Mornings of Creation

GWYNETH WALKER

for Piano Trio

Commissioned by Fairfield University to celebrate the 25th season of the Quick Center for the Arts

Premiered by The Connecticut Trio on September 27, 2015, Fairfield, Connecticut

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Duration: 21 minutes

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PROGRAM NOTES

Mornings of Creation is a five-movement suite for piano trio. This music was created during the composer's customary composing hours—during the morning. Thus, the message is one of the freshness of a new day, and the energy of creative impulse.

"First Notes" opens with light patterns in the strings, as bird calls. Initially presented individually, the calls join together as a precursor to the main theme of the movement, presented by cello and then violin. A middle section in the minor mode features tremoli in the piano. This is a restless, energetic section which leads to the return of the theme. The movement ends with the cello and violin intertwined, while the piano plays bird calls above.

"The Passing Light" speaks in specks of light patterns for the strings, with glissandi (on the strings inside the piano). [Perhaps these are rays of light.] Often the piano accompaniment gently trembles. A theme is presented in the strings. There is intensity and sorrow in the passing of the light.

The third movement, "Rising," opens with ascending chords in the piano. But it is the spirit of joy associated with the theme (in violin and cello) which is truly uplifting. This is especially American music —open and direct—composed by a New England composer who prefers to create her music close to home.

Although *Mornings of Creation* is essentially a celebratory suite, an "Elegy" came naturally to follow the previous three movements. This elegy is spacious and unrushed. The mournful theme of downward steps, and its strong countermotive of ascending octaves, recur in various guises, each motive to balance the other. This is an extended journey of the soul. Here, the composer turns within, after the many mornings of creation.

The final movement, "Canaan Land," is a short, celebratory work originally composed as an encore piece, but now included within the suite. This is a joyful excursion to "The Promised Land." The composer, a native of New Canaan, Connecticut, has created this music in honor of her home town.

THE COMPOSER

Widely performed throughout the country, the music of American composer **Gwyneth Walker** is beloved by performers and audiences alike for its energy, beauty, reverence, drama, and humor. Dr. Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947) is a graduate of Brown University and the Hartt School of Music. She holds B.A., M.M. and D.M.A. degrees in Music Composition. A former faculty member of the Oberlin College Conservatory, she resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. For nearly 30 years, she lived on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont. She now divides her time between her childhood hometown of New Canaan, Connecticut and the musical communities of Sarasota, Florida and Randolph, Vermont.

Gwyneth Walker has been a proud resident of Vermont for many years. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Vermont Arts Council as well as the 2008 "Athenaeum Award for Achievement in the Arts and Humanities" from the St. Johnsbury (VT) Athenaeum. In 2012, she was elected as a Fellow of the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Walker's catalog includes over 300 commissioned works for orchestra, chamber ensembles, chorus, and solo voice. A special interest has been dramatic works that combine music with readings, acting, and movement. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E. C. Schirmer (choral and vocal music) and Lauren Keiser Music (orchestral and instrumental music).

Further information concerning Gwyneth Walker and her works is available at:
www.gwynethwalker.com

Catalog No. 1.3433

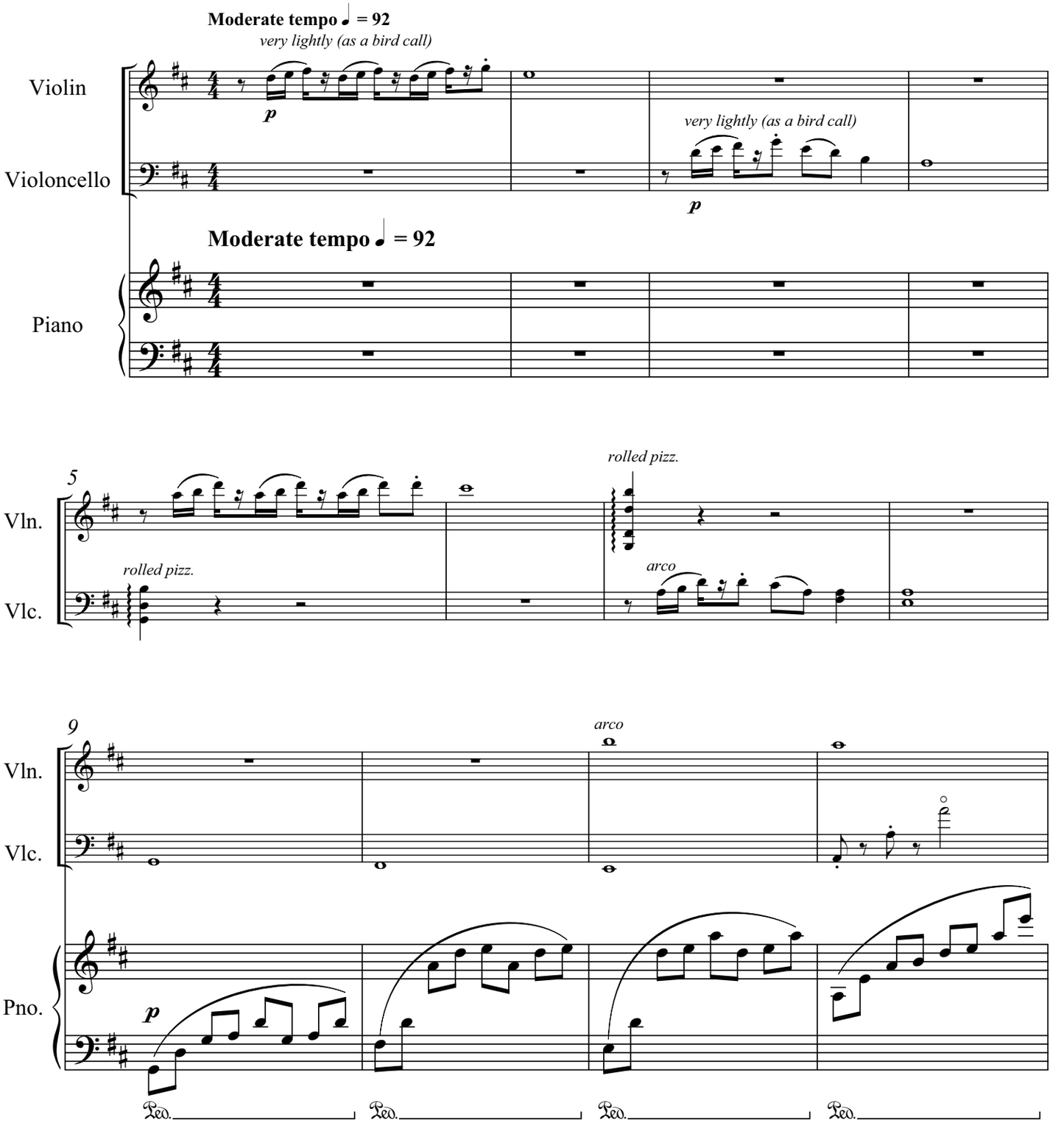
Dedicated to The Connecticut Trio: Gerard Rosa, Violin; Julie Ribchinsky, Violoncello; and Linda Laurent, Piano

Mornings of Creation

for Piano Trio

Gwyneth Walker

1. First Notes



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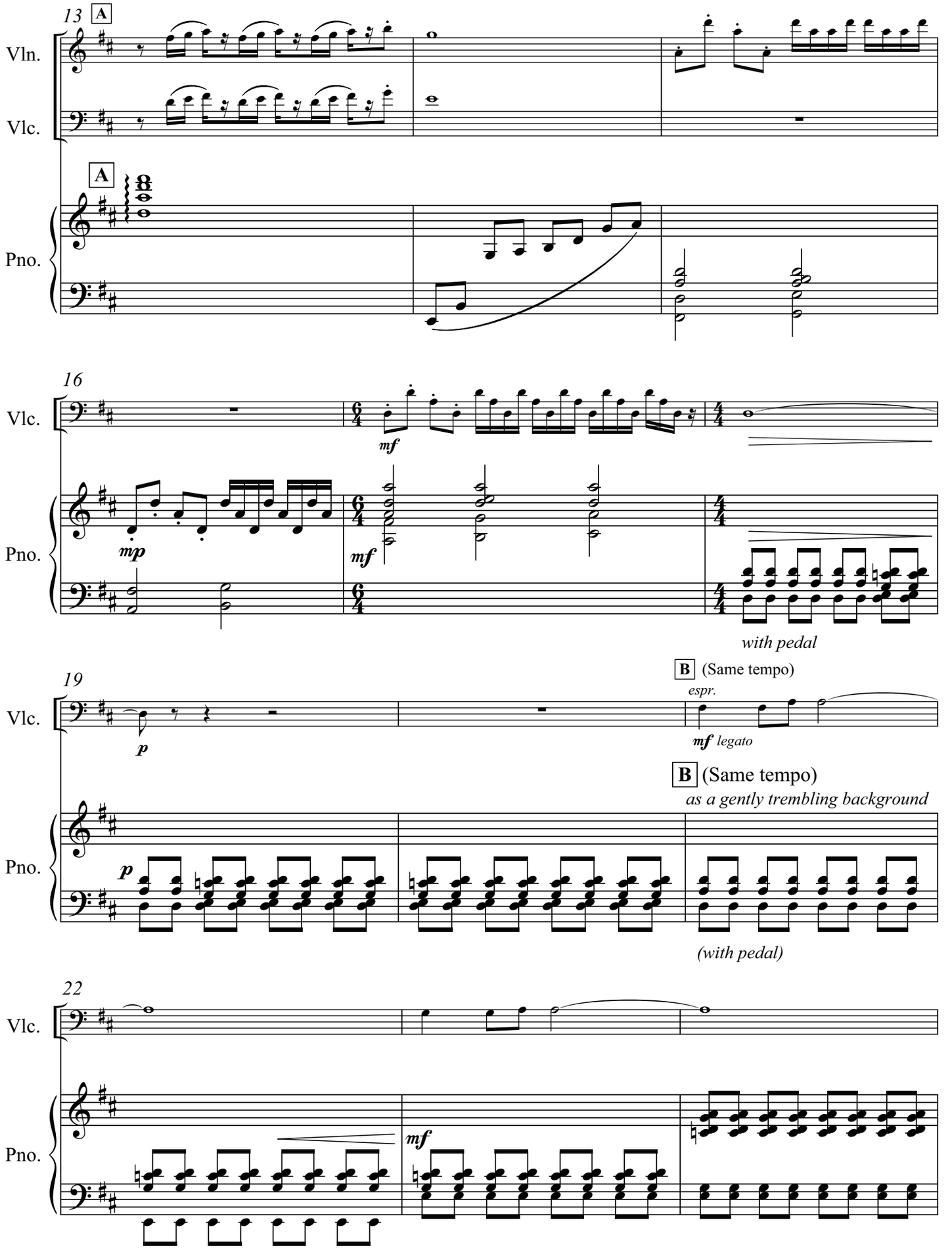
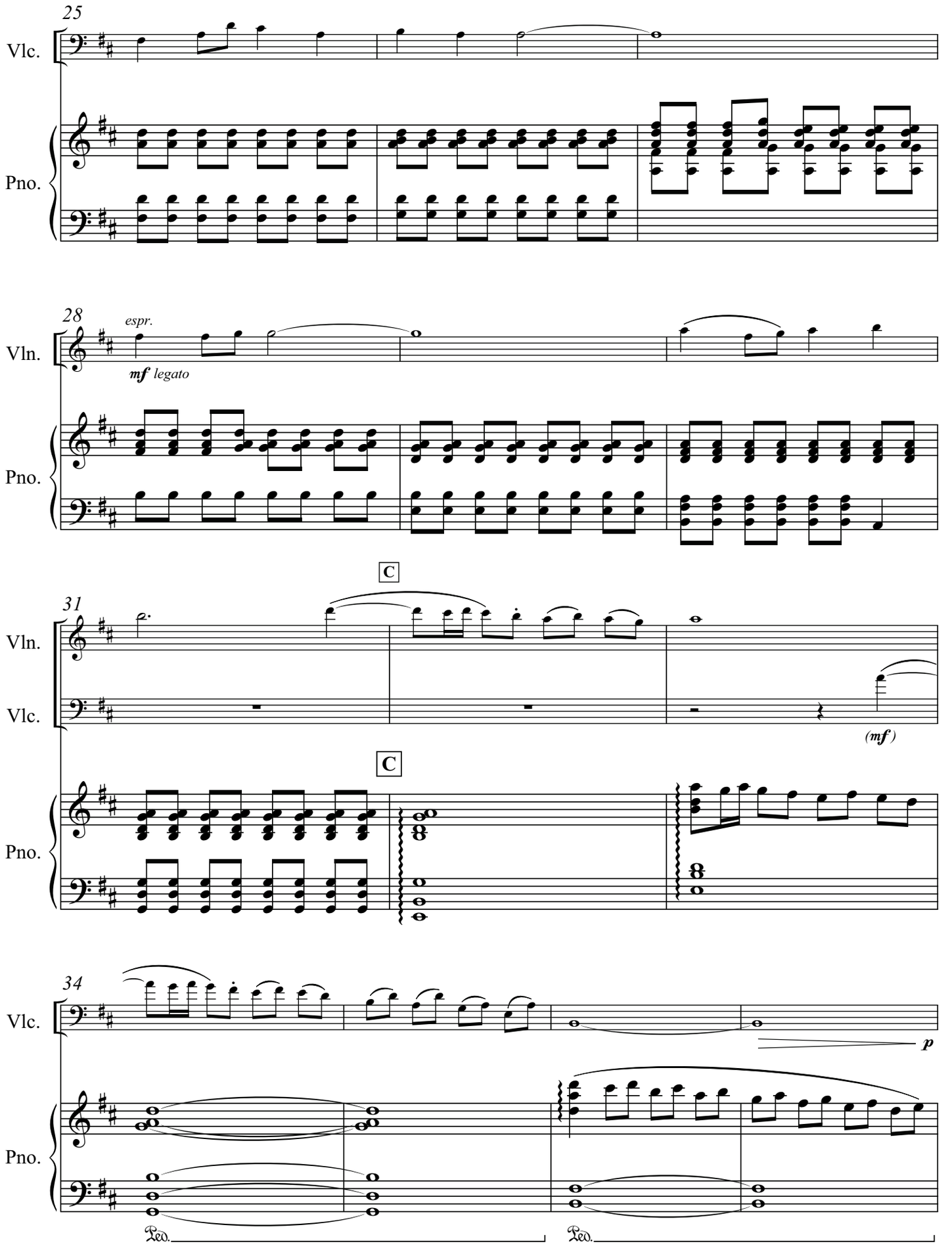
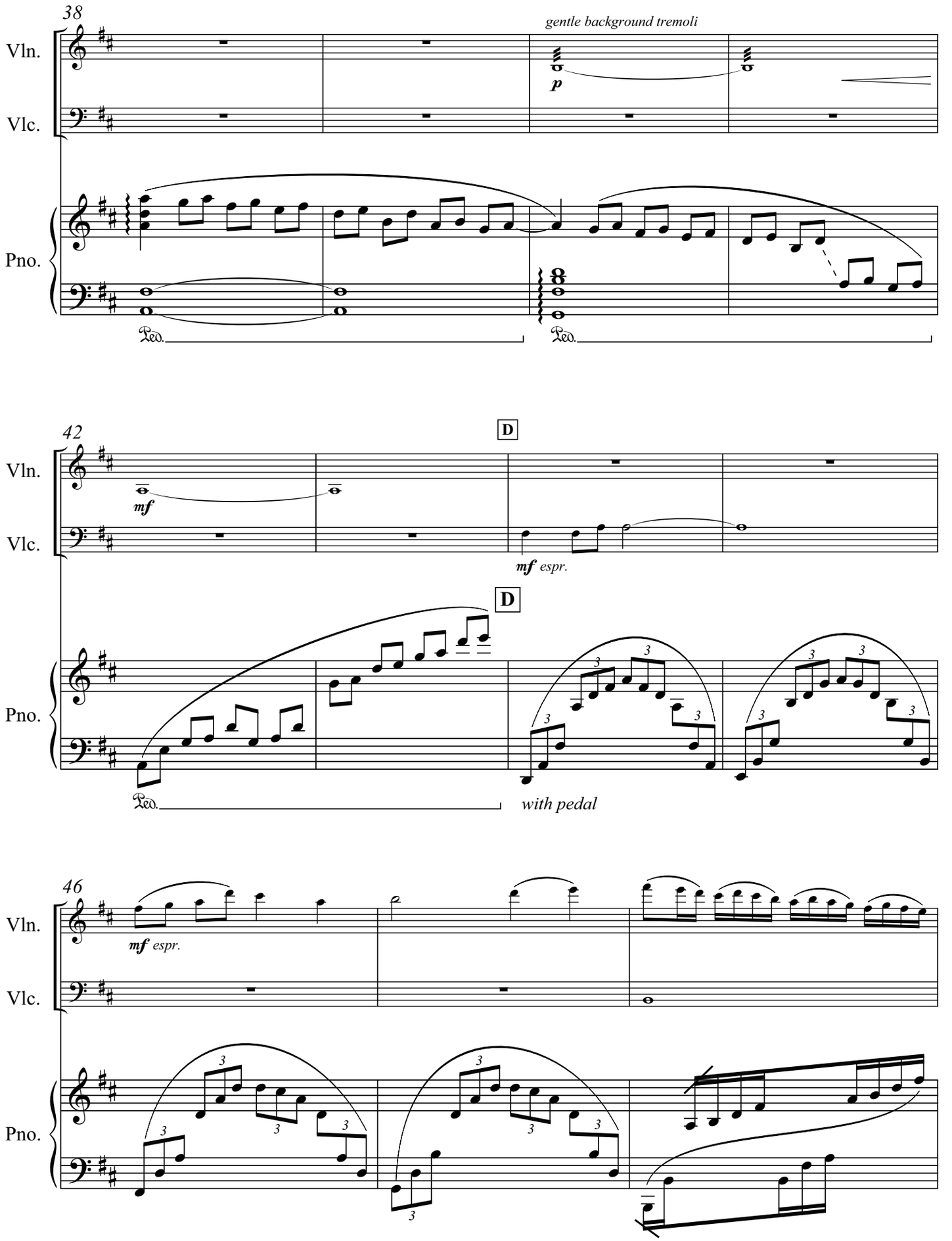
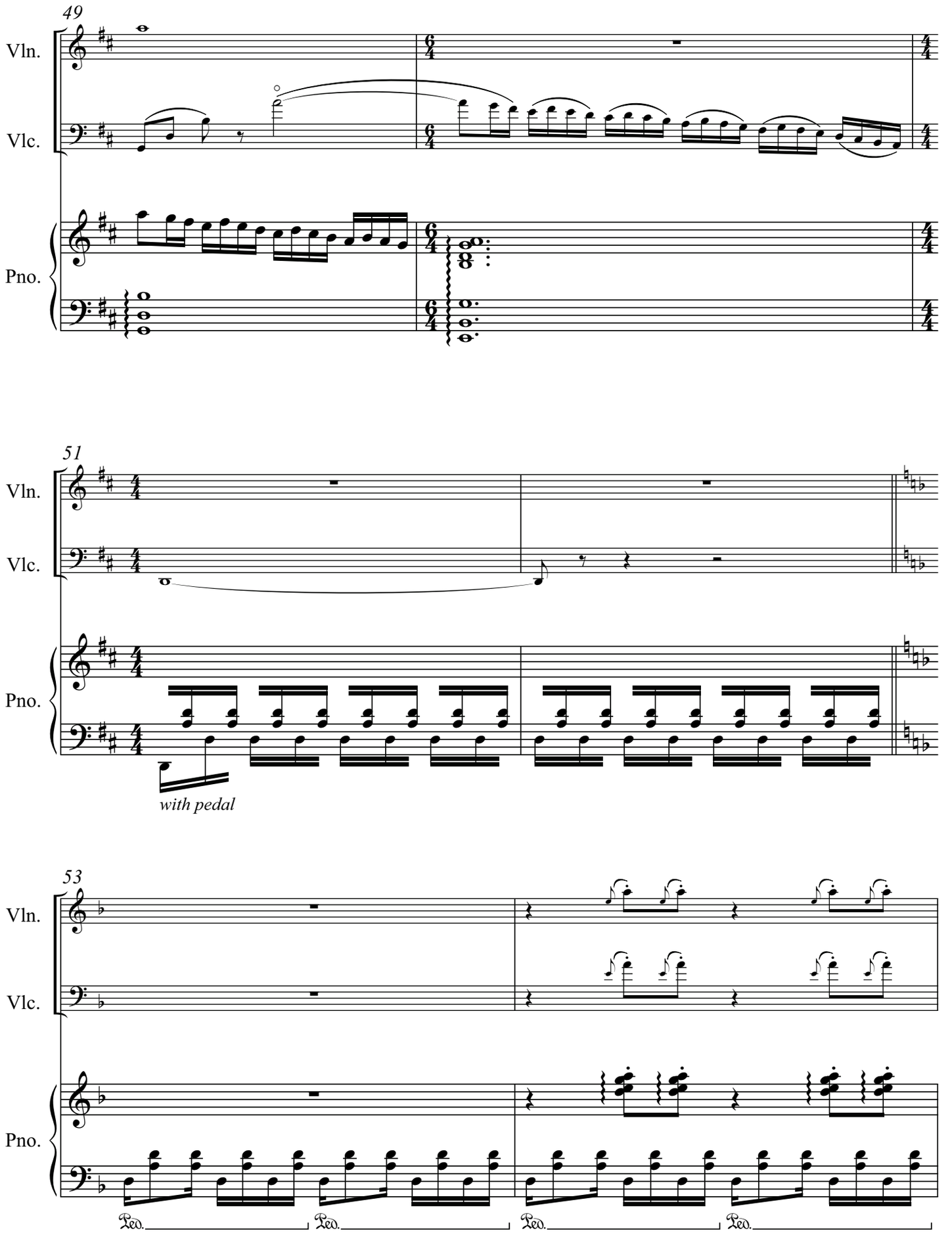
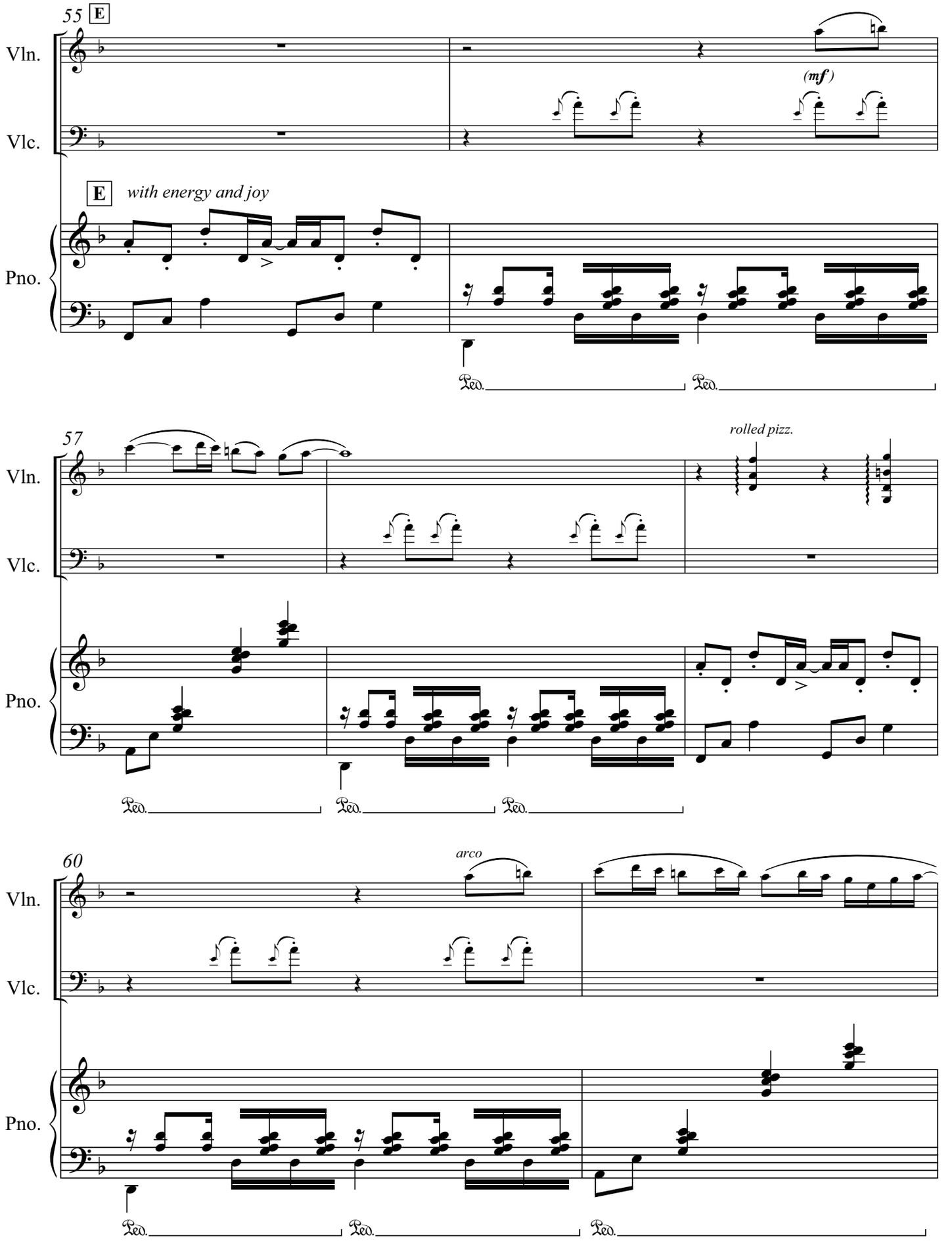
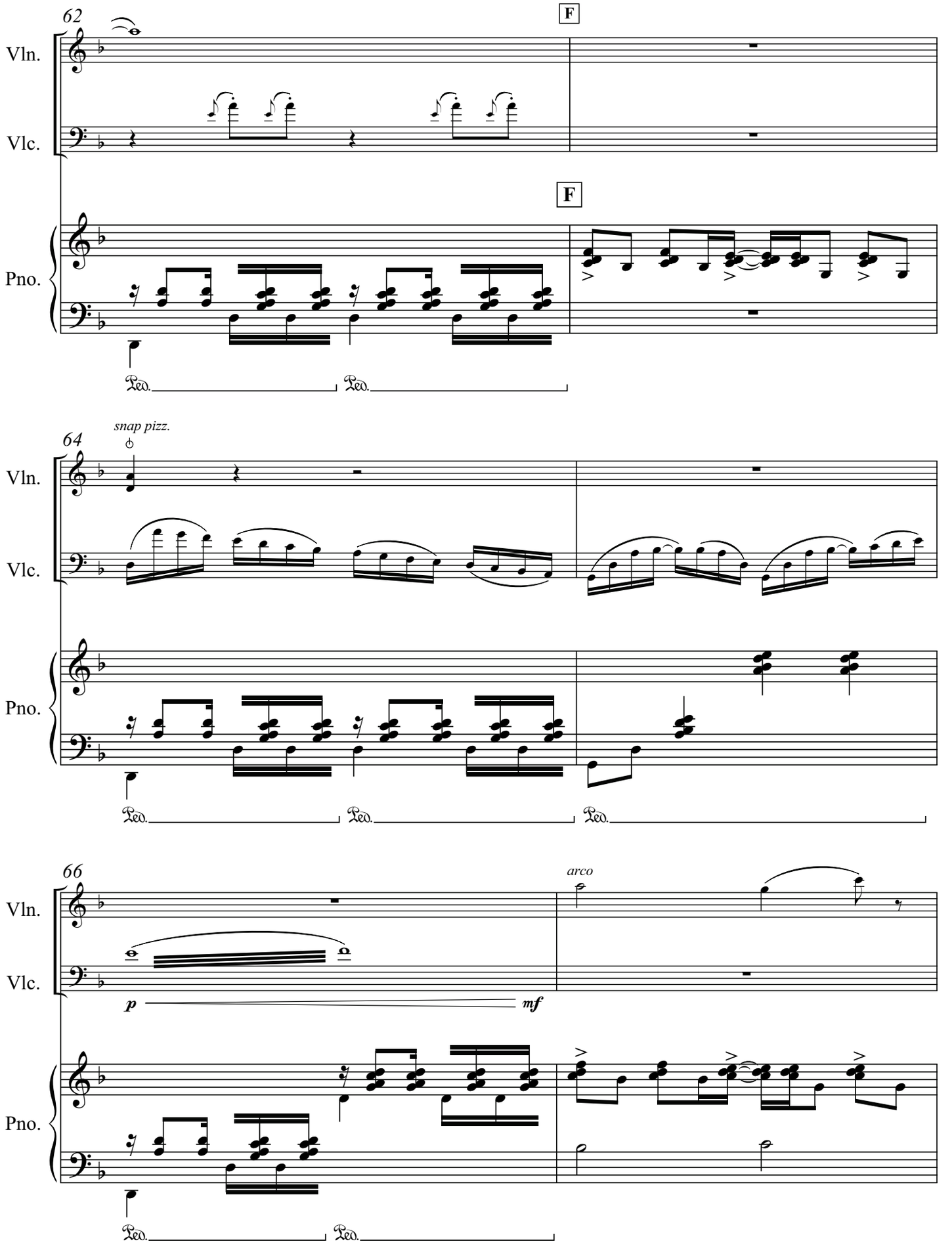

13
A
Vln.
Vlc.
A
Pno.
16
Vlc.
mf
mp
Pno.
mf
with pedal
19
B (Same tempo)
espr.
Vlc.
p
mf legato
B (Same tempo)
as a gently trembling background
Pno.
p
(with pedal)
22
Vlc.
Pno.
mf

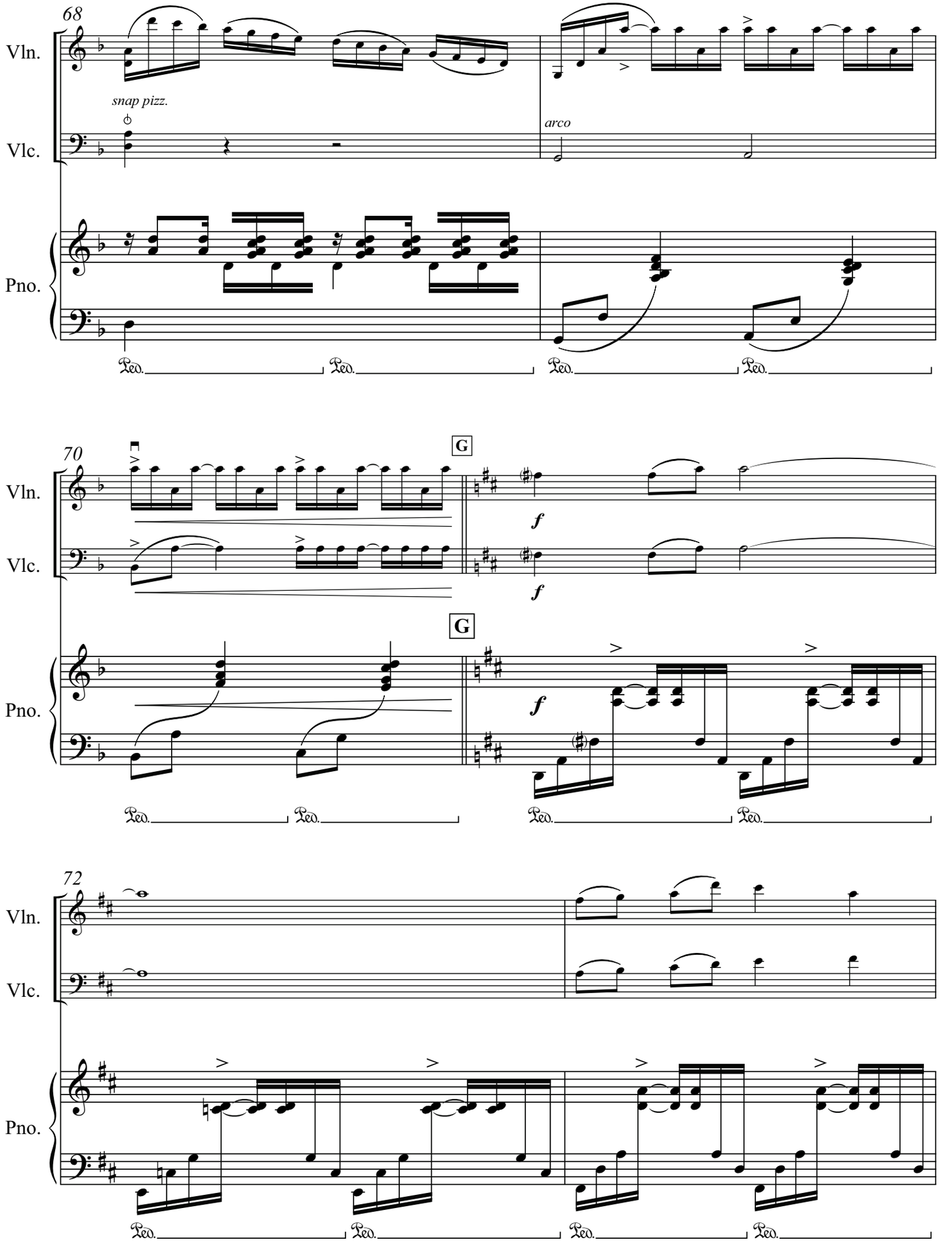

25
Vlc.
Pno.
28
espr.
Vln.
mf legato
Pno.
C
31
Vln.
Vlc.
(mf)
C
Pno.
34
Vlc.
p
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.

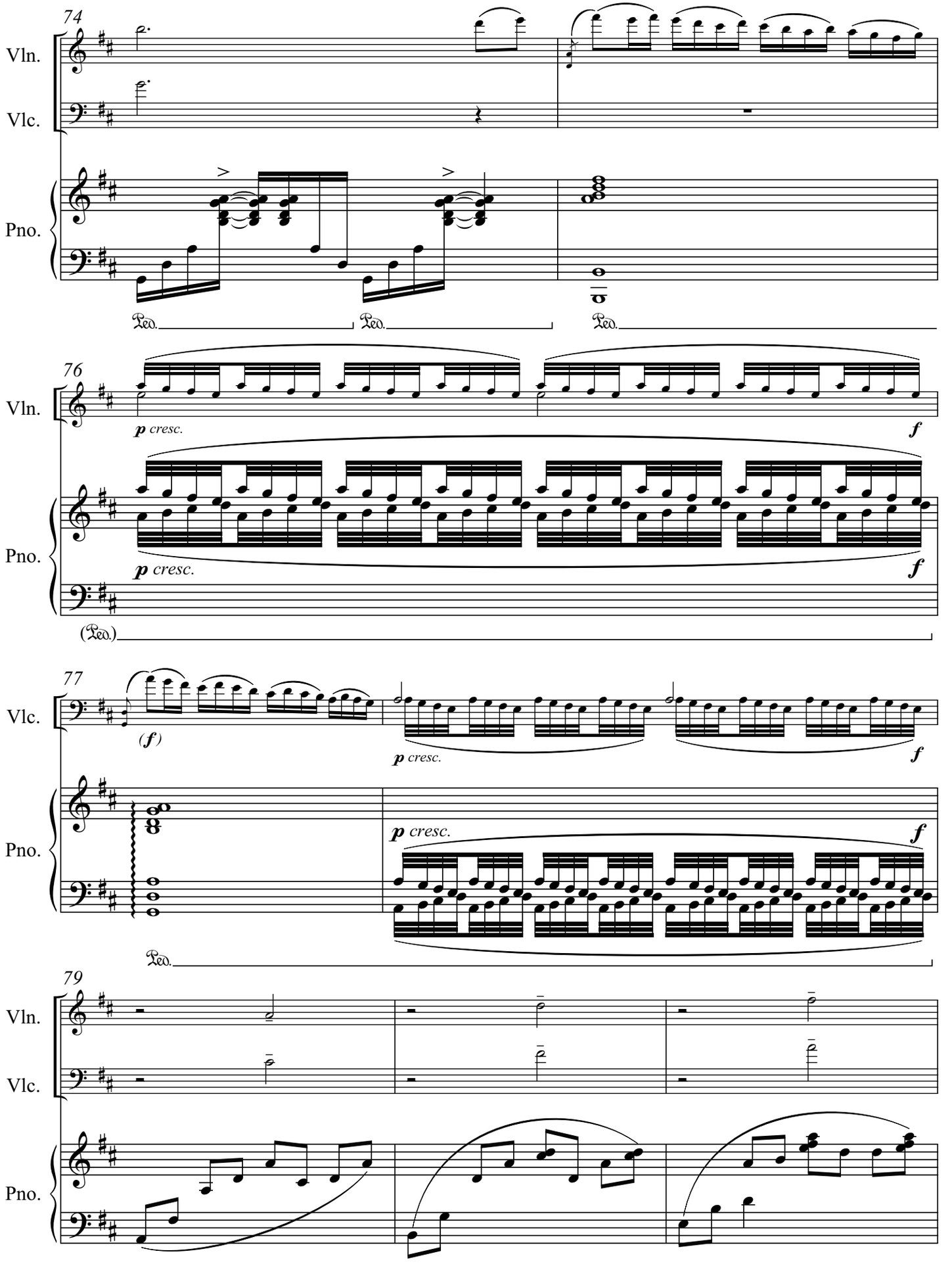

38
gentle background tremoli
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
p
Ped.
Ped.
42
D
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
mf
mf espr.
D
Ped.
with pedal
46
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
mf espr.

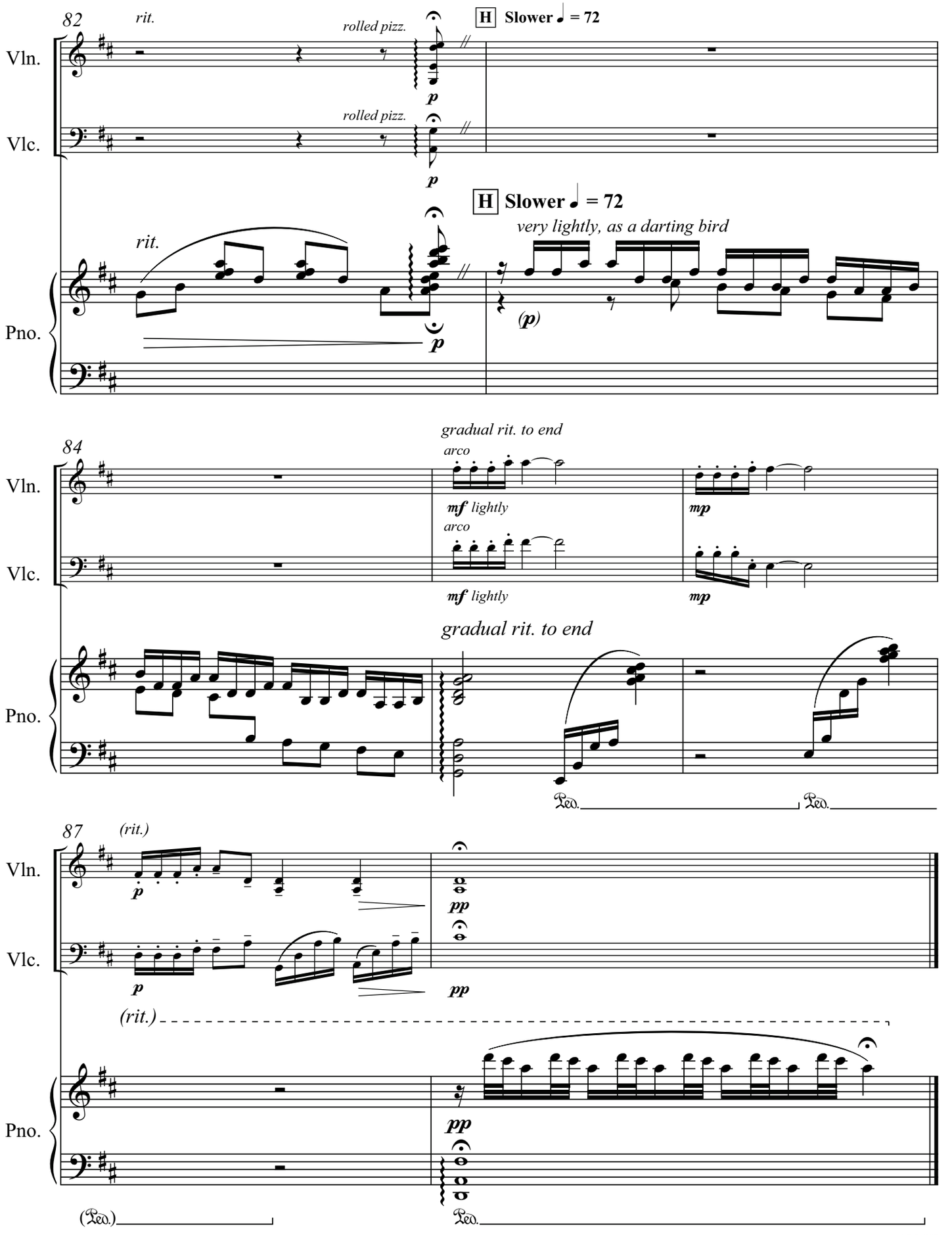

49
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
51
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
with pedal
53
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.


55
E
Vln.
Vlc.
(mf)
E
with energy and joy
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
57
rolled pizz.
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
60
arco
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.


62
F
Vln.
Vlc.
F
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
snap pizz.
64
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
66
arco
Vln.
Vlc.
p
mf
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.

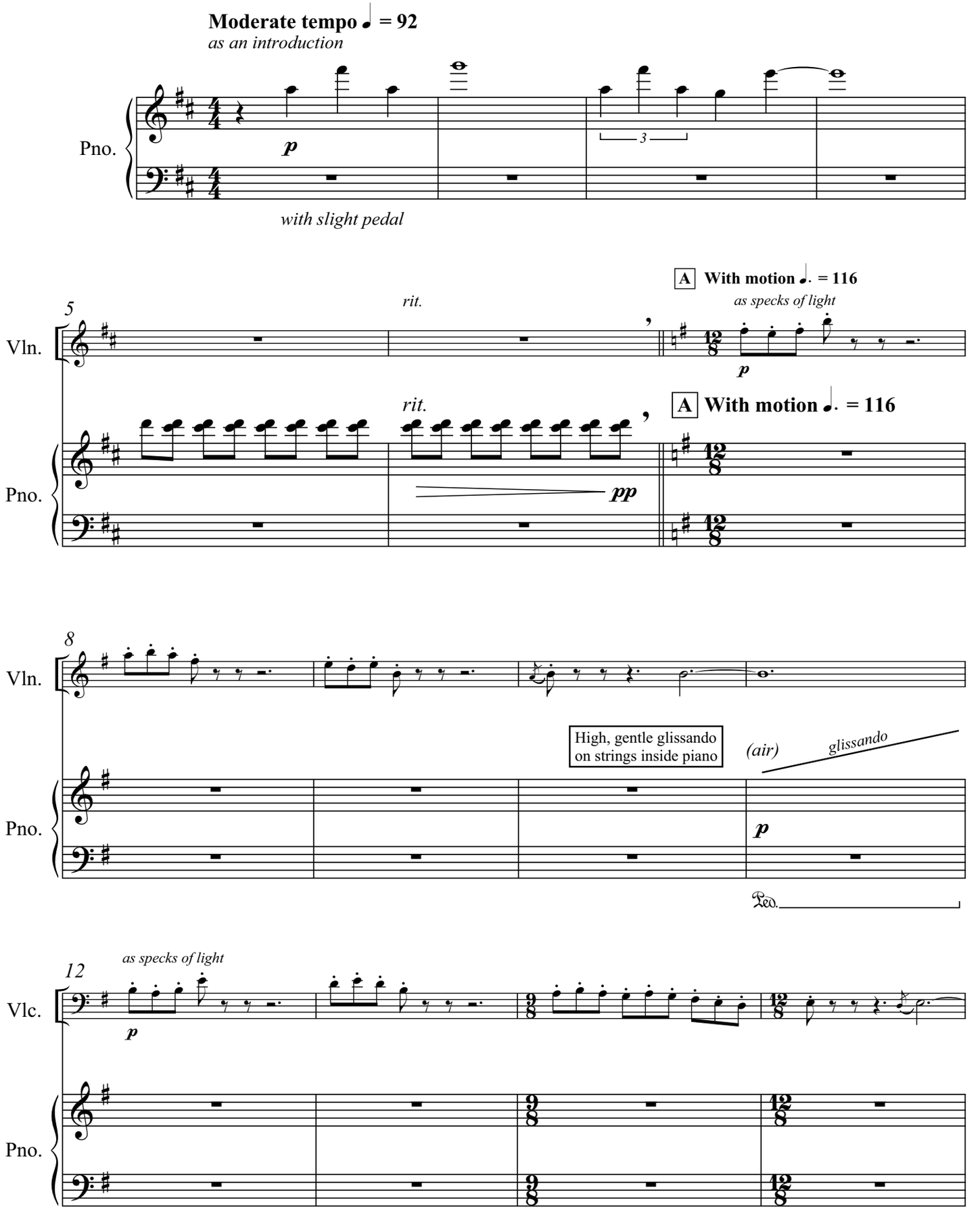

68
Vln.
snap pizz.
Vlc.
arco
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
70
Vln.
G
f
Vlc.
f
G
Pno.
f
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
72
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

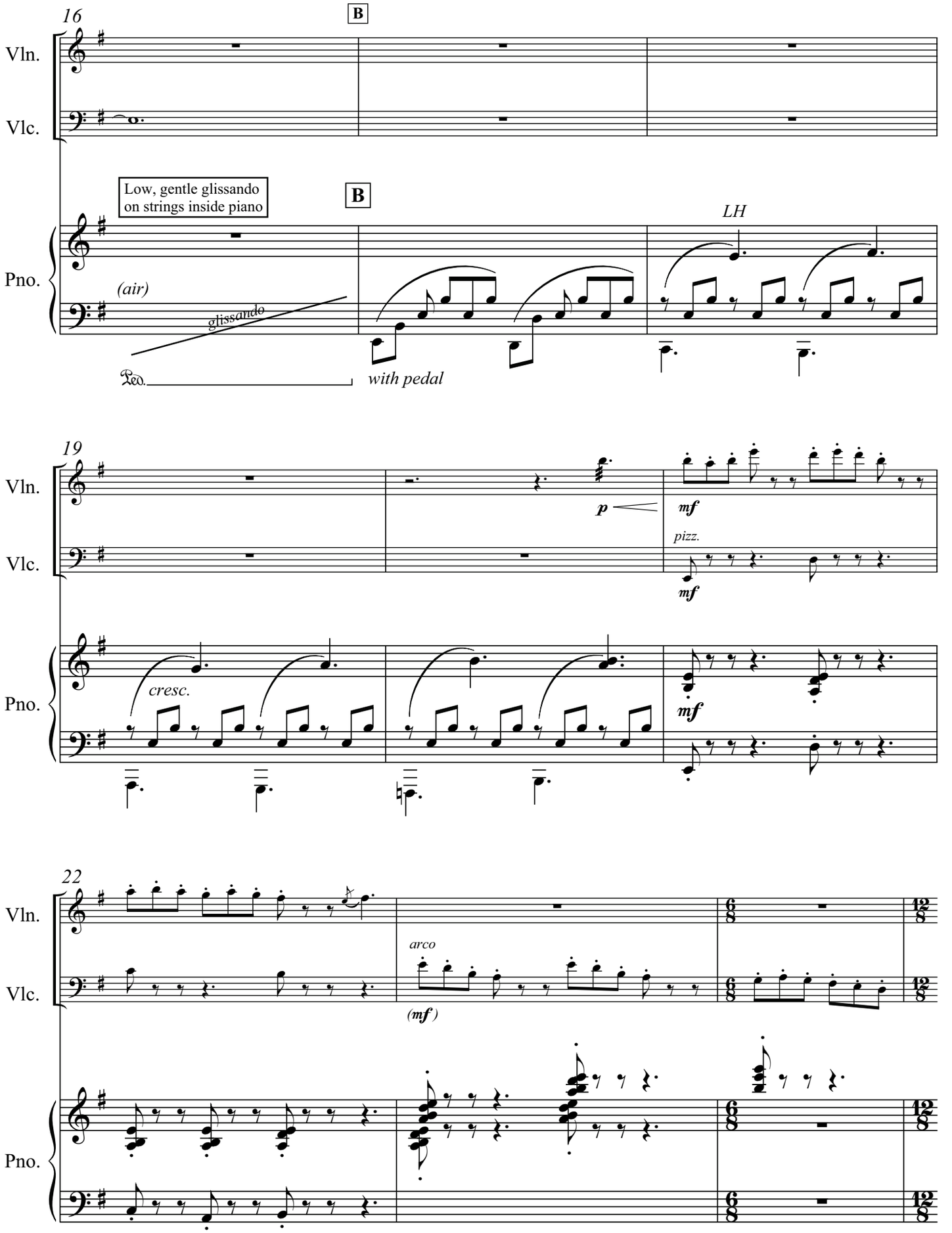

74
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
76
Vln.
p cresc.
f
Pno.
p cresc.
f
(Ped.)
77
Vlc.
(f)
p cresc.
f
Pno.
p cresc.
f
Ped.
79
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.

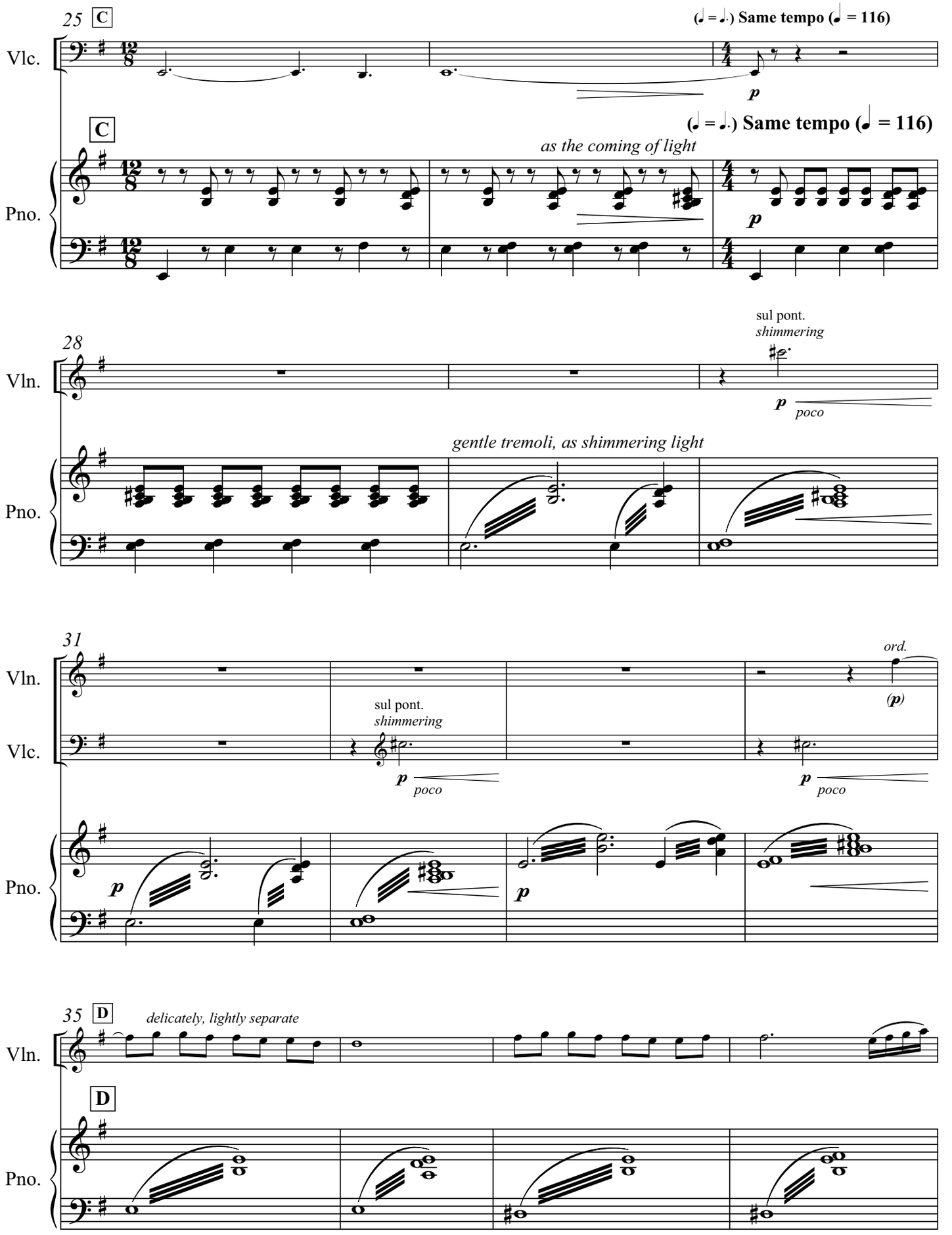


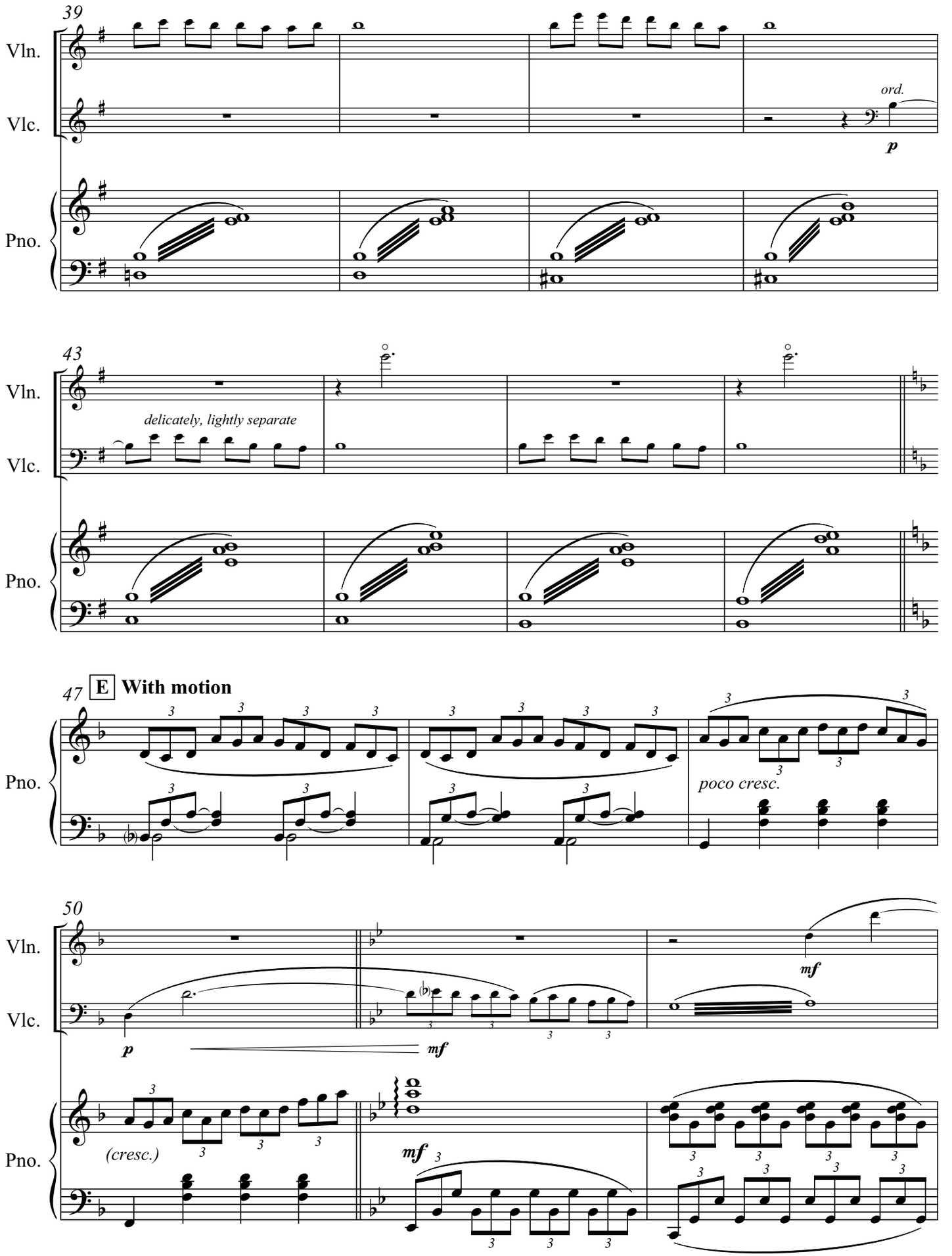
4'00"
December 27, 2014
New Canaan, Connecticut

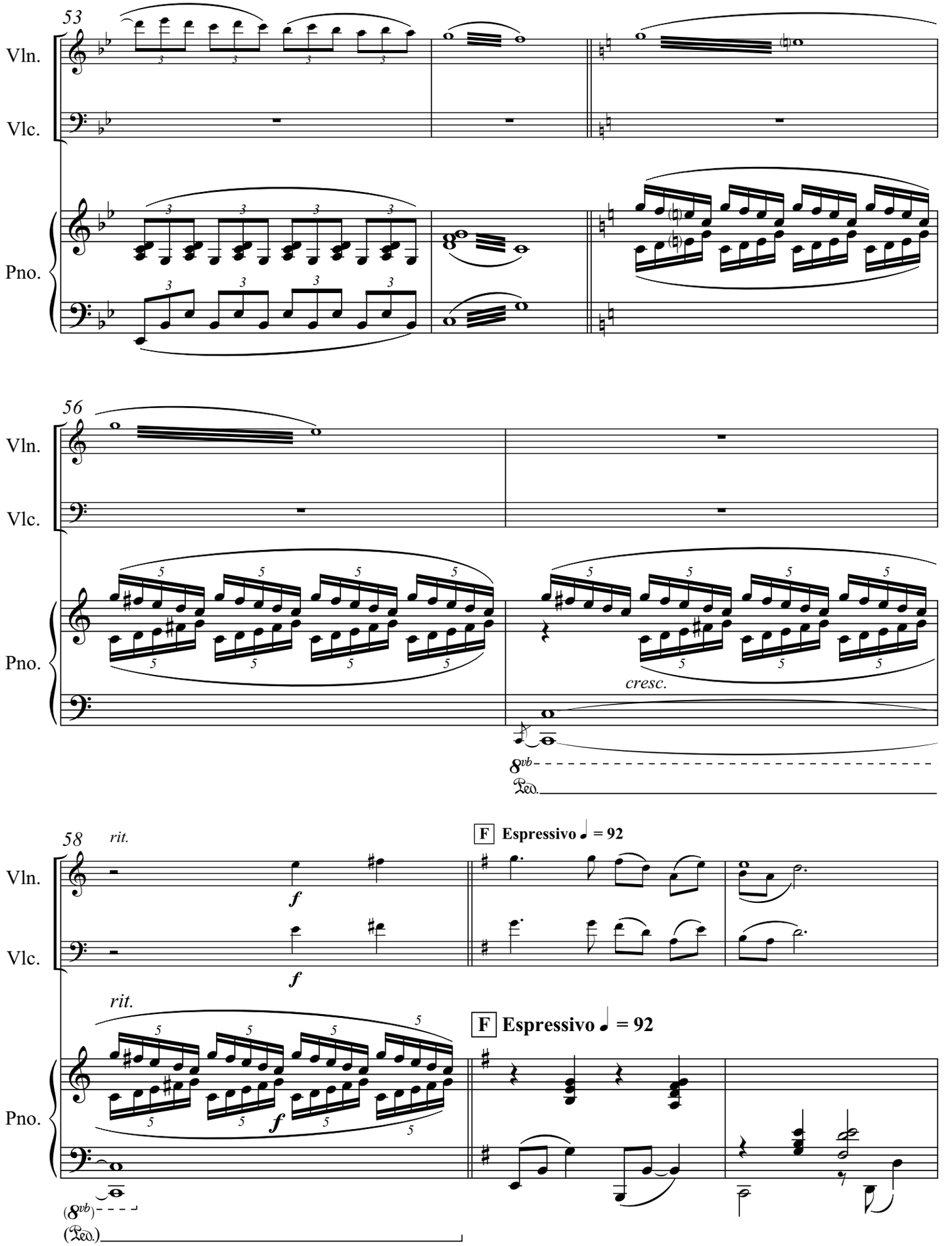
2. The Passing Light

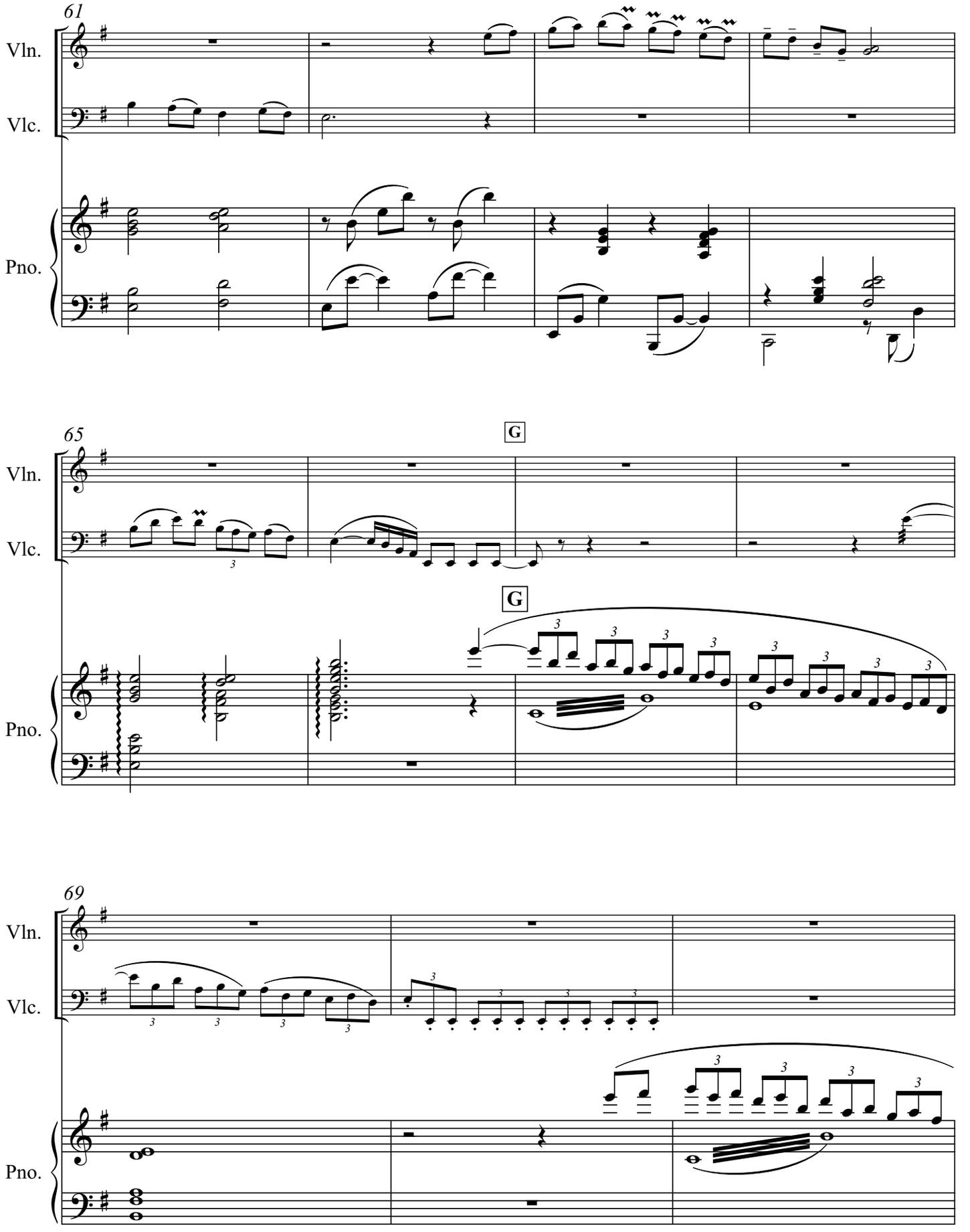


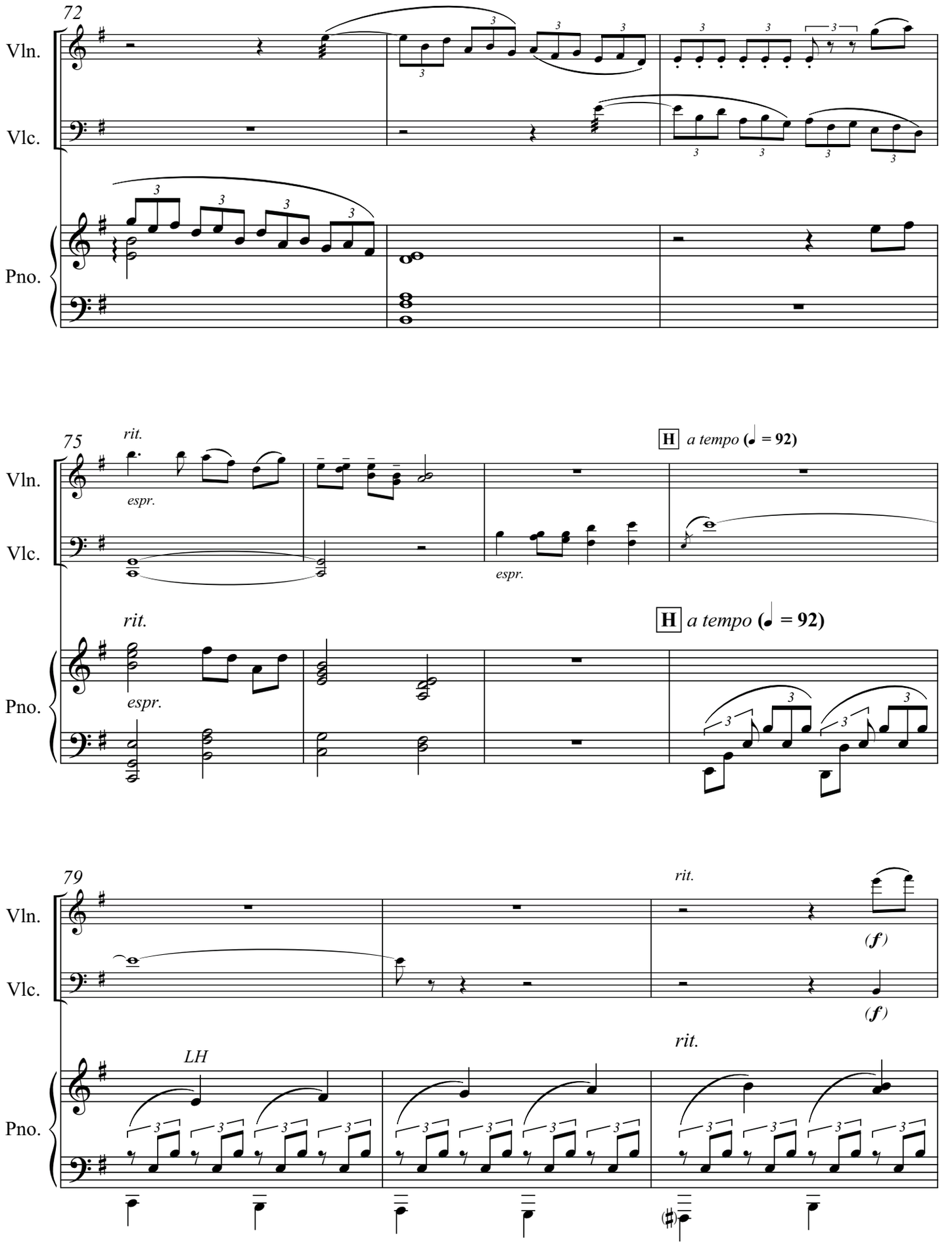

16
B
Vln.
Vlc.
Low, gentle glissando
on strings inside piano
B
LH
Pno.
(air)
glissando
Ped.
with pedal
19
Vln.
p
mf
pizz.
Vlc.
mf
cresc.
Pno.
mf
22
Vln.
arco
Vlc.
(mf)
Pno.

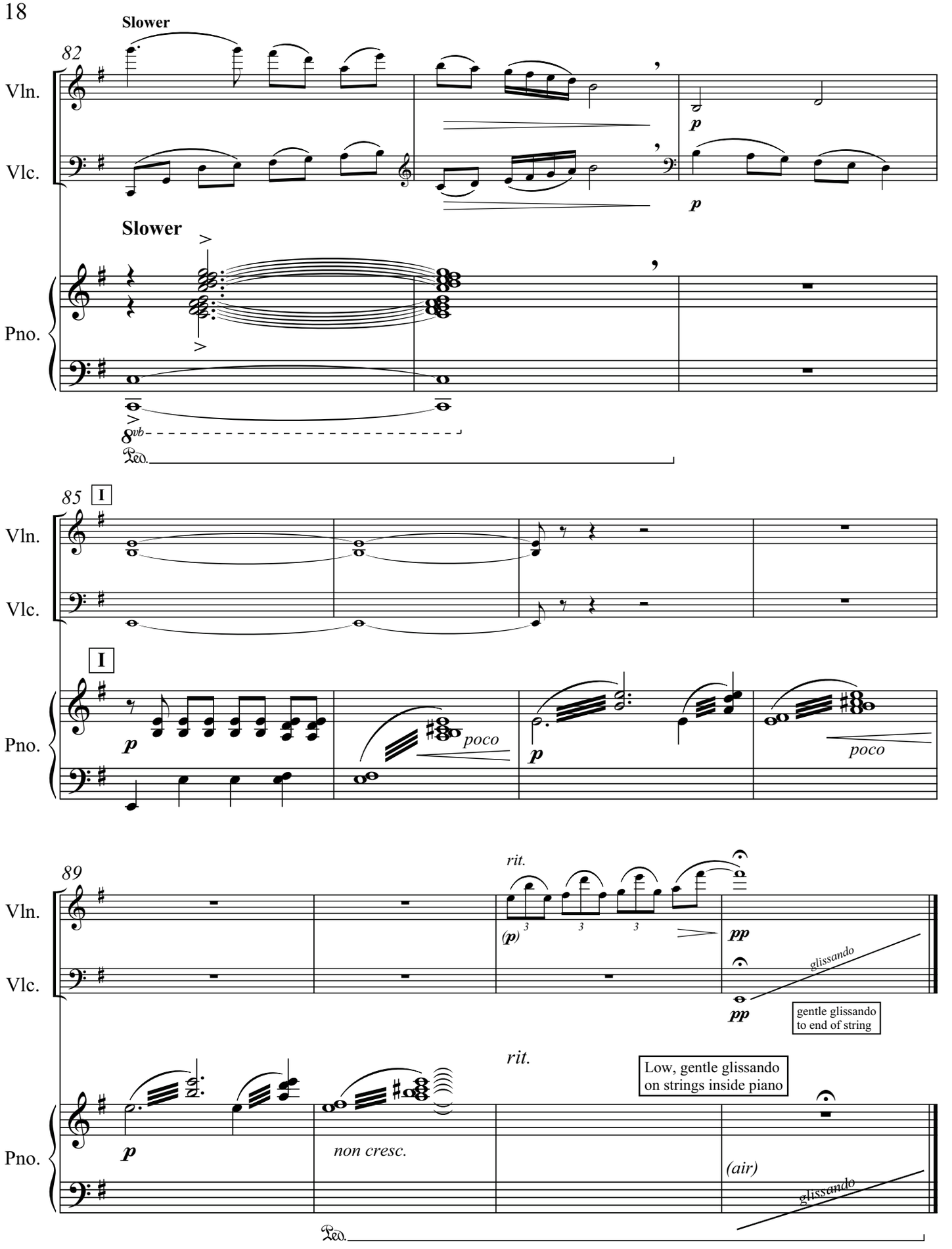

25
C
(♩ = ♩.) Same tempo (♩ = 116)
Vlc.
p
C
(♩ = ♩.) Same tempo (♩ = 116)
as the coming of light
Pno.
p
28
sul pont.
shimmering
Vln.
p
poco
gentle tremoli, as shimmering light
Pno.
31
ord.
Vln.
sul pont.
shimmering
(p)
Vlc.
p
poco
p
poco
Pno.
p
p
35
D
delicately, lightly separate
Vln.
D
Pno.


39
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
ord.
p
43
delicately, lightly separate
47
E With motion
poco cresc.
50
p
mf
(cresc.)


53
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
56
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
cresc.
8vb
Ped.
58
rit.
F Espressivo ♩ = 92
Vln.
Vlc.
f
rit.
F Espressivo ♩ = 92
Pno.
f
(8vb)
(Ped.)

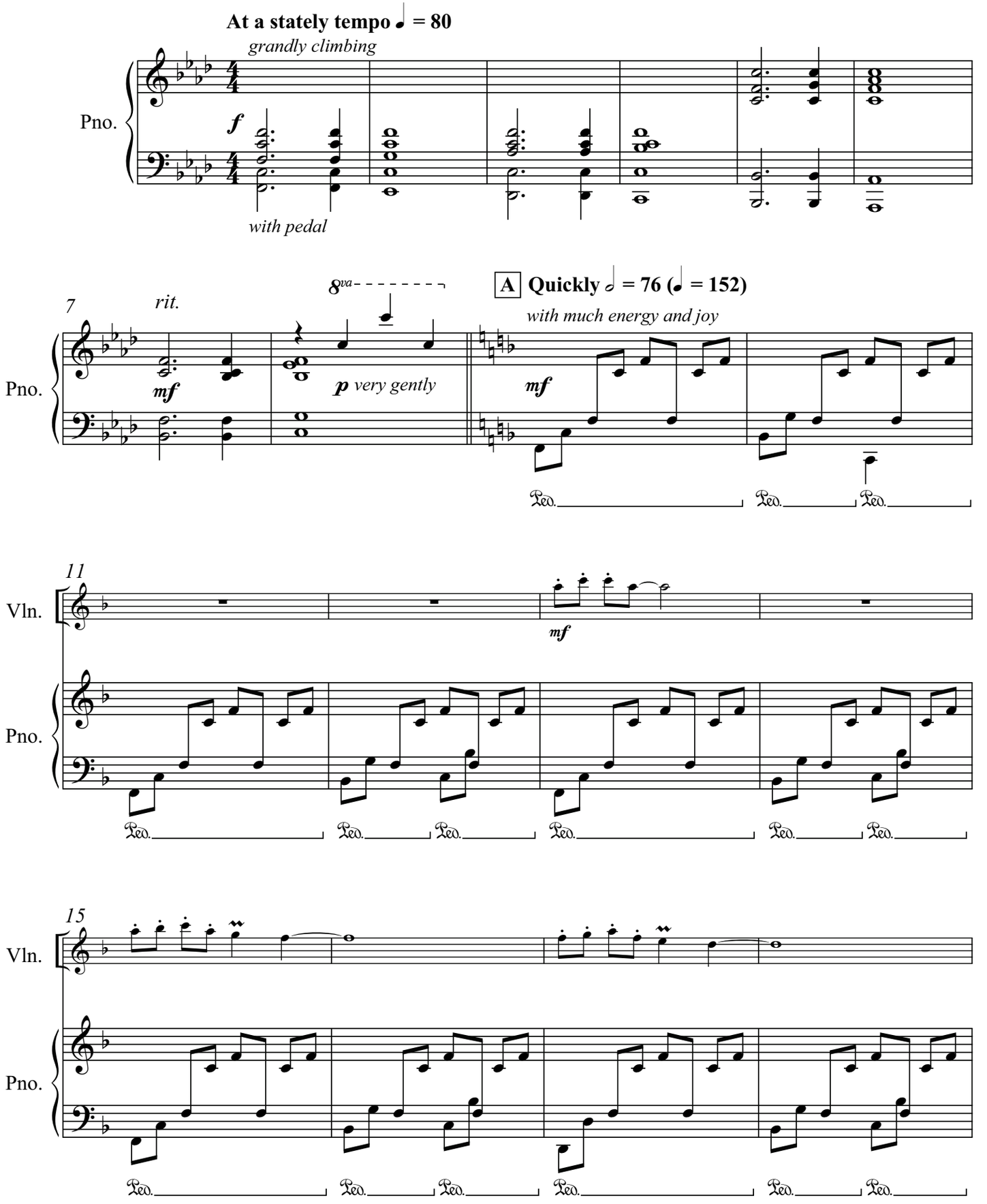

61
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
65
G
Vln.
Vlc.
G
Pno.
69
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.

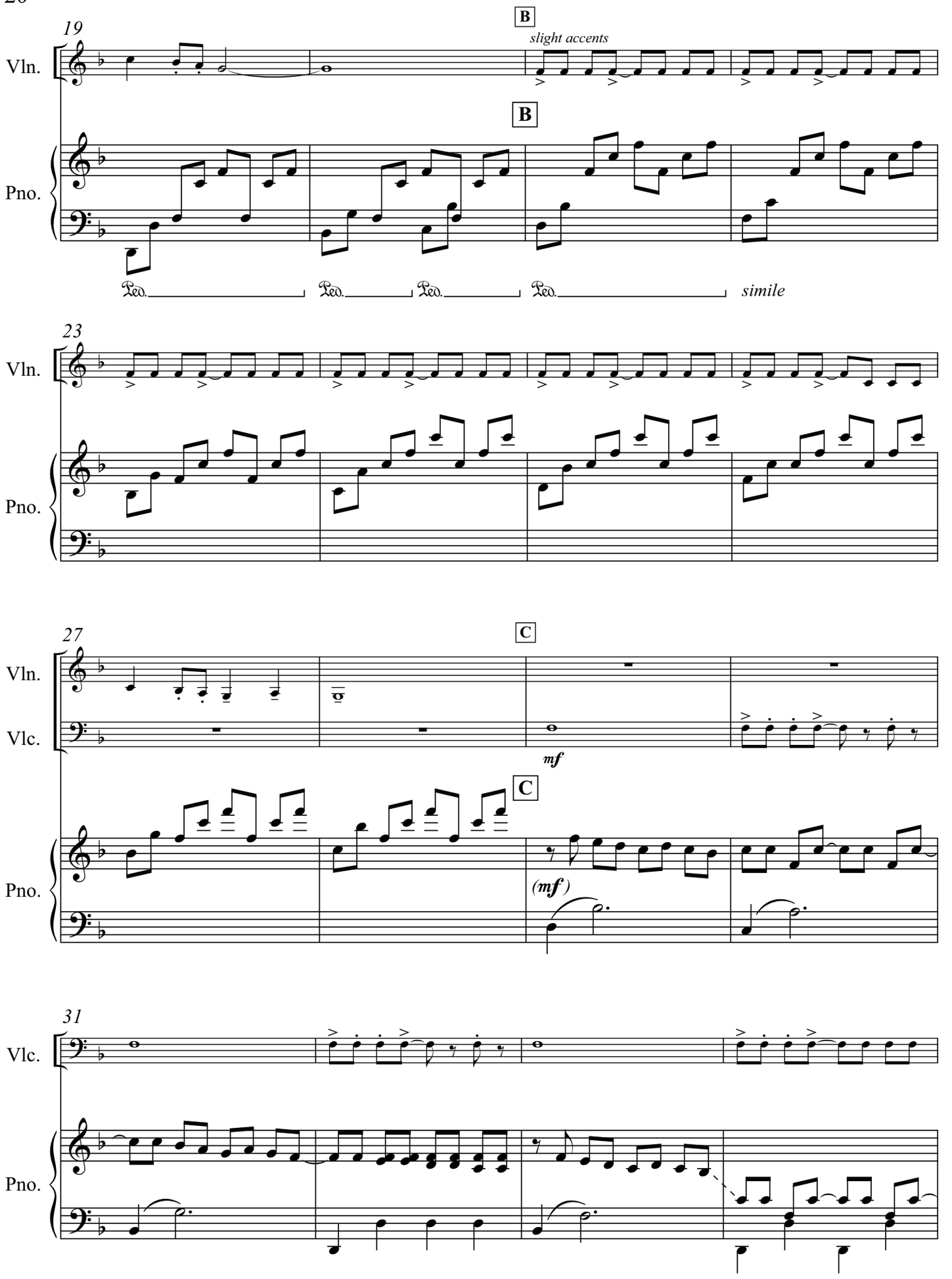

72
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
75
rit.
espr.
H a tempo (♩ = 92)
rit.
espr.
H a tempo (♩ = 92)
79
rit.
(f)
(f)
LH
rit.

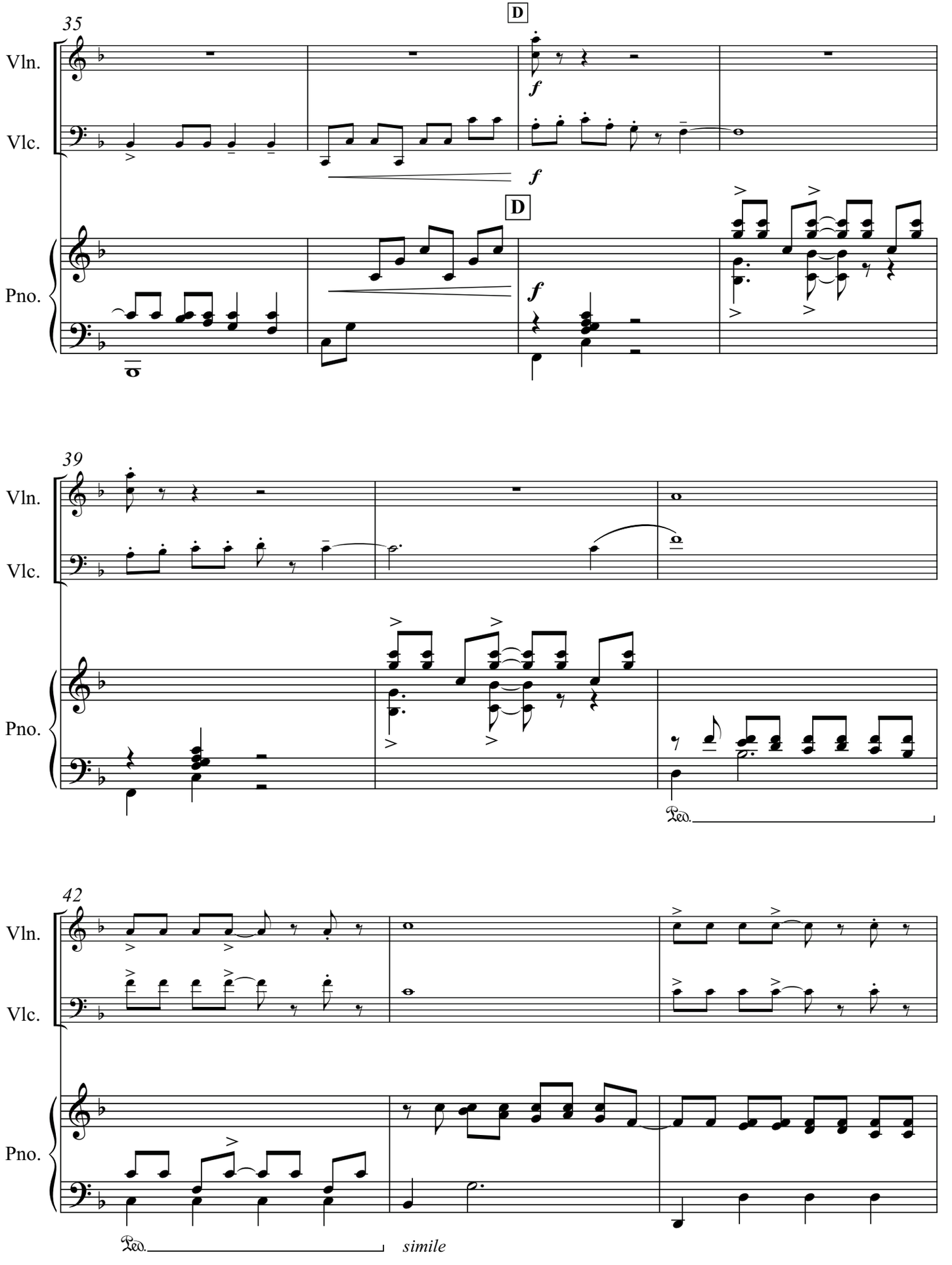


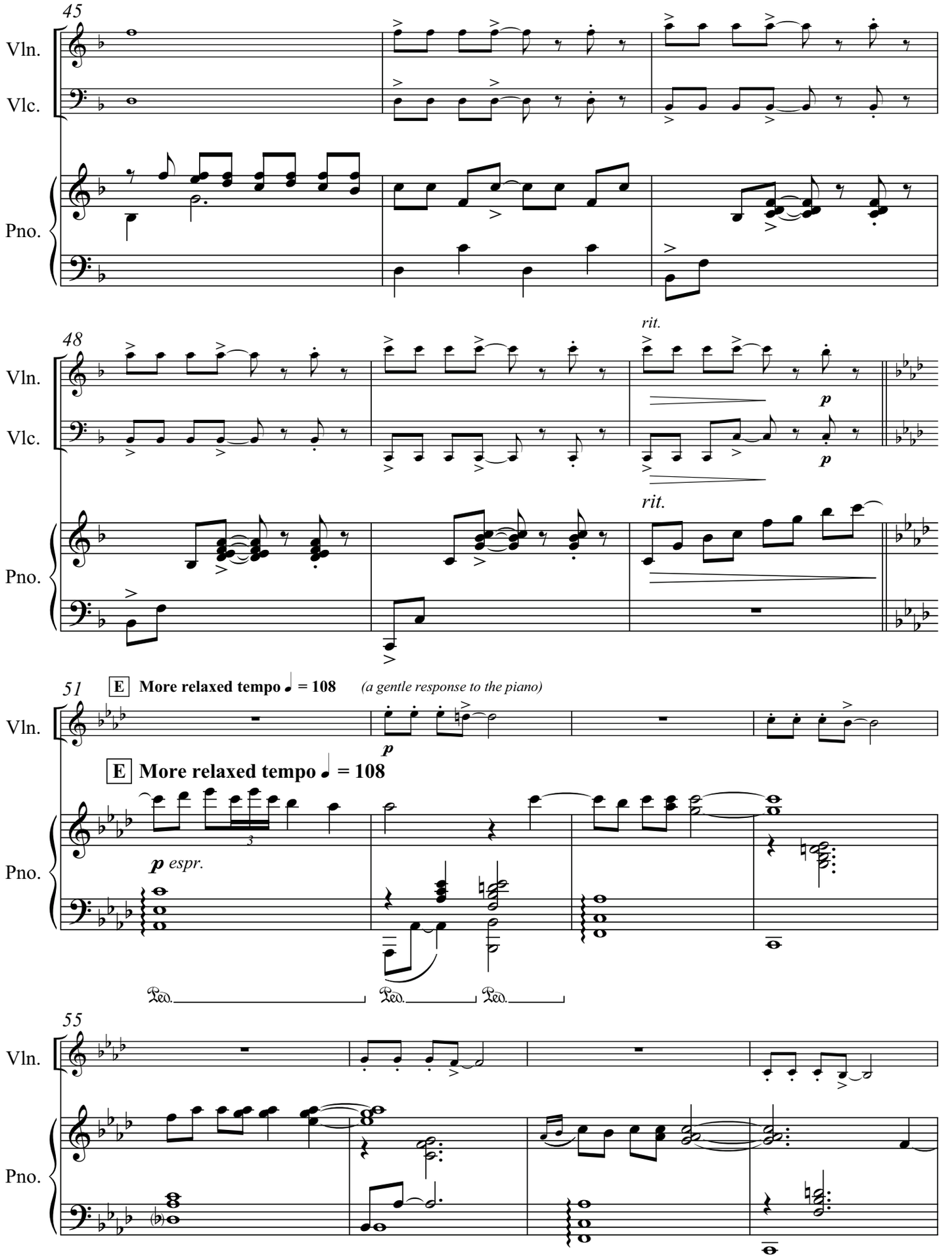
4'00"
January 1, 2015
New Canaan, Connecticut

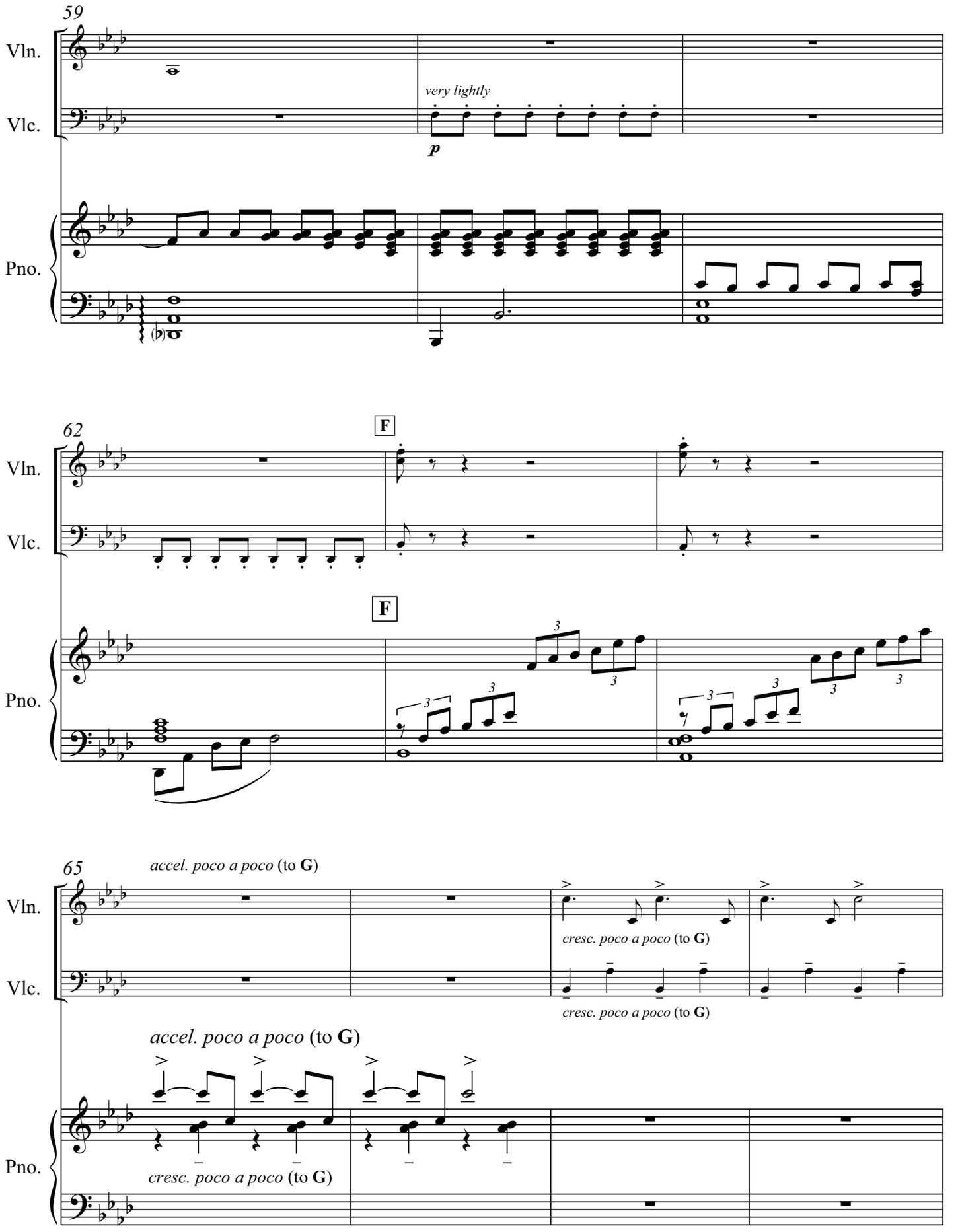
3. Rising

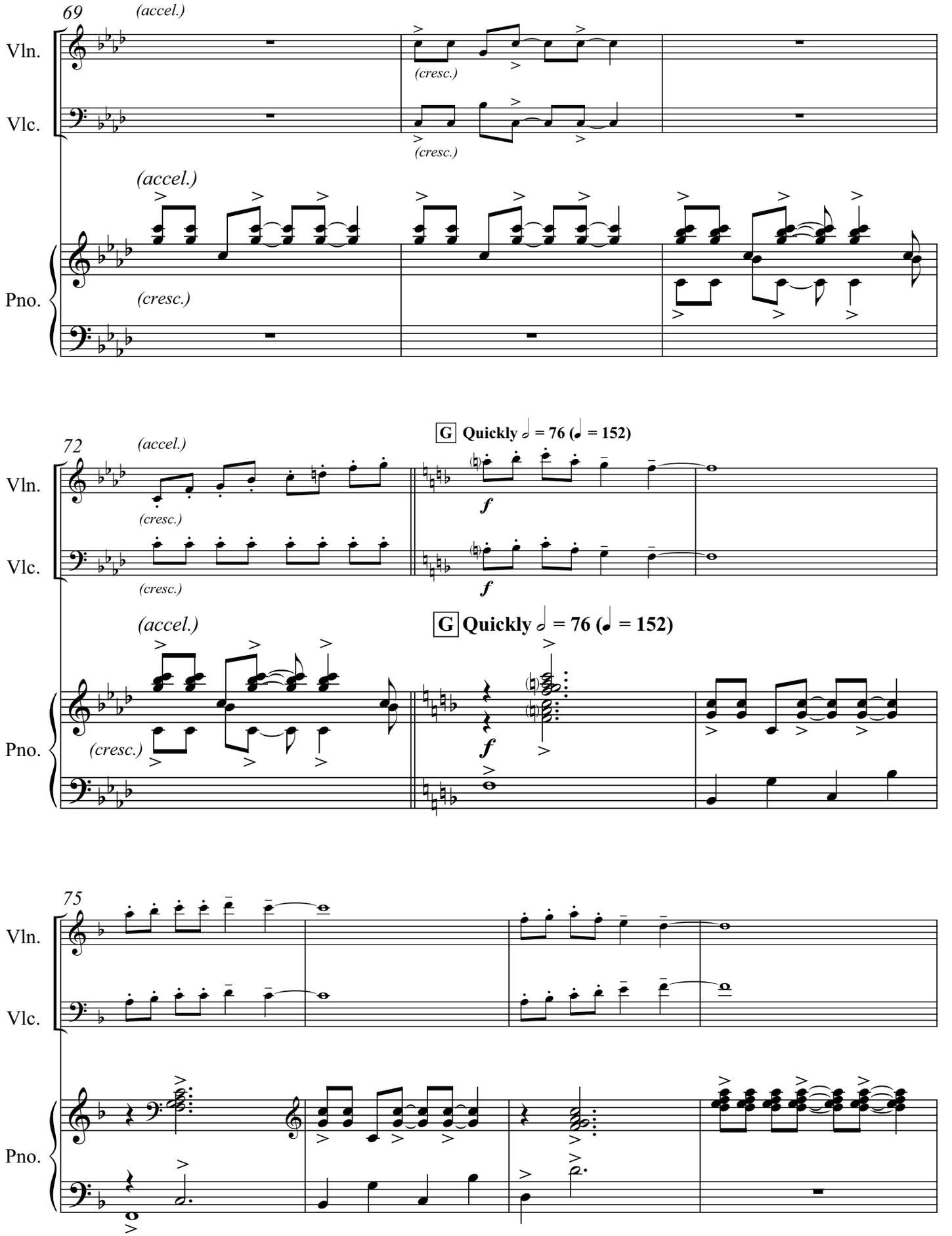

At a stately tempo ♩ = 80
grandly climbing
Pno.
f
with pedal
7
rit.
8va
mf
p very gently
A Quickly 𝅗𝅥 = 76 (♩ = 152)
with much energy and joy
mf
Ped.
11
Vln.
mf
15

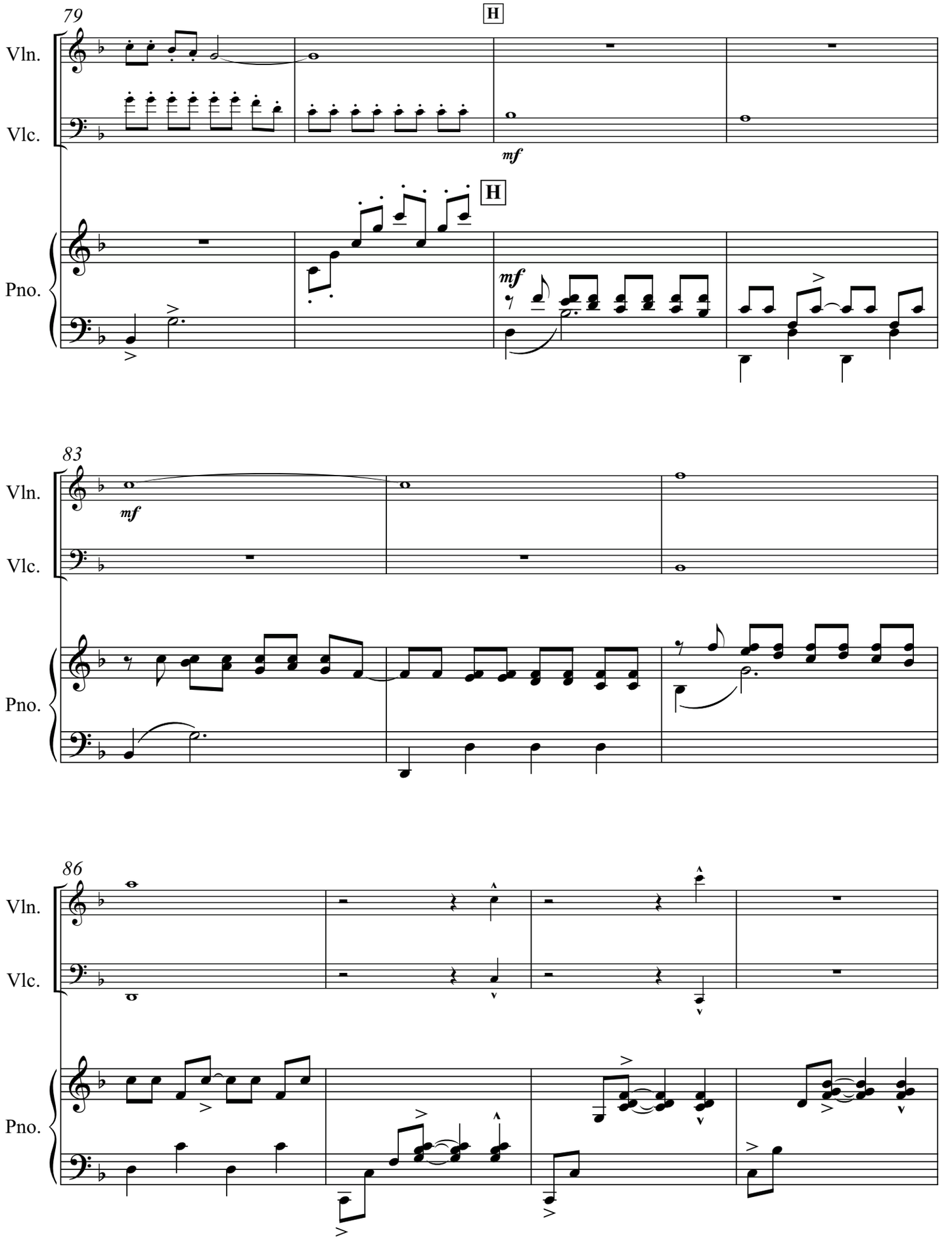

19
B
slight accents
Vln.
B
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
simile
23
Vln.
Pno.
27
C
Vln.
Vlc.
mf
C
Pno.
(mf)
31
Vlc.
Pno.

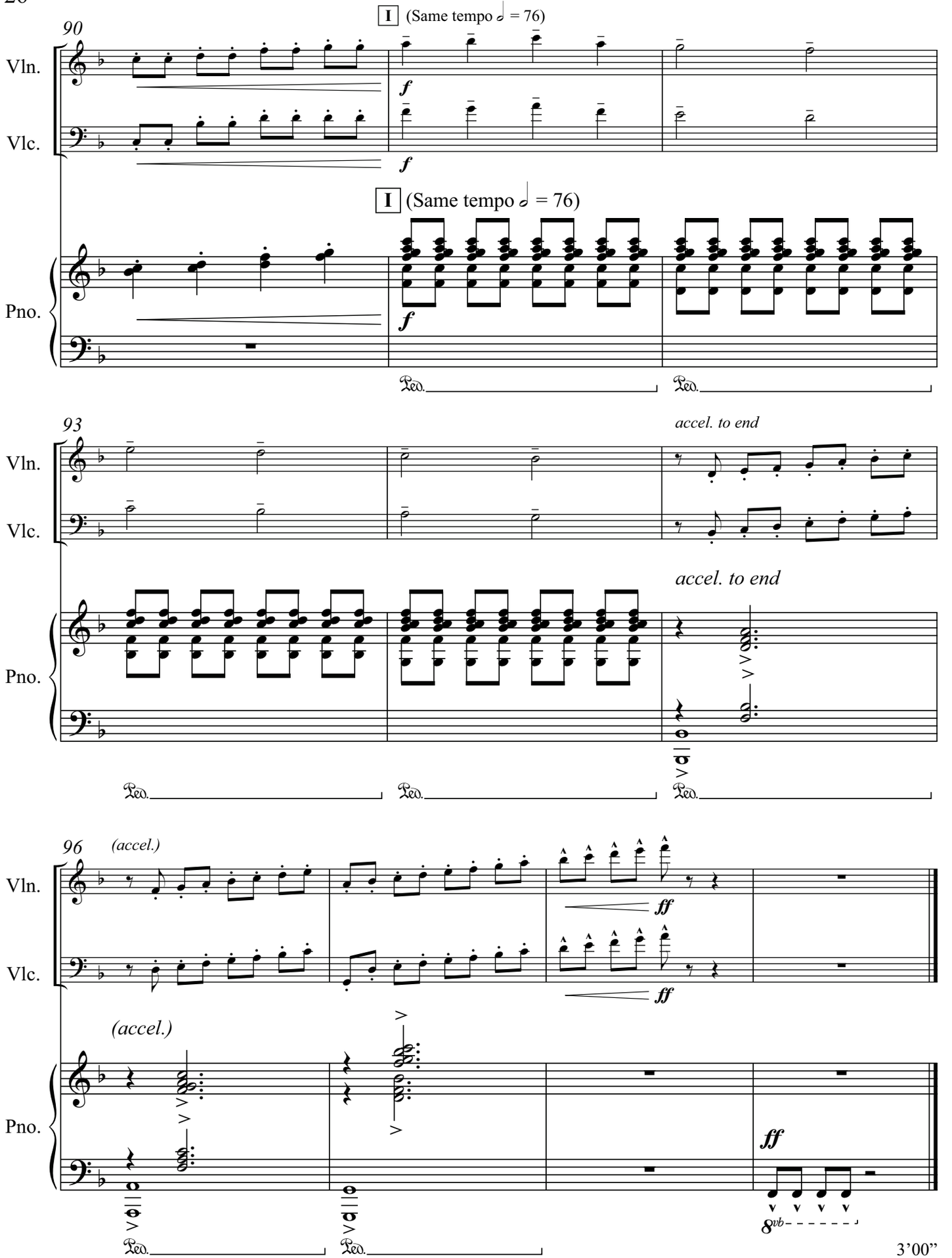

35
D
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
f
39
42
Ped.
simile


45
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
48
rit.
p
rit.
51
E More relaxed tempo ♩ = 108
(a gentle response to the piano)
p
E More relaxed tempo ♩ = 108
p espr.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
55

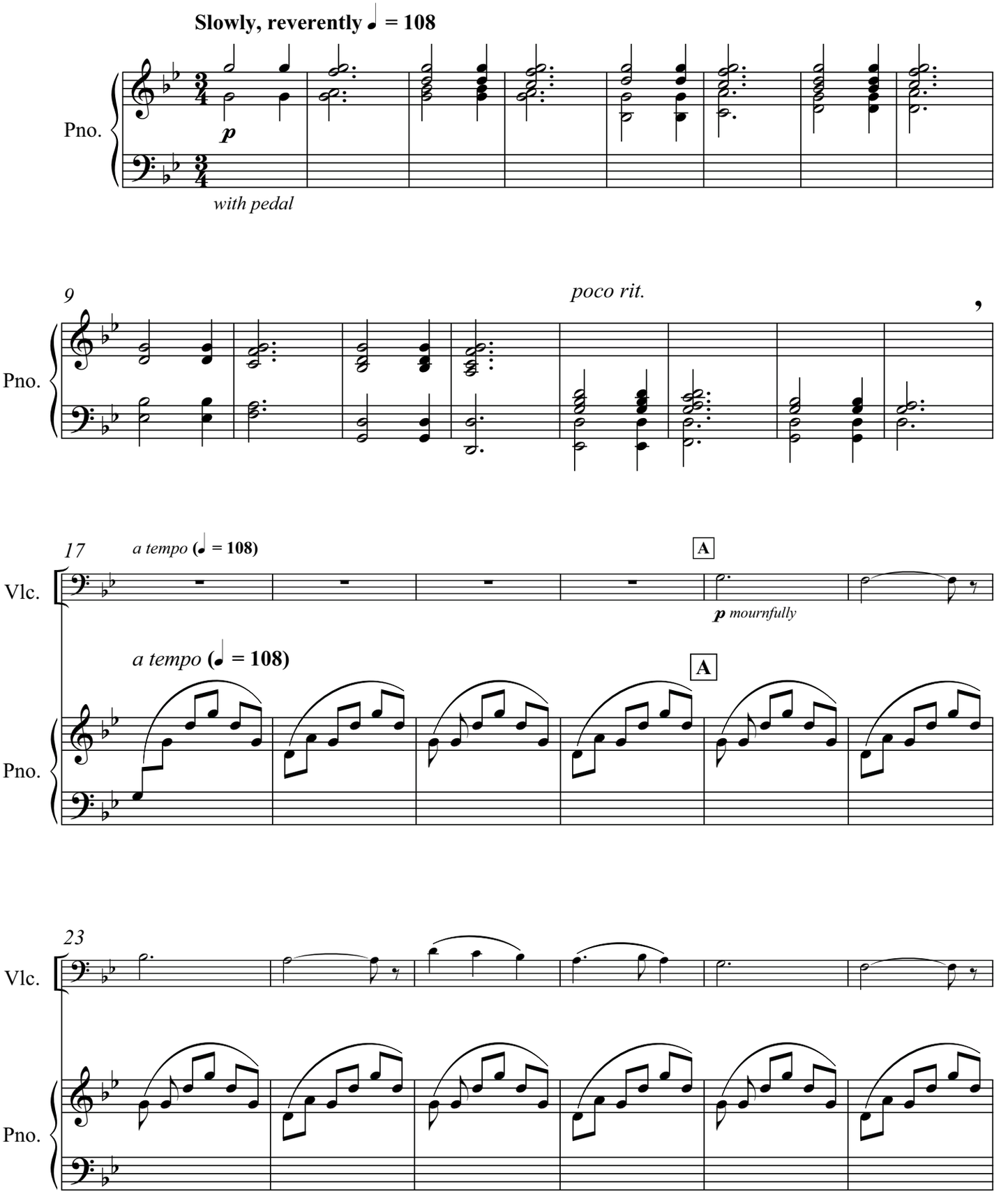

59
Vln.
Vlc.
very lightly
p
Pno.
62
F
Vln.
Vlc.
F
Pno.
65
accel. poco a poco (to G)
Vln.
cresc. poco a poco (to G)
Vlc.
cresc. poco a poco (to G)
accel. poco a poco (to G)
Pno.
cresc. poco a poco (to G)

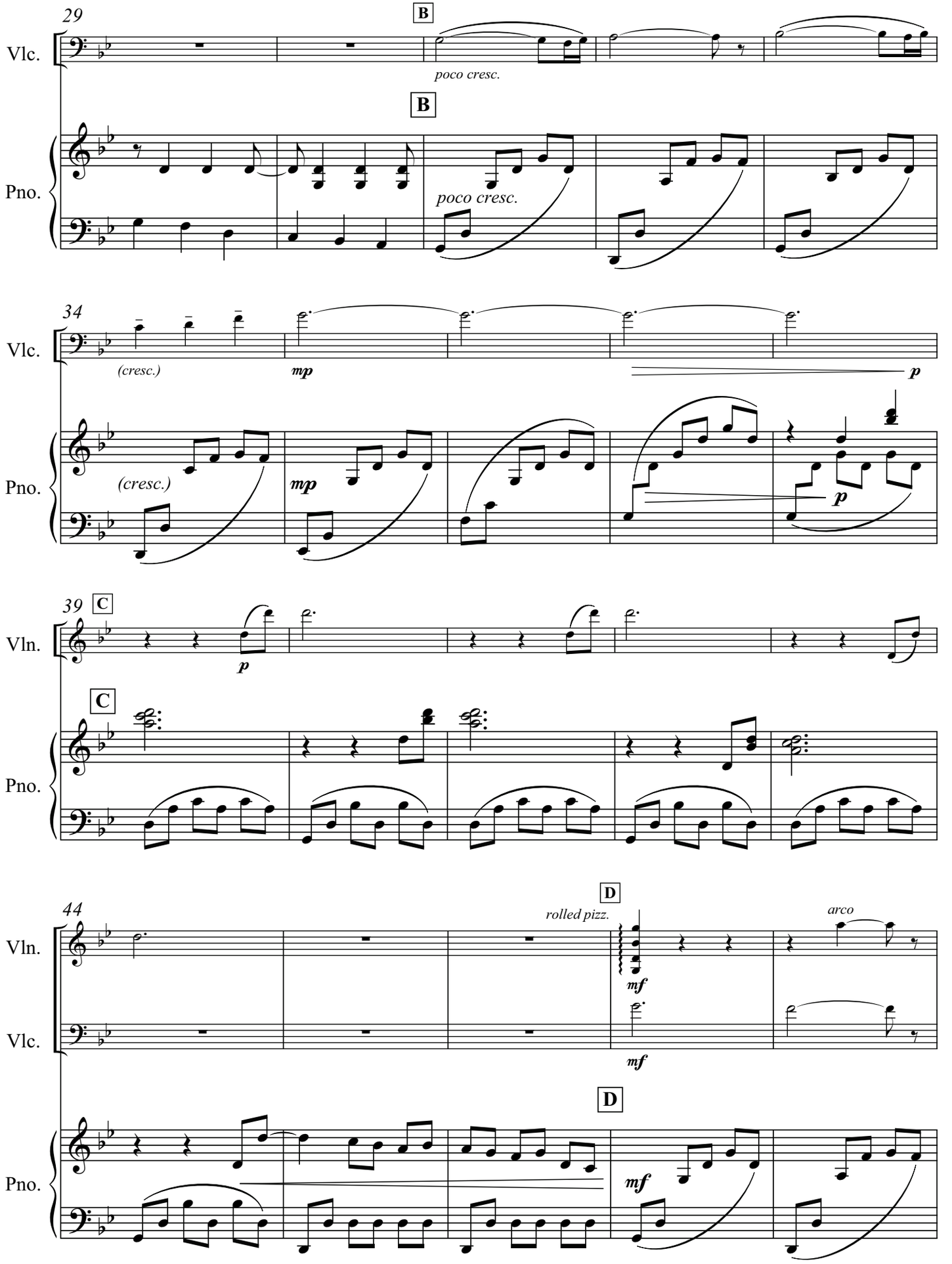

69
(accel.)
Vln.
Vlc.
(cresc.)
(cresc.)
(accel.)
Pno.
(cresc.)
72
(accel.)
Vln.
Vlc.
(cresc.)
(cresc.)
G Quickly ♩ = 76 (♩ = 152)
f
f
(accel.)
Pno.
(cresc.)
G Quickly ♩ = 76 (♩ = 152)
f
75
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.

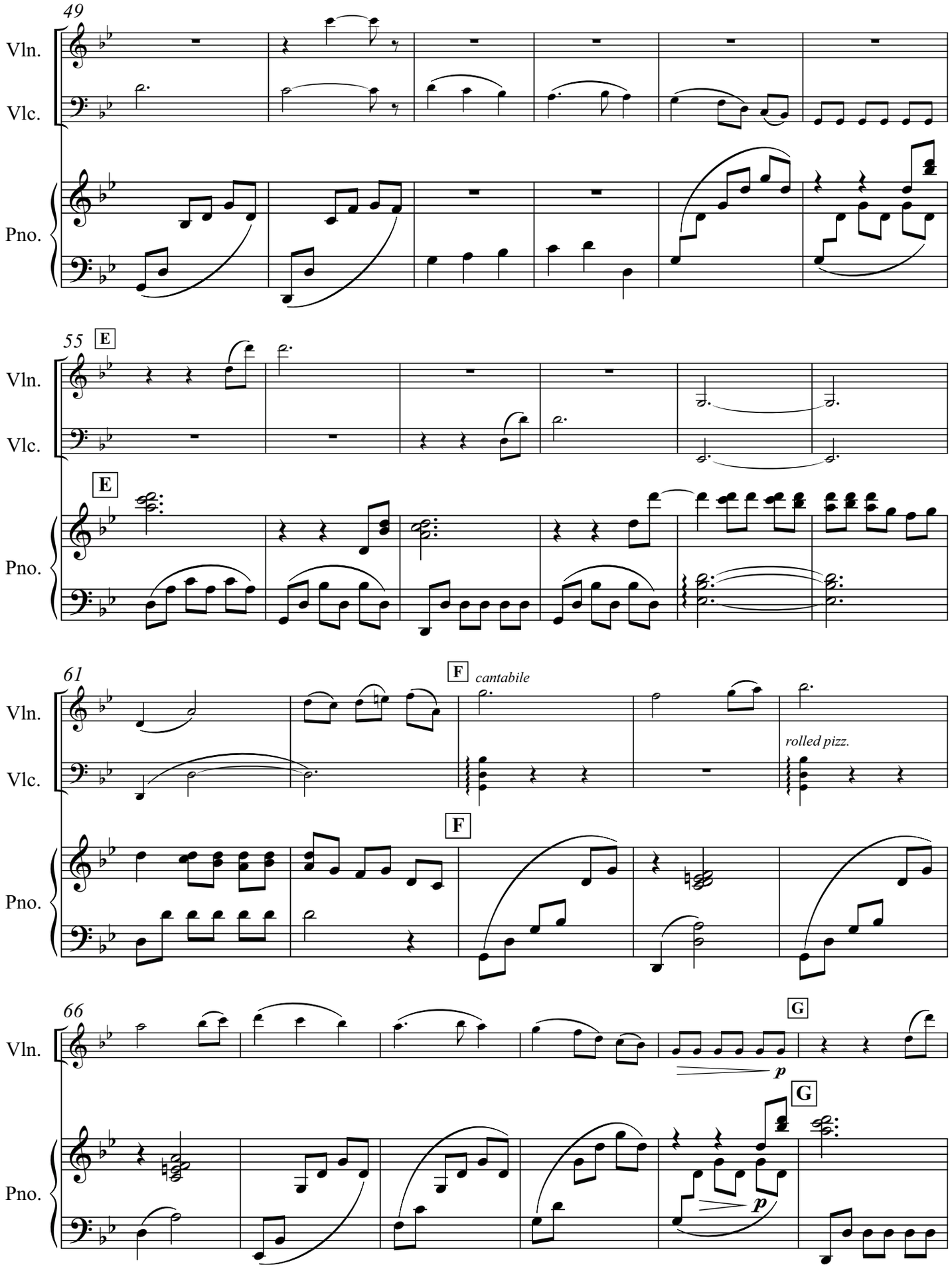

79
H
Vln.
Vlc.
mf
H
Pno.
mf
83
Vln.
Vlc.
mf
Pno.
86
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.

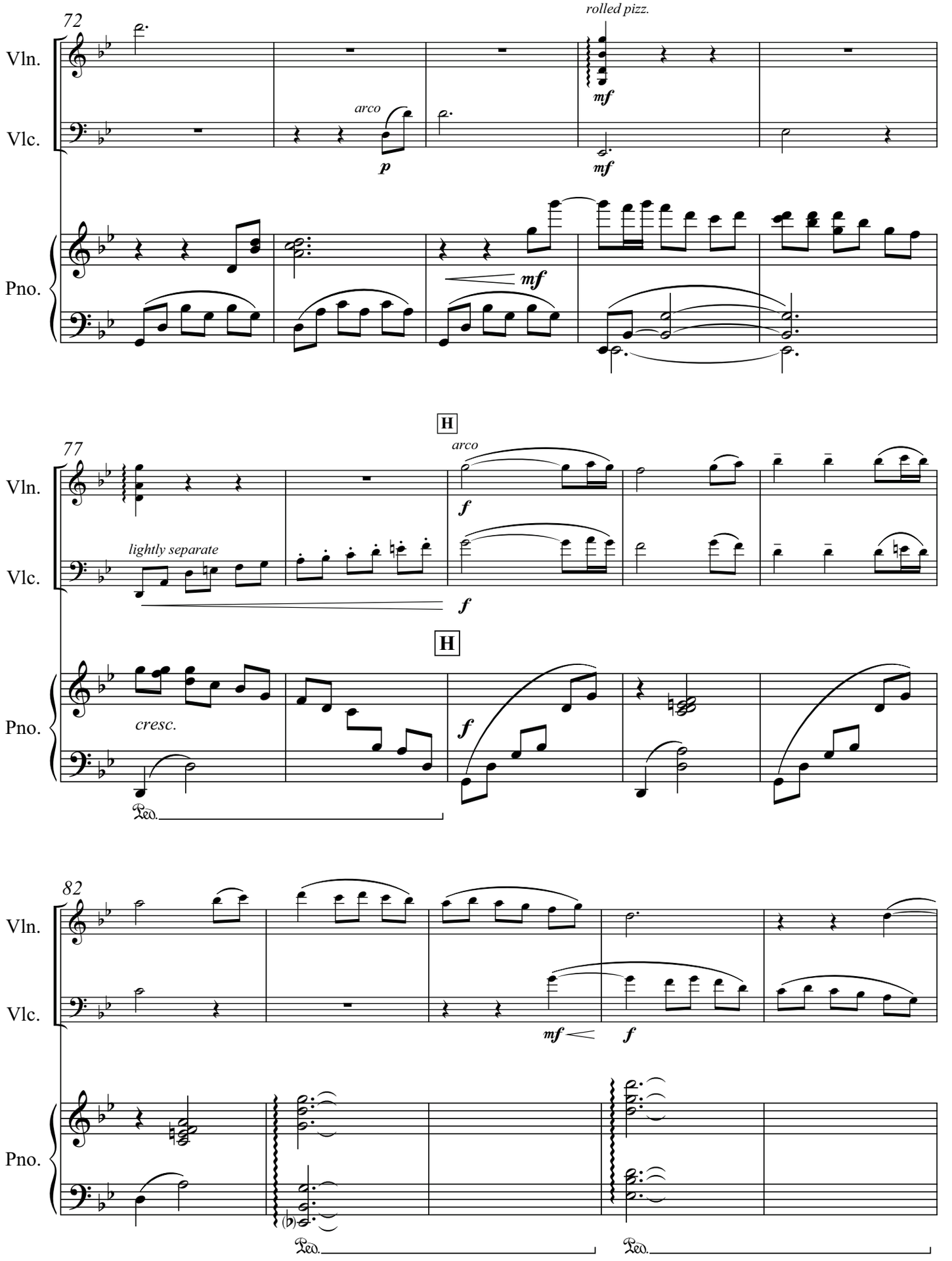

I (Same tempo 𝅗𝅥 = 76)
90
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
f
I (Same tempo 𝅗𝅥 = 76)
Ped.
93
accel. to end
96
(accel.)
ff
8vb
3'00"
January 12, 2015
New Canaan, Connecticut

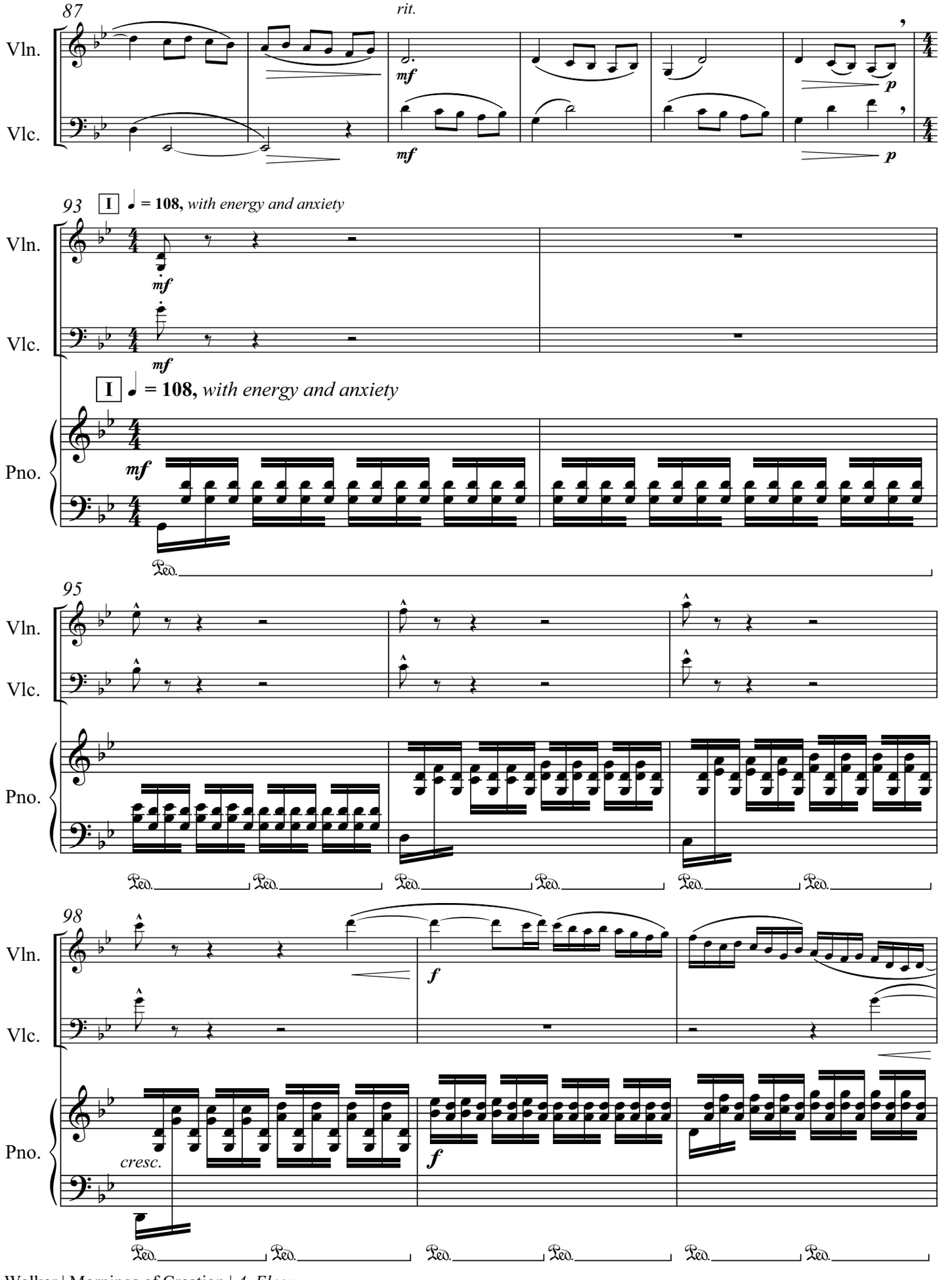
4. Elegy

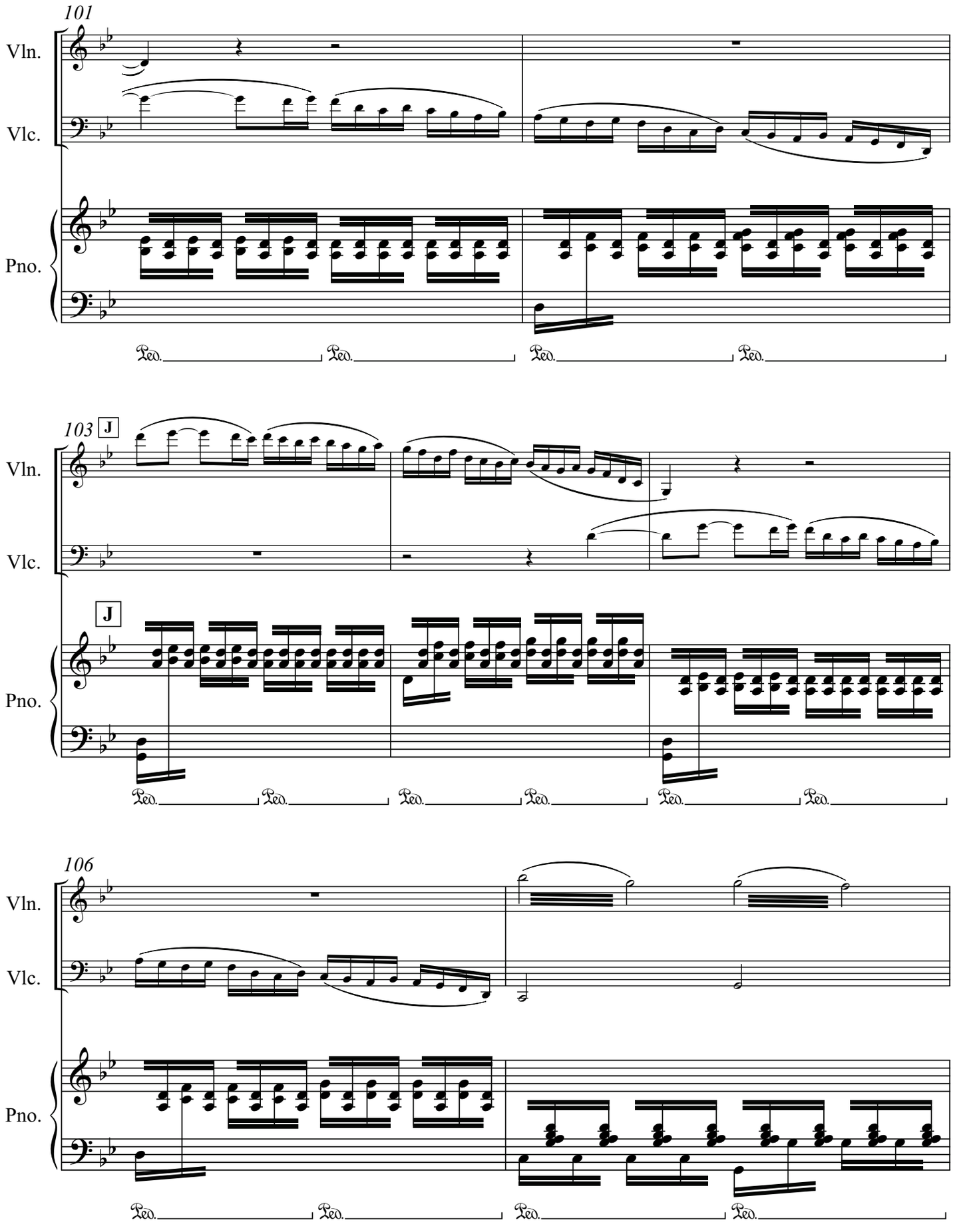

Slowly, reverently ♩ = 108
Pno.
p
with pedal
9
poco rit.
Pno.
17
a tempo (♩ = 108)
A
Vlc.
p mournfully
a tempo (♩ = 108)
A
Pno.
23
Vlc.
Pno.

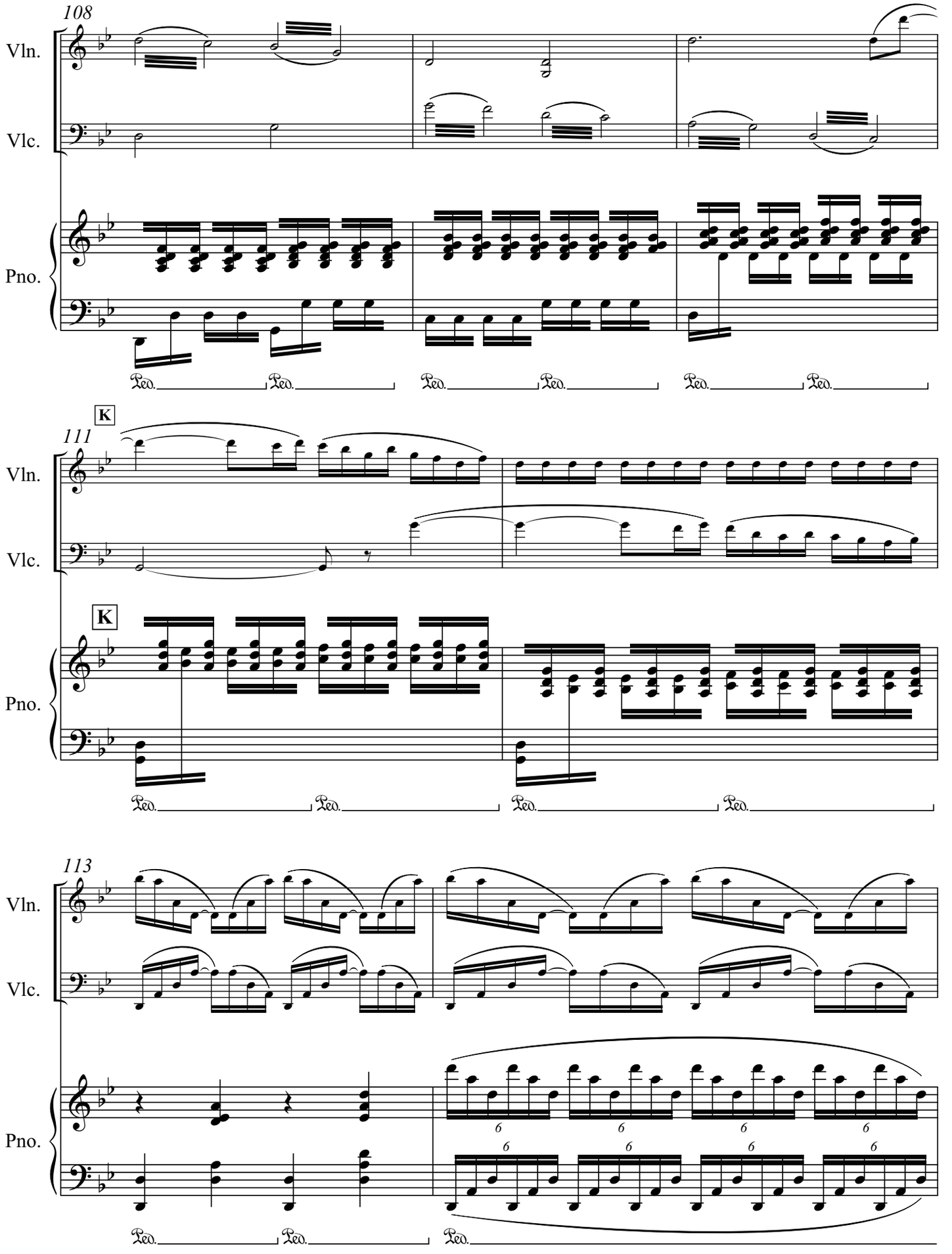

29
B
Vlc.
poco cresc.
B
Pno.
poco cresc.
34
Vlc.
(cresc.)
mp
p
Pno.
(cresc.)
mp
p
39
C
Vln.
p
C
Pno.
44
D
rolled pizz.
arco
Vln.
mf
Vlc.
mf
D
Pno.
mf

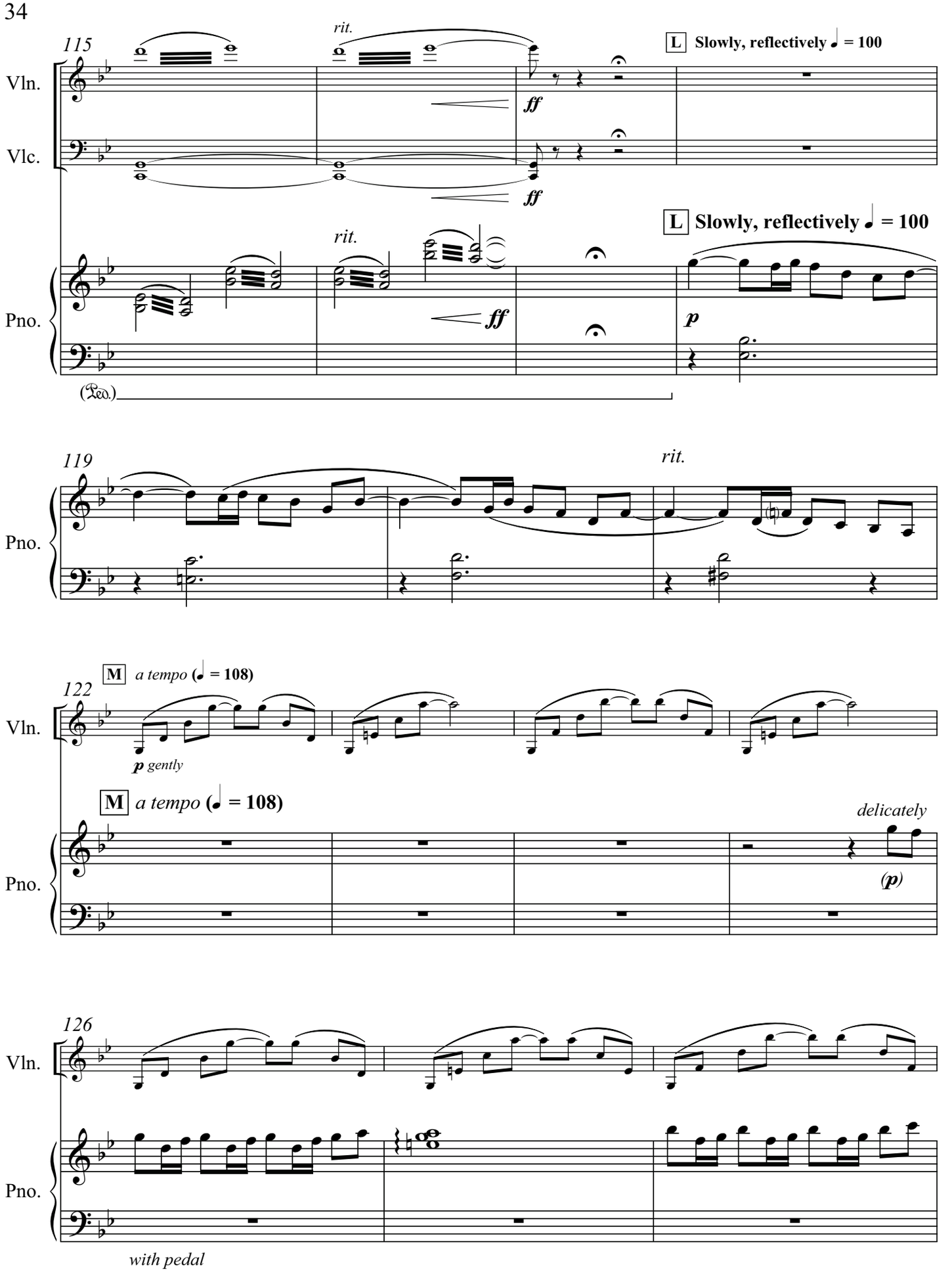

49
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
55
E
Vln.
Vlc.
E
Pno.
61
F
cantabile
Vln.
Vlc.
rolled pizz.
F
Pno.
66
G
Vln.
p
G
Pno.
p

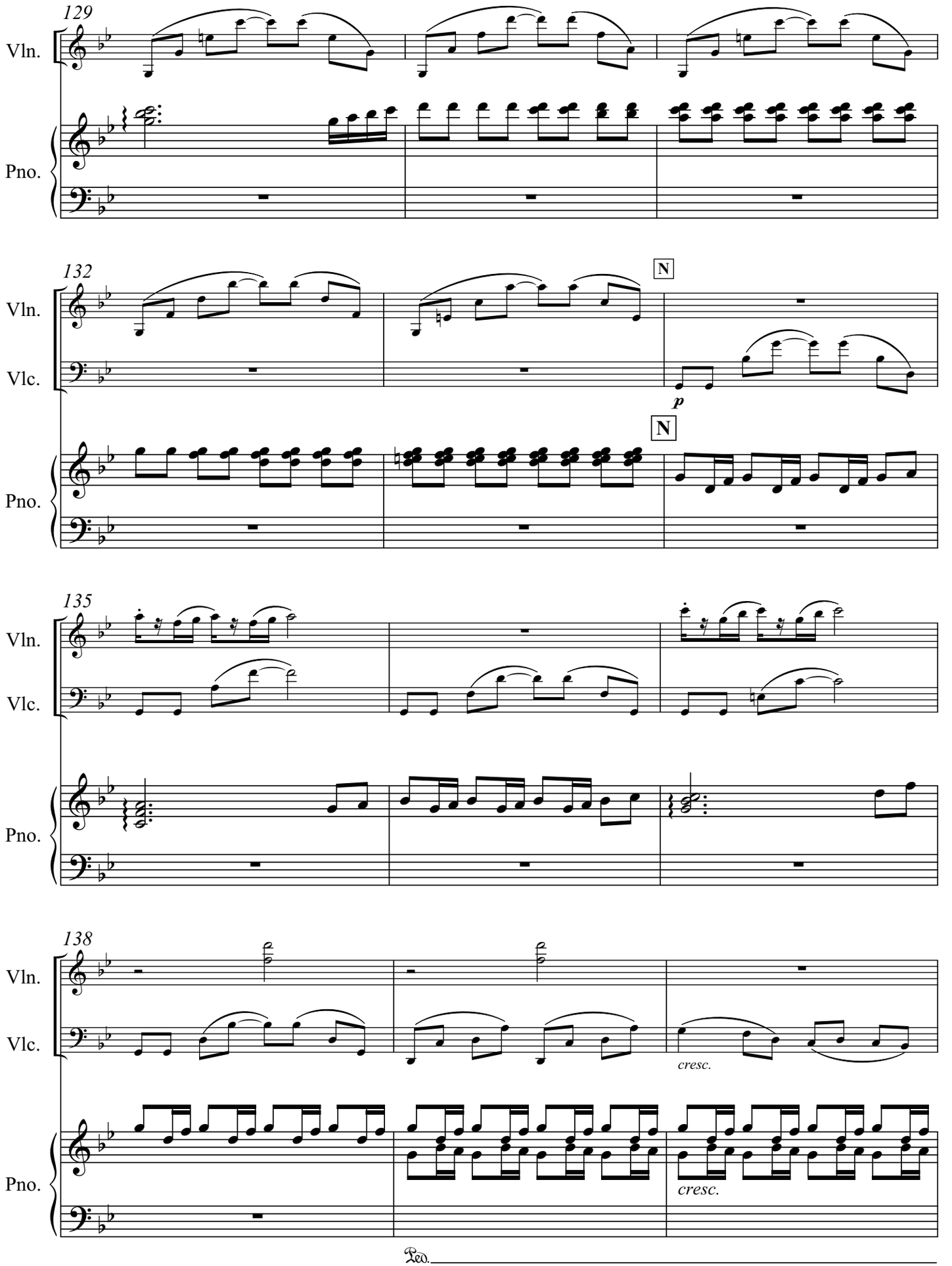

72
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
rolled pizz.
mf
arco
p
mf
mf
77
H
arco
f
lightly separate
f
H
cresc.
f
Ped.
82
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
mf
f
Ped.
Ped.

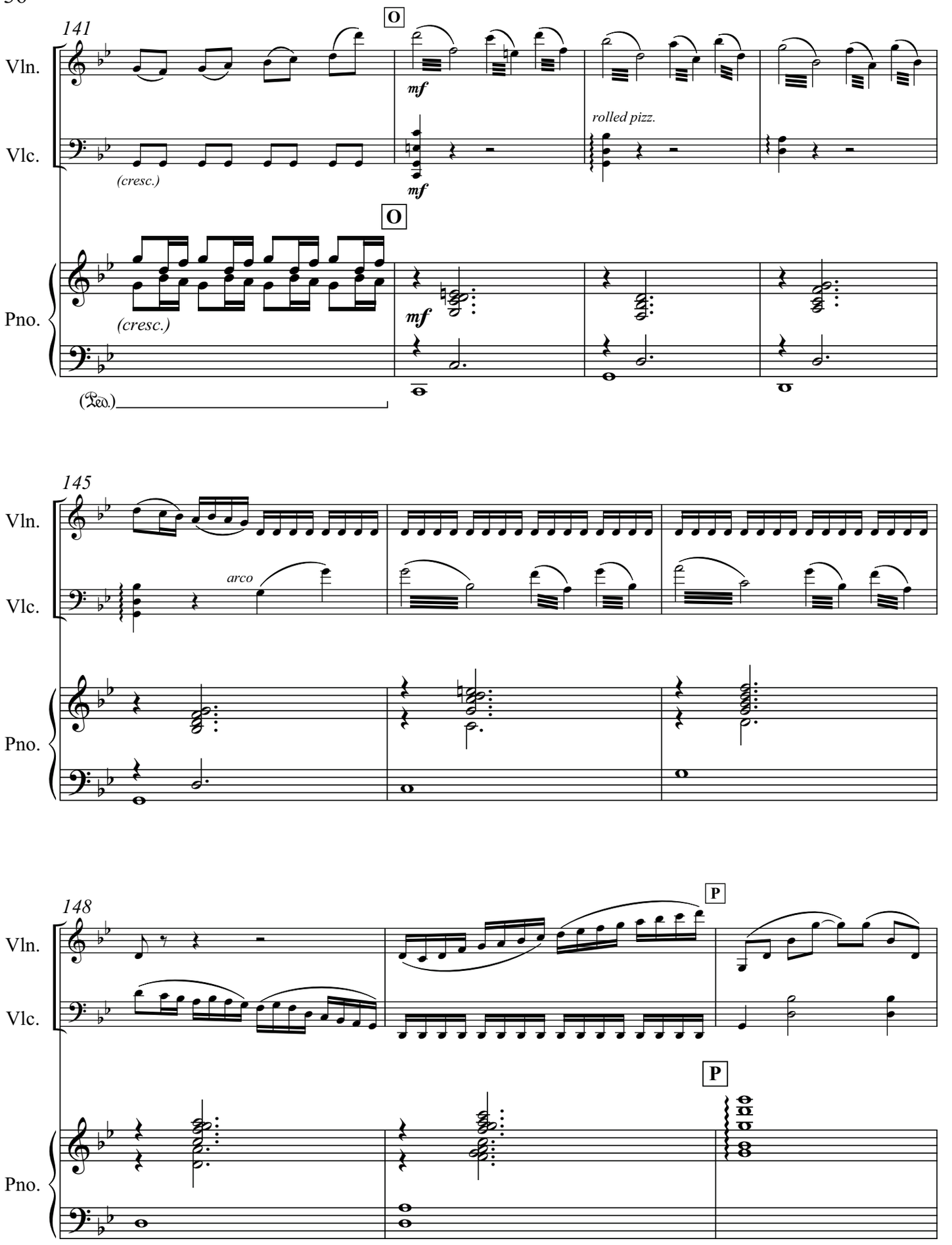

87
rit.
Vln.
Vlc.
mf
p
93
I = 108, with energy and anxiety
Pno.
95
98
f
cresc.

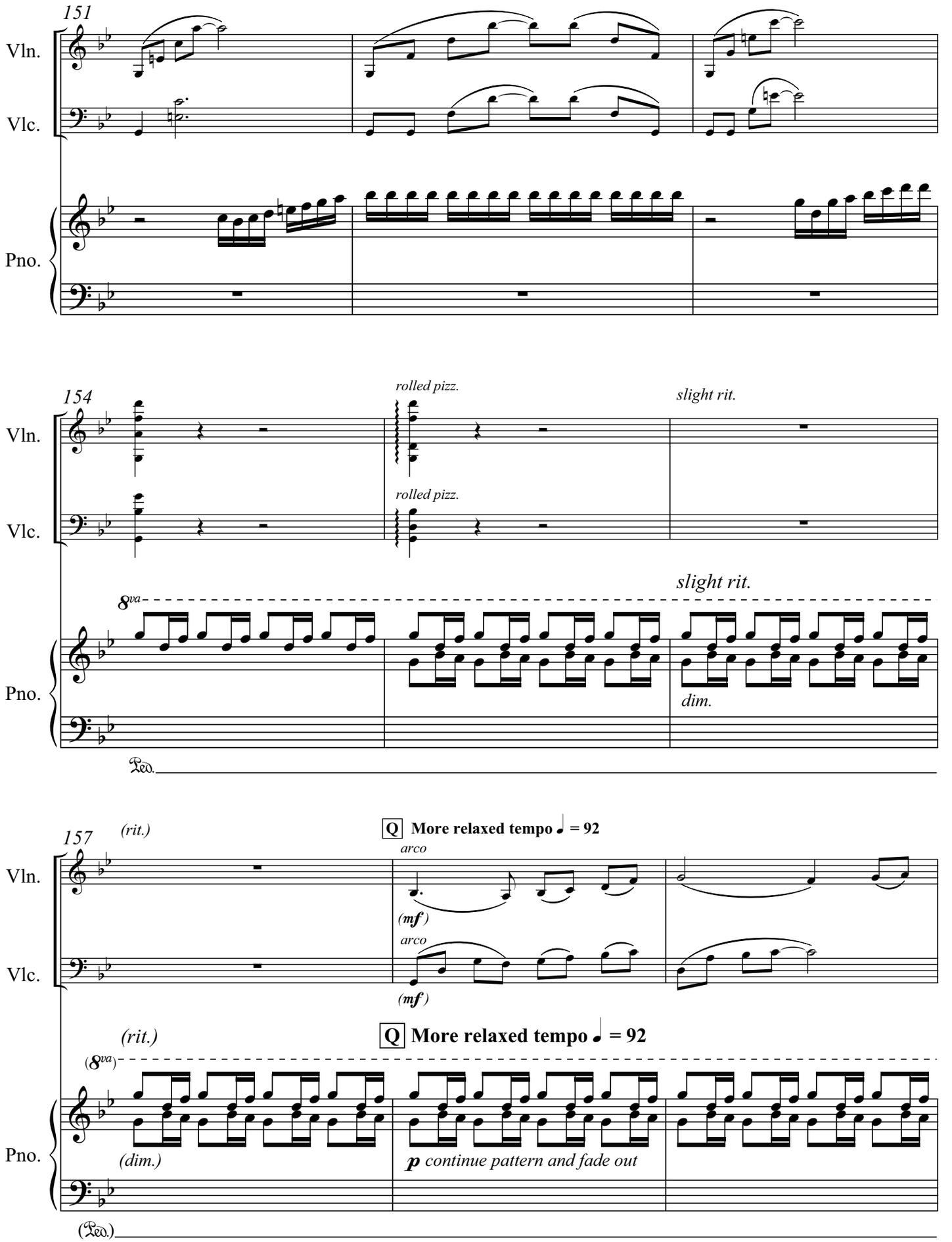

101
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
103
J
Vln.
Vlc.
J
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
106
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

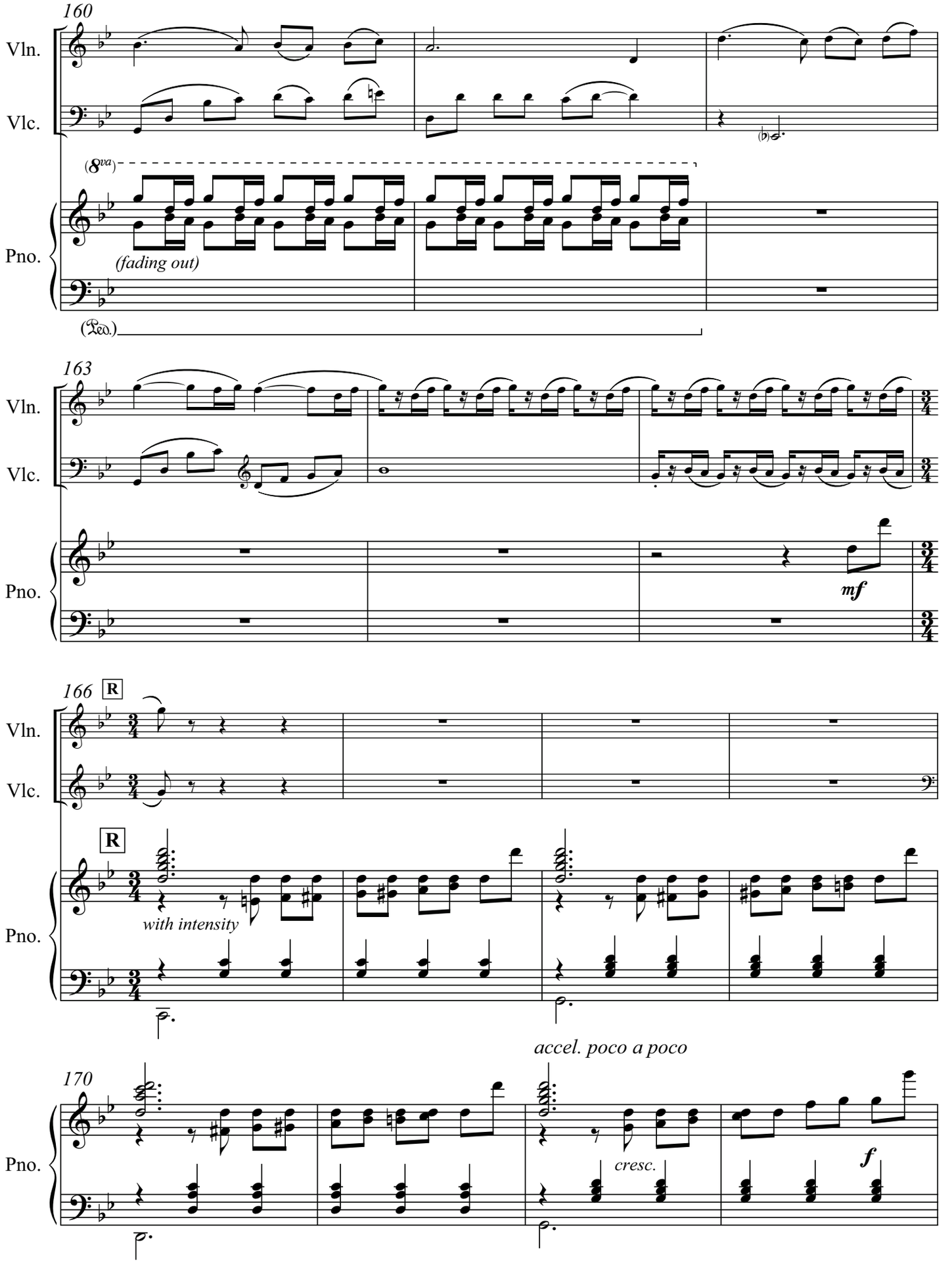

108
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
Ped.
K
111
Vln.
Vlc.
K
Pno.
Ped.
113
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
6
Ped.

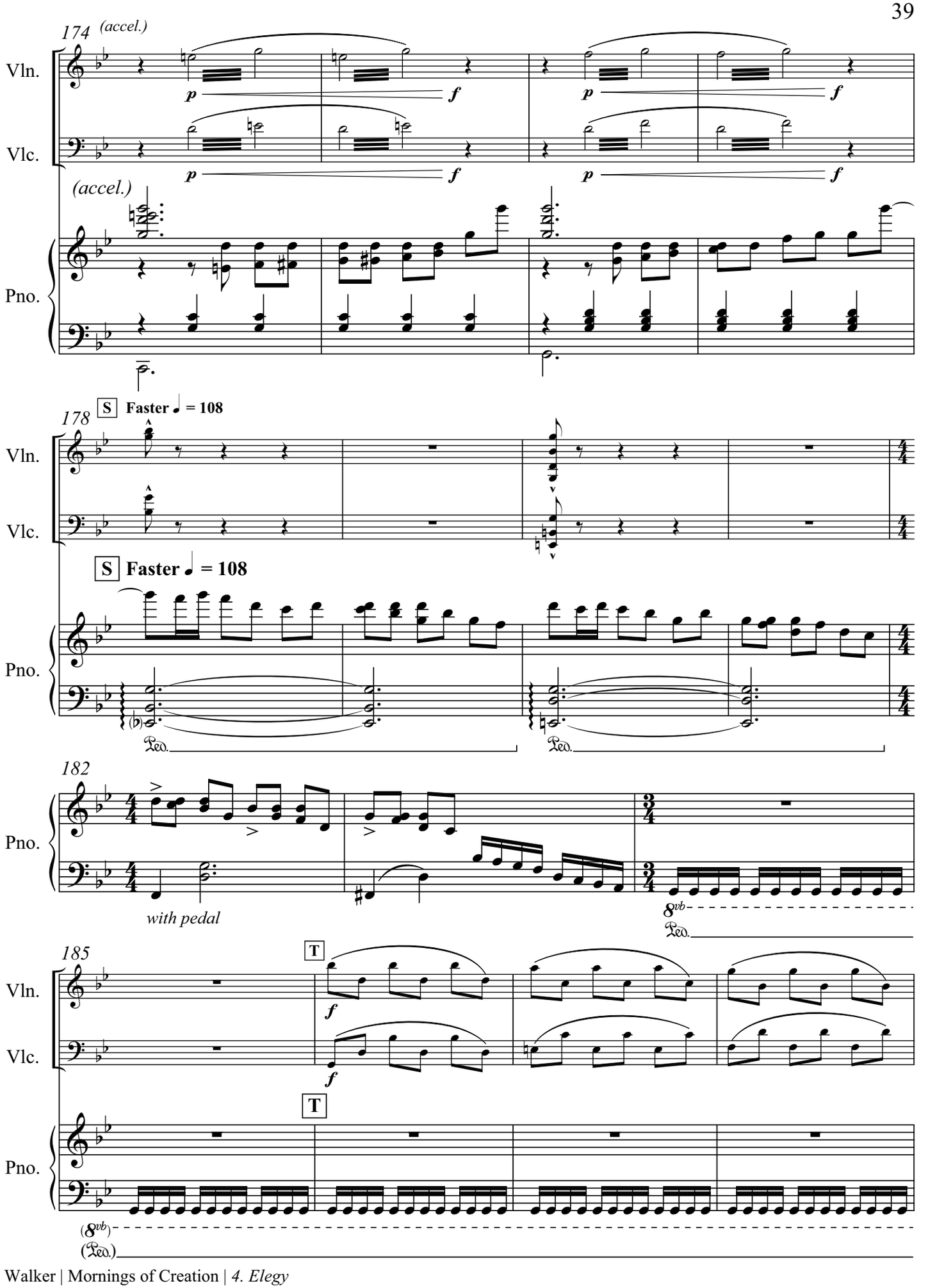

115
rit.
L Slowly, reflectively ♩ = 100
Vln.
Vlc.
ff
ff
L Slowly, reflectively ♩ = 100
rit.
Pno.
ff
p
(Ped.)
119
rit.
Pno.
M a tempo (♩ = 108)
122
Vln.
p gently
M a tempo (♩ = 108)
delicately
Pno.
(p)
126
Vln.
Pno.
with pedal

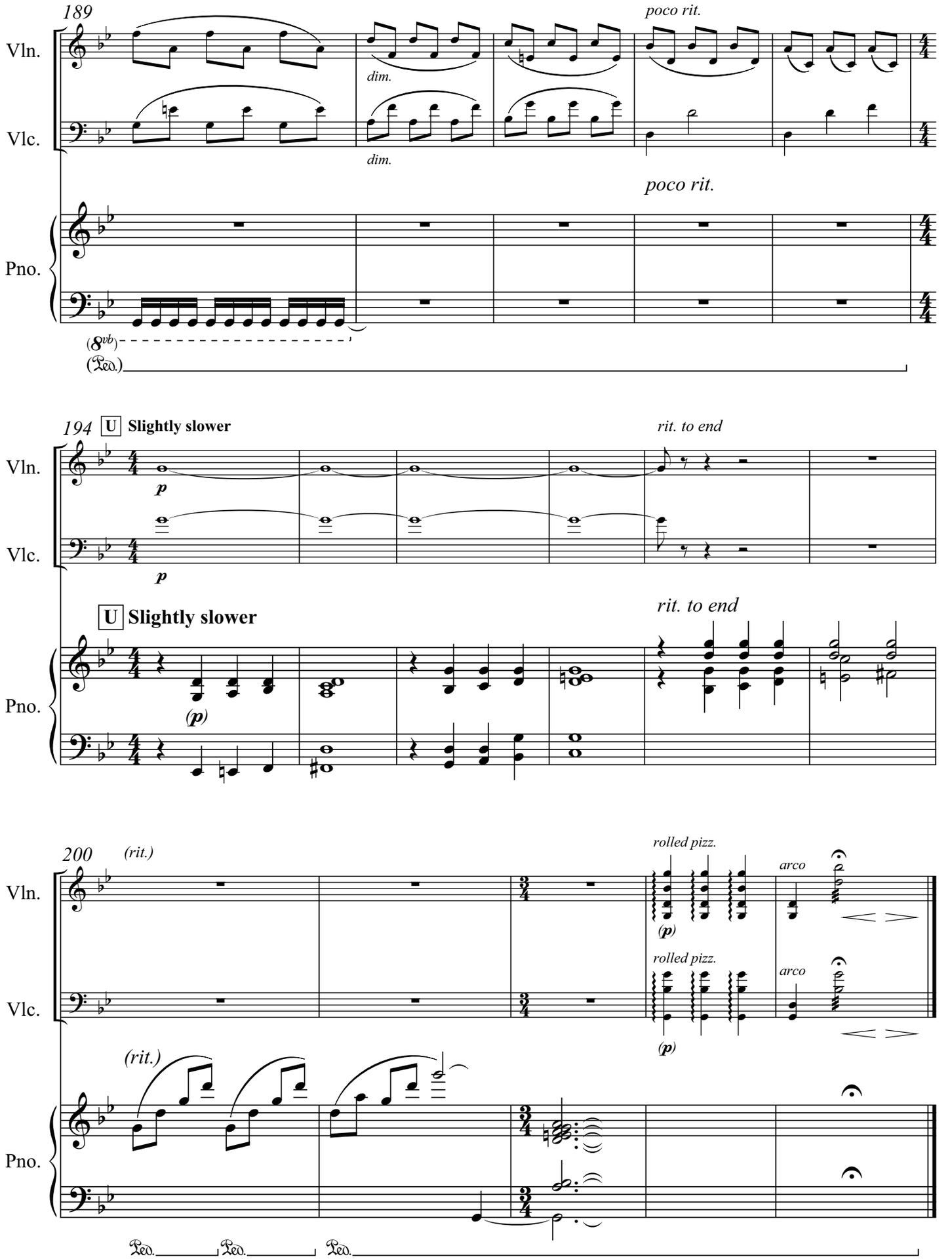

129
Vln.
Pno.
132
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
N
p
N
135
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
138
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
cresc.
cresc.
Ped.


141
O
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
mf
rolled pizz.
(cresc.)
mf
O
(cresc.)
mf
(Ped.)
145
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
arco
148
P
Vln.
Vlc.
P
Pno.

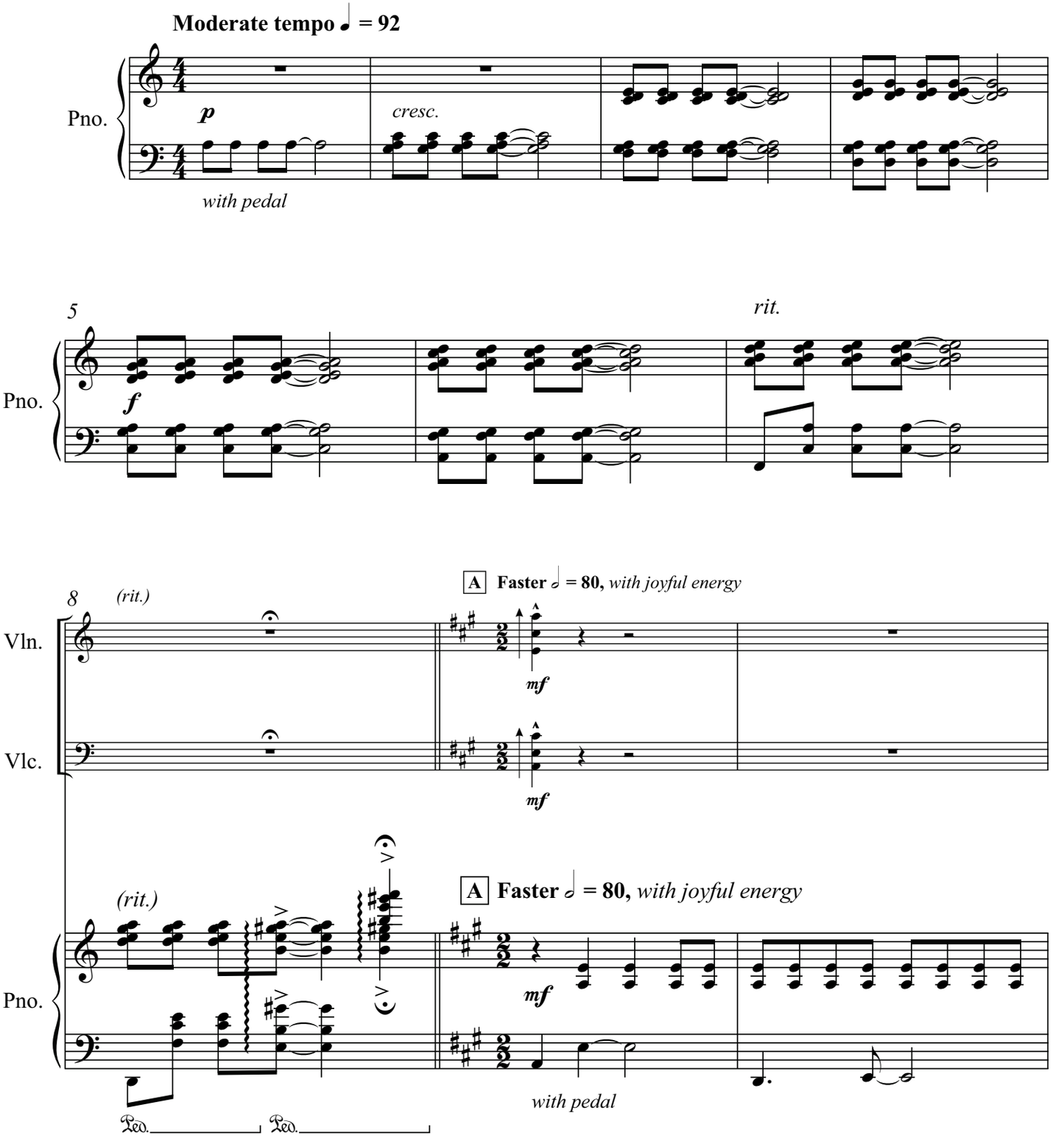

151
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
154
rolled pizz.
slight rit.
rolled pizz.
slight rit.
8va
dim.
157
(rit.)
Q More relaxed tempo ♩ = 92
arco
(mf)
arco
(mf)
(rit.)
Q More relaxed tempo ♩ = 92
(8va)
(dim.)
p continue pattern and fade out

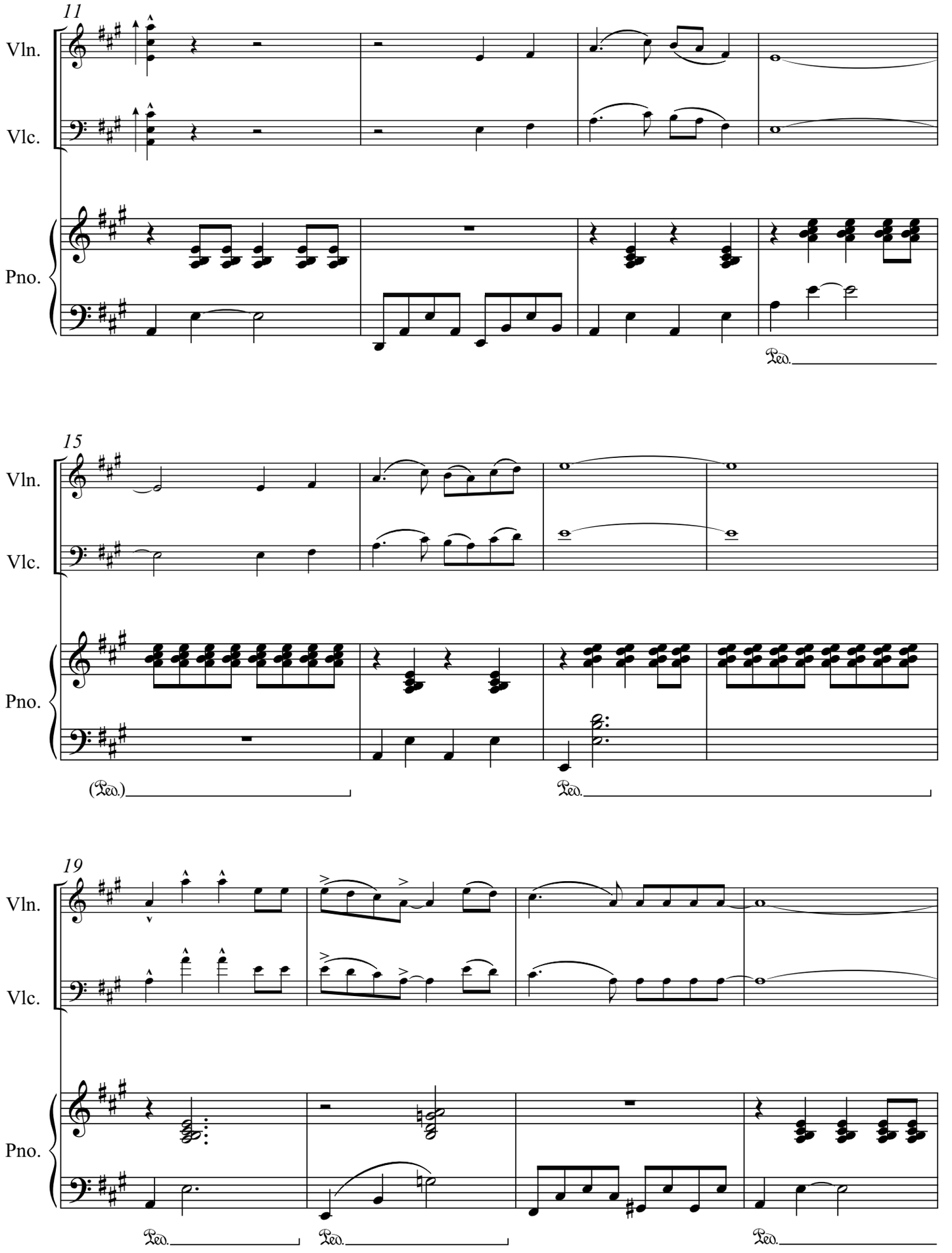

160
Vln.
Vlc.
(8va)
Pno.
(fading out)
(Ped.)
163
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
mf
166
R
Vln.
Vlc.
R
Pno.
with intensity
accel. poco a poco
170
Pno.
cresc.
f

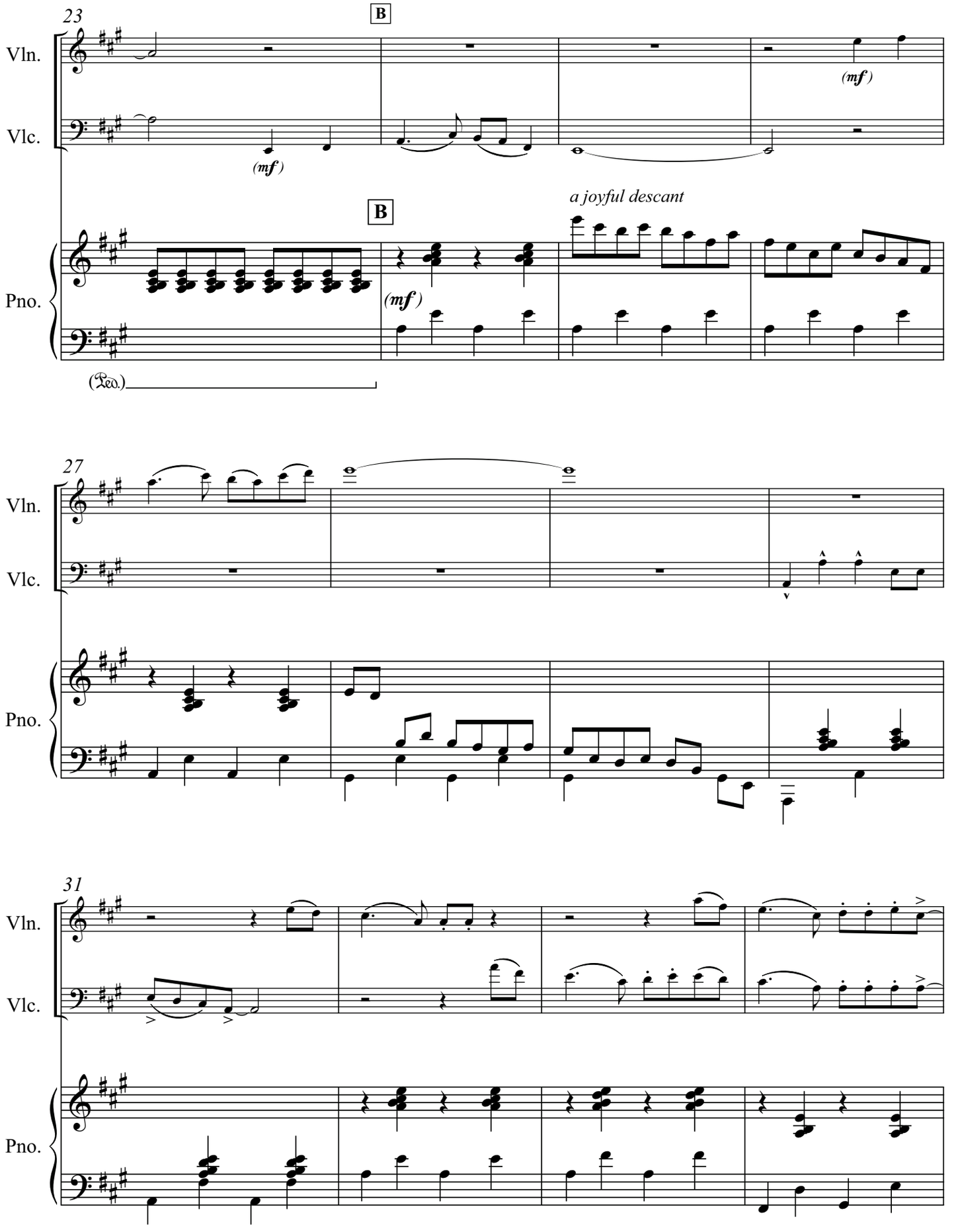

174 (accel.)
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
(accel.)
178
S Faster ♩ = 108
182
with pedal
185
T

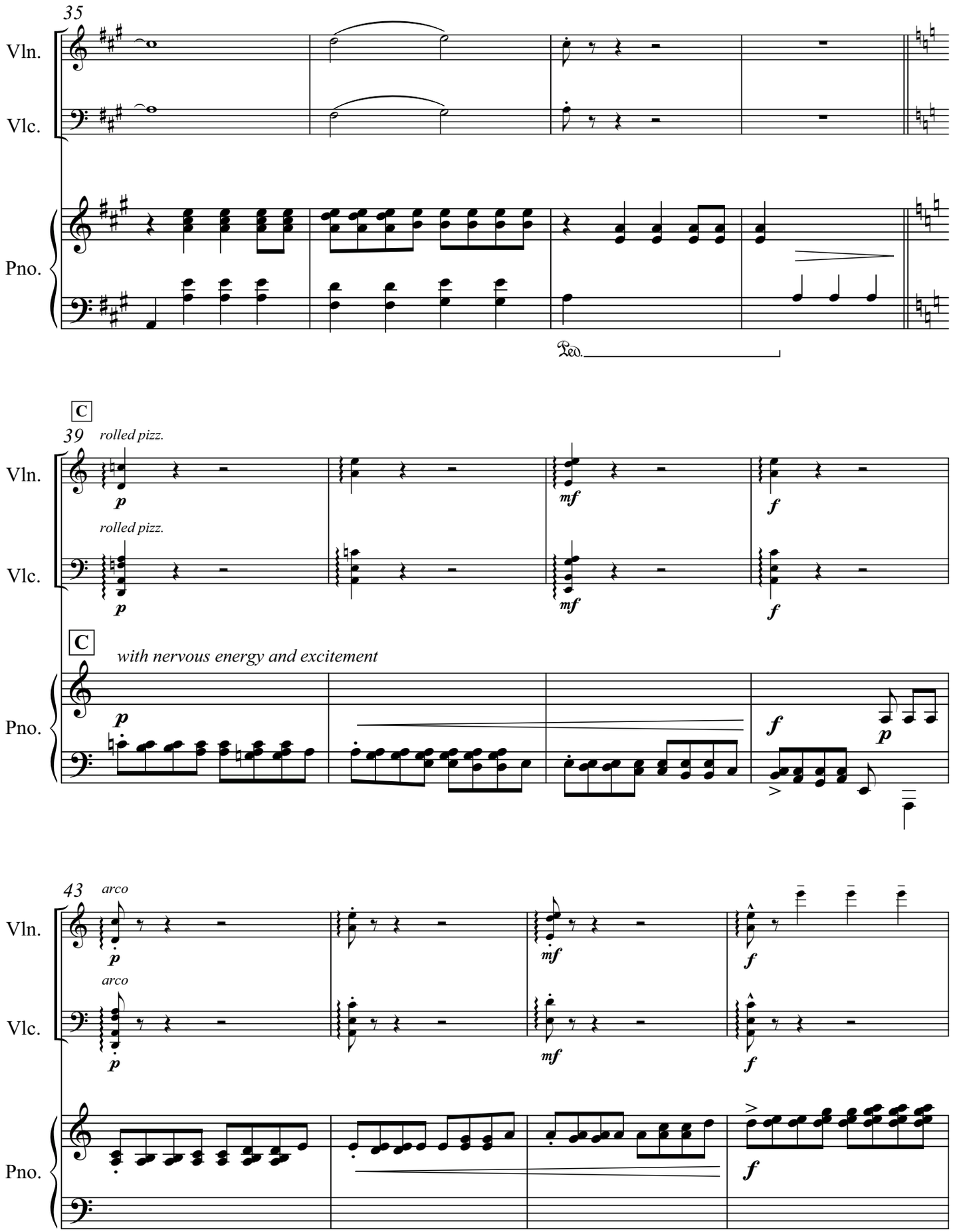

189
poco rit.
Vln.
dim.
Vlc.
dim.
poco rit.
Pno.
(8vb)
(Ped.)
194
U Slightly slower
rit. to end
Vln.
p
Vlc.
p
U Slightly slower
rit. to end
Pno.
(p)
200
(rit.)
rolled pizz.
arco
Vln.
(p)
rolled pizz.
arco
Vlc.
(p)
(rit.)
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

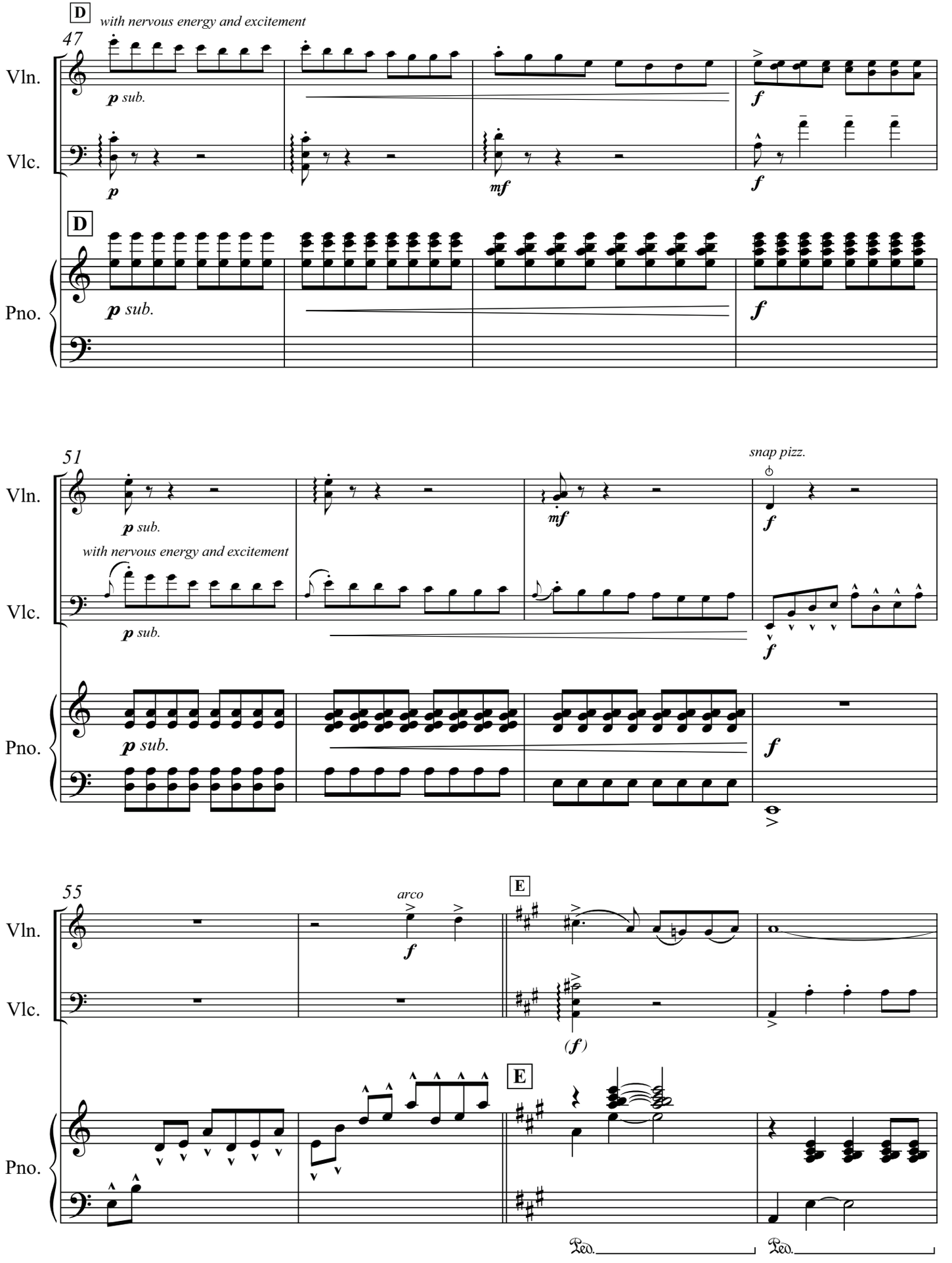
5. Canaan Land

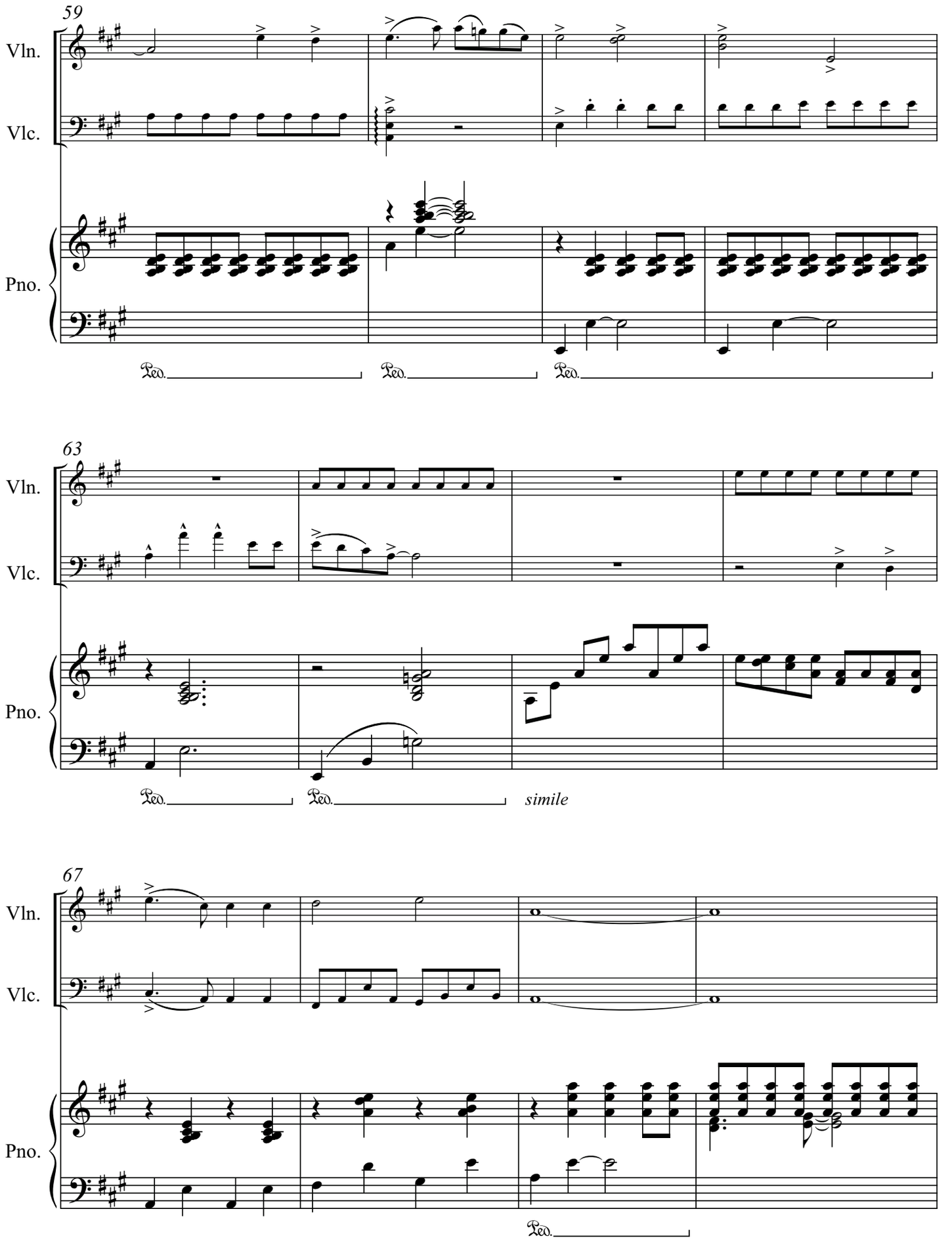


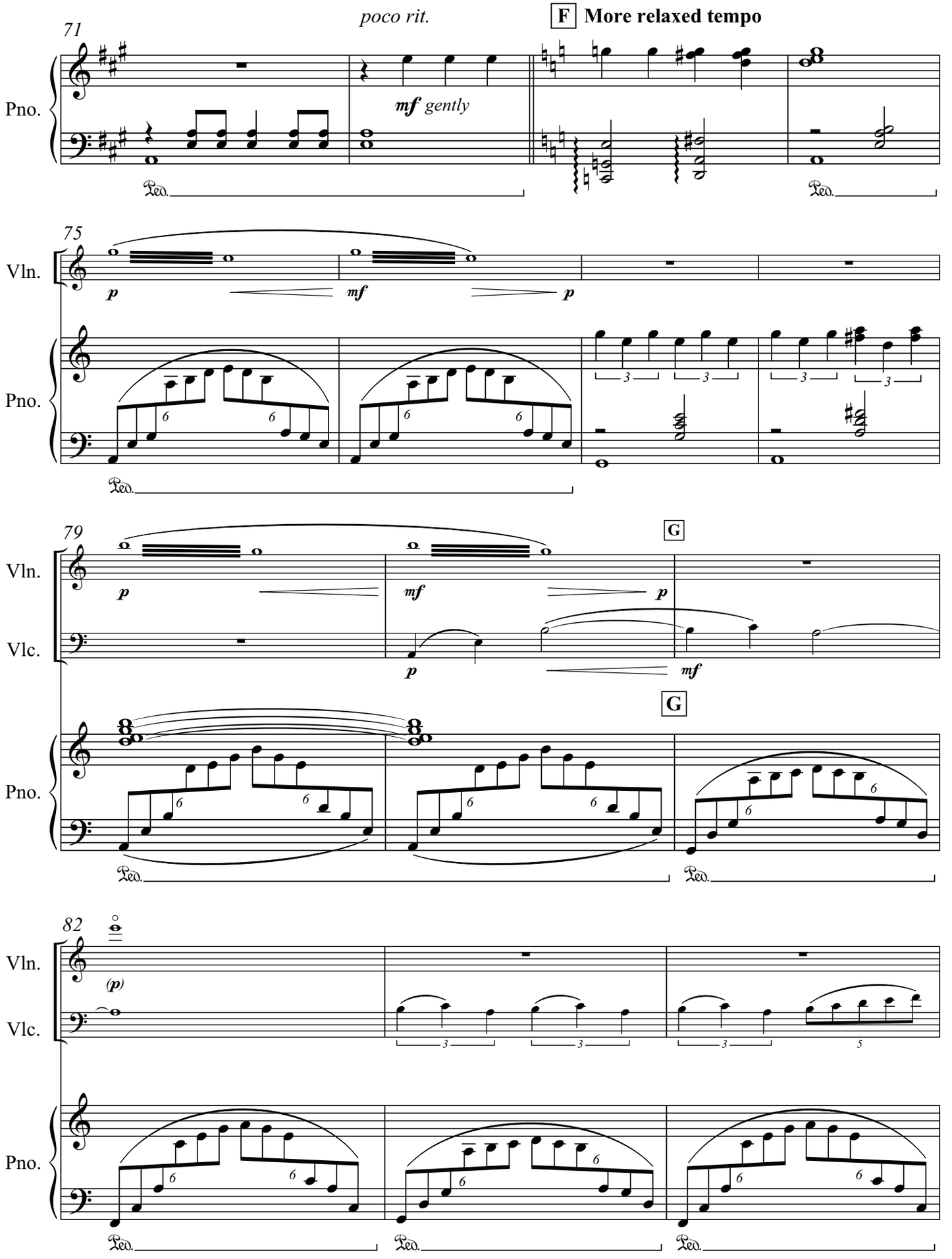

11
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
Ped.
15
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
(Ped.)
Ped.
19
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

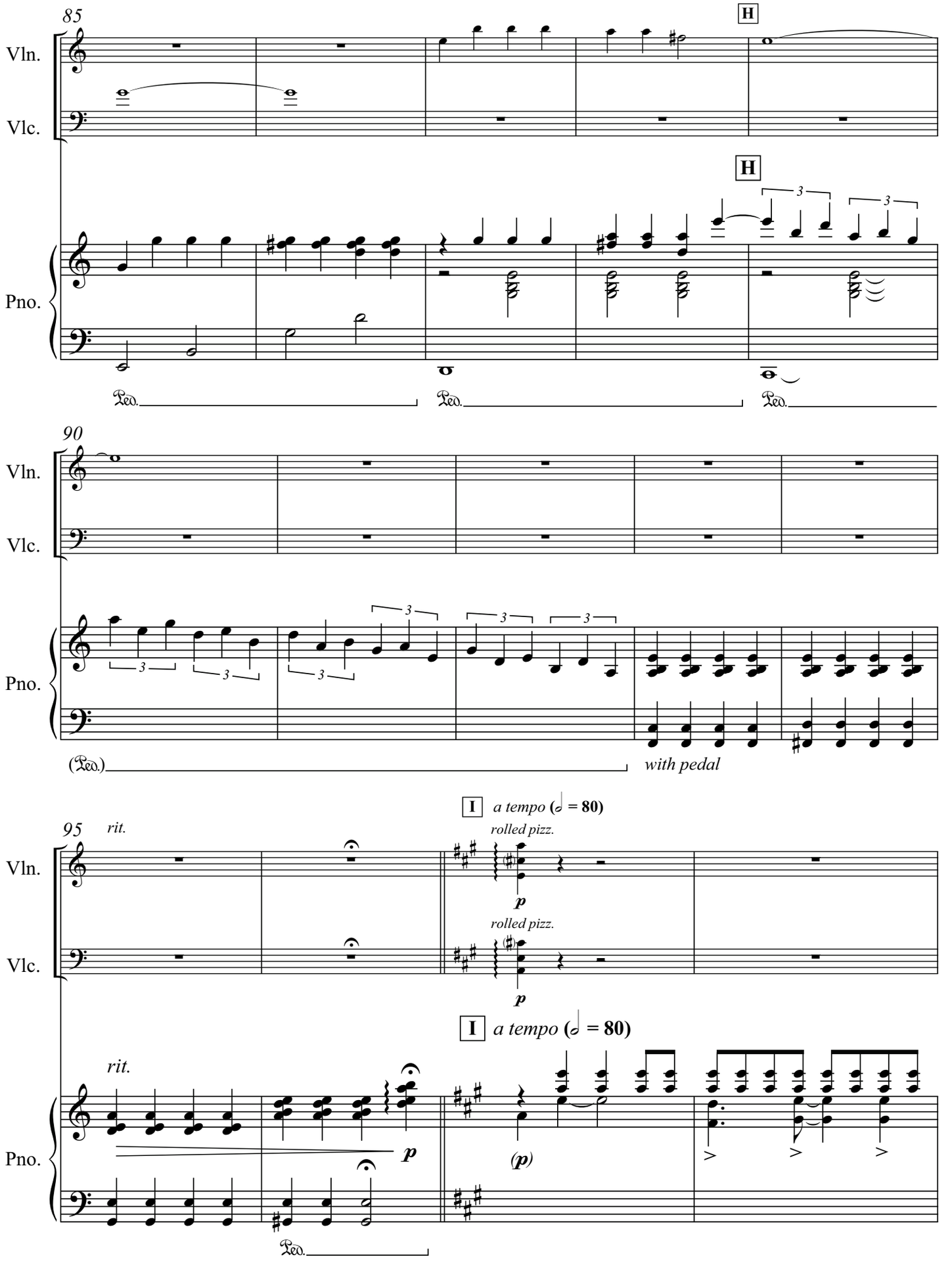

23
B
Vln.
Vlc.
(mf)
(mf)
B
a joyful descant
Pno.
(mf)
(Ped.)
27
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
31
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.

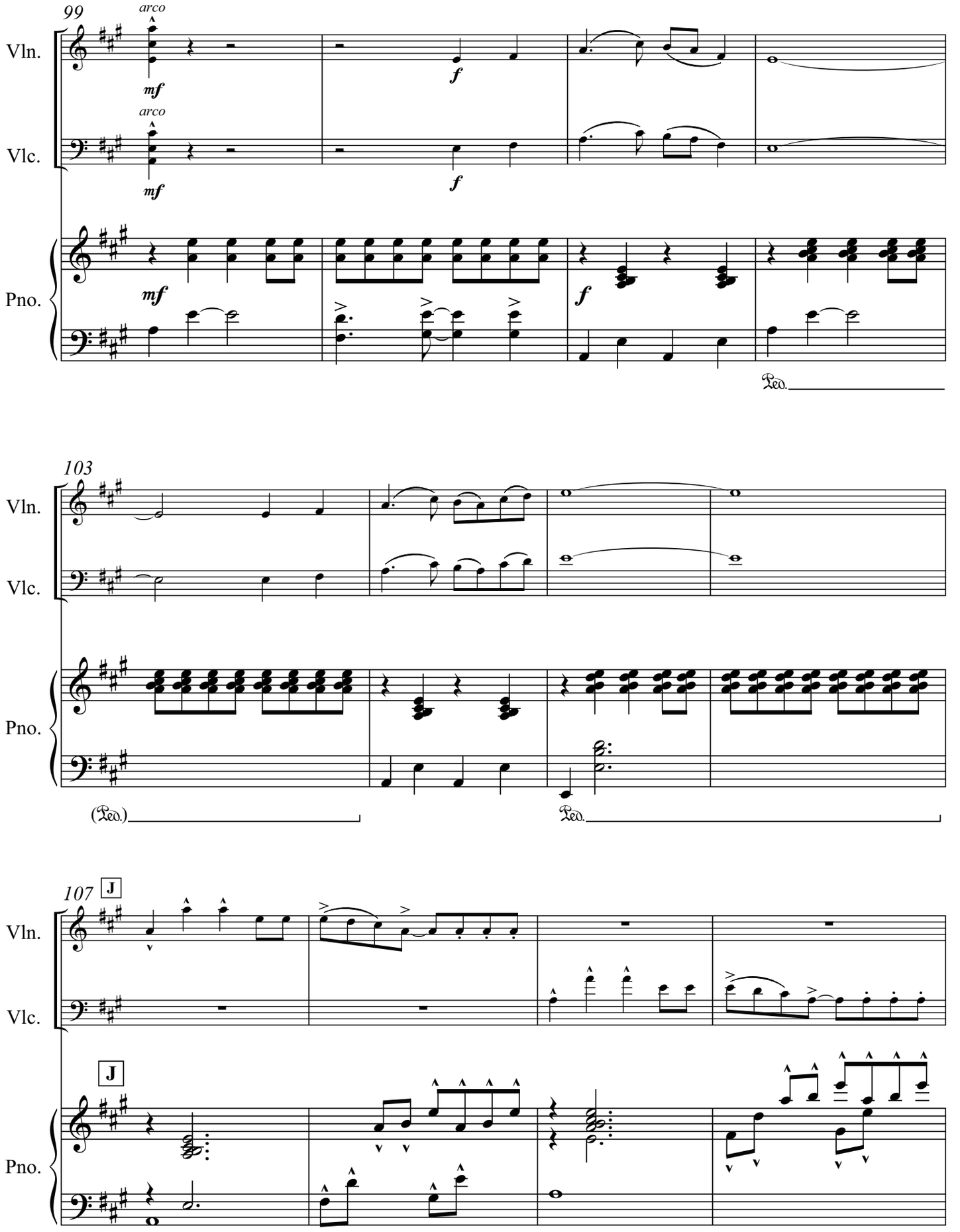

35
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
Ped.
C
39
rolled pizz.
Vln.
rolled pizz.
Vlc.
C
with nervous energy and excitement
Pno.
43
arco
Vln.
arco
Vlc.
Pno.

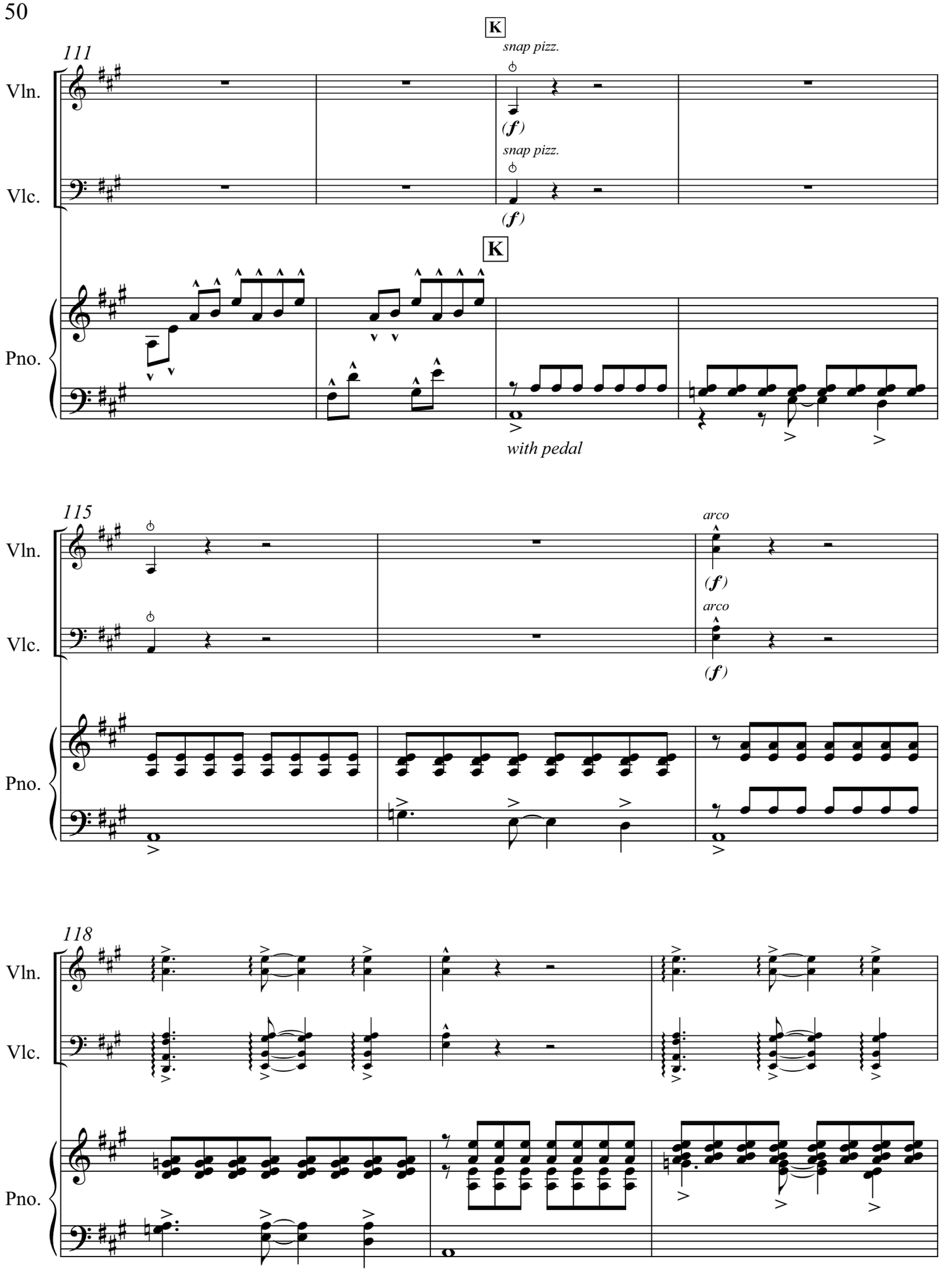

D
with nervous energy and excitement
47
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
p sub.
p
mf
f
51
snap pizz.
with nervous energy and excitement
55
arco
E
(f)

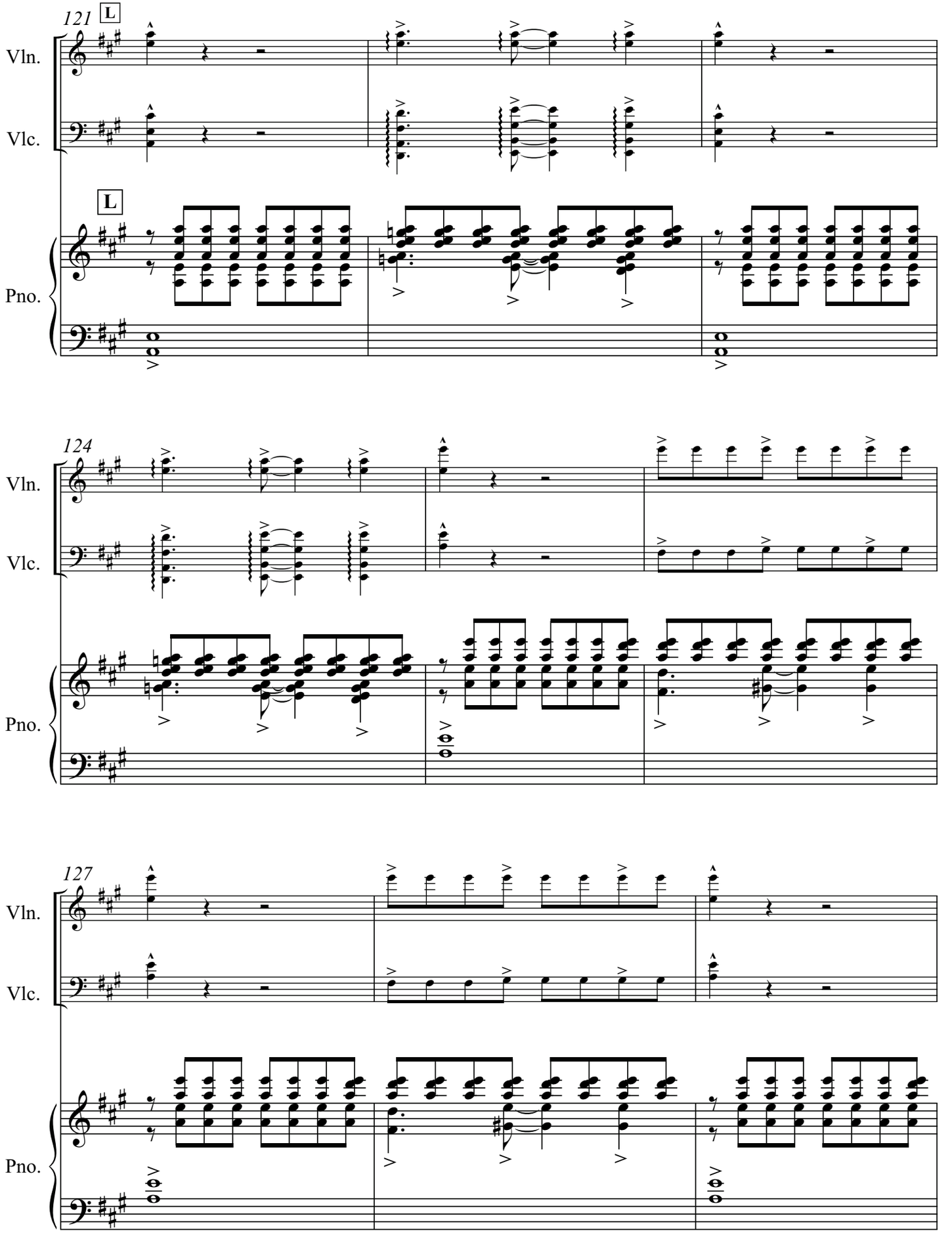

59
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
63
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
Ped.
Ped.
simile
67
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
Ped.

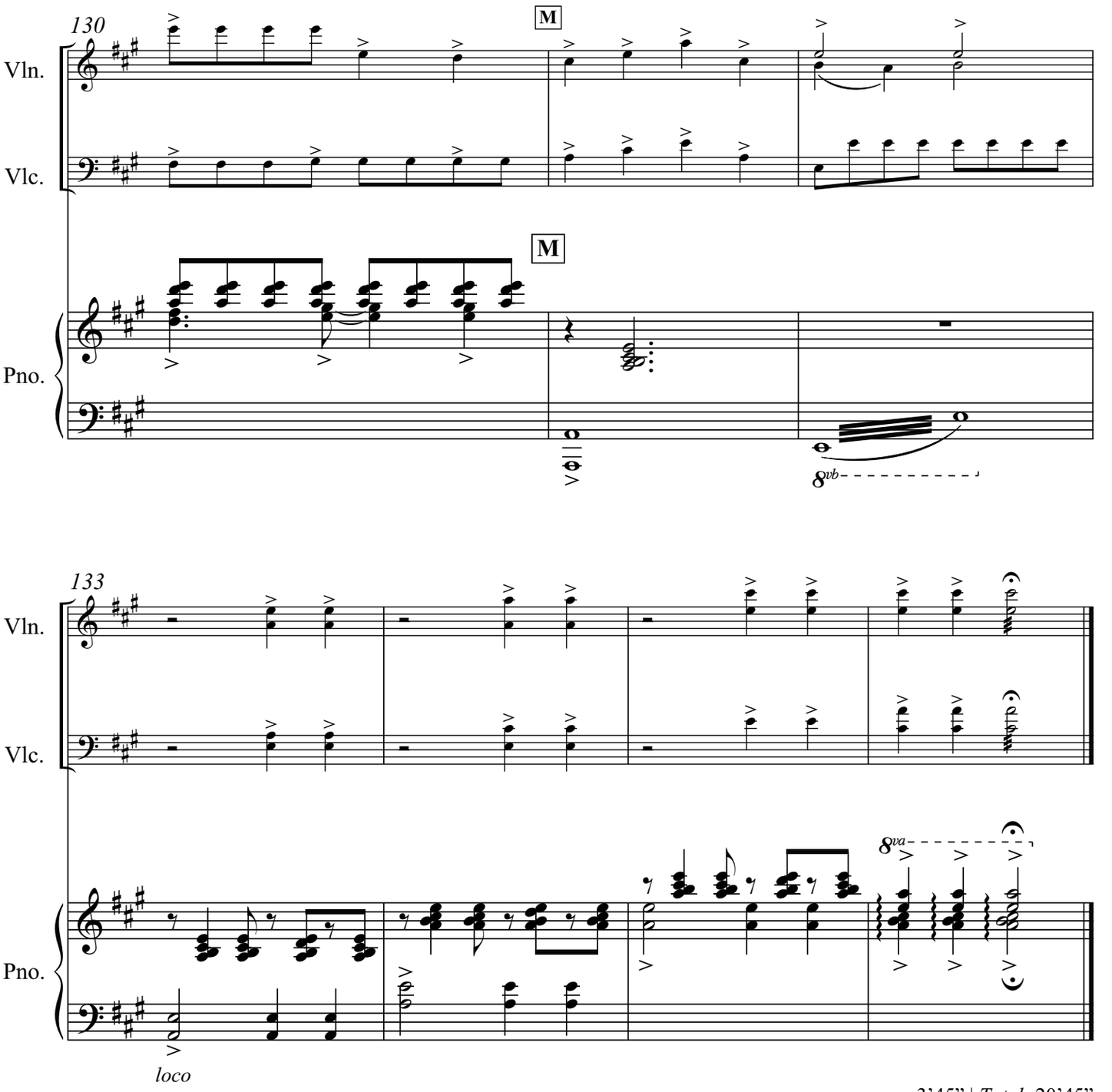

71
poco rit.
F More relaxed tempo
mf gently
Pno.
75
Vln.
Pno.
79
G
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
82
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.


85
H
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
H
3
3
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
90
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
3
3
3
3
3
(Ped.)
with pedal
I a tempo (𝅗𝅥 = 80)
95
rit.
Vln.
rolled pizz.
p
Vlc.
rolled pizz.
p
I a tempo (𝅗𝅥 = 80)
rit.
Pno.
p
(p)
Ped.


99
arco
Vln.
mf
f
arco
Vlc.
mf
f
Pno.
mf
f
Ped.
103
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
(Ped.)
Ped.
107
J
Vln.
Vlc.
J
Pno.


111
K
snap pizz.
(f)
Vln.
snap pizz.
Vlc.
(f)
K
Pno.
with pedal
115
arco
(f)
Vln.
arco
Vlc.
(f)
Pno.
118
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.


121
L
Vln.
Vlc.
L
Pno.
124
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.
127
Vln.
Vlc.
Pno.



3’45” | *Total:* 20’45”
March 27. 2015
Sarasota, Florida and
New Canaan, Connecticut