The Masque Of The Red Death

After Edgar Allan Poe

Music by David Edgar Walther

for medium size orchestra

2/2+/2/2+ 2/2/2/1 2/timp. str.

duration: 7 minutes

Written when I was 21, during my senior year at Juilliard, when I was studying with Vincent Persichetti. This piece was read and recorded, at that time, by The Juilliard Concert Orchestra under Thomas Ludwig. The recording, is good, but not great. It was a reading, not a performance, and some sections are not adequate. I completely re-worked the piece in 2021, 23 & 24; & made large cuts in it.

In 2025 I was able to access the original recording which I used to restore the original score. I made a few changes: simplifying the dynamics & omitting parts that couldn't be heard along with leaving out the 3rd bn. & hn. & addiing gong & cymbals. I kept most of the original phrasing, but added a 16th note at 118 to make it a 2/4 measure. I simplified the antiphonal writing before, & extended the aftermath after, the climax at 144.

I believe that most of these changes will not be noticalbe when listening to the recording. In fact, many of the ineffectual sections are due to needless complexities in the original score. In this piece I made many mistakes, but also did many things correctly, which is mystifying since my knowledge of orchestration was lacking at that time. In the past 50 years I do believe that I have learned a few things.

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Instrumentation:

Instrumental Forces:	**Abbre-viations:**
Flute	Fl.
Oboe	Ob.
English Horn in F	E.H.
Clarinet in Bb	Cl.
Bass Clarinet in Bb	B.Cl.
Bassoon	Bn.
Contrabassoon	C.bn.
2 French Horns in F	Hn.
2 Trumpets in Bb	Tpt.
Tenor & Bass Trombone	Trb.
Tuba	Tb.
Three performers:	
1. Cymbals &	Cym.
Gong	Gng.
2. Bass Drum	B.d.
3. Timpani	Timp.
Violin I	Vln. I
Violin II	Vln. II
Viola	Vla.
Violoncello	Vc.
Double Bass	D.B.

C Score
after Edgar
Allan Poe

Masque of the Red Death

duration: 7 minutes: intro: 2 minutes, then 5 minutes

Music by David
Edgar Walther

♪ = c. 74

2 Flutes

Oboe &
English Horn in F

2 Clarinets in Bb

Bassoon &
Contrabassoon

2 French Horns
in F

2 Trumpets in Bb

Bass & Tenor
Trombone

Tuba

Percussionists:
1. Cymbals & Gong

2. Tenor & Bass Drum

3. Timpani

Violin I & II

Viola

Violoncello &
Double Bass

mf *molto dim* *ppp*

f

I.

f

Gng.

ppp

mp

♪ = c. 74

unis. *pizz.* *p*

pp

4

Hn.

Tb.

Gng.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. & D.B.

mp *p* *dim.* *pizz.* *pp*

p *dim.* *pizz.* *pp*

arco *p* *dim.* *pizz.* *pp*

dim. *pp*

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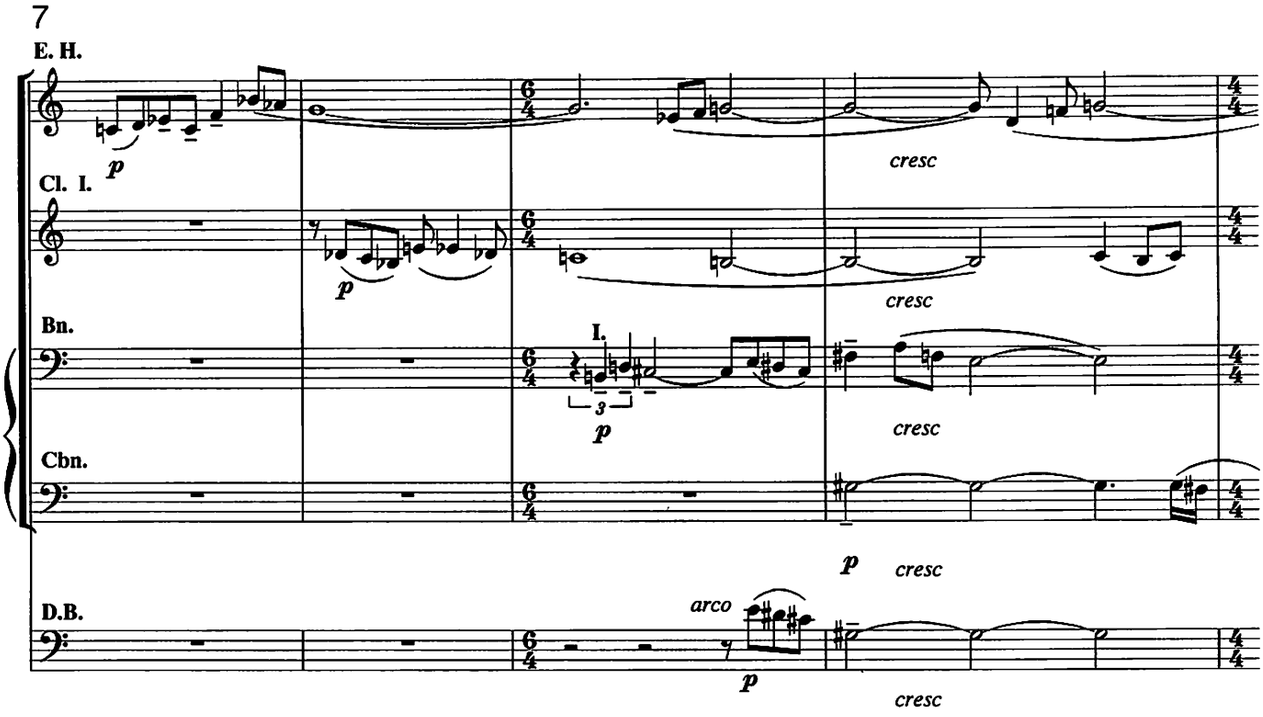
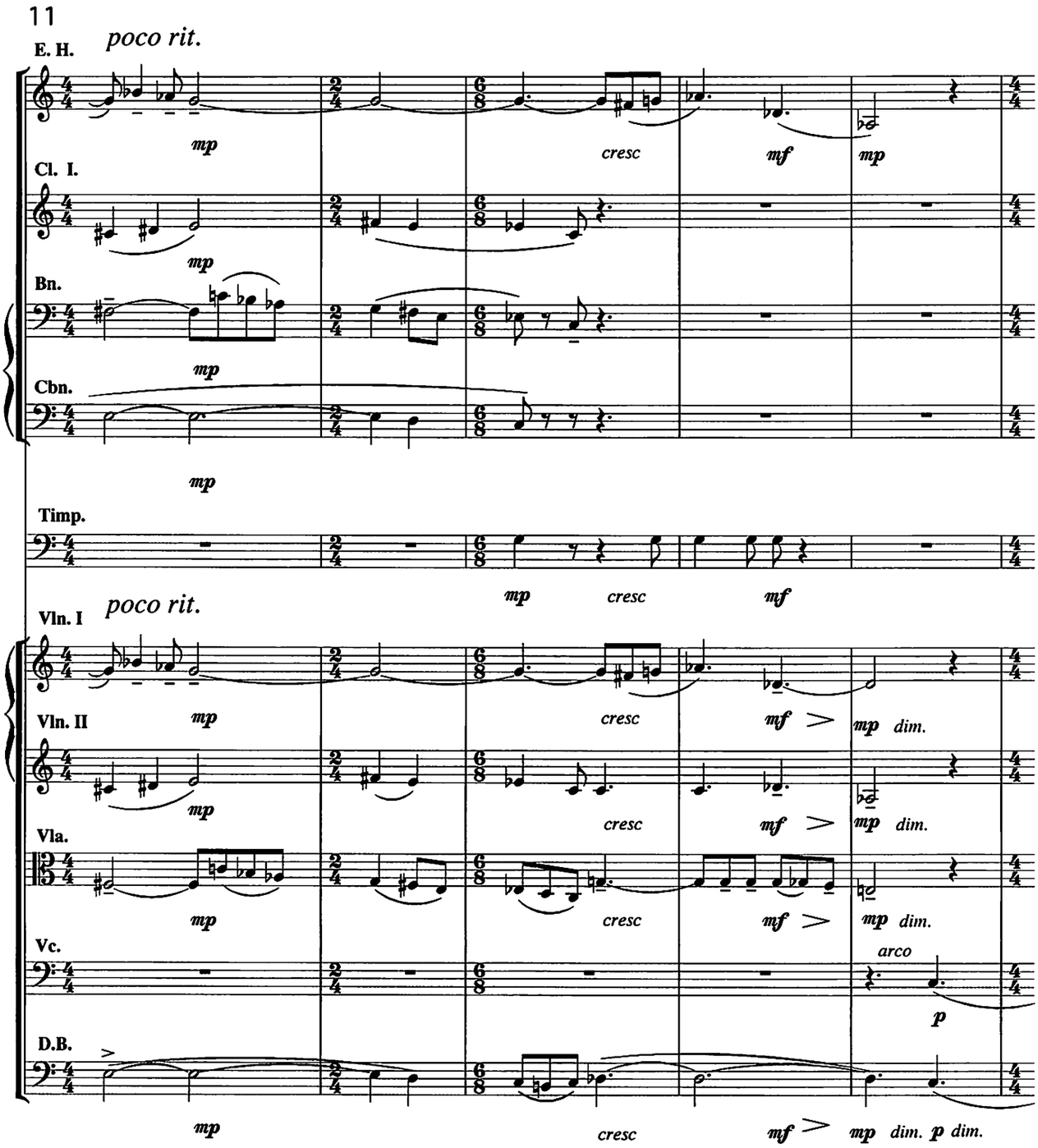
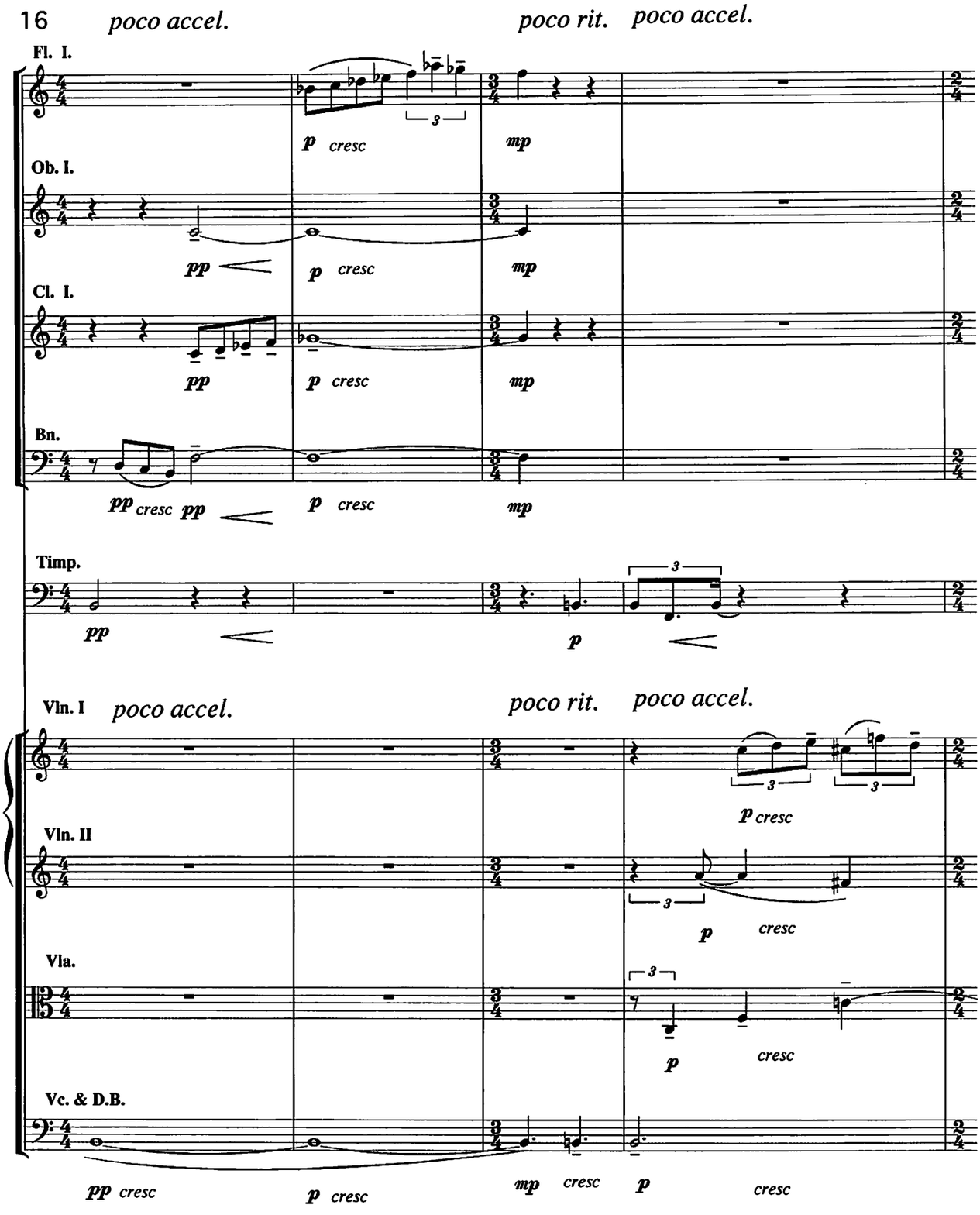
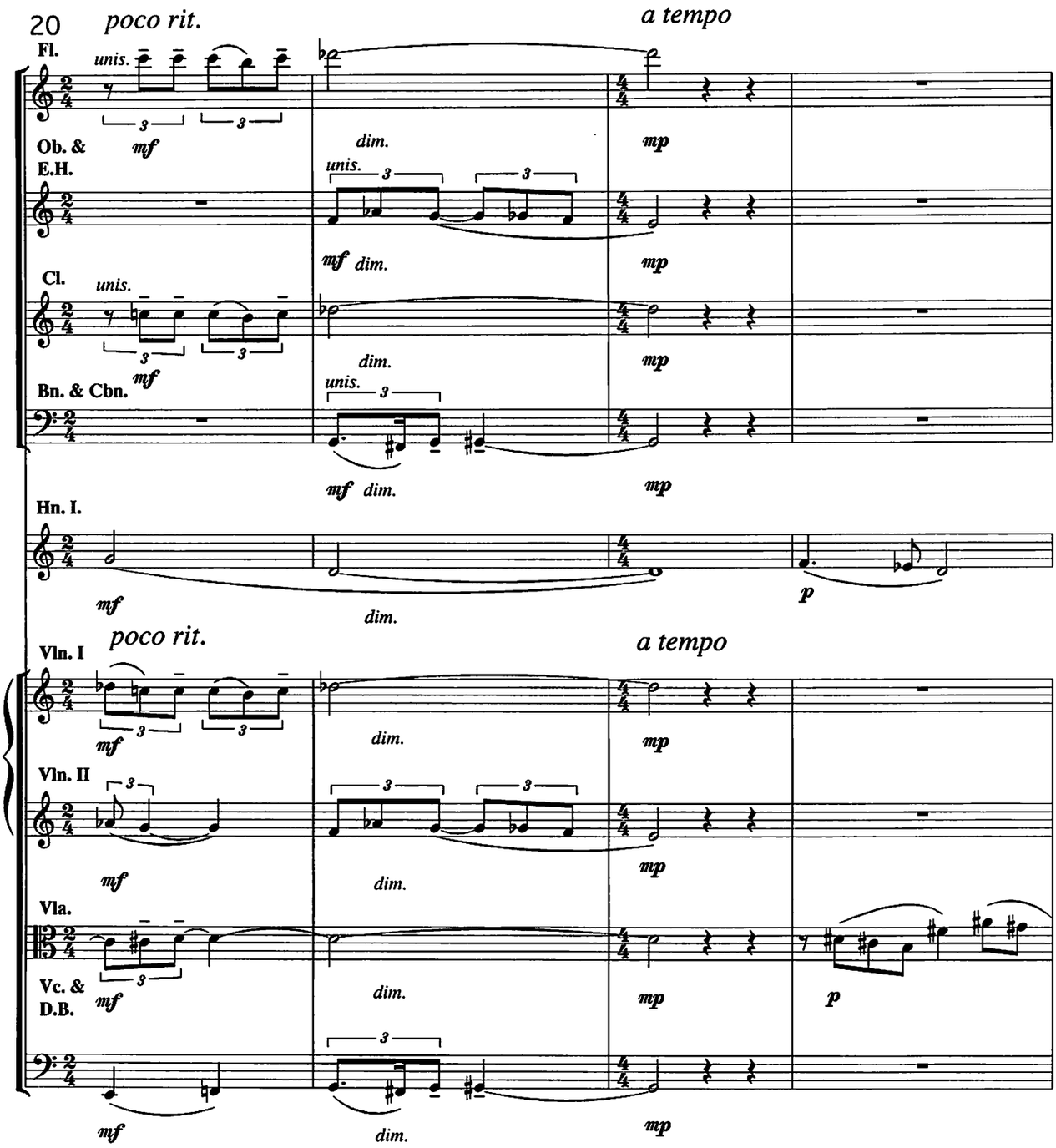
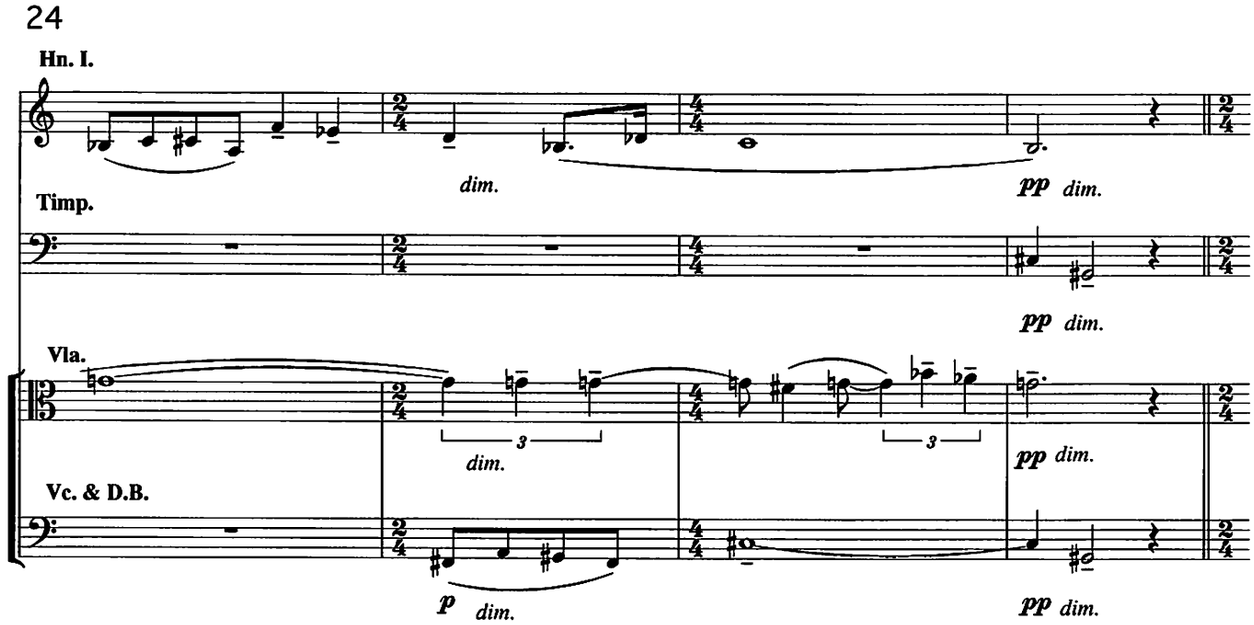
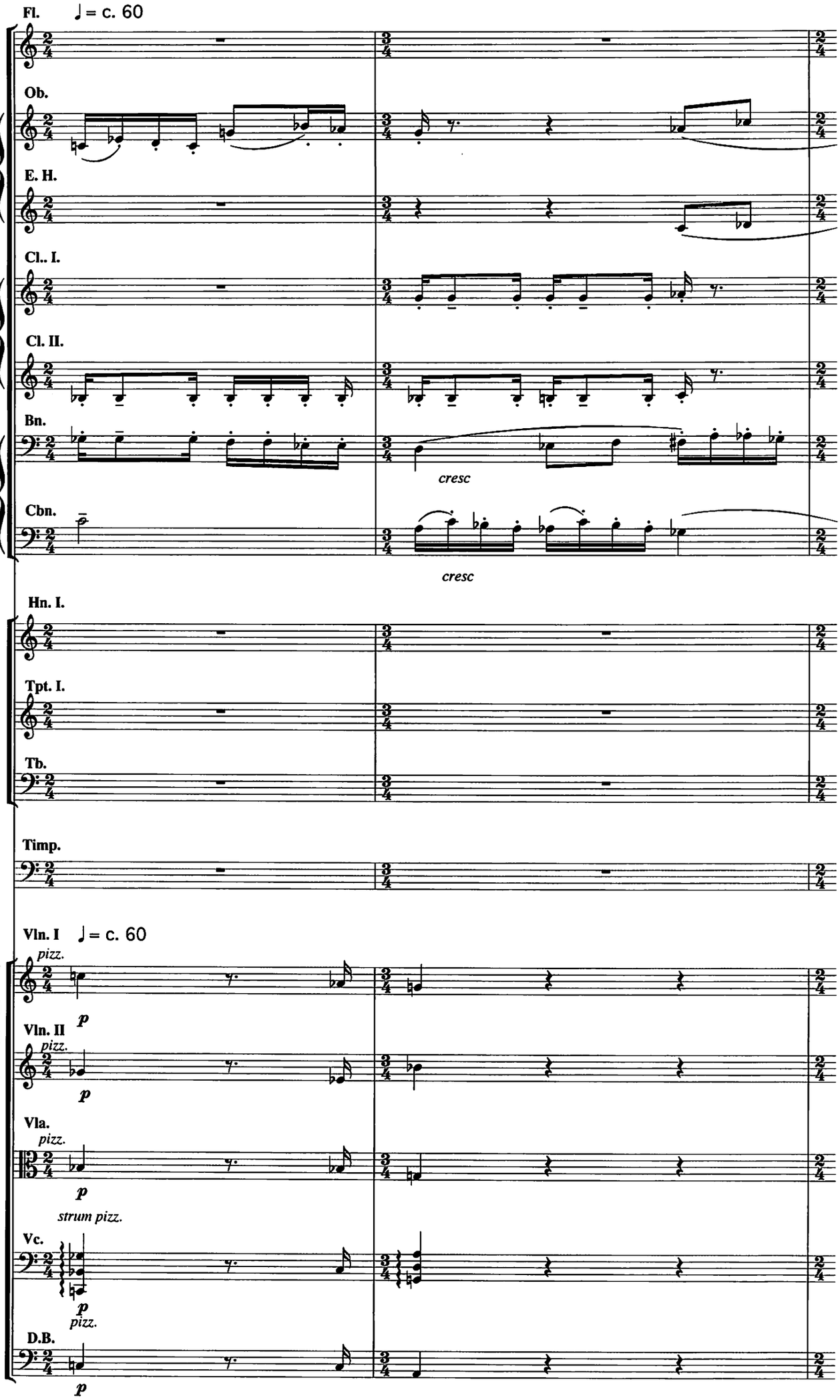

7
E. H.
Cl. I.
Bn.
Cbn.
D.B.
I.
arco
p
cresc

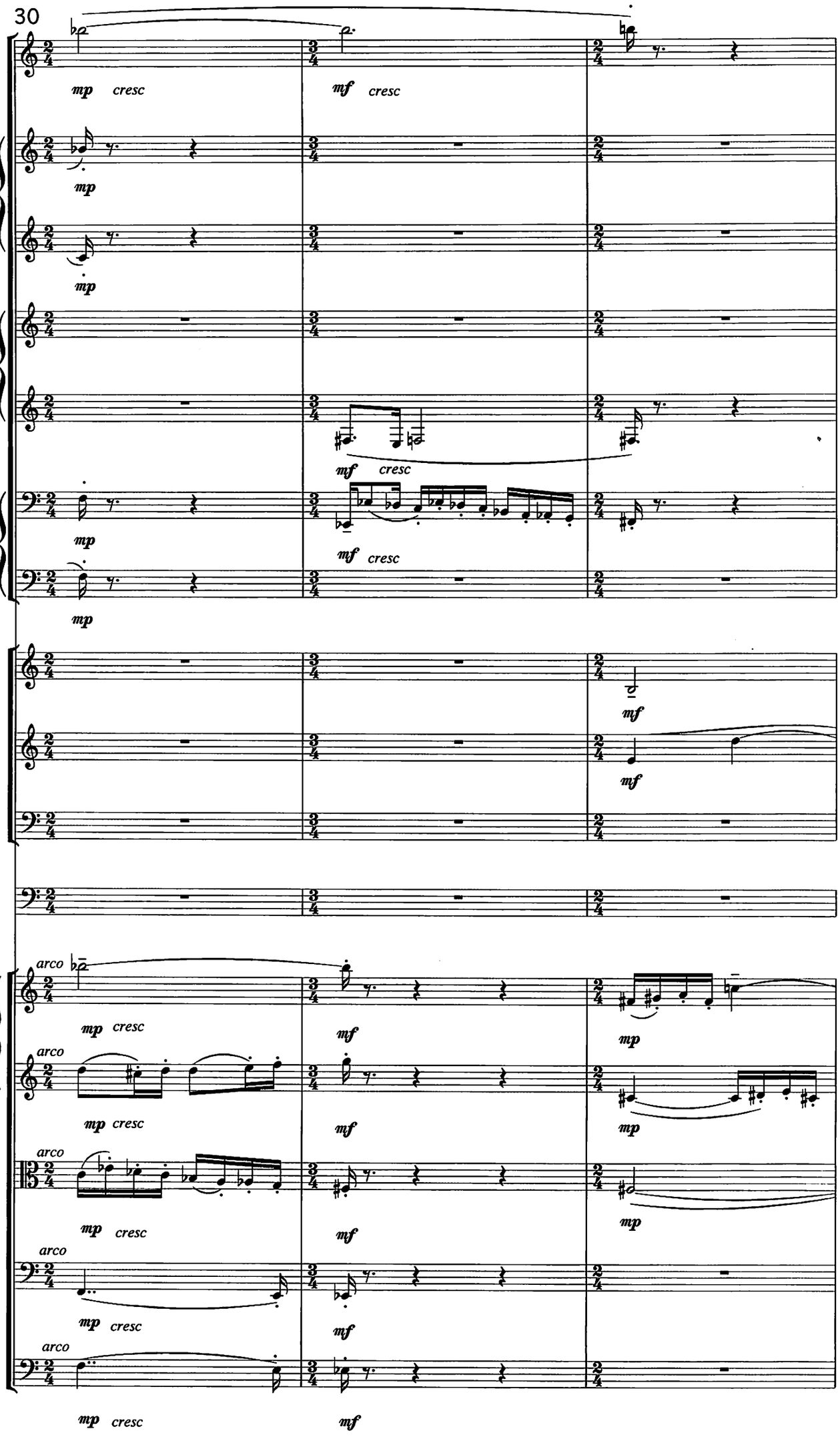

11
E. H.
poco rit.
Cl. I.
Bn.
Cbn.
Timp.
Vln. I
poco rit.
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
arco
mp
cresc
mf
dim.
p

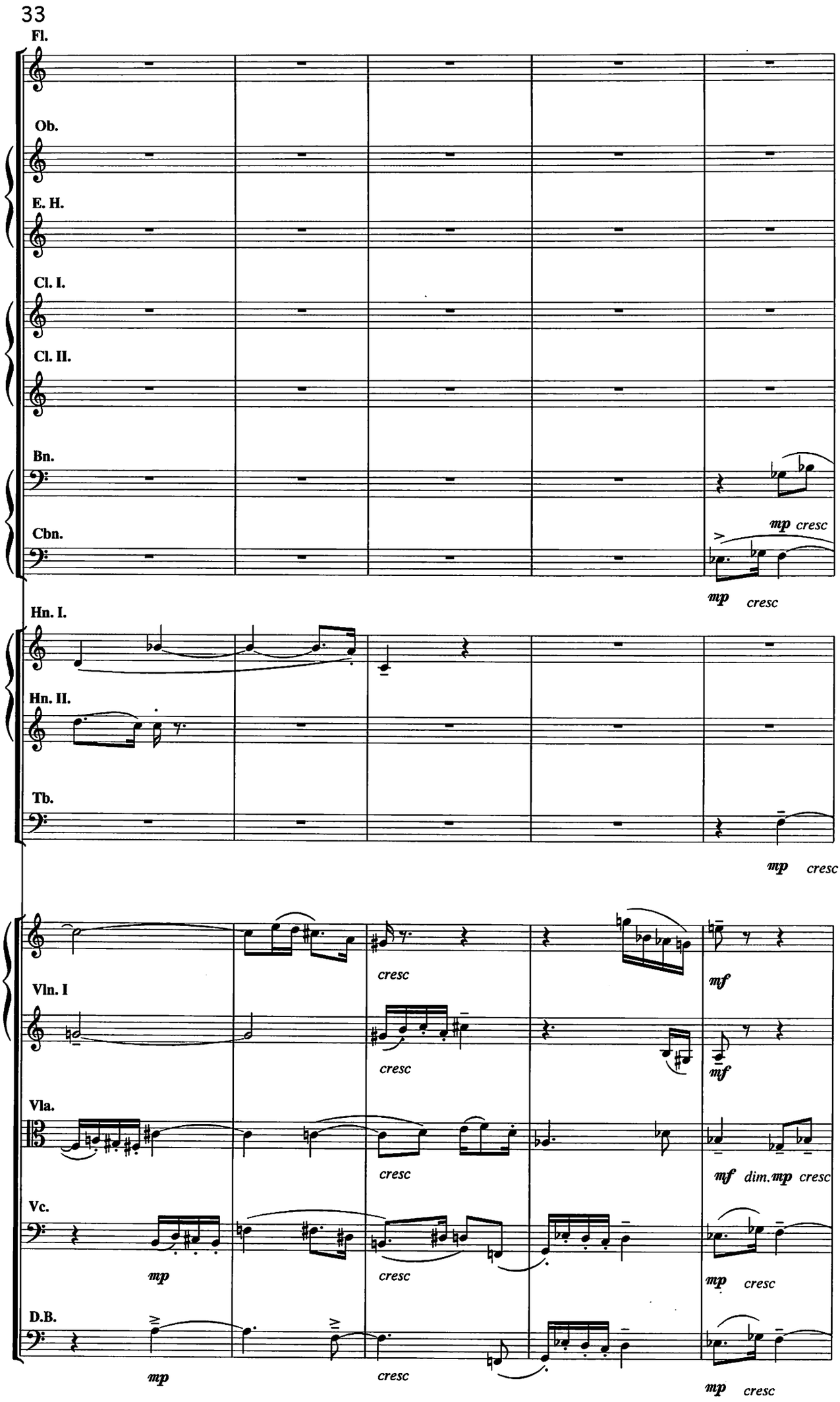

16
poco accel.
poco rit.
poco accel.
Fl. I.
Ob. I.
Cl. I.
Bn.
Timp.
Vln. I
poco accel.
poco rit.
poco accel.
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc. & D.B.
pp cresc
p cresc
mp
cresc

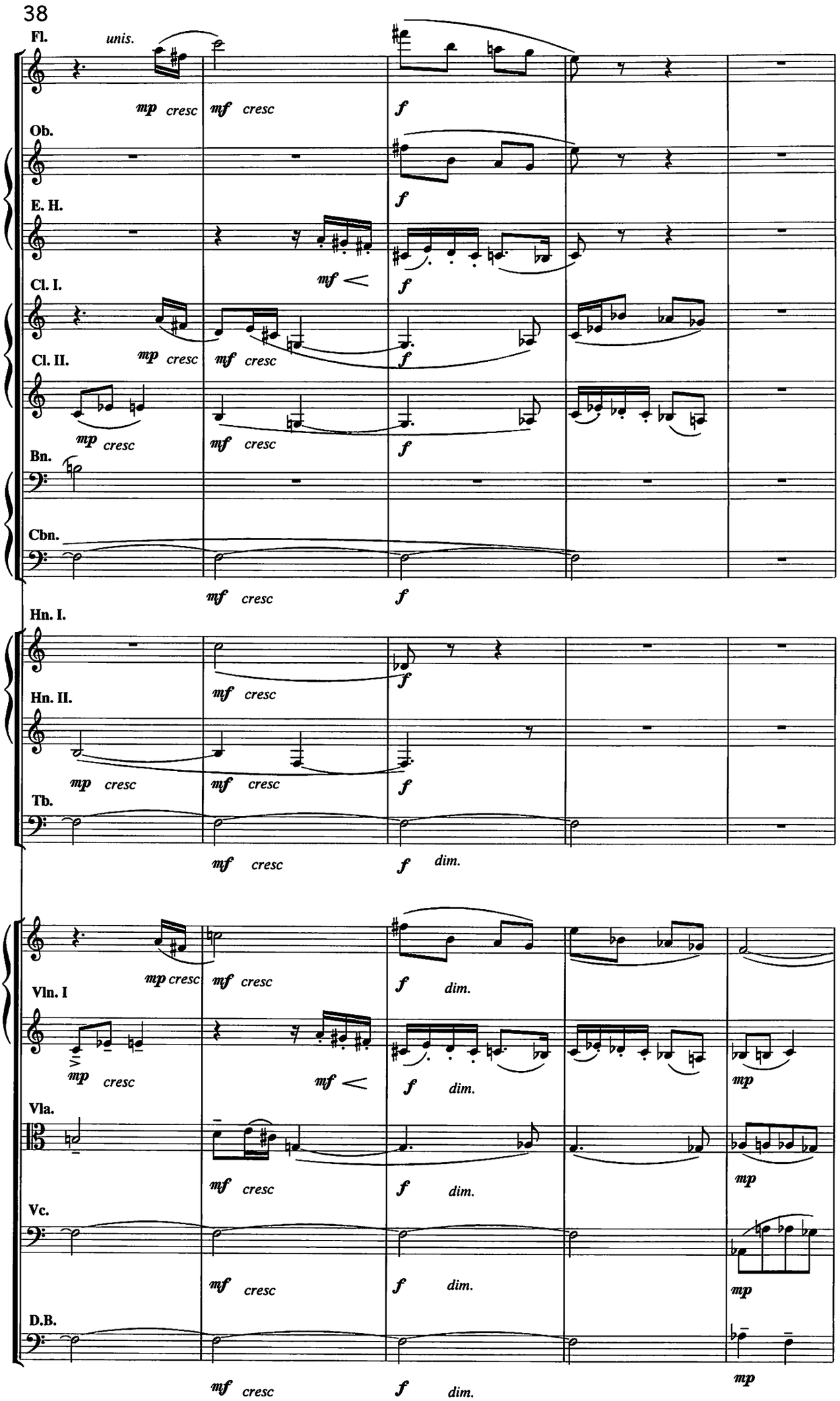

20
poco rit.
a tempo
Fl.
unis.
Ob. & E.H.
Cl.
Bn. & Cbn.
Hn. I.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc. & D.B.
mf
dim.
mp
p

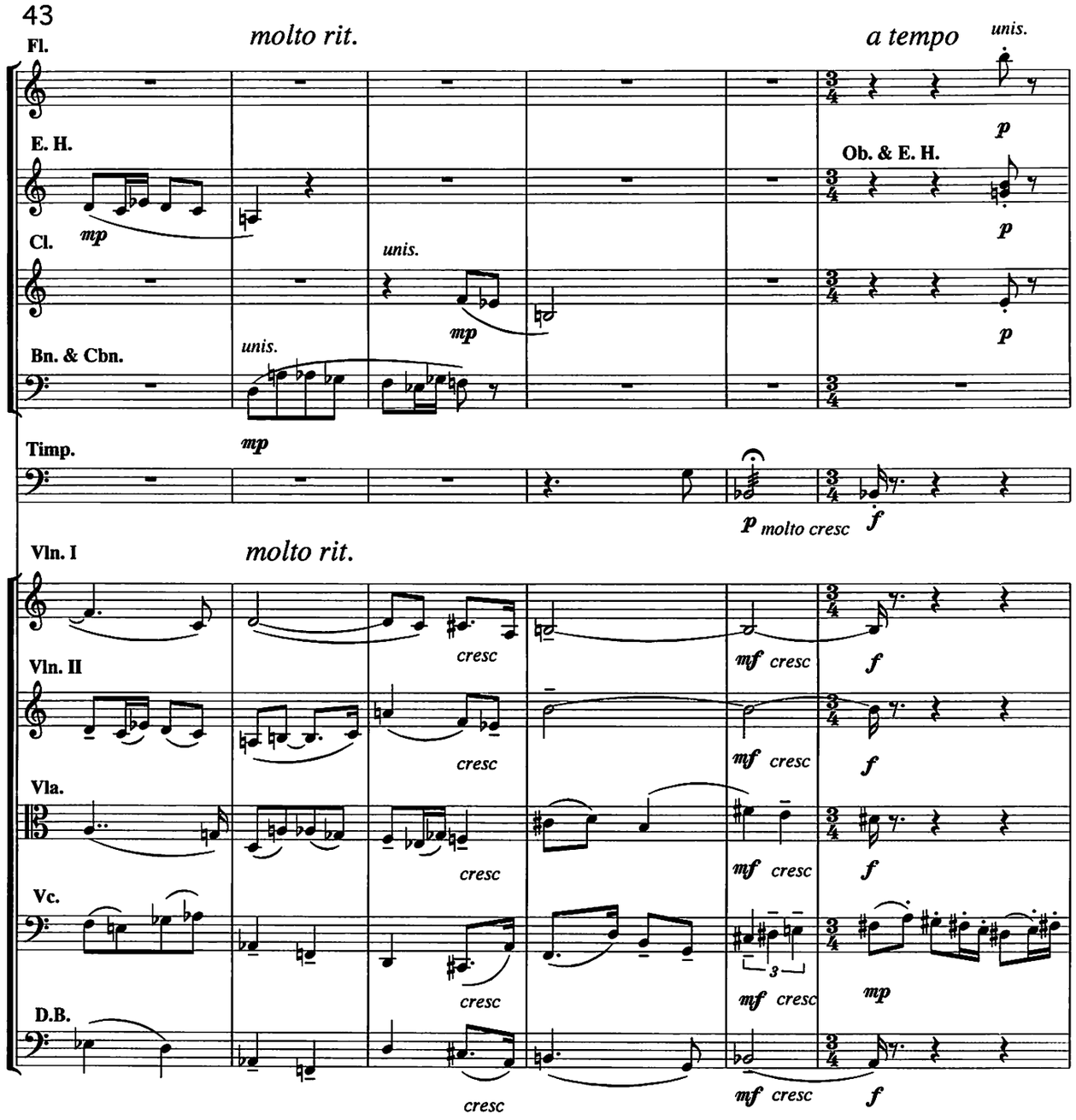

24
Hn. I.
Timp.
Vla.
Vc. & D.B.
dim.
pp
p

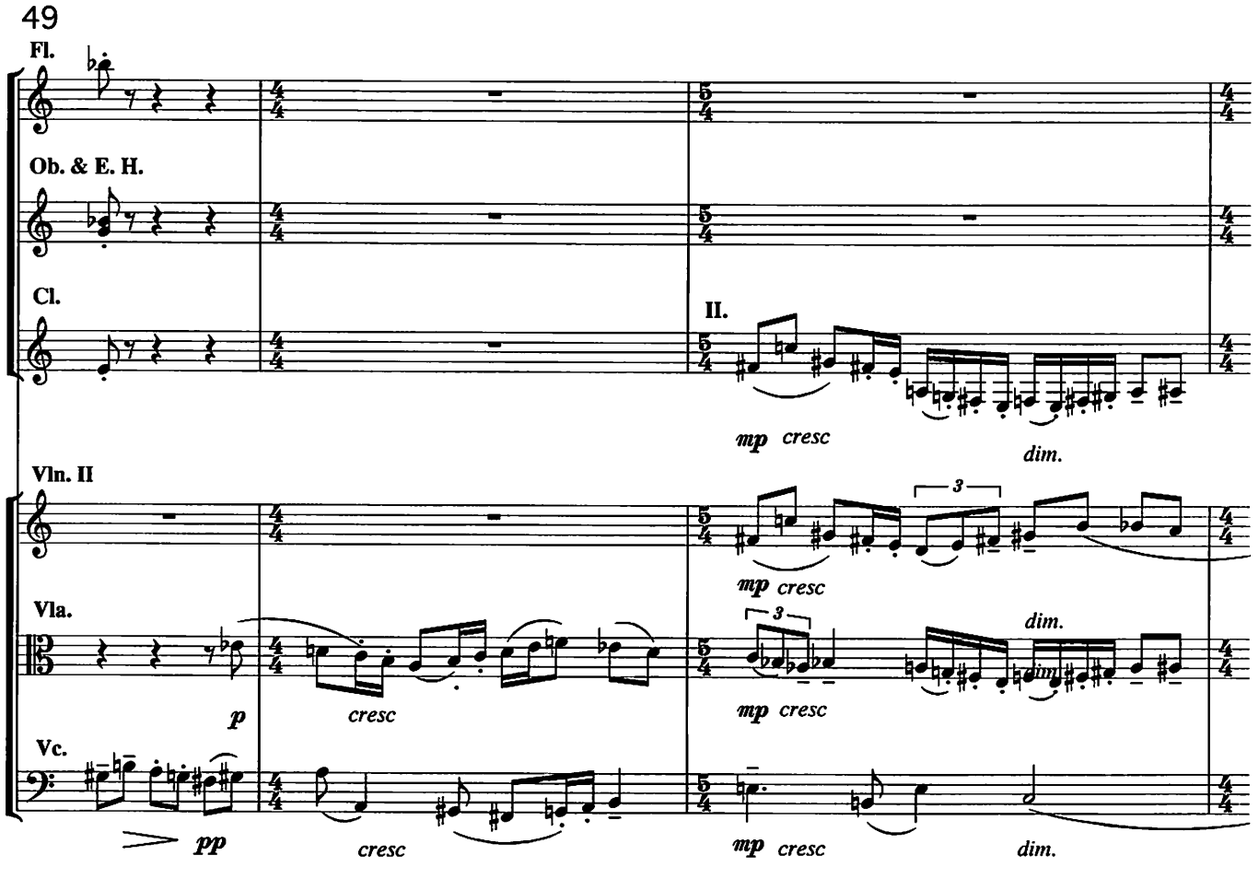

Fl.
♩ = c. 60
Ob.
E. H.
Cl.. I.
Cl. II.
Bn.
cresc
Cbn.
cresc
Hn. I.
Tpt. I.
Tb.
Timp.
Vln. I
♩ = c. 60
pizz.
p
Vln. II
pizz.
p
Vla.
pizz.
p
strum pizz.
Vc.
p
pizz.
D.B.
p


30
mp cresc
mf cresc
arco

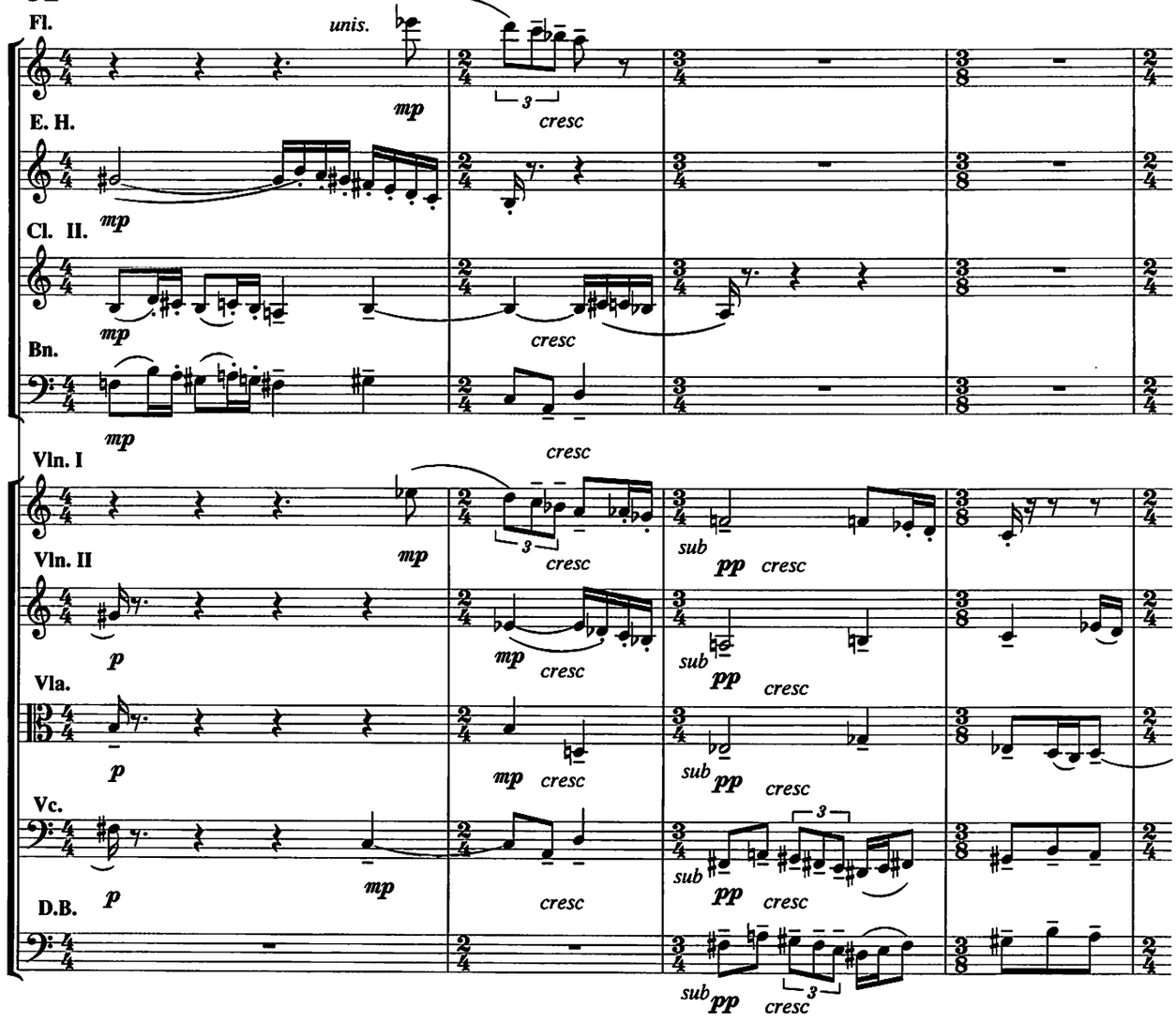

33
Fl.
Ob.
E. H.
Cl. I.
Cl. II.
Bn.
Cbn.
mp cresc
mp cresc
Hn. I.
Hn. II.
Tb.
mp cresc
Vln. I
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
cresc
mf
mf
mf dim. mp cresc
mp
mp cresc
mp cresc


38
Fl.
unis.
Ob.
E. H.
Cl. I.
Cl. II.
Bn.
Cbn.
Hn. I.
Hn. II.
Tb.
Vln. I
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
mp cresc
mf cresc
f
dim.

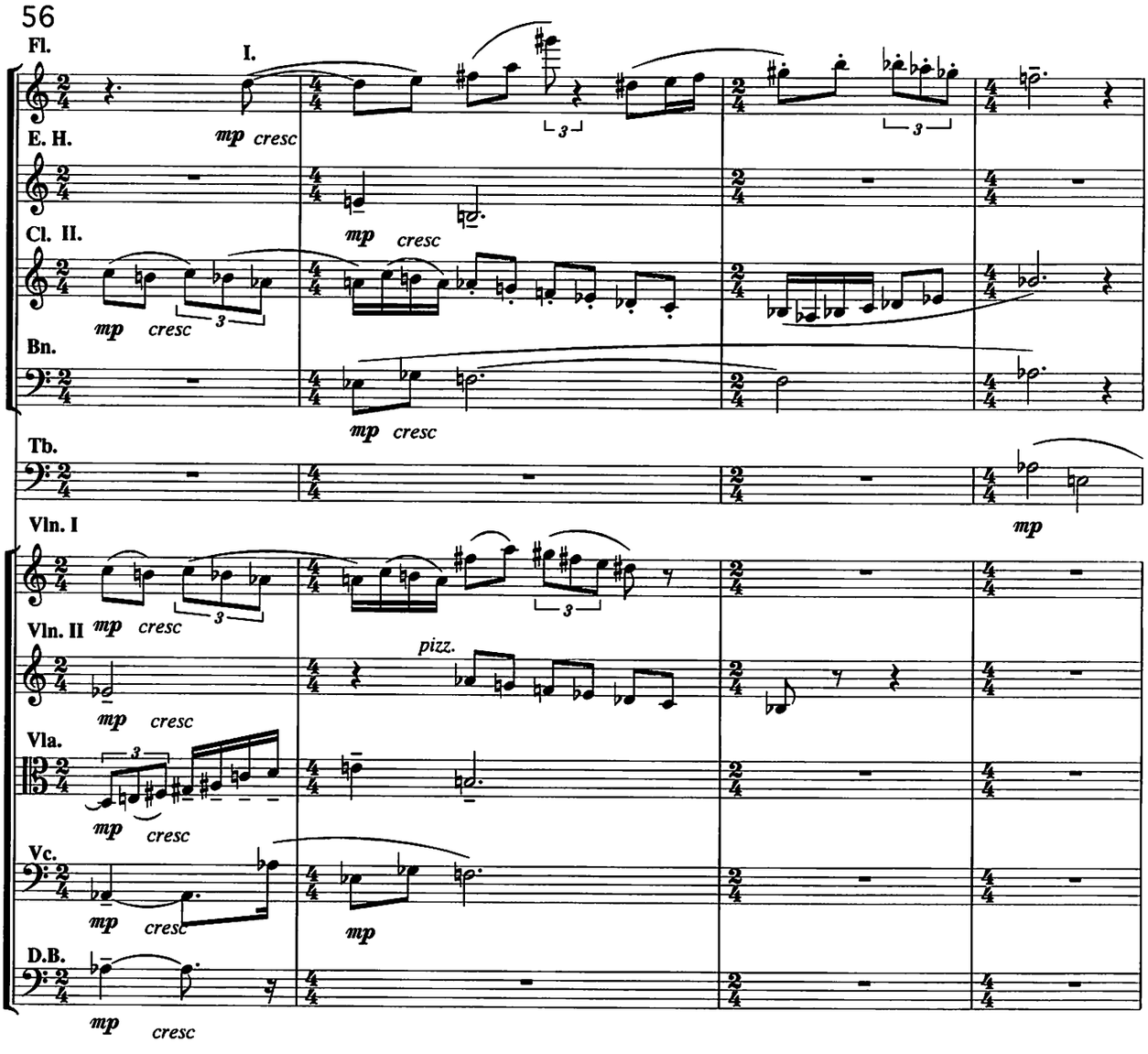

43
Fl.
molto rit.
a tempo
unis.
p
E. H.
mp
Ob. & E. H.
p
Cl.
unis.
mp
p
Bn. & Cbn.
unis.
mp
Timp.
p molto cresc
f
Vln. I
molto rit.
Vln. II
cresc
mf cresc
f
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
3
mp

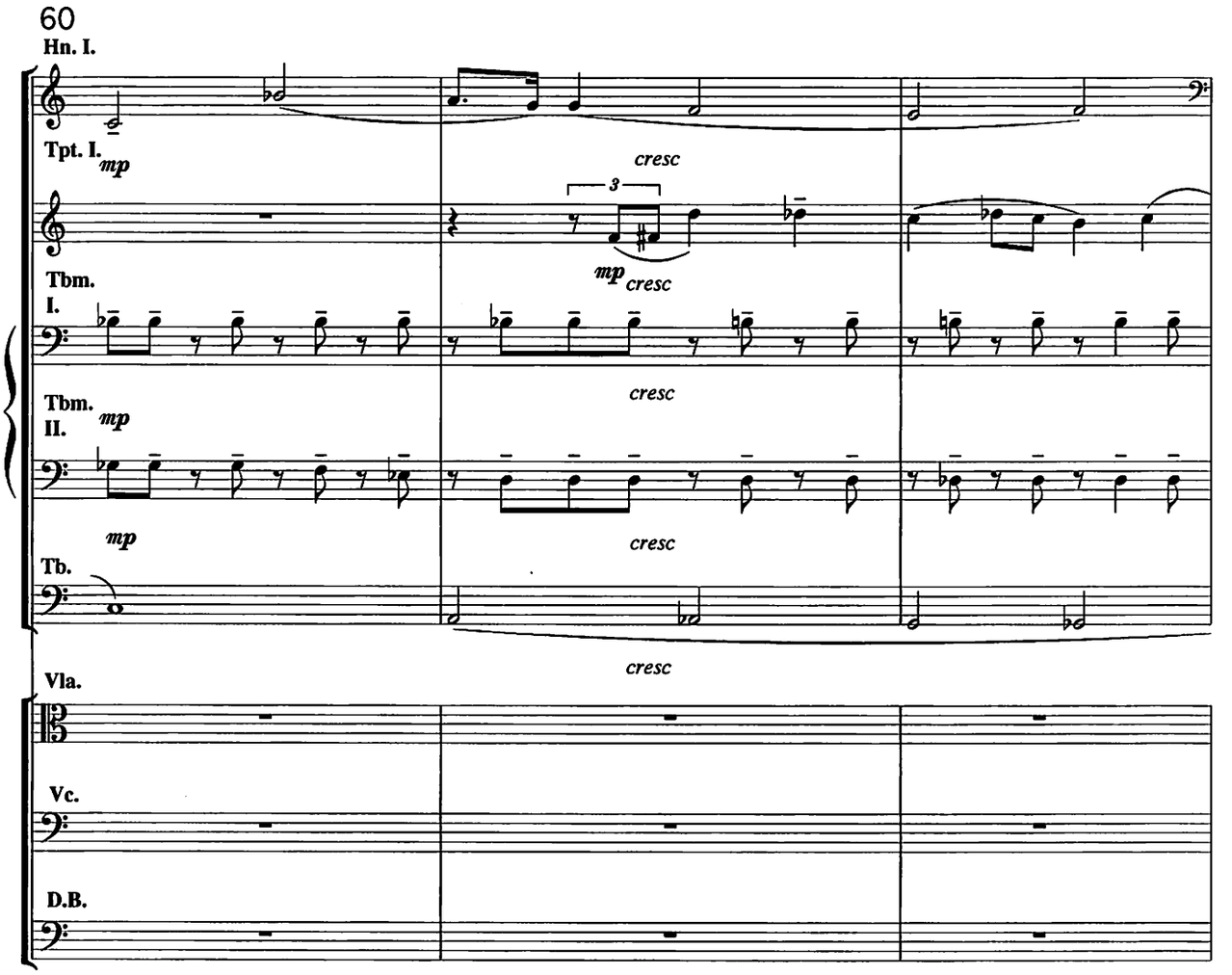

49
Fl.
Ob. & E. H.
Cl.
II.
mp cresc
dim.
Vln. II
3
Vla.
p
cresc
Vc.
pp
mp cresc
dim.

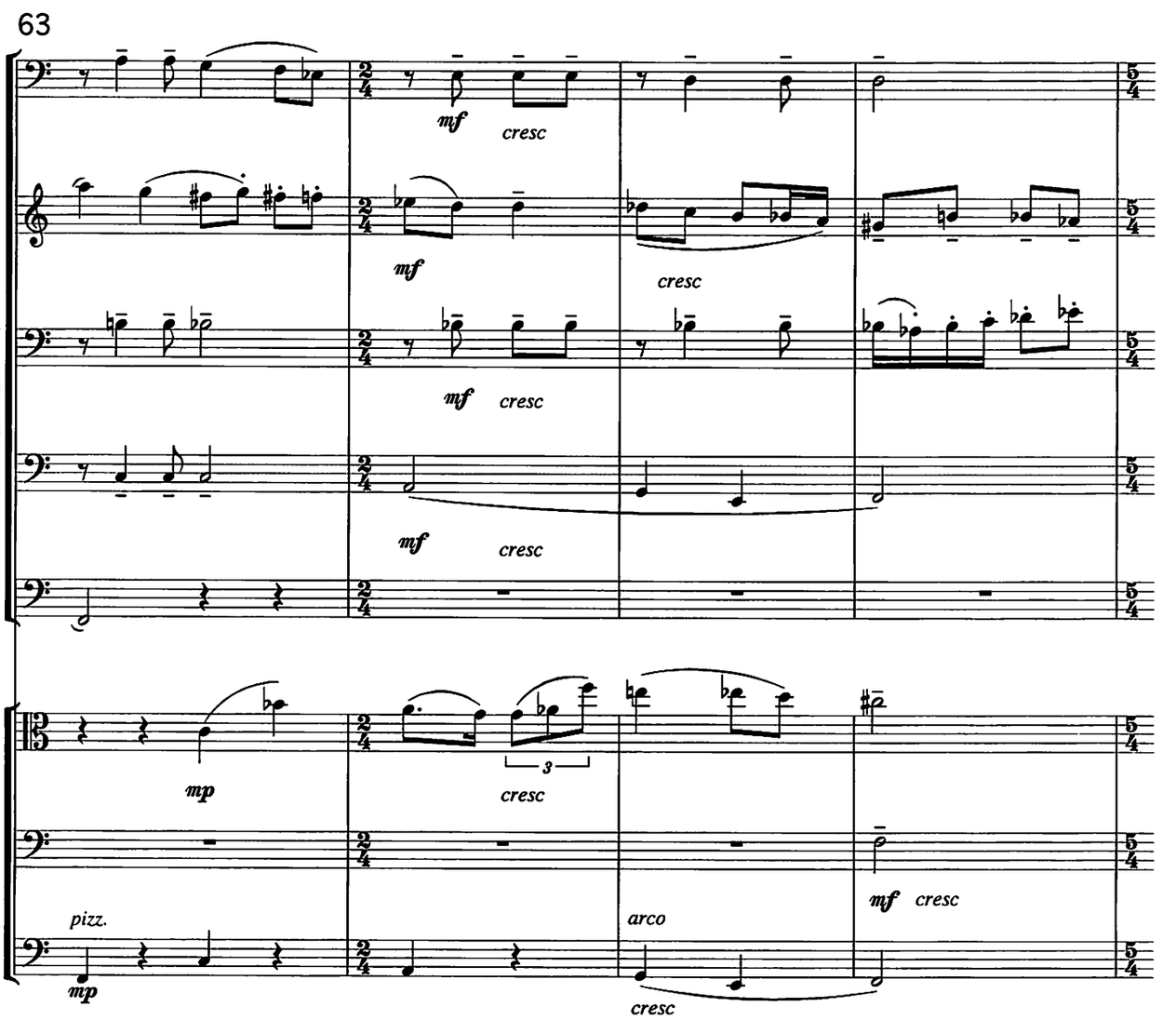
52

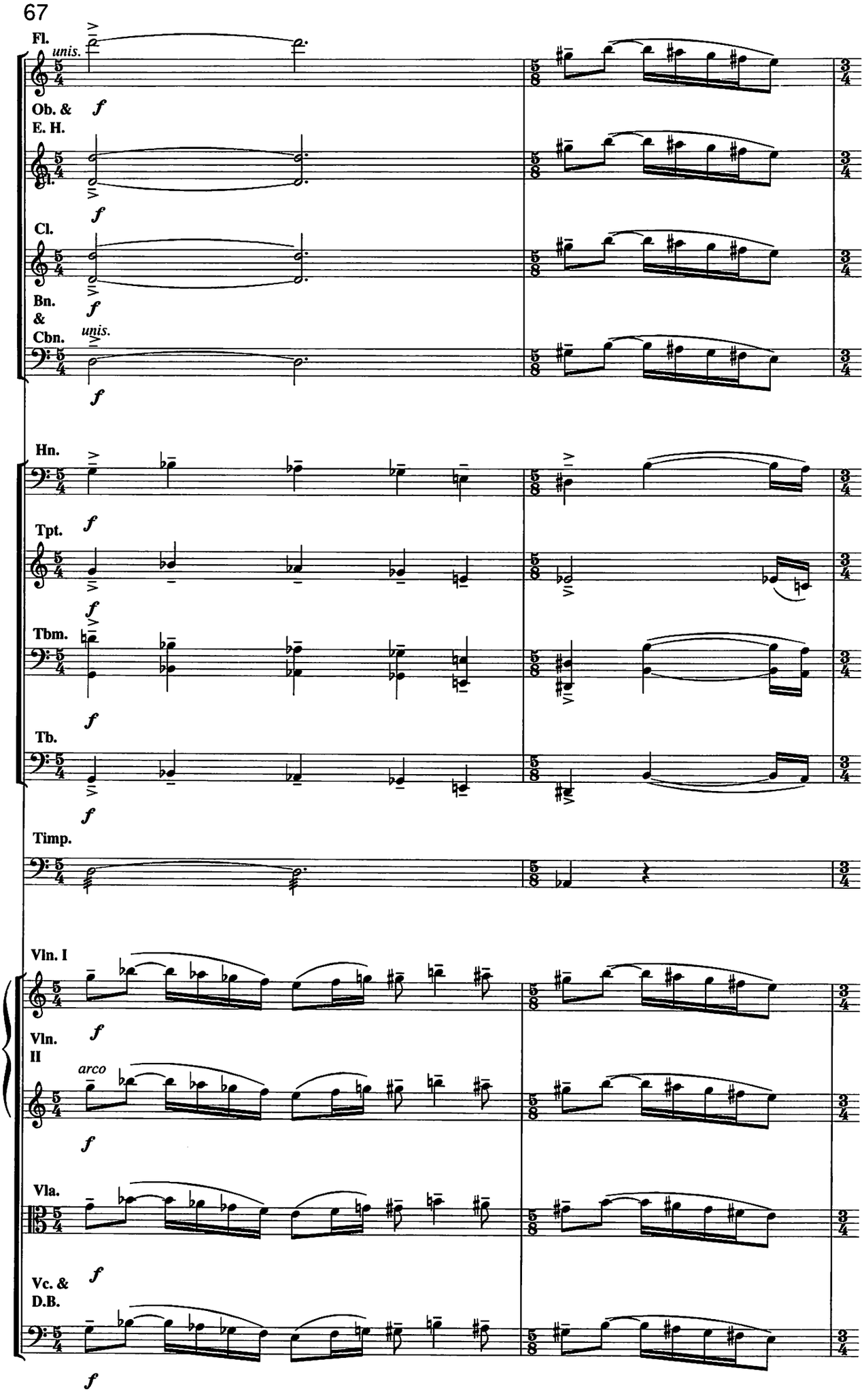

Fl.
unis.
mp
cresc
E. H.
mp
Cl. II.
mp
cresc
Bn.
mp
cresc
Vln. I
Vln. II
mp
cresc
sub
pp
cresc
p
mp
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

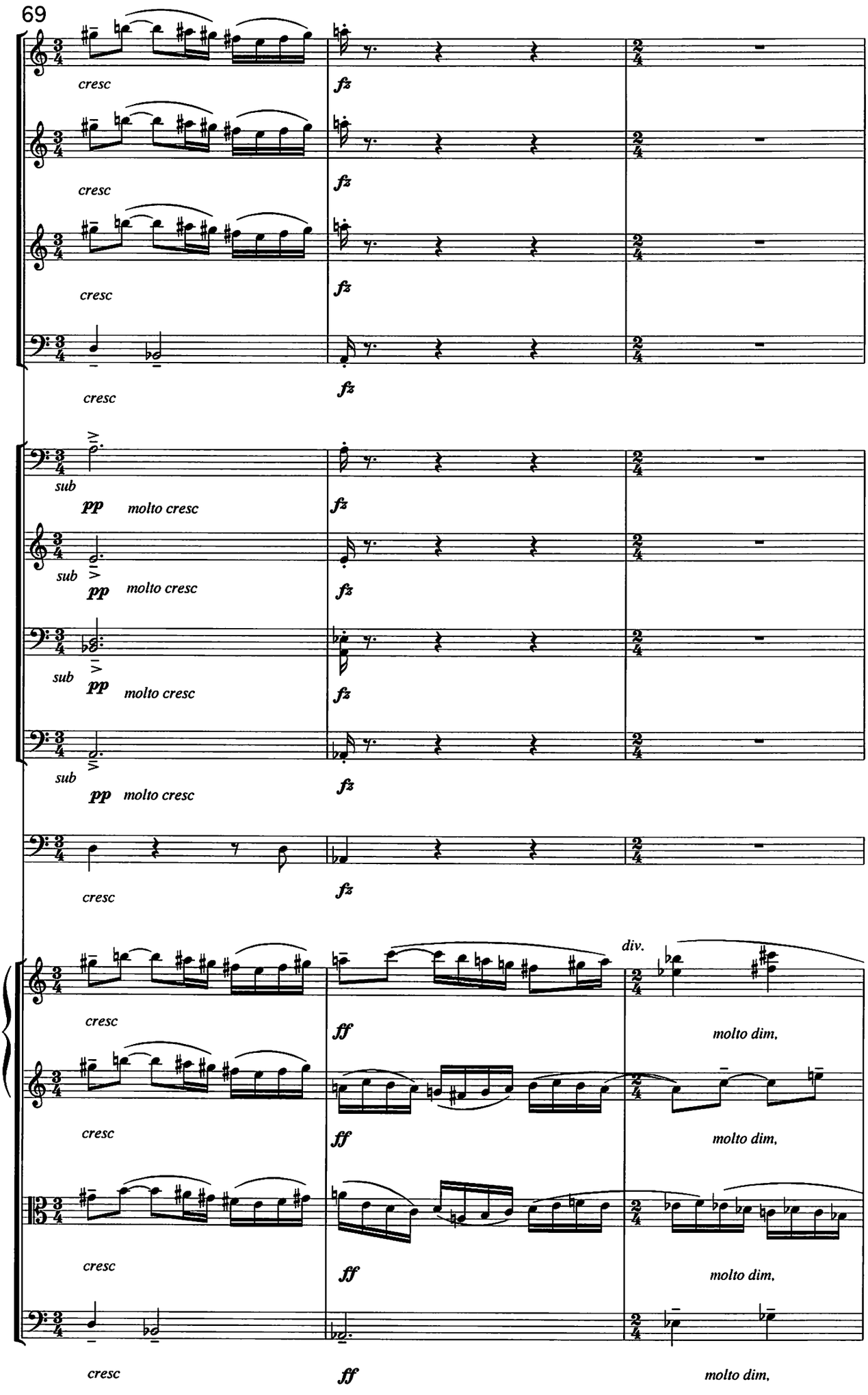
56

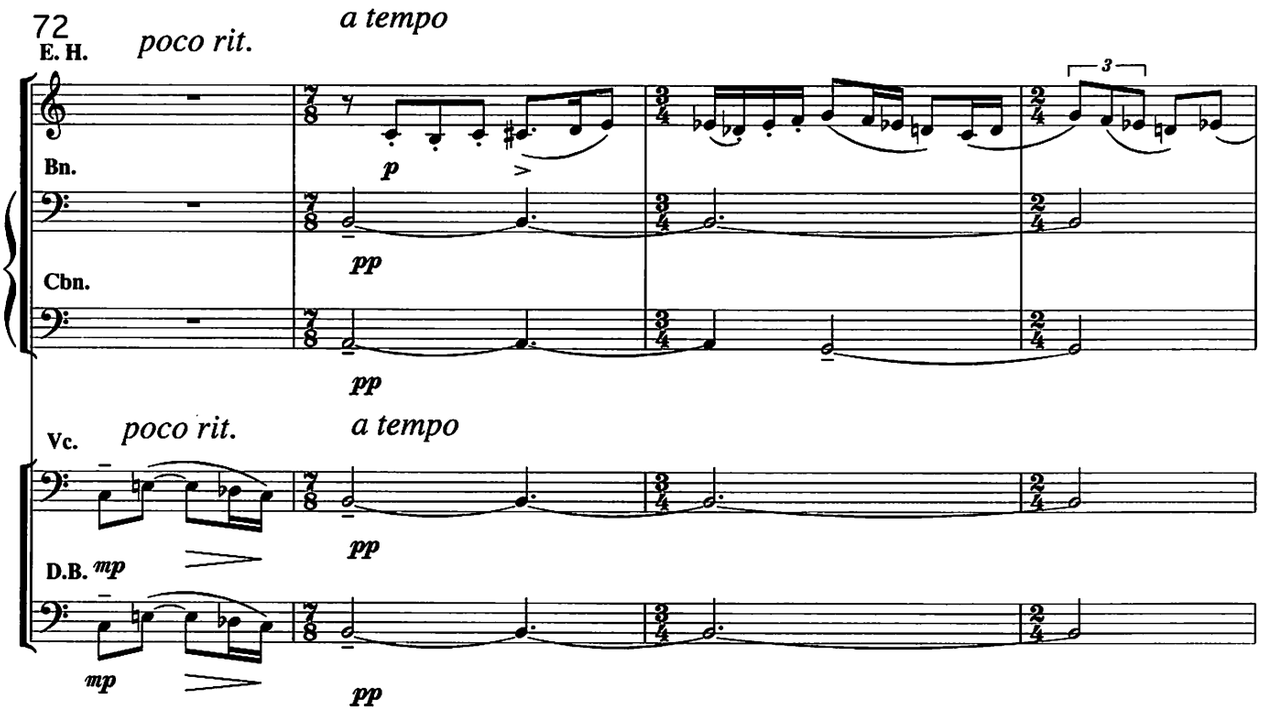

Fl.
I.
mp
cresc
E. H.
Cl. II.
Bn.
Tb.
Vln. I
Vln. II
pizz.
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

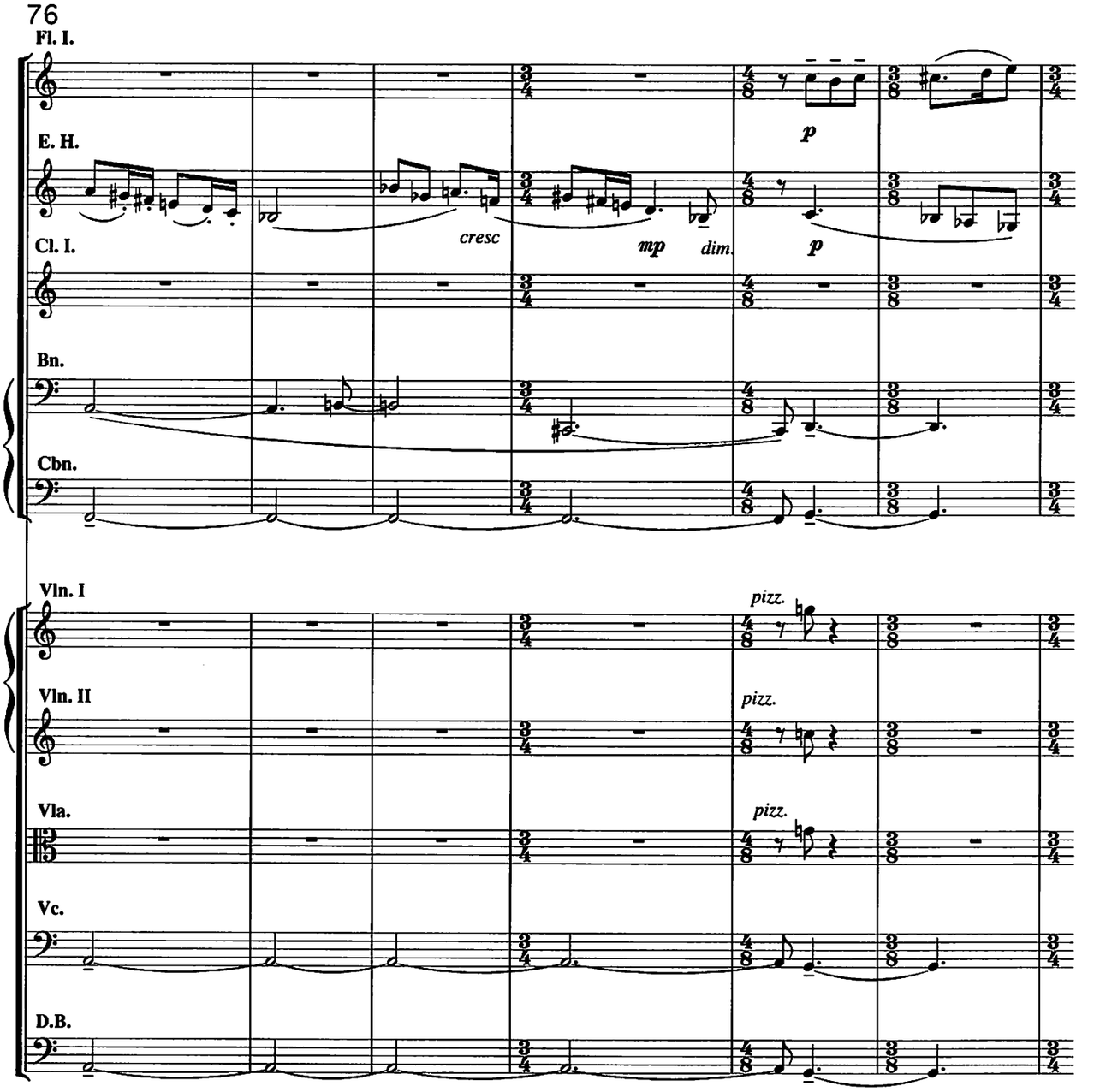

60
Hn. I.
Tpt. I.
mp
cresc
3
mp
cresc
Tbm.
I.
cresc
Tbm.
II.
mp
mp
cresc
Tb.
cresc
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

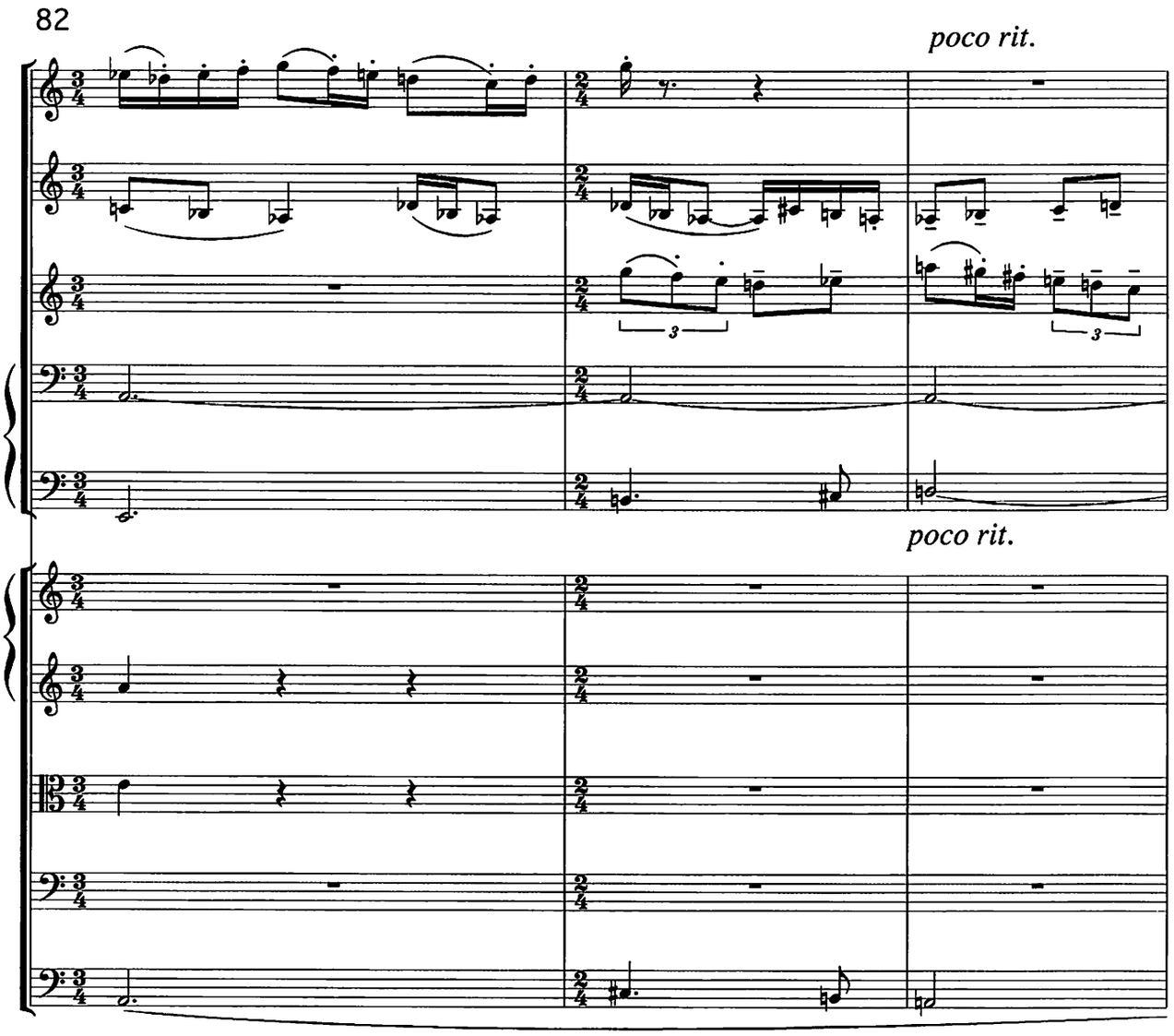

63
mf
cresc
mf
cresc
mf
cresc
mf
cresc
mp
3
cresc
mf
cresc
pizz.
mp
arco
cresc

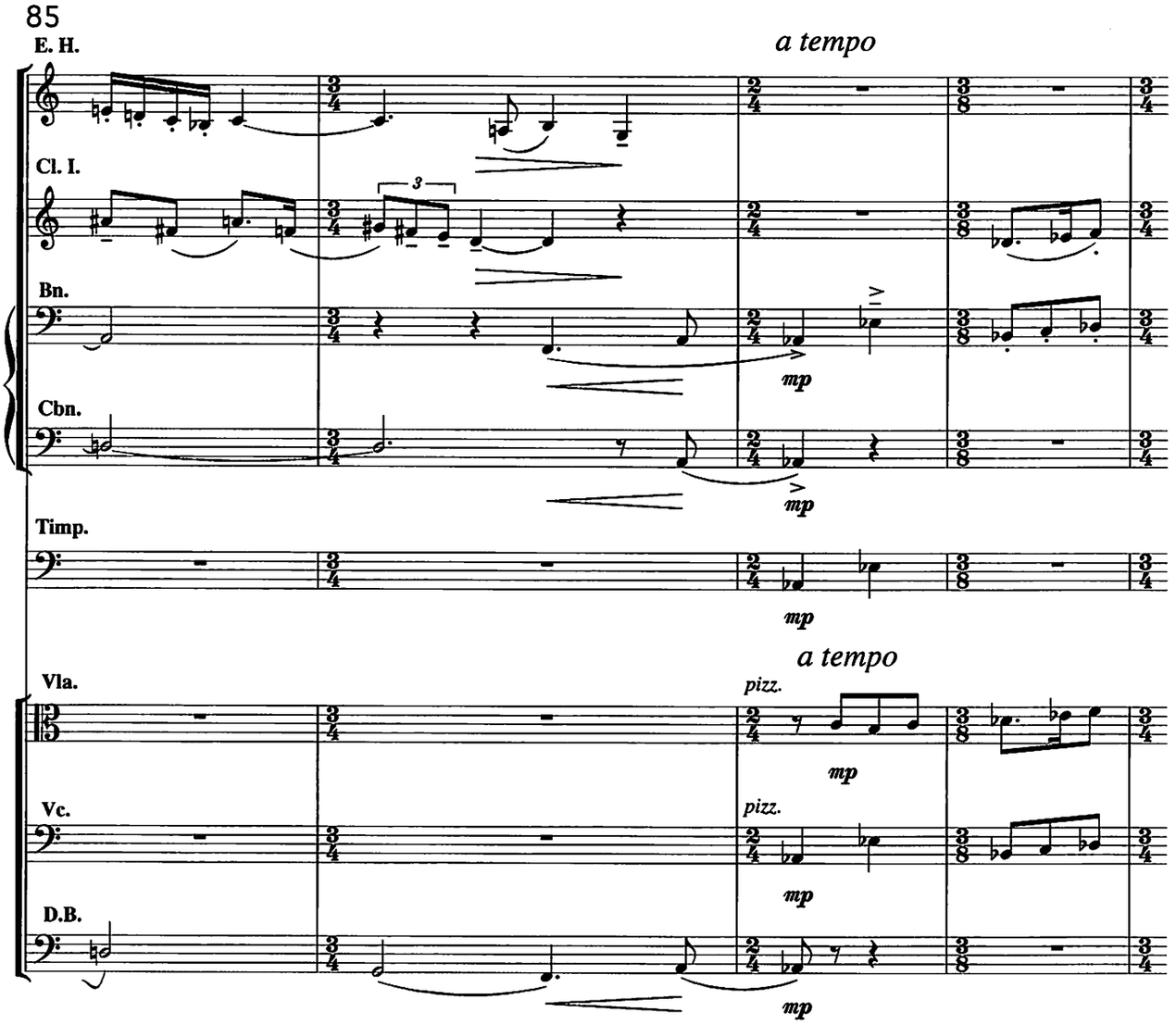

67
Fl.
unis.
Ob. &
E. H.
Cl.
Bn.
&
Cbn.
unis.
Hn.
Tpt.
Tbm.
Tb.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln.
II
arco
Vla.
Vc. &
D.B.
f


69
cresc
fz
sub
pp
molto cresc
div.
ff
molto dim,


72
E. H.
poco rit.
a tempo
3
p
Bn.
pp
Cbn.
pp
Vc.
poco rit.
a tempo
pp
D.B.
mp
mp
pp


76
Fl. I.
E. H.
p
cresc
mp
dim.
p
Cl. I.
Bn.
Cbn.
Vln. I
pizz.
Vln. II
pizz.
Vla.
pizz.
Vc.
D.B.


82
poco rit.
poco rit.


85
E. H.
a tempo
Cl. I.
Bn.
mp
Cbn.
mp
Timp.
mp
a tempo
Vla.
pizz.
mp
Vc.
pizz.
mp
D.B.
mp

89

Fl.

Ob.

E. H.

Cl.

Bn.

Bn. & Cbn.

Timp.

Vln. I. & II.

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

94

Fl.

Ob.

E. H.

Cl.

Bn. & Cbn.

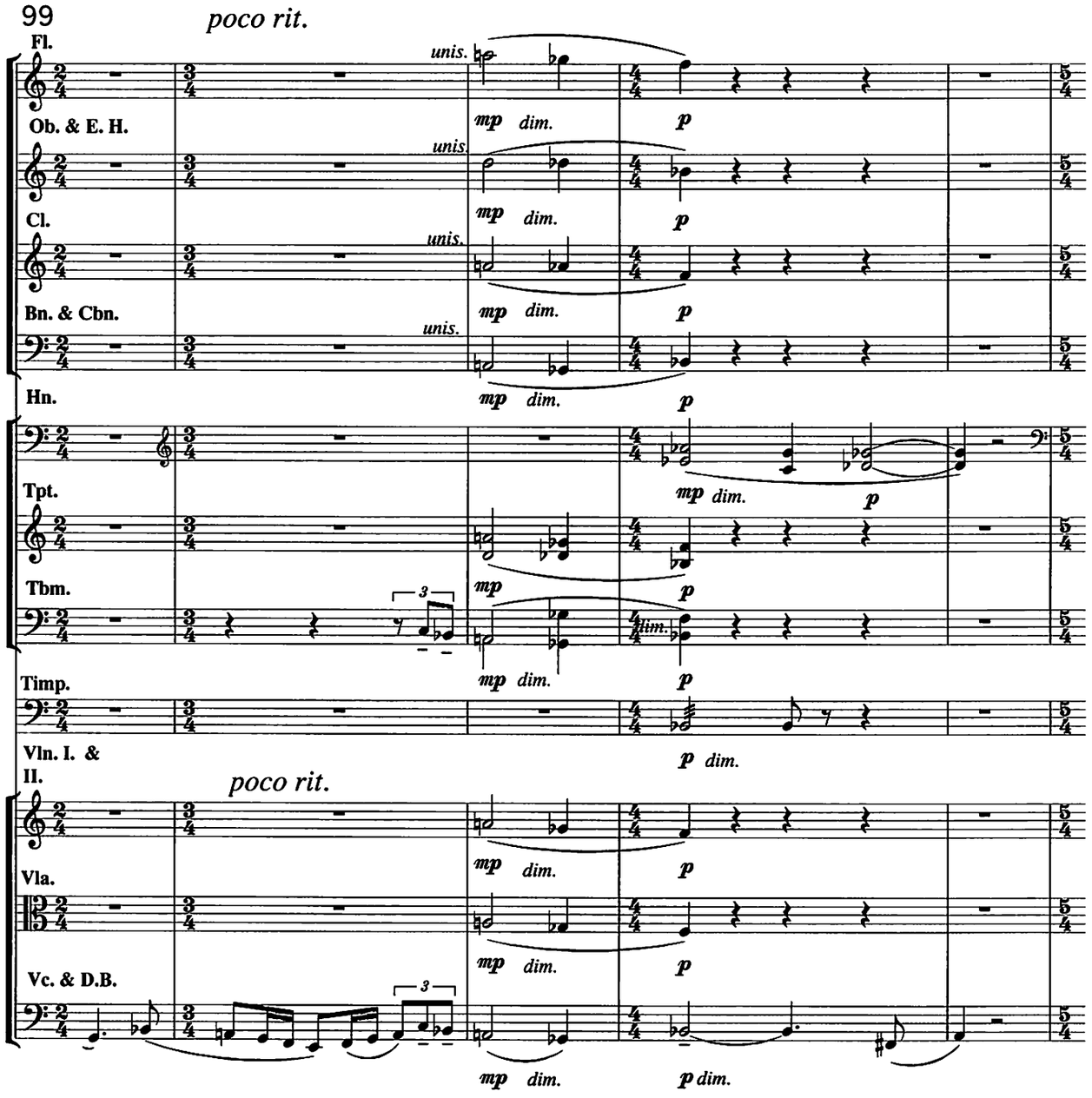
Hn.

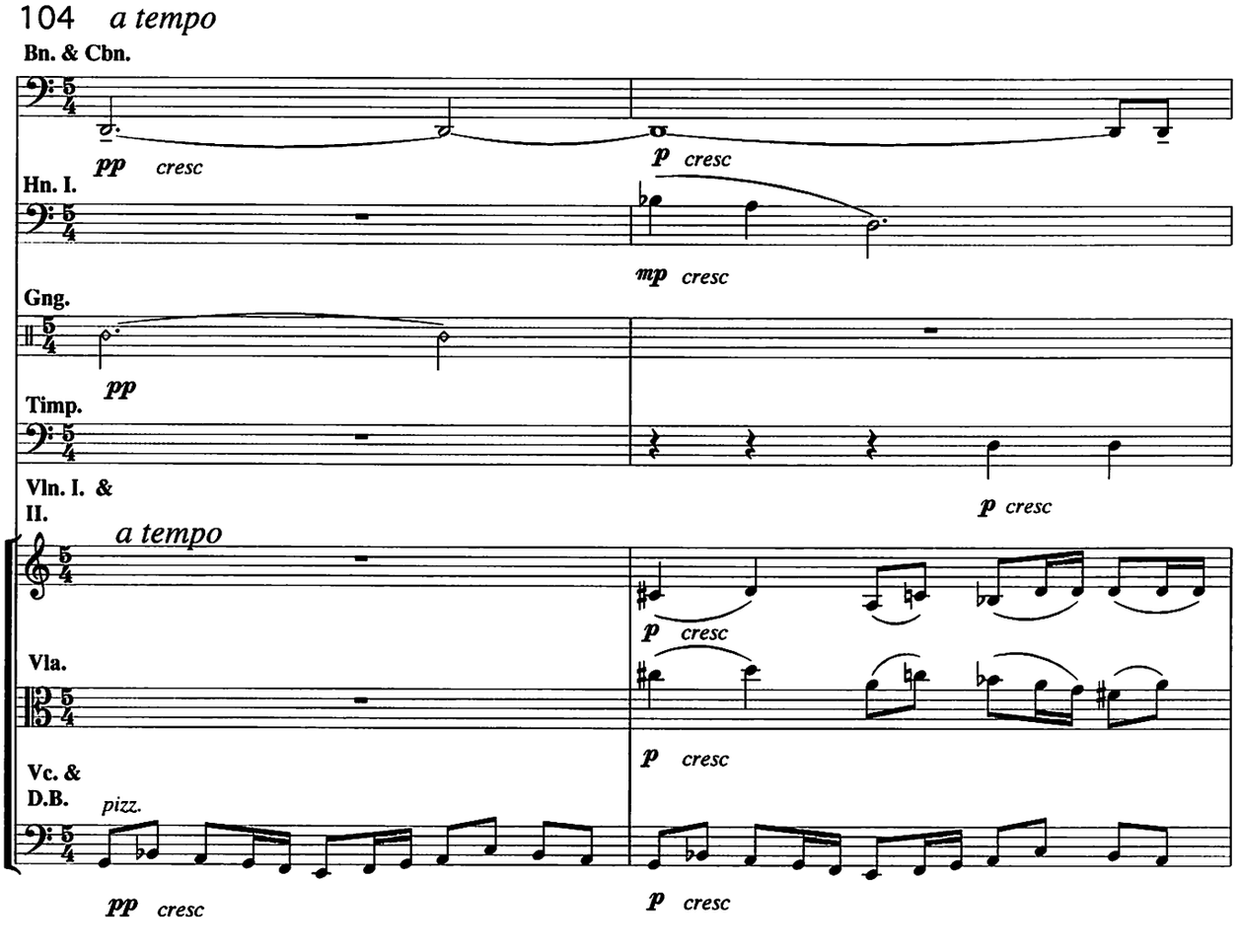
Timp.

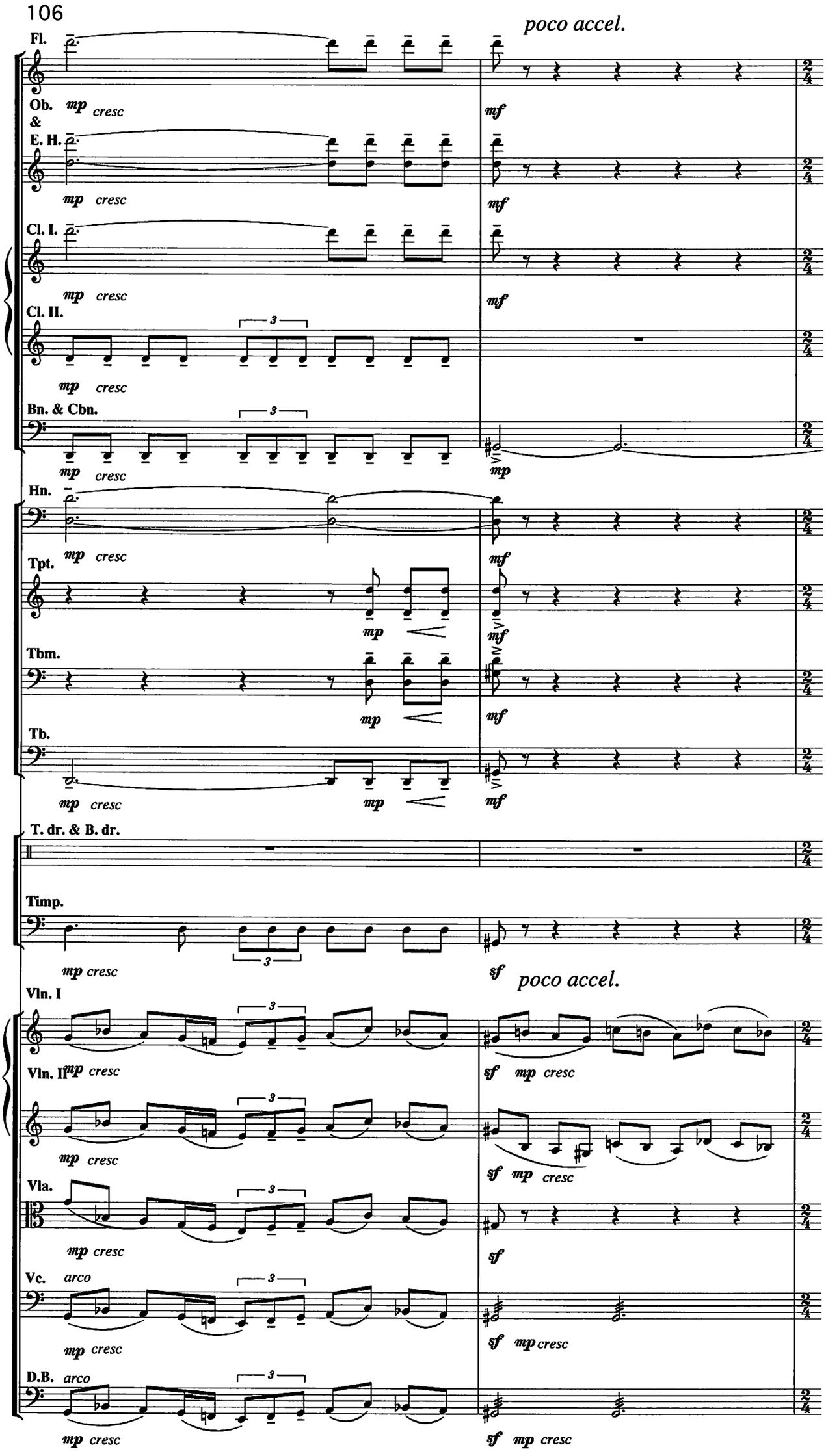
Vln. I. & II.

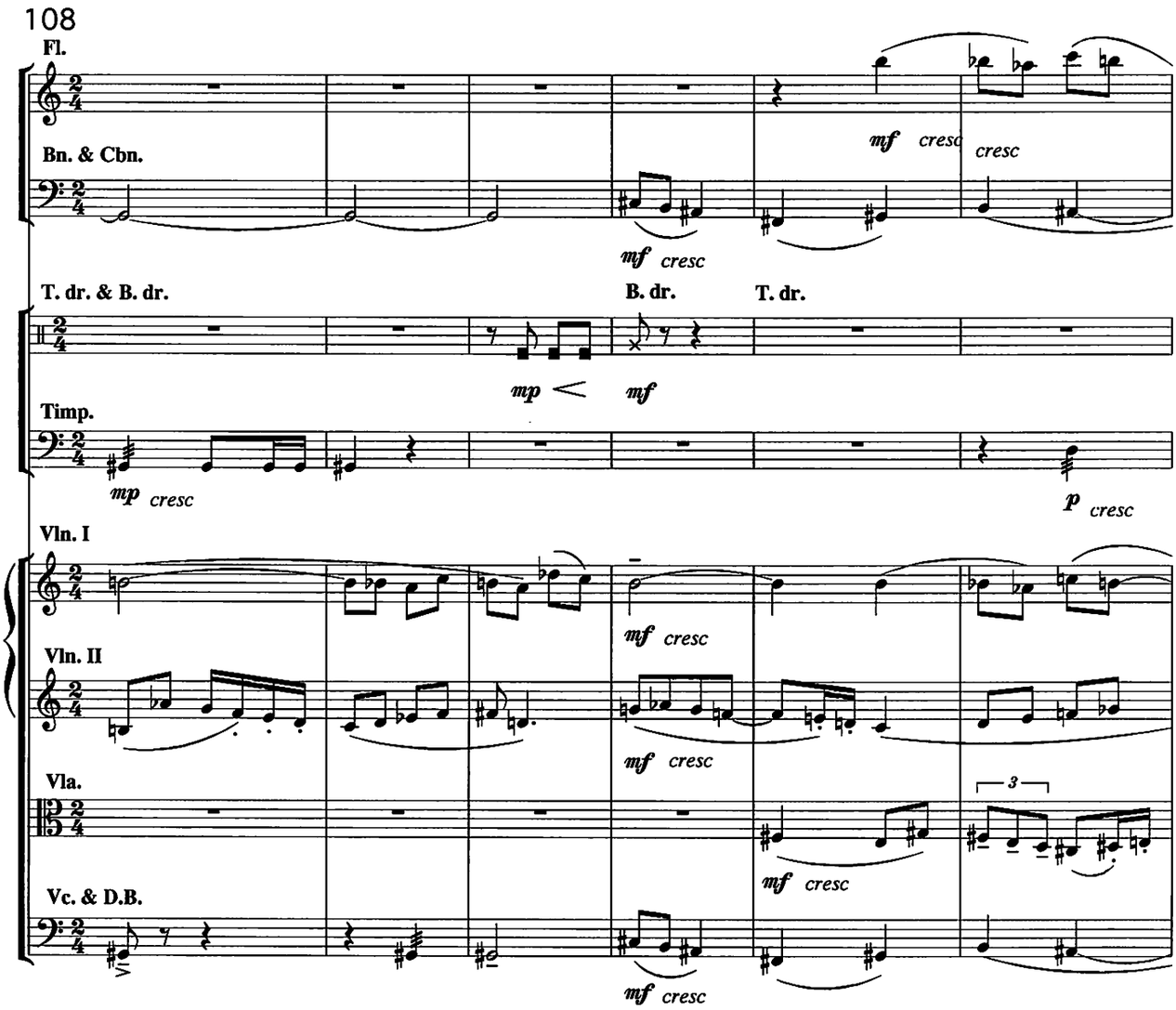
Vla.

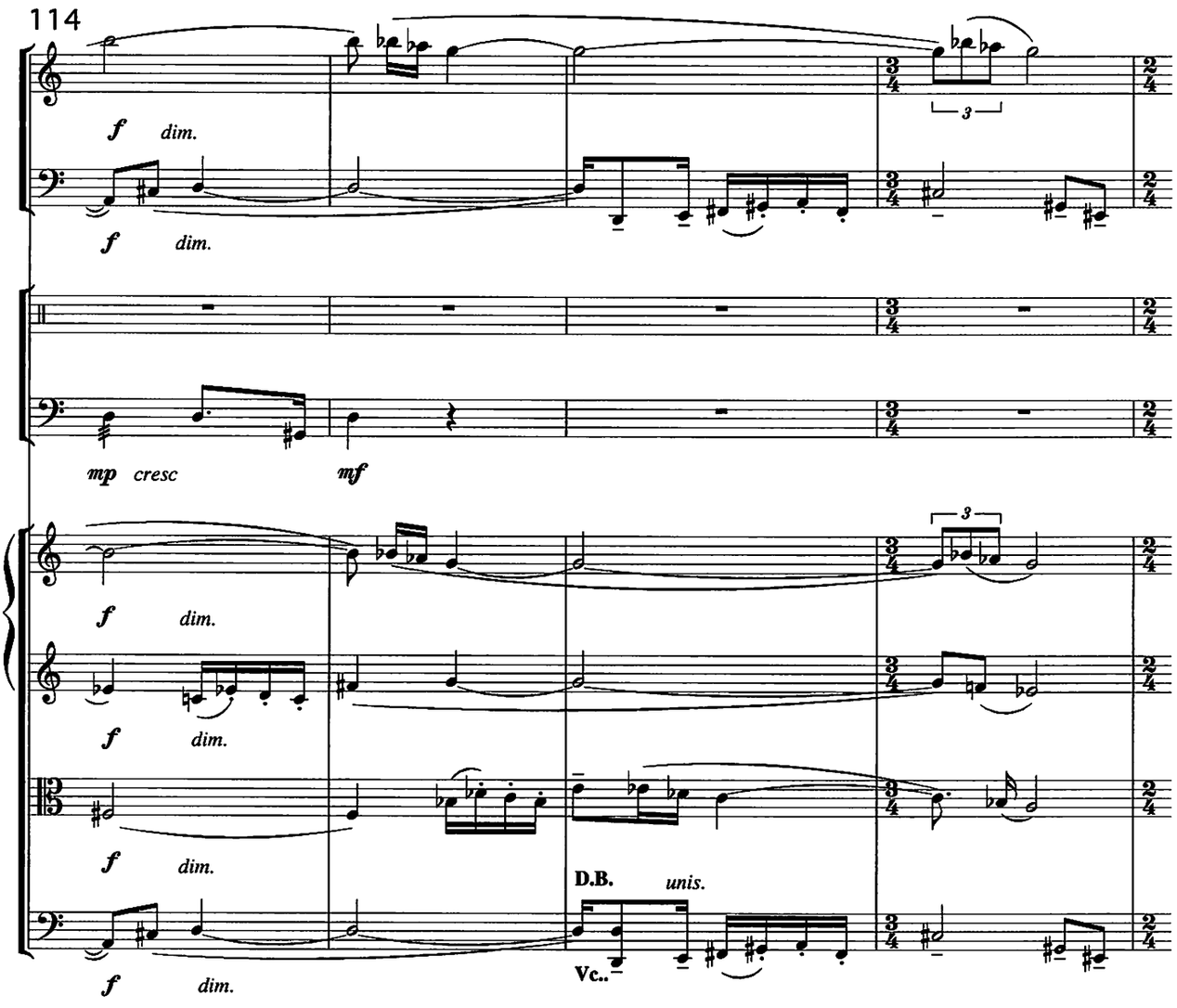
Vc. & D.B.


99
poco rit.
Fl.
Ob. & E. H.
Cl.
Bn. & Cbn.
Hn.
Tpt.
Tbm.
Timp.
Vln. I. &
II.
Vla.
Vc. & D.B.
unis.
mp dim.
p
p dim.
3

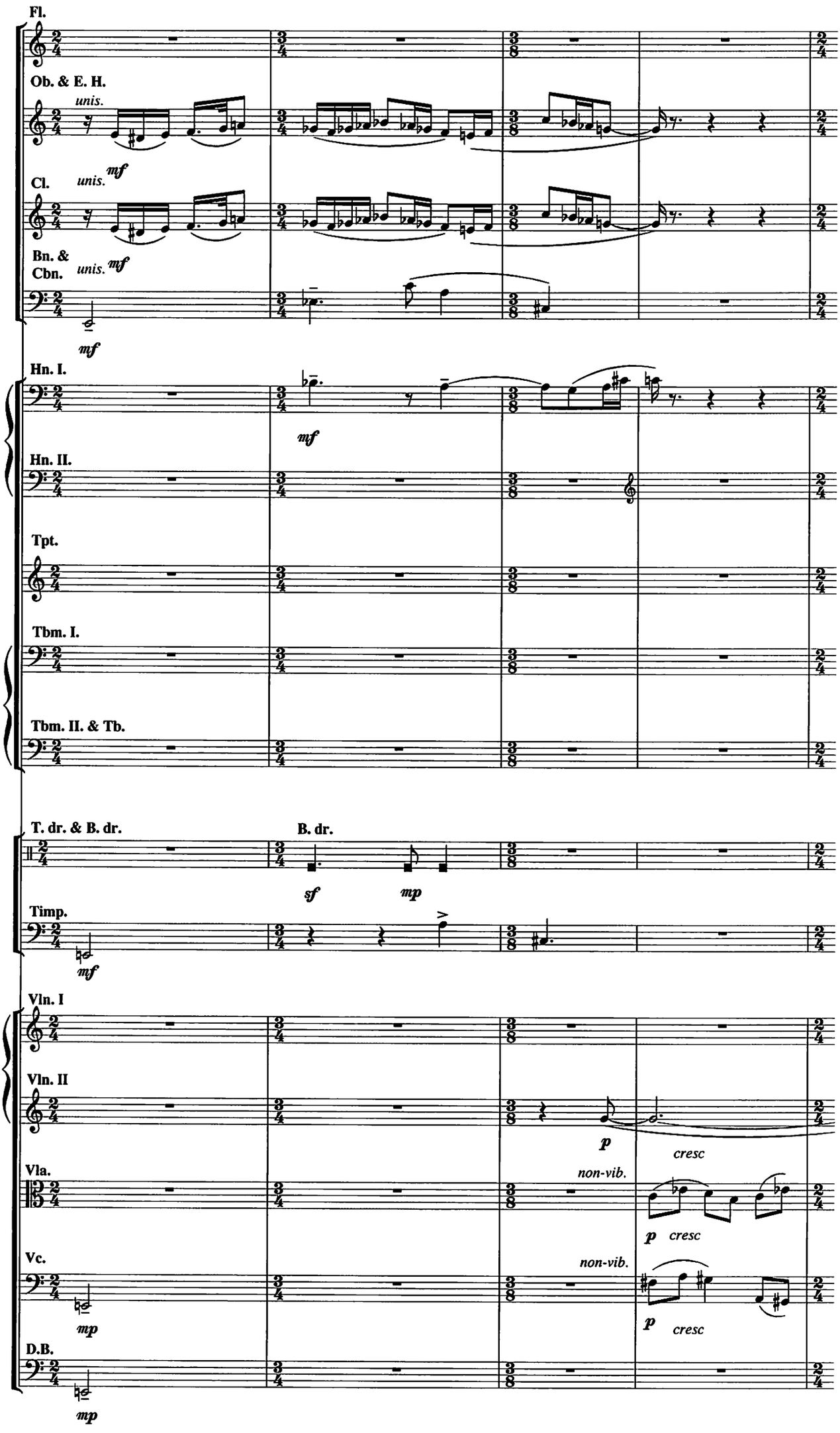

104 a tempo
Bn. & Cbn.
Hn. I.
Gng.
Timp.
Vln. I. &
II.
Vla.
Vc. &
D.B.
pizz.
pp cresc
p cresc
mp cresc
a tempo

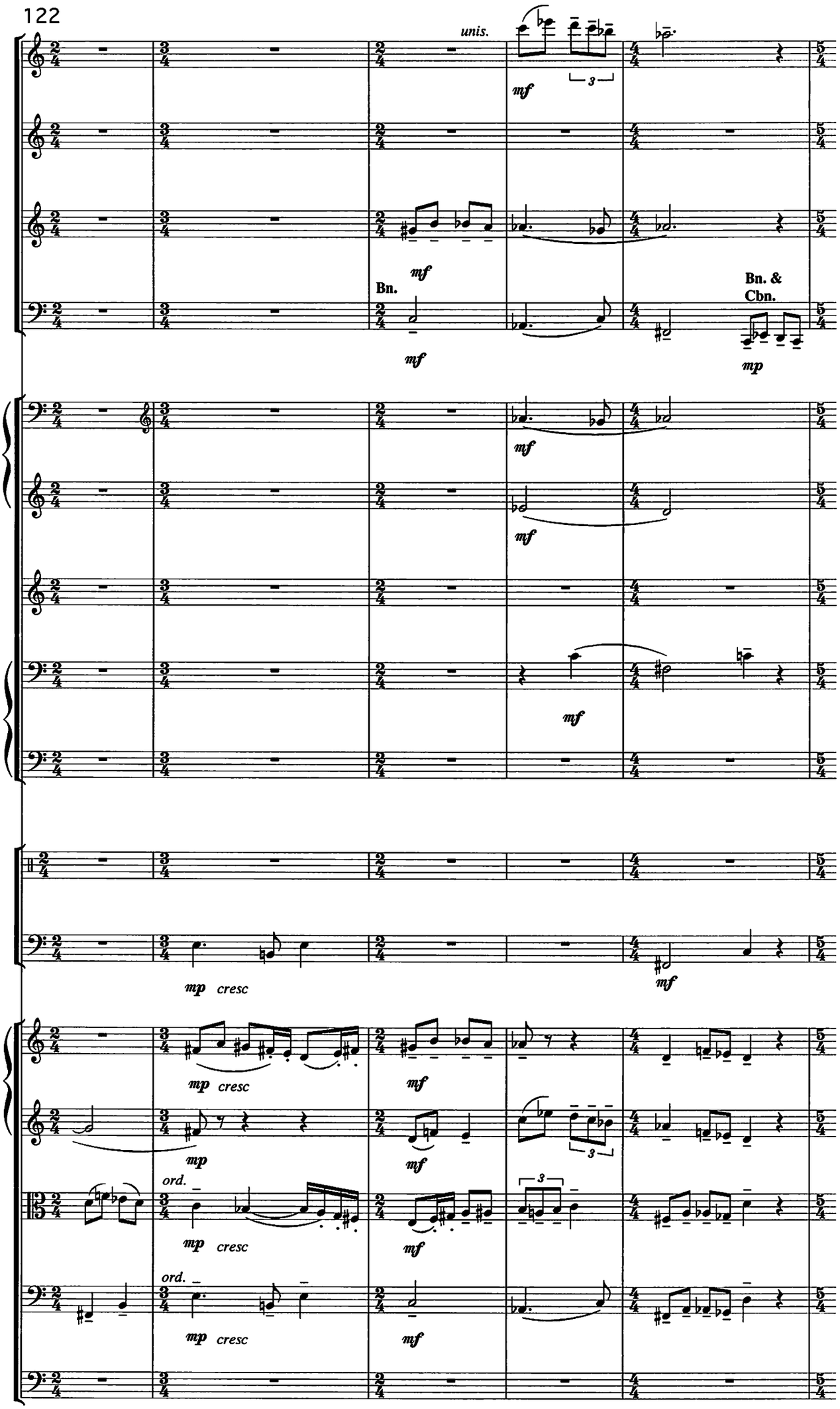

106
poco accel.
Fl.
Ob.
&
E. H.
Cl. I.
Cl. II.
Bn. & Cbn.
Hn.
Tpt.
Tbm.
Tb.
T. dr. & B. dr.
Timp.
poco accel.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
D.B.
arco
mp cresc
mf
sf
3

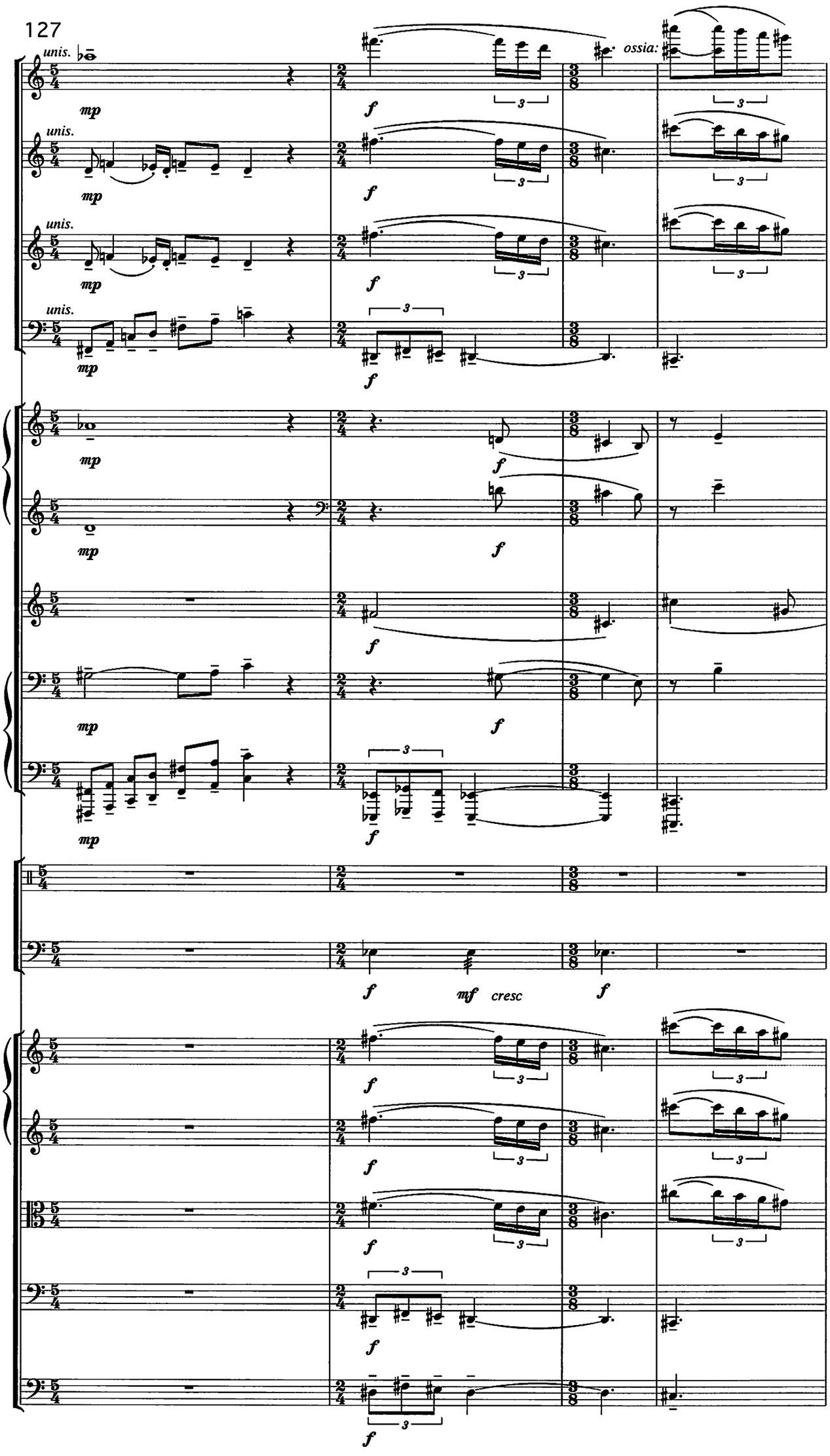

108
Fl.
Bn. & Cbn.
T. dr. & B. dr.
B. dr.
T. dr.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc. & D.B.
mf cresc
mp cresc
p cresc
3

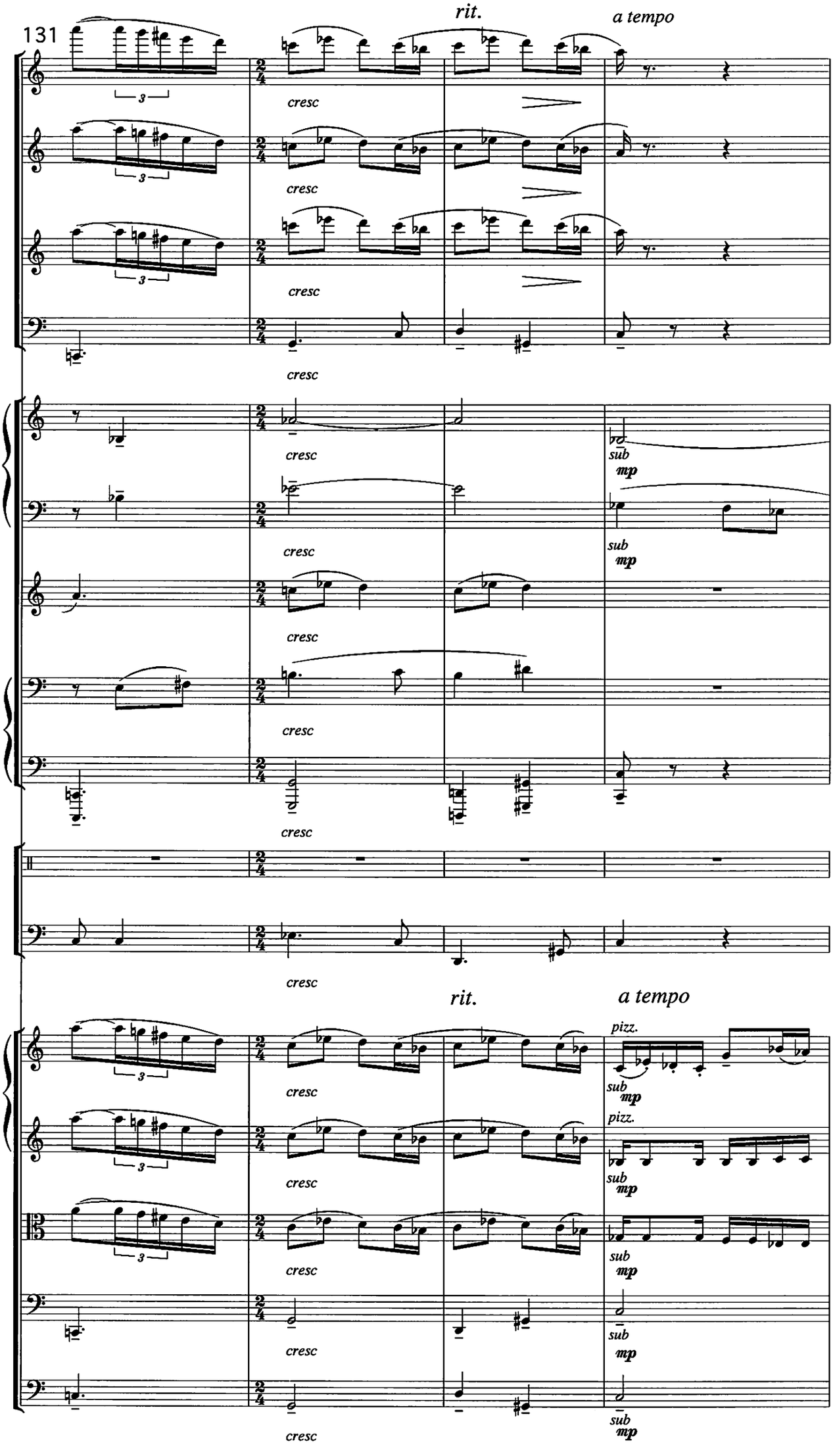

114
f dim.
mp cresc
mf
D.B.
unis.
Vc..
3

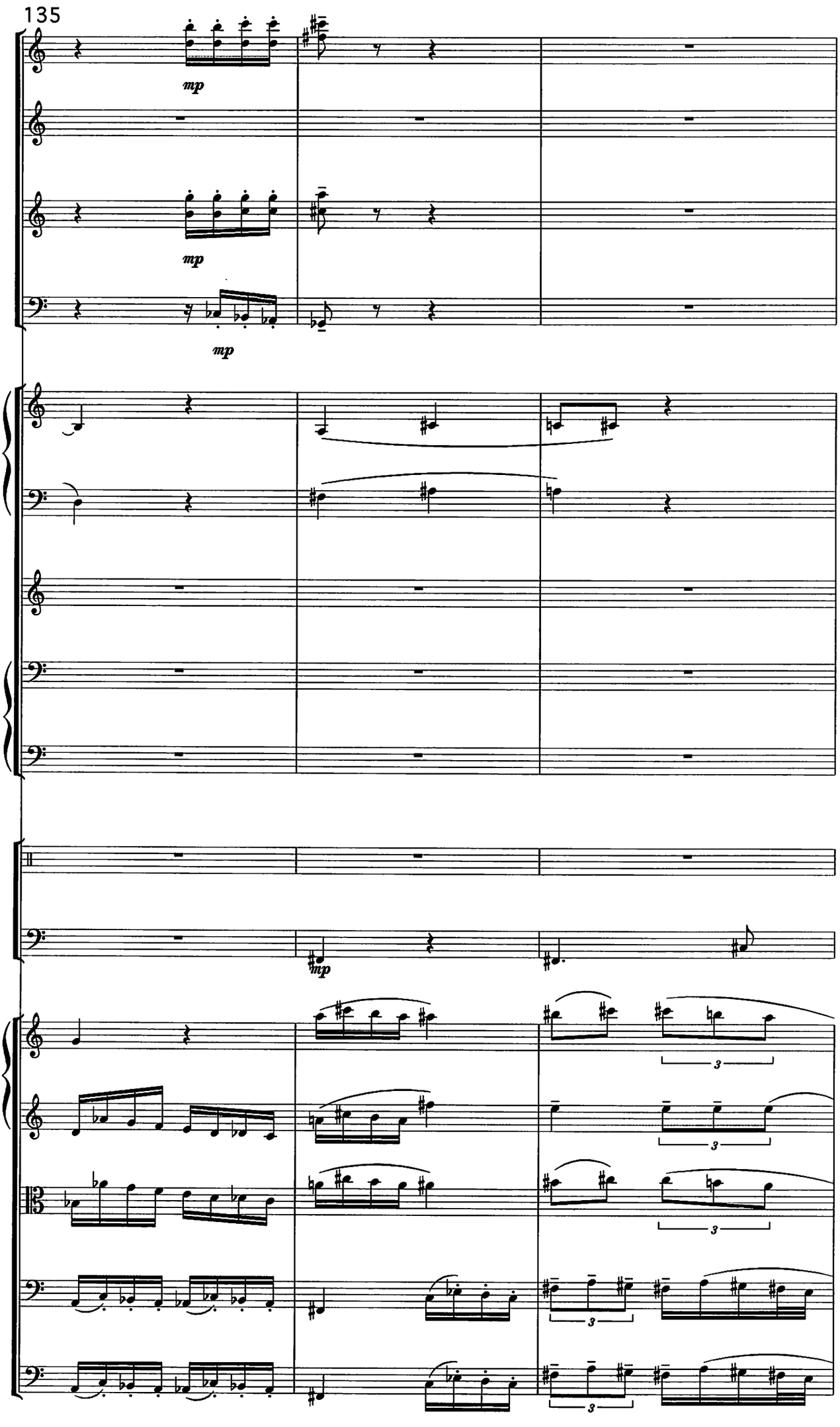
118


Fl.
Ob. & E. H.
unis.
mf
Cl.
unis.
mf
Bn. &
Cbn.
unis.
mf
mf
Hn. I.
mf
Hn. II.
Tpt.
Tbm. I.
Tbm. II. & Tb.
T. dr. & B. dr.
B. dr.
sf
mp
Timp.
mf
Vln. I
Vln. II
p
cresc
Vla.
non-vib.
p
cresc
Vc.
non-vib.
mp
p
cresc
D.B.
mp

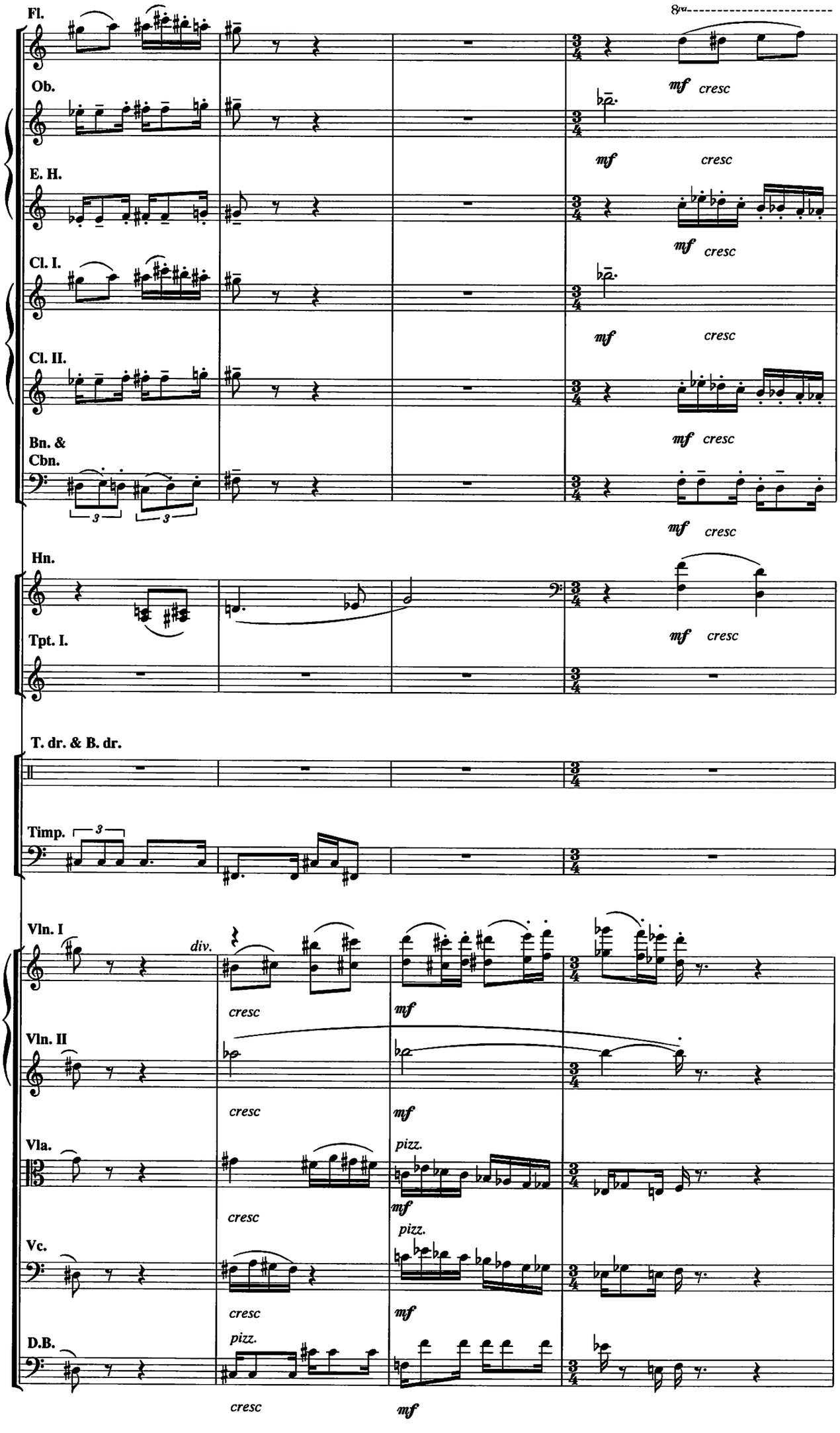

122
unis.
mf
3
Bn.
mf
Bn. &
Cbn.
mp
mf
mf
mf
mp cresc
mf
mp cresc
mf
mp
mf
ord.
mp cresc
mf
3
ord.
mp cresc
mf

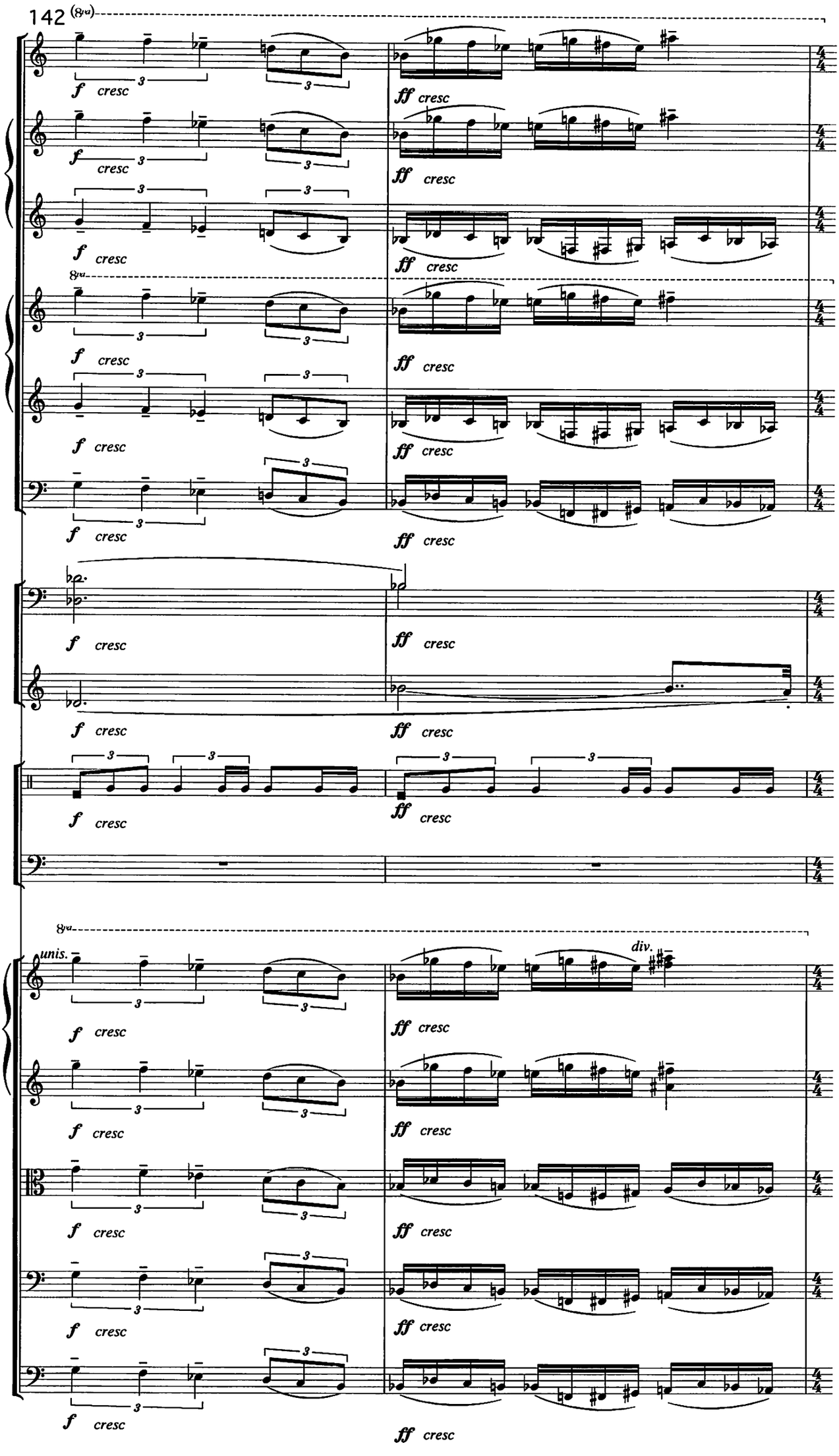

127
unis.
mp
f
ossia:
3
mf
cresc

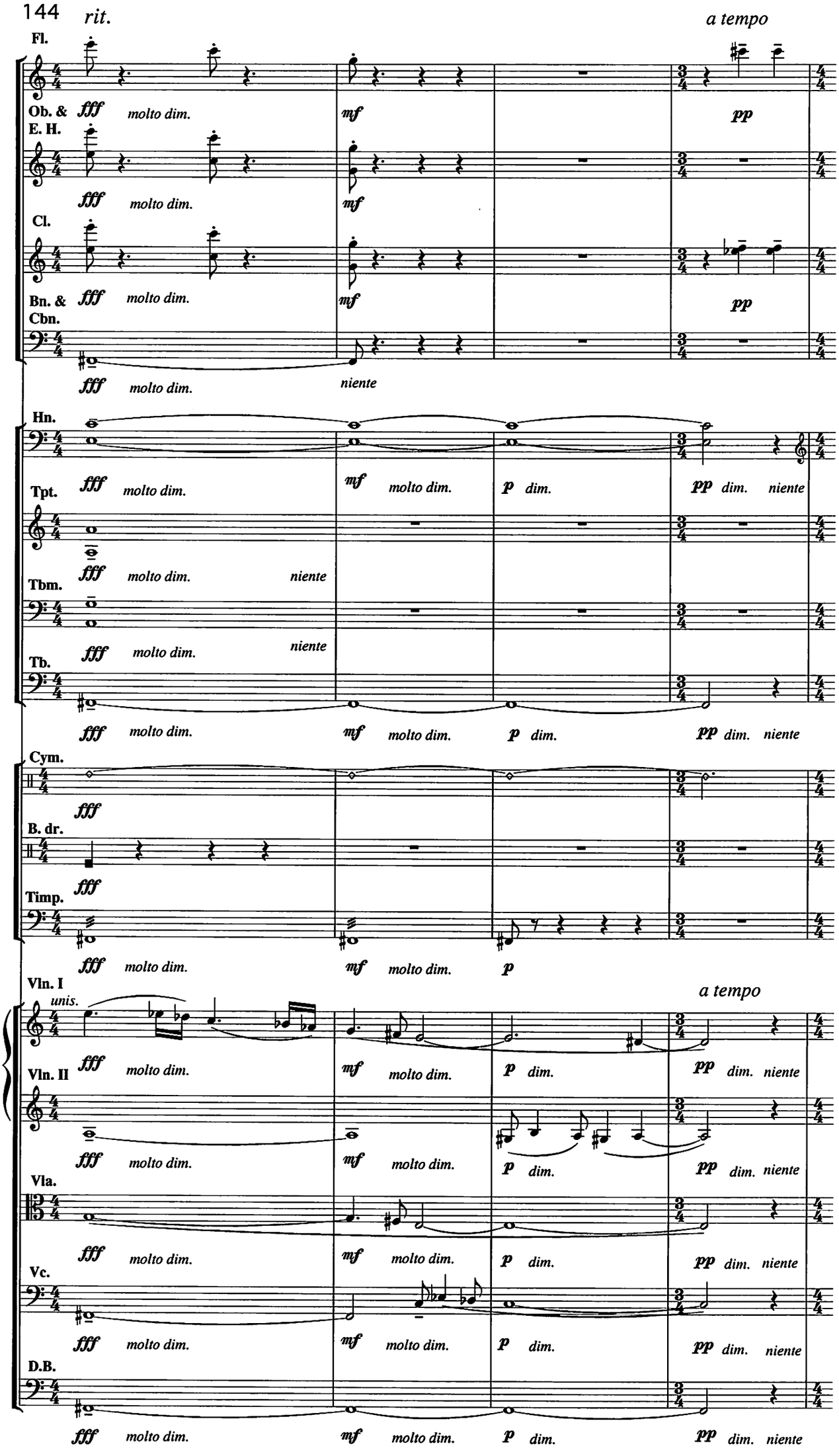

131
rit.
a tempo
cresc
sub
mp
pizz.
rit.
a tempo

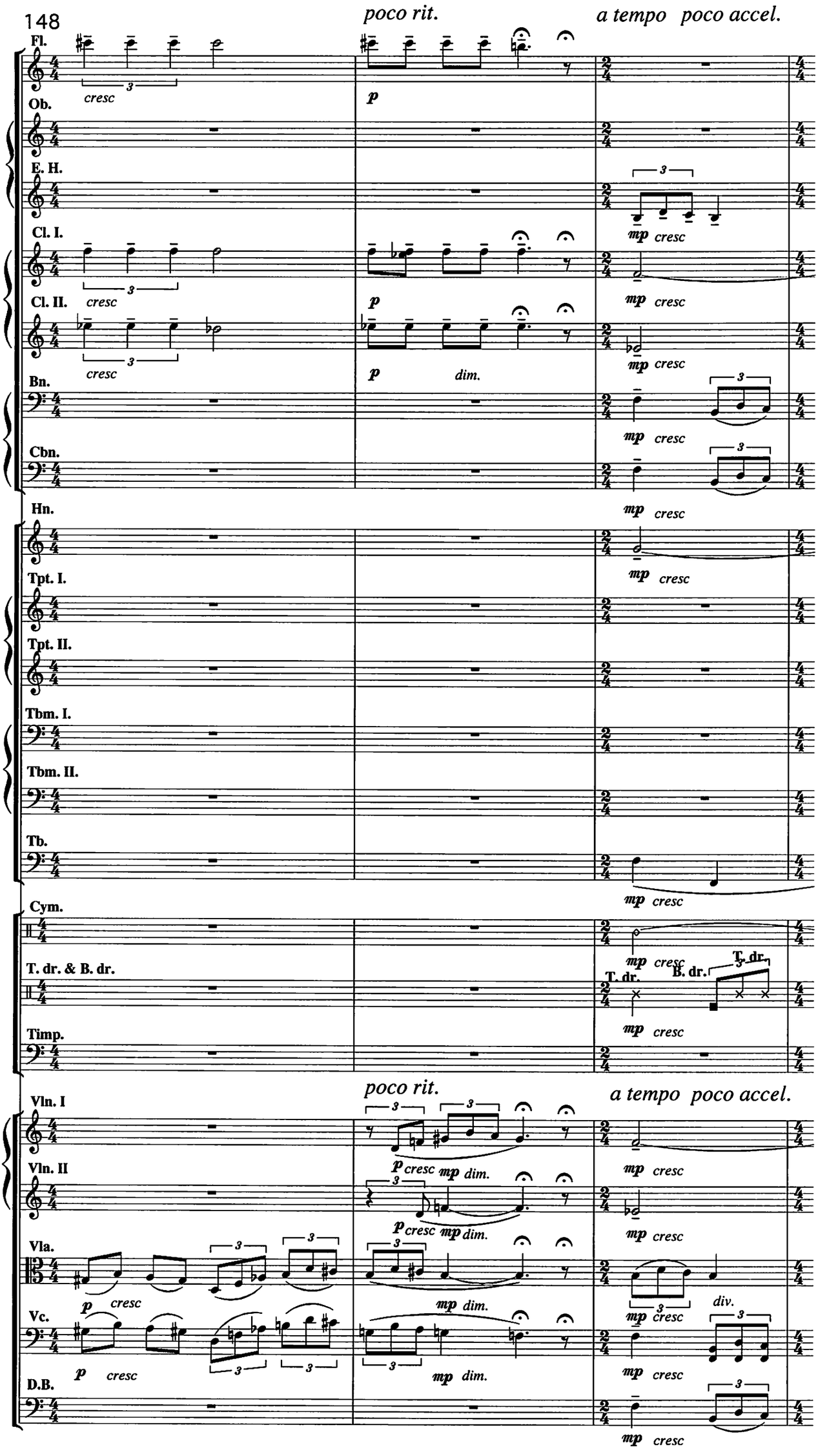

135
mp
mp
mp
mp
3
3
3
3
3

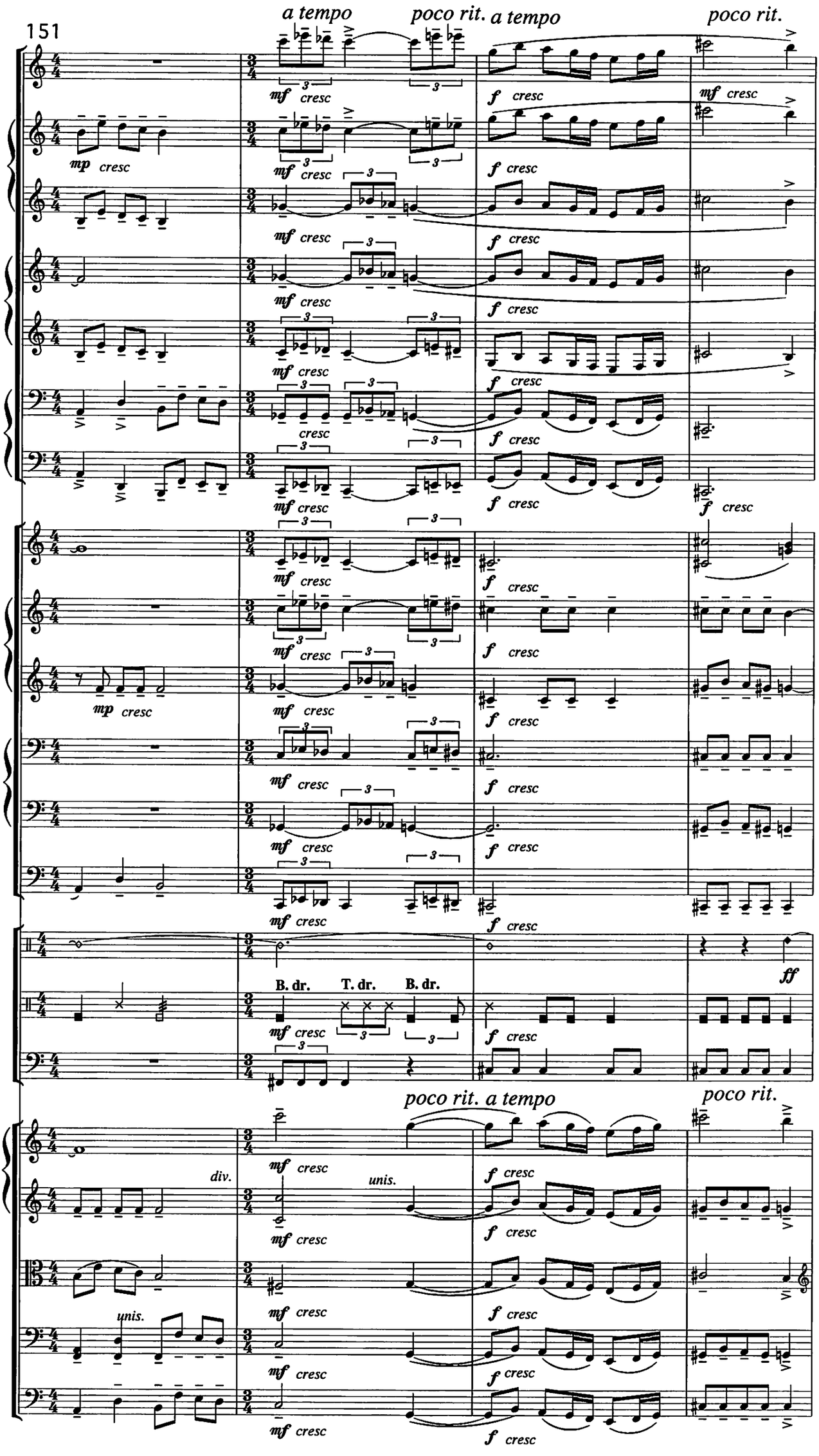
138


Fl.
8va
mf cresc
Ob.
mf cresc
E. H.
mf cresc
Cl. I.
mf cresc
Cl. II.
mf cresc
Bn. &
Cbn.
3
3
mf cresc
Hn.
mf cresc
Tpt. I.
T. dr. & B. dr.
Timp.
3
Vln. I
div.
cresc
mf
Vln. II
cresc
mf
Vla.
pizz.
cresc
mf
pizz.
Vc.
cresc
mf
D.B.
pizz.
cresc
mf

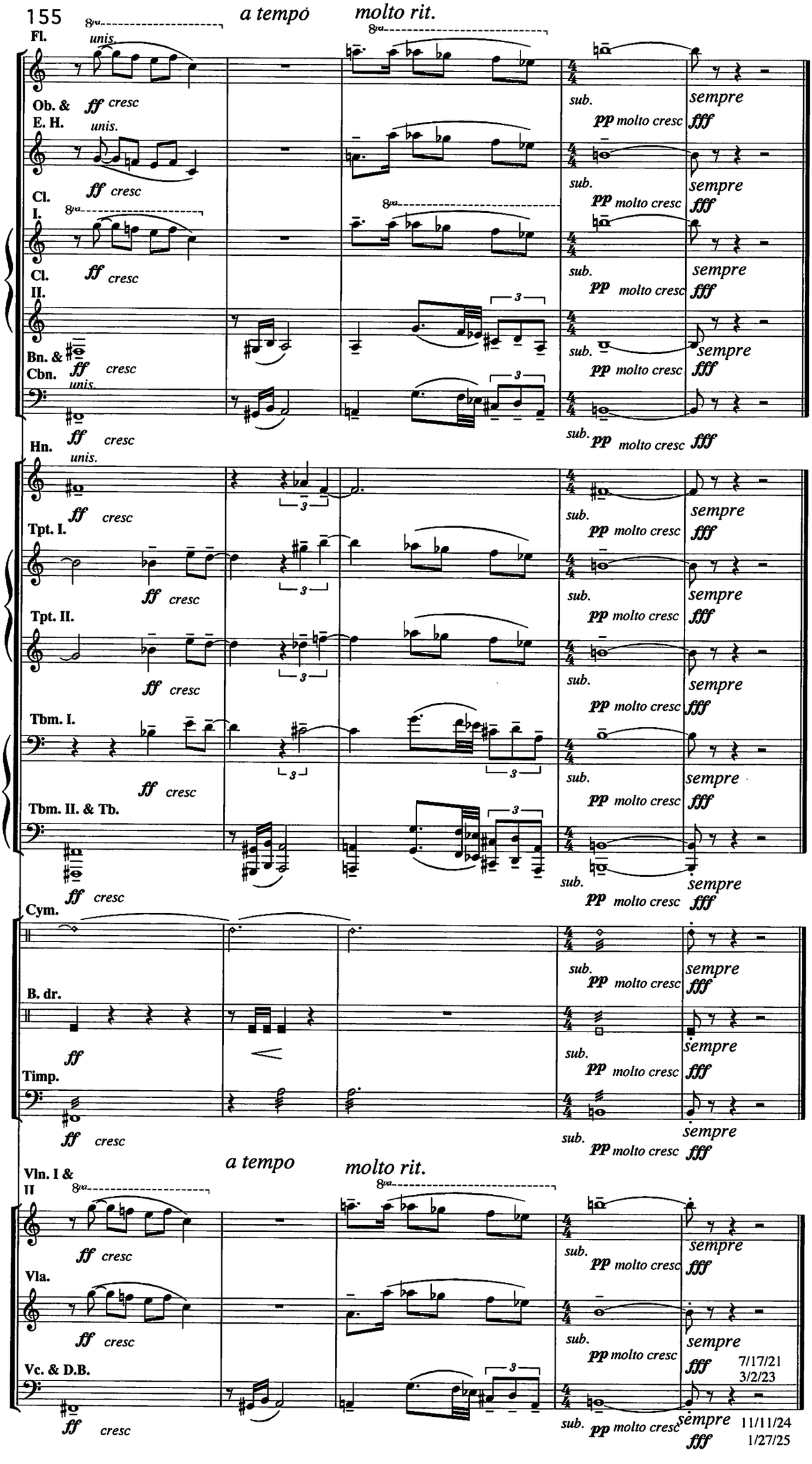

142
8va
f cresc
ff cresc
unis.
div.


144
rit.
a tempo
Fl.
Ob. & E. H.
Cl.
Bn. & Cbn.
Hn.
Tpt.
Tbm.
Tb.
Cym.
B. dr.
Timp.
Vln. I
unis.
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
fff molto dim.
mf molto dim.
p dim.
pp dim. niente
niente


148
poco rit.
a tempo poco accel.
Fl.
Ob.
E. H.
Cl. I.
Cl. II.
Bn.
Cbn.
Hn.
Tpt. I.
Tpt. II.
Tbm. I.
Tbm. II.
Tb.
Cym.
T. dr. & B. dr.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
cresc
dim.
div.
T. dr.
B. dr.


151
a tempo
poco rit.
a tempo
poco rit.
mp cresc
mf cresc
f cresc
B. dr.
T. dr.
B. dr.
ff
div.
unis.

155


a tempo
molto rit.
Fl.
unis.
Ob. &
E. H.
Cl. I.
Cl. II.
Bn. &
Cbn.
Hn.
Tpt. I.
Tpt. II.
Tbm. I.
Tbm. II. & Tb.
Cym.
B. dr.
Timp.
Vln. I & II
Vla.
Vc. & D.B.
ff cresc
sub. pp molto cresc
sempre fff
8va
3
7/17/21
3/2/23
11/11/24
1/27/25