elegy for the displaced

luctus profugis

for strings and vibraphone

Karim Al-Zand

(2016)

INSTRUMENTATION:

vibraphone
strings
(minimun: 44332)

DURATION:

ca. 5 minutes

PERFORMANCE NOTE:

The vibraphone should be placed center stage, roughly between the halves of the orchestra.

Luctus Profugis *is a lament reflecting on the current European refugee crisis. The title translates roughly from the Latin as "Grief for the Displaced." The word "profugus" famously occurs in the opening lines of Virgil's "Aeneid," which describes one of the earliest refugees: Aeneas fleeing the Trojan war to the shores of Italy. In* Luctus Profugis *the percussionist is at the heart of the ensemble, and plays a simple three-note motive that repeats for the duration of the piece. Its persistence symbolizes the refugees' journey, their tenacity, courage and resilience.*

The refugee crisis began in 2015, when tens of thousands of migrants began to flee their war ravaged homes to seek asylum in the West. Displaced families, primarily from Syria and other areas of conflict, continue to endure perilous journeys to reach safe destinations in the EU. The most dangerous migration routes traverse the Eastern Mediterranean to ports in Greece and Italy. Thousands of refugees are estimated to have perished at sea. The United States, whose actions have arguably played the largest role in catalyzing the migration, has reacted to the crisis largely with political inaction and fear-mongering. Governors in 26 states (including Texas) have refused to settle Syrian asylum seekers. To date, the US has settled 0.05% of the total number of refugees. Canada and Germany have each settled over 19 times that number. It is my hope that Luctus Profugis *serves as not only an elegy, but also a call to action.*

Arma virumque cano, Troiae qui primus ab oris
Italiam, fato profugus…

I sing of arms and the man—the one who first came
from the shores of Troy to Italy, exiled by fate.

Virgil, *Aeneid*, Book I
trans. Thomas E. Jenkins

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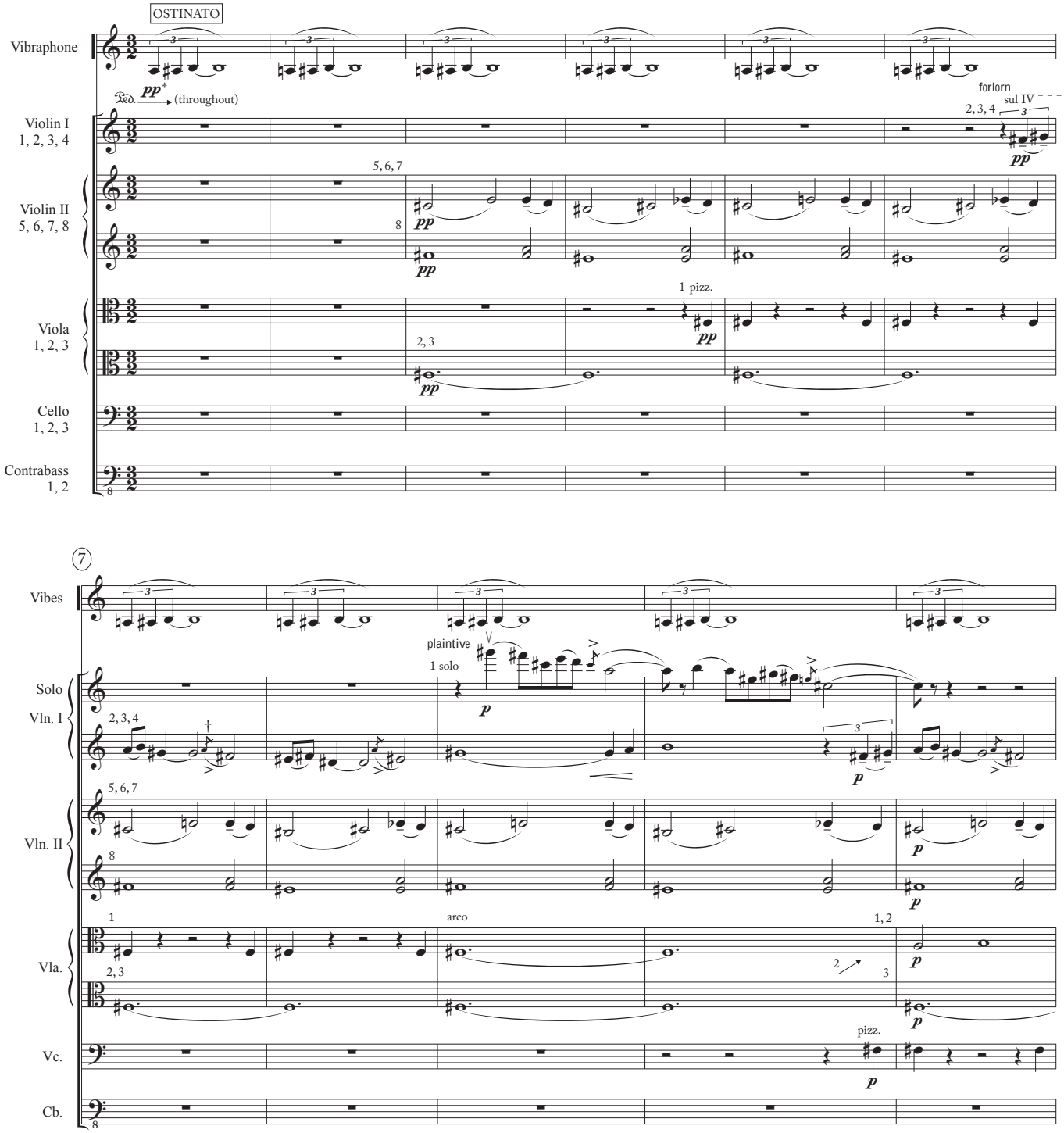
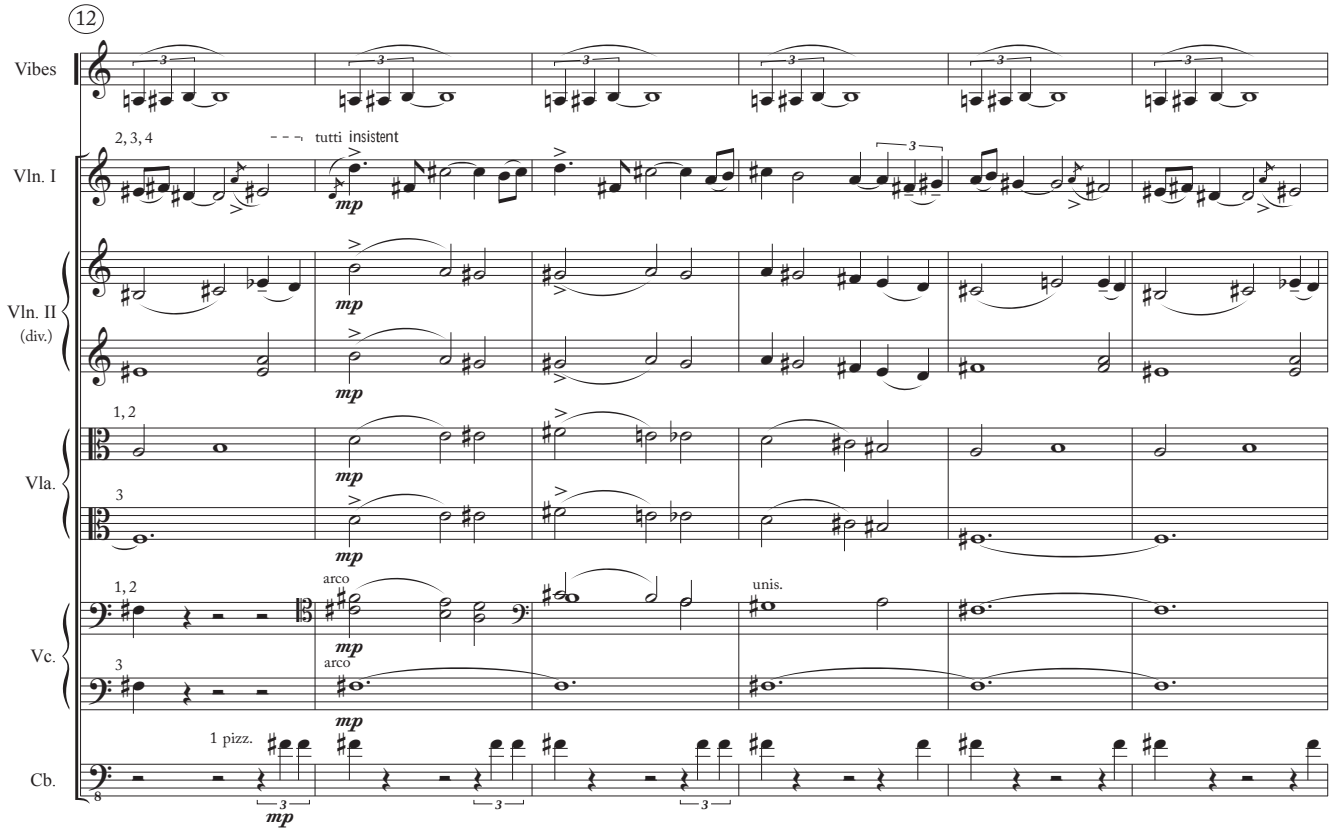
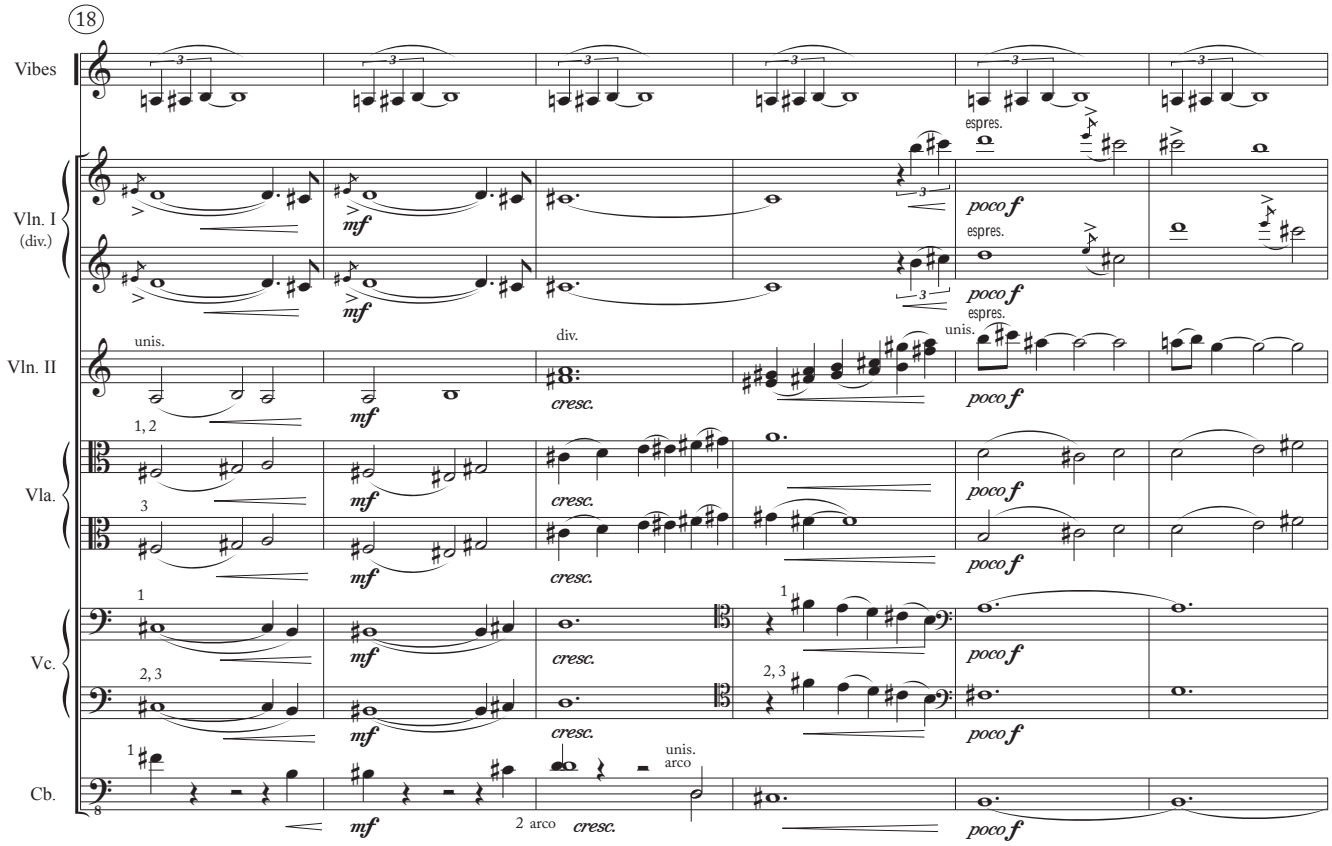
Grave; somber, mournful ♩=44

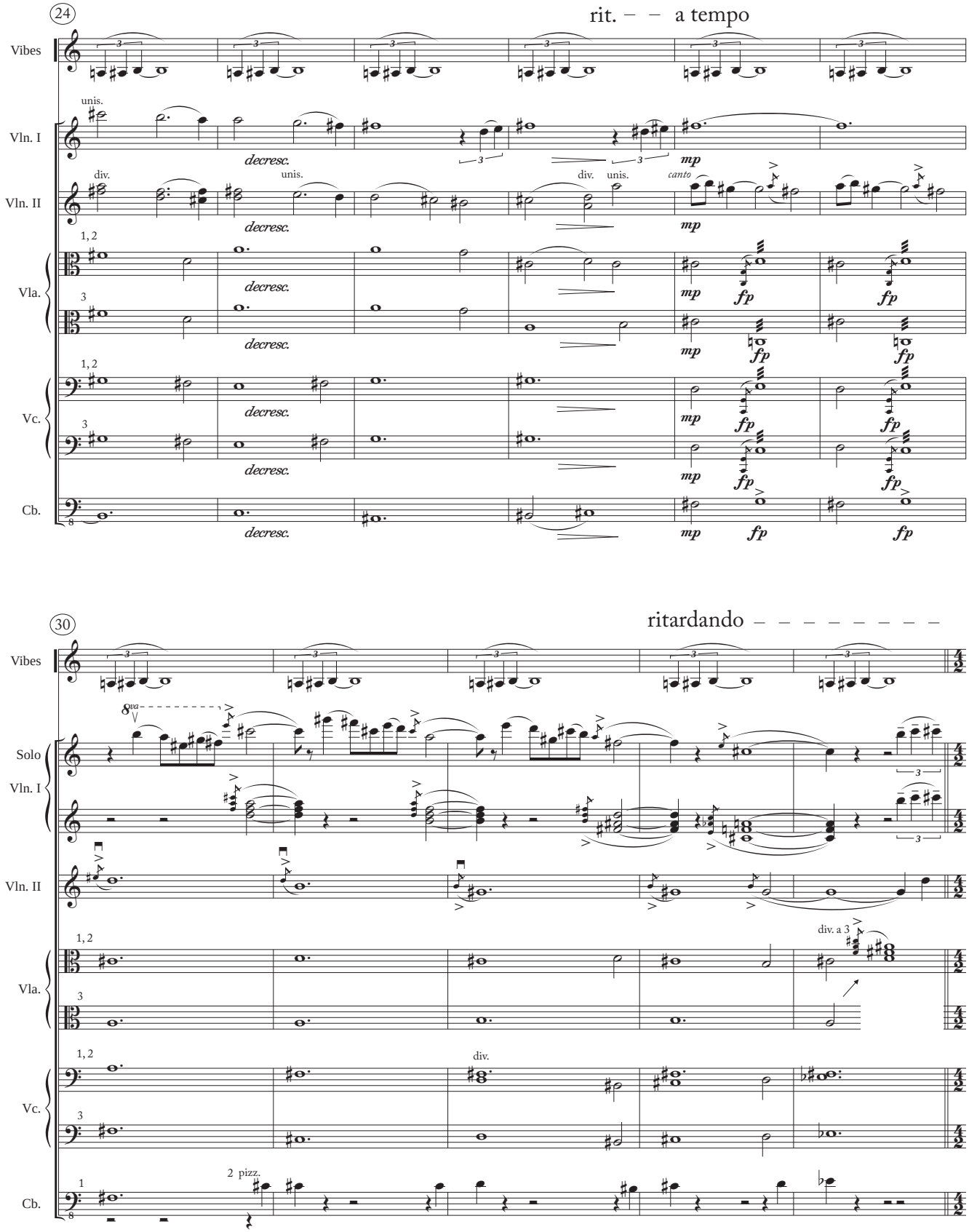


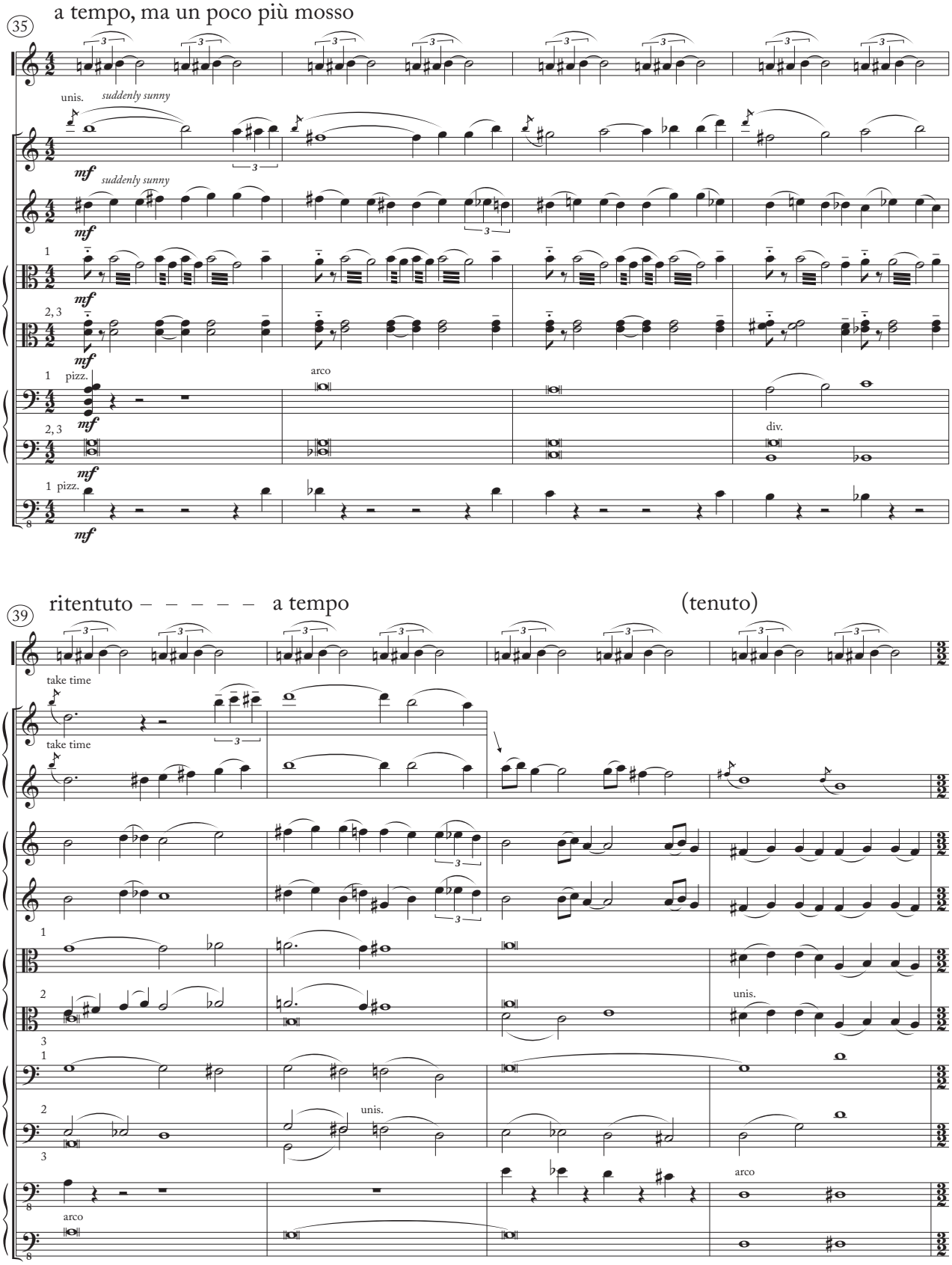
* Quiet but persistent; calibrate dynamics with the strings throughout, but always stay slightly below their volume.

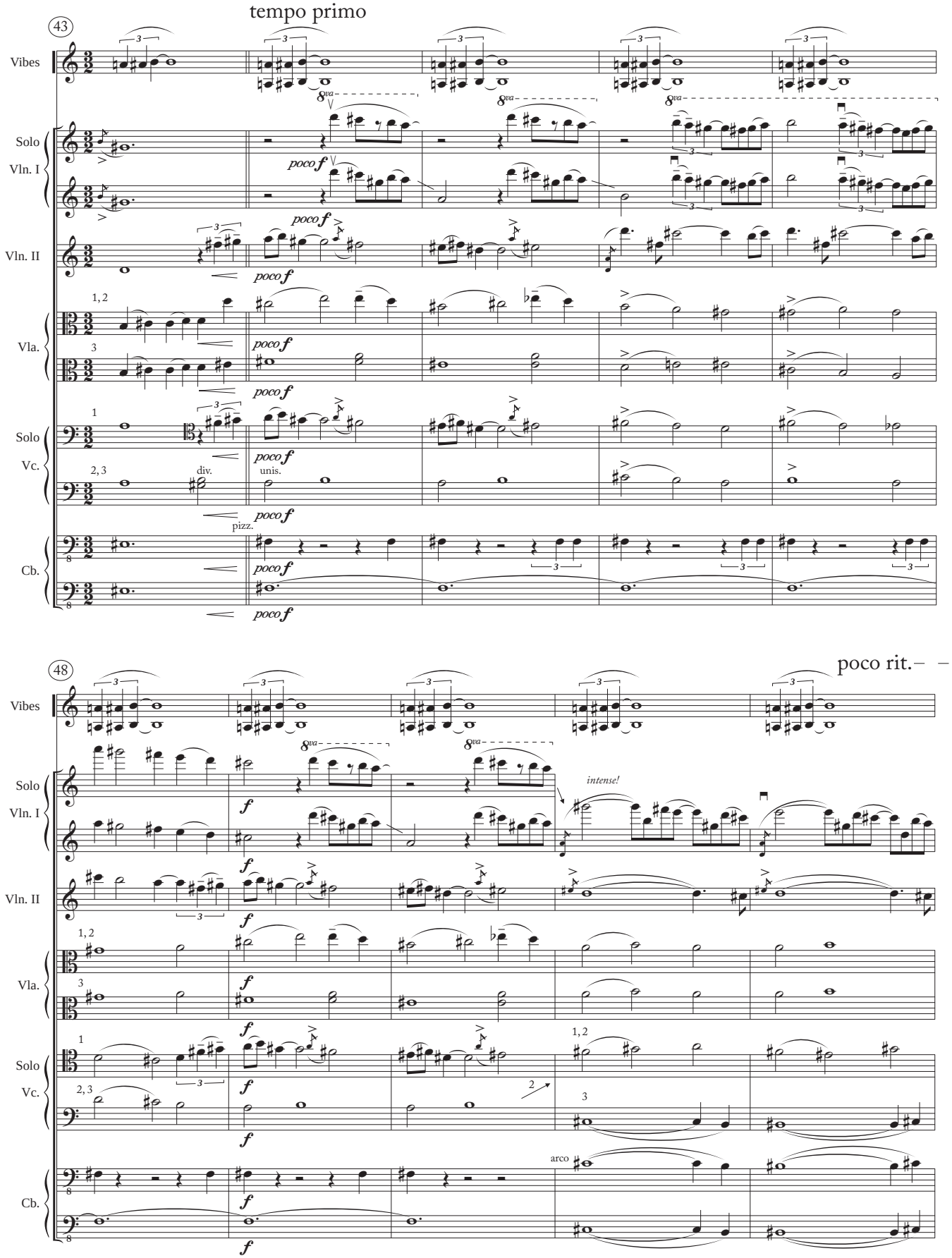
† Play all melodic and accented grace notes on the beat.


12
Vibes
Vln. I
2, 3, 4
tutti insistent
mp
Vln. II
(div.)
Vla.
1, 2
3
arco
unis.
Vc.
1 pizz.
Cb.


18
Vibes
Vln. I
(div.)
espres.
poco f
Vln. II
unis.
div.
mf
cresc.
Vla.
Vc.
1
2, 3
Cb.
2 arco
unis.
arco


24
rit. – – a tempo
Vibes
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
unis.
decresc.
div.
unis.
canto
mp
fp
30
ritardando
Solo
8va
div. a 3
2 pizz.


35
a tempo, ma un poco più mosso
Vibes
unis.
suddenly sunny
Vln. I
mf
suddenly sunny
Vln. II
mf
Vla.
mf
pizz.
arco
Vc.
mf
div.
pizz.
Cb.
mf
39
ritentuto – – – – – a tempo
(tenuto)
Vibes
take time
Solo
Vln. I
take time
Vln. II
(div.)
Vla.
unis.
Vc.
unis.
arco
Cb.
arco


tempo primo
43
Vibes
Solo
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Solo
Vc.
Cb.
poco f
1, 2
3
1
2, 3
div.
unis.
pizz.
48
poco rit.
intense!
f
arco