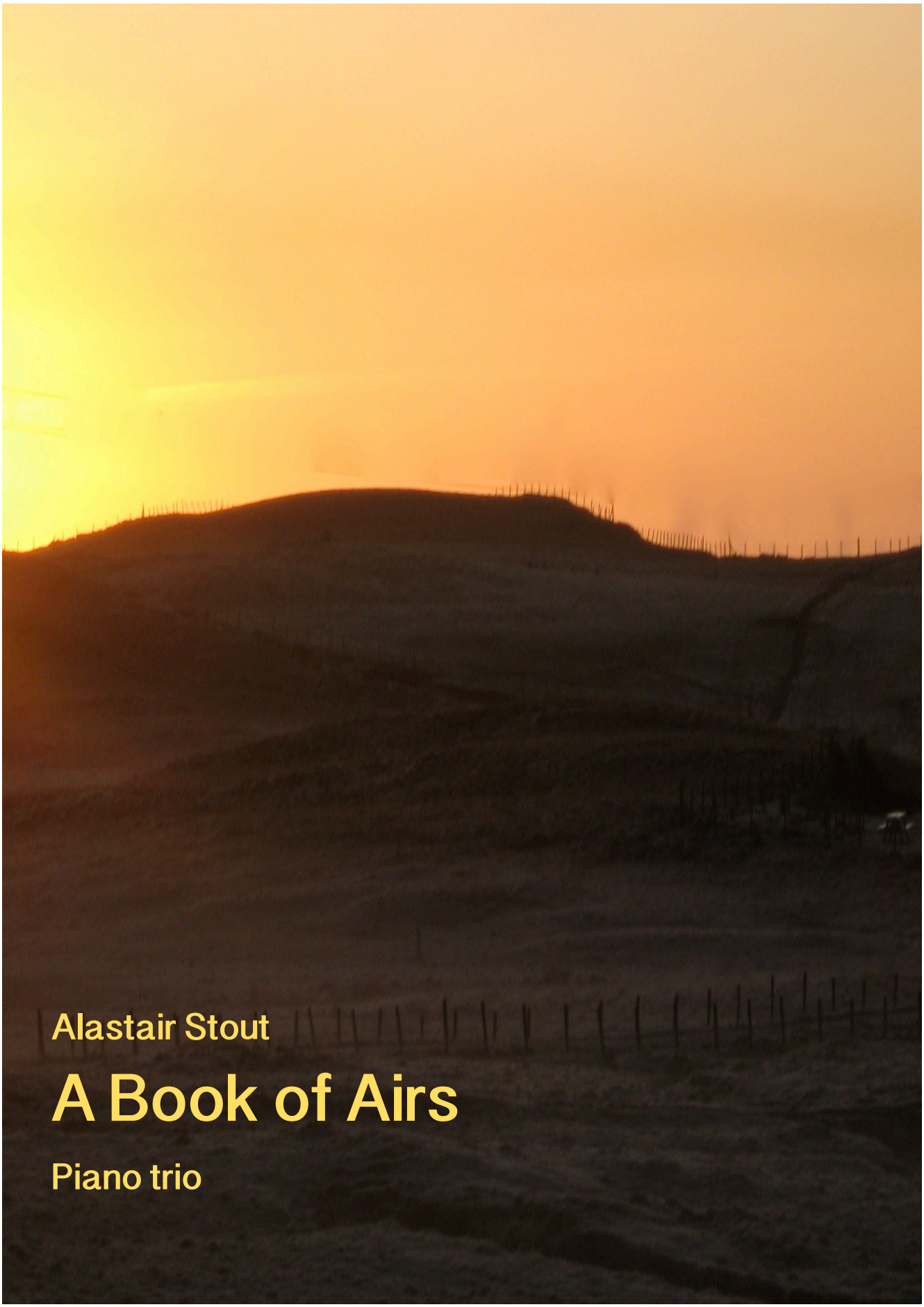


Alastair Stout

A Book of Airs

Piano trio

A Book of Airs

Piano trio

Three sketches in the style of Shetland airs
derived from the hymn tune 'Kilmarnock'.

Veiled by mist, sunshine and legend, the melodies are transformed into contemporary interpretations of an ancient tradition.

First performed by The Aurelian Trio
at St Andrews Episcopal Church, Highland Park, PA
December 1st, 2011

Total duration: c. 12 minutes

Performance notes:

Movement 1: prior to performing, the violinist should memorize the music between figures A and B.
For the performance, the 'cellist alone is on stage, the violist and pianist take a standing position out of sight. The 'cello begins the movement.
At figure A, the violinist begins walking towards the stage playing the music memorized earlier. The player should arrive at their seat well before figure C.
After the violinist is seated, the pianist walks to the stage arriving around figure D. It is suggested the pianist mark the strings inside the piano in order to pluck the notes at figure E.

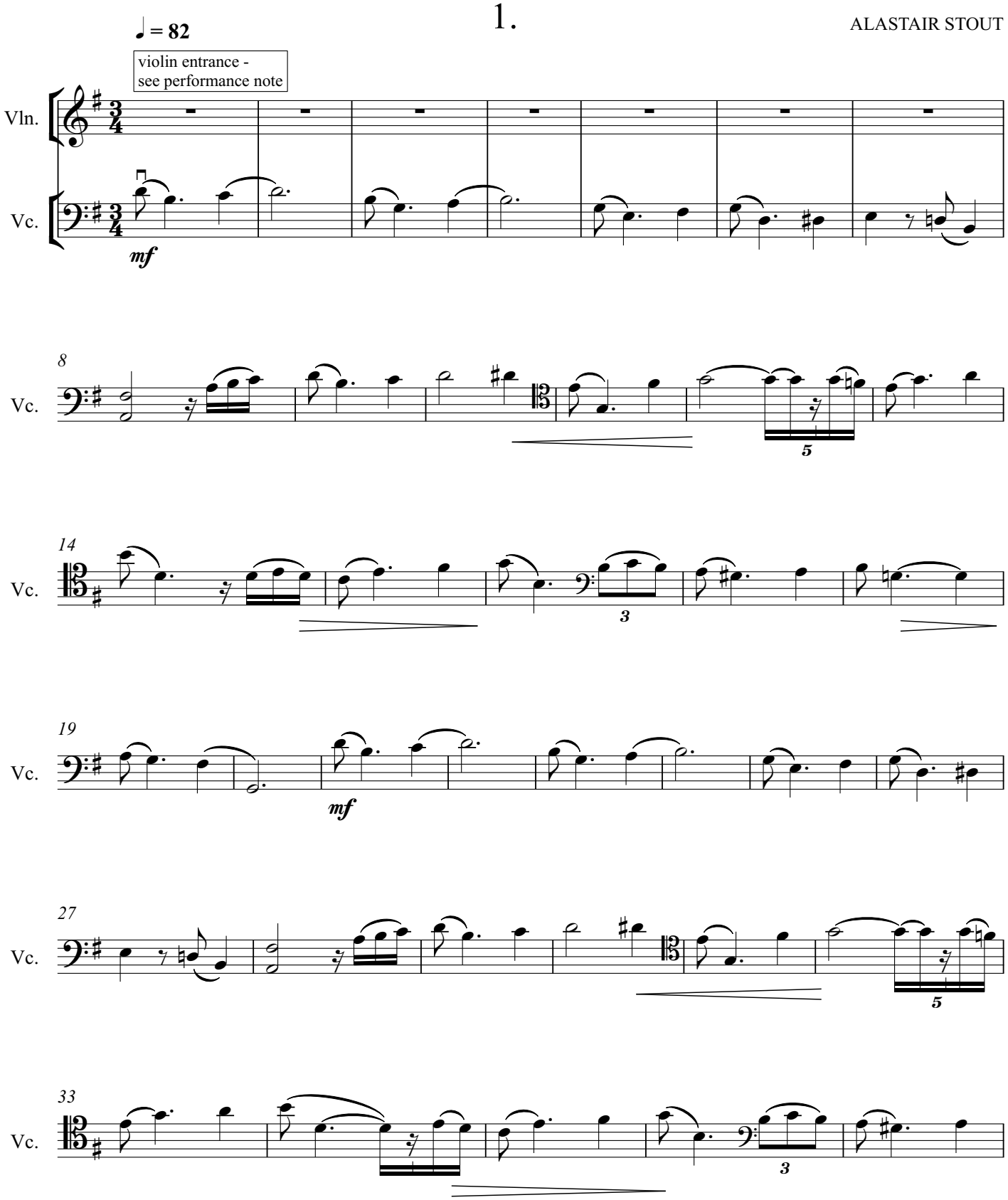
Movement 2: the violinist plays *quasi guitara,* putting down the bow and strumming the instrument using the fingers. The quasi *guitara* sections should be muted with a heavy practice mute. The violinist could also angle towards the piano (away from the audience) to mute the sound. The 'cello is *tacet* during the second movement.

Movement 3: both string players require heavy - preferably metal - practice mutes.

A Book of Airs

1.

ALASTAIR STOUT



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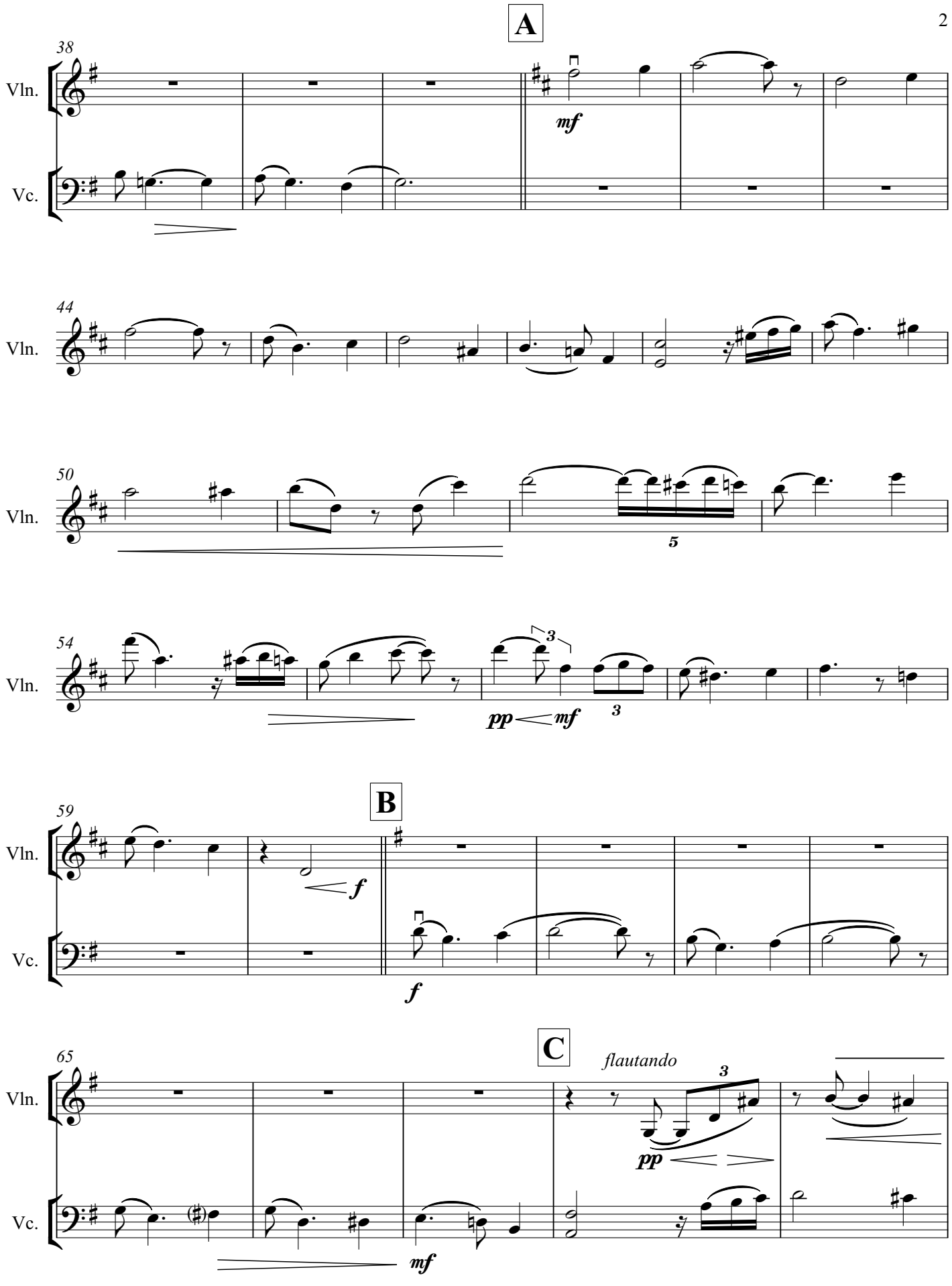
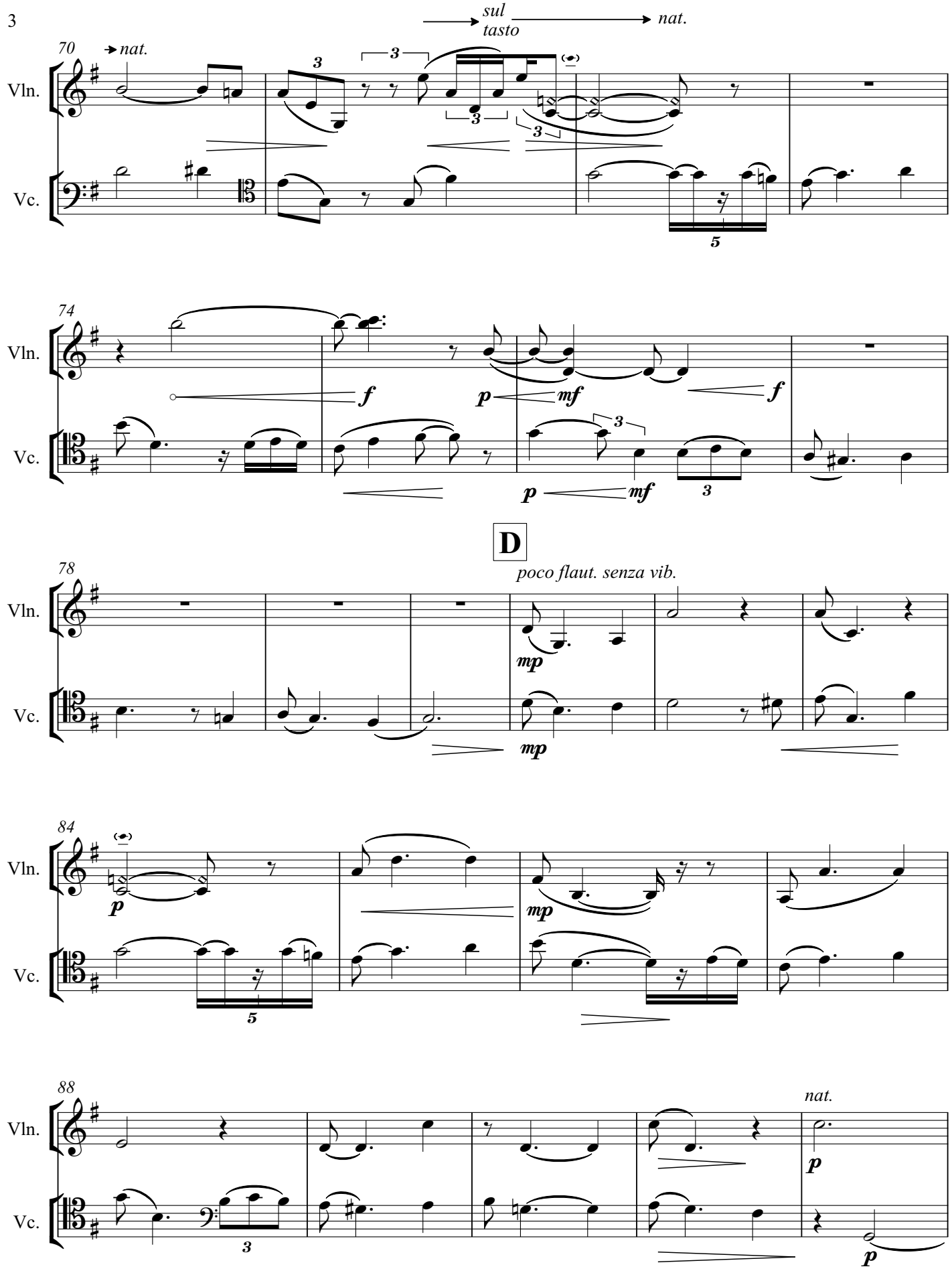
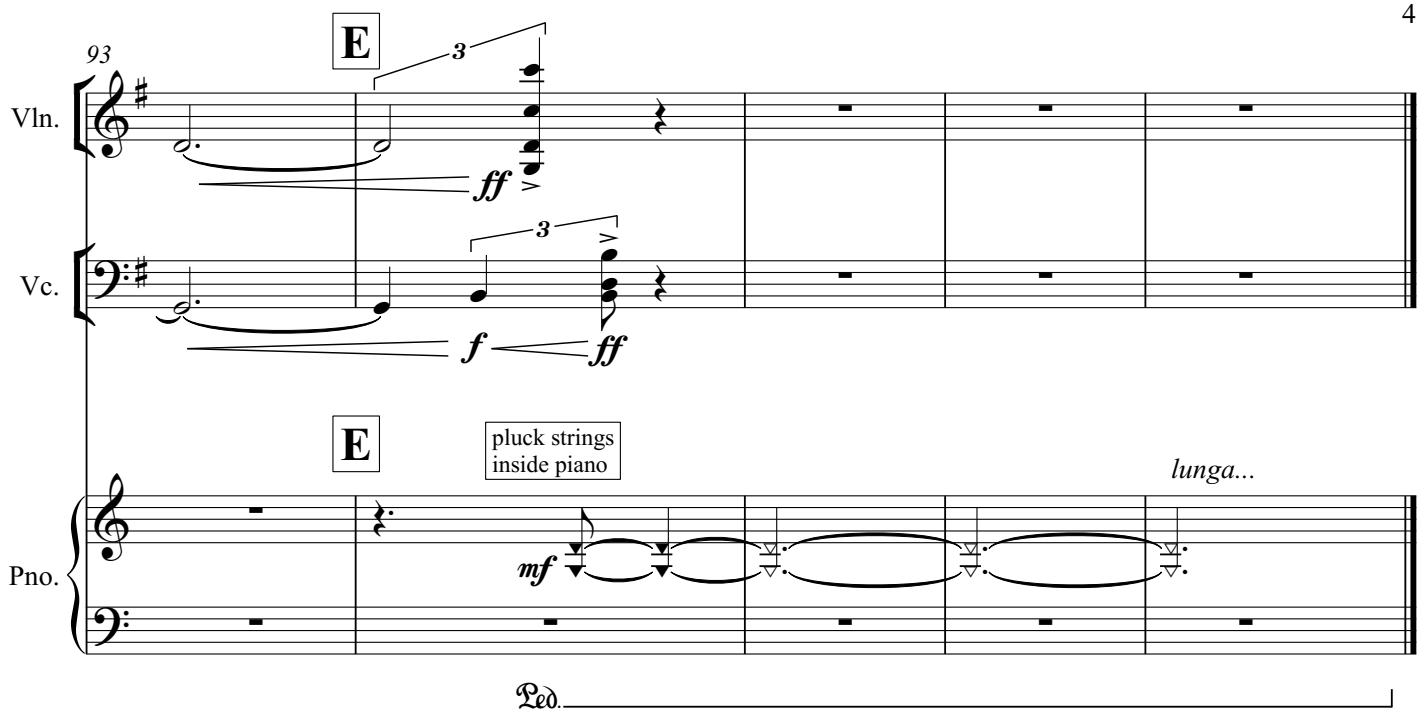
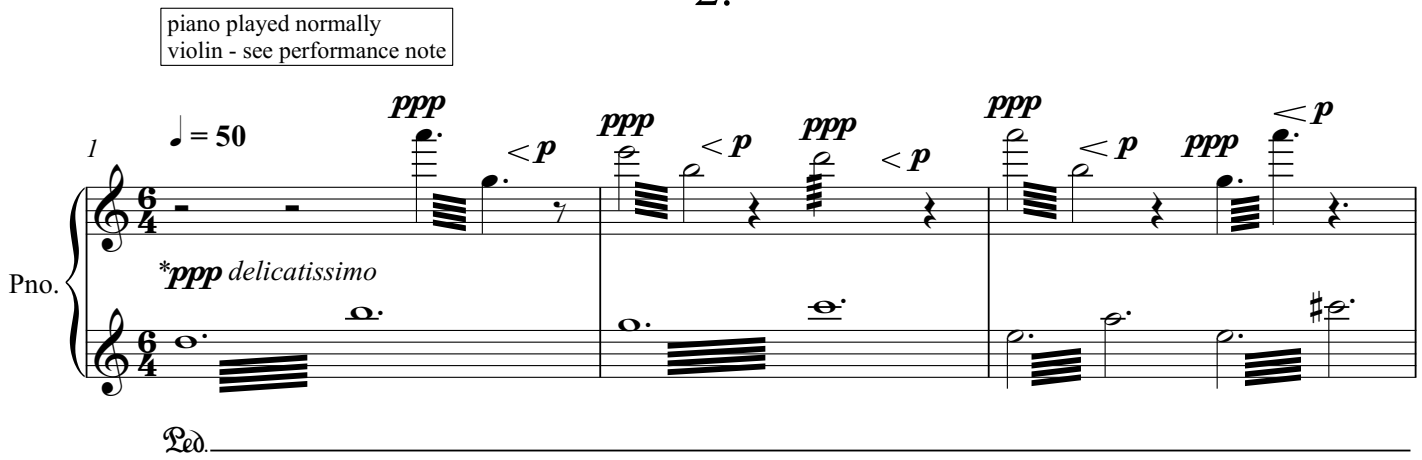

A
38
Vln.
Vc.
mf
44
Vln.
50
Vln.
5
54
Vln.
3
pp
mf
3
B
59
Vln.
Vc.
f
f
C
65
Vln.
Vc.
flautando
3
pp
mf

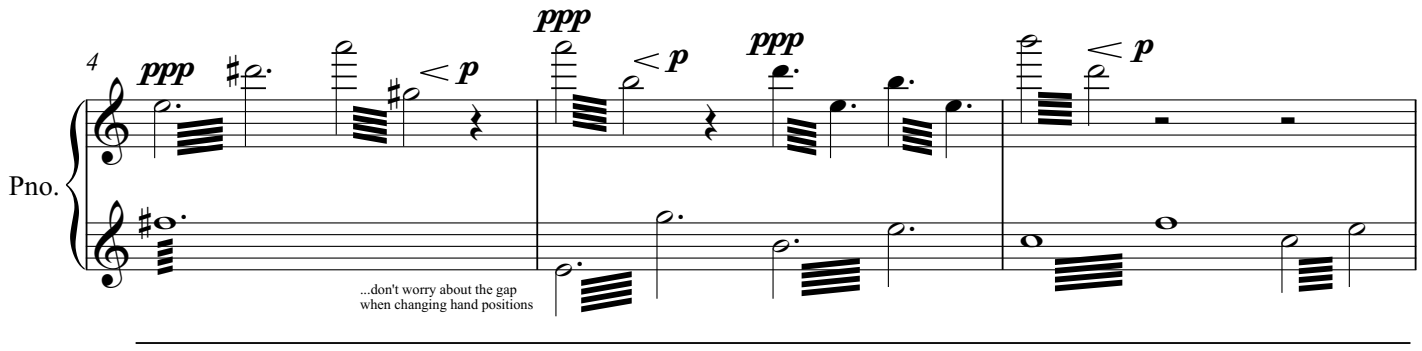

sul tasto
nat.
70
nat.
Vln.
Vc.
74
f
p
mf
f
p
mf
D
poco flaut. senza vib.
78
mp
mp
84
p
mp
88
nat.
p
p

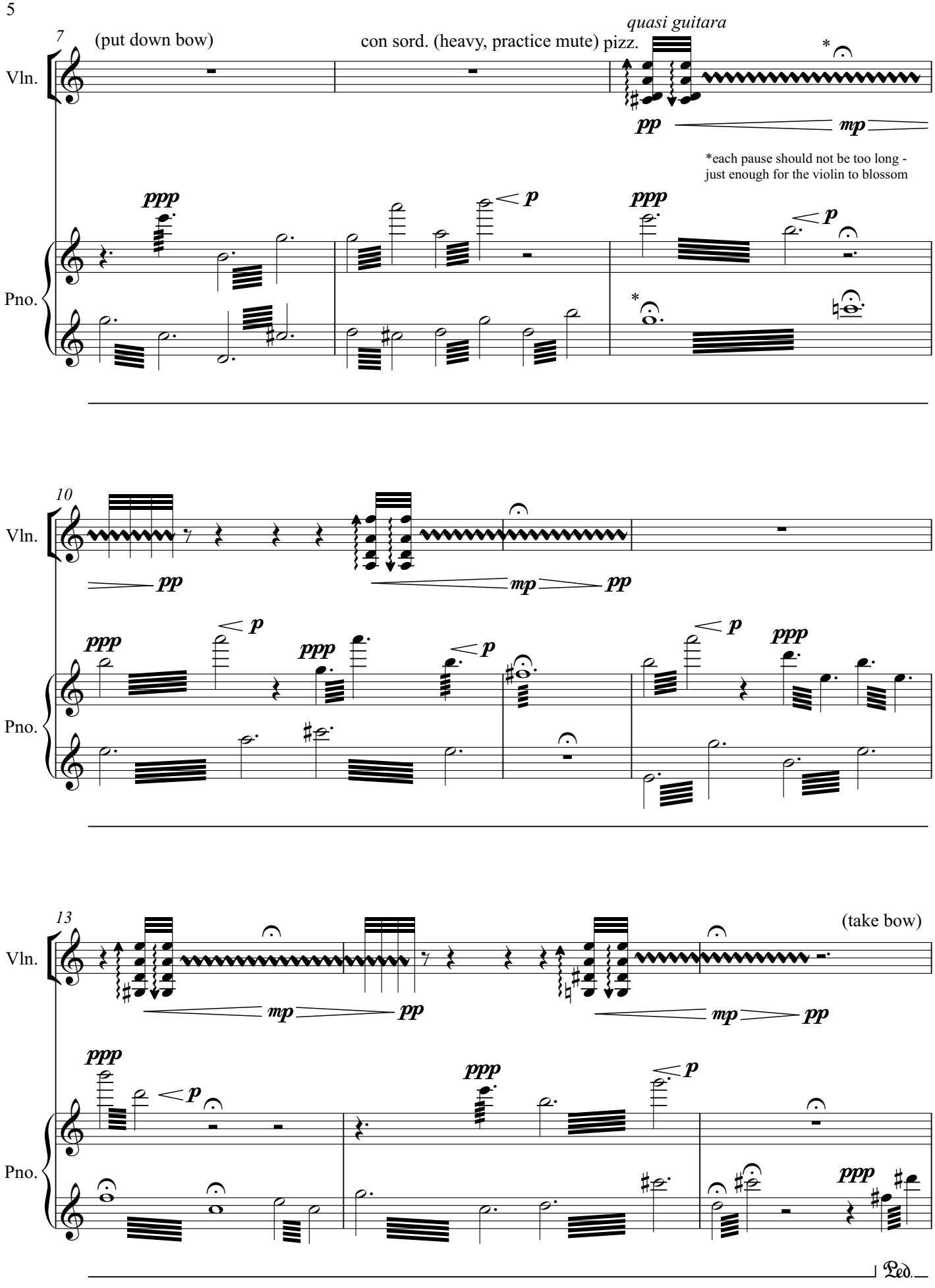


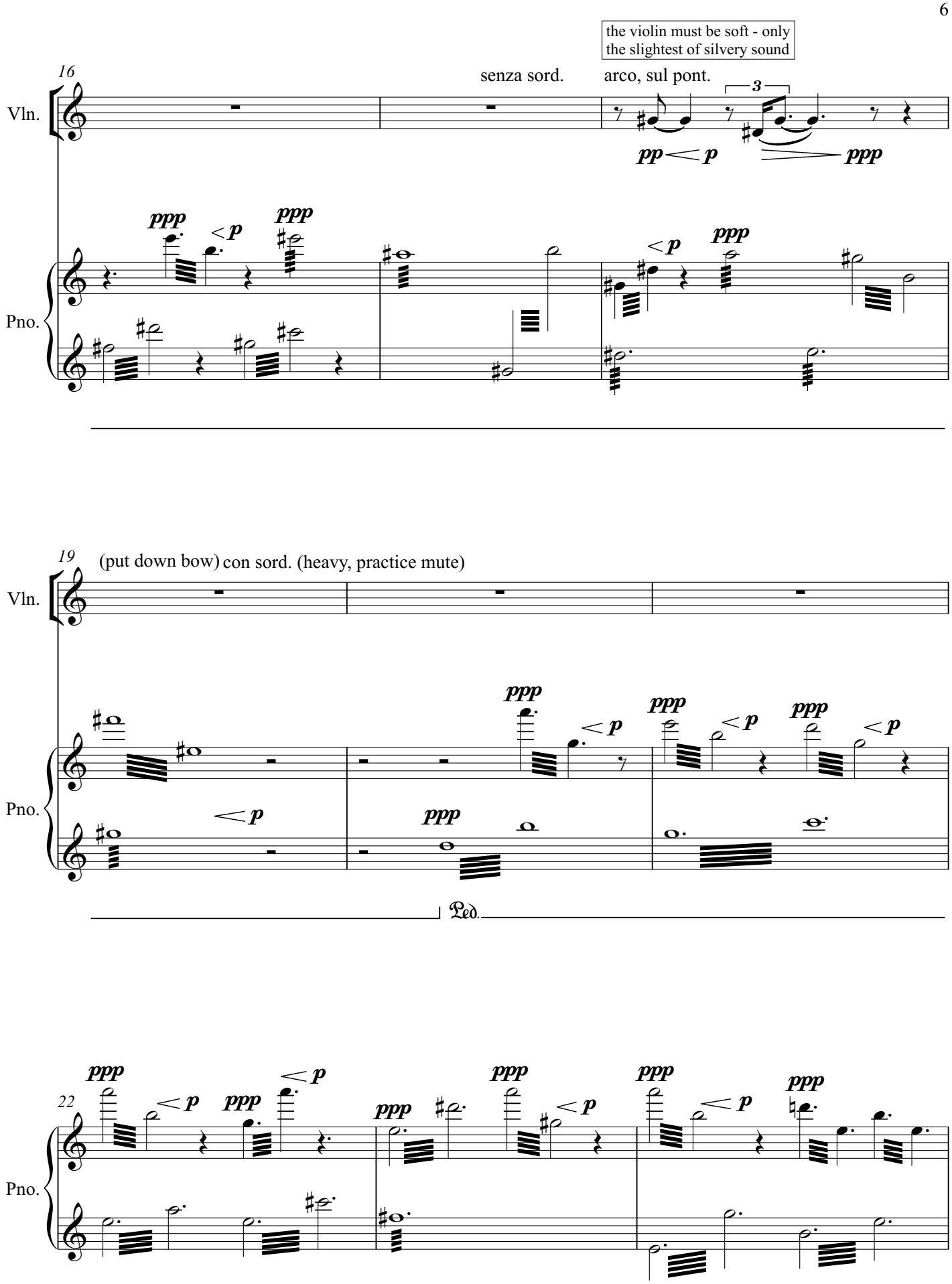
2.

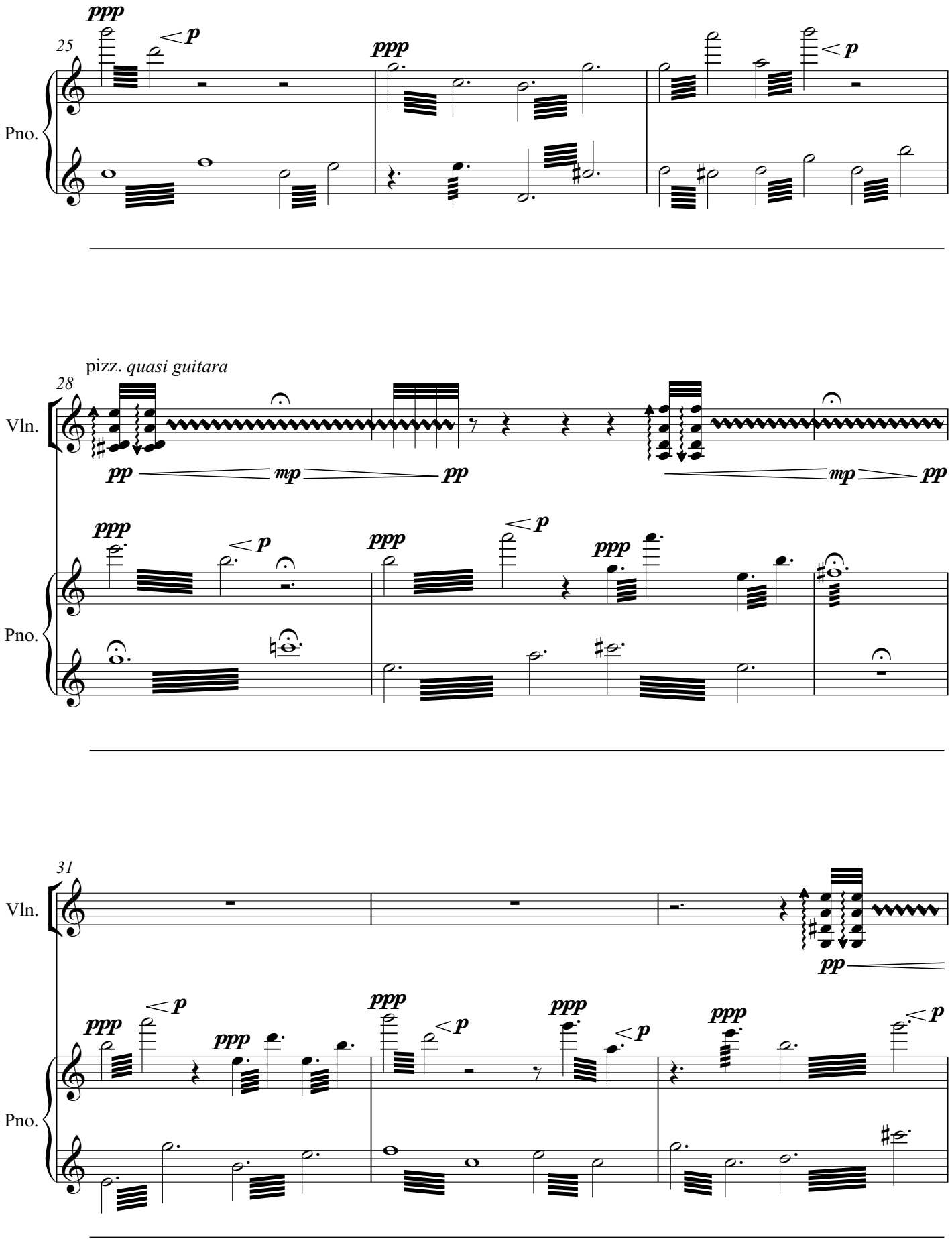


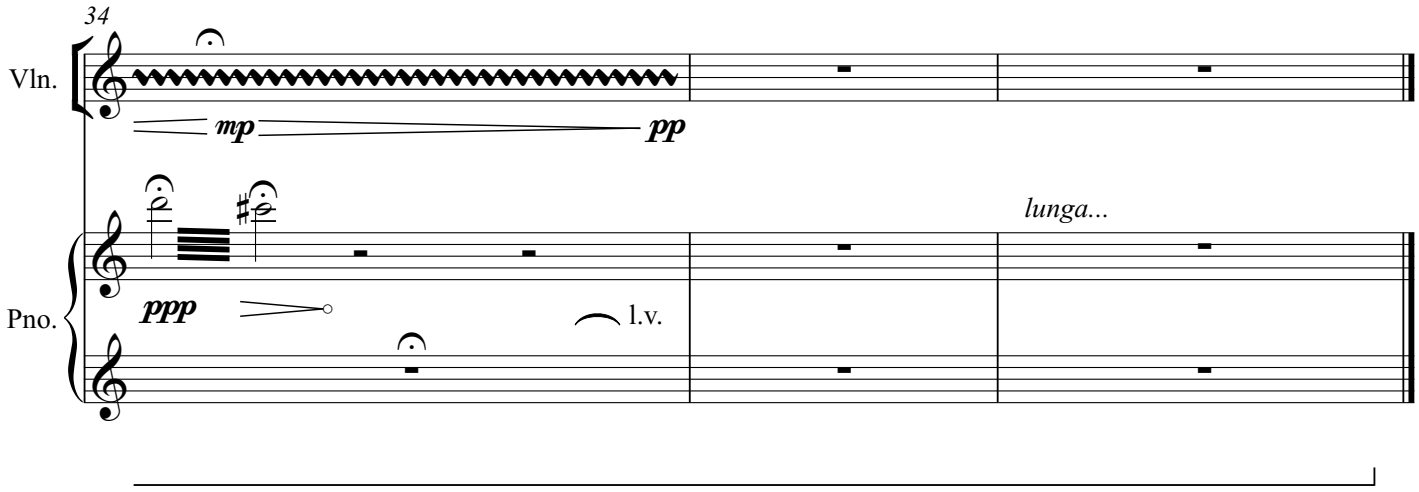
*the tremollo should mimic a mandolin - a fast, but uneven trill. It must be played as quietly as possible.
The RH crescendi should be very slight - only just emerging out of the texture at the end of the tremollo.



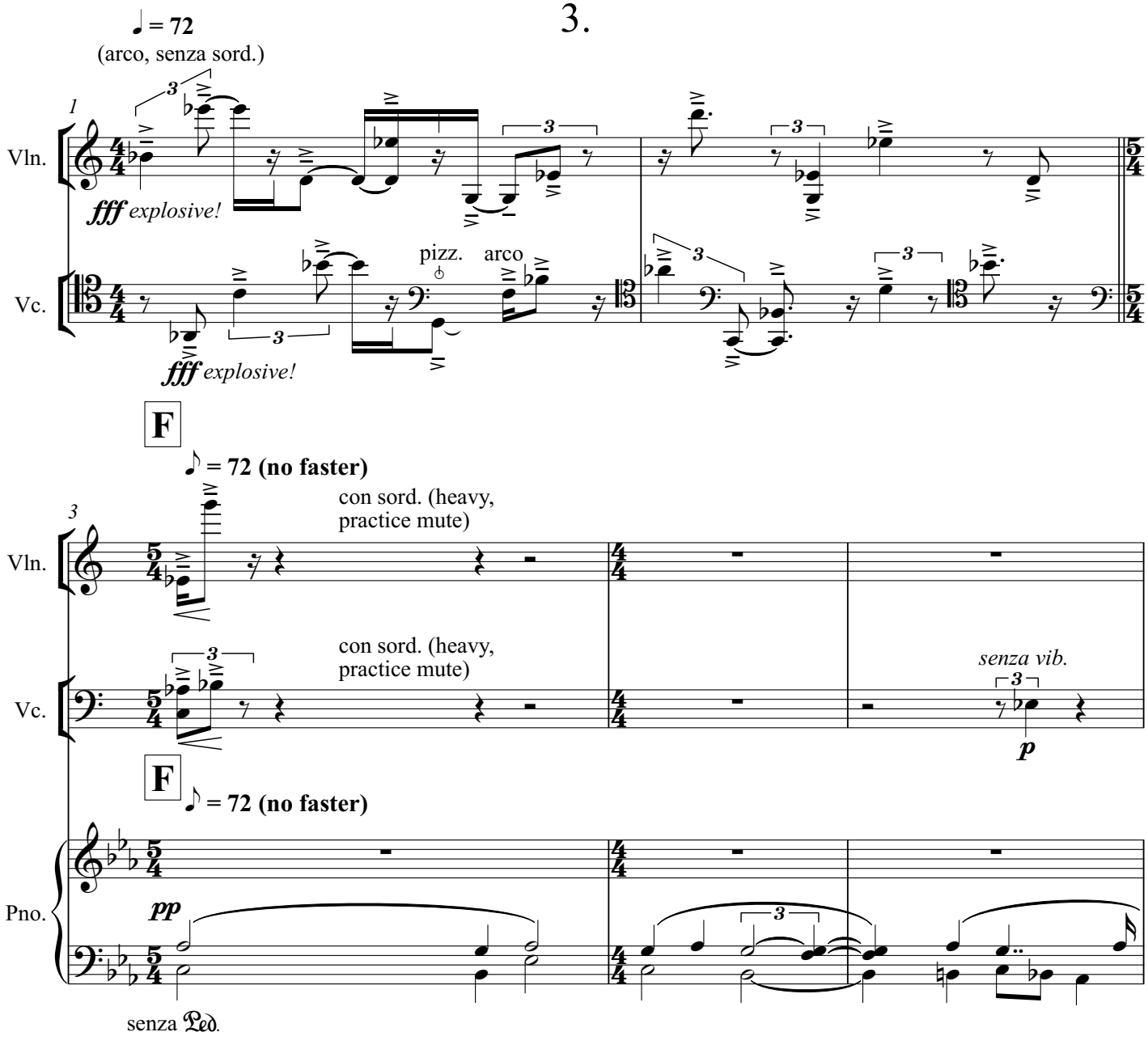

7
(put down bow)
con sord. (heavy, practice mute) pizz.
quasi guitara
Vln.
Pno.
pp
mp
*each pause should not be too long -
just enough for the violin to blossom
ppp
p
10
13
(take bow)
Ped.

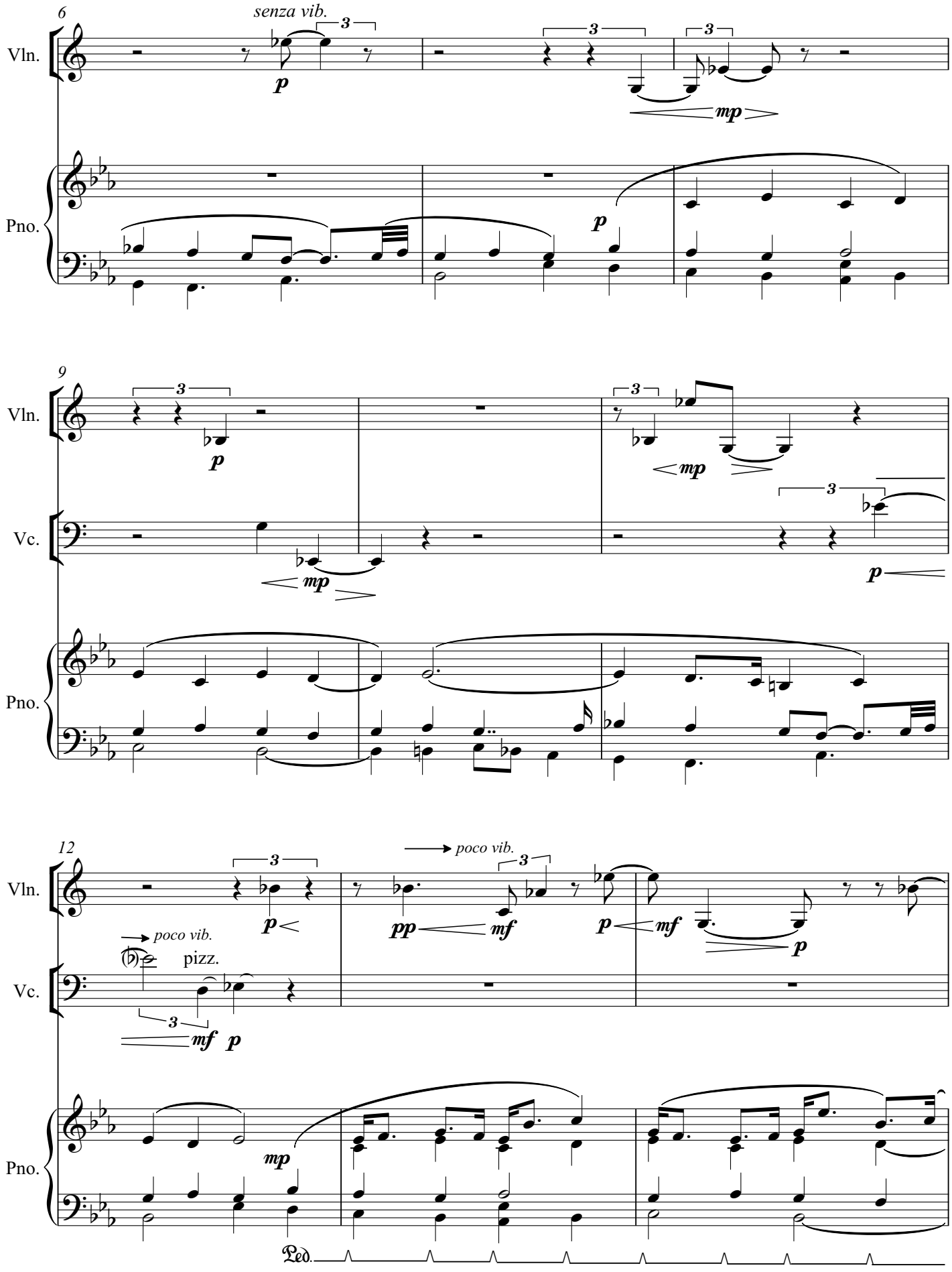

the violin must be soft - only
the slightest of silvery sound
16
senza sord.
arco, sul pont.
Vln.
Pno.
19
(put down bow) con sord. (heavy, practice mute)
Ped.
22

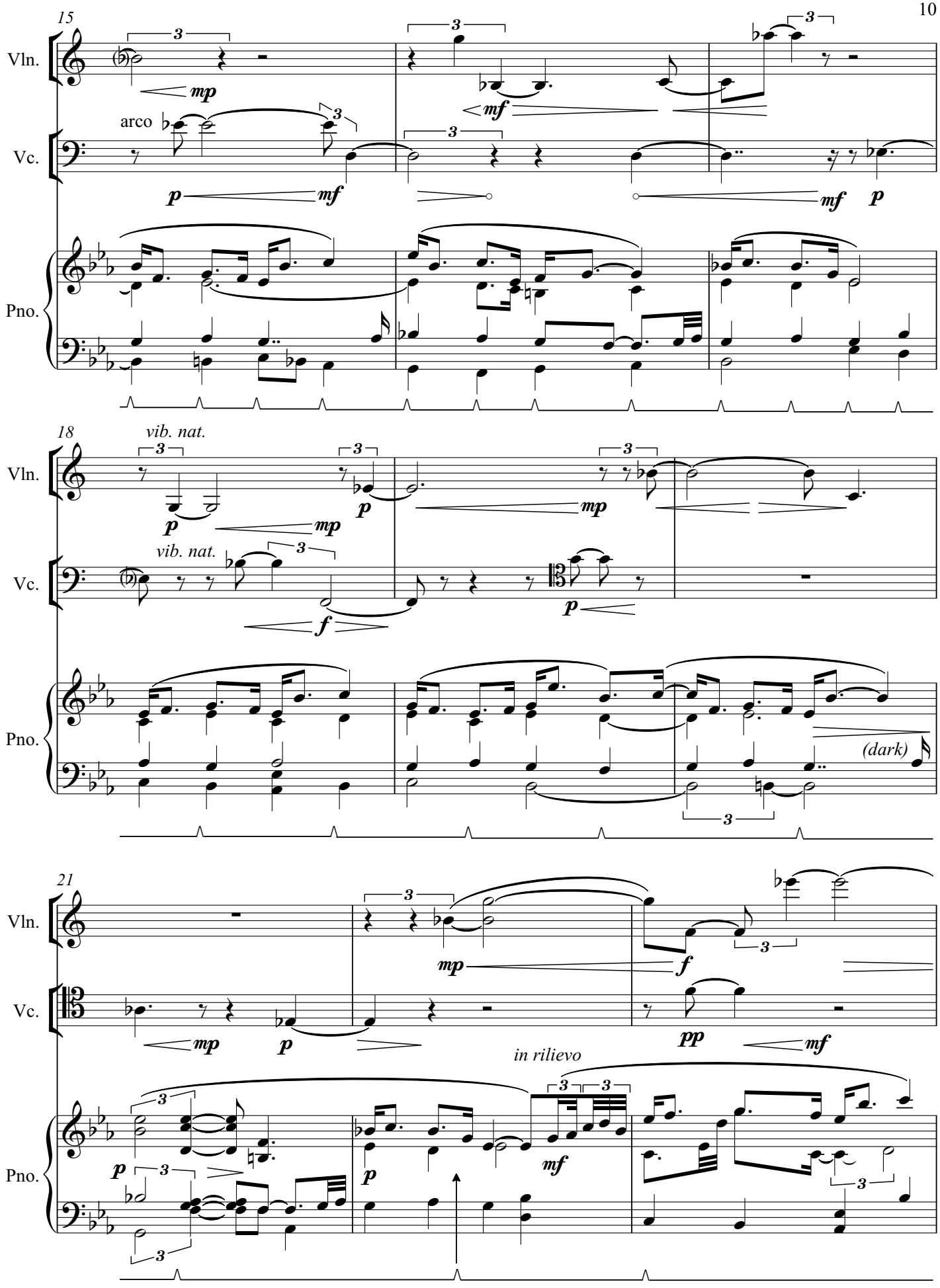

25
Pno.
28
pizz. quasi guitara
Vln.
Pno.
31
Vln.
Pno.

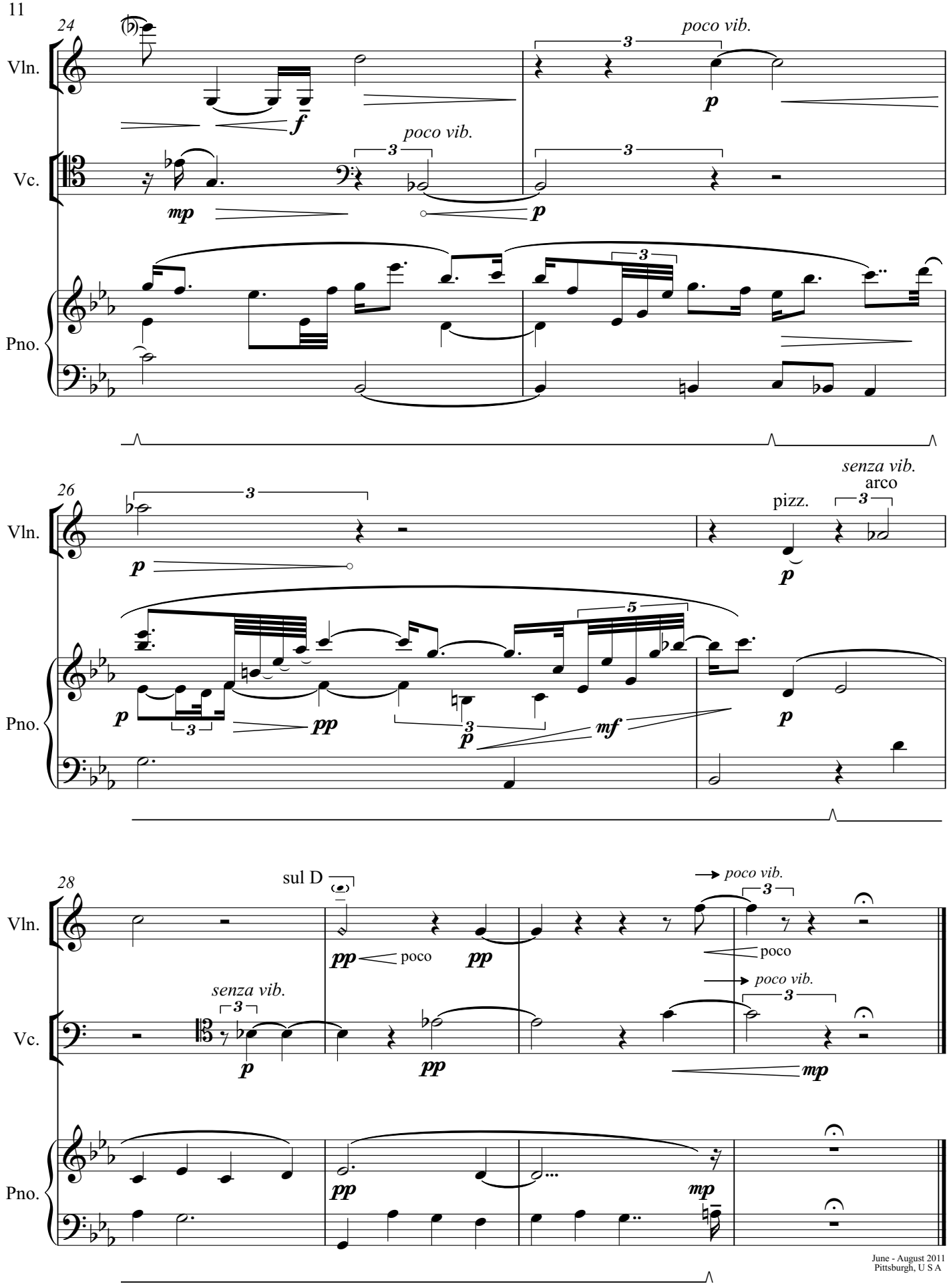

34
Vln.
mp
pp
Pno.
ppp
l.v.
lunga...

3.


♩ = 72
(arco, senza sord.)
1
Vln.
fff explosive!
Vc.
pizz.
arco
fff explosive!
F
♪ = 72 (no faster)
3
Vln.
con sord. (heavy, practice mute)
Vc.
con sord. (heavy, practice mute)
senza vib.
p
F
♪ = 72 (no faster)
Pno.
pp
senza Ped.


6
senza vib.
Vln.
Pno.
9
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
12
poco vib.
Vln.
poco vib.
pizz.
Vc.
Pno.
Ped.


15
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
arco
mp
mf
p
mf
mf
p
18
vib. nat.
vib. nat.
p
mp
p
mp
f
p
(dark)
21
Vln.
Vc.
Pno.
mp
f
mp
p
pp
mf
in rilievo
p
p
mf



June - August 2011
Pittsburgh, U S A