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Xavier Lo

The Communication of War

(2017)

For
2 Trumpets, Strings
and Percussion

Score in C

Instrumentation

2 Trumpets

Percussion 1 (Bass Drum, Tubular Bells, Crotales)

Percussion 2 (Snare Drum, Vibraphone, Anvil)

Strings (Contrabass with a C string extension)

Programme notes:

The trumpet (and its predecessors) was the one of the main instruments used to communicate between military forces on the battlefield and in camps. This historical use, along with warfare history from the early-20th century, were the inspirations for the design of the composition.

This composition is comprised of four sections to represent the possible stages of a soldier engaging in warfare.

The opening section gives the sense of an upcoming battle, with armies wrestling the challenge of moving under heavy artillery.

The second section represents a soldier that has been injured by the blast of a bomb. The blast wasn't significant enough to cripple him, however he was still knocked down and momentarily paralysed. His disorientation led him witness everything in unclear slow-motion, aside from some brief moments where he could hear his own heartbeat clearly. Eventually, he breaks out of paralysis and continues on with the fight, which leads into the third section.

The third section represents a huge amount environmental damage and almost an endless bloodshed on human life from both sides of battle. There is major amount of firing from heavy weaponry such as tanks, missiles and machine guns. Eventually one side of the battle becomes victorious.

The final section grants a sense of relief, however there is still tension in the air because more battles must be fought before the war is over.

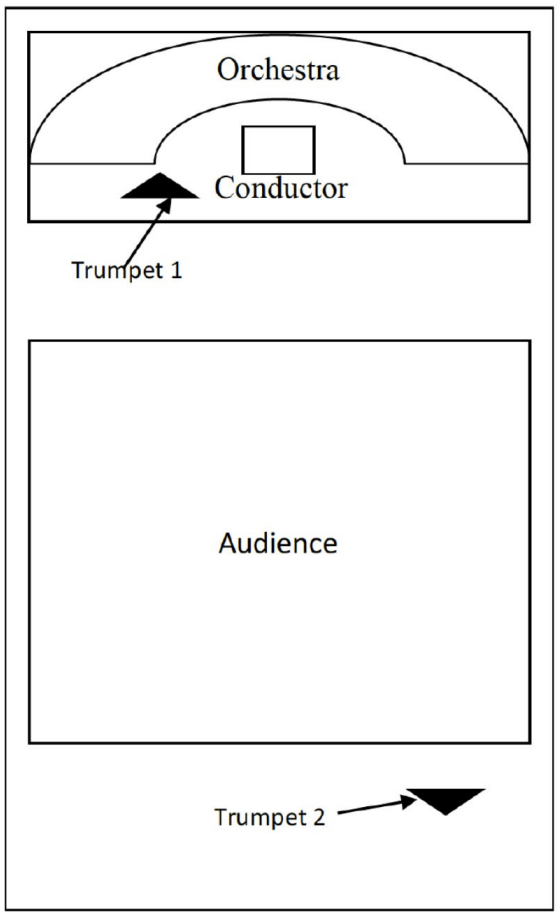
Duration: 6 minutes

Performance notes:

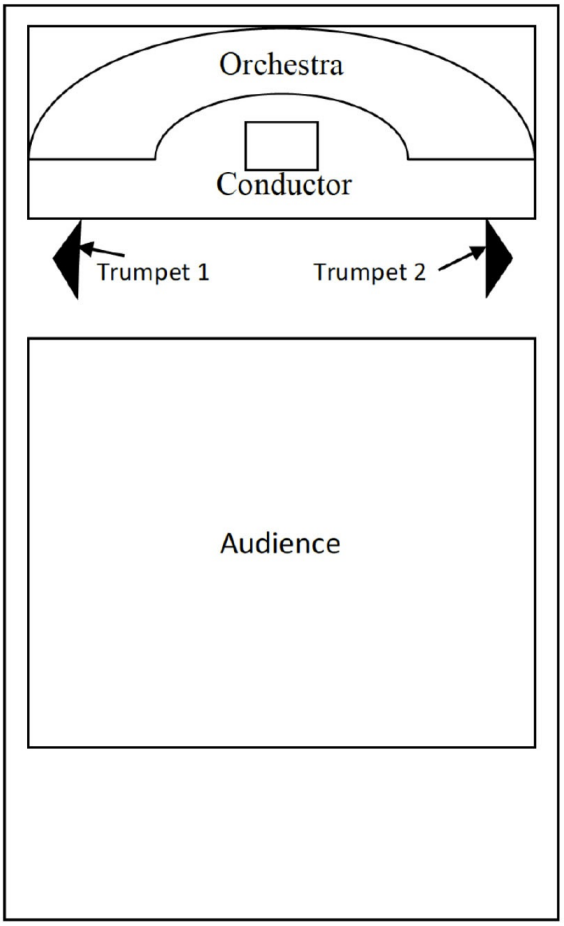
This composition can be staged in two ways. The long side of the triangle represents the direction of the player.

Example 1 shows the ideal staging. This is where the two trumpet players are at a far distance from each other, representing a historical method of military communication through the use of bugles (trumpets). This would also express elements of both confrontation and unity, i.e. the enemy and allies respectively.

Example 2 is how the piece should be staged if **Example 1** is not possible.



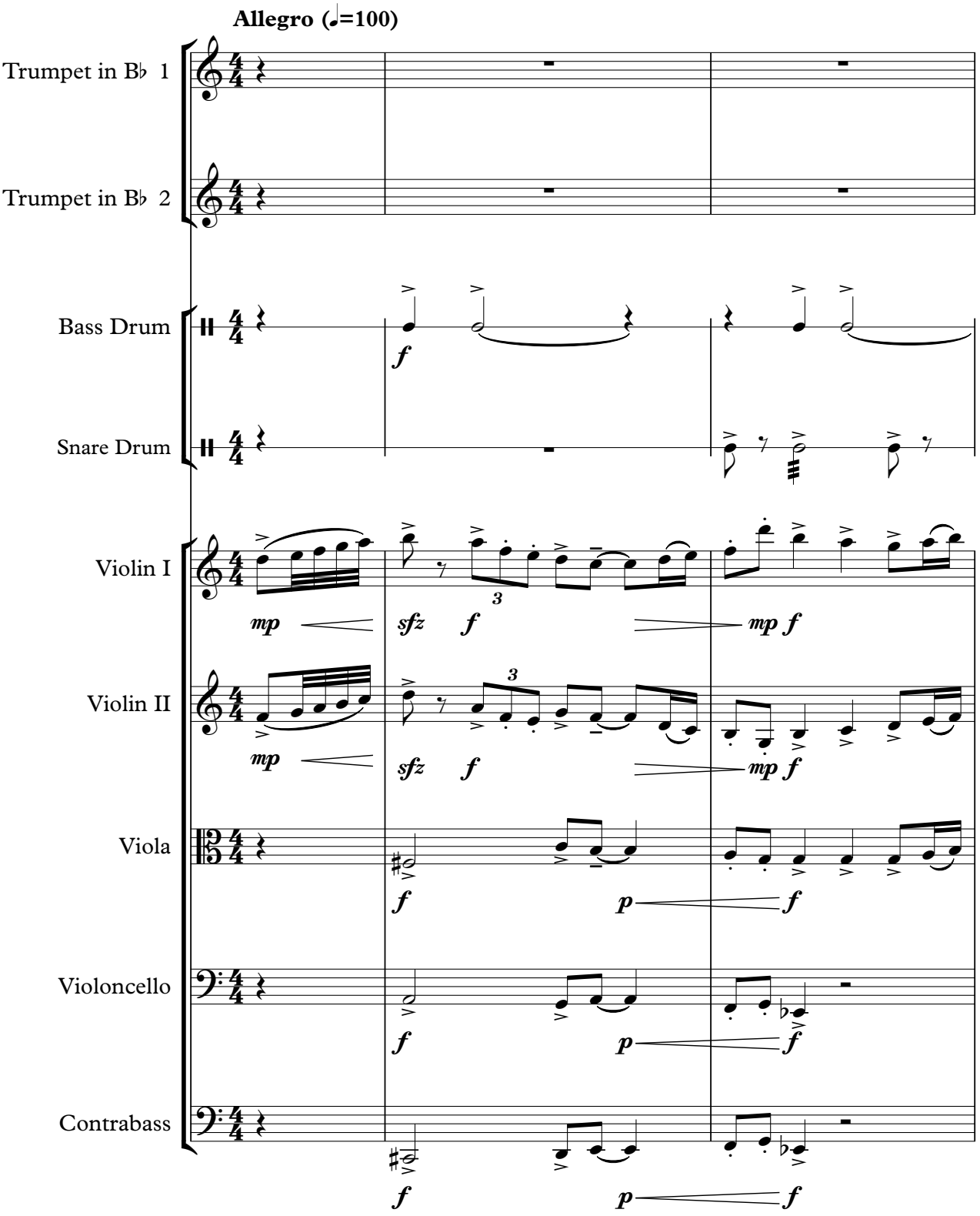
Example 1



Example 2

The Communication of War

Composed by Xavier Lo (1993 -)



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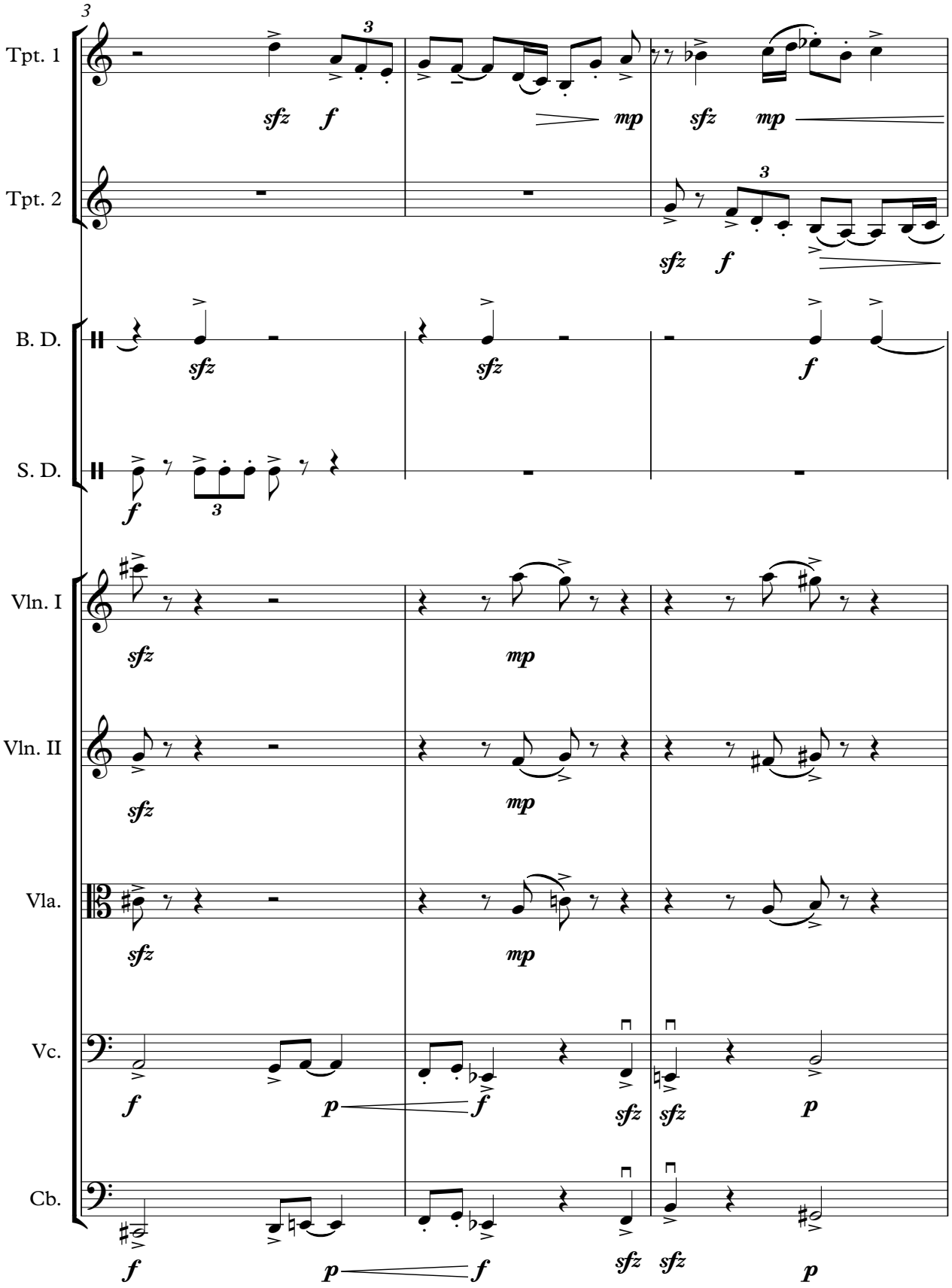

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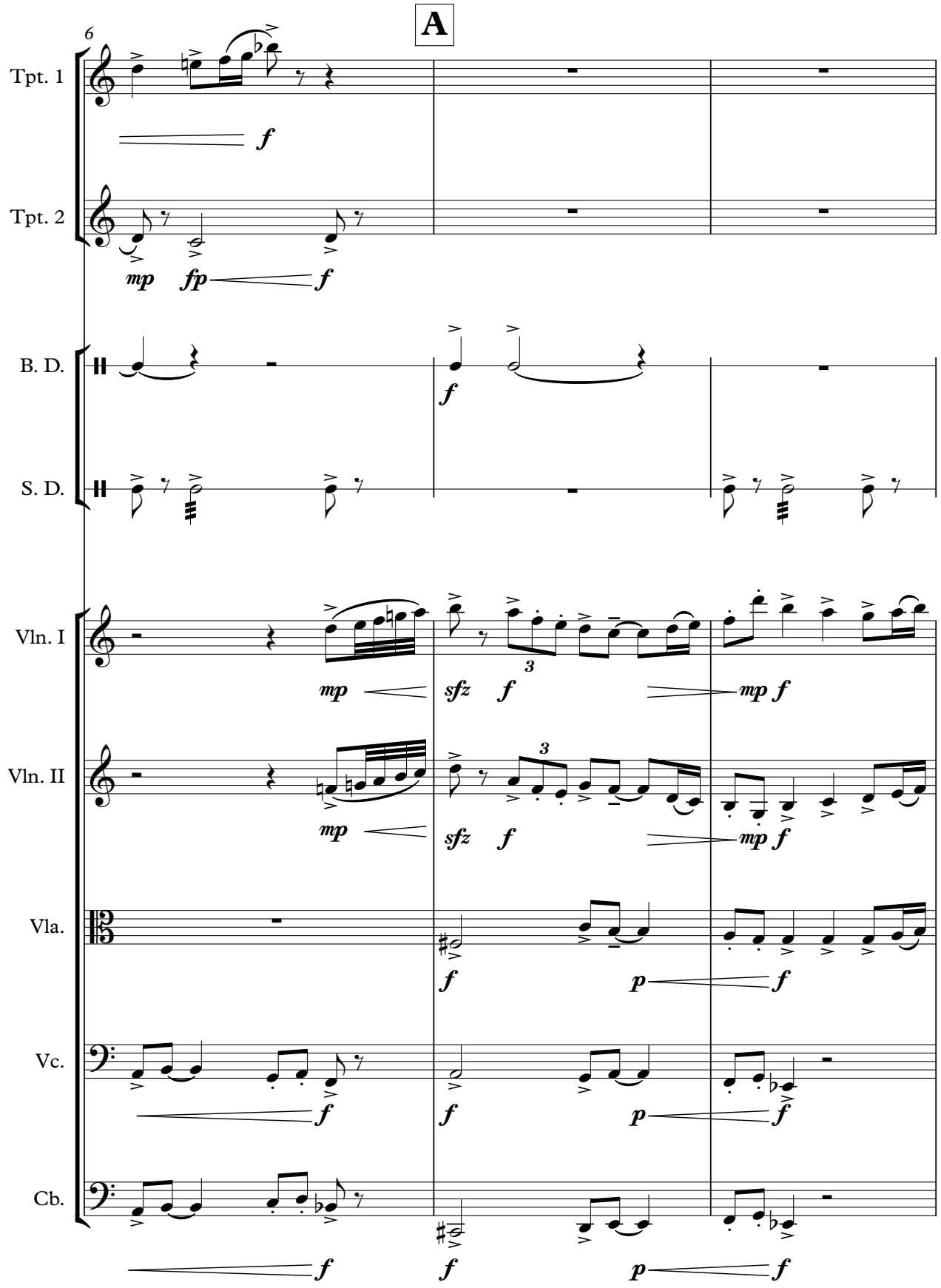

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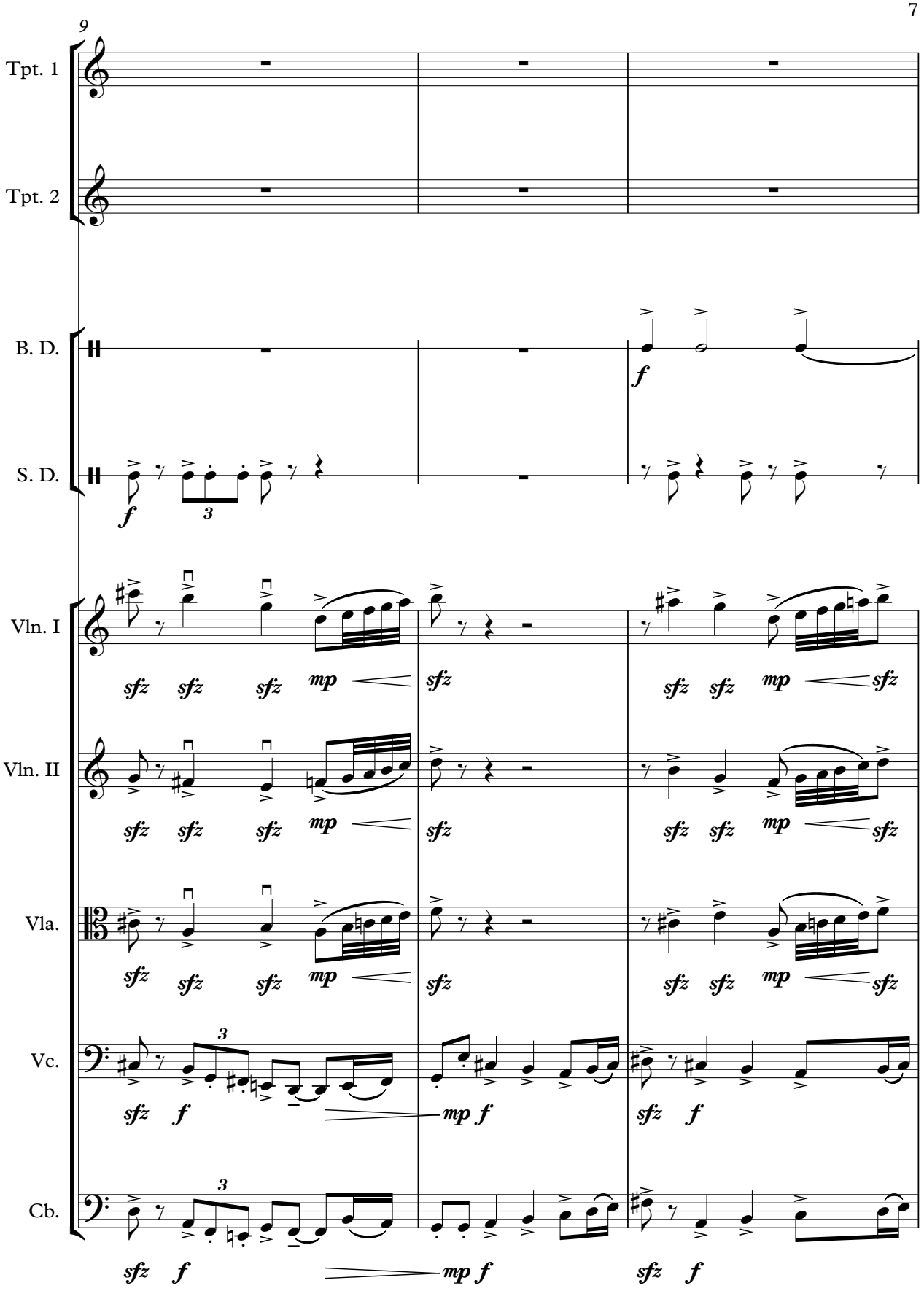

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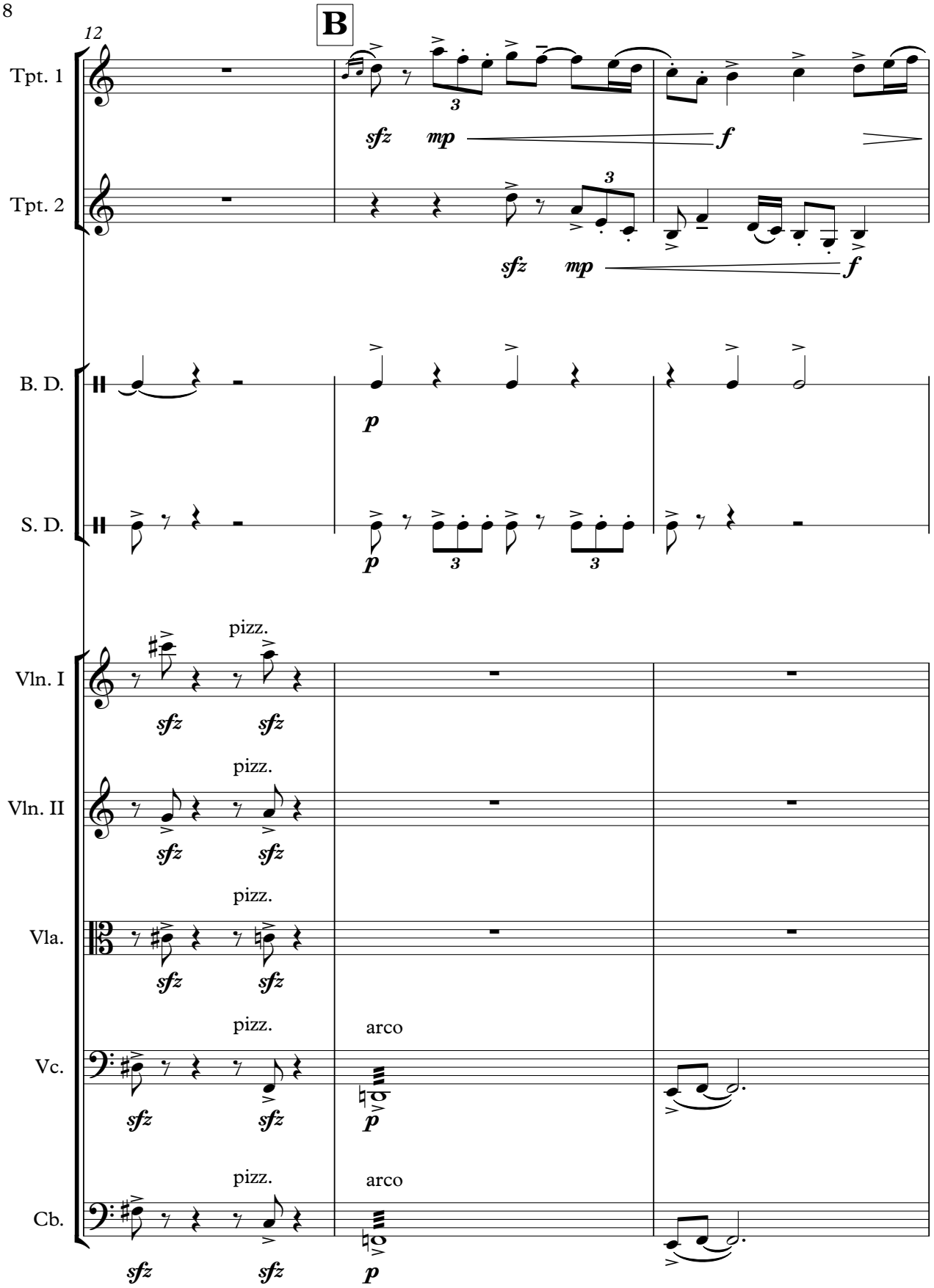

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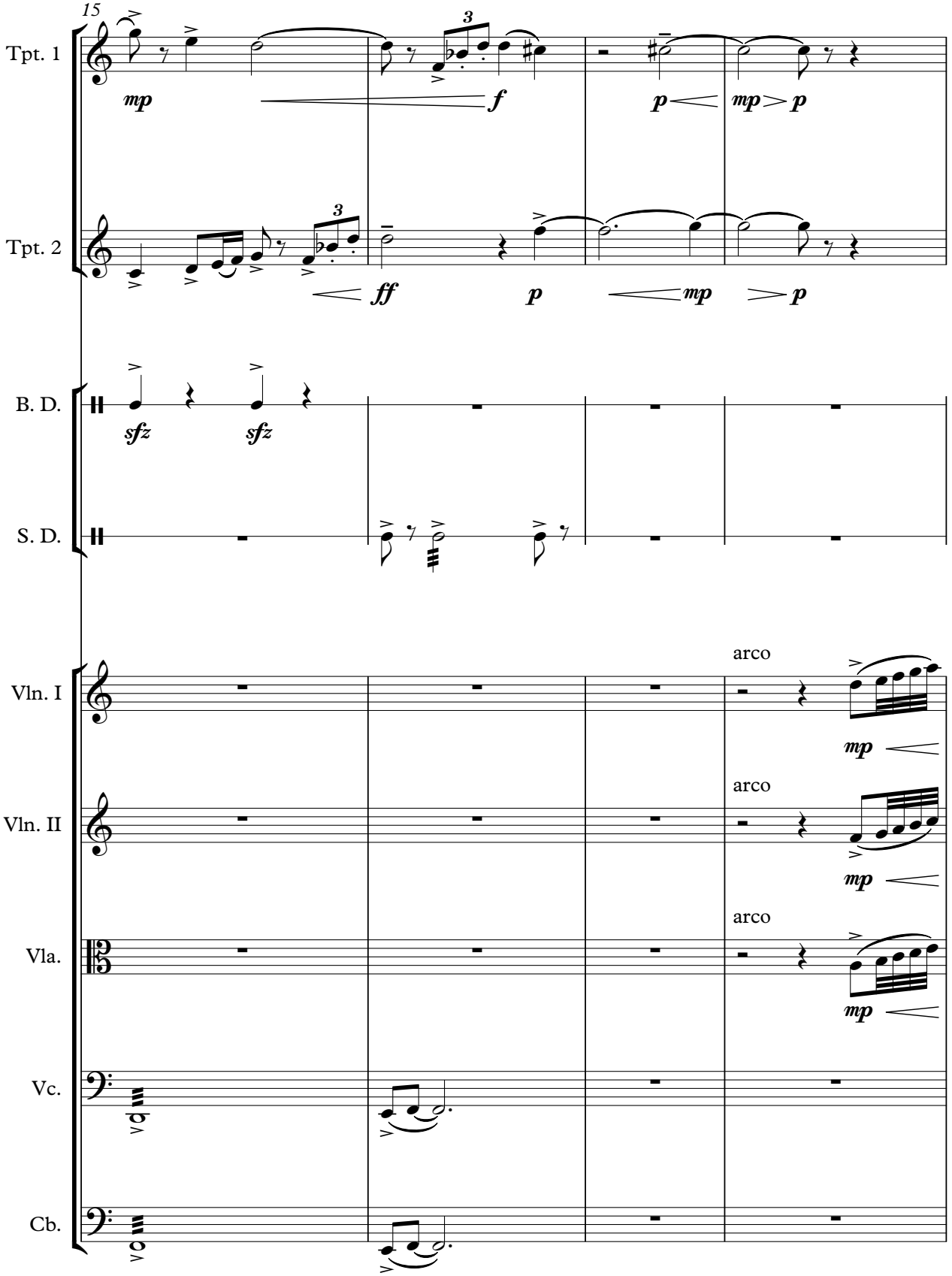

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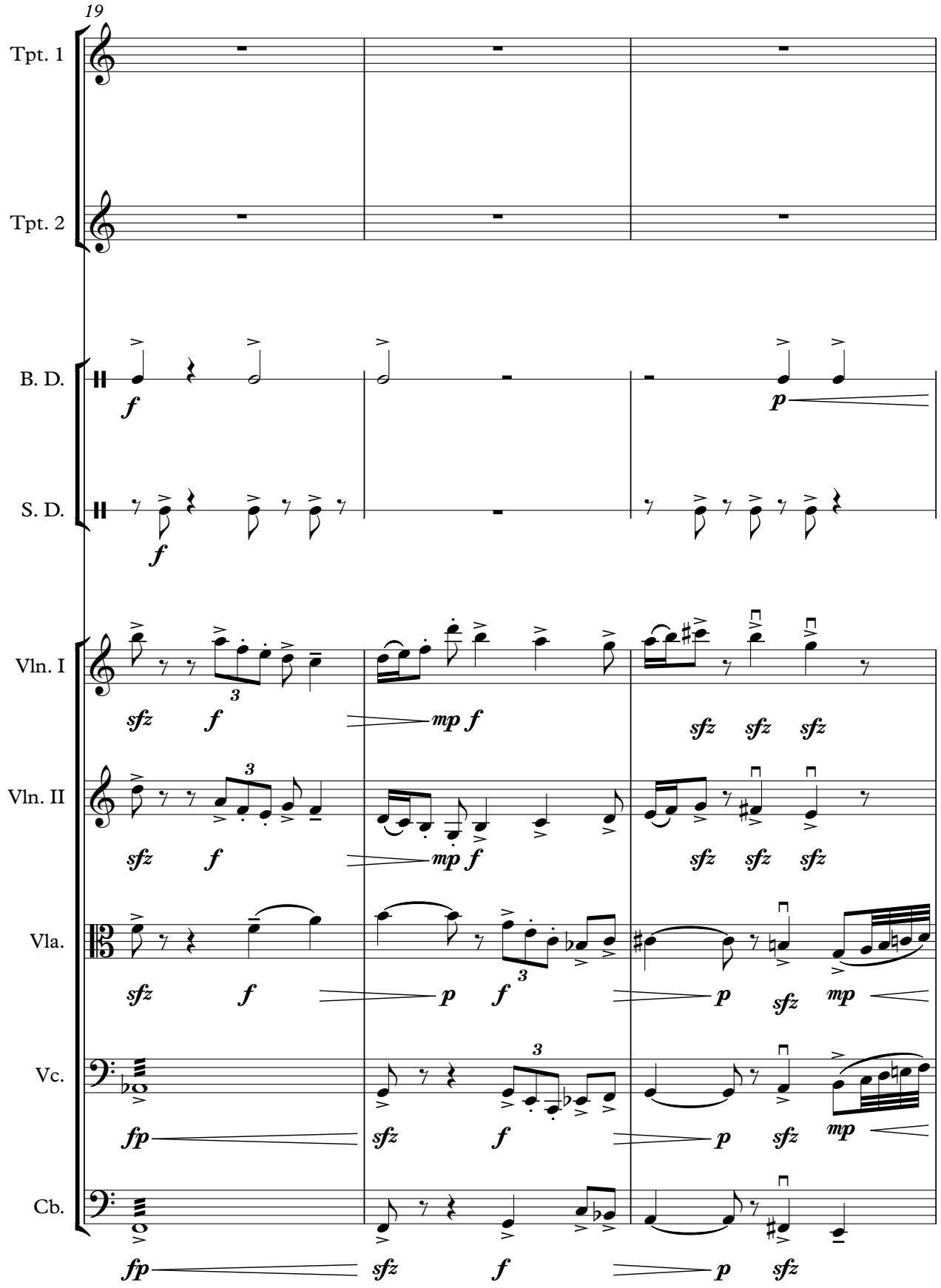

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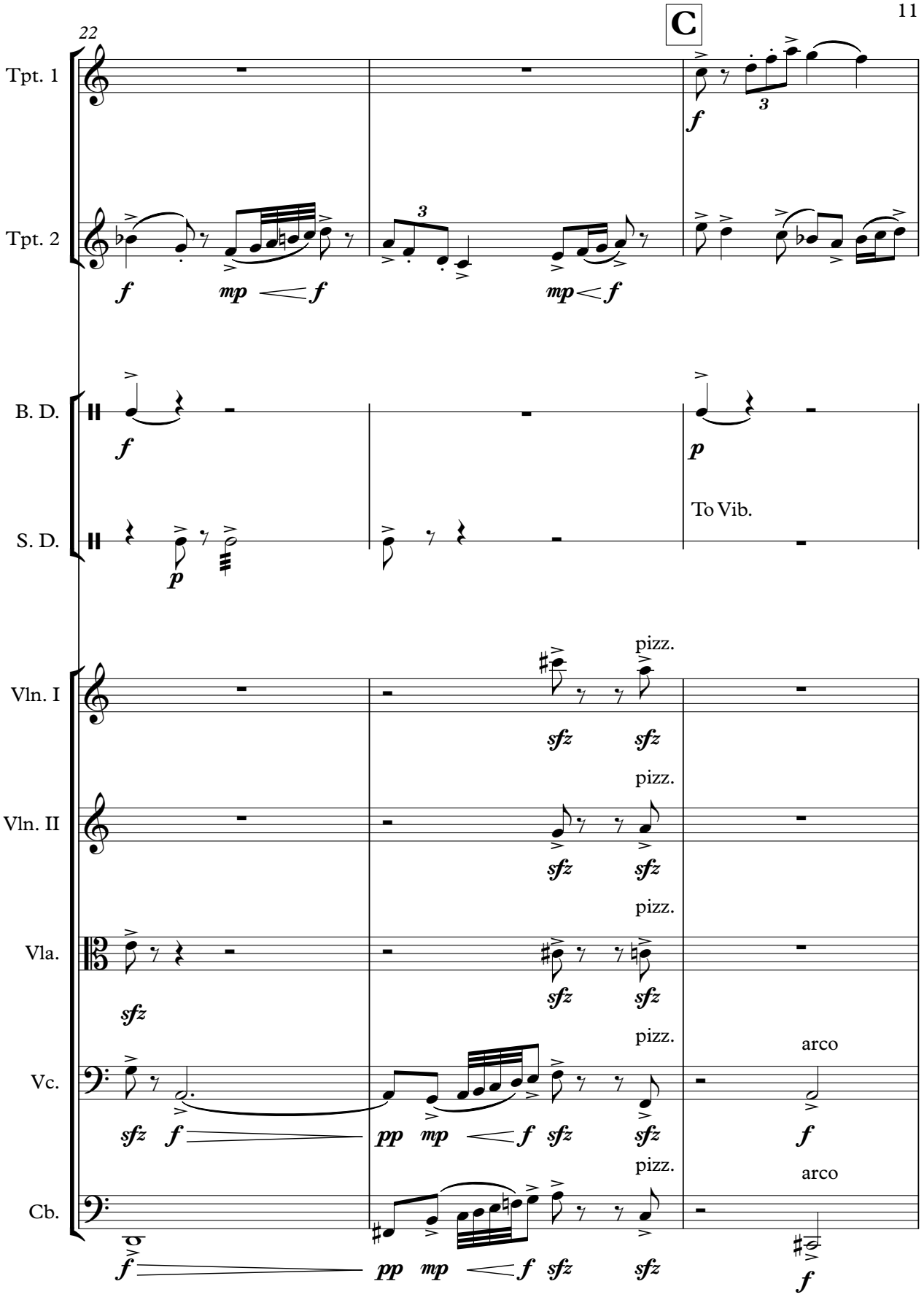

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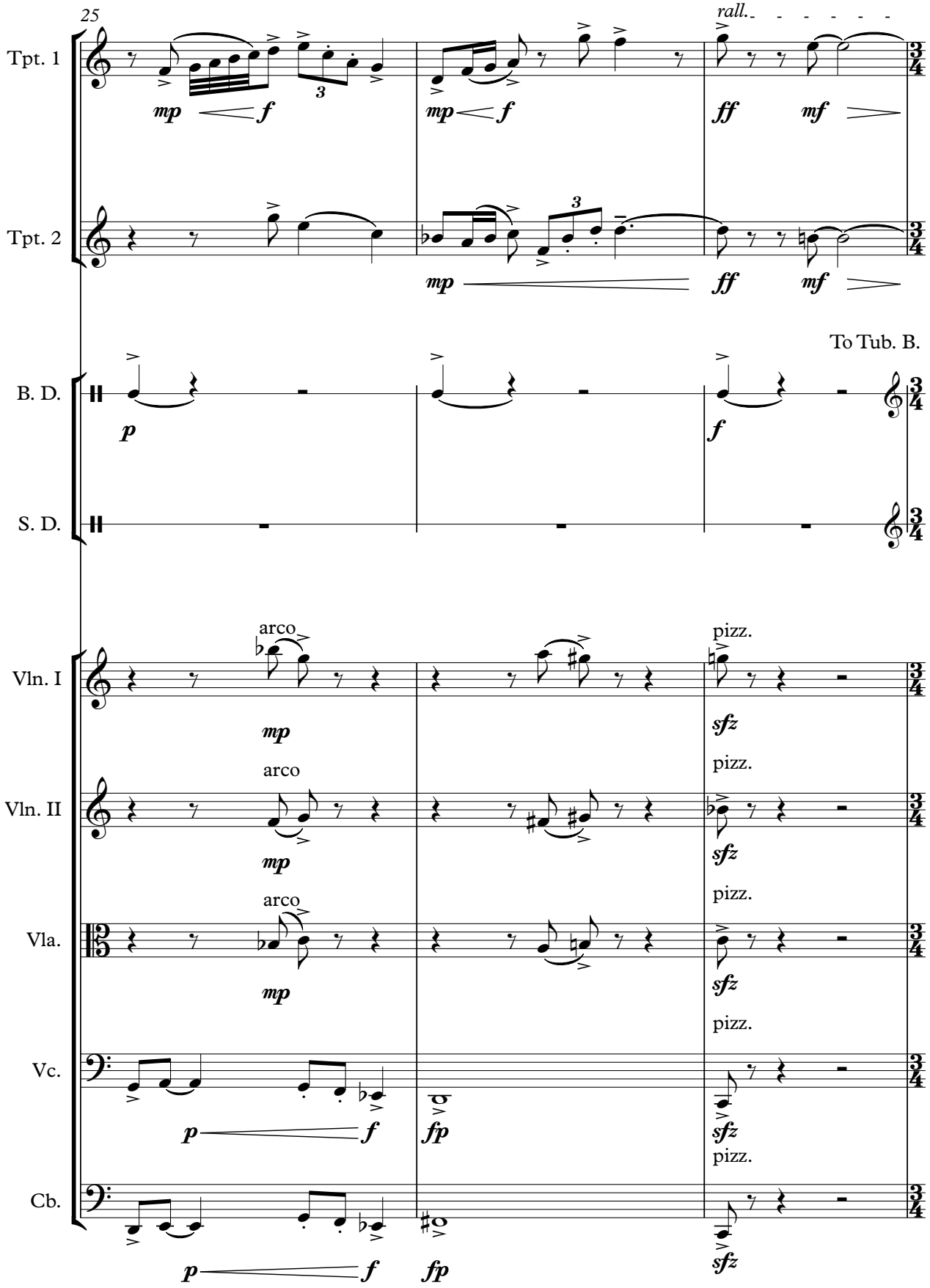

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D

Meno mosso (♩=76)

28

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tubular Bells

Tub. B.

Vibraphone

Vib.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

arco

Cb.

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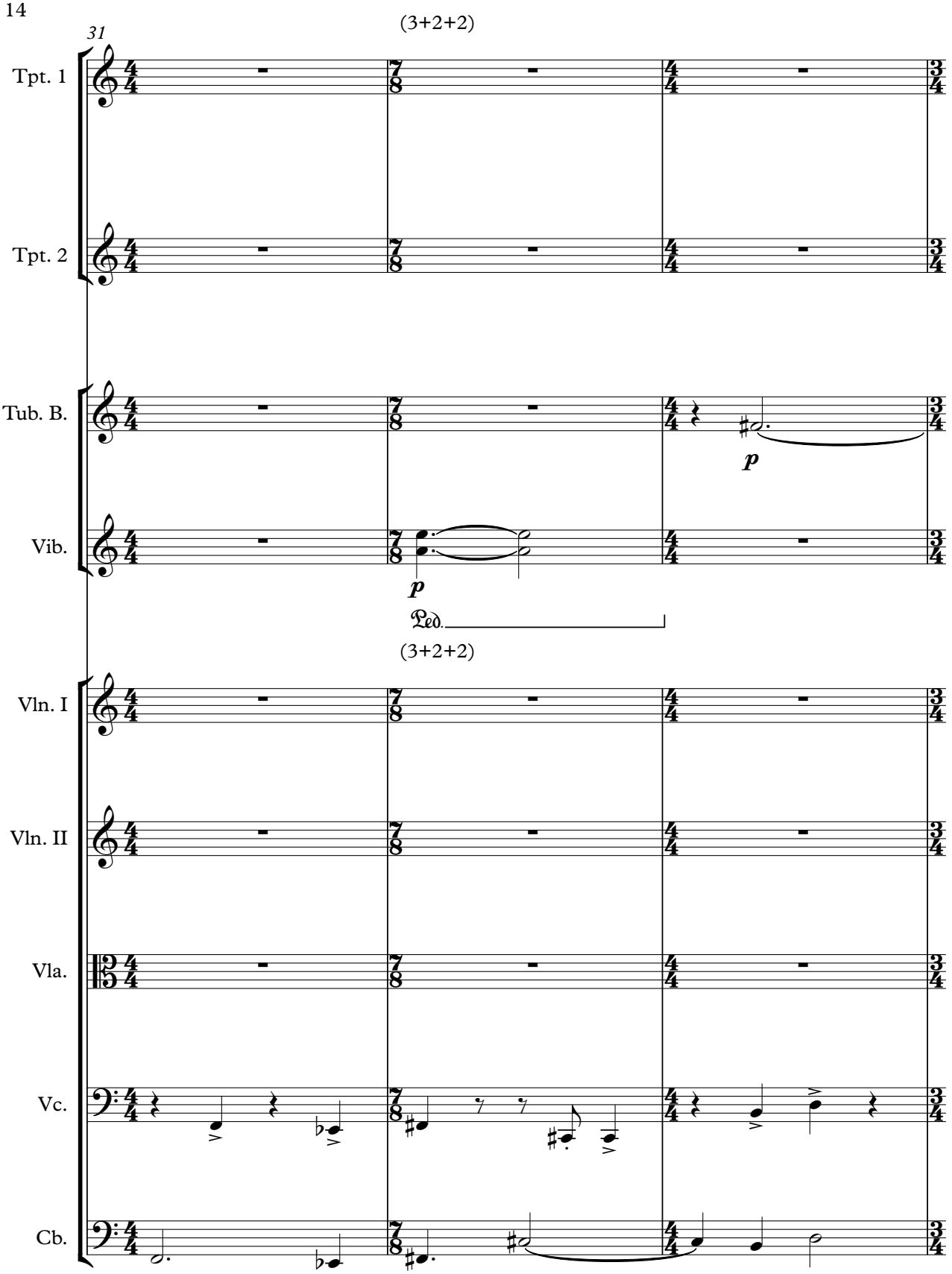

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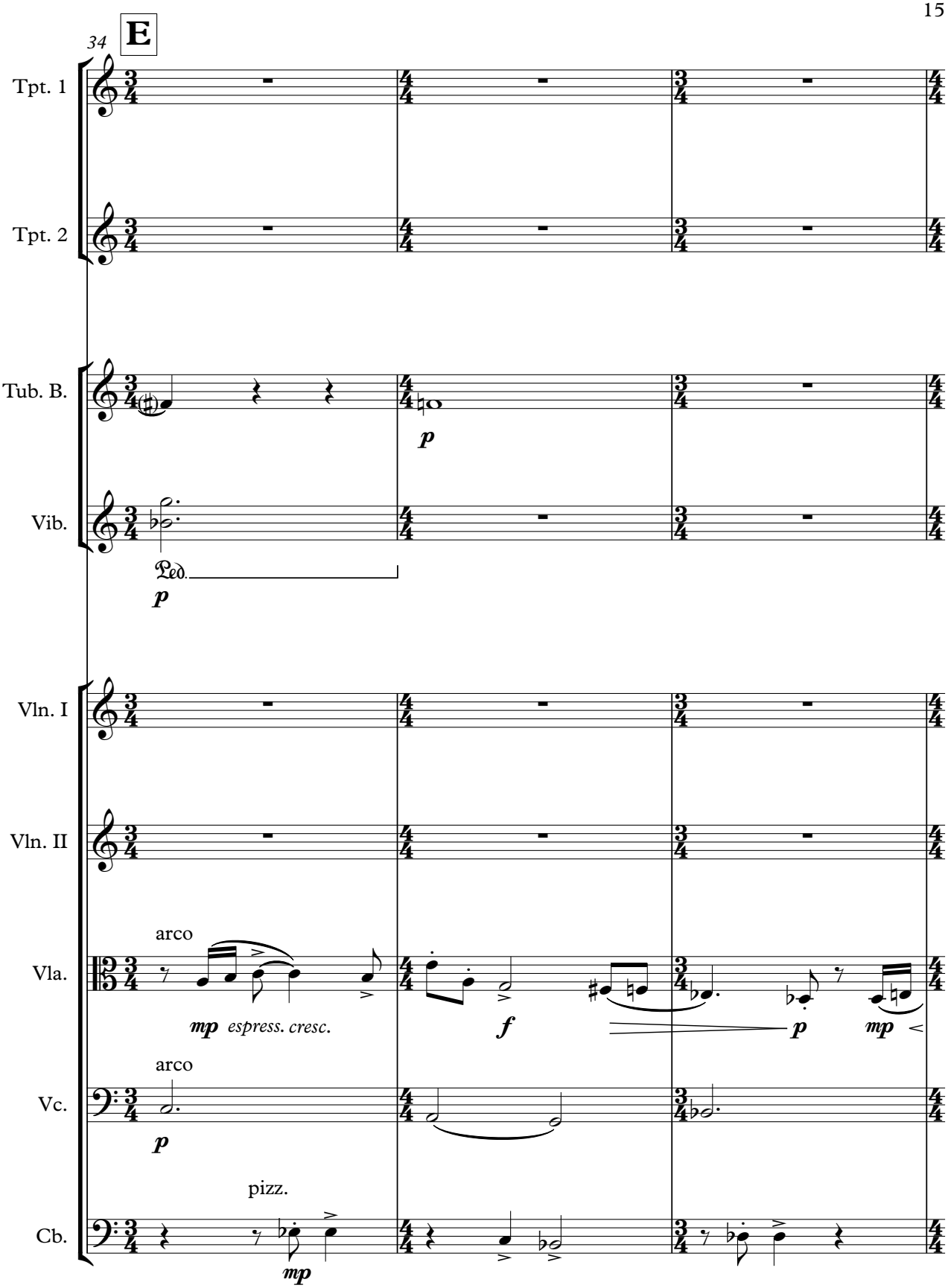

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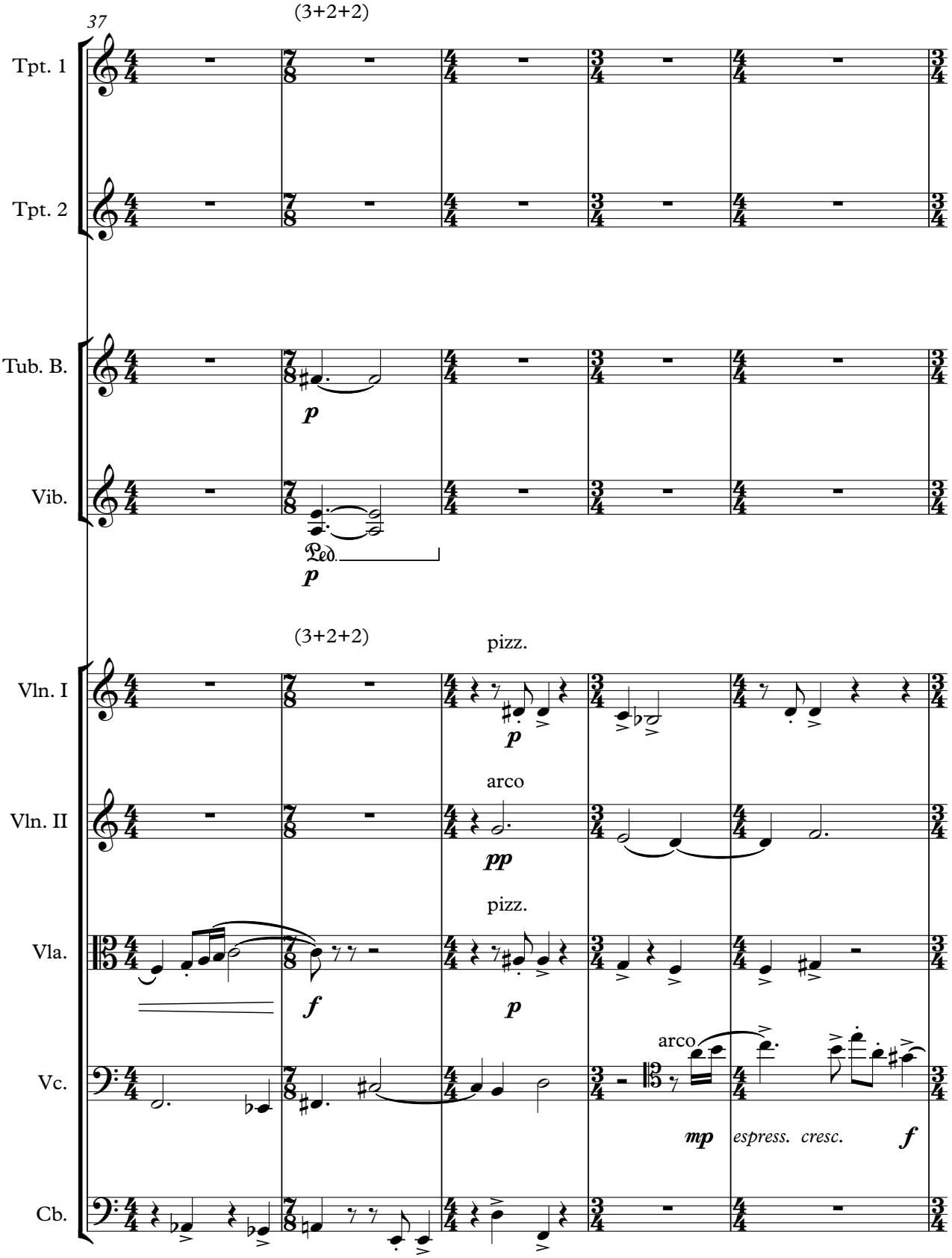

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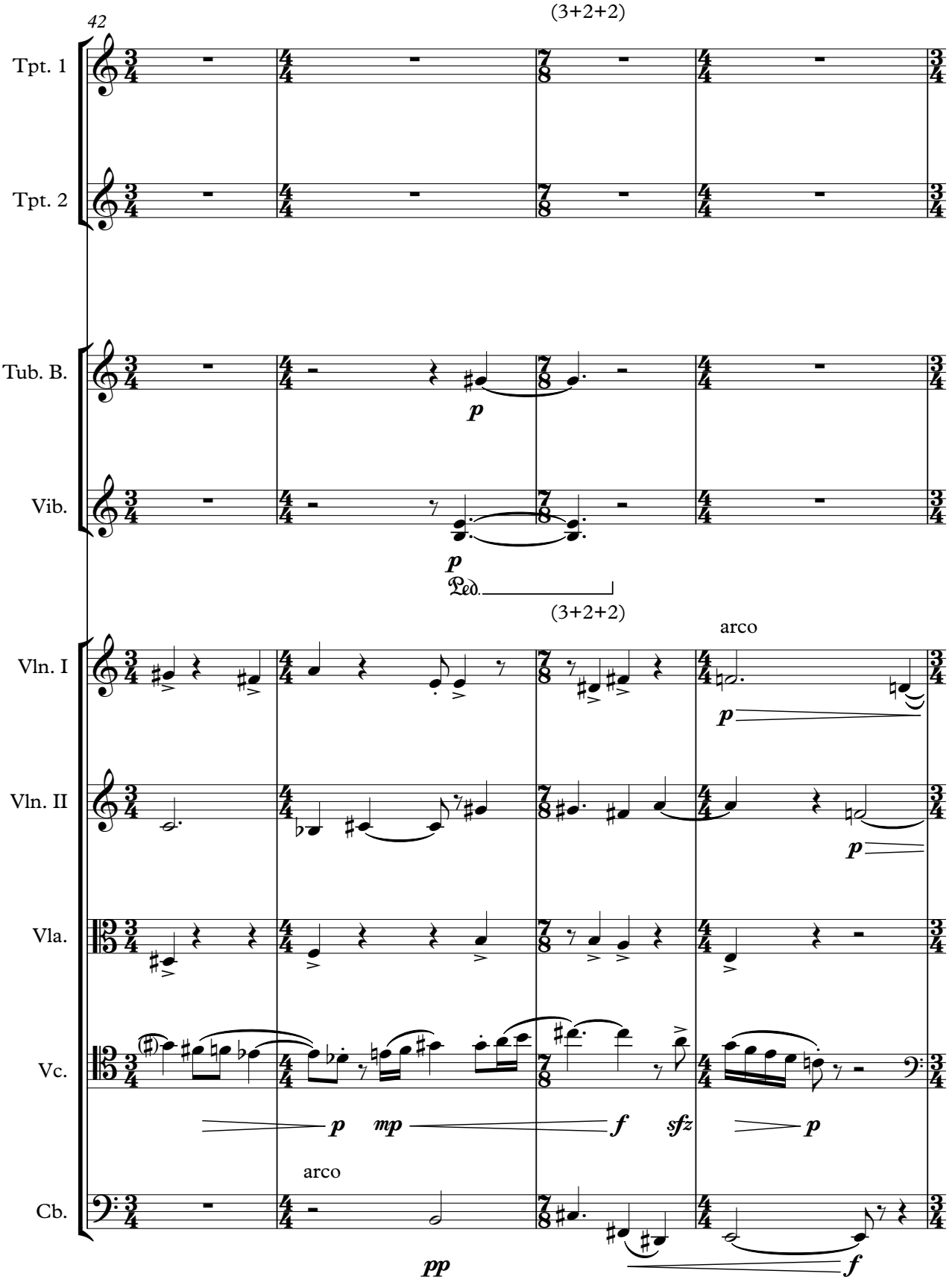

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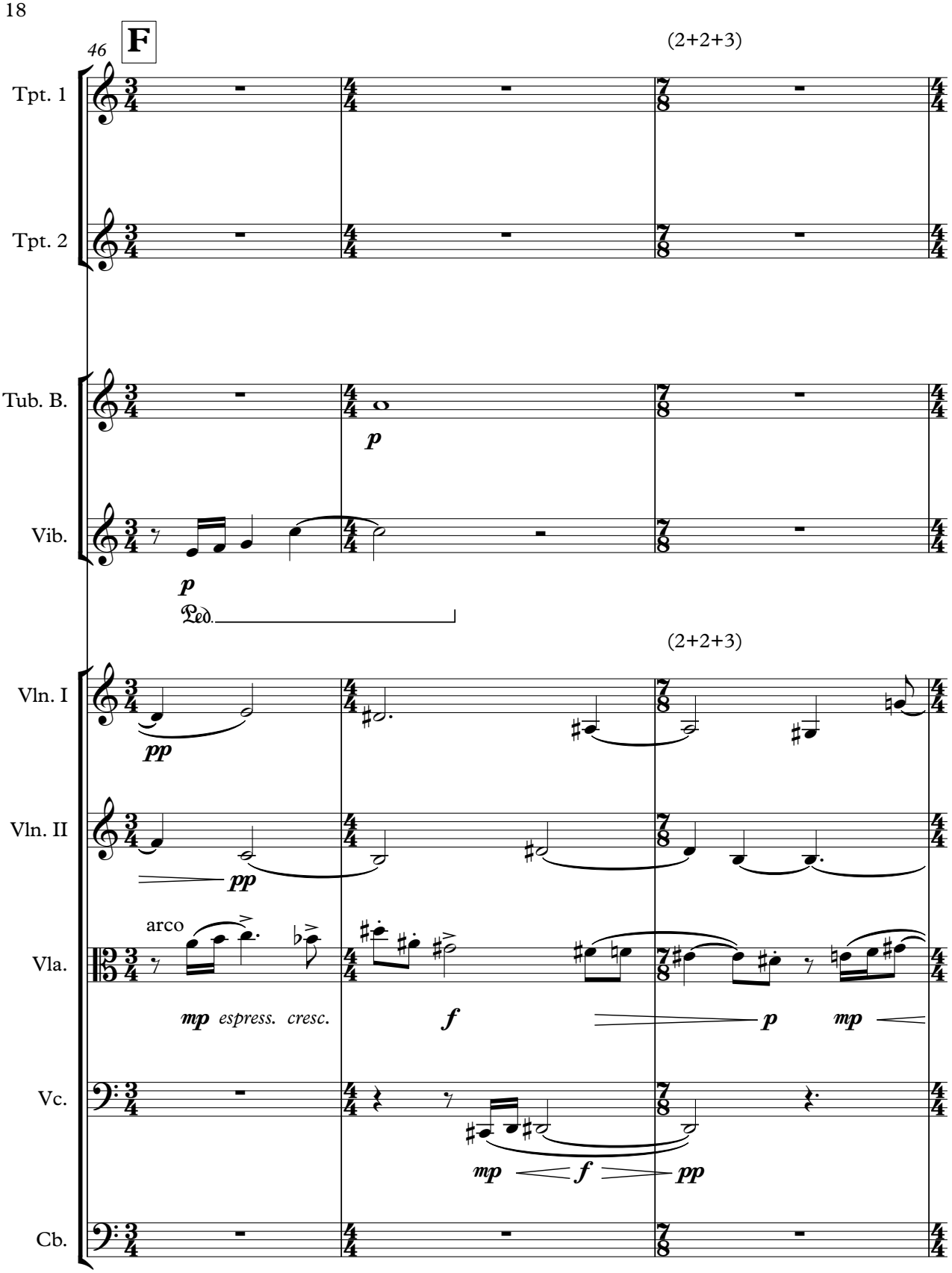

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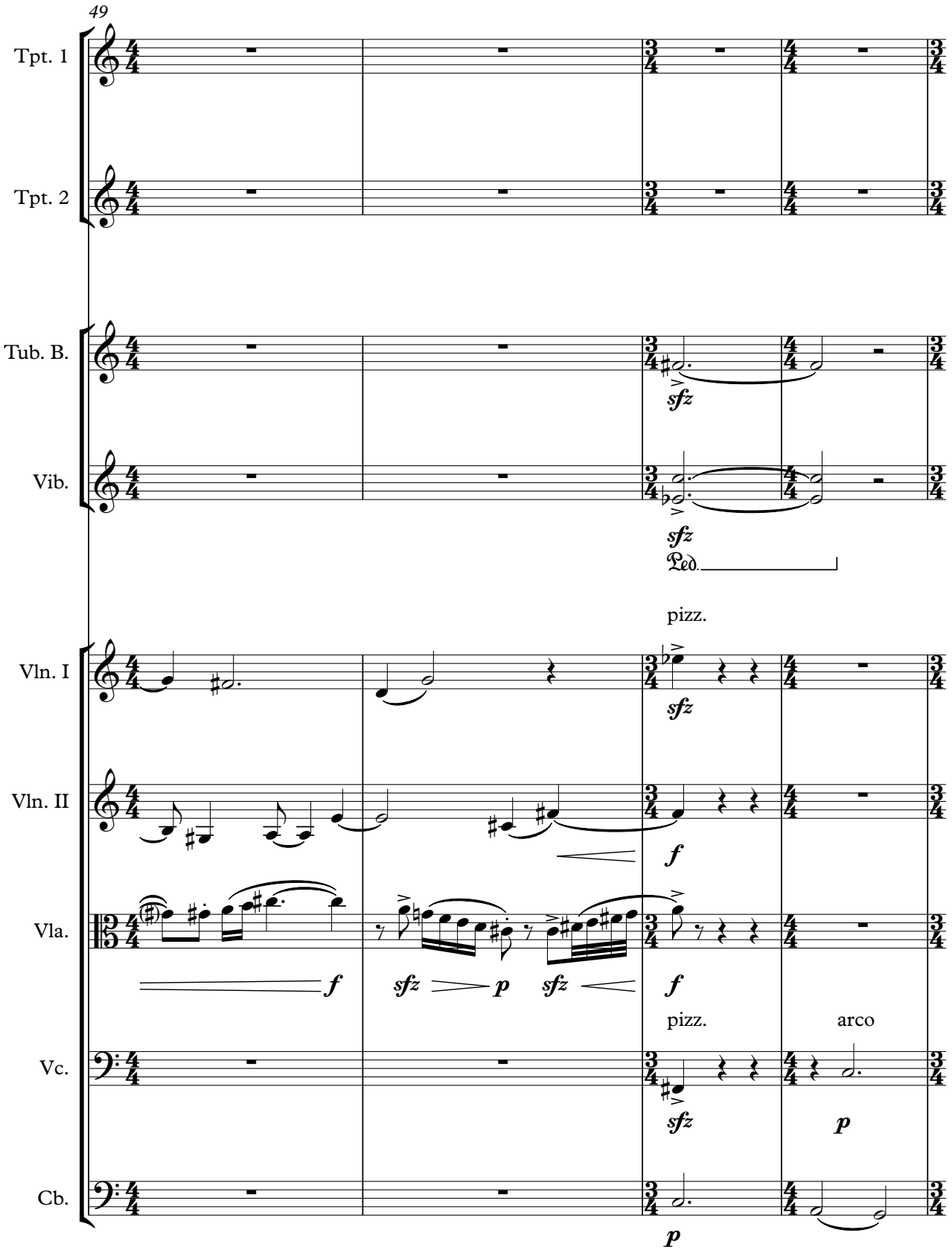

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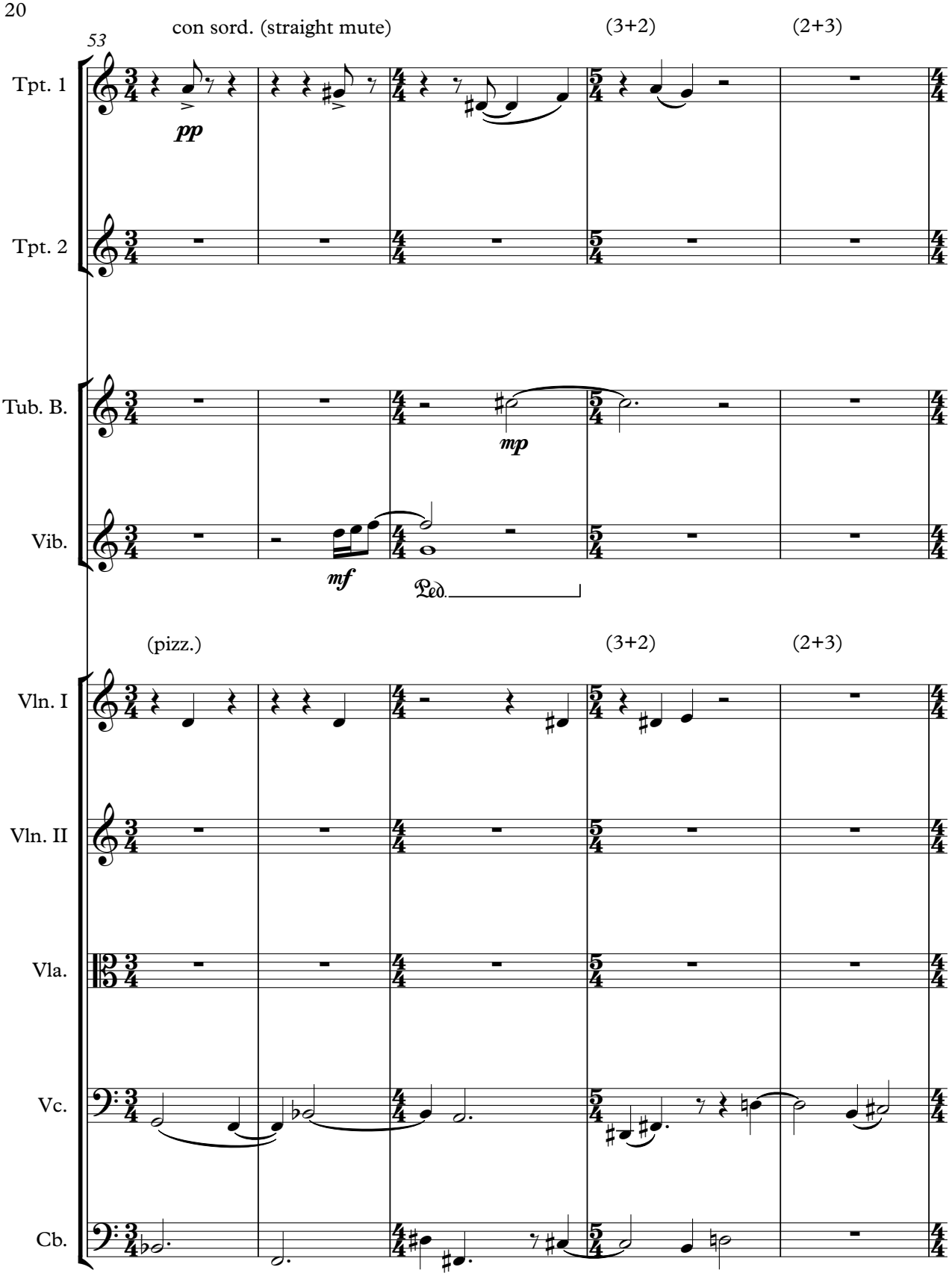

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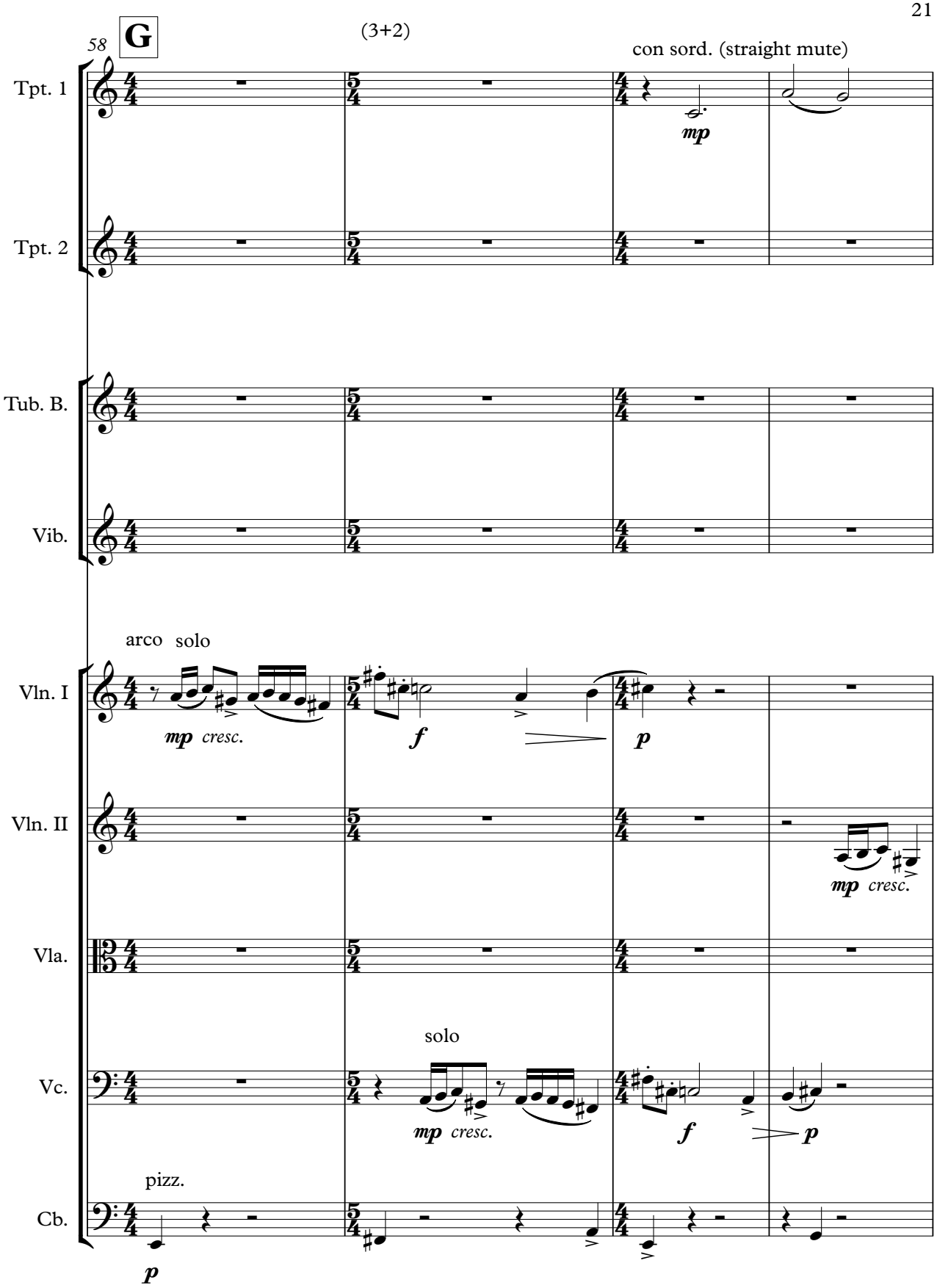

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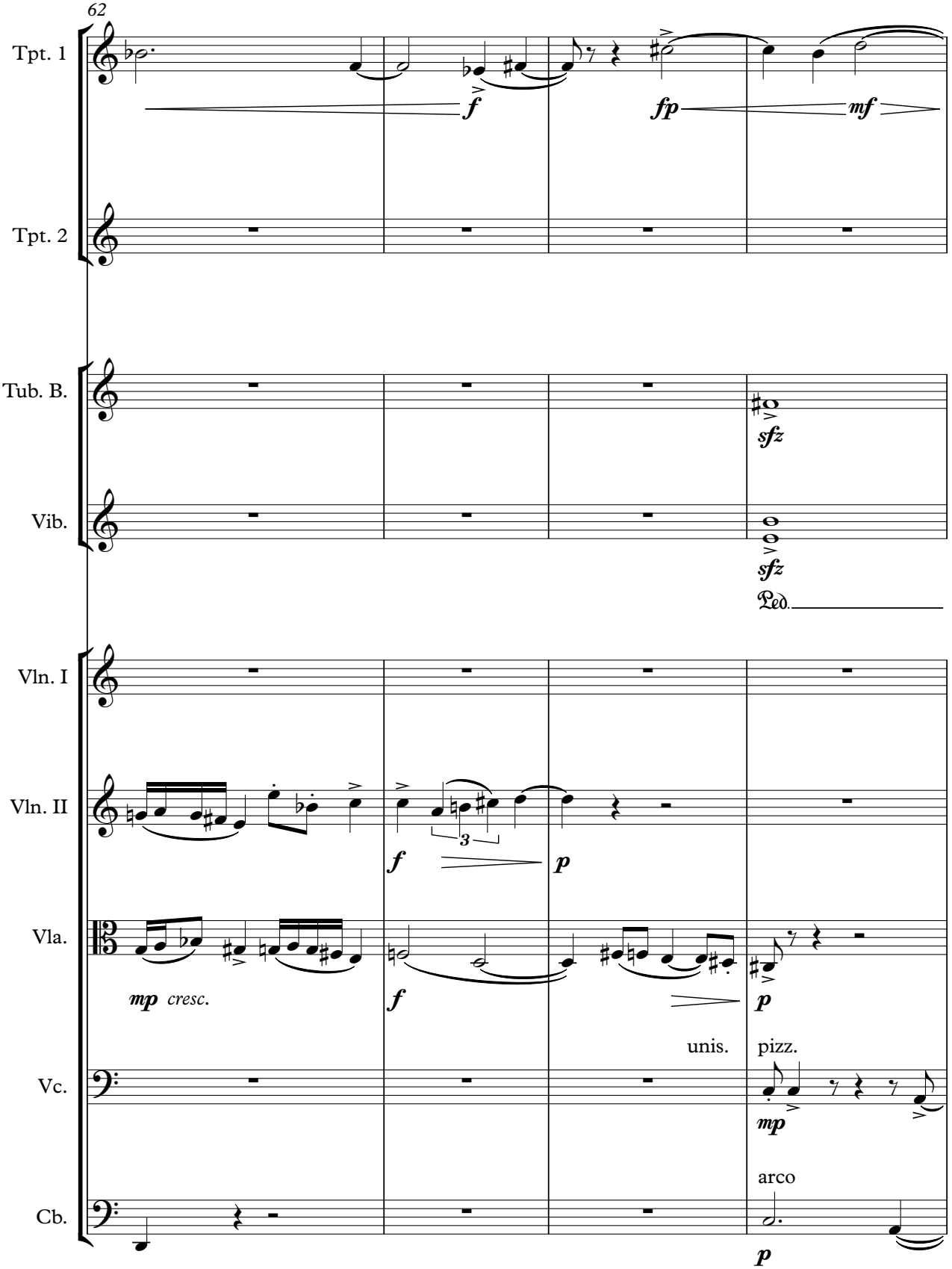

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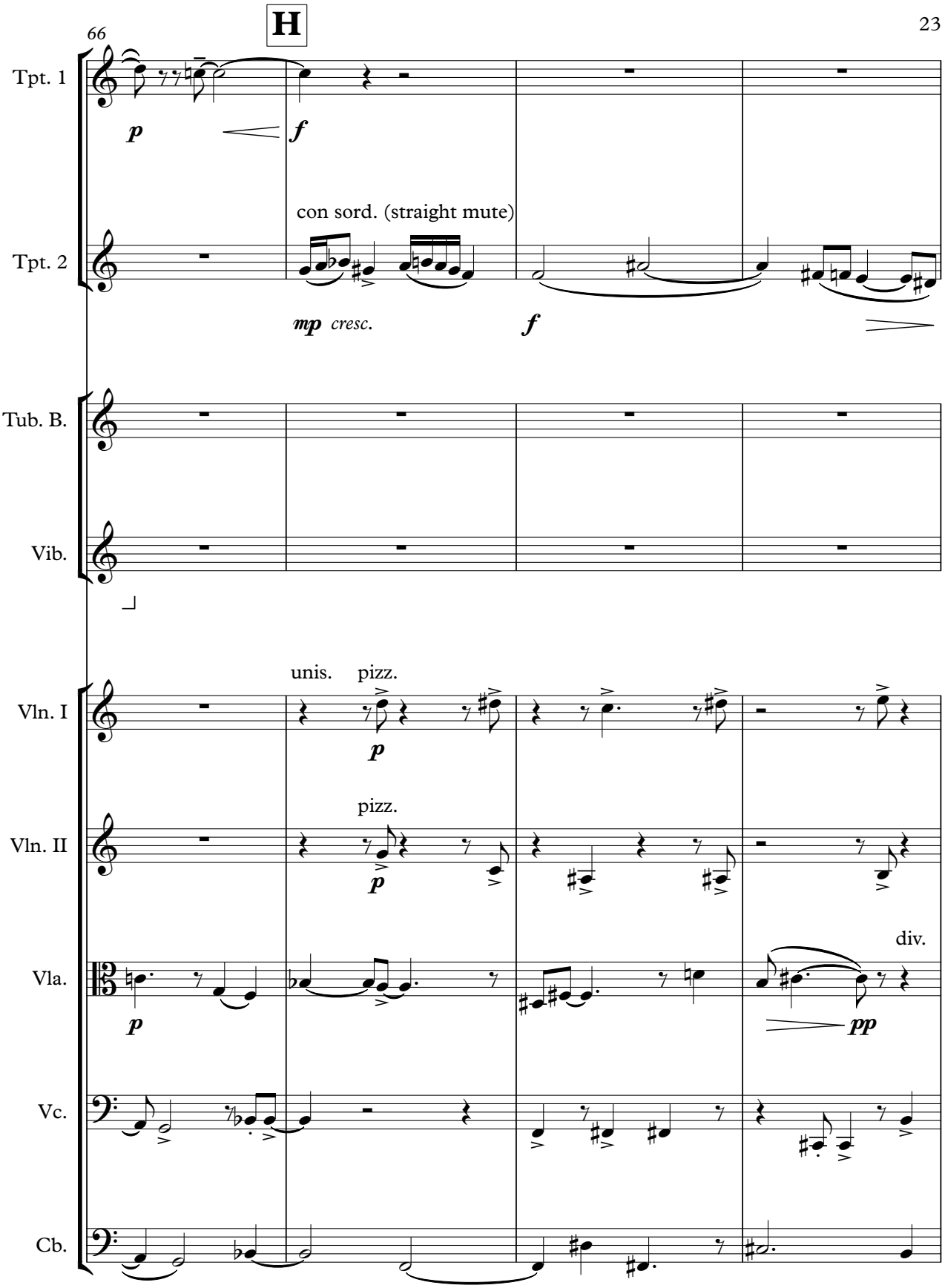

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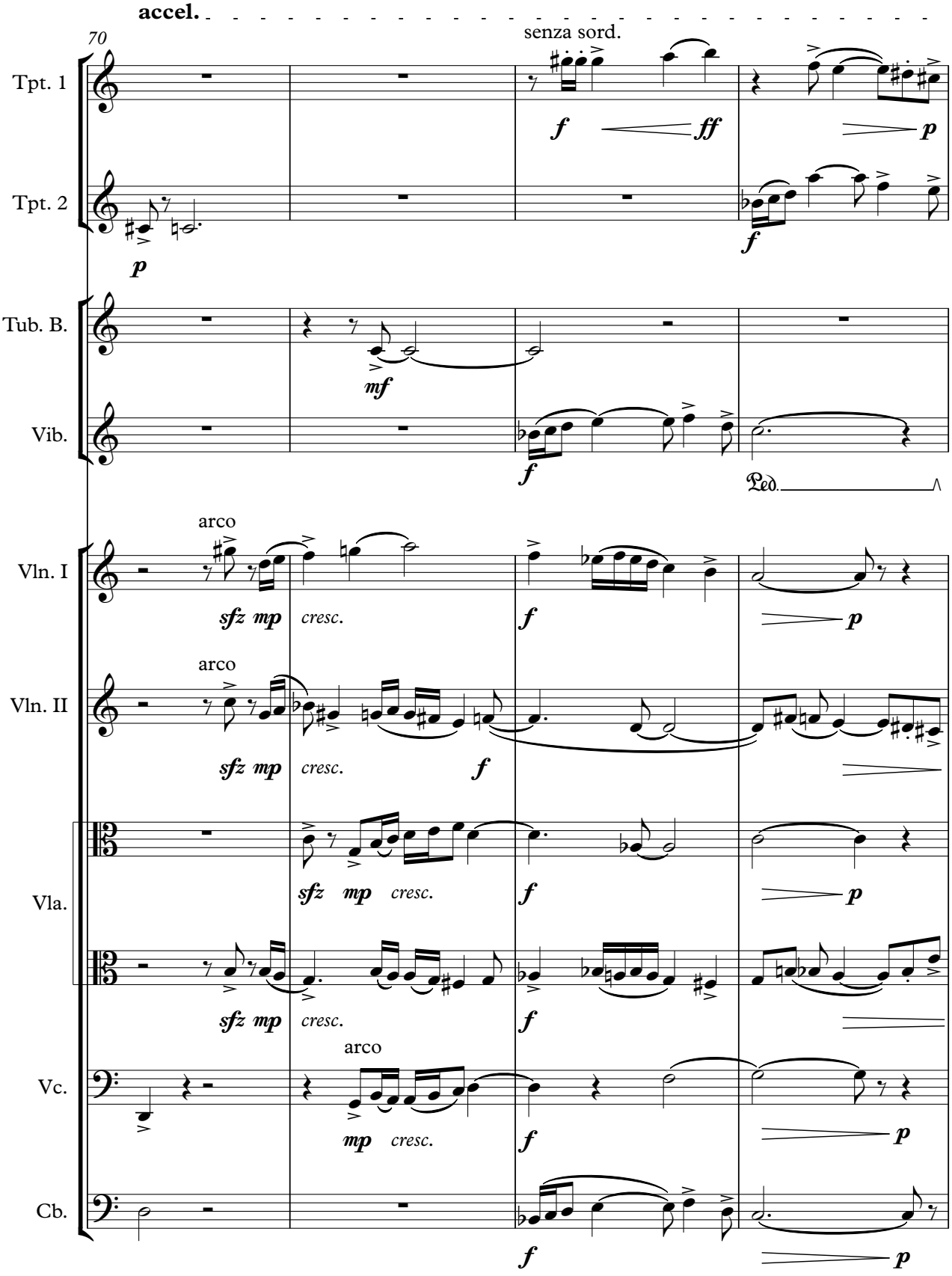

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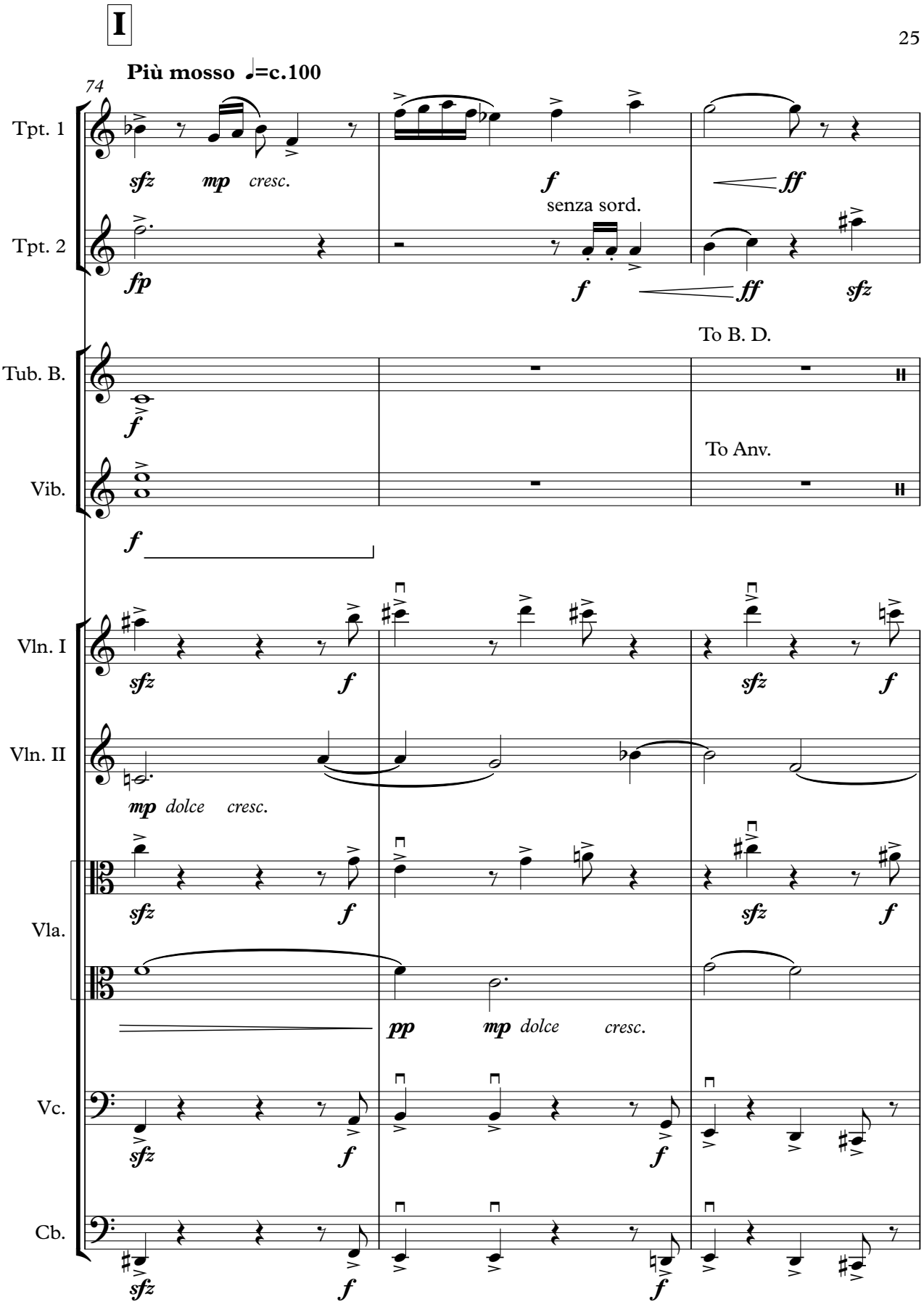

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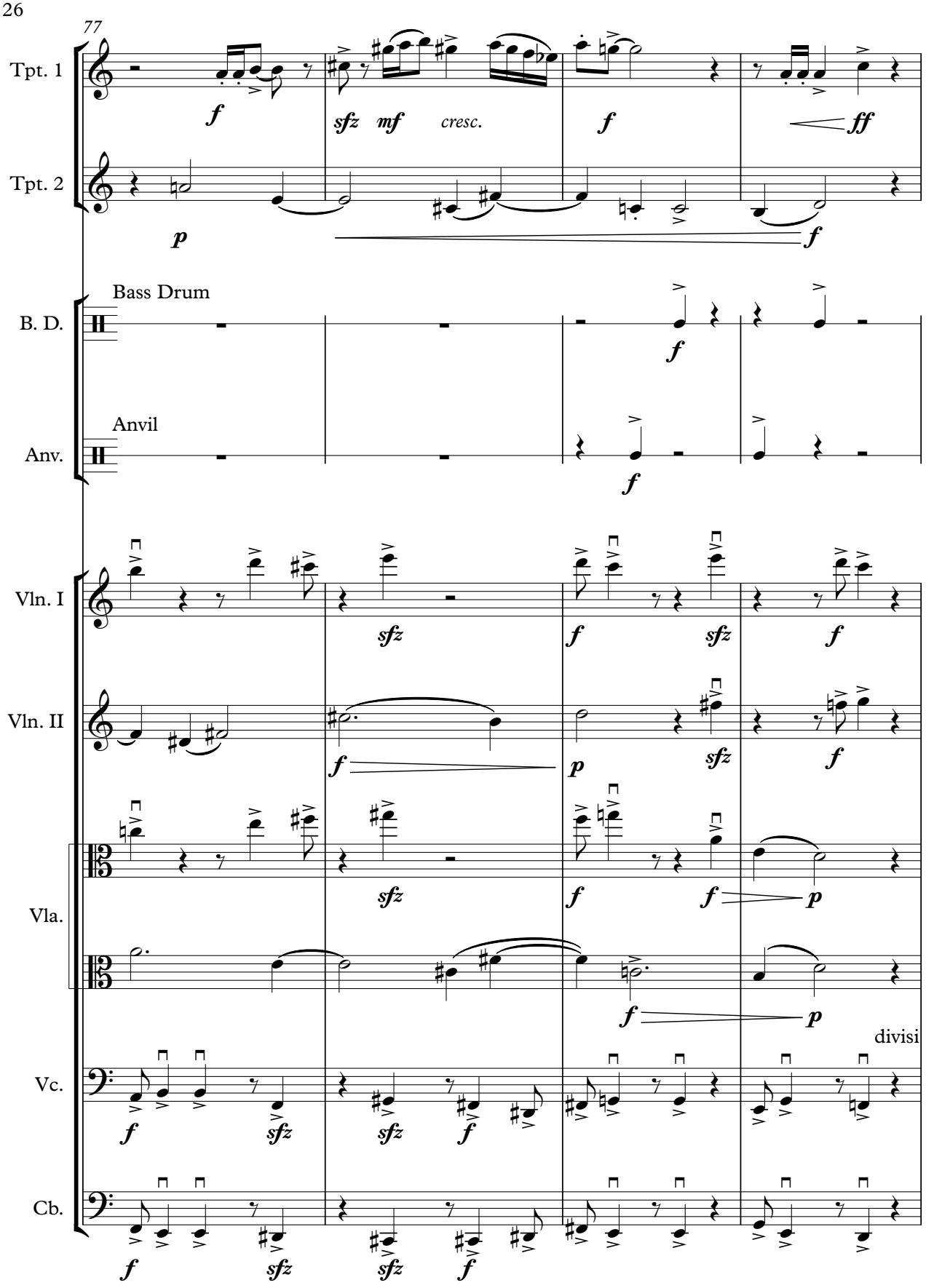

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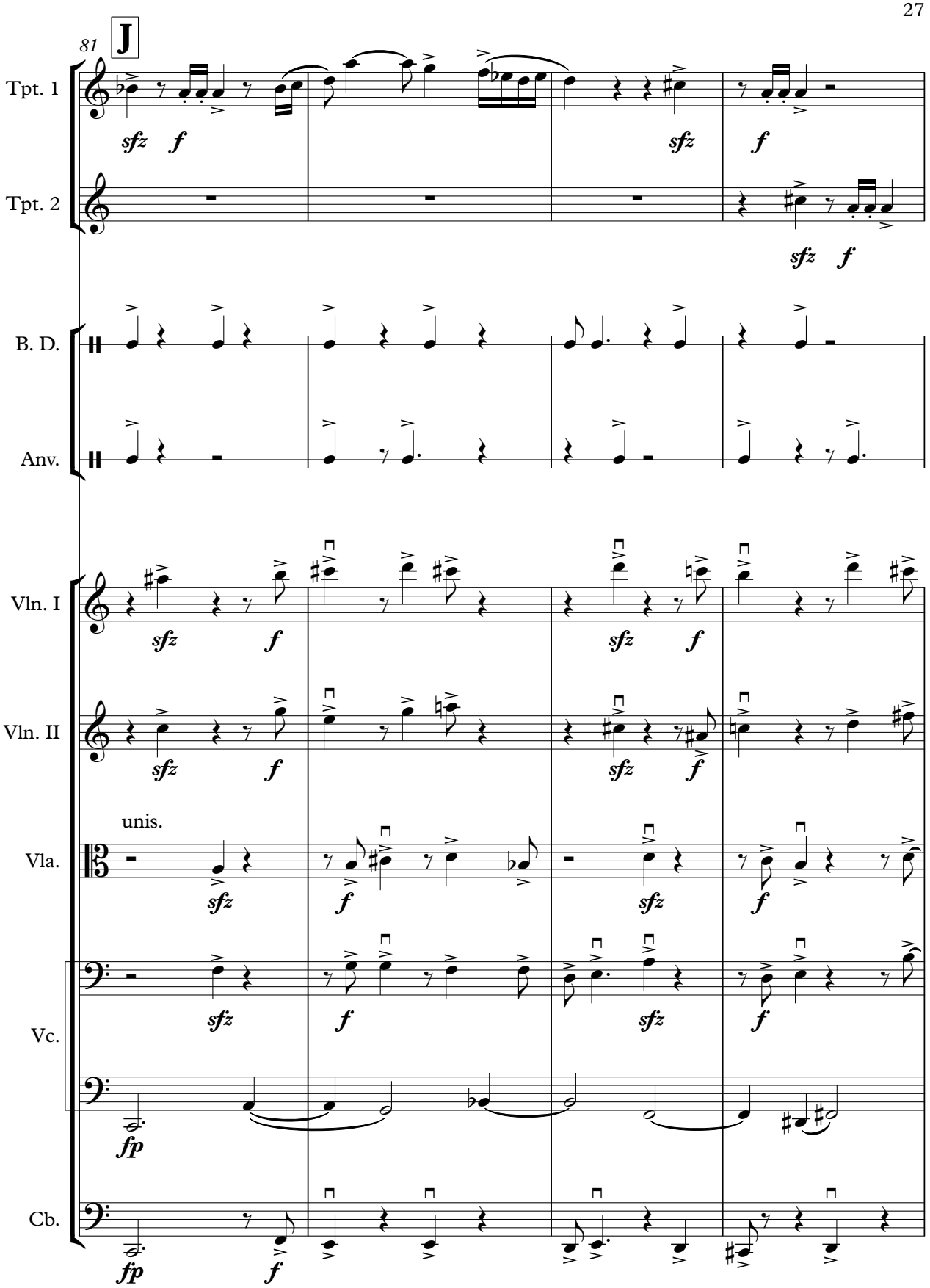

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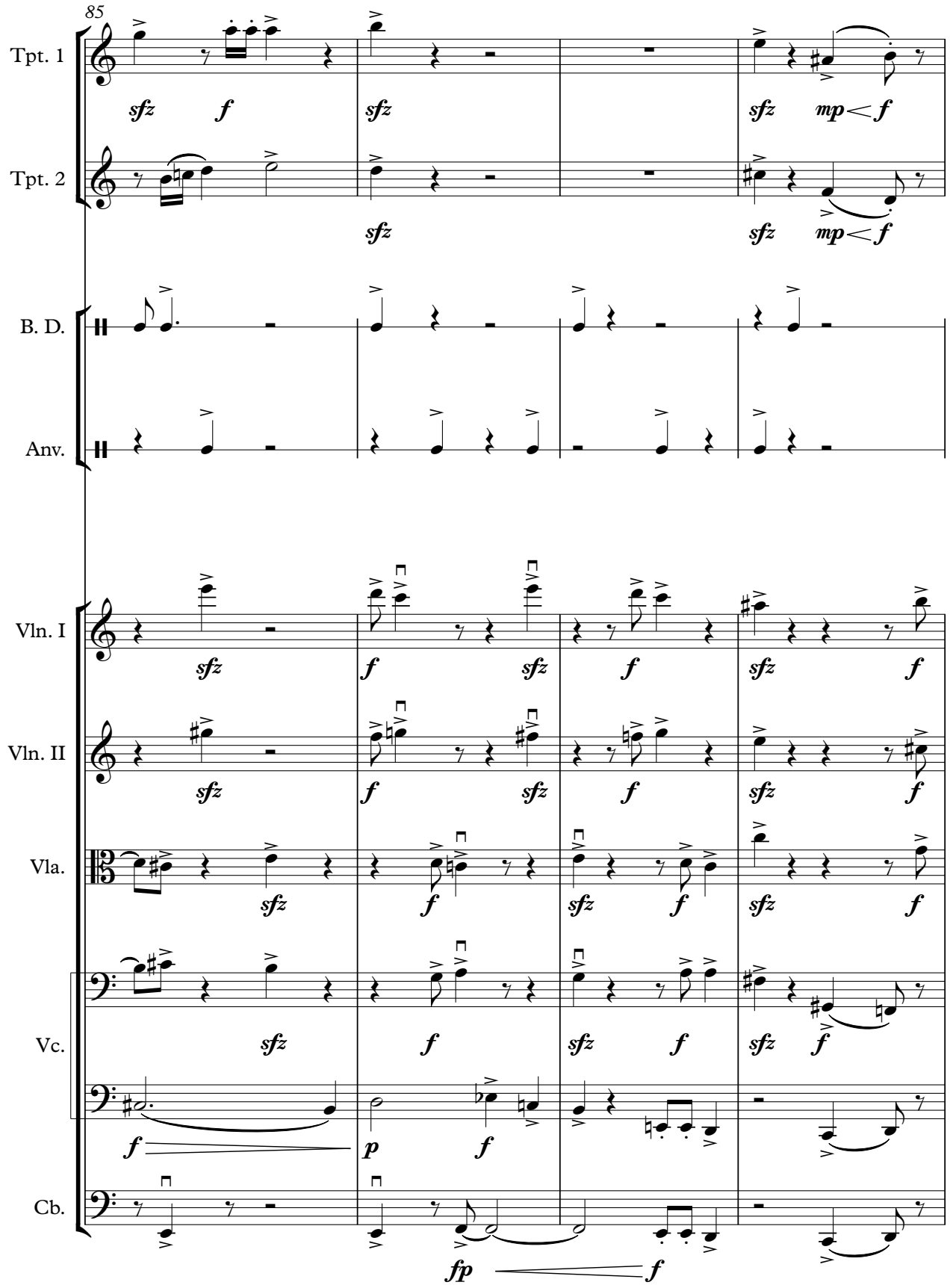

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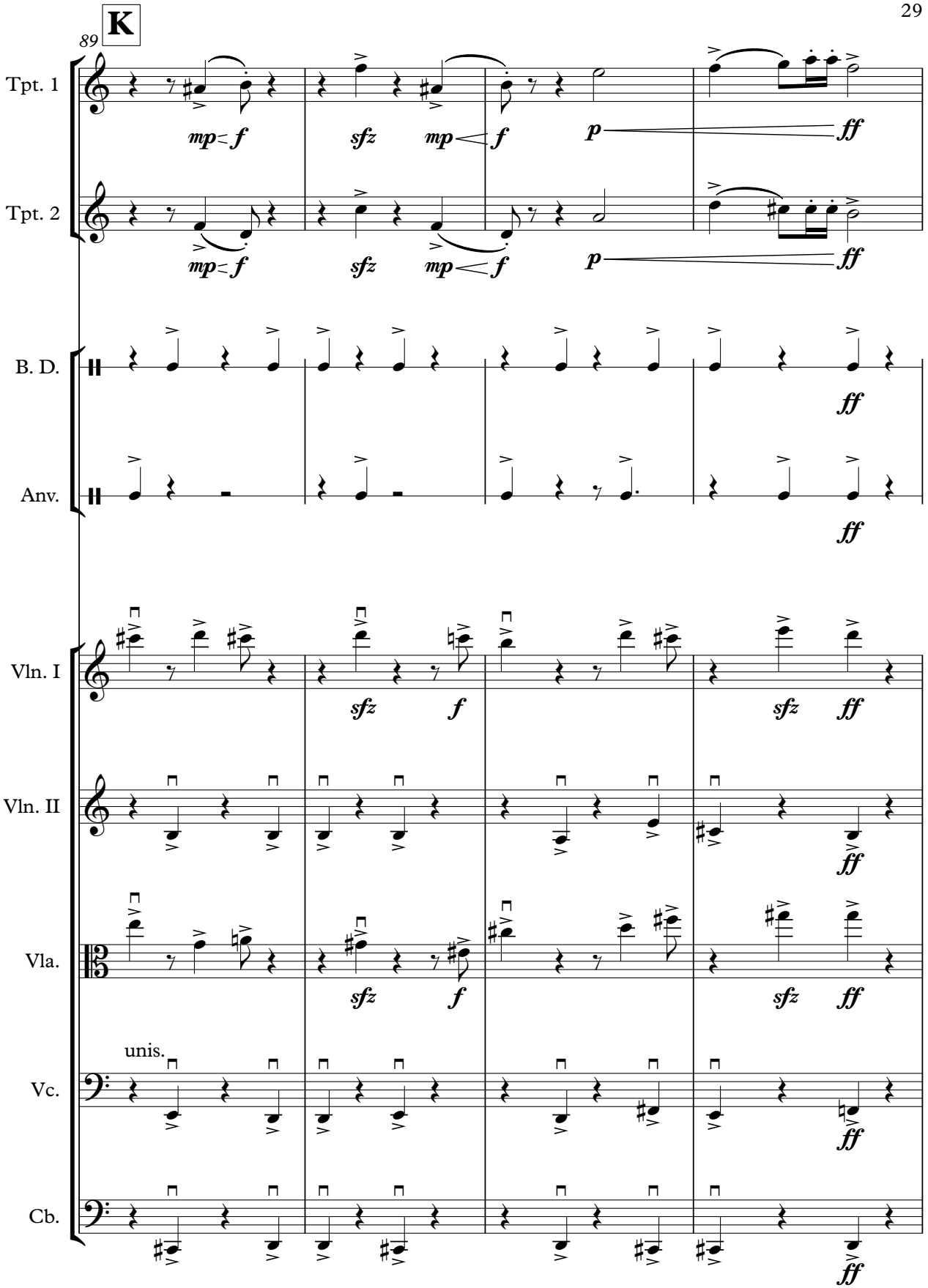

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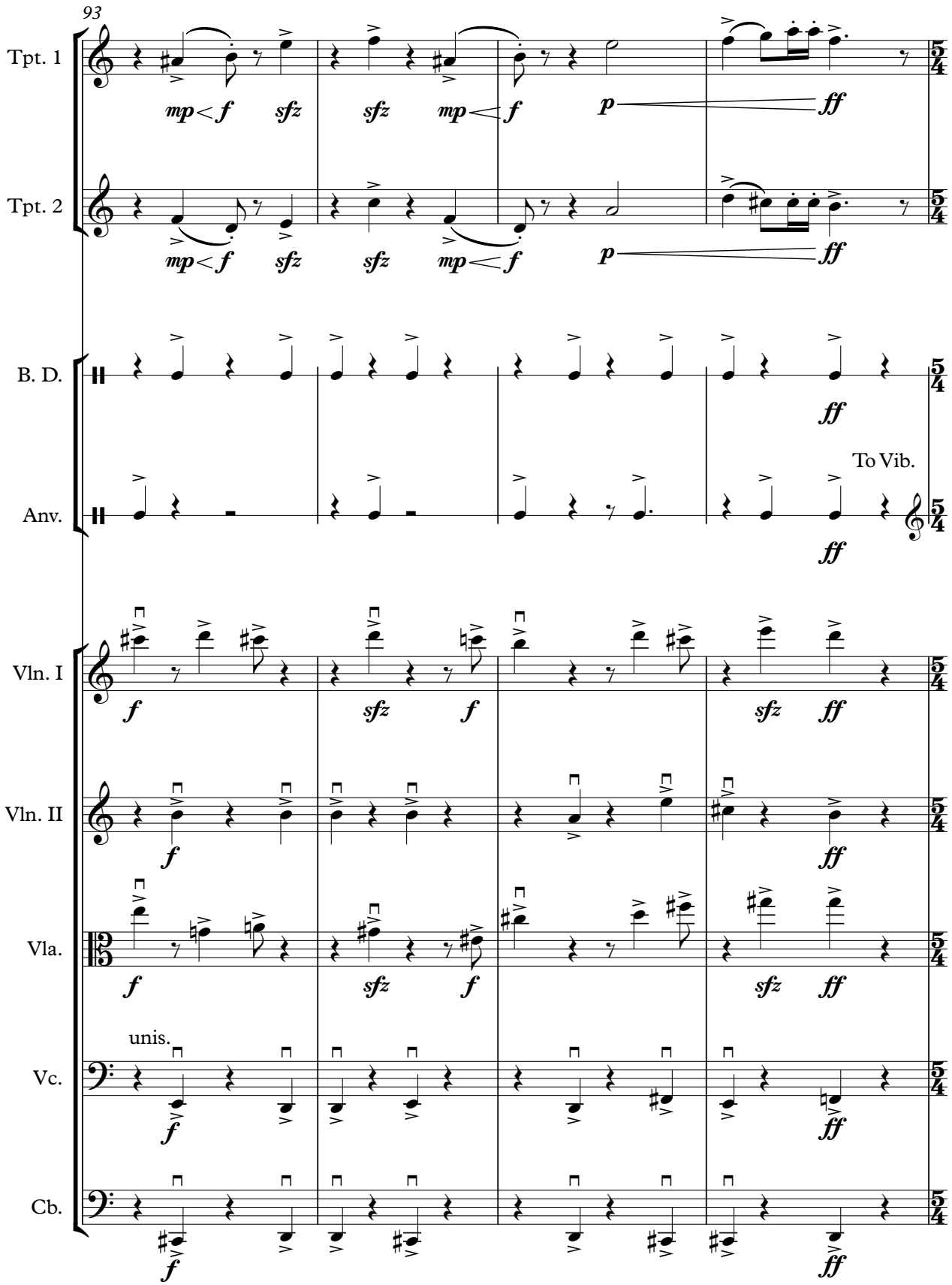

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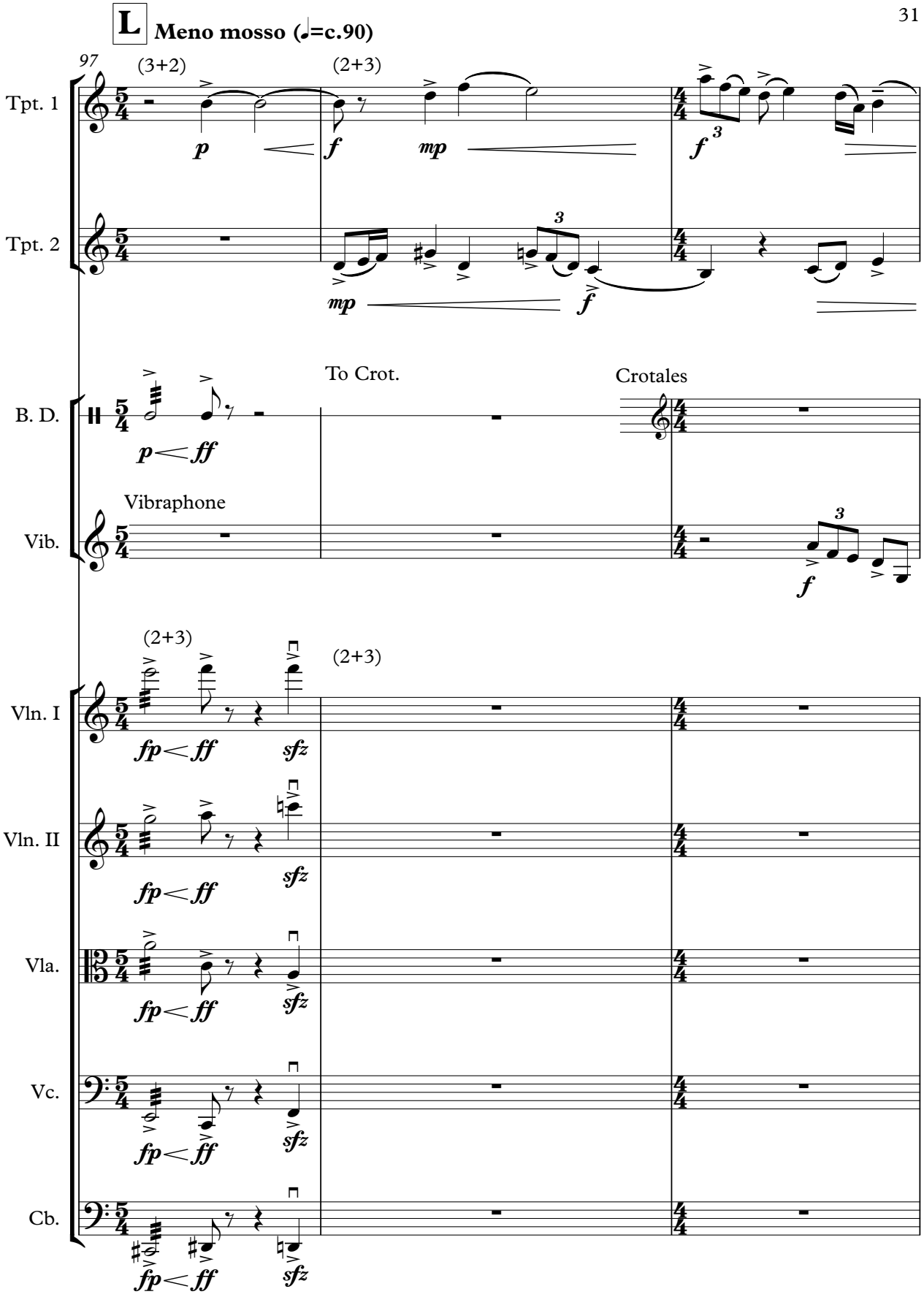

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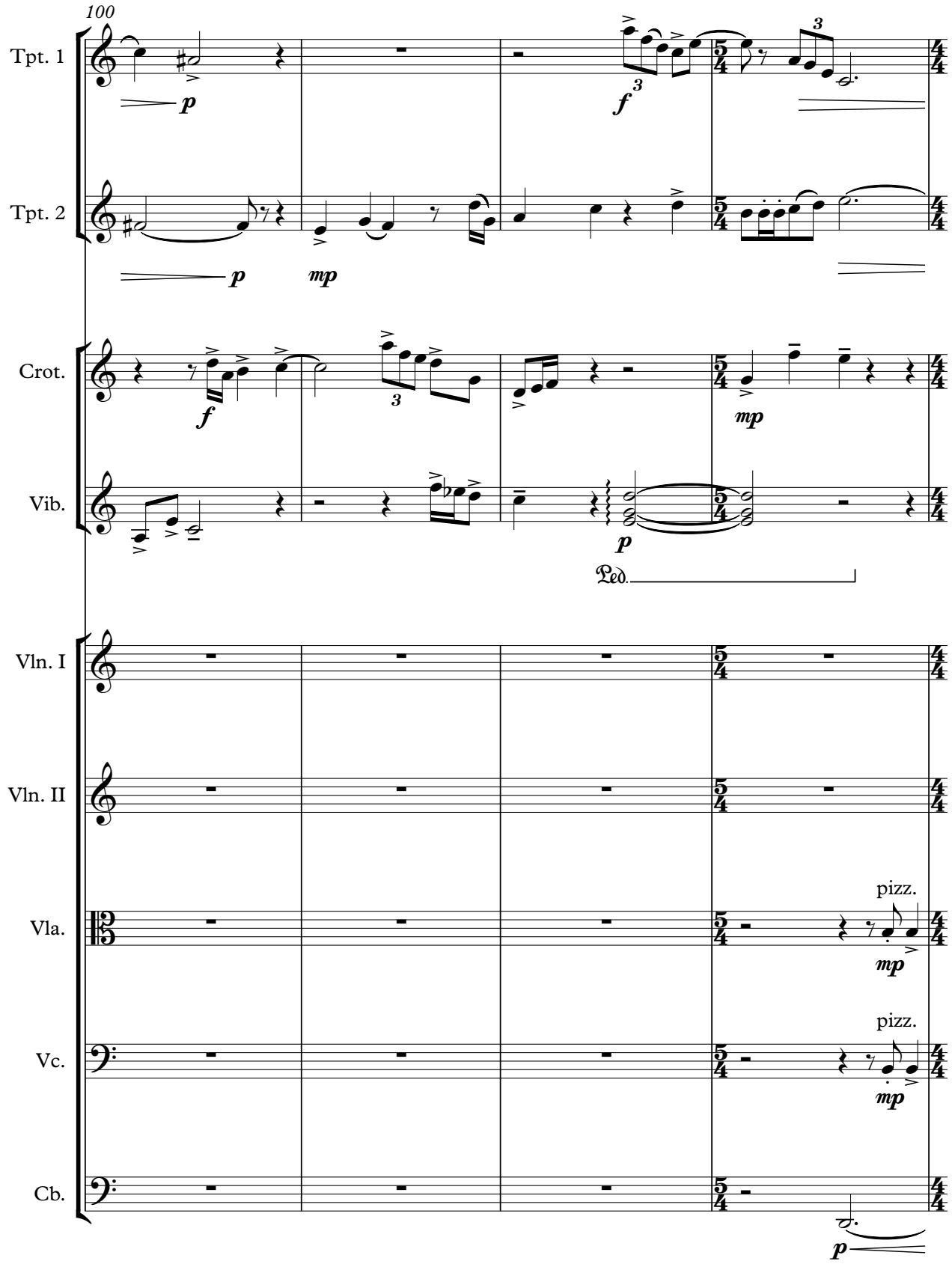
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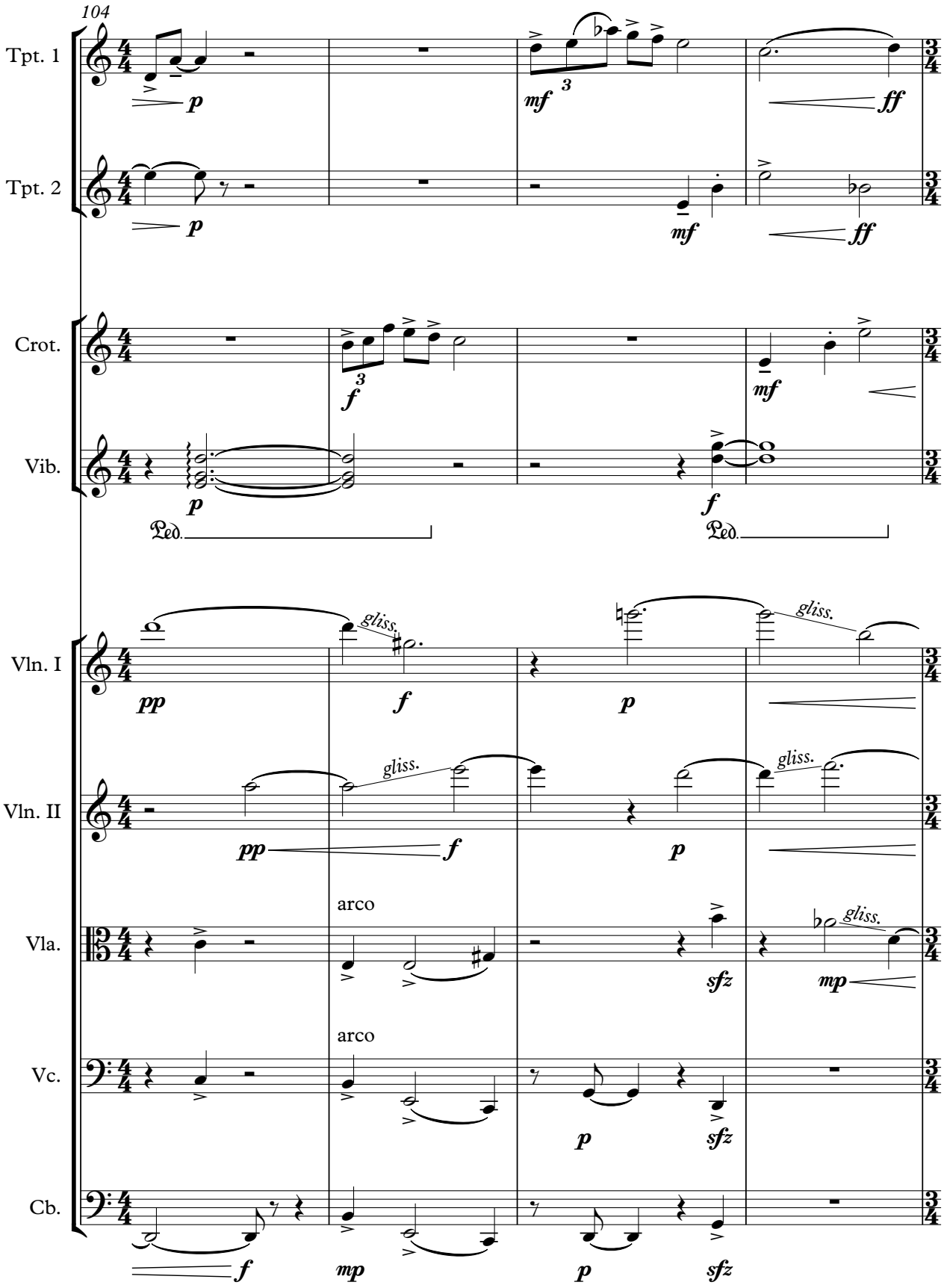

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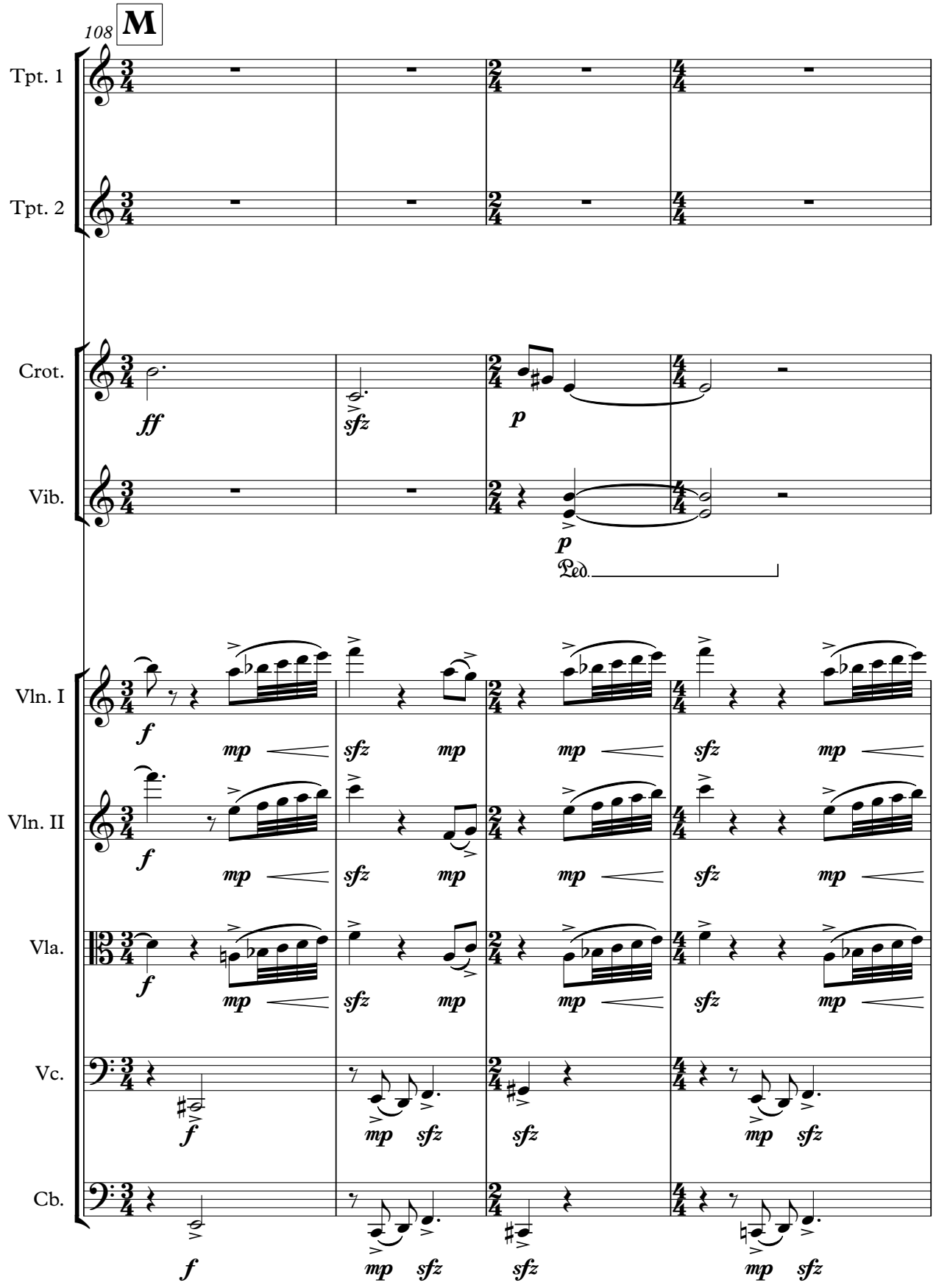

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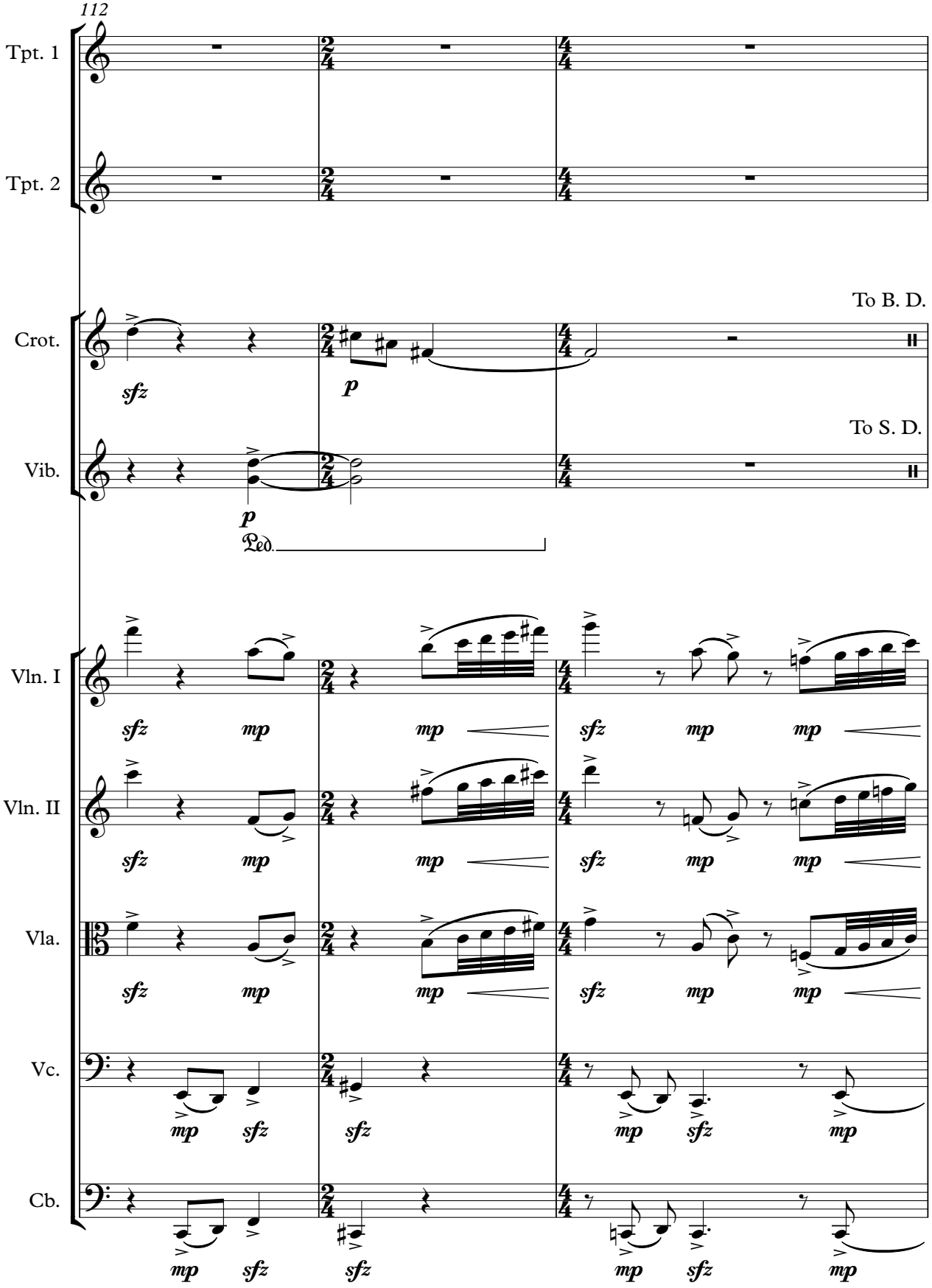

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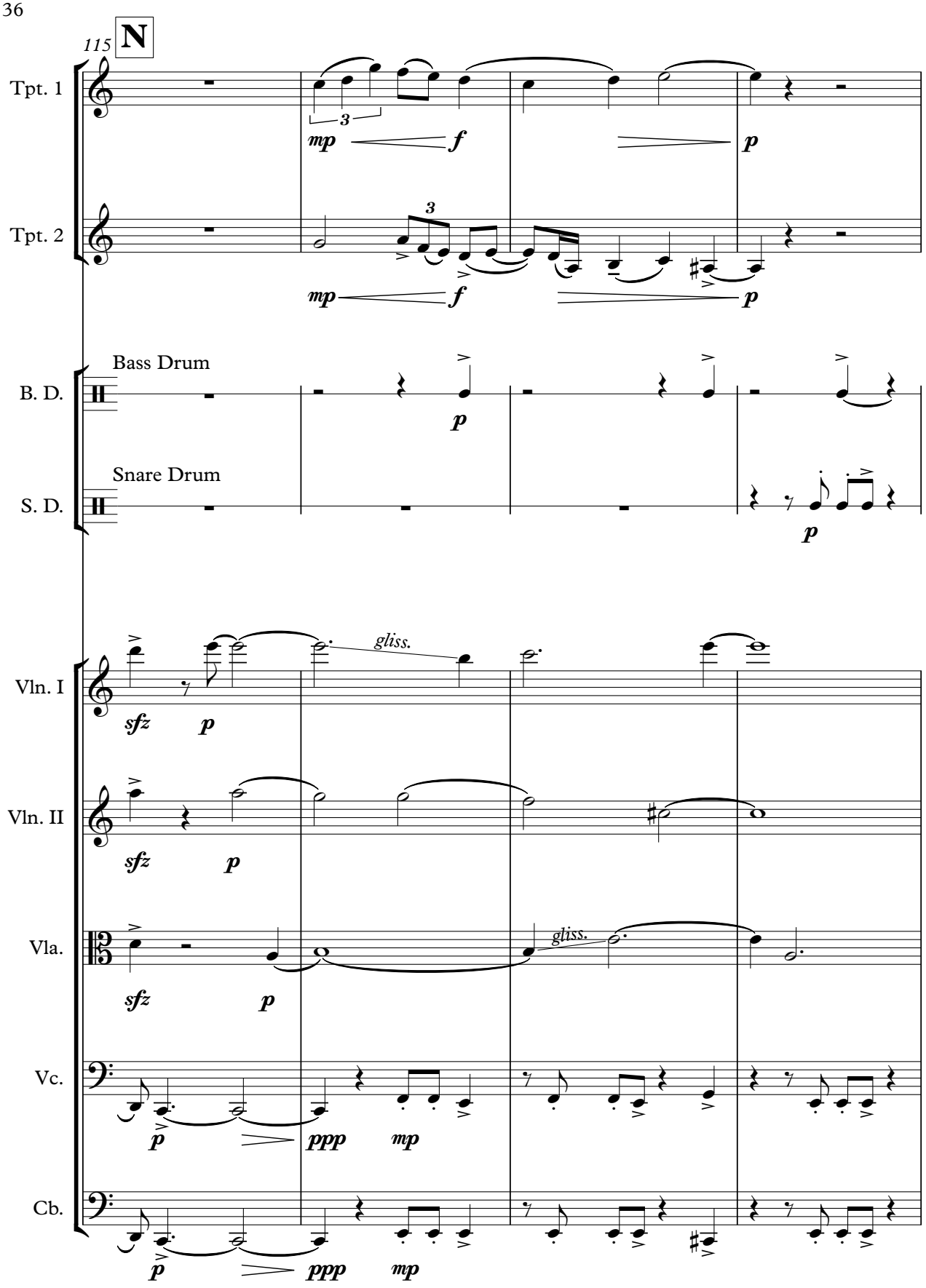

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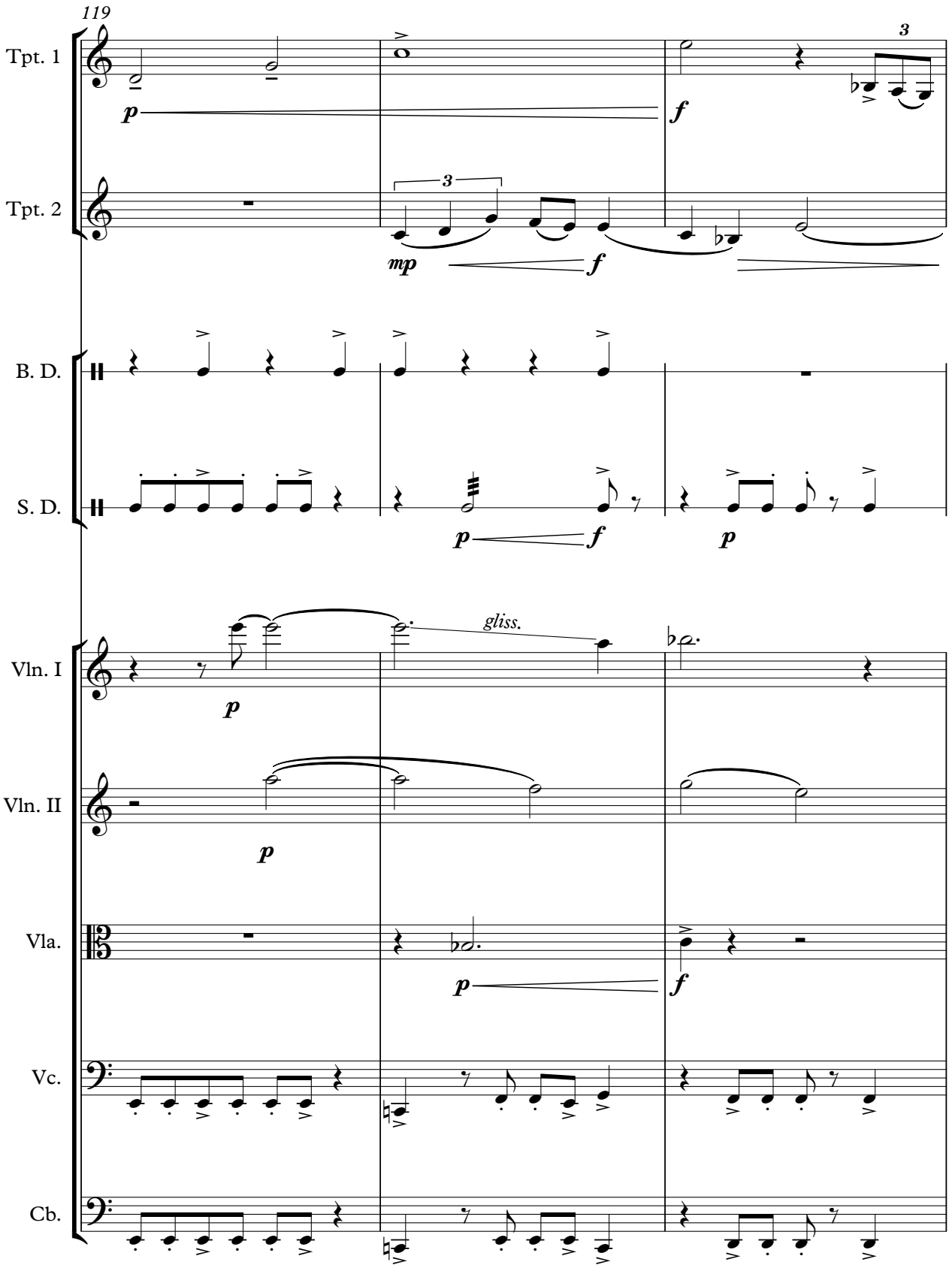

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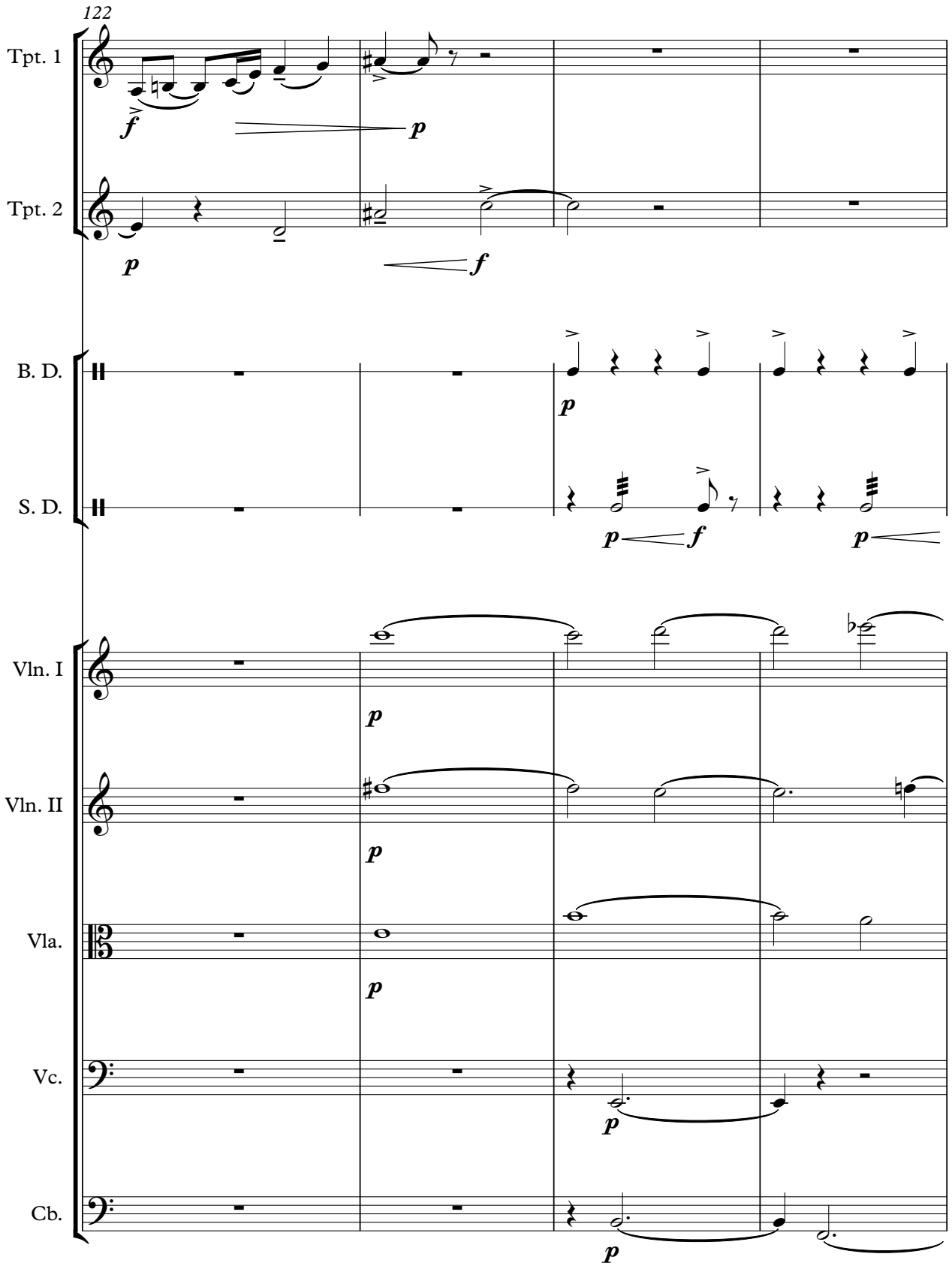

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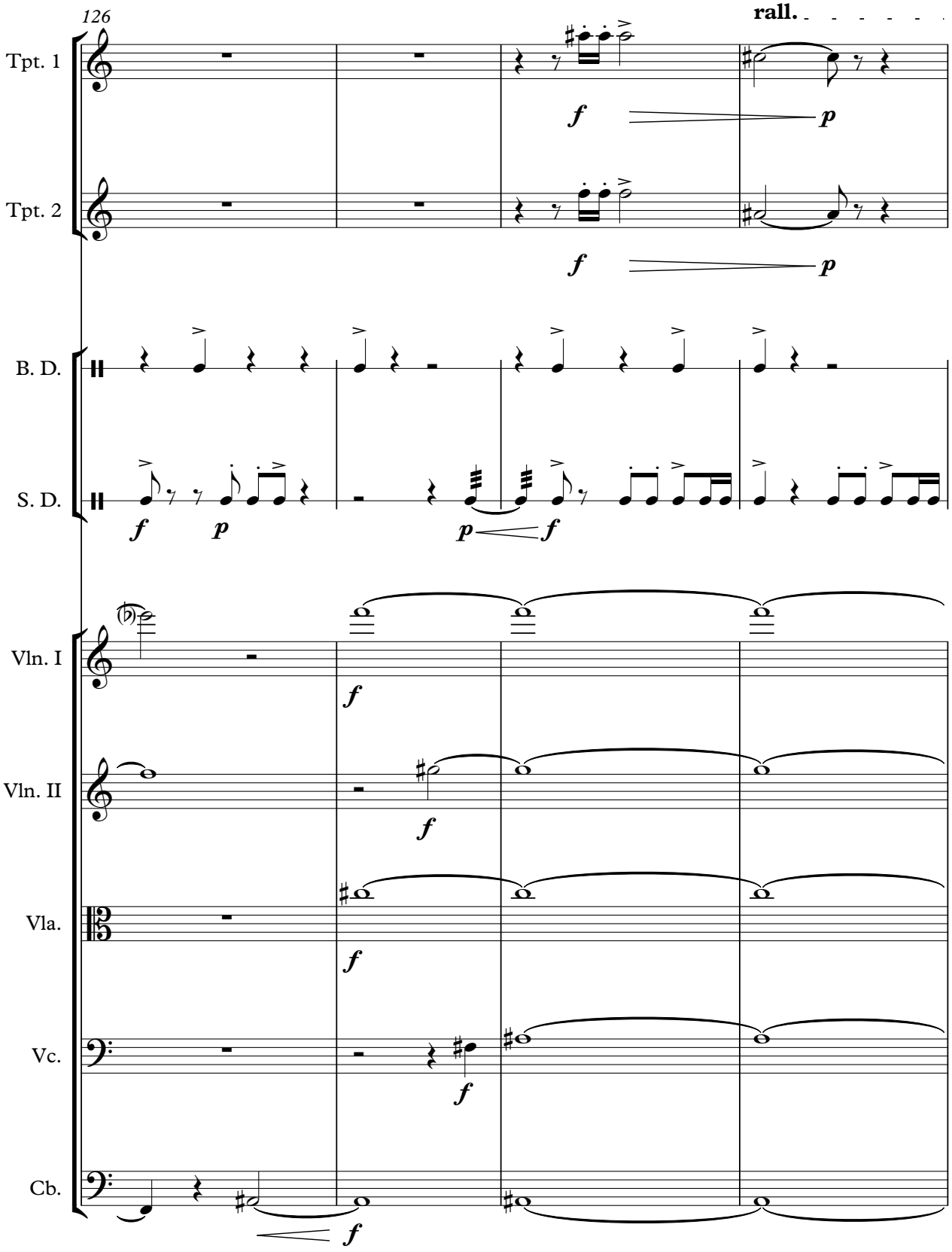

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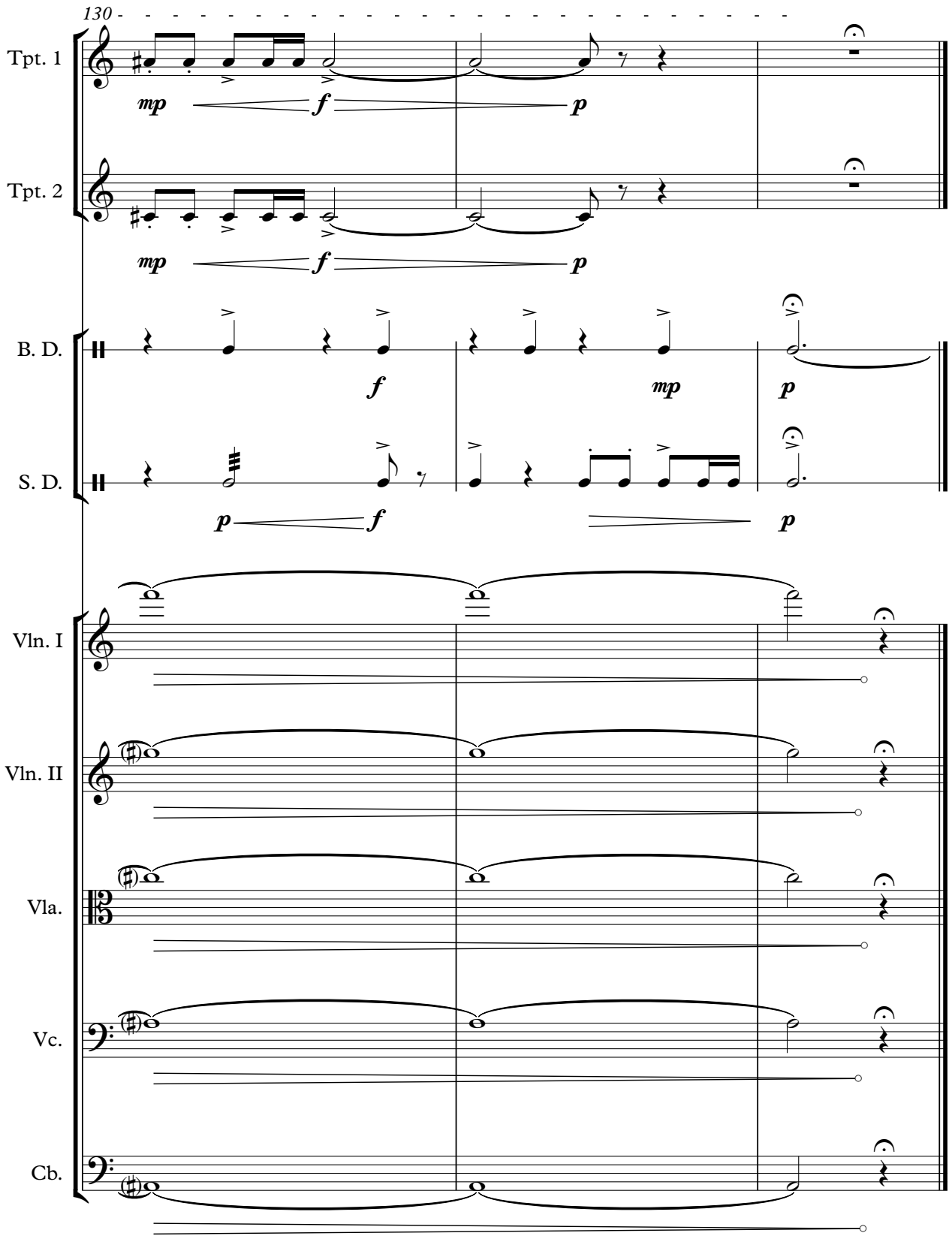

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