Passacaglia Tenebrosa

for

orchestra

by

Justin Henry Rubin

HARVEY MUSIC EDITIONS

Dr. Justin Henry Rubin

Program Notes for *Passacaglia Tenebrosa*

This piece stands as my first large orchestra piece since developing a new tonal language between 1996 and 1998 when most of my work was concentrated on small ensemble pieces and solo compositions. It was also begun shortly after my arrival in Minnesota from Arizona during the summer of 1998. However, work on it was interrupted by other short term commissions and my learning the ropes as a newly appointed professor at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Following a long hiatus in working on the *Passacaglia*, I was able to finally concentrate on its completion alone during the following summer. It has an overall tripartite structure breaking down the variations on the ground into smaller sets divided by two sizable interludes. Following the statement of the theme in the trombones, seven variations immediately follow of increasing strength. The seventh diminishes as the strings quietly conclude with a sequence of descending chorale-like chords. The first interlude then begins in a mist of melancholy lyricism and a sparse textural background to contrast with the agitated passacaglia theme. The concluding passage of the interlude is dovetailed into the eighth variation, which begins to rebuild the lost energy once again only to subside by the eleventh into the second interlude, itself an extended development of the material of the first. The final set of three variations (bringing the total number to fourteen) are again dovetailed out of the interlude and brings about a recapitulation of the opening variation. This comparatively relaxed texture is foreshortened by the final variation, wildly engaging all the forces of the orchestra into the climactic coda, a tension that is quickly released as the piece extinguishes into a smoldering end.

Orchestra

-3 flutes, 3 oboes, 2 clarinets (Bb) and 1 bass clarinet (Bb),
2 bassoons and 1 contrabassoon-

-4 horns (F), 2 trumpets (Bb), 2 trombones and 1 bass trombone-

-timpani and 1 percussionist (triangle, xylophone*, glock.**, vibes, bass drum, and tam-tam)-

*xylophone sounds one octave higher than written; **glockenspiel sounds two octaves higher than written

-strings-

Outline of the *Passacaglia*

PART I

Bars:	1-9	10-16	17-23	24-30	32-38	39-47	48-54	55-62
	Theme	**Var.I**	**Var.II**	**Var.III**	**Var.IV**	**Var.V**	**Var.VI**	**Var.VII**

PART II

Bars:	63-83	84-91	92-98	99-105	106-128
	Interlude I	**Var.VIII**	**Var.IX**	**Var.X**	**Var.XI**

PART III

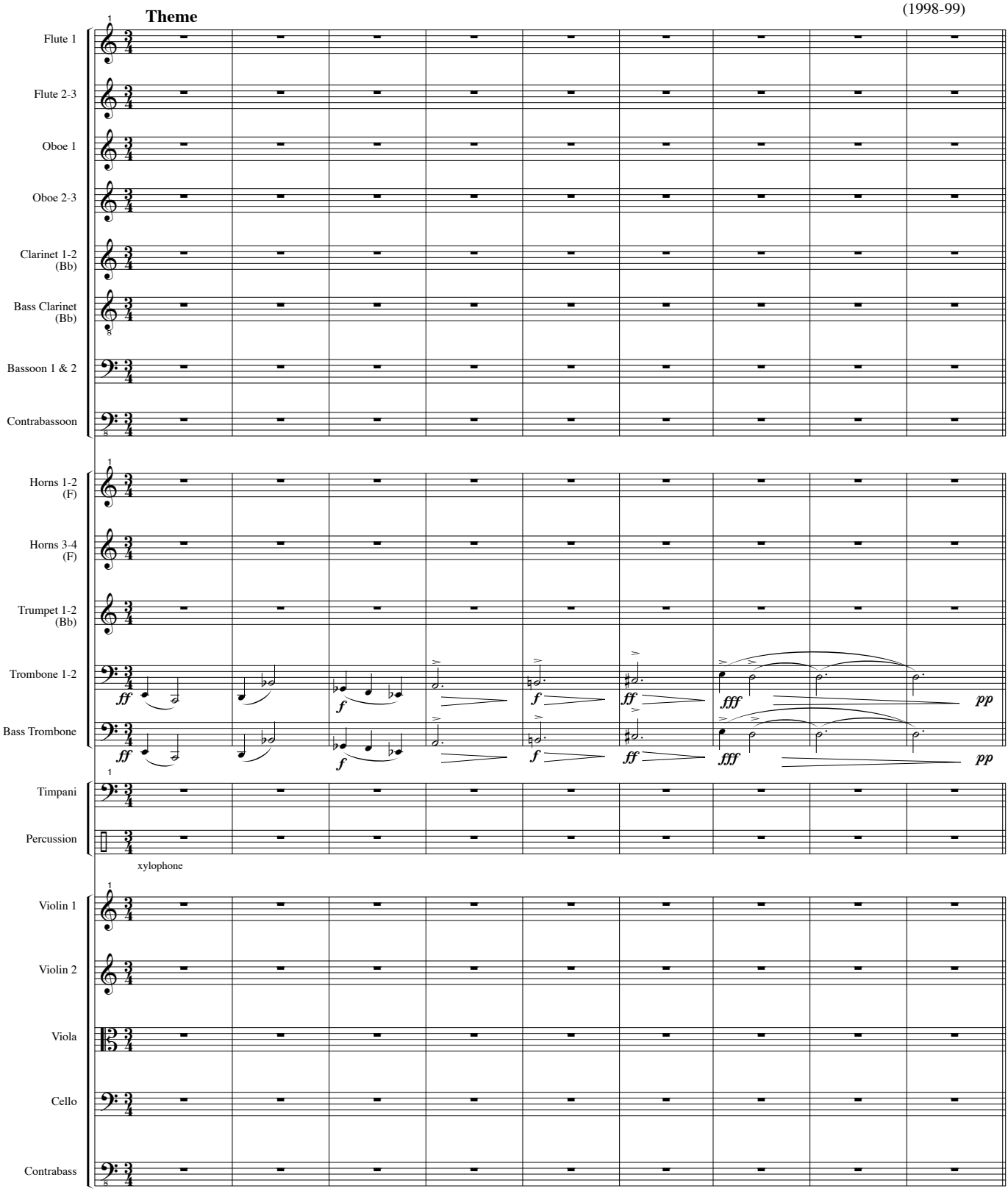
Bars:	129-166	167-196	198-204	205-230
	Interlude II	**Var.XII**	**Var.XIII**	**Var.XIV and Coda**

Passacaglia Tenebrosa

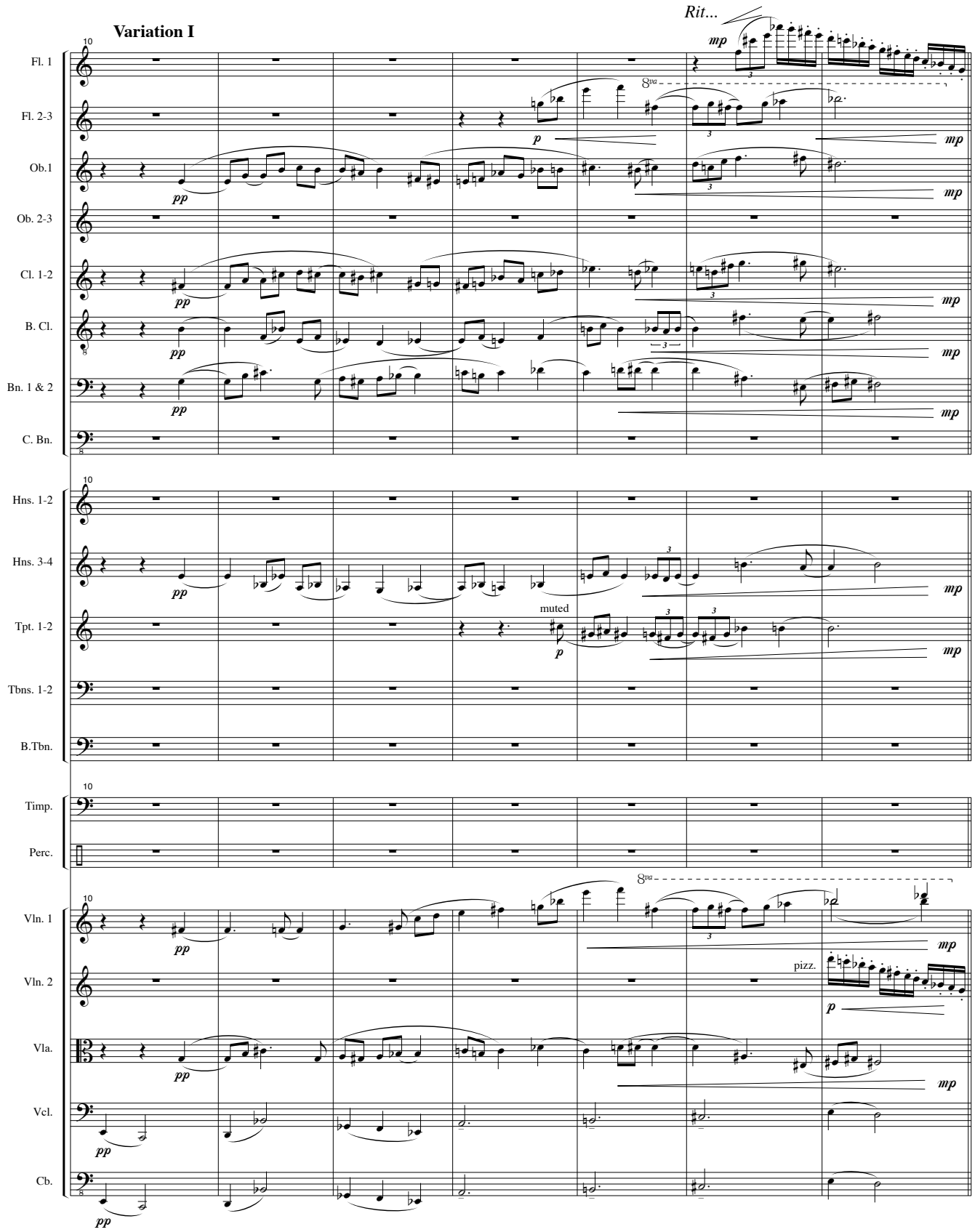
♩ = 60

Justin Henry Rubin
(1998-99)

Theme

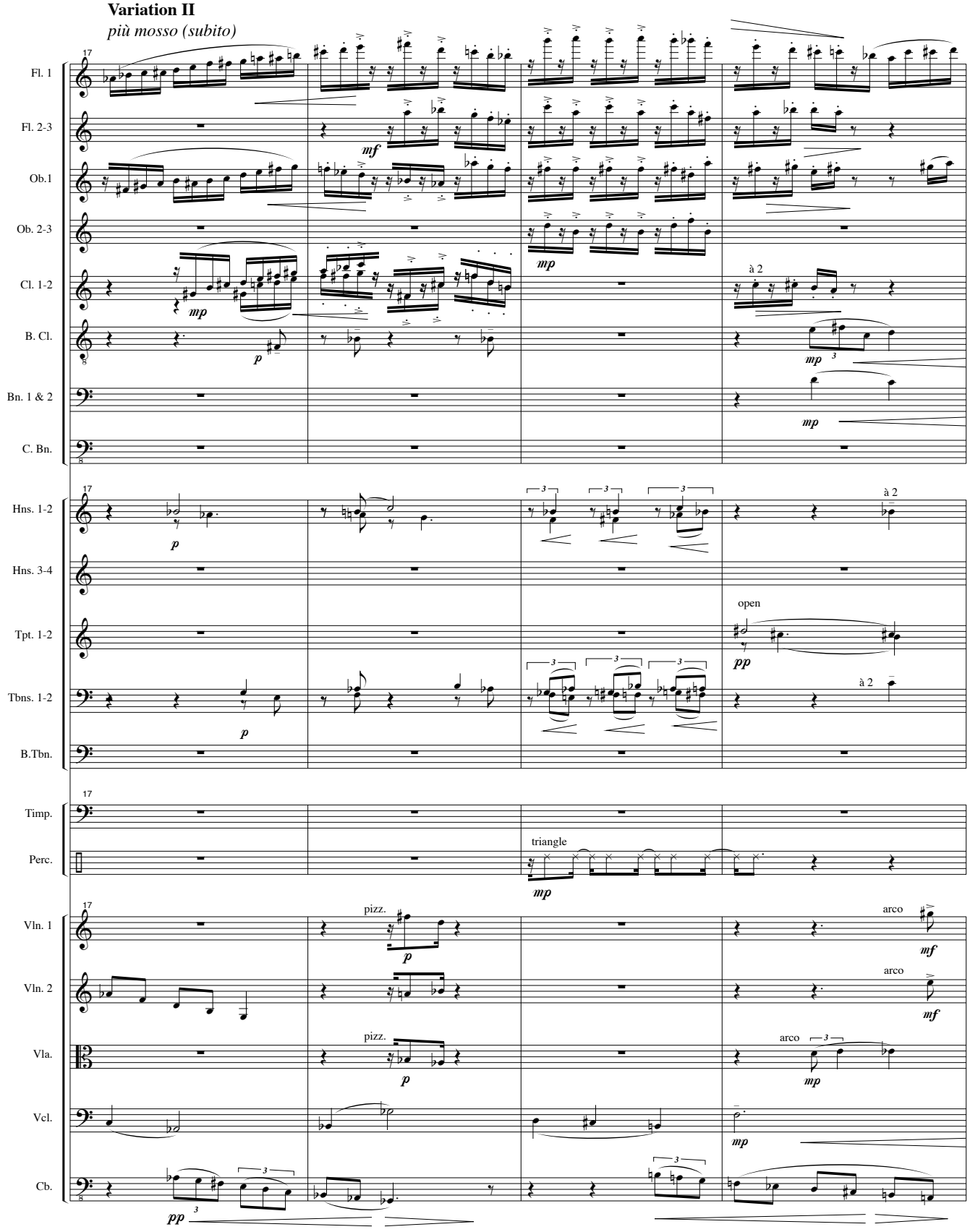


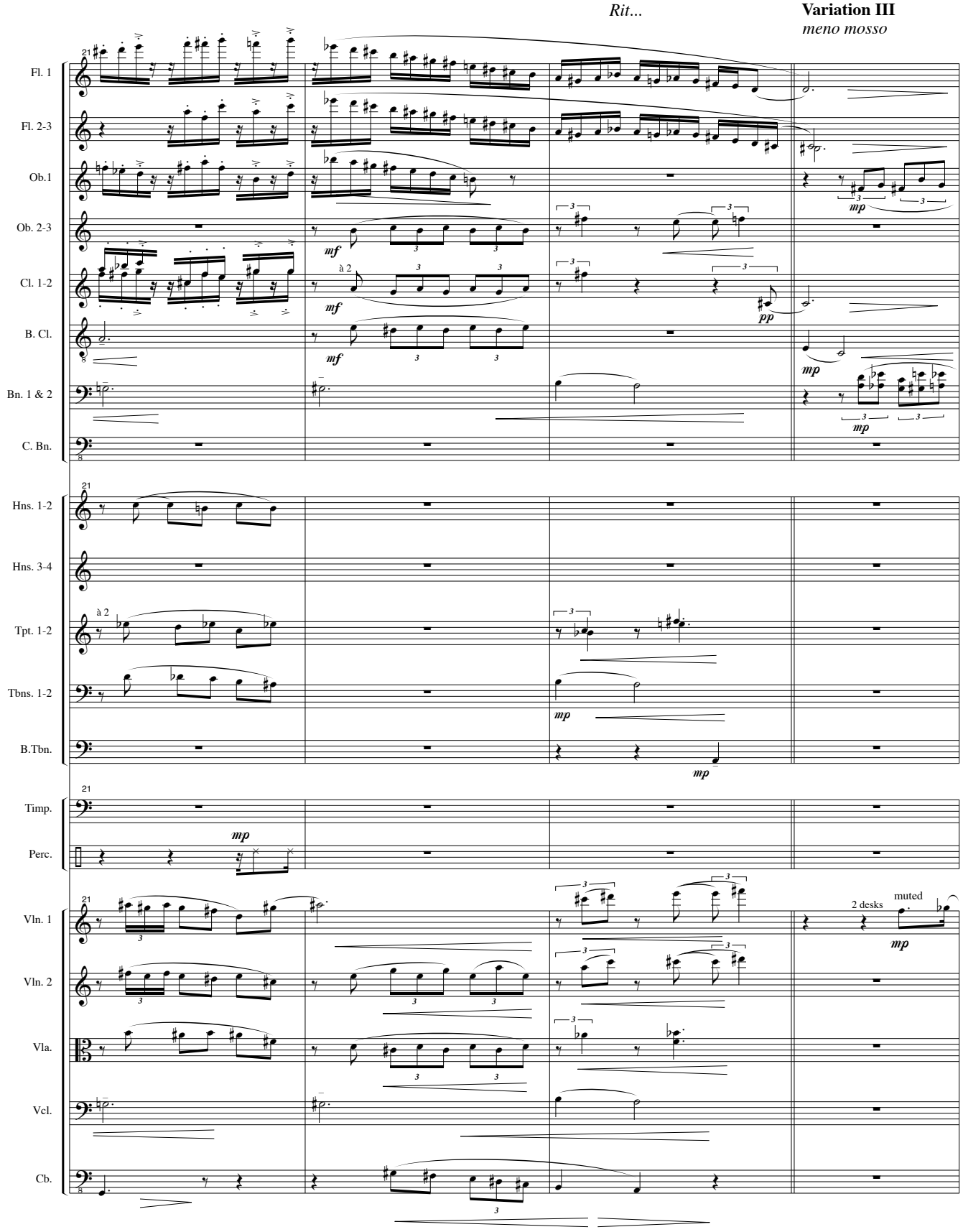
All Rights Reserved Copyright ® 1998 Justin Henry Rubin Printed in U.S.A.
WARNING: No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying or any information storage and retrieval system without permission in writing from the publisher. Unauthorized reproduction, in whole or in part, is a violation of the U.S. Copyright Laws.

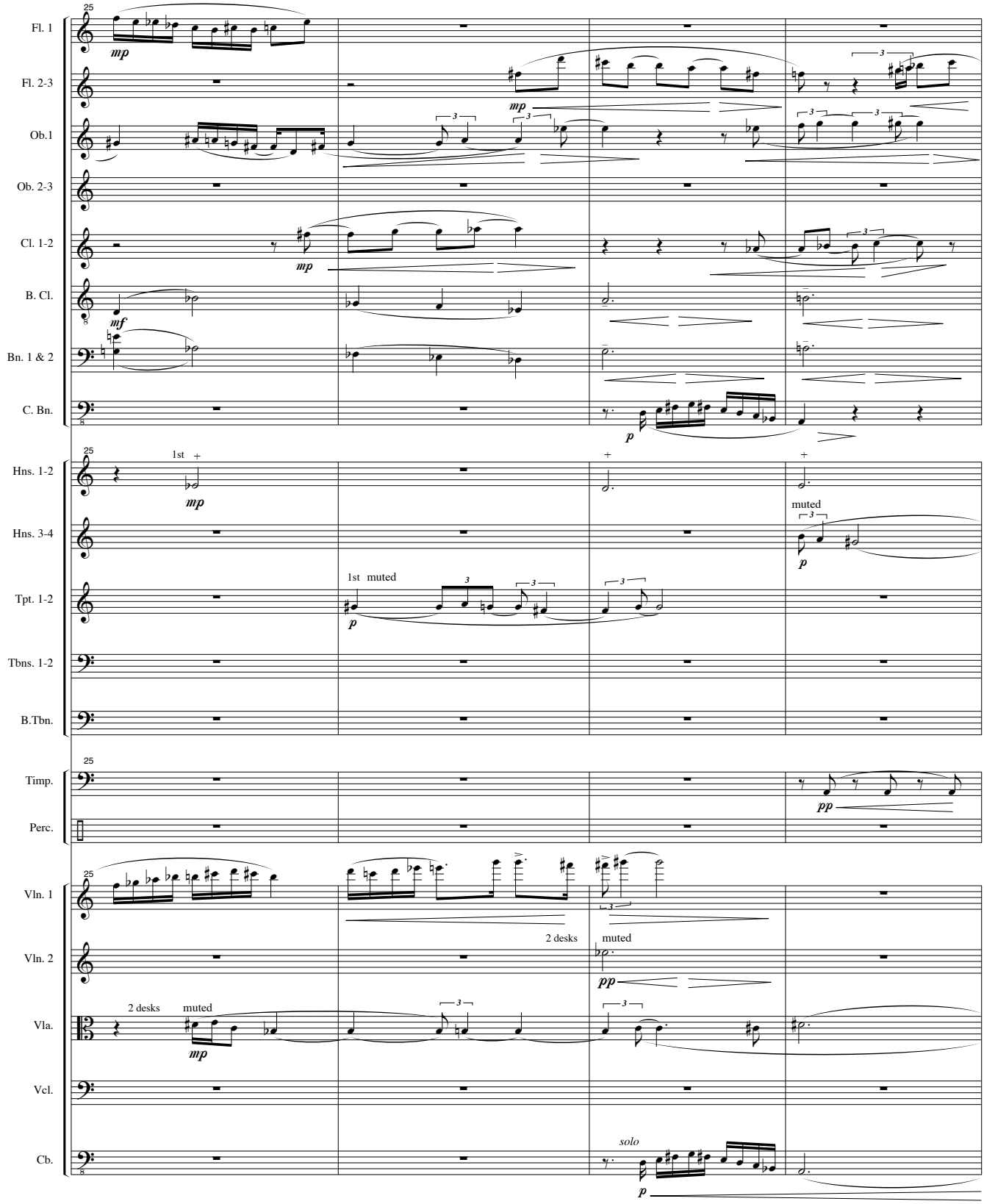

Variation I
Rit...
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
muted
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
pizz.
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
pp
p
mp
8va

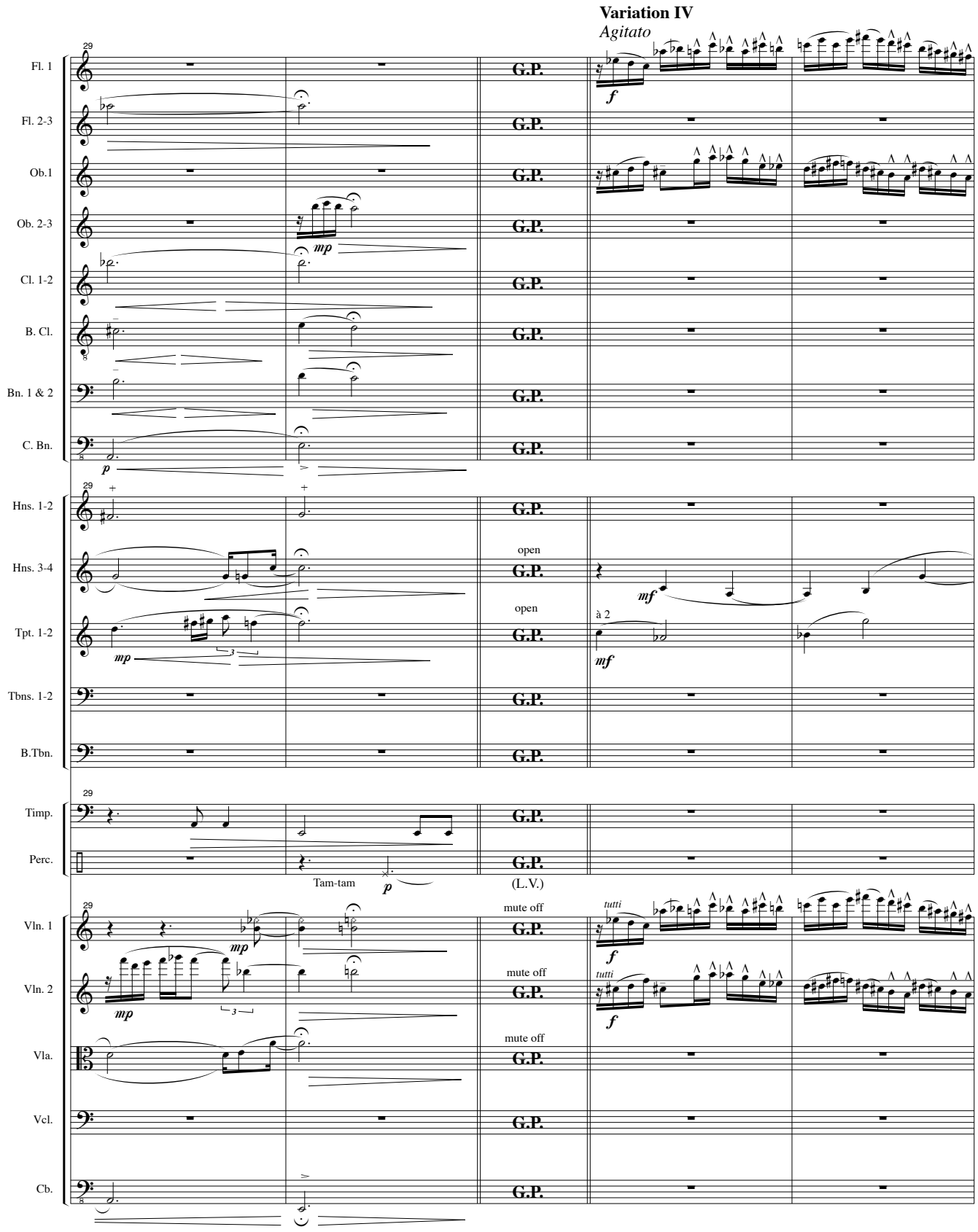
Variation II

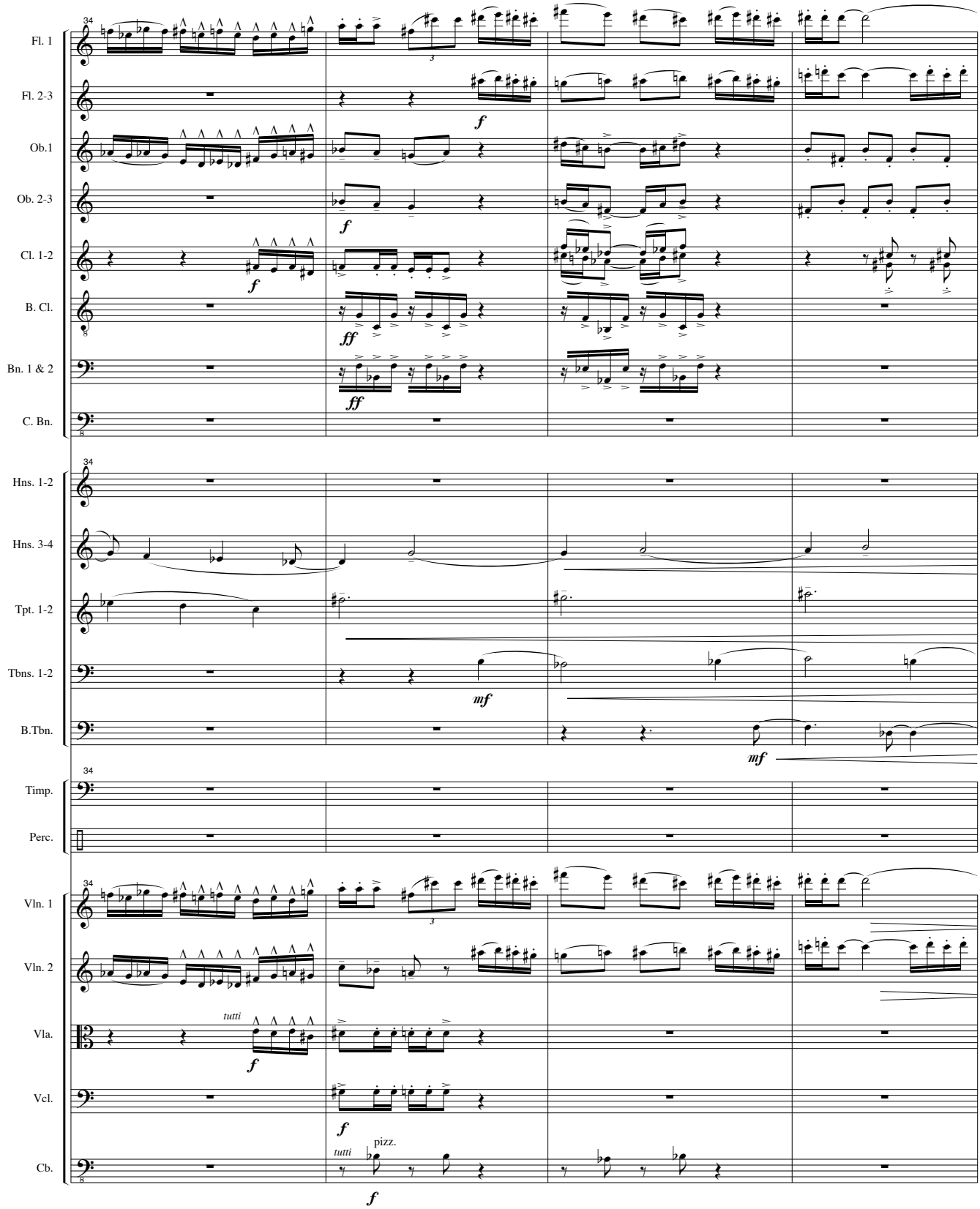
più mosso (subito)

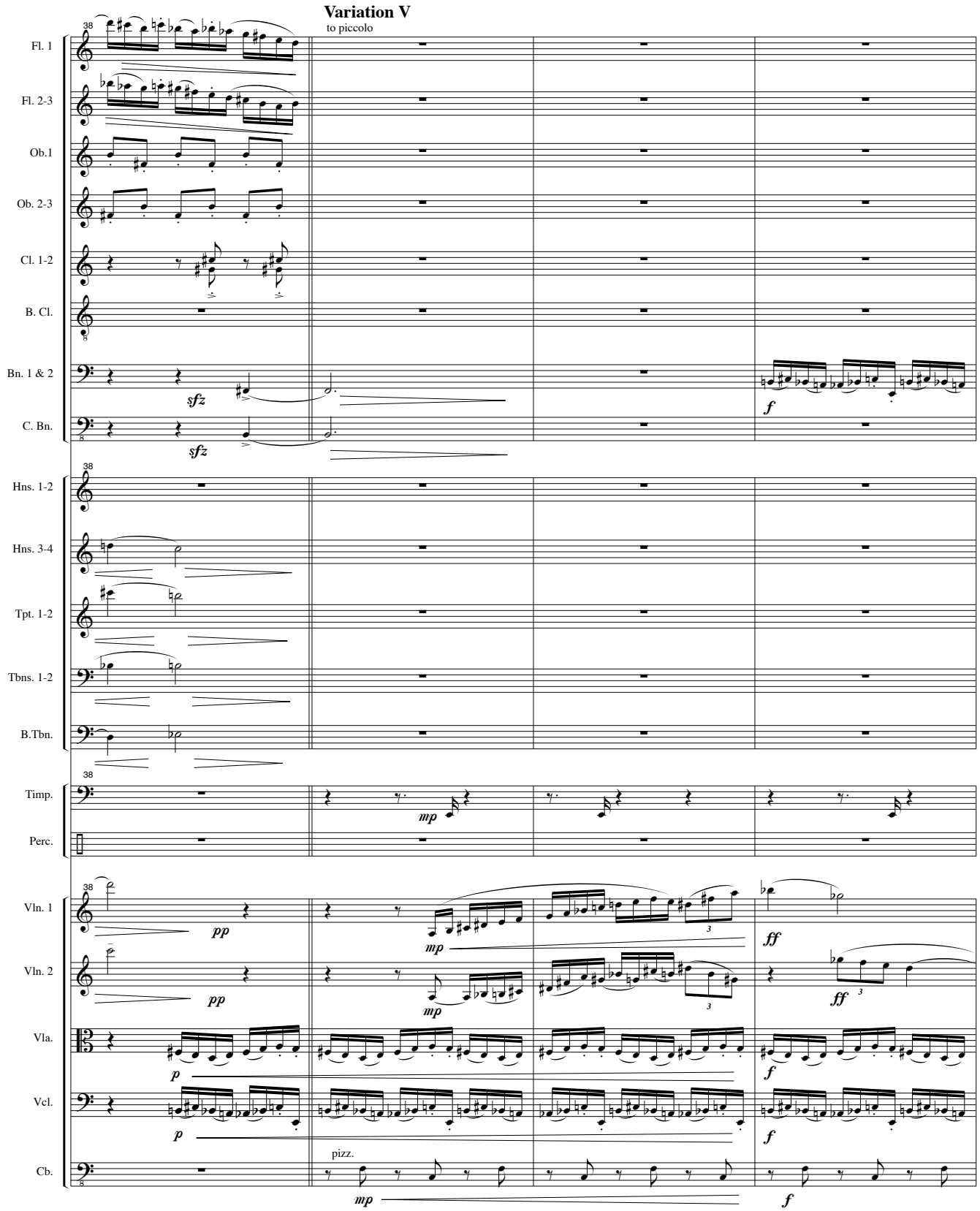


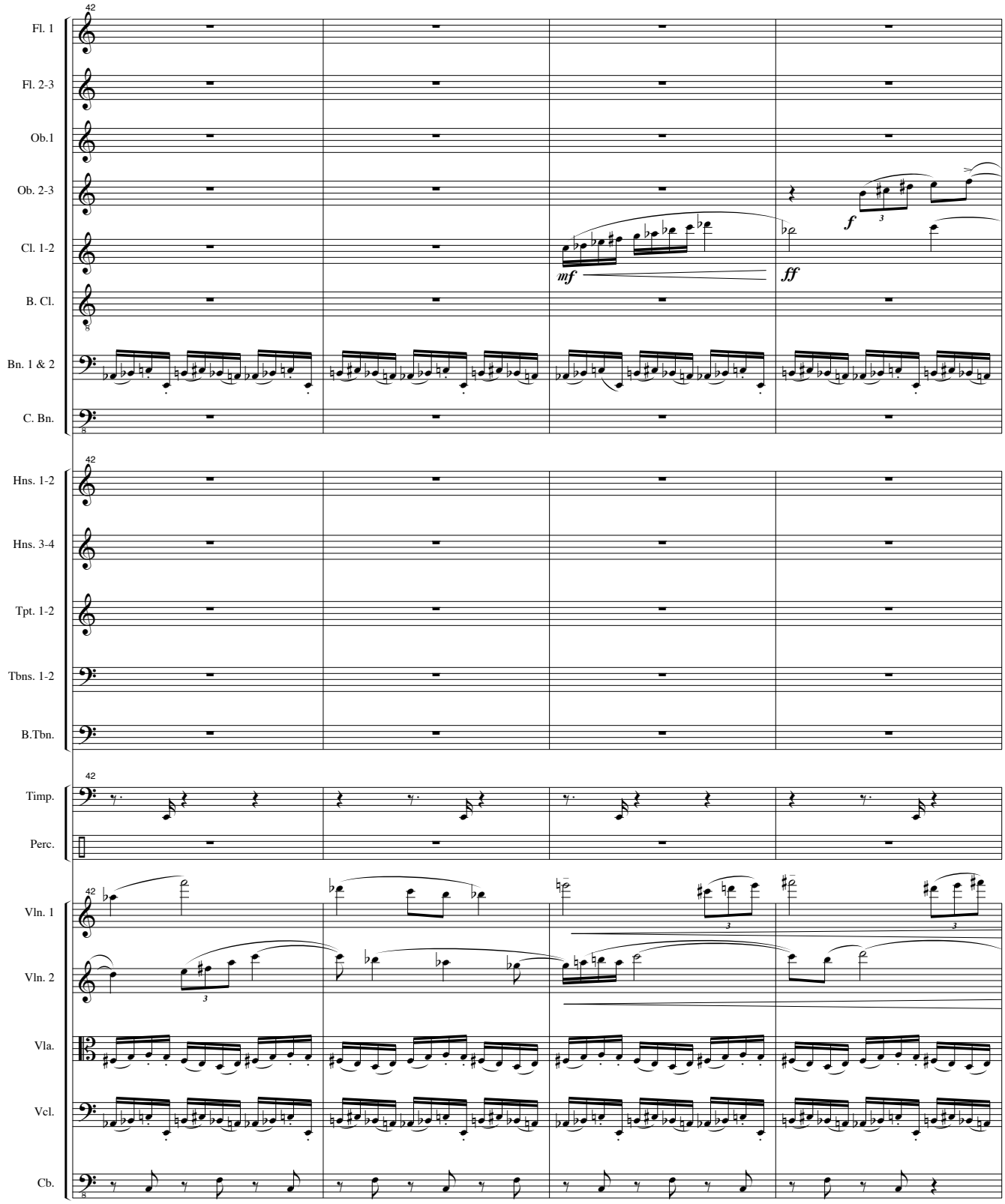

Rit...
Variation III
meno mosso
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
21
à 2
mf
mp
pp
2 desks
muted

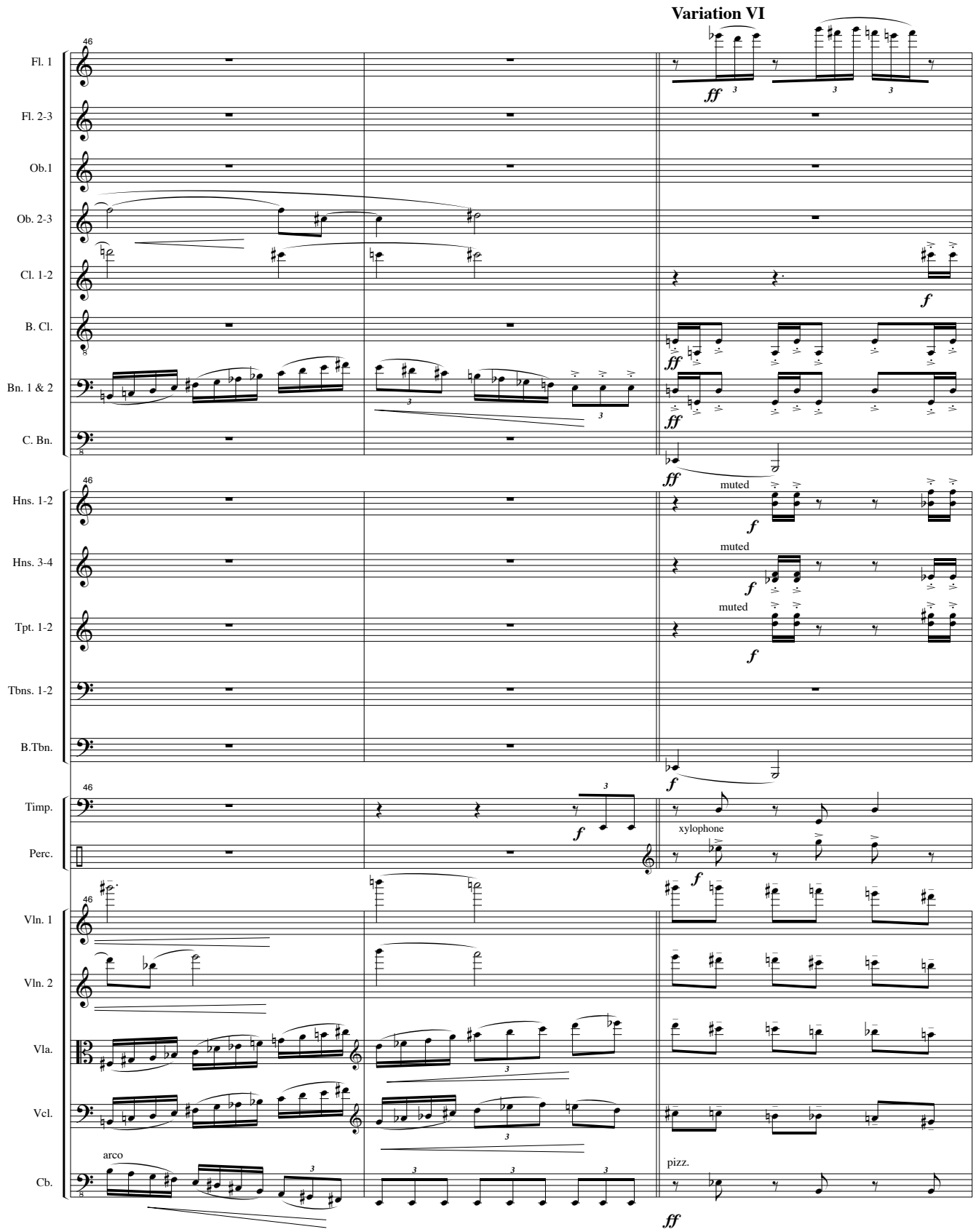

25
Fl. 1
mp
Fl. 2-3
mp
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
mp
B. Cl.
mf
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
p
25
Hns. 1-2
1st
mp
Hns. 3-4
muted
p
Tpt. 1-2
1st muted
p
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
25
Timp.
pp
Perc.
25
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
2 desks
muted
pp
Vla.
2 desks
muted
mp
Vcl.
Cb.
solo
p

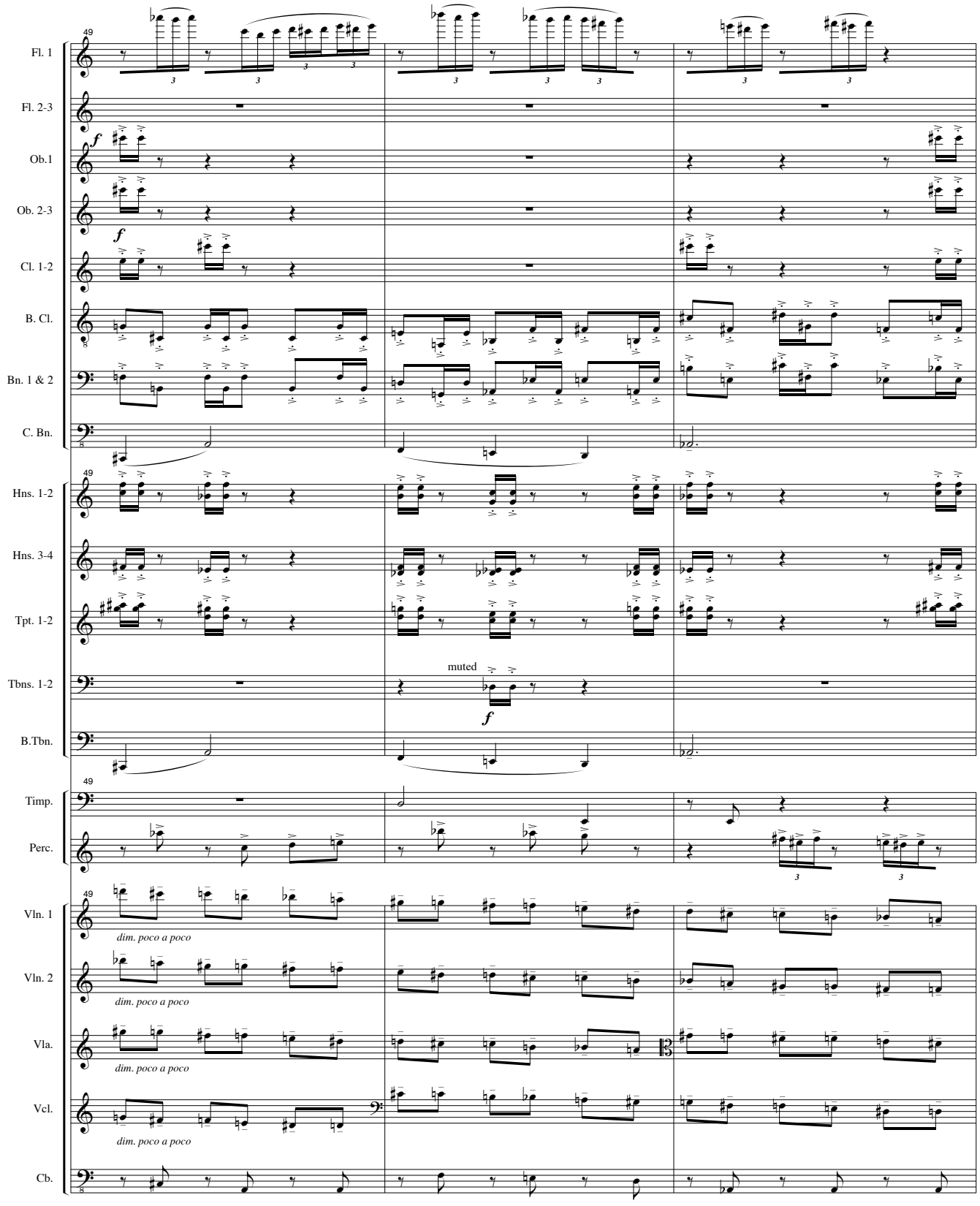

Variation IV
Agitato
29
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
Tam-tam
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
G.P.
(L.V.)
open
mute off
à 2
tutti
mp
mf
f
p

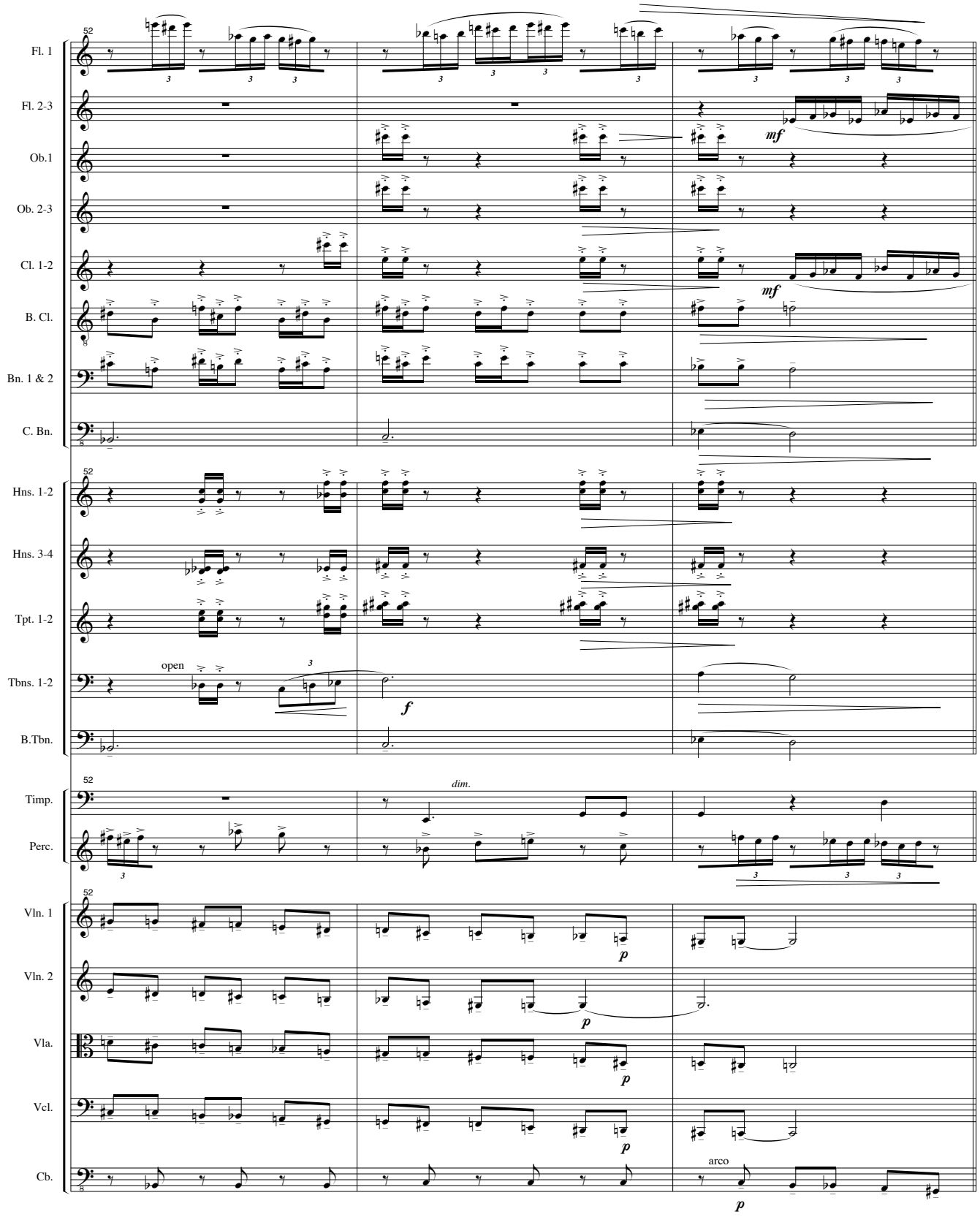

34
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
tutti
pizz.
f
ff
mf

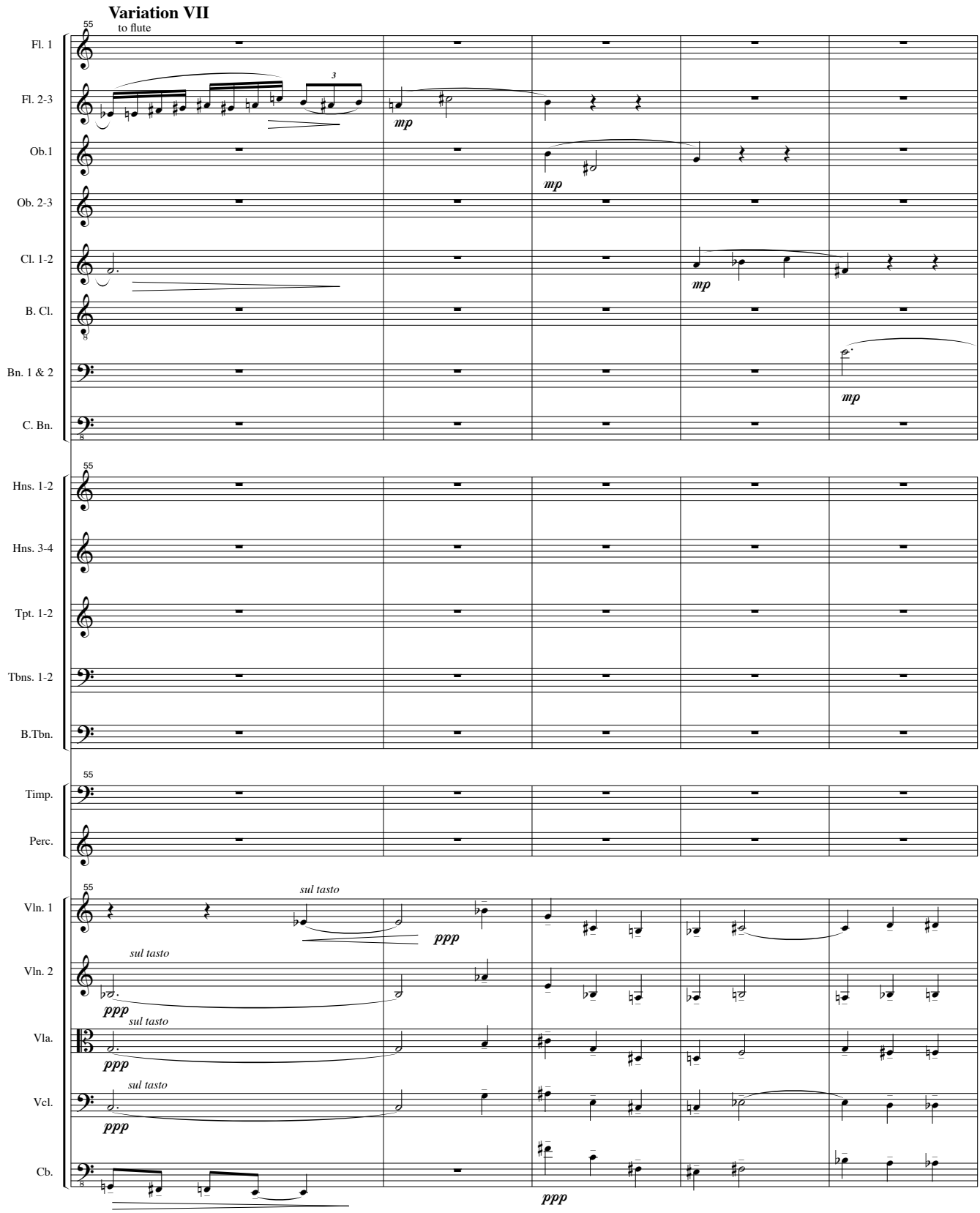

Variation V
to piccolo
38
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
sfz
mp
f
pp
ff
p
pizz.

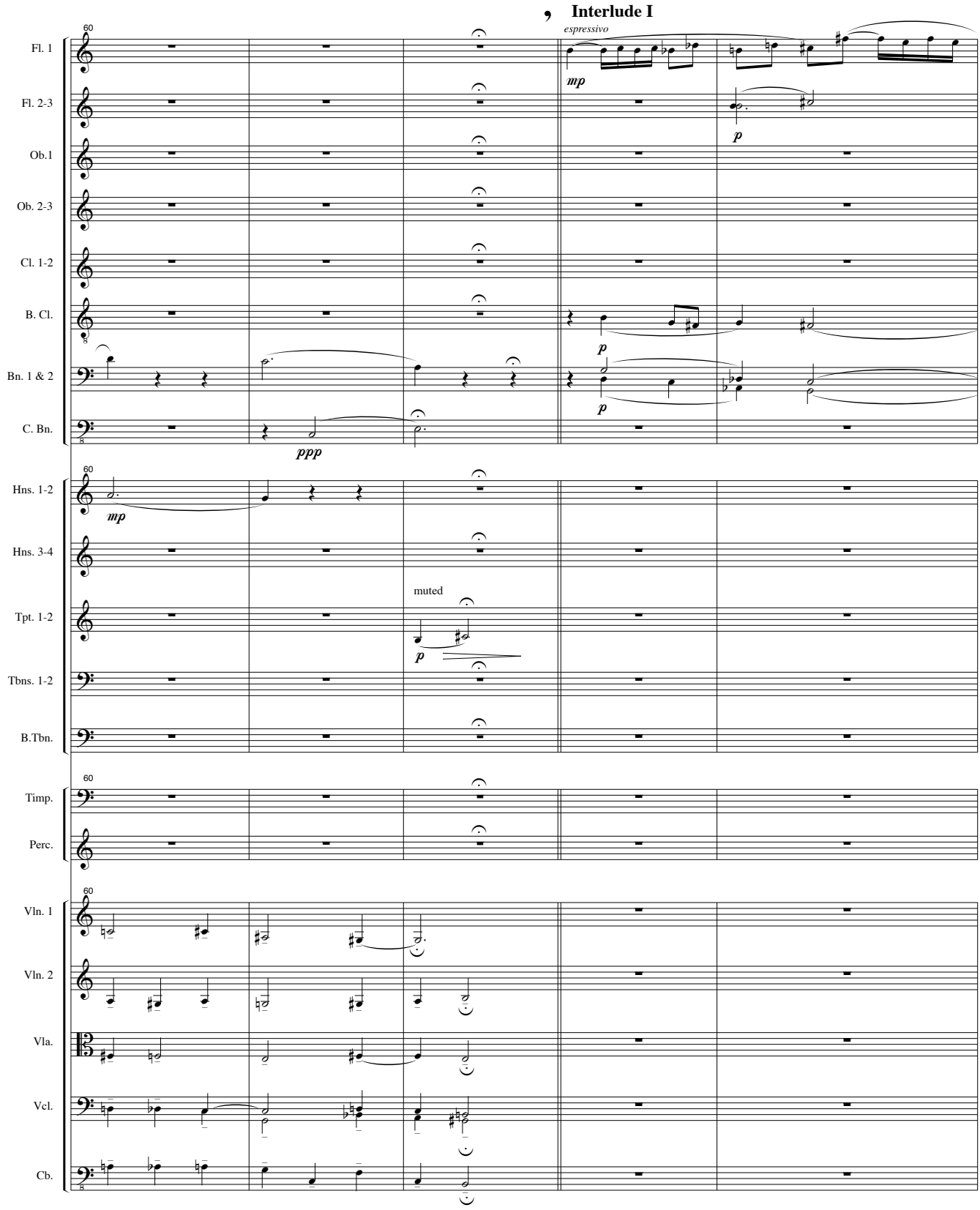

42
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
mf
ff
f
3
42
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
42
Timp.
Perc.
42
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
3
3
3

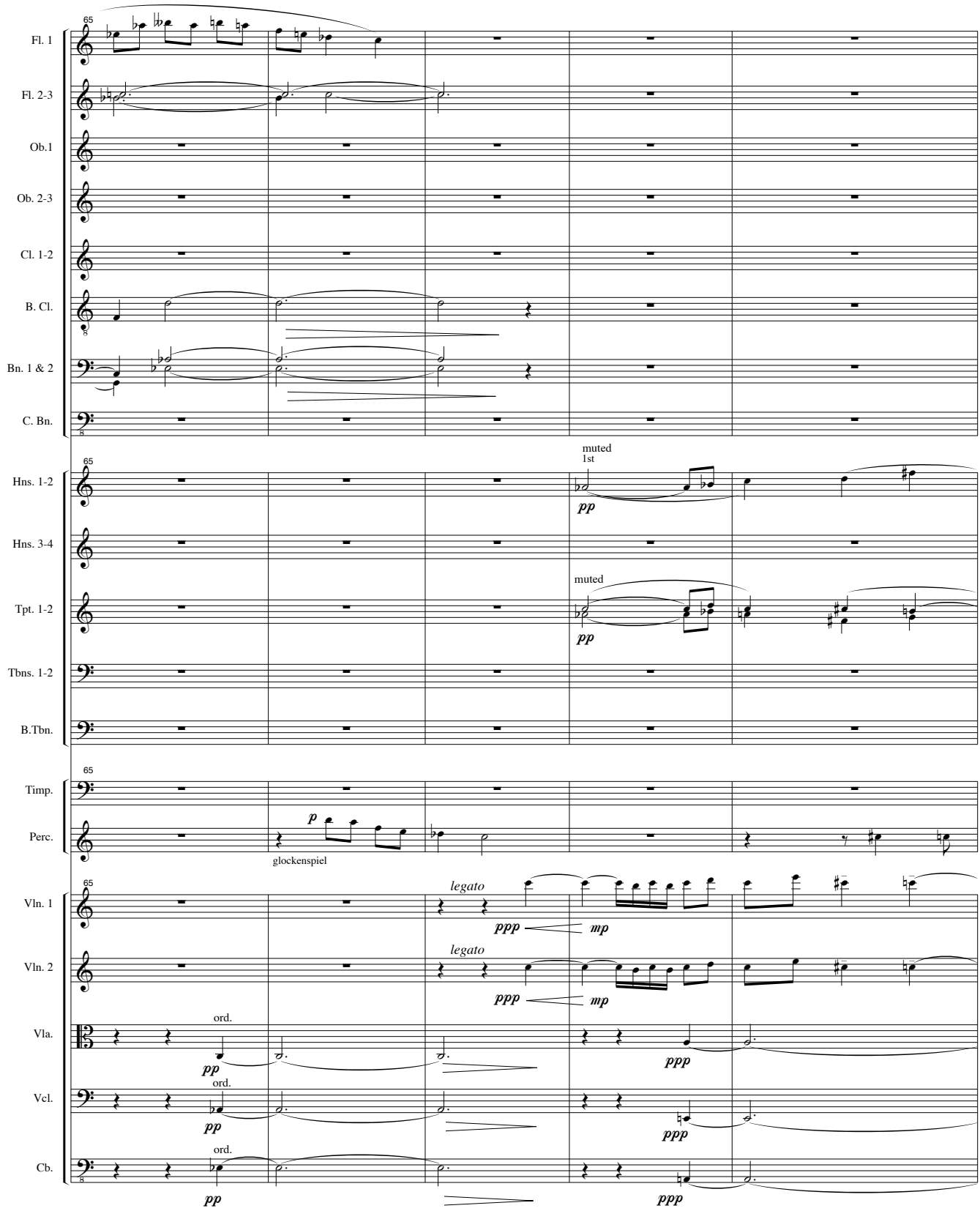

Variation VI
46
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
ff
f
muted
xylophone
arco
pizz.

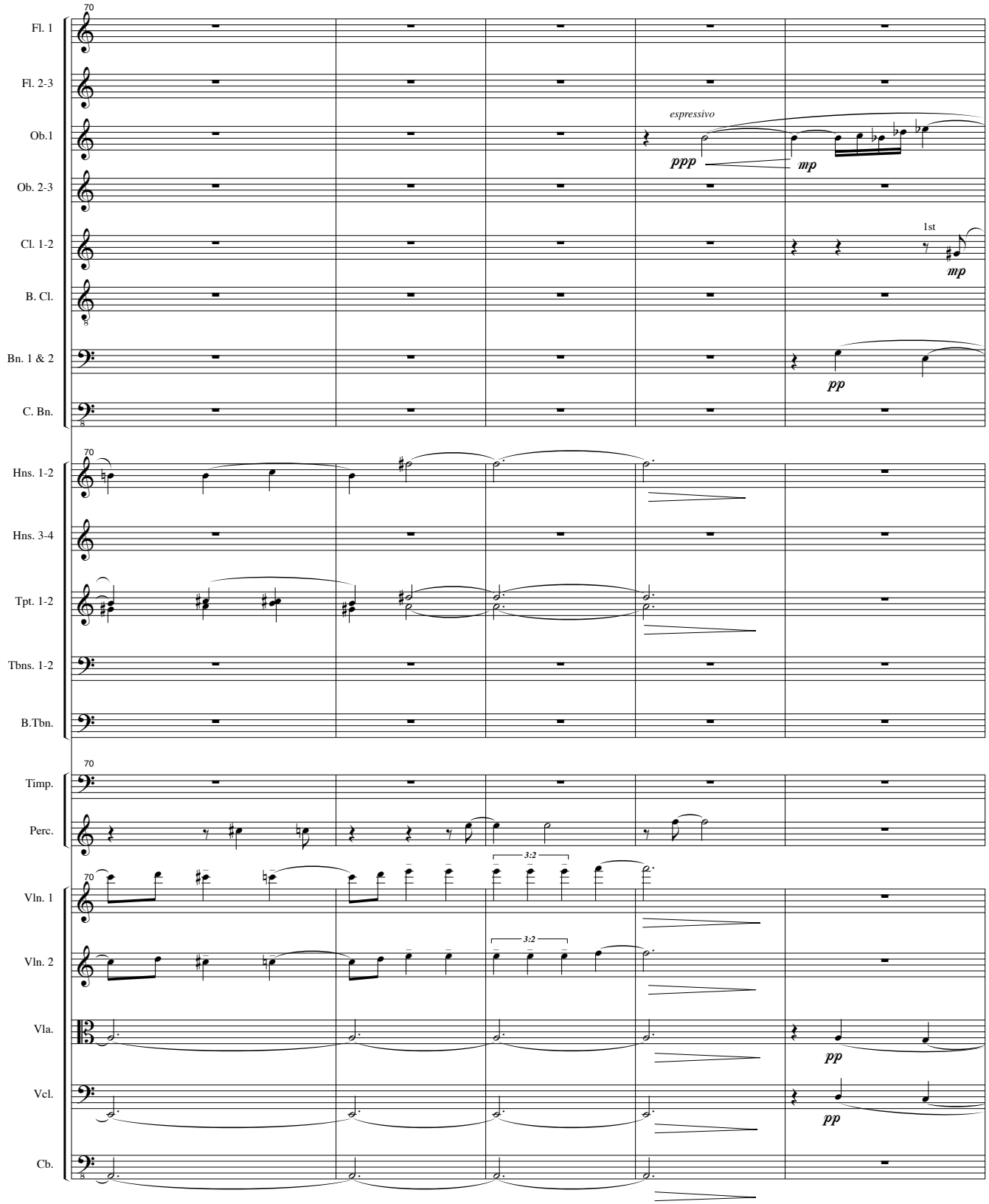

49
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
muted
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. 1
dim. poco a poco
Vln. 2
dim. poco a poco
Vla.
dim. poco a poco
Vcl.
dim. poco a poco
Cb.

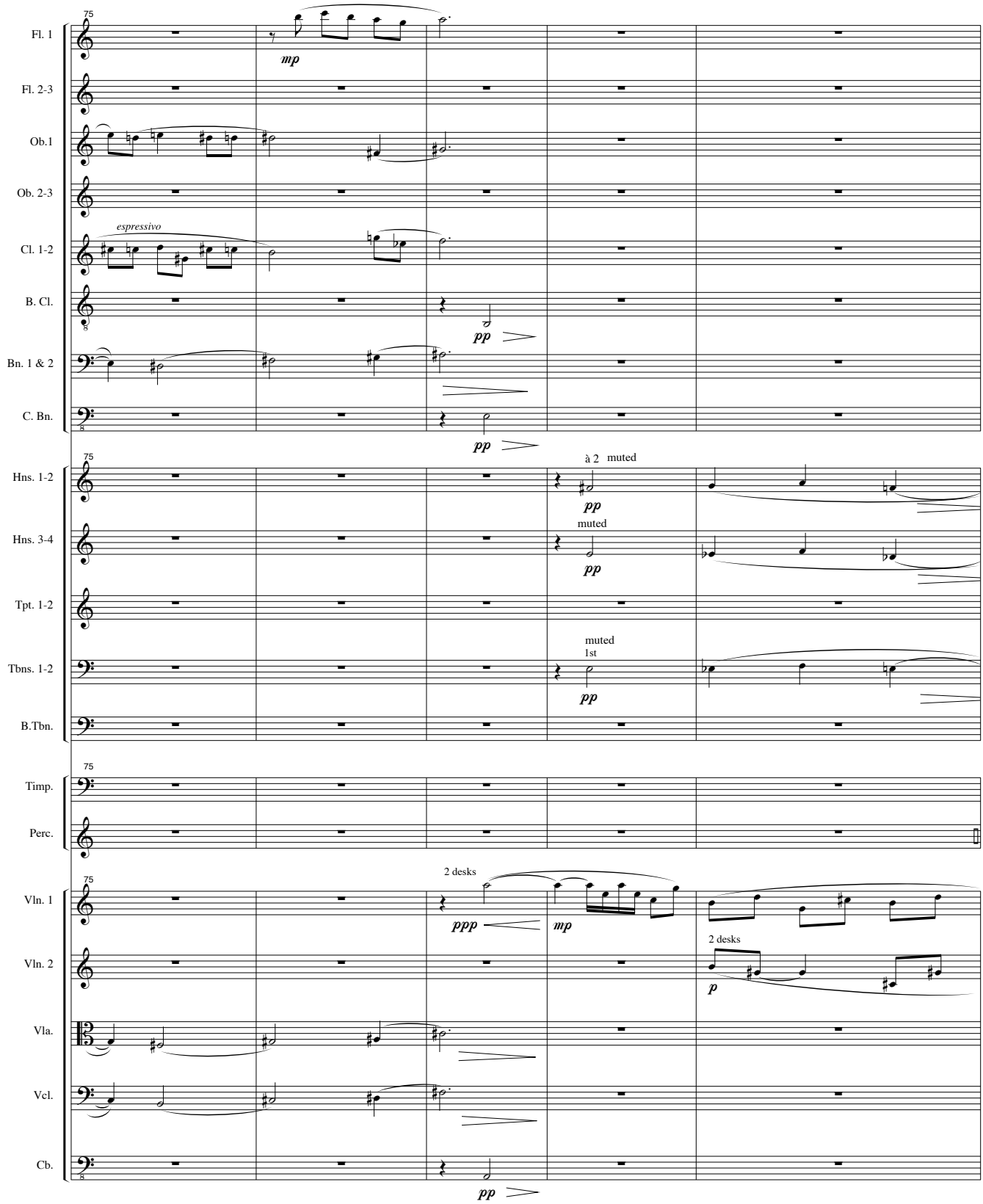

52
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
mf
mf
52
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
open
f
52
Timp.
Perc.
dim.
52
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
p
p
p
p
arco
p

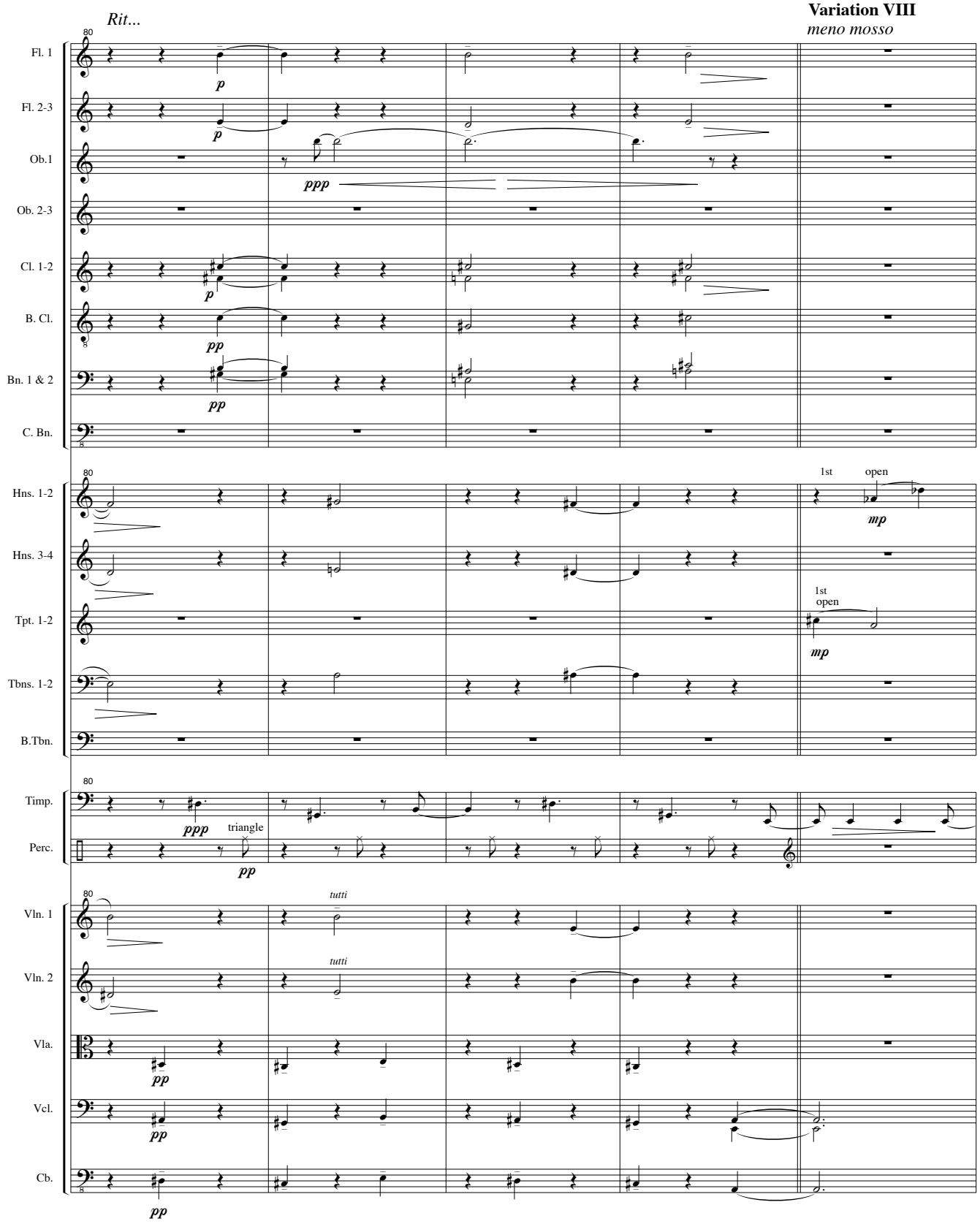

Variation VII
to flute
55
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
mp
sul tasto
ppp

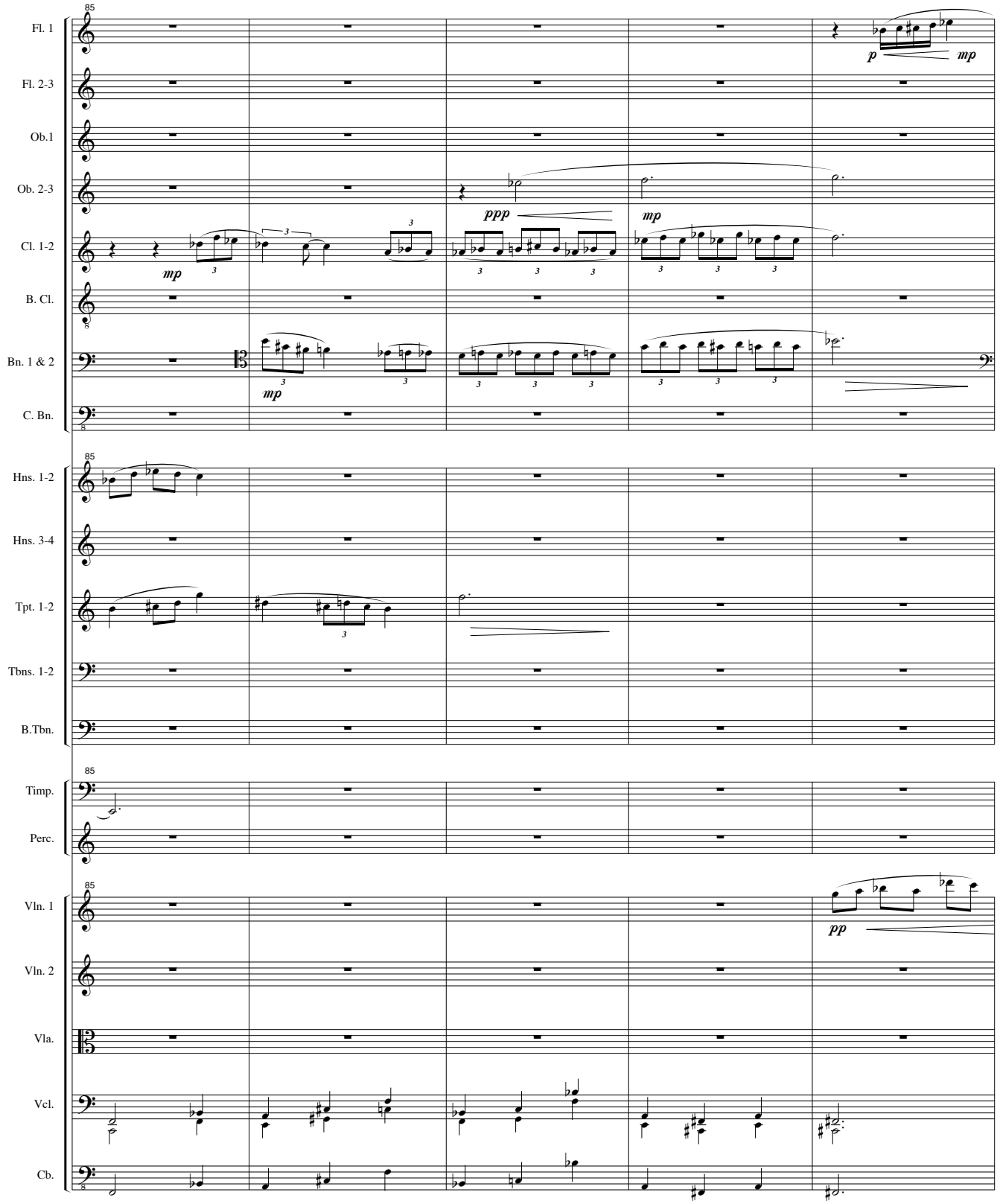

Interlude I
espressivo
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
muted
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
60
mp
p
ppp


65
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
muted
1st
pp
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
muted
pp
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
p
glockenspiel
Vln. 1
legato
ppp
mp
Vln. 2
legato
ppp
mp
Vla.
ord.
pp
ppp
Vcl.
ord.
pp
ppp
Cb.
ord.
pp
ppp


70
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
espressivo
ppp
mp
1st
mp
pp
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
3:2
3:2
pp
pp

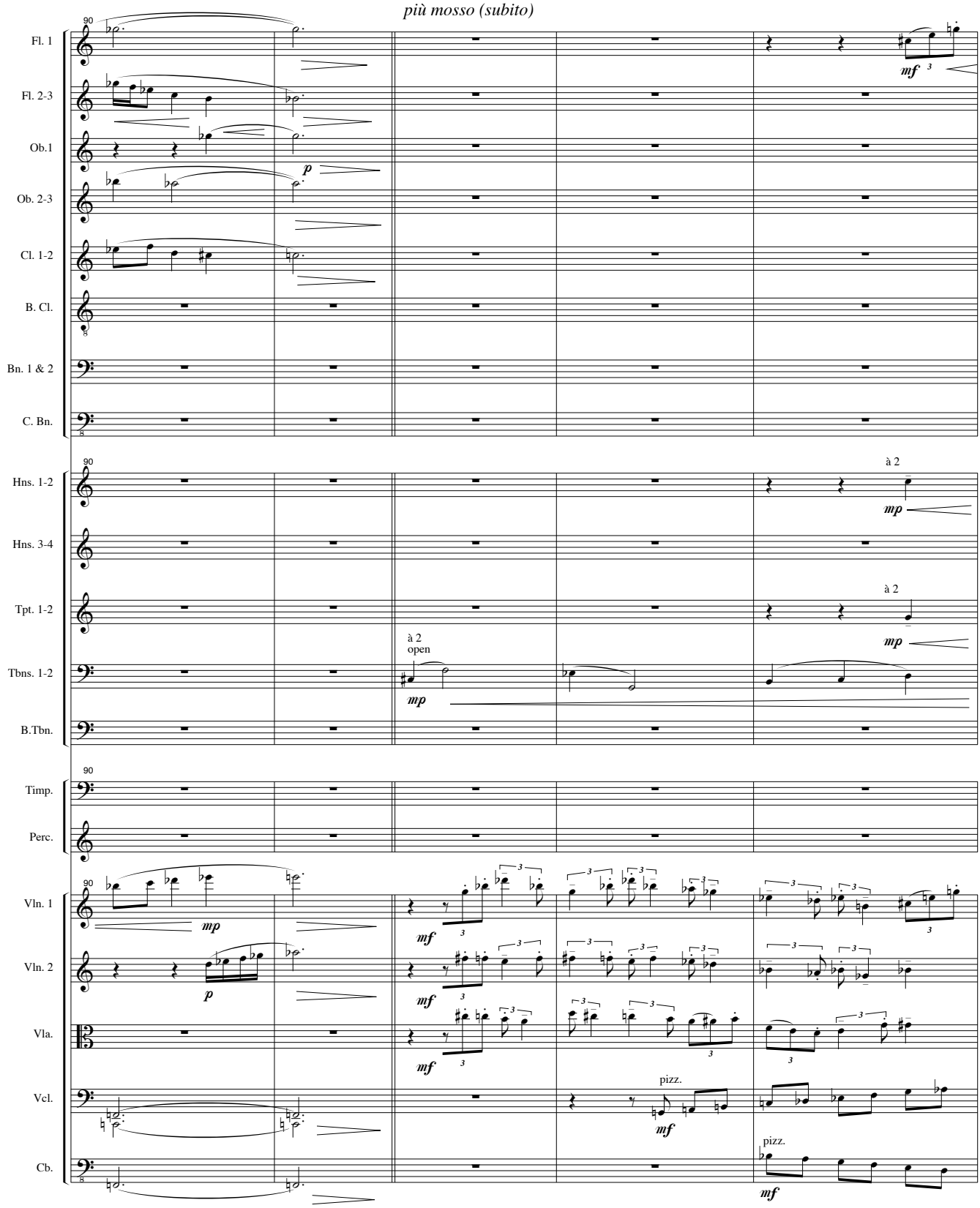

75
Fl. 1
mp
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
espressivo
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
pp
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
pp
75
Hns. 1-2
à 2 muted
pp
Hns. 3-4
muted
pp
Tpt. 1-2
muted
1st
Tbns. 1-2
pp
B.Tbn.
75
Timp.
Perc.
75
2 desks
Vln. 1
ppp
mp
2 desks
Vln. 2
p
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
pp

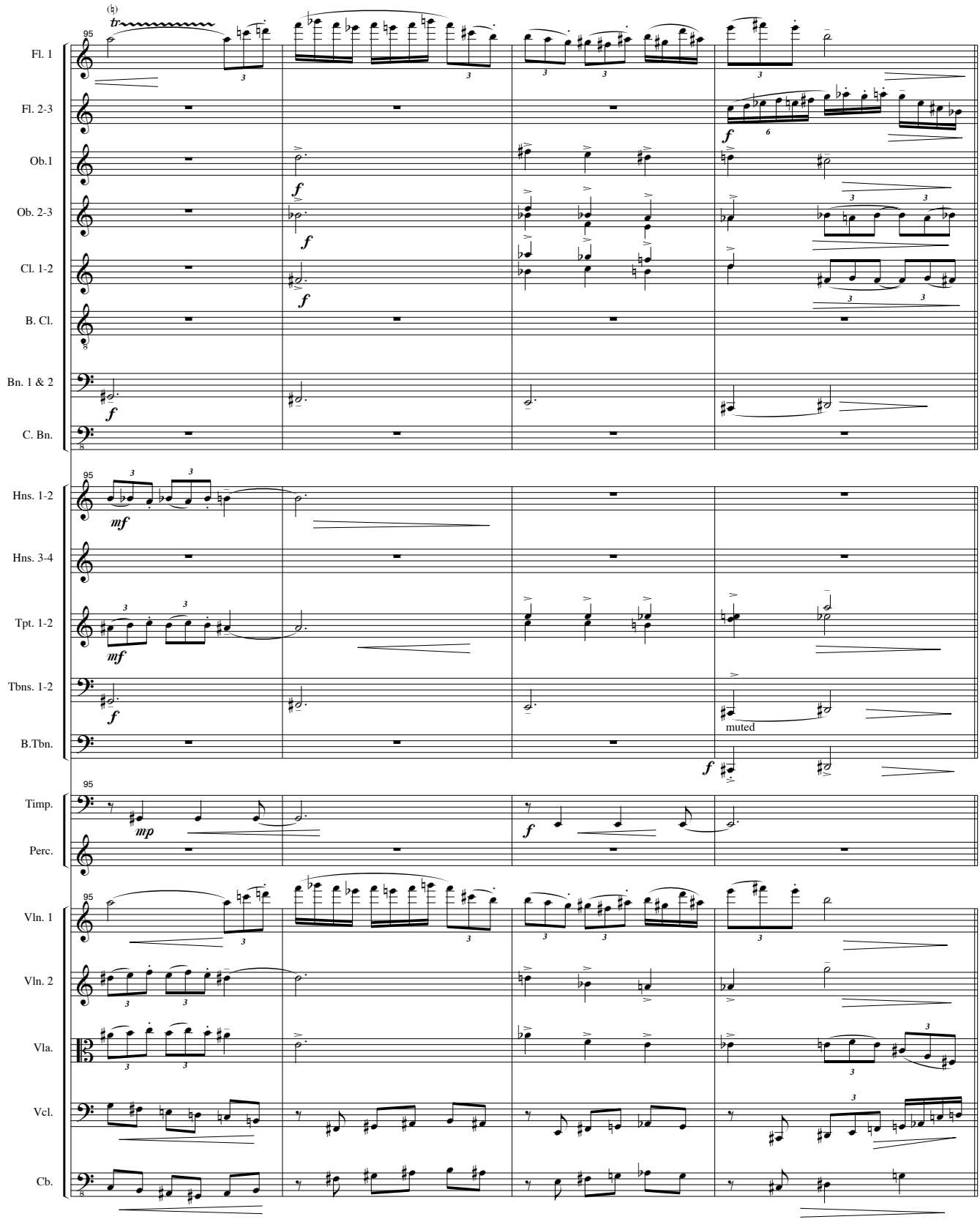

Rit...
Variation VIII
meno mosso
80
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
p
ppp
pp
mp
1st
open
triangle
tutti


85
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
p
mp
ppp
pp

Variation IX

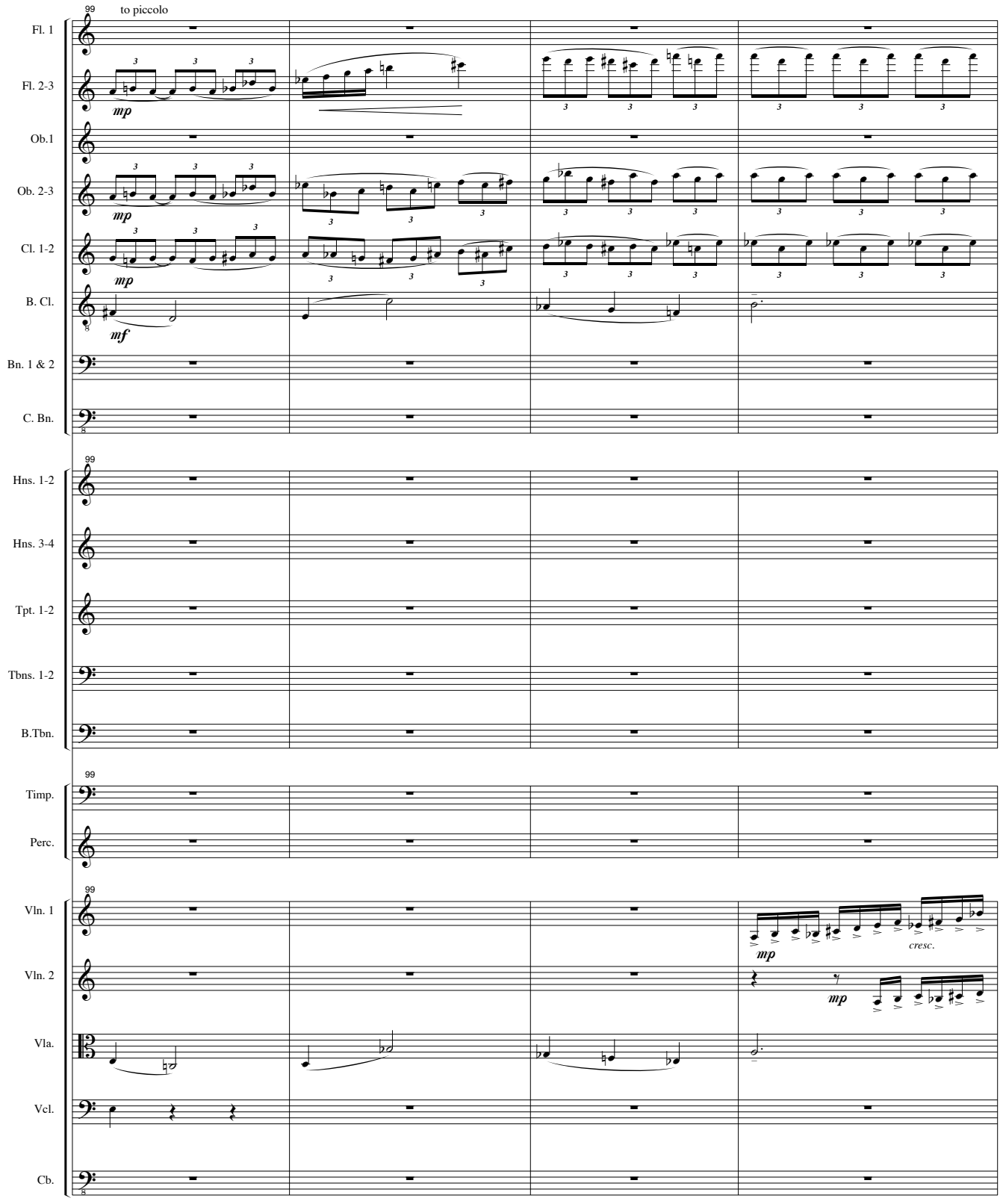
più mosso (subito)

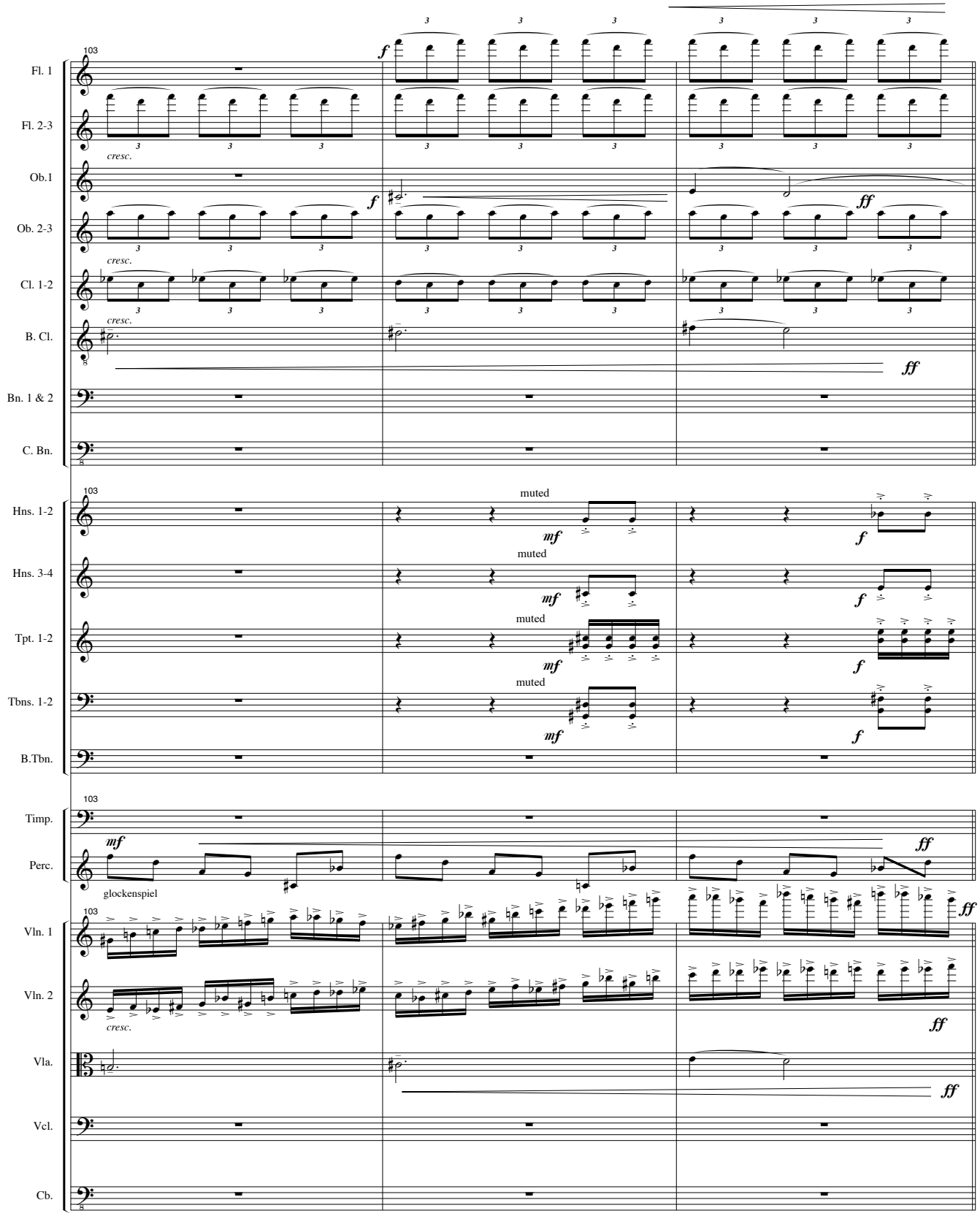



95
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
muted
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.

Variation X

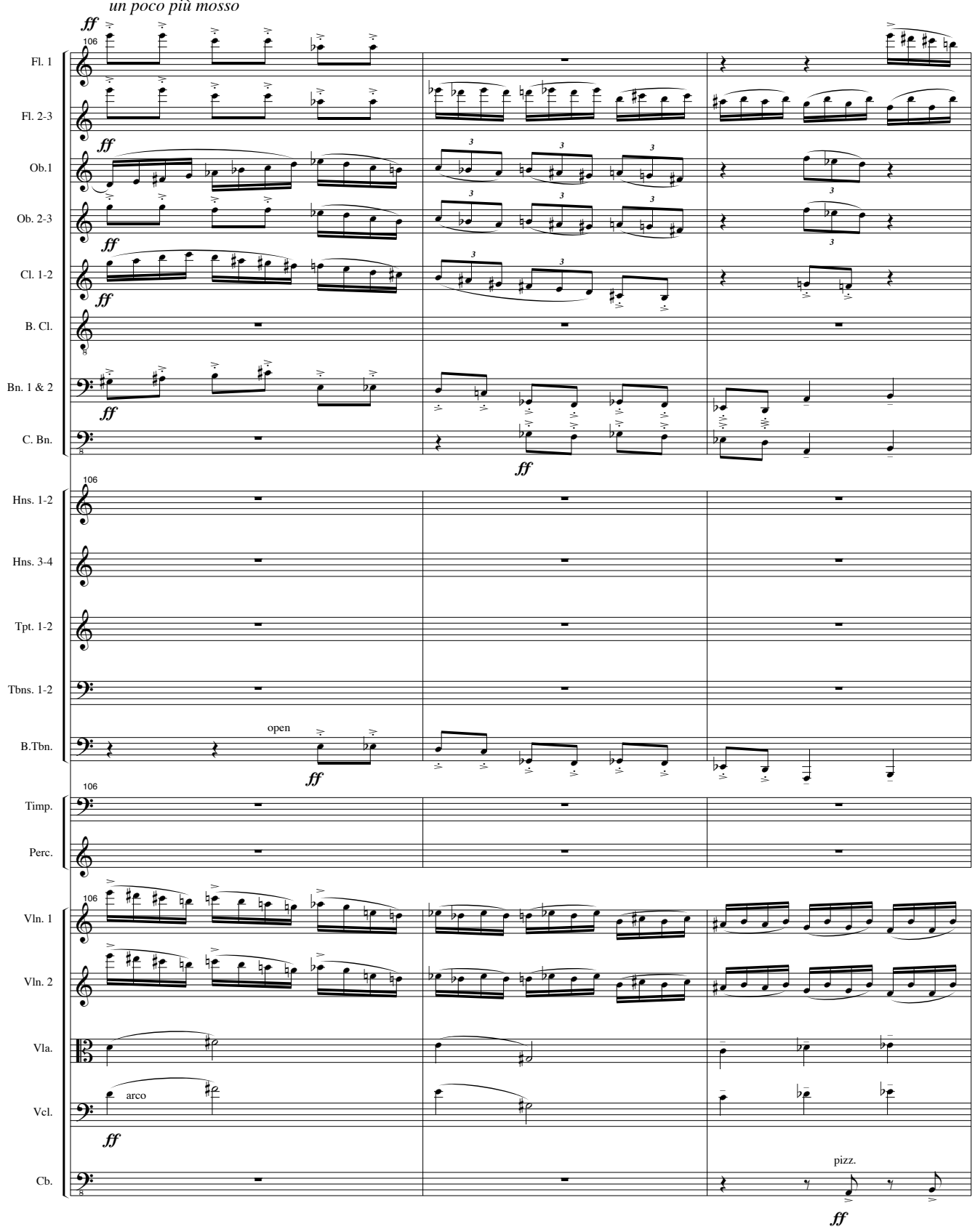
un poco più mosso

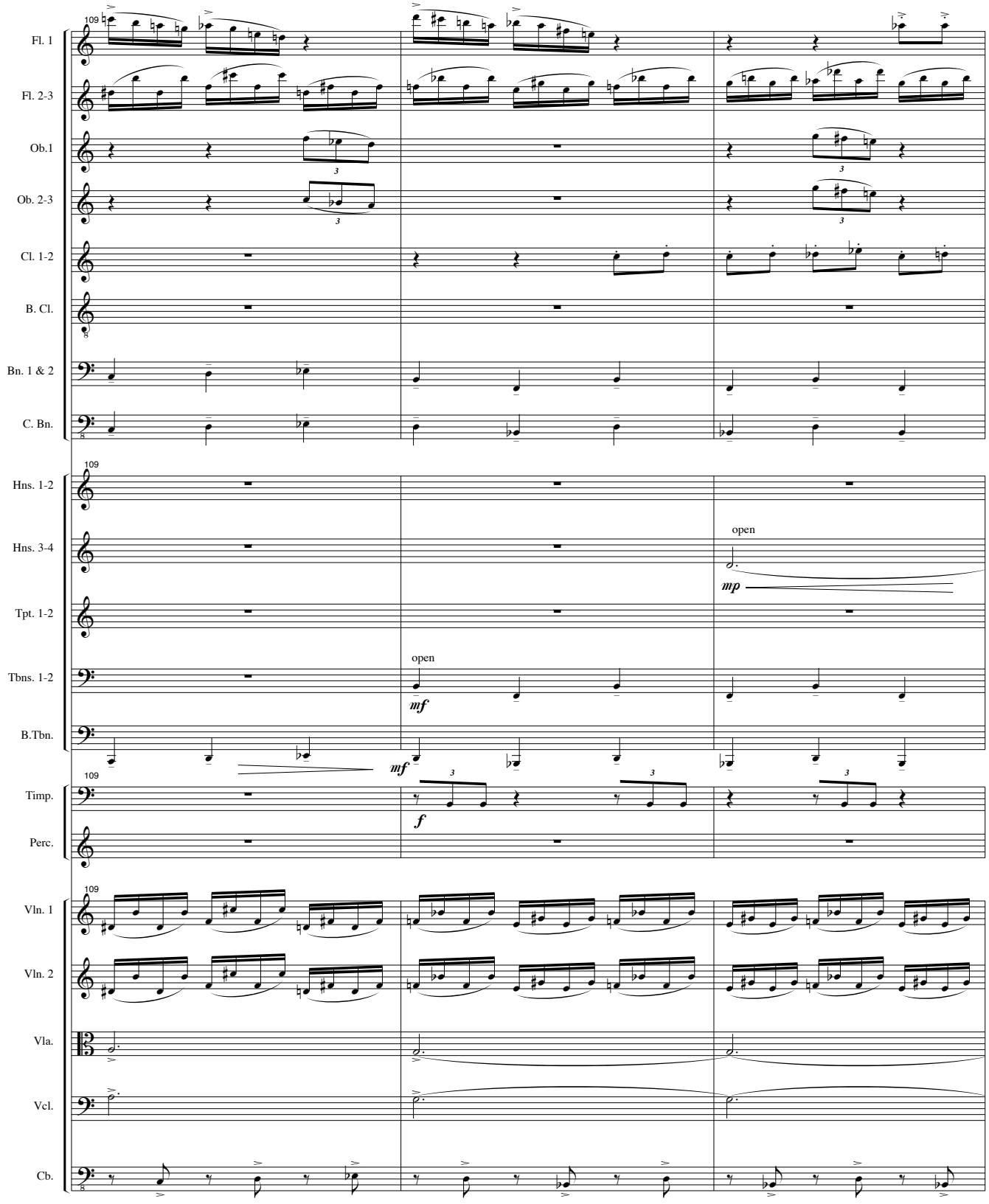


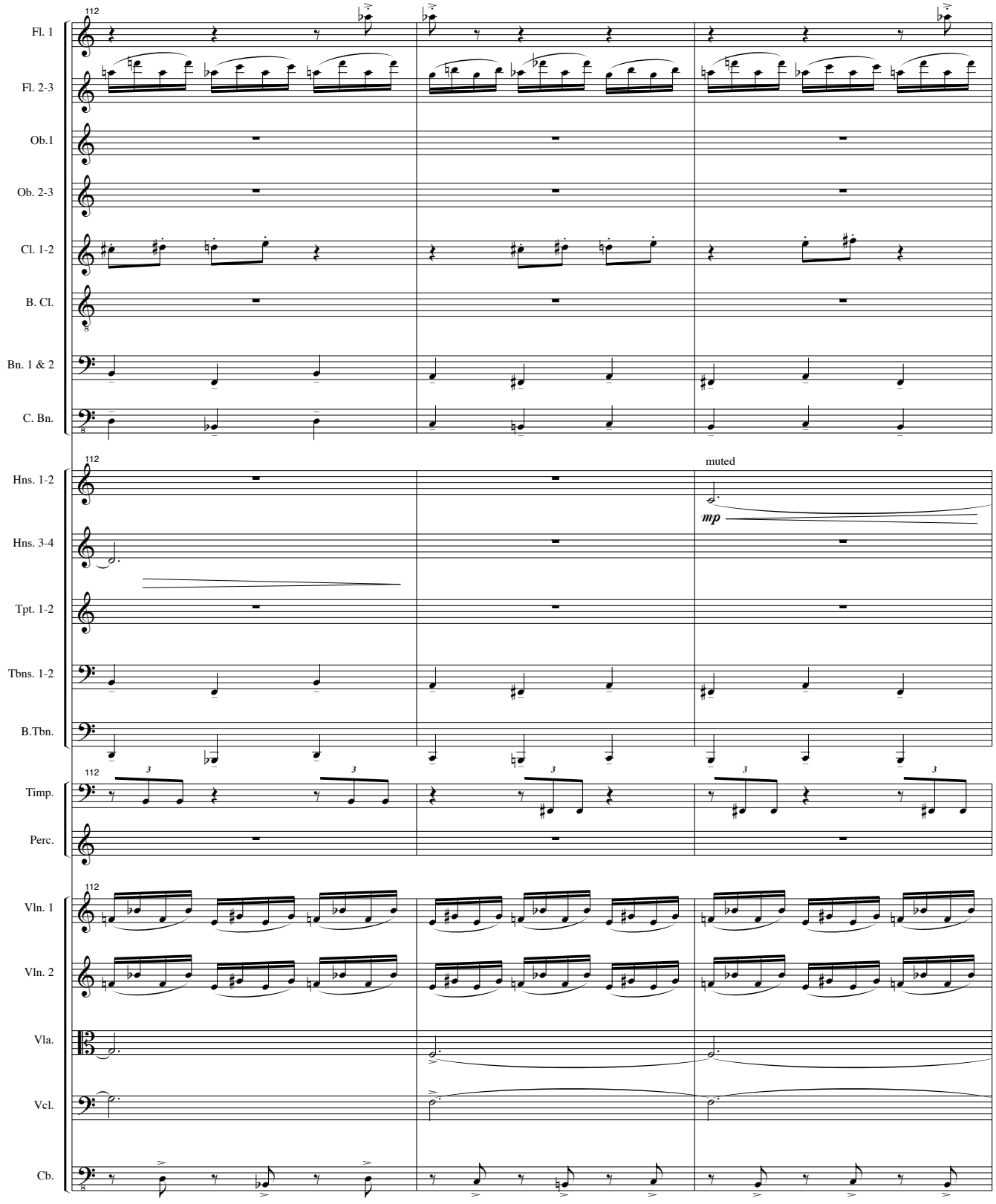

103
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
cresc.
muted
glockenspiel
f
mf
ff

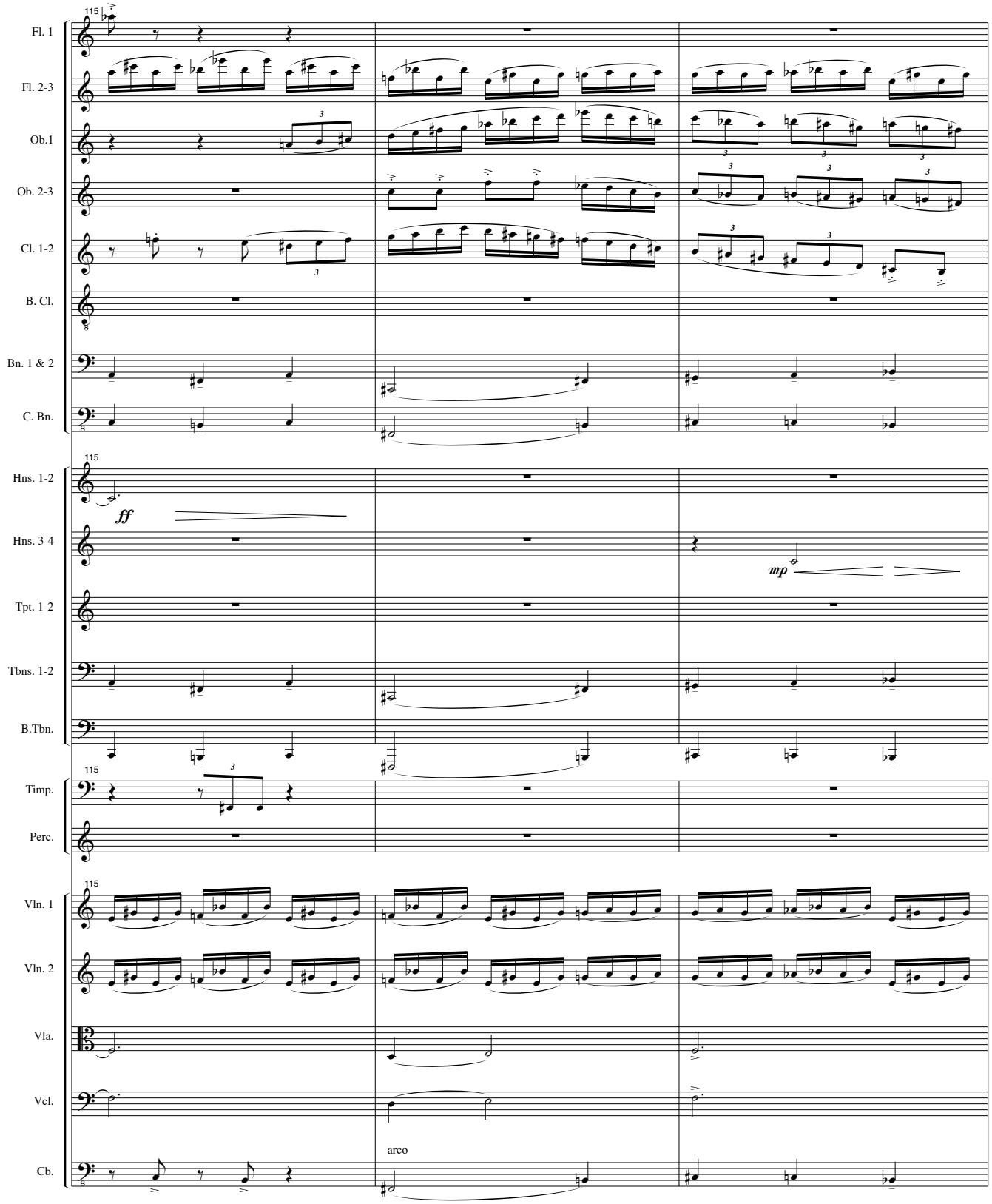
Variation XI

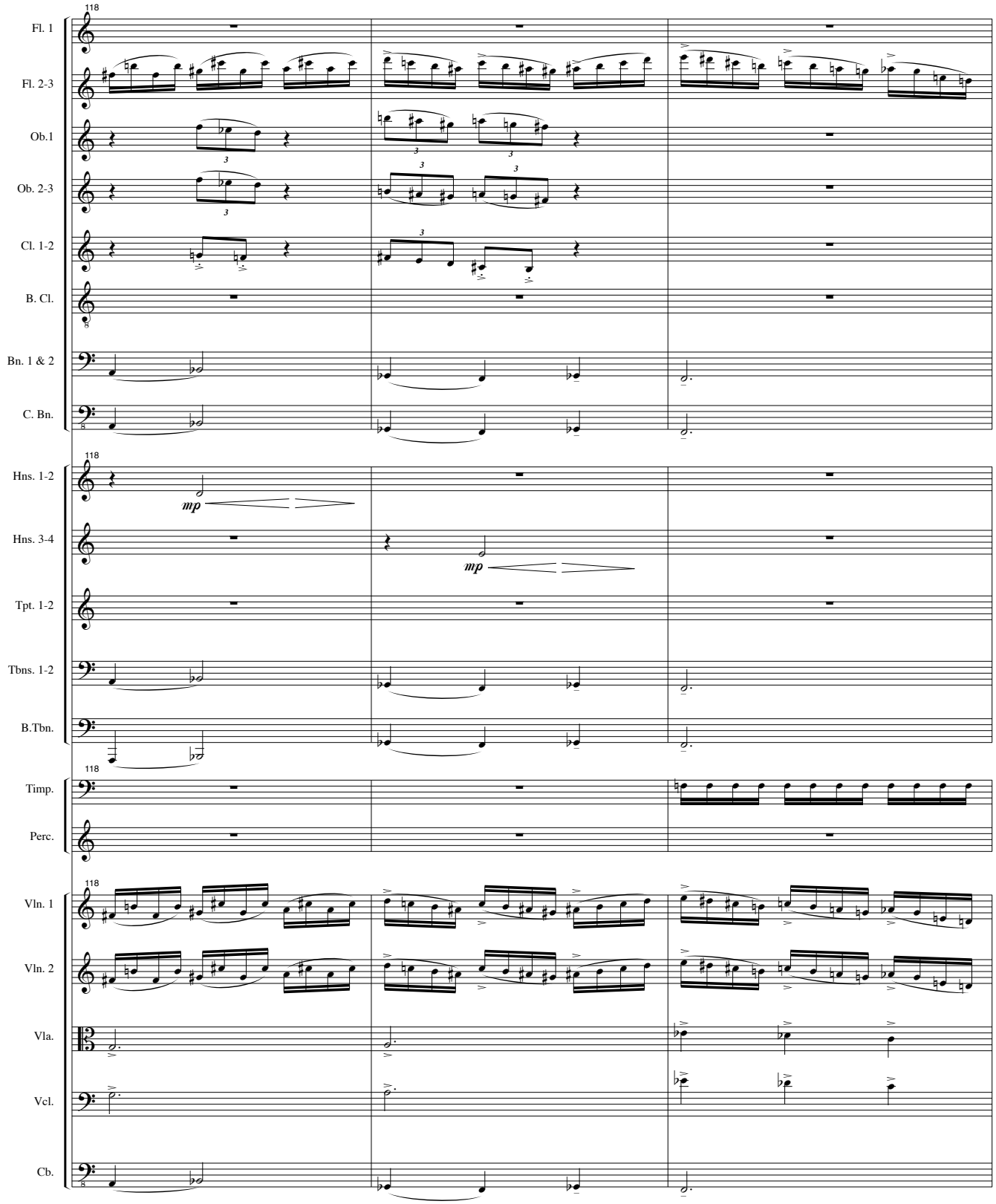
un poco più mosso

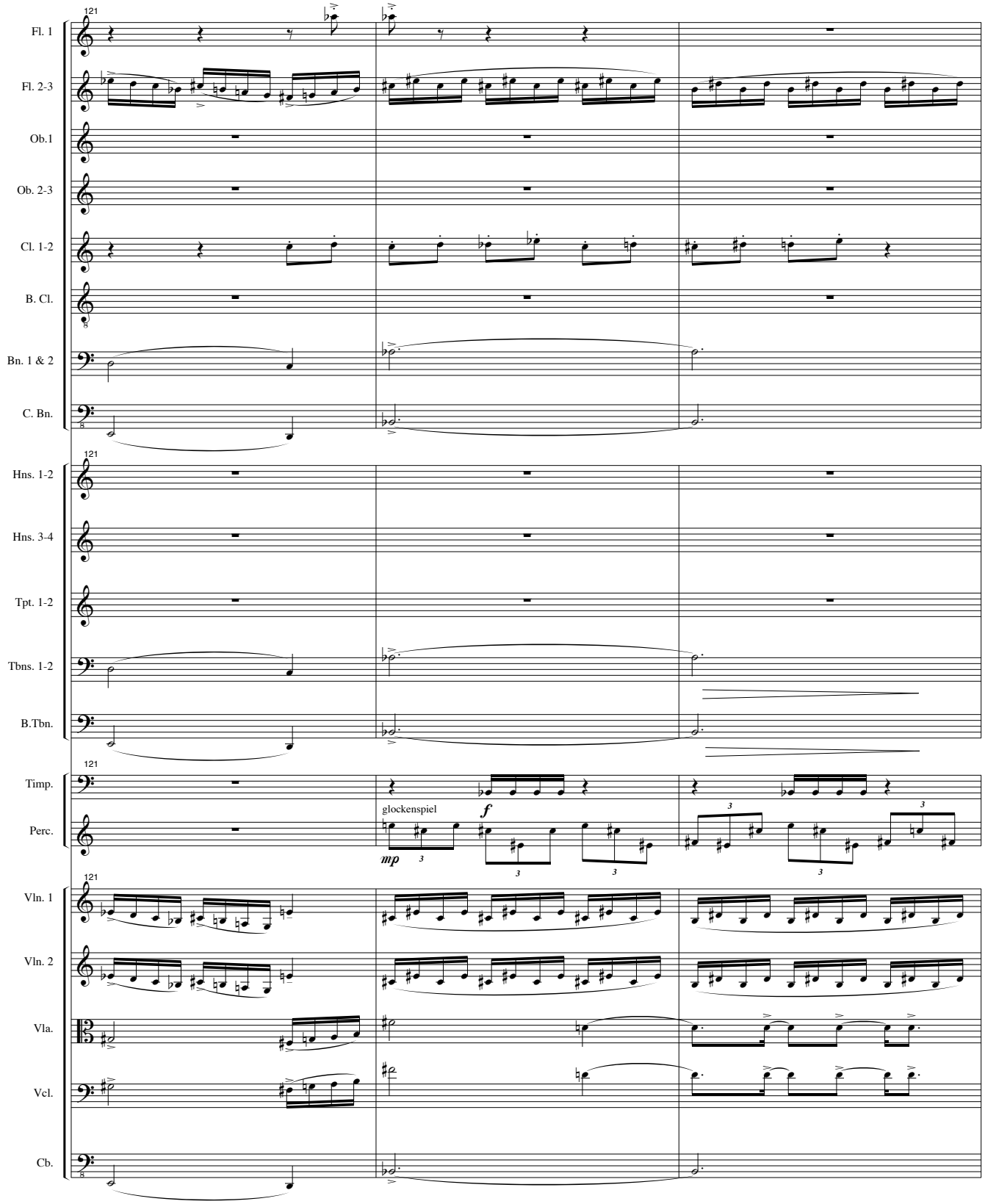


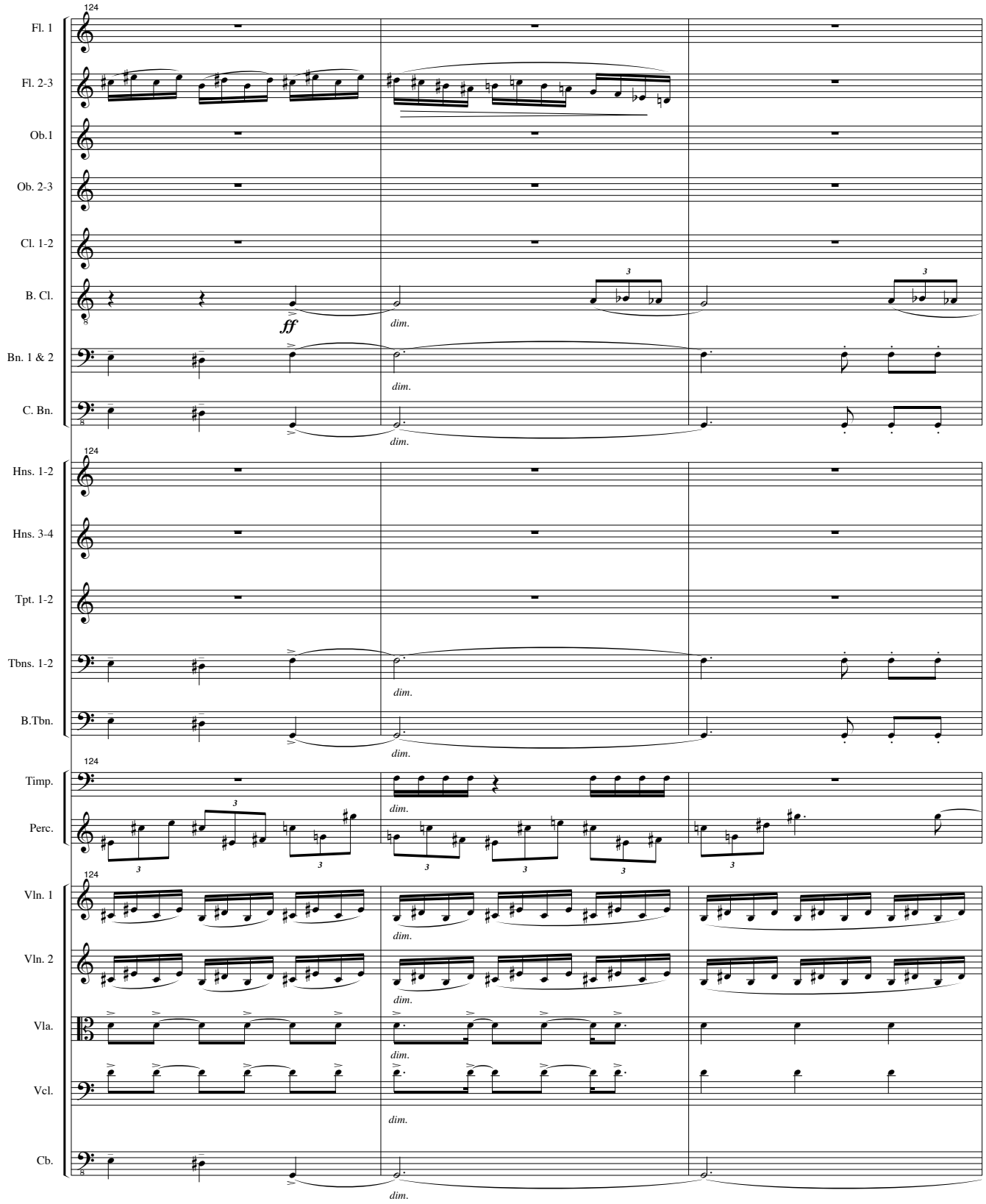

109
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
109
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
open
mp
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
open
mf
B.Tbn.
mf
109
Timp.
f
Perc.
109
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.


112
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
112
muted
mp
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
112
Timp.
Perc.
112
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.


115
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
115
Hns. 1-2
ff
Hns. 3-4
mp
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
115
Timp.
Perc.
115
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
arco
Cb.

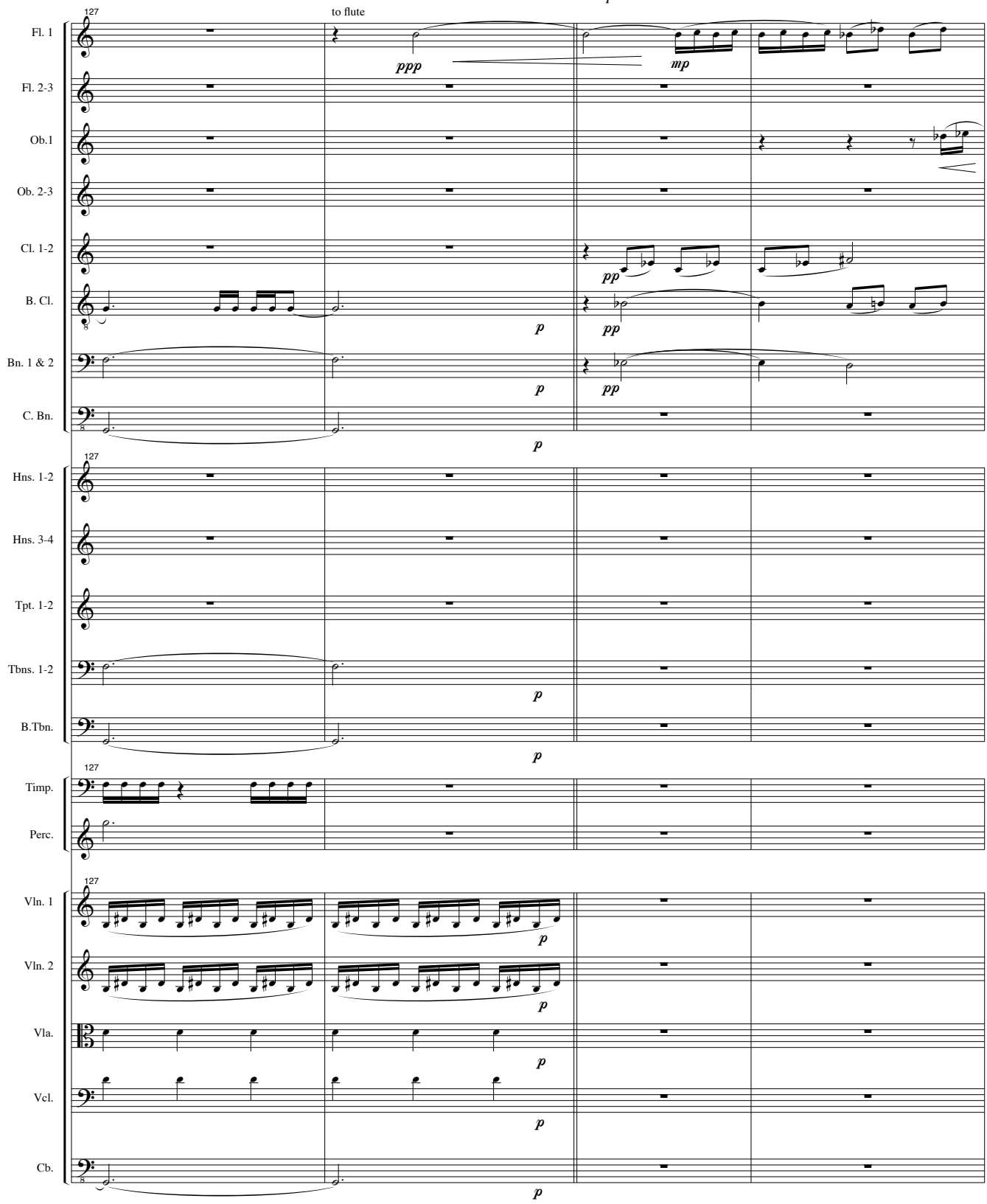

118
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
118
Hns. 1-2
mp
Hns. 3-4
mp
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
118
Timp.
Perc.
118
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.

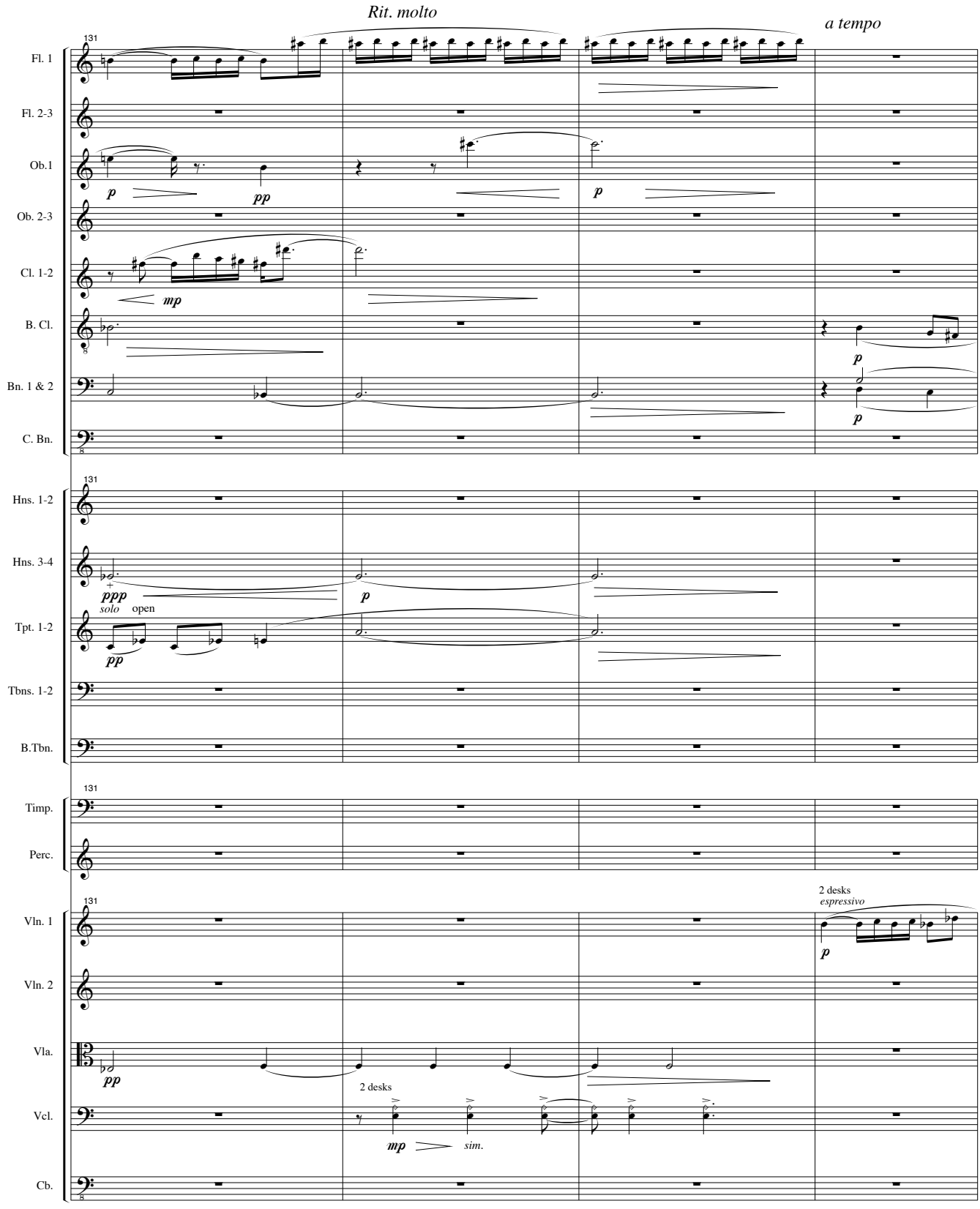

121
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
121
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
121
Timp.
Perc.
glockenspiel
mp
f
121
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.

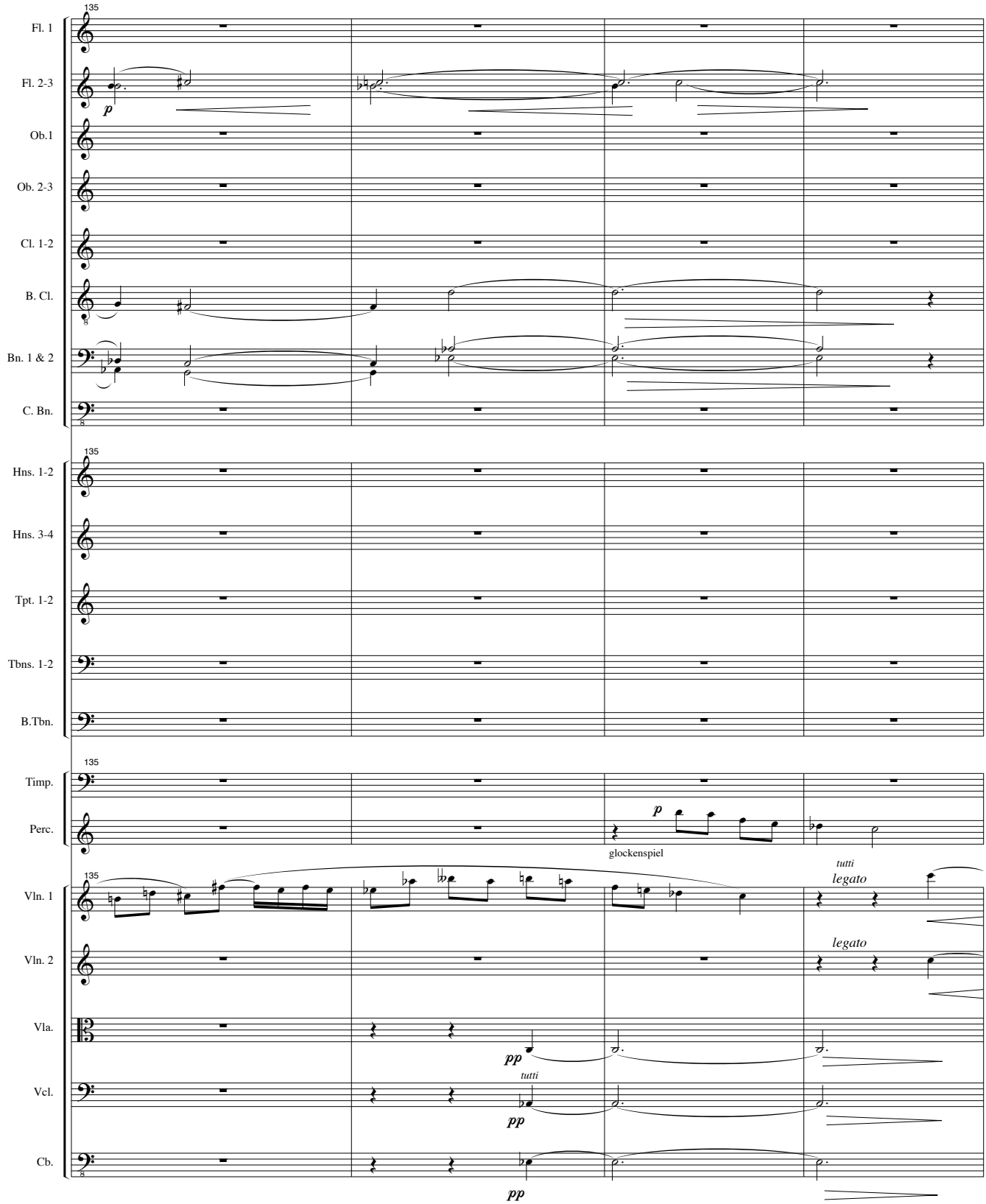

124
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
ff
dim.
3

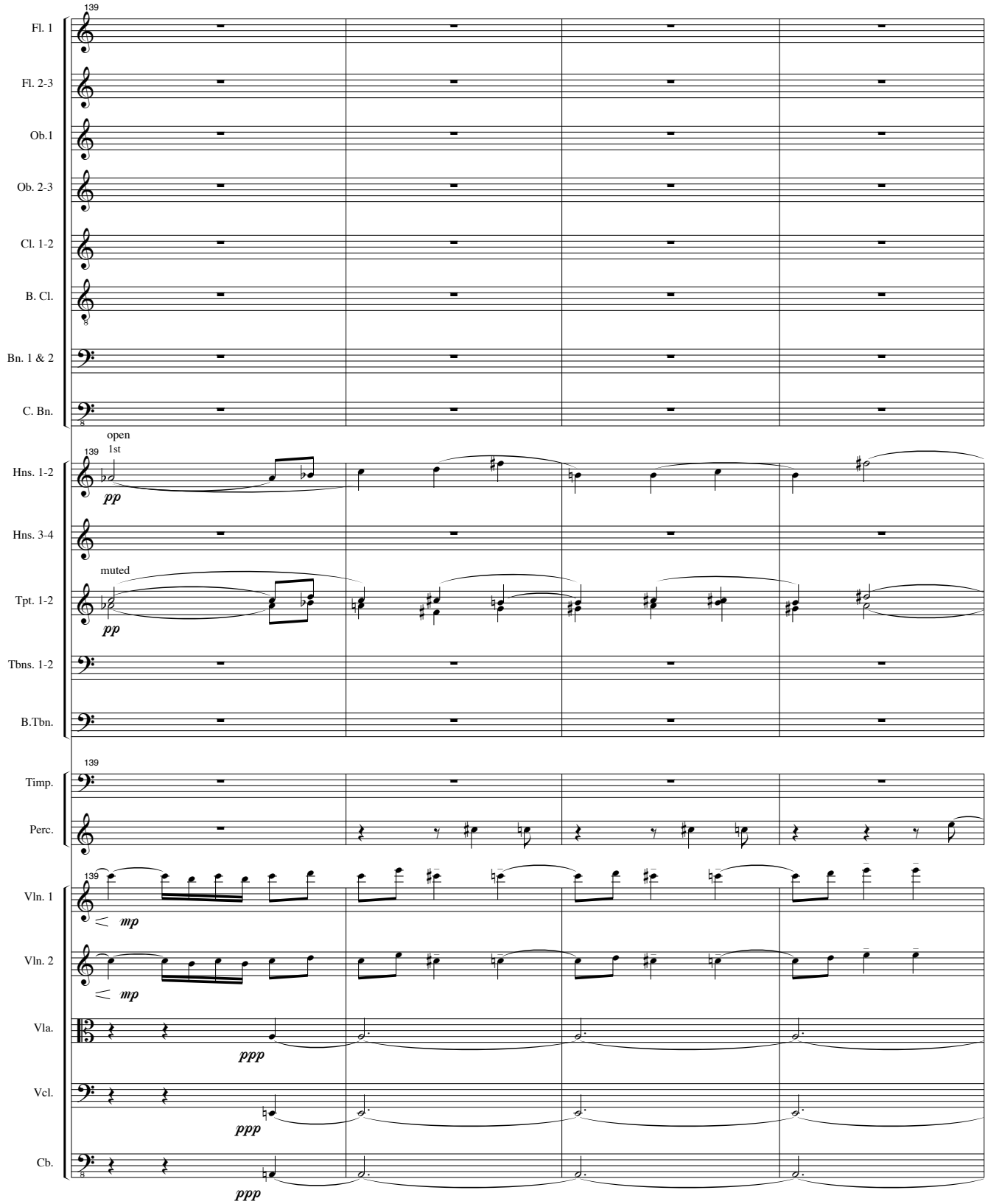
Interlude II

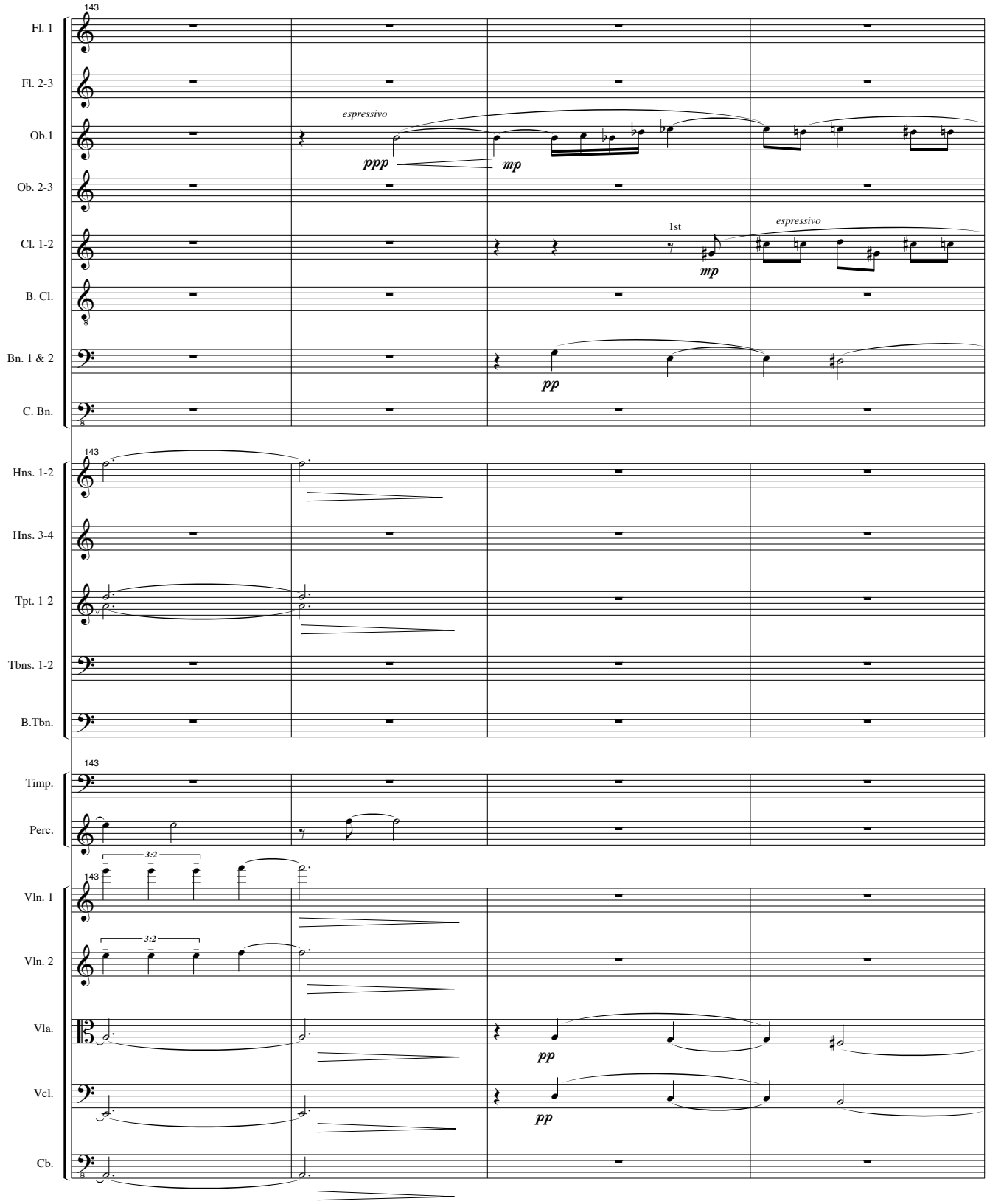
Rit. molto *Tempo di Interlude I*

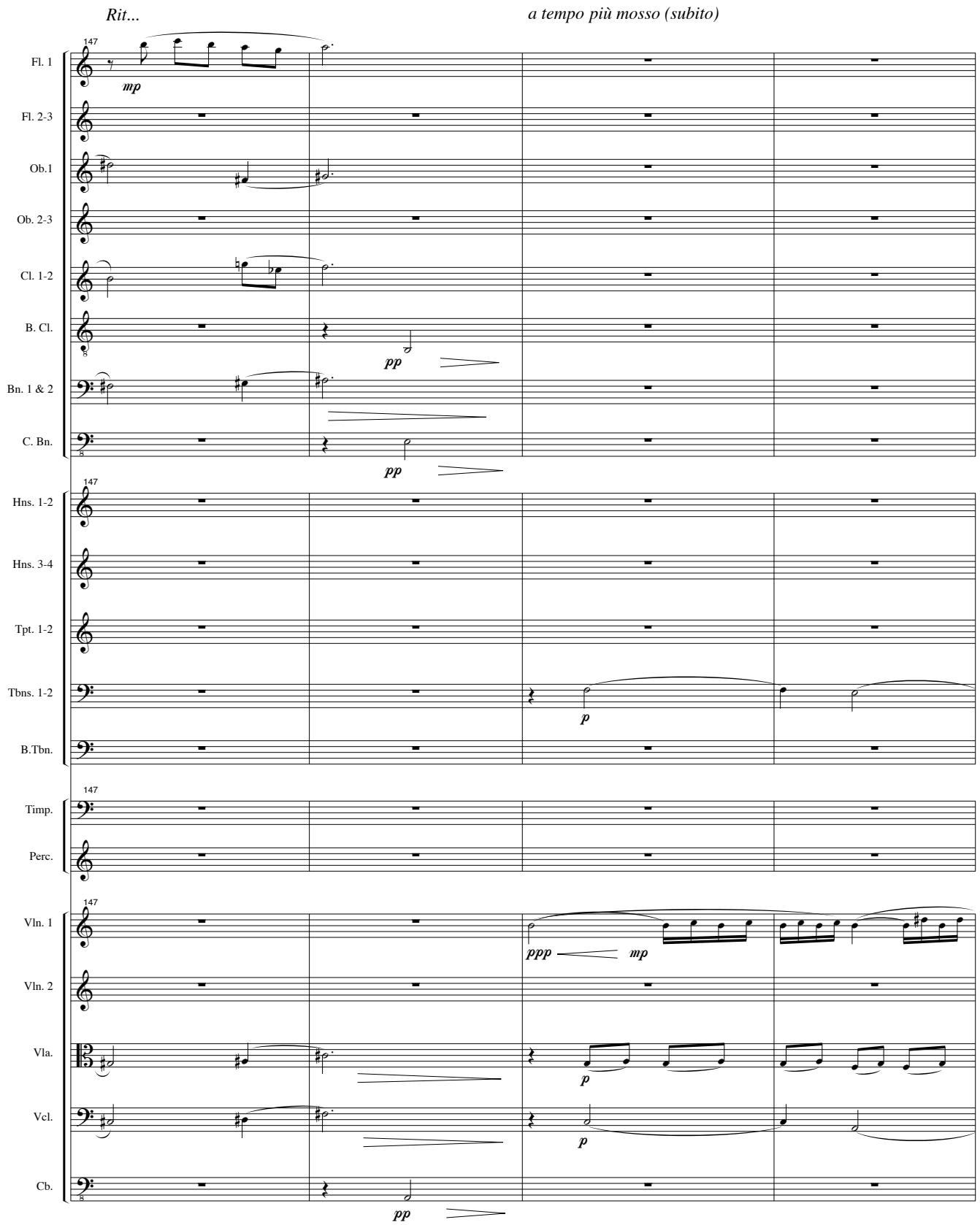


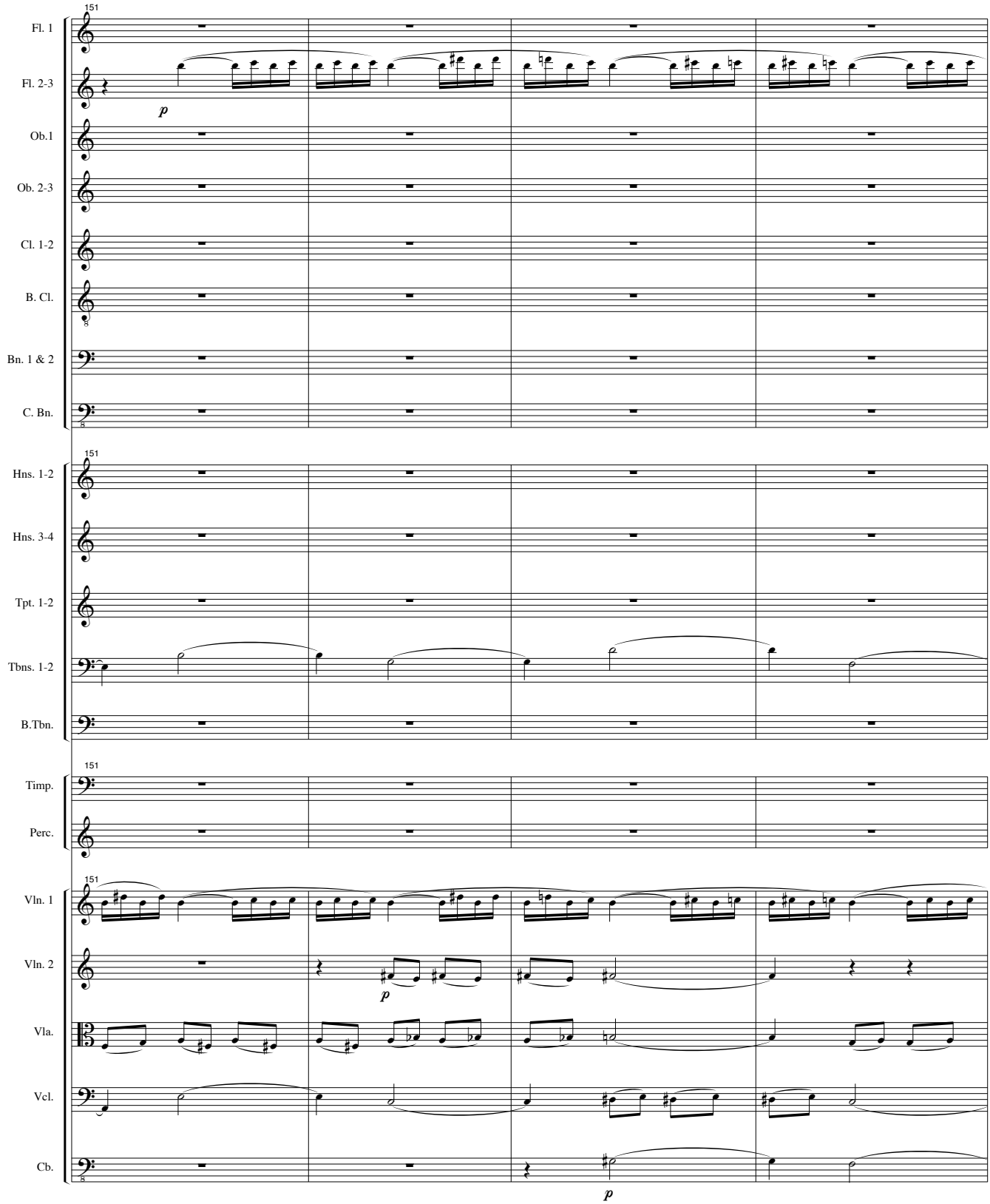

Rit. molto
a tempo
131
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
p
pp
mp
ppp
solo
open
2 desks
espressivo
sim.

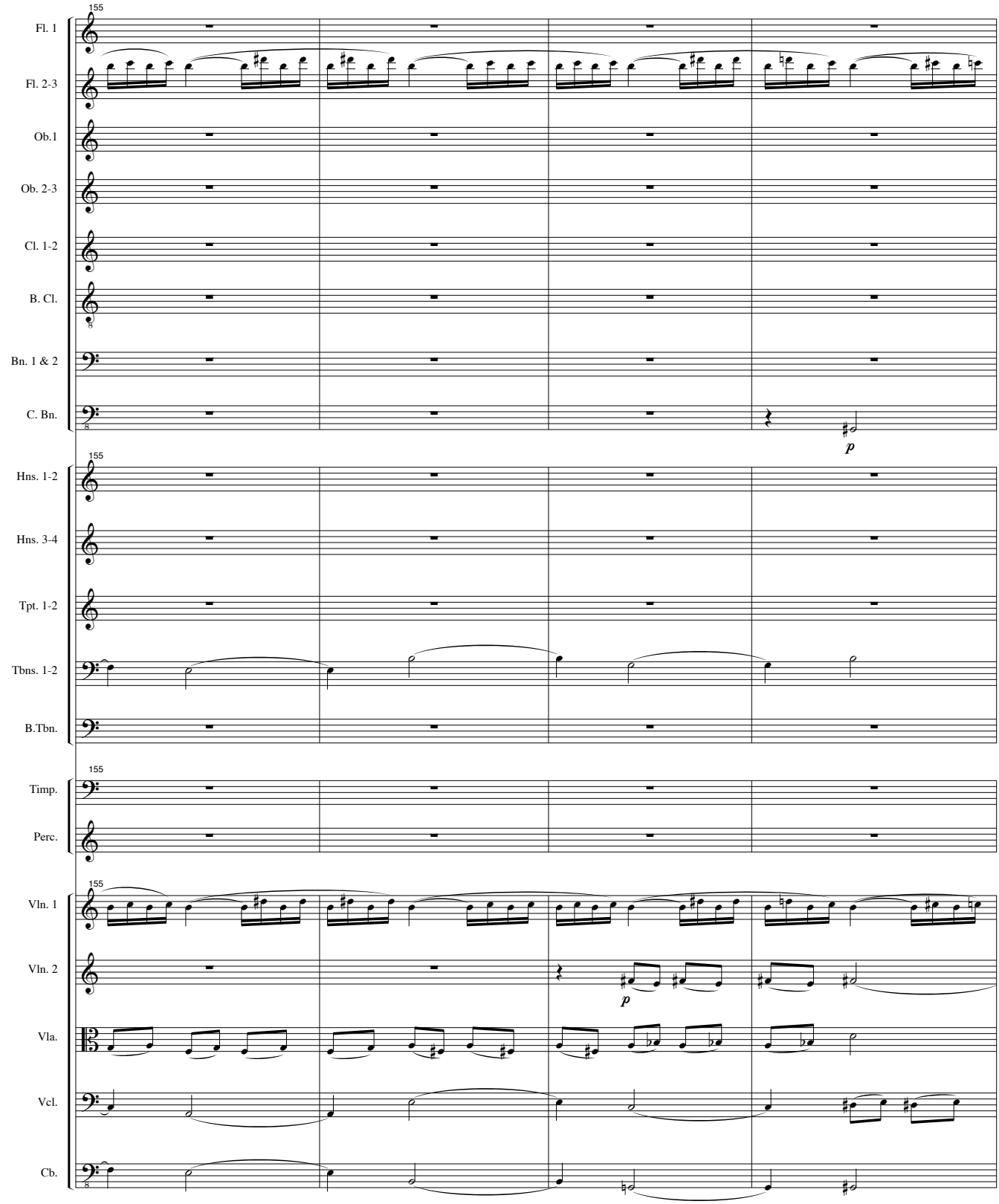

135
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
p
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
135
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
135
Timp.
Perc.
p
glockenspiel
135
tutti
legato
Vln. 1
legato
Vln. 2
Vla.
pp
tutti
Vcl.
pp
Cb.
pp

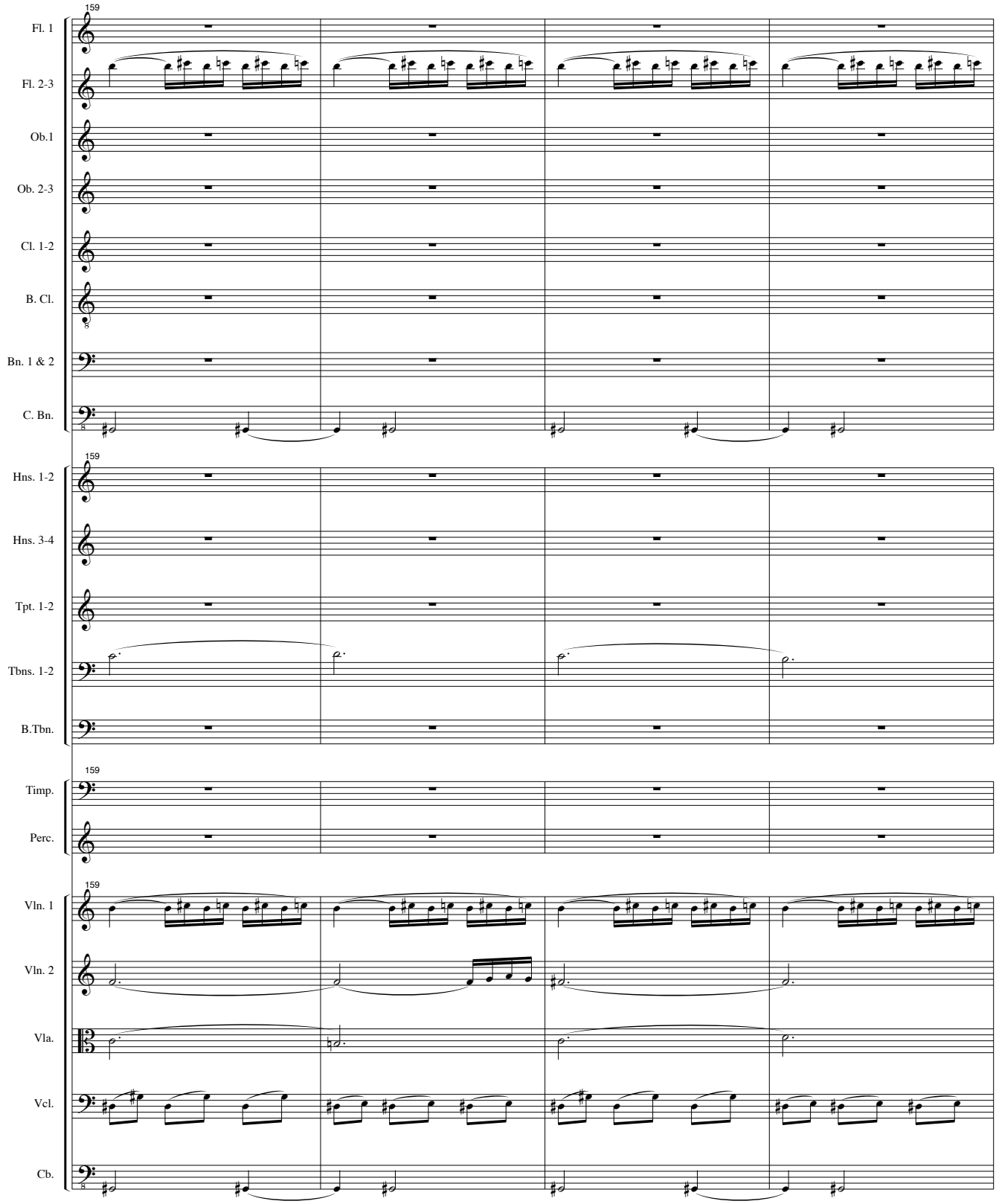

139
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
open
1st
139
Hns. 1-2
pp
Hns. 3-4
muted
Tpt. 1-2
pp
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
139
Timp.
Perc.
139
Vln. 1
mp
Vln. 2
mp
Vla.
ppp
Vcl.
ppp
Cb.
ppp

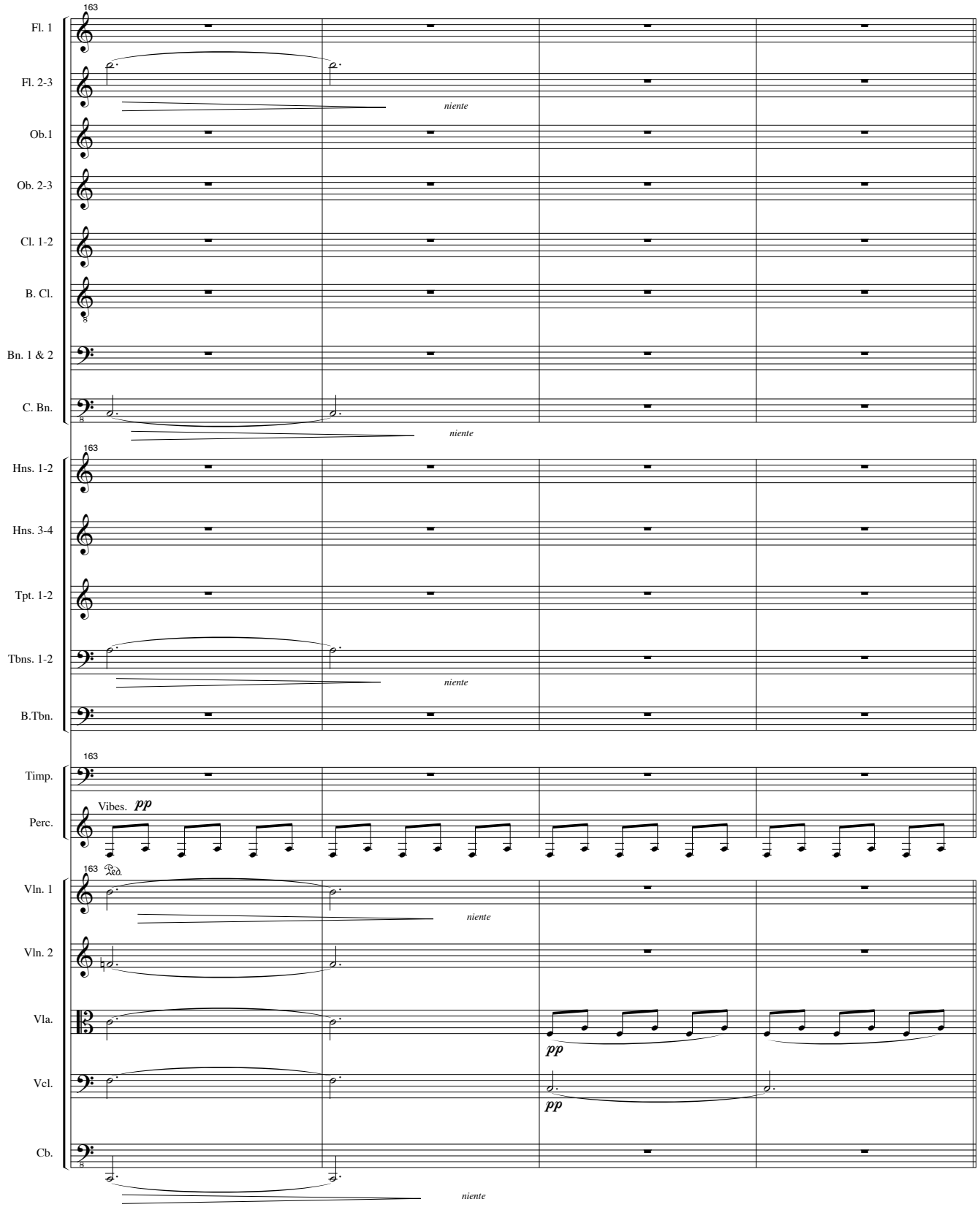

143
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
espressivo
ppp
mp
1st
mp
espressivo
pp
143
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
143
Timp.
Perc.
3:2
143
Vln. 1
3:2
Vln. 2
Vla.
pp
Vcl.
pp
Cb.


Rit...
a tempo più mosso (subito)
147
Fl. 1
mp
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
pp
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
pp
147
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
p
B.Tbn.
147
Timp.
Perc.
147
Vln. 1
ppp
mp
Vln. 2
Vla.
p
Vcl.
p
Cb.
pp

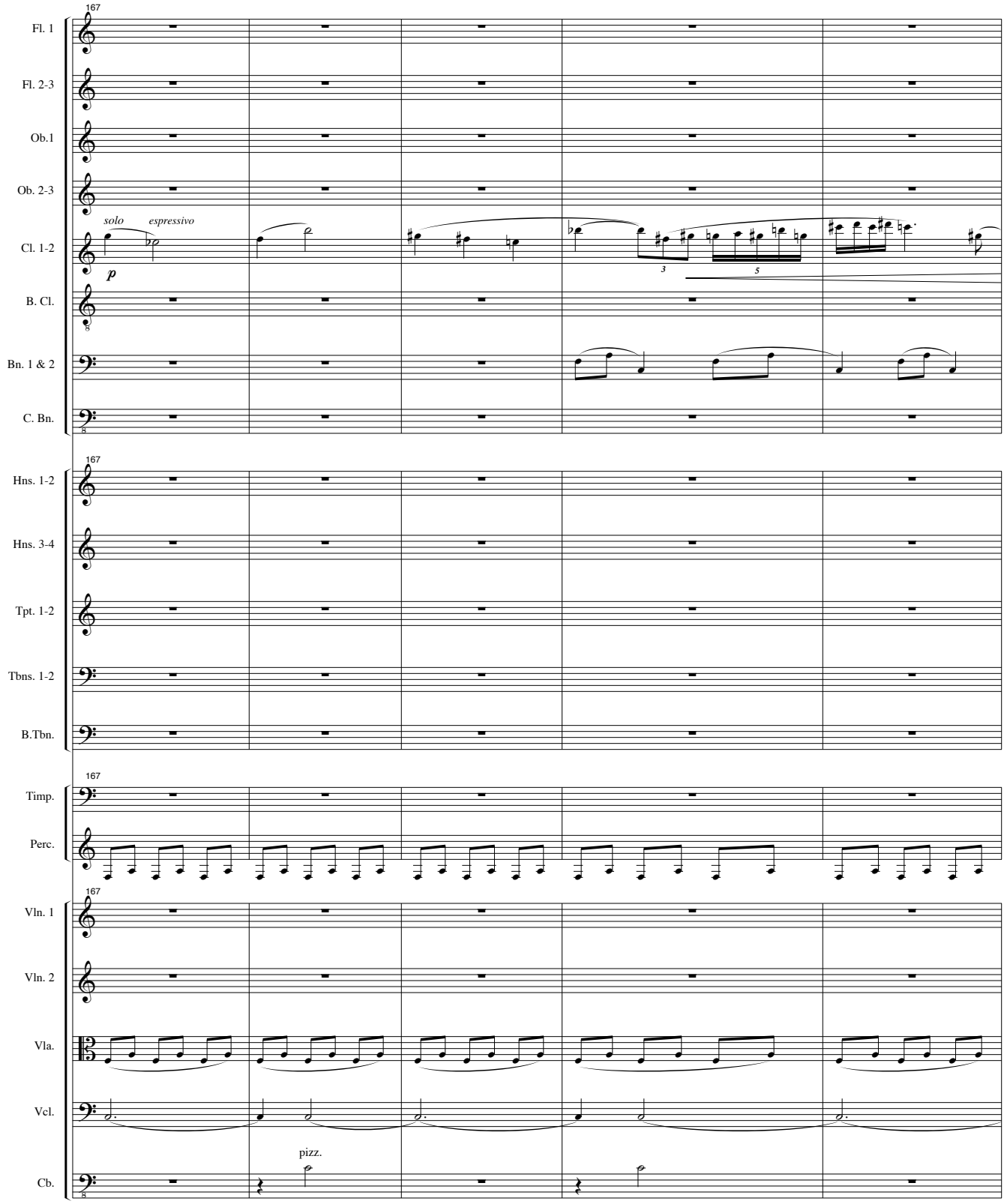

151
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
p
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
151
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
151
Timp.
Perc.
151
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
p
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
p

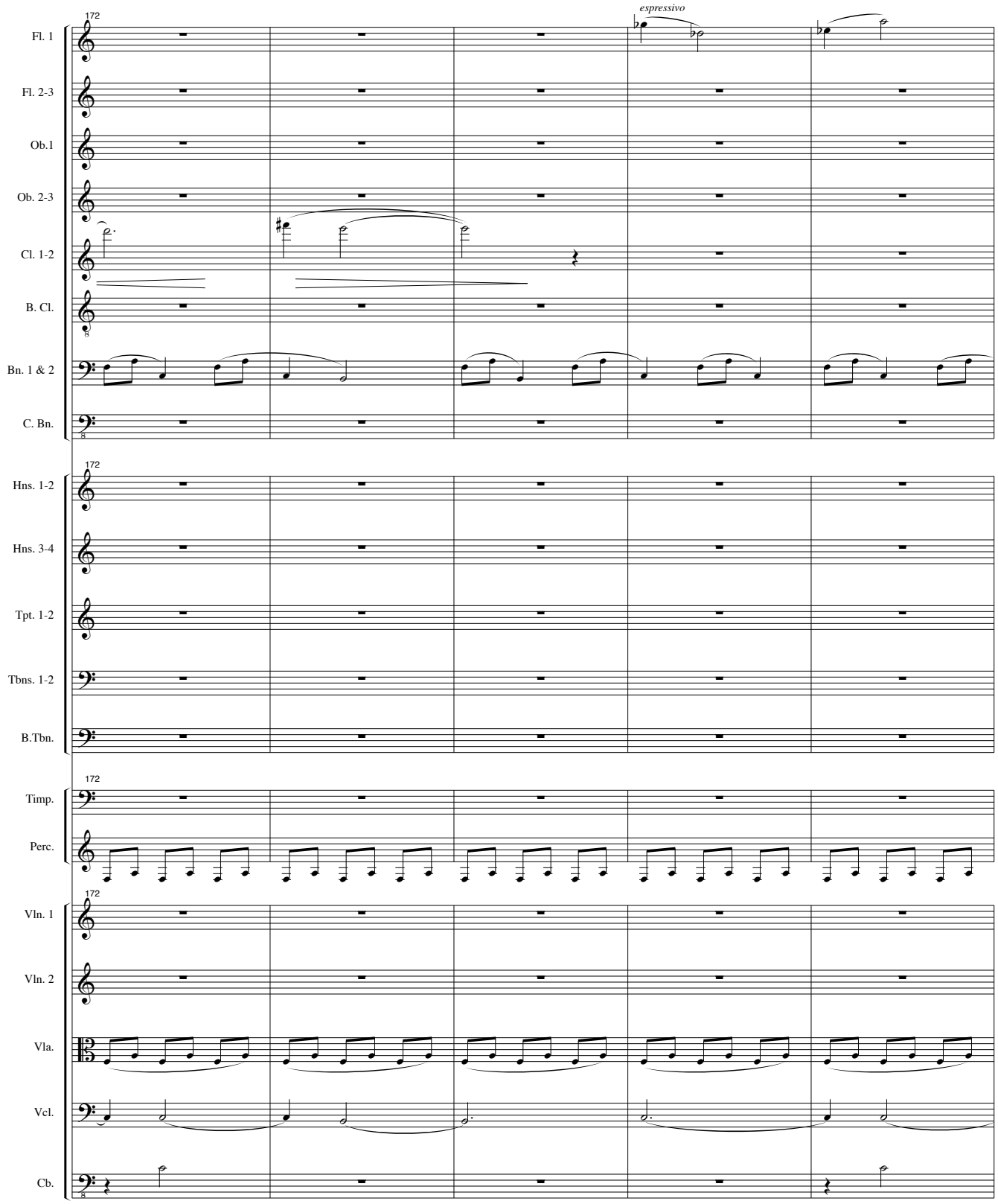

155
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
p
155
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
155
Timp.
Perc.
155
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
p
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.

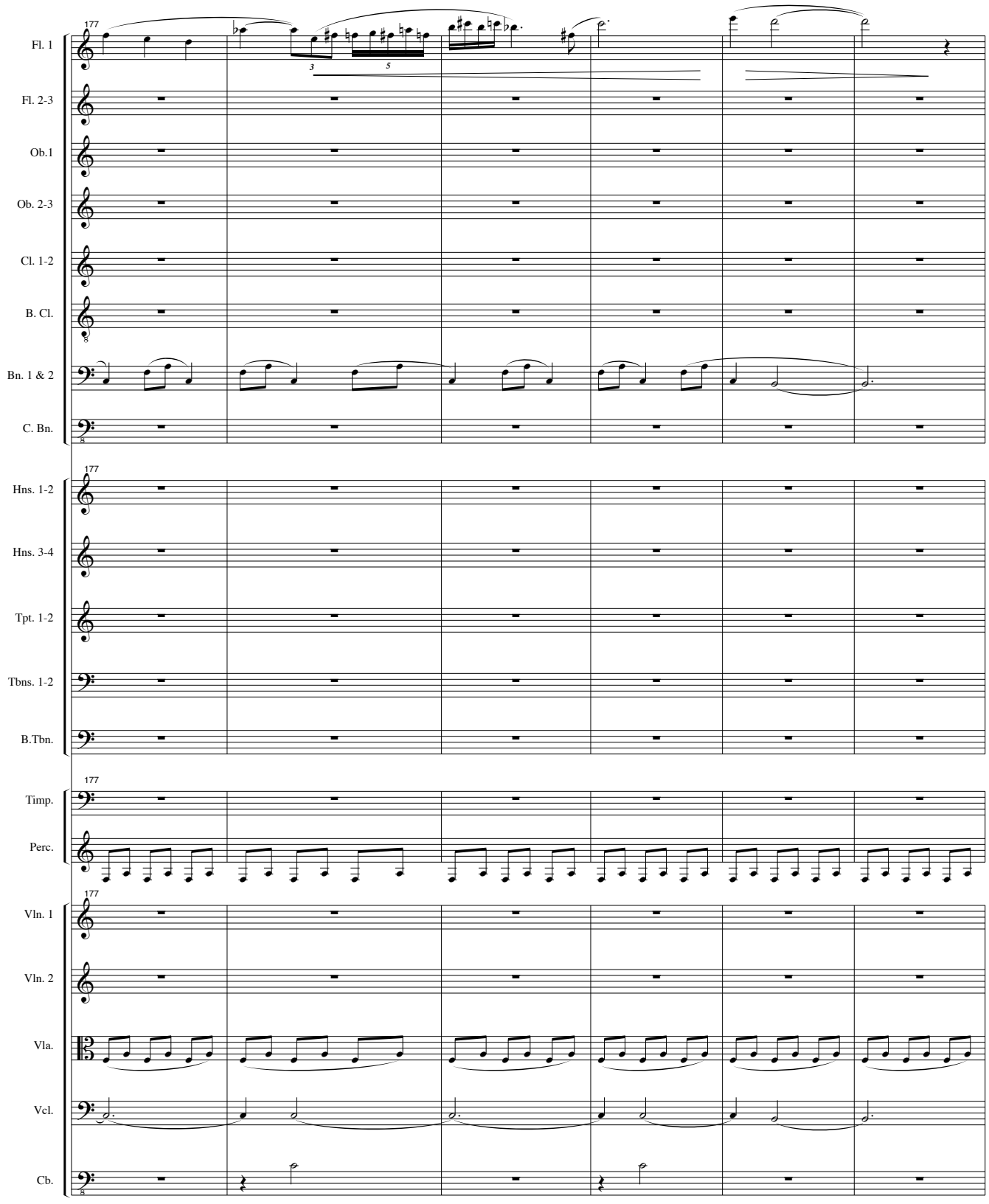

159
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
159
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
159
Timp.
Perc.
159
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.

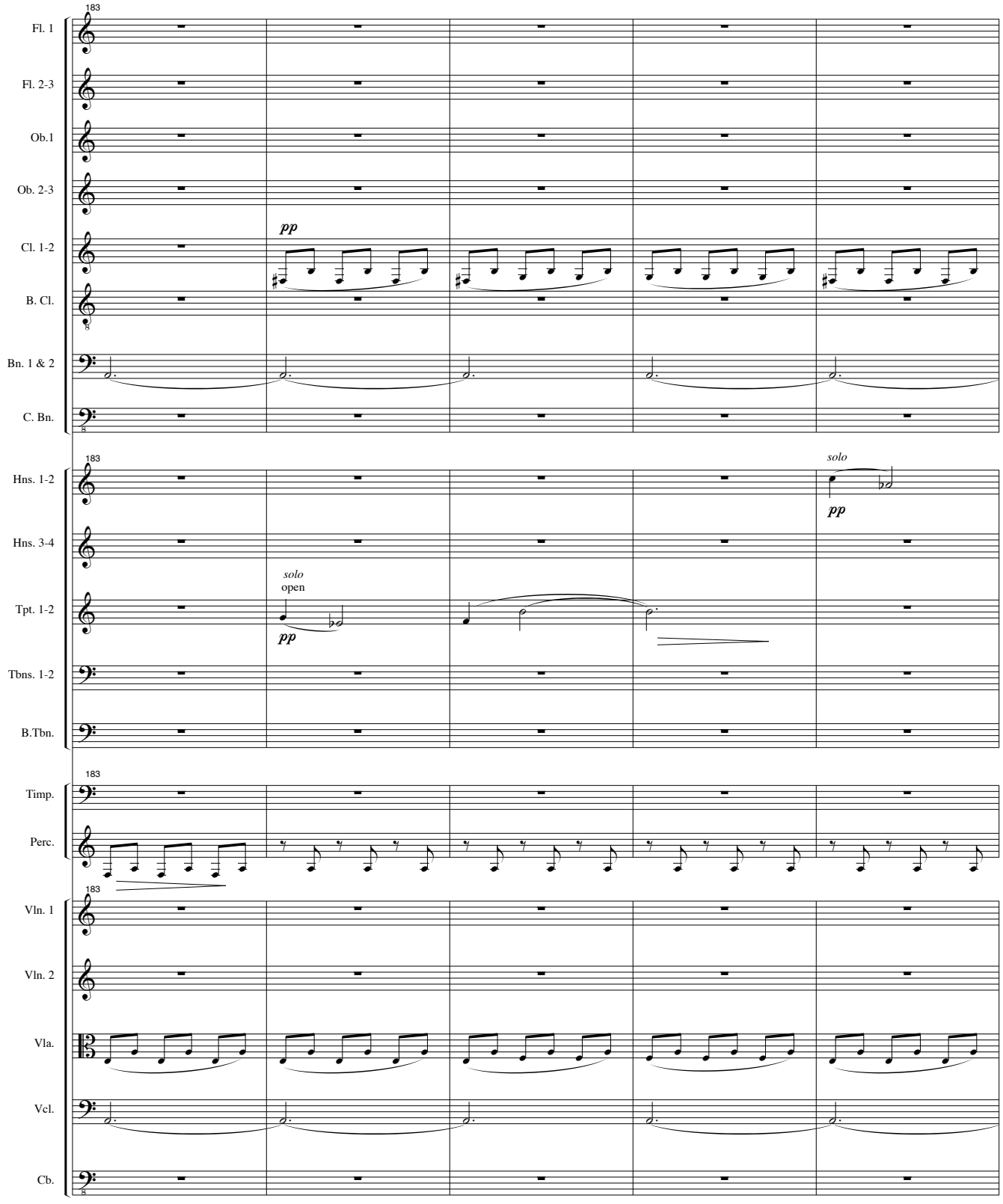

163
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
niente
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
niente
163
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
niente
B.Tbn.
163
Timp.
Perc.
Vibes. pp
163
Ped.
Vln. 1
niente
Vln. 2
Vla.
pp
Vcl.
pp
Cb.
niente

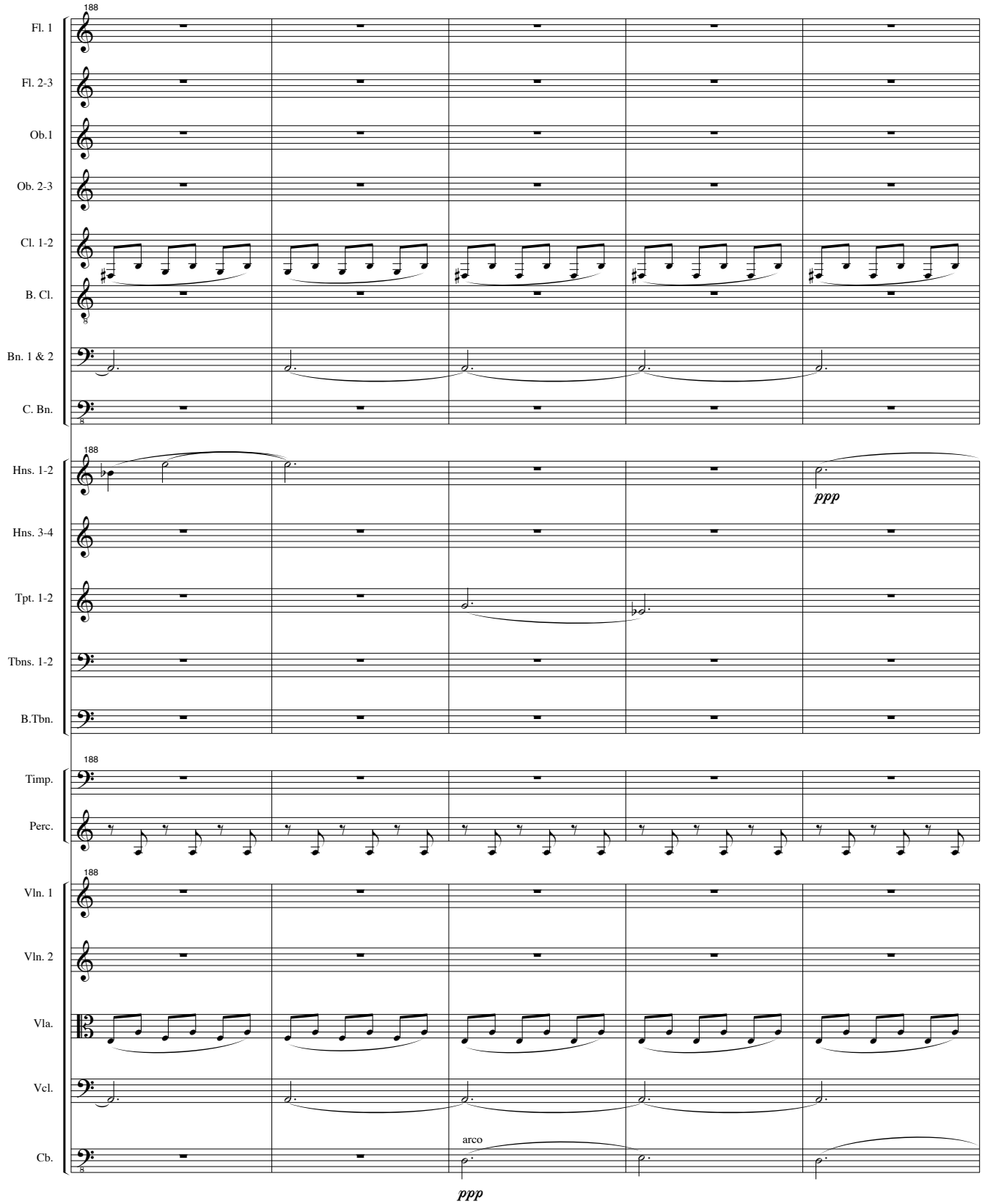
Variation XII

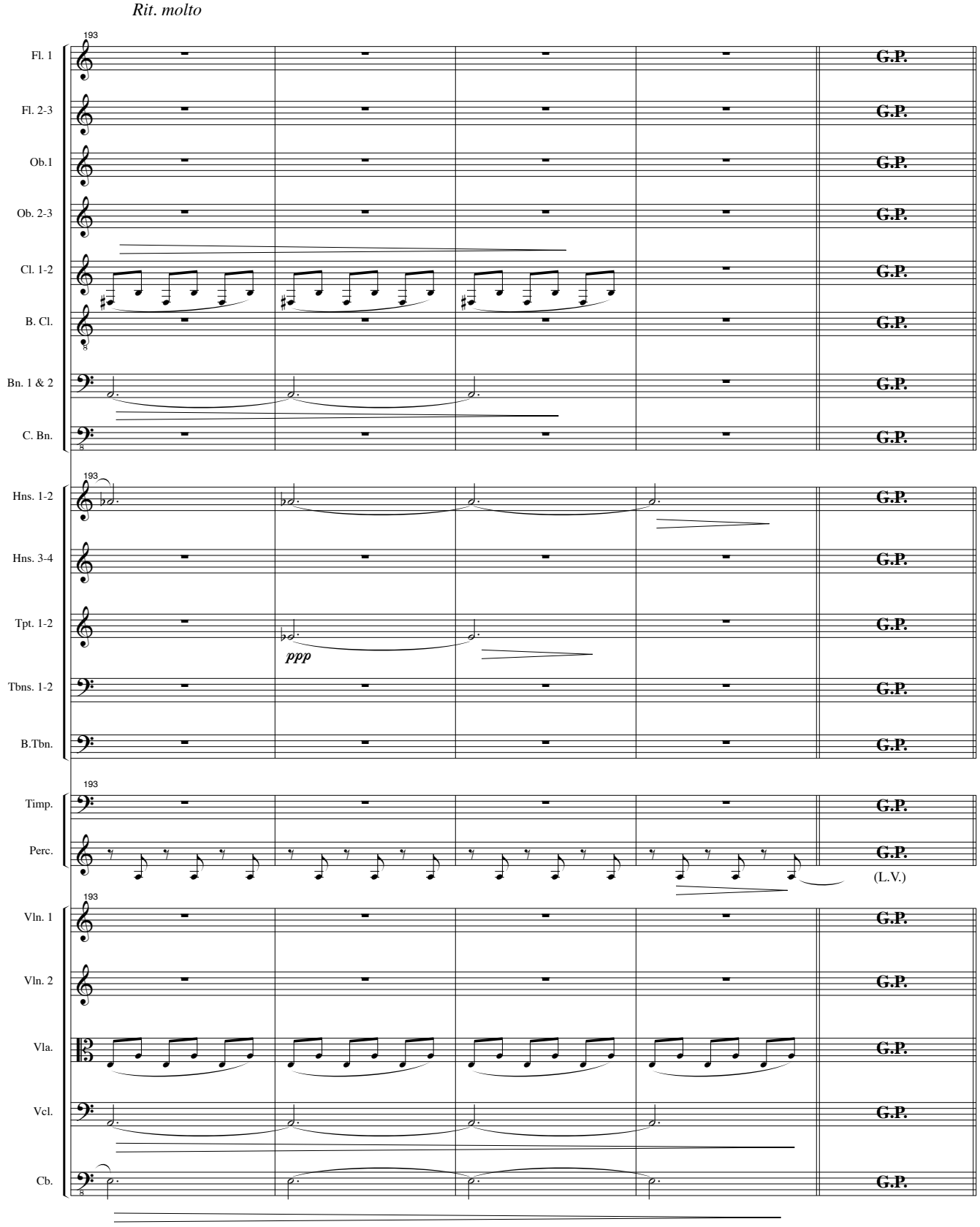


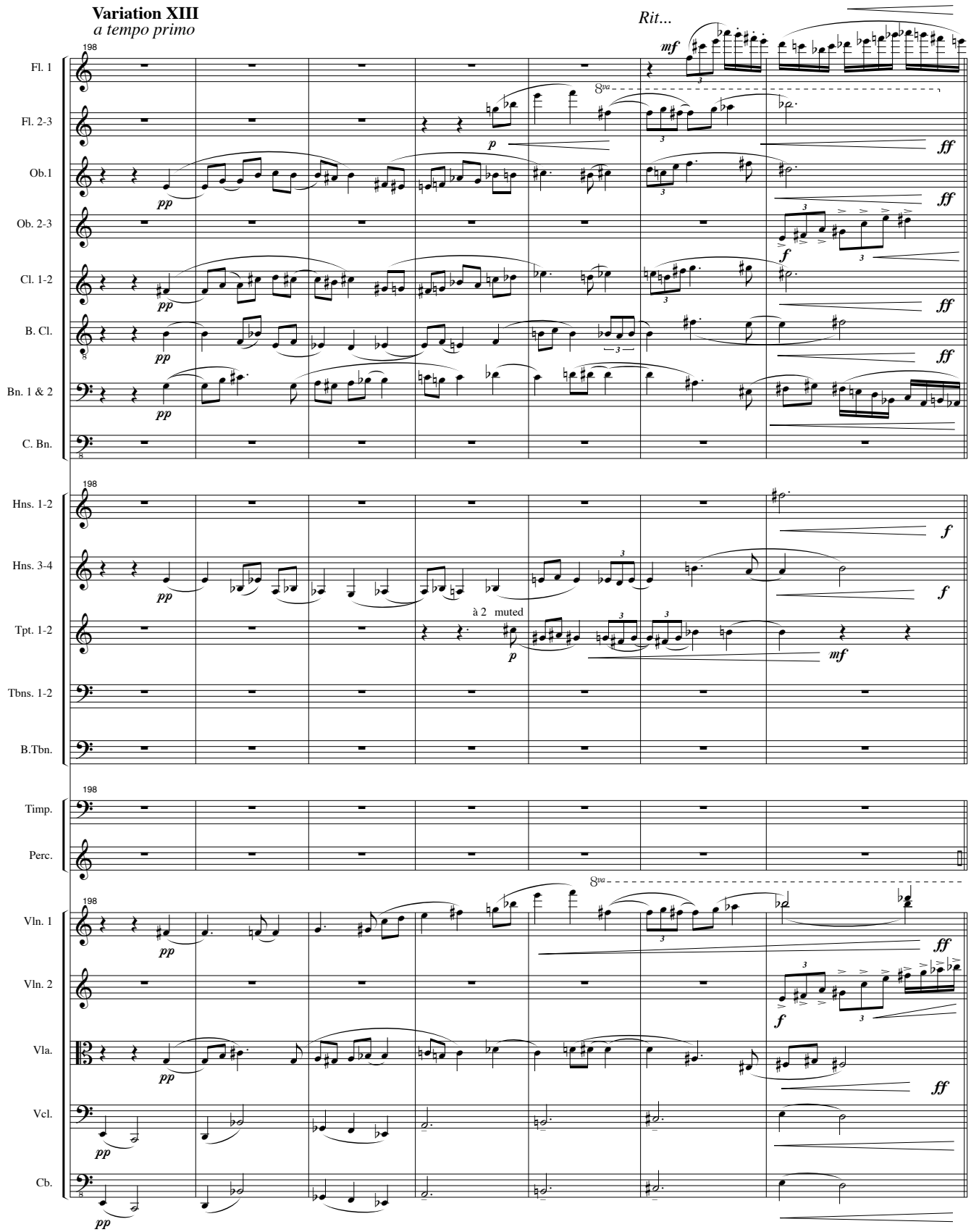

172
espressivo
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
172
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
172
Timp.
Perc.
172
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.


177
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.

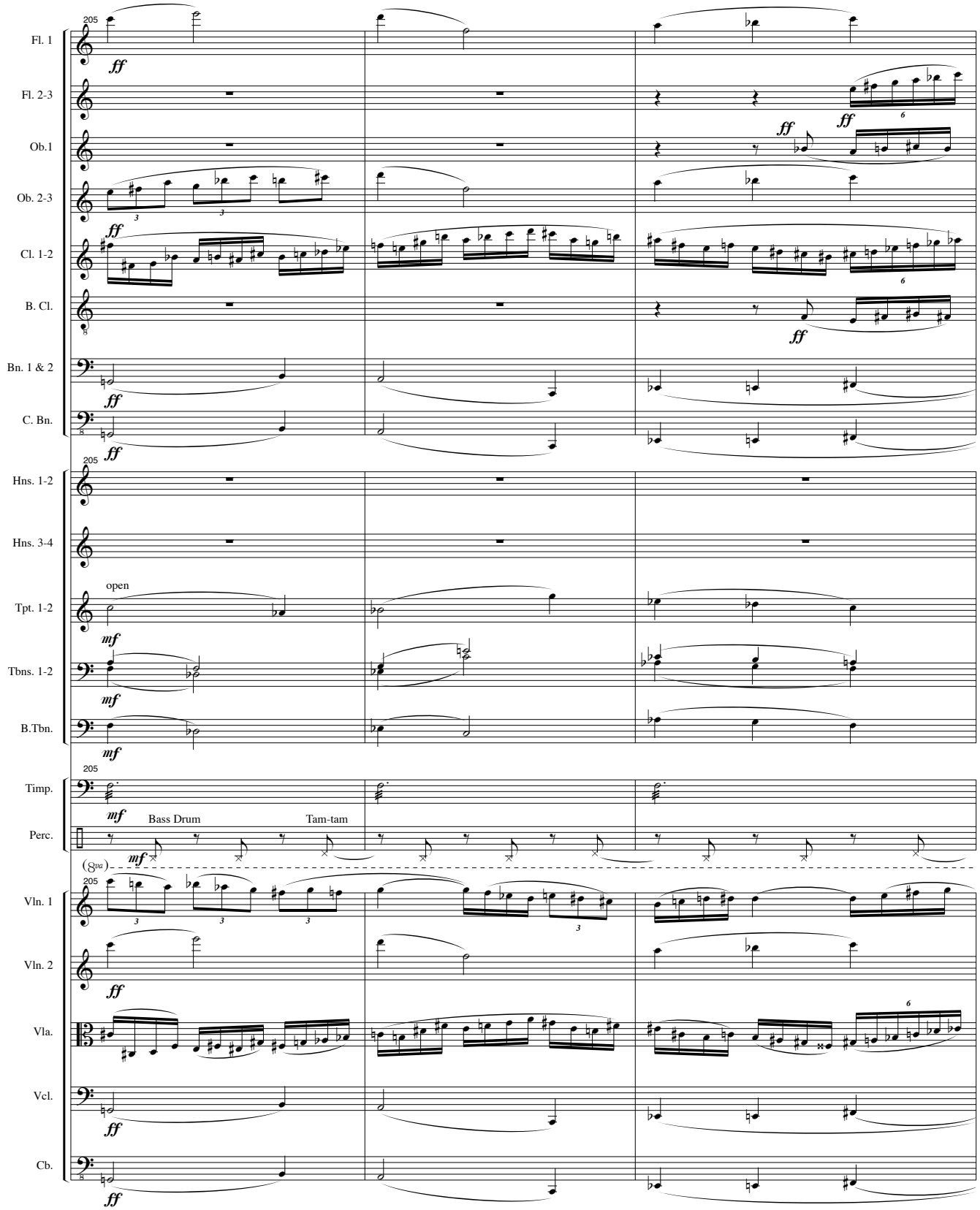

183
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
pp
183
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
solo
open
pp
solo
pp
183
Timp.
Perc.
183
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.

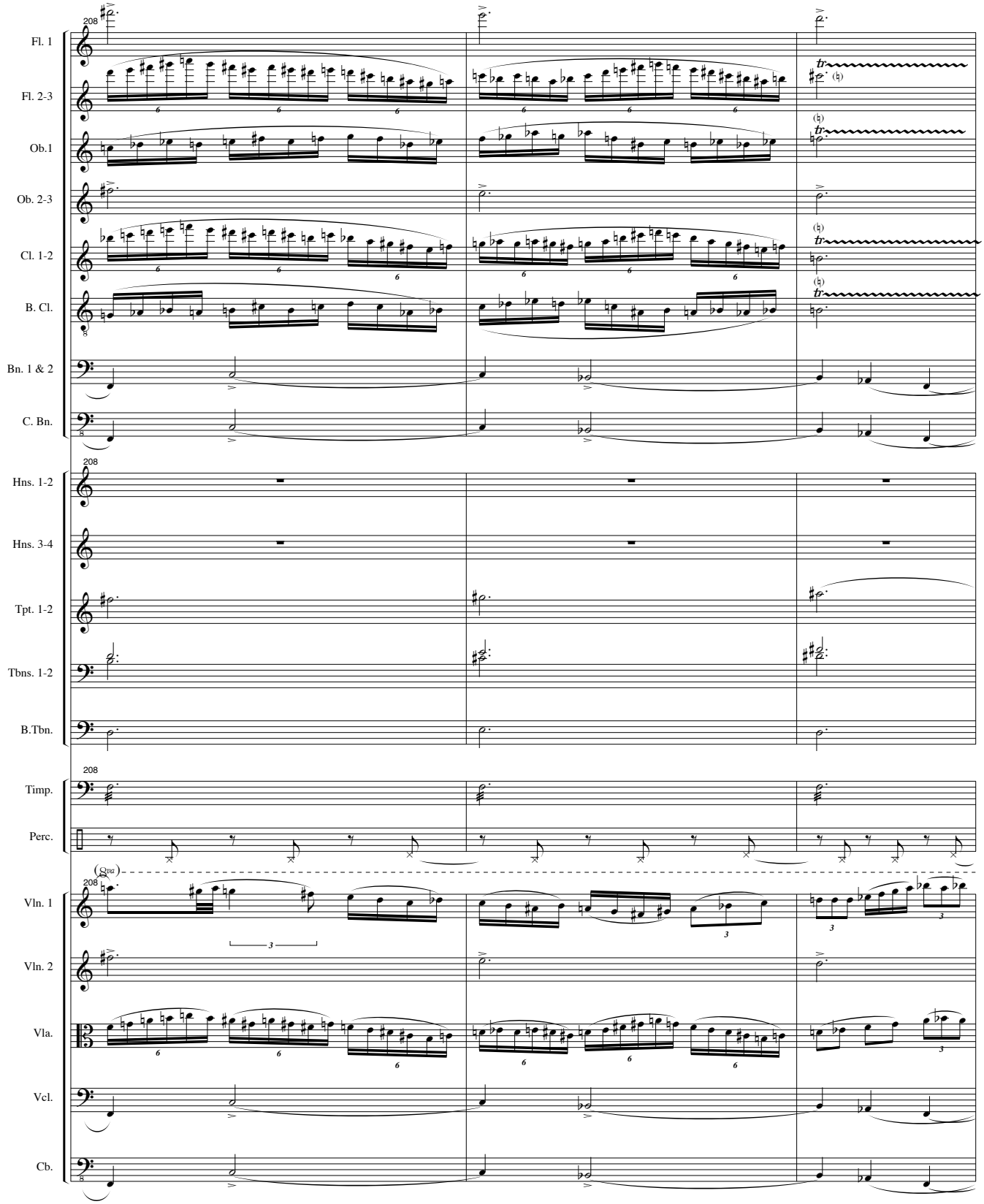

188
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
188
Hns. 1-2
ppp
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
188
Timp.
Perc.
188
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
arco
ppp

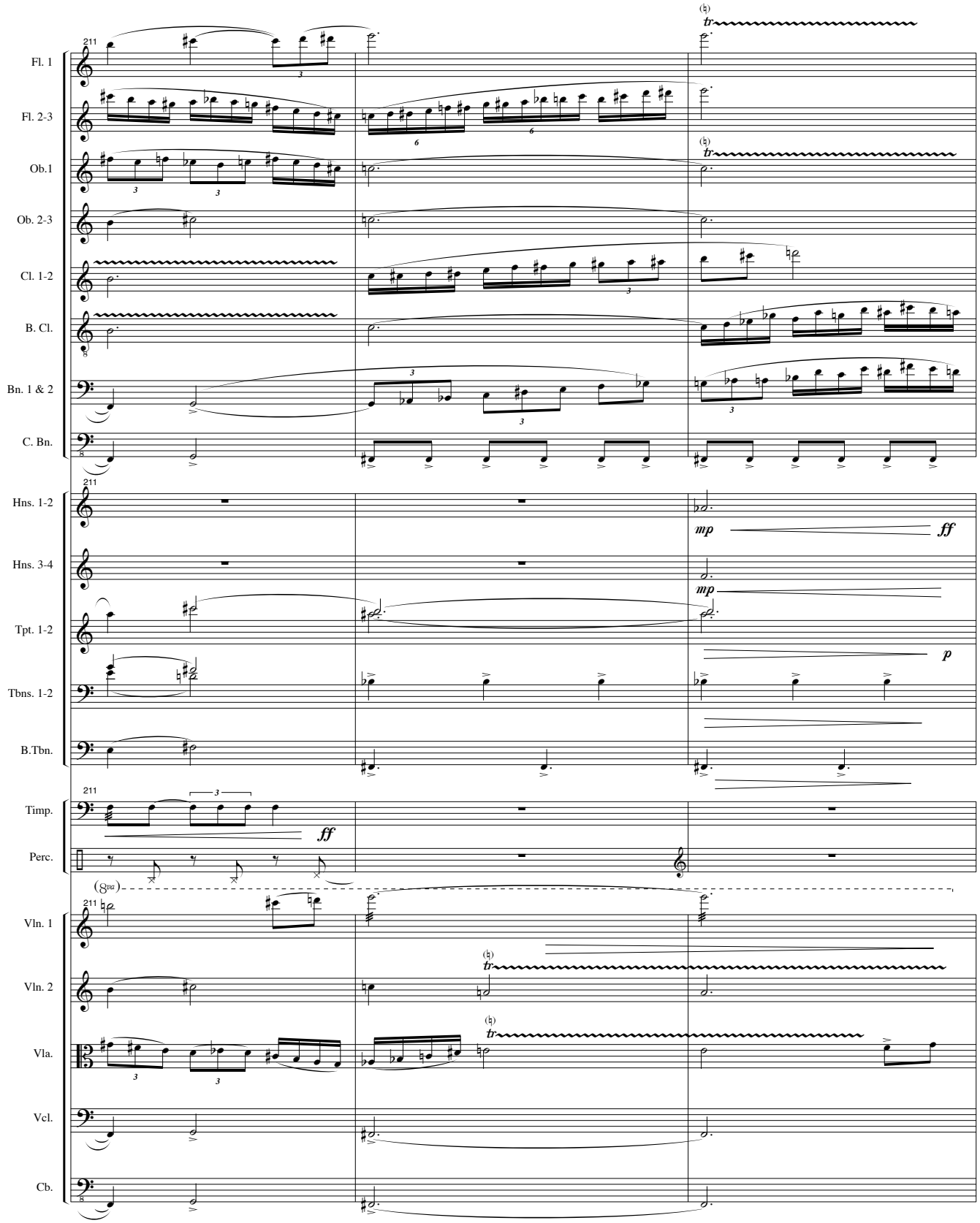

Rit. molto
193
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
ppp
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
(L.V.)
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
G.P.

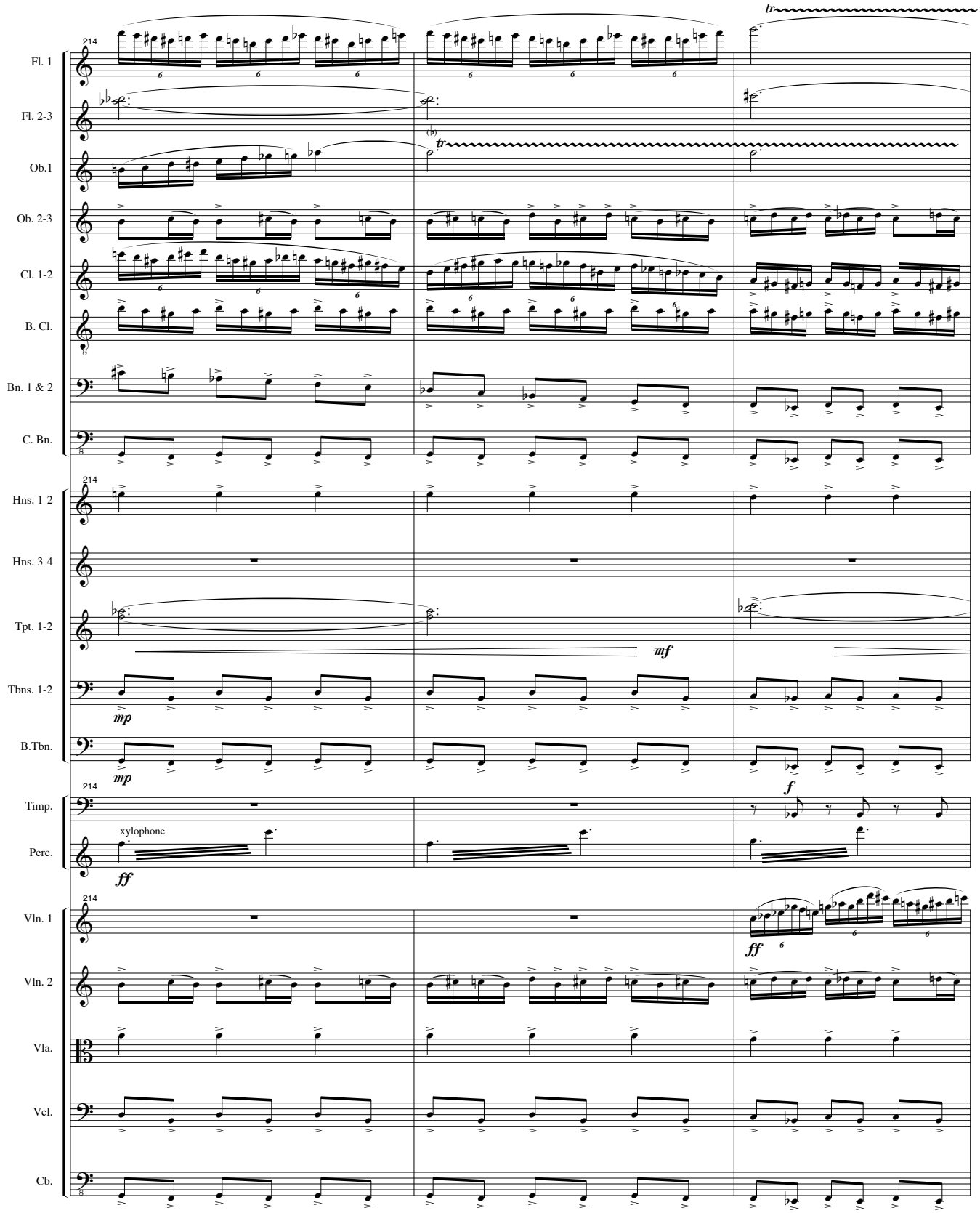

Variation XIII
a tempo primo
Rit...
198
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
à 2 muted
8va
pp
p
mf
f
ff

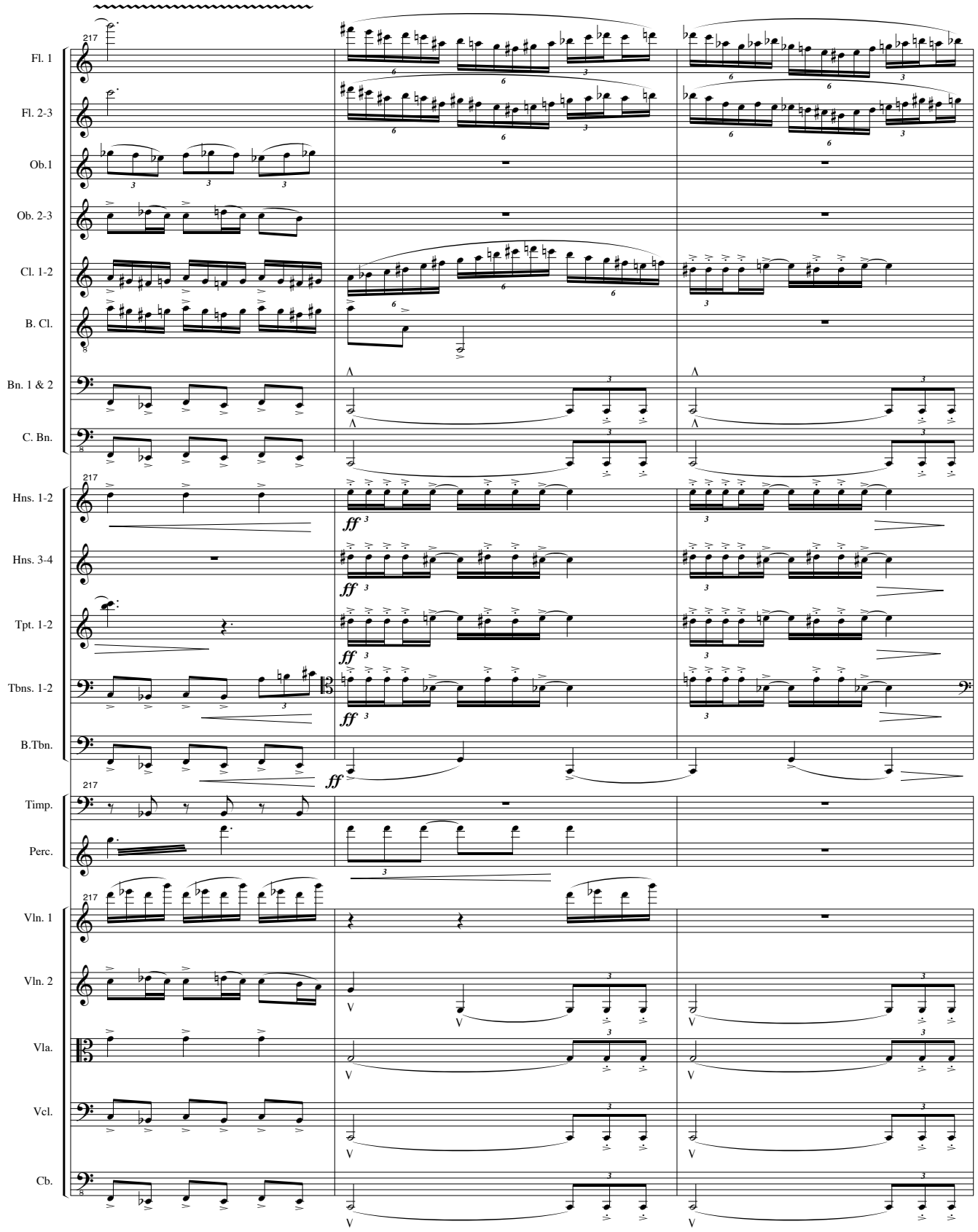
Variation XIV and Coda

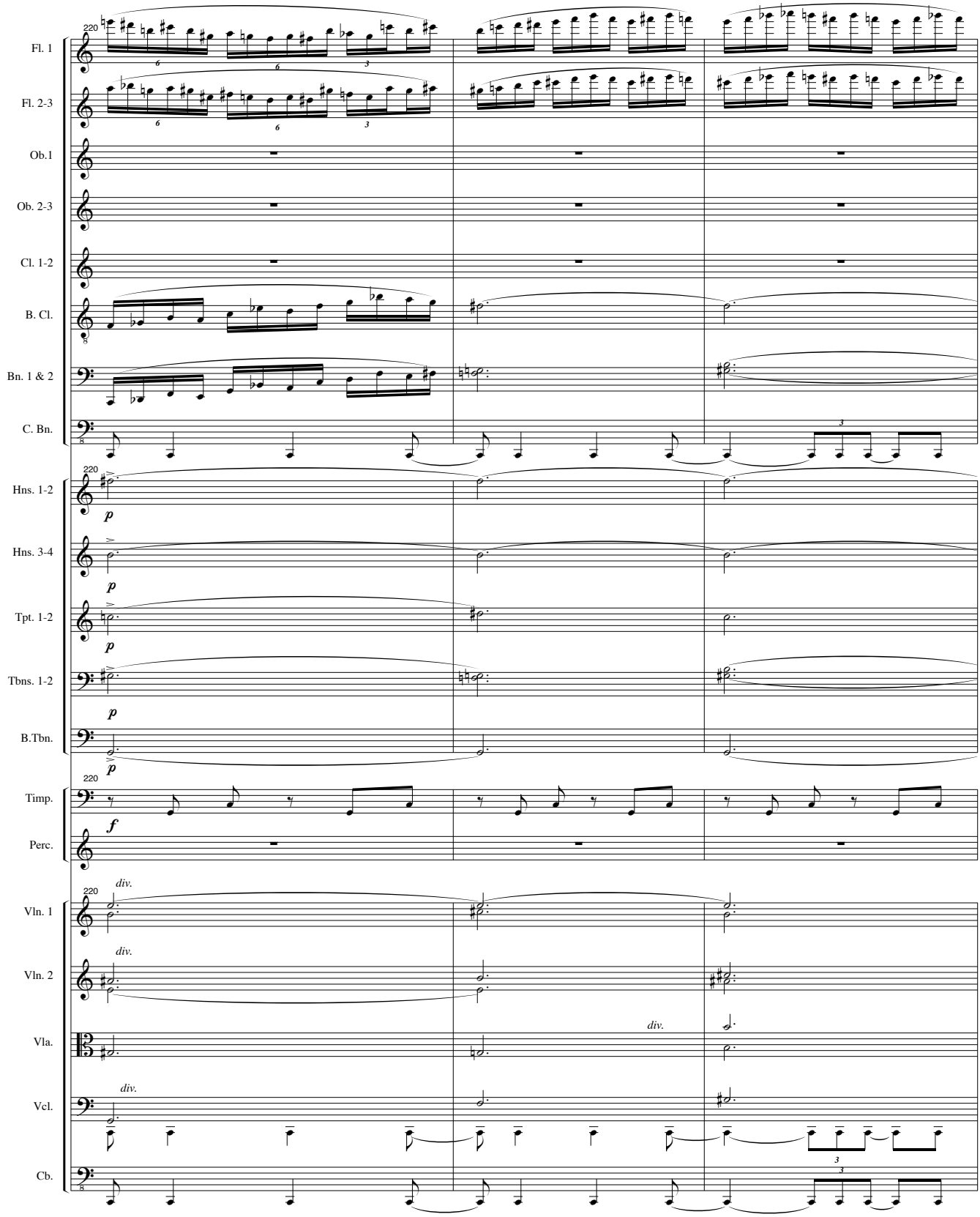


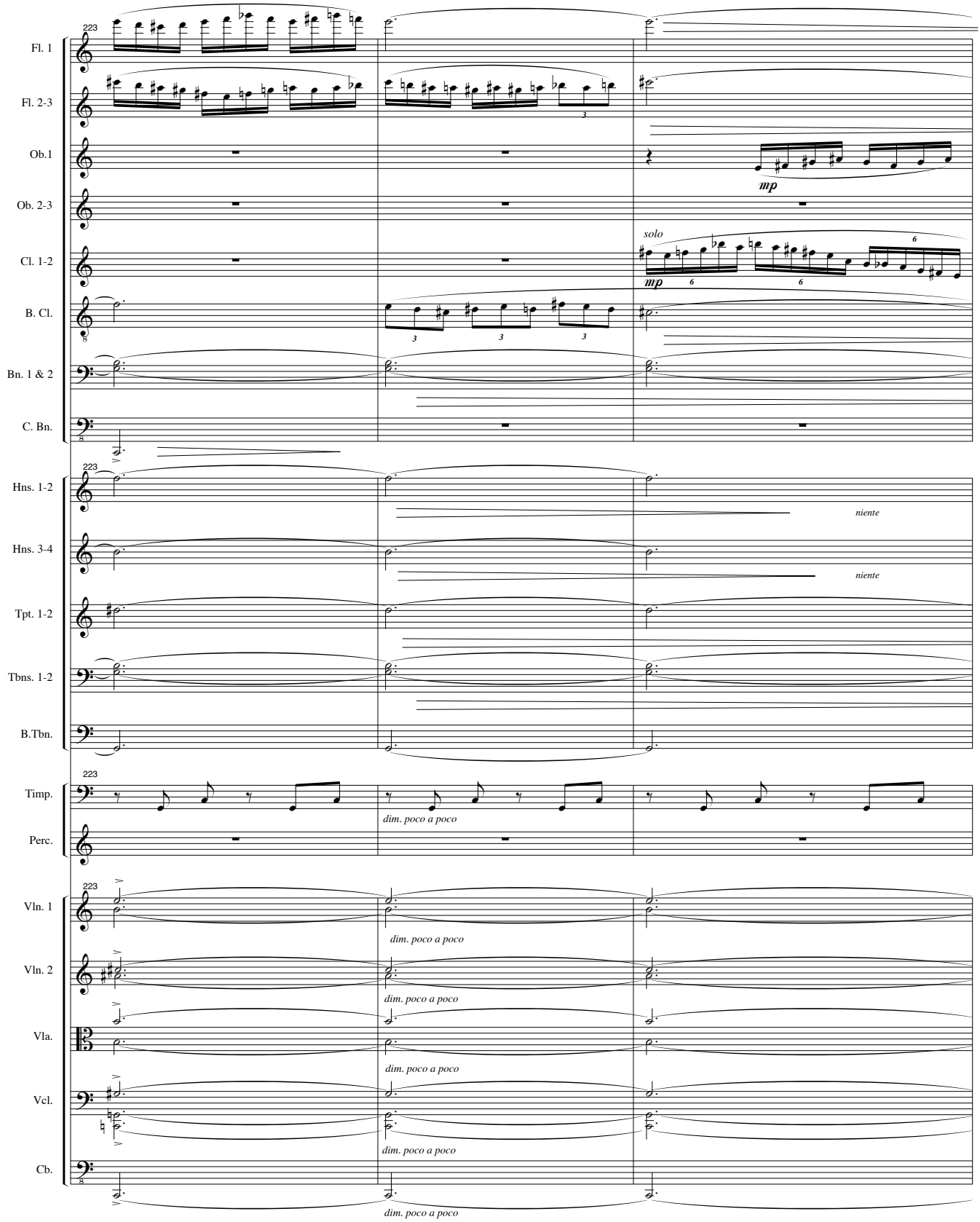

208
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
208
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
208
Timp.
Perc.
(8va)
208
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.

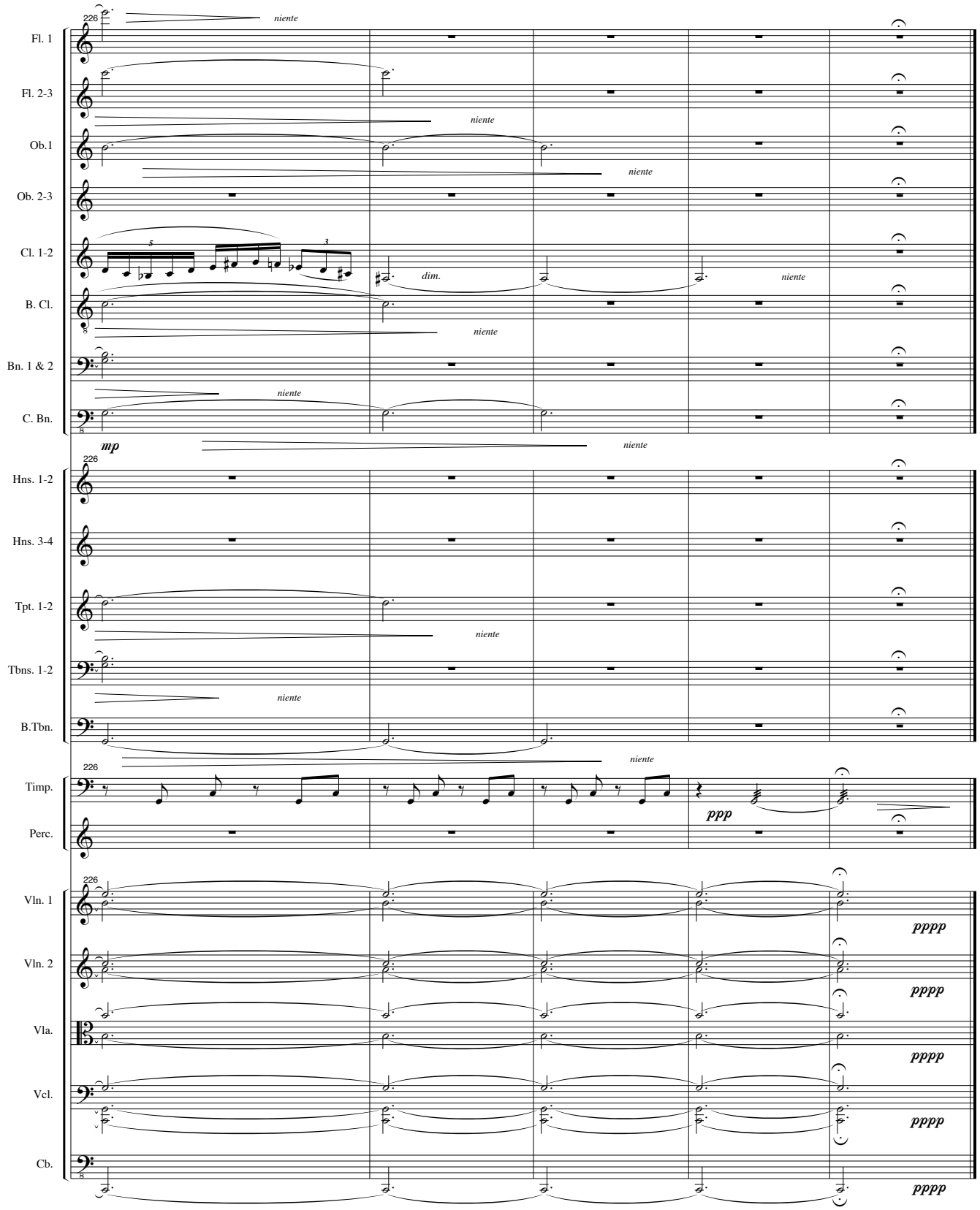

211
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
tr
mp
ff
p
(8va)


214
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
xylophone
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
tr
mf
mp
f
ff


217
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
ff


220
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
p
f
div.


223
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
mp
solo
mp
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
niente
niente
Timp.
Perc.
dim. poco a poco
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
dim. poco a poco
dim. poco a poco
dim. poco a poco
dim. poco a poco
dim. poco a poco


226
Fl. 1
Fl. 2-3
Ob.1
Ob. 2-3
Cl. 1-2
B. Cl.
Bn. 1 & 2
C. Bn.
niente
dim.
mp
Hns. 1-2
Hns. 3-4
Tpt. 1-2
Tbns. 1-2
B.Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
ppp
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.
pppp