Chamber Symphony No. 8

In Memory of Scooby
(April 1st 2011 to October 20th 2023)

Scored for Picc., Fl., Ob., E. Hn., B♭ Cl., T. Sax., Bsn., F Hn., B♭ Tpt., Tbn., Tba., Timp., Pno., Vlns. 1, Vlns. 2, Vlas., Vcs., Cbs.

Duration 14' 40"
(00:14:40)

Nik Bizzell-Browning (2023)

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Programme notes

Scooby was a rescue cat, a pedigree Bengal, a prince amongst felines and my constant *wild* companion for a decade. Every couple of days, one of his favourite pranks was to unexpectedly jump on the piano in my studio and loudly trot/cantor across the keys from left to right. This piece is structurally based on what I have called the "Scooby" scale, a 60-pitch cluster scale that attempts to capture this activity; first heard at Letter C (bb. 48-54). Scooby was hit by a car in the middle of the night on October 20th 2023. I found his body by the roadside the next morning. Writing this piece was a cathartic exercise, but I hope it captures the deep sense of loss whilst also being a celebration of Scooby's *joie de vivre*.

Chamber Symphonies Nos. 3-8 were all composed during 2023. Collectively, they are a hexalogy of 15 minute (approx.) pieces. If recorded, these would ideally be released as a triple 12" 100% (or as near as possible) recycled vinyl box set. This piece is No. 6 (record 3, side B), the last of the set.

Performance notes

Adhere to tempi, find the grooves, and like Scooby… be spectacular!

Two Timps are required. At Letters C and L the tuning is B♭2 and F3, at Letter E the tuning is B2 and F3.

Scalic structural notes

The *Scooby* (OG) 60-pitch 86-STET CLUSTER SCALE (A0 to B7):

A0, B♭0, B0 | C♯1, D1 | E1, F1, F♯1, G1 | B♭1 | C#2, D2 | E2, F2, F♯2, G2 | B♭2 | C3, C♯3, D3, E♭3 | F3, F♯3 | G♯3, A3, B♭3, B3, C4 | D4, E♭4 | F4, F♯4, G4 | A4, B♭4 | C5, C♯5, D5, E♭5, E5 | F♯5, G5 | A5, B♭5, B5, C6 | D6 | F6, F♯6, G6, G♯6 | B♭6, B6 | D7 | F7, F♯7, G7, G♯7 | B♭7, B7

If C4 = 1, then 1, 3, 2, 4, 5, 3, 4, 2 = C4, E♭4, D4, F4, F♯4, D4, E♭4, D4.

If F#4 = 1, then 1, 3, 2, 4, 5, 3, 4, 2 = F♯4, A4, G4, B♭4, C5, G4, A4, G4.

When cats run, one front leg tends to land slightly before the other, the back legs then cross the front legs as they hit the ground, this is known as overreaching. A cats trot is basically a two-beat gait where diagonally opposite paws land on the ground simultaneously, and a canter is a three-beat gait where at least one paw (sometimes three) is always in contact with the ground. Scooby would incorporate all of the above when running across my piano.

The Prime (of the above) 60-STET Scale from C2 - C7 (with octave doubling at either end; C1-C2 & C7-C8)

↑(+9, +7)... = ↓(-3, -5)...

C2 + 19 (+3+5+3+5+3) = G3, C7 - 19 = F5, therefore there are two sounded axial points at G3 & F5.

↑ from G3 to C7, (+9, +7)... produces the (41-STET) pitches; {G3 [9] E4 [7] B4 [9] G#5 [7] Eb6 [9] C7}

↑ from C2 to G3, (+3, +5)... produces the (19-STET) pitches; {C2 [3] Eb2 [5] G#2 [3] B2 [5] E3 [3] G3}

The complete (60-STET) ↑ "P" scale =

{C2 [3] Eb2 [5] G#2 [3] B2 [5] E3 [3] G3 [9] E4 [7] B4 [9] G#5 [7] Eb6 [9] C7}

The complete (60-STET) ↓ "I" scale =

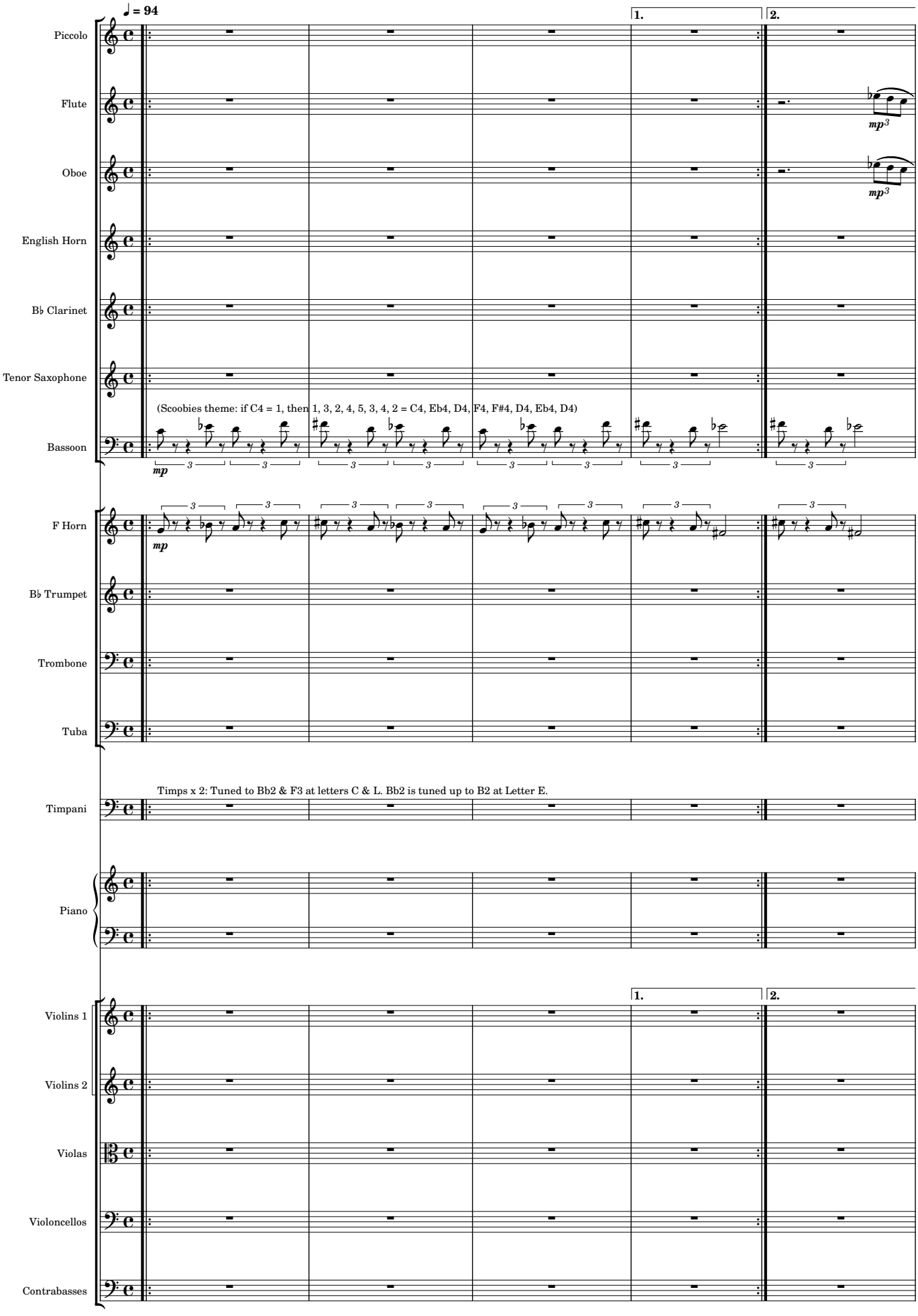
{C2 [9] A2 [7] E3 [9] C#4 [7] G#4 [9] F5 [3] G#5 [5] C#6 [3] E6 [5] A6 [3] C7}

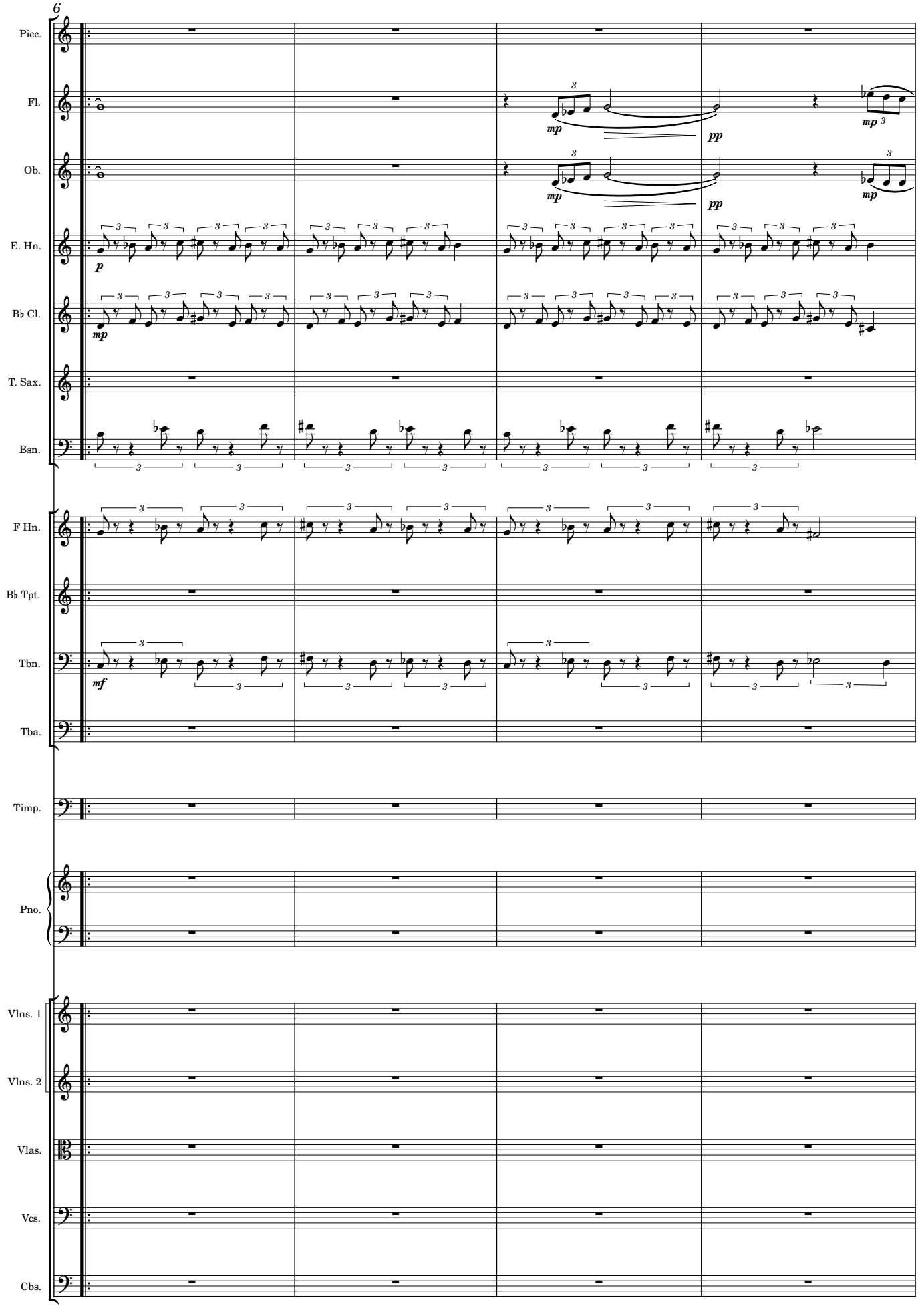
The complete 18-pitch (↑↓) "P+I" scale =

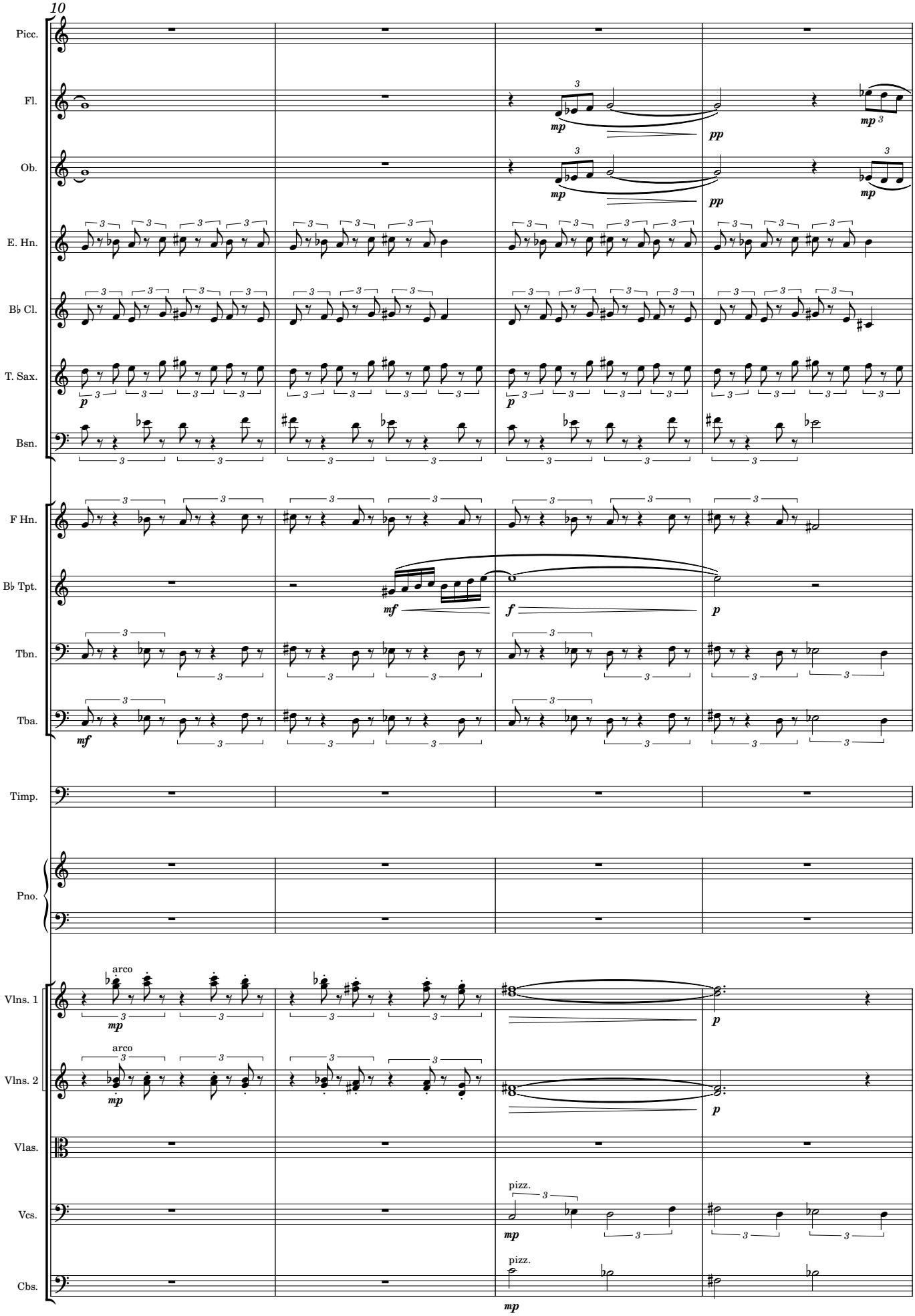
{C2 [3] Eb2 [5] G#2 [1] A2 [2] B2 [5] E3 [3] G3 [6] C#4 [3] E4 [4] G#4 [3] B4 [6] F5 [3] G#5 [5] C#6 [2] Eb6 [1] E6 [5] A6 [3] C7}

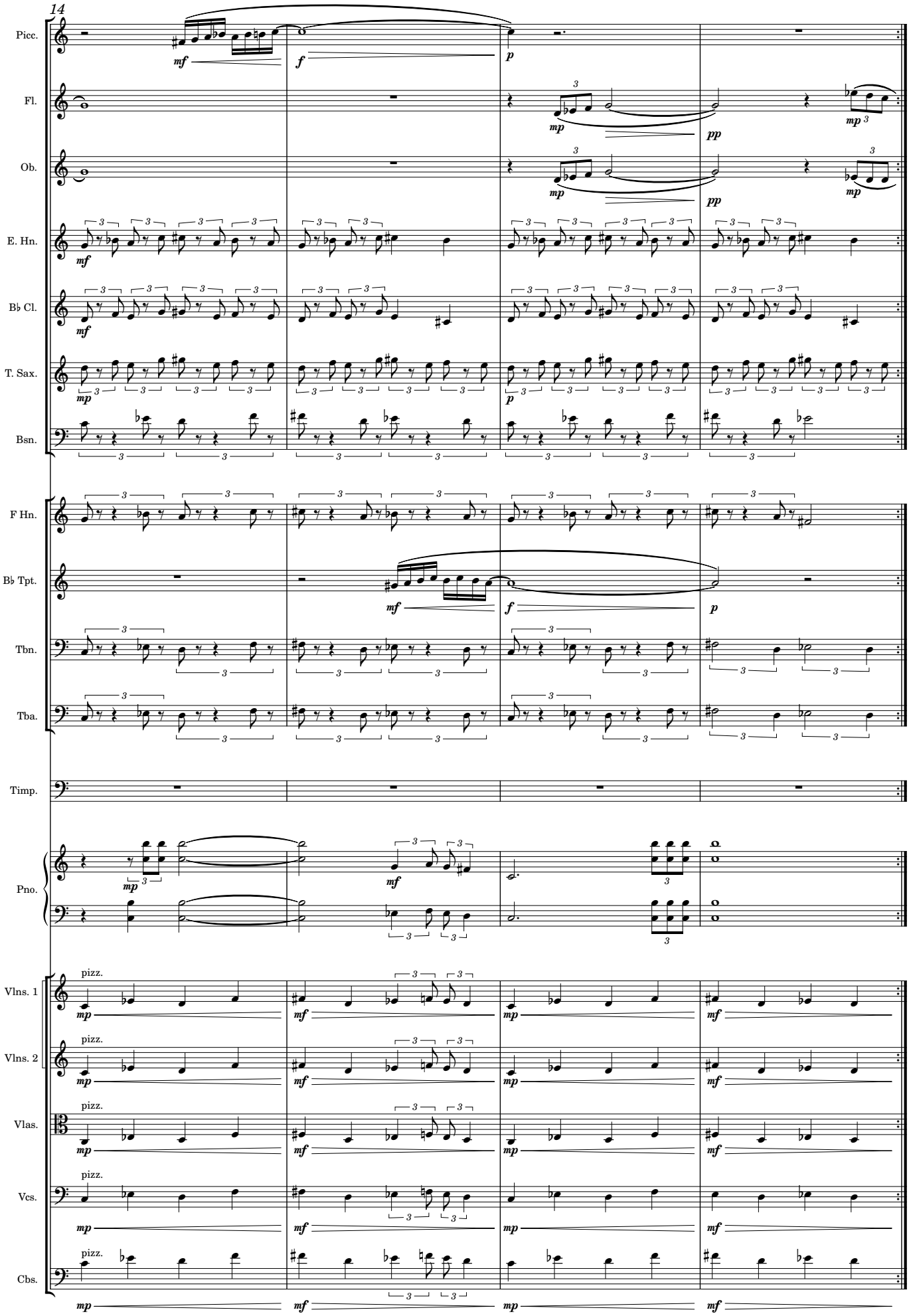
With octave doubling at either end (C1-C2 & C7-C8); 28-pitch (↑↓) "P+I" scale =

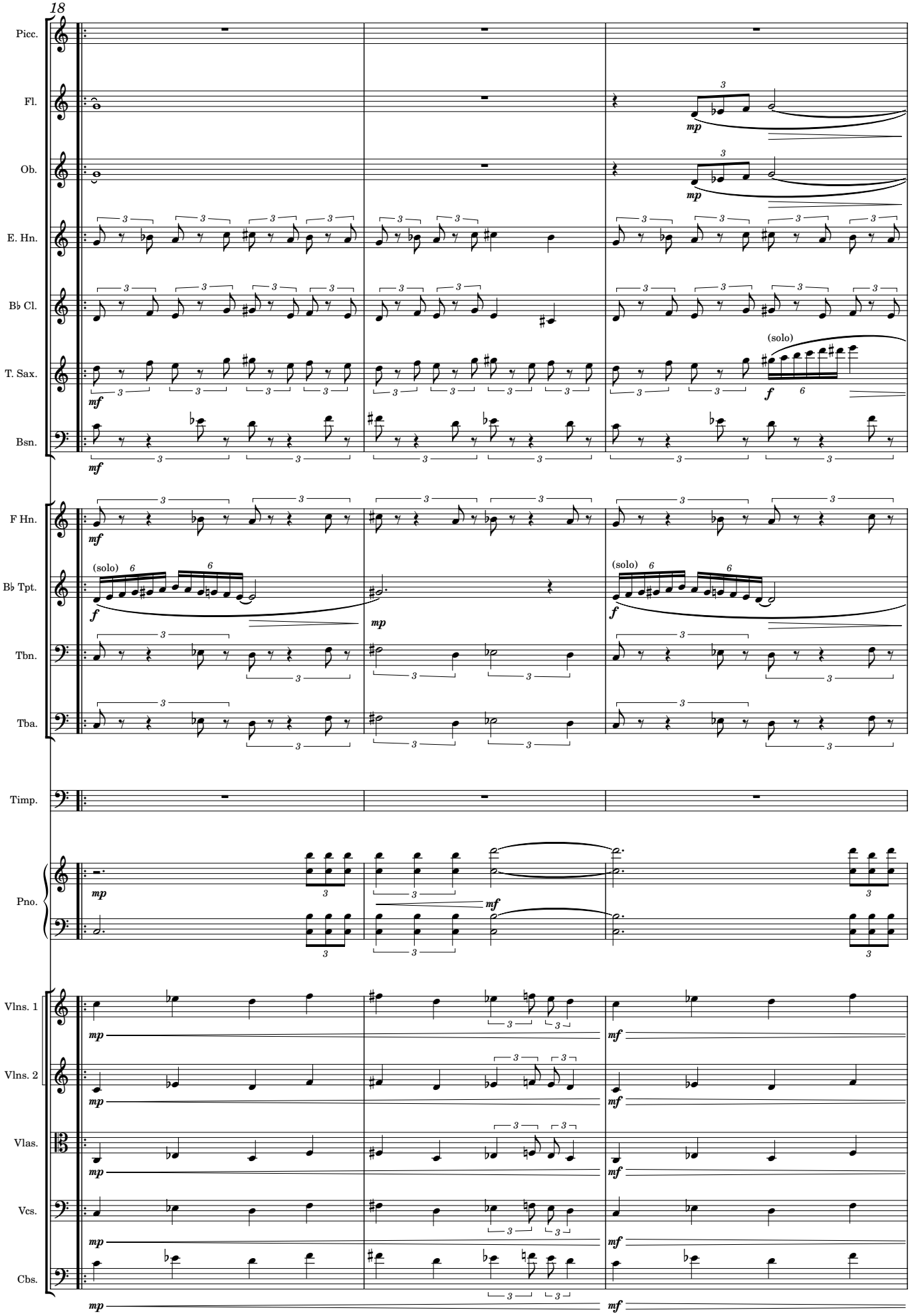
{C1 [3] Eb1 [5] G#1 [1] A1 [2] B1 [1] C2 [3] Eb2 [5] G#2 [1] A2 [2] B2 [5] E3 [3] G3 [6] C#4 [3] E4 [4] G#4 [3] B4 [6] F5 [3] G#5 [5] C#6 [2] Eb6 [1] E6 [5] A6 [3] C7 [1] C#7 [2] Eb7 [1] E7 [5] A7 [3] C8}

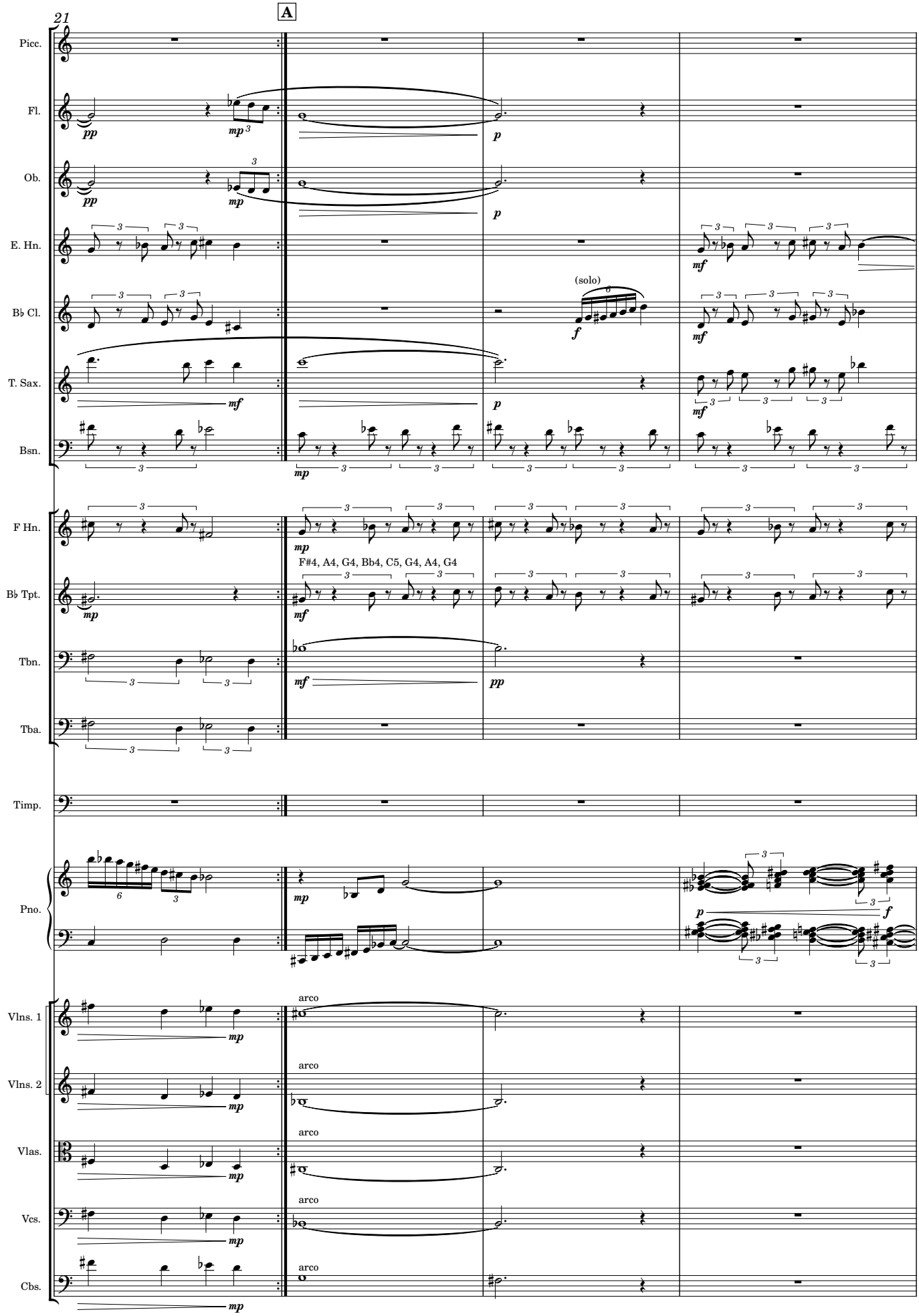

♩ = 94
1.
2.
Piccolo
Flute
mp3
Oboe
mp3
English Horn
B♭ Clarinet
Tenor Saxophone
(Scoobies theme: if C4 = 1, then 1, 3, 2, 4, 5, 3, 4, 2 = C4, Eb4, D4, F4, F#4, D4, Eb4, D4)
Bassoon
mp
F Horn
mp
B♭ Trumpet
Trombone
Tuba
Timps x 2: Tuned to Bb2 & F3 at letters C & L. Bb2 is tuned up to B2 at Letter E.
Timpani
Piano
1.
2.
Violins 1
Violins 2
Violas
Violoncellos
Contrabasses

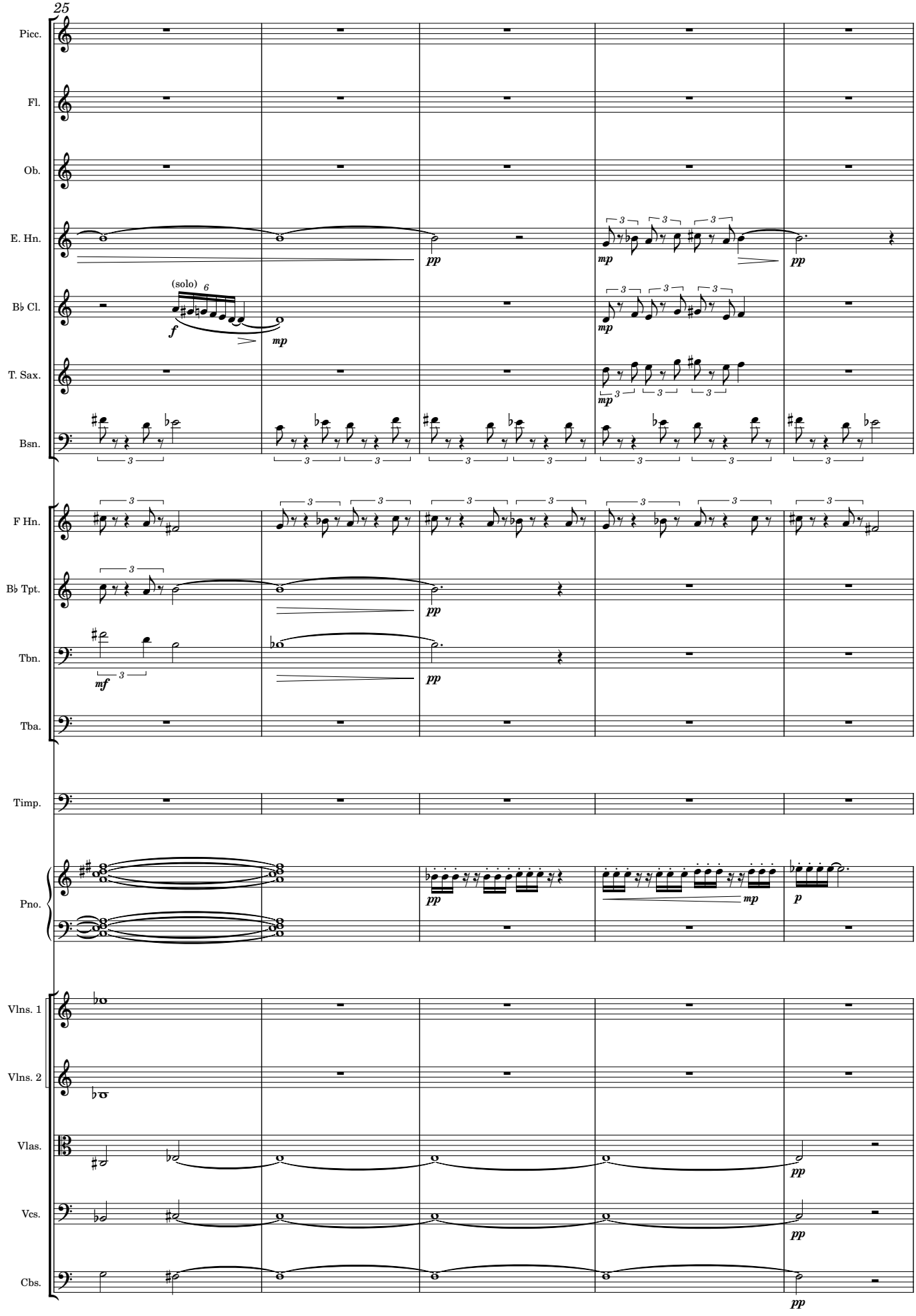

6
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
p
mp
pp
mf

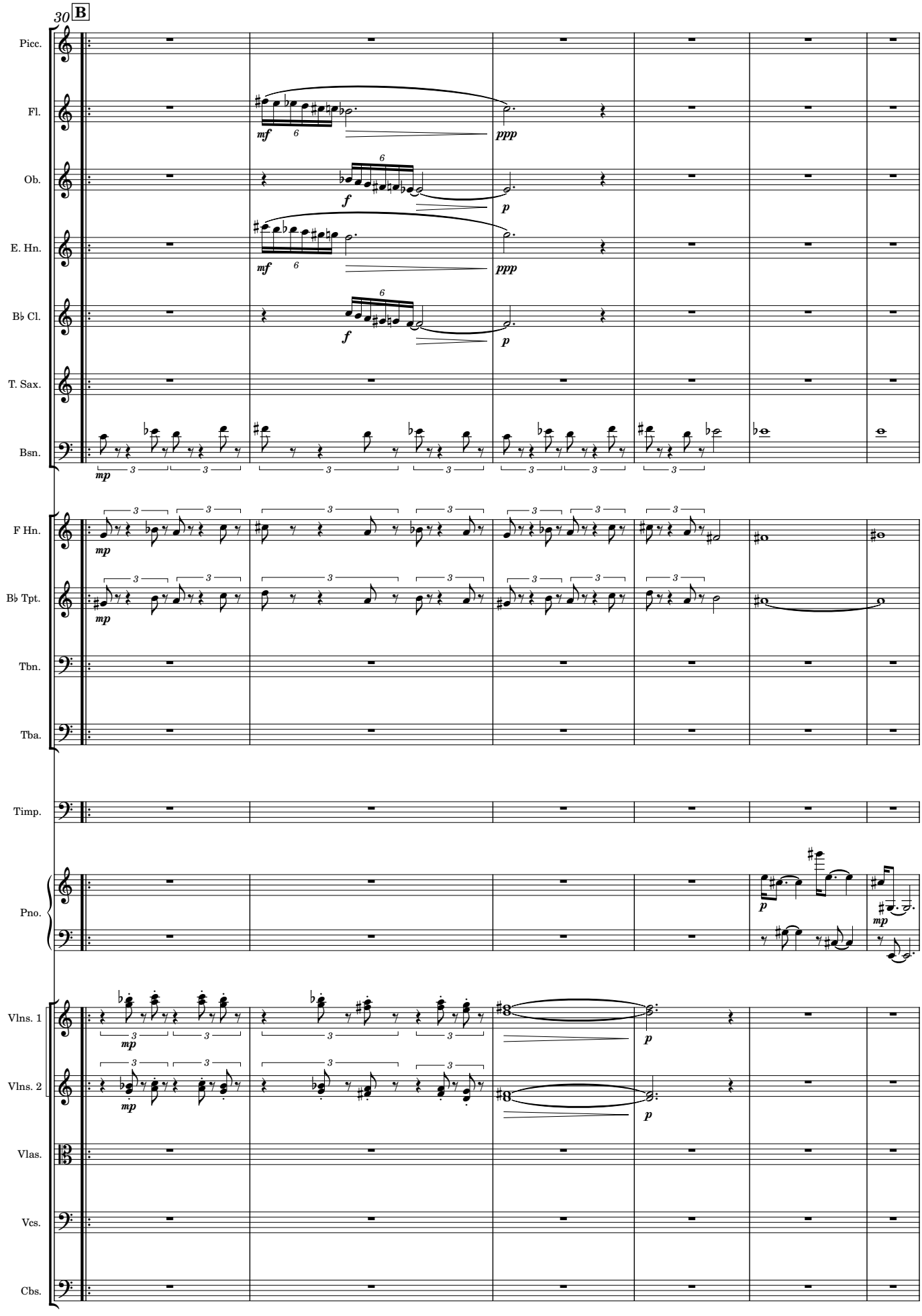

10
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
arco
pizz.
mp
pp
mf
f
p

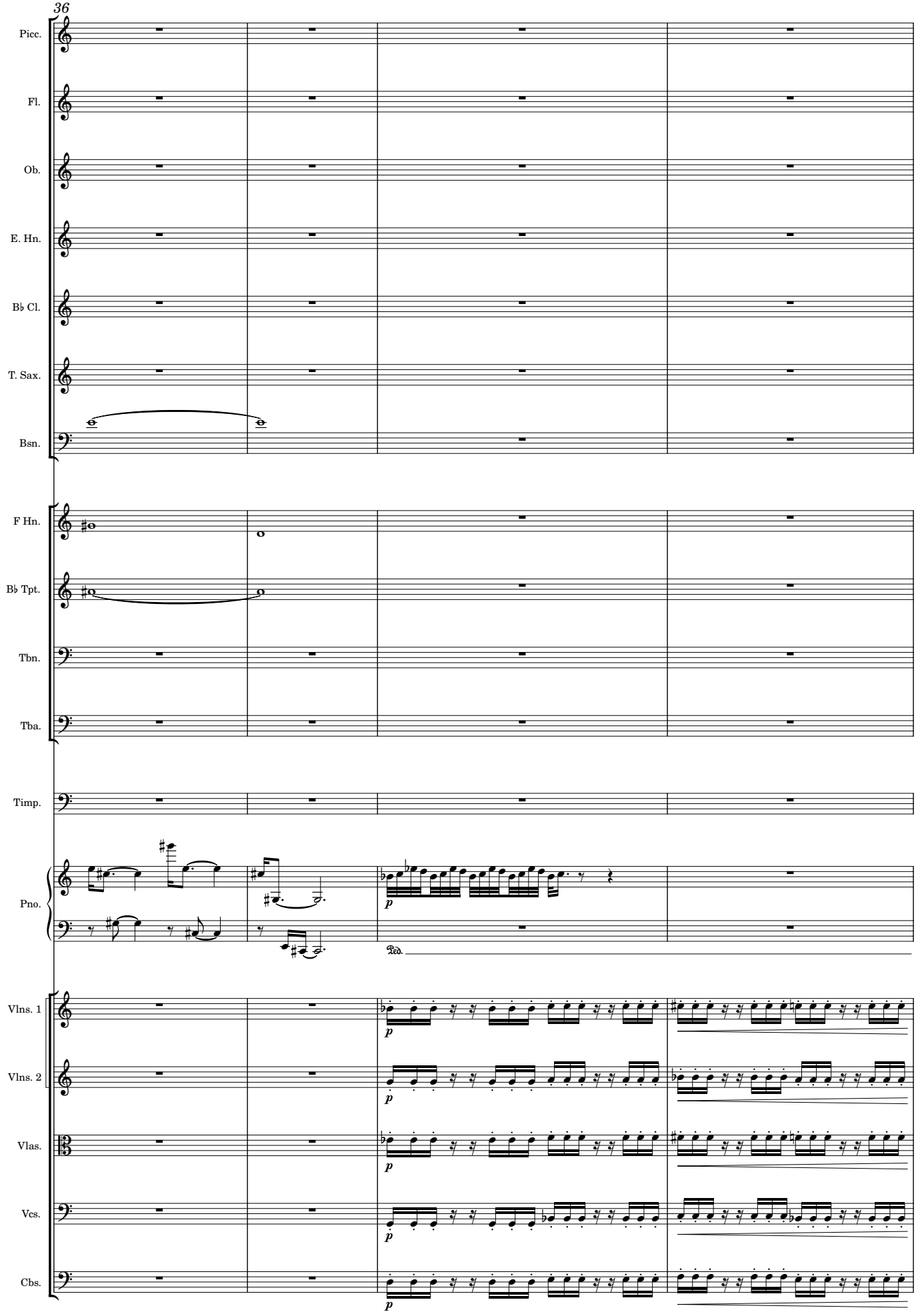

14
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
pizz.

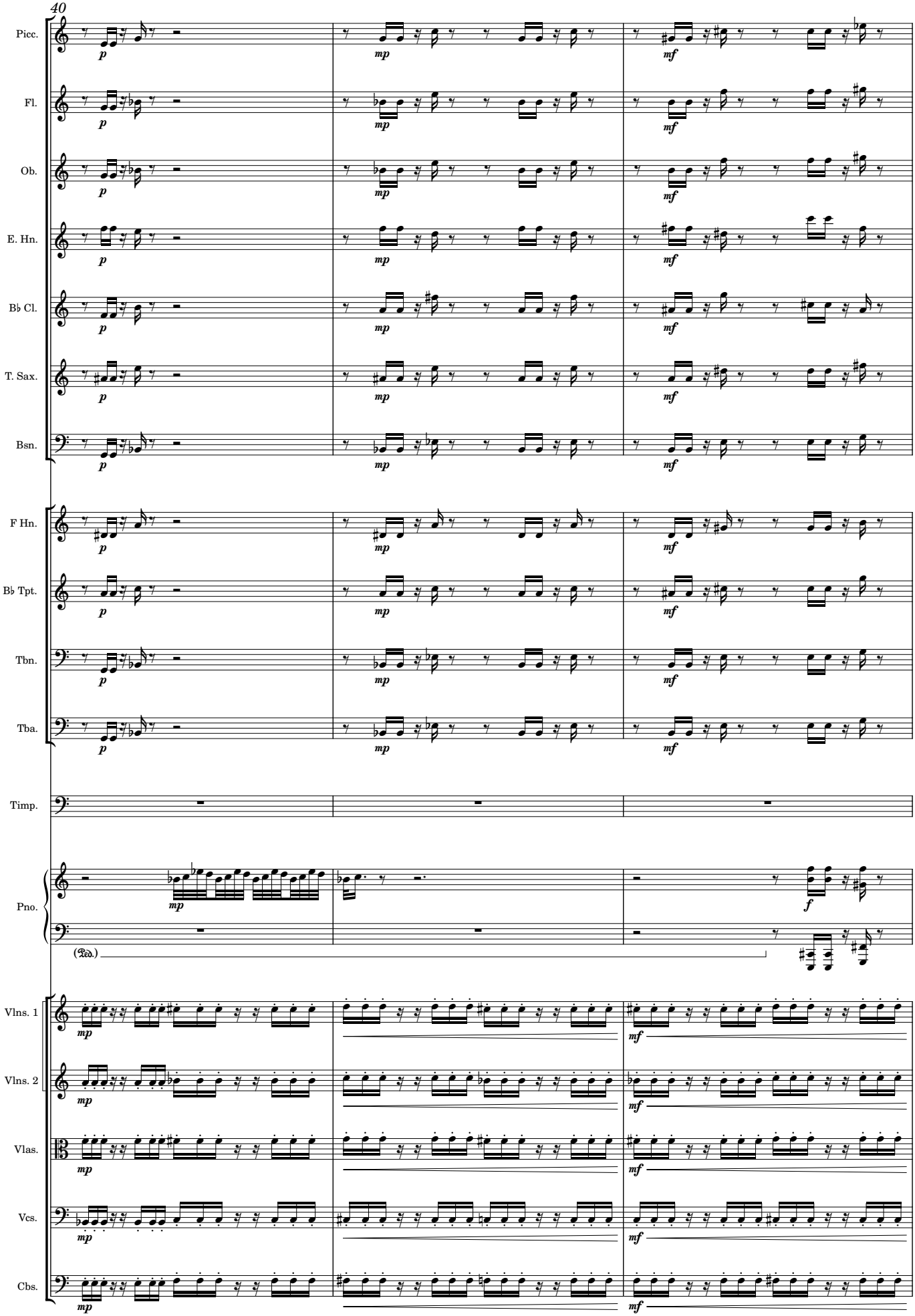

18
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
(solo)
mp
mf
f

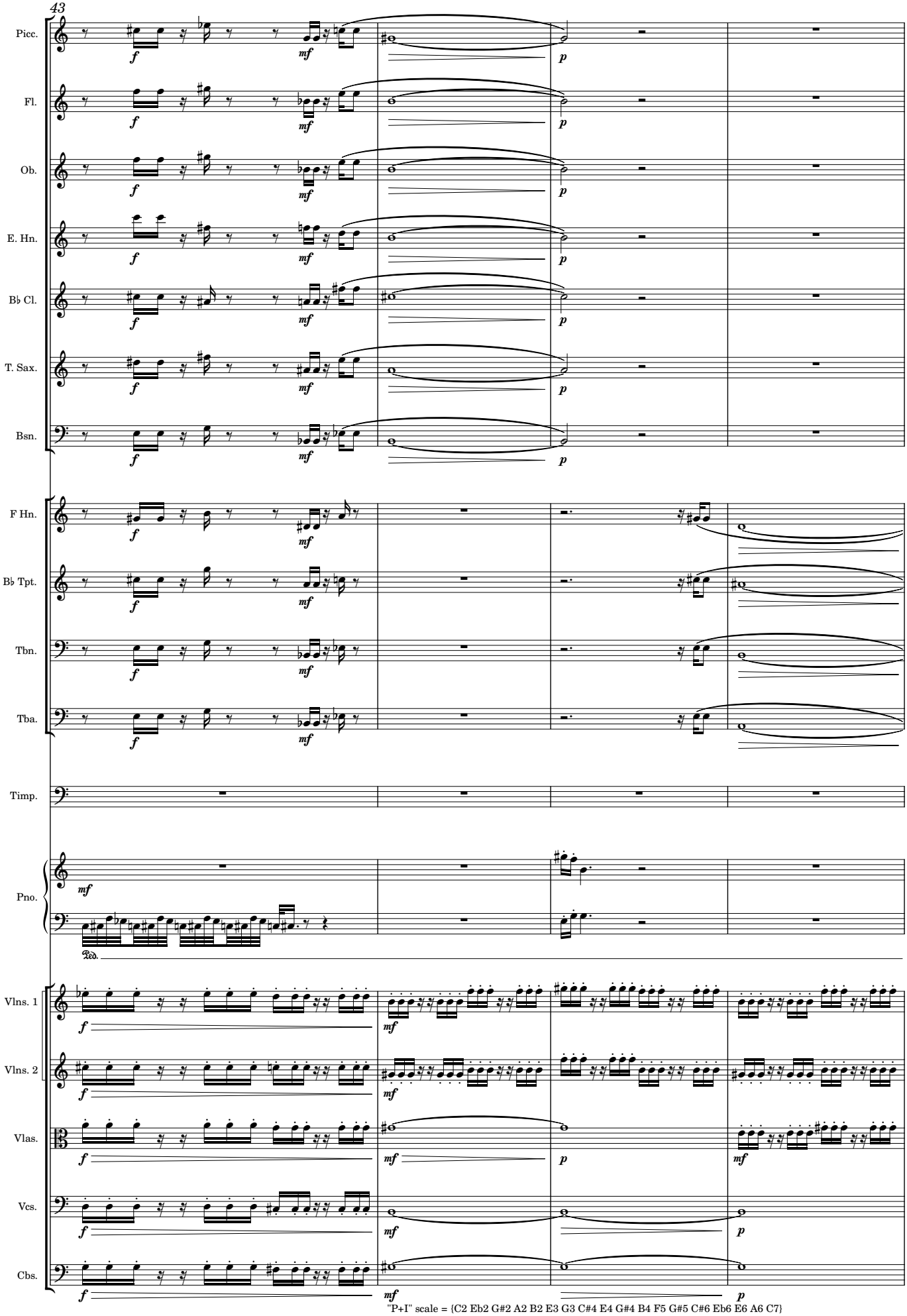

21
A
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
(solo)
F#4, A4, G4, Bb4, C5, G4, A4, G4
arco

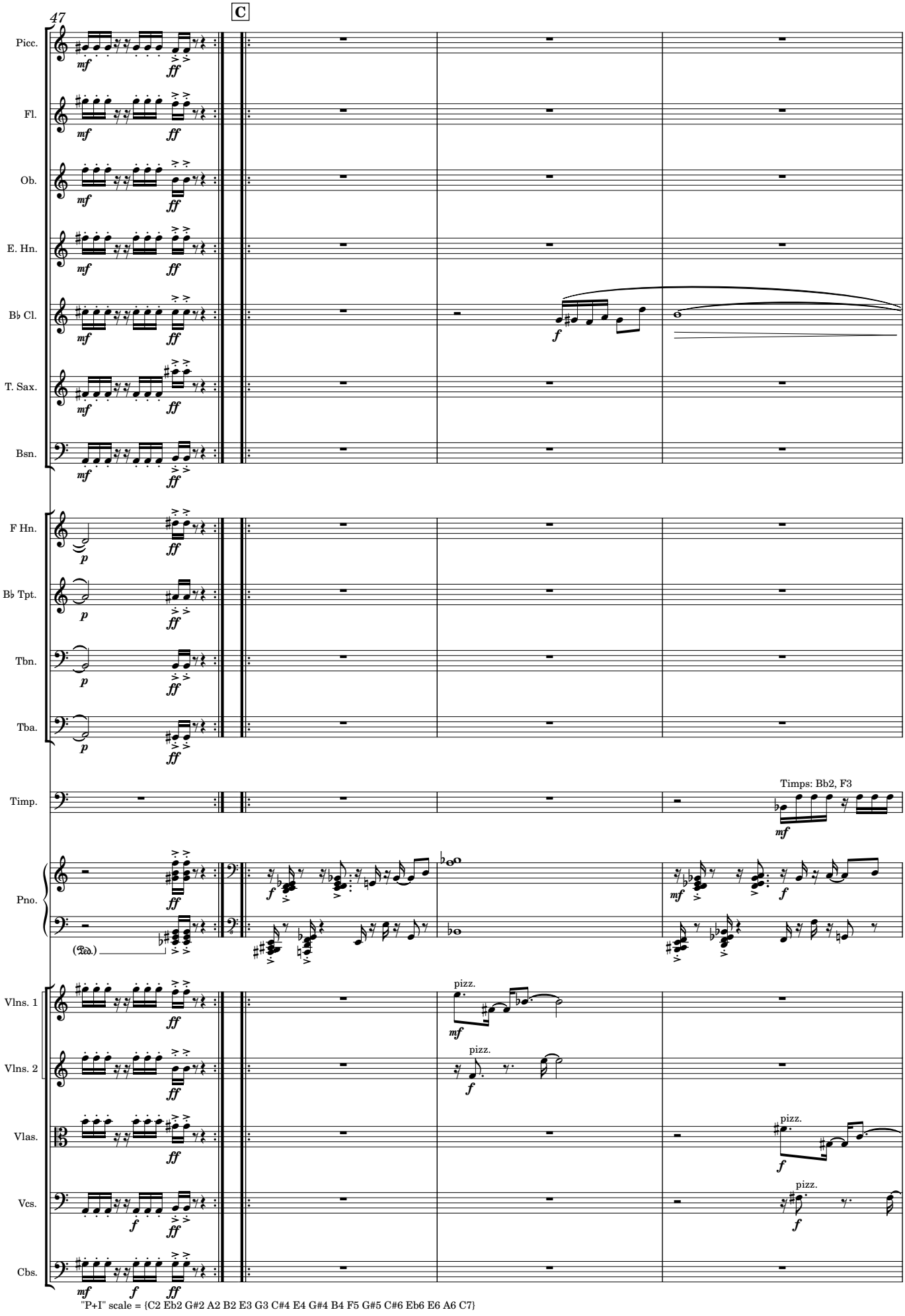

25
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
(solo)
f
mp
pp
mf
p

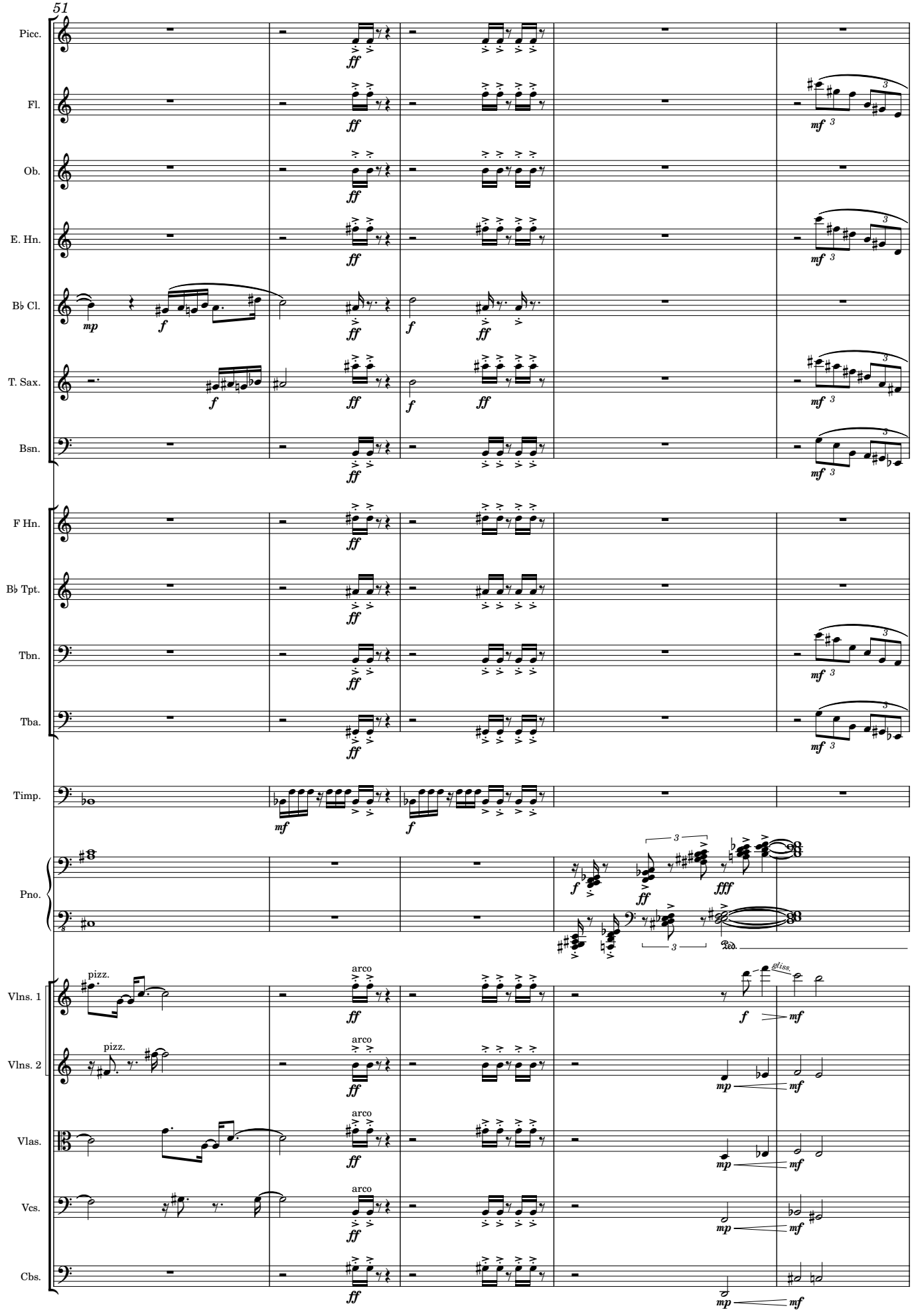

30
B
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
mf
ppp
f
p
mp

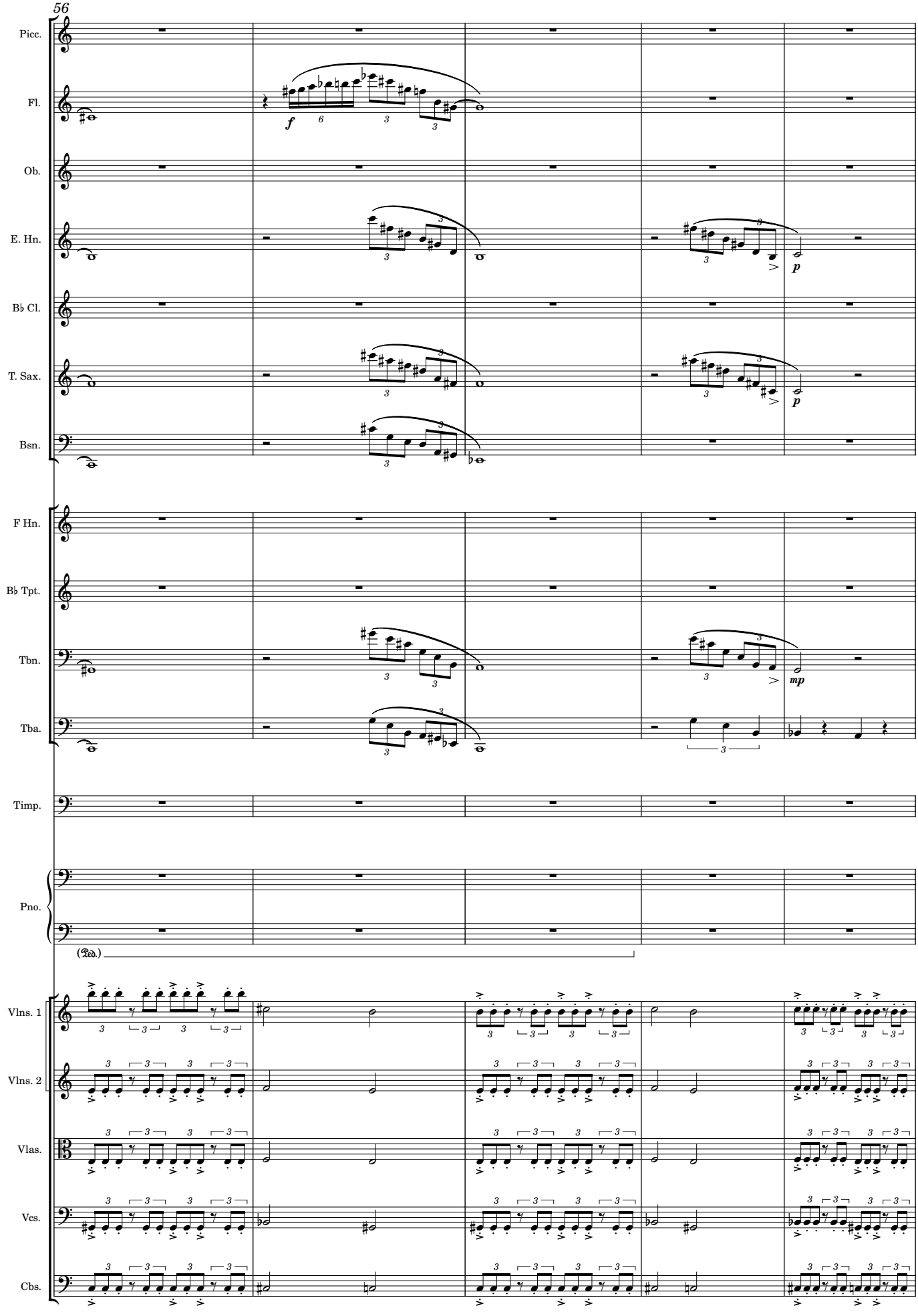

36
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
p
Ped.

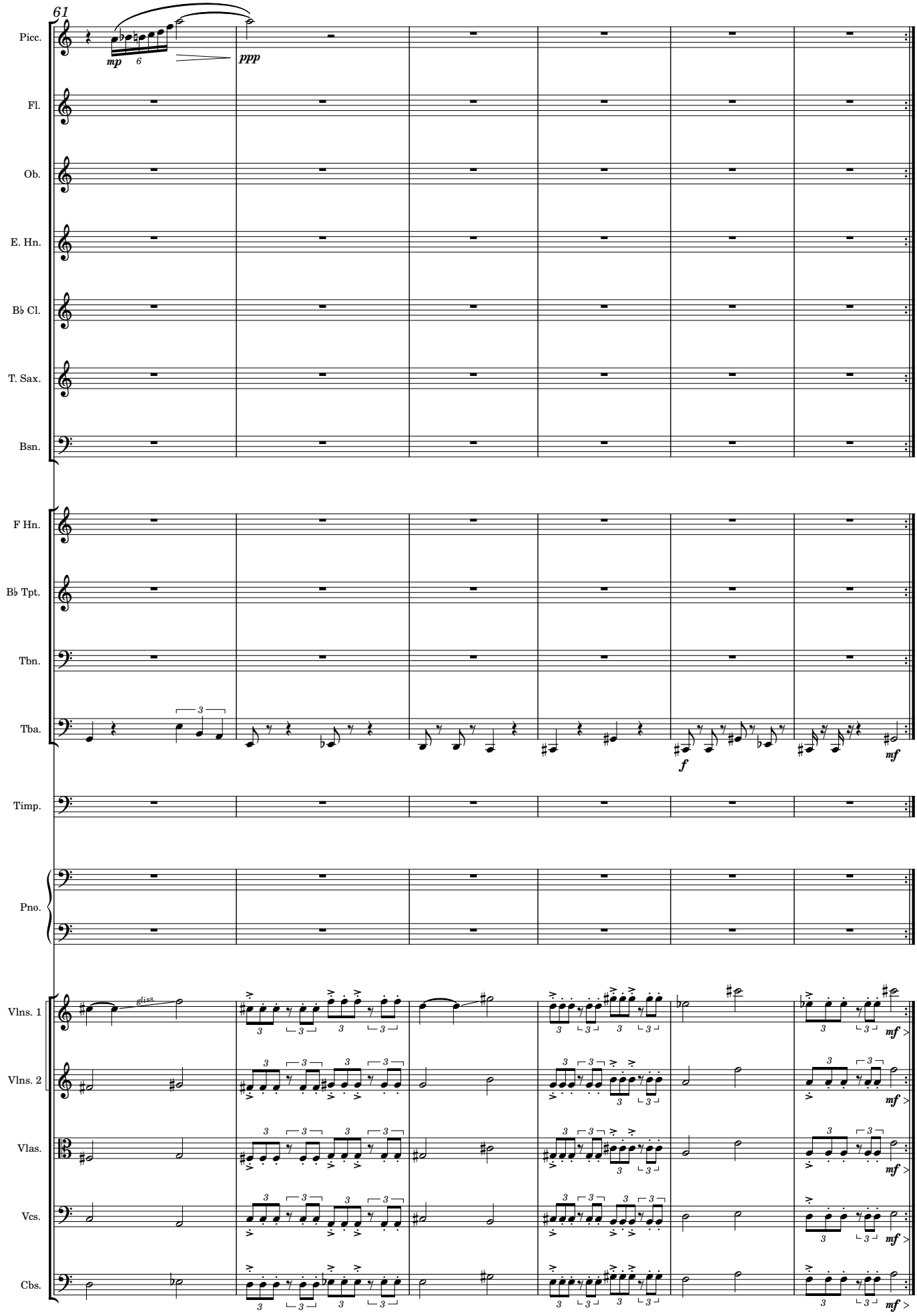

40
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
(Ped.)
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
p
mp
mf
f

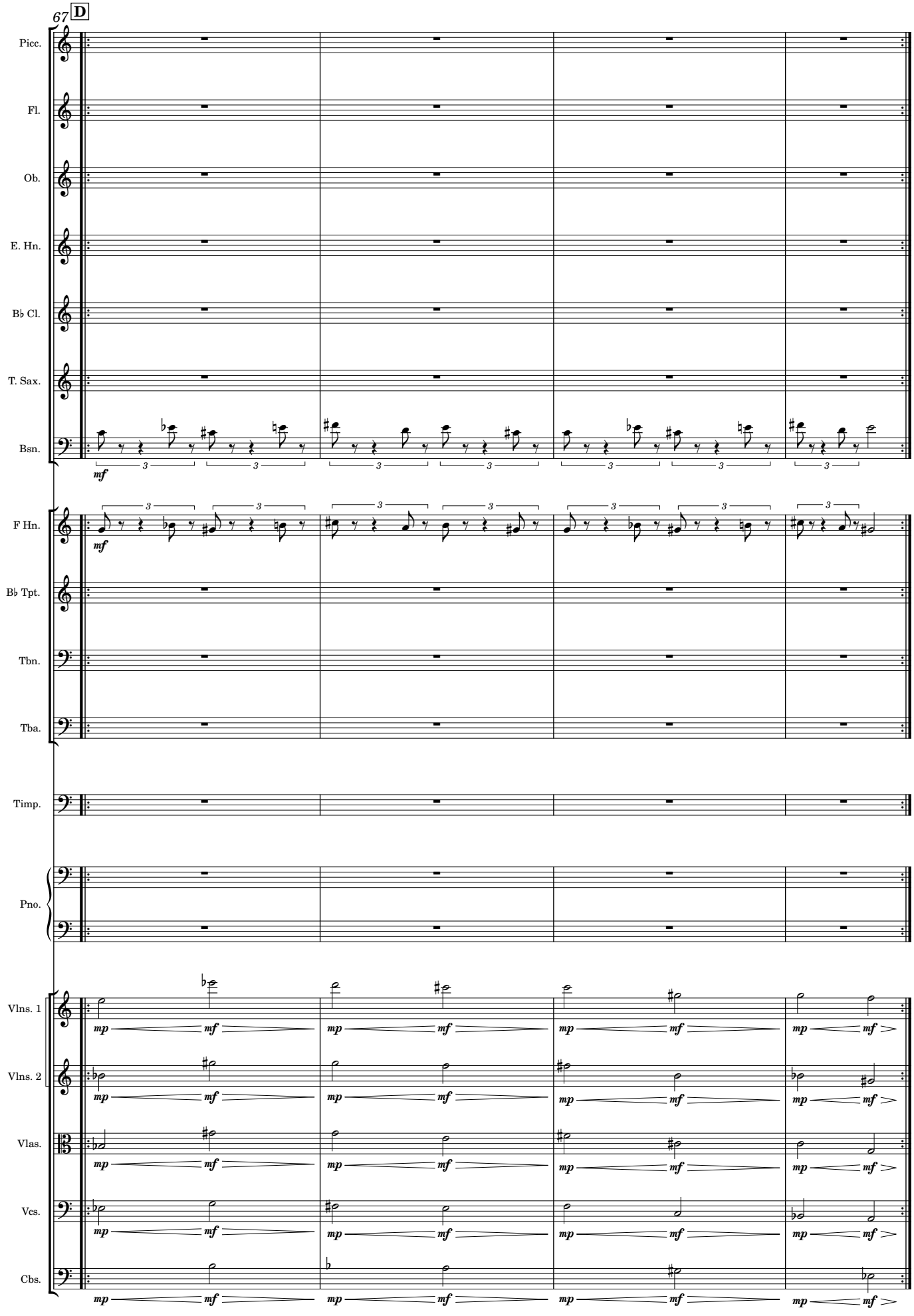

43
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
"P+I" scale = {C2 Eb2 G#2 A2 B2 E3 G3 C#4 E4 G#4 B4 F5 G#5 C#6 Eb6 E6 A6 C7}

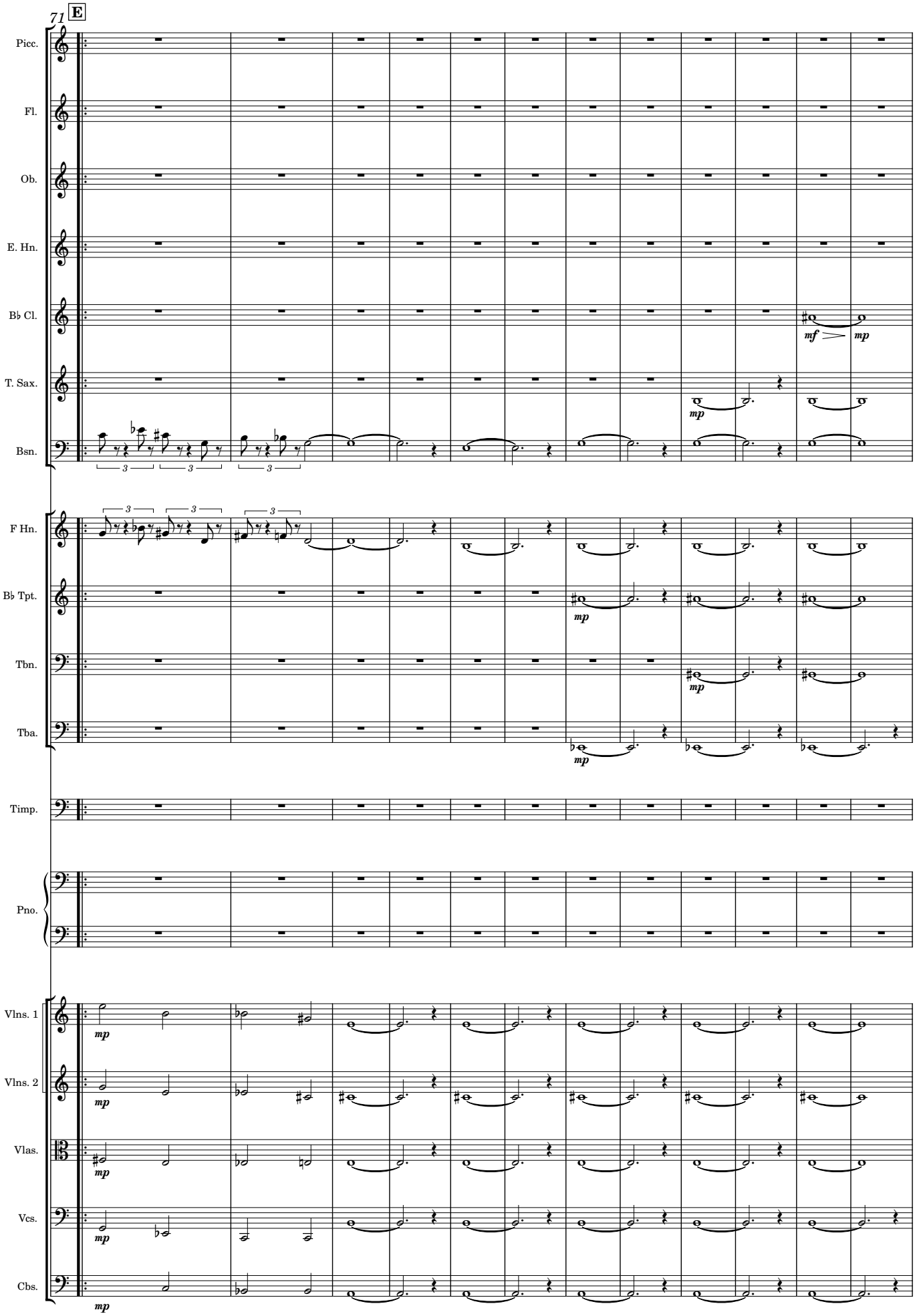

47
C
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Timps: Bb2, F3
Pno.
(Ped.)
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
pizz.
"P+I" scale = {C2 Eb2 G#2 A2 B2 E3 G3 C#4 E4 G#4 B4 F5 G#5 C#6 Eb6 E6 A6 C7}

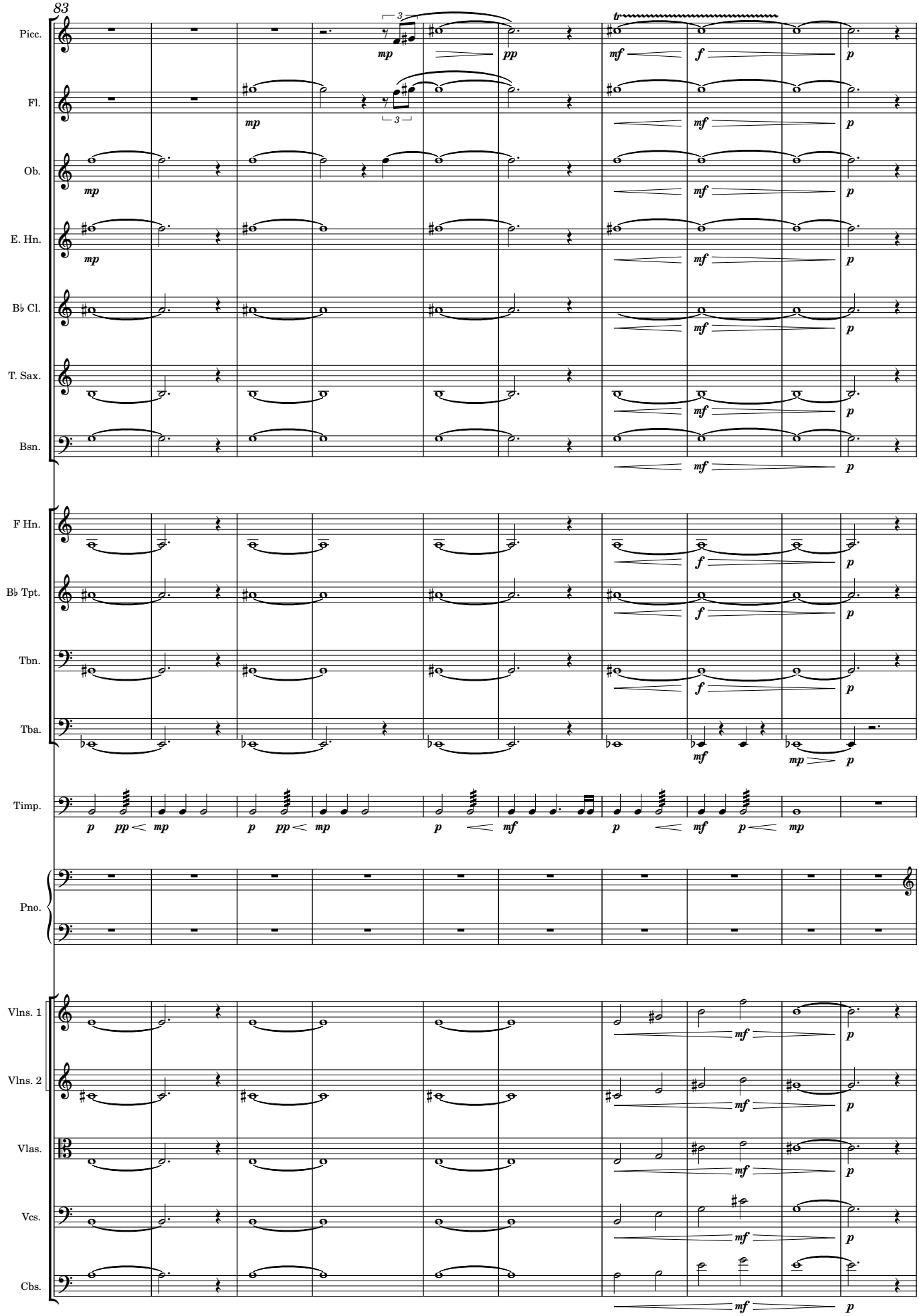

51
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
pizz.
arco
gliss.
Ped.

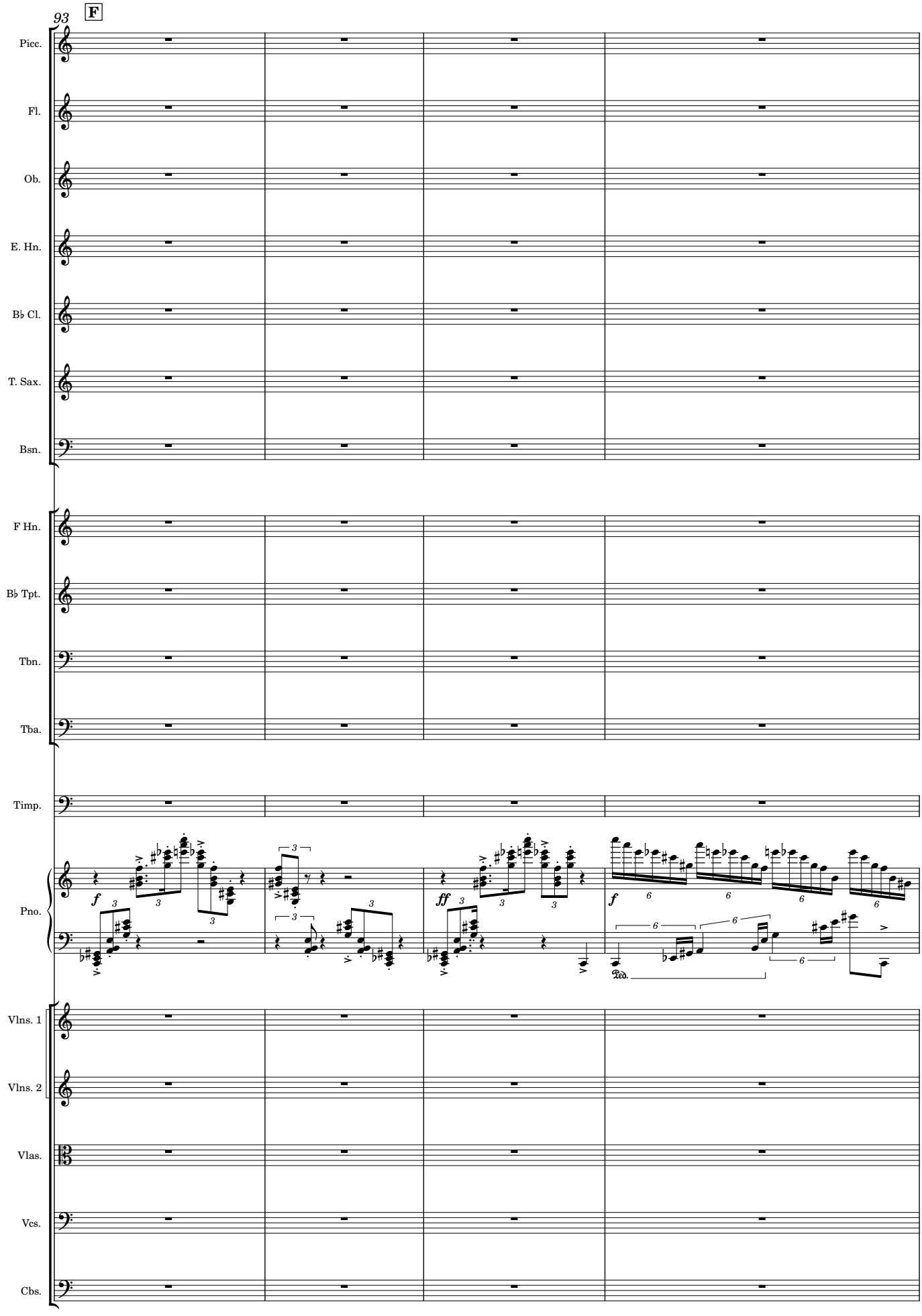

56
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
f
p
mp

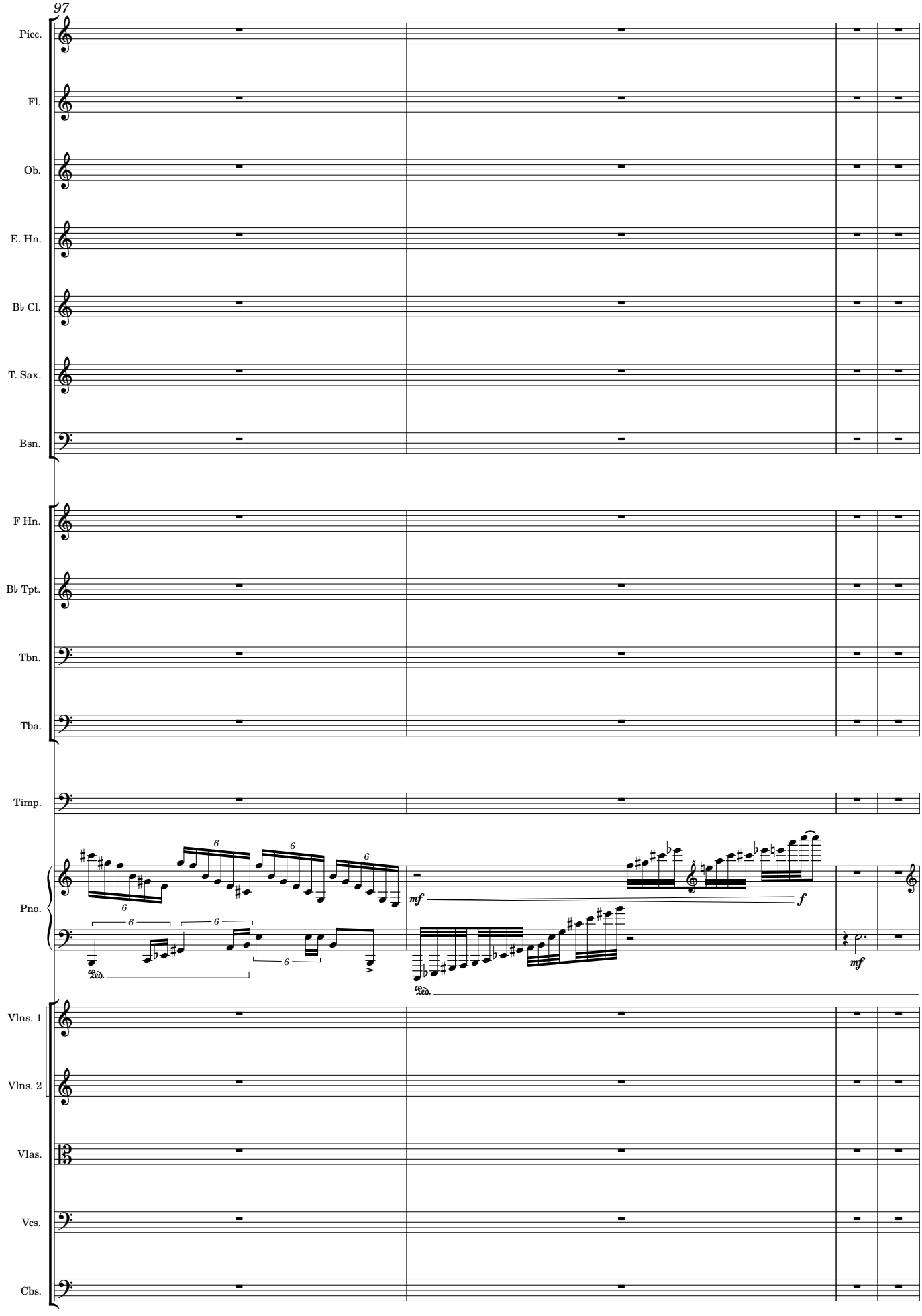

61
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
mp
ppp
f
mf
gliss.


67
D
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
mf
mp
3


71
E
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
mf
mp


83
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.


93
F
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
f
ff
f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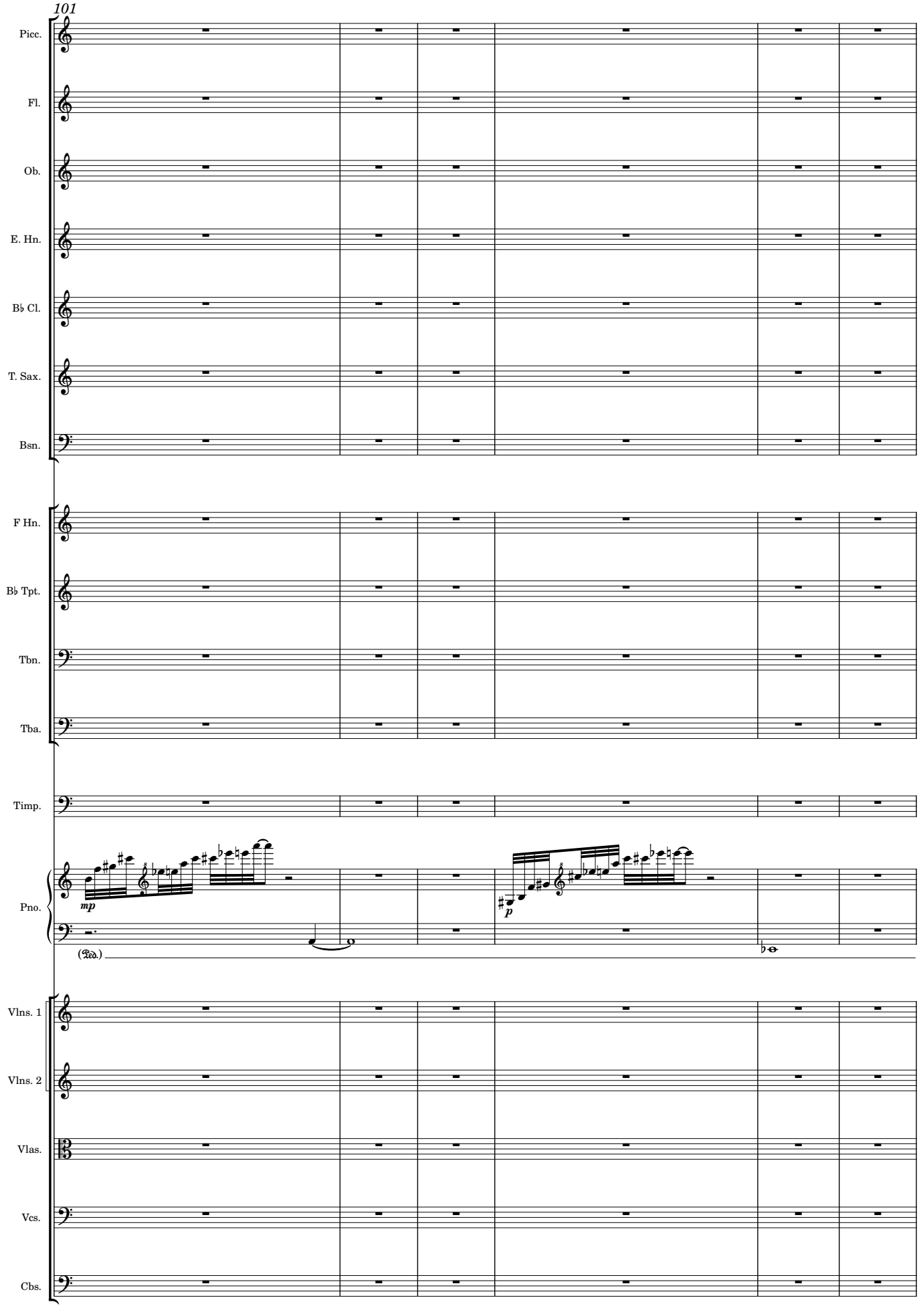
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
mf
f
mf


101
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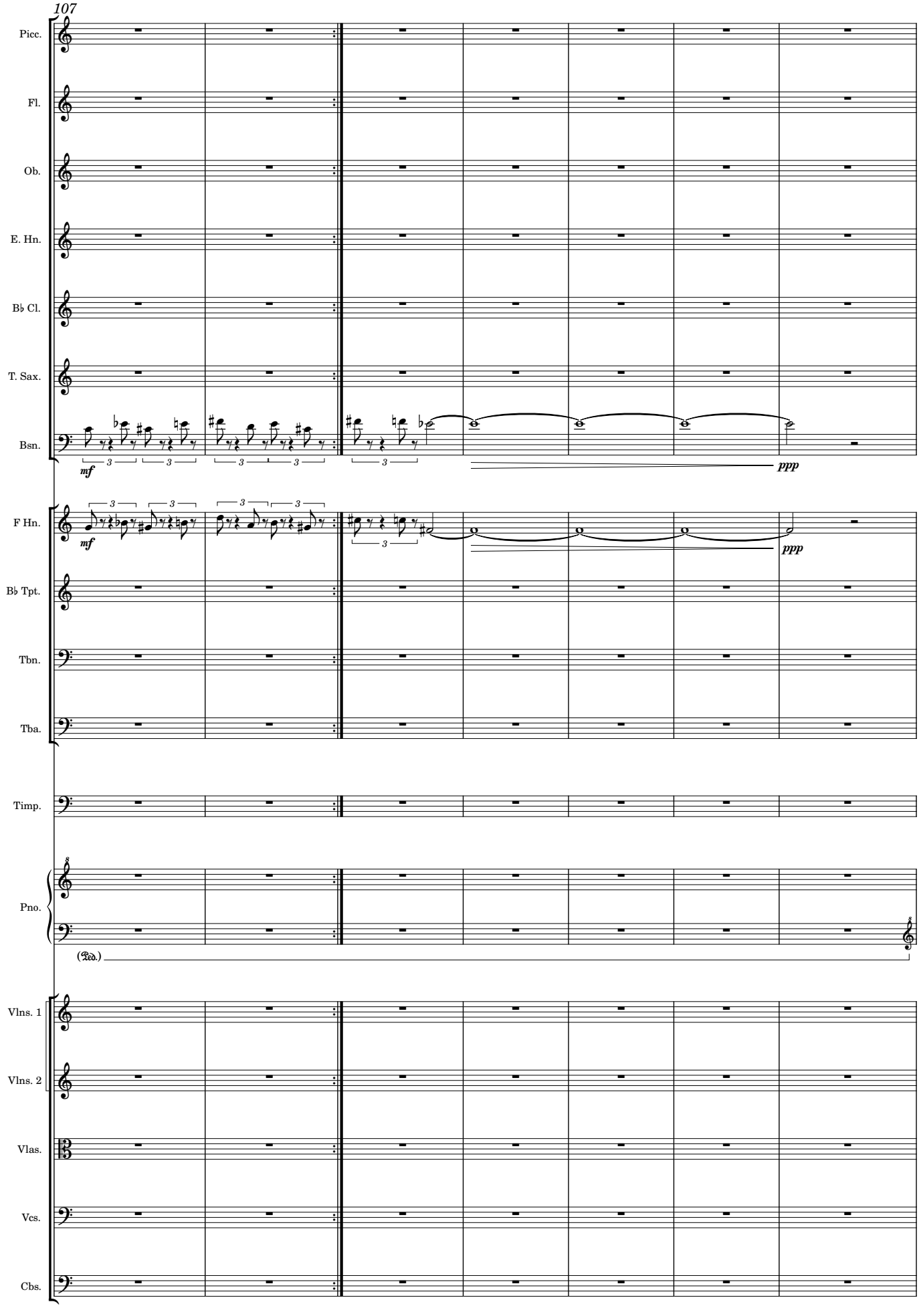
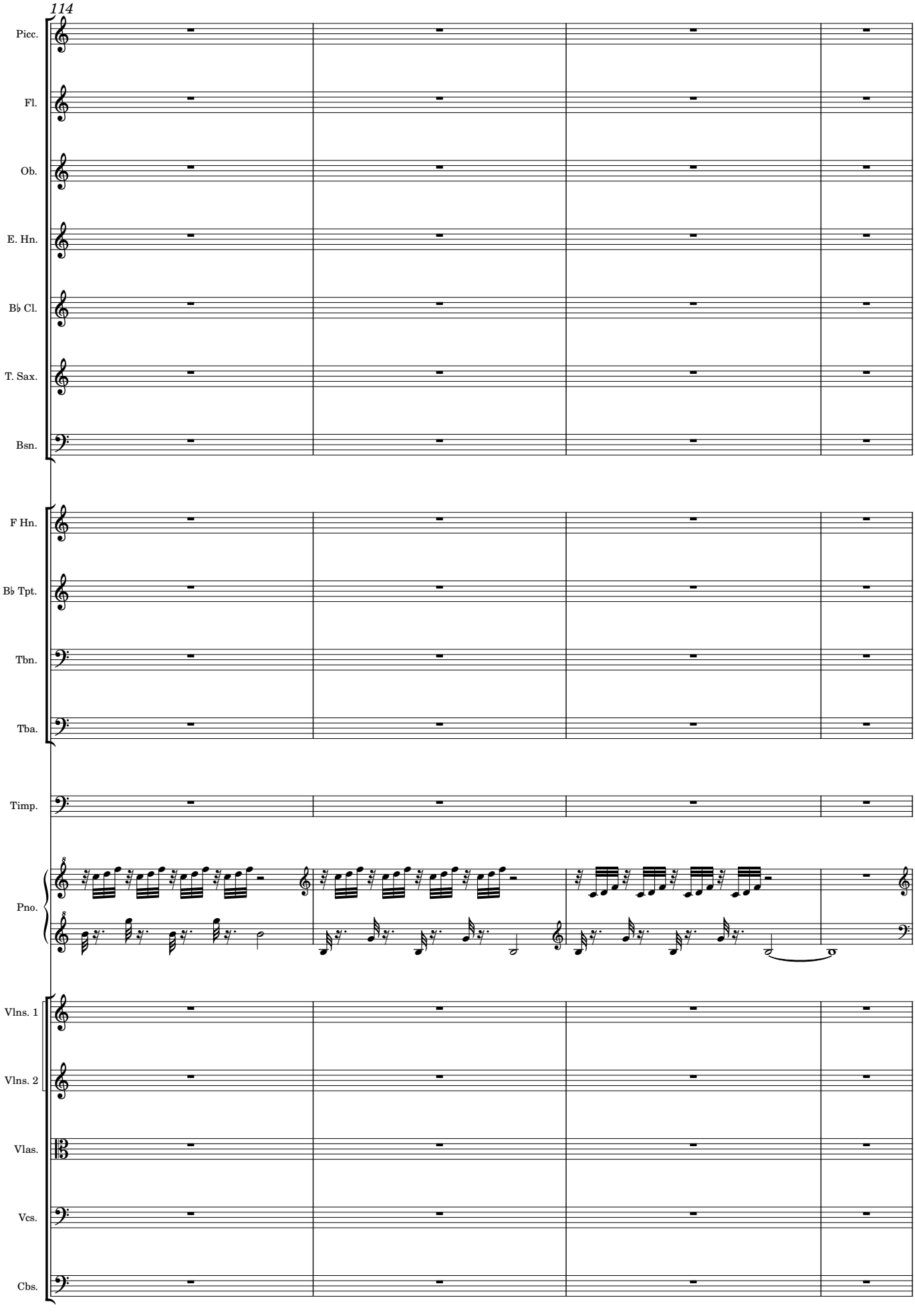
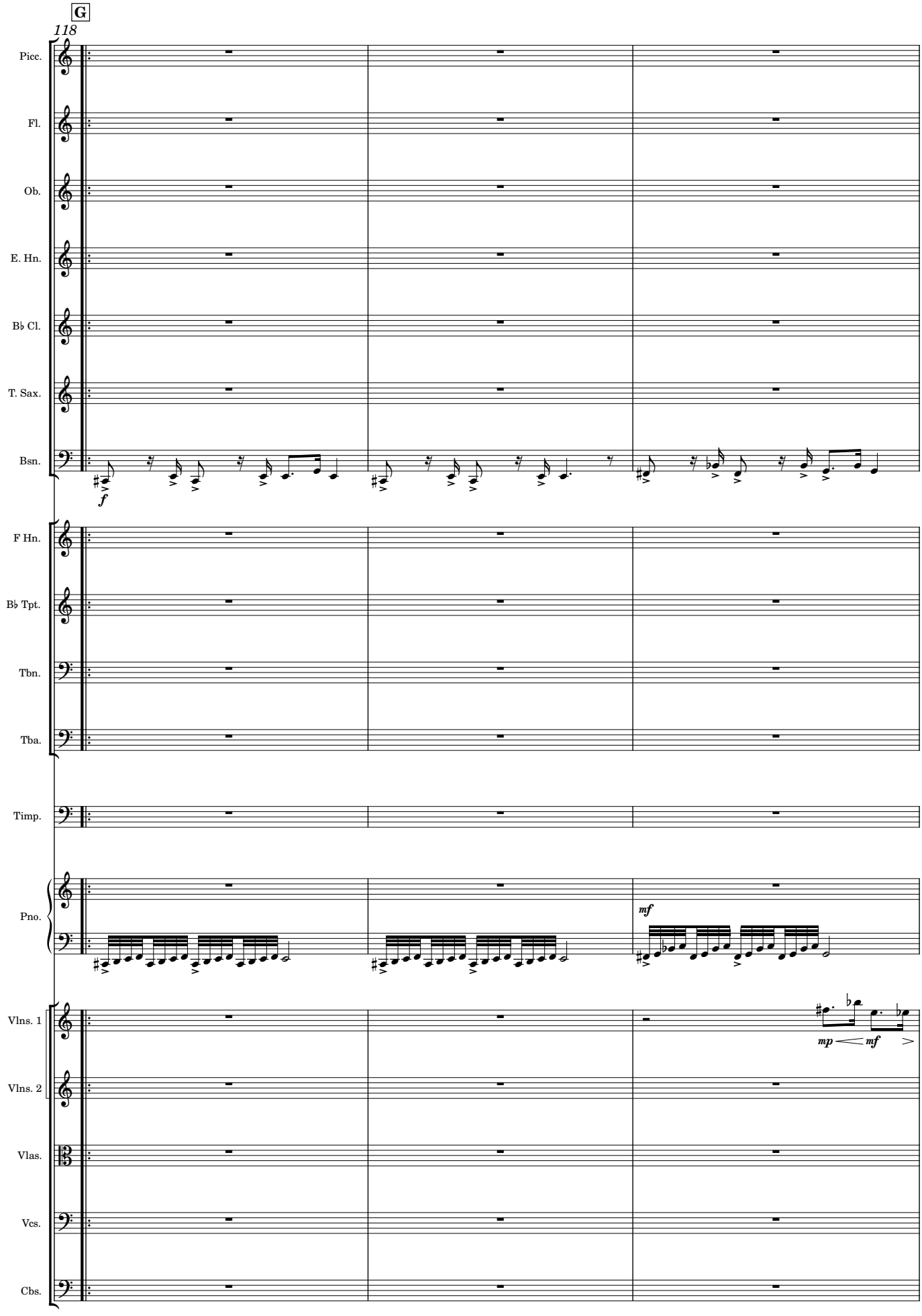
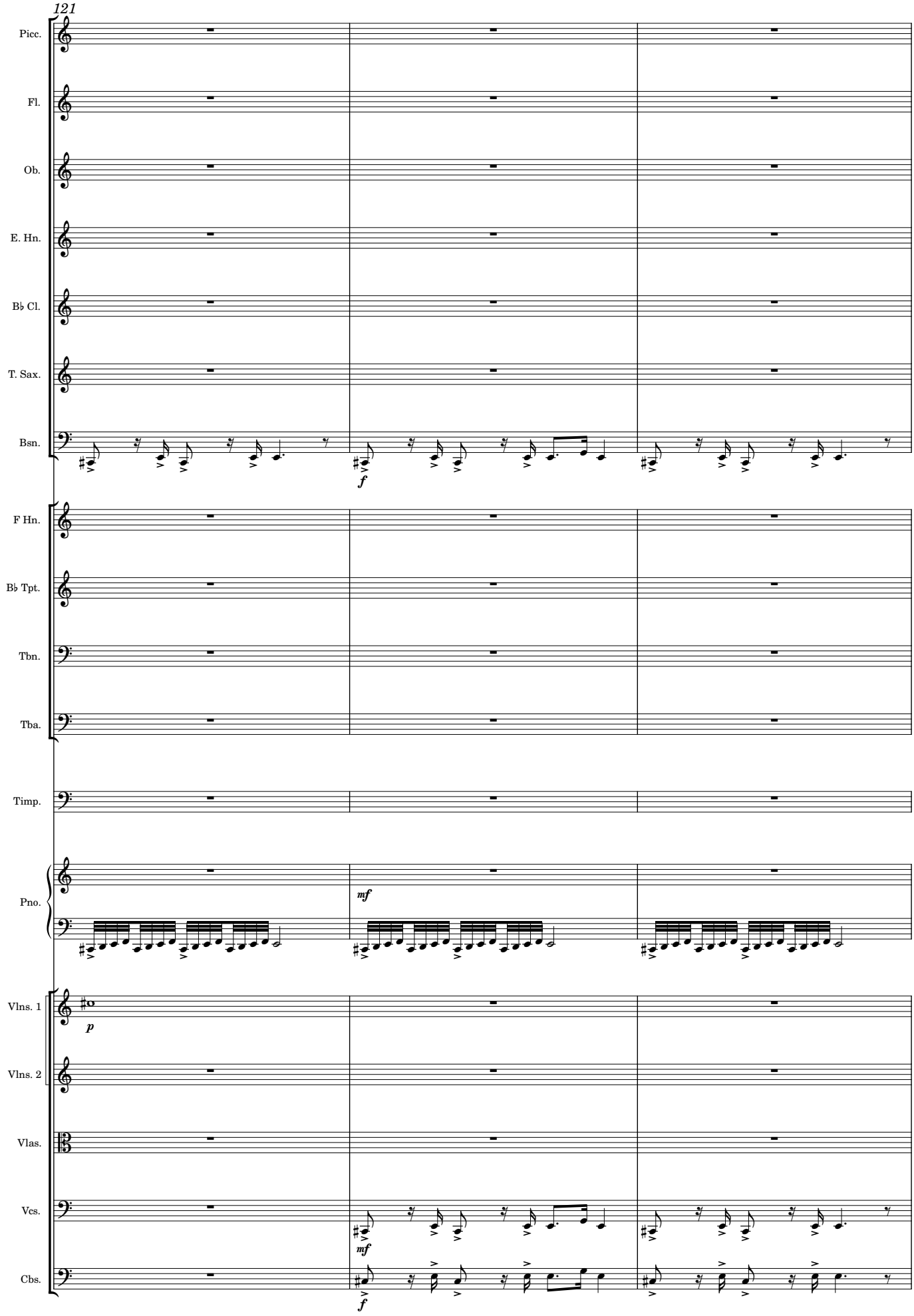
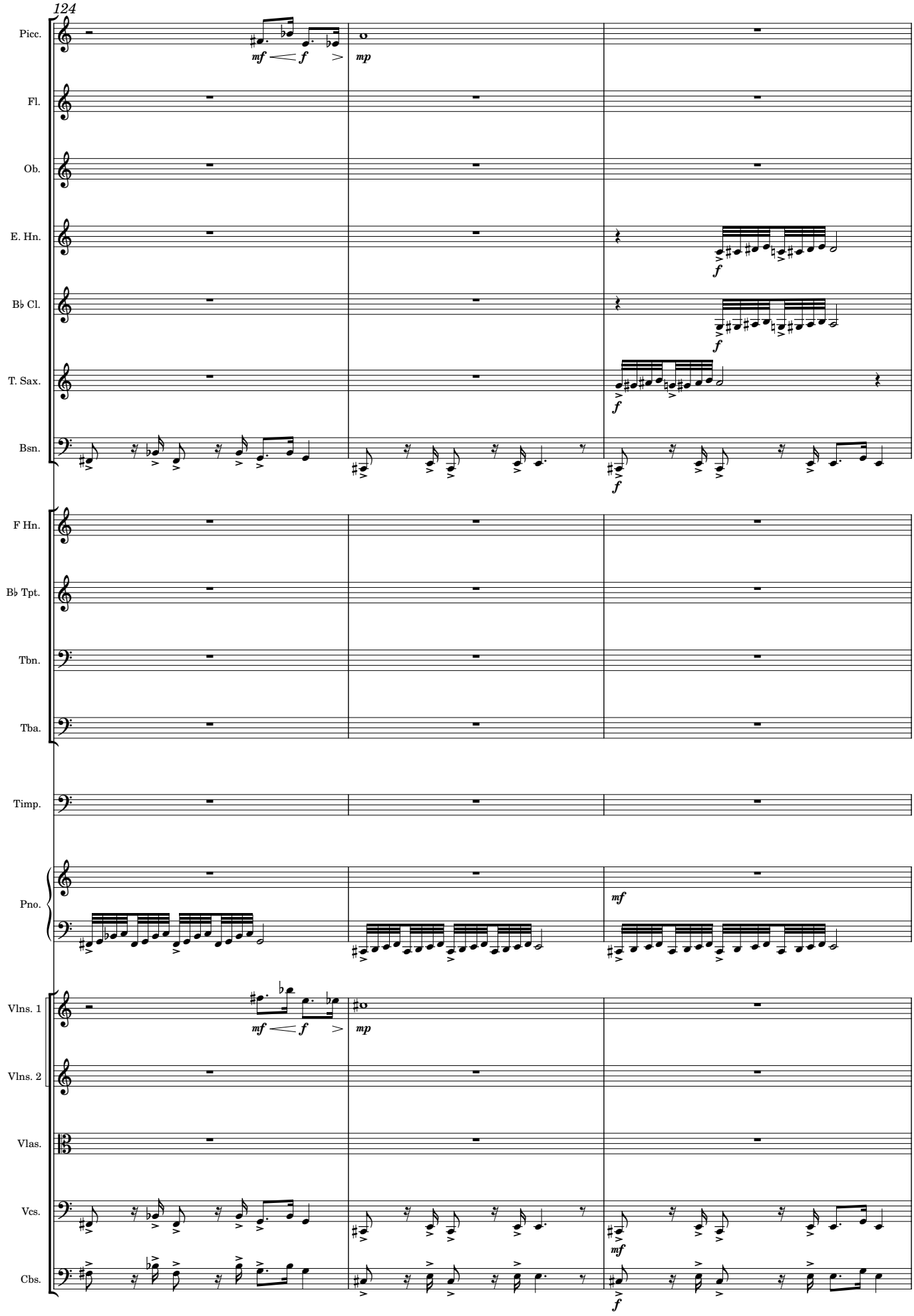
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
mp
p
(Ped.)
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.

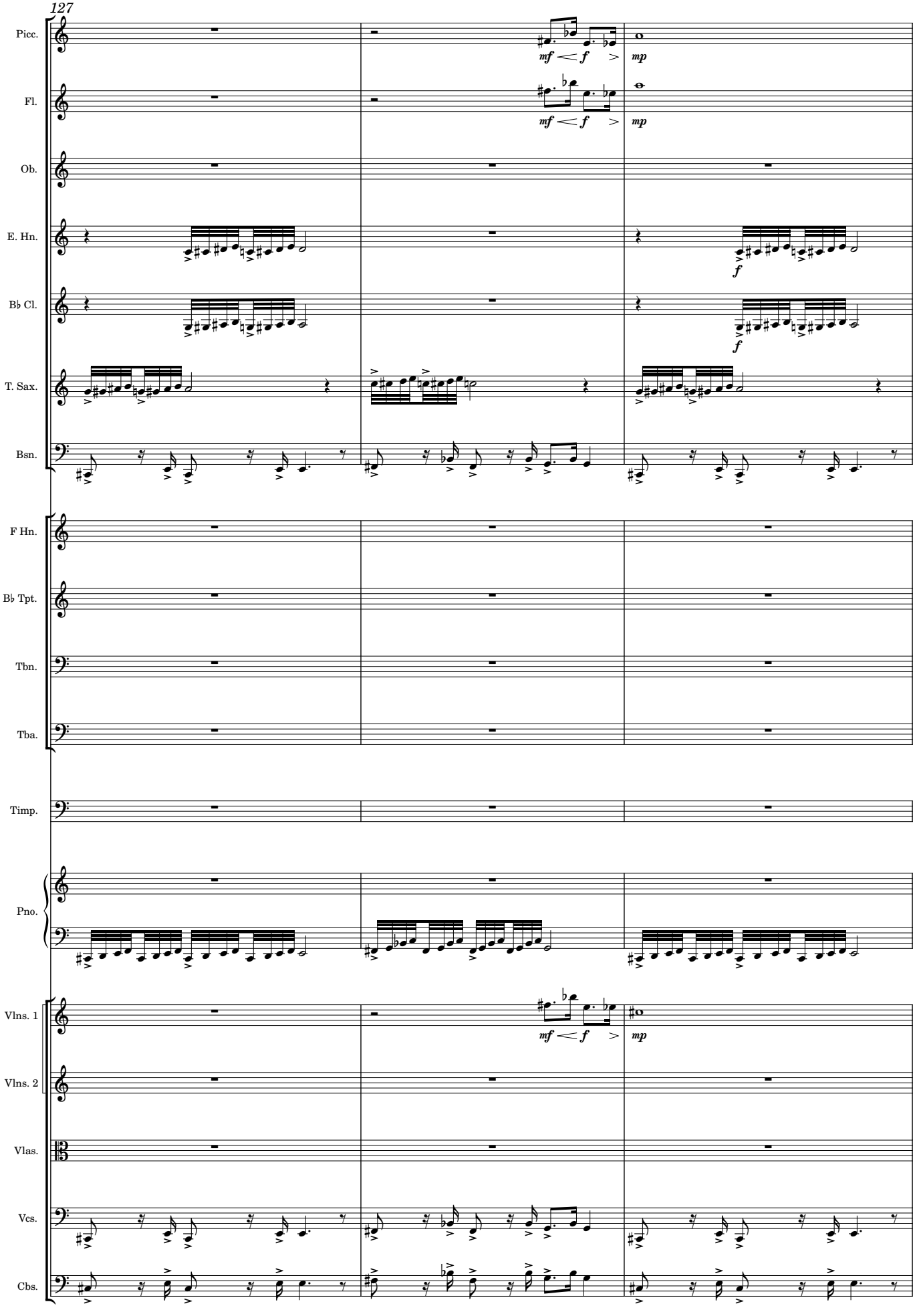

107
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
mf
ppp
F Hn.
mf
ppp
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
(Ped.)
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.

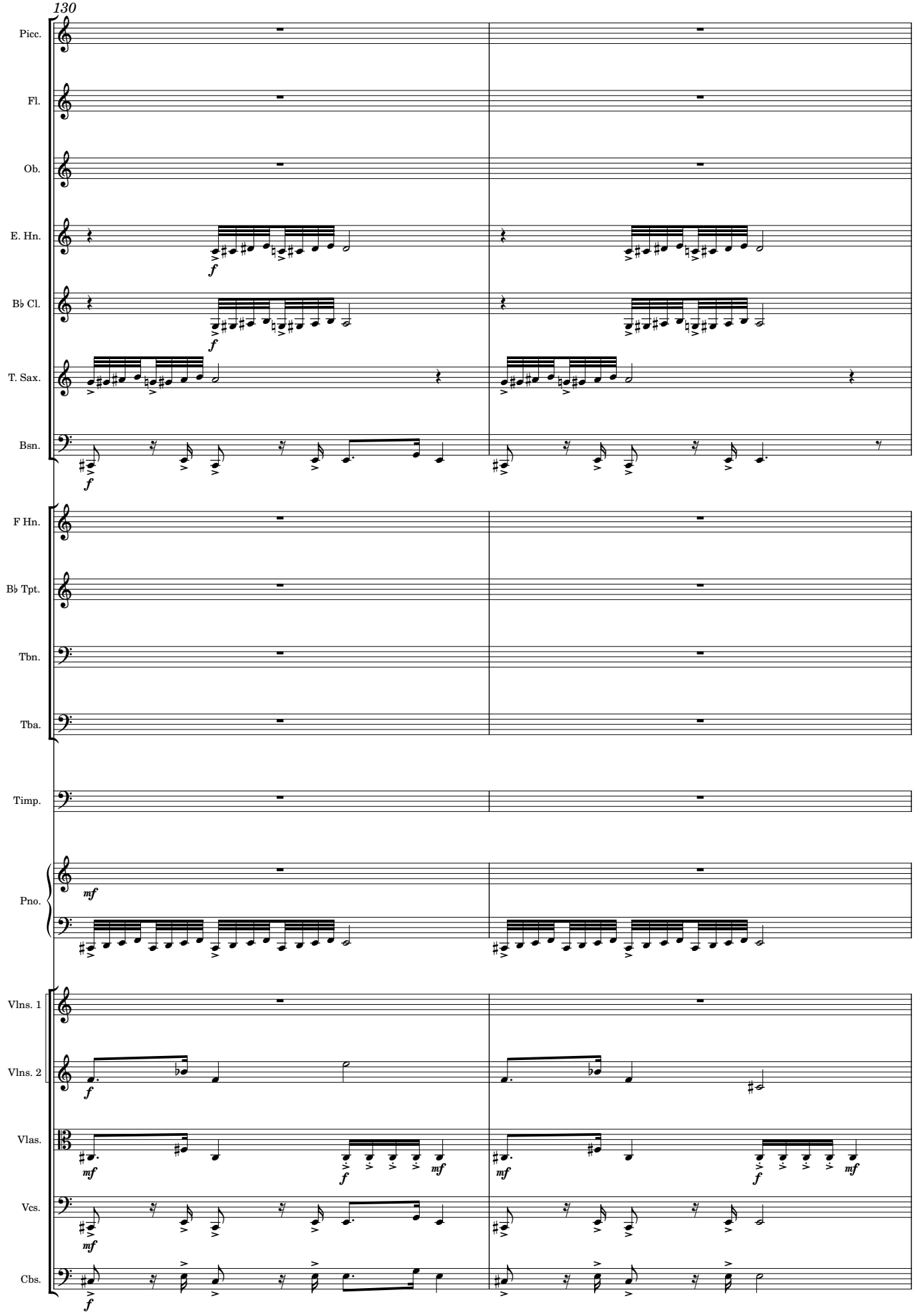

114
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.

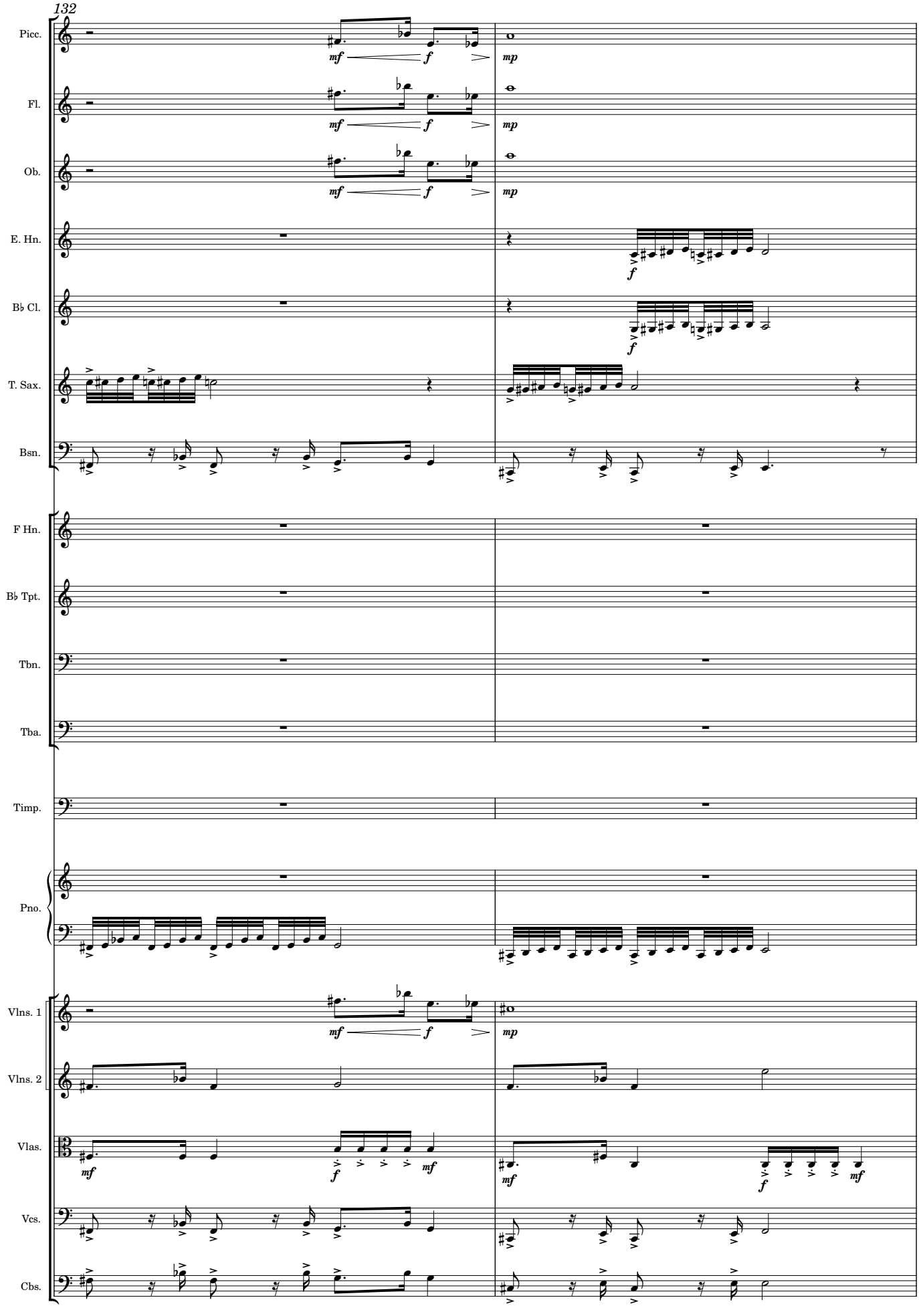

G
118
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
f
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
mf
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
mp
mf

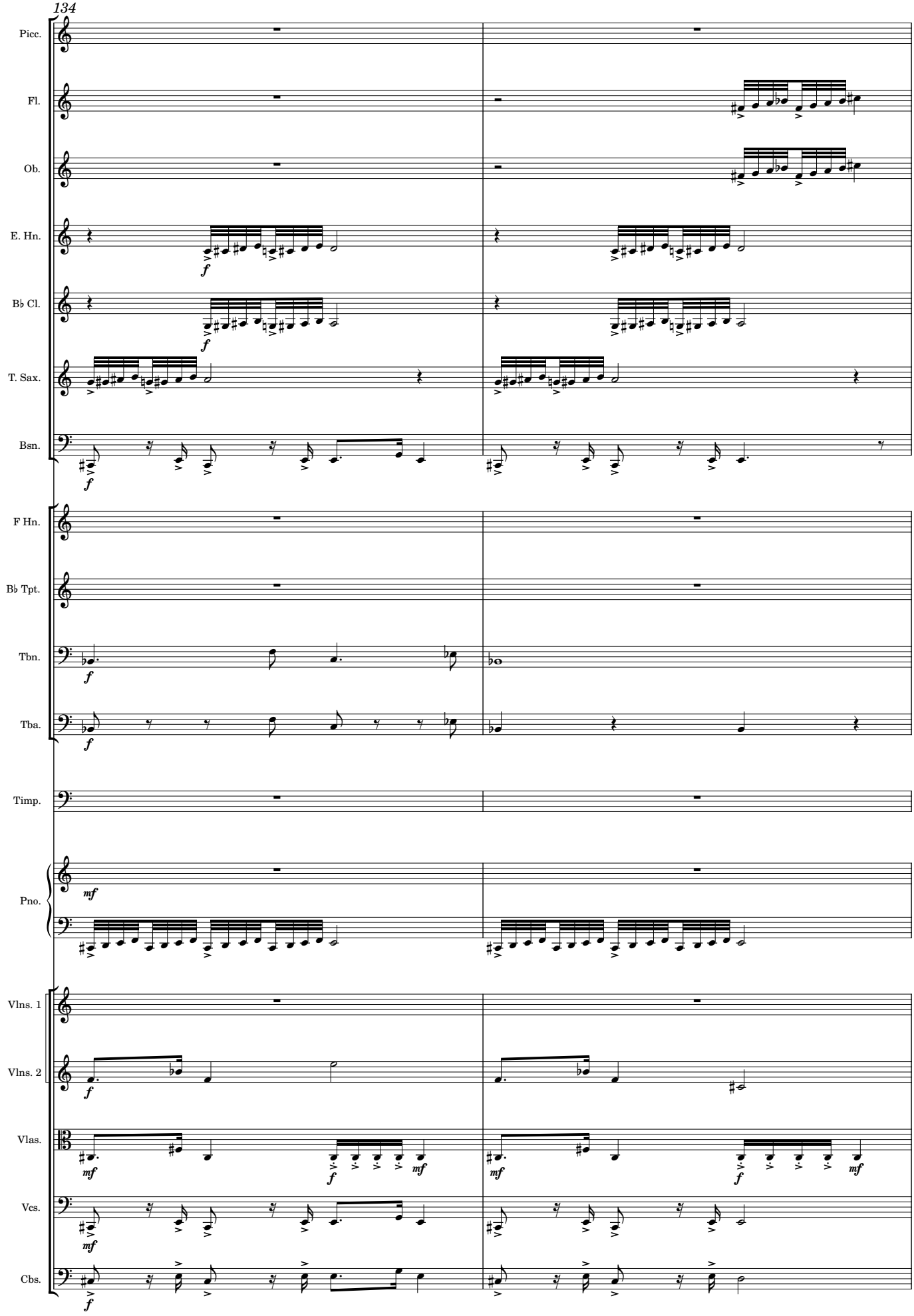

121
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
f
mf
p

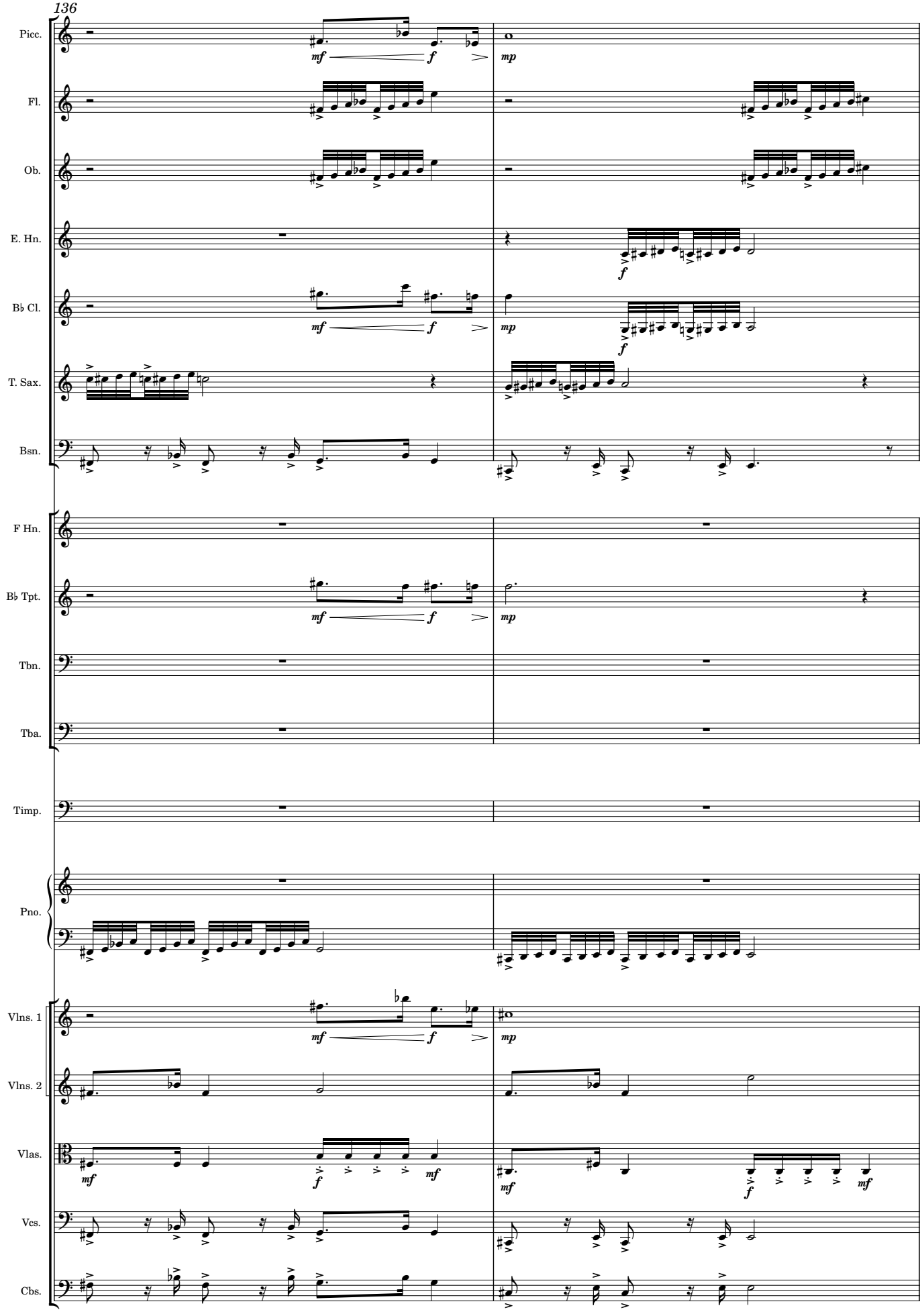

124
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
mf
f
mp

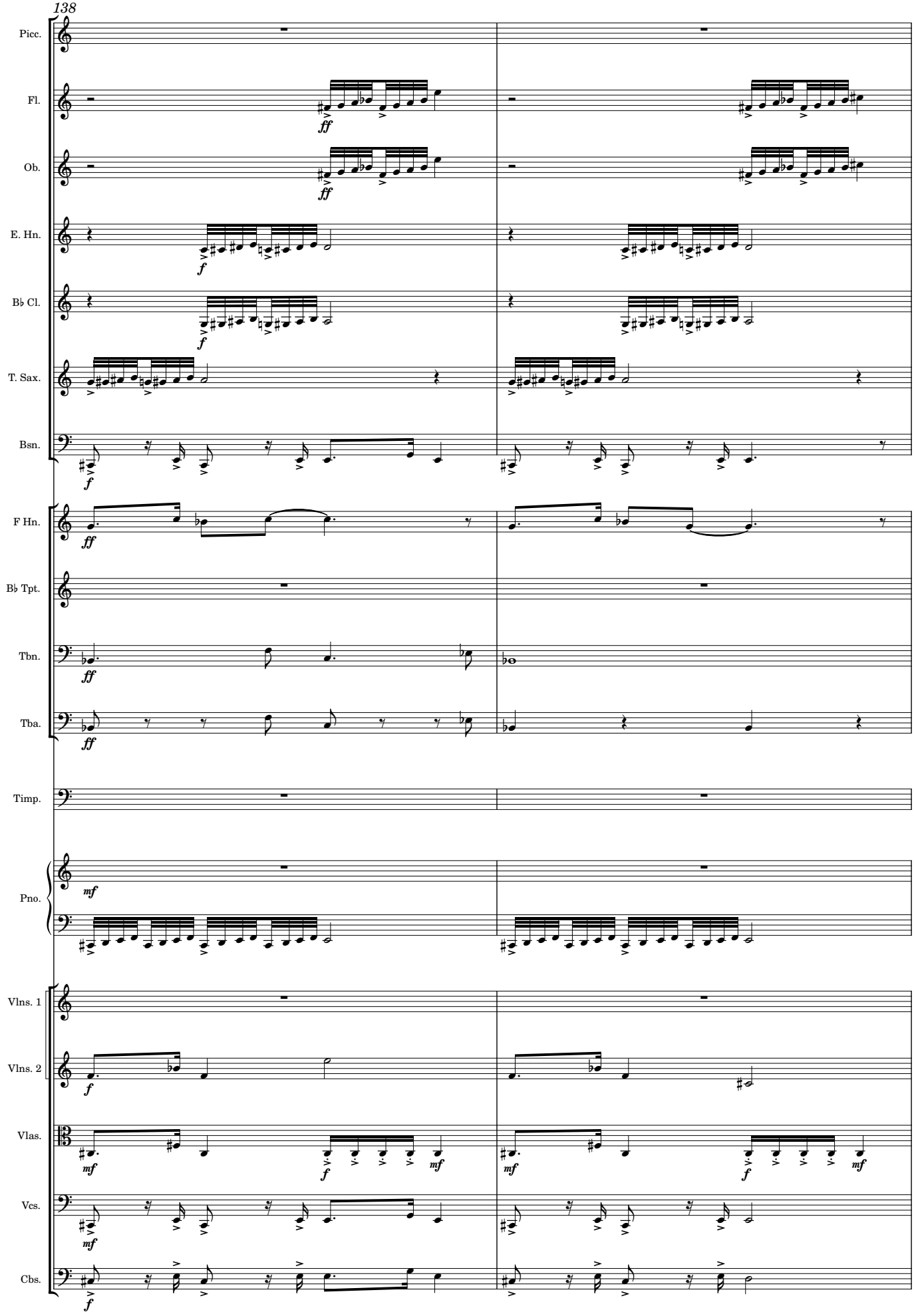

127
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
mf < f >
mp
f

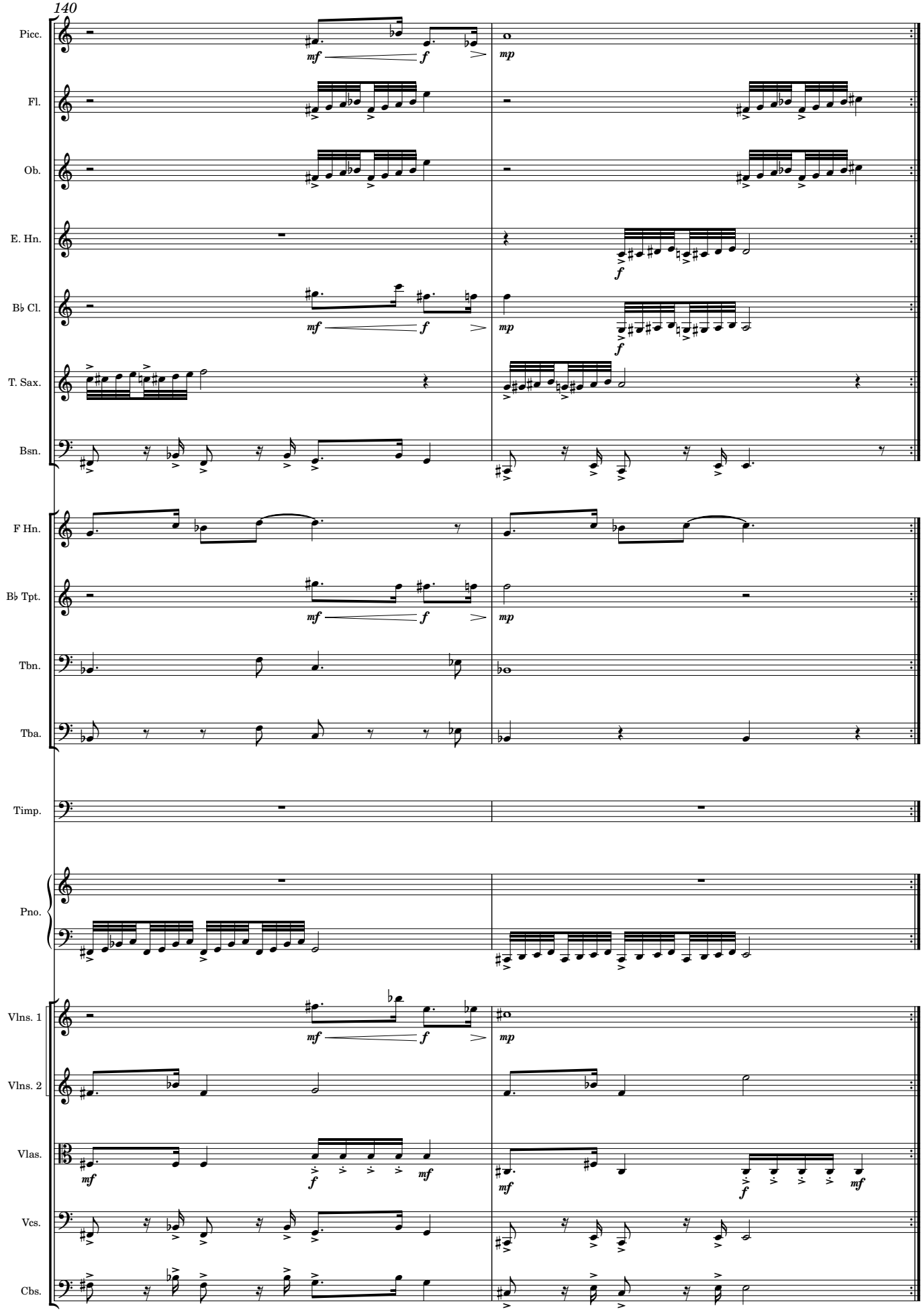

130
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.

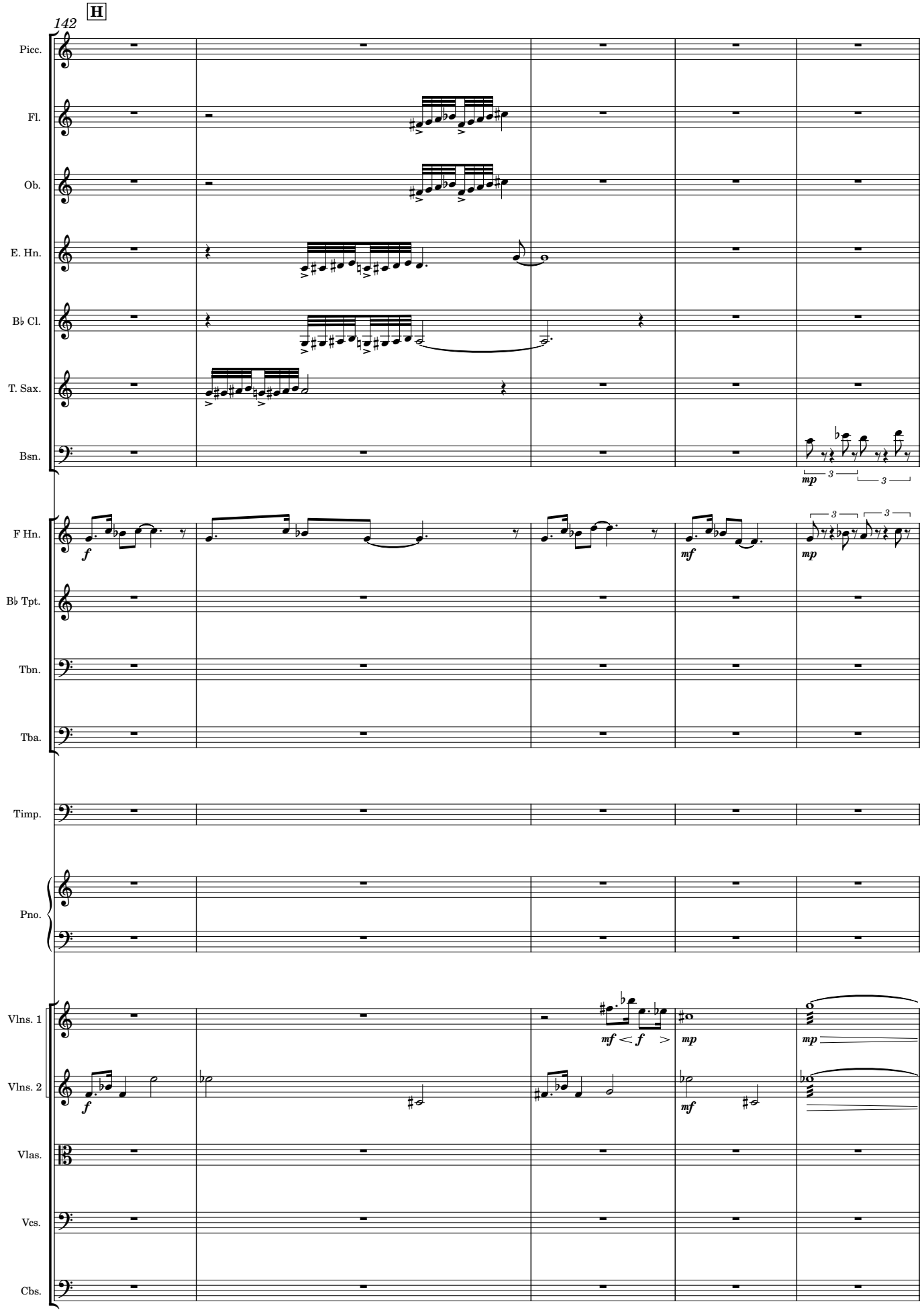

132
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
mf
f
mp

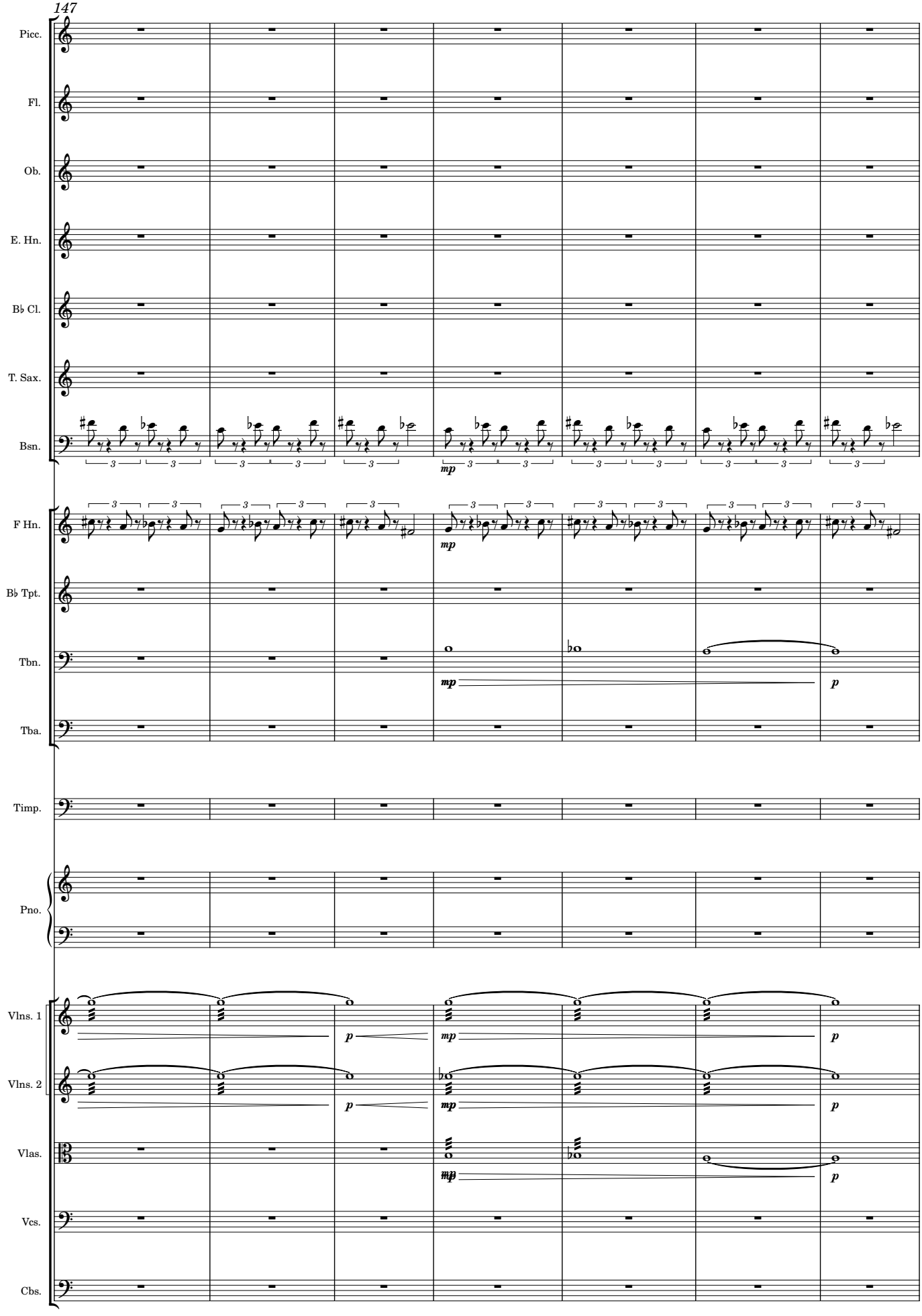

134
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.

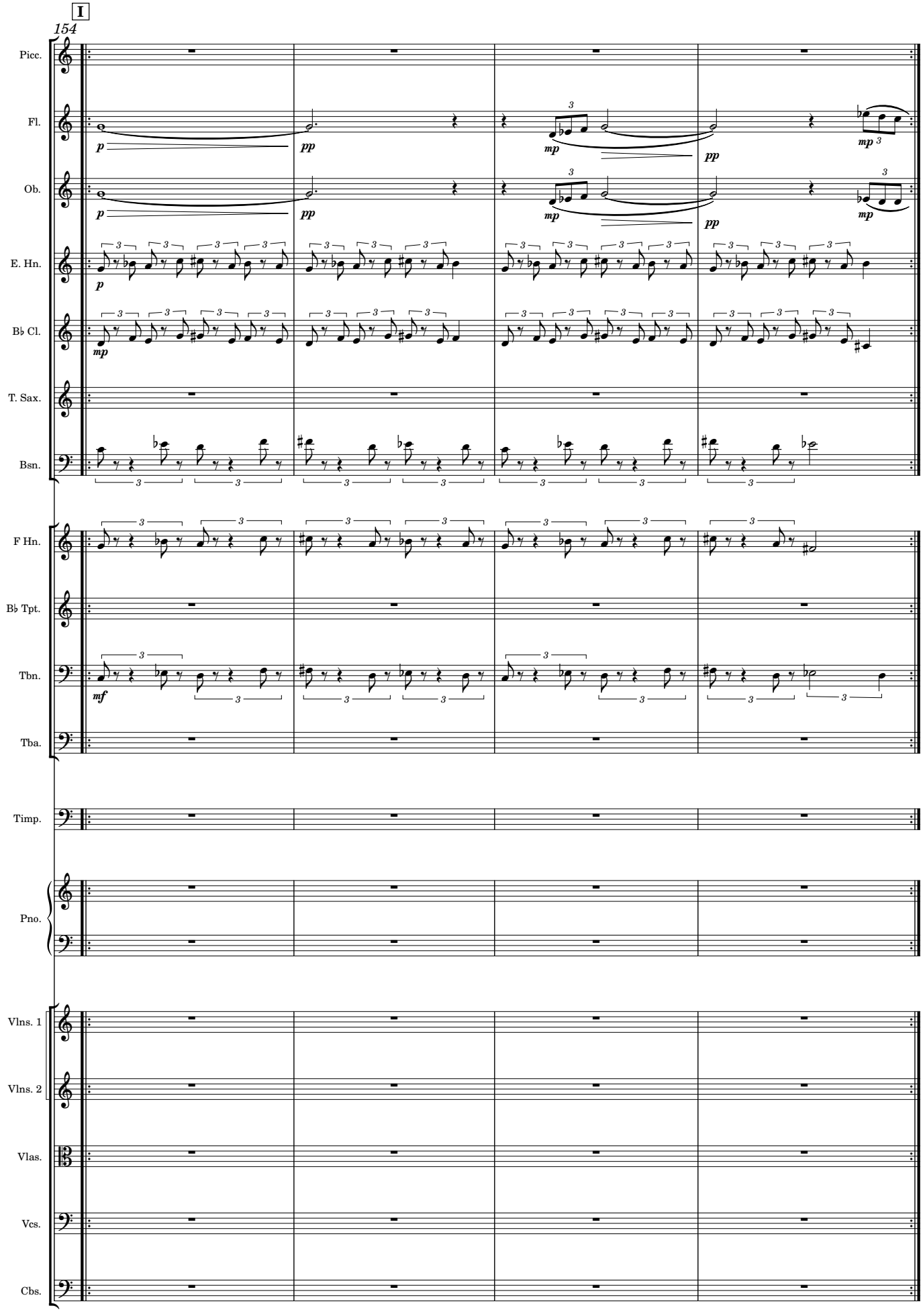

136
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
mf
f
mp

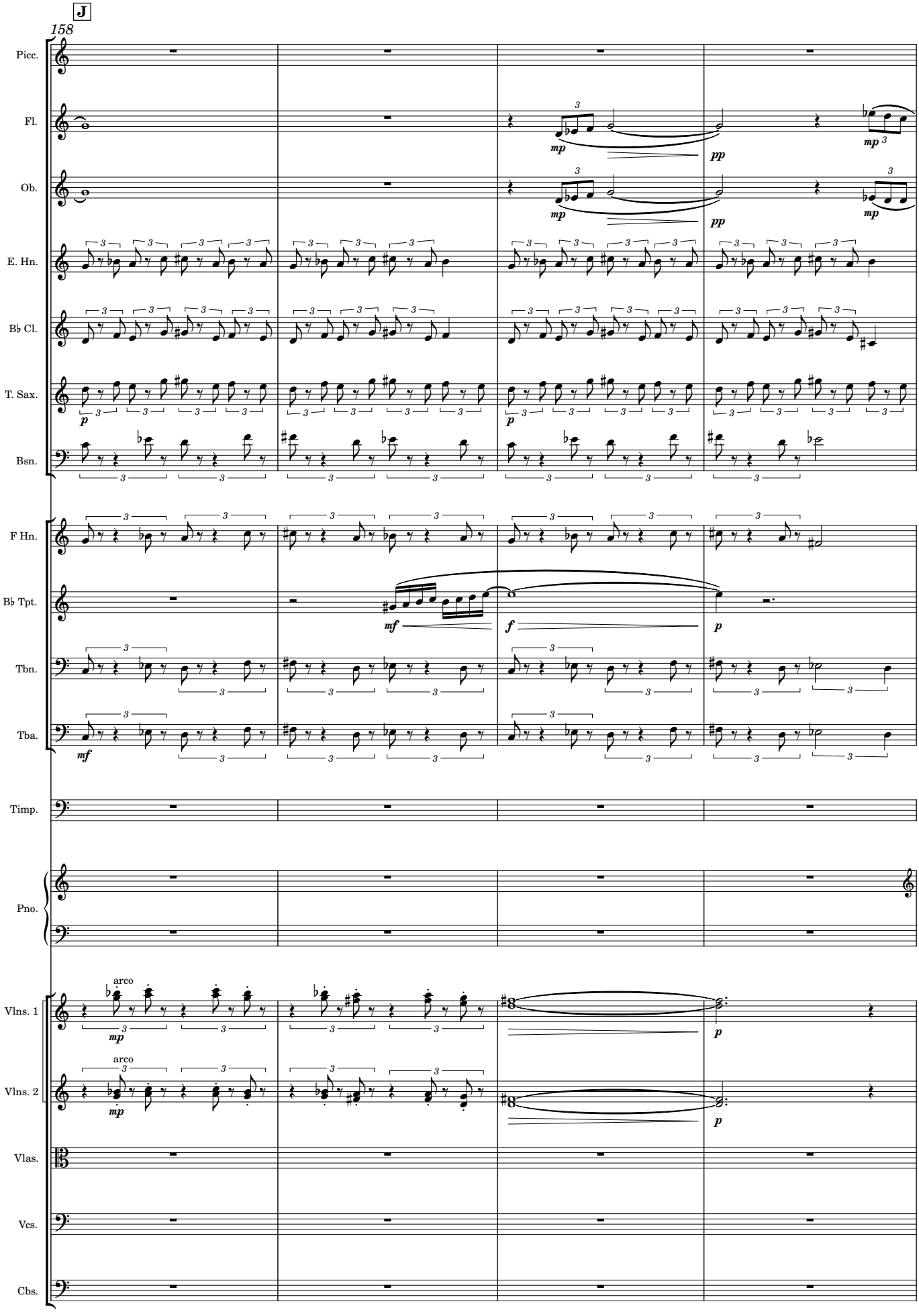

138
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.

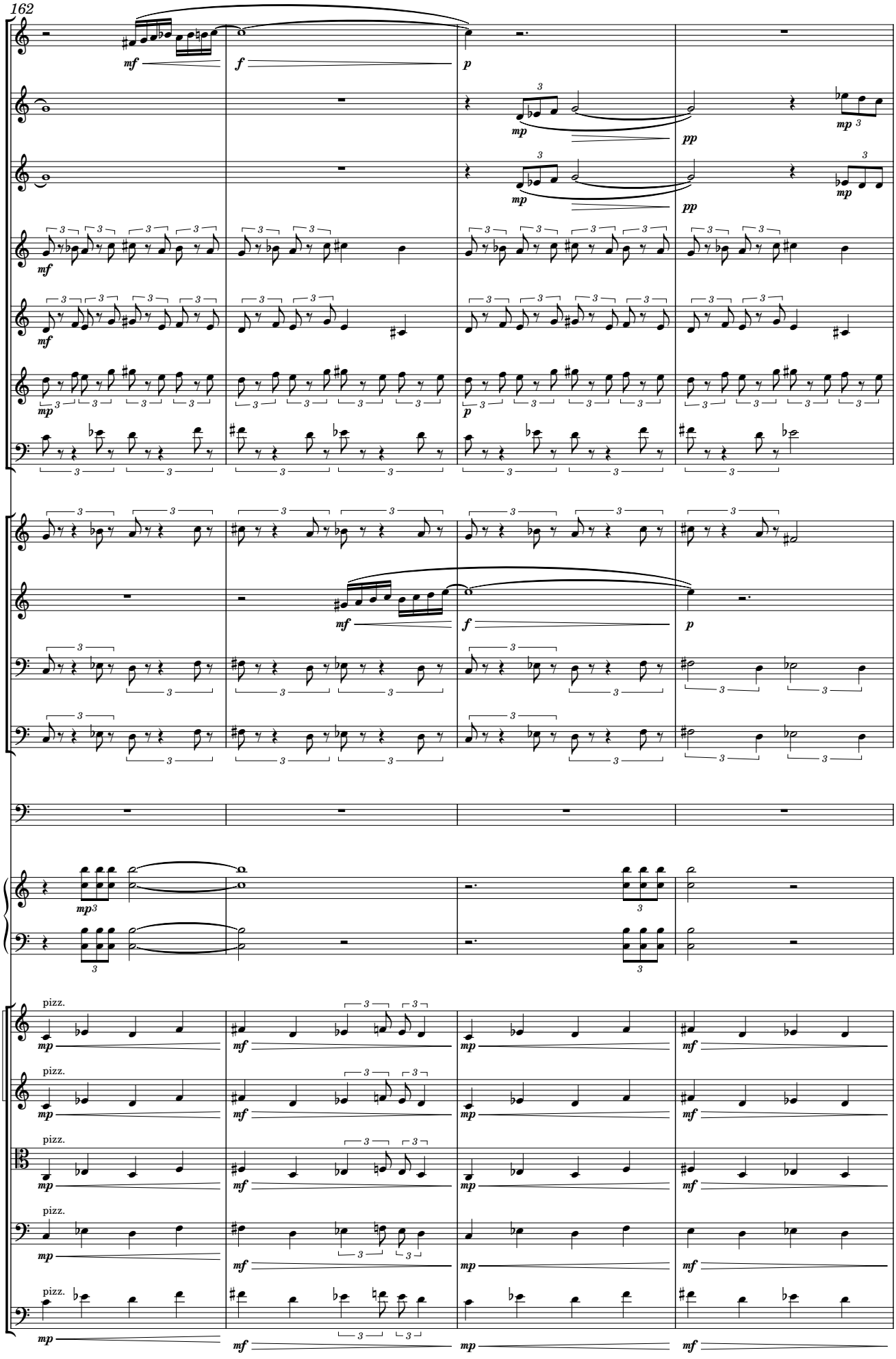

140
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
mf
f
mp

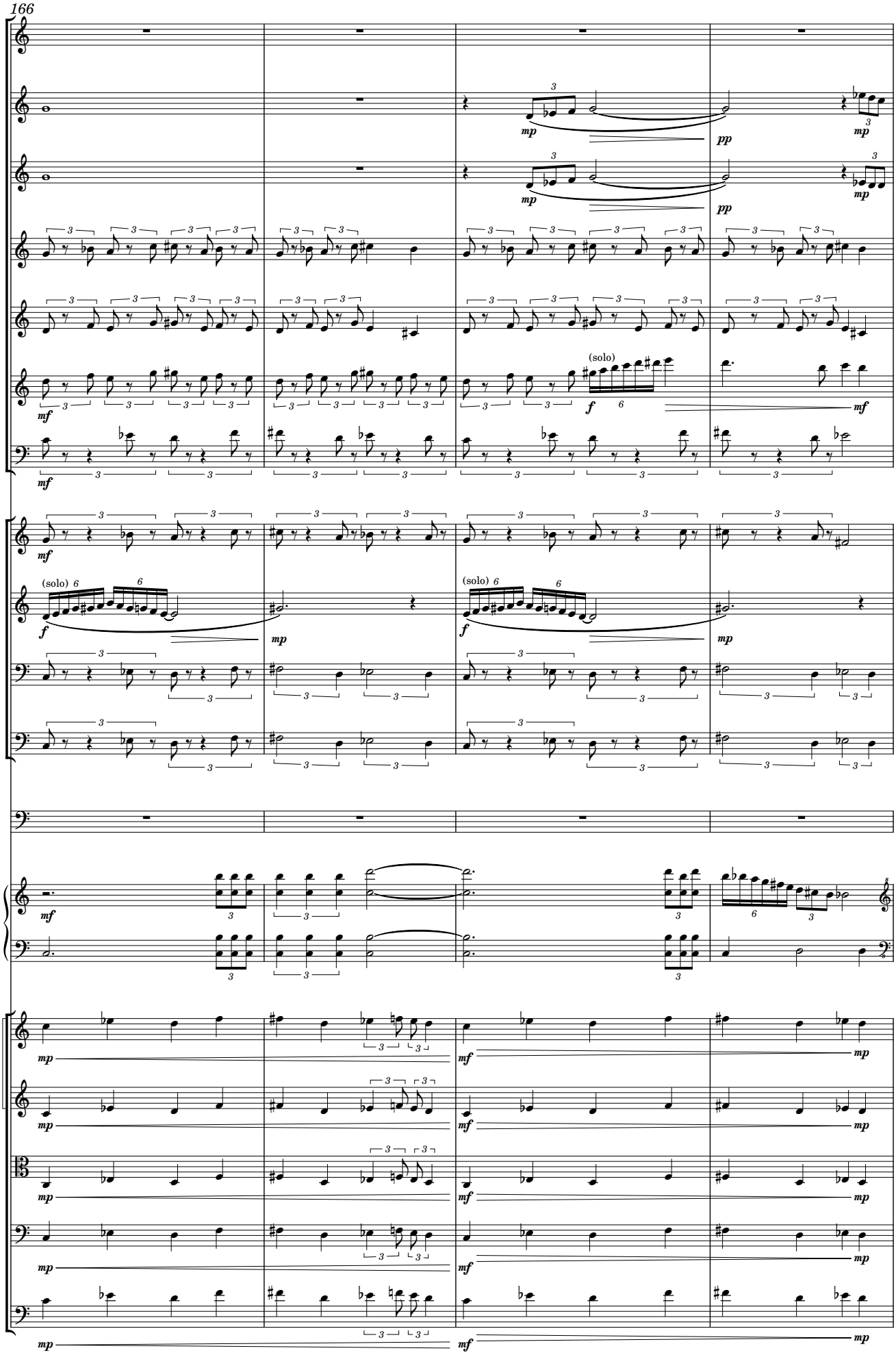

H
142
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
mp
3
f
mf
mf < f >
mp

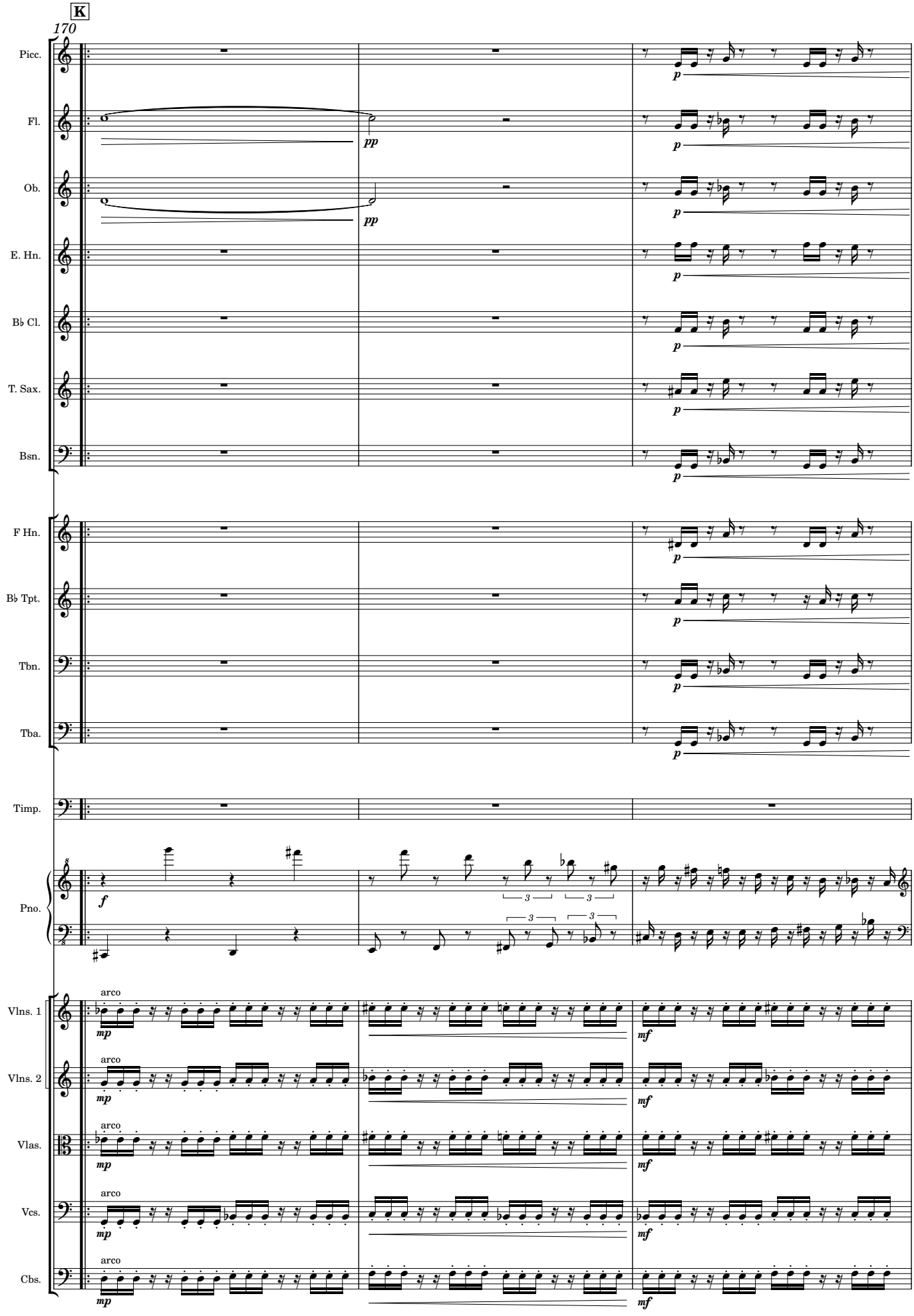

147
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
mp
p

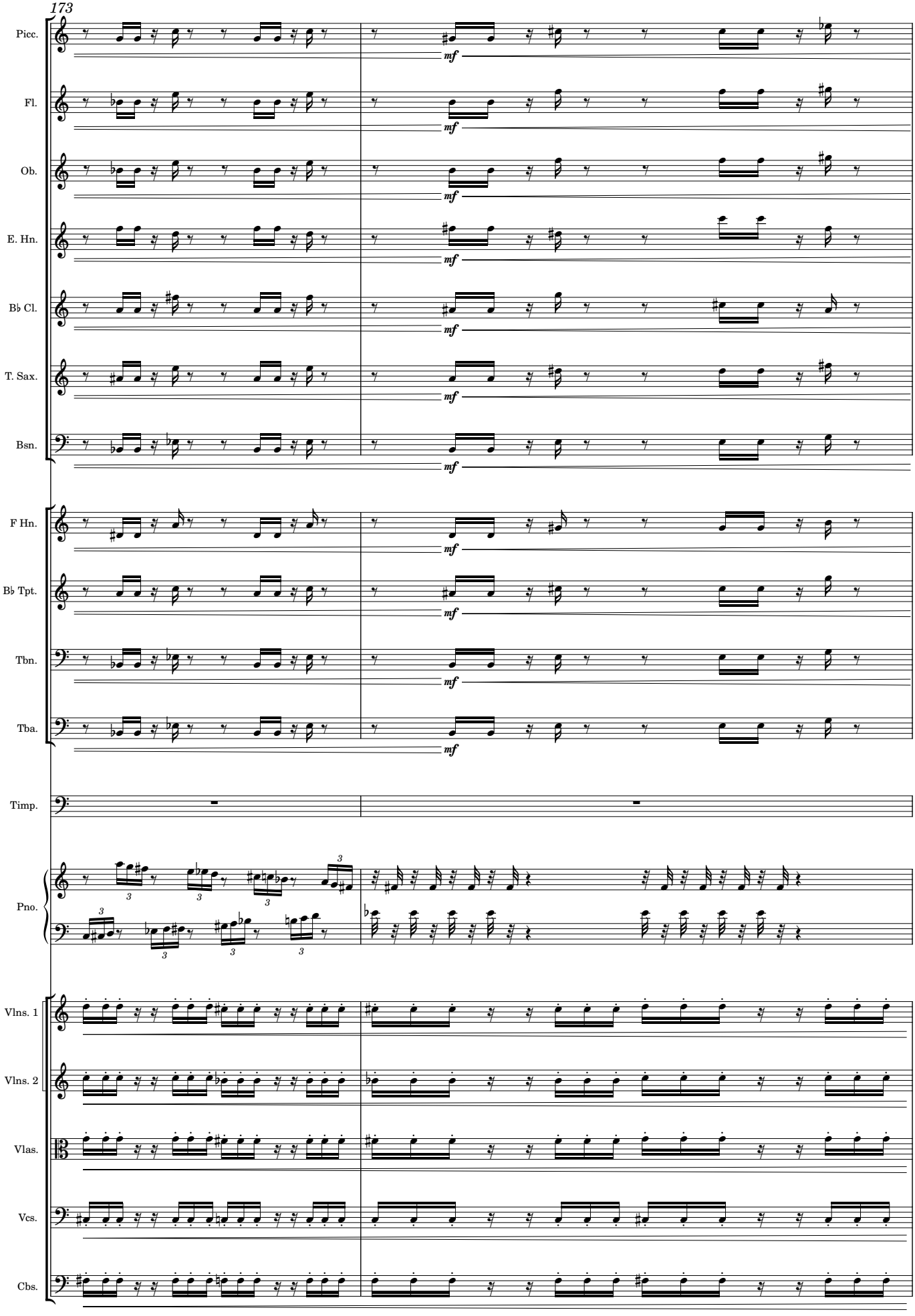

I
154
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.

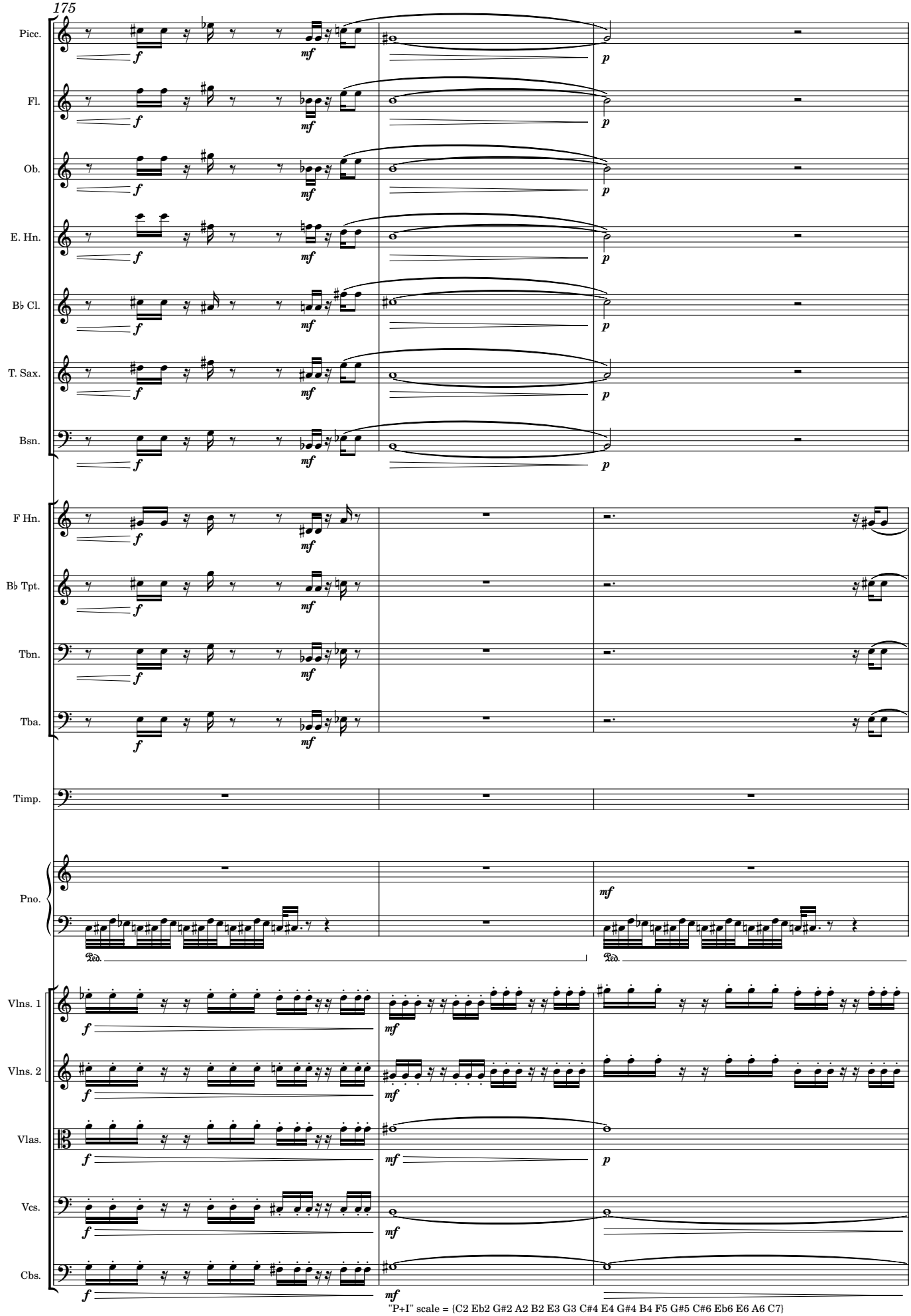

J
158
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
arco
arco

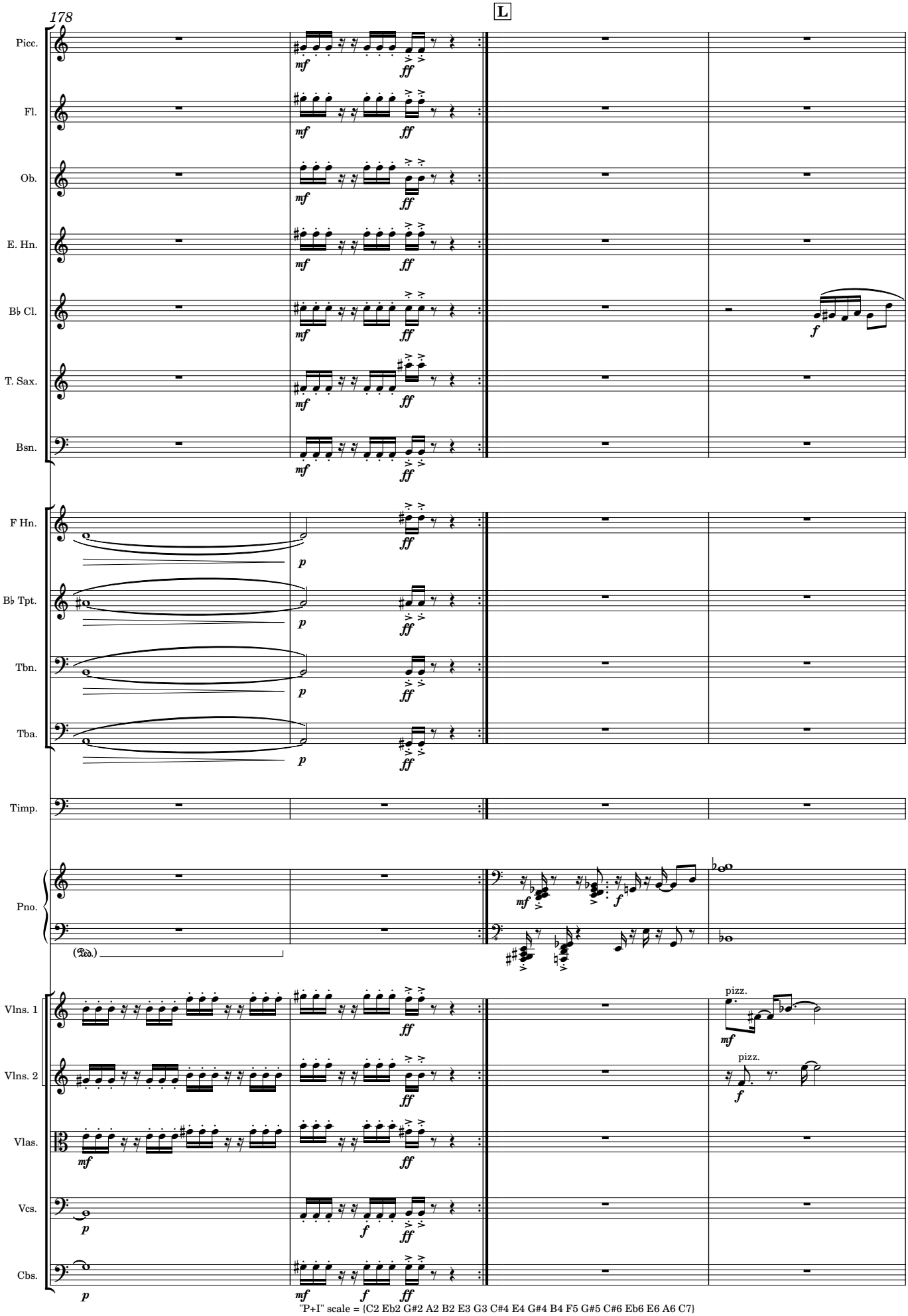

162
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
pizz.

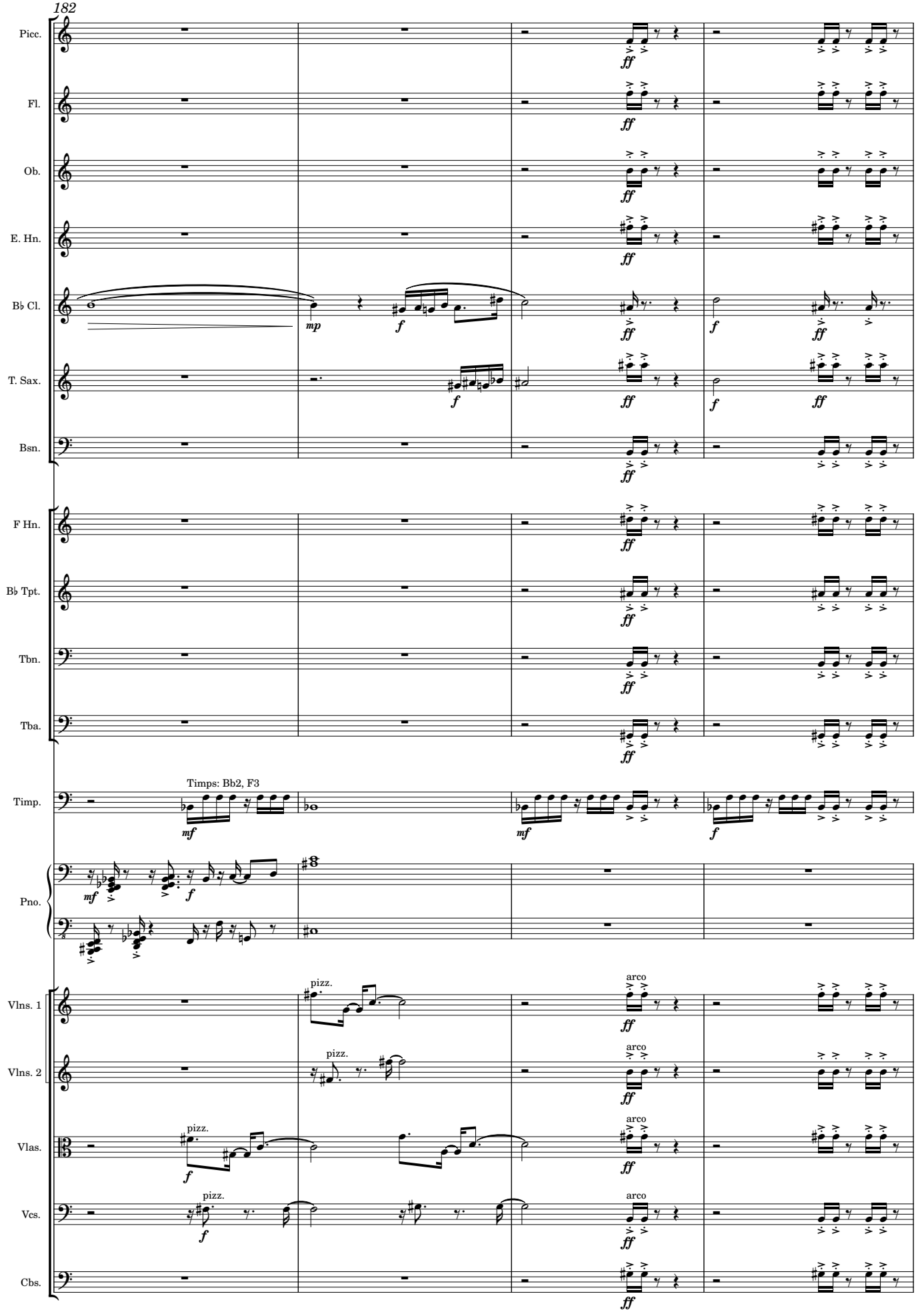

166
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
(solo)
(solo)
(solo)

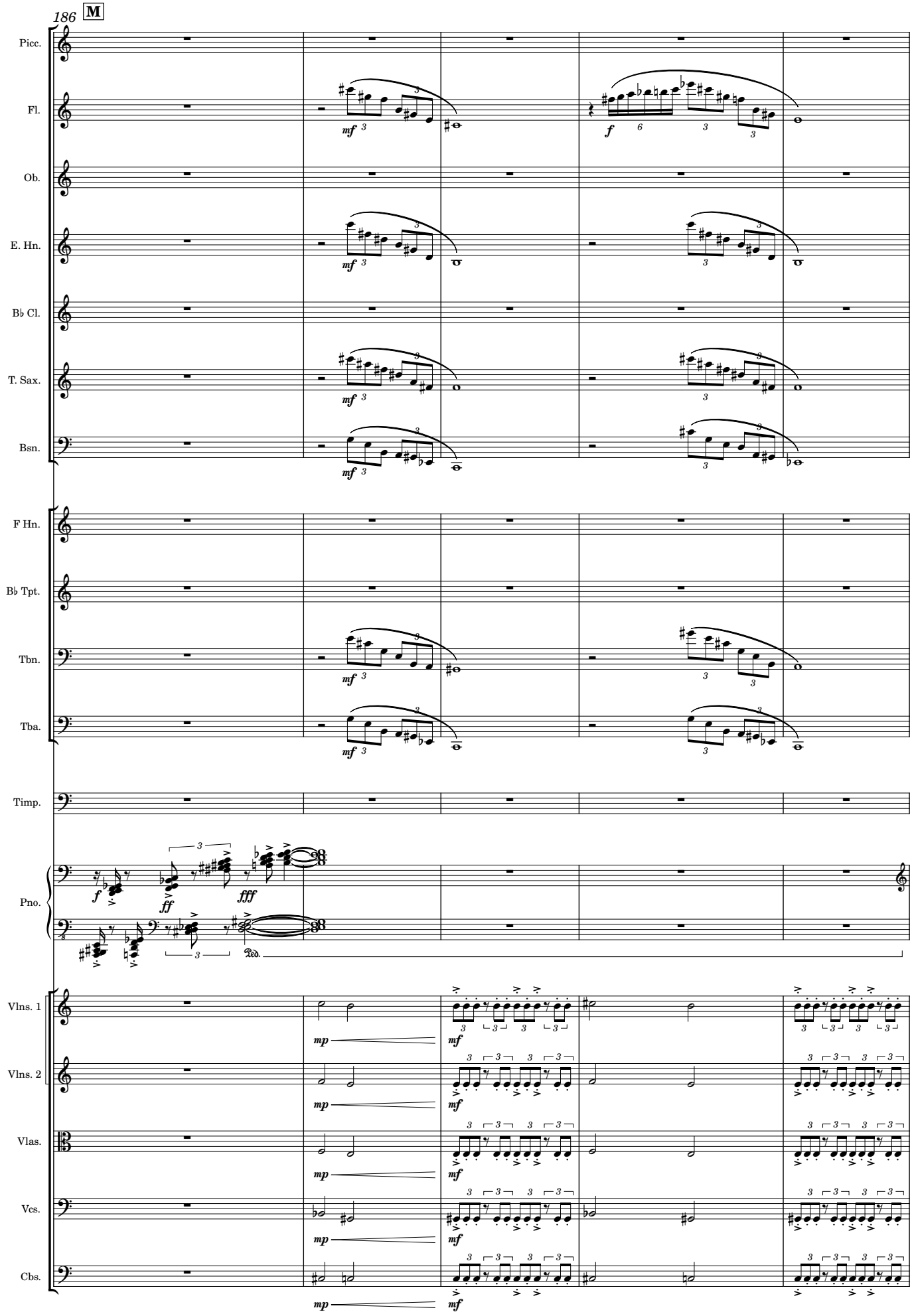

K
170
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
arco
pp
p
f
mp
mf

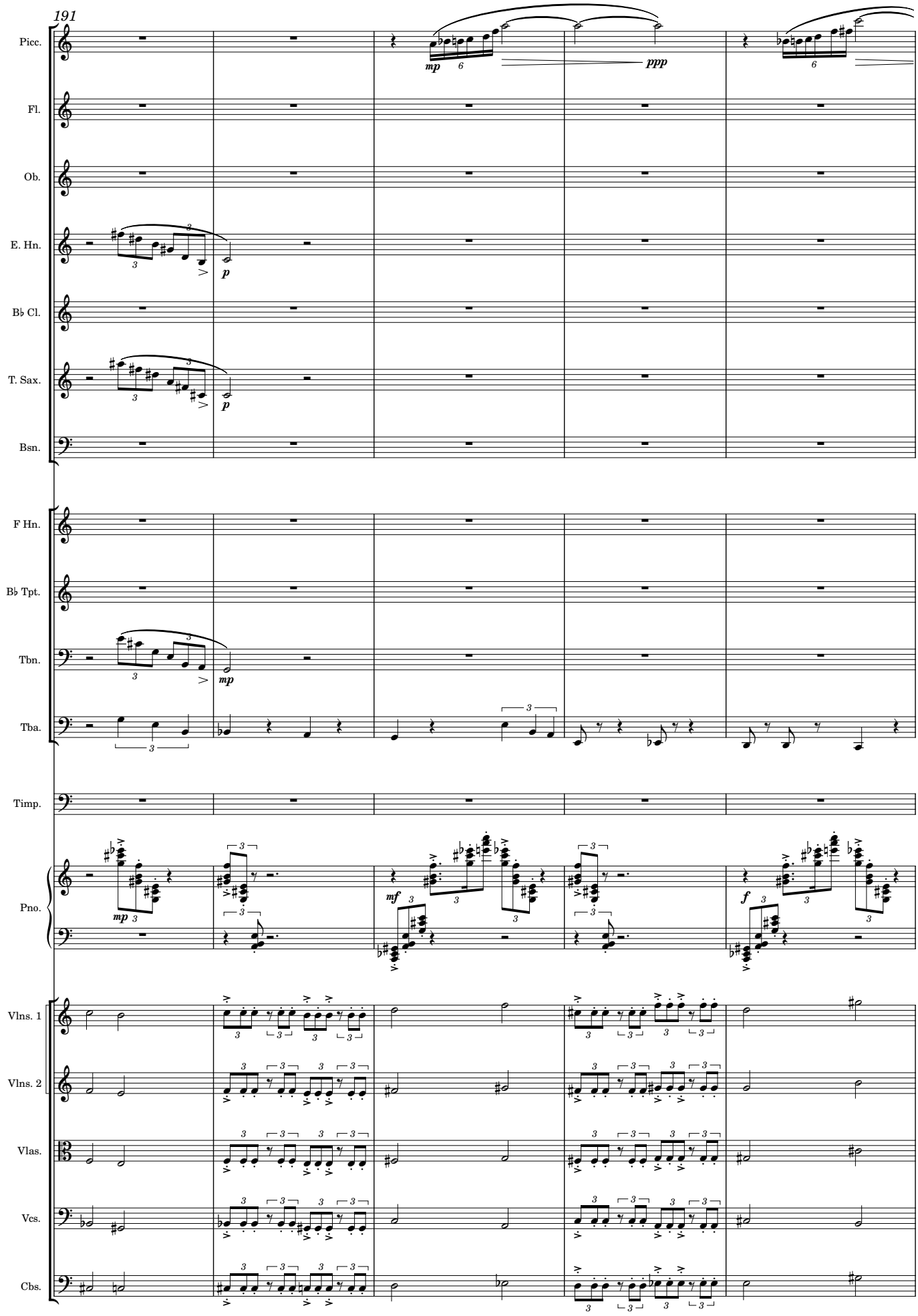

173
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
mf

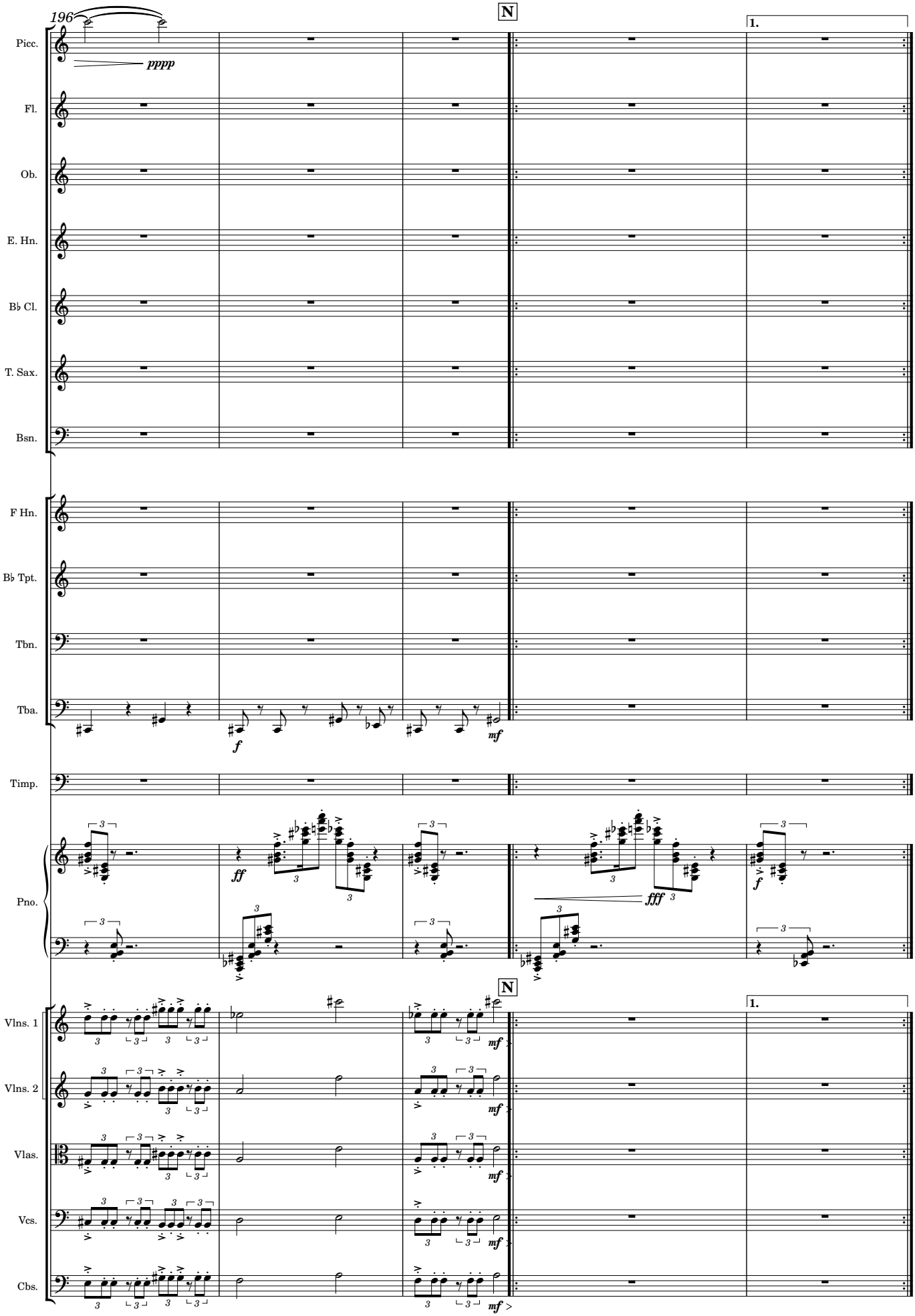

175
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
f
mf
p
Ped.
"P+I" scale = {C2 Eb2 G#2 A2 B2 E3 G3 C#4 E4 G#4 B4 F5 G#5 C#6 Eb6 E6 A6 C7}

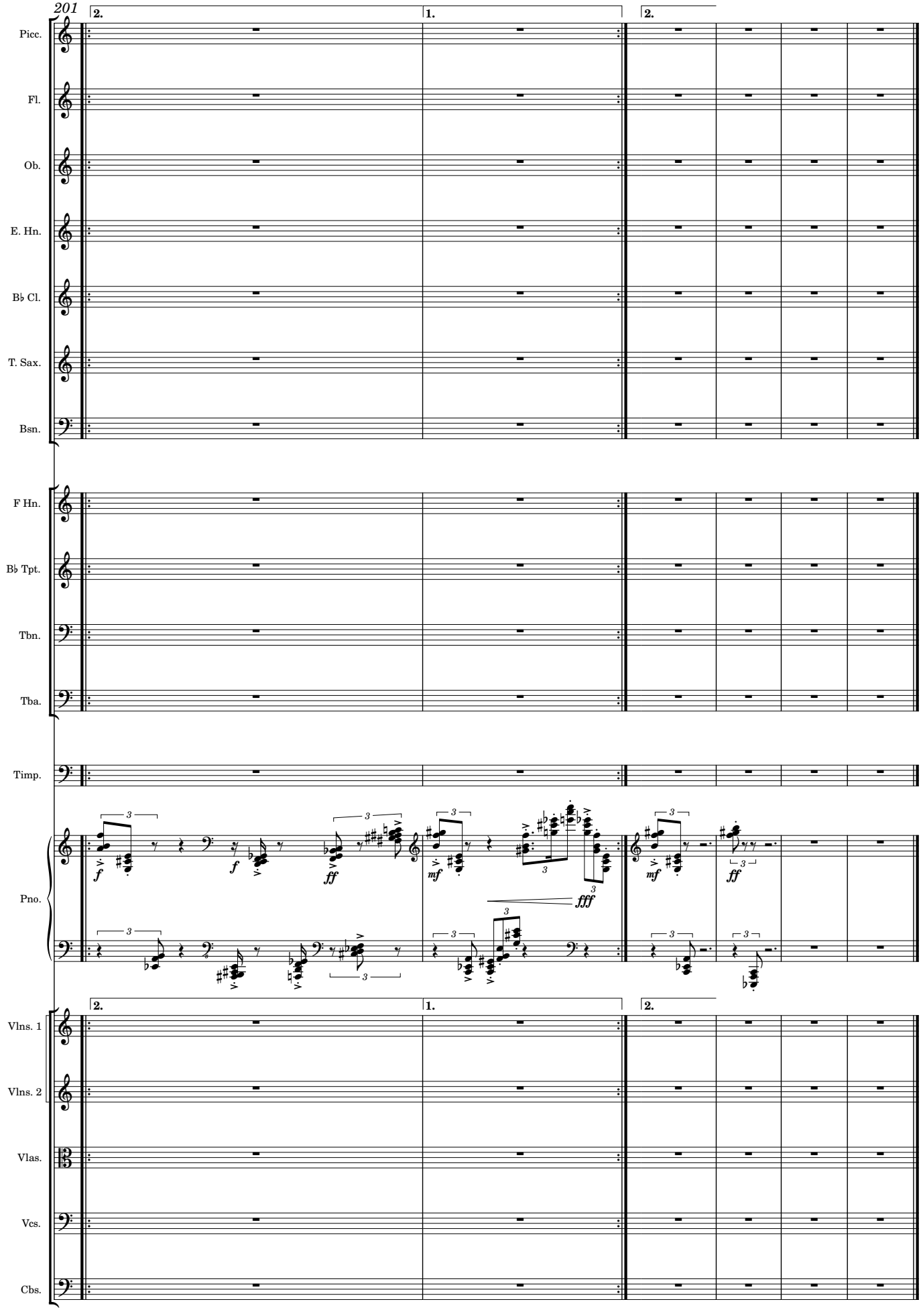

178
L
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
(Ped.)
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
pizz.
pizz.
"P+I" scale = {C2 Eb2 G#2 A2 B2 E3 G3 C#4 E4 G#4 B4 F5 G#5 C#6 Eb6 E6 A6 C7}


182
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Timps: Bb2, F3
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
pizz.
arco
mp
mf
f
ff


186
M
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
mf
f
ff
fff
mp


191
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
mp
ppp
p
mf
f


196
N
1.
Picc.
pppp
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
f
mf
Timp.
Pno.
ff
fff
f
N
1.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
mf


201
2.
1.
2.
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
T. Sax.
Bsn.
F Hn.
B♭ Tpt.
Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs.
Cbs.
f
ff
mf
fff