God-Child

For Matt, Kate, Damon and Ethan

In memory of Jennifer Nancye Tomlinson 29.10.98 – 29.12.98

James Humberstone 1999 – 2000

About the work:

This piece was written in memory of my god-daughter who died aged only two months. Being involved with a SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) death is a very difficult thing. One spends the initial months of a child's life getting to know them. Every gurgle, every movement, every expression, every sleep, every cry, every unfocused gaze is a revelation. But to then lose that marvel is dreadful. It is an end during the beginning.

And it is still today not fully understood. Which is why I ask all orchestras who perform this piece to donate a portion (however small) of their takings to their nearest SIDS foundation (if in doubt email the Sydney office: sydney@sidsaustralia.org.au). And my own royalties from the publication of this piece go directly to SIDS Australia.

This piece is short, lasting only just over 10 minutes. While serious and introverted in nature, the piece is celebratory. The powerful opening rises to establish the motif which pervades the rest of the piece – one of happiness despite the sadness and melancholy felt. After all, if such a short life does bring so many delights, even if sad at its ending, should we not be happy that it was such a perfect life? How many humans can claim they spent all of their lives making every person they knew happy?

- James Humberstone

Score edition II. Parts available.

Orchestration

2 Flutes
2 Oboes
2 Clarinets in Bb
Bass Clarinet in Bb
2 Bassoons
4 Horns
2 Trumpets (only 1 necessary)
2 Trombones (only 1 necessary)
1 Bass Trombone
1 Tuba
Timpani
Percussion: Bass Drum, Suspended Cymbal
  Optional Tubular Bells and Marimba
Violins I
Violins II
Violas
Cellos
Double Basses

Recommended minimum 12 1st Violins, 12 Second violins, 8 Violas, 6 Cellos and 3 Double Basses.
2nd Trumpet and Trombone not compulsory, nor the optional Tubular Bells and Marimba parts. The Marimba part can also be played on a Xylophone.

For further information contact James Humberstone james@composerhome.com

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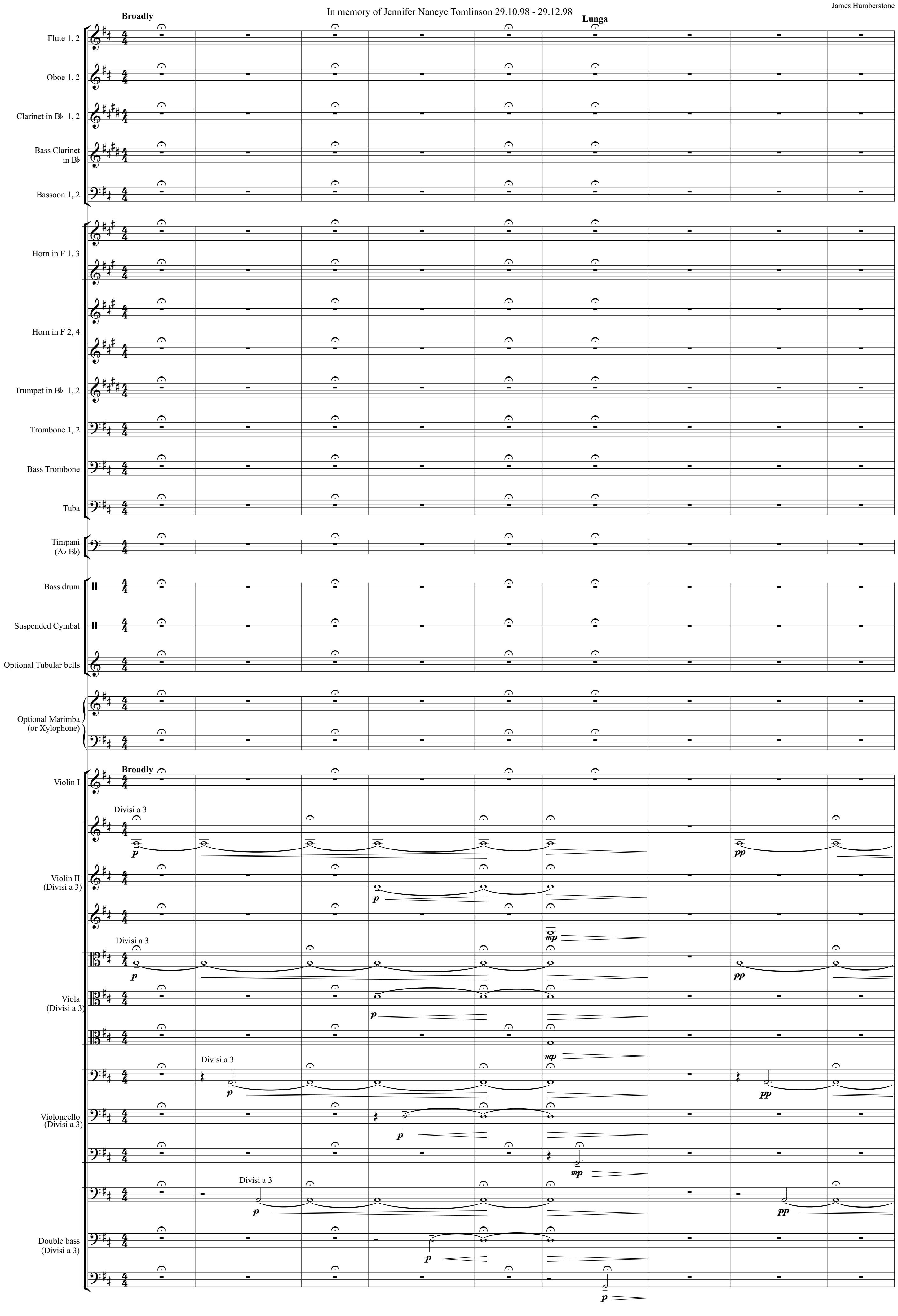
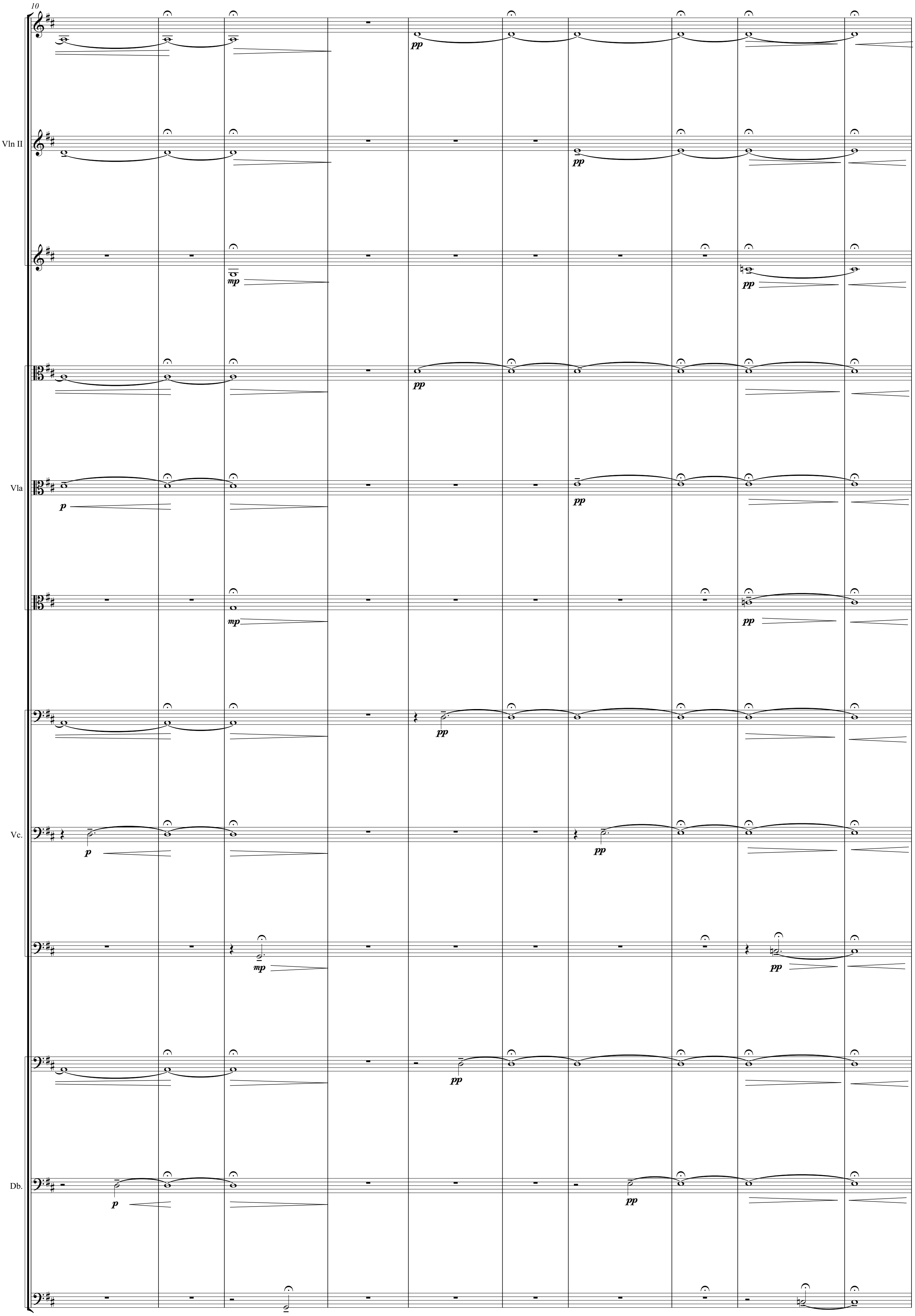
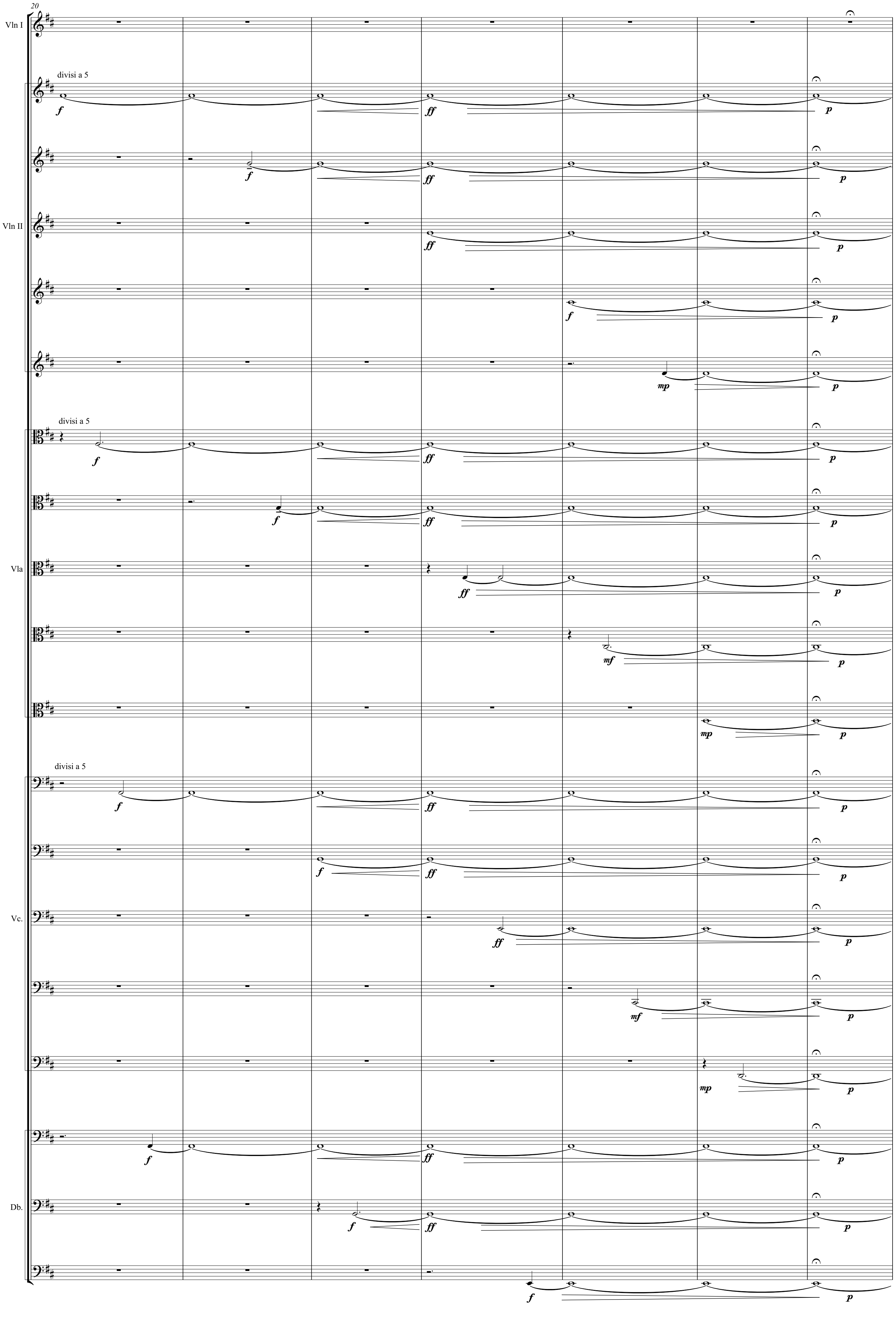
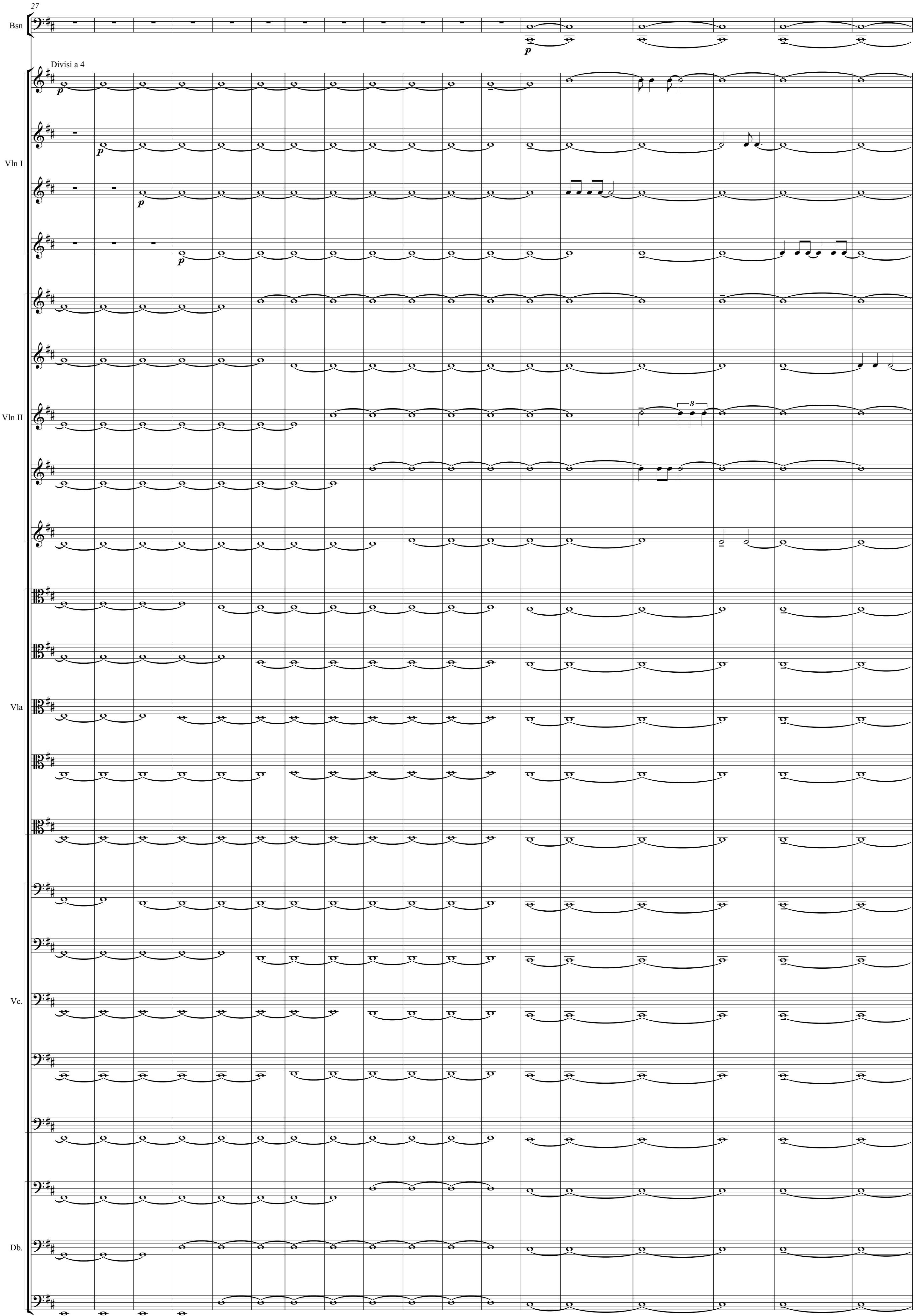
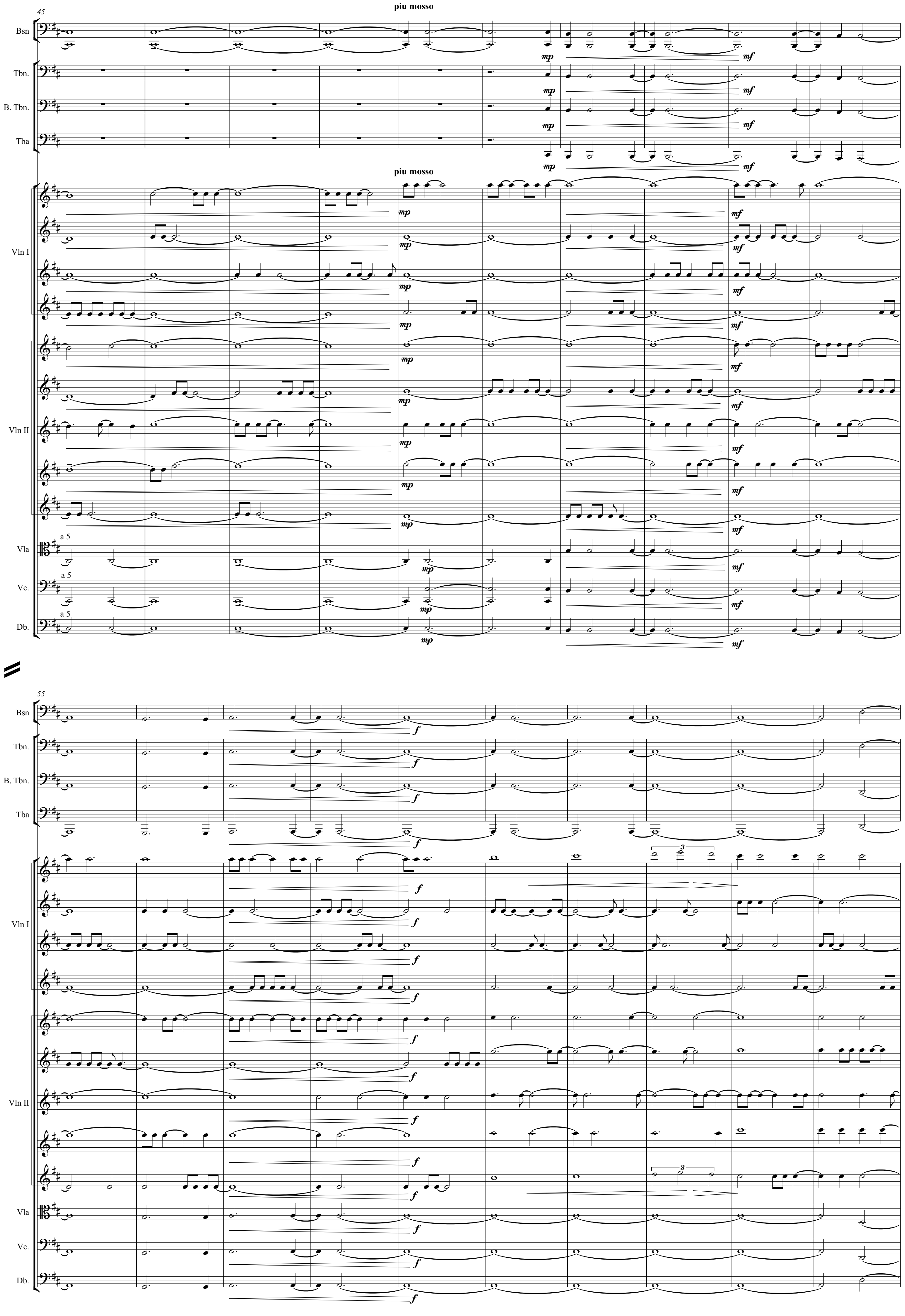
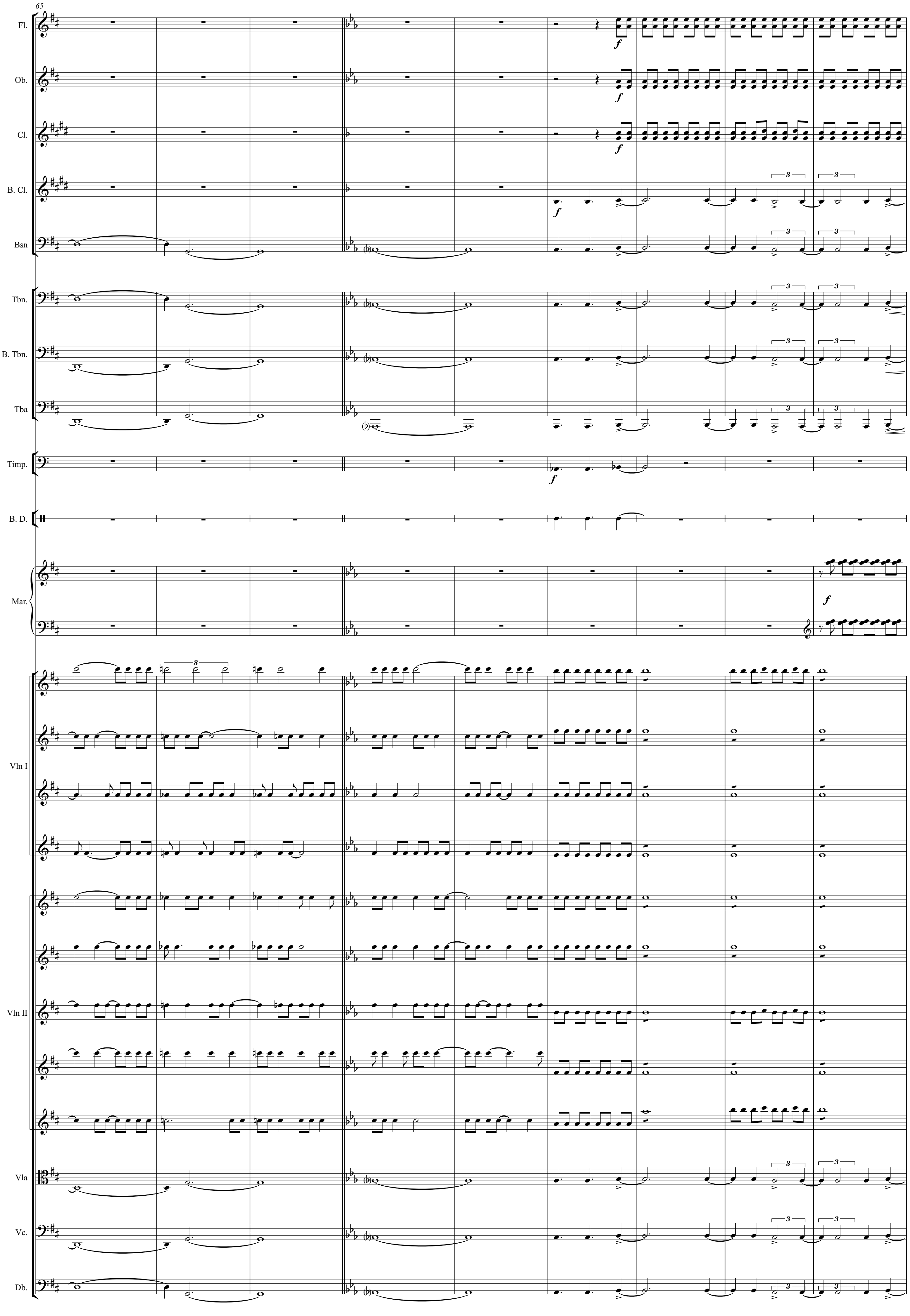

Broadly
Lunga
Flute 1, 2
Oboe 1, 2
Clarinet in B♭ 1, 2
Bass Clarinet in B♭
Bassoon 1, 2
Horn in F 1, 3
Horn in F 2, 4
Trumpet in B♭ 1, 2
Trombone 1, 2
Bass Trombone
Tuba
Timpani (A♭ B♭)
Bass drum
Suspended Cymbal
Optional Tubular bells
Optional Marimba (or Xylophone)
Broadly
Violin I
Violin II (Divisi a 3)
Divisi a 3
p
p
pp
mp
Viola (Divisi a 3)
Divisi a 3
p
p
pp
mp
Violoncello (Divisi a 3)
Divisi a 3
p
p
pp
mp
Double bass (Divisi a 3)
Divisi a 3
p
p
pp
p

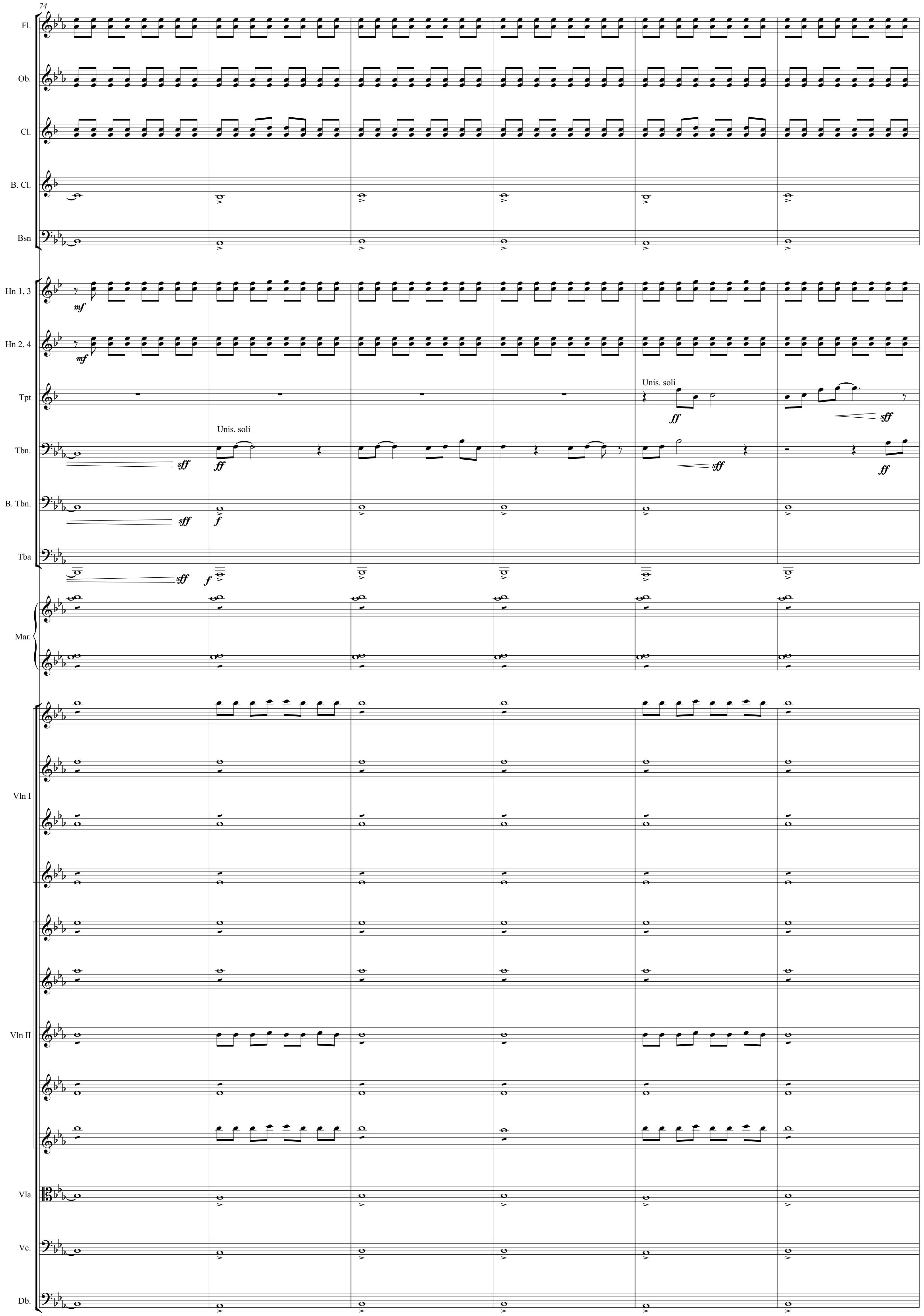

10
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.
pp
p
mp

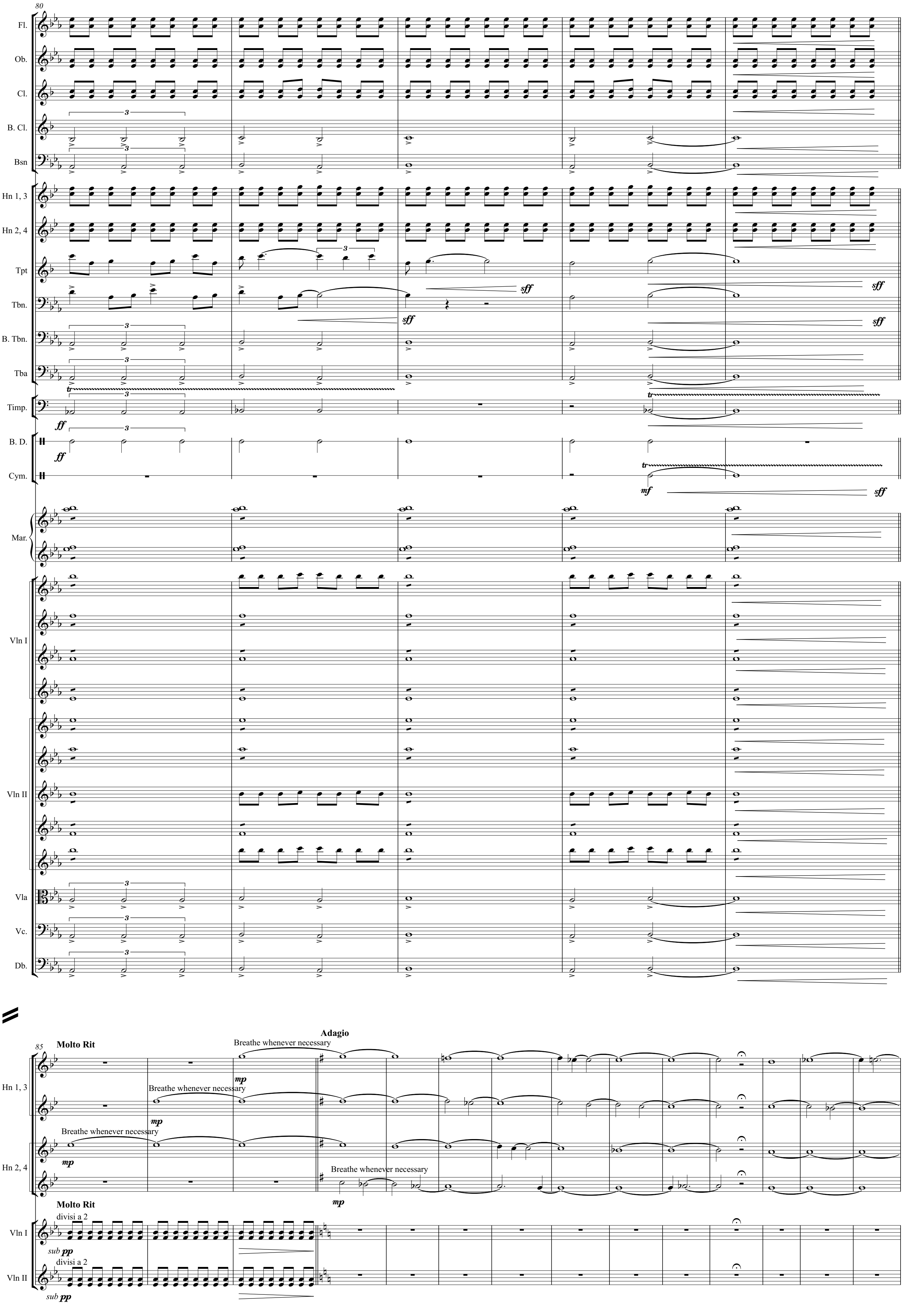

20
Vln I
divisi a 5
Vln II
divisi a 5
Vla
divisi a 5
Vc.
Db.
f
ff
p
mp
mf

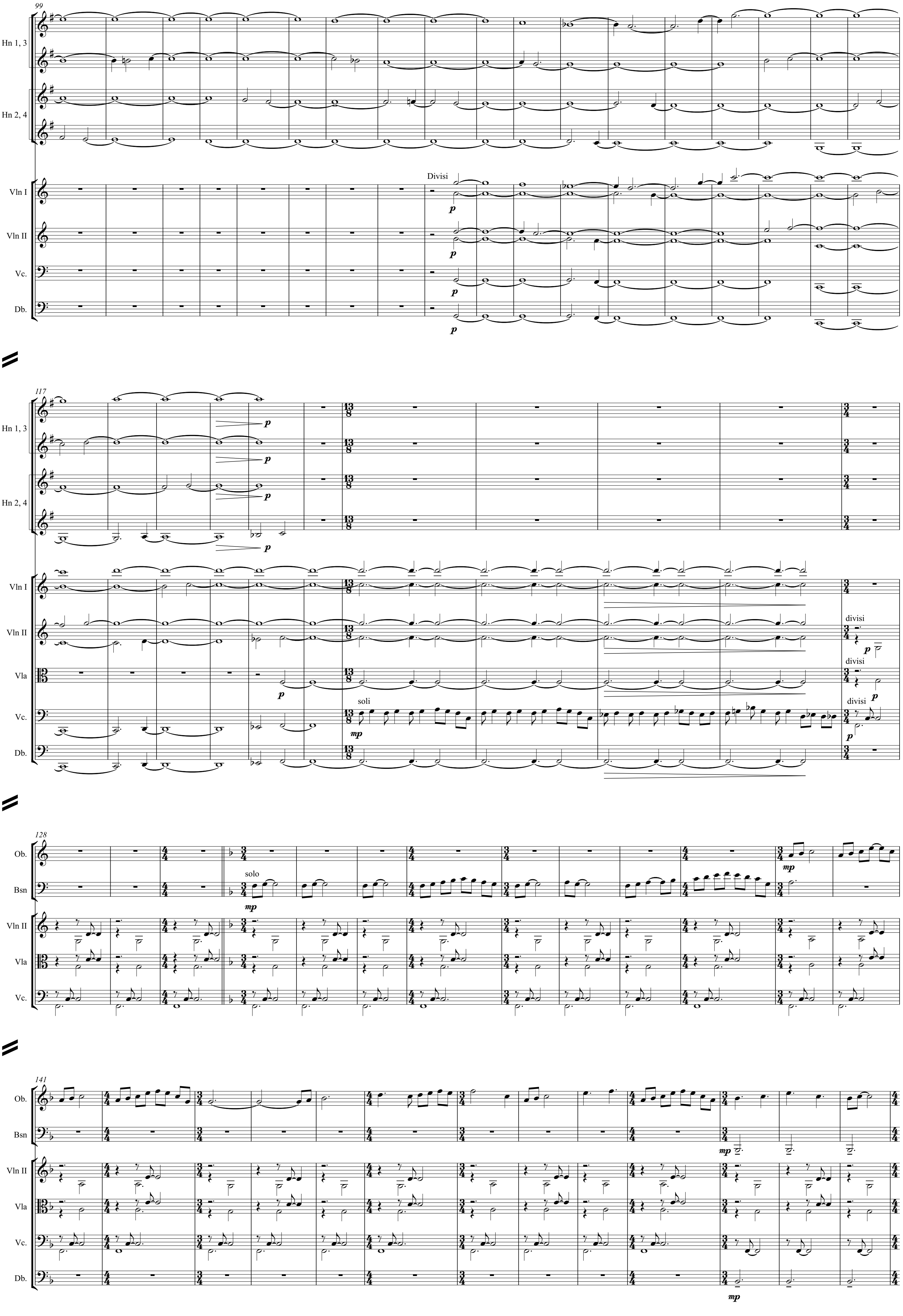

27
Bsn
p
Divisi a 4
p
p
p
p
Vln I
3
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

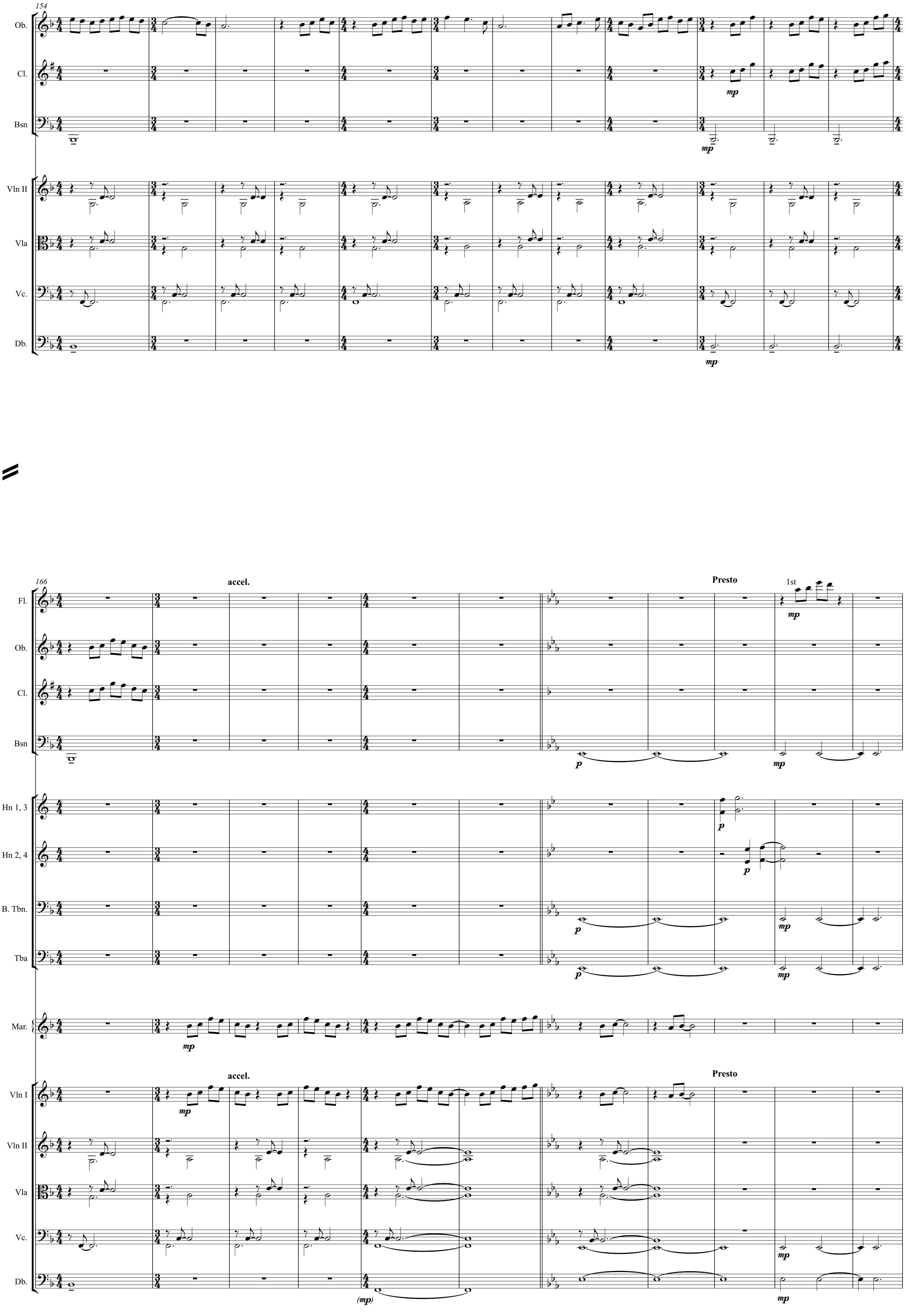

45
piu mosso
Bsn
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba
mp
mf
piu mosso
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.
a 5
a 5
a 5
55
f
3

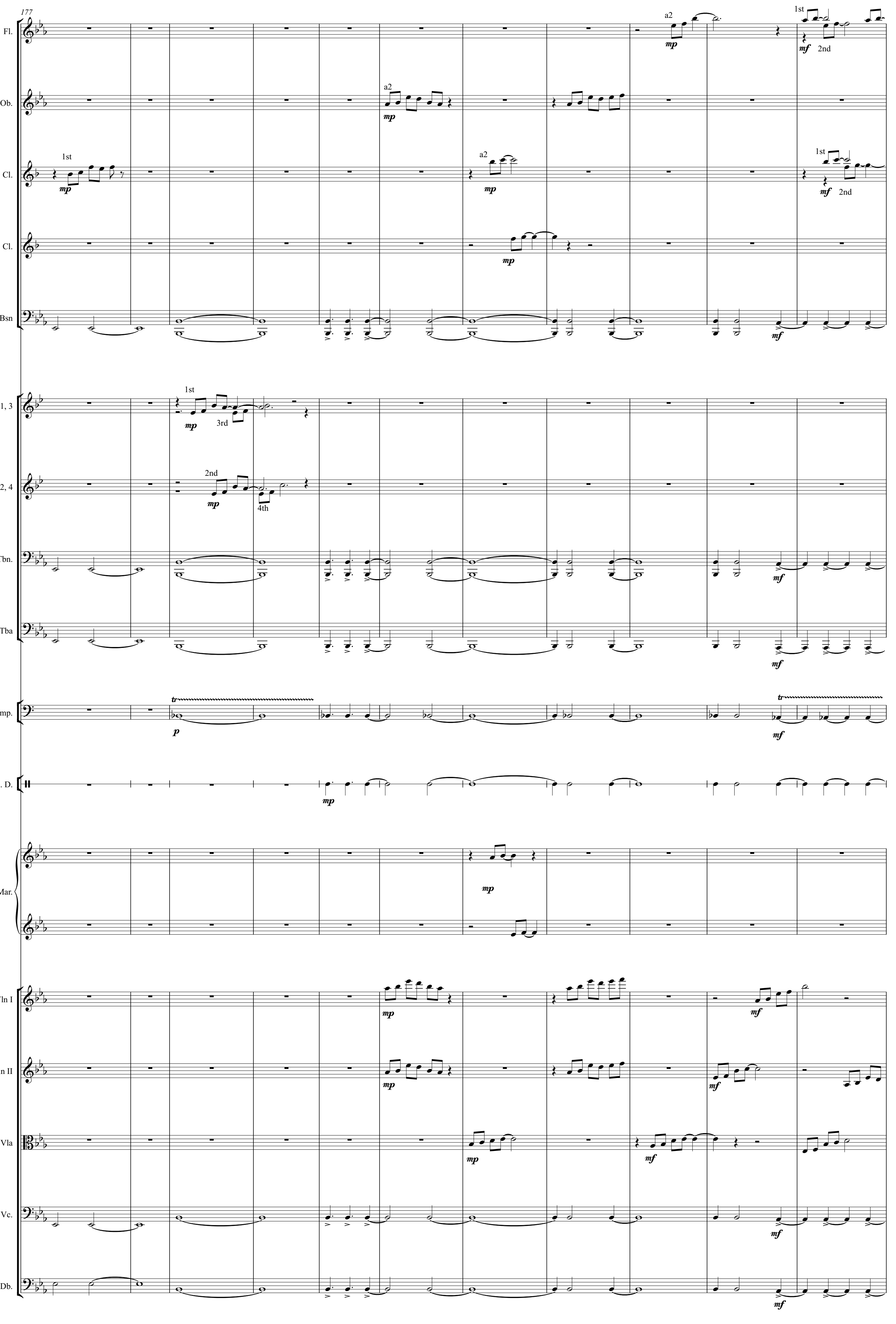

65
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba
Timp.
B. D.
Mar.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.
f
3

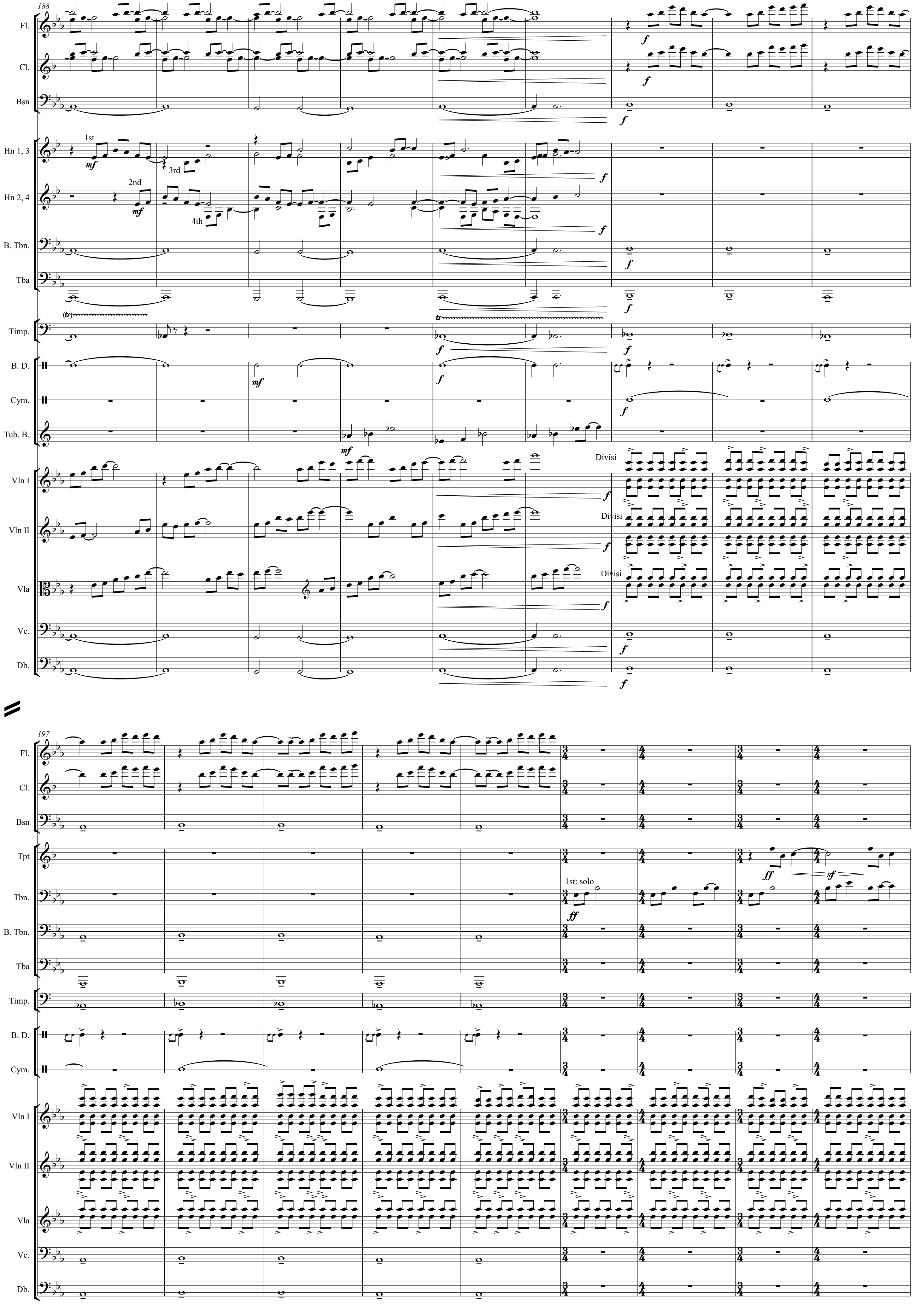

74
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn
Hn 1, 3
mf
Hn 2, 4
mf
Tpt
Unis. soli
ff
sff
Tbn.
sff
Unis. soli
ff
sff
ff
B. Tbn.
sff
f
Tba
sff
f
Mar.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.

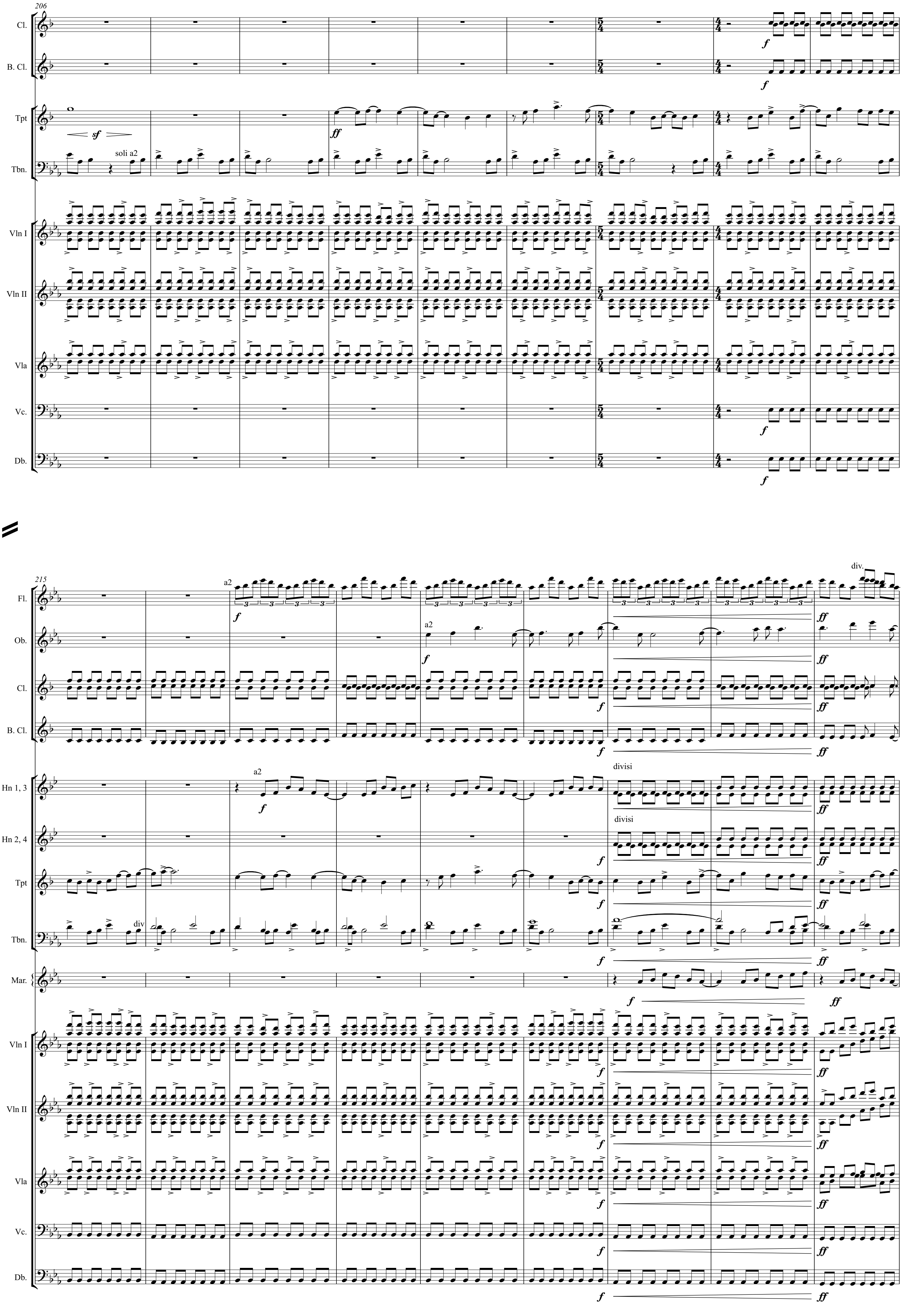

80
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn
Hn 1, 3
Hn 2, 4
Tpt
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba
Timp.
B. D.
Cym.
Mar.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.
3
tr
ff
sff
mf
85
Molto Rit
Adagio
Breathe whenever necessary
mp
divisi a 2
sub pp

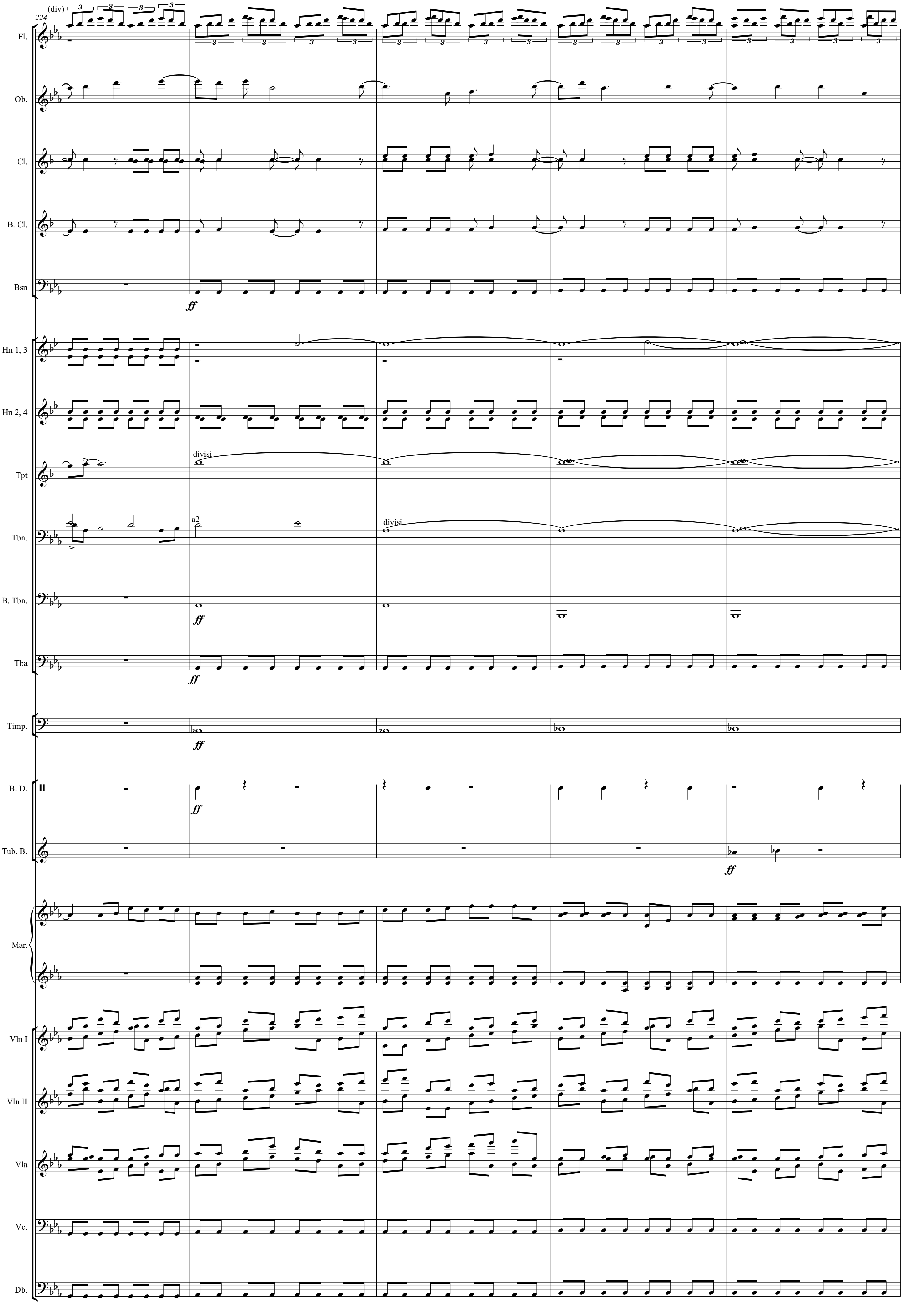

99
Hn 1, 3
Hn 2, 4
Vln I
Vln II
Vc.
Db.
Divisi
p
p
p
p
117
Vla
p
p
p
p
p
soli
mp
divisi
p
divisi
p
divisi
p
128
Ob.
Bsn
solo
mp
mp
141
mp
mp

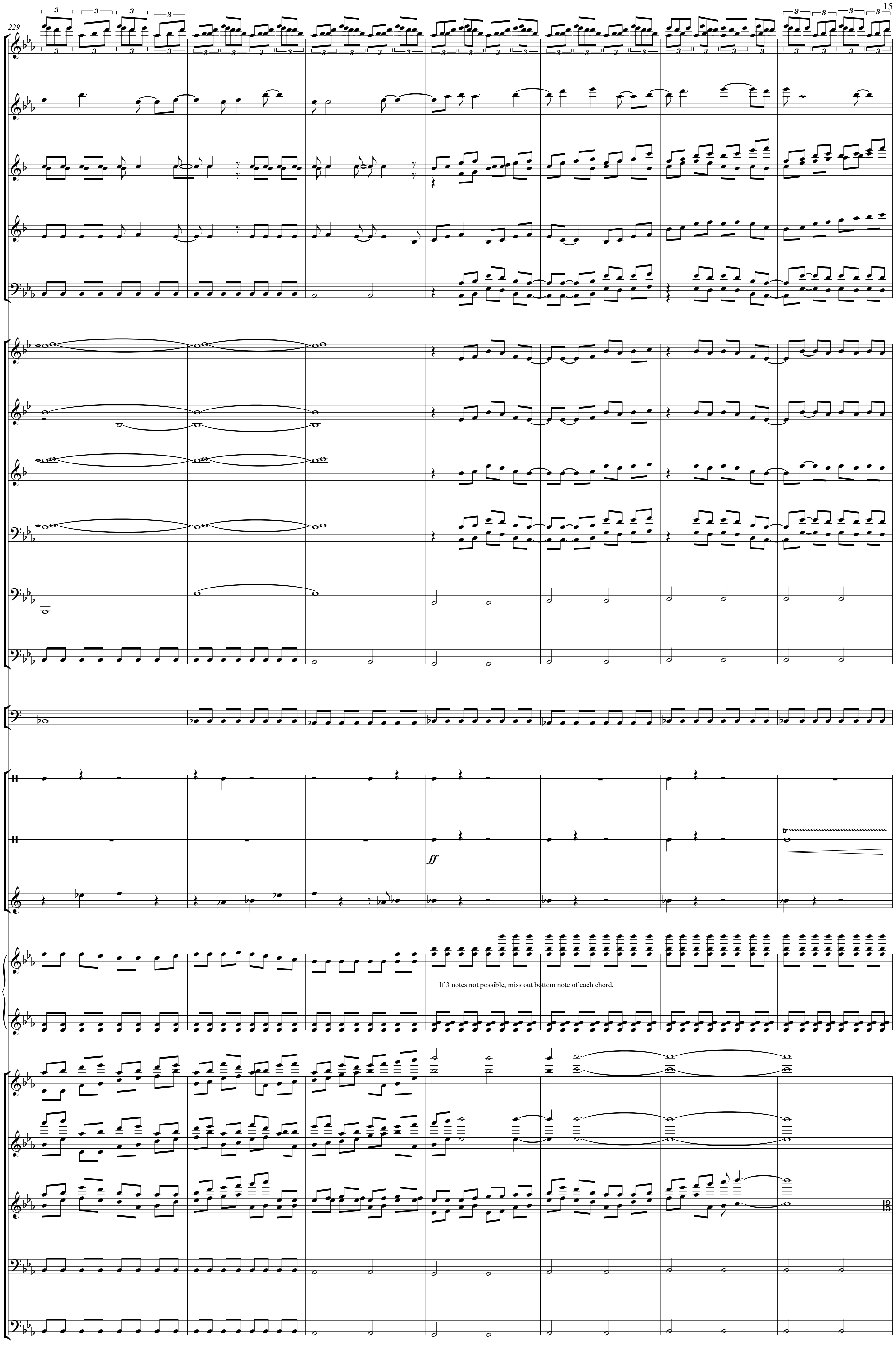

154
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.
mp
mp
mp
166
accel.
Presto
1st
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn
Hn 1, 3
Hn 2, 4
B. Tbn.
Tba
Mar.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.
accel.
Presto
mp
p
mp
p
(mp)

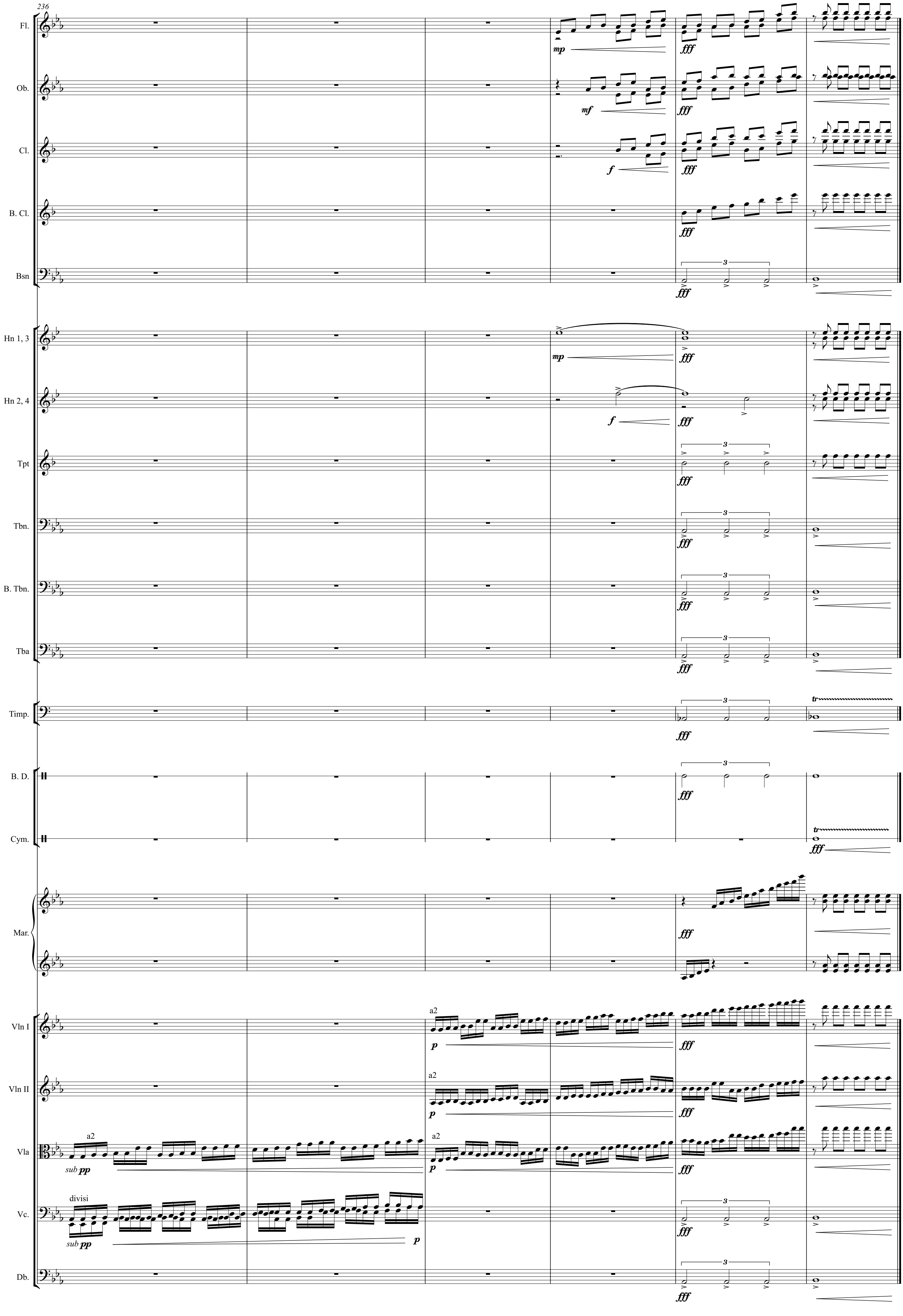

177
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn
Hn 1, 3
Hn 2, 4
B. Tbn.
Tba
Timp.
B. D.
Mar.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.
1st
2nd
3rd
4th
a2
mp
mf
p
tr


188
Fl.
Cl.
Bsn
Hn 1, 3
Hn 2, 4
B. Tbn.
Tba
Timp.
B. D.
Cym.
Tub. B.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.
1st
2nd
3rd
4th
mf
f
(tr)
tr
Divisi
197
Tpt
Tbn.
1st: solo
ff
sf


206
Cl.
B. Cl.
Tpt
Tbn.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.
sf
soli a2
ff
f
215
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Hn 1, 3
Hn 2, 4
Tpt
Tbn.
Mar.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.
a2
3
div.
divisi
div
f
ff


(div)
224
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn
ff
Hn 1, 3
Hn 2, 4
Tpt
divisi
Tbn.
a2
divisi
B. Tbn.
ff
Tba
ff
Timp.
ff
B. D.
ff
Tub. B.
ff
Mar.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.


229
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn
Hn 1, 3
Hn 2, 4
Tpt
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba
Timp.
B. D.
Cym.
ff
tr
Tub. B.
Mar.
If 3 notes not possible, miss out bottom note of each chord.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.


236
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn
Hn 1, 3
Hn 2, 4
Tpt
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba
Timp.
B. D.
Cym.
Mar.
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
Db.
mp
mf
f
fff
3
tr
a2
p
sub pp
divisi