GRADE 3

Sakura

For String Orchestra

R. Anne Svendsen

Success is the Best Motivation

Semiquaver Music

SEMIQUAVER MUSIC Grade 3

CONDUCTOR'S SCORE

Sakura, Sakura
for String Orchestra

Traditional Japanese Folk Song
arranged by
R. Anne Svendsen

INSTRUMENTATION

Score
1st Violin
2nd Violin
Viola
Cello
Bass

DURATION: 3:04 min

Published in Australia
Semiquaver Music

Cat No: SMQ 04
ISMN: 9790900957733

Sakura, Sakura
An arrangement for String Orchestra – Grade 3

About the arrangement

Sakura, Sakura (Cherry blossom, Cherry blossom) is a traditional Japanese folk song originating during the Edo period of Japan (1603 – 1868). It has been a popular urban song in Japan since the restoration of the Meiji period in 1868. The melody was adopted as a piece for beginning *koto* students with the lyrics being added later. The cherry blossom is considered to be the national flower of Japan and this song depicts the springtime and the season of cherry blossoms, a season celebrated each year with festivals in many different countries. It is now recognized as Japan's most well-known folk song and is performed, arranged and referenced throughout the world.

This arrangement of *Sakura, Sakura* for string orchestra captures the haunting sentiment of the melody using *koto*-like pizzicato lines and pentatonic harmonies. Contrasting legato lines accompany an original melody in the middle section, which is in a major key and brings a brighter colour to the work before the plaintive original melody is heard again at the end of the work.

This arrangement is for high school string orchestra. Graded as a Level 3 piece, it requires the double bass section to play in 5th position and requires some vibrato in all sections.

Here is an English translation of the Japanese lyrics:

Cherry blossoms, cherry blossoms,
In fields and villages
As far as you can see.
Is it a mist, or clouds?
Fragrant in the morning sun
Cherry blossoms, cherry blossoms,
Flowers in full bloom.

Cherry blossoms, cherry blossoms,
Across the spring sky,
As far as you can see.
Is it a mist, or clouds?
Fragrant in the air
Come now, come now,
Let's look, at last!

About the arranger

R. Anne Svendsen graduated from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music with a Bachelor of Music majoring in Violoncello performance and strings pedagogy. She holds a Licentiate of Music in Chamber Music and has spent the past thirty-five years working as a freelance 'cellist in Australia and teaching strings from primary to tertiary level. Anne has tutored at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music and Central Queensland University and has played with The Queensland Symphony, Bolshoi Ballet, National & Royal Ballet, the Queensland Pops and the Queensland Philharmonic Orchestras. Anne has been guest conductor for the Griffith University's State Honours Ensemble Program as well as state regional music camps. As a composer she has had more than twenty of her works for school orchestras published. She is currently living in Zilzie, Australia where she continues to teach strings and compose for student string orchestras. Anne also works as a professional musician with many other professional groups and individuals.

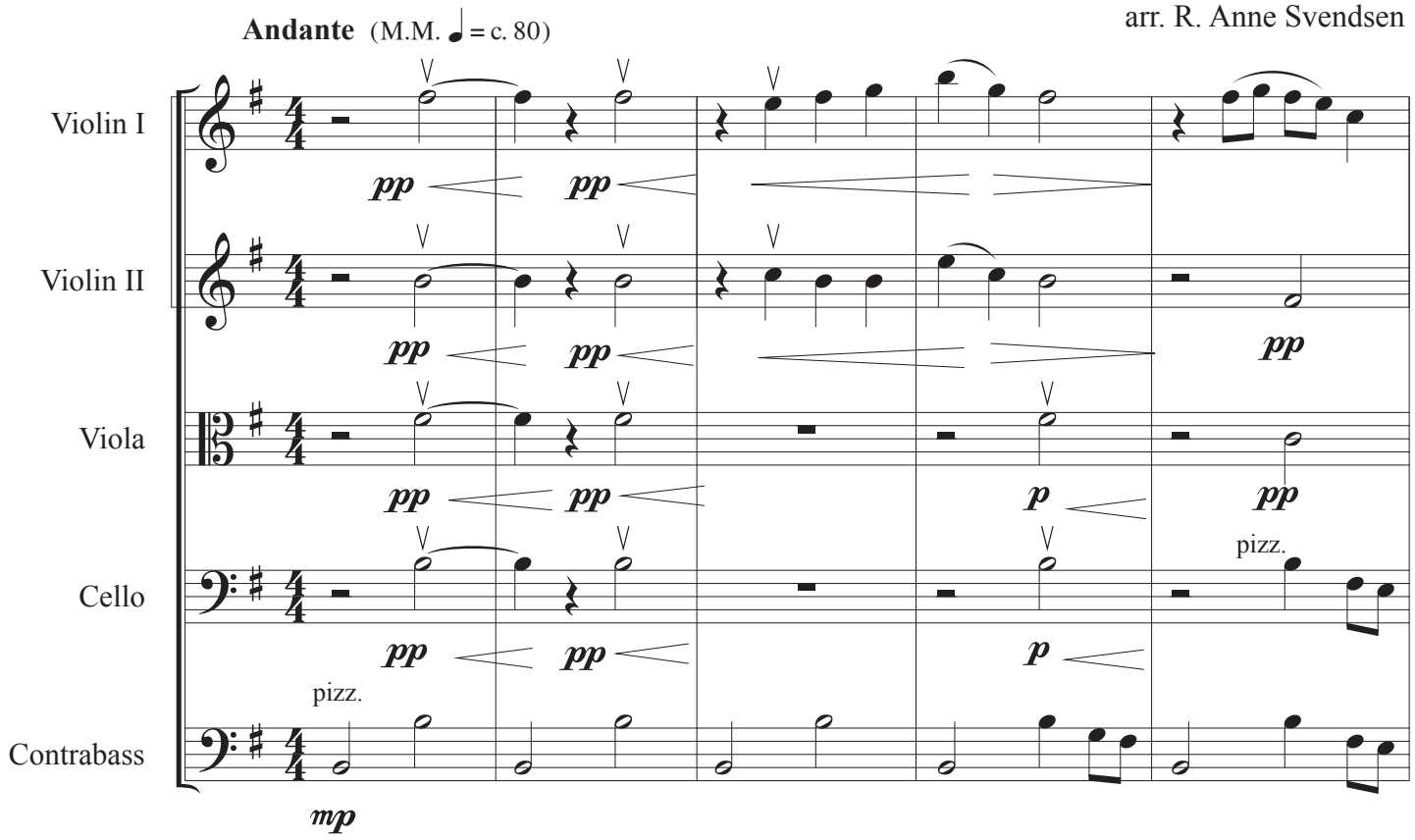
Score

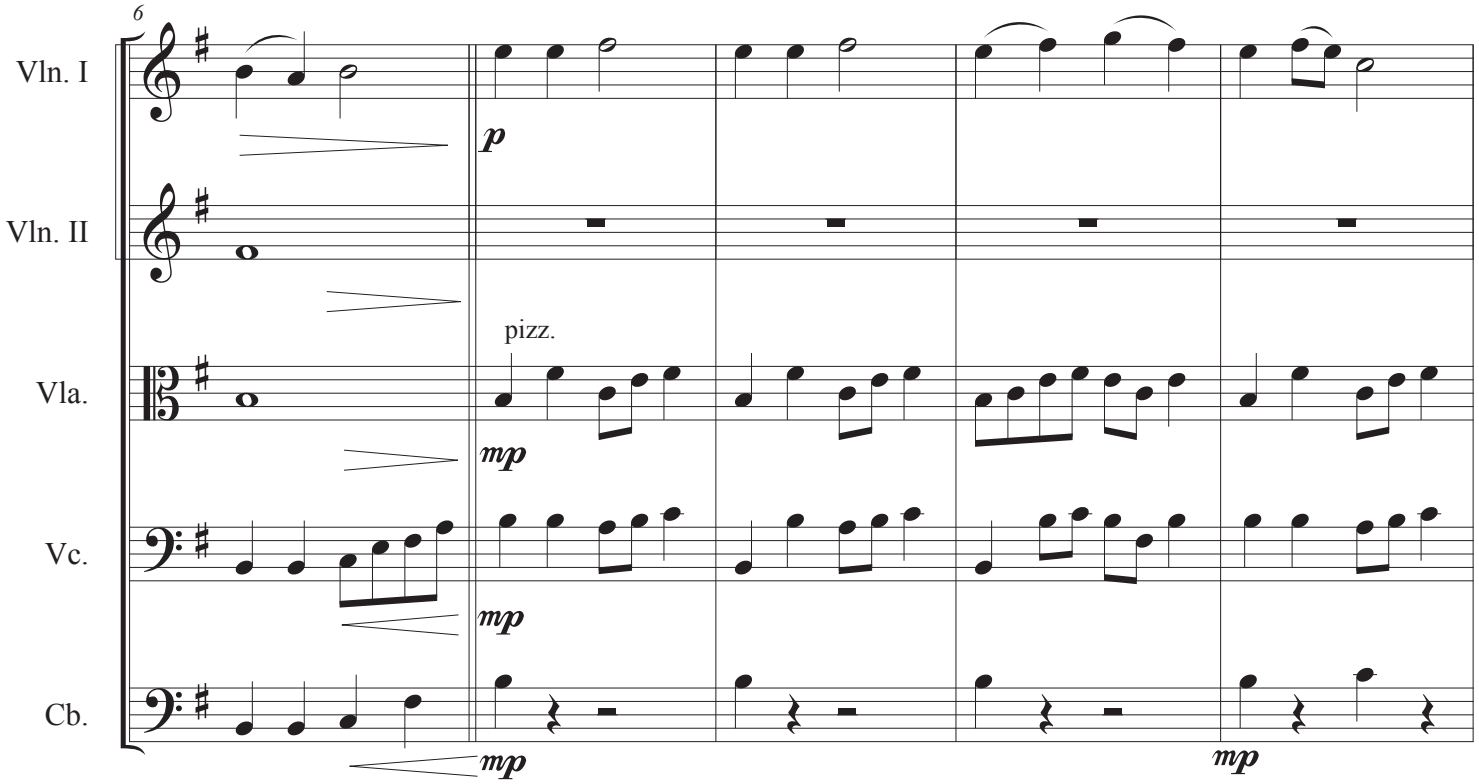
Sakura, Sakura

Japanese Folk Song

Traditional

arr. R. Anne Svendsen





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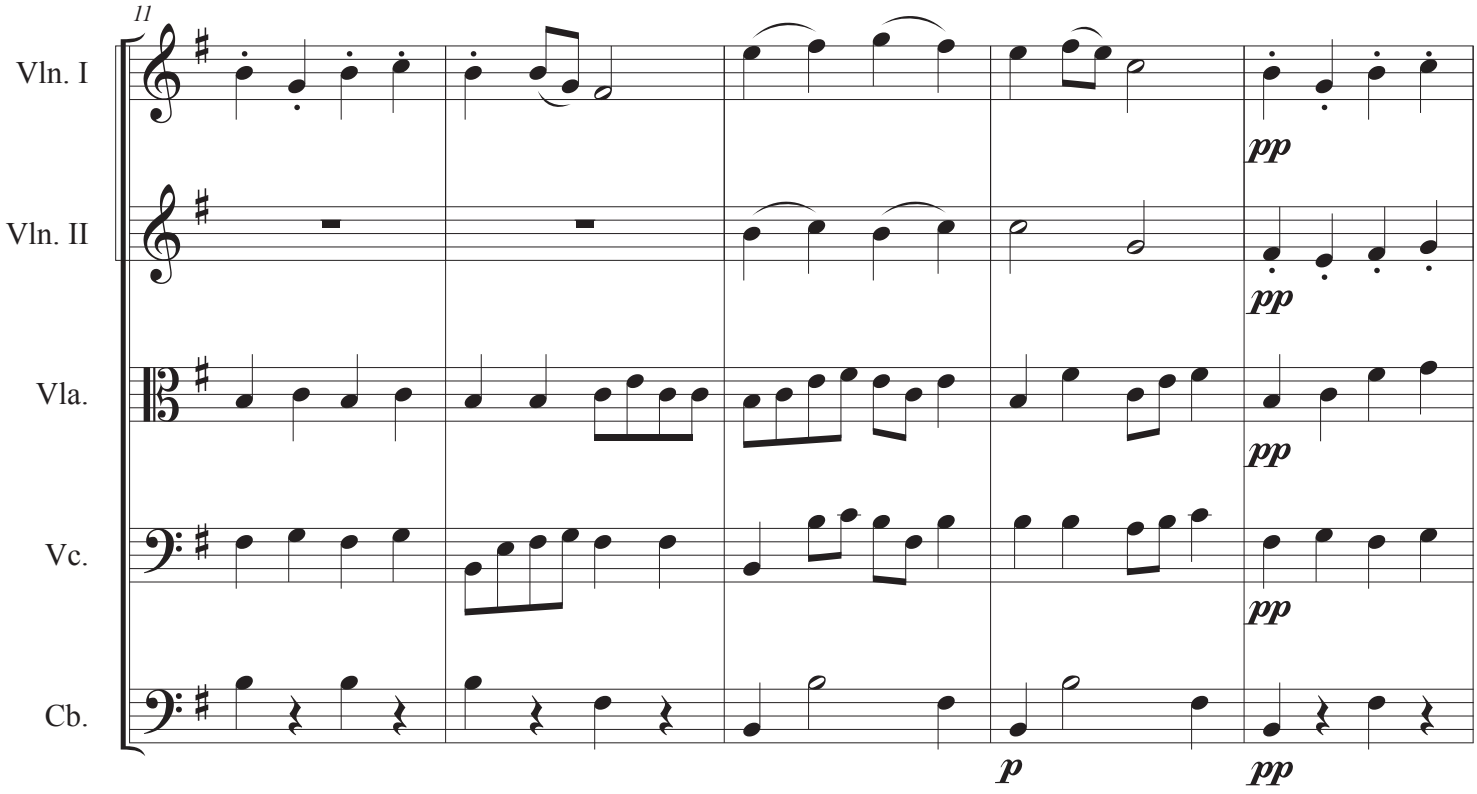
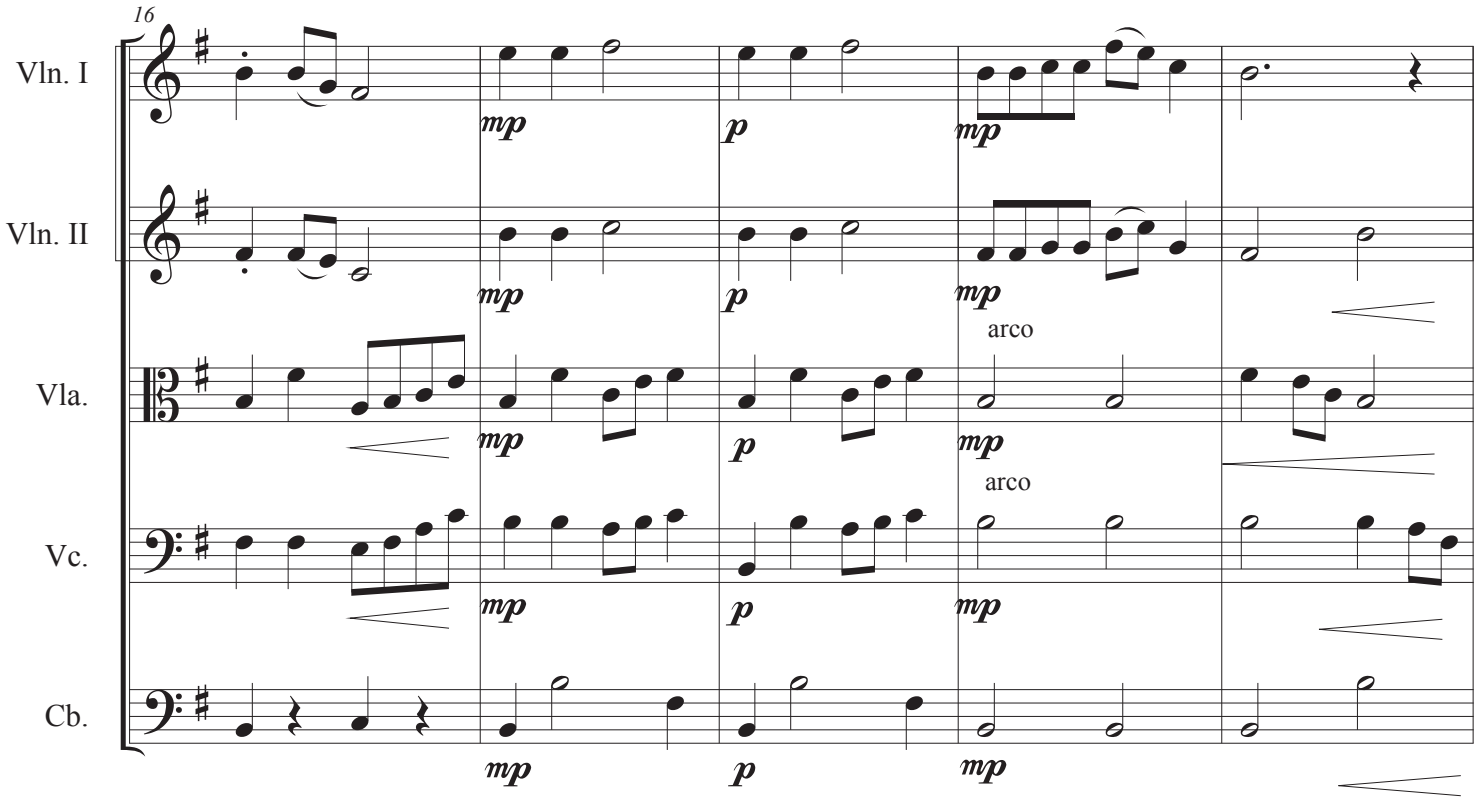
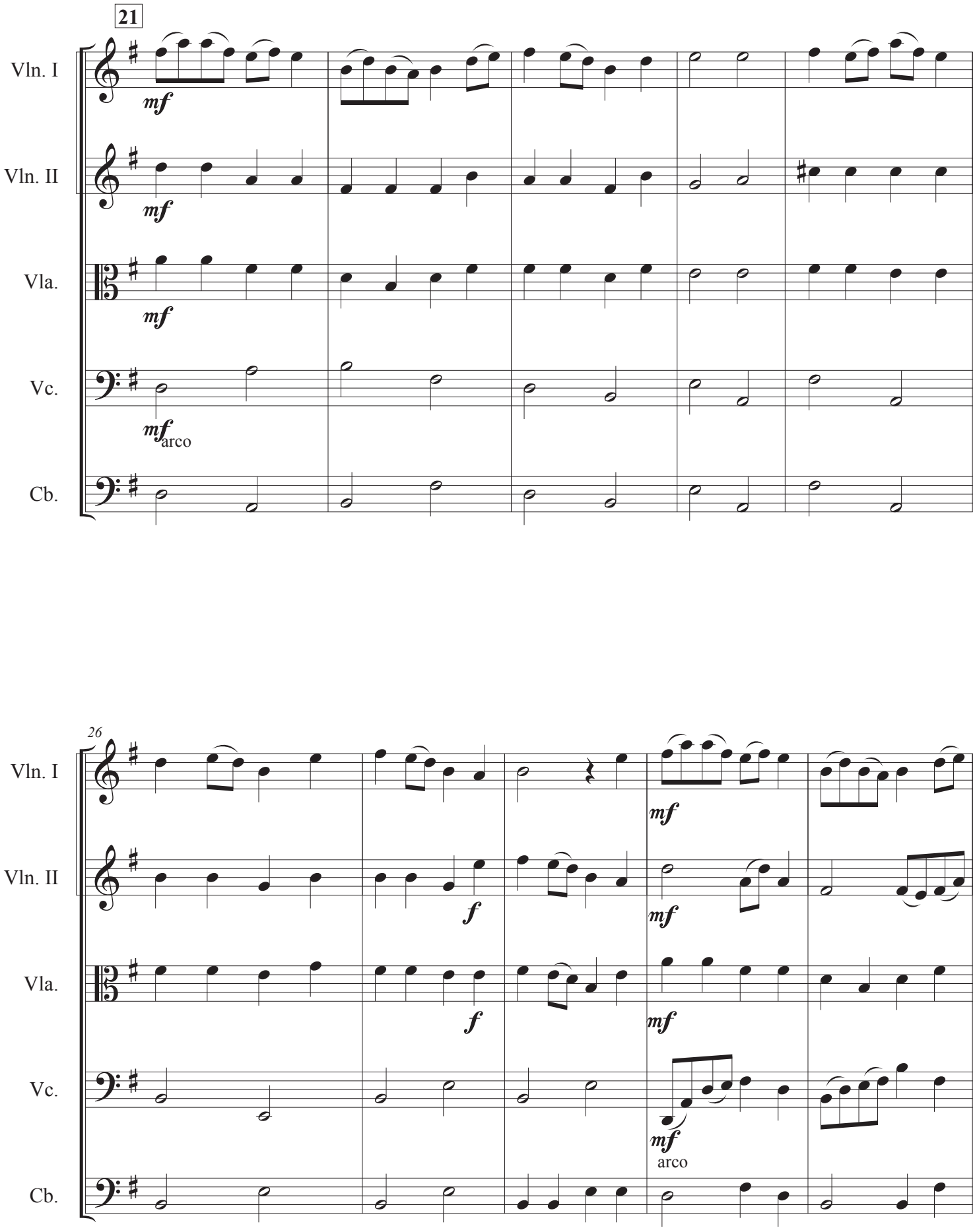
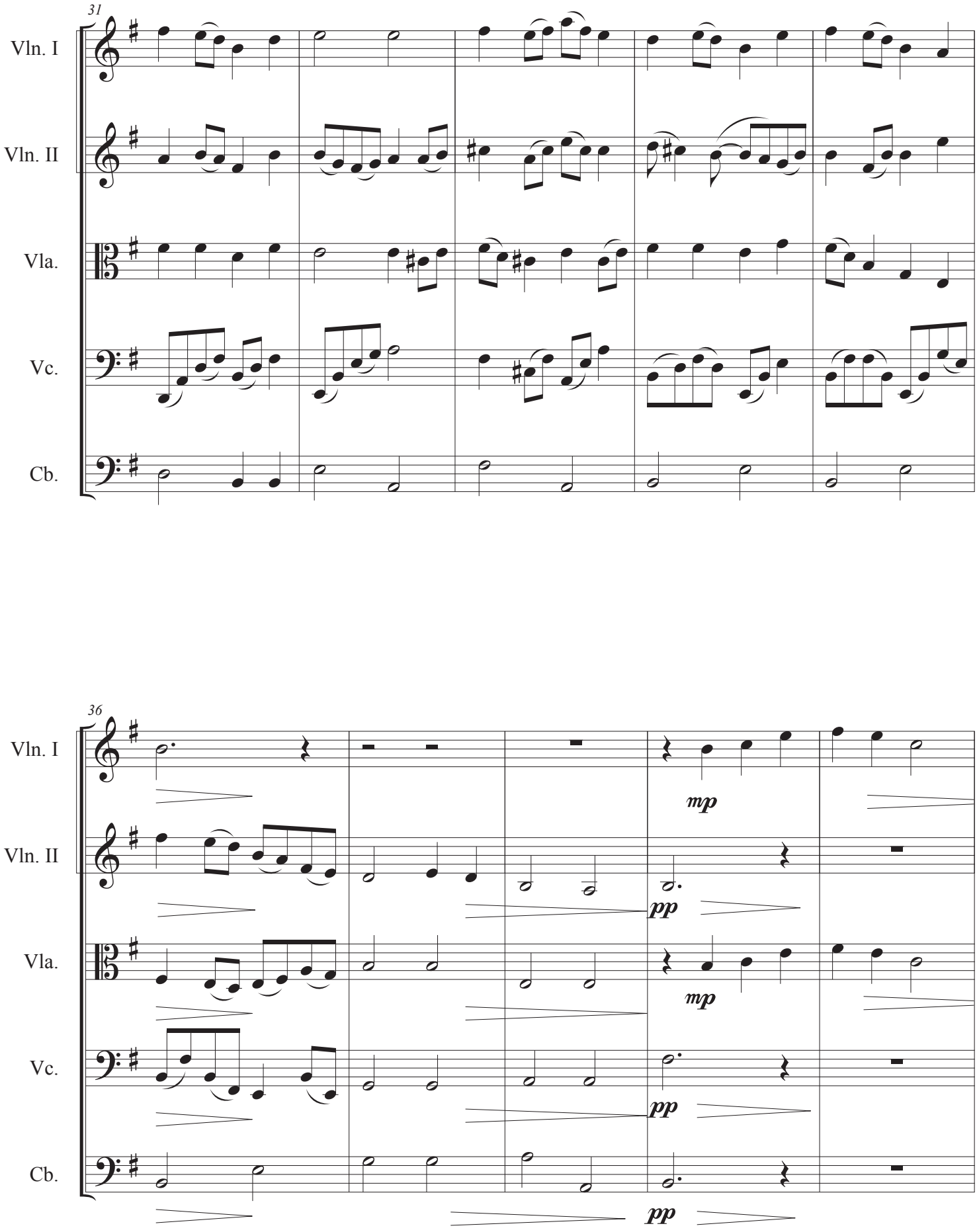
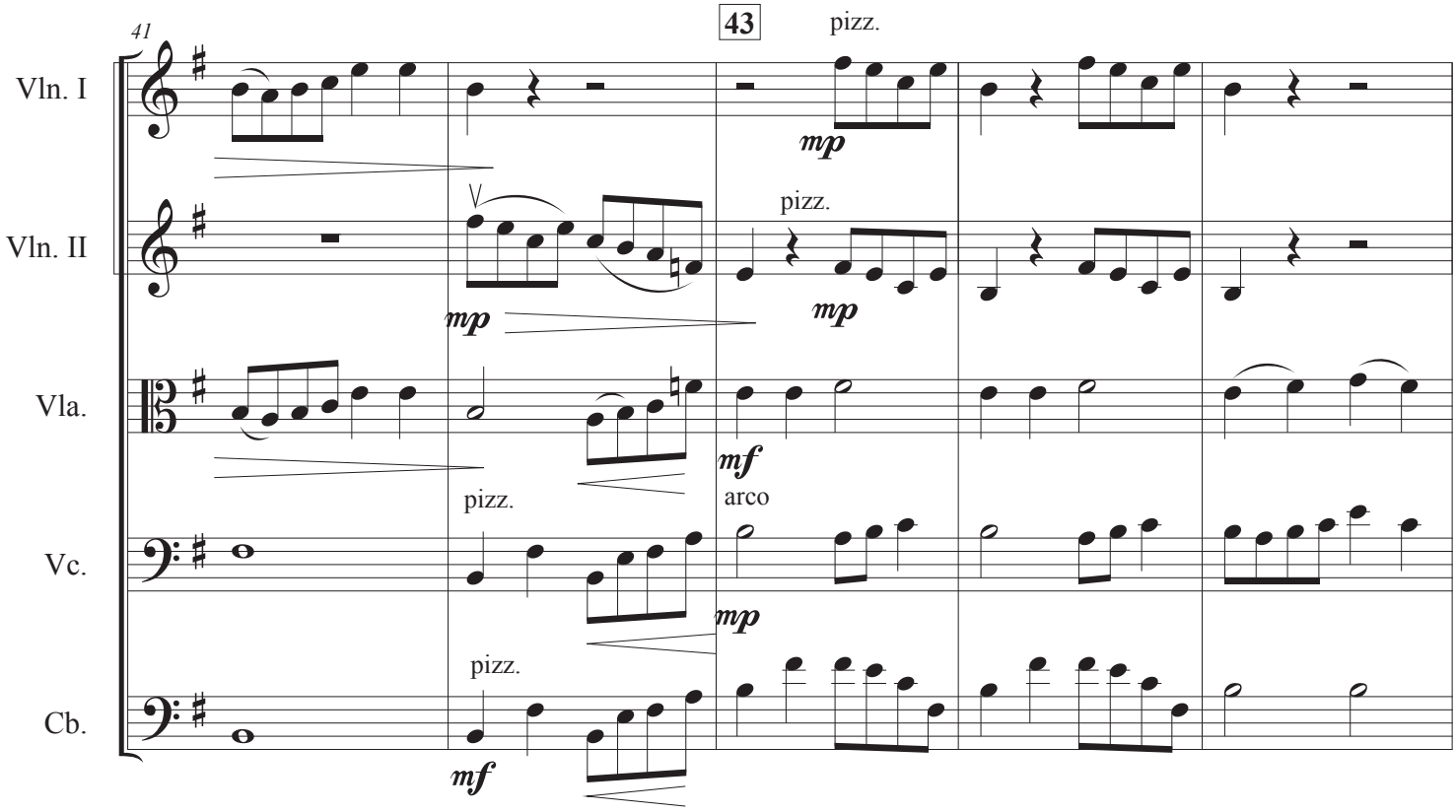
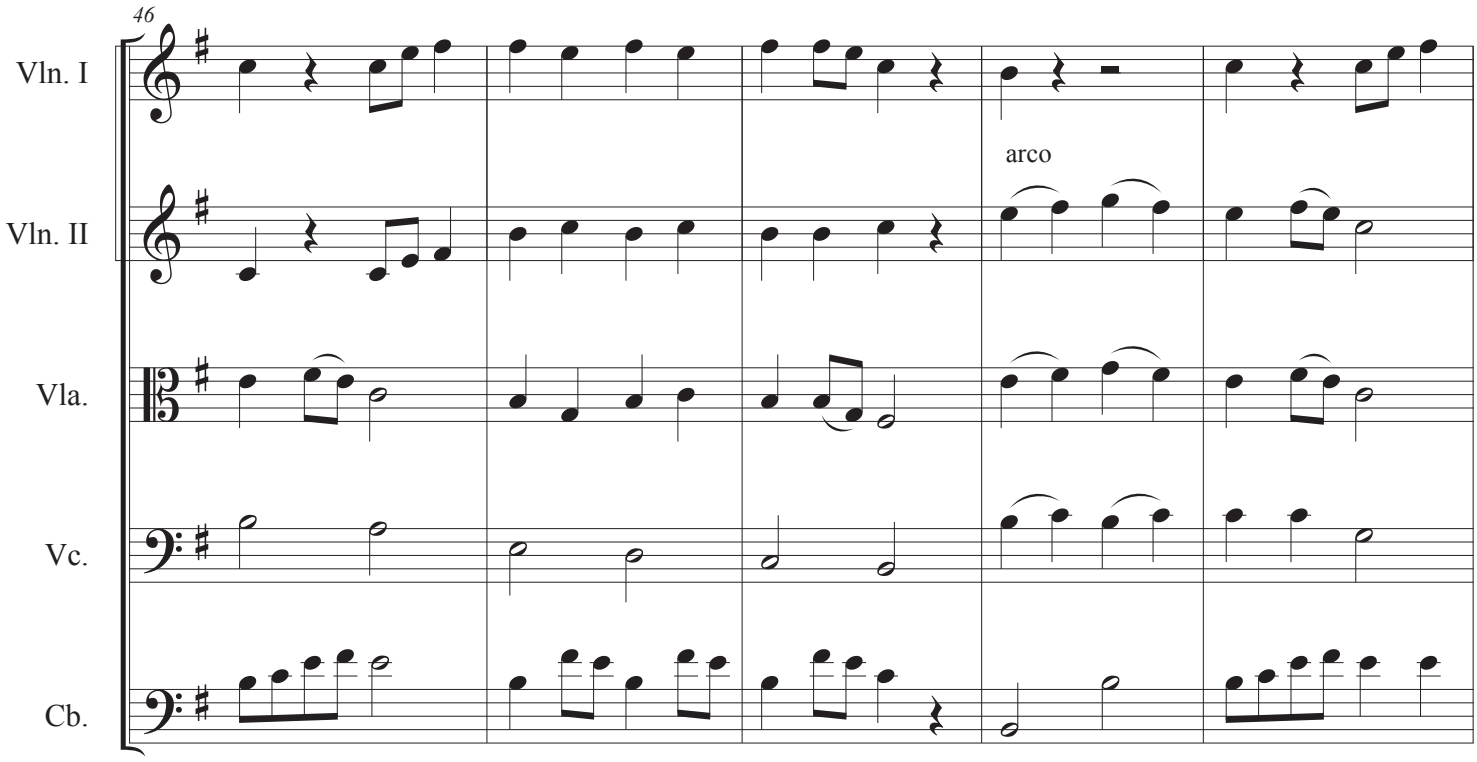

11
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pp
pp
pp
pp
p
pp

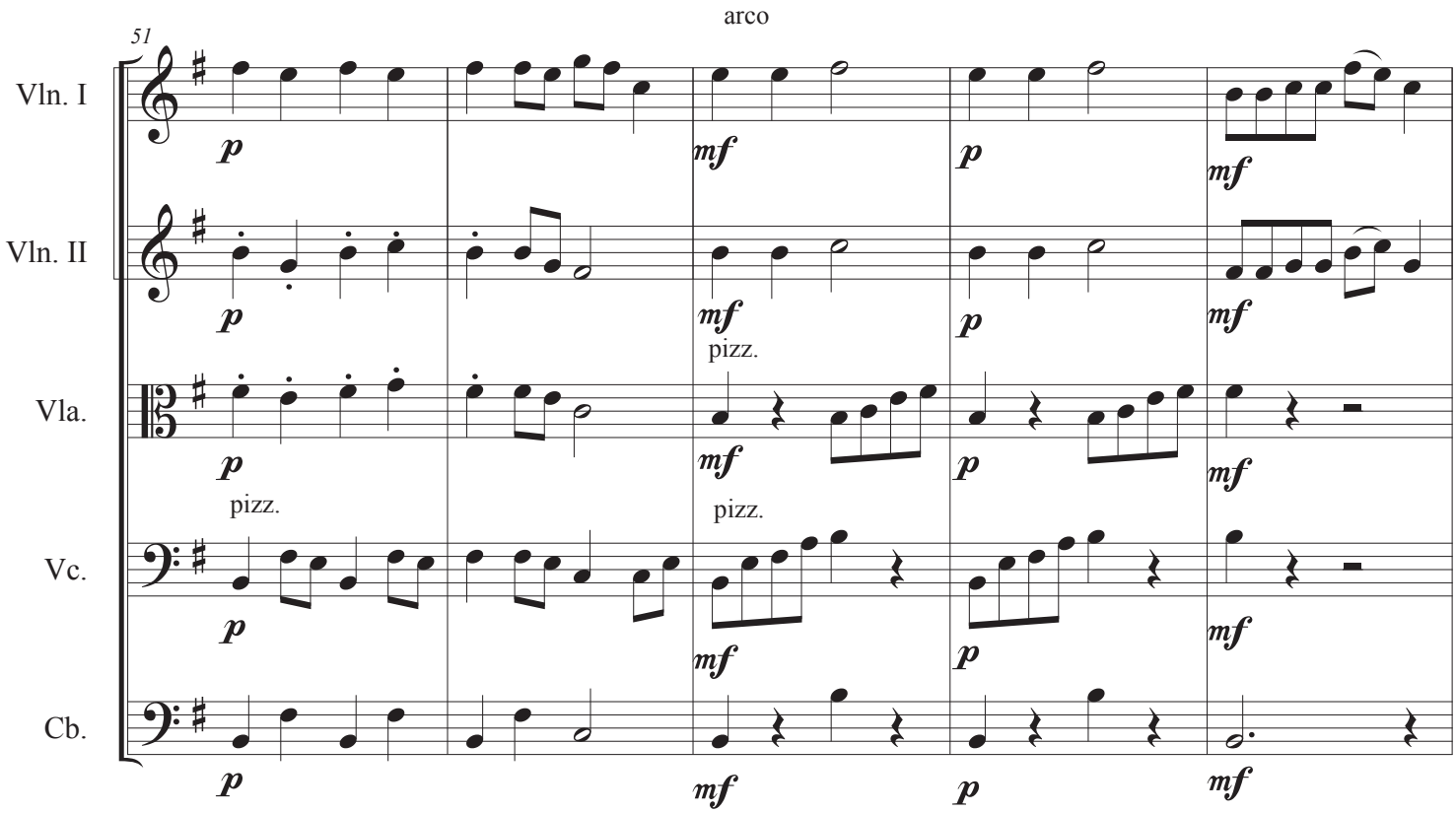

16
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
p
mp
arco
arco

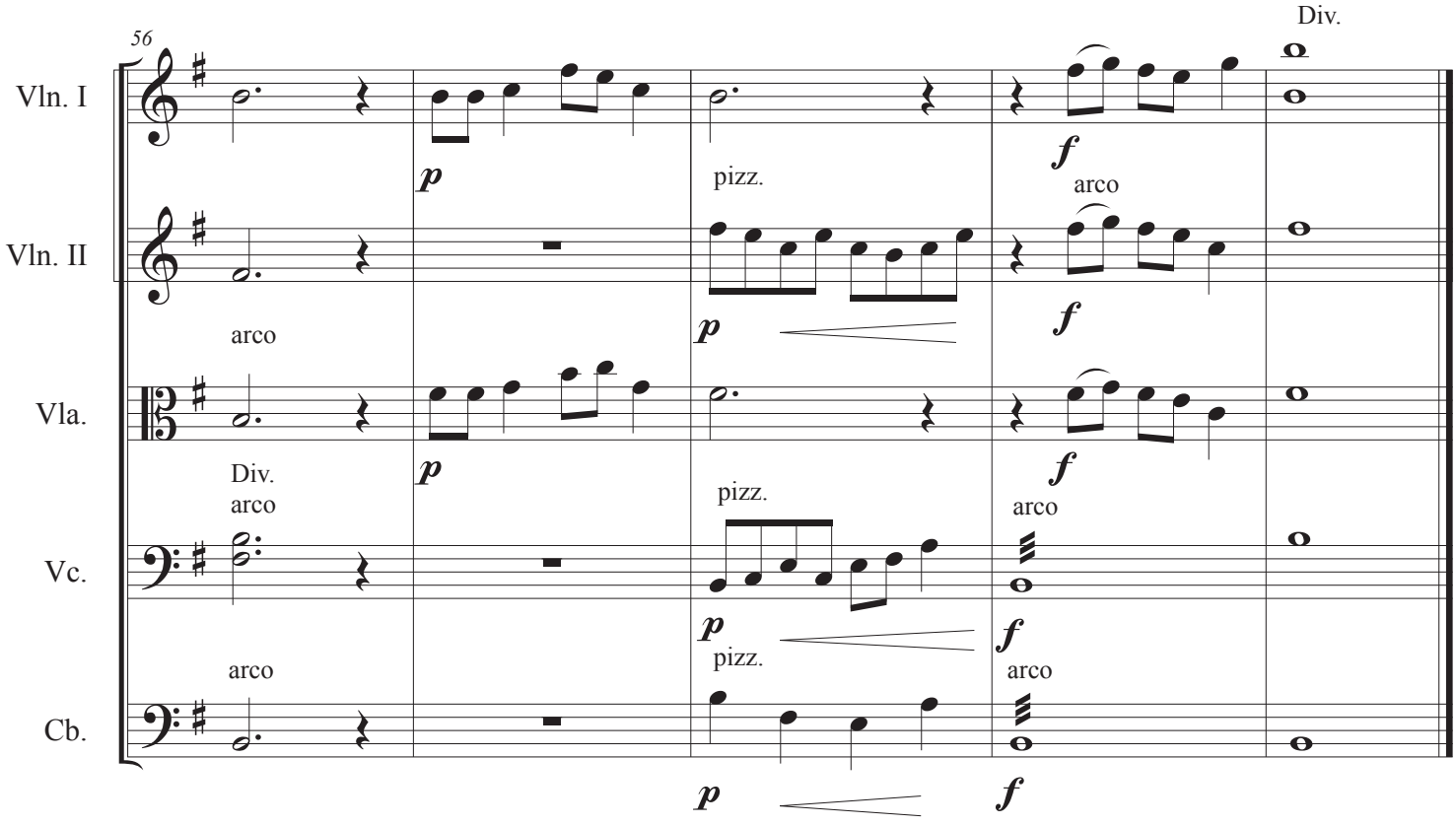

21
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf
mf
mf
mf
arco
26
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mf
f
f
mf
mf
mf
arco


31
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
36
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
pp
mp
pp
pp


41
43
pizz.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
mp
mf
arco


46
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
arco


51
arco
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
pizz.
Vc.
Cb.
p
mf


56
Div.
Vln. I
Vln. II
arco
Vla.
Div.
arco
pizz.
Vc.
Cb.
p
f

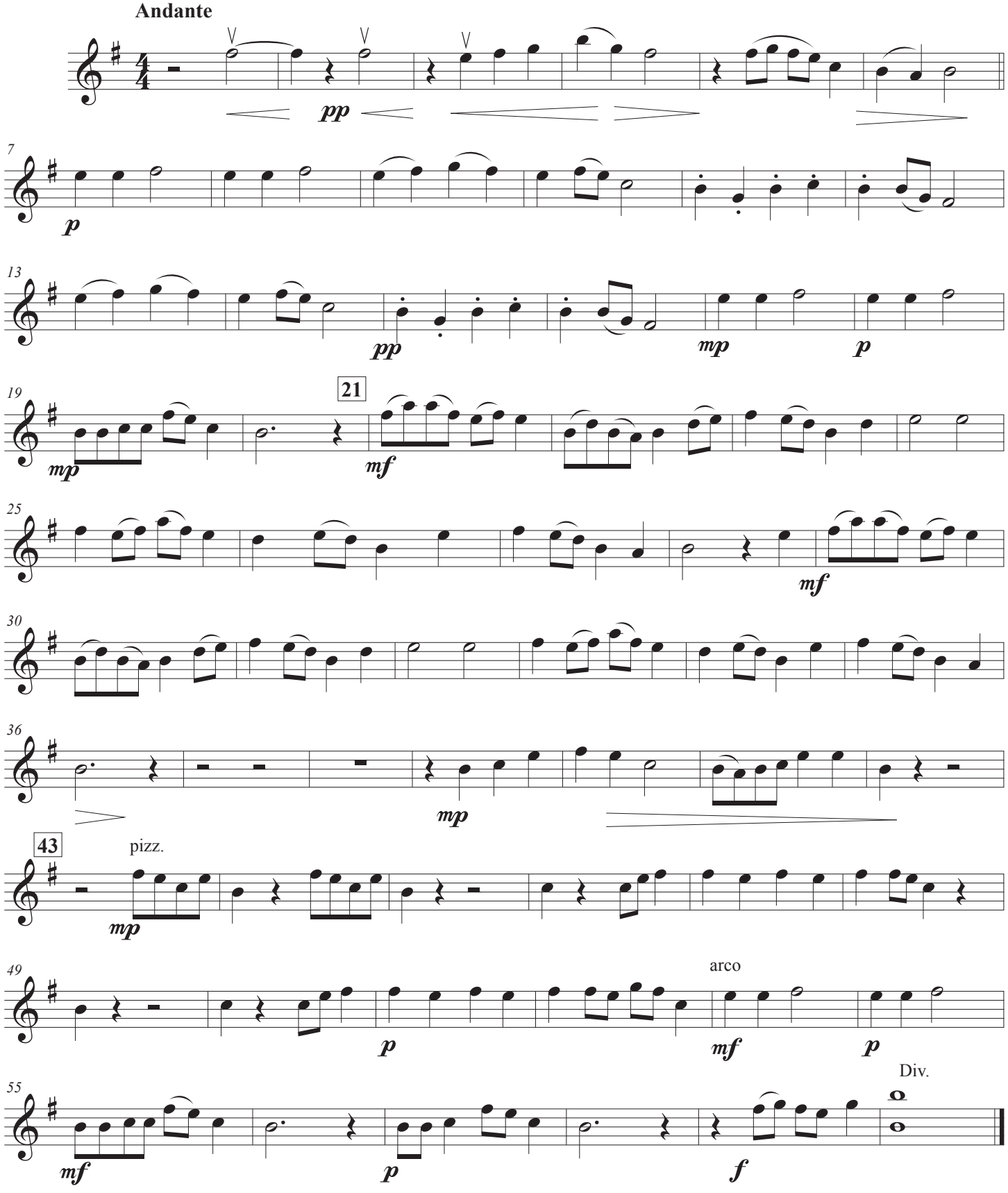
Violin I

Sakura, Sakura

Japanese Folk Song

Traditional

arr. R. Anne Svendsen



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Violin II

Sakura, Sakura

Japanese Folk Song

Traditional

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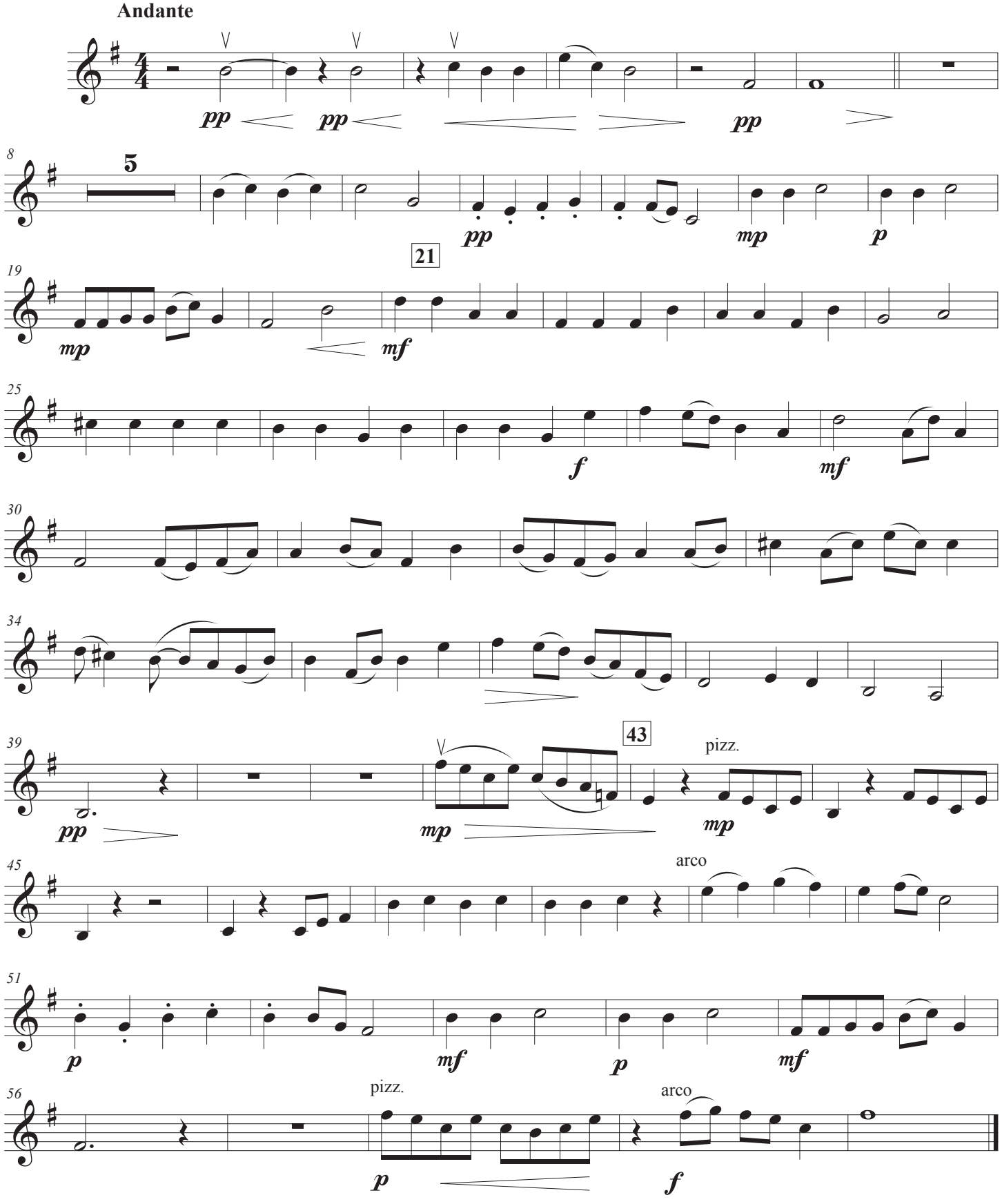

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Viola

Sakura, Sakura

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Traditional

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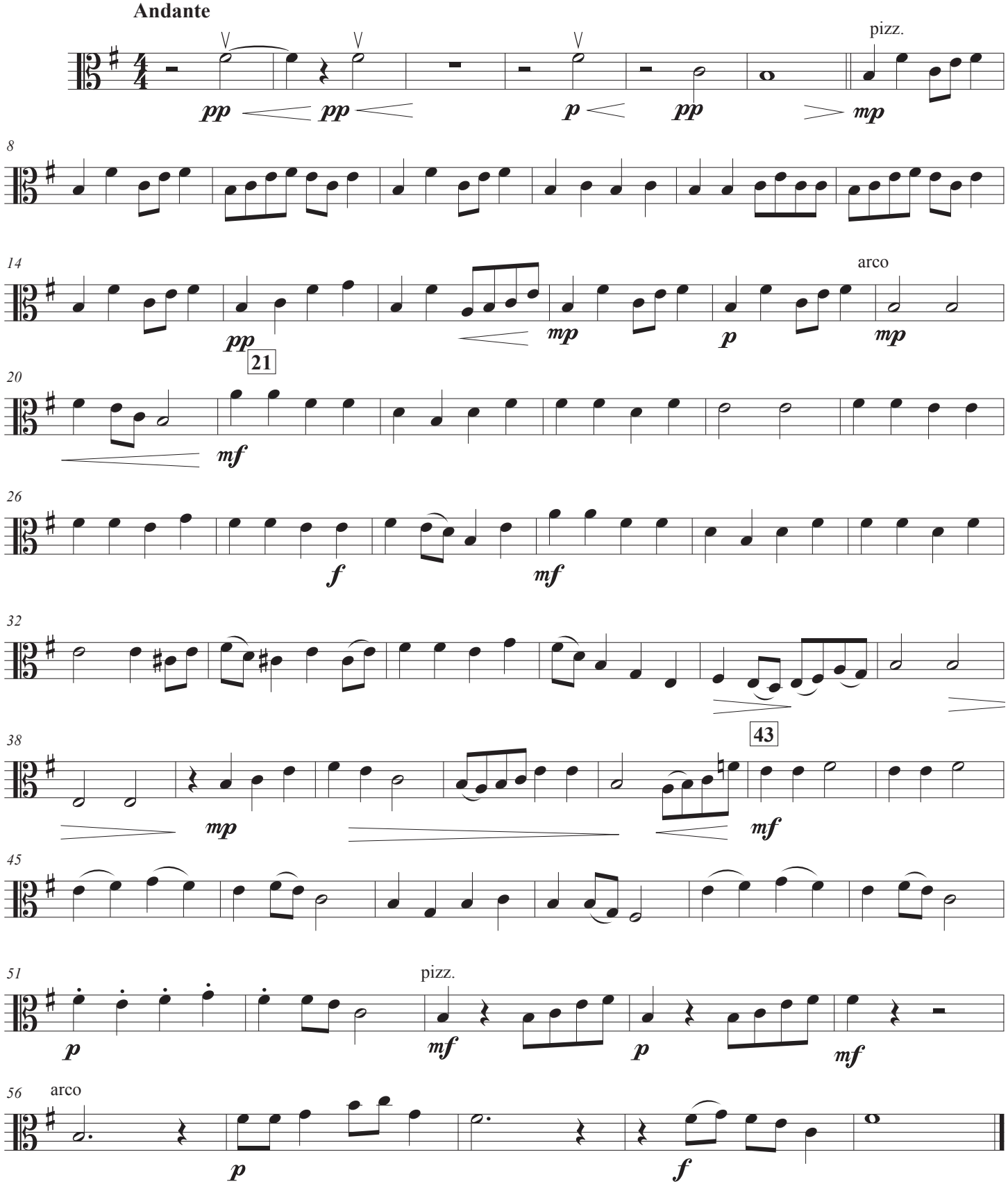

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Cello

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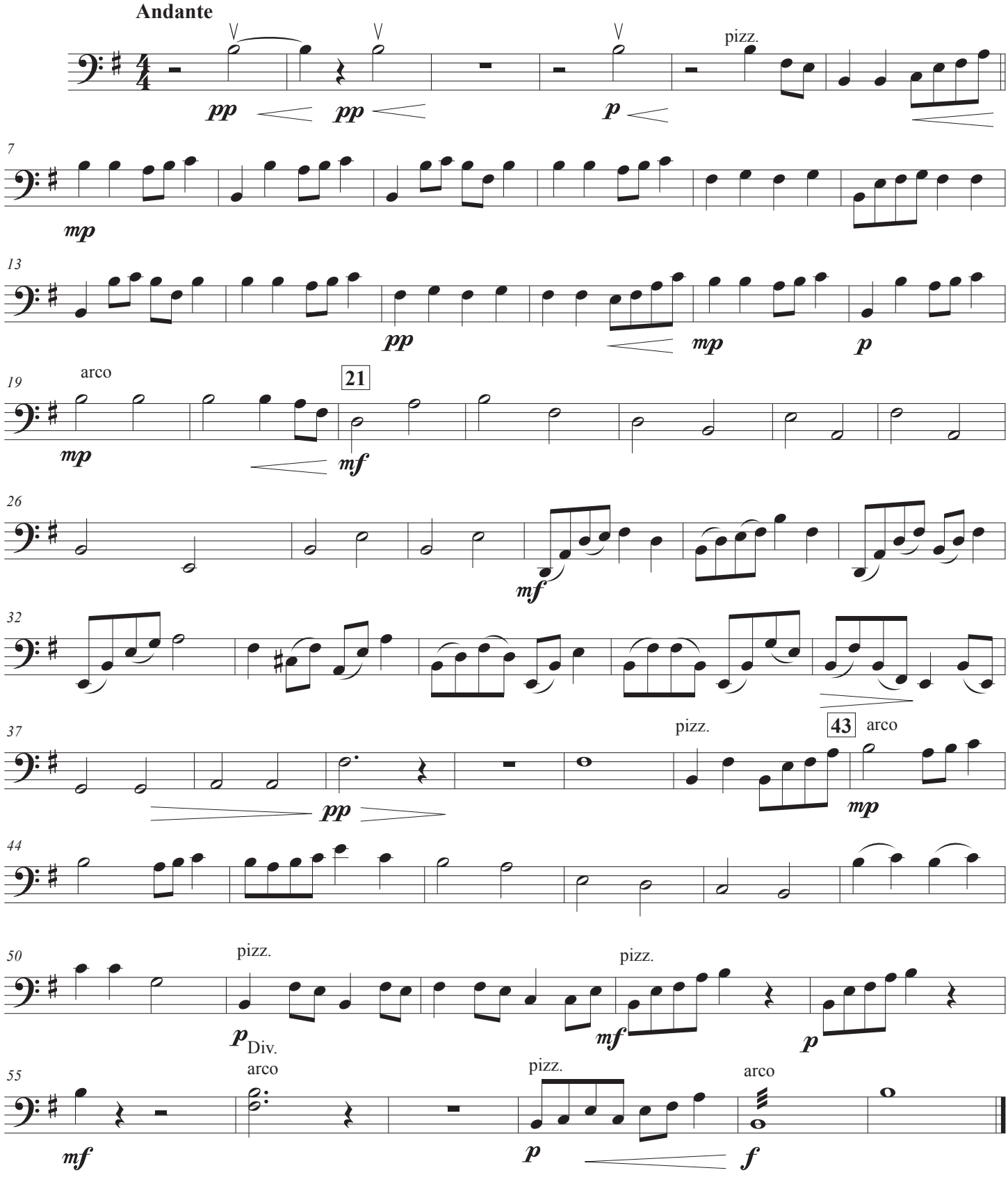

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Contrabass

Sakura, Sakura

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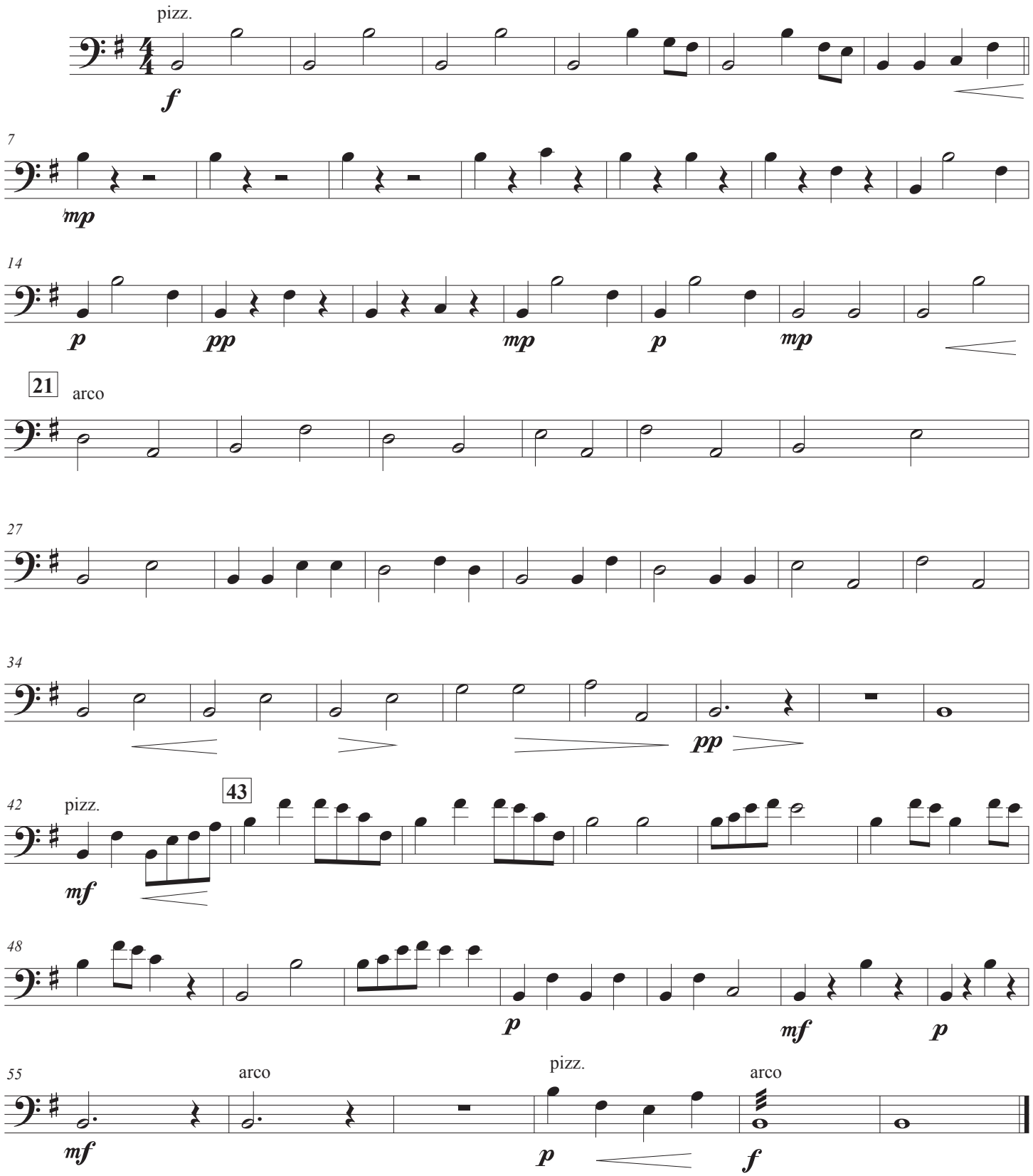
Andante



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