THE MARRIAGE OF HEAVEN AND HELL

An Oratorio

Based on Excerpts from the Illuminated Book by William Blake

Galen H. Brown

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Composed Winter and Spring of 2001 at Dartmouth College

The Text:

William Blake was born in London in November of 1757, and was of the first generation of the Romantic poets, along with Wordsworth and Coleridge. The Marriage of Heaven and Hell was completed in 1793, and was published in 25 plates. Blake himself illustrated the text with engravings. The text deals with the difference between good and evil, and Blake's understanding of the corruption of contemporary religion, sometimes in the metaphorical context of the French Revolution.

Performance Notes:

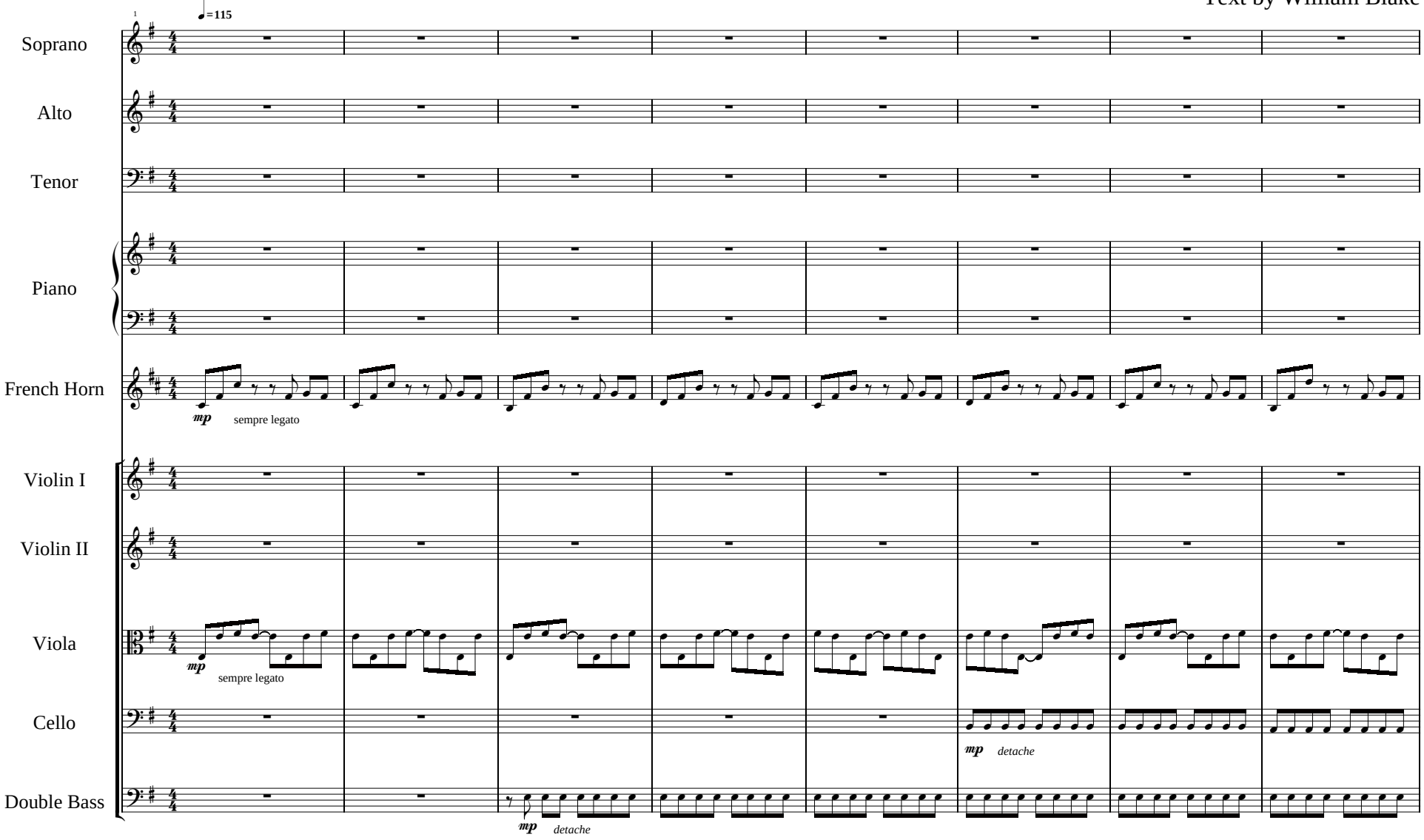
All notation in the score is standard. Accidentals last through the whole measure. No extended technique is required from any instruments. All parts in the score are soloists. Tempi are approximate, save that in movements two and four the tempo of the spoken recordings have been taken into consideration. Ideally, the tempo and rhythm of the speaking will inform the tempo of the music through the conductor's musical intuition during the performance.

The audio files of the prerecorded portion of the piece have been labeled according to location, e.g. the second file in movement three is called "m3-2." The starting point of the playback of each sound is indicated in text at the bottom of the full score. The recordings are all of speaking voices, and so need not be precisely synchronized with the music. In fact, I recommend that the orchestra ignore the recordings while performing, and that the conductor cue the start of playback only at the beginnings of movements two and four. The audio should be mixed loud enough that most of it is understandable in the audience, but soft enough that it seems part of the sonic texture, rather than separate from it.

THE MARRIAGE OF HEAVEN AND HELL

Part I: The Argument

Galen H. Brown
Text by William Blake



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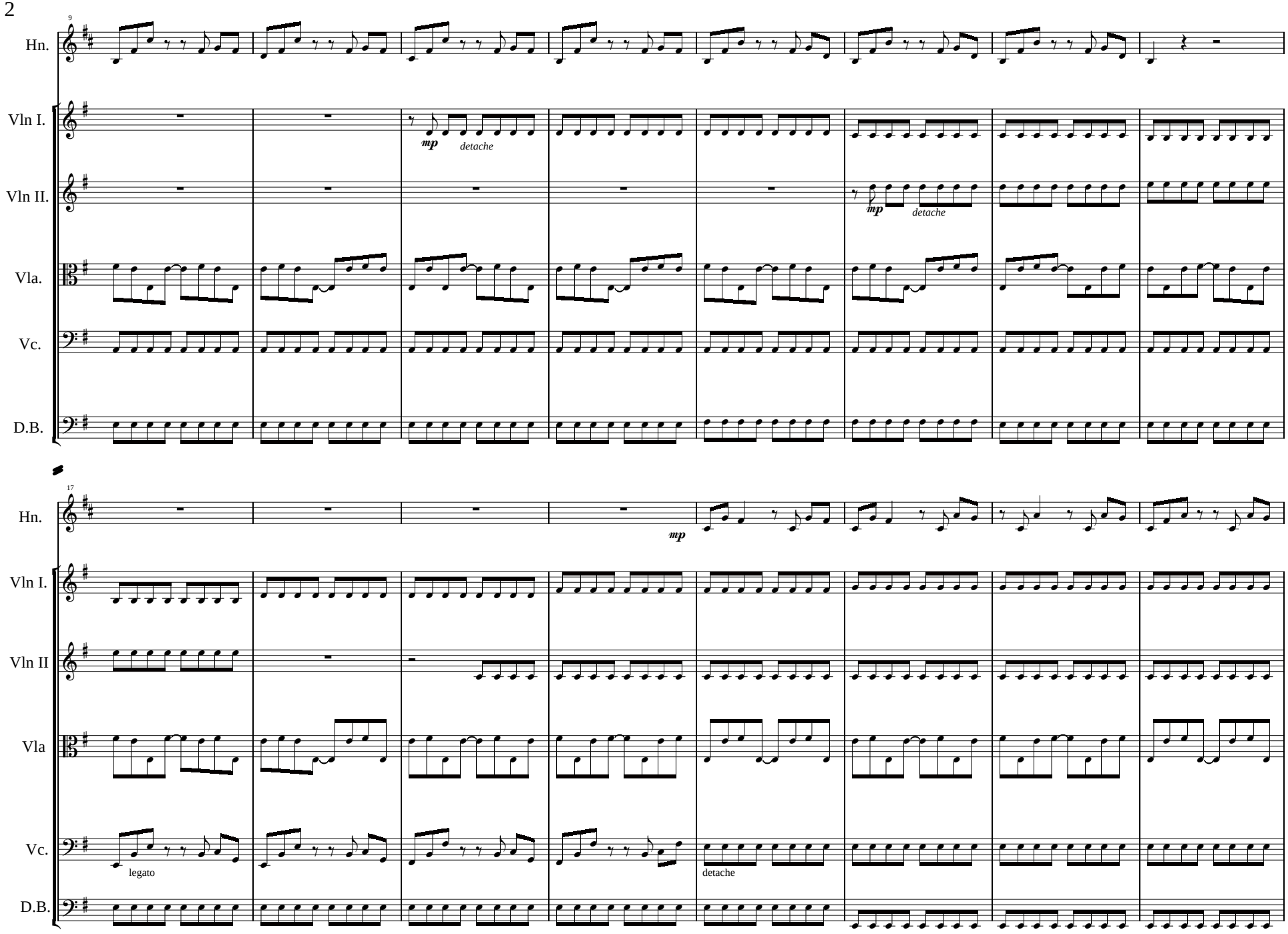
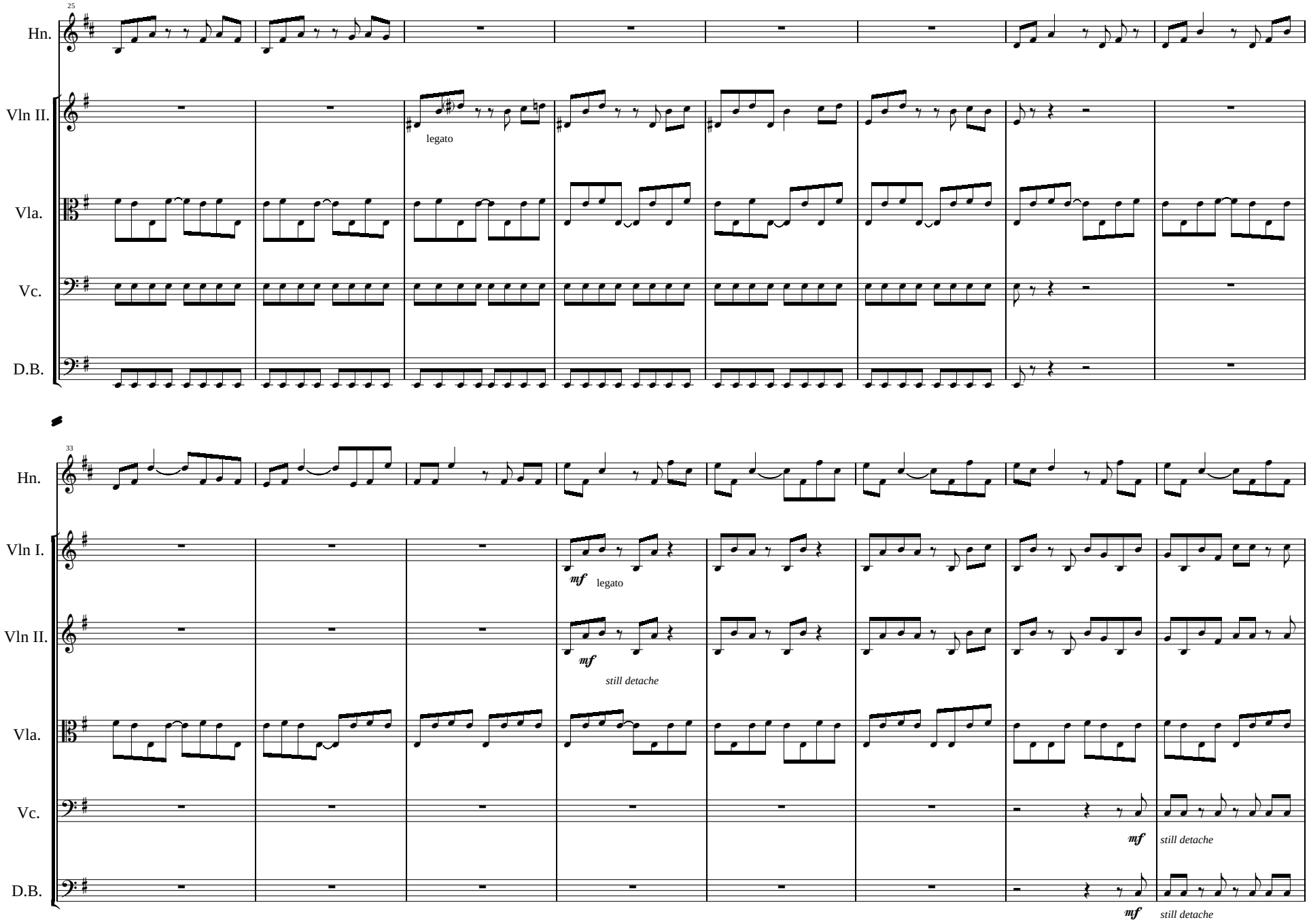
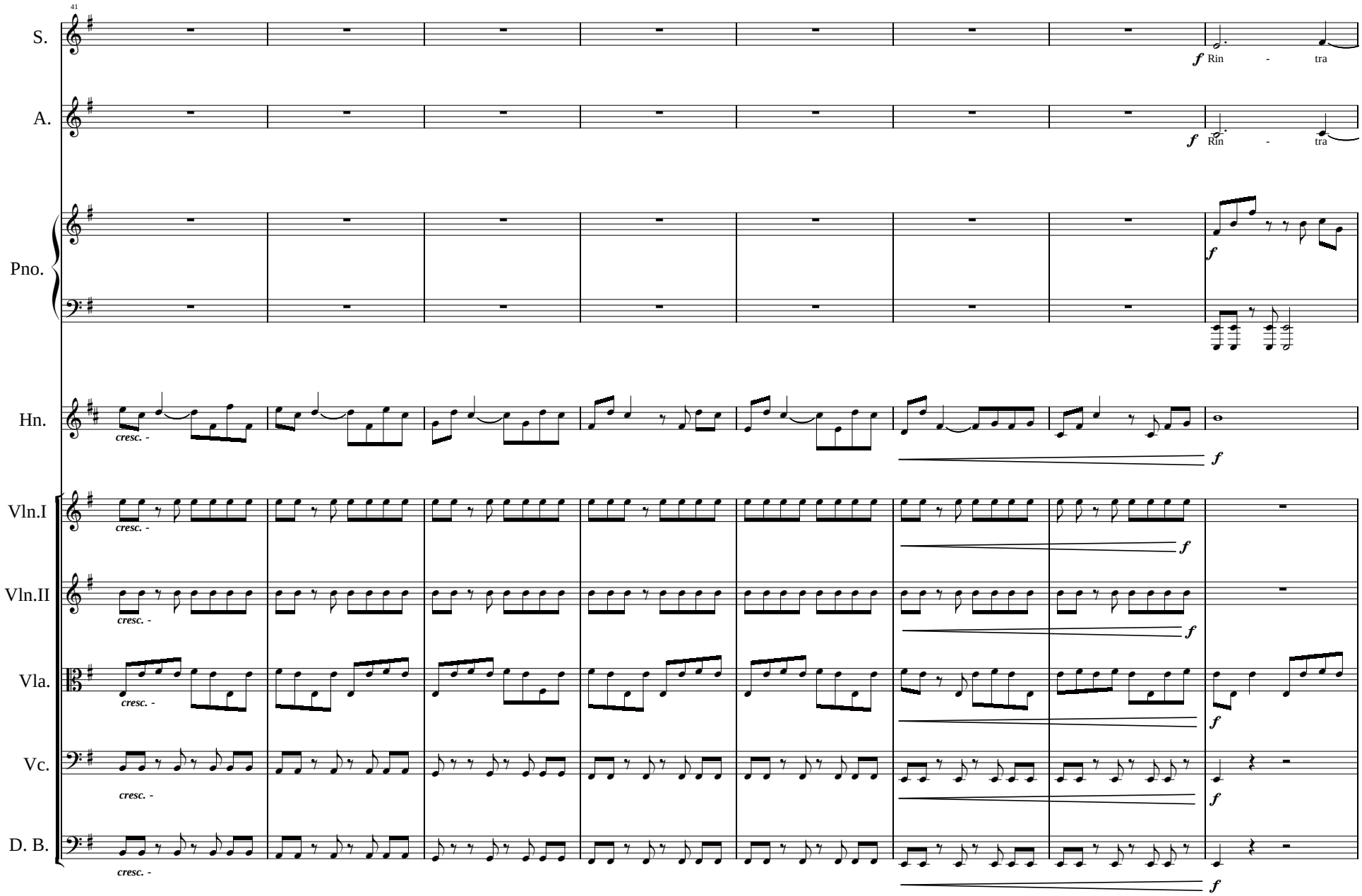
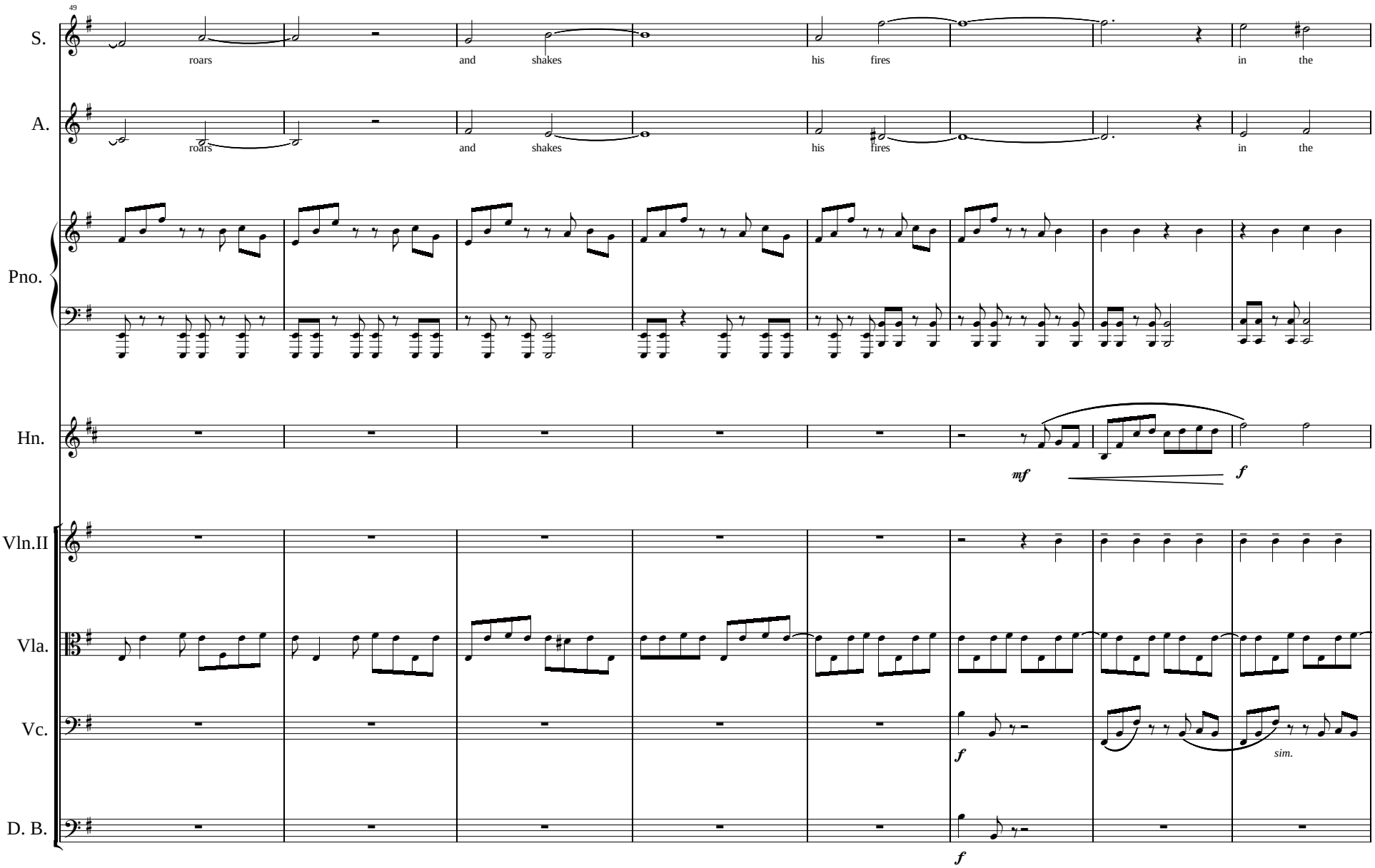
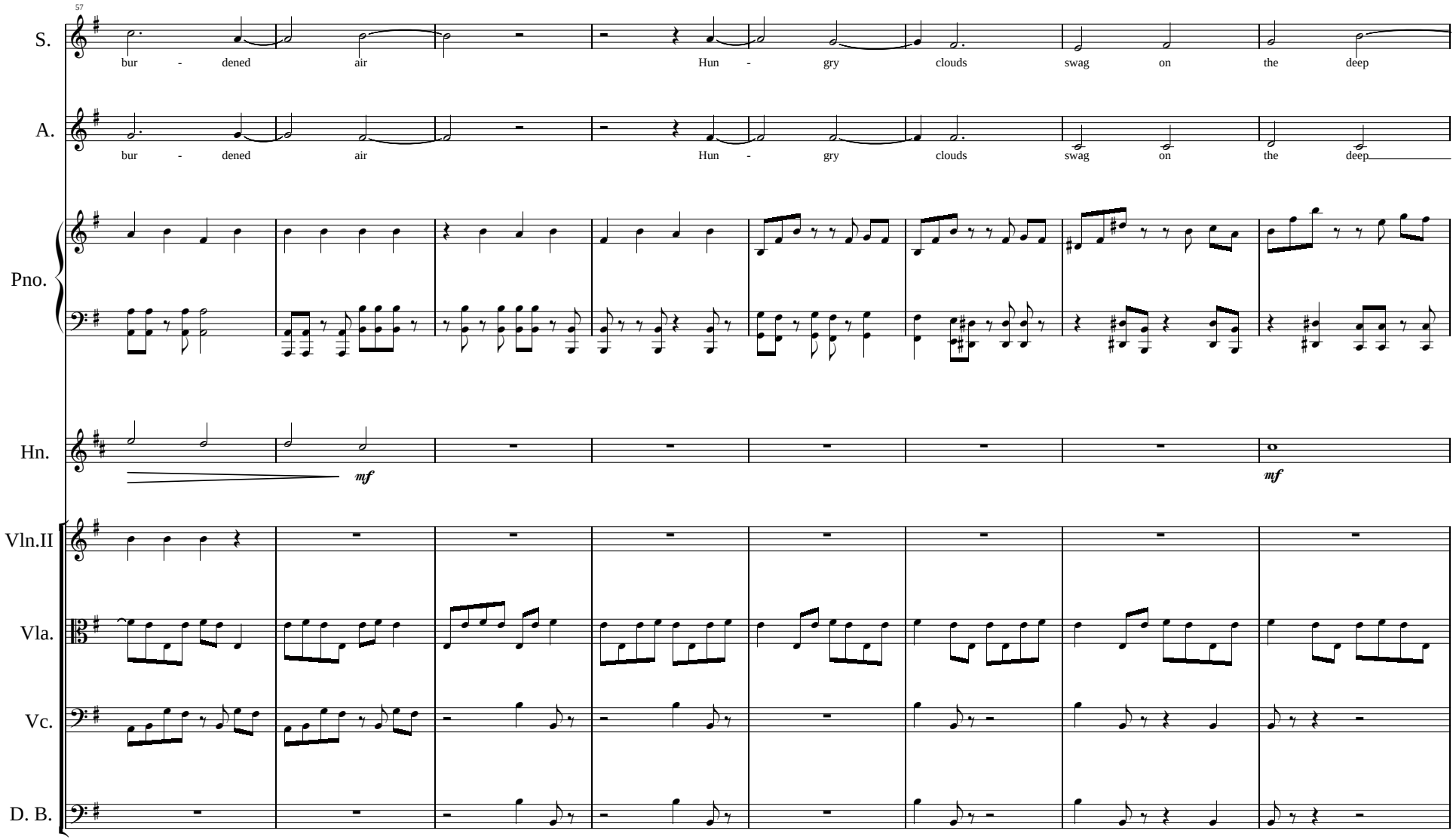
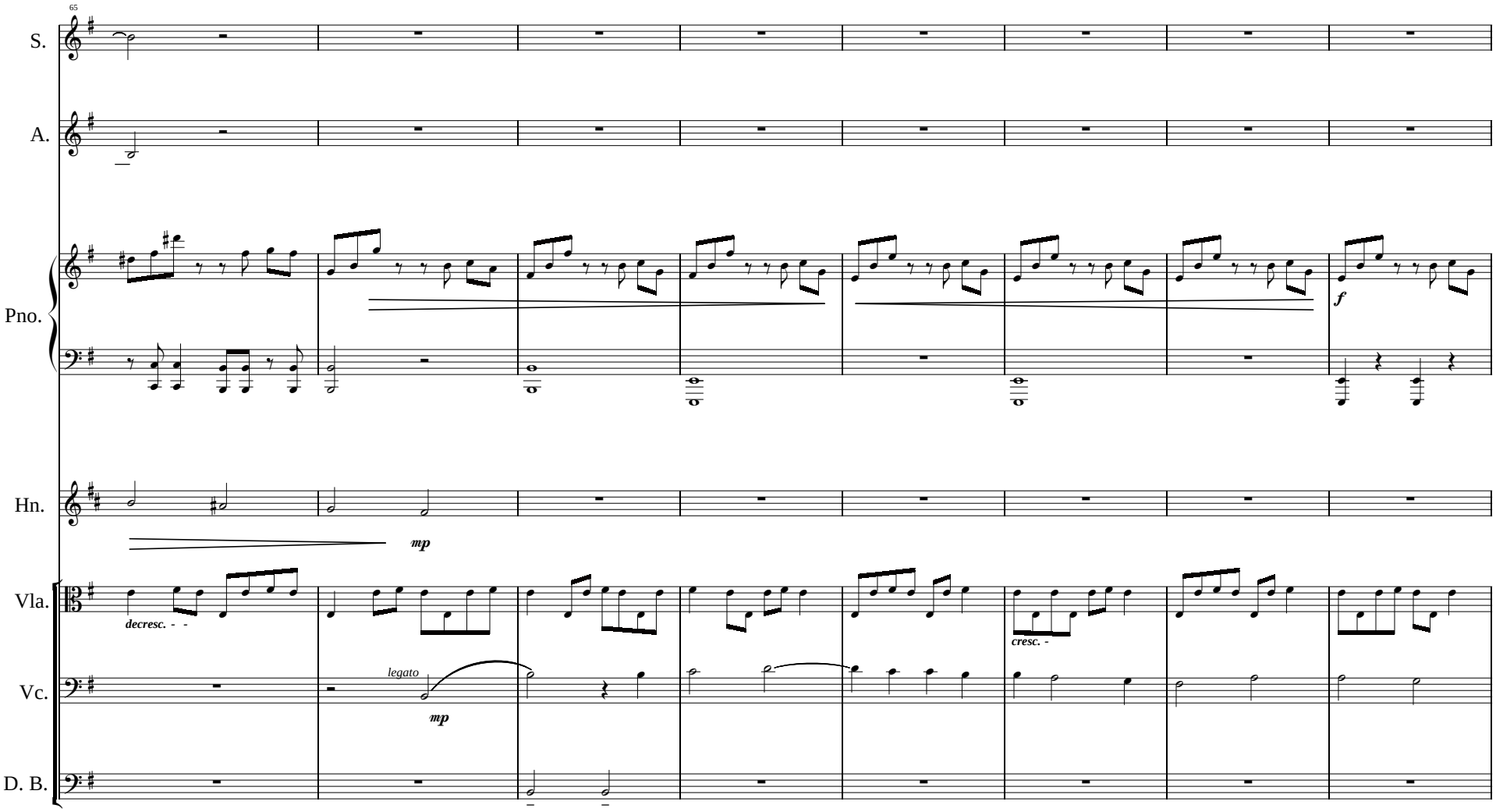

9
Hn.
Vln I.
Vln II.
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
mp
detache
mp
detache
17
Hn.
mp
Vln I.
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
legato
detache
D.B.

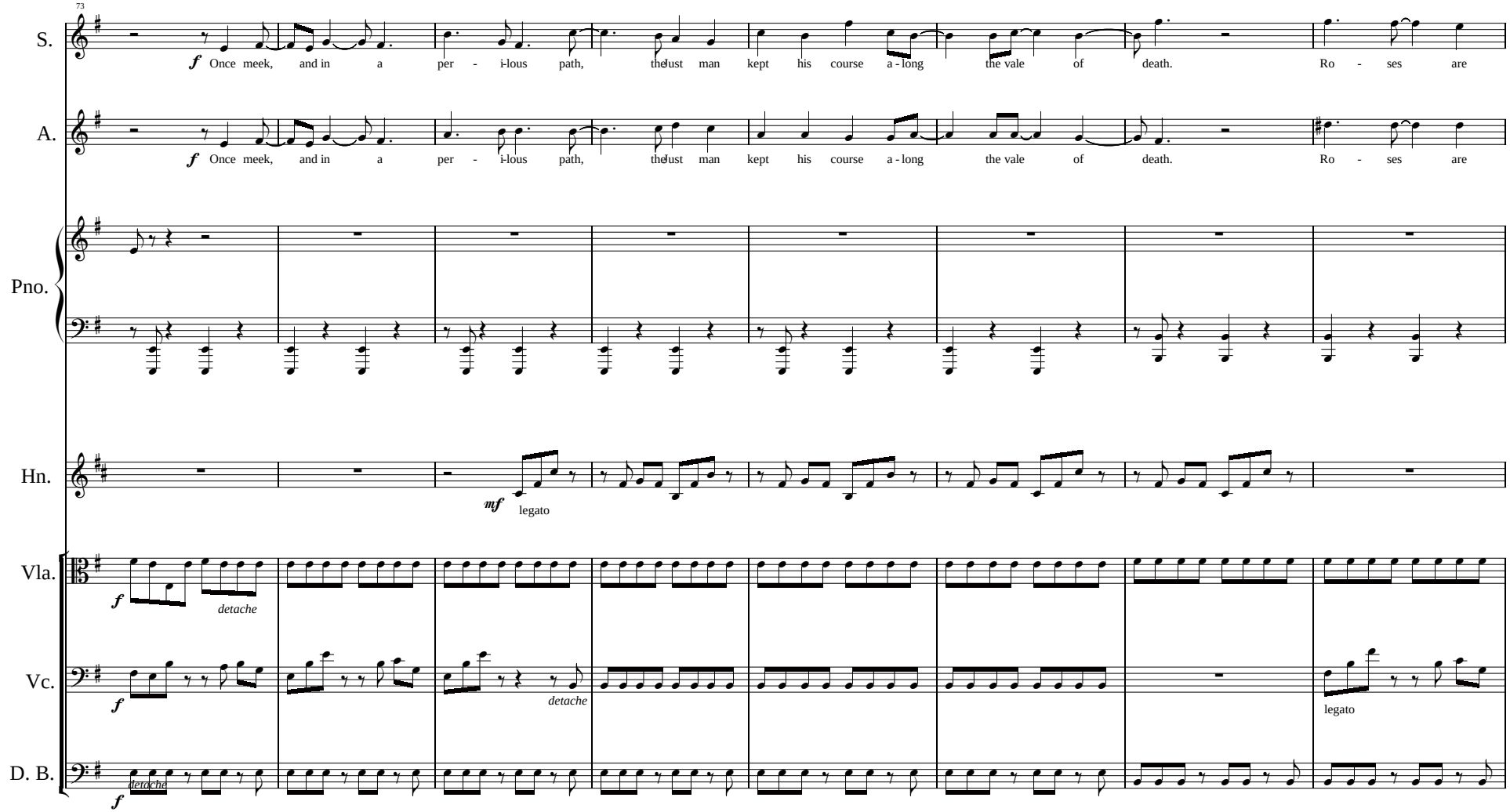

25
Hn.
Vln II.
legato
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
33
Hn.
Vln I.
mf
legato
Vln II.
mf
still detache
Vla.
Vc.
mf
still detache
D.B.
mf
still detache

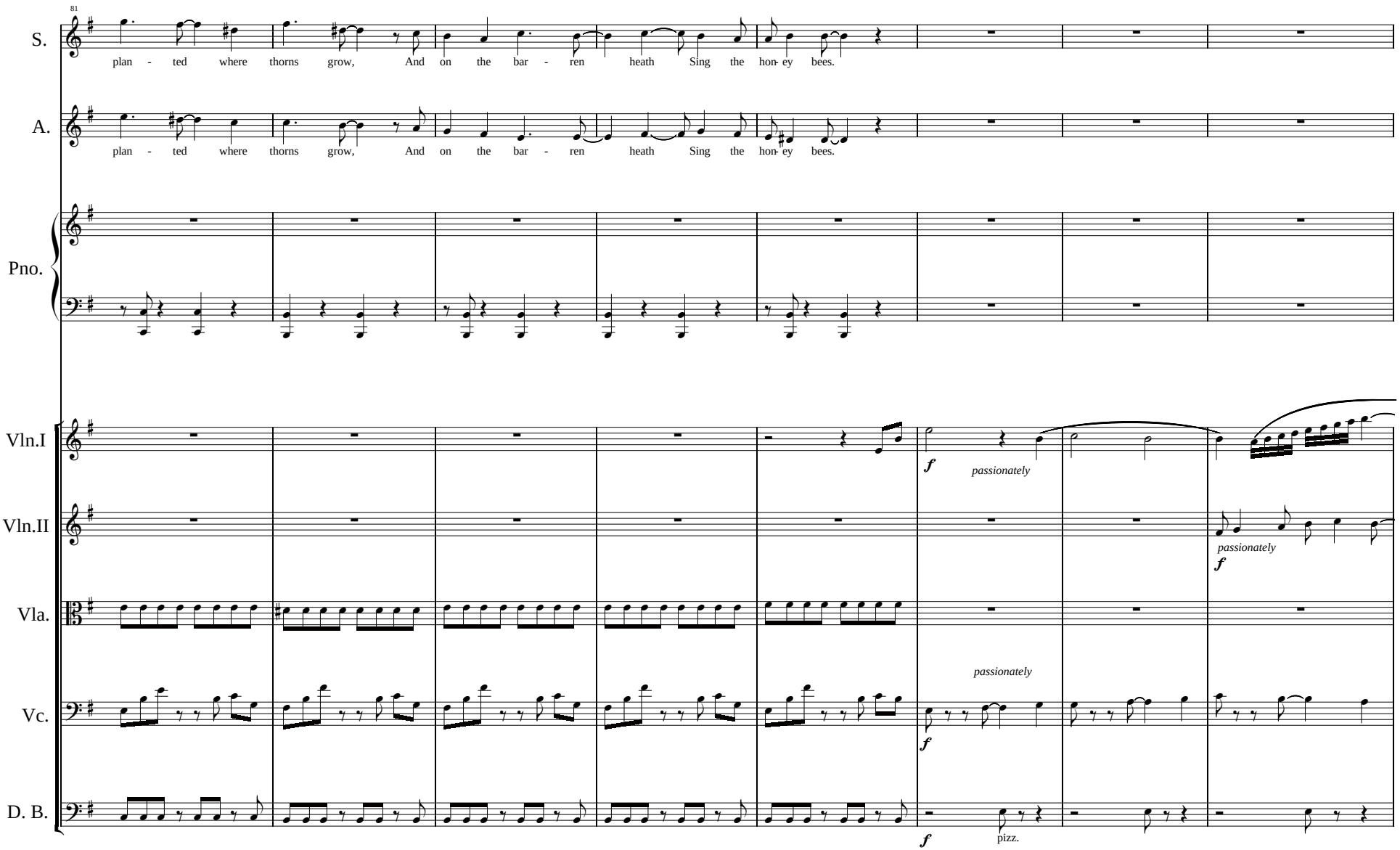

41
S.
A.
Pno.
Hn.
Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.
f Rin - tra
cresc. -
f

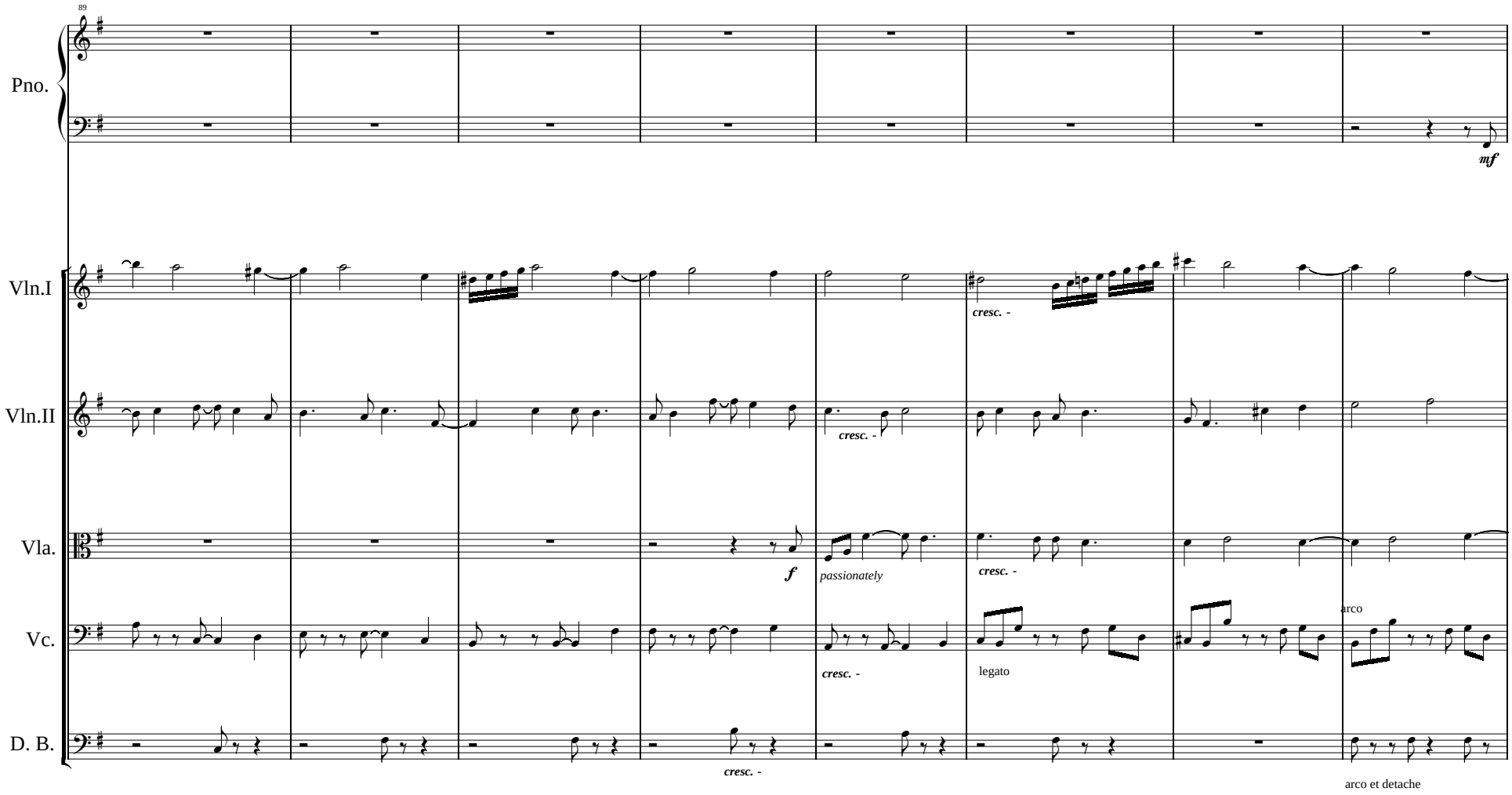

49
S.
roars
and
shakes
his
fires
in
the
A.
roars
and
shakes
his
fires
in
the
Pno.
Hn.
mf
f
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
f
sim.
D. B.
f

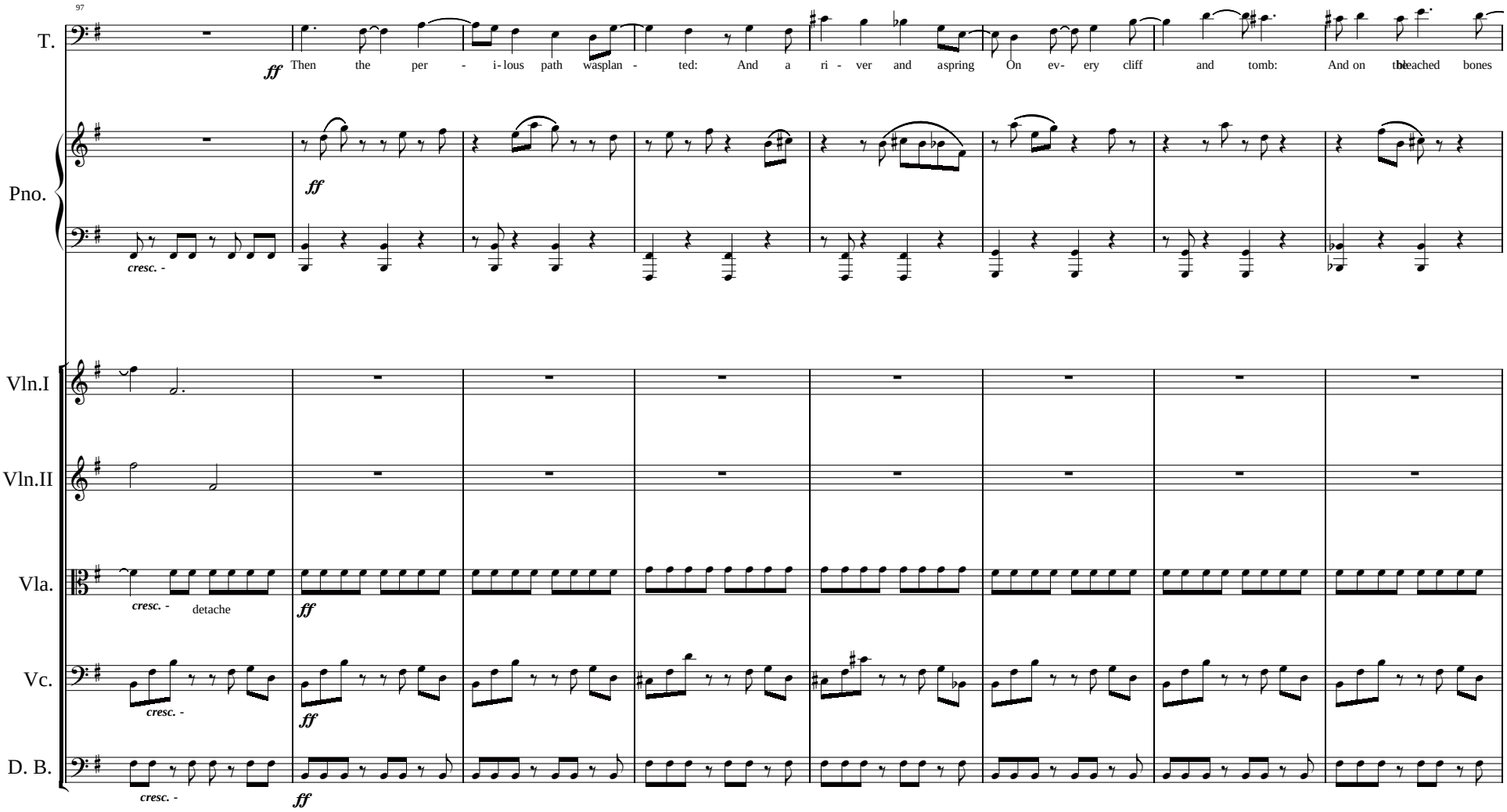

57
S.
bur - dened air Hun - gry clouds swag on the deep
A.
bur - dened air Hun - gry clouds swag on the deep
Pno.
Hn.
mf
mf
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.

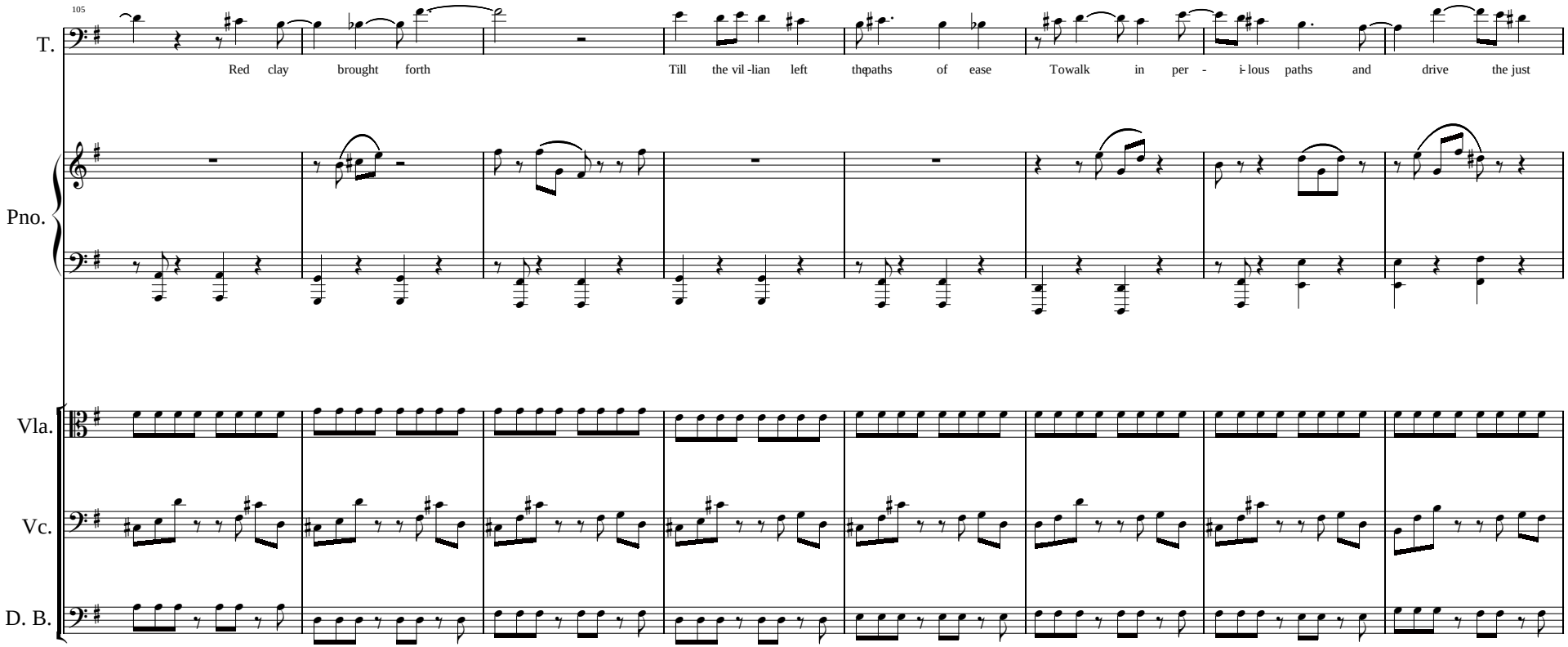

65
S.
A.
Pno.
f
Hn.
mp
Vla.
decresc.
cresc.
Vc.
legato
mp
D. B.

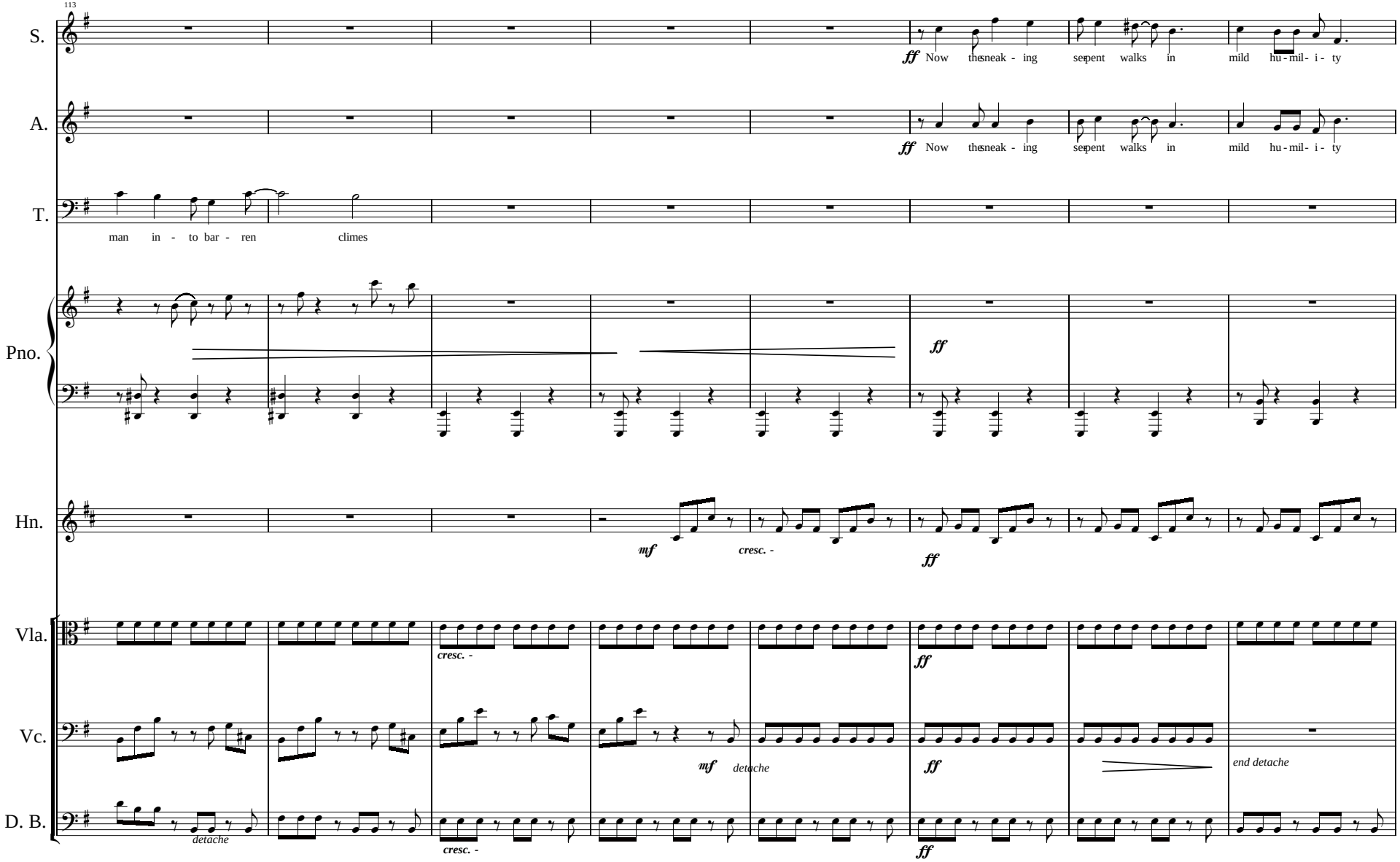

73
S.
f Once meek, and in a per - i-lous path, the just man kept his course a - long the vale of death. Ro - ses are
A.
f Once meek, and in a per - i-lous path, the just man kept his course a - long the vale of death. Ro - ses are
Pno.
Hn.
mf legato
Vla.
f detache
Vc.
f detache
legato
D. B.
f detache

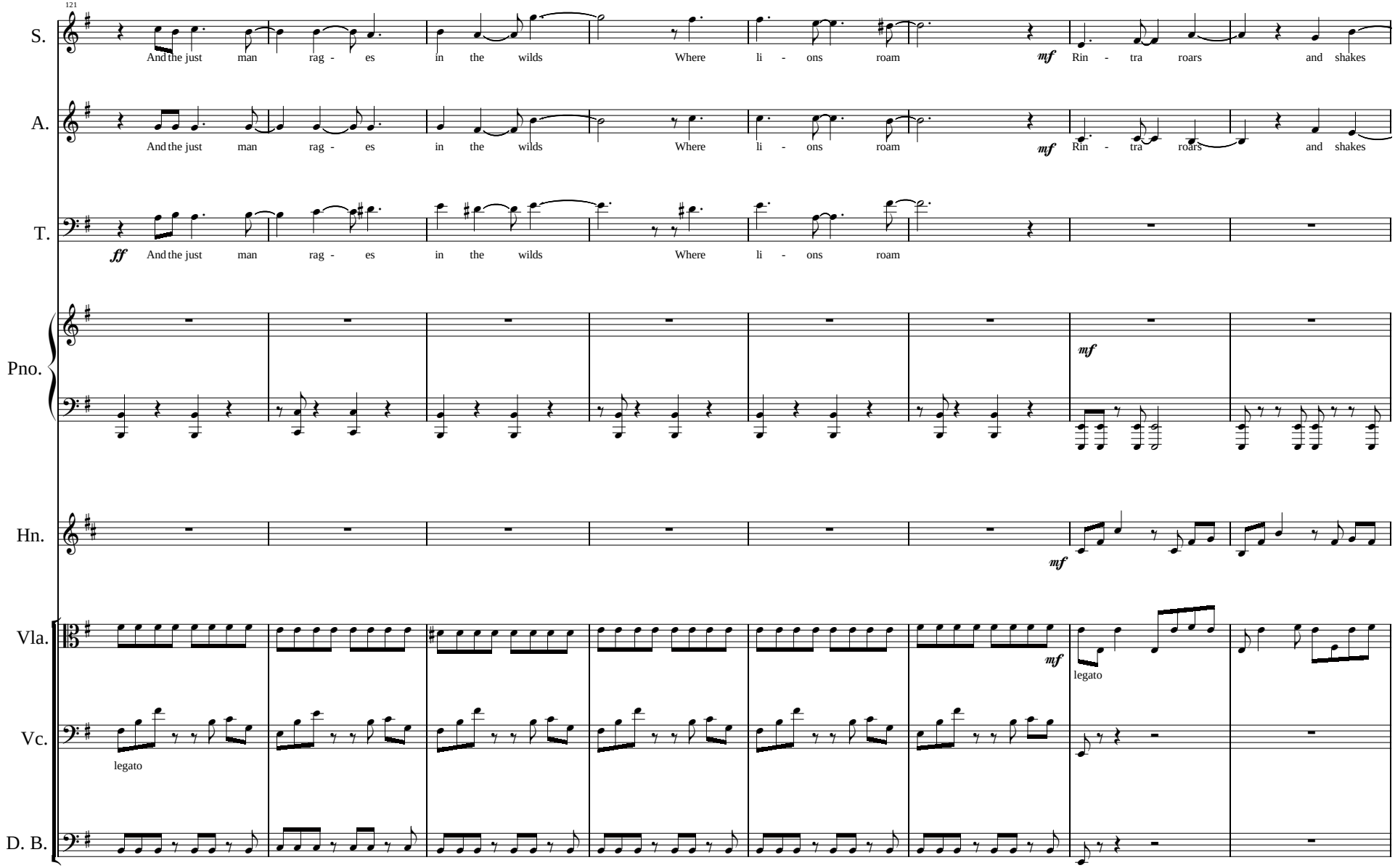

81
S.
plan - ted where thorns grow, And on the bar - ren heath Sing the hon- ey bees.
A.
plan - ted where thorns grow, And on the bar - ren heath Sing the hon- ey bees.
Pno.
Vln.I
f
passionately
Vln.II
passionately
f
Vla.
passionately
Vc.
f
D. B.
f
pizz.

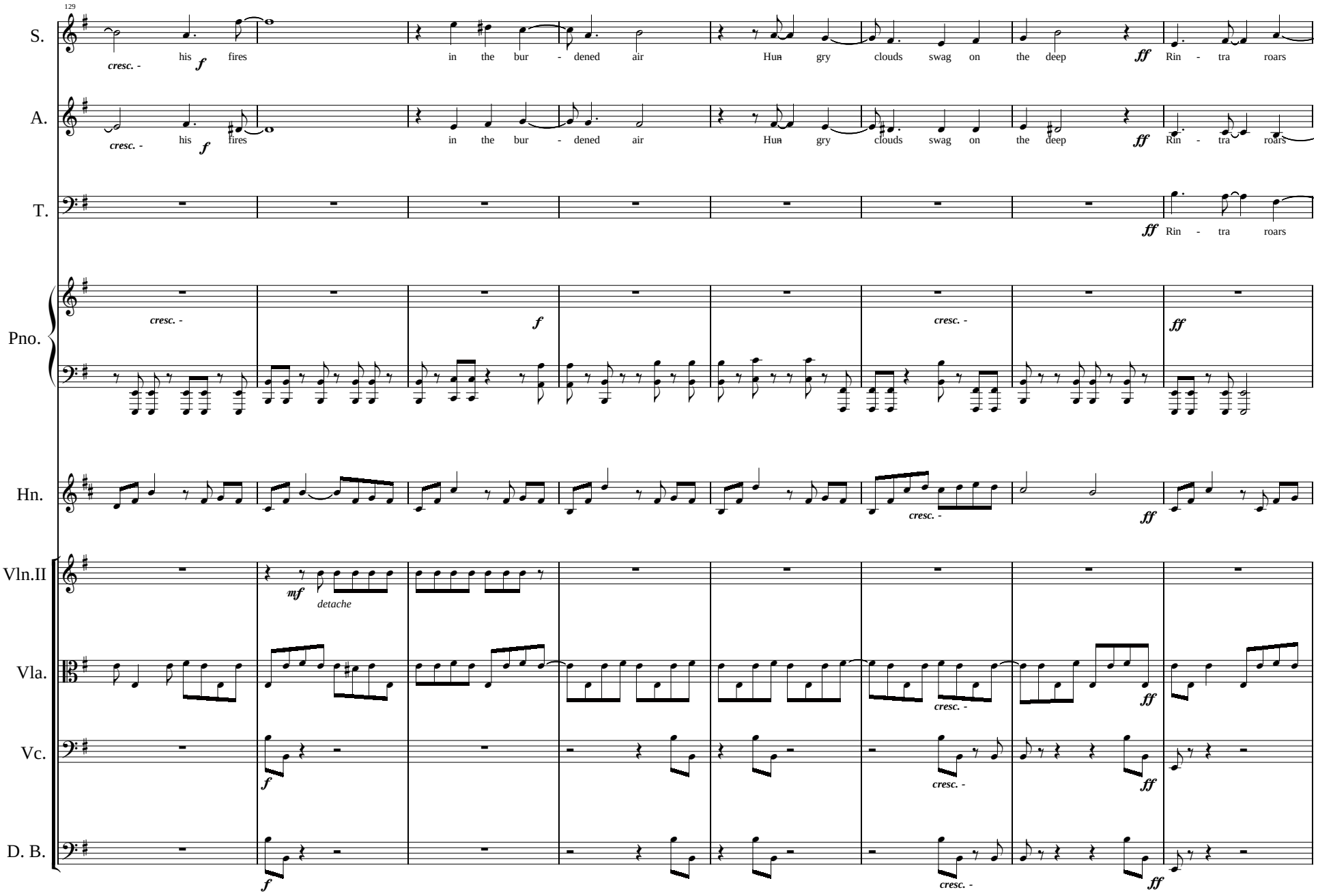

89
Pno.
mf
Vln.I
cresc. -
Vln.II
cresc. -
Vla.
f
passionately
cresc. -
Vc.
cresc. -
legato
arco
D. B.
cresc. -
arco et detache

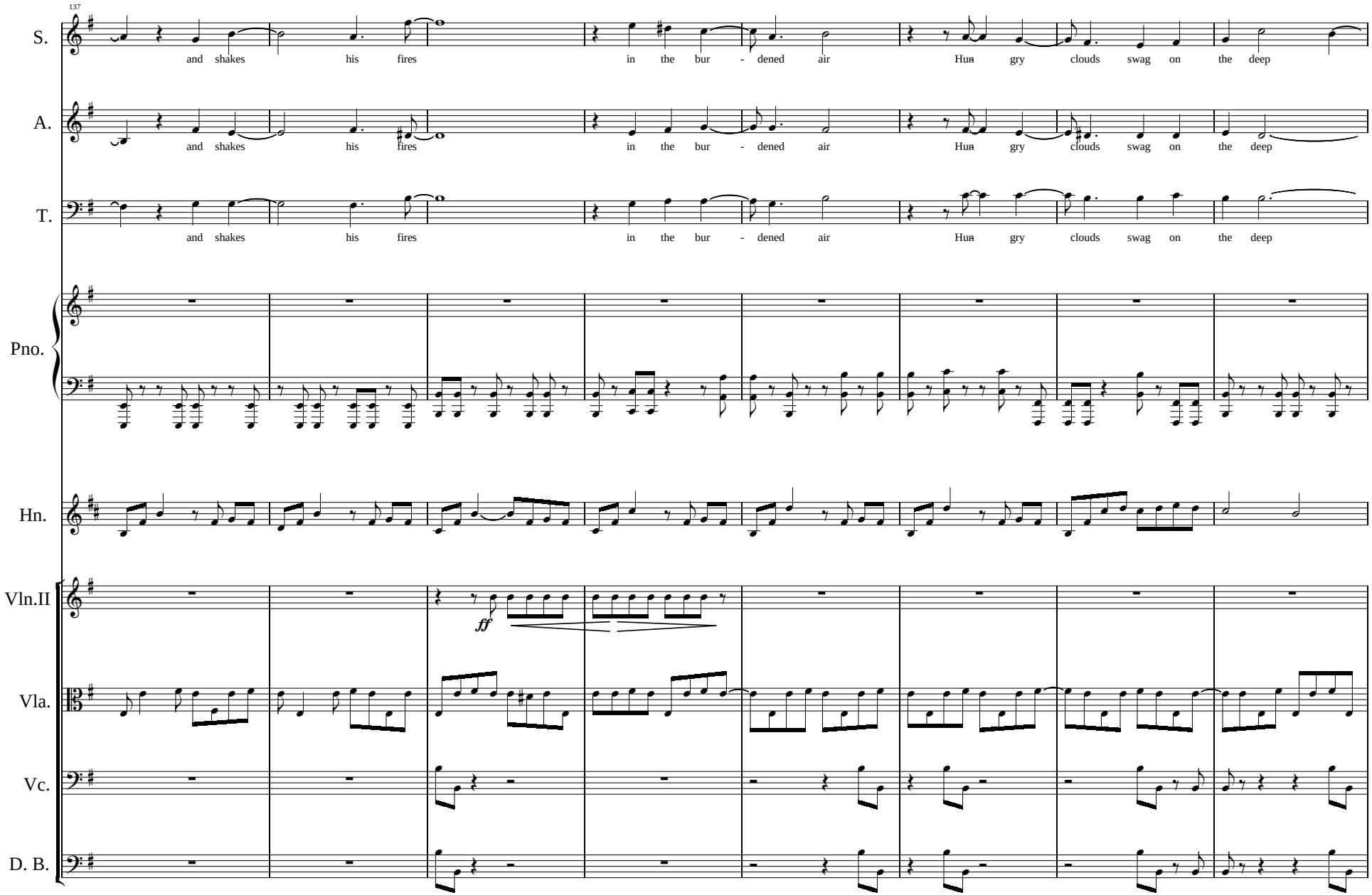

97
T.
ff
Then the per - i-lous path wasplan - ted: And a ri - ver and aspring On ev- ery cliff and tomb: And on the bleached bones
Pno.
ff
cresc. -
Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
cresc. -
detache
ff
Vc.
cresc. -
ff
D. B.
cresc. -
ff

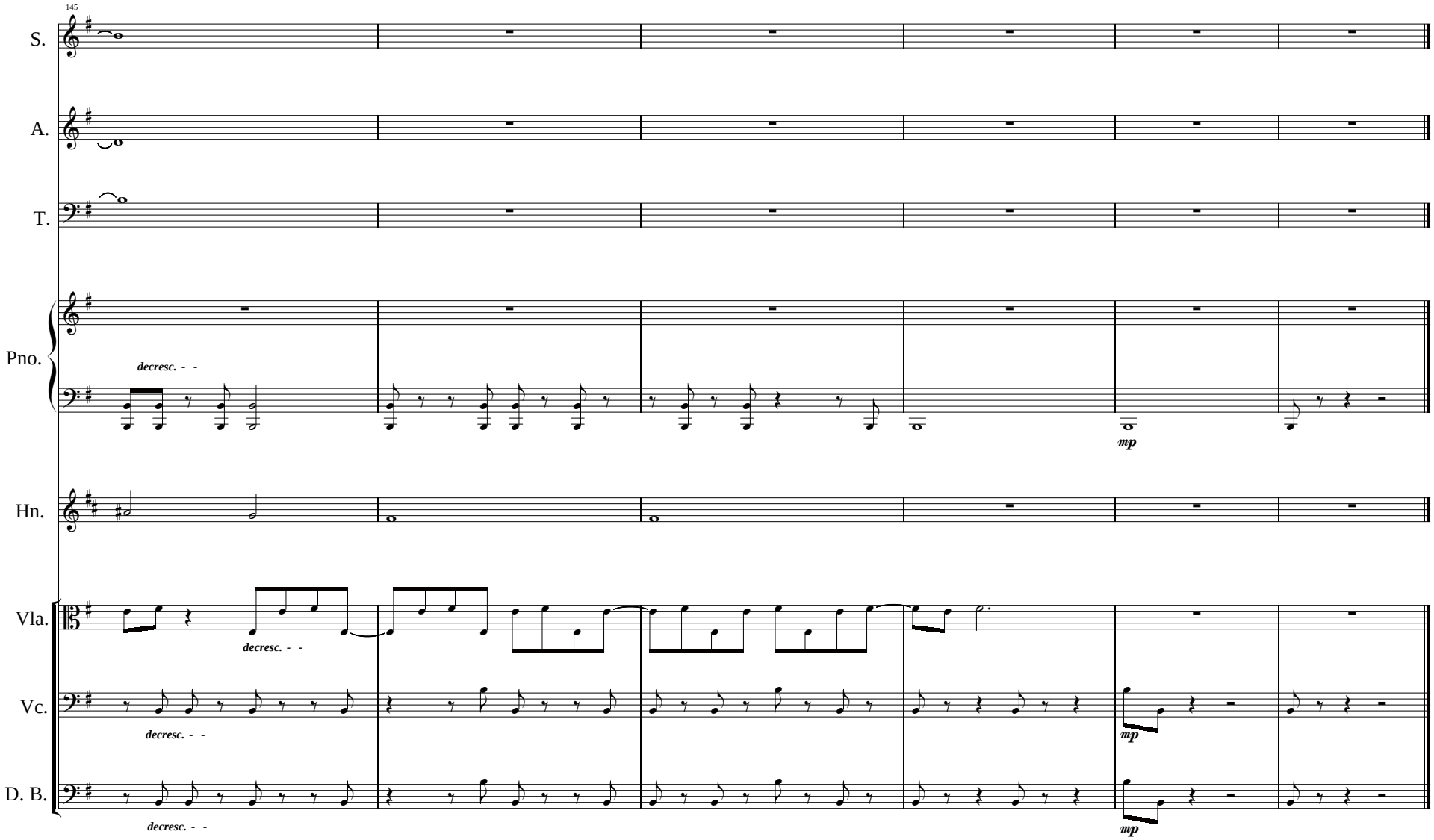

105
T.
Red clay brought forth
Till the vil -lian left thepaths of ease
Towalk in per - i- lous paths and drive the just
Pno.
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.


113
S.
ff Now the sneak - ing ser - pent walks in mild hu - mil - i - ty
A.
ff Now the sneak - ing ser - pent walks in mild hu - mil - i - ty
T.
man in - to bar - ren climes
Pno.
ff
Hn.
mf
cresc. -
ff
Vla.
cresc. -
ff
Vc.
mf
detache
ff
end detache
D. B.
detache
cresc. -
ff

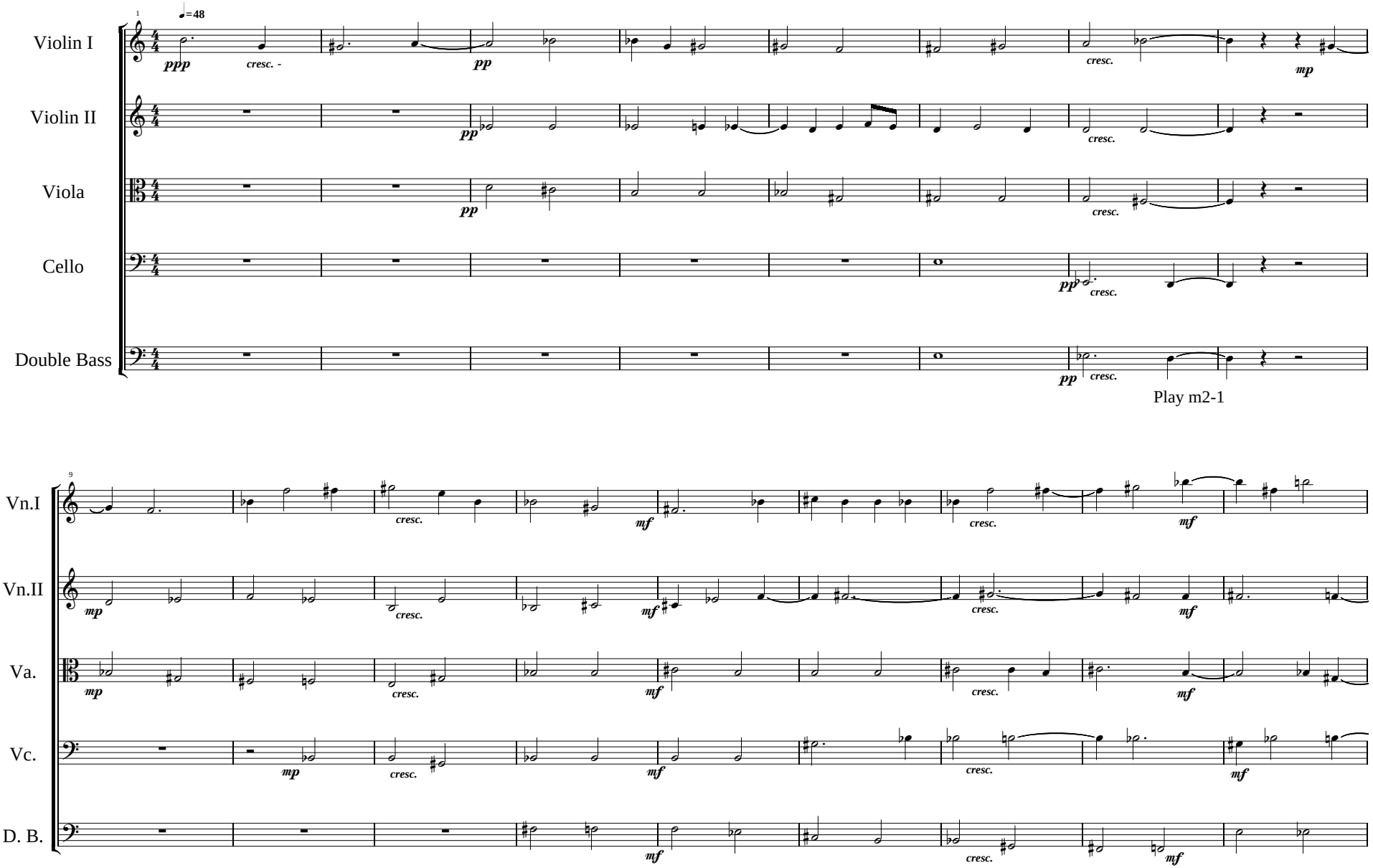

121
S.
And the just man rag - es in the wilds Where li - ons roam
mf
Rin - tra roars and shakes
A.
And the just man rag - es in the wilds Where li - ons roam
mf
Rin - tra roars and shakes
T.
ff
And the just man rag - es in the wilds Where li - ons roam
Pno.
mf
Hn.
mf
Vla.
mf
legato
Vc.
legato
D. B.

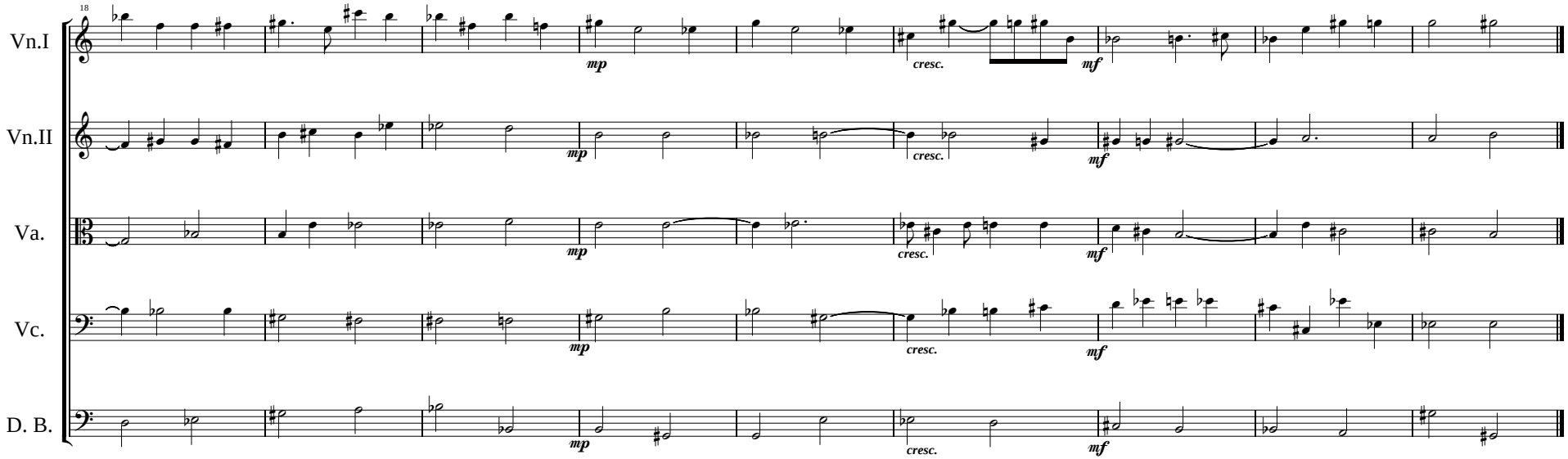

129
S.
A.
T.
Pno.
Hn.
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.
cresc. -
his
f
fires
in the bur - dened air
Hun gry clouds swag on the deep
ff
Rin - tra roars
mf
detache

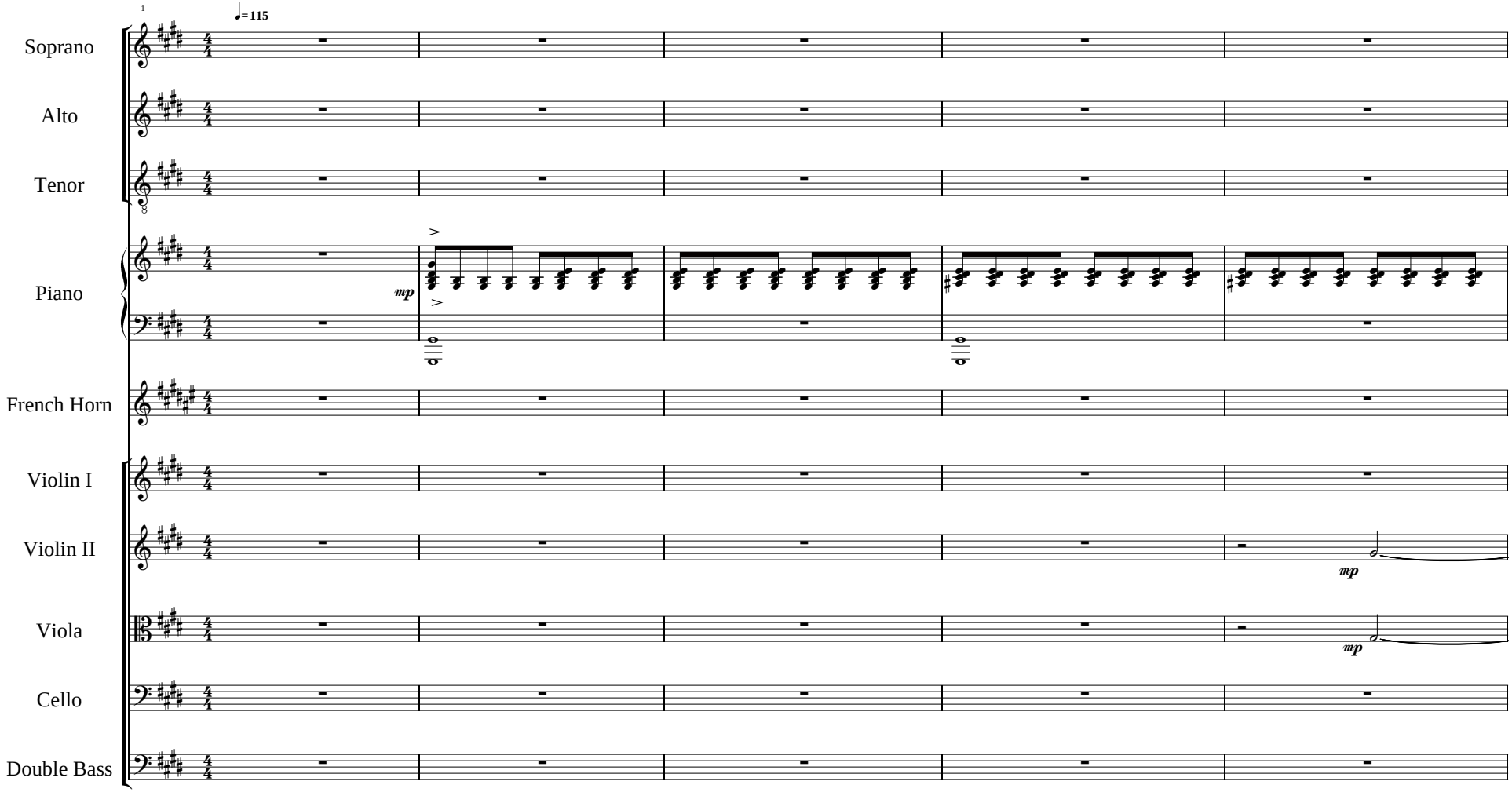

137
S.
and shakes his fires in the bur - dened air Hun gry clouds swag on the deep
A.
and shakes his fires in the bur - dened air Hun gry clouds swag on the deep
T.
and shakes his fires in the bur - dened air Hun gry clouds swag on the deep
Pno.
Hn.
Vln.II
ff
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.


145
S.
A.
T.
Pno.
decresc. - -
mp
Hn.
Vla.
decresc. - -
Vc.
decresc. - -
mp
D. B.
decresc. - -
mp

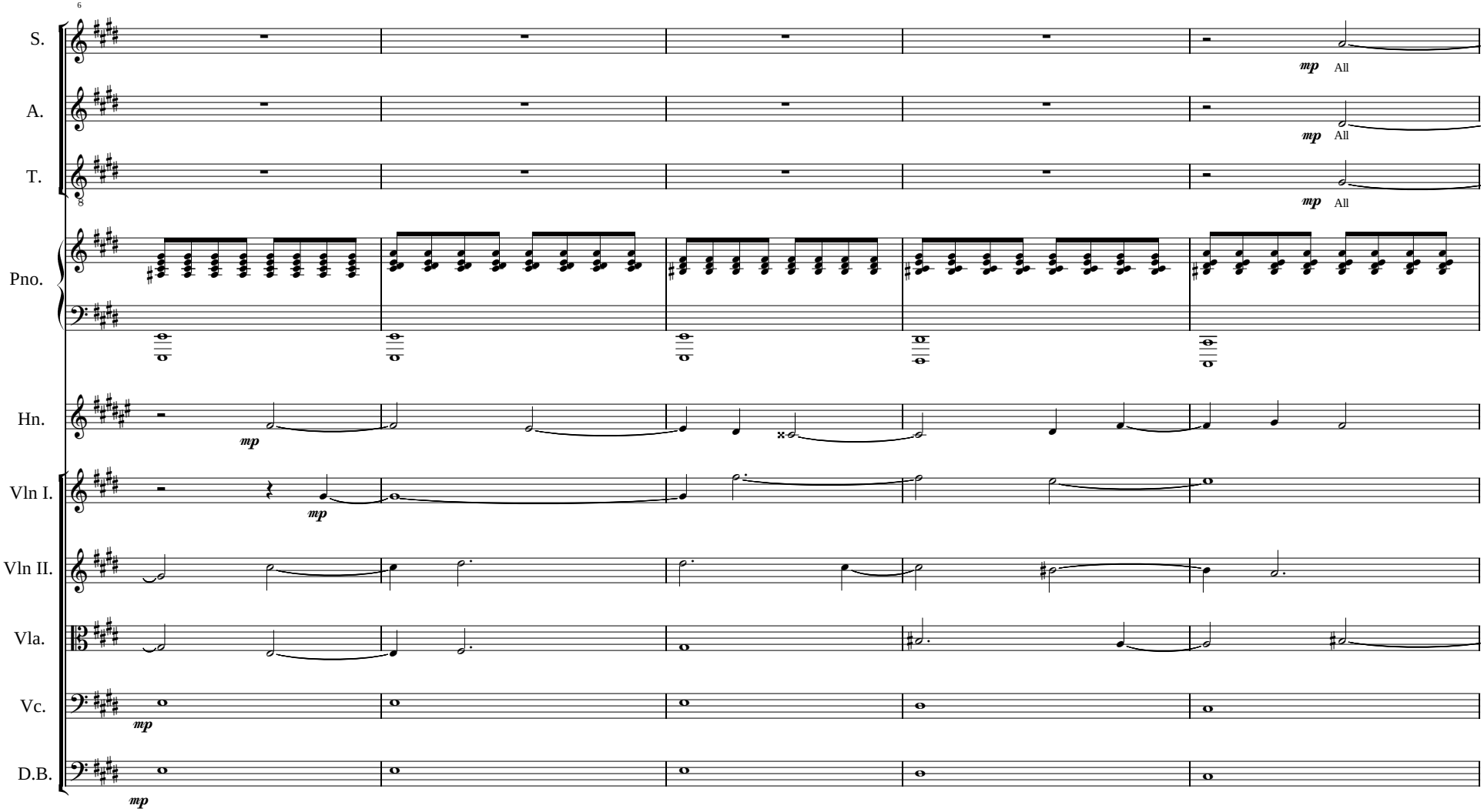
Part II

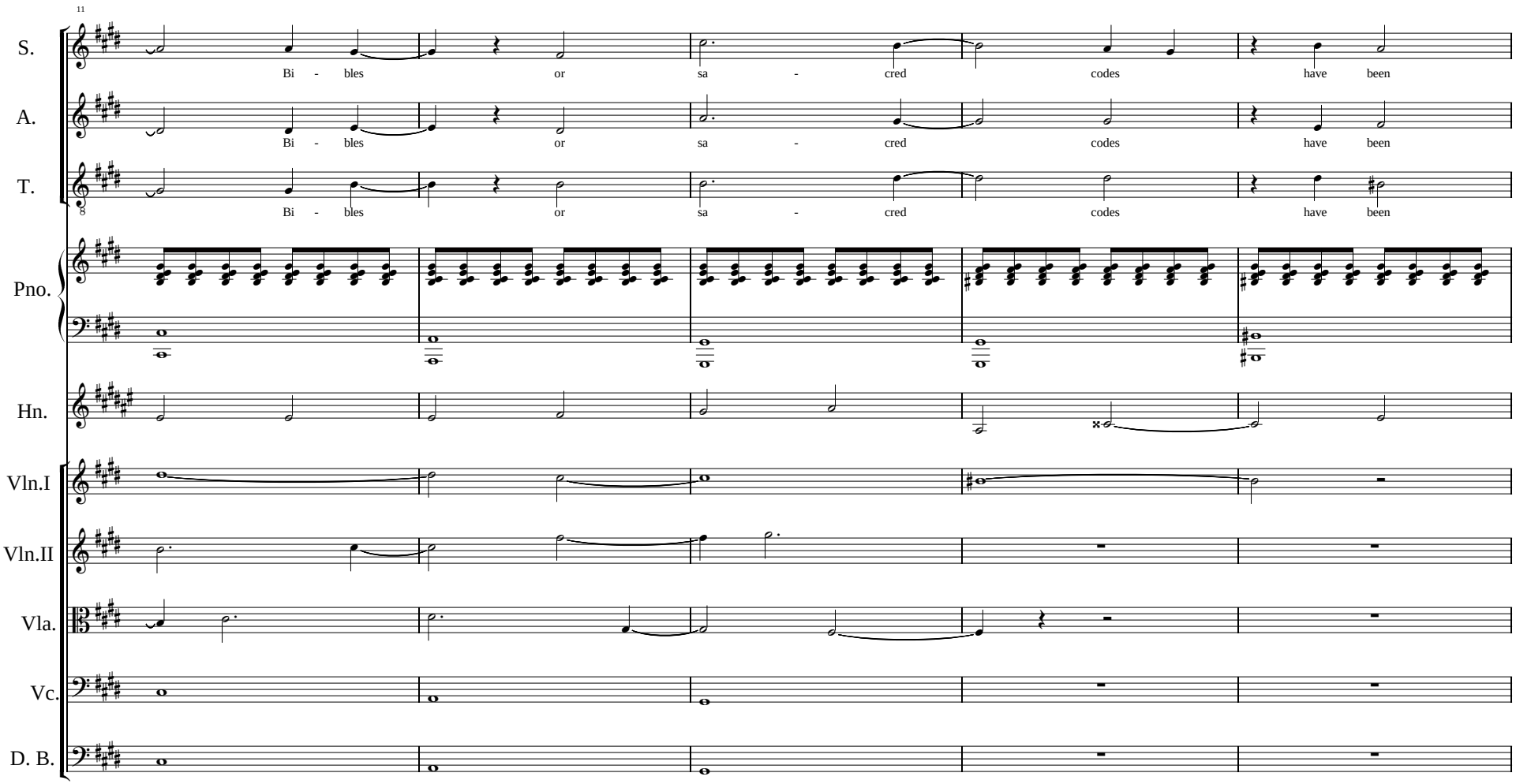

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello
Double Bass
Play m2-1
Vn.I
Vn.II
Va.
Vc.
D. B.

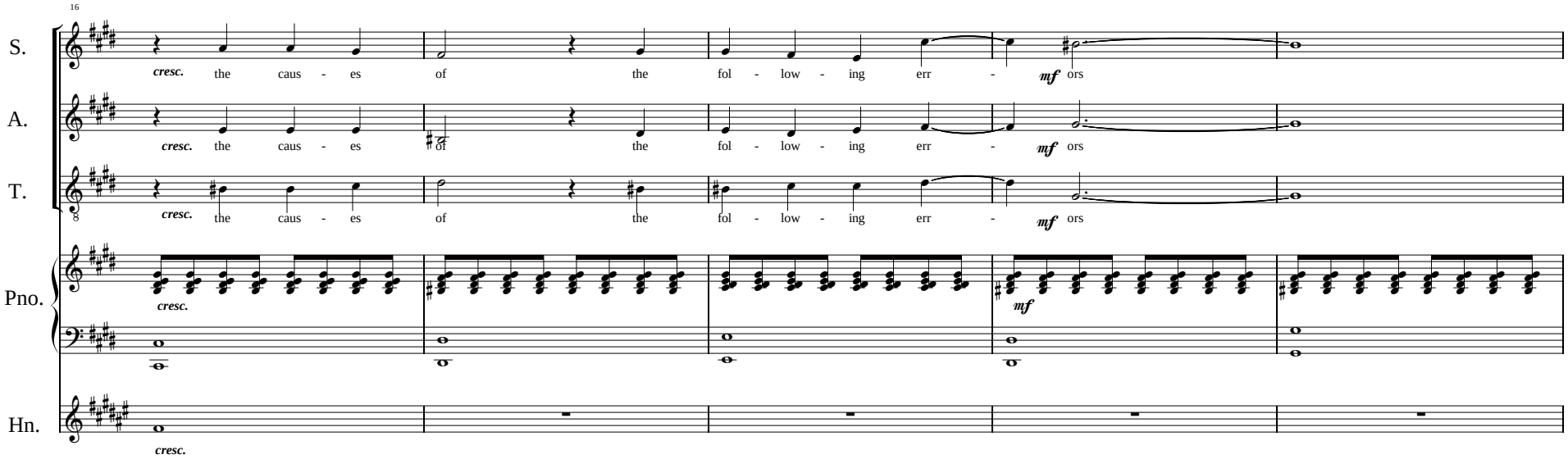

18
Vn.I
Vn.II
Va.
Vc.
D. B.
mp
cresc.
mf

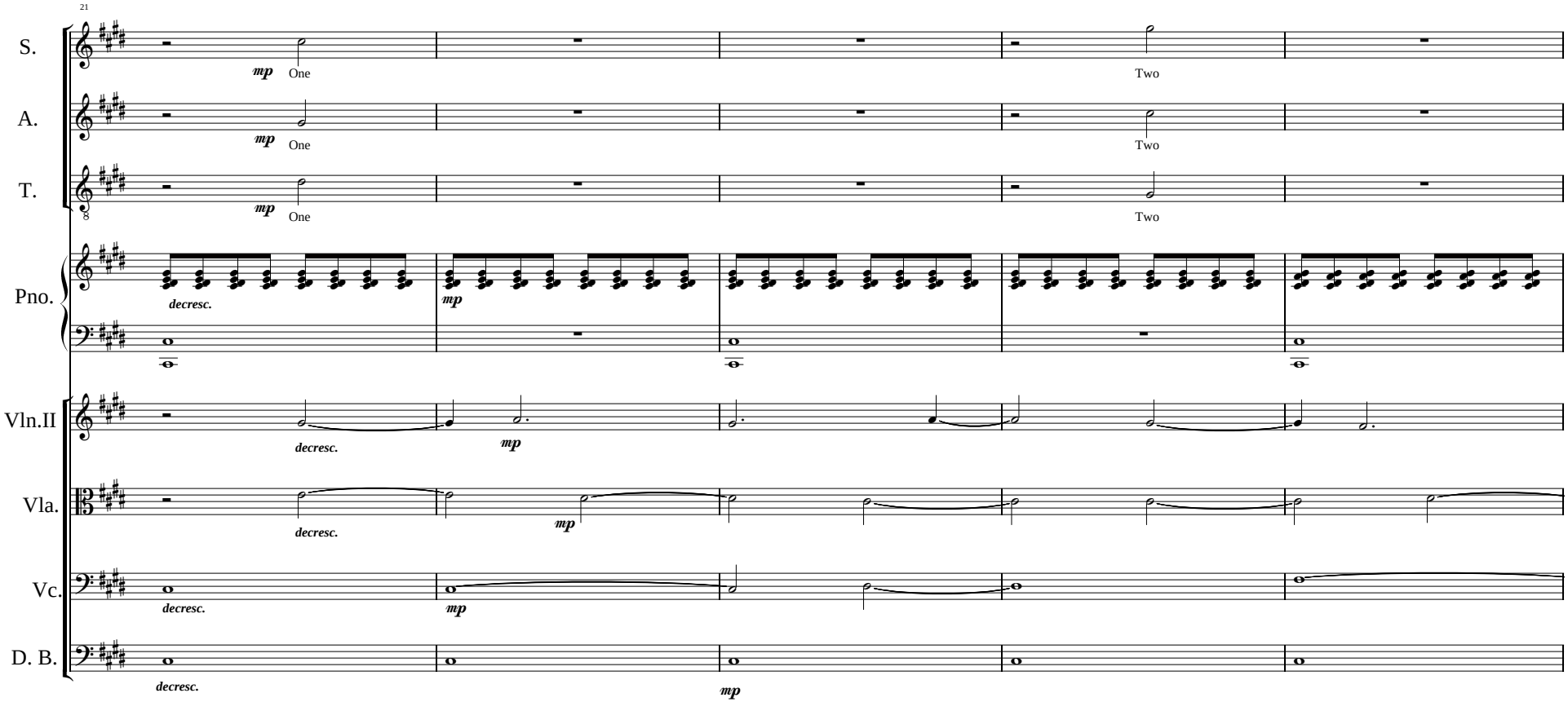

1
♩=115
Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Piano
French Horn
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello
Double Bass
mp
mp
mp

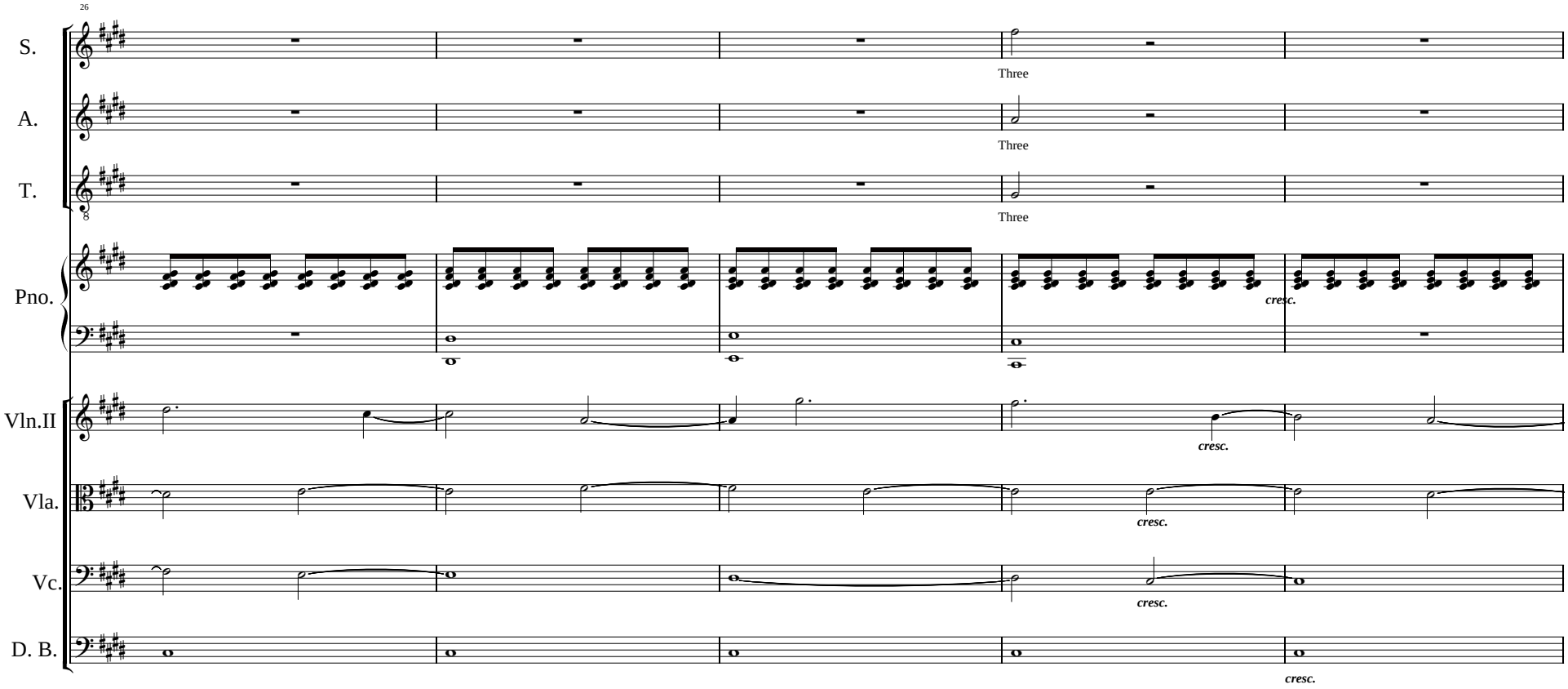
Play m3-1


6
S.
A.
T.
Pno.
Hn.
Vln I.
Vln II.
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
mp
All

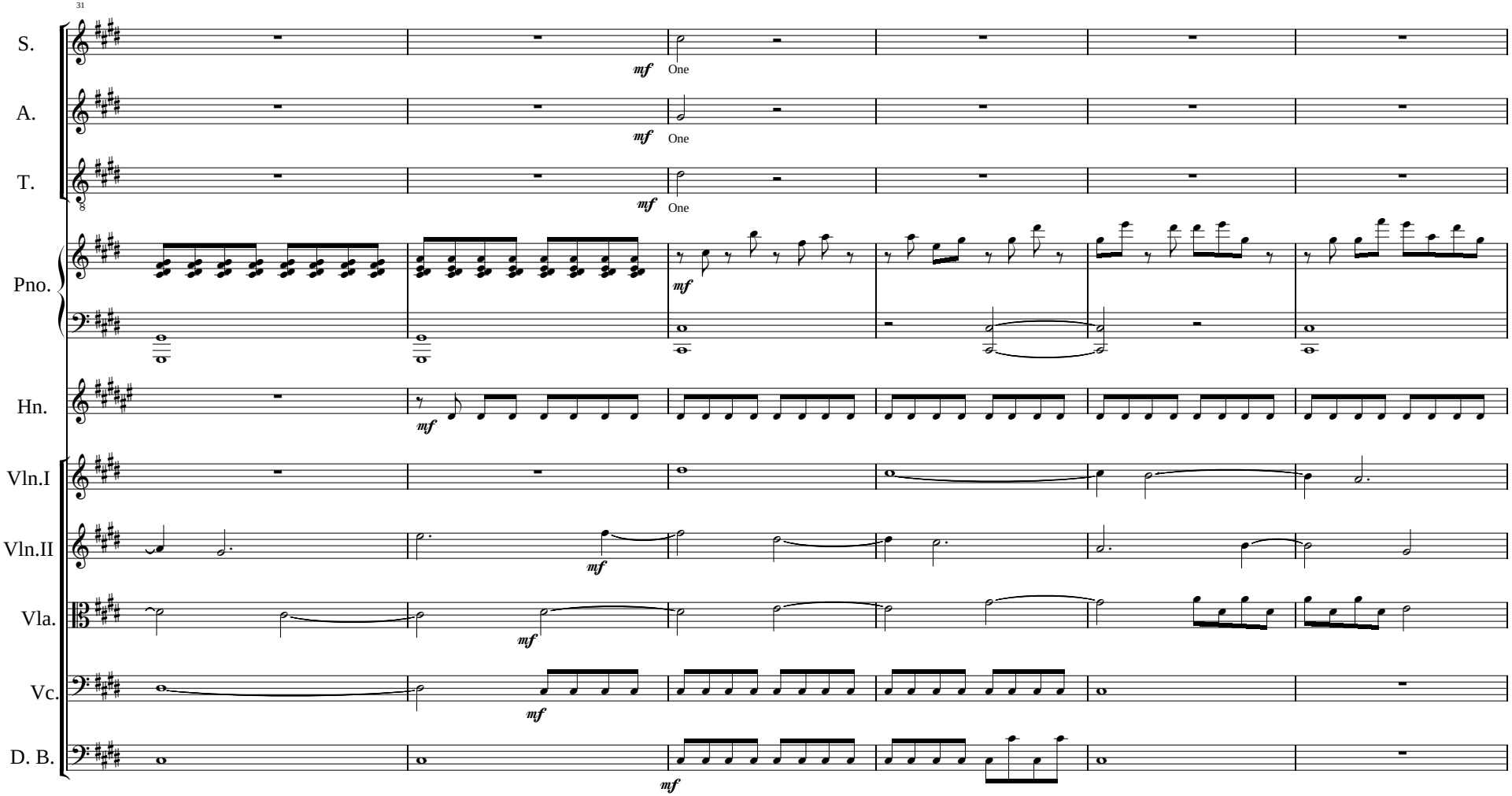

11
S.
A.
T.
Pno.
Hn.
Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.
Bi - bles or sa - cred codes have been
Bi - bles or sa - cred codes have been
Bi - bles or sa - cred codes have been


16
S.
A.
T.
Pno.
Hn.
cresc. the caus - es of the fol - low - ing err - mf ors
cresc. the caus - es of the fol - low - ing err - mf ors
cresc. the caus - es of the fol - low - ing err - mf ors
cresc.
mf
cresc.

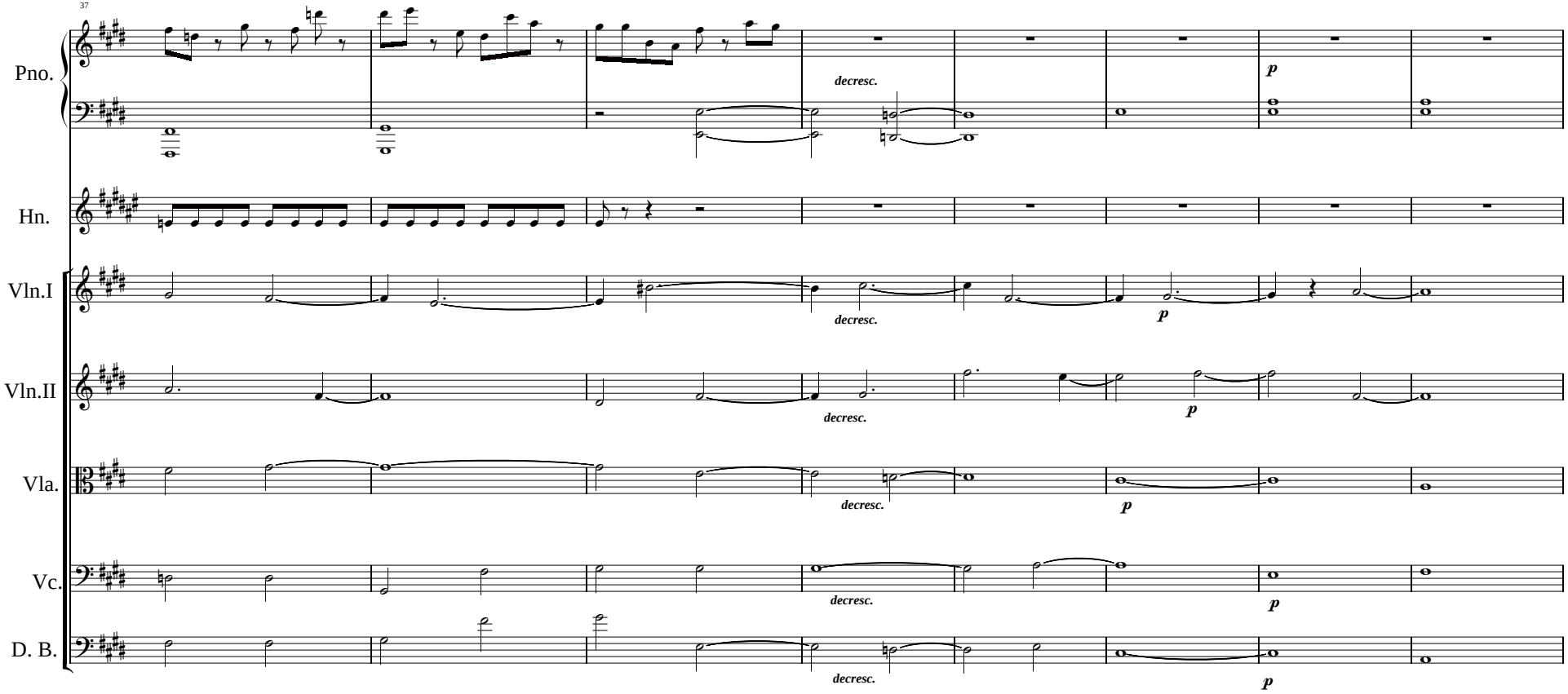

21
S.
A.
T.
Pno.
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.
mp
One
Two
decresc.
Play m3-2
Play m3-3

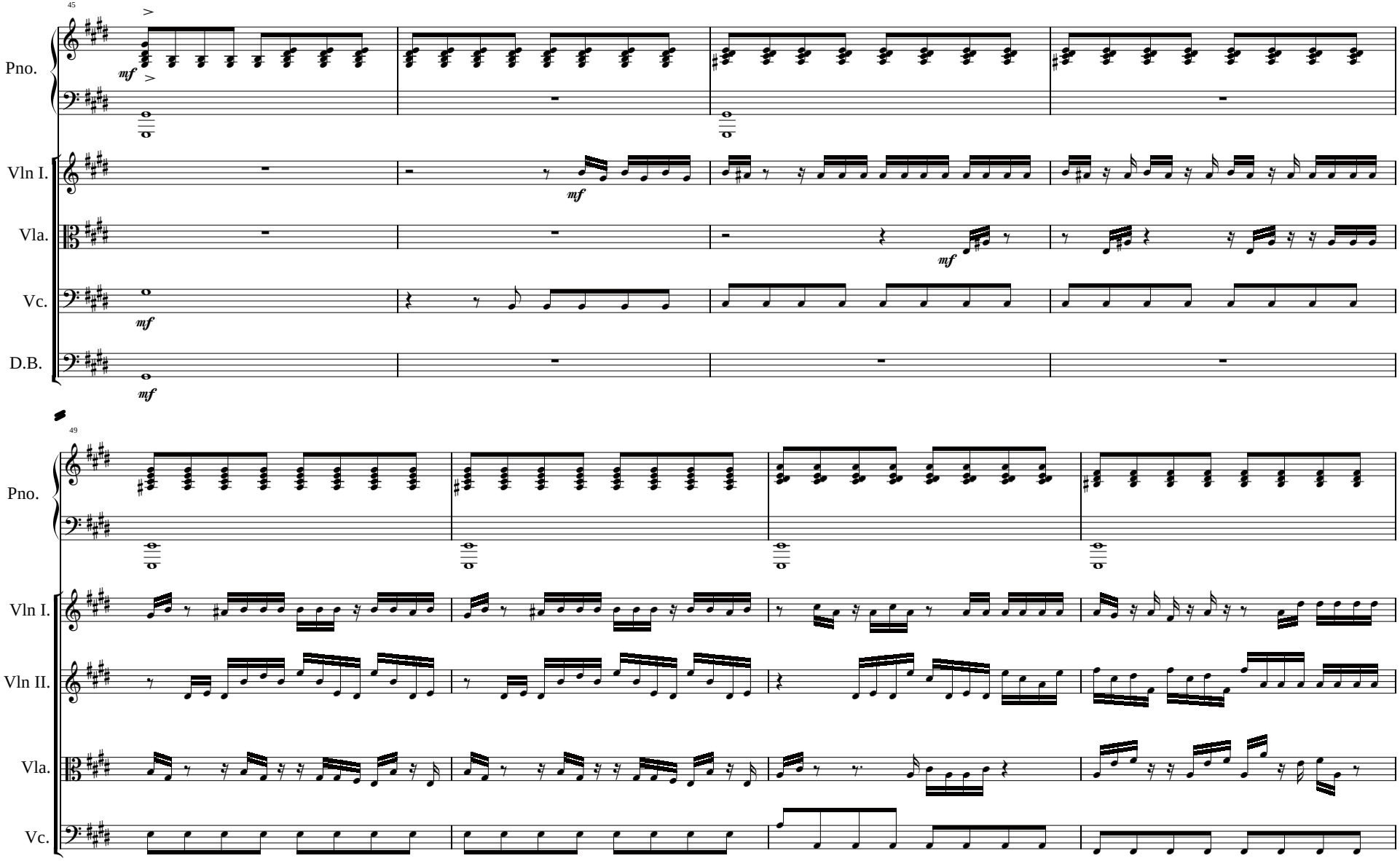

26
S.
A.
T.
Pno.
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.
Three
Three
Three
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.

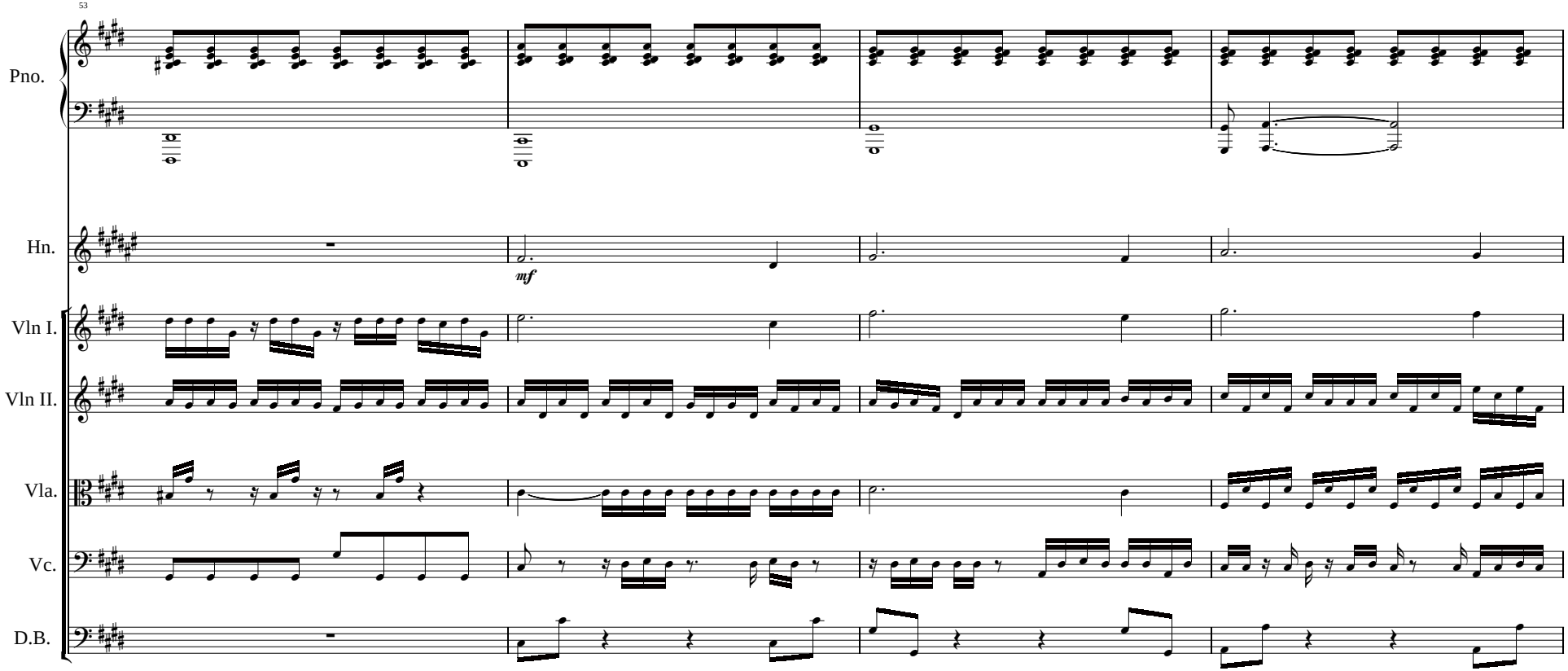
play m3-4

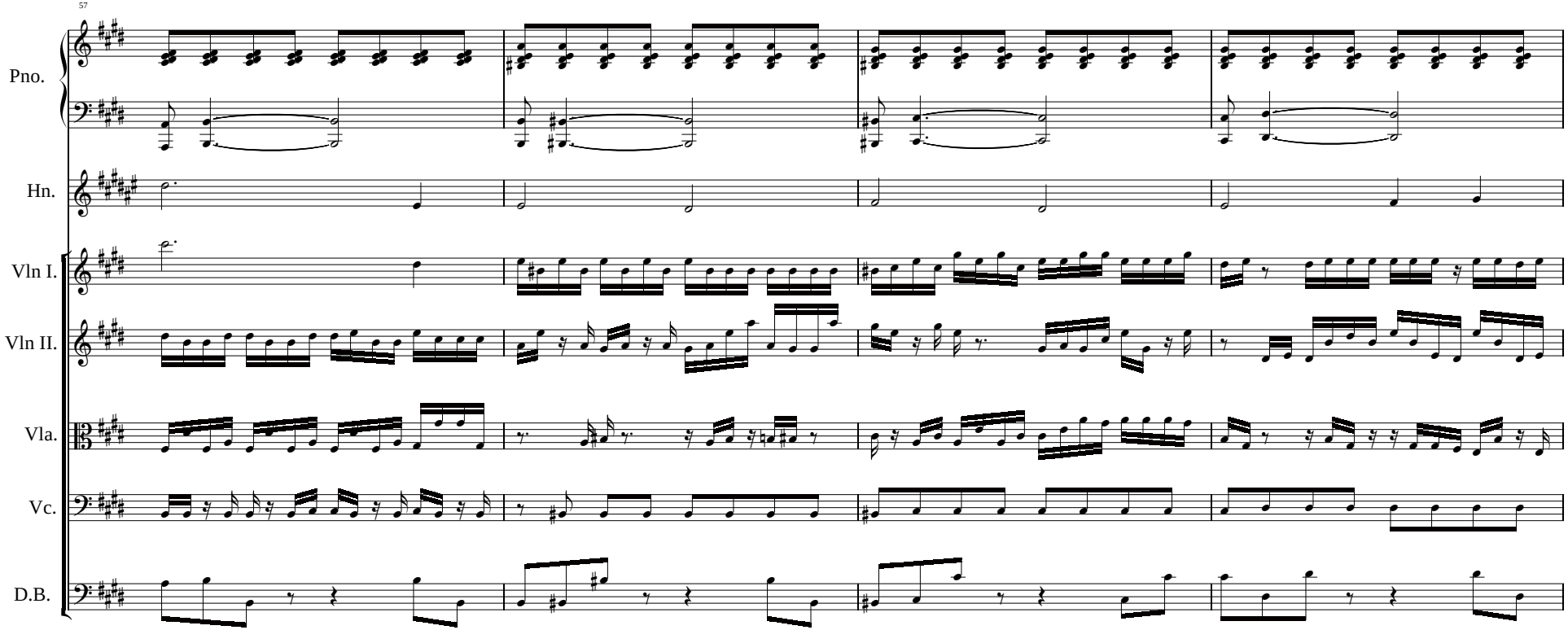


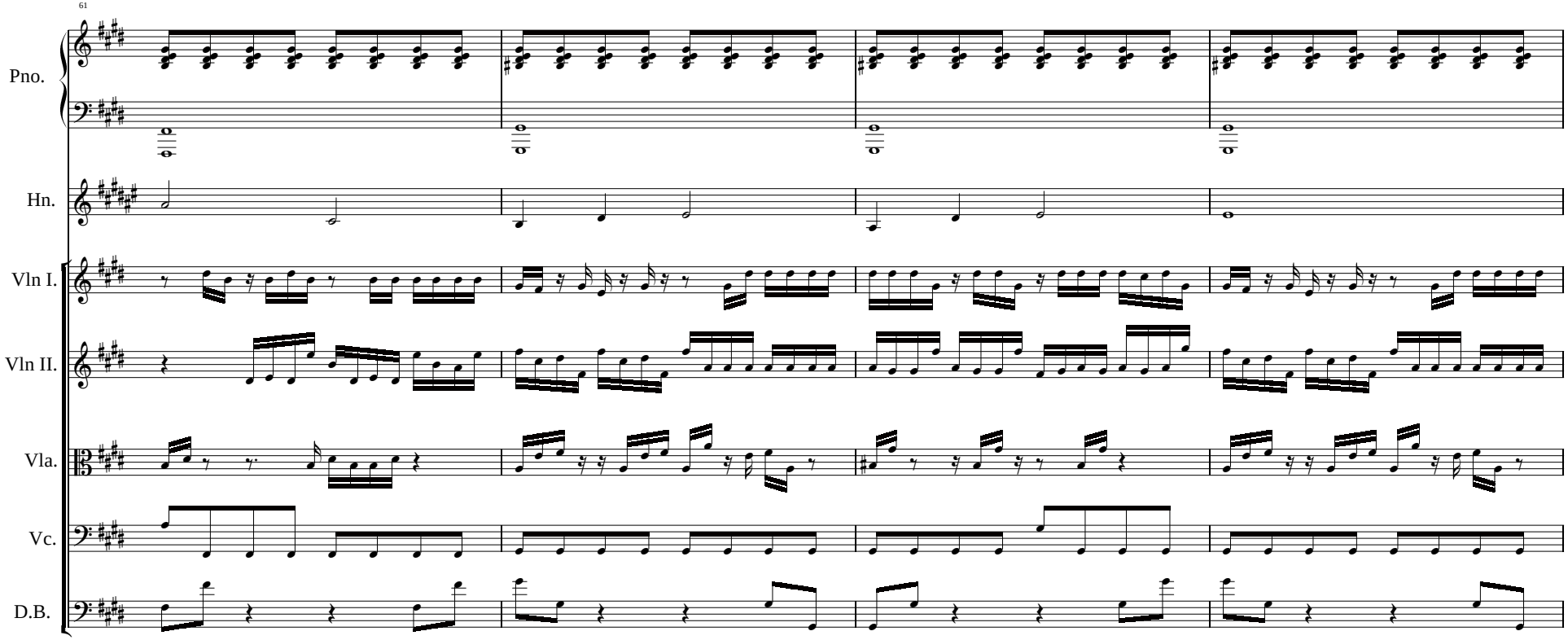
Play m3-5

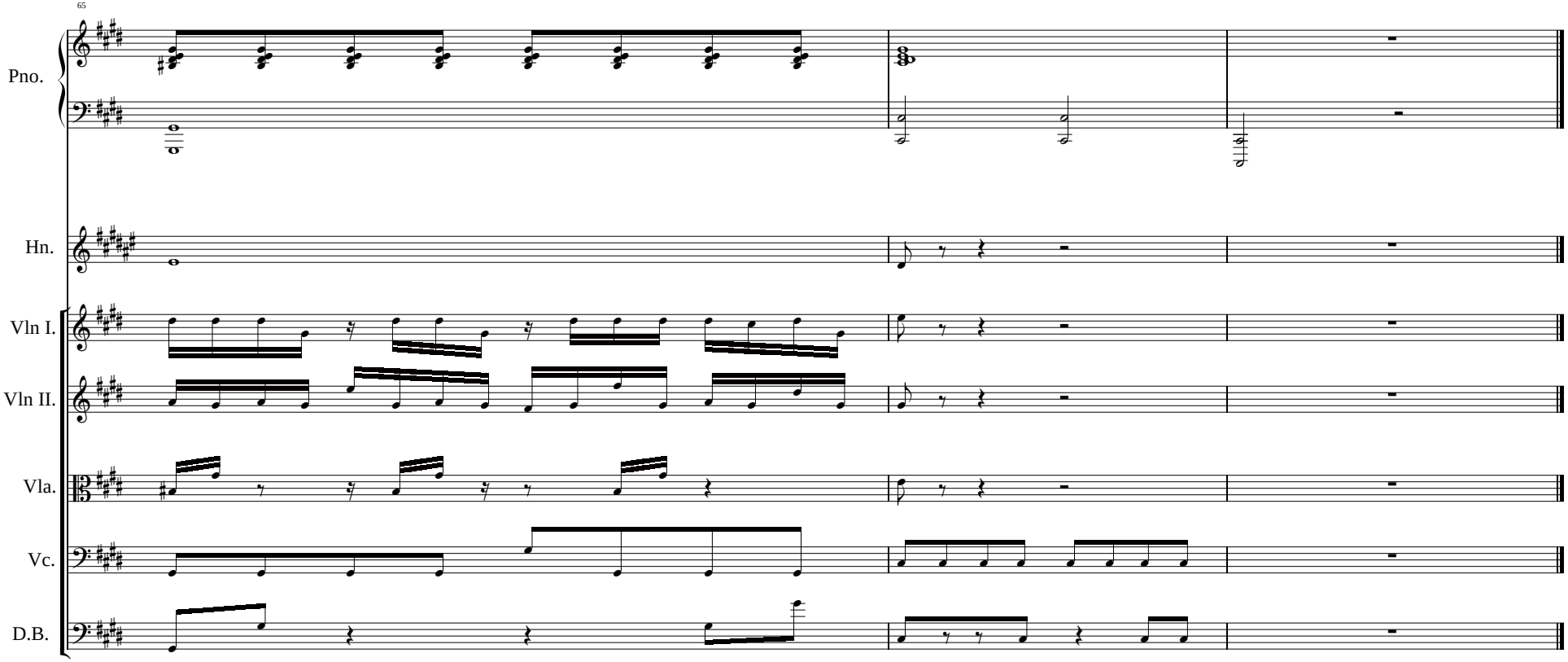

37
Pno.
Hn.
Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.
decresc.
p

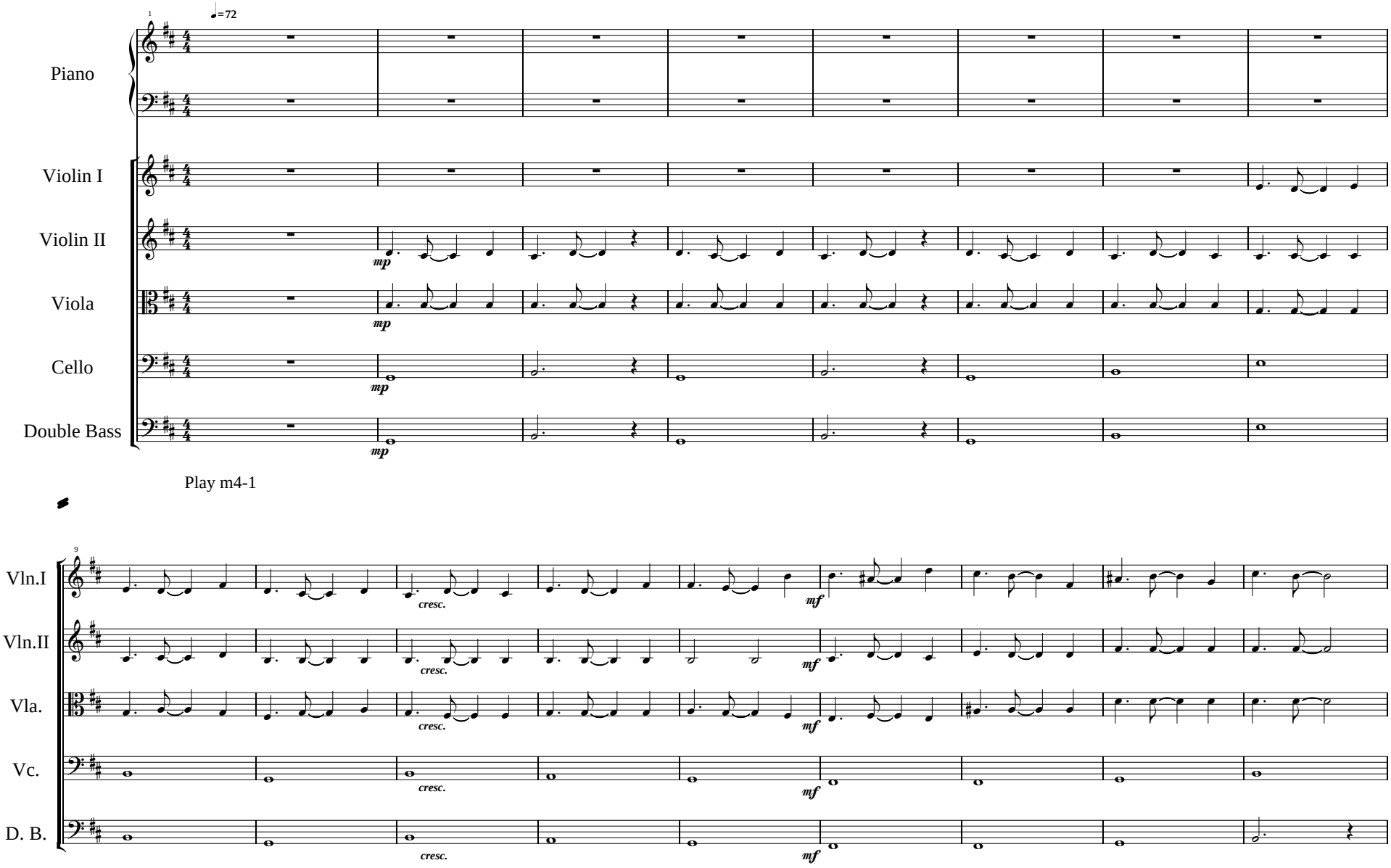

45
Pno.
Vln I.
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
mf
49
Pno.
Vln I.
Vln II.
Vla.
Vc.

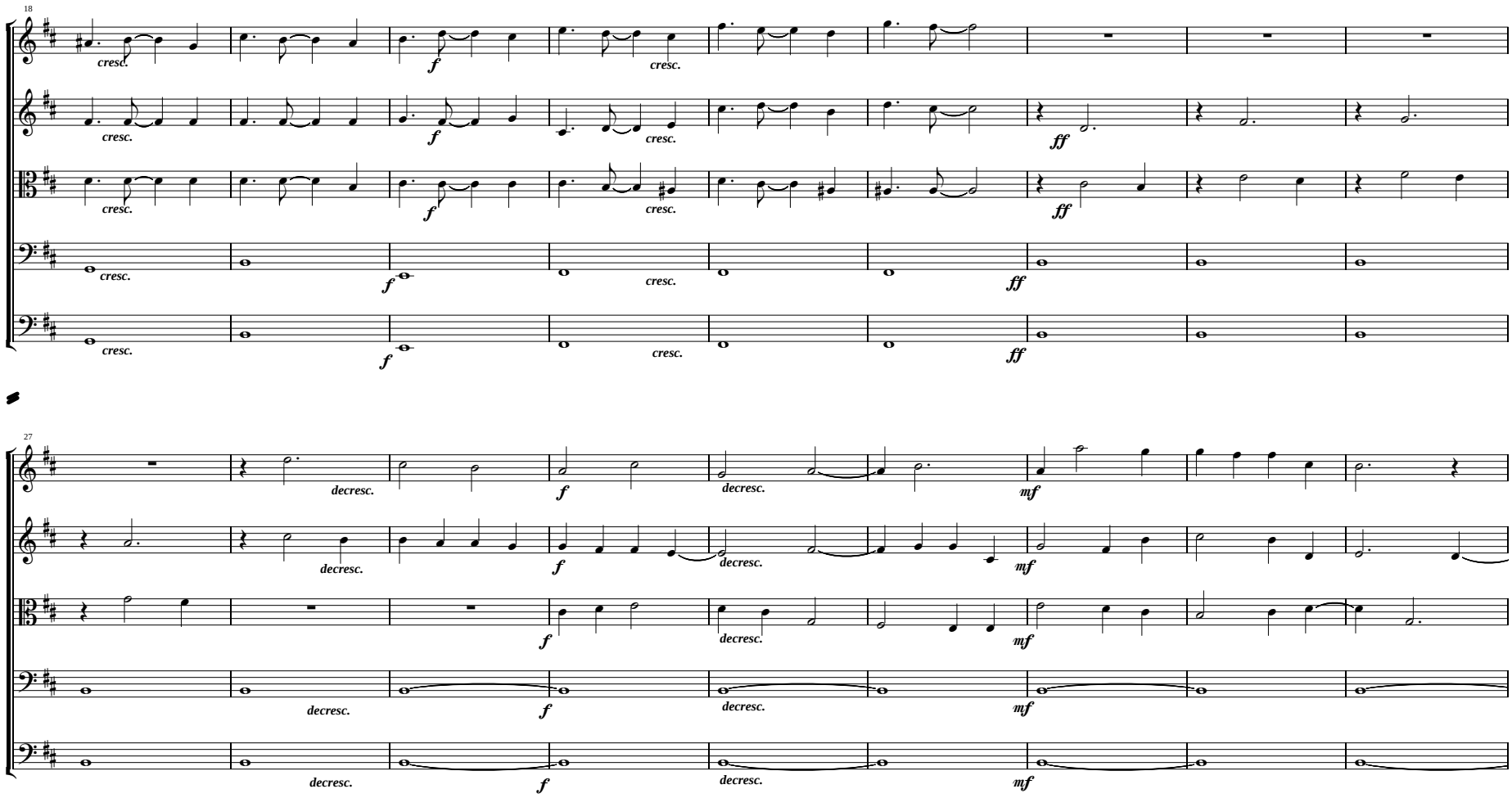

53
Pno.
Hn.
mf
Vln I.
Vln II.
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

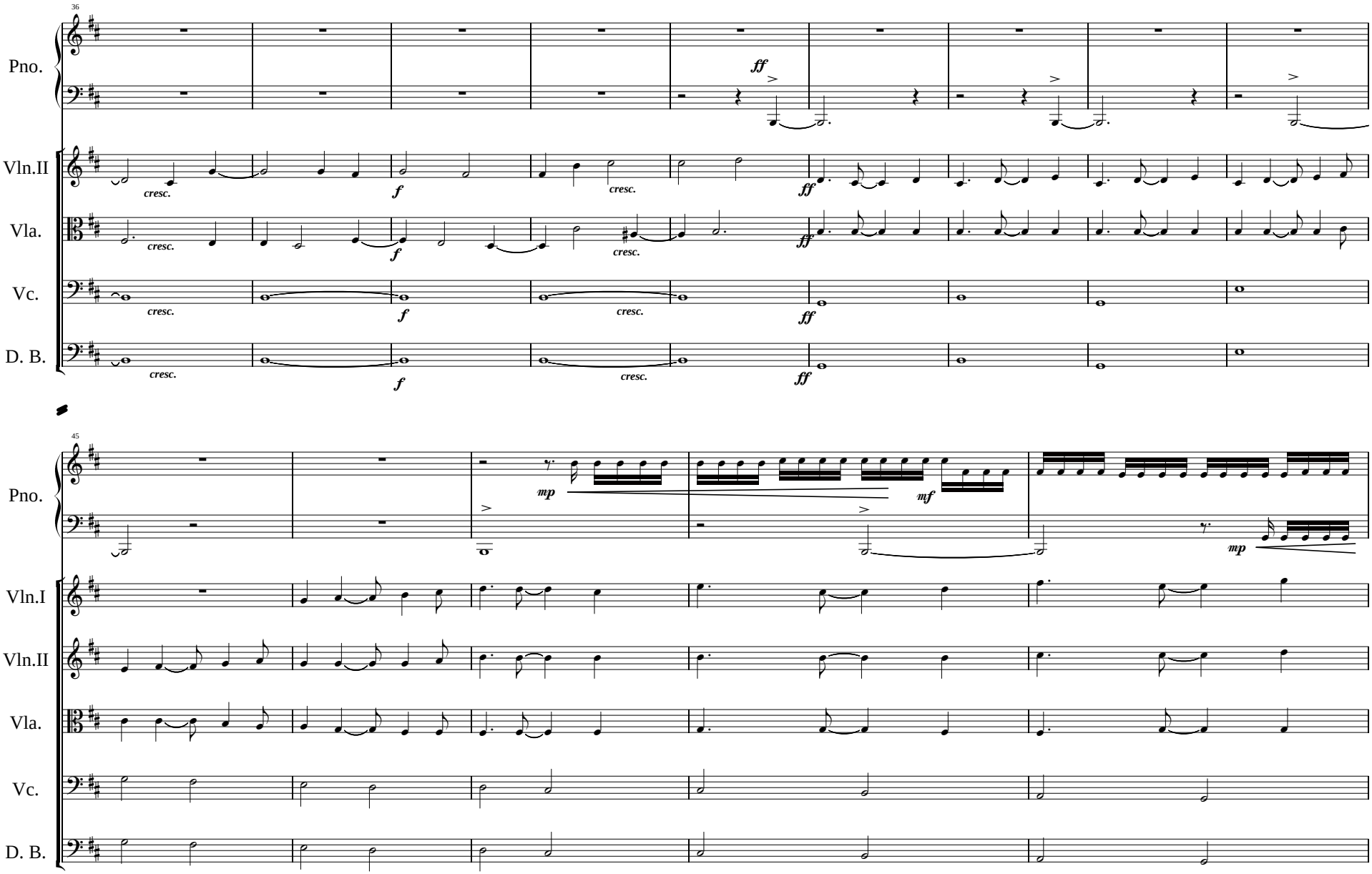

57
Pno.
Hn.
Vln I.
Vln II.
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

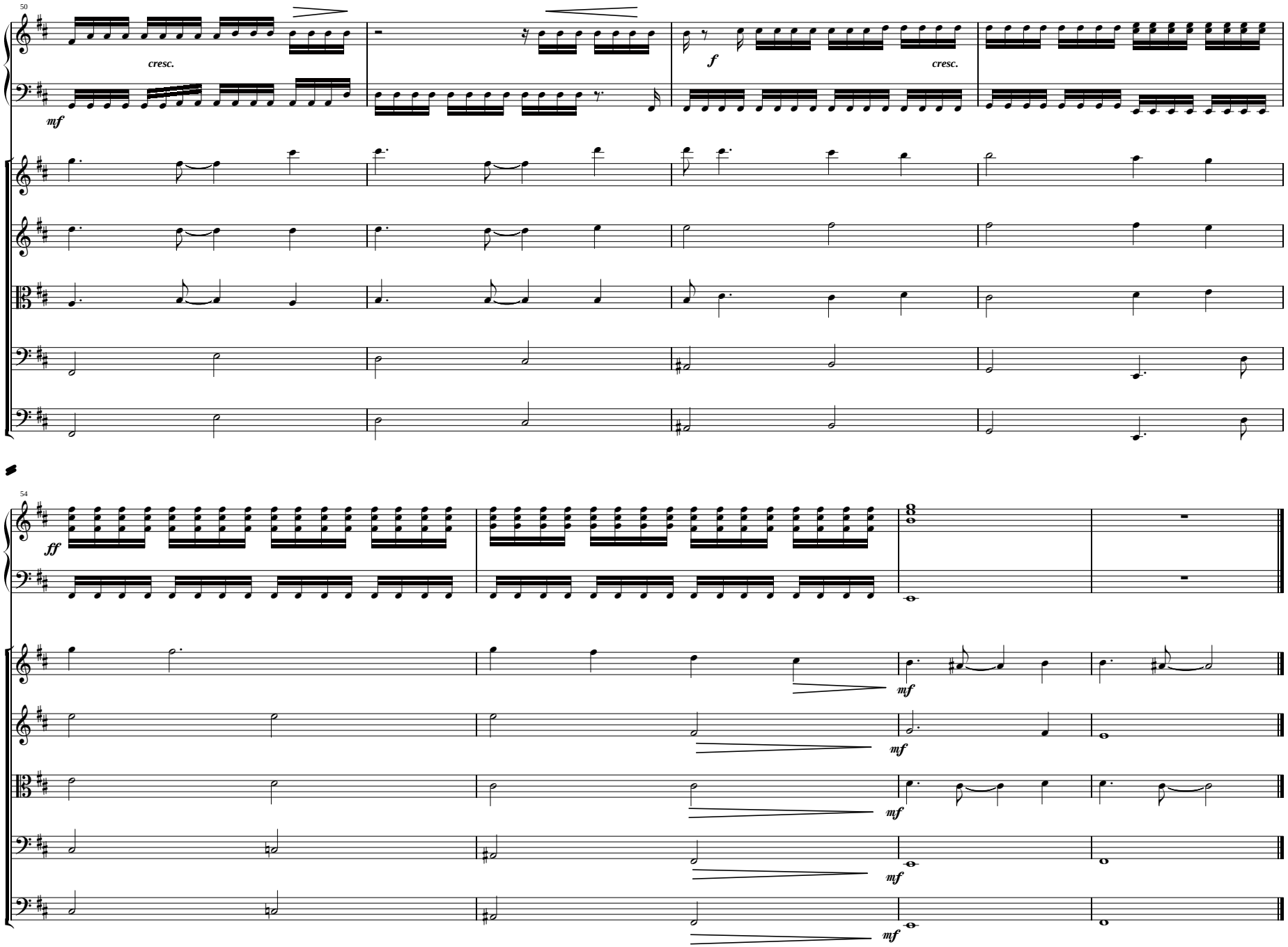

61
Pno.
Hn.
Vln I.
Vln II.
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

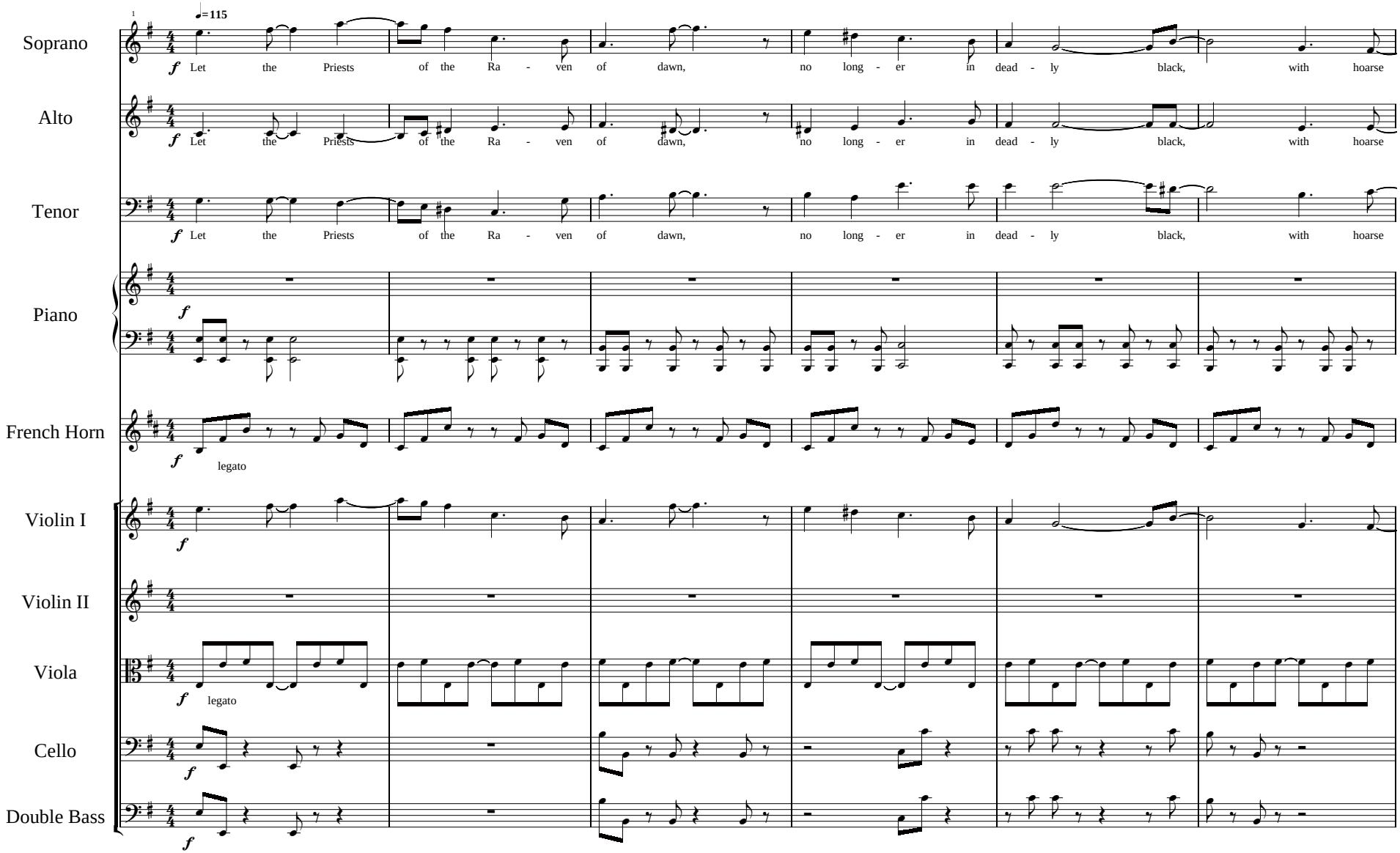

65
Pno.
Hn.
Vln I.
Vln II.
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

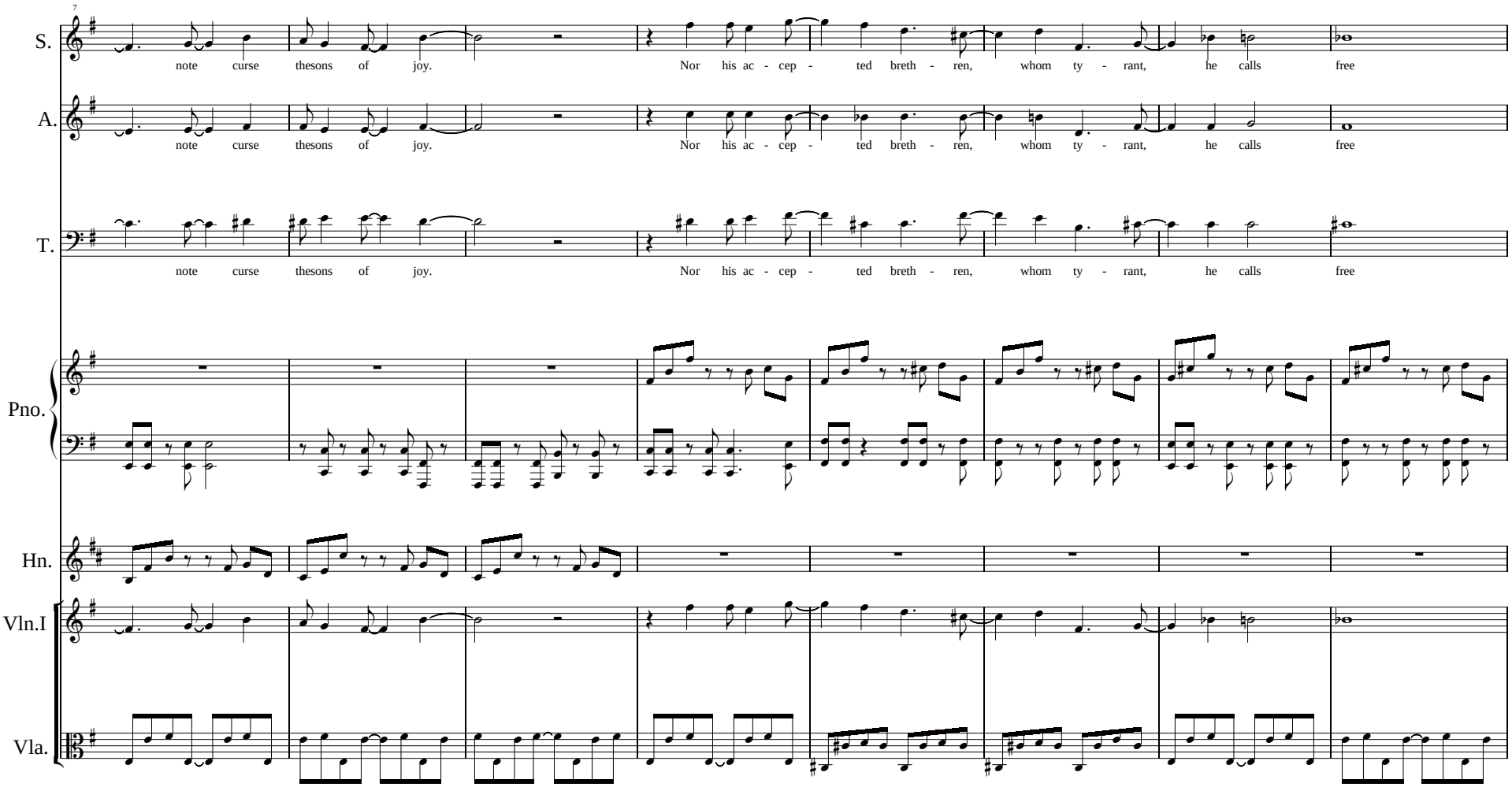

1
♩=72
Piano
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello
Double Bass
mp
Play m4-1
9
Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.
cresc.
mf

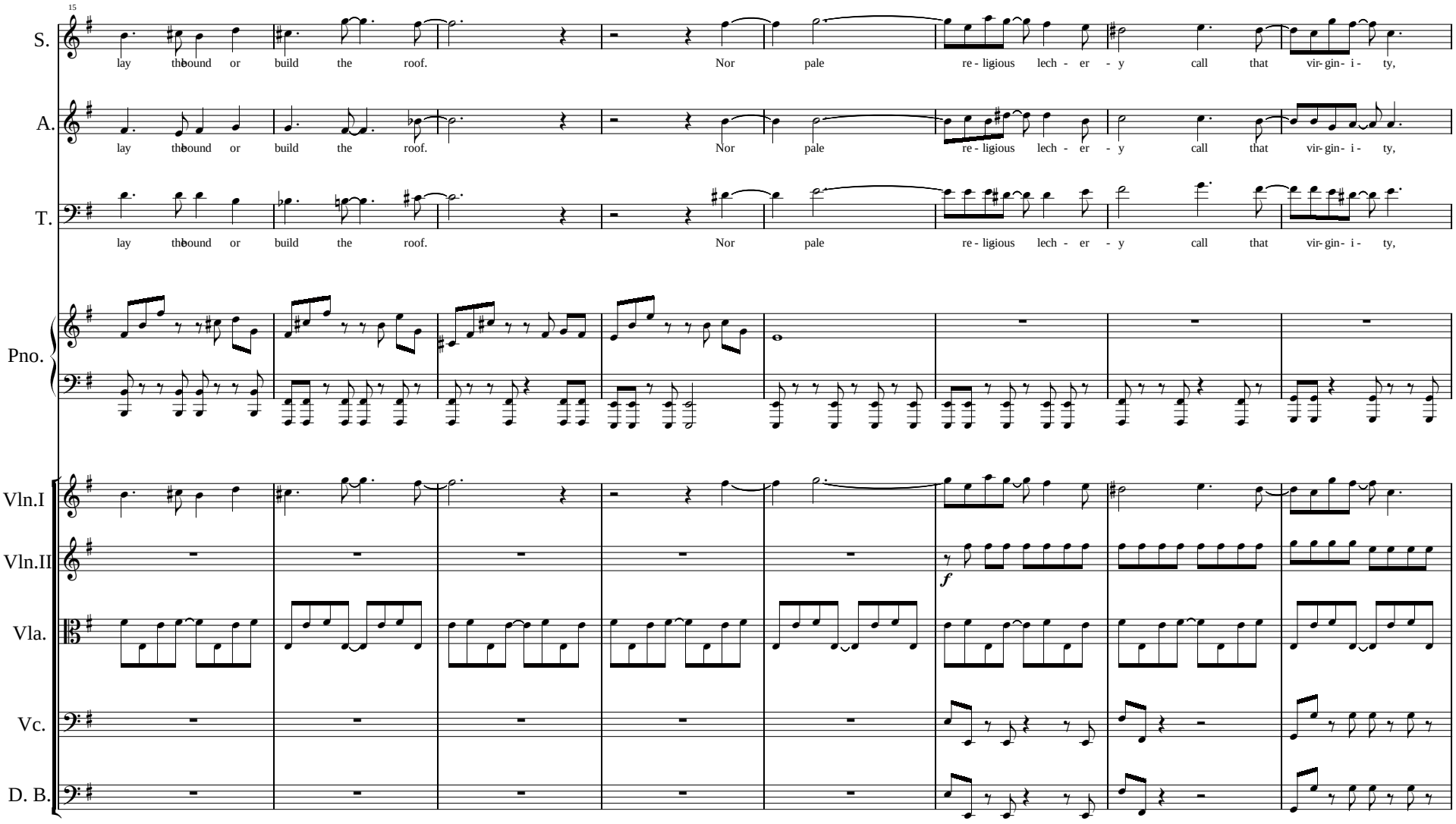

18
Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.
cresc.
f
ff
27
decresc.
mf

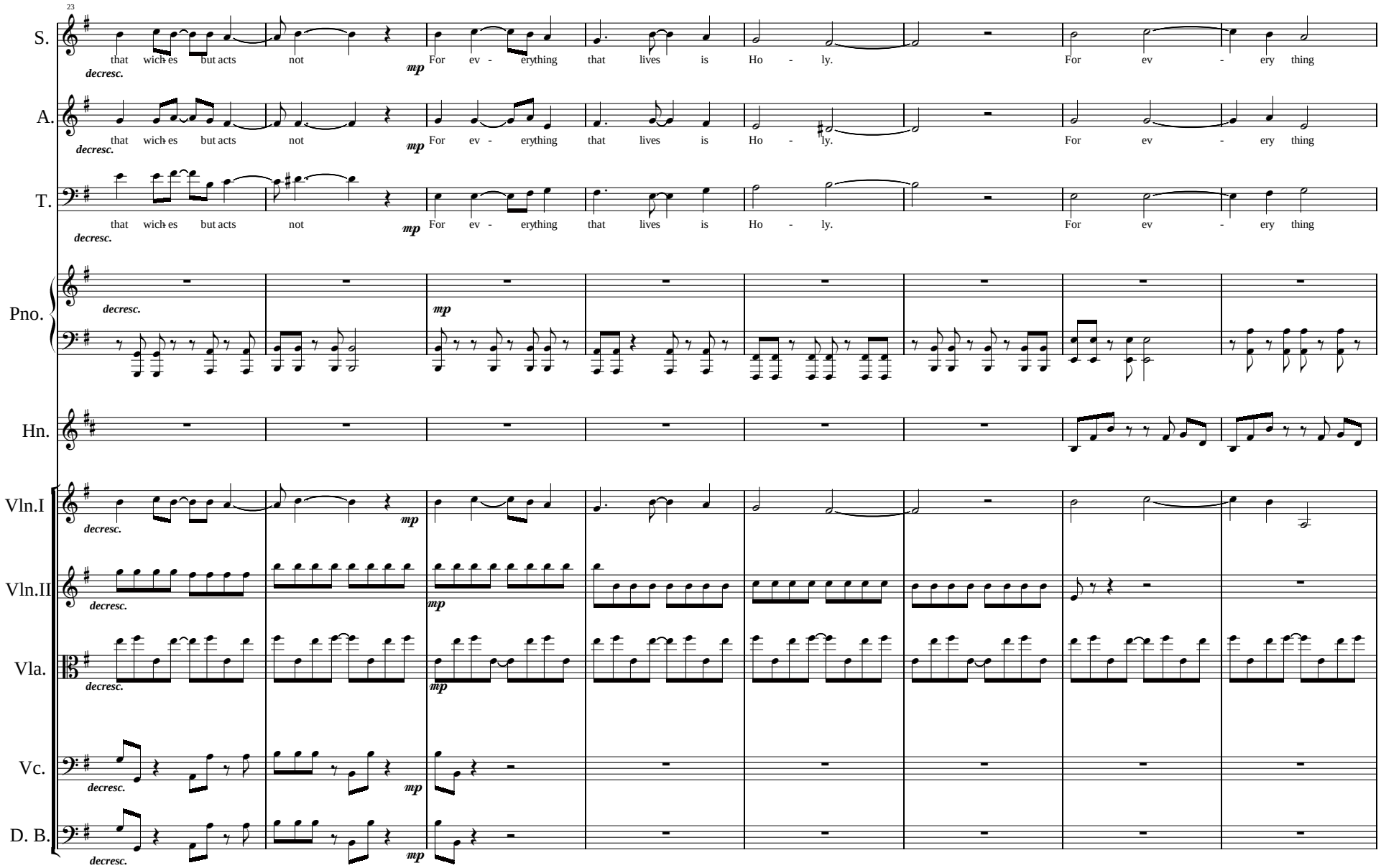

36
Pno.
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.
cresc.
f
ff
45
Pno.
Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.
mp
mf

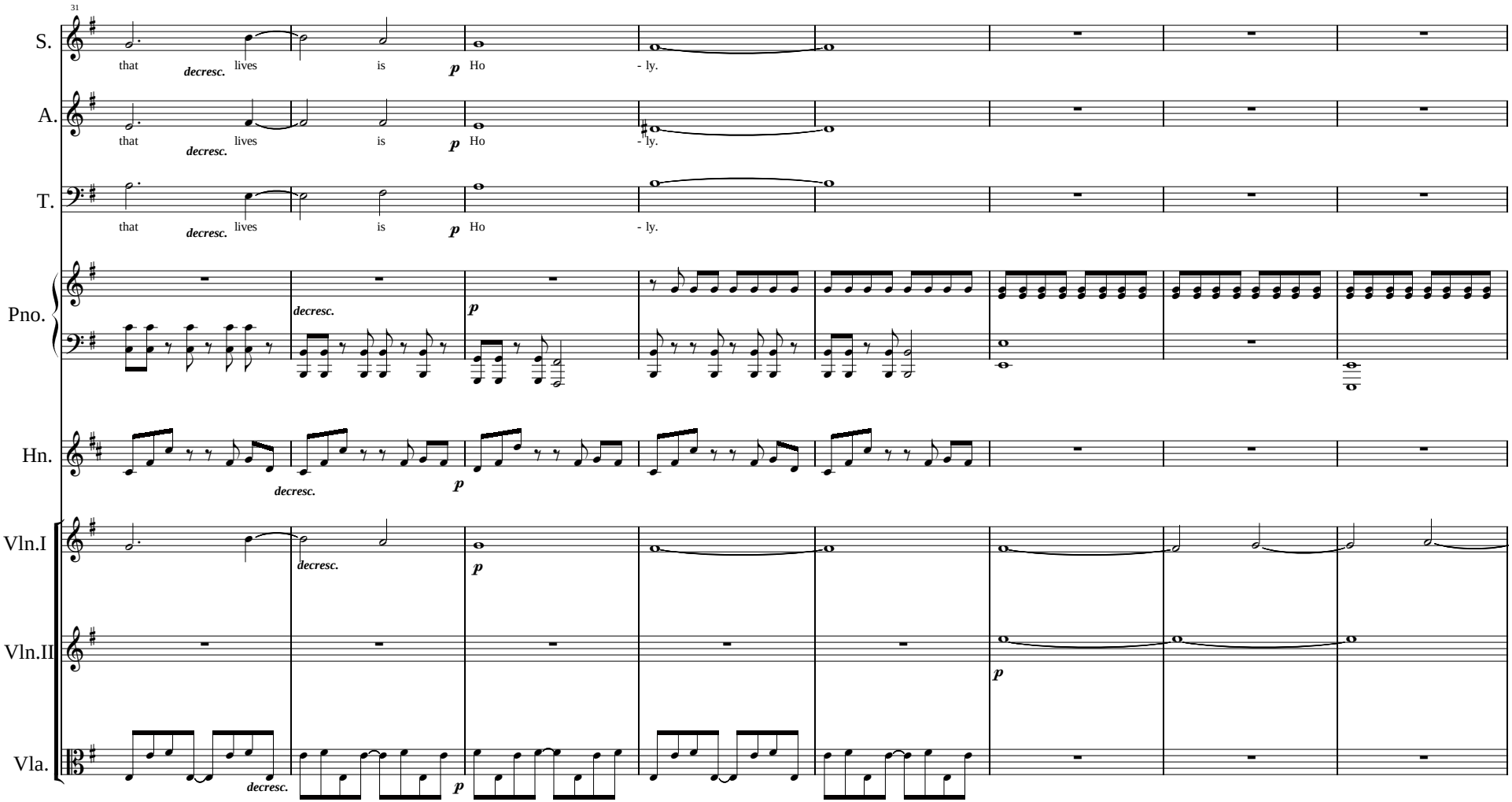

50
Pno.
cresc.
mf
f
cresc.
Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.
54
Pno.
ff
Vln.I
mf
Vln.II
mf
Vla.
mf
Vc.
mf
D. B.
mf


1
♩=115
Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Piano
French Horn
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello
Double Bass
f
Let the Priests of the Ra - ven of dawn, no long - er in dead - ly black, with hoarse
legato

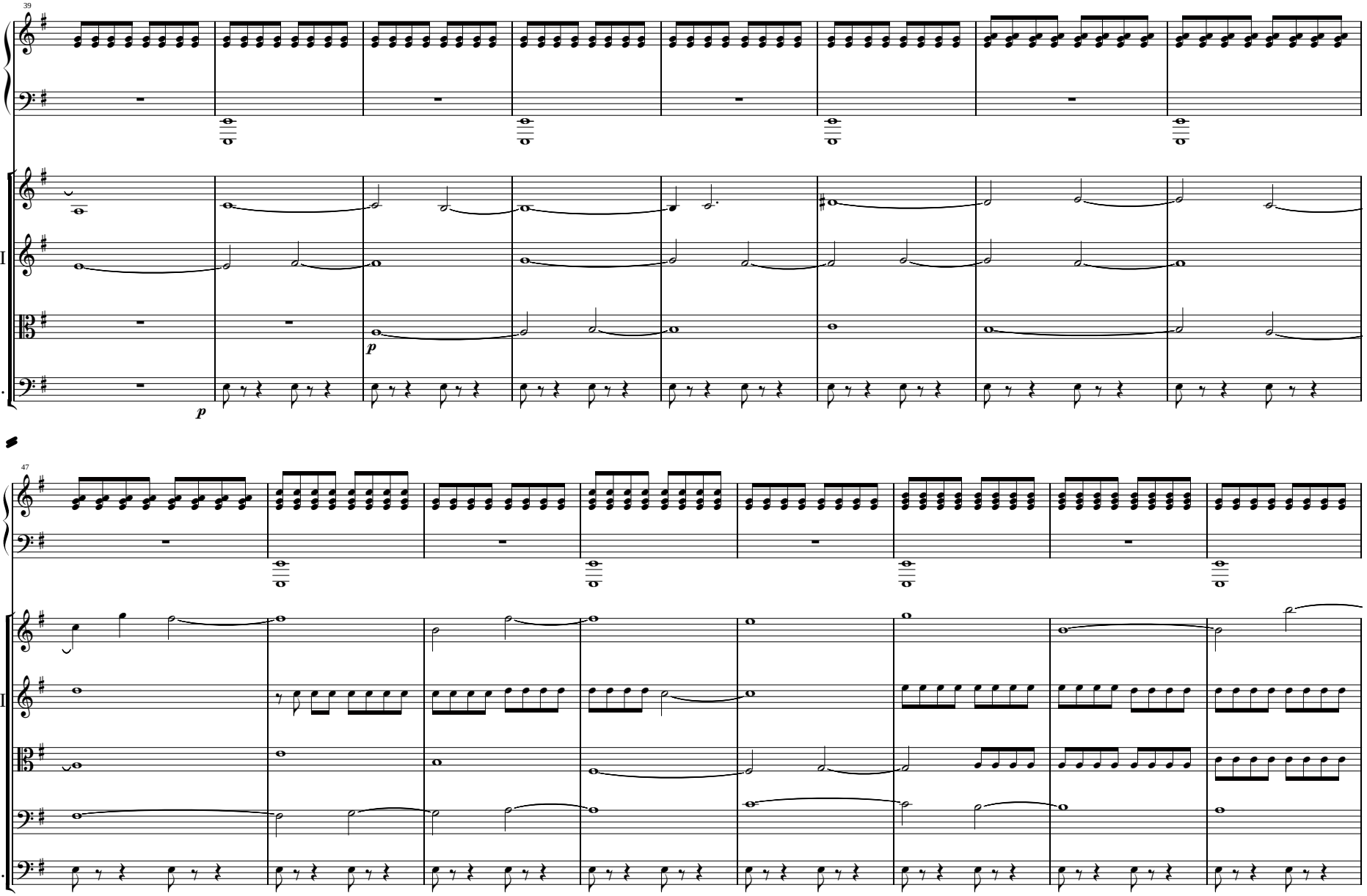

7
S.
note curse thesons of joy. Nor his ac - cep - ted breth - ren, whom ty - rant, he calls free
A.
note curse thesons of joy. Nor his ac - cep - ted breth - ren, whom ty - rant, he calls free
T.
note curse thesons of joy. Nor his ac - cep - ted breth - ren, whom ty - rant, he calls free
Pno.
Hn.
Vln.I
Vla.

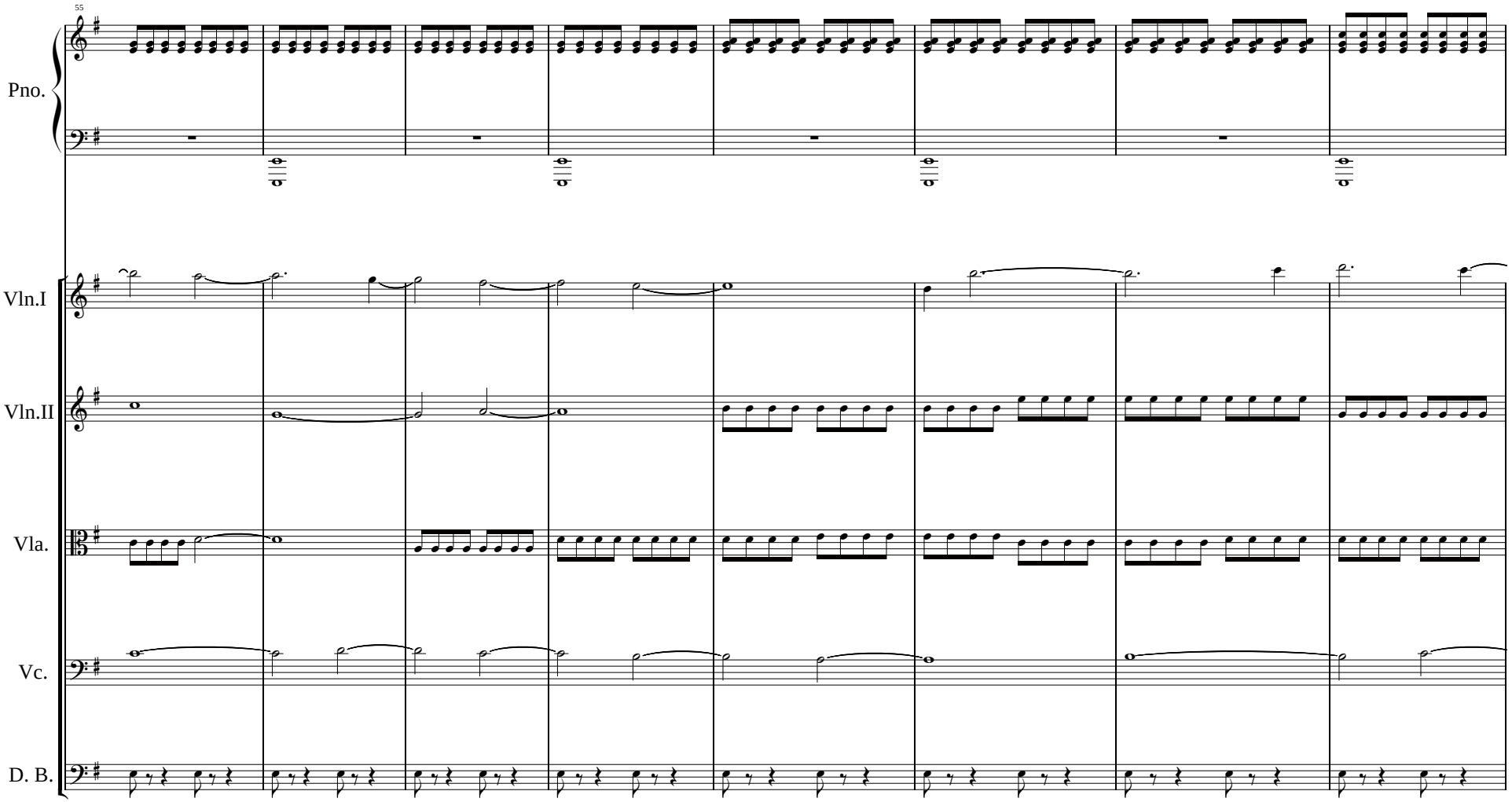

15
S.
lay thbound or build the roof. Nor pale re - ligious lech - er - y call that vir- gin- i - ty,
A.
lay thbound or build the roof. Nor pale re - ligious lech - er - y call that vir- gin- i - ty,
T.
lay thbound or build the roof. Nor pale re - ligious lech - er - y call that vir- gin- i - ty,
Pno.
Vln.I
Vln.II
f
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.

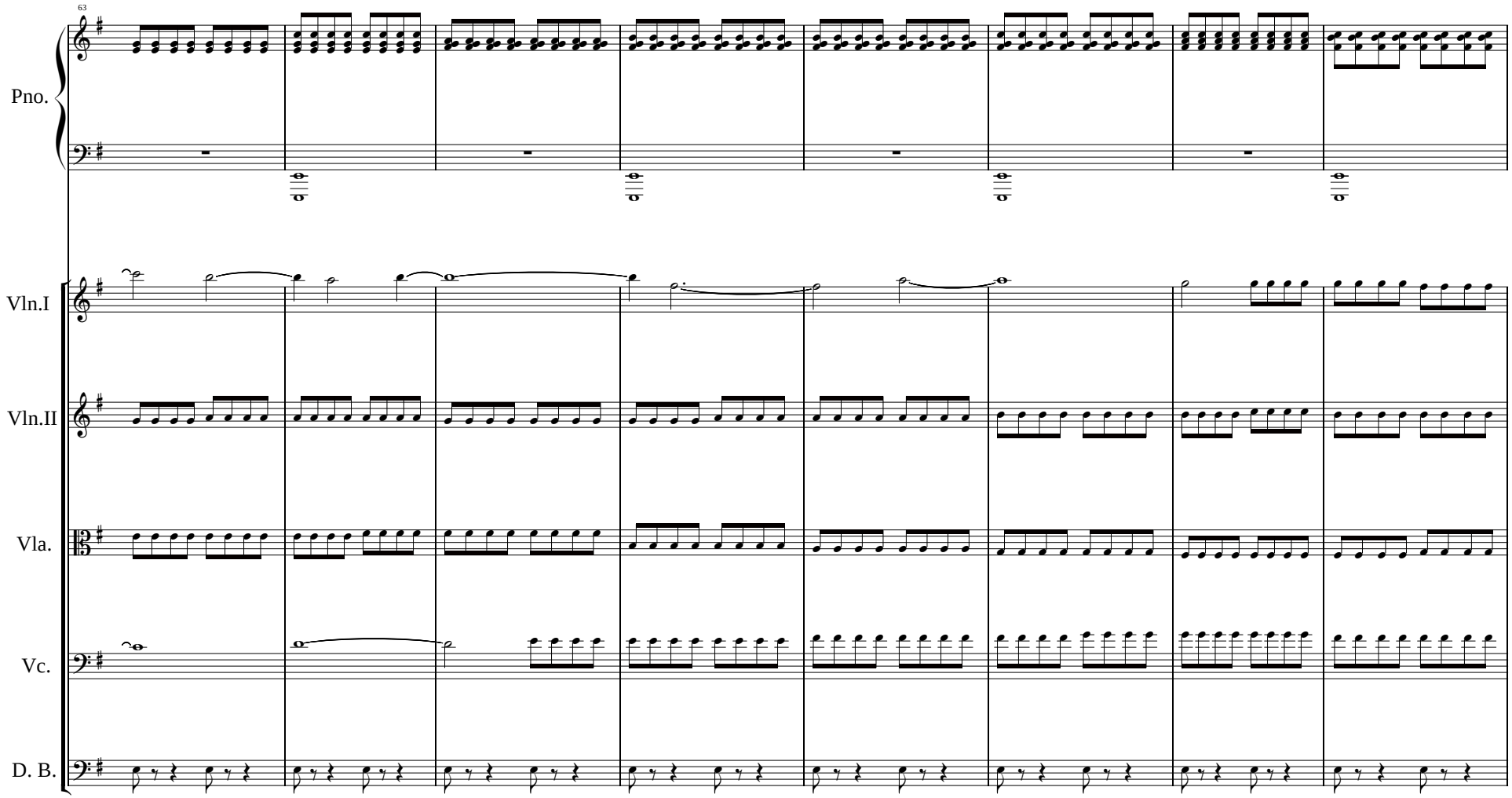

23
S.
that wich-es but acts not For ev - erything that lives is Ho - ly. For ev - ery thing
A.
that wich-es but acts not For ev - erything that lives is Ho - ly. For ev - ery thing
T.
that wich-es but acts not For ev - erything that lives is Ho - ly. For ev - ery thing
Pno.
Hn.
Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.
decresc.
mp

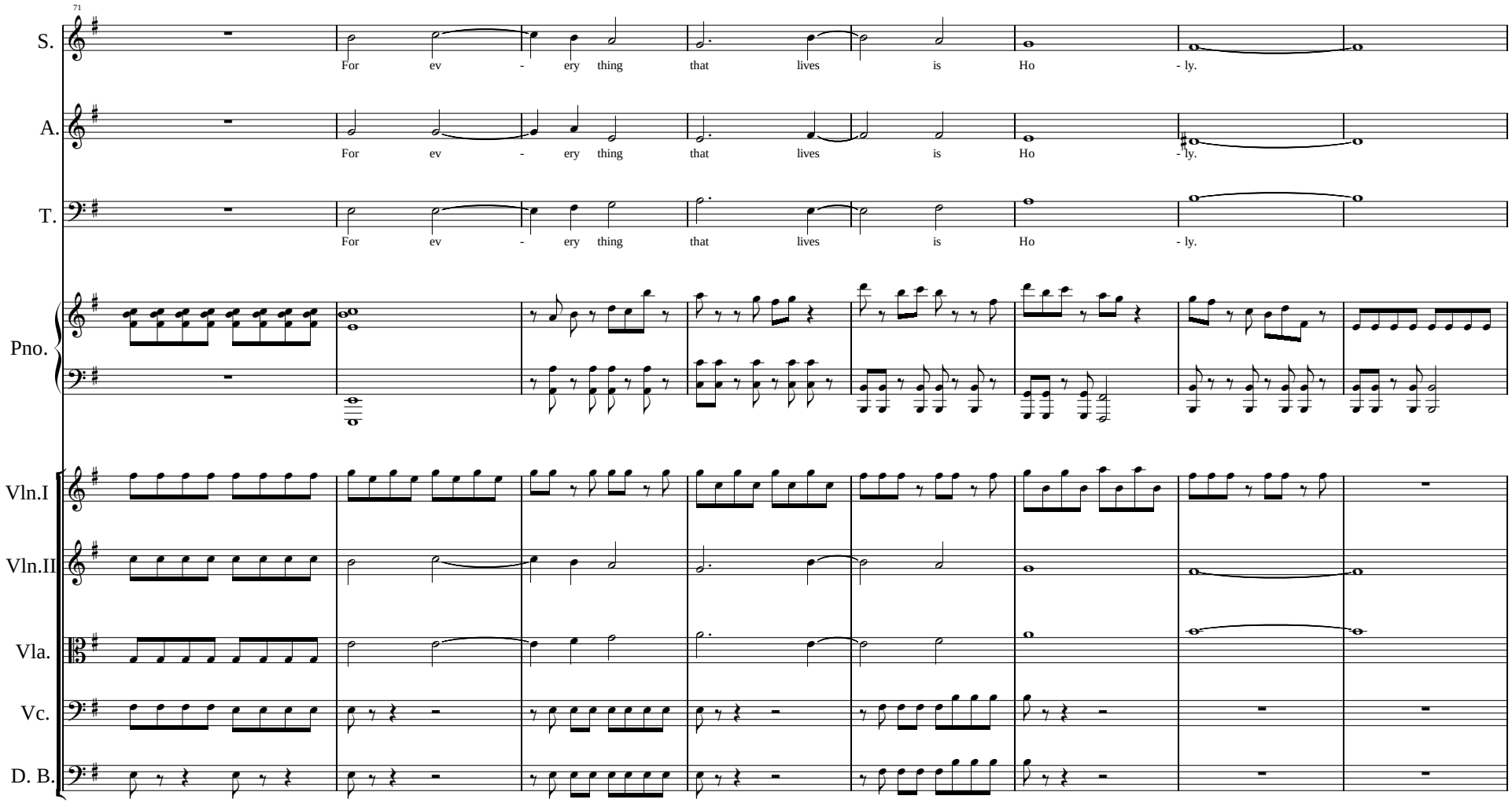

31
S.
that
decresc.
lives
is
p
Ho
- ly.
A.
that
decresc.
lives
is
p
Ho
- ly.
T.
that
decresc.
lives
is
p
Ho
- ly.
Pno.
decresc.
p
Hn.
decresc.
p
Vln.I
decresc.
p
Vln.II
p
Vla.
decresc.
p

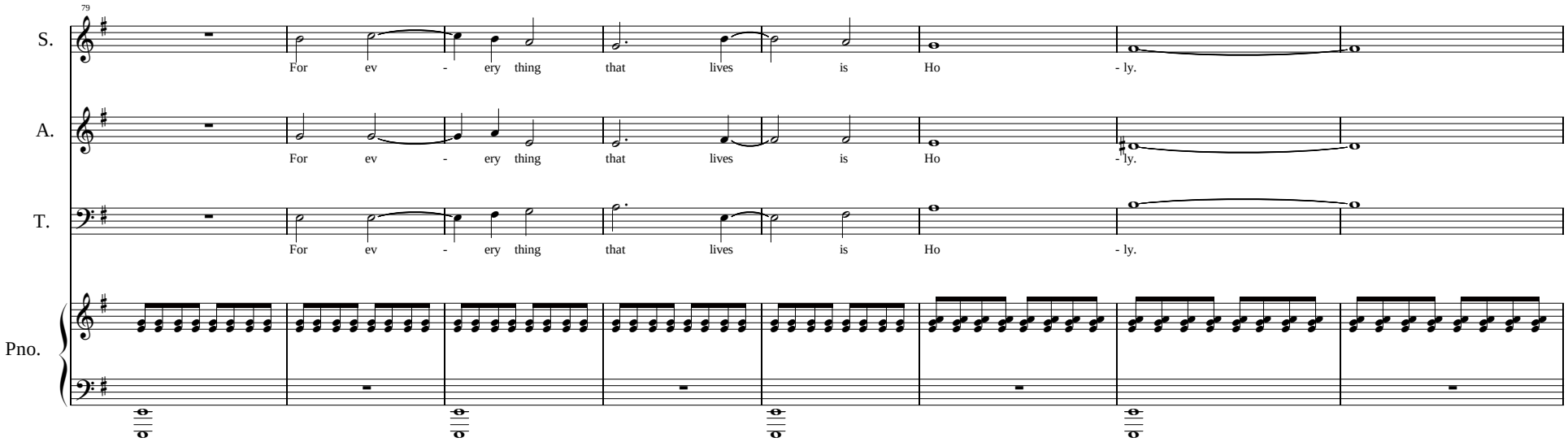
Play m5-1

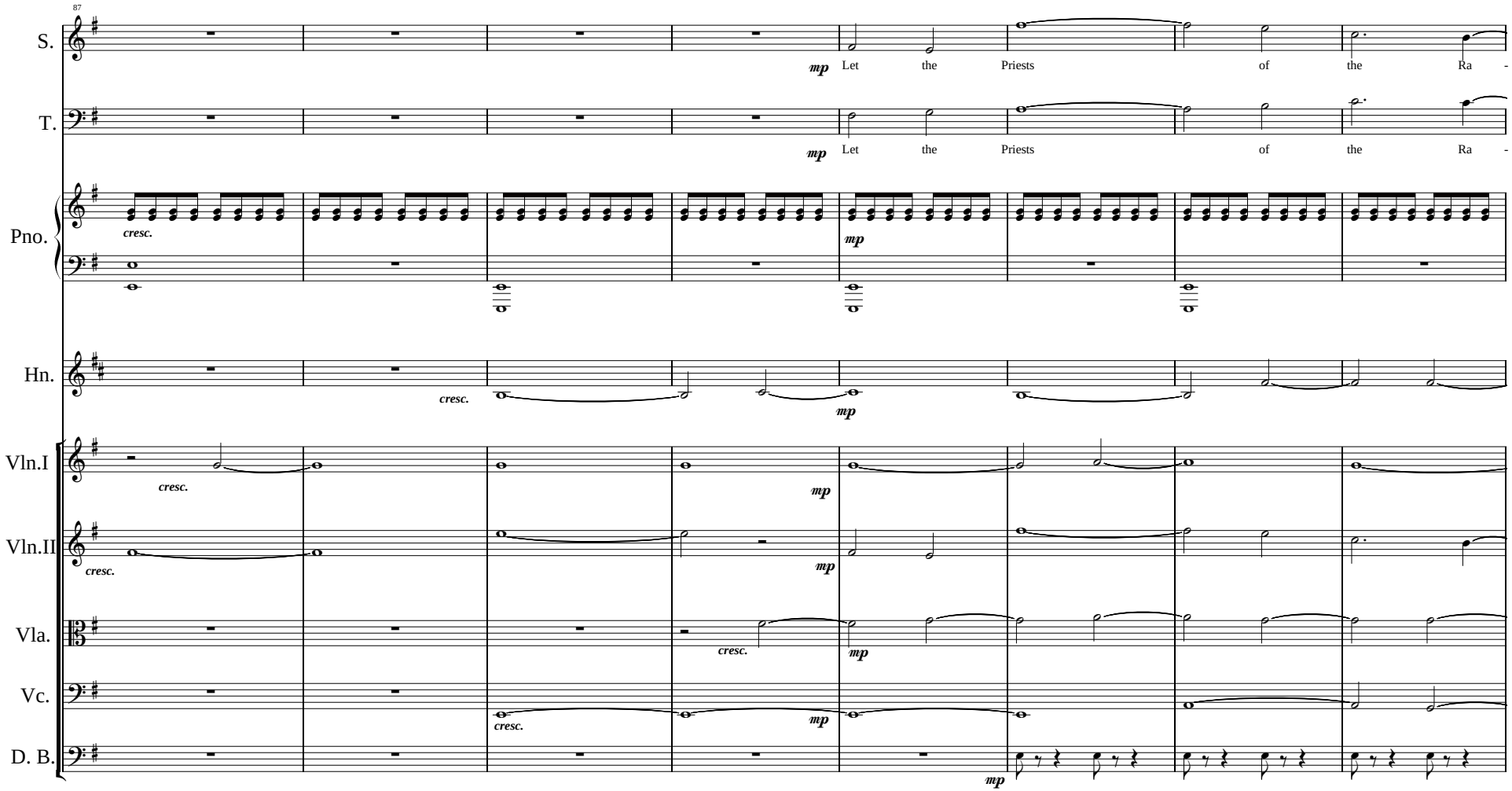

39
Pno.
Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
D. B.
p
p
47
Pno.
Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.


55
Pno.
Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.

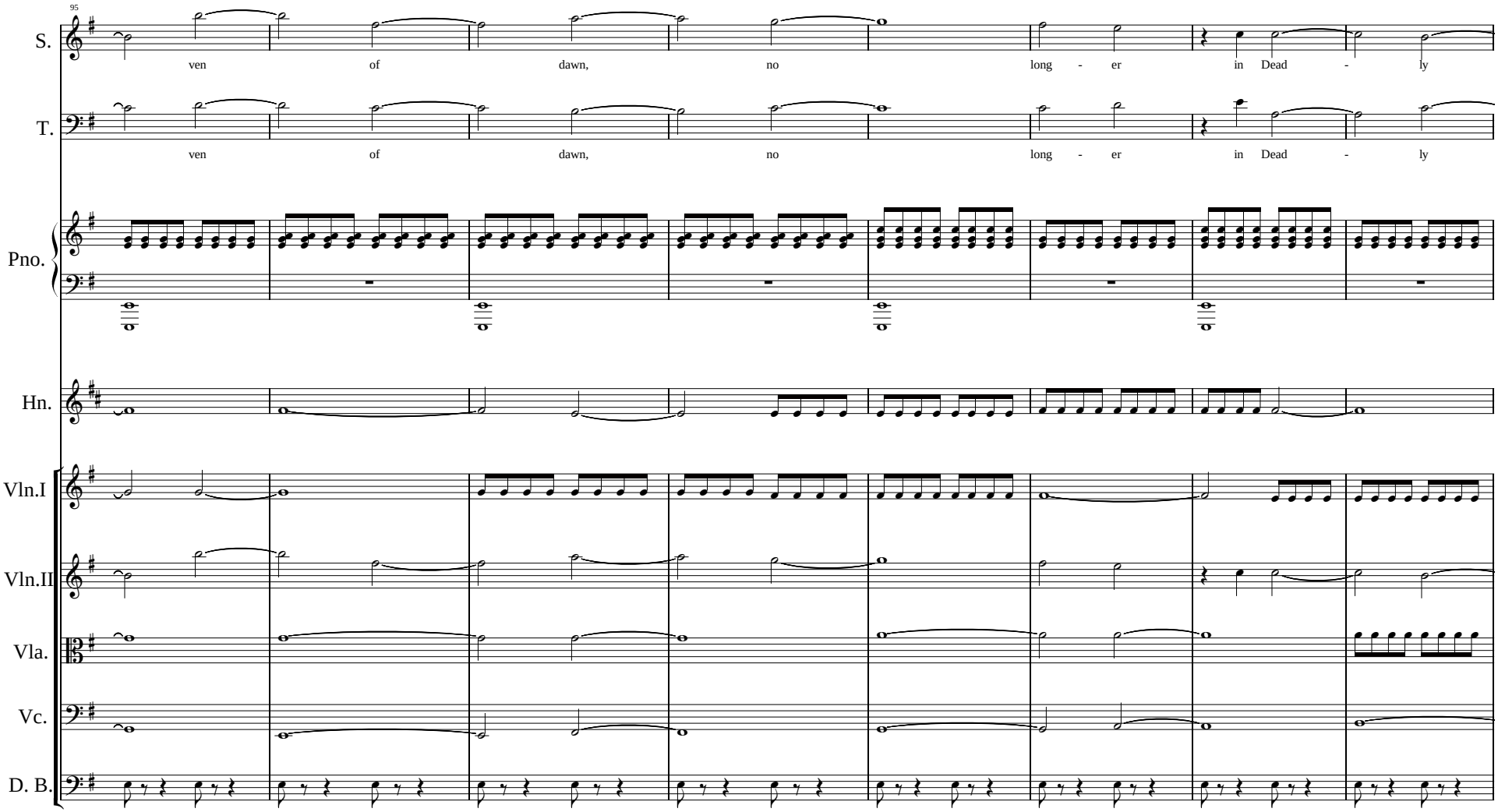

63
Pno.
Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.

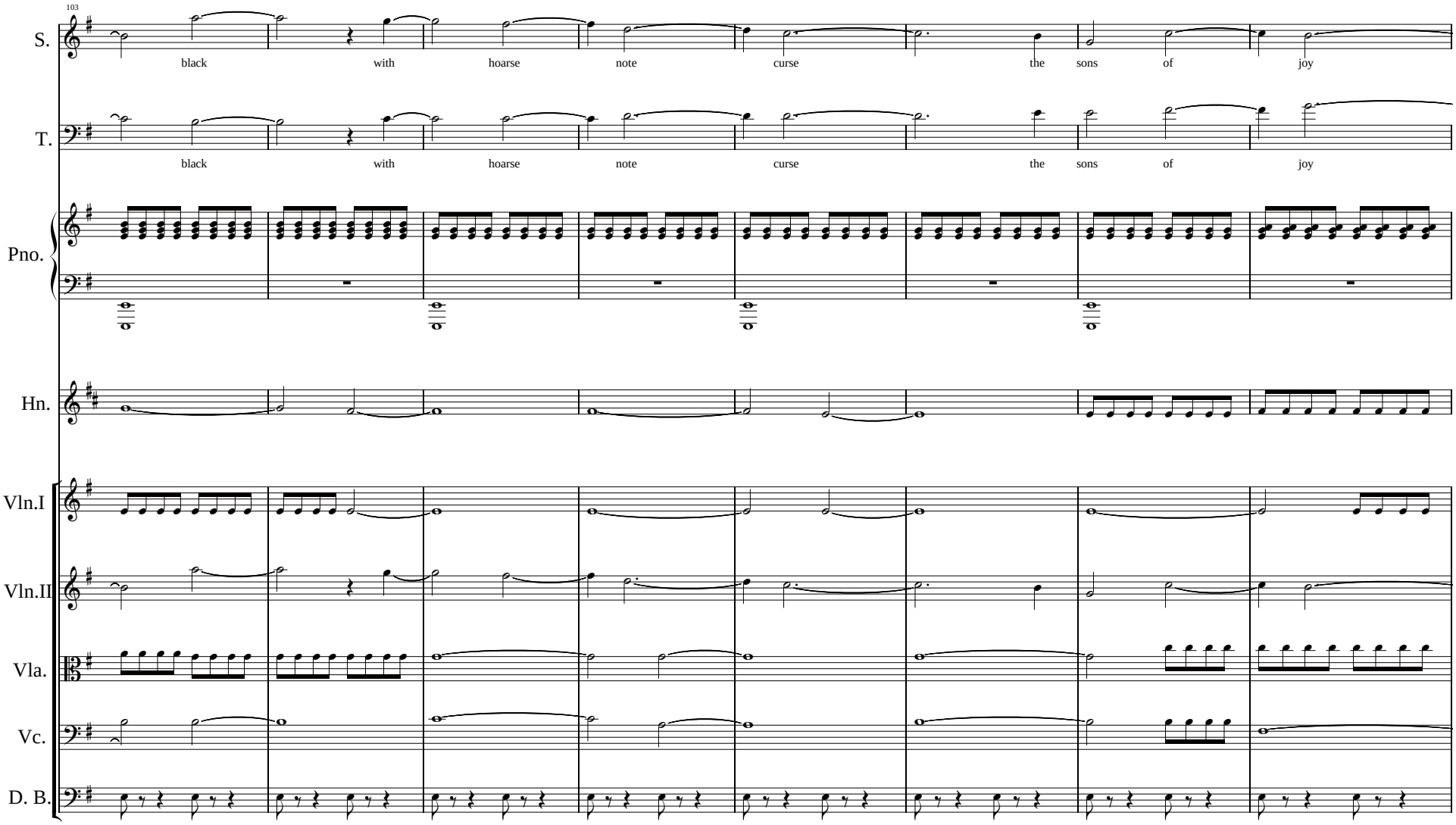

71
S.
For ev - ery thing that lives is Ho - ly.
A.
For ev - ery thing that lives is Ho - ly.
T.
For ev - ery thing that lives is Ho - ly.
Pno.
Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.

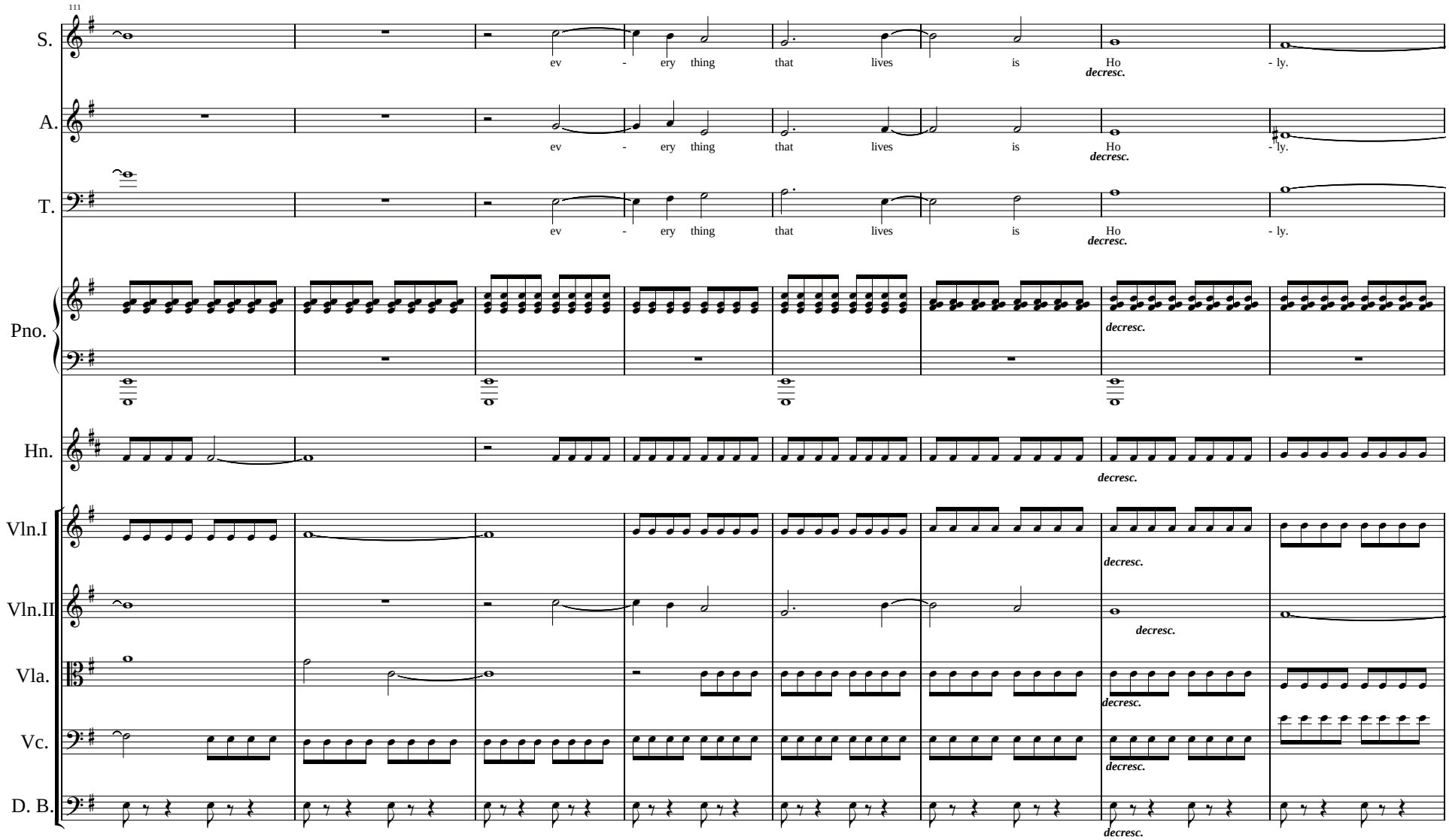

79
S.
For ev - ery thing that lives is Ho - ly.
A.
For ev - ery thing that lives is Ho - ly.
T.
For ev - ery thing that lives is Ho - ly.
Pno.

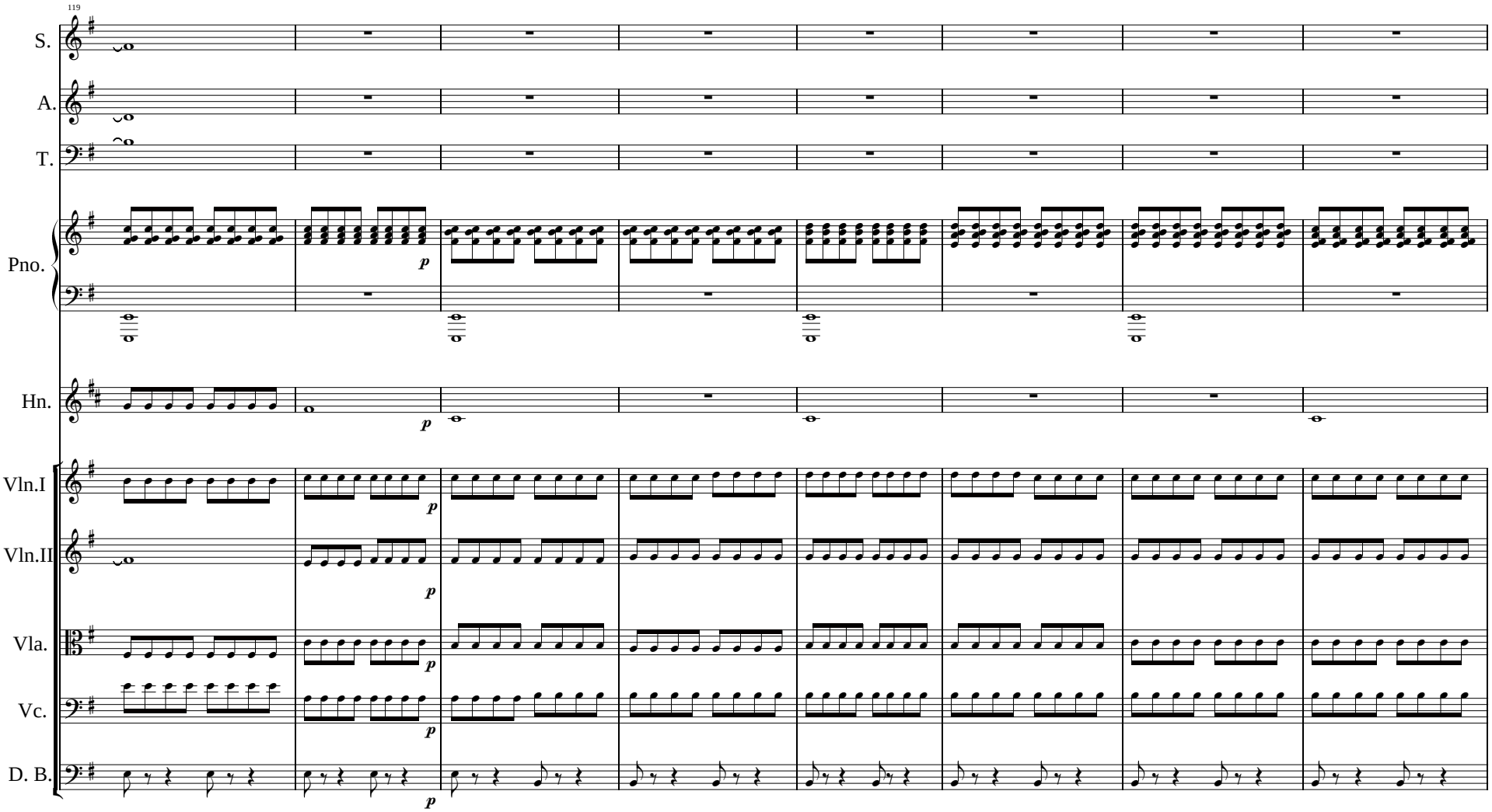

87
S.
T.
Pno.
Hn.
Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.
mp
Let the Priests of the Ra -
cresc.

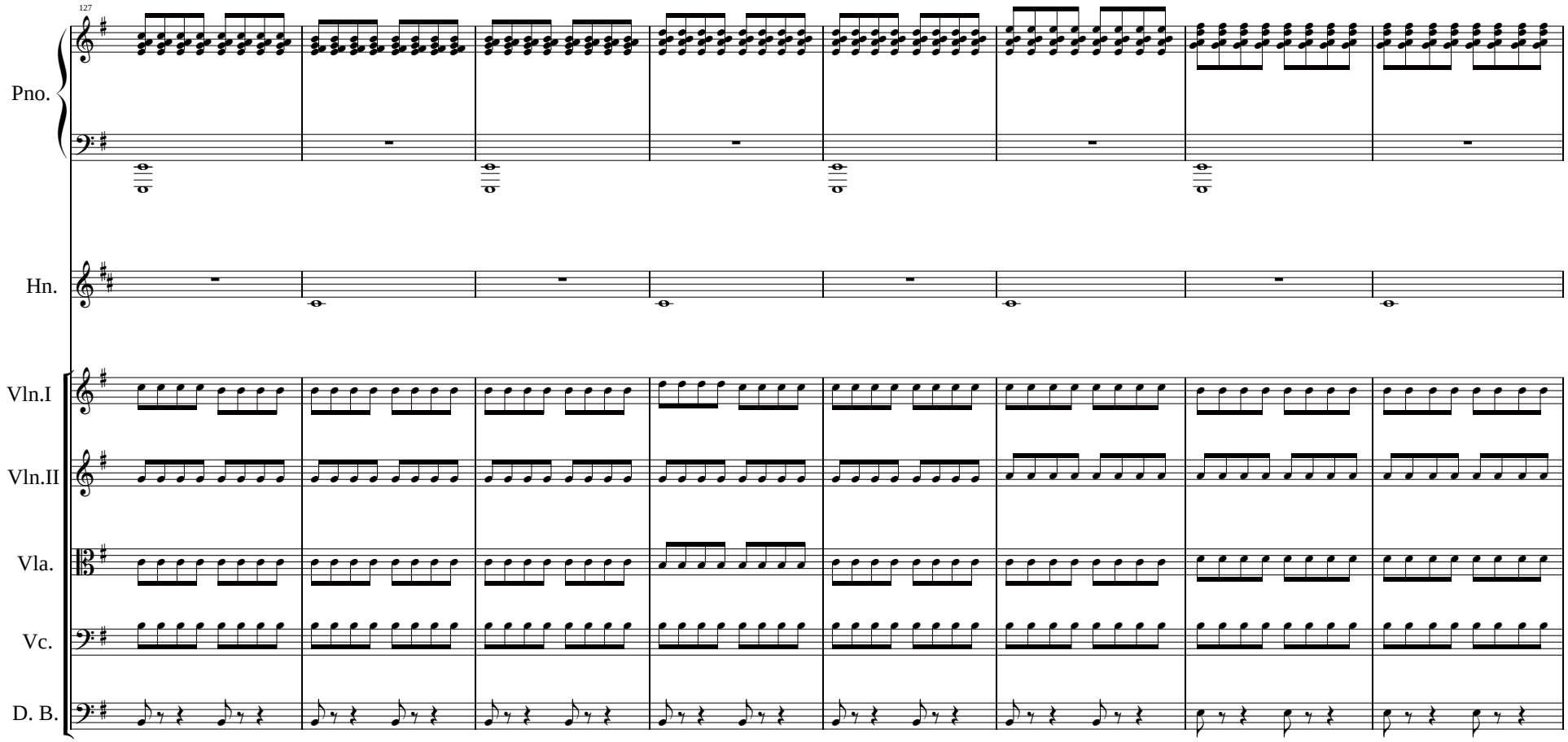
Play m5-2

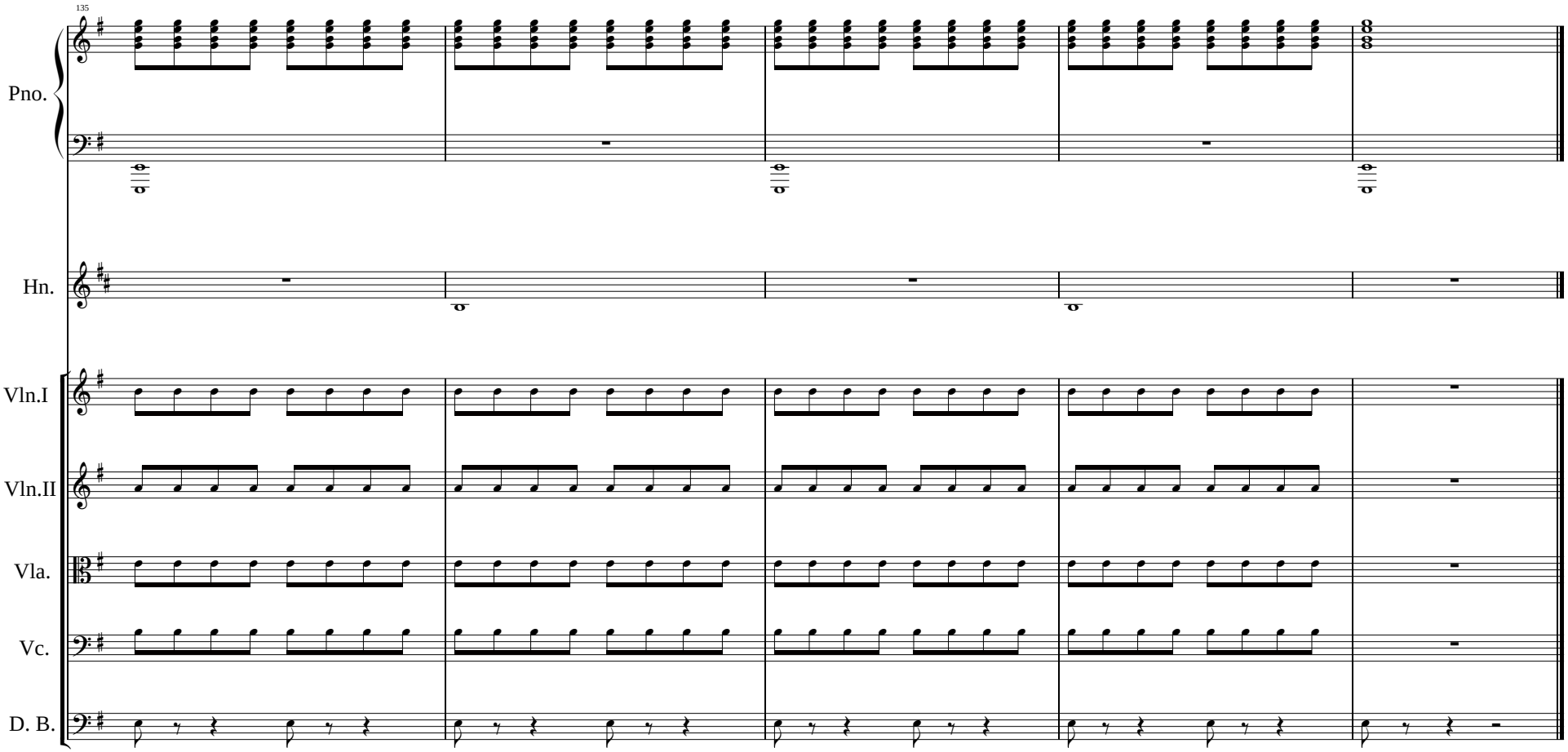

95
S.
ven of dawn, no long - er in Dead - ly
T.
ven of dawn, no long - er in Dead - ly
Pno.
Hn.
Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.


103
S.
black with hoarse note curse the sons of joy
T.
black with hoarse note curse the sons of joy
Pno.
Hn.
Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.


111
S.
A.
T.
Pno.
Hn.
Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.
ev - ery thing that lives is Ho - ly.
decresc.


119
S.
A.
T.
Pno.
Hn.
Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.
p


127
Pno.
Hn.
Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.


135
Pno.
Hn.
Vln.I
Vln.II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.