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BEOWULF

by

Anthony Alvarado

A Thesis
Submitted to the
Faculty of The Graduate College
in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the
Degree of Master of Music
School of Music

Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, Michigan
April 2007

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2007

BEOWULF

Anthony Alvarado, M.M.

Western Michigan University, 2007

My composition is a tone poem based on the Old English epic poem *Beowulf.* Specifically, this piece depicts Beowulf's three battles with three diverse monsters. The first Grendel, second Grendel's mother, and last a dragon. In this composition, the music does not follow any specific or traditional forms. Instead, each episode is presented as a picture of each event.

The choice to depict the story of *Beowulf* was an interesting choice. While historically the story is significant, it is not a very popular one. The poem is the oldest surviving manuscript written in Old English. However, more recent (relatively) authors have given more inspiration to musical pieces such as Shakespeare or Milton. Therefore, I hope that my piece will shed more light on a piece of significant literature. As well, as help to renew interest in the tone poem as a musical form.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INSTRUMENTATION..... iii

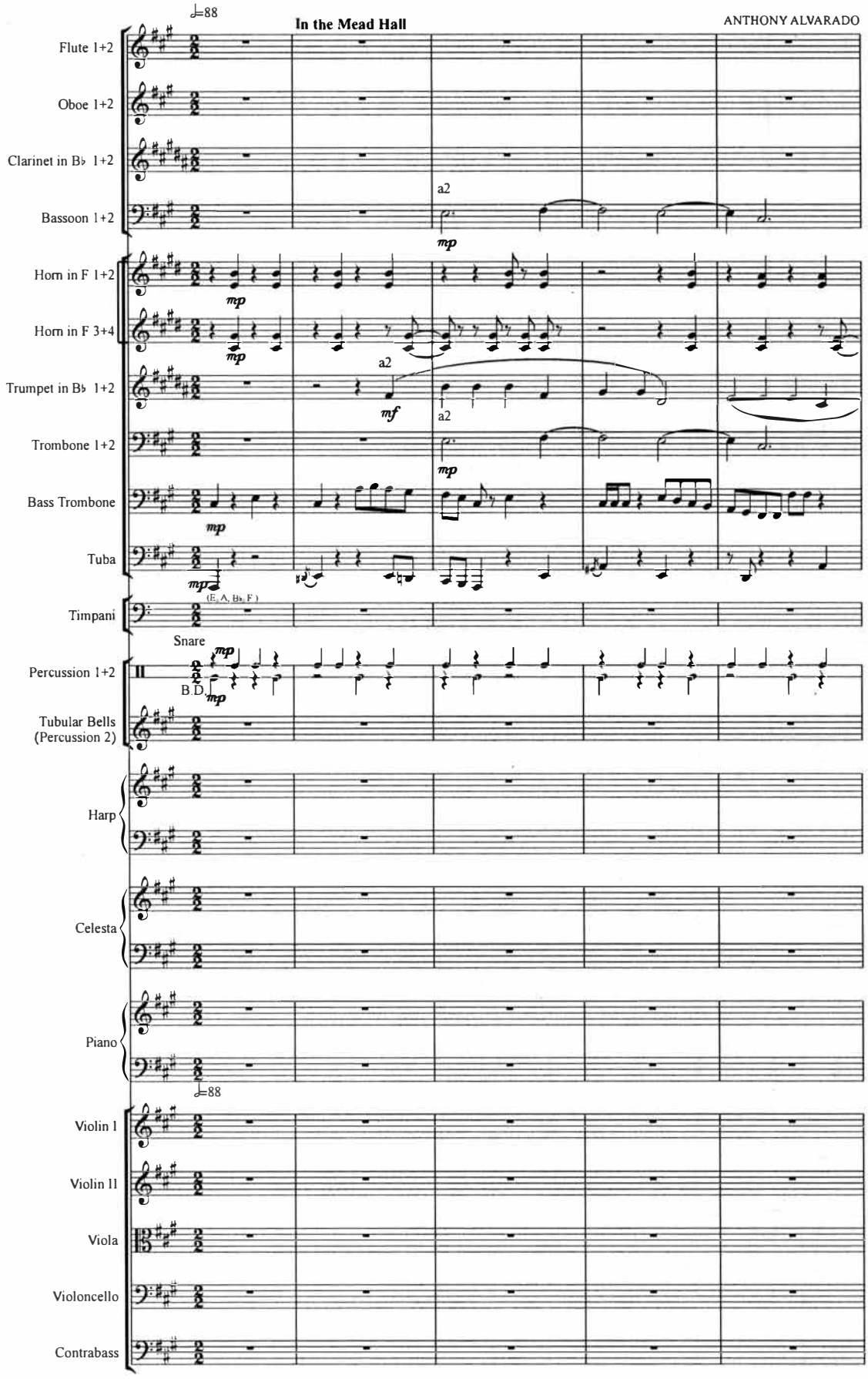
SCORE TO BEOWULF..... 1

INSTRUMENTATION

2 Flutes (2nd Flute doubles piccolo)
2 Oboes
2 Clarinets in B♭
2 Bassoons
4 horns in F
2 Trumpets in B♭
2 Trombones
Tuba
Timpani
Percussion (2 players)
Harp
Celesta
Piano
Strings

Beowulf

ANTHONY ALVARADO



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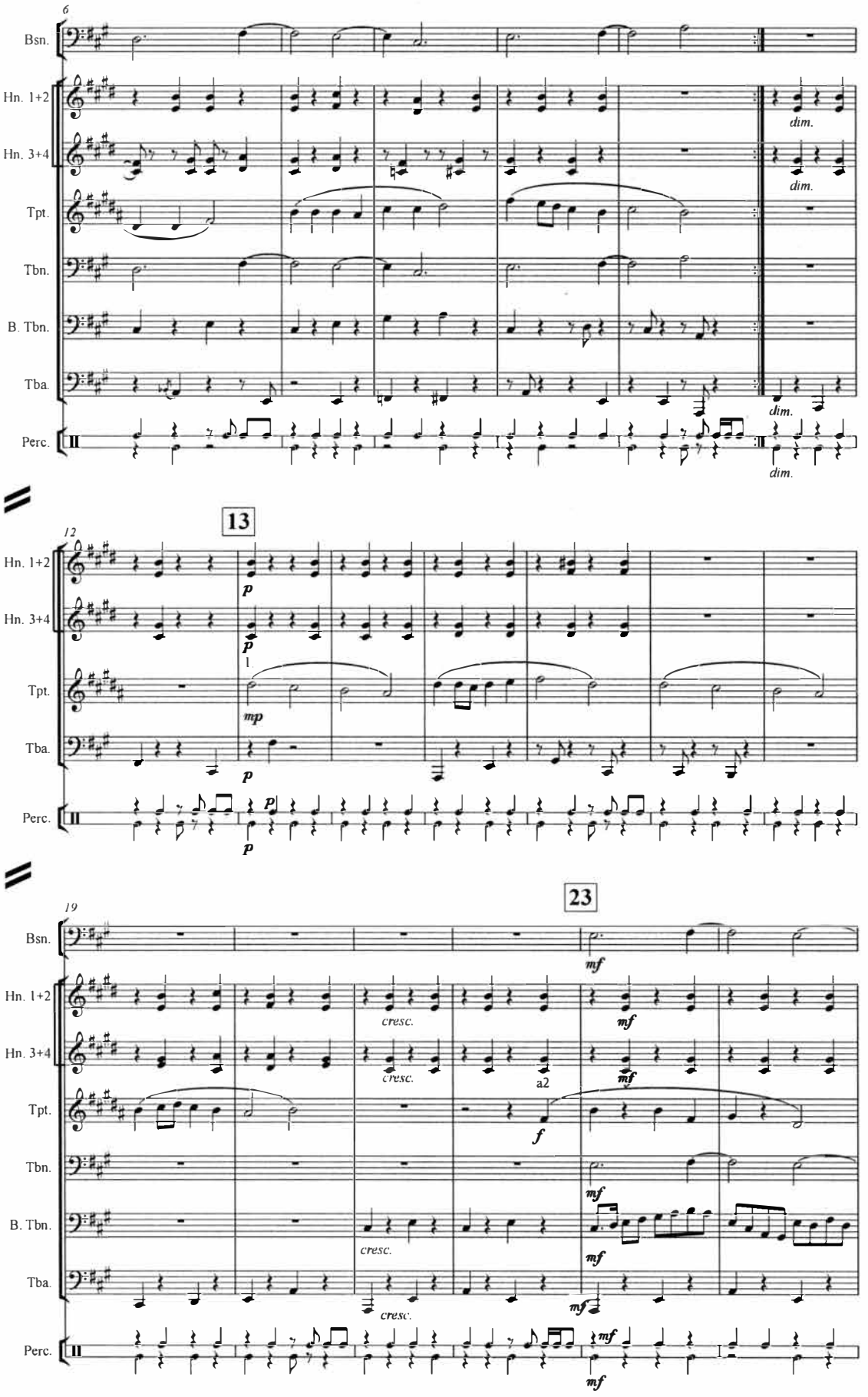
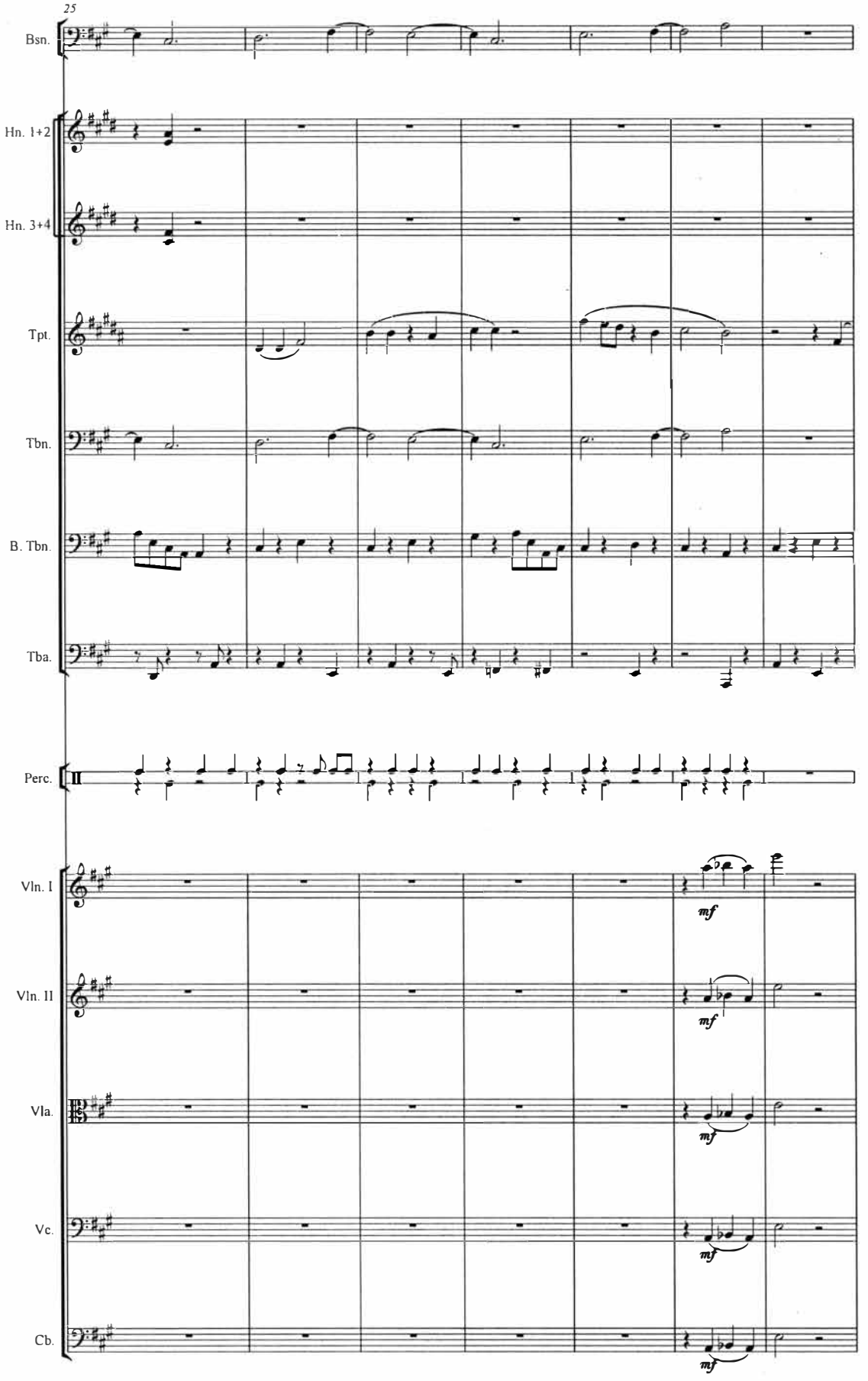
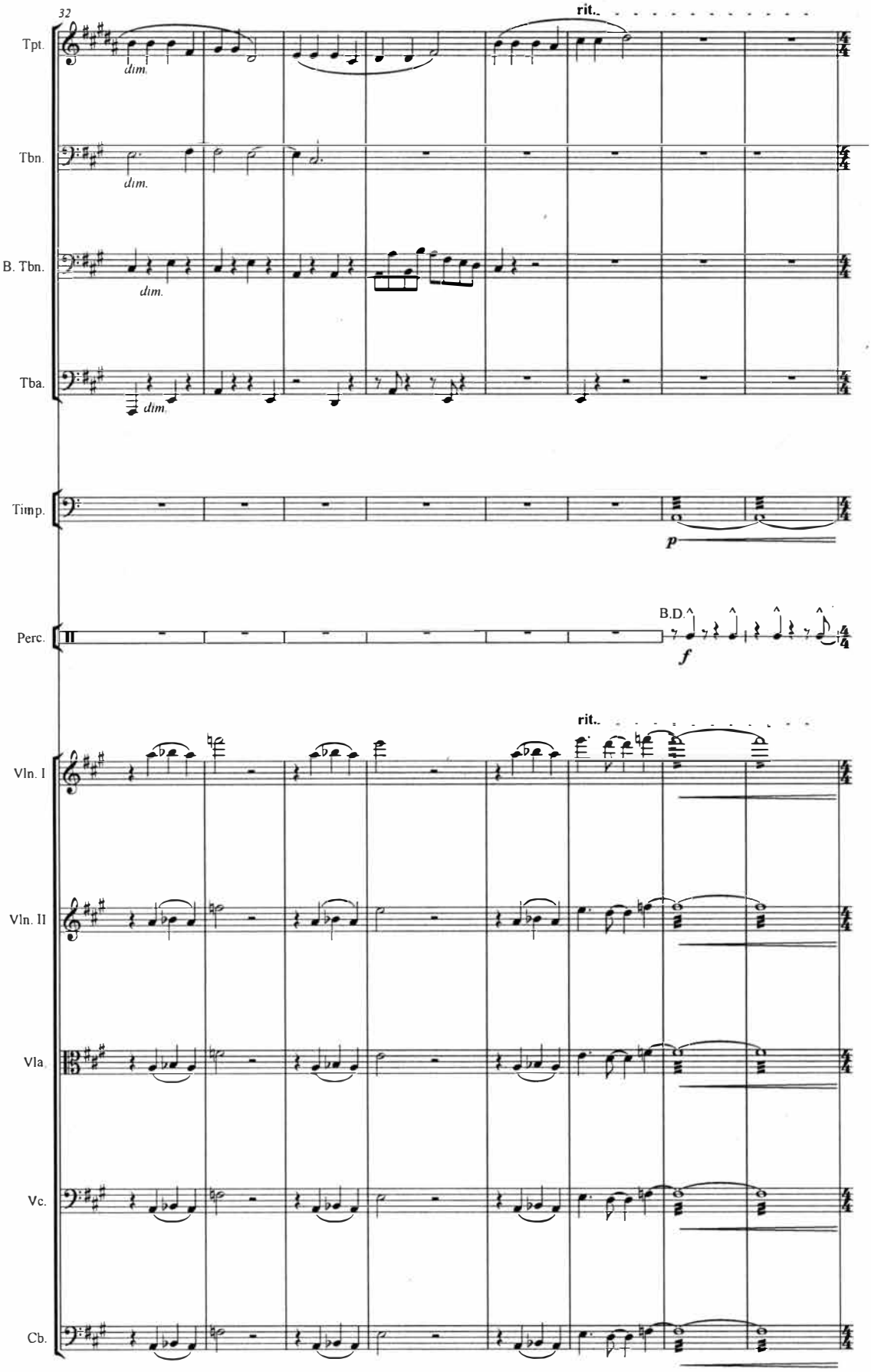
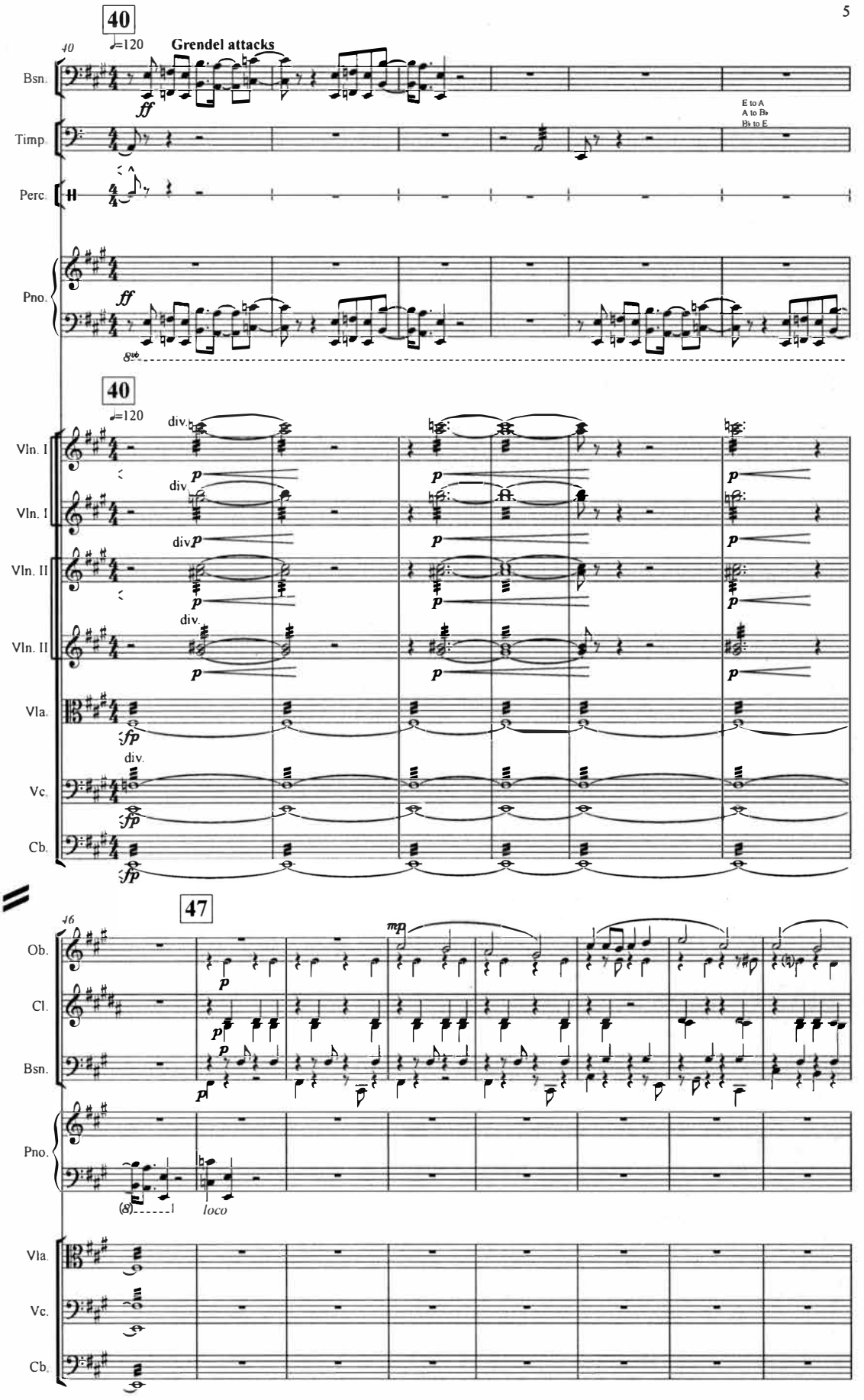
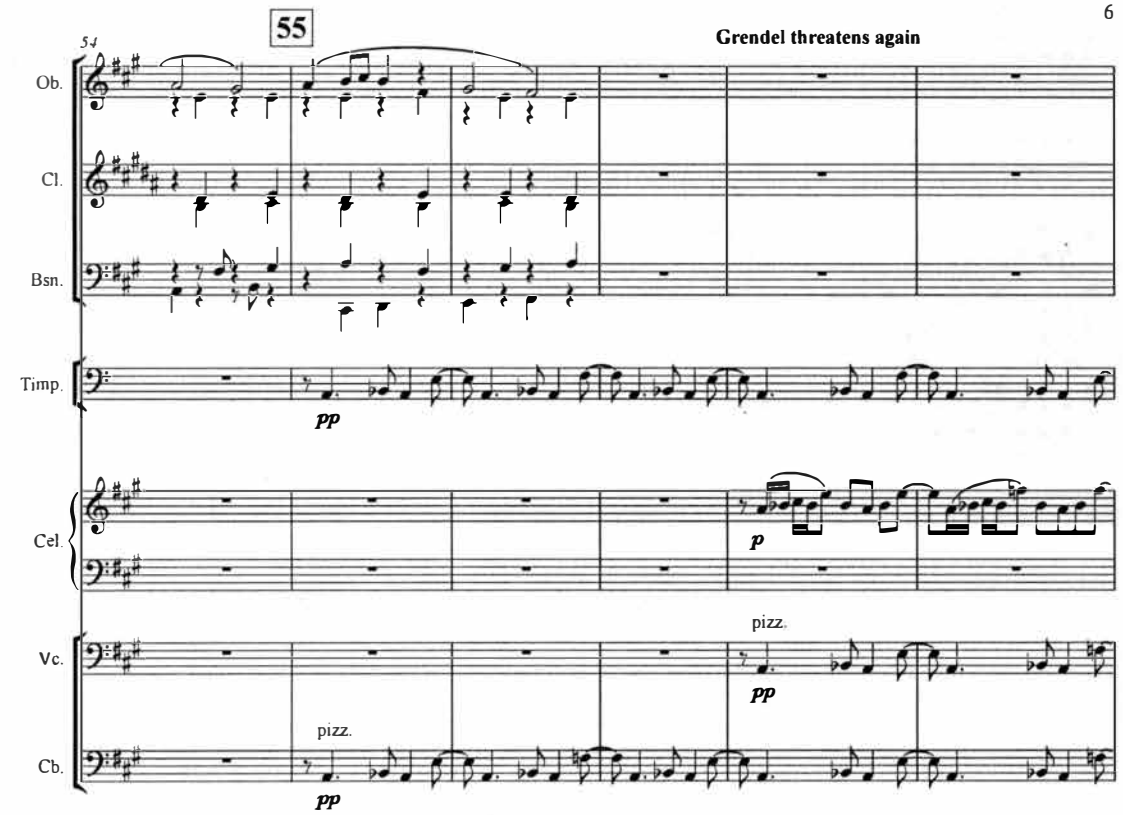
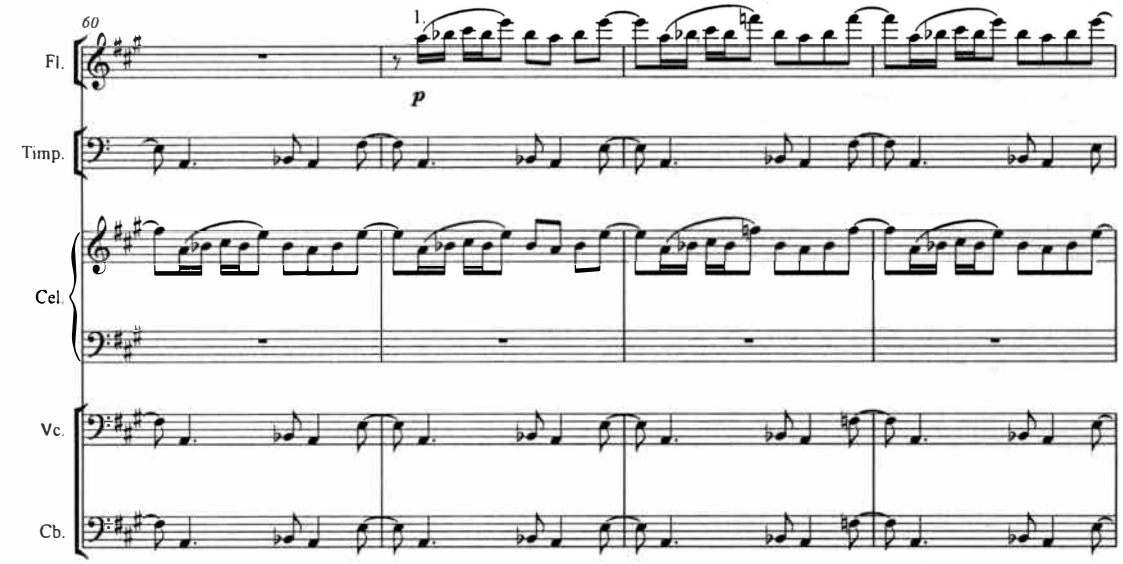

6
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Perc.
dim.
13
12
p
mp
23
19
cresc.
a2
f
mf

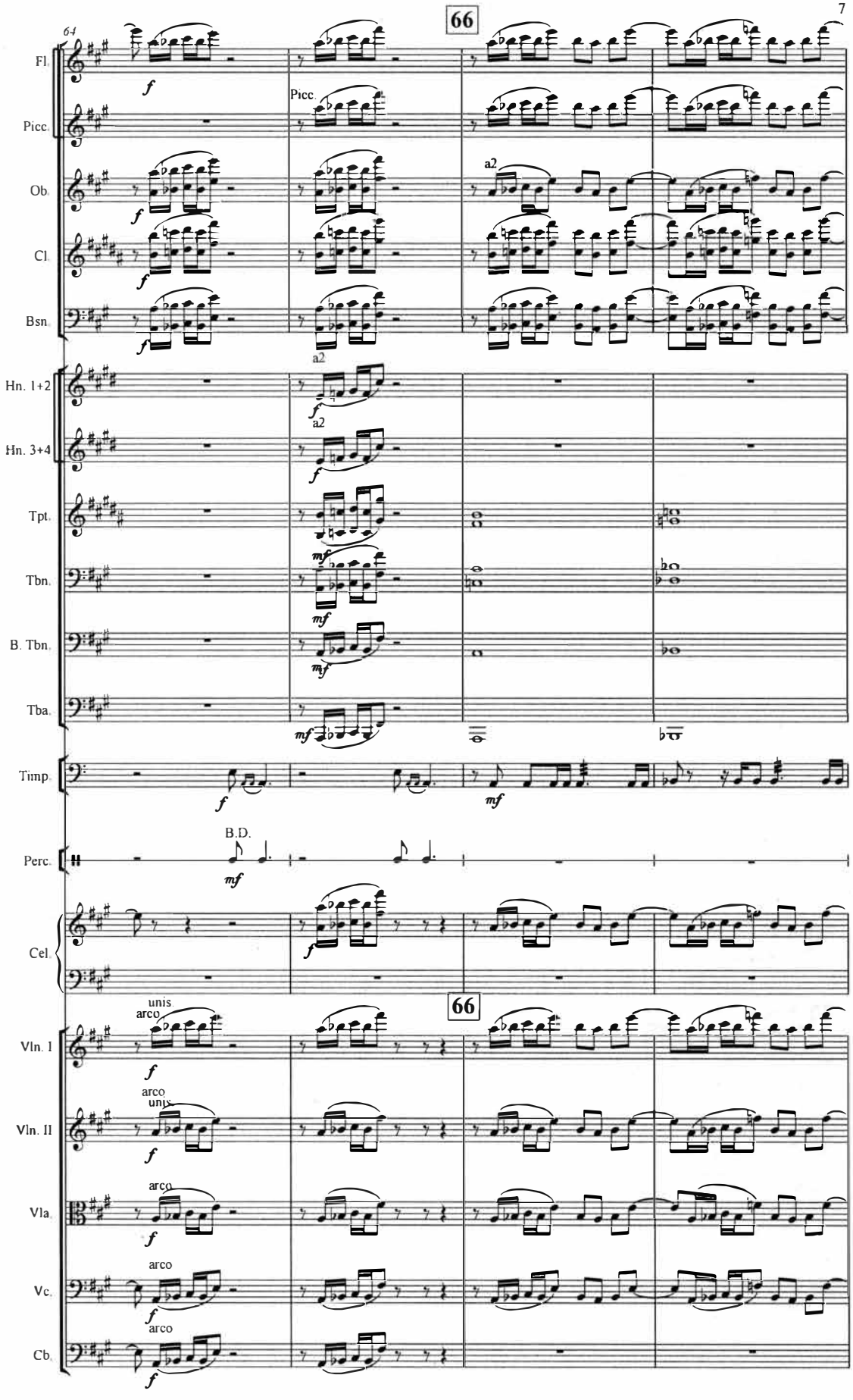

25
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf
mf
mf
mf
mf

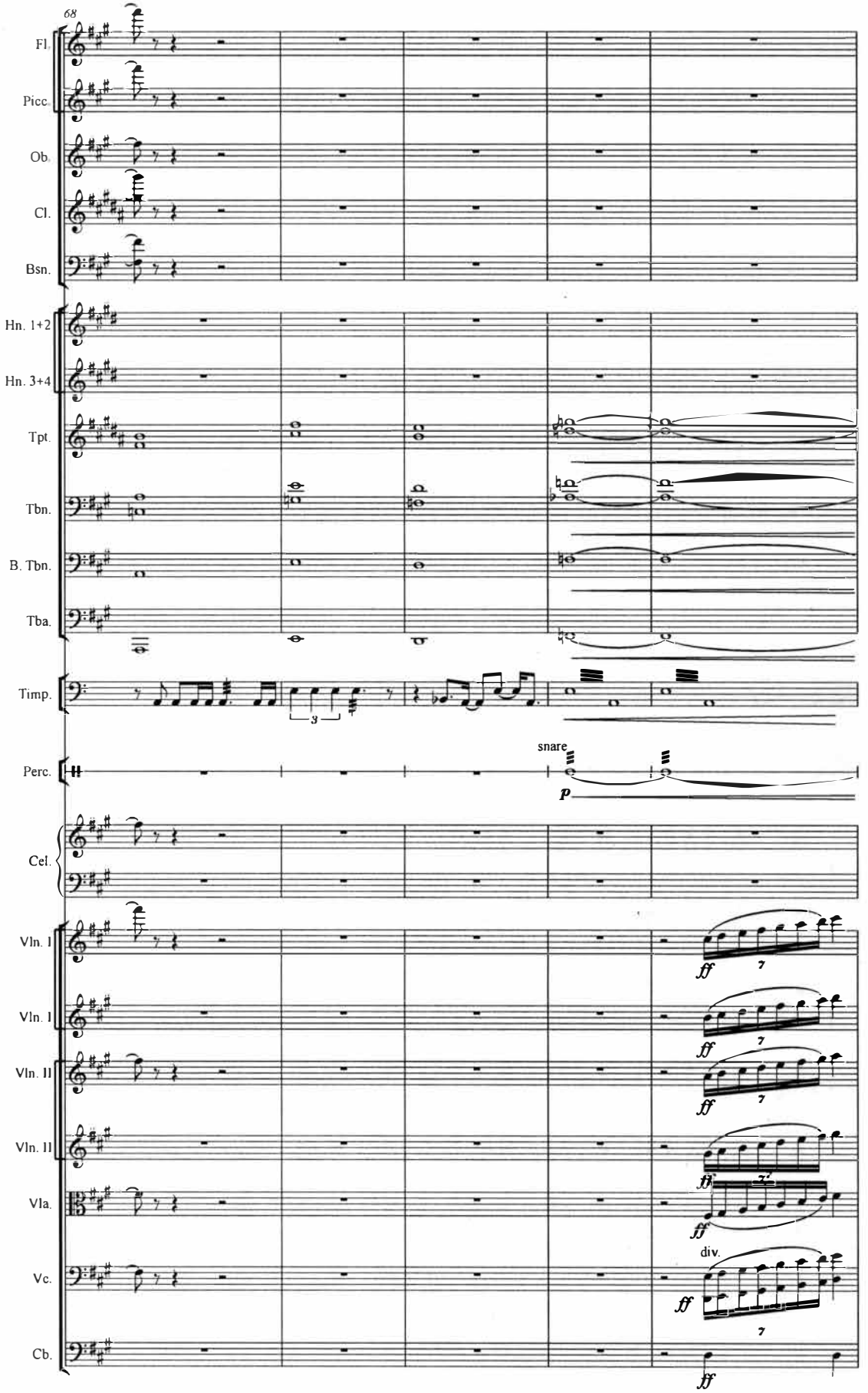

32
rit..
Tpt.
dim.
Tbn.
dim.
B. Tbn.
dim.
Tba.
dim.
Timp.
p
Perc.
B.D.
f
rit..
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

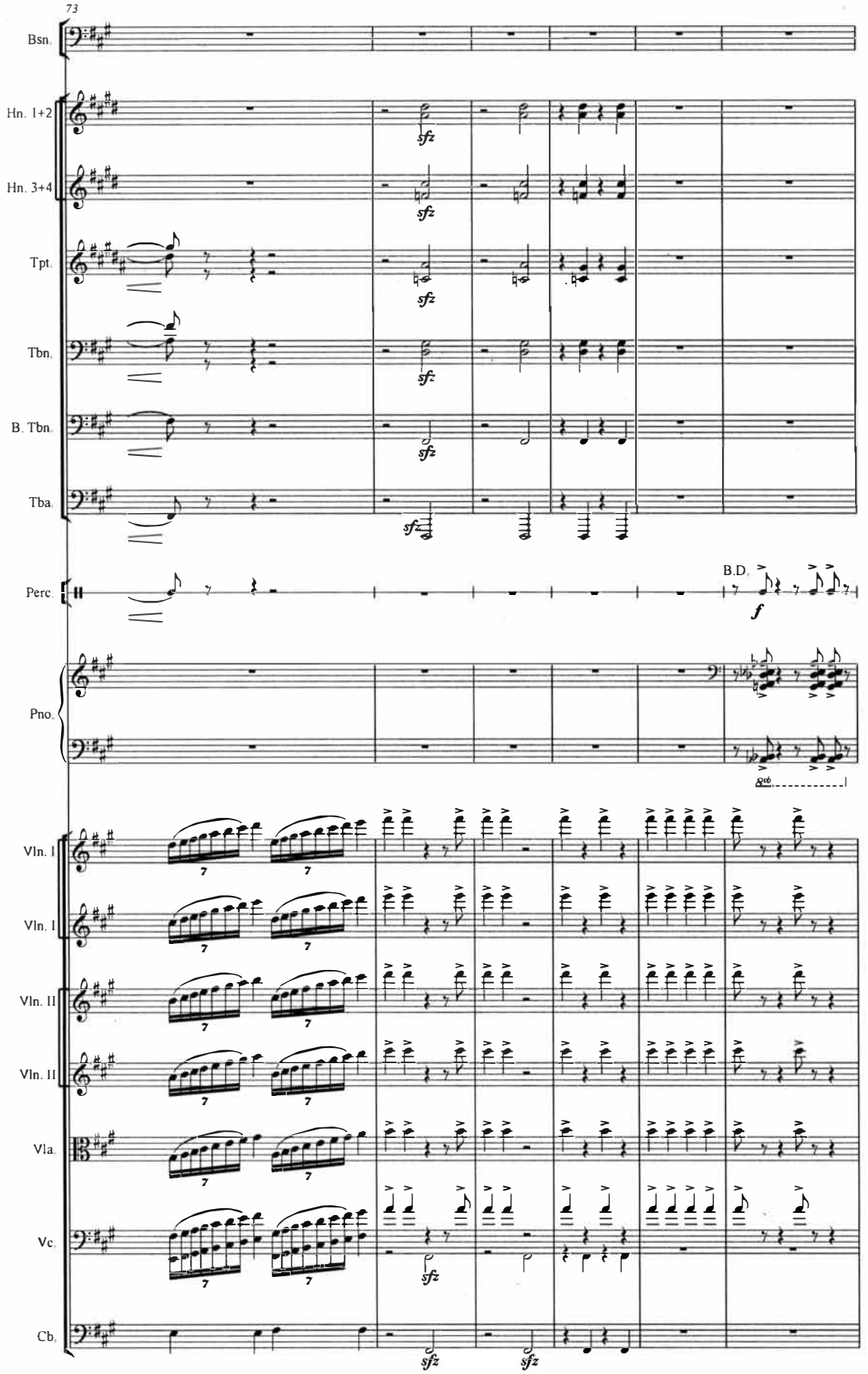

40
♩=120
Grendel attacks
Bsn.
Timp.
E to A
A to B♭
B♭ to E
Perc.
Pno.
ff
40
♩=120
Vln. I
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
div.
p
fp
47
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Pno.
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
loco

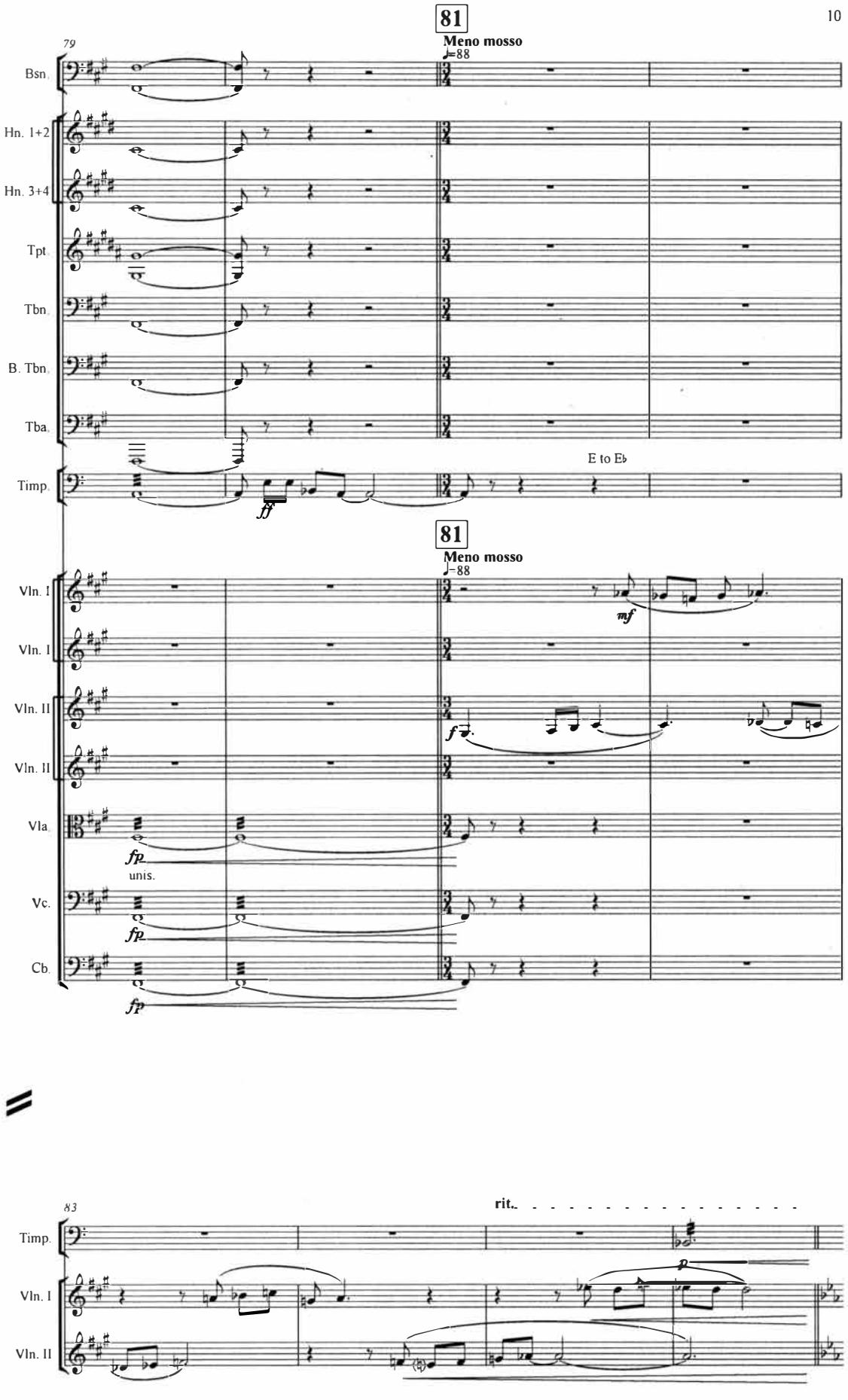

55
Grendel threatens again
54
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Timp.
pp
Cel.
p
pizz.
Vc.
pp
pizz.
Cb.
pp

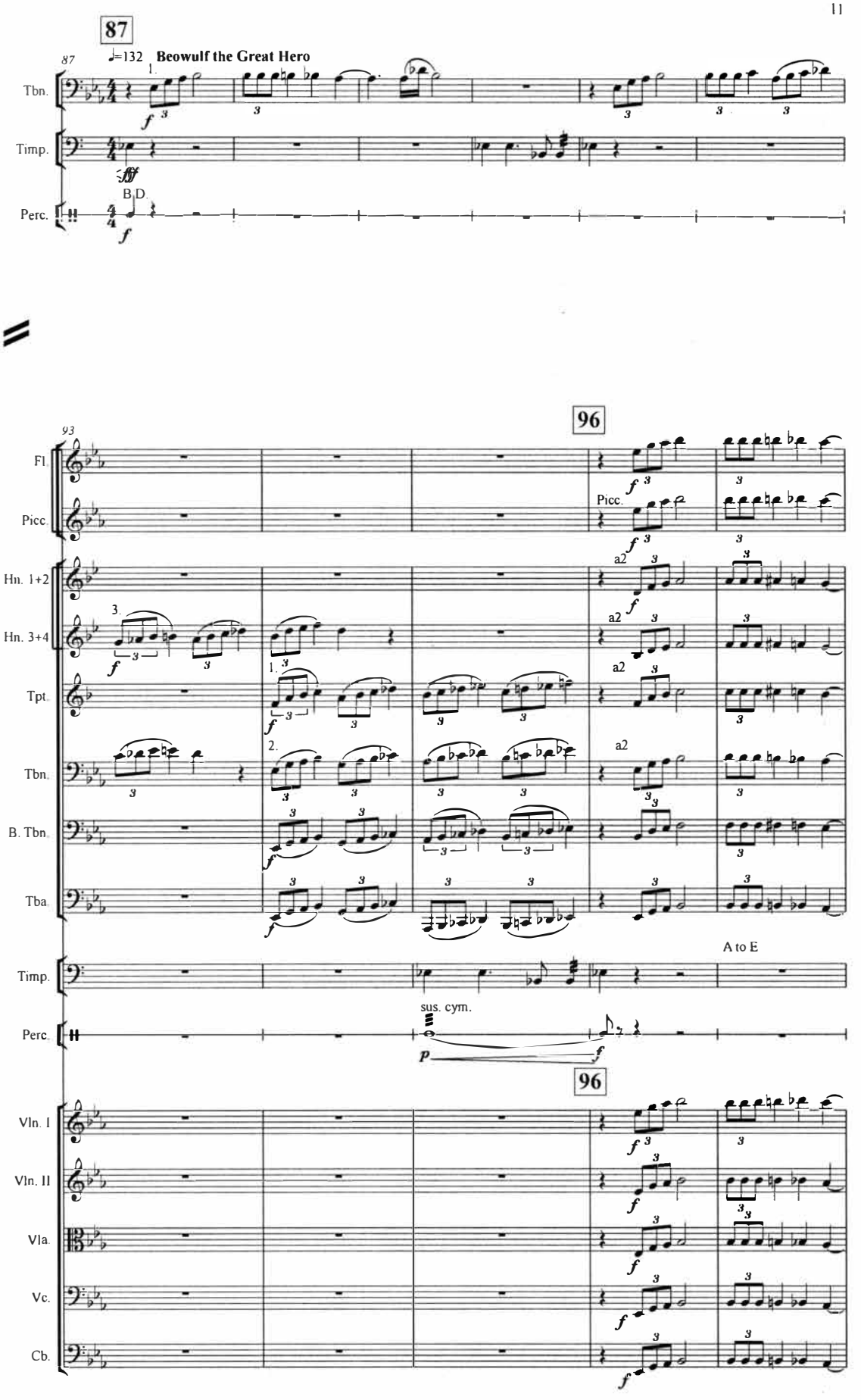

60
1.
Fl.
p
Timp.
Cel.
Vc.
Cb.

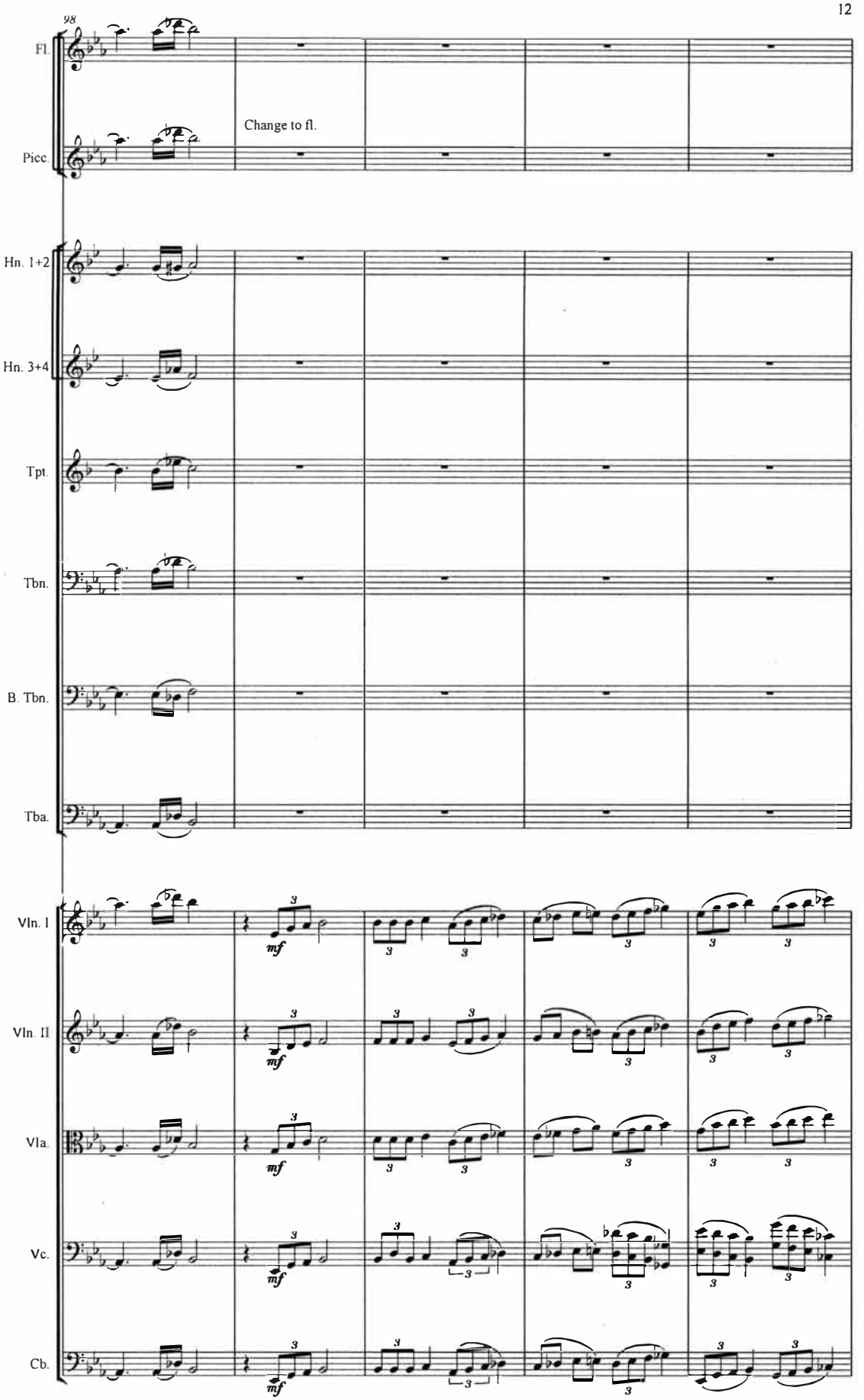

66
64
Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
B.D.
Cel.
66
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
a2
unis
arco

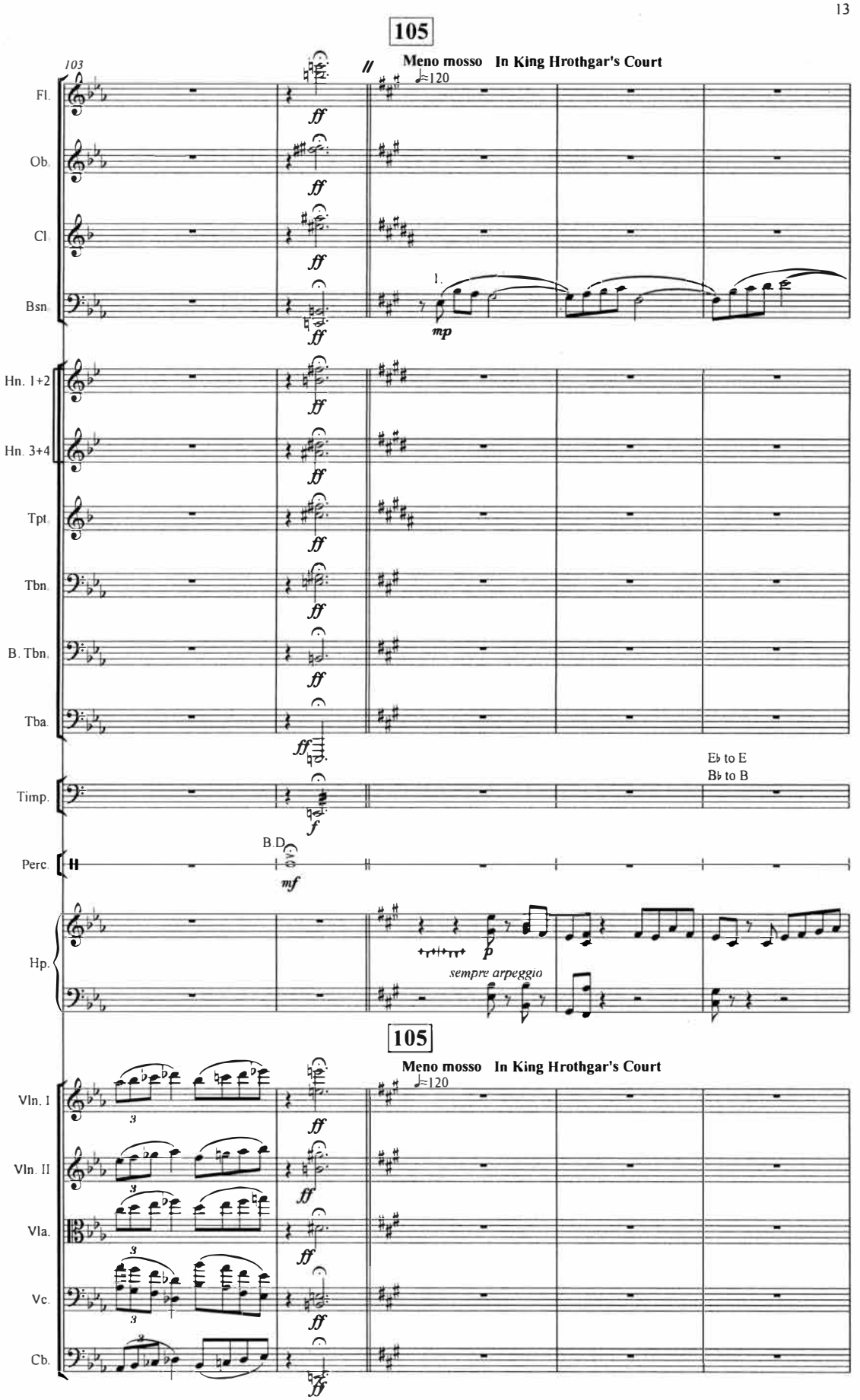

68
Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
snare
p
Cel.
Vln. I
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
ff
div.

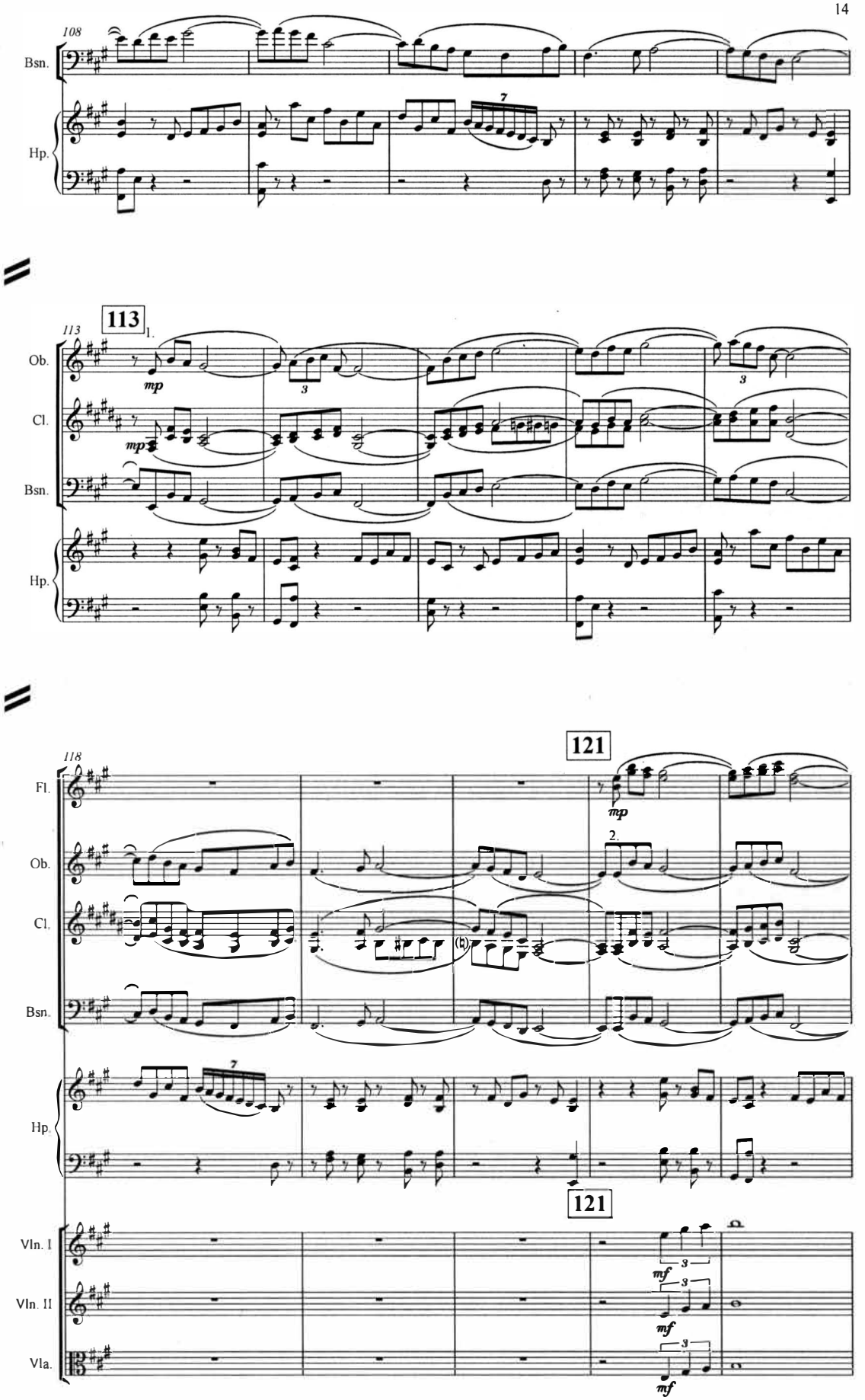

73
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Perc.
B.D.
Pno.
Vln. I
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
sfz
f
7

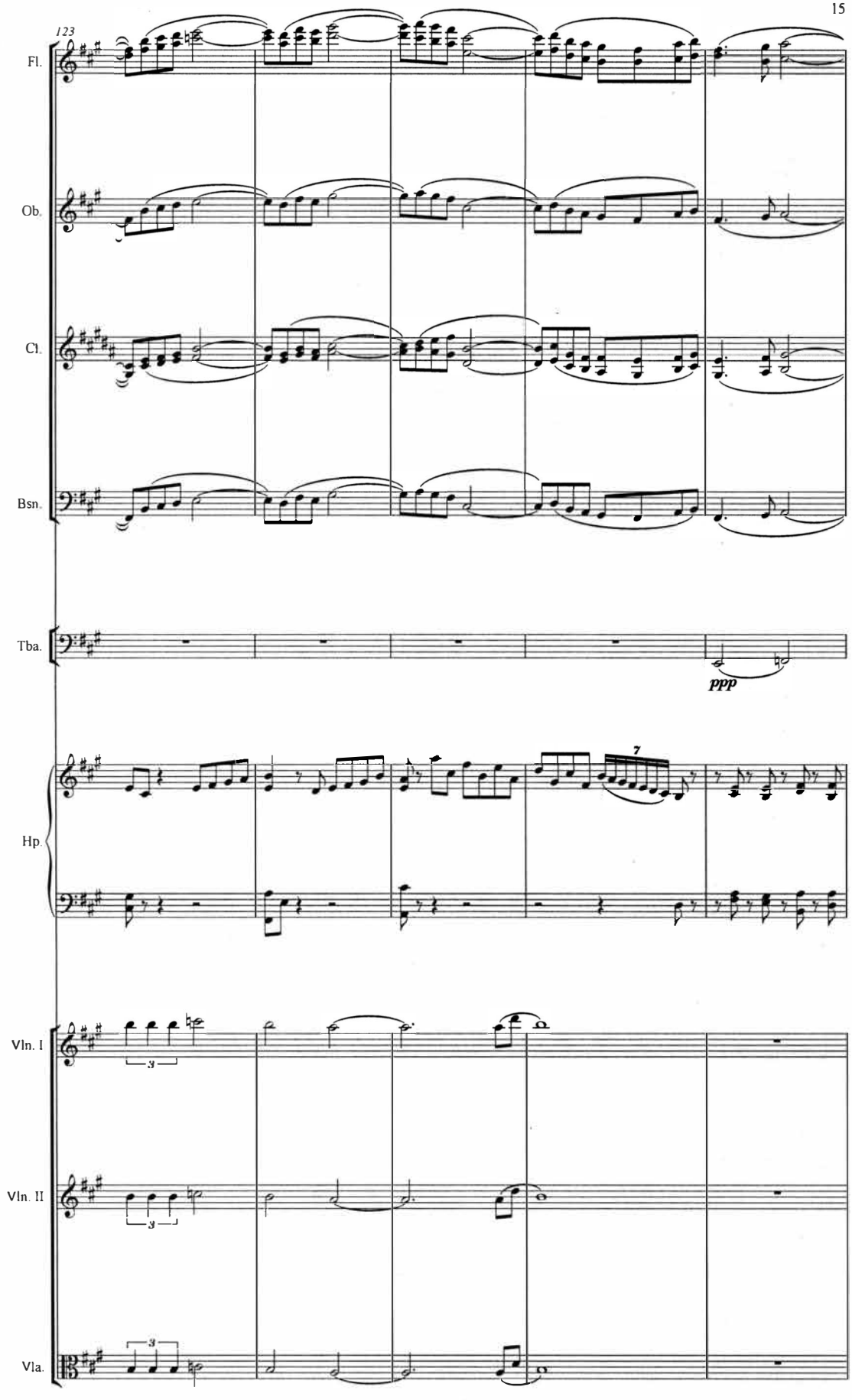

81
Meno mosso
♩=88
79
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
E to E♭
ff
81
Meno mosso
♩=88
Vln. I
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf
f
fp
unis.
fp
fp
83
rit.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
p

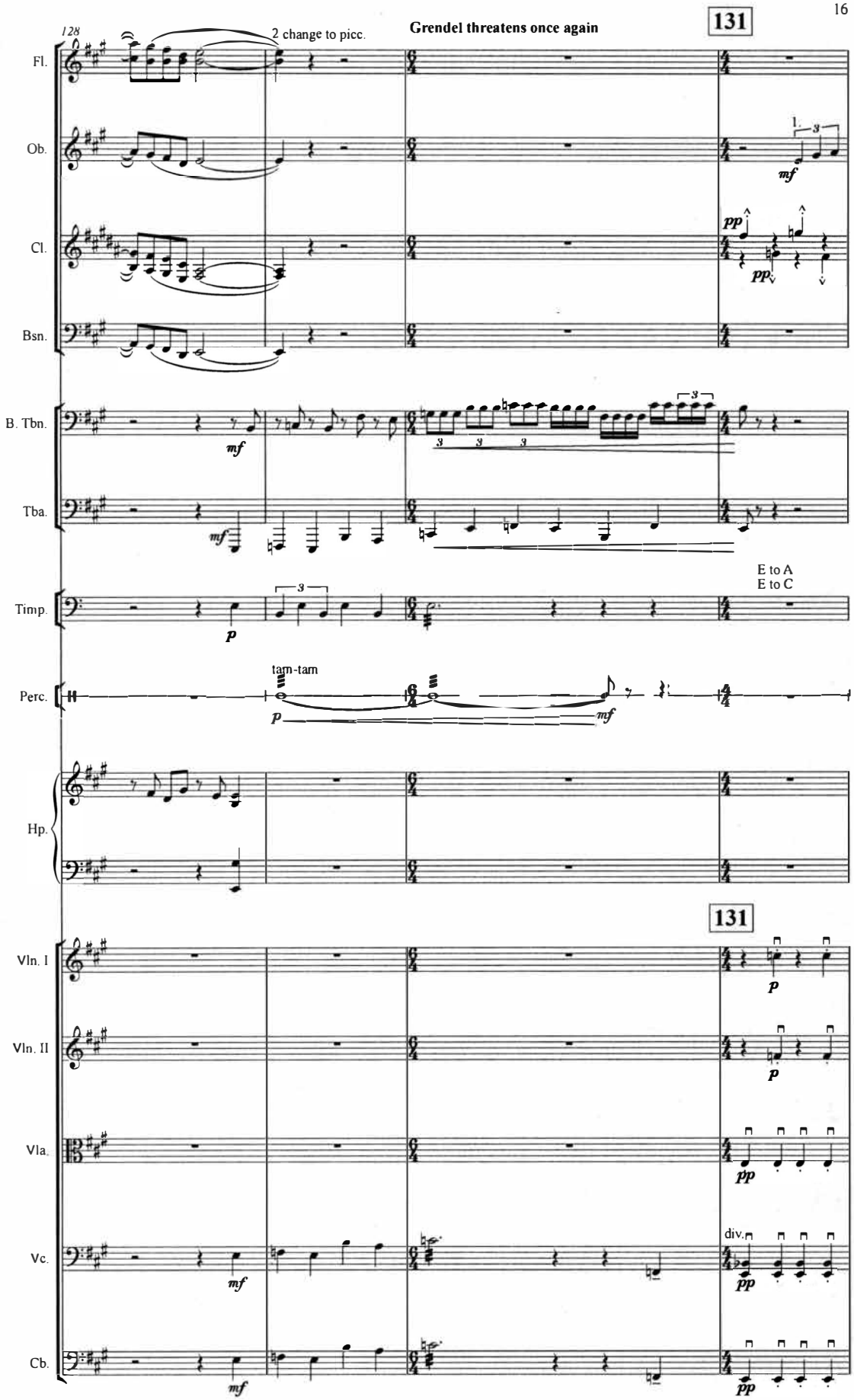

87
87
♩=132
Beowulf the Great Hero
Tbn.
Timp.
Perc.
B.D.
96
93
Fl.
Picc.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
sus. cym.
A to E
96
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

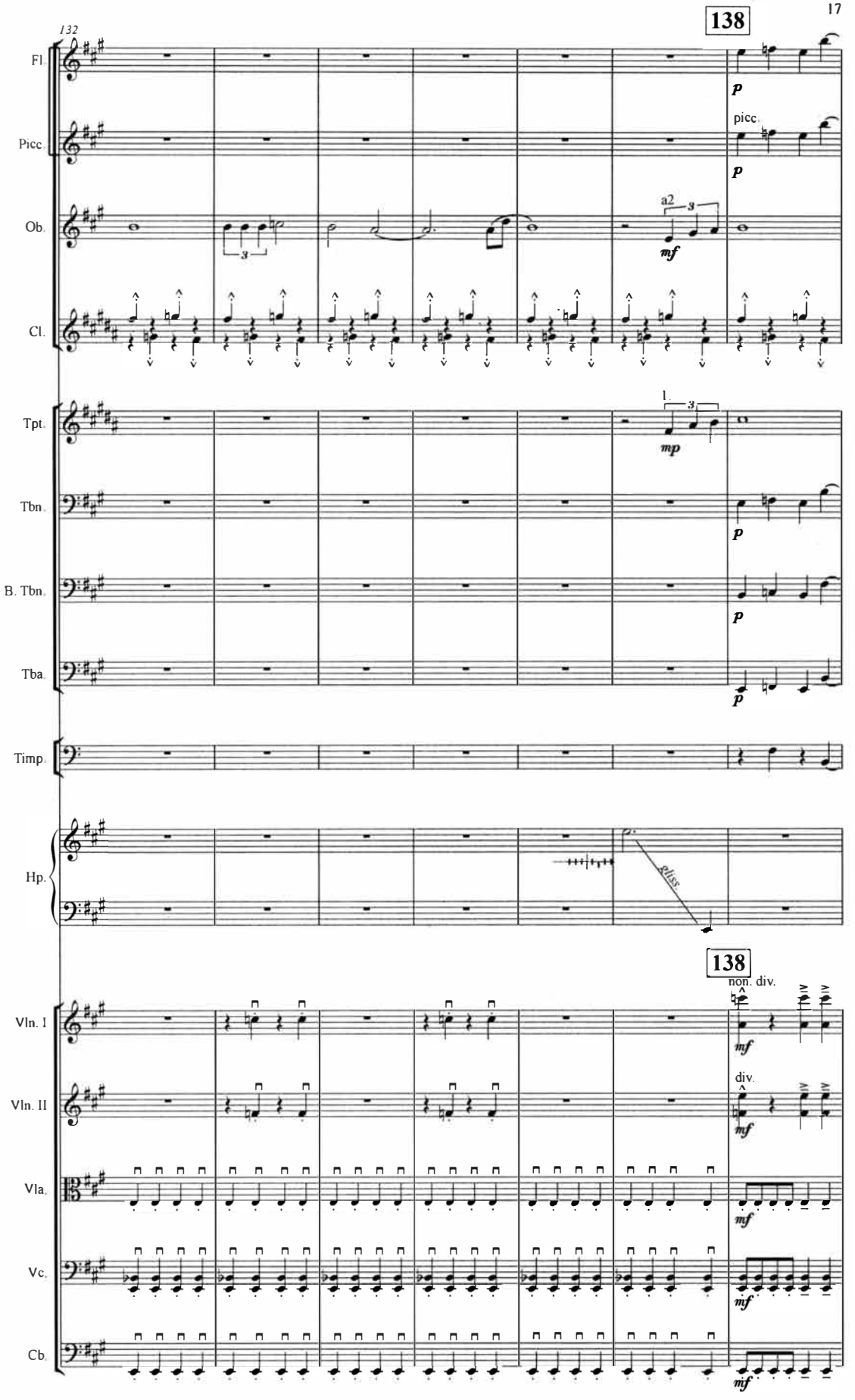

98
Fl.
Picc.
Change to fl.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf

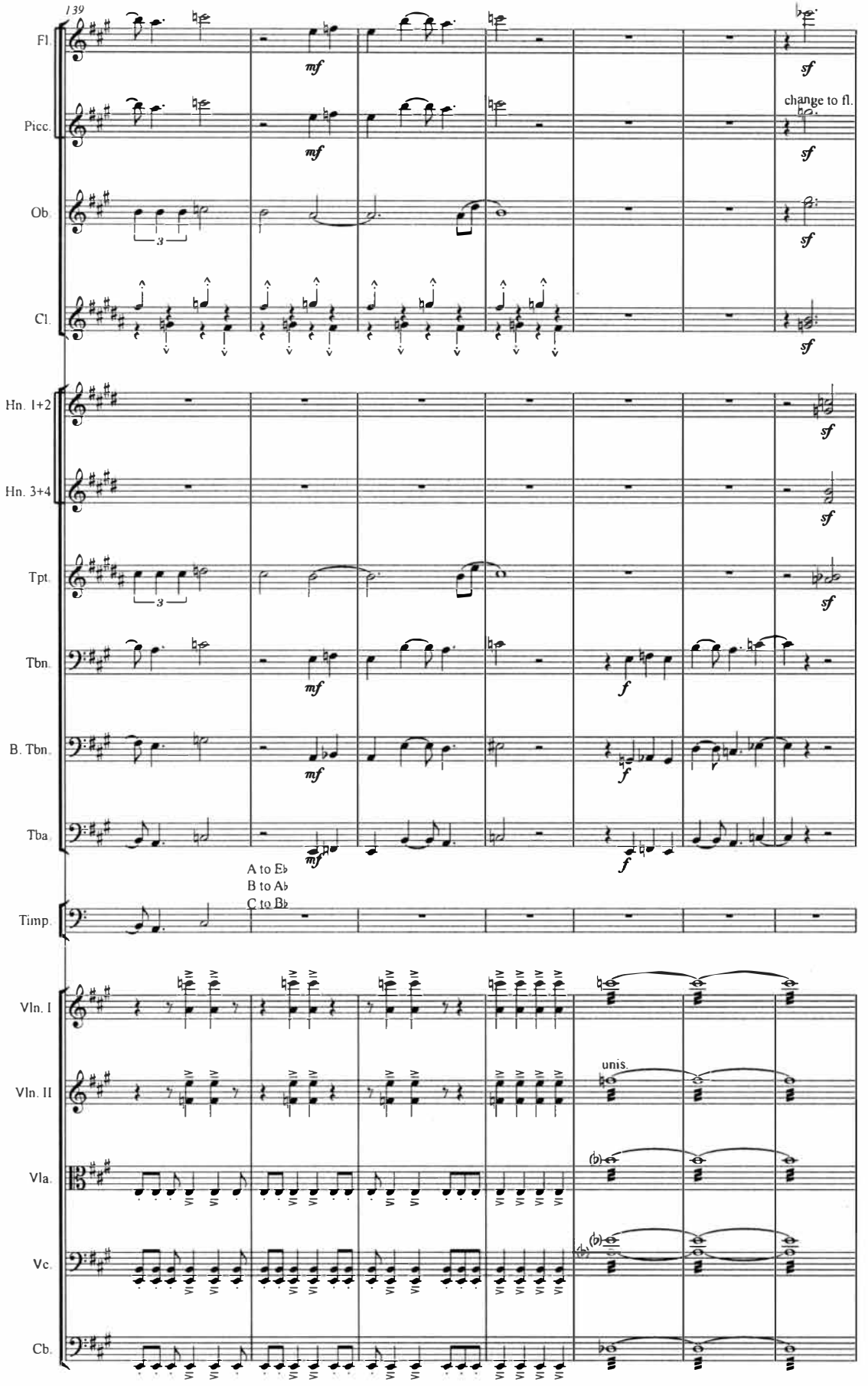

105
103
Meno mosso In King Hrothgar's Court
♩≈120
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Hp.
B.D.
sempre arpeggio
E♭ to E
B♭ to B
105
Meno mosso In King Hrothgar's Court
♩≈120
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

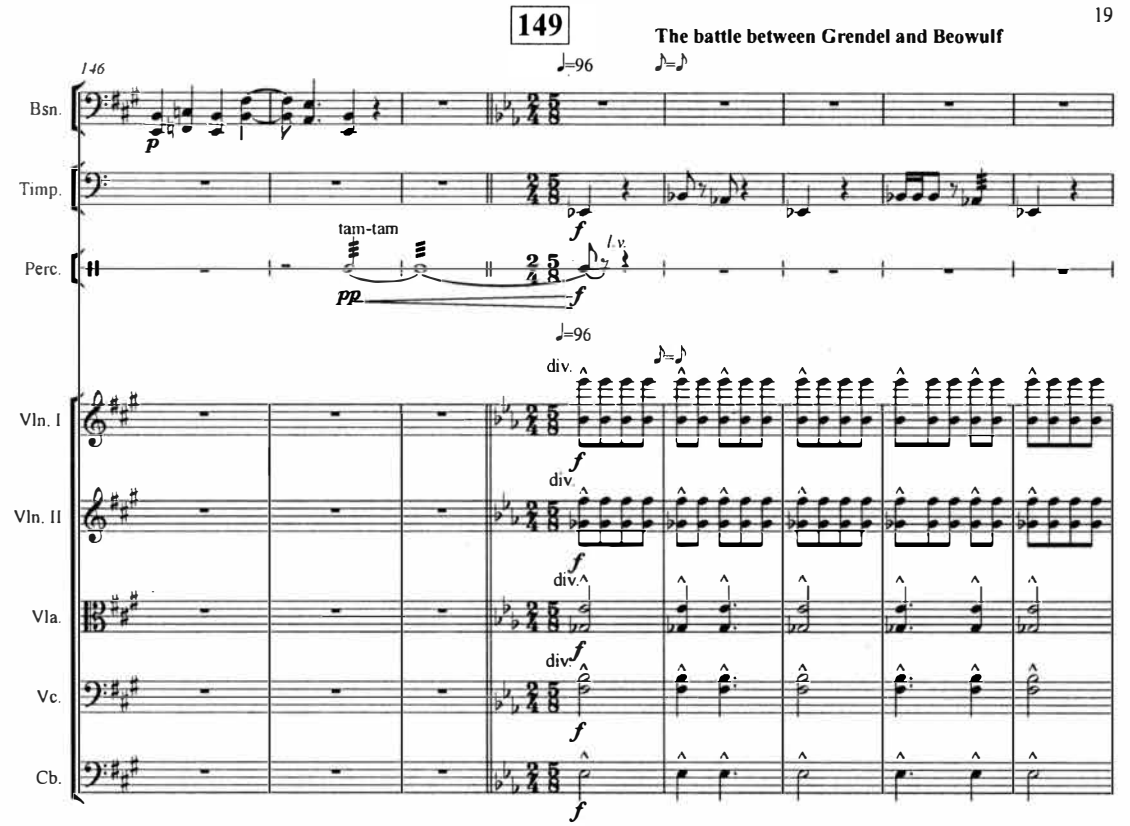

108
Bsn.
Hp.
113
113
1.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hp.
mp
mp
118
121
121
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
2.
mp
mf
mf
mf

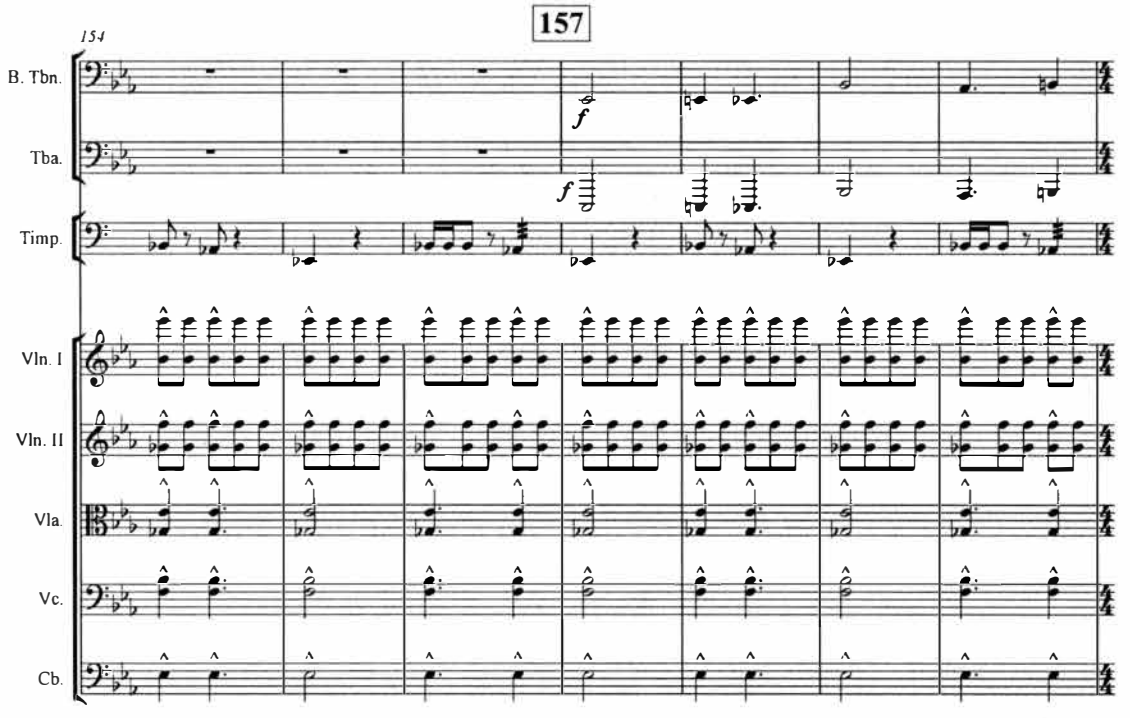

123
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tba.
ppp
Hp.
7
Vln. I
3
Vln. II
3
Vla.
3

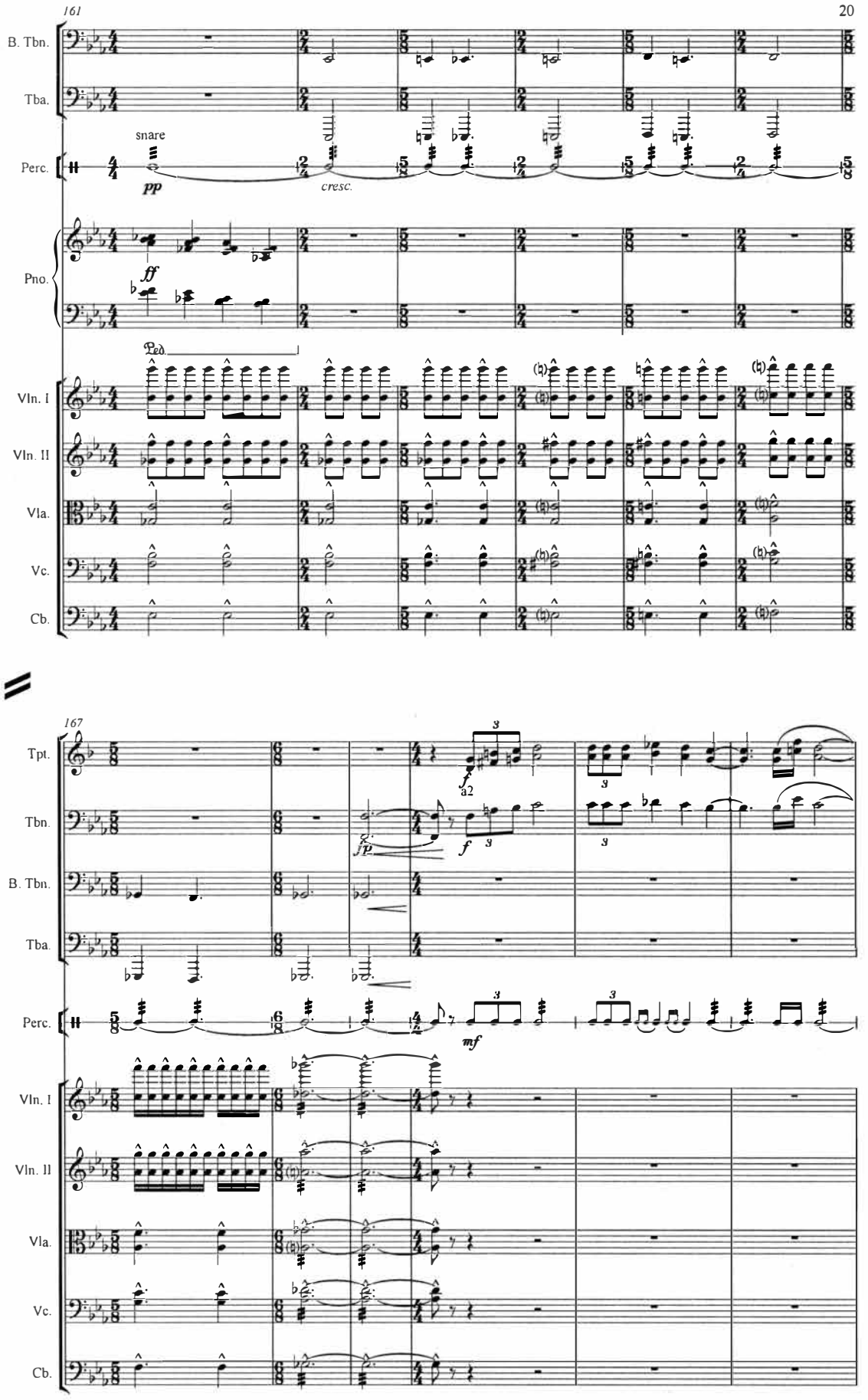

128
2 change to picc.
Grendel threatens once again
131
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
E to A
E to C
Perc.
tam-tam
Hp.
131
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
div.
Cb.

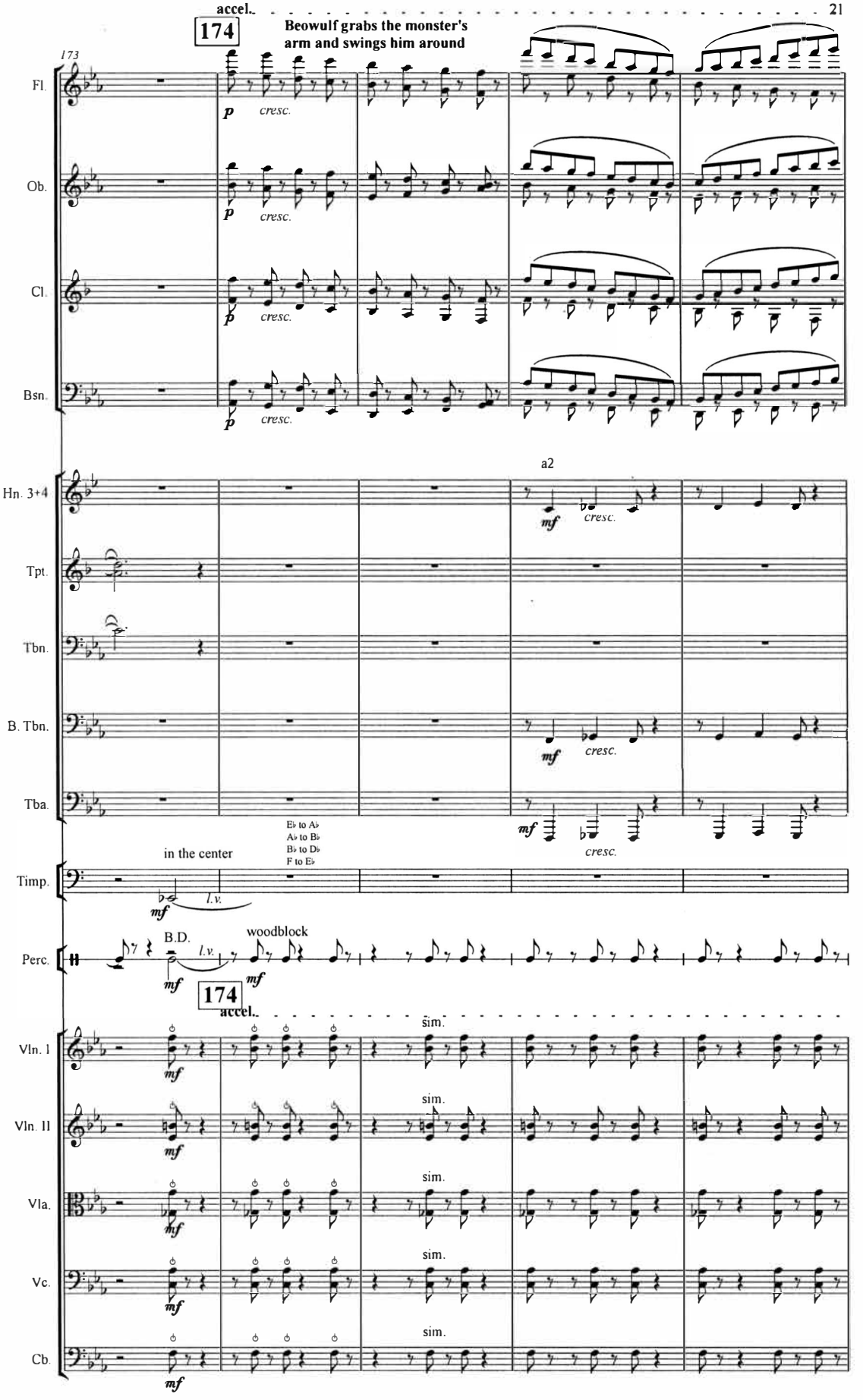

132
138
Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
Cl.
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p
picc.
a2
mf
mp
gliss.
non. div.
div.

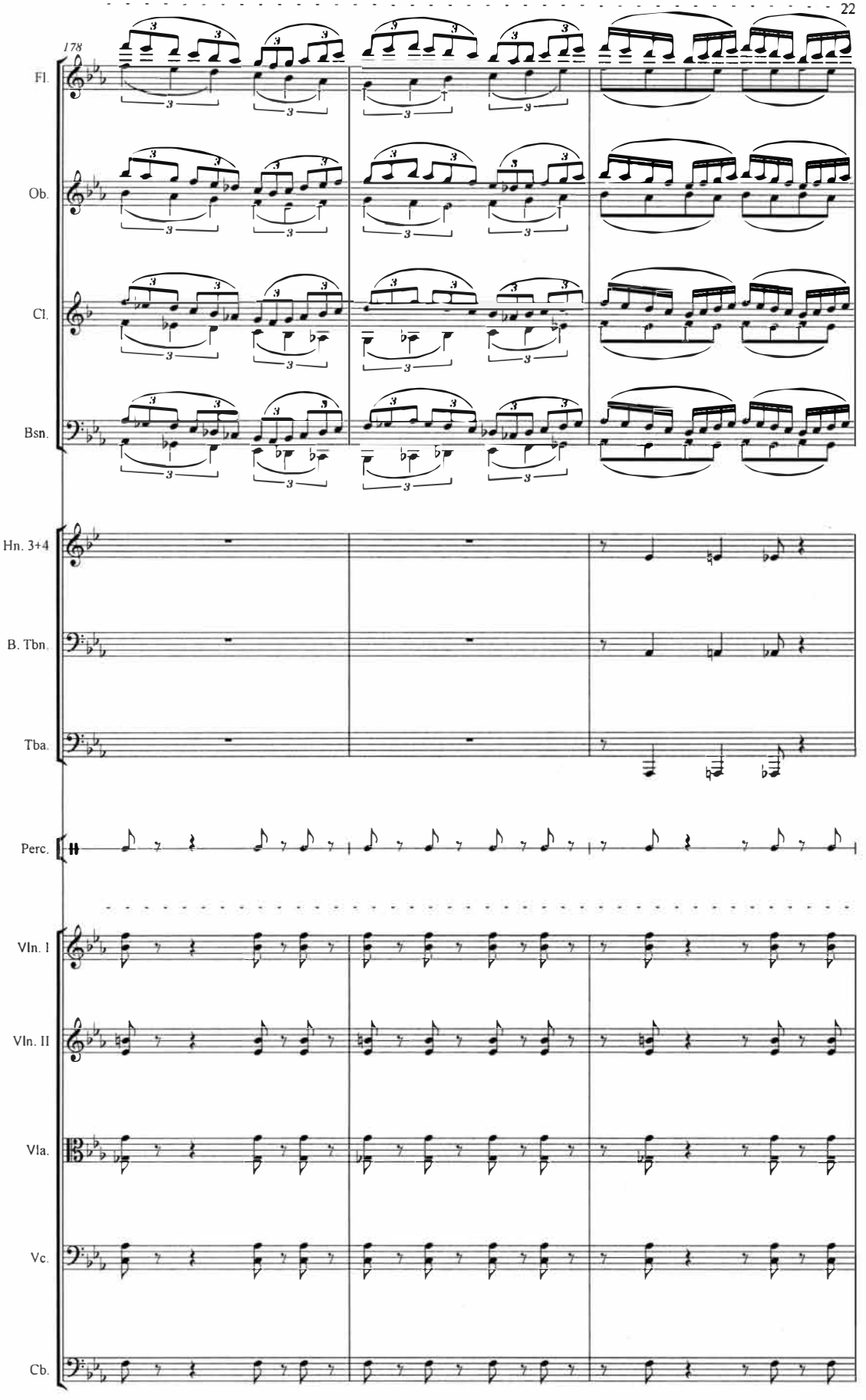

139
Fl.
Picc.
change to fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
A to E♭
B to A♭
C to B♭
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
unis.
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

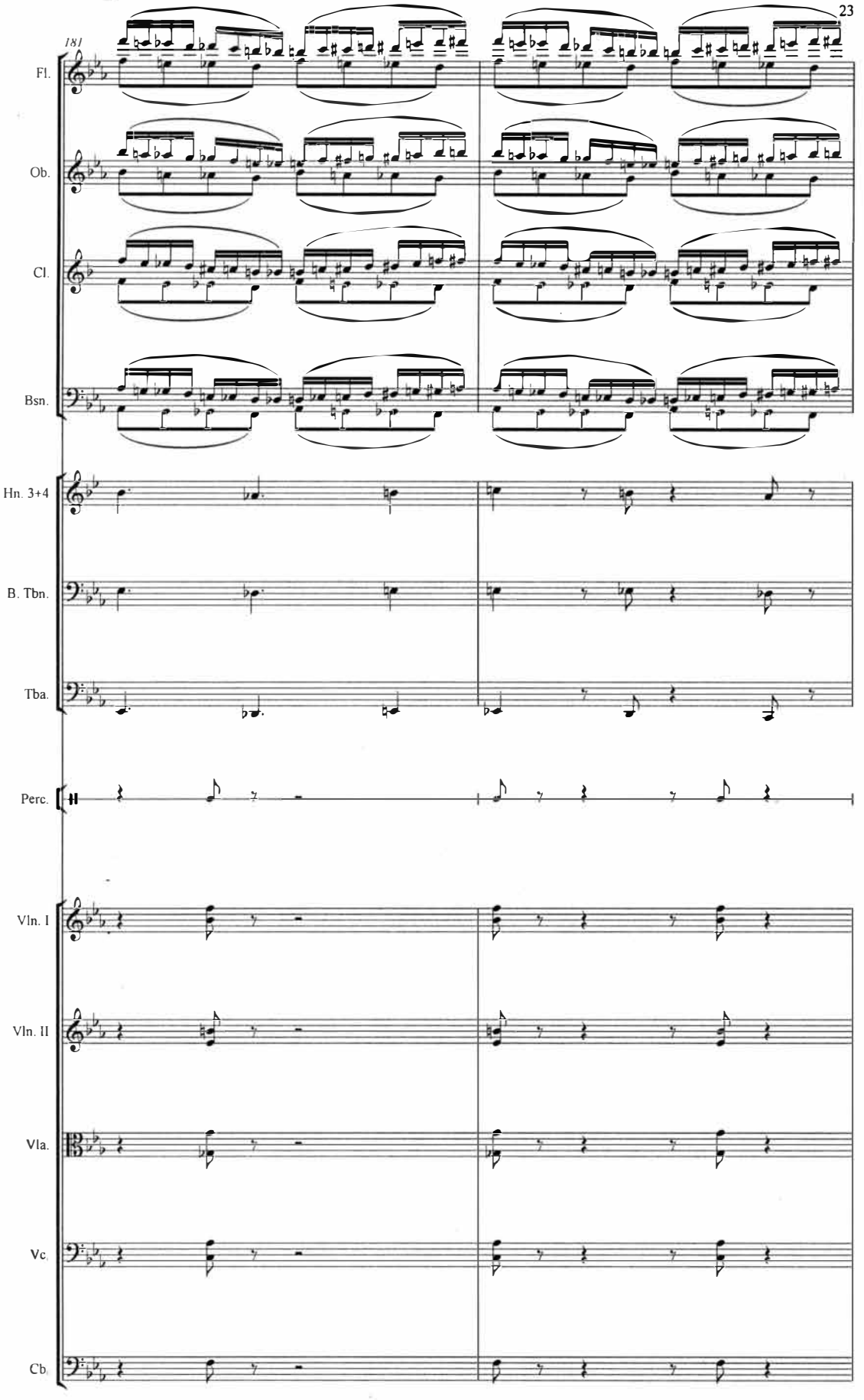

149
The battle between Grendel and Beowulf
146
♩=96
♪=♪
Bsn.
Timp.
Perc.
tam-tam
l.v.
pp
f
p
♩=96
♪=♪
div.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

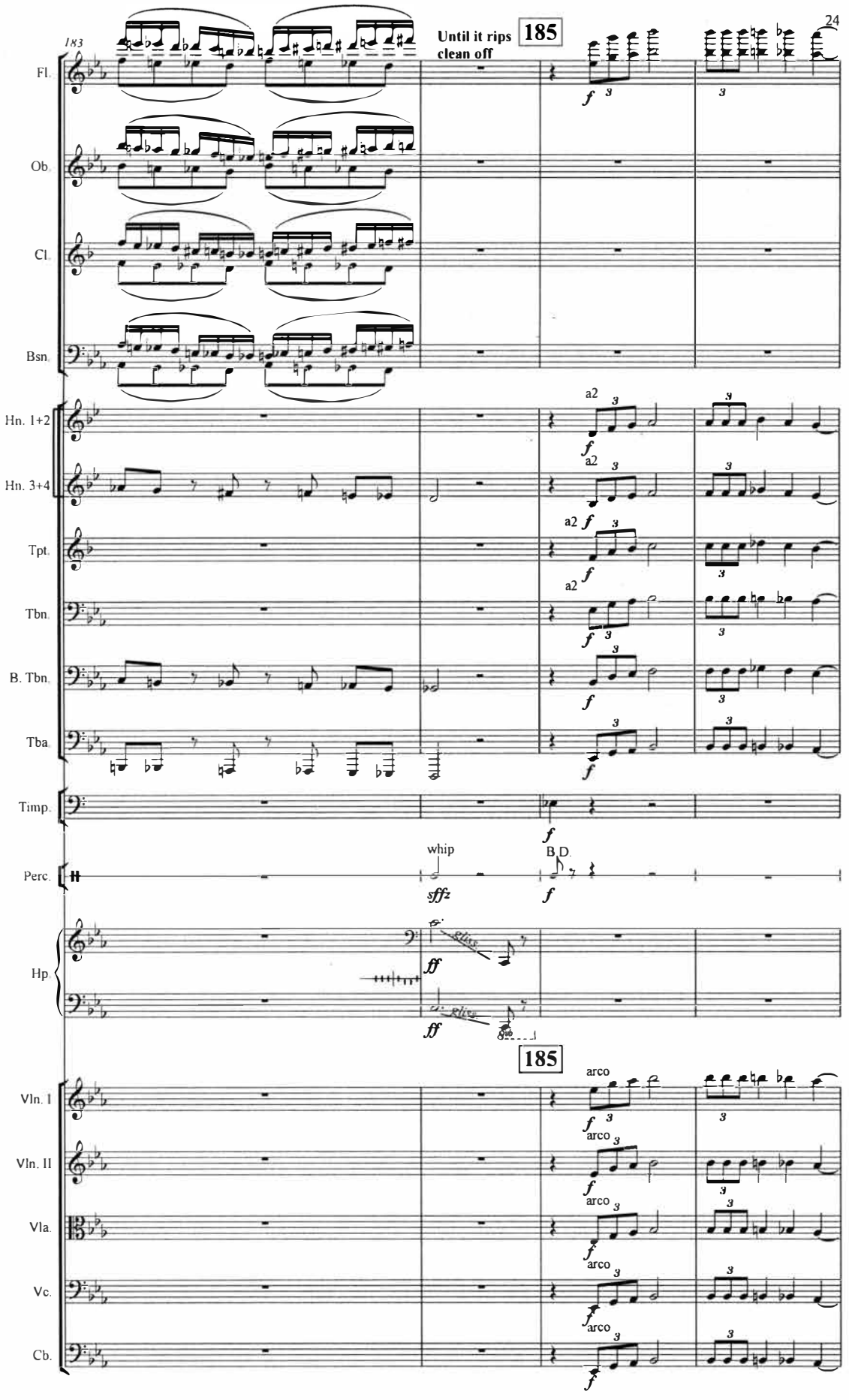

157
154
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f

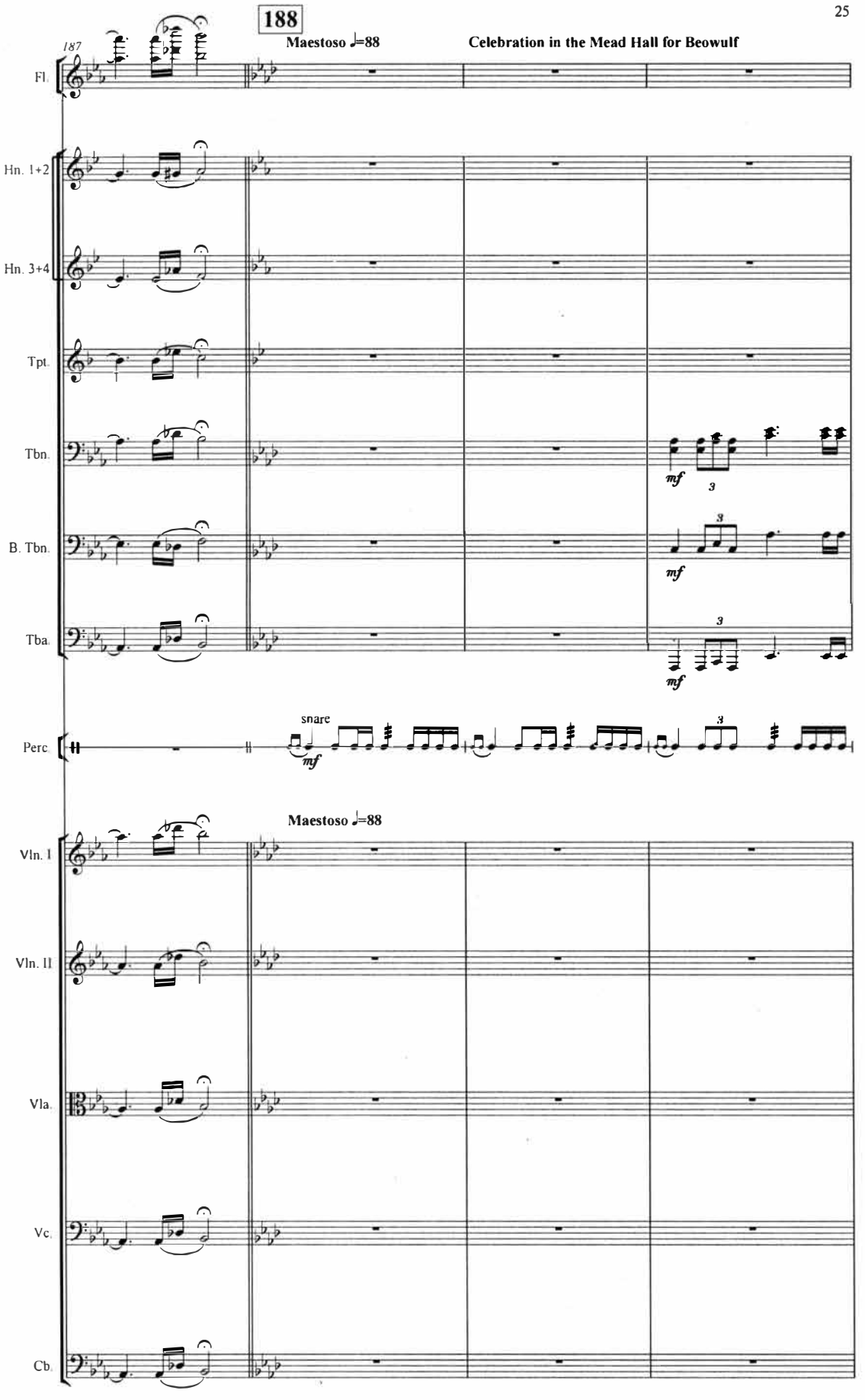

161
B. Tbn.
Tba.
snare
Perc.
pp
cresc.
Pno.
ff
Ped.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
167
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
a2
mf

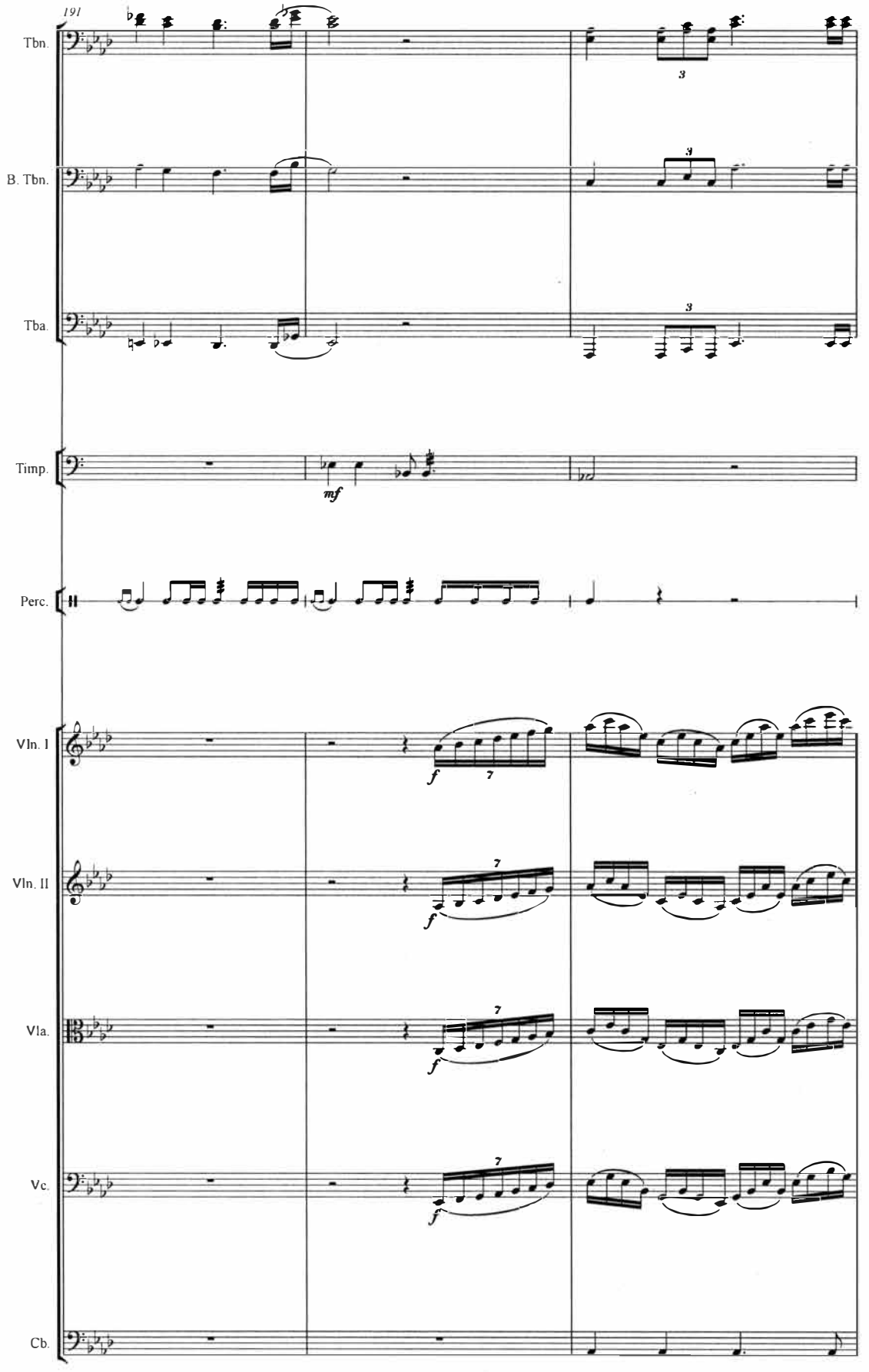

accel.
174
Beowulf grabs the monster's arm and swings him around
173
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
p
cresc.
a2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
mf
cresc.
E♭ to A♭
A♭ to B♭
B♭ to D♭
F to E♭
in the center
l.v.
Timp.
B.D.
woodblock
Perc.
174
accel.
sim.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

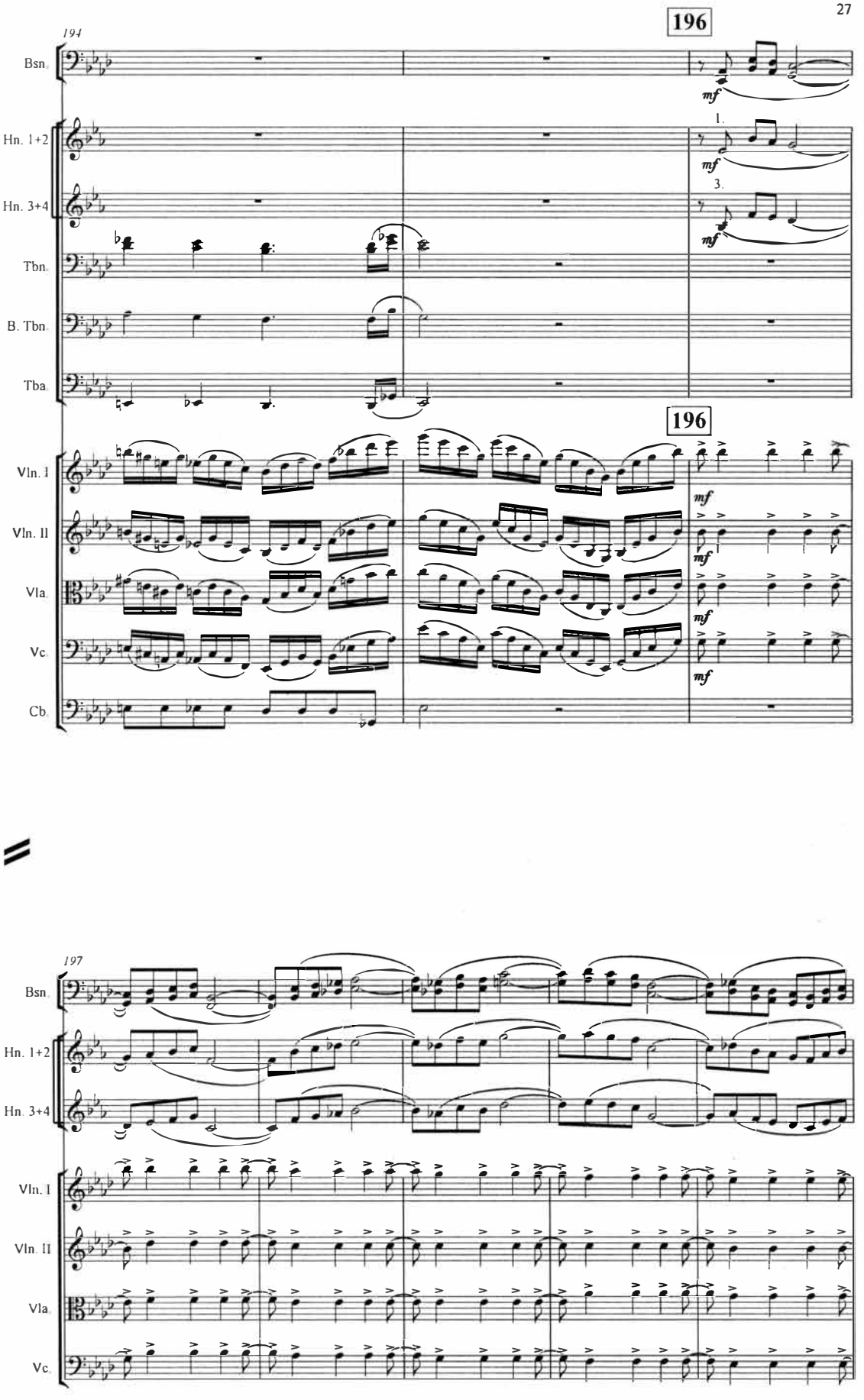

178
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn. 3+4
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

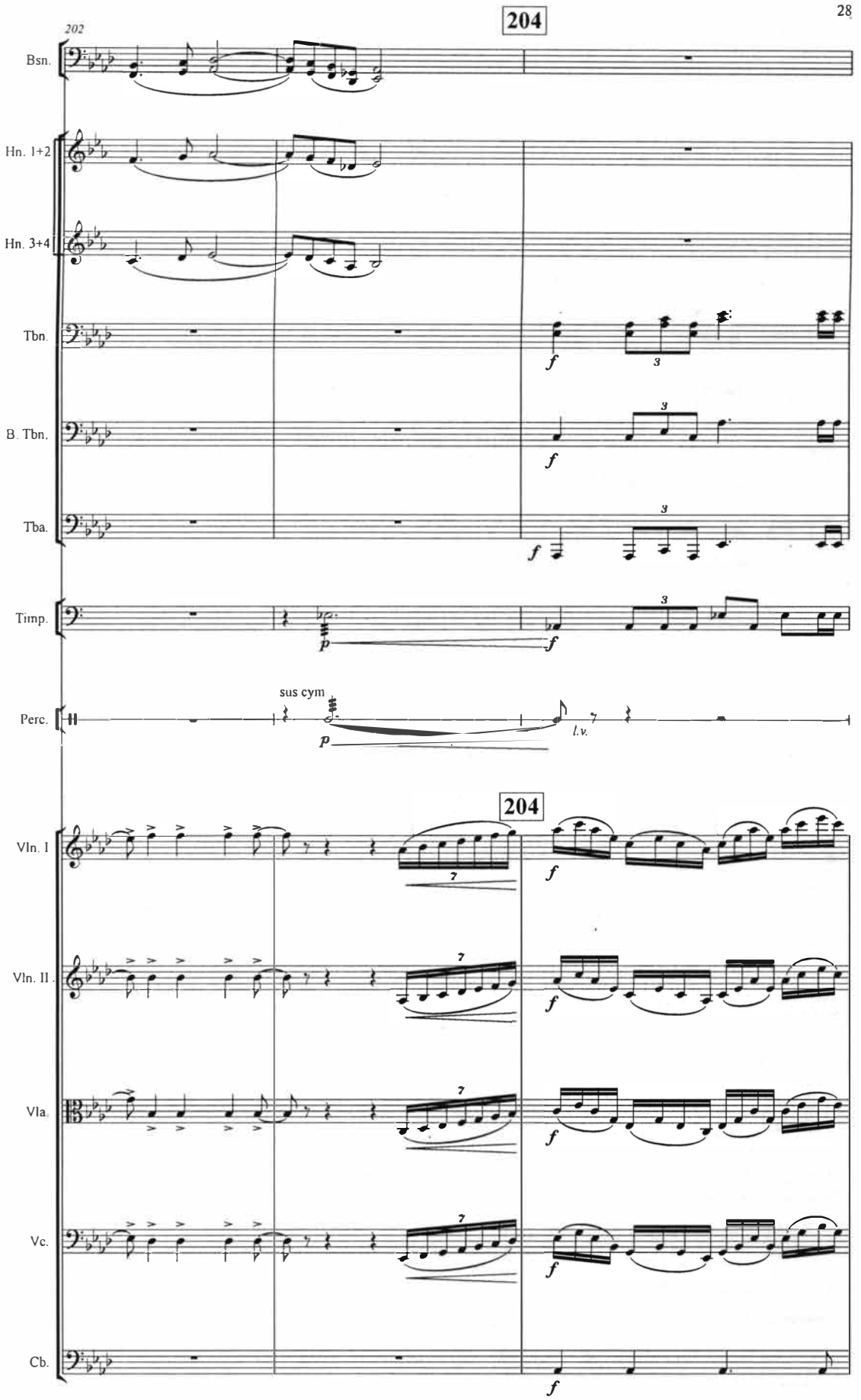

181
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn. 3+4
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

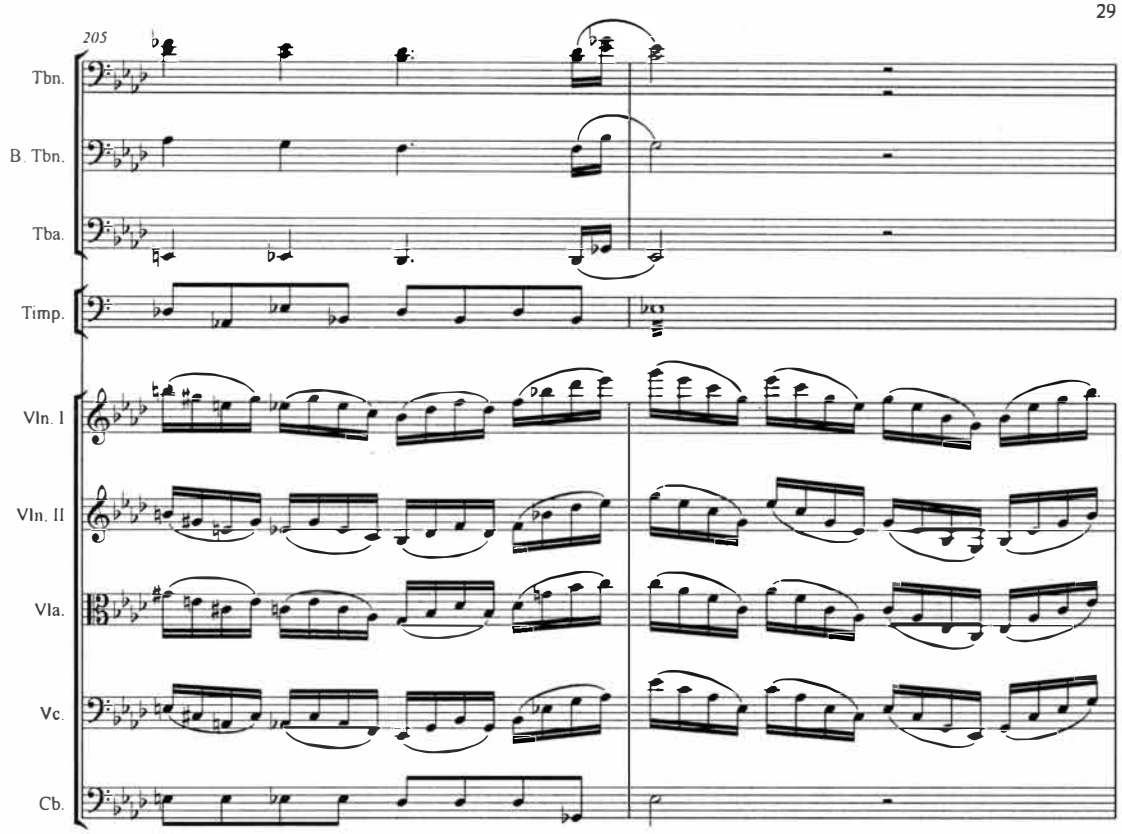

183
Until it rips clean off
185
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
whip
B.D.
Hp
185
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
a2
arco

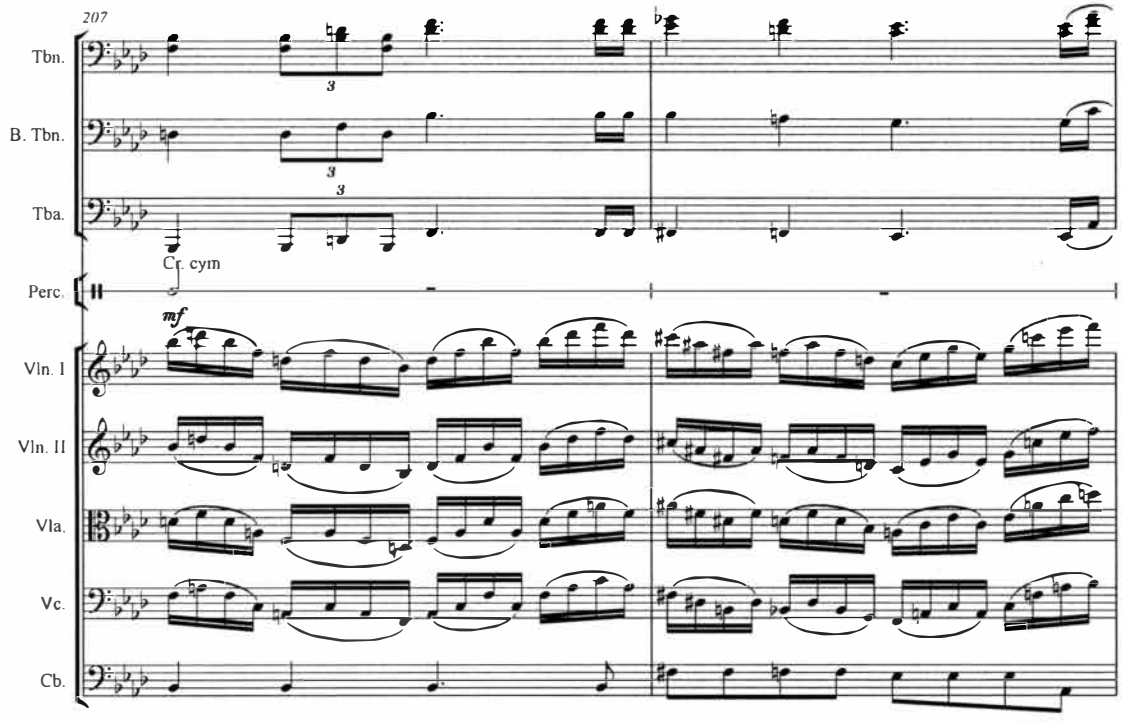

188
187
Maestoso ♩=88
Celebration in the Mead Hall for Beowulf
Fl.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Perc.
snare
mf
3
Maestoso ♩=88
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

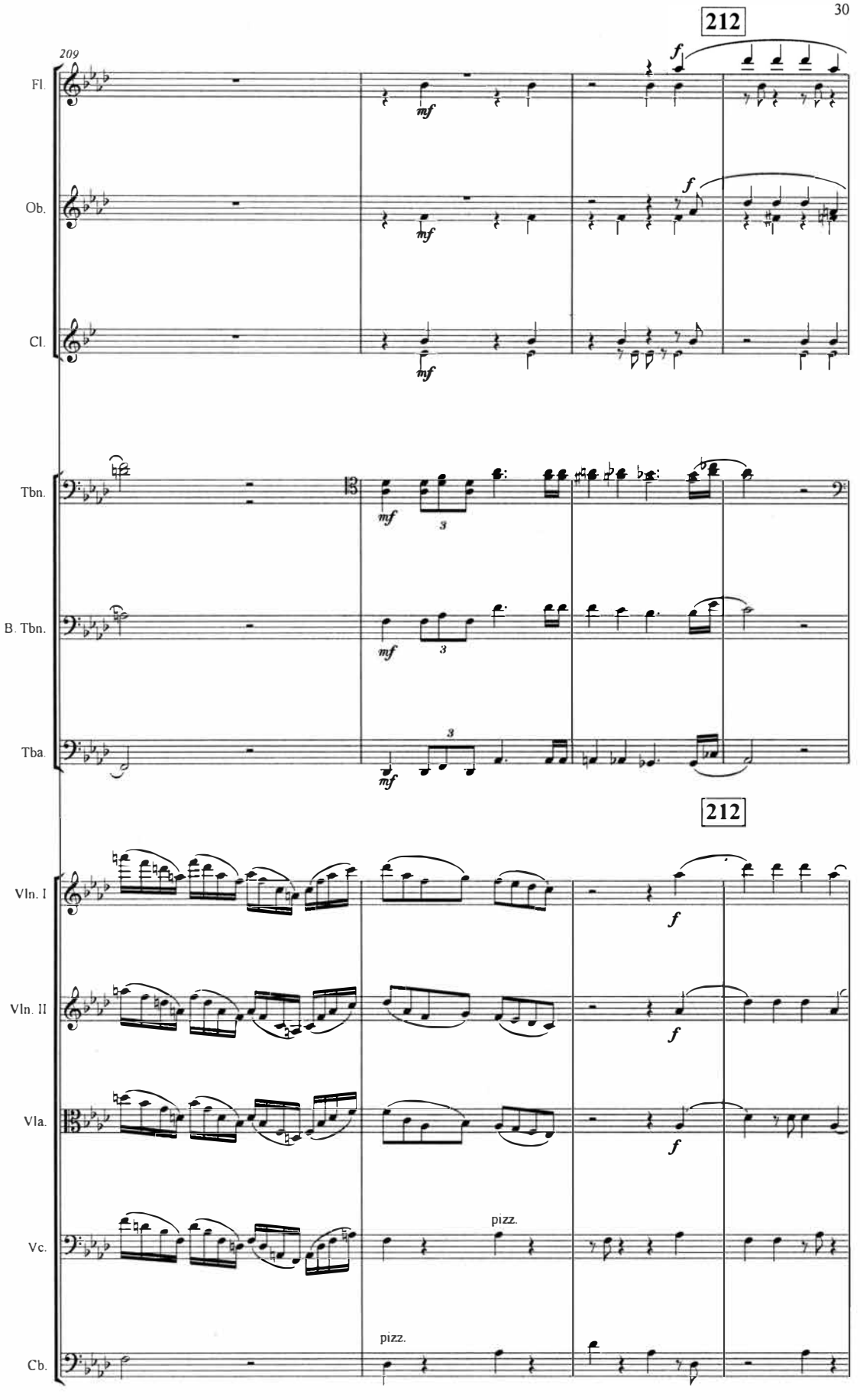

191
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
mf
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
3
7

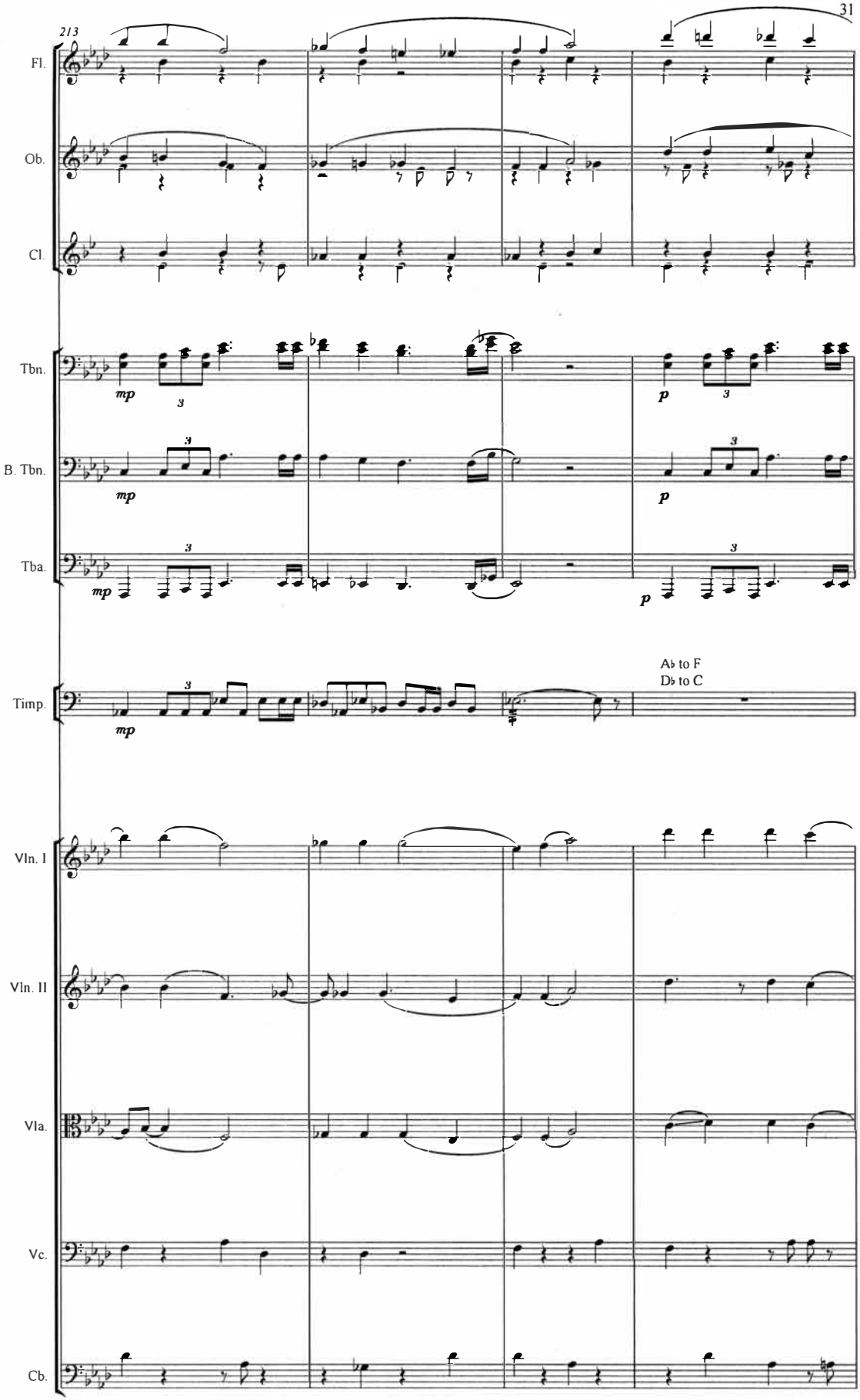

194
196
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
196
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf
1.
3.
197
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

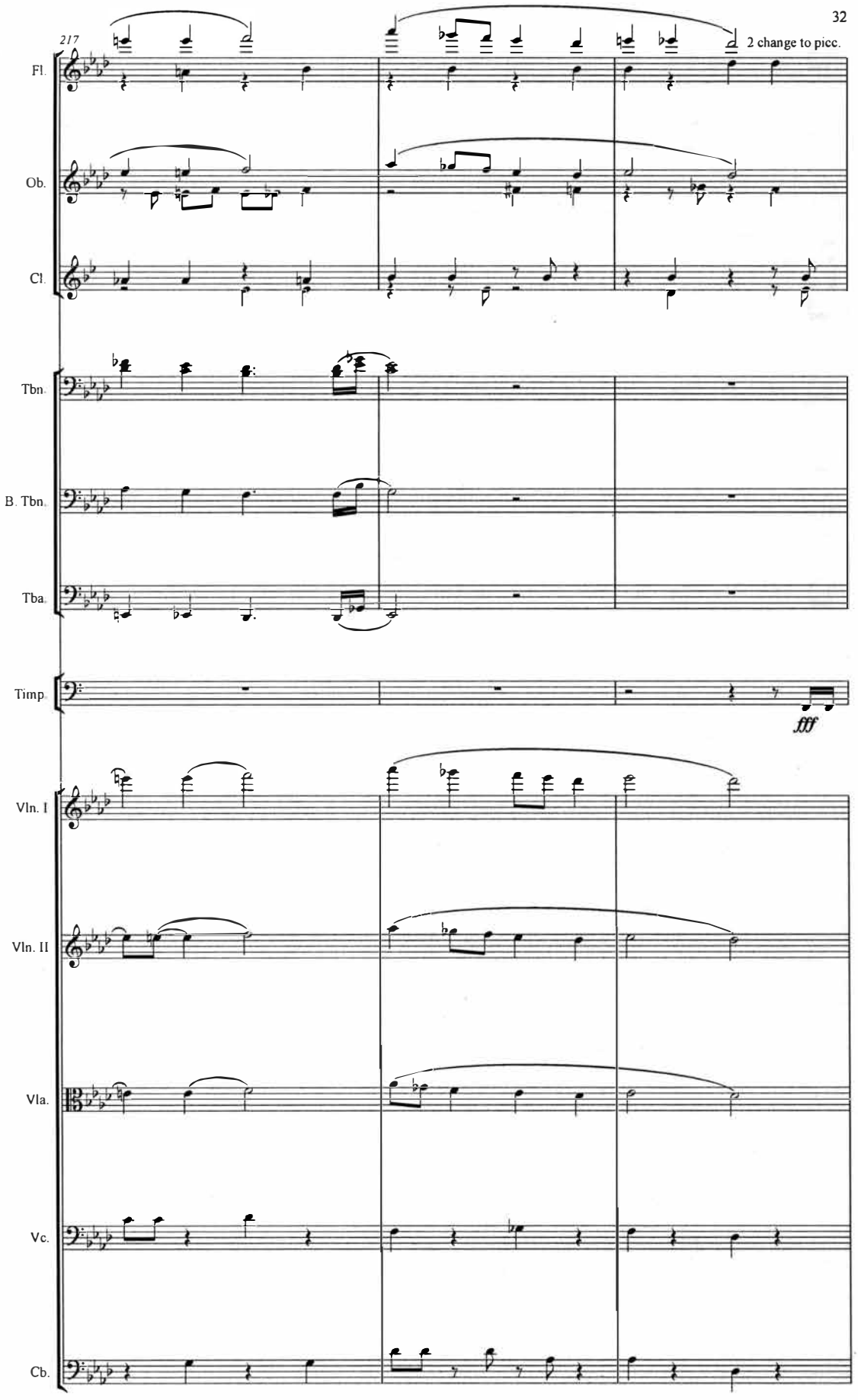

202
204
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
sus cym
l.v.
204
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

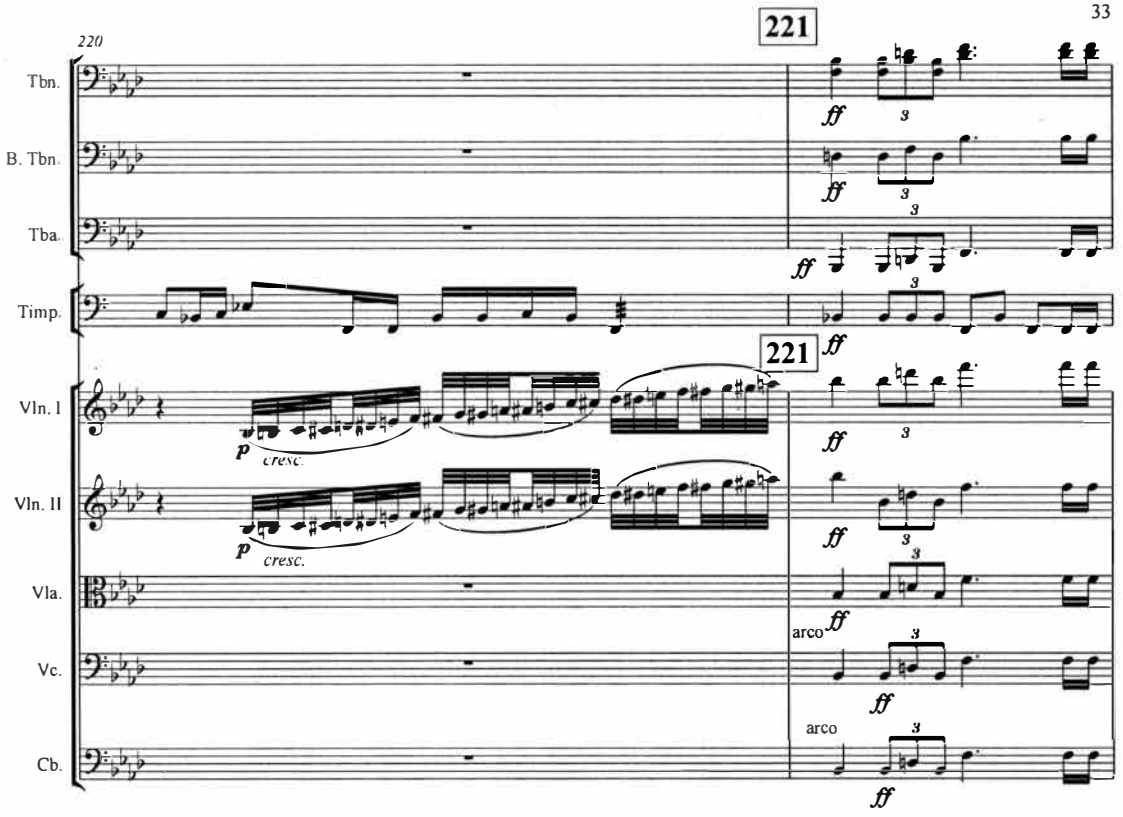

205
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

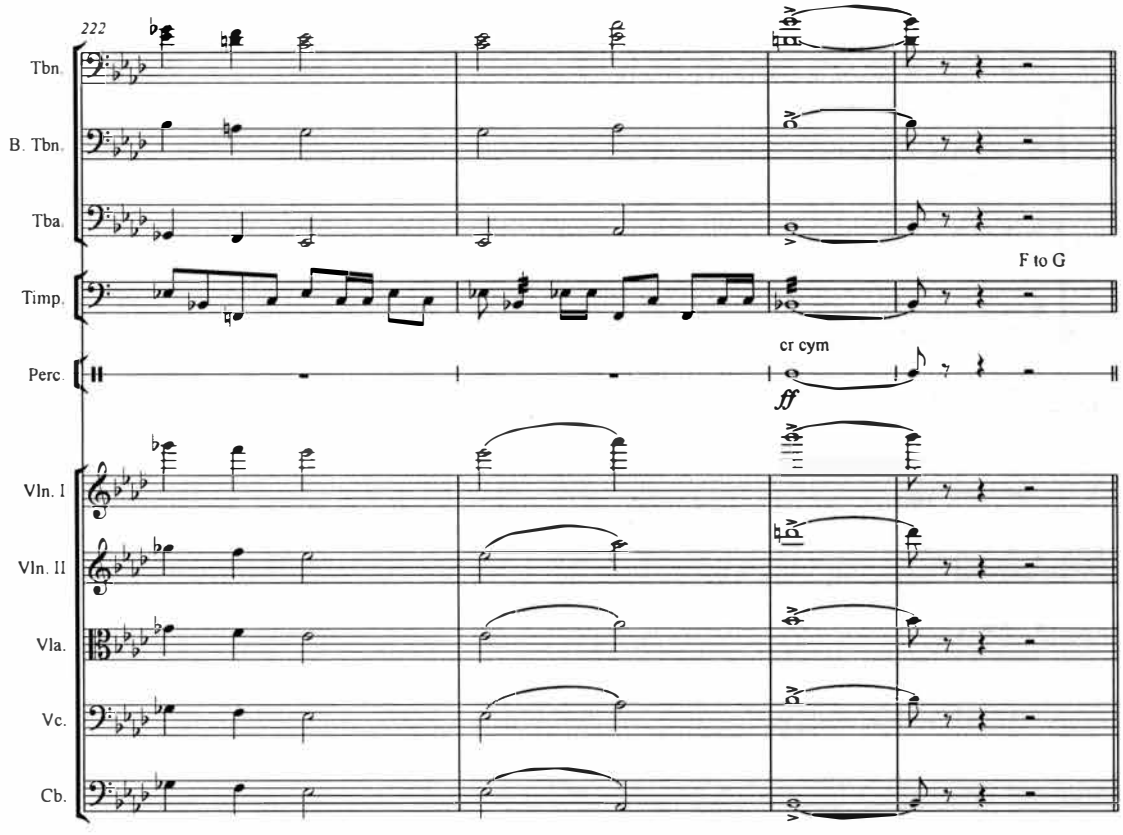

207
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Cr. cym
Perc.
mf
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

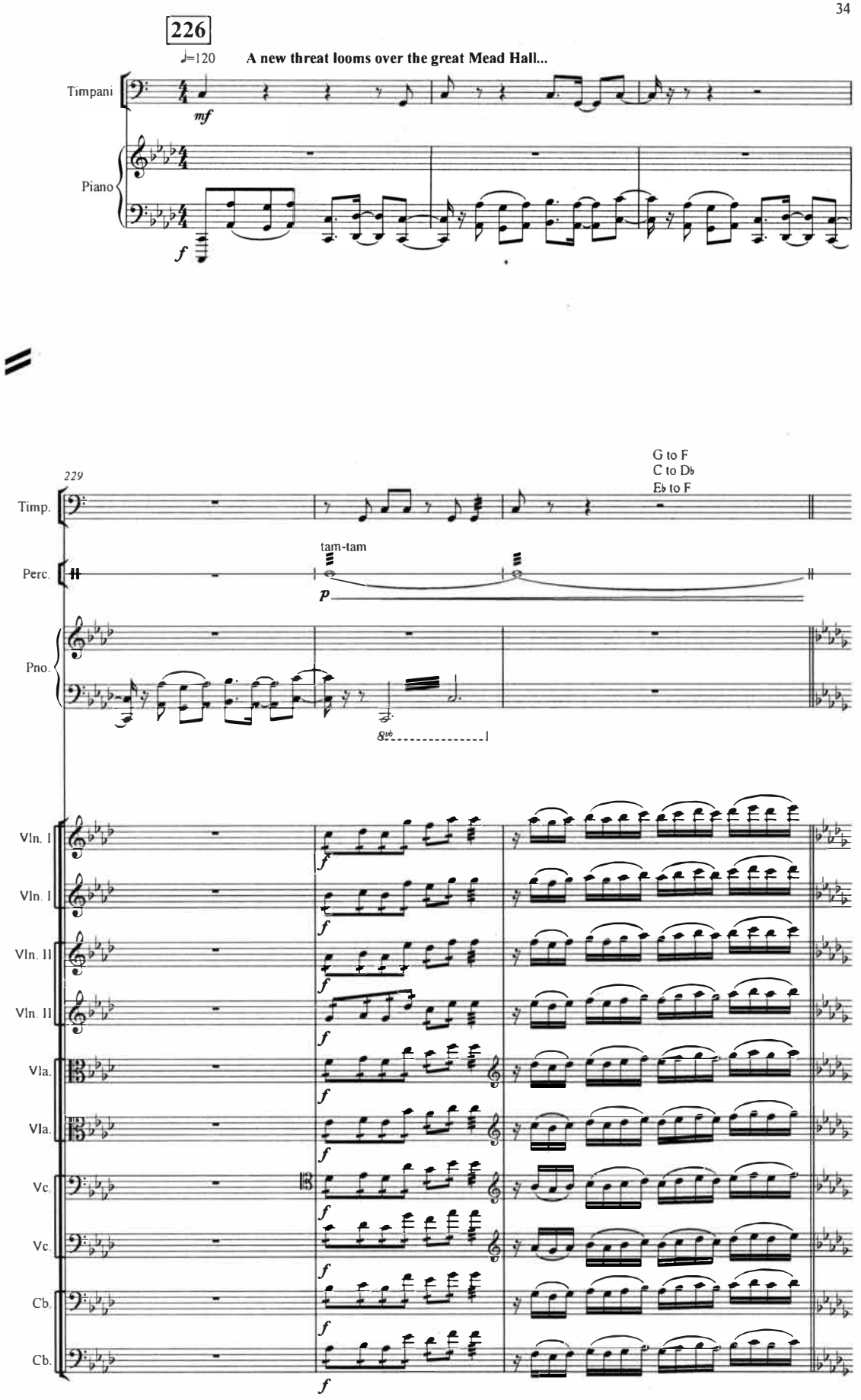

209
212
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
212
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pizz.
pizz.

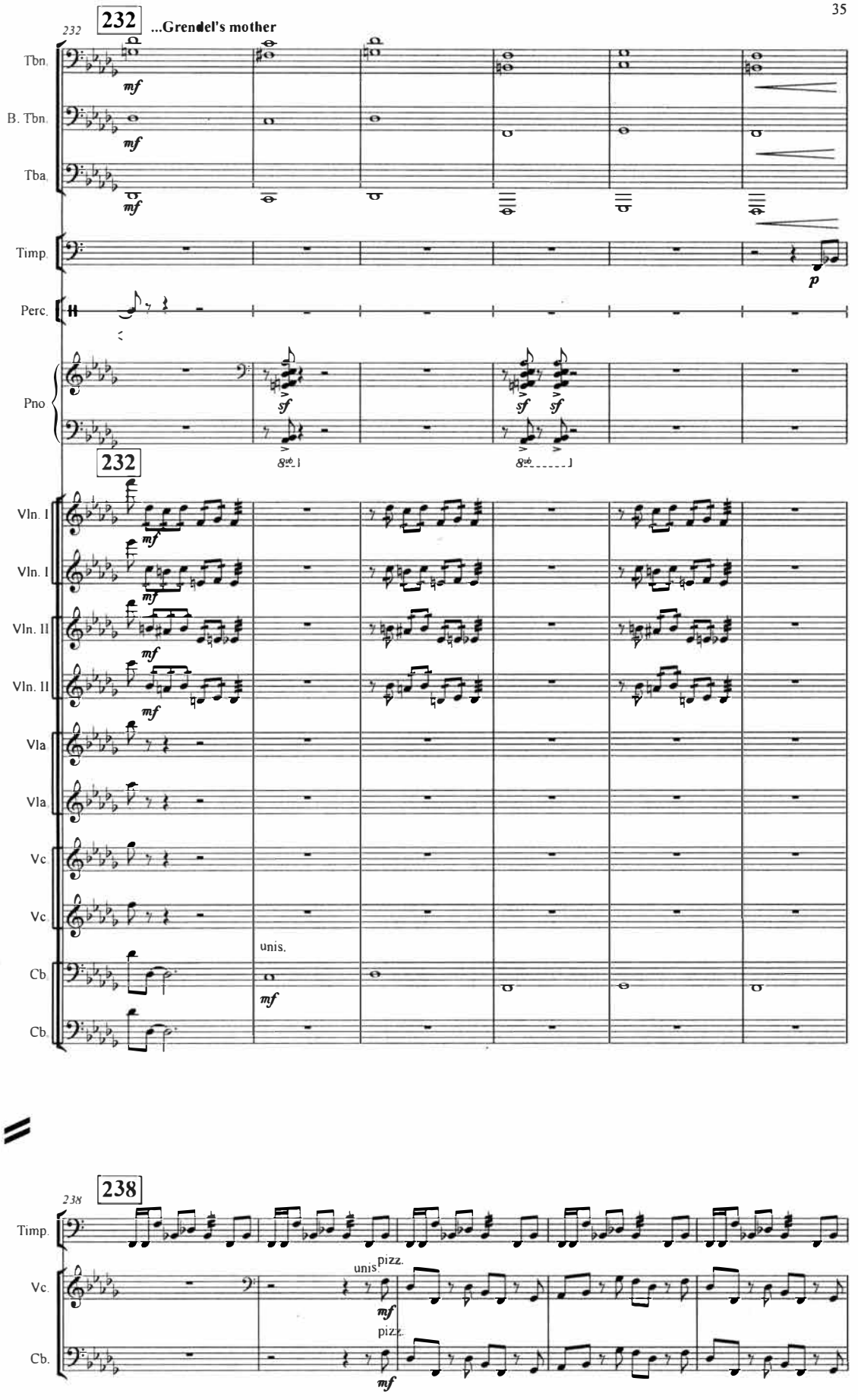

213
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
A♭ to F
D♭ to C
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

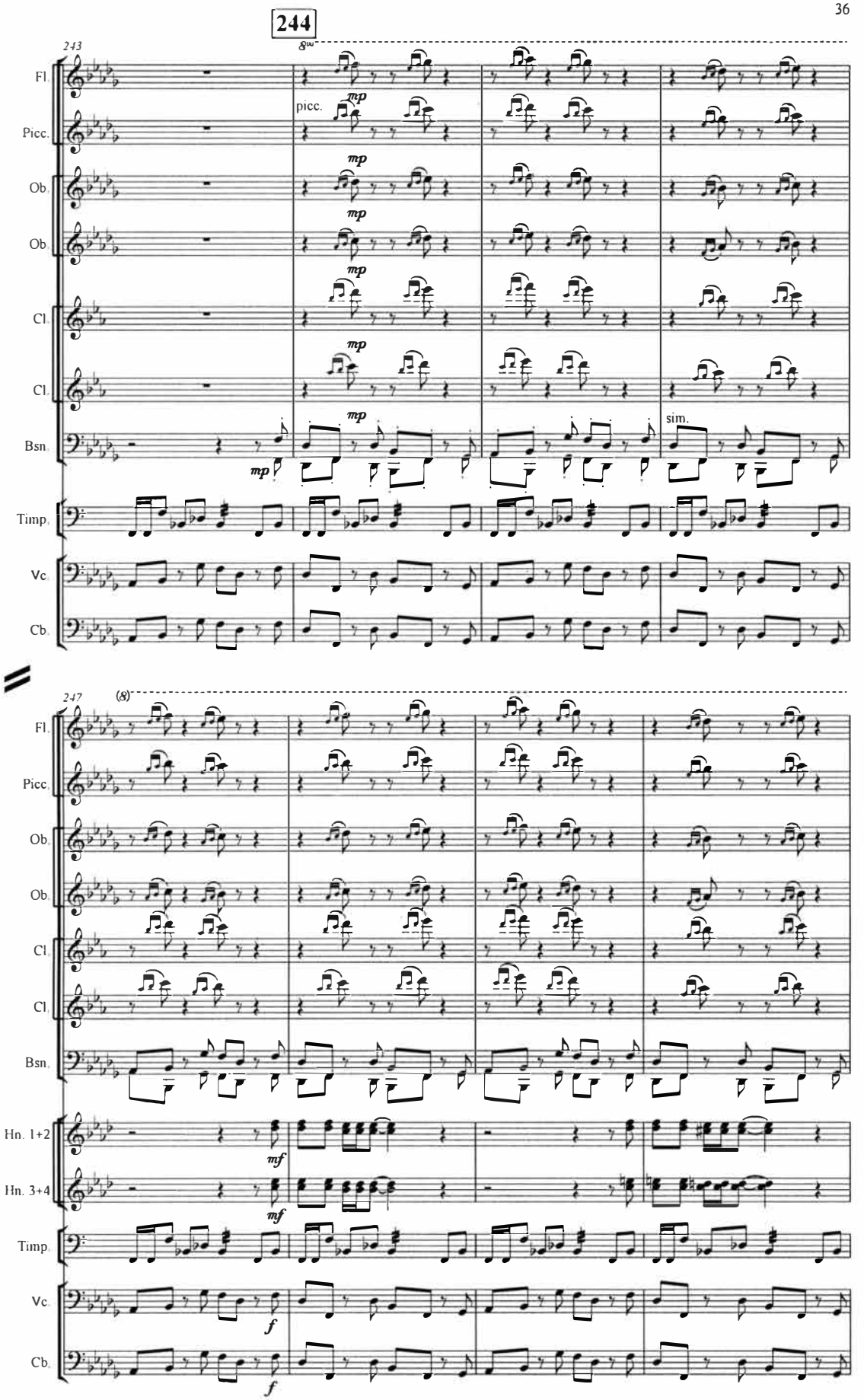

217
2 change to picc.
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
fff
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

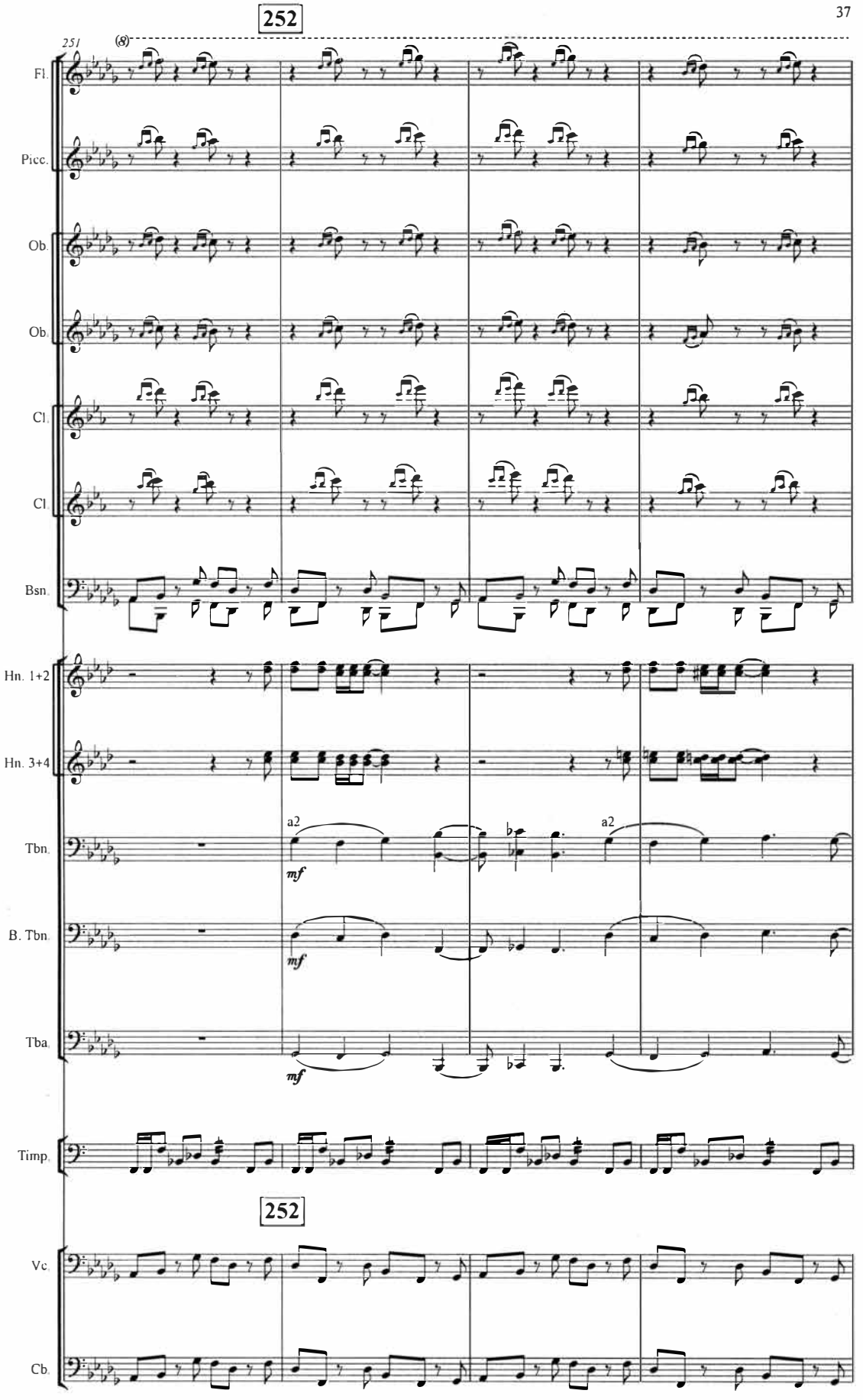

220
221
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
ff
p
cresc.
arco

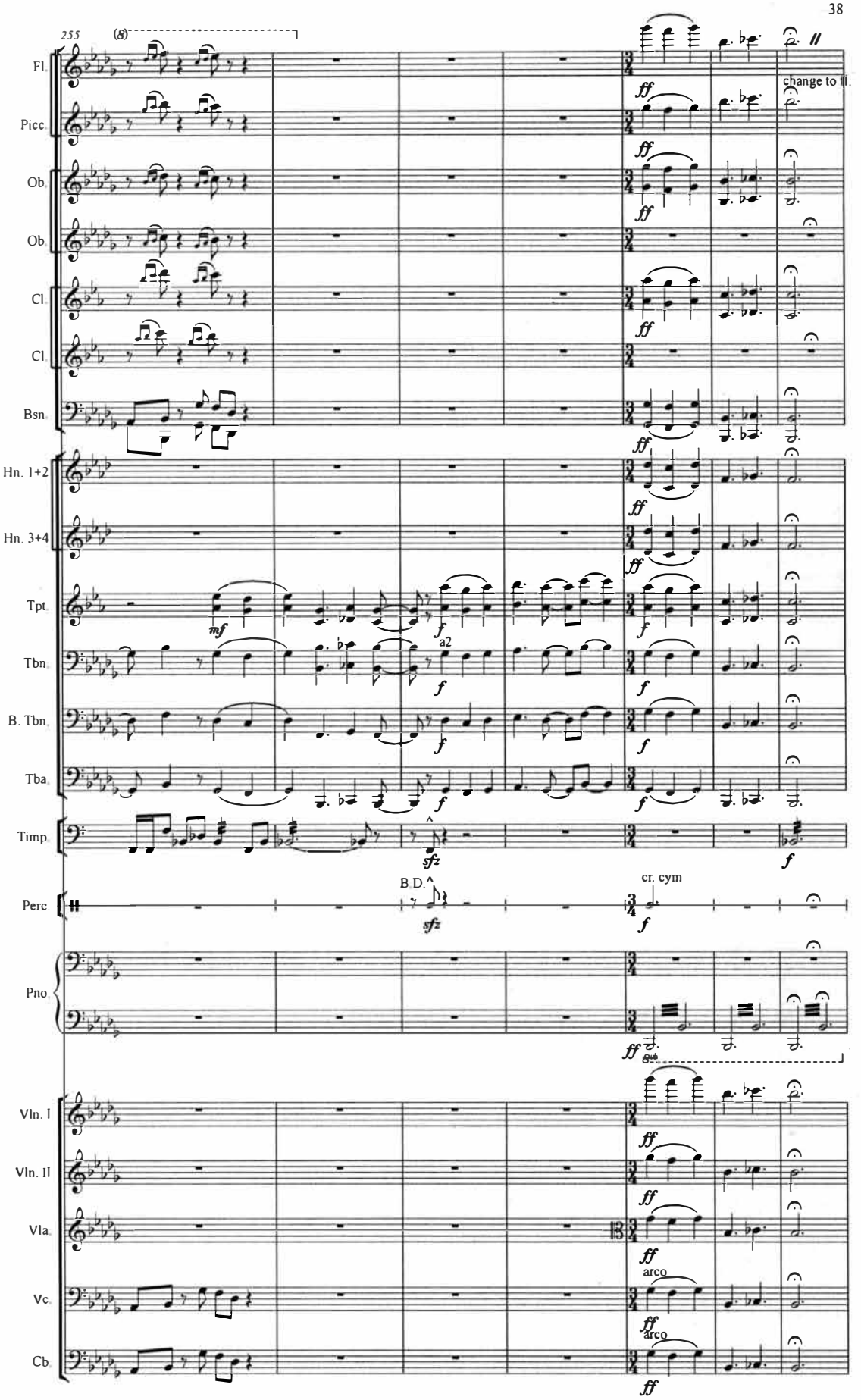

222
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
F to G
cr cym
ff

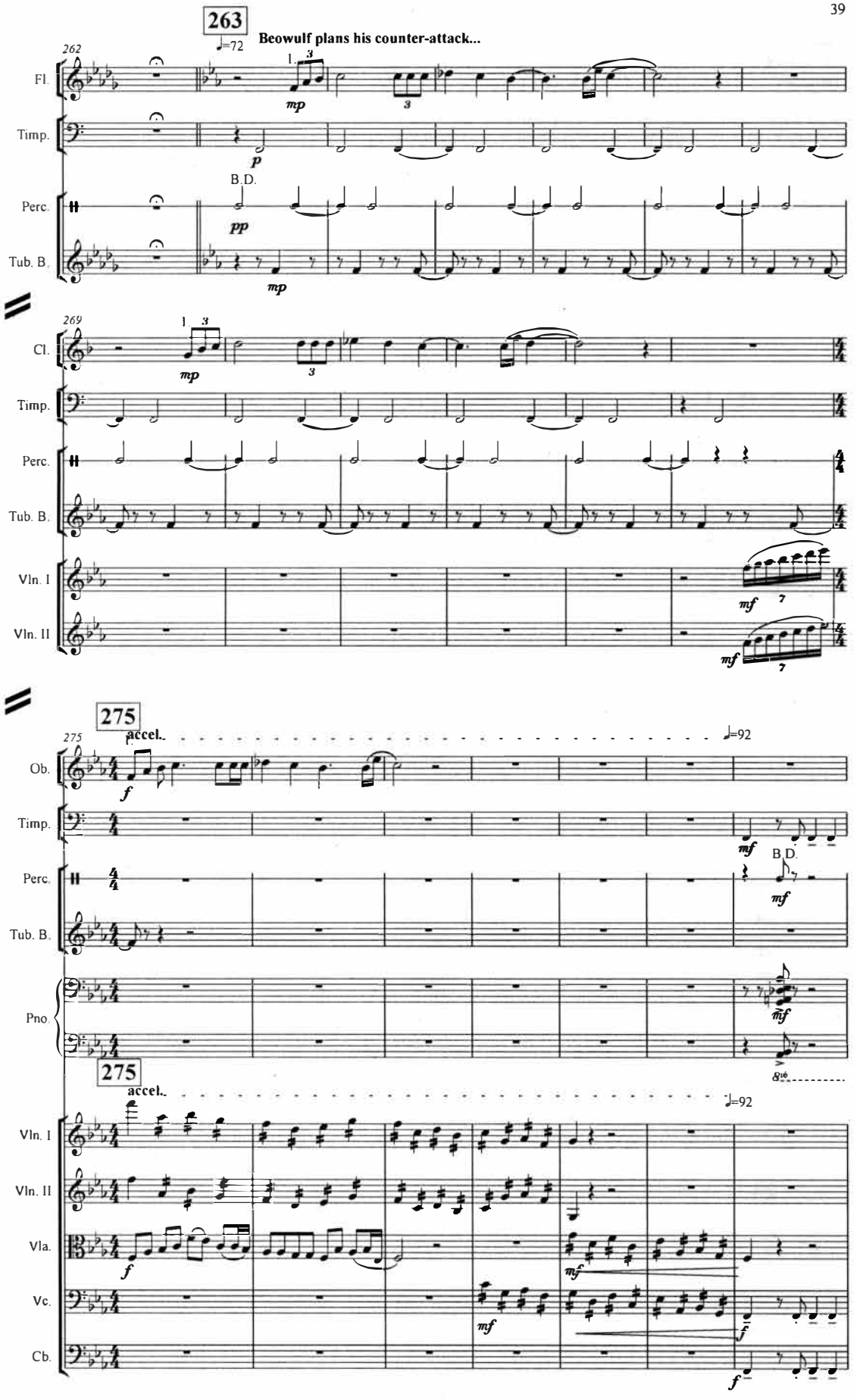

226
♩=120
A new threat looms over the great Mead Hall...
Timpani
mf
Piano
f
229
G to F
C to Db
Eb to F
Timp.
Perc.
tam-tam
p
Pno.
8va
Vln. I
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vln. II
Vla.
Vla.
Vc.
Vc.
Cb.
Cb.
f

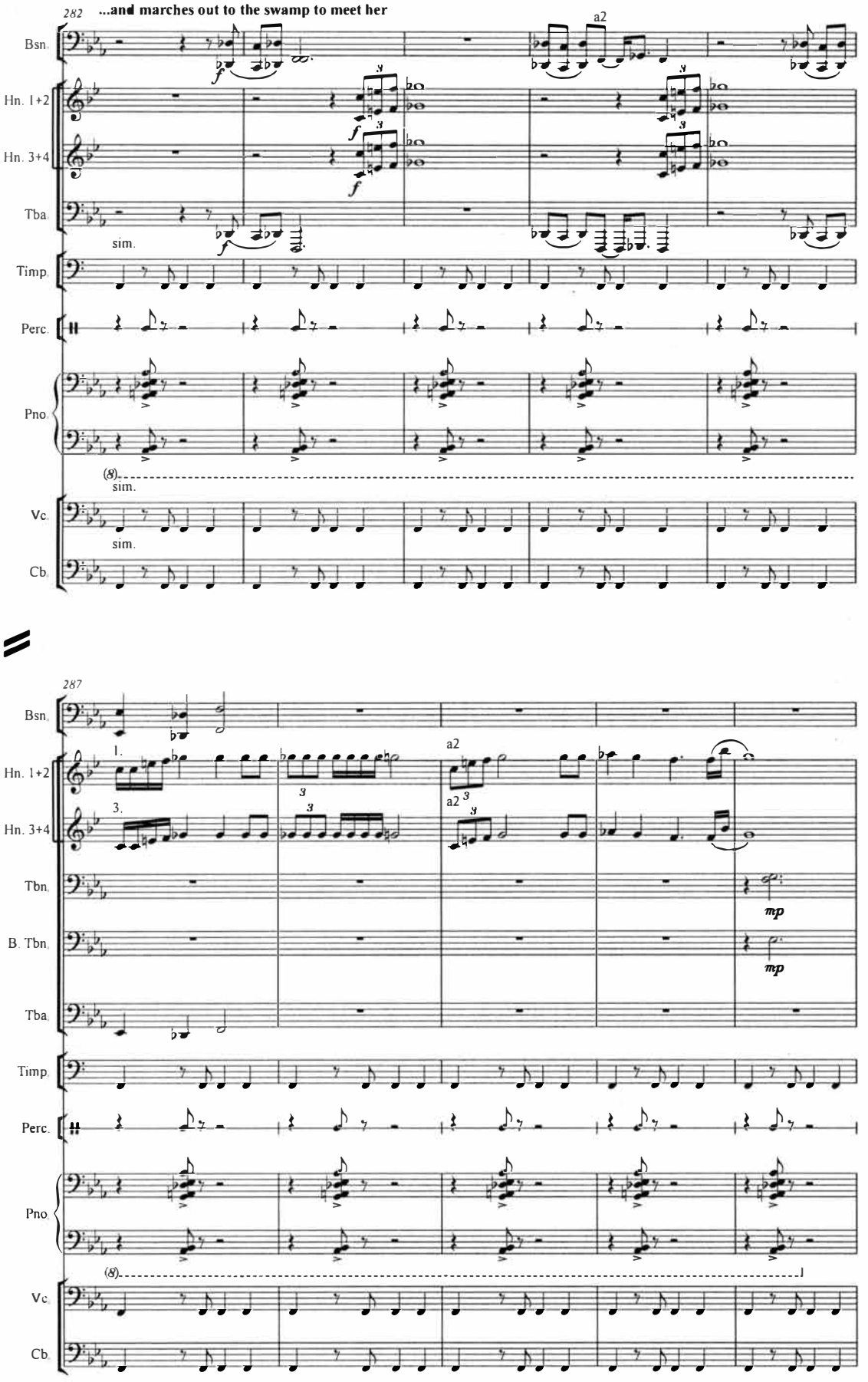

232
...Grendel's mother
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Pno
Vln. I
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vln. II
Vla
Vla
Vc
Vc
Cb
Cb
unis.
238
pizz.

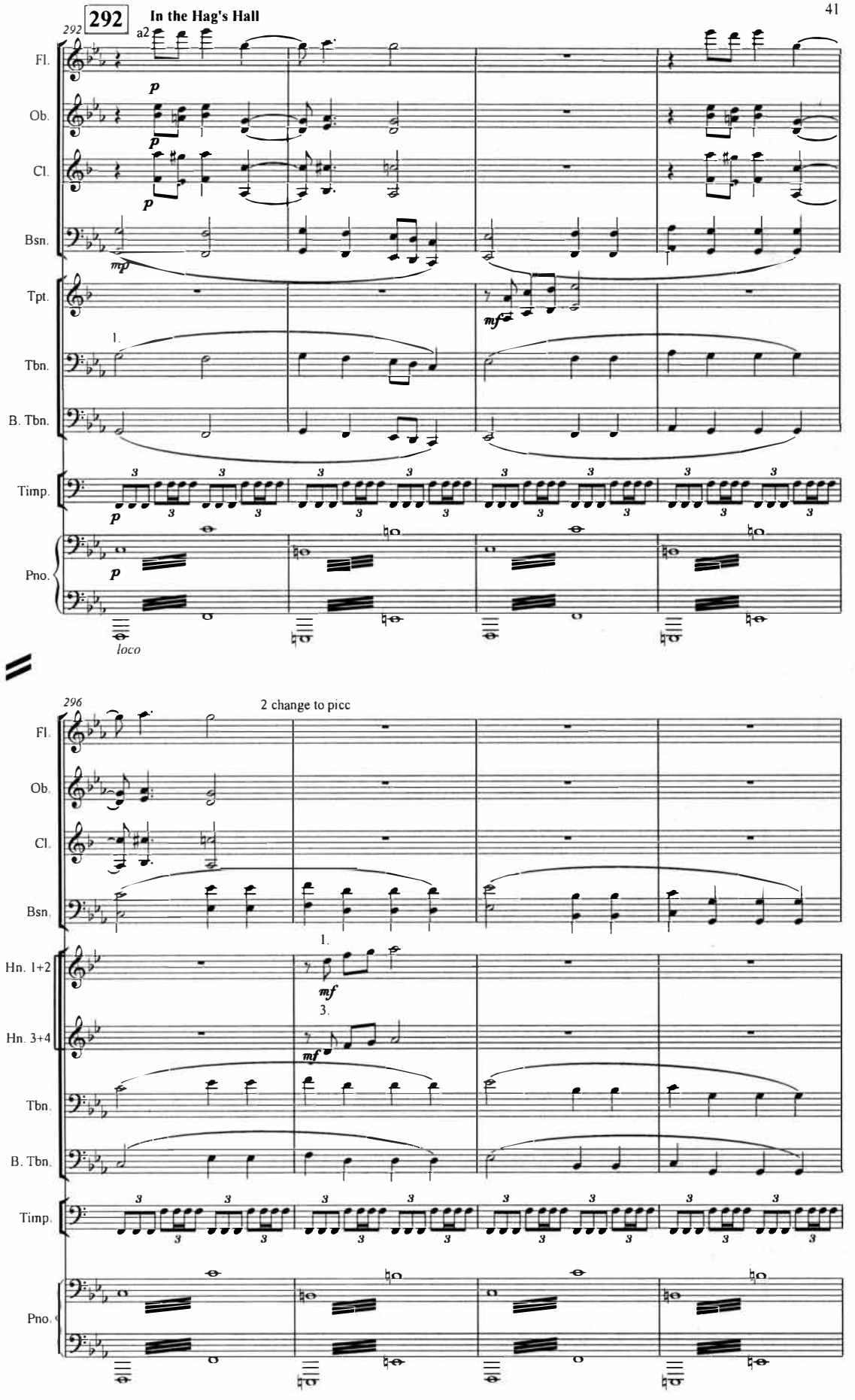

244
243
8va
Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
Ob.
Cl.
Cl.
Bsn.
Timp.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
picc.
sim.
247
(8)
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
mf
f

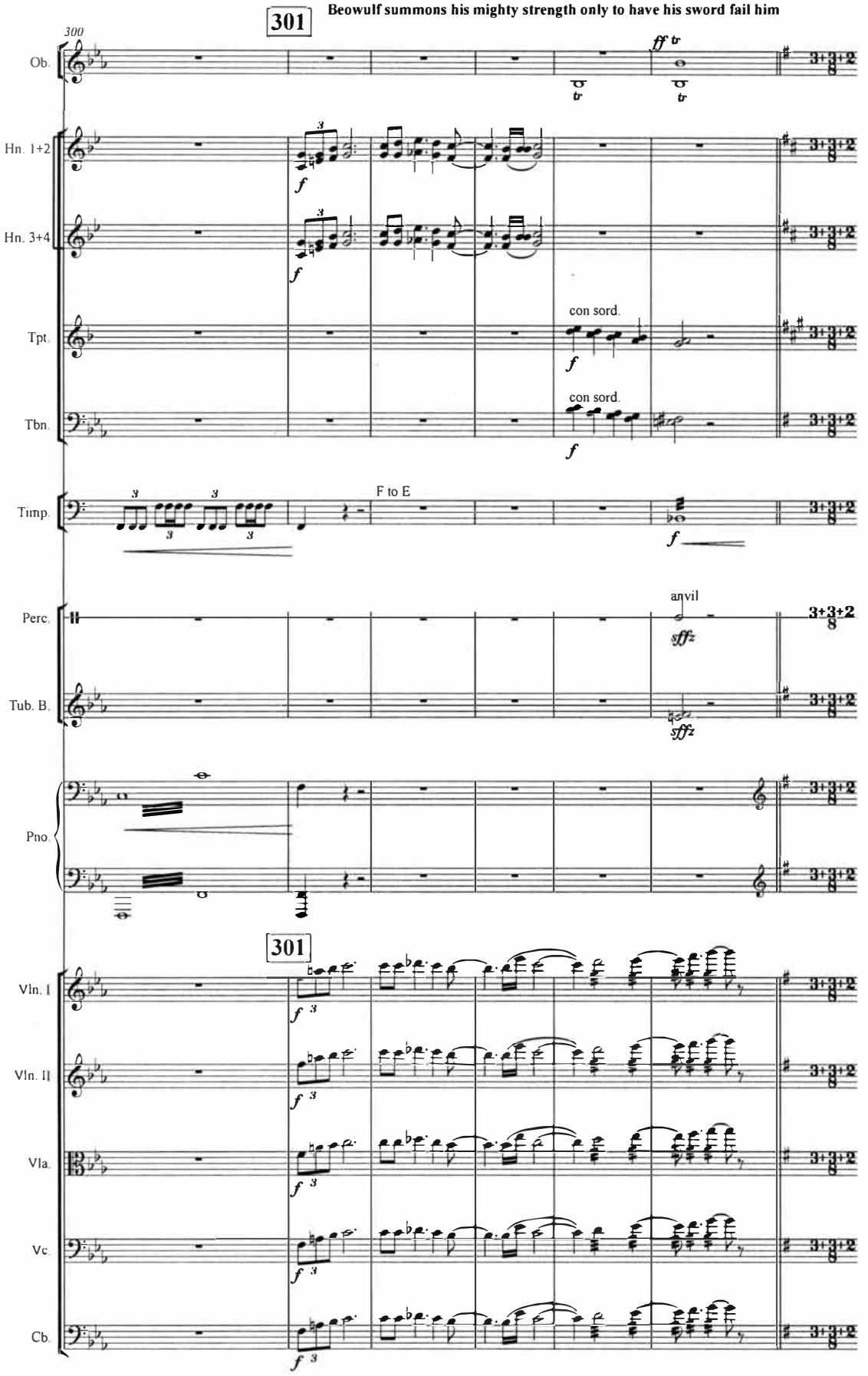

252
251
(8)
Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
Ob.
Cl.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
252
Vc.
Cb.
a2
mf
a2
mf
mf


255
(8)
Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
Ob.
Cl.
Cl.
Bsn.
change to II.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Pno.
B.D.
cr. cym
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
a2
arco
arco


263
Beowulf plans his counter-attack...
♩=72
262
Fl.
Timp.
Perc.
Tub. B.
B.D.
269
Cl.
Timp.
Perc.
Tub. B.
Vln. I
Vln. II
275
accel.
♩=92
275
Ob.
Timp.
Perc.
Tub. B.
Pno.
B.D.
8vb
275
accel.
♩=92
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.


282
...and marches out to the swamp to meet her
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tba.
sim.
Timp.
Perc.
Pno.
(8)
sim.
Vc.
sim.
Cb.
a2
287
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Pno.
(8)
Vc.
Cb.
1.
3.
a2
mp
mp


292
In the Hag's Hall
292
a2
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Timp.
Pno.
p
mp
mf
1.
loco
296
2 change to picc
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
3.


301
Beowulf summons his mighty strength only to have his sword fail him
300
Ob.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
con sord.
Tbn.
con sord.
Timp.
F to E
Perc.
anvil
Tub. B.
Pno.
301
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

306

Beowulf fights the monster hand-to-hand, but the monster matches each blow

306

♪=220

Fl.

Picc.

picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

E to G
D♭ to D
F to E♭

Timp.

Perc.

castanets

Pno

306

♪=220

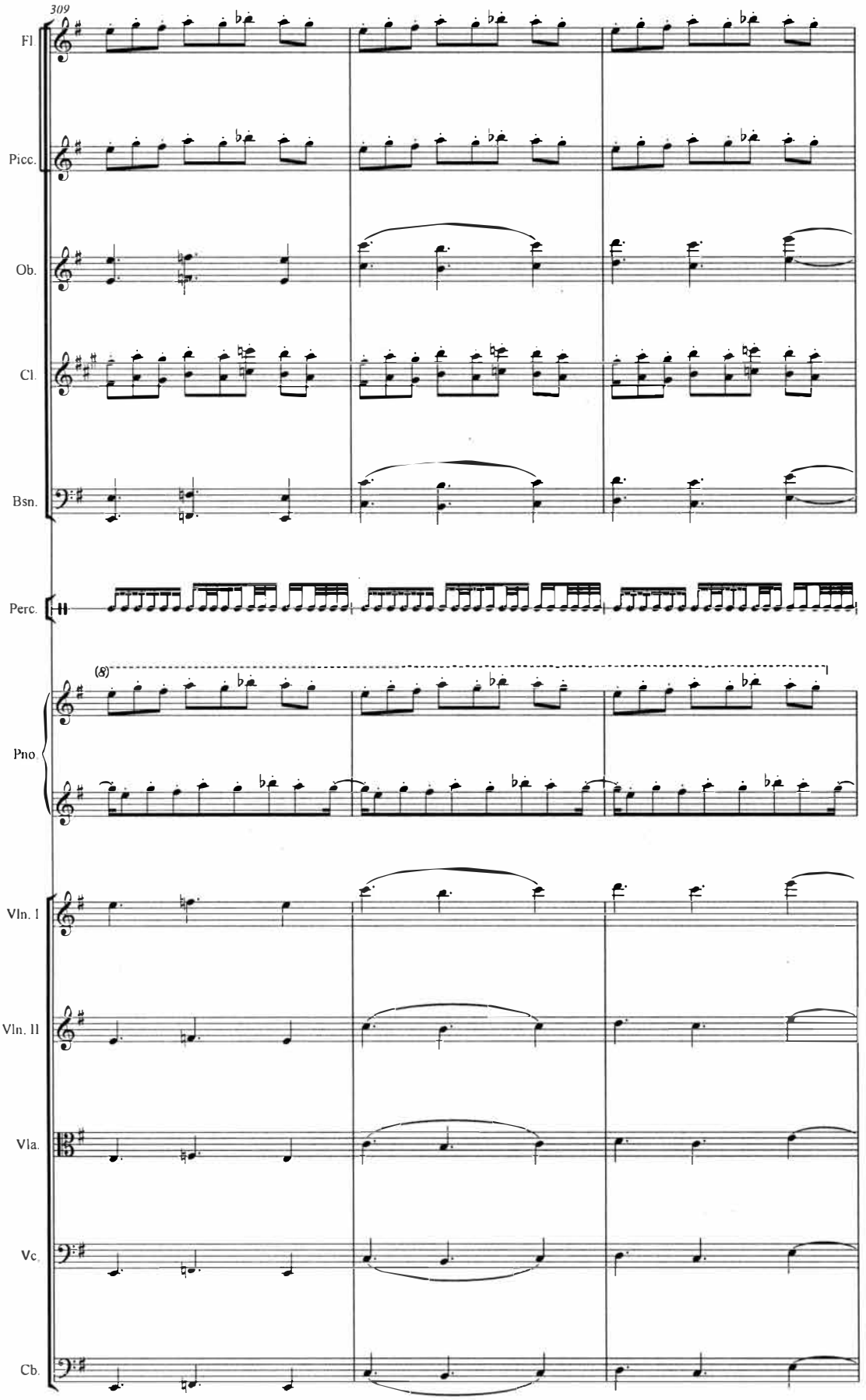
Vln. I

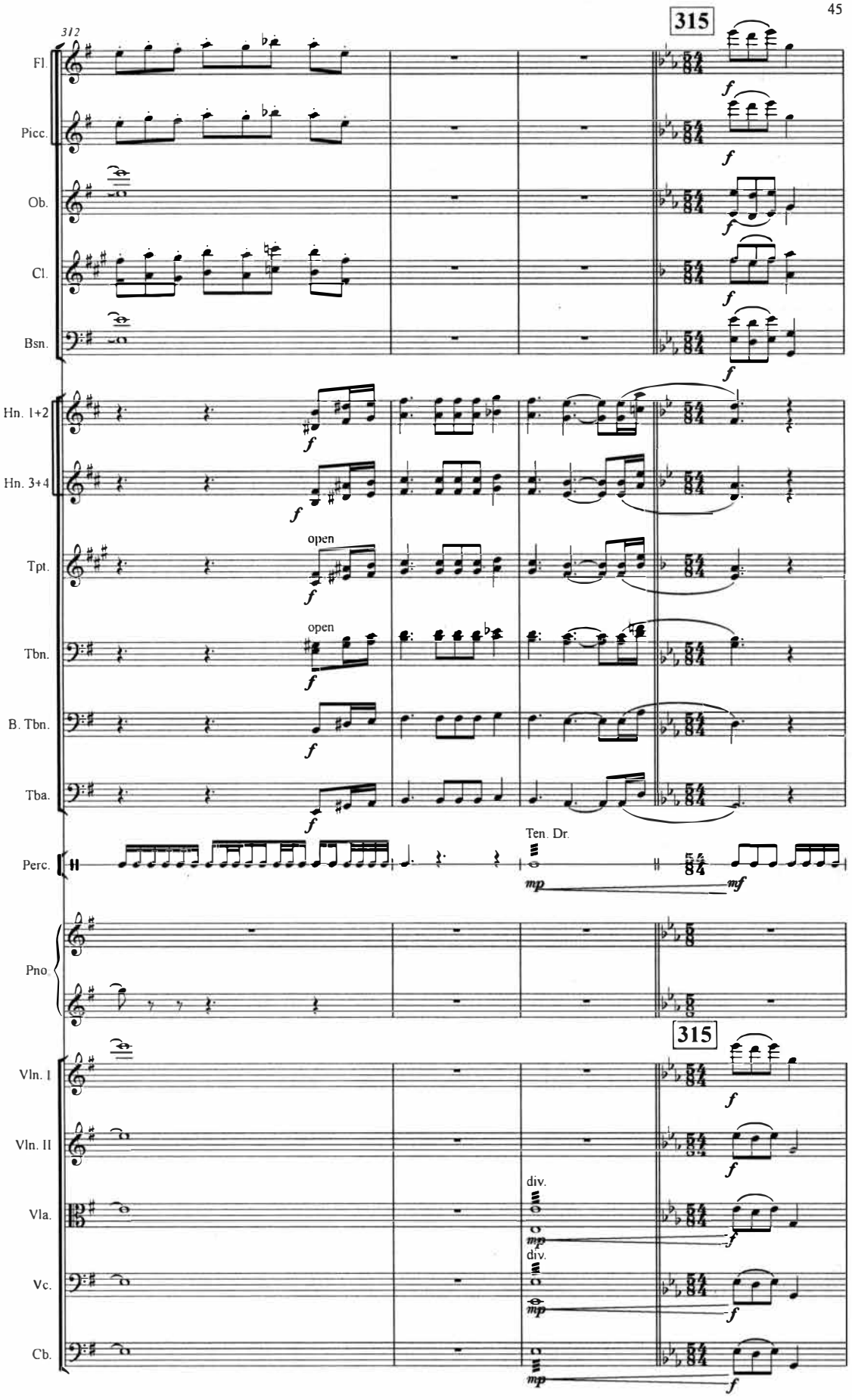
Vln. II

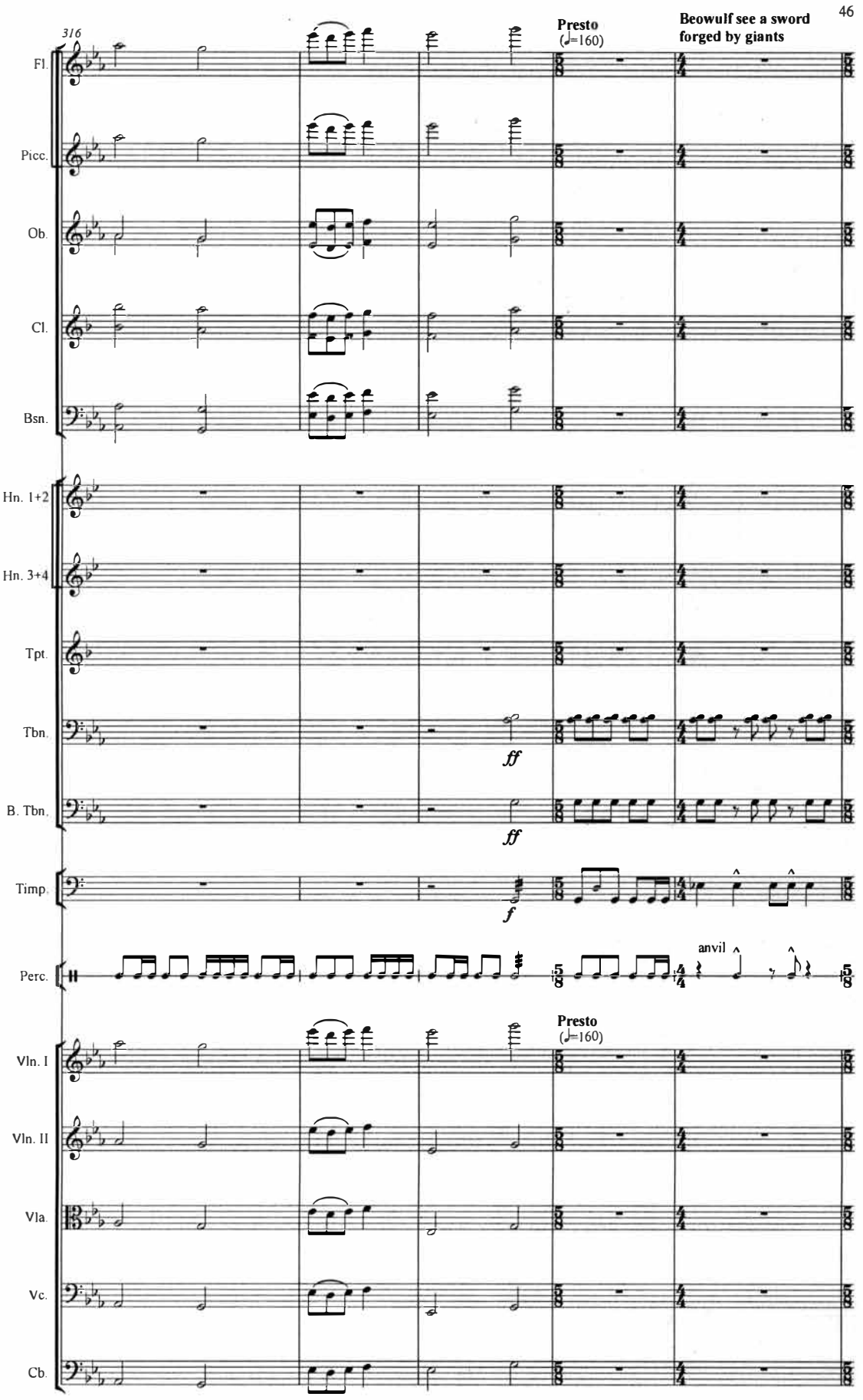
Vla.

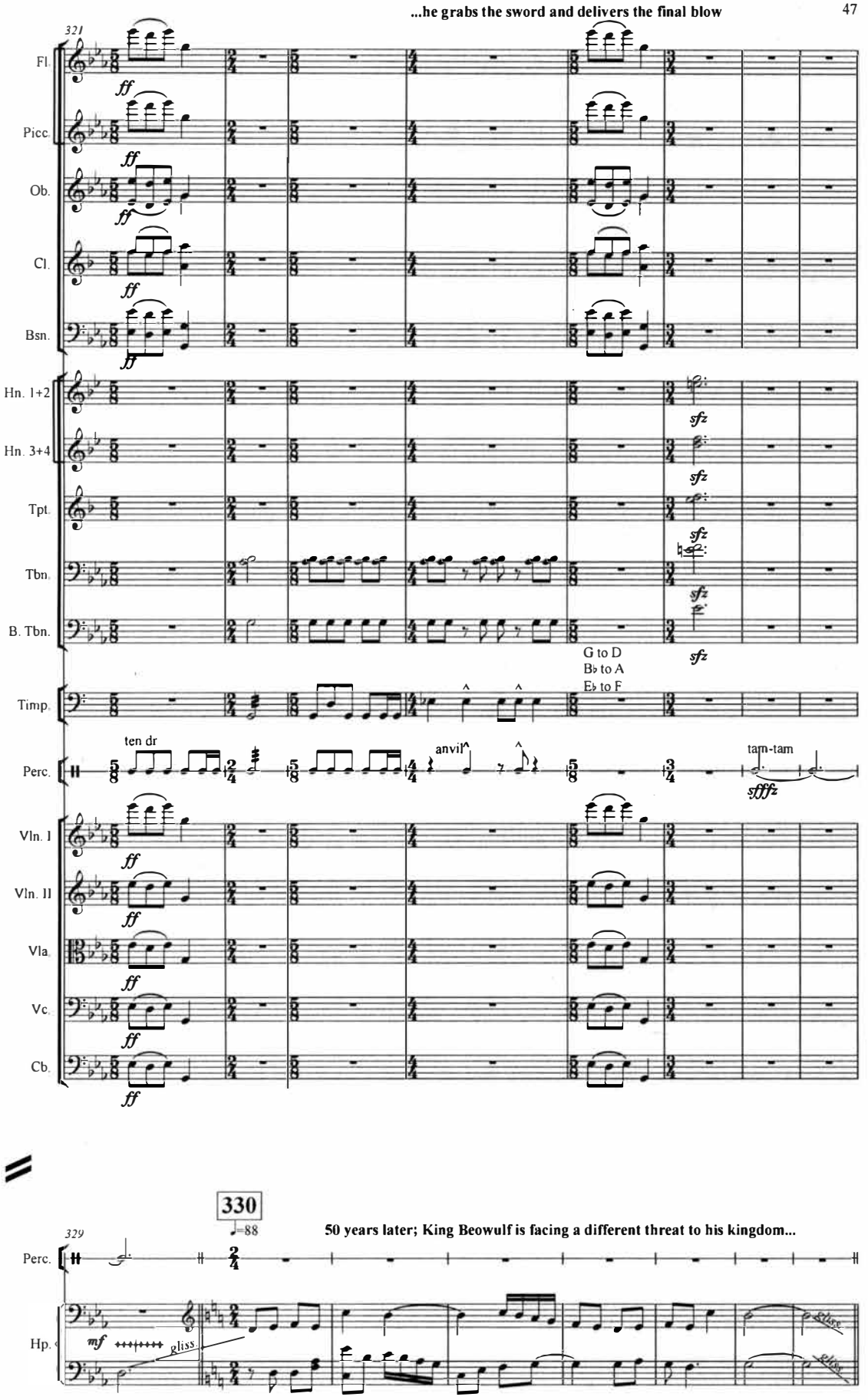
Vc.

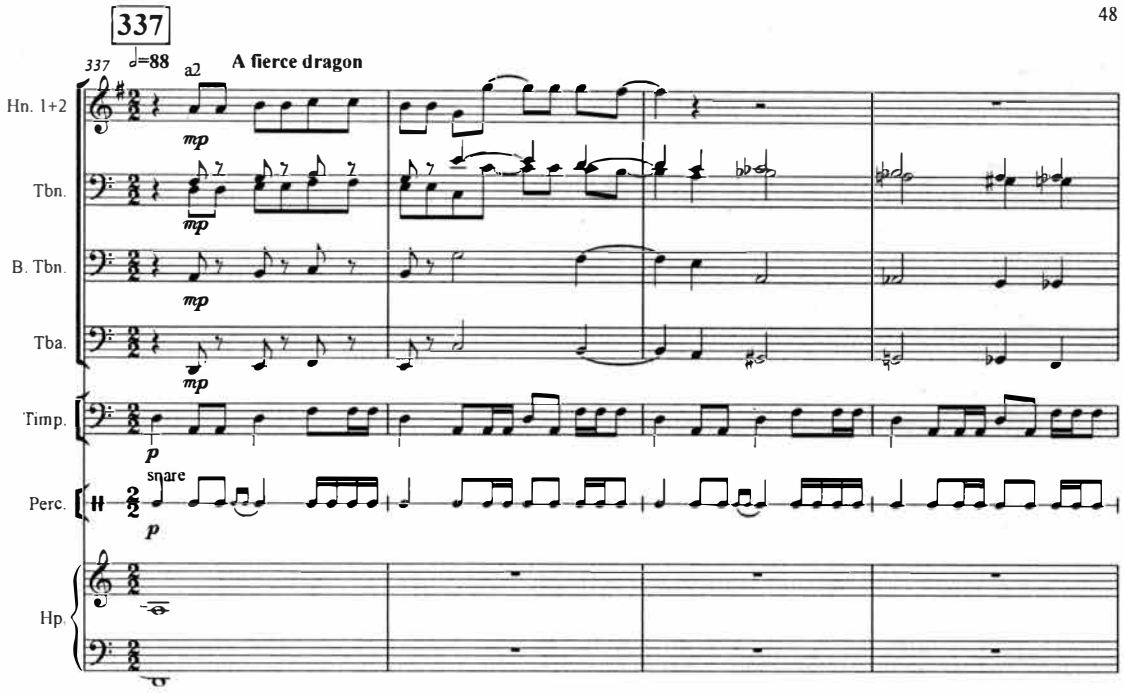
Cb.

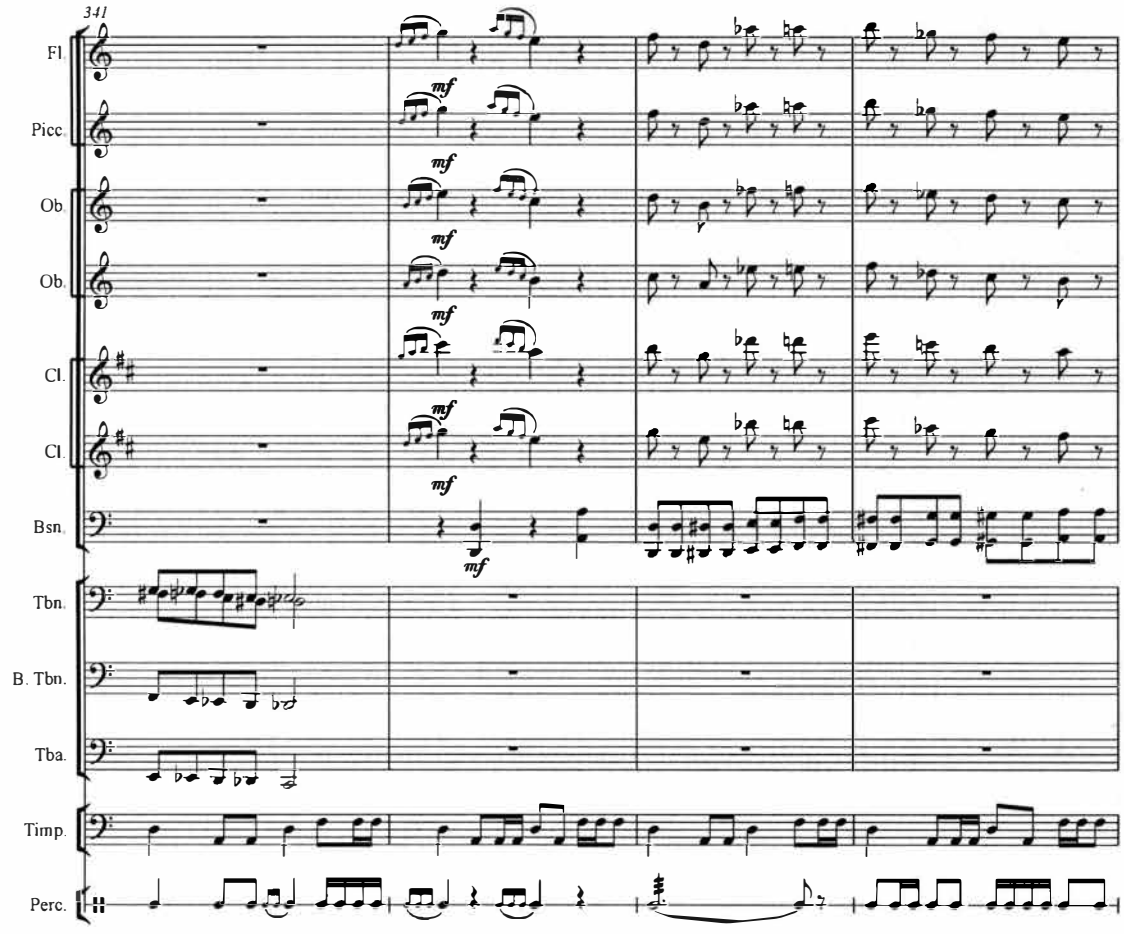

309
Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Perc.
(8)
Pno.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

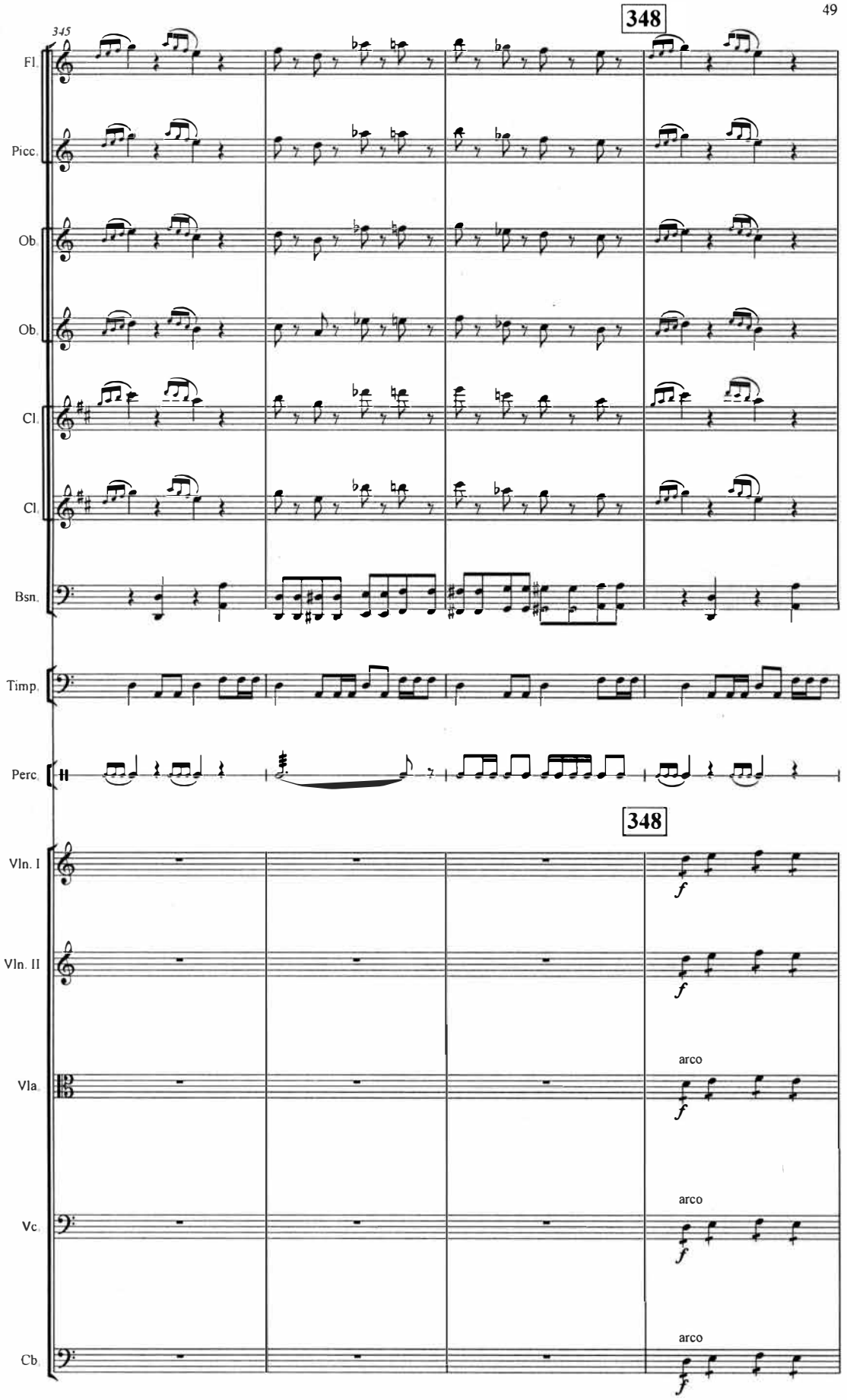

312
315
Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
open
Tbn.
open
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Perc.
Ten. Dr.
Pno.
315
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
div.
Vc.
div.
Cb.

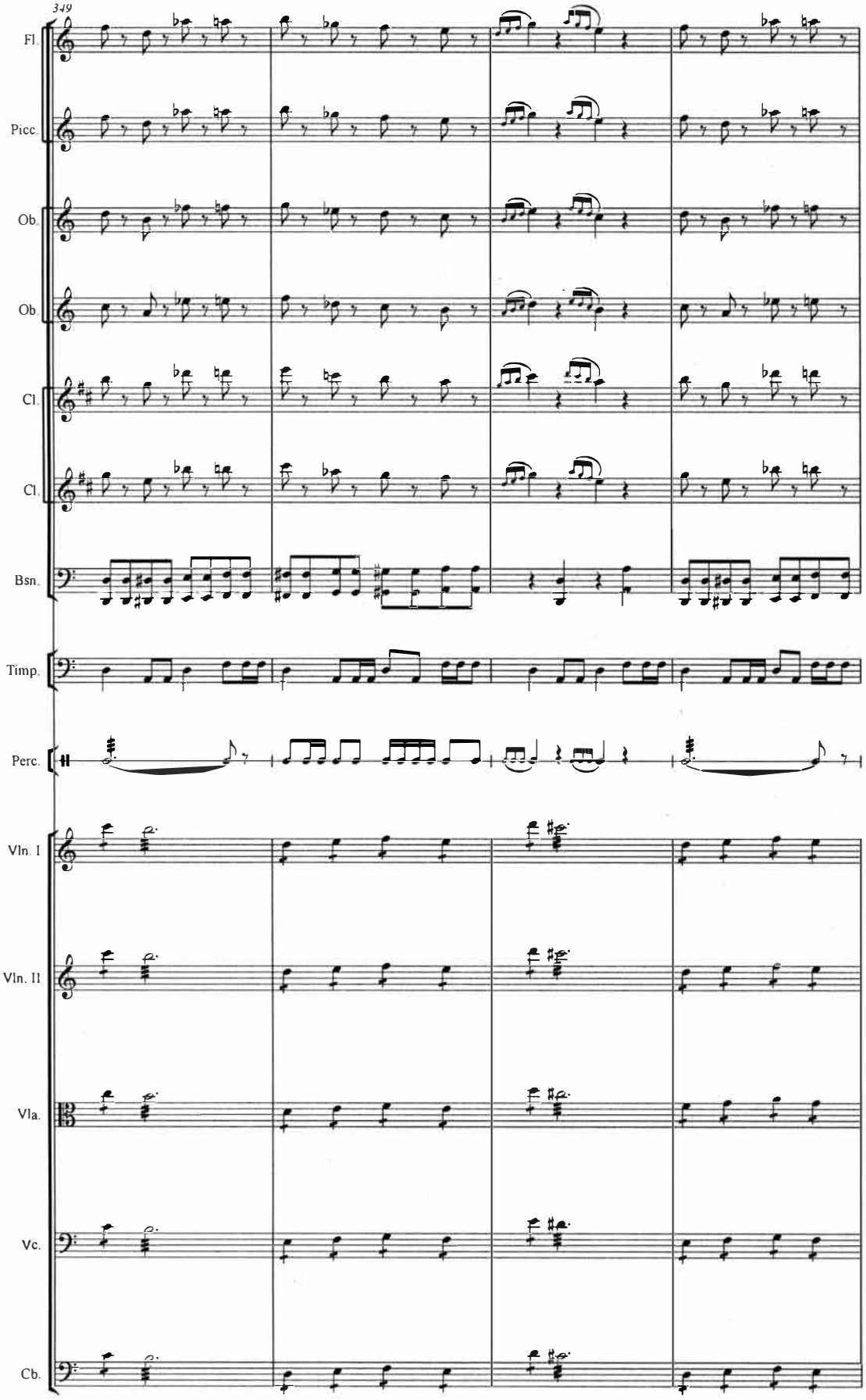

316
Presto
(♩=160)
Beowulf see a sword forged by giants
Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
ff
B. Tbn.
ff
Timp.
f
Perc.
anvil
Presto
(♩=160)
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

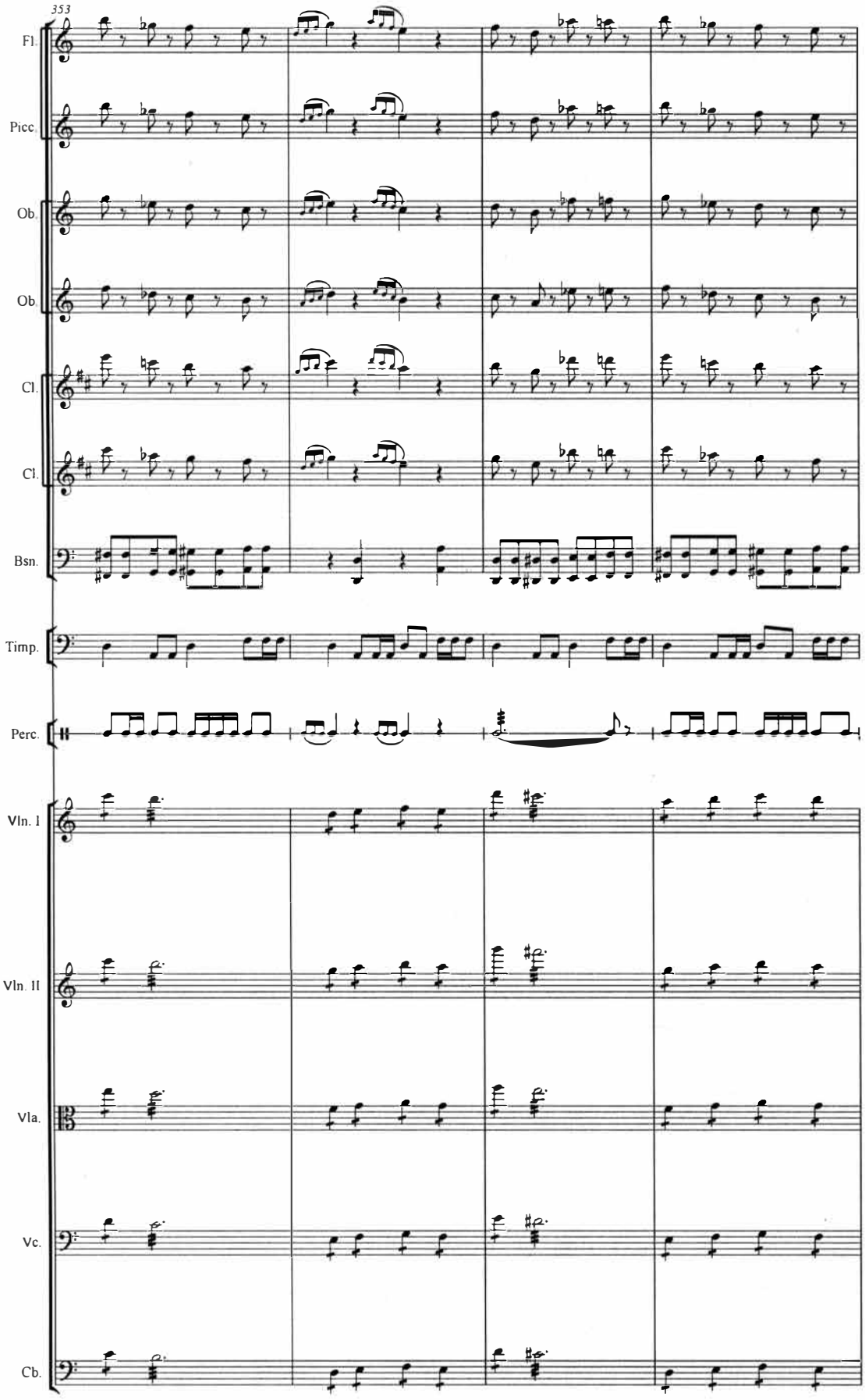

321
Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
G to D
B♭ to A
E♭ to F
Timp.
ten dr
anvil
tam-tam
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
330
♩=88
50 years later; King Beowulf is facing a different threat to his kingdom...
329
Perc.
Hp.
gliss.

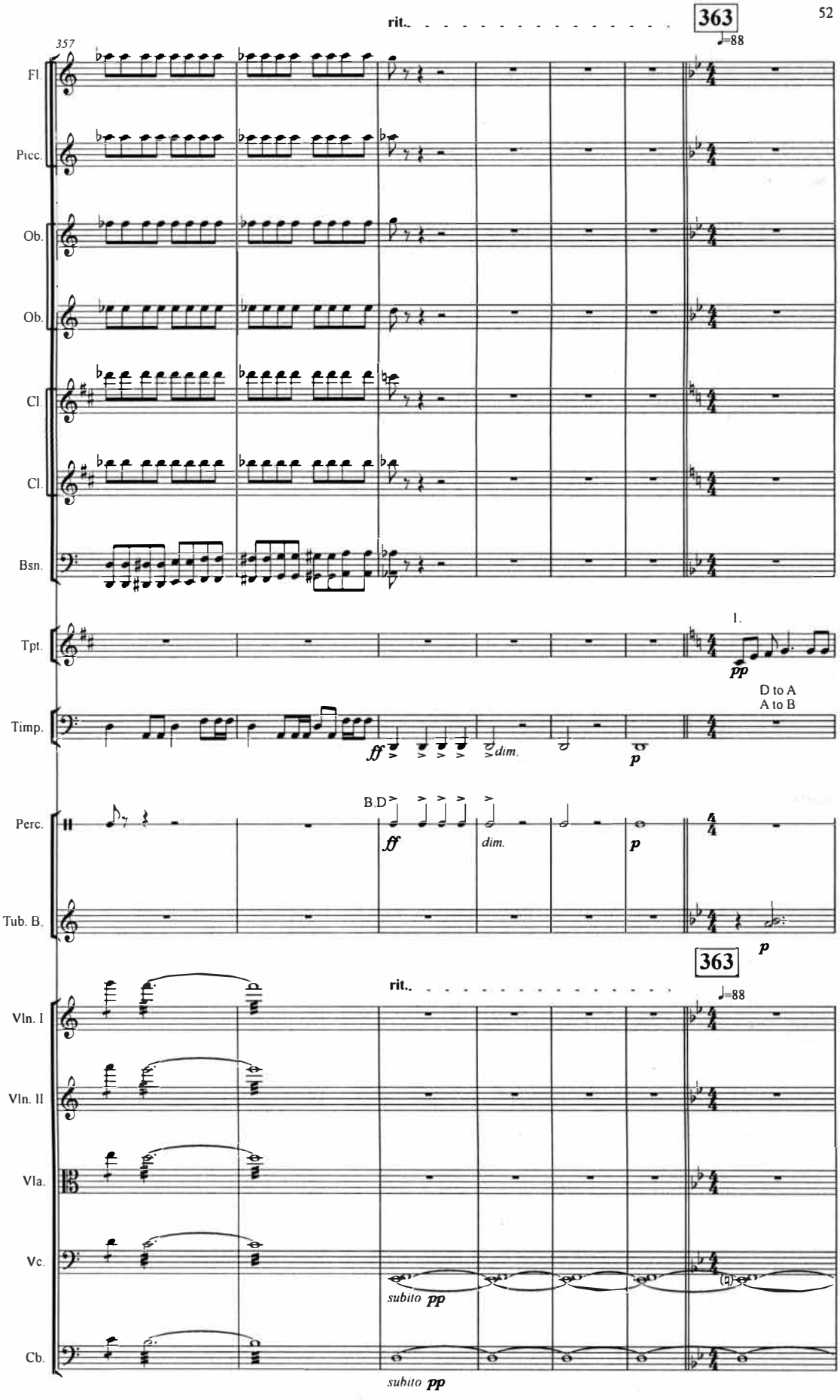

337
337
♩=88
a2
A fierce dragon
Hn. 1+2
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
snare
Hp.

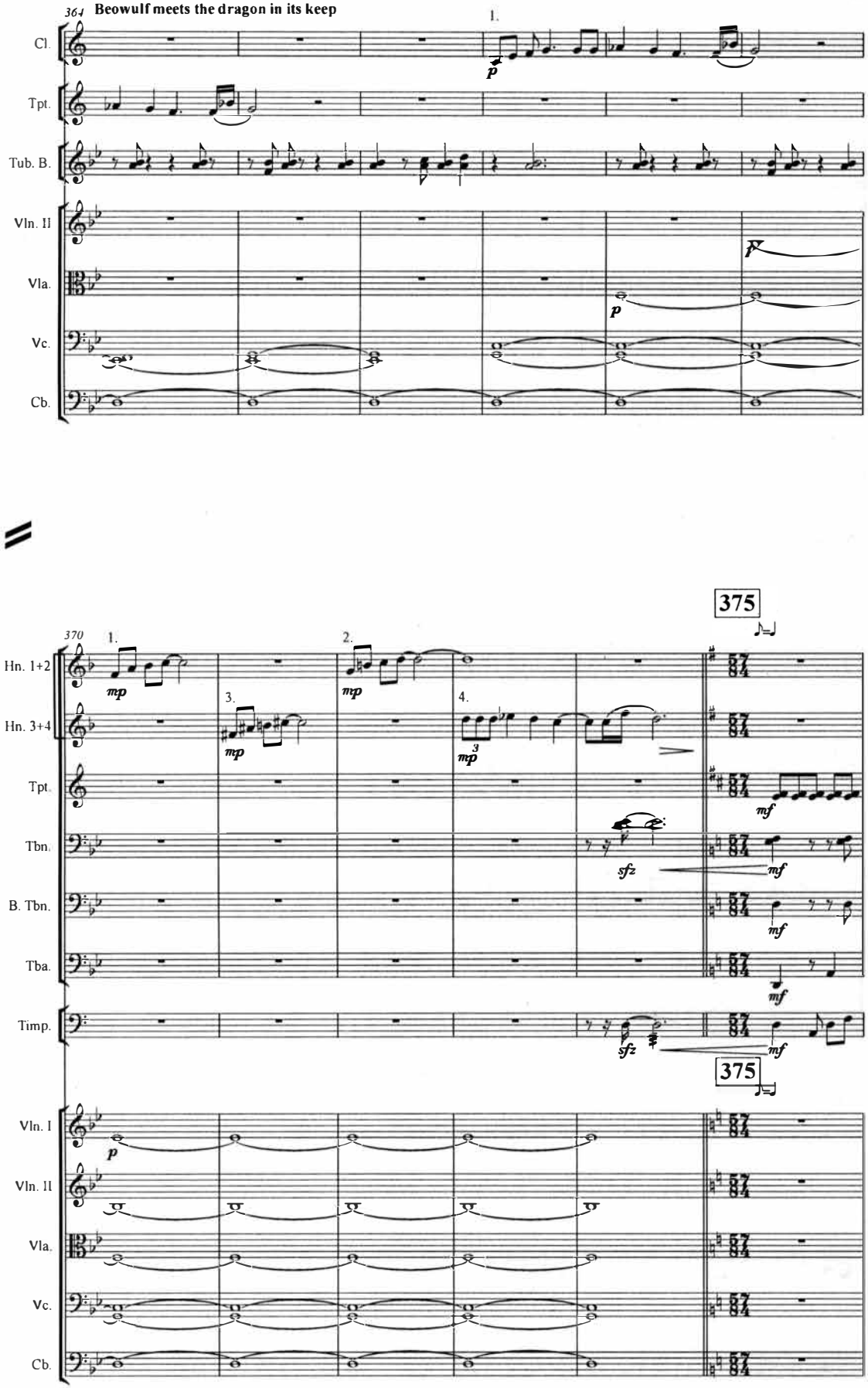

341
Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
Ob.
Cl.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.

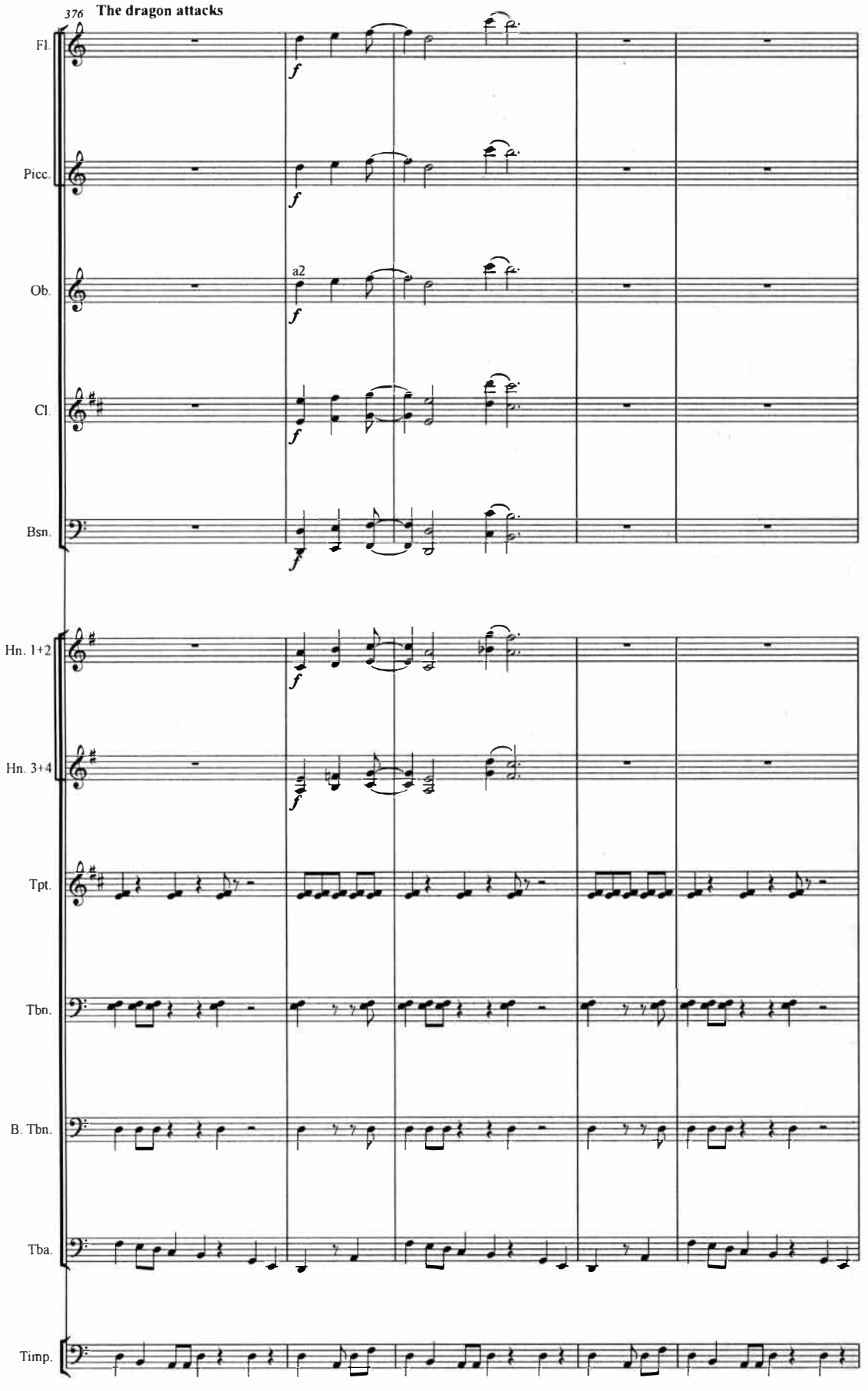

345
348
Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
Ob.
Cl.
Cl.
Bsn.
Timp.
Perc.
348
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
arco

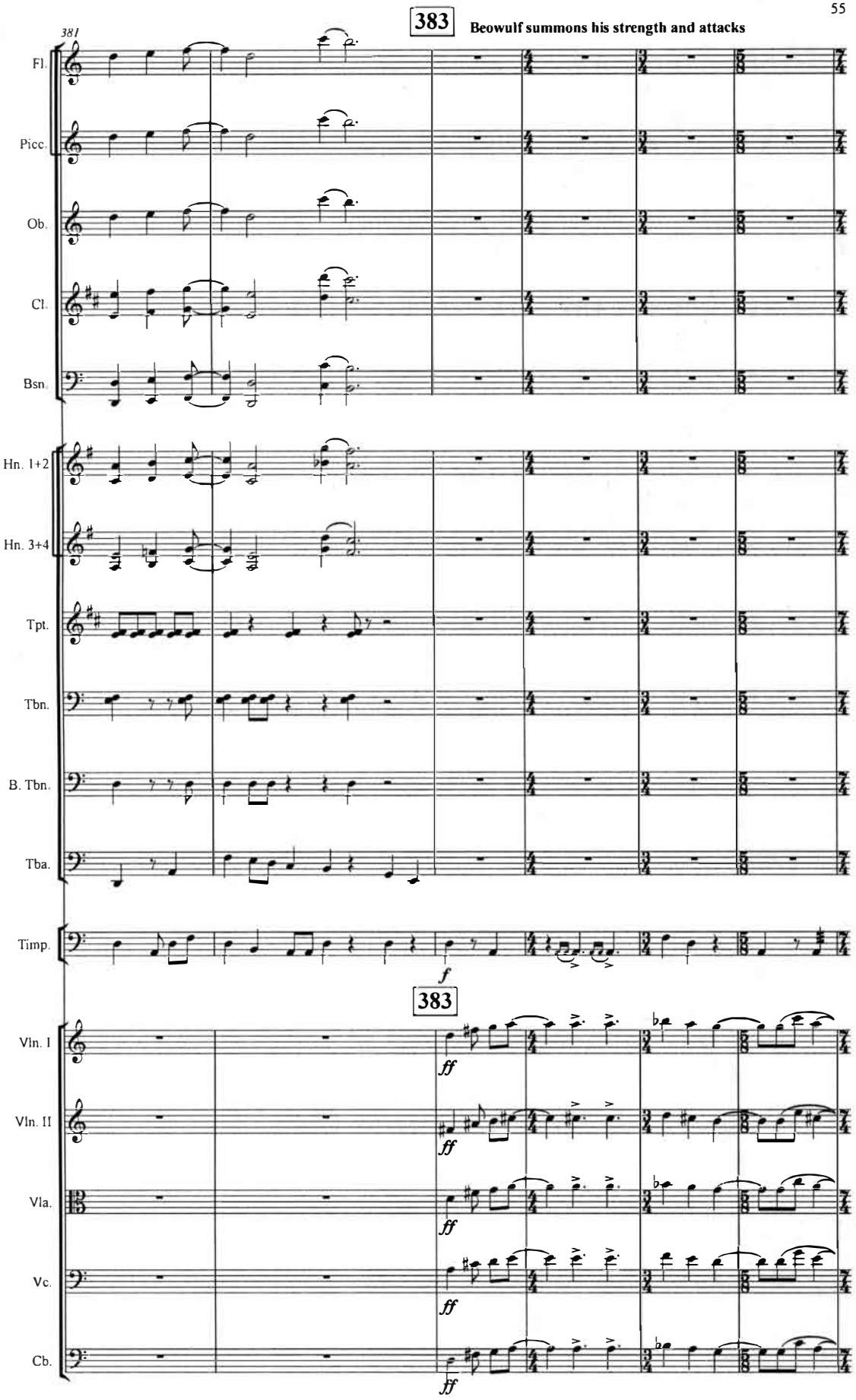

349
Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
Ob
Cl.
Cl.
Bsn.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

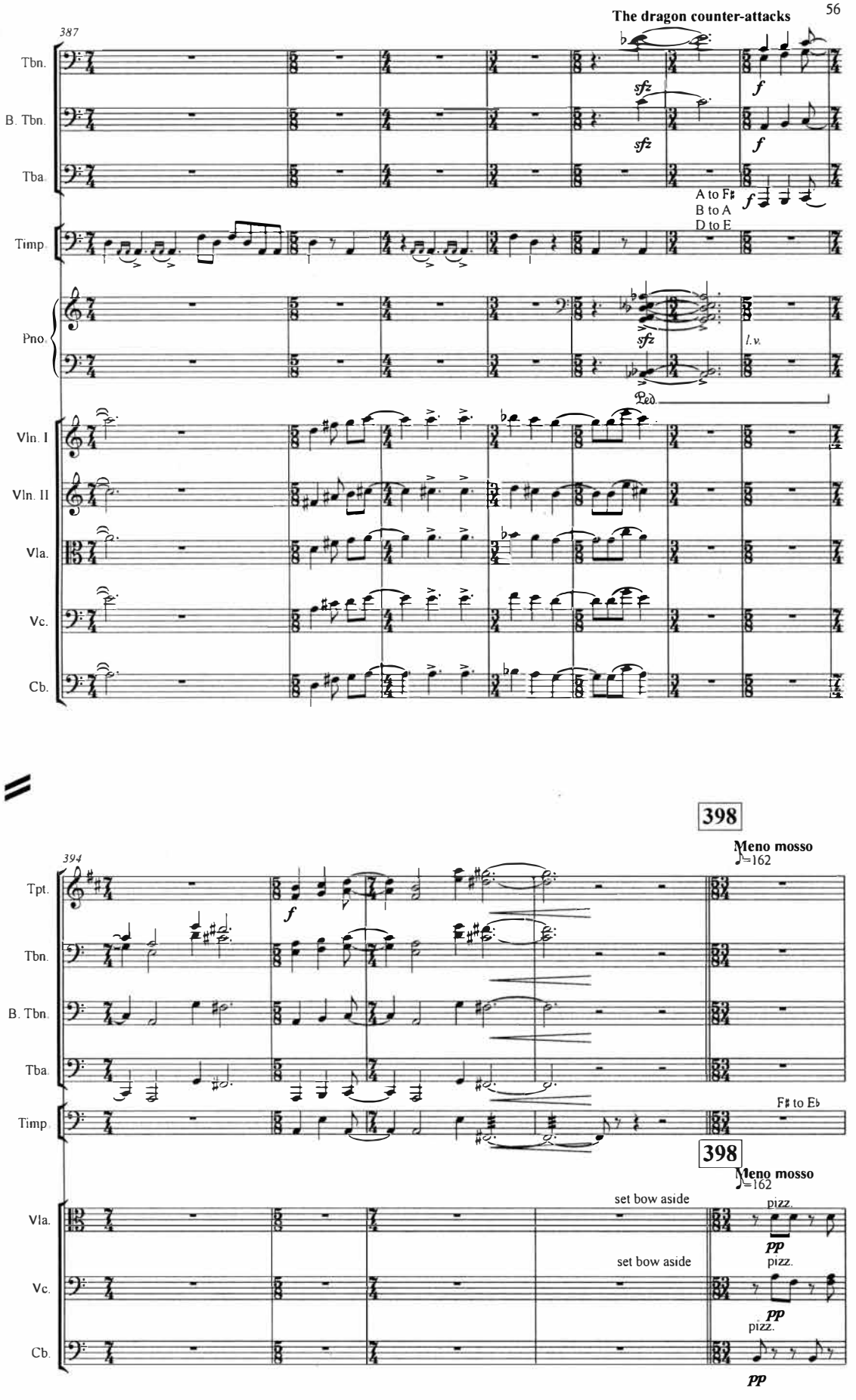

353
Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
Ob.
Cl.
Cl.
Bsn.
Timp.
Perc.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

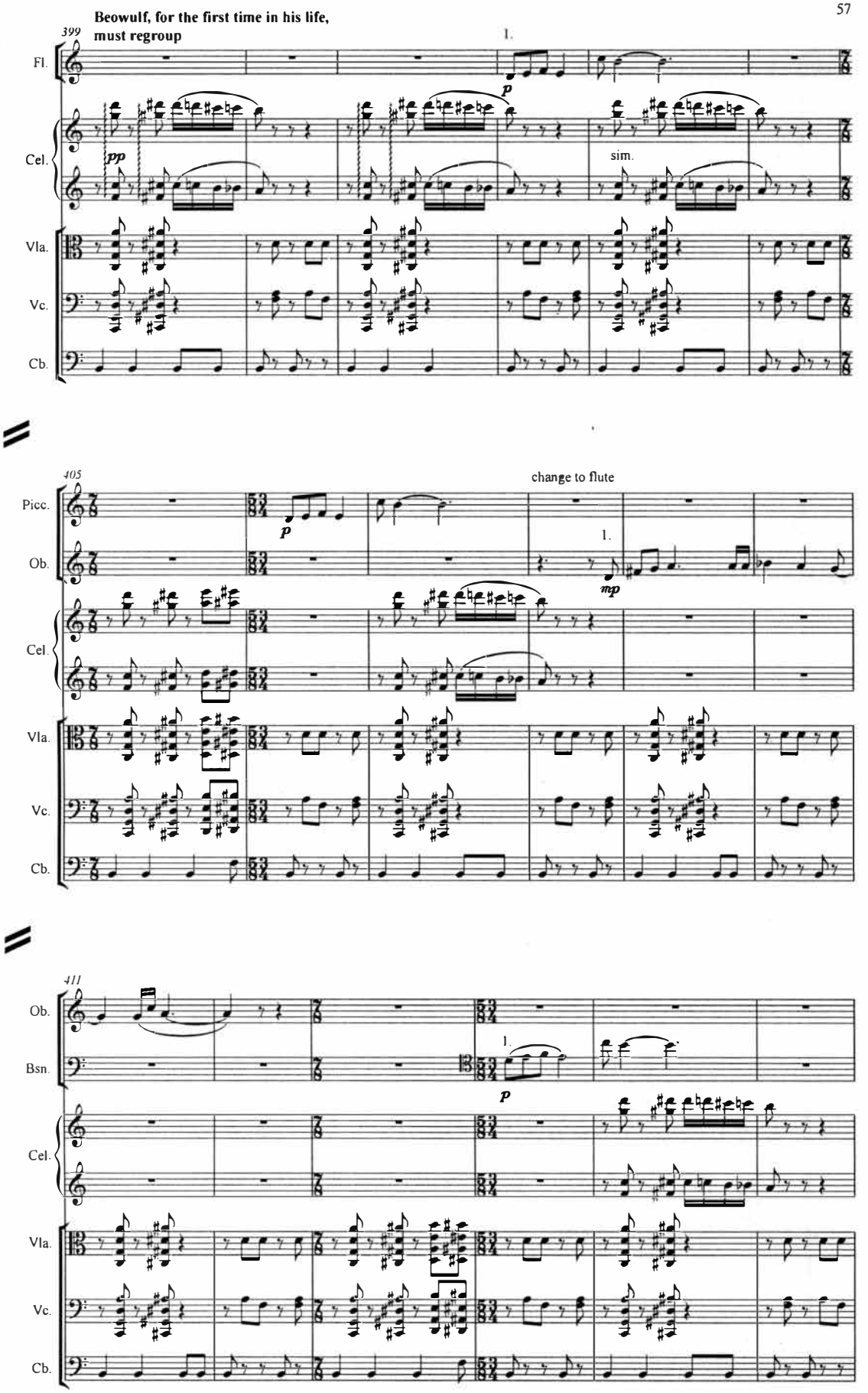

rit.
363
♩=88
357
Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
Ob.
Cl.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
1.
pp
D to A
A to B
Timp.
ff
dim.
p
Perc.
B.D
ff
dim.
p
Tub. B.
p
363
rit.
♩=88
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
subito pp
Cb.
subito pp

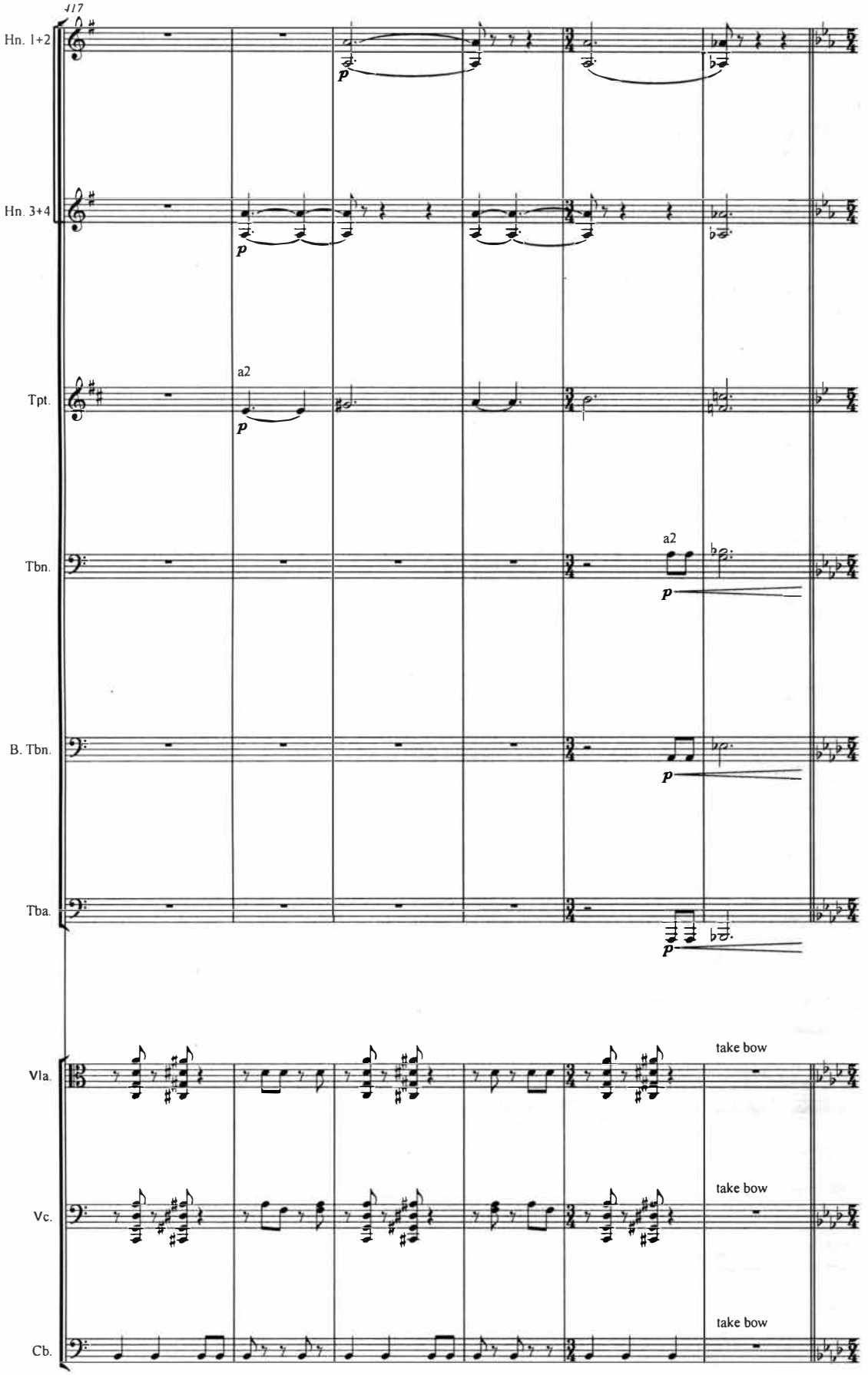

364
Beowulf meets the dragon in its keep
1.
Cl.
Tpt.
Tub. B.
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p
f
p
370
1.
2.
3.
4.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
mp
mp
mp
mf
sfz
mf
mf
mf
sfz
mf
375
375
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p
57/84

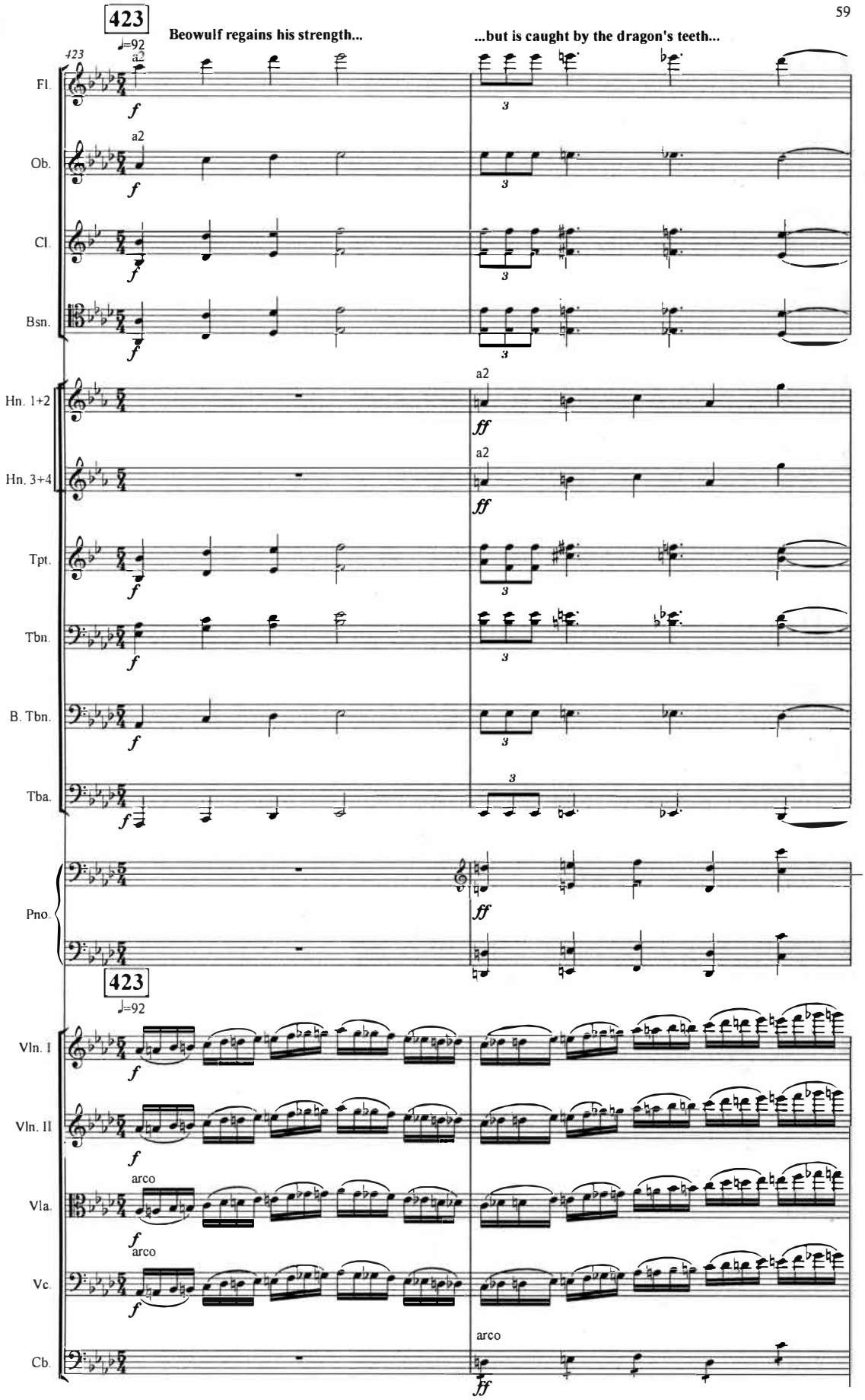

376
The dragon attacks
Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
a2
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.

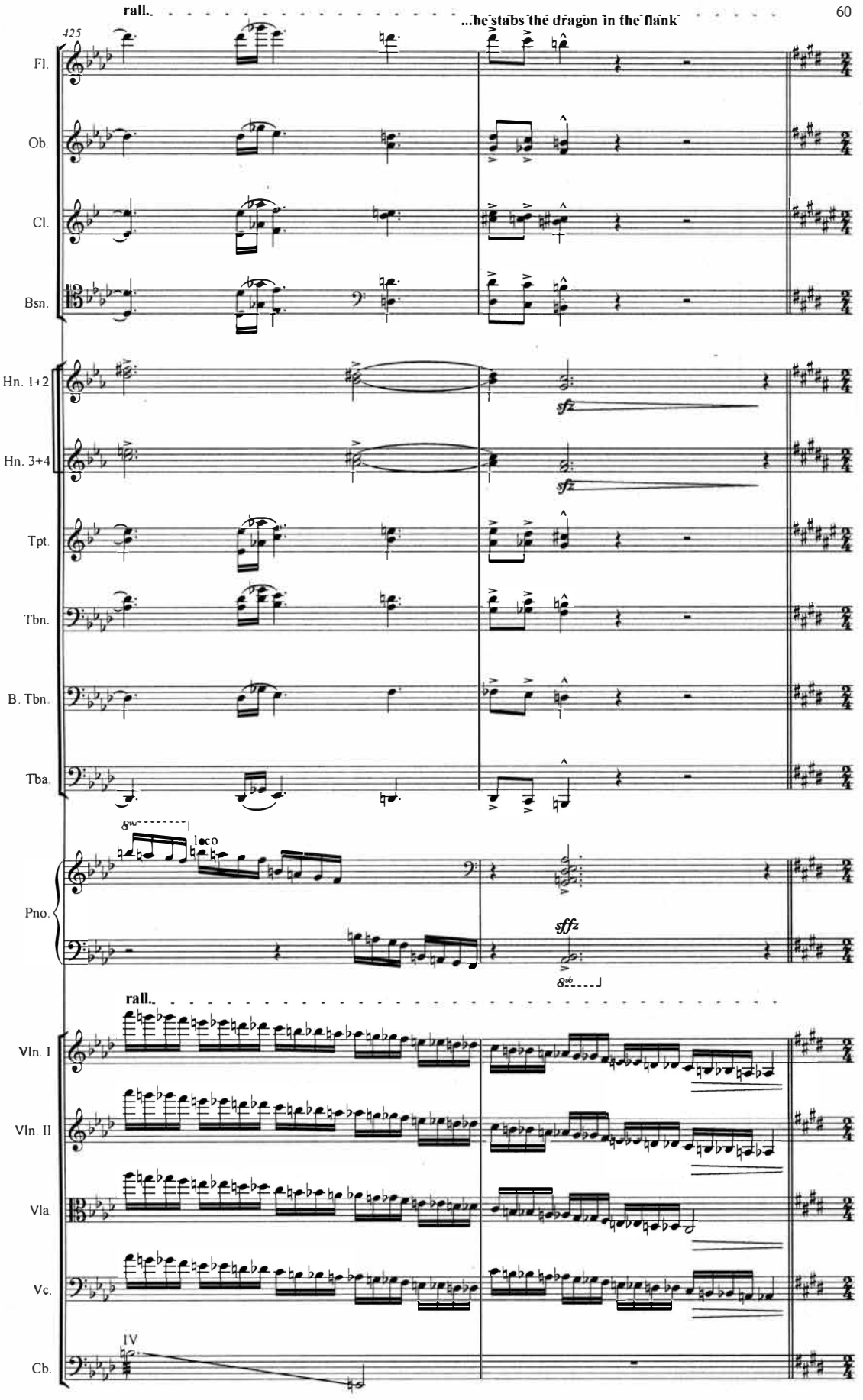

383
Beowulf summons his strength and attacks
381
Fl.
Picc.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
f
383
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
ff

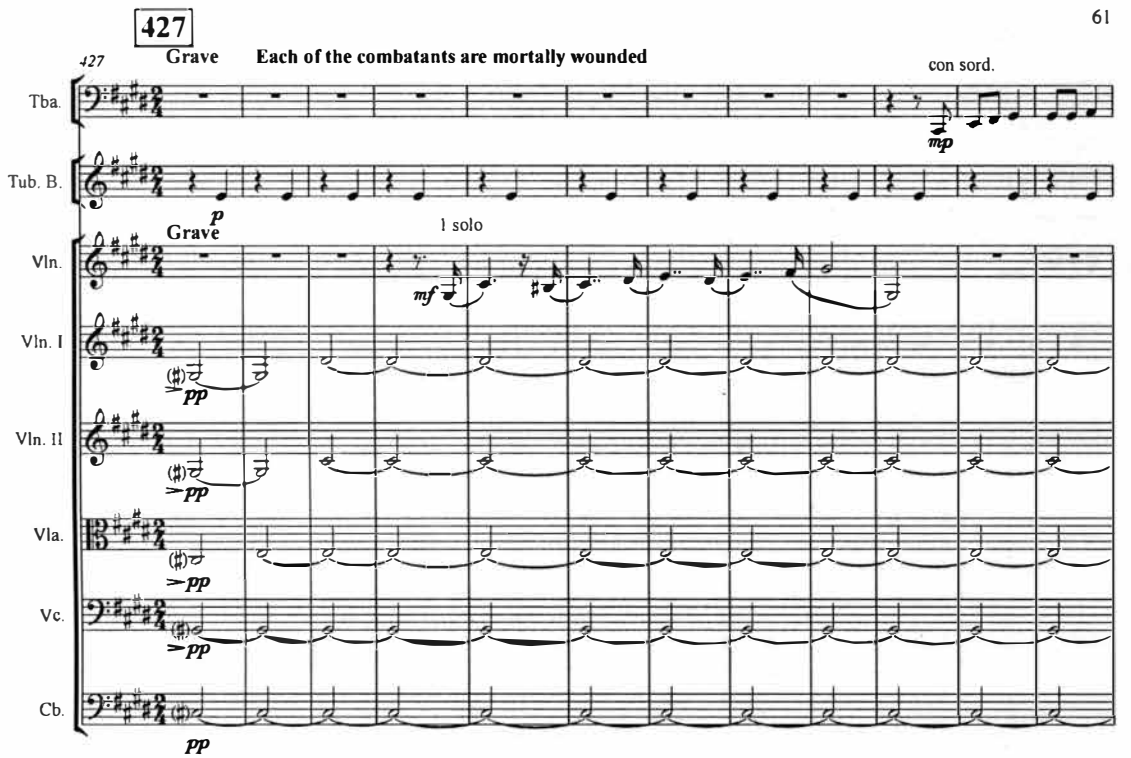

The dragon counter-attacks
387
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Pno.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
sfz
f
A to F♯
B to A
D to E
l.v.
Ped.
394
Tpt.
398
Meno mosso
♩=162
F♯ to E♭
set bow aside
pizz.
pp

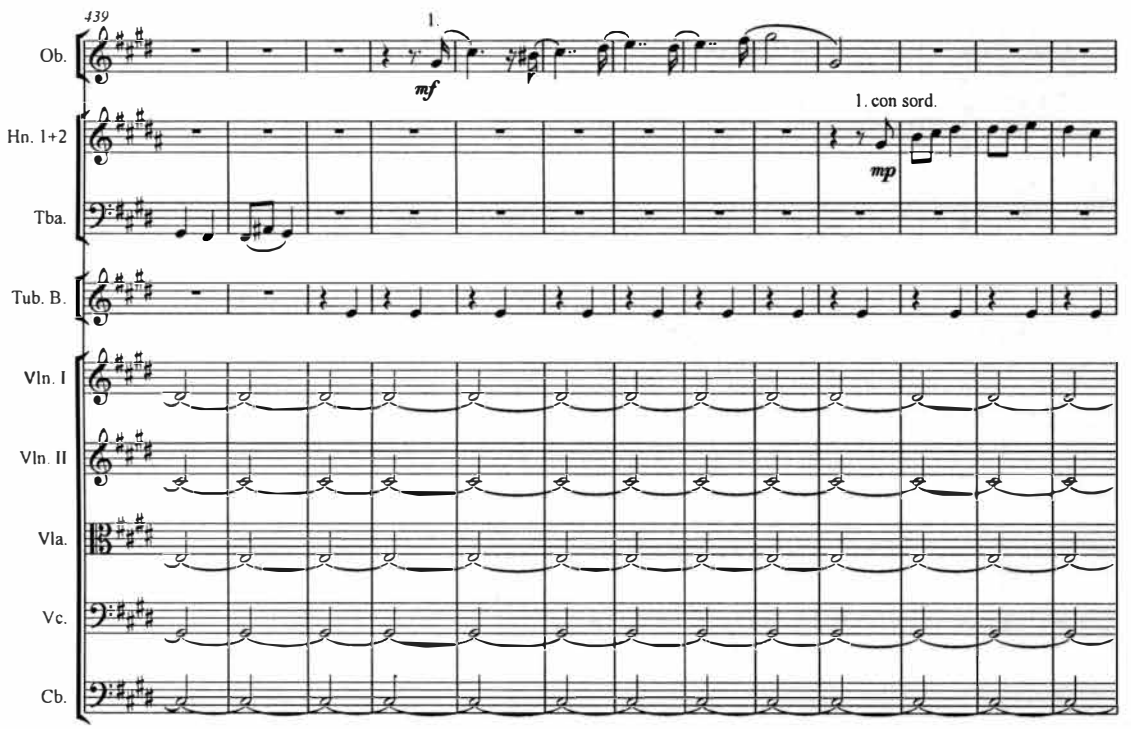

Beowulf, for the first time in his life, must regroup
399
Fl.
Cel.
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
1.
p
pp
sim.
405
Picc.
Ob.
change to flute
mp
411
Bsn.

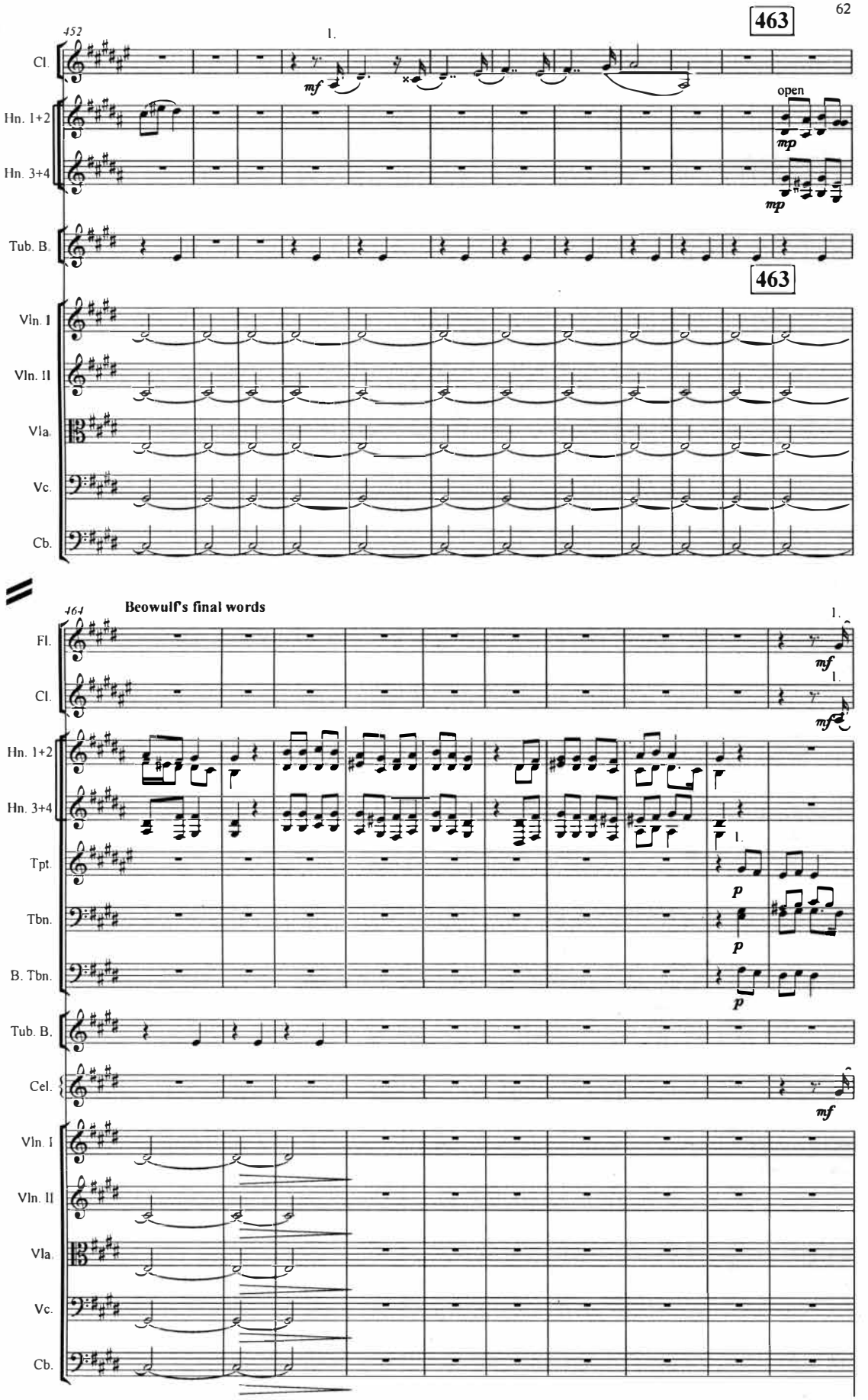

417
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
a2
Tbn.
a2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Vla.
take bow
Vc.
take bow
Cb.
take bow

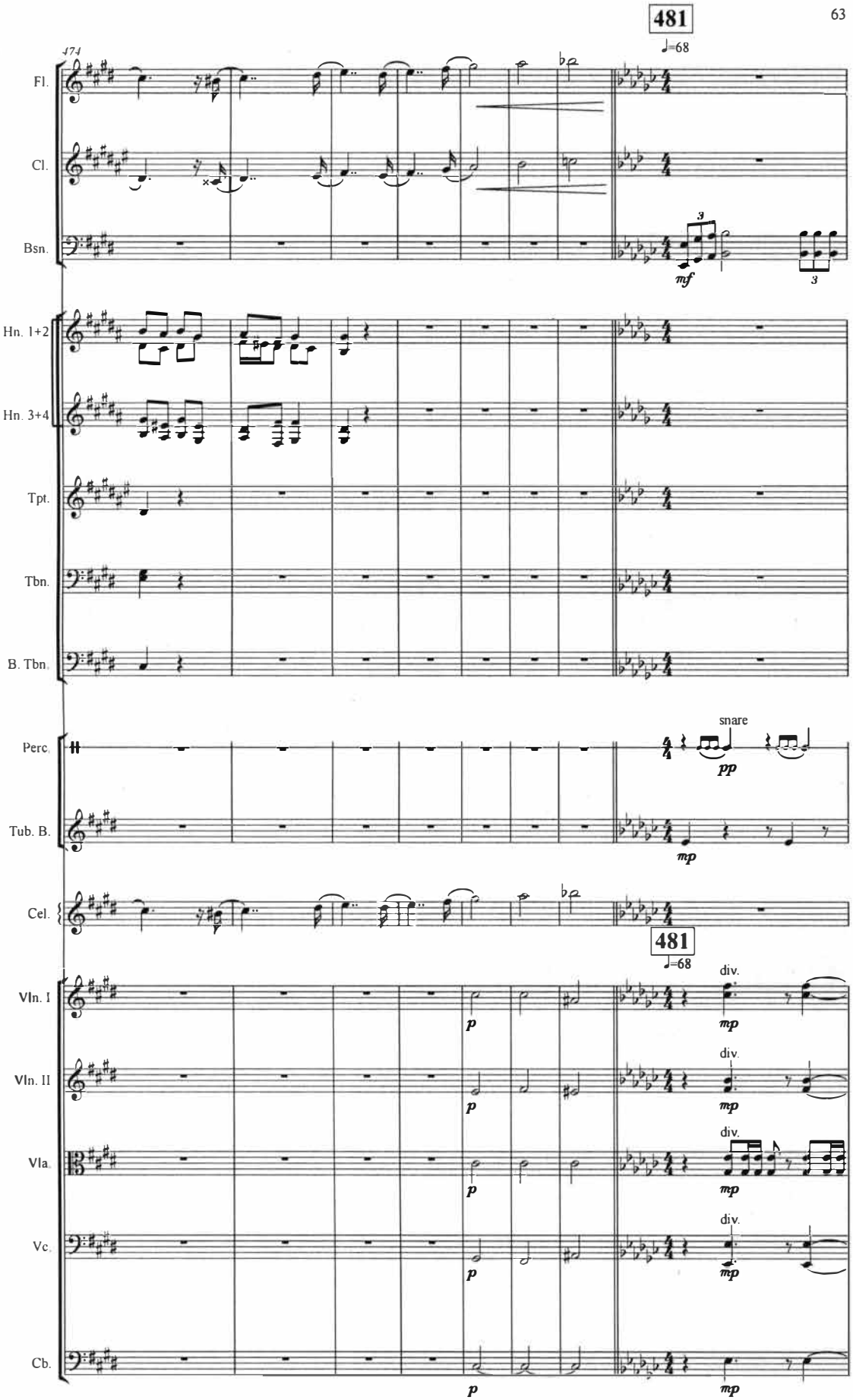

423
♩=92
Beowulf regains his strength...
...but is caught by the dragon's teeth...
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Pno.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
a2
arco
f
ff

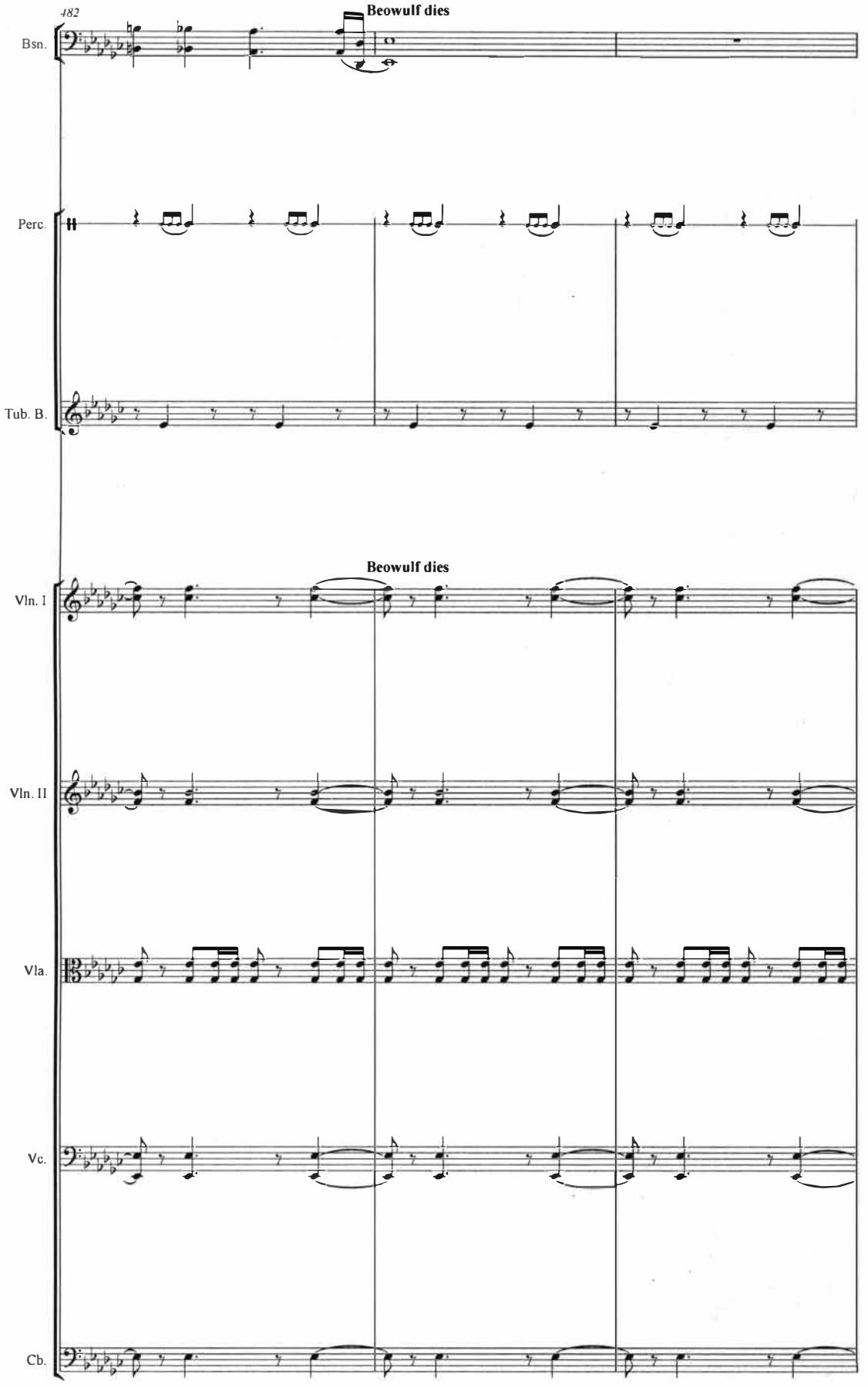

rall..
...he stabs the dragon in the flank
425
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Pno.
sfz
sfz
8va
loco
sffz
8va
rall..
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
IV

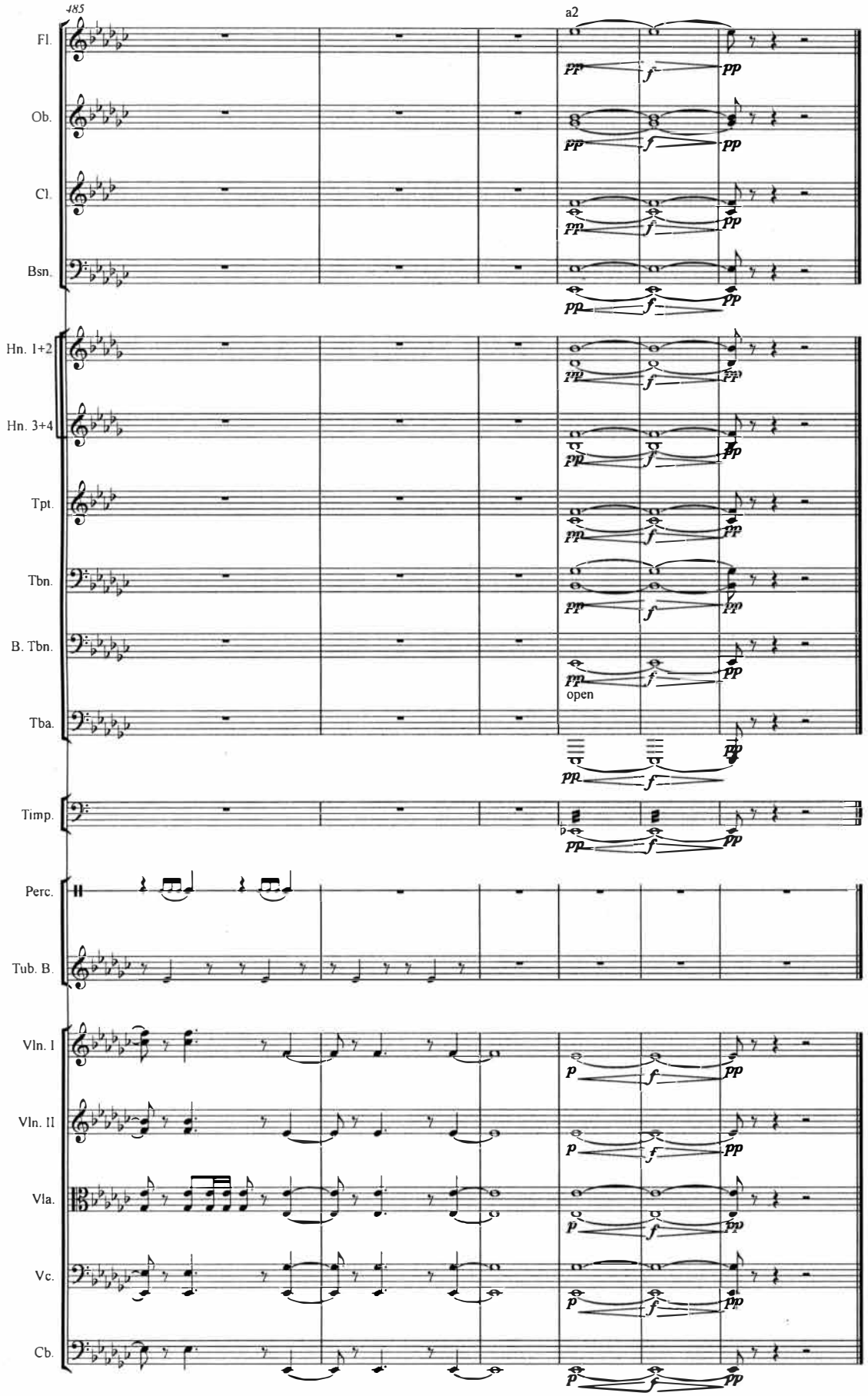

427
Grave
Each of the combatants are mortally wounded
427
con sord.
Tba.
Tub. B.
p
Grave
1 solo
Vln.
mf
Vln. I
pp
Vln. II
pp
Vla.
pp
Vc.
pp
Cb.
pp


439
1.
Ob.
mf
1. con sord.
Hn. 1+2
mp
Tba.
Tub. B.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.


463
452
l.
Cl.
mf
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
open
mp
mp
Tub. B.
463
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
464
Beowulf's final words
l.
Fl.
mf
l.
Cl.
mf
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
l.
Tpt.
p
Tbn.
p
B. Tbn.
p
Tub. B.
Cel.
mf
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.


481
♩=68
474
Fl.
Cl.
Bsn.
mf
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
Perc.
snare
pp
Tub. B.
mp
Cel.
481
♩=68
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p
div.
mp


482
Beowulf dies
Bsn.
Perc.
Tub. B.
Beowulf dies
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.


485
a2
Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn. 1+2
Hn. 3+4
Tpt.
Tbn.
B. Tbn.
open
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Tub. B.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.