Songs of Christmas Past

from "A Christmas Triptych"

Ian David Coleman

1 Full Score

8 Violin I

8 Violin II

5 Viola

5 Cello

5 Bass

Extra Part - P3035371

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Program Notes

I was asked by Park Hill High School in Kansas City North to write a piece for their Christmas concert. I met with the orchestra at PHHS and asked them what Christmas melodies they liked and might want to appear in the piece. I made notes and listened to them perform a couple of the pieces they were working on at the time. Her are the three movements that resulted from this collaboration:

Songs of Christmas Past

There are four Christmas melodies in this piece, 'The Carol of the Bells', 'The Holly and the Ivy', 'God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen' and 'We Three Kings'. You never hear any one of them in its entirety, rather, each appears juxtaposed against the other in quick succession. There is a joyful feel to the entire piece and a good one to keep the audience guessing. You might even have a competition with the audience to see if anyone can 'find' the four melodies by the end of the piece!

About the Composer

I grew up in Bristol, England and later studied music composition and music education at Bath Spa University and the University of Exeter before coming to America to study for my Masters and Doctorate degrees at the University of Kansas. I have been fortunate to have my music performed nationally and internationally by a wide range of ensembles. A composer writes music in the hope that others will perform it. I always enjoy the interactions that happen between the creator of the piece and those entrusted with realizing that piece into sound. I actively encourage and seek commissions that allow for this sort of interaction, where the barrier between the music and the composer can be broken down and the ensemble and composer can become co-creators in the piece.

As Chair of the Department of Music at William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, I find that I am constantly in contact with students who are exploring great art and who are trying to find out more about how that art can and should be brought to life. I also enjoy being in contact with local high school music directors and appreciate the work they do daily to pass on to the next generation a love for music. I hope my music in some way encourages that love for music to grow.

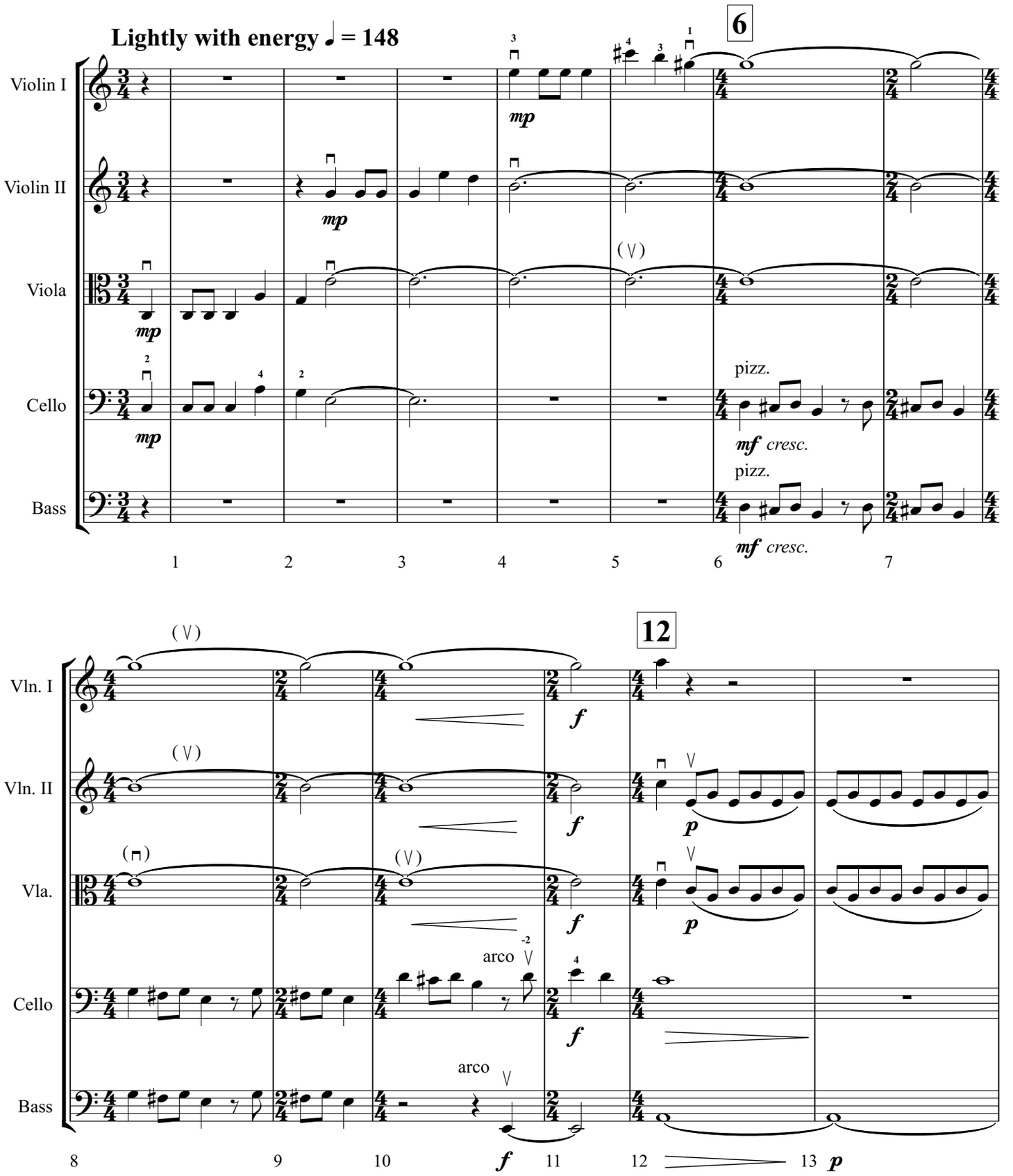
Duration ca. 3:00

Written for Park Hill High School Orchestra in Kansas City North, under the direction of Stephanie Phalp

Songs of Christmas Past

from "A Christmas Triptych"

Ian David Coleman



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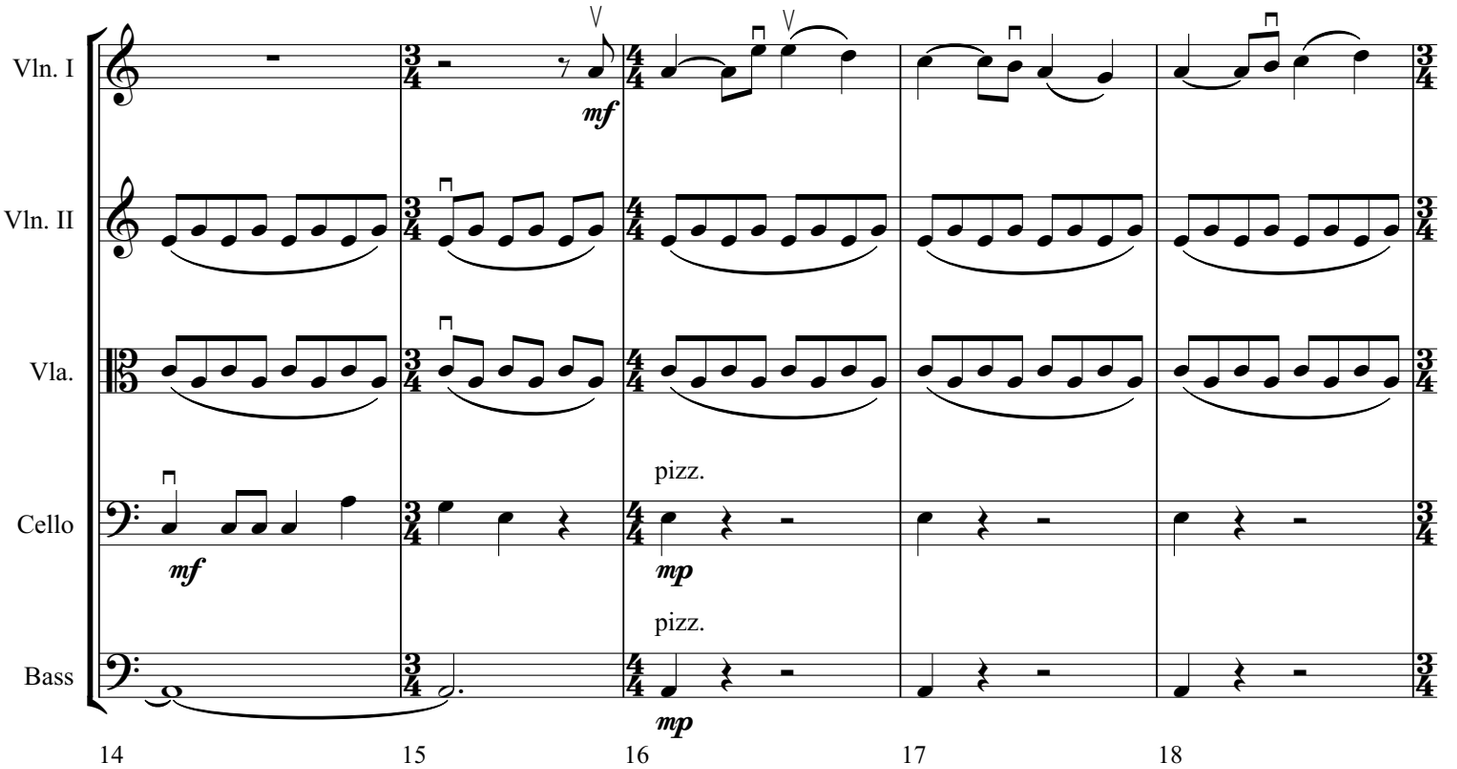
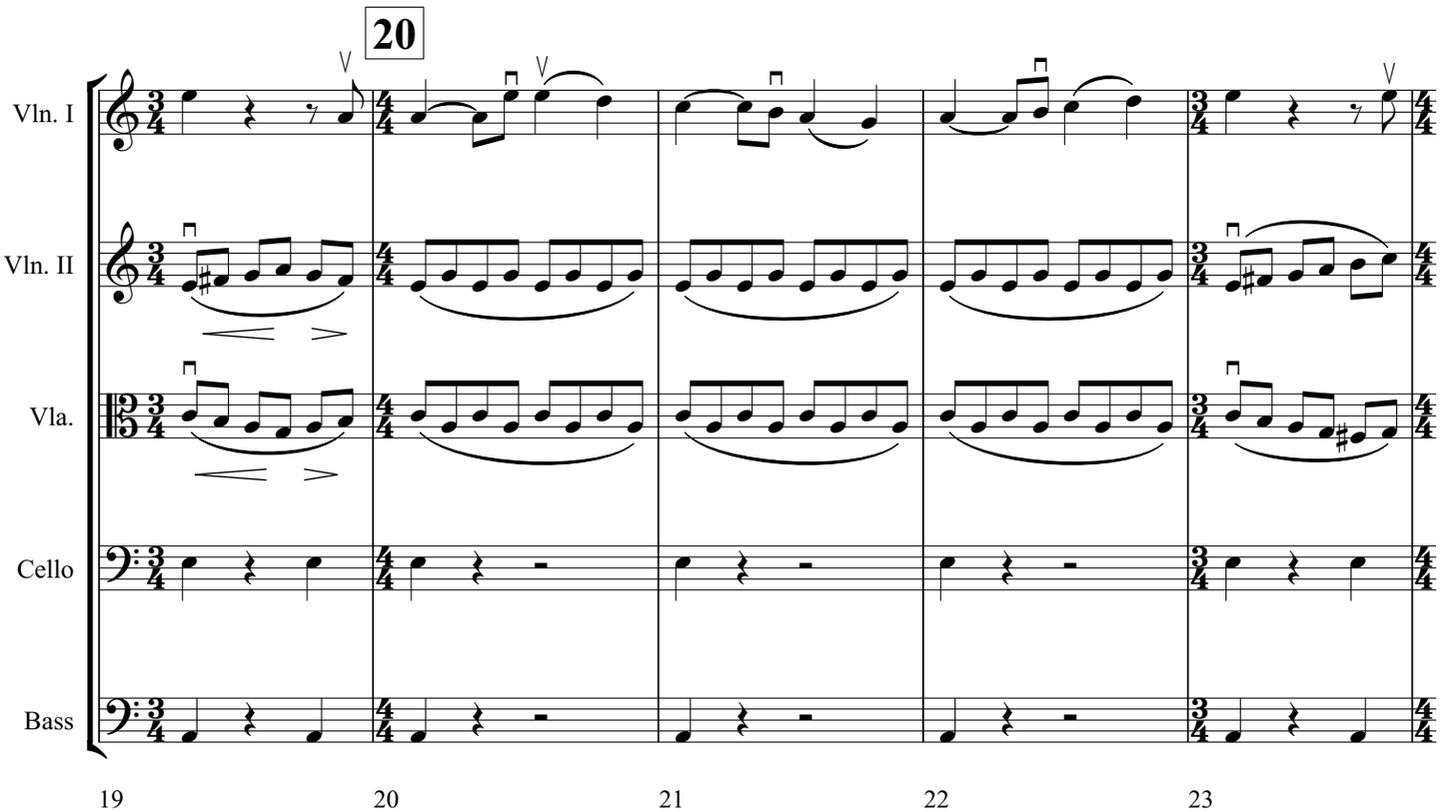
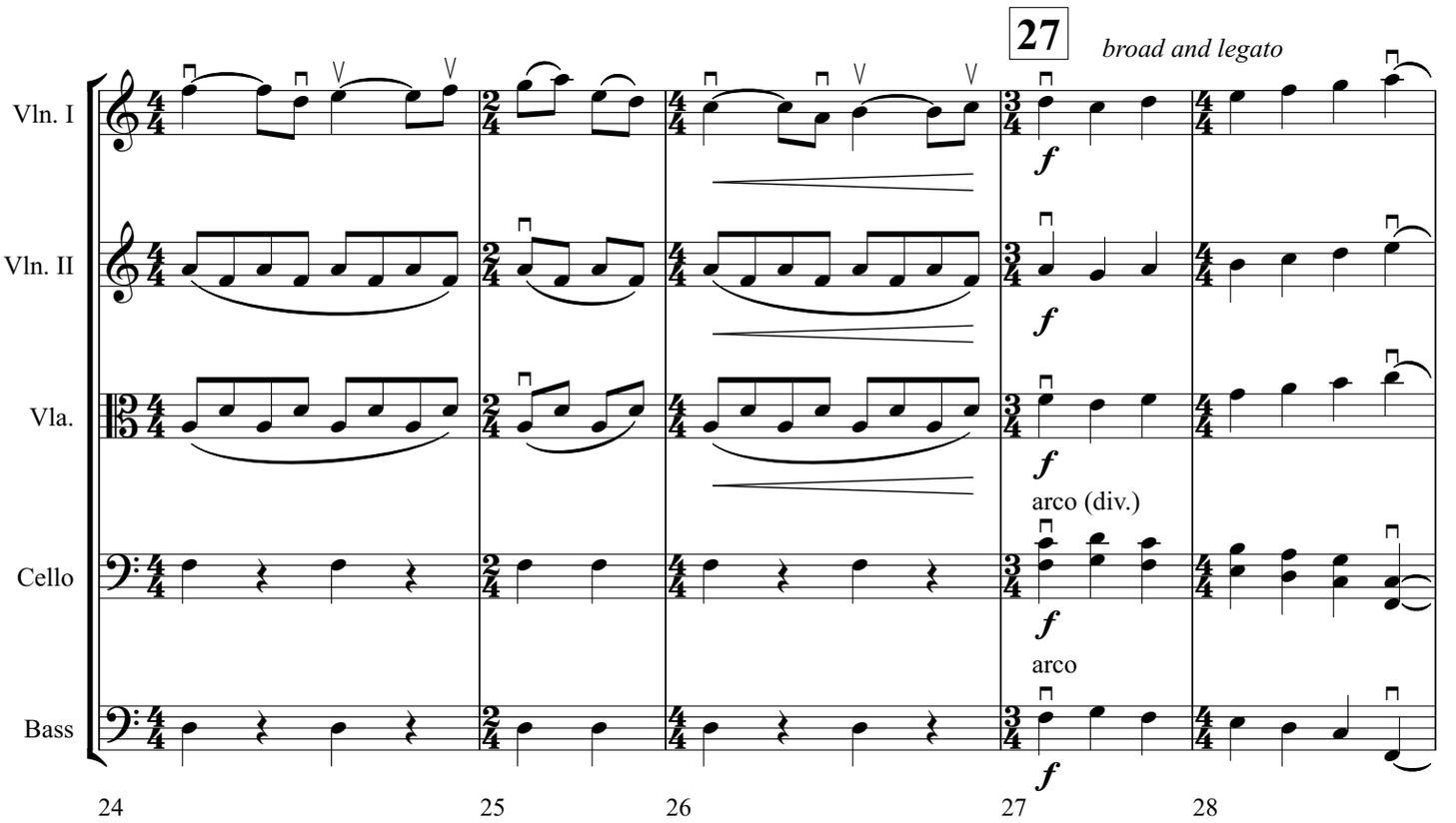
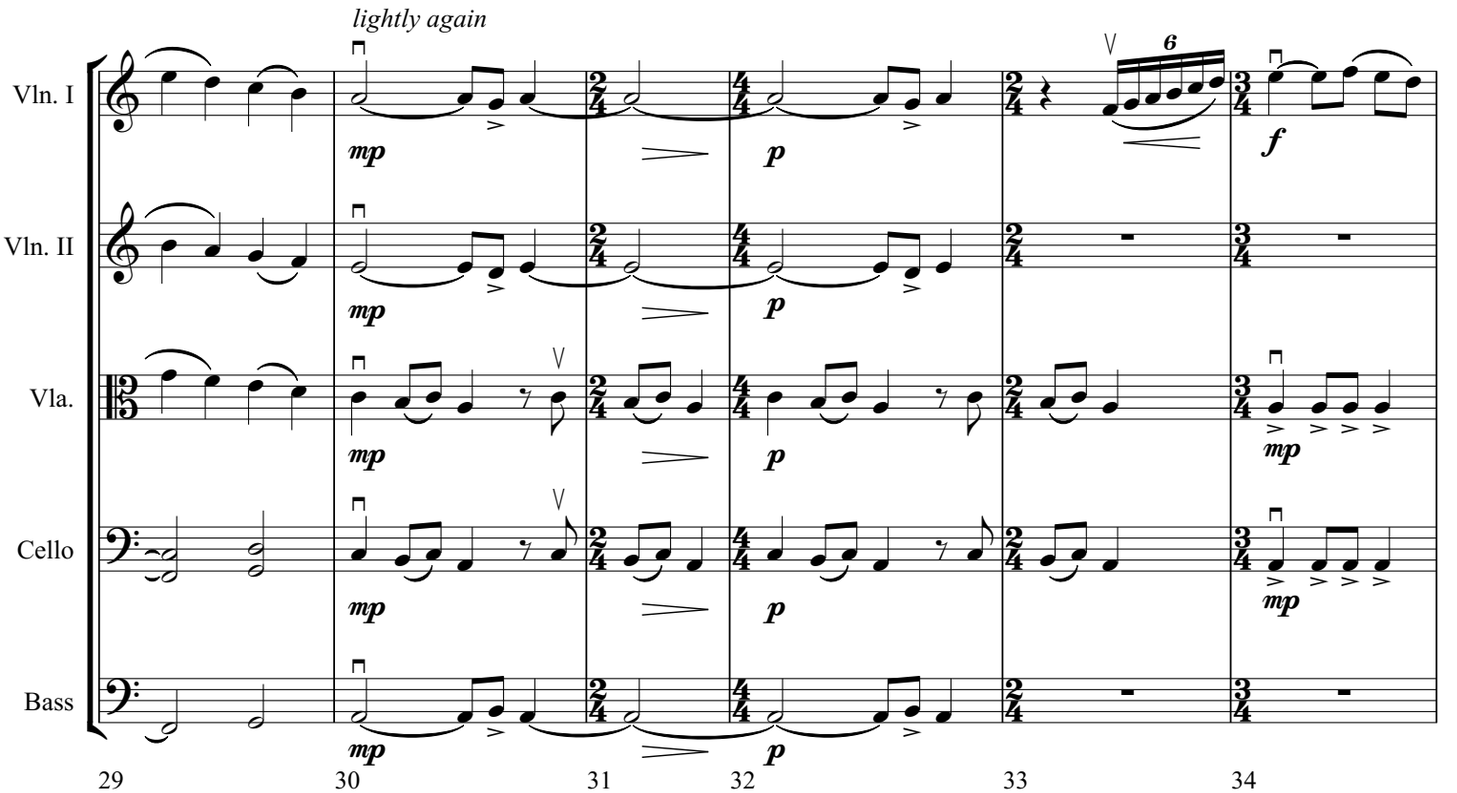
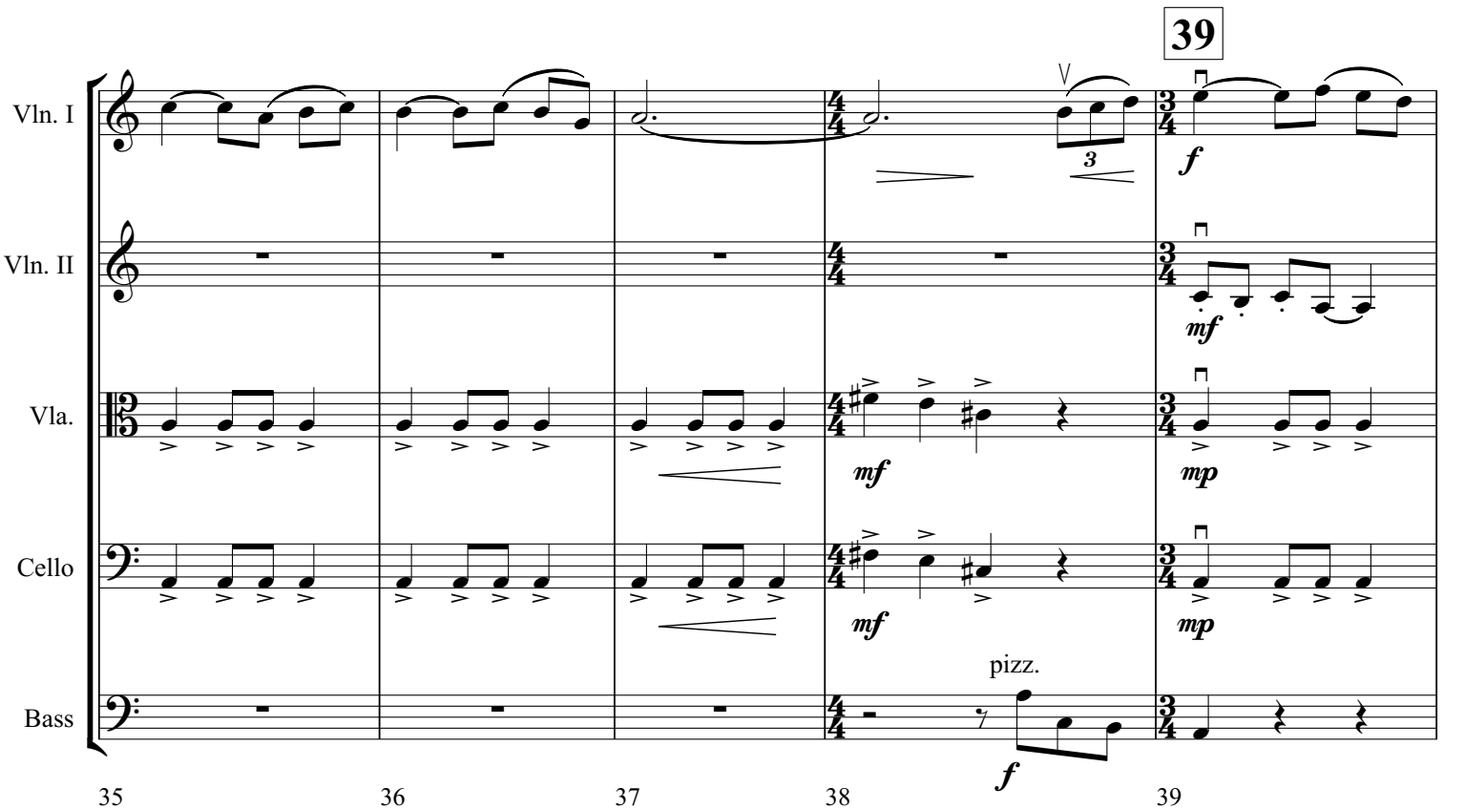
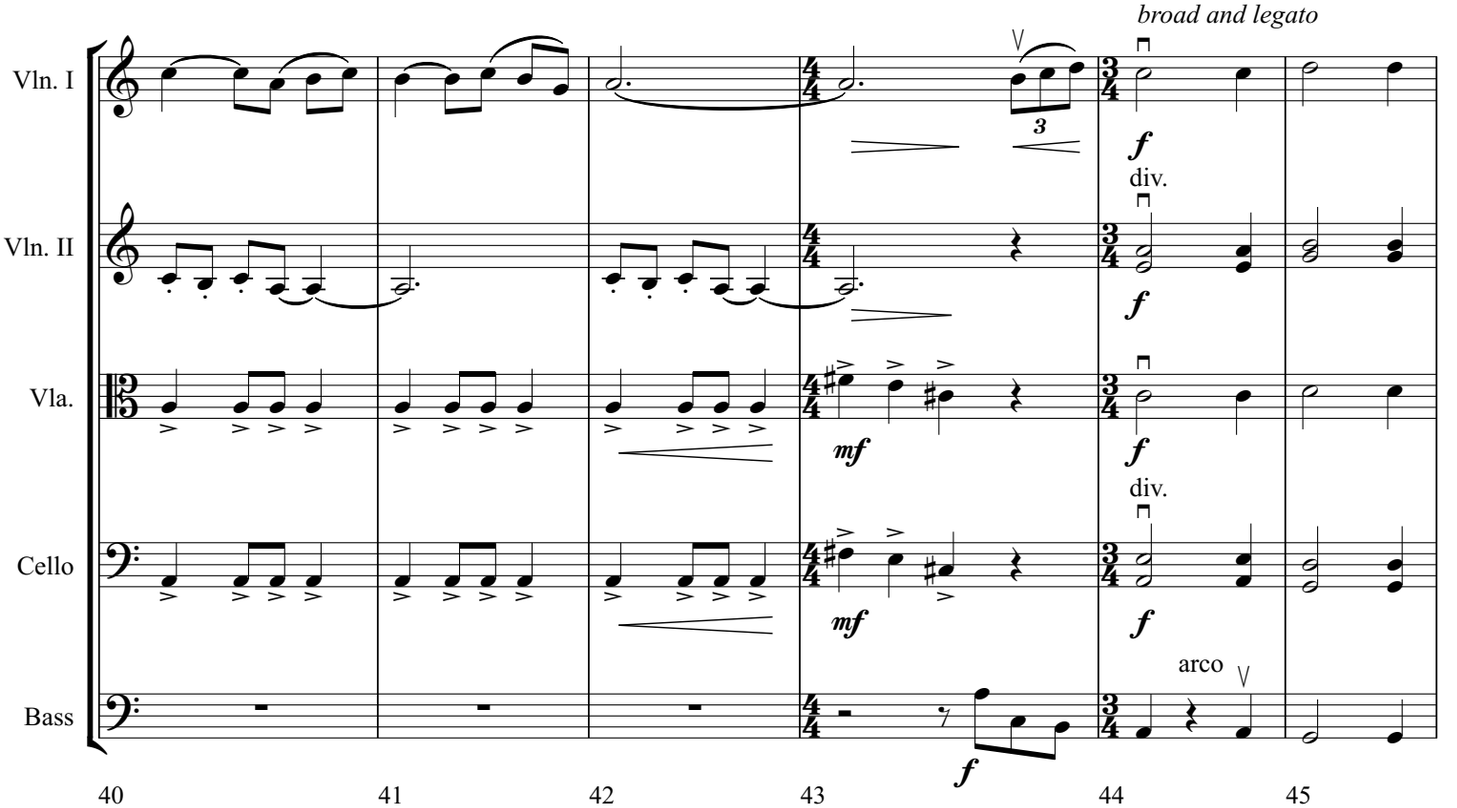

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass
mf
pizz.
mp
pizz.
mp
14
15
16
17
18

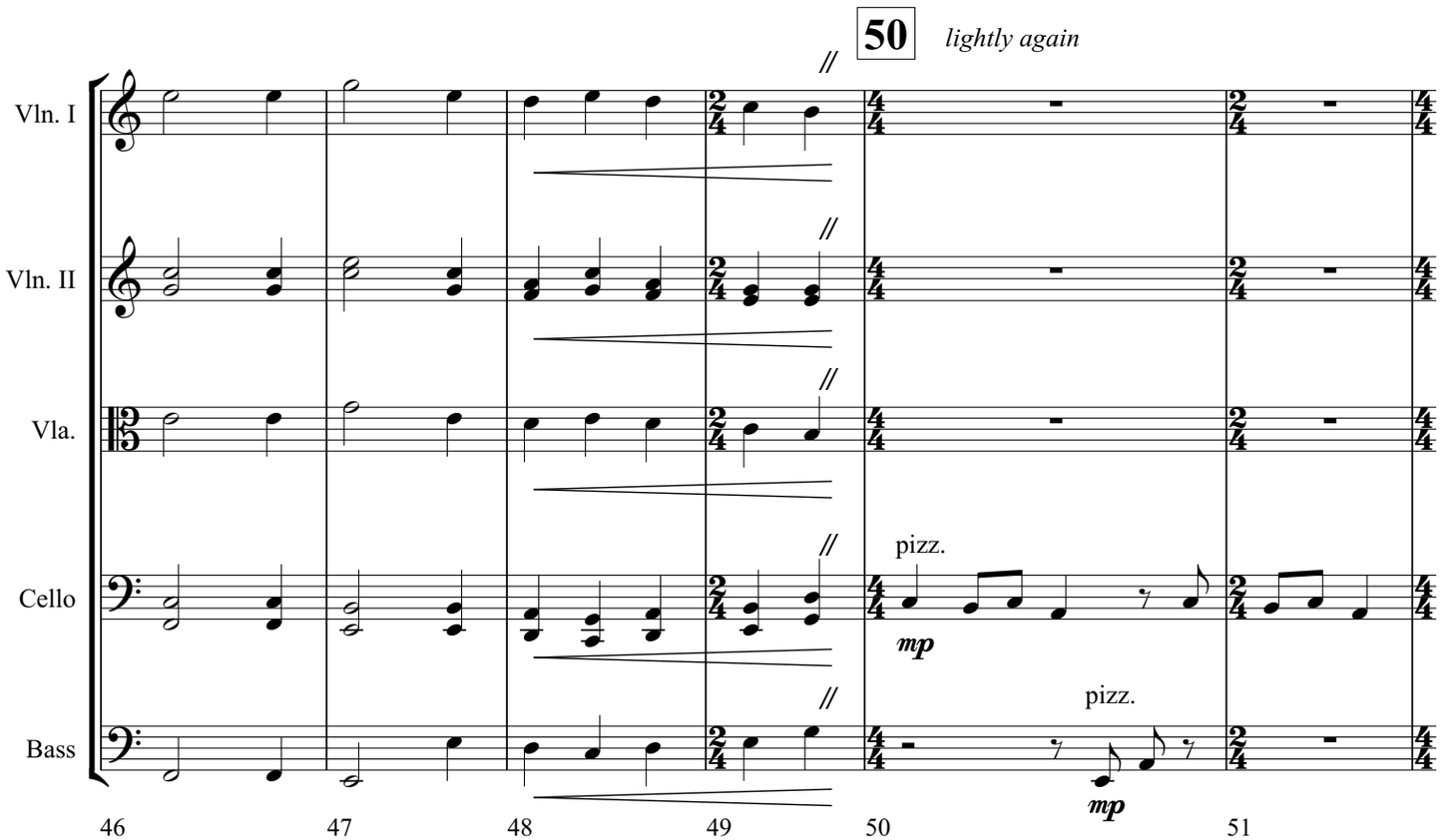

20
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass
19
20
21
22
23

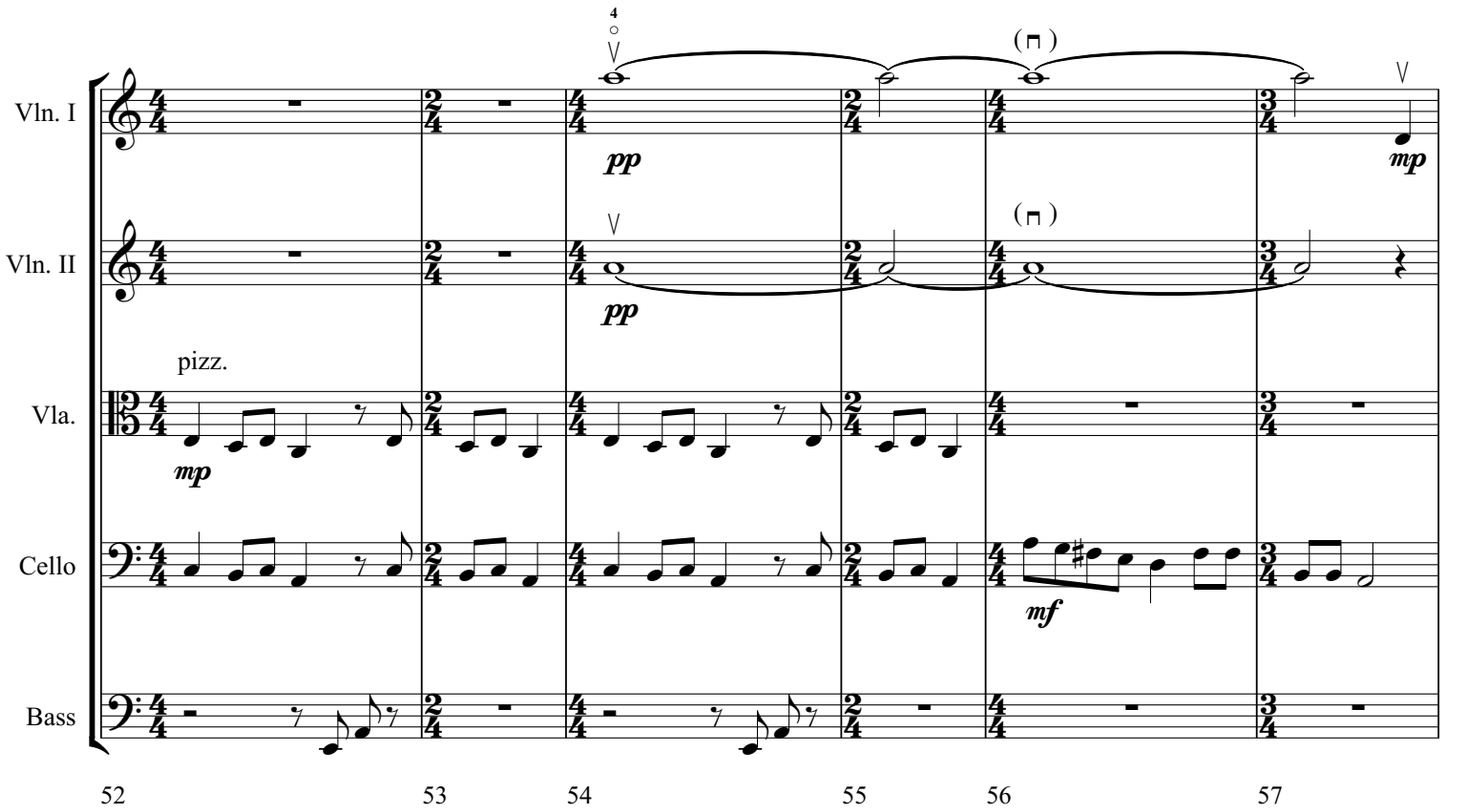

27
broad and legato
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass
arco (div.)
arco
f
24
25
26
27
28

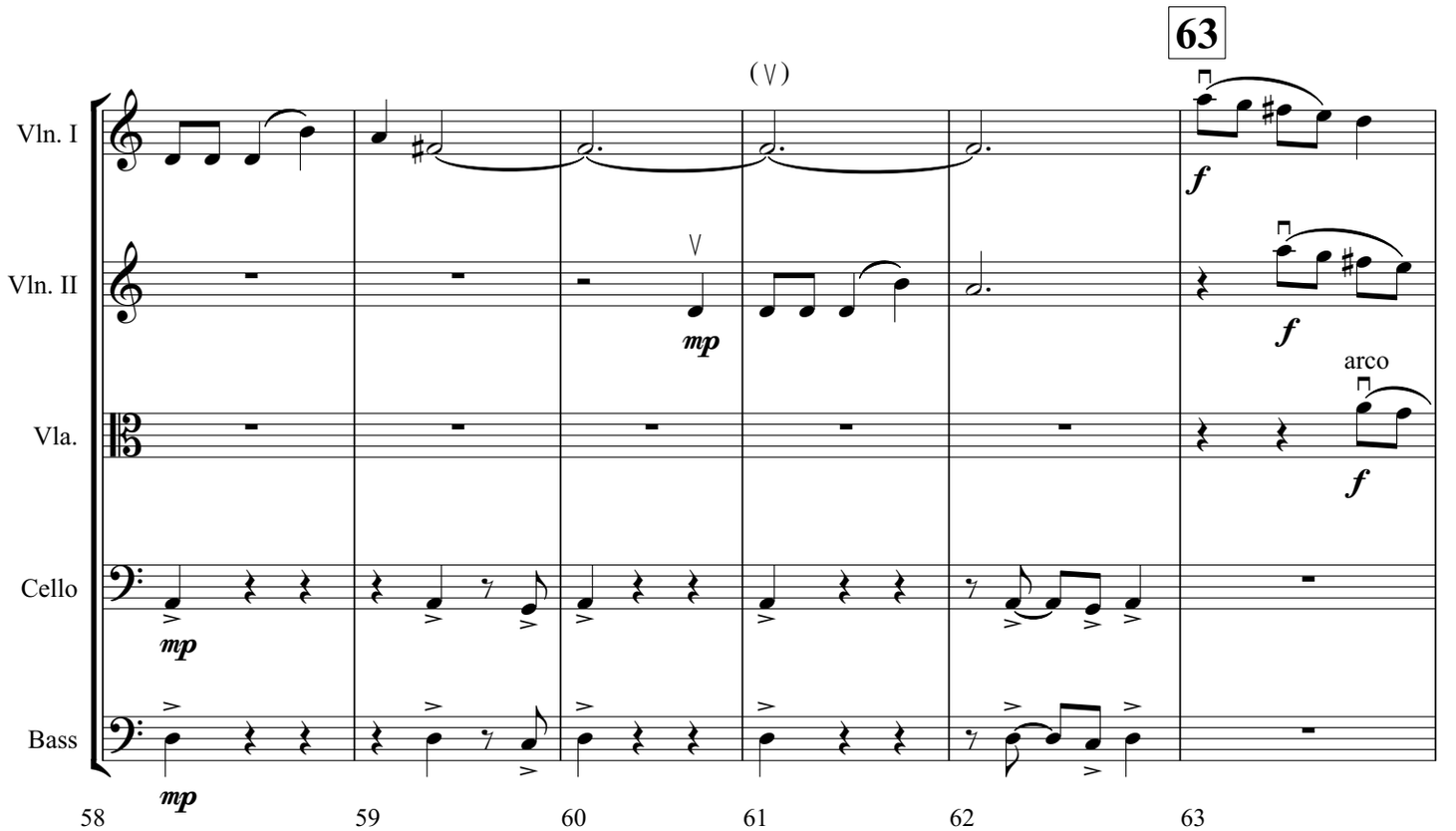

lightly again
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass
mp
p
f
6
29
30
31
32
33
34

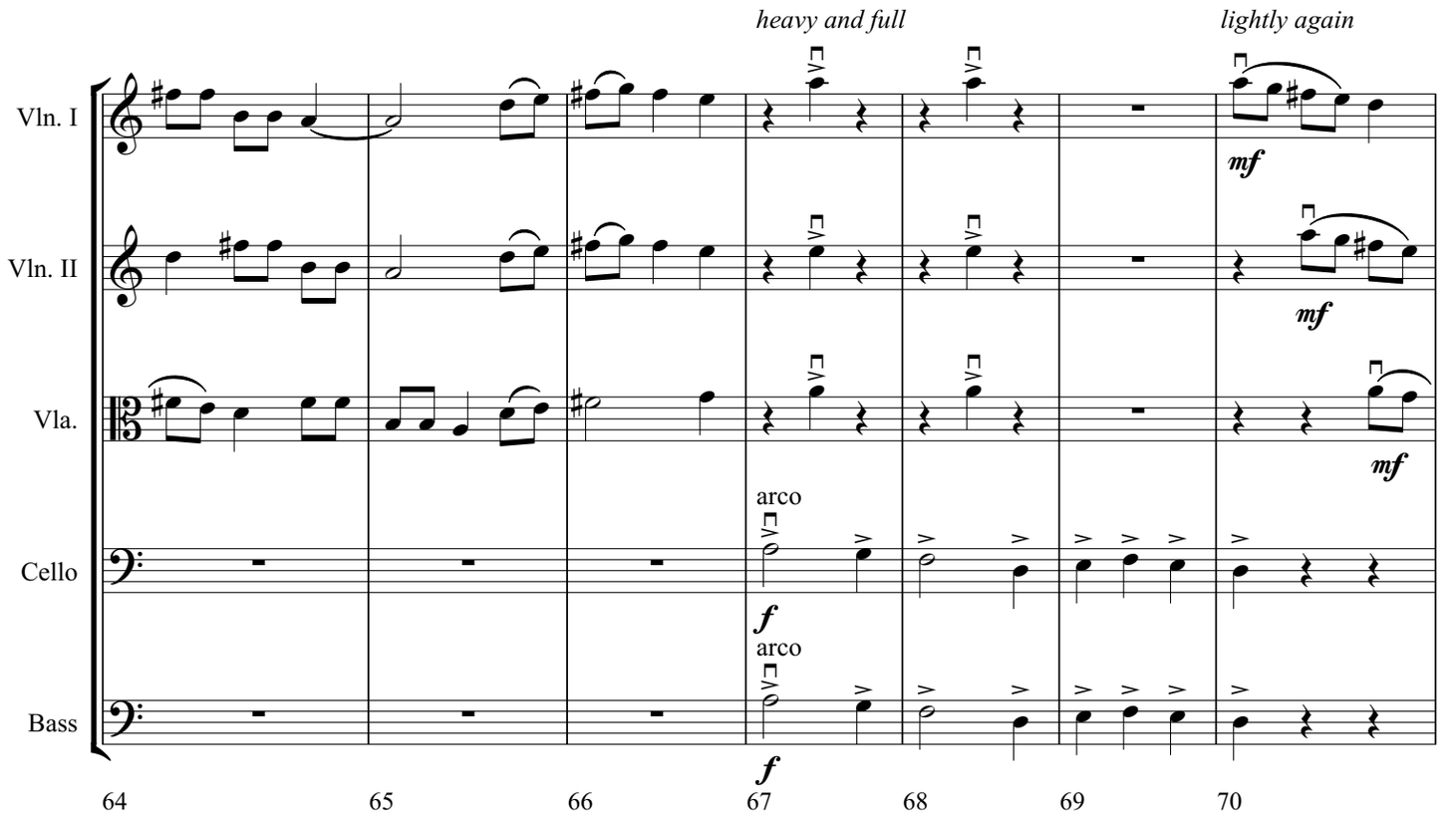

39
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass
pizz.
35
36
37
38
39

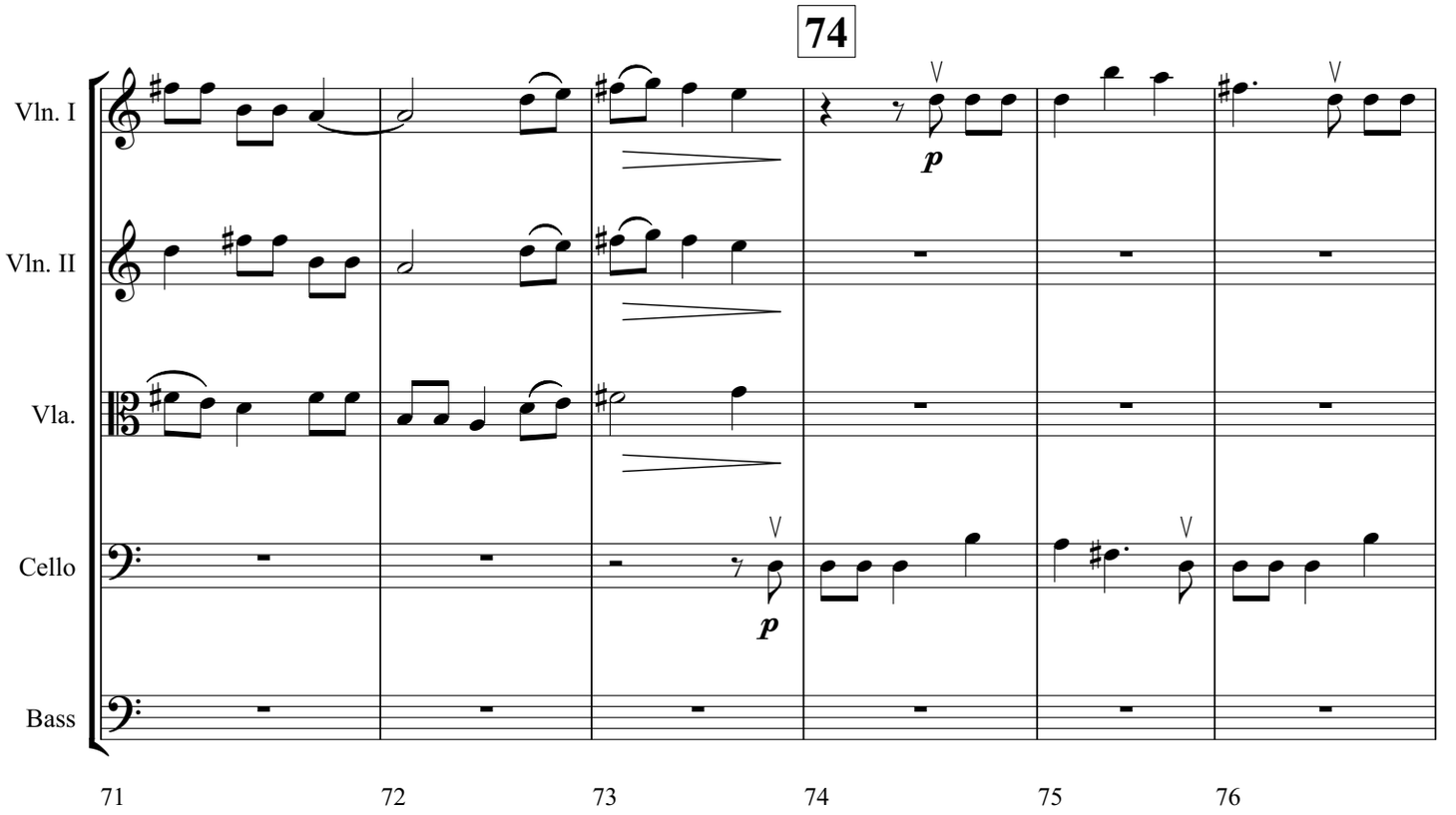

broad and legato
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass
div.
div.
arco
40
41
42
43
44
45

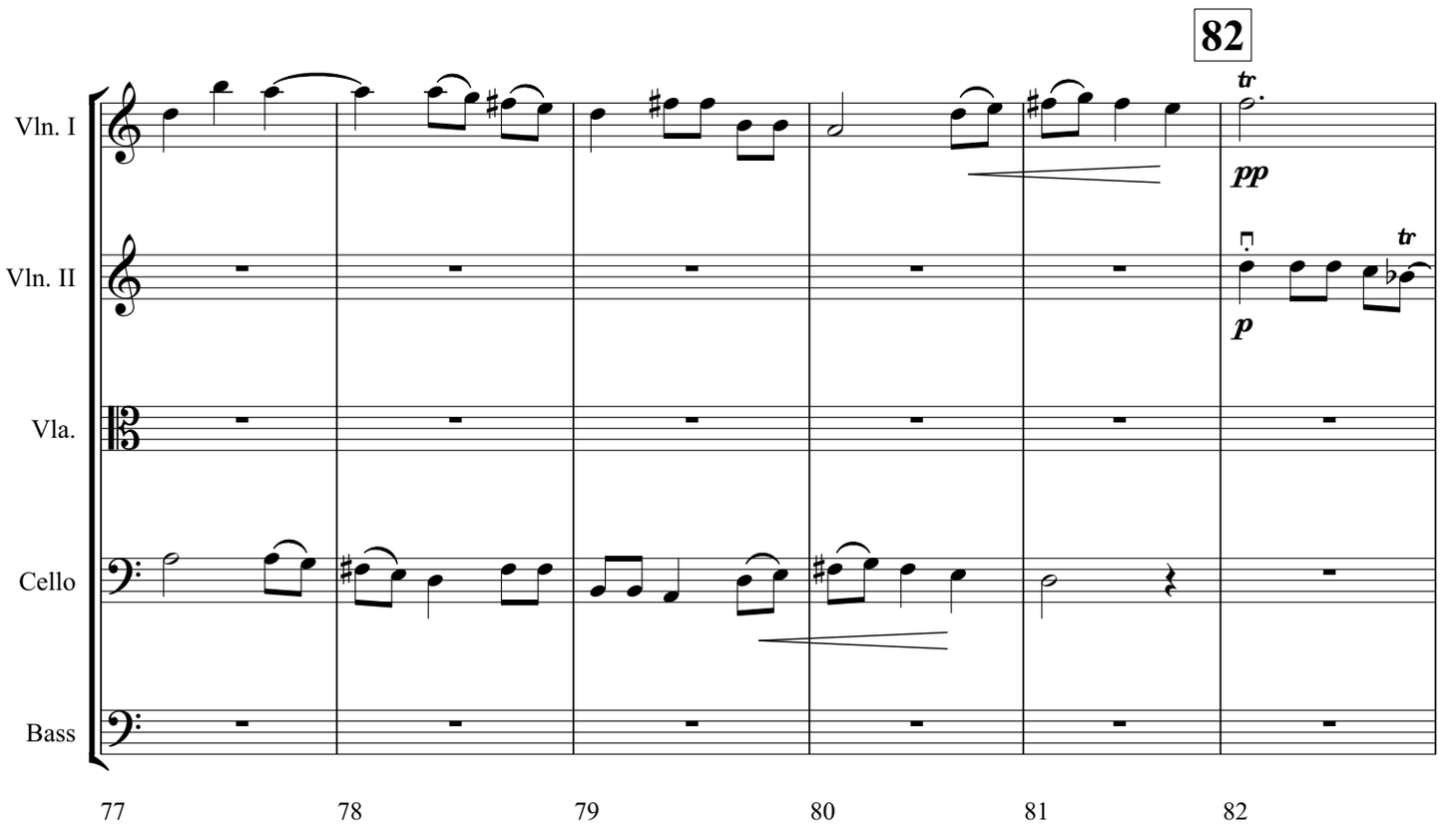

50
lightly again
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass
pizz.
mp
pizz.
mp
46
47
48
49
50
51

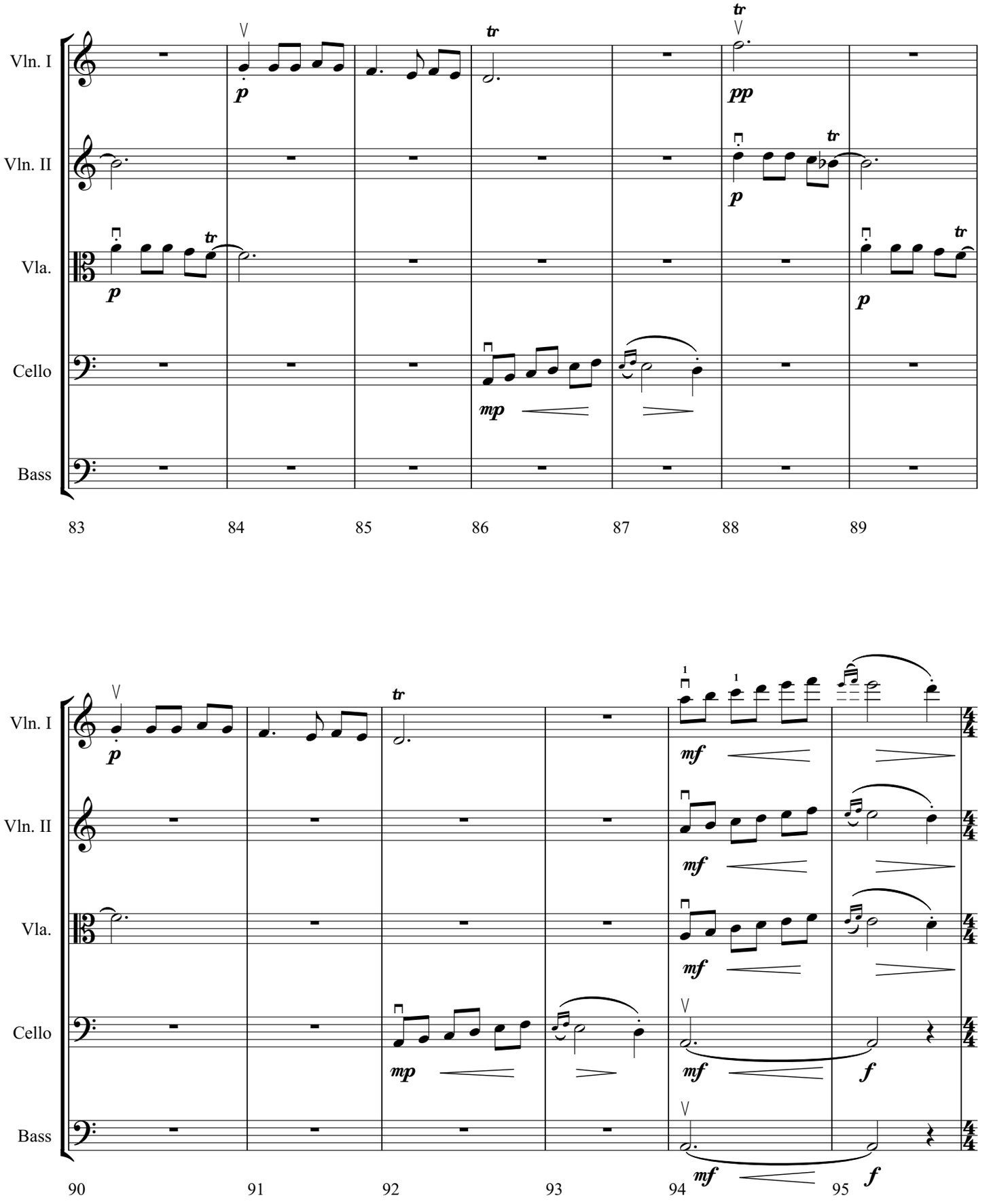

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass
pp
pp
mp
pizz.
mp
mf
52
53
54
55
56
57


63
(V)
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass
mp
f
arco
58
59
60
61
62
63

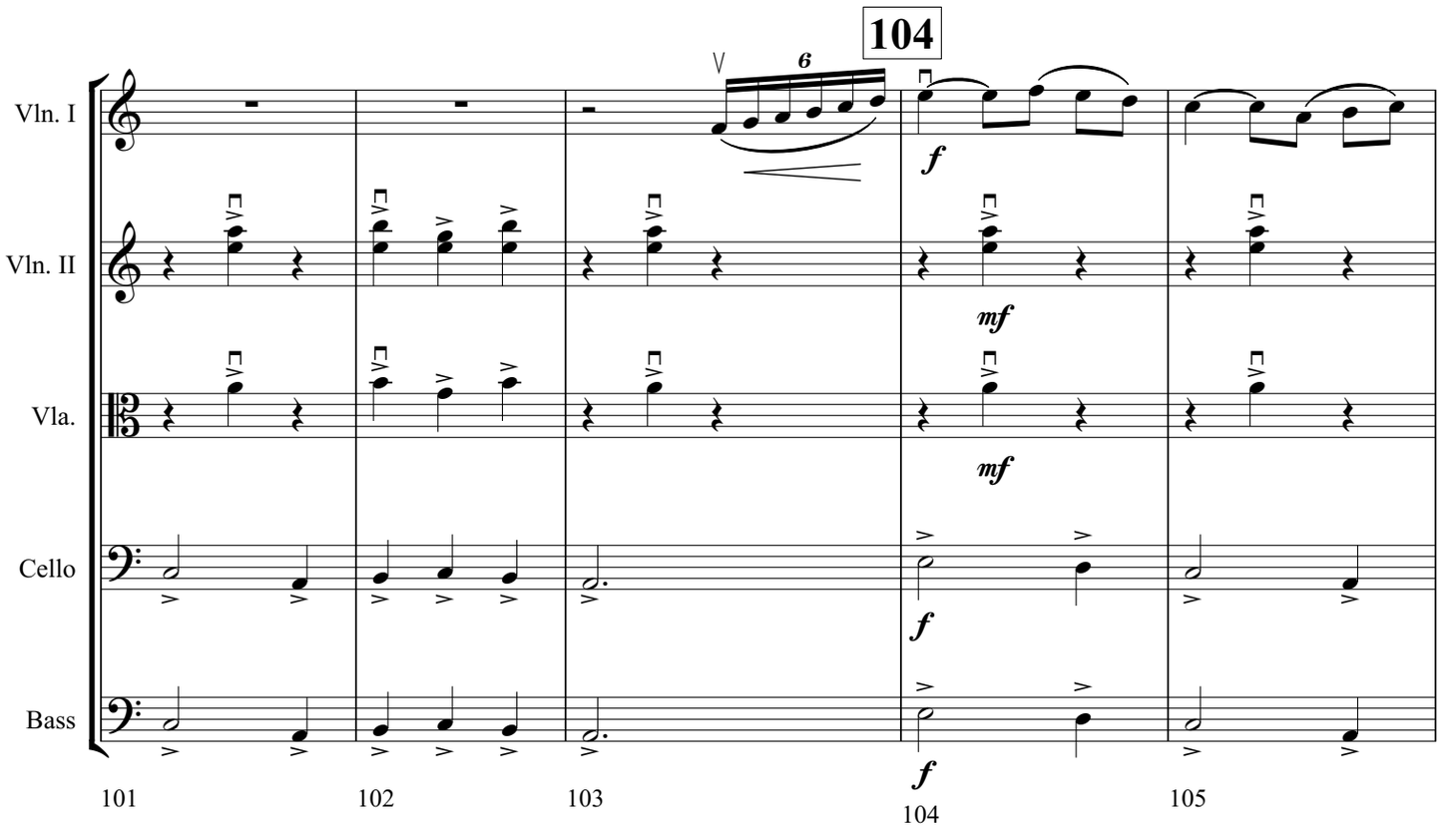

heavy and full
lightly again
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass
mf
f
arco
64
65
66
67
68
69
70

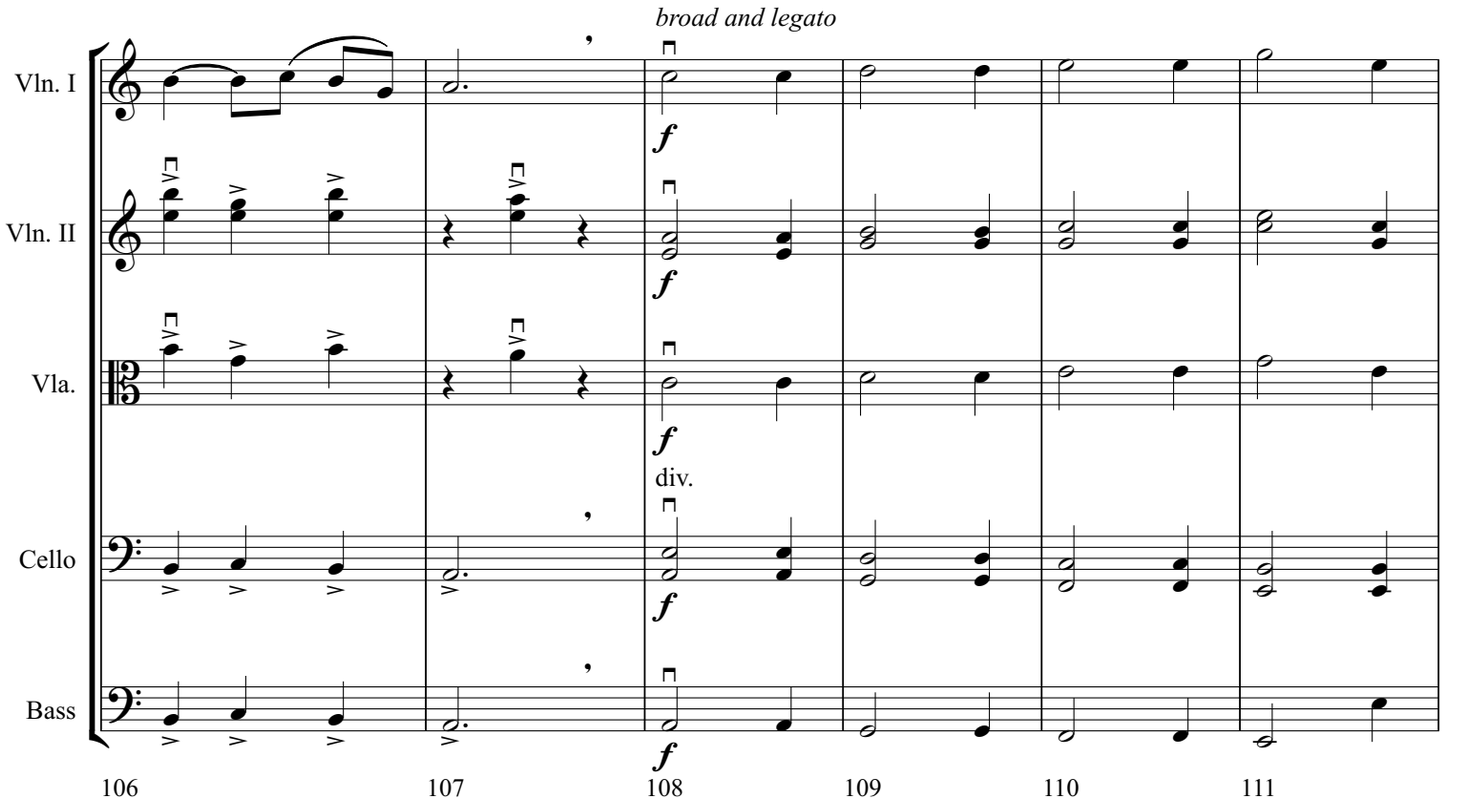

74
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass
p
p
71
72
73
74
75
76

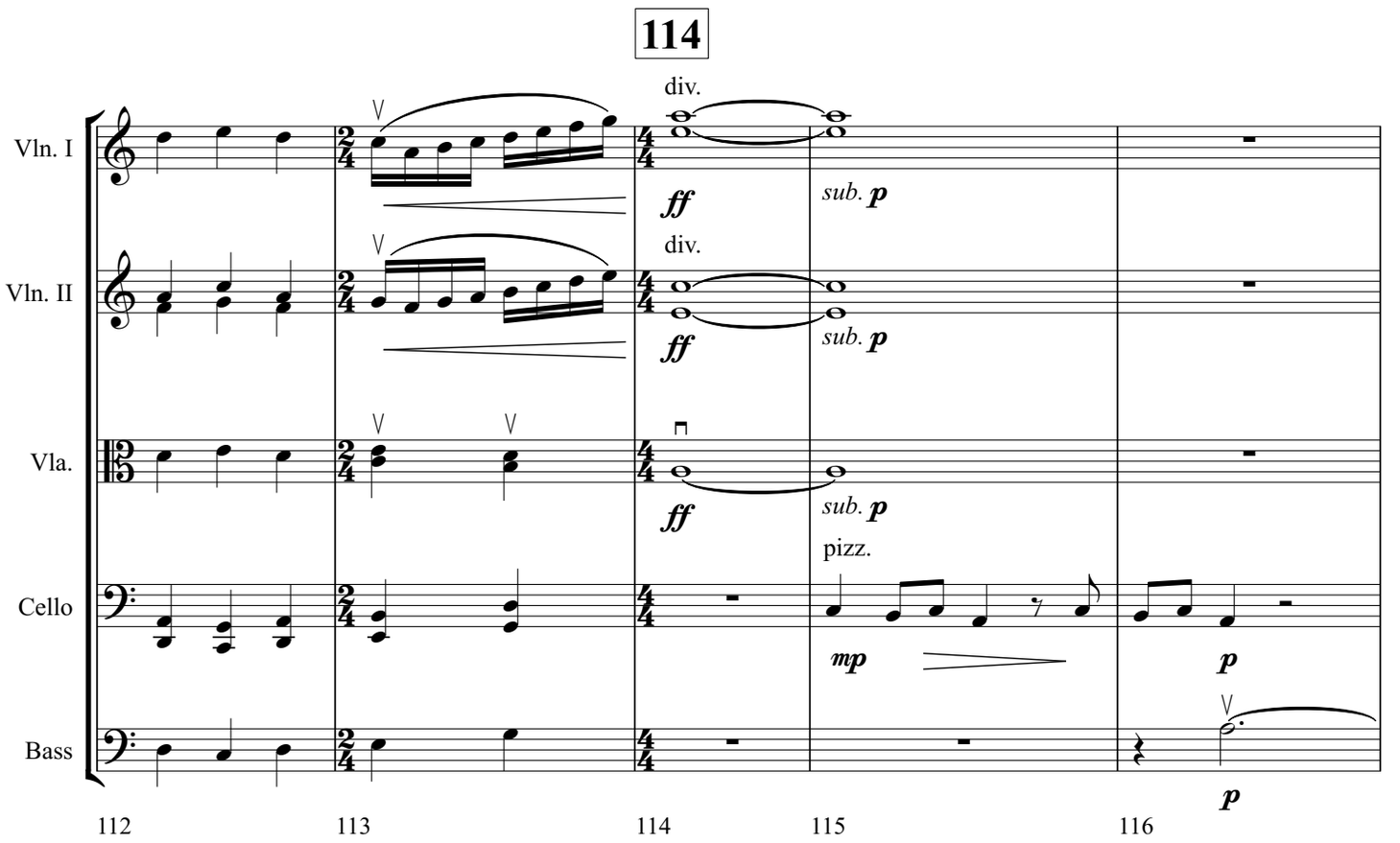

82
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass
tr
pp
tr
p
77
78
79
80
81
82

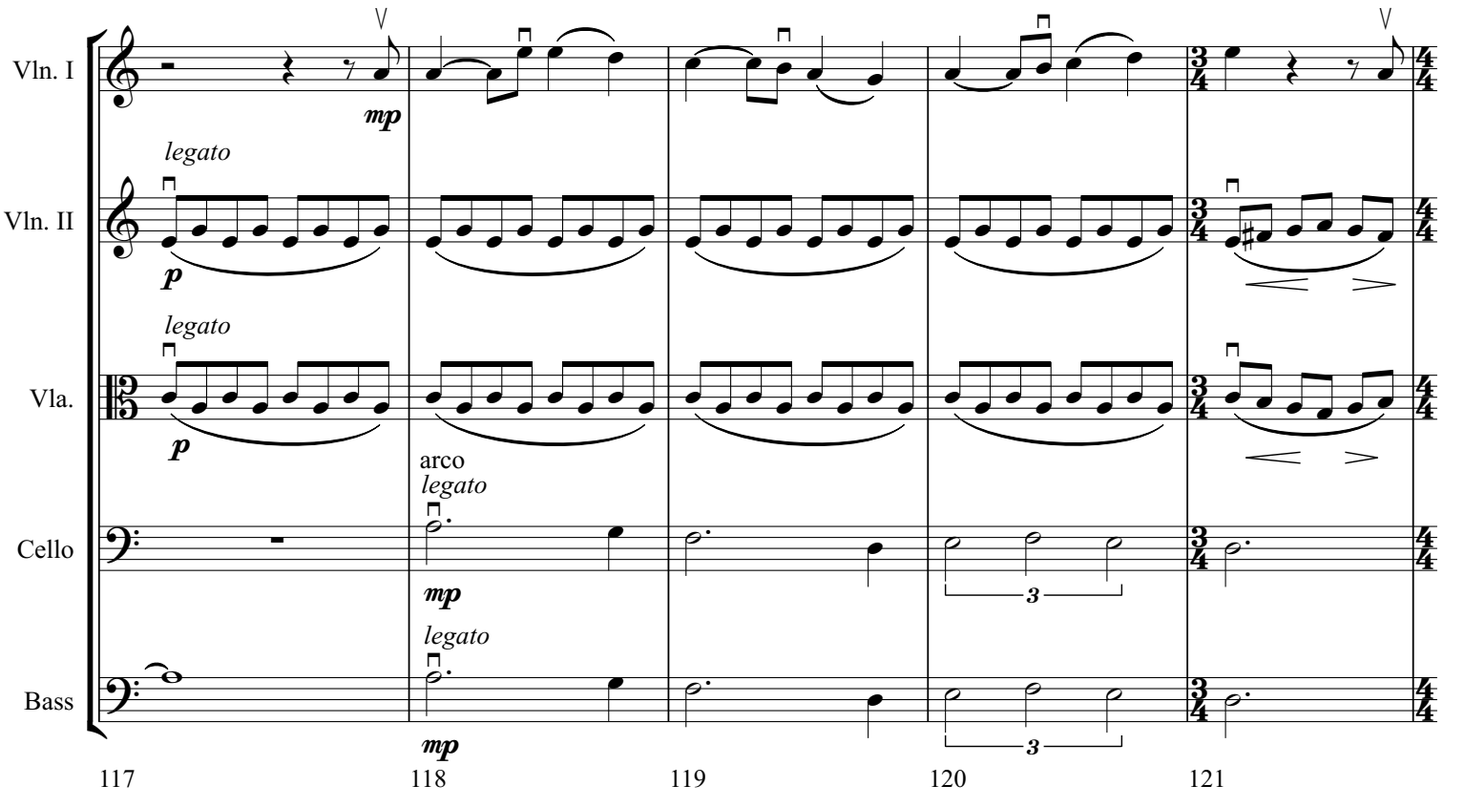

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
p
pp
mp
mf
f
tr

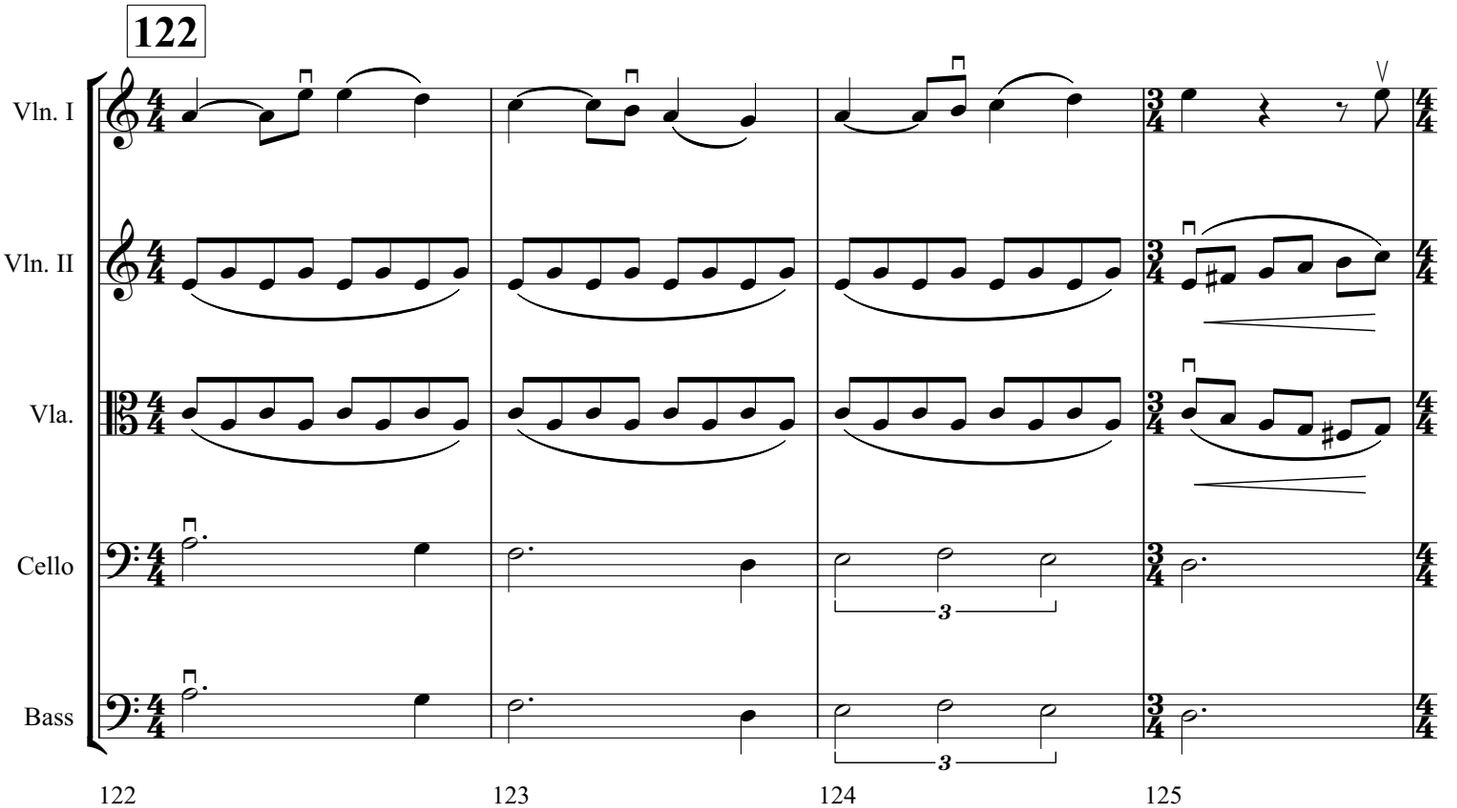
96
heavy and full
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass
mp
mf
f
div.
96
97
98
99
100

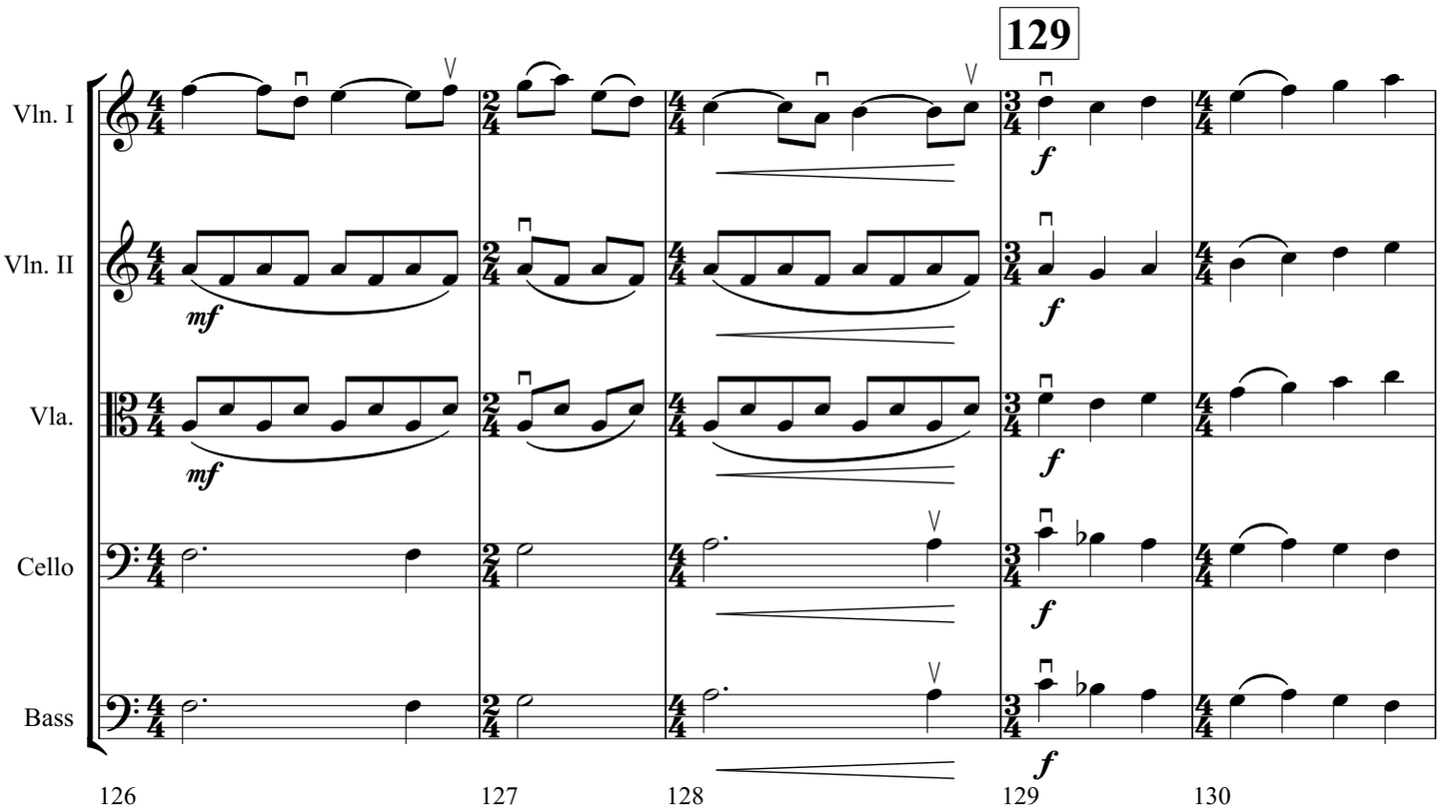

104
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass
6
f
mf
101
102
103
104
105

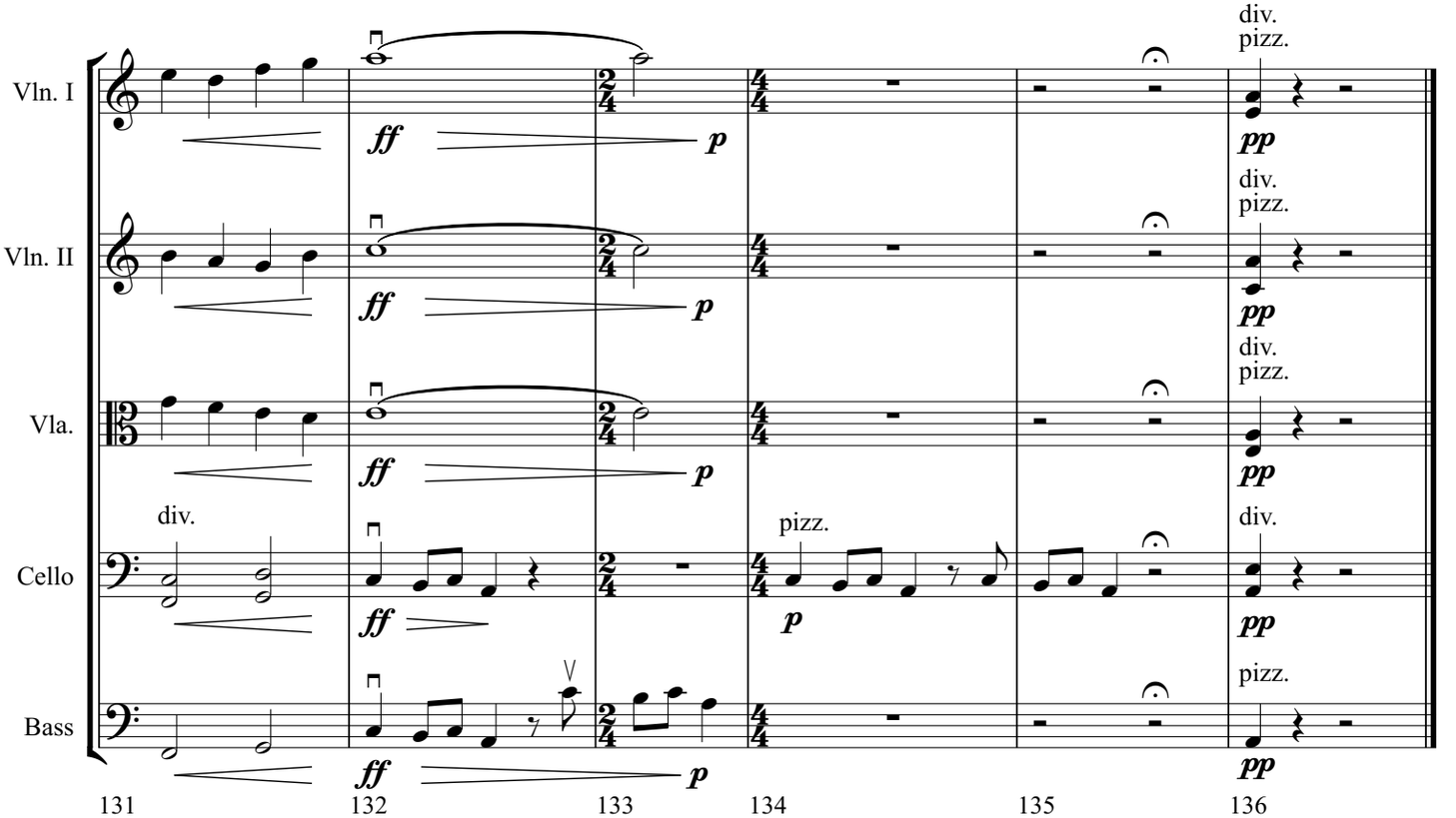

broad and legato
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass
f
div.
106
107
108
109
110
111


114
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass
div.
ff
sub. p
pizz.
mp
p
112
113
114
115
116


Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass
mp
legato
p
arco
3
117
118
119
120
121


122
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass
3
122
123
124
125


129
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass
mf
f
126
127
128
129
130


Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass
ff
p
pp
div.
pizz.
131
132
133
134
135
136