Ha!

for strings

J Simon van der Walt

version 2.8.1 2023-07-05

Composer's note

Ha!, according to Chamber's dictionary can mean 'surprise, joy, exultation, dismay, enquiry, scepticism, encouragement, hesitation, and when repeated, laughter'. In this case, you might want to imagine that the players have finally managed to put together some kind of tricky puzzle.

Performance notes

'Ha!' is for strings, minimum 3 3 2 2 1.

At the start and end of the piece, the notation may not be entirely clear. All players except the second violins shout 'Ha!' while playing a snap pizzicato on a G. The second violins do the shout, but not the snap pizz.

'Ha' is pronounced as in English 'hat', without the 't'. It should be quite explosive, but not over-loud; as if catching someone out.

In bb 310- the cello & bass are asked to sing along with what they are playing. Sing in a natural way, not operatic, in any comfortable octave. If you can't hit the pitch straight off with your voice, find the note on the instrument first and then ease the voice in.

There are some very simple pairs of notes which I have marked div; if it feels more natural to take these as double stops, then fine.

Duration 12'30

J Simon van der Walt
17/8/98 (revised 16/12/01, revised 5/07/23)

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Ha!

for strings

J Simon van der Walt

♩ = 120

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

CB

ff

mf

spiccato

(Shout) Ha!

9

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

p

17

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

25

Vln I

p *mf*

Vln II

p *mf*

Vla

div *spiccato*

mf

Vc

CB

32

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

39

Vln I

p *mf*

Vln II

p *mf*

Vla

p *mf*

spiccato

Vc

mf

CB

45

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

52

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

p *mf*

unis

60

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

p *mf*

mf

68

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

76

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

mf

div

p mf

p mf

84

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

p

p

p

92

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

mf

mf

mf

100

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

p mf

p mf

p mf

107

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

114

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

p mf

poco meno f

120

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

127

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

p mf

134

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

142

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

150

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

158

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

167

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

173

179

185

191

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

pp lontano

Vc

CB

pp lontano

195

202

206

(sempre div)

mf confidently

mf confidently

213

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

p mf

220

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

227

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

Vc.

CB

poco mf subito

div

nearly f

233

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

Vc.

CB

238

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

Vc.

CB

244

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

Vc.

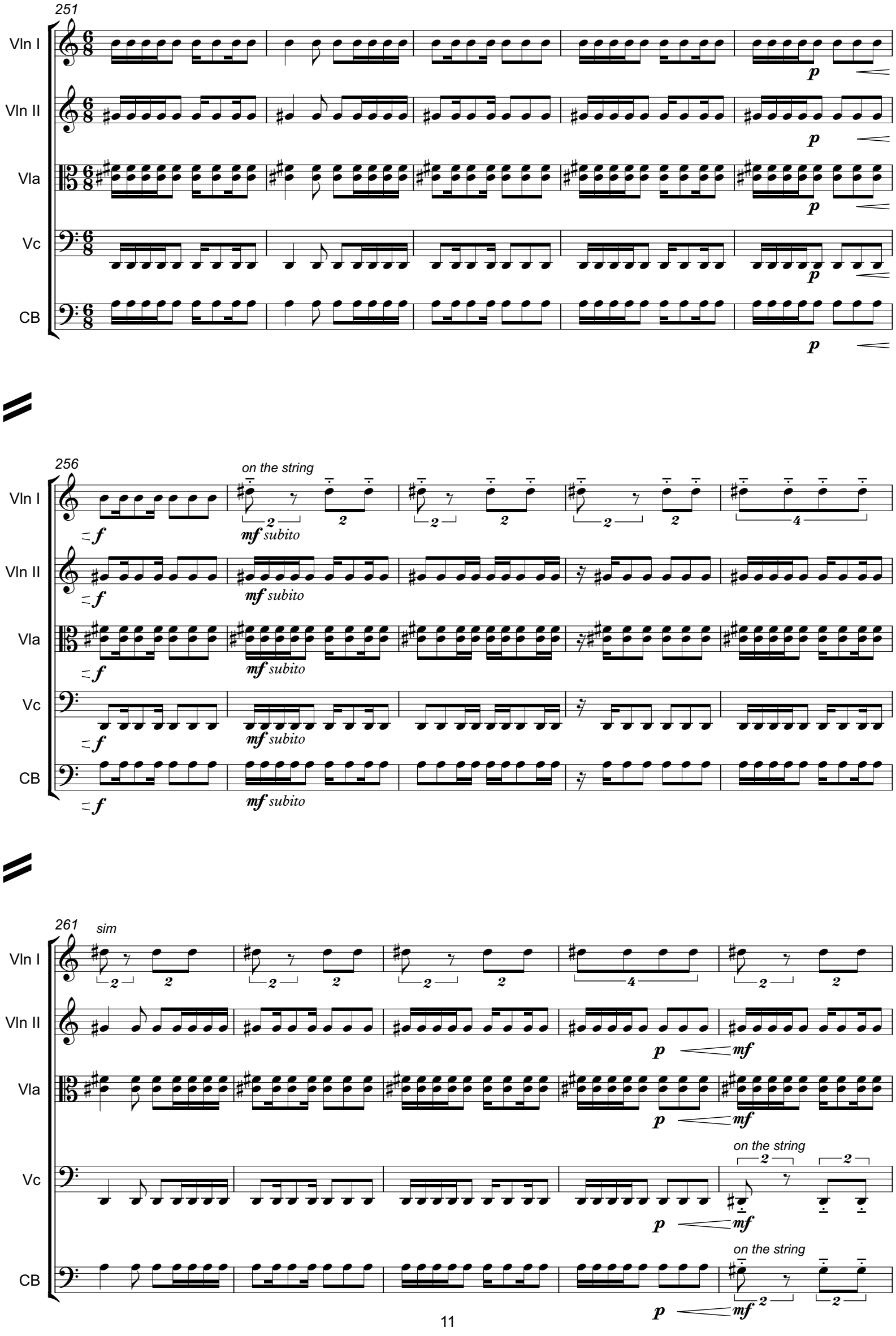
CB

div unis

unis

div

unis


251
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc
CB
p
256
on the string
mf subito
f
261
sim
p
mf
on the string

266

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

sim

CB

sim

272

Vln I

Vln II

on the string

sim

p mf

Vla

on the string

sim

p mf

div

Vla

Vc

CB

278

[♩ = 120] ♪ = ♩ [♩ = 160]

Vln I

Vln II

f

Vla

Vla

♪ = ♪ la meta (ancora div)

don't give up yet!

Vc

CB

283

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vla

Vc

Vc.

CB

Cadenza (The soloist may elaborate this passage within reason, adhering to the given style and pitch material.)

288

1 solo

fp

altri

fp

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

Vc.

CB

tutti

div *fp*

fp

fp

294

1 solo

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

Vc.

CB

p restrained, like an exercise in counterpoint

299

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

303

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

altri

p restrained, like an exercise in counterpoint

p restrained, like an exercise in counterpoint

p restrained, like an exercise in counterpoint

306

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

310

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Sing while playing; slightly nasal, different octave if more comfortable

Vc

Aah–

(play) ***p***

Sing while playing; slightly nasal, different octave if more comfortable

CB

Aah–

(play) ***p***

316

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

321

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

327

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

333

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

339

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

344

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

3

3

3

3

349

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

1 solo

Vc

p restrained, like an exercise in counterpont

CB

355

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

360

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

tutti

Vc

CB

366

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

370

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

375

sempro 1 solo

Vln I

mp joyfully

Vln I

poco f

meno

Vln II

poco f

meno

Vla

poco f

meno

(don't sing)

Vc

poco f

p

poco f

(don't sing)

CB

p

382

Vln I

Vln I

altri

mp

1 solo

Vln II

mp joyfully

Vln II

altri

mp

Vla

Vc

CB

389

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

1 solo

Vla

mp joyfully

Vc

CB

395

Vln I

altri div

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

Vla

1 solo

Vc

mp joyfully

CB

401

Vln I

Vln I

mf

Vln II

3

mf

altri div

Vln II

mf

Vla

Vc

3

mf

CB

mp joyfully

3

mf

407

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

mf

unis

p *lontano*

414

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

mf

421

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

1 solo

Vla

unis

Vc

mp lontano

CB

427

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

unis

Vla

mf

1 solo

Vc

mf

CB

mf

433

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

f

3

tutti

div

438

sempre 1 solo

(unis)

443

sempre 1 solo

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

448

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

ff sweeping

ff sweeping

ff sweeping

ff sweeping

div

ff driving!

ff driving!

ff driving!

453

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

(unis)

458

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

463

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

(unis)

468

Vln I

Vln II

unis

Vla

mp but intense

Vc

CB

473

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

479

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

484

Vln I

sffz

Vln II

f subito, con fuoco

Vla

f subito, con fuoco

Vc

f sub

CB

f sub

489

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

arco div

mp

3

3

mp subito

mp subito

mp subito

494

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

499

Vln I

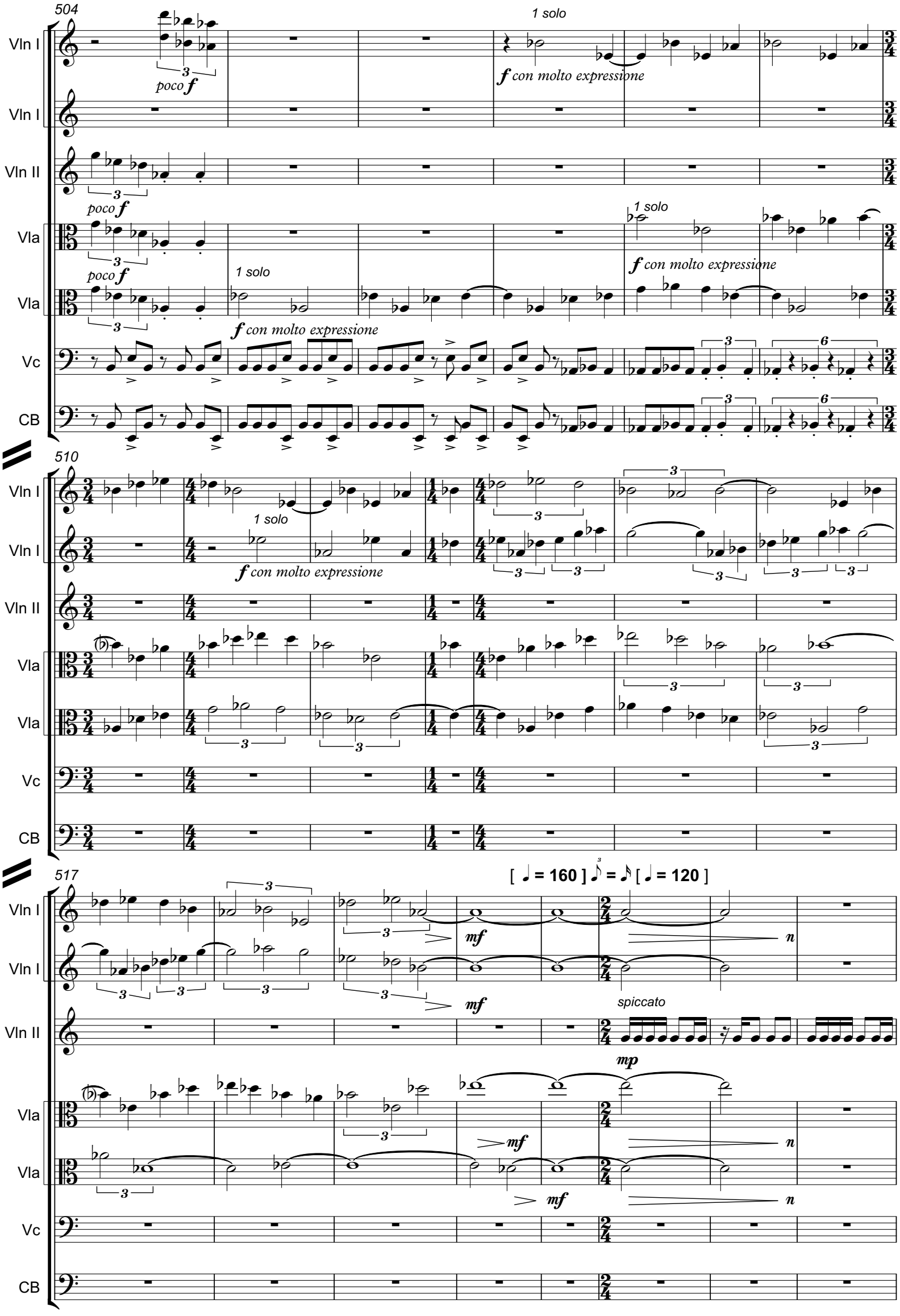
Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

mp


504
Vln I
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vla
Vc
CB
poco f
1 solo
f con molto expressione
510
517
[♩ = 160] ♪ = ♪ [♩ = 120]
mf
n
spiccato
mp

525

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

(unis)
spiccato

mp

p

534

mf

spiccato

div

541

p

f

spiccato

548

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

Vla

Vc

Vc.

CB

mf

div

4

553

558

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

Vla

Vc

Vc.

CB

564

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

Vla

Vla

Vc

Vc.

CB

div

569

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

Vla

Vla

Vc

Vc.

CB

574

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

Vla

Vla

Vc

Vc.

CB

579

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

Vla

Vla

Vc

Vc.

CB

583

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

Vla

Vla

Vc

Vc.

CB

f

(mf)

unis

589

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

Vla

Vla

Vc

CB

595

Vln I

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

Vla

Vla

Vc

CB

p *f*

unis

mf

601

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc

CB

608

Vln I

(Shout) Ha!

Vln II

p *f*

(Shout) Ha!

Vla

(Shout) Ha!

Vc

(Shout) Ha!

CB

(Shout) Ha!