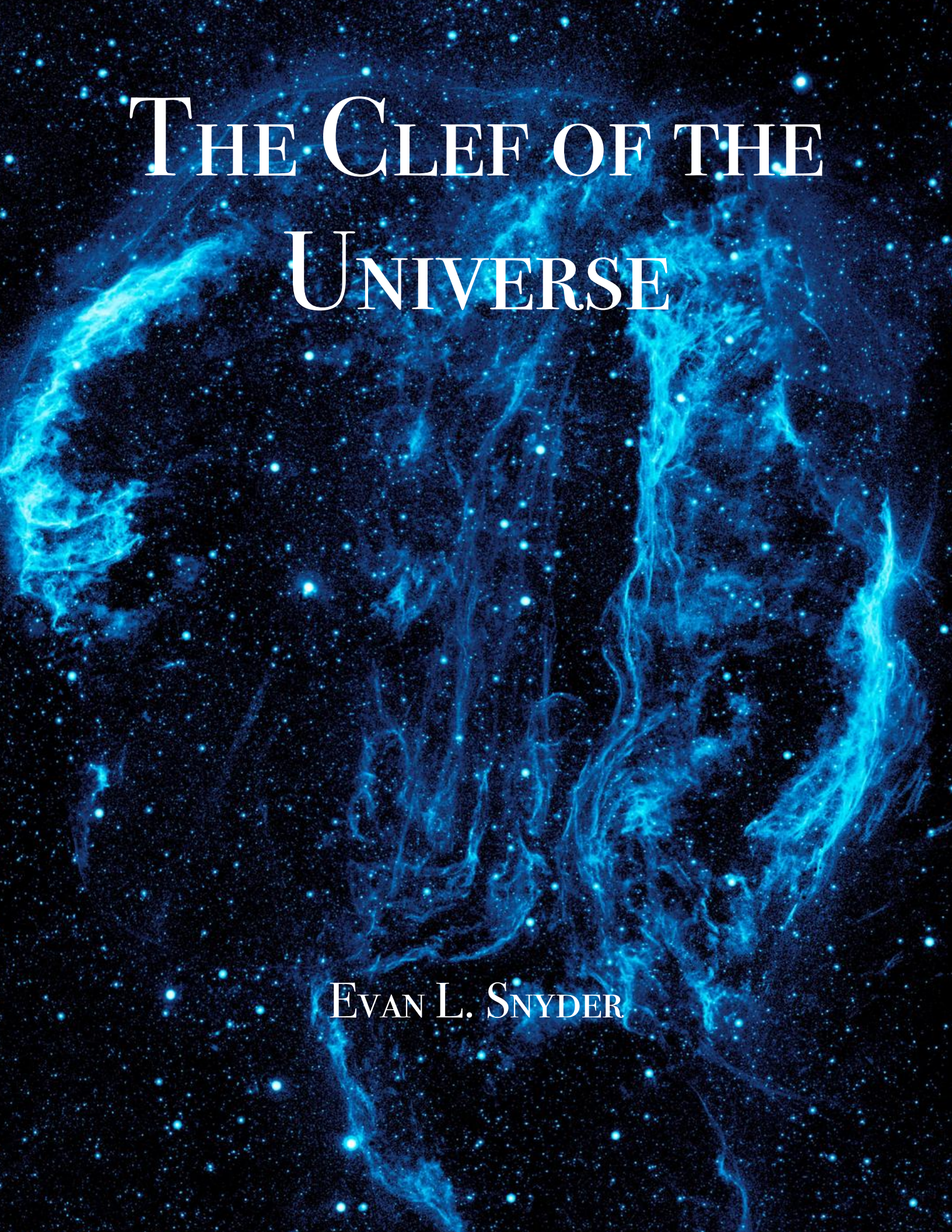

The Clef of the Universe

Evan L. Snyder

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The Clef of the Universe

Full Score

The story of The Clef of the Universe is one of discovery: of what has been and what could be. The action follows the crew of an alien archeological mission, from planet Xale'ja, who crash land on an unfamiliar and lifeless world. Upon discovering the lost vestiges of an ancient civilization on this alien world, the ship's excavationist, Oc'rys, and their fellow crew members work to learn about the unfamiliar people of this lost society. As they uncover the truth behind the destruction of life on the planet, they themselves get caught up in the same danger and are forced to contend with the dark realities of our universe.

Instrumentation

2 Violins
Viola
Violoncello
Double Bass

Piano

Cast of Characters

Captain Tarq' (tɑʁk) - Contralto or Bass-baritone/Bass

A seasoned Stellar Argosy captain, Tarq' is a focused and efficient leader, ever-capable of balancing the expertise of his crew members with his own considerable experience. Notably stoic, they maintain a certain personal distance from their crew, to preserve both their own authority and to model the kind of conduct that they prefer to see on their ship.

Artificer Q'rench (kʁɛnʃ) - Soubrette/light lyric soprano or light lyric tenor

A brilliant technology expert, inventor and mechanic, Q'rench has focused their pursuits on the revival of ancient technologies. While always excited to tackle any and all things machine, and happy to dabble in any of several other fields of advanced science, Q'rench is a much less assertive social creature. They function efficiently in their role as ship's Artificer, but rarely converse with the others about anything besides their duties aboard the ship.

Excavationist Oc'rys (o-ʃʁɪs) - Lyric mezzo-soprano or Lyric baritone

The ship's excavationist, resident expert on alien languages and cultures, Oc'rys is deeply passionate about the preservation of alien history and experience. Participating in this Argosy archeological mission is a dream come true for them and truly the perfect fit for their talents. Still early in their career, Oc'rys's intensity in the pursuit of discovery is occasionally at odds with the Captain's structured and by-the-book operating procedure, but despite this, Oc'rys and Captain Tarq' share a considerable mutual respect.

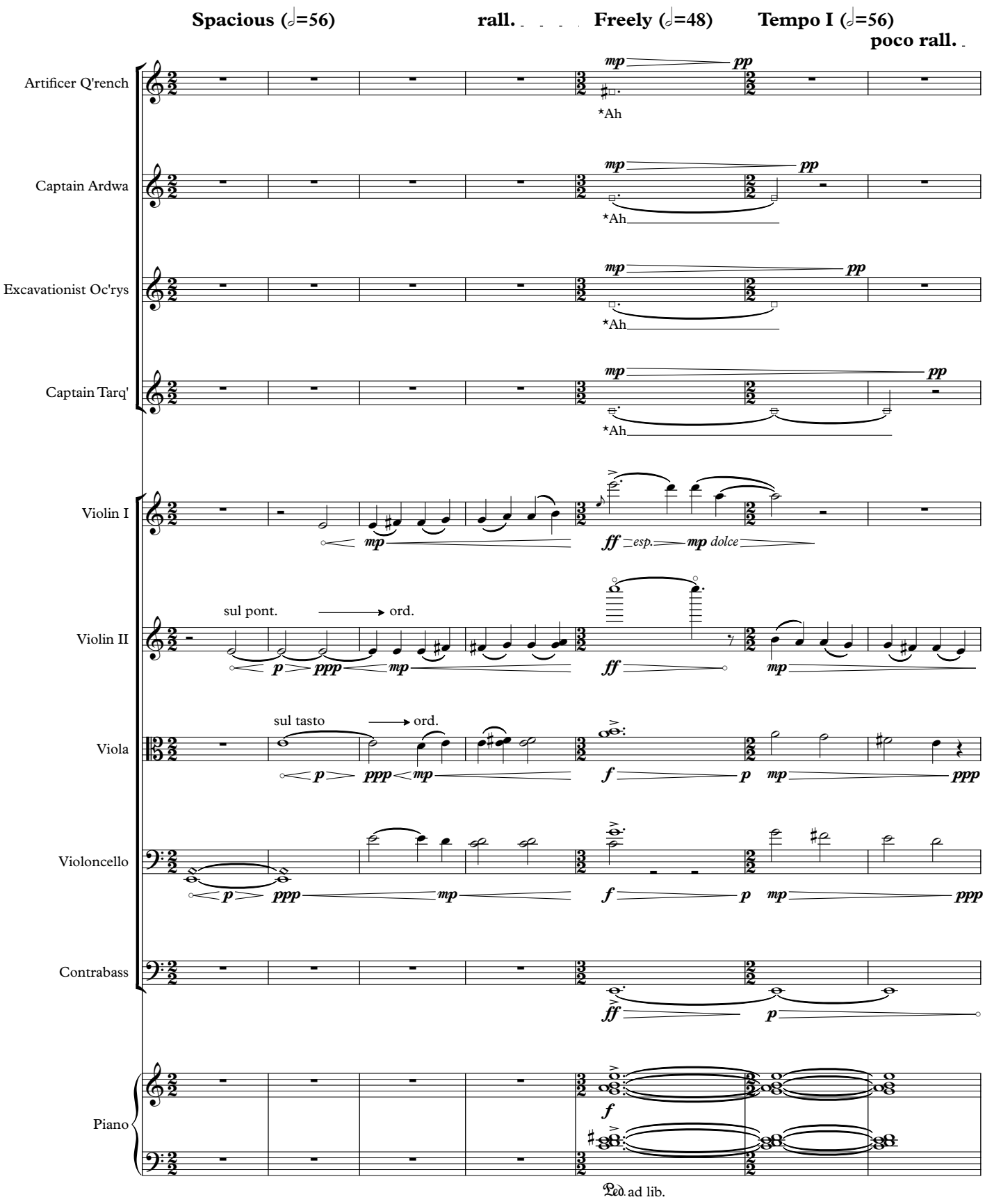
Captain Ardwa (ɑʁ-dwɑ)/Prologue - Full lyric soprano or Full lyric tenor

An unknown individual to the Xale'jan crew, Ardwa is in many ways a typical example of the Avi — polite, private, and rather aloof. Seemingly good-natured, Ardwa carries themselves with a considerable air of experience.

The Clef of the Universe

Prelude & Prologue

Evan L. Snyder



*Pitches with the square notehead notation should be sung at absolute pitch,
regardless of which octave the remainder of the role is being sung in.
Singers are also welcome to exchange parts here, for easier vocal production or balance of harmony.

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a tempo (𝅗𝅥=56) **rall.** **Freely (𝅗𝅥=48)** **Tempo I (𝅗𝅥=56)** **poco rall.**

8

Q'r. — *mp* *pp* — Ah

Ard. — *mp* *pp* — Ah

Oc'. — *mp* *pp* — Ah

Tarq — *mp* *pp* — Ah

Vln. I — sul pont. → ord. — *p* *ppp* *mp* — *ff* — *mp*

Vln. II — *ppp* — *mp* — *ff* *esp.* *mp dolce*

Vla. — sul tasto → ord. — *p* *ppp* *mp* — *f* *p* *mp* *ppp*

Vc. — *p* *ppp* *mp* — *f* *p* *mp* *ppp*

Cb. — *ff* *p*

Pno. — *f*

15

a tempo (𝅗𝅥=56) **rall.** **Freely (𝅗𝅥=48)** **(lo stesso tempo)** **rall.**

Q'r. — *mp* *pp* — Ah

Ard. — *mp* *pp* — Ah

Oc'. — *mp* *pp* — Ah

Tarq — *mp* *pp* — Ah

Vln. I — *ppp* *mp* — *ff* *esp.* *mp* *dolce*

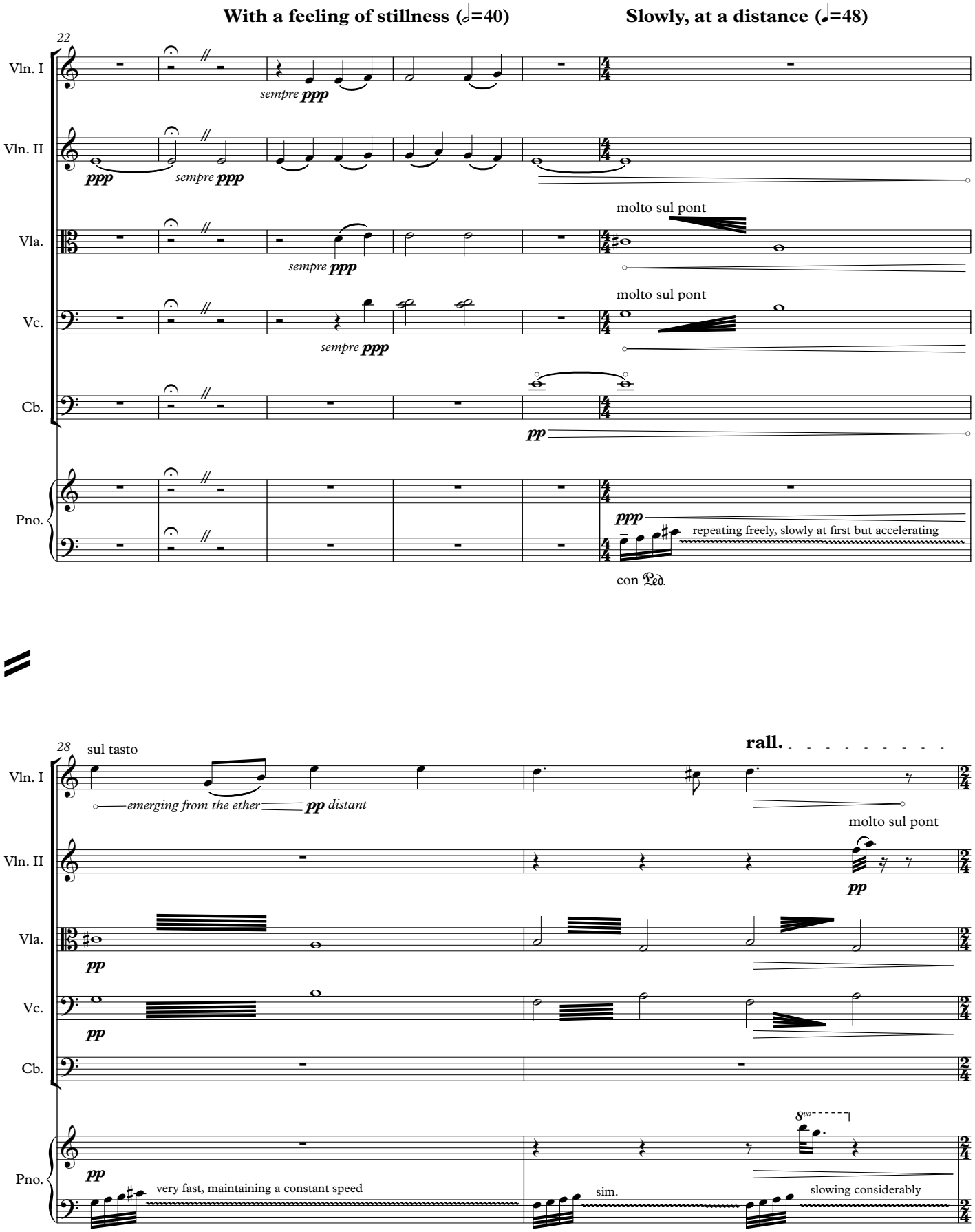
Vln. II — sul pont. ord. — *p* *ppp* *mp* — *ff* *mp*

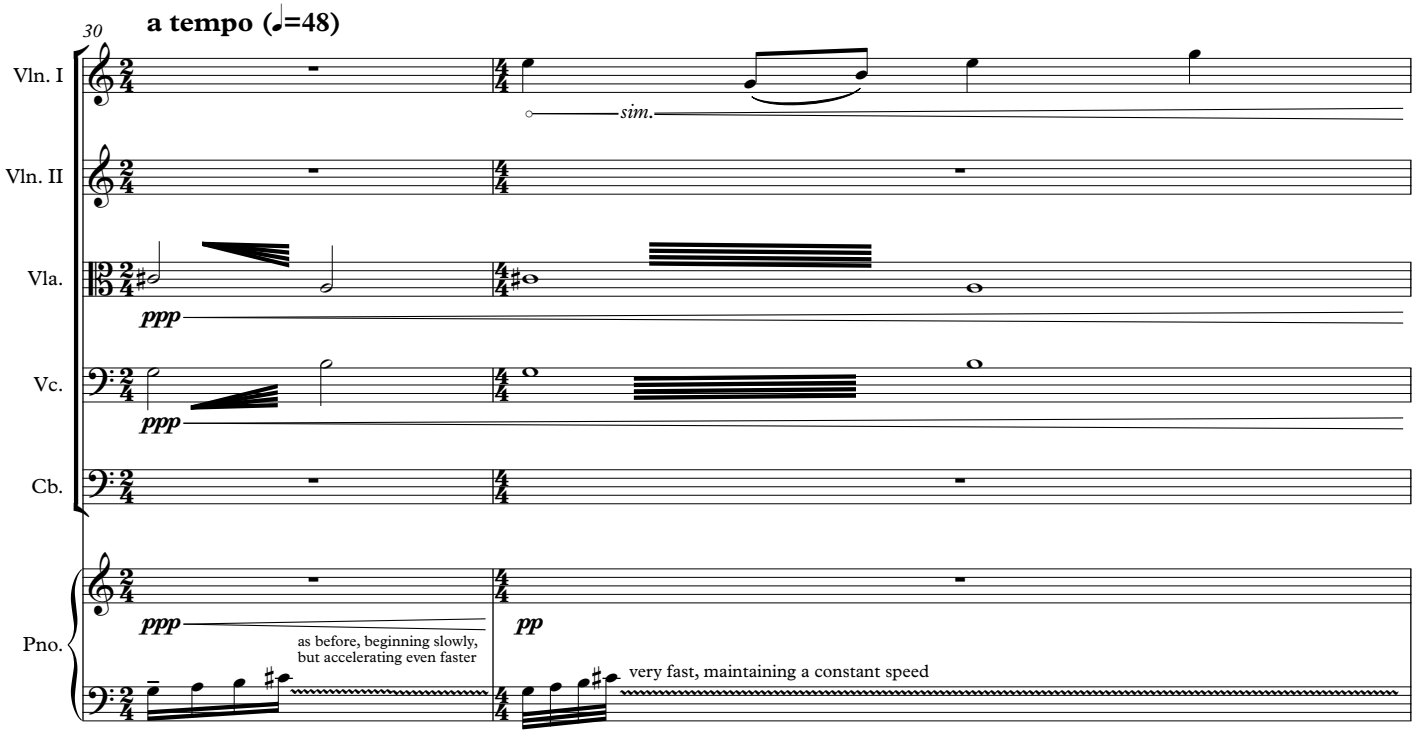
Vla. — sul tasto ord. — *p* *ppp* *mp* — *f* *p* *mp* *p*

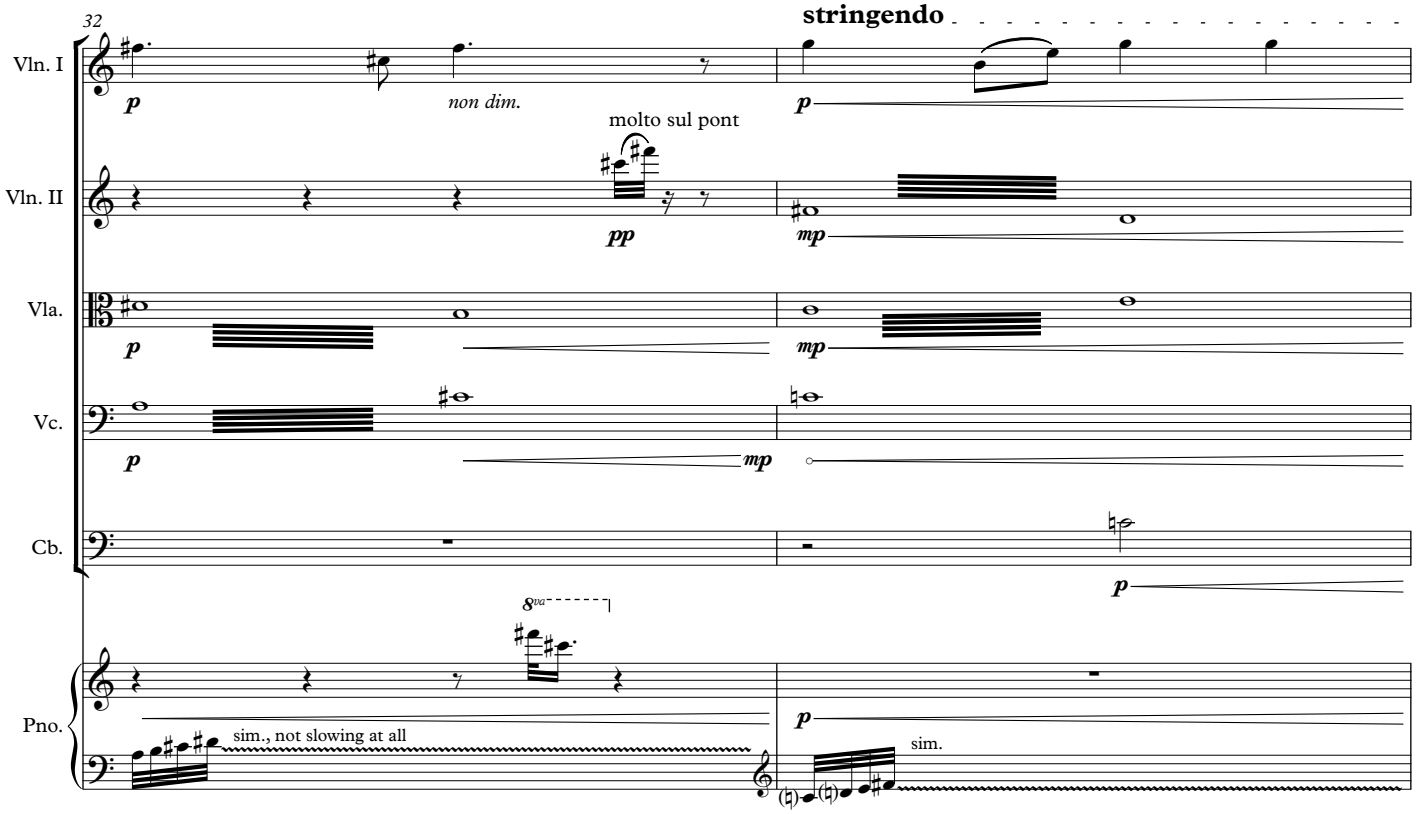
Vc. — *p* *ppp* *mp* — *f* *p* *mp* *p*

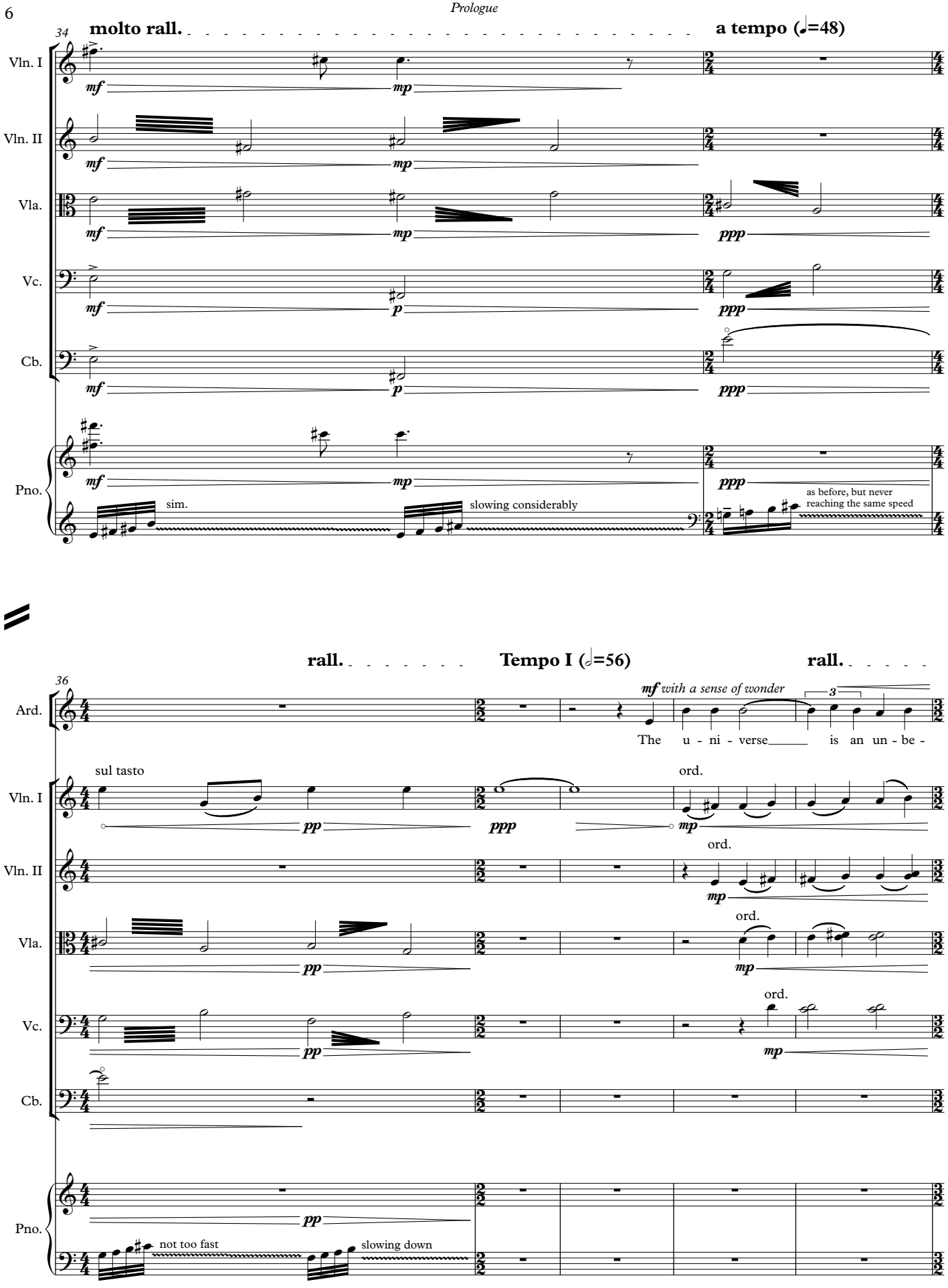
Cb. — *ff* *p*

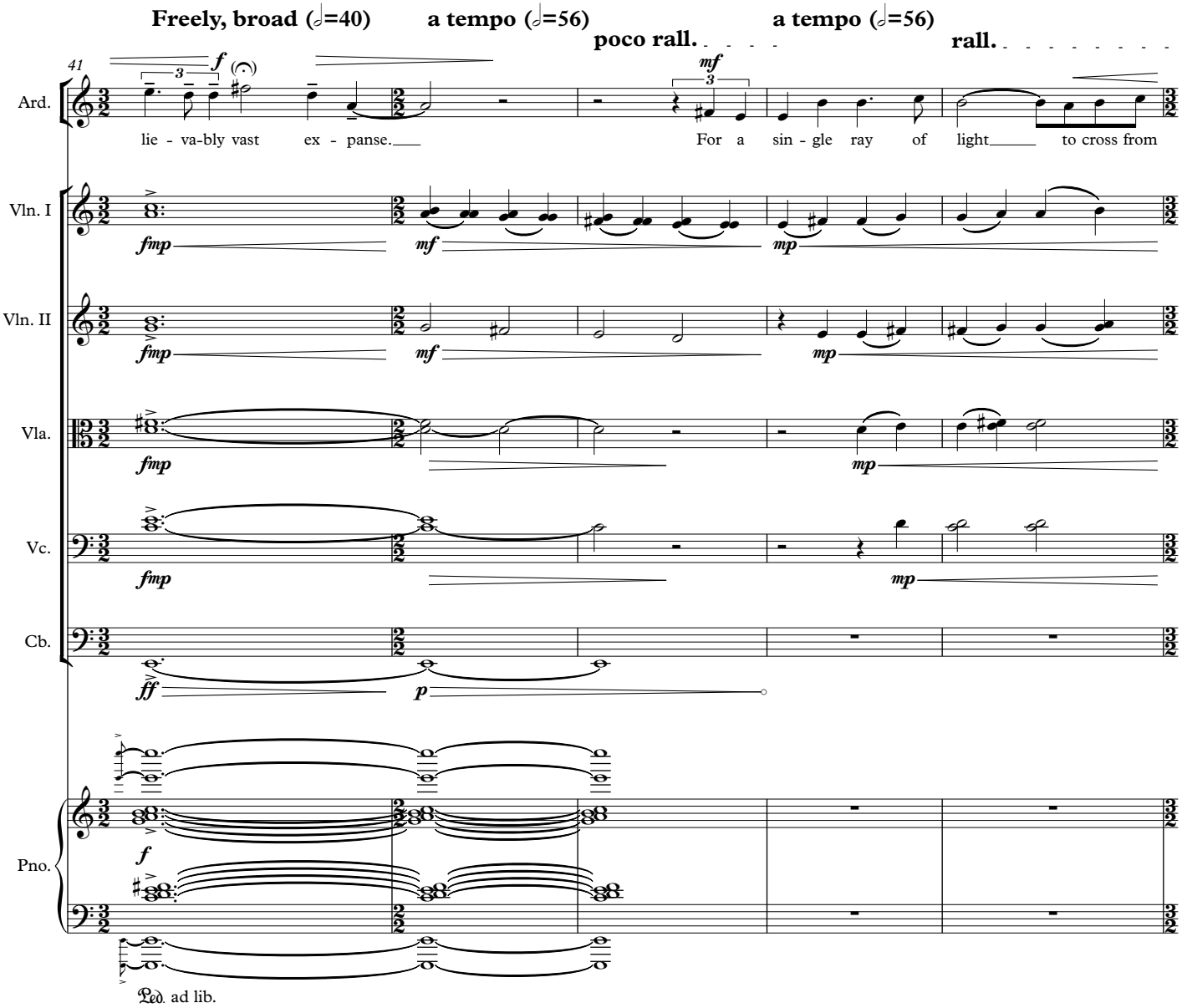
Pno. — *f*


With a feeling of stillness (𝅗𝅥=40)
Slowly, at a distance (𝅗𝅥=48)
22
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
Pno.
sempre ppp
ppp
molto sul pont
pp
repeating freely, slowly at first but accelerating
con Ped.
28
sul tasto
rall.
emerging from the ether
pp distant
very fast, maintaining a constant speed
sim.
slowing considerably
8va

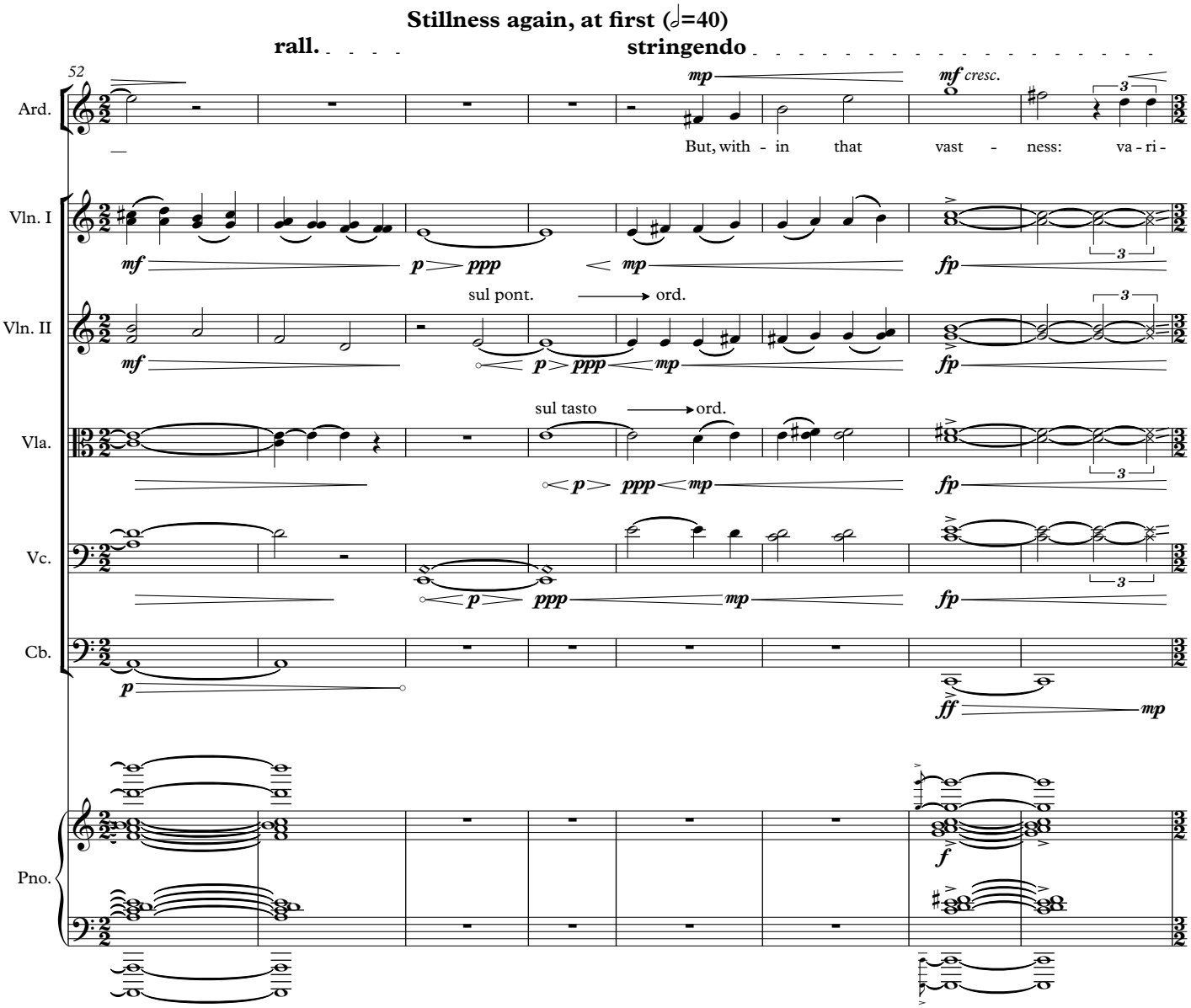

30
a tempo (♩=48)
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
Pno.
sim.
ppp
ppp
ppp
pp
as before, beginning slowly,
but accelerating even faster
very fast, maintaining a constant speed

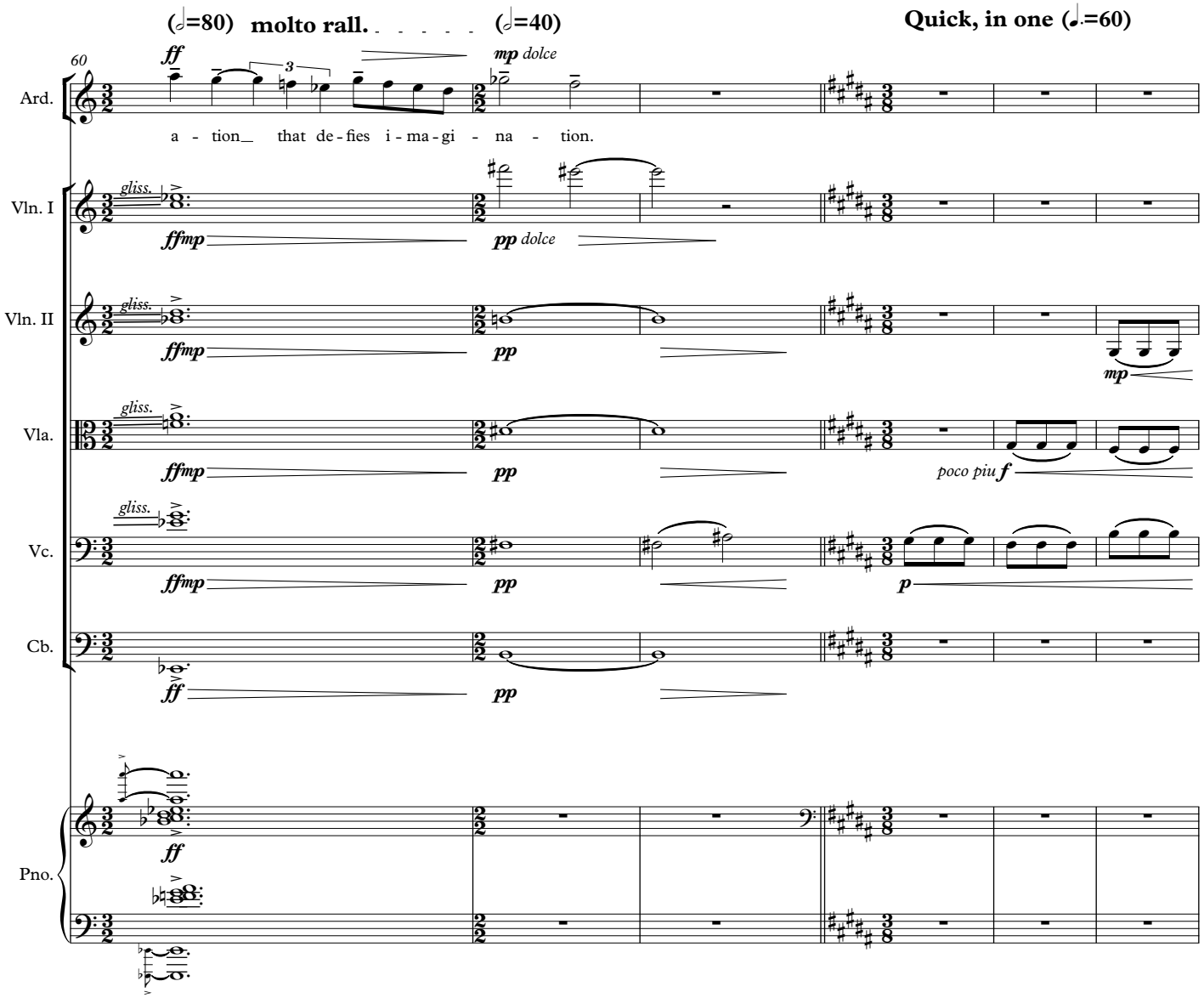

32
stringendo
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
Pno.
p
non dim.
molto sul pont
pp
p
mp
p
mp
p
mp
p
8va
sim., not slowing at all
p
sim.

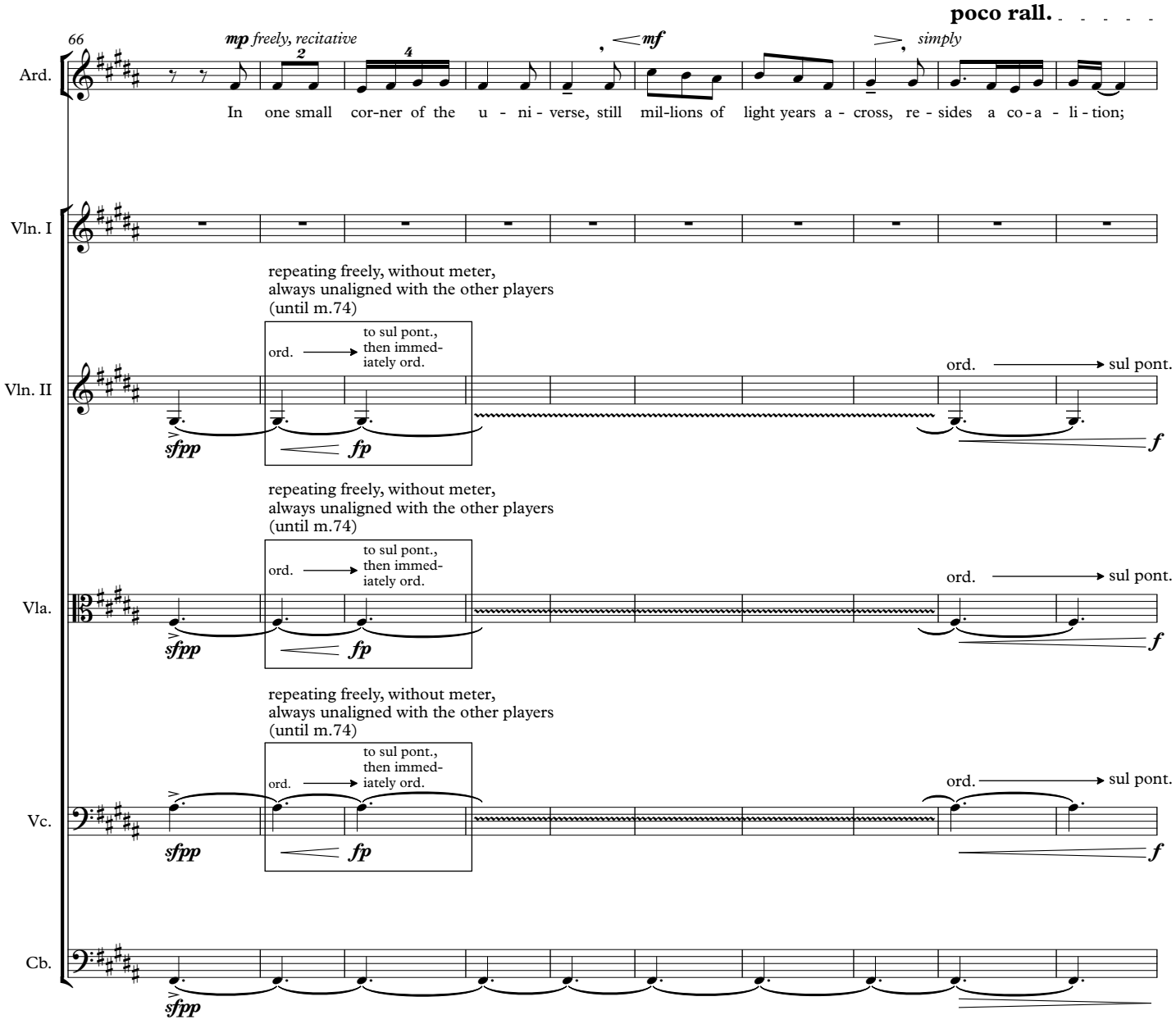

34
molto rall.
a tempo (♩=48)
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
Pno.
mf
mp
p
ppp
sim.
slowing considerably
as before, but never reaching the same speed
rall.
Tempo I (♩=56)
rall.
36
Ard.
mf with a sense of wonder
3
The u - ni - verse is an un - be -
sul tasto
ord.
pp
ppp
mp
not too fast
slowing down

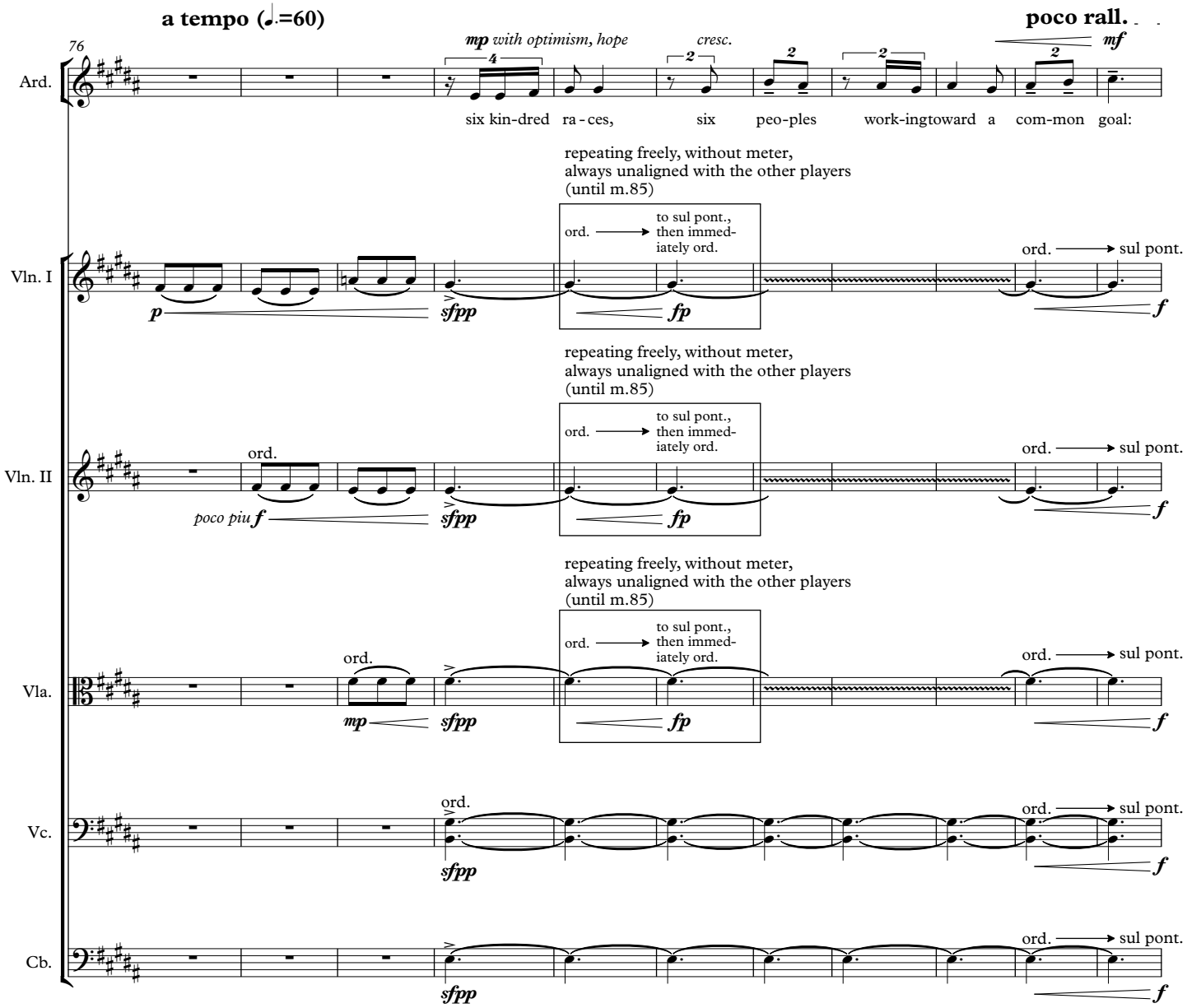

Freely, broad (𝅗𝅥=40)
a tempo (𝅗𝅥=56)
poco rall.
a tempo (𝅗𝅥=56)
rall.
41
Ard.
lie - va-bly vast ex - panse.
For a sin - gle ray of light to cross from
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
Pno.
Ped. ad lib.

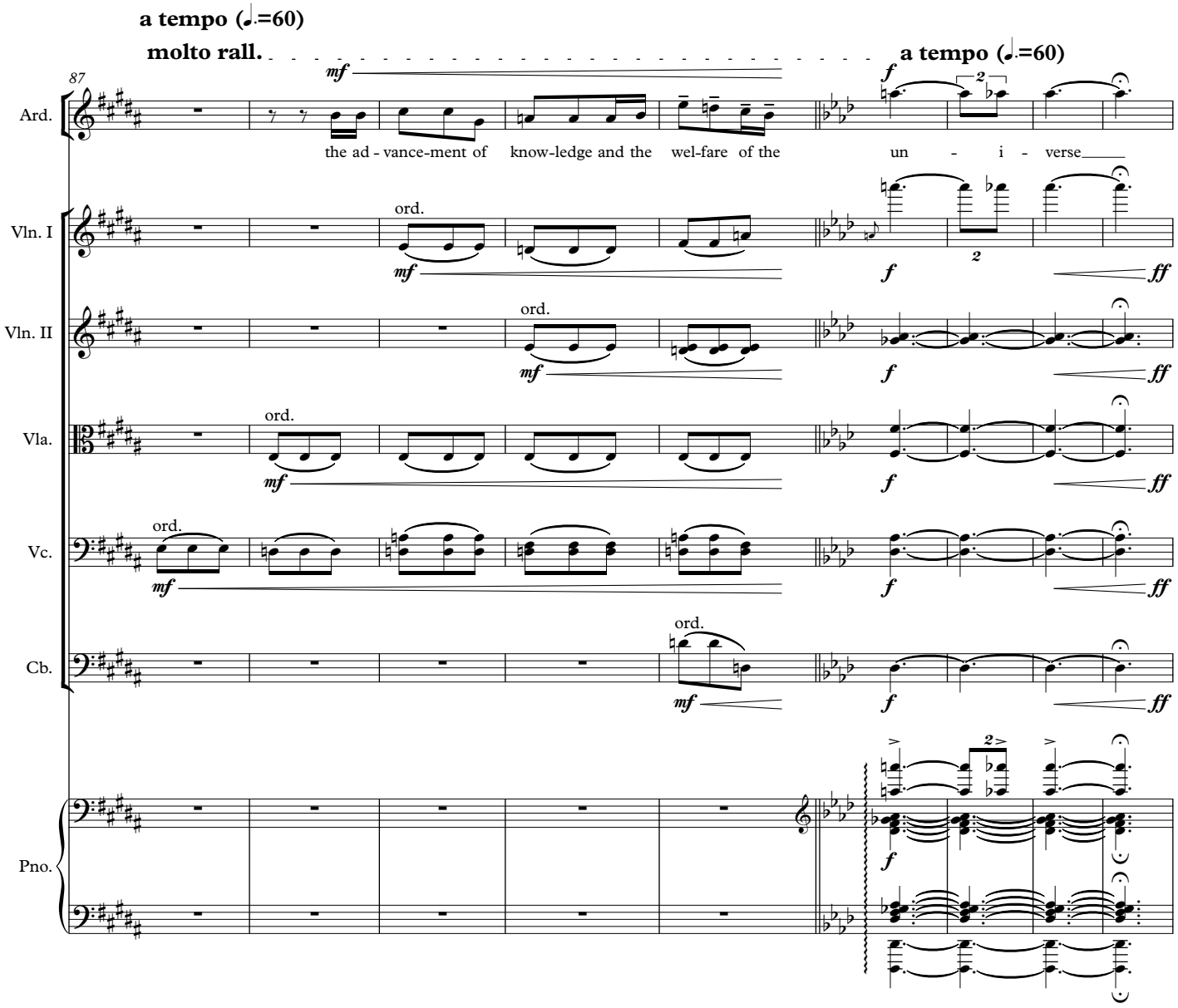
Less broadly (𝅗𝅥=48)
a tempo (𝅗𝅥=56)
poco rall.
a tempo (𝅗𝅥=56)
rall.
Broadly (𝅗𝅥=40)
46
Ard.
one edge to the o - ther,
it takes near - ly one hun-dred bil - lion years.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
Pno.

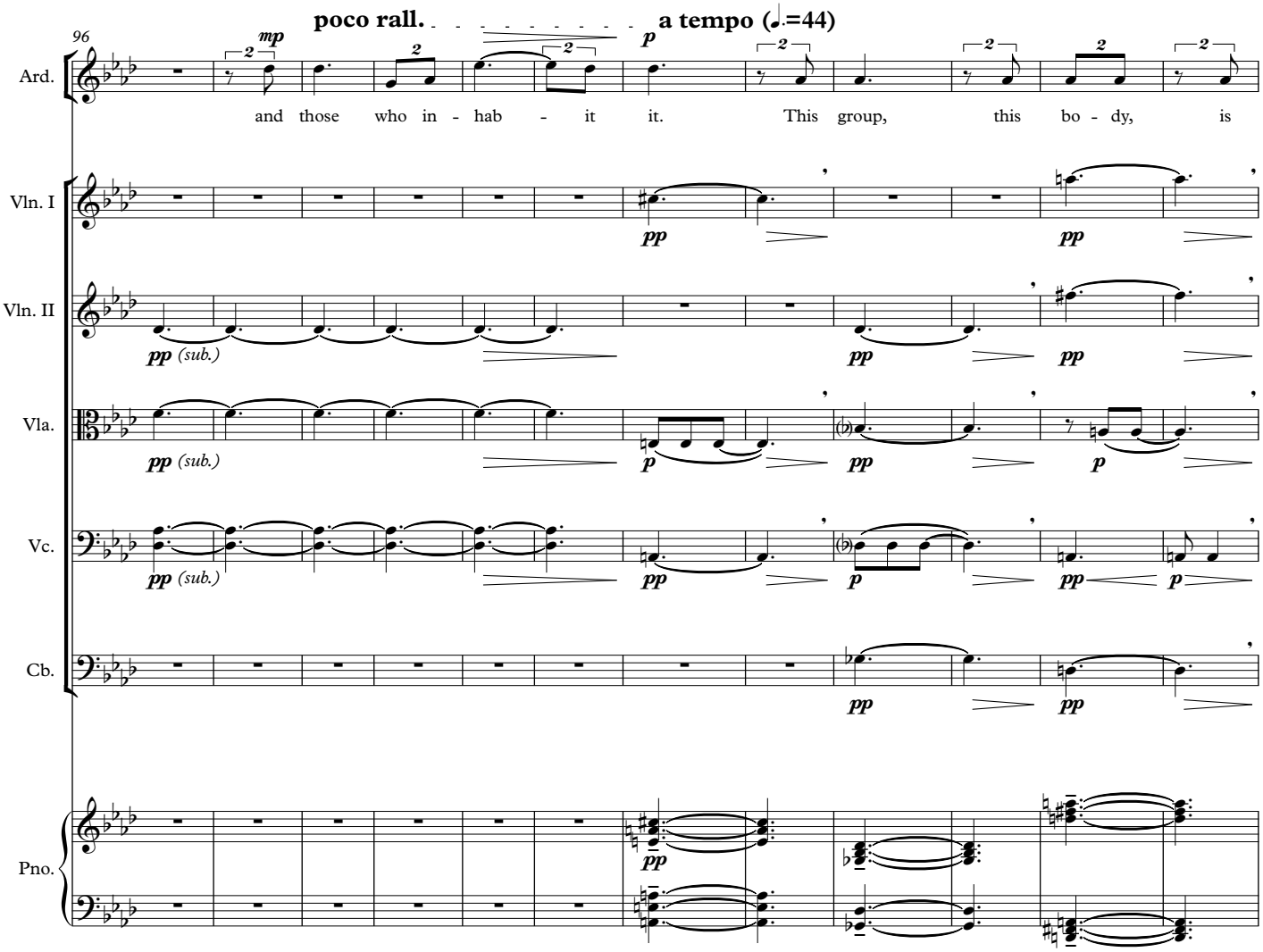

Stillness again, at first (𝅗𝅥=40)
rall.
stringendo
52
Ard.
But, with - in that vast - ness: va - ri -
Vln. I
Vln. II
sul pont.
ord.
Vla.
sul tasto
ord.
Vc.
Cb.
Pno.

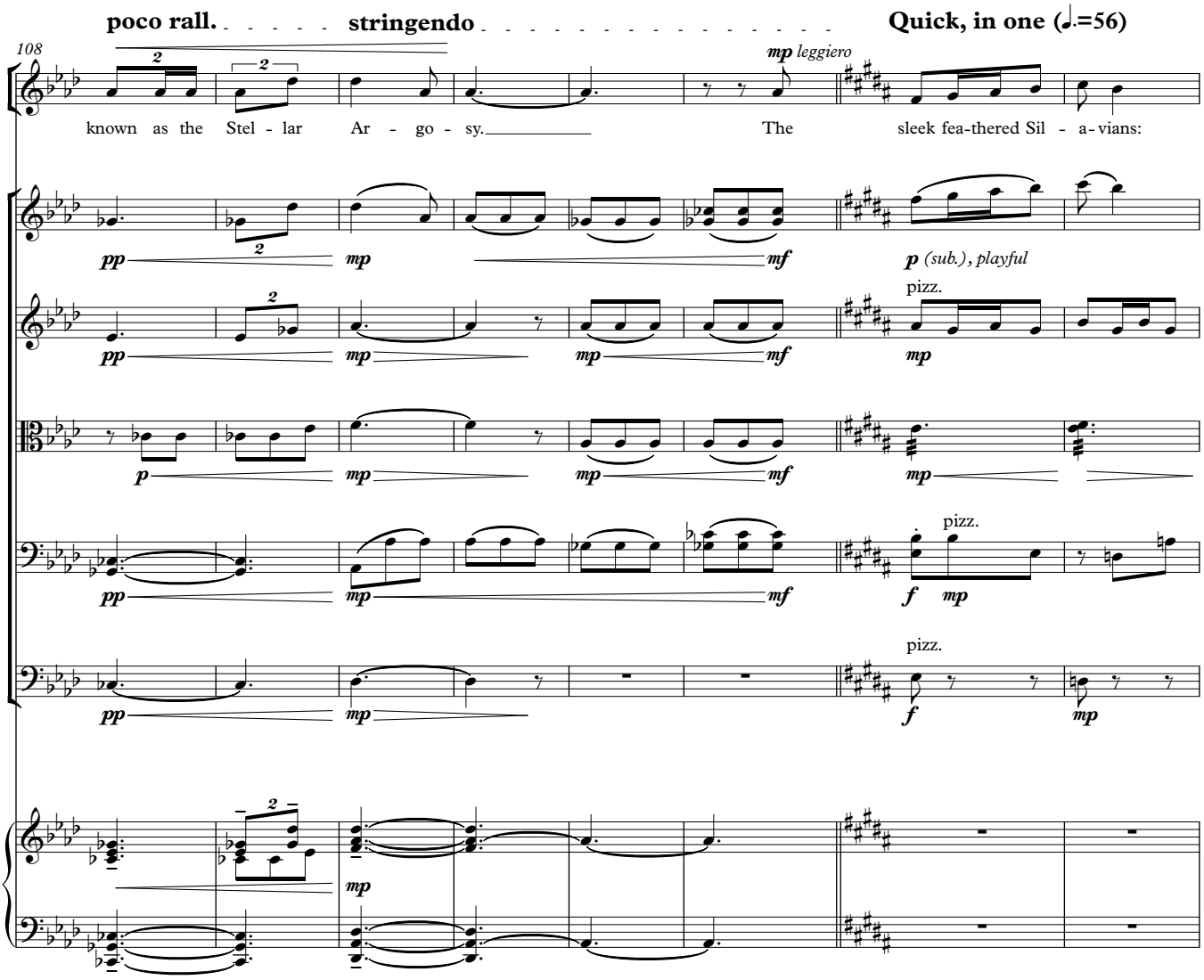

(𝅗𝅥=80) molto rall. (𝅗𝅥=40)
Quick, in one (♩.=60)
60
ff
mp dolce
Ard.
a - tion_ that de - fies i - ma - gi - na - tion.
Vln. I
gliss.
ffmp
pp dolce
Vln. II
pp
mp
Vla.
poco piu f
Vc.
p
Cb.
ff
Pno.

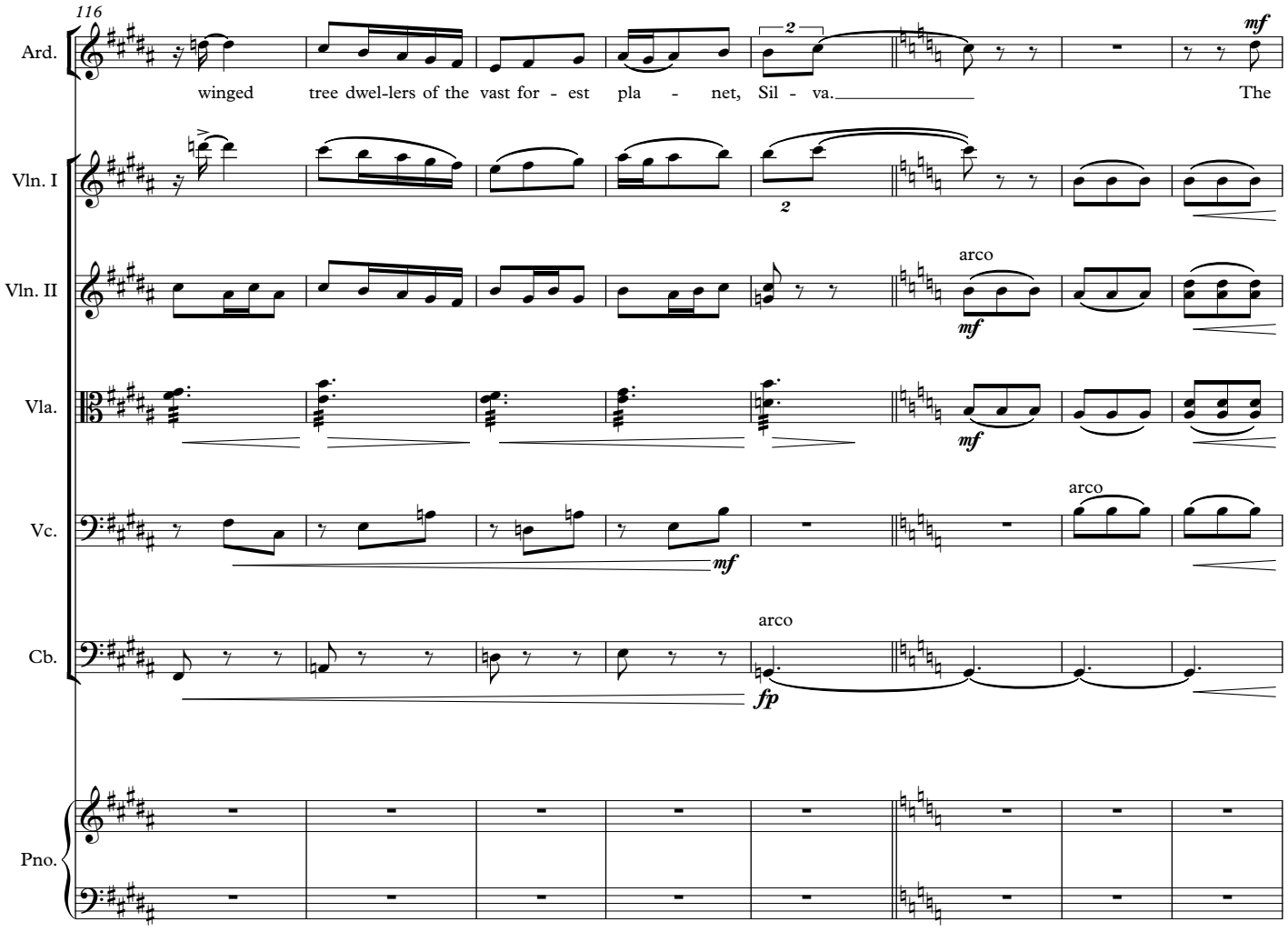

poco rall.
66
mp freely, recitative
mf
simply
Ard.
In one small cor-ner of the u - ni - verse, still mil-lions of light years a - cross, re - sides a co - a - li - tion;
Vln. I
Vln. II
repeating freely, without meter,
always unaligned with the other players
(until m.74)
ord.
to sul pont., then immed-iately ord.
sul pont.
sfpp
fp
f
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

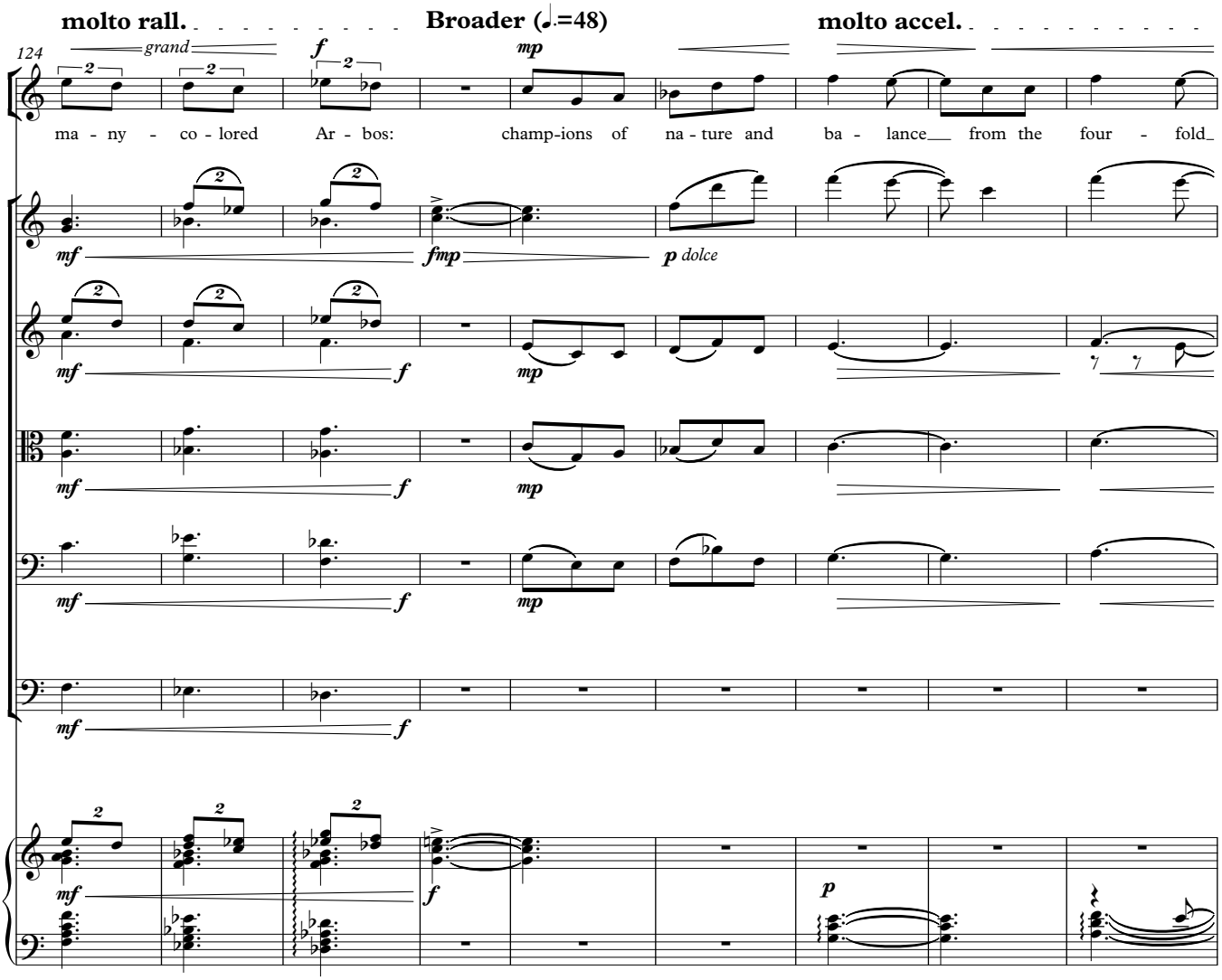

a tempo (♩.=60)
poco rall.
76
mp with optimism, hope
cresc.
mf
Ard.
six kin-dred ra-ces, six peo-ples work-ingtoward a com-mon goal:
repeating freely, without meter,
always unaligned with the other players
(until m.85)
ord. → to sul pont., then immed-iately ord.
Vln. I
ord. → sul pont.
p
sfpp
fp
f
Vln. II
ord.
poco piu f
Vla.
mp
Vc.
Cb.

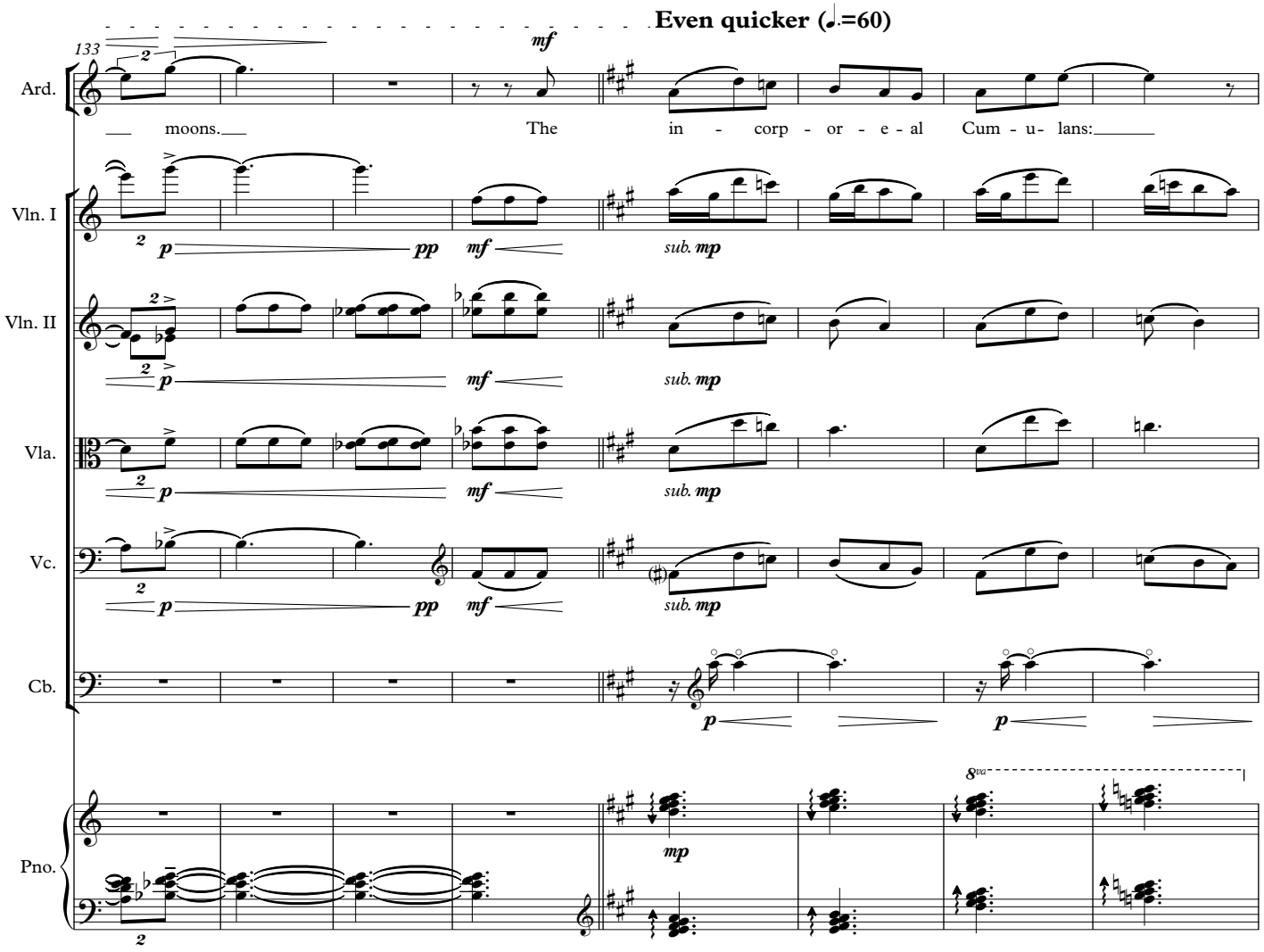

a tempo (♩.=60)
molto rall.
a tempo (♩.=60)
87
Ard.
the ad - vance-ment of know-ledge and the wel-fare of the un - i - verse
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
Pno.
ord.
mf
f
ff

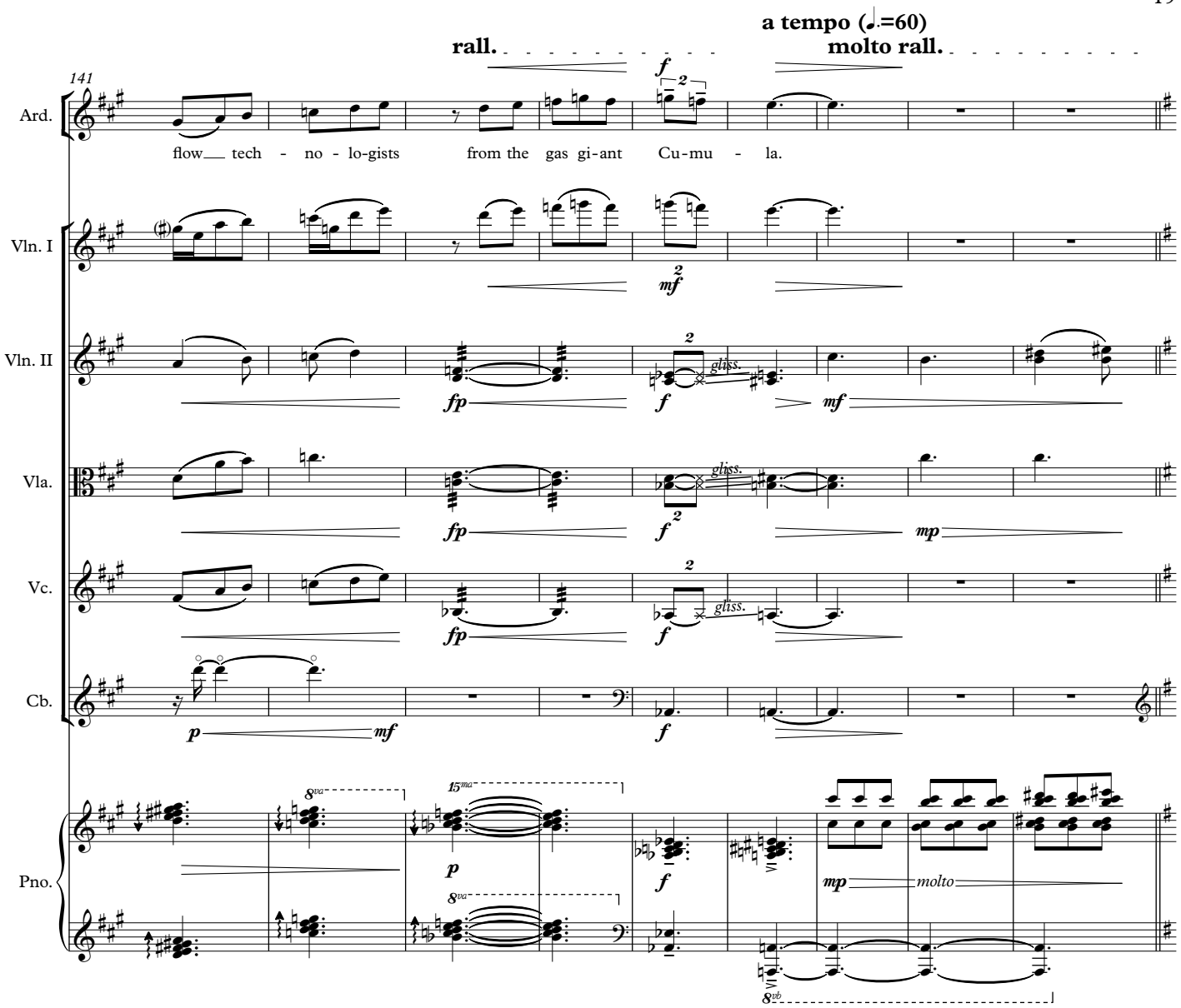

poco rall.
a tempo (♩.=44)
96
Ard.
mp
p
and those who in - hab - it it. This group, this bo - dy, is
Vln. I
pp
Vln. II
pp (sub.)
Vla.
pp (sub.)
Vc.
pp (sub.)
Cb.
Pno.


poco rall.
stringendo
Quick, in one (♩.=56)
108
Ard.
mp leggiero
known as the Stel - lar Ar - go - sy.
The sleek fea-thered Sil - a-vians:
Vln. I
pp
mp
mf
p (sub.), playful
Vln. II
pizz.
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
Pno.

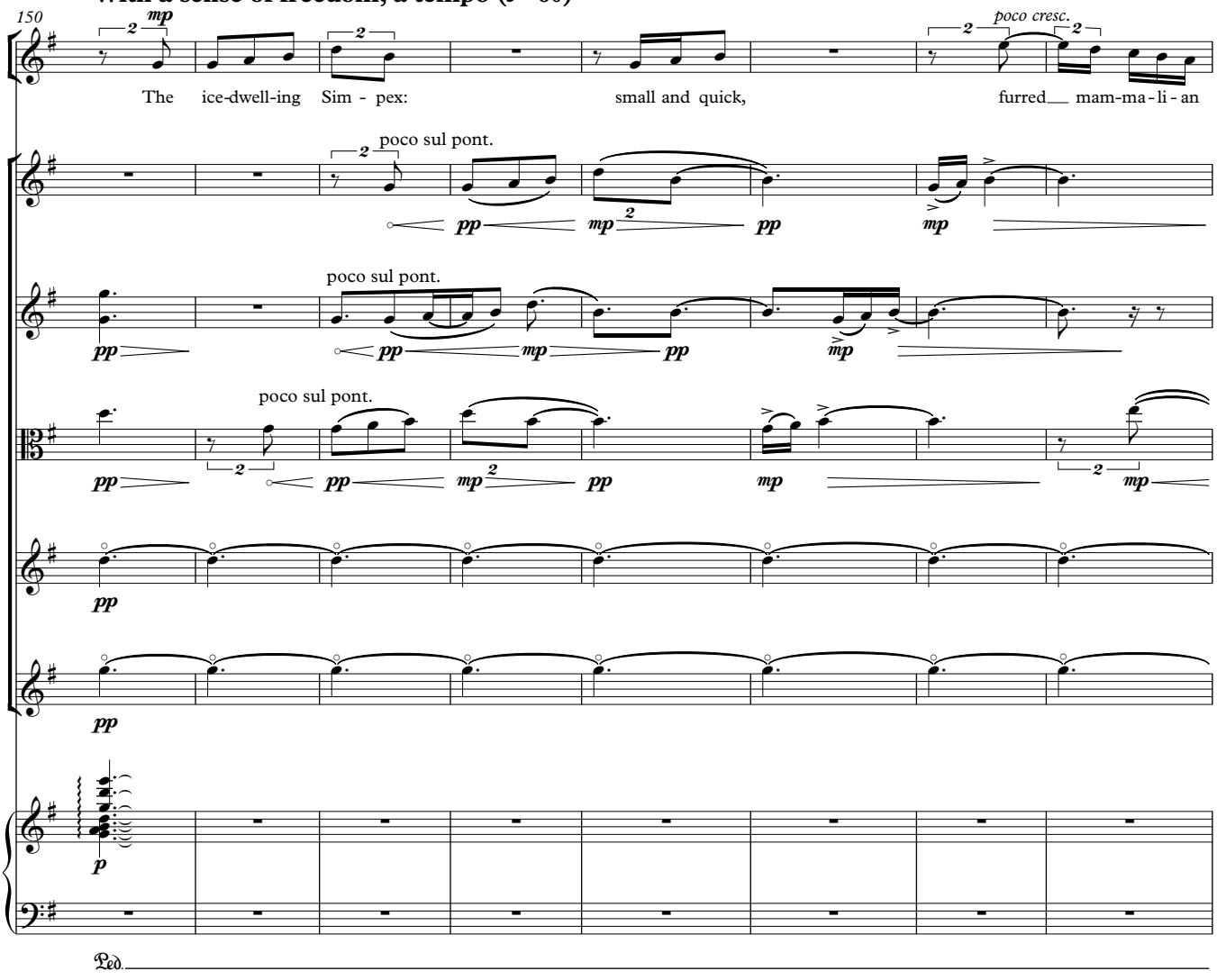

116
Ard.
winged tree dwel-lers of the vast for - est pla - net, Sil - va. The
mf
Vln. I
2
Vln. II
arco
mf
Vla.
mf
Vc.
arco
mf
Cb.
arco
fp
Pno.

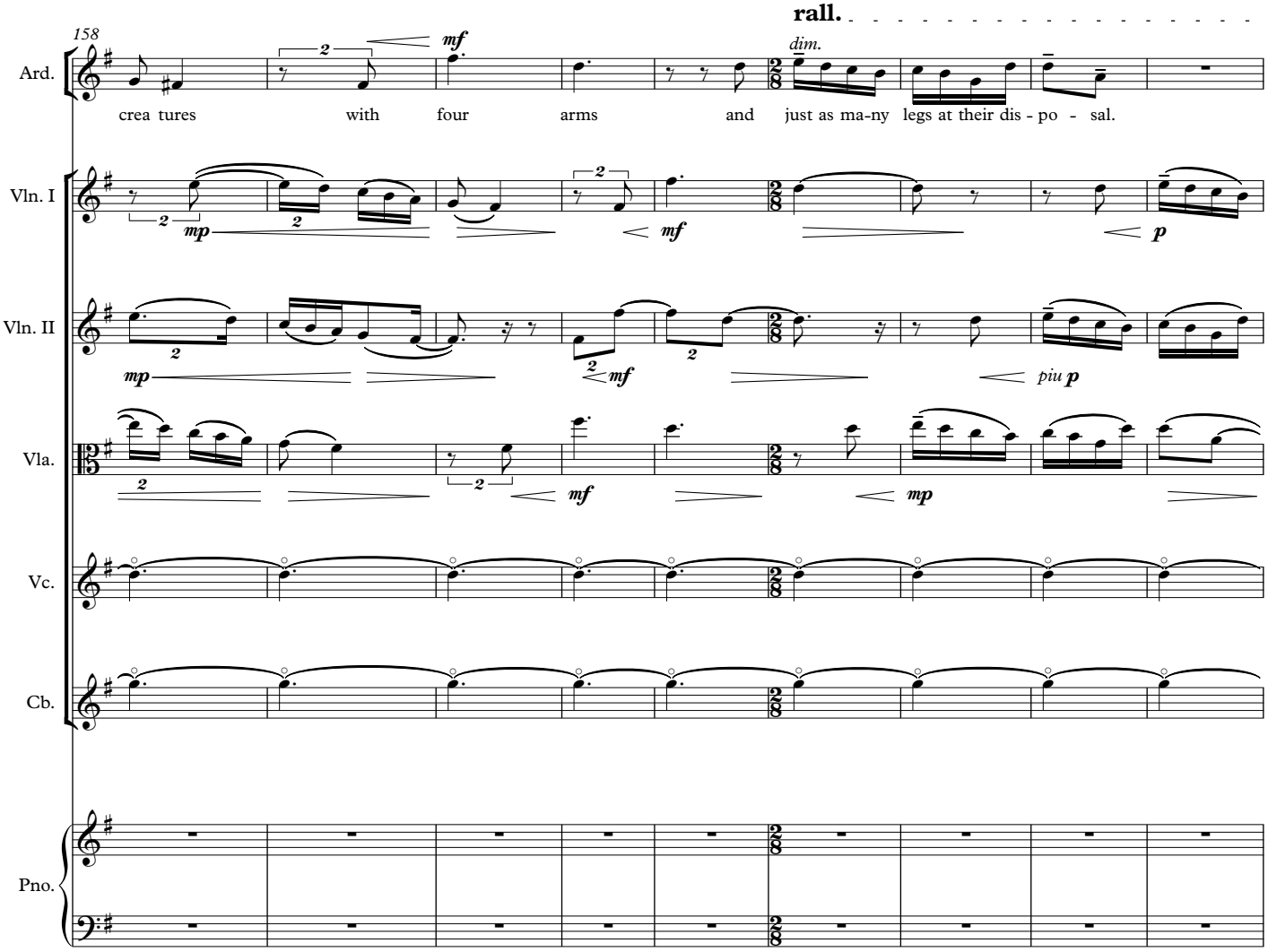

molto rall.
Broader (♩.=48)
molto accel.
124
grand
Ard.
ma - ny - co - lored Ar - bos: champ-ions of na - ture and ba - lance from the four - fold
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
Pno.
mf
f
mp
fmp
p dolce

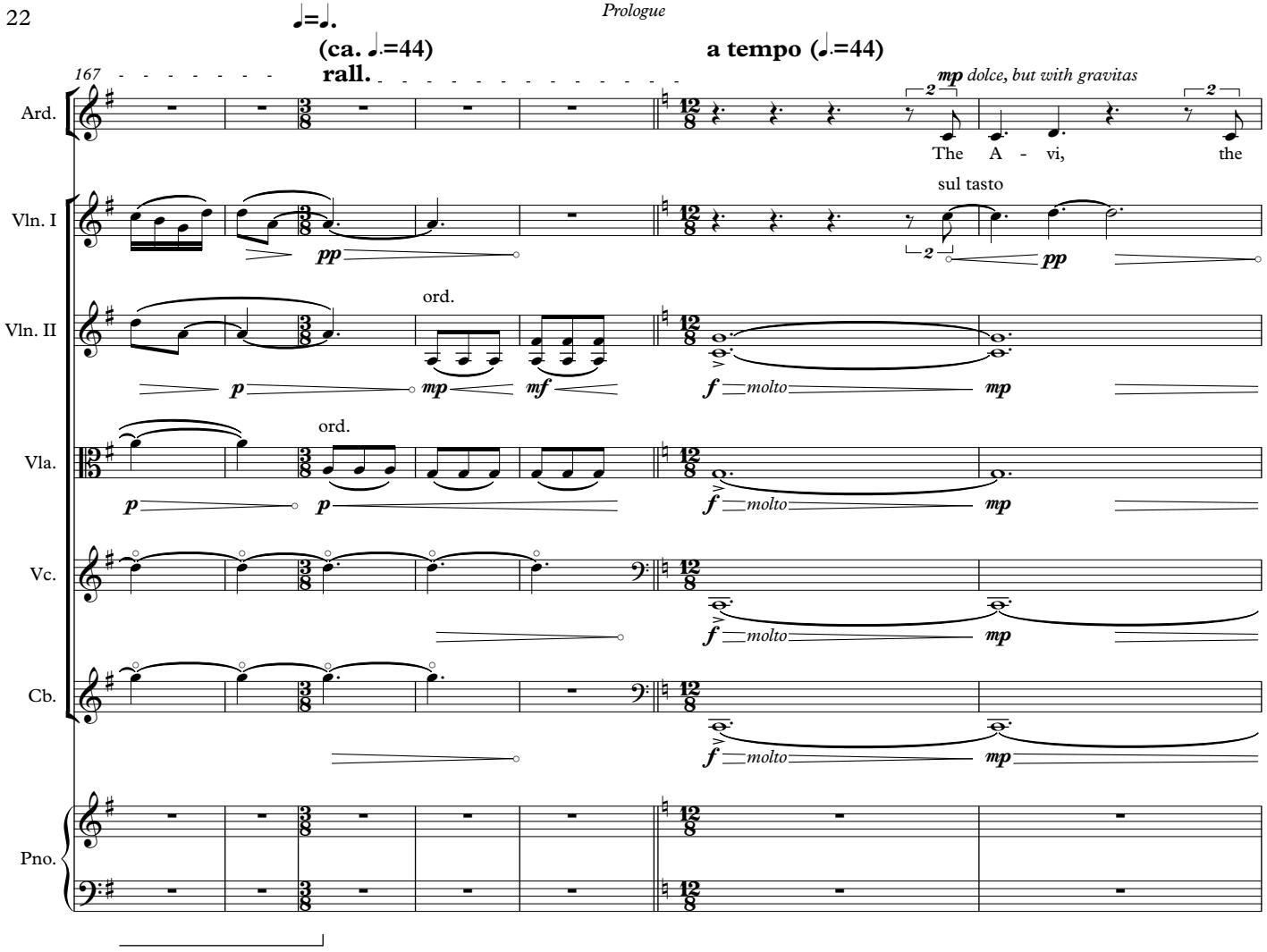

Even quicker (♩.=60)
133
Ard.
moons.
The
in - corp - or - e - al
Cum - u- lans:
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
Pno.
mf
p
pp
sub. mp
8va

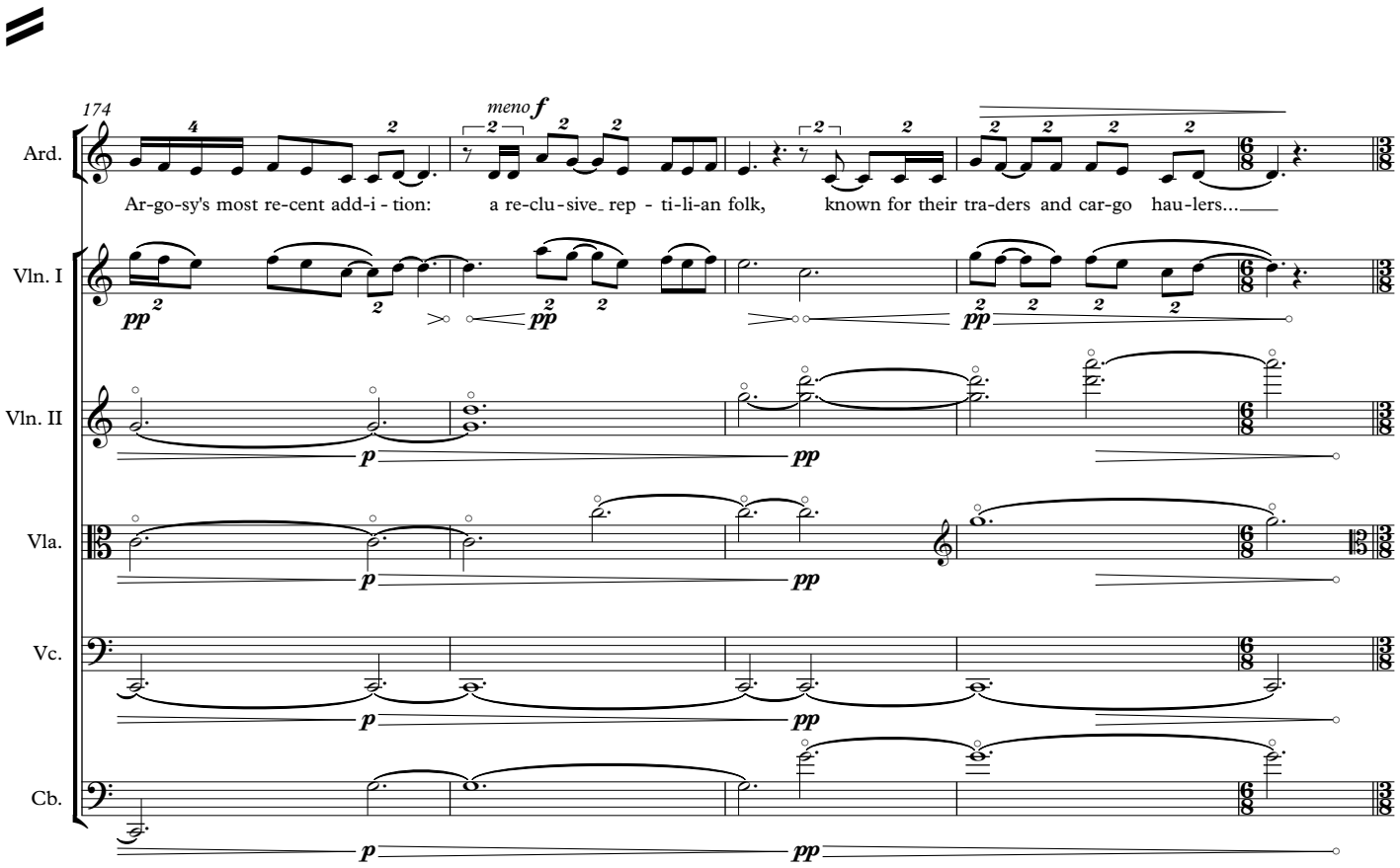

rall.
a tempo (♩.=60)
molto rall.
141
Ard.
flow tech - no - lo-gists from the gas gi-ant Cu-mu - la.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
Pno.
gliss.
molto

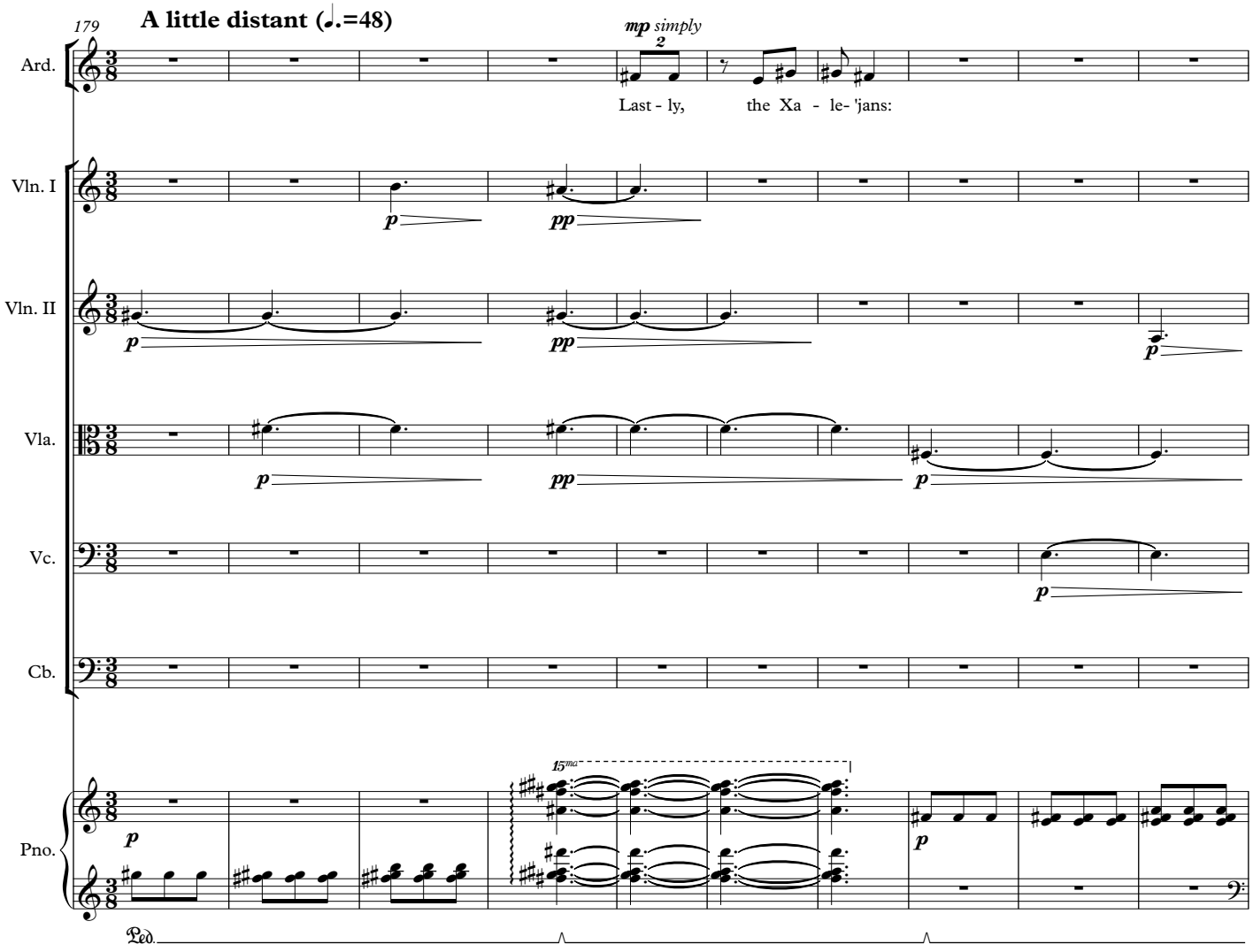
With a sense of freedom, a tempo (♩.=60)

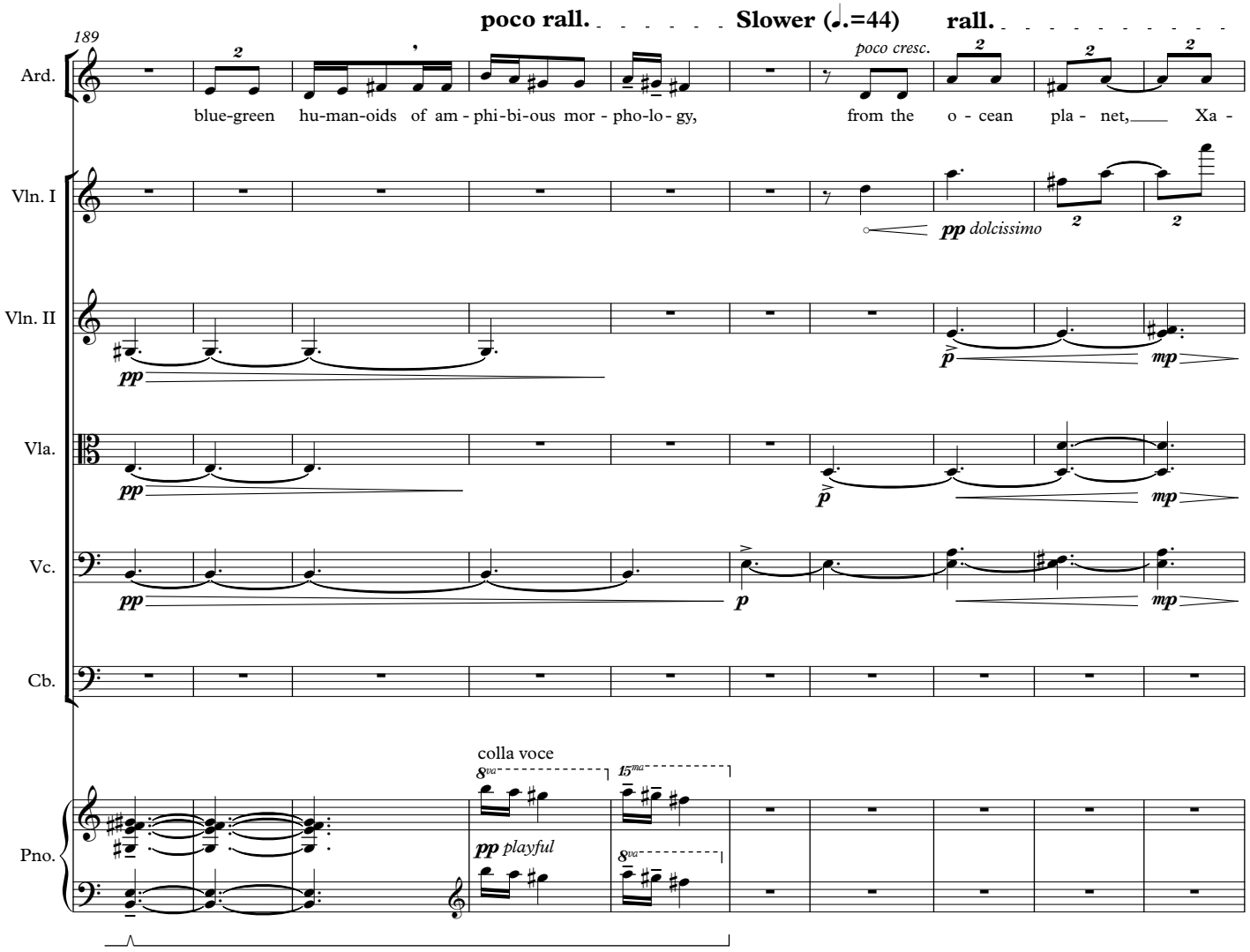


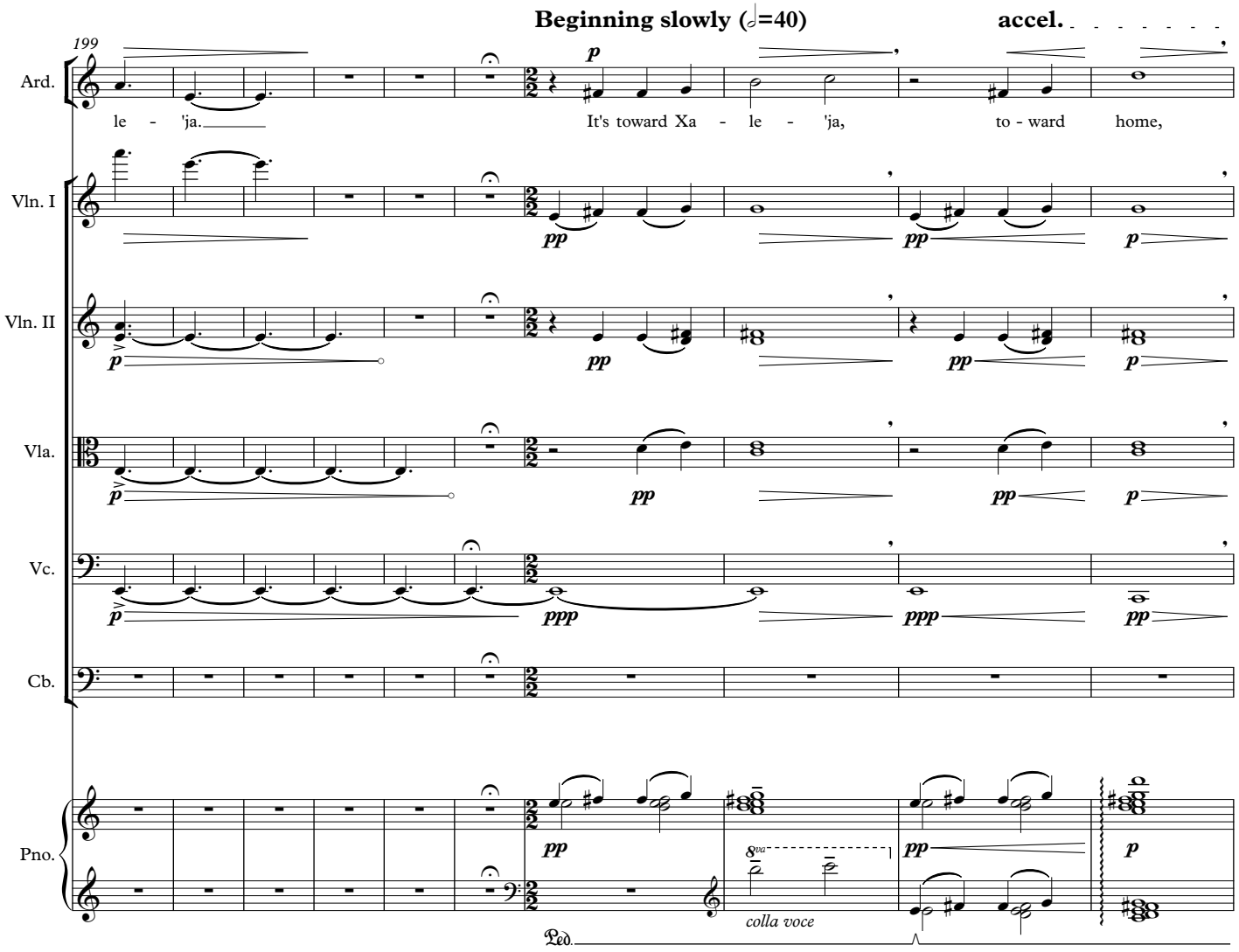

rall.
158
Ard.
mf
dim.
crea tures with four arms and just as ma-ny legs at their dis - po - sal.
Vln. I
mp
mf
p
Vln. II
mp
mf
piu p
Vla.
mf
mp
Vc.
Cb.
Pno.

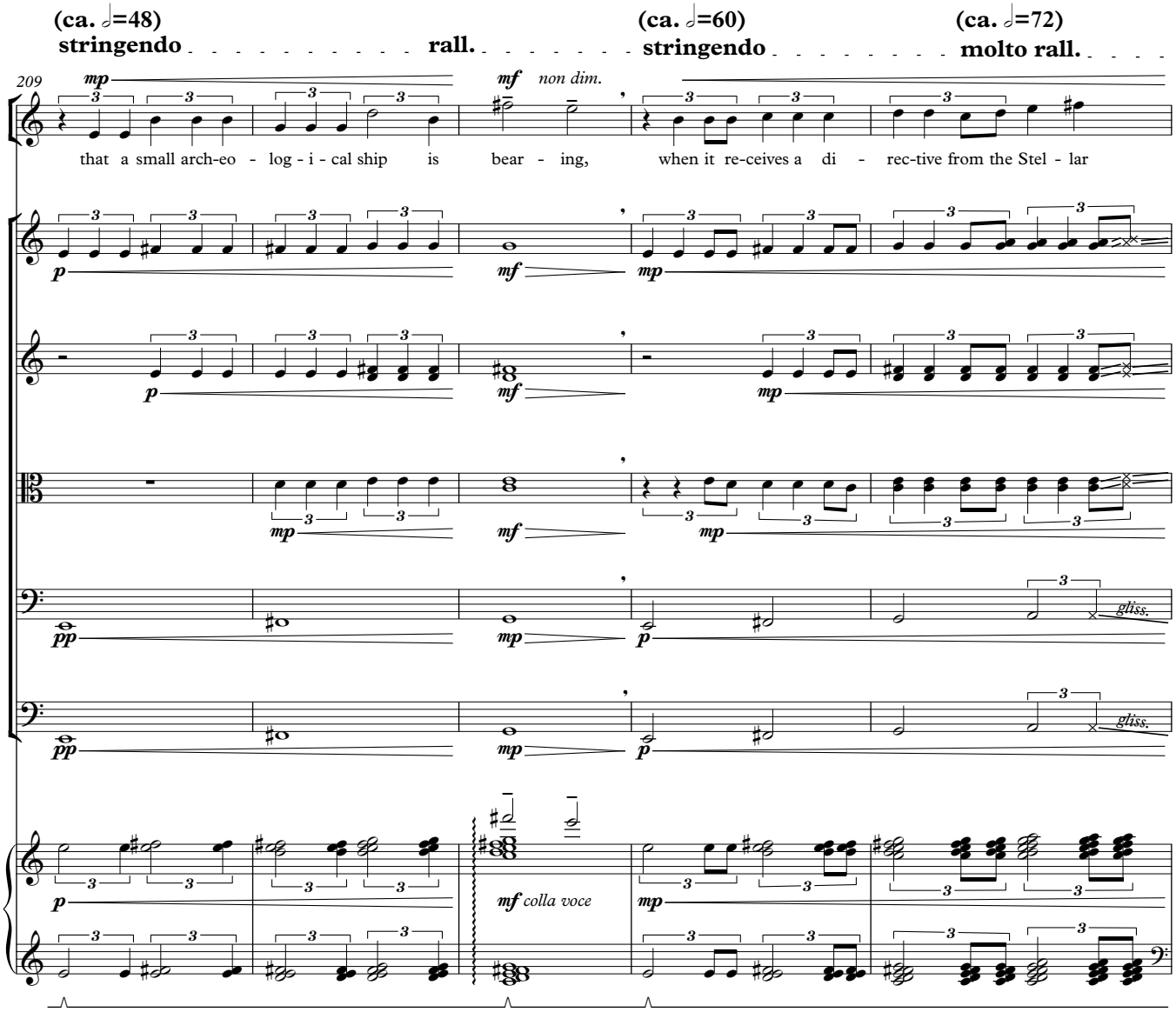

♩=♩.
(ca. ♩.=44)
rall.
a tempo (♩.=44)
167
Ard.
mp dolce, but with gravitas
The A - vi, the
Vln. I
sul tasto
pp
Vln. II
ord.
p
mp
mf
f molto
mp
Vla.
ord.
p
p
f molto
mp
Vc.
f molto
mp
Cb.
f molto
mp
Pno.

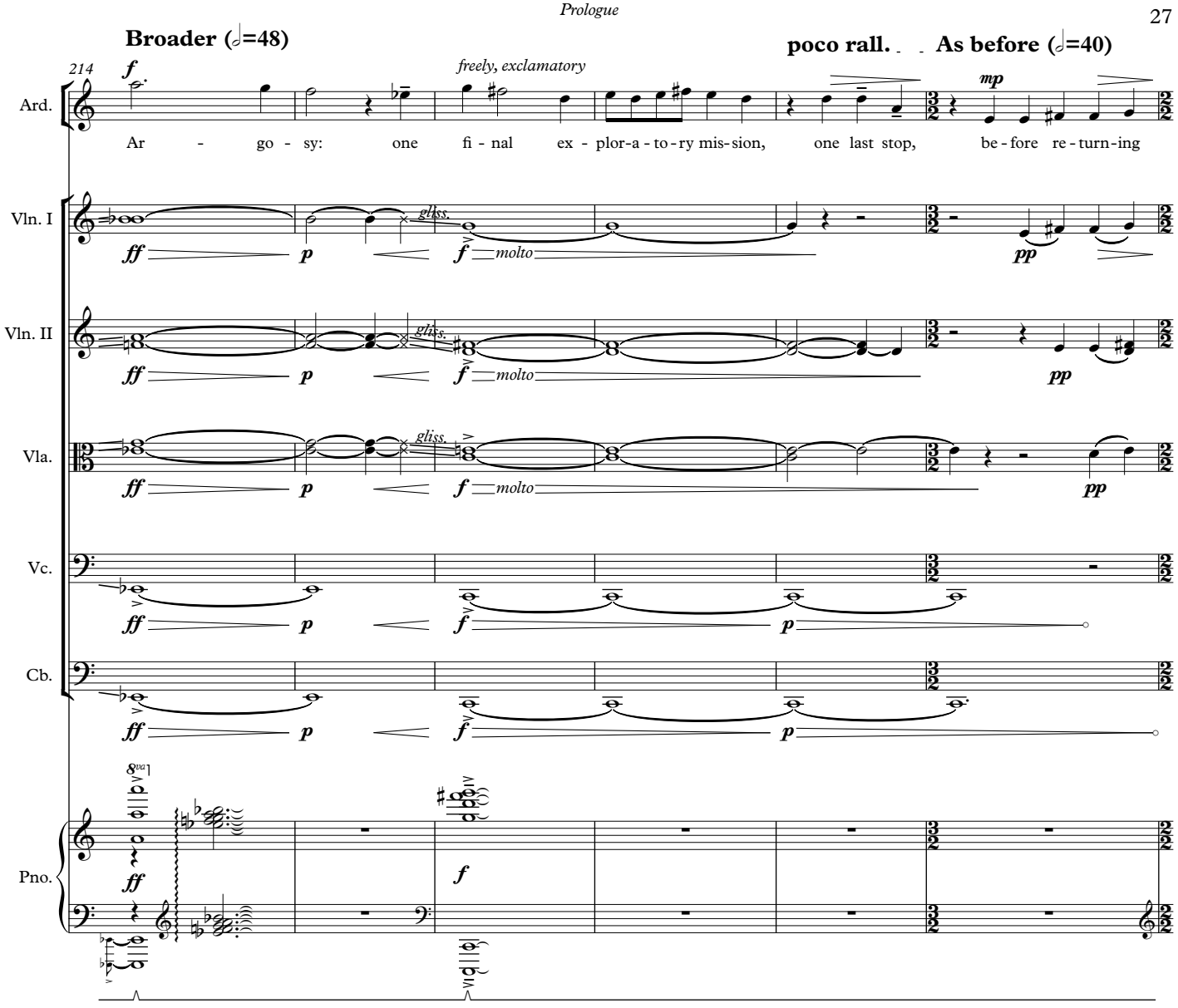

174
Ard.
meno f
Ar-go-sy's most re-cent add-i - tion: a re-clu - sive rep - ti-li-an folk, known for their tra-ders and car-go hau-lers...
Vln. I
pp
pp
pp
Vln. II
p
pp
Vla.
p
pp
Vc.
p
pp
Cb.
p
pp

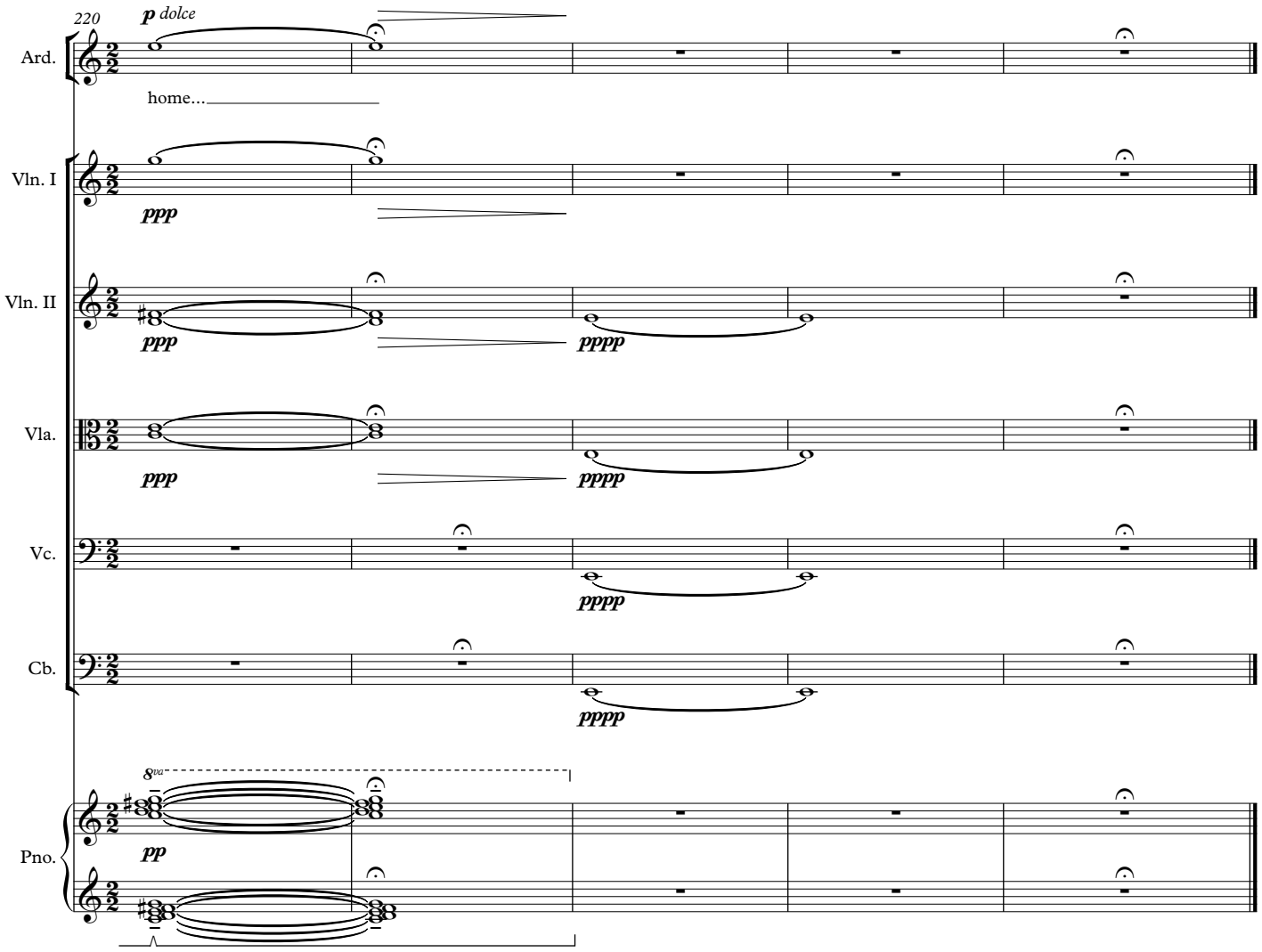

179
A little distant (♩.=48)
mp simply
Last - ly, the Xa - le- 'jans:
Ard.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
Pno.
15ma
Ped.


poco rall.
Slower (♩.=44)
rall.
189
Ard.
blue-green hu-man-oids of am - phi-bi-ous mor - pho-lo - gy,
poco cresc.
from the o - cean pla - net, Xa -
Vln. I
pp dolcissimo
Vln. II
pp
p
mp
Vla.
pp
p
mp
Vc.
pp
p
mp
Cb.
colla voce
8va
15ma
Pno.
pp playful
8va


Beginning slowly (𝅗𝅥=40)
accel.
199
Ard.
le - 'ja.
It's toward Xa - le - 'ja, to - ward home,
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
Pno.
colla voce
Ped.


(ca. 𝅗𝅥=48)
stringendo
rall.
(ca. 𝅗𝅥=60)
stringendo
(ca. 𝅗𝅥=72)
molto rall.
209
Ard.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
Pno.
mp
mf non dim.
that a small arch-eo - log - i - cal ship is bear - ing, when it re-ceives a di - rec-tive from the Stel - lar
p
mf
mp
pp
gliss.
mf colla voce


Broader (𝅗𝅥=48)
poco rall. . . As before (𝅗𝅥=40)
214
freely, exclamatory
Ard.
Ar - go - sy: one fi - nal ex - plor-a - to - ry mis-sion, one last stop, be - fore re - turn-ing
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
Pno.
gliss.
molto


220
p dolce
Ard.
home...
Vln. I
ppp
Vln. II
ppp
pppp
Vla.
ppp
pppp
Vc.
pppp
Cb.
pppp
8va
pp
Pno.