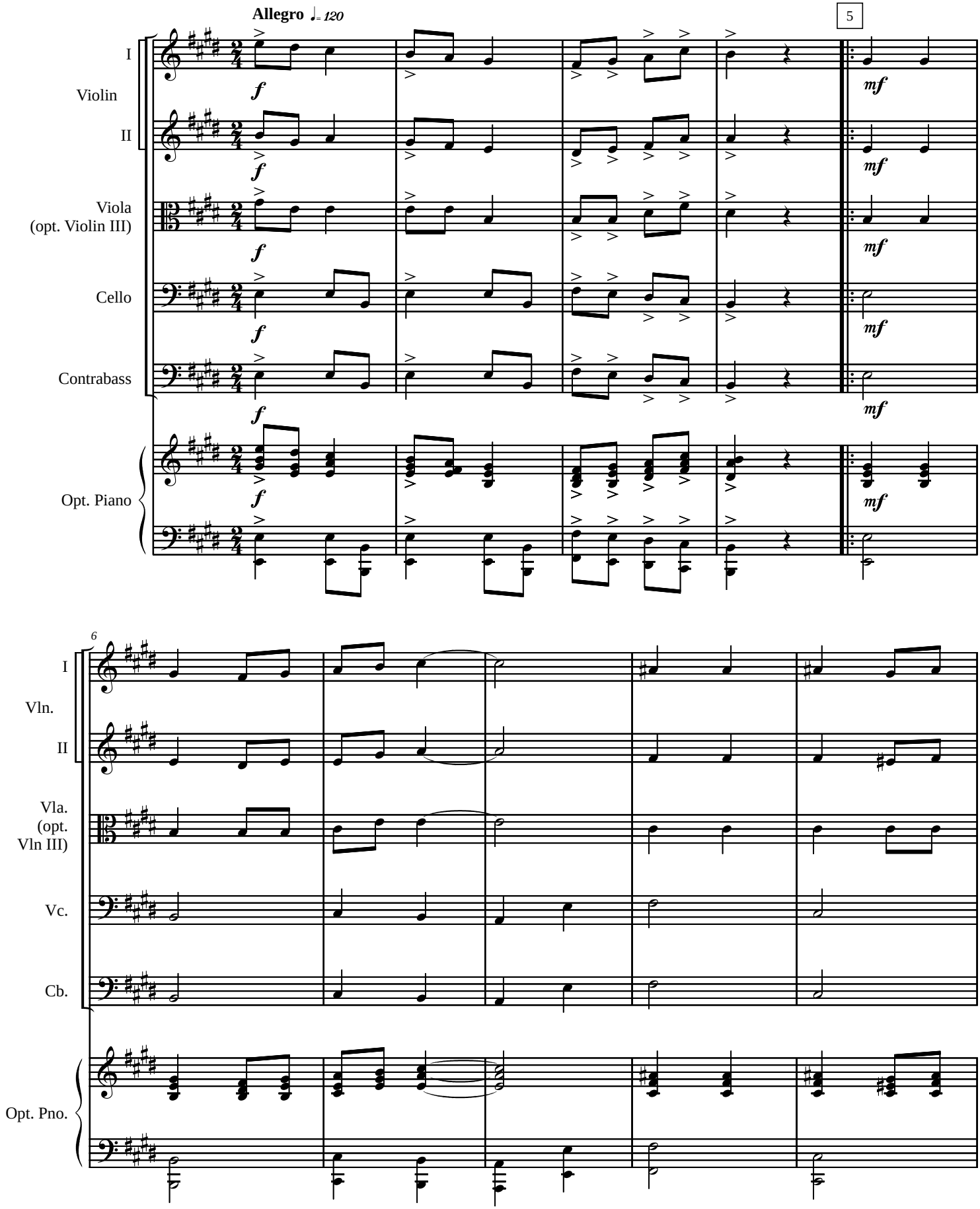
Conductor
Duration: 2:15

The Leaders and Best

Michael Pratt, ASCAP



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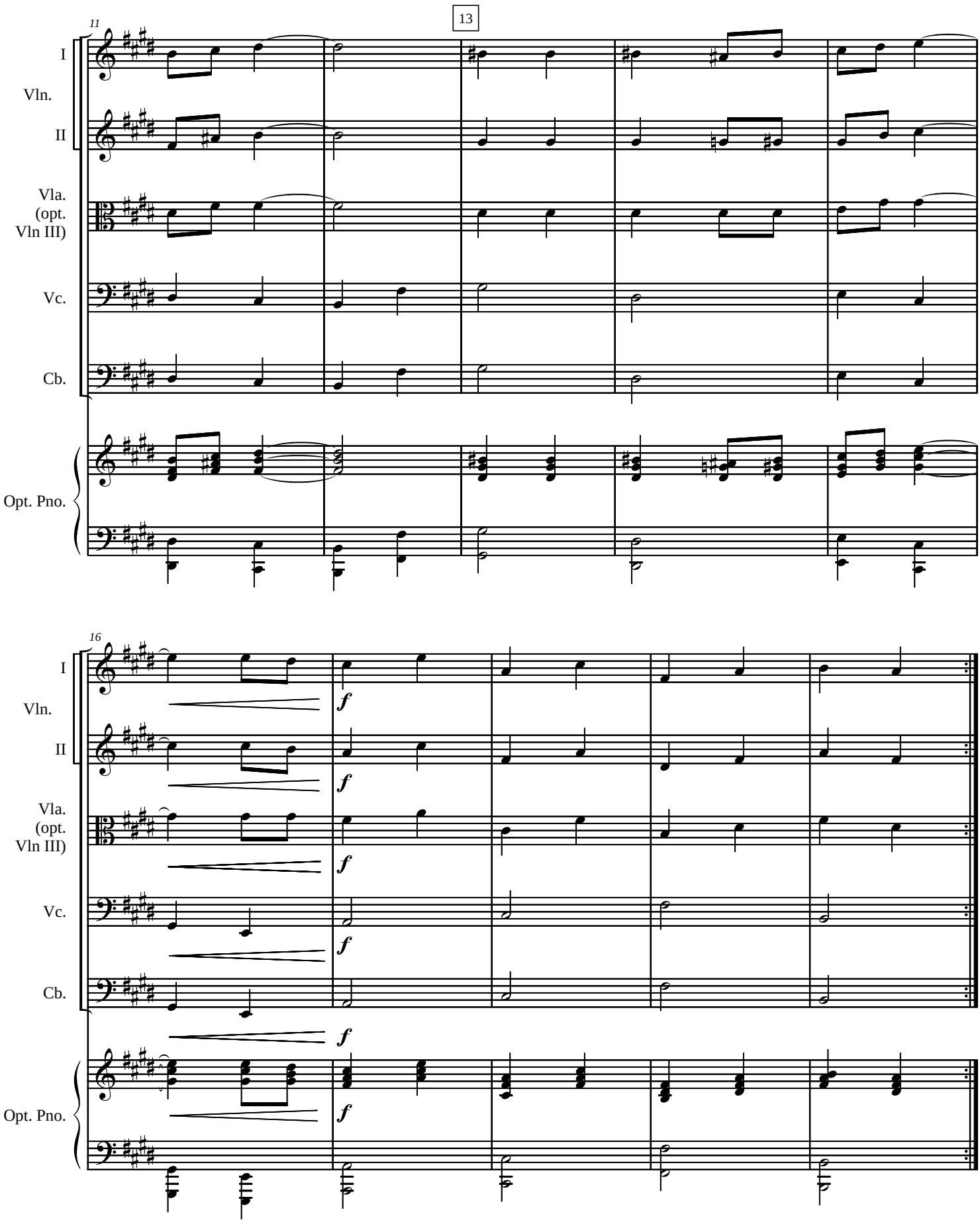
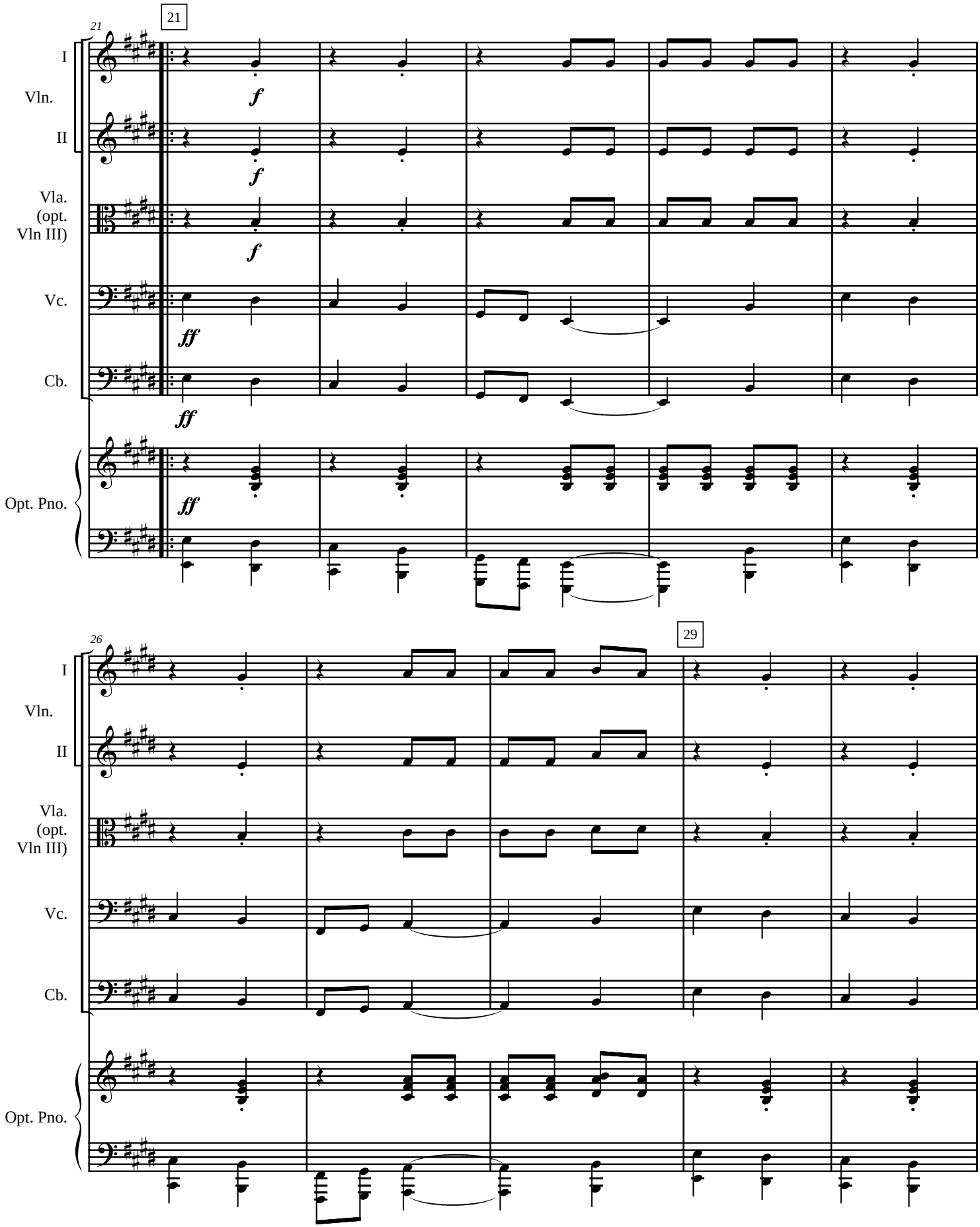

13
11
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
(opt.
Vln III)
Vc.
Cb.
Opt. Pno.
16
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
(opt.
Vln III)
Vc.
Cb.
Opt. Pno.
f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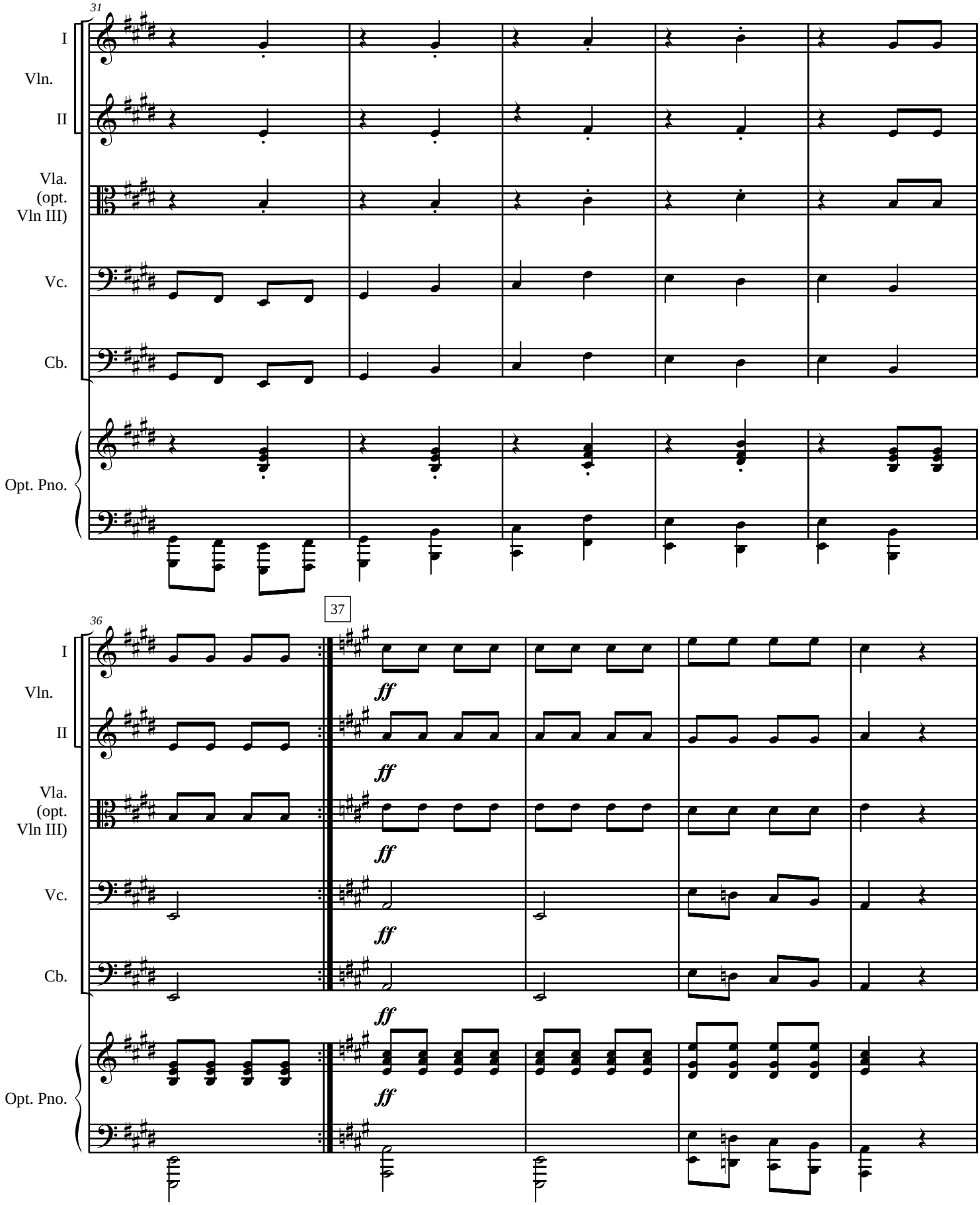
21
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
(opt.
Vln III)
Vc.
Cb.
Opt. Pno.
f
ff
26
29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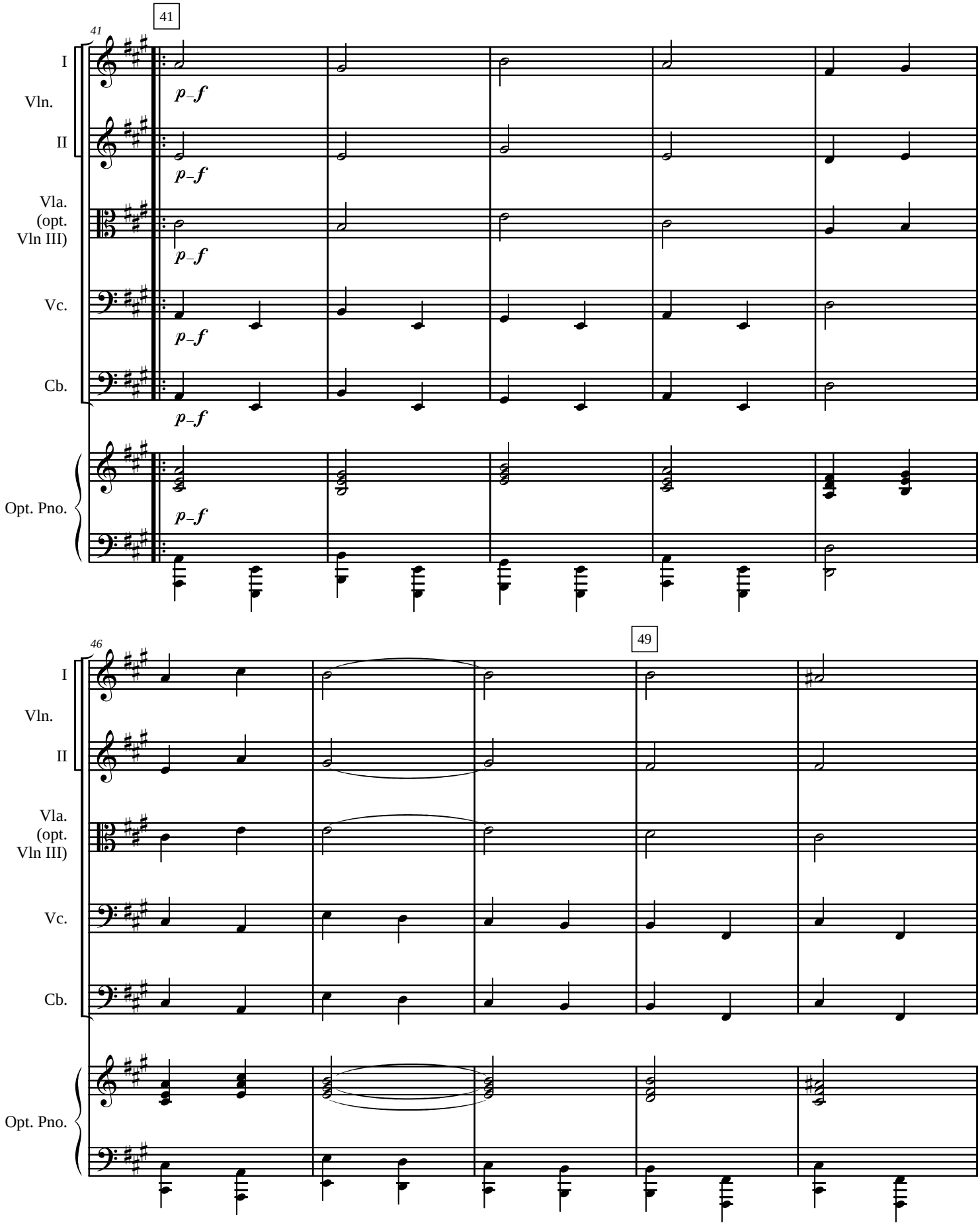
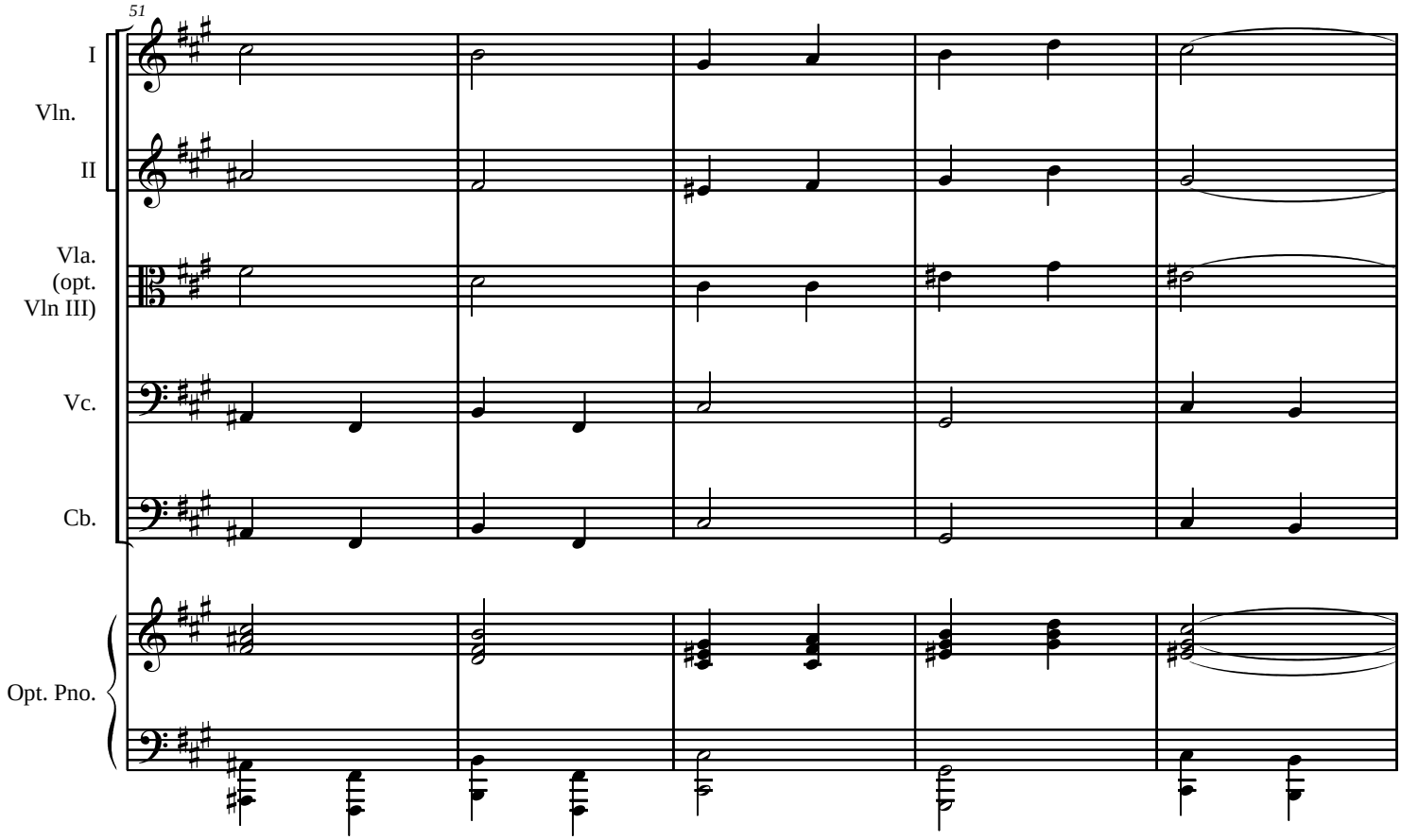
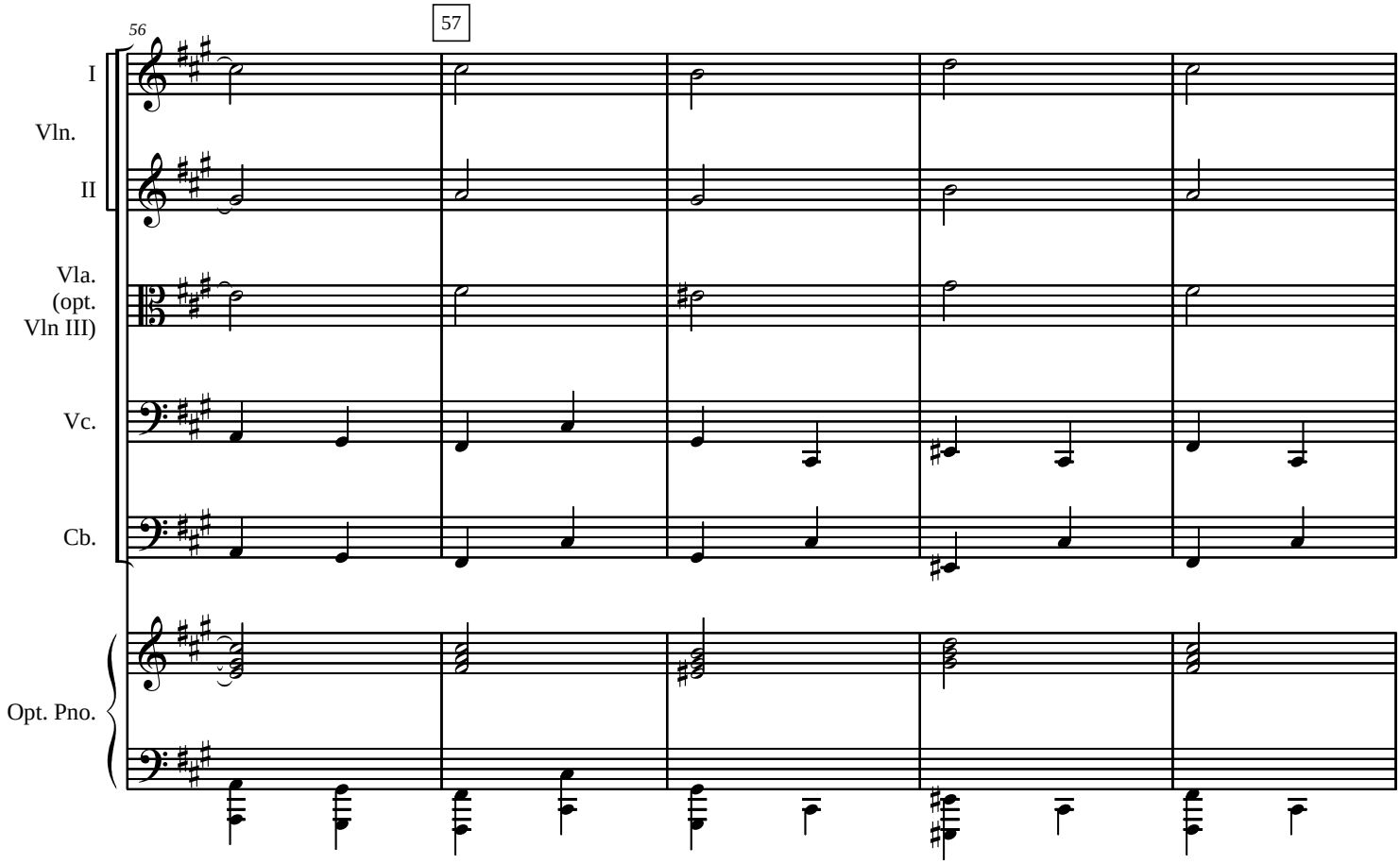
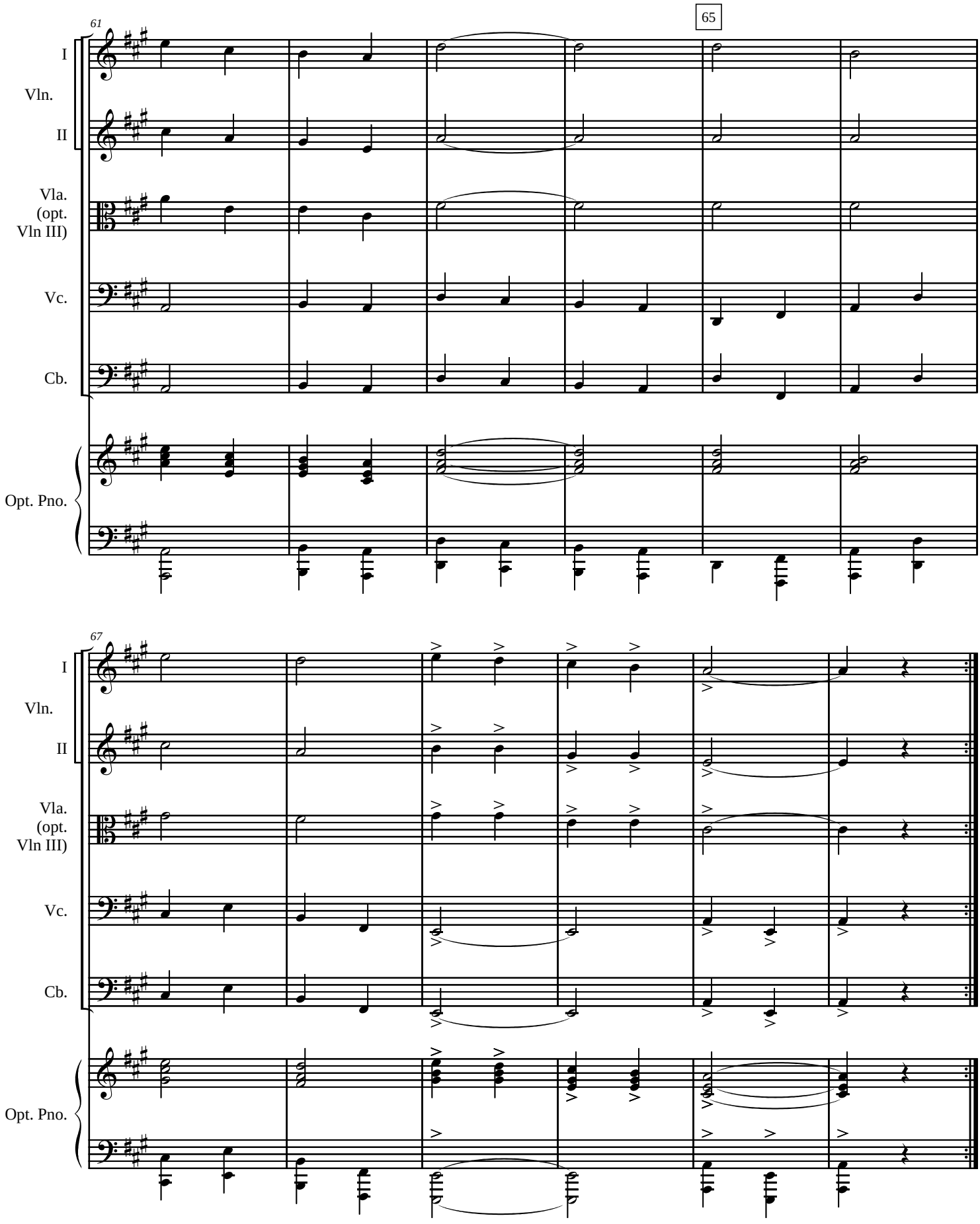
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
(opt.
Vln III)
Vc.
Cb.
Opt. Pno.
36
37
ff


41
41
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
(opt.
Vln III)
Vc.
Cb.
Opt. Pno.
p–f
46
49


51
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
(opt.
Vln III)
Vc.
Cb.
Opt. Pno.


56
57
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
(opt.
Vln III)
Vc.
Cb.
Opt. Pno.


61
65
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
(opt.
Vln III)
Vc.
Cb.
Opt. Pno.
67
I
Vln.
II
Vla.
(opt.
Vln III)
Vc.
Cb.
Opt. Pno.

About **The Leaders and Best**

The Leaders and Best is a four part march. The top two parts are violin I and II, and the third part can be either violin III or viola (or both). The bass part is doubled in octaves between the cello and bass. An optional piano part also serves as a condensed conductor score.

The composition is standard march with a repeated first and second strain and a repeated trio. All parts should strive to play in a lively, accented march style. The changes in dynamics are very important to produce an overall musical effect.

The Leaders and Best takes its inspiration from a line in the words of the great fight song of The University of Michigan, "The Victors", written by Louis Elbel in 1898.

Hail! to the victors valiant
Hail! to the conqu'ring heroes
Hail! Hail! to Michigan
the leaders and best

Hail! to the victors valiant
Hail! to the conqu'ring heroes
Hail! Hail! to Michigan,
the champions of the West!

About **Michael Pratt**

Michael Pratt studied composition with Pulitzer Prize winning composers Ross Lee Finney and Leslie Bassett at The University of Michigan. He has taught music in the public schools for many years in Michigan.

He has sung with The Toledo Choral Society, Toledo Symphony Chorale, Opera!Lenawee, and The University Musical Society Choral Union of The University of Michigan with whom he has performed with The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, The San Francisco Symphony, The Russian National Orchestra, The Ann Arbor Symphony, The Lansing Symphony, The Grand Rapids Symphony, The Toledo Symphony, The Birmingham, Symphony, The Gabrieli Consort, and The Tallis Scholars.

He has played tuba with The Toledo Symphony, Toledo Concert Band, Toledo Opera, University of Toledo Faculty Brass Quintet, Adrian Chamber Brass, Adrian College Faculty Brass Quintet, and since 1981 with the Adrian Symphony Orchestra.