SO FJH STRING ORCHESTRA

Grade 3
ST6427

A SOLITARY WISH

Brian Balmages

Instrumentation

1 - Conductor's Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2
5 - Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)
5 - Viola
5 - Violoncello
5 - Double Bass
1 - Piano

Extra Conductor Score: $6.00
Extra Parts: $4.00

FJH is now using a high-speed sorting system for parts.
As a result, all single page parts are collated before multiple page parts.

THE F·J·H MUSIC COMPANY INC.
Frank J. Hackinson

2525 Davie Road, Suite 360
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33317-7424
www.fjhmusic.com

The Composer

Brian Balmages (b. 1975) is an award-winning composer, conductor, producer, and performer. The music he has written for winds, brass, and orchestra has been performed throughout the world with commissions ranging from elementary schools to professional orchestras. World premieres include prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. His music was also performed as part of the 2013 Presidential Inaugural Prayer Service, which was attended by both President Obama and Vice President Biden. He received his bachelor's degree in music from James Madison University and his master's degree from the University of Miami in Florida. He is a recipient of the prestigious A. Austin Harding Award from the American School Band Directors Association and in 2016 was awarded the James Madison University Distinguished Alumni Award from the School of Visual and Performing Arts (the first year the award was given). In the same year, he was commissioned by his other alma mater, the University of Miami, to compose music for the inauguration of the institution's 6th president, Dr. Julio Frenk.

As a conductor, Mr. Balmages enjoys regular engagements with all-state and region bands and orchestras, as well as university and professional ensembles throughout the world. Notable guest conducting appearances have included the Midwest Clinic, Western International Band Clinic, College Band Directors Conference, American School Band Directors Association National Conference and others. Additional conducting appearances have included the Kennedy Center and Meyerhoff Symphony Hall as well as engagements in Australia, Canada and Italy. Currently, he is Director of Instrumental Publications for The FJH Music Company and Assistant Director of Bands and Orchestras at Towson University.

About the Music

I learned an amazing lesson before I began this piece. While I consider myself to be a "good" person, I read a friend's comment about seeing a homeless woman named Joyce outside of Target. Joyce needed a new pair of shoes because it was getting cold outside and she only had sandals. My friend decided to get her some shoes, but also decided to buy her lunch and some extra food. During this time, my friend asked Joyce, "How will you heat up canned soup?" and she replied, "Usually the microwave at 7-Eleven works." My friend continued, "Why don't you get the big peanut butter?" and Joyce replied, "Because it is too heavy to carry around." While the two shopped, my friend noticed that every single person around them averted their eyes as they walked by. It gave her a tremendous amount of perspective and a desire to be much more empathetic in the future. Hearing this, I thought the same thing.

A few hours later, I was standing outside a food store with my kids and there was a man outside asking for food. I watched quite a few people walk by him, some saying "Sorry" as they passed by, but most of them not even looking at him or acknowledging him when he spoke to them. Finally, with my new "perspective" in hand, I walked up to the man and asked him if he was okay. All he needed was something to drink and a little bit of food. I took him into the store with me and bought him something.

The man's name was Bruce. He was 32 years old. He had three kids – two in elementary school and one in middle school. He acknowledged that he made plenty of mistakes in life, but said he is trying really hard to get back up on his feet and live in the area so he can be close to his kids. We chatted for a bit before I had to run and get my youngest to a soccer game. As we were leaving, he held the door open for us and said thanks. "It's hard when people ignore you all day long. Thanks for stopping."

With the holiday season approaching, the contrast struck me hard. Many of us are already making our "lists" and others are bugging us for them so they can start their shopping early. We are annoyed because we have to go to several houses on Thanksgiving Day, or open gifts at several homes (or travel) during the holiday season. And then the reality of someone like Joyce or Bruce – they wish for food, water, and for someone to notice them.

There are many holiday pieces about everything you can imagine. This one begins with a single individual (a cello soloist) just asking to be noticed while everyone walks by – some dropping a few coins or a dollar but avoiding conversation at all cost. As the music develops, we experience a wide range of emotions as the joy of the holidays is juxtaposed with solitude. Ultimately, in this particular story, the individual is joined by another, and eventually there are four of them together (the quartet). As a couple people begin to leave, one stays behind (a violin soloist) and the person's wish comes true.

Please share this story with your audience. It is my hope that this piece will spread awareness and help individuals all over the world. Donate your time, donate a small amount to a charity or shelter, or just smile and say hello. You just may make someone's wish come true.

Brian Balmages

Duration: 4:45

for Joyce, Bruce and countless others

A SOLITARY WISH

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

Peaceful, yet lonely (♩ = 132)

Violin 1 — *pizz.* — *p*

Violin 2 — *pp*

Viola (Violin 3) — *pp*

Violoncello — Solo — *p*

Double Bass — *pizz.* — *p*

Piano — *p*

2 3 4 5

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

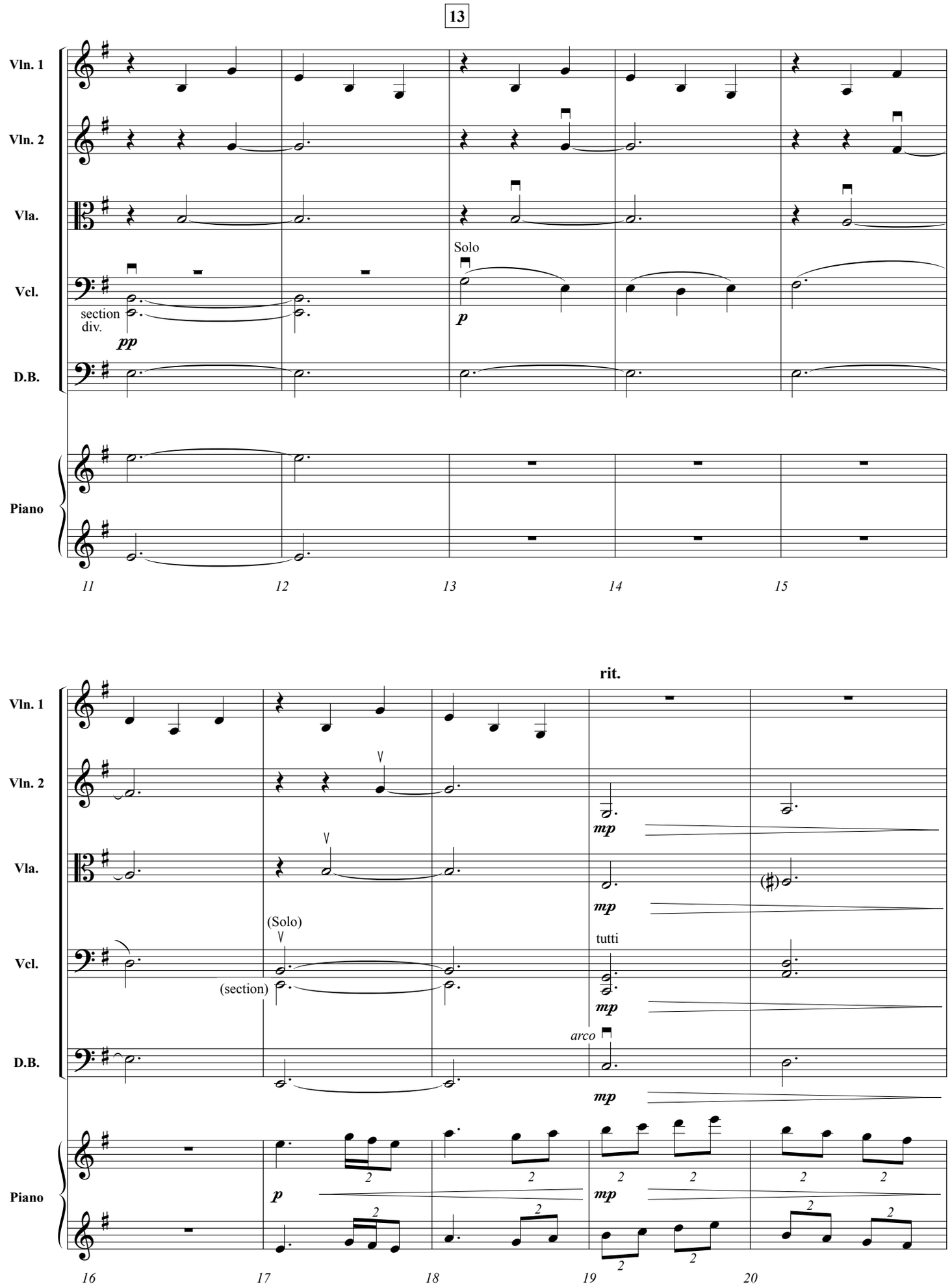
D.B.

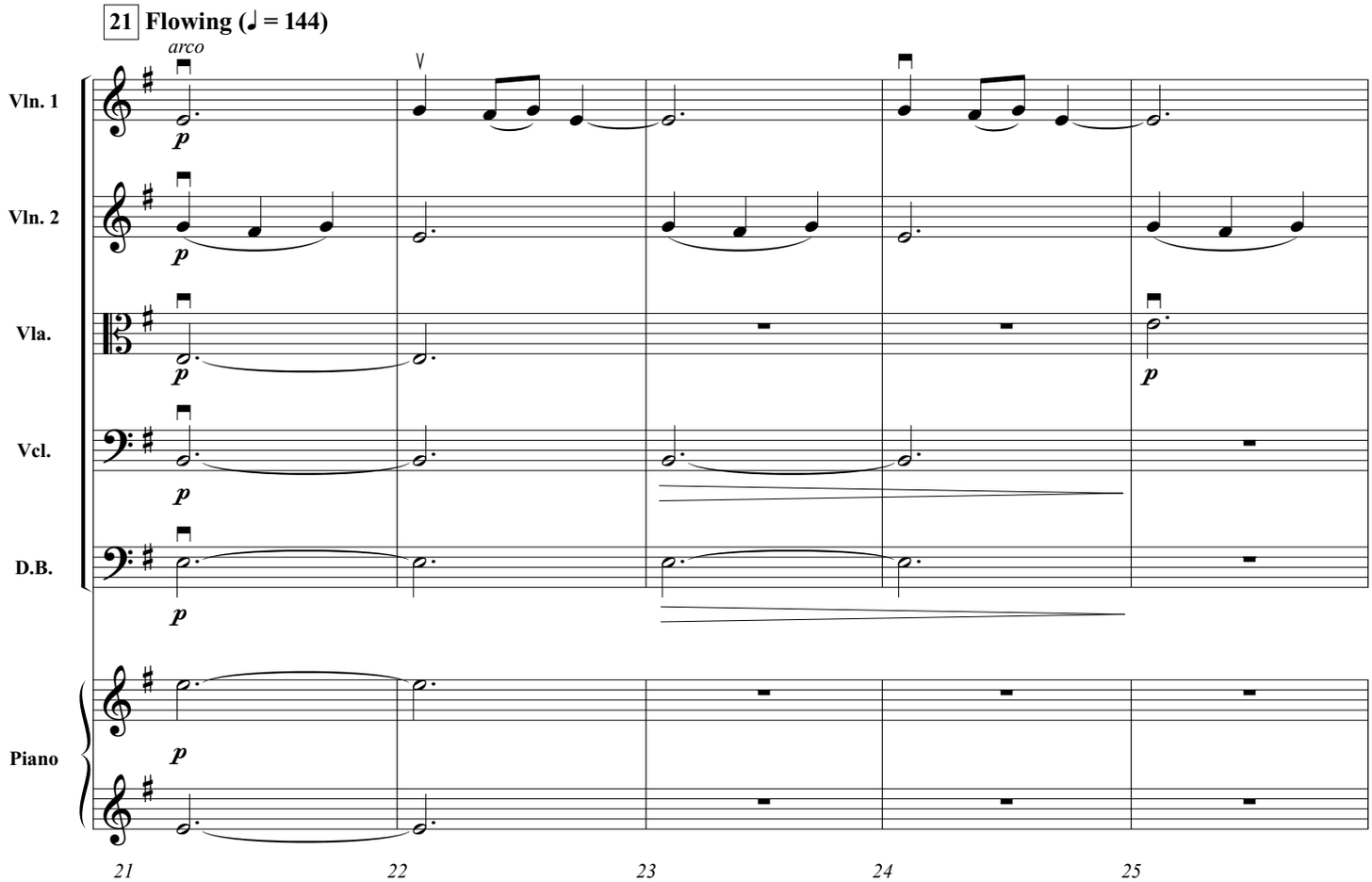
Piano

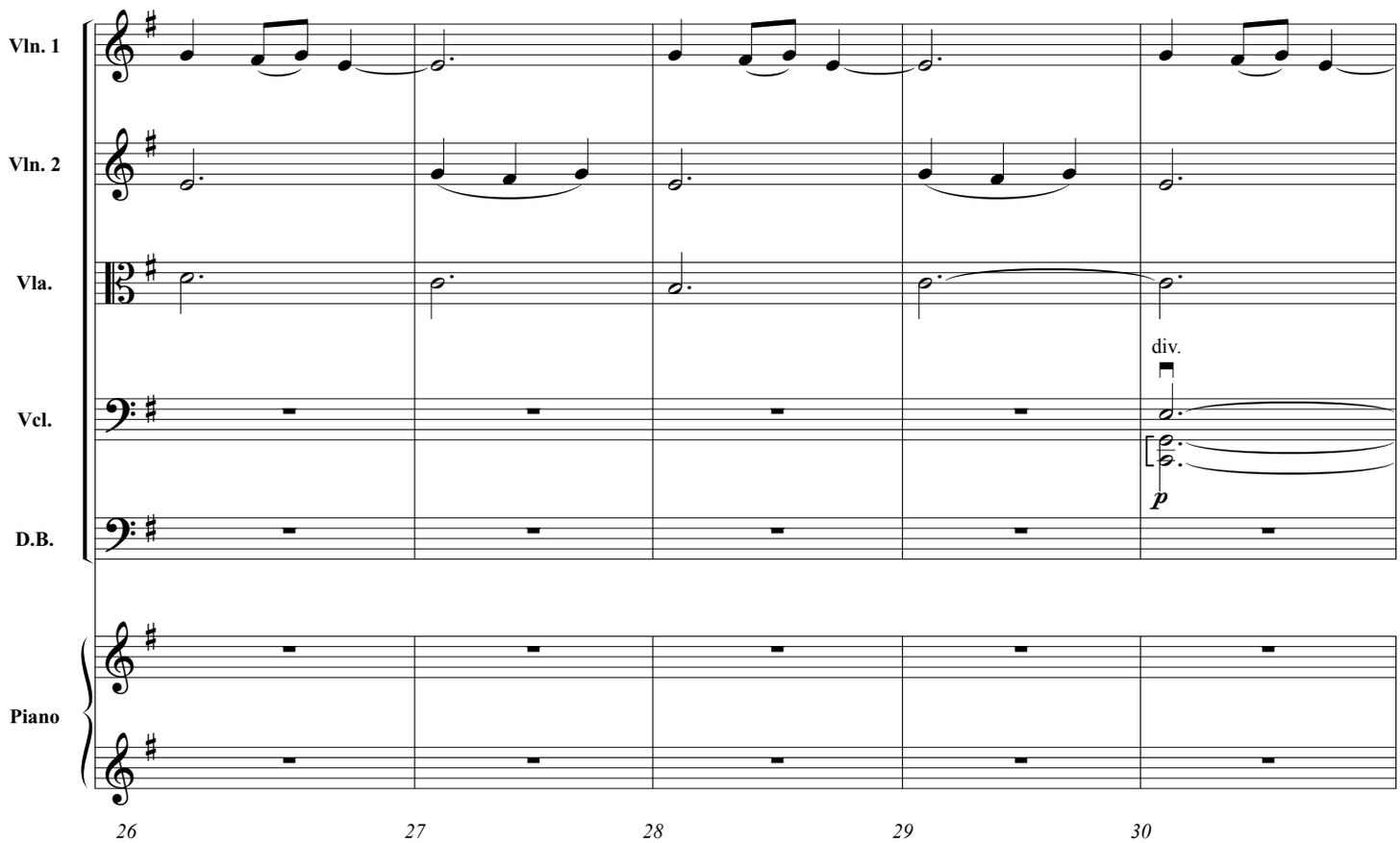
6 7 8 9 10

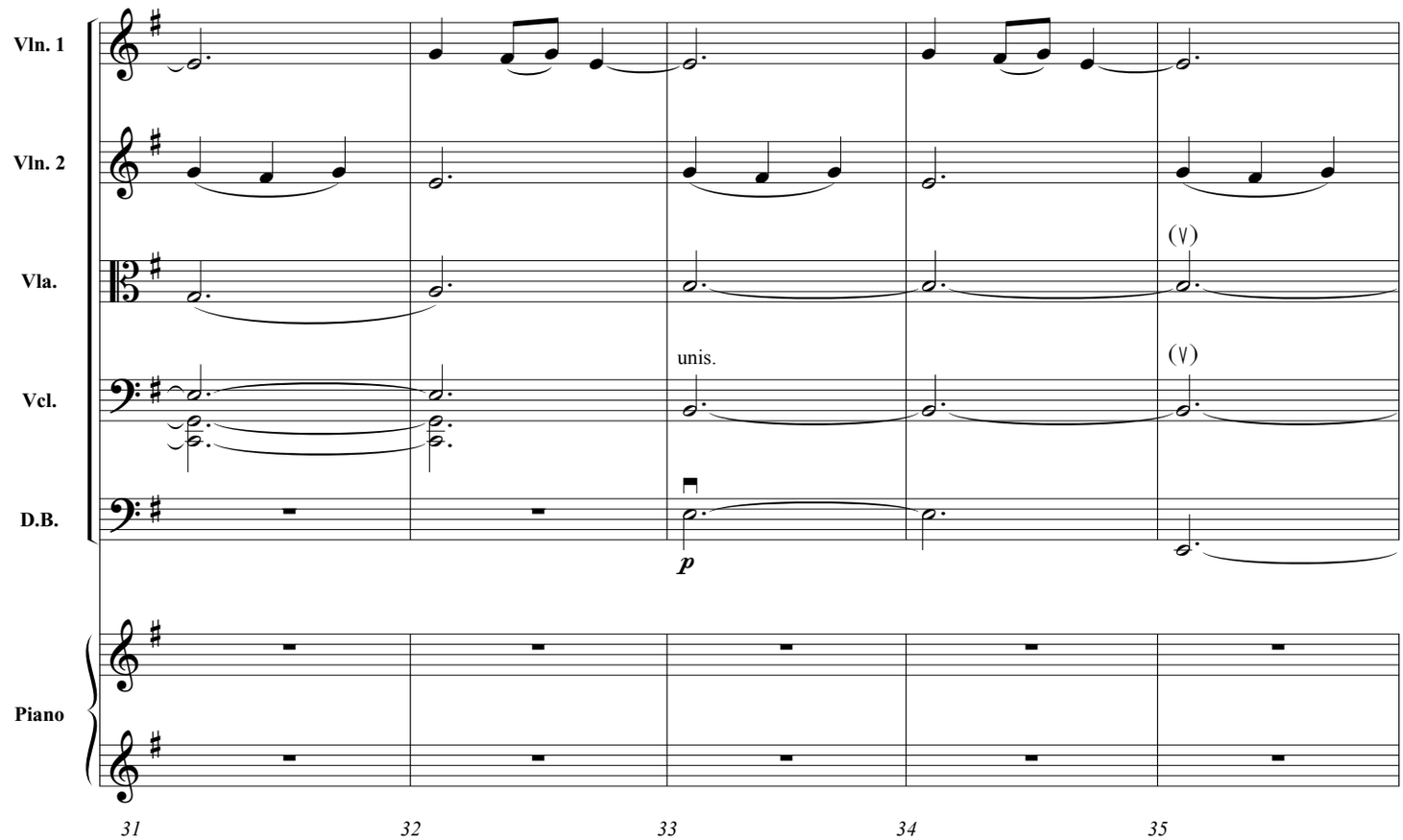
Copyright © 2017 The FJH Music Company Inc. (ASCAP).
International Copyright Secured. Made in U.S.A. All Rights Reserved.
WARNING! The music, text, design, and graphics in this publication are protected by copyright law.
Any duplication is an infringement of U.S. copyright law.

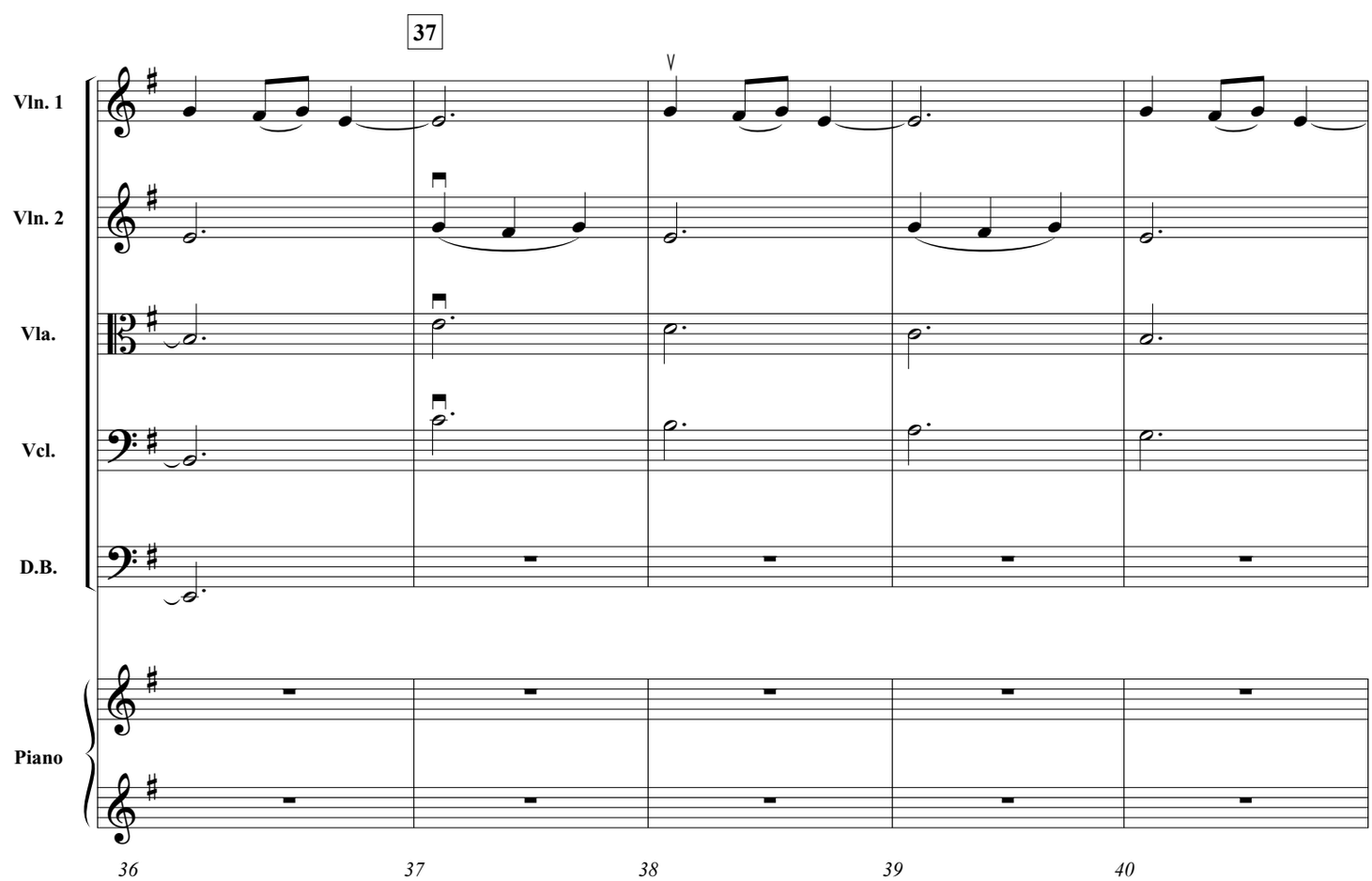
MP3
Hear and download this piece at www.fjhmusic.com


13
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
section div.
pp
Solo
p
11
12
13
14
15
rit.
mp
(Solo)
(section)
tutti
arco
16
17
18
19
20


21 Flowing (♩ = 144)
arco
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
p
21
22
23
24
25


Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
div.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
p
26
27
28
29
30


Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
unis.
p
31
32
33
34
35


37
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
36
37
38
39
40

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano

div.

mp

mp

p

mp

41 42 43 44 45

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano

unis.

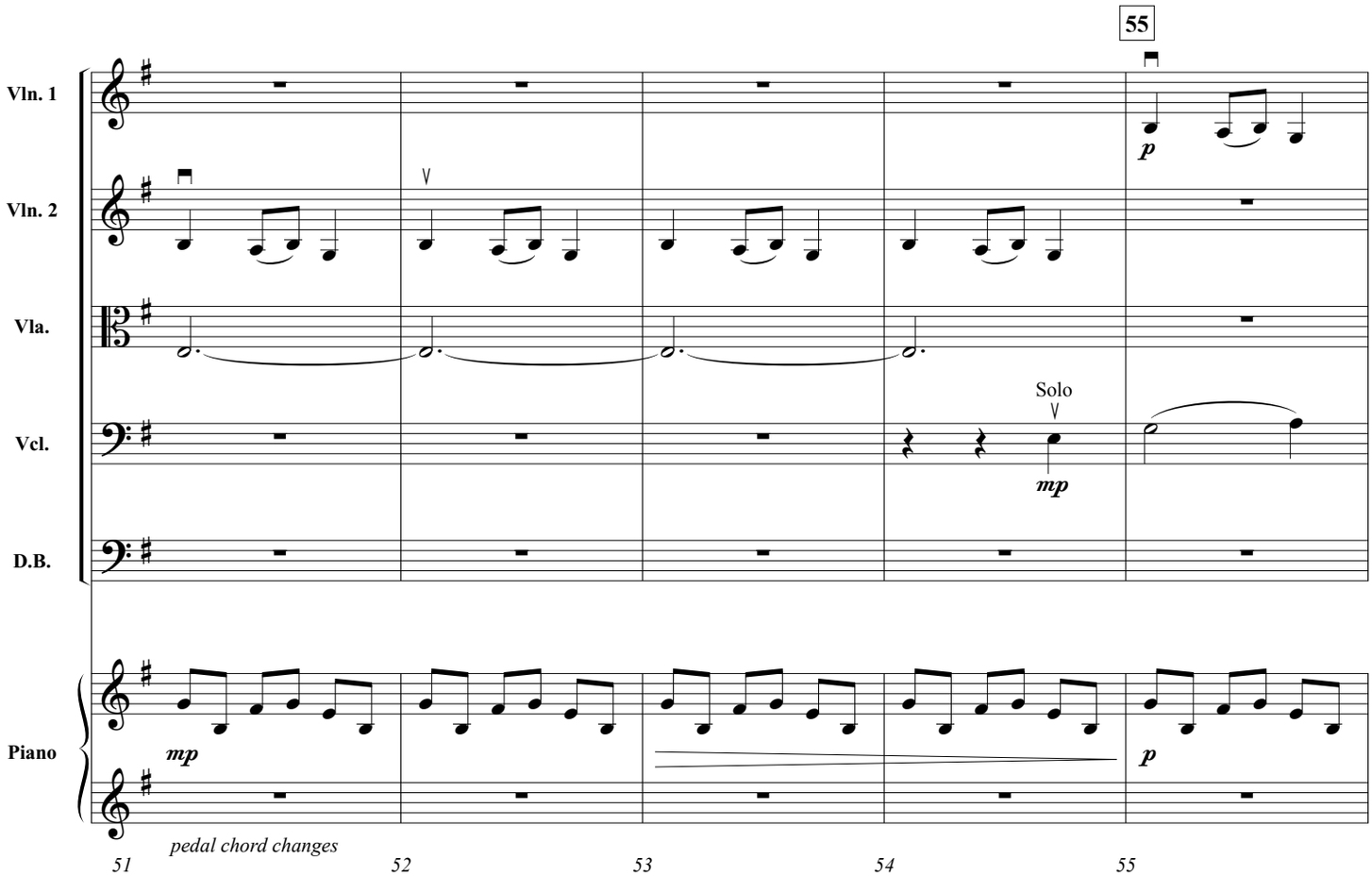
p

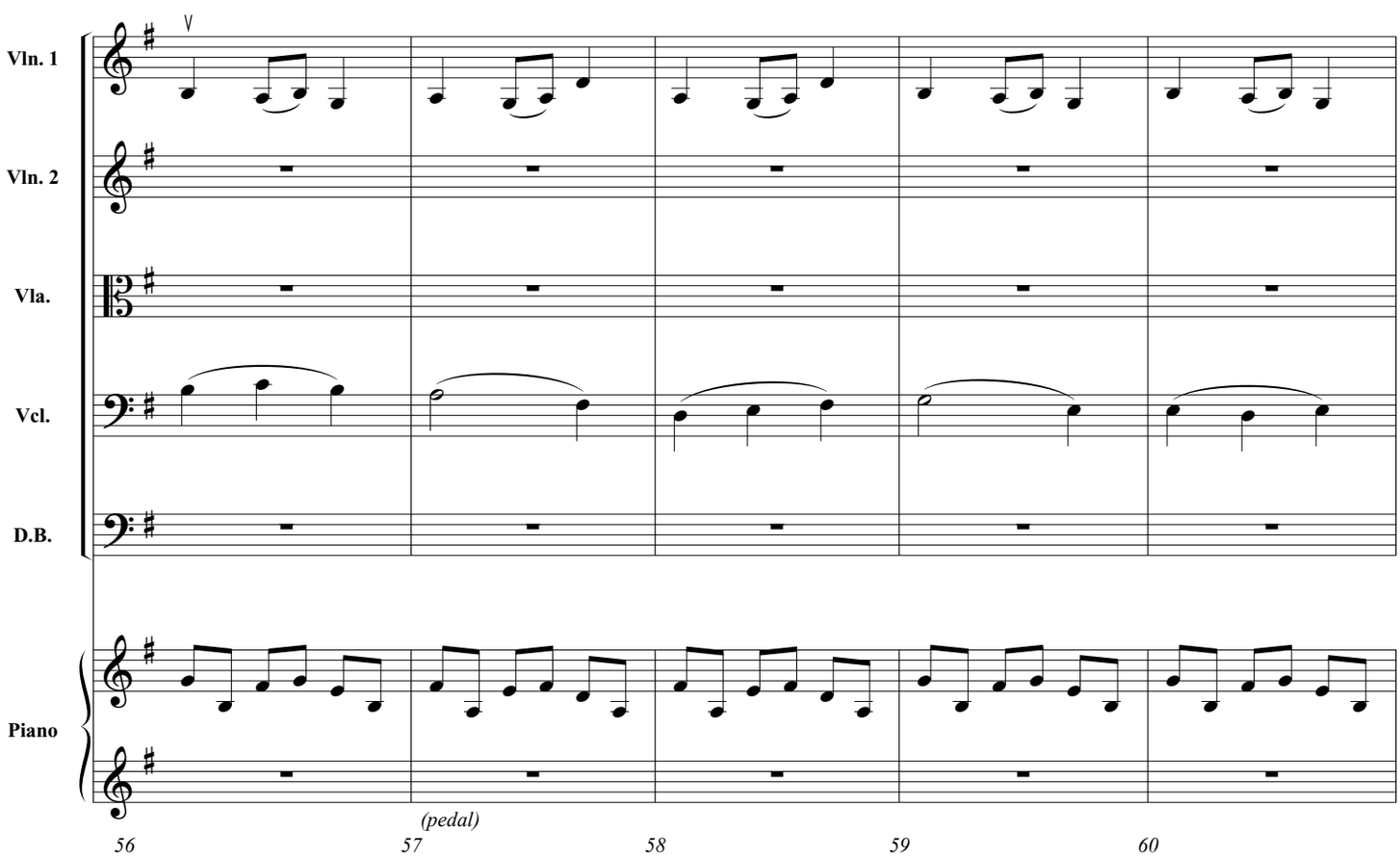
(𝄽)

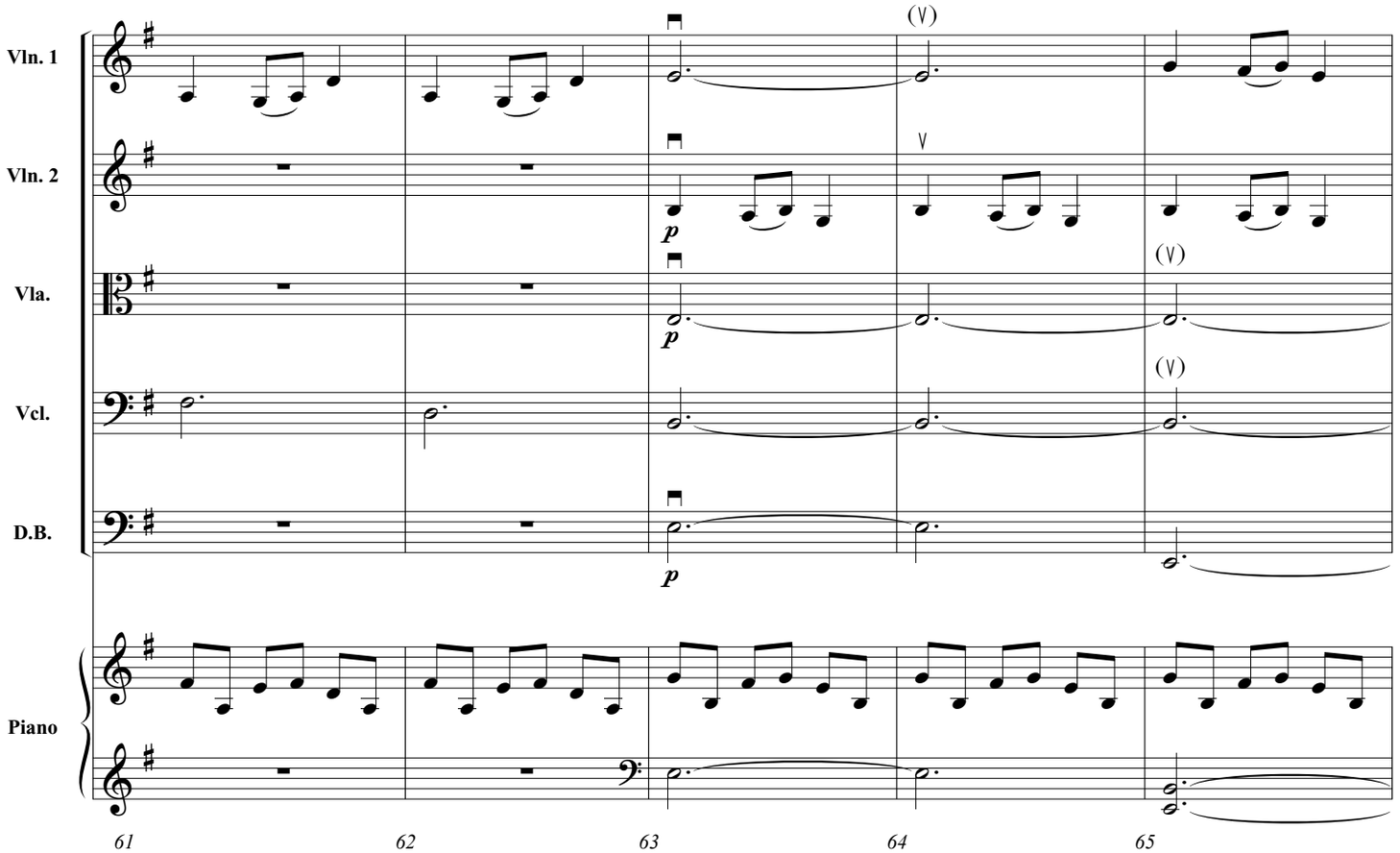
p

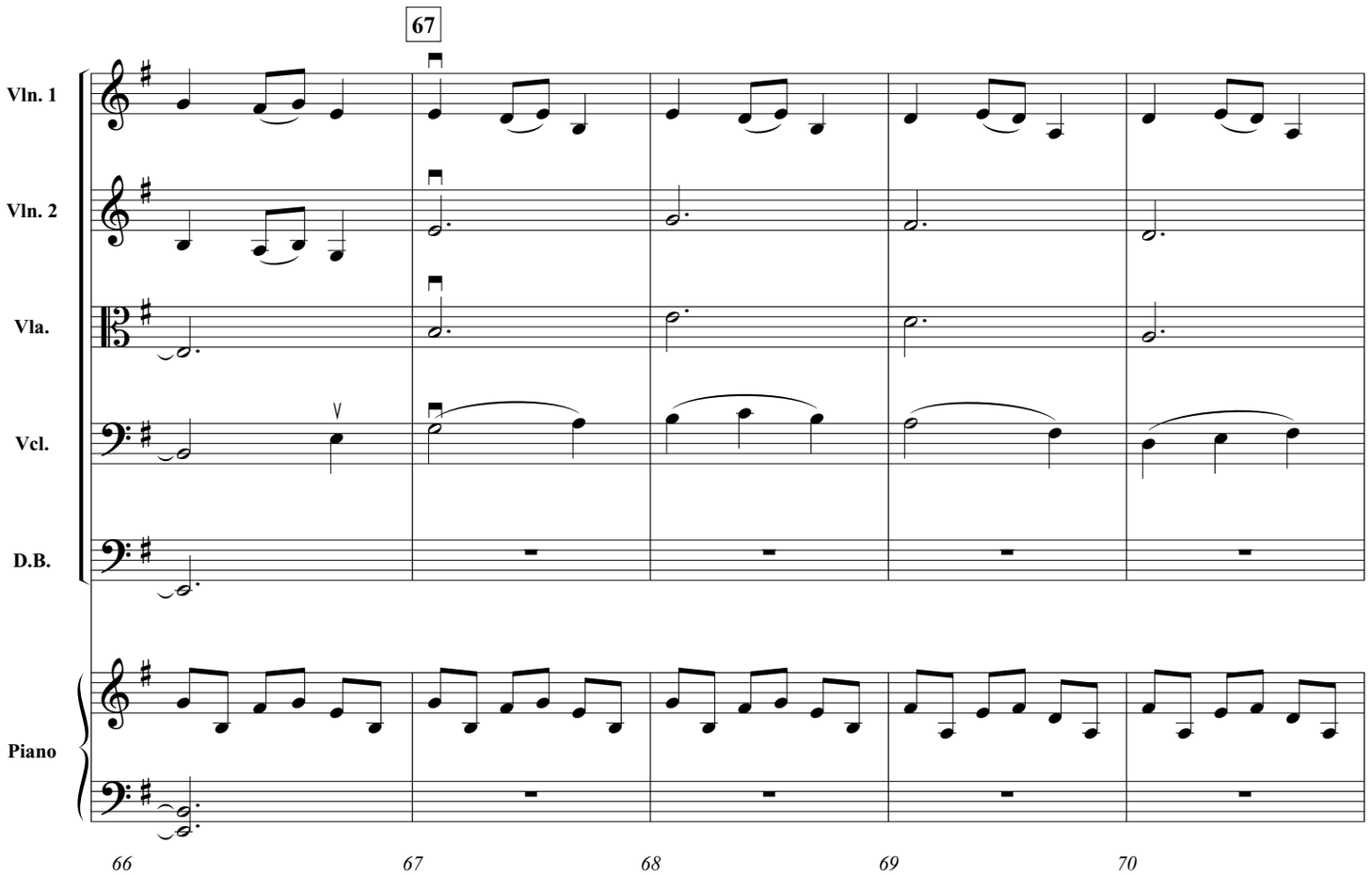
p

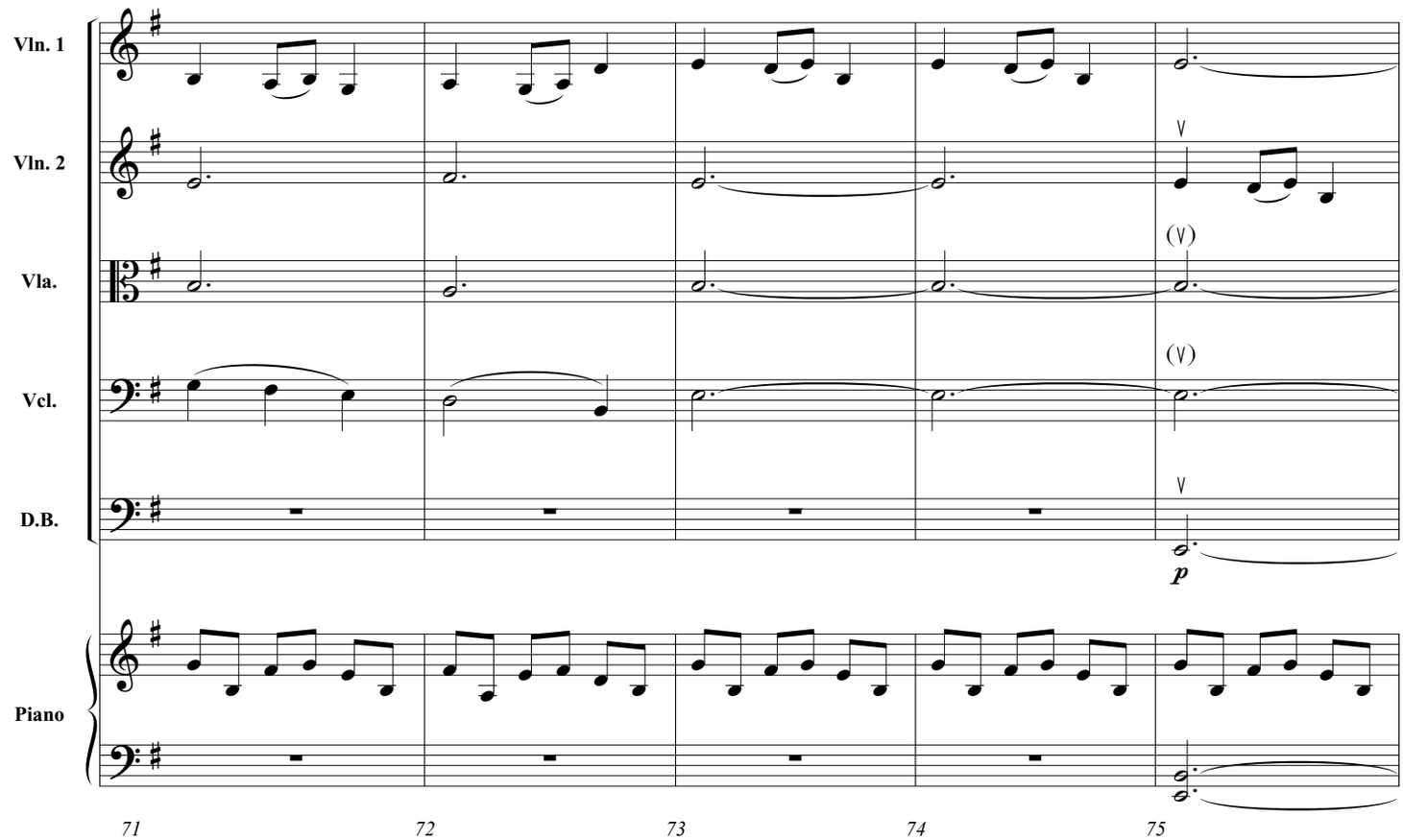
46 47 48 49 50

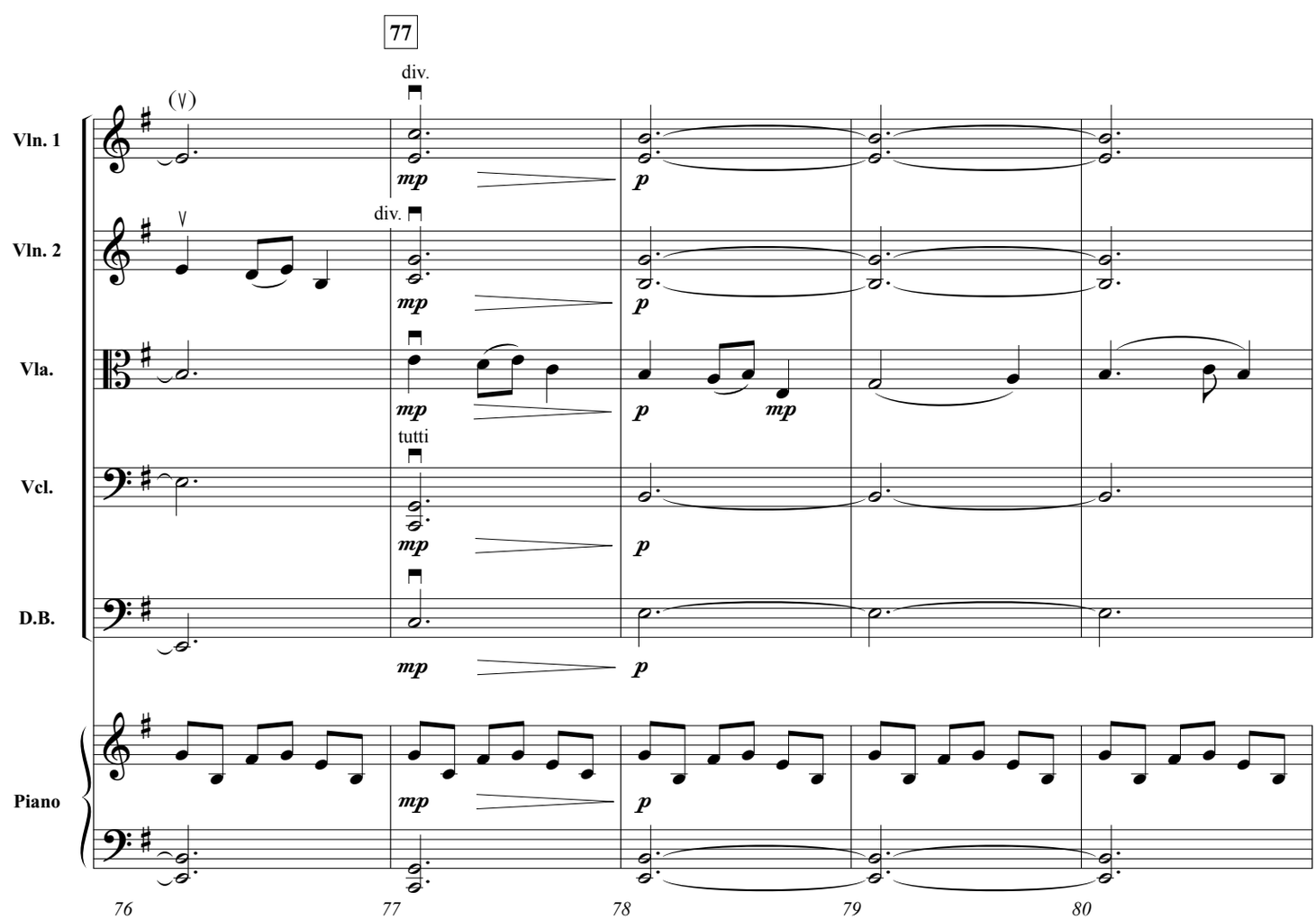

55
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
p
Solo
mp
mp
p
pedal chord changes
51
52
53
54
55

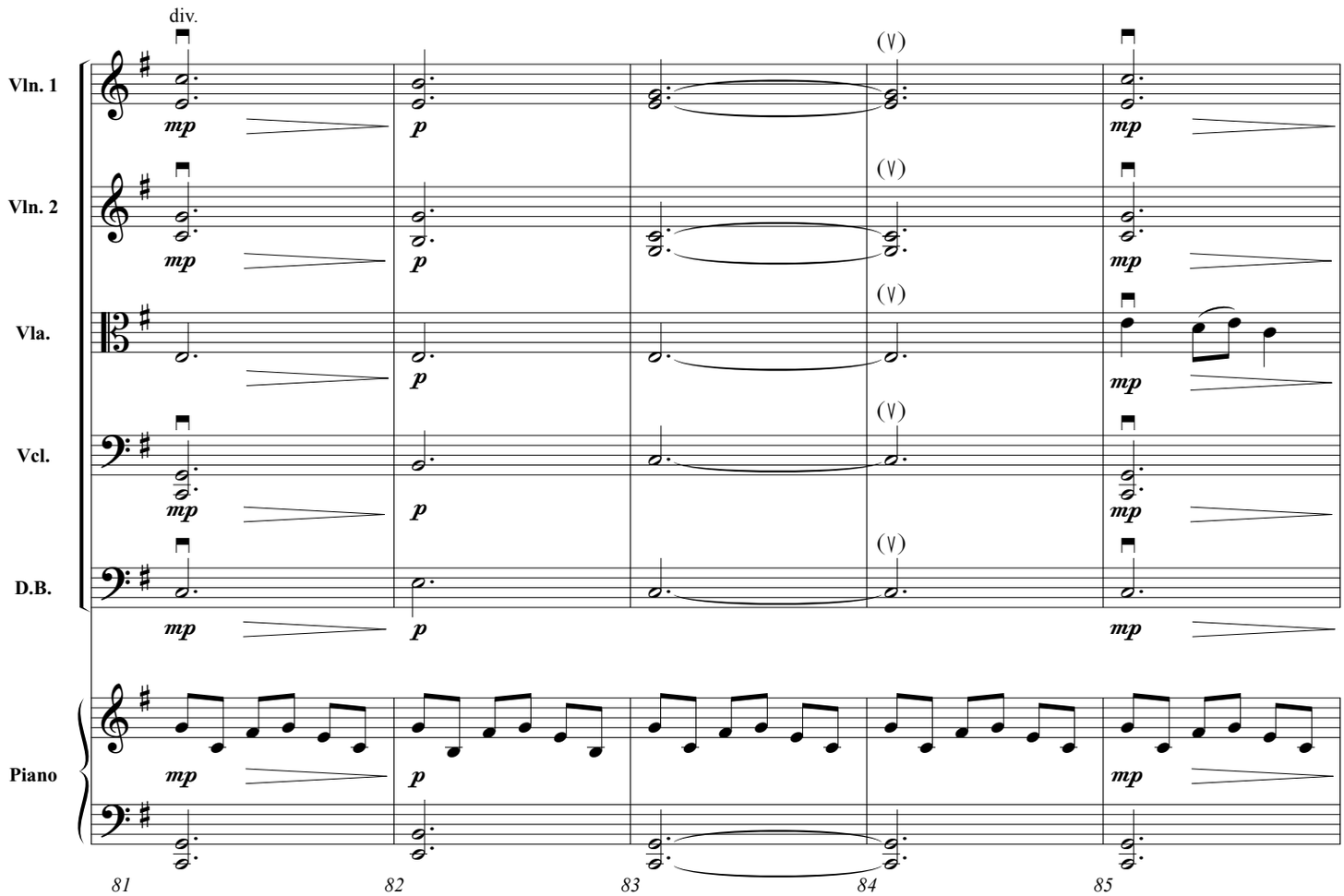

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
(pedal)
56
57
58
59
60

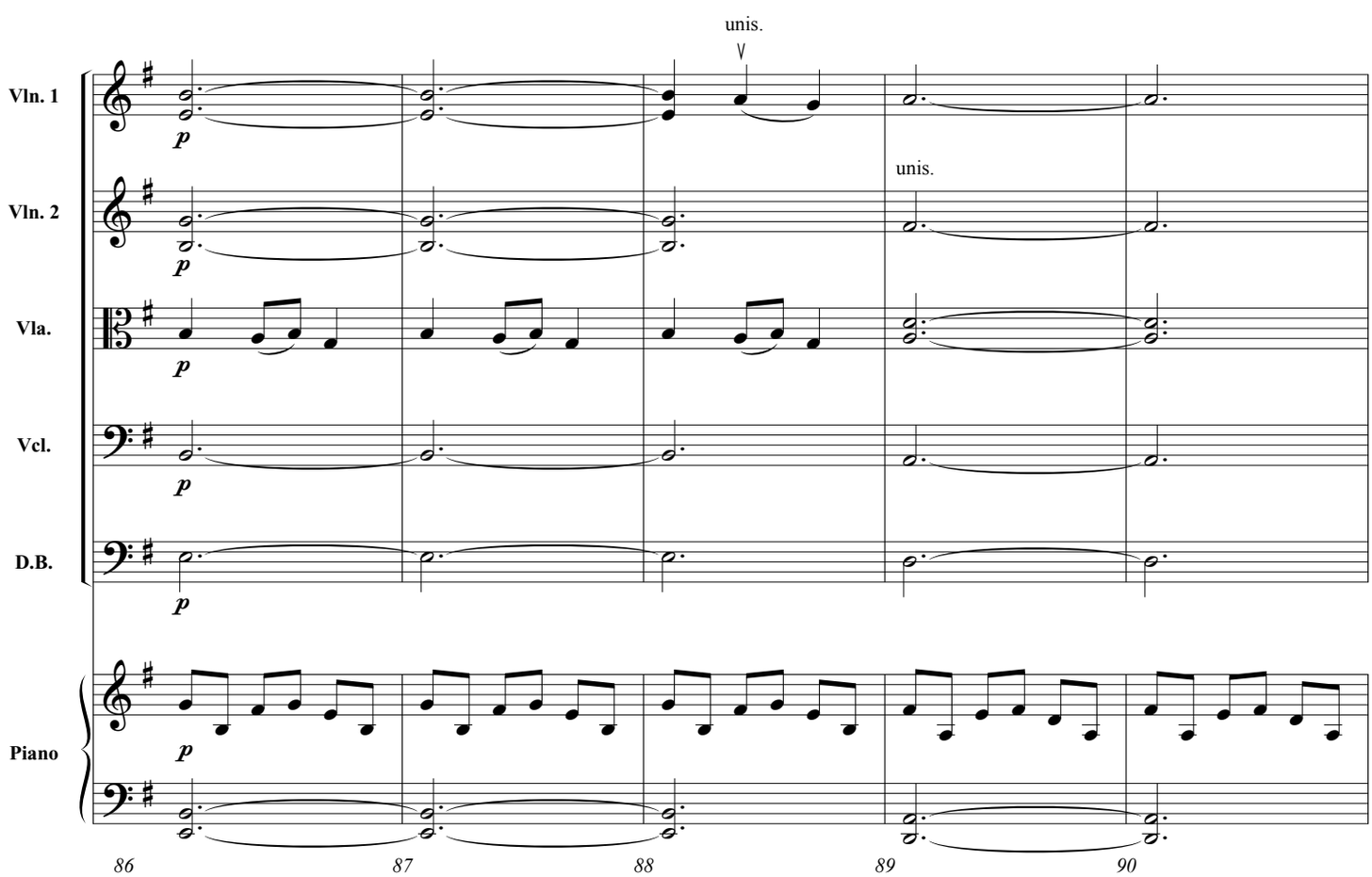

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
p
p
p
(∨)
∨
(∨)
(∨)
61
62
63
64
65

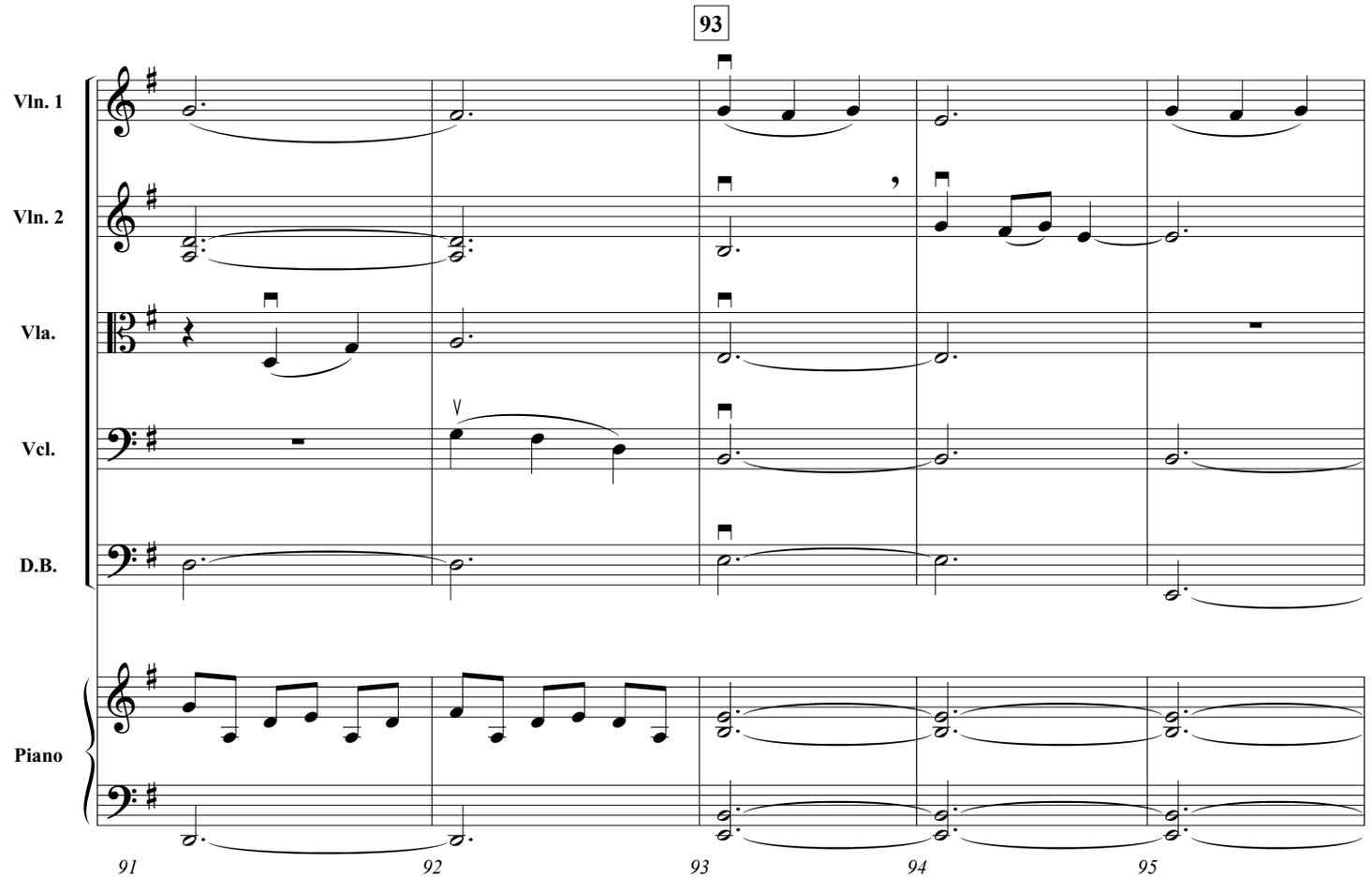

67
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
∨
66
67
68
69
70

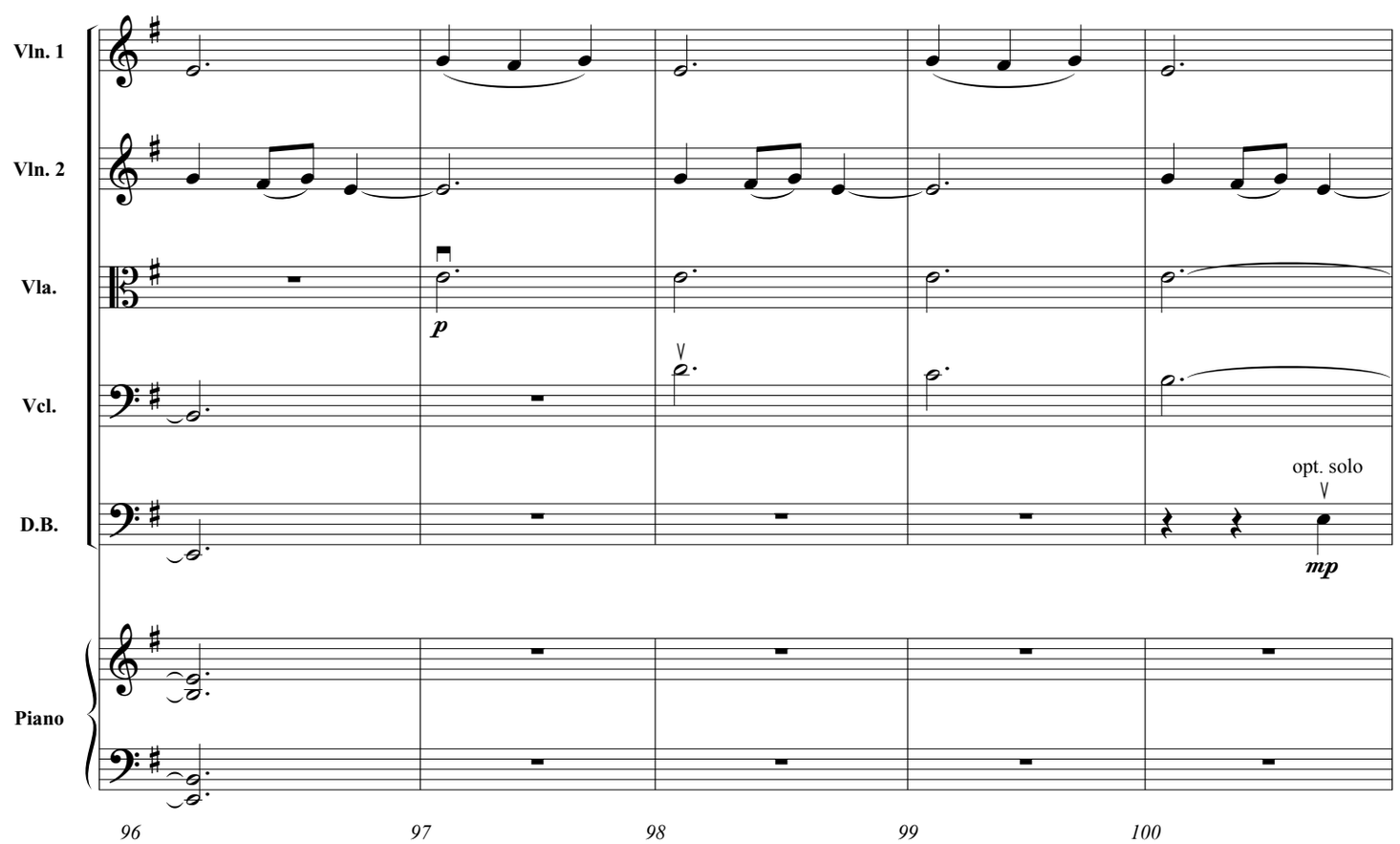

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
p
71
72
73
74
75

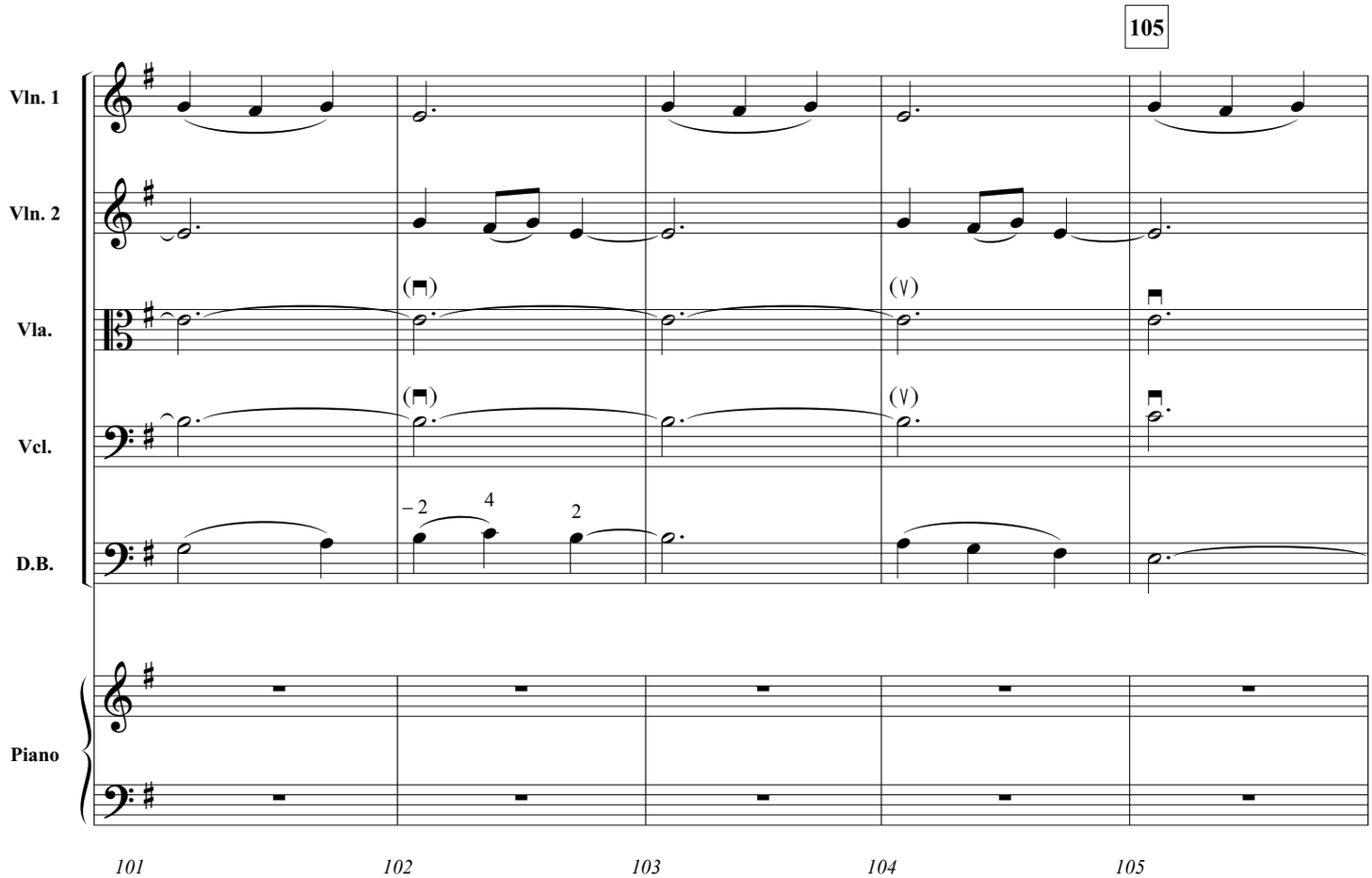

77
div.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
tutti
mp
p
76
77
78
79
80

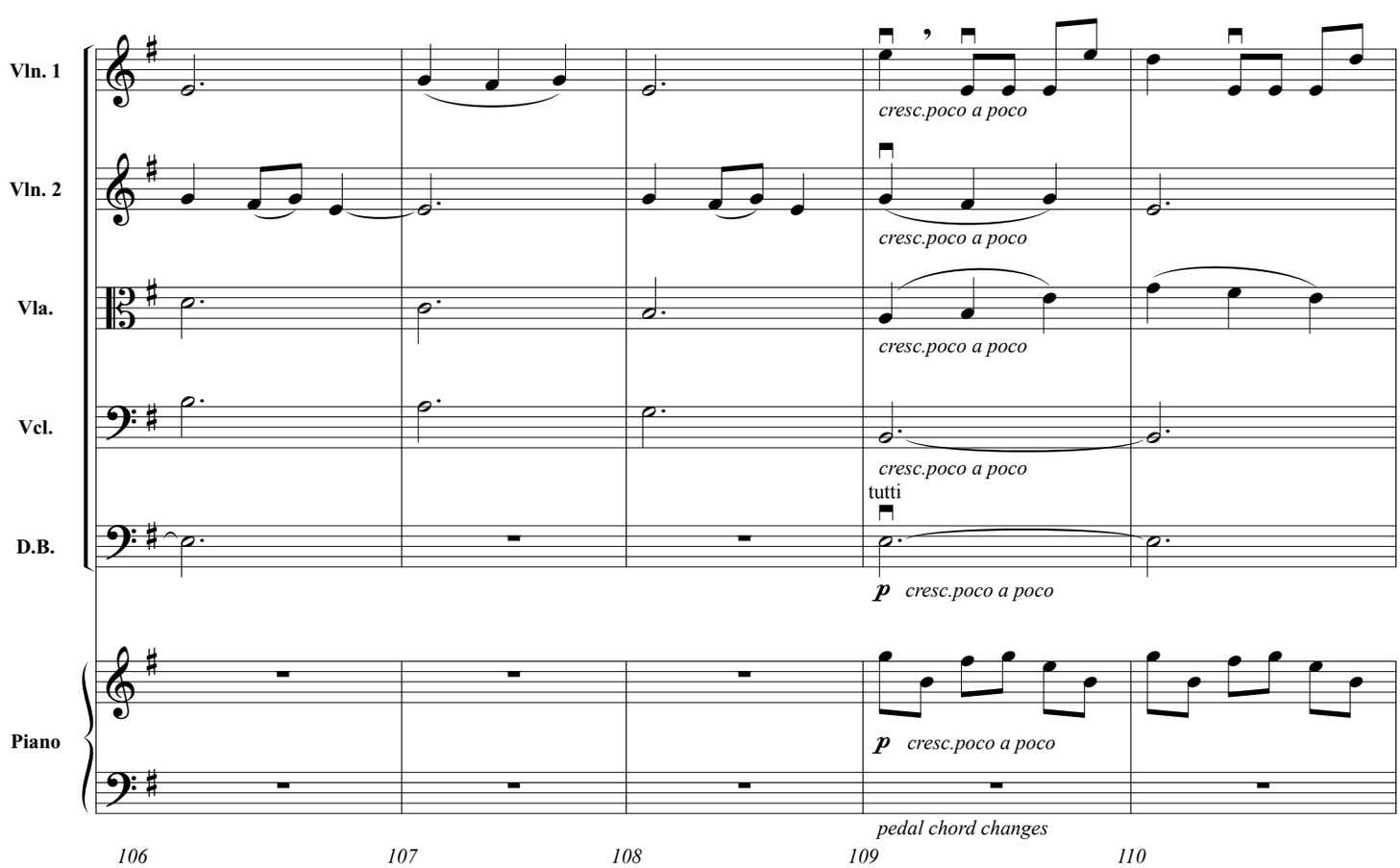

div.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
mp
p
(∨)
81
82
83
84
85

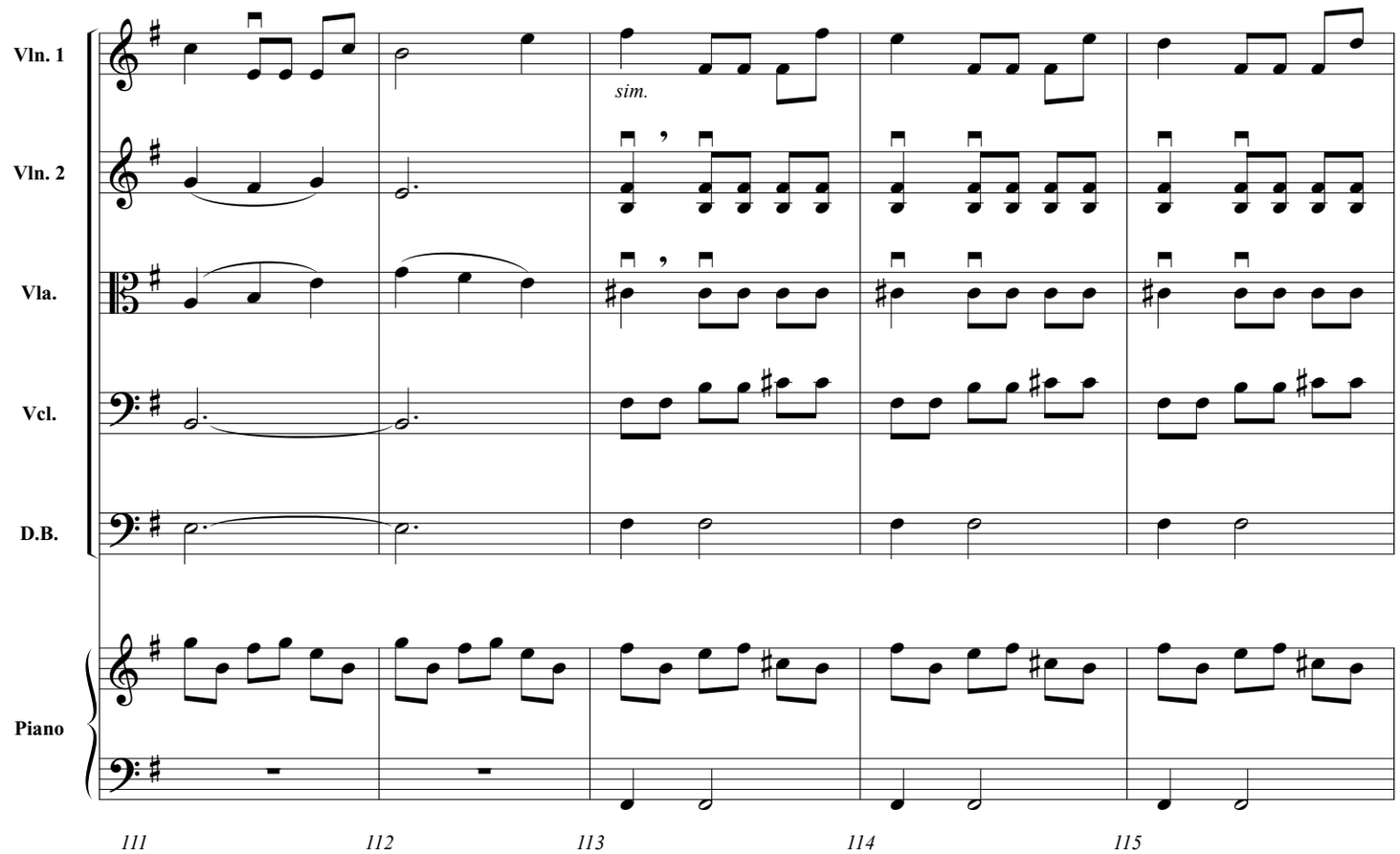

unis.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
p
86
87
88
89
90

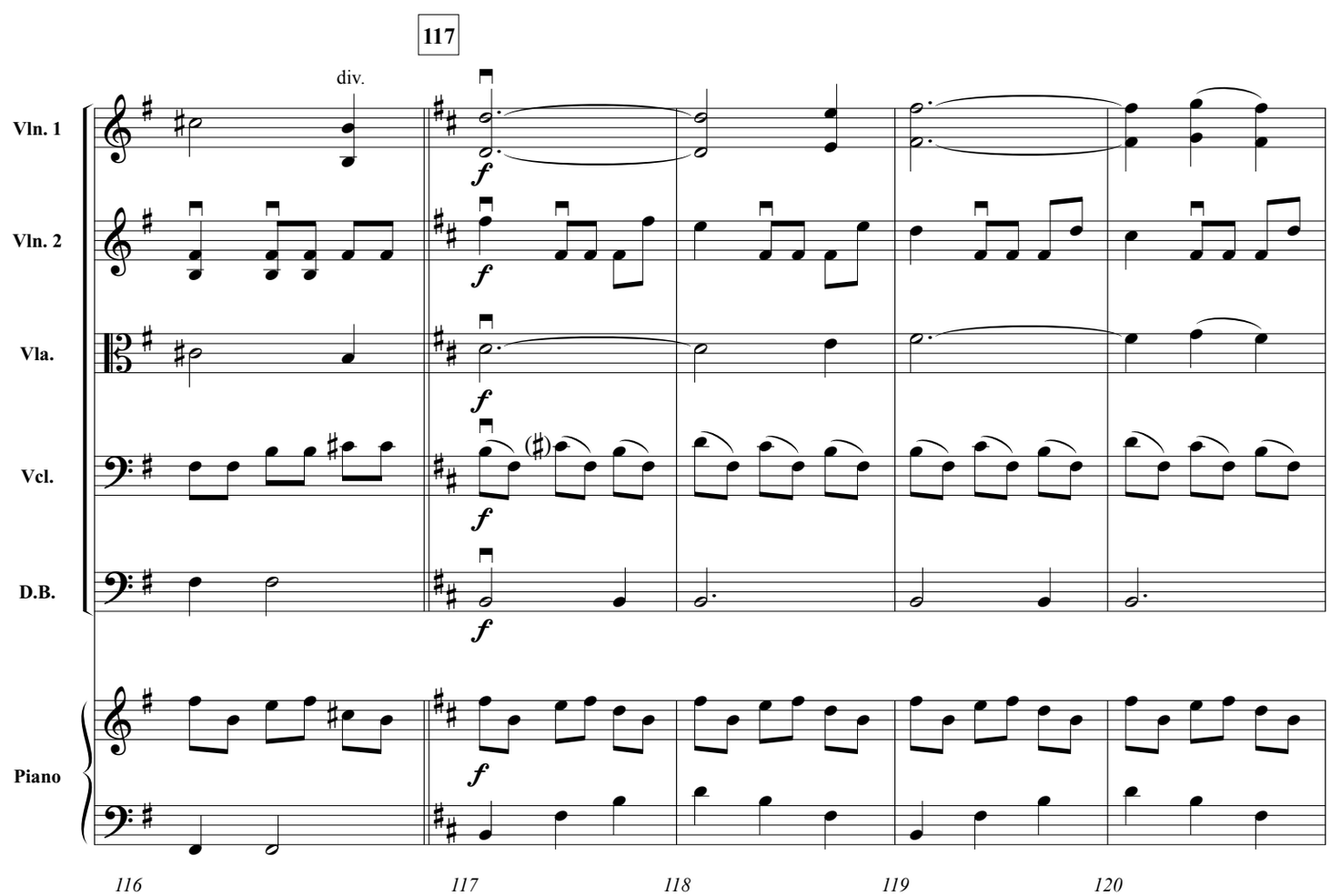

93
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
91
92
93
94
95

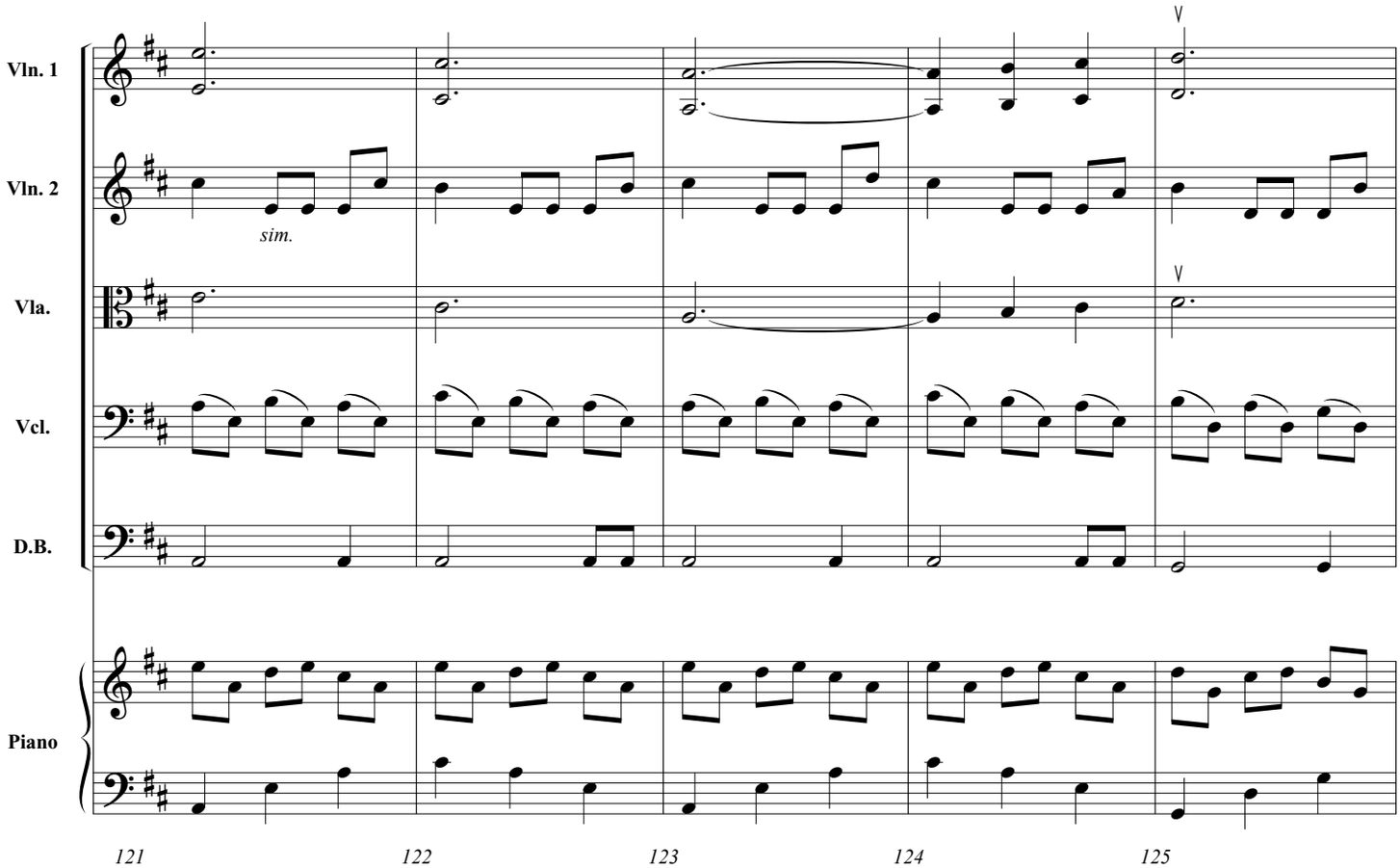

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
p
Vcl.
D.B.
opt. solo
mp
Piano
96
97
98
99
100

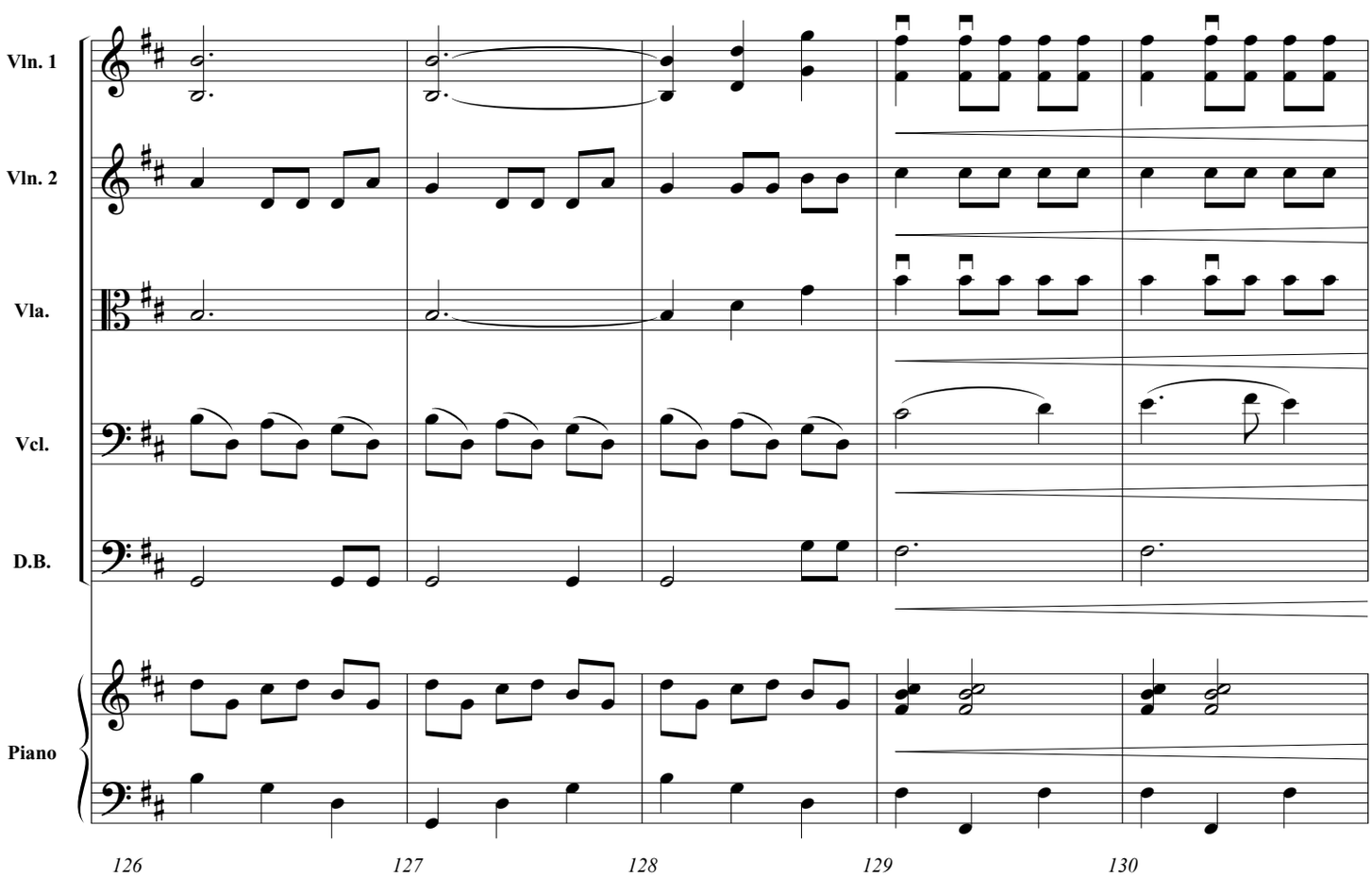

105
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
– 2
4
2
101
102
103
104
105

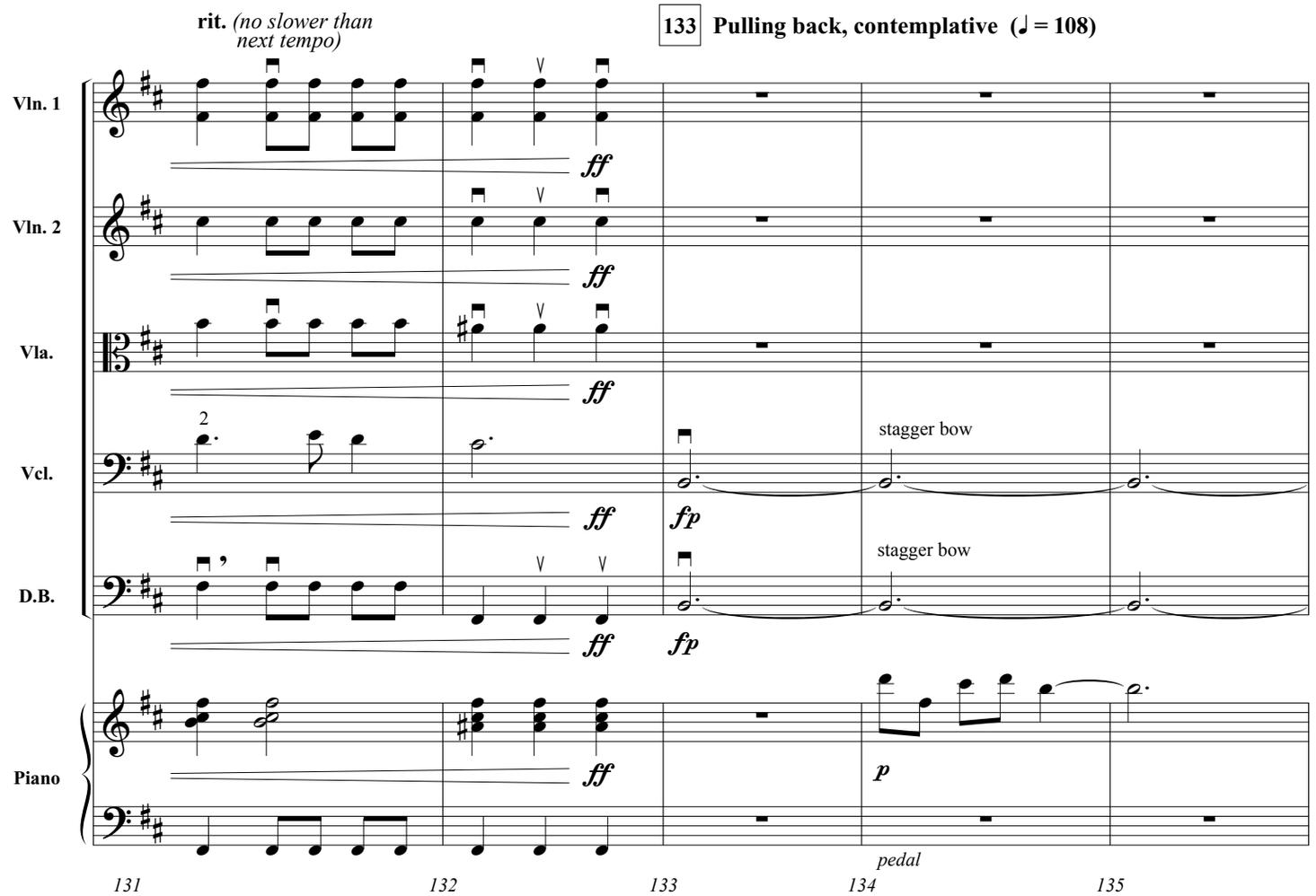

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
cresc.poco a poco
tutti
p
pedal chord changes
106
107
108
109
110

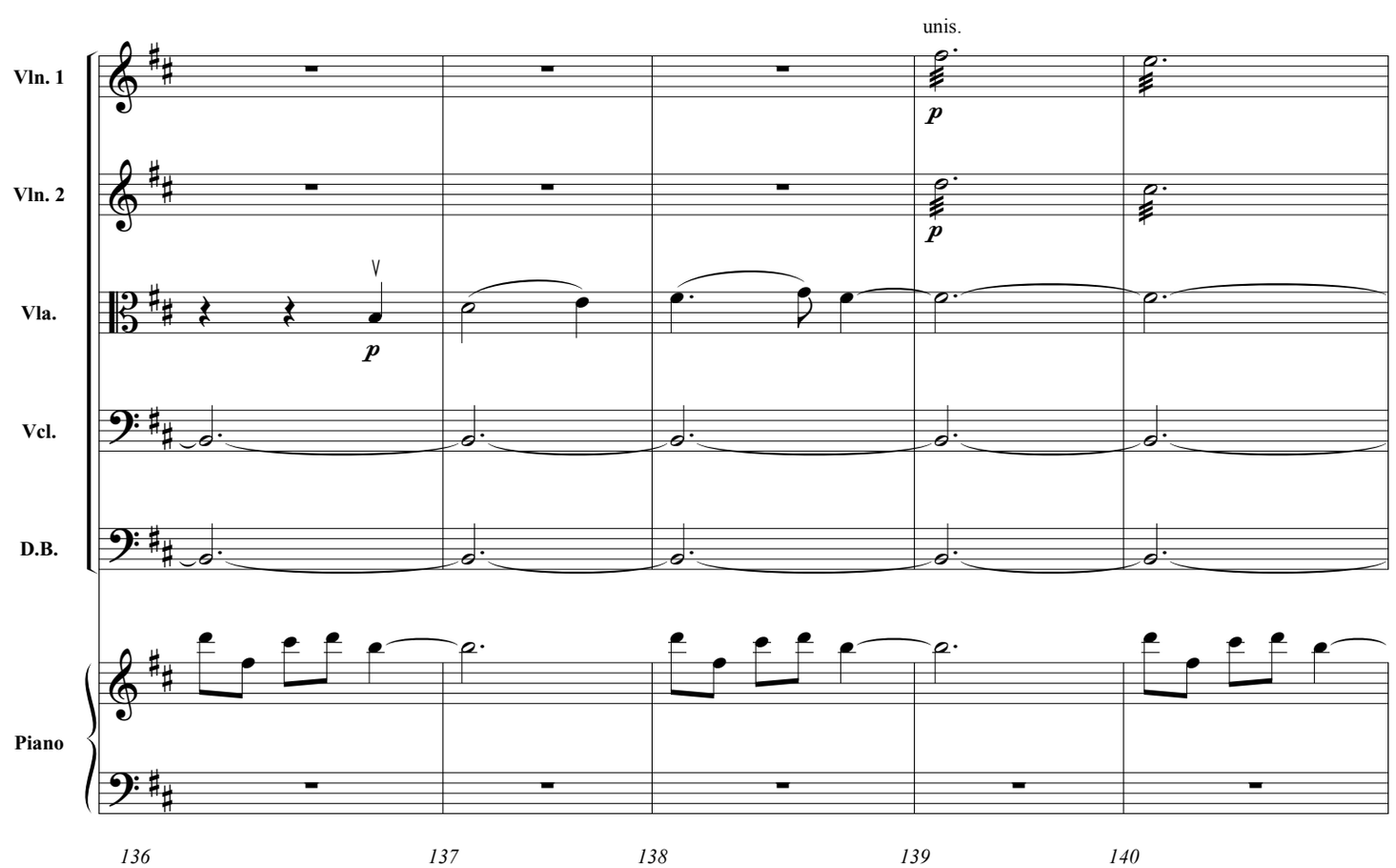

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
sim.
111
112
113
114
115

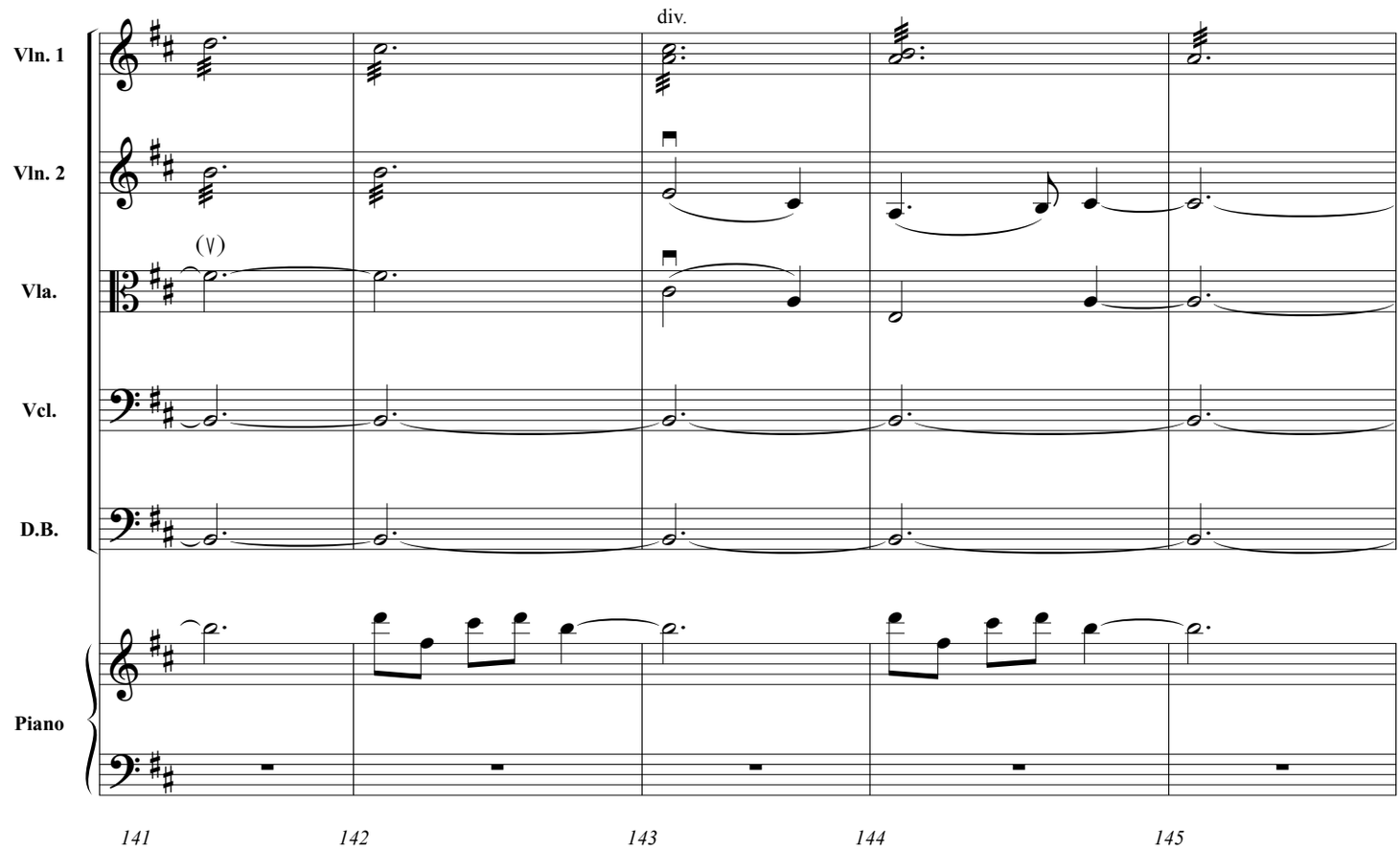

117
div.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
f
116
117
118
119
120

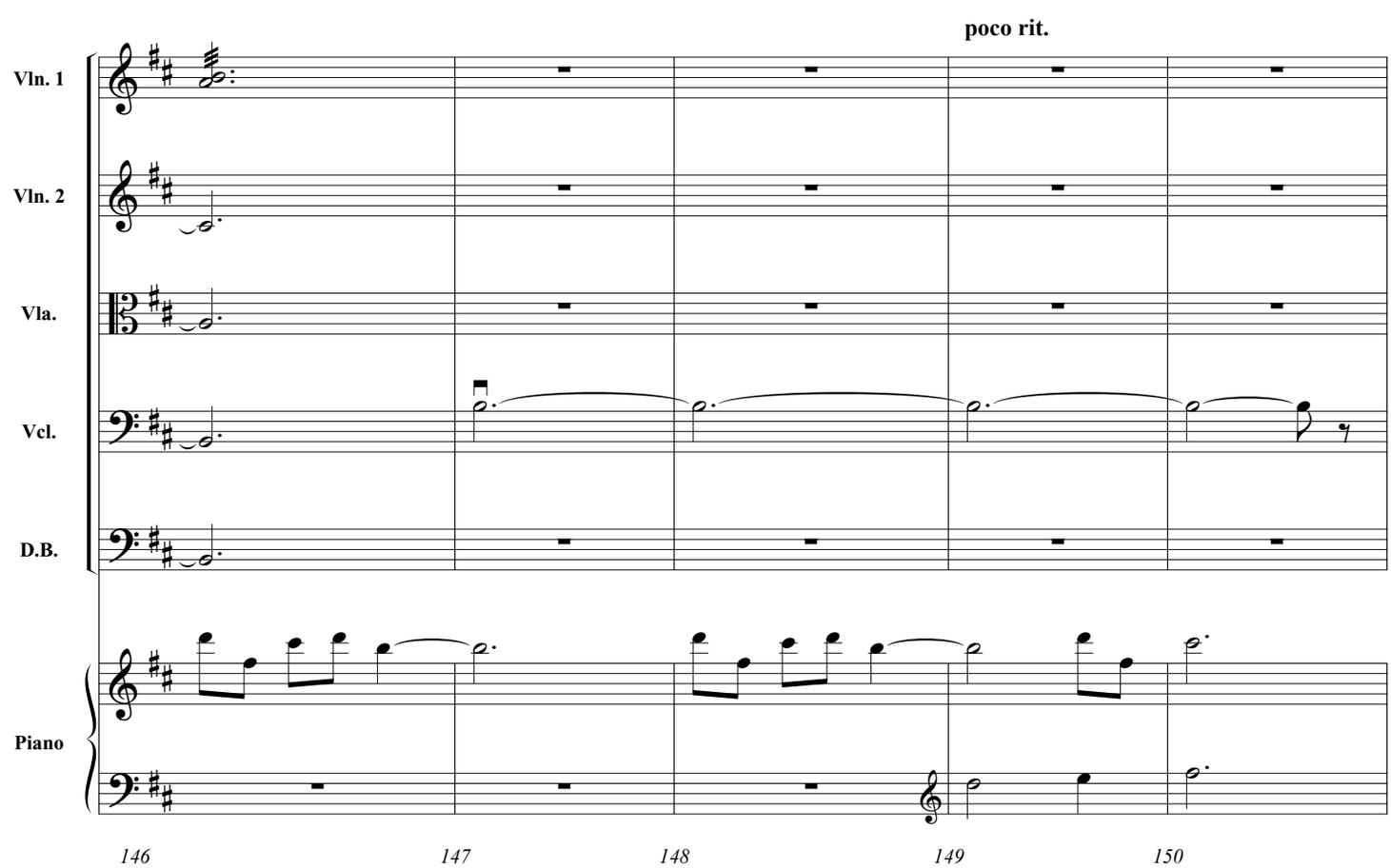

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
sim.
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
121
122
123
124
125

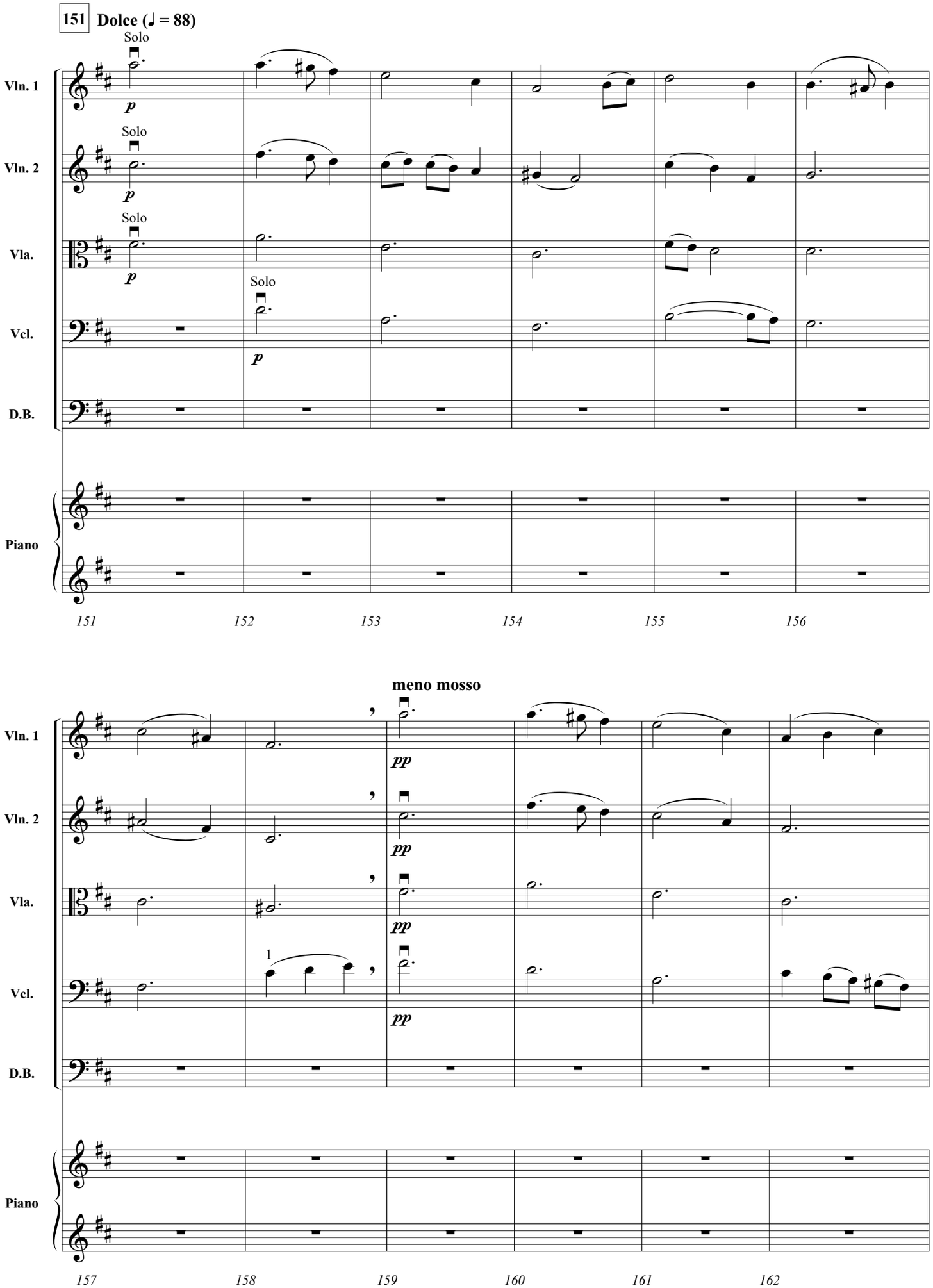

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
126
127
128
129
130


rit. (no slower than next tempo)
133 Pulling back, contemplative (♩ = 108)
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
ff
fp
p
2
stagger bow
pedal
131
132
133
134
135


unis.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
p
136
137
138
139
140


div.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
141
142
143
144
145


poco rit.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
146
147
148
149
150


151 Dolce (♩ = 88)
Solo
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
p
meno mosso
pp
1
151
152
153
154
155
156
157
158
159
160
161
162

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano

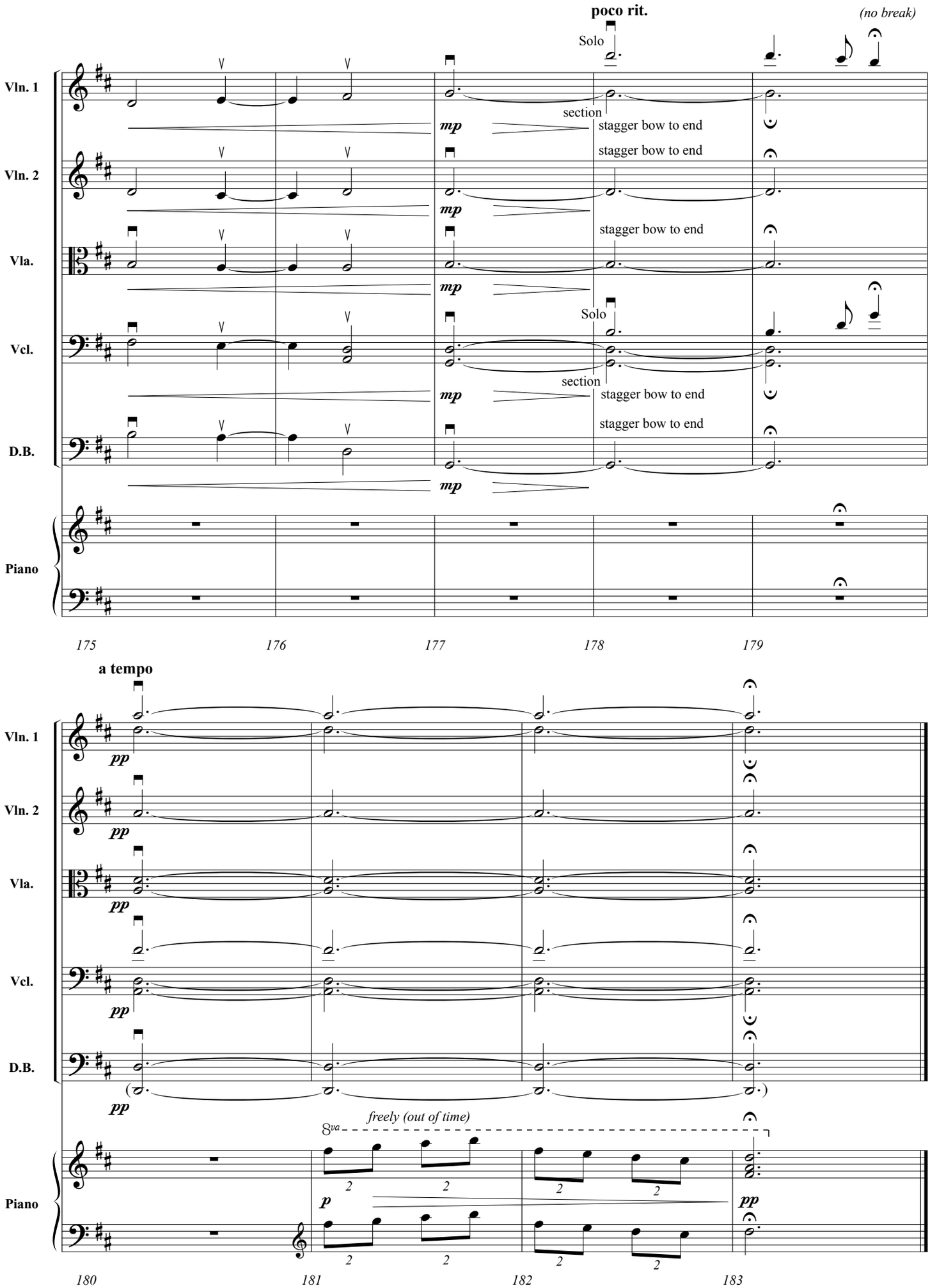
tutti
pizz.
pp
pp
pedal

163 164 165 166 167

171

tutti
tutti
tutti
arco
p

169 171 172 173 174


poco rit.
(no break)
Solo
section
stagger bow to end
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Piano
mp
175
176
177
178
179
a tempo
pp
freely (out of time)
8va
p
180
181
182
183

ST6427