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BOSTON UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Thesis

YEARN

by

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B.M., University of Oregon, 2016

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree of

Master of Music

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YEARN

IZABEL AUSTIN

ABSTRACT

yearn is a work of notated music for string quartet. The piece examines the emotions of longing and loss through the repetition of motivic and timbral fragments, which are continually frustrated and never fully resolved. Elements of American and British folk music traditions are also drawn upon as inspiration for much of the bowing patterns and harmonic content present in the piece. The piece is approximately twelve minutes in duration.

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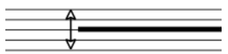
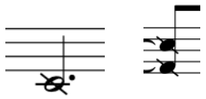
notes on performance

overpressure
These graphics indicate overpressure/distortion of the sound through bow pressure. Approximate shape and intensity of the pressure is indicated by the shape of the graphic.

bow crunch
Denoted by a vertical arrow and line. Near the bridge, press the middle of the bow down and move the right hand towards and away from your body, without moving the point of contact with the string. This should create an uneven, brittle, crunching sound with no pitch.

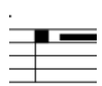


light pressure
Notated with a slashed notehead. This indicates a light left hand finger pressure, heavier than harmonic pressure but without pressing the string all the way to the fingerboard.



air noise
Notated with a cross notehead. Bow on the bridge to produce an airy sound with very little pitch.

square notehead
During overpressure, dampen notated strings with left hand to produce a harsh, unpitched noise.



harmonics
An open diamond notehead denotes harmonic finger pressure. These are always notated at the point of fingering, as some will speak as true harmonics and some will not. The string number will always be marked unless immediately preceded by another harmonic pressure note on the same string.

bow placement abbreviations:
m.s.p.- molto sul pont **s.t** - sul tasto
s.p- sul pont **m.s.t**.- molto sul tasto

y e a r n

when shall we meet again my love?
when shall we meet again?
when the autumn leaves that fall from the trees
are green and spring up again

izabel austin

♩ = 40

Violin I

on bridge

*see performance note

Violin II

(barely audible)

m.s.t. m.s.p. m.s.t.

*see performance note

Viola

m.s.t. m.s.p. m.s.t.

*see performance note

Violoncello

*see performance note

10

Vln. I

ord. on bridge ord. ord.

Vln. II

m.s.t. ord. m.s.p. m.s.t. m.s.t. m.s.p. m.s.t.

Vla.

m.s.t. m.s.p. m.s.t. ord. m.s.p. m.s.t.

Vc.

ord. m.s.p. tr. m.s.p.

17

Vln. I

m.s.p. ---------- ord. m.s.p. ---------- ord. s.t. vib.

II

p ppp pp ppp mp p mf p mp

Vln. II

ord. m.s.p. ---------- ord. ord. s.t. vib.

I IV

p p ppp p pp mp p mp p mp mf p mp

Vla.

ord. m.s.p. ---------- ord. ord. ---------- m.s.p.

II III IV

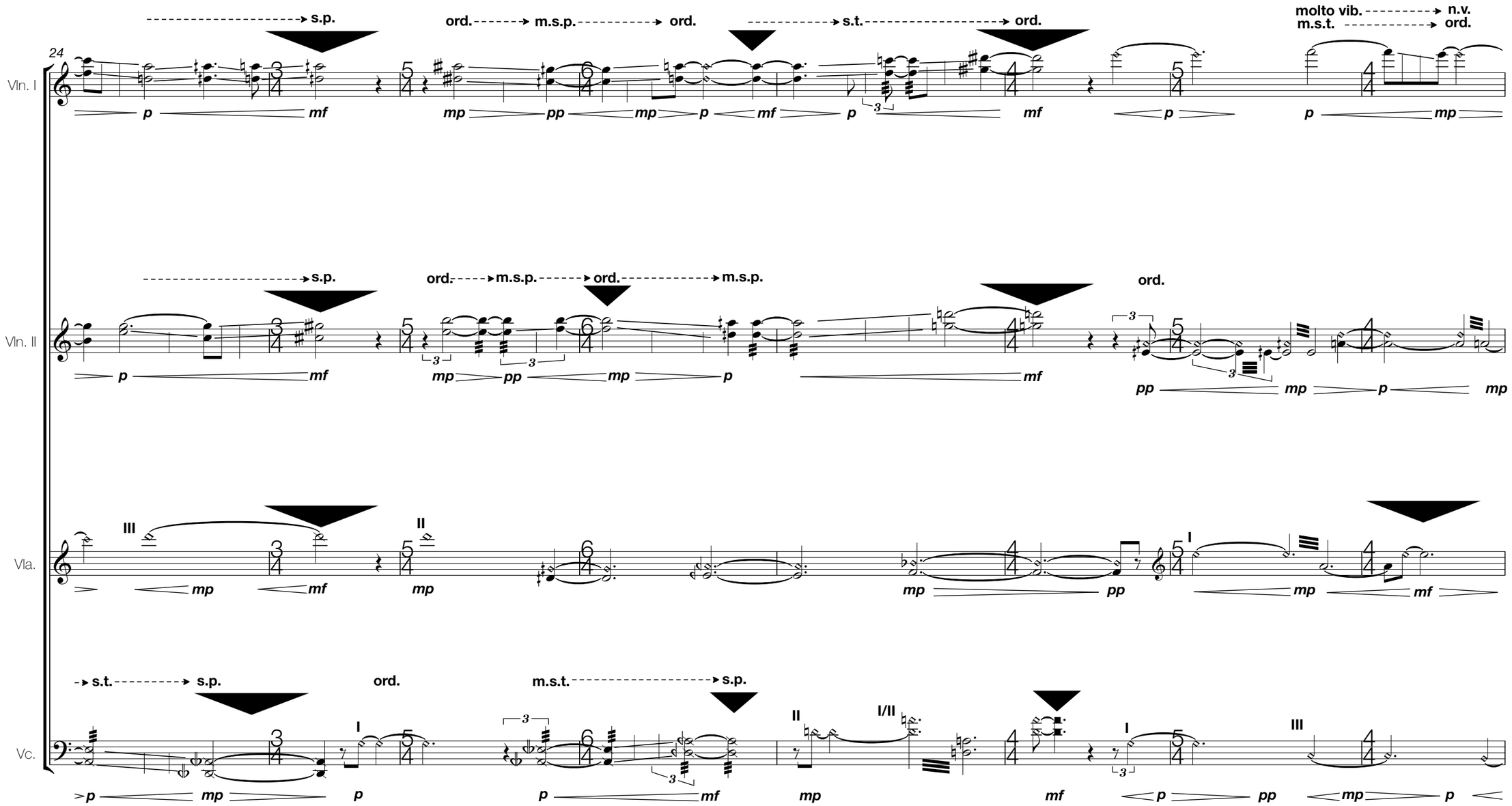
p ppp pp mp pp p mp pp mf p mp

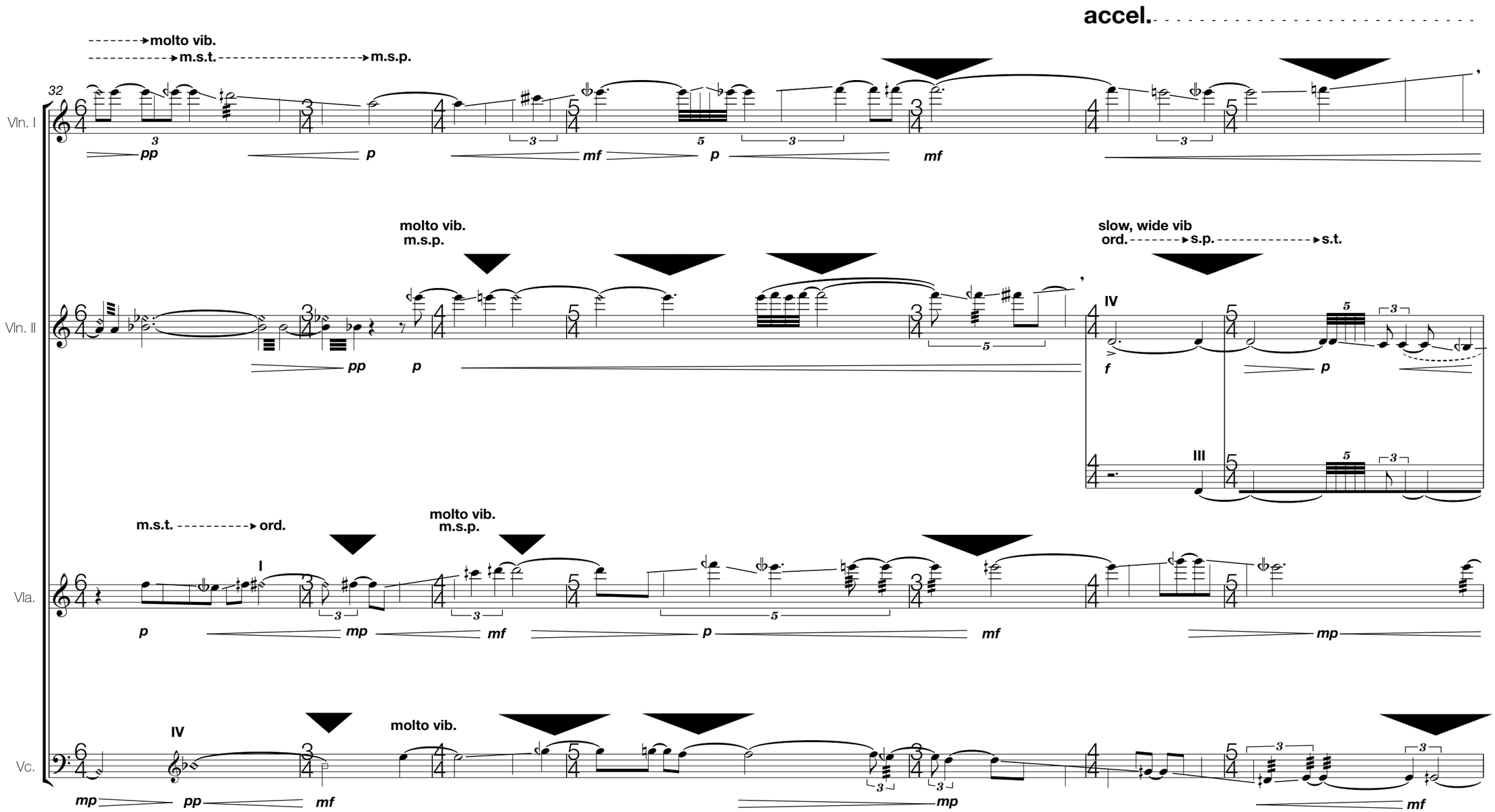
Vc.

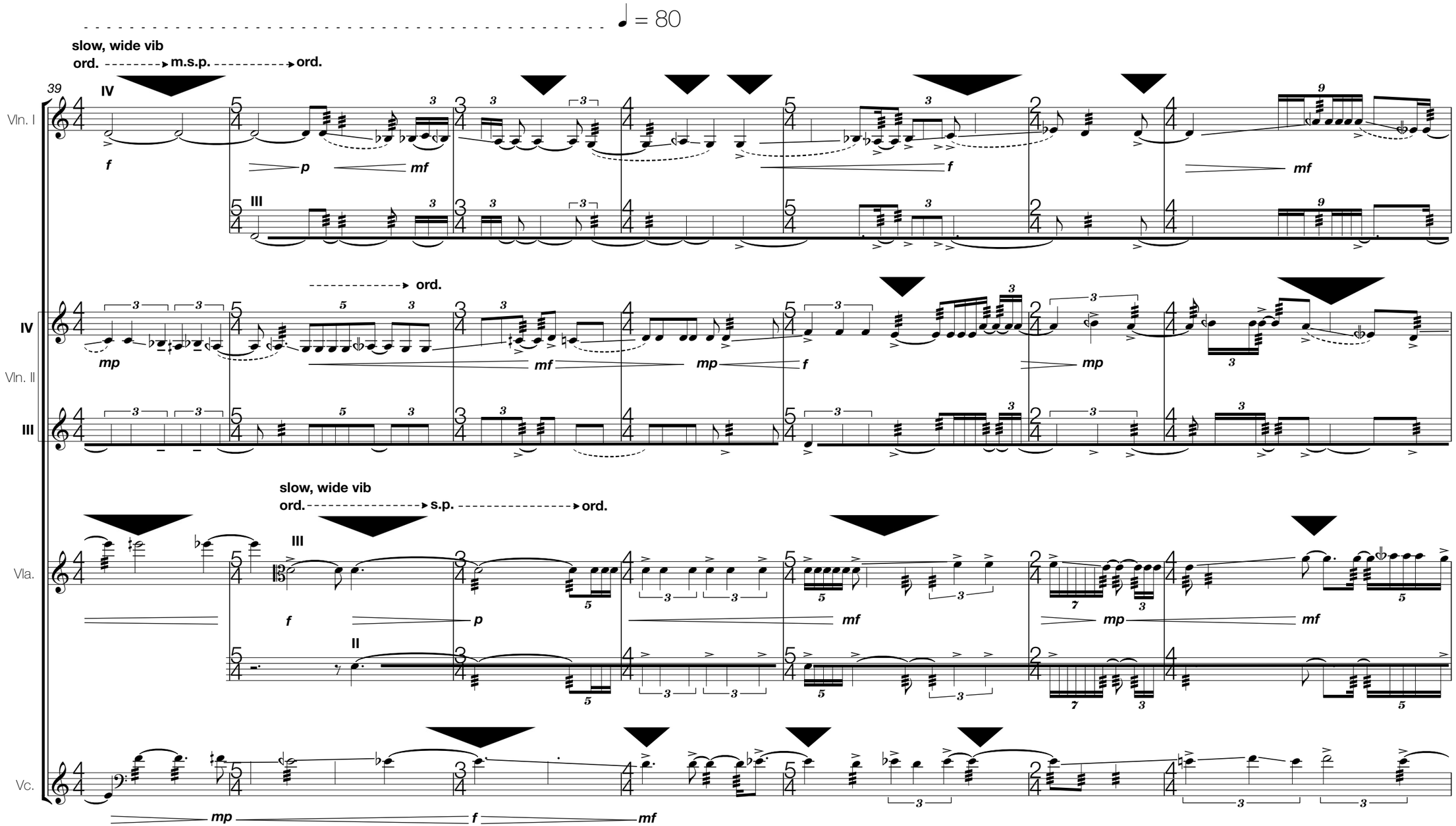
m.s.t. ---------- m.s.p. ord. ---------- m.s.p. ord. m.s.t. ---------- m.s.p.

IV IV IV

ppp n p mp mp p mp p mf pp mp


24
Vln. I
s.p.
ord.
m.s.p.
ord.
s.t.
ord.
molto vib.
n.v.
m.s.t.
ord.
Vln. II
s.p.
ord.
m.s.p.
ord.
m.s.p.
ord.
Vla.
III
II
I
Vc.
s.t.
s.p.
ord.
m.s.t.
s.p.
I
II
I/II
I
III


accel.
molto vib.
m.s.t.
m.s.p.
32
Vln. I
pp
p
mf
p
mf
molto vib.
m.s.p.
slow, wide vib
ord.
s.p.
s.t.
Vln. II
pp
p
IV
f
p
III
m.s.t.
ord.
molto vib.
m.s.p.
I
Vla.
p
mp
mf
p
mf
mp
IV
molto vib.
Vc.
mp
pp
mf
mp
mf


♩ = 80
slow, wide vib
ord. m.s.p. ord.
39
IV
Vln. I
f
p
mf
III
ord.
IV
Vln. II
mp
mf
mp
f
mp
III
slow, wide vib
ord. s.p. ord.
III
Vla.
f
p
mf
mp
mf
II
Vc.
mp
f
mf

46

Vln. I

IV

III

II

III

p

mf

mp

mf

Vln. II

IV

III

molto vib

mp

mf

III/II

Vla.

III

II

I

Vc.

52

II

Vln. I

III

Vln. II

I

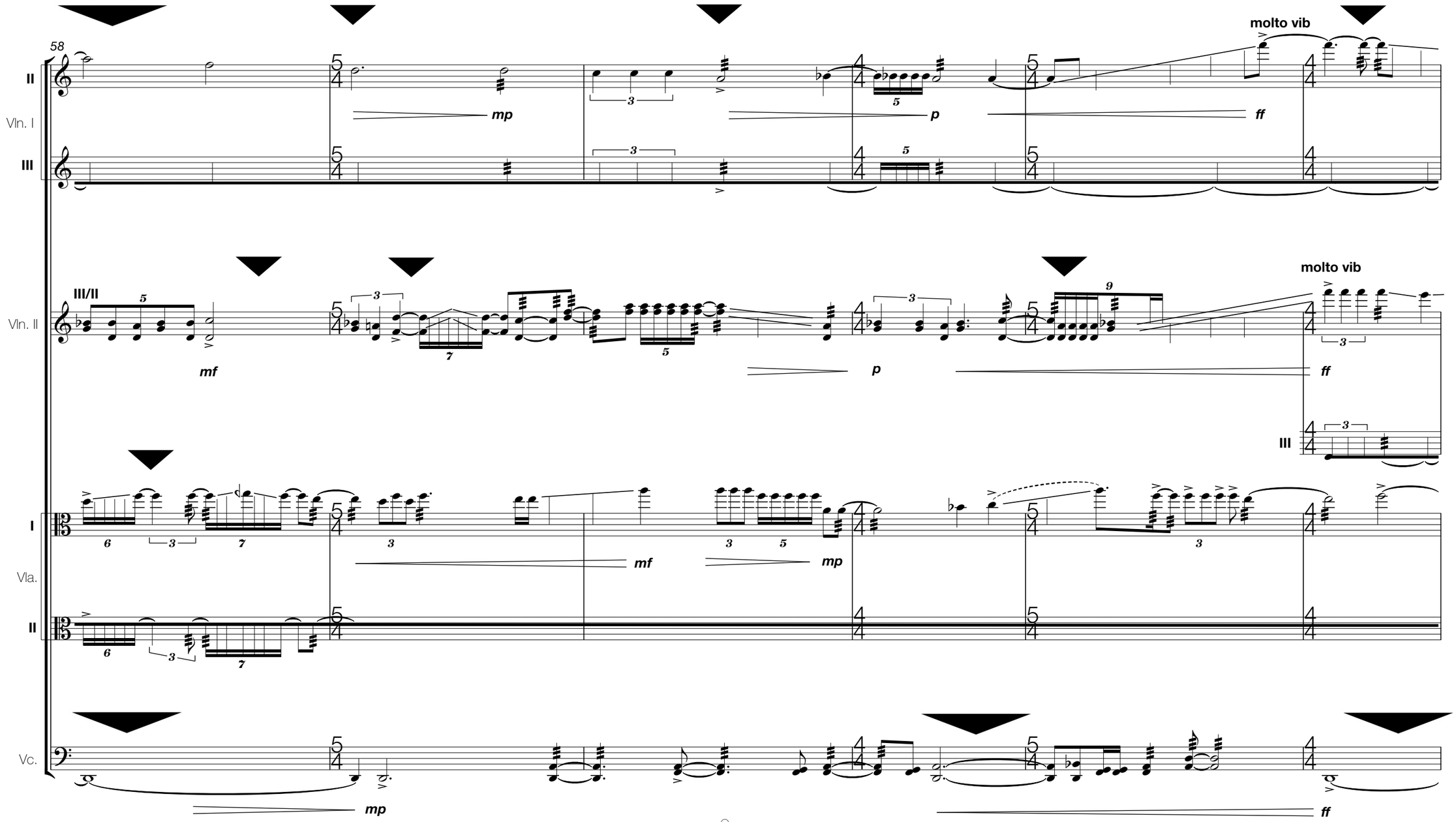
Vla.

II

Vc.

molto vib

molto vib


58
II
Vln. I
III
Vln. II
III/II
I
Vla.
II
Vc.
molto vib
mp
p
ff
mf
mp
ff

64

II

Vln. I

III

I

II

Vln. II

III

I

Vla.

II

Vc.

ff

ff

71

rit.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

fff

pp

mf

mp

♩ = 40

80

Vln. I

Vln. I

Vc.

91

Vln. I

II I

3 5 5

p pp mp ppp mp ppp p pp p ppp pp ppp p

Vln. I

III/IV III/II II/I I

3

p ppp mp pp p ppp p ppp mp pp mp ppp p pp p ppp p ppp

Vla.

III I II I II II I II

5 5 3

> ppp mp pp p pp mp ppp p pp p ppp p ppp p ppp p

Vc.

III III/IV II I II I II

3

p ppp mp ppp p ppp p pp mp ppp p ppp p pp p

98

Vln. I

ppp pp ppp p pppp pp ppp pp pppp pp pppp ppp n

Vln. I

p ppp pp pppp pp pppp pp pppp pp pppp ppp n

Vla.

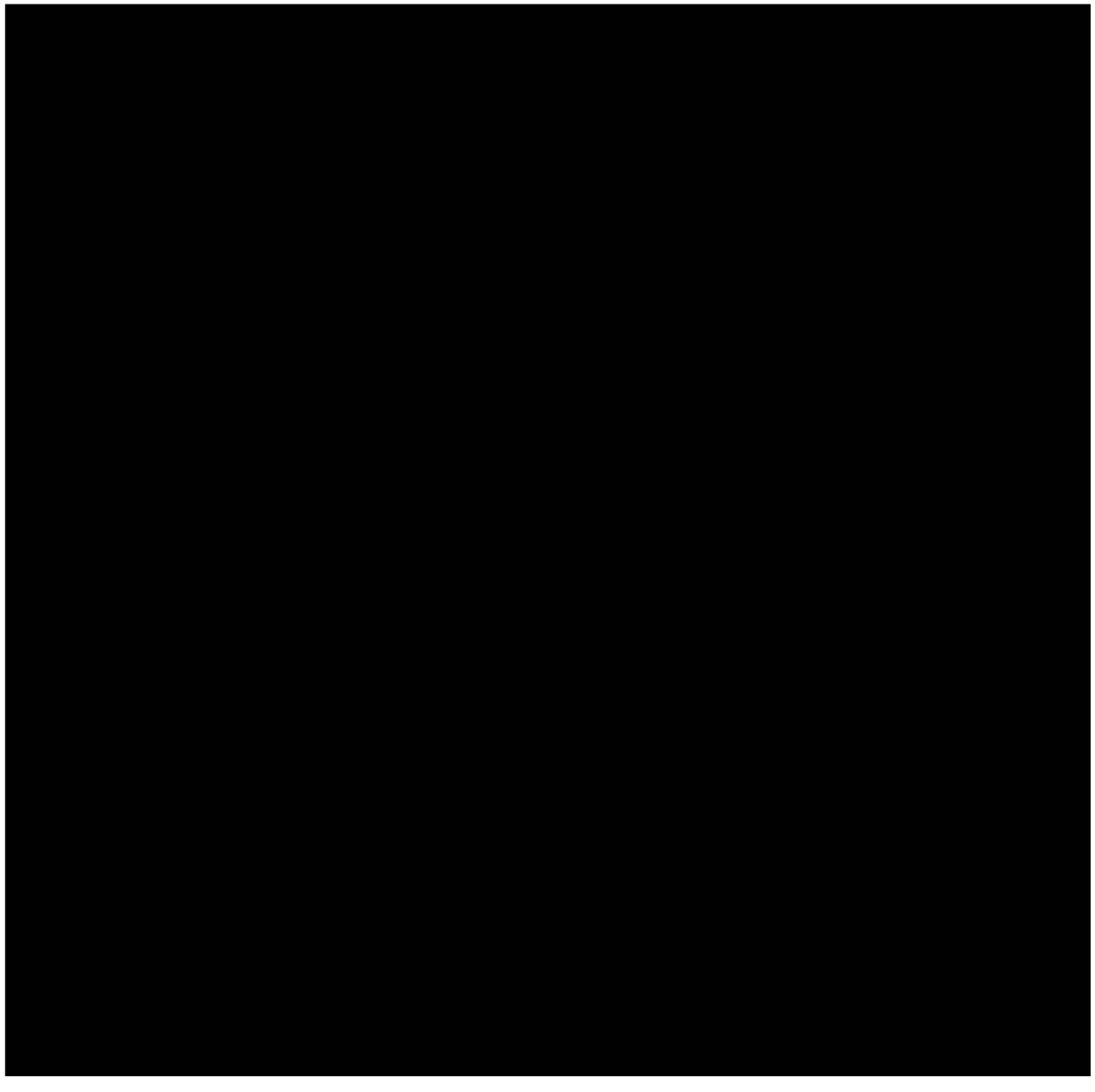
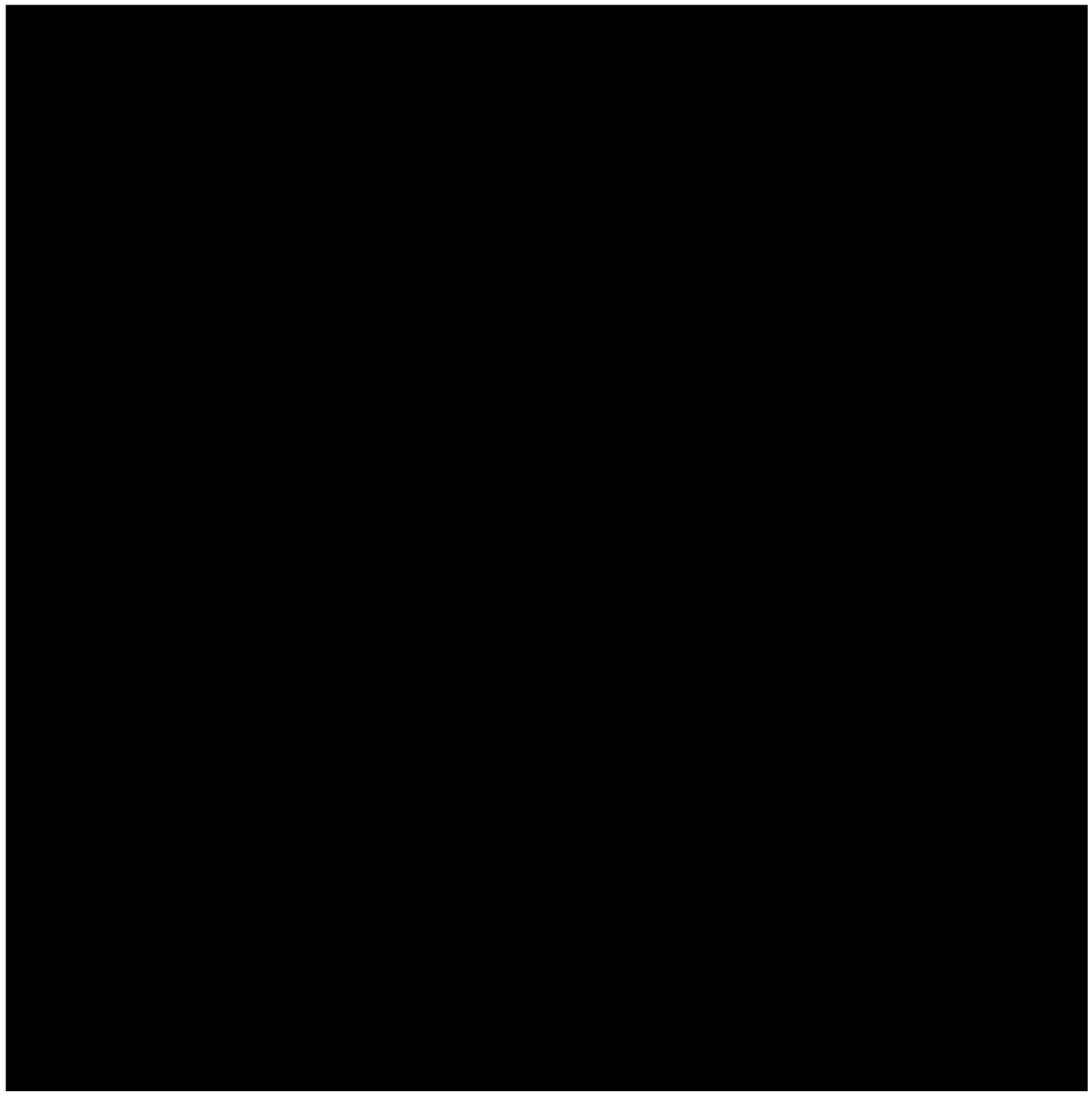
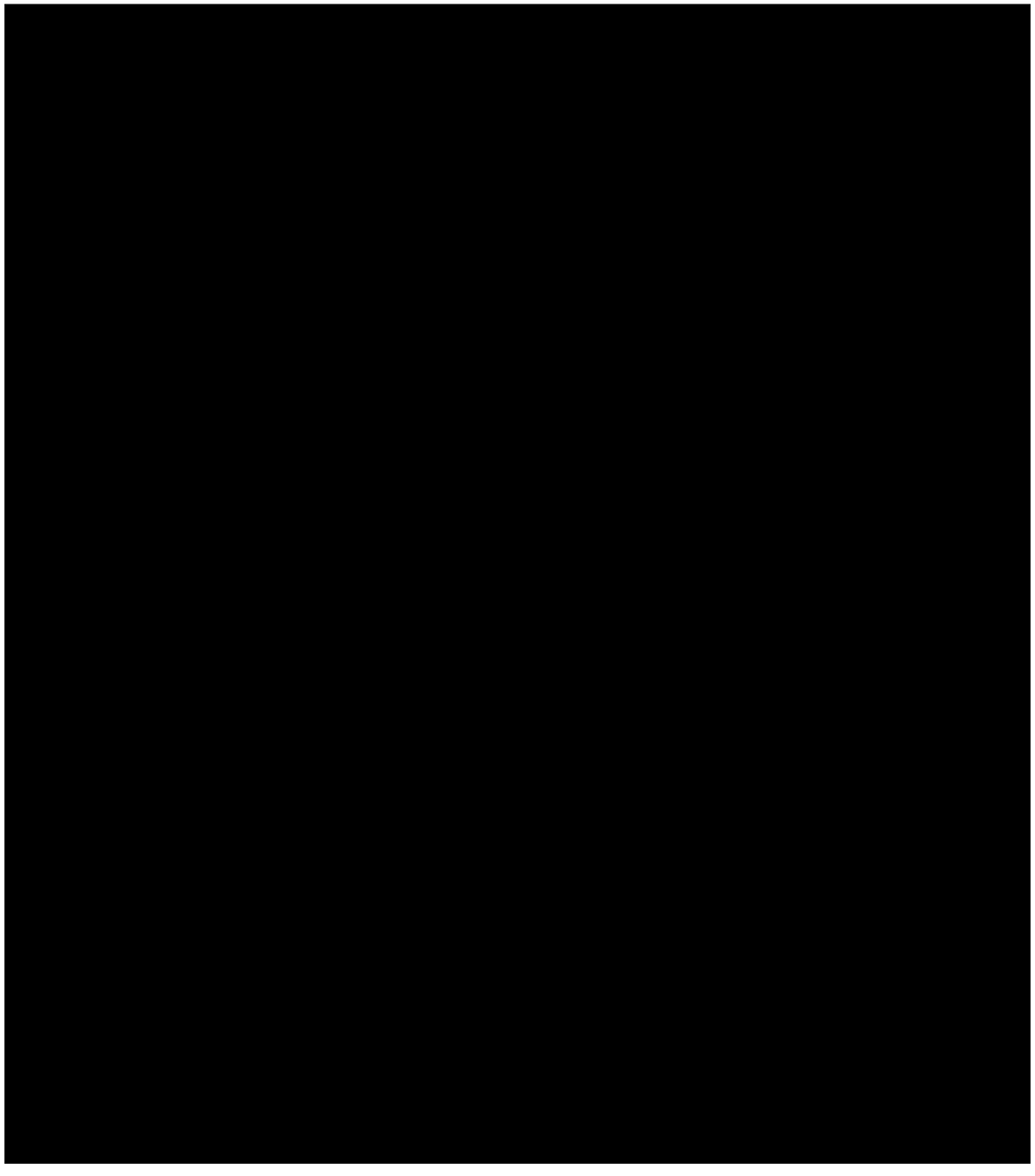
III II III II III II

3 3 3

ppp pp pppp pp pppp pp pppp ppp pppp ppp n

Vc.

I II I II I

ppp p ppp pp pppp pp n

Curriculum Vitae