Beautiful in Green

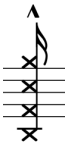
for viola duet, ~7’

Spencer Klaw Kennedy, 2024

PERFORMANCE NOTES: *Beautiful in Green* is written to exploit the entire range of sonic capabilities of the viola. As such, many different "voices" should be used throughout the piece; a wide variety of different tone colors should be used.

- - - - - - - - indicates a gradual transition; for example, ord. - - - - - - - sul pont indicated a gradual transition from ordinary bowing position to sul ponticello.

Bowing pressure in certain passages should be heavier than normal, producing a "scratchy" sound. These are indicated by shapes above the staff; for example, indicates a gradual increase of pressure until a scratch tone is achieved; indicates an increase followed by a decrease. These shapes should be followed by their physical position on the score, like a hairpin crescendo. Though an increase in volume is often unavoidable, volume and pressure should be delineated as much as possible.

 The **x** notehead indicates bow pressure so hard that it is almost pure noise. It is only used on open strings.

PROGRAM NOTES: When I began this duet, the first thing I had to consider was what kind of music the unique combination of viola and viola was best suited to. My thoughts wandered, as they often do, to my partner, T—. I realized that she was perfect as a subject for this study; the viola, with its deep, complex sound that furrows into the instrument and the ear, could not have been a better choice (it also happens to be my favorite bowed string instrument, a convenient pleasant association.)

We begin with the façade of a quiet, simple texture, which is stripped away over the course of the piece to reveal the multitude of voices the viola can sing with. The musical translation of her name (B-A-C-H style) was the original melodic inspiration for the piece; the line has been fit into the quintal harmony of the open strings and harmonics of the viola. This piece is a tone portrait of, and for, her.

Beautiful in Green

For Tallā Rouge

Spencer Klaw Kennedy, 2024

♩ = 52, reverent

Viola 1

Viola 2

pp

pp

5

ord., slow trem. - - - - - sul pont, medium trem. - - - - - molto sul pont

Vla. 1

ff

ord., slow trem. - - - - - sul pont, medium trem. - - - - - molto sul pont

Vla. 2

ff

8

IV

ord.

Vla. 1

mp

pp

II

sul tasto - - - - - ord.

Vla. 2

II

pp

10

Vla. 1

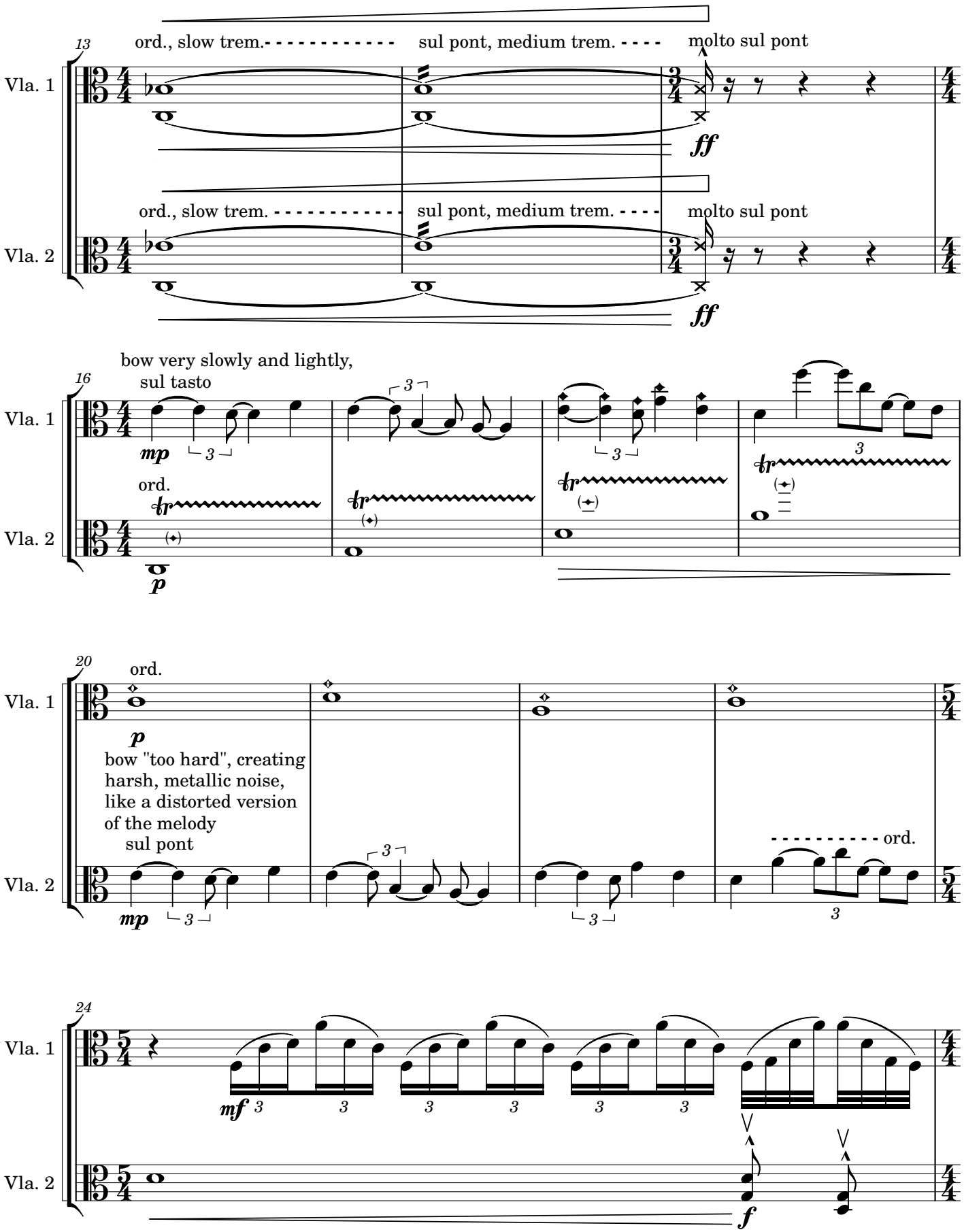
ord.

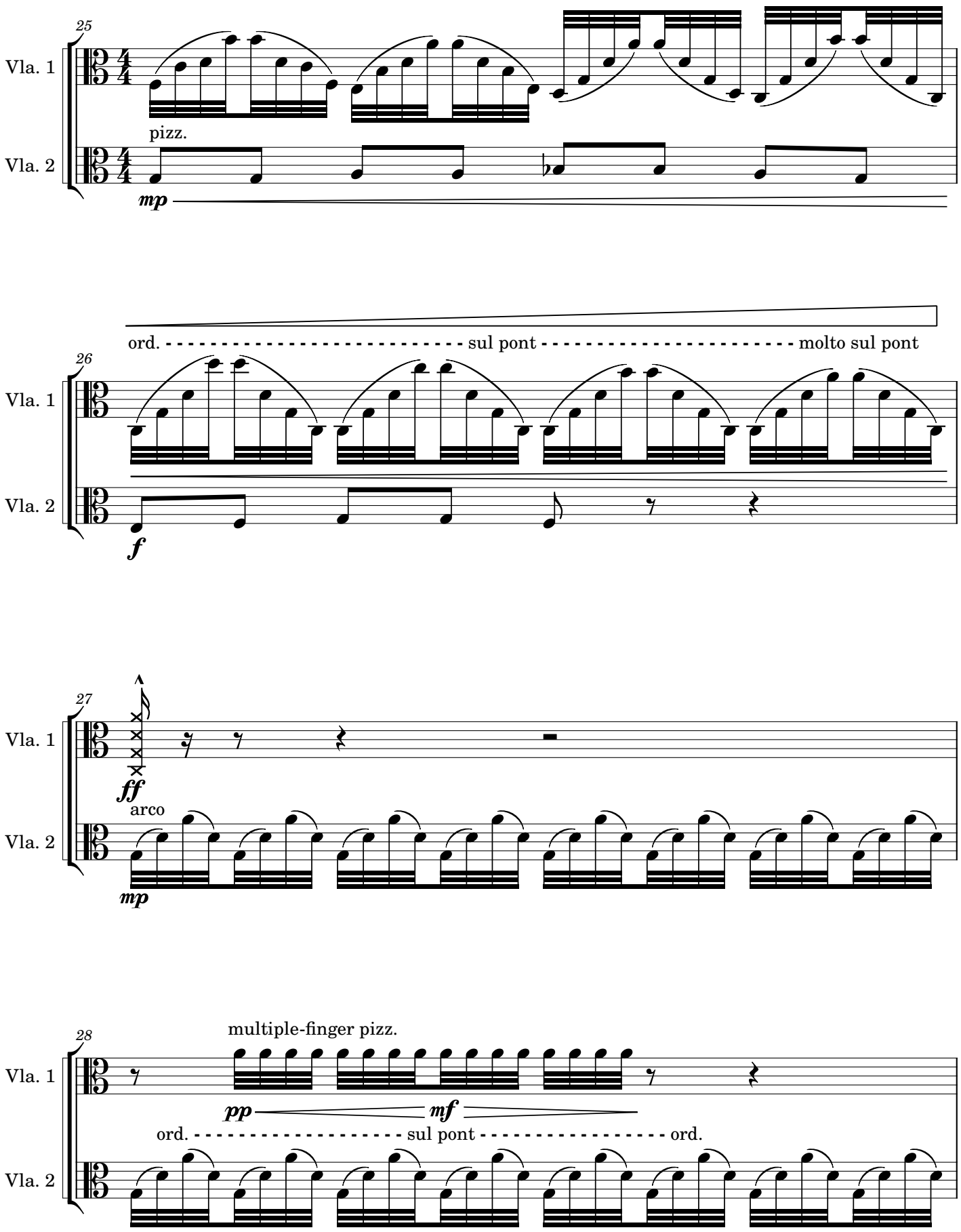
Vla. 2

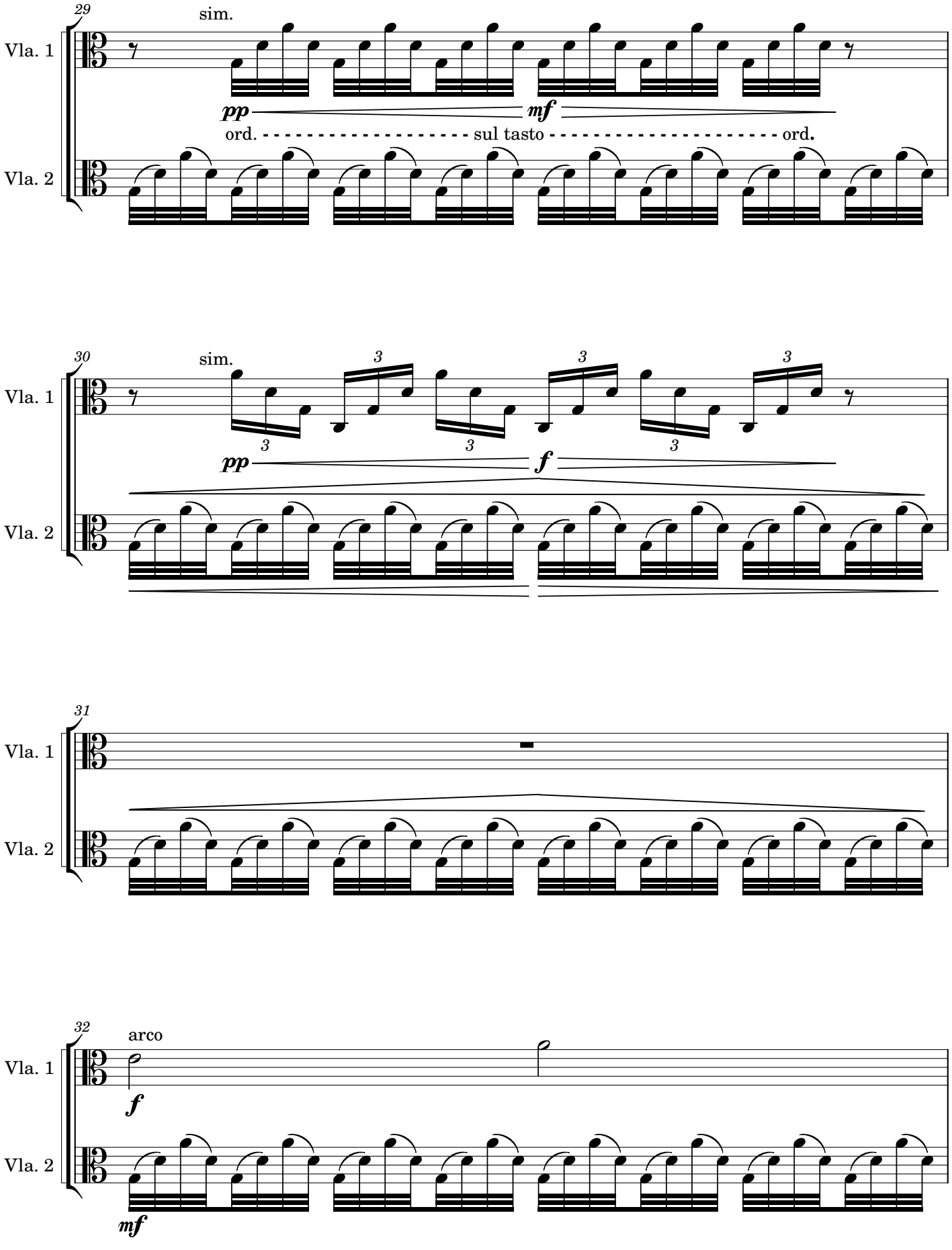
IV

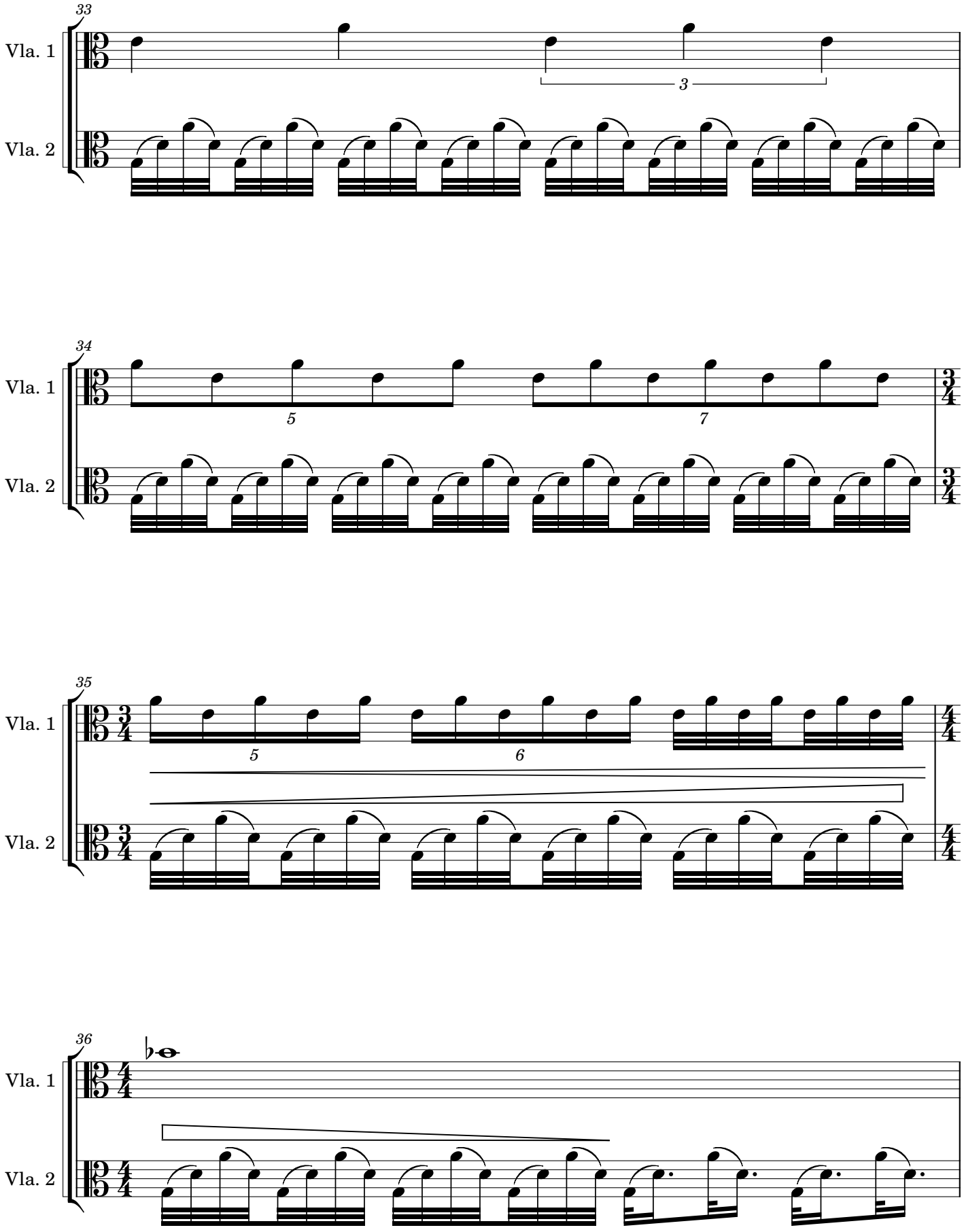
II

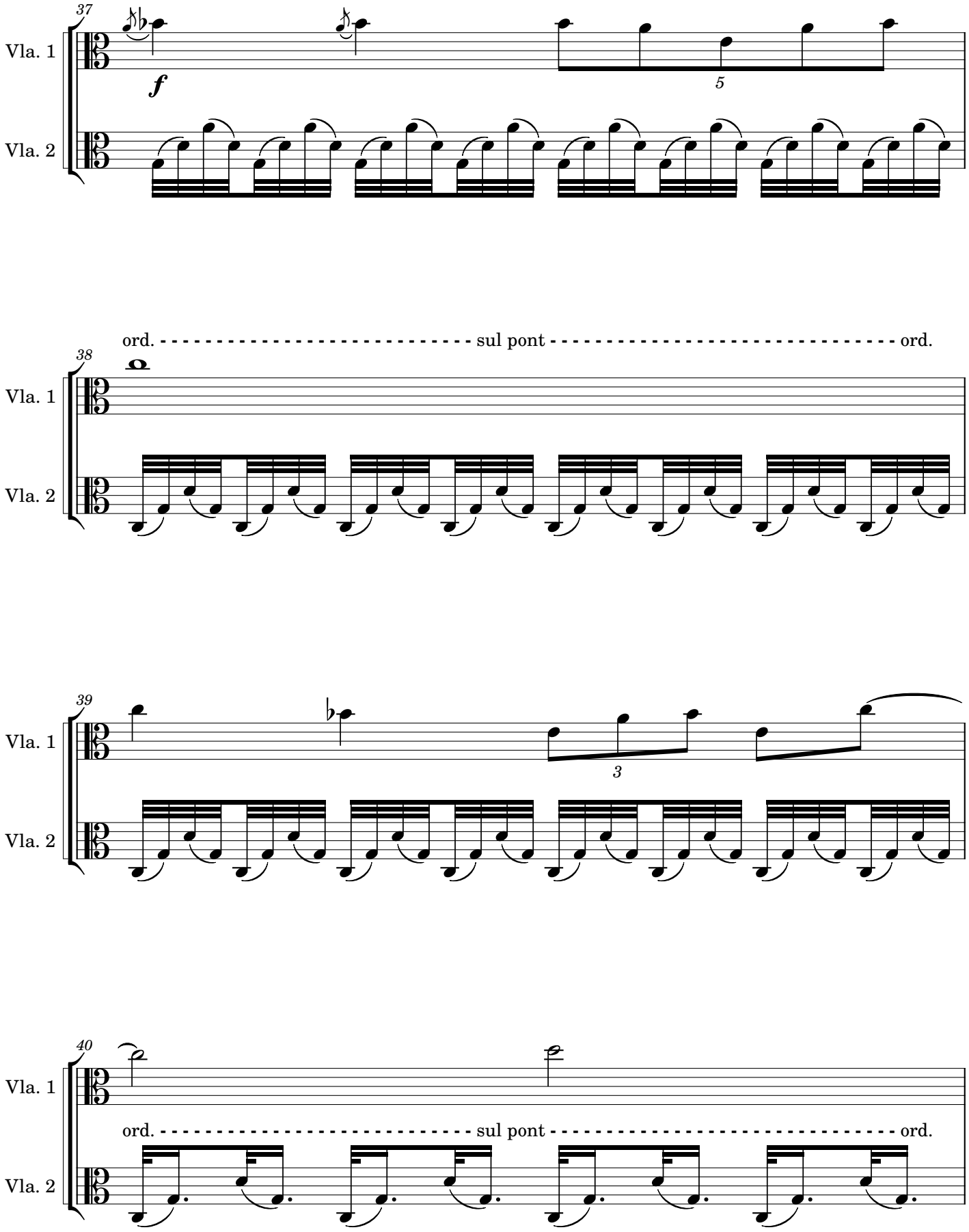
pp

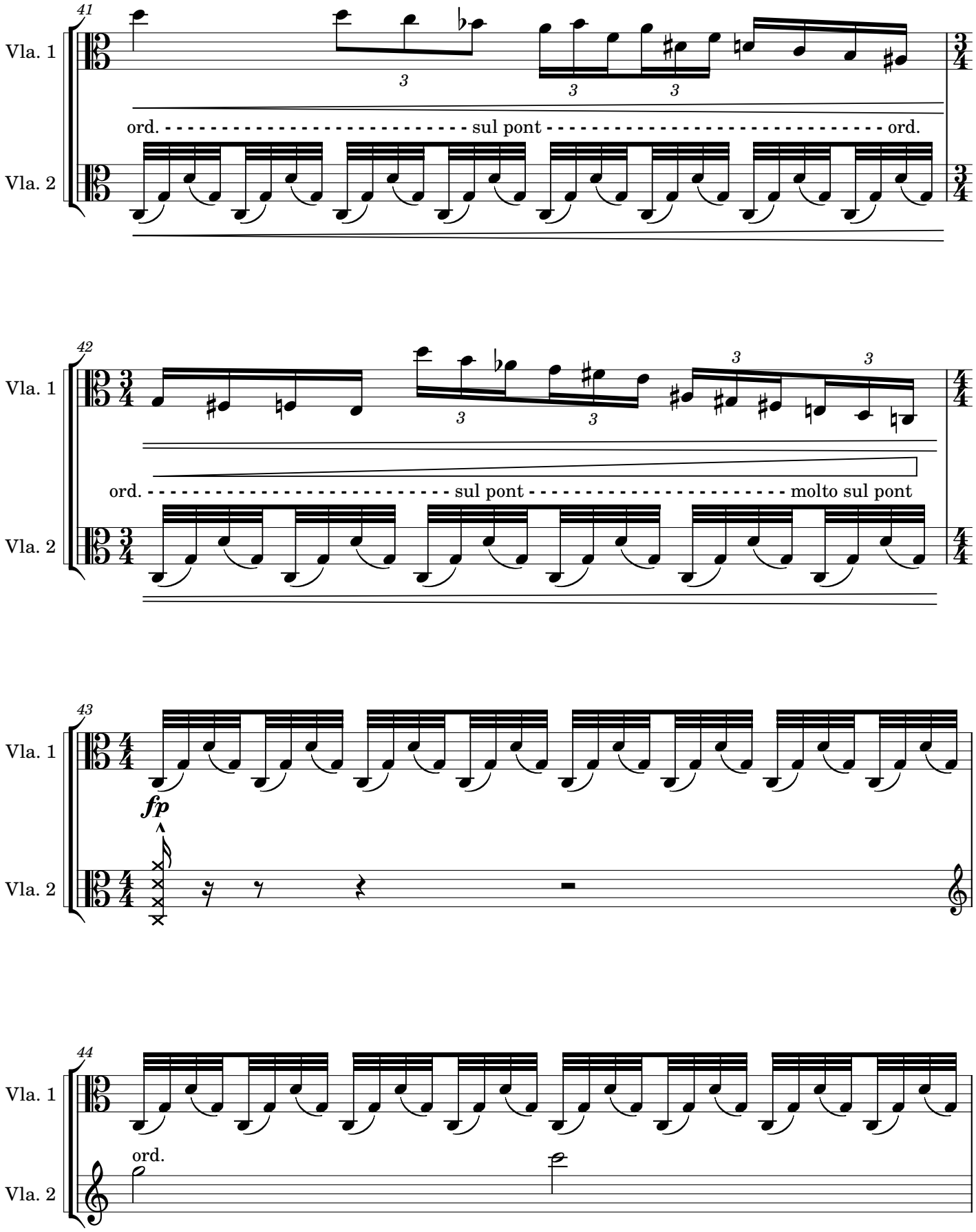

13
Vla. 1
ord., slow trem.
sul pont, medium trem.
molto sul pont
ff
Vla. 2
ord., slow trem.
sul pont, medium trem.
molto sul pont
ff
16
bow very slowly and lightly,
sul tasto
mp
ord.
p
20
ord.
p
bow "too hard", creating
harsh, metallic noise,
like a distorted version
of the melody
sul pont
mp
ord.
24
mf
f

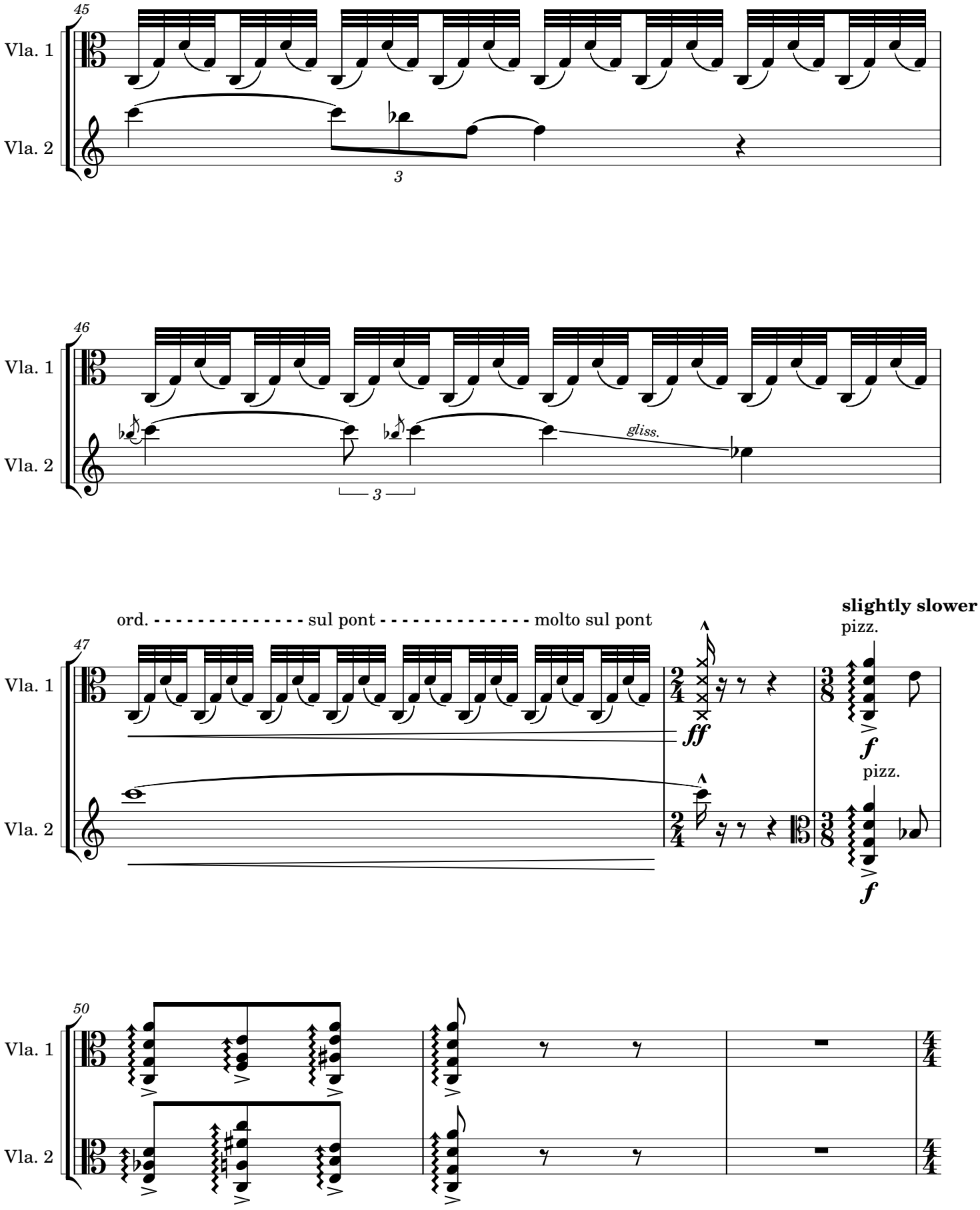

25
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
pizz.
mp
ord.
sul pont
molto sul pont
26
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
f
27
Vla. 1
ff
arco
Vla. 2
mp
28
multiple-finger pizz.
Vla. 1
pp
mf
ord.
sul pont
ord.
Vla. 2

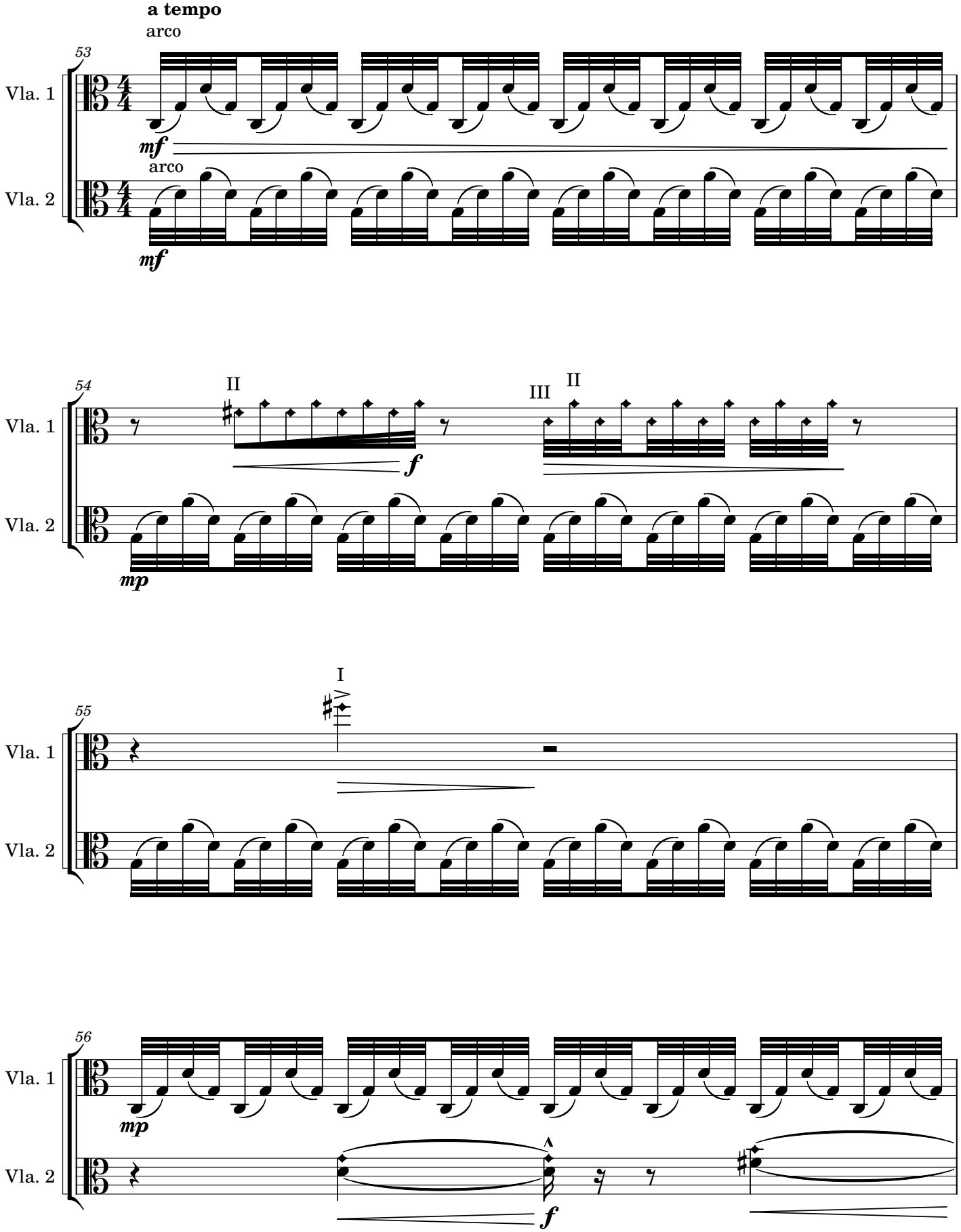

29
sim.
Vla. 1
pp
mf
ord.
sul tasto
ord.
Vla. 2
30
sim.
3
Vla. 1
pp
f
Vla. 2
31
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
32
arco
Vla. 1
f
Vla. 2
mf

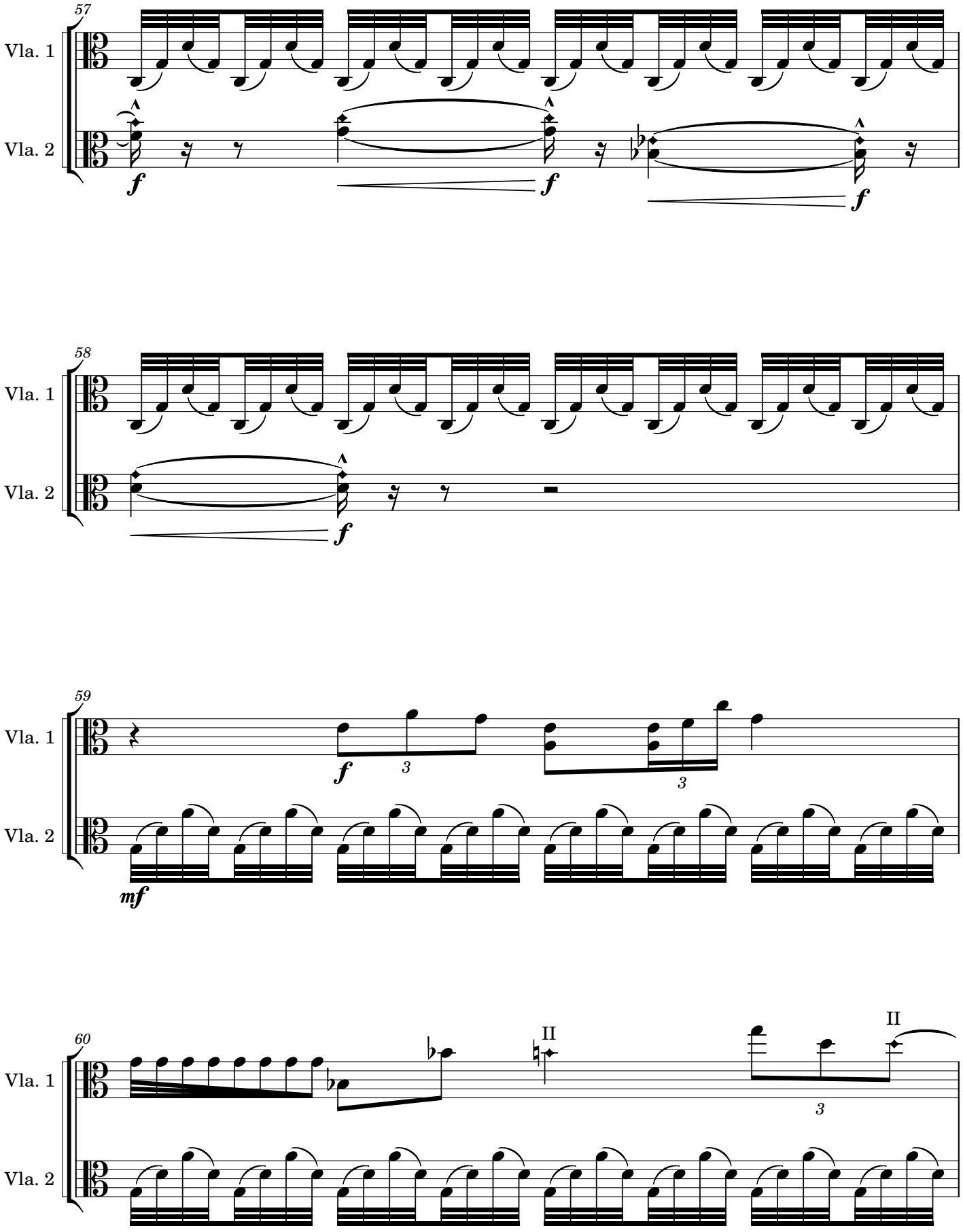

33
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
3
34
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
5
7
3/4
35
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
5
6
4/4
36
Vla. 1
Vla. 2

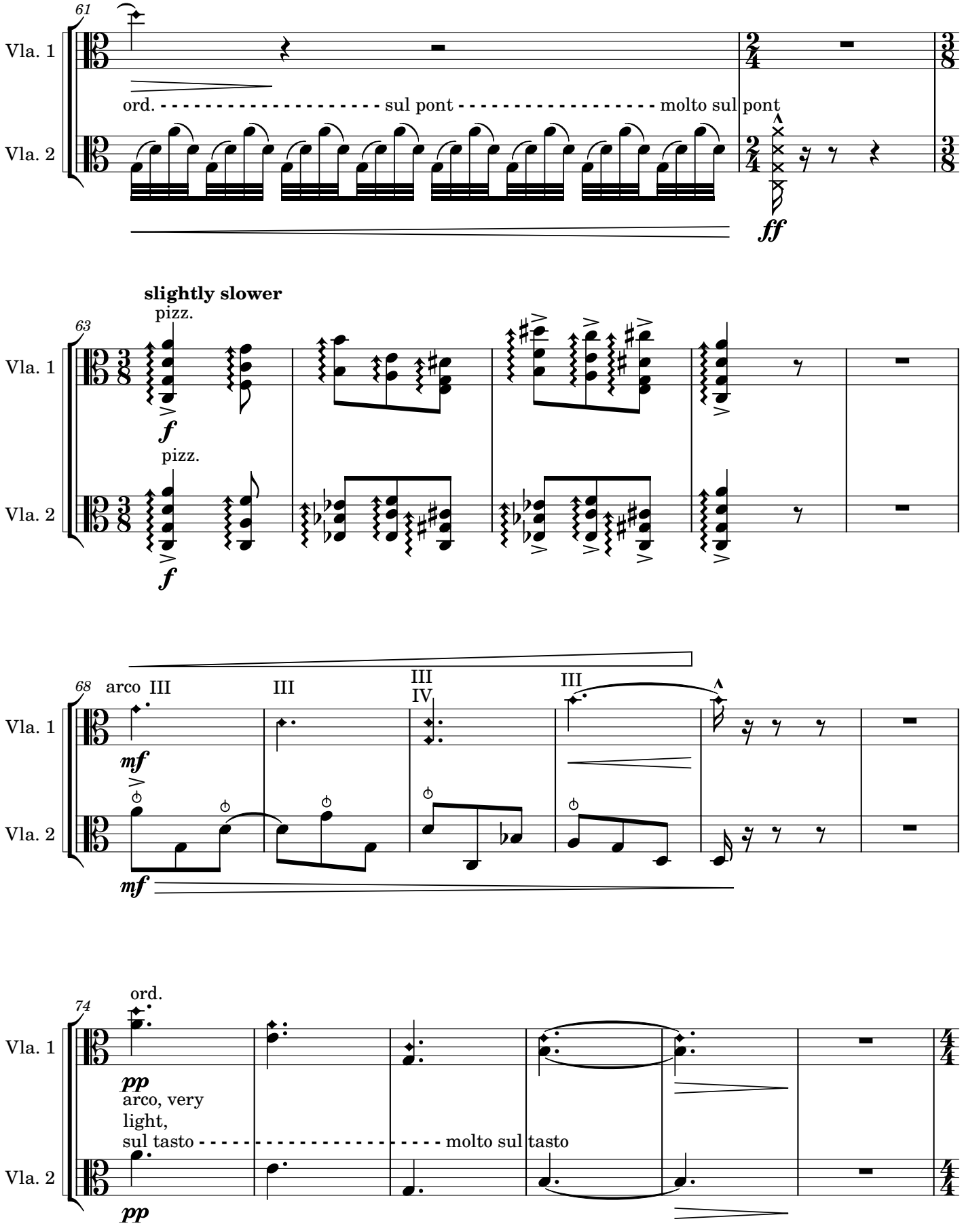

37
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
f
5
ord.
sul pont
ord.
38
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
39
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
3
40
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
ord.
sul pont
ord.

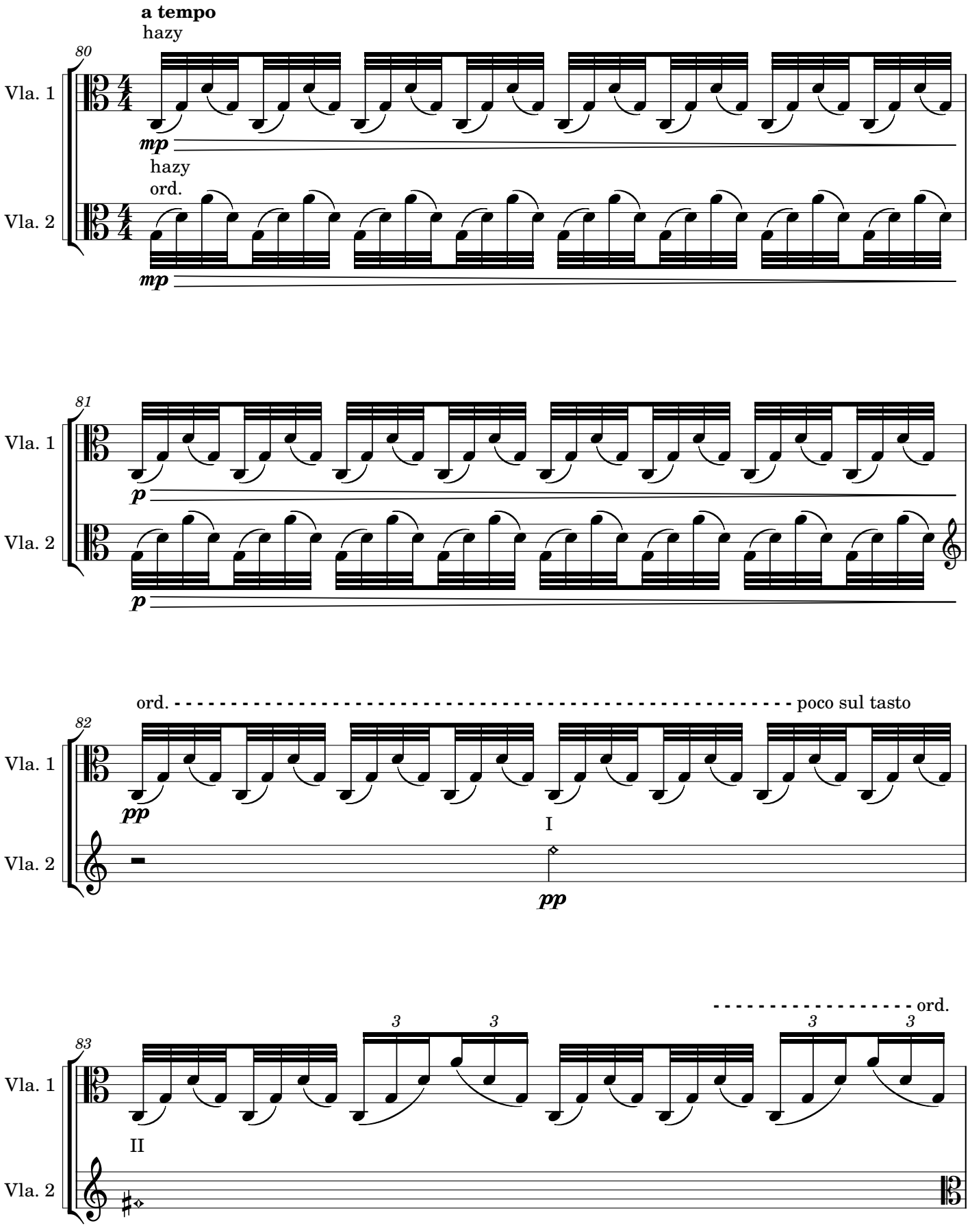

41
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
ord.
sul pont
ord.
42
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
ord.
sul pont
molto sul pont
43
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
fp
44
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
ord.

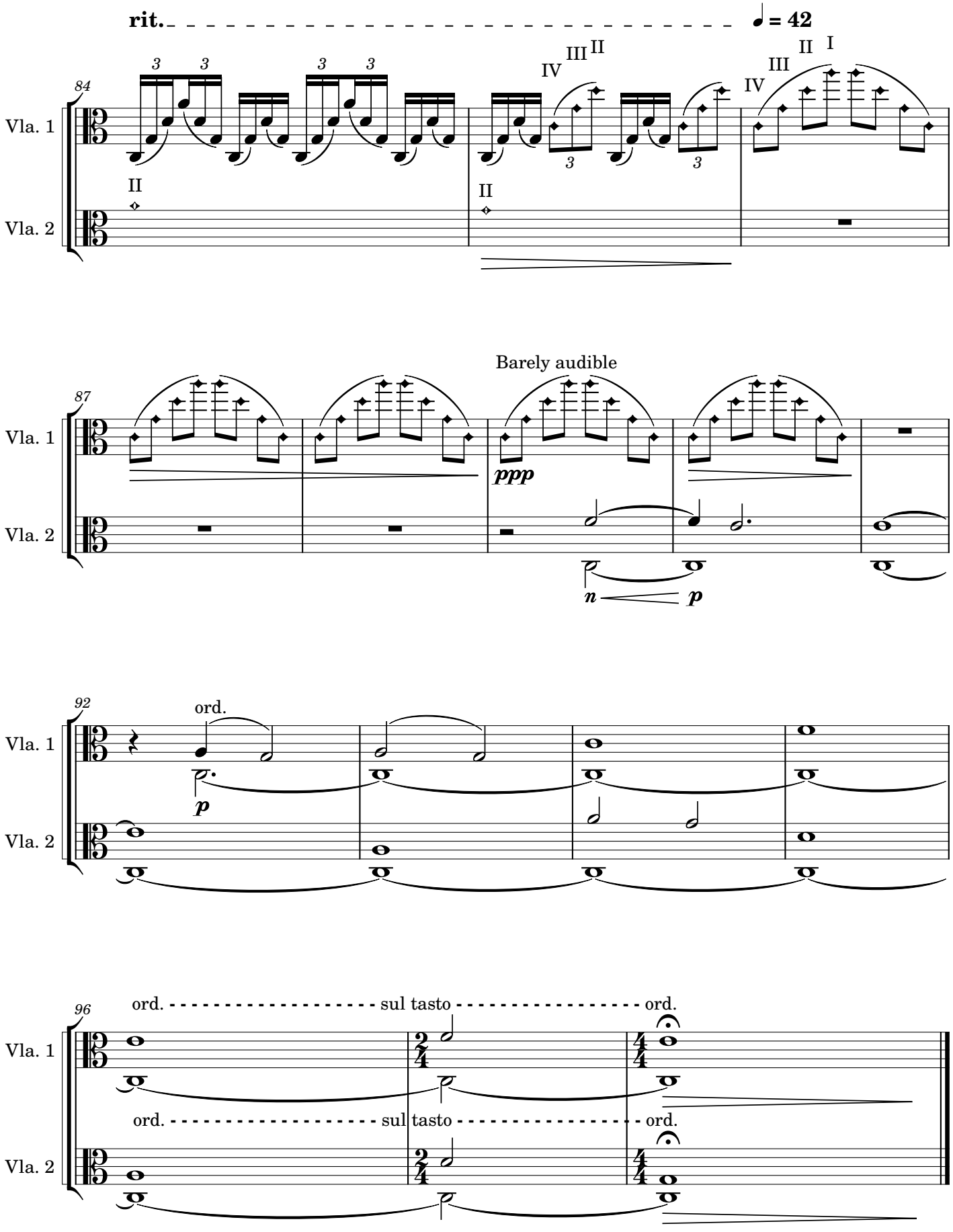

45
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
3
46
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
3
gliss.
ord. - - - - - - - - - - - - - - sul pont - - - - - - - - - - - - - - molto sul pont
47
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
ff
slightly slower
pizz.
f
pizz.
f
50
Vla. 1
Vla. 2


a tempo
arco
53
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
mf
arco
mf
54
II
III
II
f
mp
55
I
56
mp
f


57
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
f
f
f
58
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
f
59
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
f
3
3
mf
60
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
II
II
3


61
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
ord.
sul pont
molto sul pont
ff
slightly slower
63
pizz.
f
68
arco III
III
III
IV
III
mf
74
ord.
pp
arco, very
light,
sul tasto
molto sul tasto


a tempo
hazy
80
Vla. 1
mp
hazy
ord.
Vla. 2
mp
81
Vla. 1
p
Vla. 2
p
ord.
poco sul tasto
82
Vla. 1
pp
I
Vla. 2
pp
ord.
3
3
83
Vla. 1
II
Vla. 2


rit.
♩ = 42
84
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
II
II
IV
III
II
IV
III
II
I
87
Barely audible
ppp
n
p
92
ord.
p
96
ord.
sul tasto
ord.
ord.
sul tasto
ord.