Full Score

Charlie Barber

for symphony orchestra

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Ground Work
for symphony orchestra

Instrumentation:
Piccolo
2 Flutes
2 Oboes
Cor Anglais
2 Clarinets
Bass Clarinet
2 Bassoons
Contrabassoon

4 Horns
2 Trumpets
3 Trombones
Tuba

Timpani

Percussion:
1. Marimba
2. Snare Drum, Tambourine
3. Bass Drum, Large Tam-tam

Harp

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Cello
Contrabass

Duration: c. 4 minutes

Notes:
String 'divisi' sections are divided between the two players reading from the same desk

Programme note:

Ground Work draws inspiration from two enduring techniques in Western music history: the ground bass of the 17th century and isorhythm, a rhythmic device from Renaissance polyphony. Both are built on repetition—but not stasis. They revolve, cycle, and evolve, creating a sense of constant return with subtle transformation.

The title itself carries a dual resonance. In construction, “groundworks” are the essential first steps: preparing the terrain, digging deep, and laying the foundations for all that is to come. Similarly, this composition explores musical foundations - structural patterns that underlie and support the whole.

The piece unfolds in two alternating sections. In the first, a pedal point held by the lower instruments anchors a changing harmonic landscape above—at times dissonant, always shifting. In the second, the roles are reversed: a repeating melodic pattern, introduced by the marimba, floats over a continuously developing ground bass. The interplay between movement and stasis, foreground and background, creates a sonic architecture where the past’s techniques underpin a modern musical structure.

Ground Work is both a reflection on musical heritage and a metaphor for beginnings - laying down something solid upon which new ideas can rise.

C.B.

Ground Work

for symphony orchestra

Charlie Barber

A

Allegro vivace

♩ = 190

Piccolo

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in B♭

a 2

Bassoons

Horn in F 1 & 2

Horn in F 3 & 4

Trumpets in B♭

Tenor Trombone

Bass Trombone

Tuba

Timpani

soft sticks

Perc 1 (Marimba)

Perc 2 (Snare, Tambourine)

Snare Drum

Perc 3 (Bass Drum, Tam-tam)

Bass Drum

secco

sim.

Harp

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

non cresc.

Violoncello

Contrabass

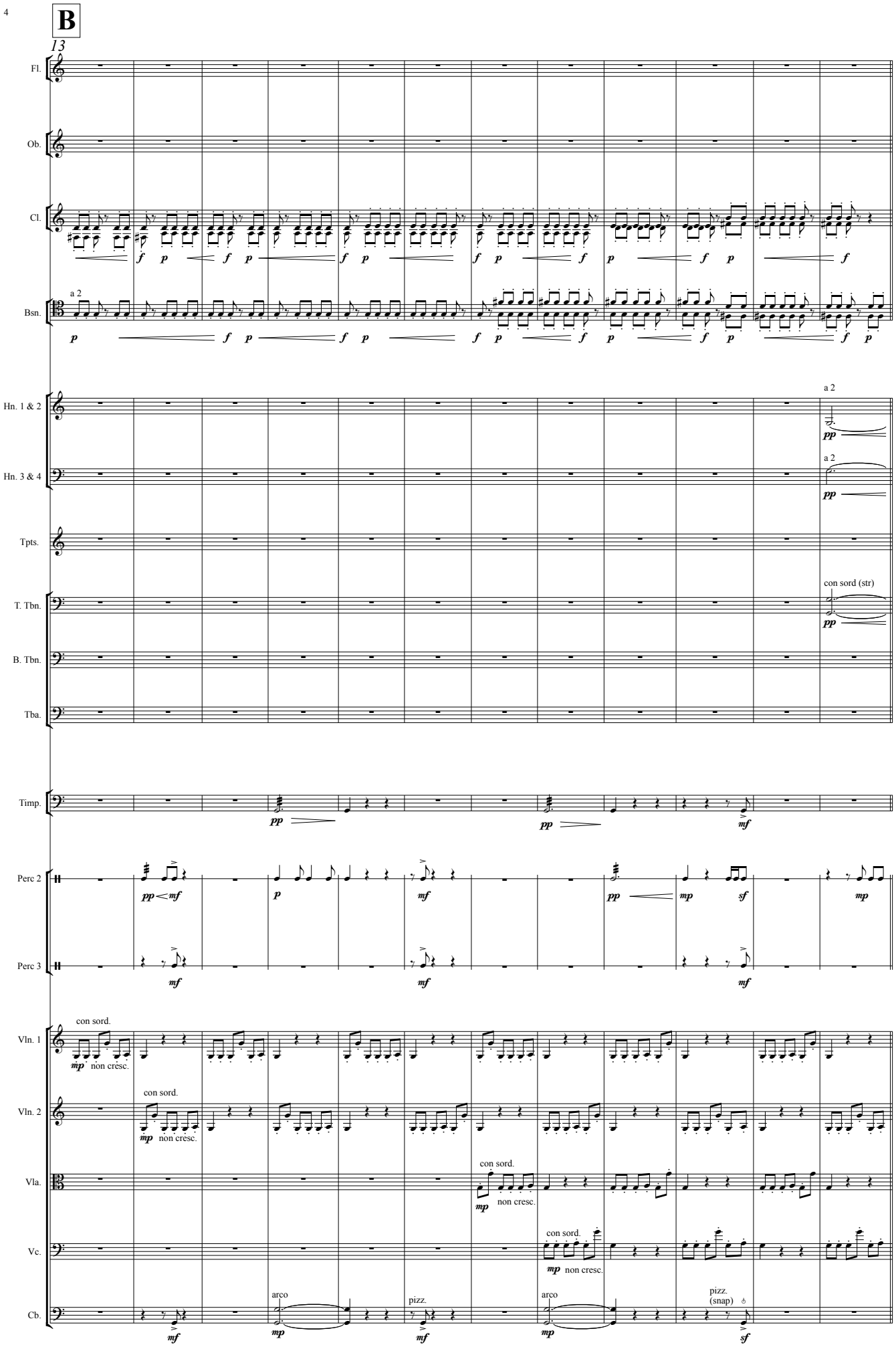
div.

unis.

pizz.

sim.

arco


B
13
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
a 2
Hn. 1 & 2
a 2
Hn. 3 & 4
a 2
Tpts.
T. Tbn.
con sord (str)
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc 2
Perc 3
Vln. 1
con sord.
non cresc.
Vln. 2
con sord.
non cresc.
Vla.
con sord.
non cresc.
Vc.
con sord.
non cresc.
Cb.
arco
pizz.
arco
pizz.
(snap)

C

25

Fl.

Fl.

Ob.

Ob.

C. A.

Cl.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn. 1 & 2

Hn. 3 & 4

T. Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc 2

Perc 3

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mf non cresc.

a 2

con sord (str)

sim.

arco

pizz.

(snap)

D

37

Picc.

Fl.

Fl.

Ob.

Ob.

C. A.

Cl.

Cl.

Bsn.

a 2

Hn. 1 & 2

Hn. 3 & 4

T. Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc 2

Perc 3

to Tam-tam

Vln. 1

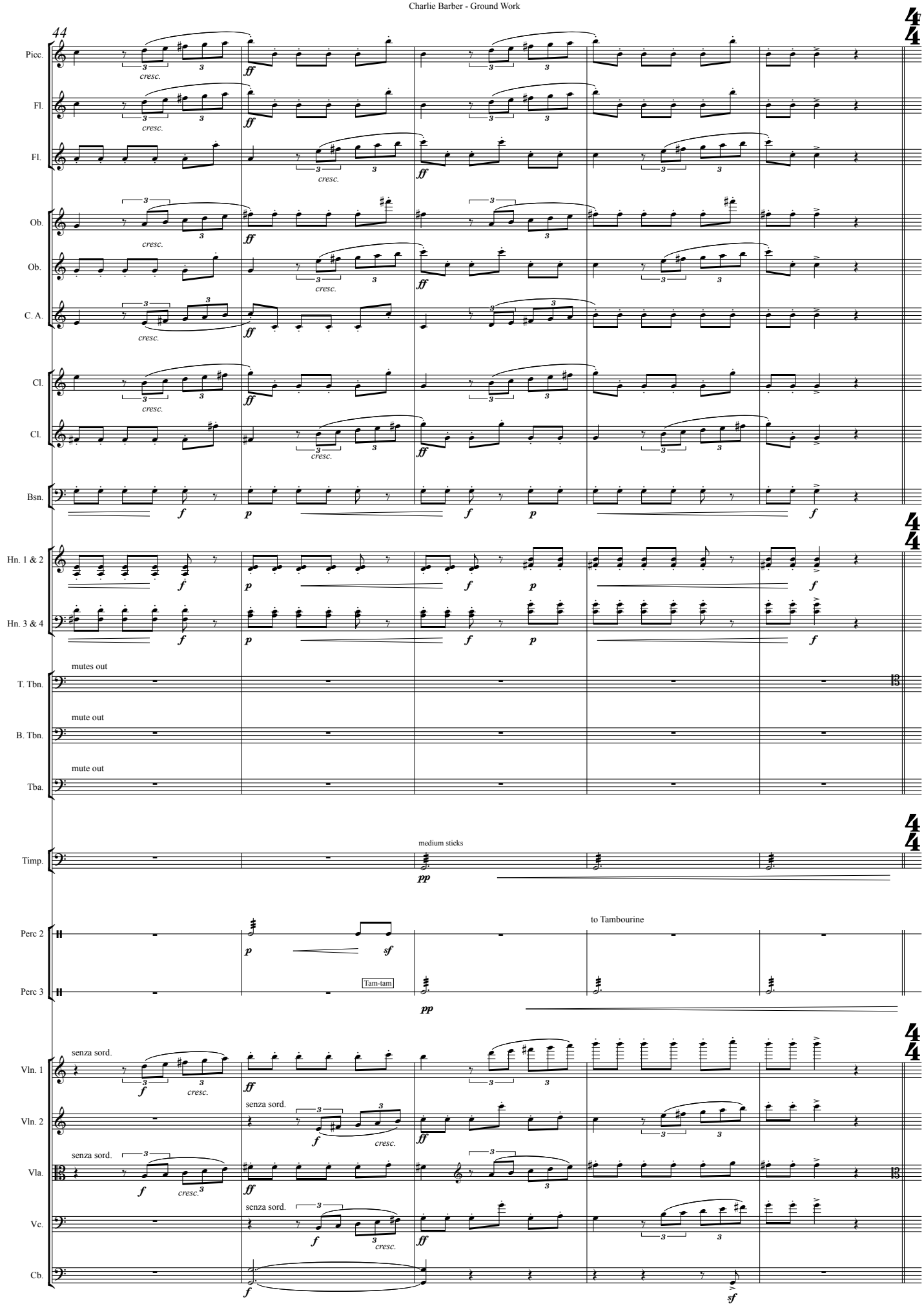
Vln. 2

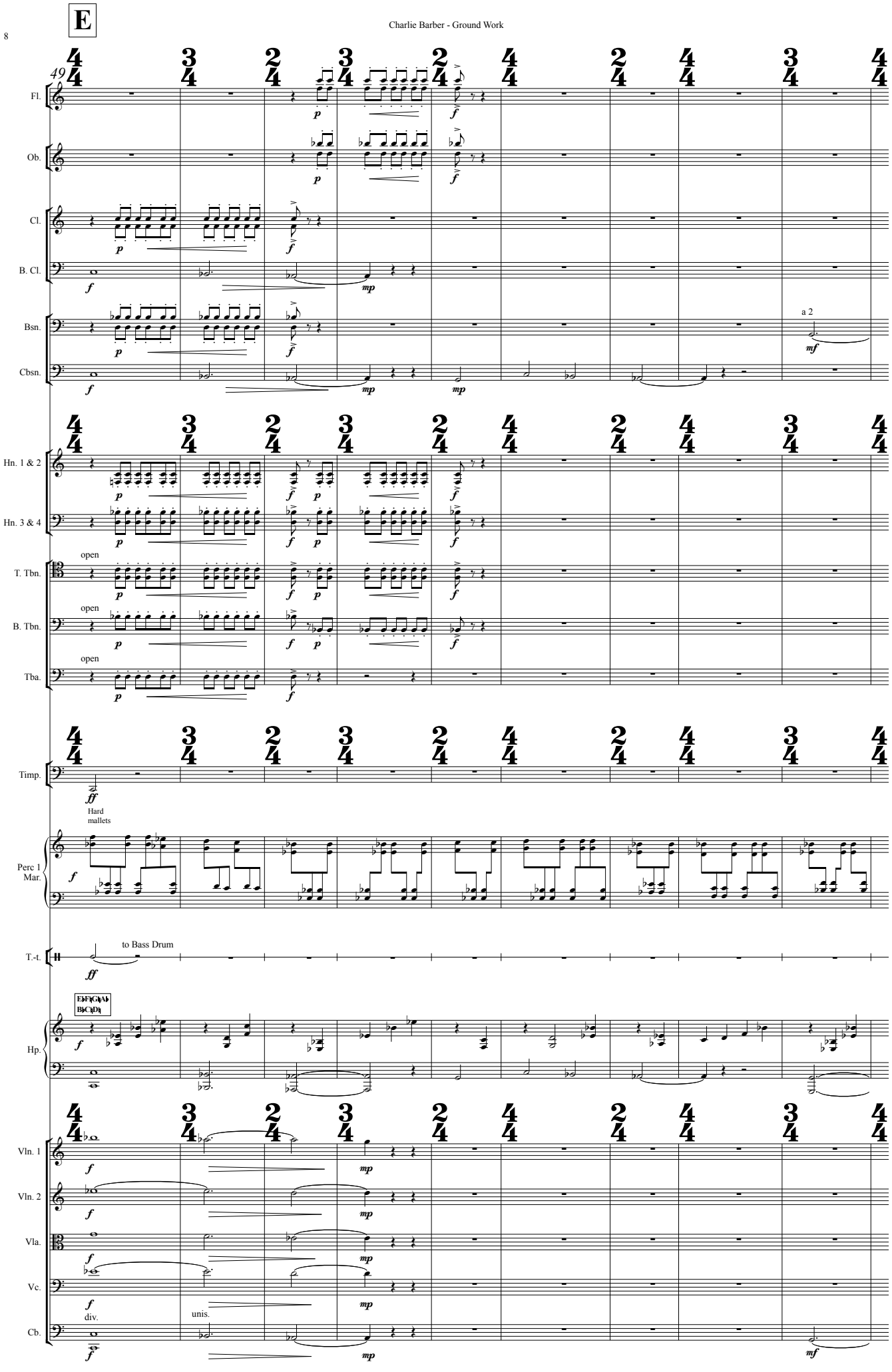
Vla.

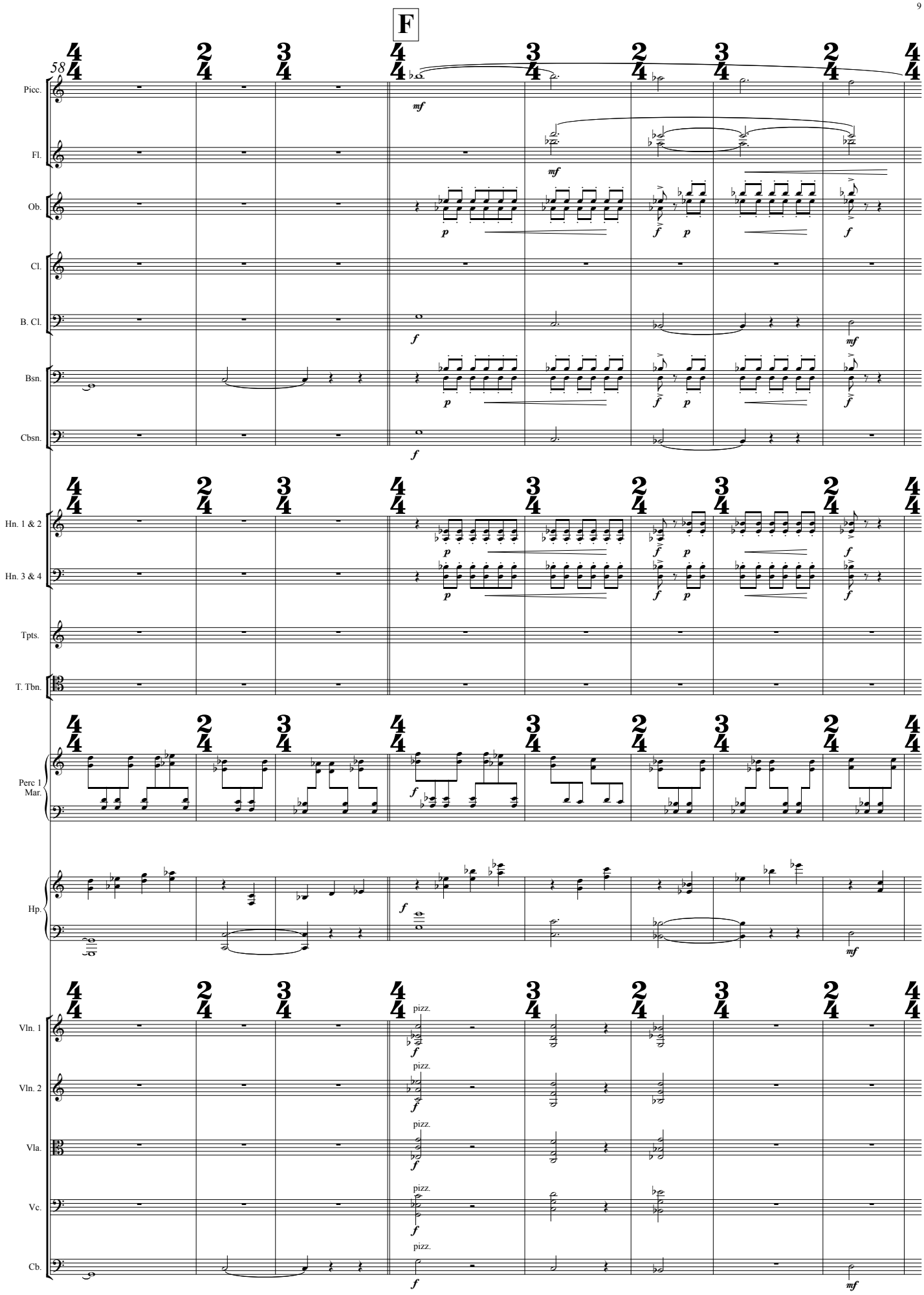
Vc.

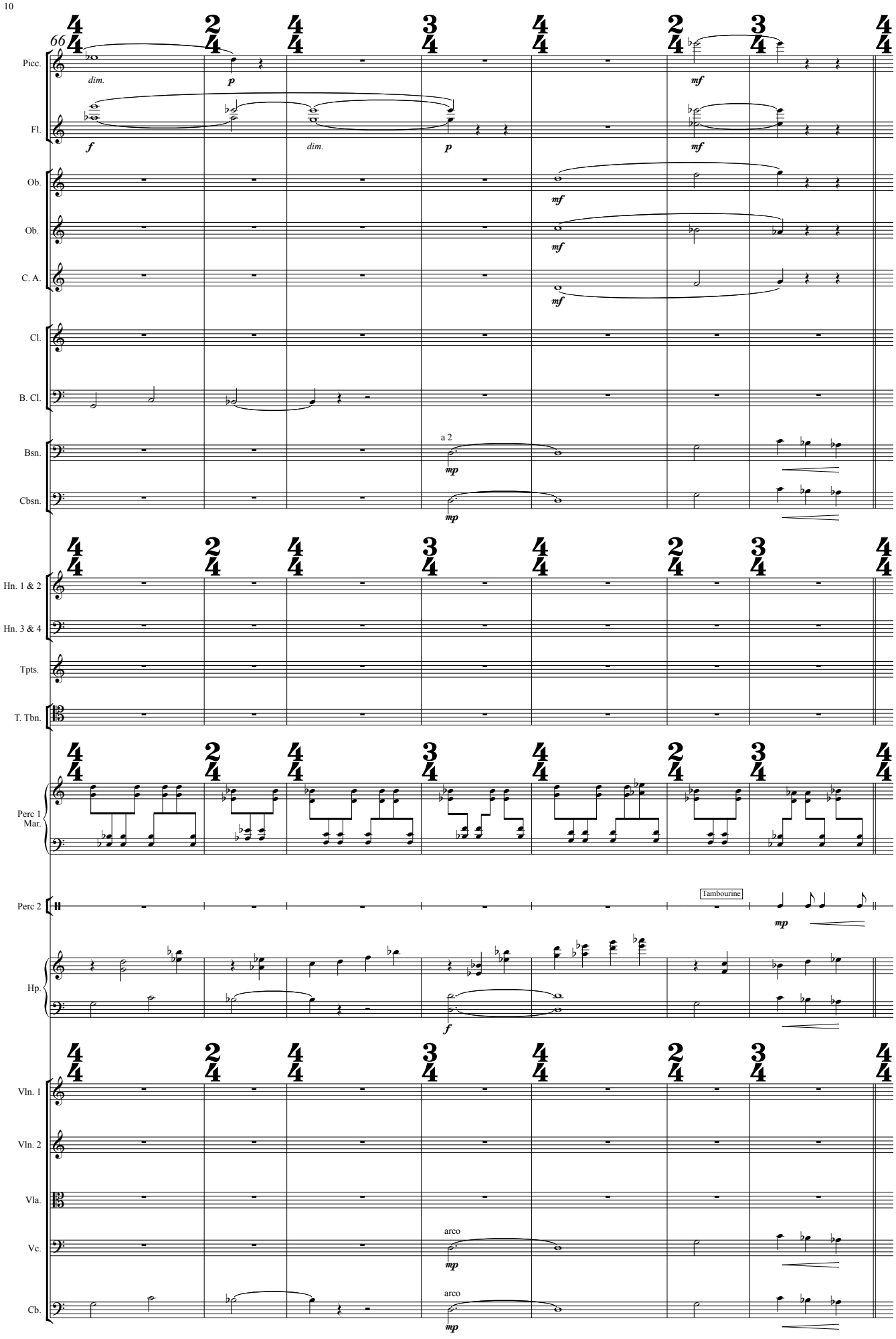
arco

Cb.


44
Picc.
Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
Ob.
C. A.
Cl.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
mutes out
T. Tbn.
mute out
B. Tbn.
mute out
Tba.
medium sticks
Timp.
Perc 2
to Tambourine
Perc 3
Tam-tam
senza sord.
Vln. 1
senza sord.
Vln. 2
senza sord.
Vla.
senza sord.
Vc.
Cb.


E
49
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
a 2
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
T. Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
open
Timp.
Hard mallets
Perc 1
Mar.
T.-t.
to Bass Drum
Hp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
div.
unis.


F
58
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
Tpts.
T. Tbn.
Perc 1
Mar.
Hp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pizz.


66
Picc.
dim.
p
mf
Fl.
f
dim.
p
mf
Ob.
mf
Ob.
mf
C. A.
mf
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
a 2
mp
Cbsn.
mp
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
Tpts.
T. Tbn.
Perc 1
Mar.
Perc 2
Tambourine
mp
Hp.
f
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
arco
mp
Cb.
arco
mp

G

73

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn. 1 & 2

Hn. 3 & 4

Tpts.

T. Tbn.

Perc 1
Mar.

Tamb.

thumb roll

Hp.

Vln. 1

1st desk only
arco

Vln. 2

1st desk only
arco

Vla.

1st desk only
arco

Vc.

Cb.

cresc.

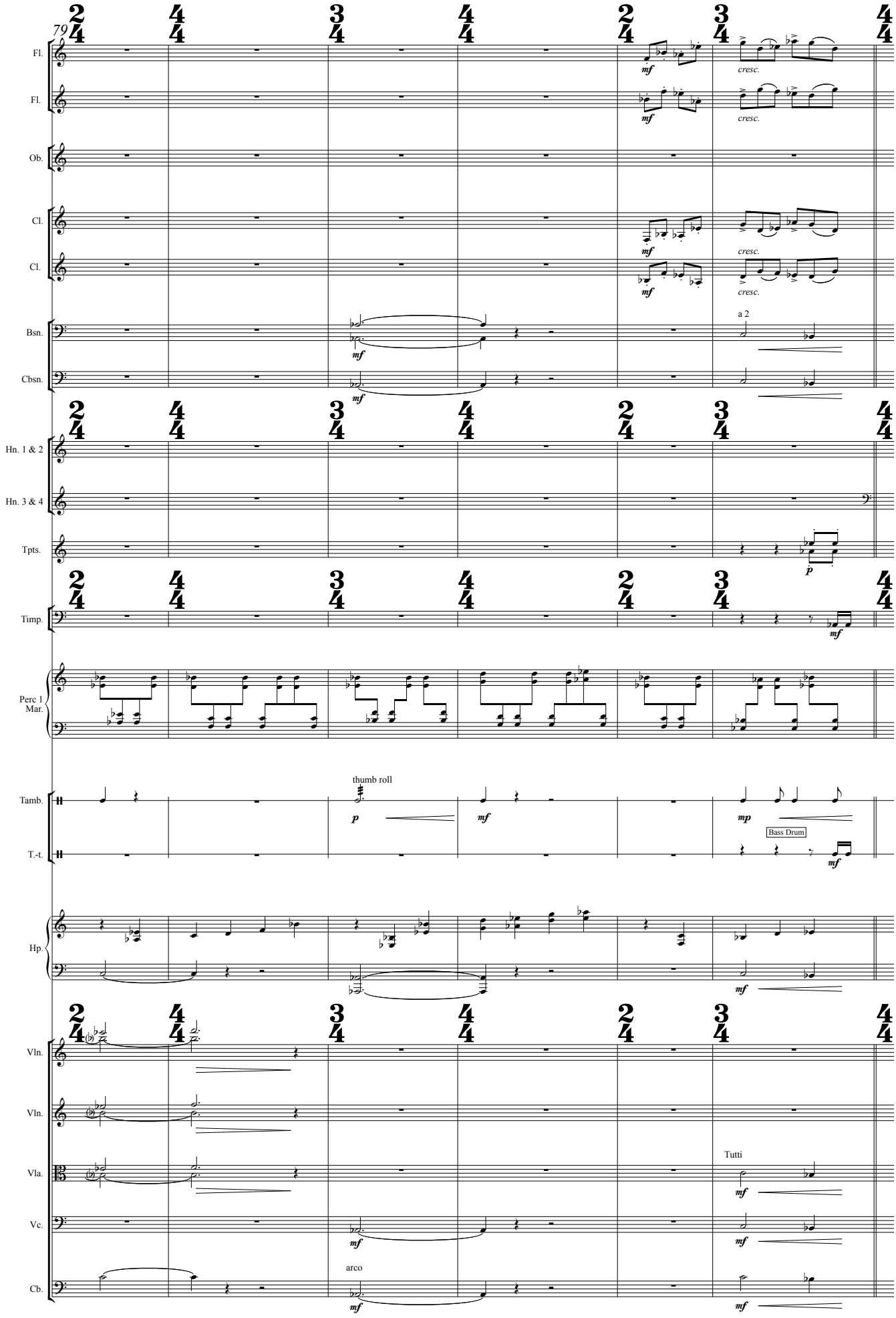
cresc.

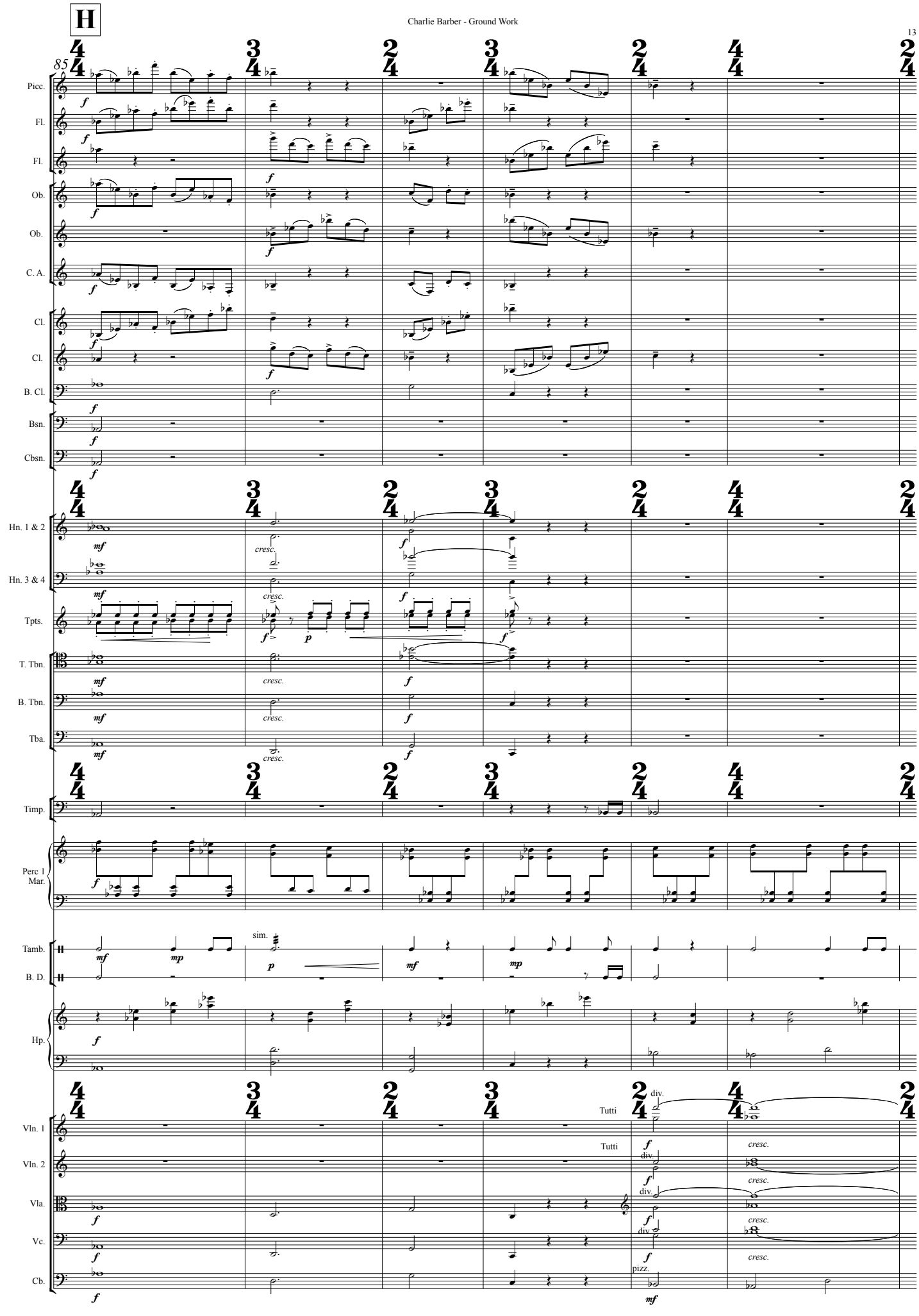
div.

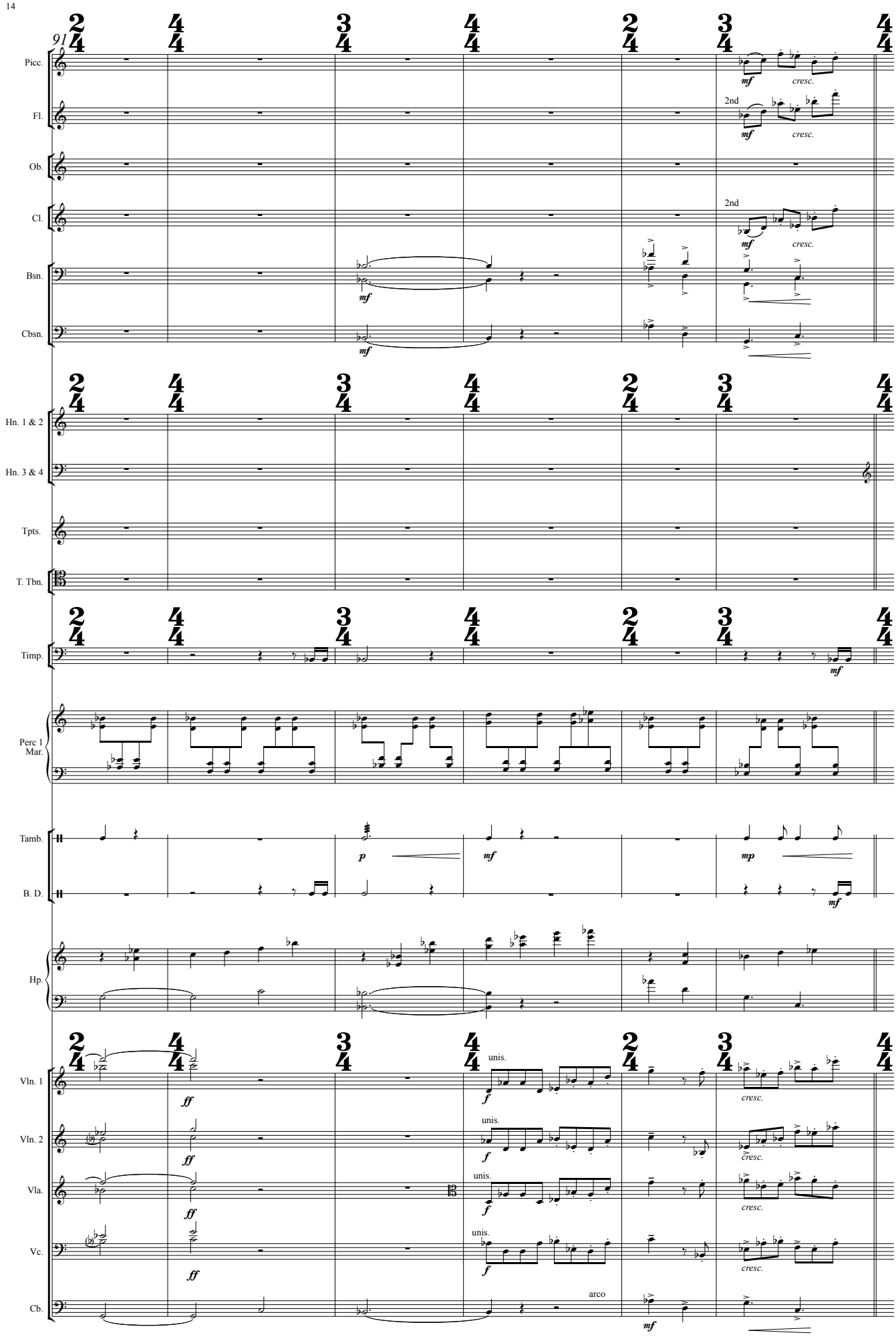
div.

div.

pizz.


79
Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
Tpts.
Timp.
Perc 1
Mar.
Tamb.
T.-t.
Hp.
Vln.
Vln.
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf
cresc.
a 2
p
thumb roll
mp
Bass Drum
Tutti
arco


H
85
Picc.
Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
Ob.
C. A.
Cl.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
Tpts.
T. Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc 1
Mar.
Tamb.
B. D.
Hp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
cresc.
sim.
Tutti
div.
pizz.


91
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
Tpts.
T. Tbn.
Timp.
Perc 1
Mar.
Tamb.
B. D.
Hp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
2nd
unis.
arco
mf
cresc.
p
mp
ff
f

I

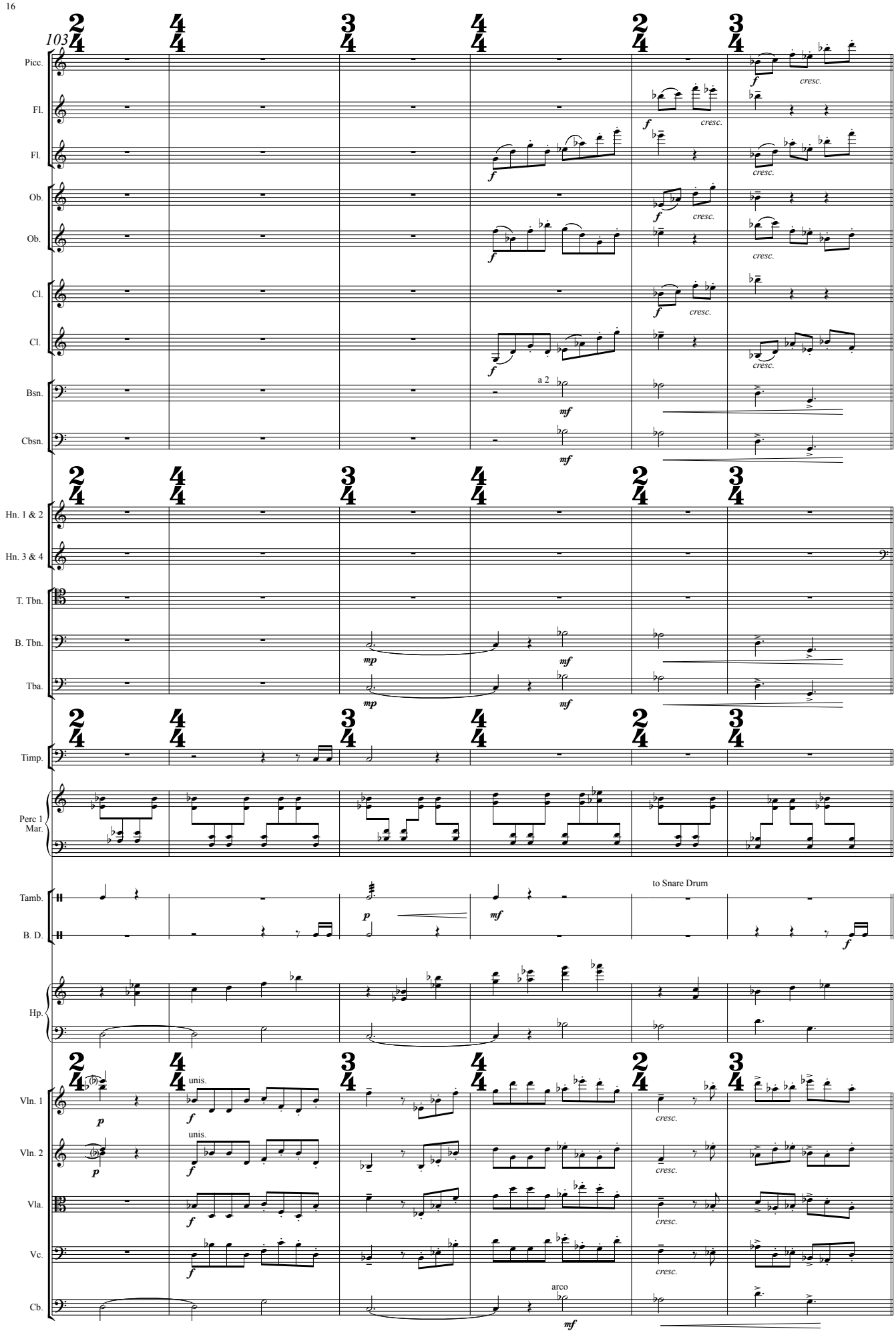
97

Picc.
Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
Ob.
C. A.
Cl.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
Tpts.
T. Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Timp.
Perc 1
Mar.
Tamb.
B. D.
Hp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

f *ff* *mf* *mp* *p* *dim.*

div.

pizz.


103
Picc.
Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
Ob.
Cl.
Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
T. Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc 1
Mar.
Tamb.
B. D.
Hp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
cresc.
a 2
unis.
to Snare Drum
arco

J

109

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

C. A.

Cl.

a 2

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn. 1 & 2

Hn. 3 & 4

Tpts.

1st

non cresc.

cresc.

T. Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

soft sticks

Perc 1
Mar.

Snare Drum

S. D.

B. D.

Hp.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

div.

pizz.

arco

unis.

sim.

K

121

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

a 2

Hn. 1 & 2

Hn. 3 & 4

Tpts.

T. Tbn.

Timp.

S. D.

B. D.

Vln. 1

con sord.
unis.

Vln. 2

con sord.
unis.

Vla.

con sord.
unis.

Vc.

con sord.
unis.

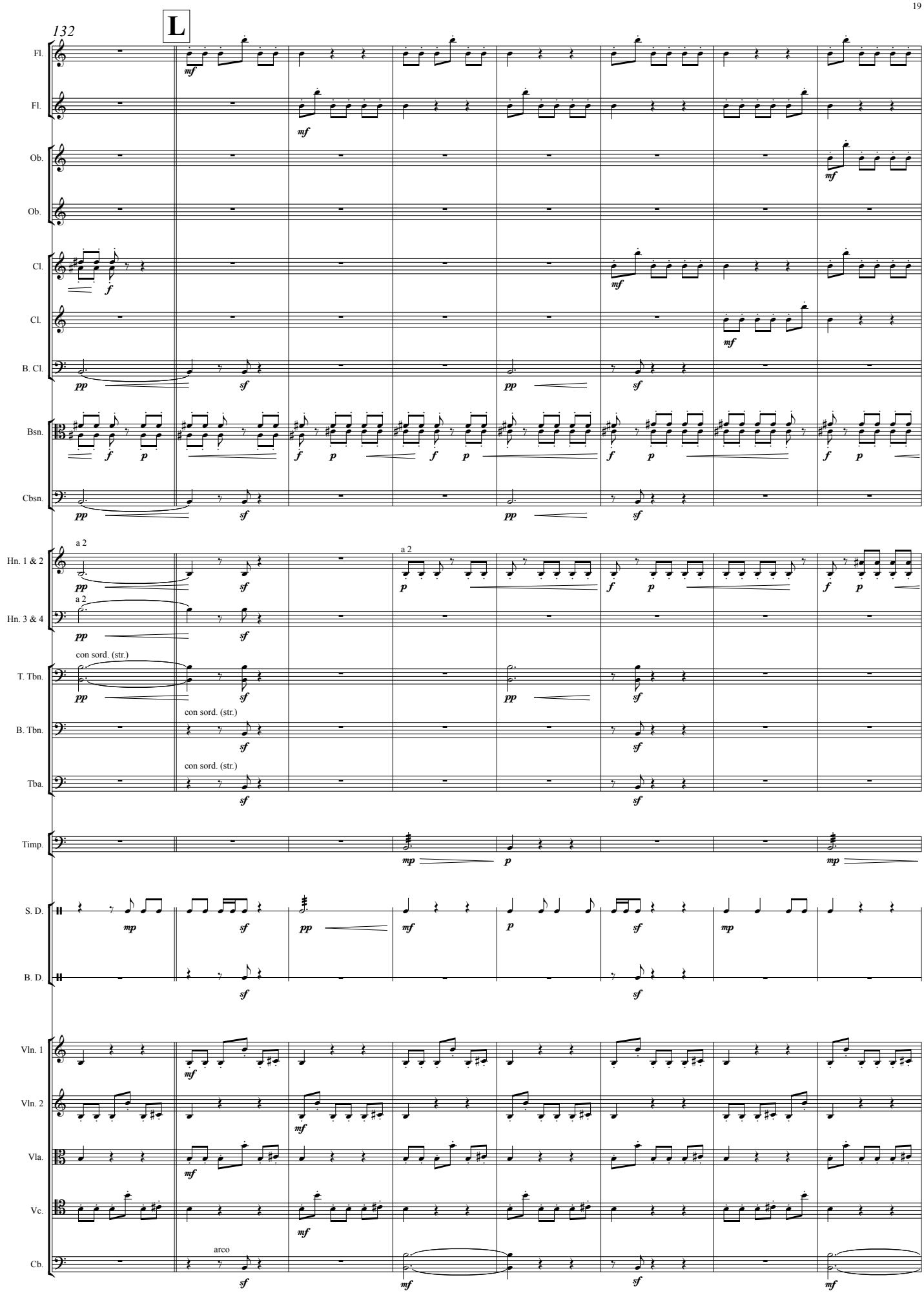
Cb.

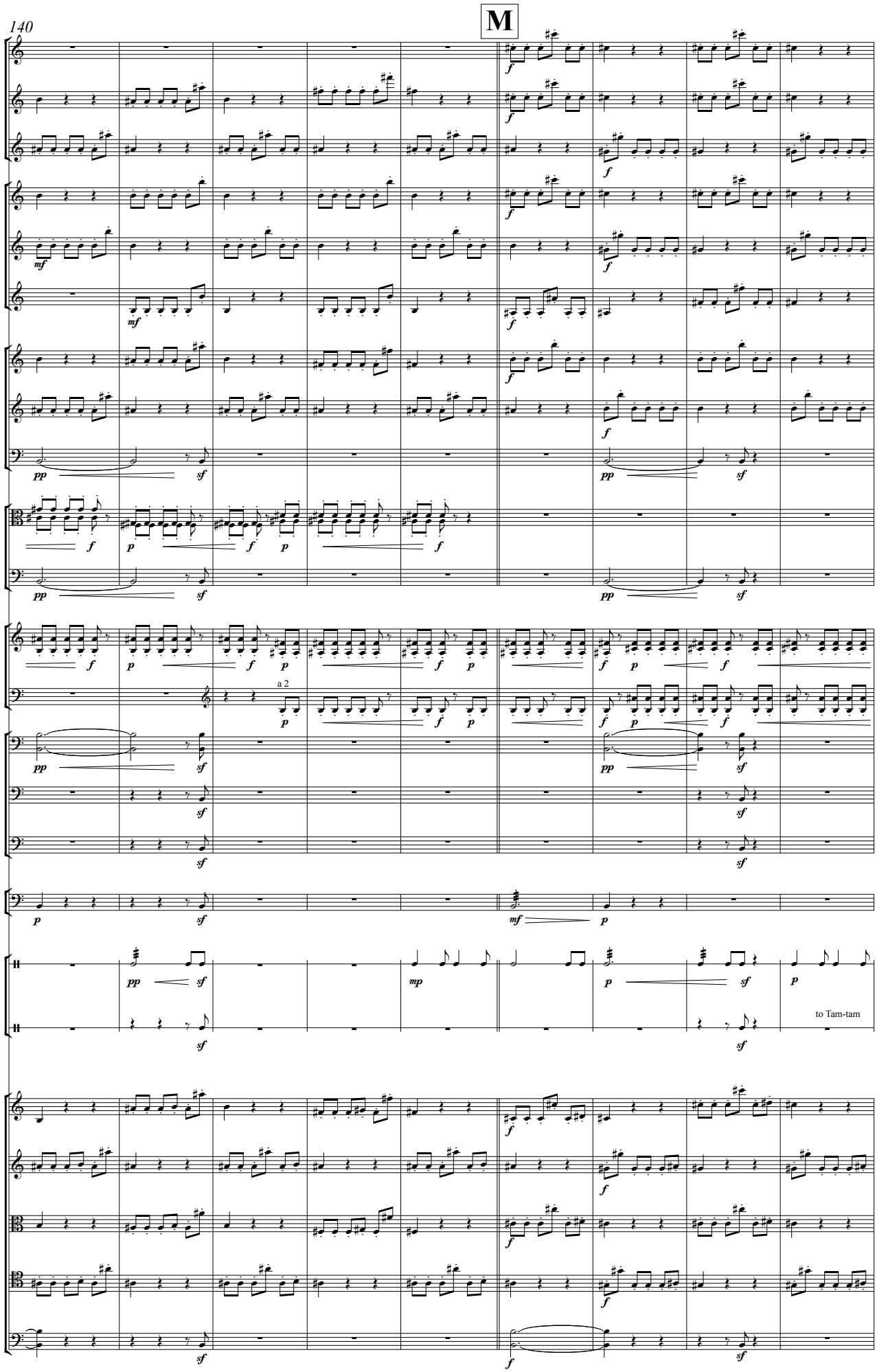
arco

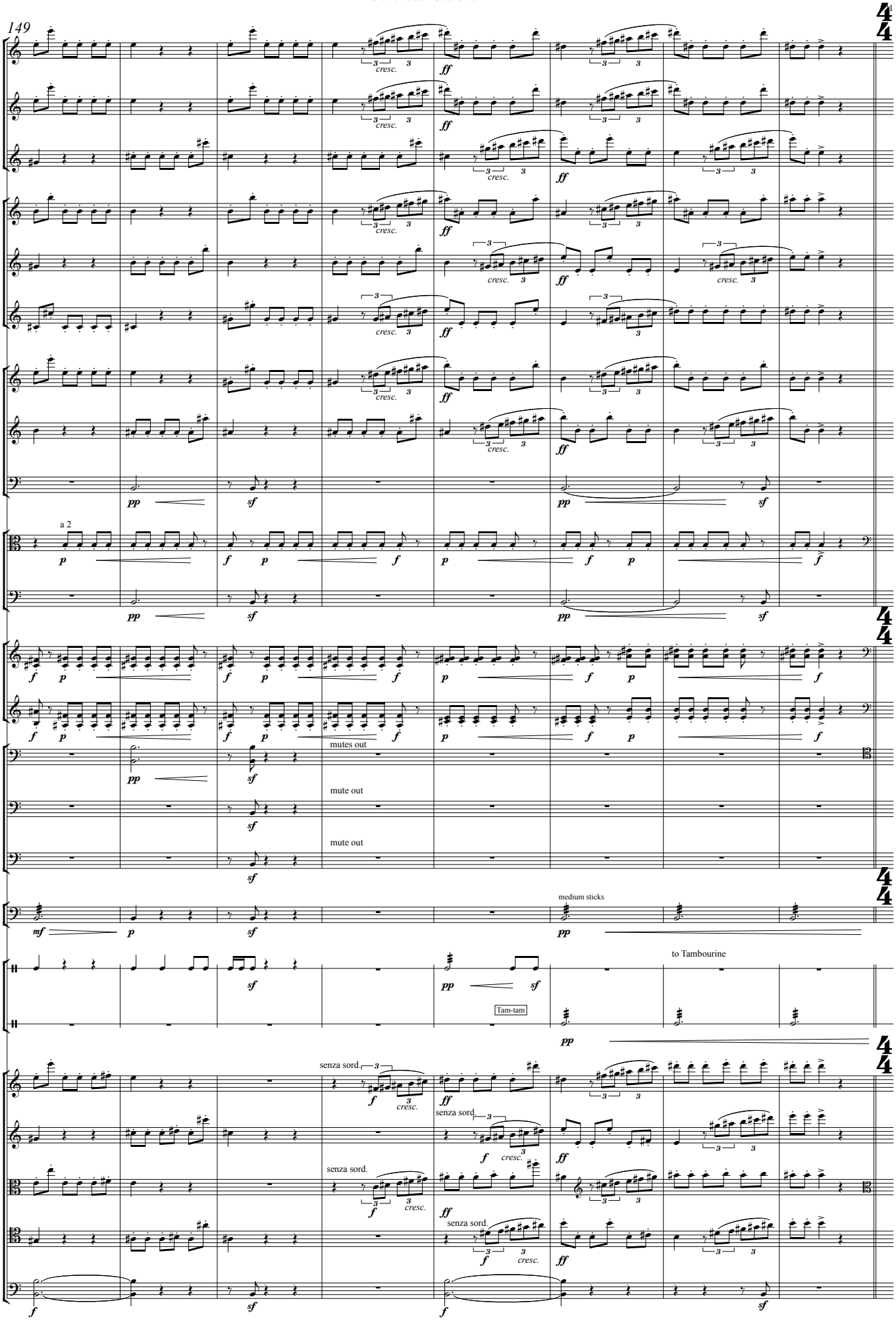
pizz.

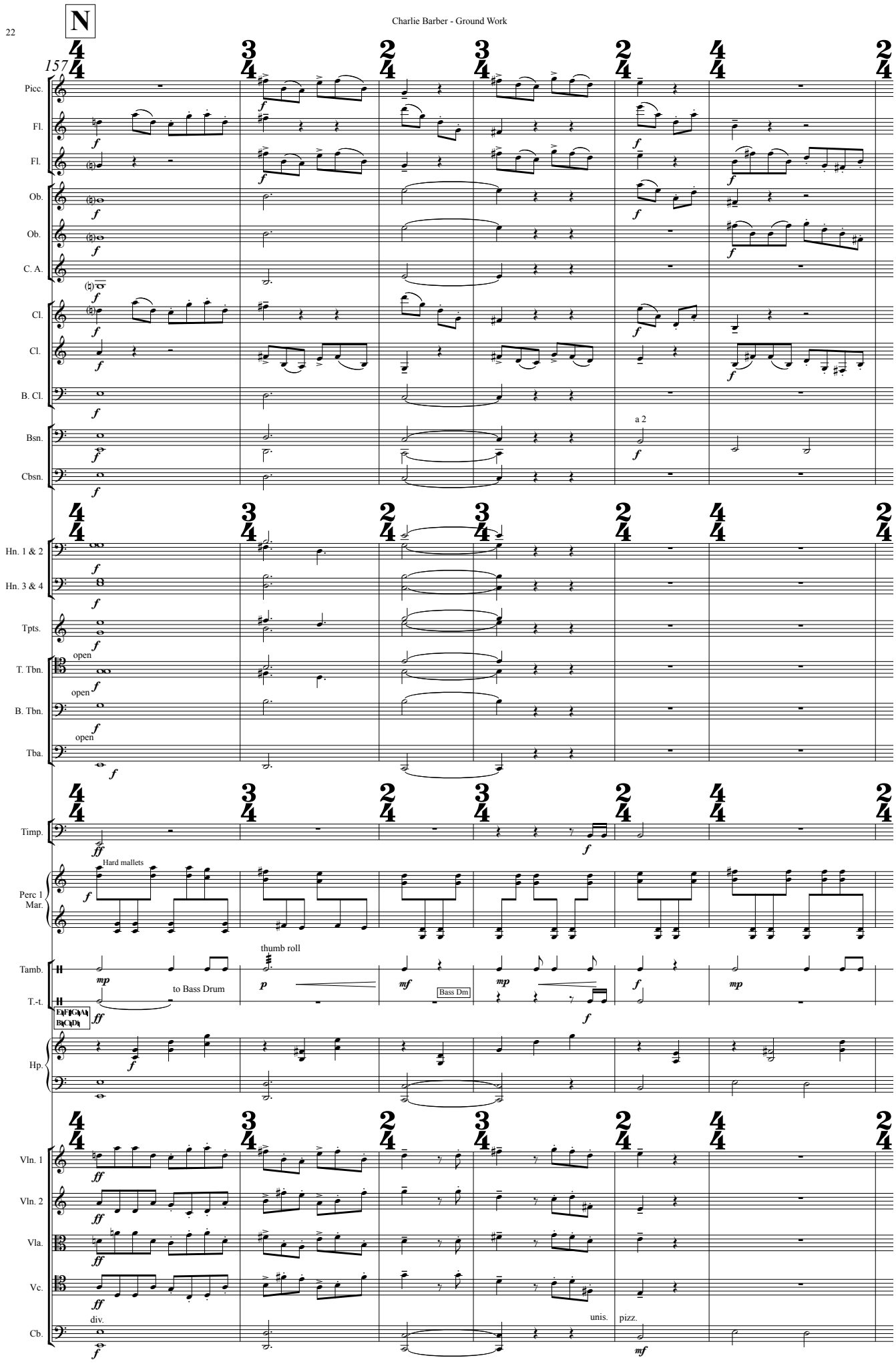
arco

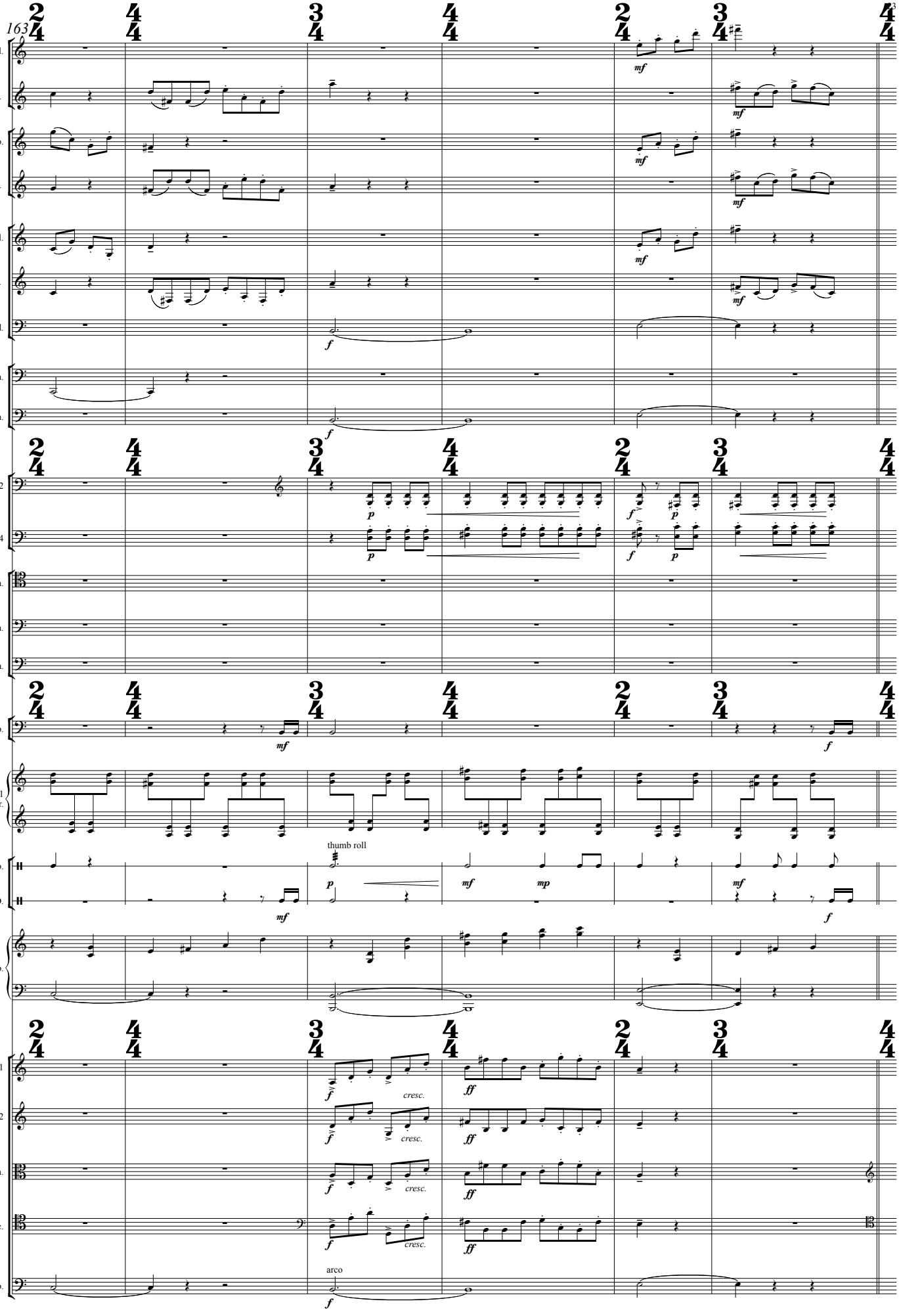
pizz.


132
L
Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
Ob.
Cl.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
T. Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
S. D.
B. D.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
a 2
con sord. (str.)
arco


140
M
Picc.
Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
Ob.
C. A.
Cl.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
a 2
T. Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
S. D.
B. D.
to Tam-tam
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.


149
Picc.
Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
Ob.
C. A.
Cl.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
a 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
T. Tbn.
mutes out
B. Tbn.
mute out
Tba.
mute out
Timp.
medium sticks
S. D.
to Tambourine
B. D.
Tam-tam
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
senza sord.
cresc.


N
157
Picc.
Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
Ob.
C. A.
Cl.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
a 2
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
Tpts.
T. Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
open
Timp.
Perc 1
Mar.
Hard mallets
Tamb.
T.-t.
thumb roll
to Bass Drum
Bass Dm
Hp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
div.
unis.
pizz.

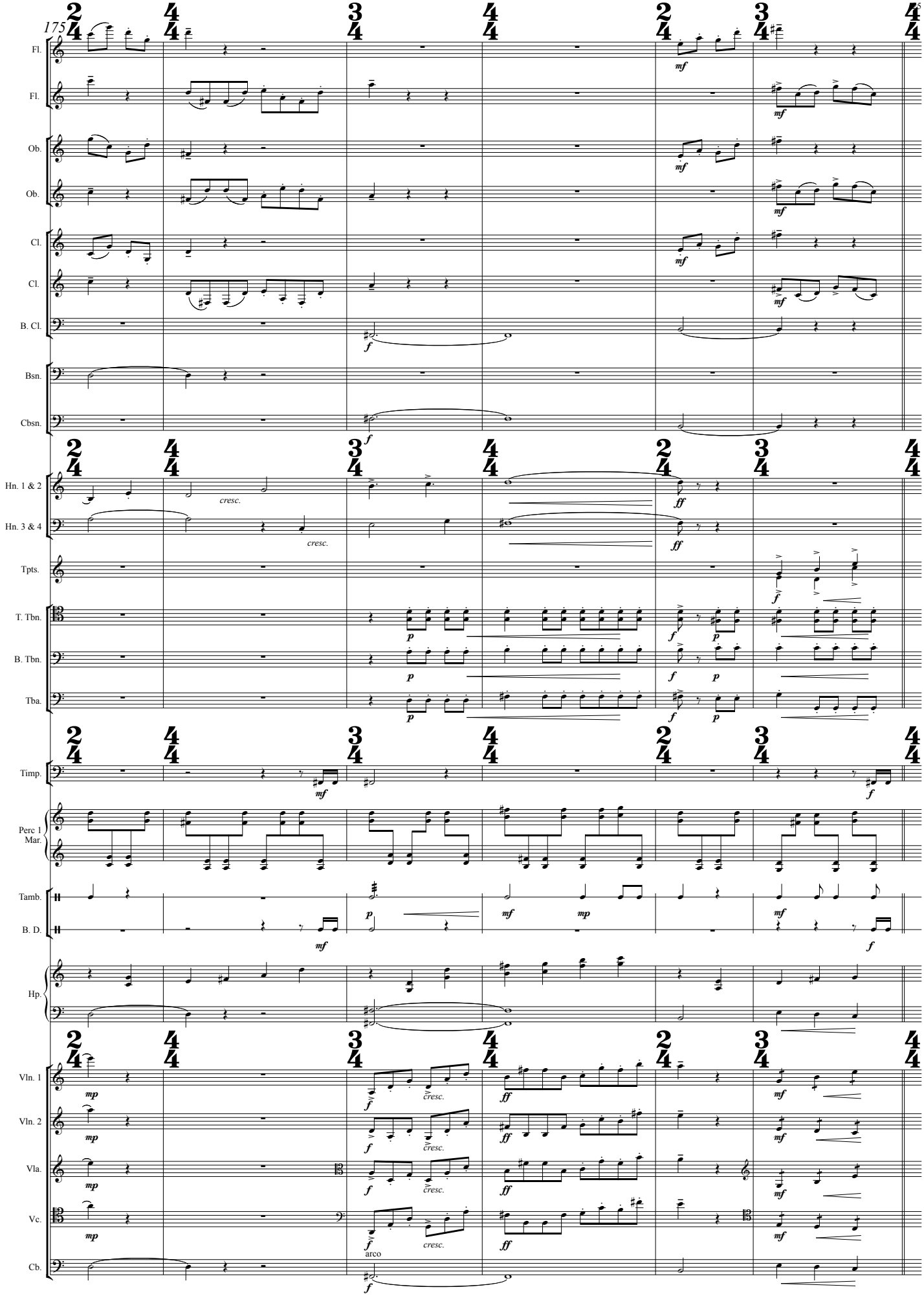

163
Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
Ob.
Cl.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
T. Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc 1
Mar.
Tamb.
B. D.
Hp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
thumb roll
cresc.
arco

O

169

Picc.
Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
Ob.
C. A.
Cl.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
Tpts.
T. Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc 1
Mar.
Tamb.
B. D.
Hp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

a 2
ben marc.
sim.
pizz.


175
Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
Ob.
Cl.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
Tpts.
T. Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc 1
Mar.
Tamb.
B. D.
Hp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
cresc.
arco

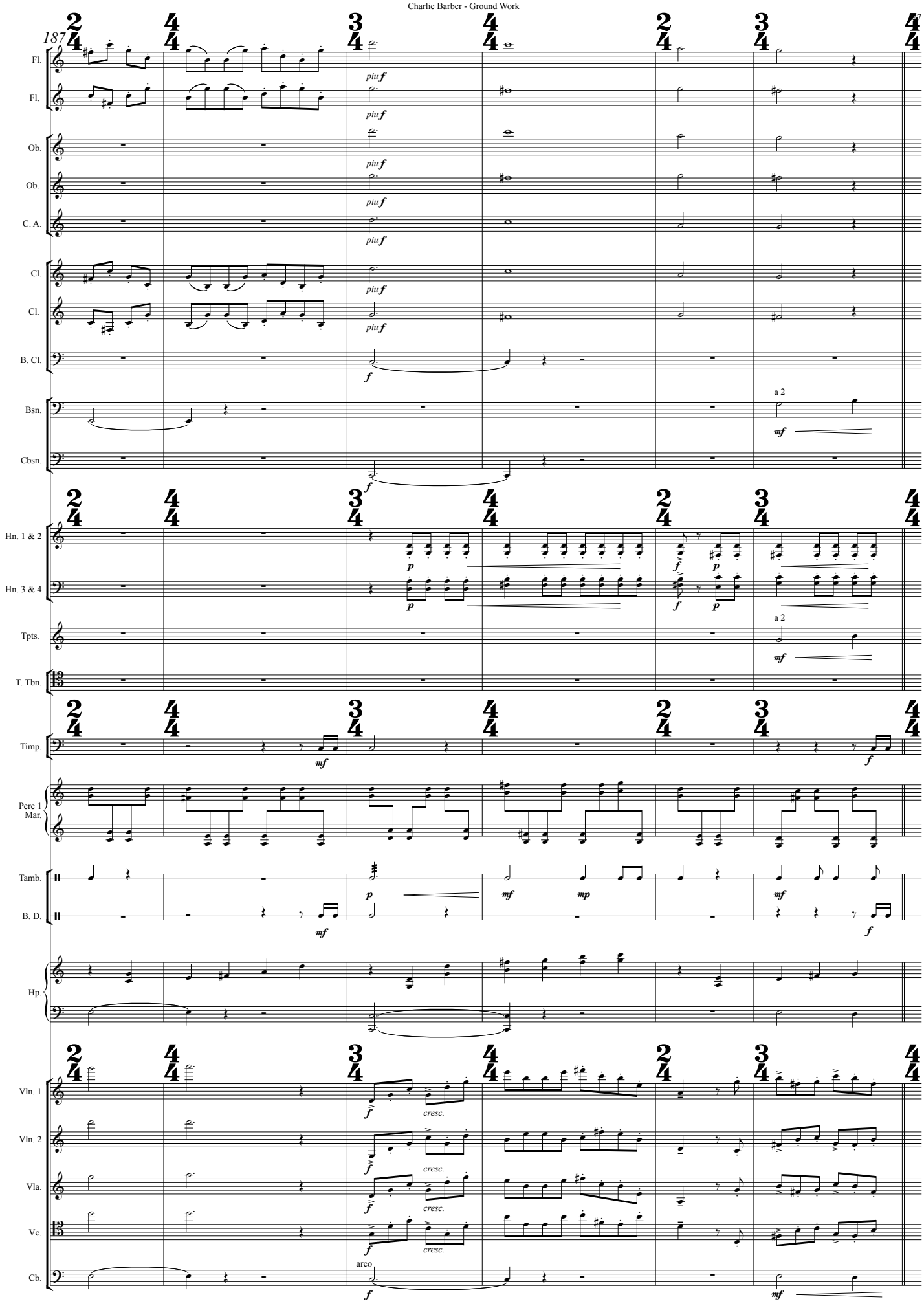
P

181

Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
Ob.
C. A.
Cl.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
Tpts.
T. Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc 1
Mar.
Tamb.
B. D.
Hp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

a 2

pizz.


187
Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
Ob.
C. A.
Cl.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
Tpts.
T. Tbn.
Timp.
Perc 1
Mar.
Tamb.
B. D.
Hp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
piu f
f
mf
p
a 2
cresc.
arco

Q

193

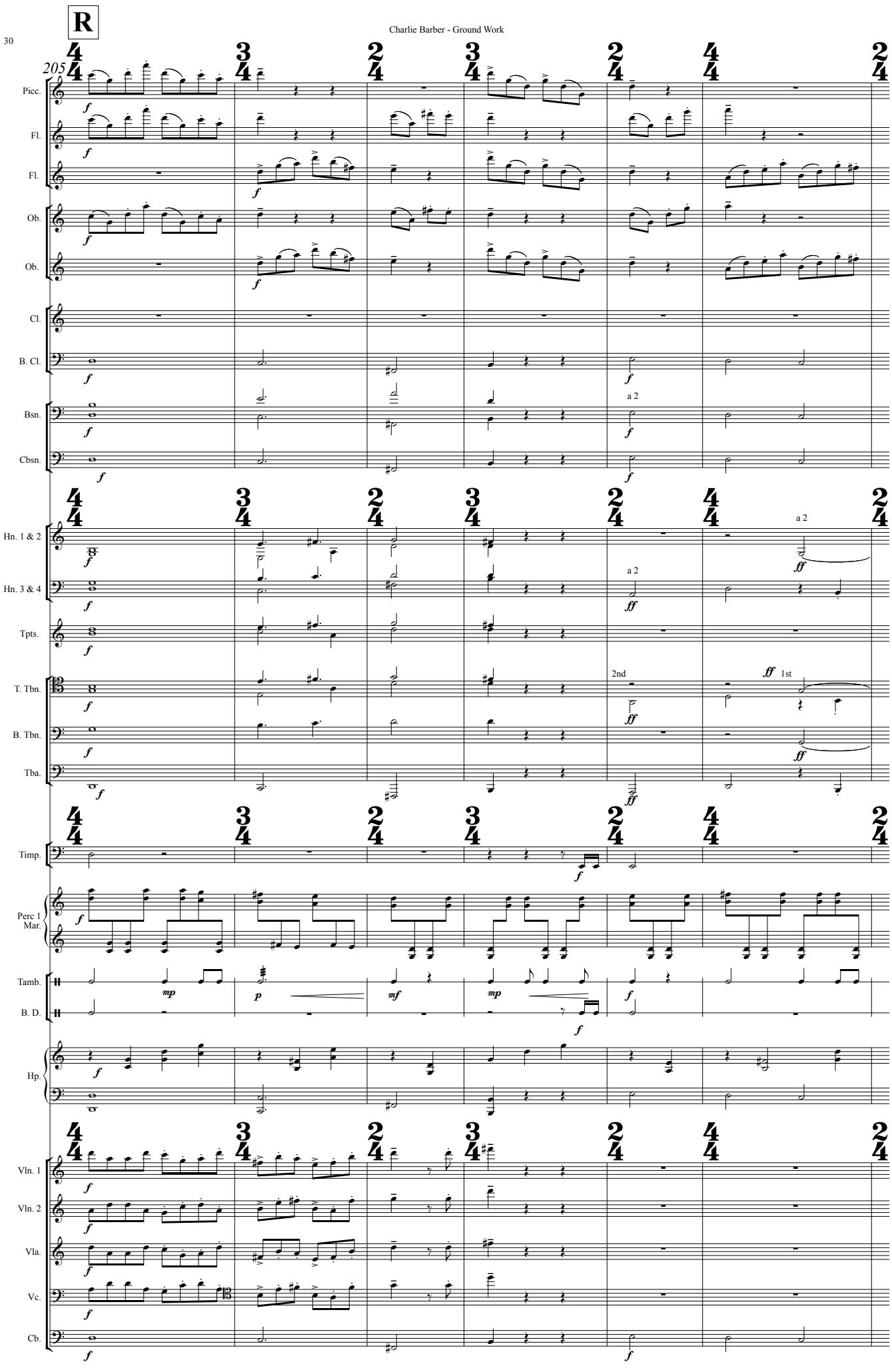
Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
Ob.
C. A.
Cl.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
Tpts.
T. Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc 1
Mar.
Tamb.
B. D.
Hp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

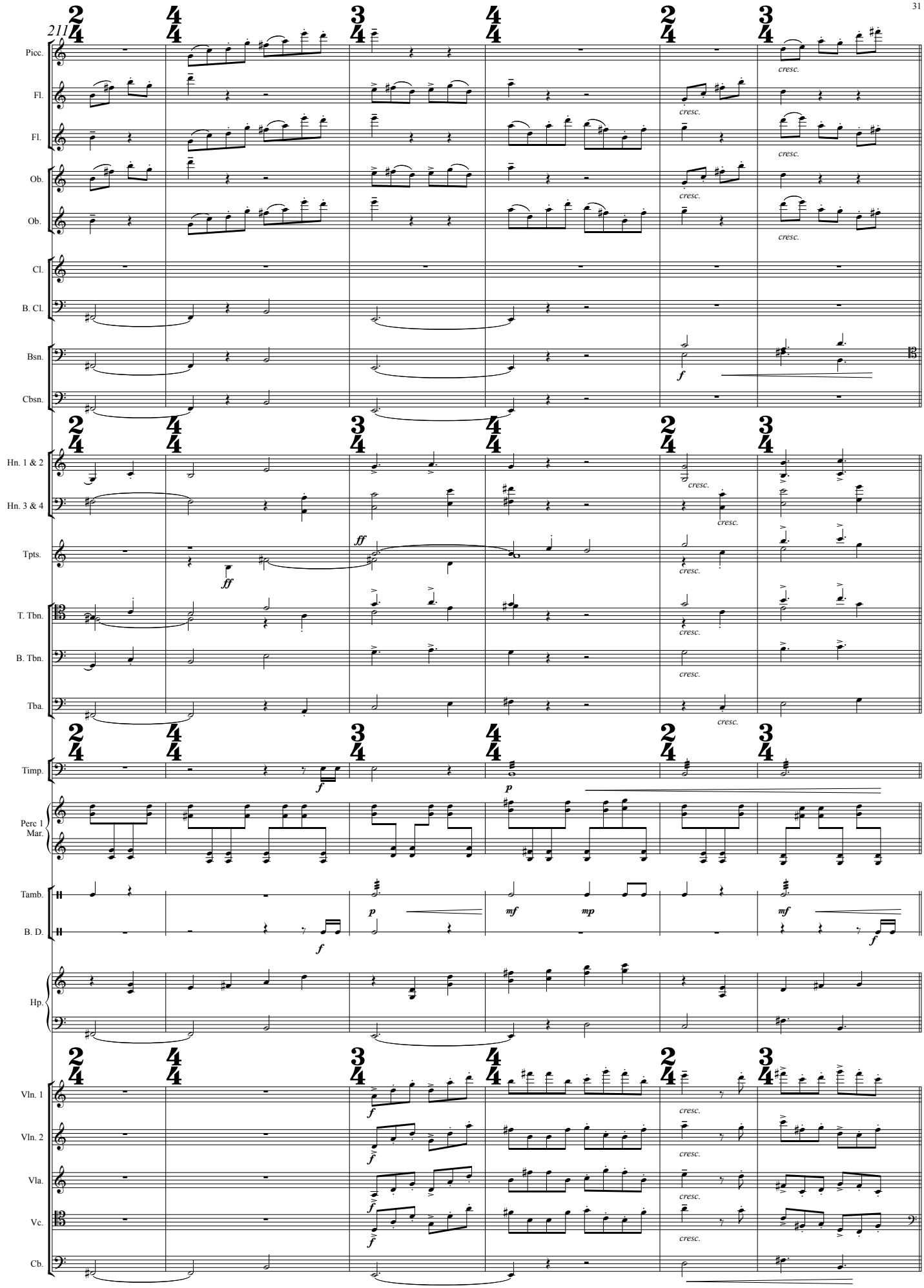
a 2
ben marc.
pizz.

199

Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
Ob.
Cl.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
Tpts.
T. Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc 1
Mar.
Tamb.
B. D.
Hp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

a 2 *ben marc.*
cresc.
a 2
arco


R
205
Picc.
Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
Ob.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
Tpts.
T. Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc 1
Mar.
Tamb.
B. D.
Hp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
a 2
2nd
1st

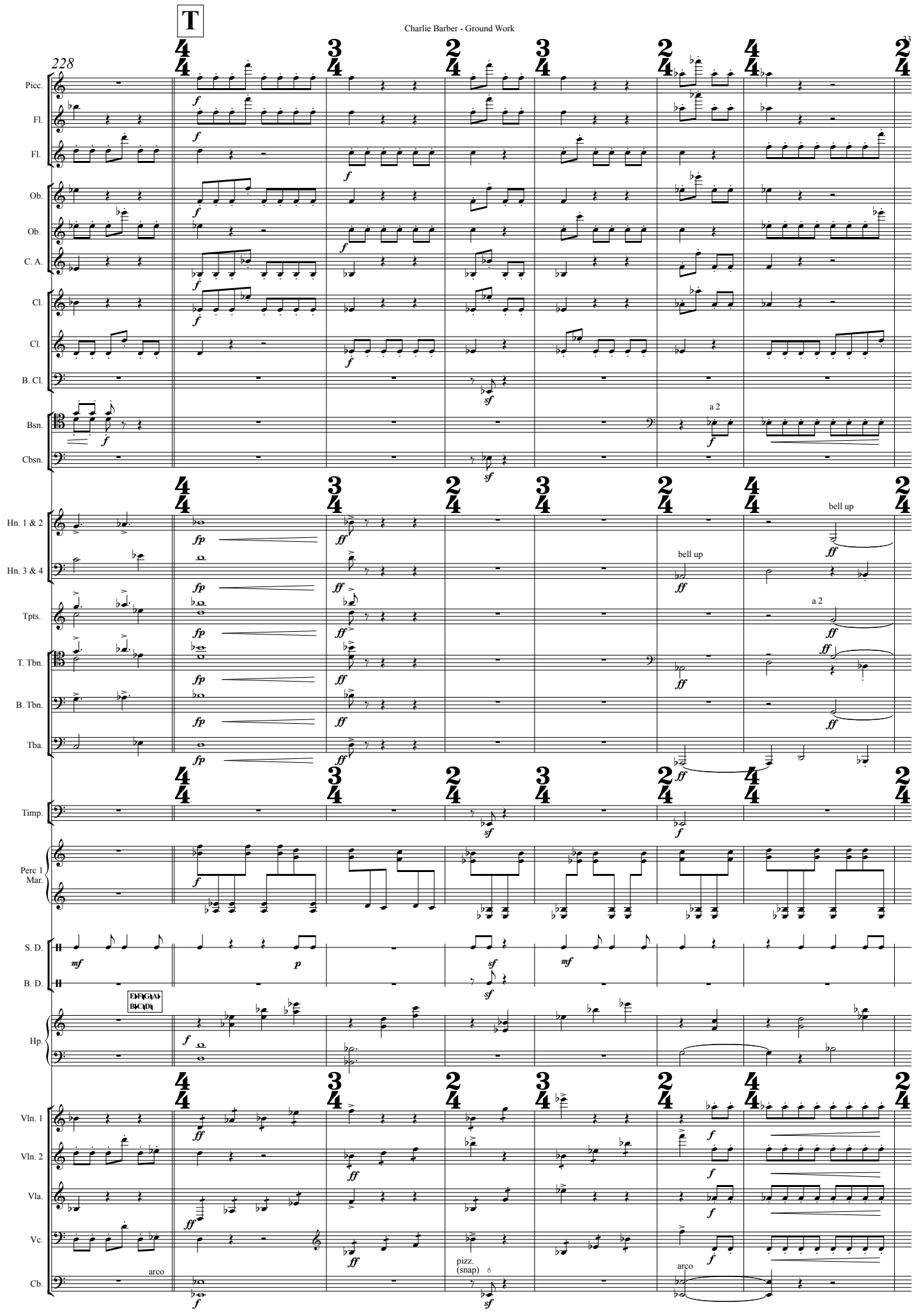

211
Picc.
Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
Ob.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
Tpts.
T. Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc 1
Mar.
Tamb.
B. D.
Hp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
cresc.
ff
f
p
mf
mp

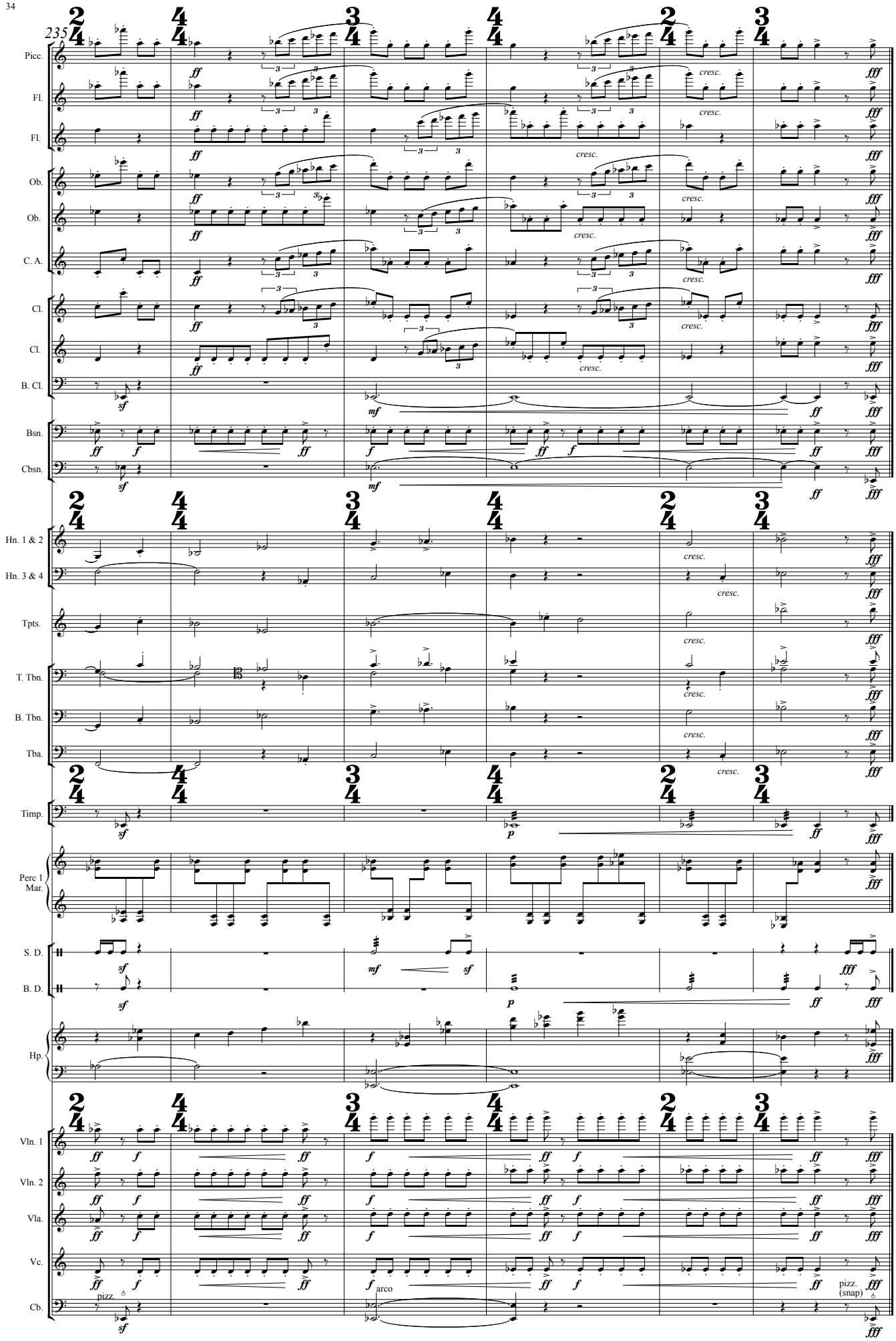
S

217

Picc.
Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
Ob.
C. A.
Cl.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
Tpts.
T. Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc 1
Mar.
Tamb.
B. D.
Hp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

a 2 bell up
a 2 bell up
a 2
soft sticks
to Snare Dm
Snare Dm
div.
unis.
pizz.
unis. (snap)


T
228
Picc.
Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
Ob.
C. A.
Cl.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
a 2
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
bell up
Tpts.
a 2
T. Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc 1
Mar.
S. D.
B. D.
Hp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
arco
pizz.
(snap)
arco


235
Picc.
Fl.
Fl.
Ob.
Ob.
C. A.
Cl.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn. 1 & 2
Hn. 3 & 4
Tpts.
T. Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc 1
Mar.
S. D.
B. D.
Hp.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
cresc.
pizz.
arco
pizz.
(snap)