Israel Lai (2019)

Blindspot

for chamber ensemble and video

Blindspot is a collaboration between the composer and a video artist for the ANIMA project at Oxford, starting from scratch to craft a work that truly belongs to both creators. The video is shot in the woods through a convex mirror to present an alternate reality. Since it is so easy to overlook details in a repetitive landscape like a woodland, the convex mirror is treated as a special lens, through which to observe minute things and motions in this environment. At the same time, the distorted imagery inside the mirror, combined with the music, makes the audience question what they are looking at, and how real it is. The music alternates between a calm flow and an unsettling atmosphere, including an extended microtonal passage that takes the listener away from reality.

Markers describing certain events in the video are provided in the score for syncing purposes.

Blindspot was premiered on 31 May 2019 in the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building by the ANIMA ensemble, conducted by Chris Roe.

Instrumentation

flute
alto saxophone
pedal harp
2 violins
viola
cello

Score in C

Performance notes

Harp harmonics are notated at the sounding pitch.

Quarter-tones are notated using arrows; players may treat entire phrases or sections as transposed up or down a quarter-tone, in order to aid performance.

Blindspot

Video: Willow Senior

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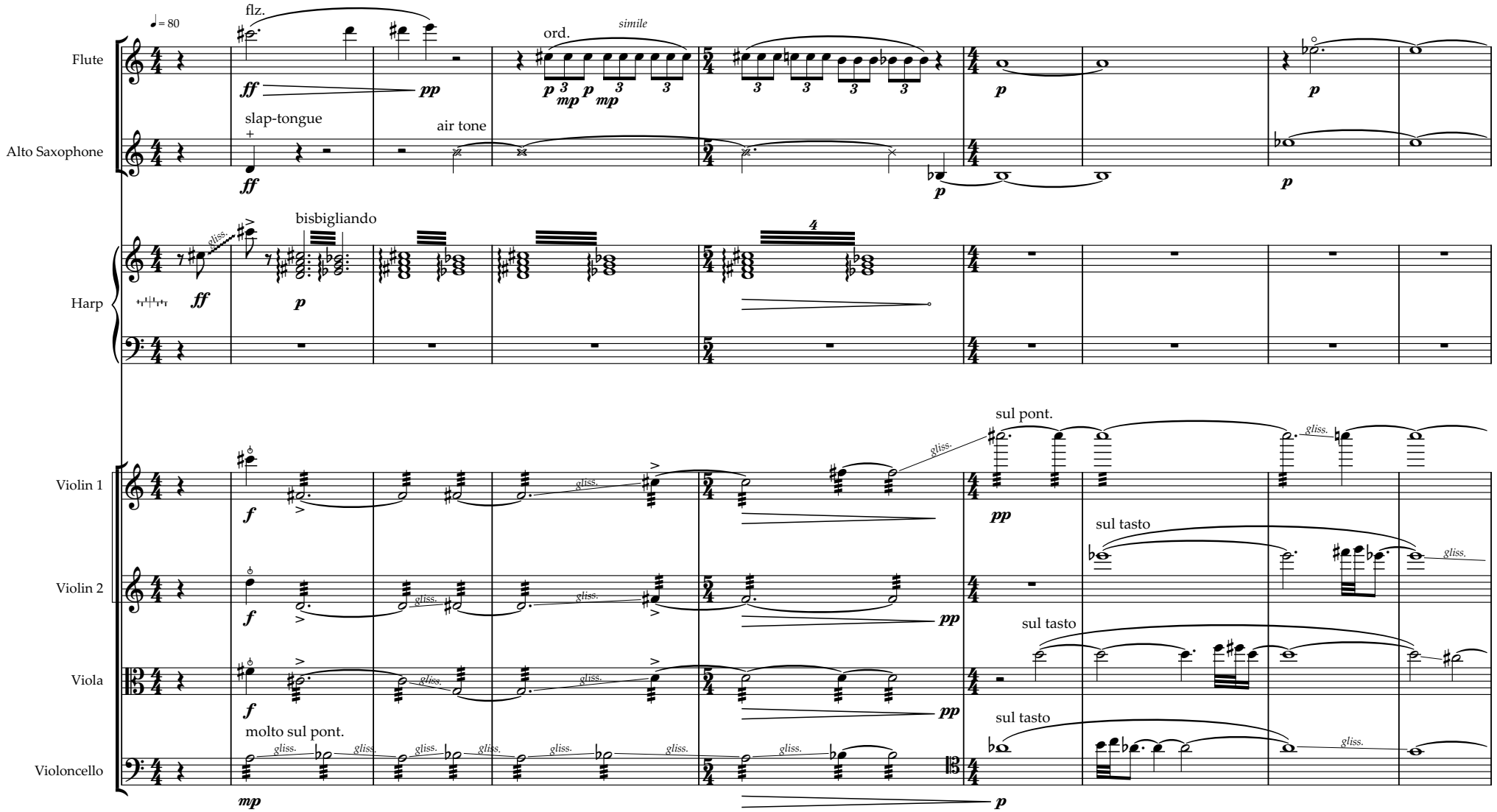
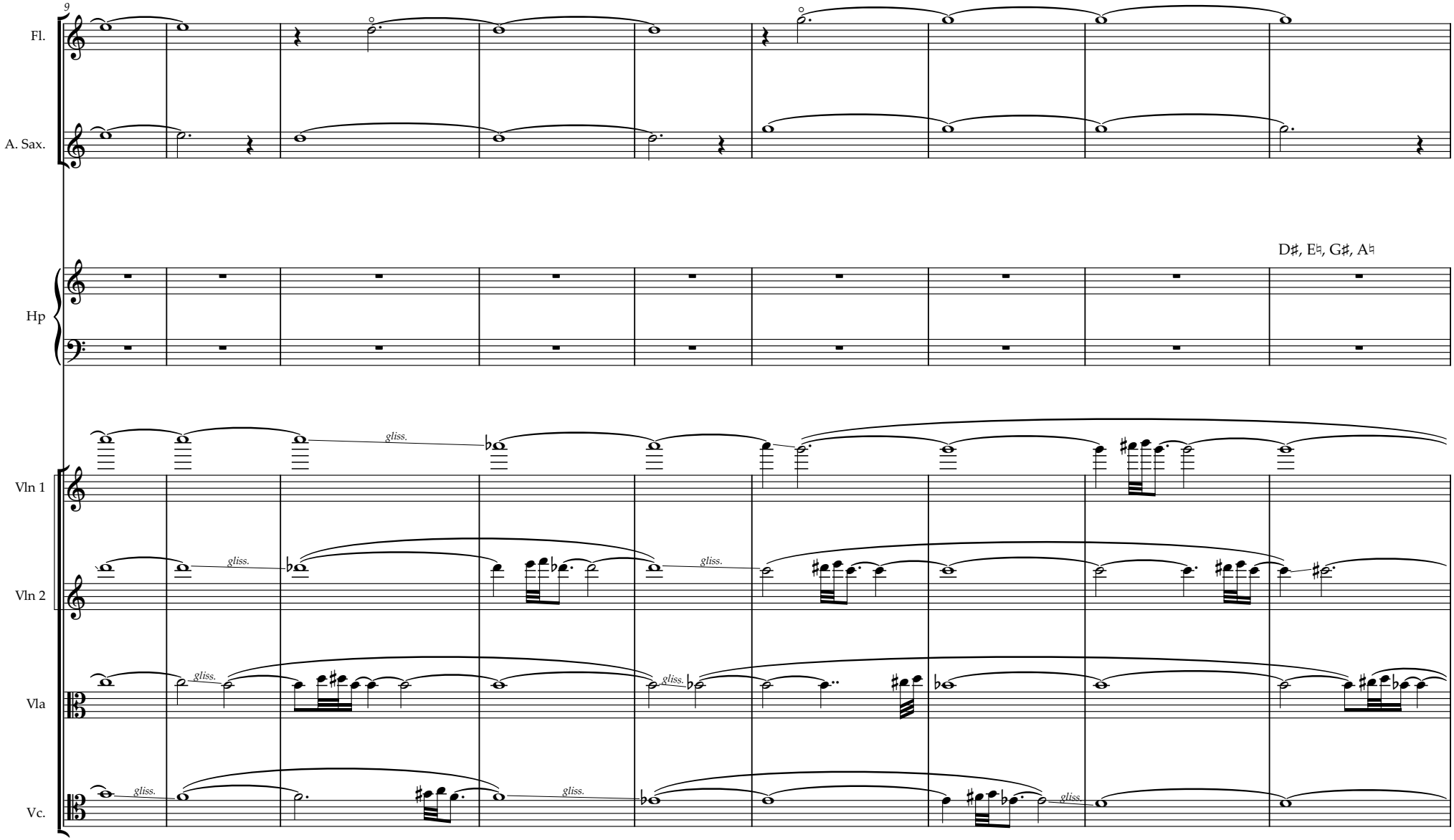
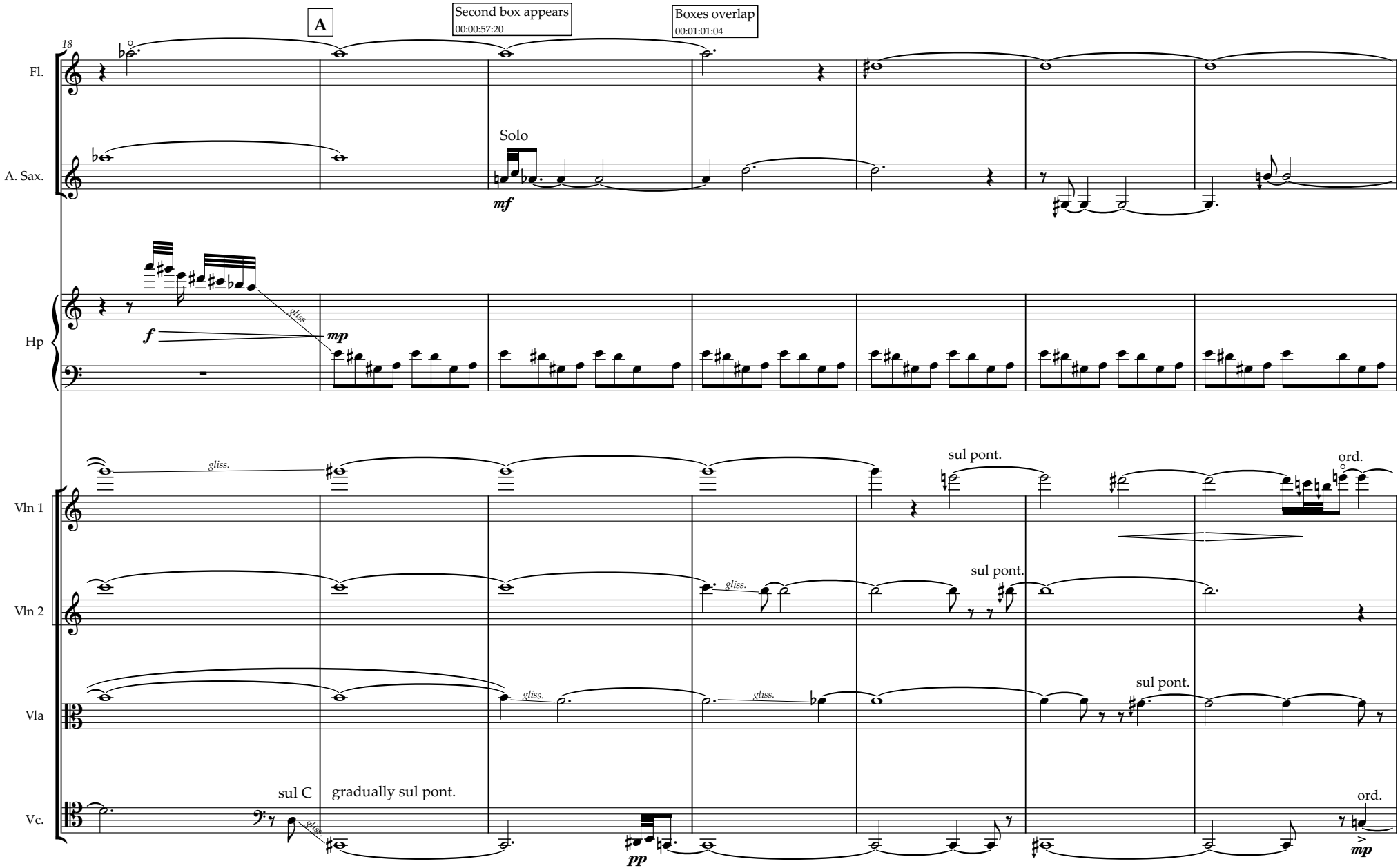
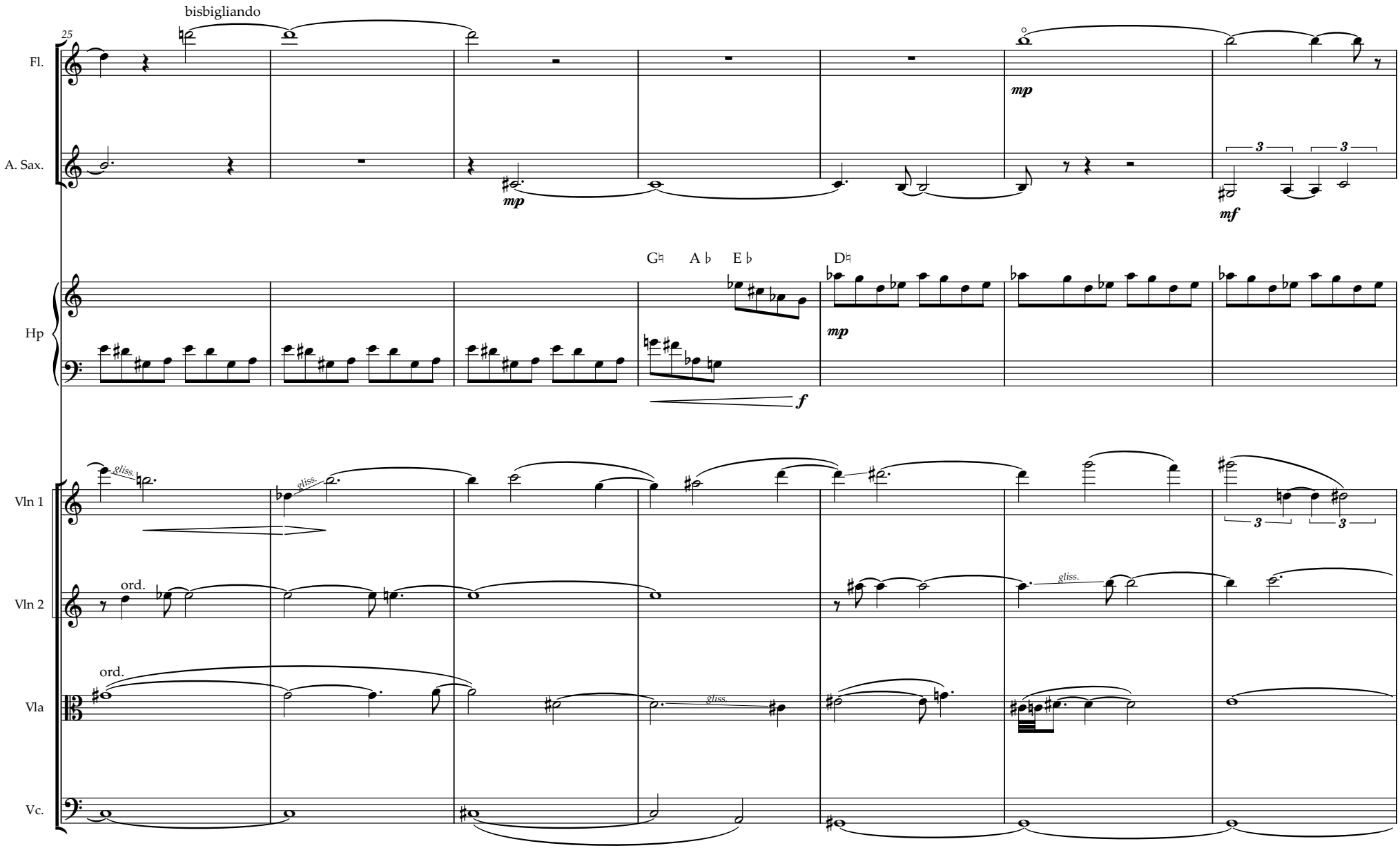
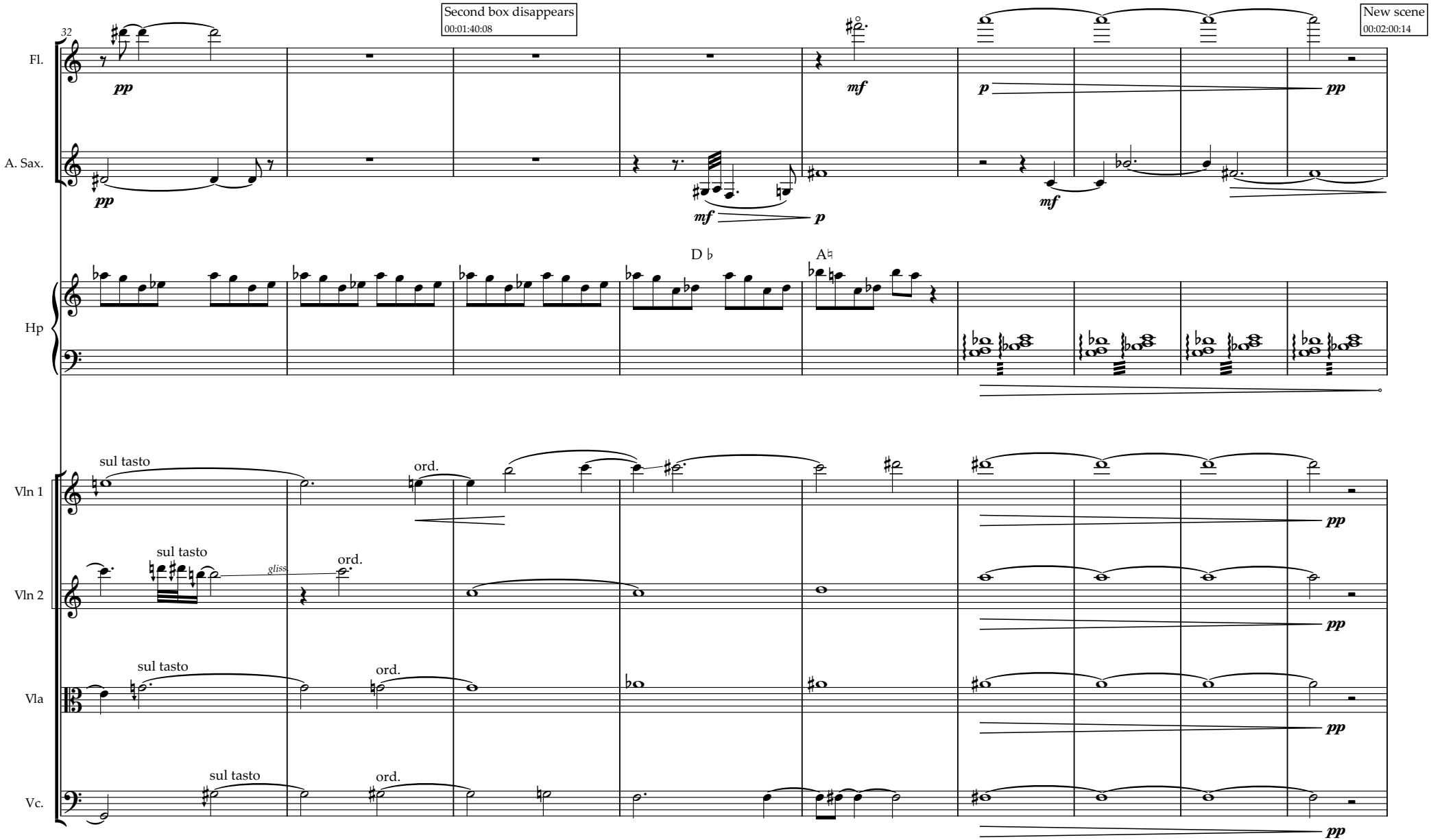
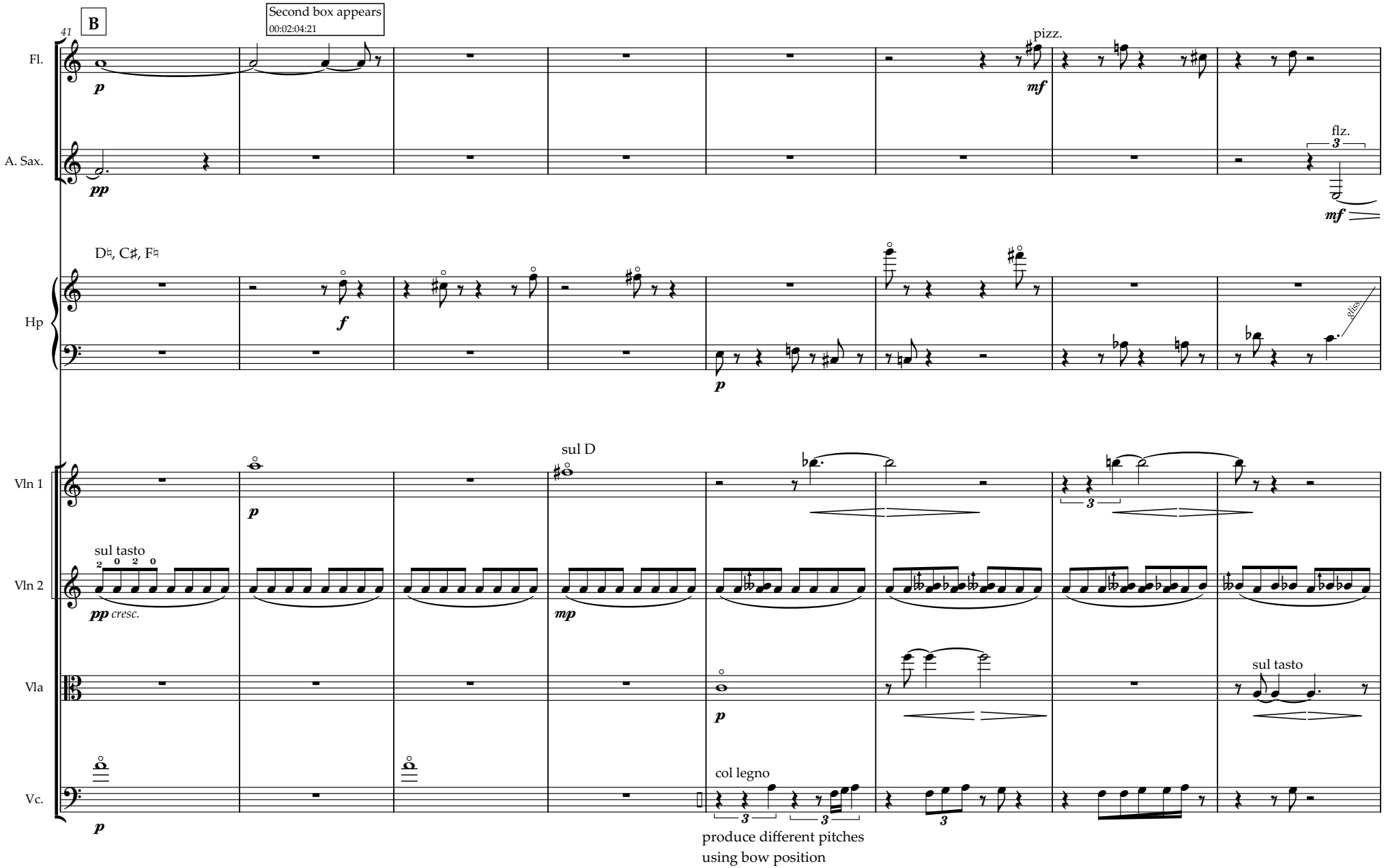


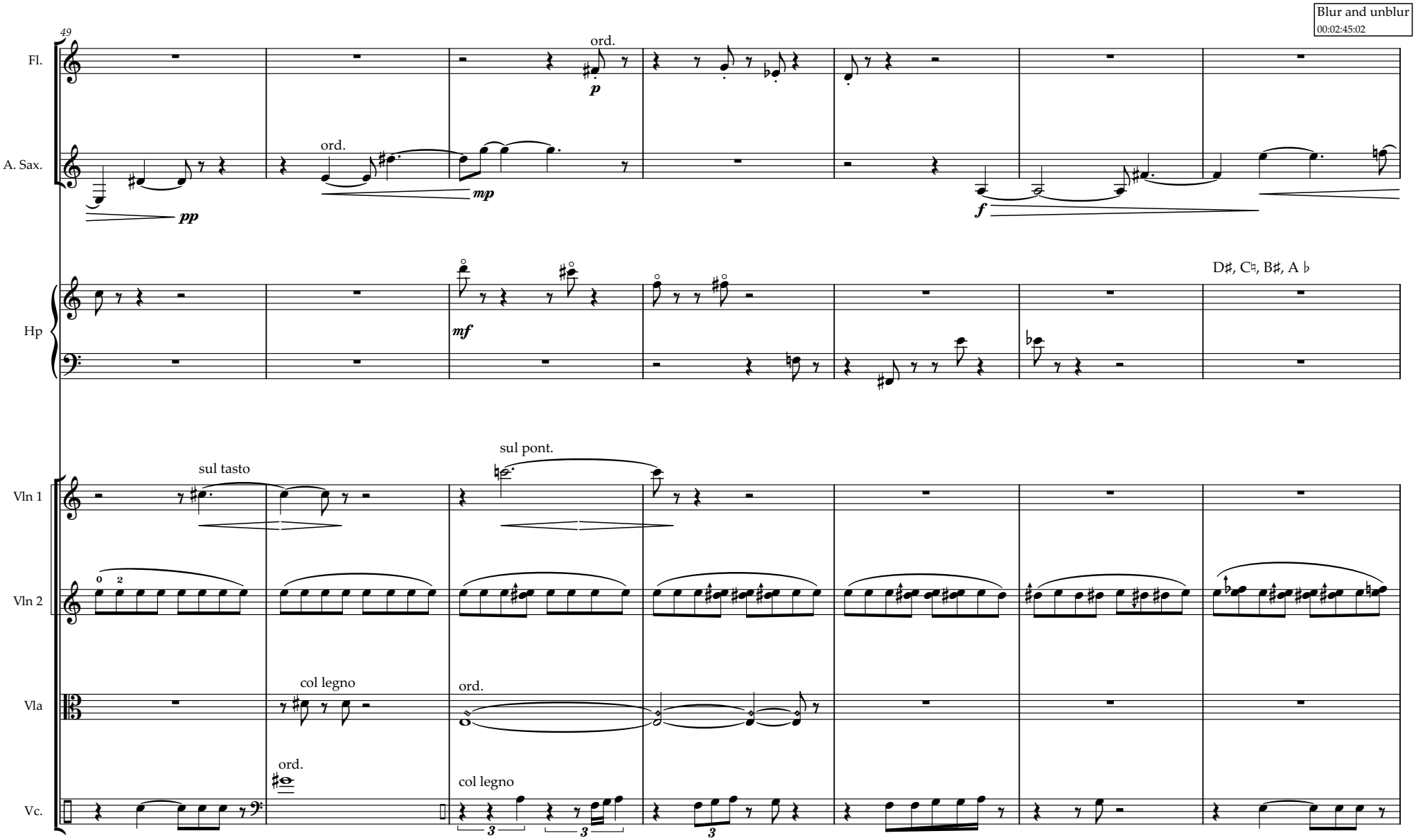

9
Fl.
A. Sax.
D♯, E♮, G♯, A♮
Hp
Vln 1
Vln 2
Vla
Vc.
gliss.

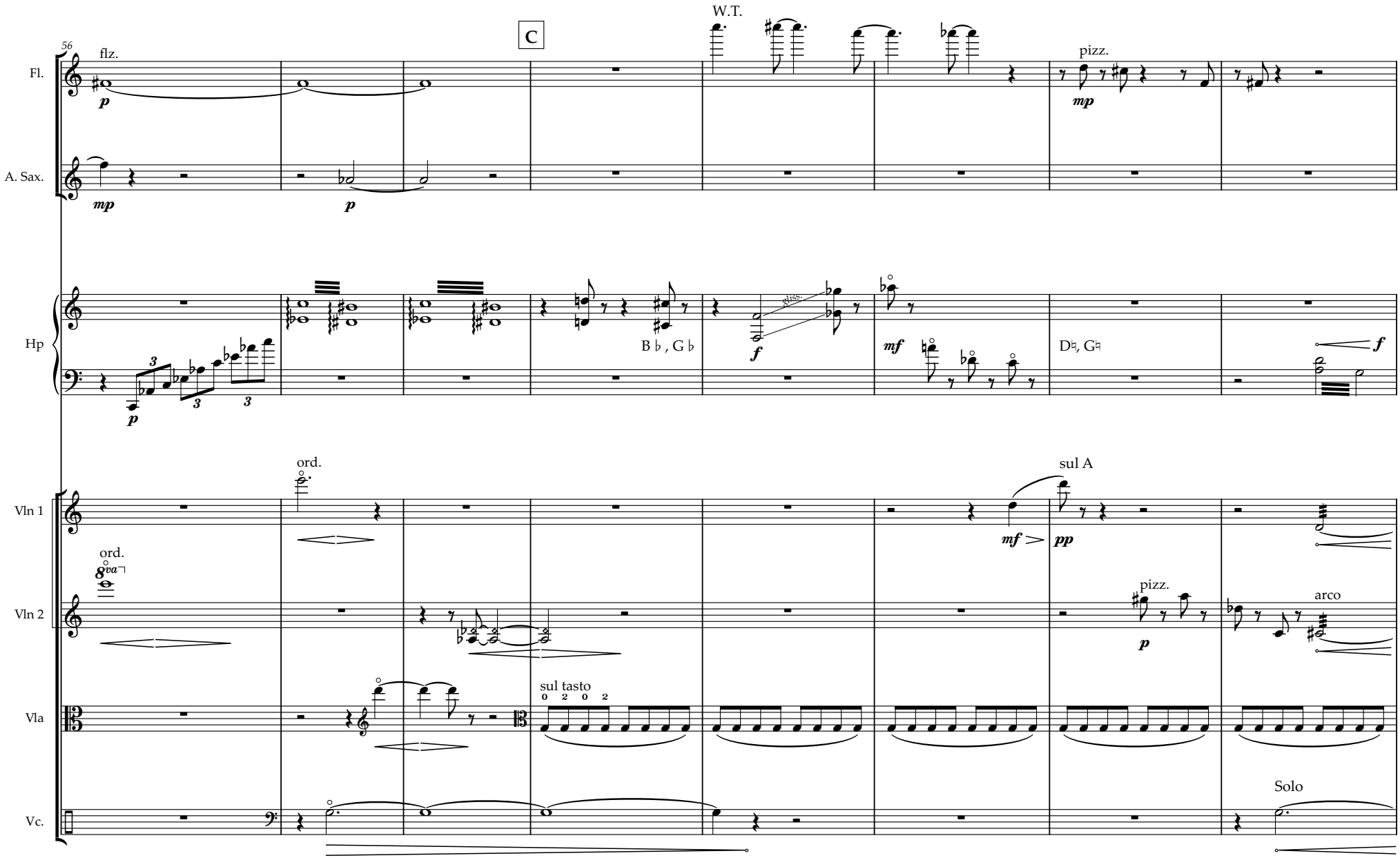

A
Second box appears
00:00:57:20
Boxes overlap
00:01:01:04
18
Fl.
A. Sax.
Solo
mf
Hp
f
mp
gliss.
Vln 1
Vln 2
Vla
Vc.
sul pont.
ord.
sul C
gradually sul pont.
pp

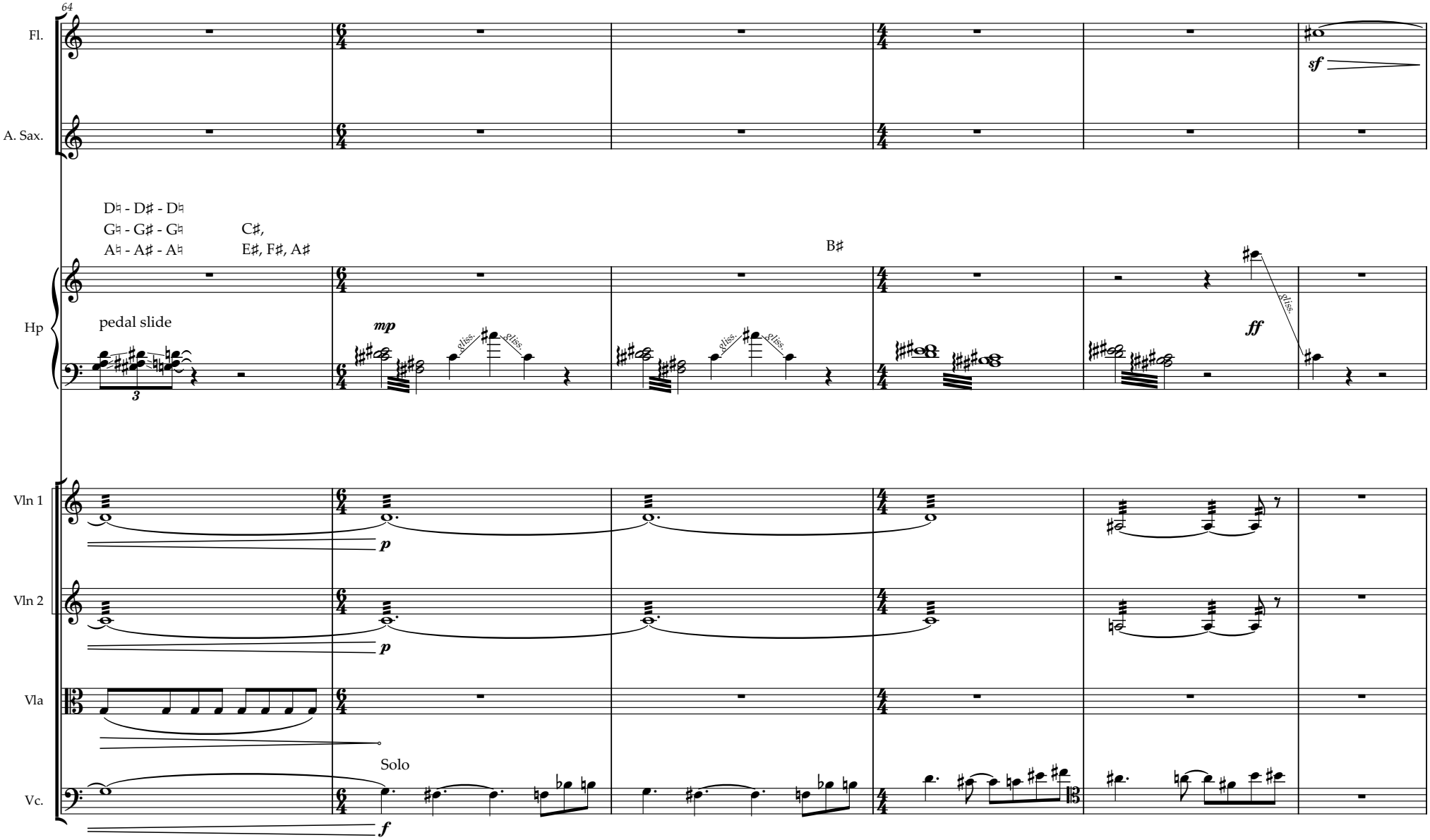

bisbigliando
25
Fl.
A. Sax.
Hp
Vln 1
Vln 2
Vla
Vc.
mp
mf
f
G♮ A♭ E♭ D♮
gliss.
ord.
3

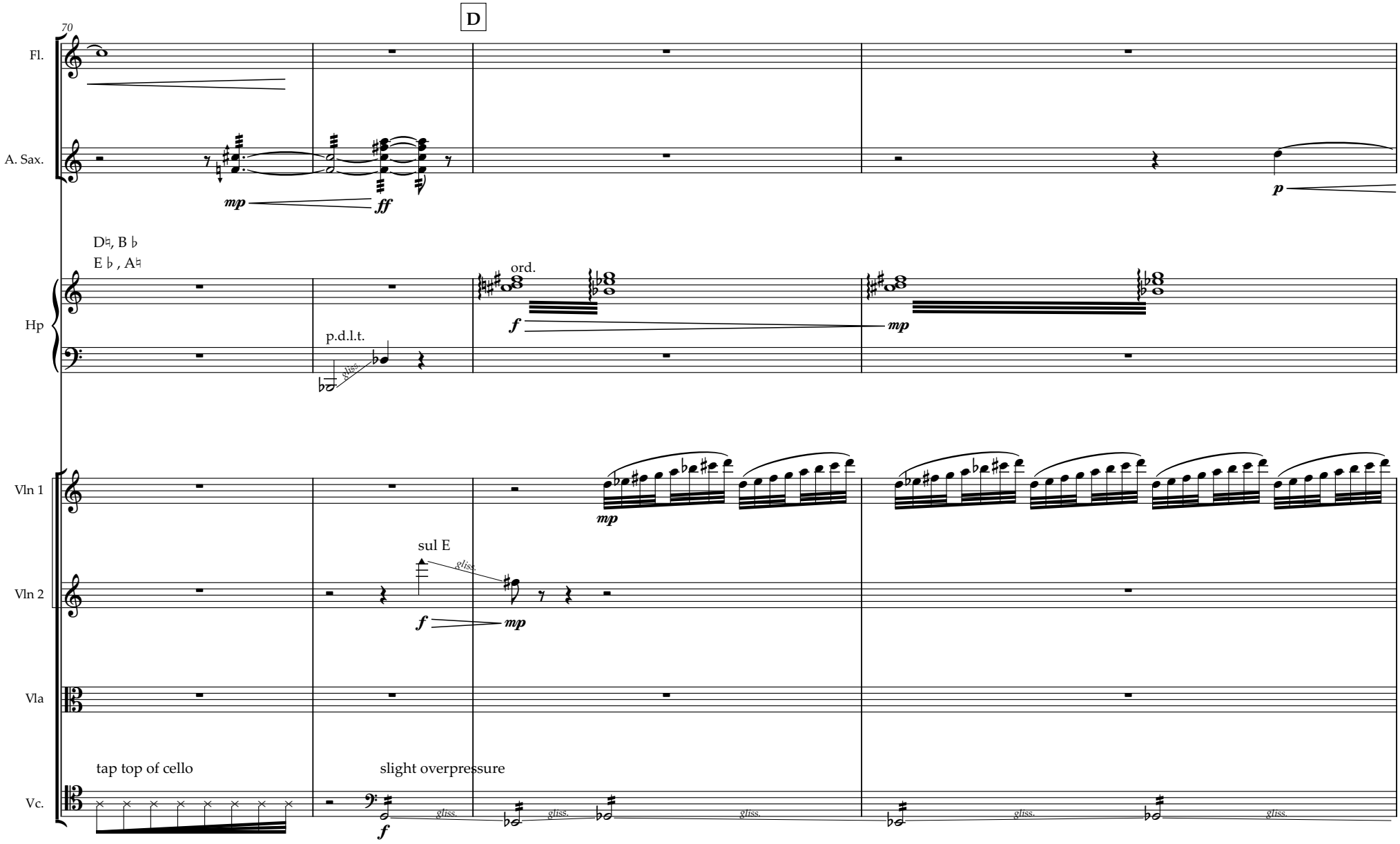

32
Second box disappears
00:01:40:08
New scene
00:02:00:14
Fl.
A. Sax.
Hp
Vln 1
Vln 2
Vla
Vc.
pp
mf
p
D ♭
A♮
sul tasto
ord.
gliss

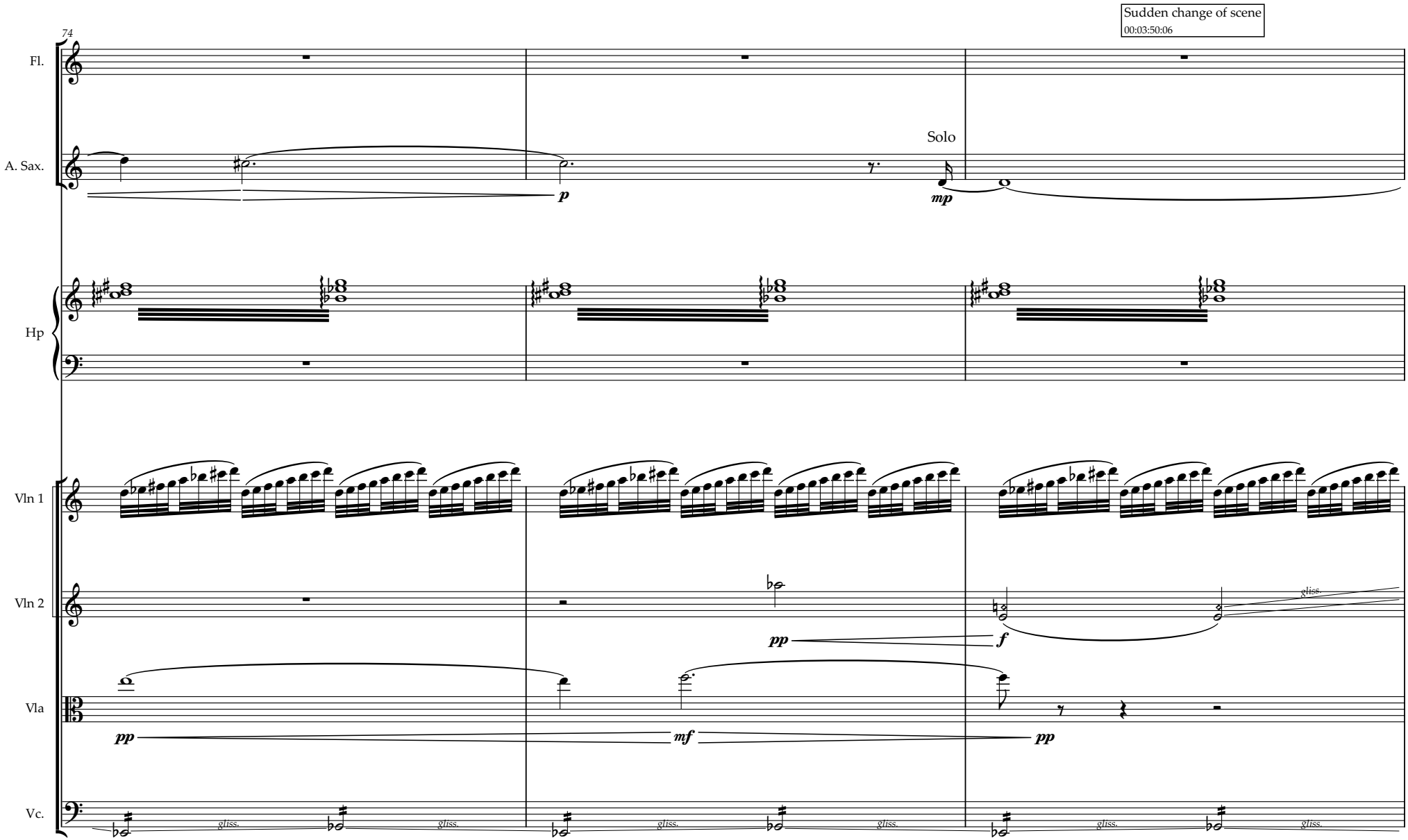

41
B
Second box appears
00:02:04:21
Fl.
A. Sax.
Hp
Vln 1
Vln 2
Vla
Vc.
p
pp
f
mf
mp
pizz.
flz.
gliss.
D♮, C♯, F♮
sul D
sul tasto
pp cresc.
col legno
produce different pitches
using bow position

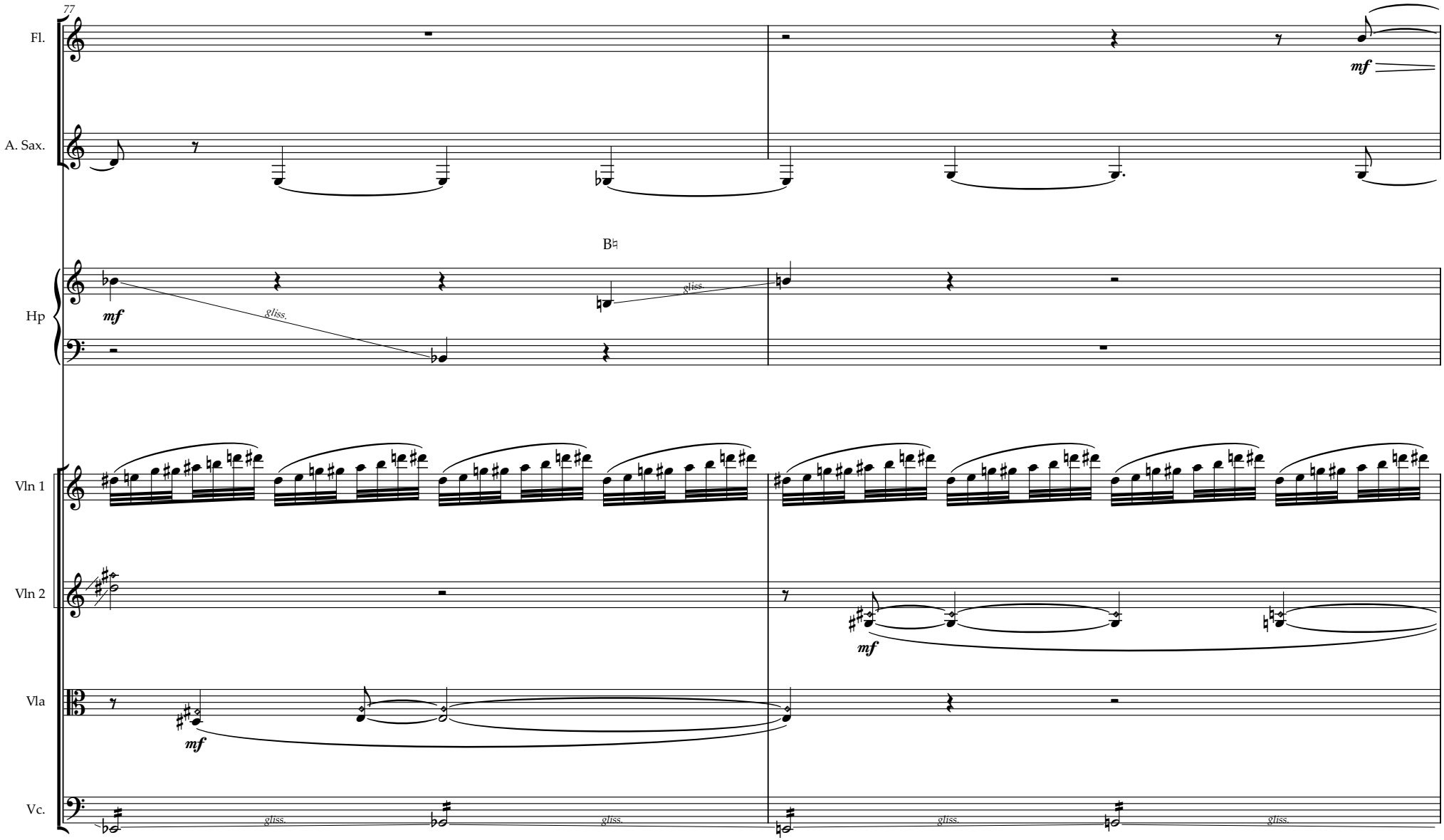

Blur and unblur
00:02:45:02
49
Fl.
ord.
p
A. Sax.
ord.
pp
mp
f
Hp
mf
D♯, C♮, B♯, A ♭
Vln 1
sul tasto
sul pont.
Vln 2
0 2
Vla
col legno
ord.
Vc.
ord.
col legno
3
3
3

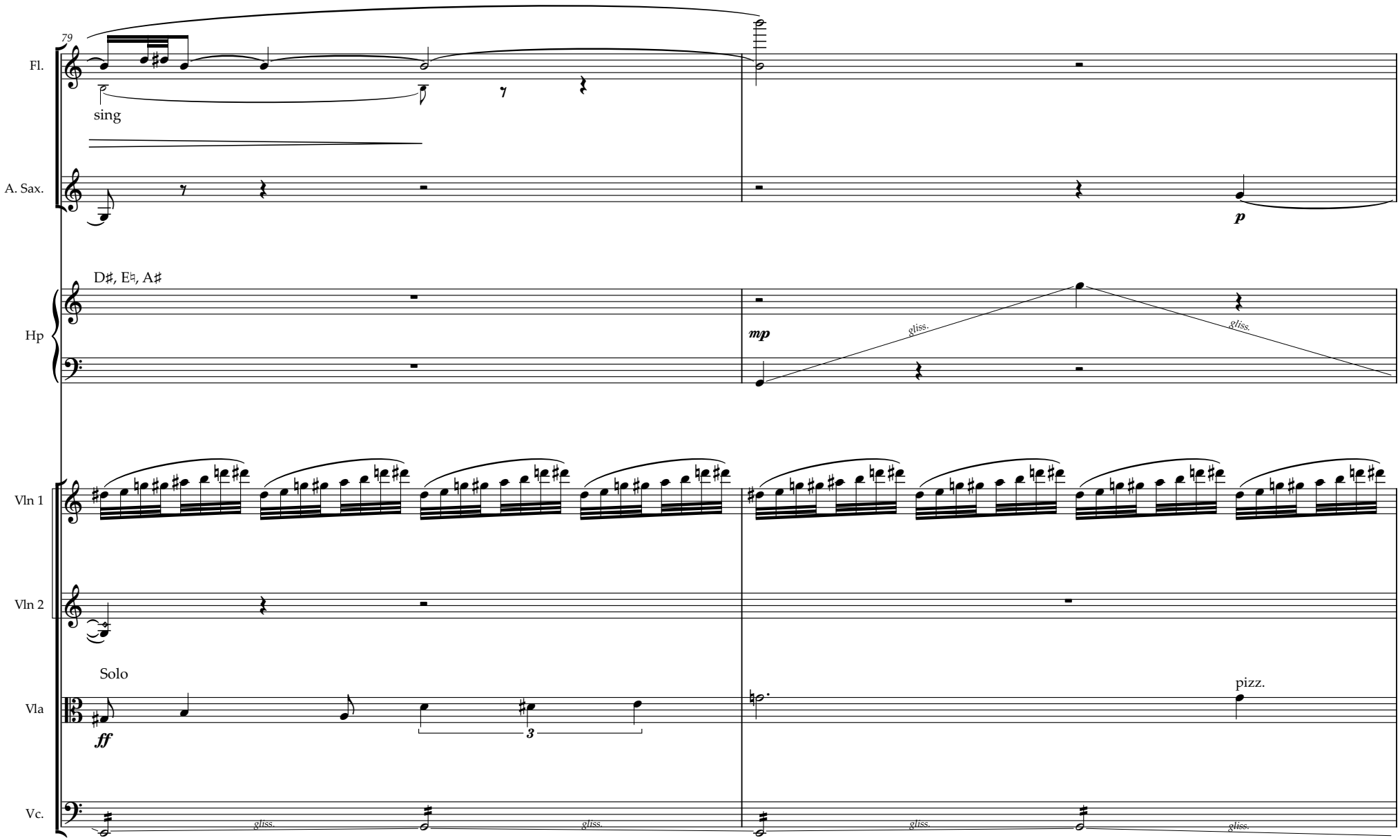

56
C
W.T.
flz.
pizz.
Fl.
A. Sax.
Hp
B♭, G♭
D♮, G♮
ord.
sul A
Vln 1
ord.
8va
pizz.
arco
Vln 2
sul tasto
0 2 0 2
Vla
Solo
Vc.

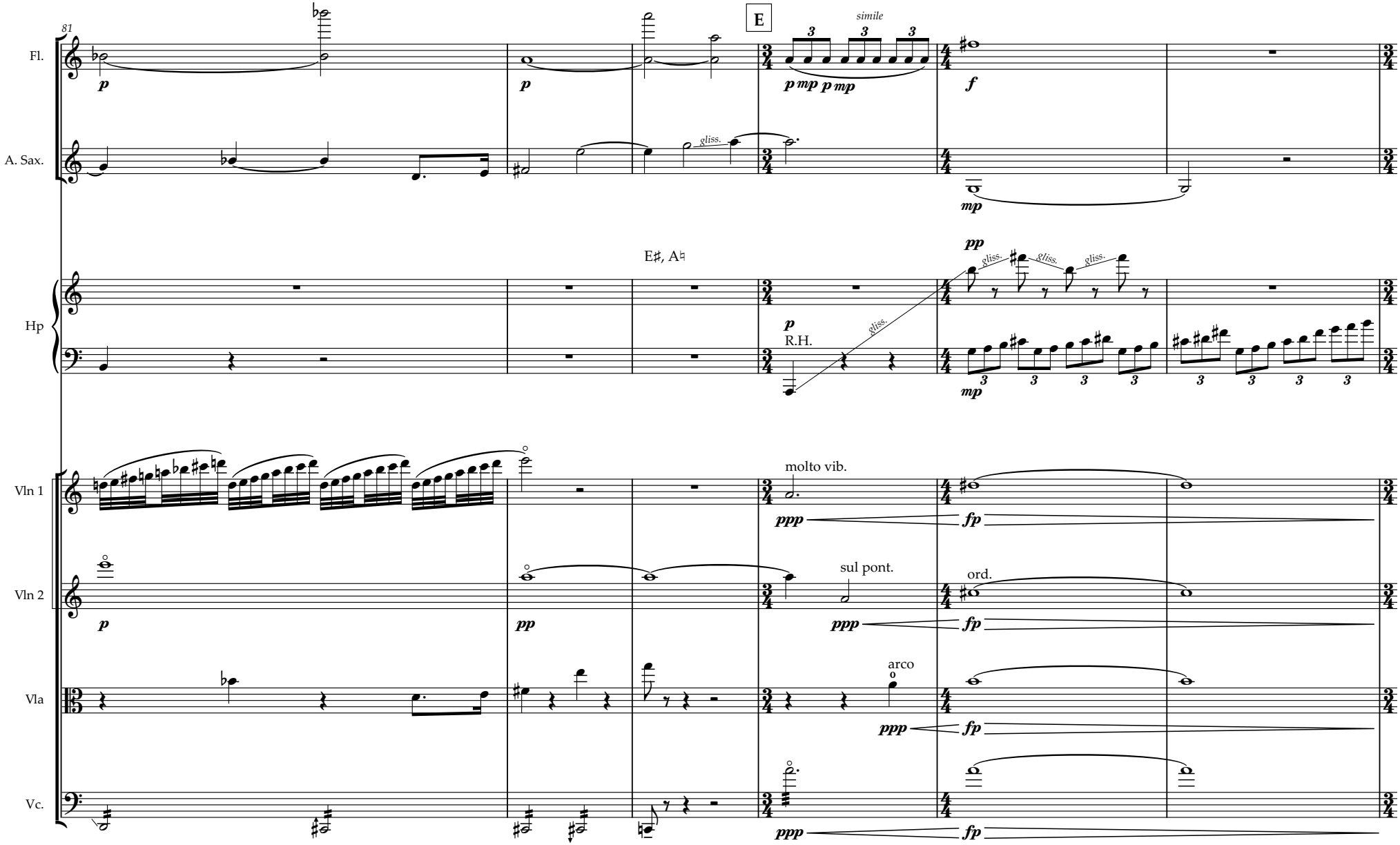

64
Fl.
A. Sax.
sf
D♮ - D♯ - D♮
G♮ - G♯ - G♮
A♮ - A♯ - A♮
C♯,
E♯, F♯, A♯
B♯
Hp
pedal slide
mp
gliss.
ff
Vln 1
p
Vln 2
Vla
Solo
Vc.
f

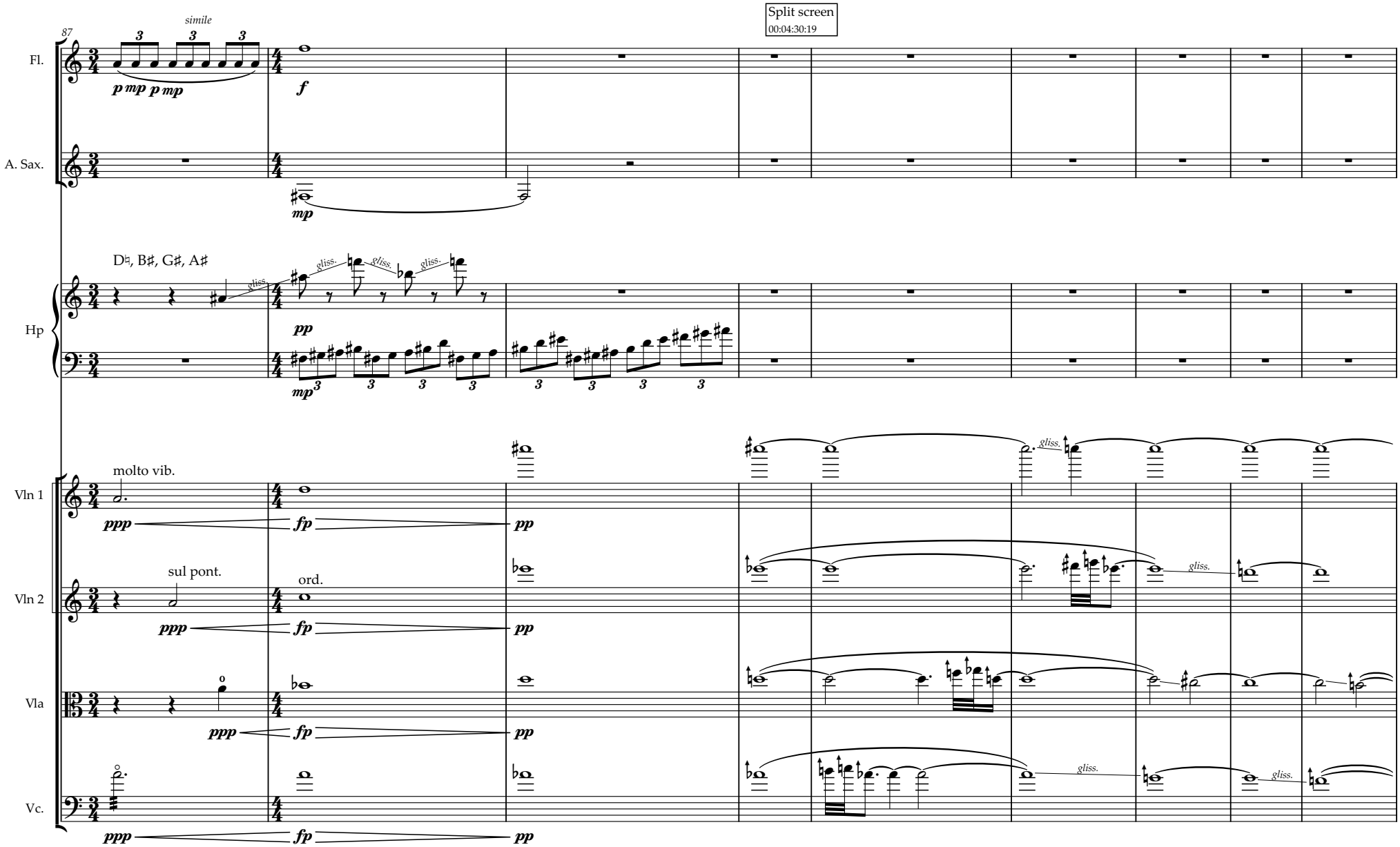

70
D
Fl.
A. Sax.
mp
ff
p
D♮, B ♭
E ♭ , A♮
Hp
ord.
f
mp
p.d.l.t.
gliss.
Vln 1
mp
sul E
Vln 2
gliss.
f
mp
Vla
tap top of cello
slight overpressure
Vc.
f
gliss.

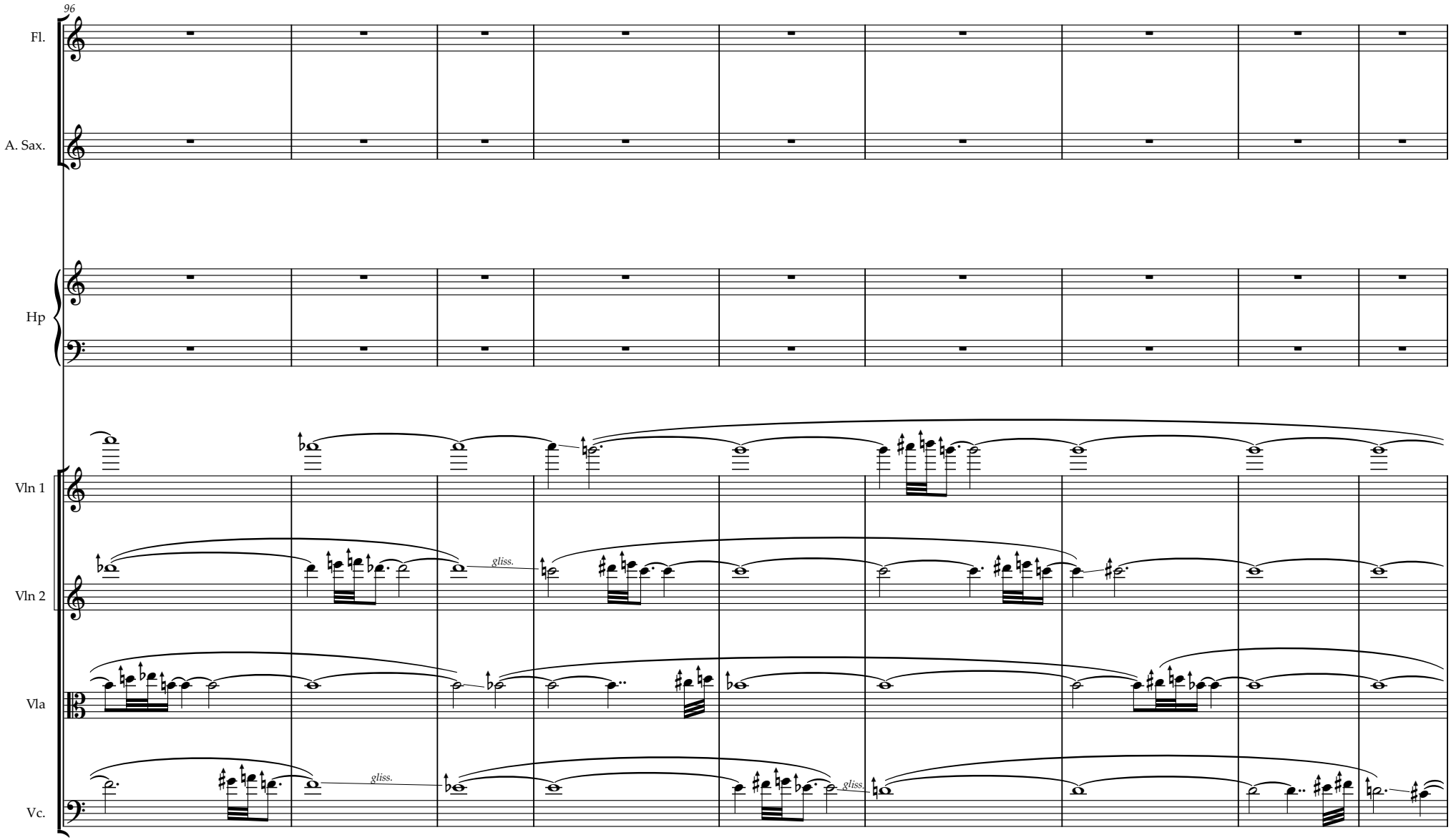

Sudden change of scene
00:03:50:06
74
Fl.
A. Sax.
Solo
p
mp
Hp
Vln 1
Vln 2
pp
f
gliss.
Vla
pp
mf
pp
Vc.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.

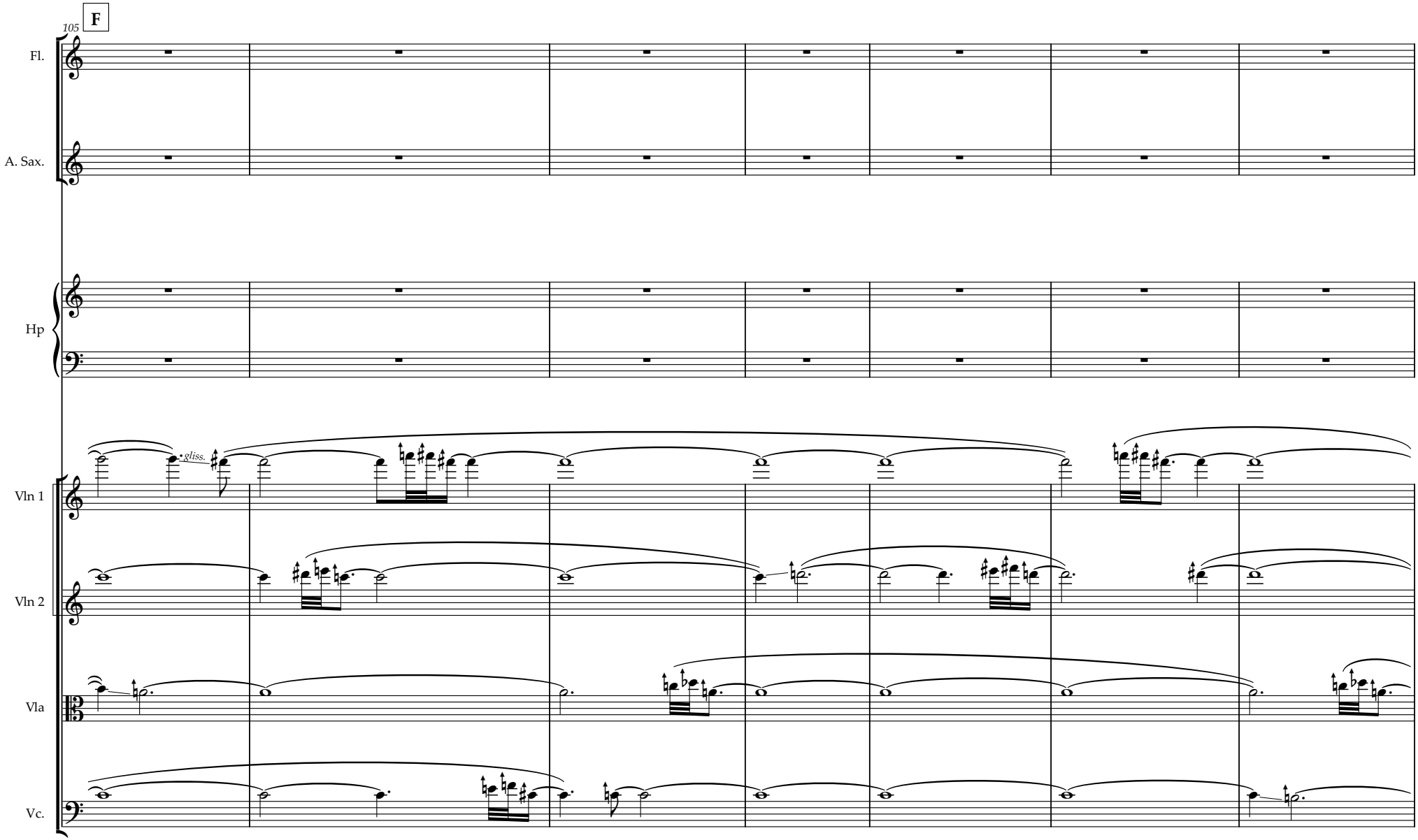

77
Fl.
A. Sax.
B♮
Hp
Vln 1
Vln 2
Vla
Vc.
mf
gliss.

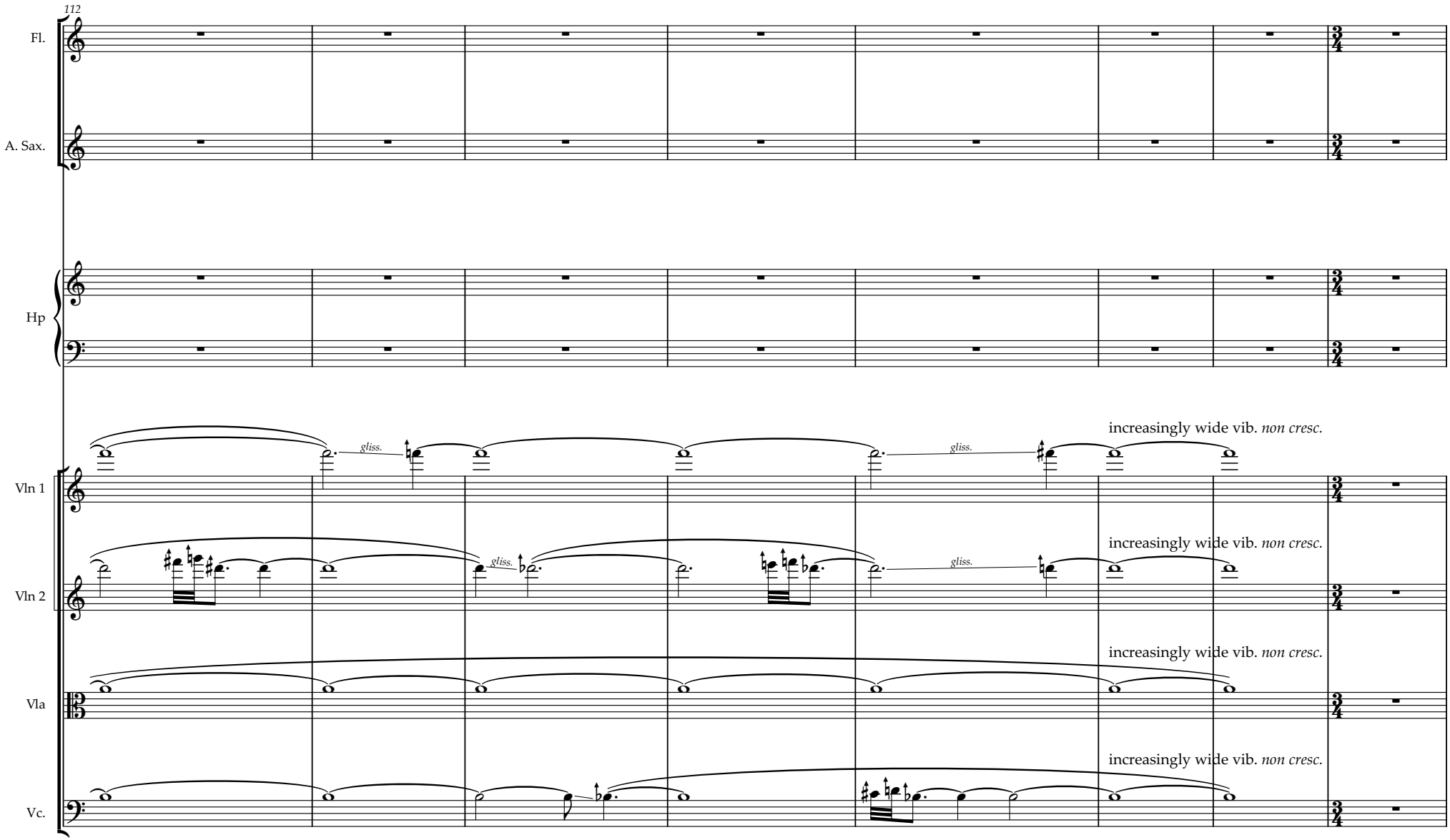

79
Fl.
sing
A. Sax.
p
D♯, E♮, A♯
Hp
mp
gliss.
gliss.
Vln 1
Vln 2
Solo
Vla
ff
3
pizz.
Vc.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.

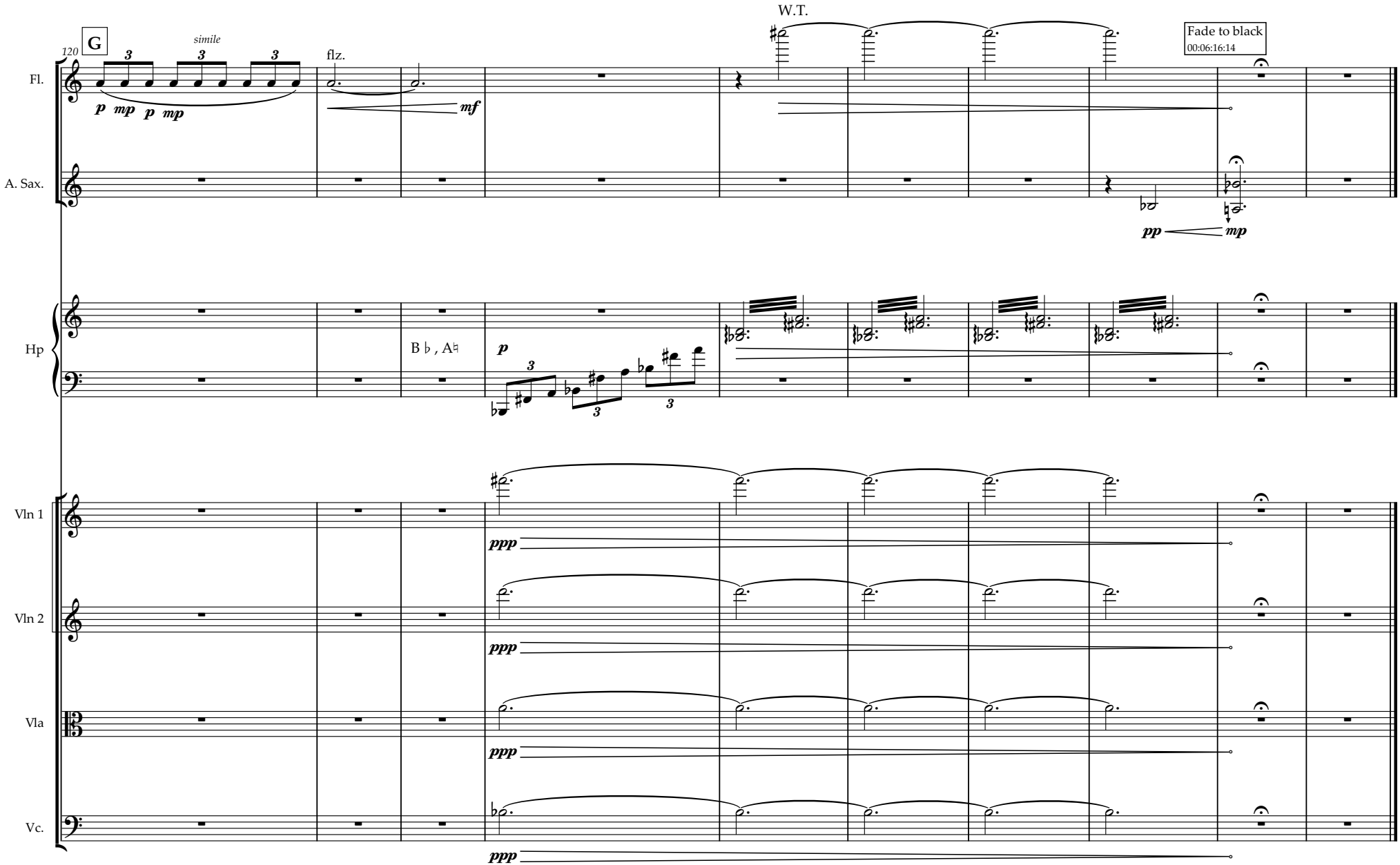

81
Fl.
A. Sax.
Hp
Vln 1
Vln 2
Vla
Vc.
E
simile
gliss.
E♯, A♮
R.H.
molto vib.
sul pont.
ord.
arco


87
simile
Split screen
00:04:30:19
Fl.
A. Sax.
Hp
D♮, B♯, G♯, A♯
gliss.
Vln 1
molto vib.
Vln 2
sul pont.
ord.
Vla
Vc.
ppp
fp
pp
mp
p mp p mp
f


96
Fl.
A. Sax.
Hp
Vln 1
Vln 2
Vla
Vc.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.


105
F
Fl.
A. Sax.
Hp
gliss.
Vln 1
Vln 2
Vla
Vc.


112
Fl.
A. Sax.
Hp
Vln 1
Vln 2
Vla
Vc.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
increasingly wide vib. non cresc.
increasingly wide vib. non cresc.
increasingly wide vib. non cresc.
increasingly wide vib. non cresc.


G
120
simile
flz.
W.T.
Fade to black
00:06:16:14
Fl.
A. Sax.
Hp
Vln 1
Vln 2
Vla
Vc.
B♭, A♮
p mp p mp
mf
pp mp
p
ppp