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are we just atoms

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Gu Wei

are we just atoms

for modified Pierrot Ensemble

Instrumentation

Flute

Clarinet in B♭

Percussion

3 crotales tuned to G4, A4, and D5 (written pitches), with a bowl of water to bend crotale pitches

Piano

Viola

Violoncello

Program Note

I hear this piece as a question – one that gets asked over and over again with getting a satisfactory answer. The descending spiral that frequently occurs also points us toward a rather clear and inevitable endpoint, though we might not be able to witness the ultimate outcome. With this very existential nature of the title, I often find myself pondering over the meaning of our 'selves' and what constitutes 'us'. We could be little units of cells, or even atoms that constitute a larger whole – a collective longevity only possible with the continuous existence and progression of smaller particles.

are we just atoms is dedicated to Matthew Jaroszewicz, who conducted the premiere on March 8, 2020, at Centre Street Performance Studio in Baltimore, MD.

Performance Directions

Flute:

- All air tones should contain recognizable pitches and clear articulation.

Crotales:

- Always use hard mallets for a sharp, crisp sound.
- Sempre l.v.
- Bend notes down by partially dipping the disks into water. Bend notes up by starting the note while the disk is submerged in water, then gradually taking it out. A bowl of water should be prepared for this technique, and the crotales disks can be either completely detached or suspended individually and hung on a stand.

Piano:

- Muted notes should be done by depressing the strings near the edge with the non-playing hand, resulting in a muted tone with recognizable pitches.

Performance duration is approximately 8 minutes.

Composer Contact

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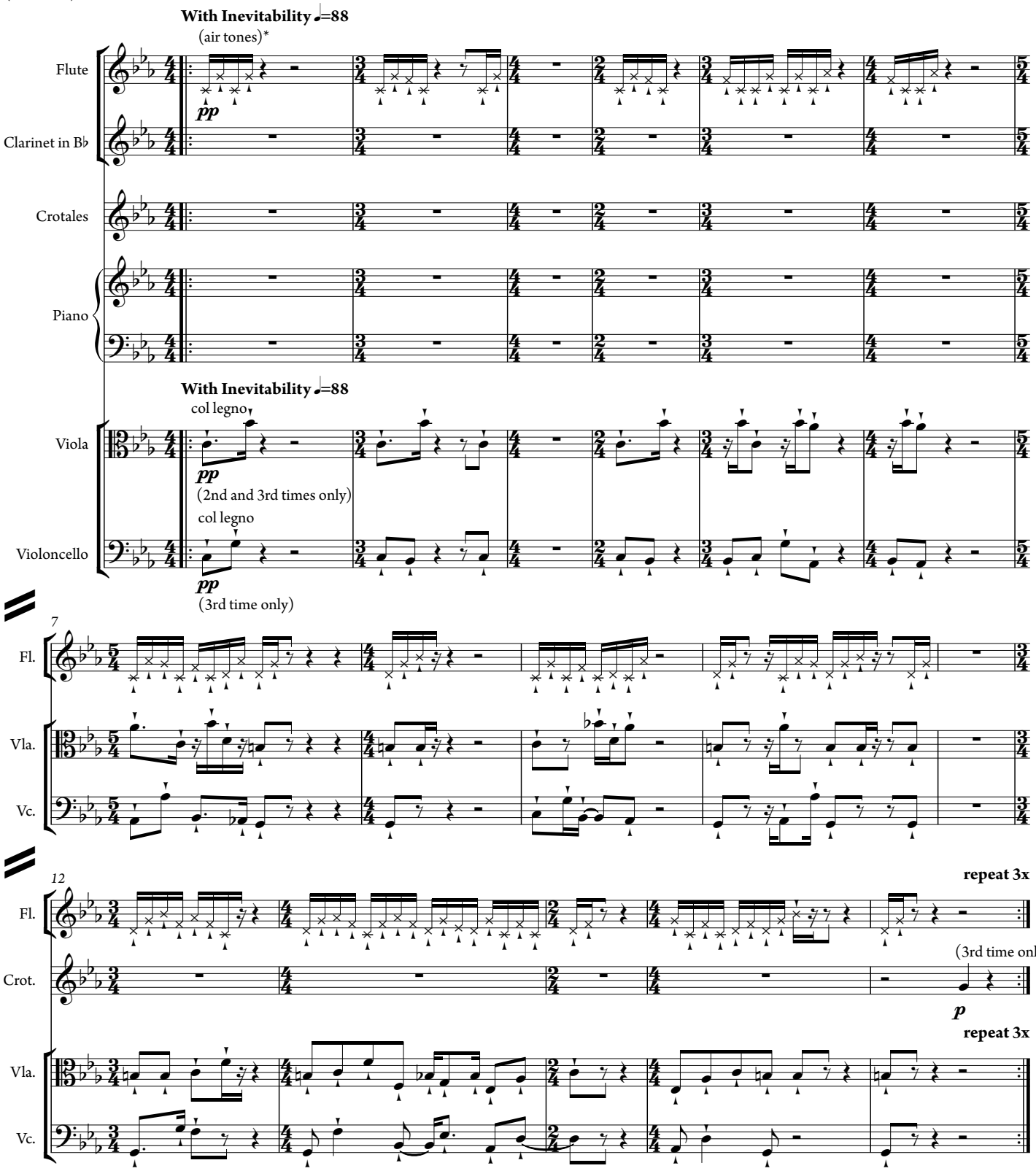
for Matthew Jaroszewicz and the CNSNC Spring Concert 2020

are we just atoms

(Score in C)

Gu Wei



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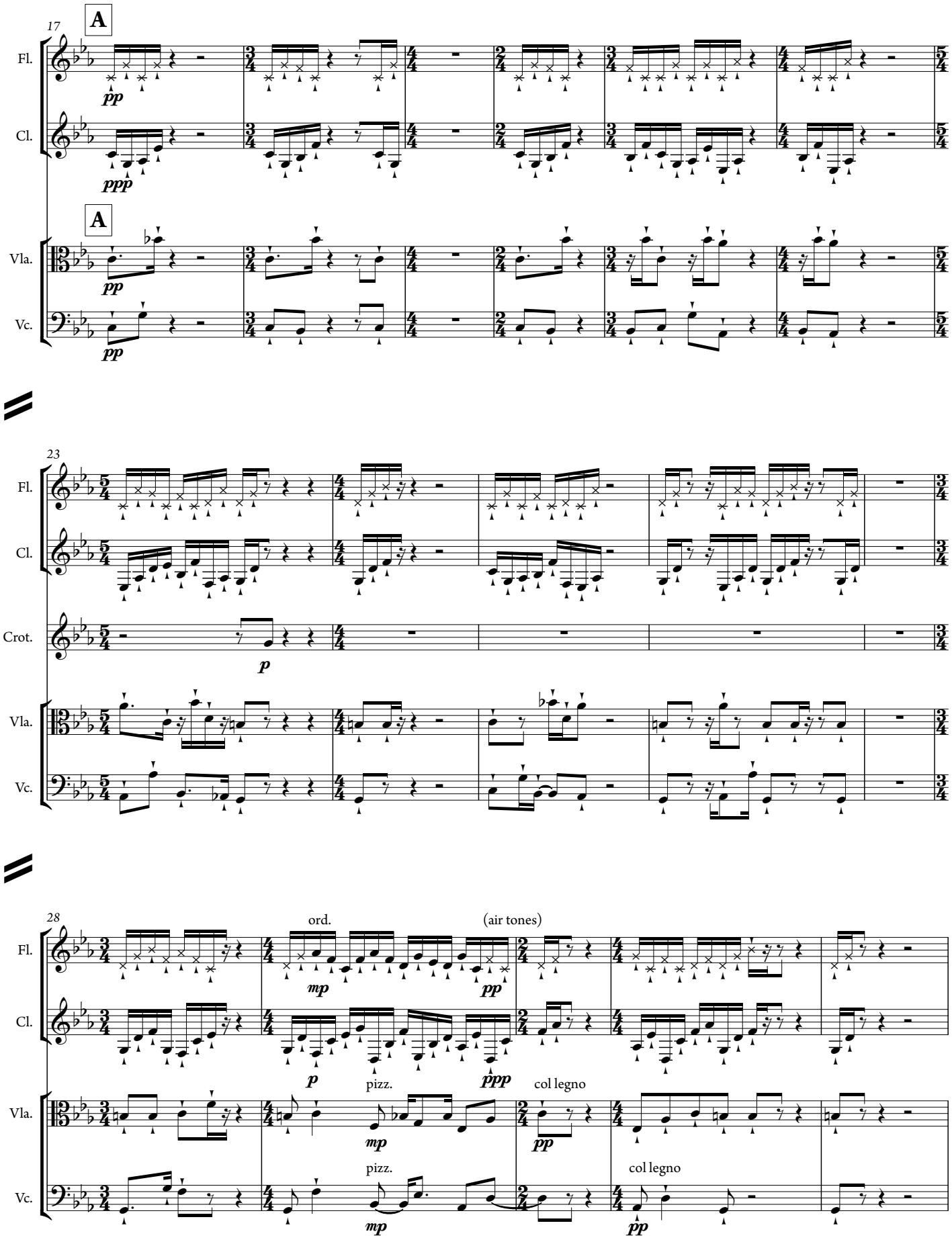
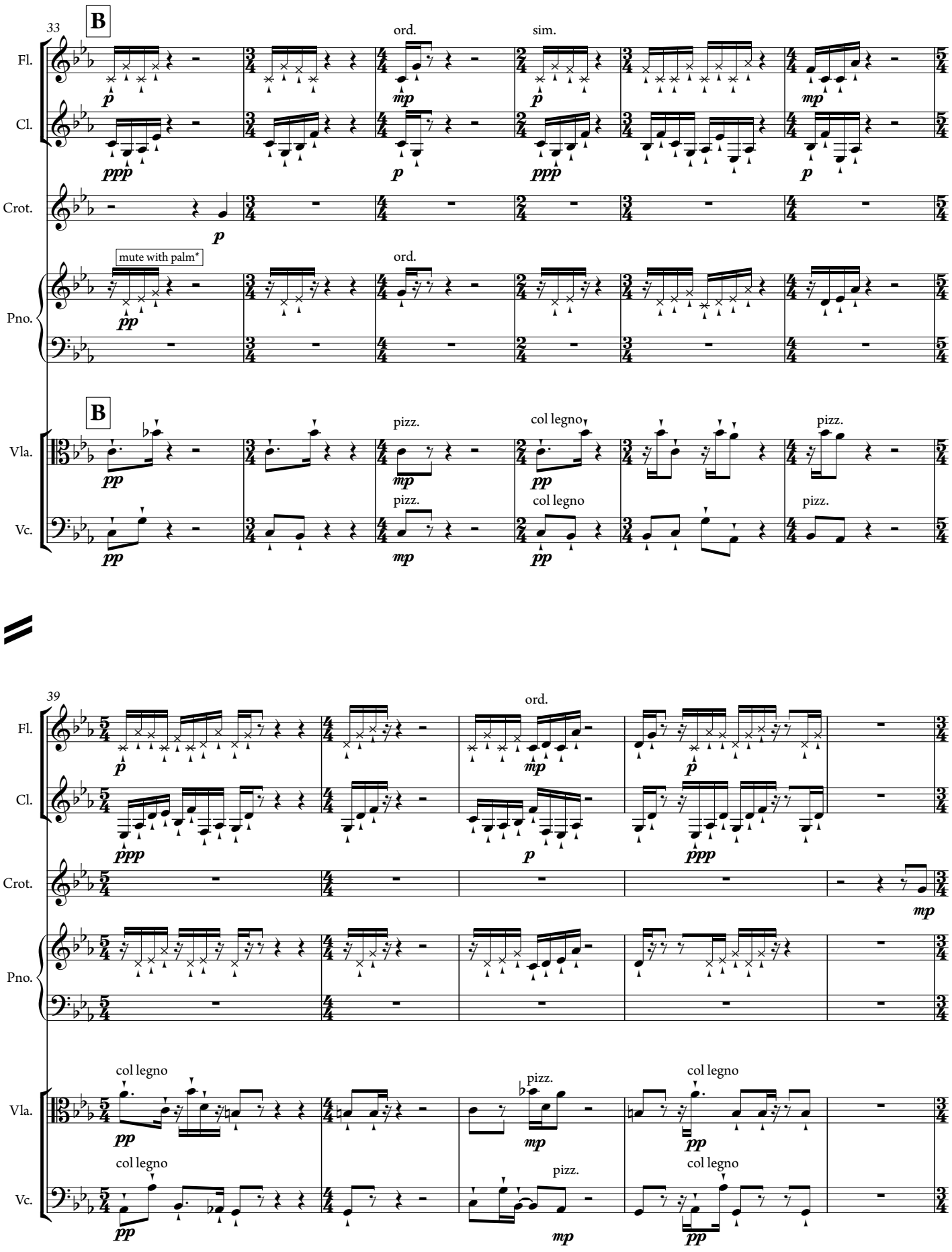
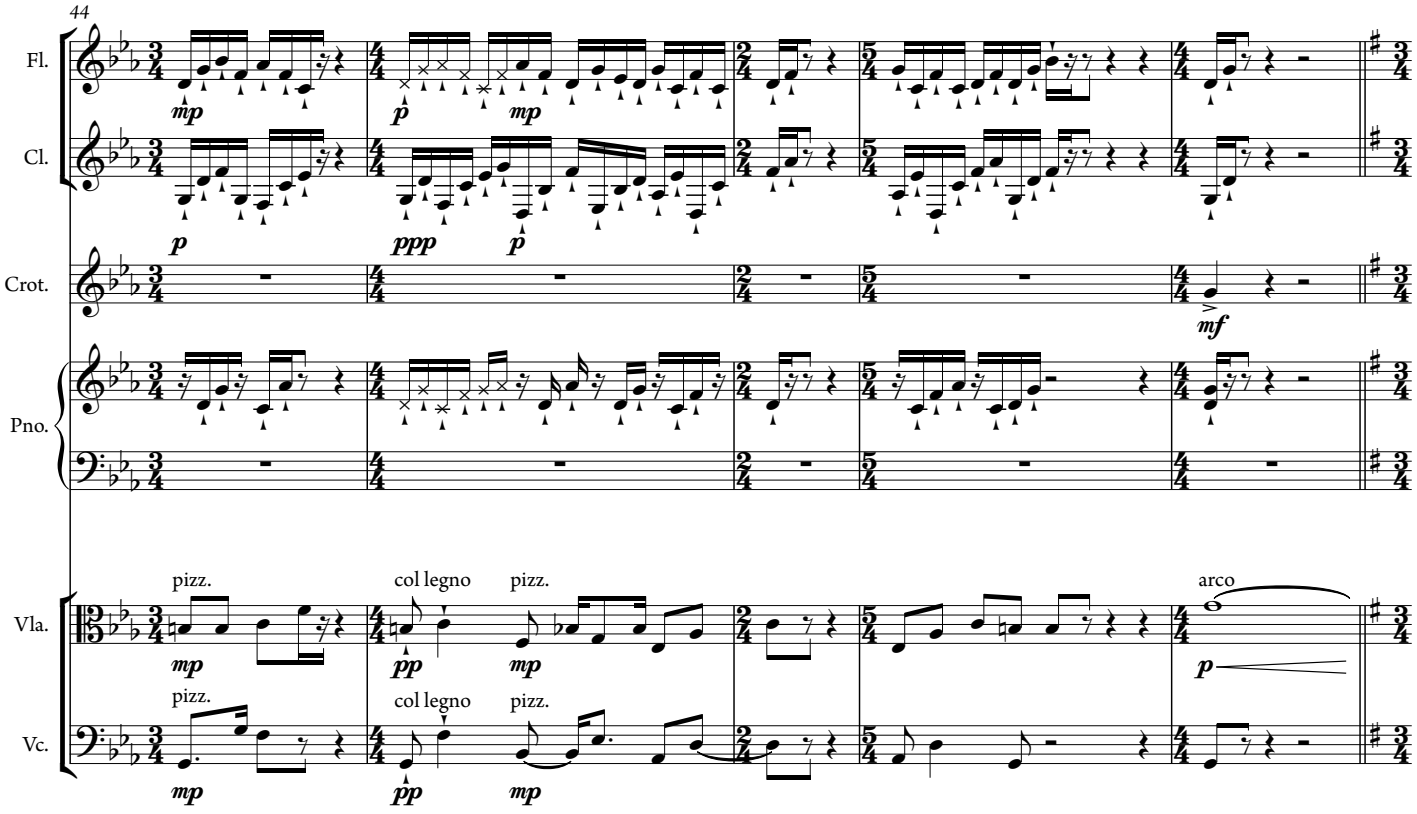
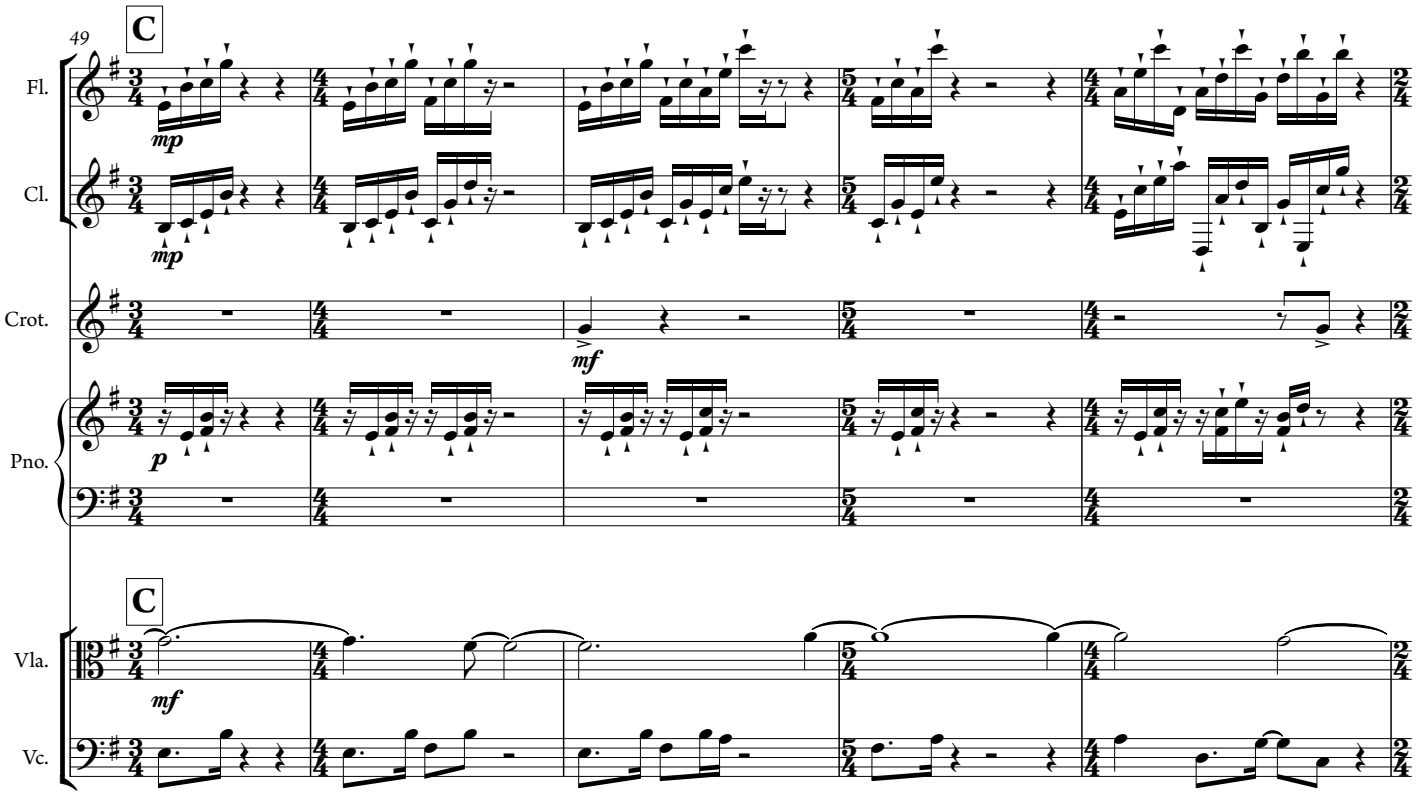
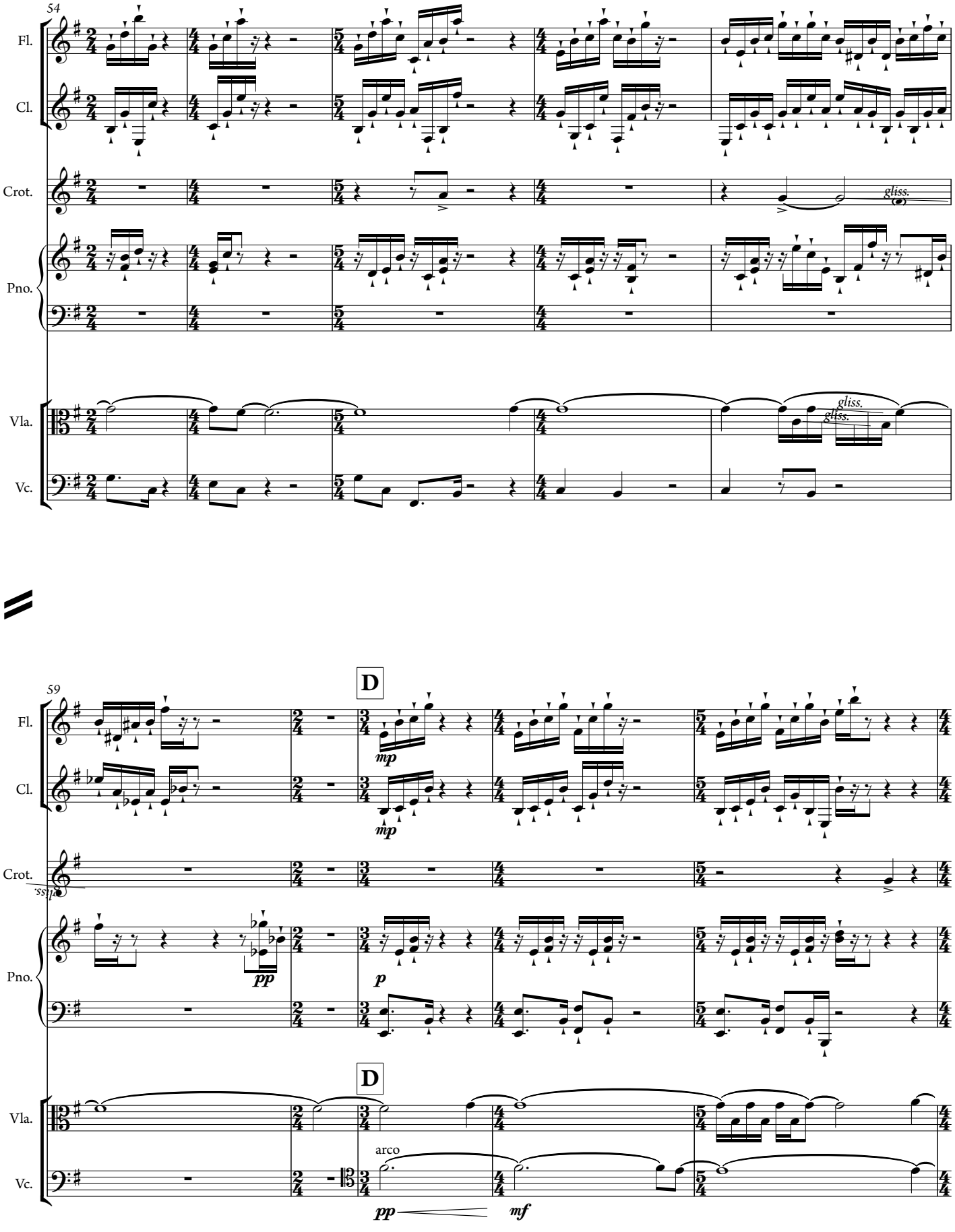
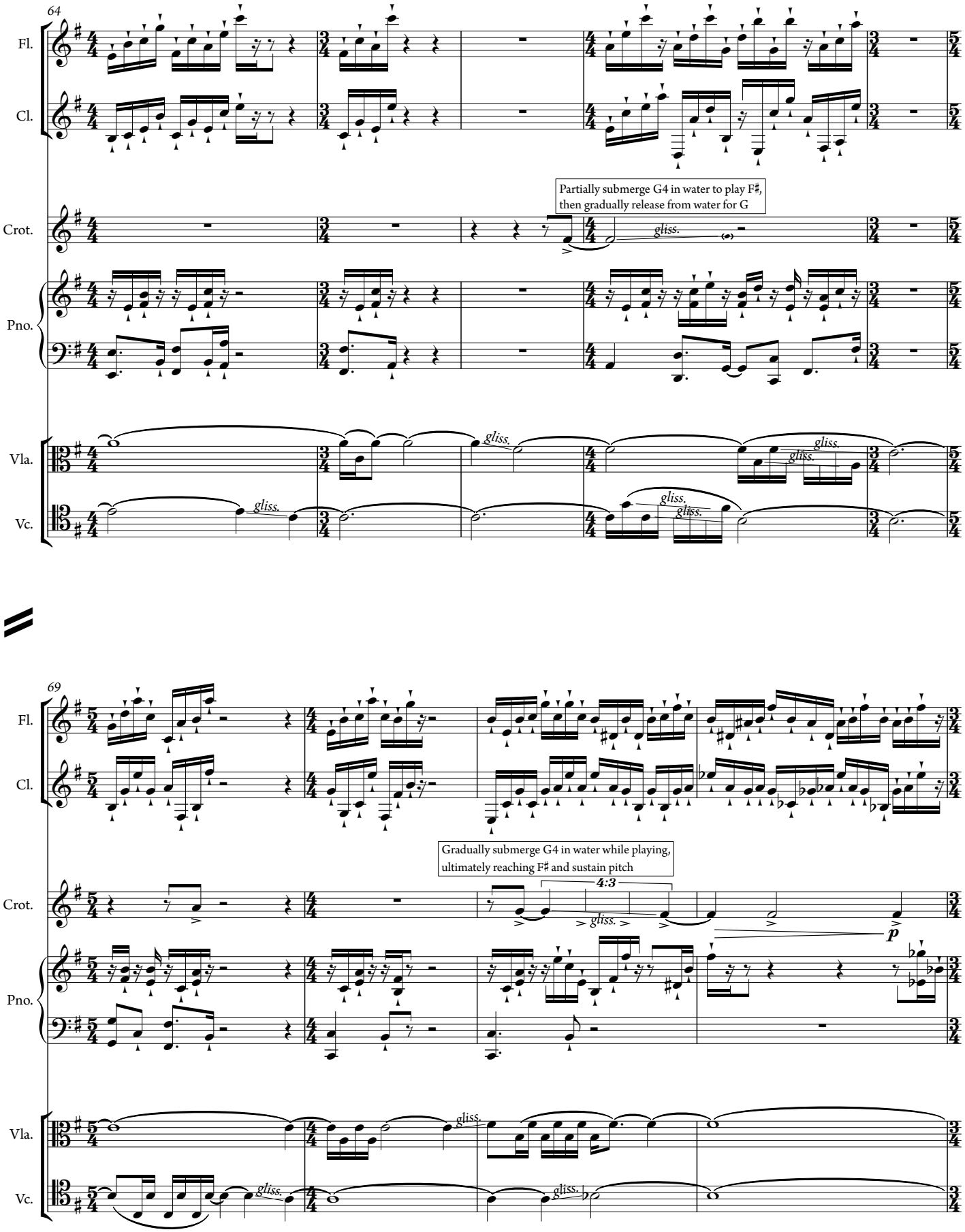

17
A
Fl.
Cl.
Vla.
Vc.
pp
ppp
23
Crot.
p
28
ord.
(air tones)
mp
pizz.
col legno

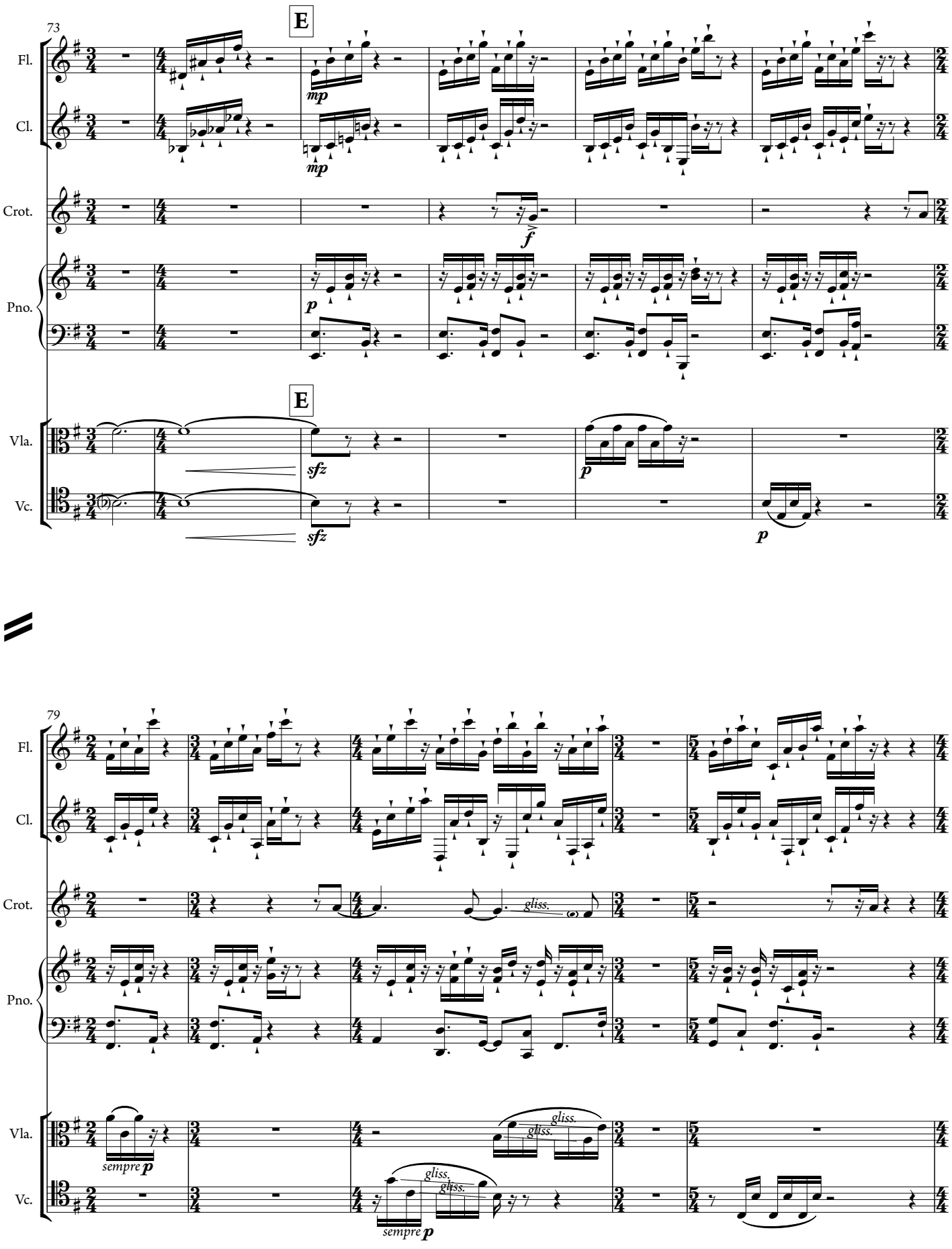

33
B
ord.
sim.
Fl.
Cl.
Crot.
mute with palm*
ord.
Pno.
B
pizz.
col legno
pizz.
Vla.
pizz.
col legno
pizz.
Vc.
39
ord.
Fl.
Cl.
Crot.
Pno.
col legno
pizz.
col legno
Vla.
col legno
pizz.
col legno
Vc.

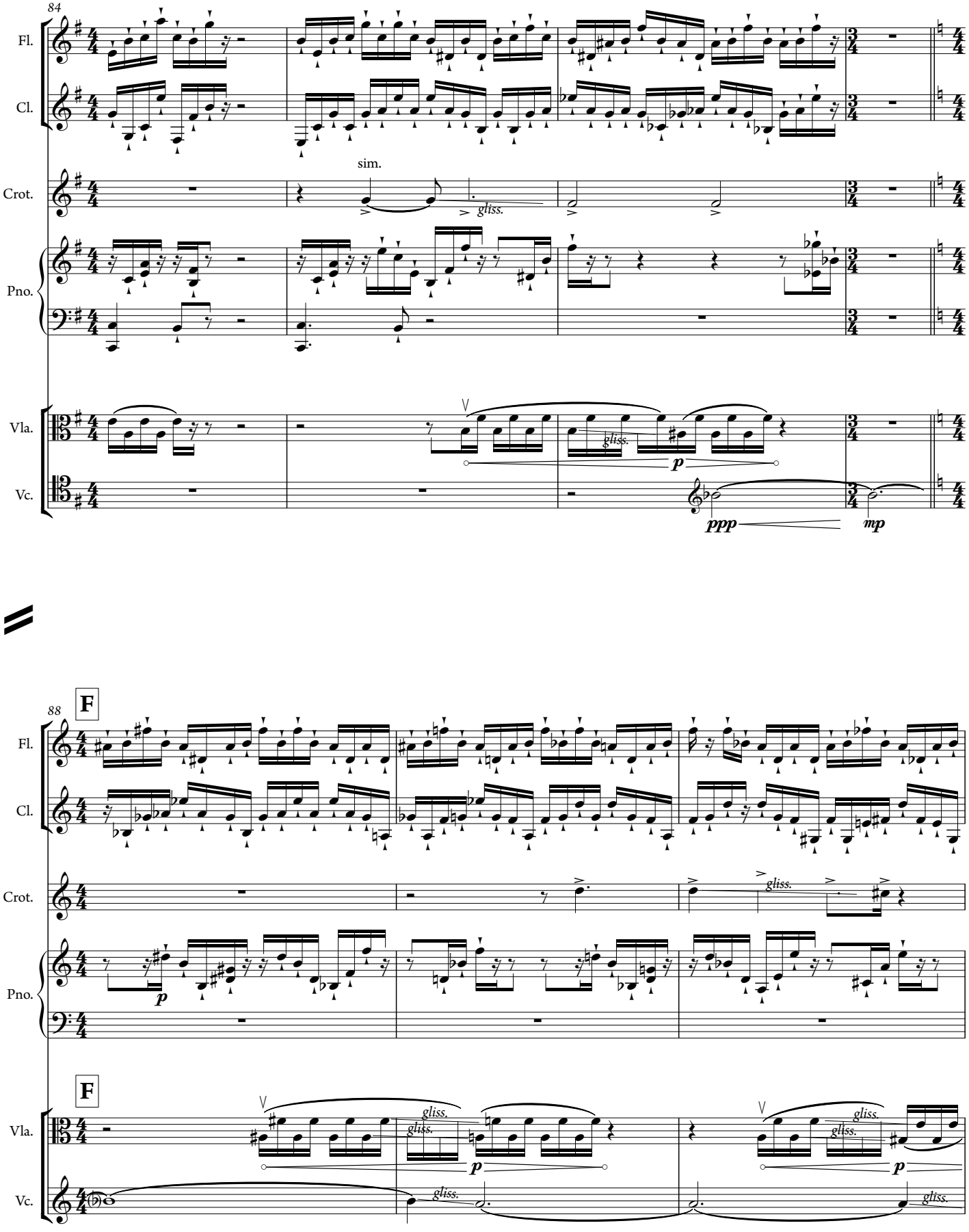

44
Fl.
Cl.
Crot.
Pno.
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
col legno
pizz.
arco

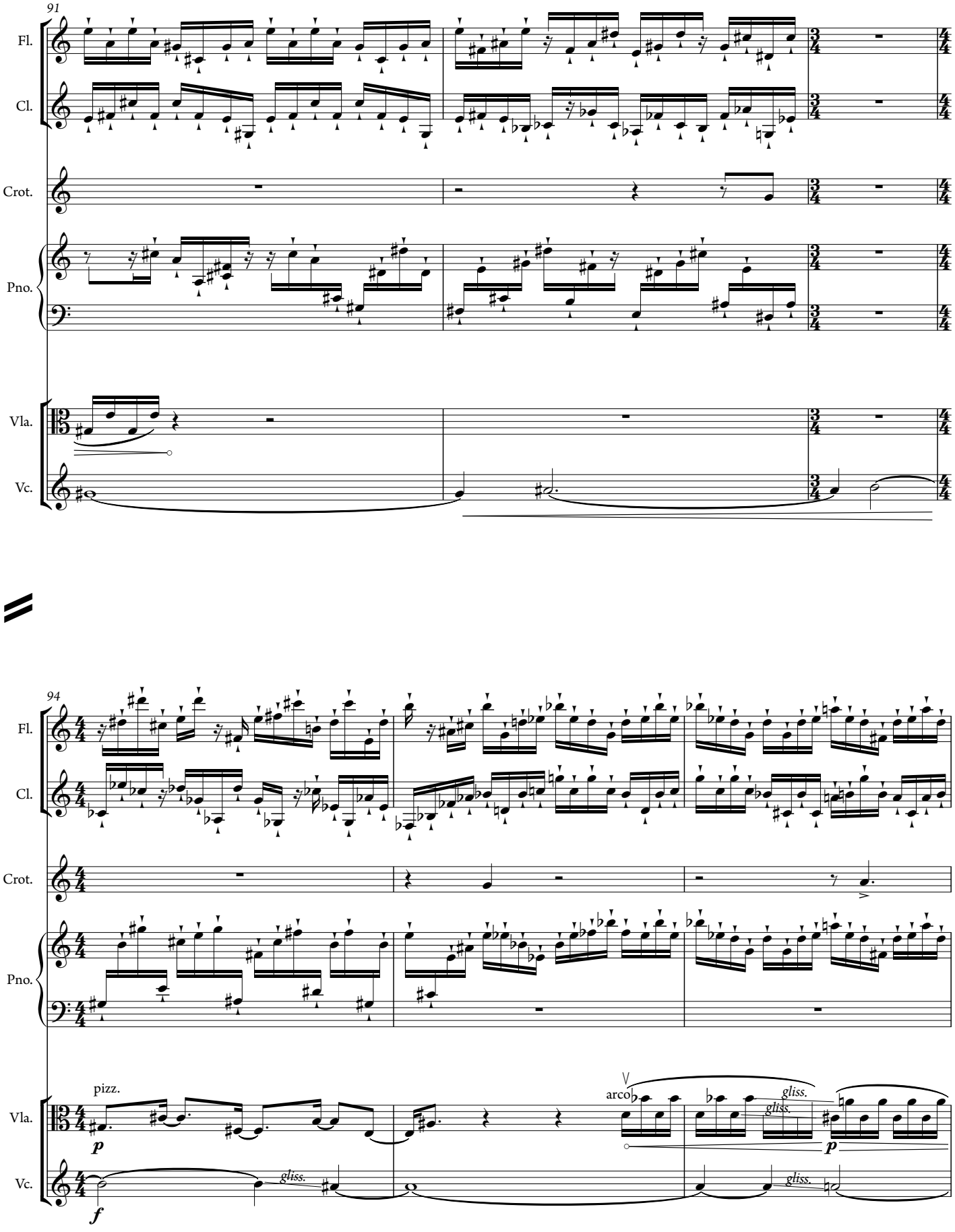

49
C
Fl.
Cl.
Crot.
Pno.
Vla.
Vc.

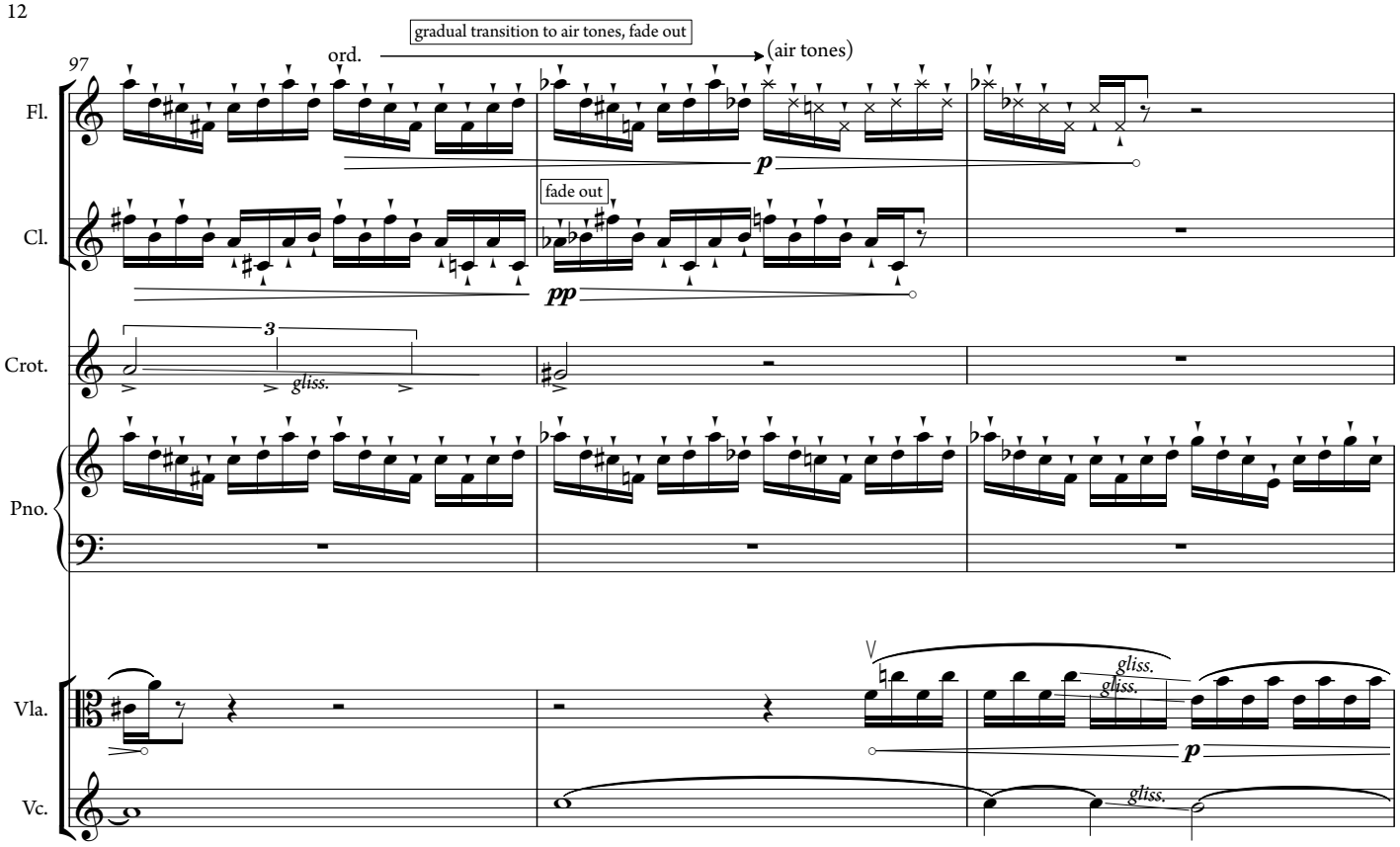

54
Fl.
Cl.
Crot.
Pno.
Vla.
Vc.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
59
D
mp
mp
pp
p
D
arco
pp
mf

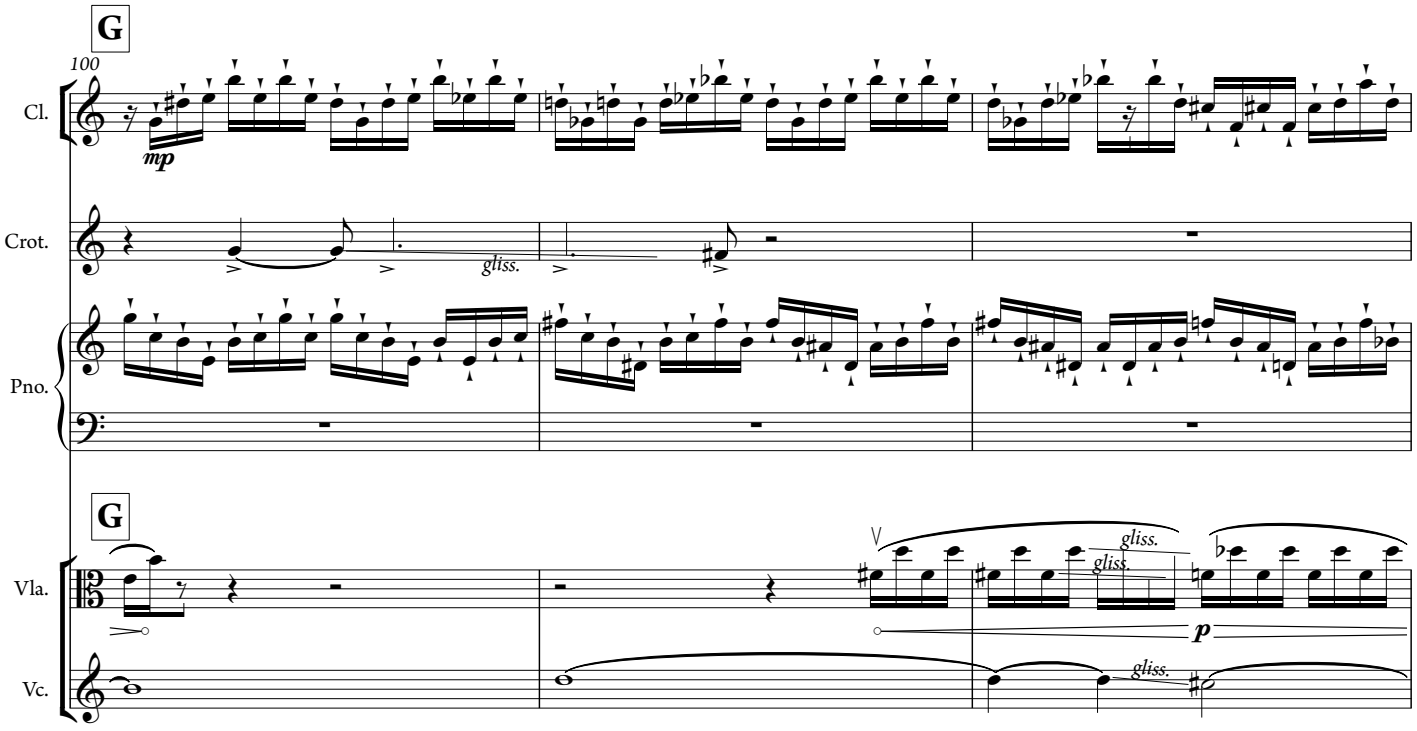

64
Fl.
Cl.
Crot.
Partially submerge G4 in water to play F♯, then gradually release from water for G
gliss.
Pno.
Vla.
Vc.
69
Gradually submerge G4 in water while playing, ultimately reaching F♯ and sustain pitch
4:3
p


73
E
Fl.
Cl.
Crot.
Pno.
Vla.
Vc.
mp
mp
f
p
sfz
sfz
p
p
79
gliss.
sempre p
sempre p

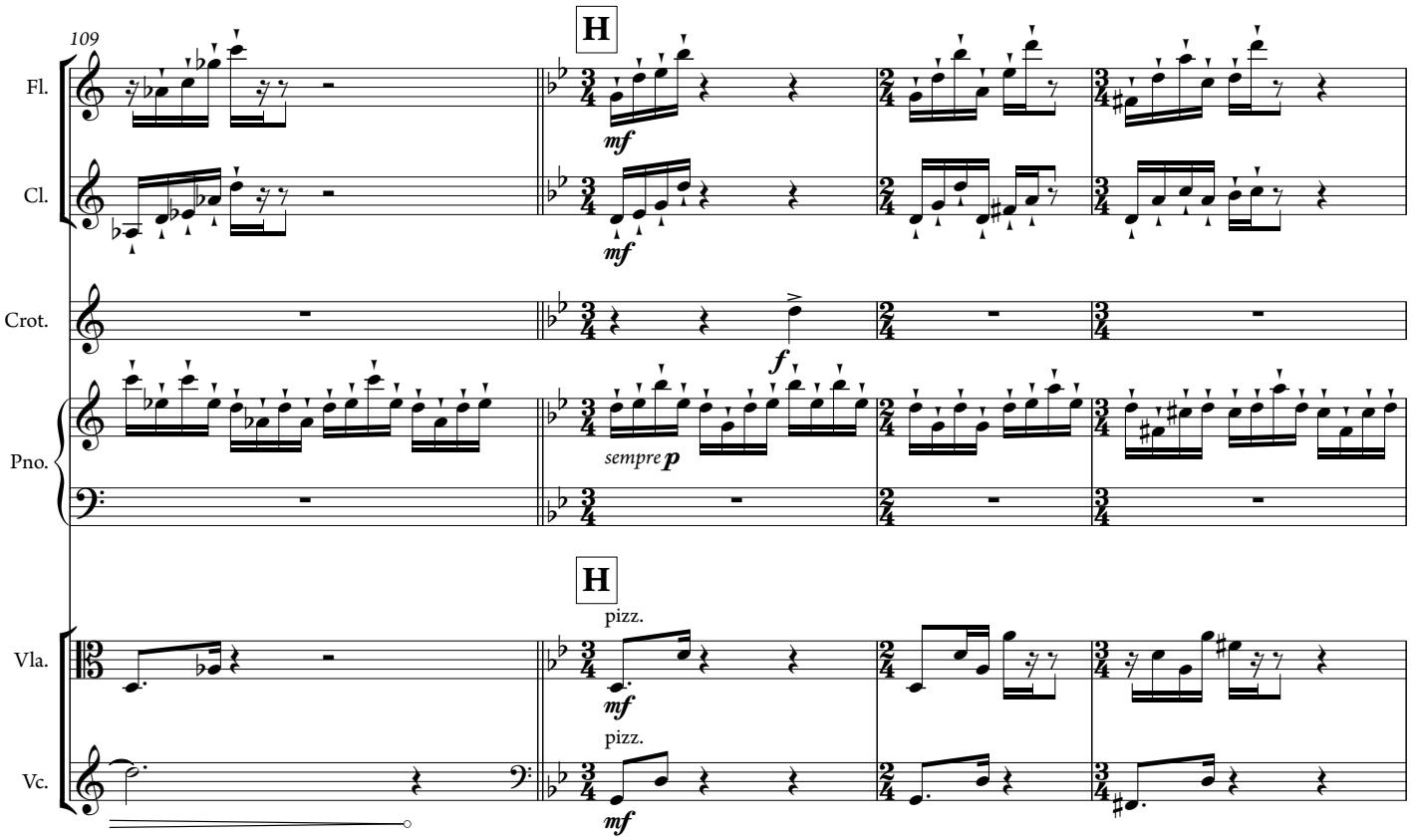

84
Fl.
Cl.
sim.
Crot.
gliss.
Pno.
Vla.
gliss.
p
Vc.
ppp
mp
88
F
Fl.
Cl.
Crot.
gliss.
p
Pno.
F
Vla.
gliss.
gliss.
p
Vc.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
p
gliss.

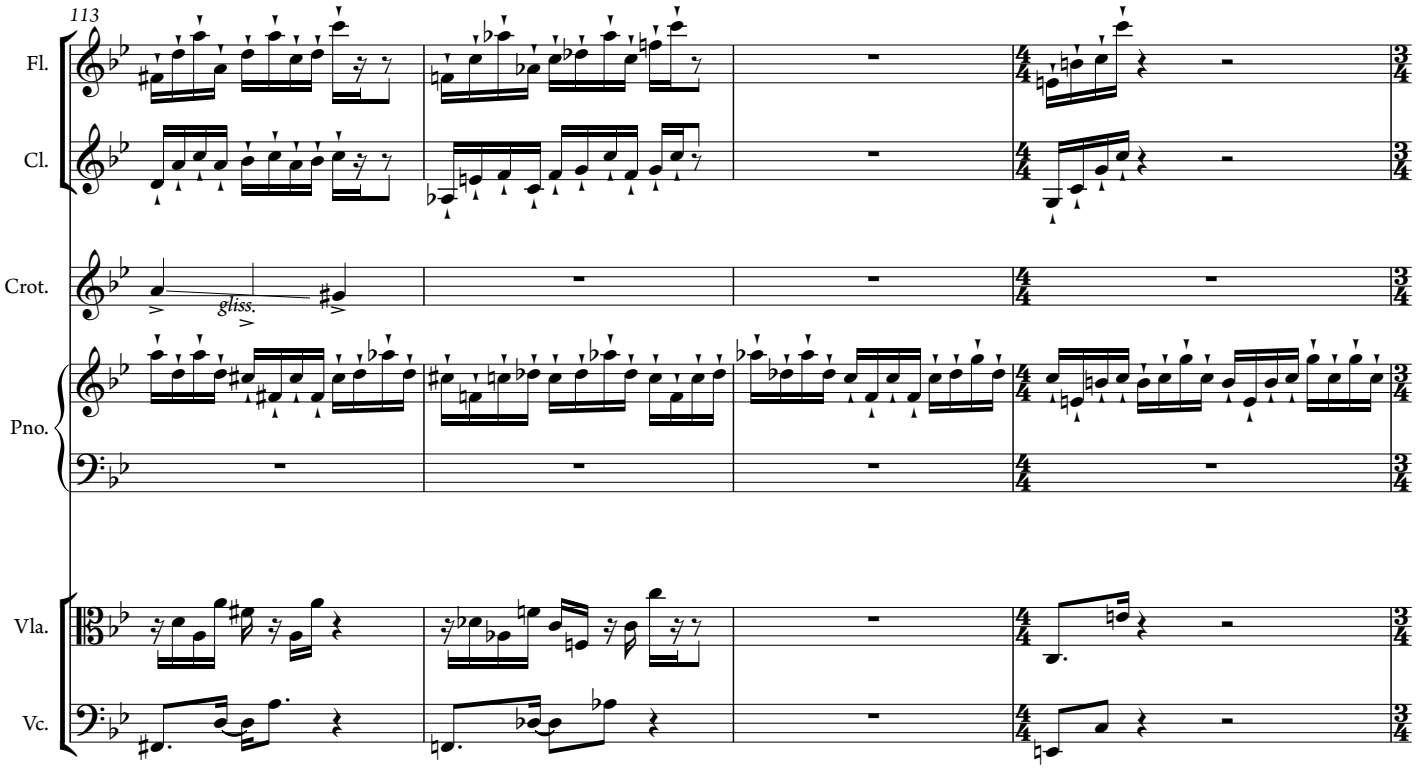

91
Fl.
Cl.
Crot.
Pno.
Vla.
Vc.
94
Fl.
Cl.
Crot.
Pno.
Vla.
Vc.
pizz.
p
arco
gliss.
gliss.
p
f
gliss.
gliss.

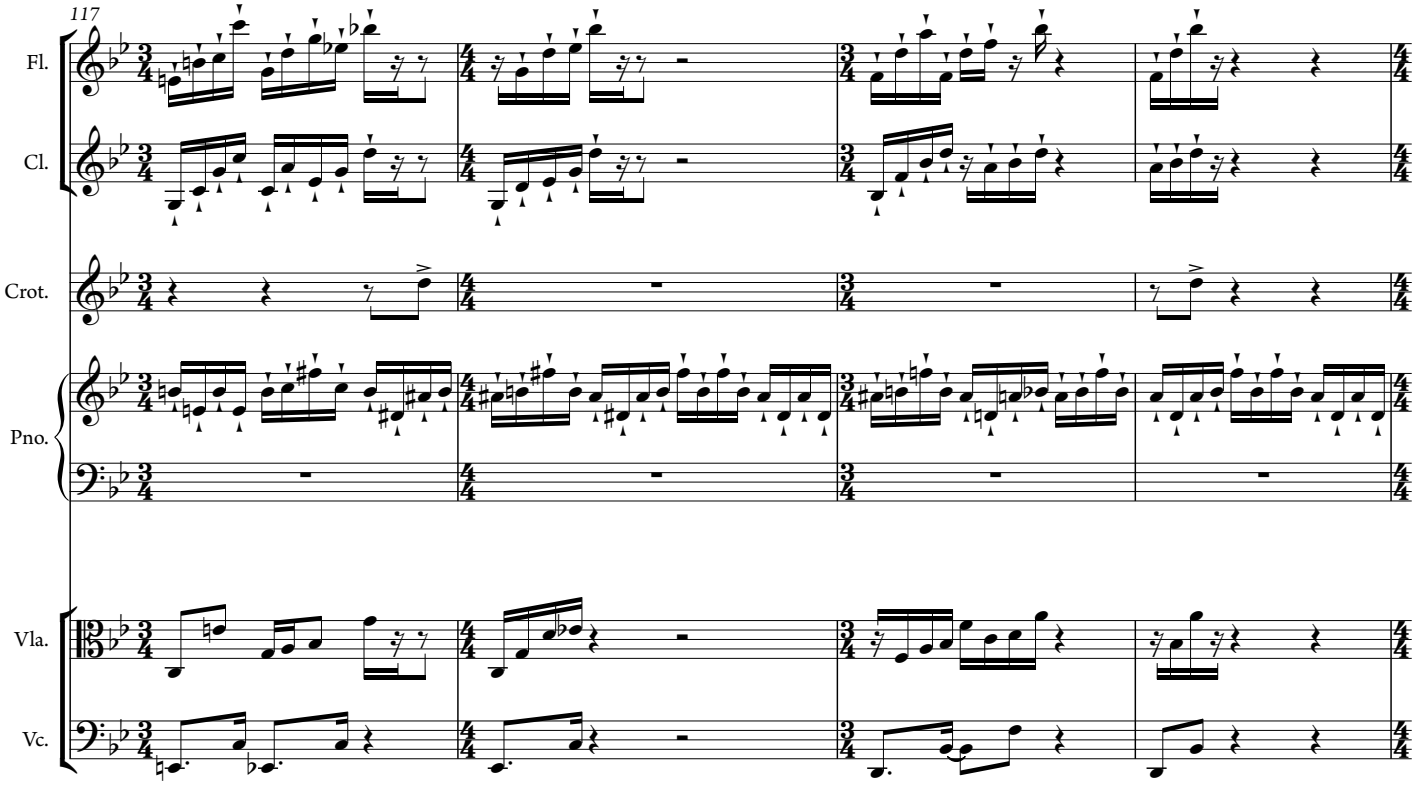

97
ord.
gradual transition to air tones, fade out
(air tones)
Fl.
Cl.
fade out
Crot.
gliss.
Pno.
Vla.
Vc.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.

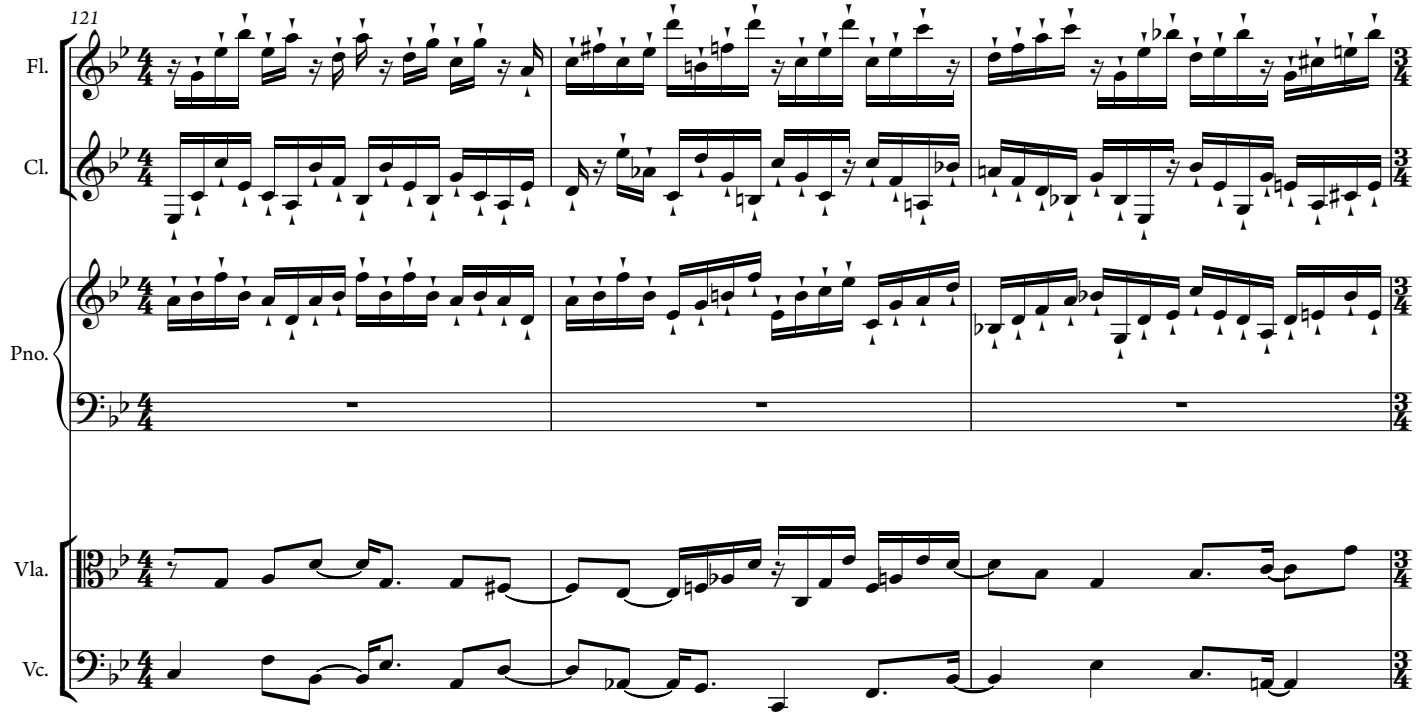

G
100
Cl.
Crot.
gliss.
Pno.
G
Vla.
Vc.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.

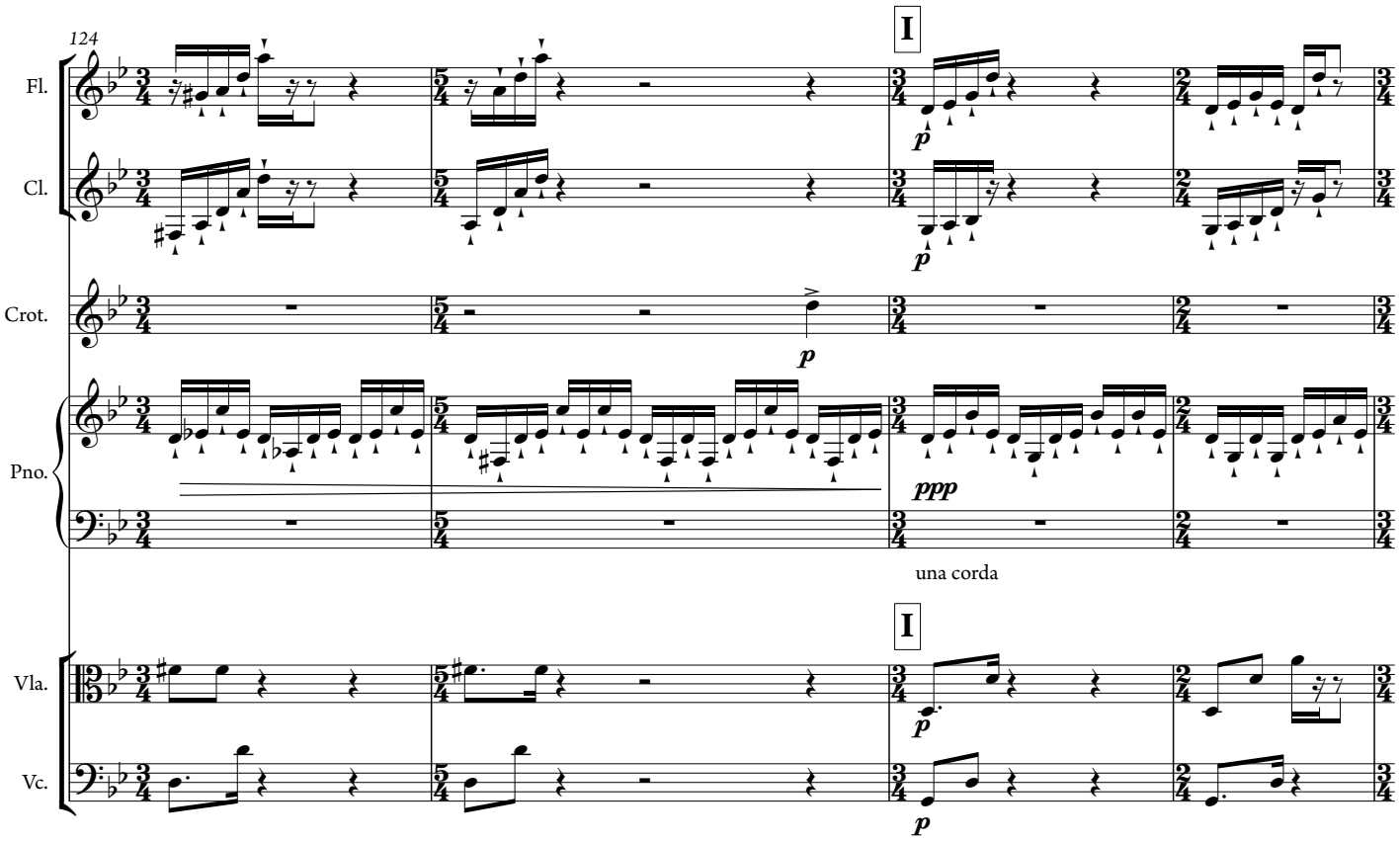
103
Fl.
Cl.
Partially submerge D4 in water to play C♯
Crot.
gliss.
Pno.
sempre p
Vla.
Vc.
gliss.
pizz.
mf
mf
mf
106
Fl.
Cl.
Crot.
Pno.
Vla.
Vc.
mf
fade out
pp

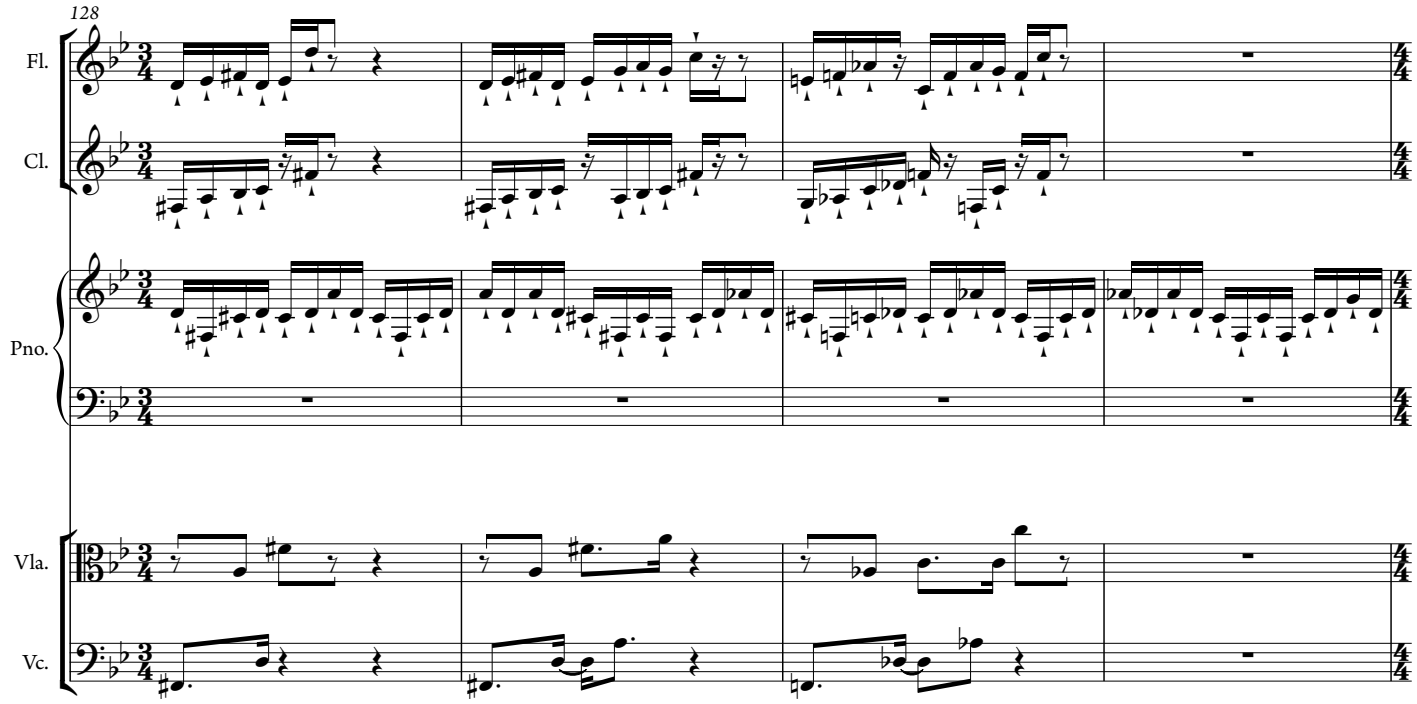

109
H
Fl.
Cl.
Crot.
Pno.
Vla.
Vc.
mf
f
sempre p
pizz.

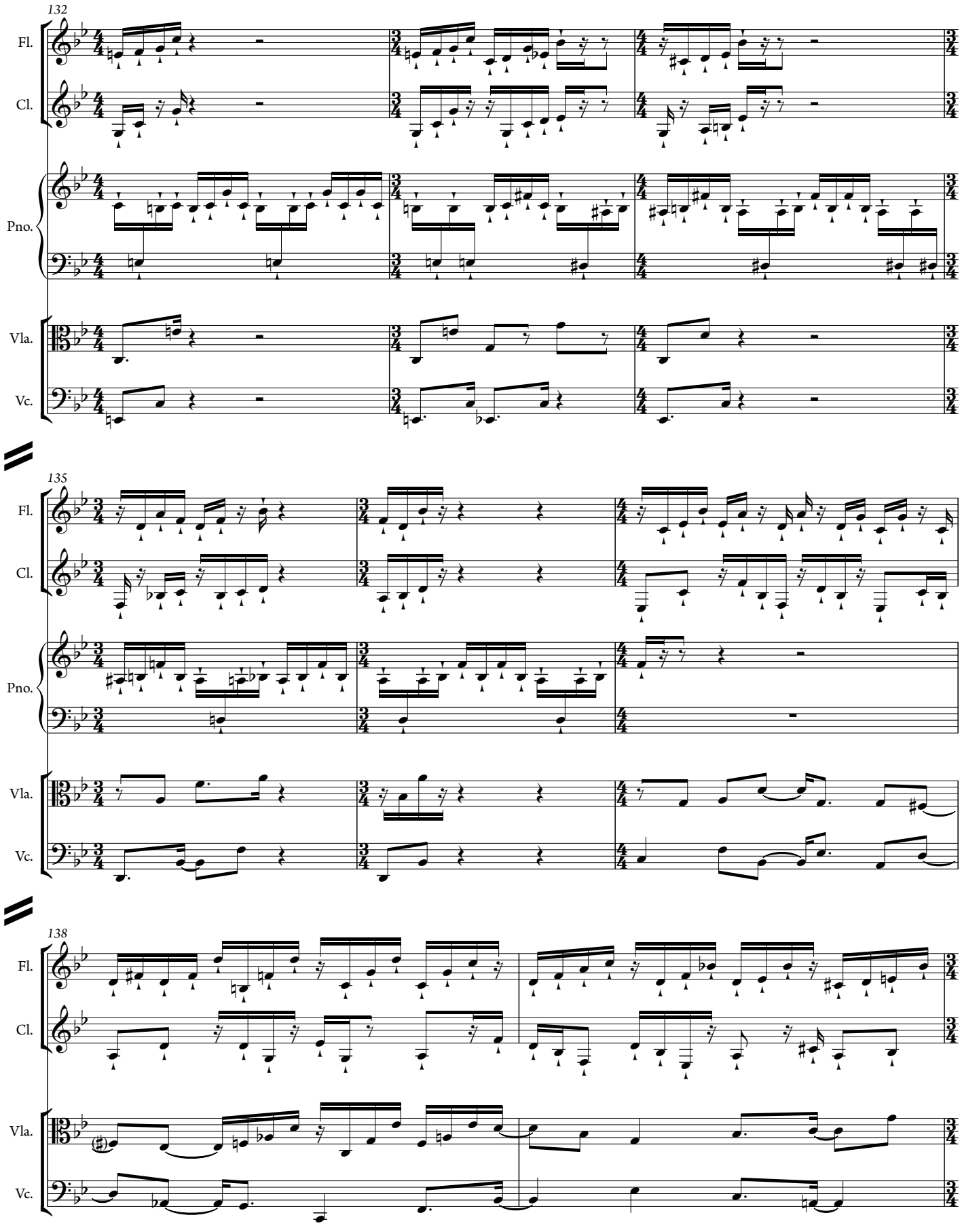

113
Fl.
Cl.
Crot.
Pno.
Vla.
Vc.
gliss.

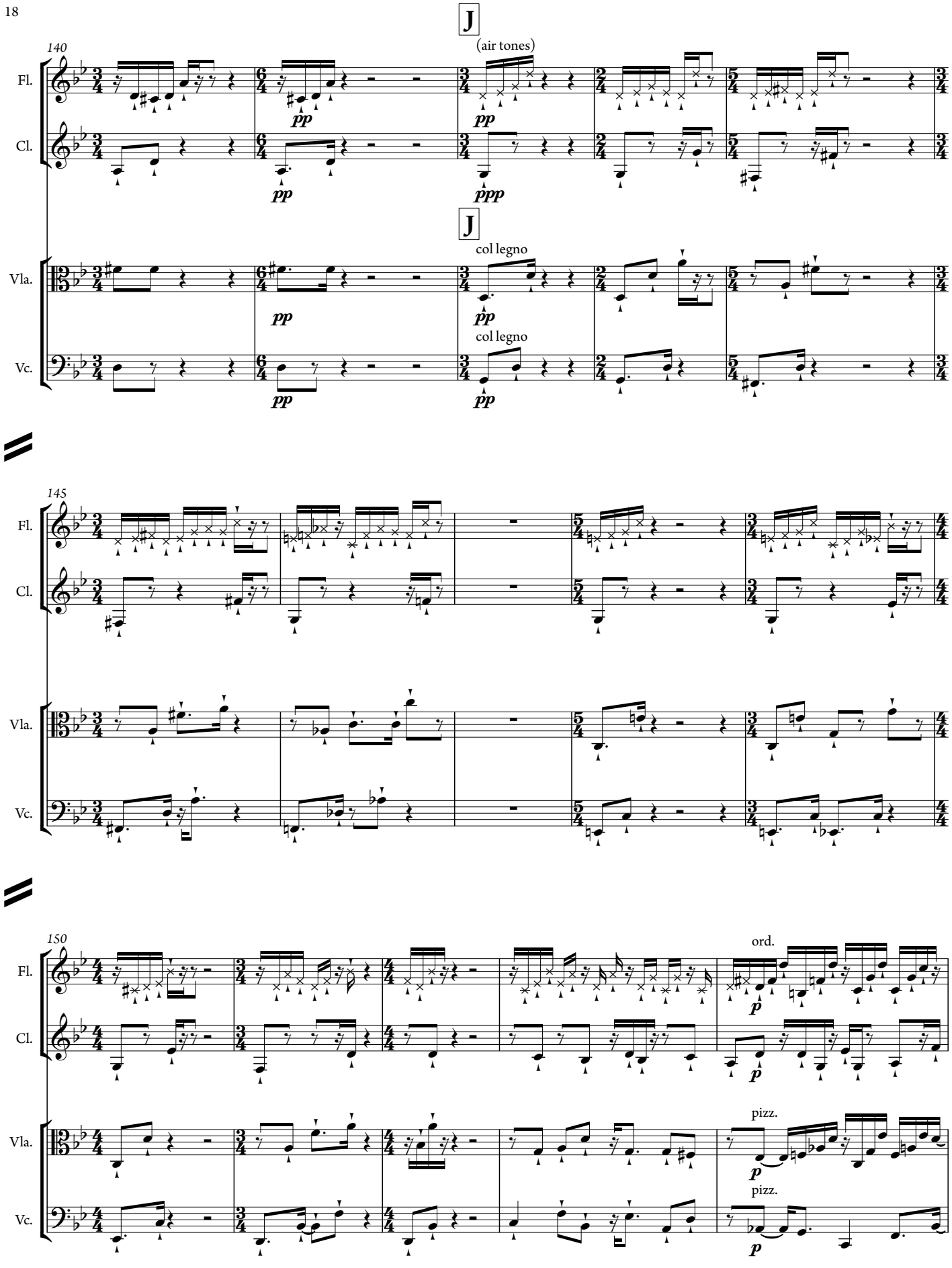

117
Fl.
Cl.
Crot.
Pno.
Vla.
Vc.

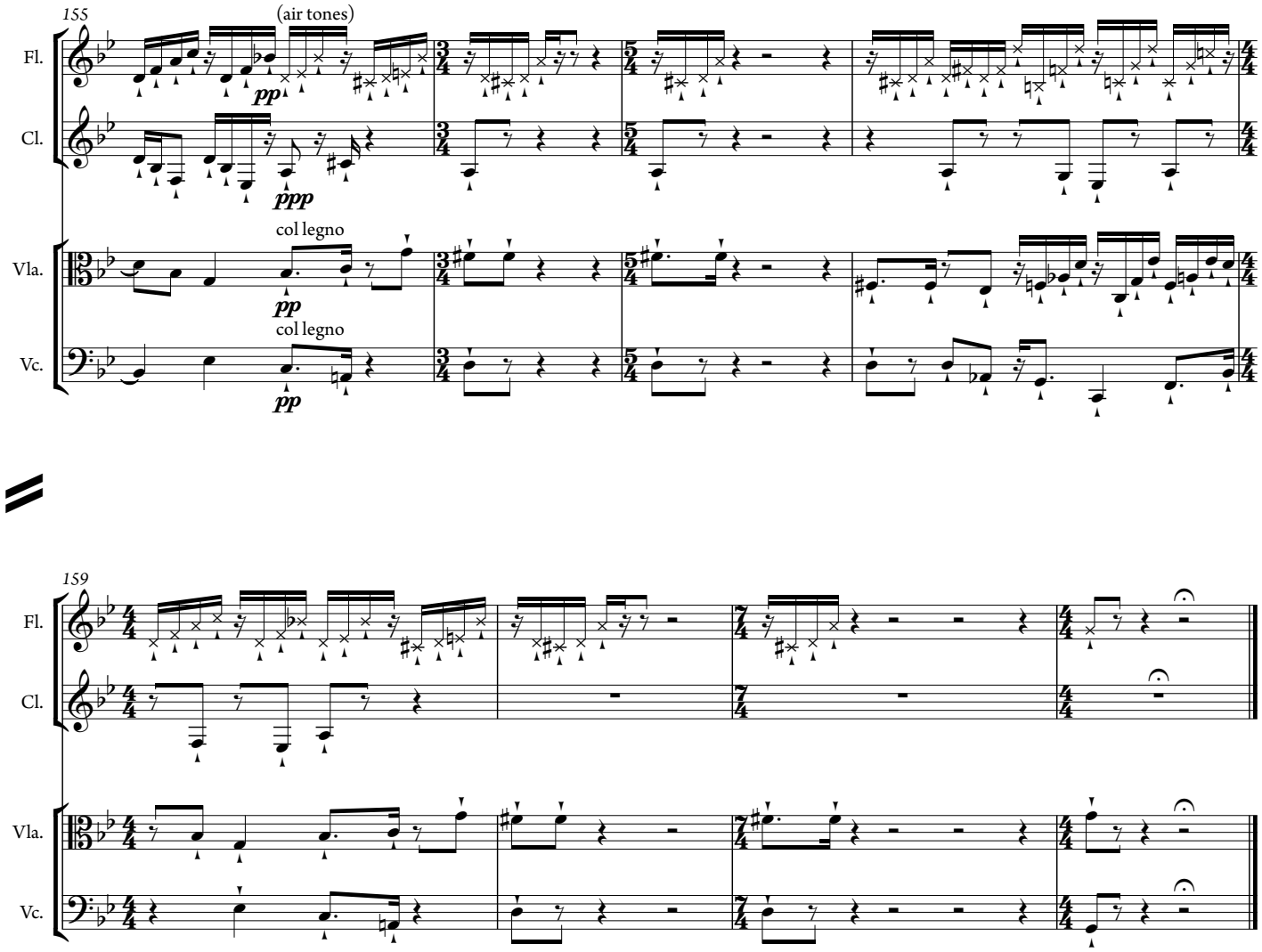

121
Fl.
Cl.
Pno.
Vla.
Vc.


124
I
Fl.
Cl.
Crot.
Pno.
una corda
Vla.
Vc.


128
Fl.
Cl.
Pno.
Vla.
Vc.


132
Fl.
Cl.
Pno.
Vla.
Vc.
135
Fl.
Cl.
Pno.
Vla.
Vc.
138
Fl.
Cl.
Vla.
Vc.


J
(air tones)
140
Fl.
Cl.
pp
ppp
J
col legno
Vla.
Vc.
145
150
ord.
pizz.
p


155
(air tones)
Fl.
pp
Cl.
ppp
col legno
Vla.
pp
col legno
Vc.
pp

159
Fl.
Cl.
Vla.
Vc.