Jason V. Barabba

Short Symphony

for String Orchestra

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Movements

1. Slow Things
2. ...so anyway, I sez to Mabel, I sez...
3. A Suffusion of Yellow

Duration - Approximately 9 Minutes

Composer's Explanation:

"…so anyway, I sez to Mabel, I sez.." is quote from an early episode of The Simpsons. It's basically filler dialogue between Bart and Lisa that only exists so that they can be interrupted by Homer for a plot point. Once the plot point is delivered, Bart returns to "so anyway, I sez to Mabel…" before the scene comes to an end. This movement, while not by any means "filler" is though a kind of chatty, gossipy movement between the string sections, built into a complicated and palindromatic pattern.

" The final movement "A Suffusion of Yellow" is named after the I Ching Calculator in Douglas Adams fine novel *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency*. The calculator:

> …functioned as an ordinary calculator, but only to a limited degree. It could handle any calculation which returned an answer of anything up to "4".'
>
> '"1 + 1" it could manage ("2"), and "1 + 2" ("3") and "2 + 2" ("4") or "tan 74" ("3.4874145"), but anything above "4" it represented merely as "A Suffusion of Yellow". Dirk was not certain if this was a programming error or an insight beyond his ability to fathom, but he was crazy about it anyway, enough to hand over £20 of ready cash for the thing.'

I'm not saying that this movement is full of insight beyond my ability to fathom, but for me it's suggests a slightly profound nature, and a clear sense of something coming to an end. You may also sense the performers' relief at having gotten through the second movement.

Short Symphony for String Orchestra is registered with ASCAP.
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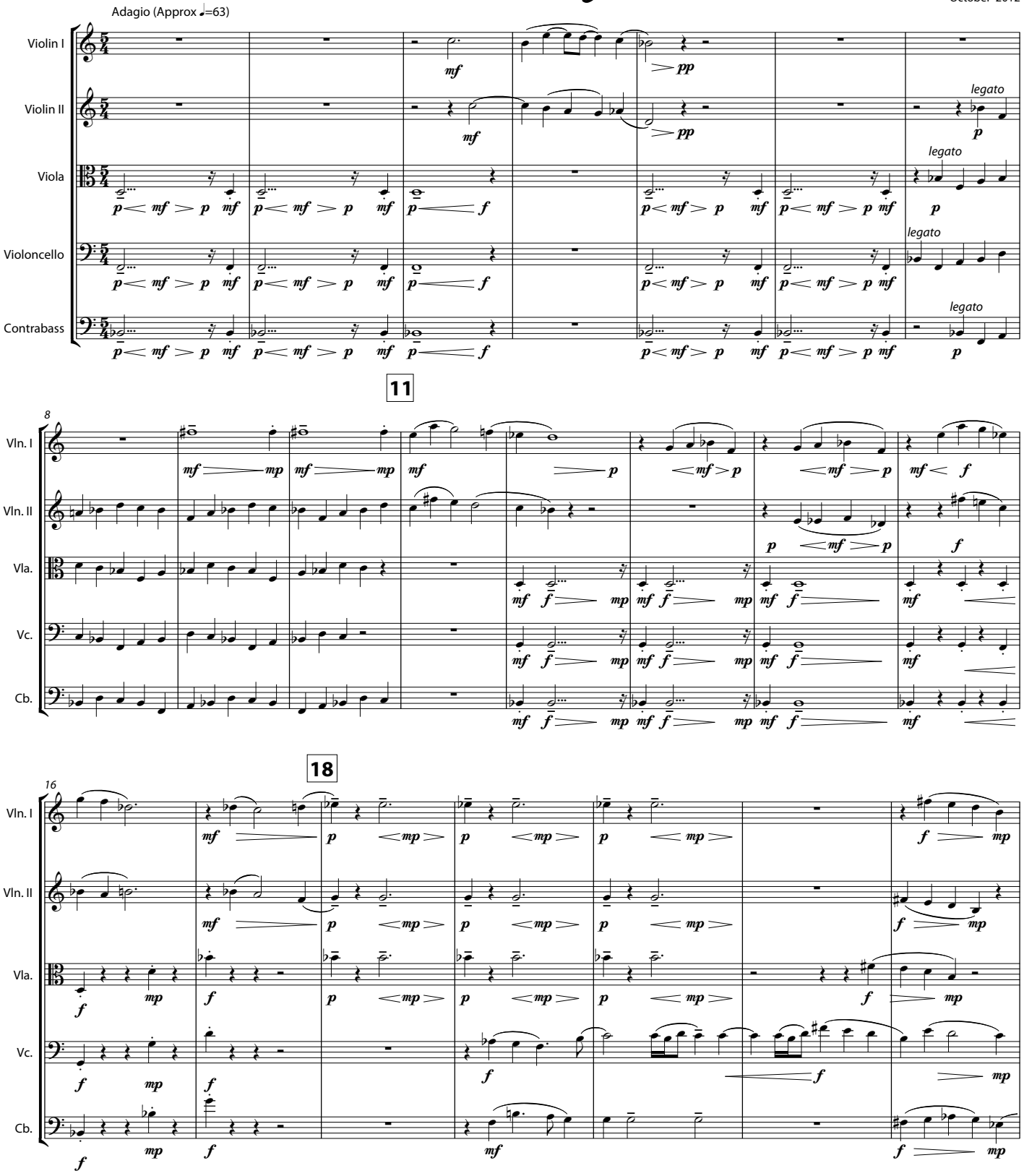
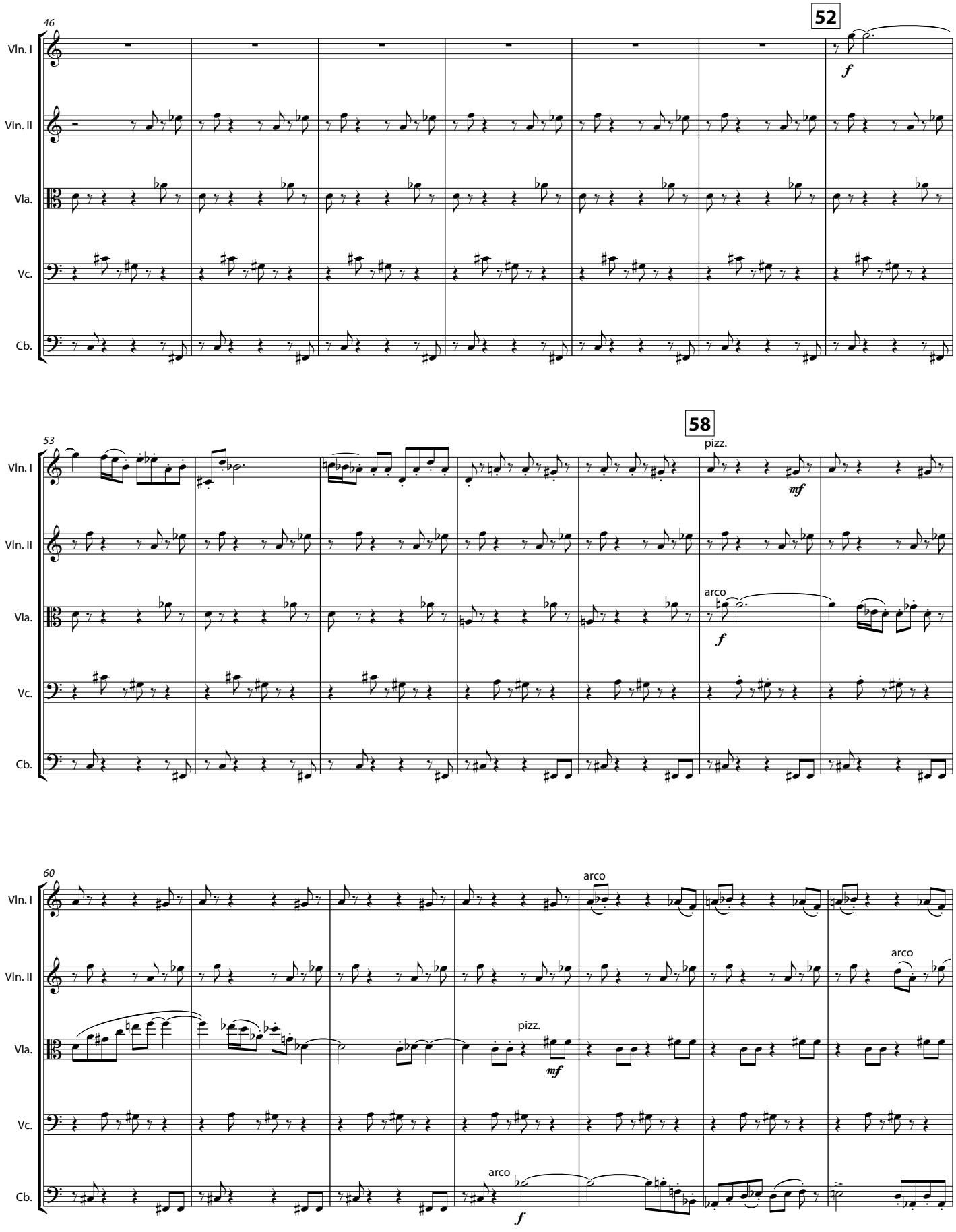
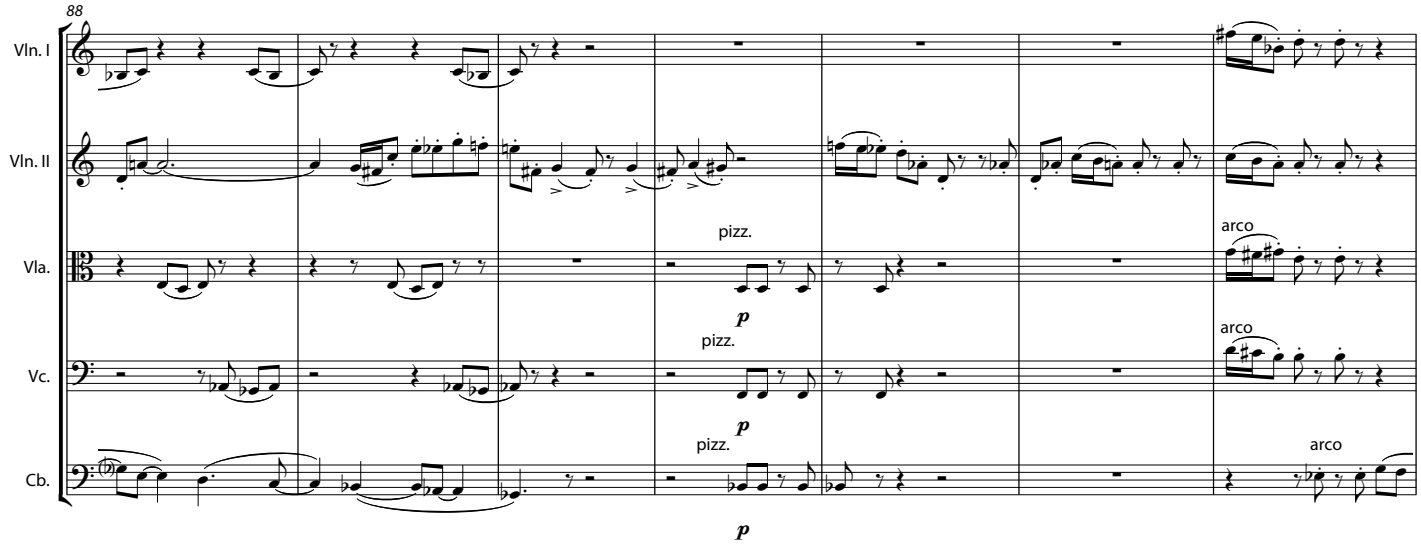
Short Symphony

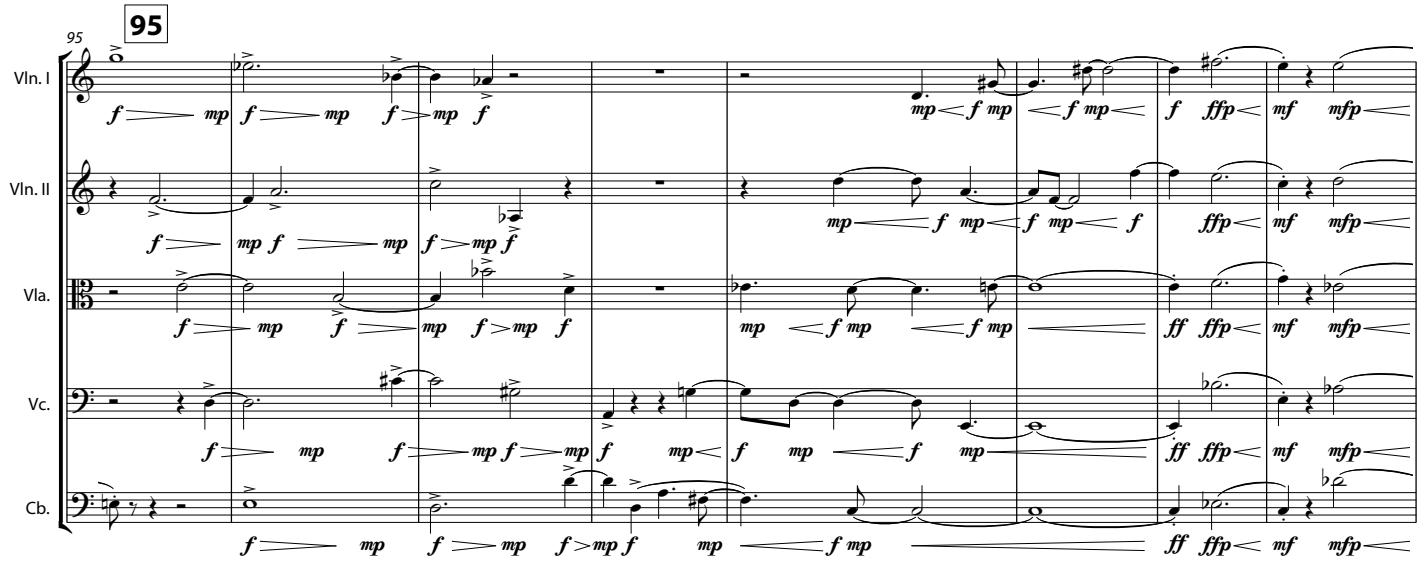
1. Slow Things

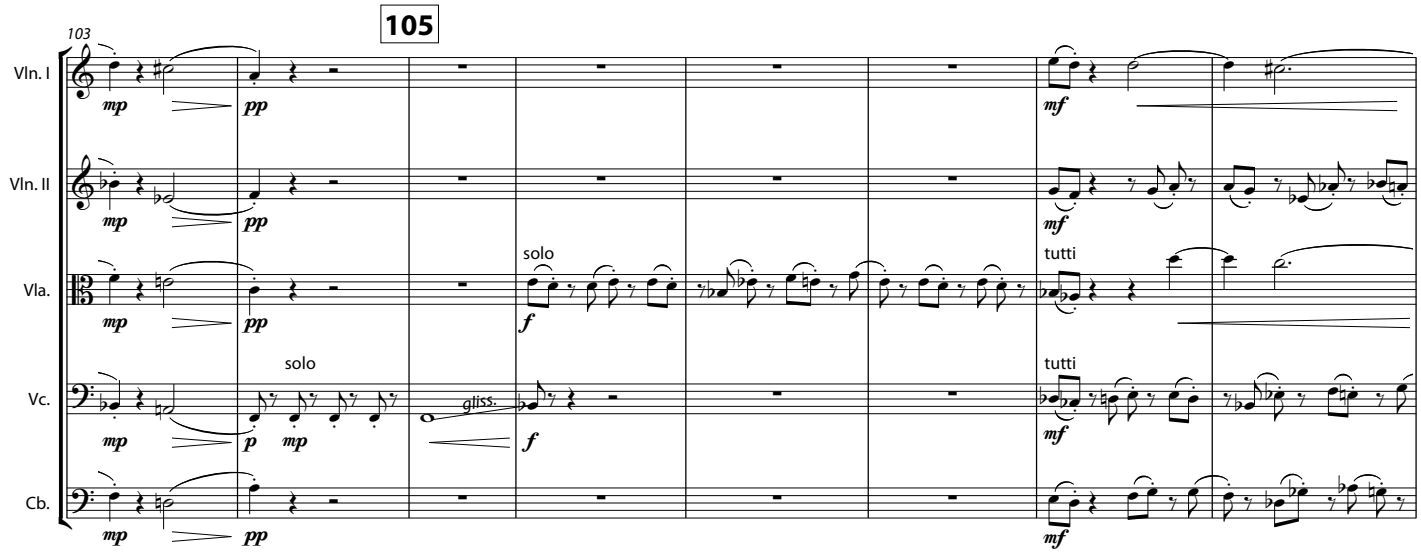
Jason V. Barabba
October 2012

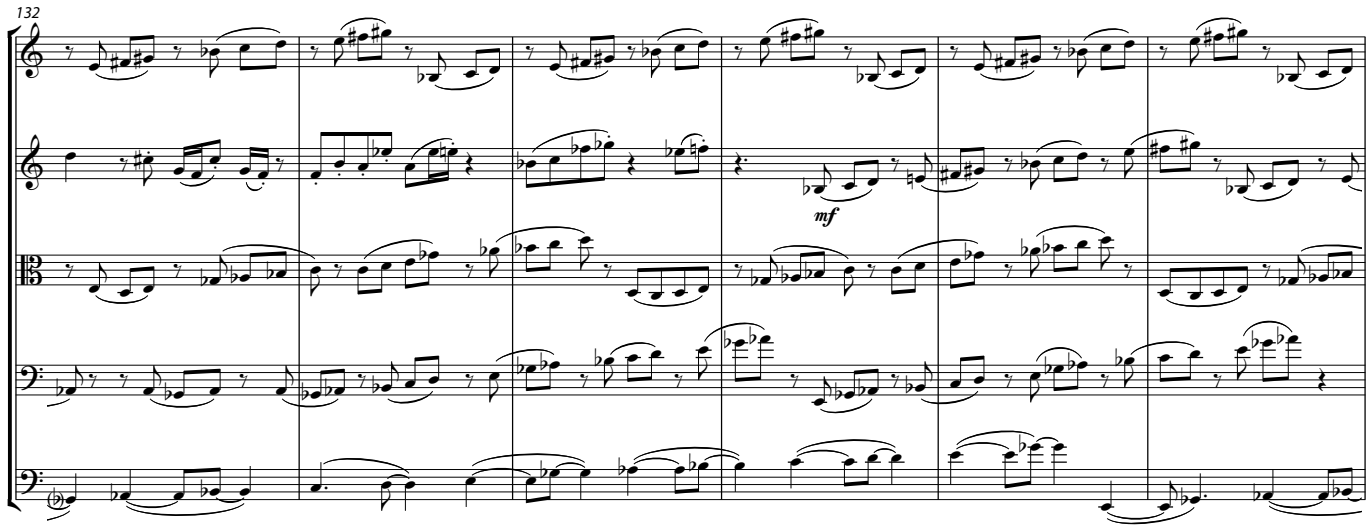


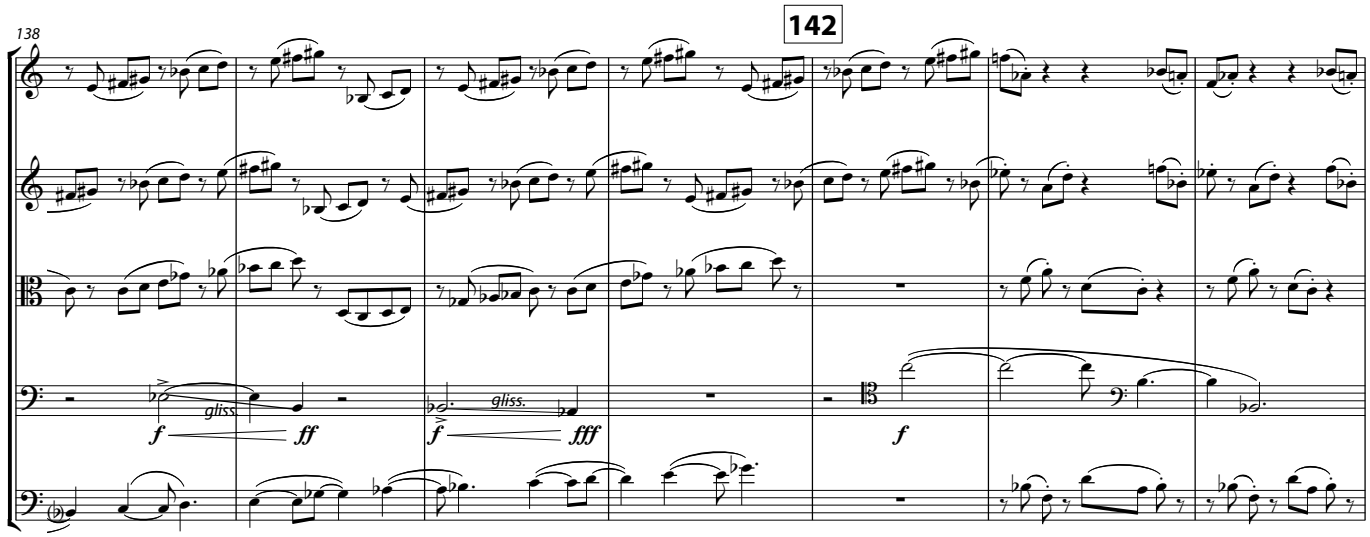

46
52
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
53
58
pizz.
mf
arco
f
60
arco
pizz.
mf
arco
arco
f

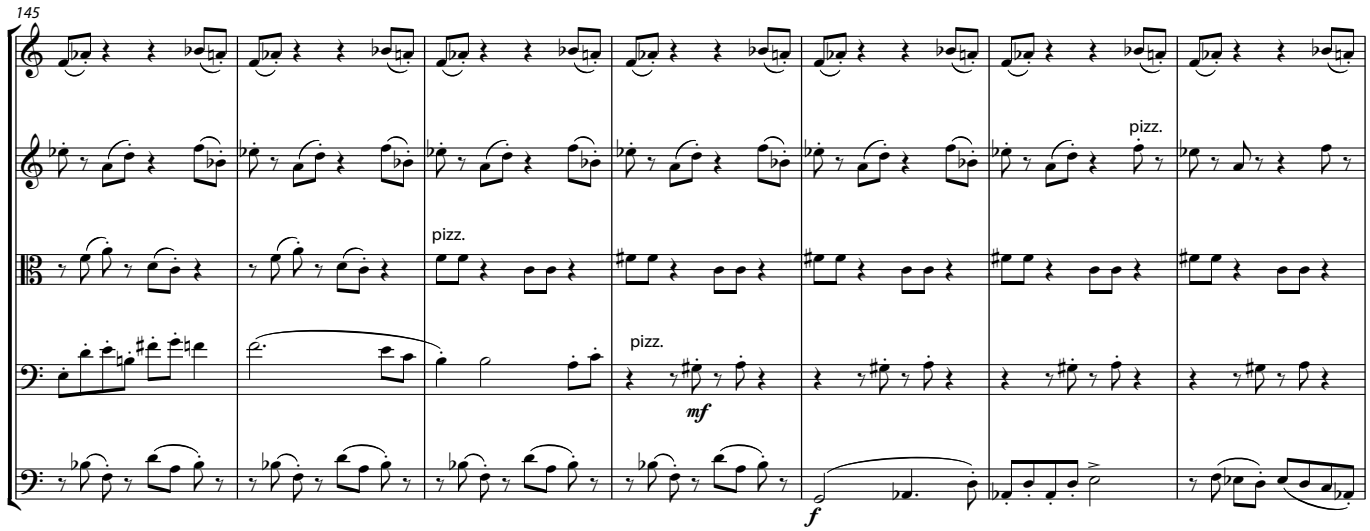

88
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pizz.
arco
p

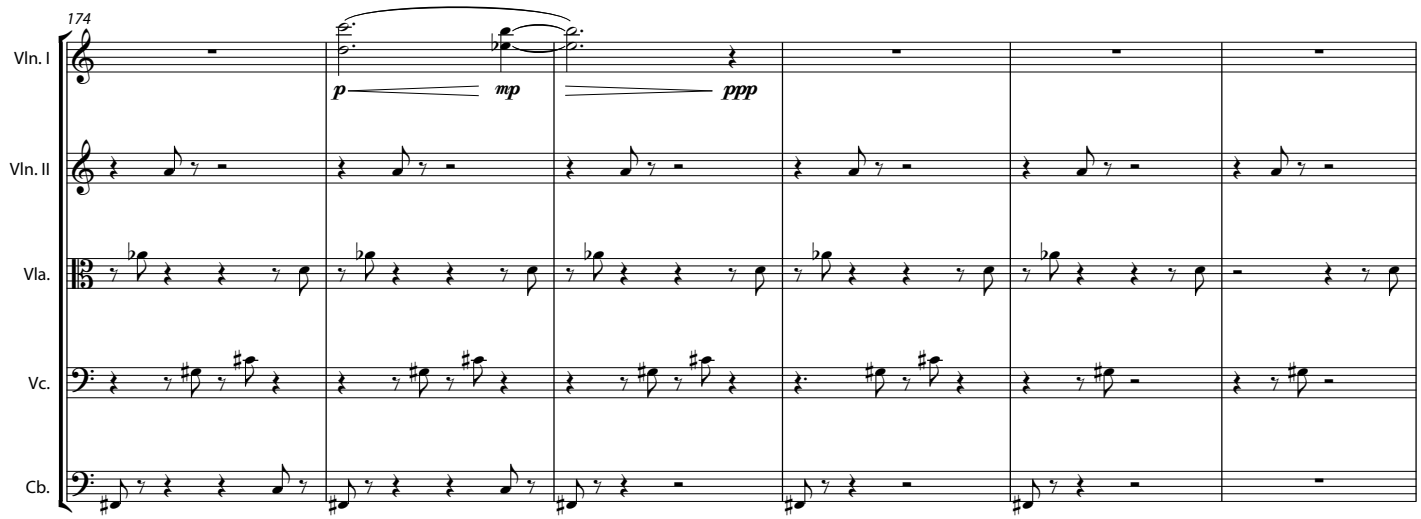

95
95
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
f
mp
ff
ffp
mf
mfp

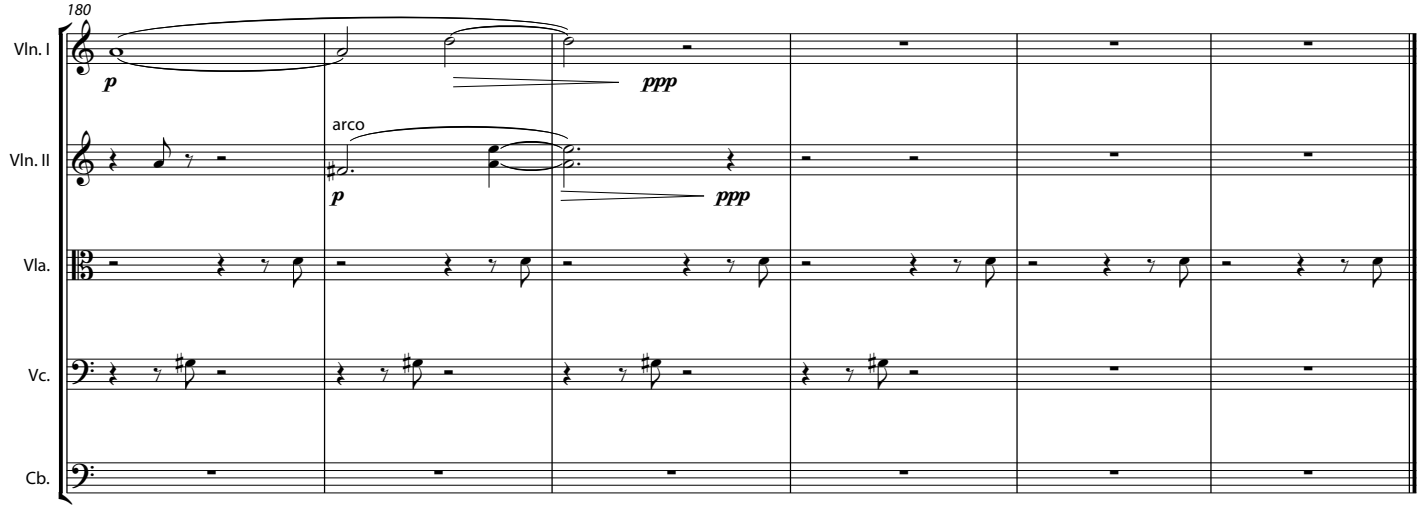

103
105
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
solo
tutti
gliss.
mp
pp
f
mf


132
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf

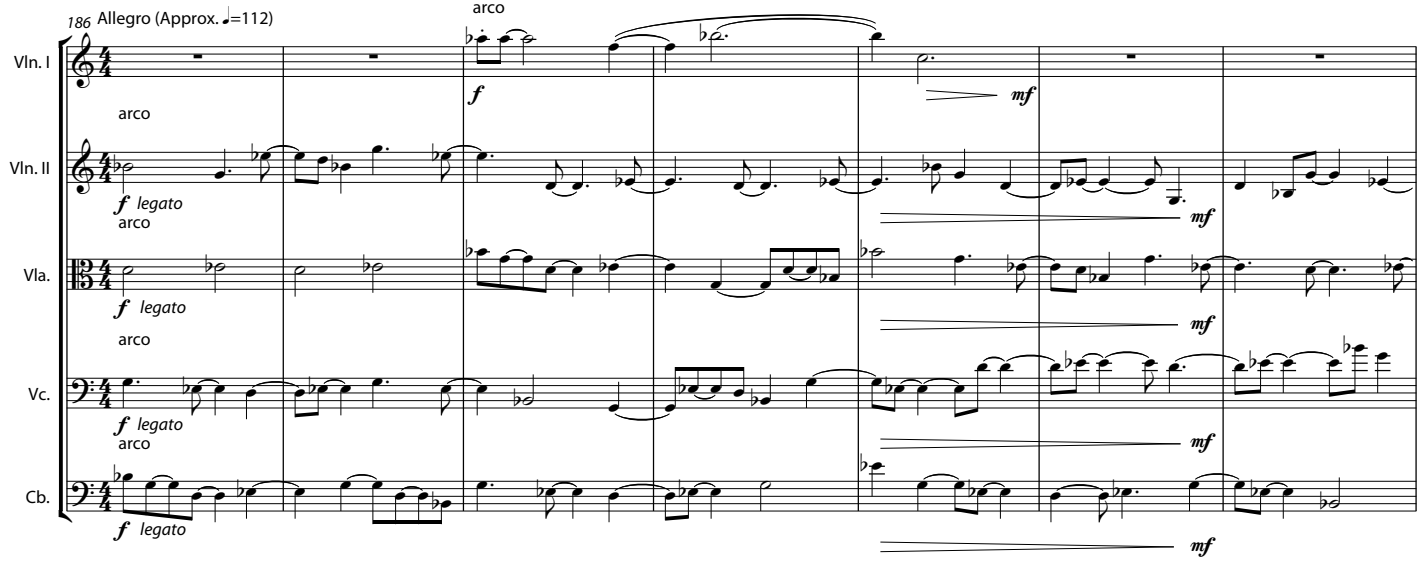

138
142
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
gliss.
gliss.
f
ff
f
fff
f

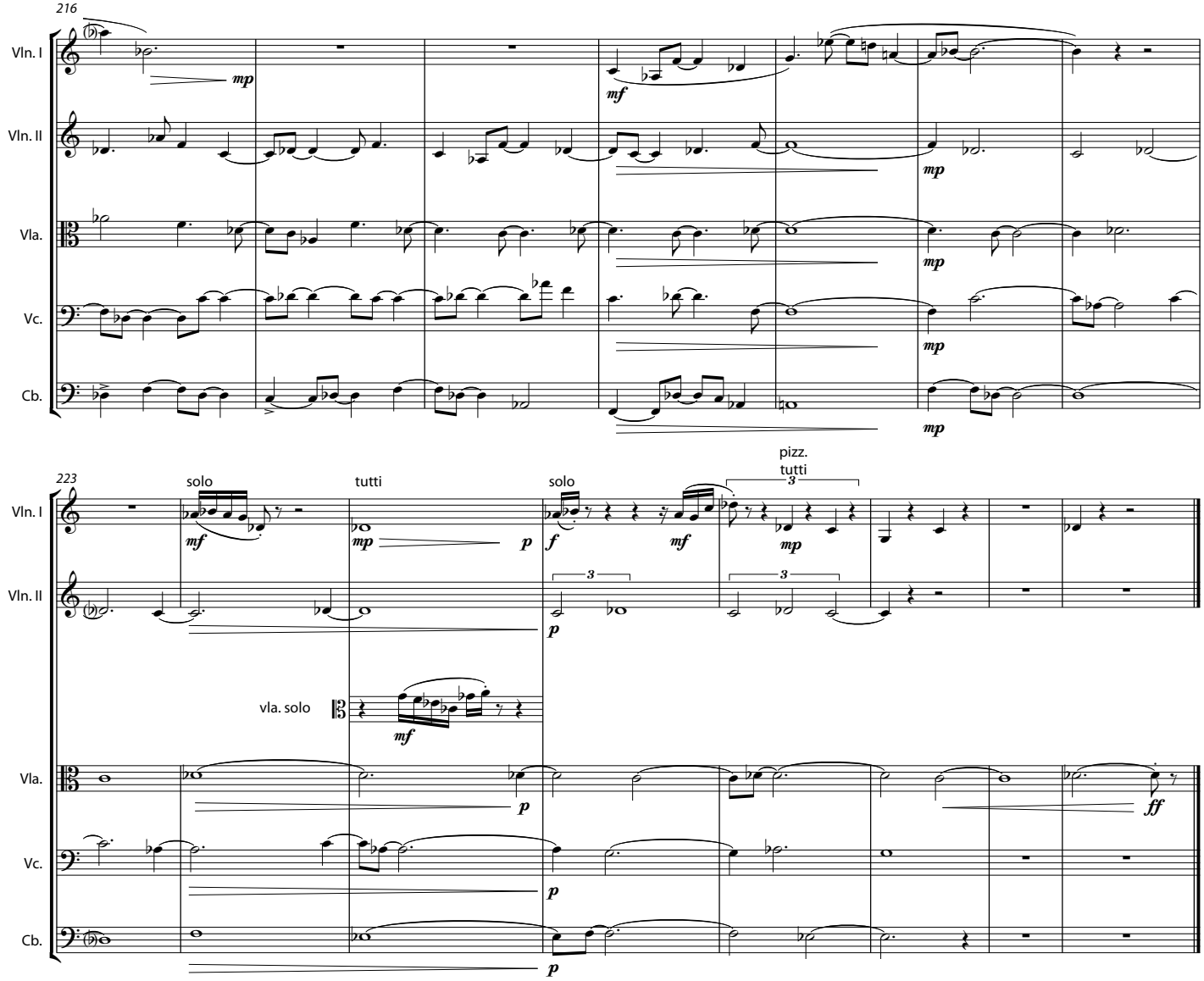

145
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
mf
f





3. A Suffusion of Yellow




216
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
mf
mp
mp
mp
223
solo
tutti
solo
pizz.
tutti
3
Vln. I
Vln. II
mf
mp
p
f
mf
mp
3
3
p
vla. solo
mf
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
p
p
p
ff