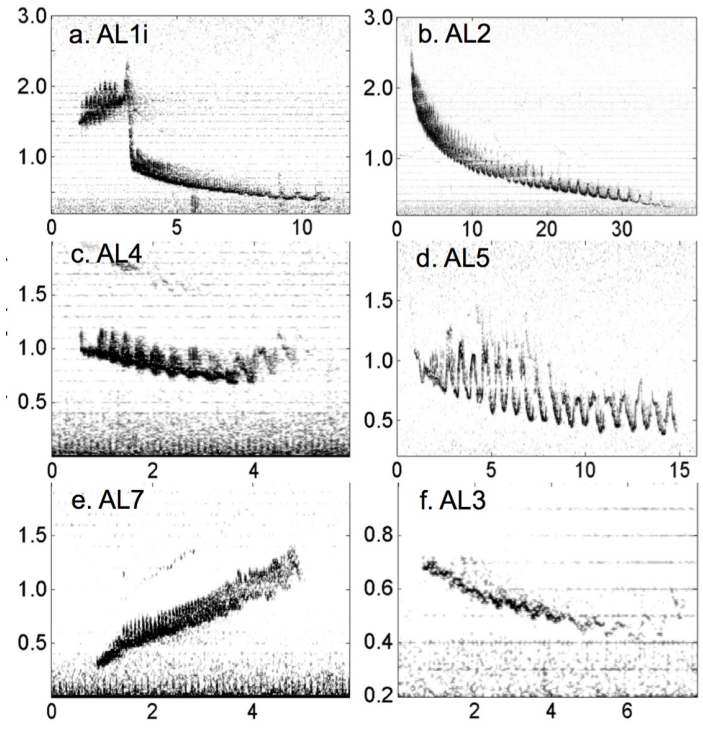
Under the sea ice

for string quartet

Meditations on the songs of the Arctic bearded seals



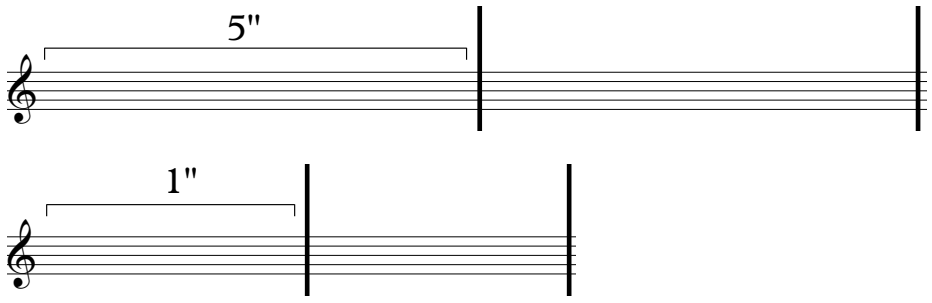
Christopher Luna-Mega

Special thanks to Joshua Jones, Staff Research Associate
at the Scripps Whale Acoustic Lab (University of California, San Diego)
for providing the recordings and information that made this piece possible

Performance Notes

Proportional Notation

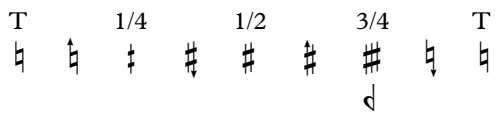
Each bar in the score is either 1” or 5” long.
Brackets announce a change in the duration of a bar, which will affect the subsequent bars until a new change occurs.



Durations / Rests

Stems do not indicate duration –their purpose is visual reference.
Sounds must be continued until followed by another sound or by a silence.

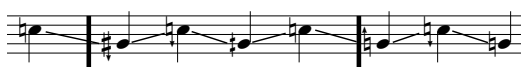
Accidentals



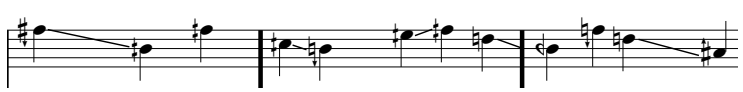
In various points of the piece, especially the fast sections, playing approximately the suggested accidental should suffice.

Pitch references in glissandi

Note heads preceded and succeeded by glissandi must not be attacked. They serve as precise pitch references.



Pitches without a preceding glissando must be attacked



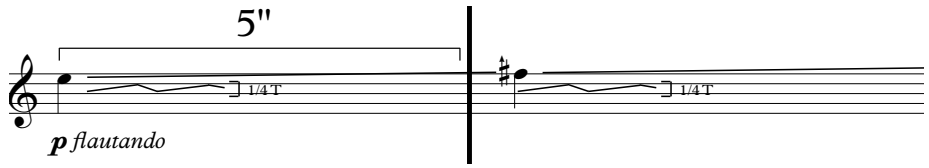
Bow pressure accents over glissando

Fast irregular increase in bow pressure while glissando

Tremolo

Tremolos should be played as fast as possible.
Occasionally perform irregular rhythms (ad. libitum).

Ad libitum glissandi



Ad libitum gradual fluctuations around the notated pitches (i.e. ¼ of a tone higher and ¼ tone lower than E) and dynamics (i.e. *pp* and *mp*). The fraction in the right side of the bracket indicates the intervallic frame for the ad lib. glissandi (i.e. ¼ of a tone or ½ of a tone around the written note).

The ad. lib. glissando figure lasts the full bar in which it is notated. The pitches in between the figure must not be attacked (they are referential).

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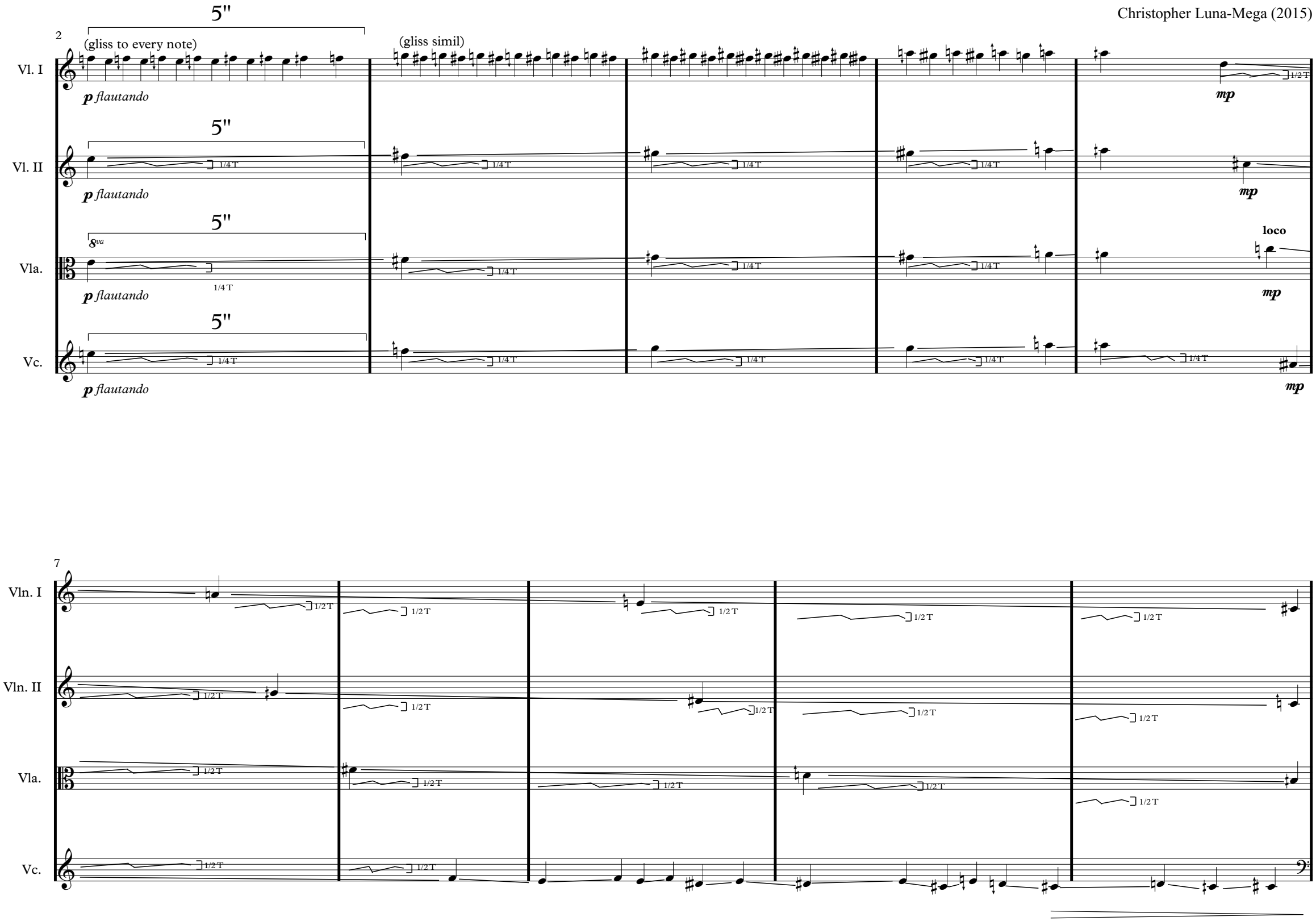
Christopher Luna-Mega (2015)



12

17

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf

p

1/2 T

1"

21

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

8va

p

mf

f

29

Vln. I

Vln. II

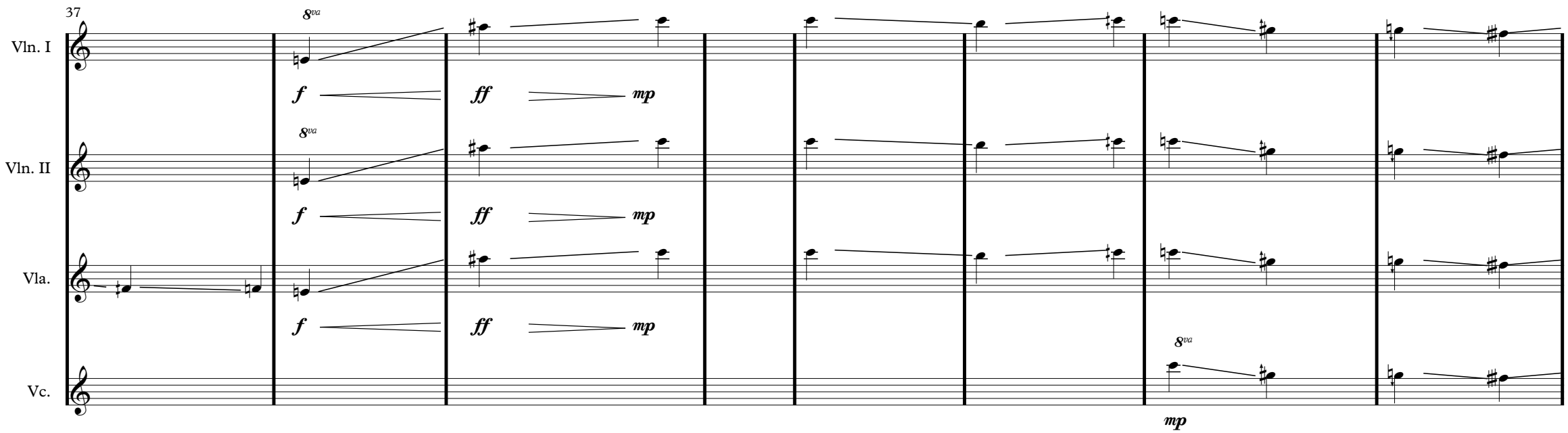
Vla.

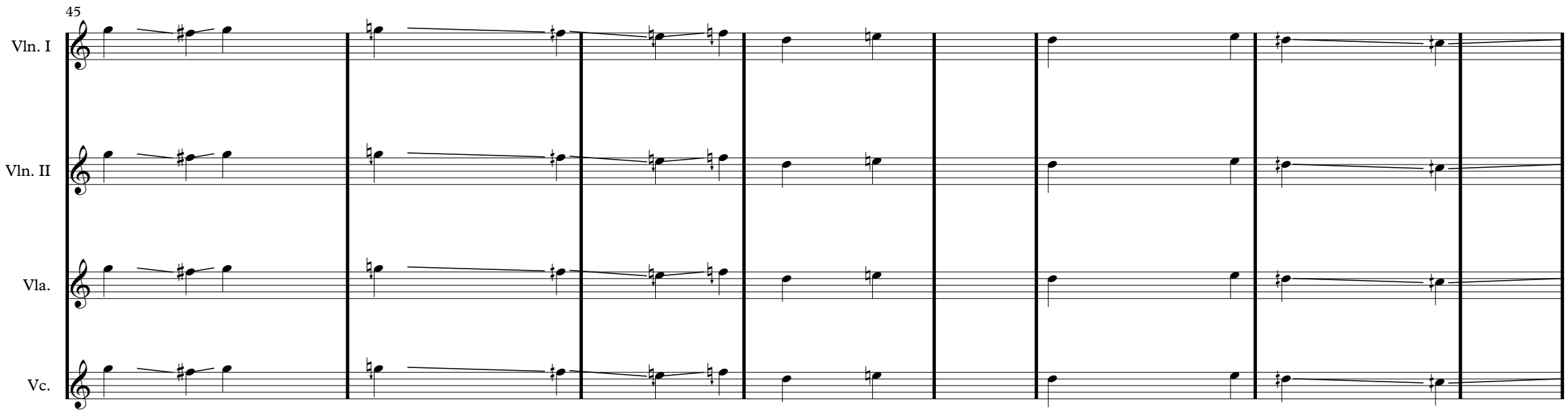
Vc.

f

p

mf


37
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
8va
f
ff
mp
8va
f
ff
mp
f
ff
mp
8va
mp


45
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

53

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

61

Vln. I

loco

Vln. II

loco

Vla.

loco

Vc.

loco

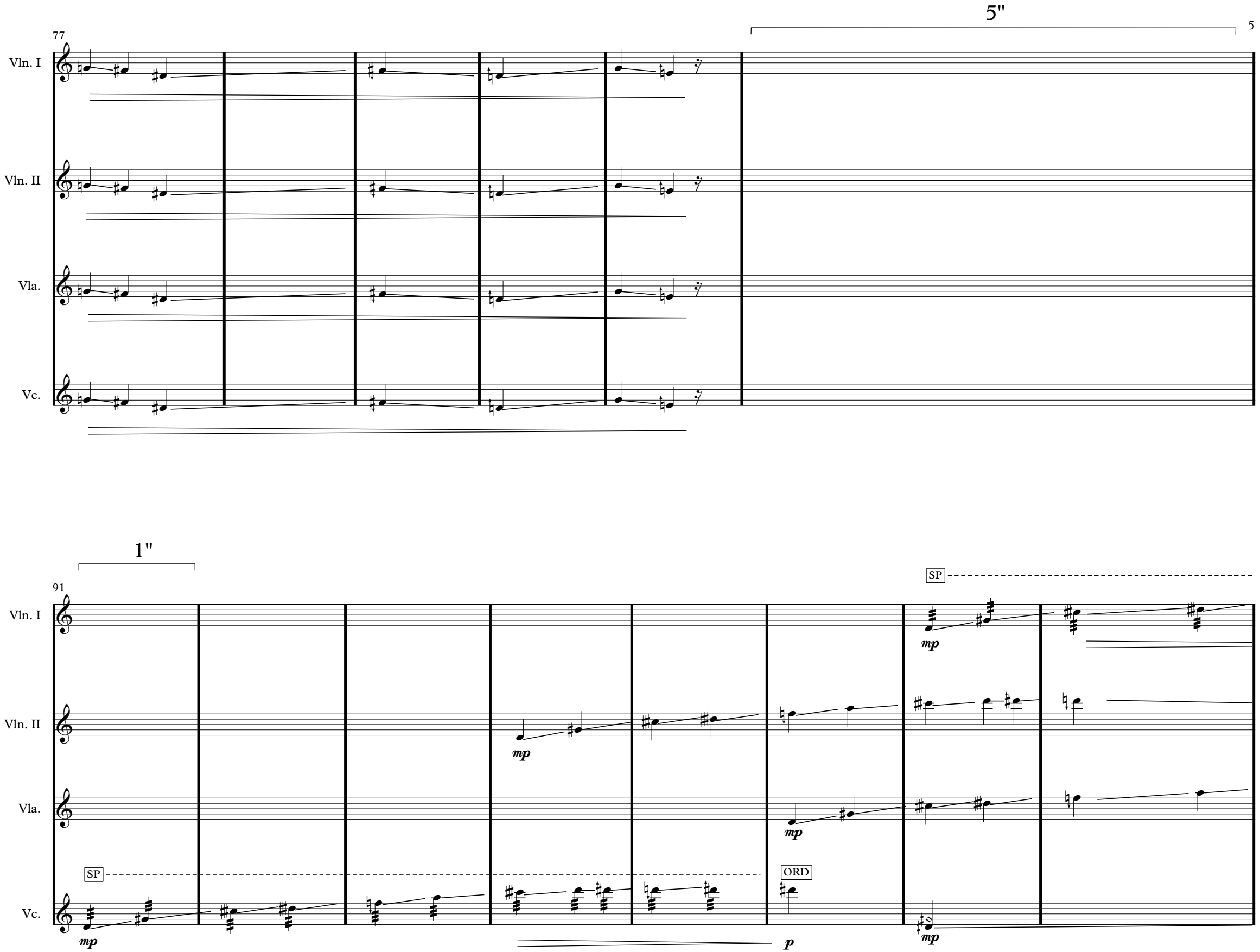
69

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.


5"
5
77
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
1"
91
SP
mp
ORD
p

99

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

ORD

5"

p

p

1/2 T

1/2 T

1/2 T

1/2 T

1/2 T

1/2 T

1/2 T

1/2 T

103

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

SP

ORD

(gliss.)

mf

1/2 T

1/2 T

1/2 T

SP

ORD

(gliss.)

mf

1/2 T

1/2 T

1/2 T

mf

1/2 T

1/2 T

1/2 T

SP

ORD

(gliss.)

mf

1/2 T

1/2 T

1/2 T

107

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

1/2T

1"

110

8va

f

(gliss to every note)

(gliss simil)

mf

118

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

126

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

134

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

loco

loco

loco

loco

mf

mf

142

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp

mp

mp

mp

150

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf

158

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf

mp

8va

mf

mp

166

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp

loco

f

174

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf

mp

f

182

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp

mp

f

190

Vln. I

mp

8va

mf

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf

198

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

8va

f

mp

206

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf

mp

mf

mp

mp

214

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

222

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

230

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

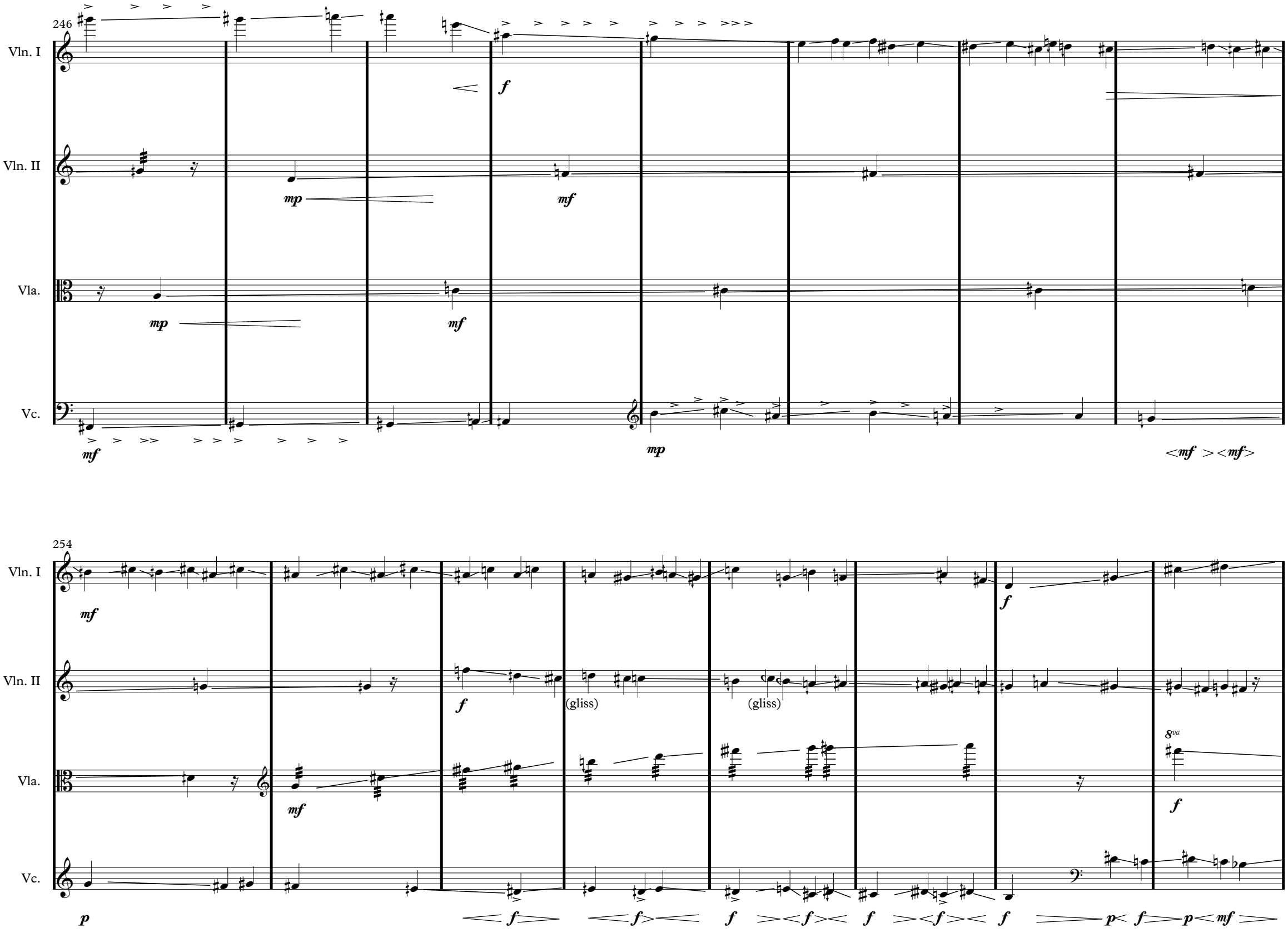
Vc.

ST

ST

238

8va


246
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
254
(gliss)
(gliss)
8va

262

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

(8va)

8va

f

f

f

ff

mp

(gliss to every note)

(gliss simil)

mf

(II)

<mf><mf>

p

p

270

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

loco

f

f

f

f

f

f

f

p

f

p

mf

p

(8va)

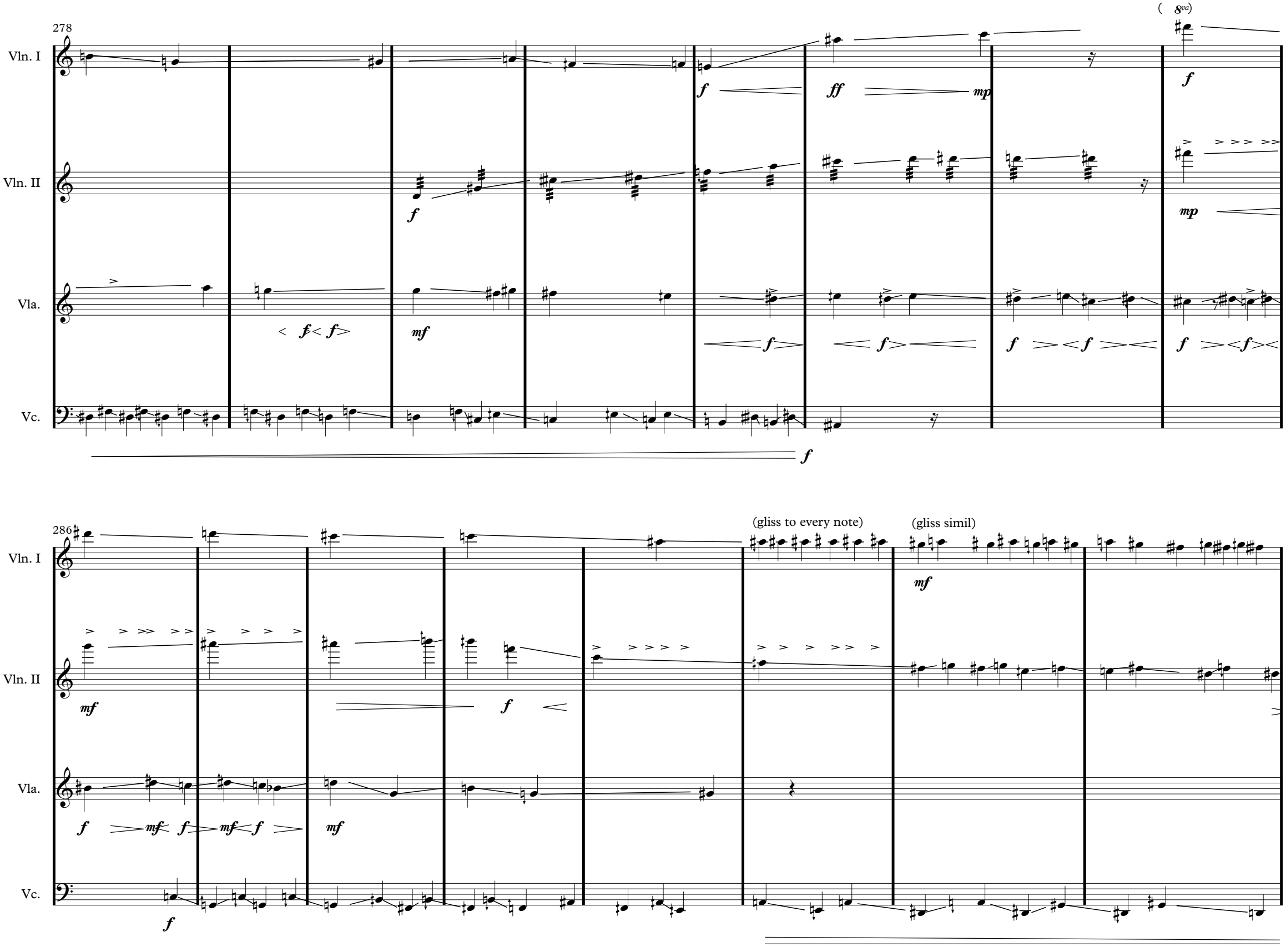
mf

(gliss to every note)

(gliss simil)

f

mf


278
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
(8va)
286
(gliss to every note)
(gliss simil)

294

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

(8va)

f

mf

(8va)

ff

mp

mf

f

ff

(gliss to every note)

f

p

302

SP

loco

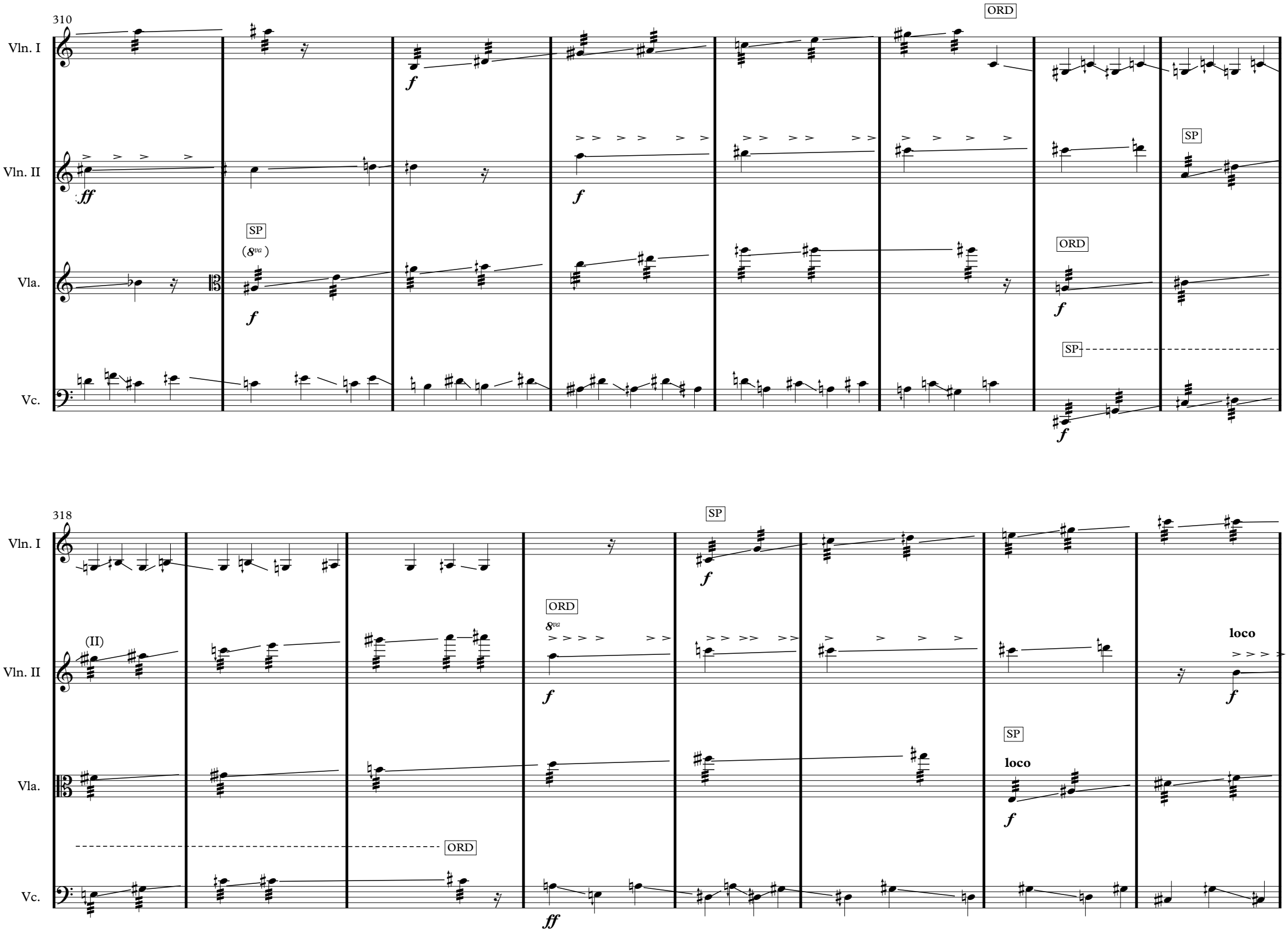
f

f

mf

f

(gliss simil)


310
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
ORD
SP
(8va)
318
(II)
loco

326

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

ORD

8va

f

SP

8va

f

8va

ORD

f

mp

334

Vln. I

mp

f

Vln. II

SP

loco

f

Vla.

f

ORD

8va

f

SP

342

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

SP

loco

f

ORD

8va

mp

mf

loco

f

ORD

loco

f

8va

f

ORD

8va

ff

mf

SP

f

8va

f

350

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf

f

ORD

8va

f

ff

(8va)

f

ff

f

ff

mf

SP

f

SP

8va

f

ORD

ORD

358

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

8va

f

ff

I/II

366

sub ***p***

8va

f

loco

376

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

(gliss to every note)

(gliss simil)

mf

384

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

392

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

400

loco

ORD

ST

408

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

ORD

ST

ORD

mp

mp

p

mp

p flautando

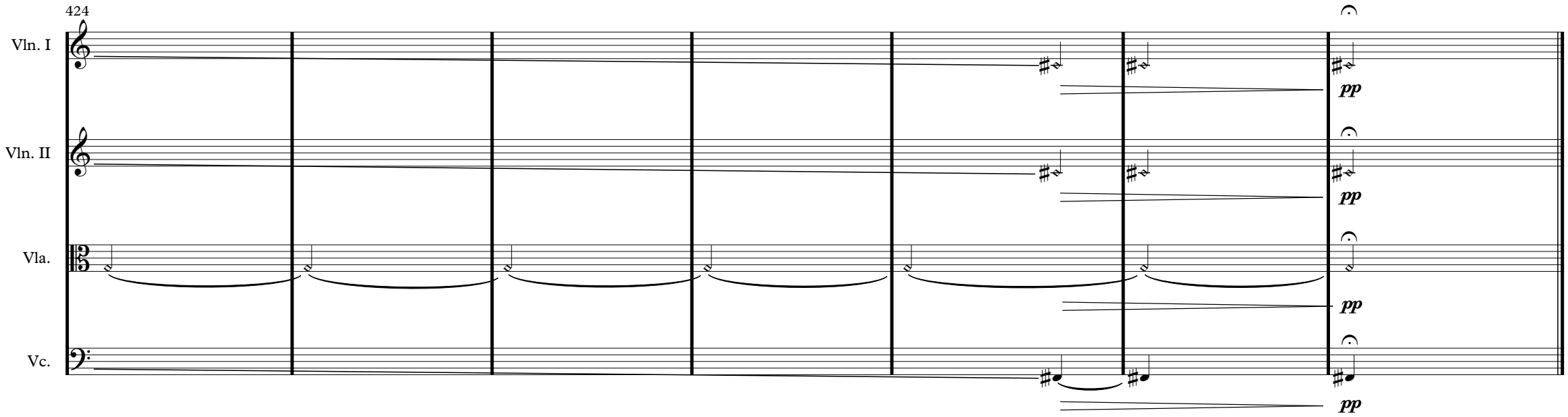
416

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.


424
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pp
pp
pp
pp