Roadshow for Otto

for Flute, Clarinet in B-flat (dbl. Bass Cl.), Violoncello, and Piano

Carl Schimmel

This work was composed in part while in residence at Copland House, Cortlandt Manor, NY, as a recipient of the Aaron Copland Award

Roadshow for Otto

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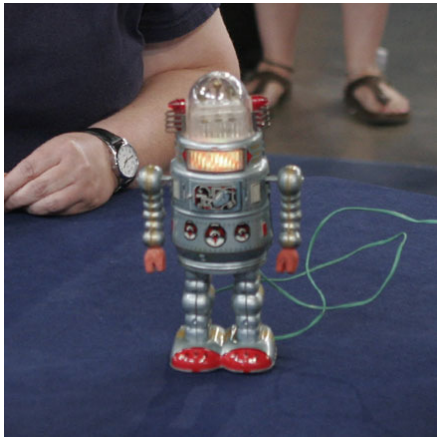
The Silver Atom Ray Gun

The Clown Mandeville

Pedaling the *Spirit of America*

Camel and Monkey



The Revolving Flashing Robot

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Tempos in the fast sections are generally at breakneck speed – a performance which takes slower tempi in these sections will probably still be successful, so long as the gestures are effectively conveyed. Fermatas should last approximately one and a half times the indicated duration (except if marked *lunga*). Pedaling in the piano part is occasionally provided, although additional use of the pedal is acceptable and at times implicit.

PERFORMANCE NOTES FOR "THE REVOLVING FLASHING ROBOT"

- The toy ratchet in the piano part at the end could be like a New Year's Eve noisemaker, but it could be anything that makes a ratchet sound (e.g., a dial that clicks as you turn it). Mounting the ratchet would make performance easier; and muffling it may be preferable if it is hard to control the volume.
- In the clarinet and flute parts, X noteheads are hummed (vocalized) pitches, to create voiced multiphonics (in the clarinet part, clarinet pitches are transposed but vocalized pitches are notated at concert pitch).
- In the flute part, the key clicks at the end should be resonant and random-sounding (both pitches and timbre). You can use the mouth as a resonator on the key clicks to slightly change the sound. Try using the right and left hand keys as separate percussion instruments.
- A number of piano pitches are in parentheses to make passages somewhat easier to play. Additional octave doublings may be omitted if necessary.

PROGRAM NOTES

This piece was written for my little boy. I've selected a few toys featured on the hit PBS show *Antiques Roadshow*, and in each of the five movements I imagine how he might play with them.

In "The Silver Atom Ray Gun," the opening riff is stolen from the Warner Brothers cartoon "Duck Dodgers in the 24th ½ century." The atom ray gun conjures up images of old sci-fi movies, so the music is appropriately melodramatic – therefore it can be compared perhaps to the music of Herrmann and Schoenberg. Here, Otto envisions himself as a daring adventurer, stalking and zapping his alien enemies.

In "The Clown Mandeville," I've used the actual music of the mandeville featured in *Antiques Roadshow* – in the central section of the movement, the music becomes circus-like and fantastical before returning again to the thoughtful and beautiful music-box melody.

In "Pedaling the *Spirit of America*," Otto is racing around in the little pedal plane, soaring high at some moments, and at other times, struggling with the testy engine of his early aeroplane. The brief melody subtly references the old tune "Come Josephine in My Flying Machine."

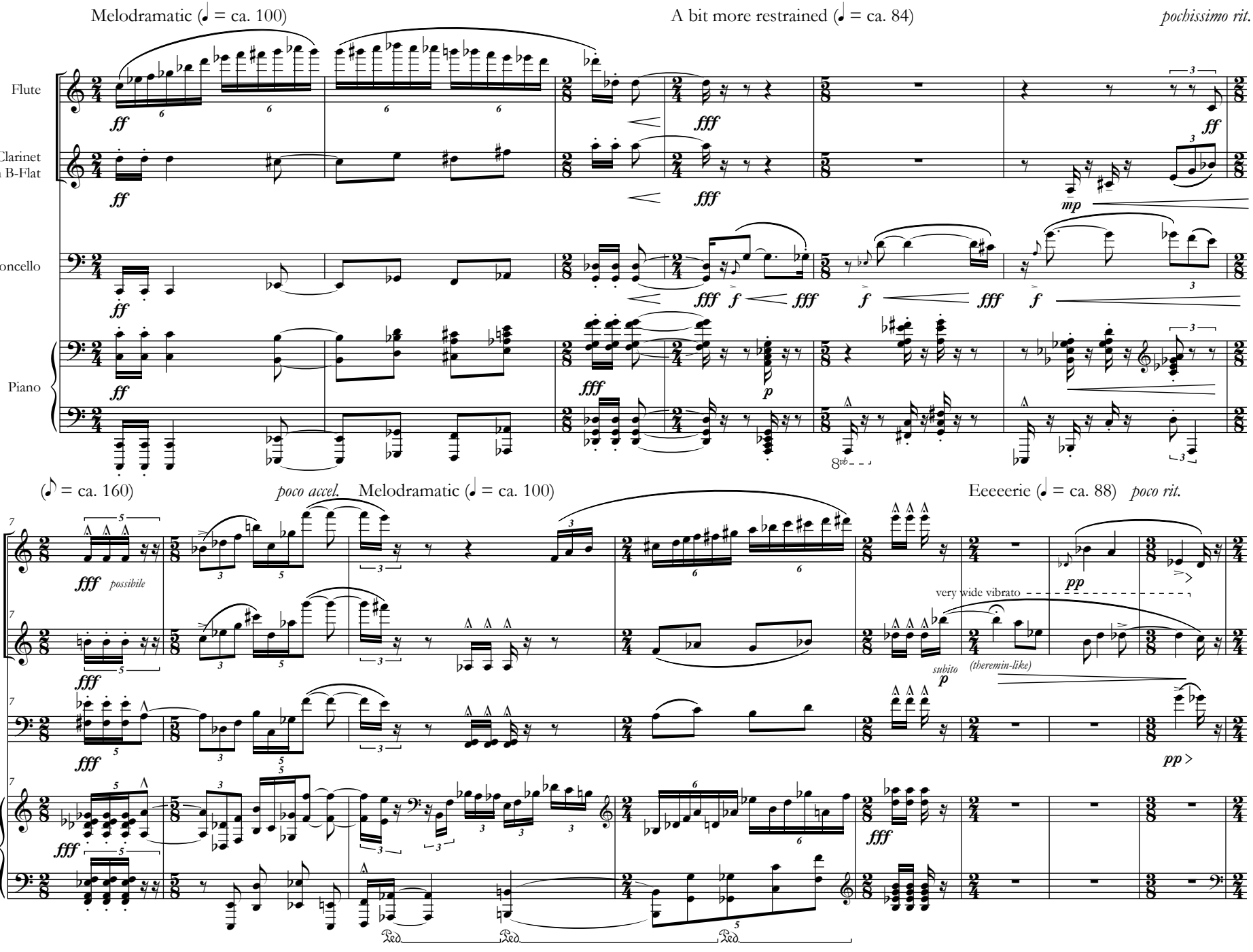
In "Camel and Monkey," Otto leads his camel through the steppes and deserts of China and Mongolia – the usual habitat of the (stuffed) domestic two-humped camel appraised on *Antiques Roadshow*. Accordingly, the rhapsodic cello part references Mongolian *morin khuur* music. On the camel's back, a mischievous monkey rides, mocking the camel with snippets of the children's song "Alice the Camel."

In "The Revolving Flashing Robot," the texture created by the flute, clarinet, and cello simulates the intonation of a colossal robot, broadcasting its enemies' doom. After a quieter passage of subterfuge, the devastation unleashed by the robot dissipates into the clockwork clicking of a little toy.

ROADSHOW FOR OTTO

The Silver Atom Ray Gun

Carl Schimmel



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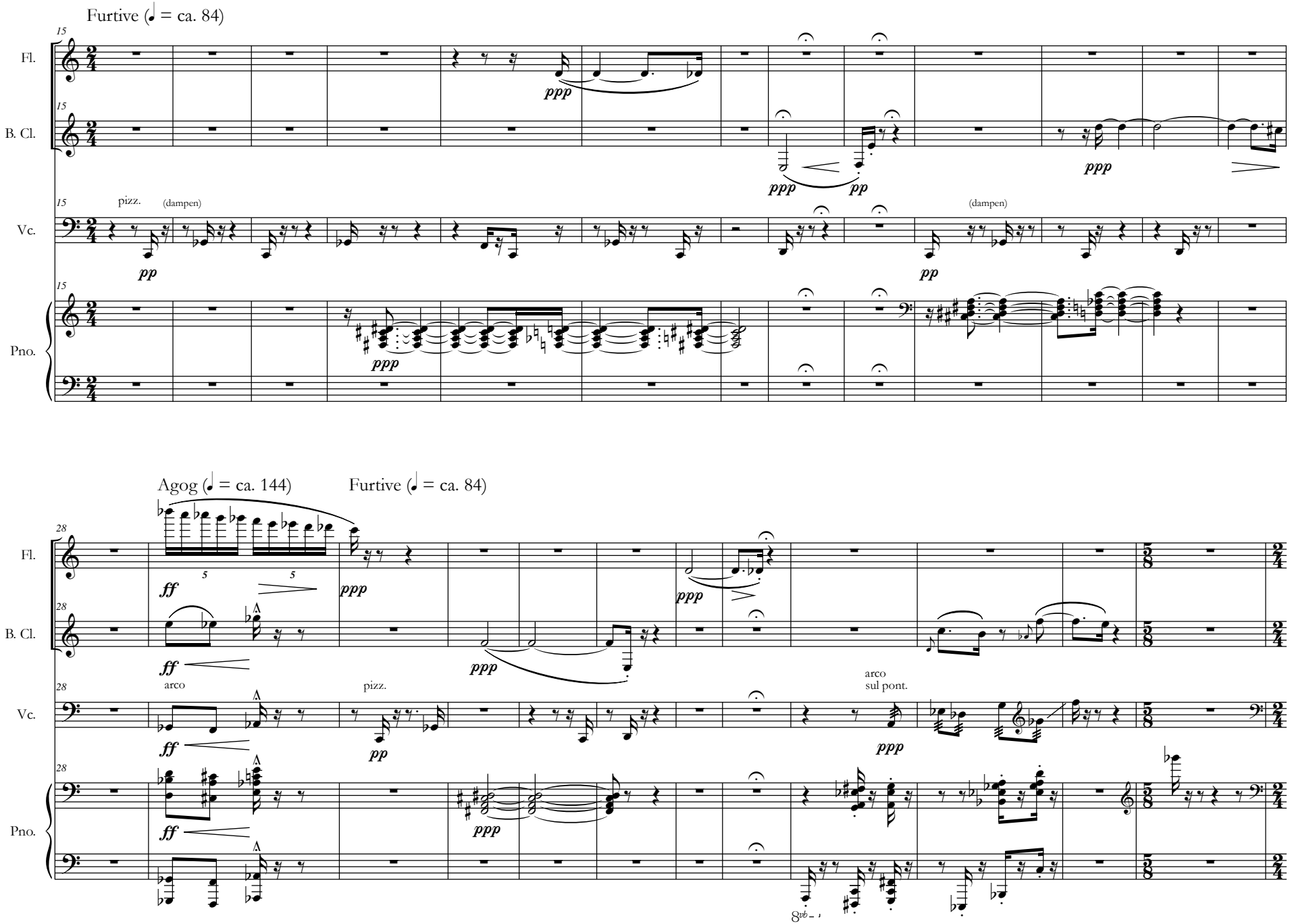
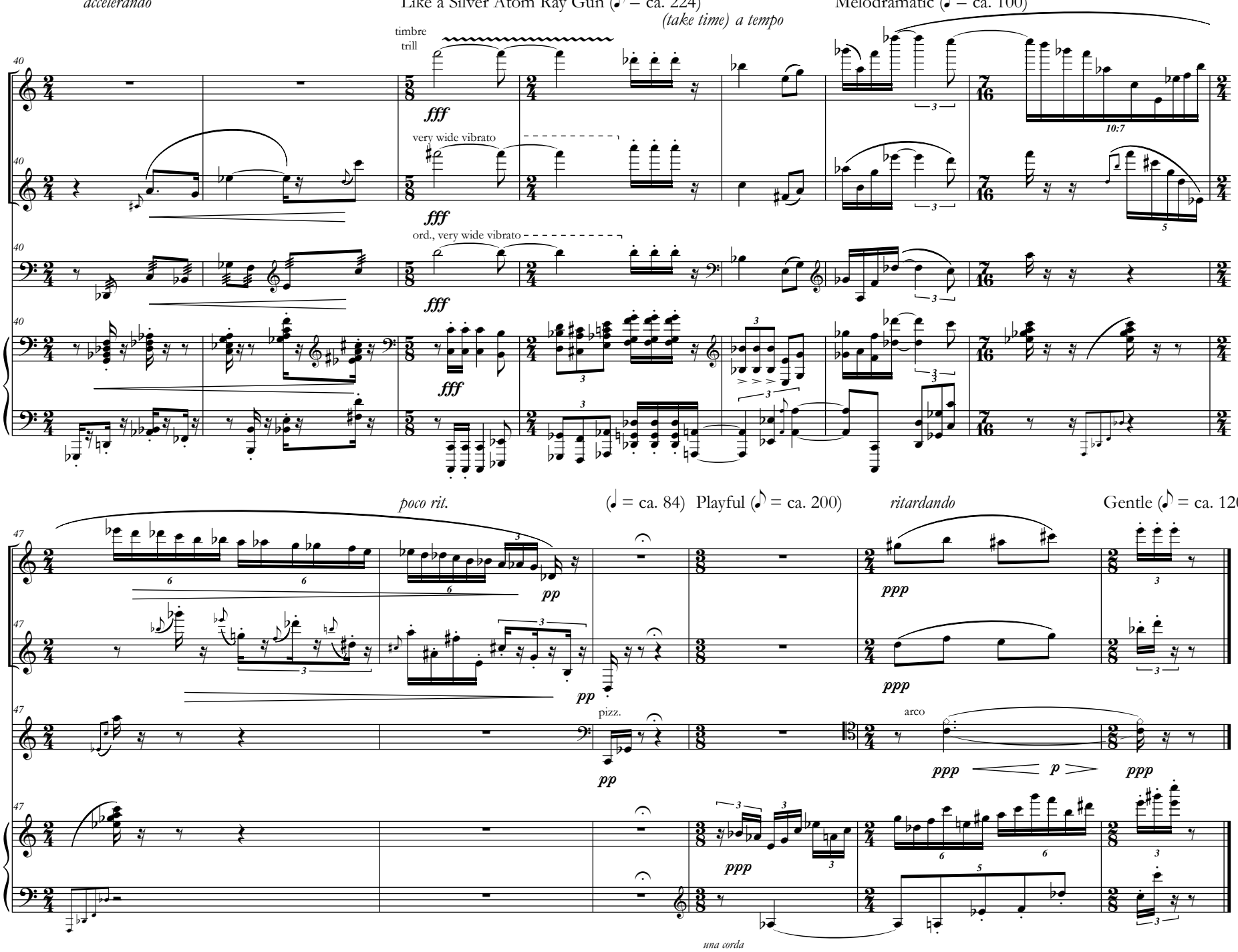
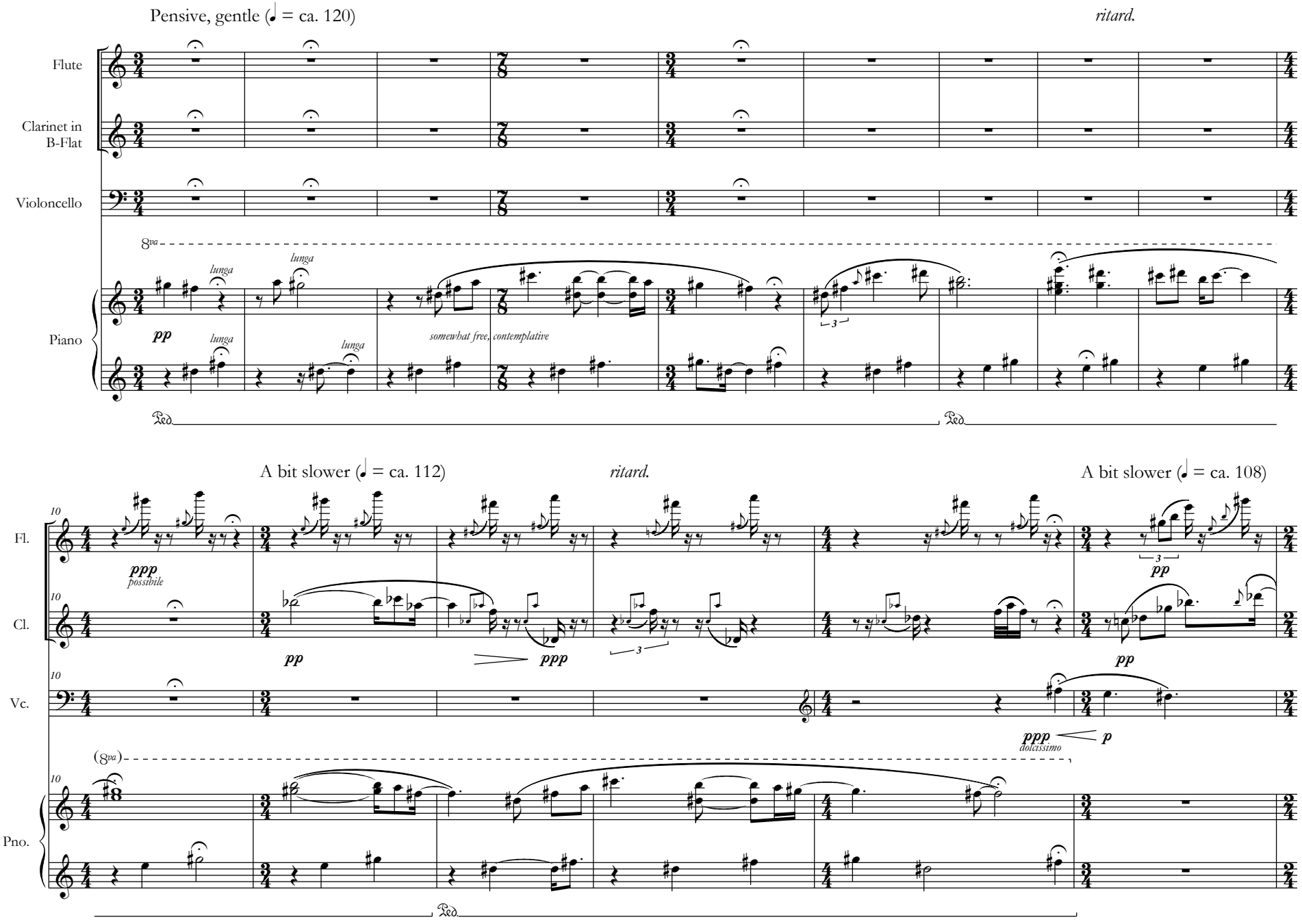
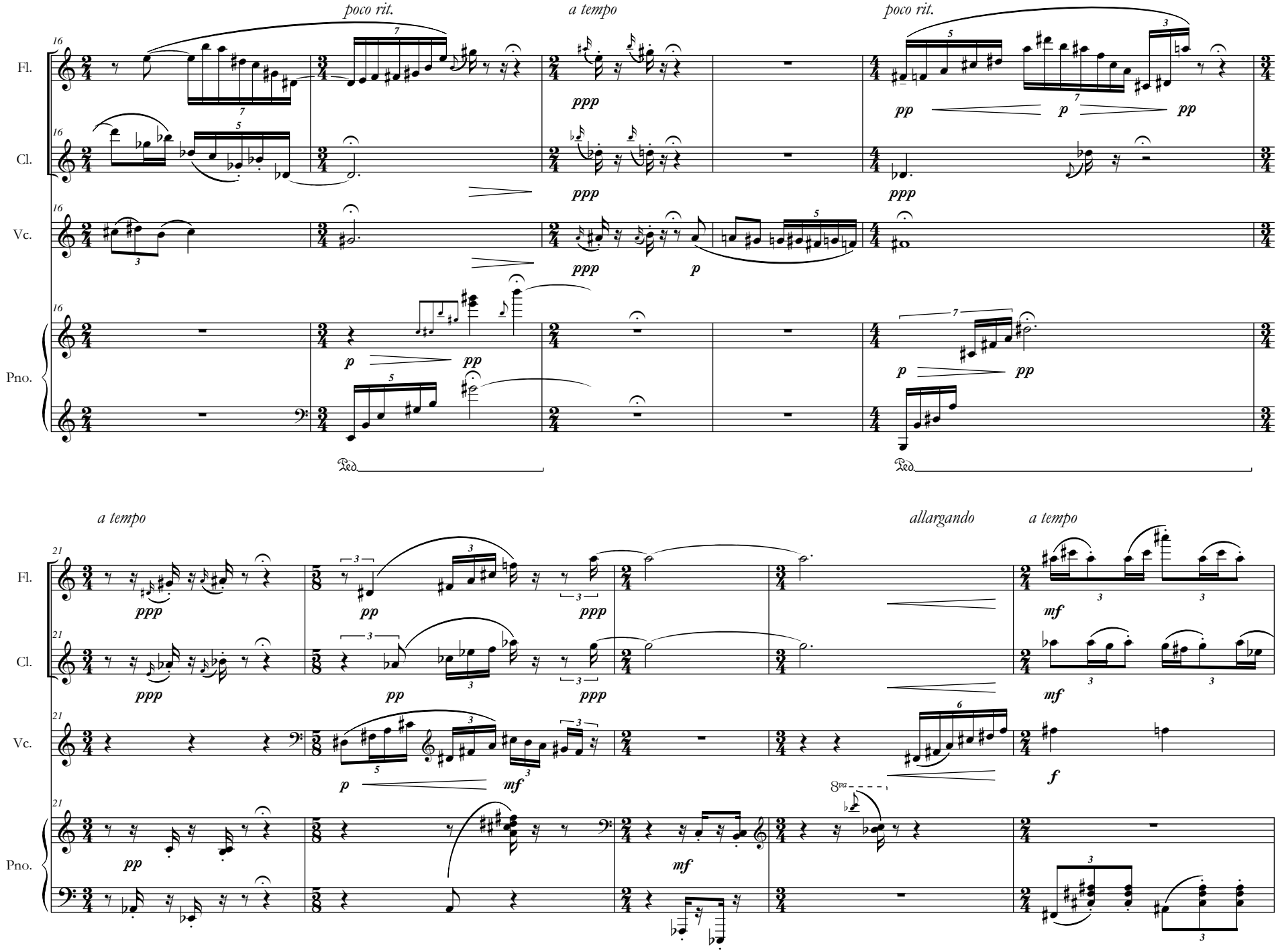
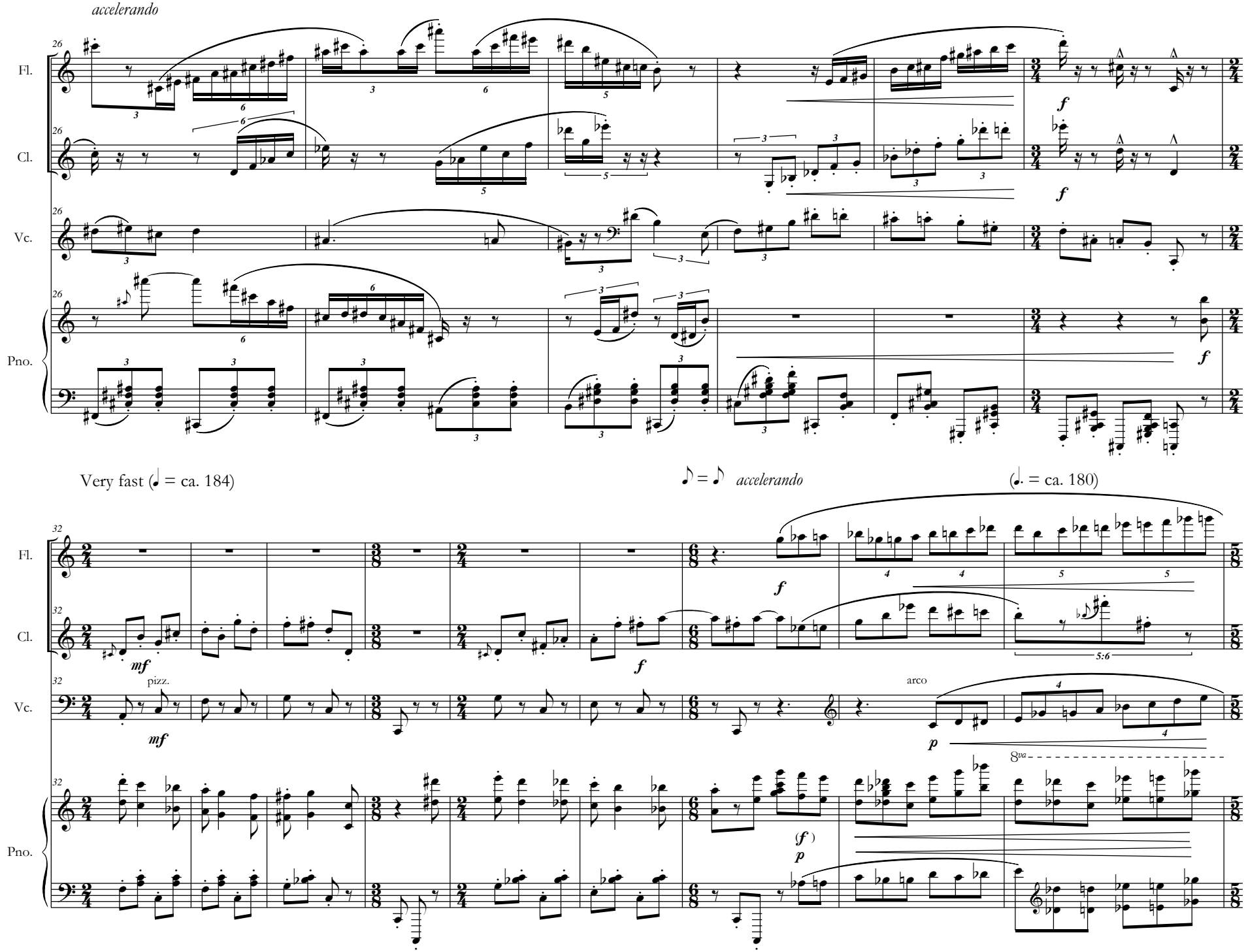

Furtive (♩ = ca. 84)
15
Fl.
B. Cl.
Vc.
Pno.
pizz.
(dampen)
ppp
pp
Agog (♩ = ca. 144)
Furtive (♩ = ca. 84)
28
ff
arco
arco
sul pont.
5
5
8vb

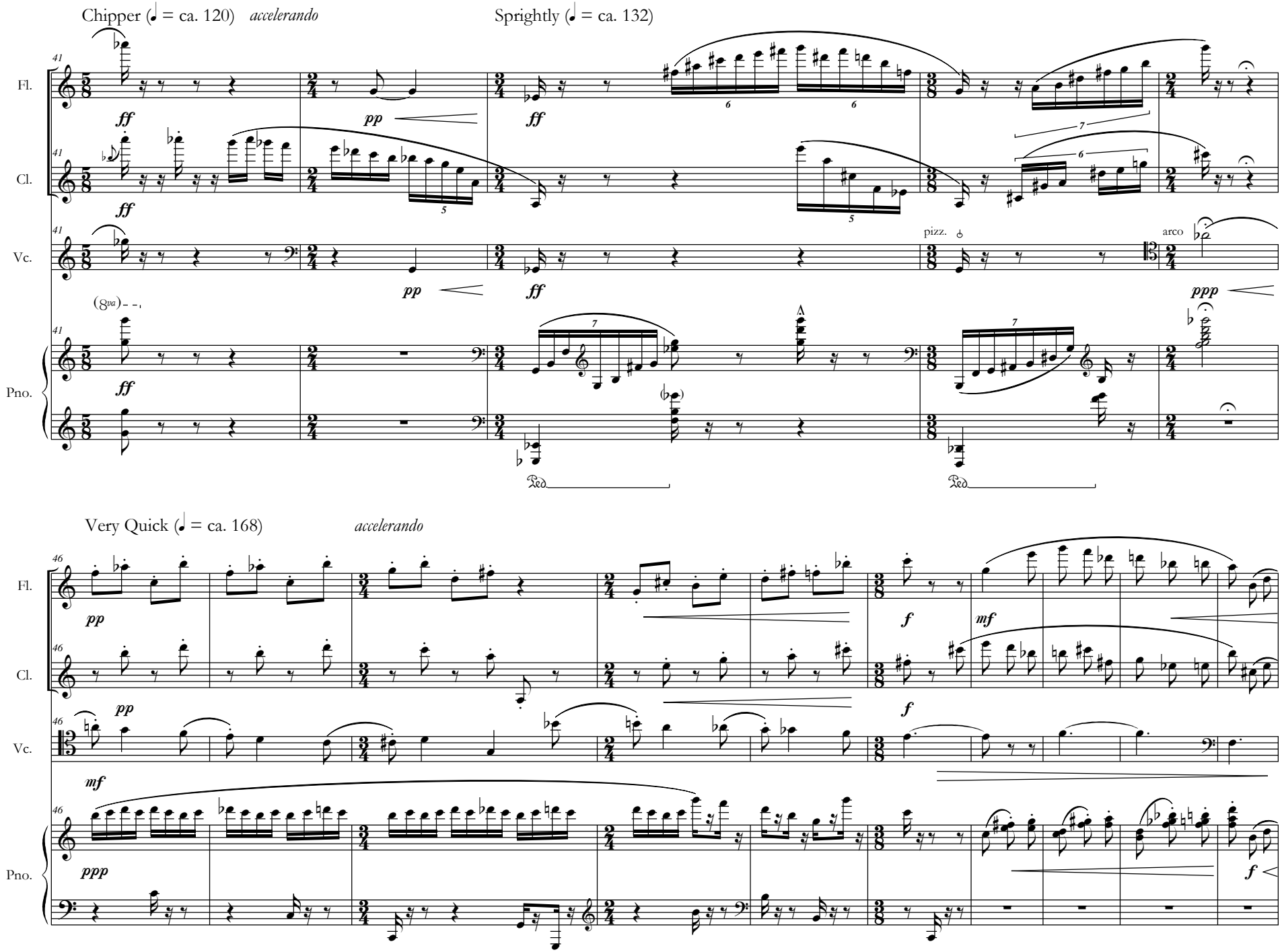

accelerando
Like a Silver Atom Ray Gun (♪ = ca. 224)
(take time) a tempo
Melodramatic (♩ = ca. 100)
timbre trill
very wide vibrato
ord., very wide vibrato
Fl.
B. Cl.
Vc.
Pno.
poco rit.
(♩ = ca. 84) Playful (♪ = ca. 200)
ritardando
Gentle (♪ = ca. 120)
pizz.
arco
una corda

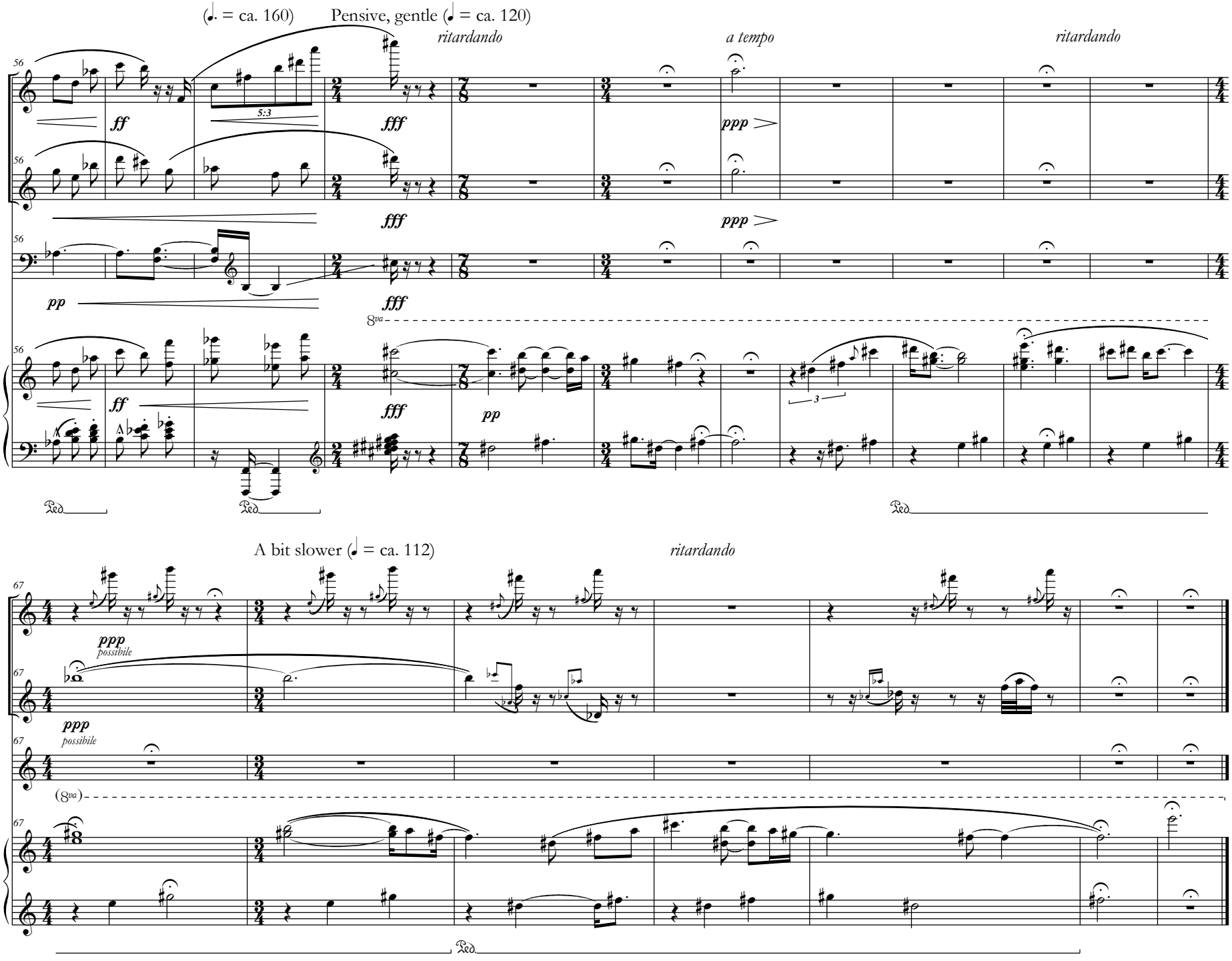
The Clown Mandeville



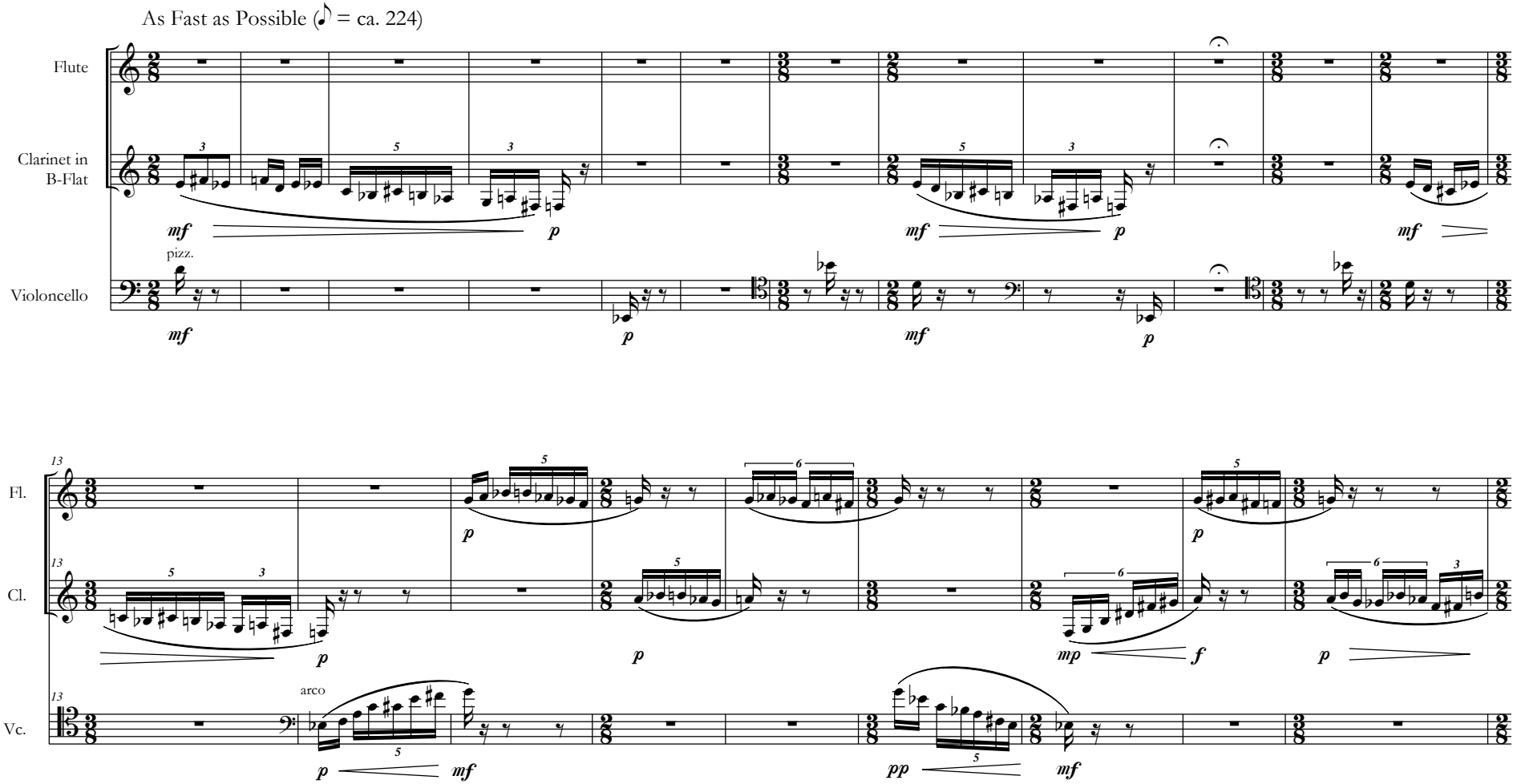

poco rit.
a tempo
poco rit.
Fl.
Cl.
Vc.
Pno.
16
ppp
pp
p
Ped.
a tempo
allargando
a tempo
21
mf
f
8va

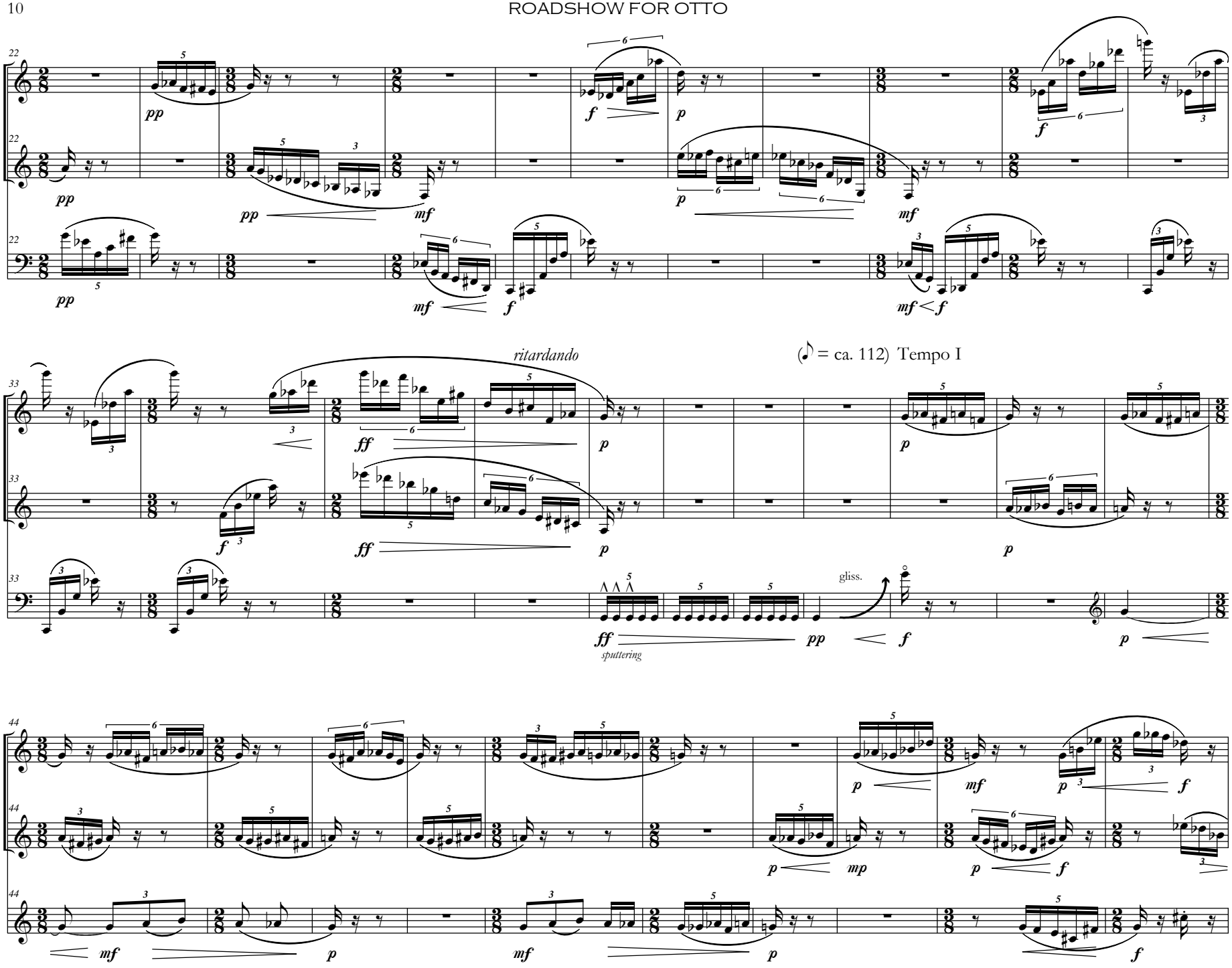

accelerando
Fl.
Cl.
Vc.
Pno.
Very fast (♩ = ca. 184)
♪ = ♪ accelerando
(♩. = ca. 180)
pizz.
arco
8va

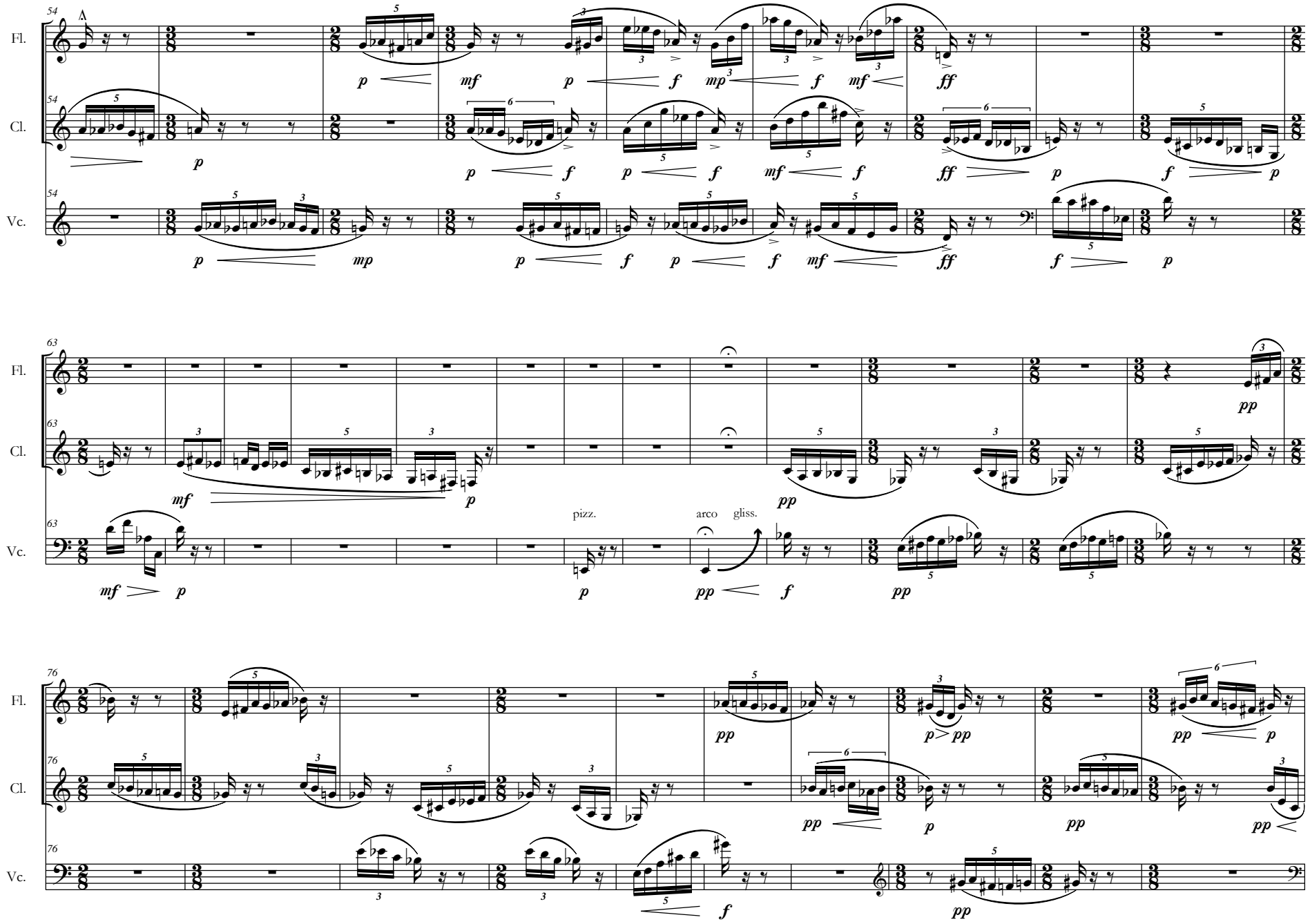

Chipper (♩ = ca. 120) accelerando
Sprightly (♩ = ca. 132)
Fl.
Cl.
Vc.
Pno.
pizz.
arco
Very Quick (♩ = ca. 168) accelerando

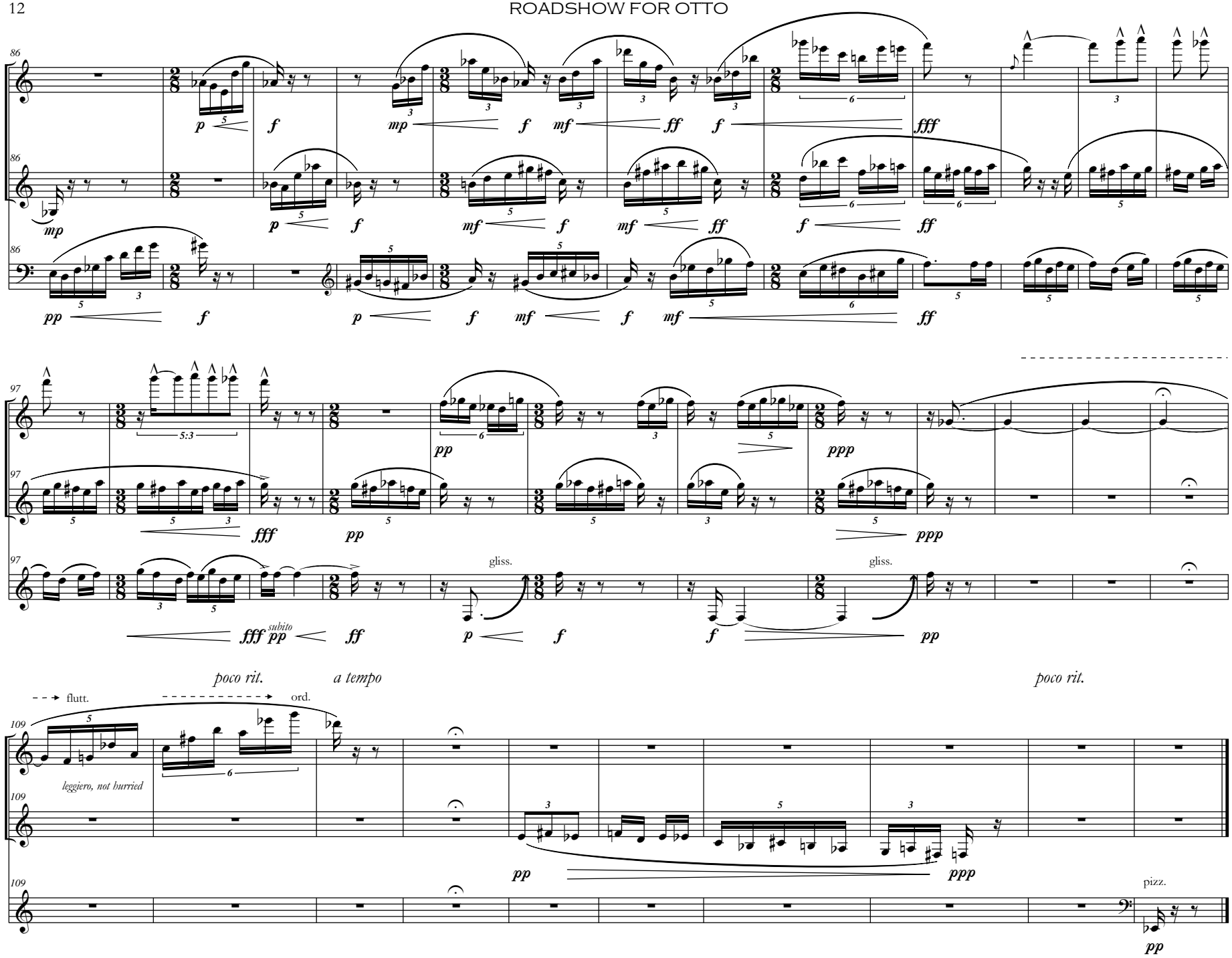

(♩. = ca. 160)
Pensive, gentle (♩ = ca. 120)
ritardando
a tempo
ritardando
Fl.
Cl.
Vc.
Pno.
ff
fff
ppp
pp
5:3
8va
Ped.
A bit slower (♩ = ca. 112)
ritardando
ppp
possibile
(8va)

Pedaling the *Spirit of America*

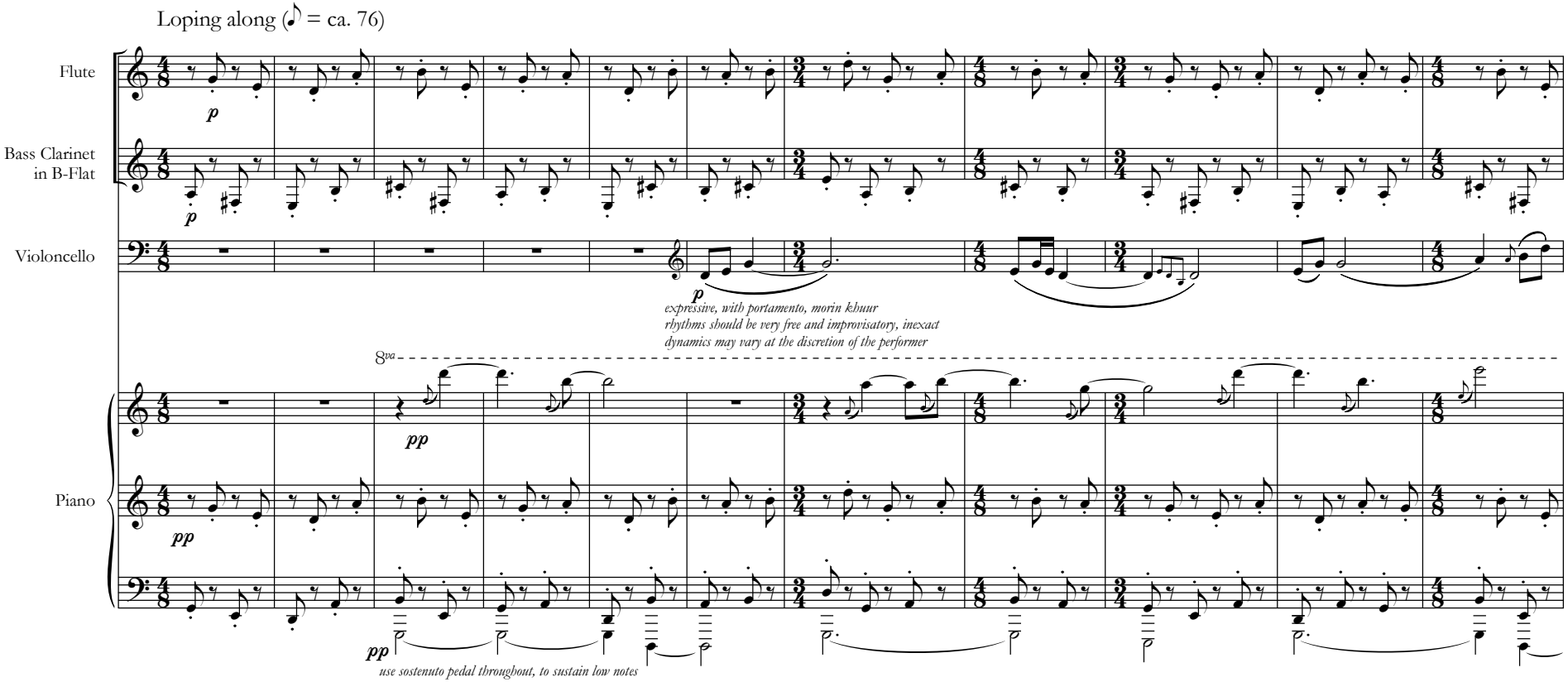


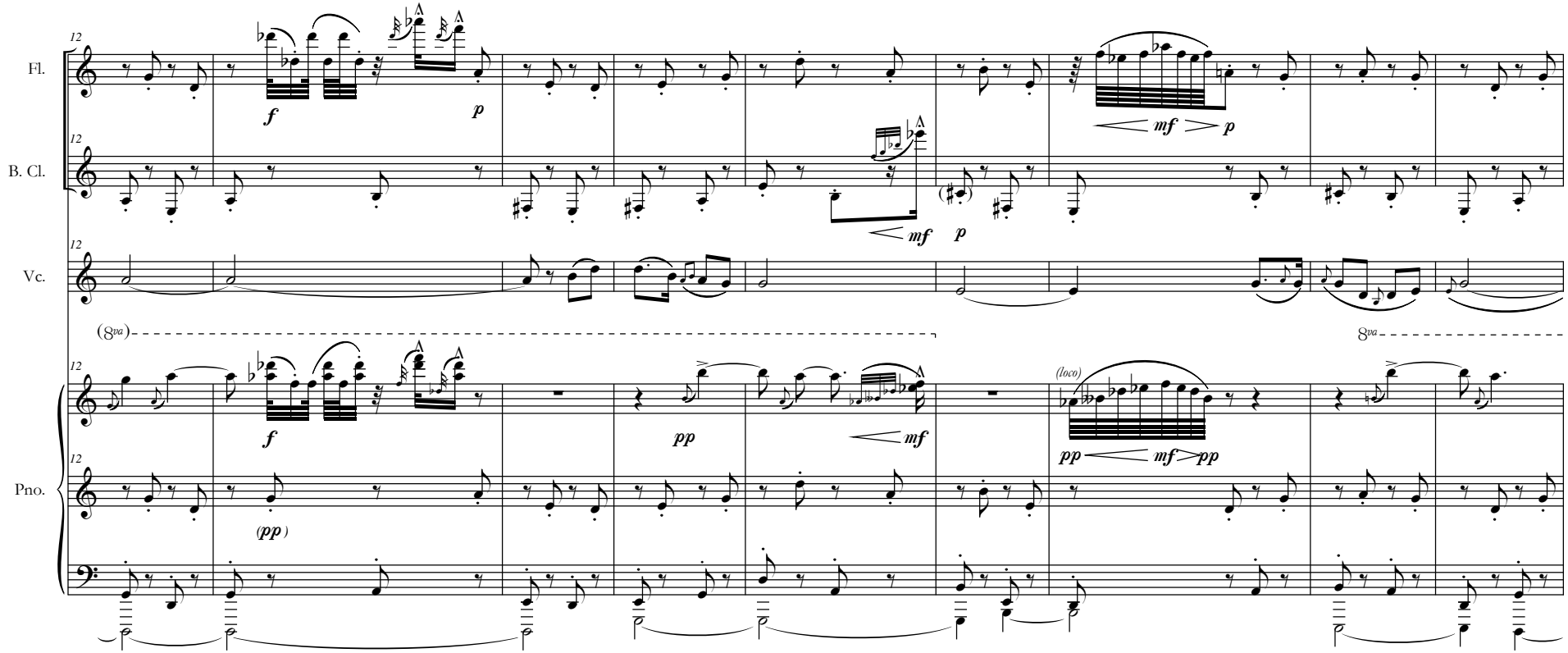

22
Fl.
Cl.
Vc.
pp
mf
f
p
mf < f
33
ritardando
(♪ = ca. 112) Tempo I
ff
gliss.
sputtering
44
mp

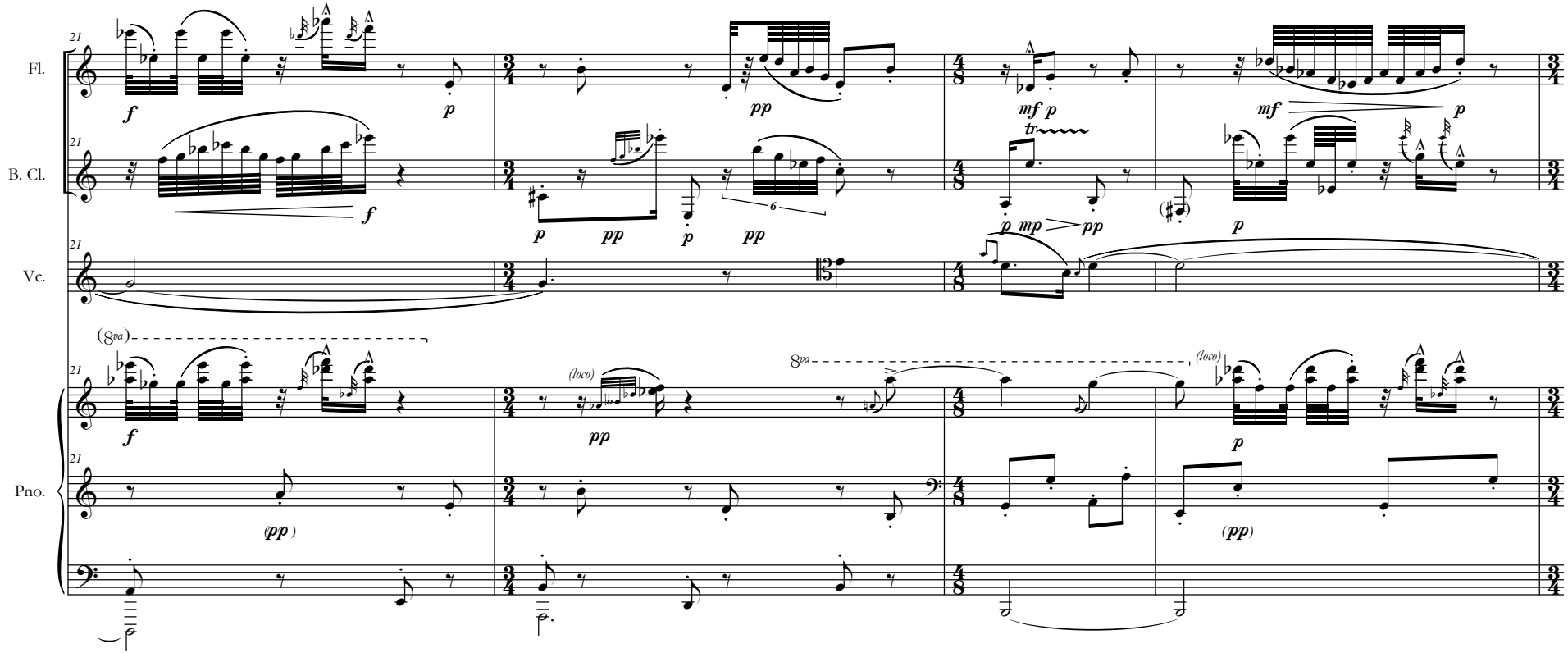

54
Fl.
Cl.
Vc.
63
pizz.
arco gliss.
76

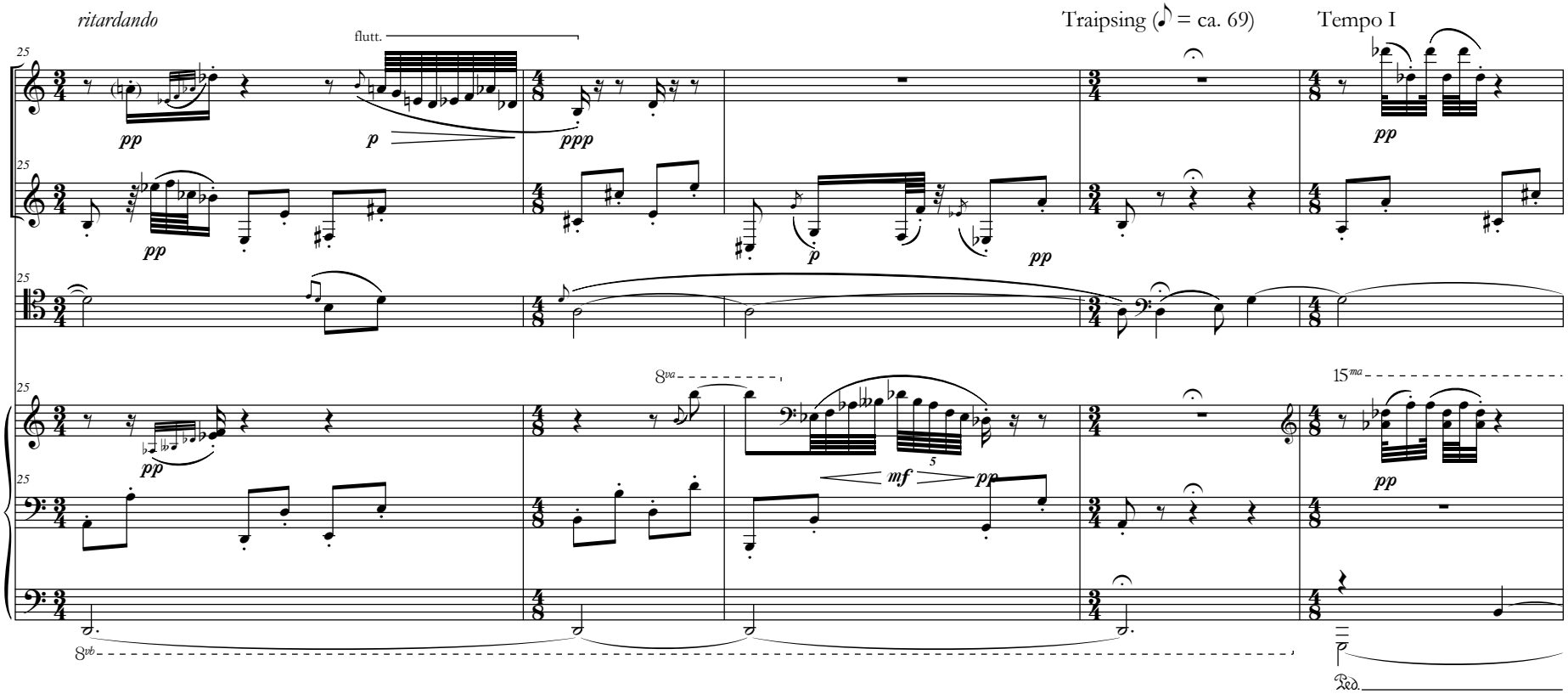

86
Fl.
Cl.
Vc.
p f mp f mf ff f fff
mp p f mf f mf ff f ff
pp f p f mf f mf ff
97
5:3
pp ppp
fff pp
fff pp subito ff
gliss.
p f f pp
poco rit. a tempo poco rit.
109
flutt.
ord.
leggiero, not hurried
pp ppp
pizz.
pp

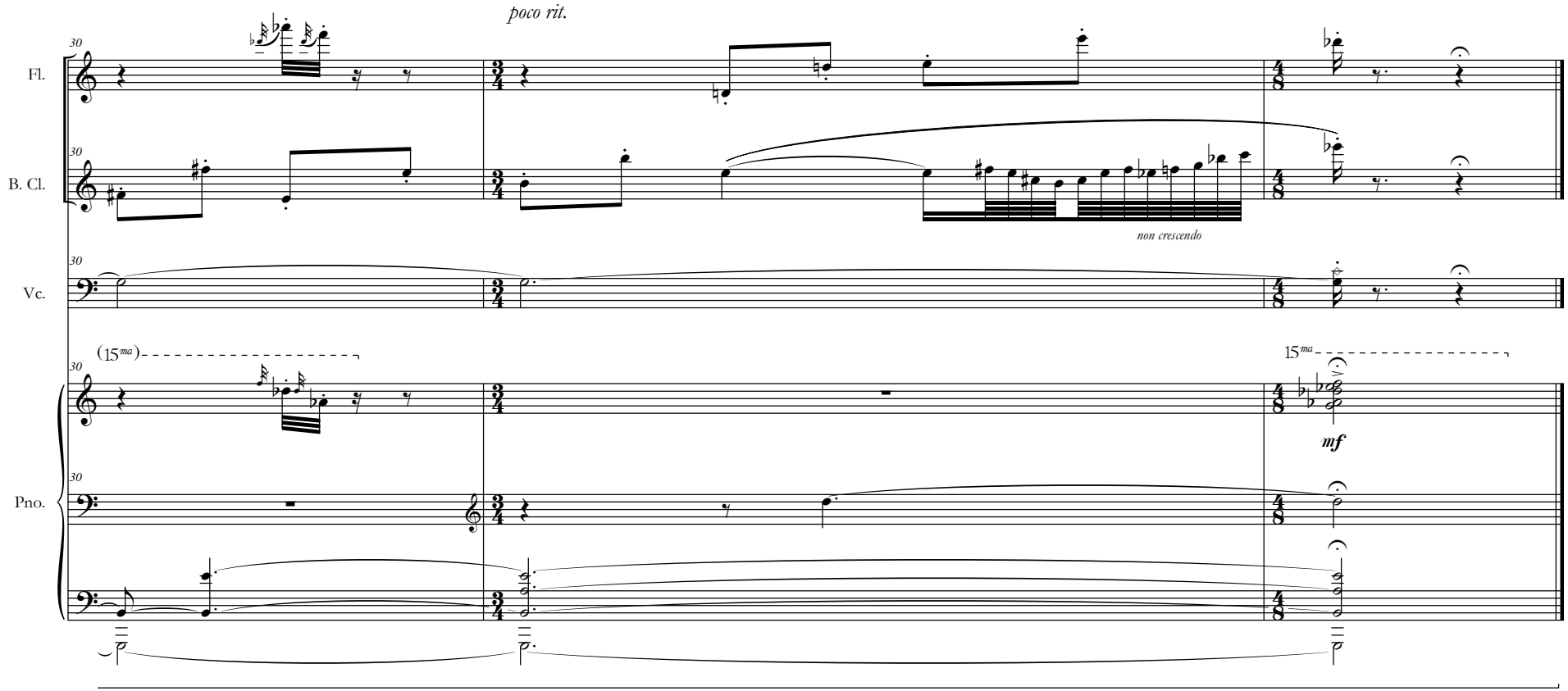
Camel and Monkey



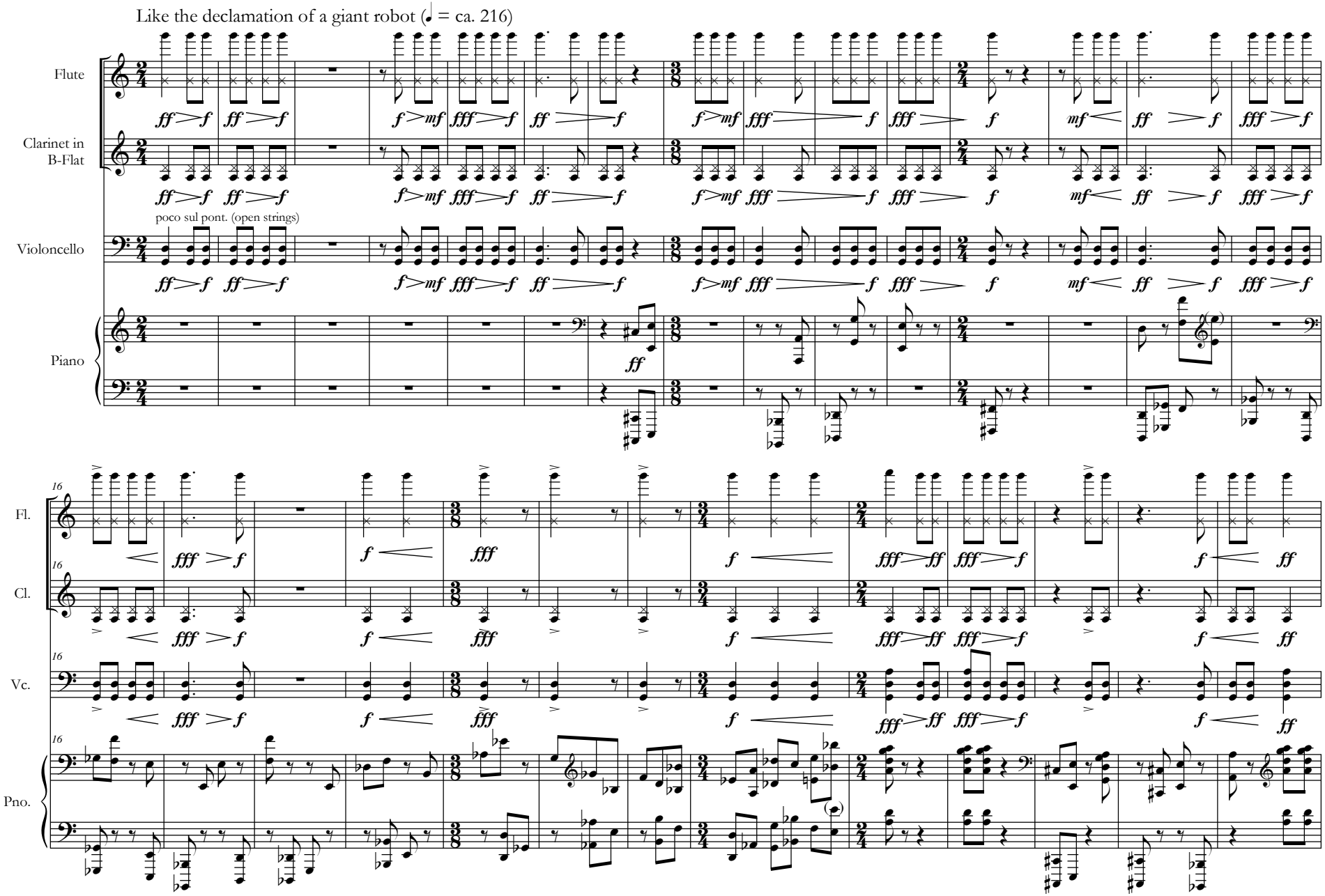

Fl.
B. Cl.
Vc.
Pno.
12
f
p
mf
p
mf
p
(8va)
8va
f
pp
mf
(loco)
pp
mf
pp
(pp)

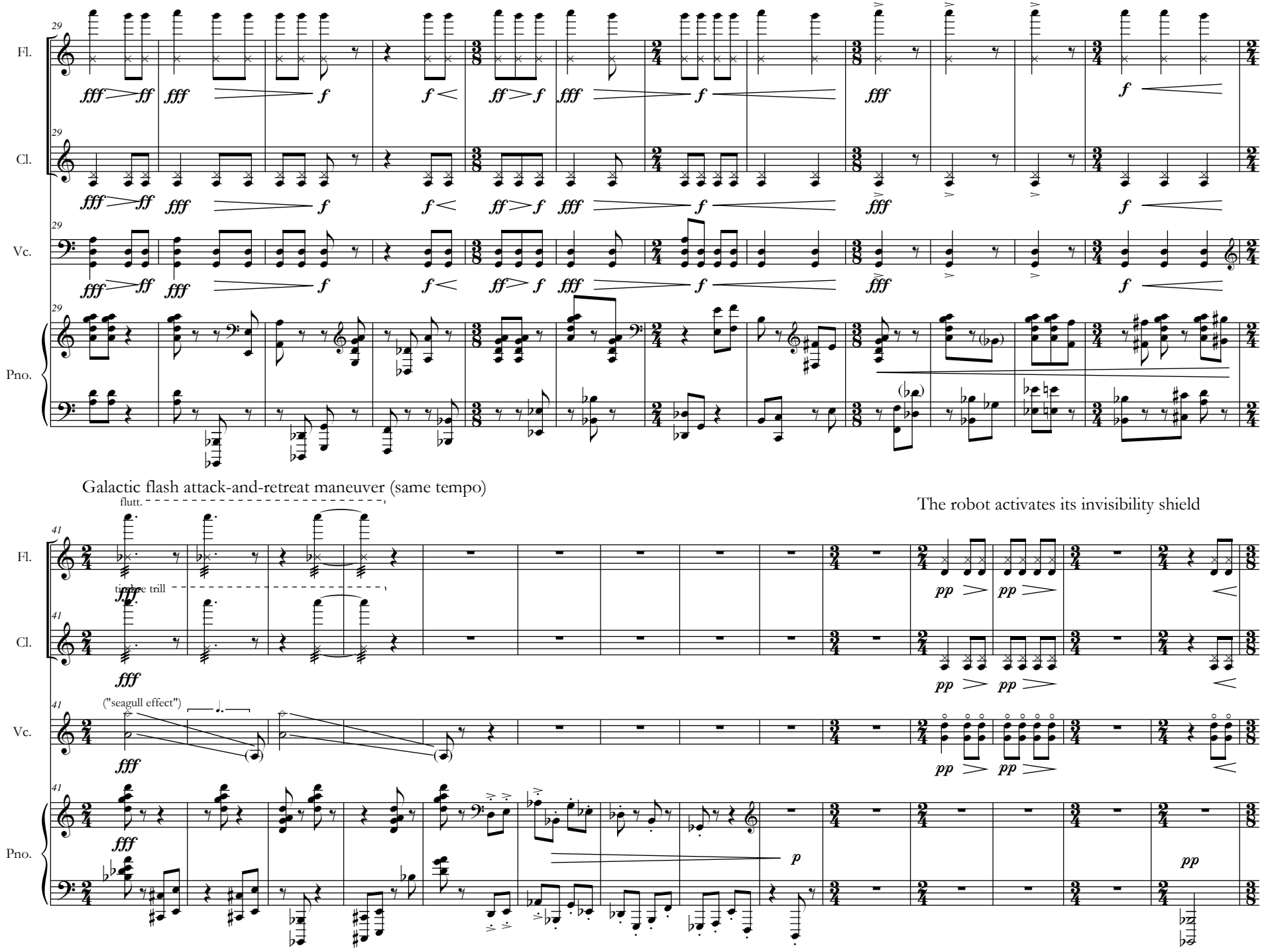

21
Fl.
B. Cl.
Vc.
Pno.
(8va)
(loco)
8va
(loco)
tr

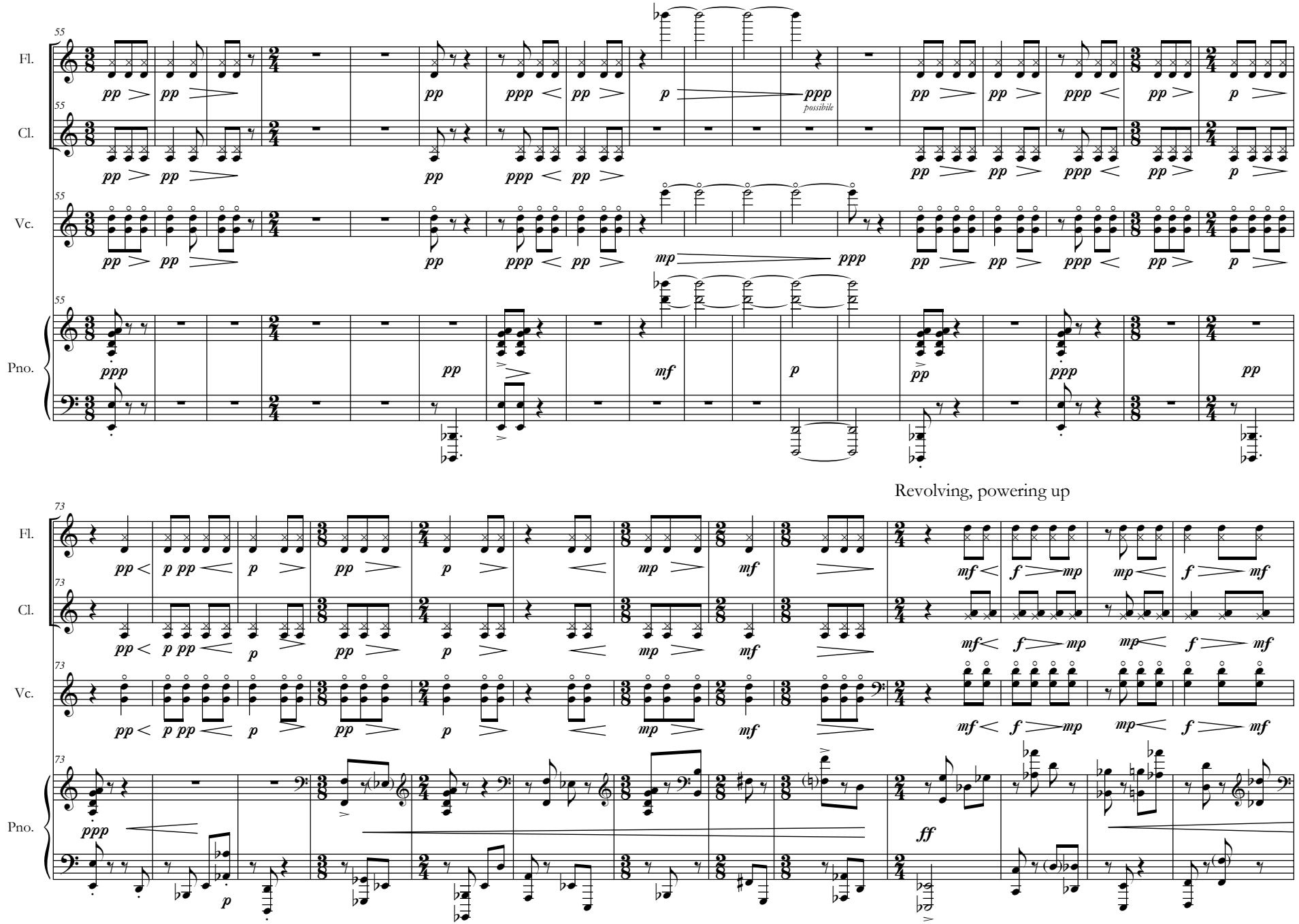

ritardando
flutt.
Traipsing (♪ = ca. 69)
Tempo I
Fl.
B. Cl.
Vc.
Pno.
pp
p
ppp
mf
8va
8vb
15ma
Ped.

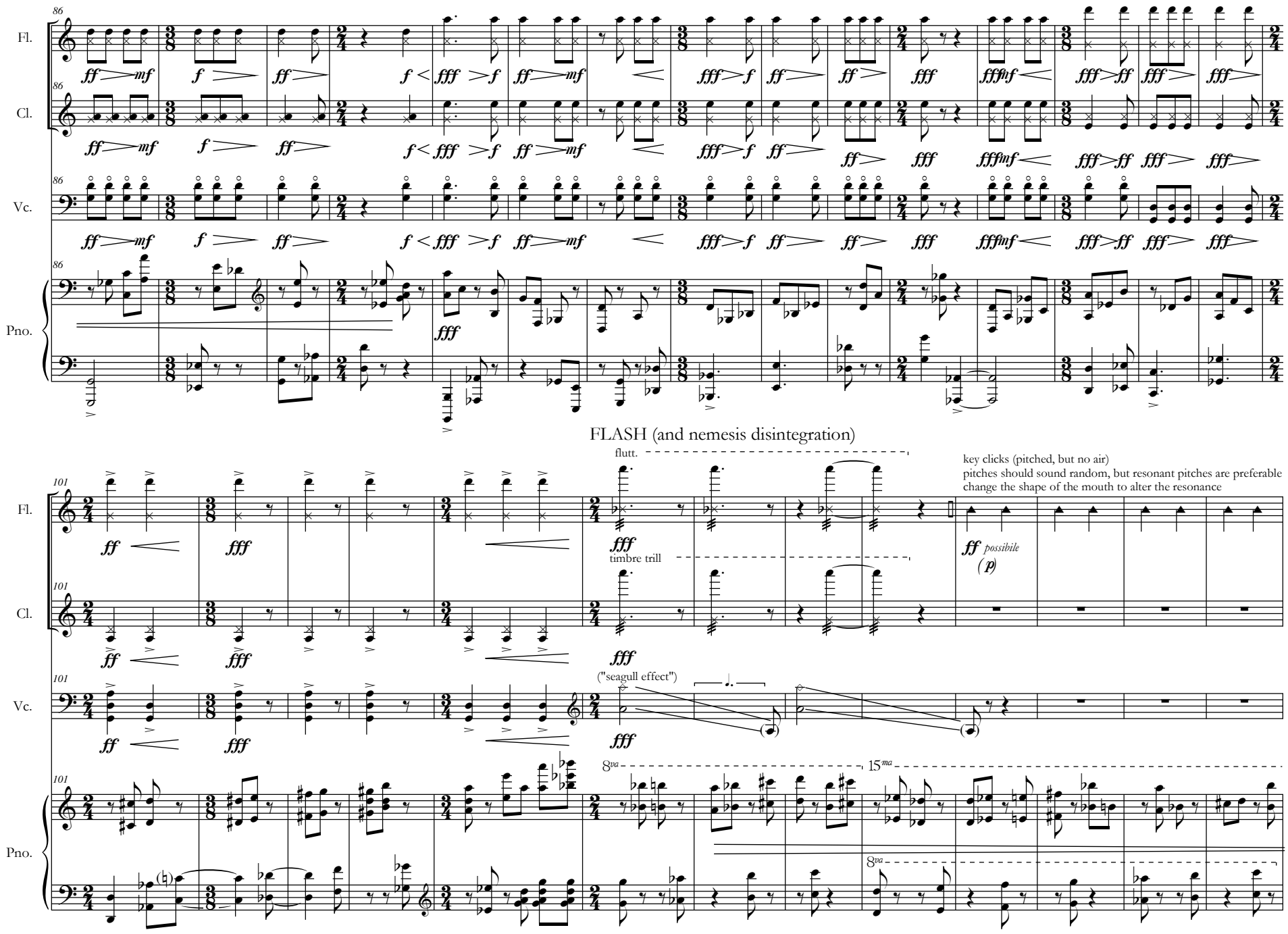

poco rit.
Fl.
B. Cl.
non crescendo
Vc.
(15ma)
15ma
mf
Pno.

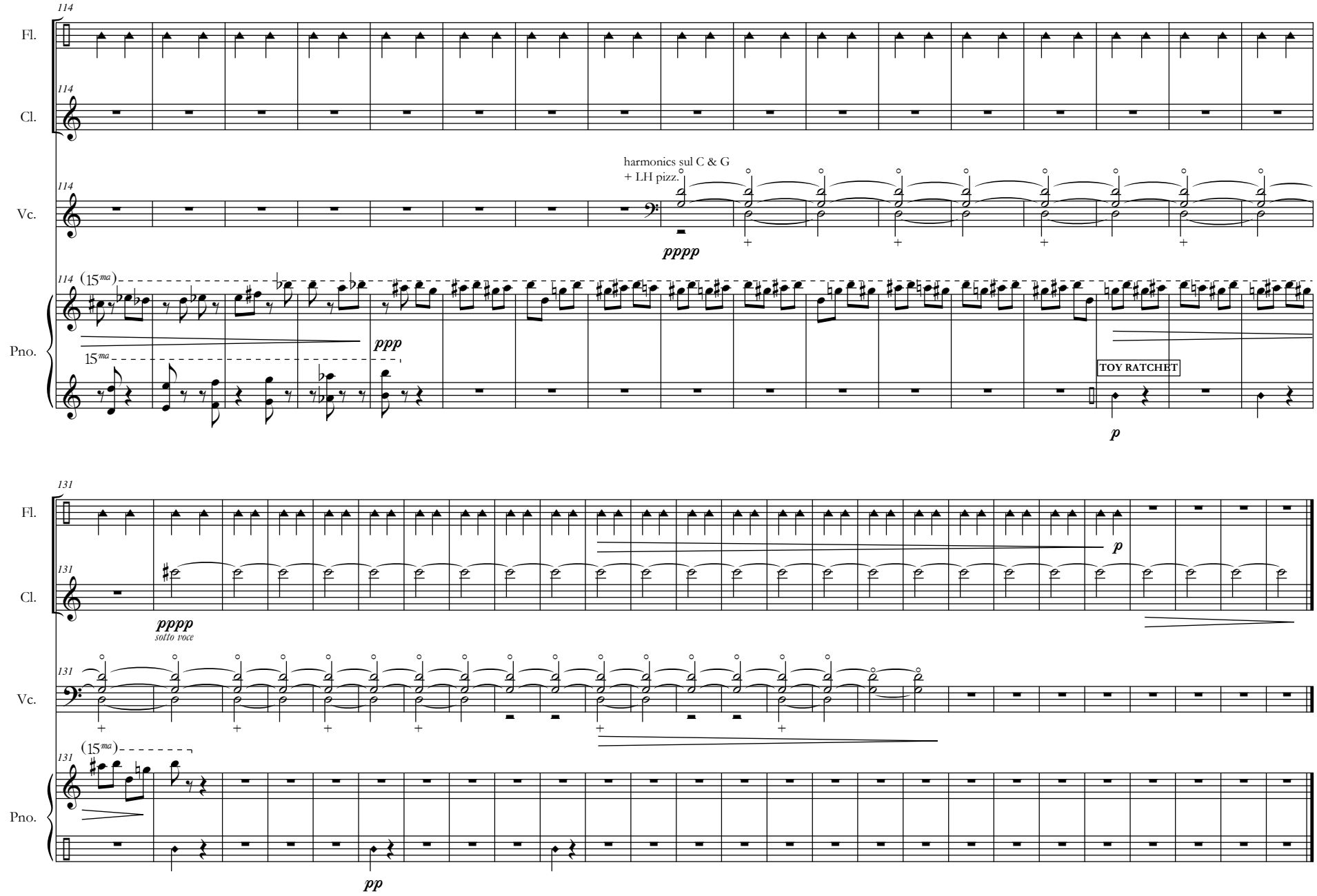
The Revolving Flashing Robot




29
Fl.
Cl.
Vc.
Pno.
fff ff fff f f< ff f fff f fff
Galactic flash attack-and-retreat maneuver (same tempo)
The robot activates its invisibility shield
41
flutt.
tr
("seagull effect")
pp
p


55
Fl.
Cl.
Vc.
Pno.
possibile
73
Revolving, powering up


86
Fl.
Cl.
Vc.
Pno.
ff mf f ff f fff f ff mf fff f ff ff fff fffmf fff ff fff
FLASH (and nemesis disintegration)
101
flutt.
timbre trill
key clicks (pitched, but no air)
pitches should sound random, but resonant pitches are preferable
change the shape of the mouth to alter the resonance
ff possibile
(p)
("seagull effect")
8va
15ma


114
Fl.
Cl.
Vc.
Pno.
harmonics sul C & G
+ LH pizz.
pppp
(15ma)
ppp
15ma
TOY RATCHET
p
131
pppp
sotto voce
(15ma)
pp