GRIEF MECHANICS

for String Quartet and Electronics

2017

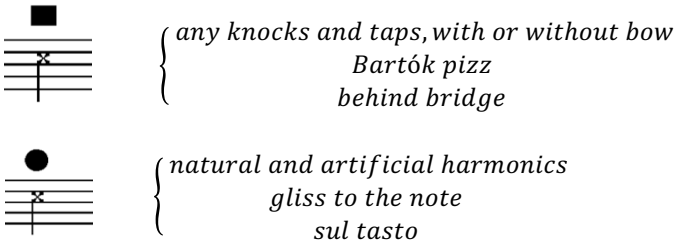
Cárthach Ó Nuanáin

Performance Notes

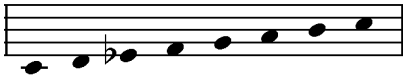
This piece can be considered in different sections as indicated by the rehearsal marks.

The introduction demonstrates the interaction of the strings with the reactive electronics; sparse pizzicato and natural harmonics are intended to inform the string players and audience of the function of the electronics.

Part A opens up the opportunity for some indeterminacy and structured improvisation from the players. Two symbols are used to indicate two different classes of articulation that the performer can choose from. The square symbol defines more “sharper” type articulations while the circle symbol indicates more “softer” ones in terms of overall timbre, these including (but not limited to if you can think of more):



Use the length of the note to determine whether to choose longer or shorter sounding articulations. Where a pitch is required and unless otherwise stated, we ask the performer to choose from any of the notes from the C minor melodic scale in any octave (feel free to use double stops):



Part B is a steady rhythmic figure for all the strings using an automatic reverse reverb for ambience.

Part C concludes the piece with sustained drones for all the strings, combined with heavily distorted effects and processed electronics.

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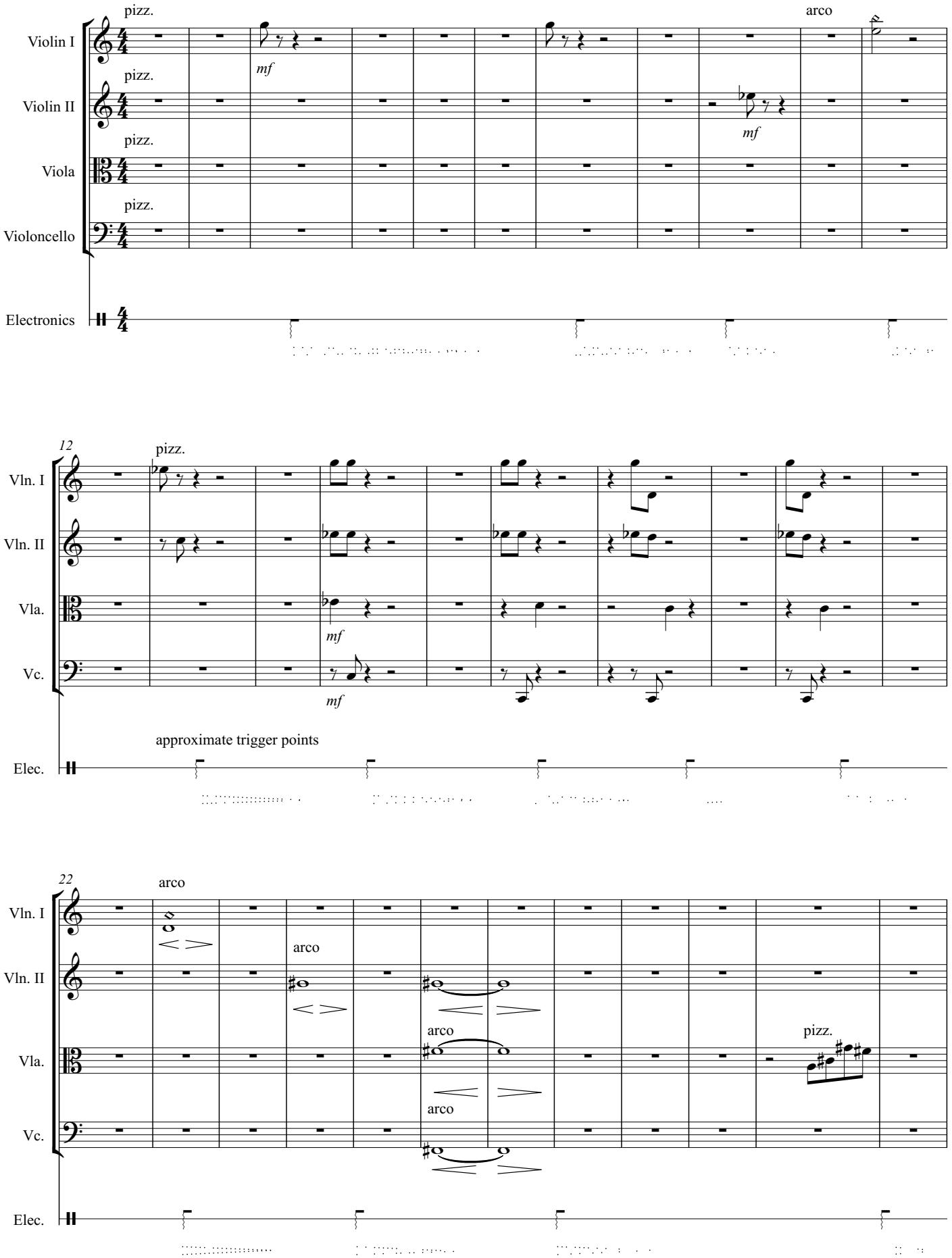
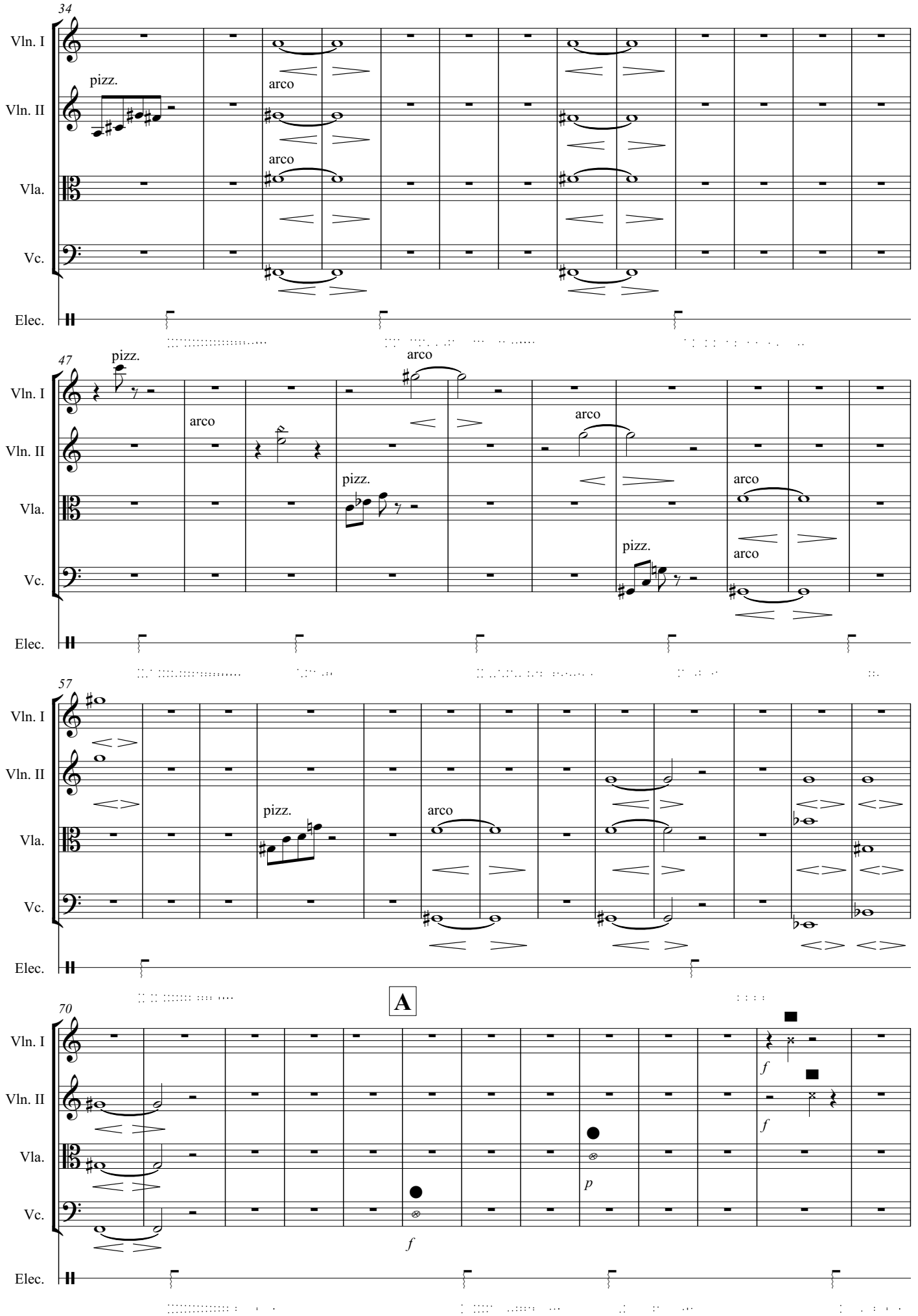
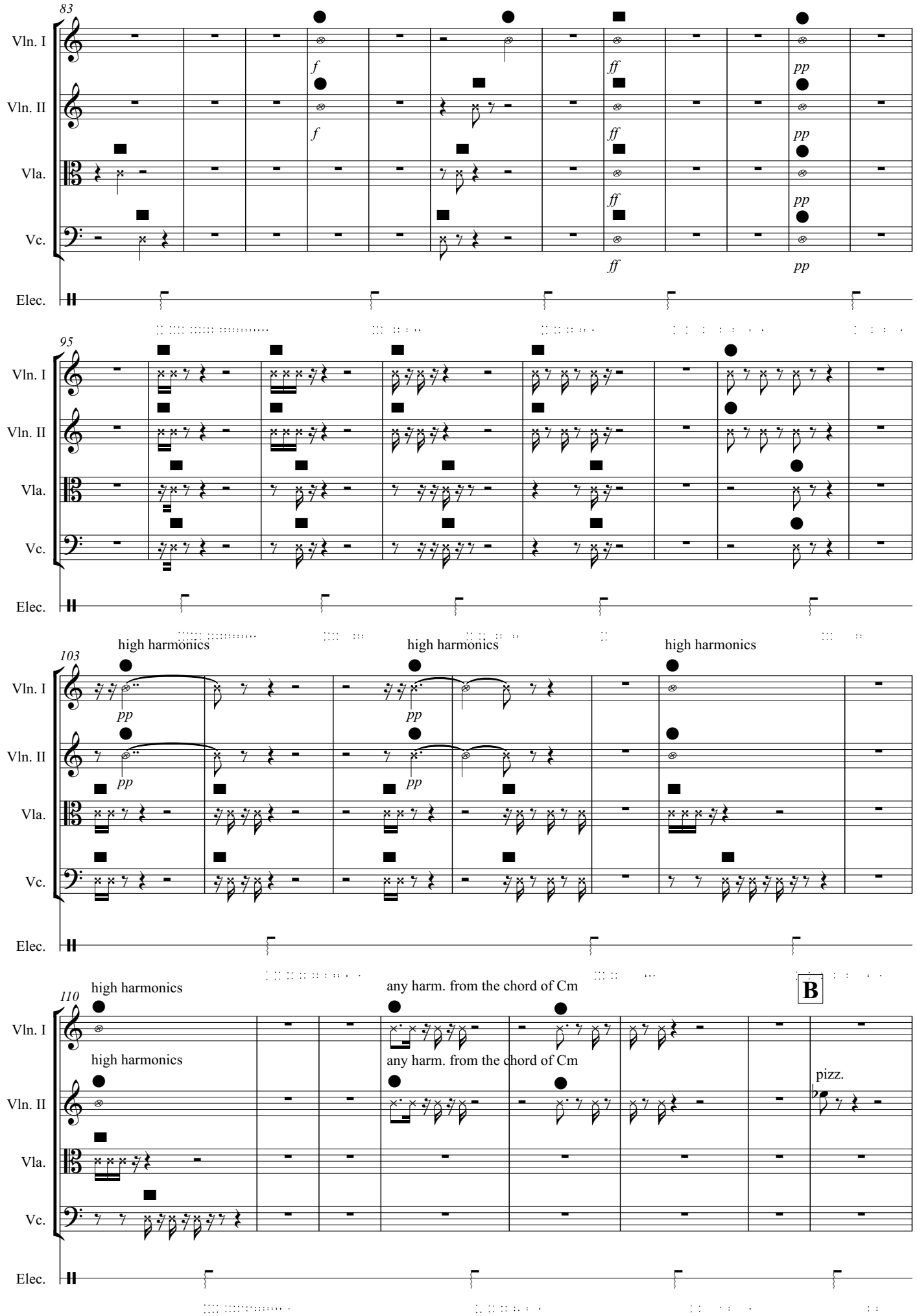
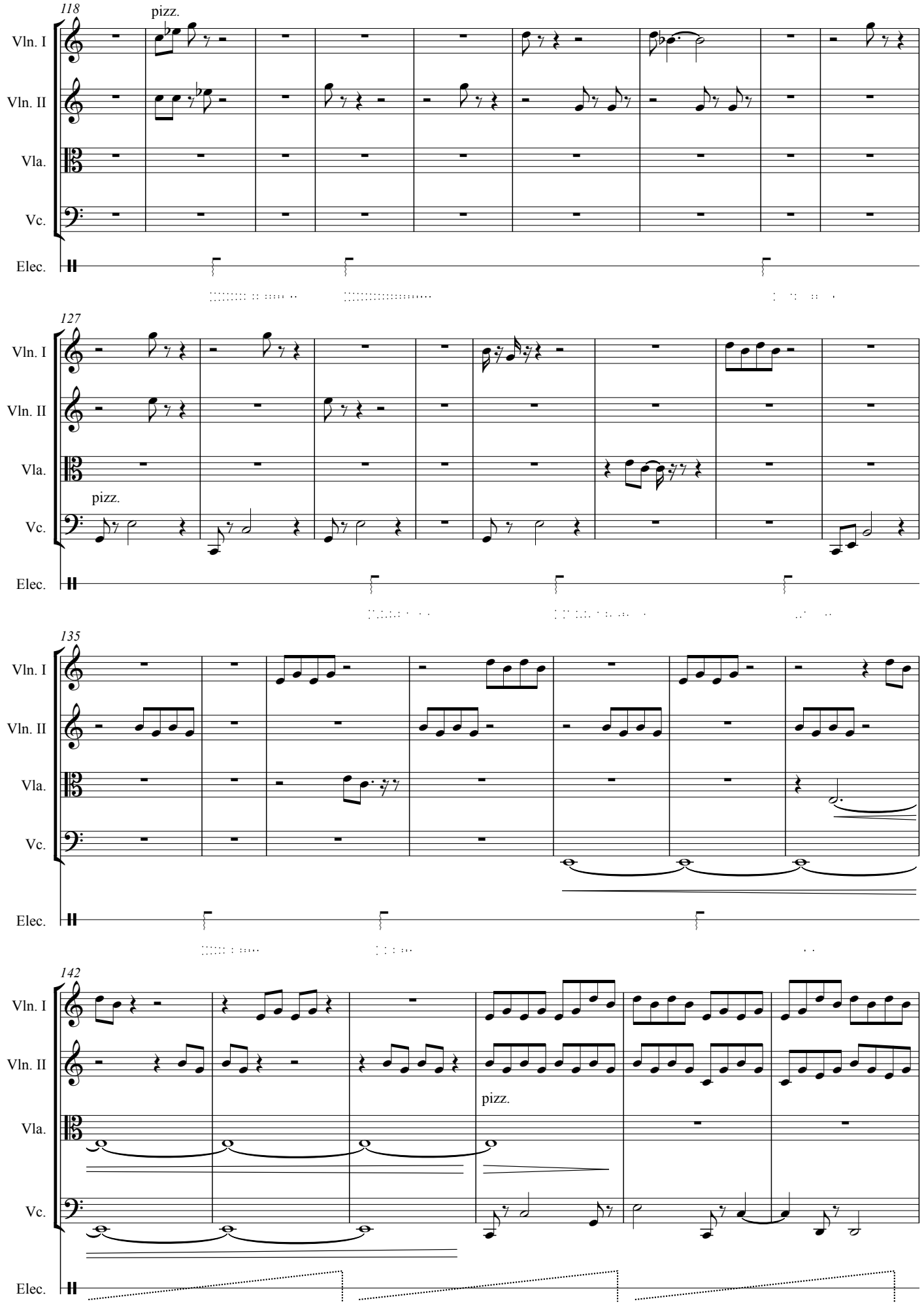
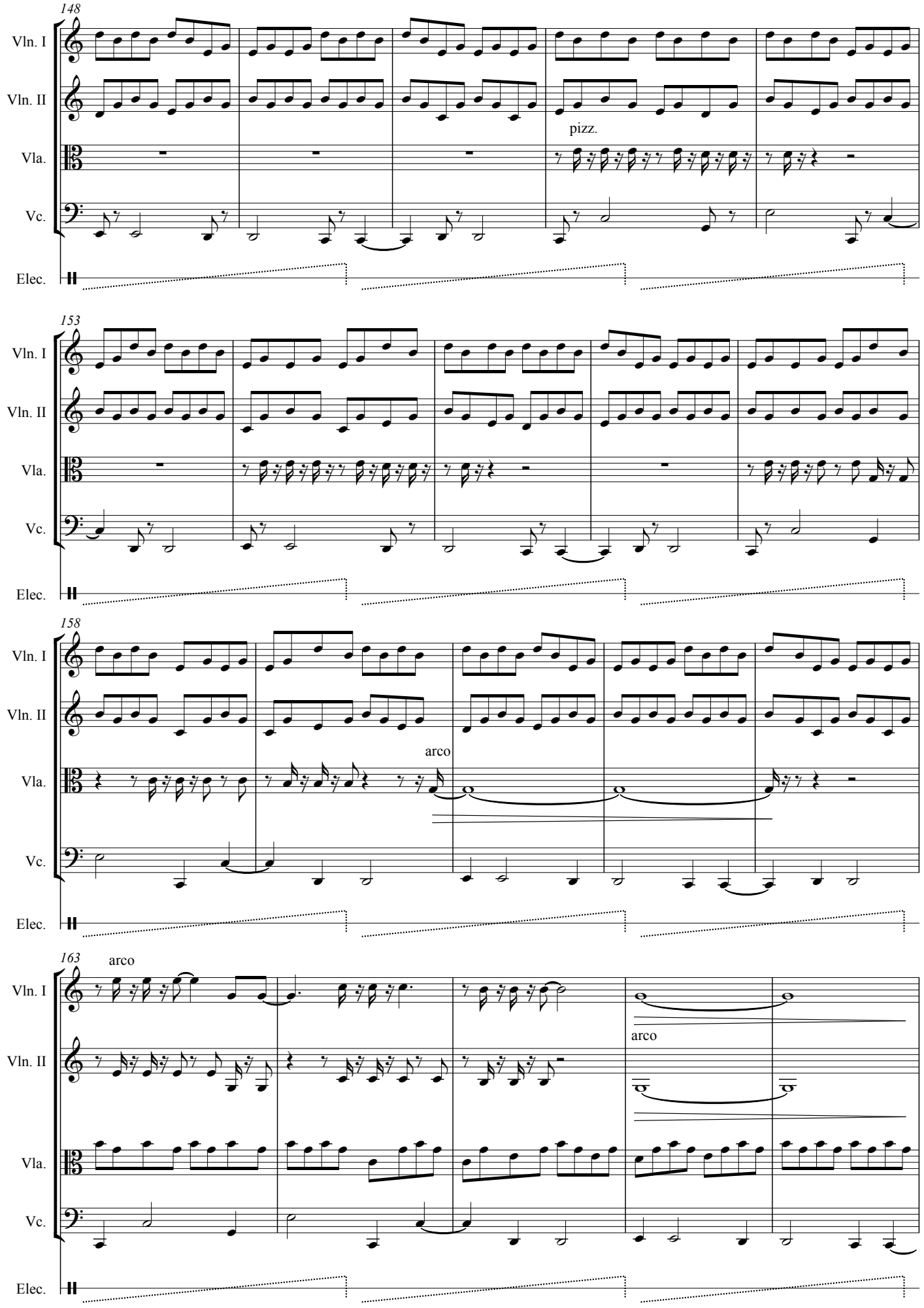
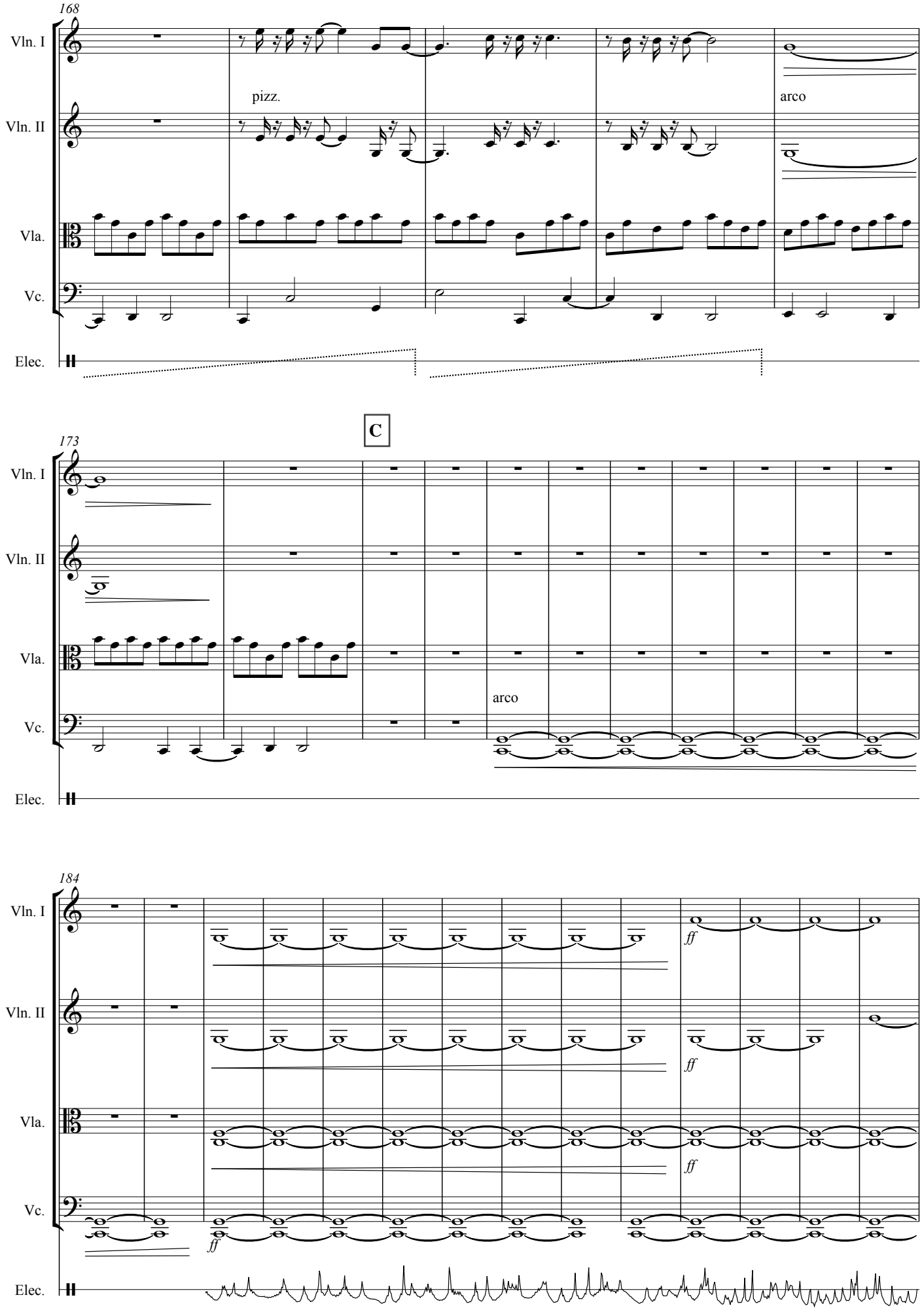


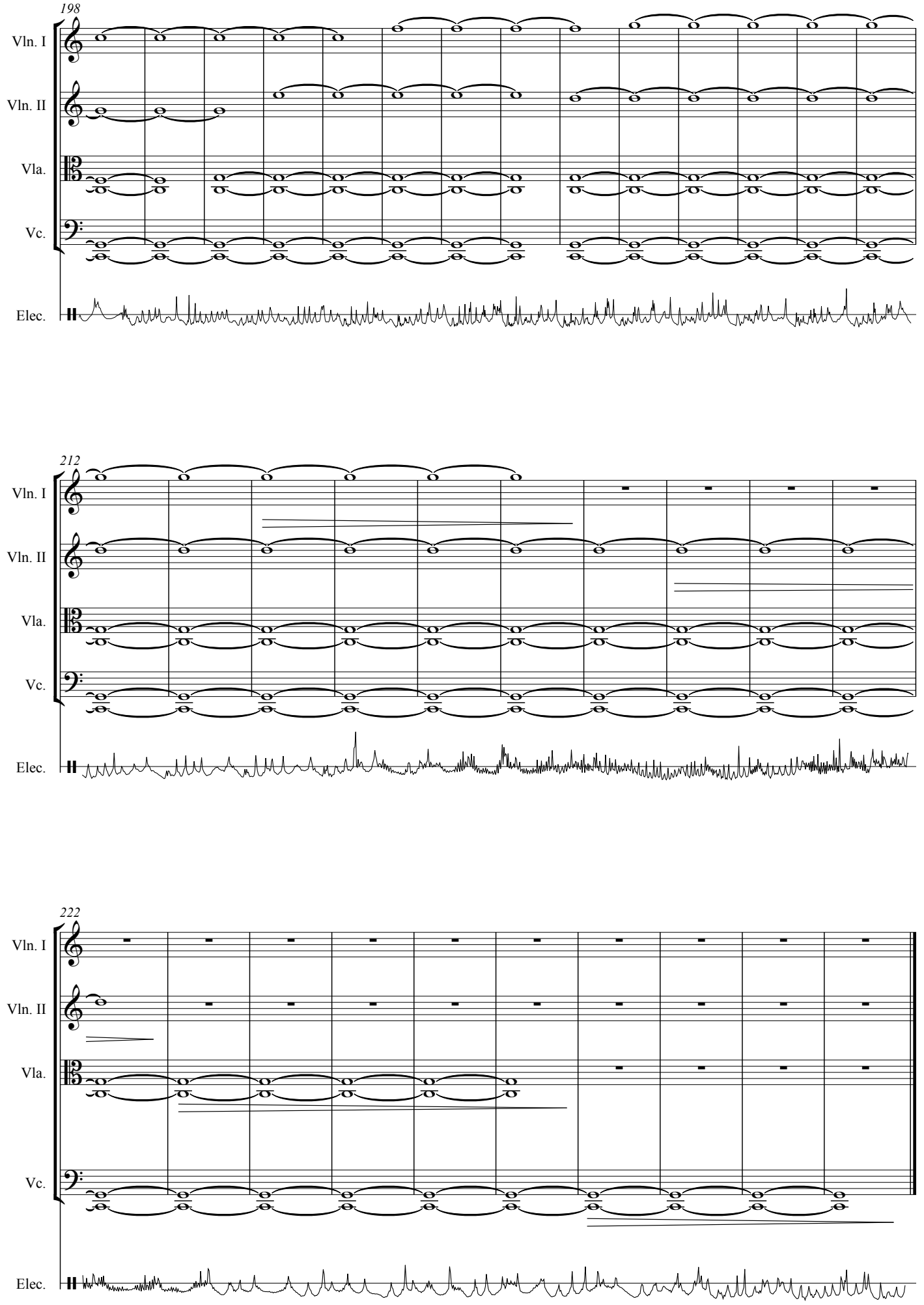

34
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Elec.
pizz.
arco
arco
47
pizz.
arco
arco
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
arco
57
pizz.
arco
A
70
f
f
p
f


83
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Elec.
f
ff
pp
95
103
high harmonics
110
any harm. from the chord of Cm
B
pizz.


118
pizz.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Elec.
127
pizz.
135
142
pizz.


148
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Elec.
pizz.
153
158
arco
163
arco
arco


168
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Elec.
pizz.
arco
C
173
arco
184
ff


198
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Elec.
212
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Elec.
222
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Elec.