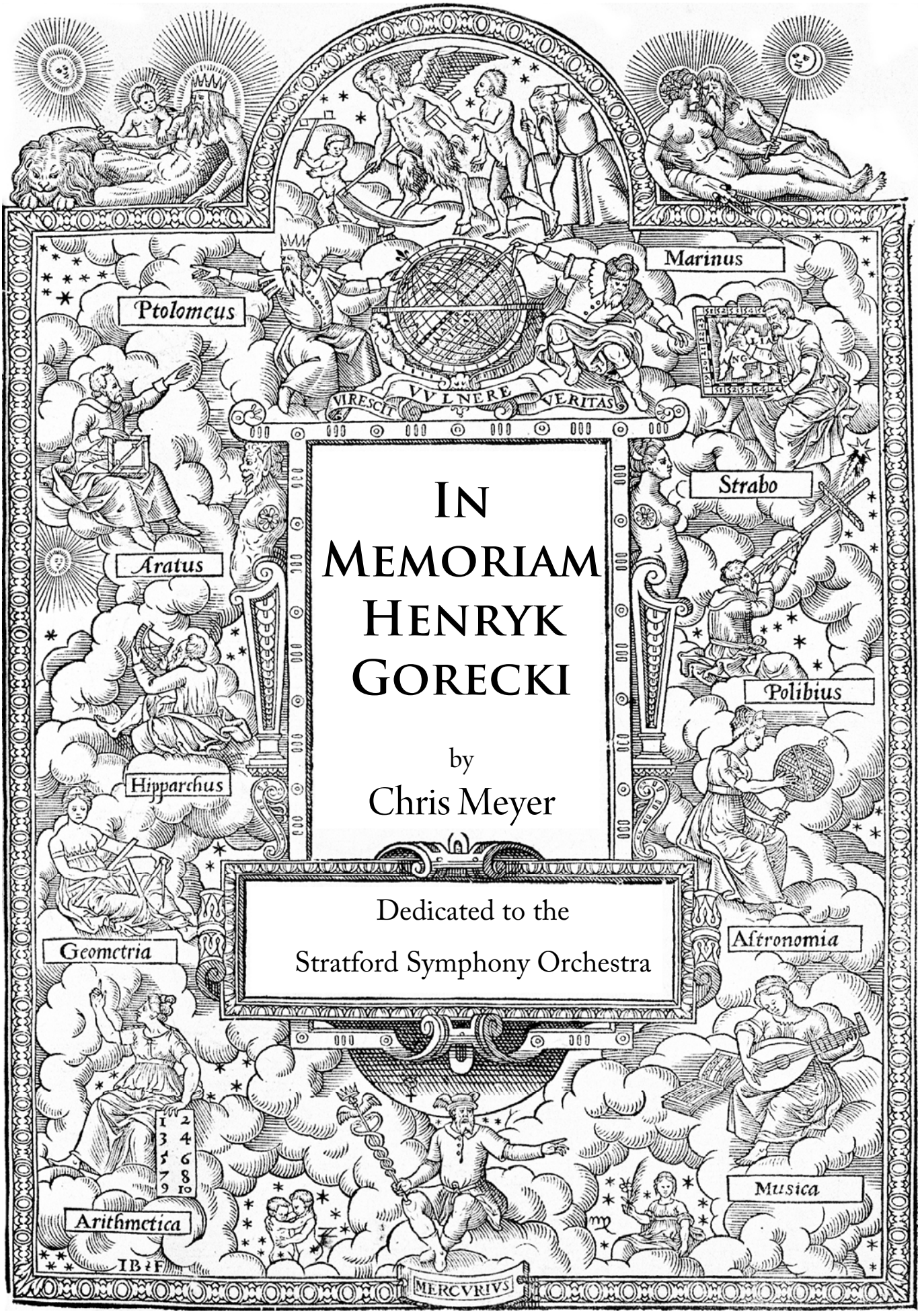


In Memoriam Henryk Gorecki

by

Chris Meyer

Dedicated to the

Stratford Symphony Orchestra

In Memoriam Henryk Gorecki

Performance Notes

The Polish composer **Henryk Mikołaj Górecki** died on Friday, November 12, 2010. I first became acquainted with his work as a teenager when a very cool friend of mine handed me a cassette tape. My friend said that this was all the rage in Britain, even making it onto the billboard charts. I looked at the case, titled *Symphony No.3,* with a composer's name that didn't match my friend's pronunciation. This now-famous recording unveiled a well-established European composer to millions of music fans in Britain and North America. Gorecki is now widely recognized as a composer of great significance for our age. His musical style shrugged off the overbearing trends of avant-garde music in the 1960's, creating a new sound often called sacred minimalism. Typical is his use of simple melodic fragments that repeat and build at a very gradual pace, with great emotional directness. The new work, *In Memoriam Henryk Gorecki*, is my tribute to this composer who has had an enormous influence on me and the world of classical music.

November 20, 2010

Chris Meyer

Orchestration

Violins I, II
Violas
Cellos
Basses

Performances

Friday, November 26, 2010
at Central United Church, Stratford, Ontario
with Jerome Summers conducting
the Stratford Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, February 26, 2012
at the Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts
with Danielle Lisboa conducting
Orchestra Toronto

Timing

Approximately 7 minutes

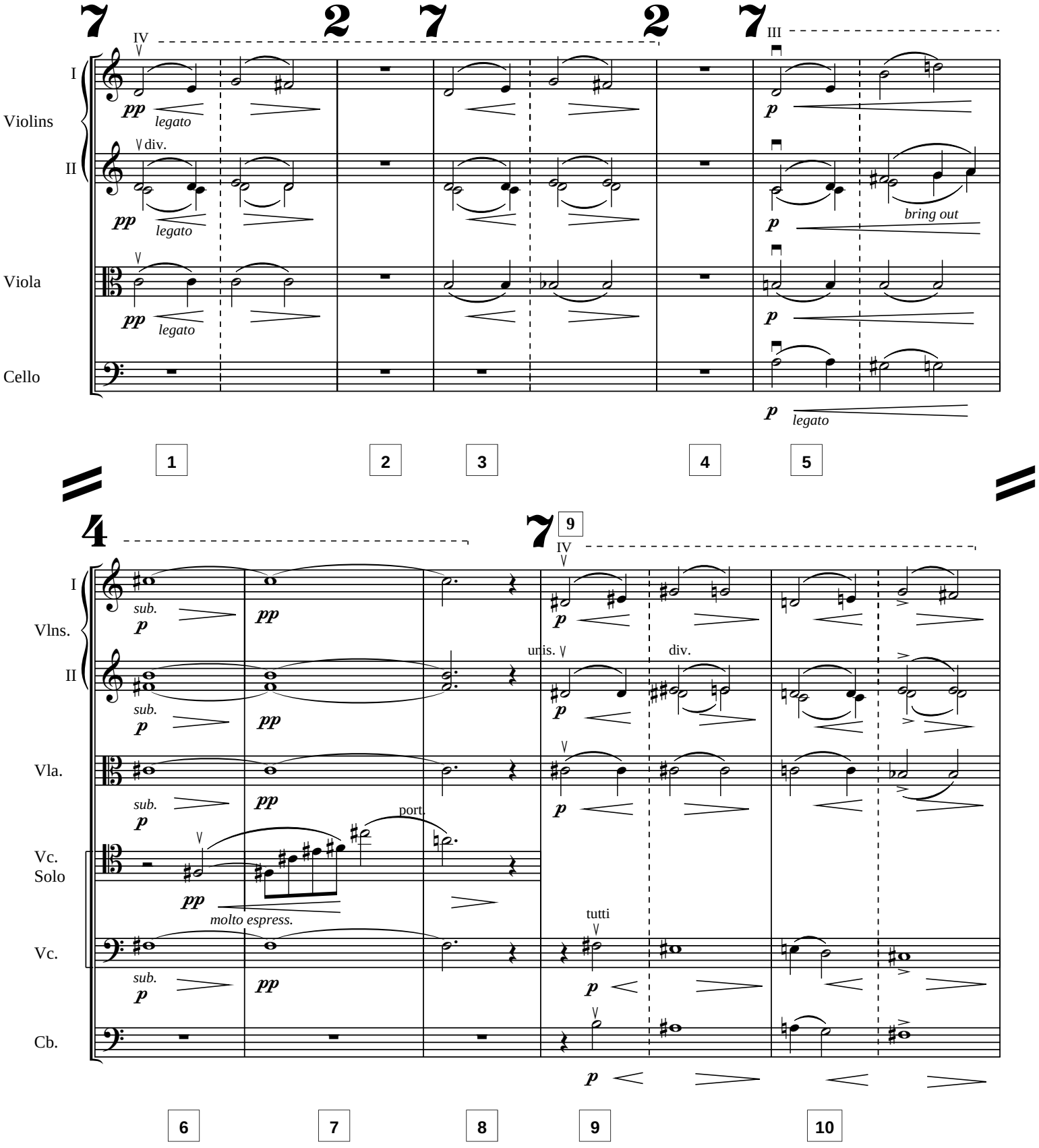
In Memoriam Henryk Gorecki

Score

Dedicated with gratitude to the Stratford Symphony Orchestra

Chris Meyer

Adagio con espressione ♩= 60



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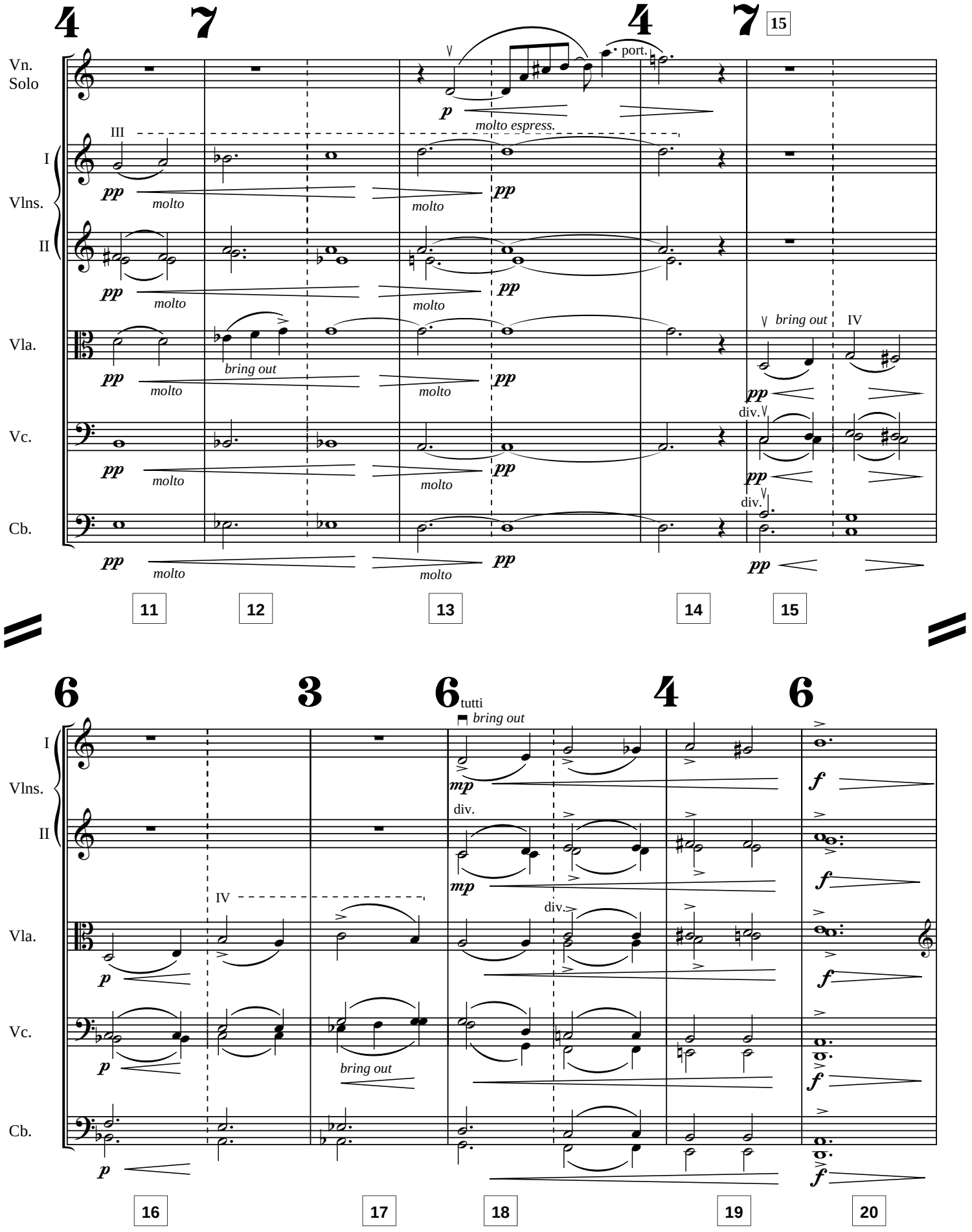
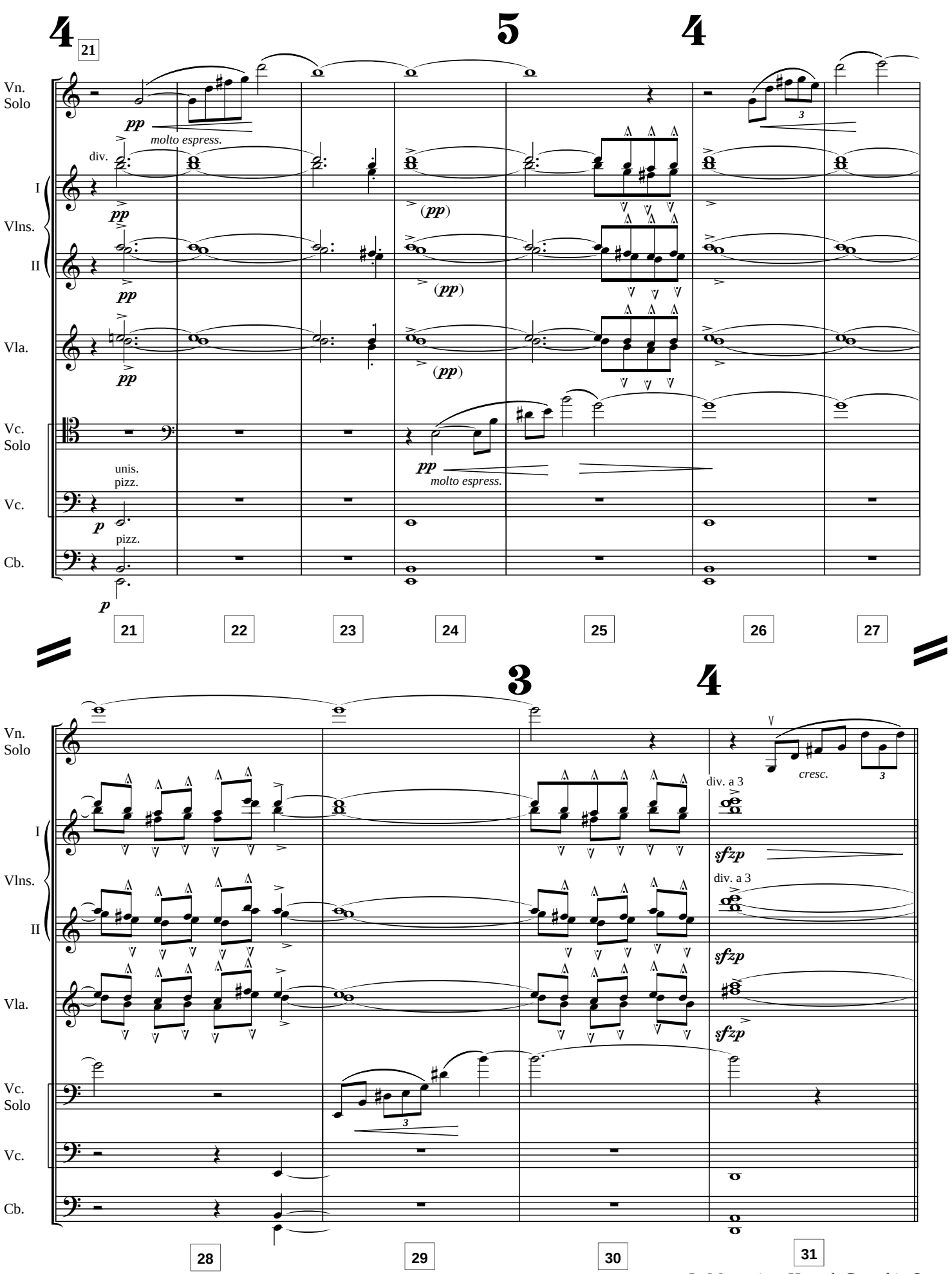
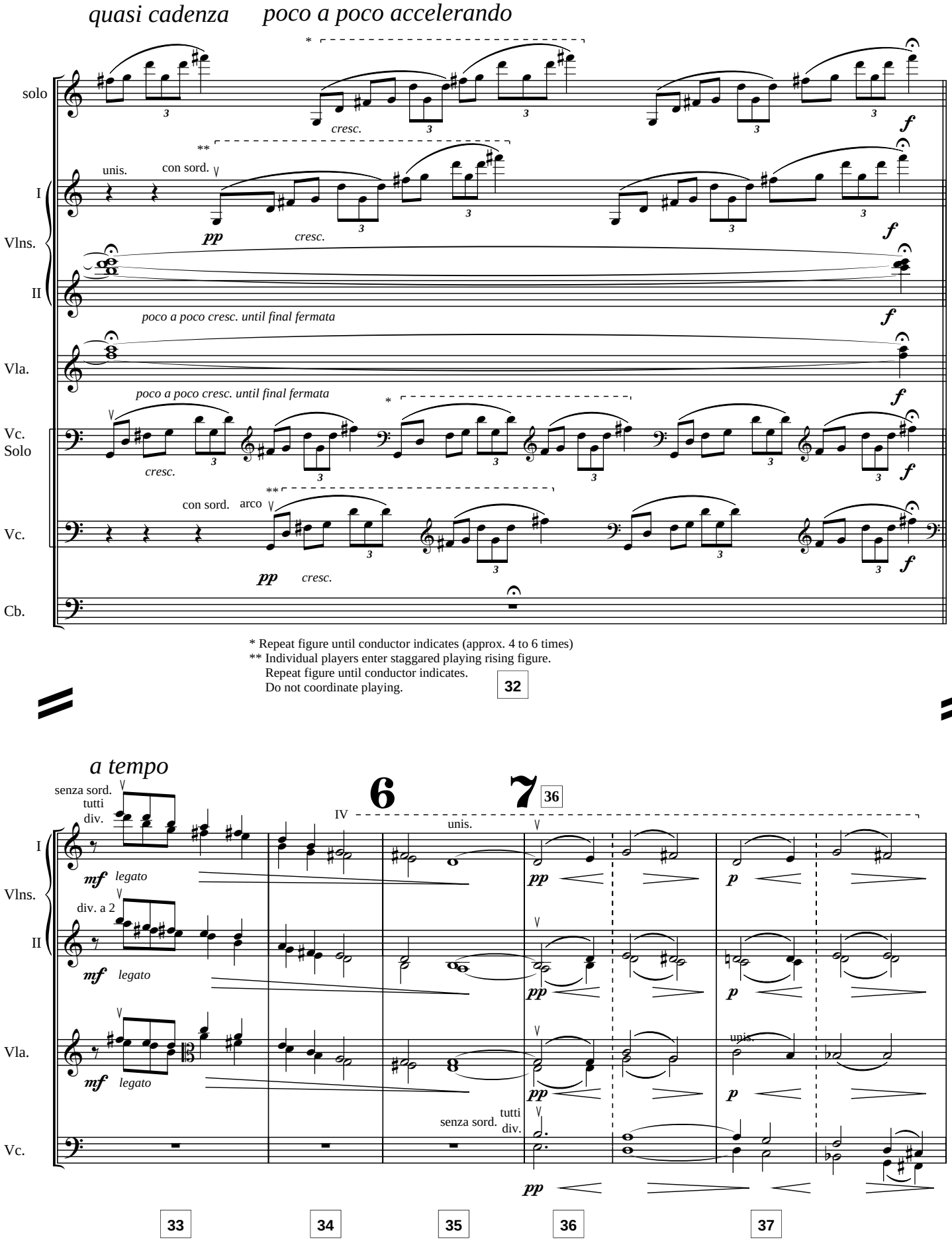
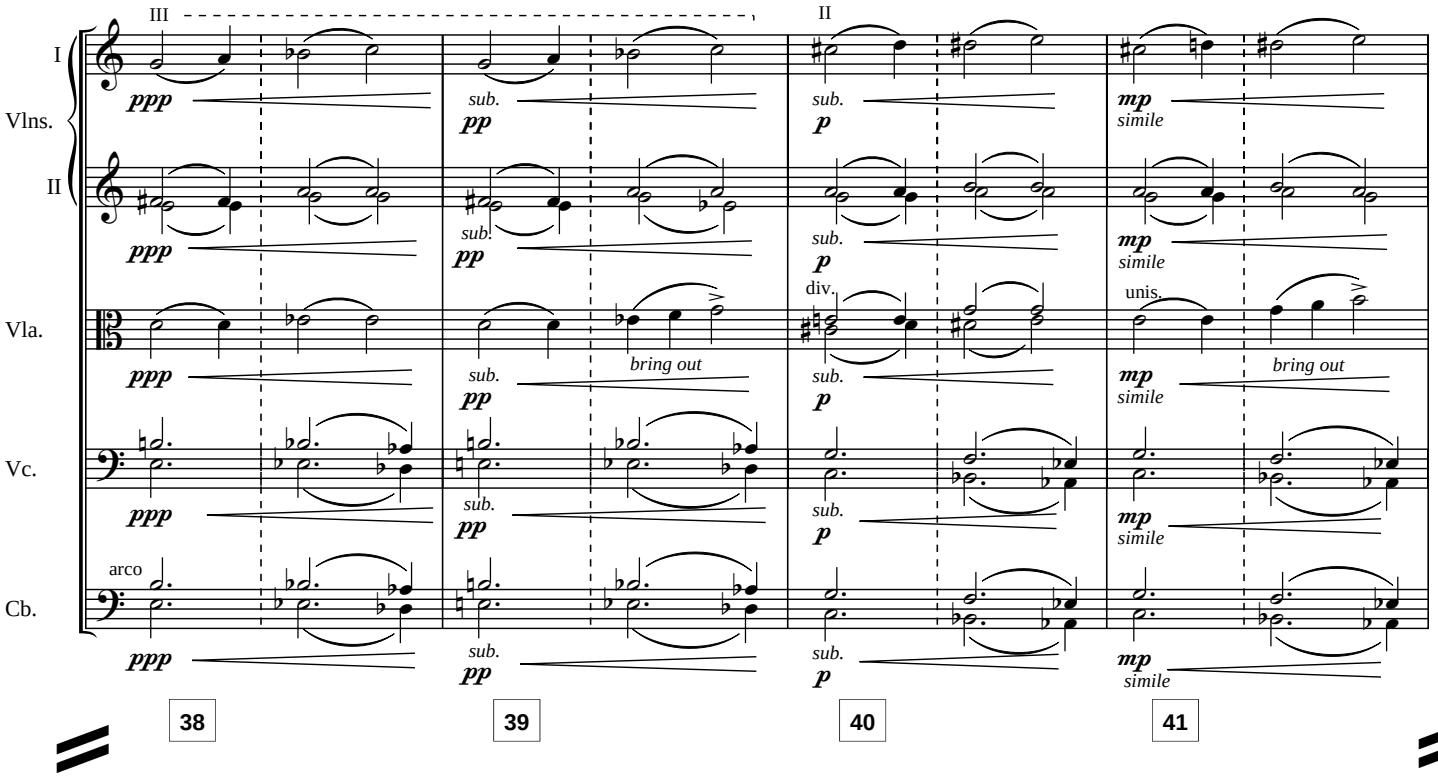

4
7
4
7
15
Vn.
Solo
port.
p
molto espress.
III
I
Vlns.
II
pp
molto
Vla.
bring out
IV
Vc.
div.
Cb.
11
12
13
14
15
6
3
6
tutti
bring out
4
6
mp
f
16
17
18
19
20

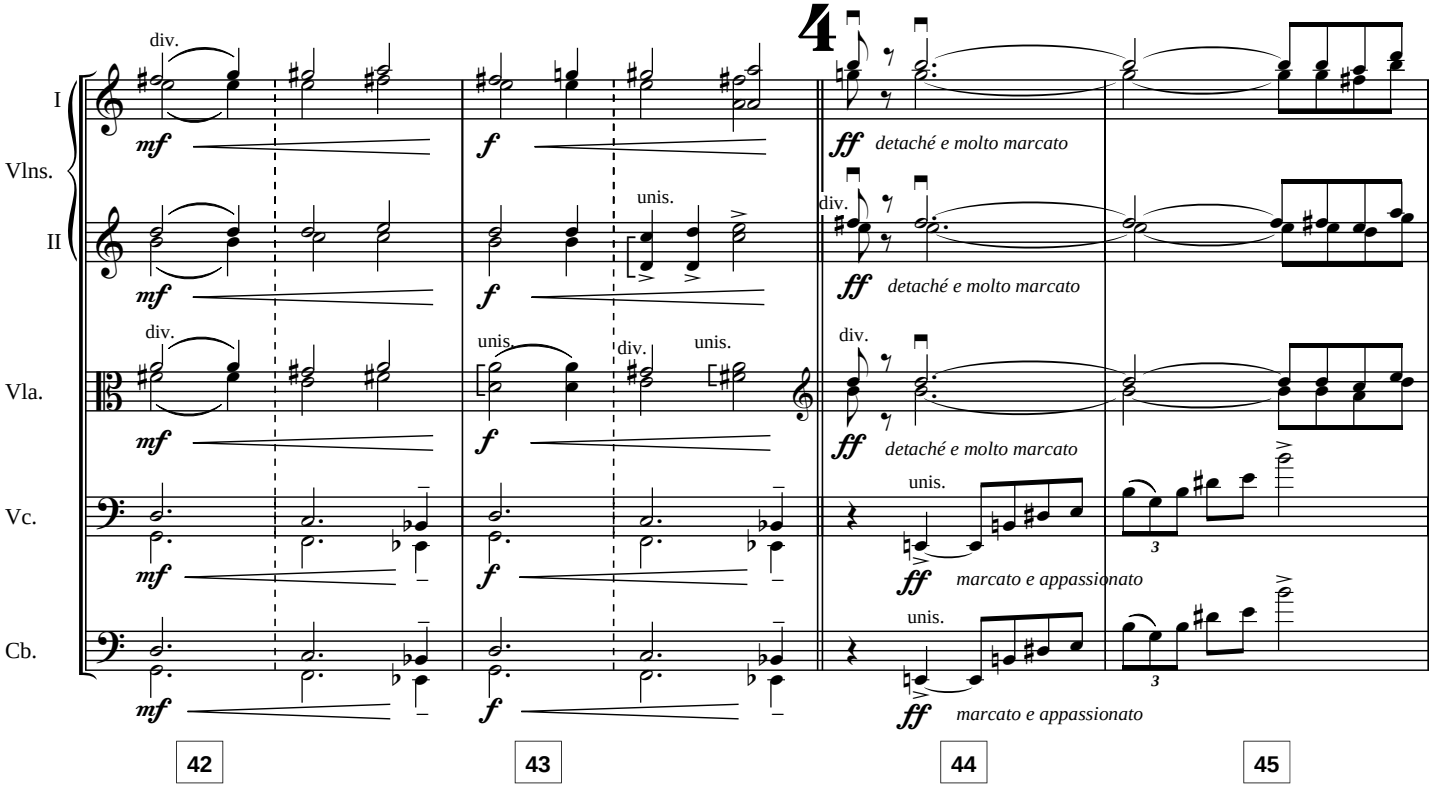

4
5
4
21
Vn.
Solo
pp
molto espress.
div.
I
Vlns.
II
pp
(pp)
Vla.
Vc.
Solo
unis.
pizz.
p
Vc.
Cb.
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
3
4
cresc.
div. a 3
sfzp
28
29
30
31

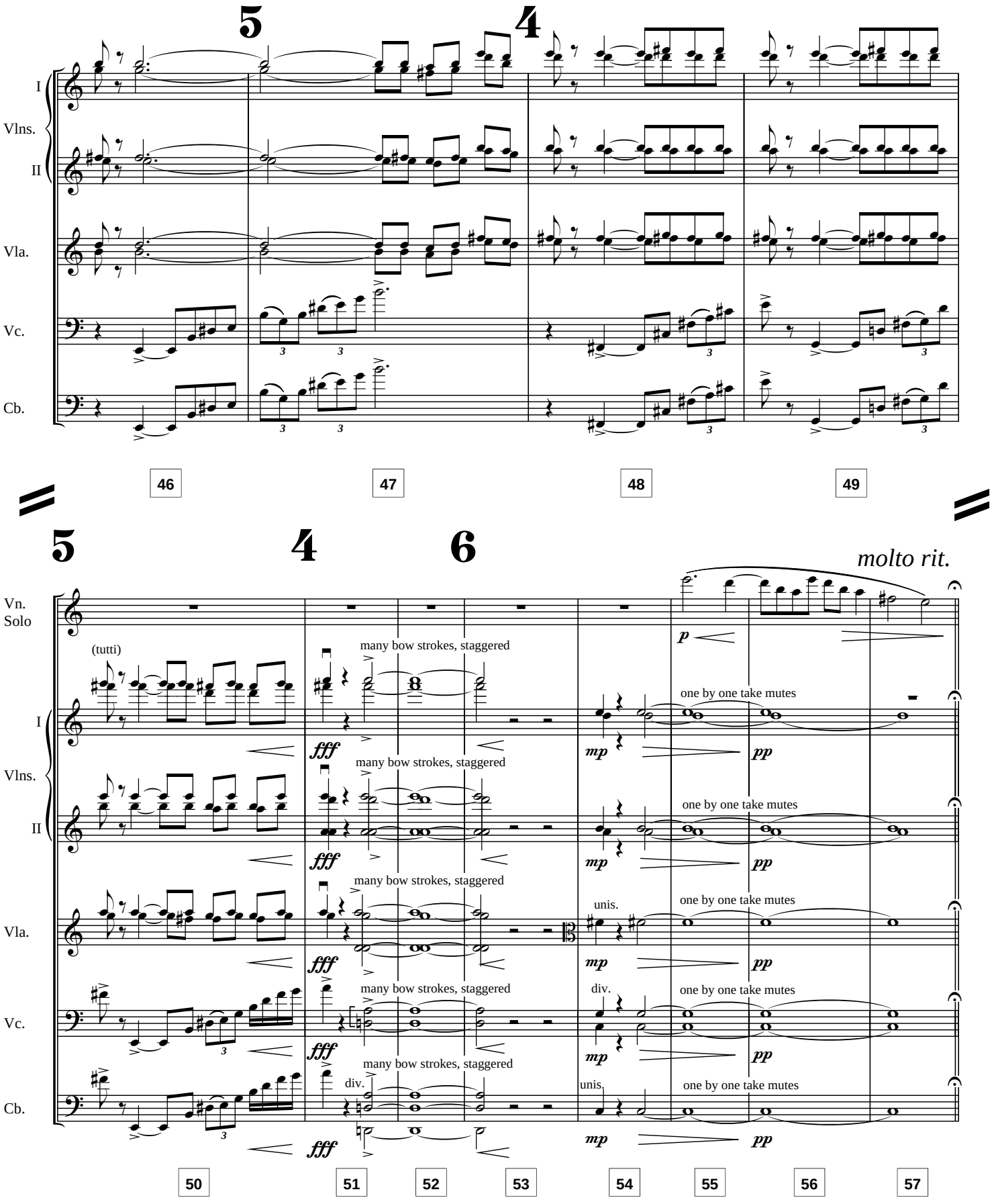

quasi cadenza
poco a poco accelerando
solo
cresc.
f
unis.
con sord.
I
Vlns.
II
pp
cresc.
poco a poco cresc. until final fermata
Vla.
Vc.
Solo
Vc.
Cb.
* Repeat figure until conductor indicates (approx. 4 to 6 times)
** Individual players enter staggared playing rising figure.
Repeat figure until conductor indicates.
Do not coordinate playing.
32
a tempo
6
7
36
IV
senza sord.
tutti
div.
mf
legato
div. a 2
unis.
p
tutti
33
34
35
36
37

poco accelerando

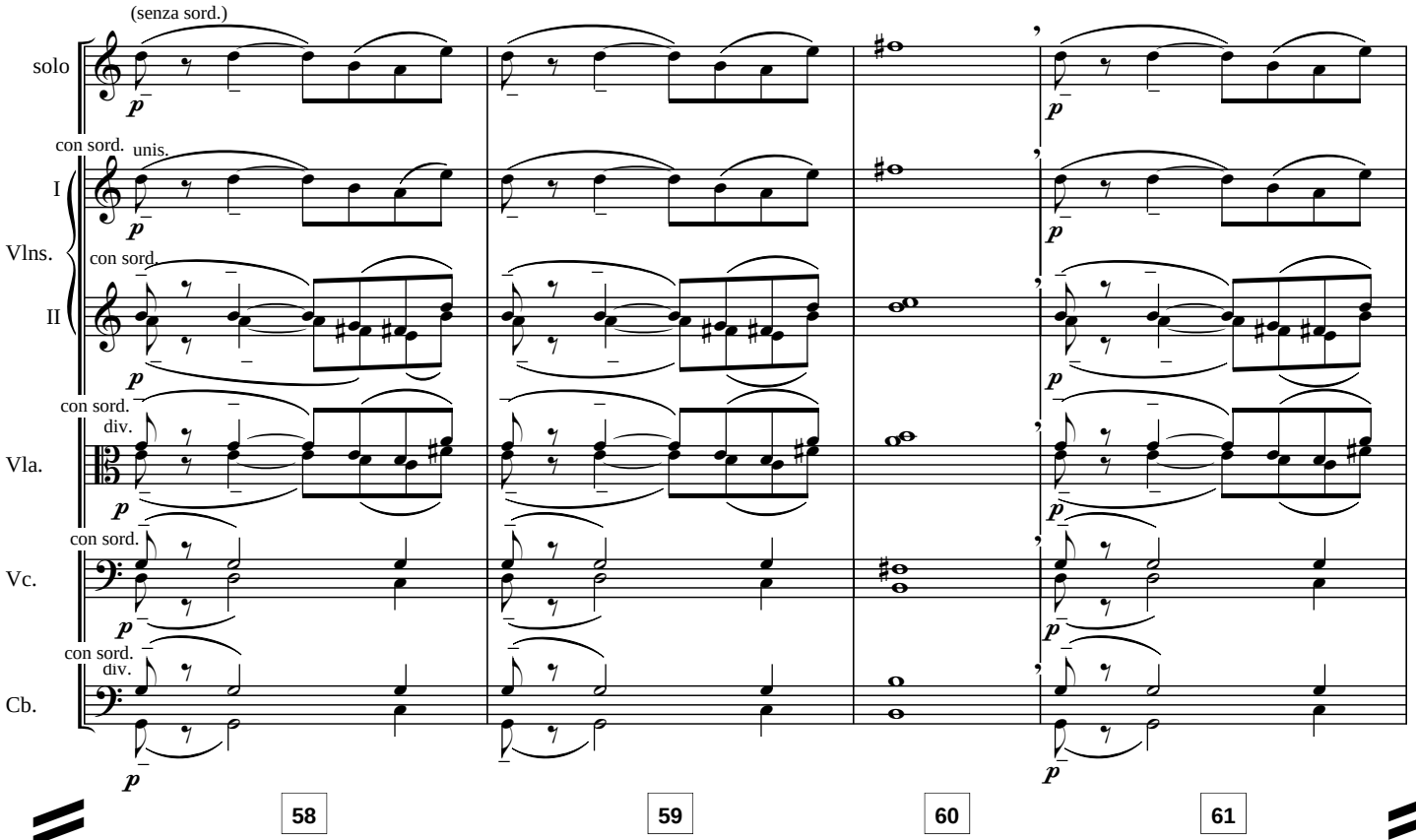


44 Poco Piu Mosso (♩=70)

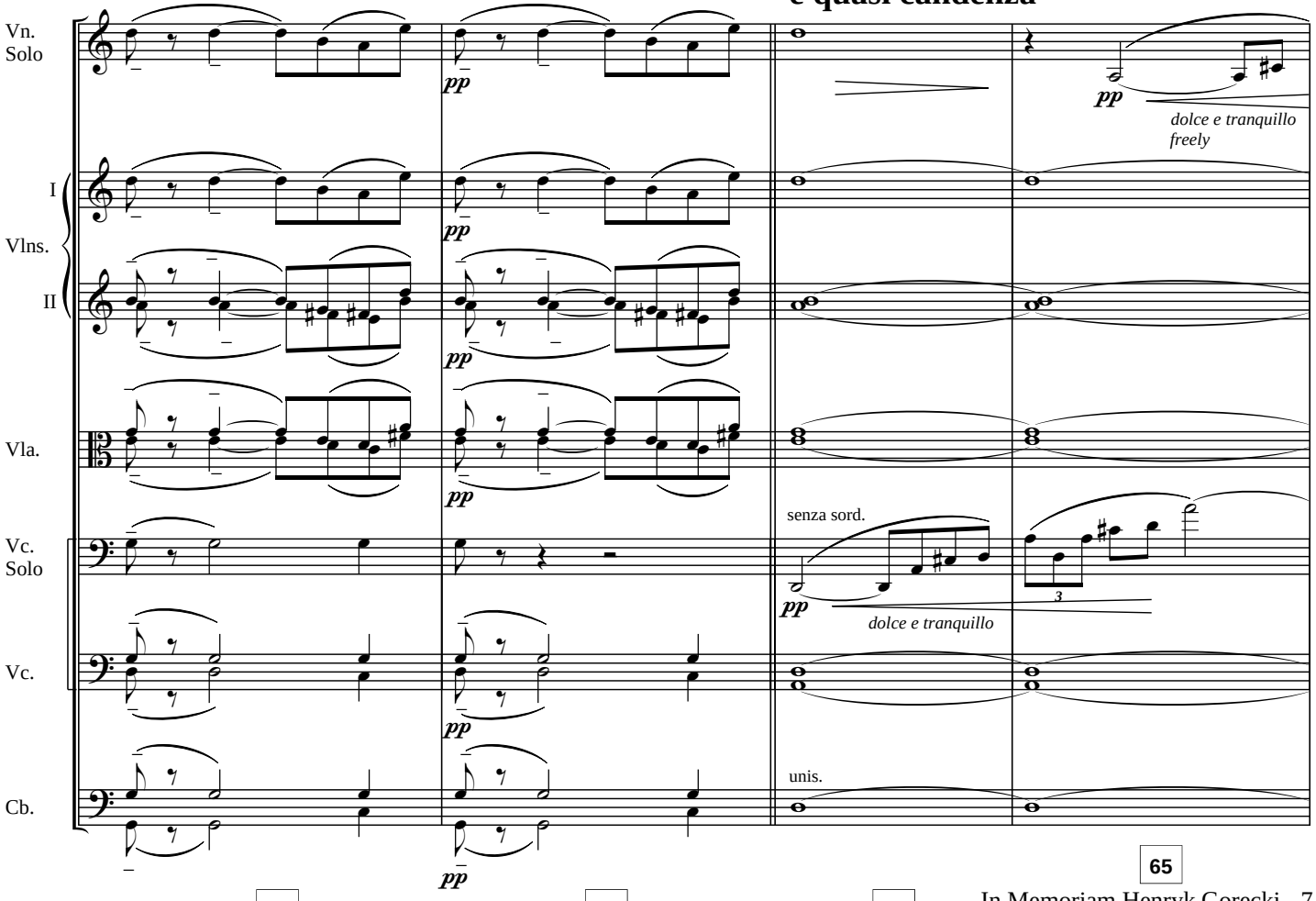


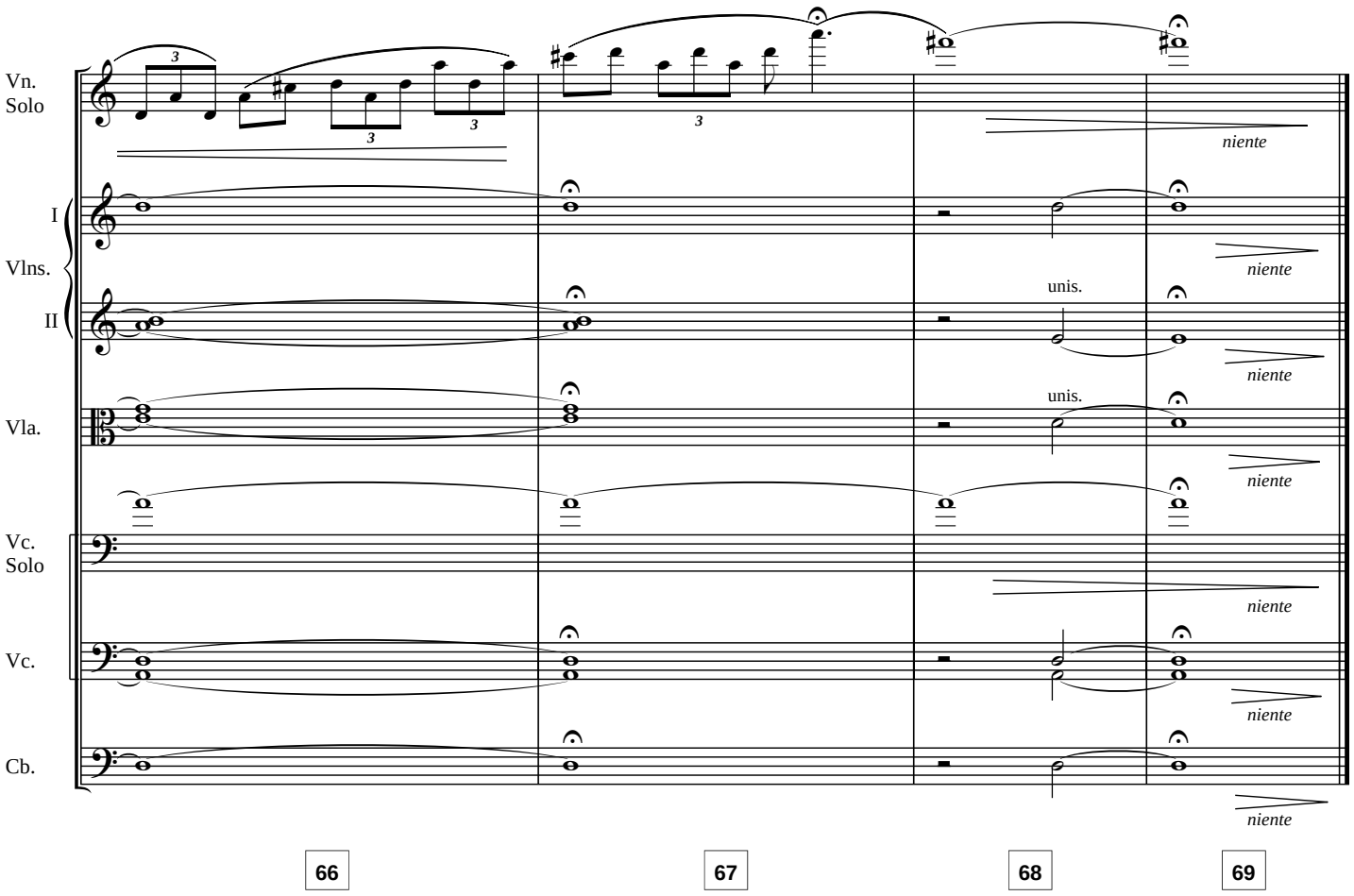

5
4
I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
46
47
48
49
5
4
6
molto rit.
Vn.
Solo
(tutti)
many bow strokes, staggered
fff
mp
p
pp
one by one take mutes
unis.
div.
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57

58 Adagio Tranquillo e Cantabile (♩=45) *poco a poco piu lento*



Non troppo lento
e quasi candenza




Vn.
Solo
I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Vc.
Solo
Vc.
Cb.
3
3
3
3
niente
niente
unis.
niente
unis.
niente
niente
niente
niente
66
67
68
69