Full Score

Katharina S. G. Mueller (2025)

Artifacts

Microtonal Duos for Violin and Cello

Flint Sticks
Stylus 1
Iron Filings (Magnetized)
Threads
Adhesive
X-Acto Knife
Push Pins
Stylus 2
Scouring Pad

Duration ca. 2 minutes each

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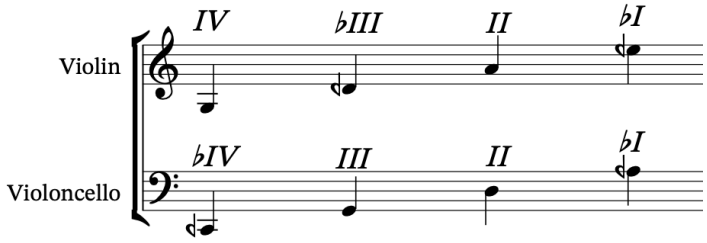
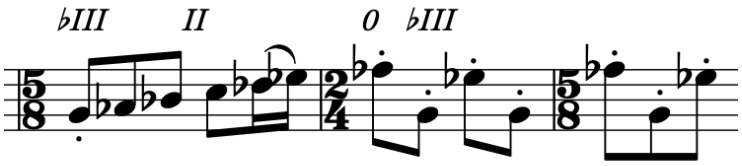
Artifacts is a series of short duos for micro-tonally tuned violin and cello. Each duo is approximately two minutes, and the performers may choose to play the entire set of nine pieces or a subsection. Performers are free to re-order the pieces, and to alternate them in a program with other short works.

Each instrument has two detuned strings:



The microtonality of this piece is achieved by performers detuning their strings to a quarter tone flat, and then playing the written pitches on detuned instruments in the exact positions they would normally be in to sound in tune. The resulting pitches on the detuned strings are a quarter tone flatter than written.

Numerals: The string on which specific notes are played is highly important to the piece. Therefore there is a running notation of which string (IV, III, II, I) to play each passage of notes. A string numeral applies to the note directly beneath it and all notes following, until the next string numeral.



Open Strings: Much of the music is built around utilizing open strings. For a one-off open string, a "*0*" will be marked. This may be an outlier from the string numeral instruction. An open string indication does not cancel out a previous string numeral instruction; it only applies to its note (since there are only four open strings anyway, indicating them with a 0 is just the more efficient notation.

Simile: A "Simile" indication comes only once a pattern of string numerals has been established. With a "simile" instruction, continue to play notes on their respective strings as mapped by the previous string numerals.

Cello NB: Because both string II and III have normal intonation on the cello, passages in the mid register are often marked II/III and the choice of string is at the player's discretion.

Artifacts

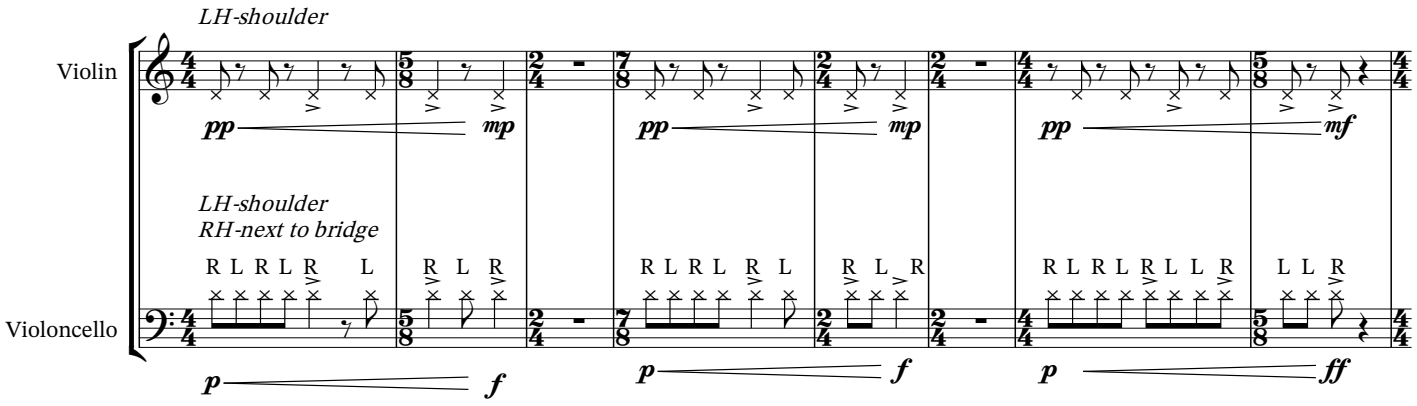
for Violin and Cello Duet

Katharina S. G. Mueller

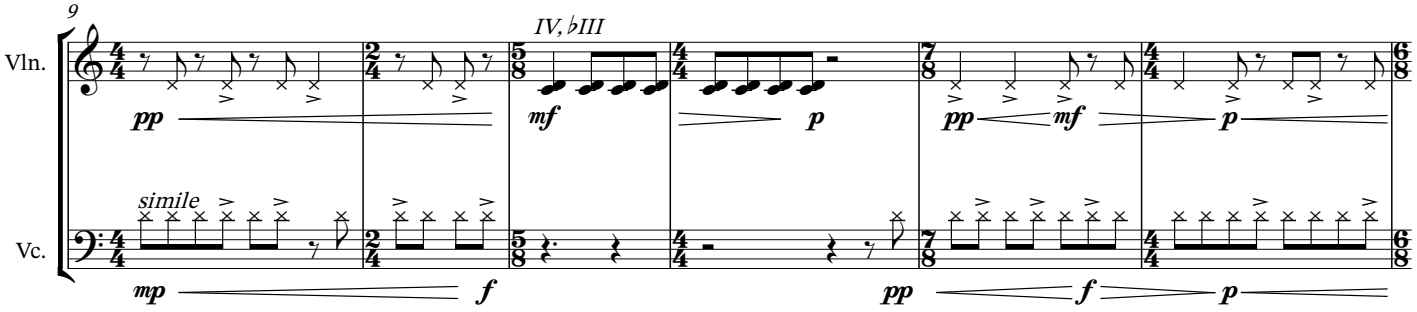
Violin: IV, ♭III, II, ♭I
Cello: ♭IV, III, II, ♭I

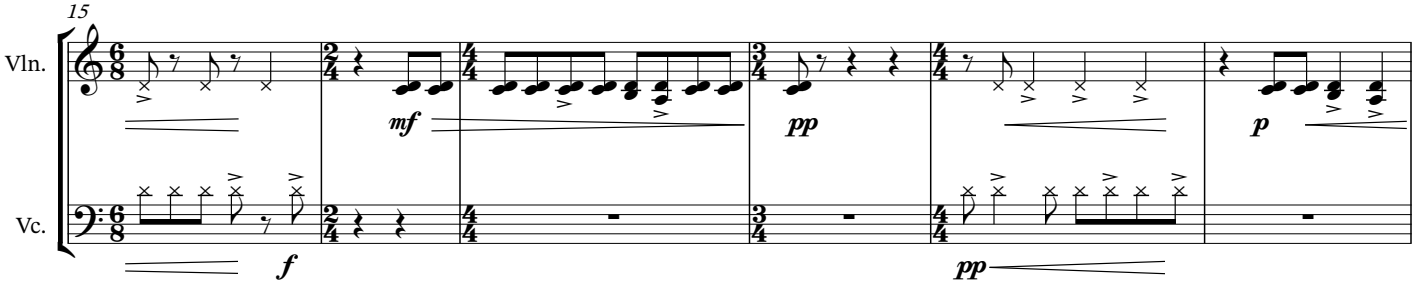
Flint Sticks

♩=142 Bright, Spirited

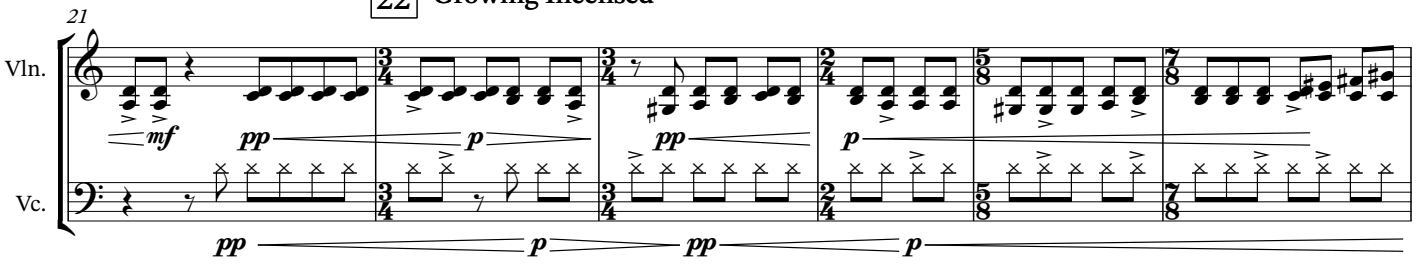


11 Inquisitive?





22 Growing Incensed



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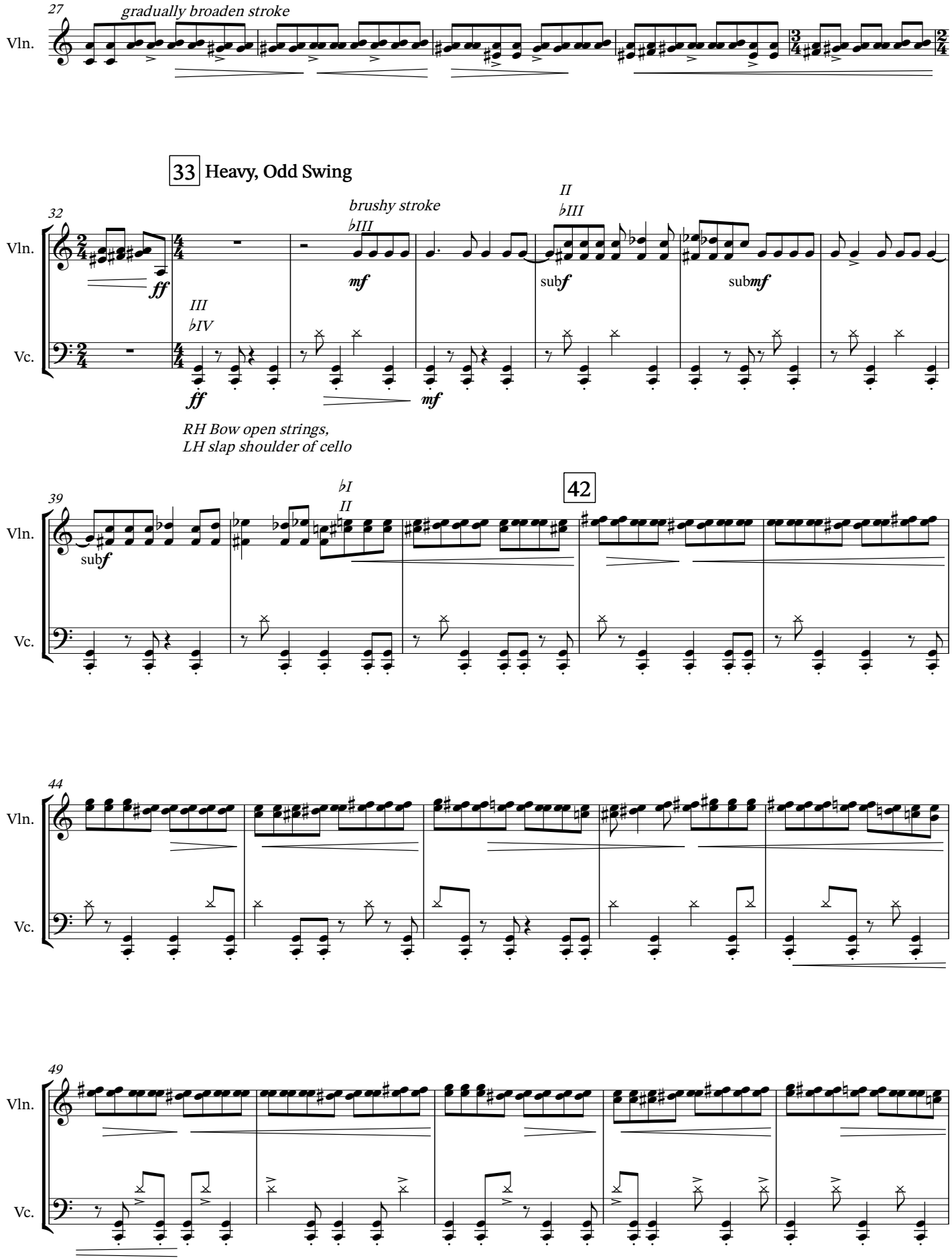
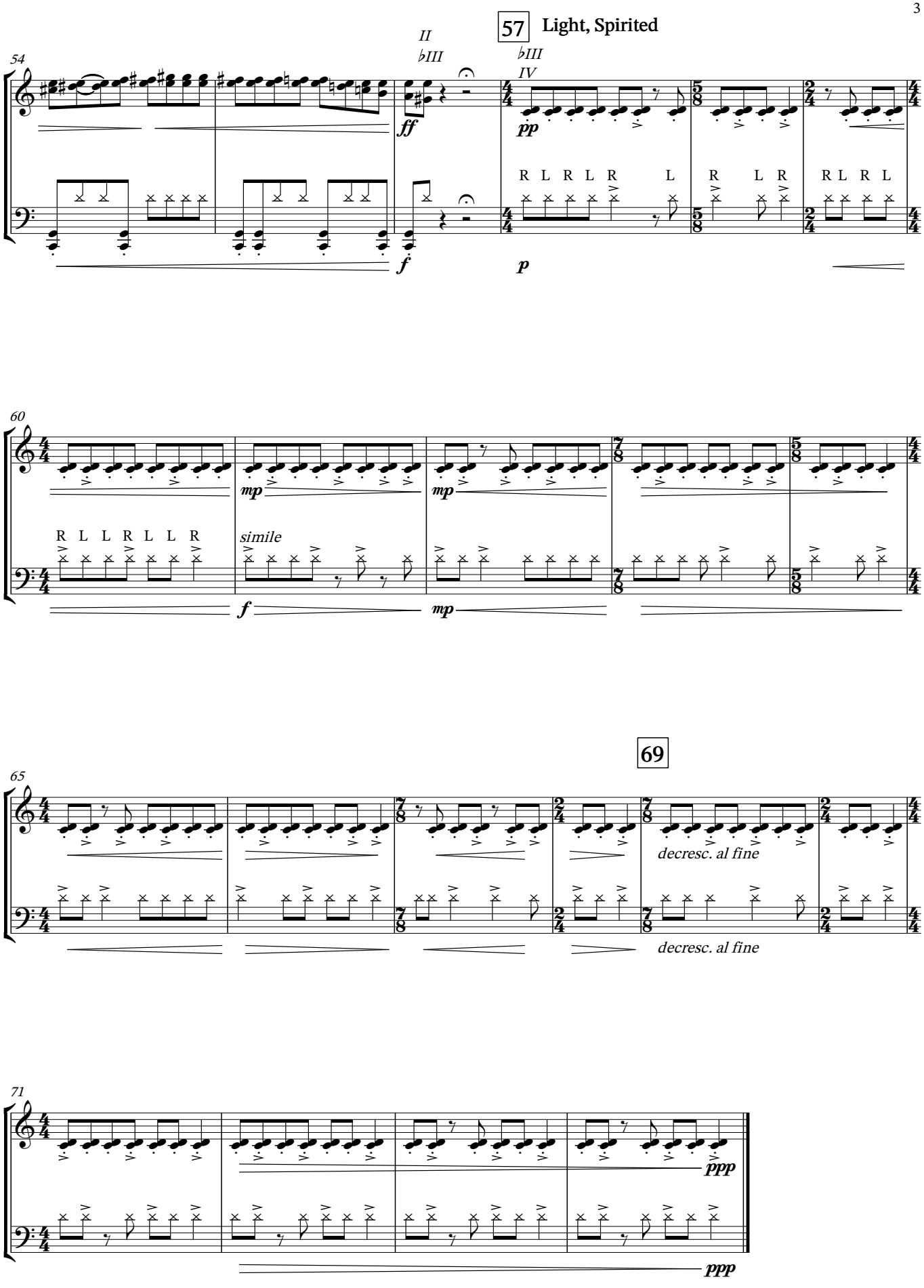
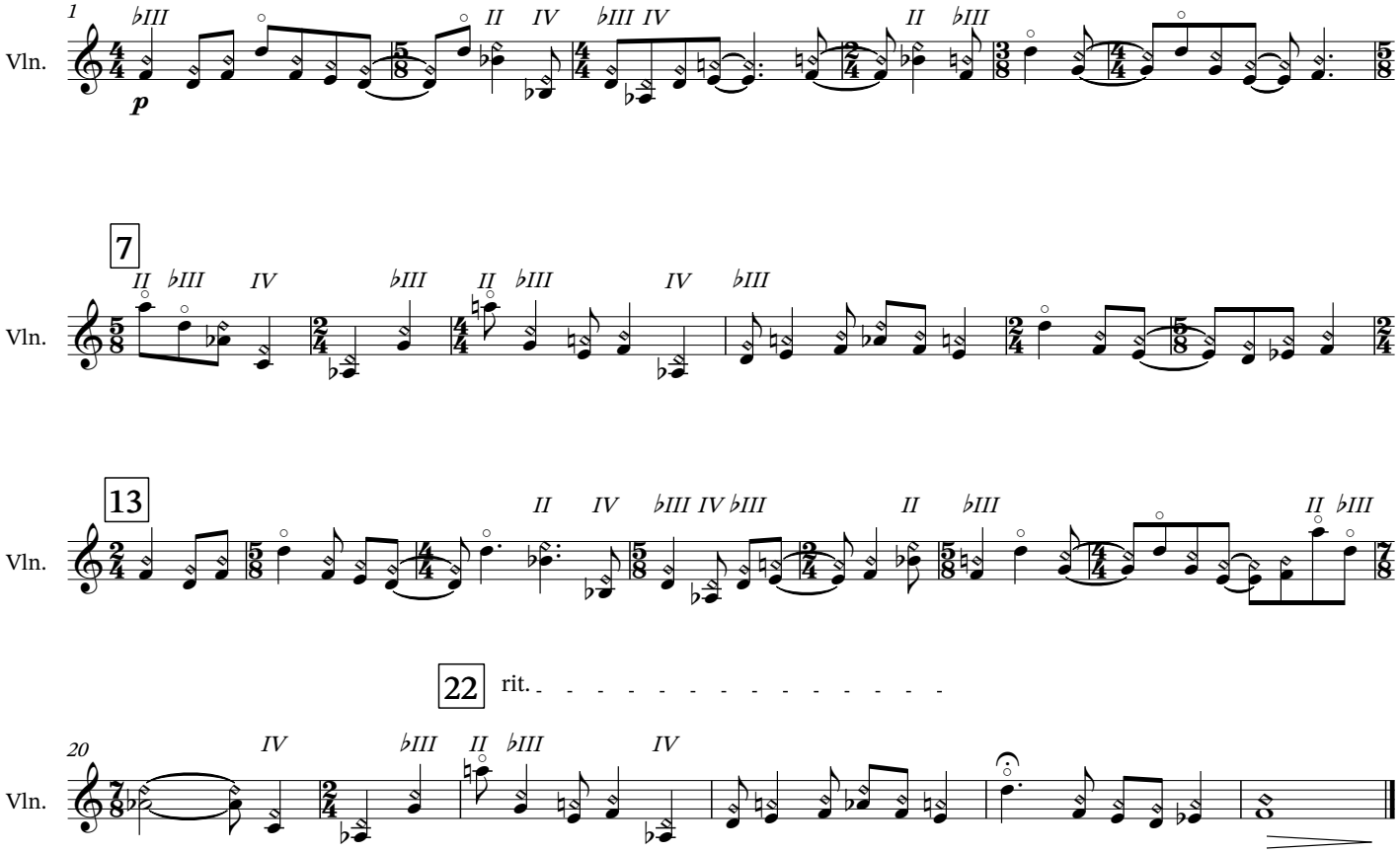

27
gradually broaden stroke
Vln.
33 Heavy, Odd Swing
32
brushy stroke
♭III
II
♭III
ff
mf
subf
submf
III
♭IV
Vc.
RH Bow open strings,
LH slap shoulder of cello
39
♭I
II
42
44
49

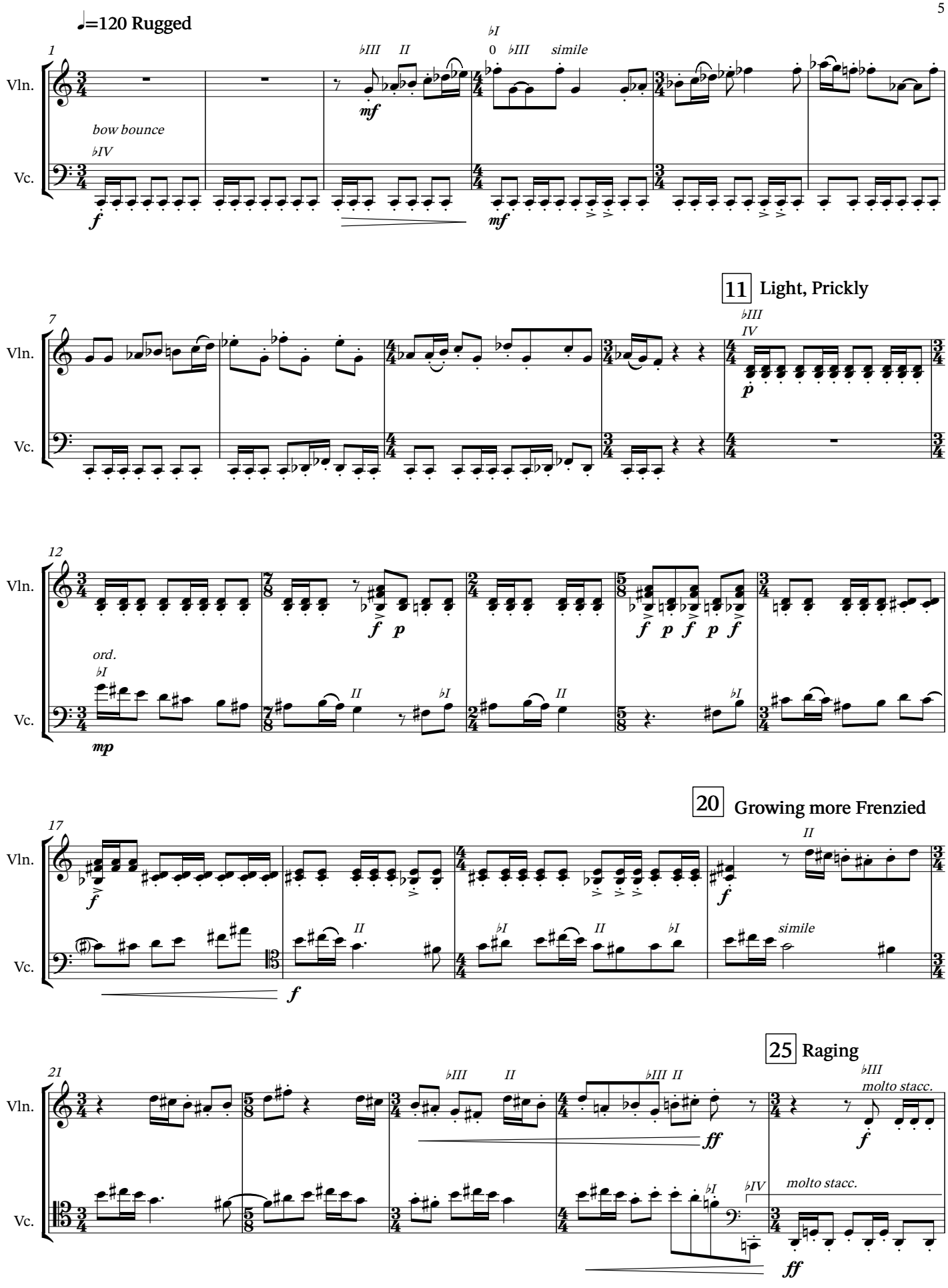

57
Light, Spirited
54
II
♭III
♭III
IV
Vln.
Vc.
ff
f
pp
p
R L R L R L
R L R
R L R L
60
mp
mp
R L L R L L R
simile
f
mp
65
69
decresc. al fine
decresc. al fine
71
ppp
ppp

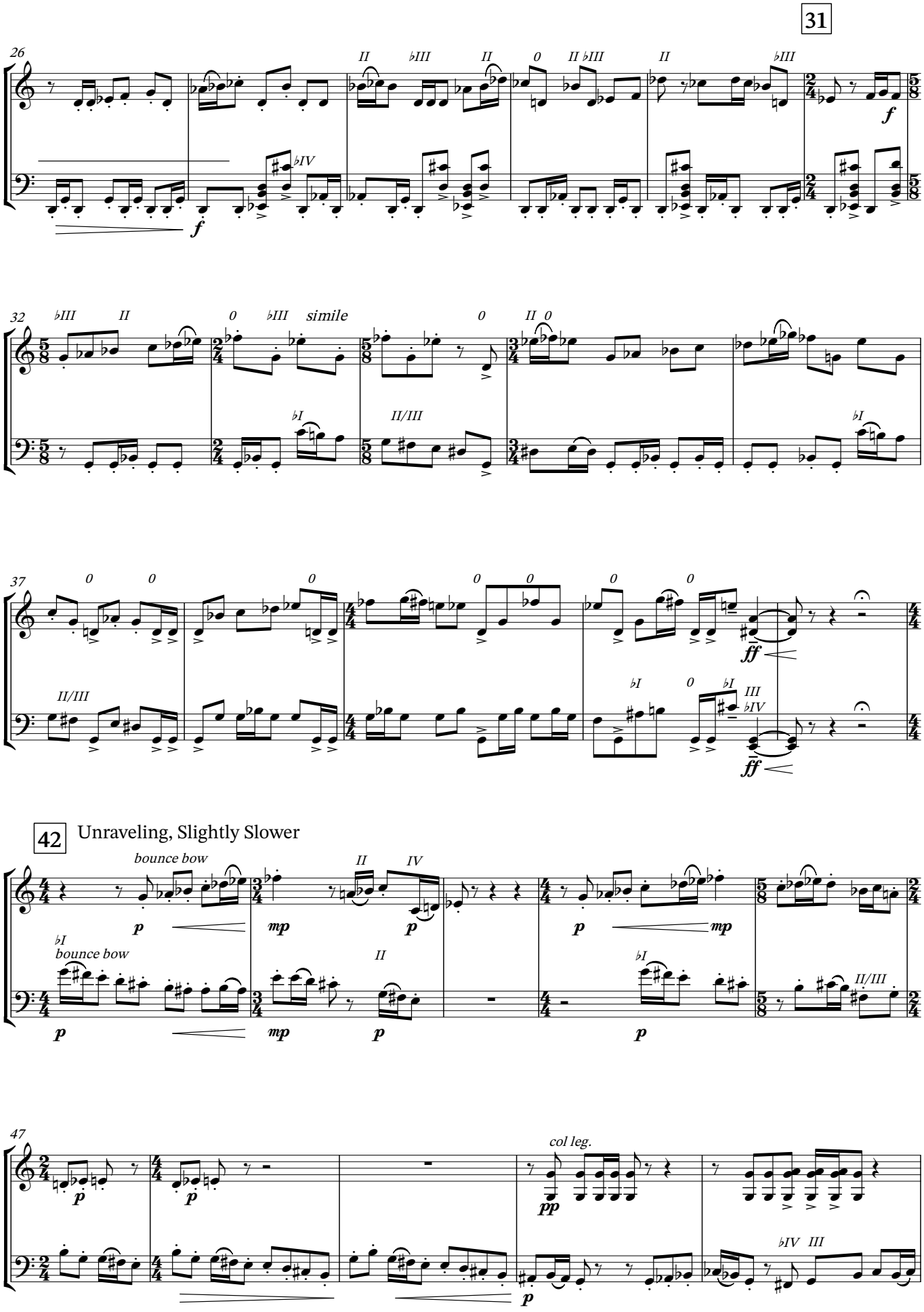
Stylus 1

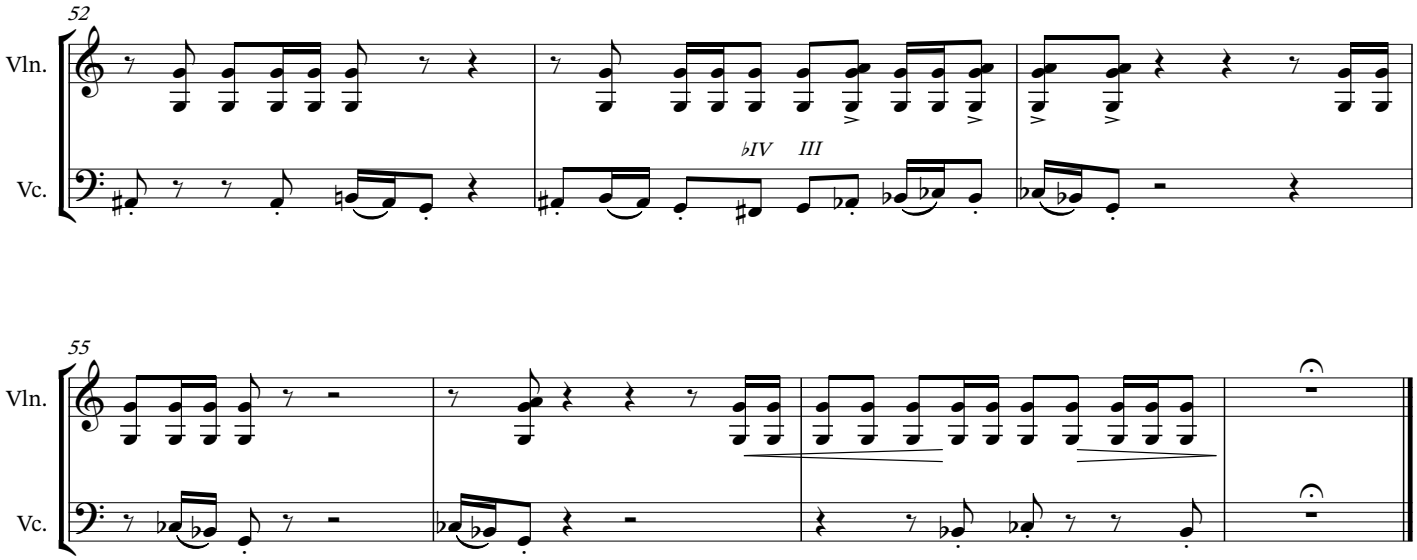
♩=60 Airy, Delicate



Iron Filings (Magnetized)

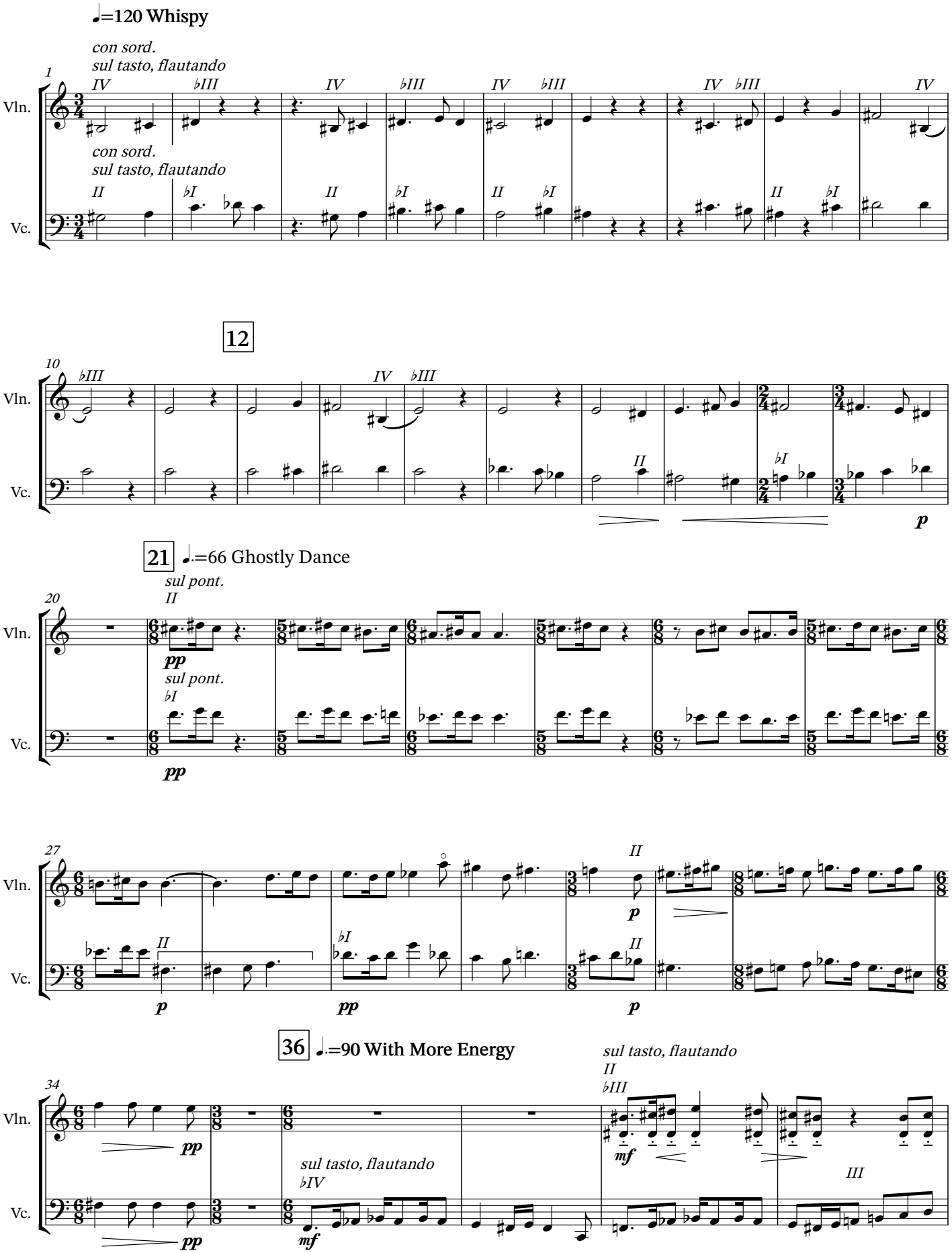



31
26
Vln.
Vc.
II
♭III
II
0
II ♭III
II
♭III
f
♭IV
f
32
♭III
II
0
♭III
simile
0
II 0
♭I
II/III
♭I
37
0
0
0
0
0
0
0
II/III
ff
♭I
0
♭I
III
♭IV
ff
42
Unraveling, Slightly Slower
bounce bow
II
IV
p
mp
p
p
mp
♭I
bounce bow
II
♭I
II/III
p
mp
p
p
47
col leg.
p
p
pp
♭IV
III
p


52
Vln.
Vc.
♭IV
III

55
Vln.
Vc.

Threads



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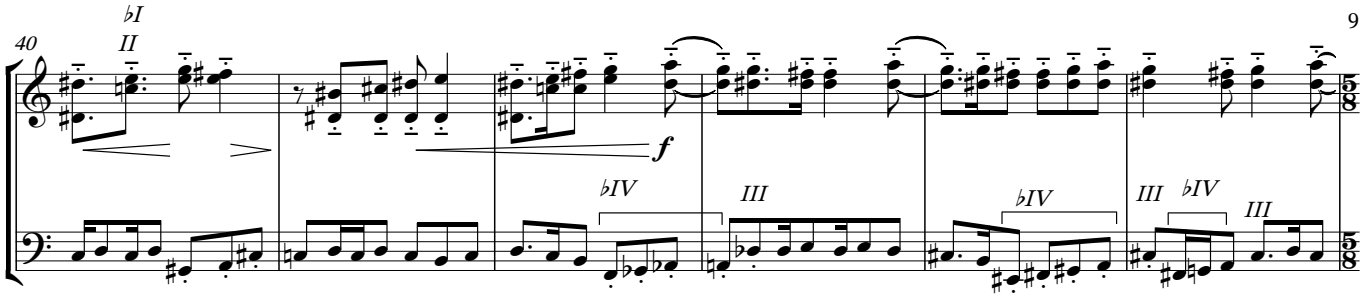
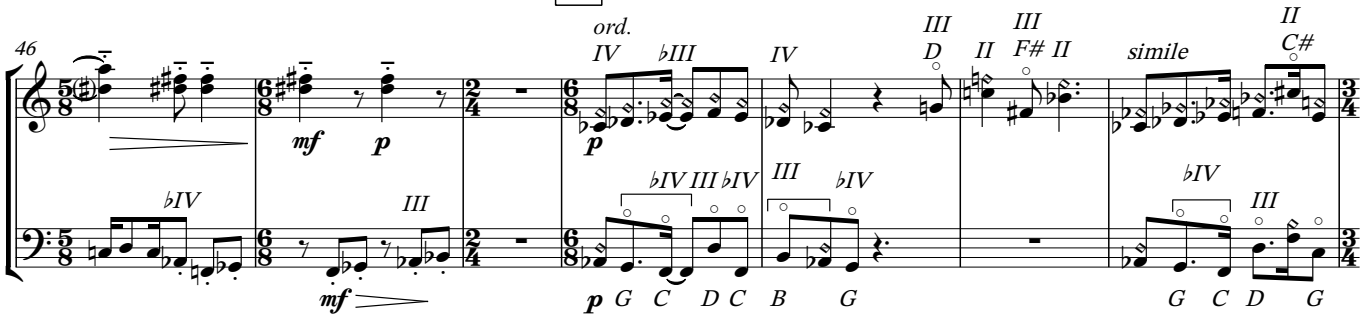
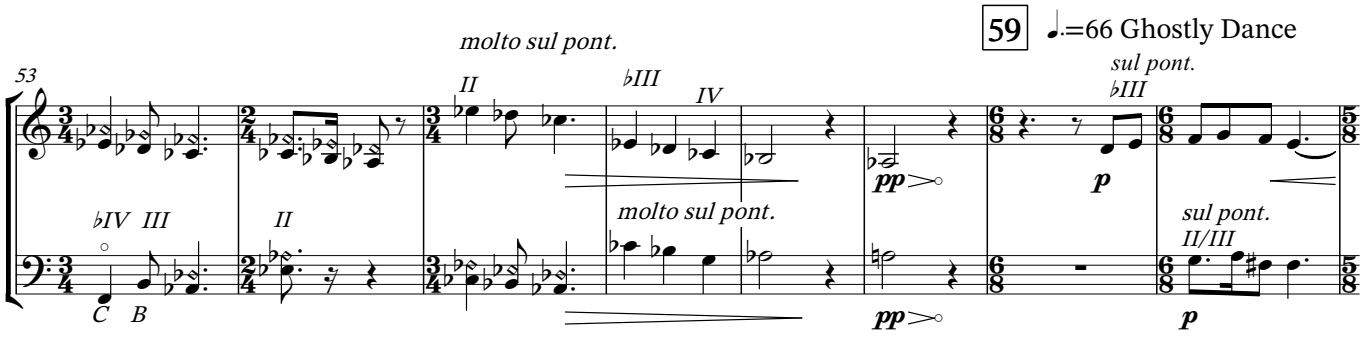
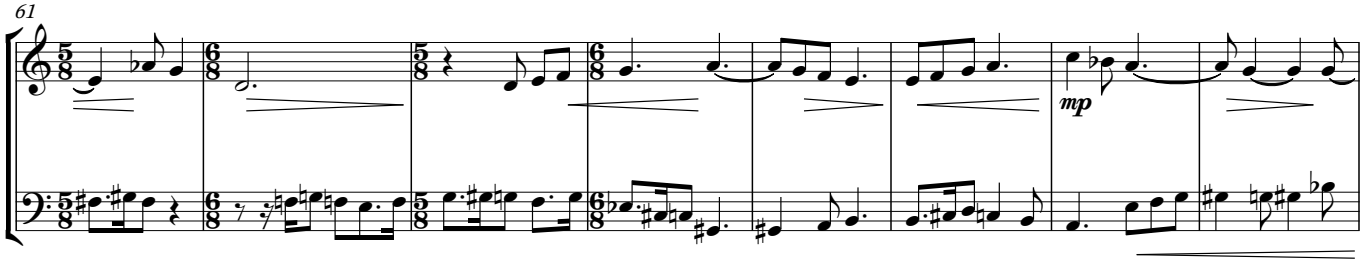


49 Shadowy

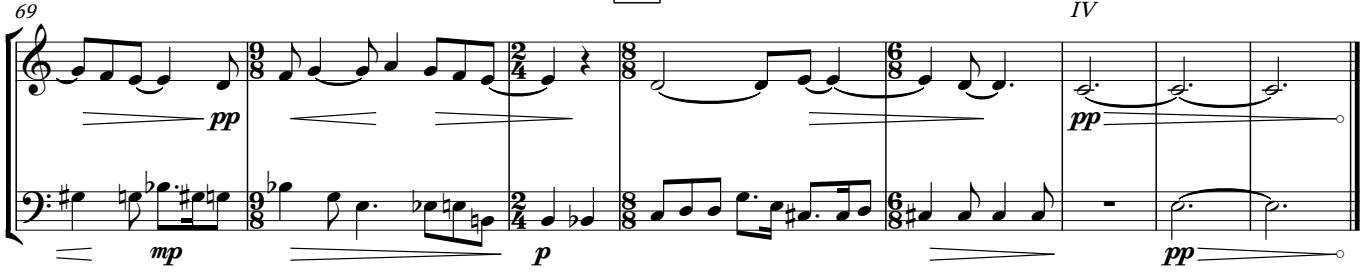


59 ♩.=66 Ghostly Dance





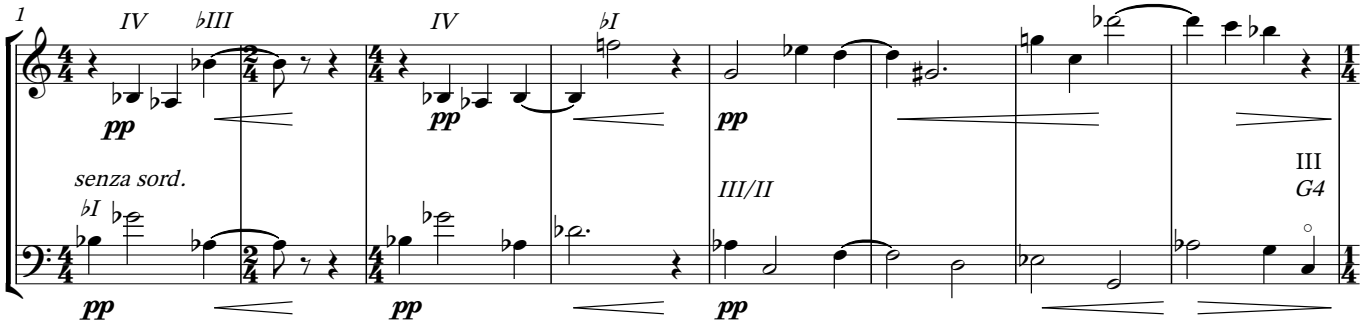
72



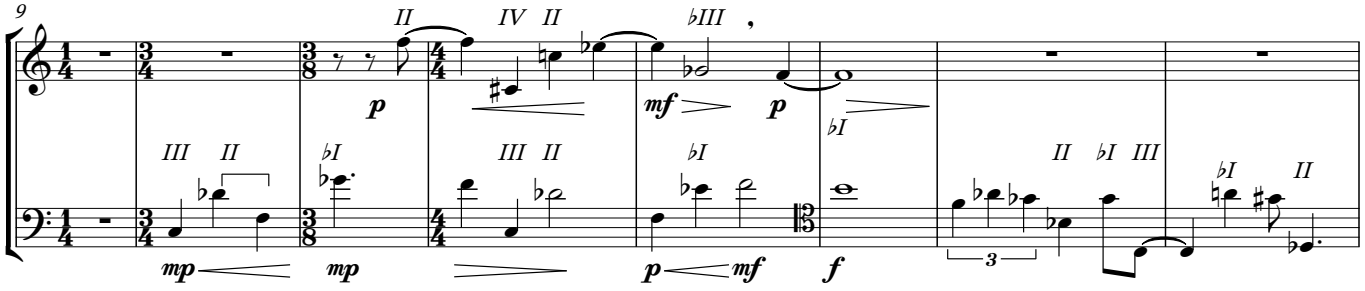
Adhesive

♩ = 60 Stretching

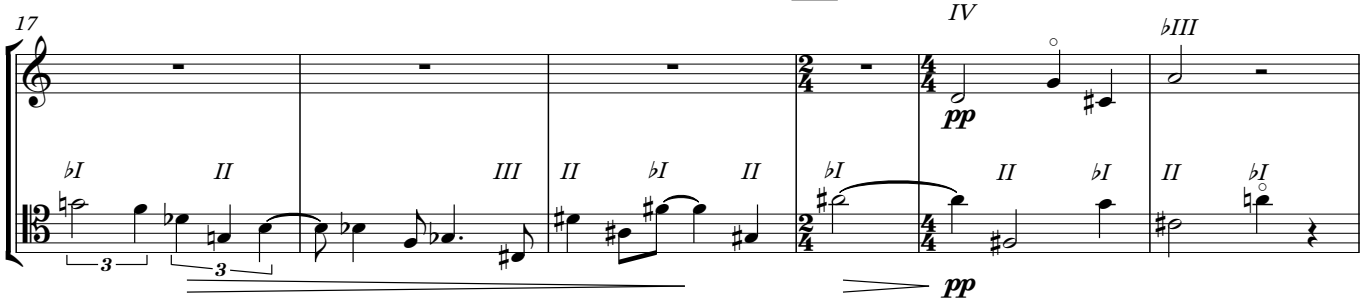
senza sord.



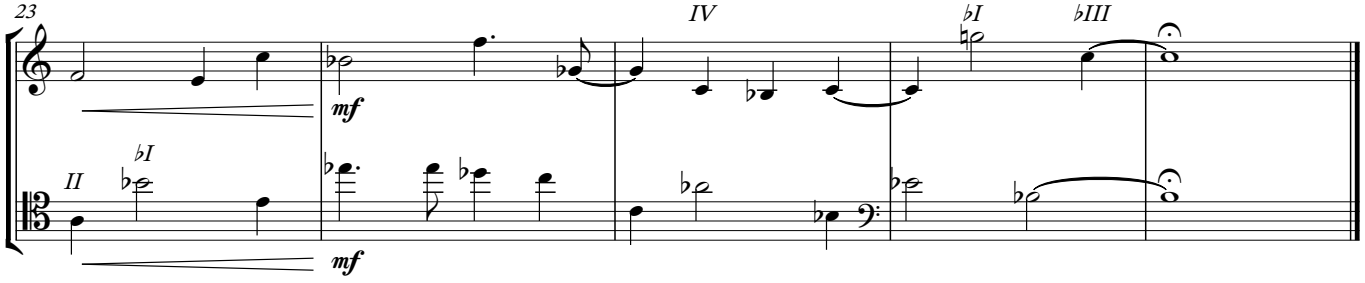
10 ♩ = 44 As If Against Great Resistance ♩ = 60 Wind Up 15 Spinning in Space



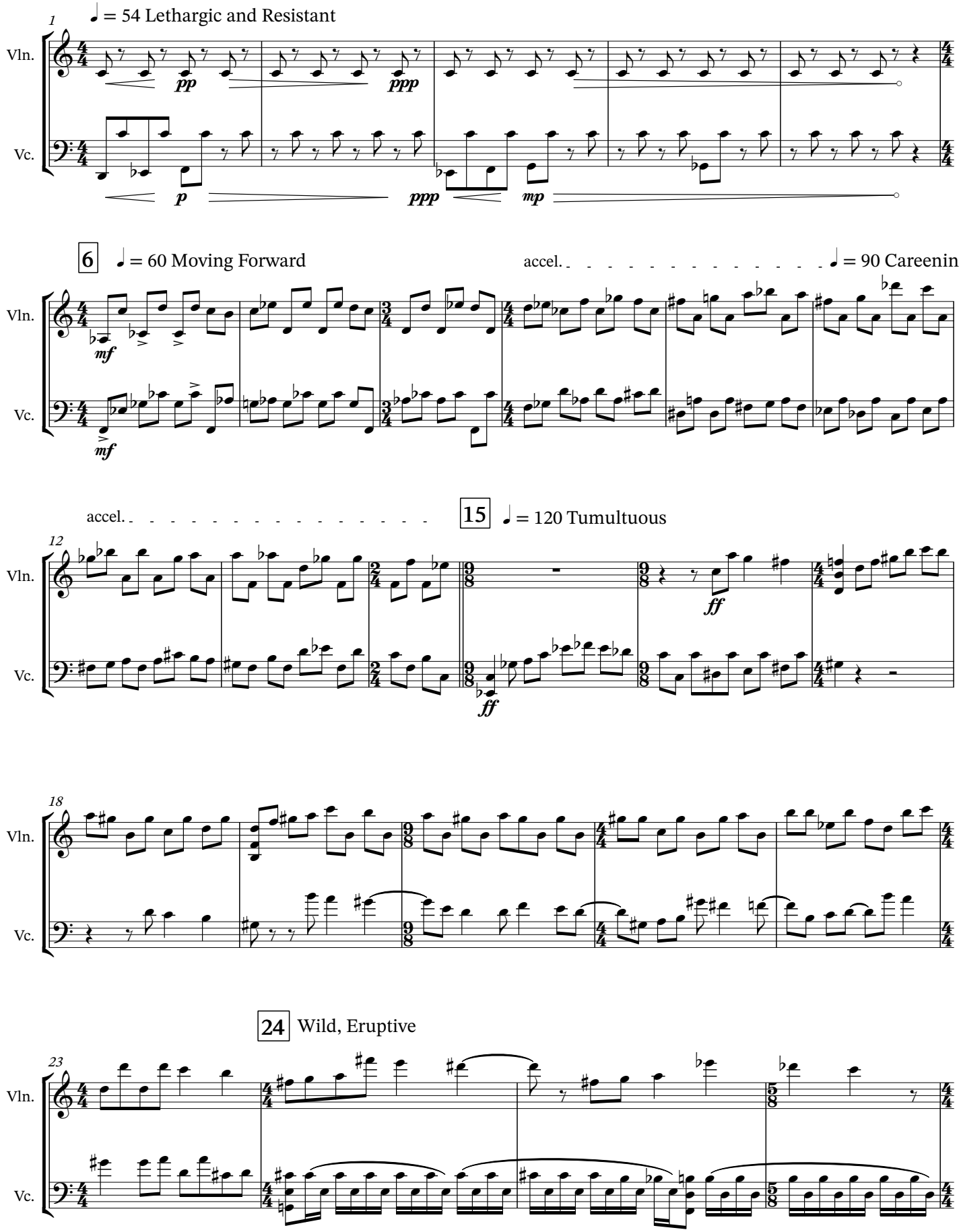
20 Timid

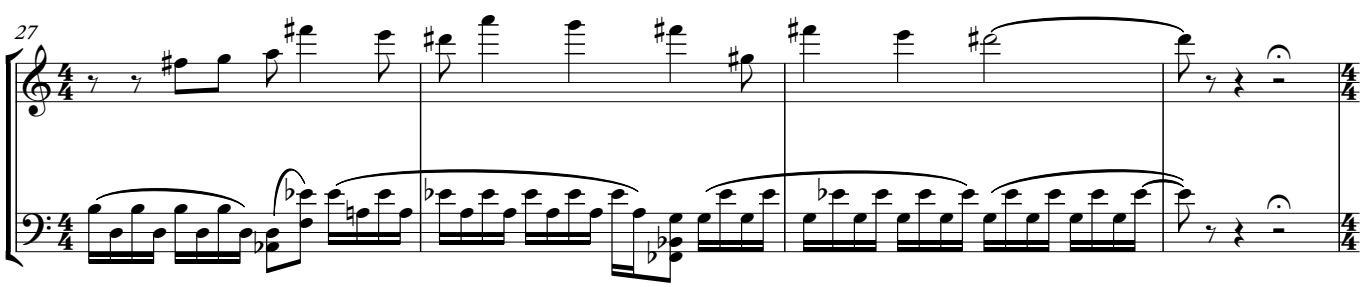


24 Stretching, Broad

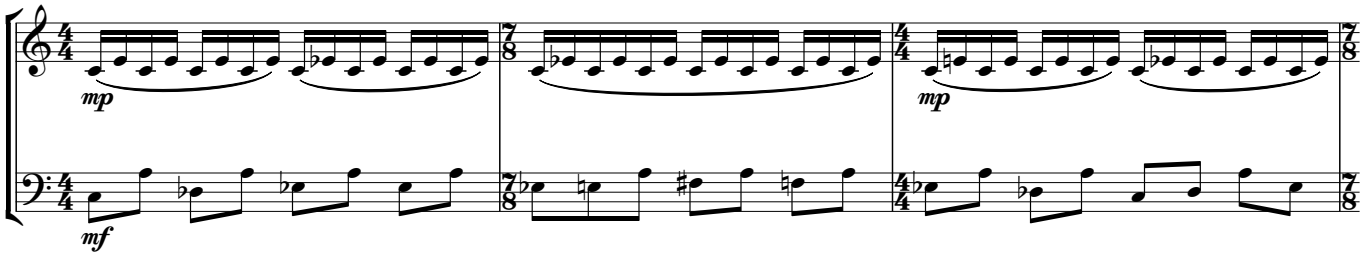


X-Acto Knife

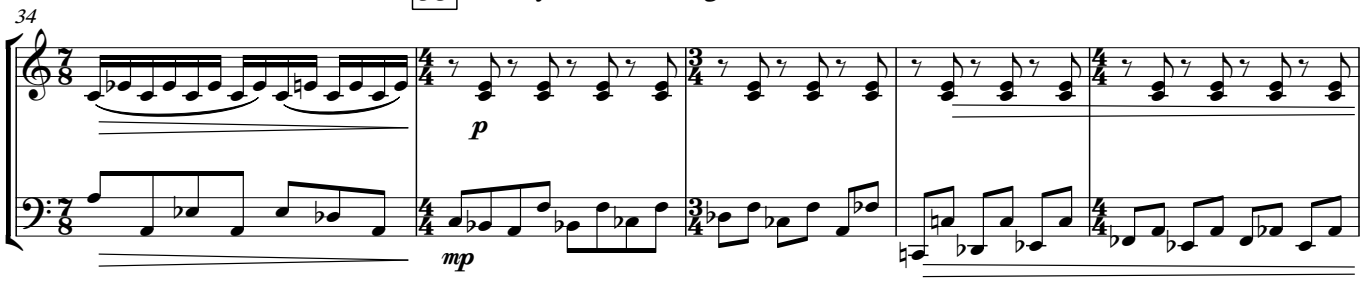

1
♩ = 54 Lethargic and Resistant
Vln.
Vc.
pp
ppp
p
ppp
mp
6
♩ = 60 Moving Forward
accel.
♩ = 90 Careening
mf
mf
accel.
15
♩ = 120 Tumultuous
12
ff
ff
18
24
Wild, Eruptive
23

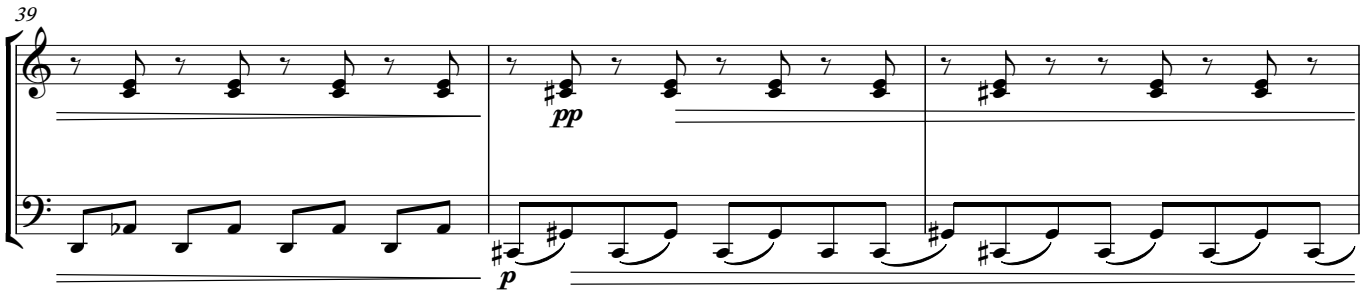


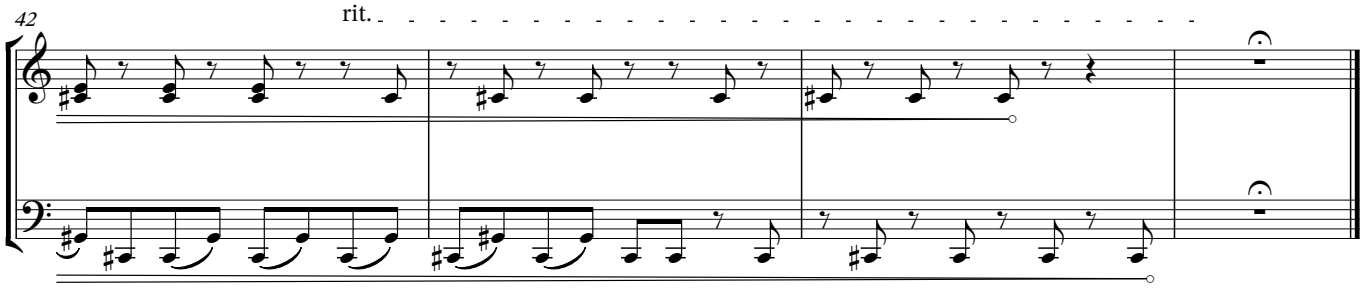
31 ♩ = 100 Quietly Seething



35 Slowly Smoothening Out

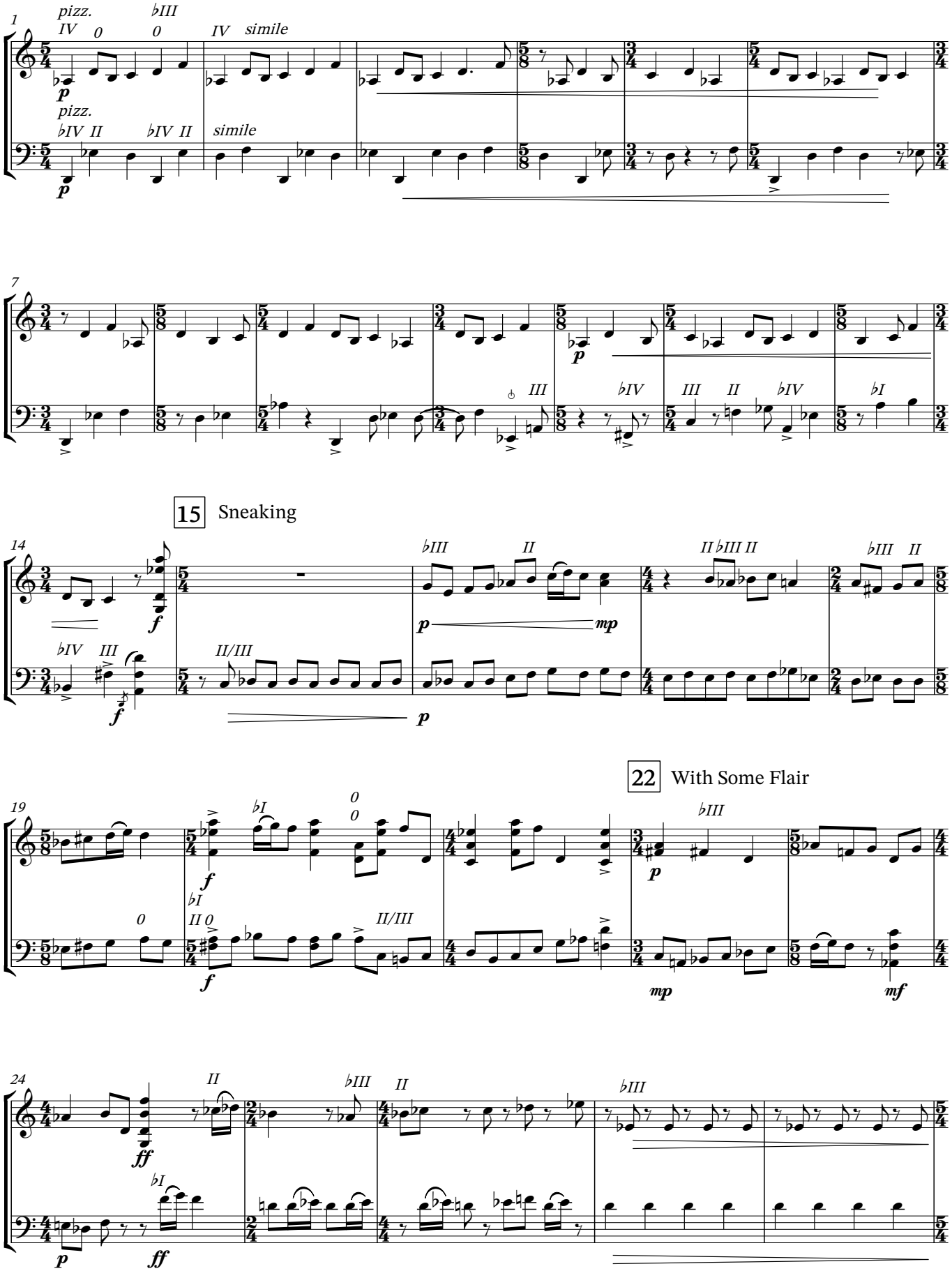


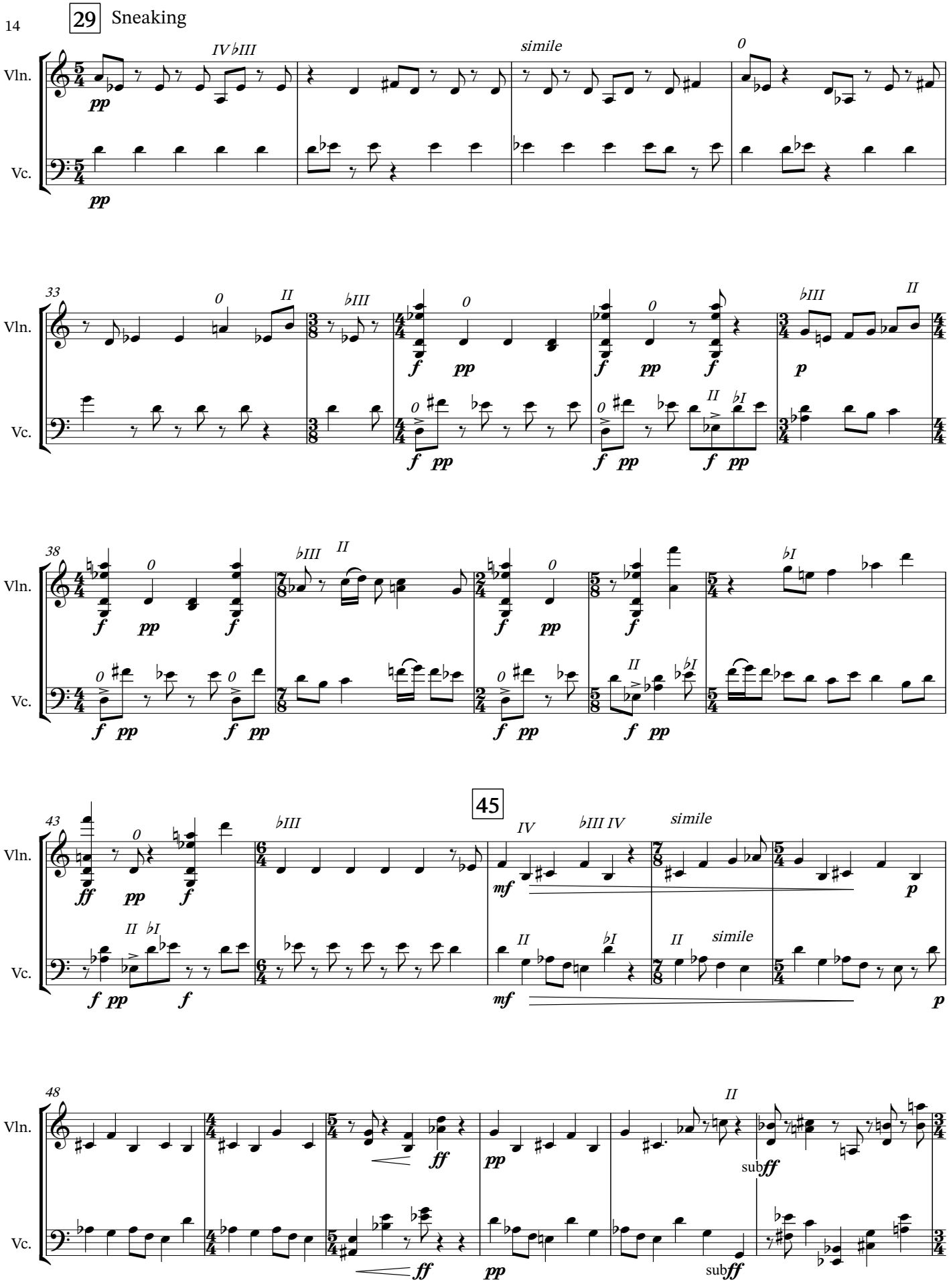


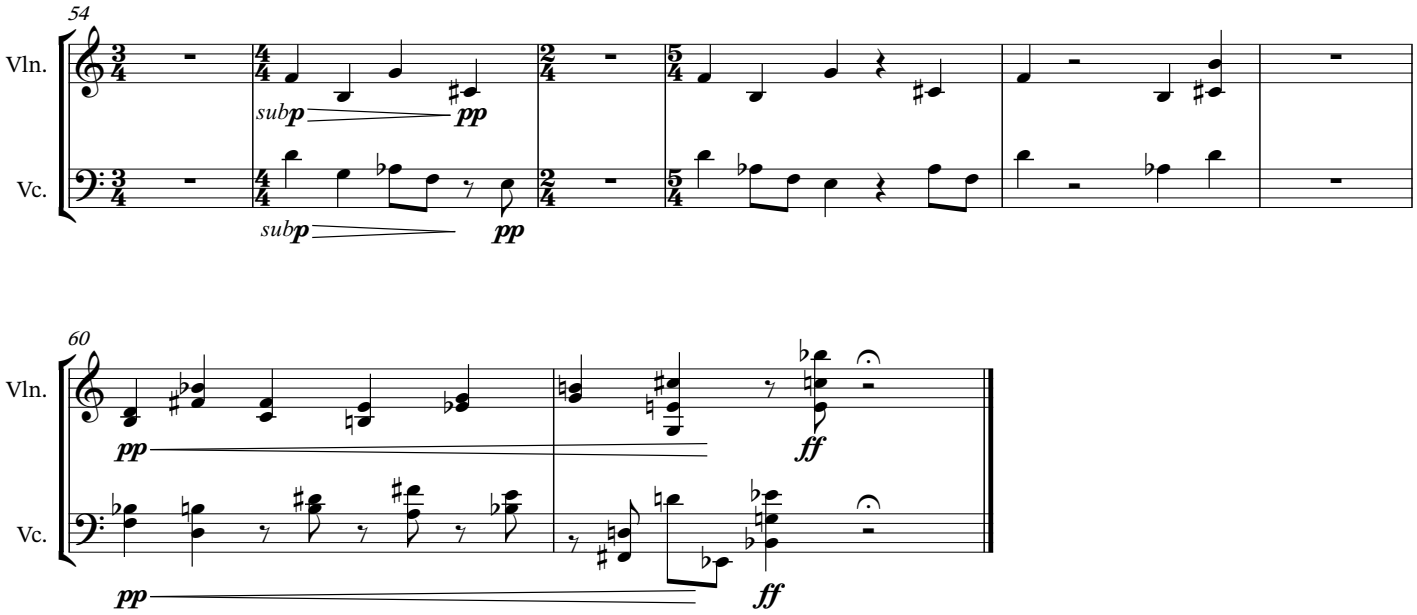


Push Pins

♩ = 140 Perpetual

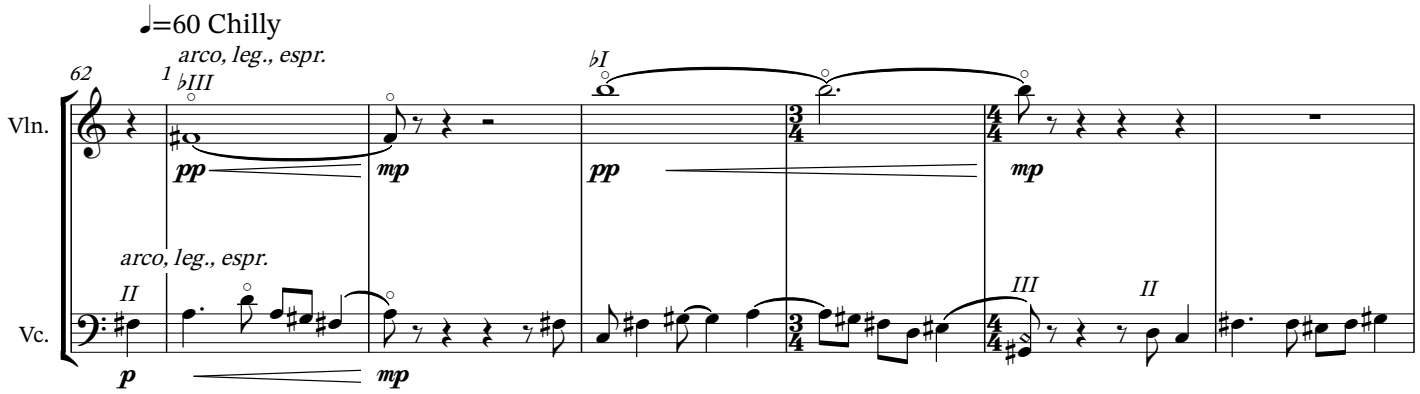


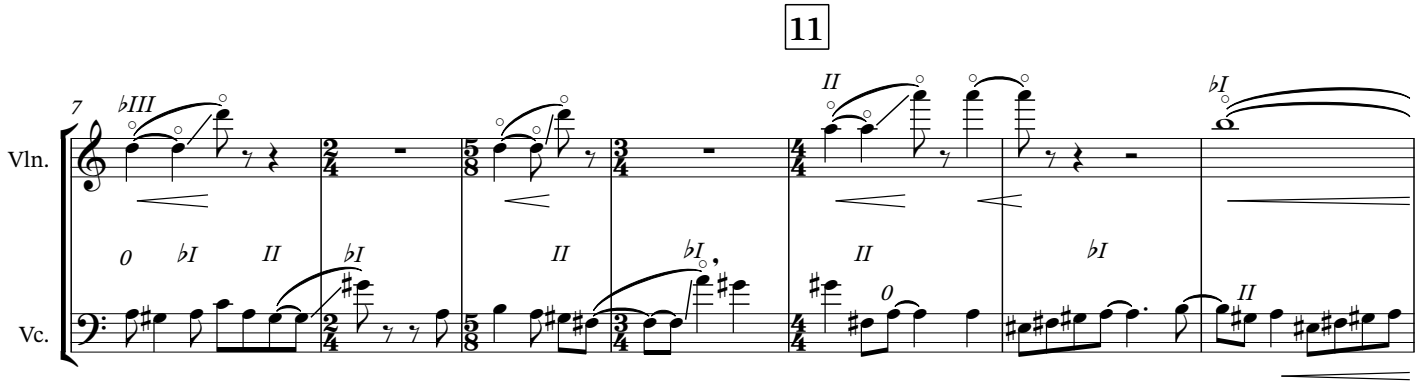

29 Sneaking
Vln.
Vc.
IV ♭III
simile
0
pp
33
II
♭III
f
p
38
♭I
43
45
ff
mf
IV
♭III IV
48
sub ff

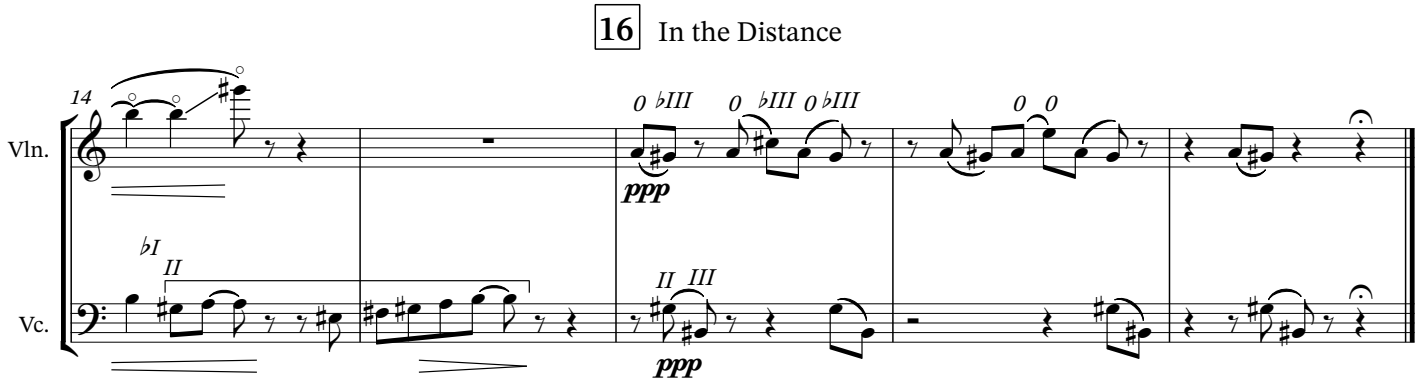

54
Vln.
Vc.
sub p
pp
sub p
pp

60
Vln.
Vc.
pp
ff
pp
ff

Stylus 2

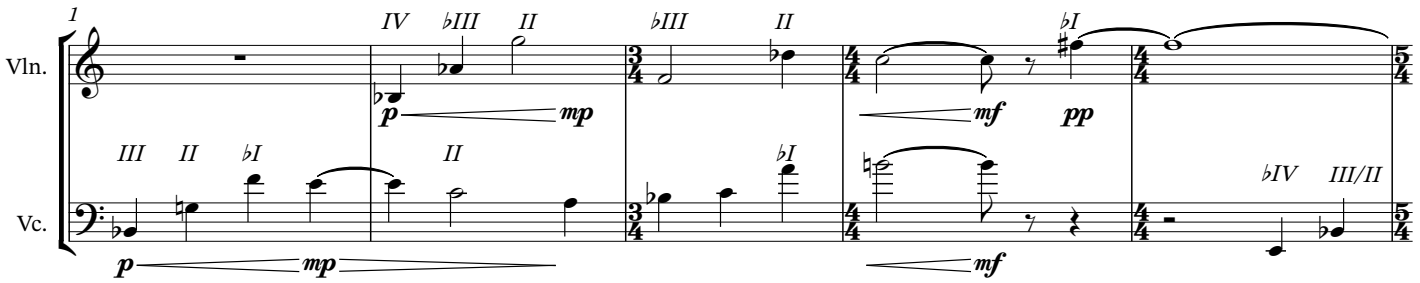

♩=60 Chilly
arco, leg., espr.
62
1
♭III
♭I
Vln.
pp
mp
pp
mp
arco, leg., espr.
II
III
II
Vc.
p
mp


11
7
♭III
II
♭I
Vln.
0
♭I
II
♭I
II
♭I
II
0
♭I
II
Vc.

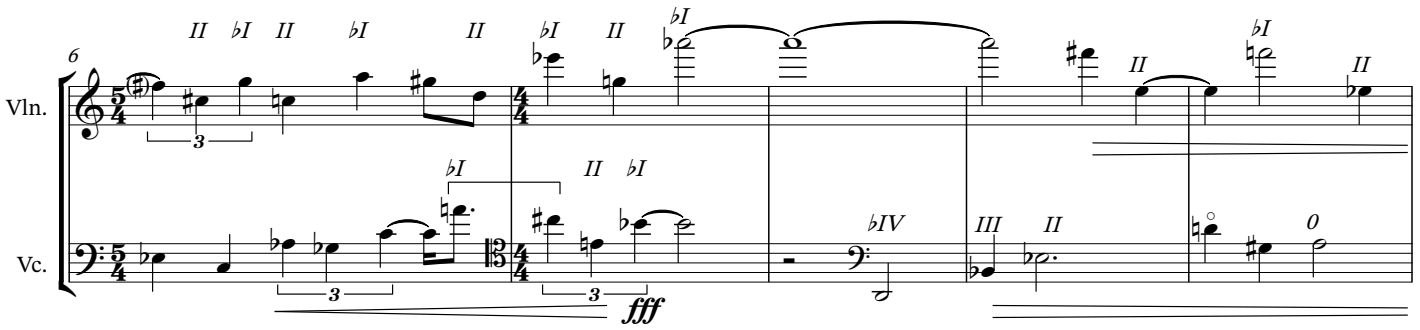

16 In the Distance
14
Vln.
0 ♭III
0 ♭III 0 ♭III
0 0
ppp
♭I
II
II III
Vc.
ppp

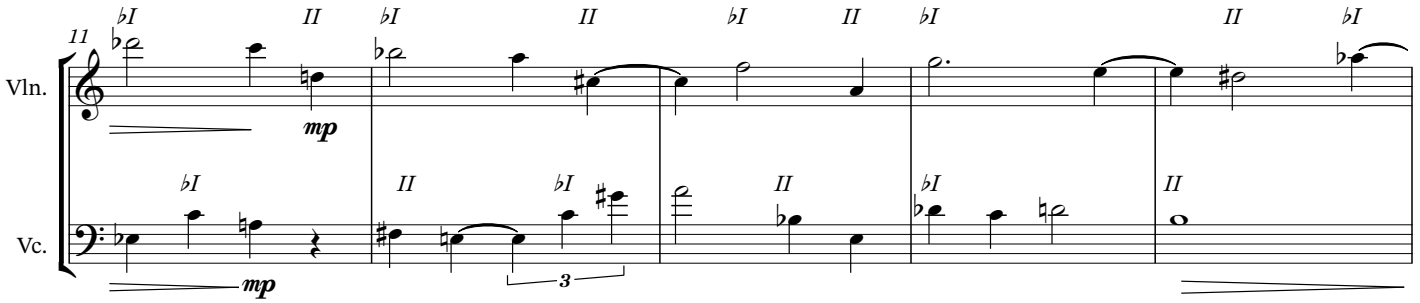
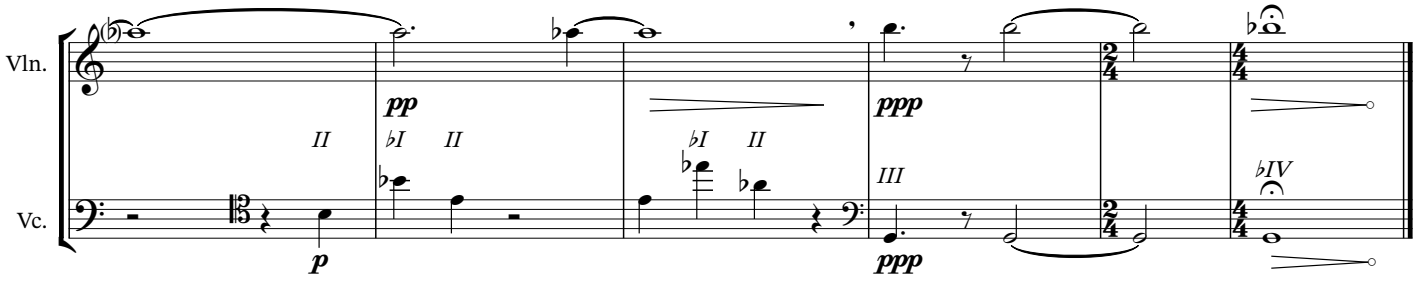
Scouring Pad

♩ = 60 Churning Forward



8 ♩ = 60 With Immense Gravity





16 Released, Fading