Oskar Österling

Rhythmic Rondo

for String Quartet

(2022/rev.2024)

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composer's note:

This piece is, as the title suggests, a rondo where each section is characterized by rhythm rather than melody and harmony. When I first started working on the piece I quickly realized that I would still have to incorporate these elements somehow in order to create a piece that still satisfied my musical aesthetic; however, the driving force behind the piece is still the rhythm. The dotted-and-triplet figure that makes up the A section, the 2:3 that dominates B, and the 1:2:3:4:5 that makes up C. These rhythms have subsequently been developed and treated like themes in a traditional rondo. They have also been used in various ways to determine the internal structure of the episodes, with rhythmic relationships determining phrase length and harmonic changes etc.

The musical framework is a rather strict sonata-rondo and its inception and planning was a highly conceptual exercise, where the hardest task eventually became turning an almost obnoxiously intellectualized rhythmic scheme into an actual piece of music: something you would want to listen to. I'm not saying this because it necessarily *adds* anything to the music; it is purely because I spent too much time planning it not to require the egotistical satisfaction of appearing very clever indeed.

Oskar Österling, 28/2-2024

instructions:

action dynamics

dynamics used are "action dynamics", eg., use the amount of force usually required for the given dynamic, even though it may not sound (for example, on harmonics and pizzicato sections)

bowings

exact bowings are at performer's discretion

DURATION CA 5 MIN

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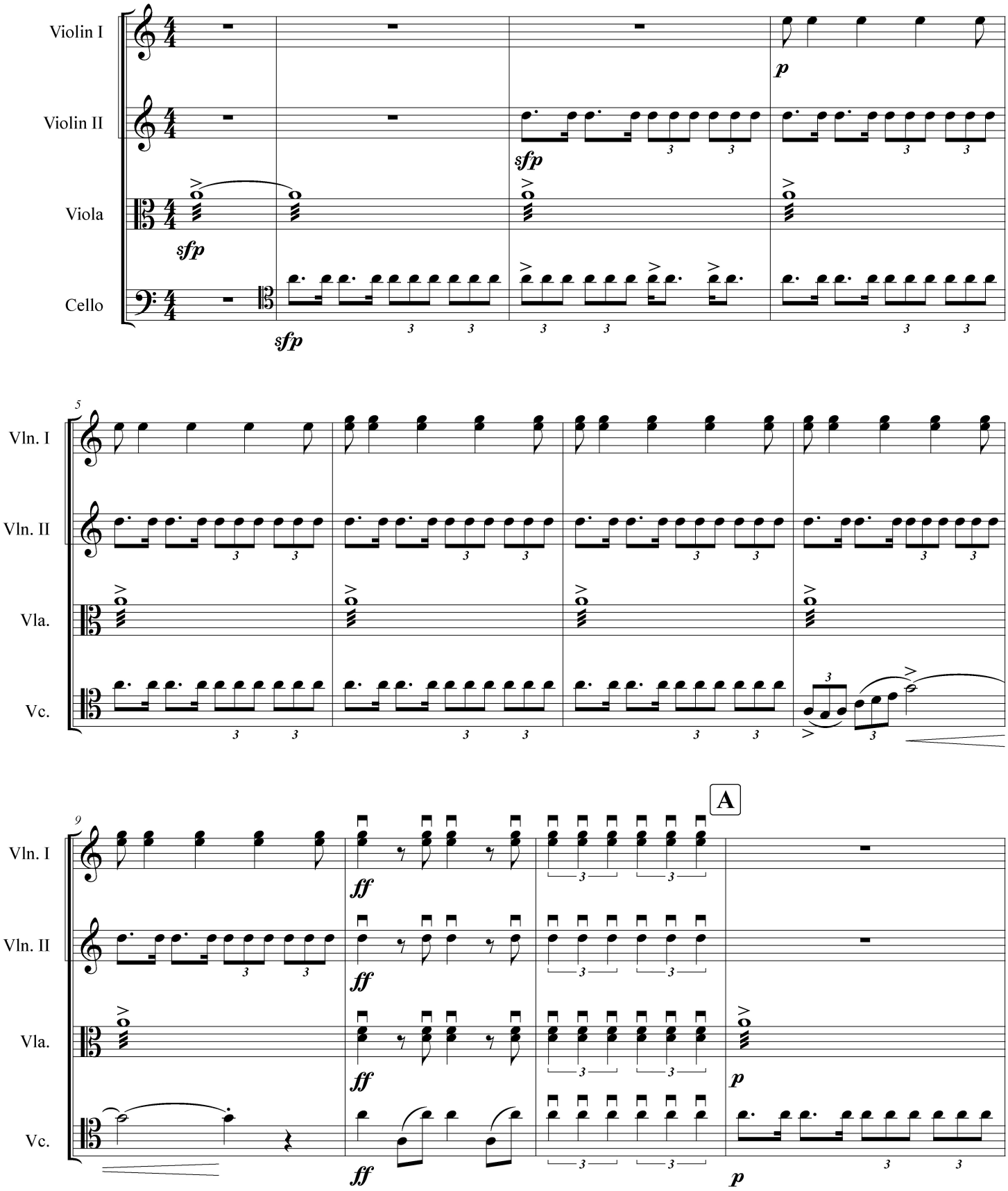
Score

Duration ca 5"00

Rhythmic Rondo

Oskar Österling

Lively and driving (♩=152)



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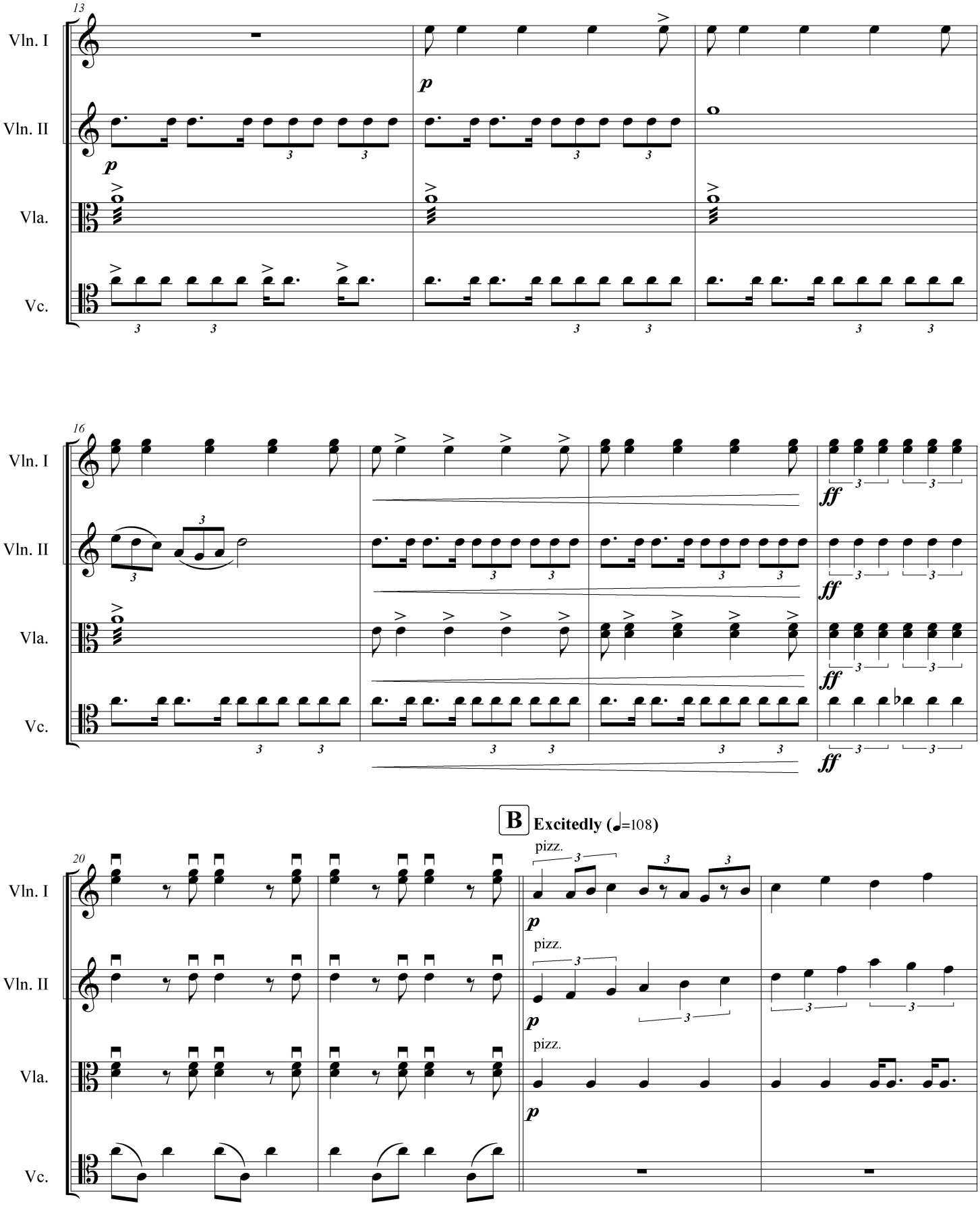

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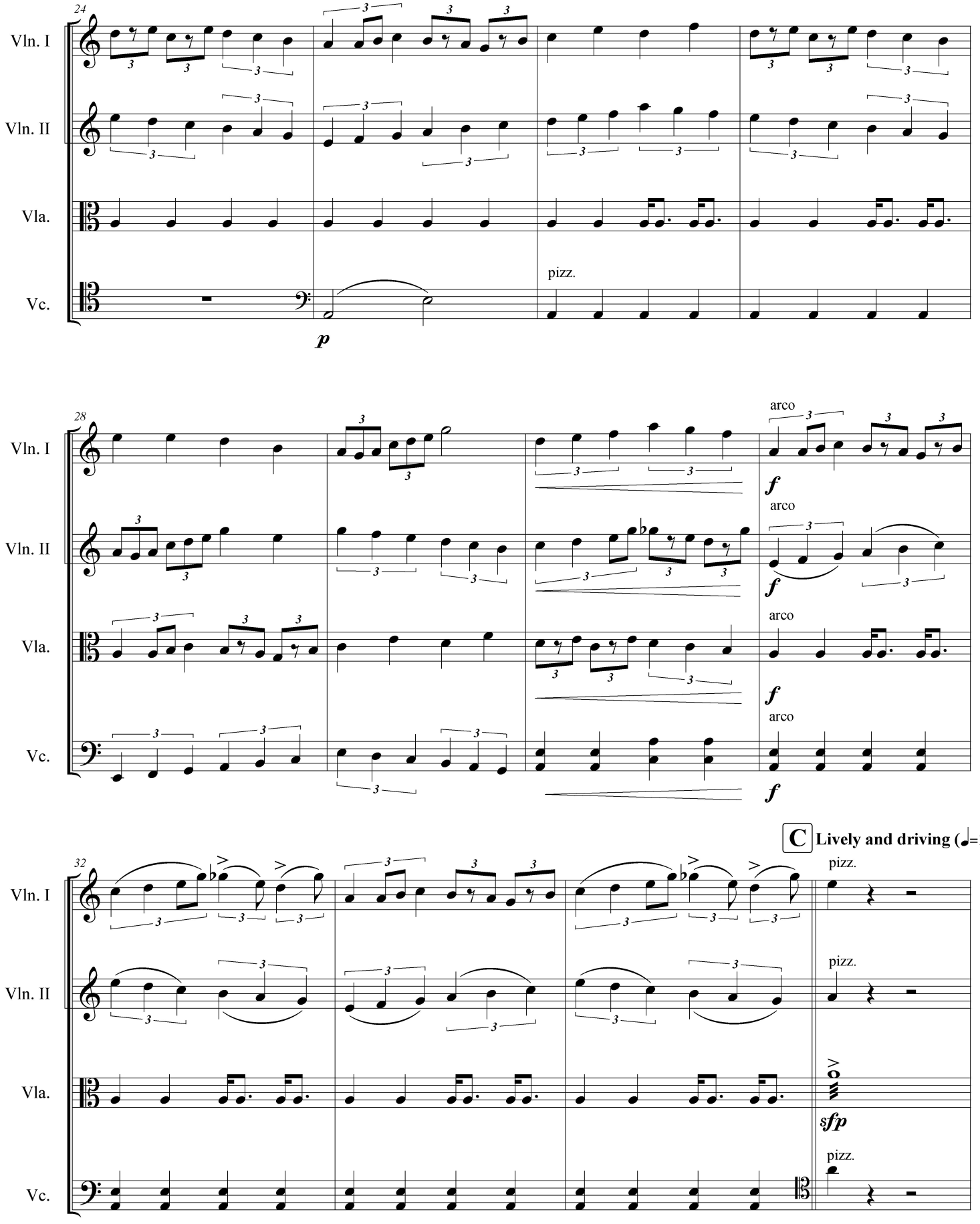

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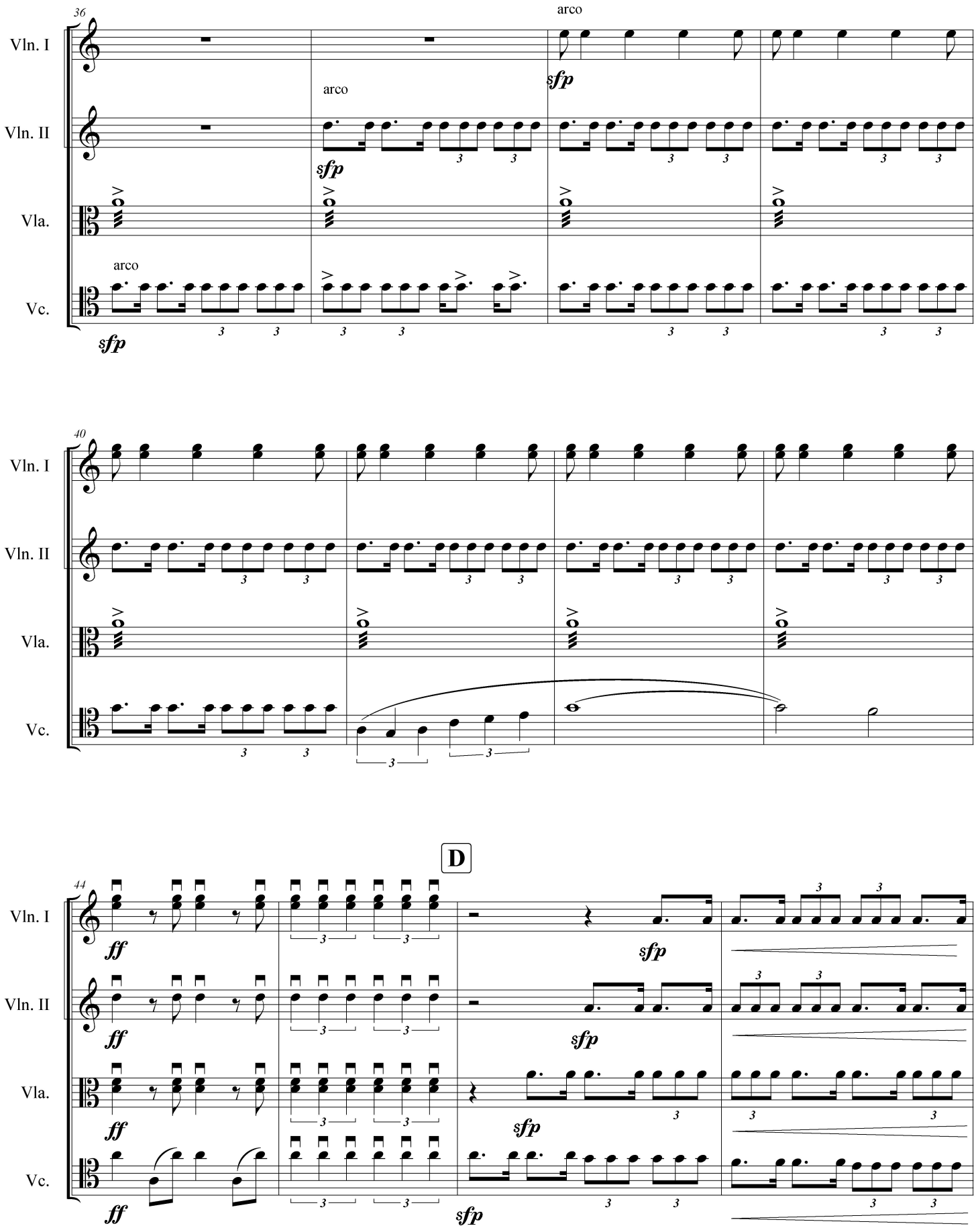

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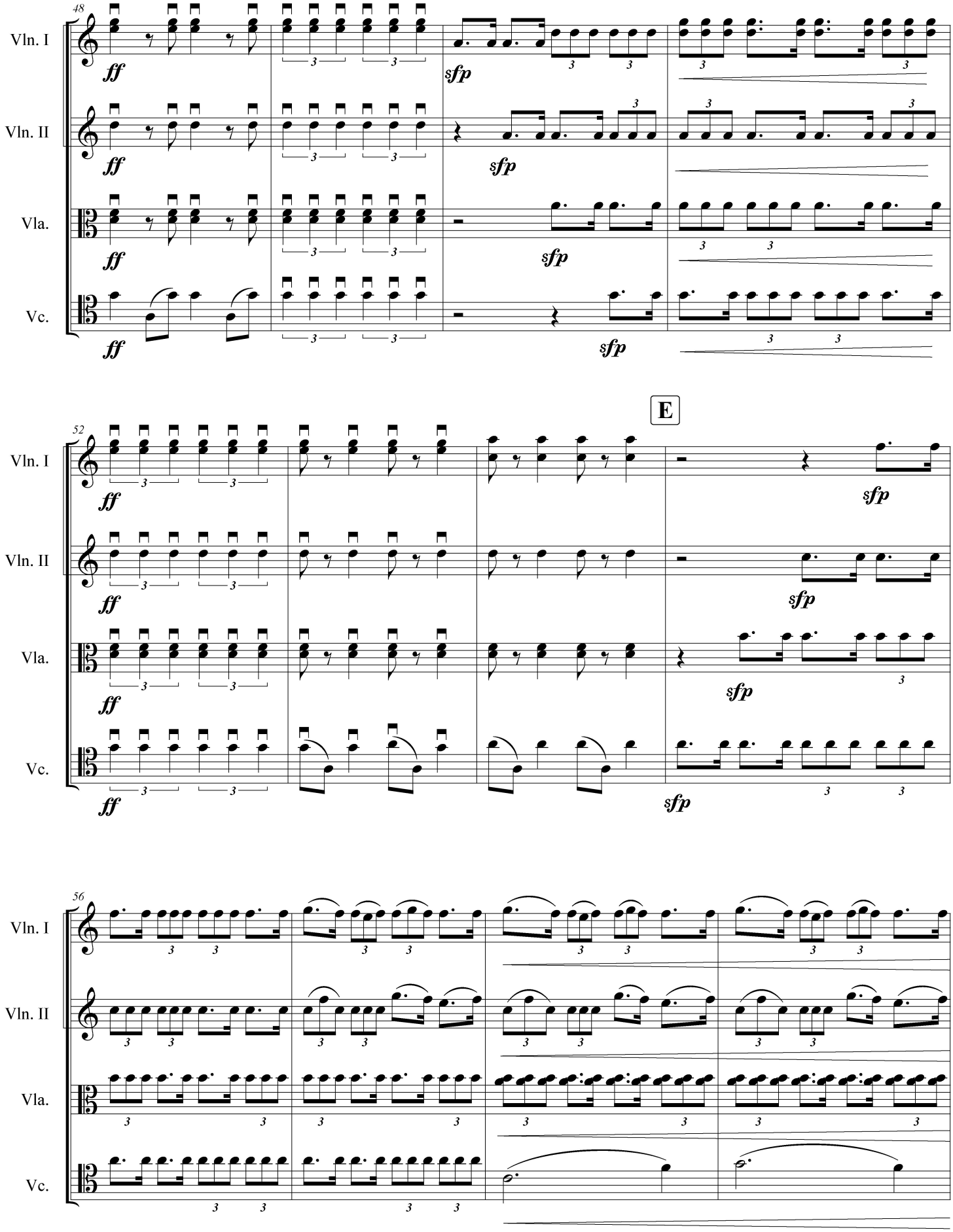

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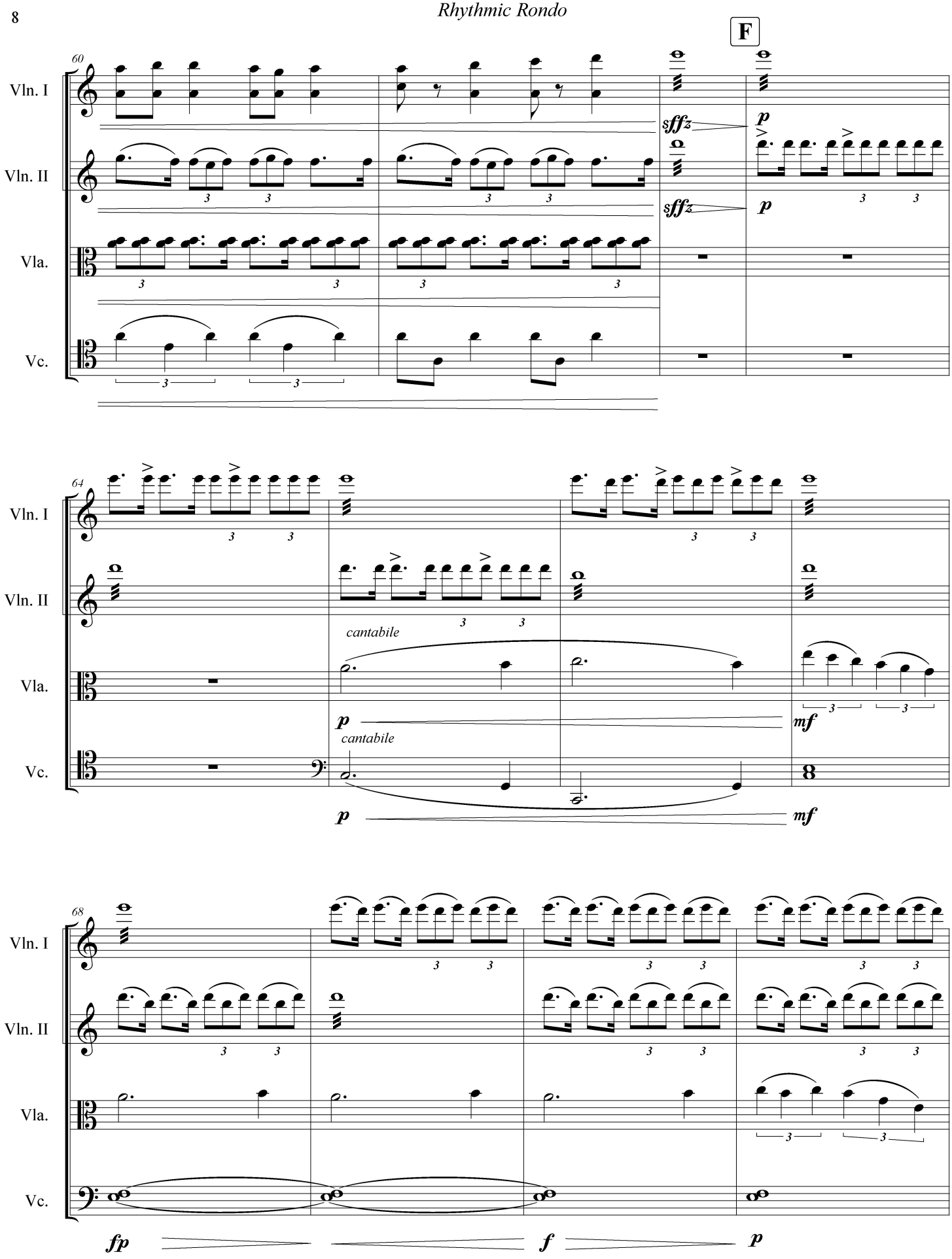

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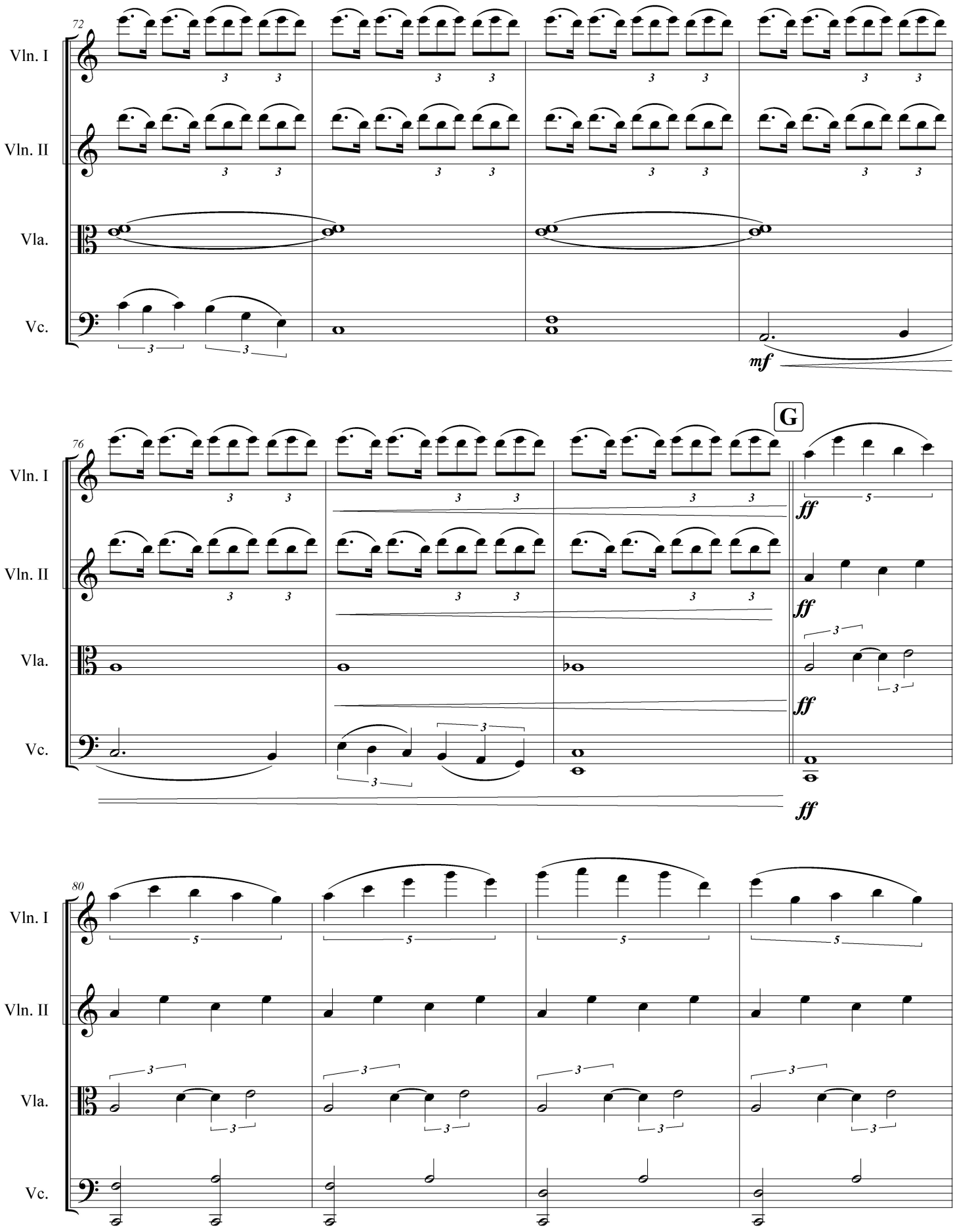

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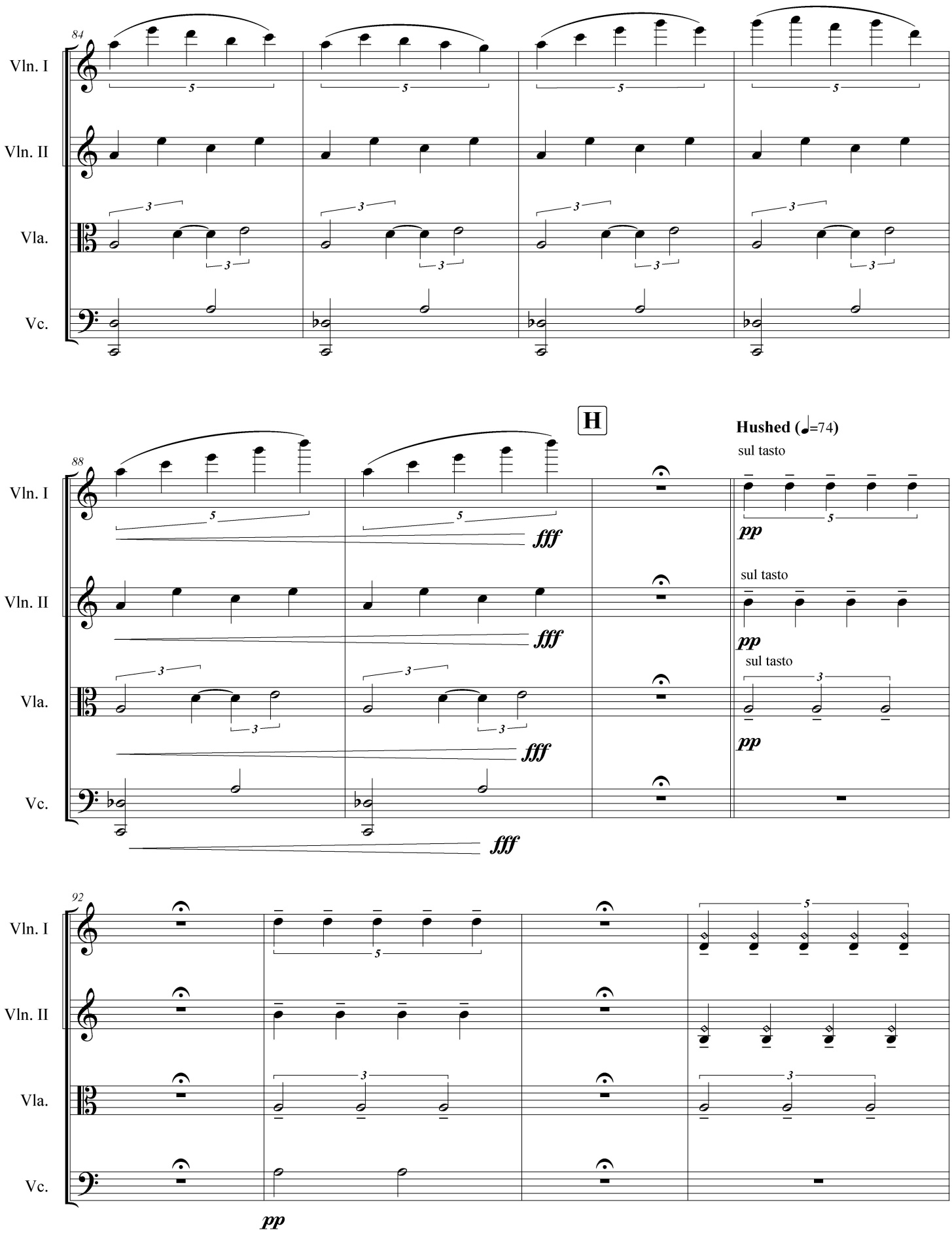

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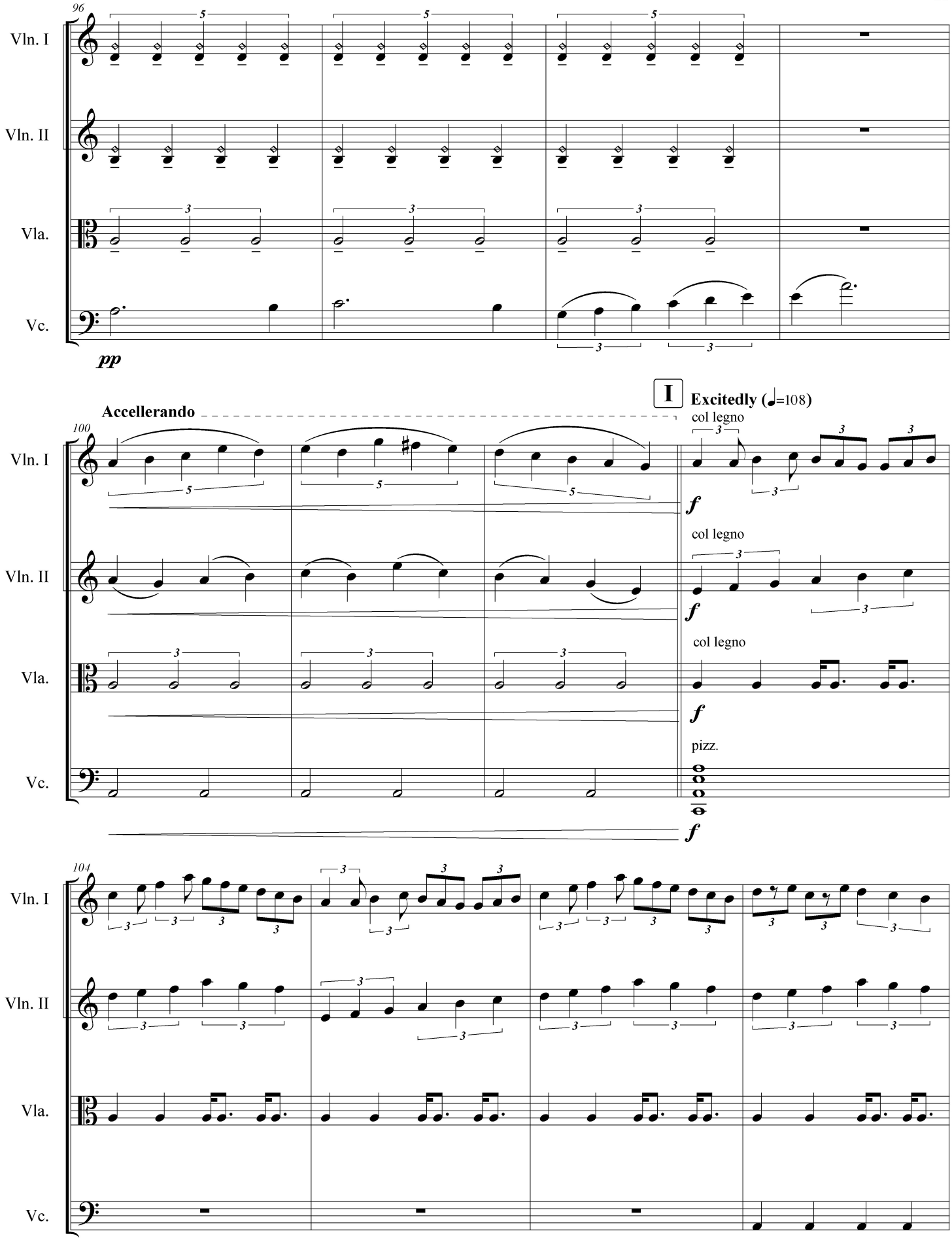

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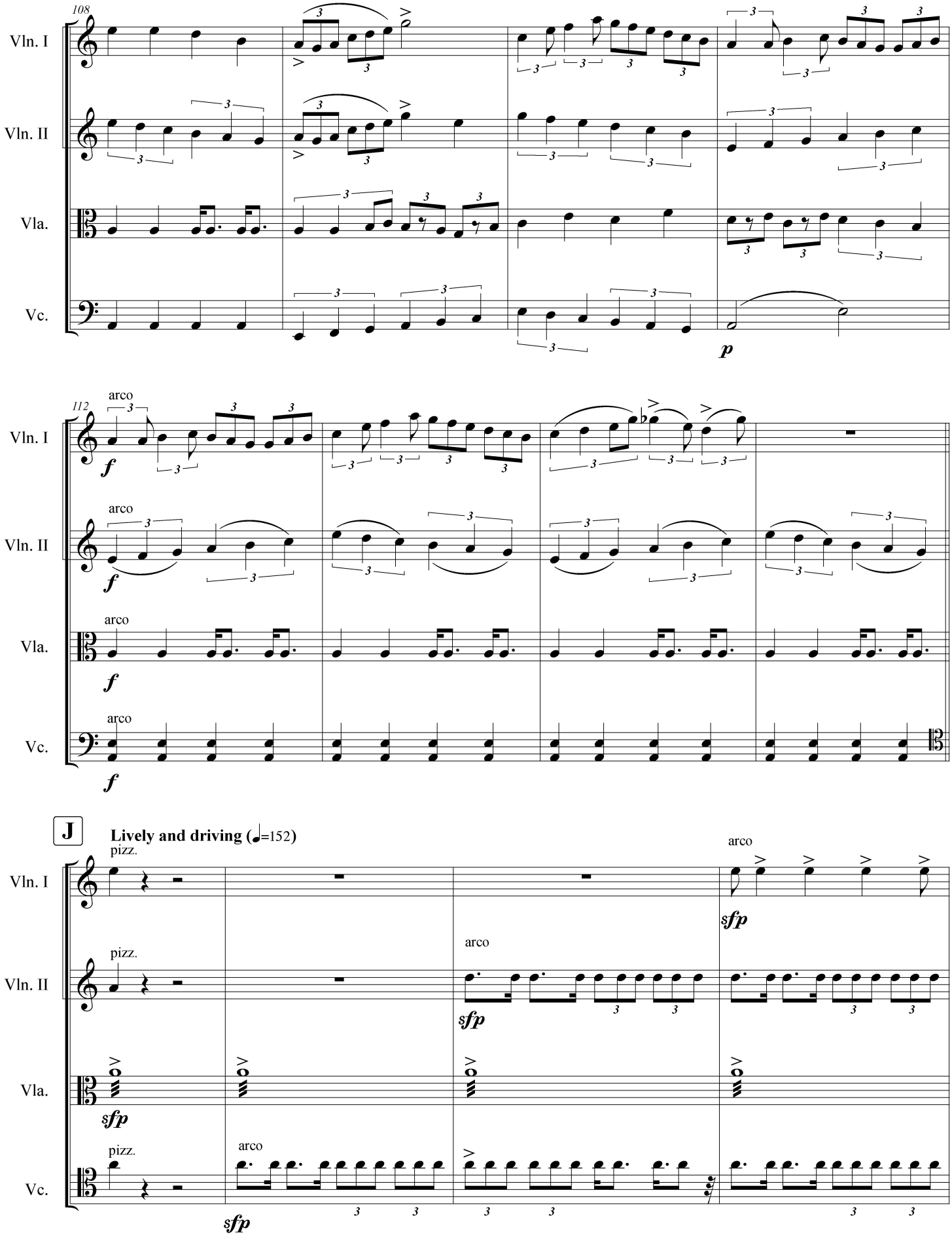

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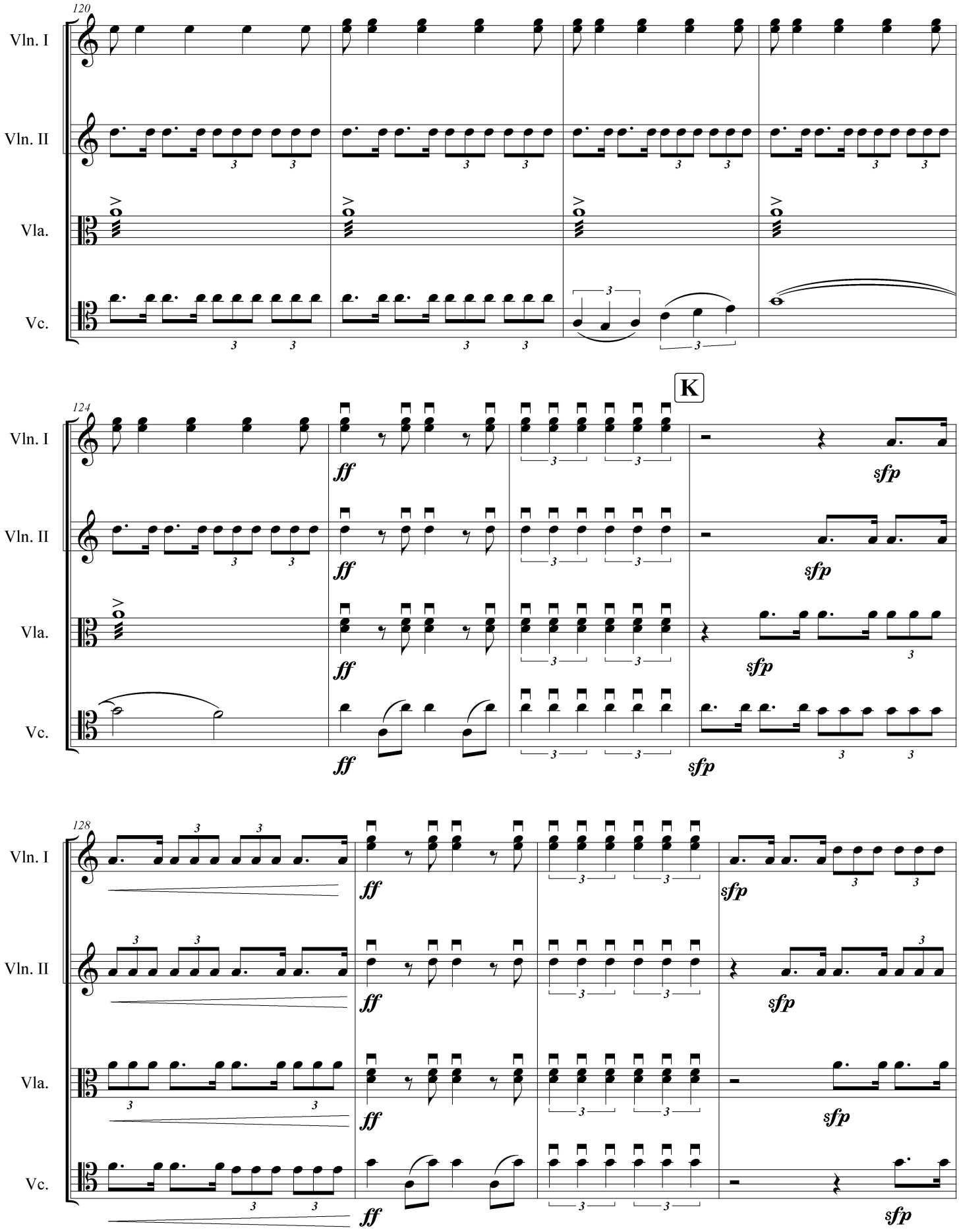

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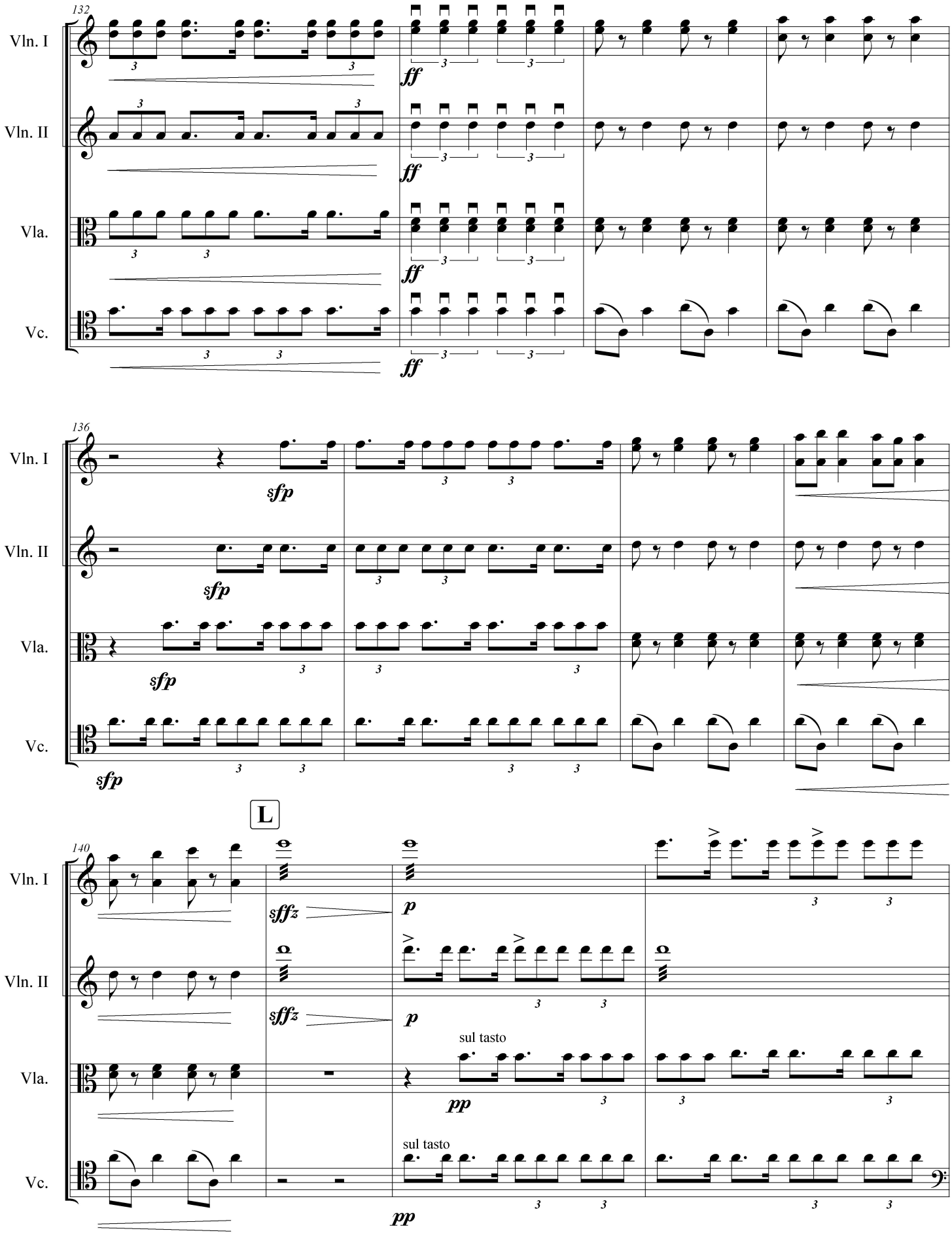

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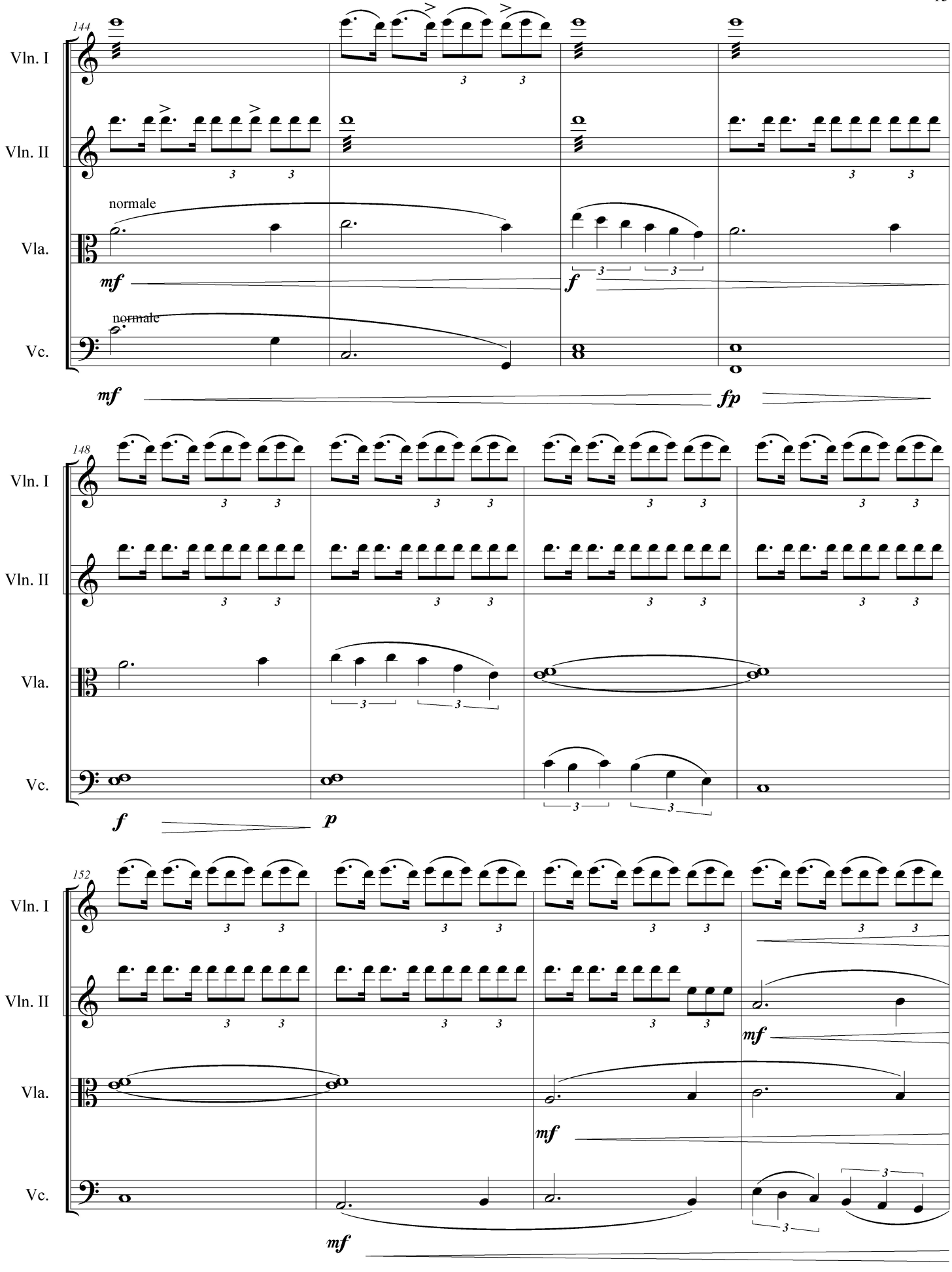

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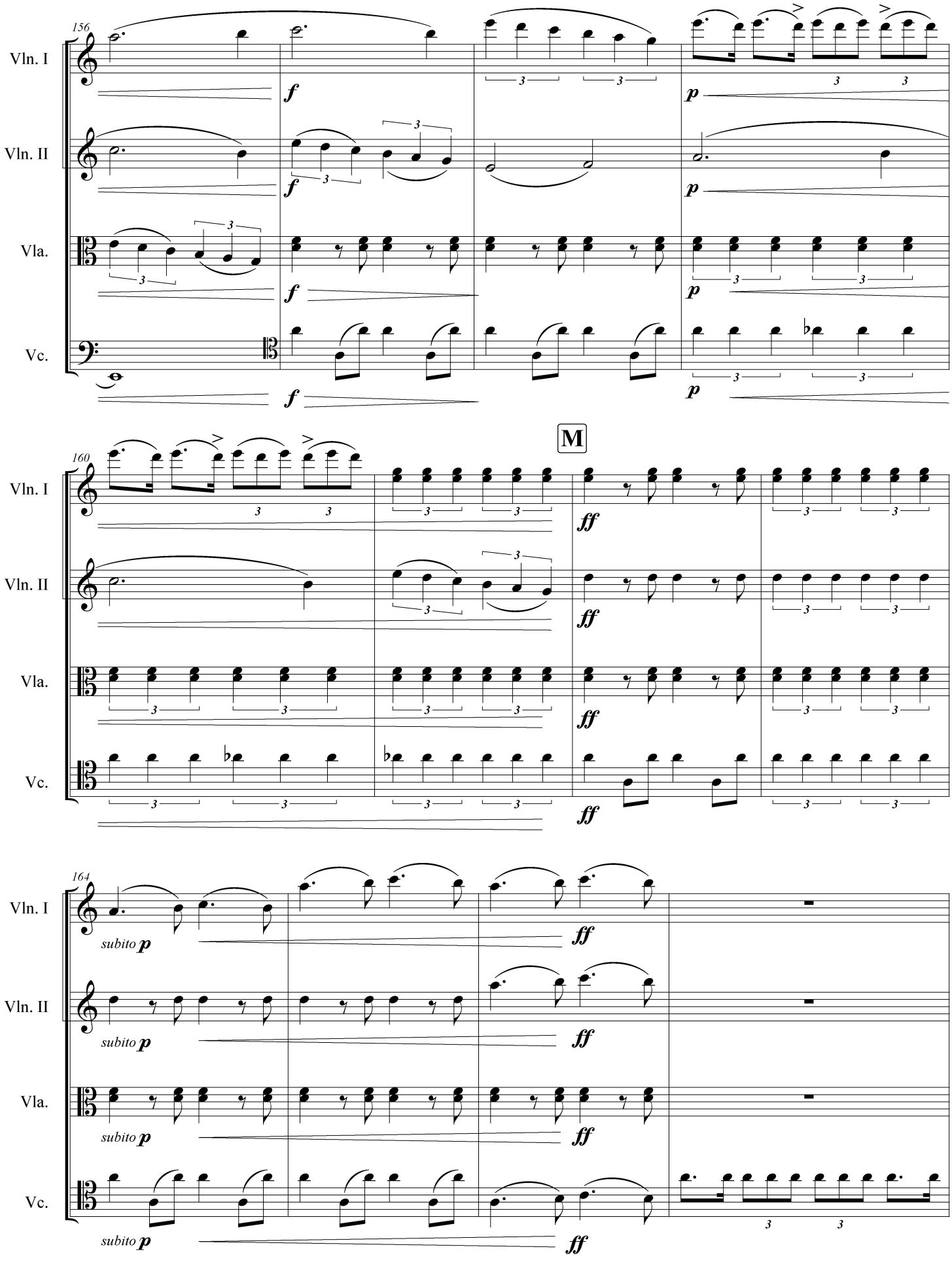

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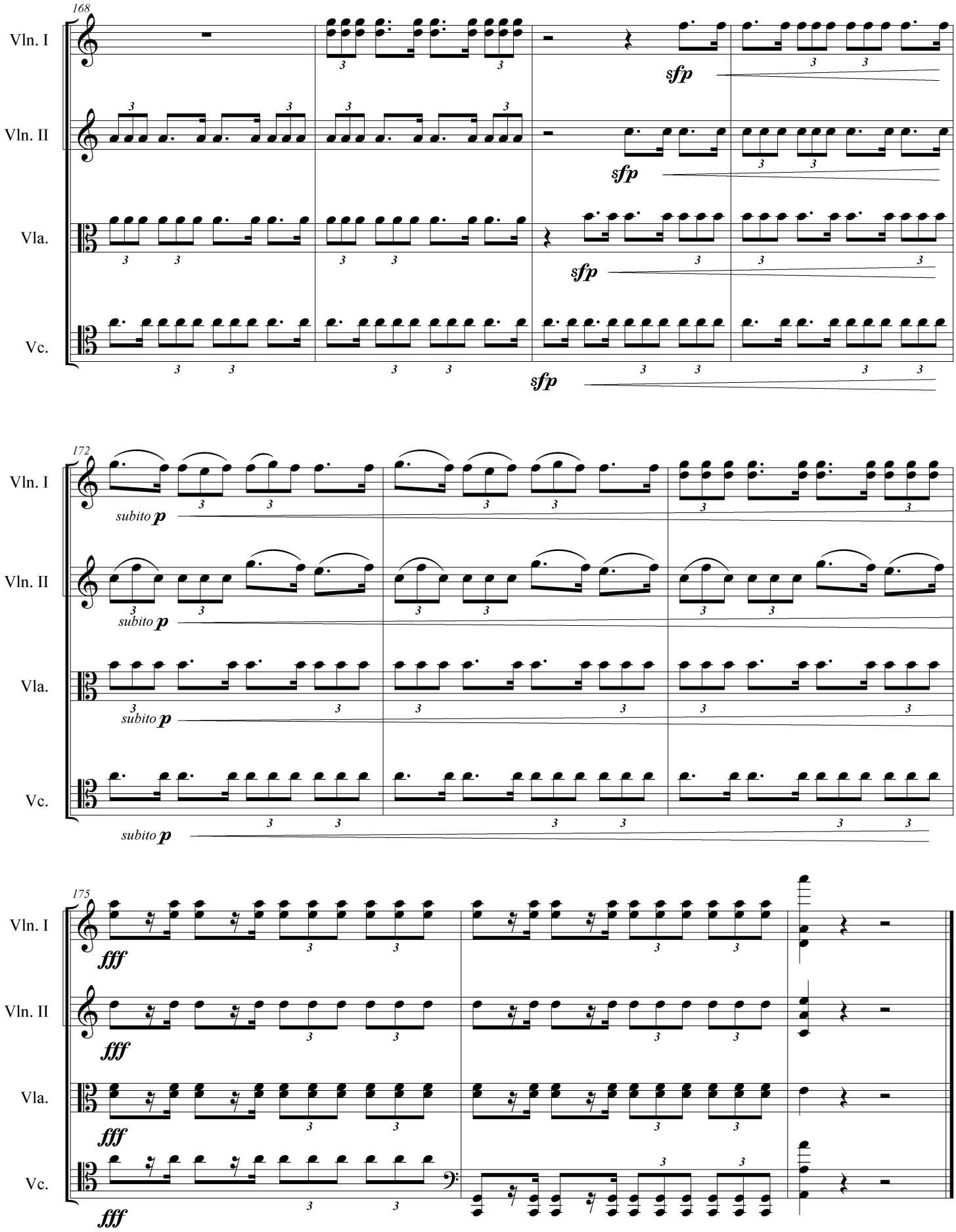

Oskar Österling, Greenwich, 4/3 2024

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