The Cosmic Hearth by NASA Day Gallery

Ode for St. Cecilia's Day

HWV 76

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Ode for St. Cecilia’s Day, HWV 76

Music: Composed by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) in 1739 (15-24 September).

Librettist: Based on a new setting of an earlier poem (*A Song for St. Cecilia's Day*) by John Dryden (1631-1700), wrote for St. Cecilia's Day 1687 (22 November).

Instrumentation: Voices (Soprano and Tenor), Chorus (Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass) and Orchestra (Flute, 2 Oboes, Bassoon, 2 Trumpets, Timpani, Lute, Strings and Continuo).

A few words from editor:

Thanks for downloading ***Ode for St. Cecilia's Day*** by G. F. Handel.

My goal with editing this piece is to facilitate access to one of the most beautiful compositions of Handel.

Handel composed this Ode in 1739 in the same period in which he composed the *Concerti Grosso*, Opus 6, shortly after *Israel in Egypt* have become a complete failure and two years before the *Messiah* (1741).

The years of 1739 to 1741 were especially difficult for Handel who already had health problems, critical of his compositions and failure with regard to the success of his operas.

Ode for St. Cecilia's Day shows a clear influence of Henry Purcell (1659-1695) and the German composer and organist Gottilieb Theophil Muffat (1690-1770) on Handel.

The lightness of the Handel's writing associated with the beauty of theme made of *Ode for St. Cecilia's Day* one piece lightweight and easy to accept. Although a piece of whole beauty, three movements are noteworthy: *The soft complaining flute* written for soprano with the delicate accompaniment of flute and lute; *What passion cannot Music raise and quell*, a ravishing saraband accompanied by cello and *But oh! What art can teach*, the most captivating of all arias accompanied by Handel himself that improvising on organ.

I hope you enjoy this edition. Please any problem with sheet music, like wrong notes etc, let me know.

Sincerely,

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Table of Contents

Title	Page
01. Overture	01
02. Tenor aria: From harmony	11
03. Chorus: From harmony	16
04. Soprano aria: What passion cannot Music raised	35
05. Tenor aria and Chorus: The Trumpet’s loud clangor	45
06. March	65
07. Soprano aria: The soft complaining Flute	70
08. Tenor aria: Sharp Violins proclaim	79
09. Soprano aria: But oh! What art can teach	88
10. Soprano aria: Orpheus could lead the savage race	99
11. Soprano recitative: But bright Cecilia	104
12. Soprano and Chorus: As from pow’r of sacred lays	105

Score

Ode for St. Cecilia's Day

HWV 76

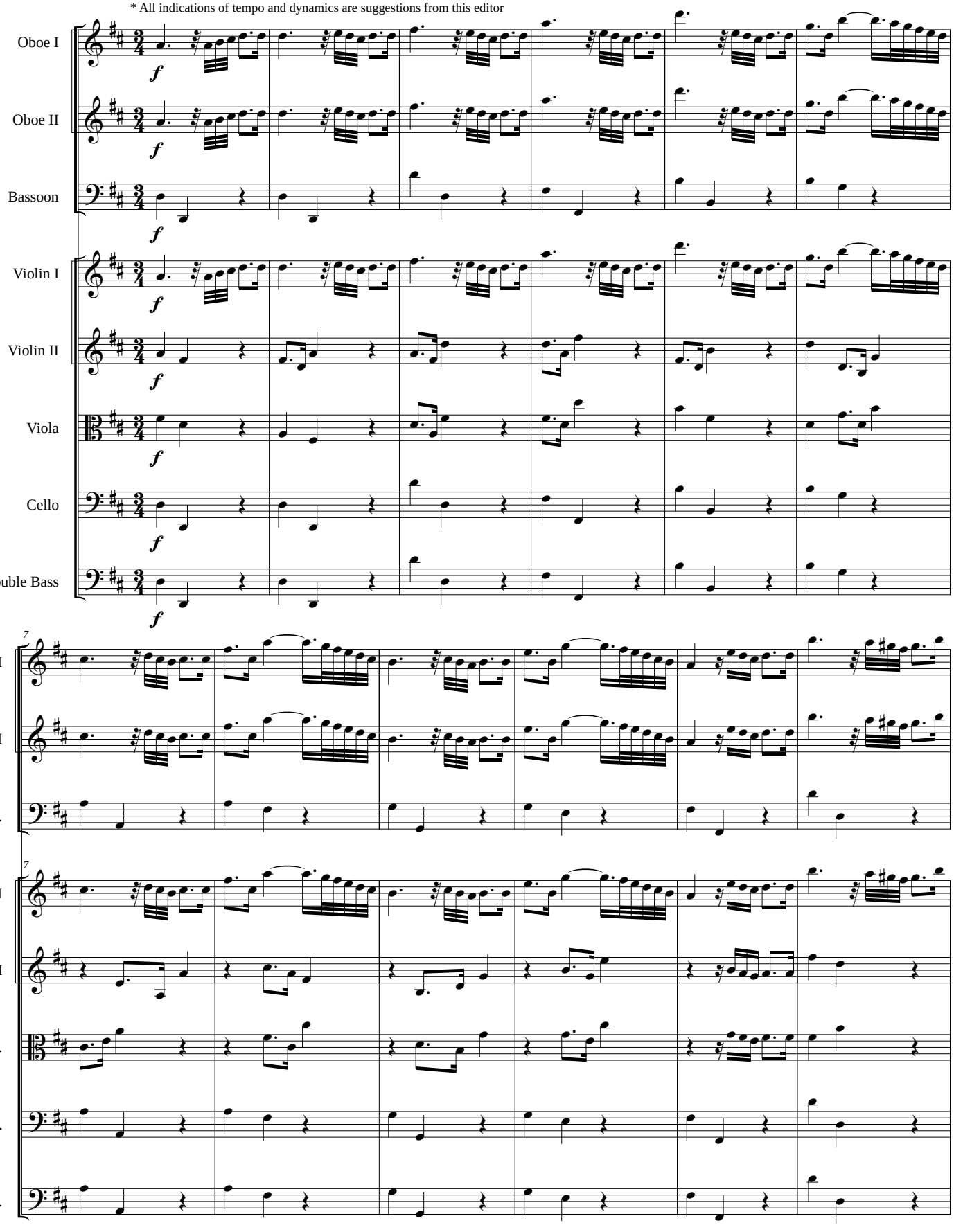
Overture

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Edition by Moisés Cantos

Larghetto e staccato (♩ = 96)*

* All indications of tempo and dynamics are suggestions from this editor



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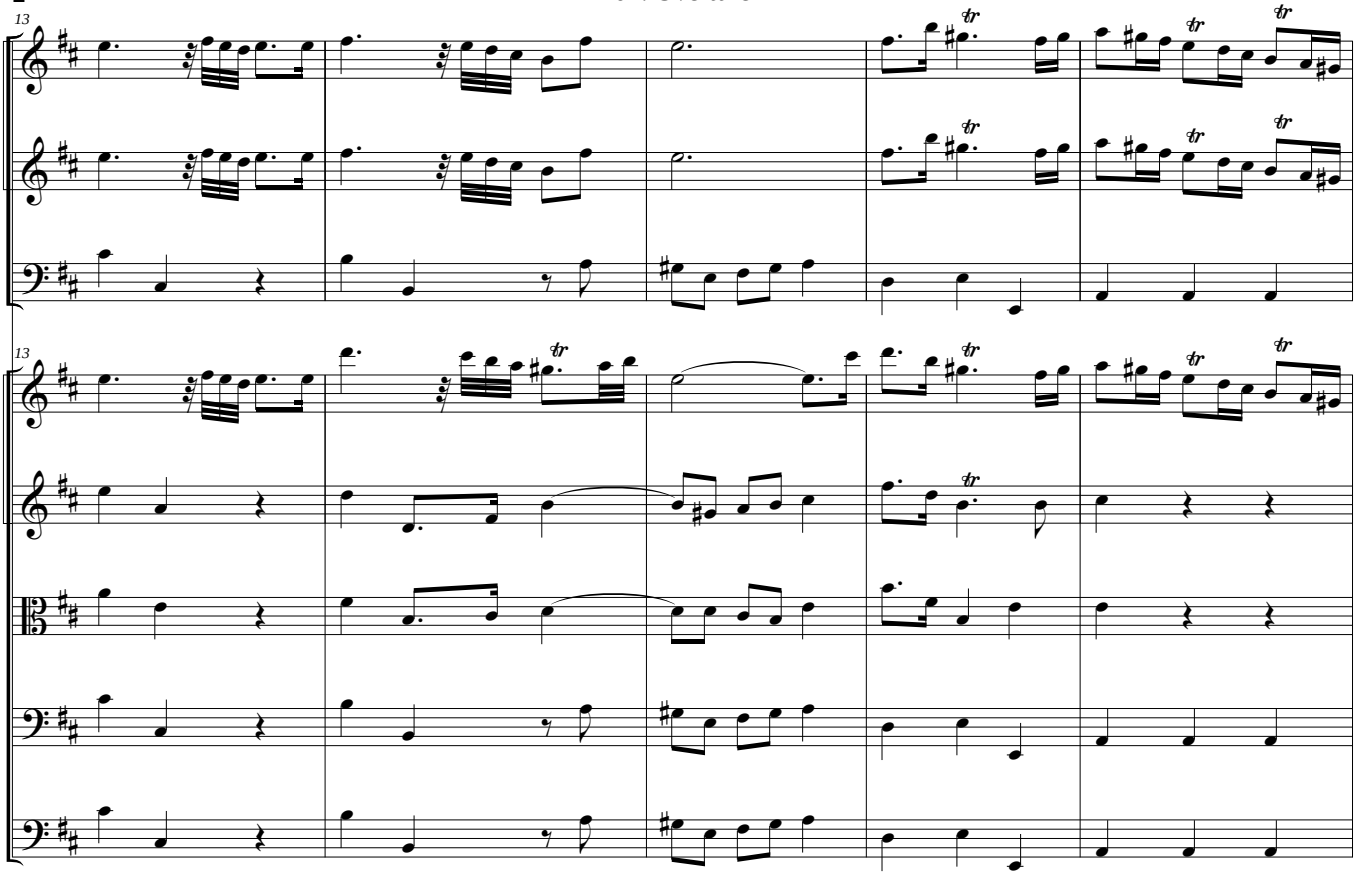
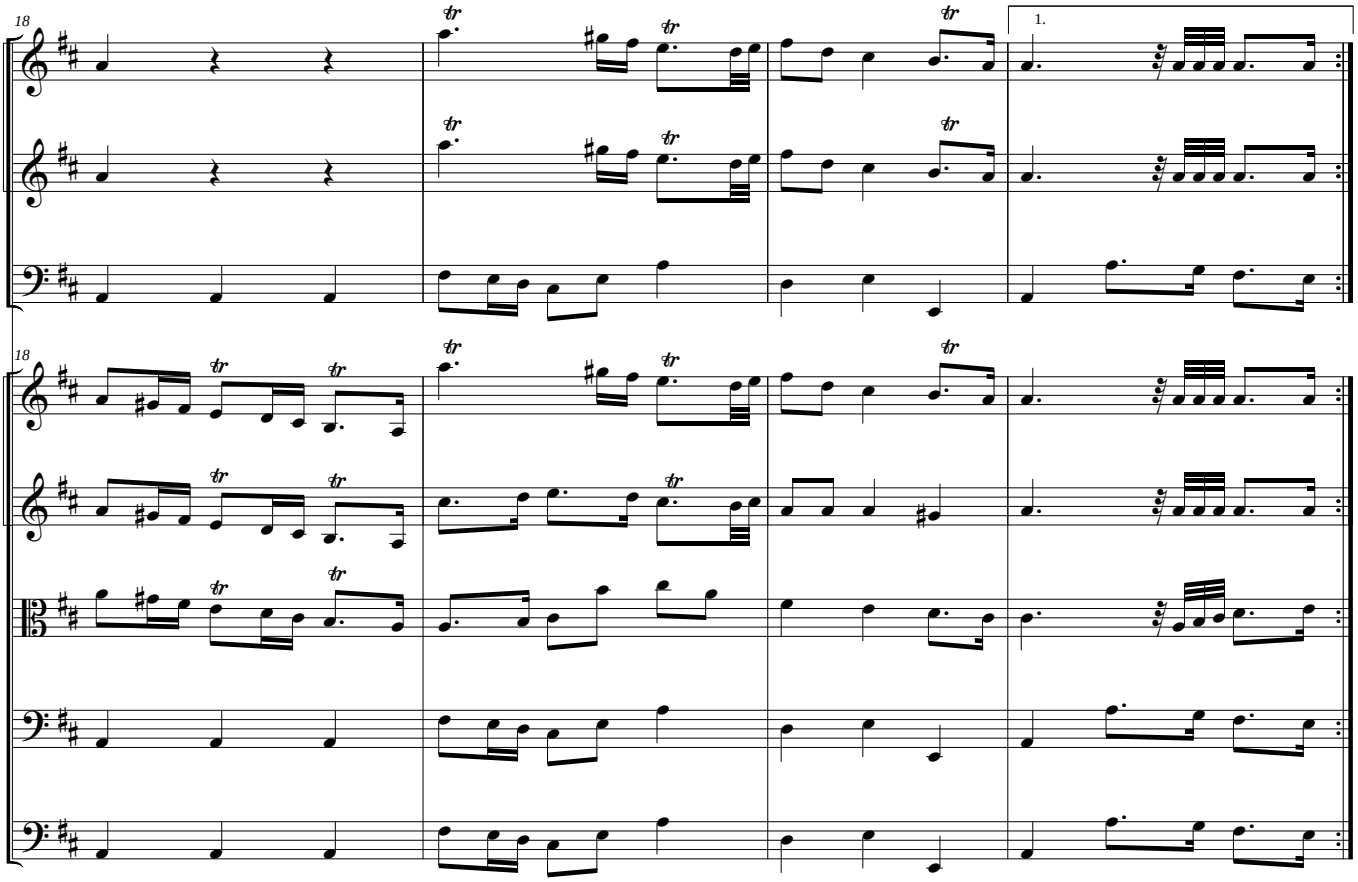
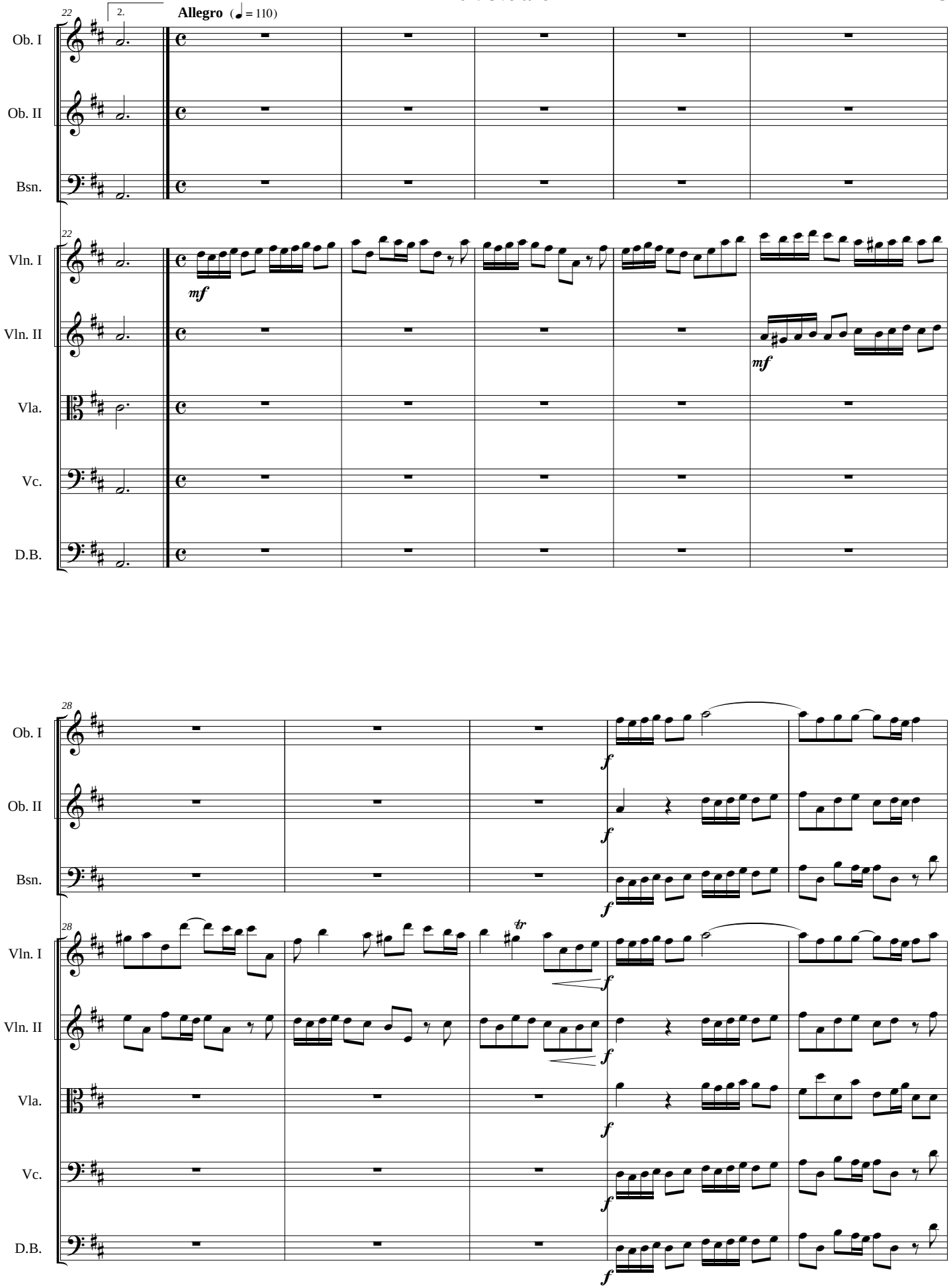
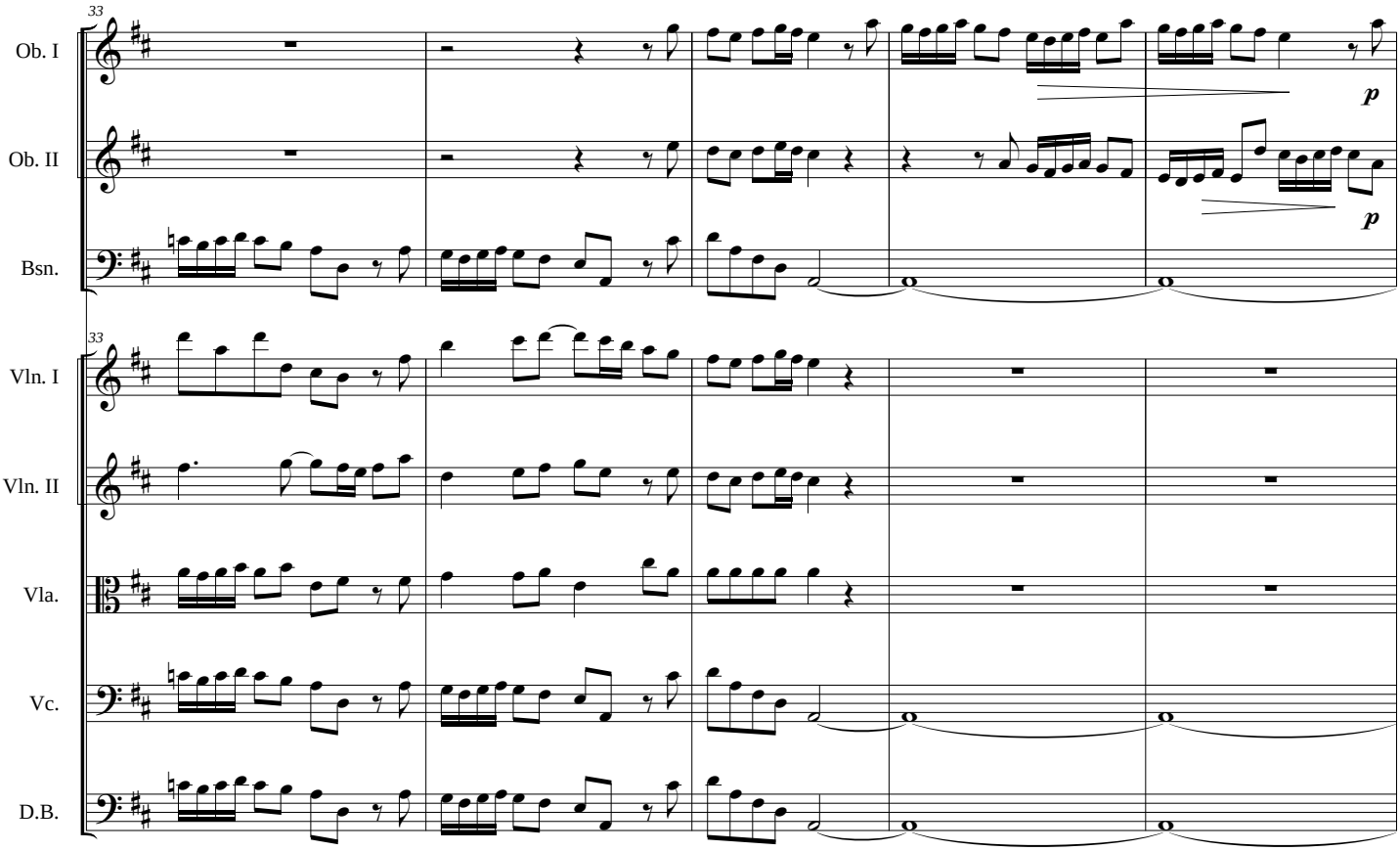
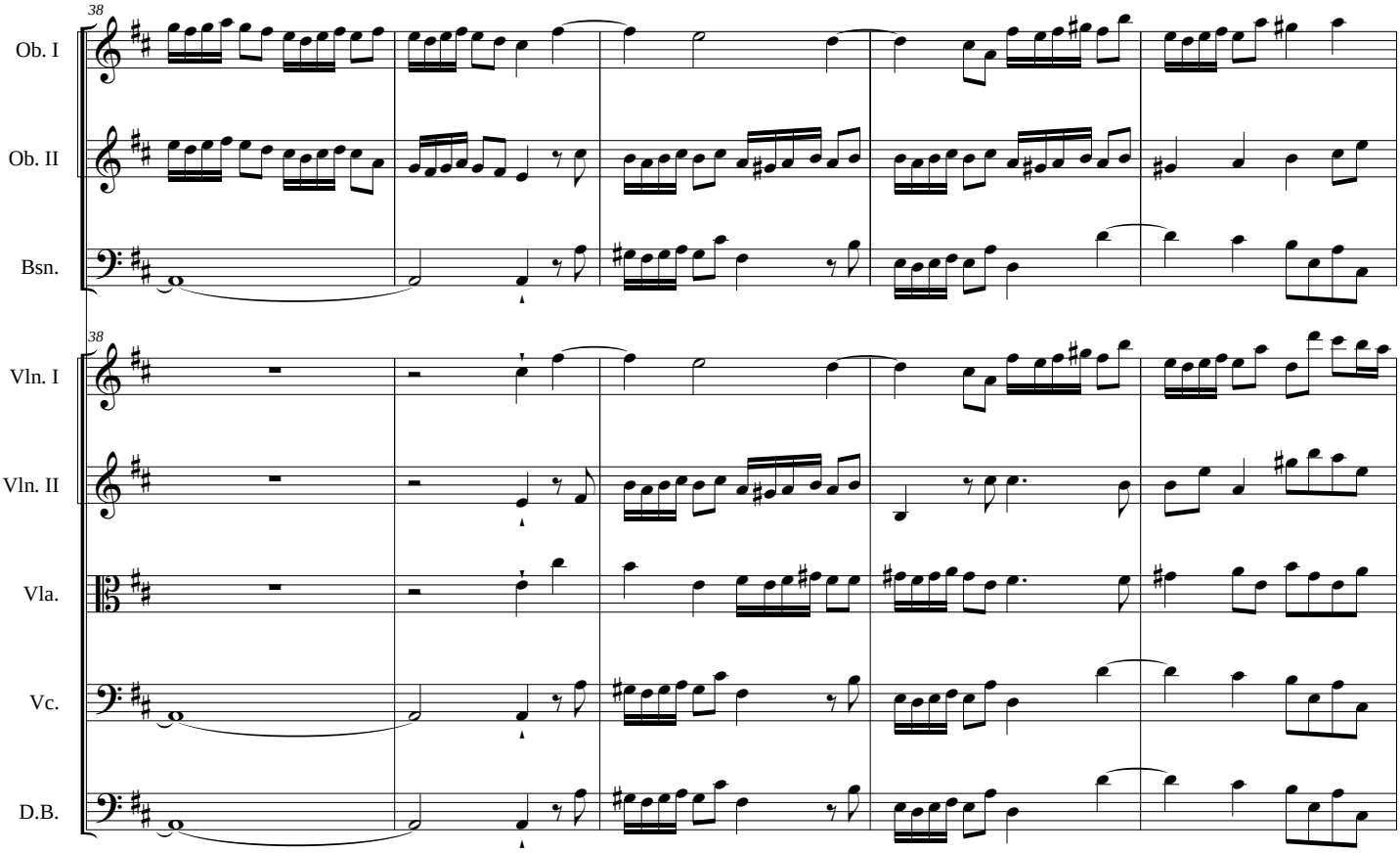
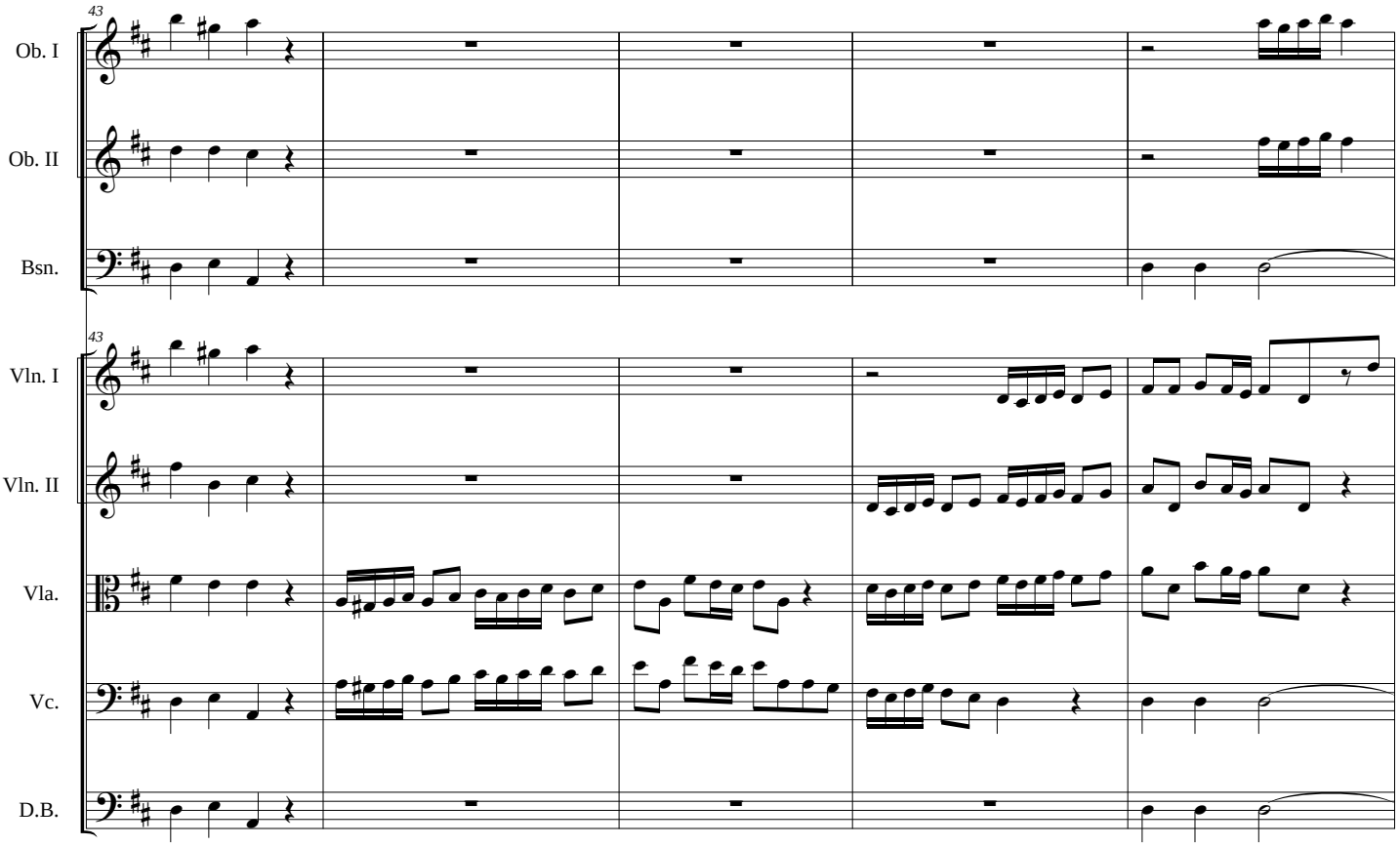

13
Ob. I
Ob. II
Bsn.
13
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

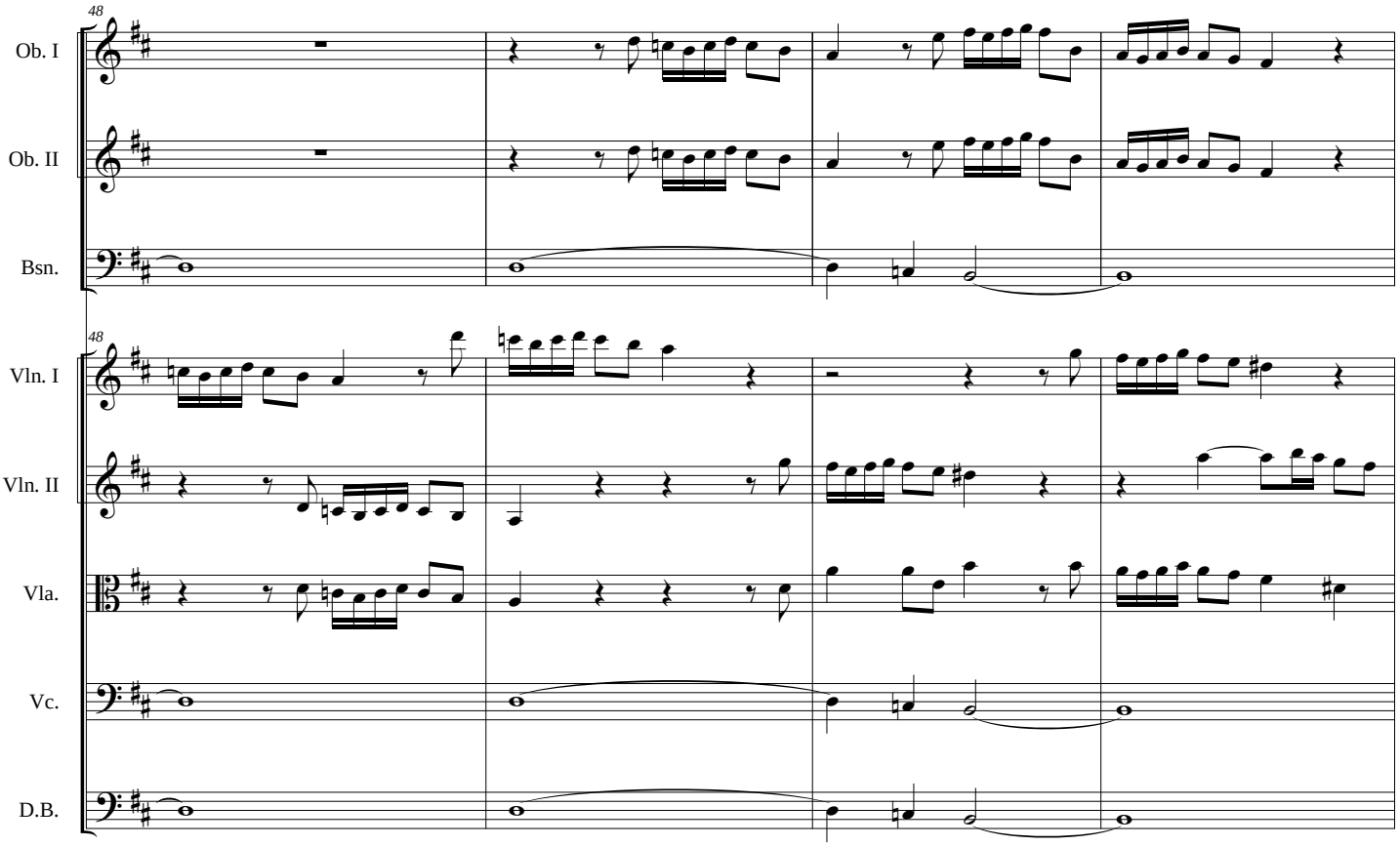

18
Ob. I
Ob. II
Bsn.
1.
18
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

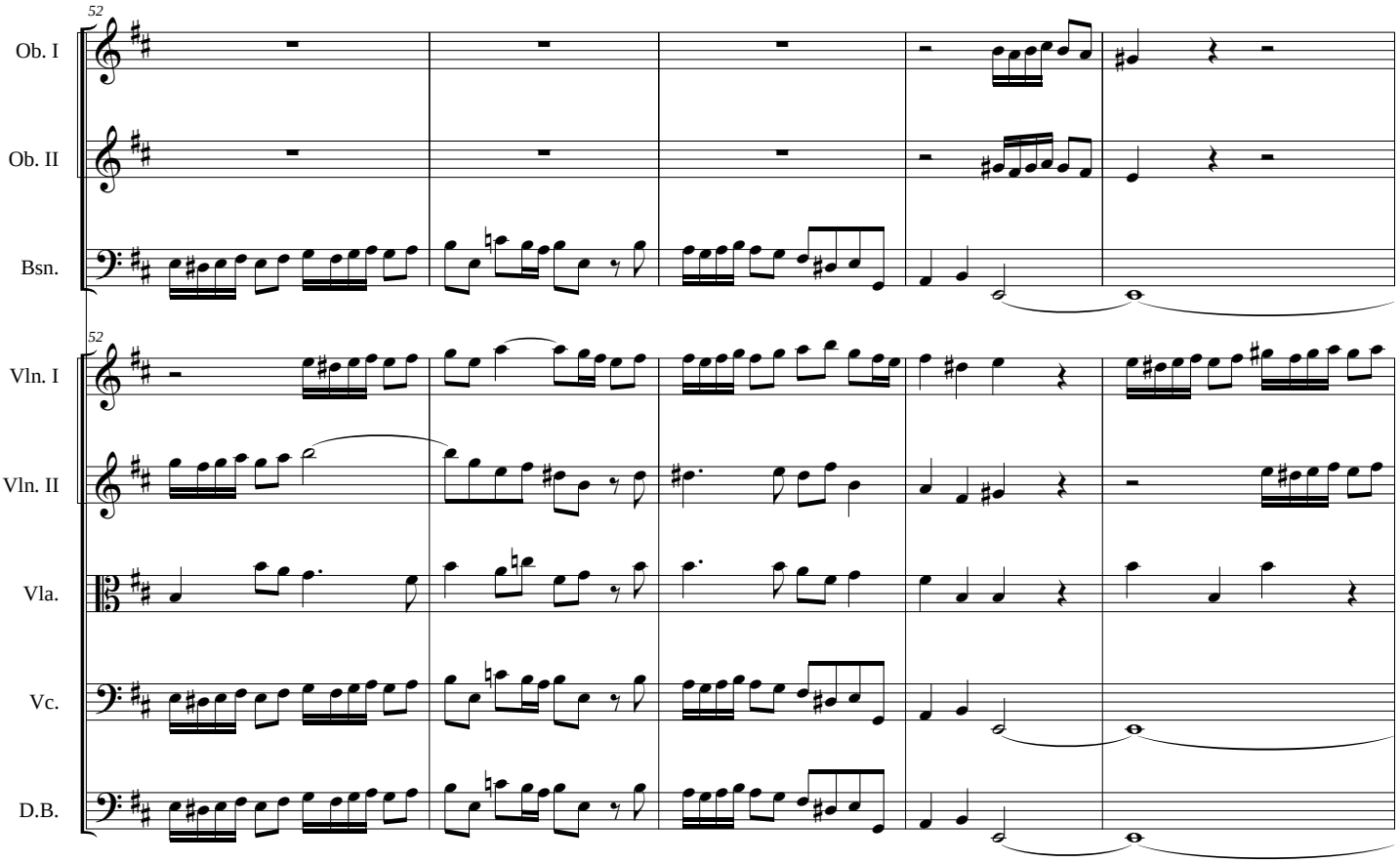

22
2.
Allegro (♩ = 110)
Ob. I
Ob. II
Bsn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
mf
mf
28
f
tr

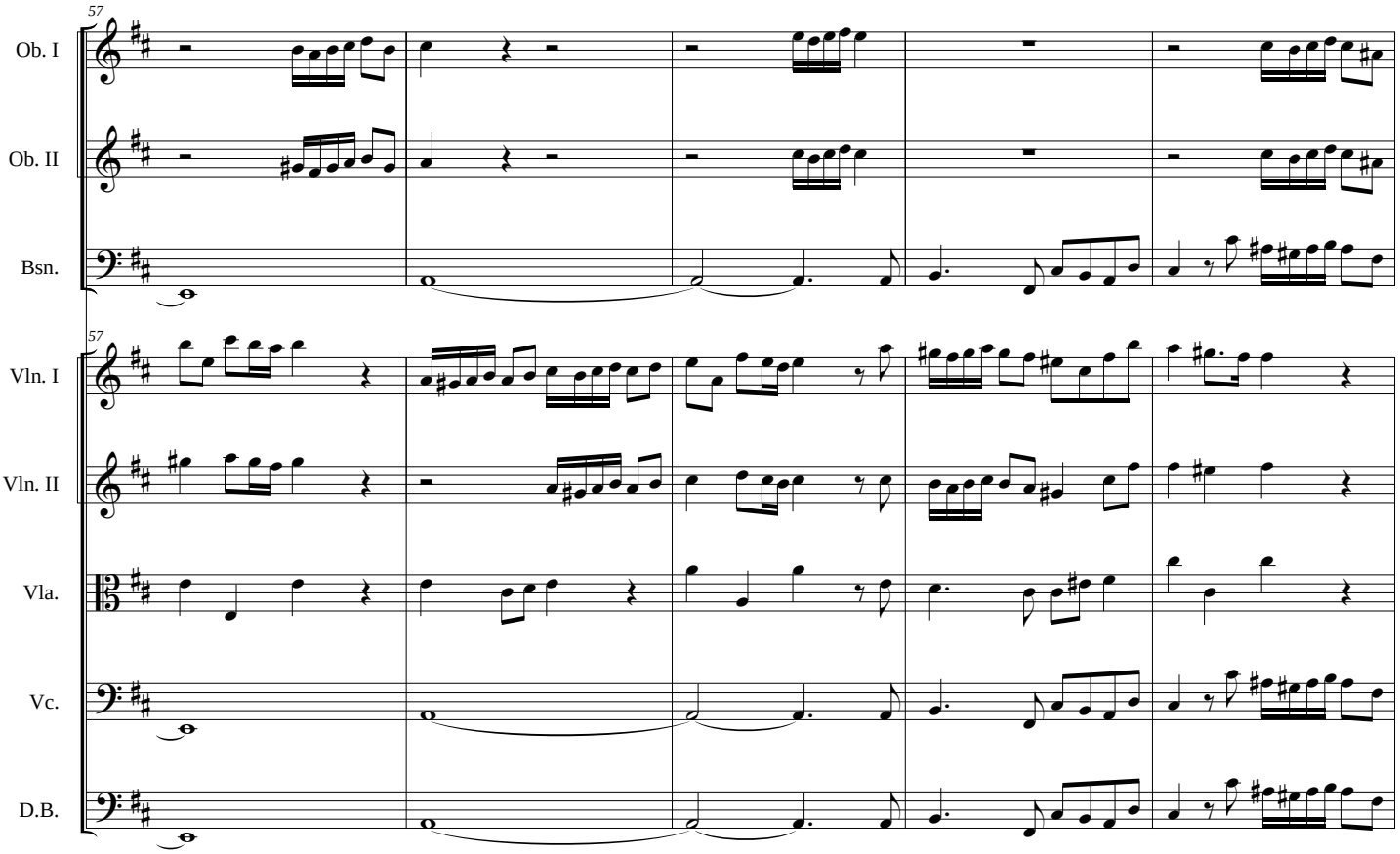

33
Ob. I
Ob. II
Bsn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
p
p

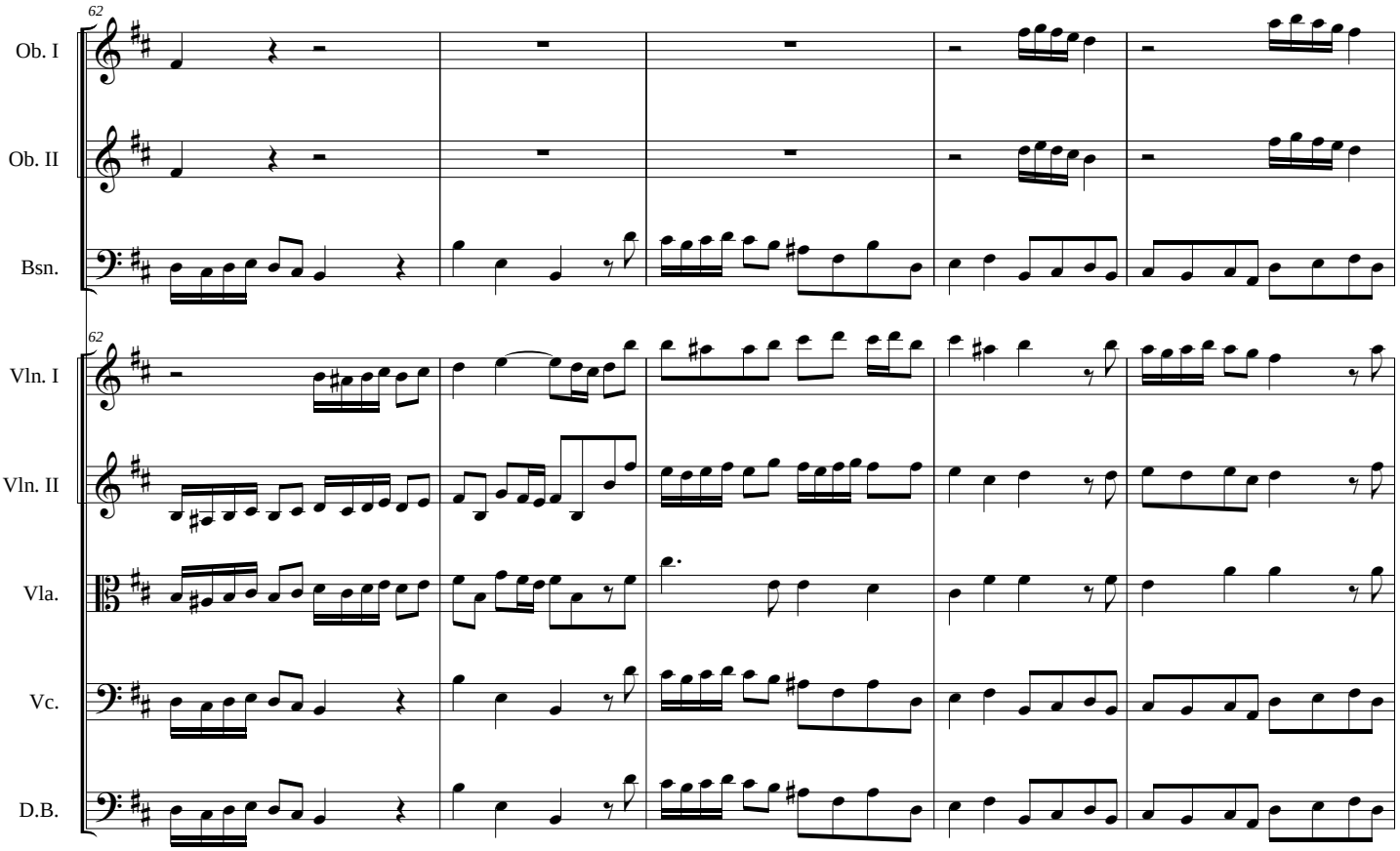

38
Ob. I
Ob. II
Bsn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

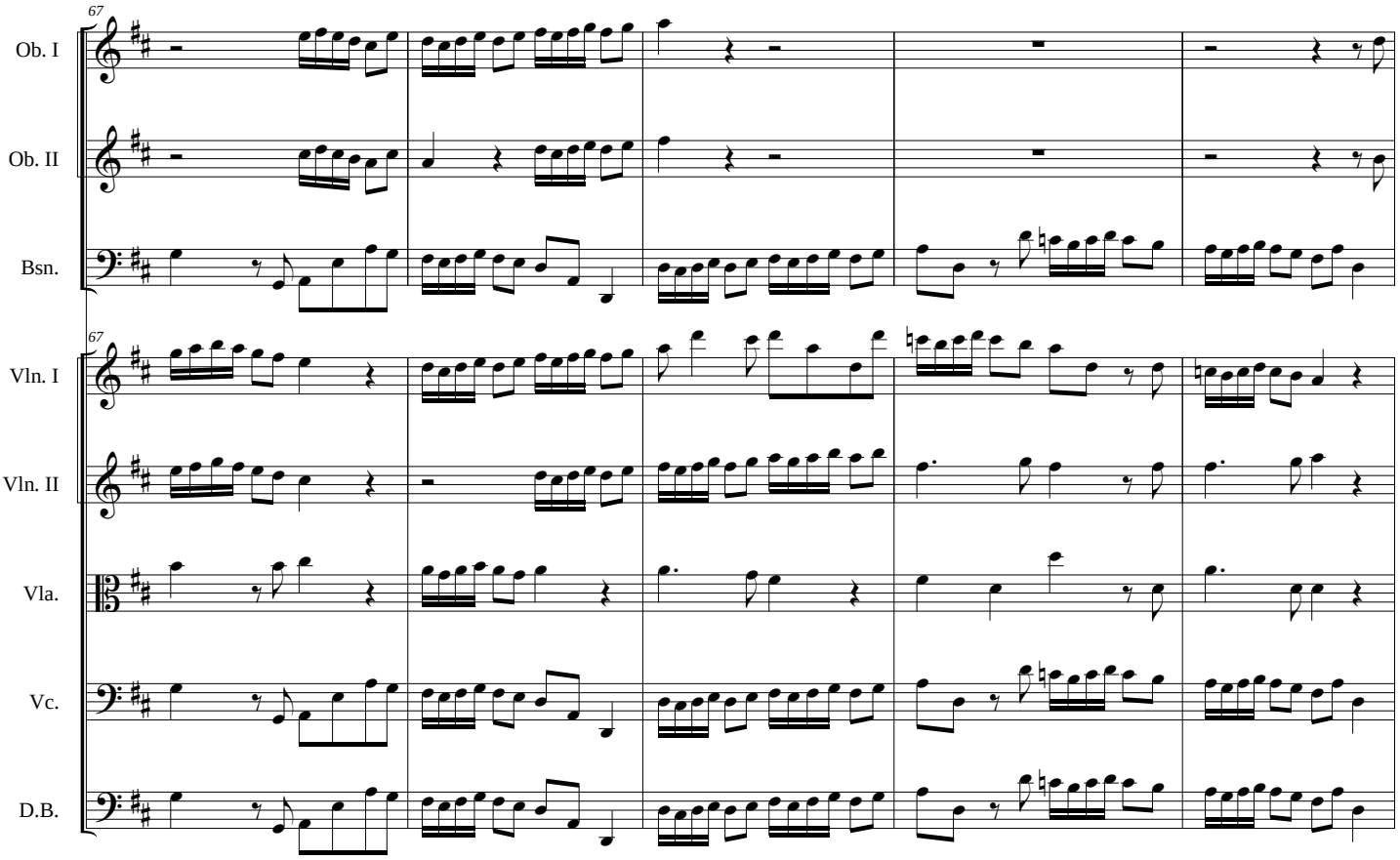

43
Ob. I
Ob. II
Bsn.
43
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

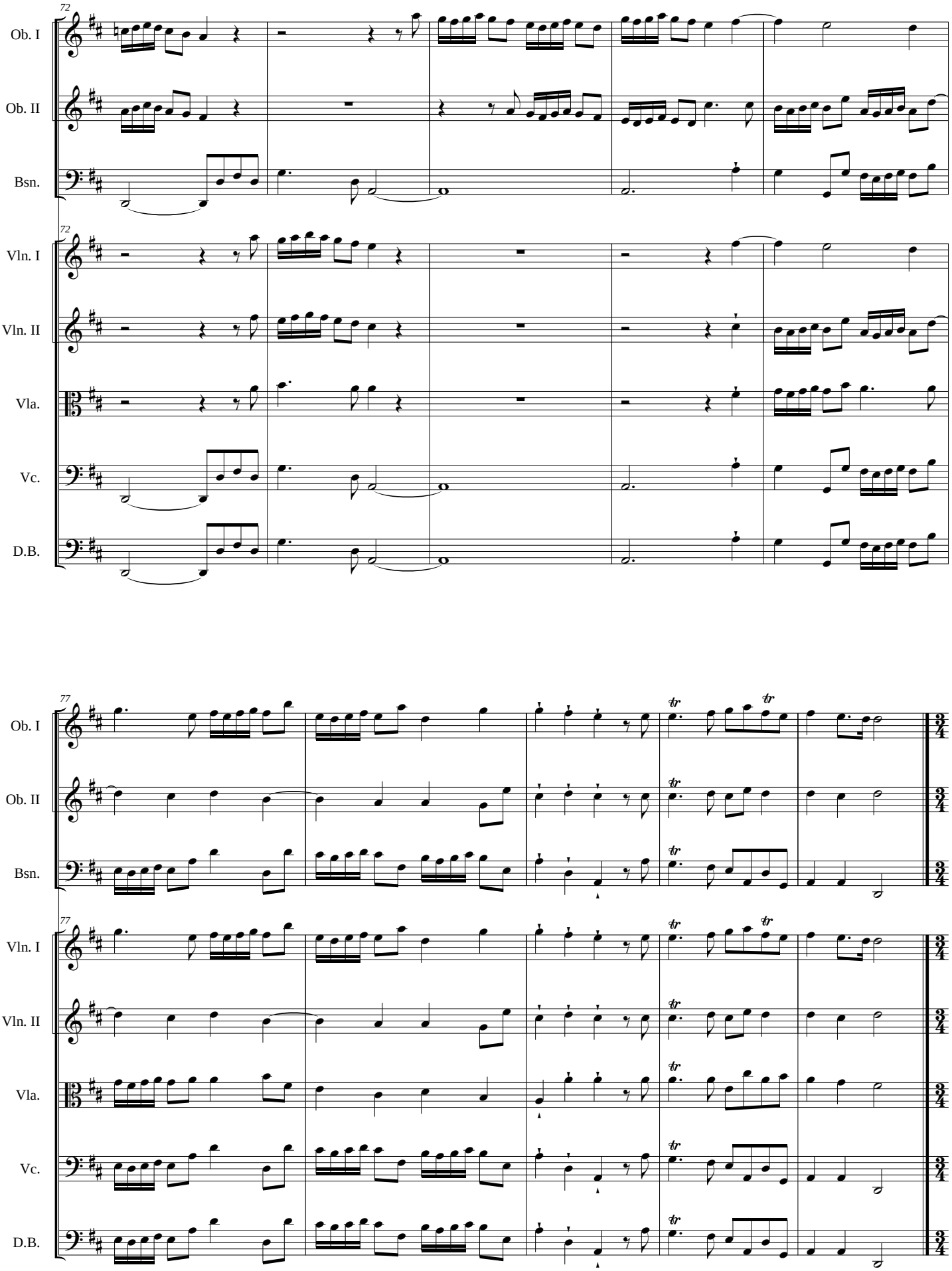

48
Ob. I
Ob. II
Bsn.
48
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.


52
Ob. I
Ob. II
Bsn.
52
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

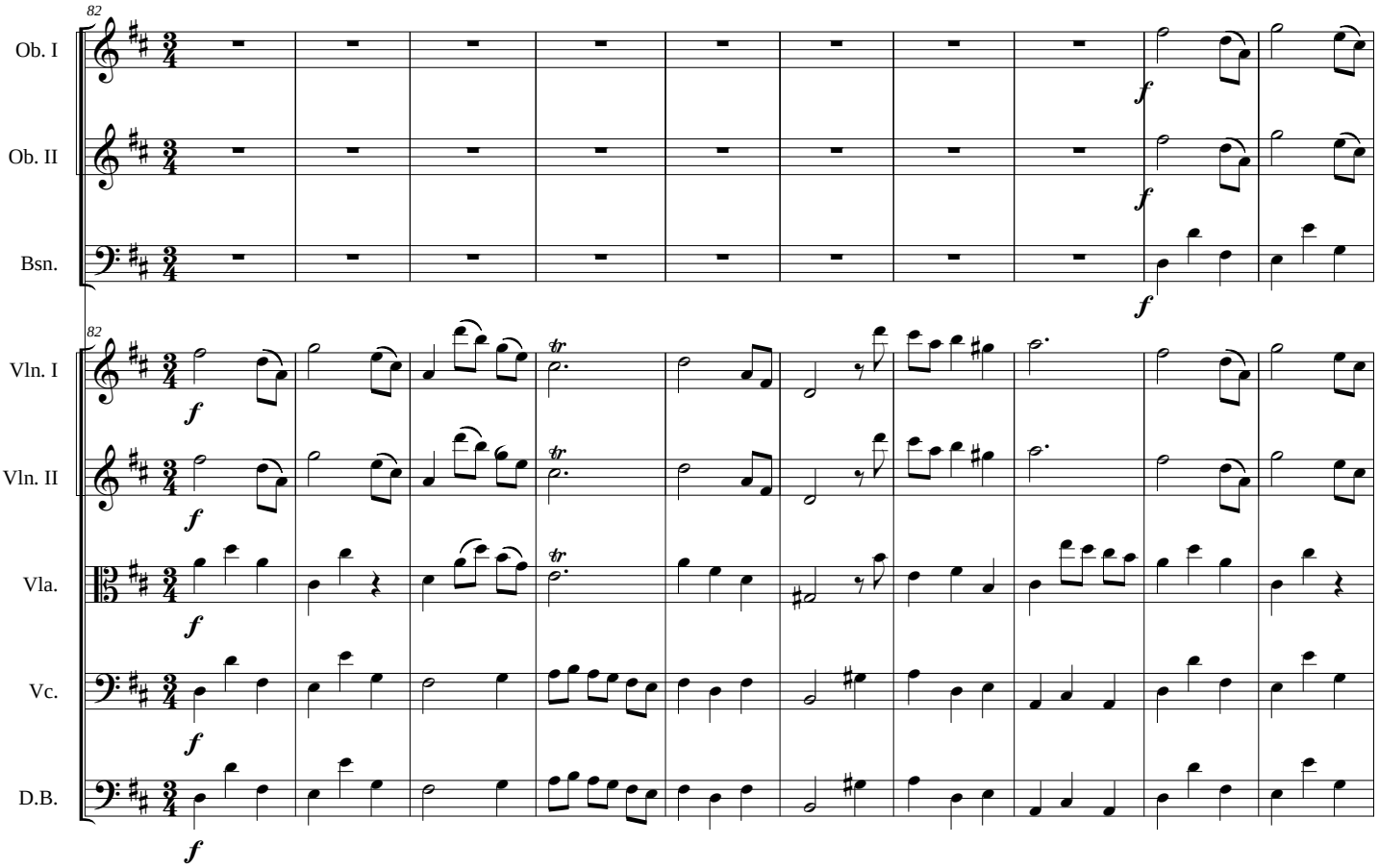

57
Ob. I
Ob. II
Bsn.
57
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

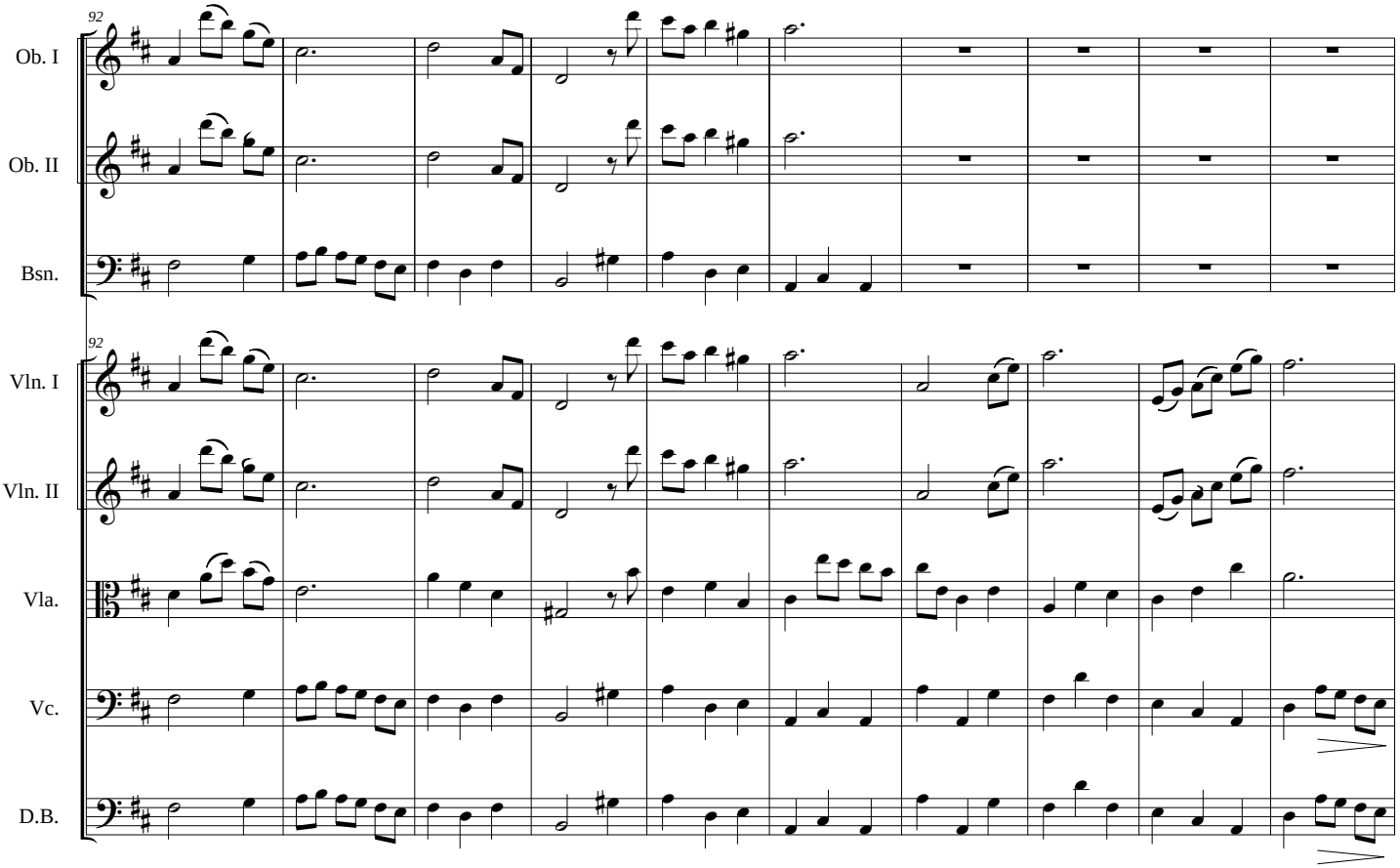

62
Ob. I
Ob. II
Bsn.
62
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

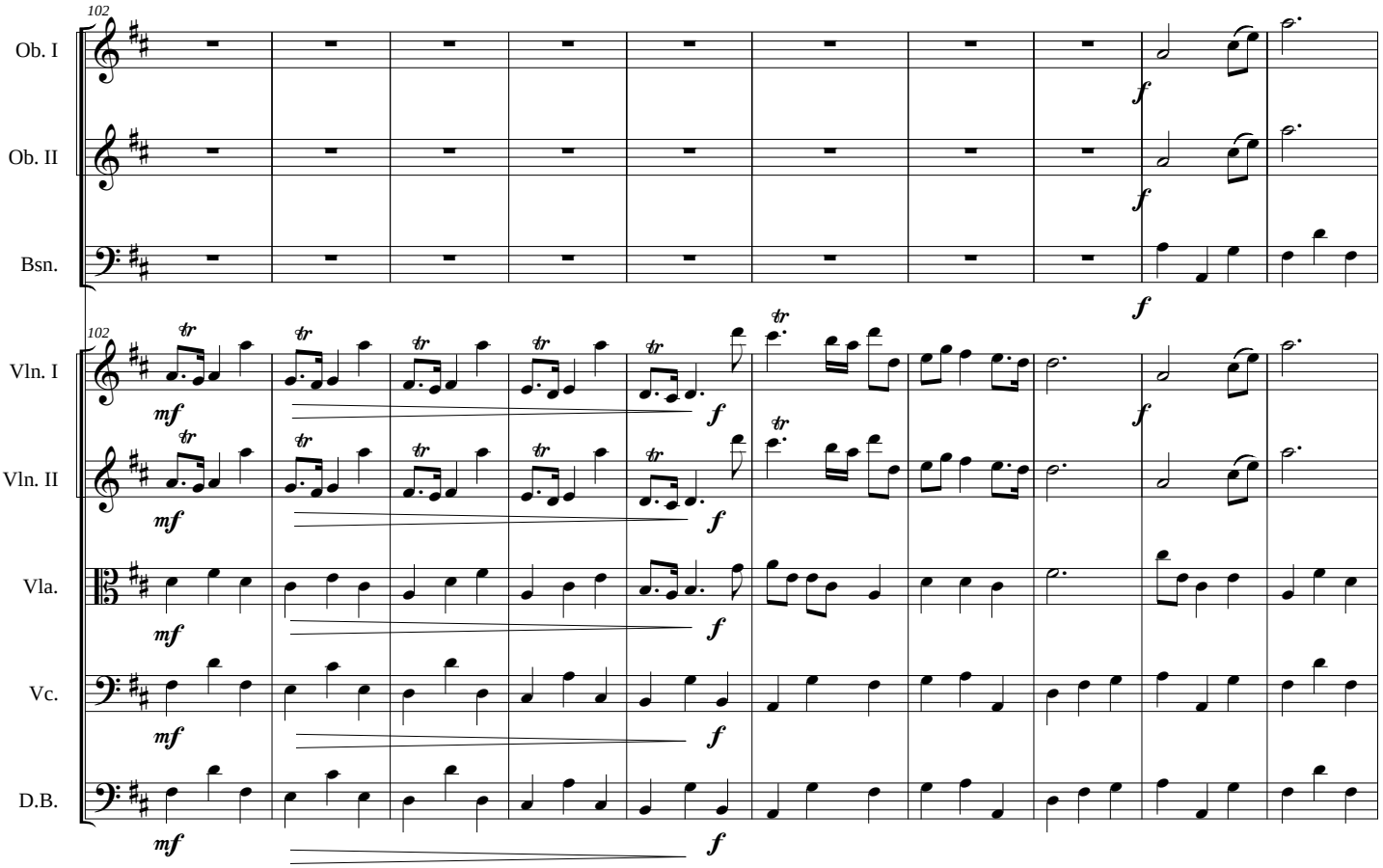

67
Ob. I
Ob. II
Bsn.
67
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

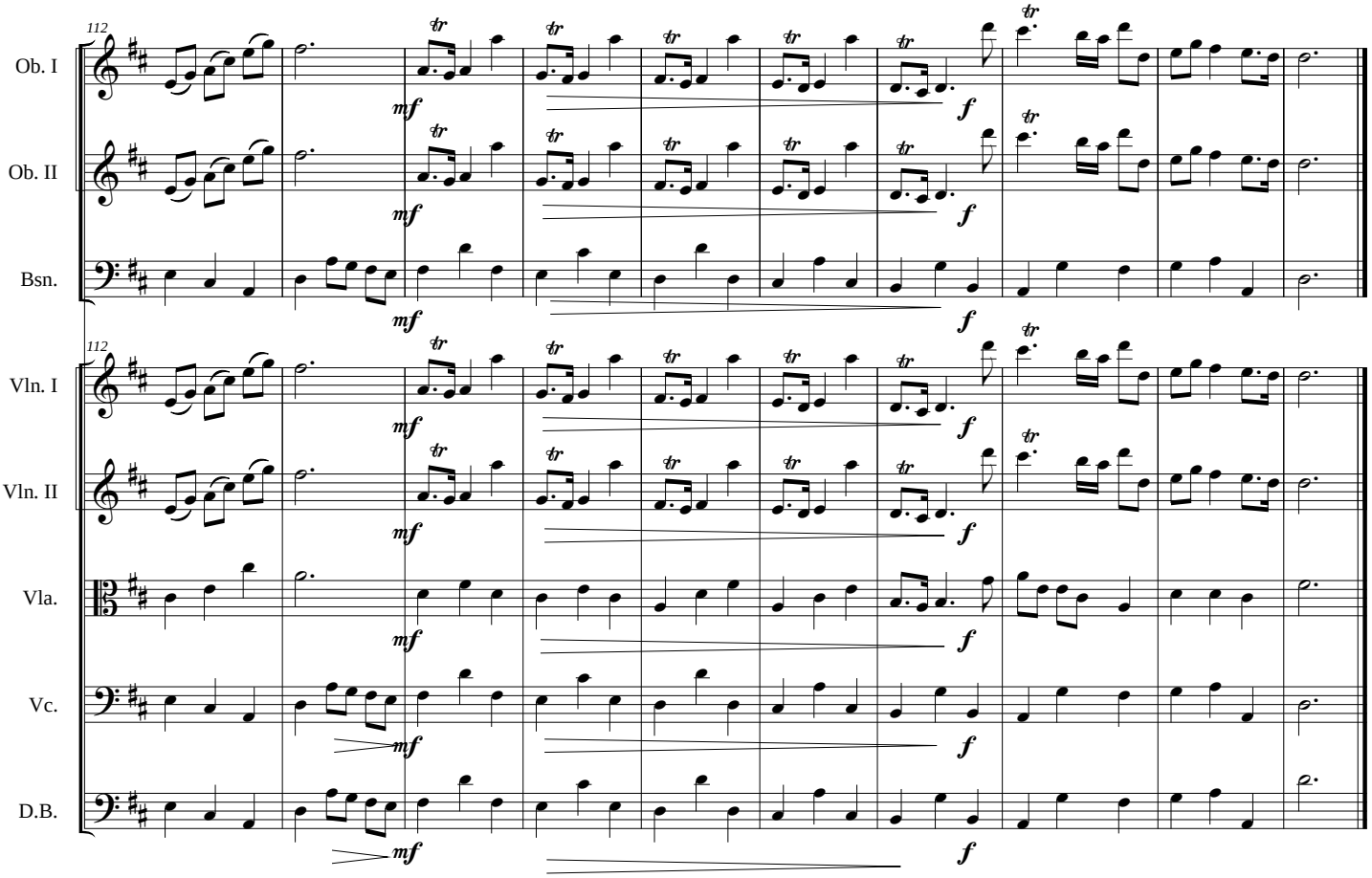

72
Ob. I
Ob. II
Bsn.
72
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
77
Ob. I
Ob. II
Bsn.
77
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

Moderato (♩ = 108)






102
Ob. I
Ob. II
Bsn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
mf
f


112
Ob. I
Ob. II
Bsn.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
mf
f