Cinderella

music for the 1922 silhouette film by Lotte Reiniger

for piano quintet

Karim Al-Zand
(2014/2017)

INSTRUMENTATION:

String Quartet
Piano

DURATION:

12' 52"

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

The print of *Cinderella* from the British Film Institute (BFI, duration: 12'52") should be used for the performance. (Two versions of the film survive: the print which includes blue tinting for the outdoor scenes has superior image quality.) The piece begins in darkness with a black screen, the opening titles of the film being cued at the start of the third measure. Tempo indications and fermati placed in square brackets in the score are taken "as needed" in order to sync with the film. Still images from the film and timings are given at the exact sync points in the score.

PROGRAM NOTE:

German filmmaker Lotte Reiniger (1899–1981) was a unique visual artist. As early as 1918 she pioneered a distinctive "silhouette" technique: an animation method using backlighting, stop-motion filming, and elaborate hand-cut paper figures. Reiniger began making her own films in the early 1920s (*Cinderella* is one of her earliest) but came to prominence in 1926 with the release of *Die Abenteuer des Prinzen Achmed* [The Adventures of Prince Achmed], the first surviving feature-length animated film. (It predates Disney Studio's first animated feature, *Snow White*, by some 11 years.) Reiniger and her husband, director Carl Koch, worked on the film unassisted for three years. The success of *Prince Achmed* made Reiniger's reputation, but she preferred to work on the smaller scale of short films. Of her 40 films, which span some 60 years, almost all are short subjects.

Though her early films are silent, they were always performed with musical accompaniment (as were all films from this era). In fact, the connection to music is frequently strong in Reiniger's work. *Prince Achmed* was created in conjunction with composer Wolfgang Zeller, who wrote a 90-minute accompanying score for full orchestra. Some of Reiniger's most famous silent films feature specific indications for musical accompaniment: *Carmen* (1930) and *Papageno* (1935) are based on music by Bizet and Mozart, and *Dr. Dolittle and His Animals* used a score especially composed by Paul Hindemith, Kurt Weill and Paul Dessau. (The music, unfortunately, is now lost.) And most tantalizingly, Reiniger worked for several years, unsuccessfully in the end, to acquire the rights to make an animated film of Ravel's "fantasie lyrique," *L'enfant et les sortileges* [The Child and the Spells].

Aschenputtel [Cinderella], Reiniger's second film, was first screened in Weimar in 1922 and later reprised in London in a version with English subtitles. This later version is the only print to survive, and is the basis for the current musical score. Most of Reiniger's films are settings of fairy tales or fables, and the enchanting, dreamlike atmosphere of folk tales well suits her visual sensibilities. *Cinderella* uses the original Brother's Grimm version of the story. Cinderella travels to the grave of her deceased mother and receives the magical intervention of birds, and her evil step-sisters resort to drastic measures to fit into the missing slipper. Reiniger's charming silhouettes wonderfully capture the elegance, the whimsy and the occasional black humor of this classic story. The original ensemble version of *Cinderella* (for flute, clarinet, cornet, trombone, vibraphone/glockenspiel and string quintet) was supported by a project grant from New Music USA. This transcription for piano quintet was commissioned by Schubert Club for *Accordo* and pianist Stephen Prutsman. Its premiere was presented on March 3 , 2018 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

November 2017

Commissioned by Schubert Club for Accordo with pianist Stephen Prutsman

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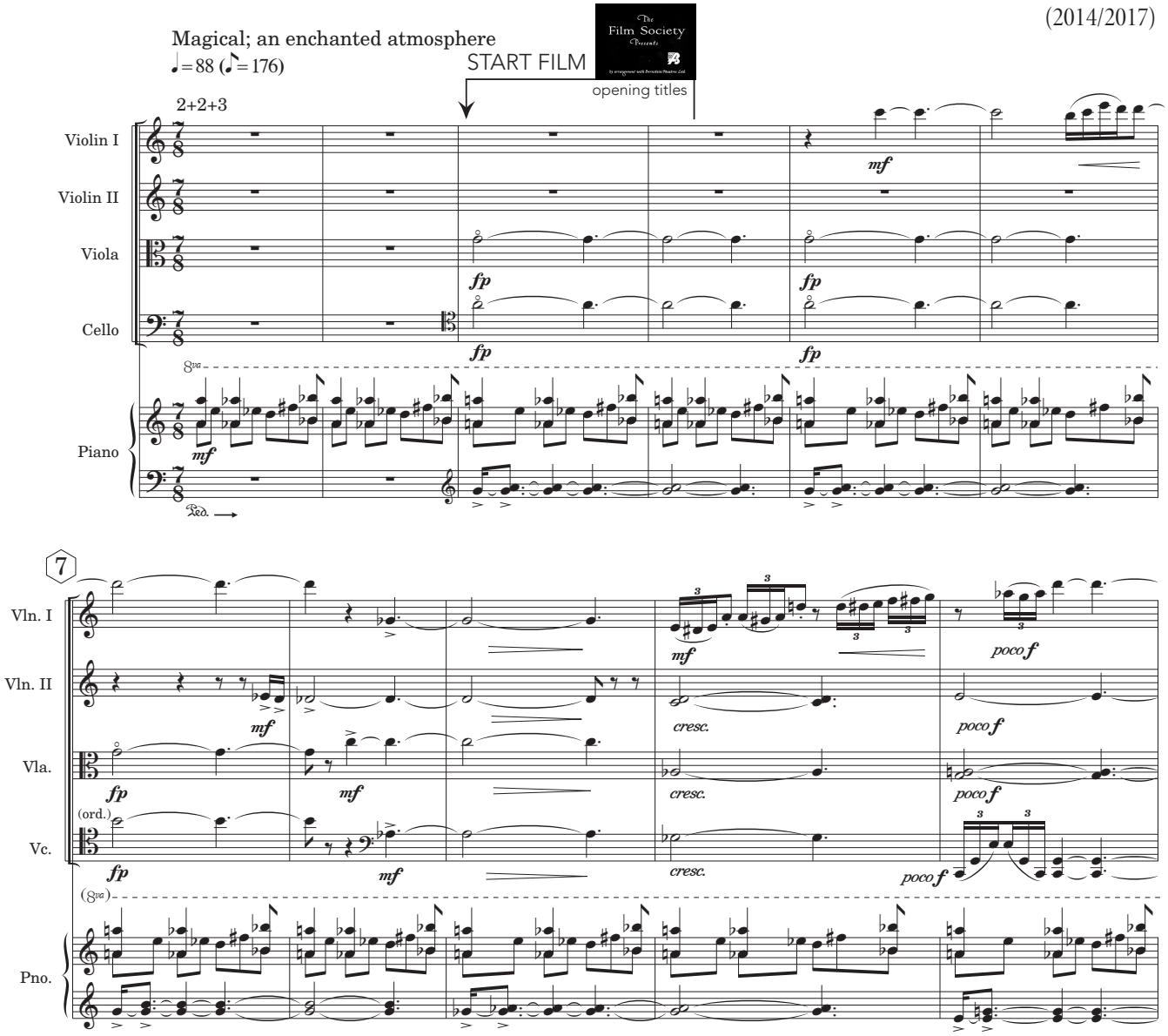
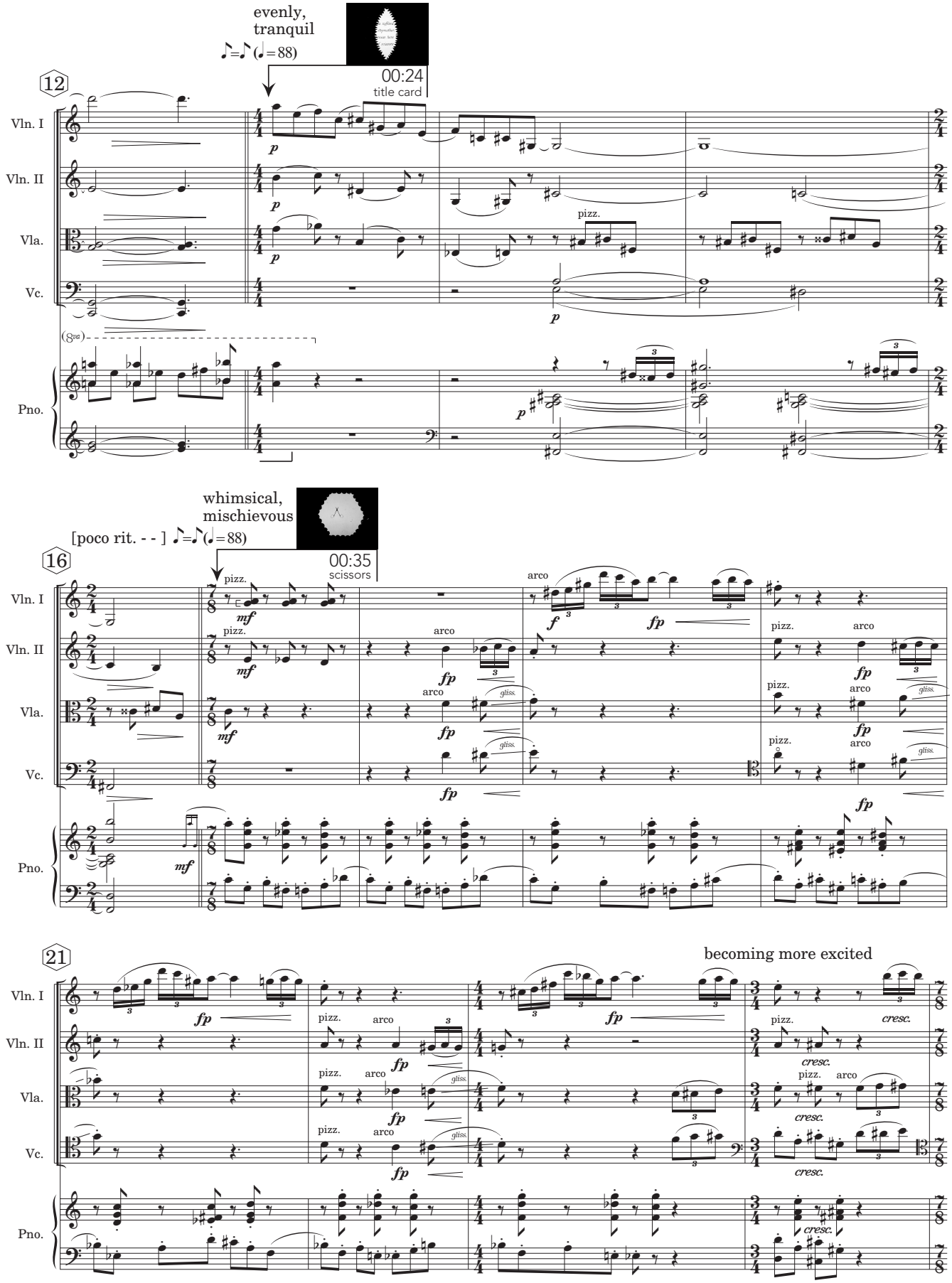



evenly,
tranquil
♪=♪ (♩=88)
00:24
title card
12
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
pizz.
whimsical,
mischievous
[poco rit. - -] ♪=♪ (♩=88)
00:35
scissors
16
arco
gliss.
becoming more excited
21
cresc.

[poco accel. - -]

suddenly stern, austere

♪=♪ (♩=88)

00:56
sisters

25

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

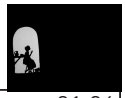
Vc.

Pno.

arco

flowing, but gloomy

♪=♪ (♩. = ca. 59)



01:06
tableau begins

30

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

♪=♪ (♩=88)

01:24
title card

36

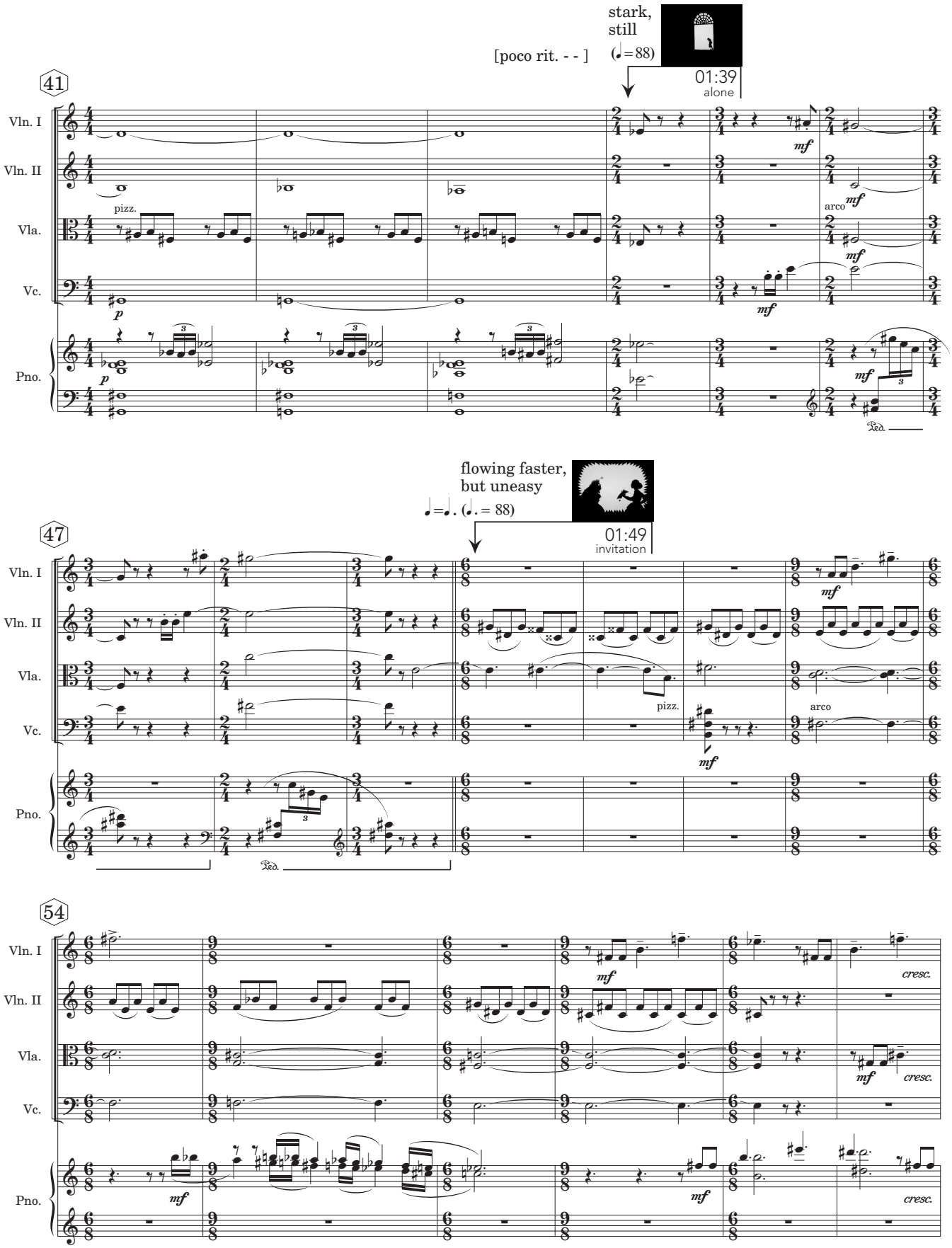
Vln. I

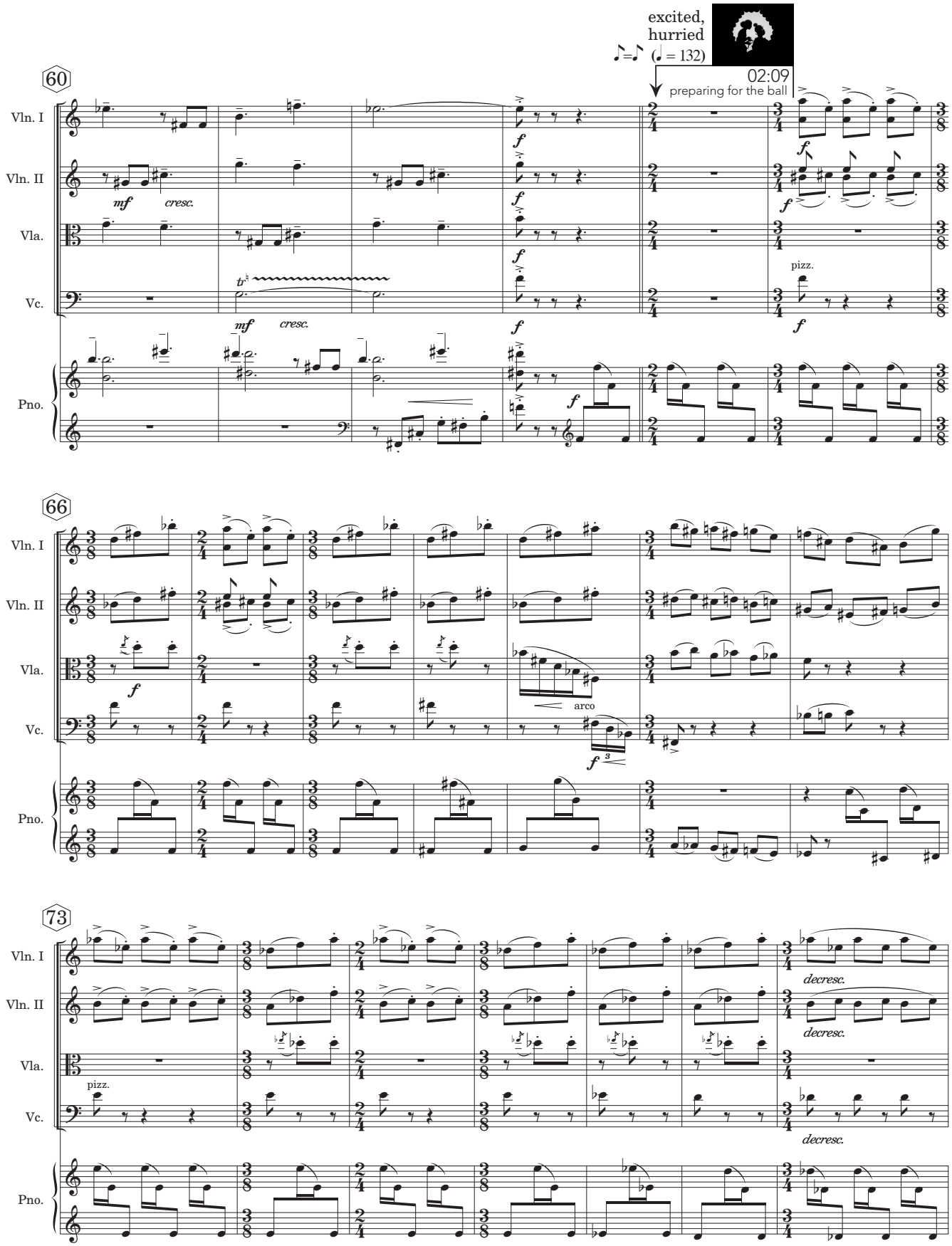
Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.


stark,
still
(♩=88)
[poco rit. - -]
01:39
alone
41
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
pizz.
arco
flowing faster,
but uneasy
♩=♩. (♩. = 88)
01:49
invitation
47
54
cresc.


excited, hurried
(♩ = 132)
02:09
preparing for the ball
60
66
73
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
mf
cresc.
f
pizz.
arco
decresc.

80

poco riten.

[poco rit. - -]

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

arco

mf

mp

decresc.

86

subdued, forlorn

subito ♩=72

[𝄐]

02:38

fully opened "curtain"

pp

95

plaintive,

woeful

♪=♪(♩.=48)

[𝄐]

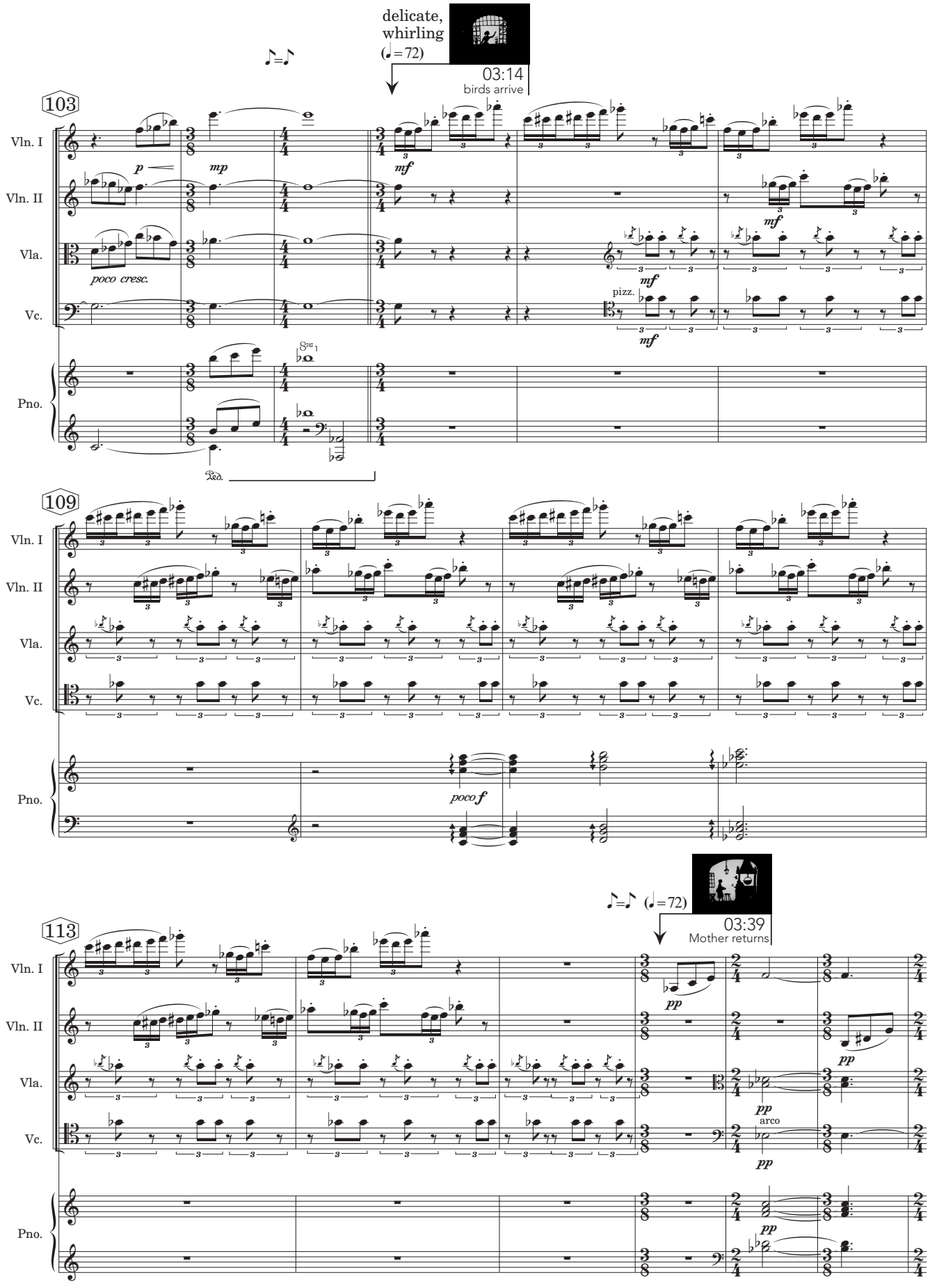
02:54

close-up

solo

p

poco cresc.


delicate, whirling
(♩=72)
03:14
birds arrive
103
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
p
mp
mf
poco cresc.
pizz.
Ped.
109
poco f
113
(♩=72)
03:39
Mother returns
pp
arco

119

♪=♪ (♩.=48)

[𝄐]

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

8va

p

04:04
title card

♪=♪(♩=72)

127

[poco rit. - -] ♪=♪ (♩.=48)

hushed,
atmospheric

04:17
garden scene

on two strings

pizz.

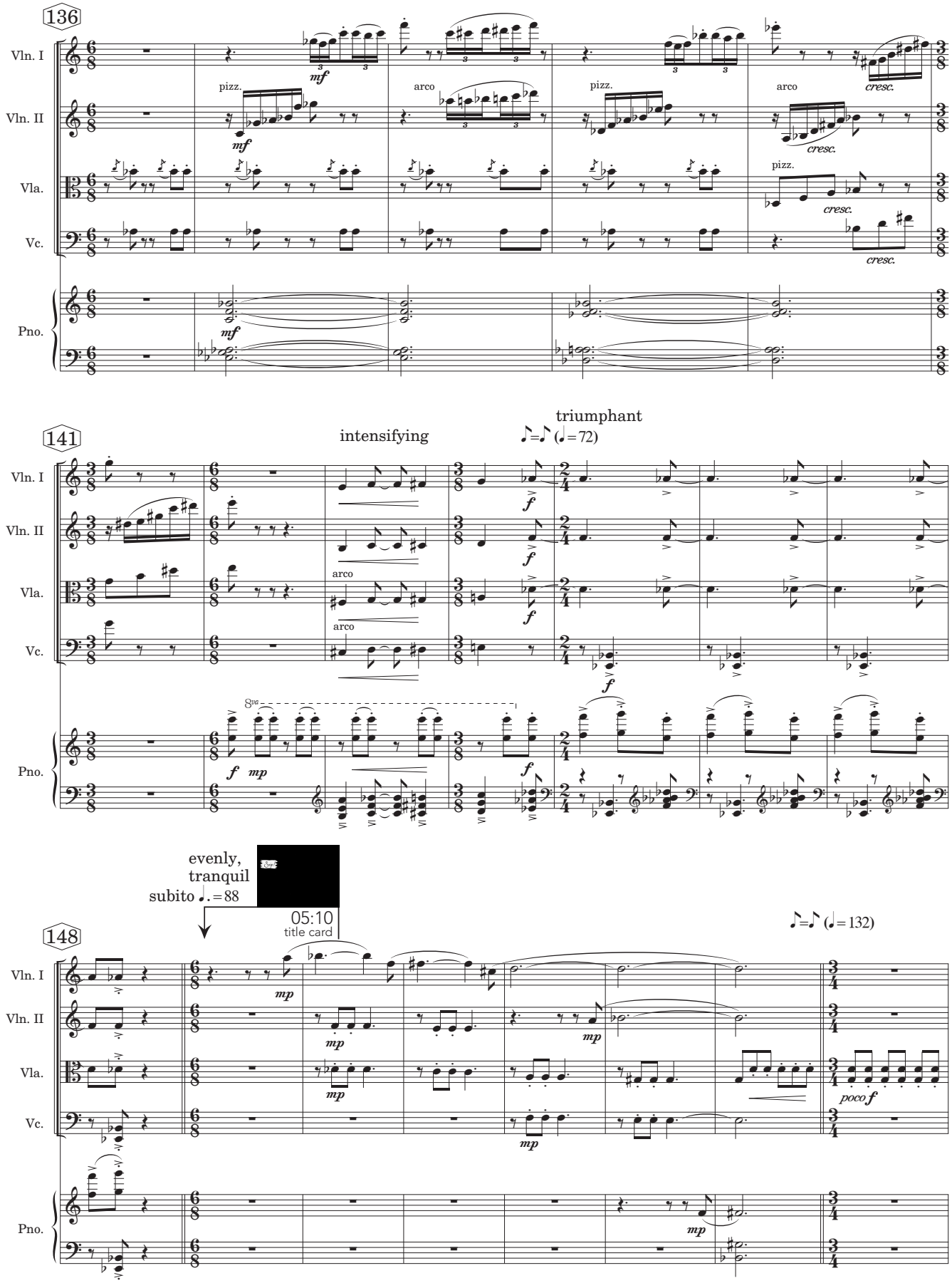
mp

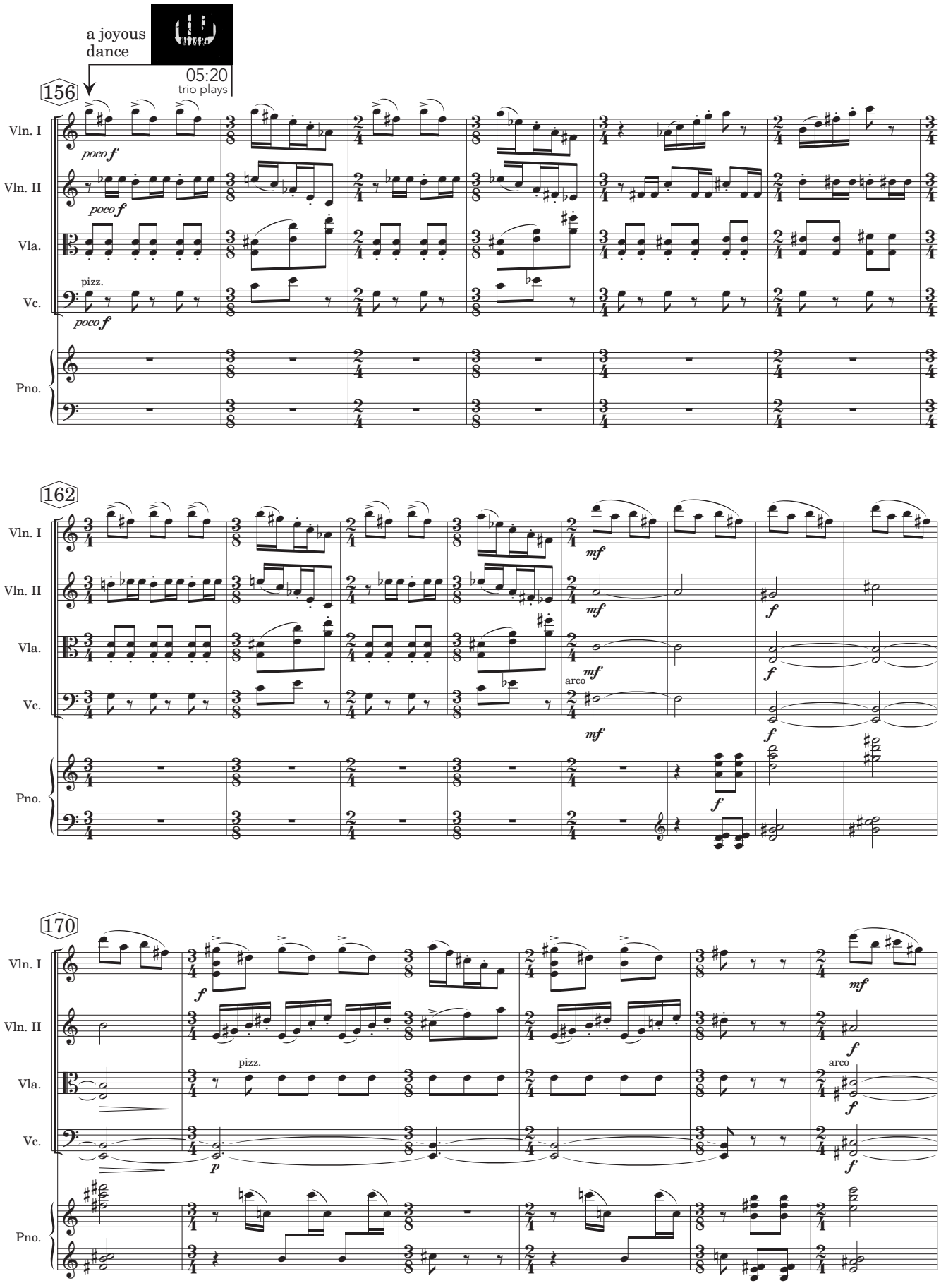
mf

132

arco

pizz.


136
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
pizz.
arco
mf
cresc.
141
intensifying
triumphant
♪=♪ (𝅗𝅥=72)
f
mp
148
evenly,
tranquil
subito 𝅗𝅥.=88
05:10
title card
♪=♪ (𝅗𝅥=132)
poco f


a joyous dance
05:20
trio plays
156
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
poco f
pizz.
162
mf
f
arco
170
p

176

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

f

pizz.

p

mf

suddenly calm, sweetly

♪=♪ (𝅗𝅥.=88)

182

05:44

Cinderella arrives

poco rit. al - - - - -

mf

decresc.

mp

arco

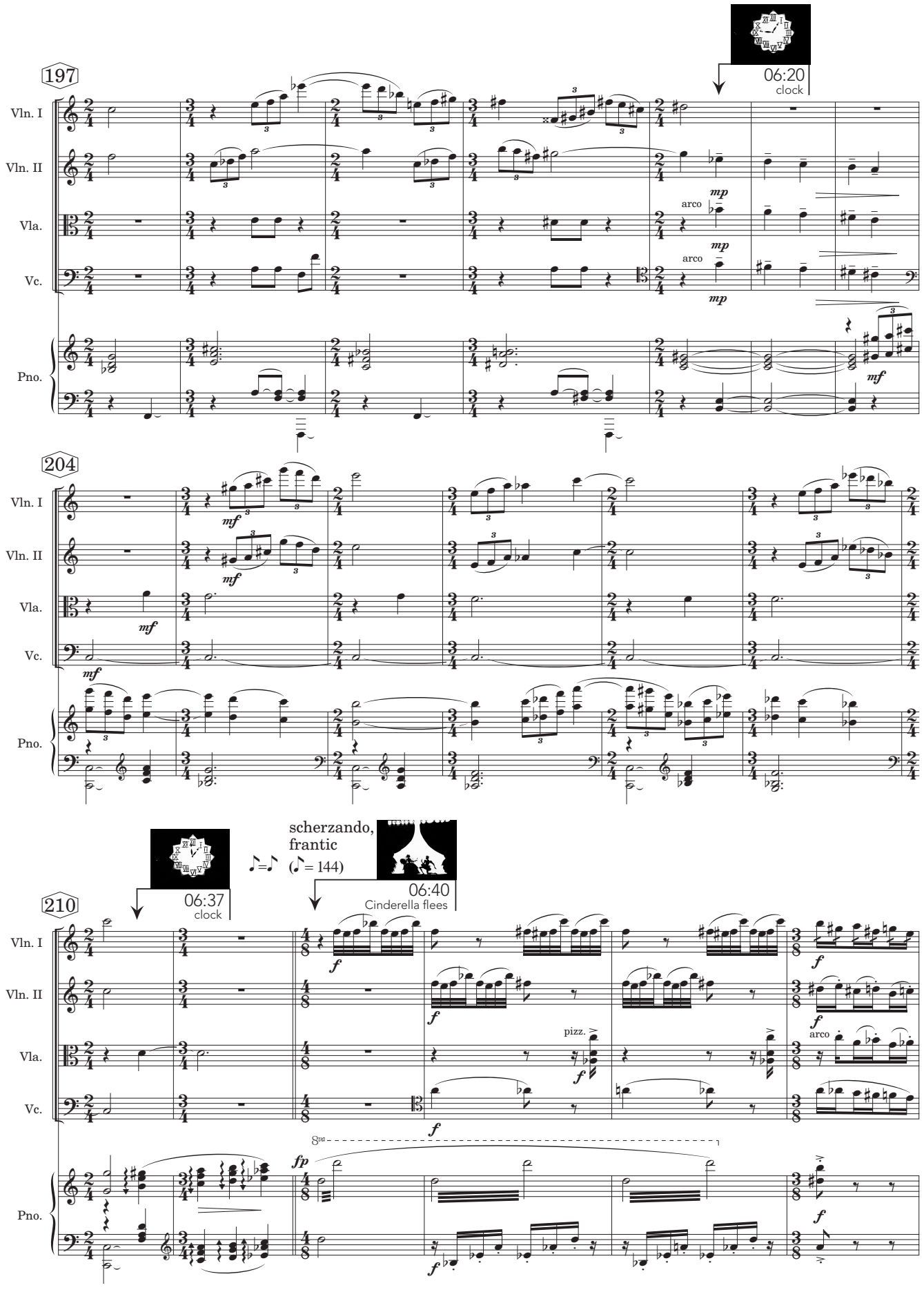
gently lilting, expressive

𝅗𝅥.=𝅗𝅥=72

191

05:58

they dance


197
06:20
clock
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
arco
mp
mf
204
mf
210
06:37
clock
scherzando,
frantic
(♪ = 144)
06:40
Cinderella flees
f
fp
pizz.
arco
8va

216

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

pizz.

arco

8va

fp

f

f

221

♪=♪ (♩.=48)

07:01
Prince enters garden

decresc.

mf *decresc.*

decresc.

decresc.

mp

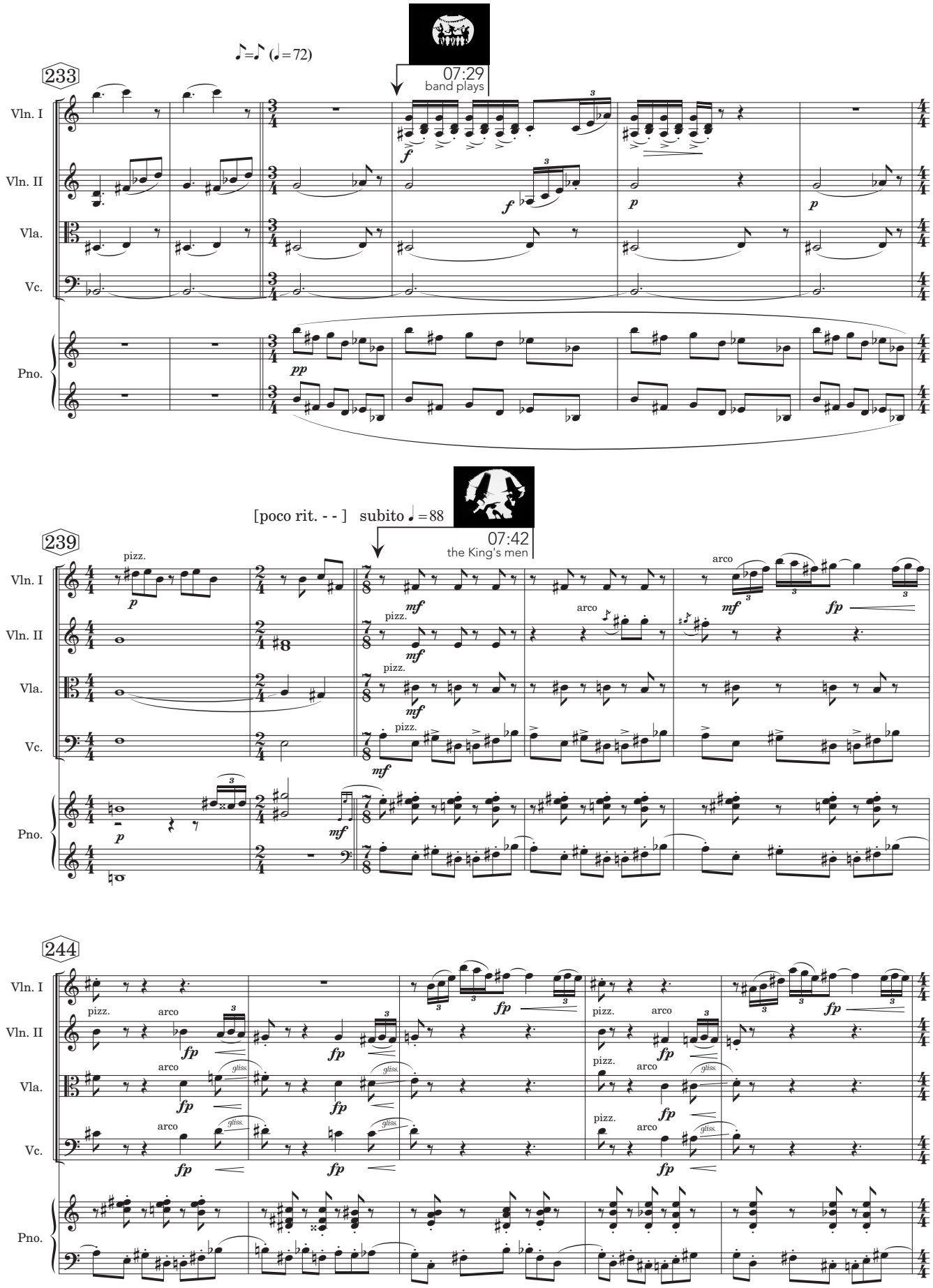
mf

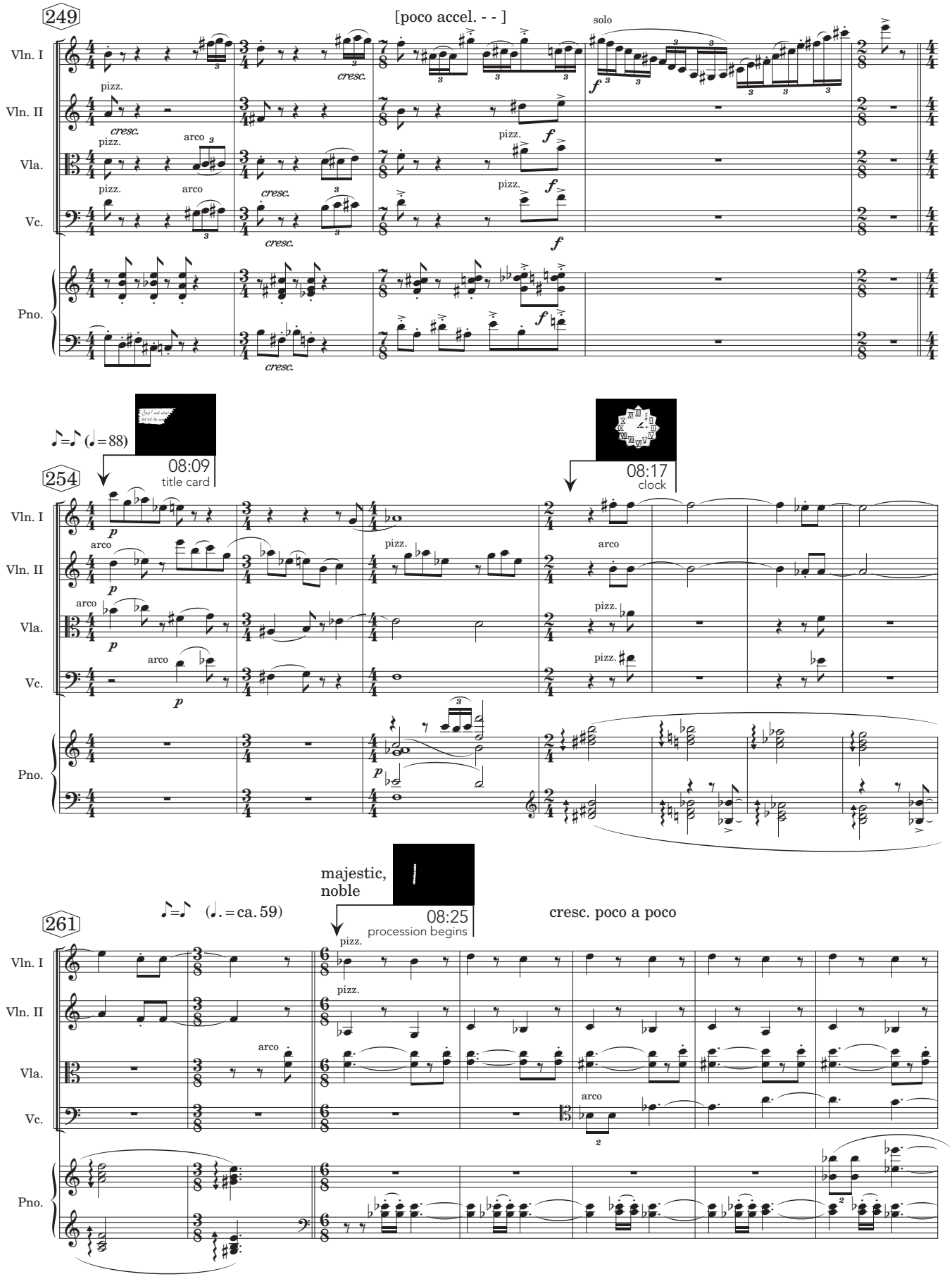
Ped.

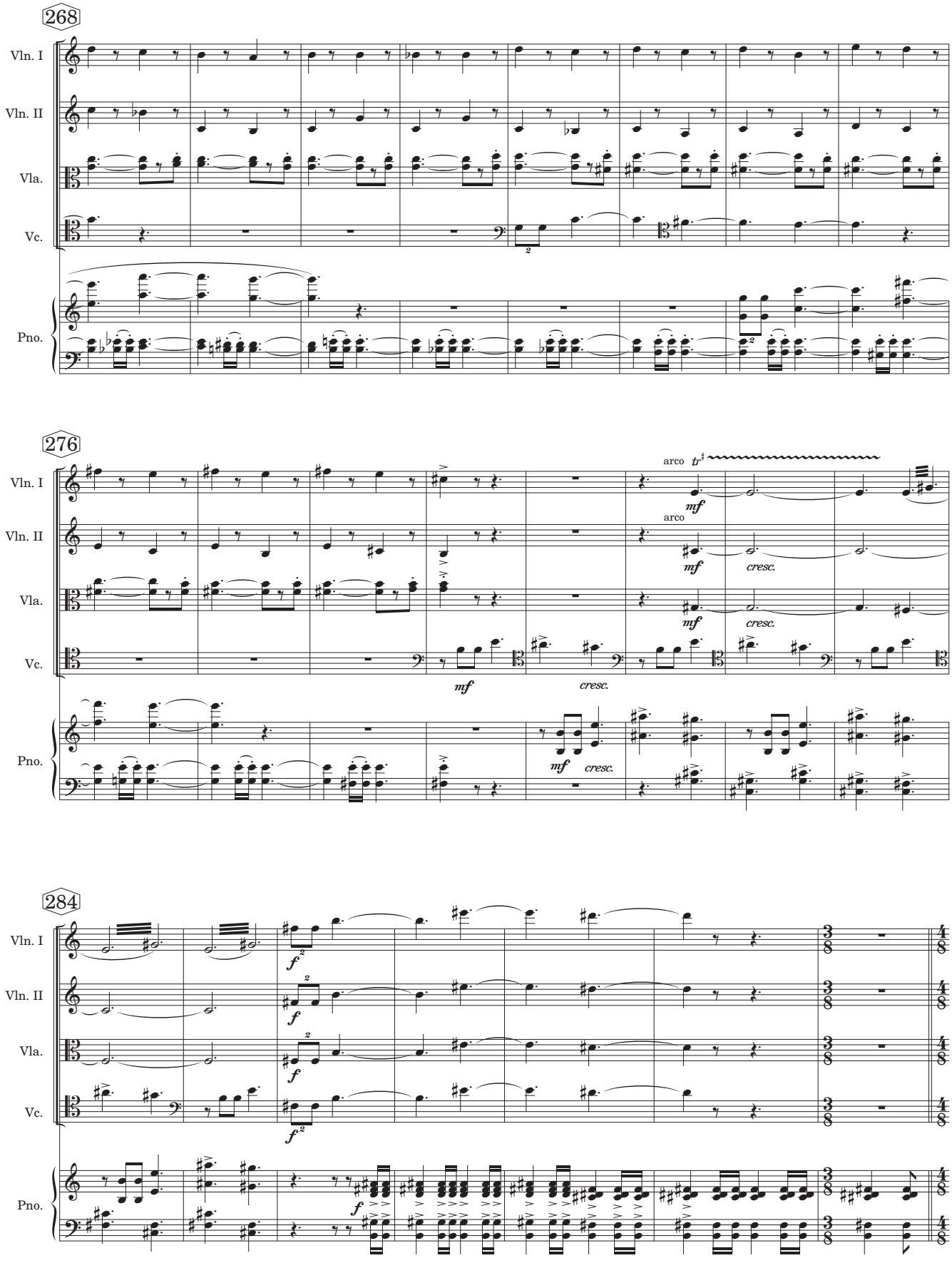
226

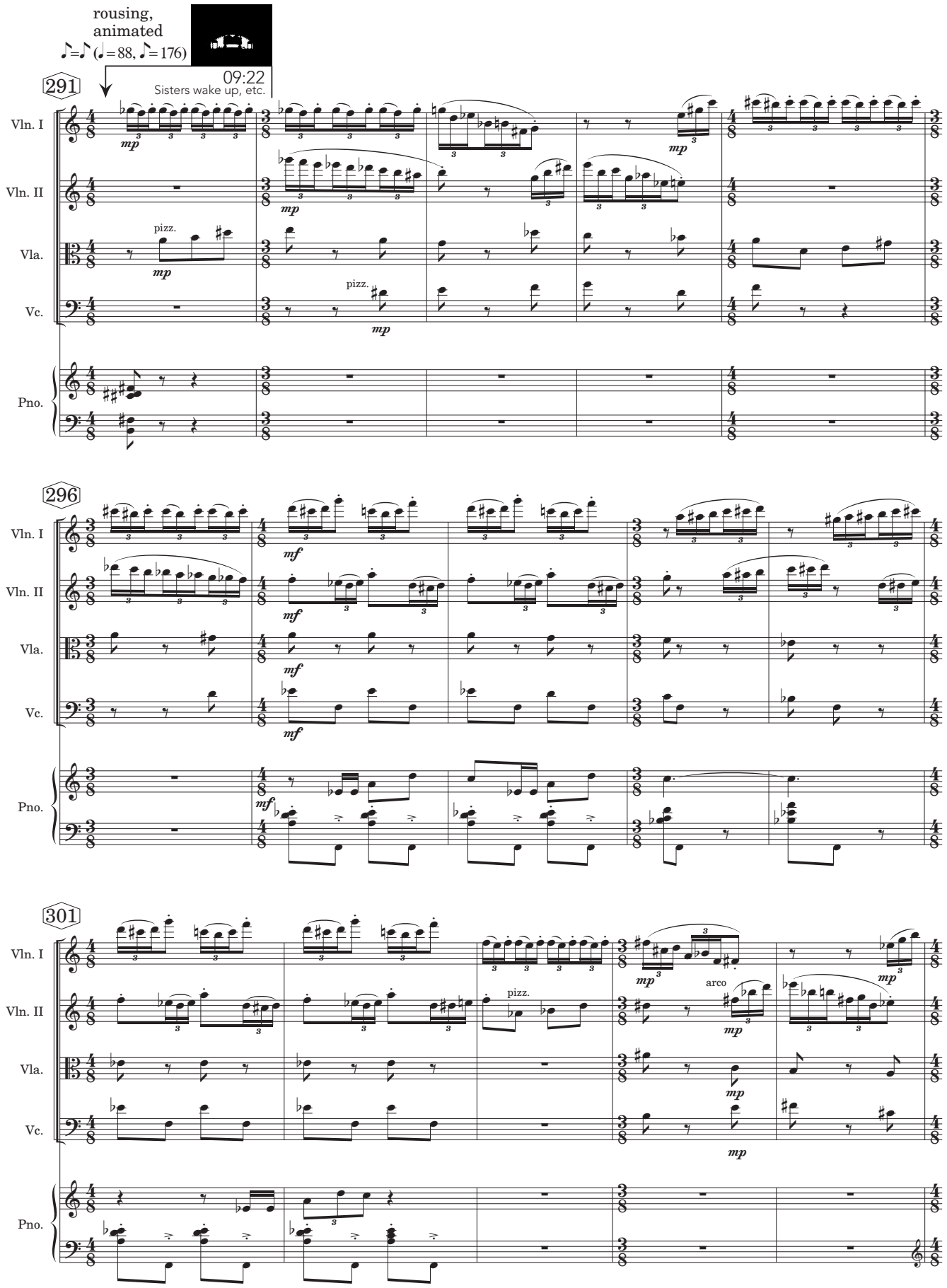
07:14
Prince finds slipper

p


233
♪=♪ (♩=72)
07:29
band plays
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
239
[poco rit. - -]
subito ♩=88
07:42
the King's men
pizz.
arco
244
gliss.


249
[poco accel. - -]
solo
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
pizz.
arco
cresc.
f
254
♪=♪ (♩=88)
08:09
title card
08:17
clock
p
261
♪=♪ (♩.=ca. 59)
majestic,
noble
08:25
procession begins
cresc. poco a poco


268
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
276
arco
mf
cresc.
284
f


rousing,
animated
♪=♪ (♩=88, ♪=176)
09:22
Sisters wake up, etc.
291
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
pizz.
mp
296
mf
301
arco

quiet and foreboding

♪=♪ (♩=88)

09:43
Cinderella alone

306

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

p

arco

p

p

arco

p

mf

313

Vln. I

Vln. II

p

Vla.

Vc.

Pno.

stately, grand

♪=♪ (♩=88)

10:13
Prince enters with slipper

322

Vln. I

sub.f

Vln. II

sim.

sub.f

Vla.

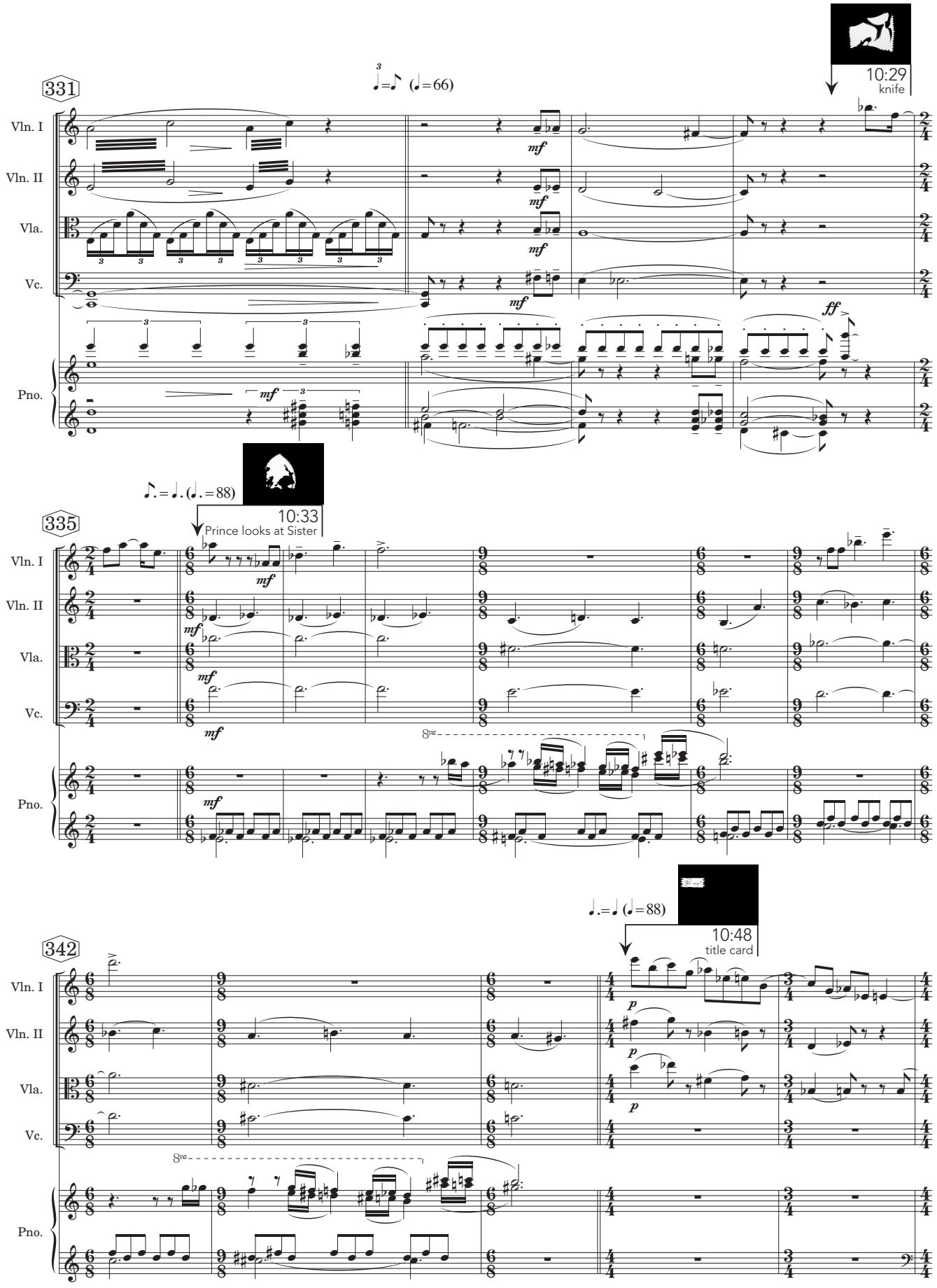
sub.f

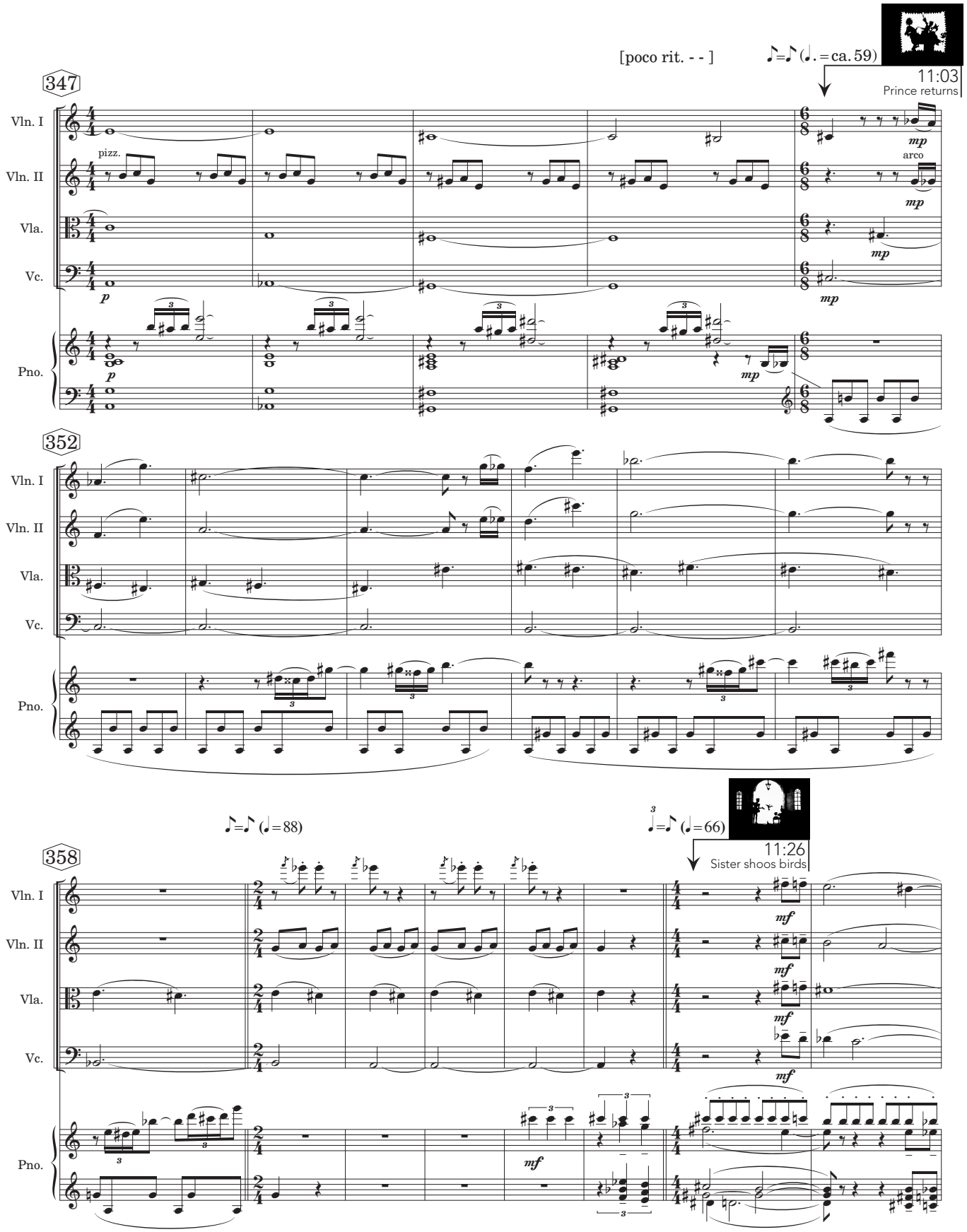
Vc.

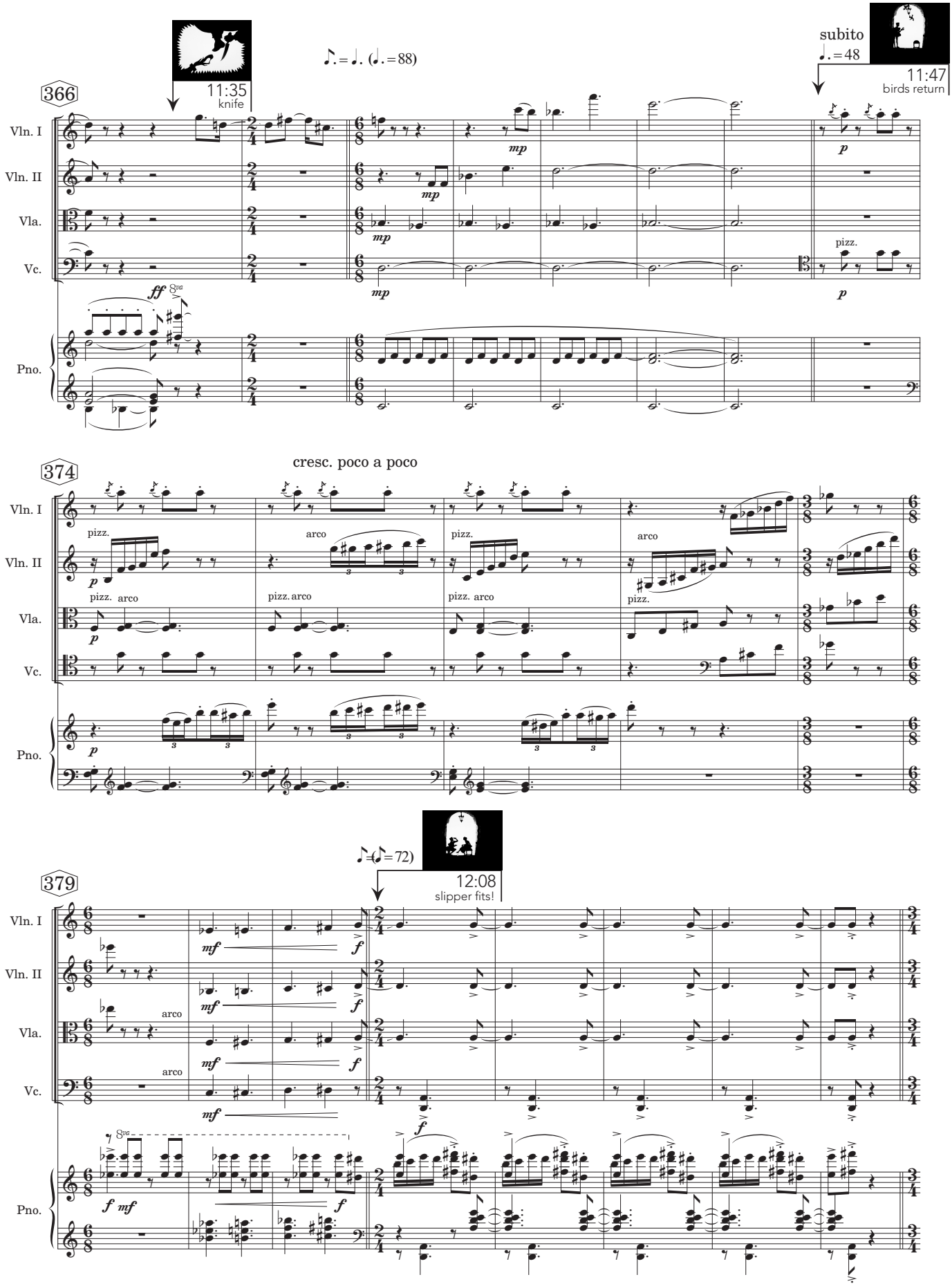
sub.f

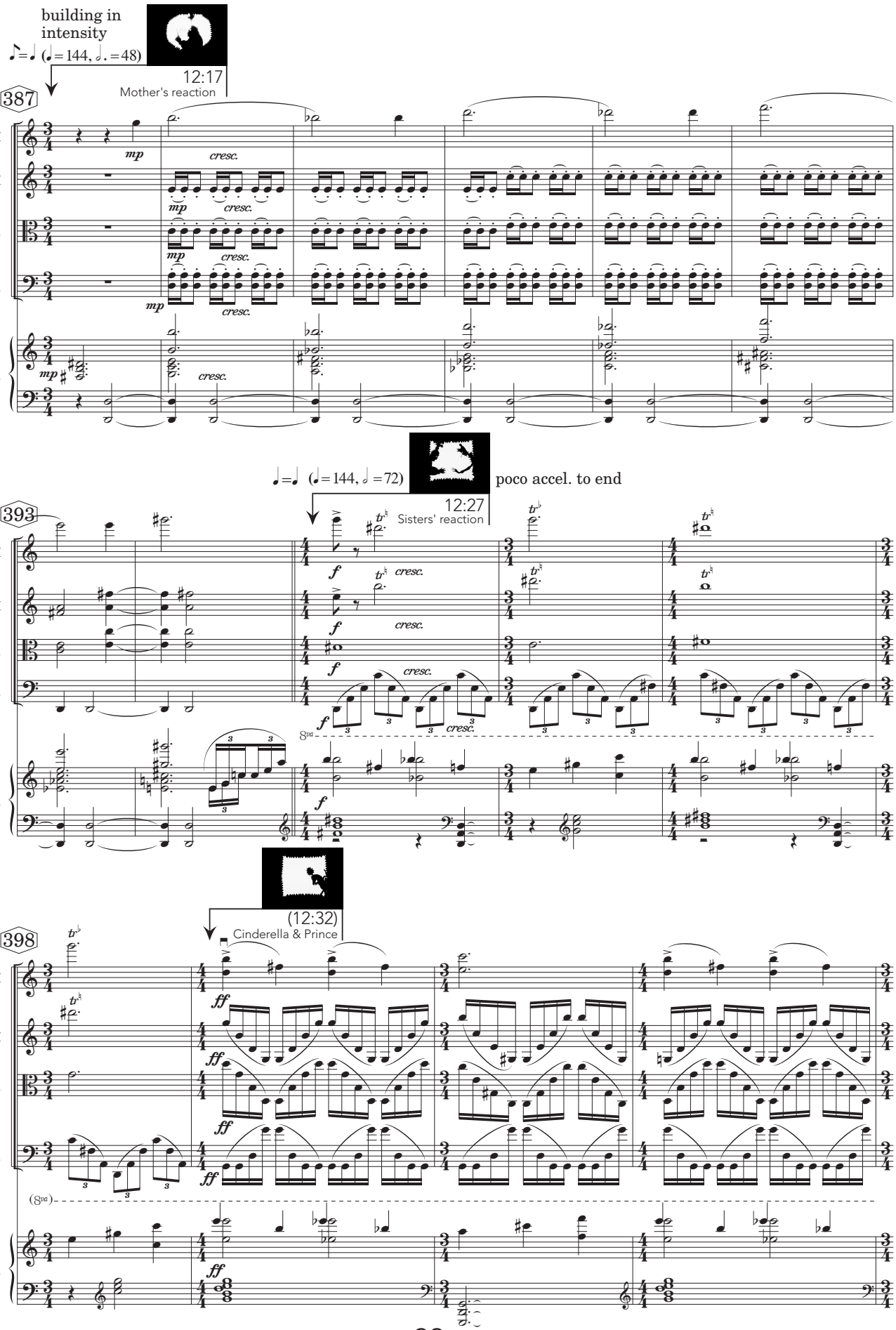
Pno.

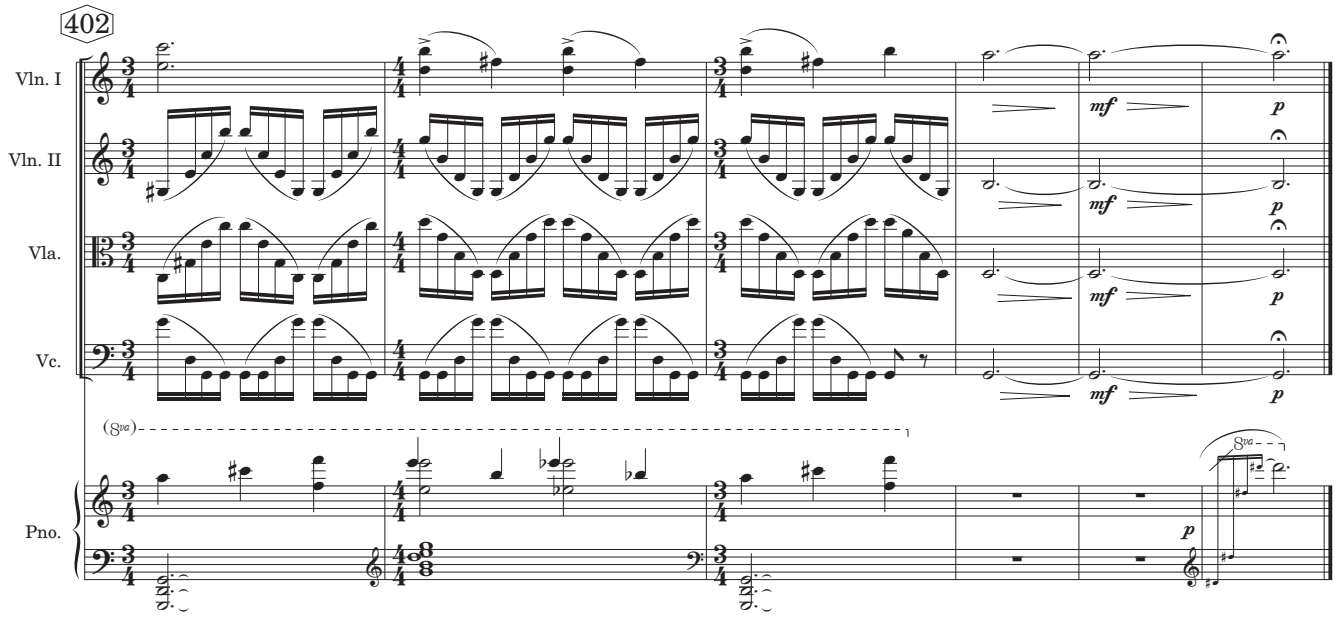
f


331
♩=♪ (♩=66)
10:29
knife
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
mf
ff
♪.=♩.(♩.=88)
10:33
Prince looks at Sister
335
8va
♩.=♩ (♩=88)
10:48
title card
342
p


[poco rit. - -]
♪=♪ (𝅗𝅥.=ca. 59)
11:03
Prince returns
347
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
pizz.
arco
p
mp
352
♪=♪ (𝅗𝅥=88)
3𝅗𝅥=♪ (𝅗𝅥=66)
11:26
Sister shoos birds
358
mf


366
11:35
knife
♪.=♩. (♩.=88)
subito
♩.=48
11:47
birds return
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
mp
p
pizz.
ff
8va
374
cresc. poco a poco
arco
pizz. arco
379
12:08
slipper fits!
♪=(♪=72)
mf
f
8va


building in intensity
♪=♩ (♩=144, 𝅗𝅥.=48)
12:17
Mother's reaction
387
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
mp
cresc.
♩=♩ (♩=144, 𝅗𝅥=72)
poco accel. to end
12:27
Sisters' reaction
393
f
(12:32)
Cinderella & Prince
398
ff


402
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pno.
mf
p
(8va)
8va