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There is coke in the Midas touch, a joke that we rust

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BOSTON UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Thesis

THERE IS COKE IN THE MIDAS TOUCH, A JOKE THAT WE RUST

for string quartet

by

YU-TUNG CHENG

B.M., Taipei National University of the Arts, 2016

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree of

Master of Music

2020

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Chair of Composition and Music Theory

THERE IS COKE IN THE MIDAS TOUCH, A JOKE THAT WE RUST

for string quartet

YU-TUNG CHENG

ABSTRACT

This work explores the myth of the Midas touch, attempting to recreate Midas' thaumaturgical condition through sound. The sonic experience is delineated by distinct phases that mimic the process of Midas' touch, following a subject's existence from pure life to still, tarnished gold.

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Score – THERE IS COKE IN THE MIDAS TOUCH, A JOKE THAT WE RUST**:** for string quartet……1

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Duration

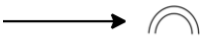
ca. 7 minutes

Notes for performers

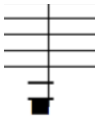
- all performers should prepare styrofoam
- styrofoam is always played with bow

hold pressure on the bow

normal pressure

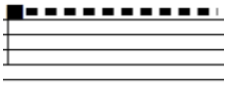


gradually holding pressure on the bow

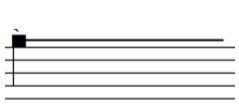


choked sound by left hand muting the string

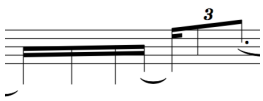
as high as possible



dash line indicates
squeaky sound (on styrofoam or the muted string)



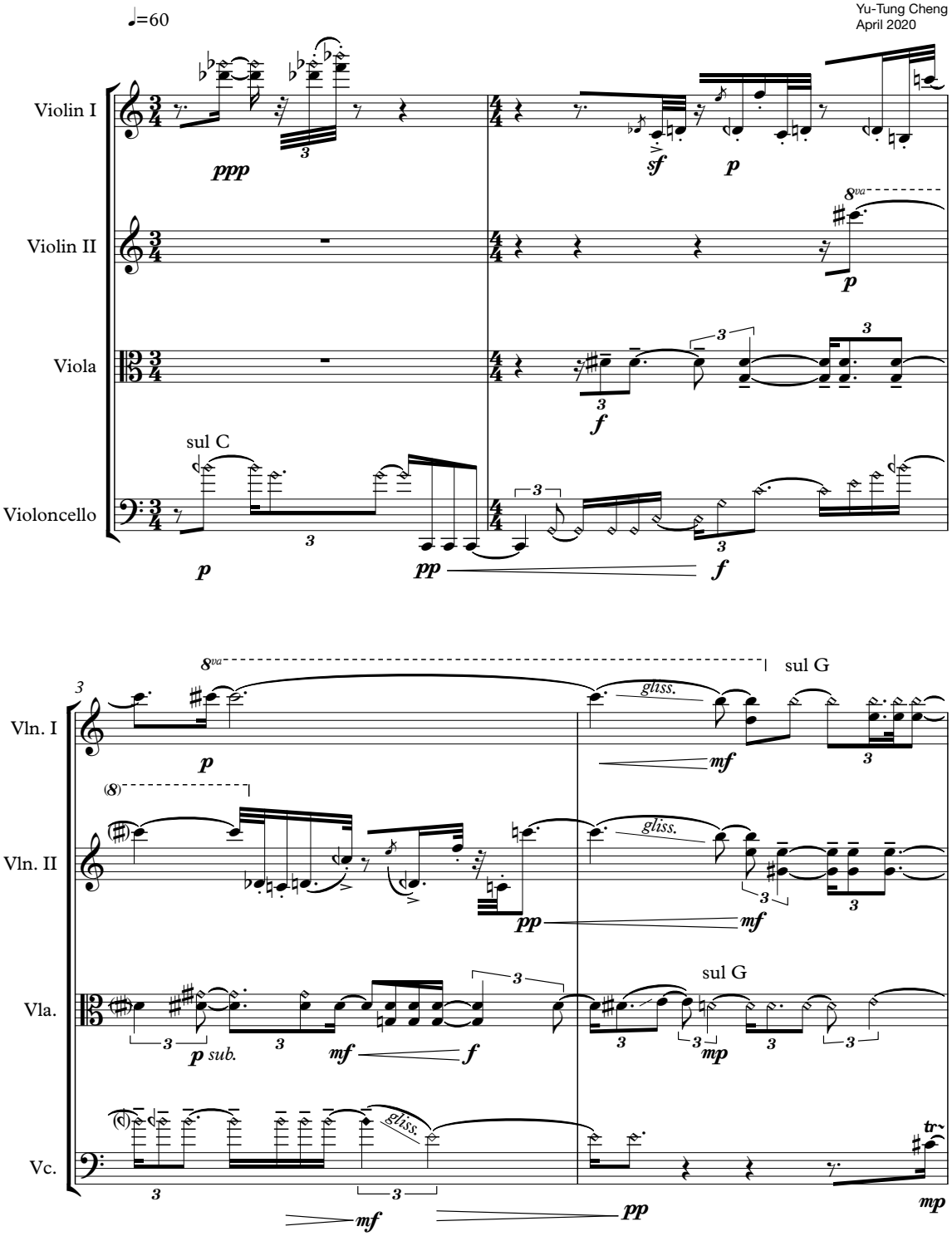
black line indicates sustained airy sound (with styrofoam)

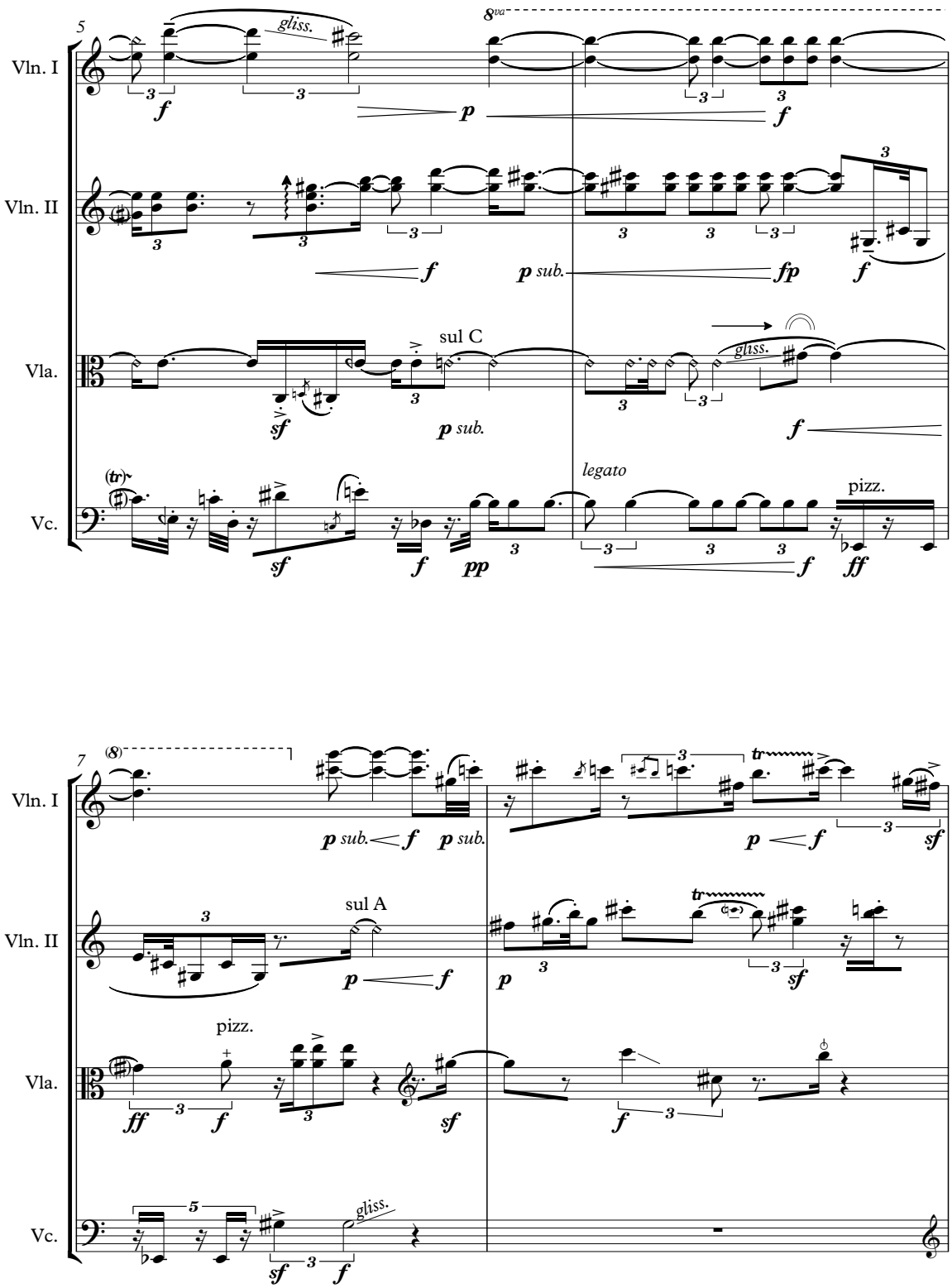


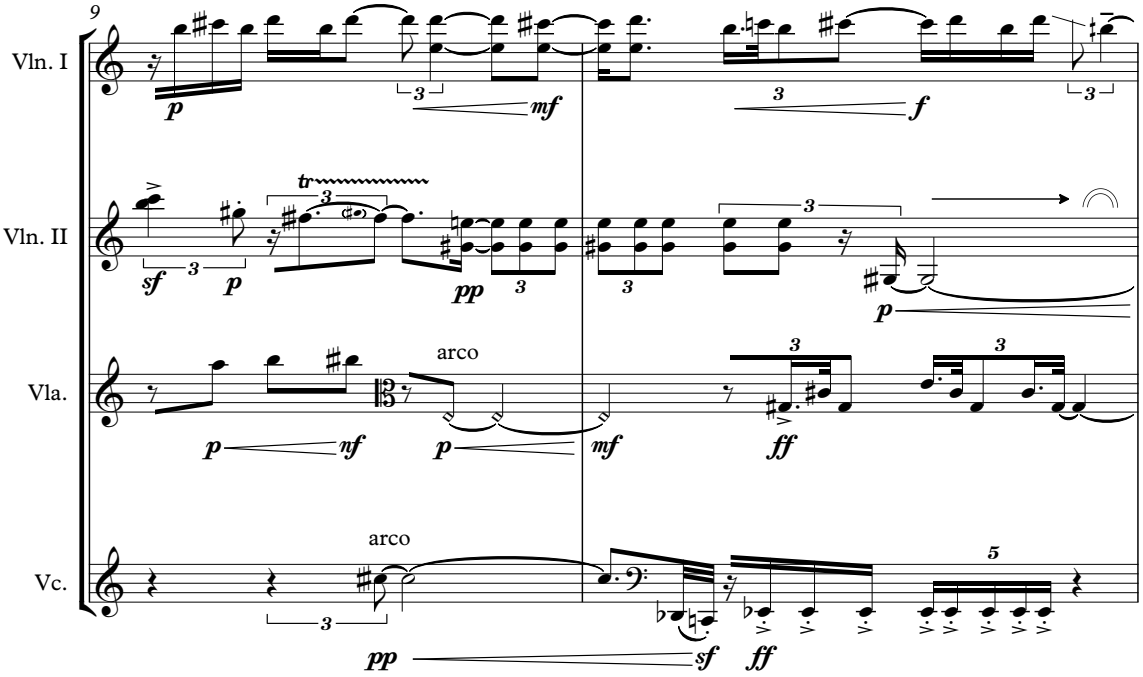
airy sound with styrofoam

there's coke in the Midas touch, a joke that we rust

Yu-Tung Cheng
April 2020




5
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
gliss.
8va
sul C
p sub.
legato
pizz.
7
sul A
pizz.
gliss.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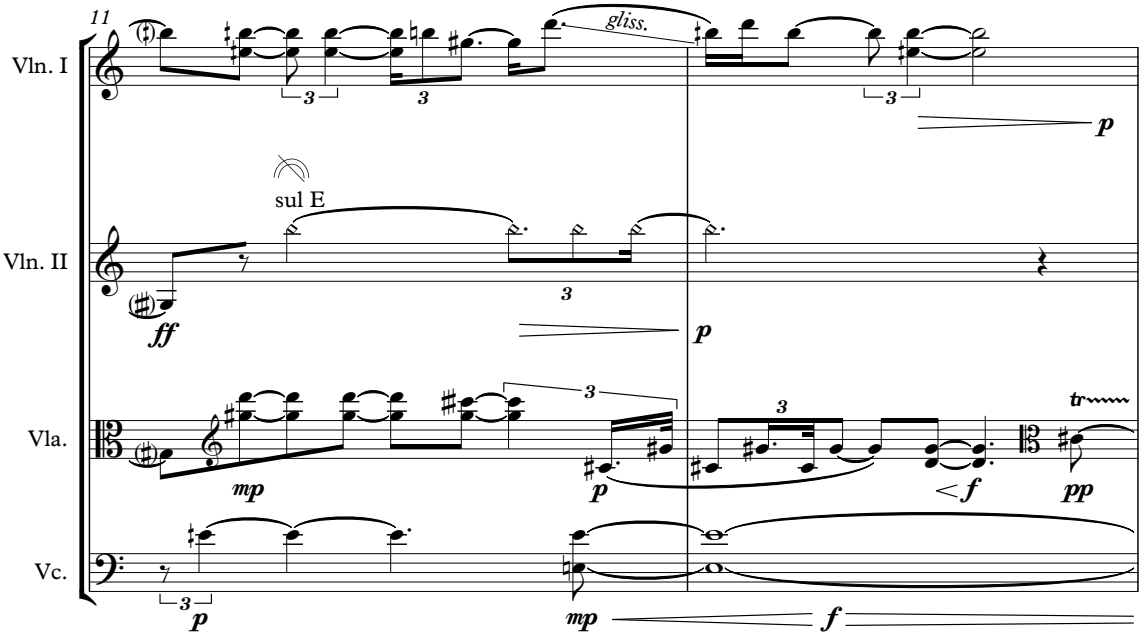
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
arco
arco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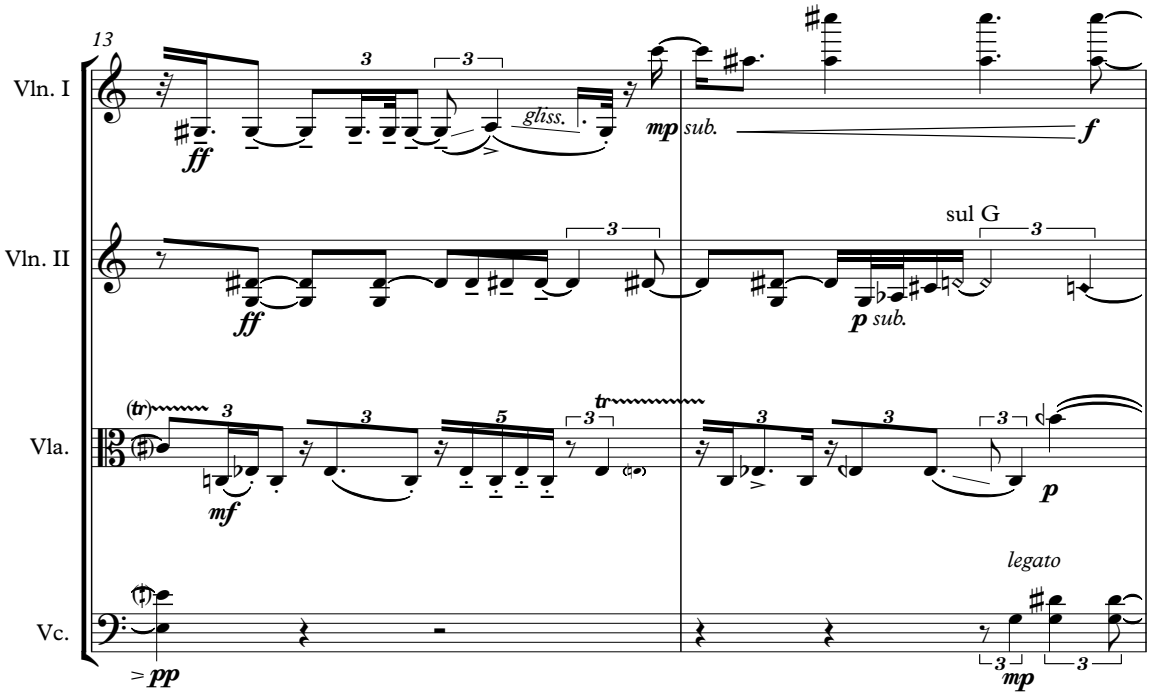
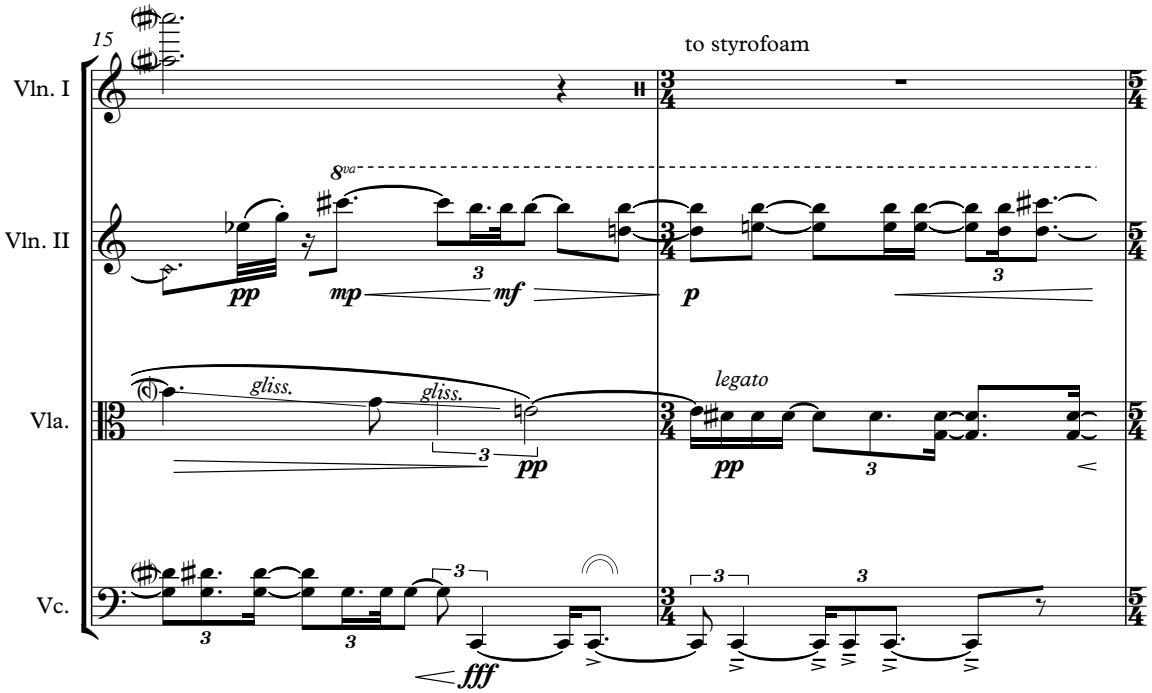
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
gliss.
sul E


13
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
gliss.
mp sub.
f
sul G
p sub.
(tr)
mf
p
legato
pp
mp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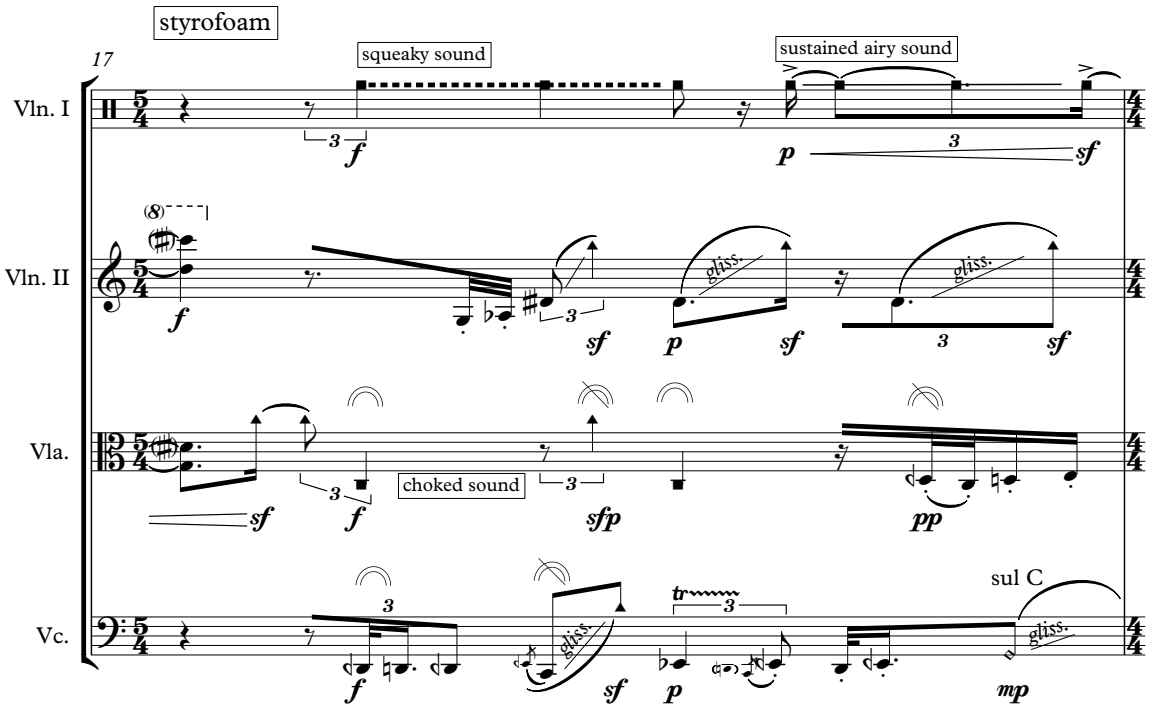
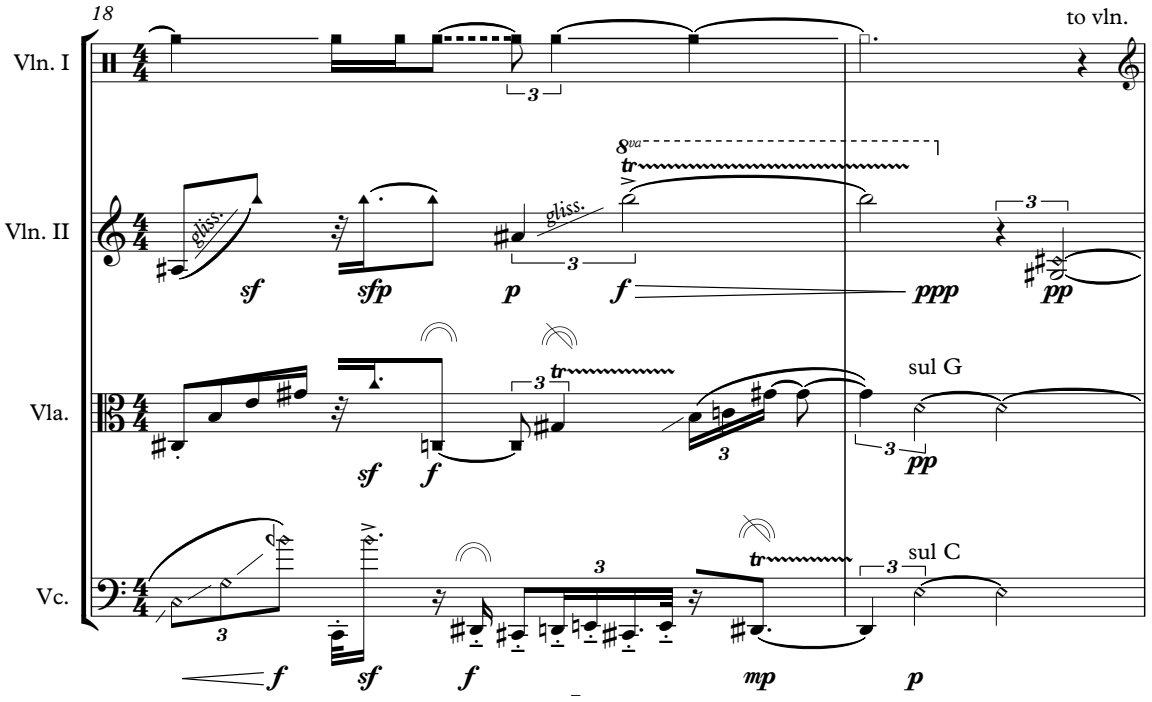
to styrofoam
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
8va
pp
mp
mf
p
gliss.
legato
fff


styrofoam
17
squeaky sound
sustained airy sound
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
choked sound
sul C
gliss.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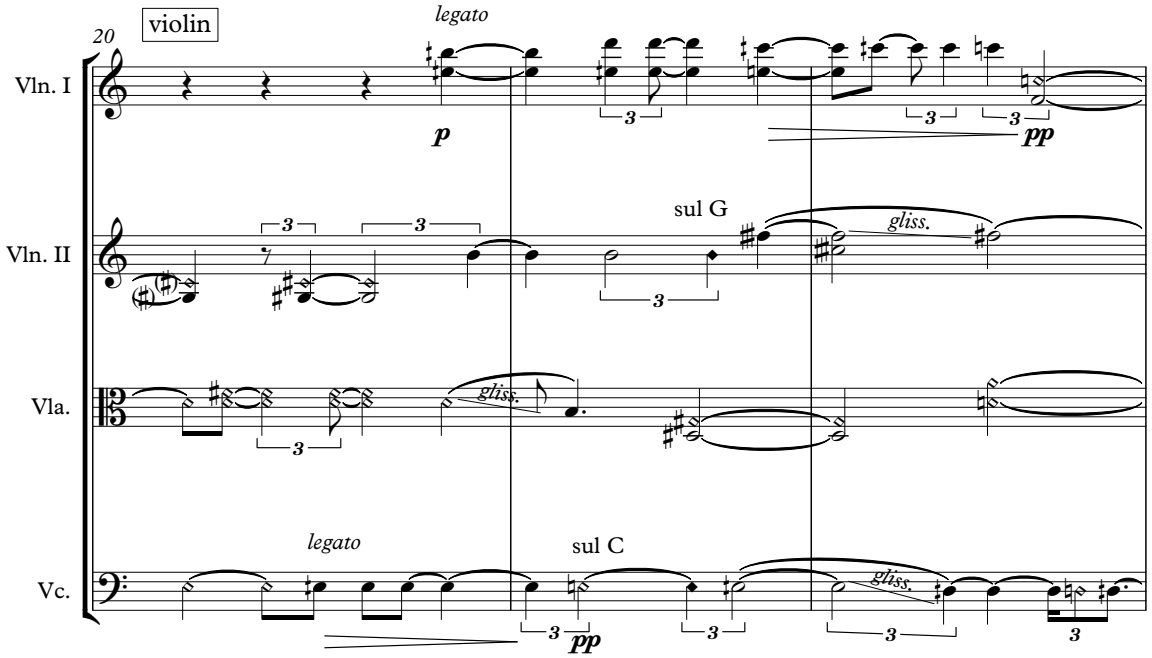
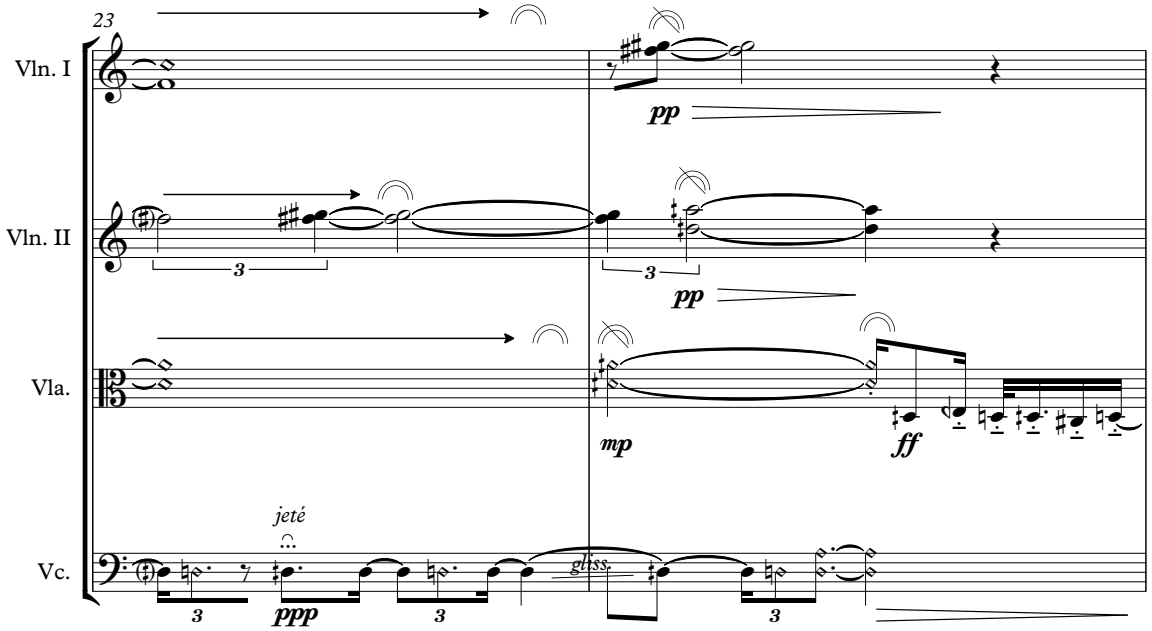
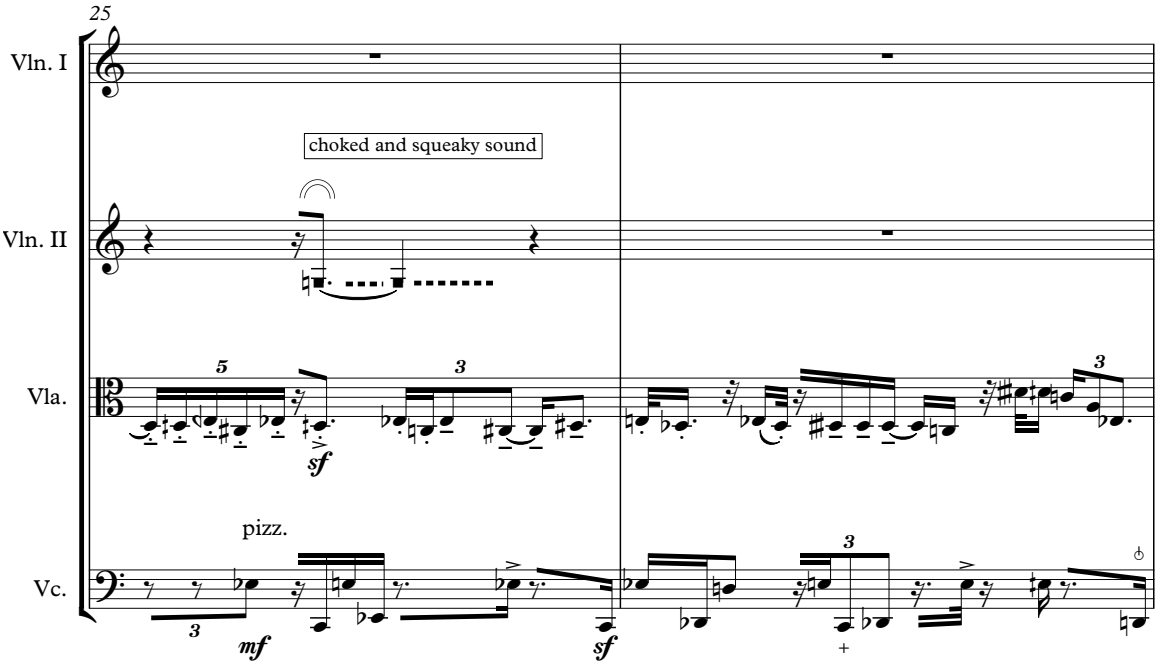
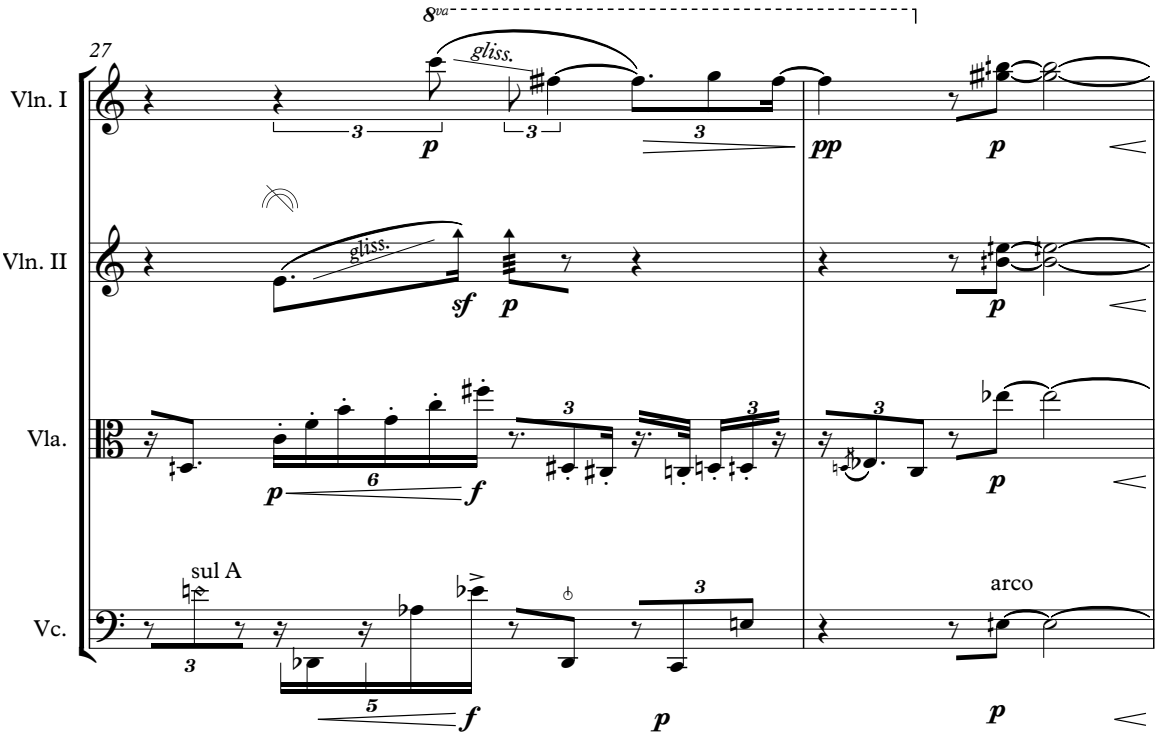
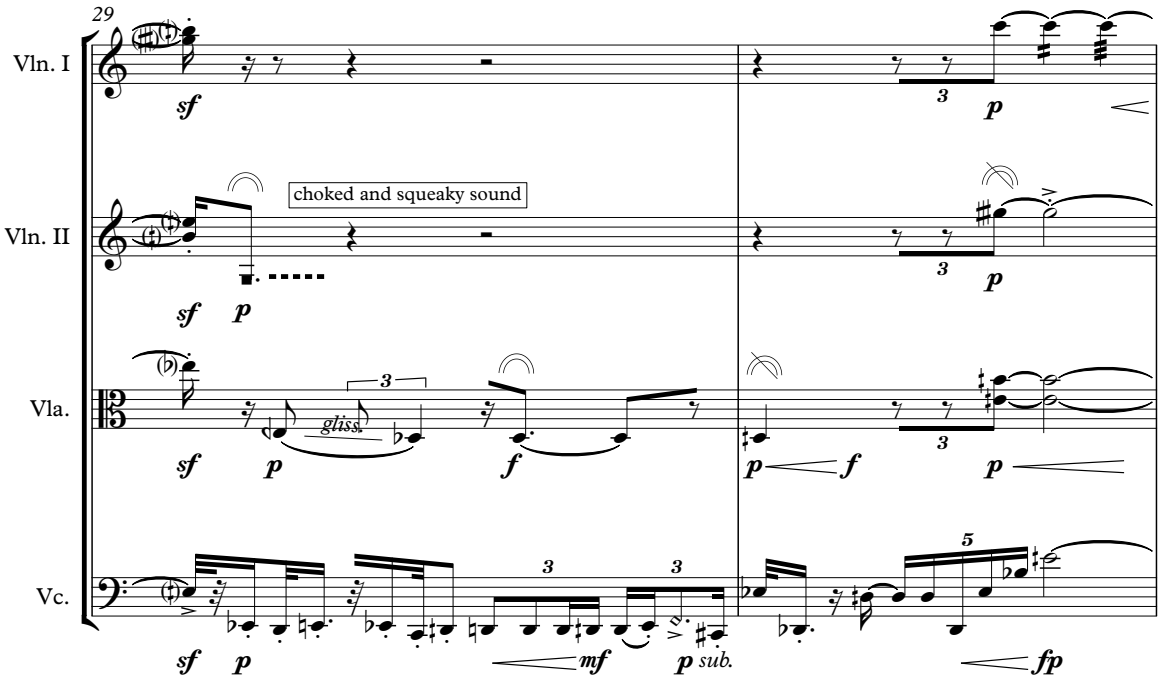
to vln.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sul G
sul C
gliss.


violin
20
legato
Vln. I
p
pp
sul G
gliss.
Vln. II
Vla.
gliss.
legato
sul C
Vc.
gliss.
pp


23
Vln. I
pp
Vln. II
pp
Vla.
mp
ff
jeté
Vc.
ppp
gliss.


25
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
choked and squeaky sound
pizz.
sf
mf
sf


27
8va
gliss.
gliss.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sul A
arco
p
pp
sf
f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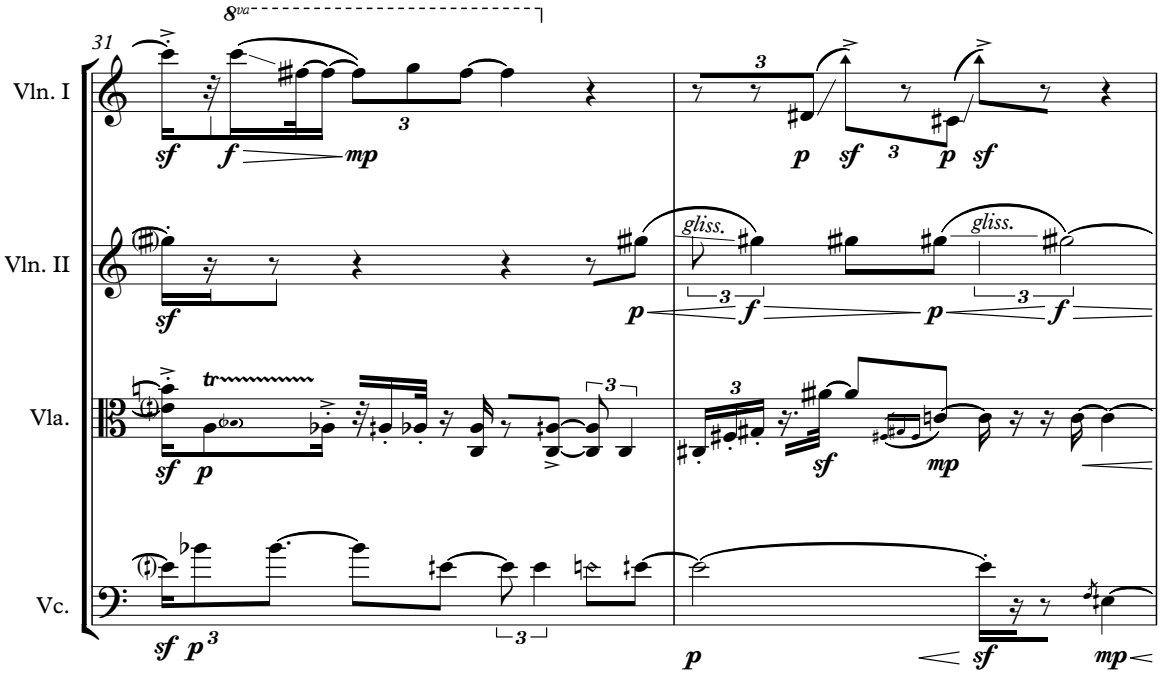
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
choked and squeaky sound
gliss.
sf
p
f
mf
p sub.
fp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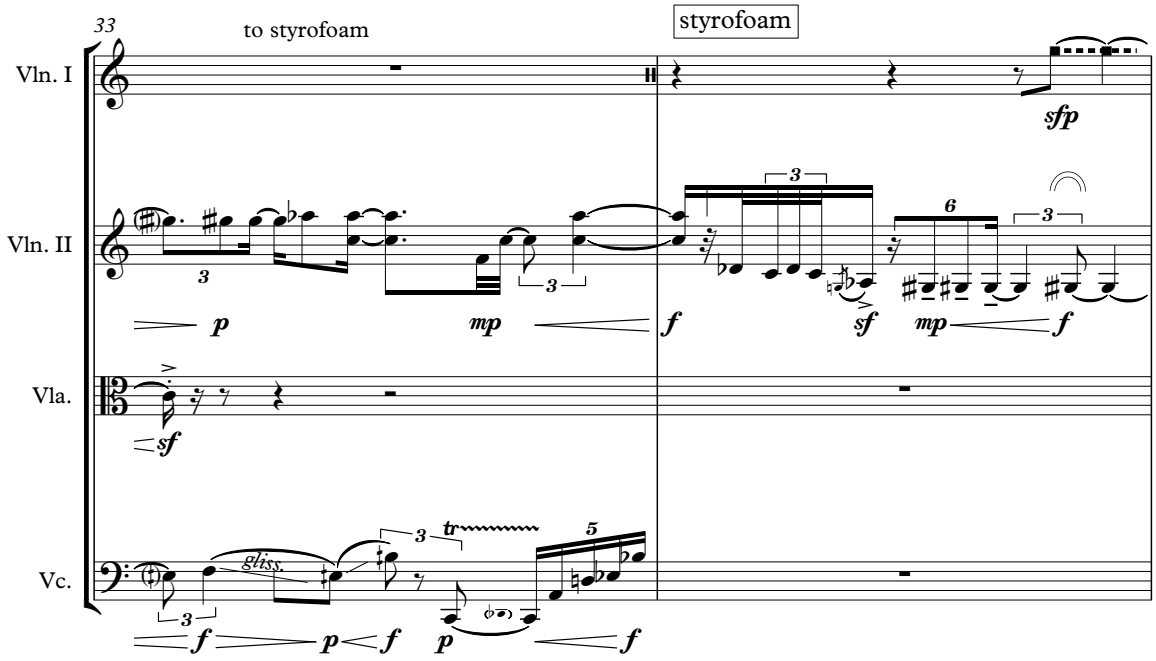
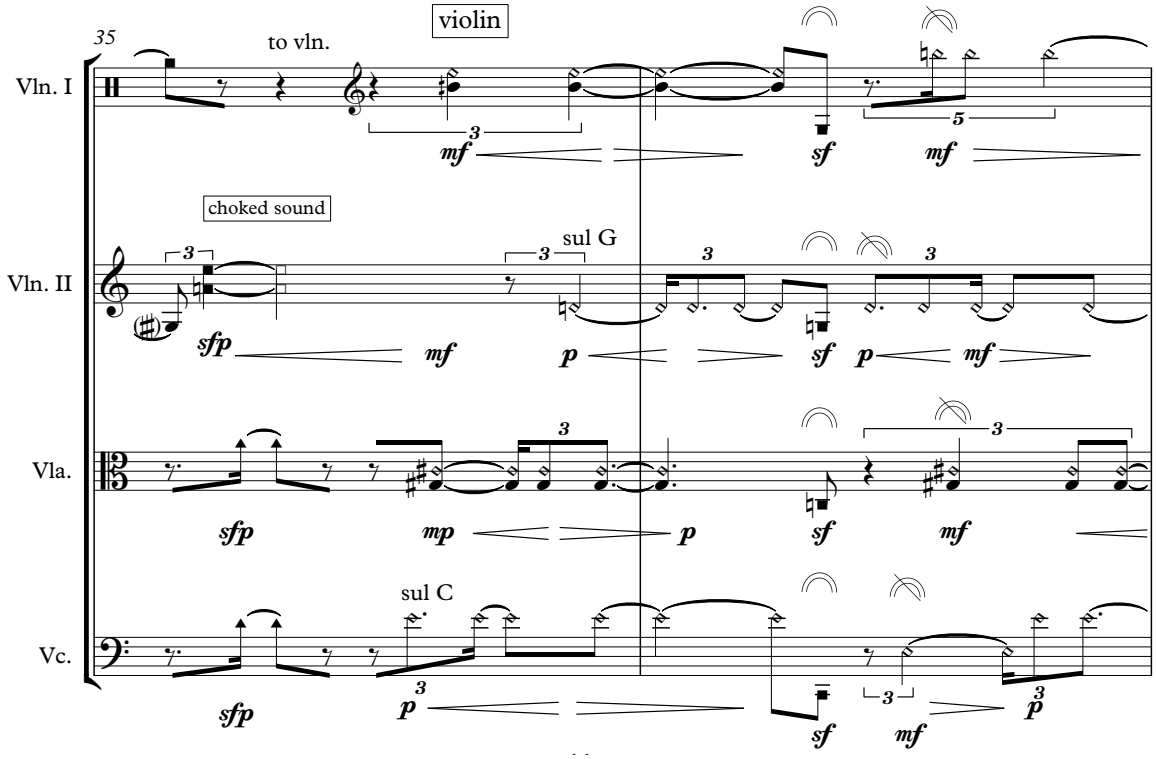
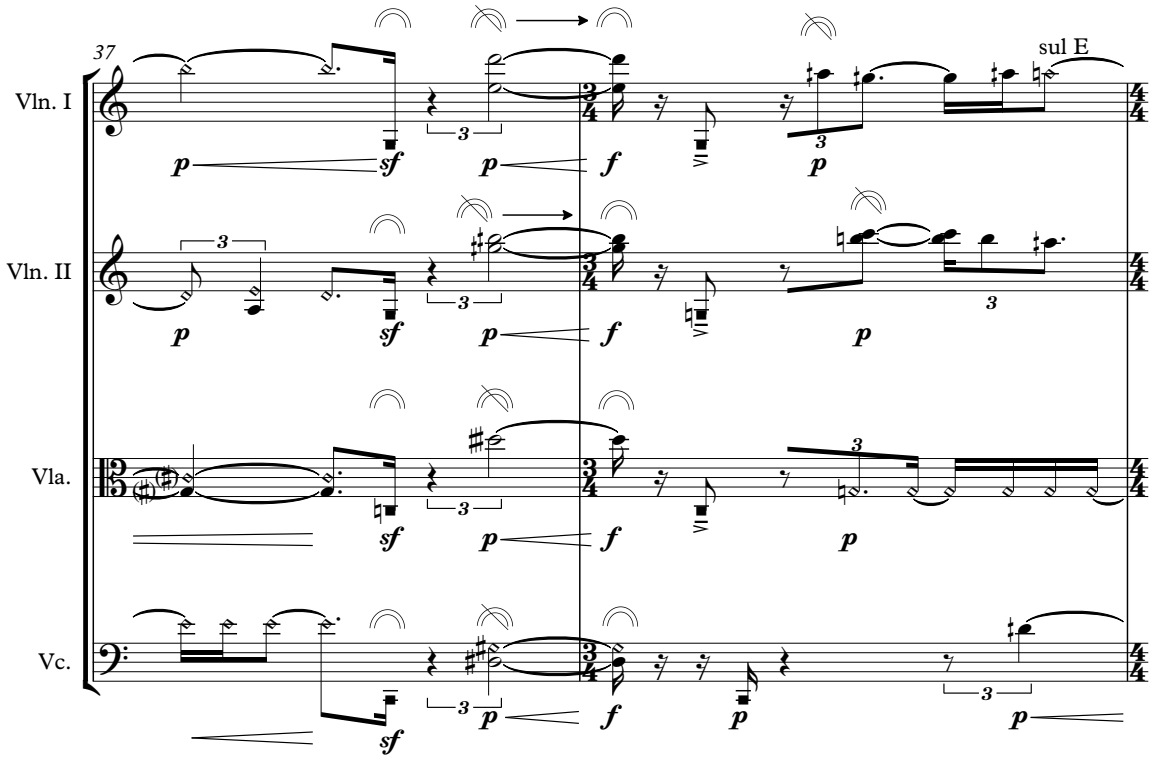
8va
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
tr
gliss.
sf
p
f
mp


33
to styrofoam
styrofoam
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
gliss.
tr


35
to vln.
violin
Vln. I
choked sound
sul G
Vln. II
Vla.
sul C
Vc.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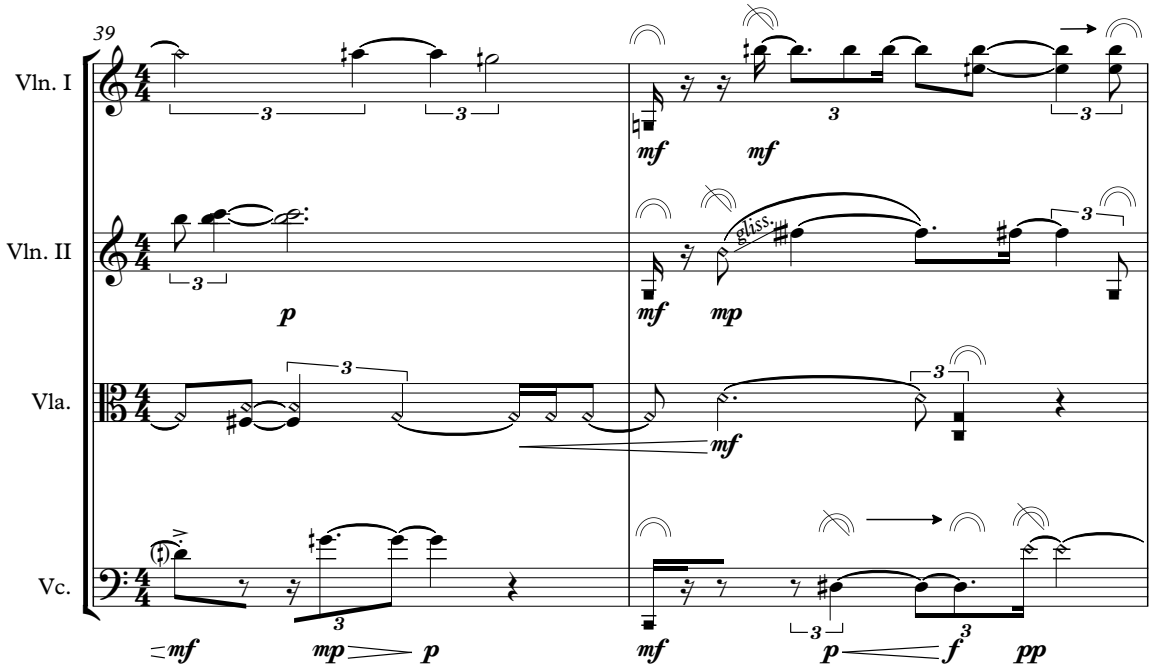
sul E
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.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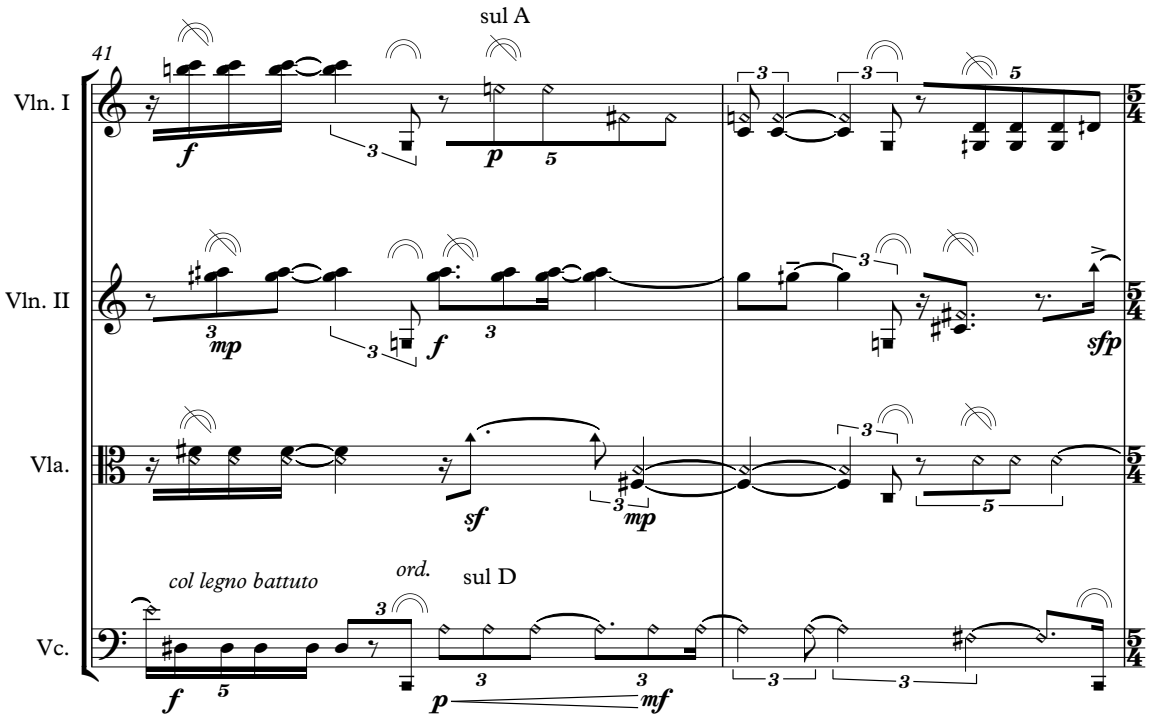
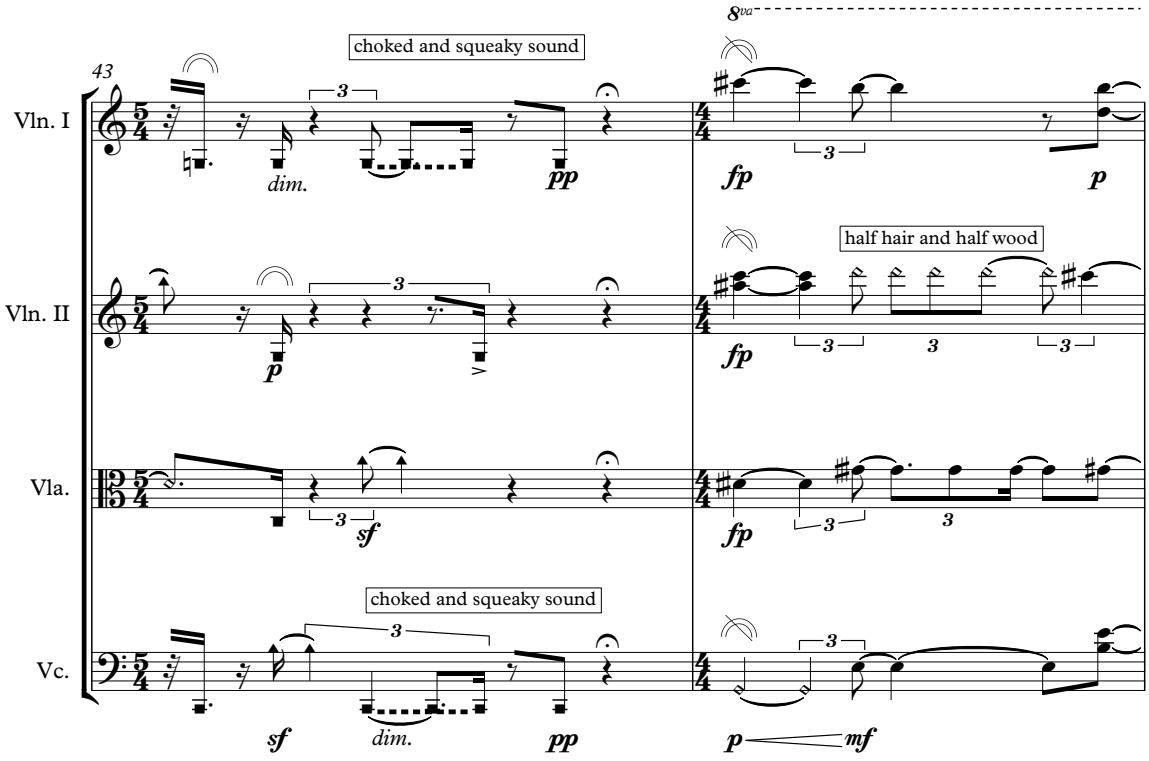
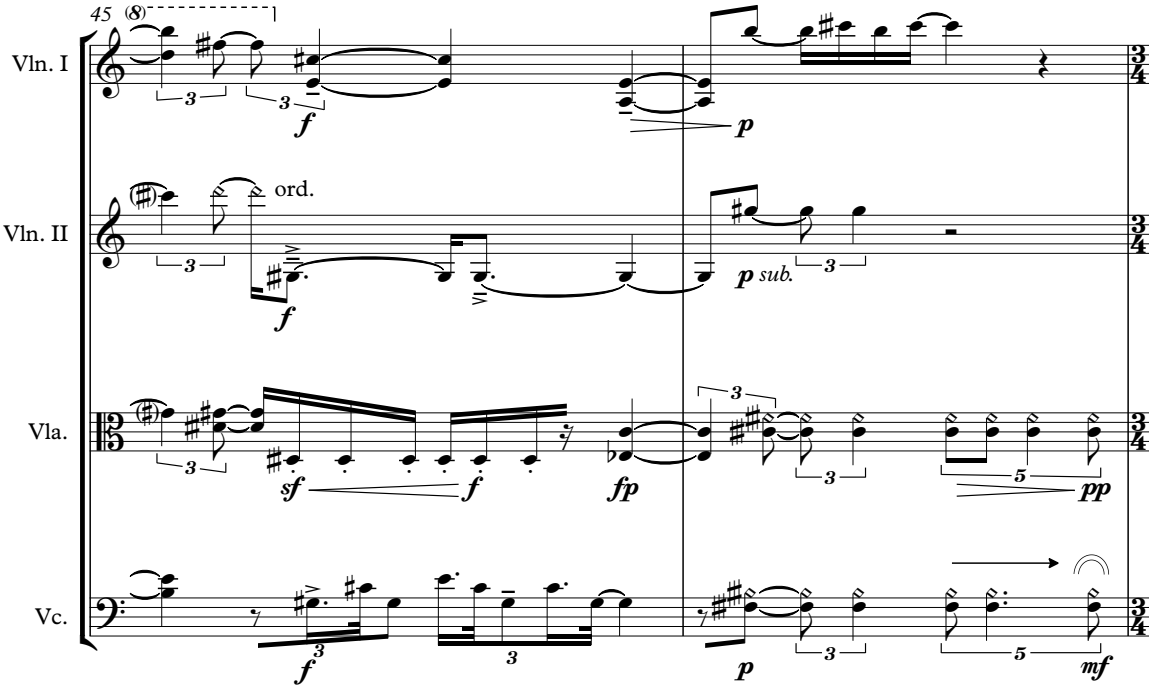
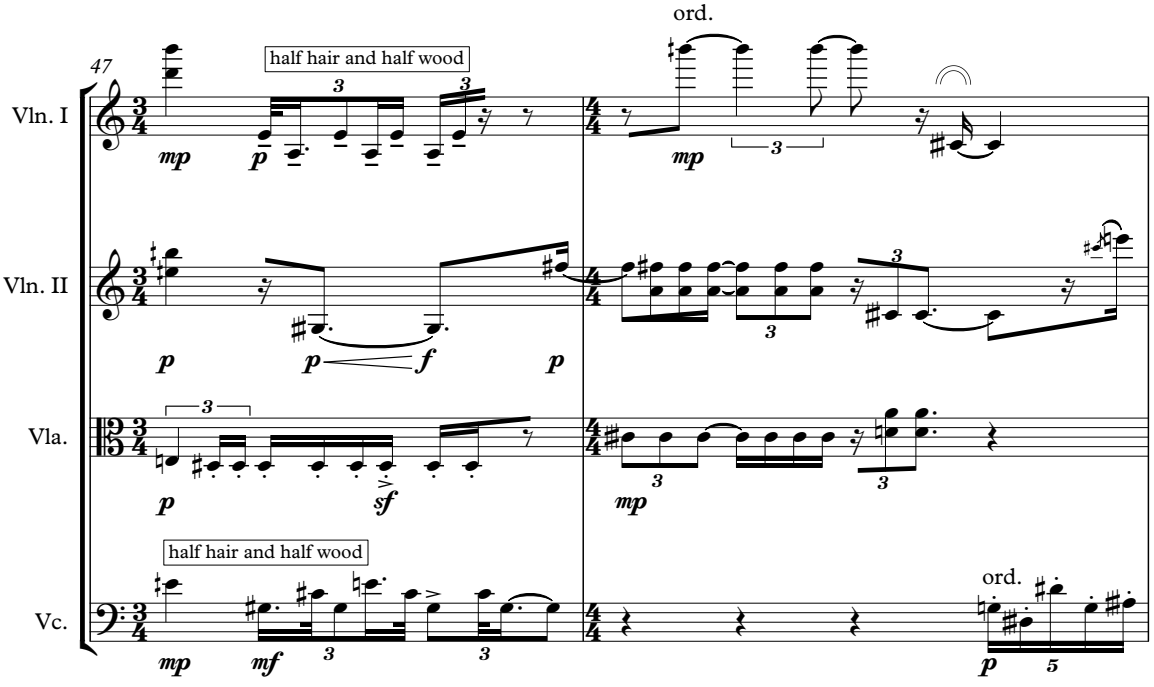
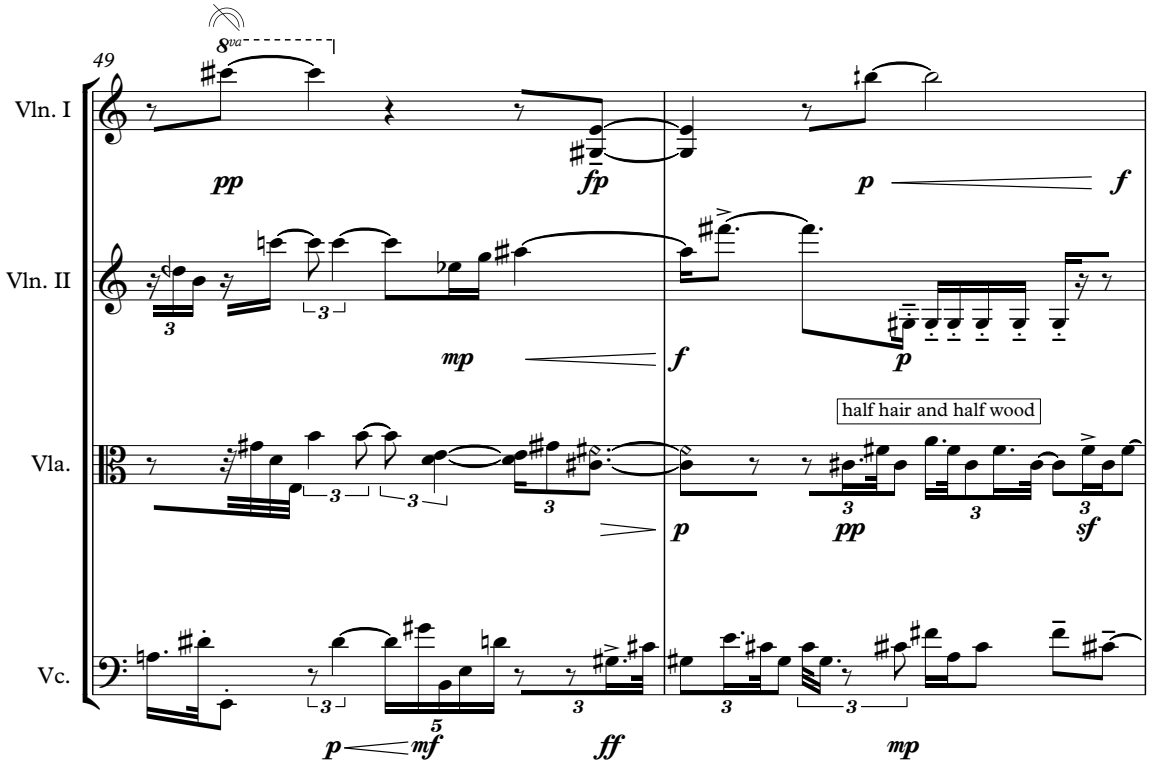
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
gliss.

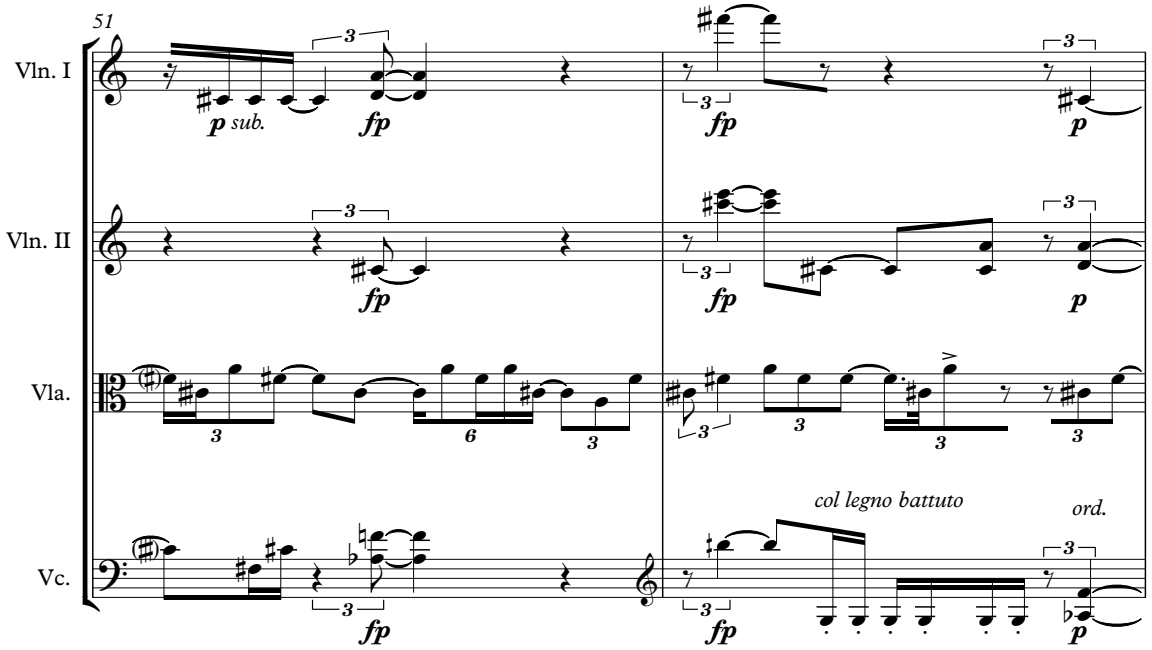

sul A
41
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
col legno battuto
ord.
sul D
Vc.

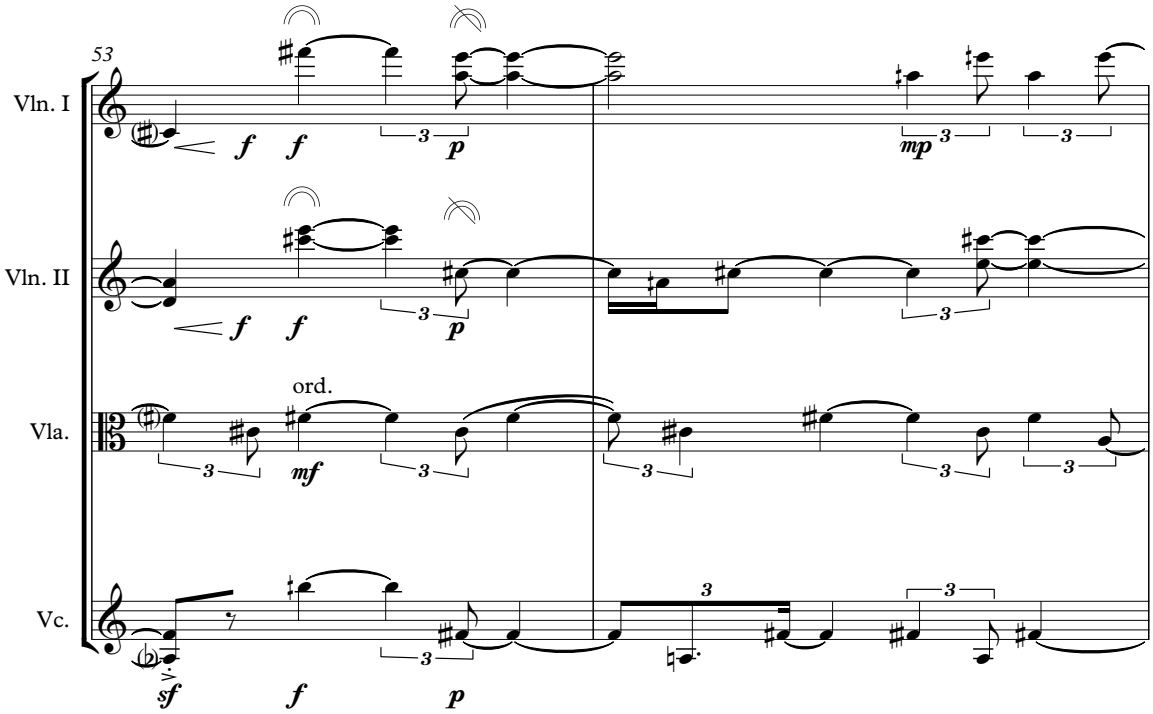

8va
choked and squeaky sound
43
Vln. I
half hair and half wood
Vln. II
Vla.
choked and squeaky sound
Vc.


45
(8)
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
ord.
sub.


47
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
half hair and half wood
half hair and half wood
ord.
ord.


49
8va
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
pp
fp
p
f
mp
f
p
half hair and half wood
p
pp
sf
p
mf
ff
mp


51
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p sub.
fp
fp
p
fp
fp
p
fp
fp
p
col legno battuto
ord.
fp
fp
p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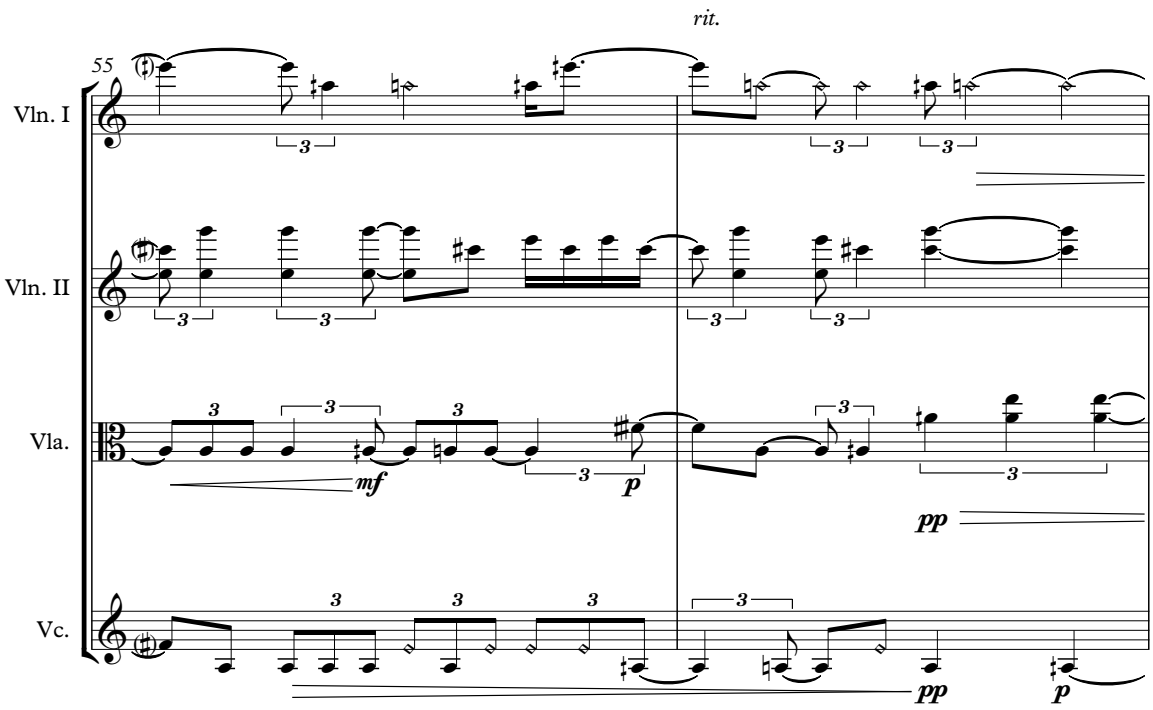
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
ord.
sf
f
mf
p
mp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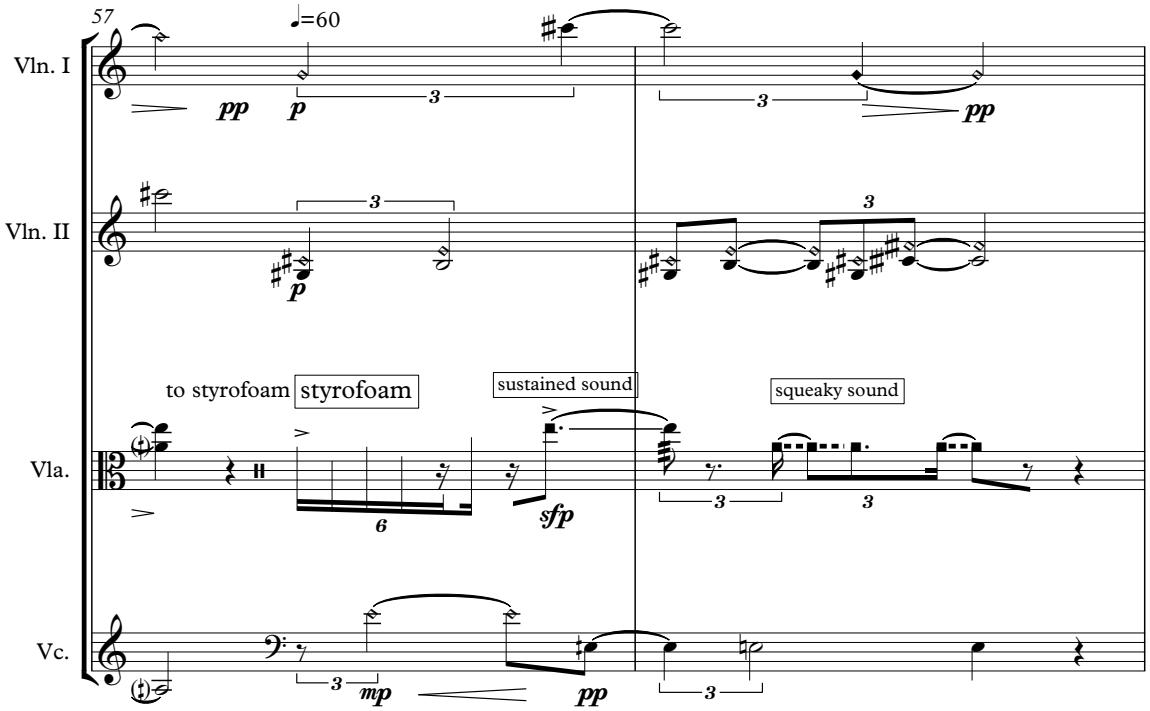
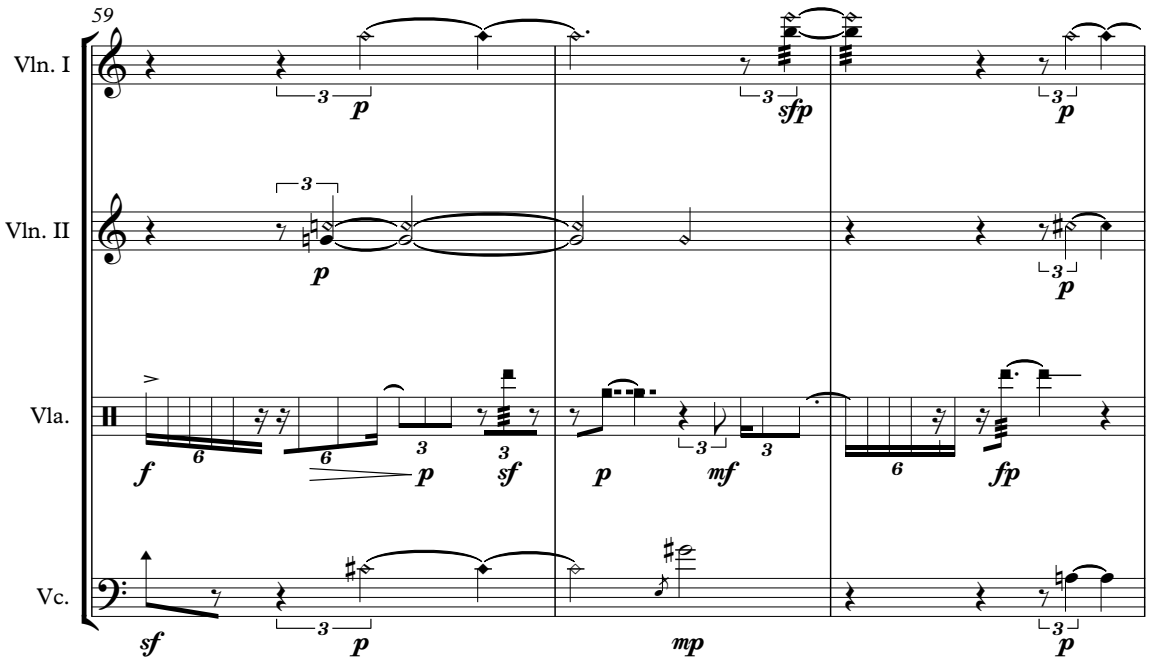
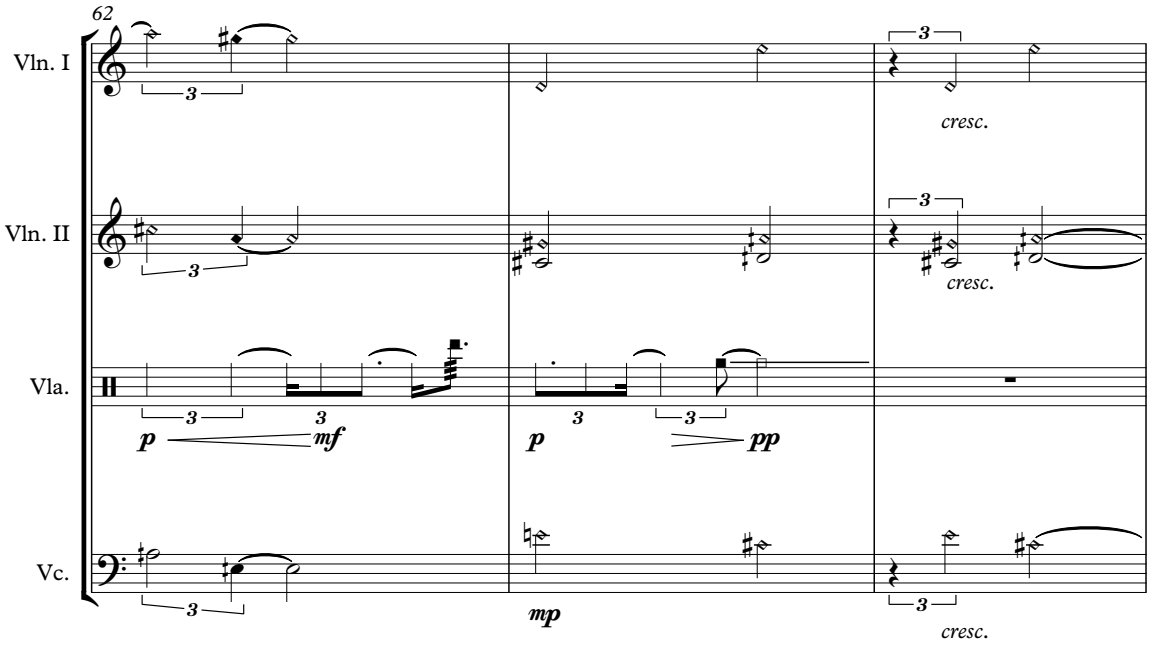
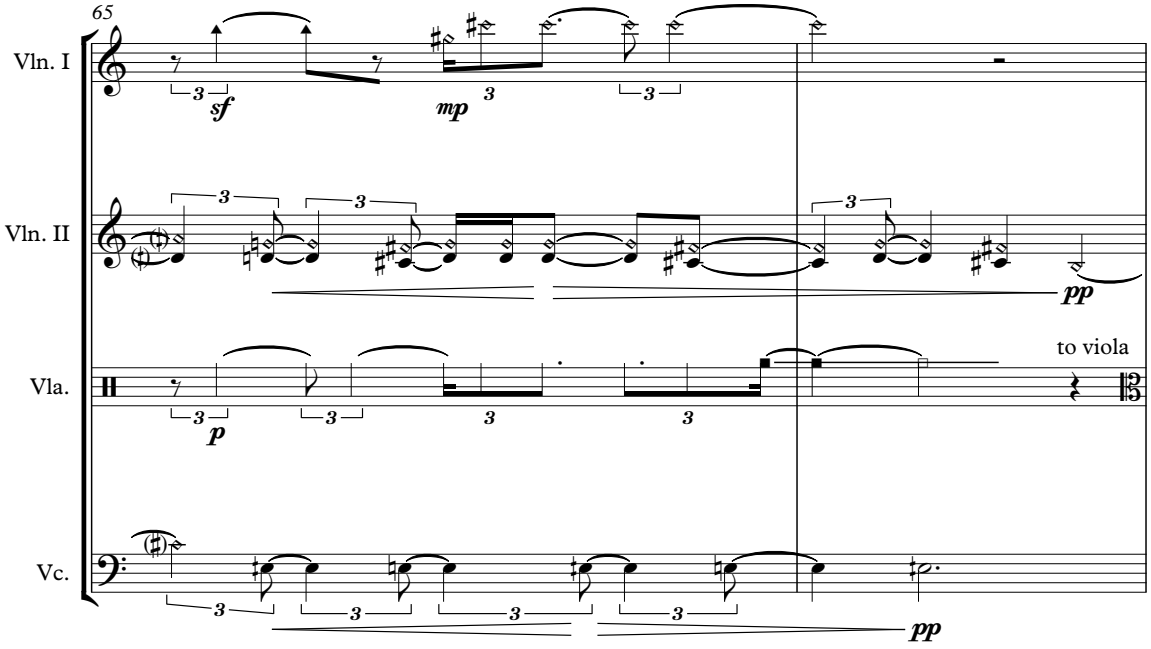
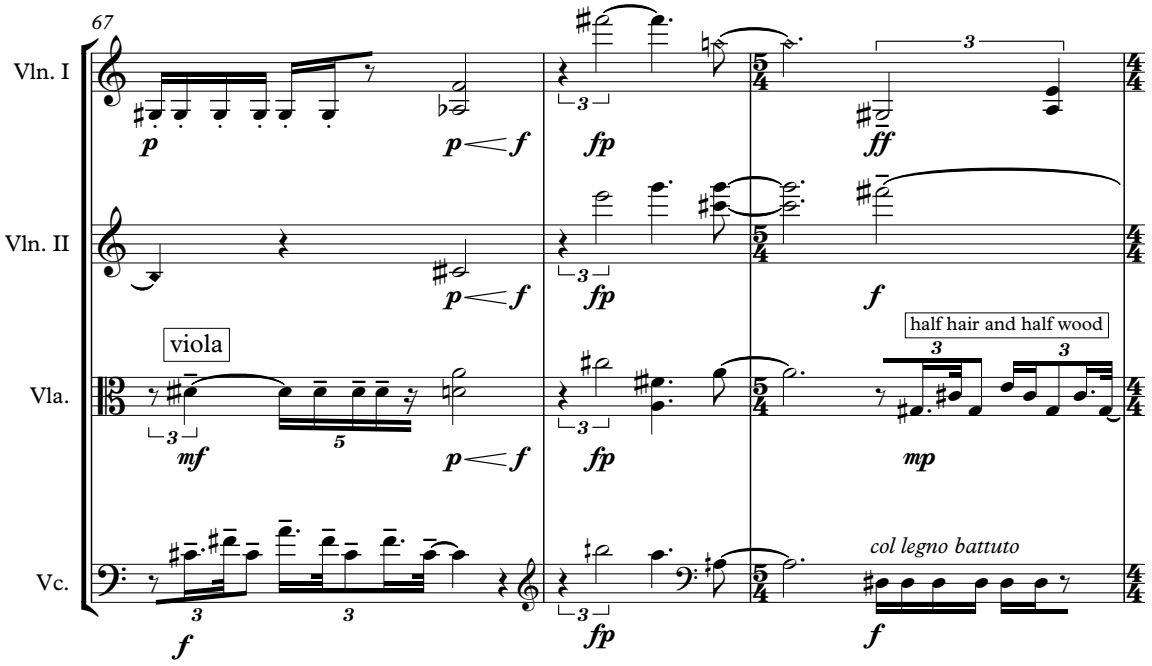
55
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
p
pp

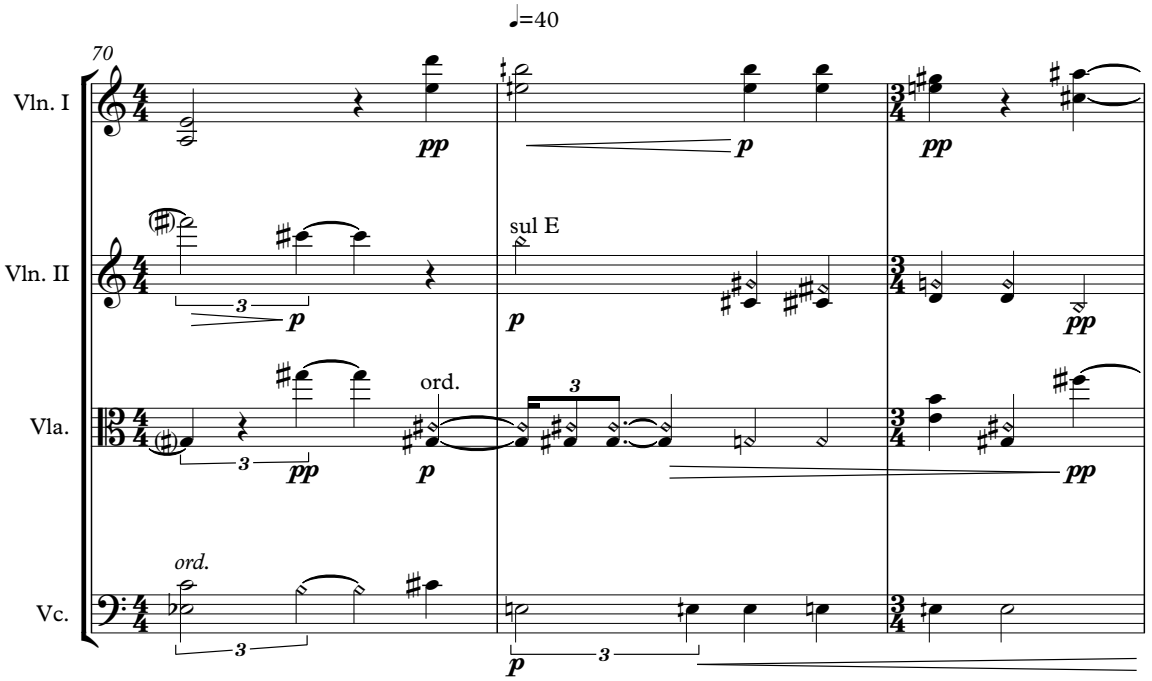

57
♩=60
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
to styrofoam
styrofoam
sustained sound
squeaky sound
pp
p
sfp
mp

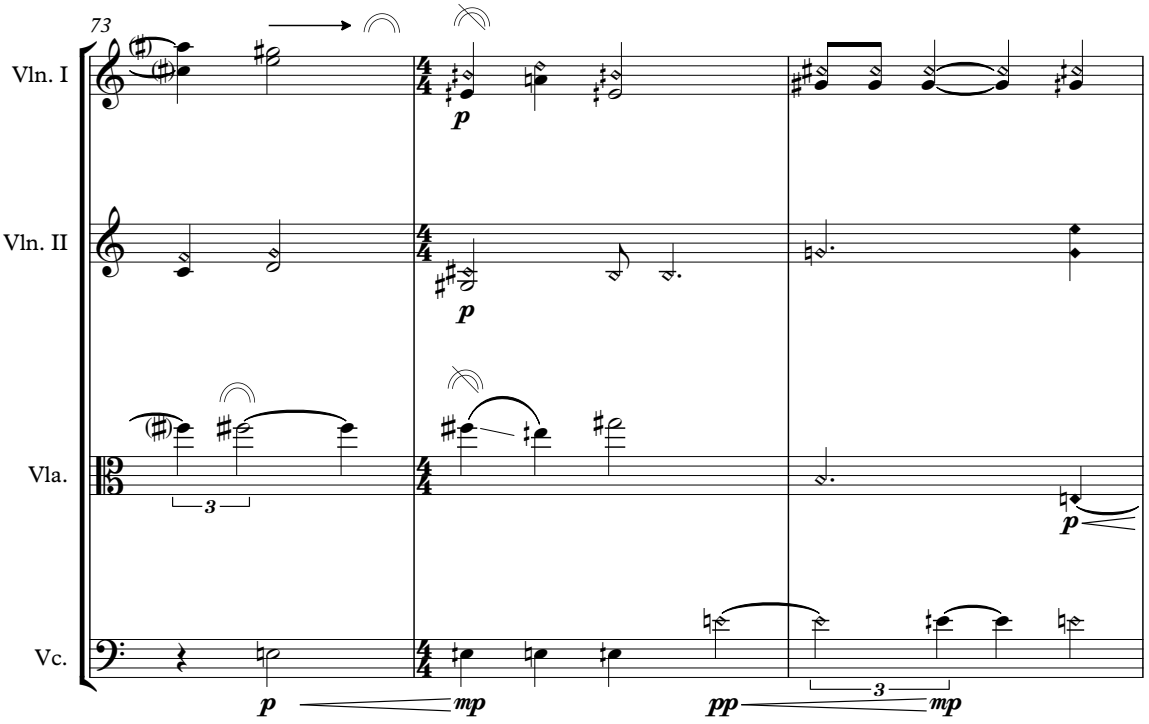

59
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
f
p
sf
mf
fp
sfp
mp

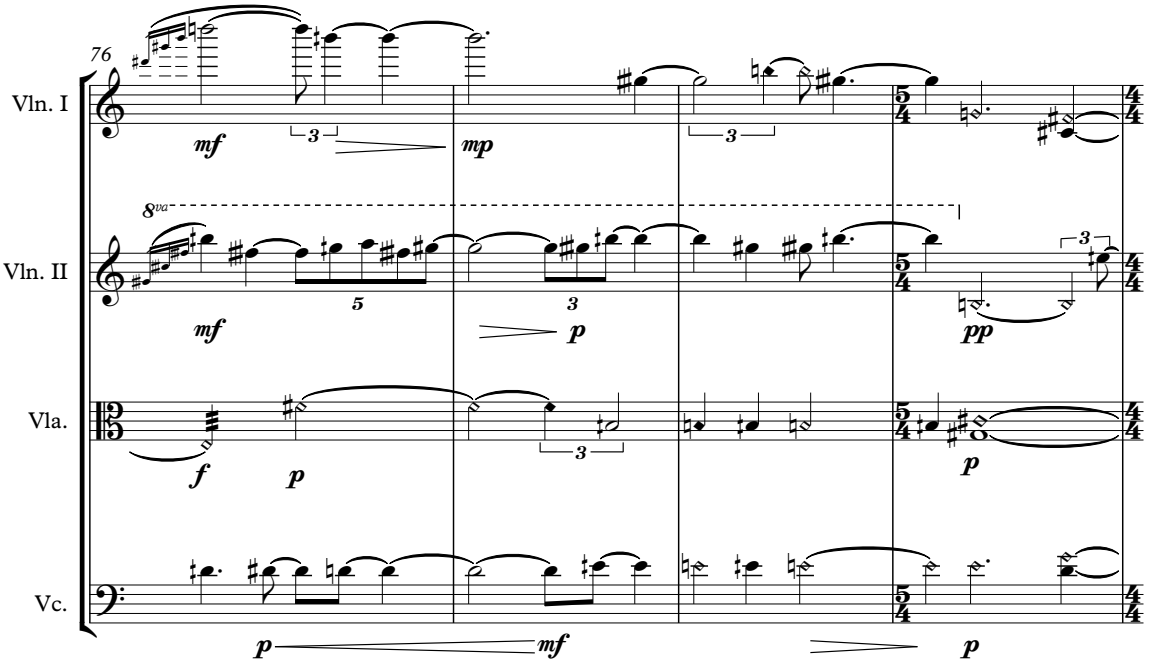

62
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
p
mf
p
pp
mp

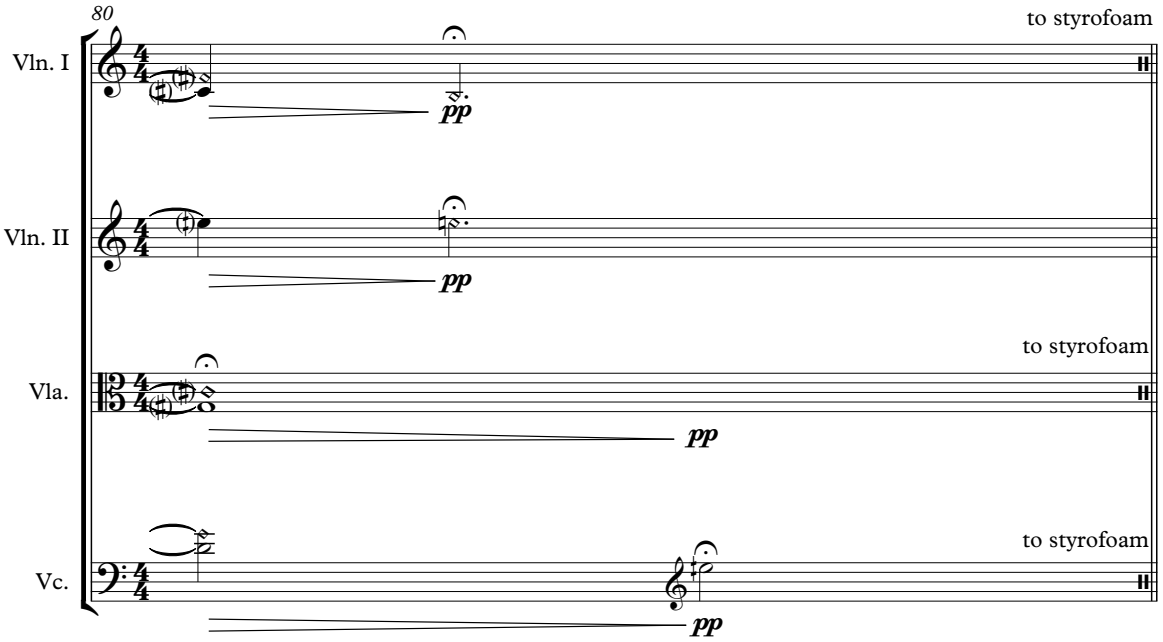

65
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sf
mp
pp
to viola
p
pp

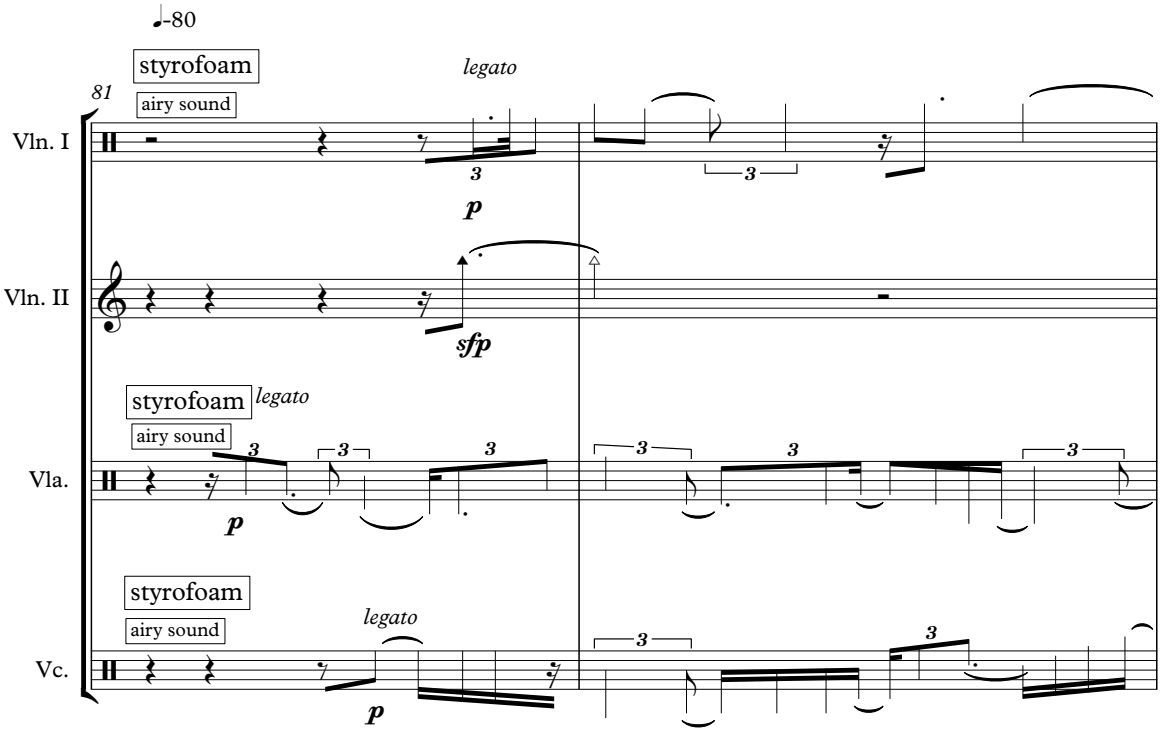

67
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
viola
half hair and half wood
col legno battuto

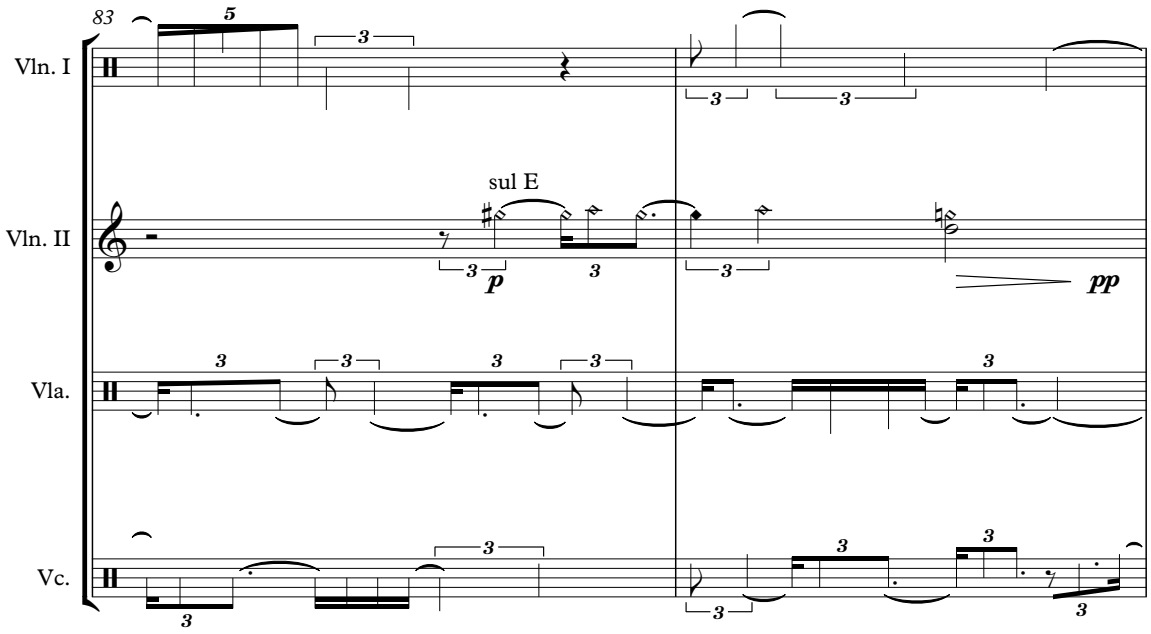

♩=40
70
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sul E
ord.
ord.


73
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
p
mp
pp
3


76
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
mf
mp
p
pp
f
8va
5
3


80
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
to styrofoam
to styrofoam
to styrofoam
pp
pp
pp
pp


♩-80
81
styrofoam
airy sound
legato
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
styrofoam
airy sound
legato
styrofoam
airy sound
legato
p
sfp
p
p
3


83
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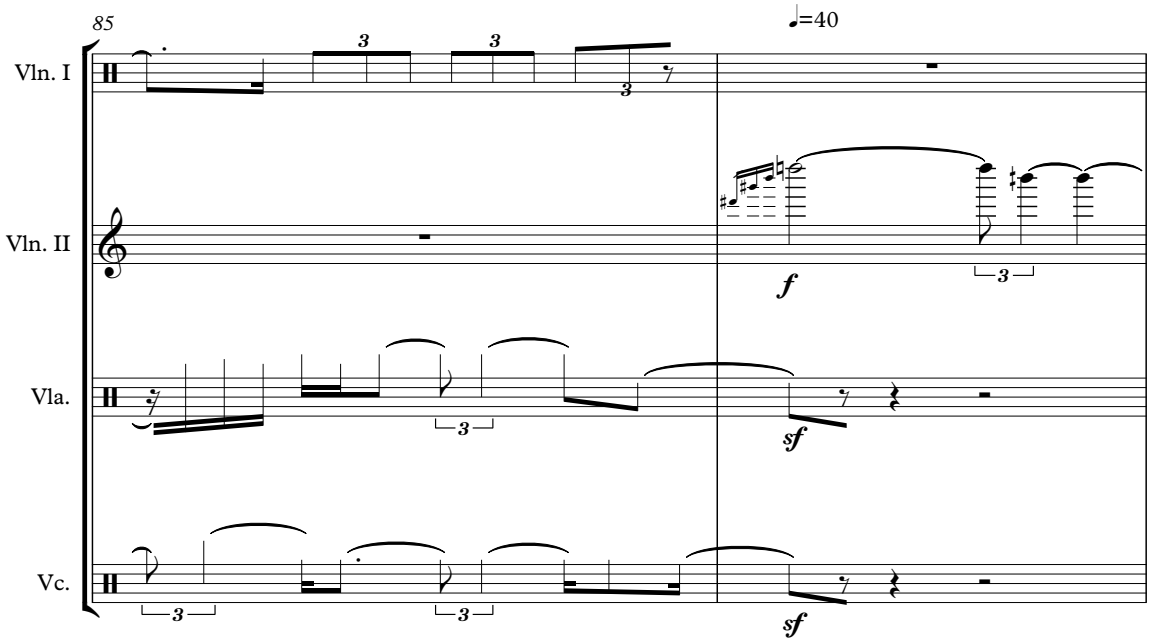
Vln. II
sul E
Vla.
Vc.
p
pp


85
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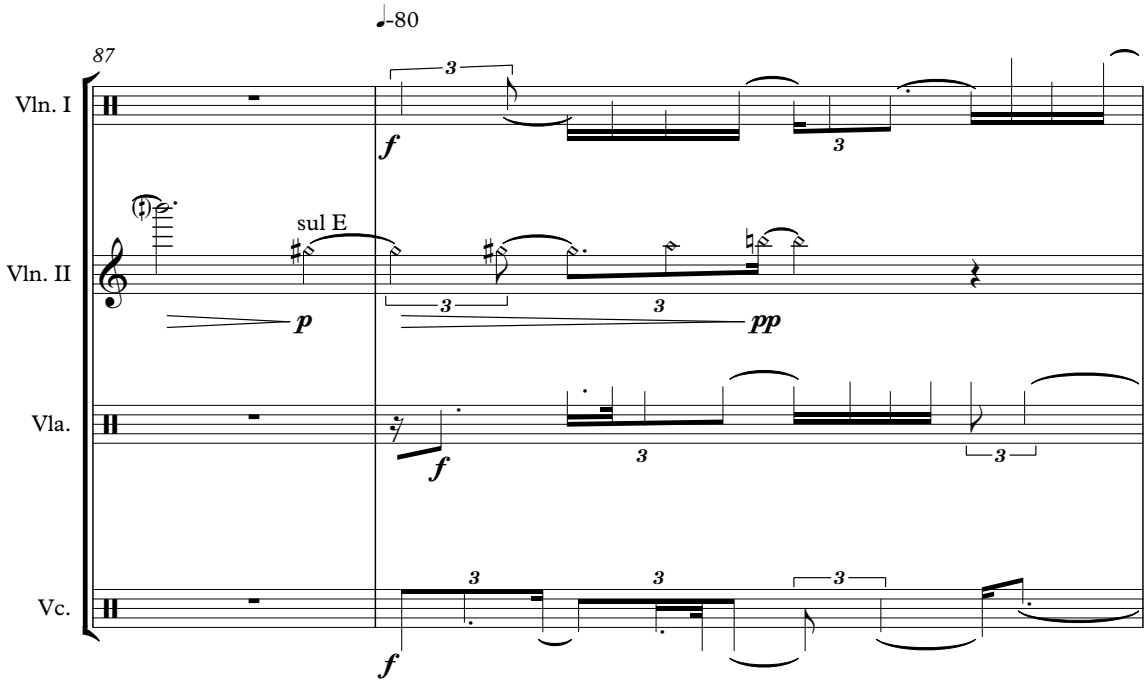
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
f
sf
sf


♩-80
87
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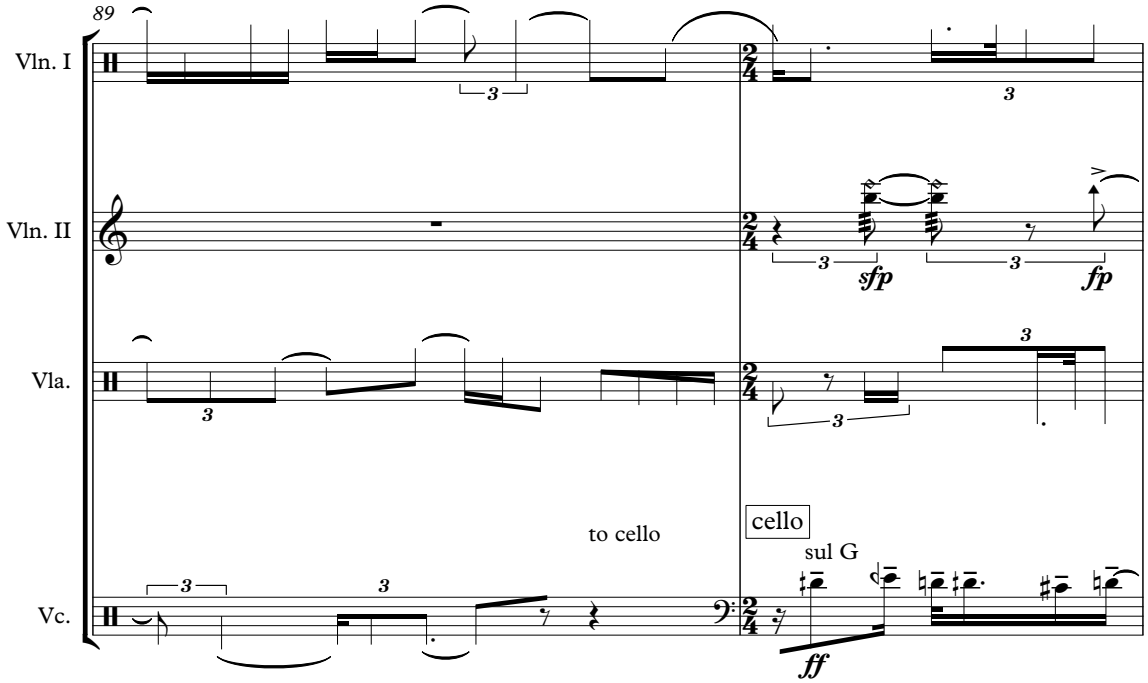
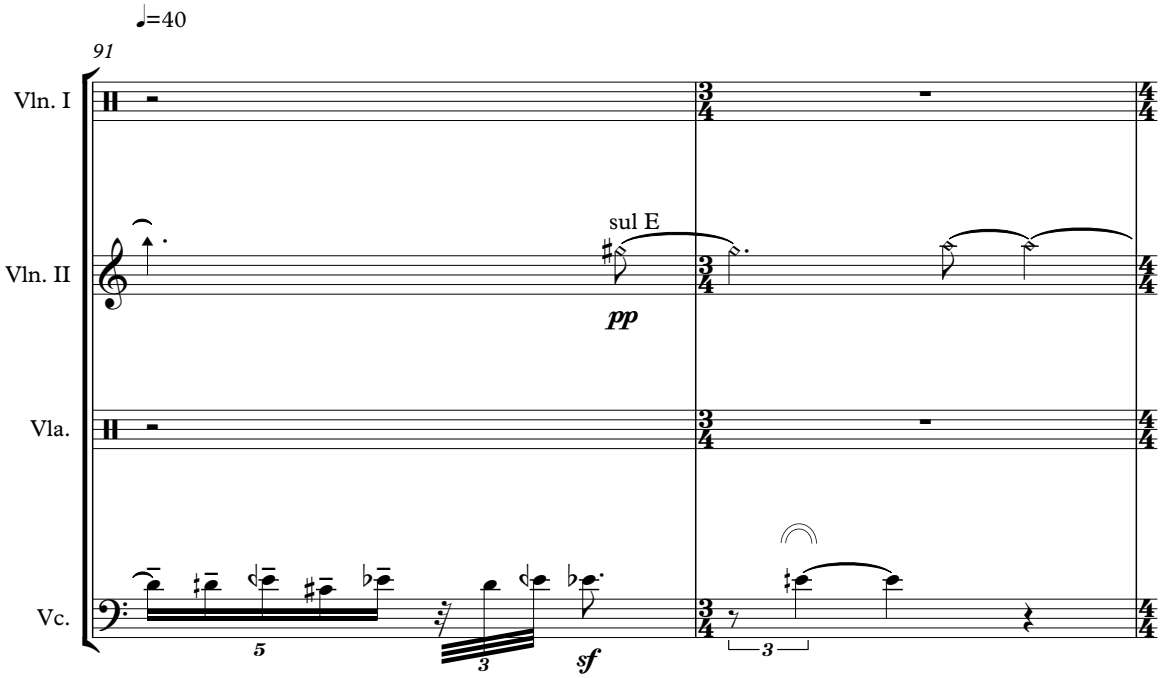
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sul E
f
p
pp
f
f
3


89
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sfp
fp
to cello
cello
sul G
ff
3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91
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sul E
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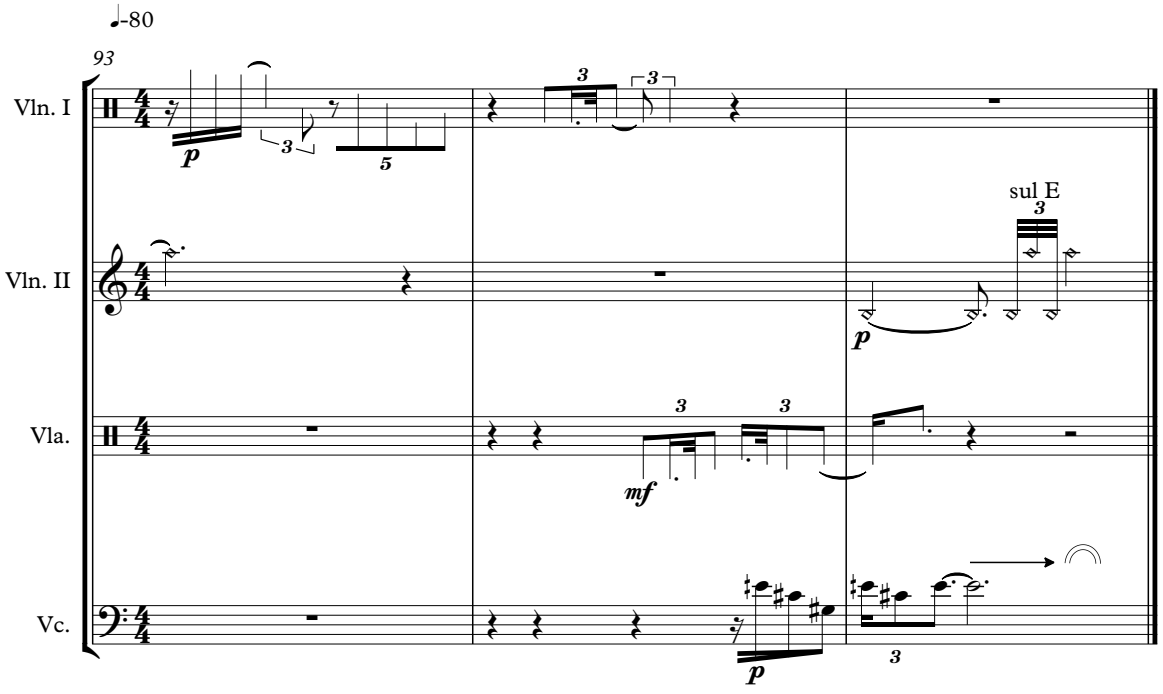
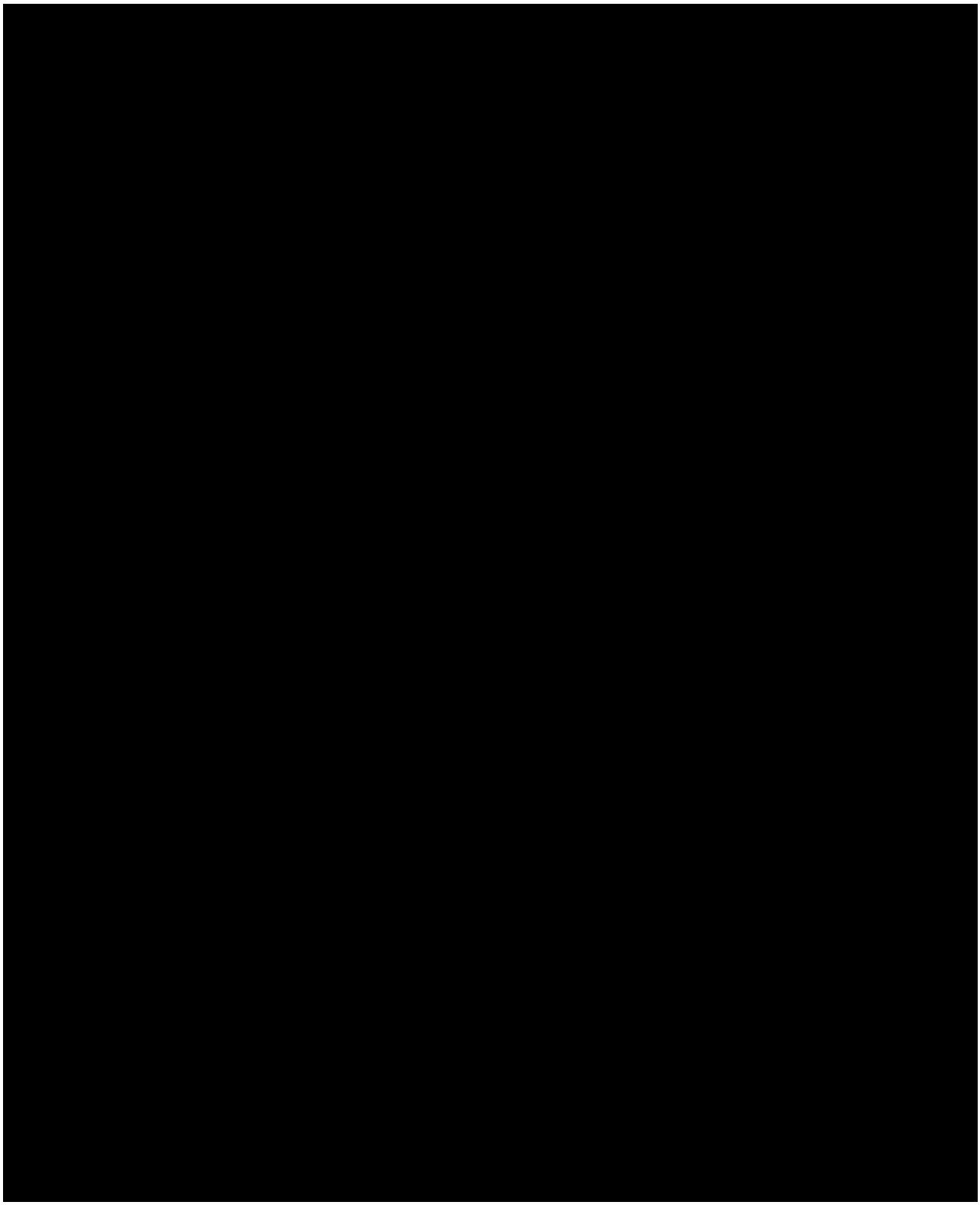
sf


♩-80
93
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
sul E
p
mf

CURRICULUM VITAE