ludus cyclus

for six instruments

(2024)

Jaebong Rho

www.jaebongrho.com

program note

ludus cyclus begins with the process of composition itself. Rather than drawing from any particular theme or narrative, the piece started from a simple exploration of compositional techniques.

The idea of isorhythm forms the basic framework. I created a descending chromatic pattern for each instrument, leading down to its lowest note, and gave each one a different number of notes. On top of that, I added another layer: a sequence of playing techniques, arranged to match one less than the number of notes. Some techniques were shaped by register or sound quality. These overlapping patterns became the backbone of the piece.

Up to that point, the work followed a structural, logical approach. From there, I began shaping the rhythms more intuitively, sometimes bending or breaking the rules I had set. It reflects a balance between structure and intuition.
ludus cyclus weaves together a small number of patterns in different ways, creating new cycles through their combinations. These cycles, each moving at its own pace, tangle and overlap like a network of many Ouroboros, constantly appearing and disappearing in an organic flow.

instrumentation

flute
clarinet in B♭

violin
viola
cello

piano

performance notes

general

ord.	ordinario (normal playing)
𝄲 𝄳 𝄴	quarter tone lower

woodwinds

t.r.	tongue ram
ob.	overblow
flt.	flutter-tongue
s.t.	slap tongue

strings

op.	overpressure (with square notehead)
c.l.b.	col legno battuto

*all techniques (including pizzicato) are canceled by ord. (normal arco)

duration: ca. 8'

score in C

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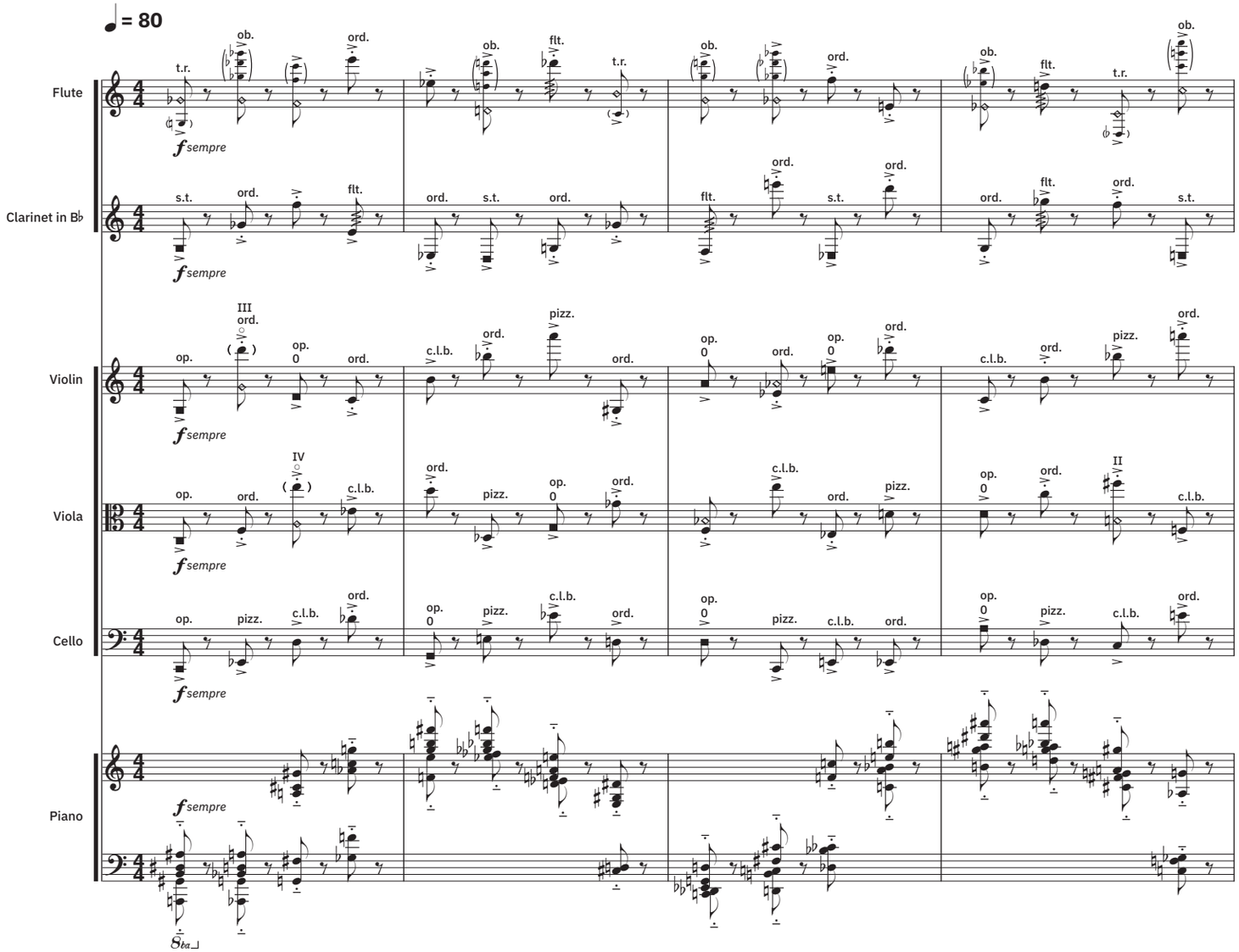

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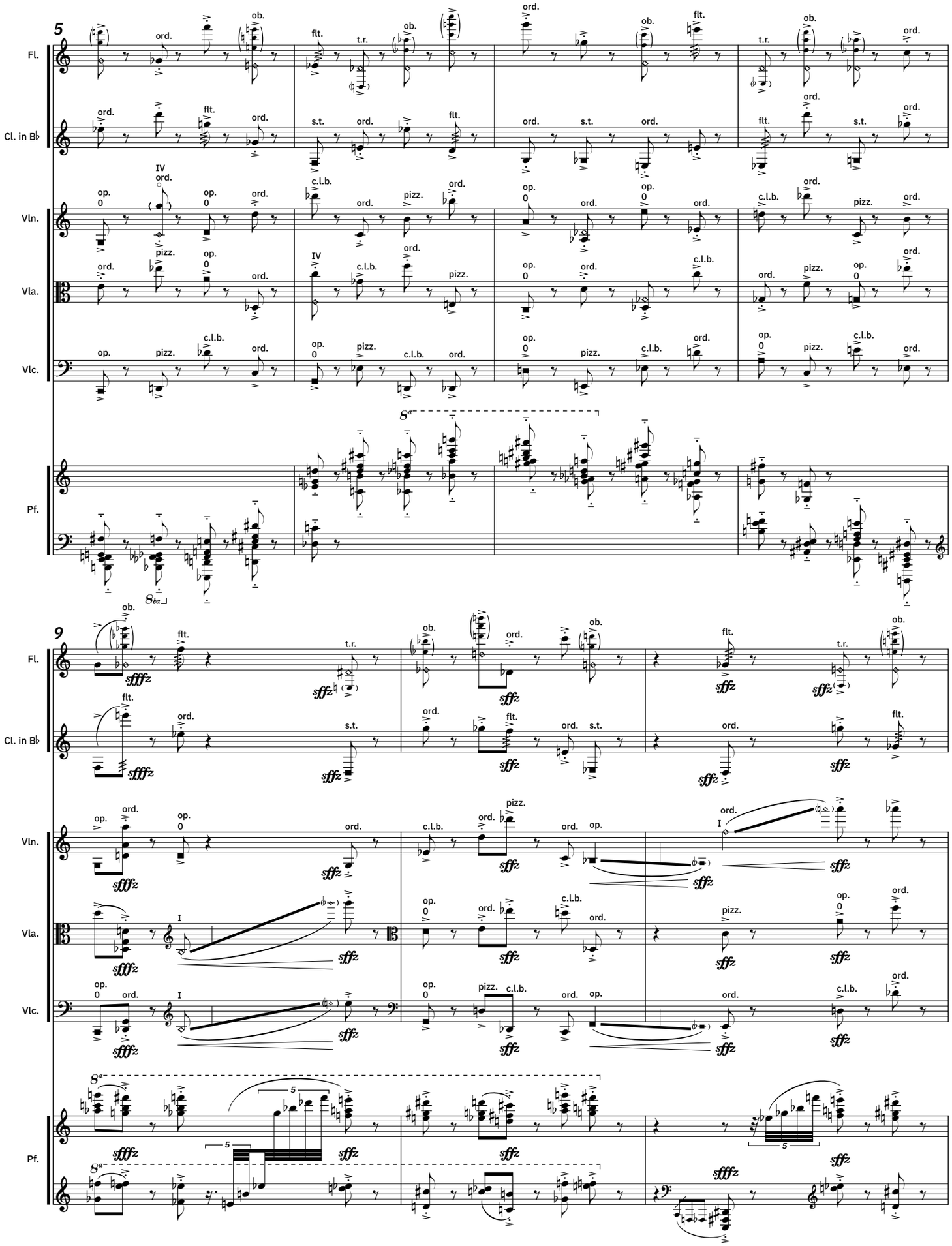
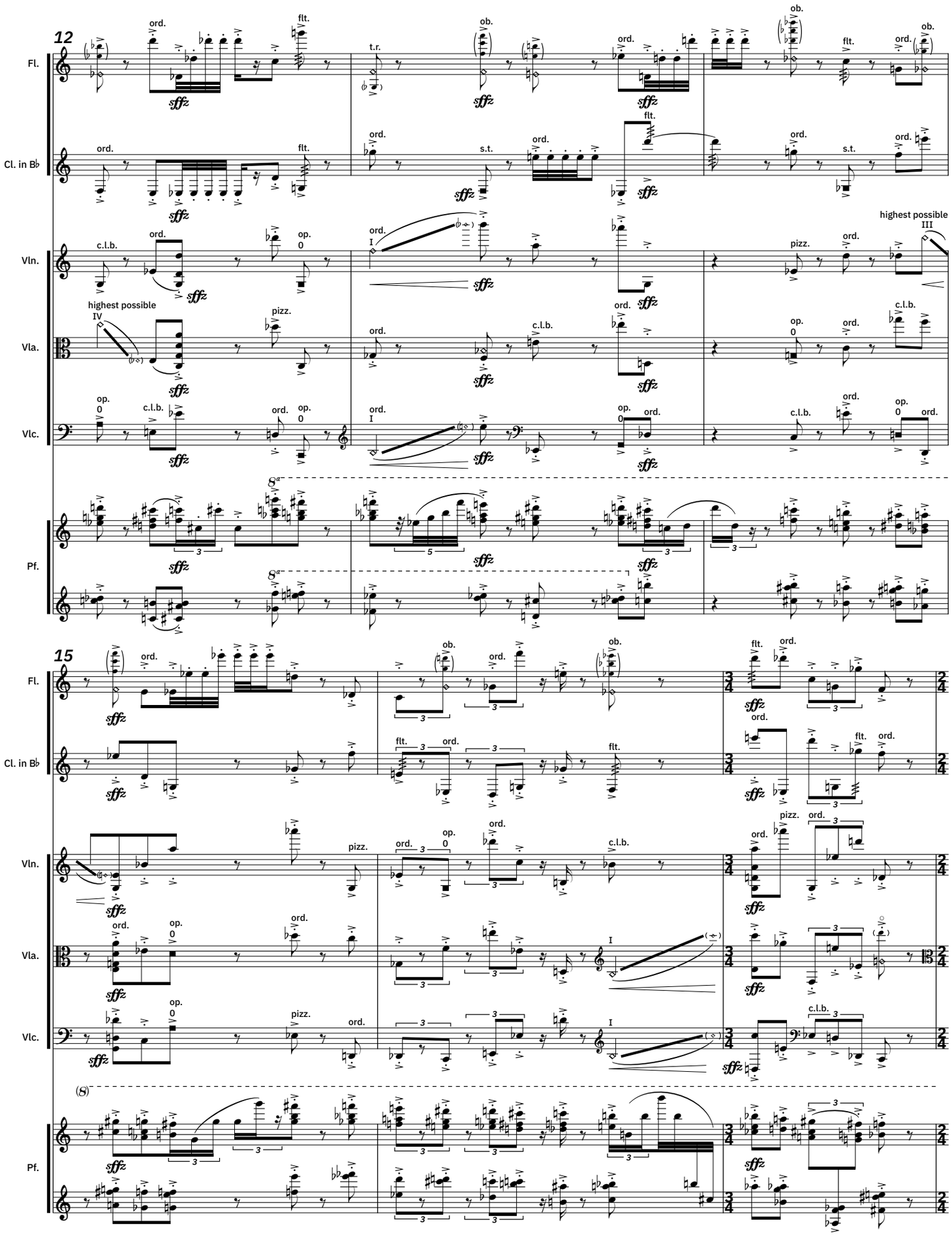
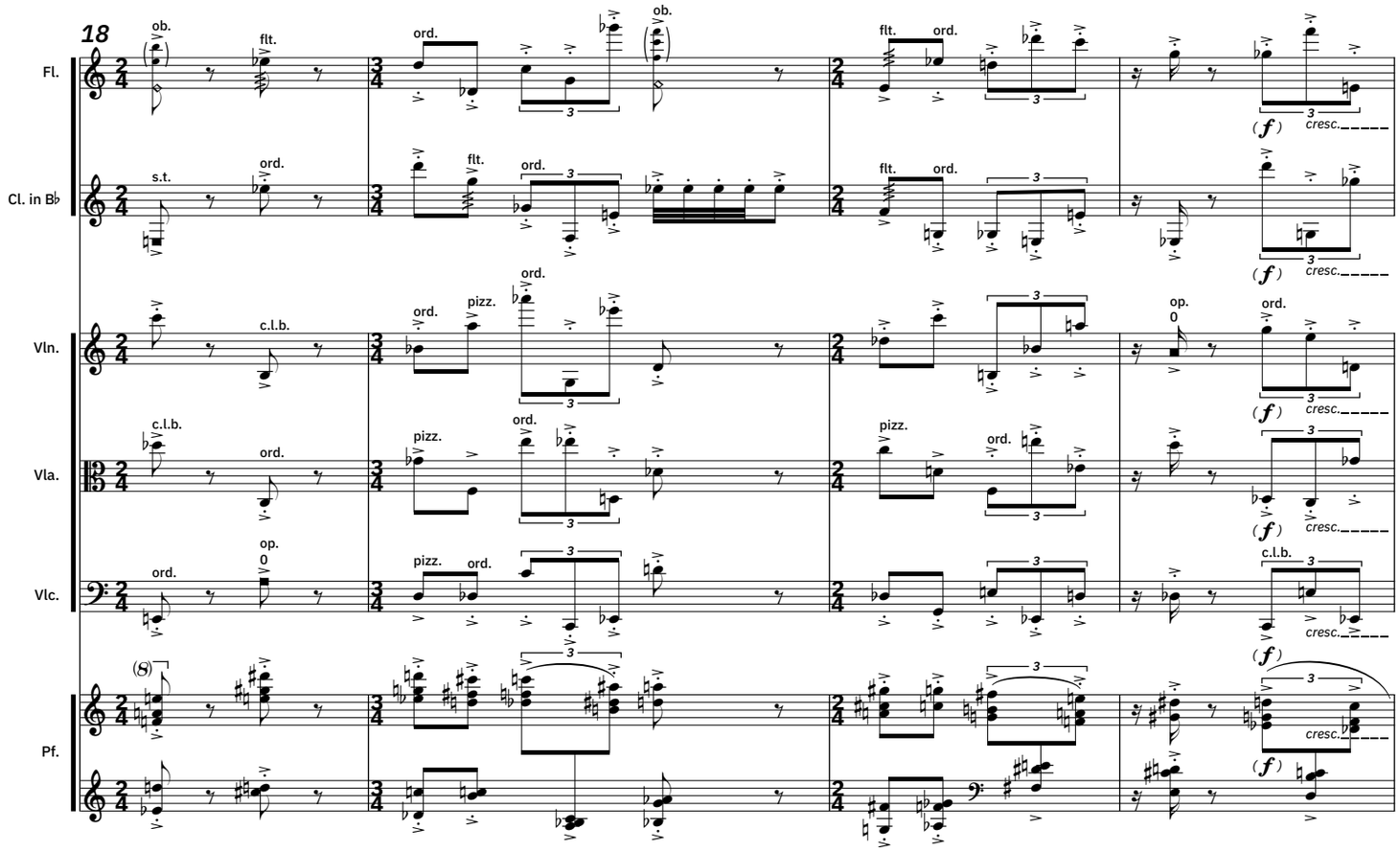
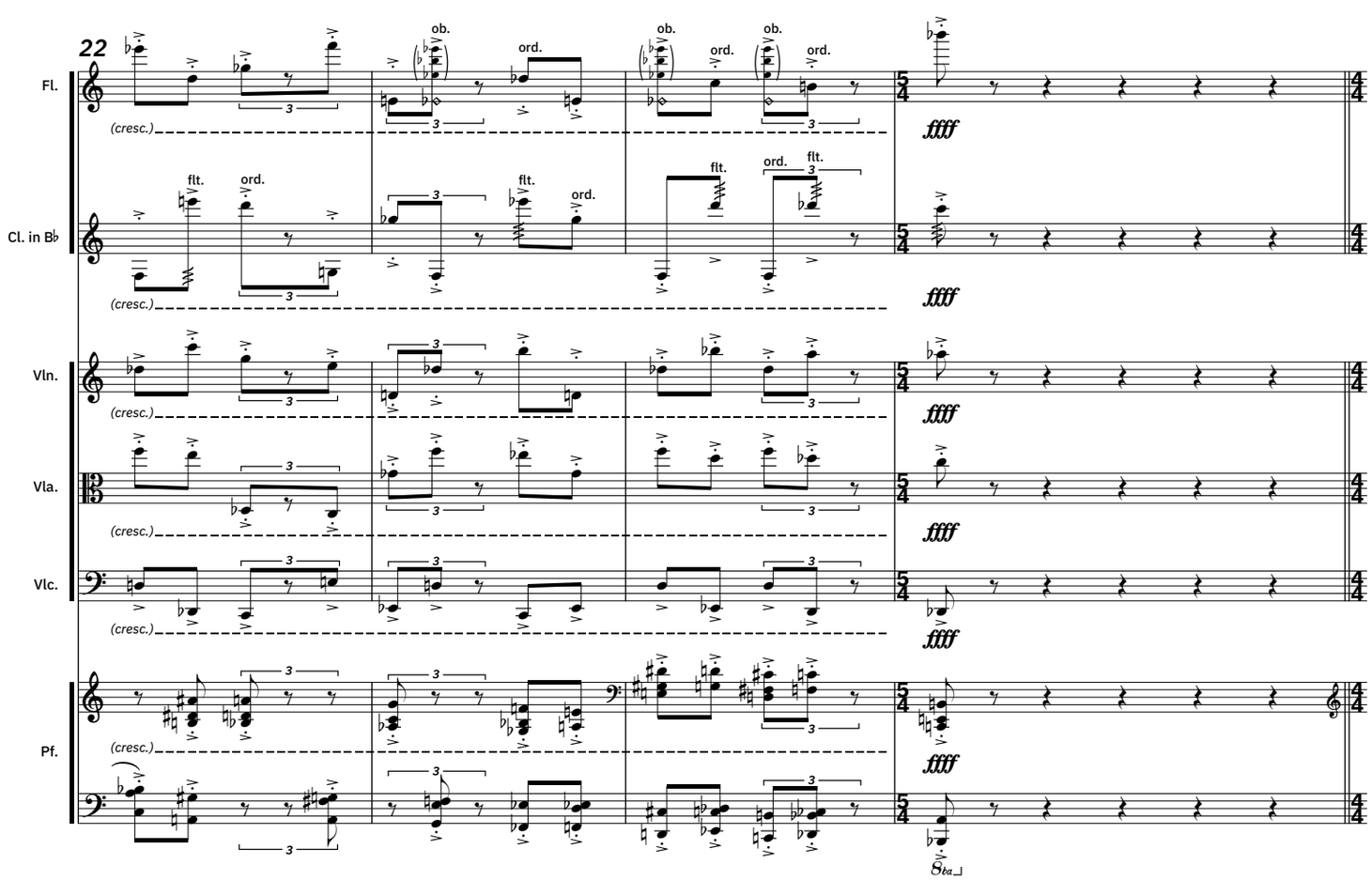
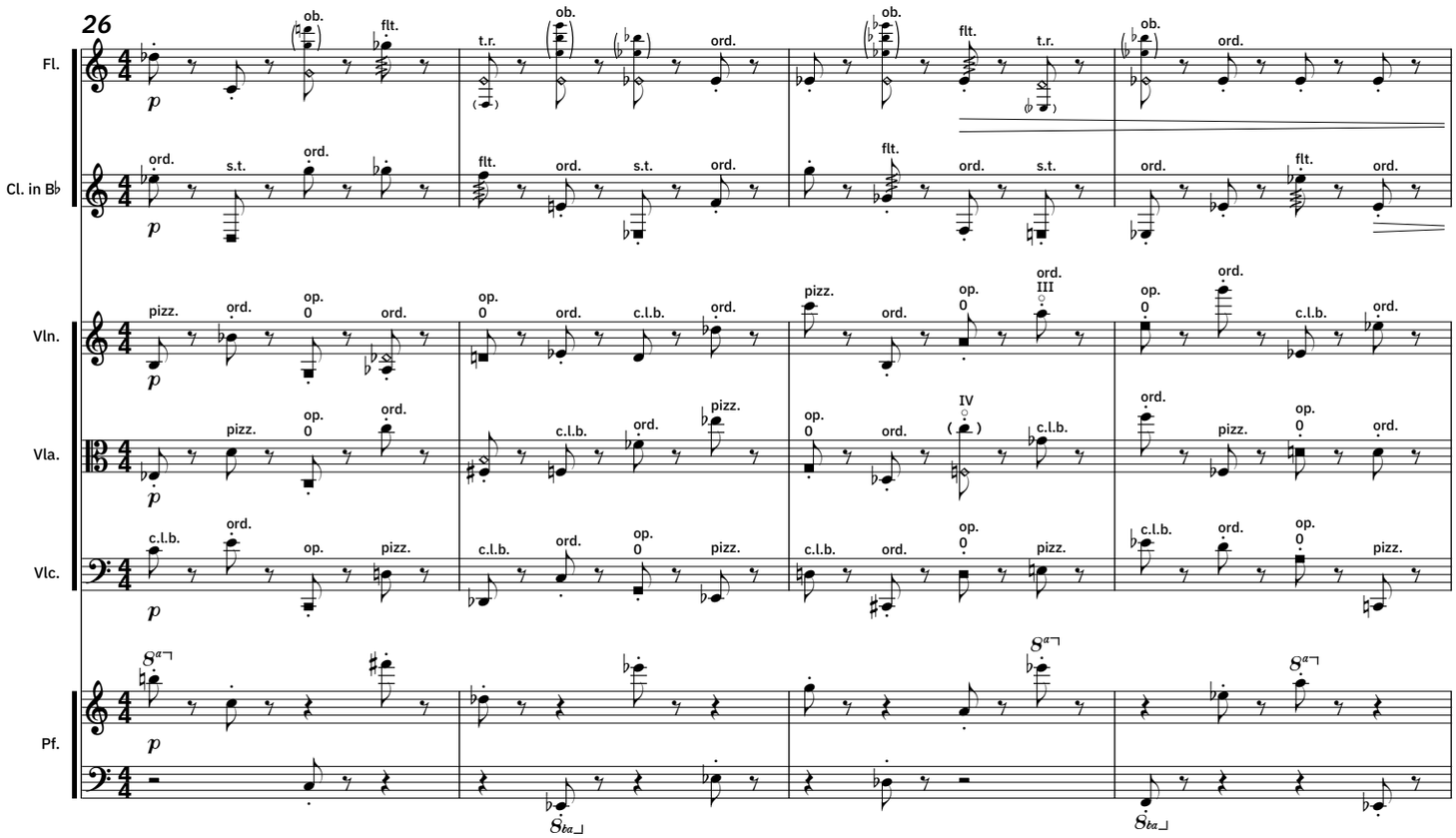
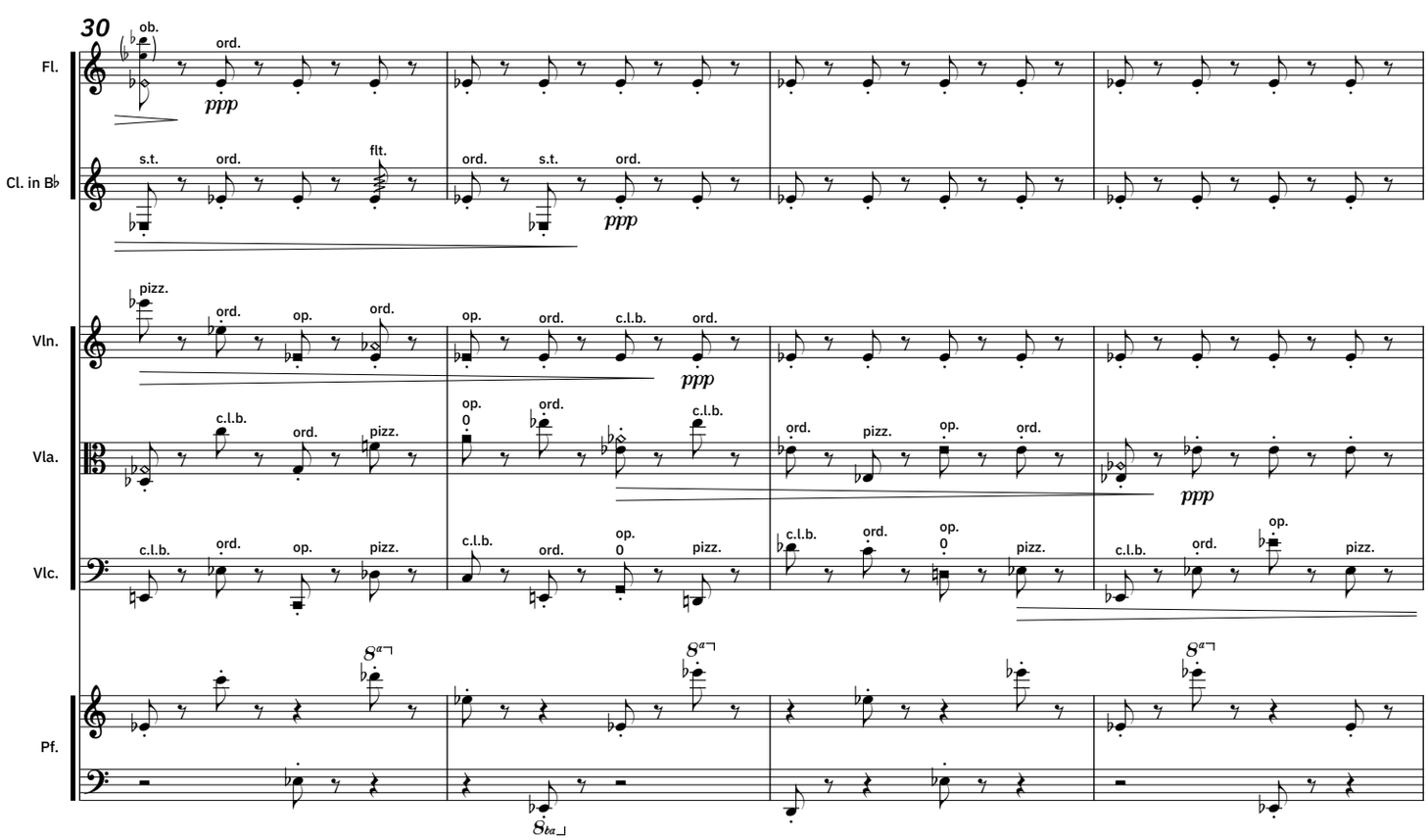

5
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
ord.
ob.
flt.
t.r.
s.t.
op.
0
IV
c.l.b.
pizz.
8a
8va
9
sfffz
sffz
I

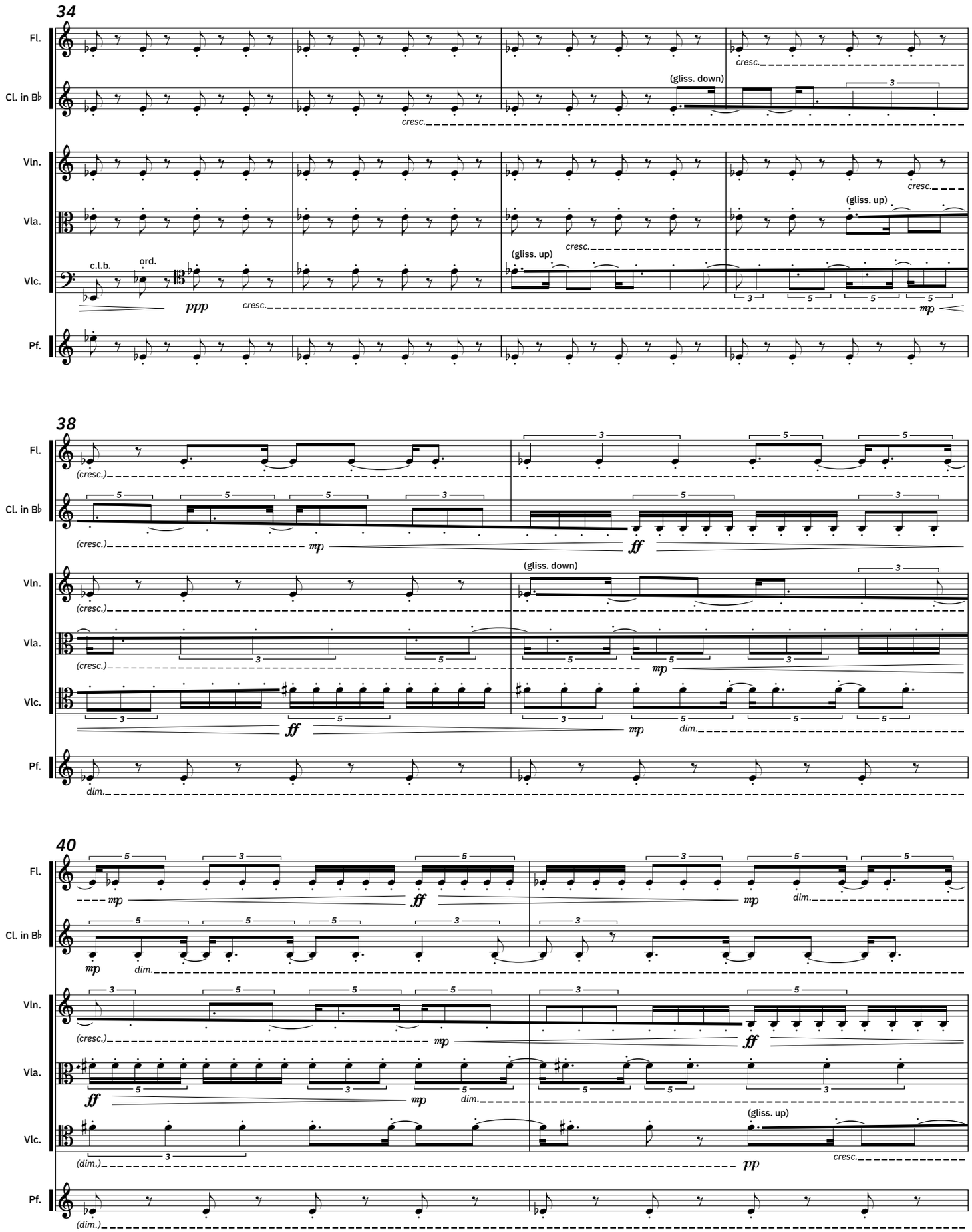

12
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
ord.
flt.
t.r.
ob.
s.t.
c.l.b.
op.
0
pizz.
highest possible
I
III
IV
sffz
15

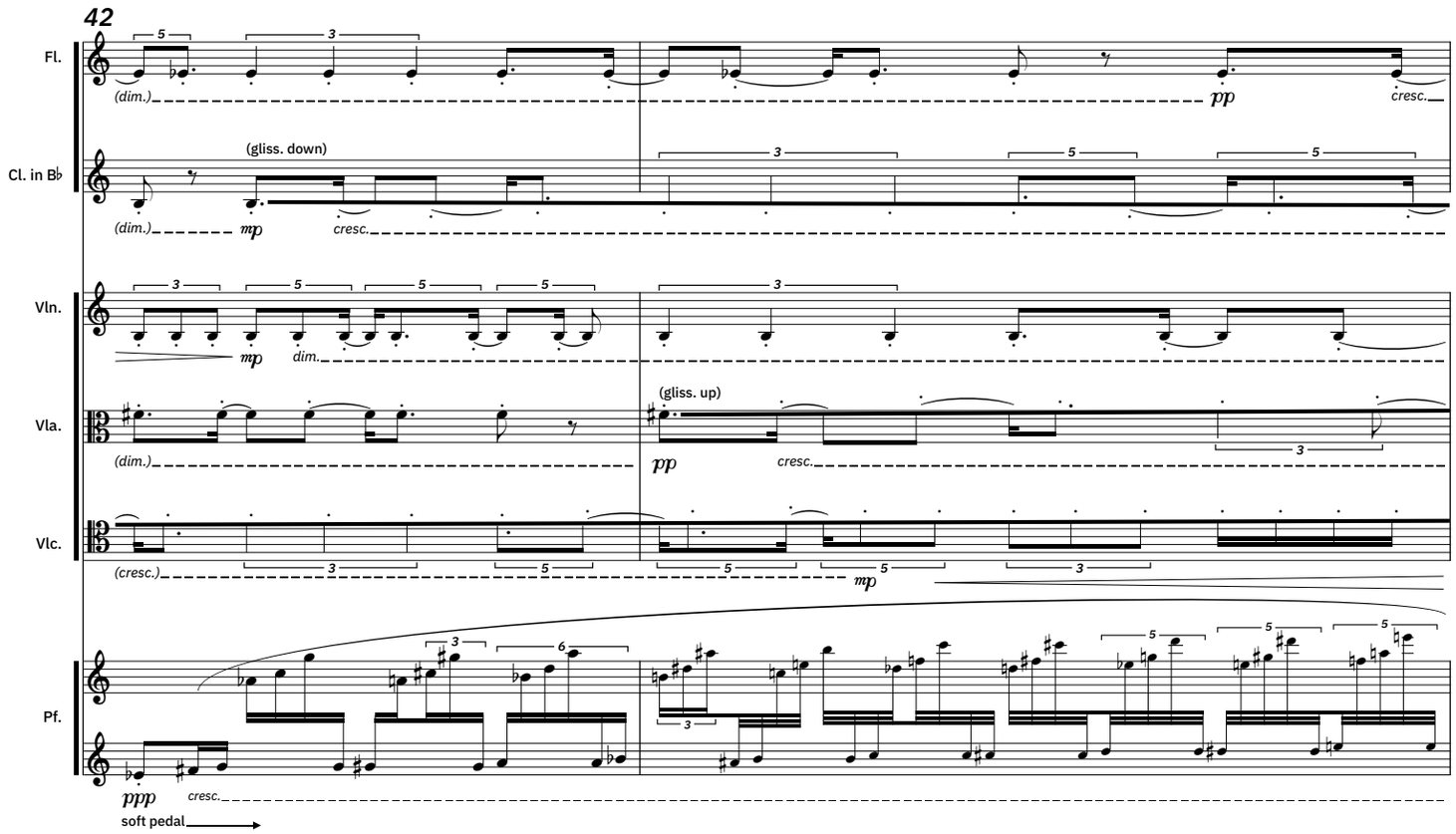

18
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
ob.
flt.
ord.
s.t.
c.l.b.
pizz.
op. 0
(f)
cresc.

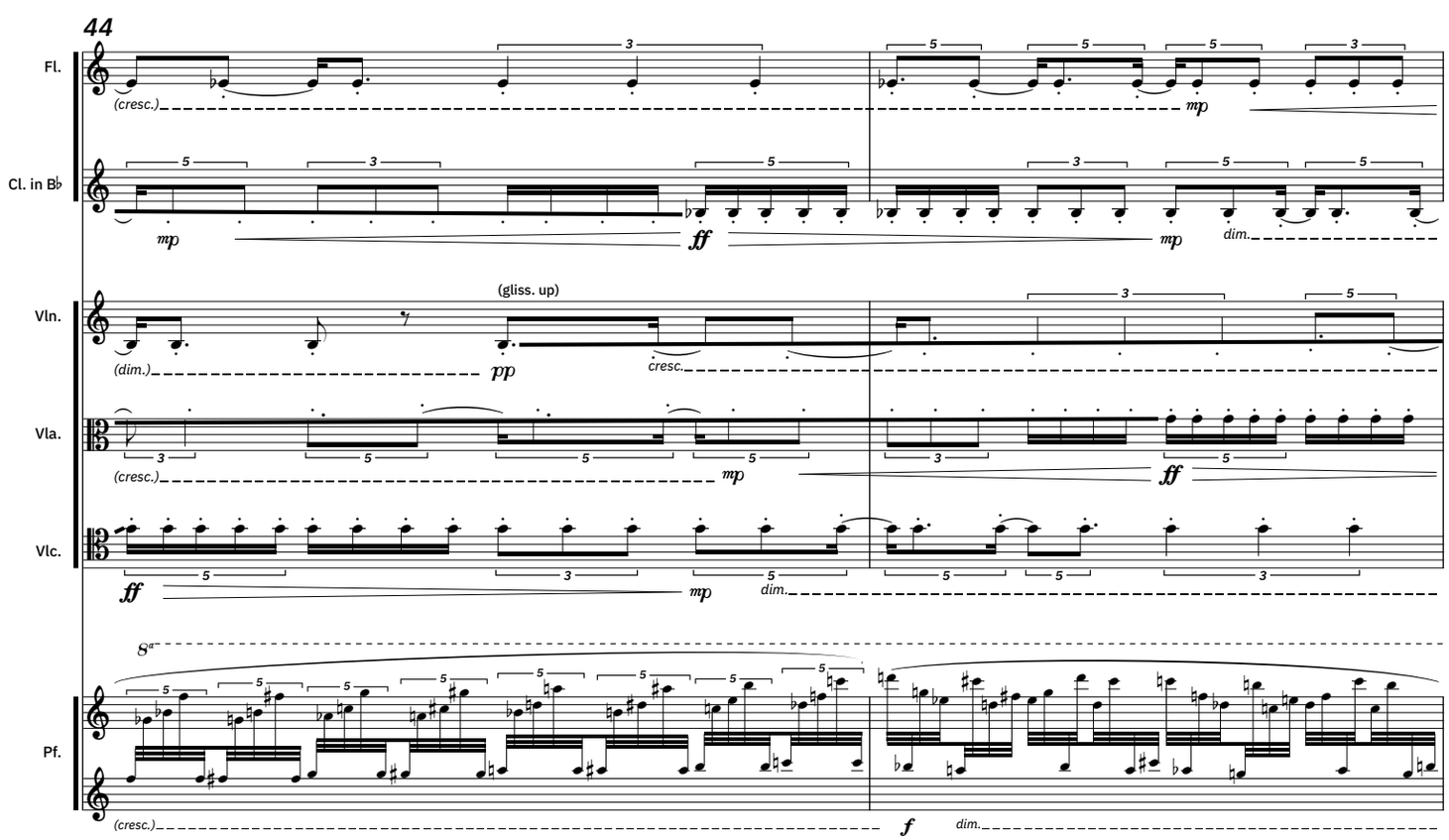

22
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
ob.
ord.
flt.
(cresc.)
ffff

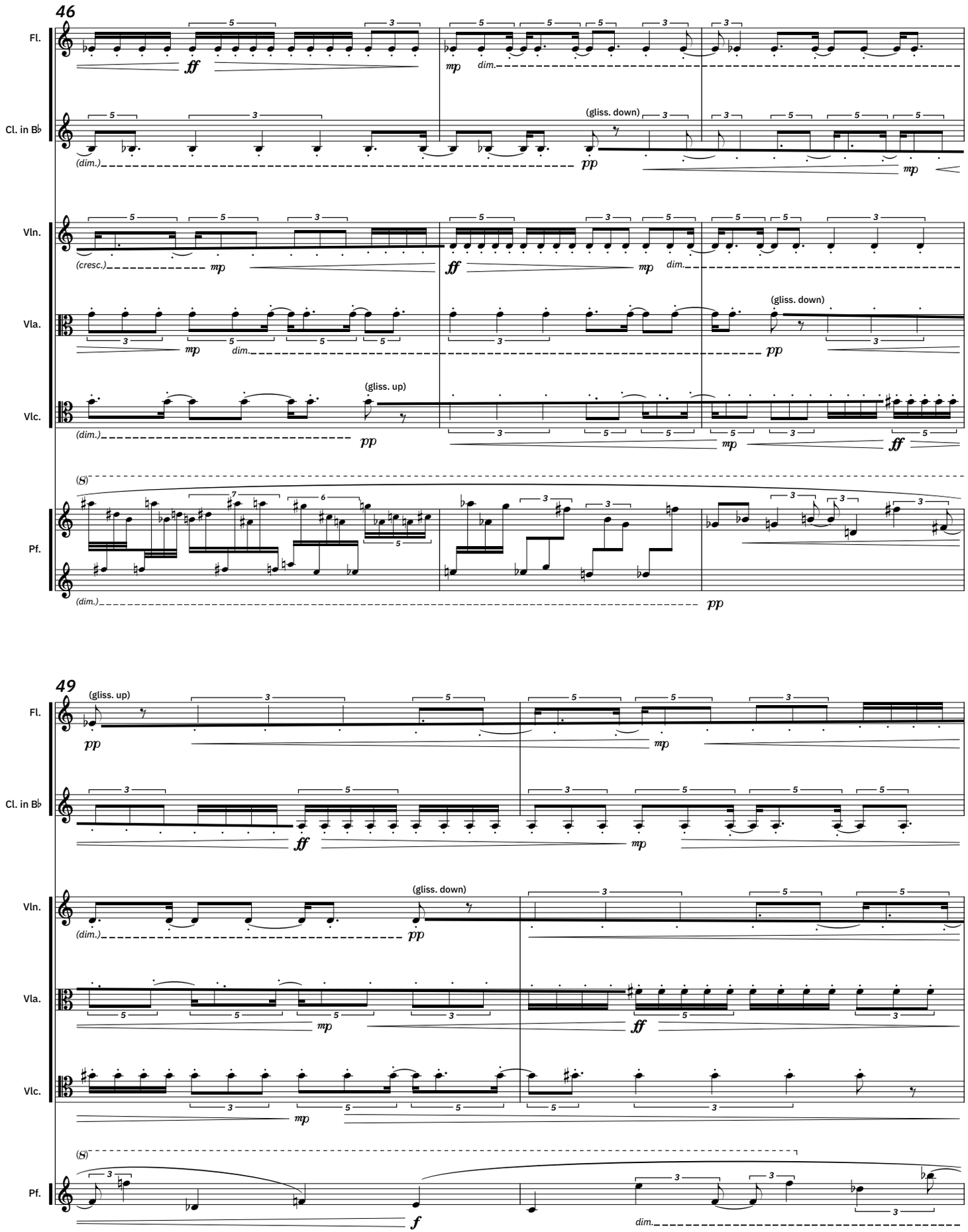

26
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
ob.
flt.
t.r.
ord.
s.t.
pizz.
op.
0
c.l.b.
III
IV
p

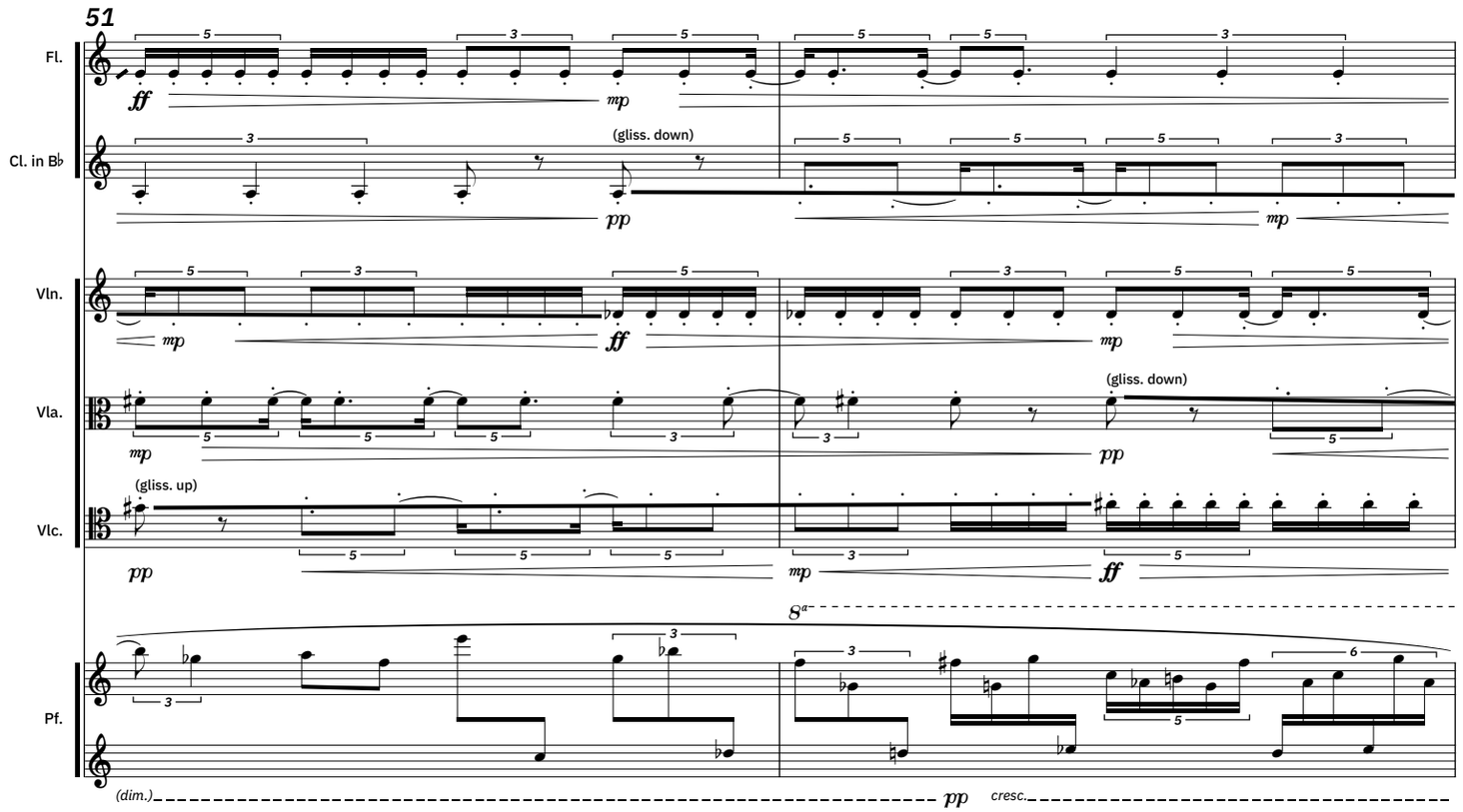

30
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
ob.
ord.
s.t.
flt.
pizz.
op.
0
c.l.b.
ppp

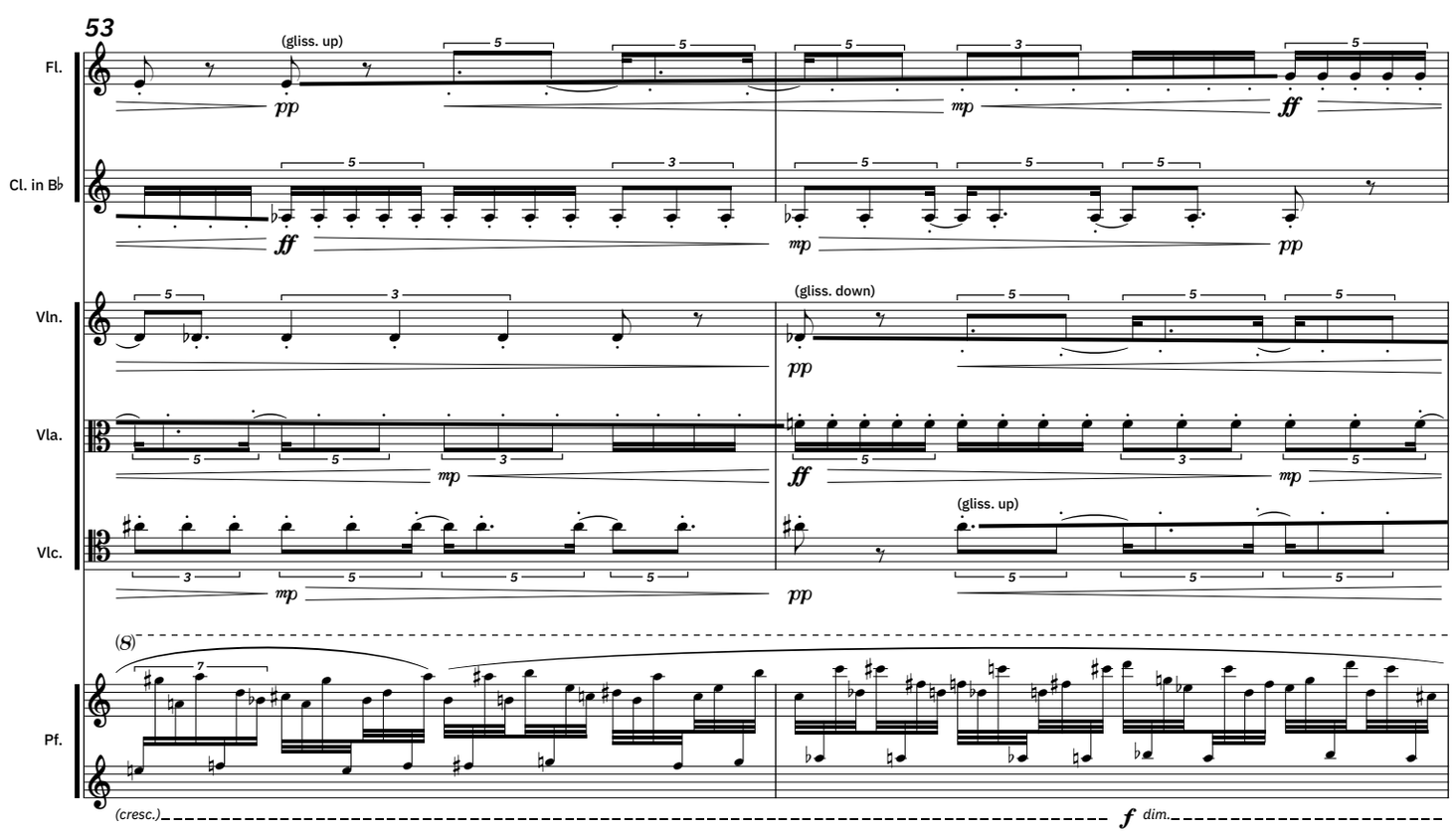

34
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
cresc.
(gliss. down)
(gliss. up)
c.l.b.
ord.
ppp
mp
38
(cresc.)
ff
dim.
40
(dim.)
pp

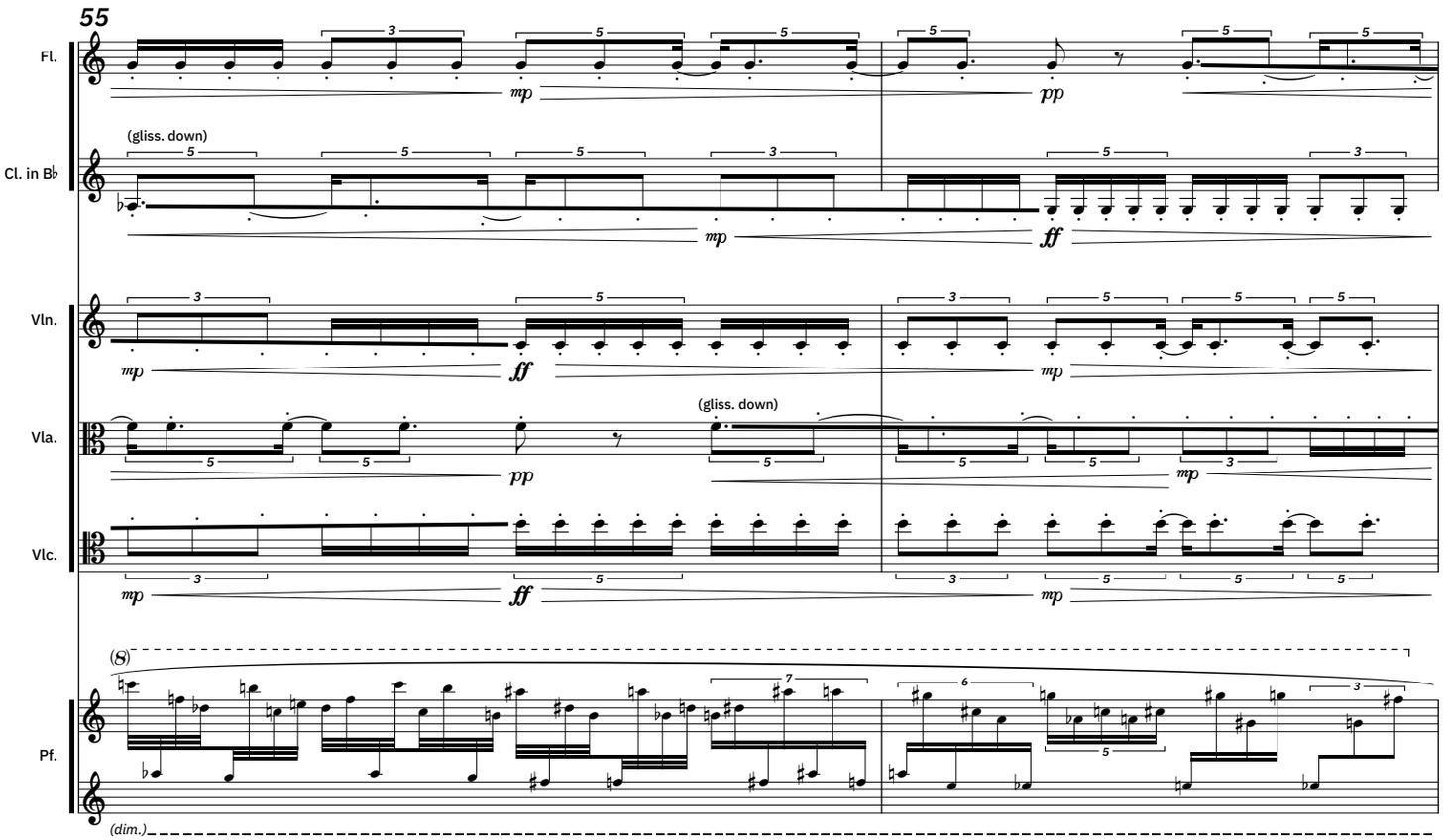

42
Fl.
(dim.)
pp
cresc.
Cl. in B♭
(gliss. down)
(dim.)
mp
cresc.
Vln.
mp
dim.
Vla.
(dim.)
(gliss. up)
pp
cresc.
Vlc.
(cresc.)
mp
Pf.
ppp
cresc.
soft pedal

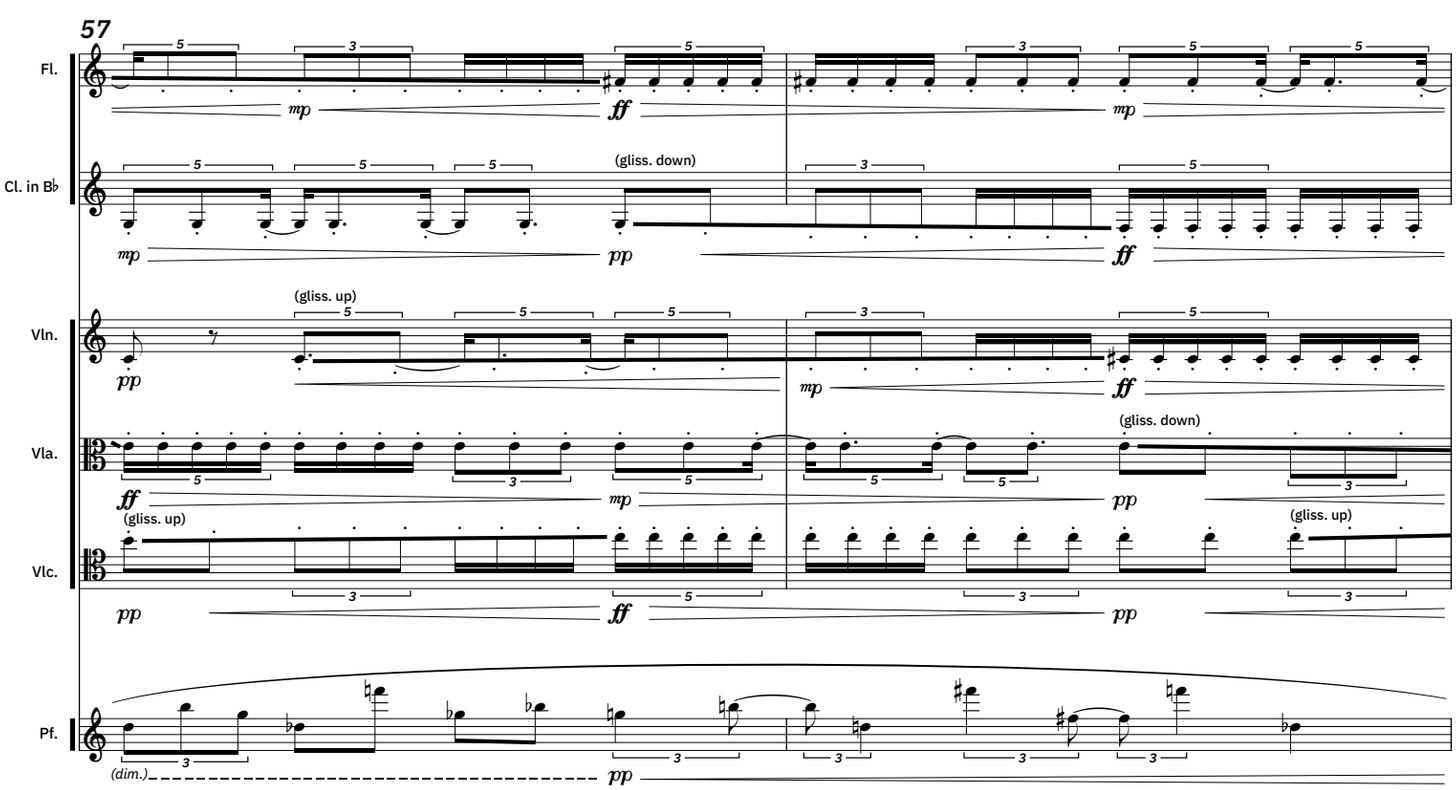

44
Fl.
(cresc.)
mp
Cl. in B♭
mp
ff
mp
dim.
Vln.
(gliss. up)
(dim.)
pp
cresc.
Vla.
(cresc.)
mp
ff
Vlc.
ff
mp
dim.
8va
Pf.
(cresc.)
f
dim.

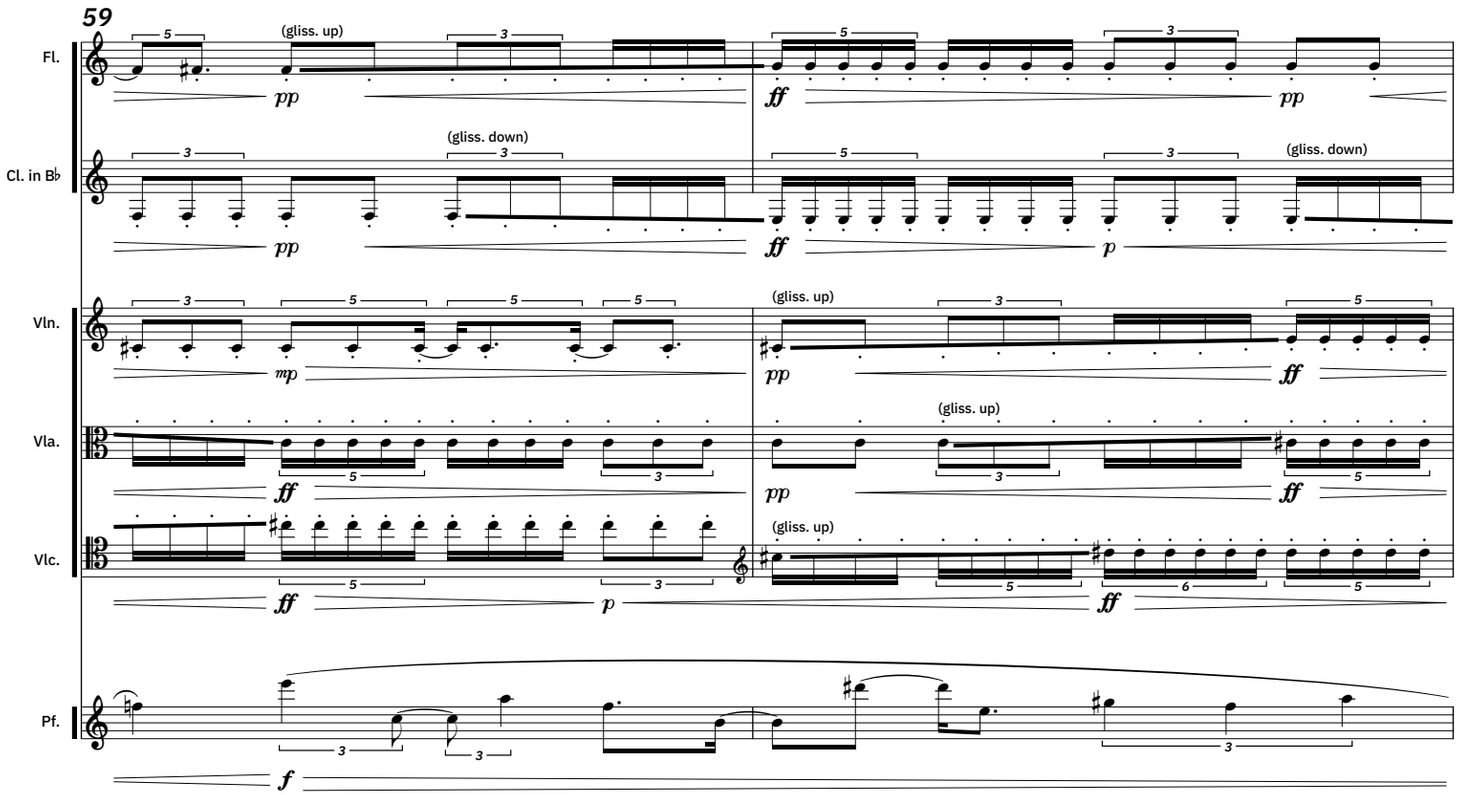

46
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
(gliss. down)
(gliss. up)
(dim.)
(cresc.)
dim.
49

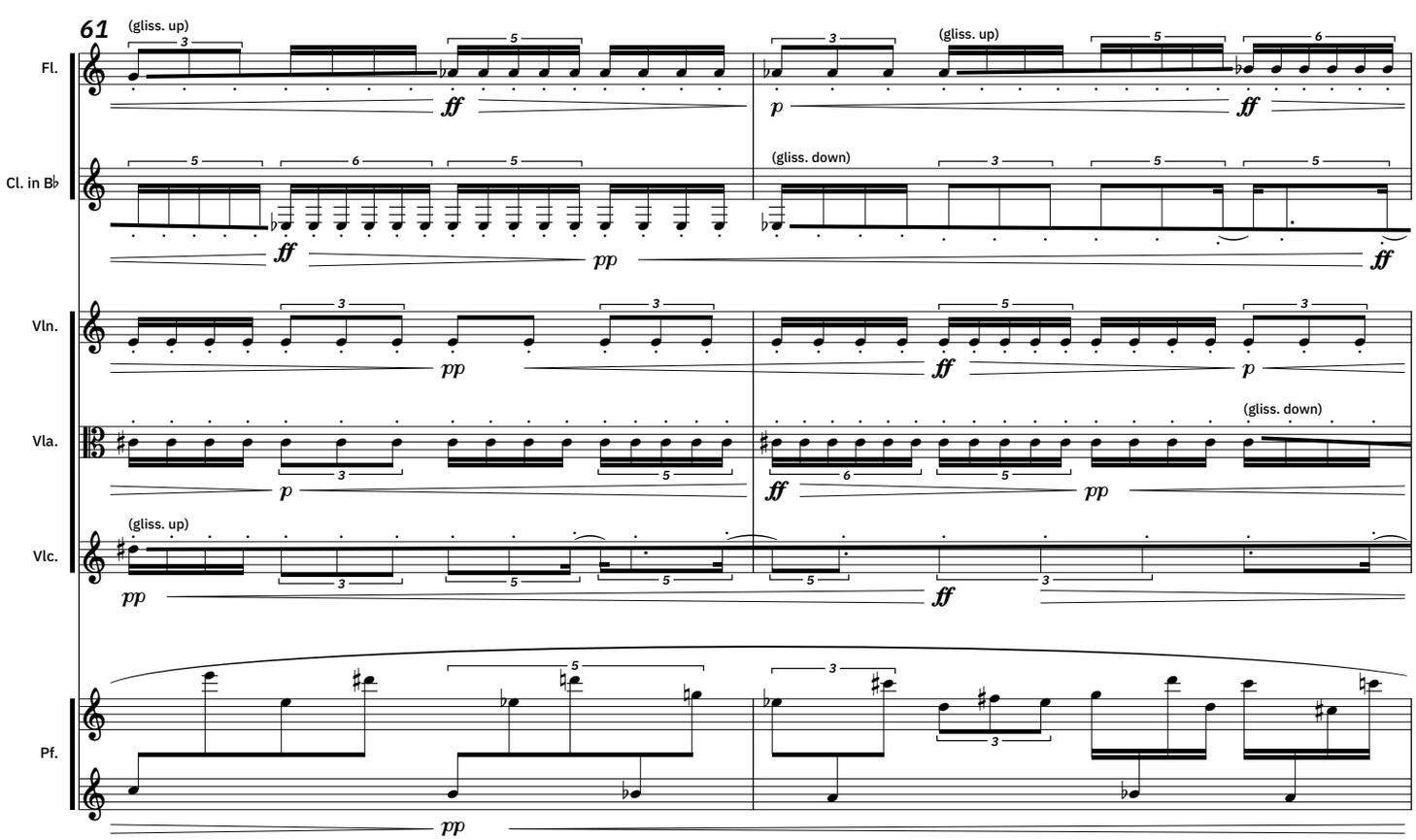

51
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
(gliss. down)
(gliss. up)
(dim.)
cresc.

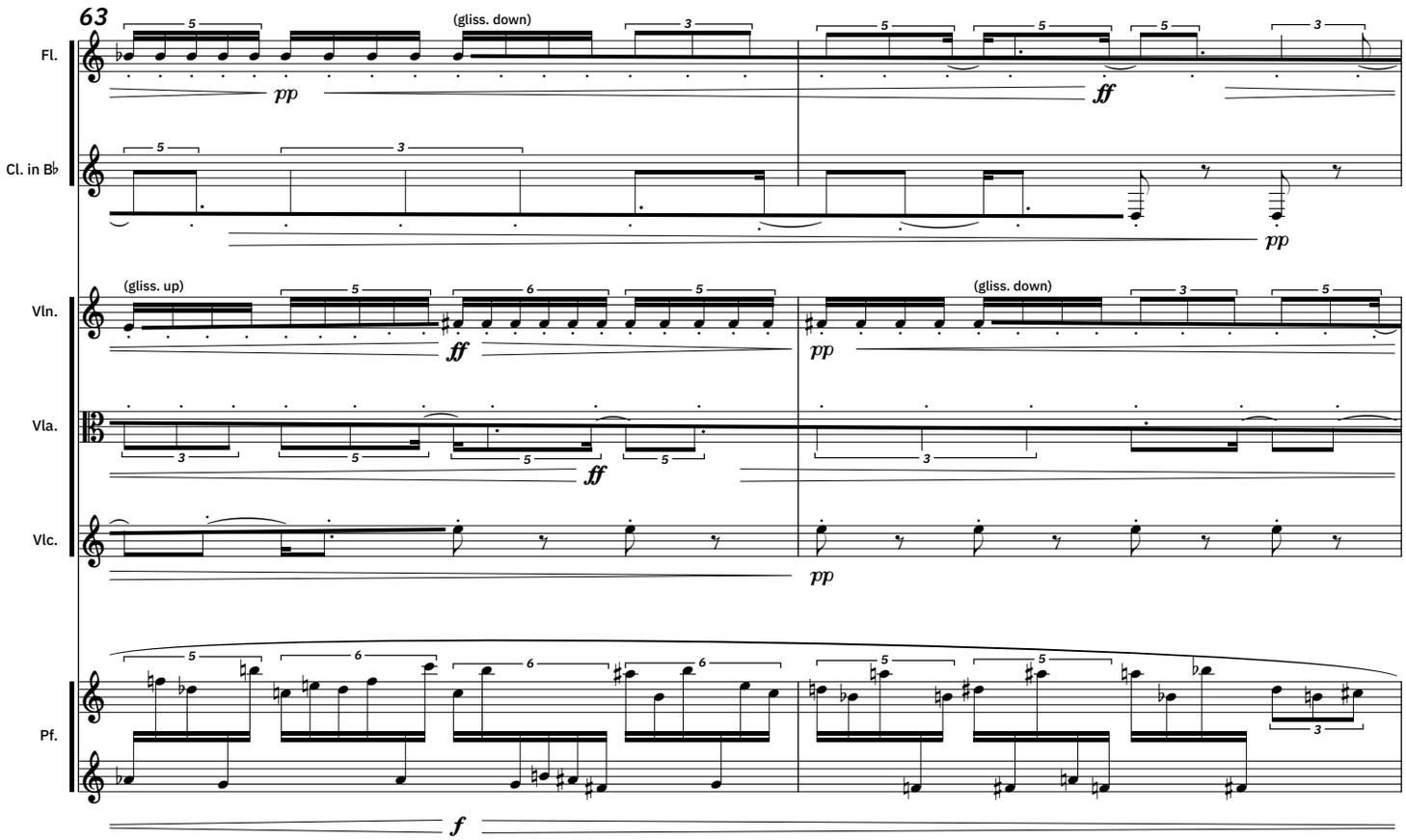

53
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
(gliss. up)
(gliss. down)
(gliss. up)
(cresc.)
dim.

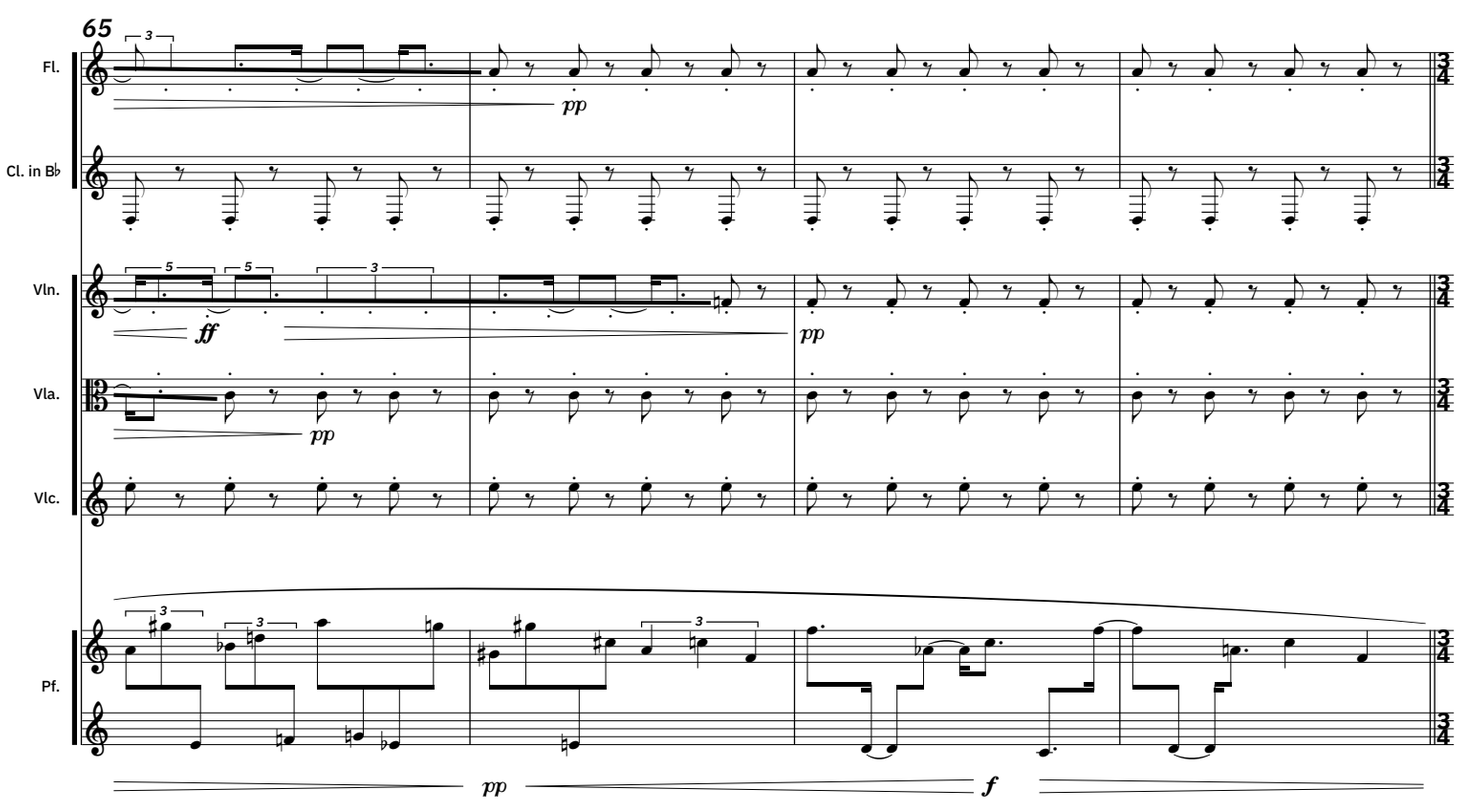

55
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
(gliss. down)
Vln.
Vla.
(gliss. down)
Vlc.
Pf.
(8)
(dim.)

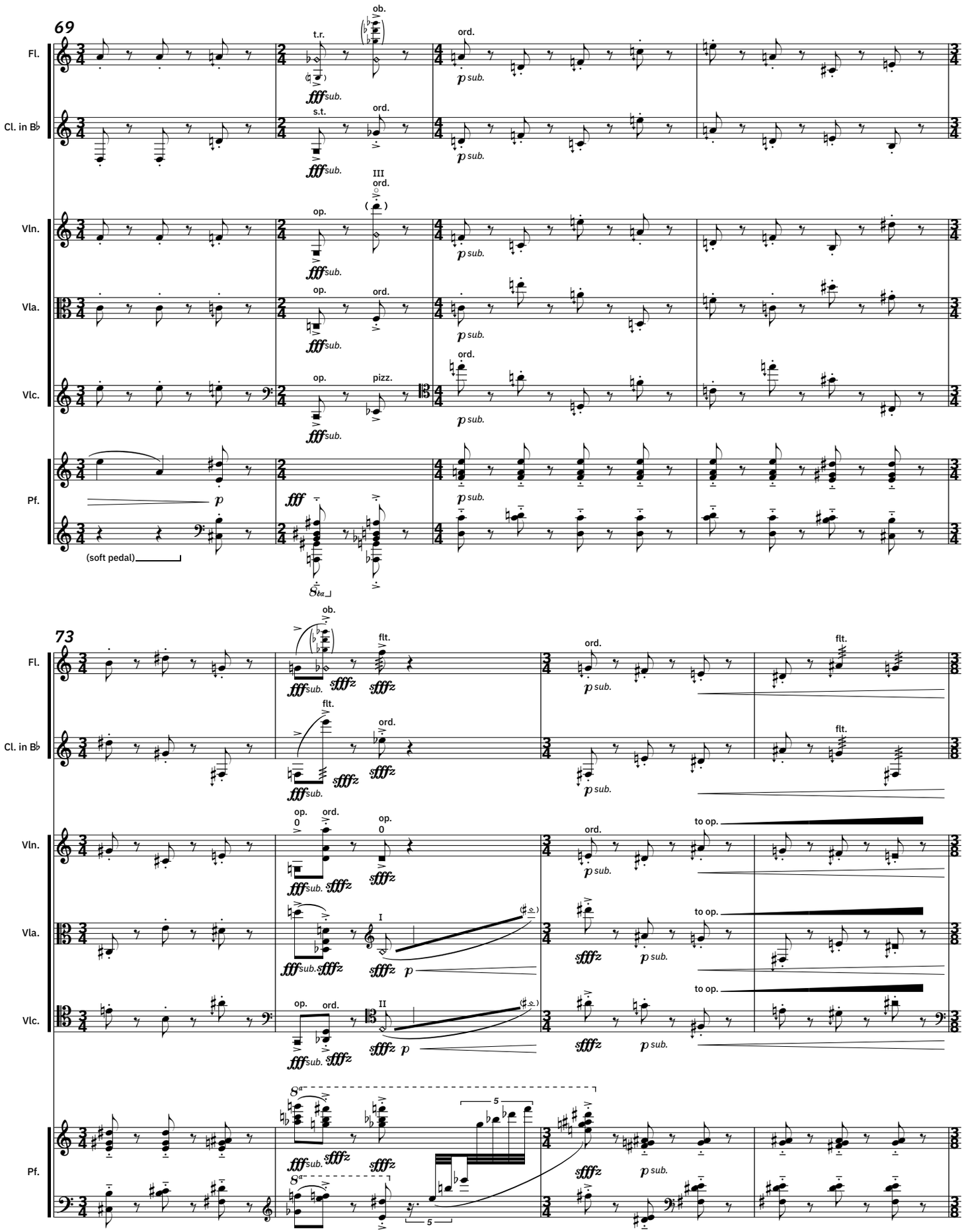

57
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
(gliss. down)
Vln.
(gliss. up)
Vla.
(gliss. down)
Vlc.
(gliss. up)
(gliss. up)
Pf.
(dim.)

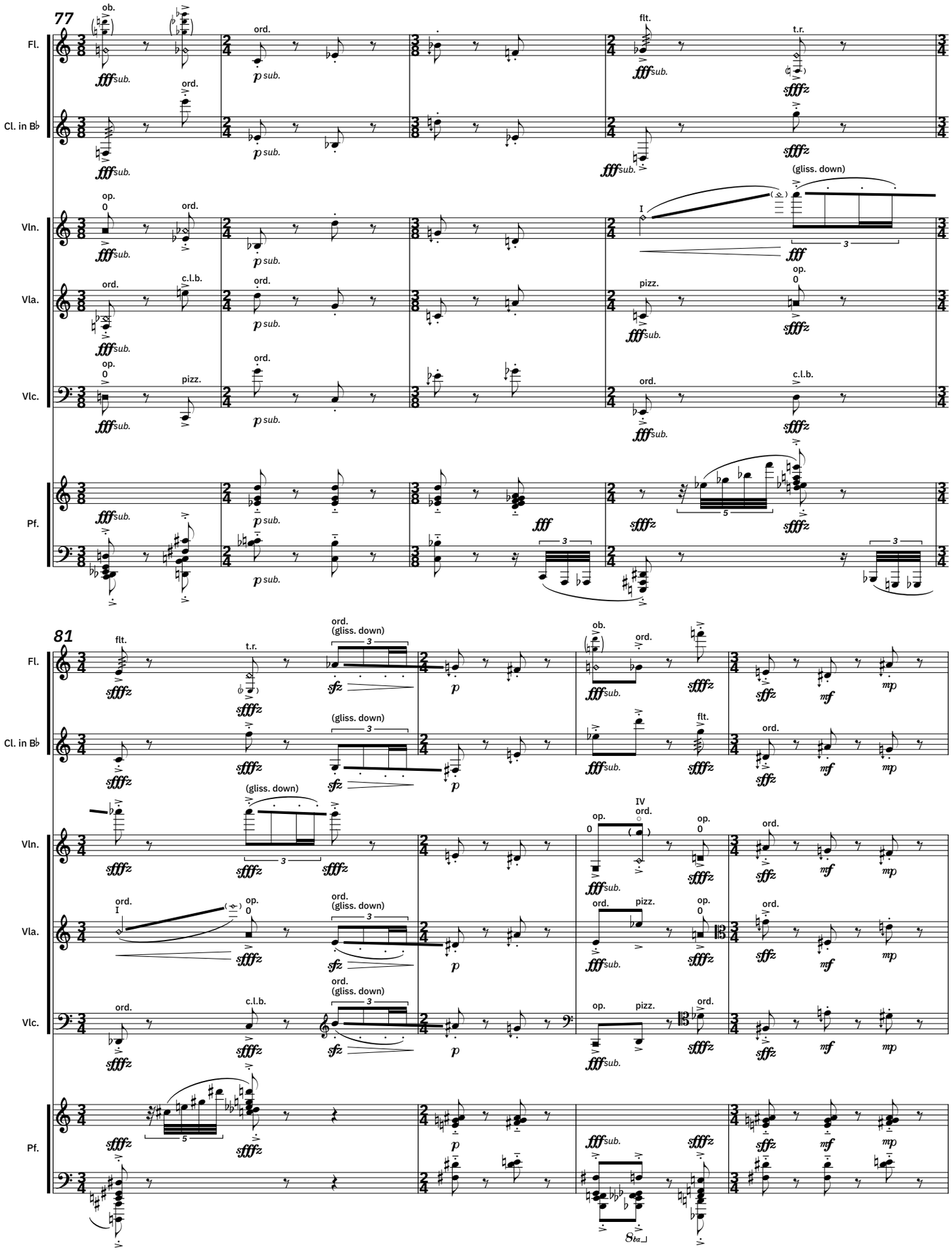

59
Fl.
(gliss. up)
pp
ff
pp
Cl. in B♭
(gliss. down)
pp
ff
p
(gliss. down)
Vln.
mp
pp
(gliss. up)
ff
Vla.
ff
pp
(gliss. up)
ff
Vlc.
(gliss. up)
ff
p
ff
Pf.
f

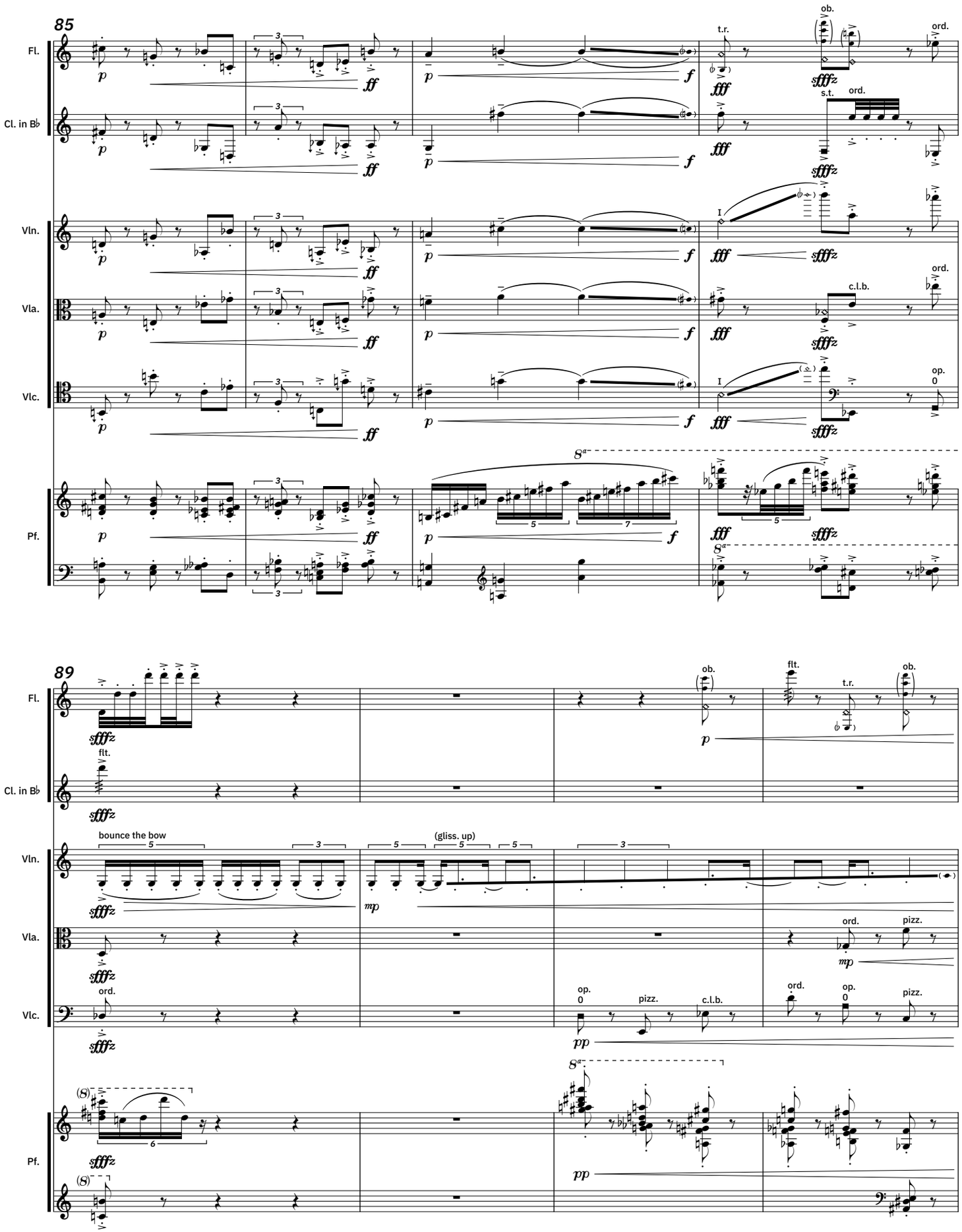

61
(gliss. up)
Fl.
ff
p
(gliss. up)
ff
Cl. in B♭
ff
pp
(gliss. down)
ff
Vln.
pp
ff
p
Vla.
p
ff
pp
(gliss. down)
Vlc.
(gliss. up)
pp
ff
Pf.
pp

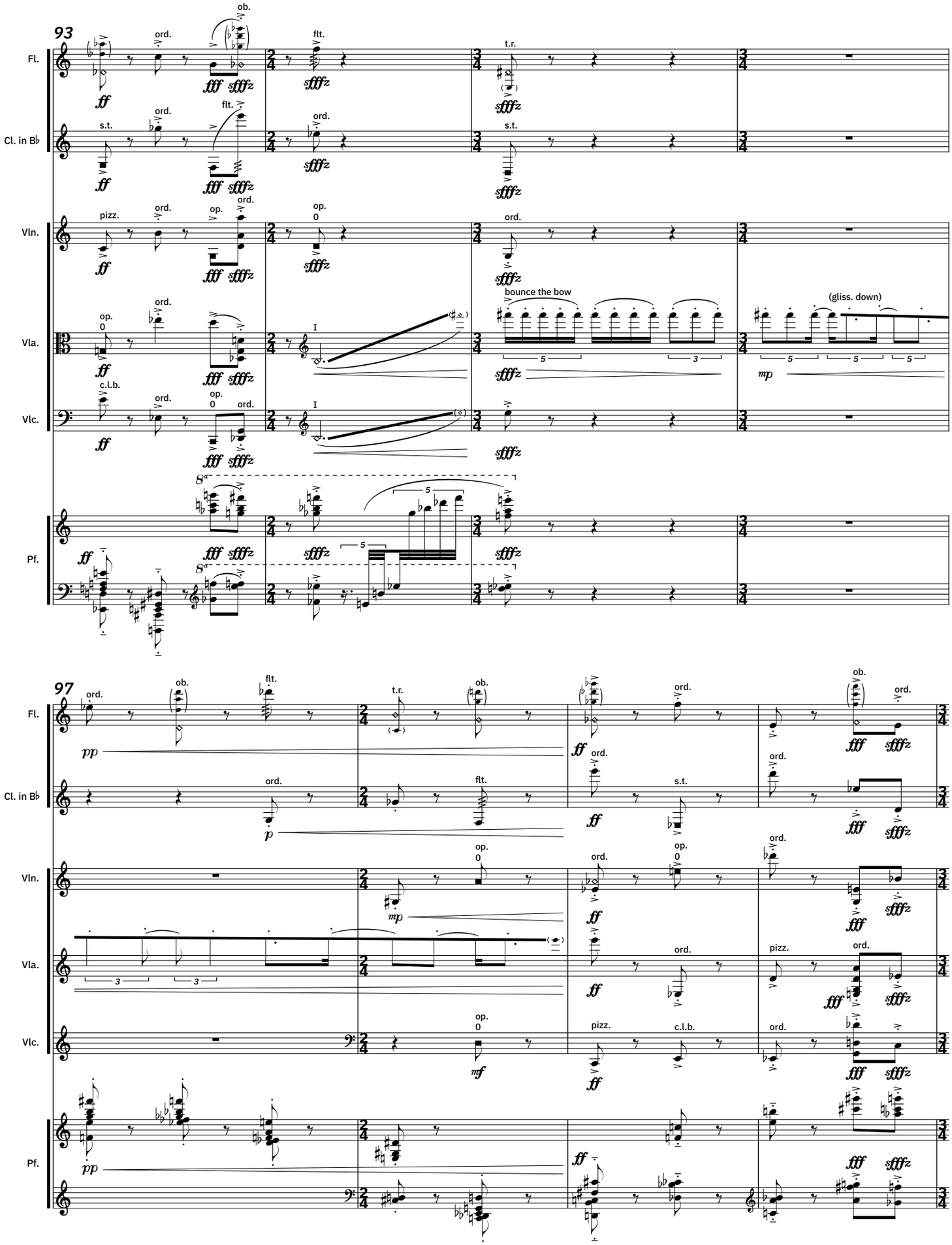

63
Fl.
(gliss. down)
pp
ff
Cl. in B♭
pp
Vln.
(gliss. up)
ff
pp
(gliss. down)
Vla.
ff
Vlc.
pp
Pf.
f

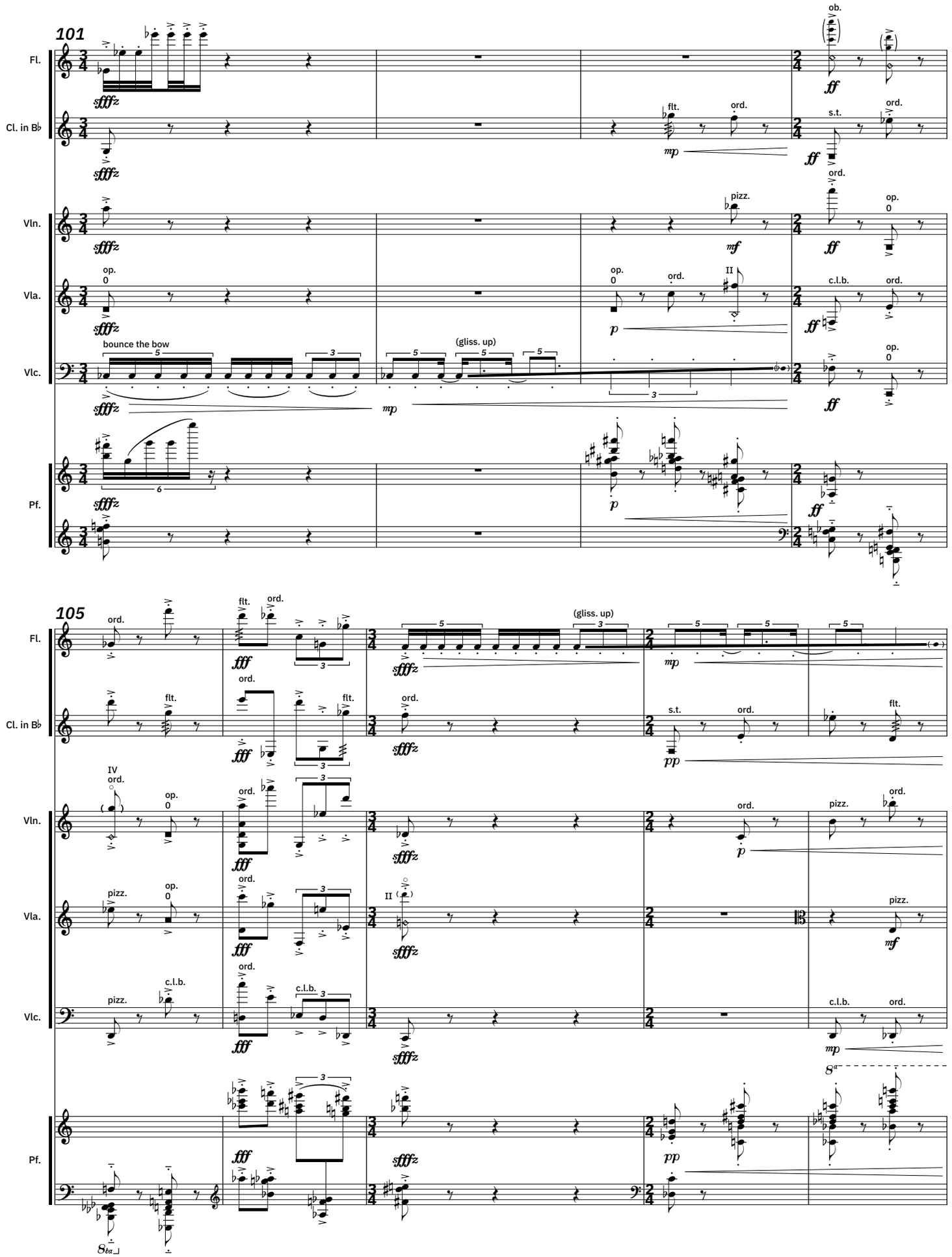

65
Fl.
pp
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
ff
pp
Vla.
pp
Vlc.
Pf.
pp
f

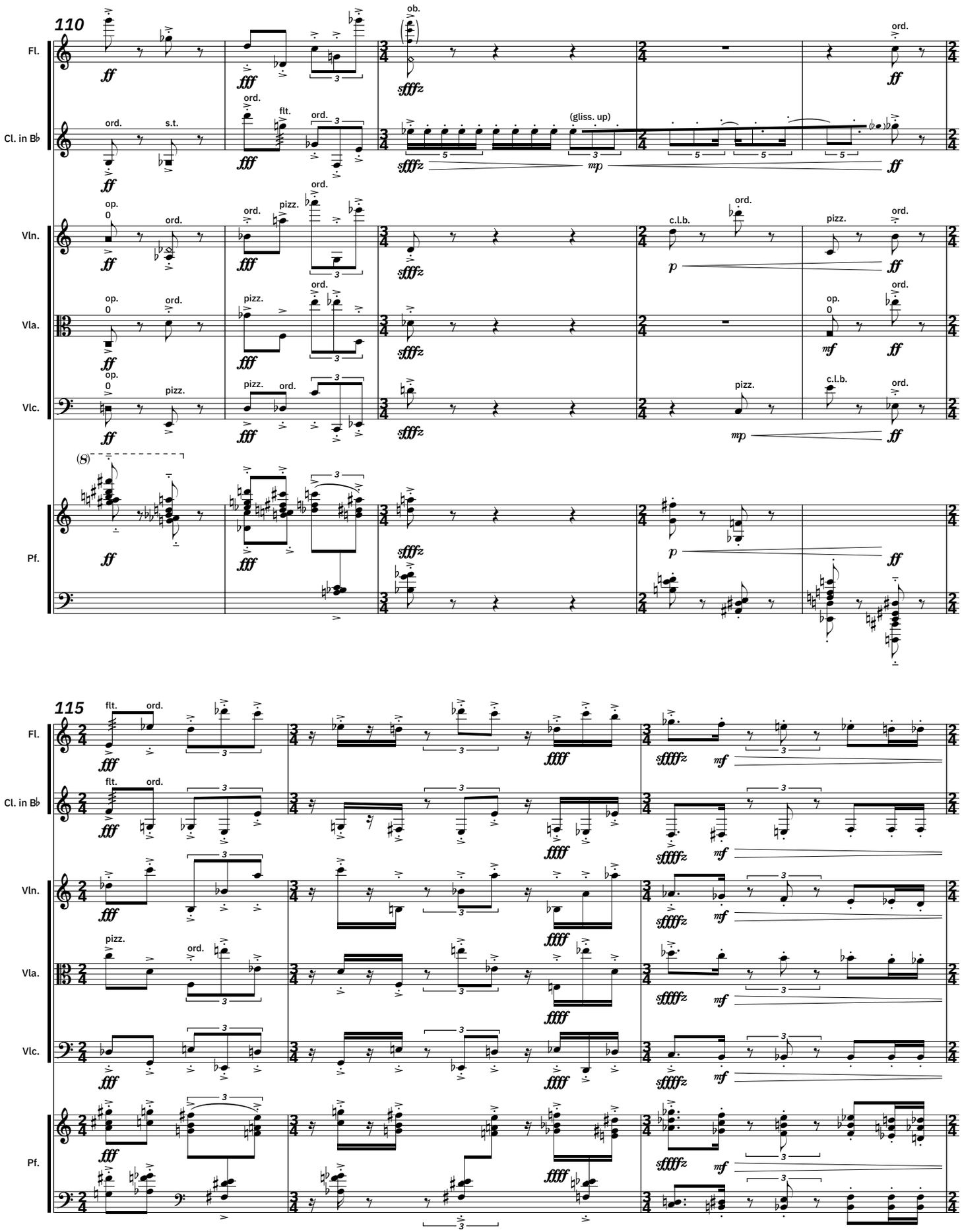

69
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
t.r.
ob.
ord.
fff sub.
p sub.
s.t.
III
op.
pizz.
(soft pedal)
73
flt.
I
II
to op.
sfffz

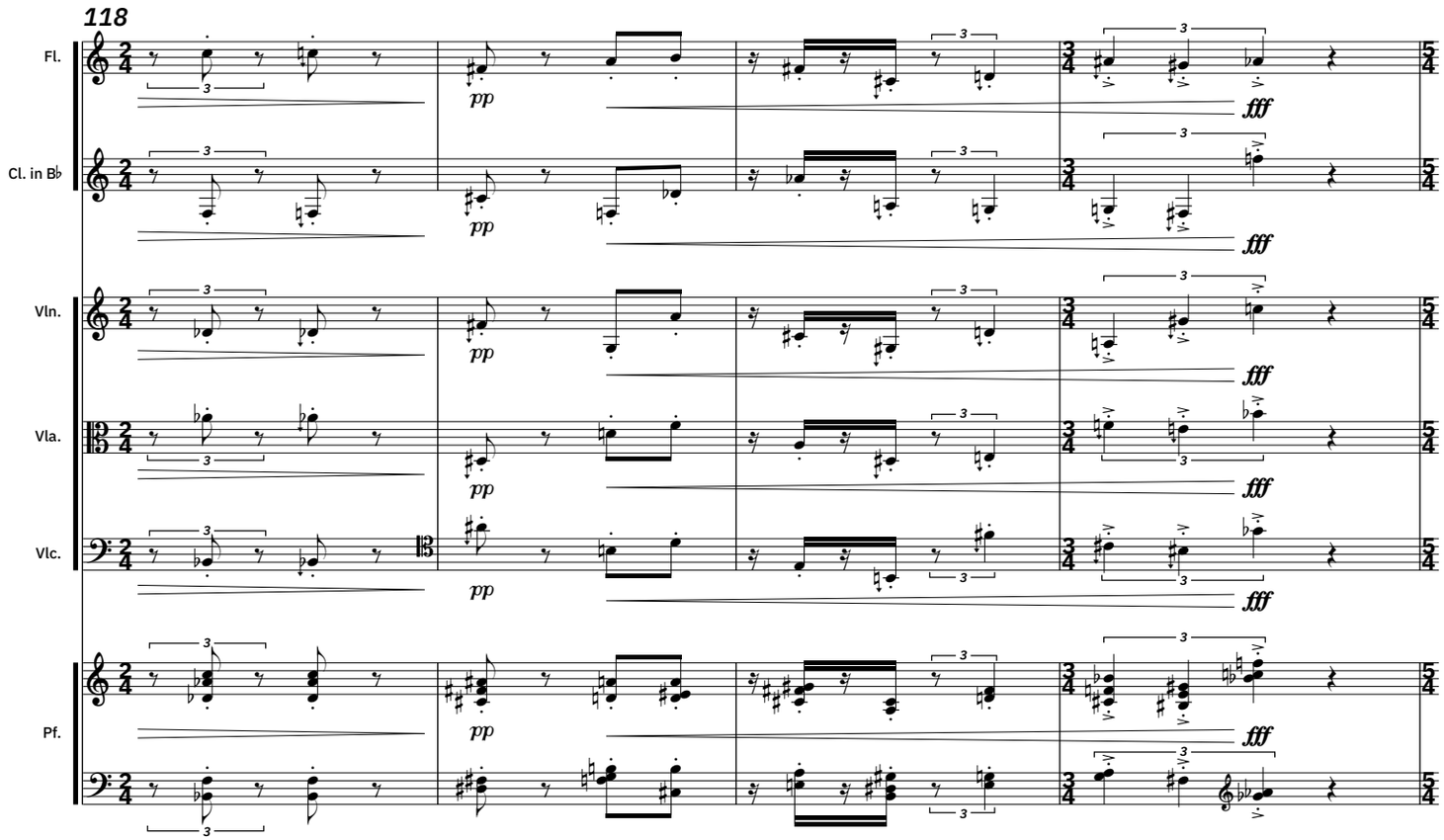

77
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
ob.
ord.
flt.
t.r.
op.
0
I
(gliss. down)
c.l.b.
pizz.
81
IV
(gliss. down)
ord.
(gliss. down)
sub.

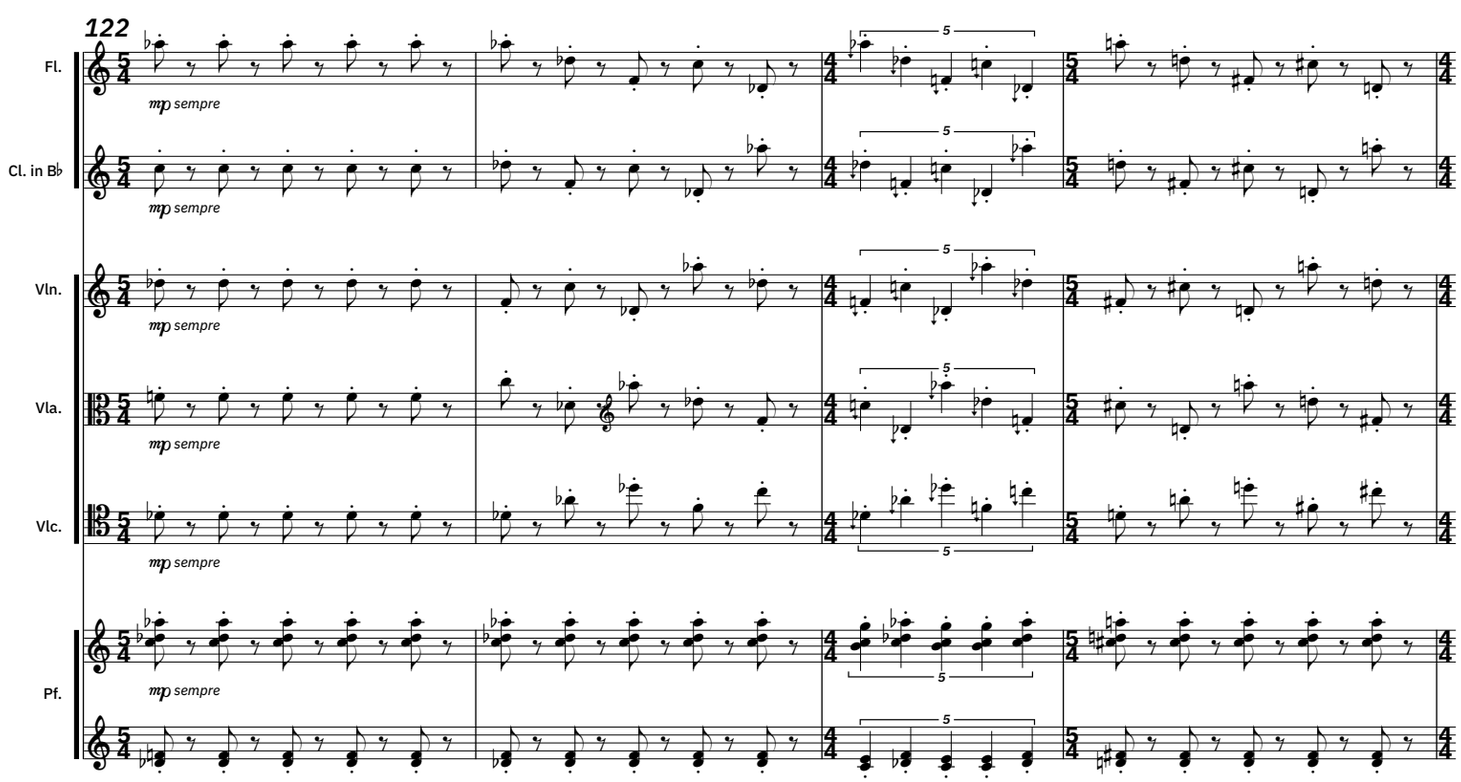

85
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
ob.
t.r.
ord.
s.t.
c.l.b.
op. 0
89
flt.
bounce the bow
(gliss. up)
pizz.

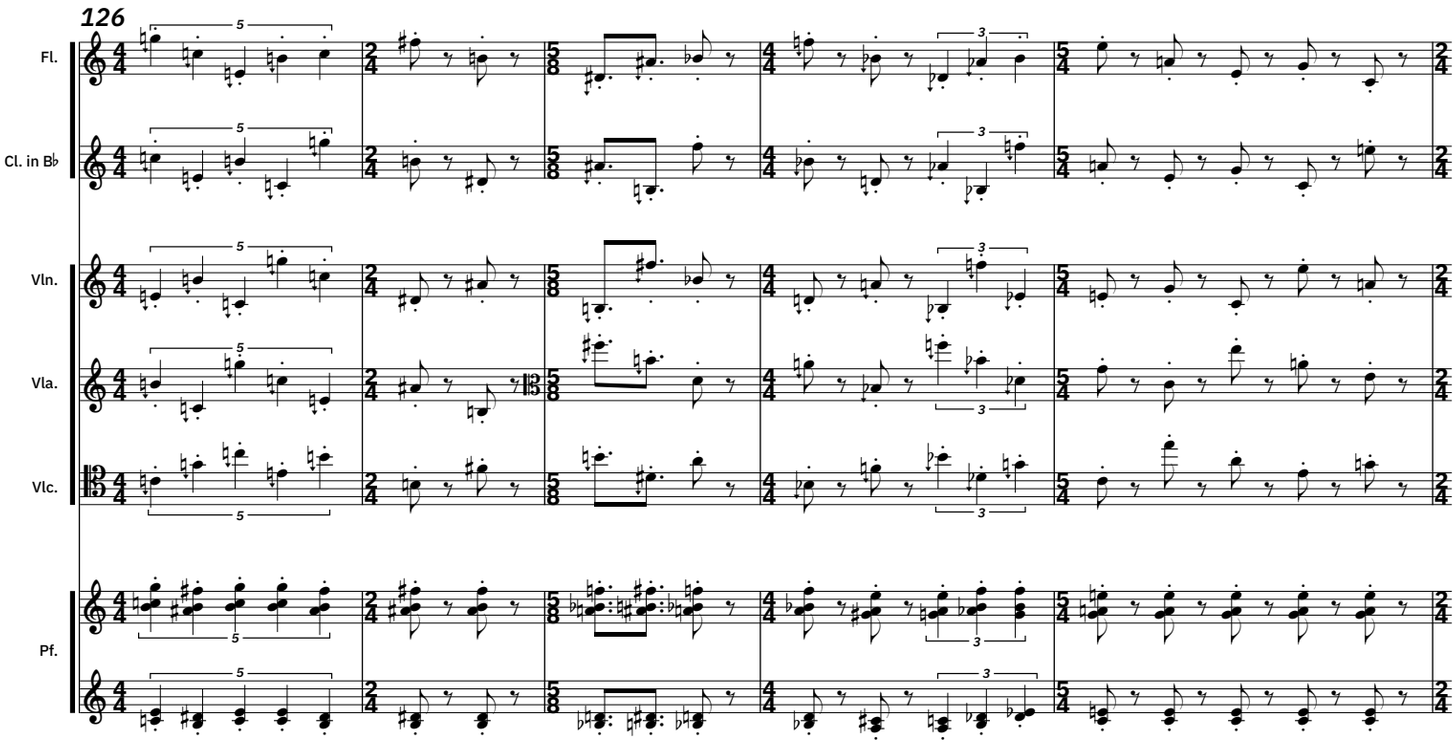

93
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
ord.
ob.
flt.
t.r.
s.t.
pizz.
op.
0
c.l.b.
bounce the bow
(gliss. down)
97

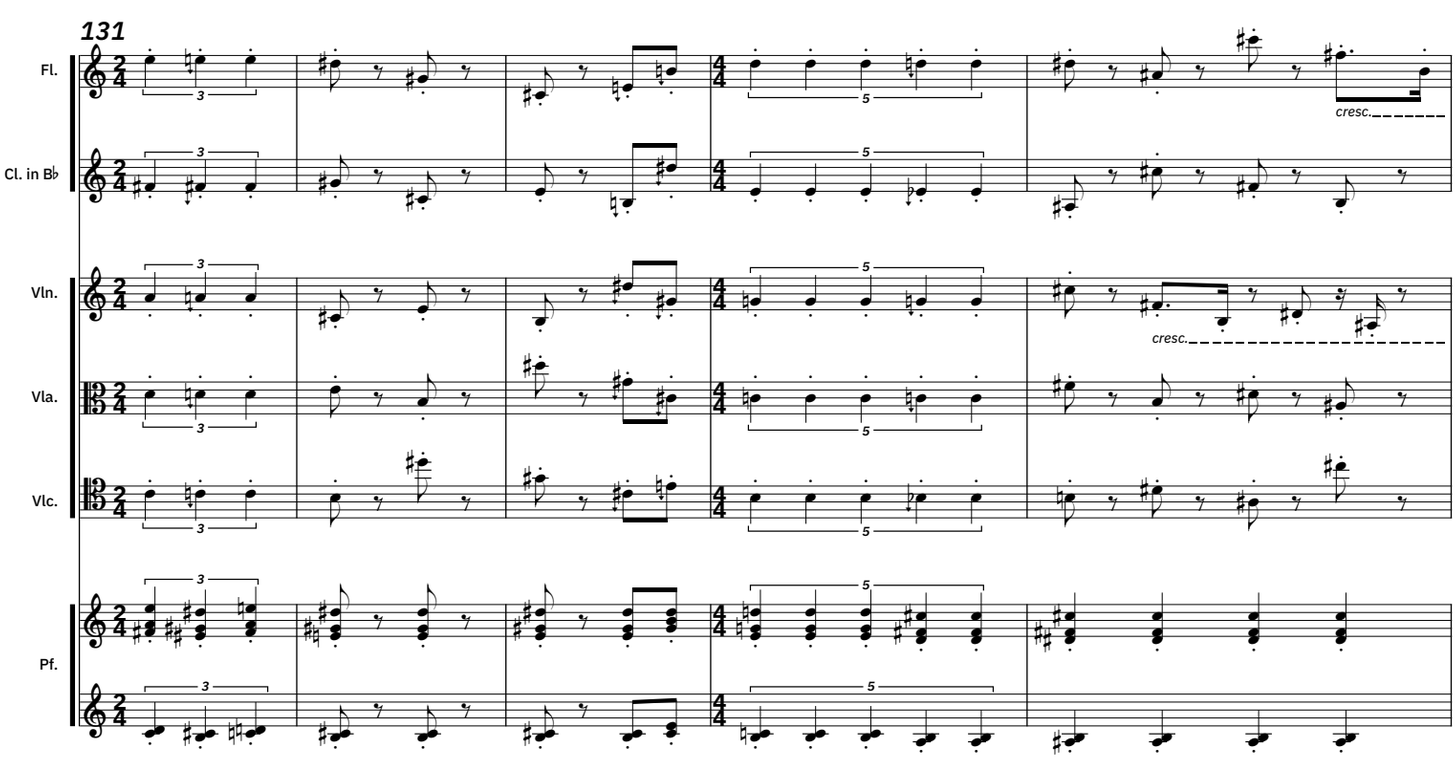

101
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
ob.
flt.
ord.
s.t.
pizz.
op. 0
II
c.l.b.
bounce the bow
(gliss. up)
105
IV

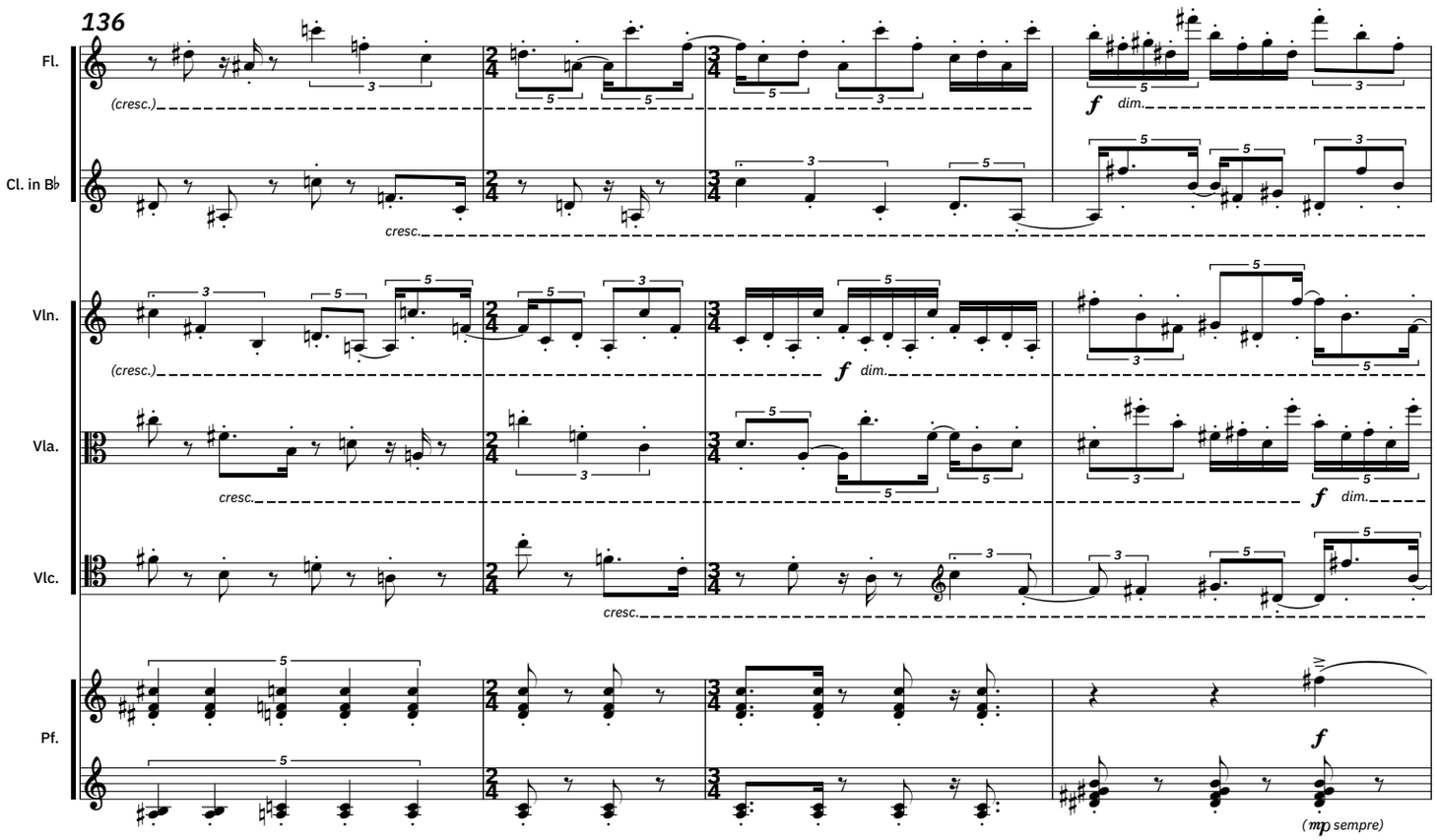

110
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
ff
fff
sfffz
mp
p
mf
ord.
s.t.
flt.
ob.
(gliss. up)
op. 0
pizz.
c.l.b.
(8)
115
ffff
sffffz

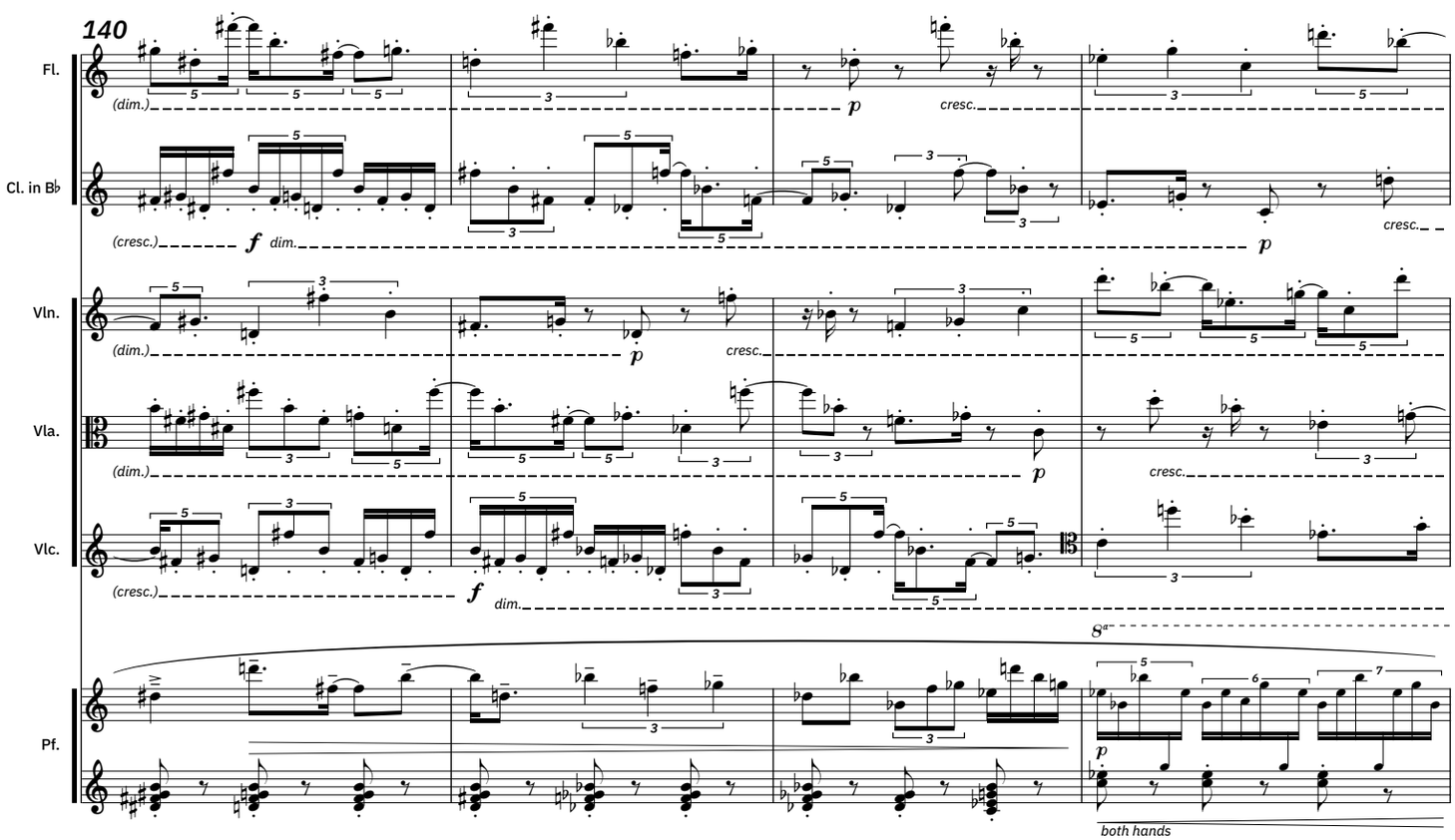

118
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
pp
fff

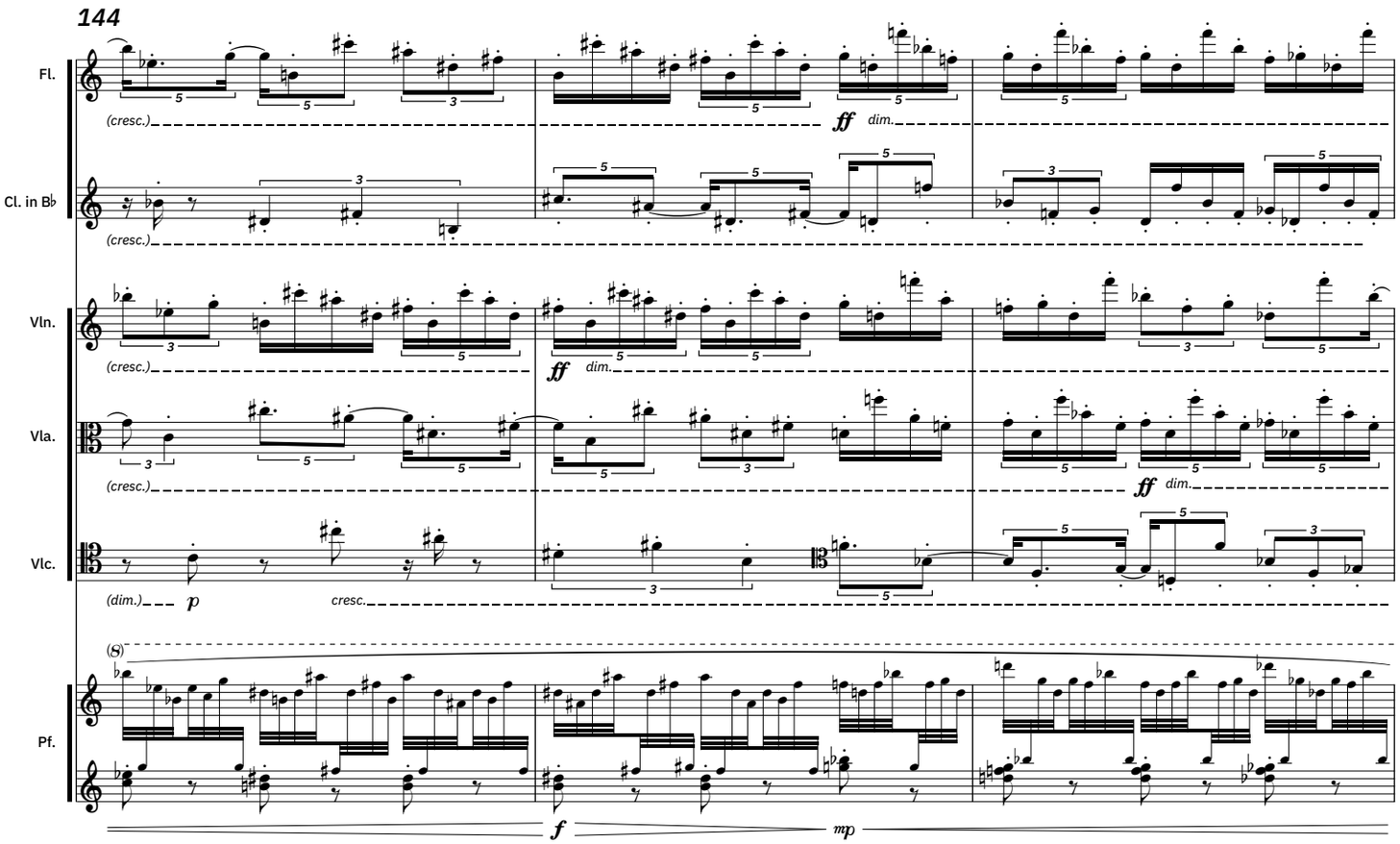

122
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
mp sempre

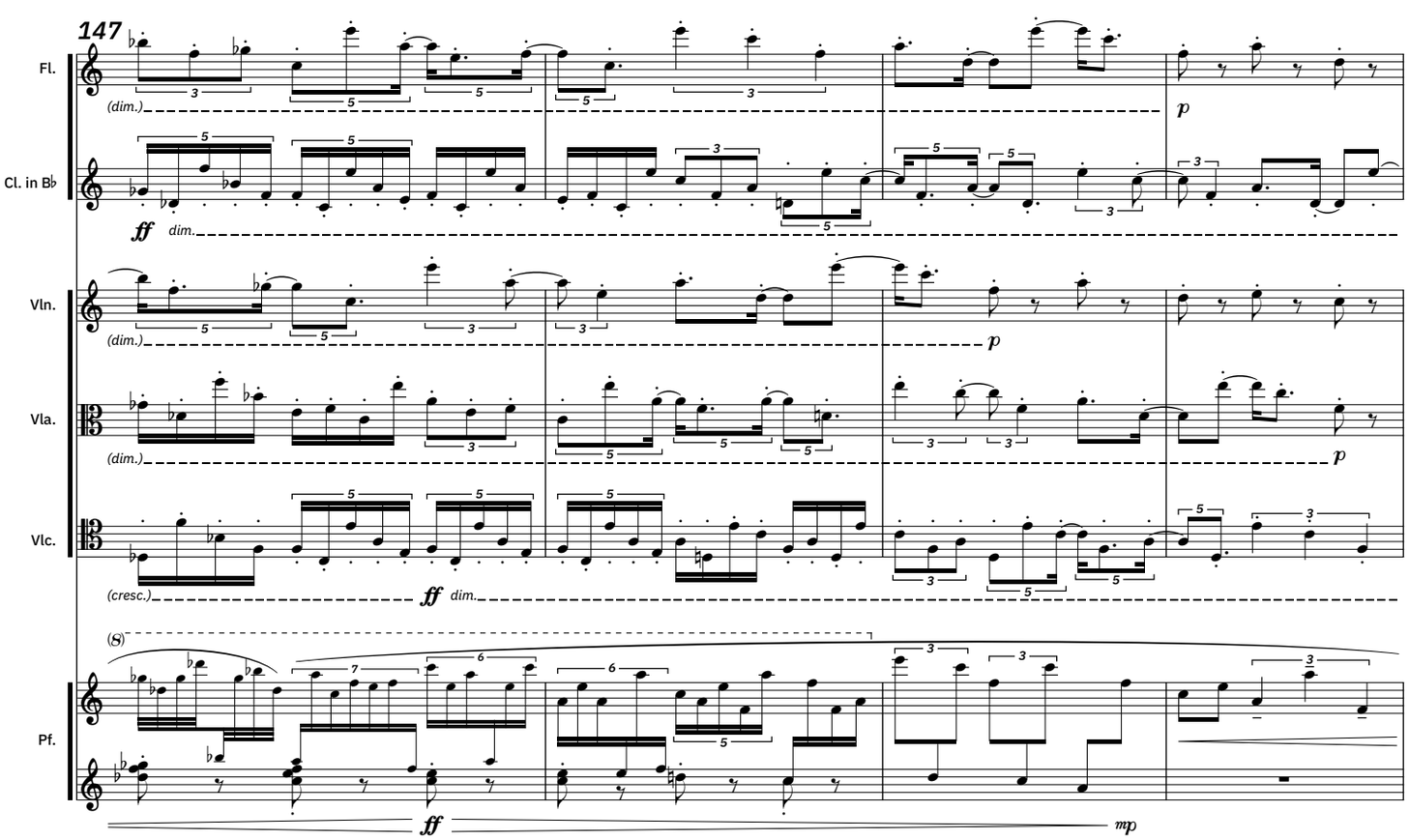

126
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.

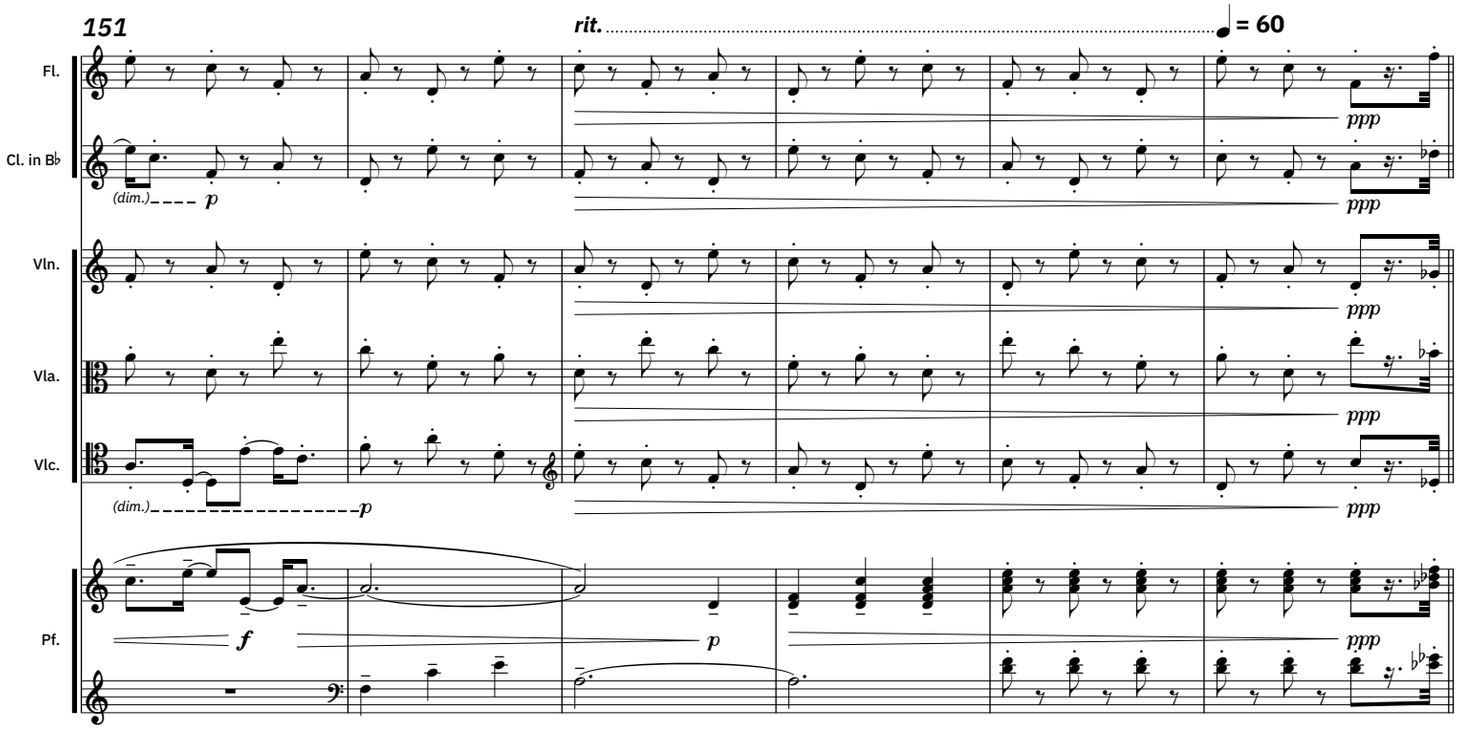

131
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
cresc.
cresc.

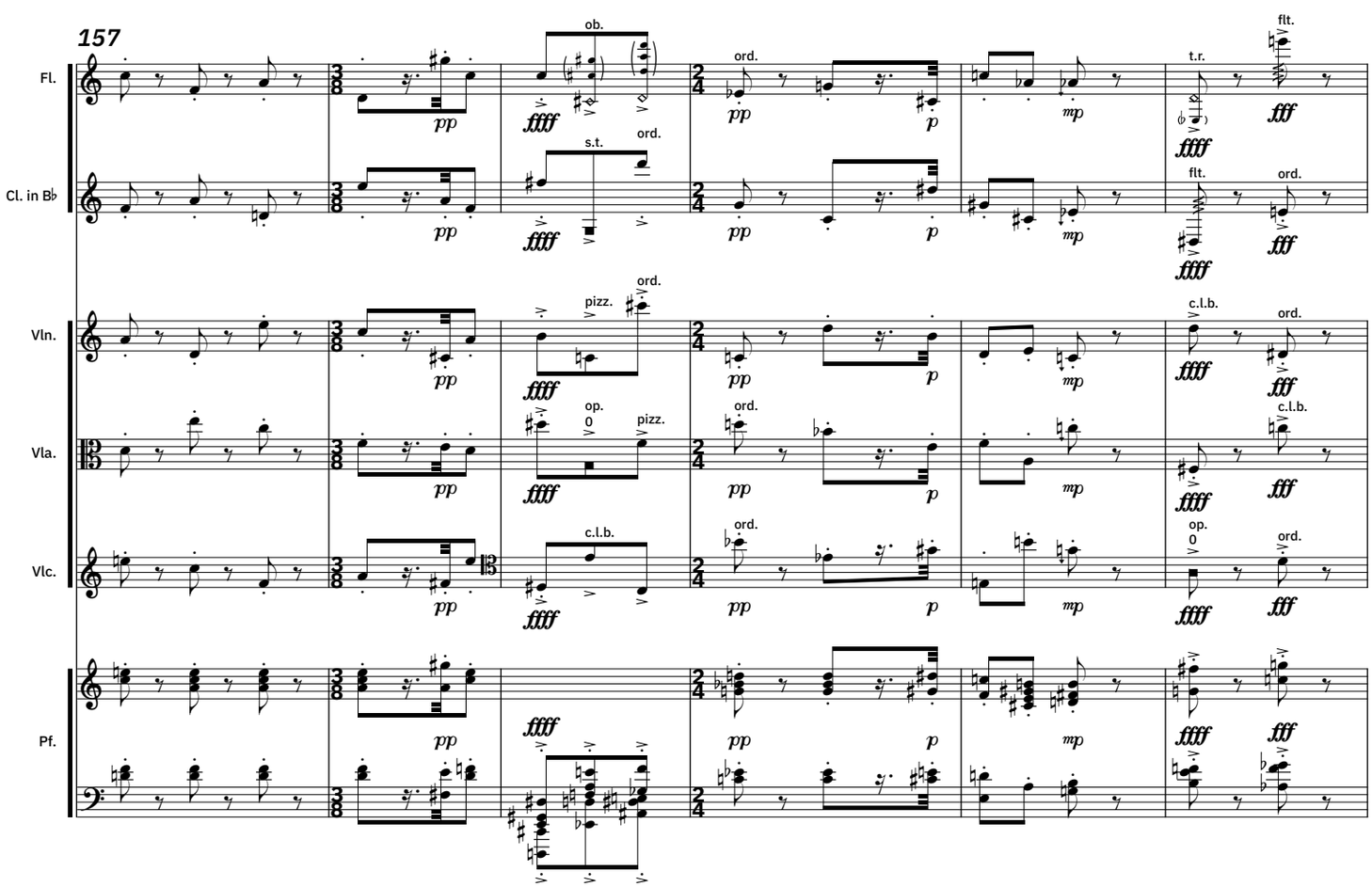

136
Fl.
(cresc.)
f dim.
Cl. in B♭
cresc.
Vln.
(cresc.)
f dim.
Vla.
cresc.
f dim.
Vlc.
cresc.
Pf.
f
(mp sempre)

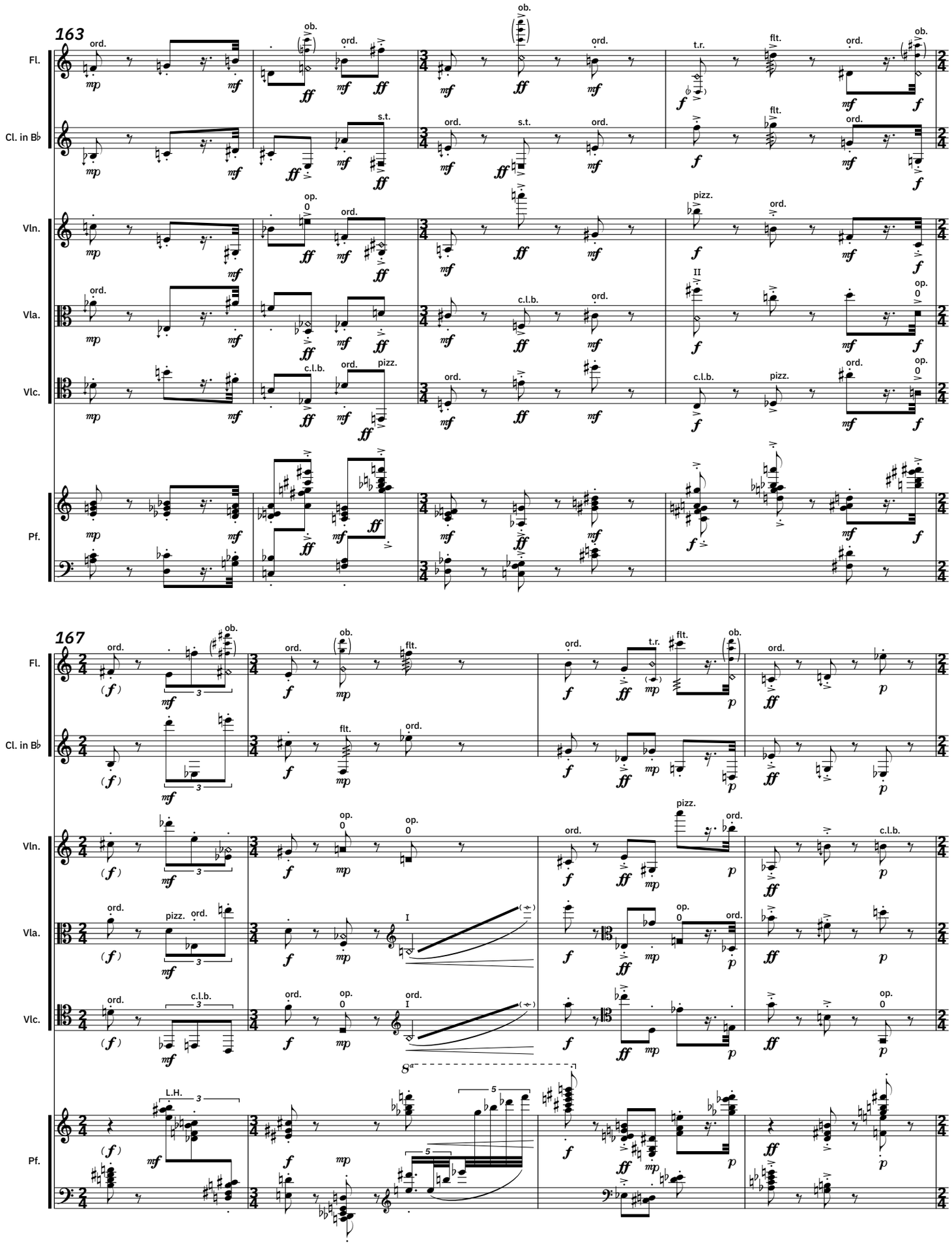

140
Fl.
(dim.)
p
cresc.
Cl. in B♭
(cresc.)
f dim.
p
cresc.
Vln.
(dim.)
p
cresc.
Vla.
(dim.)
p
cresc.
Vlc.
(cresc.)
f dim.
Pf.
p
both hands

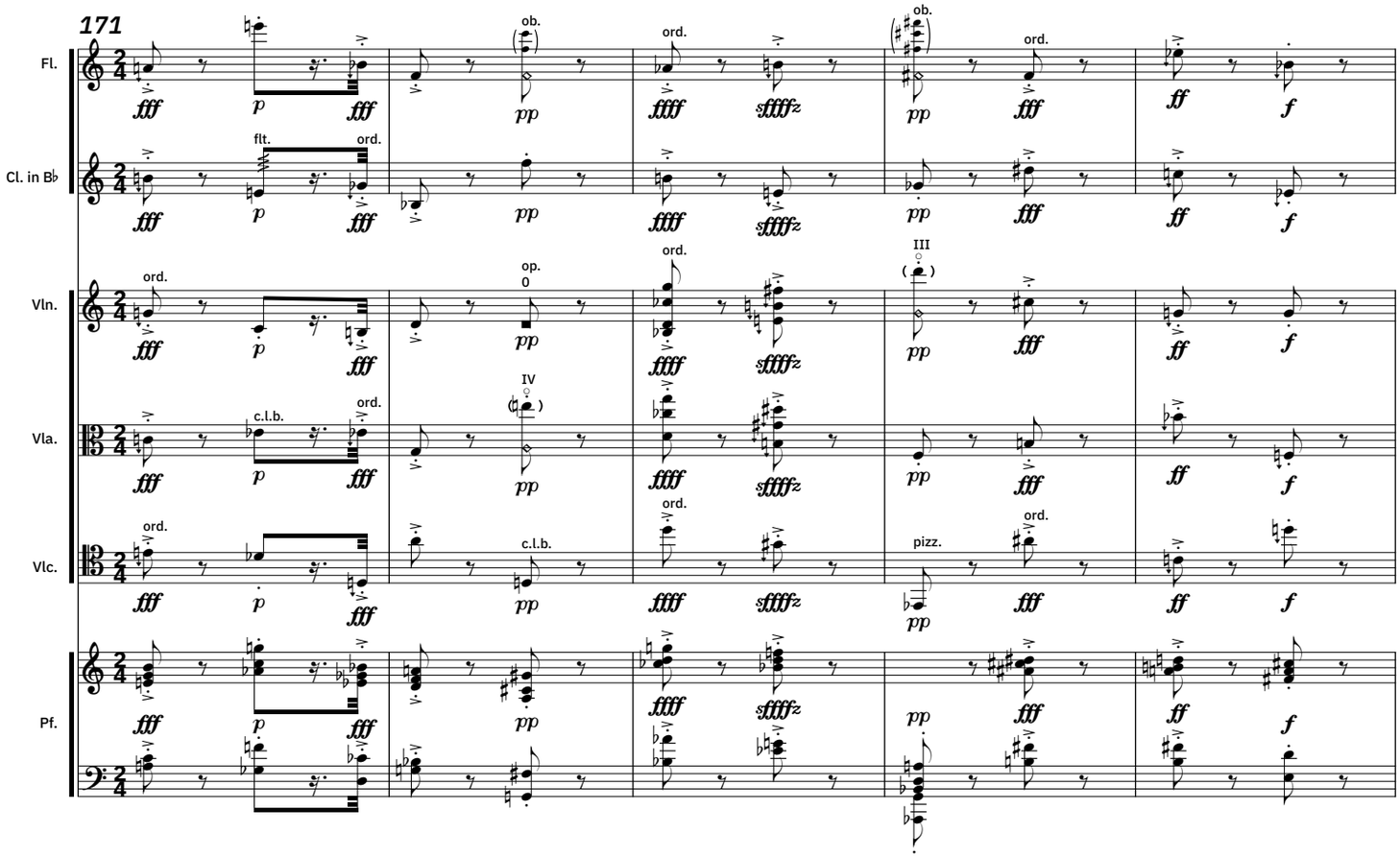

144
Fl.
(cresc.)
ff
dim.
Cl. in B♭
(cresc.)
Vln.
(cresc.)
ff
dim.
Vla.
(cresc.)
ff
dim.
Vlc.
(dim.)
p
cresc.
(8)
Pf.
f
mp

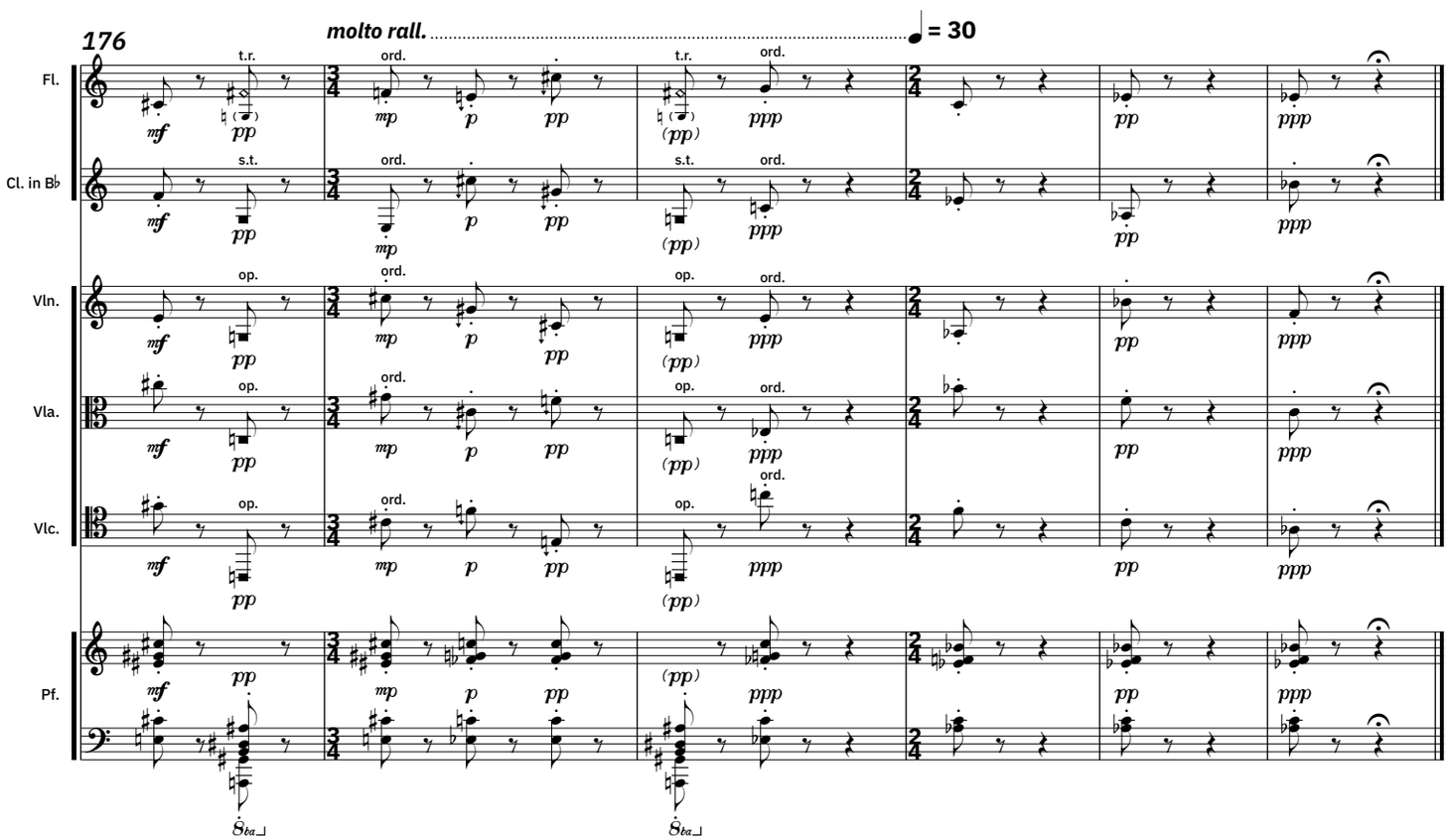

147
Fl.
(dim.)
p
Cl. in B♭
ff
dim.
Vln.
(dim.)
p
Vla.
(dim.)
p
Vlc.
(cresc.)
ff
dim.
(8)
Pf.
ff
mp


151
rit.
= 60
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
(dim.)
p
ppp
f


157
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
ob.
s.t.
ord.
pizz.
op.
0
c.l.b.
t.r.
flt.
pp
p
mp
ffff
fff


163
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
ord.
ob.
s.t.
t.r.
flt.
op.
pizz.
c.l.b.
167
L.H.


171
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
ob.
ord.
flt.
op.
c.l.b.
pizz.
III
IV


176
molto rall.
♩ = 30
Fl.
Cl. in B♭
Vln.
Vla.
Vlc.
Pf.
t.r.
s.t.
ord.
op.