Canonic Offerings

for string quartet

Clifton Callender

2013

Canonic Offerings
For string quartet
Duration ~10'

Canonic Offerings is based on my work with canons that have an infinite number of solutions. These are maximally self-similar melodic lines that can be combined successfully and performed simultaneously by any number of voices, each voice at its own tempo yielding either rational or irrational tempo ratios, with the melody moving either forward or backward. In *Canonic Offerings* I have selected a small number of these combinations based on three such melodies, attempting to give the flavor of the combinatorial possibilities within the context of a unified (and finite) composition.

Canons two, four, and five are based on the concept of continuous *accelerando* throughout. Arrows from one tempo marking to another indicate a continuous acceleration from the first to the second tempo. The changes of tempo should be as smooth and steady as possible. For practical notational purposes, faster tempos are regularly reinterpreted as slower tempos using *metric modulation*. For example, a tempo indication of 𝅗𝅥 = ♩ = 60 means that the tempo at the end of the previous measure is 𝅗𝅥 = 60. The half note is then reinterpreted as a quarter note, so that the tempo at the beginning of the measure is ♩ = 60. All tempo indications are relative to an initial tempo of ♩ = 72. If the initial tempo is slightly faster or slower than ♩ = 72, then all of the subsequent tempo indications will need to be adjusted accordingly.

The complex tempo ratios (e.g., 11:4, 28:12:7:3, and $\sqrt[4]{8}$) in canons two, four, five, and possibly three require the players to use click tracks for synchronization. These click tracks are stereo files that contain separate tempo tracks on the right and left channels. Players should listen only to the single channel that is indicated for their part.

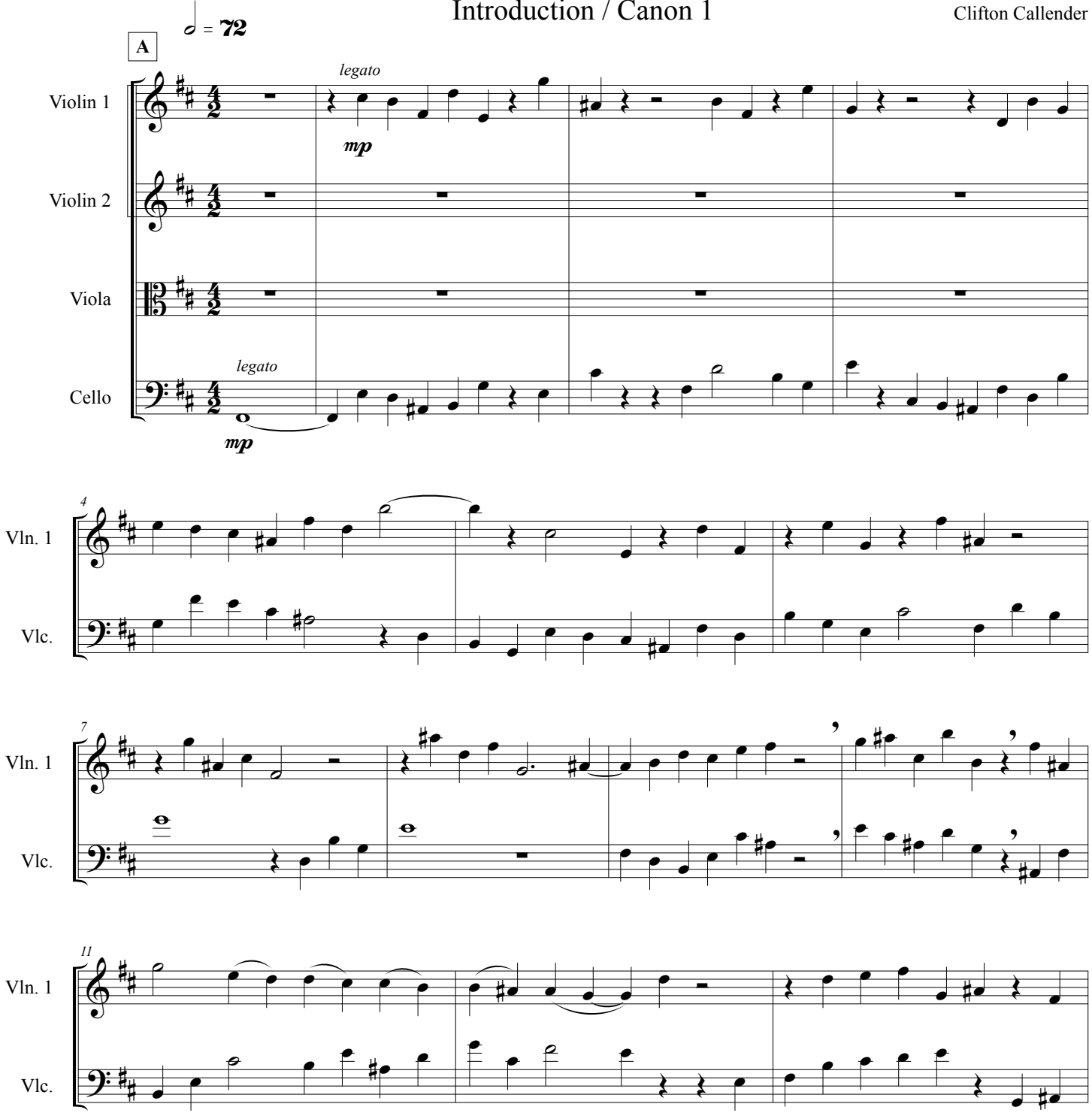
Click tracks are available by contacting me at clifton.callender@gmail.com.

Canonic Offerings

Introduction / Canon 1

Clifton Callender

Score



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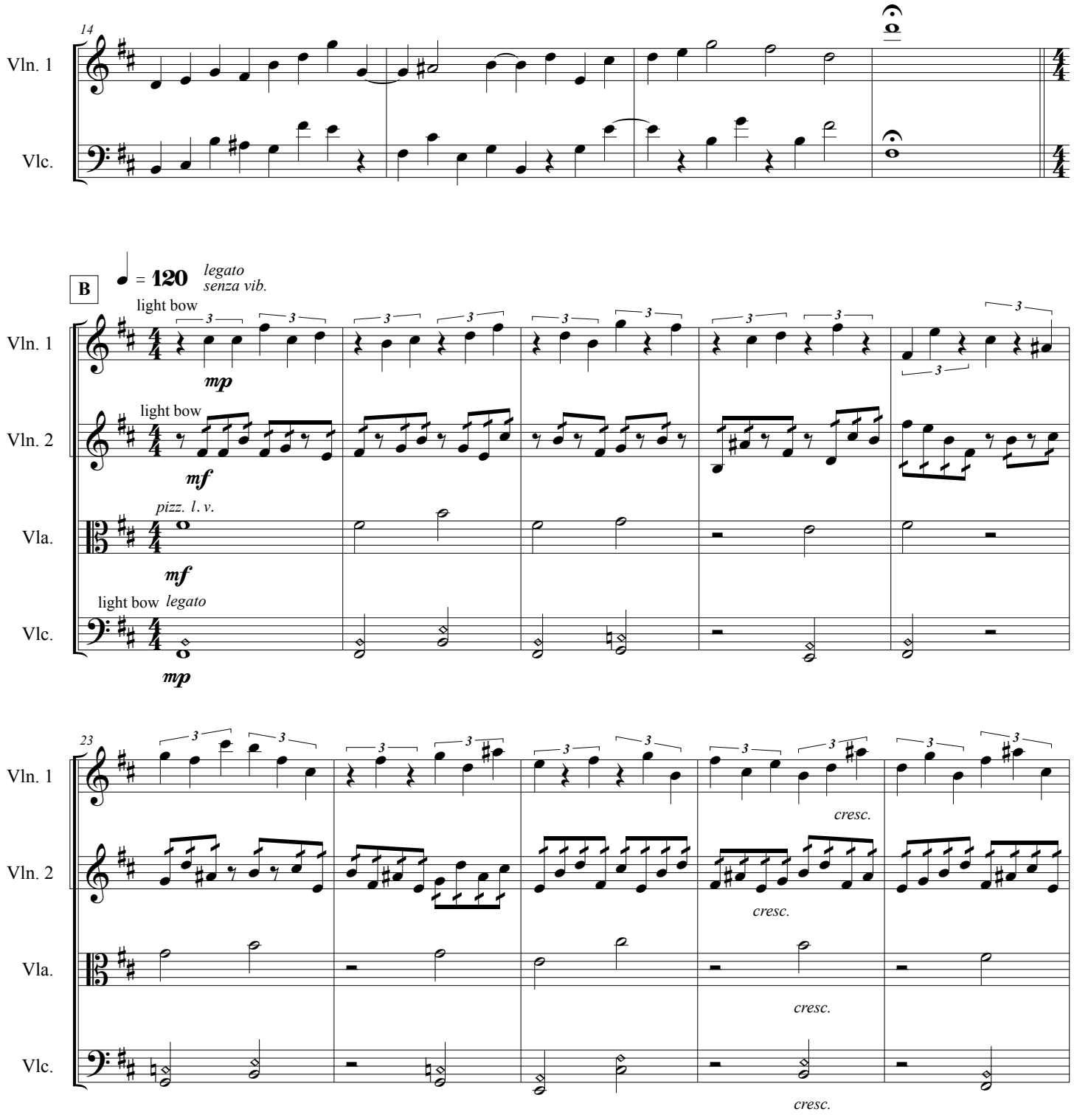
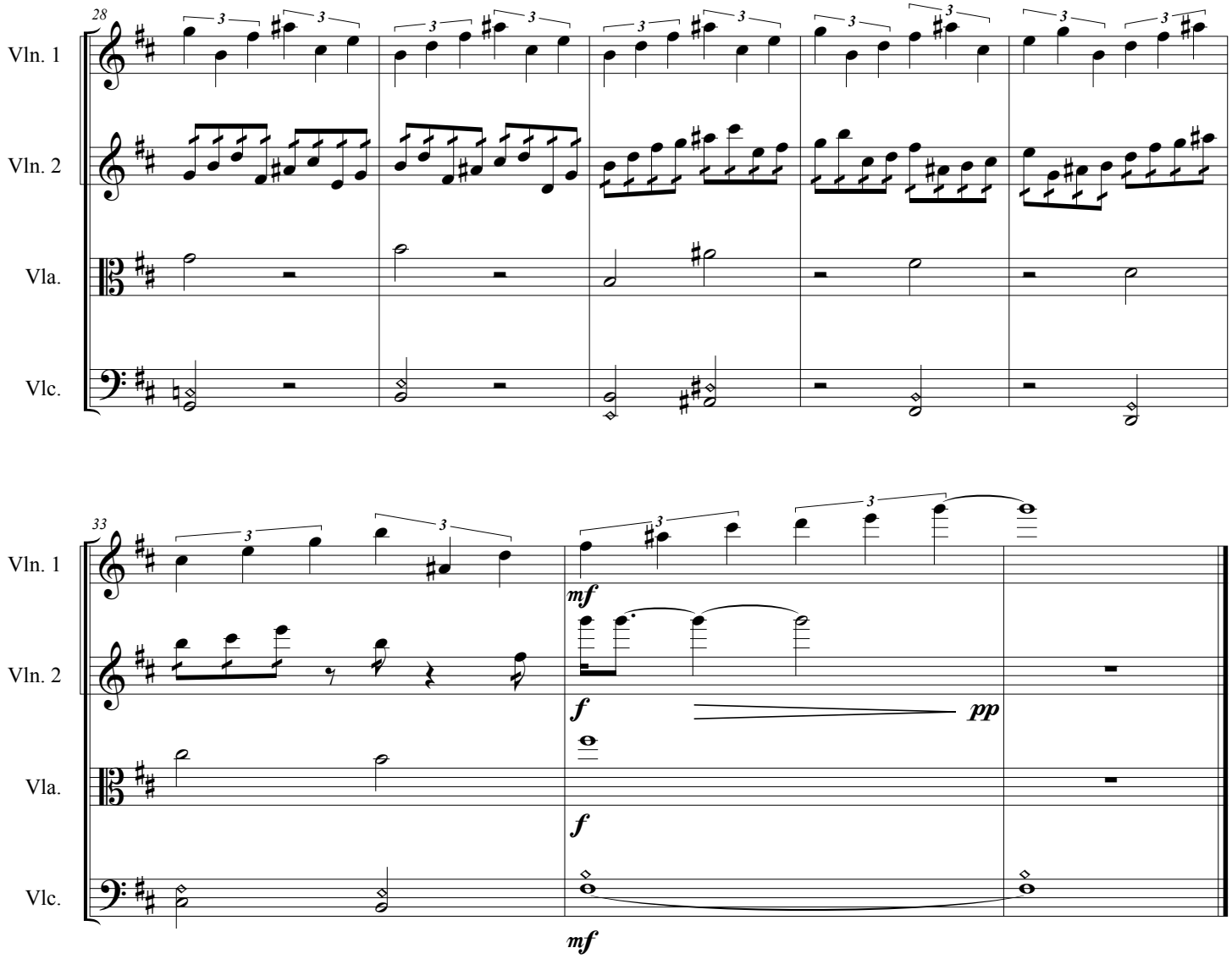
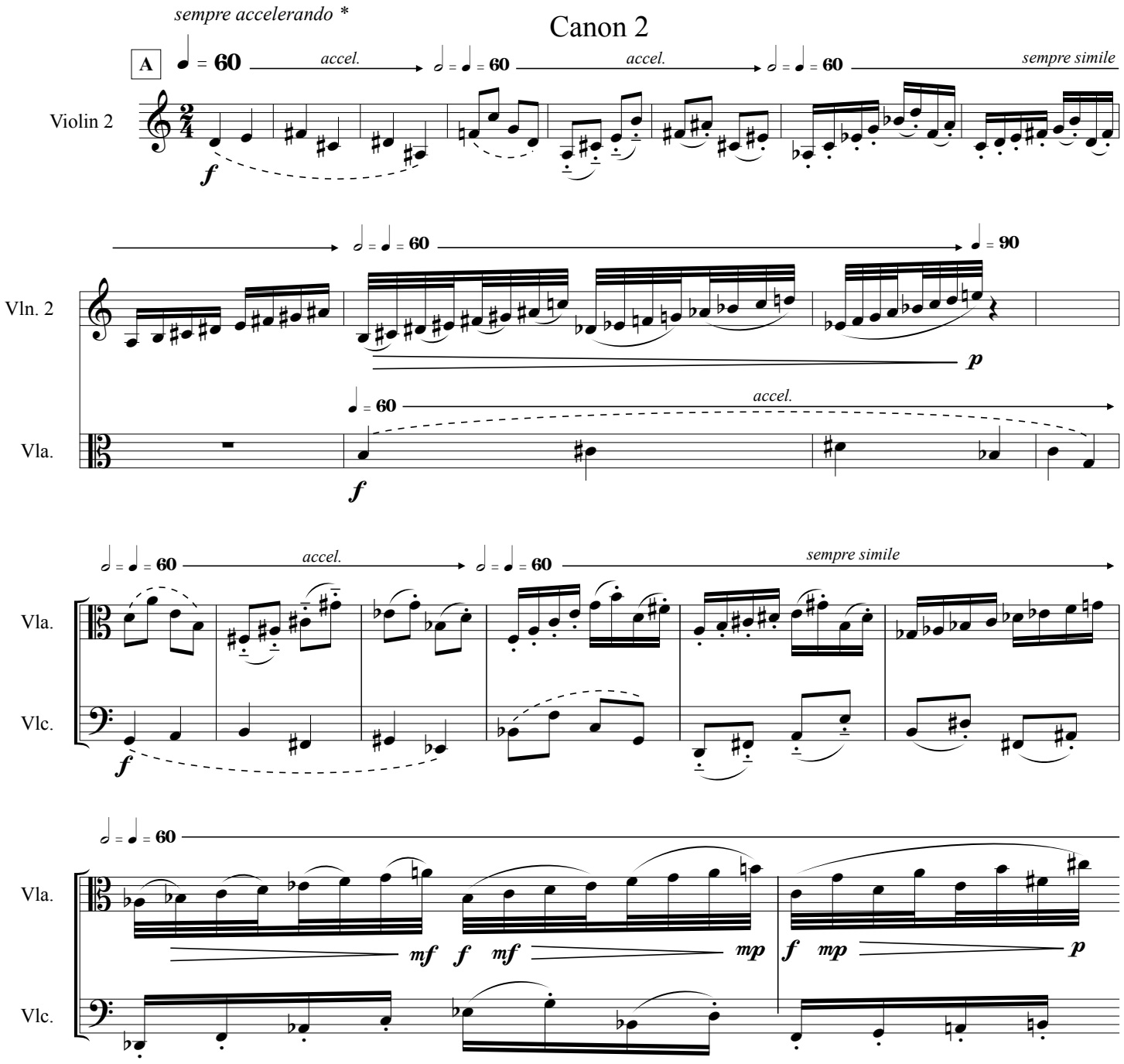

14
Vln. 1
Vlc.
B
♩ = 120
legato
senza vib.
light bow
mp
Vln. 1
light bow
mf
Vln. 2
pizz. l. v.
mf
Vla.
light bow
legato
mp
Vlc.
23
Vln. 1
cresc.
Vln. 2
cresc.
Vla.
cresc.
Vlc.
cresc.

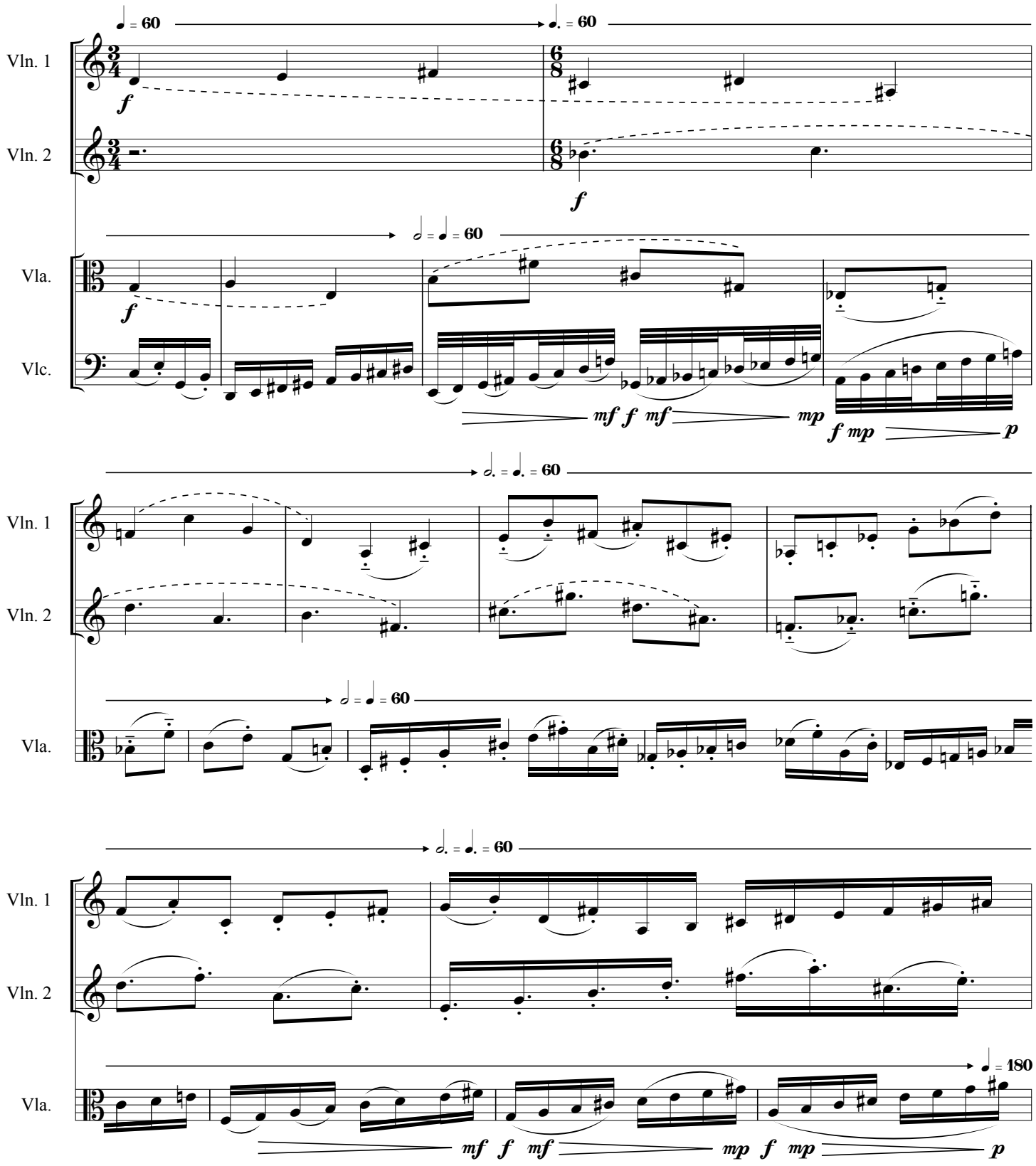


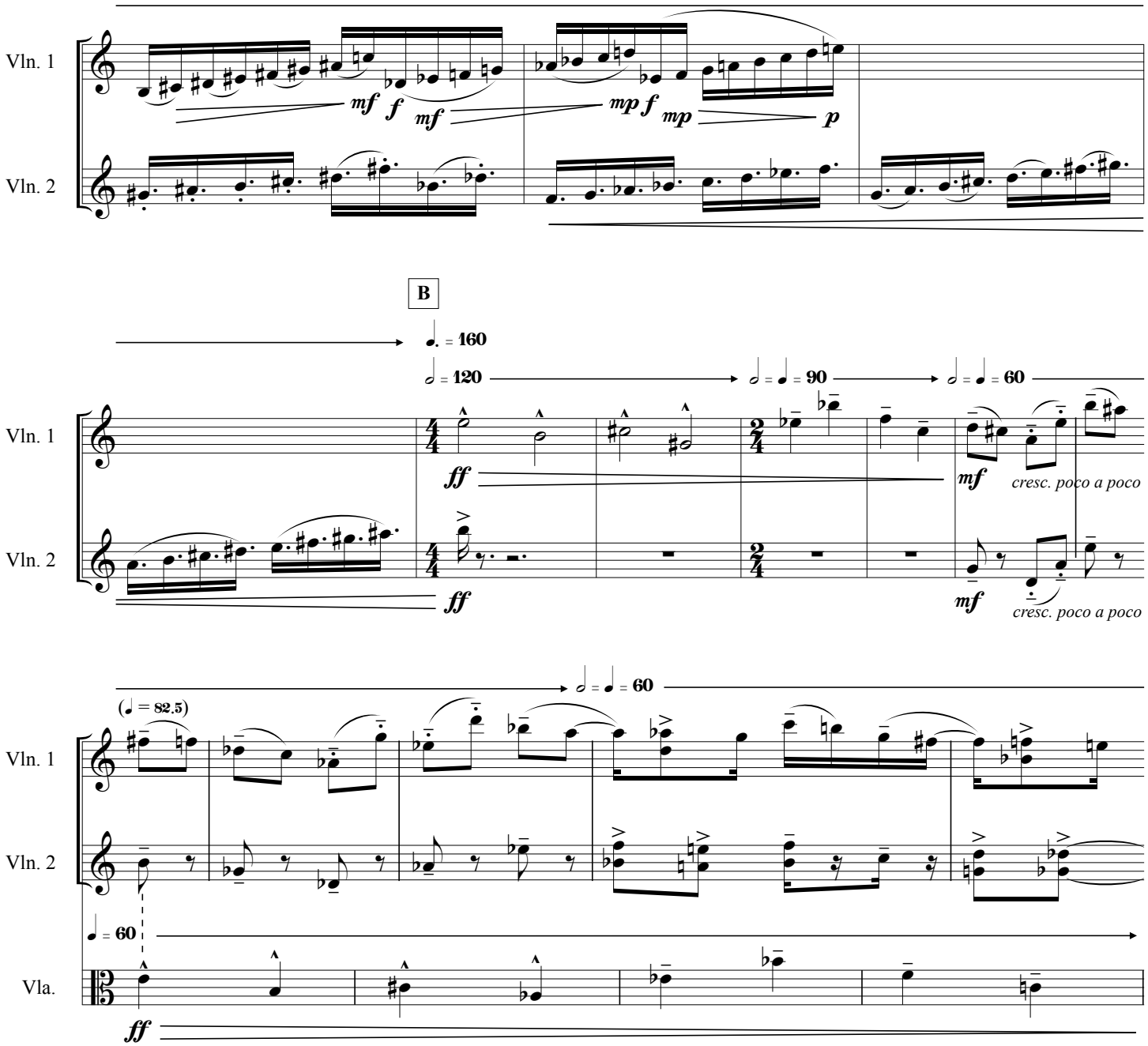
attacca

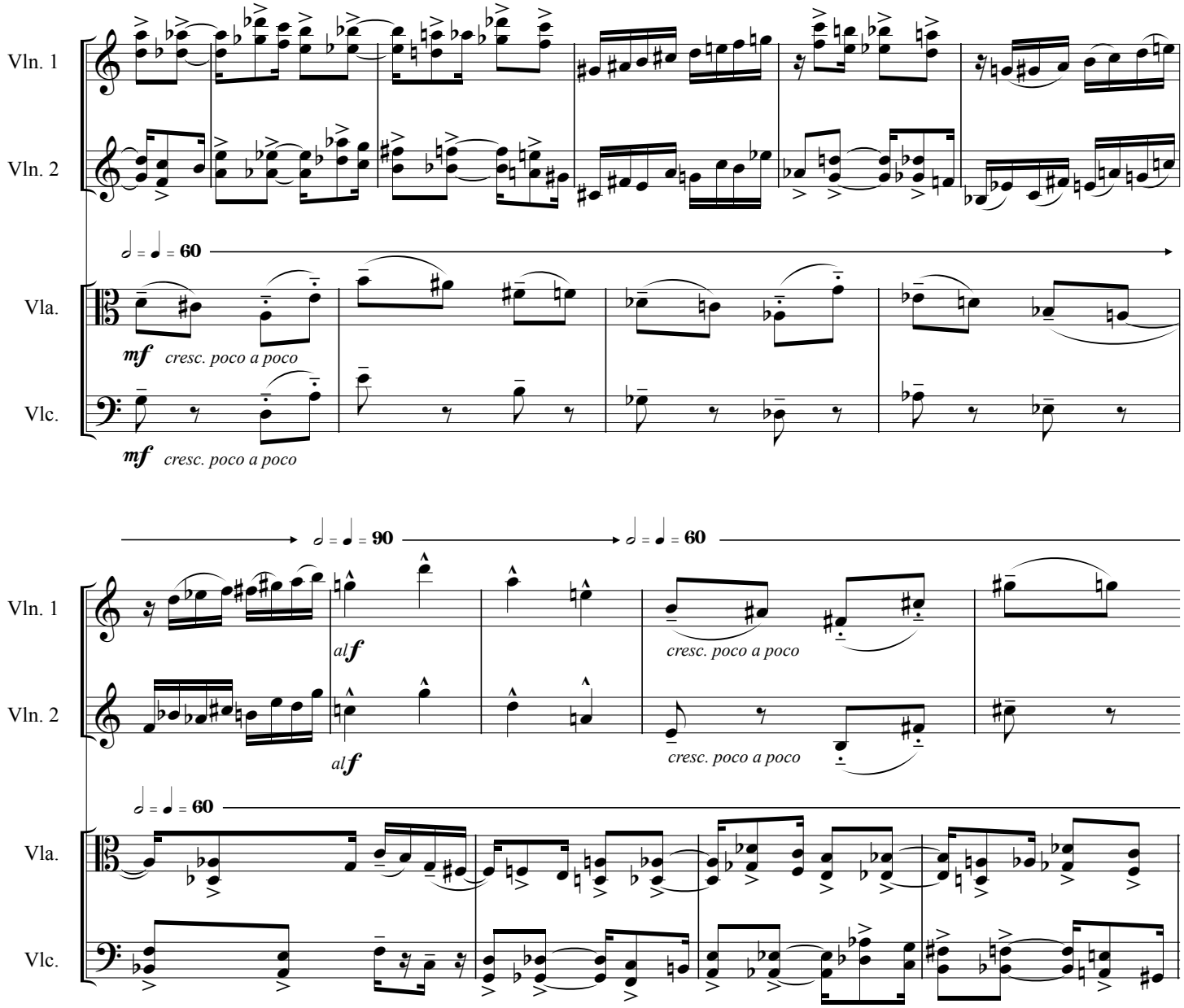
Canon 2

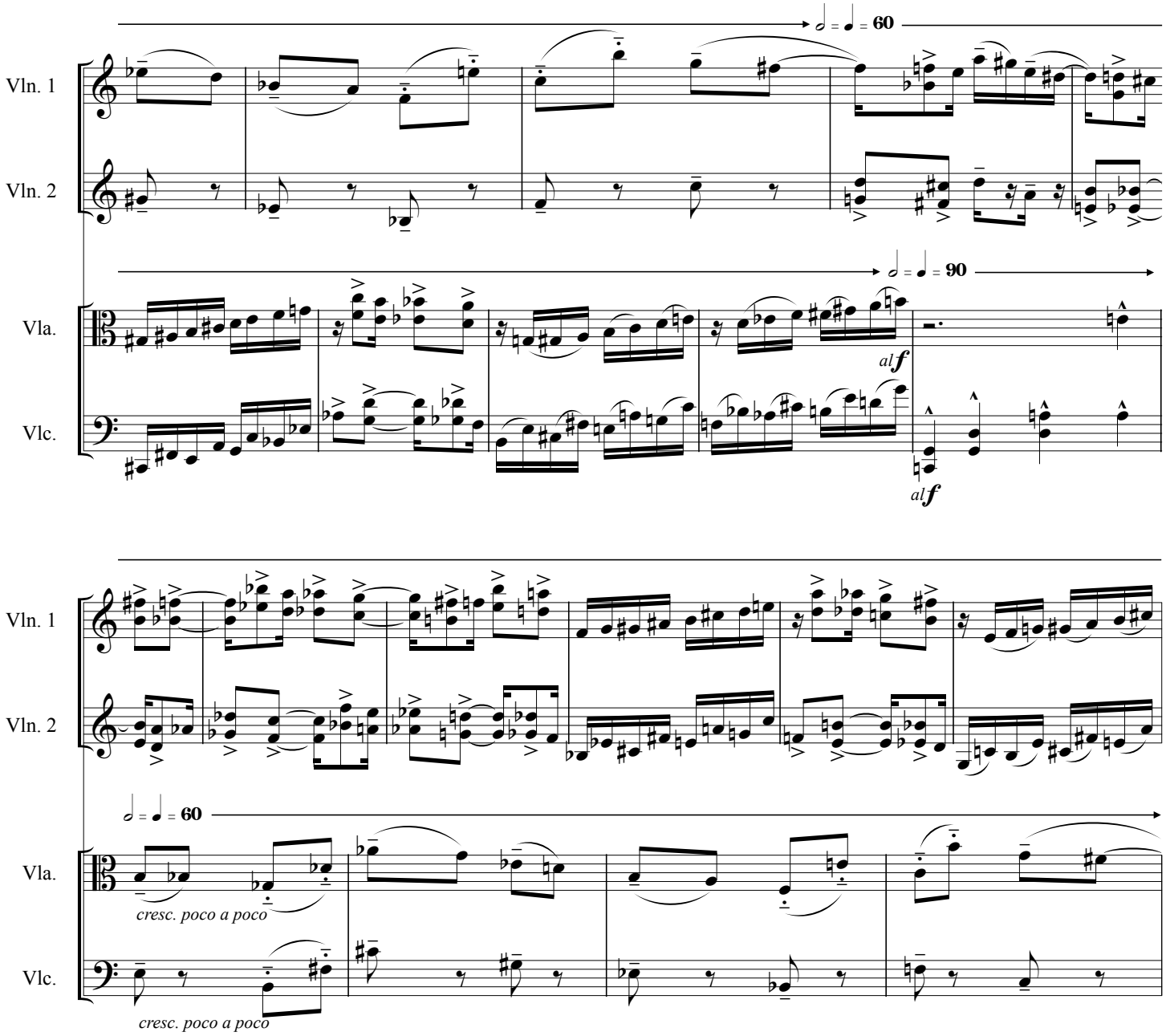


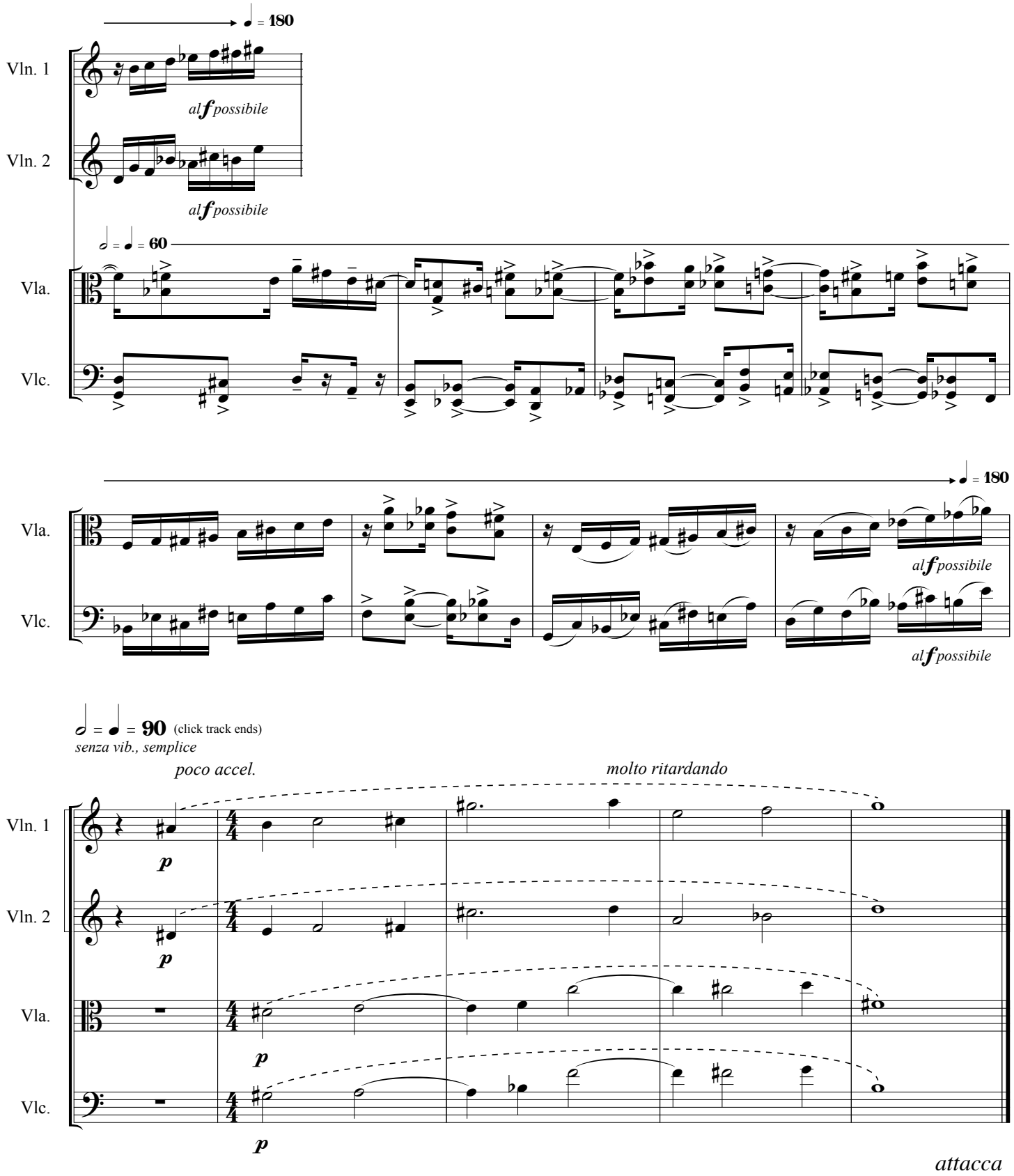
* Click track is a stereo file. Violins 1 and 2 listen to the right channel; Viola and Cello listen to the left channel.


♩ = 60
♩. = 60
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
f
f
𝅗𝅥 = ♩ = 60
mf f mf
mp
f mp
p
𝅗𝅥. = ♩. = 60
𝅗𝅥 = ♩ = 60
𝅗𝅥. = ♩. = 60
♩ = 180
mf f mf
mp f mp
p

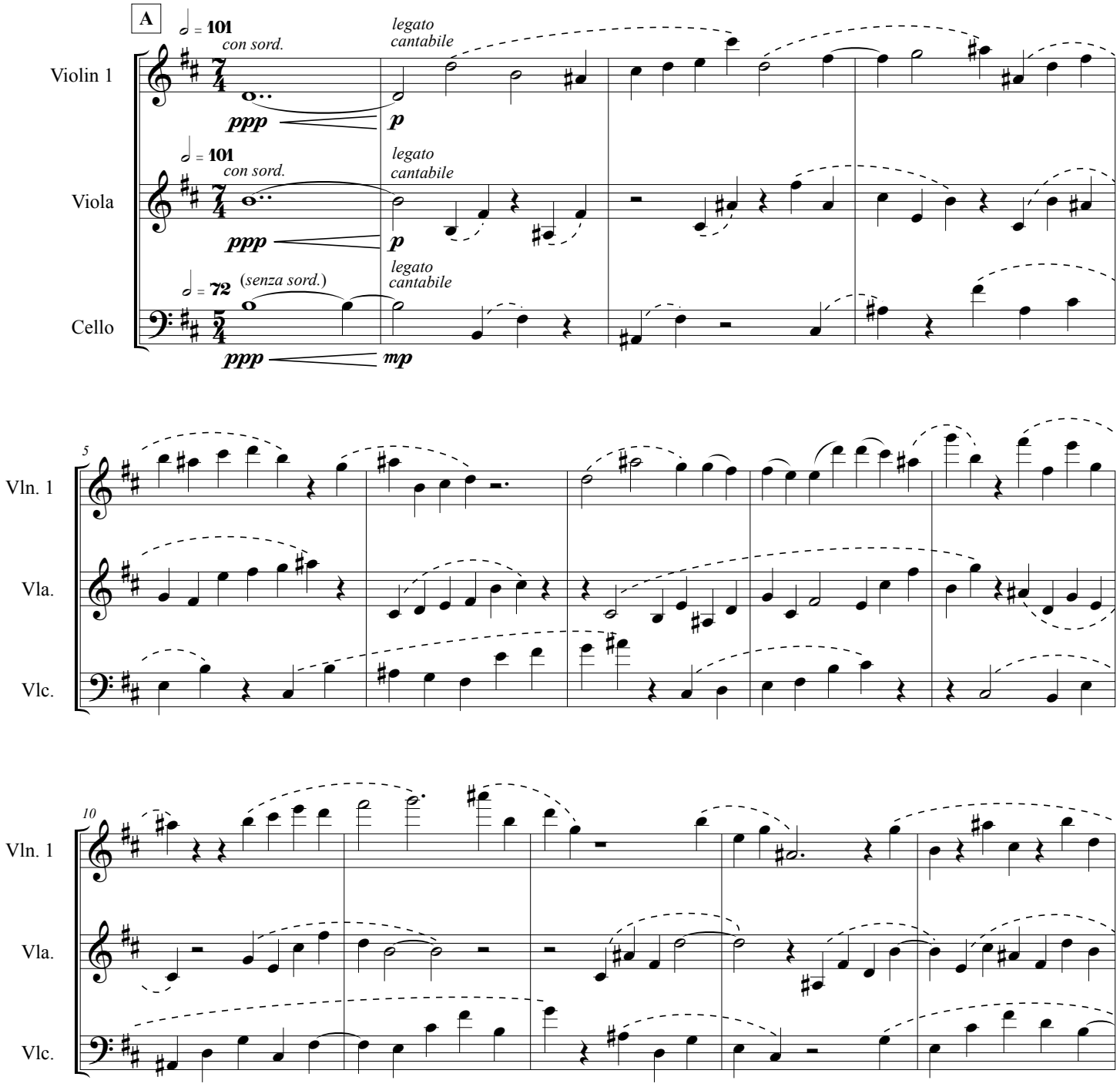

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
mf
f
mf
mp
f
mp
p
B
♩. = 160
𝅗𝅥 = 120
𝅗𝅥 = ♩ = 90
𝅗𝅥 = ♩ = 60
ff
ff
mf
cresc. poco a poco
mf
cresc. poco a poco
(♩ = 82.5)
𝅗𝅥 = ♩ = 60
♩ = 60
Vla.
ff


Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
𝅗𝅥 = ♩ = 60
mf cresc. poco a poco
mf cresc. poco a poco
𝅗𝅥 = ♩ = 90
𝅗𝅥 = ♩ = 60
alf
alf
cresc. poco a poco
cresc. poco a poco
𝅗𝅥 = ♩ = 60

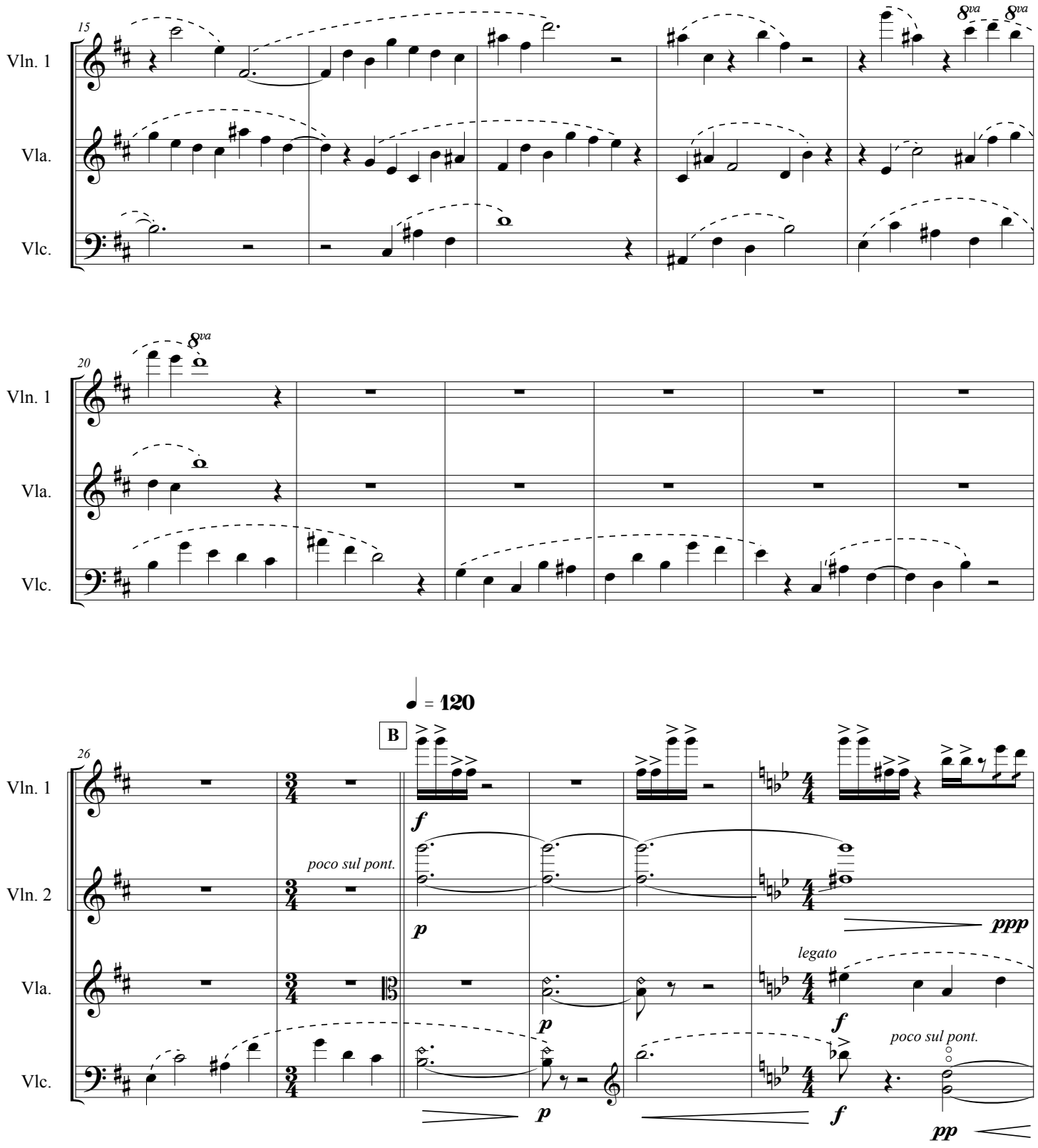

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
𝅗𝅥 = ♩ = 60
𝅗𝅥 = ♩ = 90
al f
al f
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
𝅗𝅥 = ♩ = 60
Vla.
cresc. poco a poco
Vlc.
cresc. poco a poco

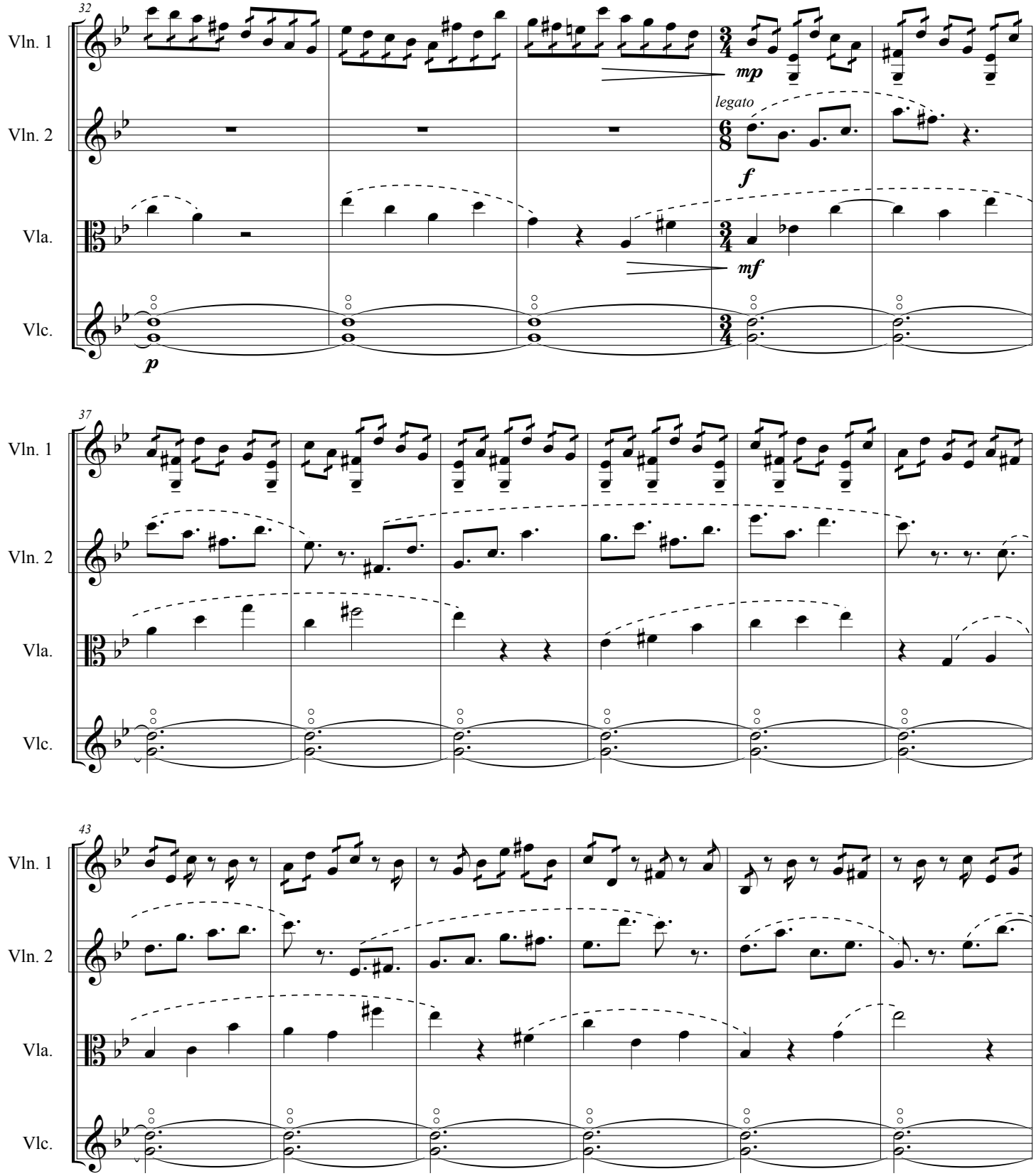

♩ = 180
Vln. 1
al f possibile
Vln. 2
al f possibile
𝅗𝅥 = ♩ = 60
Vla.
Vlc.
♩ = 180
Vla.
al f possibile
Vlc.
al f possibile
𝅗𝅥 = ♩ = 90 (click track ends)
senza vib., semplice
poco accel.
molto ritardando
Vln. 1
p
Vln. 2
p
Vla.
p
Vlc.
p
attacca

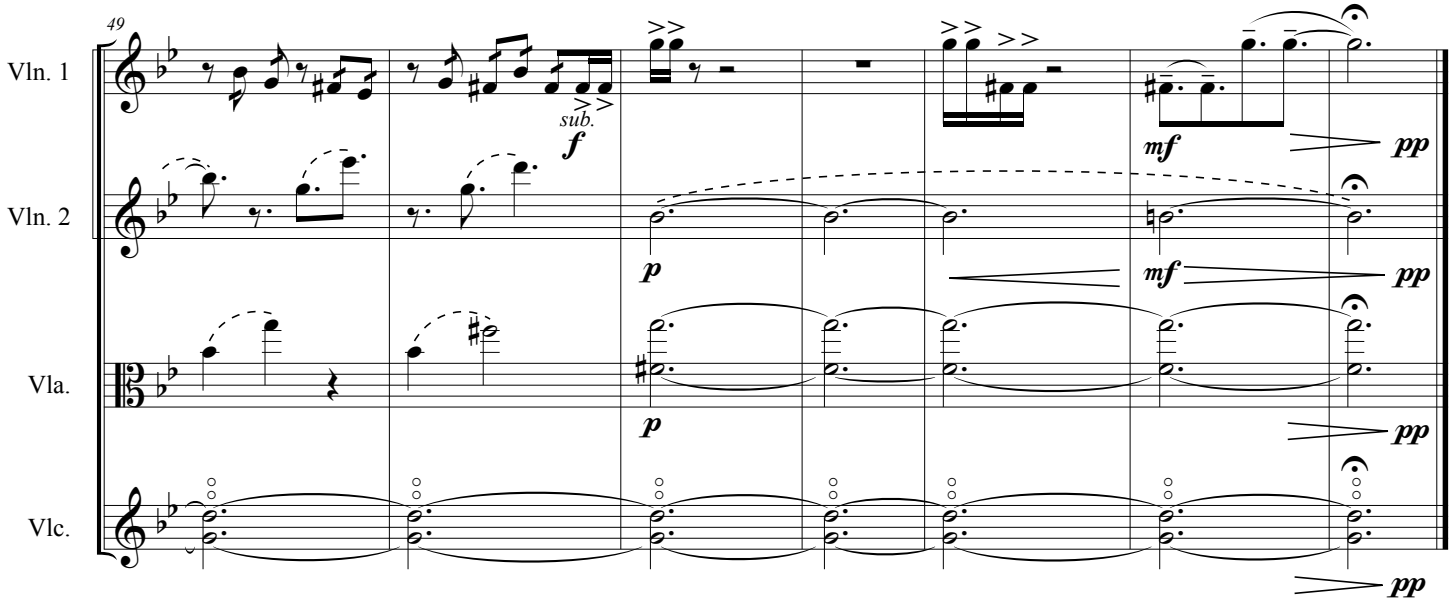
Canon 3



* Stereo click track is available. Violin 1 and Viola listen to the right channel; Cello listens to the left channel.

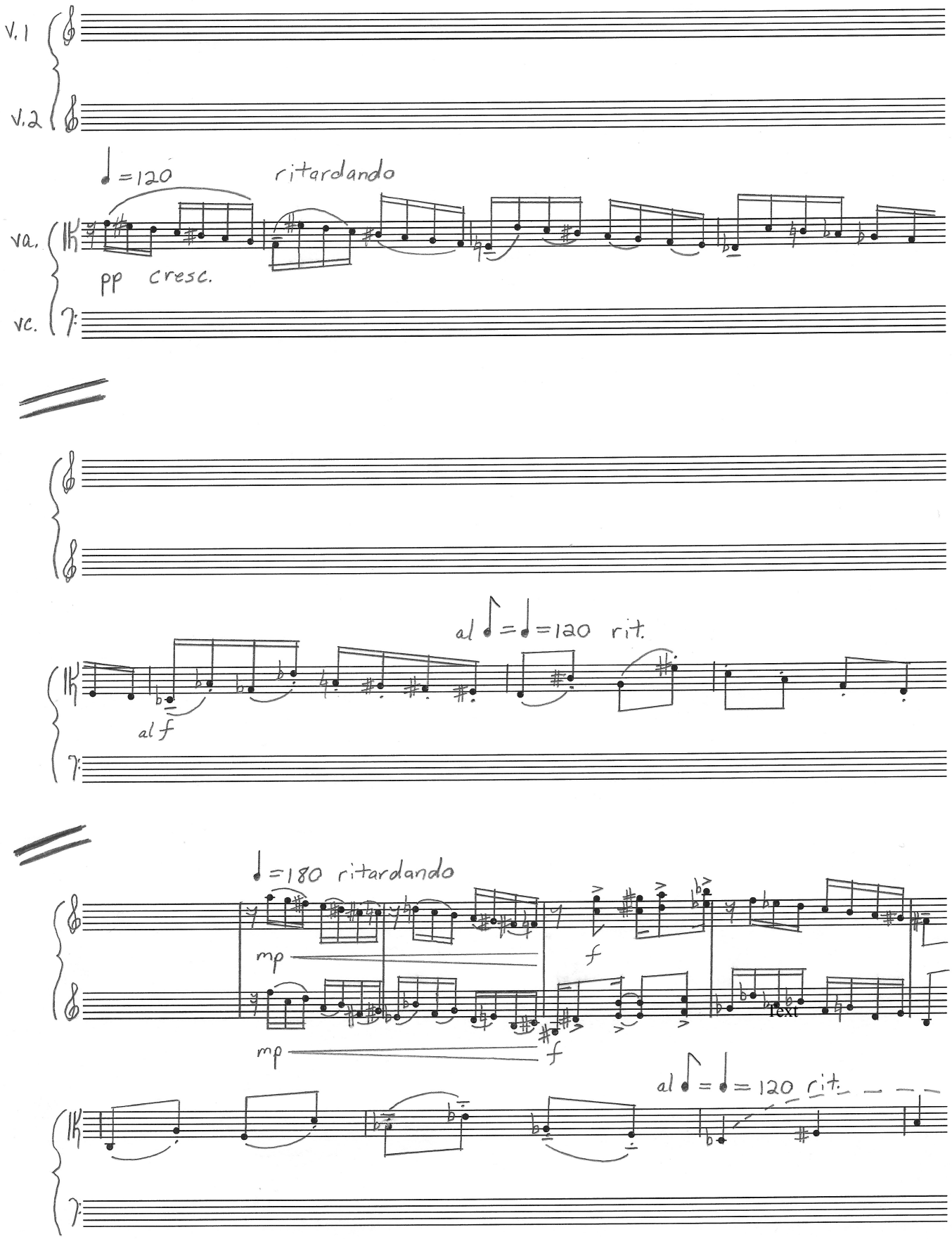

15
Vln. 1
Vla.
Vlc.
8va
8va
20
8va
Vln. 1
Vla.
Vlc.
♩ = 120
B
26
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
f
poco sul pont.
p
ppp
legato
p
f
poco sul pont.
p
f
pp


32
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
mp
legato
f
mf
p
37
43

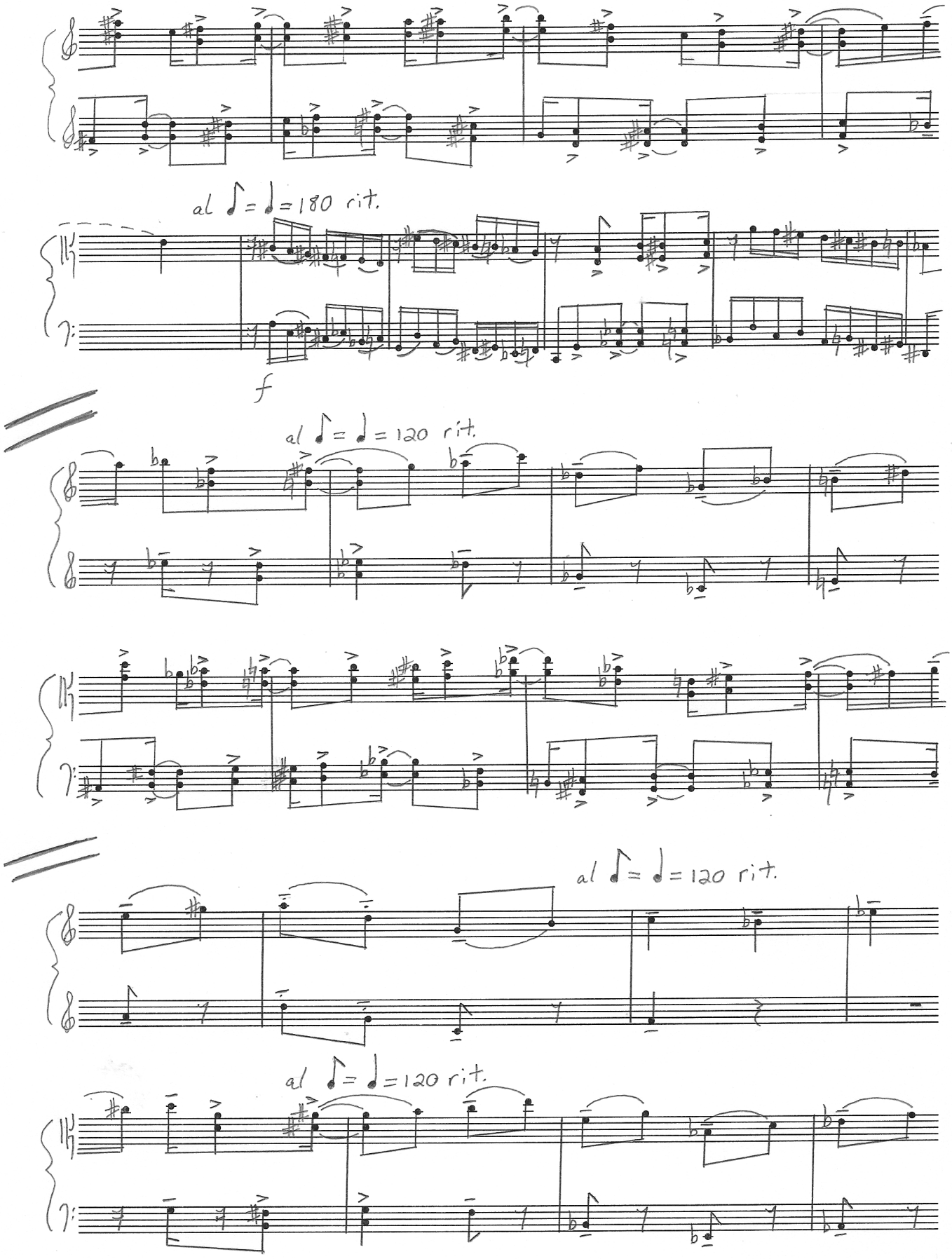


attacca

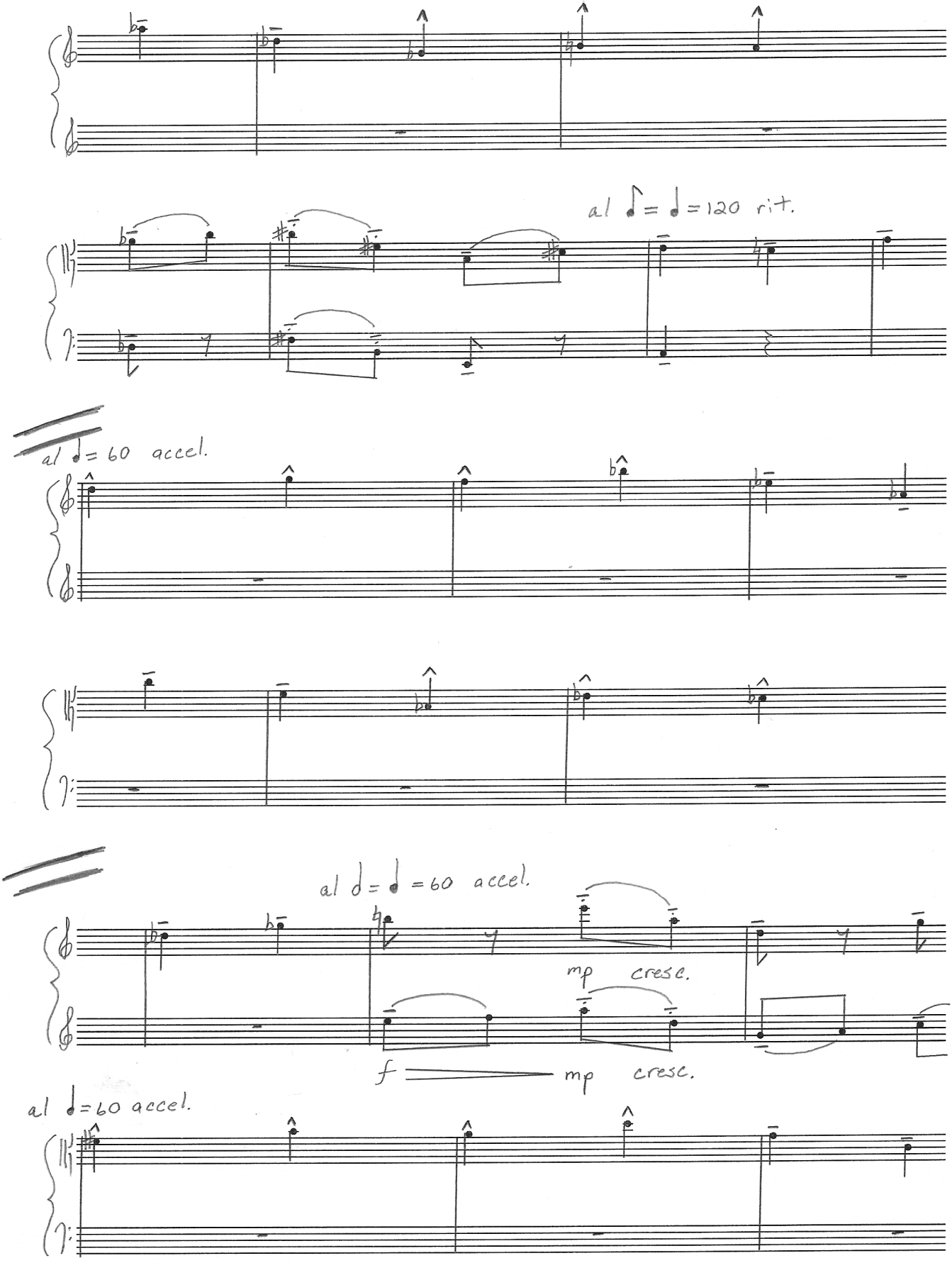
Canon 4

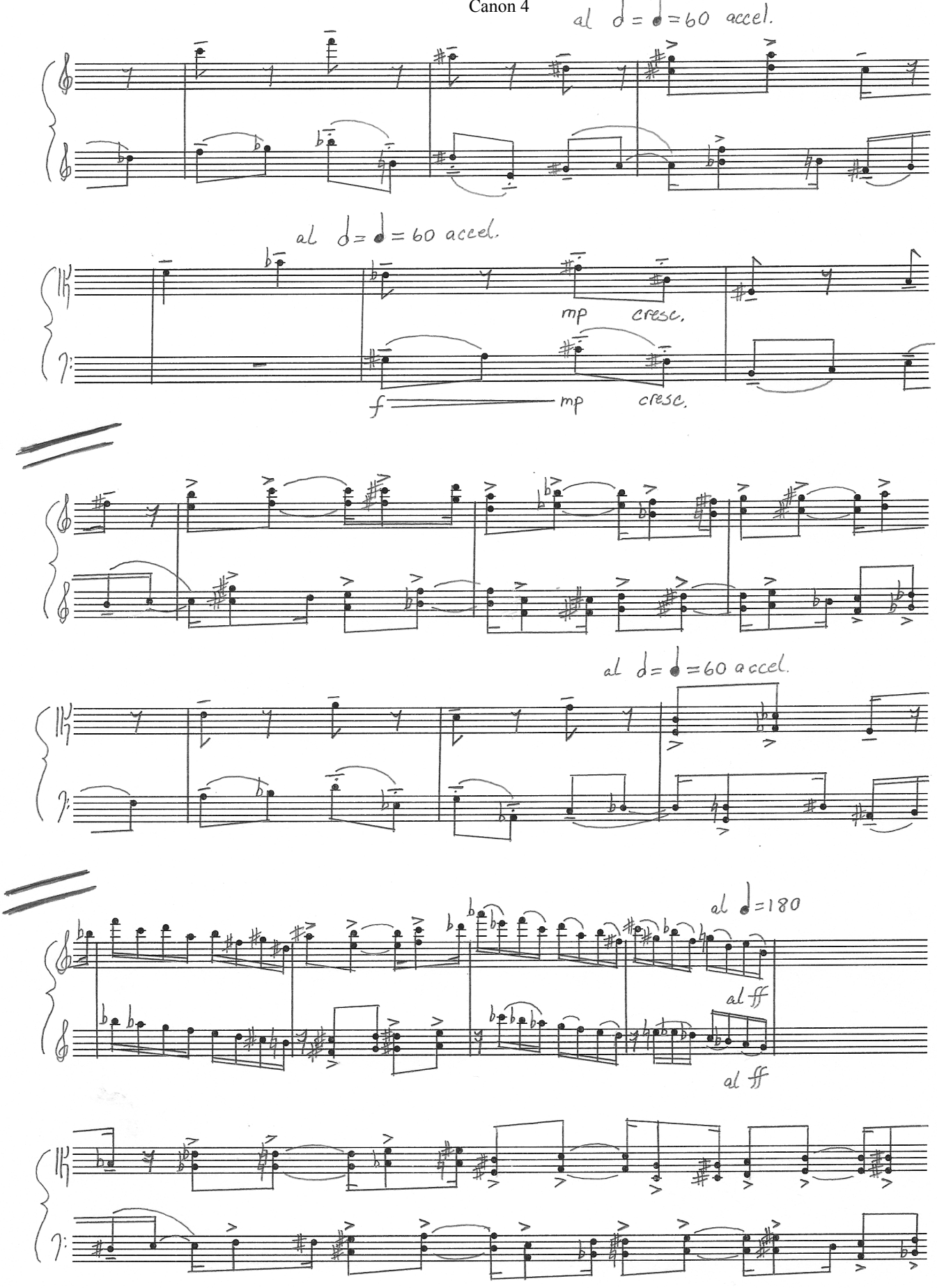


* Click track is a stereo file. Violins 1 and 2 listen to the right channel; Viola and Cello listen to the left channel.

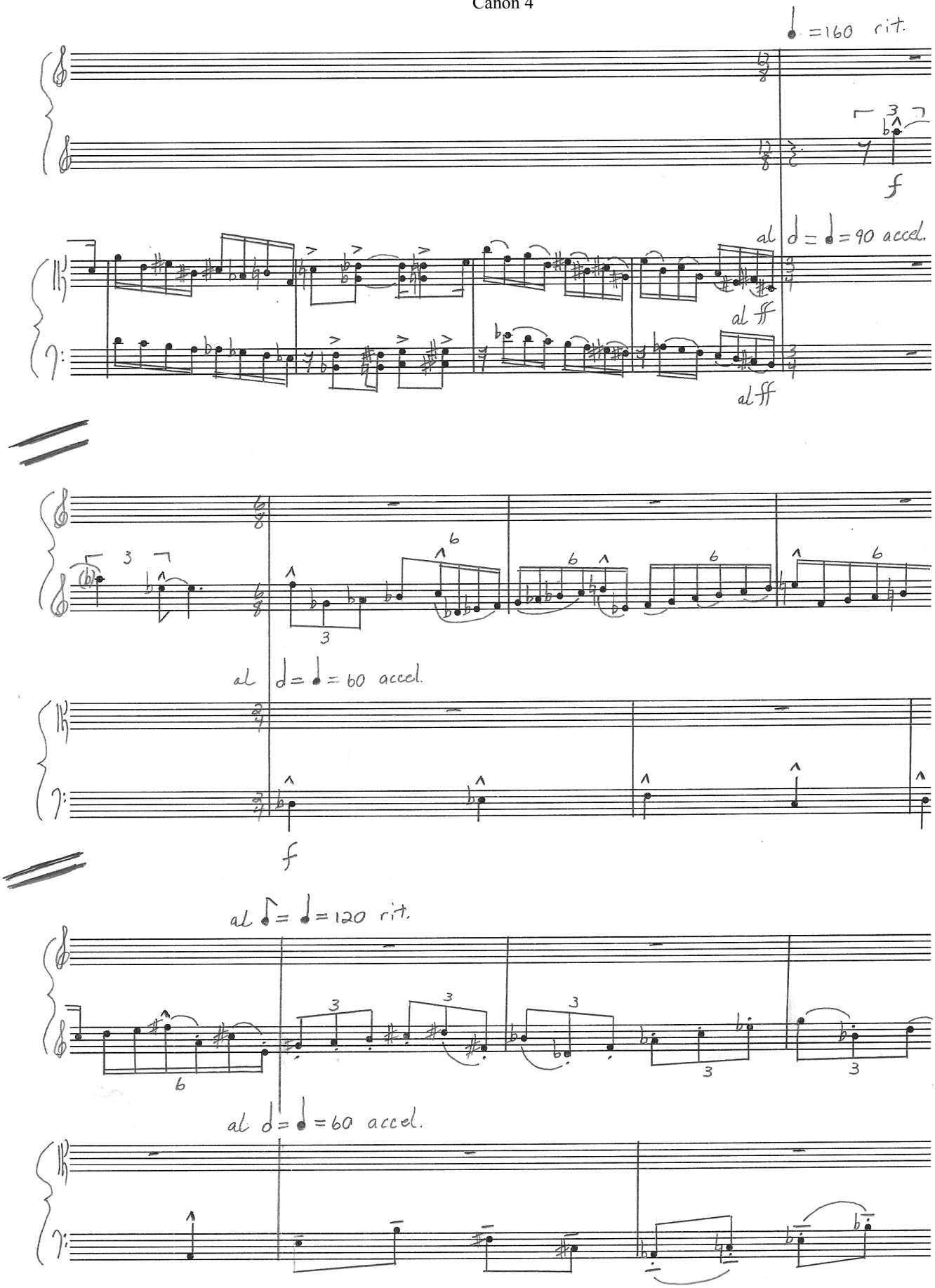

al ♪ = ♩ = 180 rit.
f
al ♪ = ♩ = 120 rit.
al ♪ = ♩ = 120 rit.
al ♪ = ♩ = 120 rit.

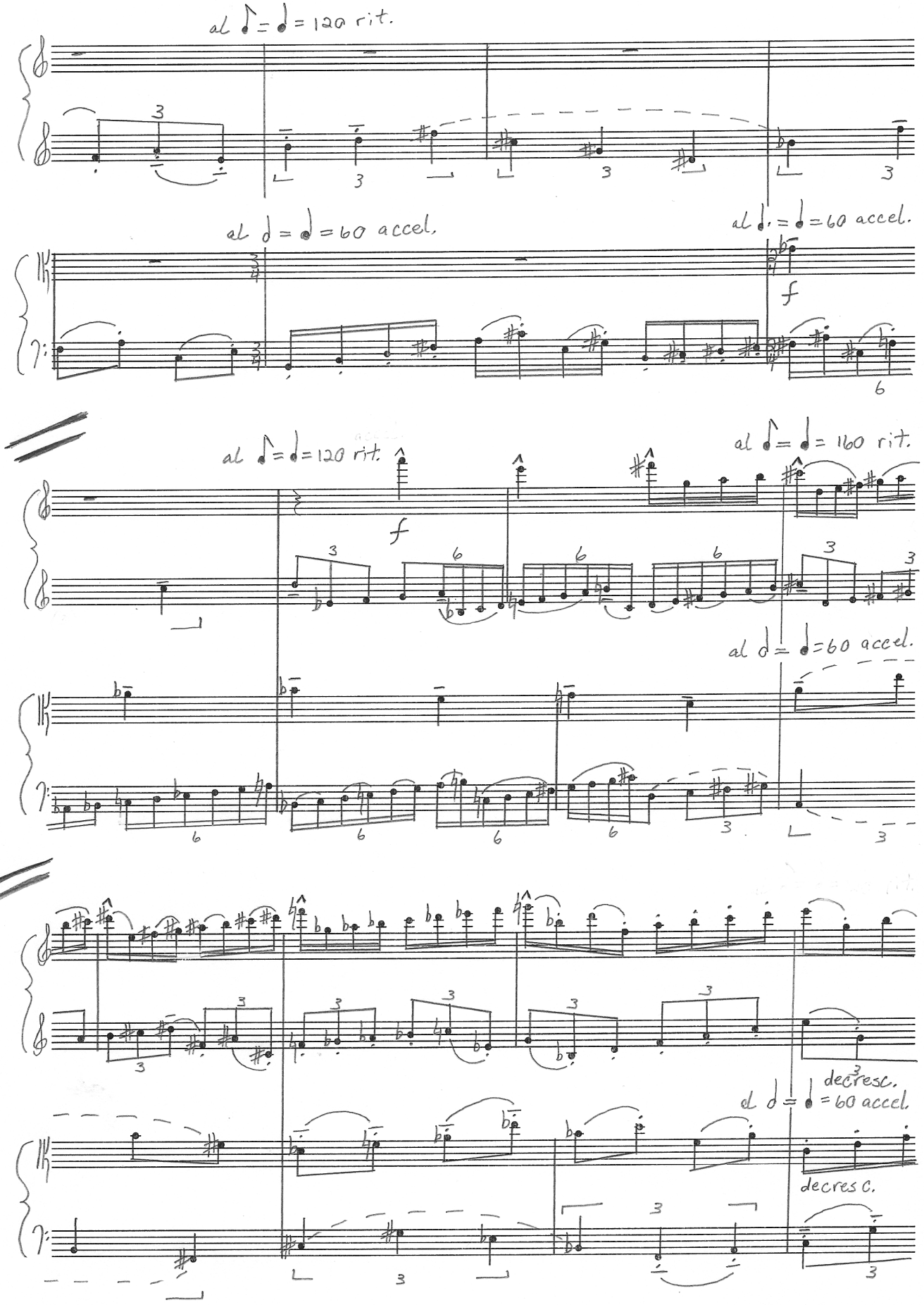
Canonic Offerings
Canon 4

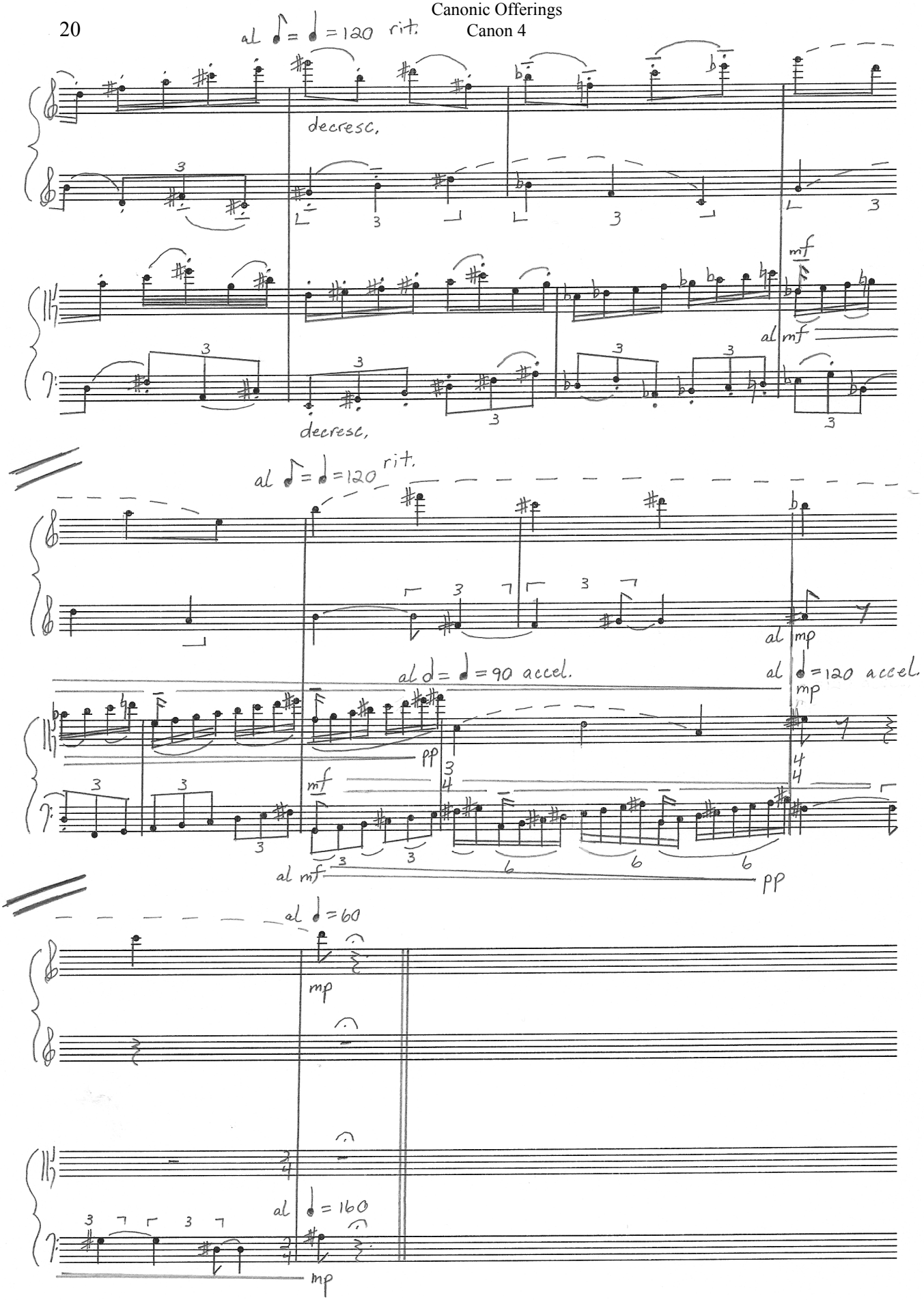



al 𝅗𝅥 = 𝅗𝅥 = 60 accel.
mp
cresc.
f
mp
cresc.
al 𝅗𝅥 = 𝅗𝅥 = 60 accel.
al 𝅗𝅥 = 𝅗𝅥 = 60 accel.
al 𝅗𝅥 = 180
al ff
al ff

Canonic Offerings
Canon 4




al 𝅗𝅥 = 𝅗𝅥 = 120 rit.
al 𝅗𝅥 = 𝅗𝅥 = 60 accel.
al 𝅗𝅥. = 𝅗𝅥 = 60 accel.
f
al 𝅗𝅥 = 𝅗𝅥 = 120 rit.
f
al 𝅗𝅥 = 𝅗𝅥 = 160 rit.
al 𝅗𝅥 = 𝅗𝅥 = 60 accel.
decresc.
al 𝅗𝅥 = 𝅗𝅥 = 60 accel.
decresc.


al ♪ = ♩ = 120 rit.
decresc.
mf
al mf
decresc.
al ♪ = ♩ = 120 rit.
mp
al ♩ = ♩ = 90 accel.
al ♩ = ♩ = 120 accel.
pp
mf
al mf
pp
al ♩ = 60
mp
al ♩ = 160
mp

Canon 5

♩ = 72

A

expressive, but with only a little vibrato

Violin 1 — *legato* full bow — *f*

Violin 2 — *legato* full bow — *f*

Viola — *legato* full bow — *f*

Cello — *legato* full bow — *f*

7

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

13

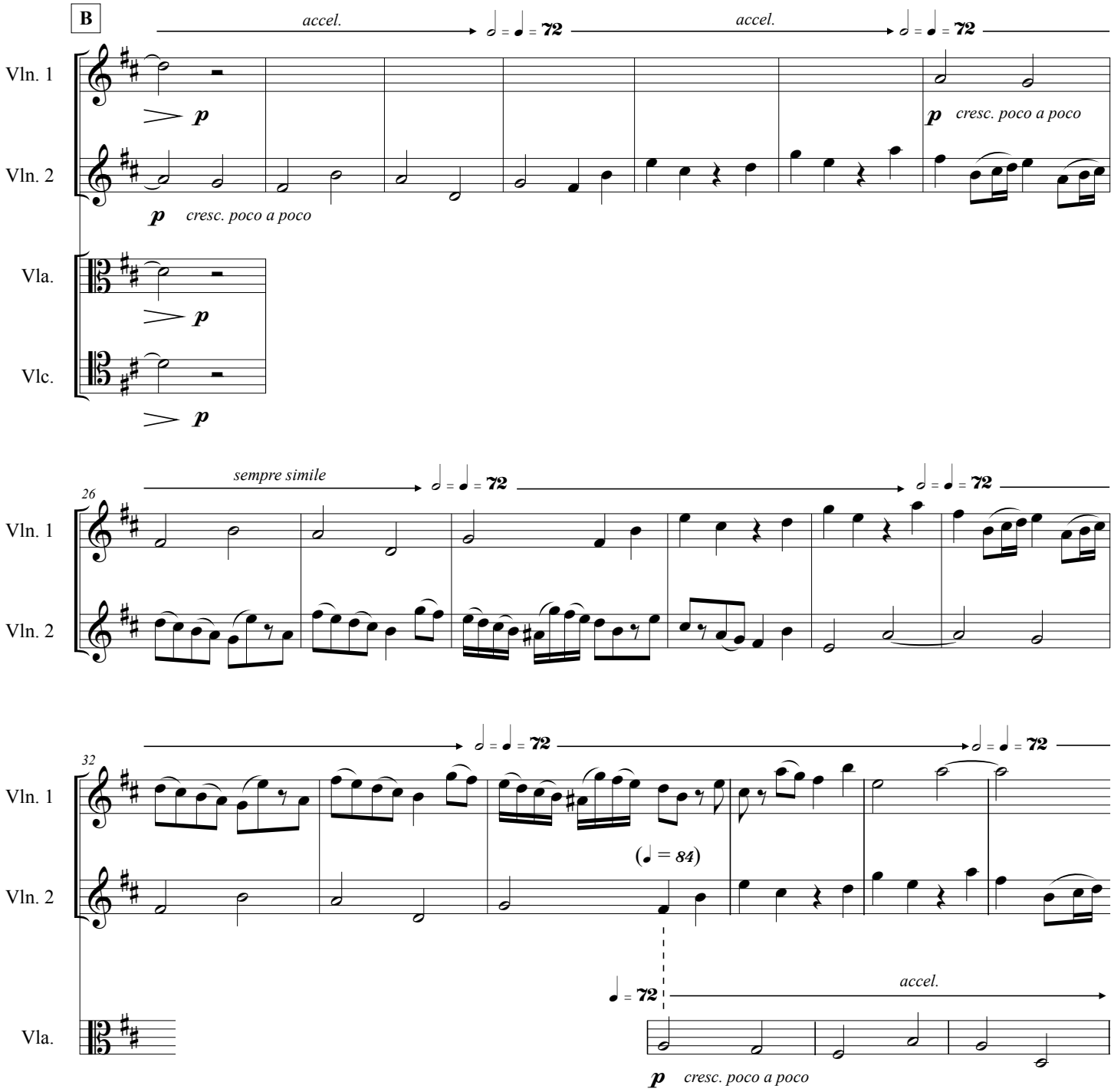
Vln. 1

Vln. 2

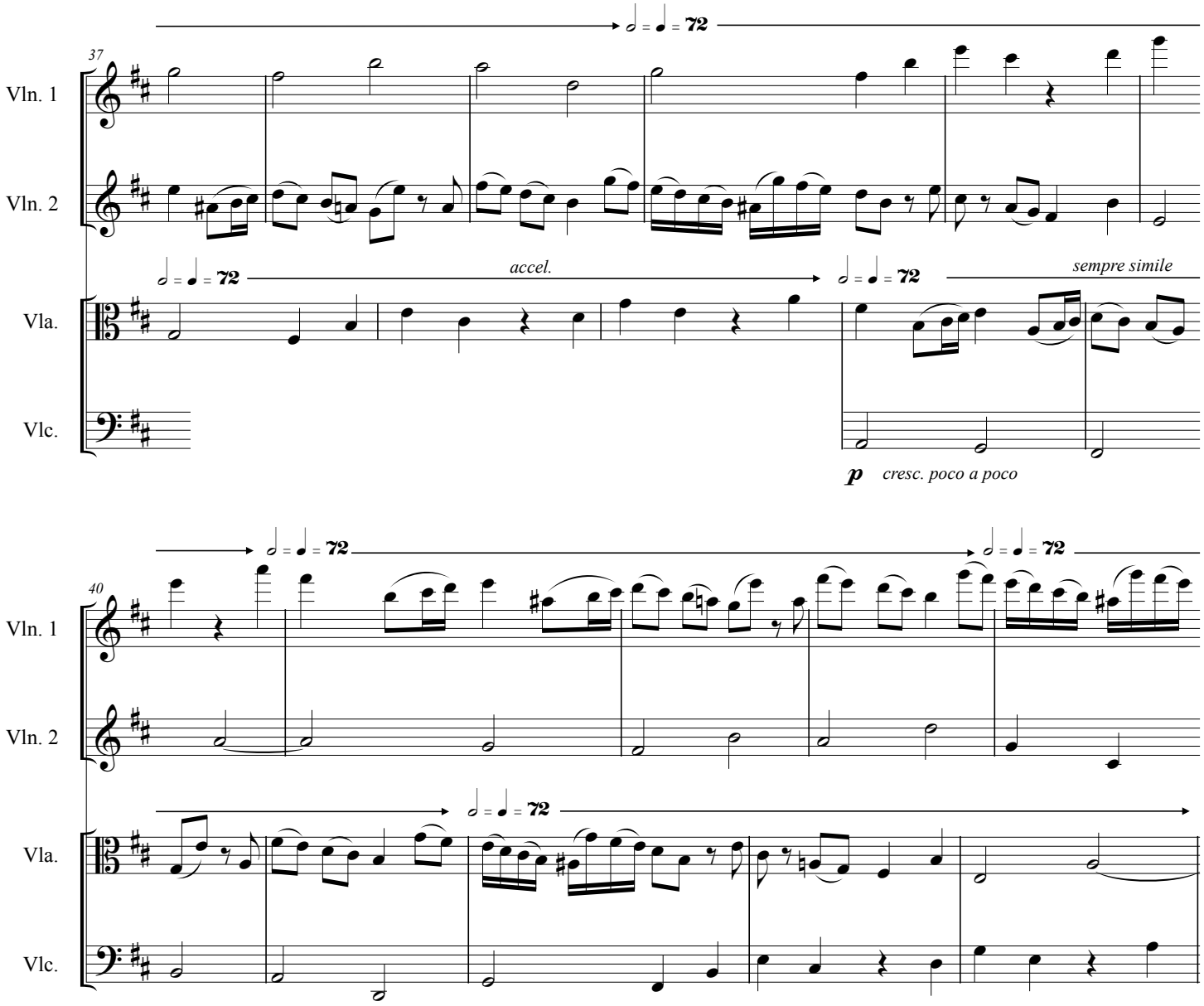
Vla.

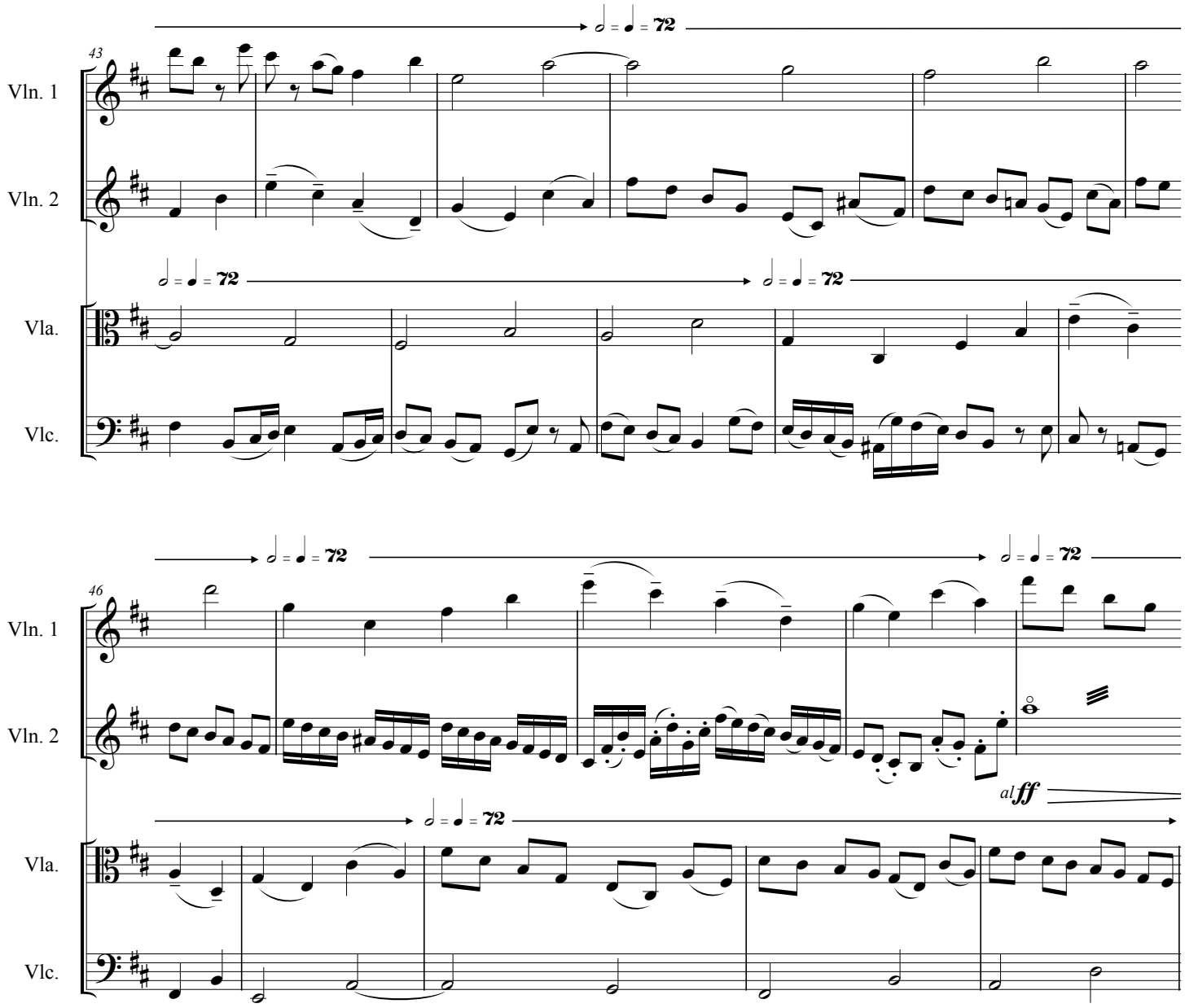
Vlc.

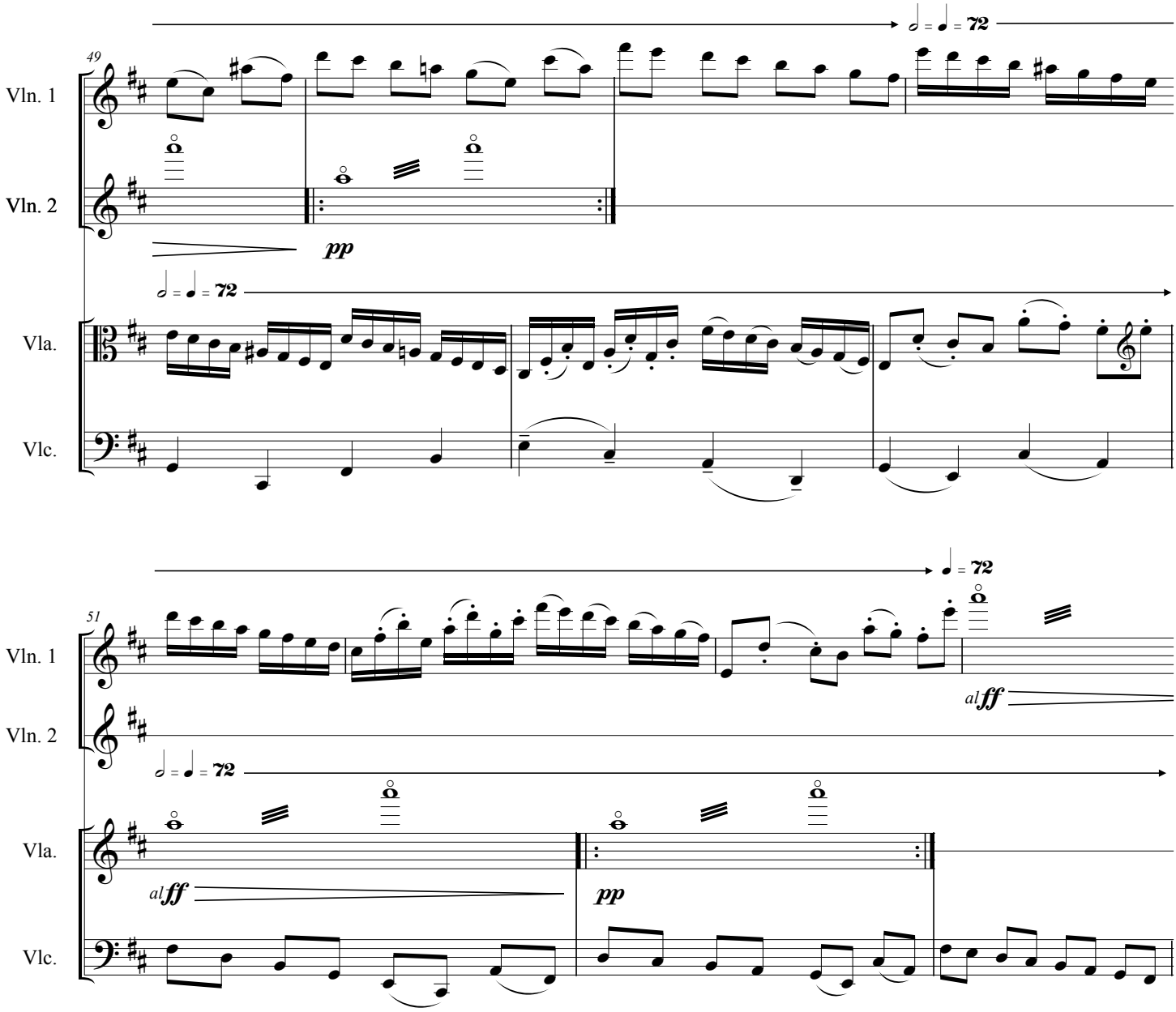
sempre accelerando *

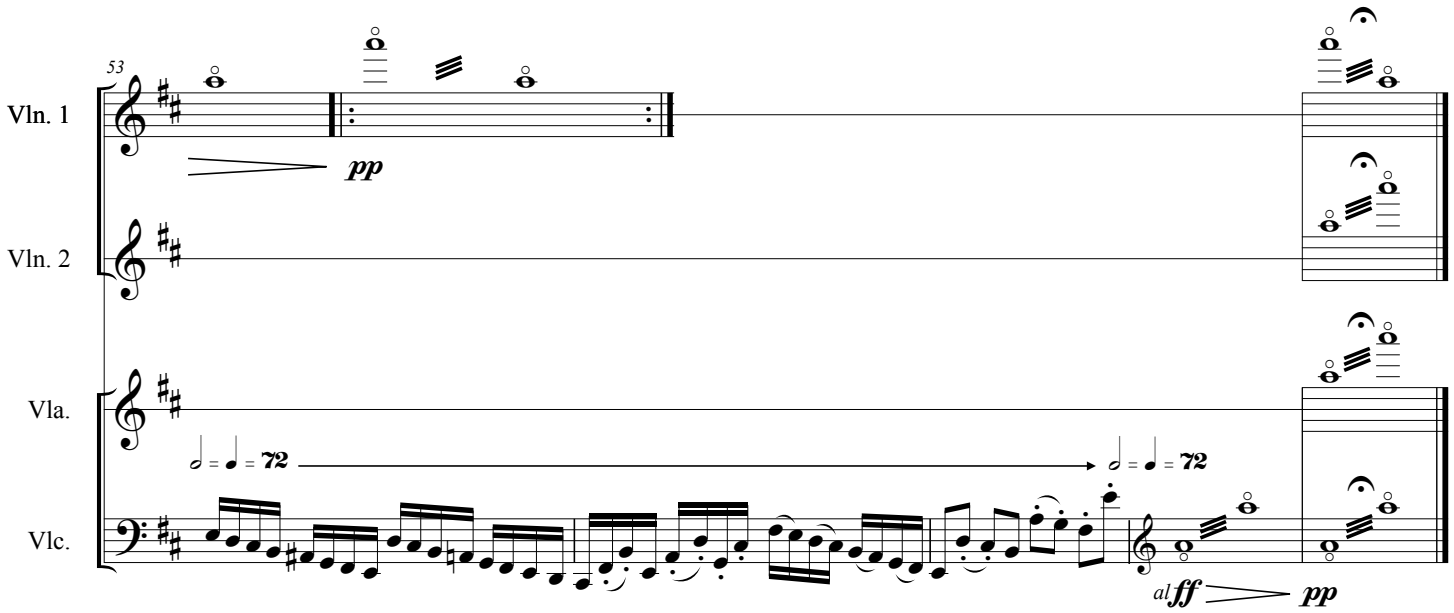


* Click track is a stereo file. Violins 1 and 2 listen to the right channel; Viola and Cello listen to the left channel.


37
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
accel.
sempre simile
p
cresc. poco a poco
40


43
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
46
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
al ff


49
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
pp
51
al ff
pp


53
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vlc.
pp
72
72
al ff
pp