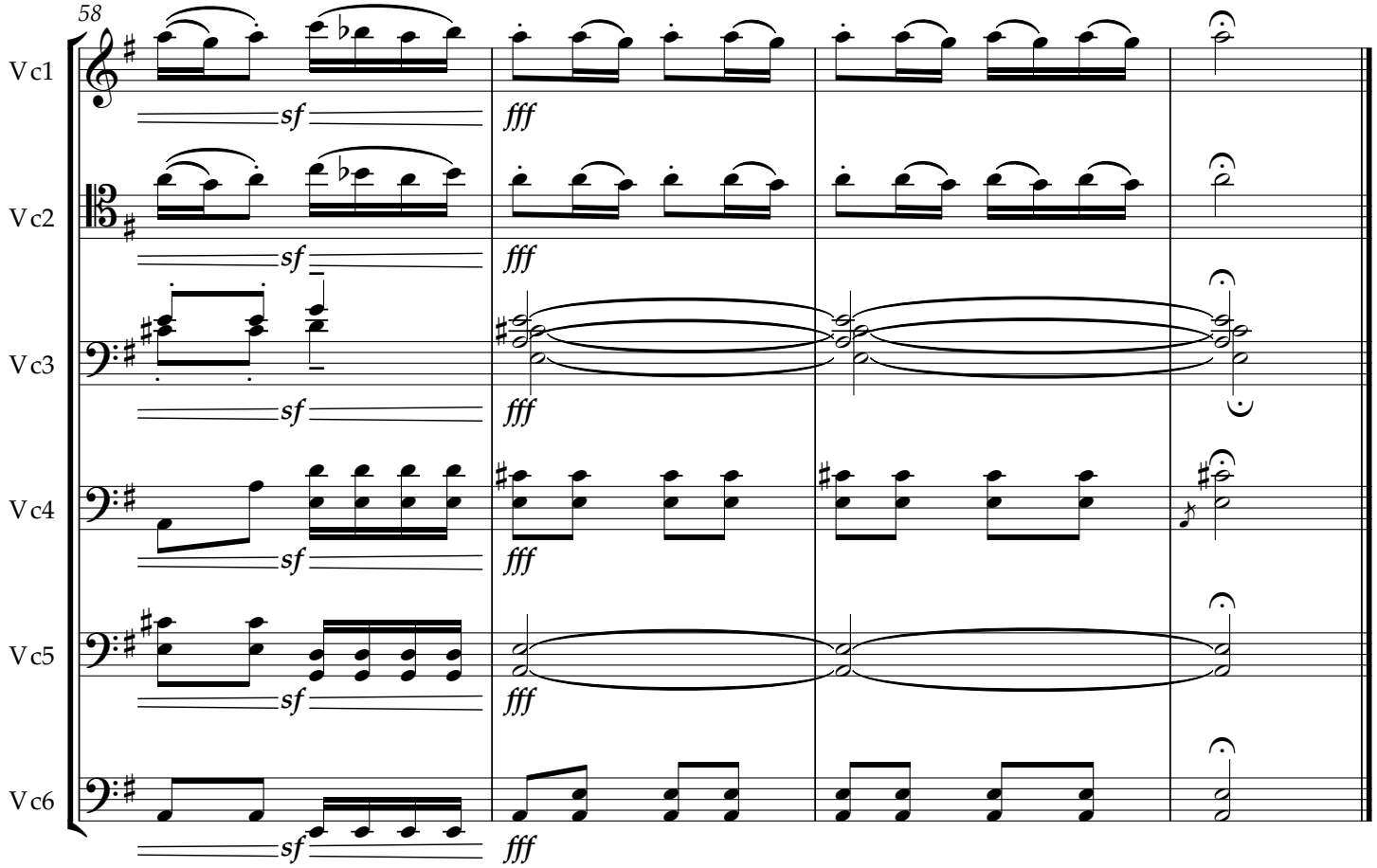

29
6
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
f
sf
mf
3
5


36
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
sf
f
3
6
5


41
div.
Vc1
f
div.
Vc2
f
sf
Soli
Vc3
ff
sf
Soli
Vc4
ff
sf
Vc5
f
3
3
3
sf
Vc6
f


47
7
Vc1
ff
sf
Vc2
sf
ff
sf
sf
Vc3
sf
ff
sf
sf
Vc4
sf
ff
sf
sf
Soli
Vc5
sf
ff
sf
sf
Soli
Vc6
sf
ff
sf
sf


55
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
div
(I and II)
sf


58
Vc1
Vc2
Vc3
Vc4
Vc5
Vc6
sf
fff