tracings of sand and smoke

for horn, bassoon and violoncello

Anthony Suter
(2006)

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This piece was written for the group NEOTERIC at the University of Southern Illinois - Carbondale (Jennifer Presar, horn; Melissa Mackey, bassoon, and Eric Lenz, cello). It was finished in April of 2006 in Austin, Texas.

The score is transposed and the duration of the piece is circa 13' minutes.

performance notes

This work uses a fair amount of unmetered sections. These sections are meant to be cadenza-like and should be free and dramatic. Within these unmetered sections (like the bassoon solo that opens the piece) accidentals do not carry through, unless the pitch proceeding is the same pitch. Cautionary accidentals have been given liberally so as to minimize any confusion.

This work should be played with a certain sense of individual flair-- it is very solostic, and performers are encouraged to take liberties within the solo sections and make them "their own".

There are a few notational items that are explained in the following table:

erractic tremelo; alternate ad lib. between varying speeds of tremelo

slowly hand mute down a 1/4 tone

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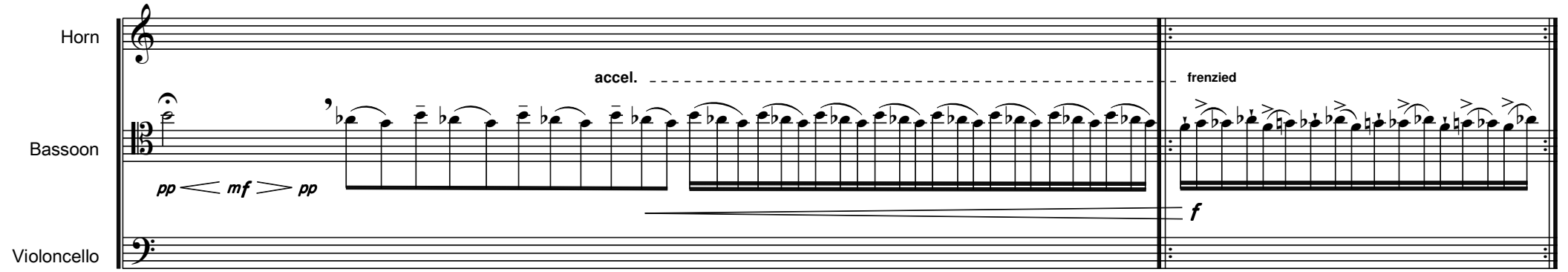
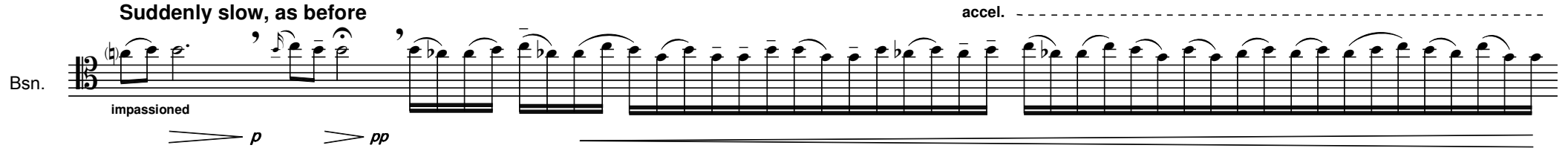
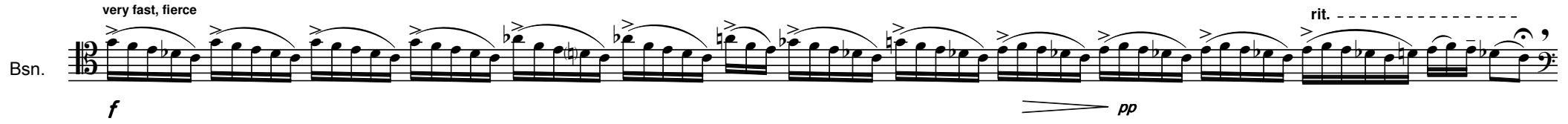
Freely, slowly, and ominously; cadenza (♩= 72)

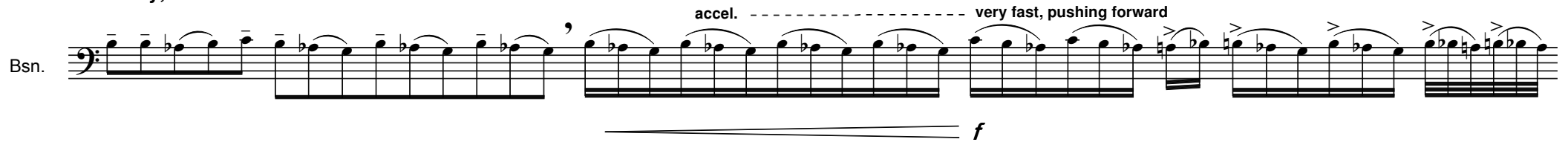


Suddenly slow, as before





Slowly, as before



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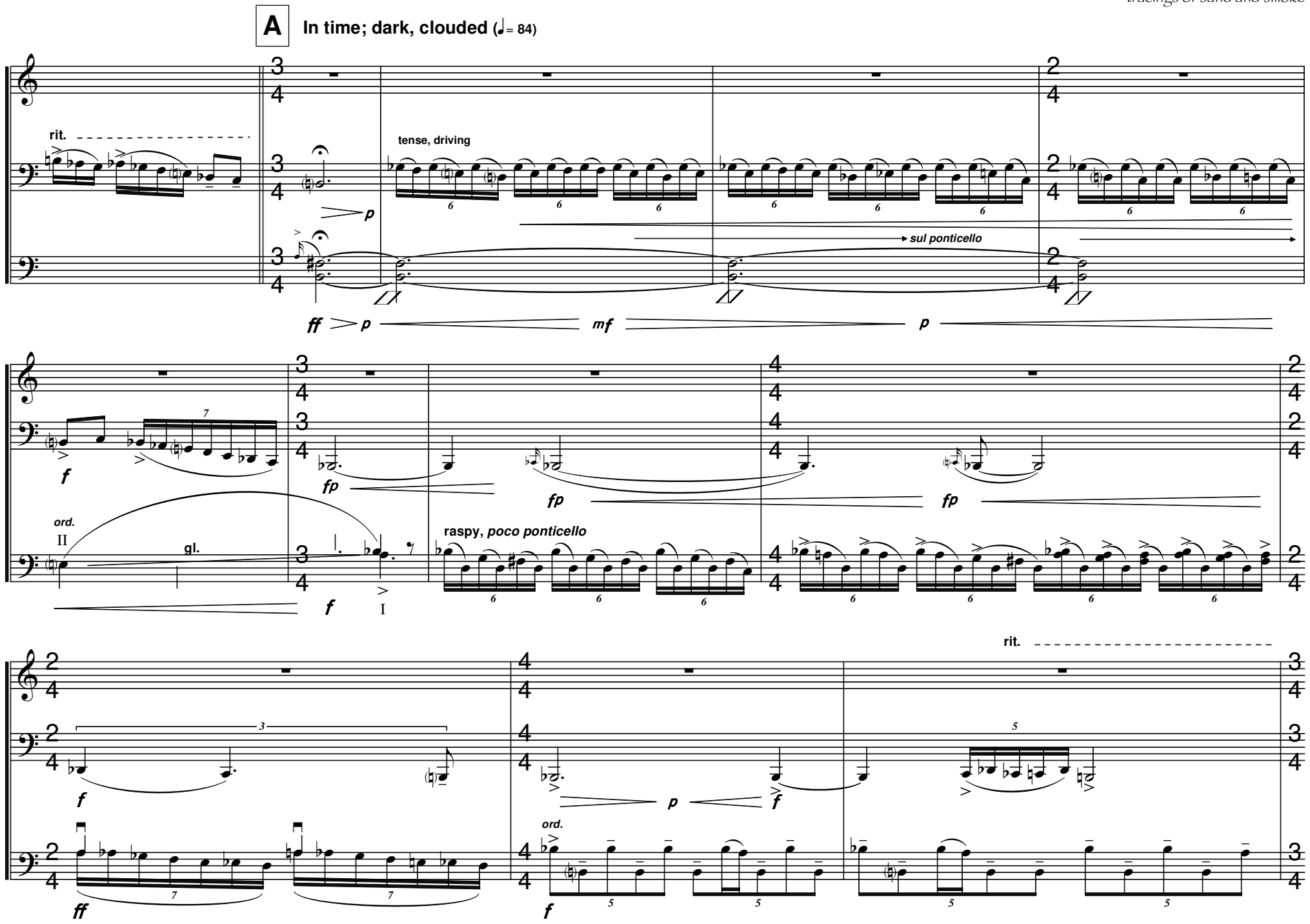
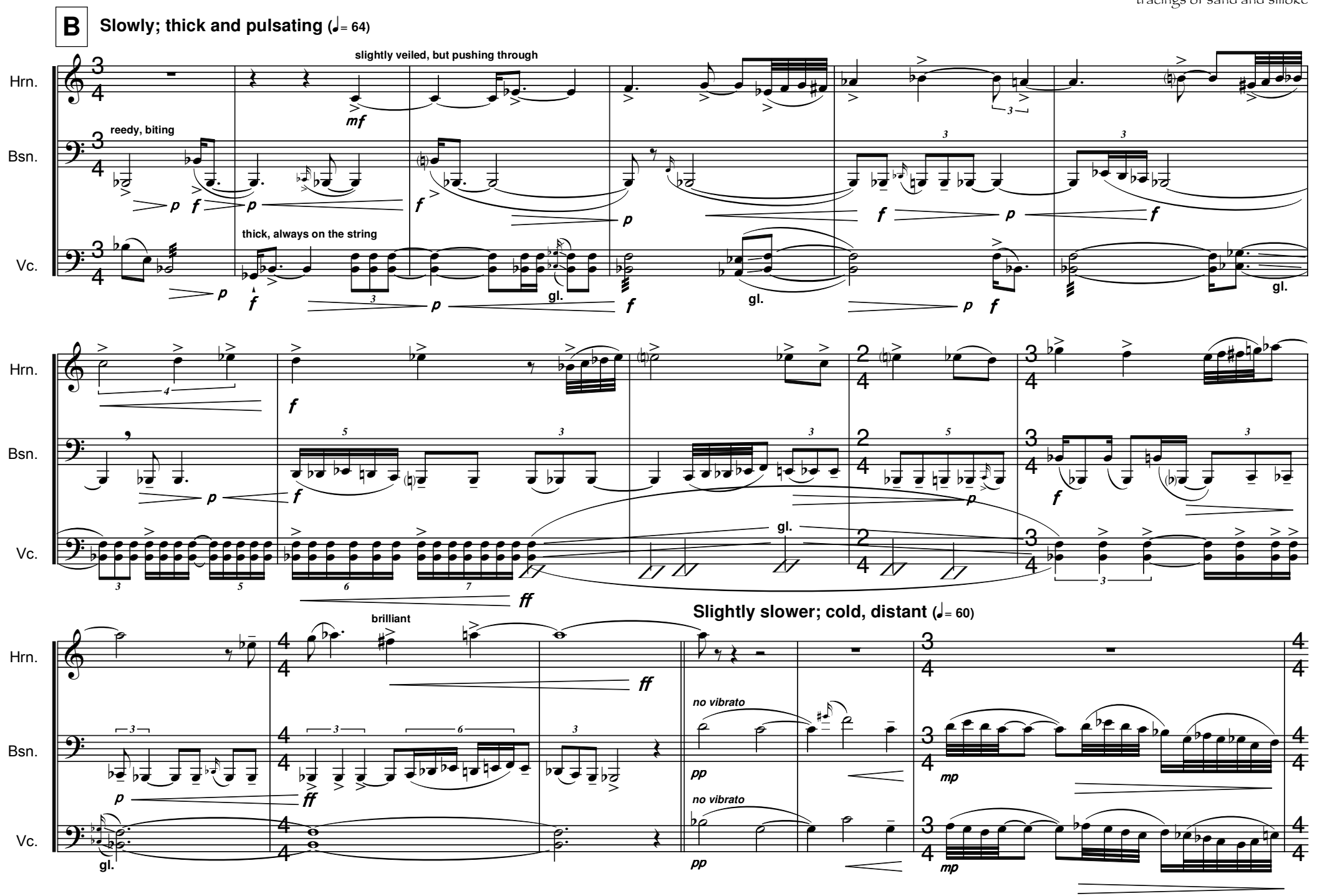
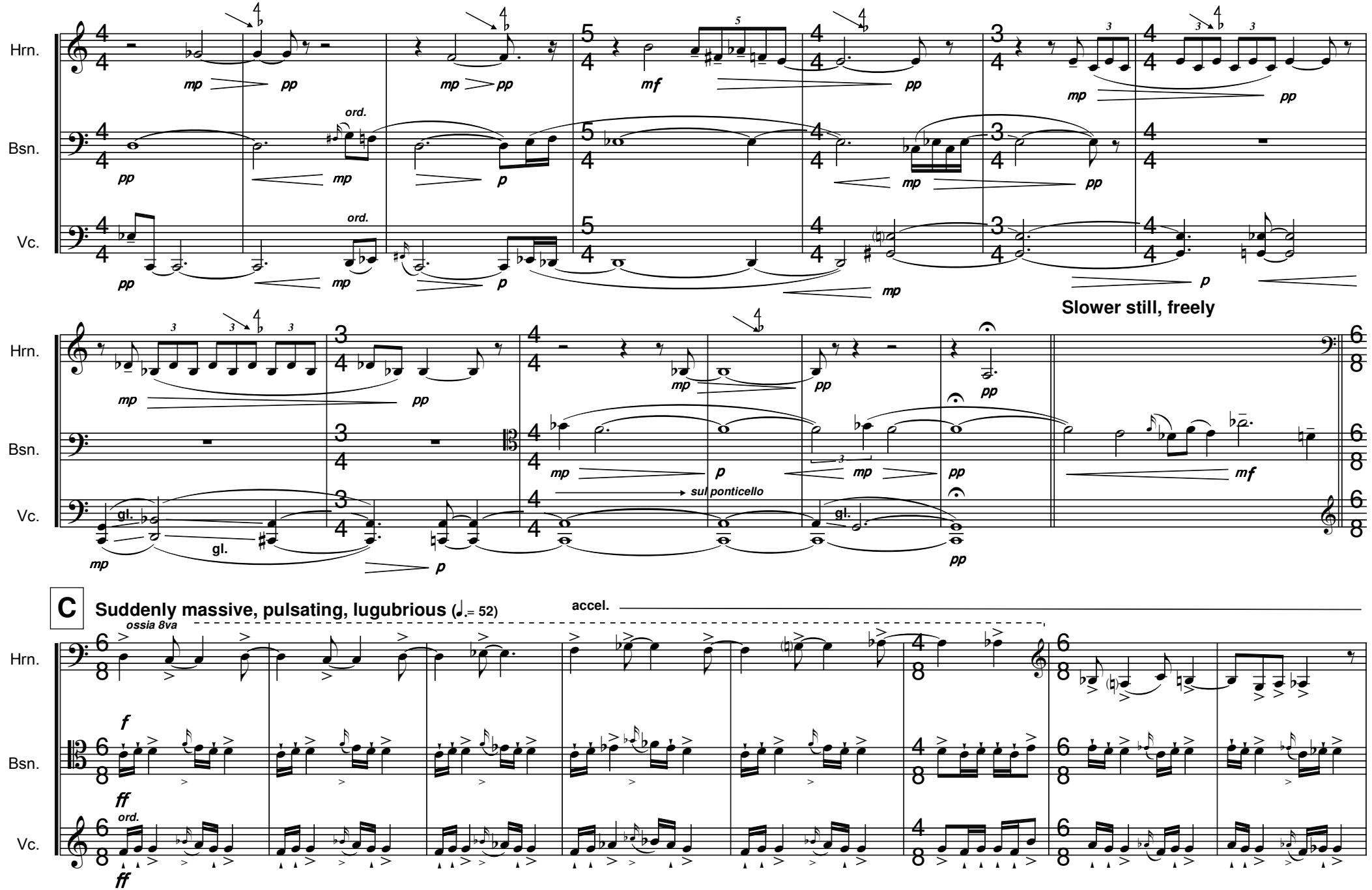
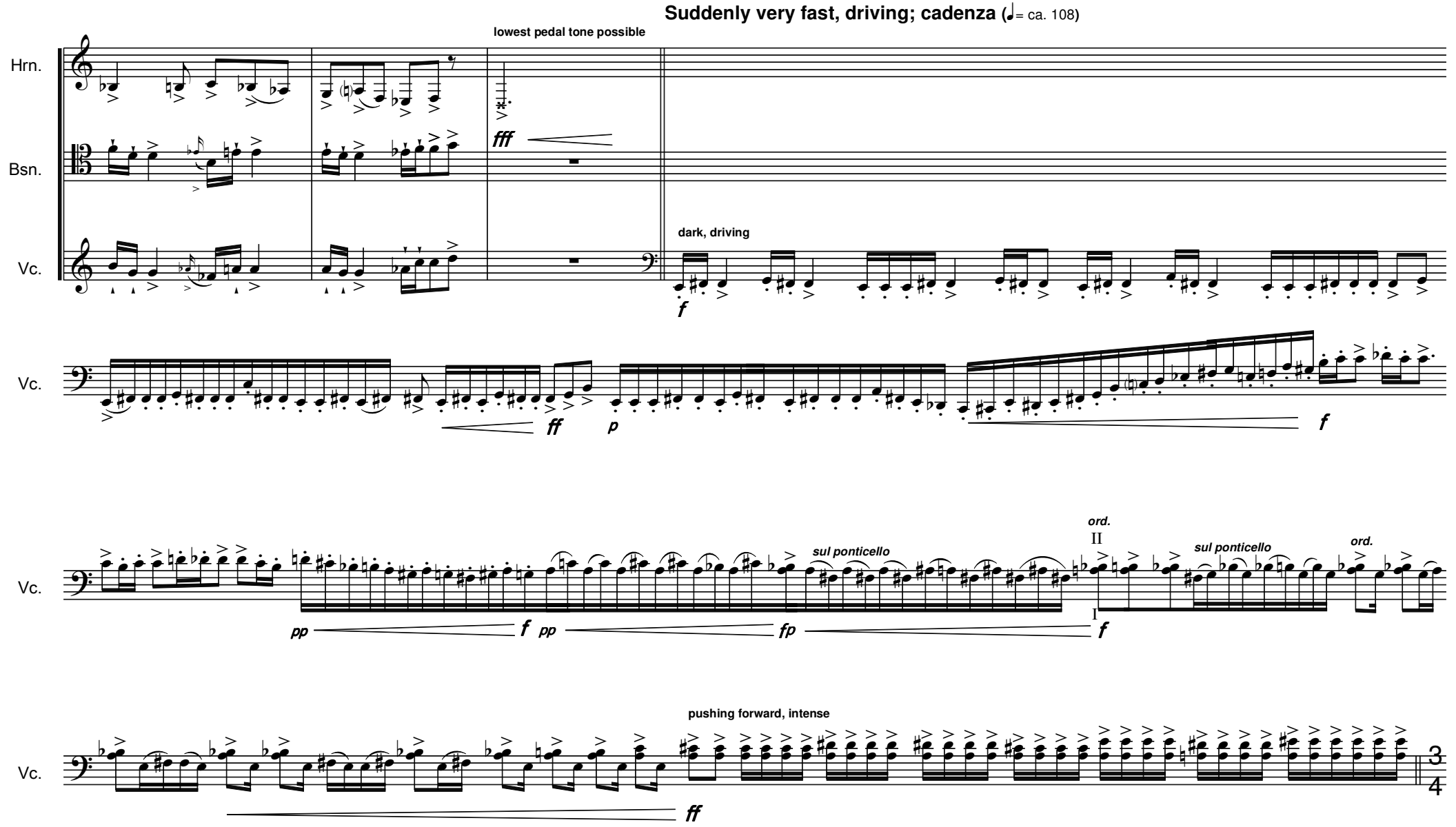
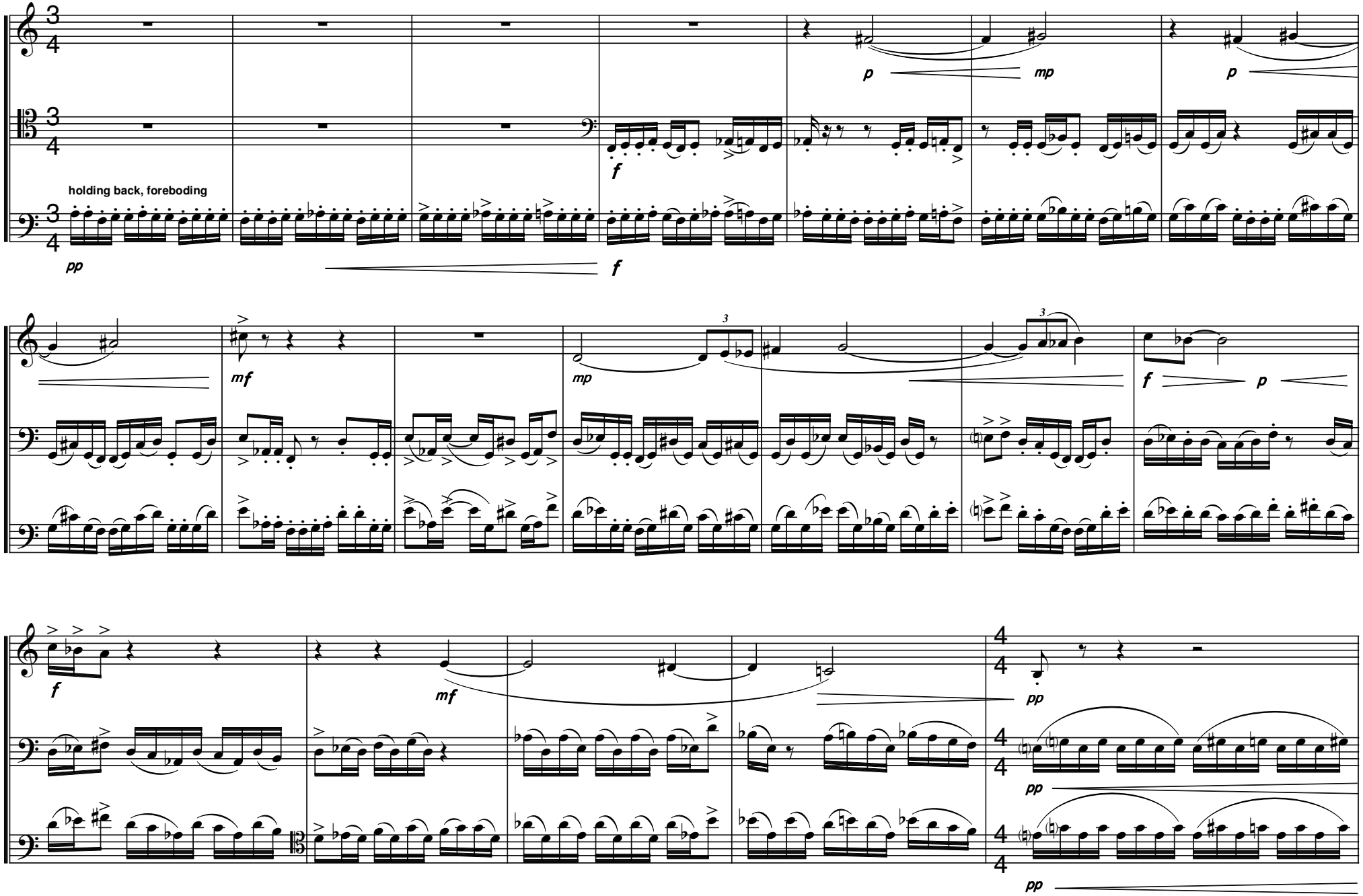

A
In time; dark, clouded (♩= 84)
Hrn.
Bsn.
Vc.
rit.
tense, driving
sul ponticello
ord.
gl.
raspy, poco ponticello
rit.
ord.

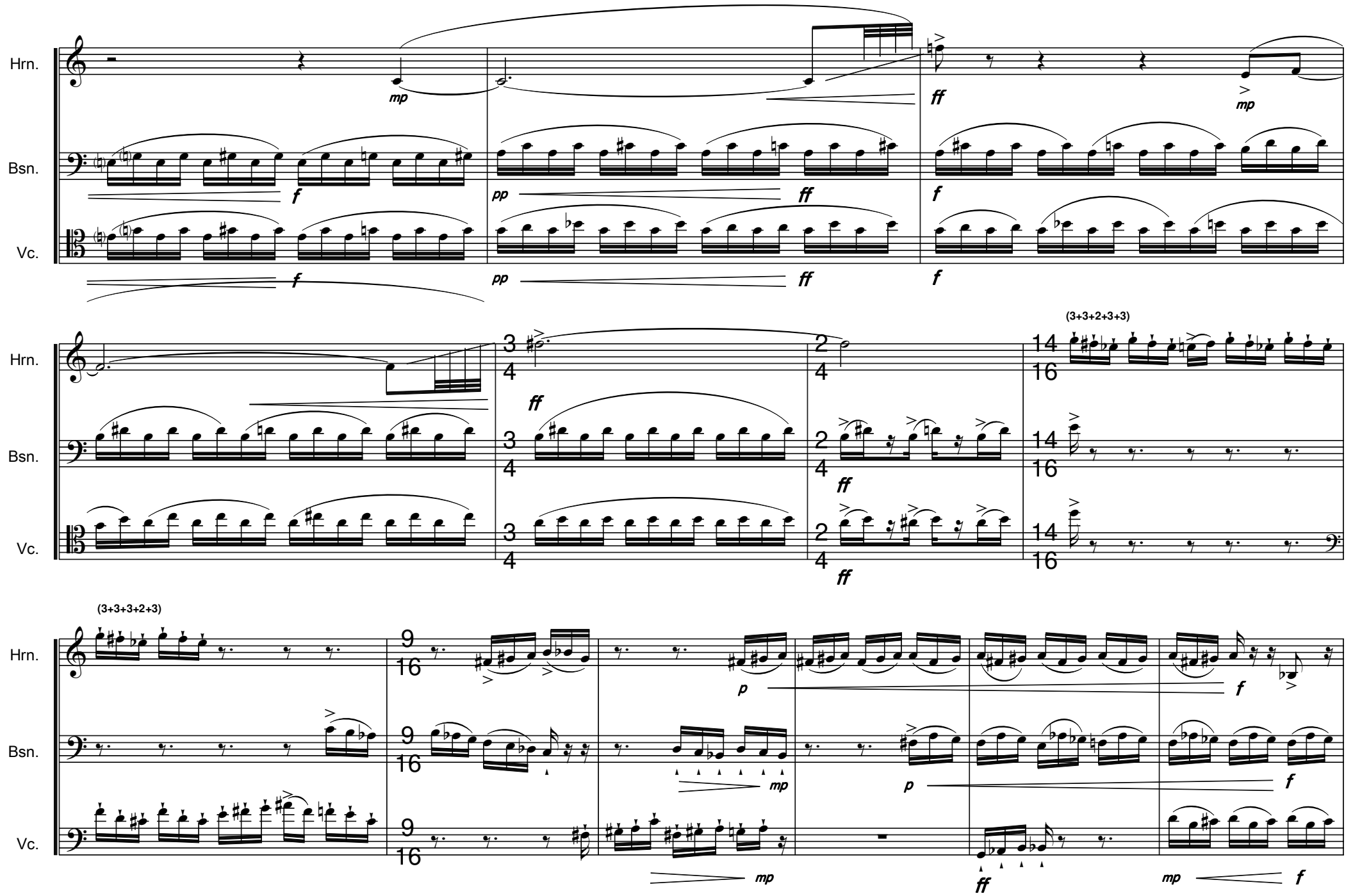

B
Slowly; thick and pulsating (♩= 64)
slightly veiled, but pushing through
reedy, biting
thick, always on the string
Hrn.
Bsn.
Vc.
gl.
Slightly slower; cold, distant (♩= 60)
brilliant
no vibrato

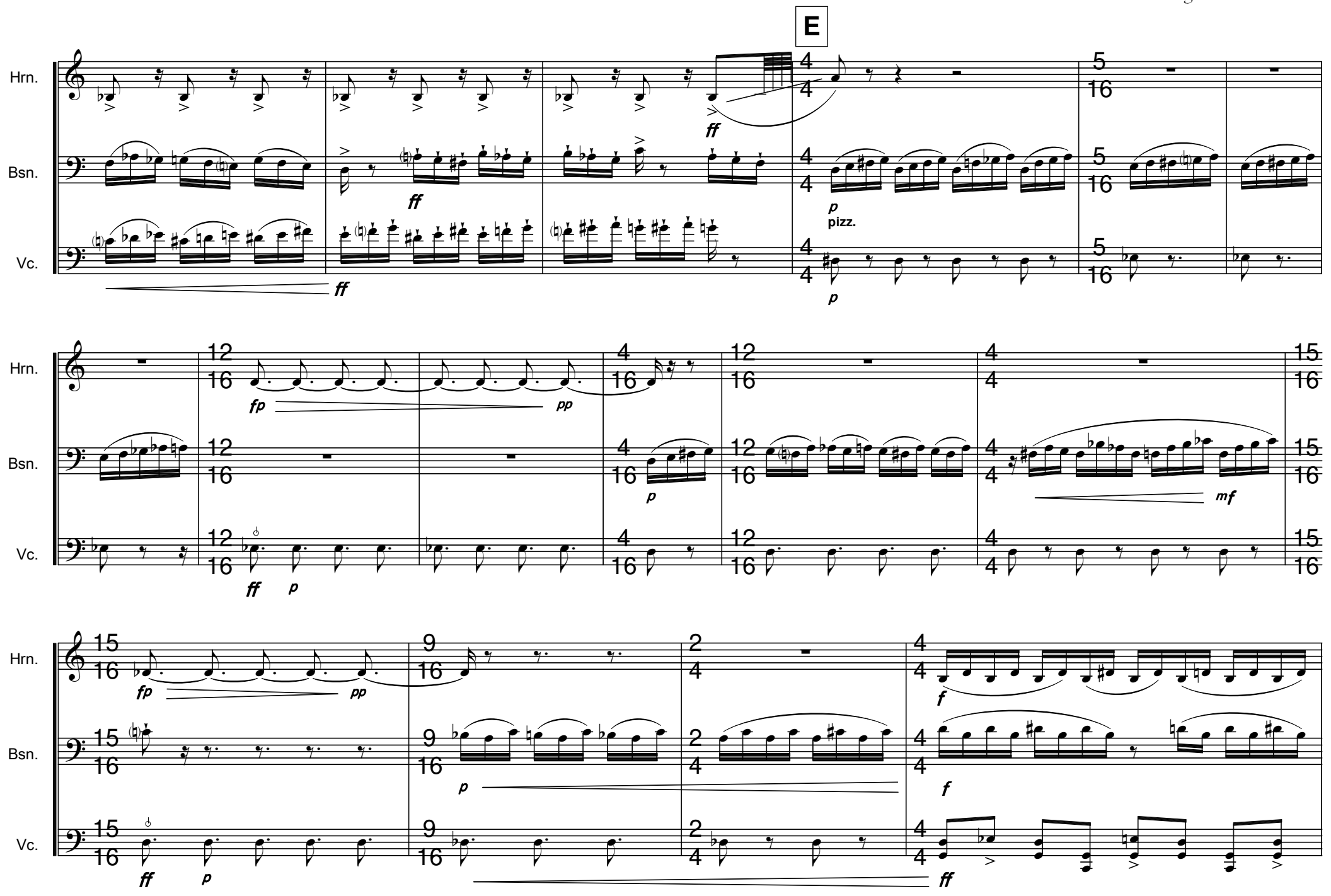

Hrn.
Bsn.
Vc.
ord.
Slower still, freely
sul ponticello
gl.
C
Suddenly massive, pulsating, lugubrious (♩.= 52)
accel.
ossia 8va

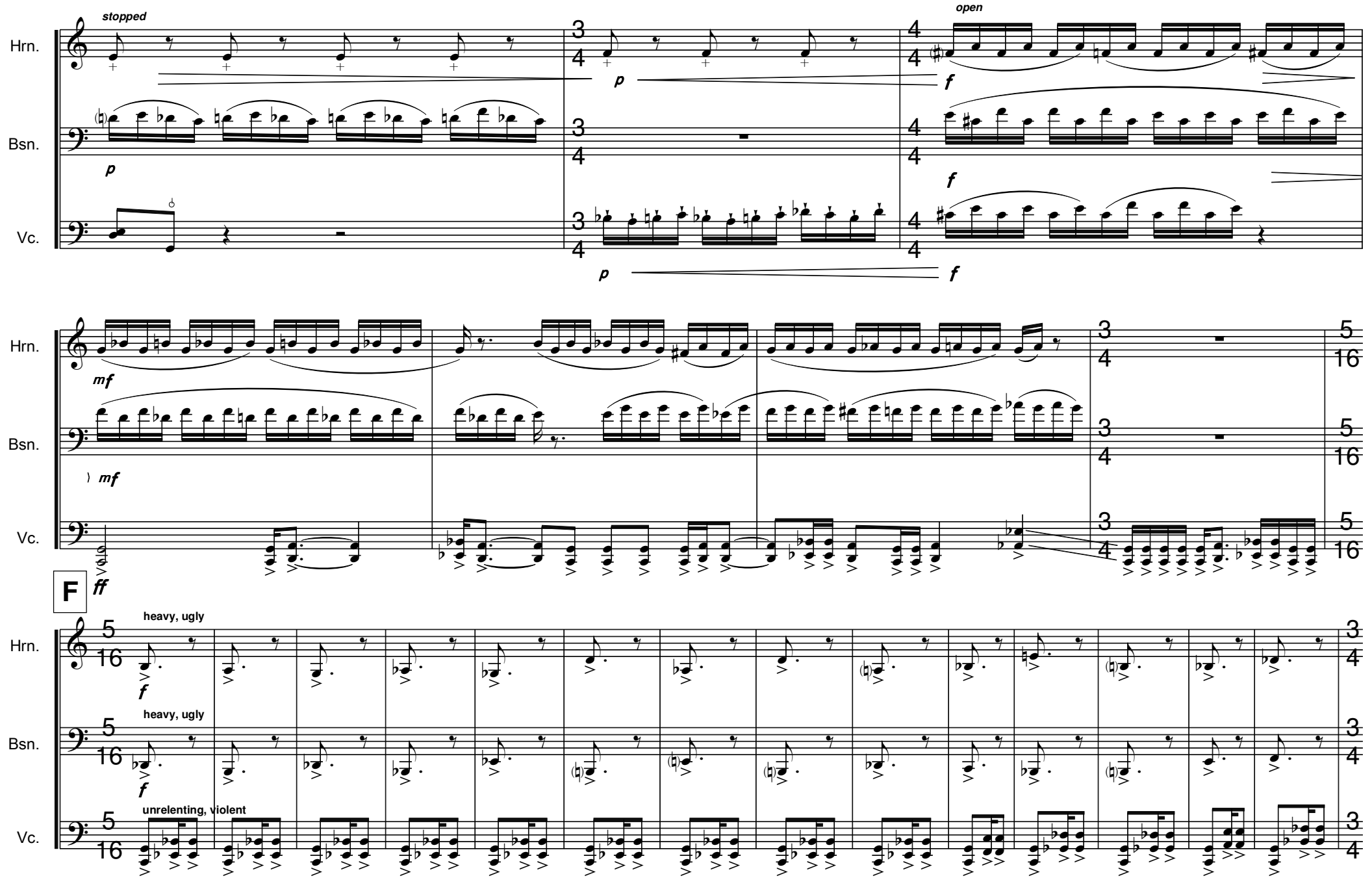

Suddenly very fast, driving; cadenza (♩= ca. 108)
lowest pedal tone possible
Hrn.
Bsn.
Vc.
fff
dark, driving
f
Vc.
ff
p
f
Vc.
pp
f
pp
fp
sul ponticello
ord.
II
I
f
sul ponticello
ord.
Vc.
pushing forward, intense
ff
3
4

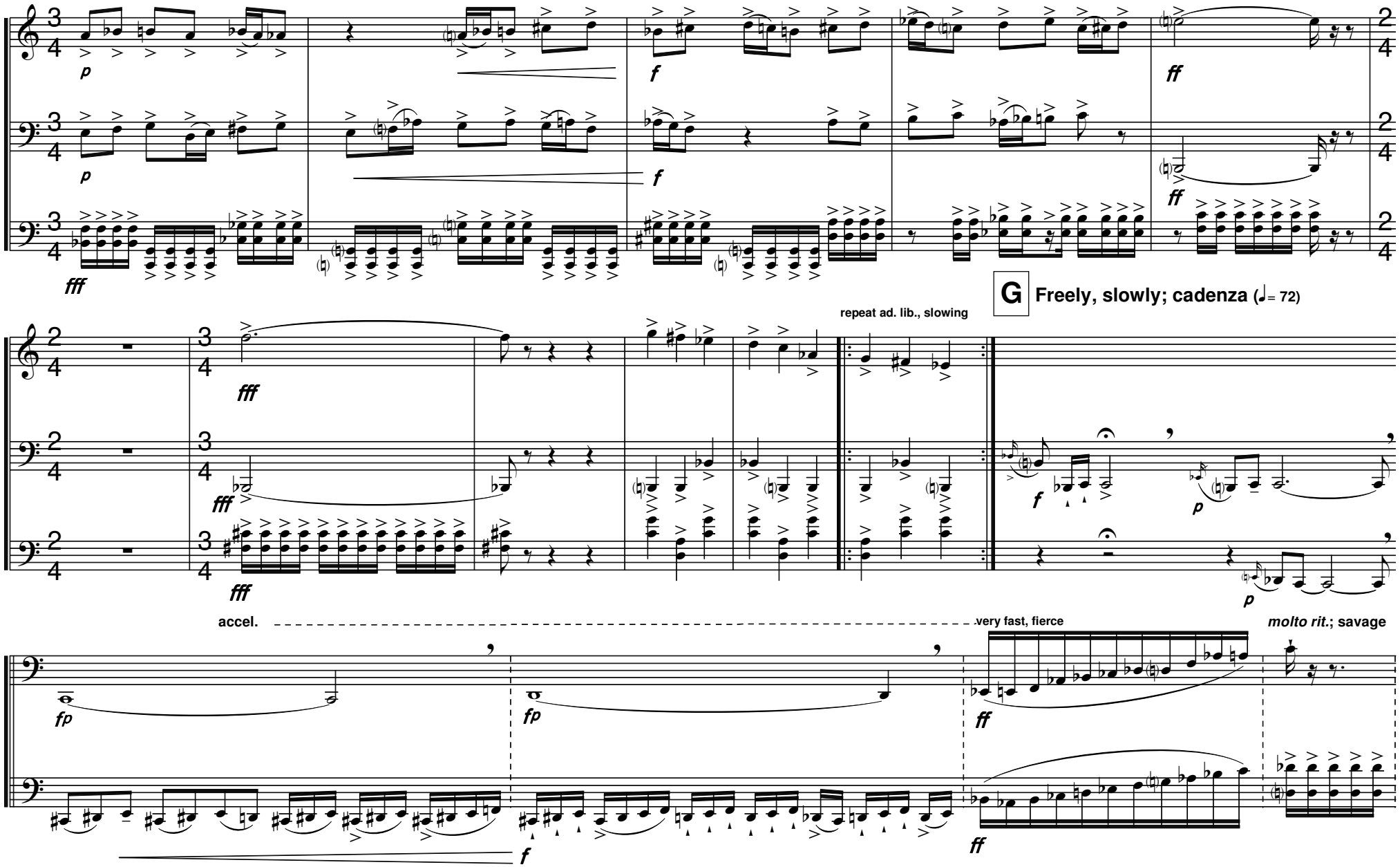
D **In time** (♩= 108)

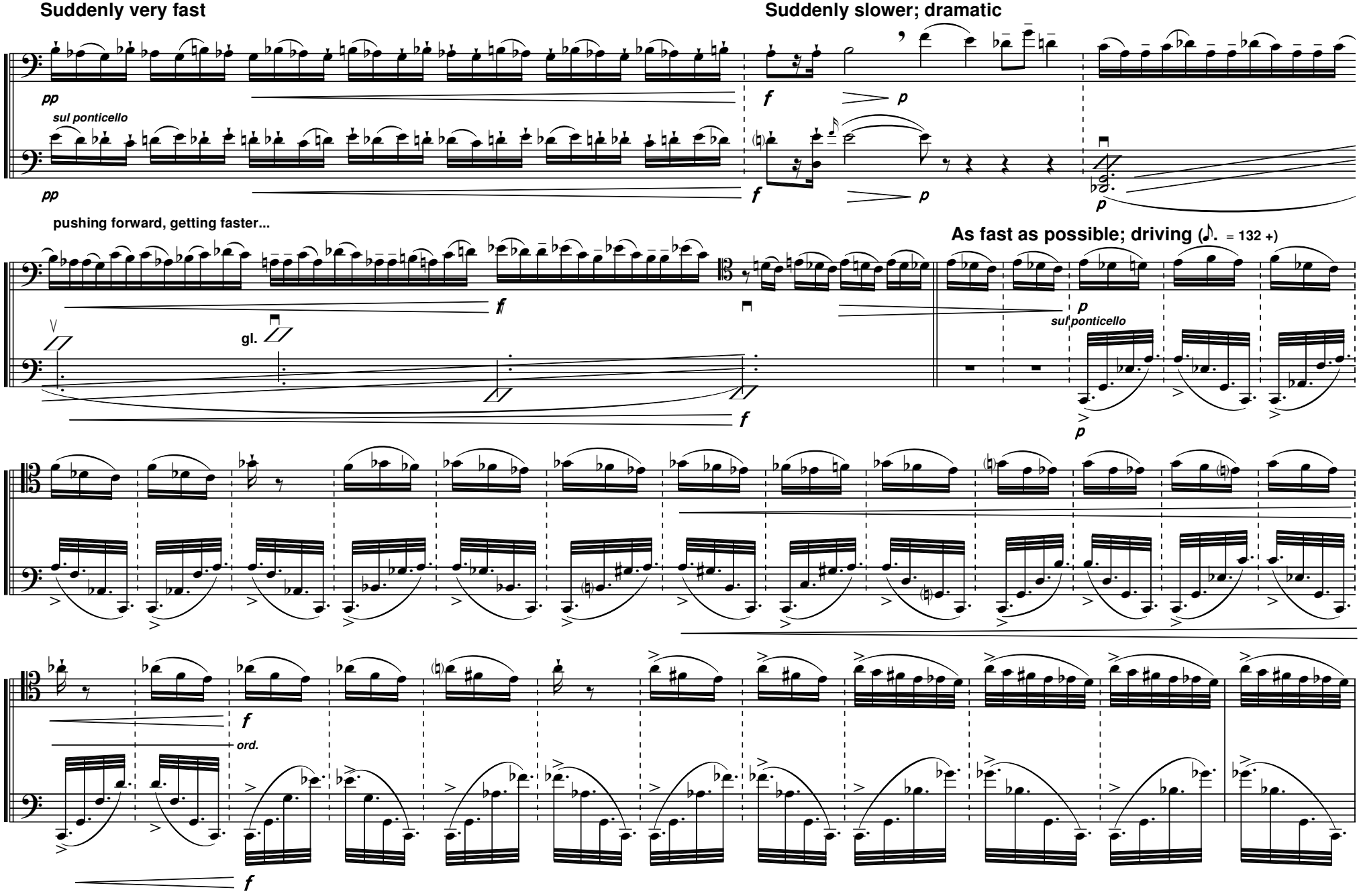


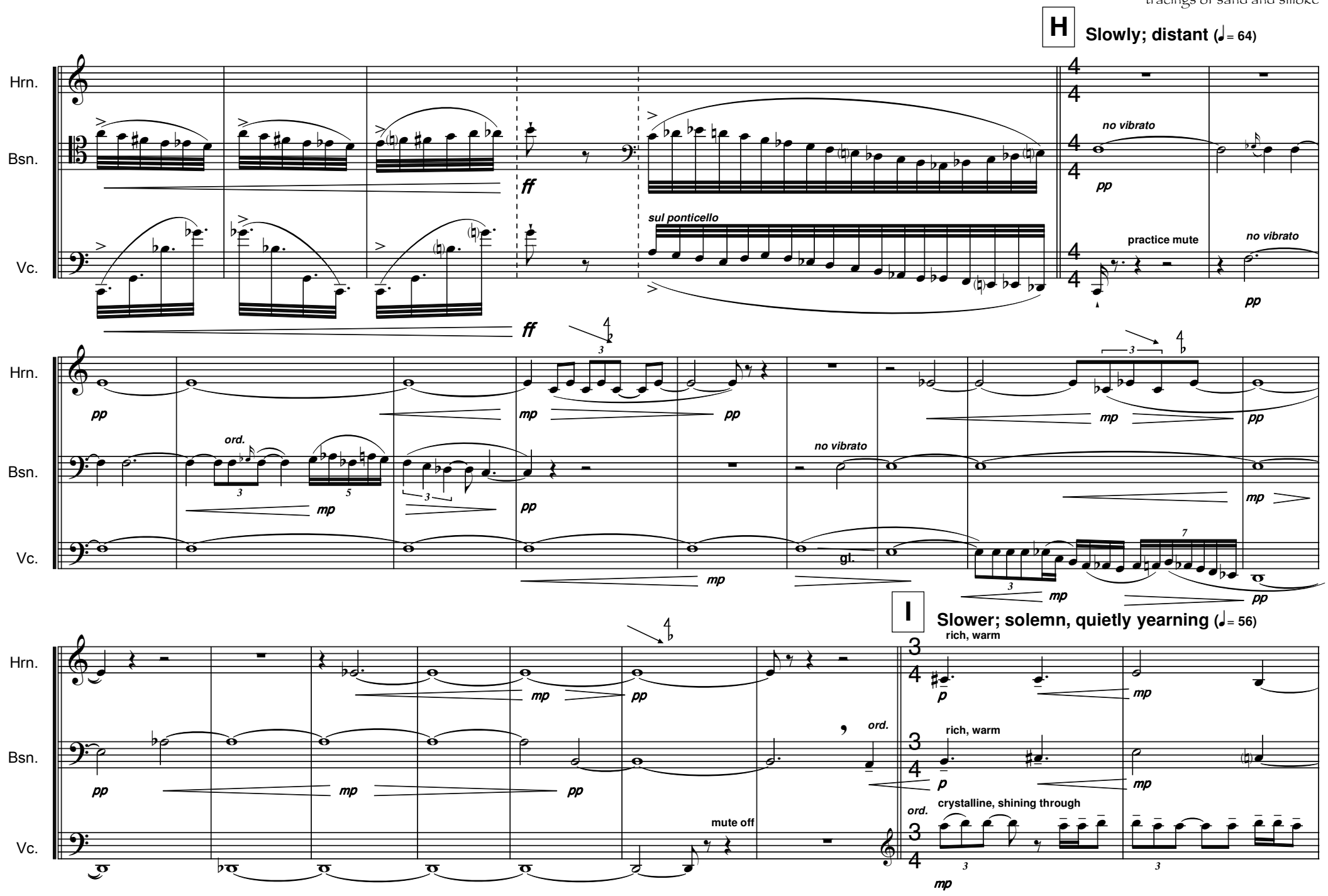

Hrn.
Bsn.
Vc.
mp
ff
mp
f
pp
ff
f
f
pp
ff
f
Hrn.
Bsn.
Vc.
3
4
ff
2
4
ff
(3+3+2+3+3)
14
16
ff
(3+3+3+2+3)
Hrn.
Bsn.
Vc.
9
16
p
f
mp
p
f
mp
ff
mp
f

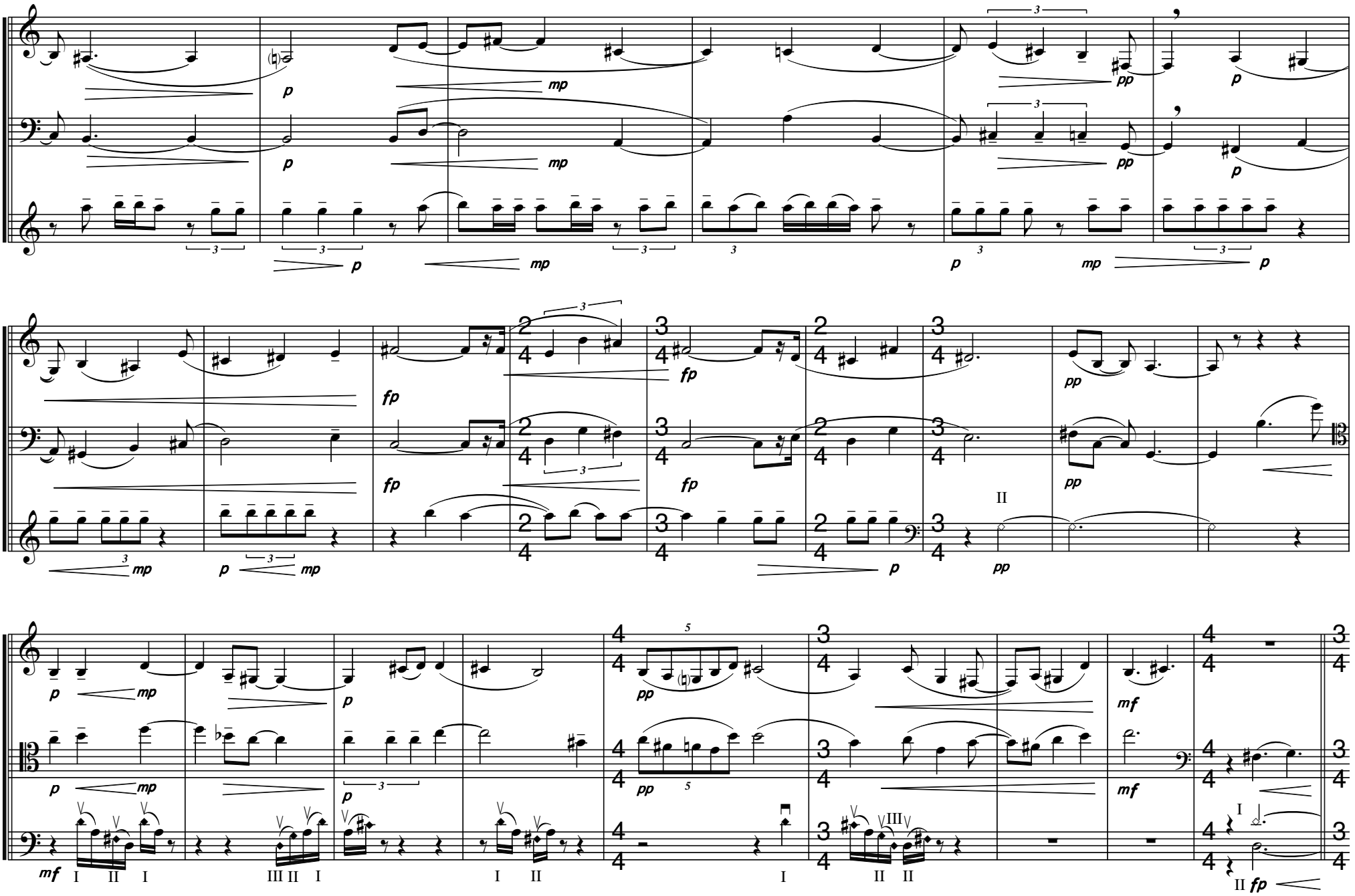

E
Hrn.
Bsn.
Vc.
ff
p
pizz.
fp
pp
mf
f

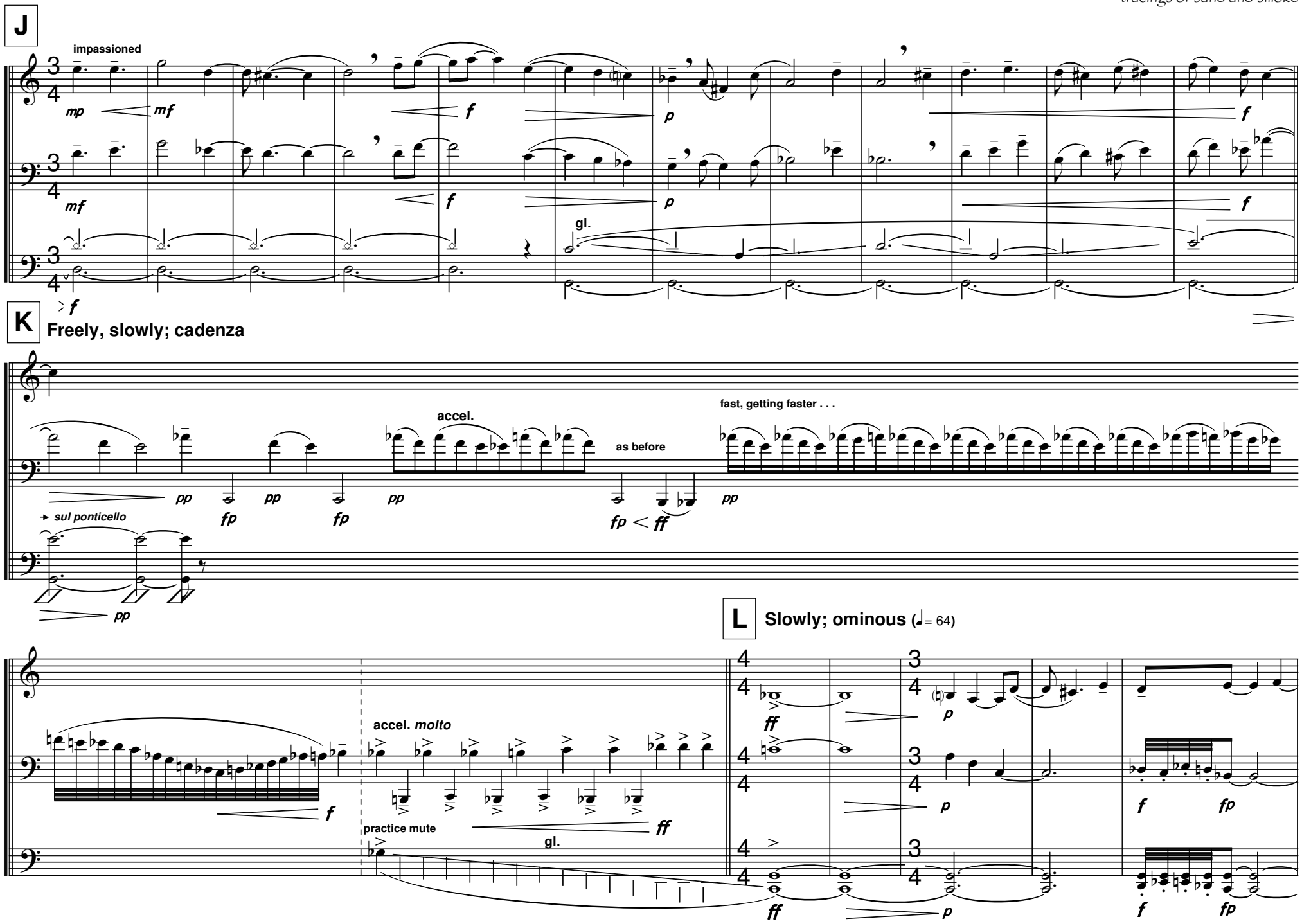

stopped
open
Hrn.
Bsn.
Vc.
p
f
mf
F
ff
heavy, ugly
unrelenting, violent

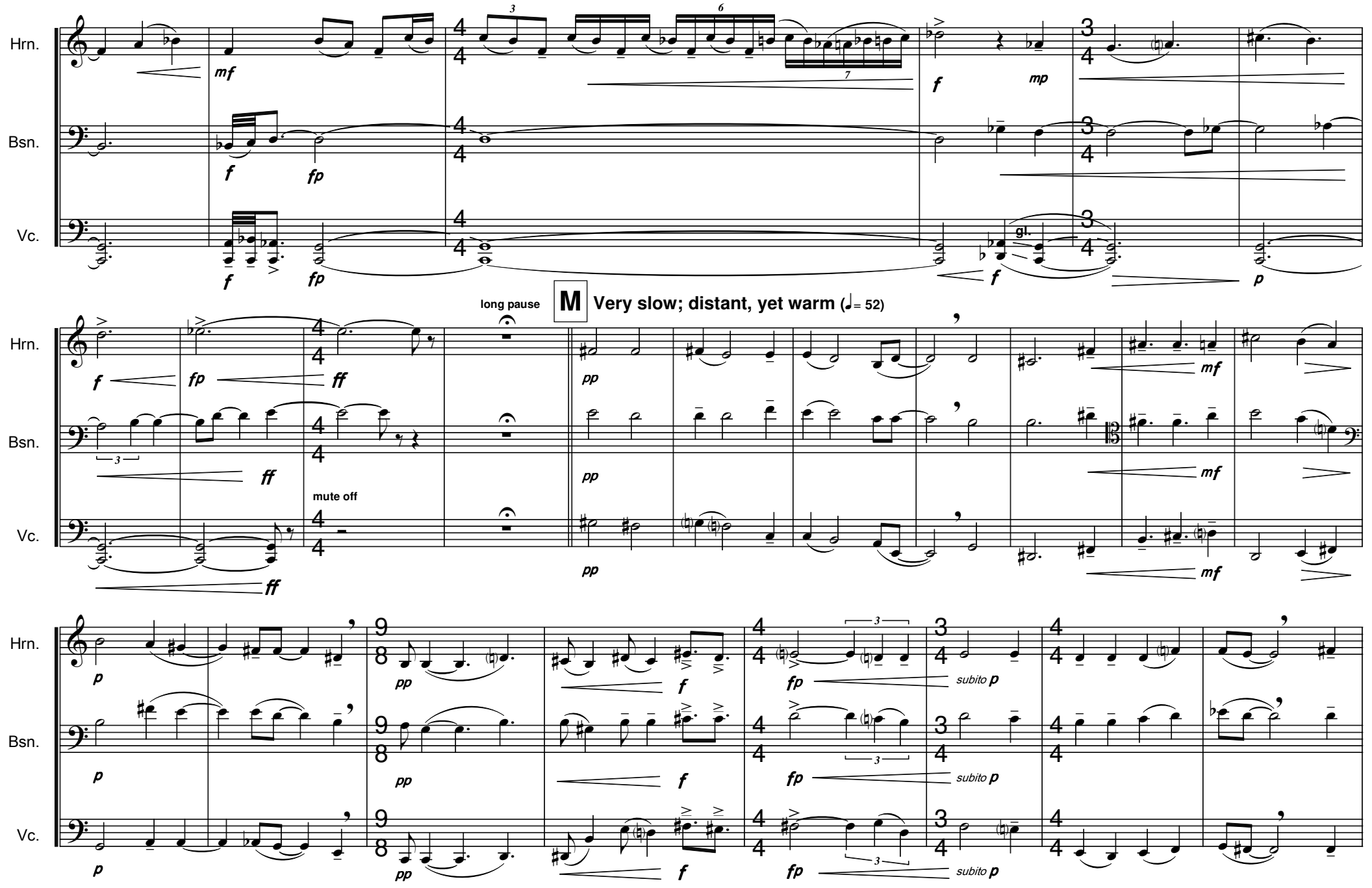

Hrn.
Bsn.
Vc.
p
f
ff
fff
G
Freely, slowly; cadenza (♩= 72)
repeat ad. lib., slowing
fp
accel.
very fast, fierce
molto rit.; savage

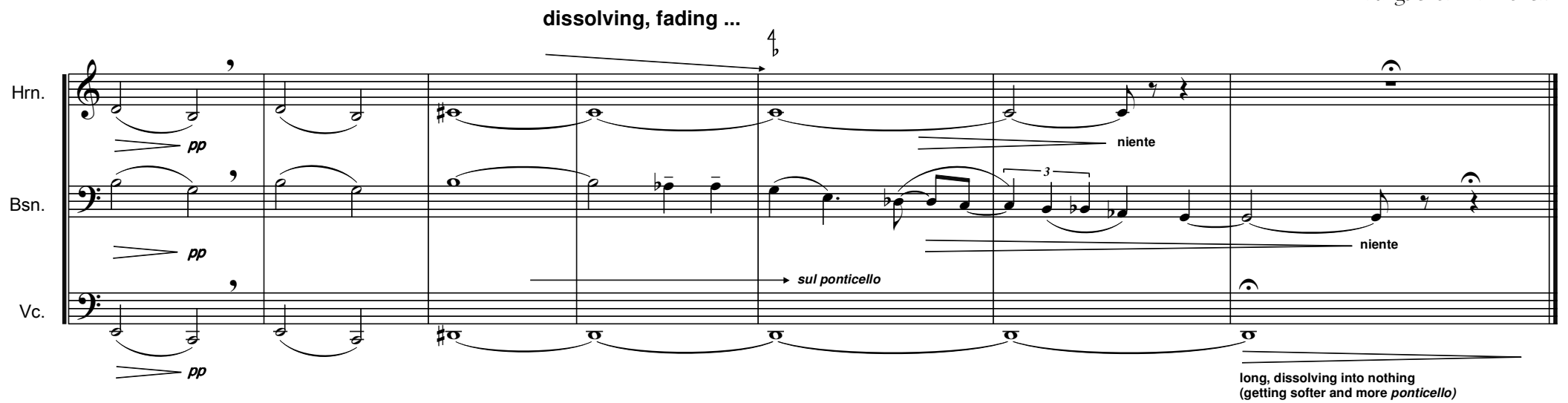

Suddenly very fast
Suddenly slower; dramatic
Bsn.
Vc.
pp
sul ponticello
f
p
pushing forward, getting faster...
ff
gl.
As fast as possible; driving (♪. = 132 +)
ord.


H
Slowly; distant (♩= 64)
Hrn.
Bsn.
Vc.
ff
sul ponticello
no vibrato
practice mute
pp
mp
ord.
gl.
I
Slower; solemn, quietly yearning (♩= 56)
rich, warm
crystalline, shining through
mute off


Hrn.
Bsn.
Vc.
p
mp
pp
fp
mf
II
I
III


J
impassioned
Hrn.
Bsn.
Vc.
mp
mf
f
p
gl.
K
Freely, slowly; cadenza
accel.
as before
fast, getting faster . . .
pp
fp
ff
sul ponticello
L
Slowly; ominous (♩= 64)
accel. molto
practice mute


Hrn.
Bsn.
Vc.
mf
f
fp
mp
gl.
p
long pause
M
Very slow; distant, yet warm (♩= 52)
ff
pp
mute off
subito p



may 2006
austin, texas