Odd Sneeggen

Shades of black

For chamber ensemble (2013)

Score in C

Duration: 17’40

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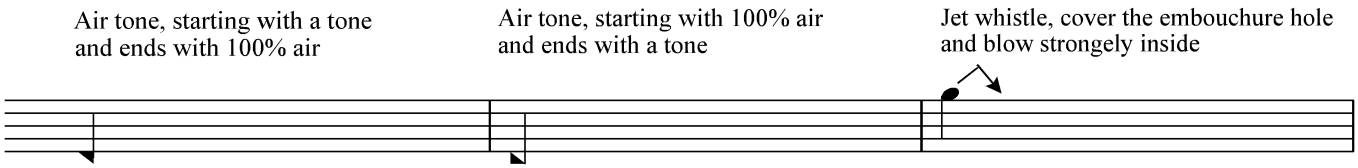
Shades of black, performing notes

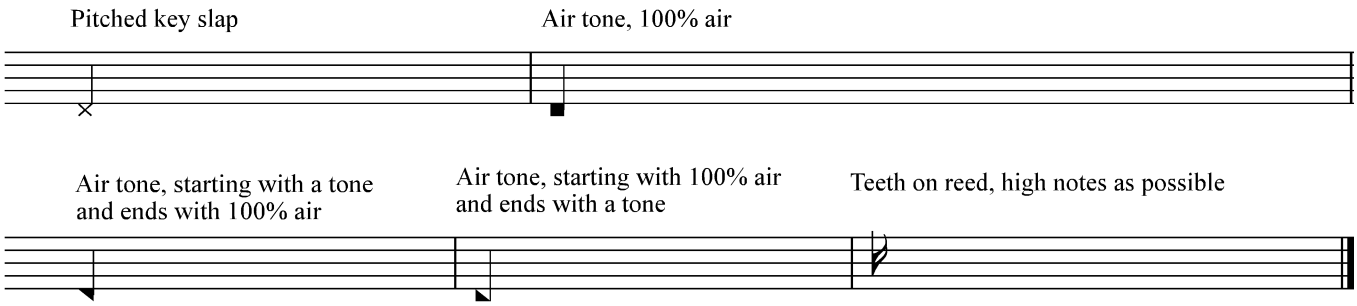
Odd Sneeggen

Ensemble:
Flute in C, alto, piccolo
Bass clarinet
Violin
Violoncello
Piano

FLUTE



Bass Clarinet



Background:
The image of life as the beginning and end of a journey – from darkness into the illuminated being,
and back into the darkness that is final – is both scary
and comforting at the same time; from black to black.
The colour black is solemn and formal. It can also be the colour of evil. A duality that is unique
among the colours – black also represents the lack of colour when light is not reflected on a black surface.
At the same time, black embraces all colours.
An inherited, purely emotional symbolism connects the colour of black with sadness, depression and hatred.
The piece *Shades of Black* began with me standing in front of an artwork by Karin Mamma Andersson, called *Doldrums*.
This painting makes uses of nuances of black colour and embodies much symbolism and much duplicity.
My experiencing of the work provoked various existential thoughts within me about what constitutes the most
extreme condition of all: the total lack of movement, both physical and mental.
The total "doldrum" that either holds still or turns into movement and life.
It was the latter which became the formal structure of the piece *Shades of Black*: the consequence
of the lack of movement.
What will follow a total lack of movement? Does it exist? When does the standstill transfer into movement?
The sonorities of the piece shape the duality
of the colour black, its lack of reflection and the richness of colours that it encapsulates.
Reflexes that sometimes emerge from the background,
and are exposed in the foreground; shades which sink down into the black absorbing surface,
gestures which become static backgrounds.
To supply the piece with an extra dimension, an instruction for lighting will be provided.

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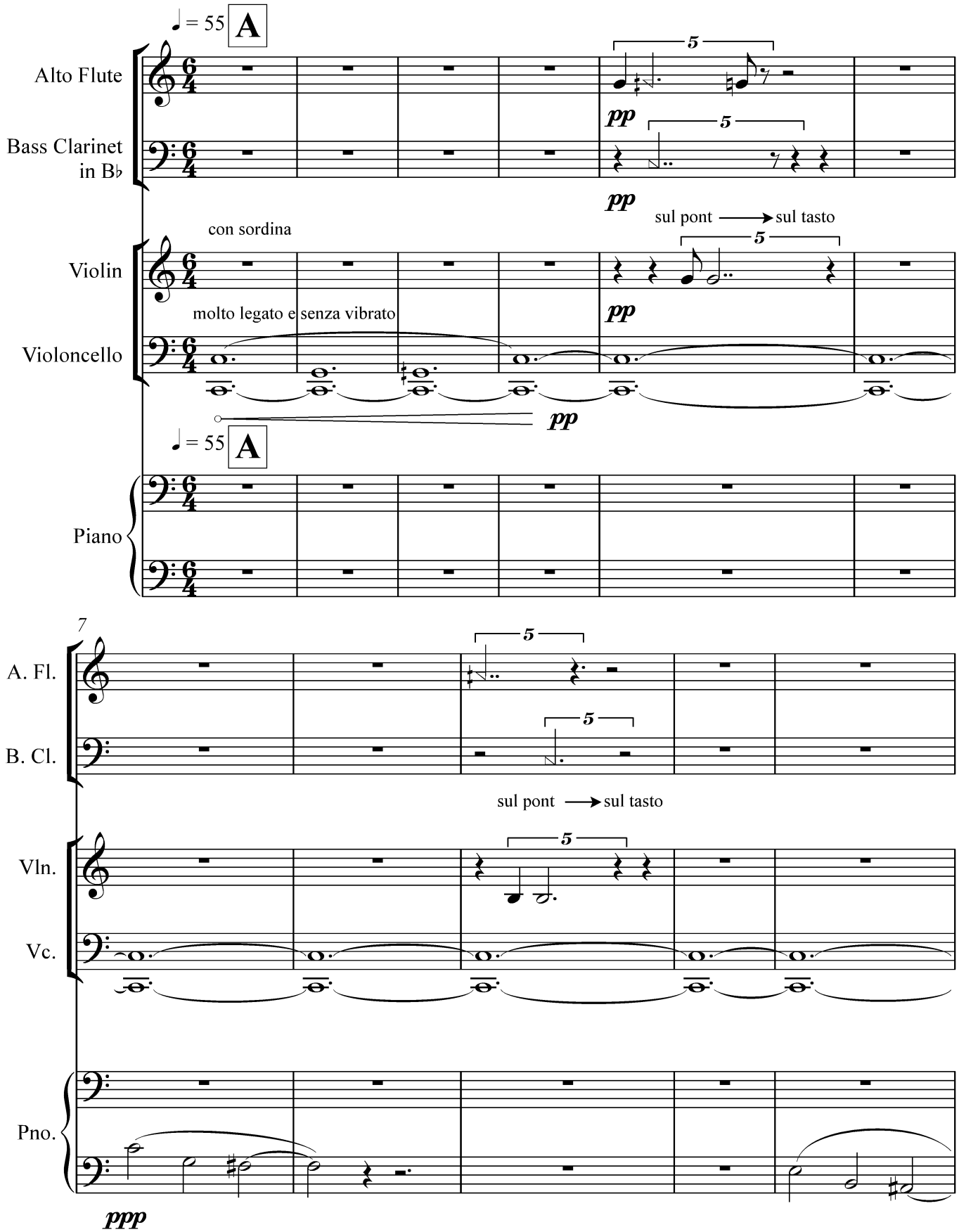
Shades of Black

Odd Sneeggen (2013)



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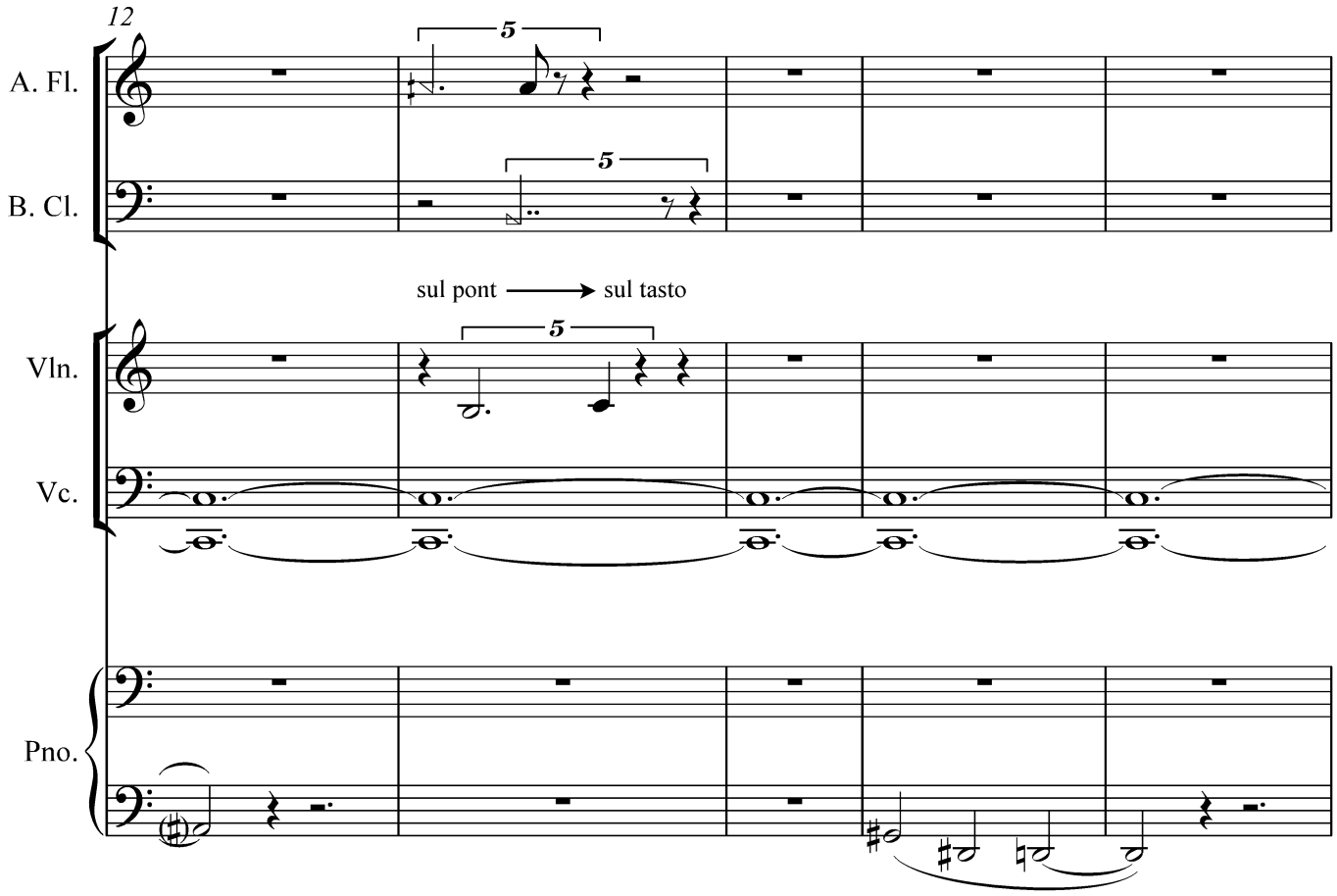

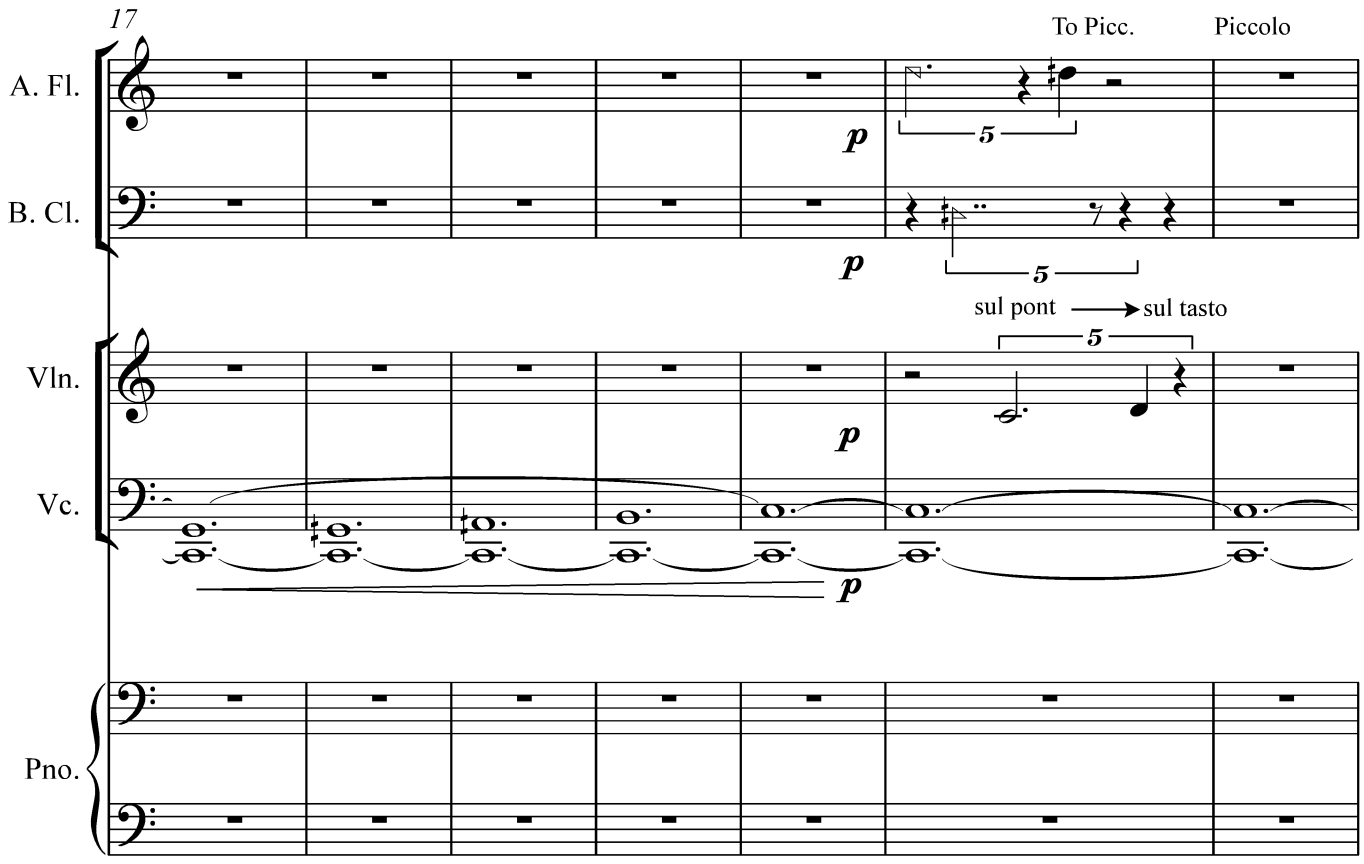

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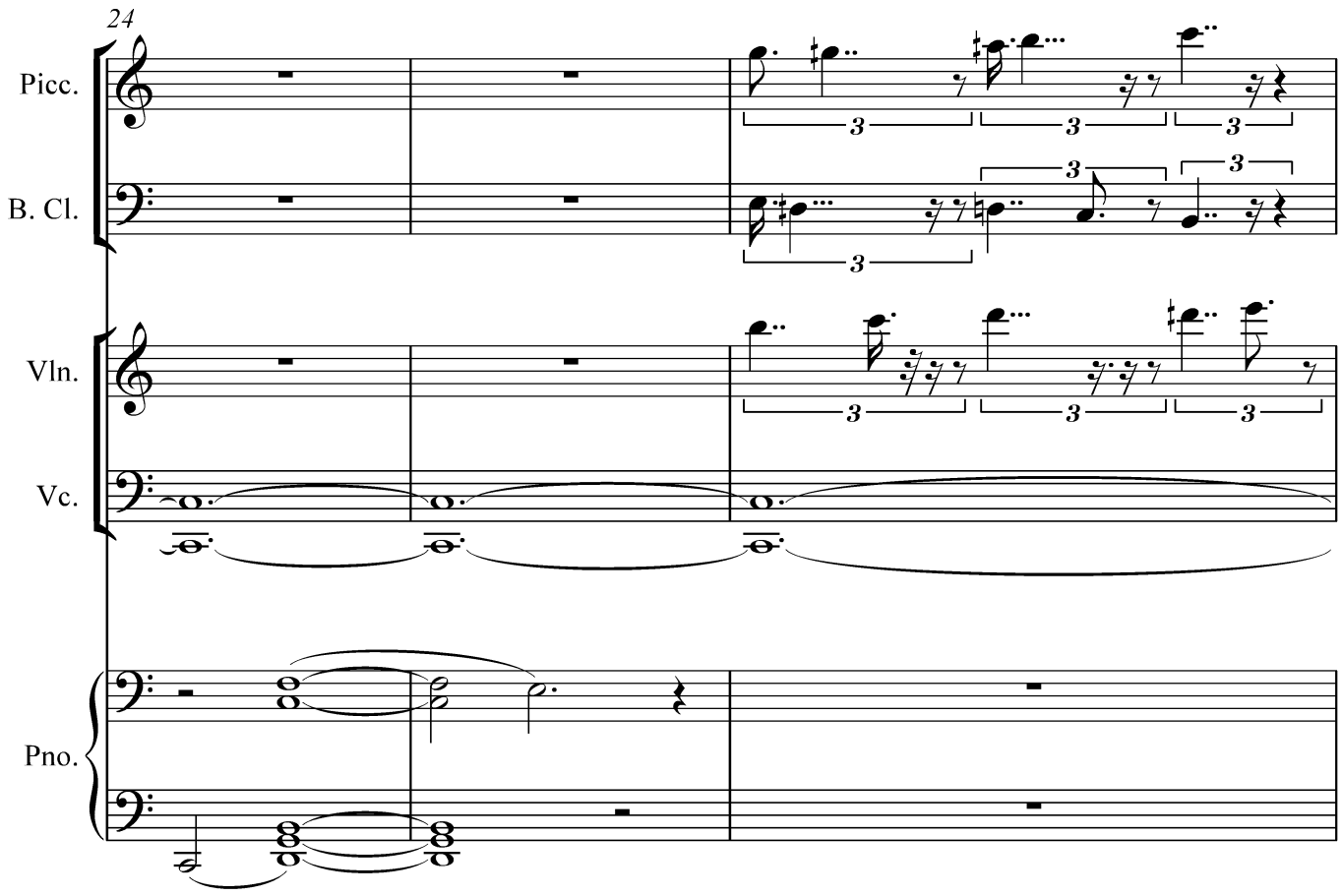

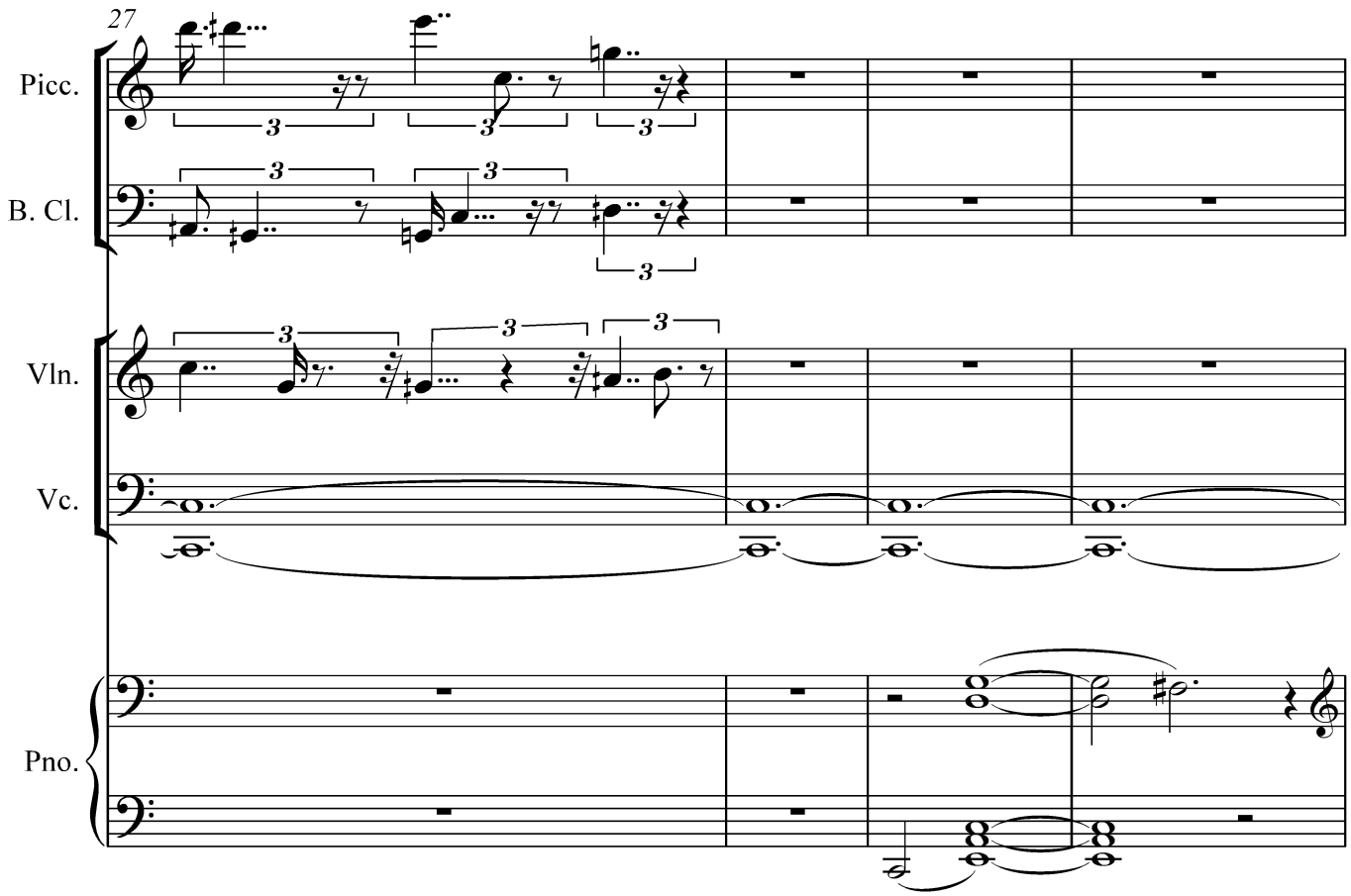

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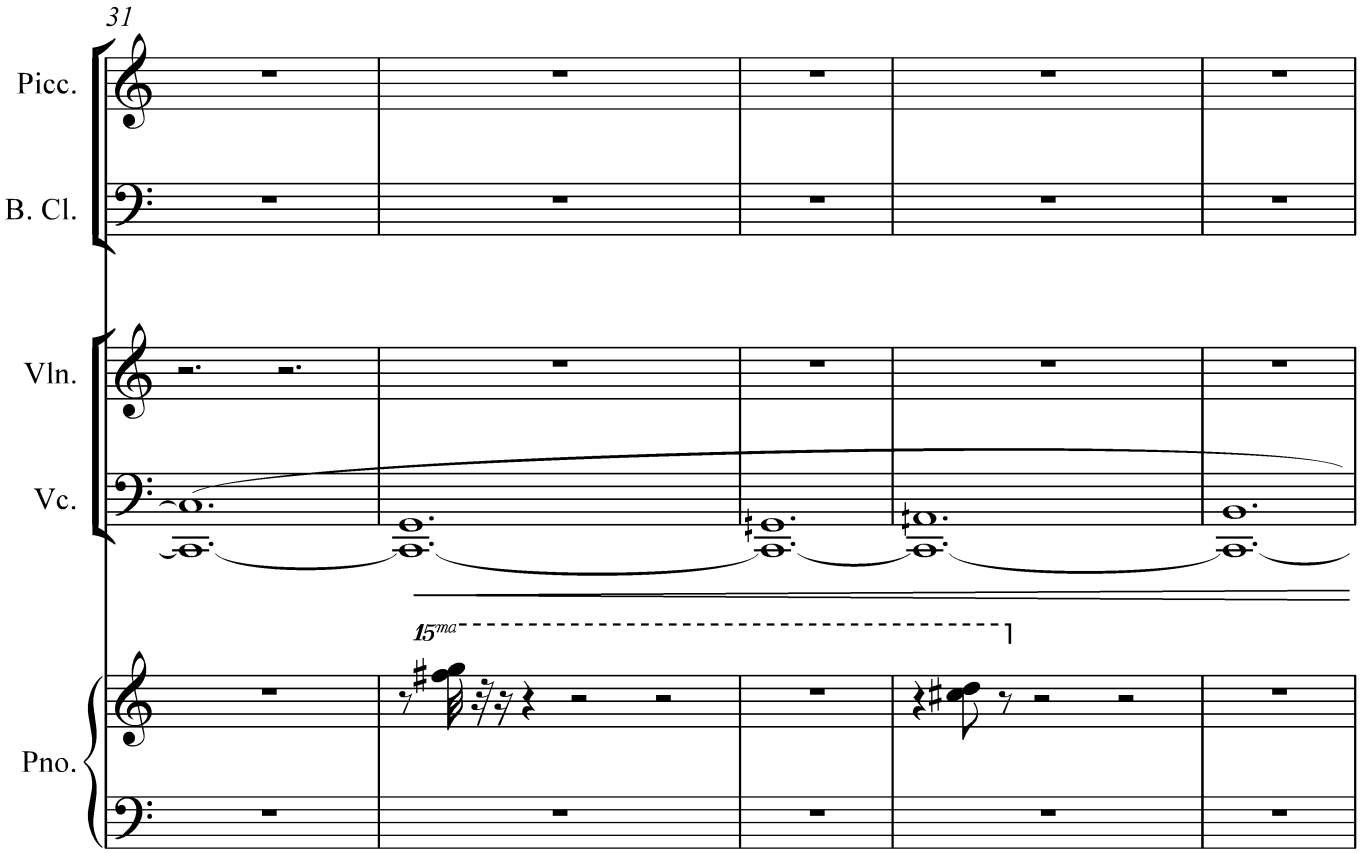

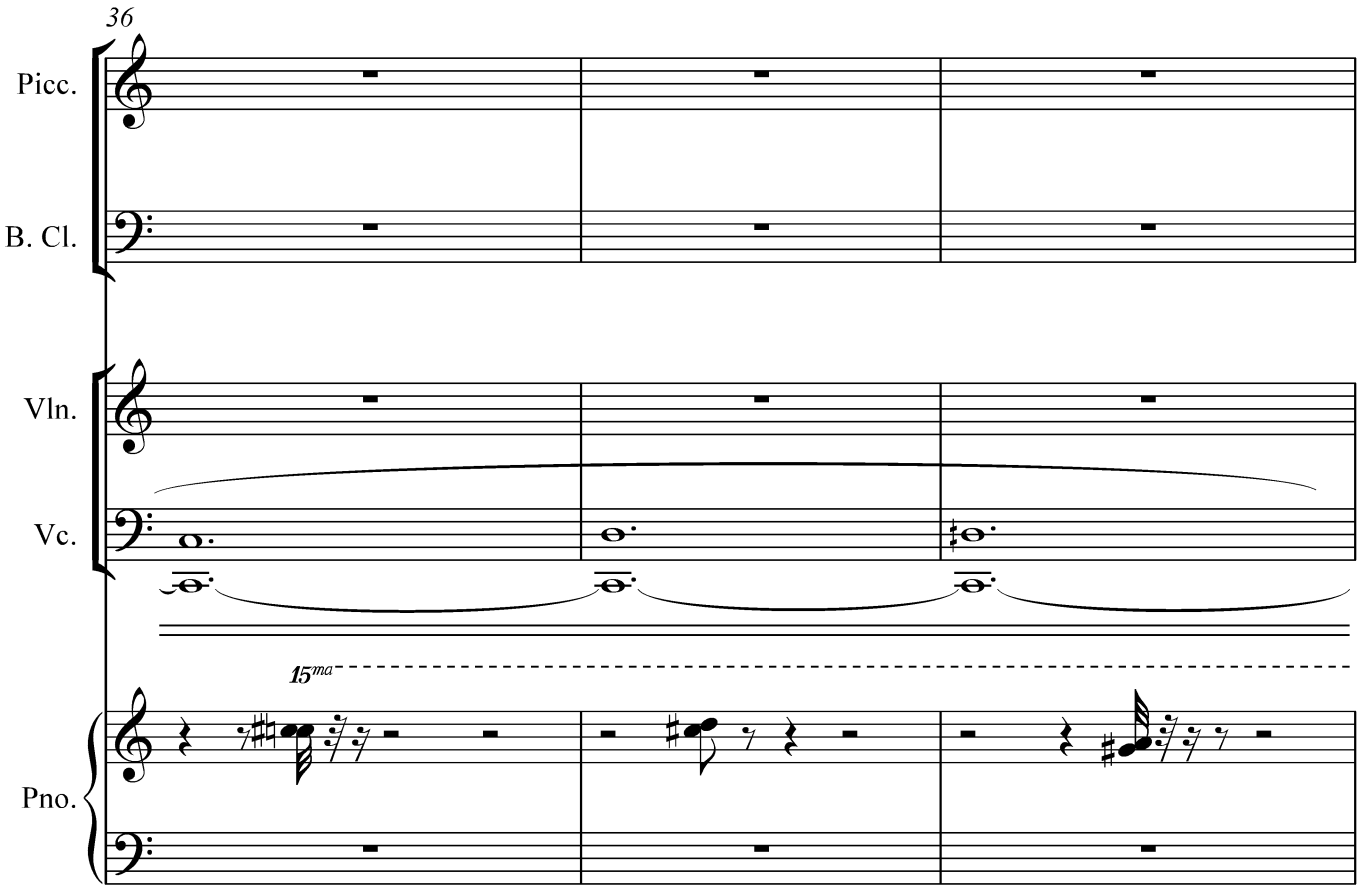

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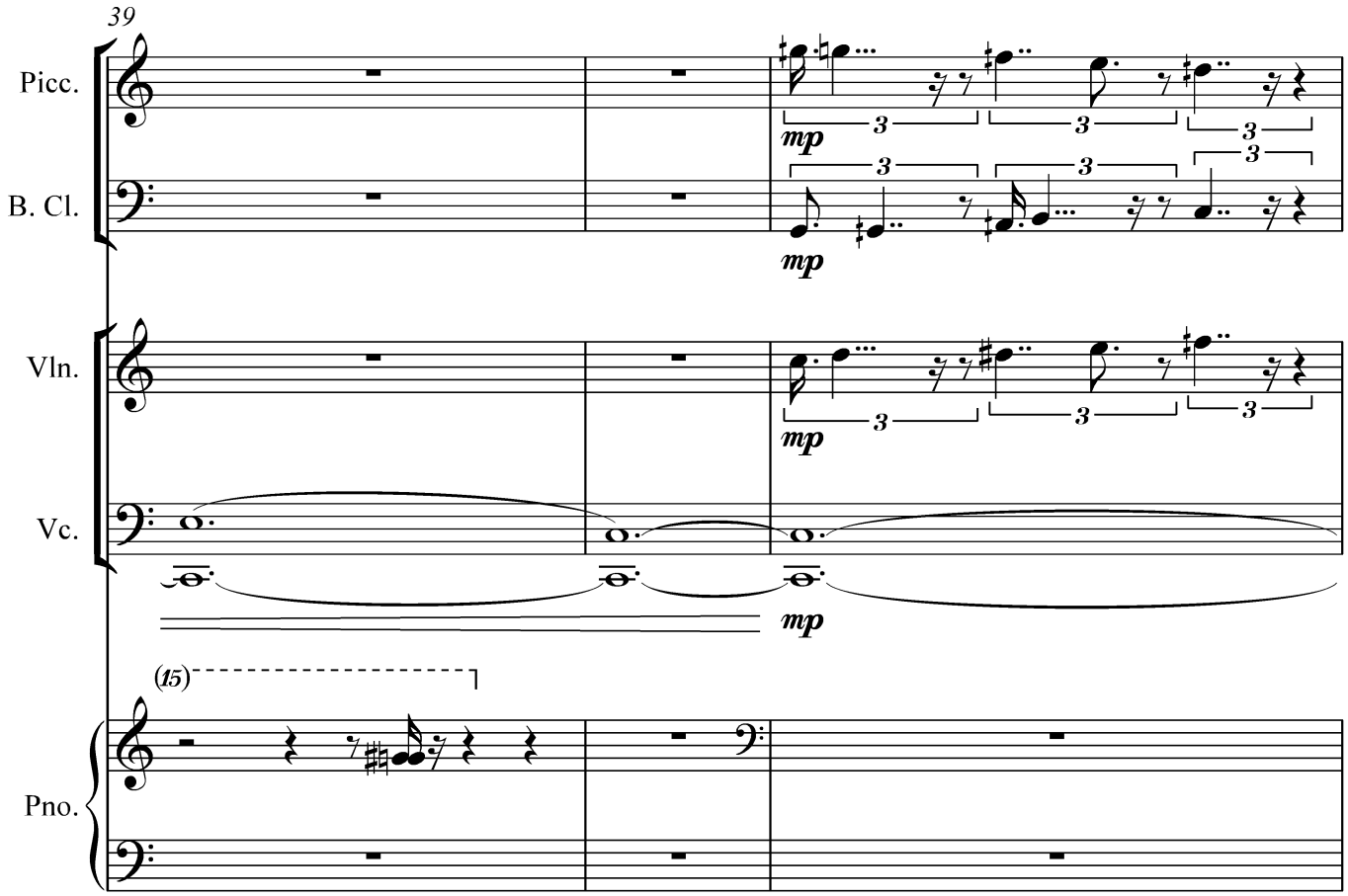

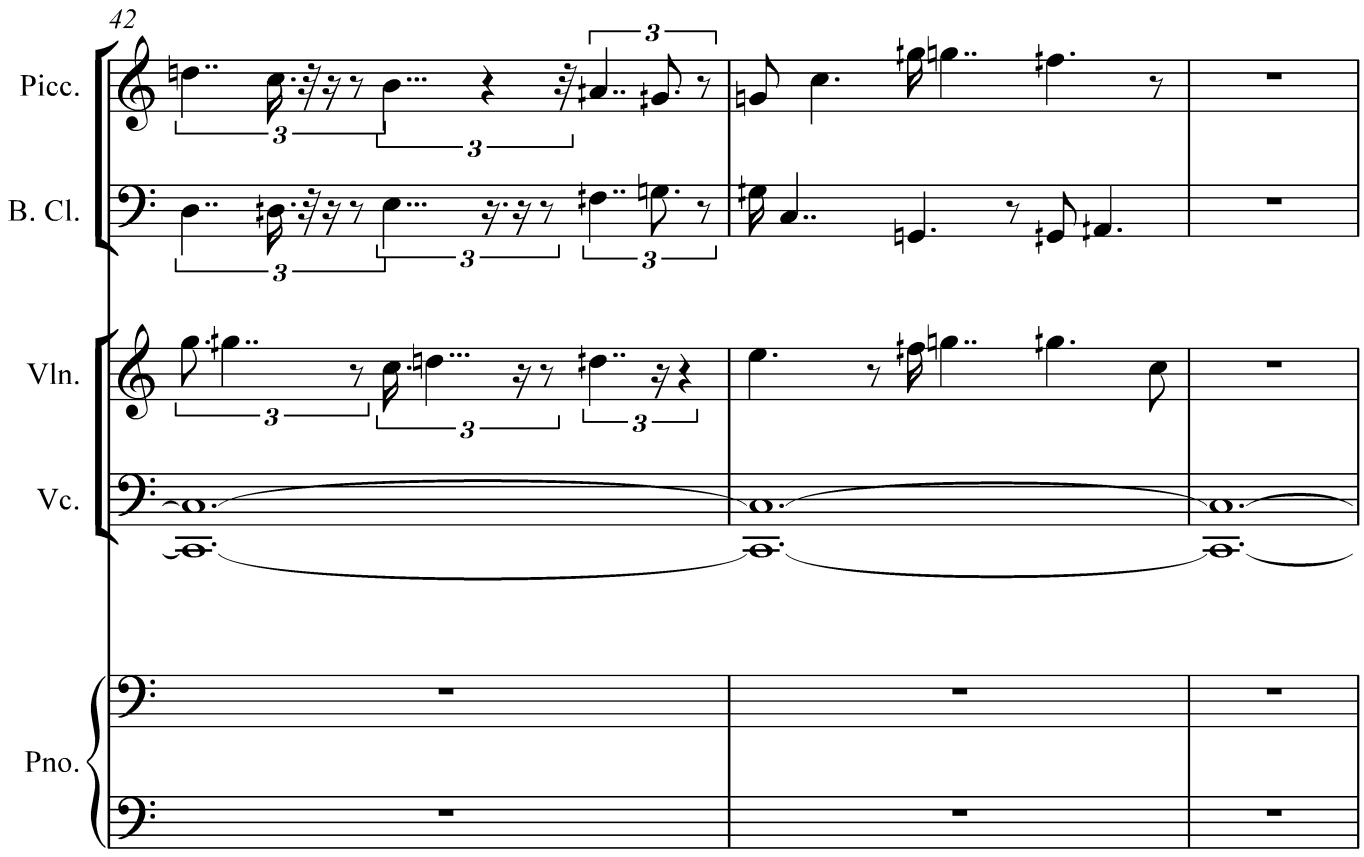

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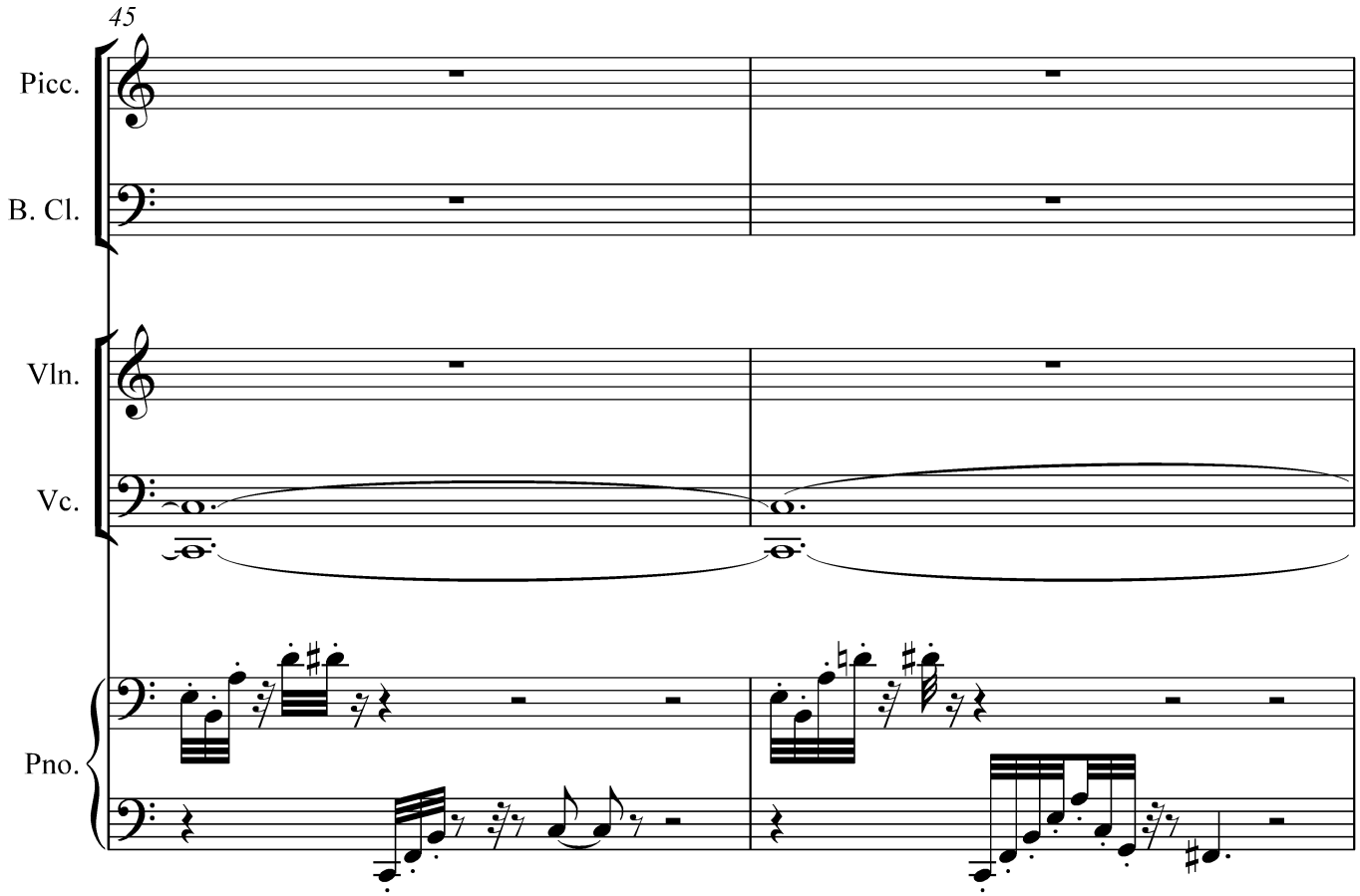

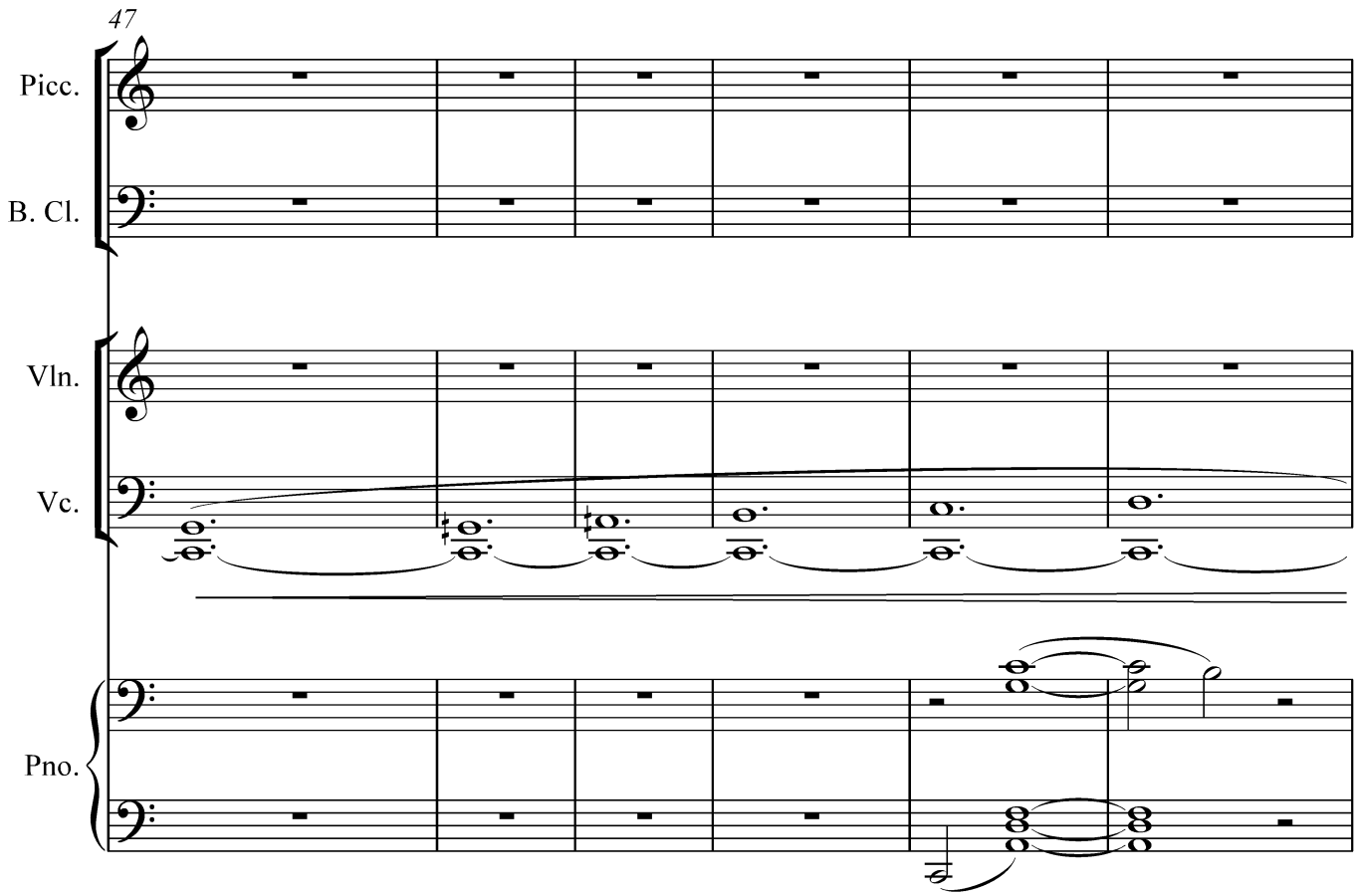

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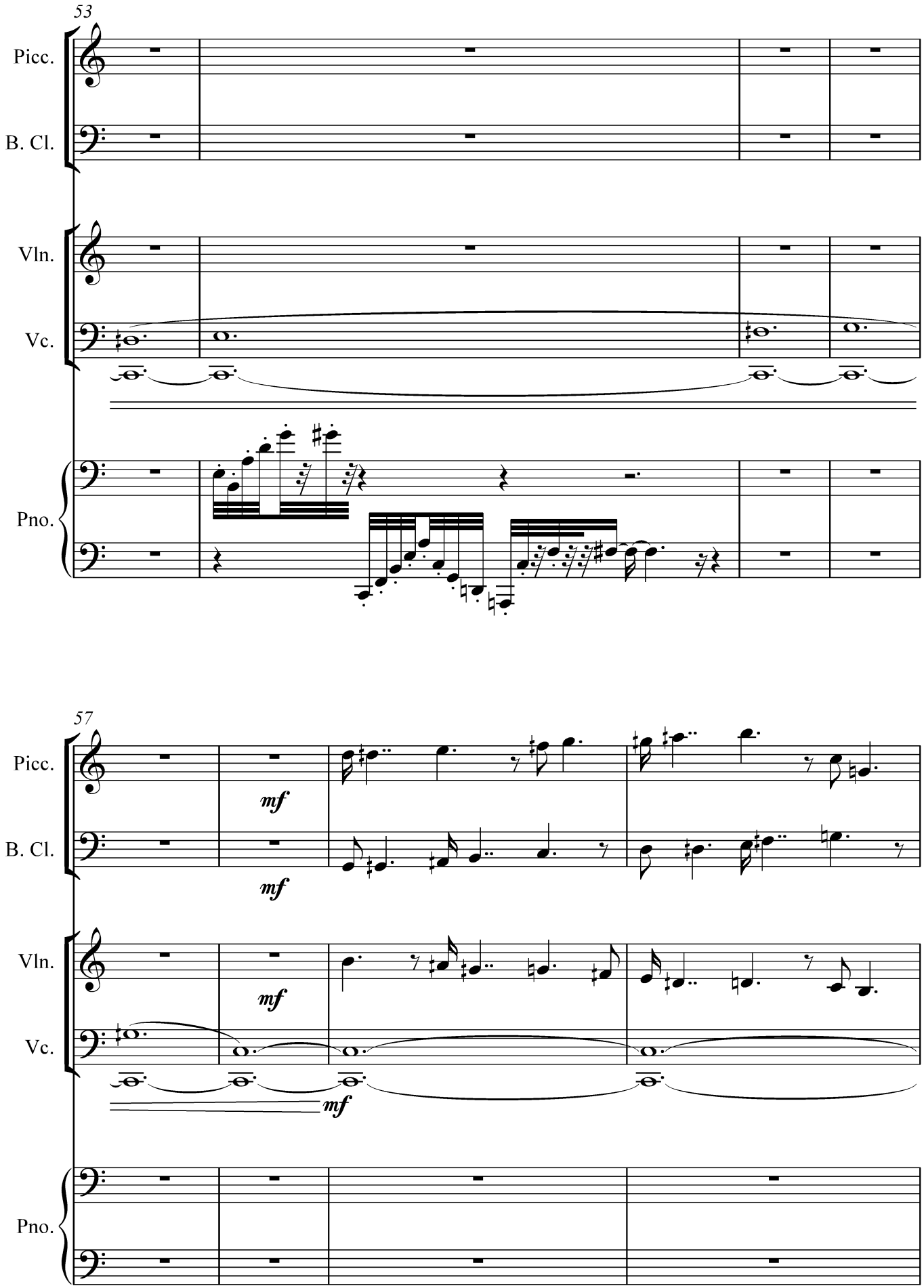

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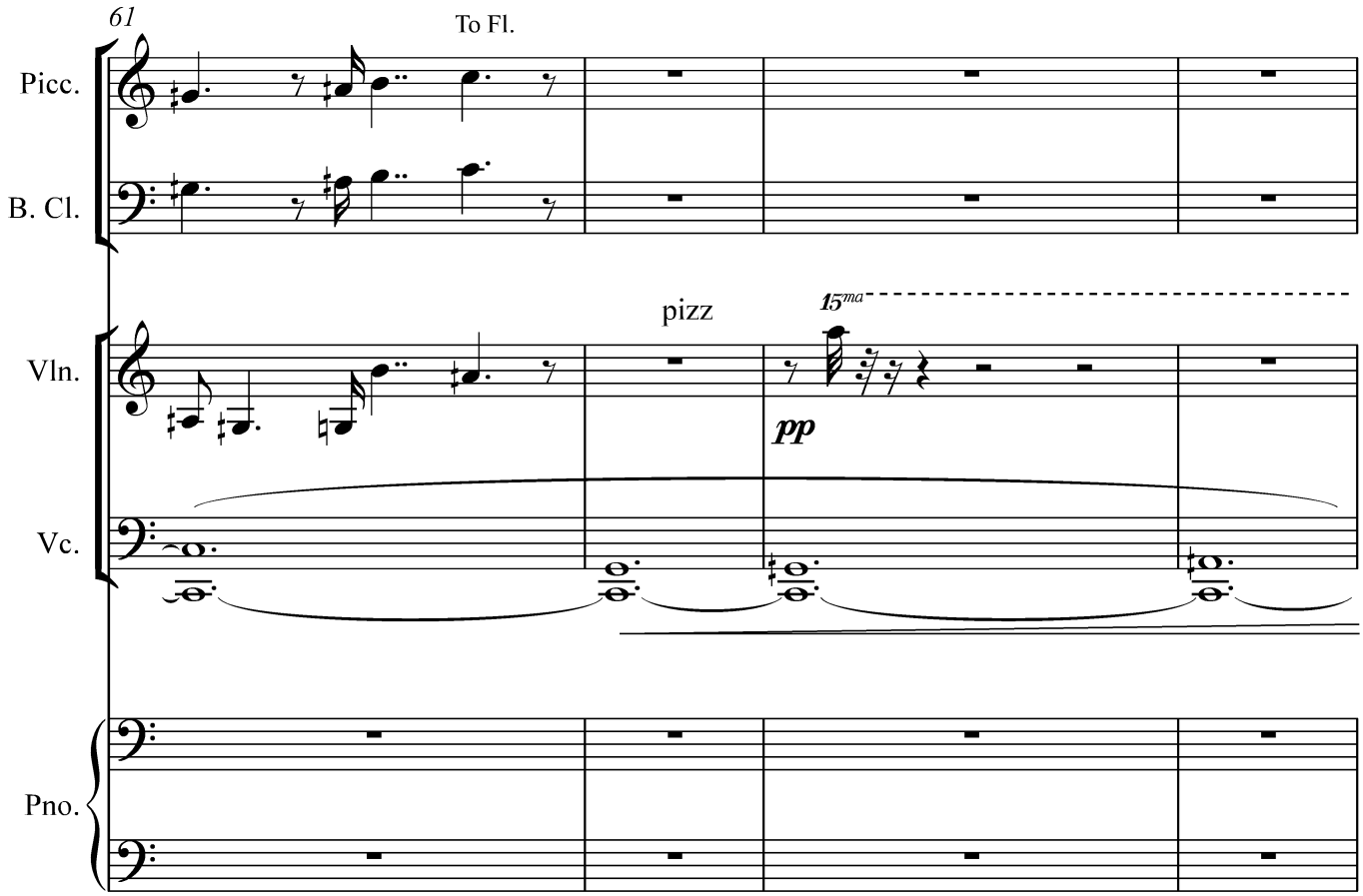

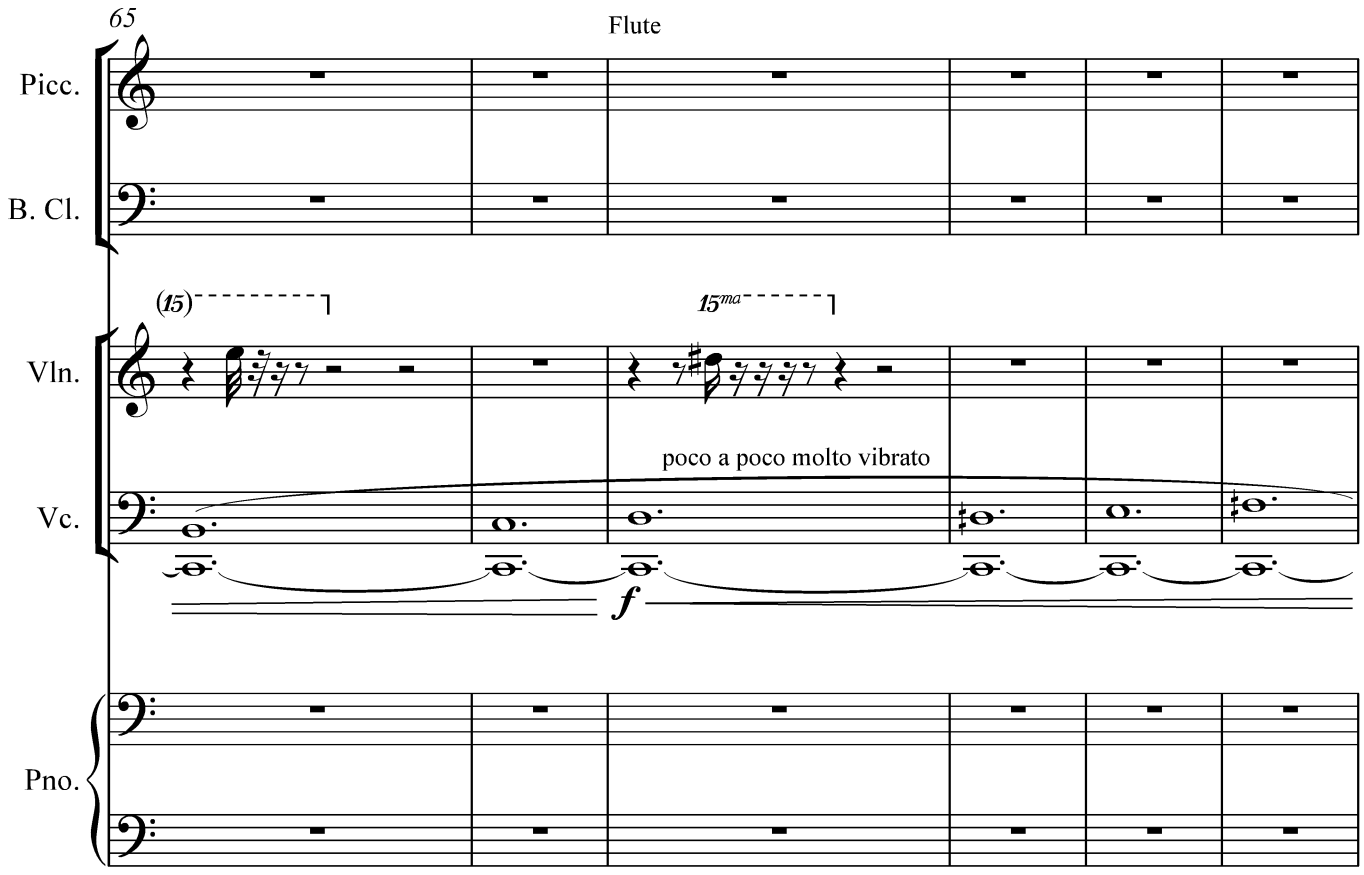

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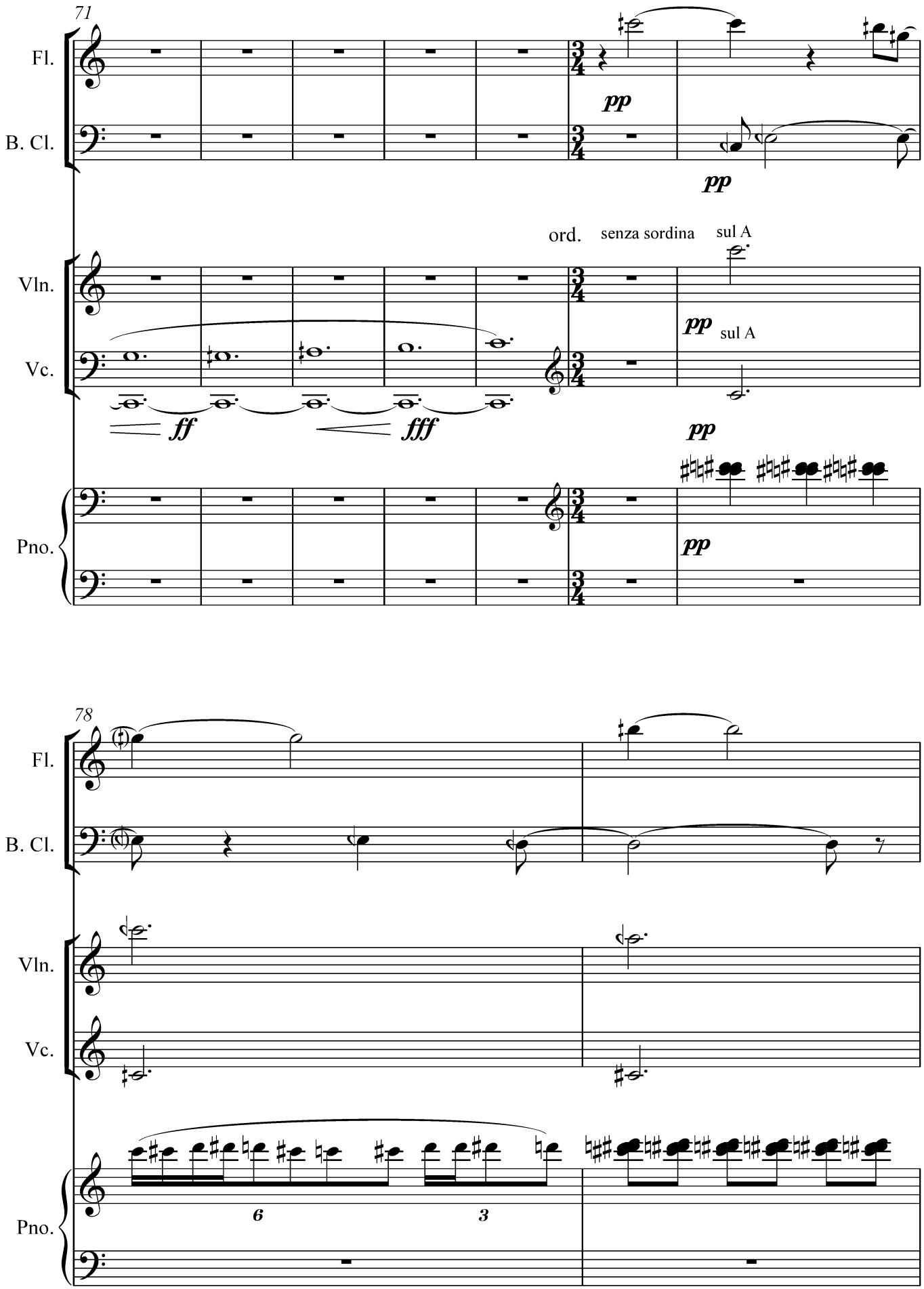

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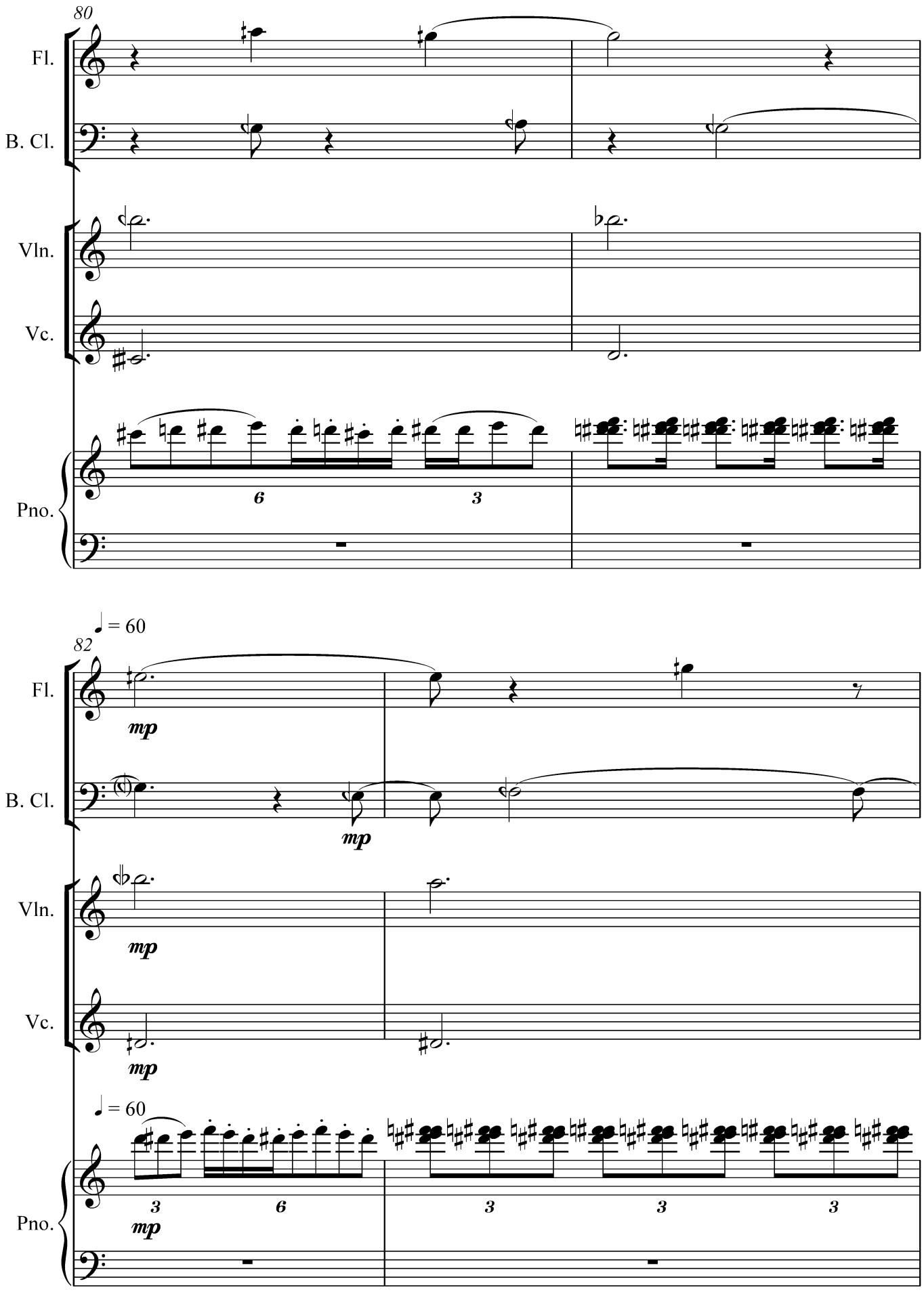

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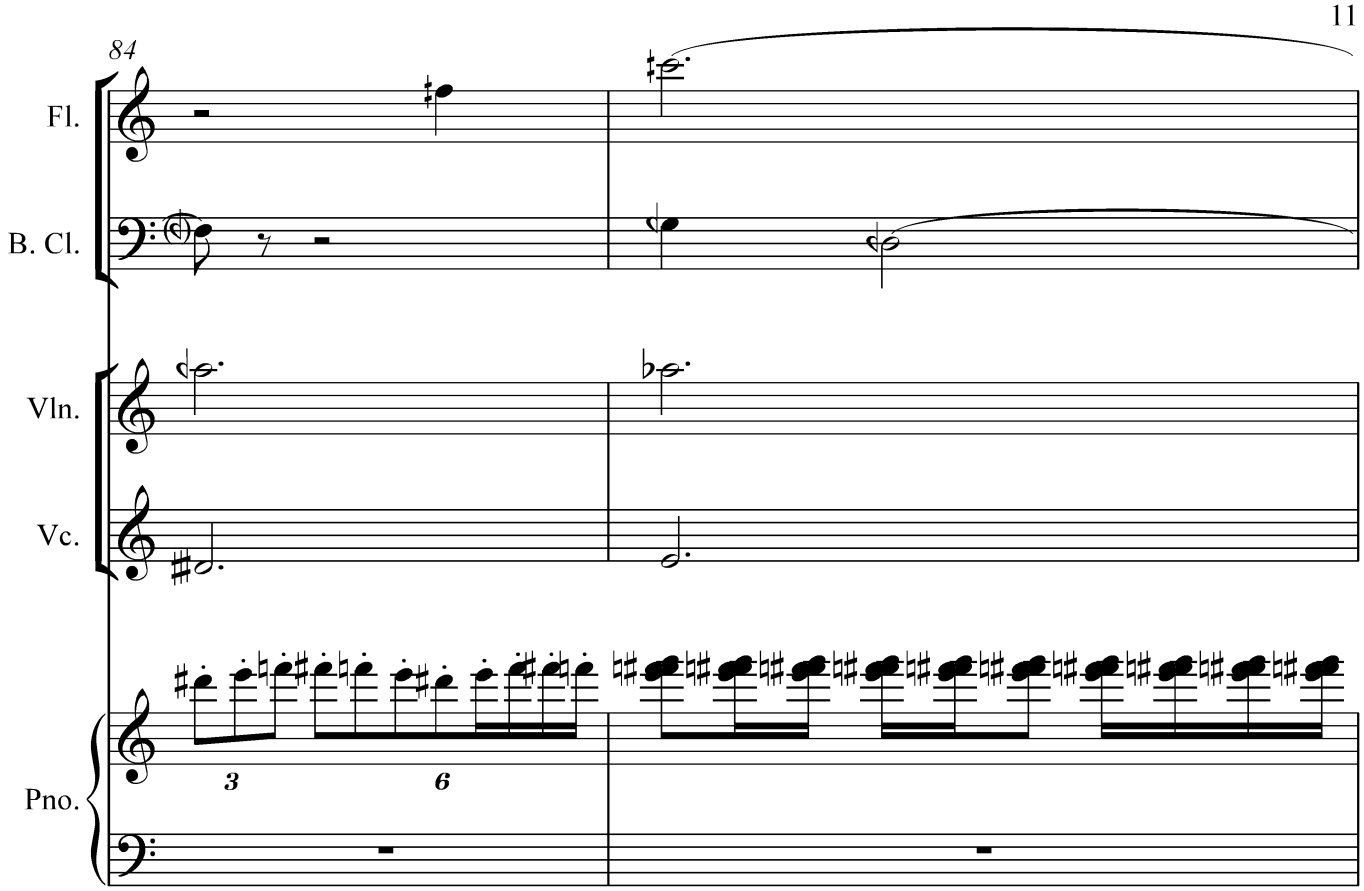

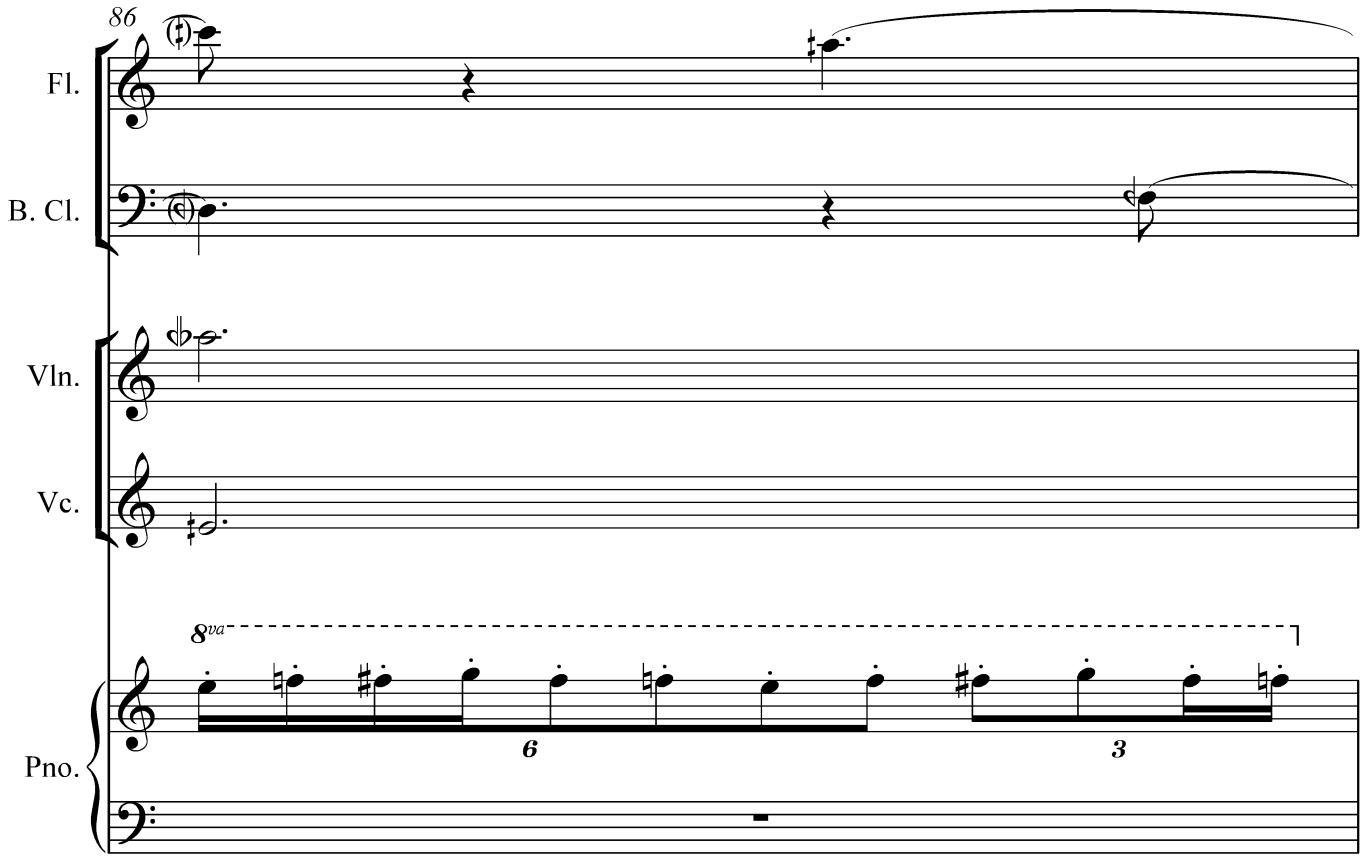

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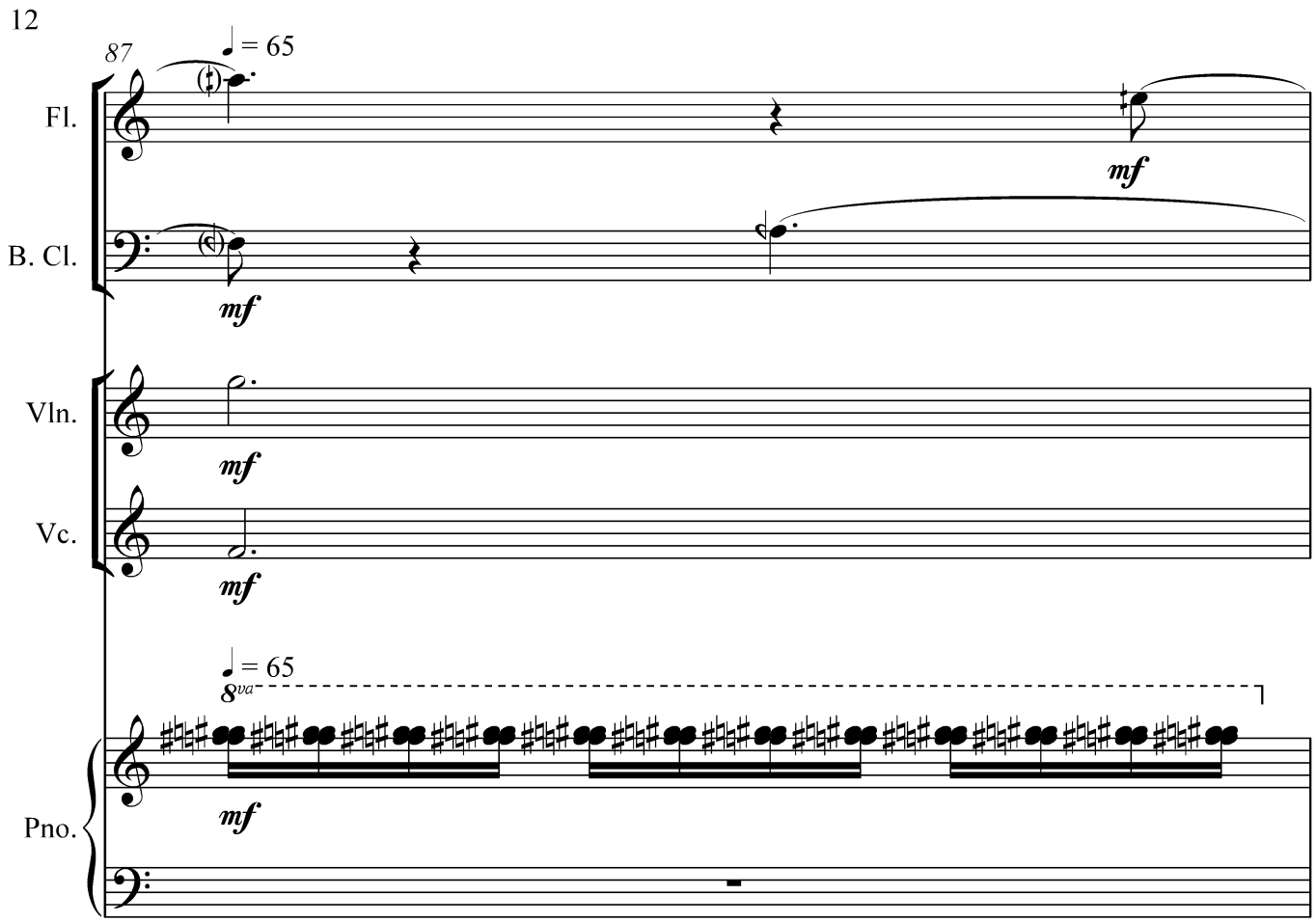

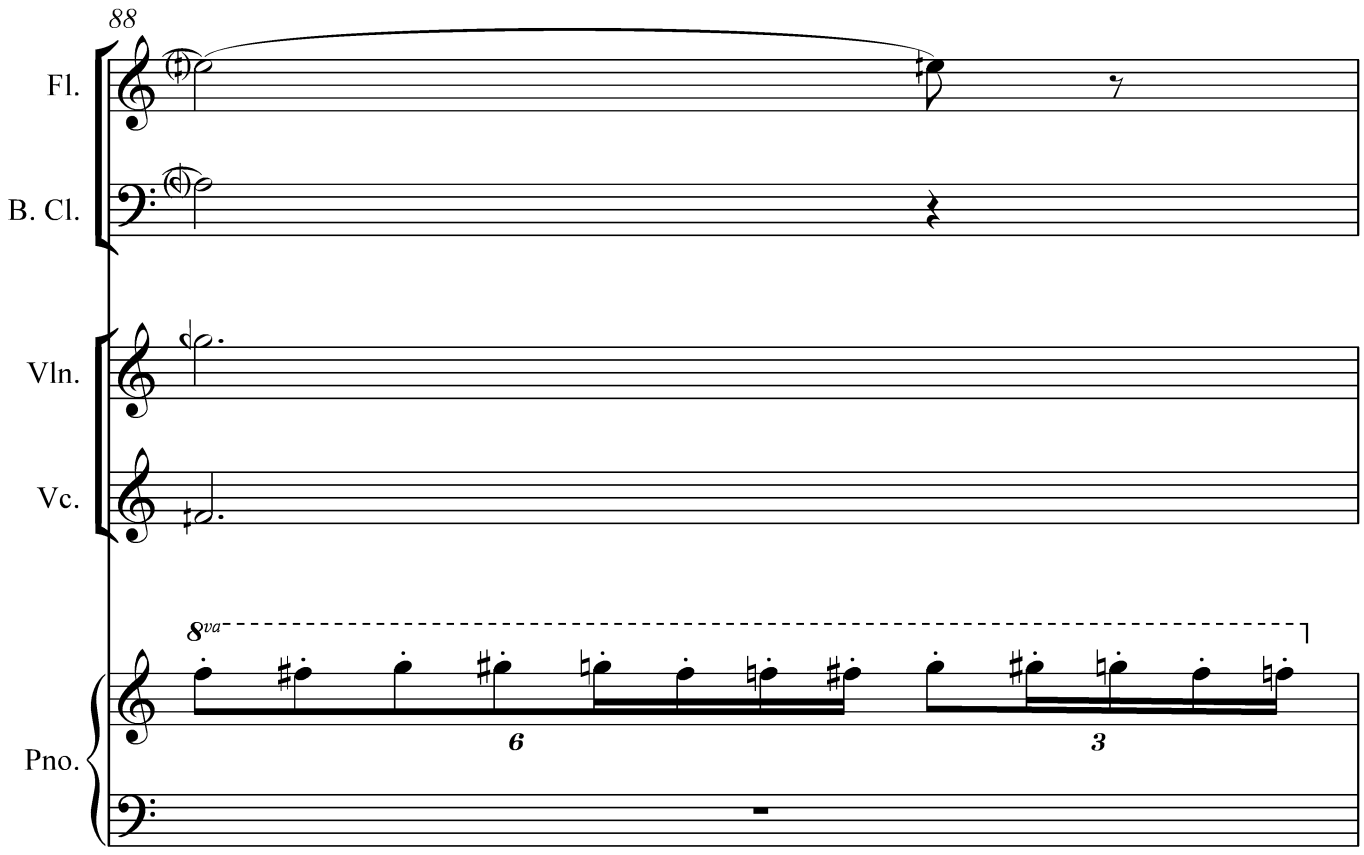

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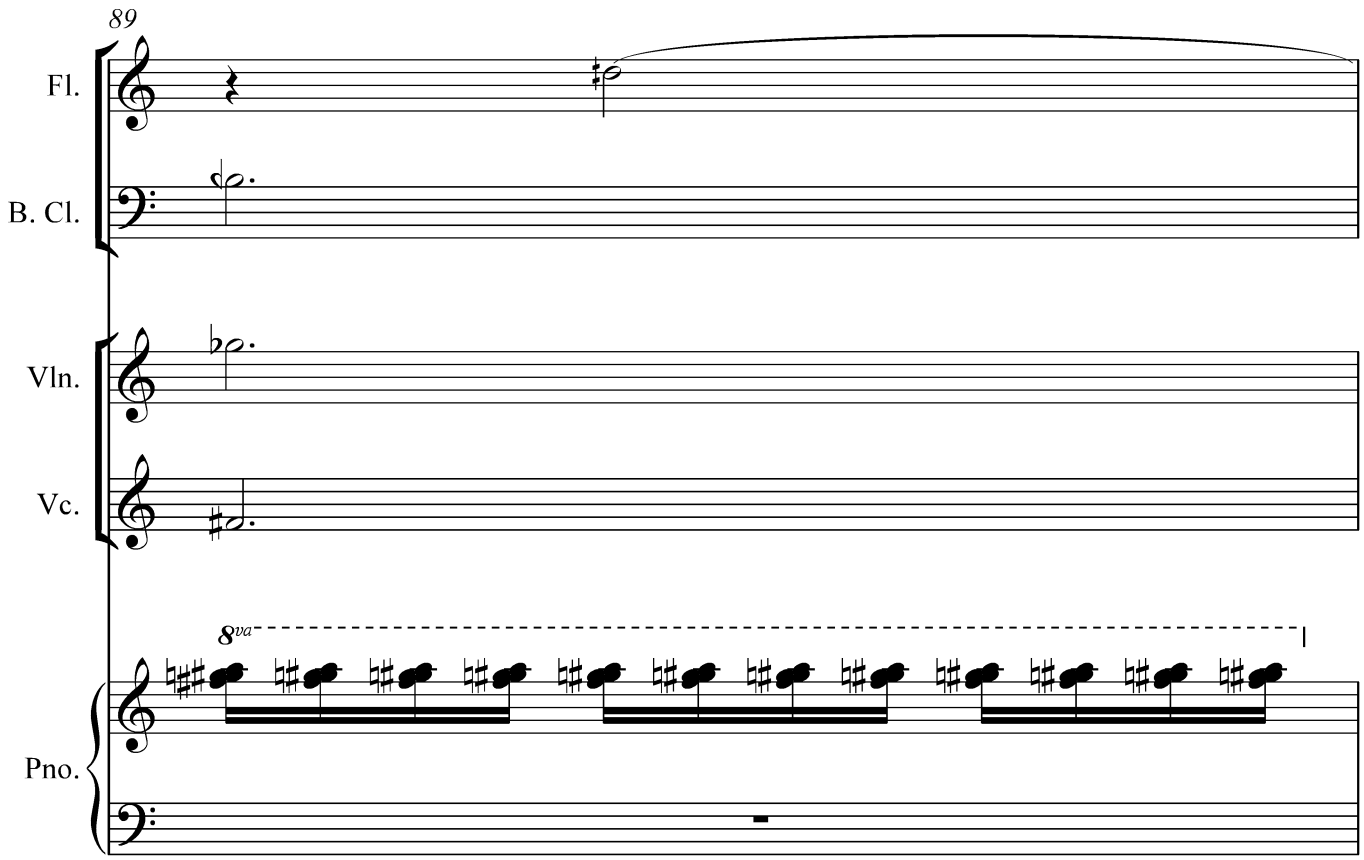

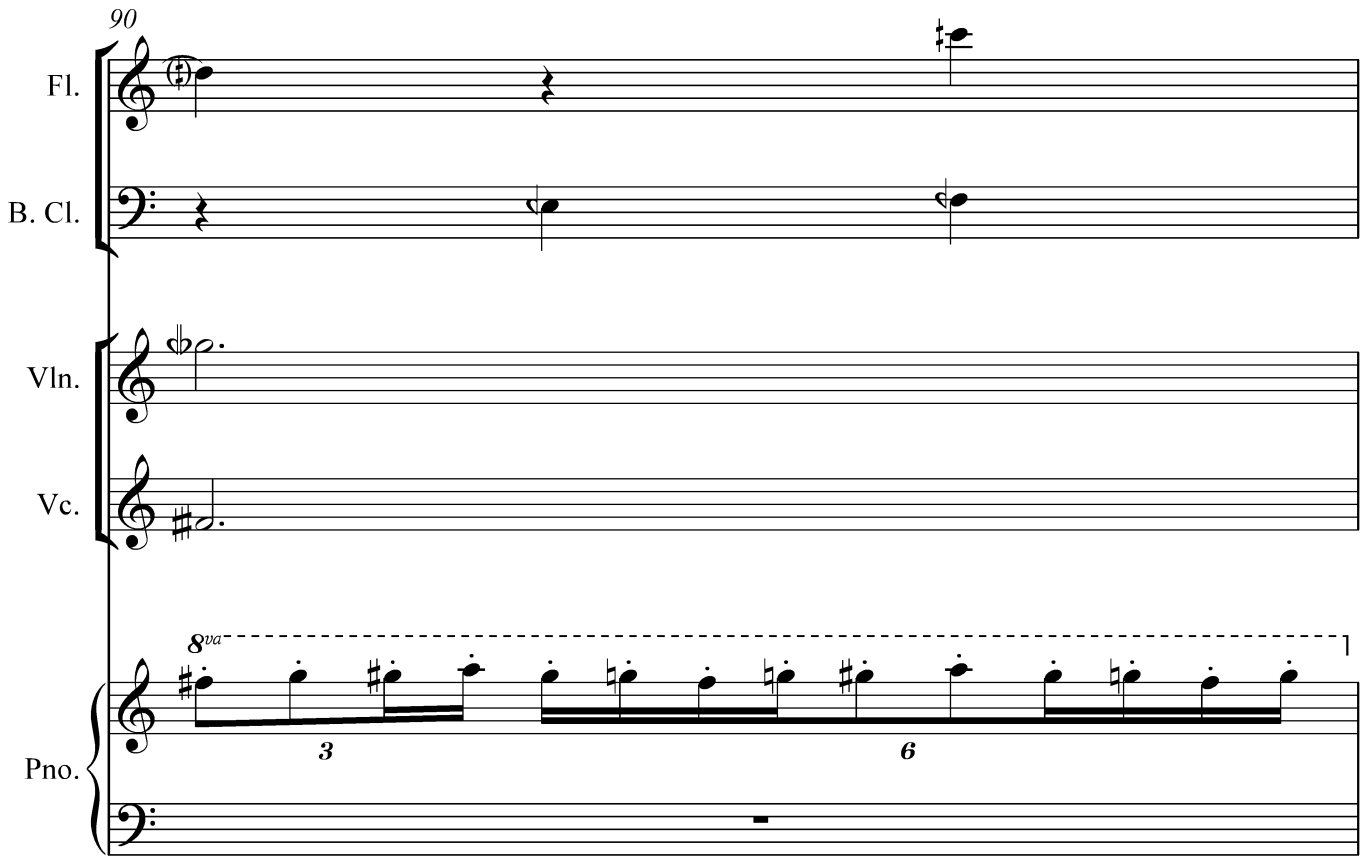

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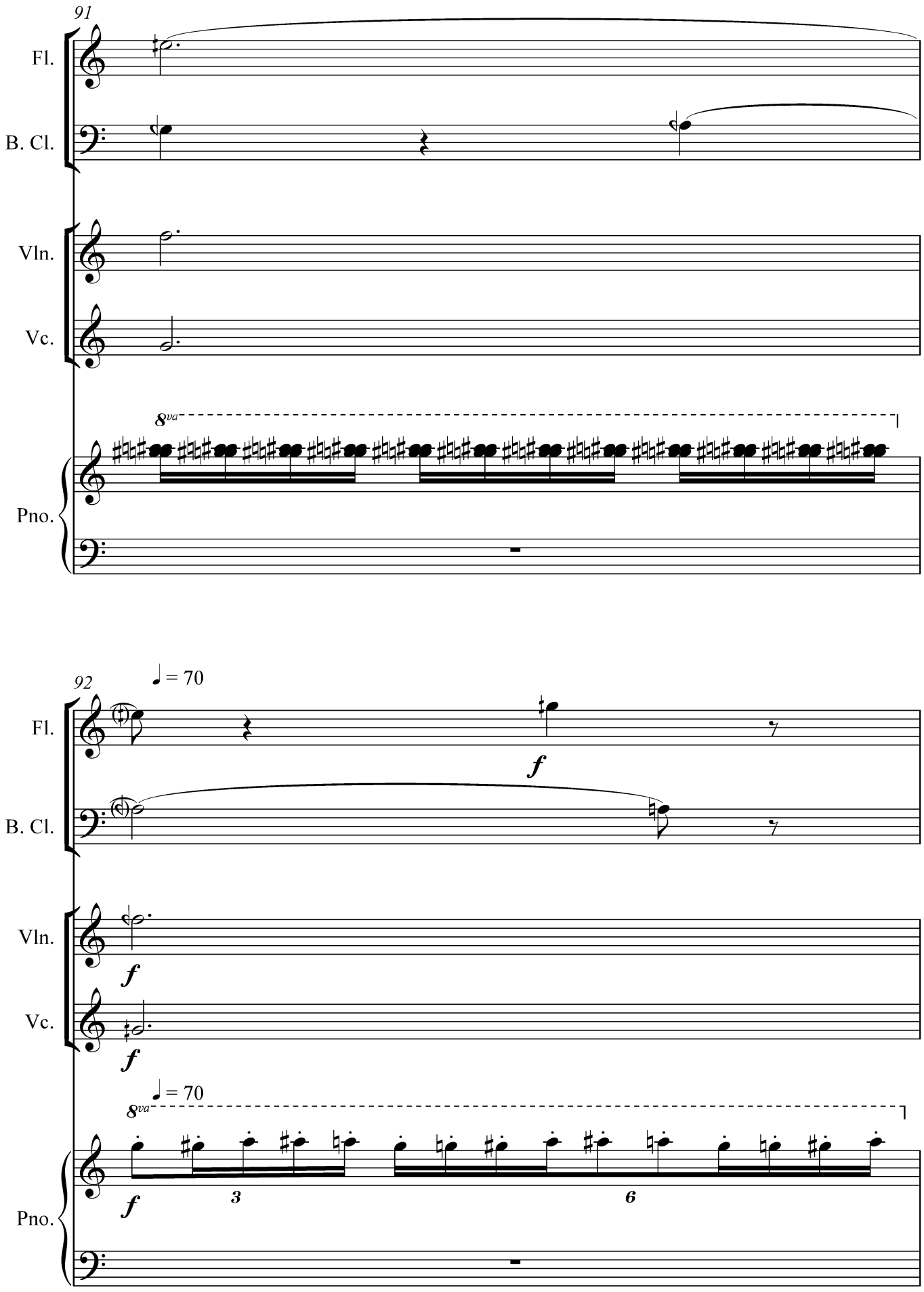

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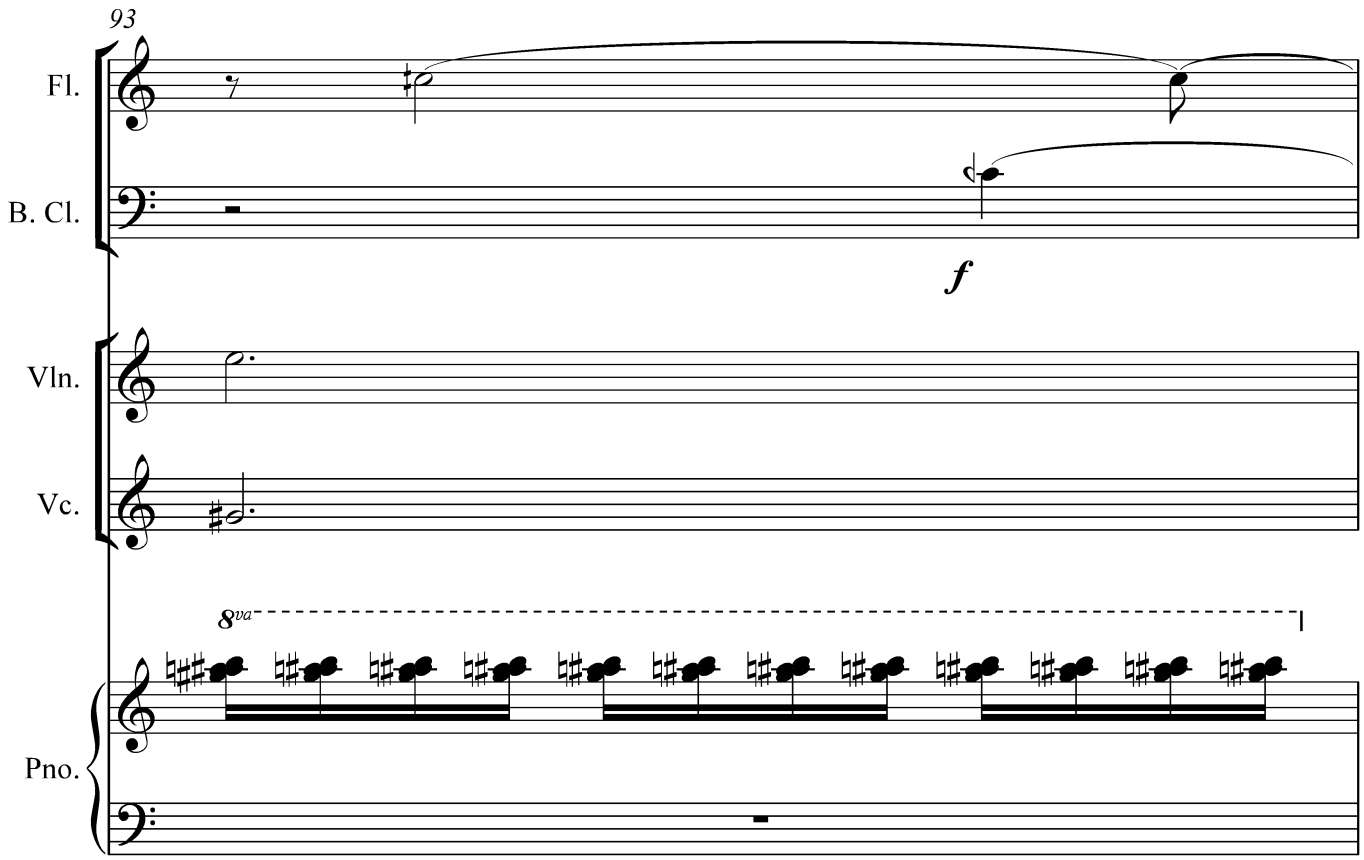

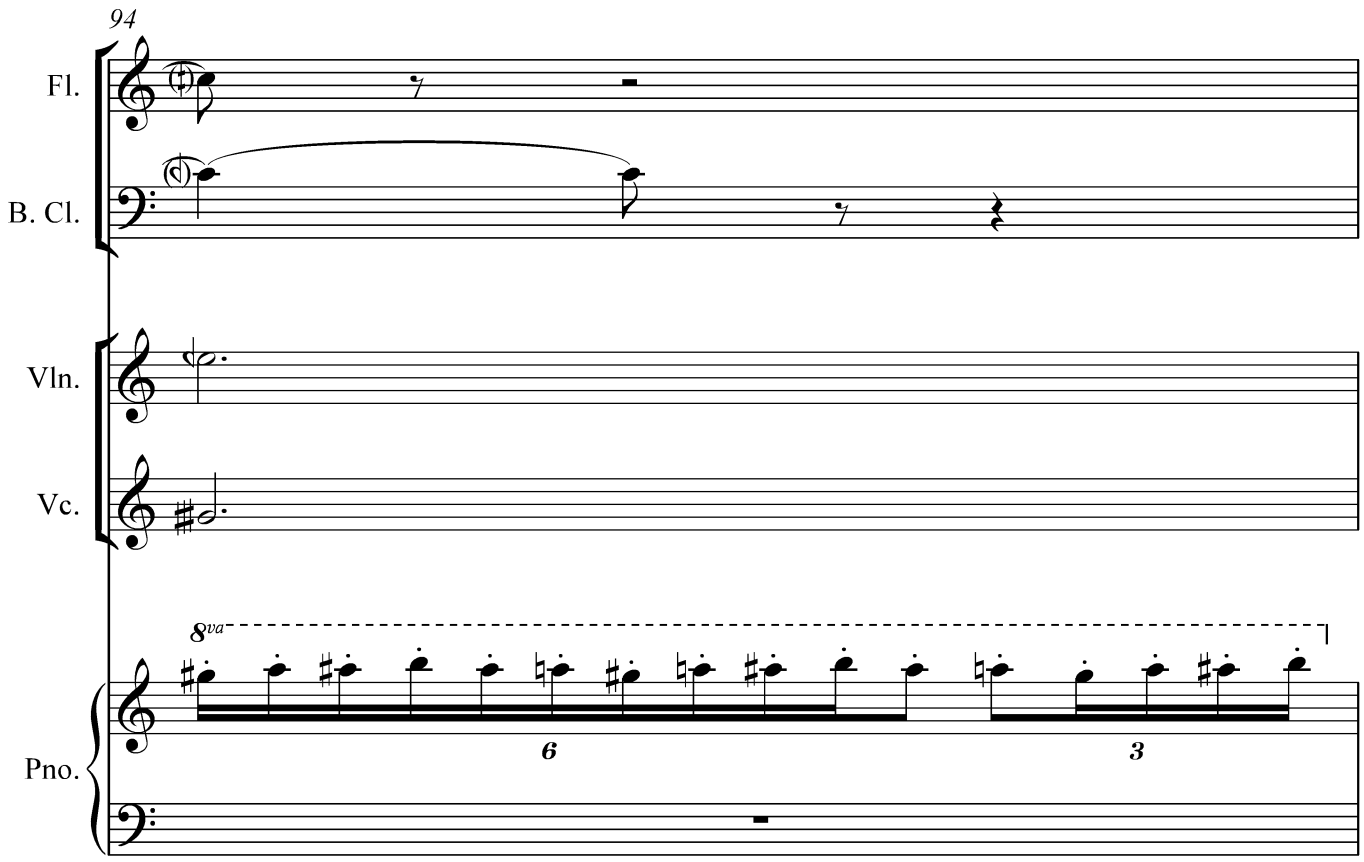

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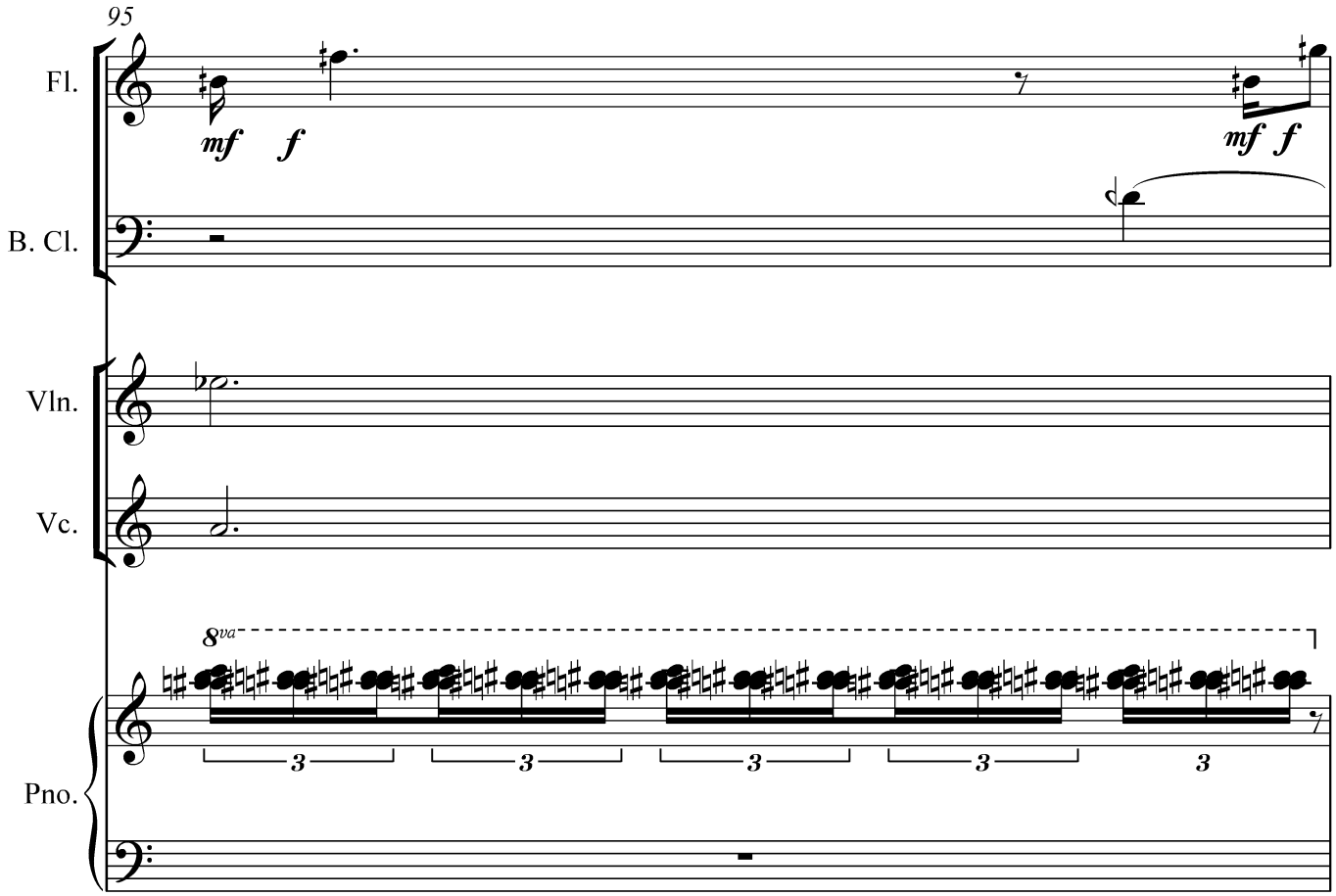

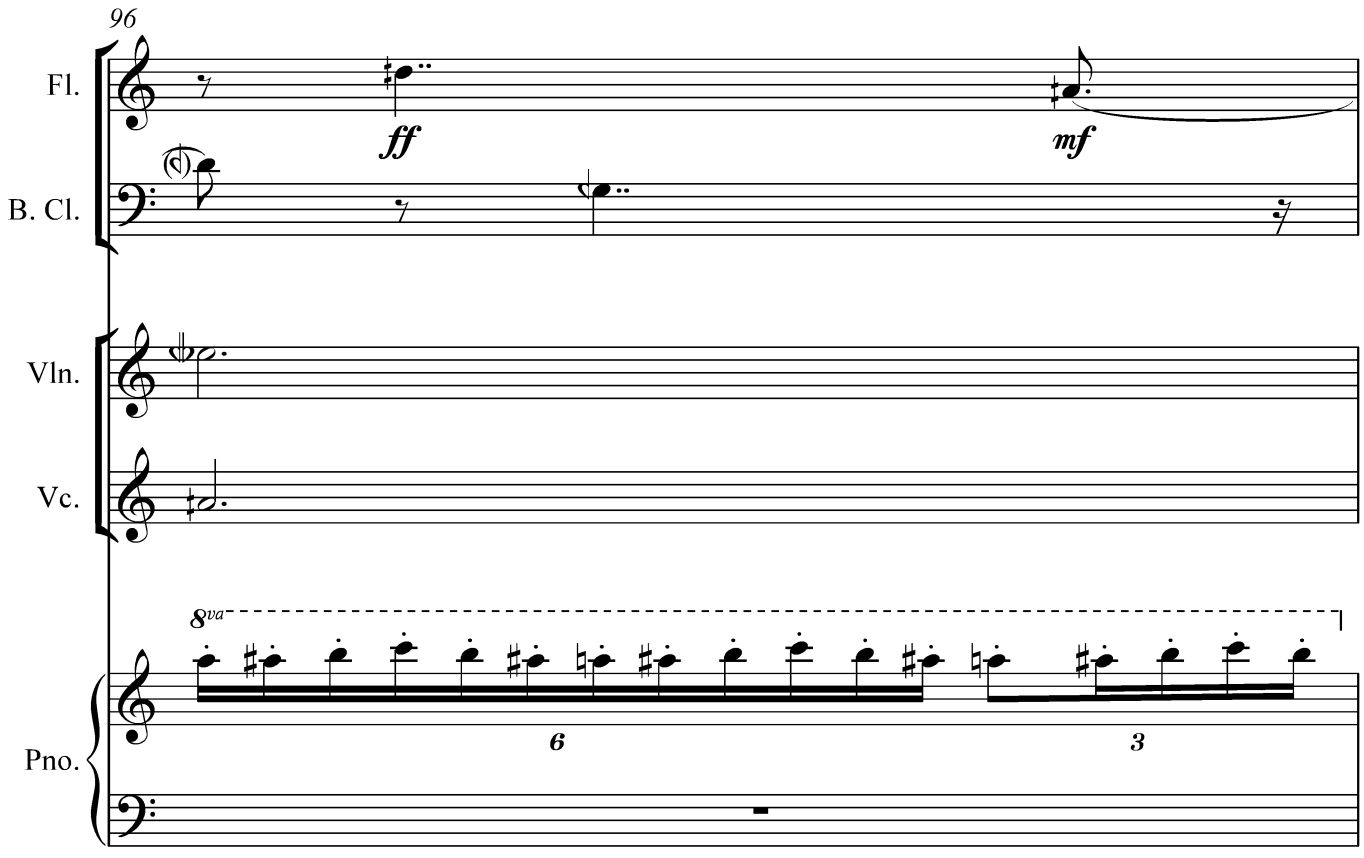

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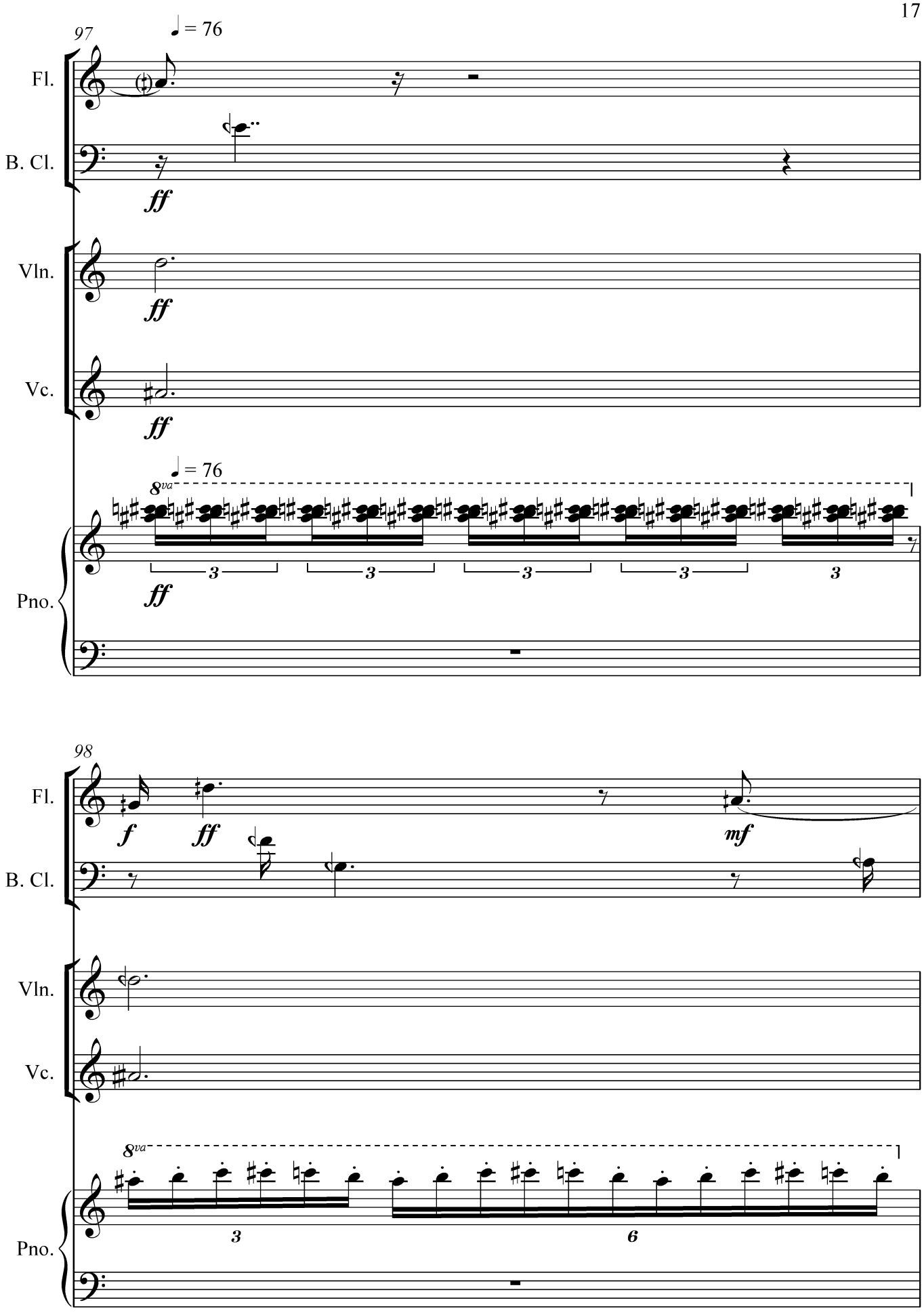

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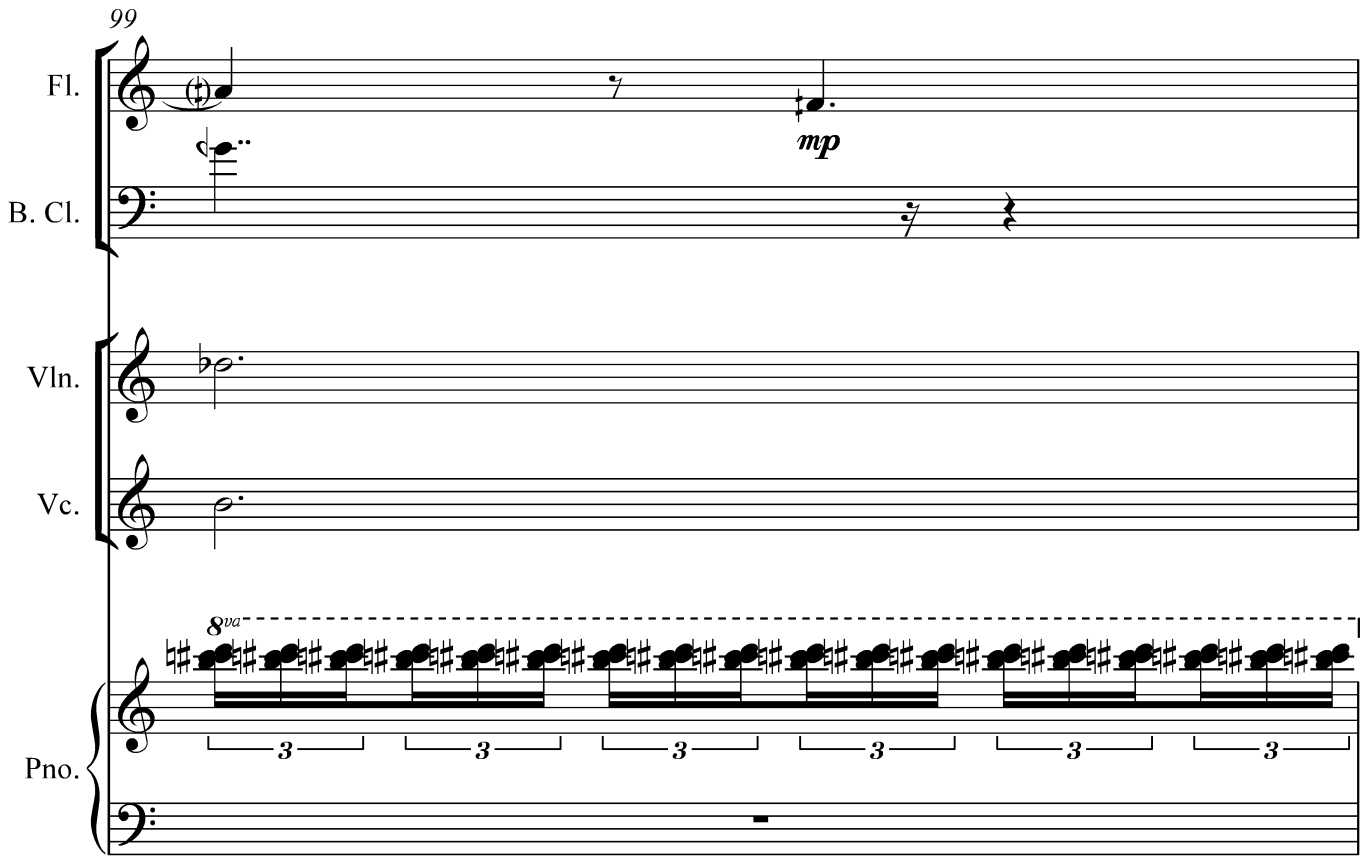

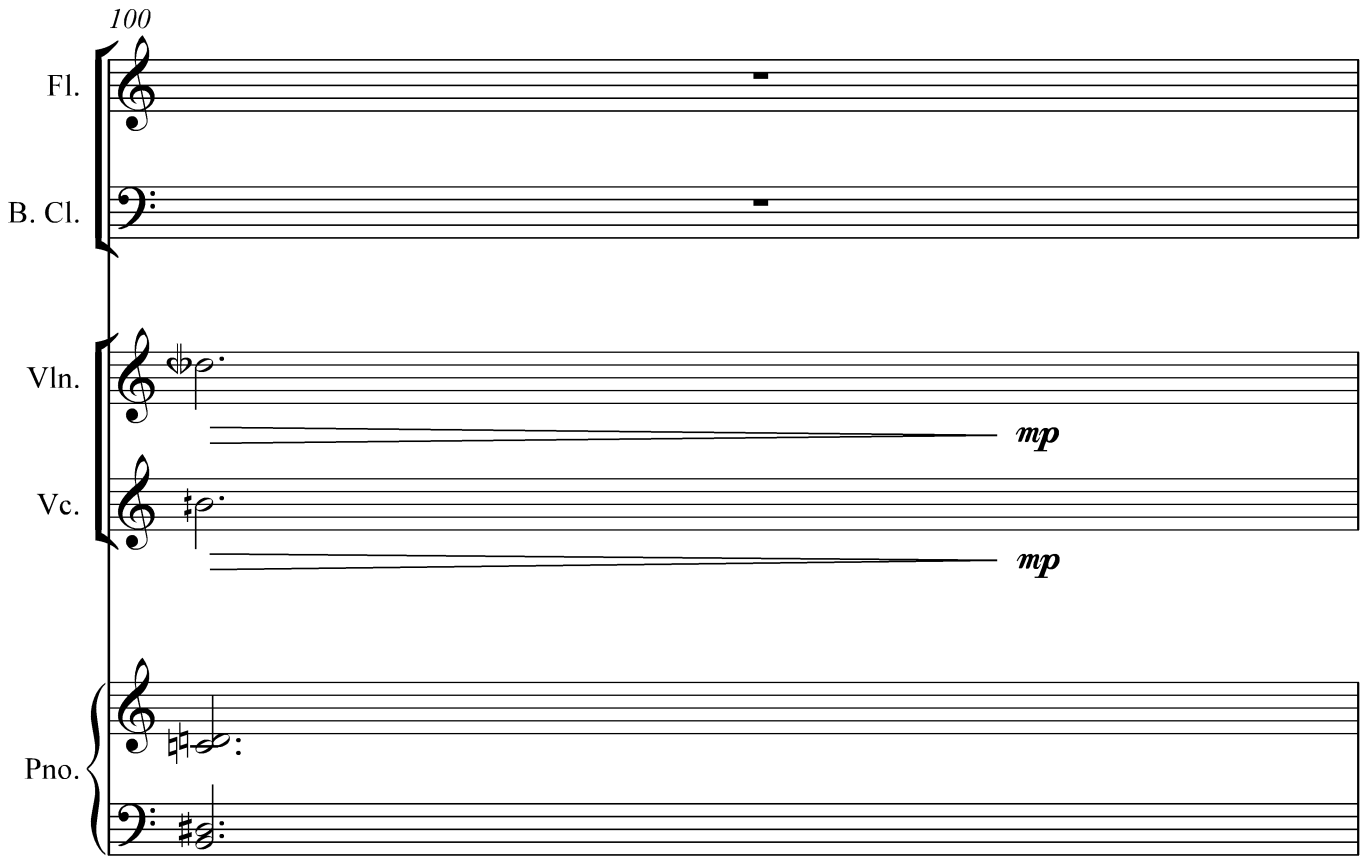

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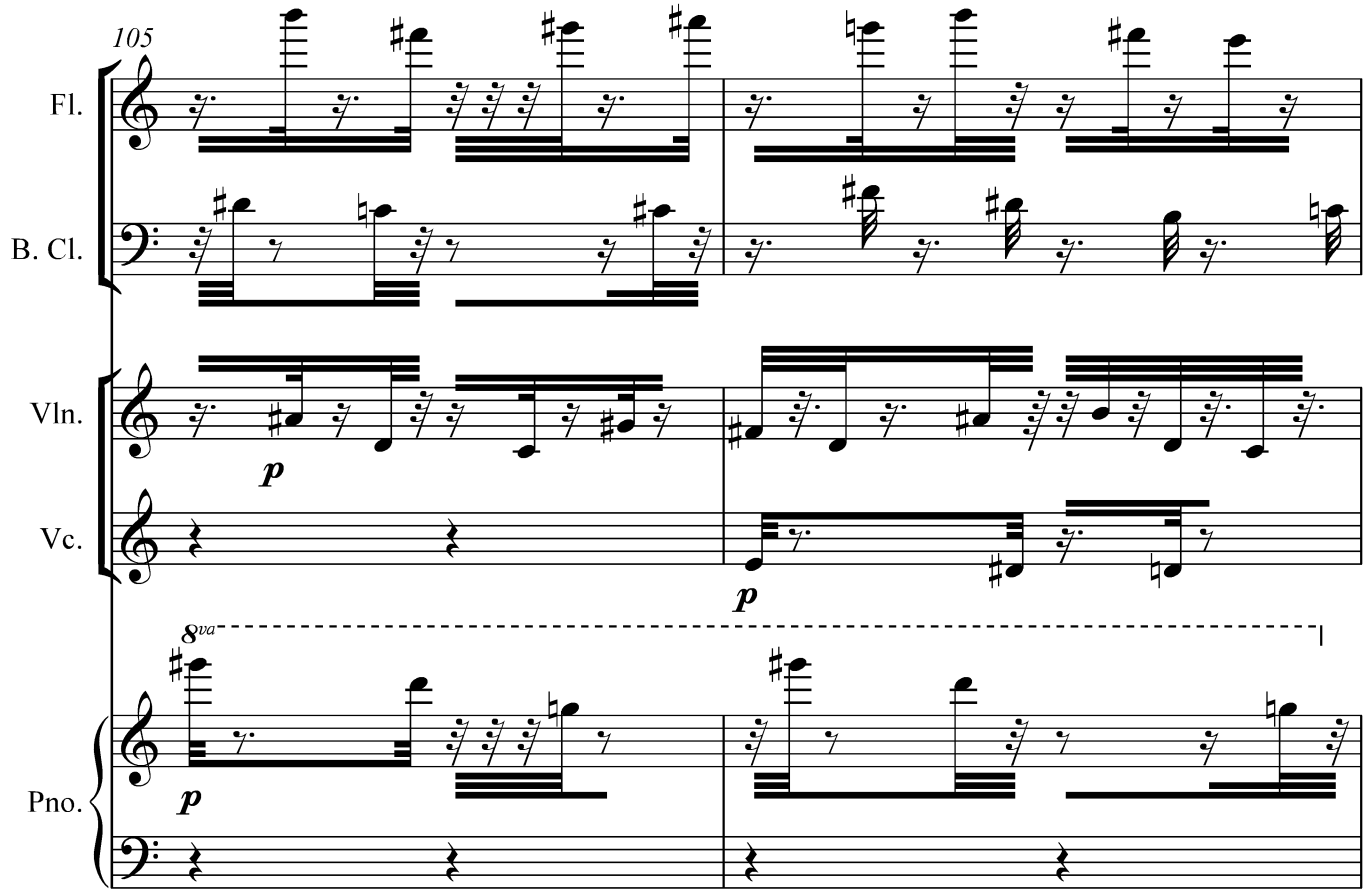

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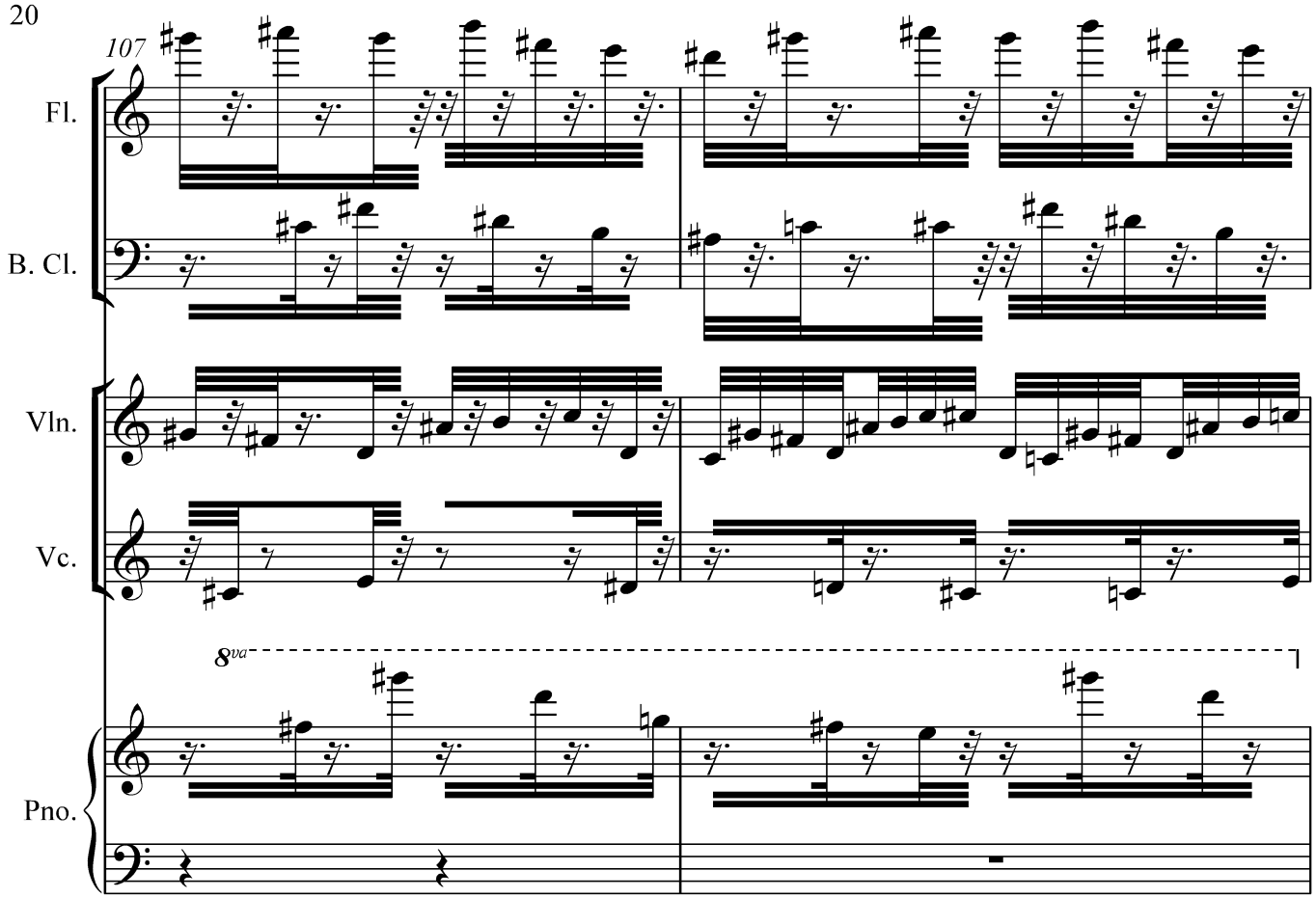

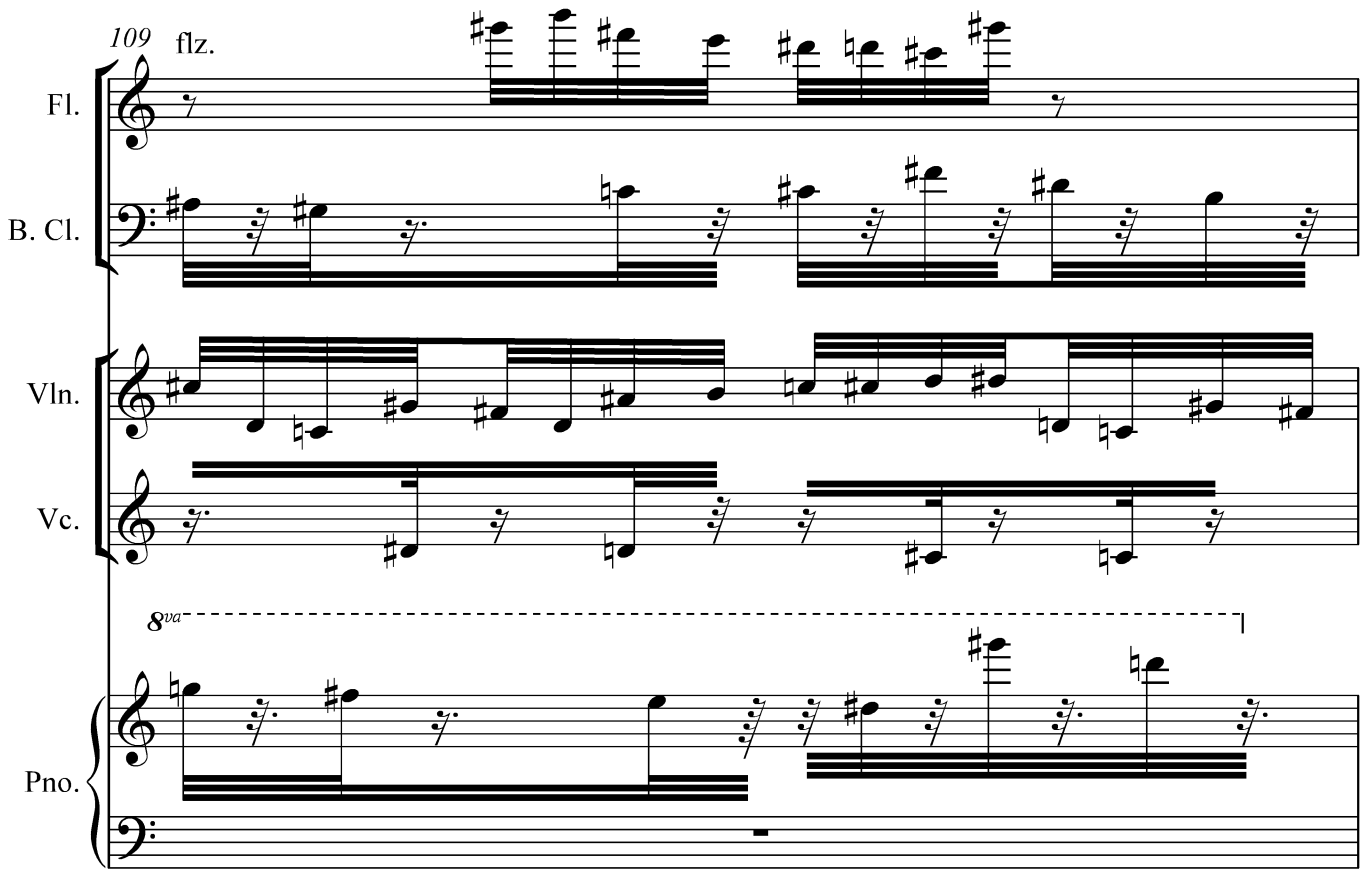

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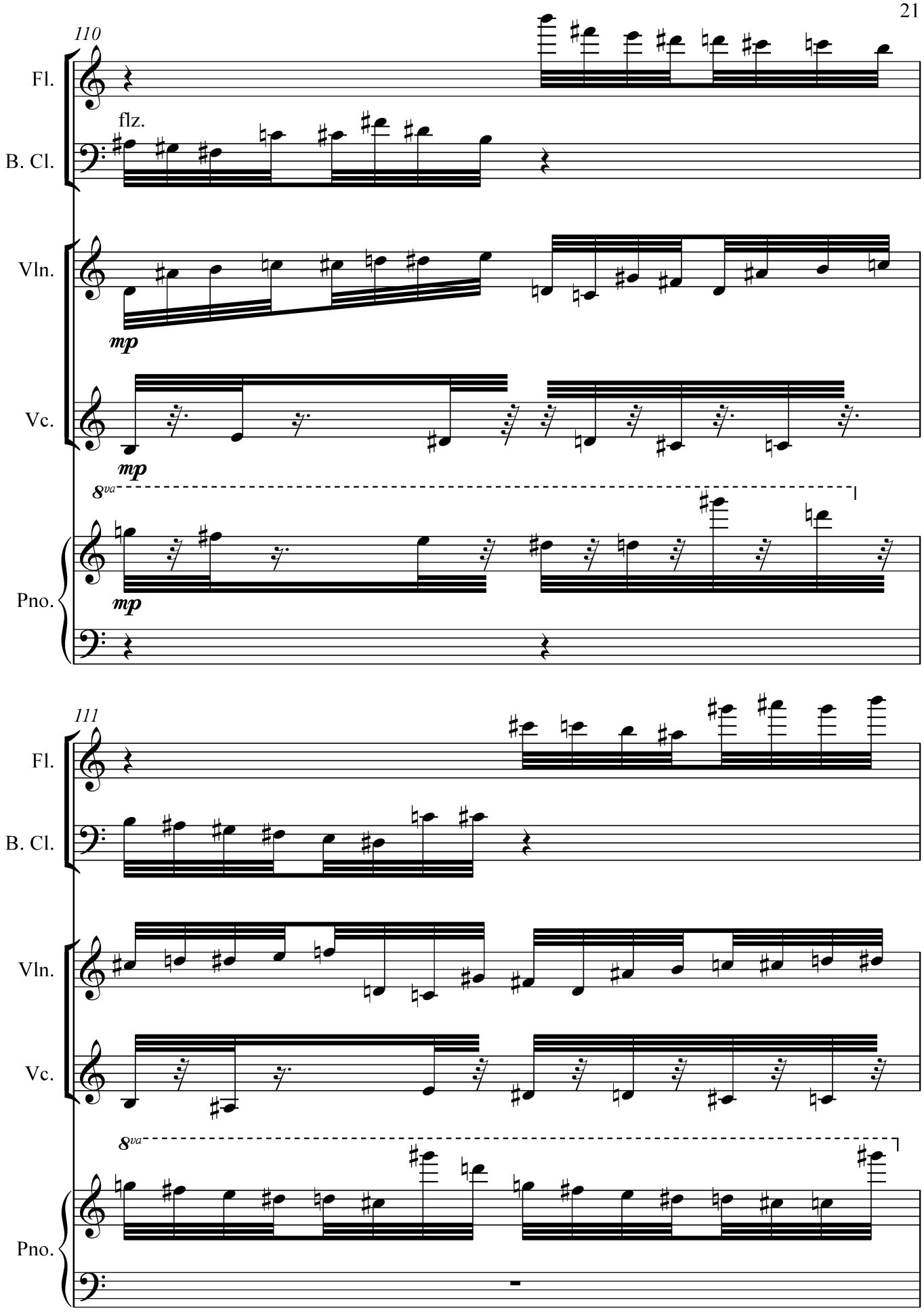

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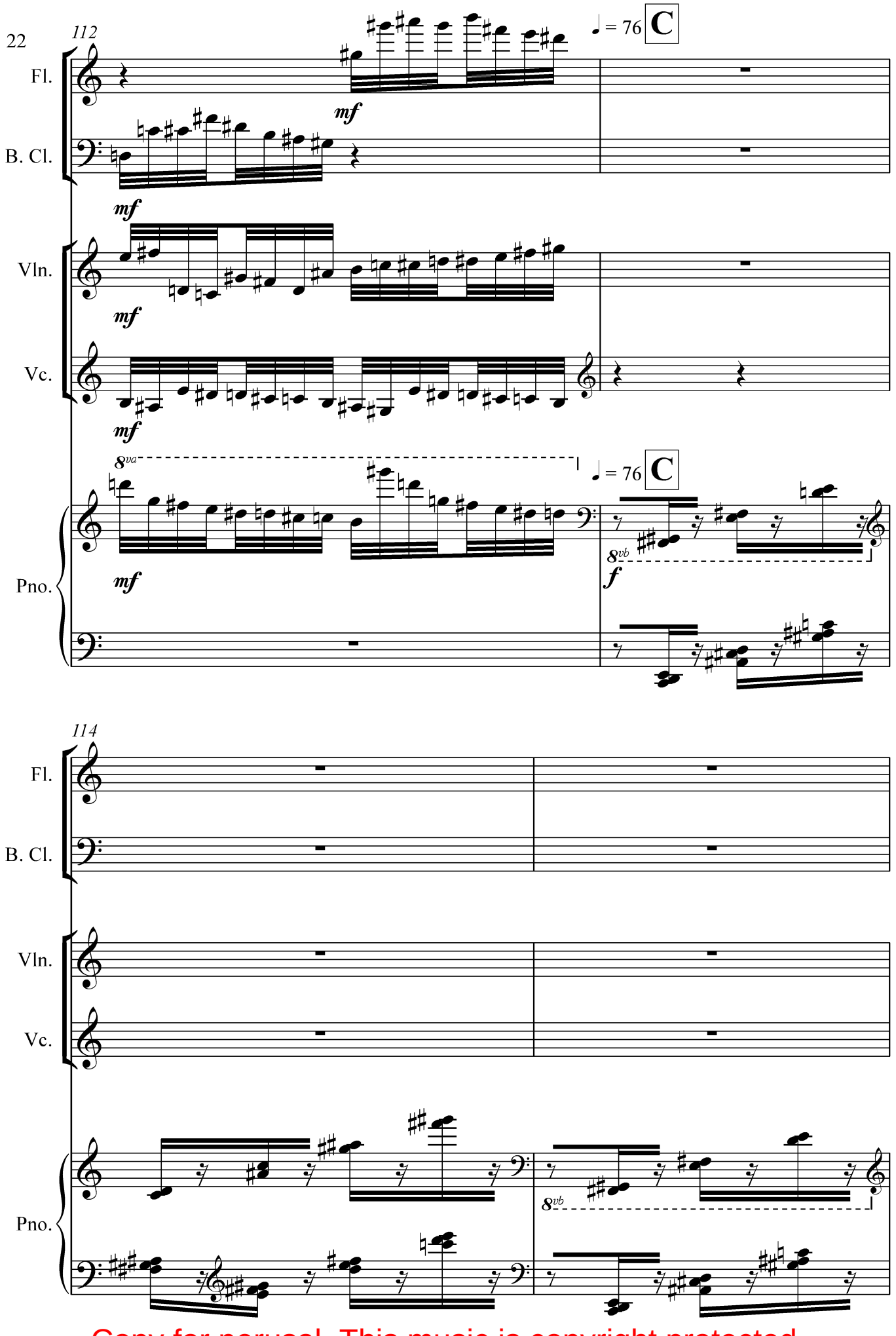

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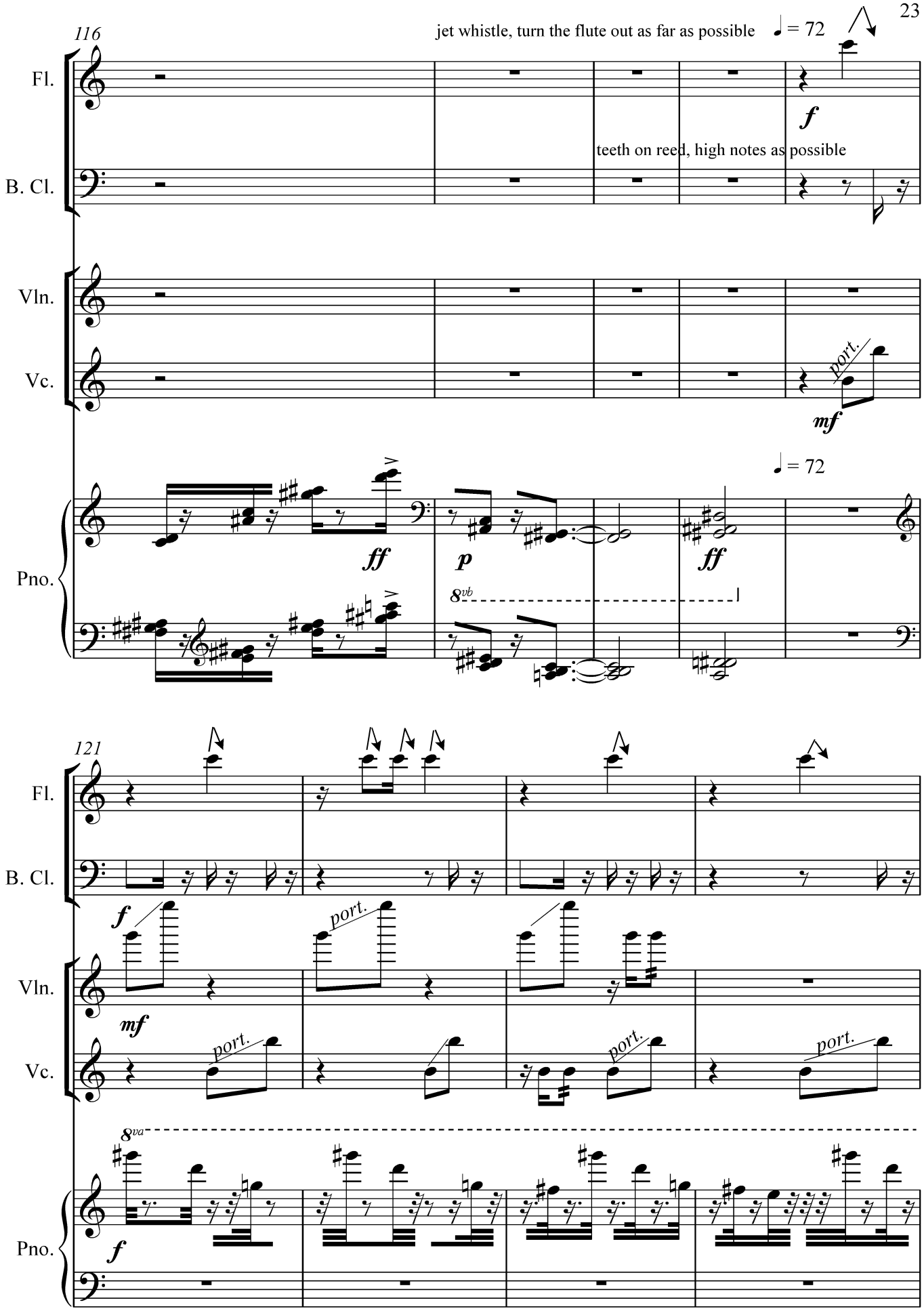

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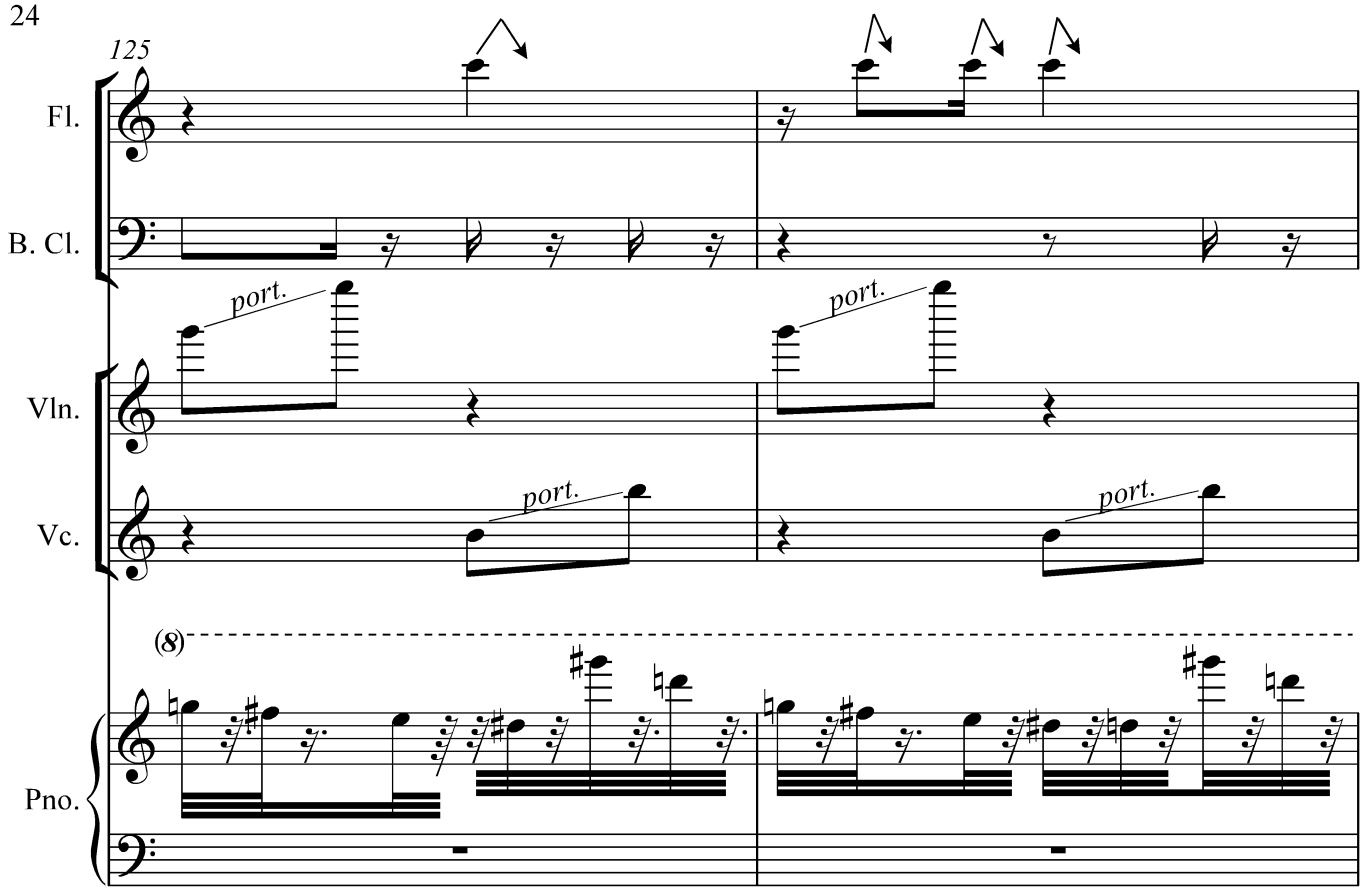

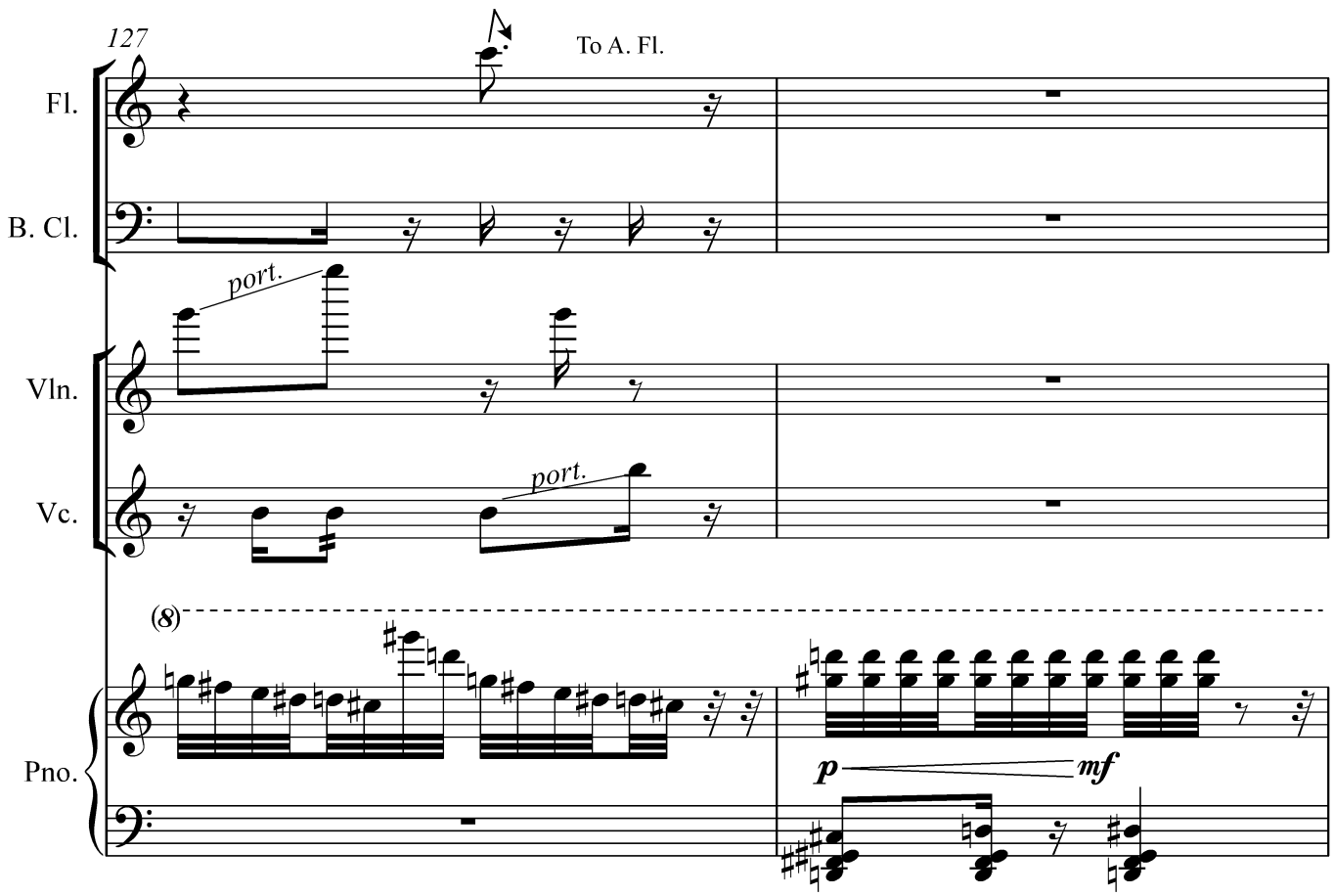

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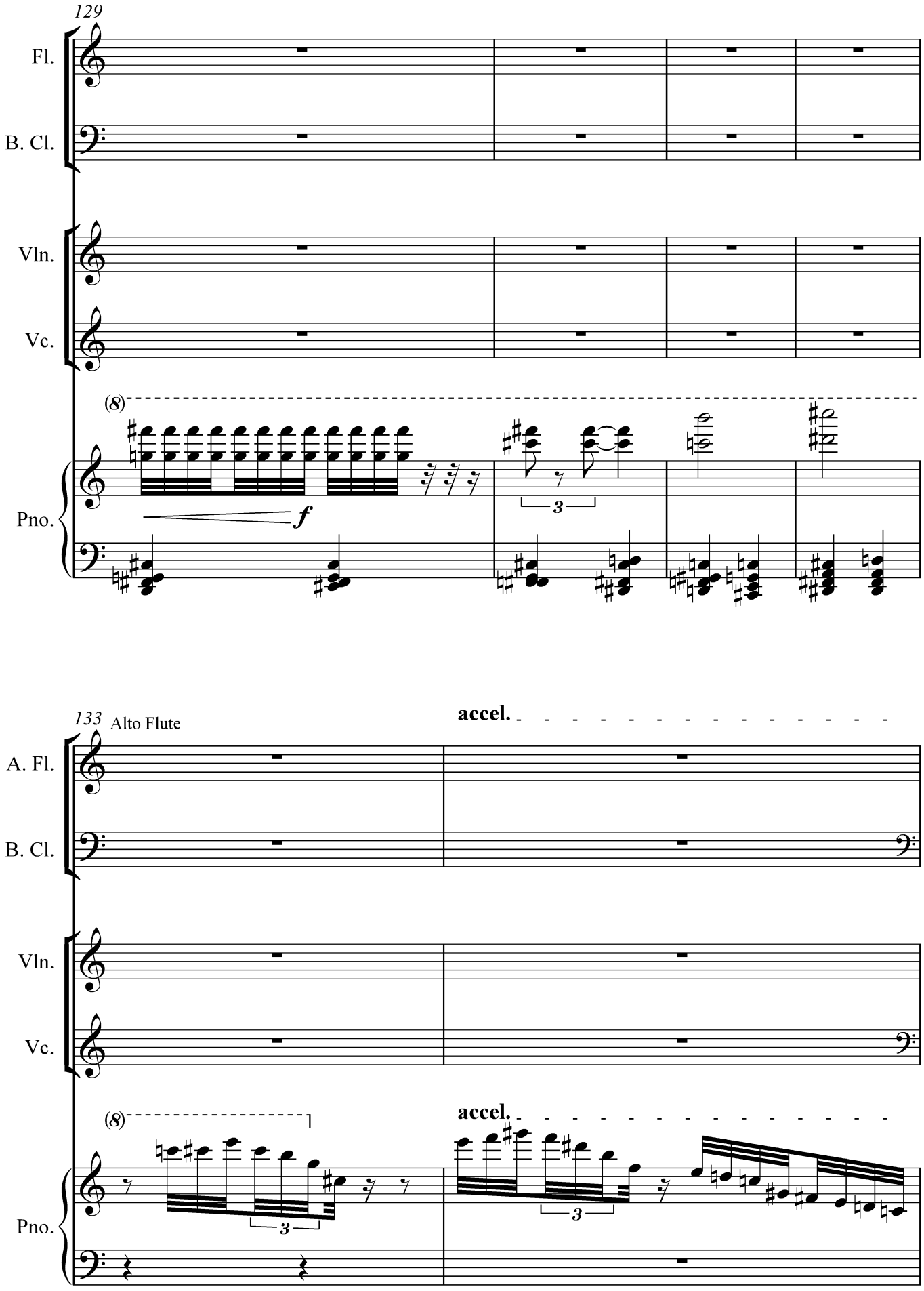

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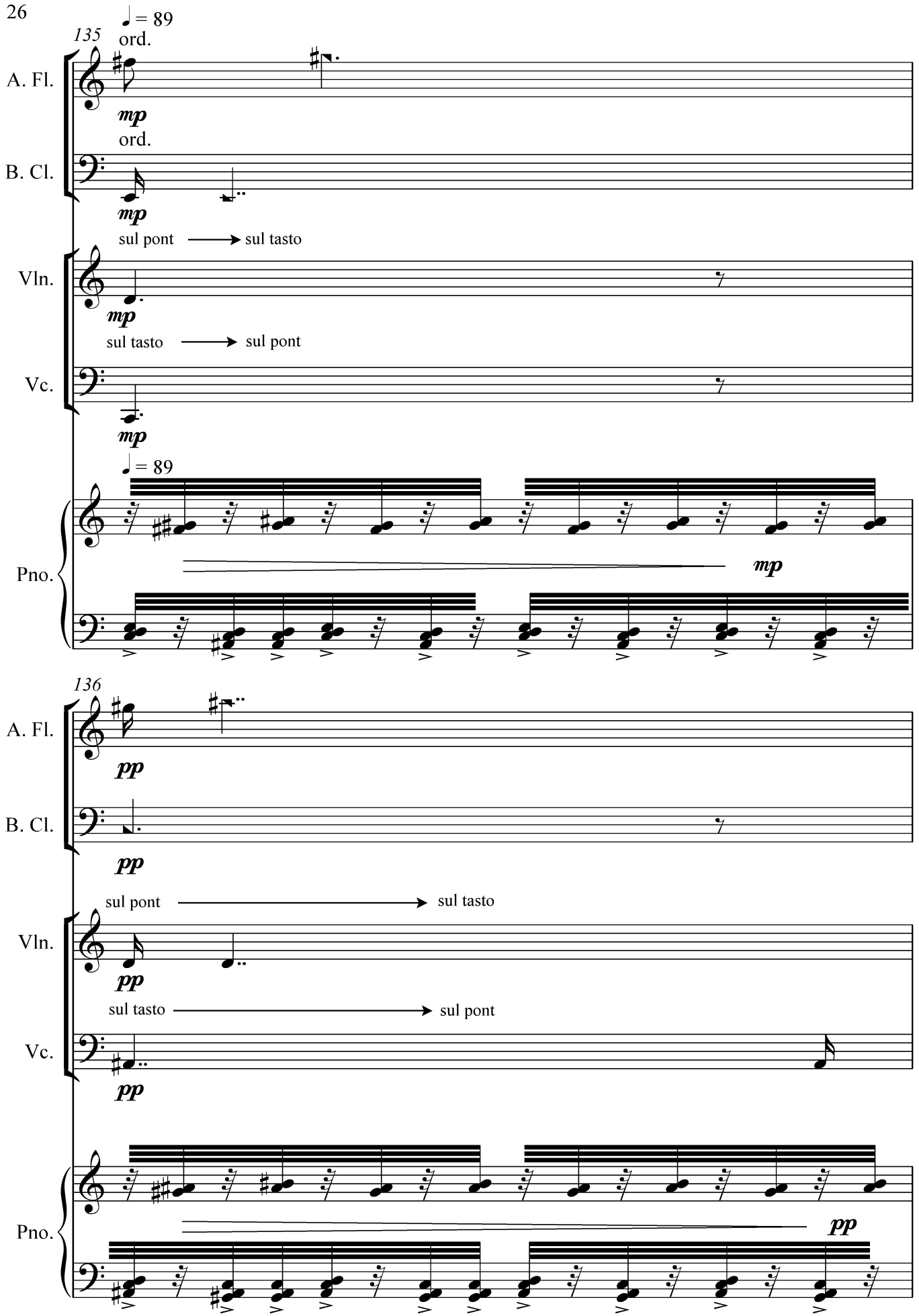

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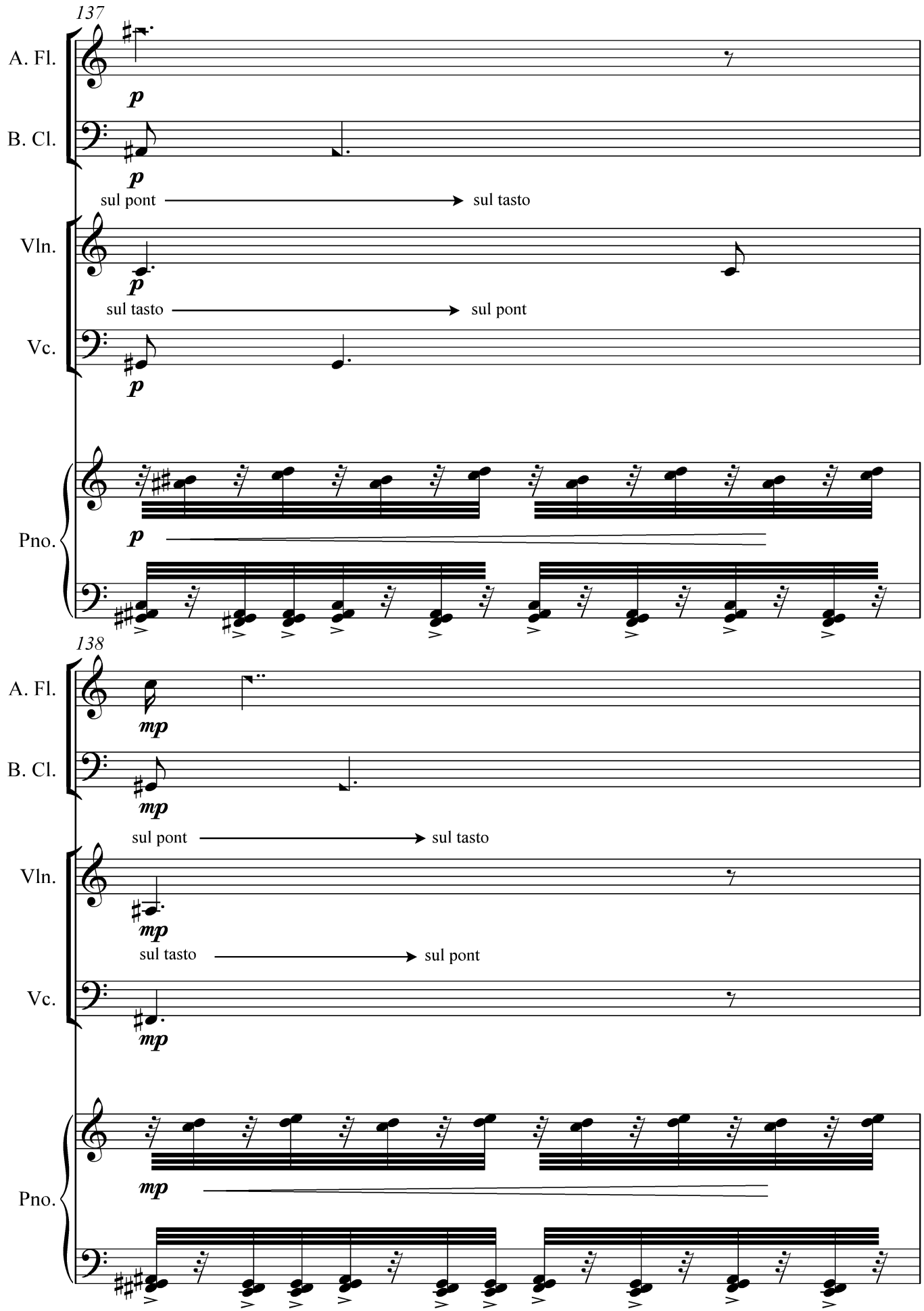

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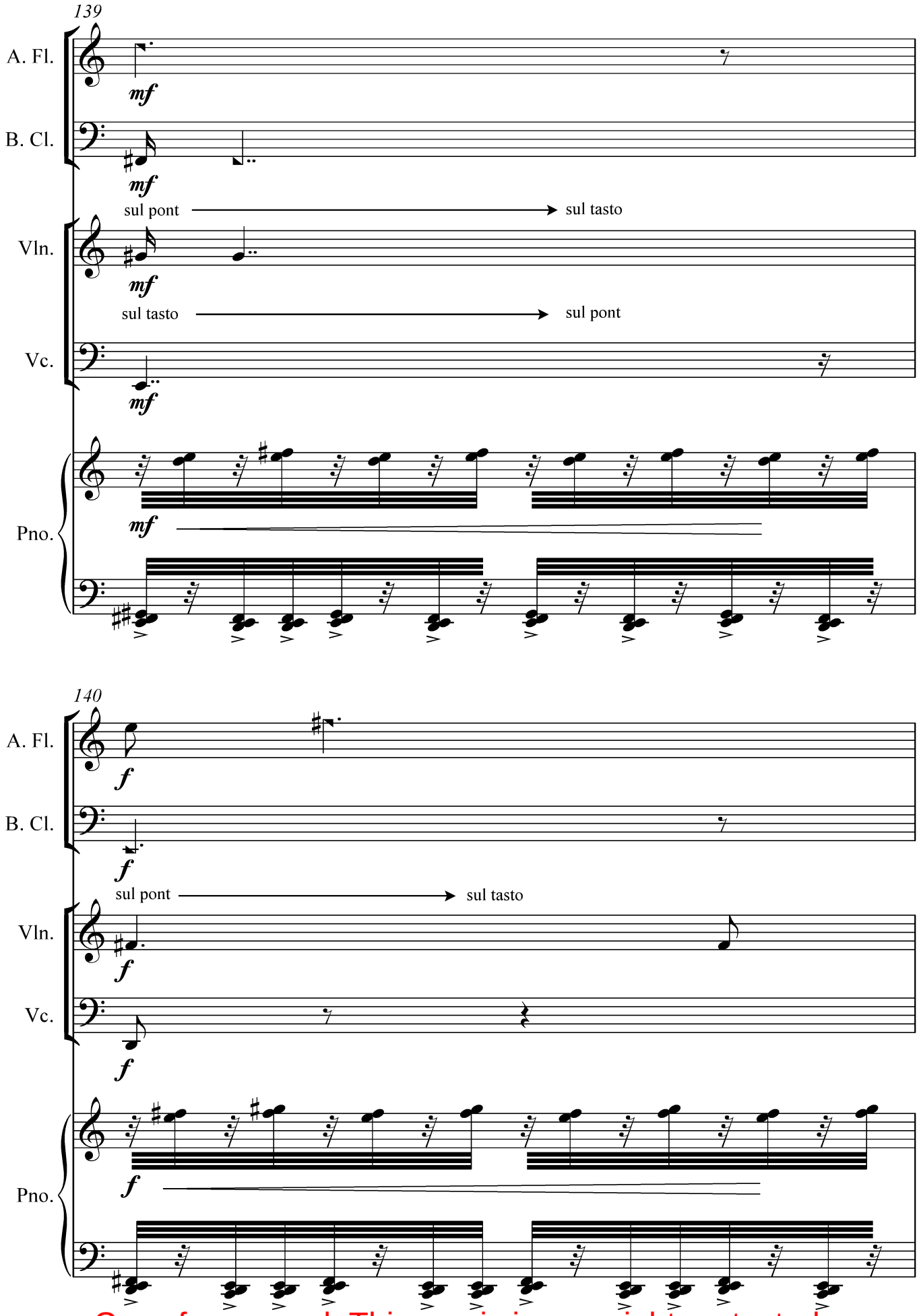

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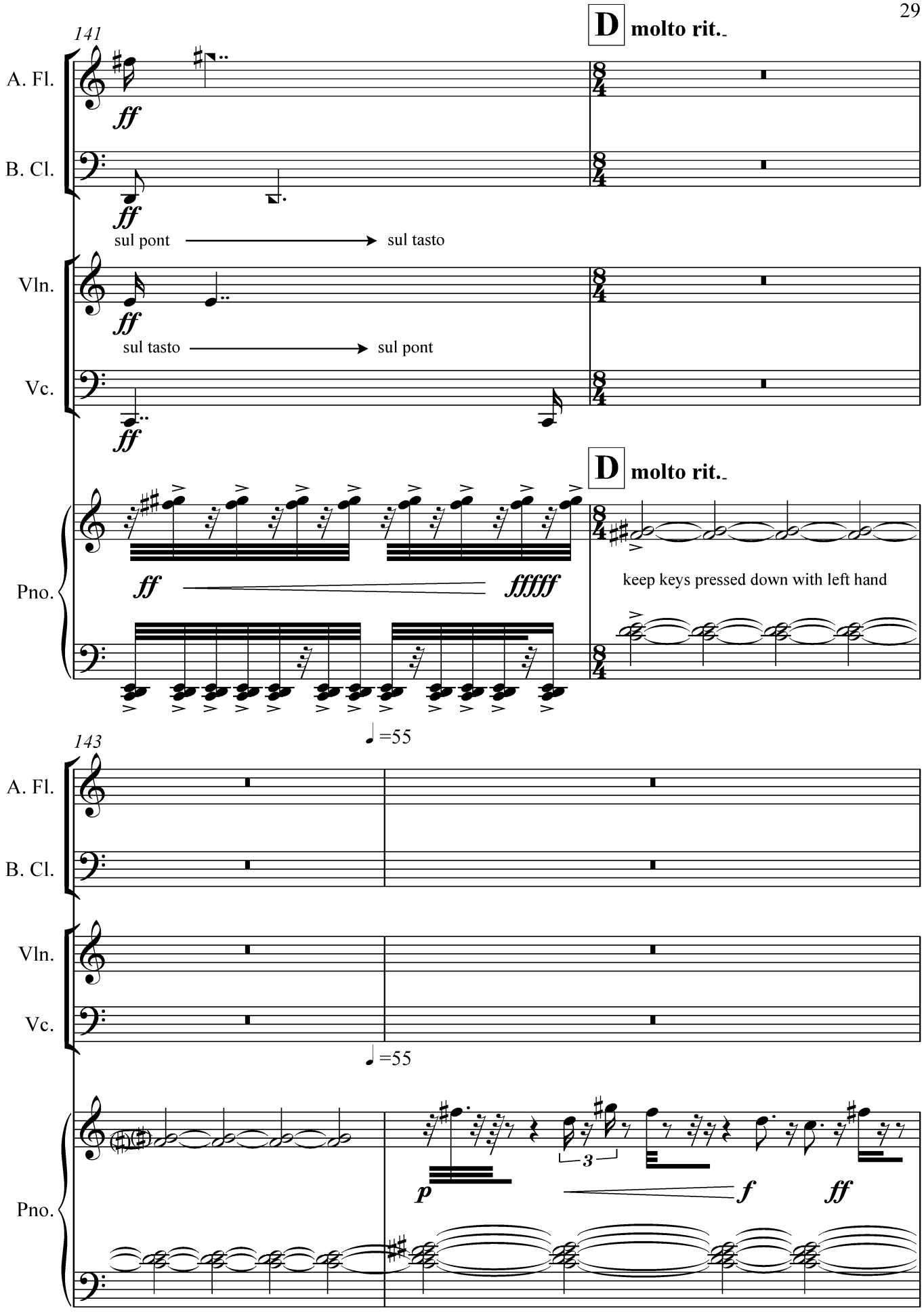

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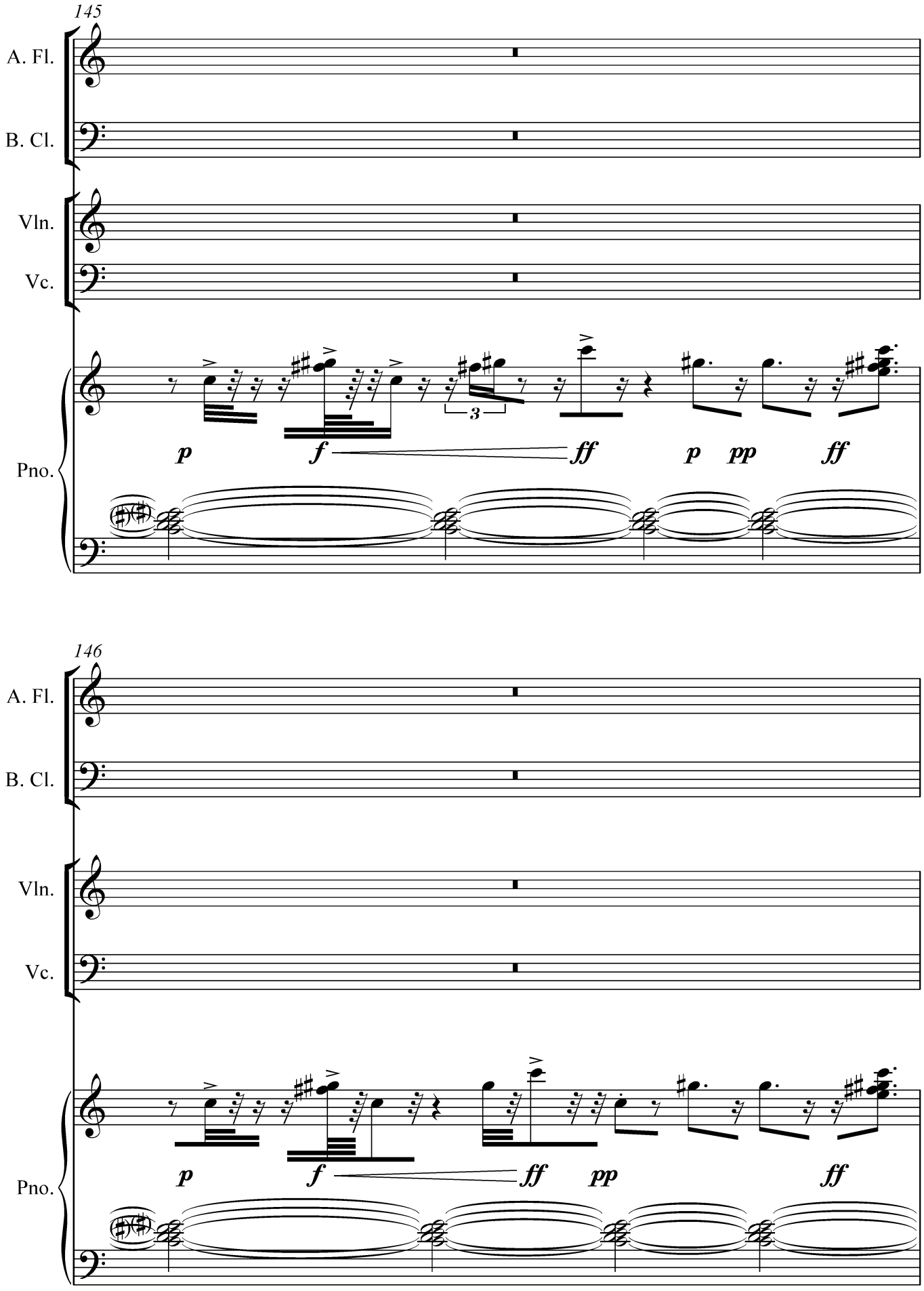

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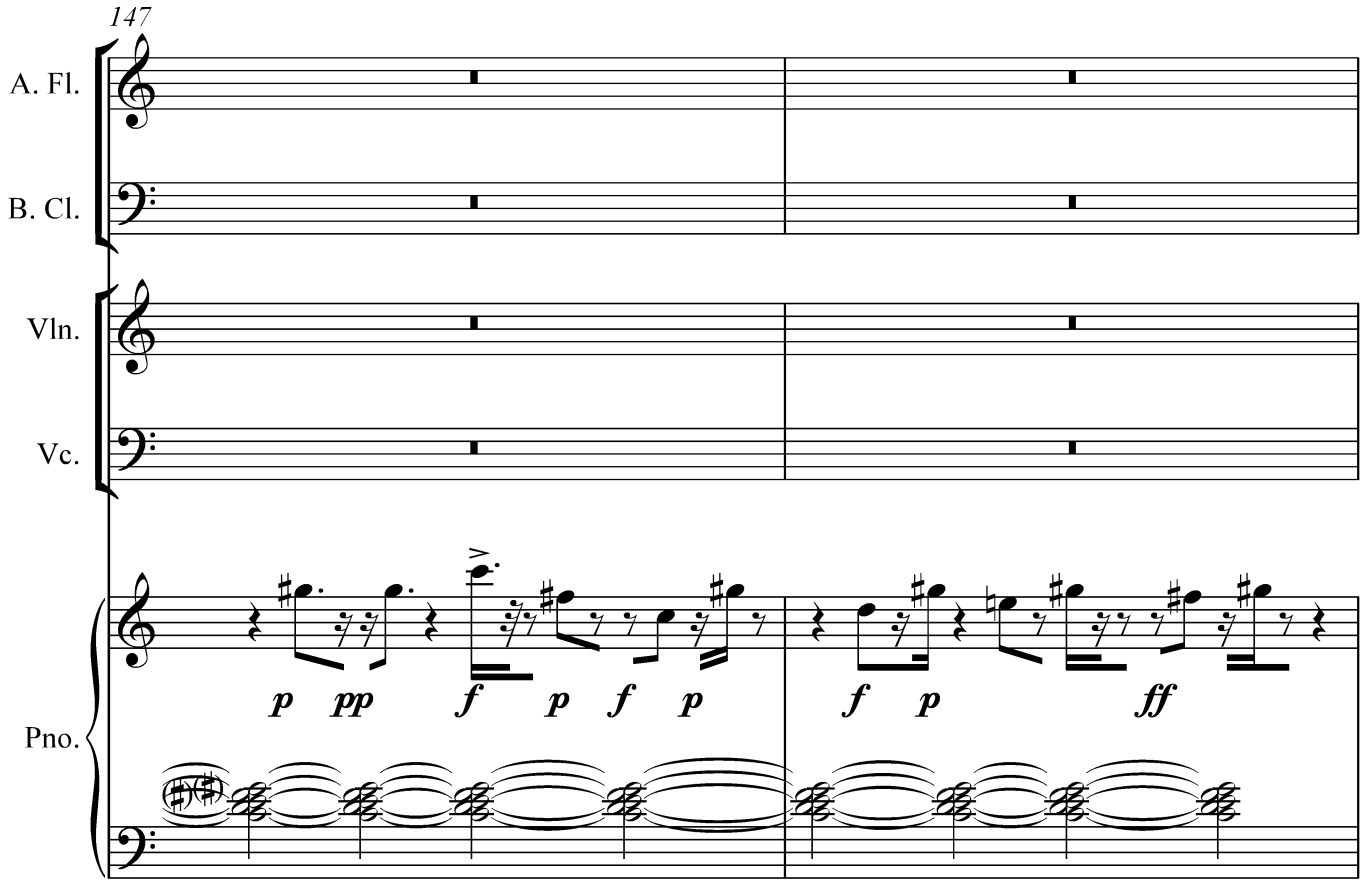

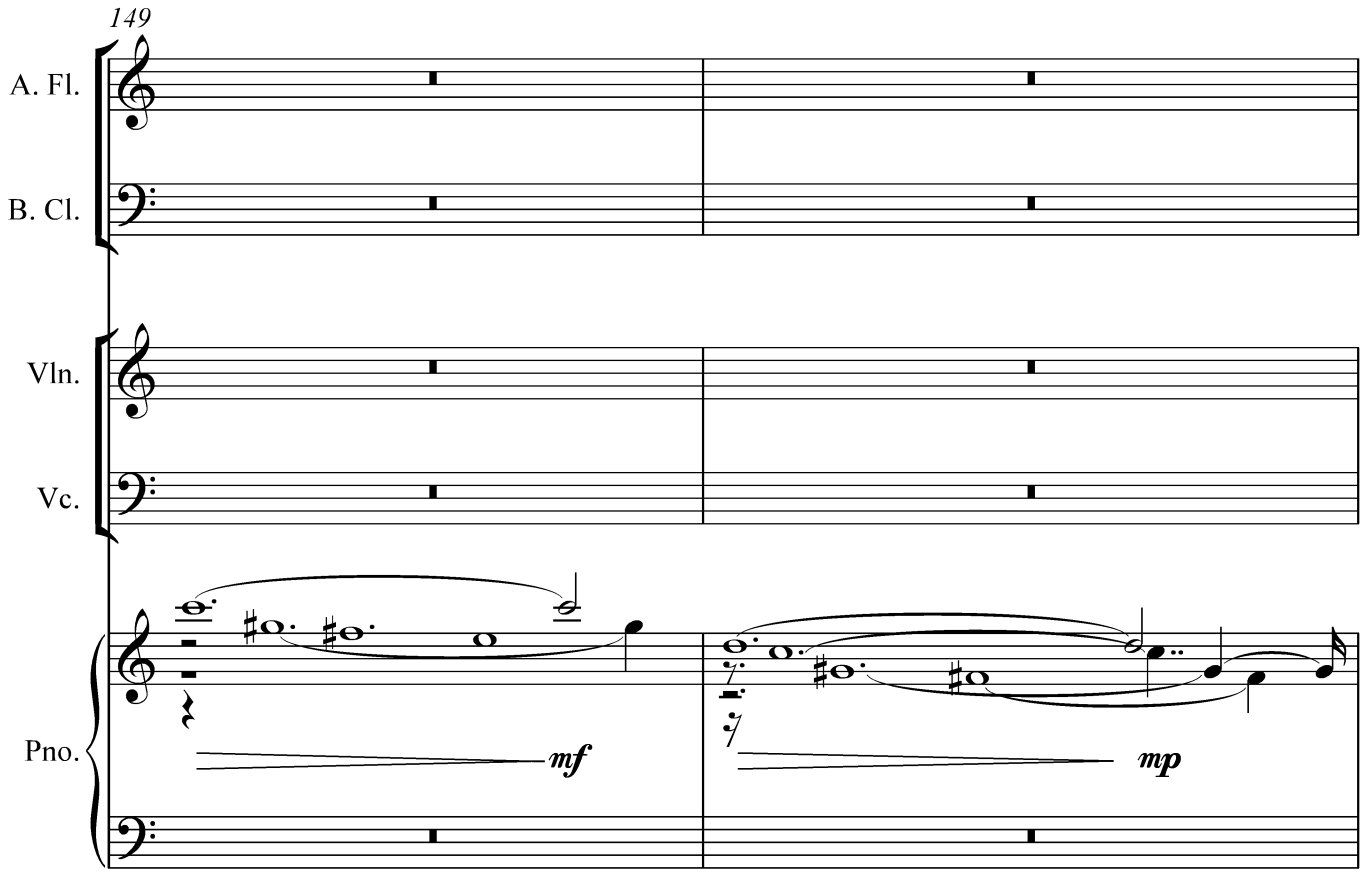

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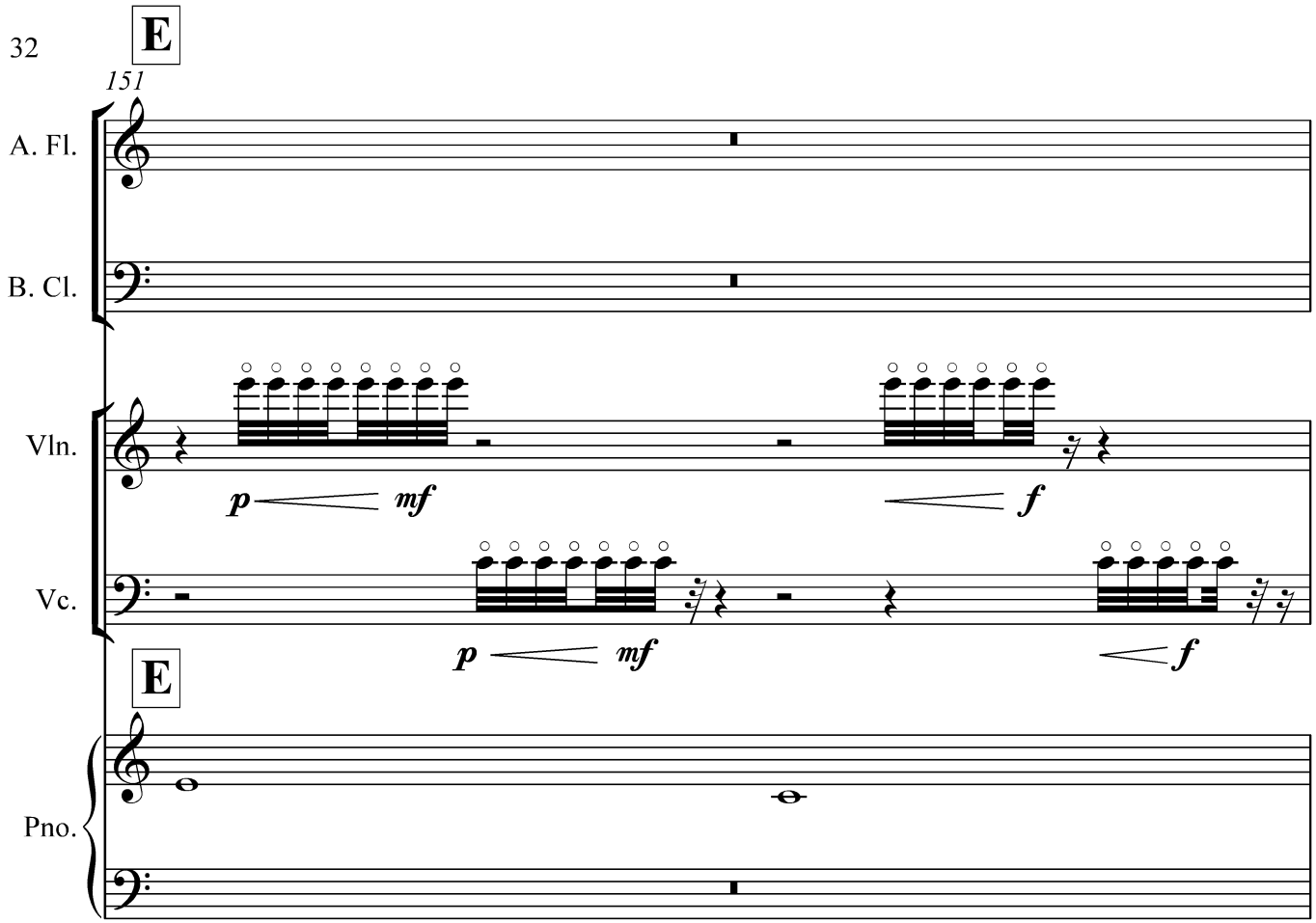

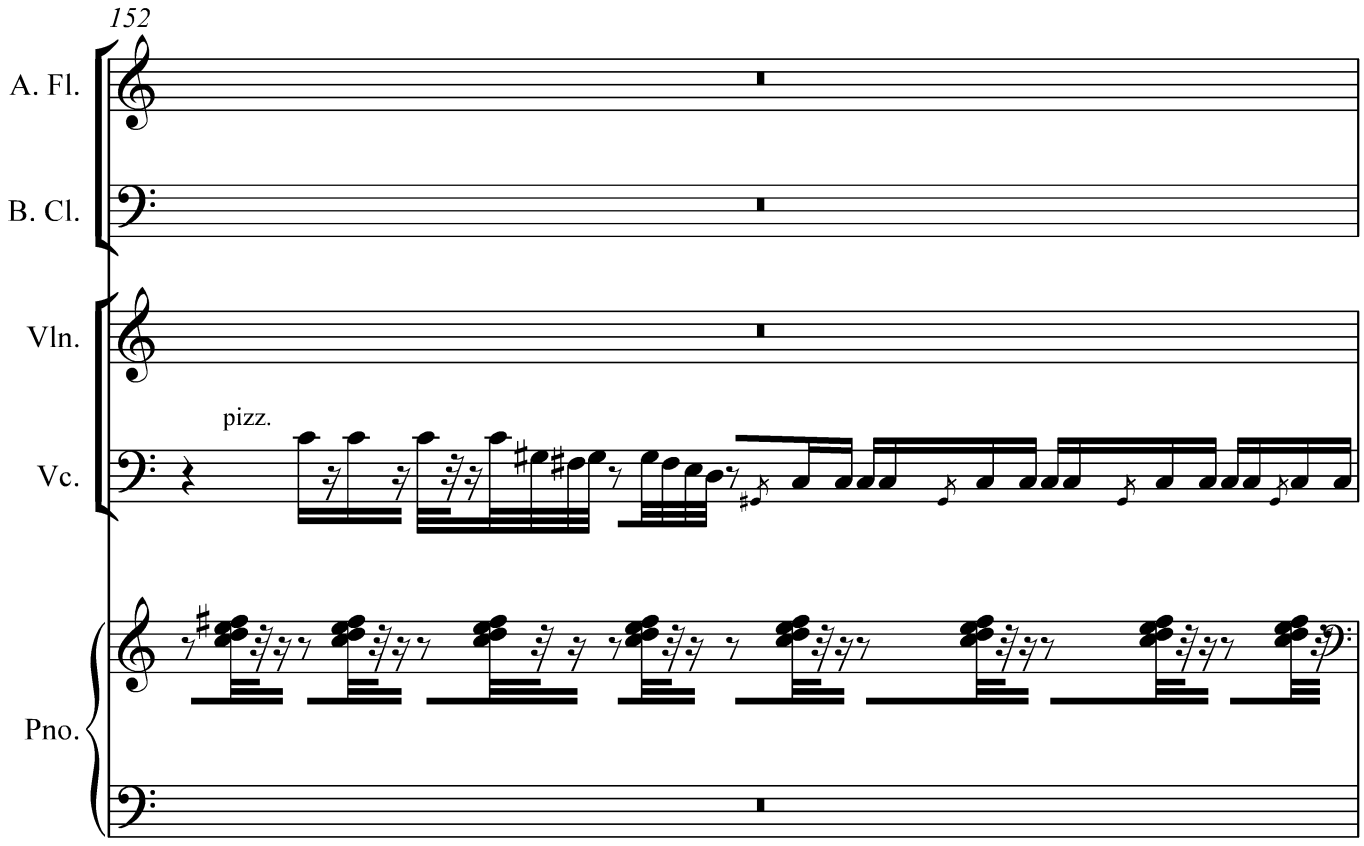

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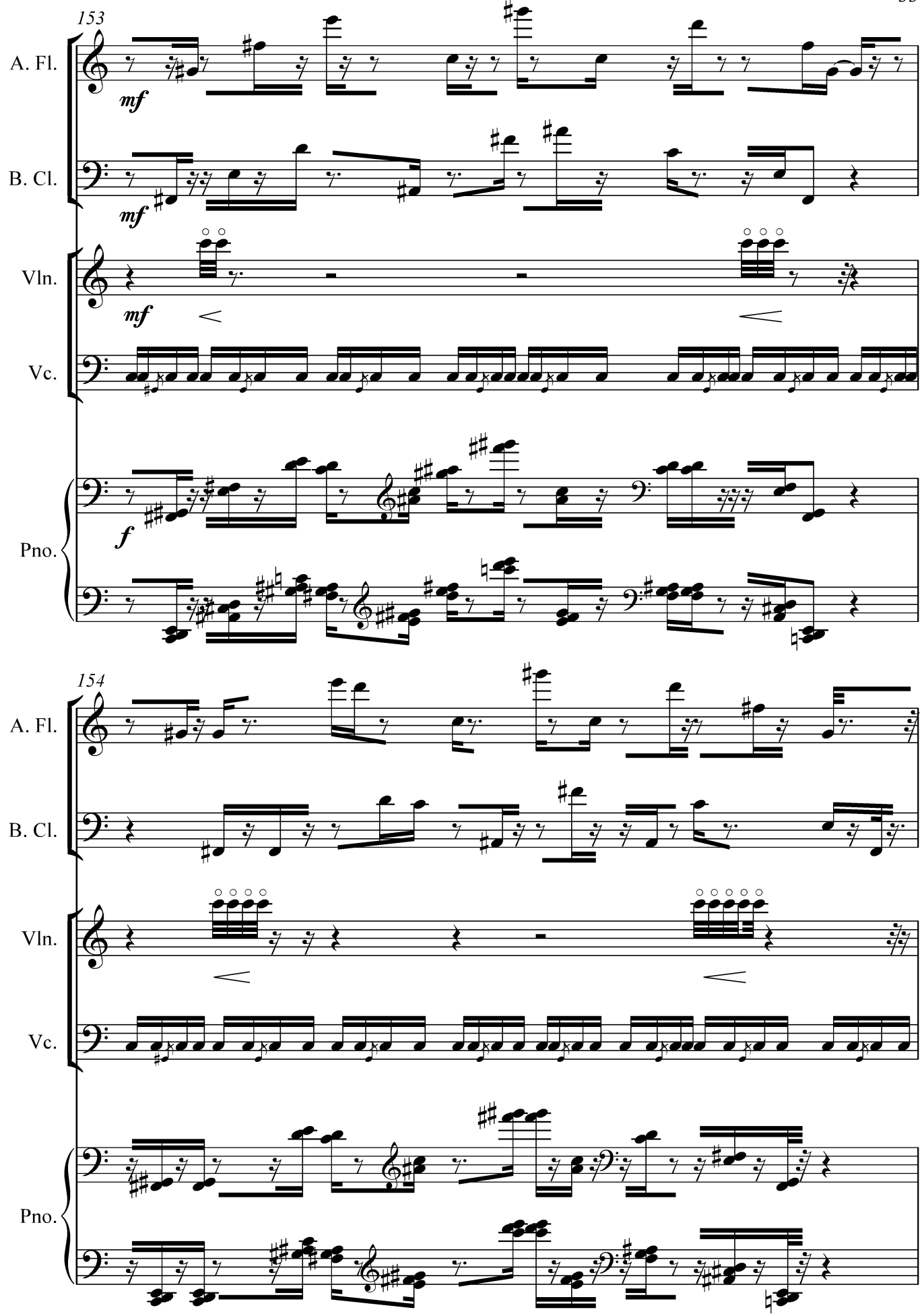

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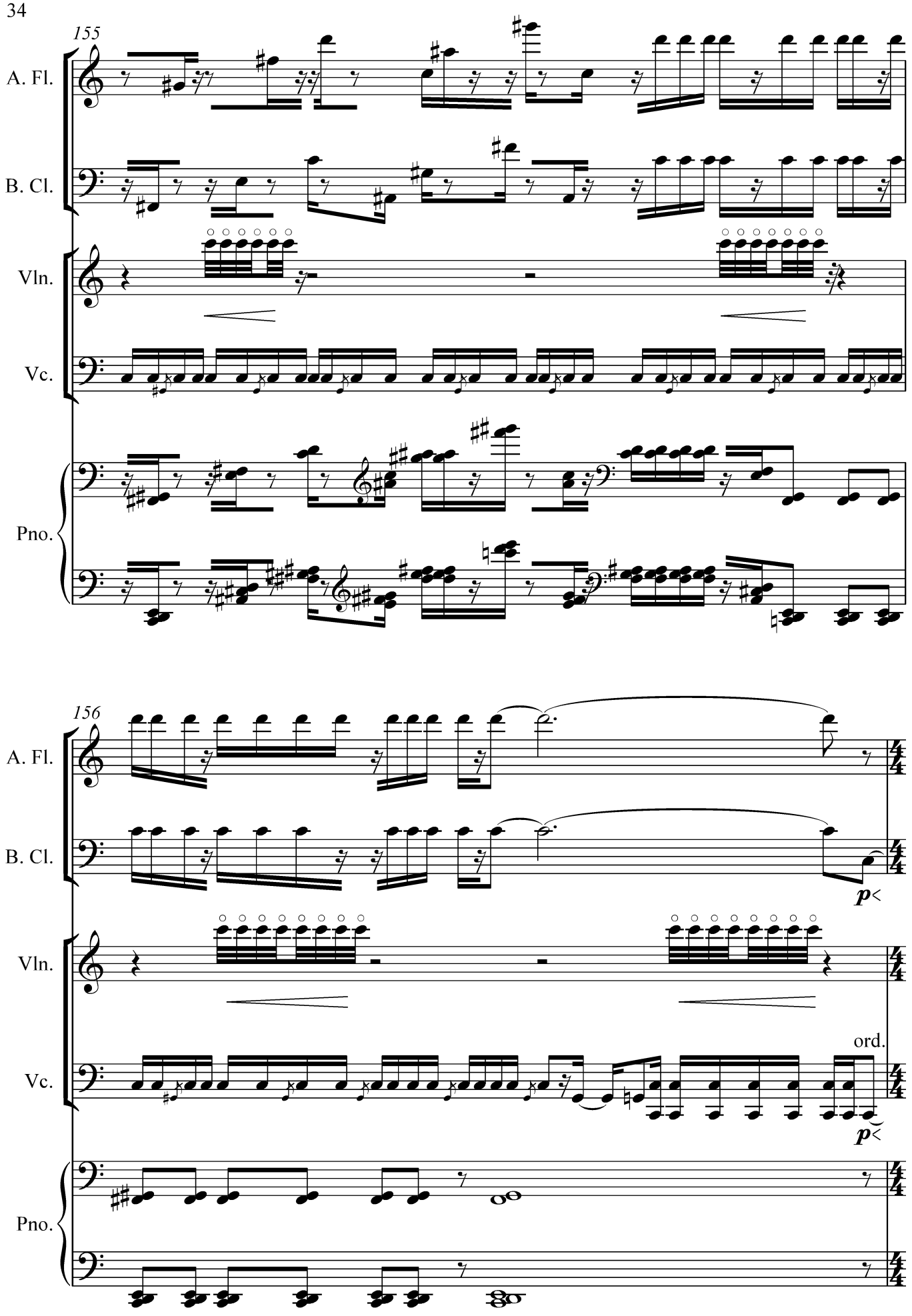

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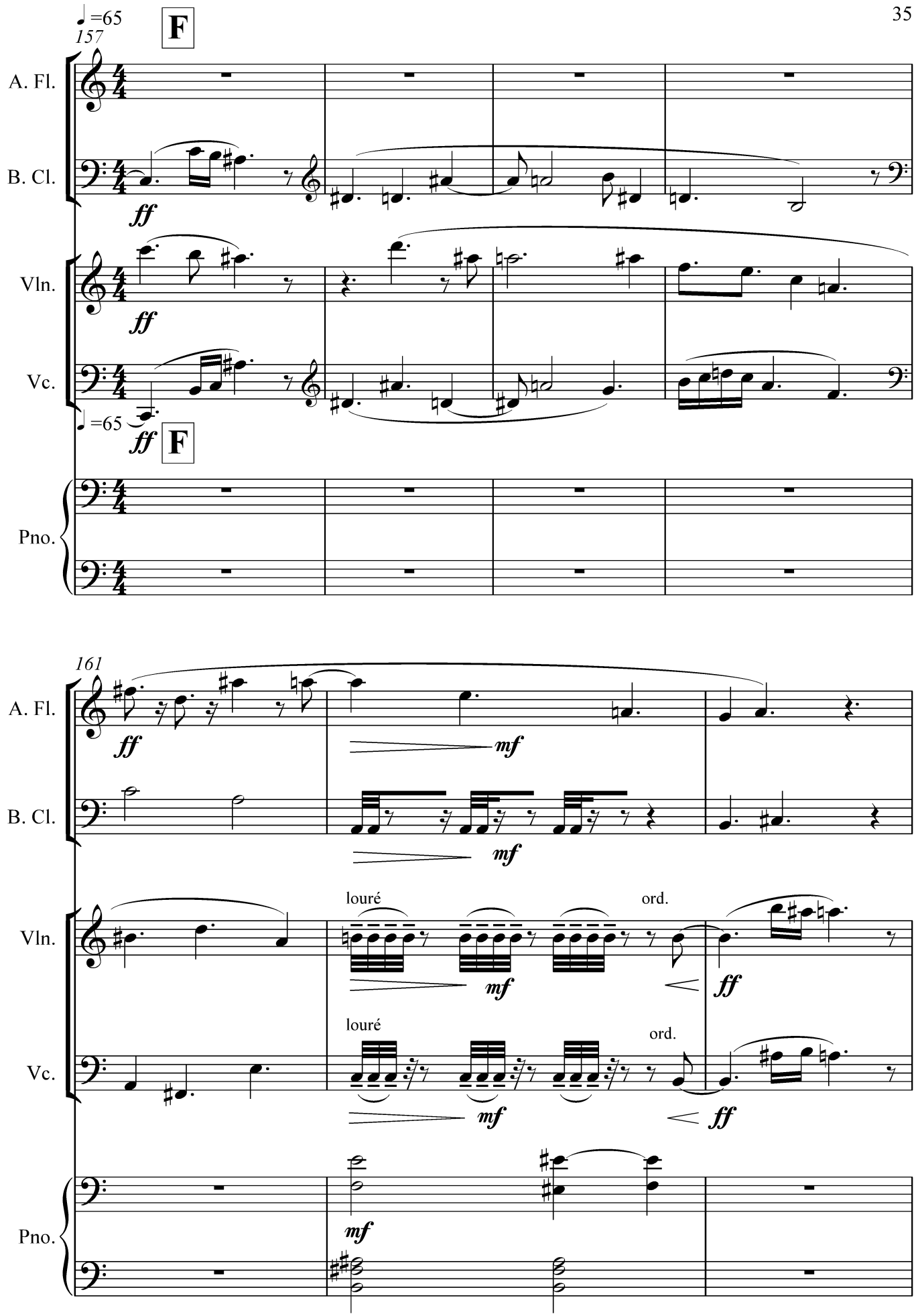

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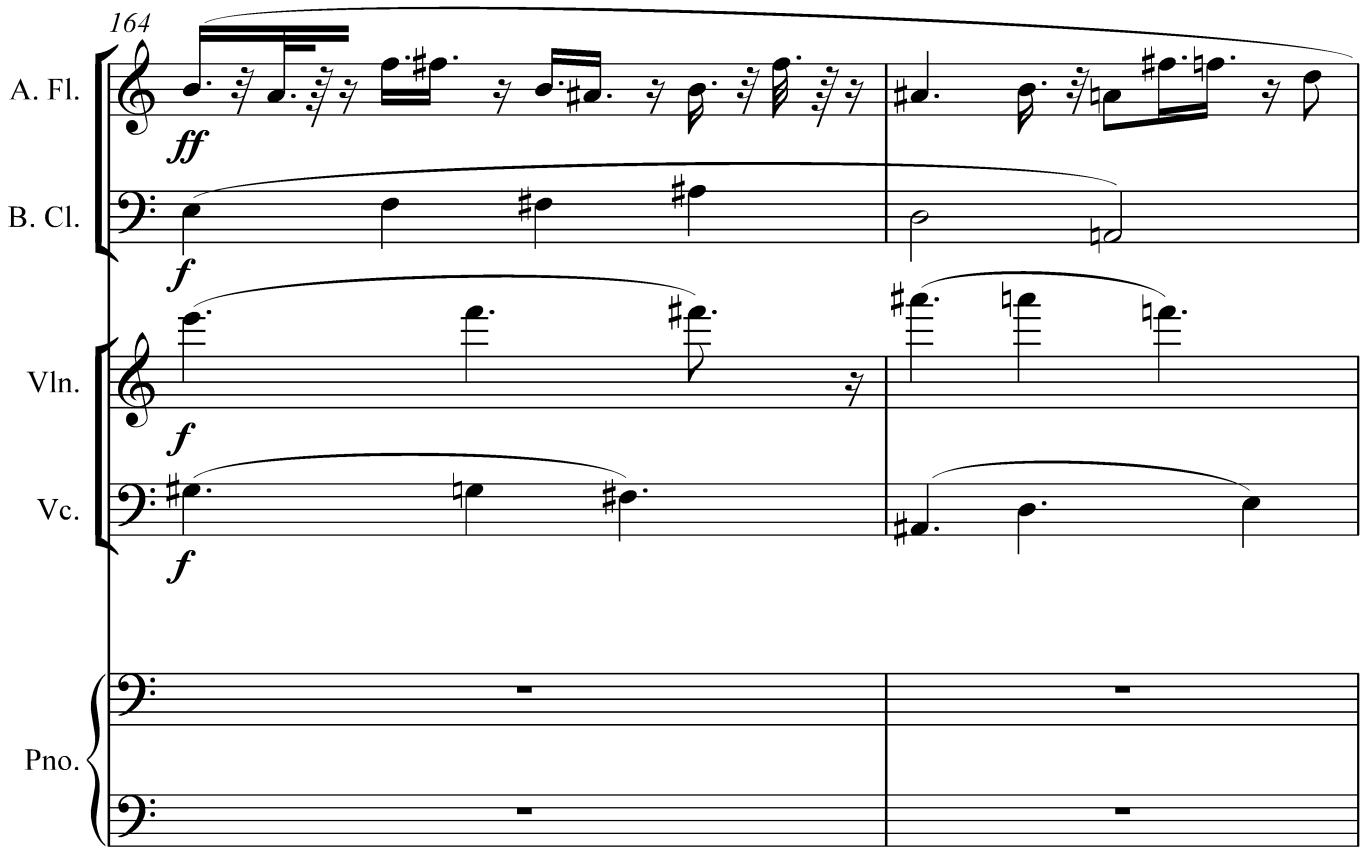

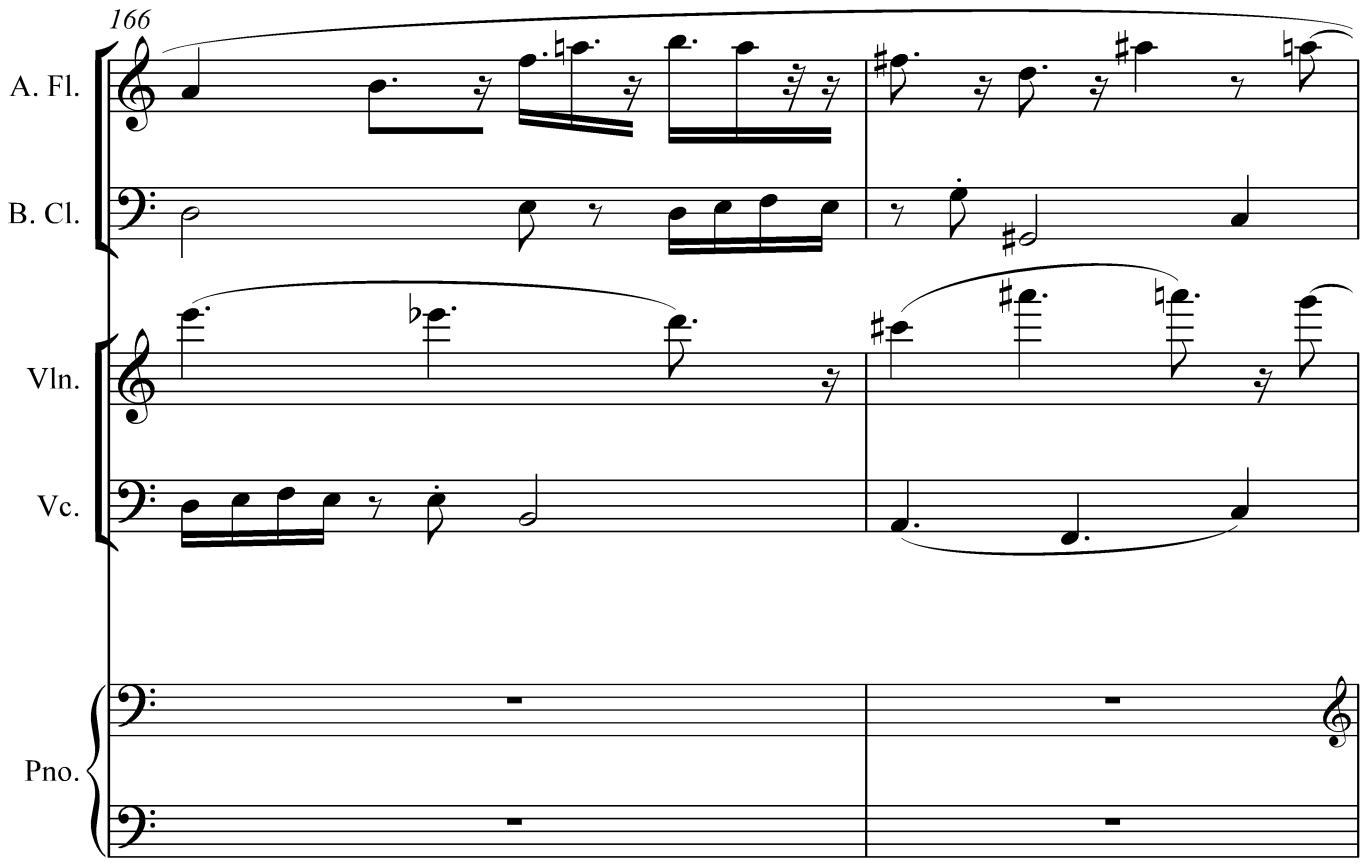

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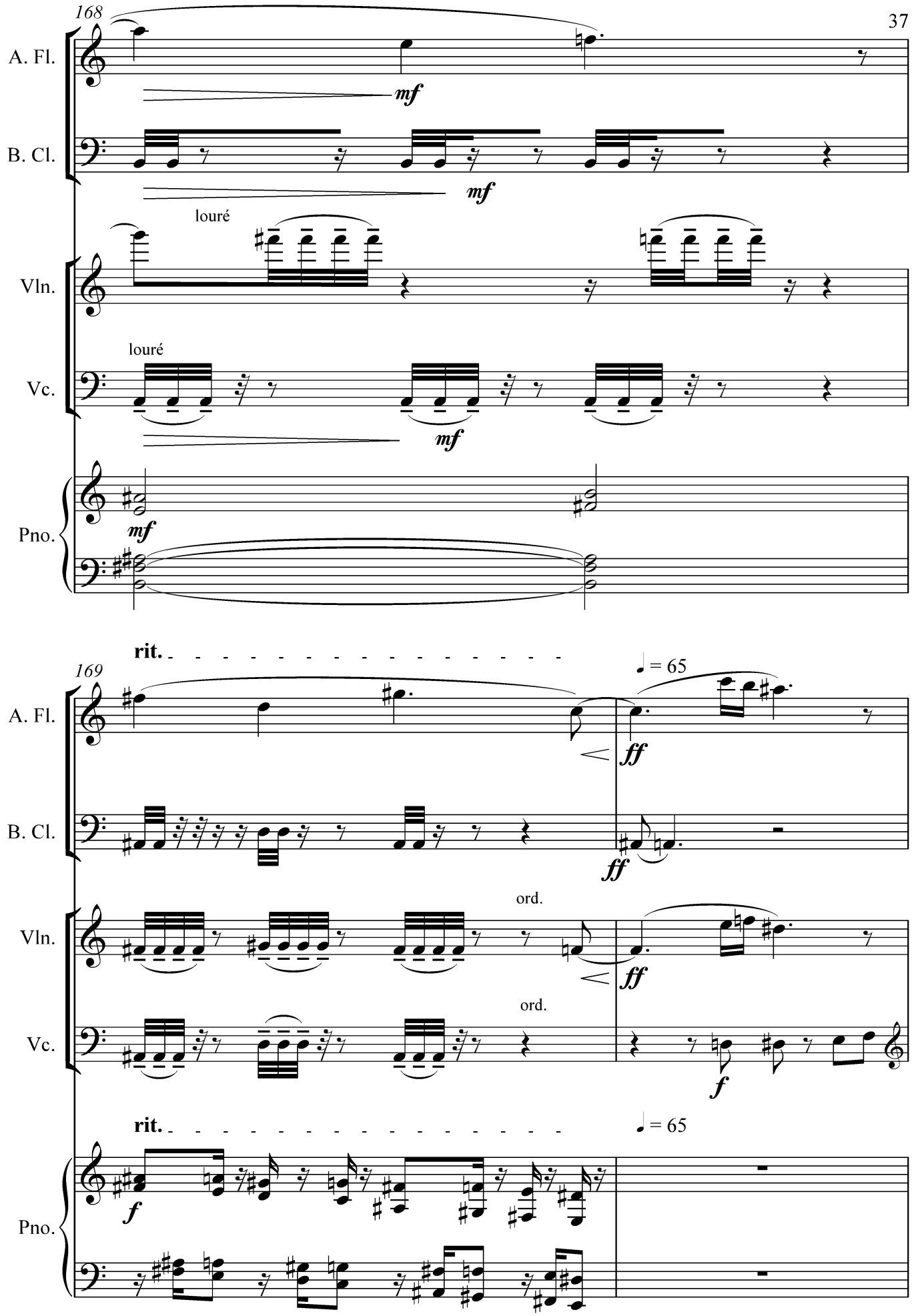

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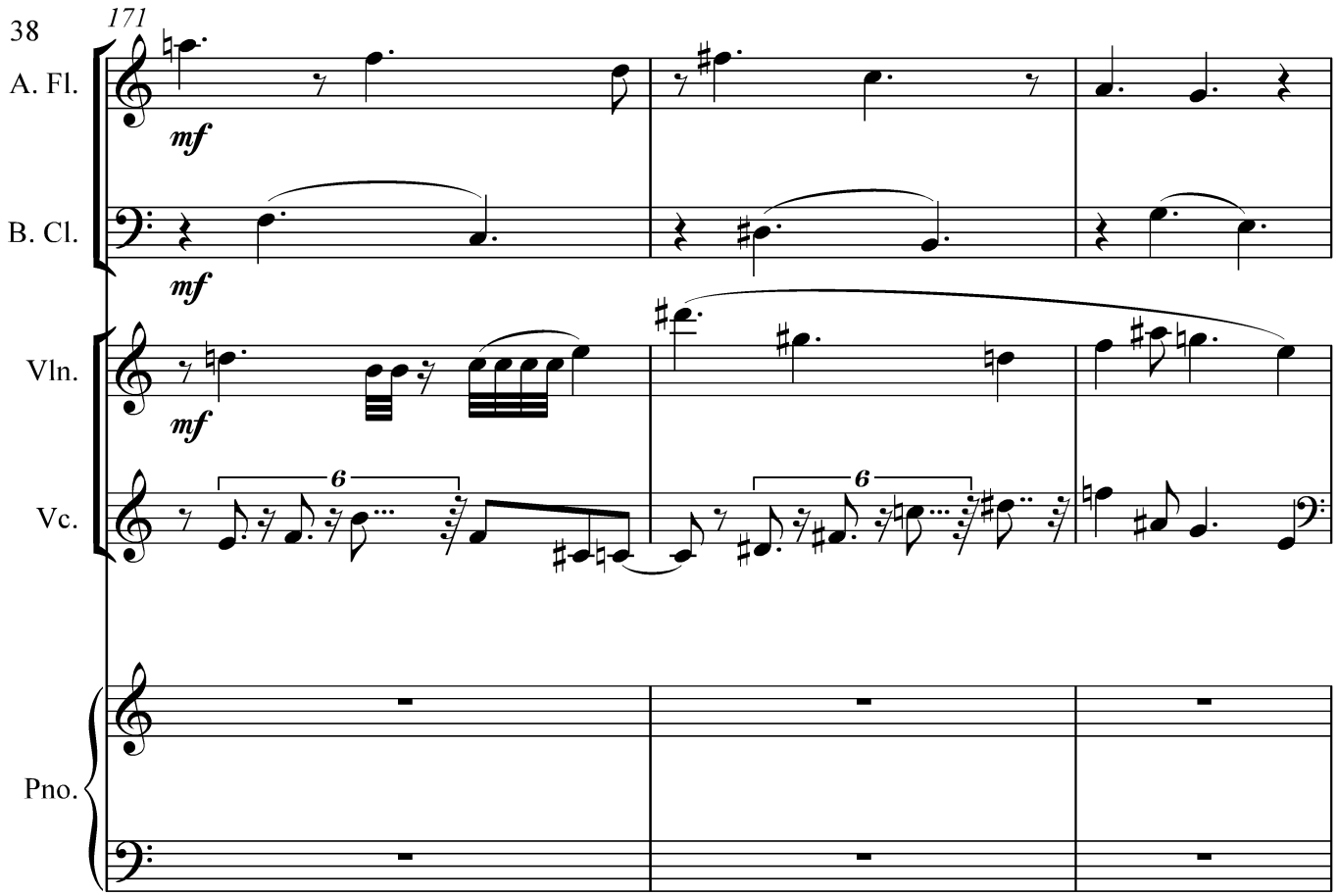

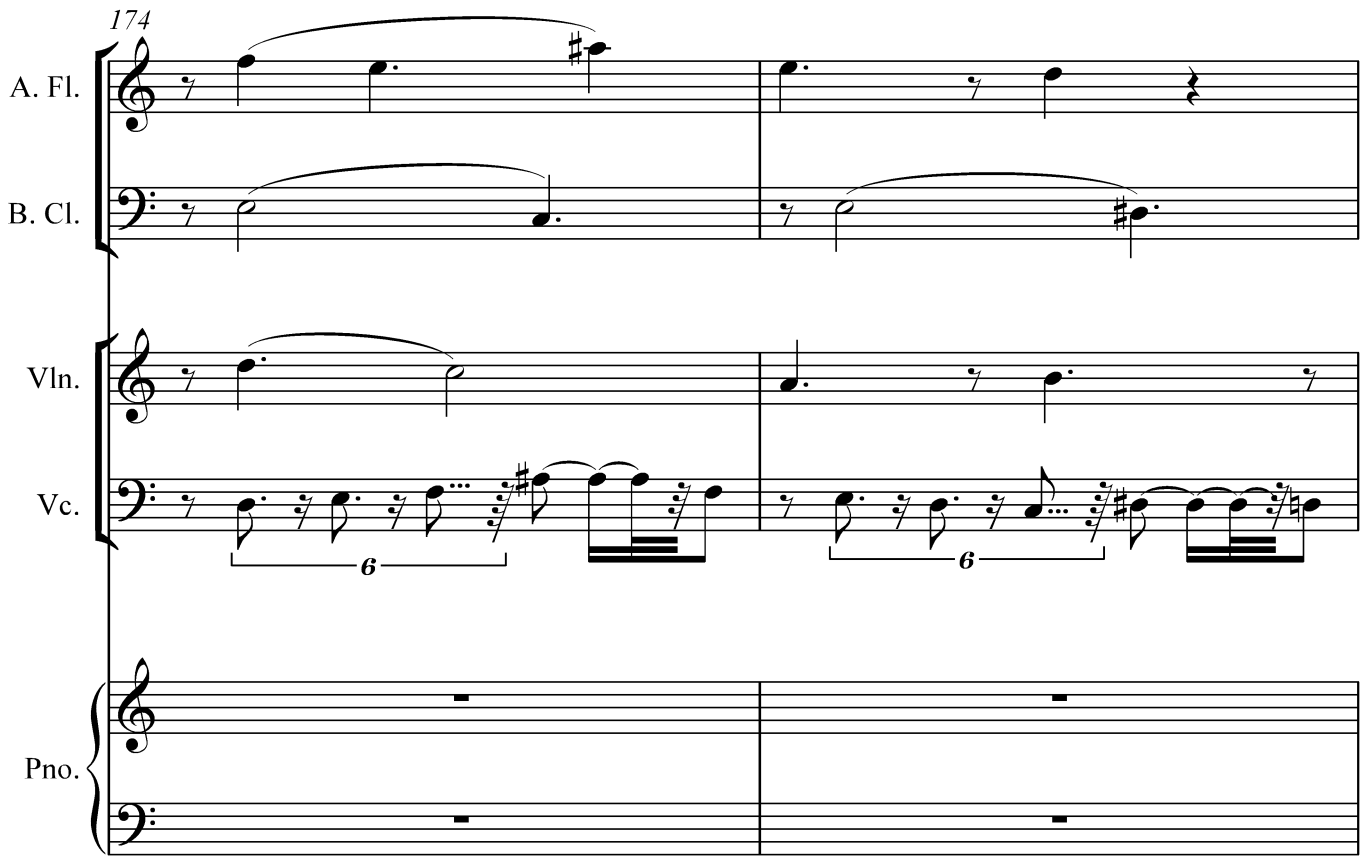

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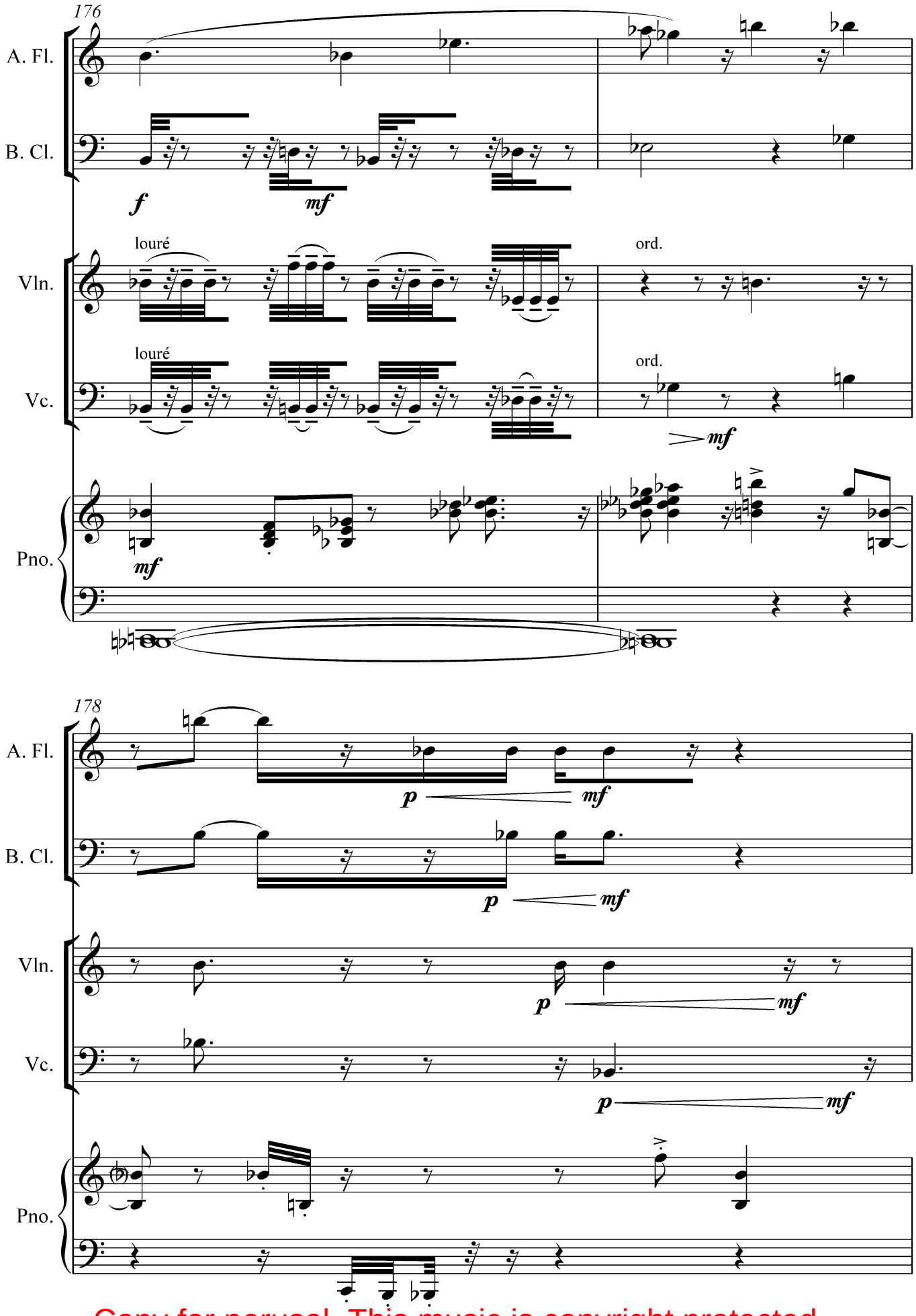

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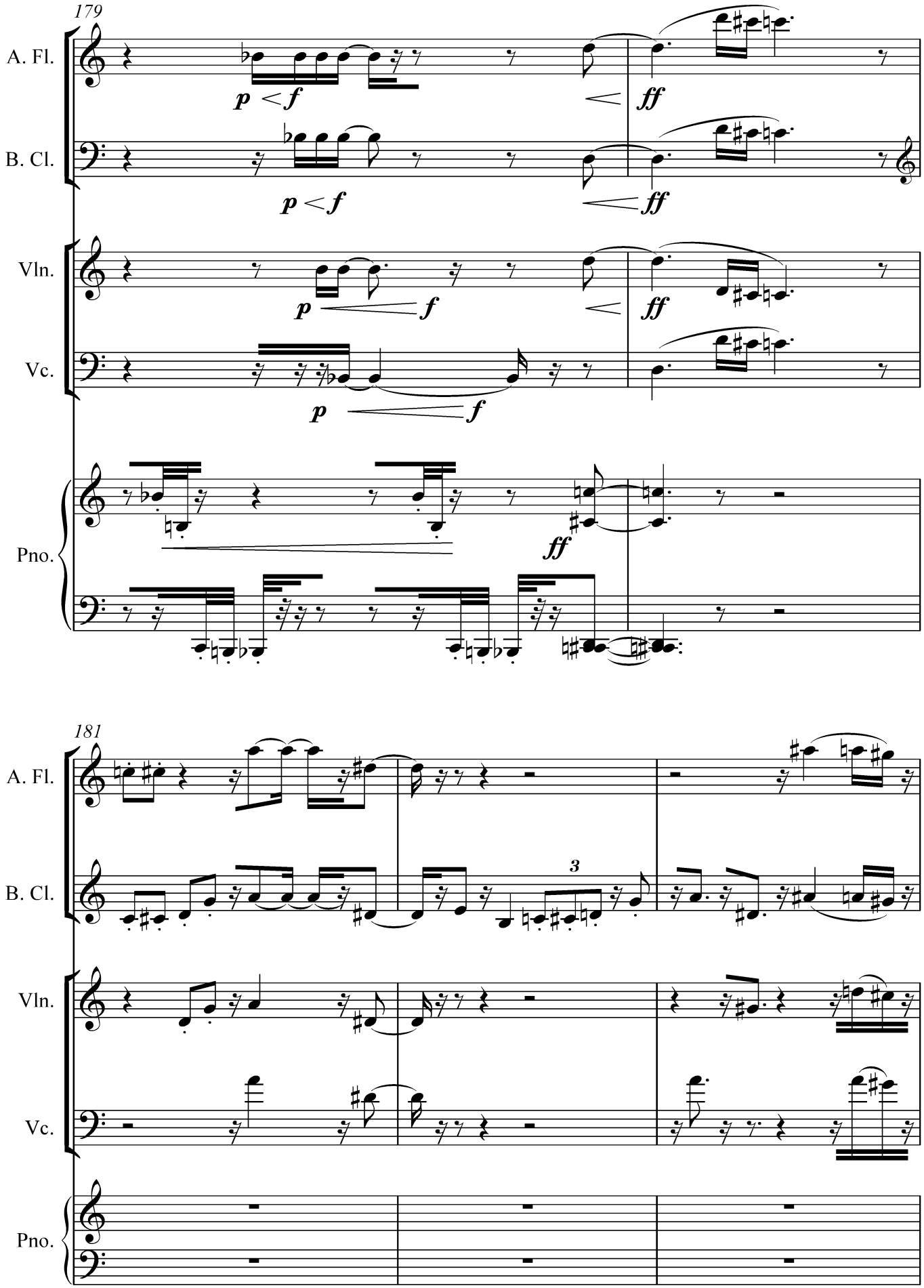

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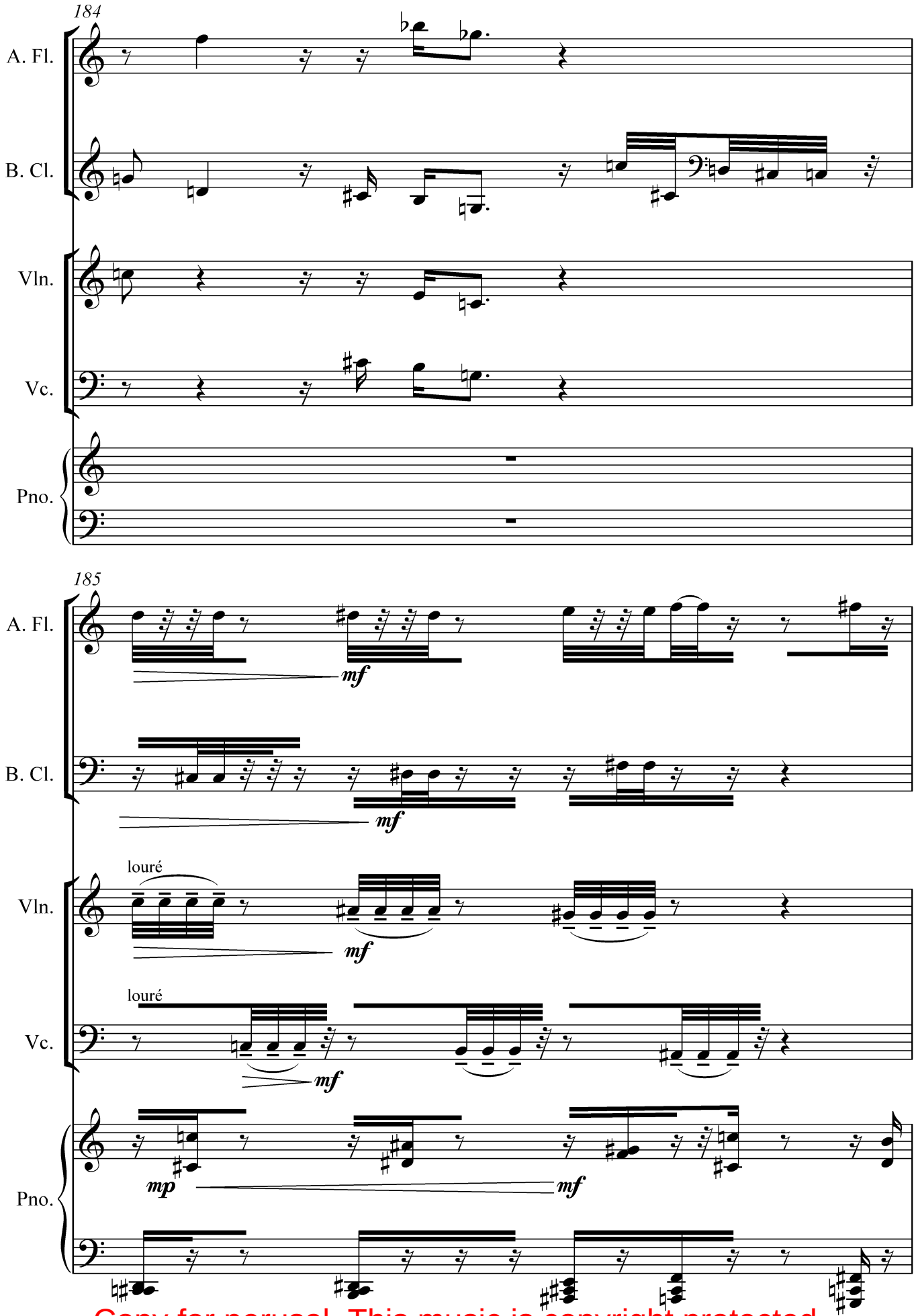

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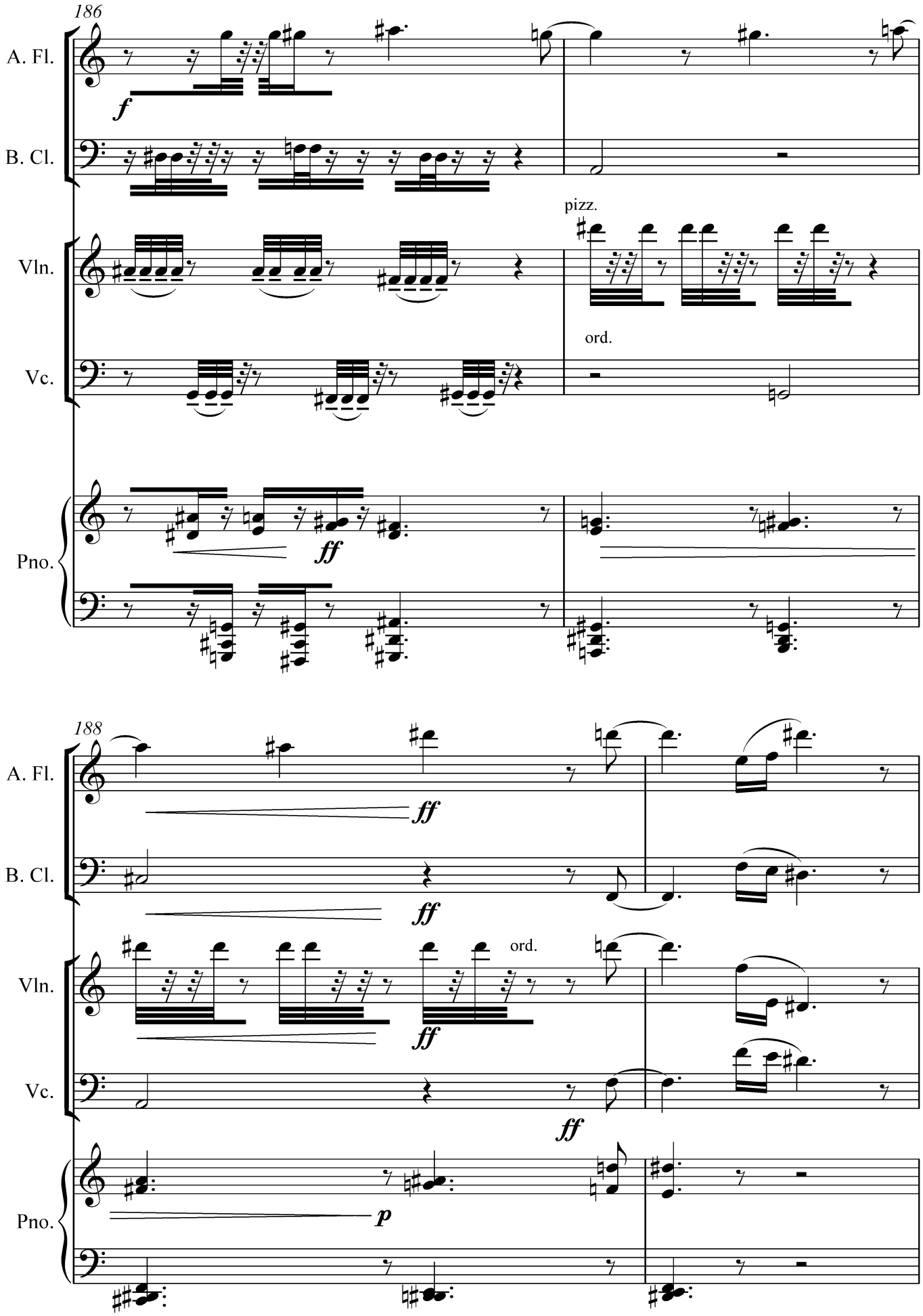

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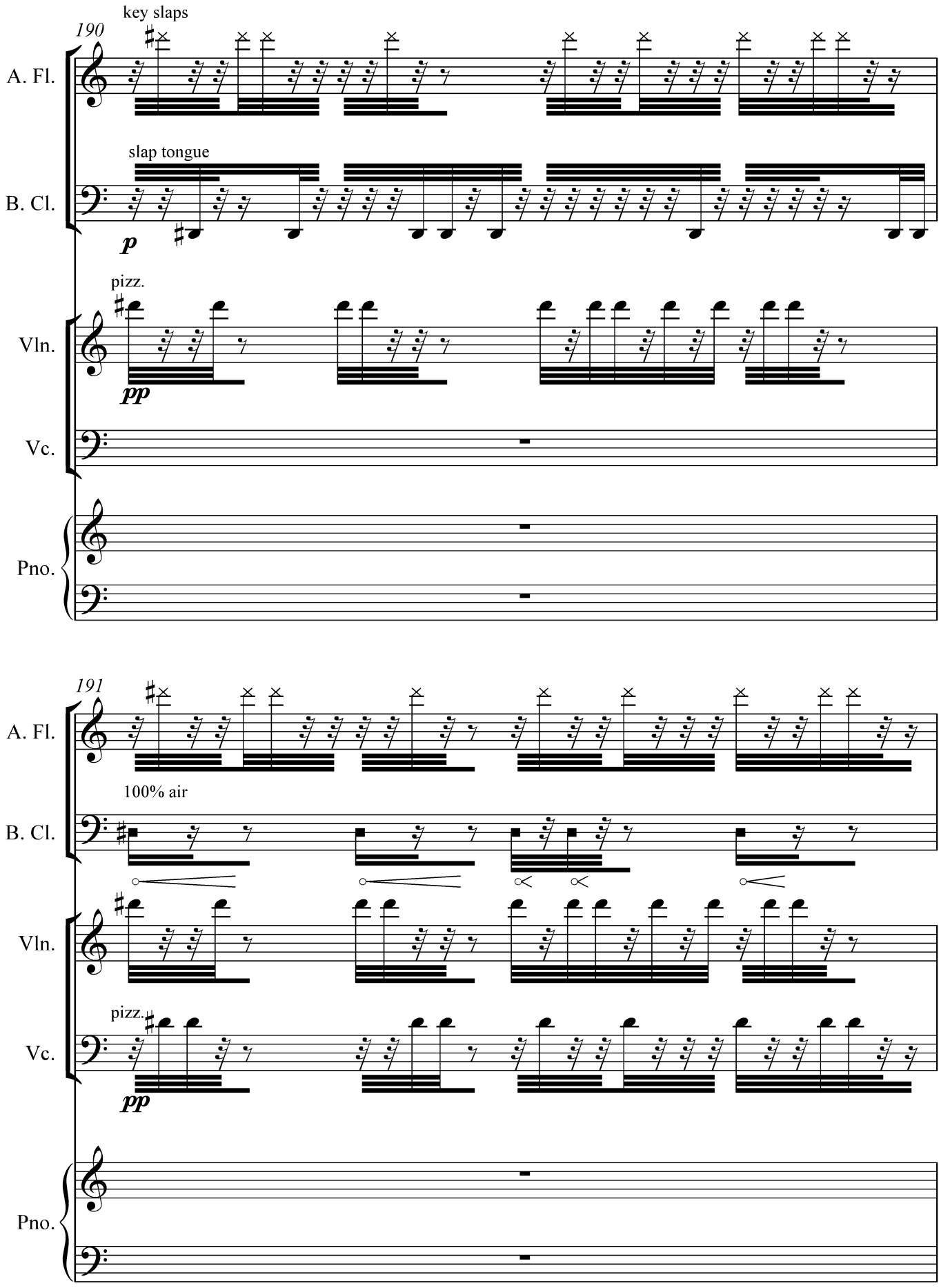

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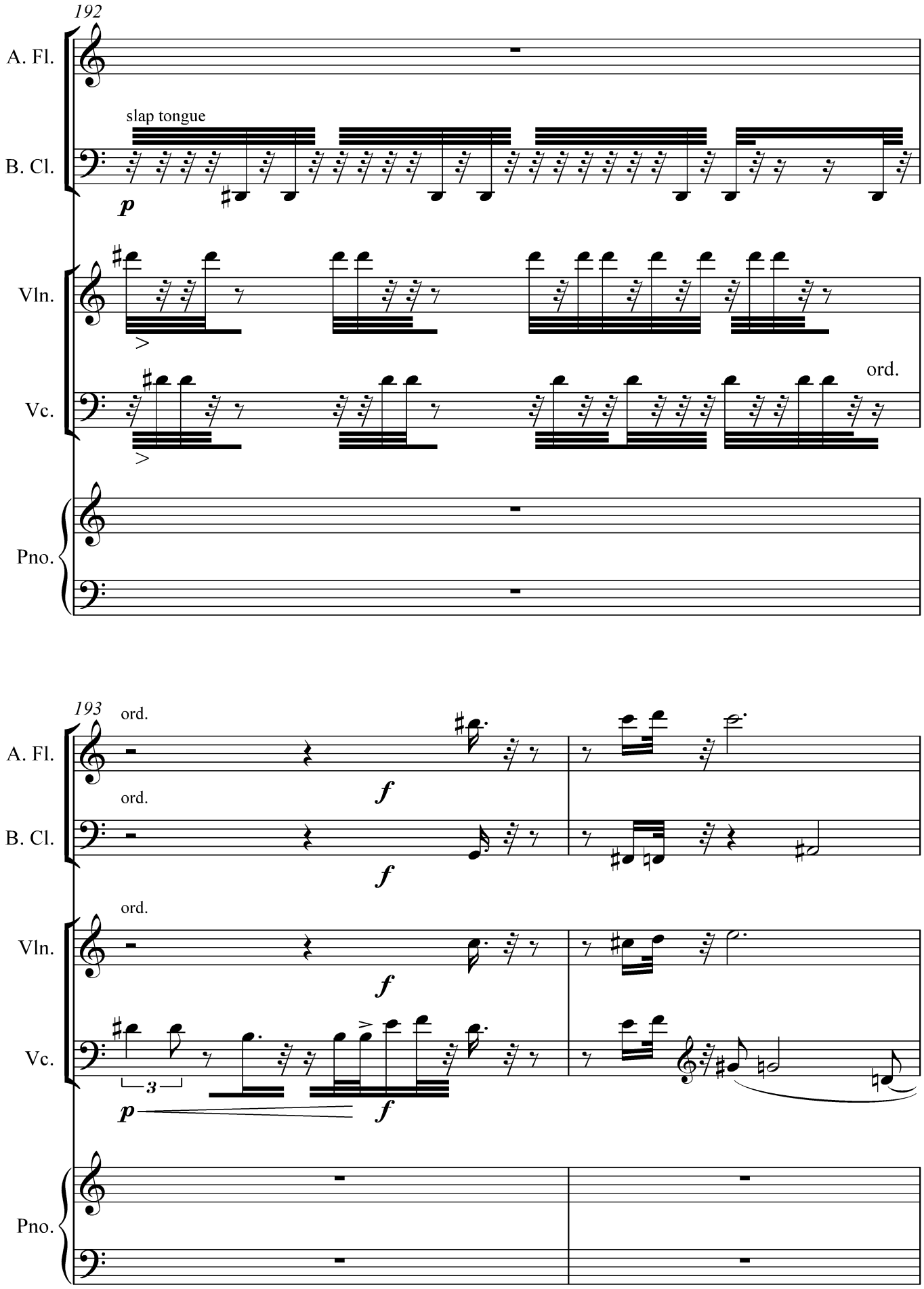

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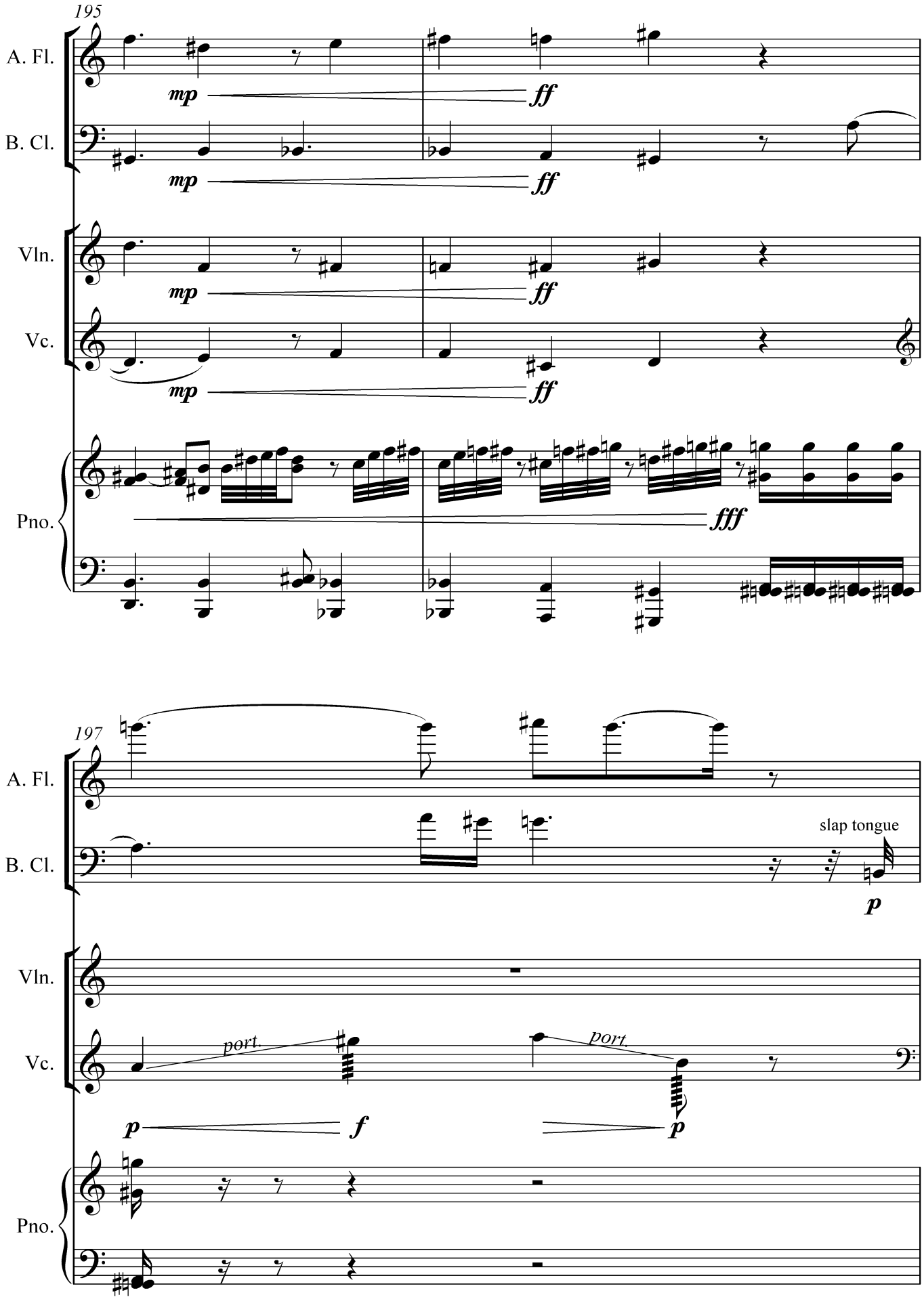

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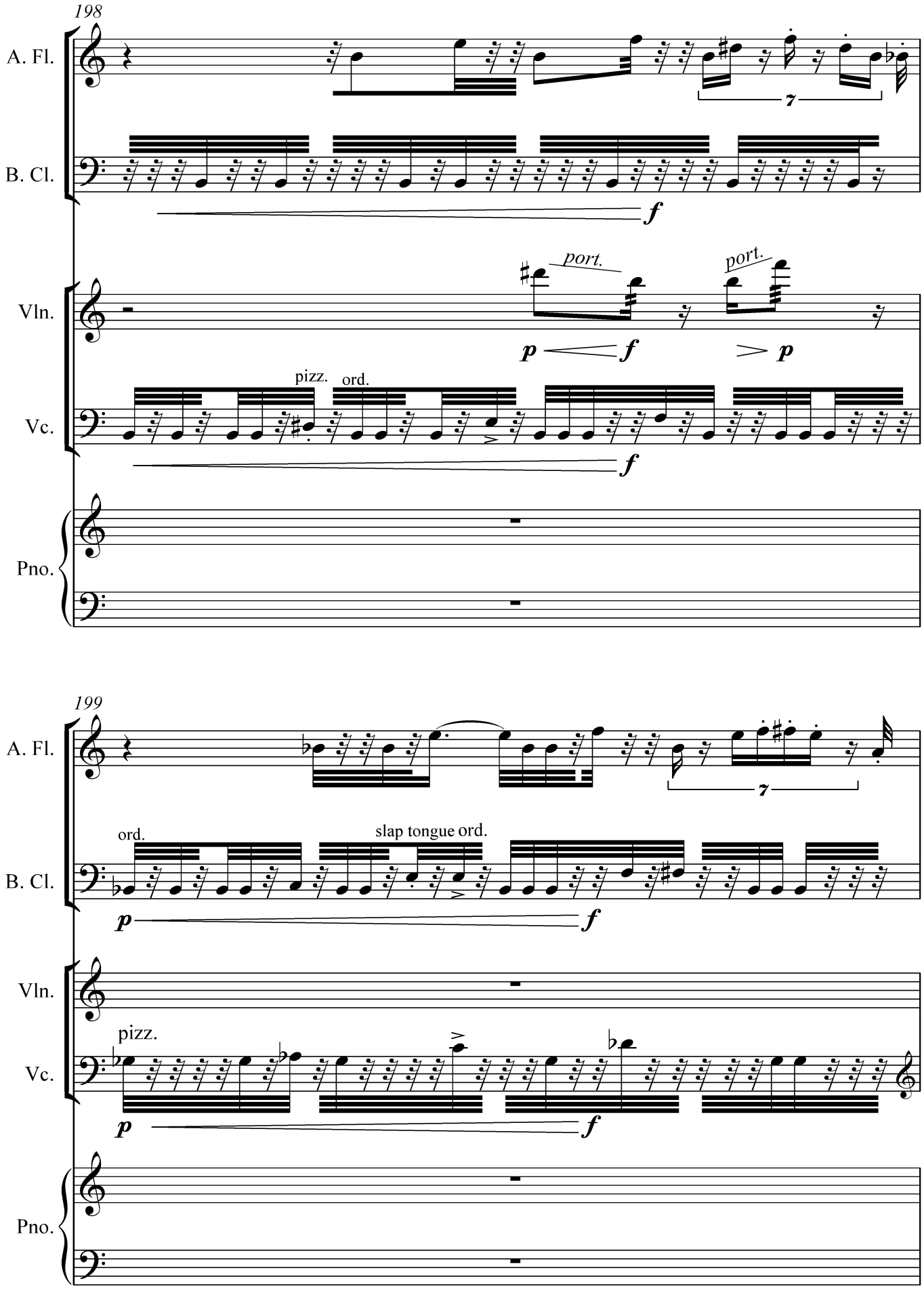

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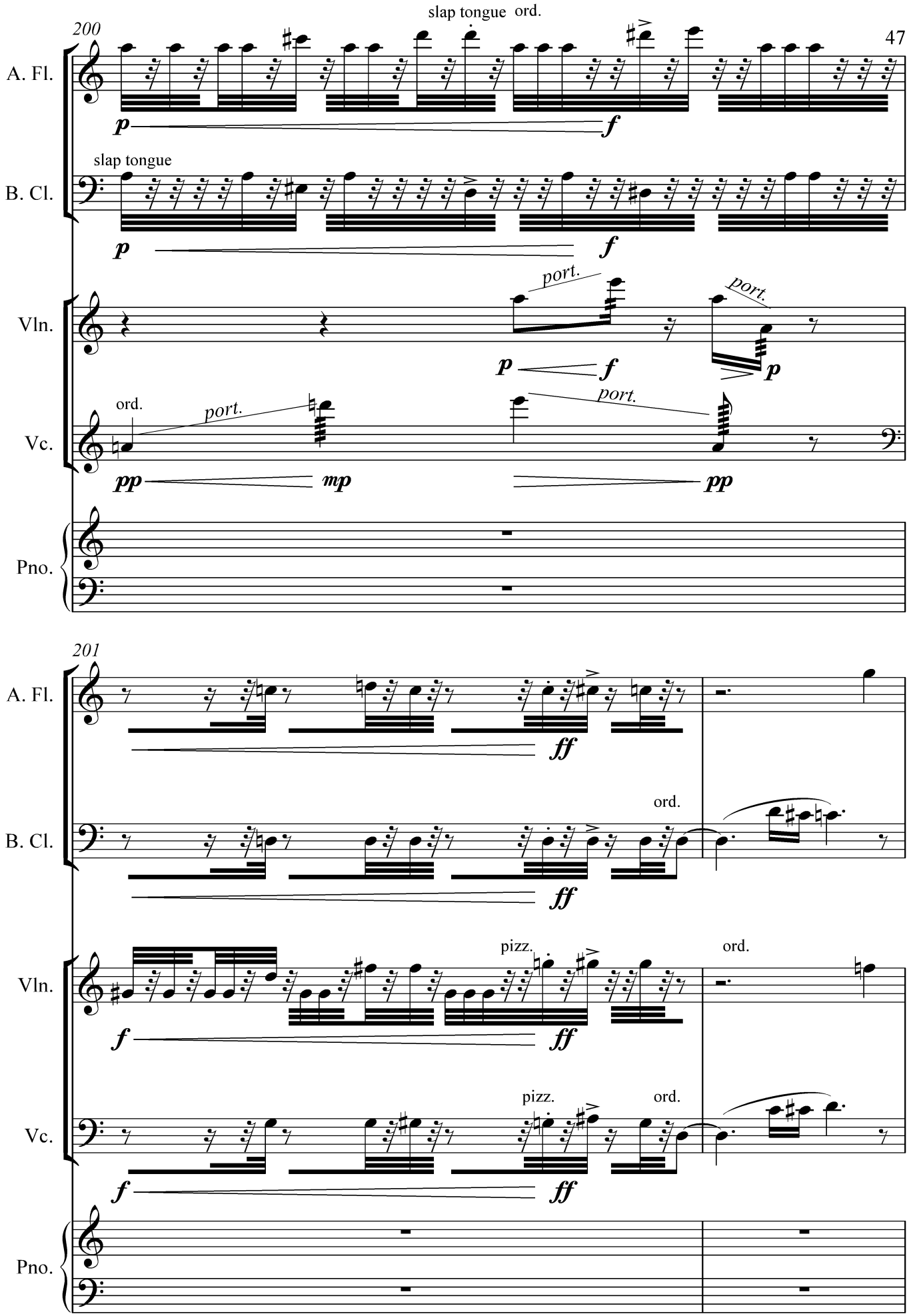

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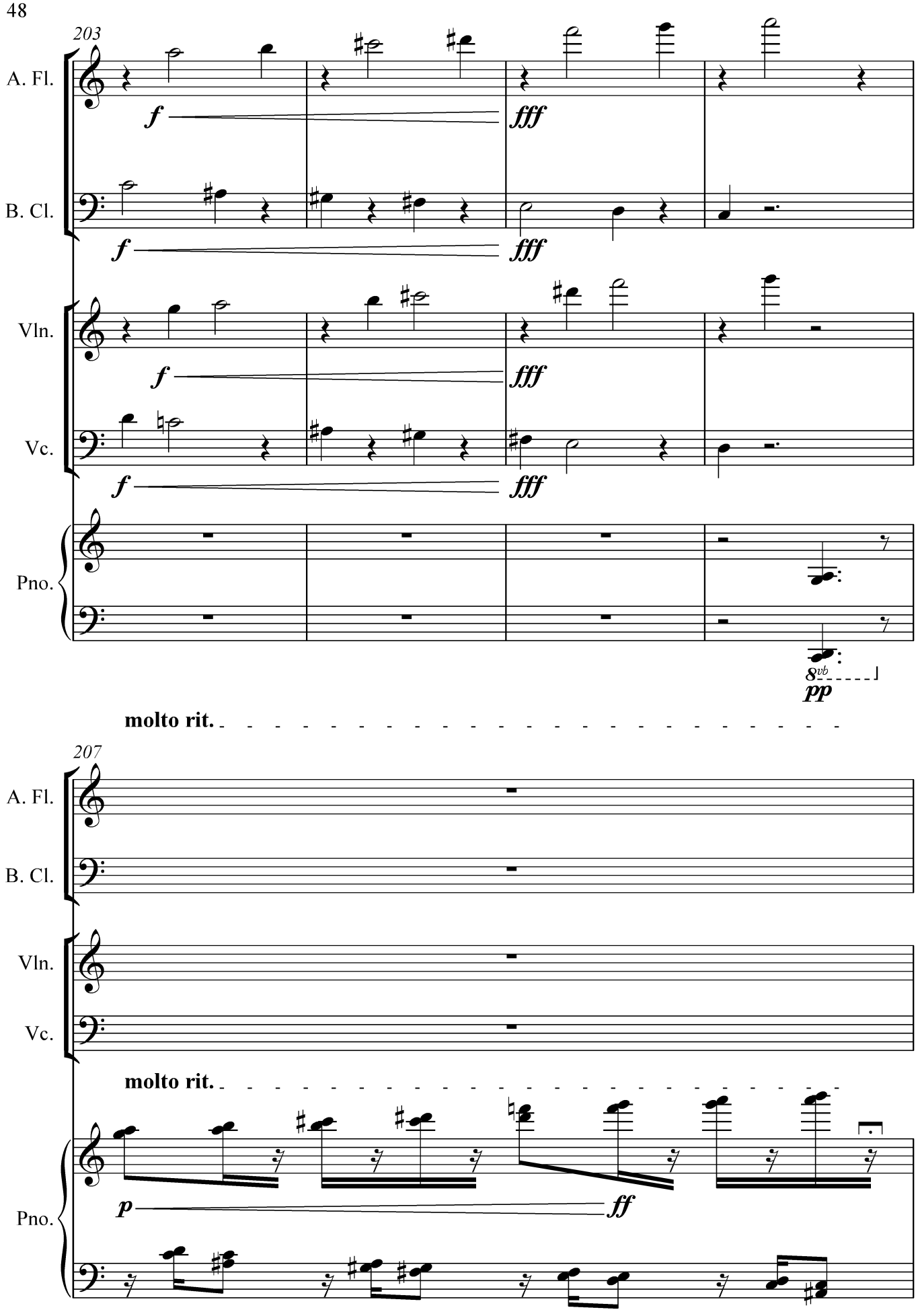

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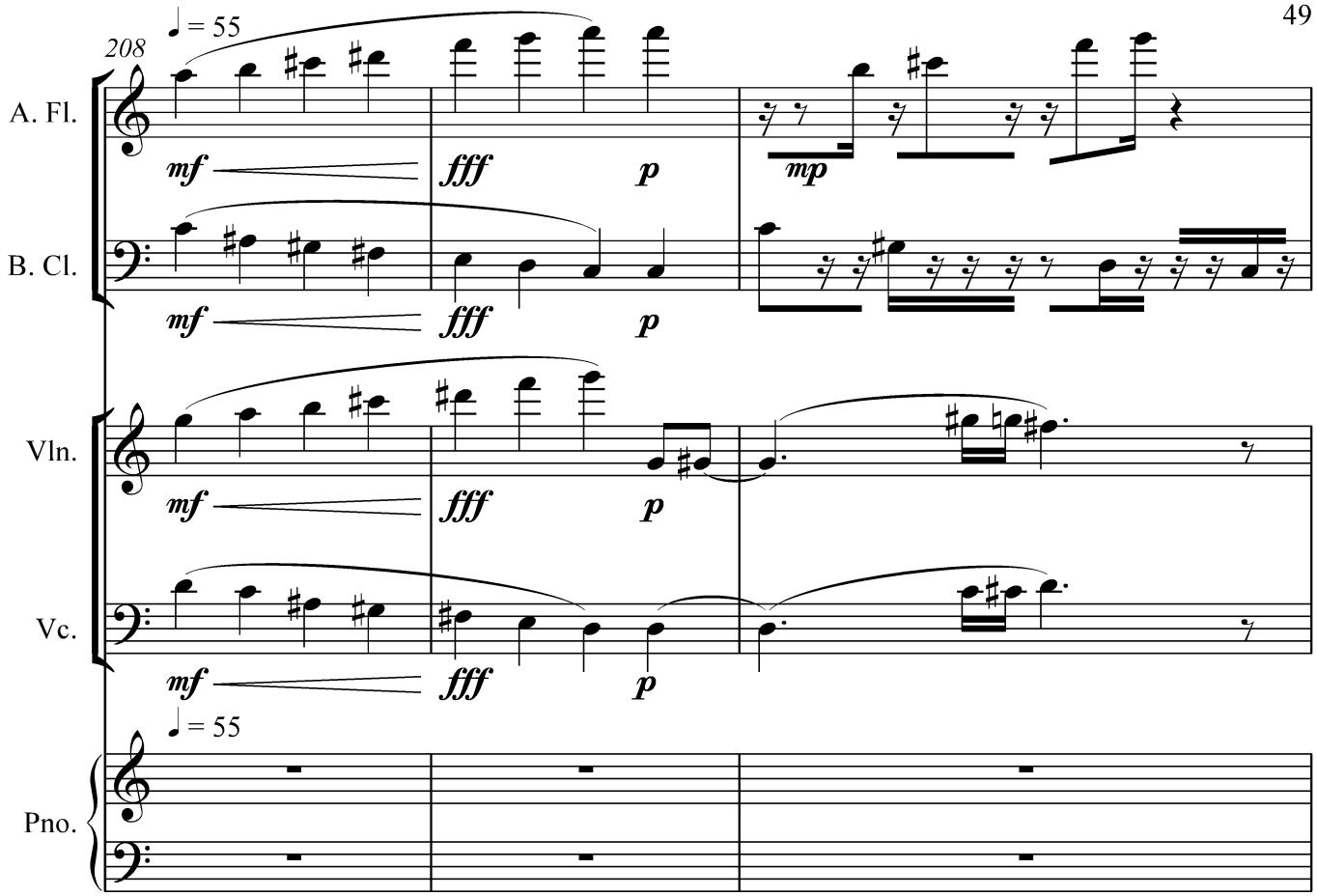

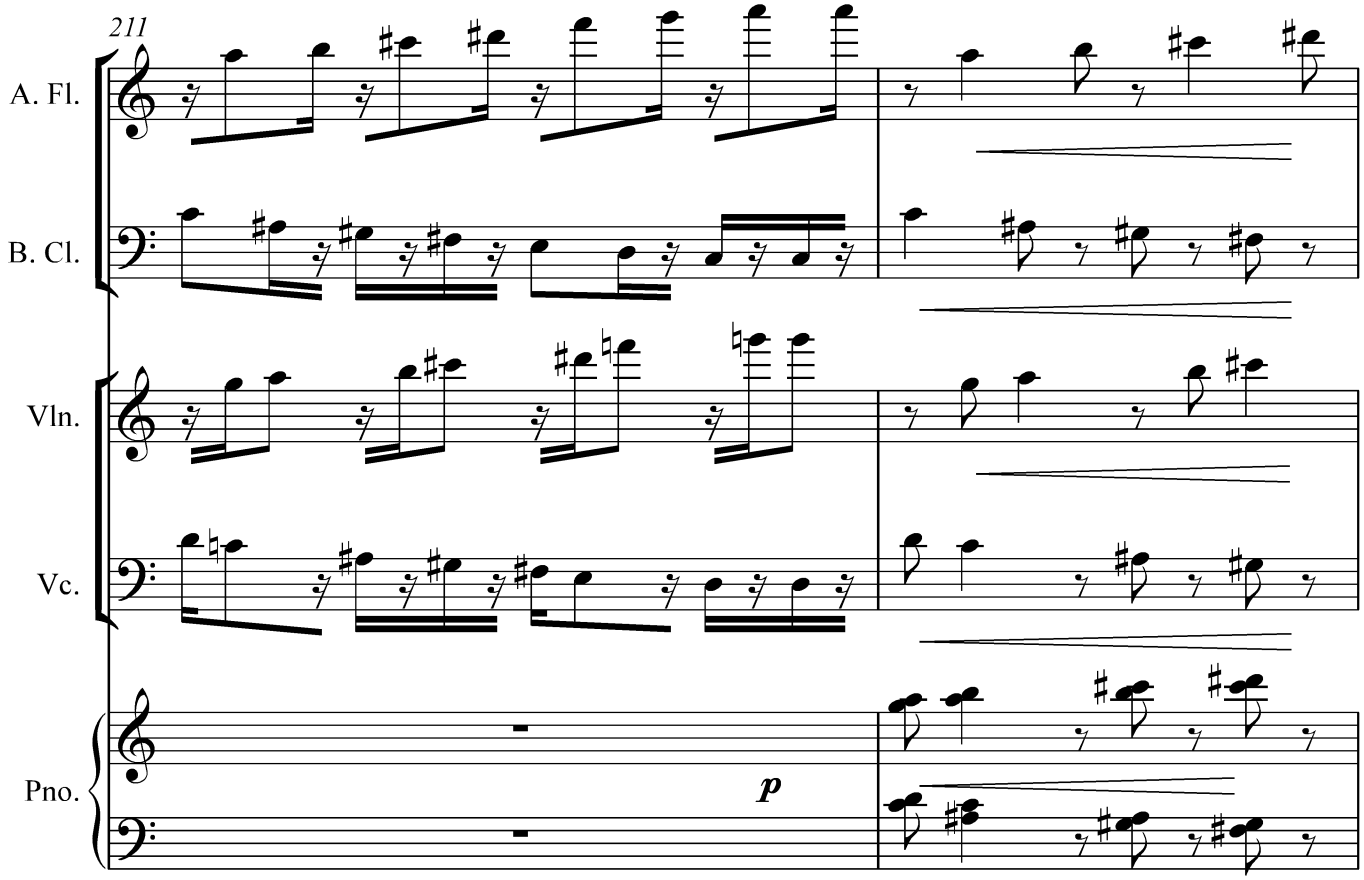

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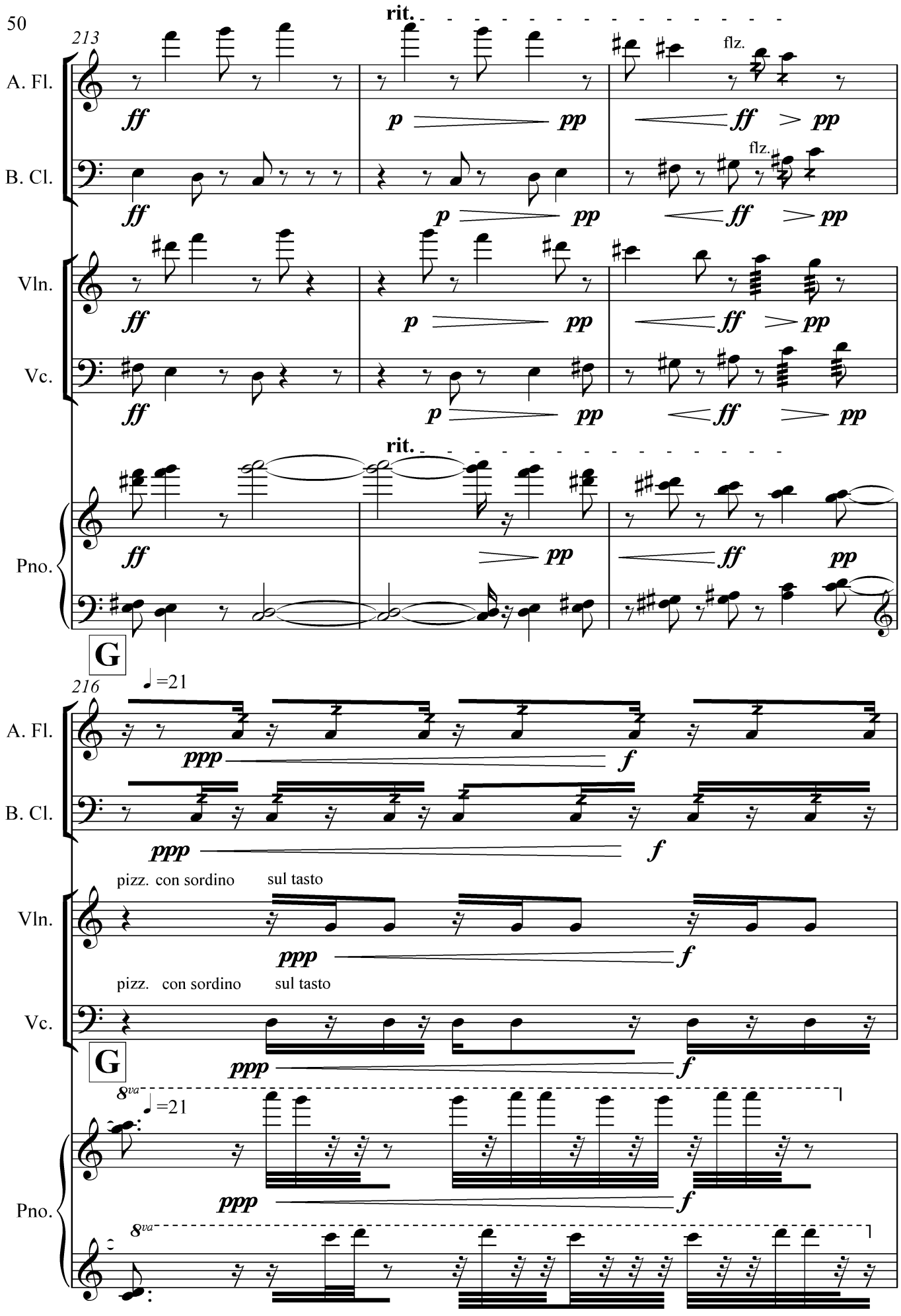

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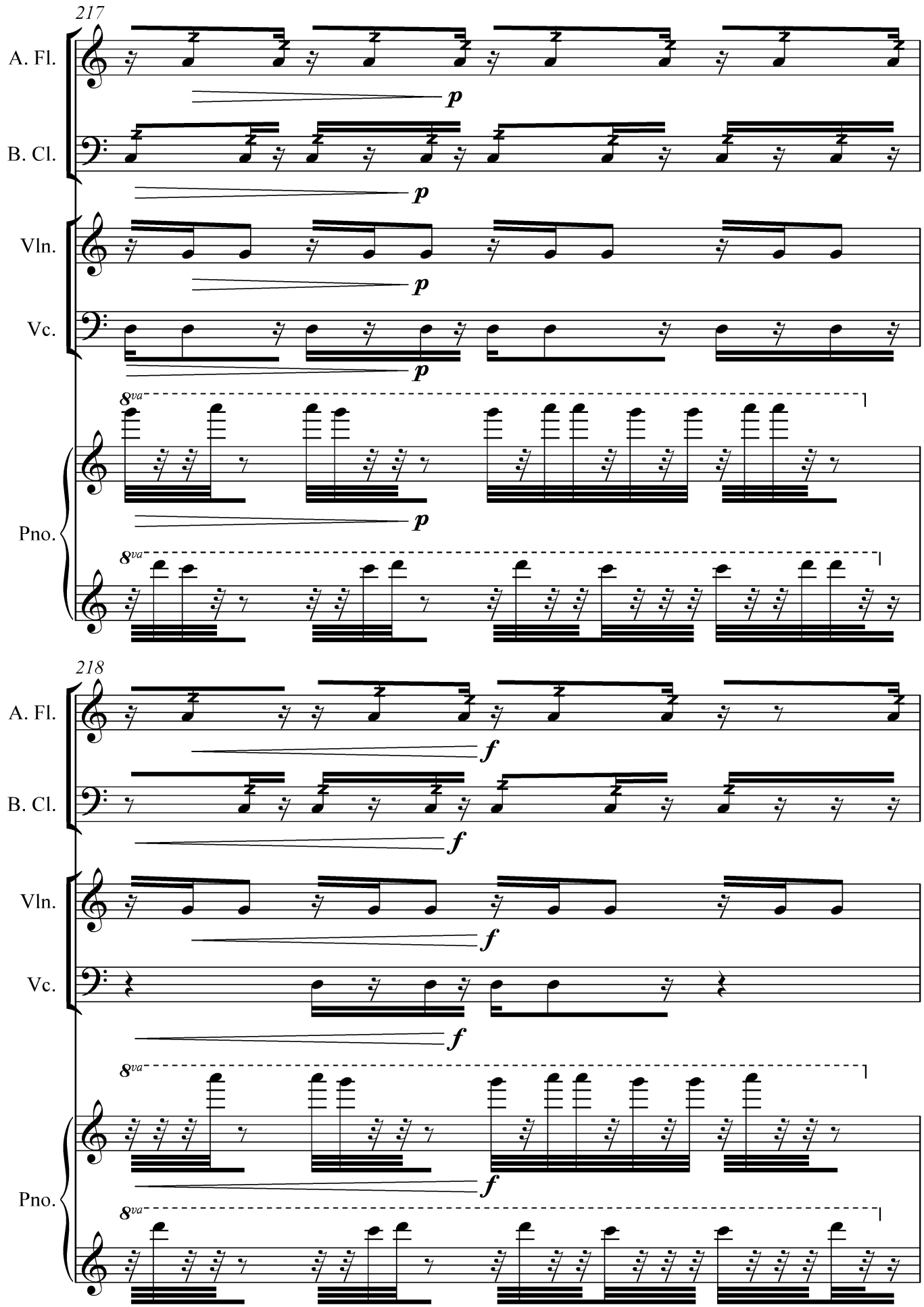

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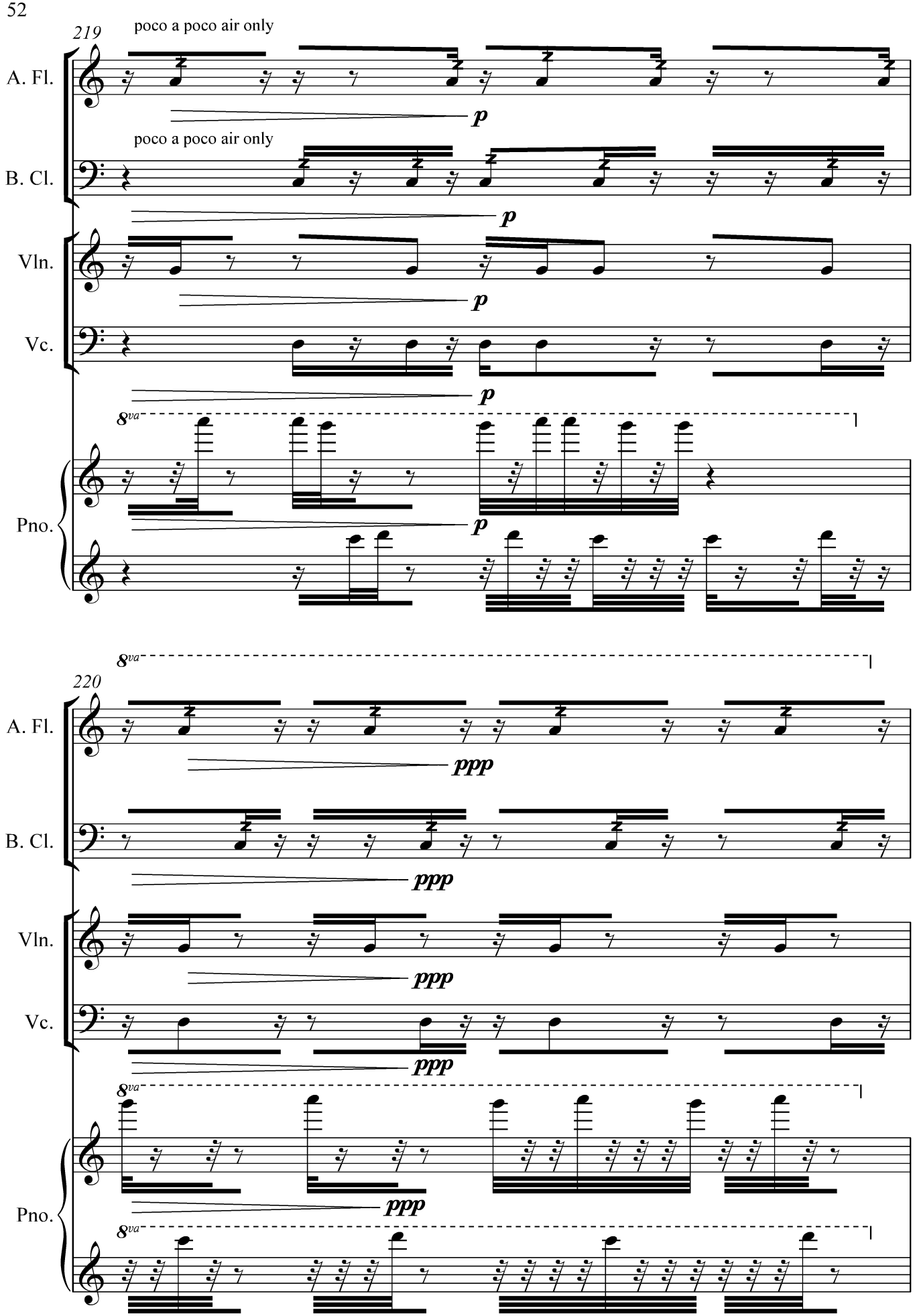

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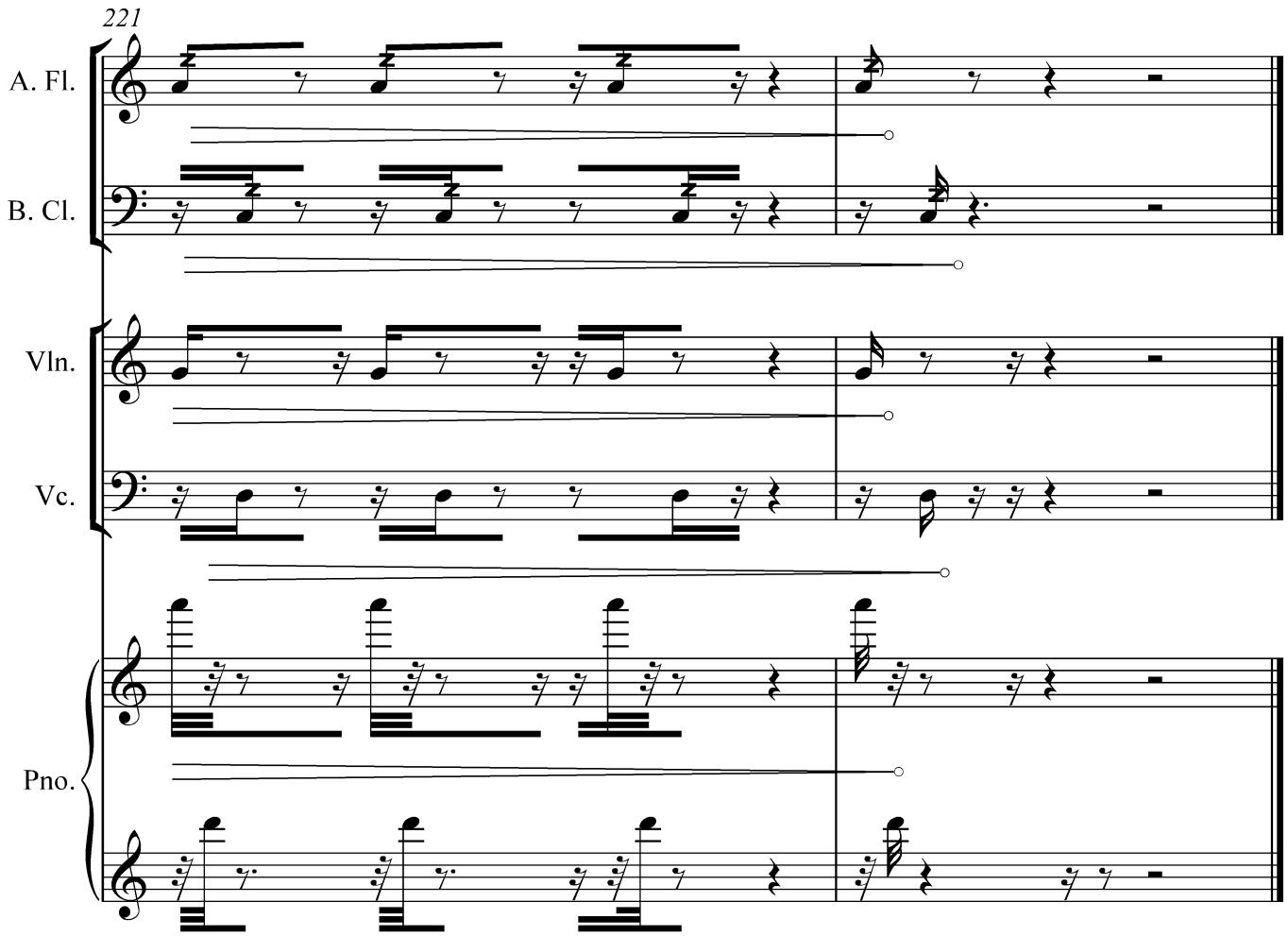

Version 3, December 2017

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