Song of the Subterranean

for string orchestra and two harps

Marko Bajzer

Duration: 4'30"

2012

Program Notes

I once a heard a contrabassoon duet I had written being described as having a "subterranean quality about it," and the word somehow caught my attention. It made me realize how little thought I give to what lie beneath me as I carry on through my business: miles and miles of various rocks, caves, streams, soils, magma, and life too. This piece represents that unsung, overlooked voice of the Earth, rising from the depths and yearning to be heard.

There is one chord progression consisting of four chords that begin the piece and are repeated with perseverance, representing the determination of this passionate yet simple song to be heard. The melodic material starts in the lowest register of the bass, and as its voice rises from the depths, the tessitura ascends until to piece finishes with the violins playing their highest harmonics.

Performance Notes

-Any instance of multiple, simultaneous notes on a staff in any of the bowed strings should be played divisi.

-Any instance of one note on a staff for any of the bowed strings should be unison.

-Any chords in the harp that have three or more notes may be slightly arpeggiated, at the conductor's/harpists' discretion.

-Accidentals last through the bar in which they appear and only in the octave in which they appear.

-The tenuto markings in the harp parts for measures 28-34 are to be interpreted as meaning that those notes should be elongated and the rest of the notes in the measure are to be slightly shorter to accommodate for the longer note(s).

-The use of picks for the harps may be used for the arpeggios from F-G if deemed appropriate.

-It also may be ideal to have the harps near the front of the orchestra, perhaps behind or in front of the conductor.

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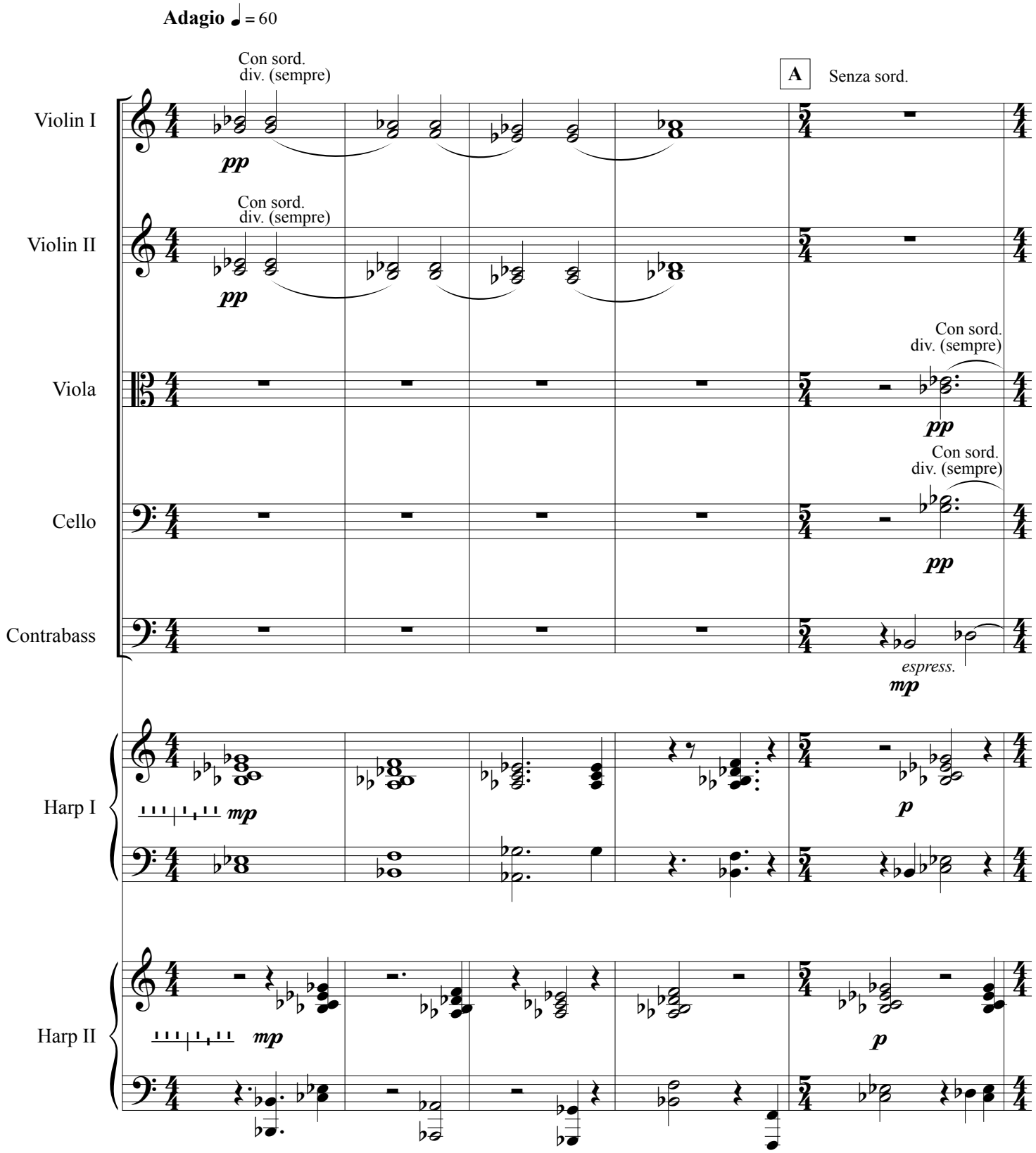
Score



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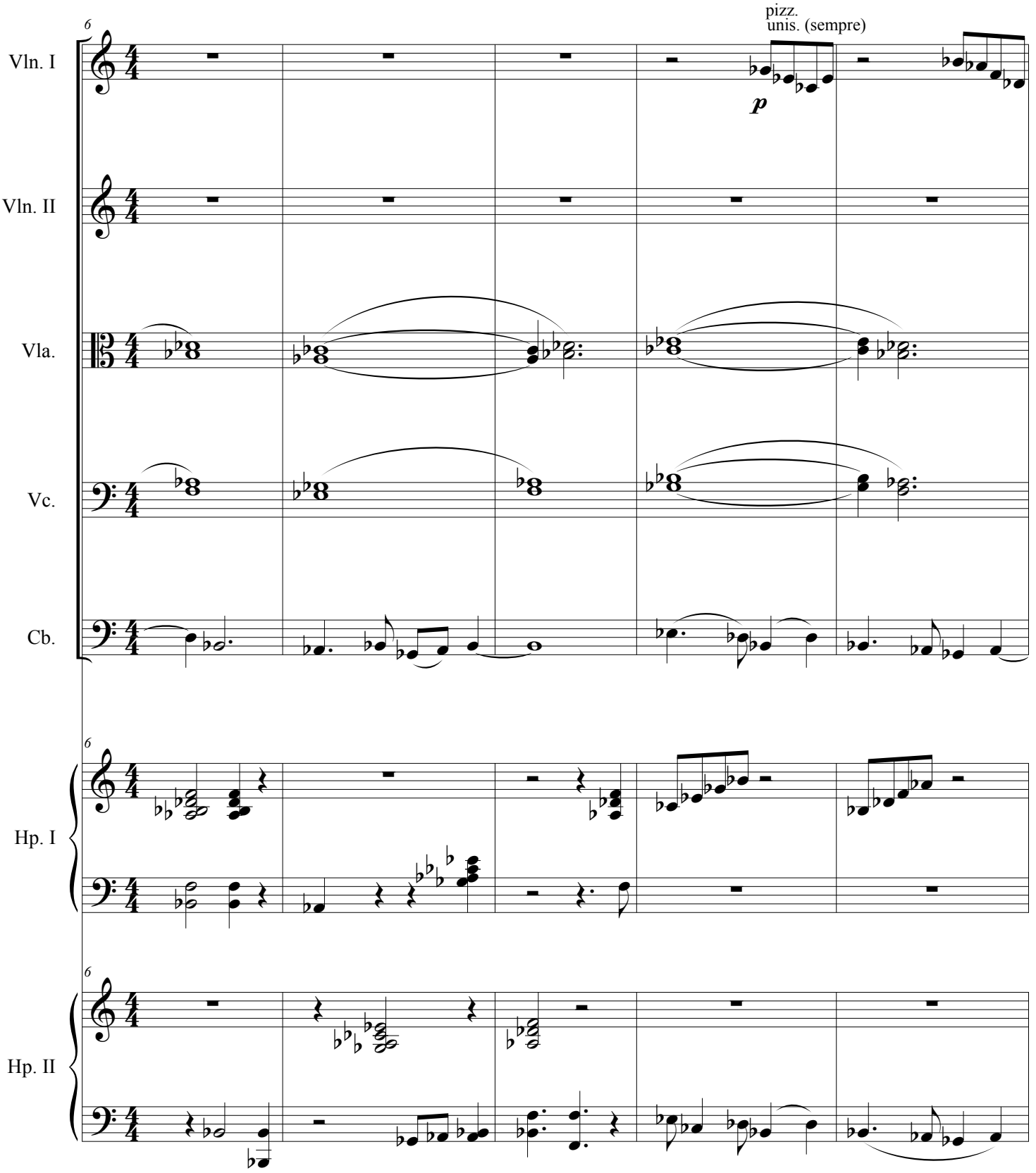
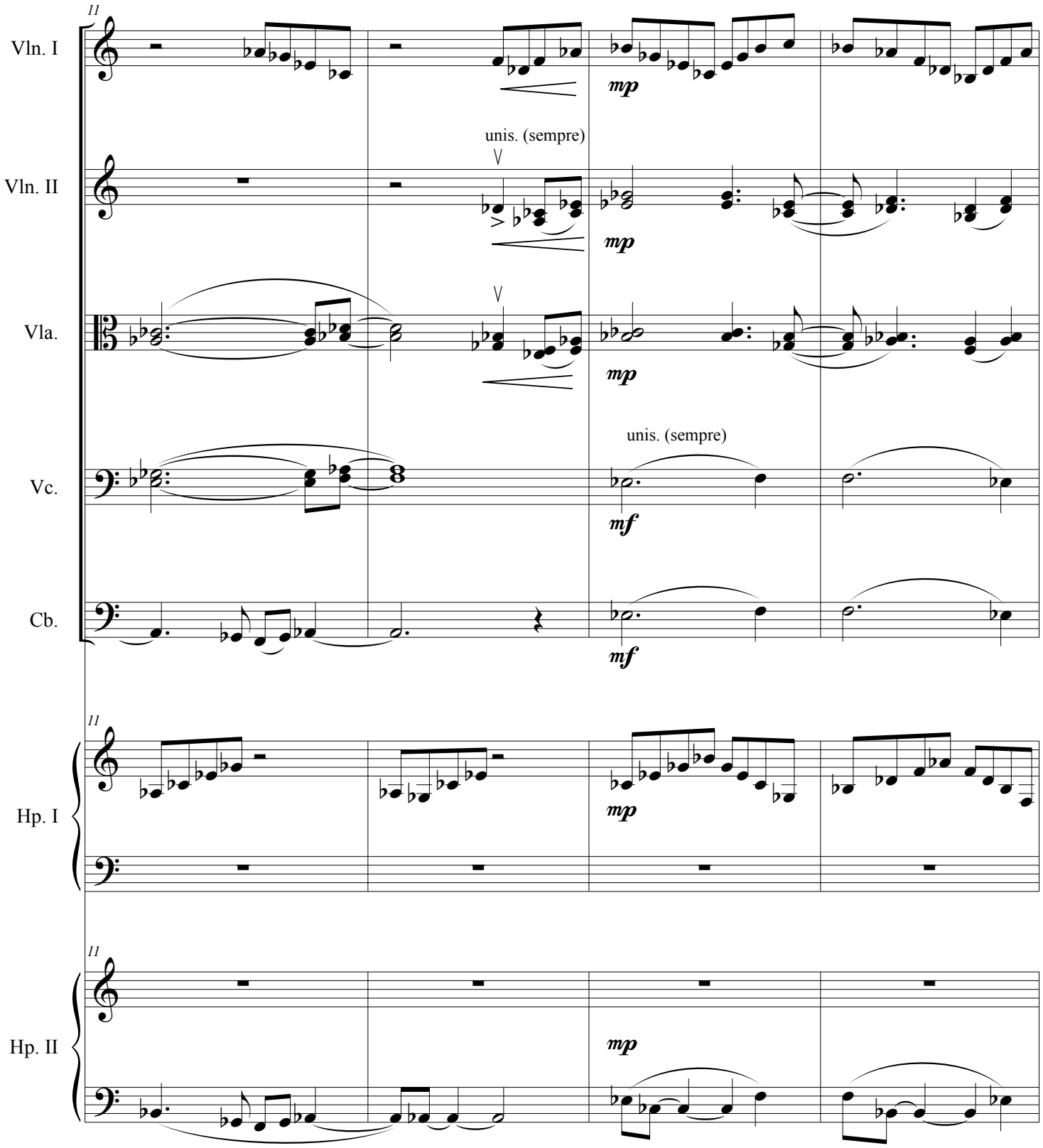
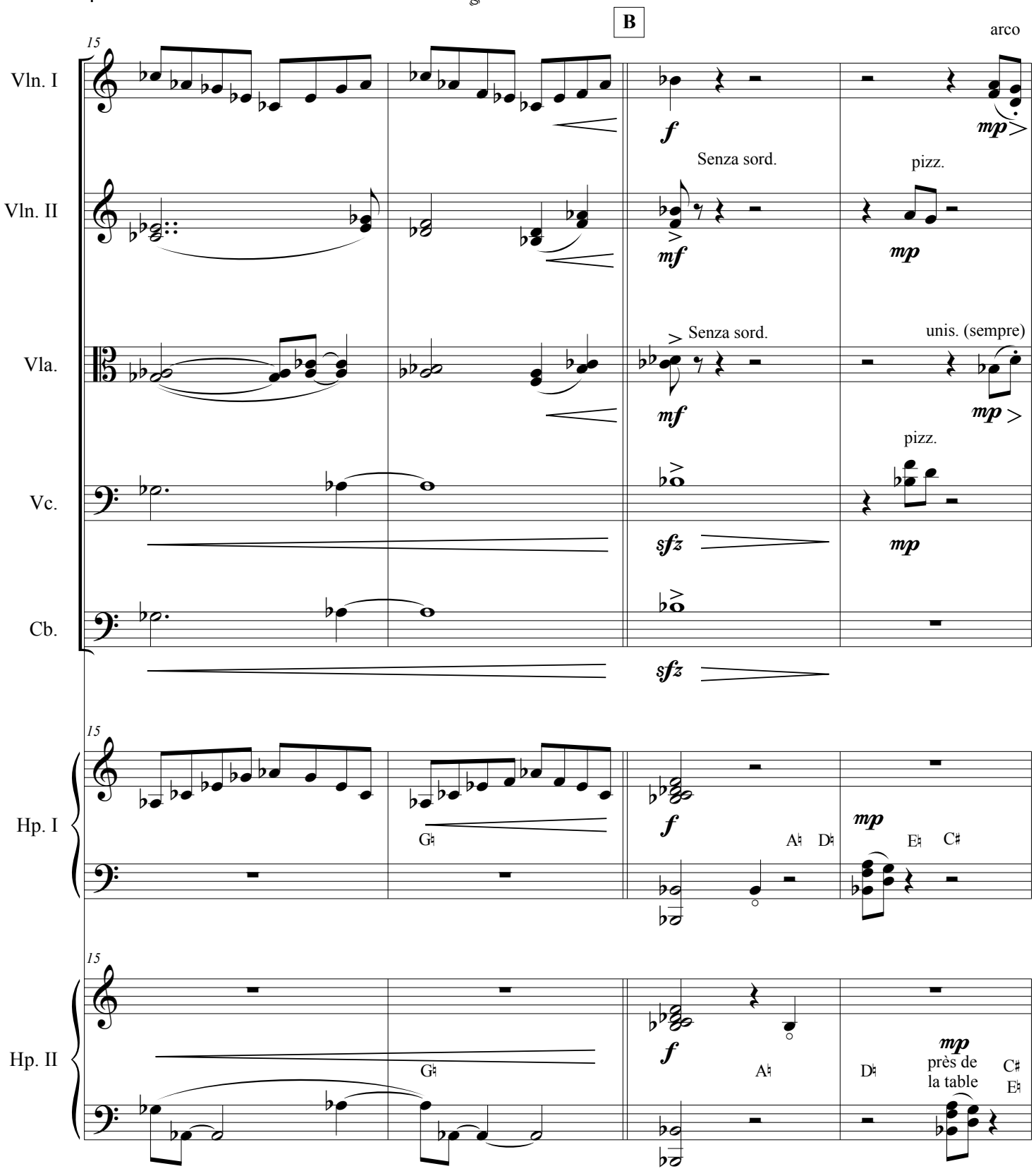
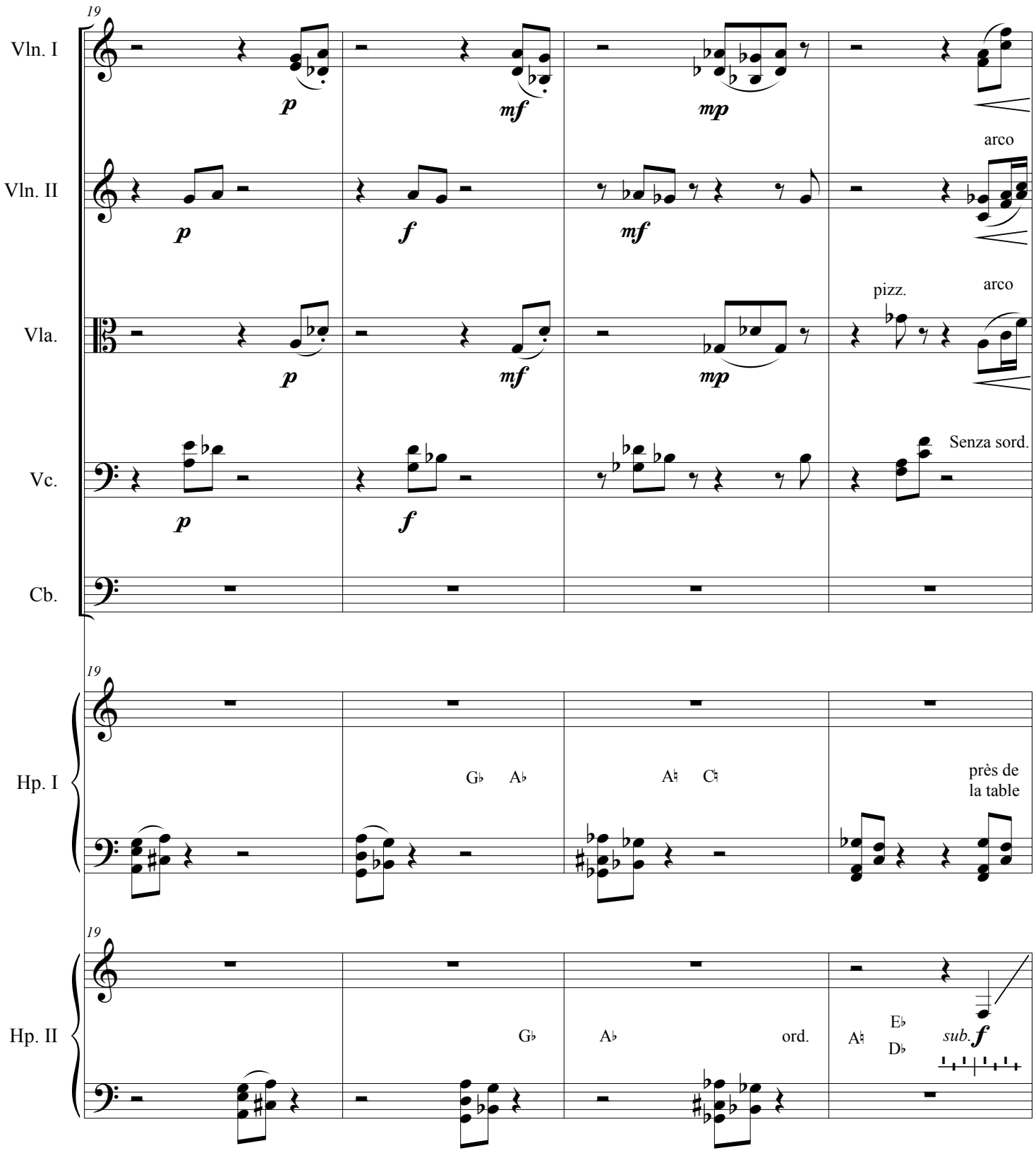
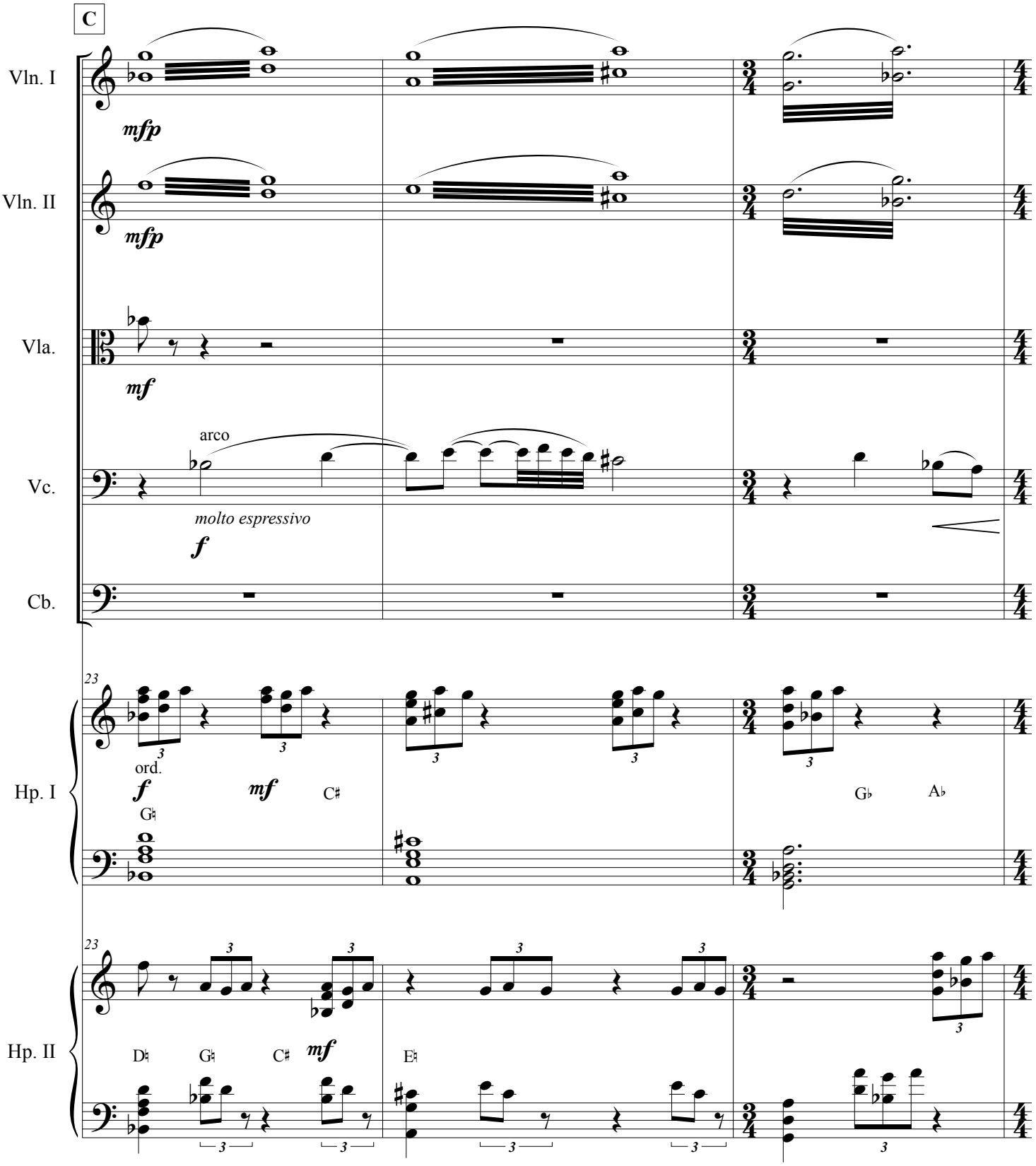
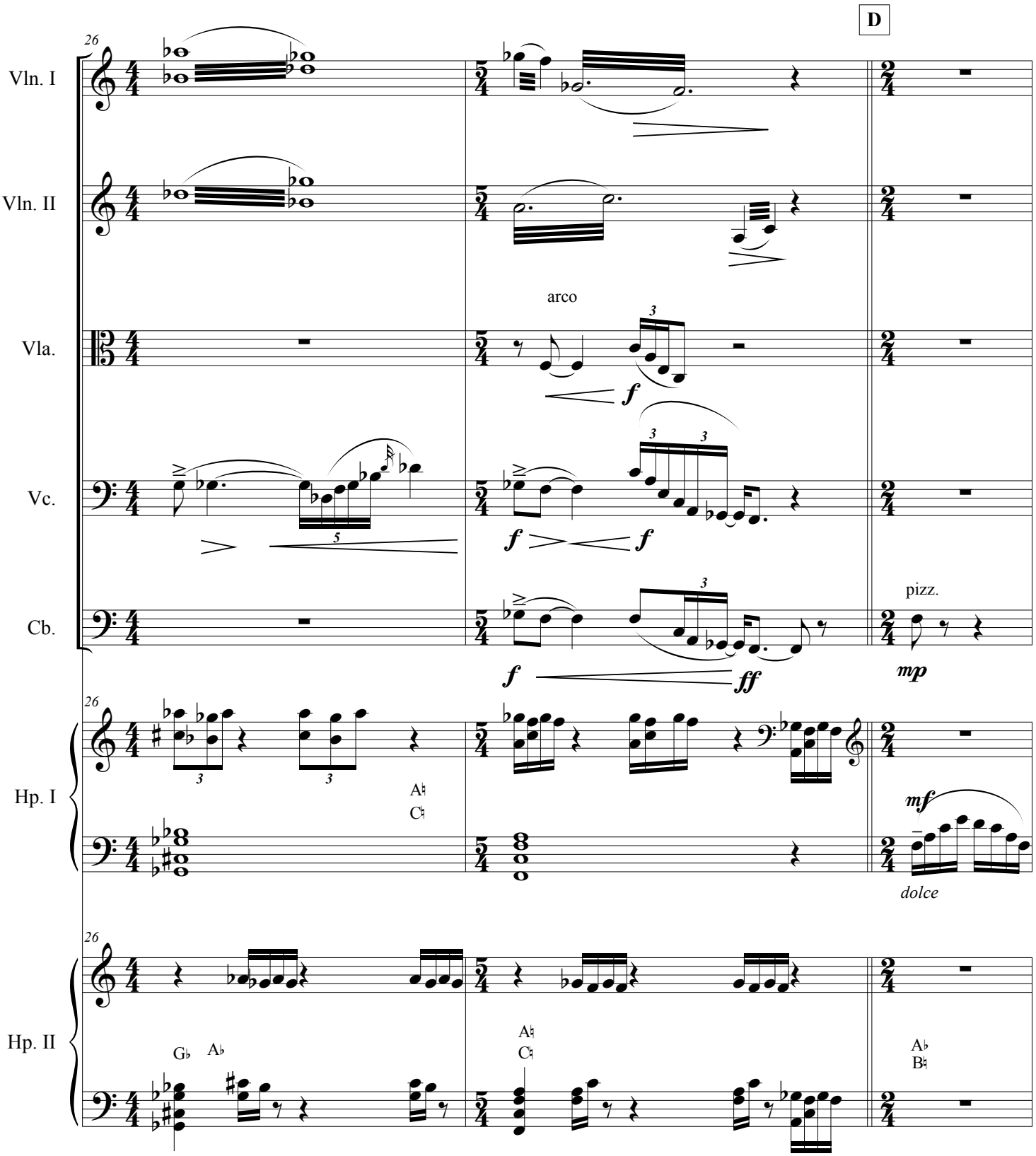

6
pizz.
unis. (sempre)
p
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
Hp. I
Hp. II


11
Vln. I
mp
unis. (sempre)
Vln. II
mp
Vla.
mp
unis. (sempre)
Vc.
mf
Cb.
mf
11
Hp. I
mp
11
Hp. II
mp


B
15
Vln. I
arco
f
mp
Vln. II
Senza sord.
mf
pizz.
mp
Vla.
Senza sord.
mf
unis. (sempre)
mp
Vc.
sfz
pizz.
mp
Cb.
sfz
15
Hp. I
f
G♮
A♮ D♮
mp
E♮ C♮
15
Hp. II
f
G♮
A♮
D♮
mp
près de
la table
C♮
E♮


19
Vln. I
p
mf
mp
Vln. II
arco
p
f
mf
Vla.
pizz.
arco
p
mf
mp
Vc.
Senza sord.
p
f
Cb.
19
Hp. I
G♭ A♭
A♮ C♮
près de
la table
19
Hp. II
G♭
A♭
ord.
A♮
E♭
D♭
sub. f


C
Vln. I
mfp
Vln. II
mfp
Vla.
mf
arco
Vc.
molto espressivo
f
Cb.
23
Hp. I
ord.
f
mf
G♮
C♯
G♭
A♭
23
Hp. II
D♮
G♮
C♯
mf
E♮


D
26
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
arco
Vc.
Cb.
pizz.
Hp. I
Hp. II
dolce