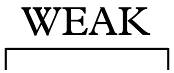
Alastair White

WORK

MOVEMENT THROUGH A SERIES OF ARBITRARY PARTITIONS

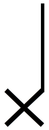
For Cello



WEAK/STRONG

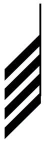
STRONG should be played expressively and confidently with rhythmic precision.
For these, use *al tallone* but as a *theatrical, physical restriction* through which the other instructions are to be achieved as written (as much as is possible), rather than an accentuation of certain musical ideas and parameters.

WEAK should be played with a sense of frantic instability, with less thought given to rhythmic precision and expressive power.
For these, use *alla punta*, in the same manner as the bowing restrictions for STRONG.



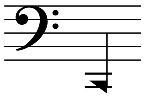
CROSSED NOTEHEAD

Tap the cello on the body wherever is most convenient.
Notated dynamics do not apply to this, and the performer should try to keep them as even as possible throughout the piece.



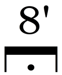
FLATTENED NOTEHEAD

Strike the strings with the flat of your fingers.
If the noteheads are spread across the stave, slap the strings *normale.*
If the noteheads are to the bottom of the stave, slap the strings at the bottom of the fingerboard ie *sul tasto.*
If the noteheads are to the top of the stave, slap the strings on the fingerboard.
Sometimes these give an approximation of gesture, and should be interpreted at different points up and down the fingerboard as is implied.
If they are marked by a 'spread' arrow, they should be struck or pulled at an angle as though violently strummed.



ARROW NOTE

Col legno battuto between the bridge and tailpiece, producing a muted sound.

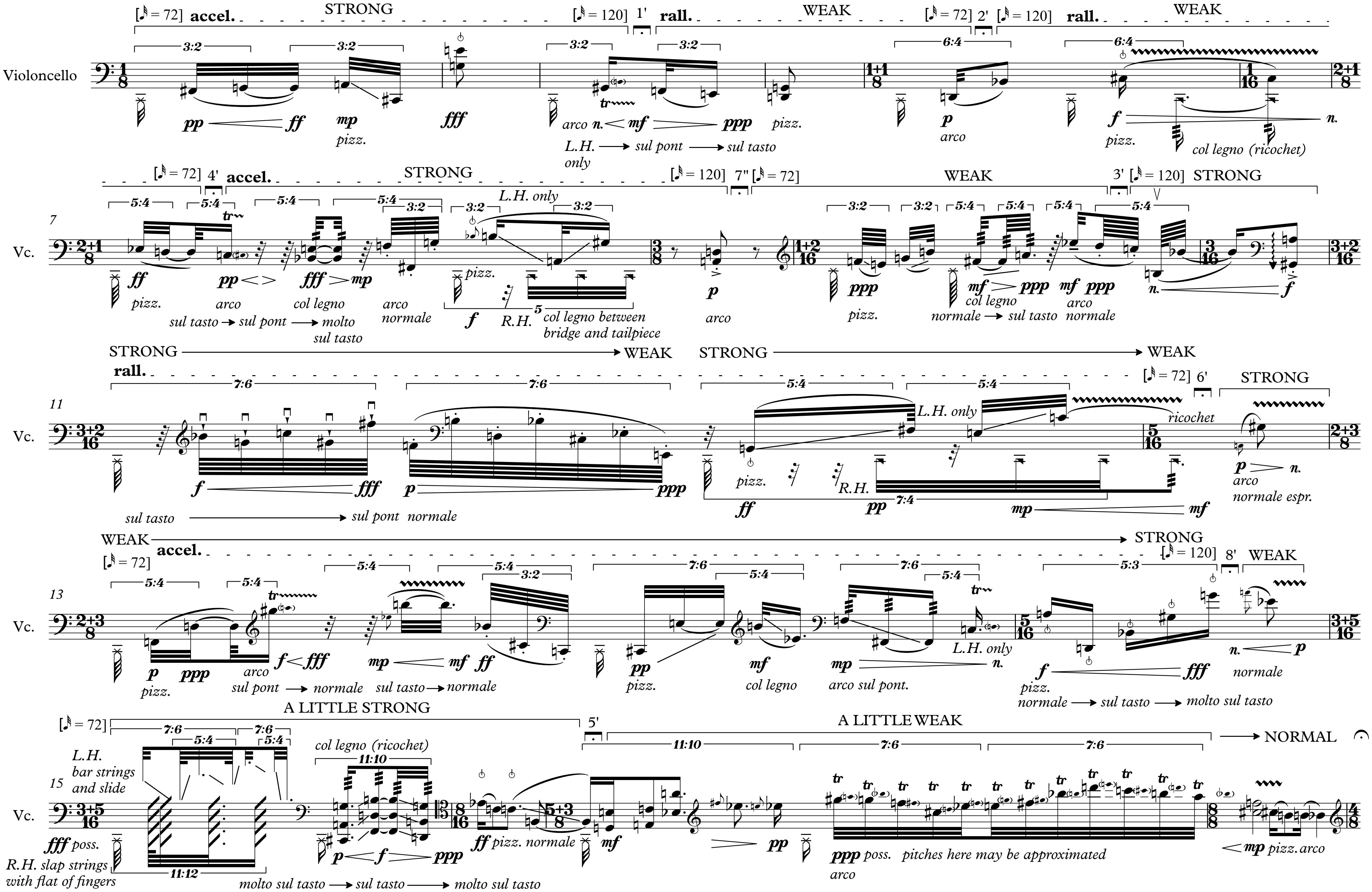


SQUARE CAESURA

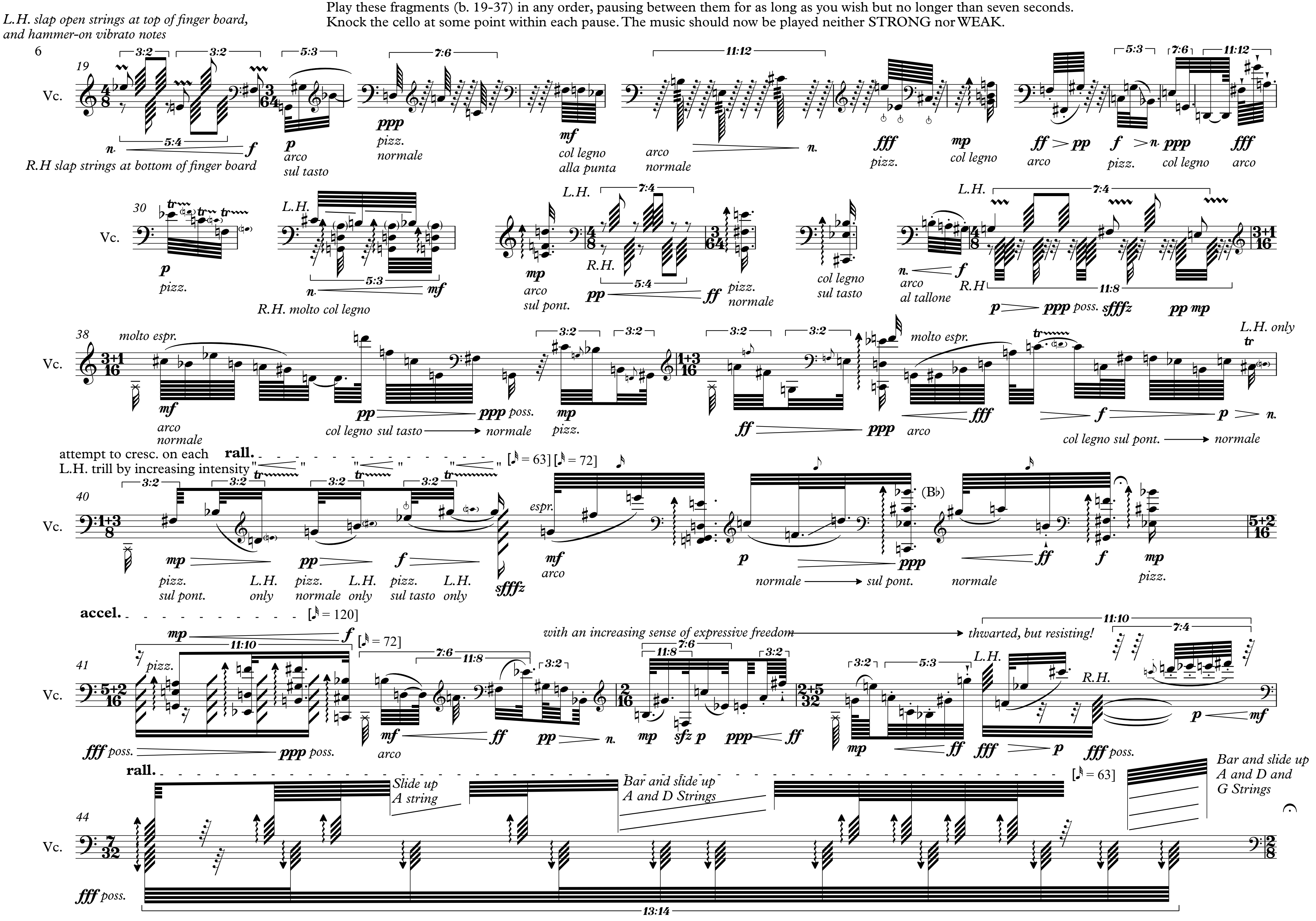
Pause, as though a game or DVD: freeze mid-gesture without relaxing for the length (in seconds) indicated above.

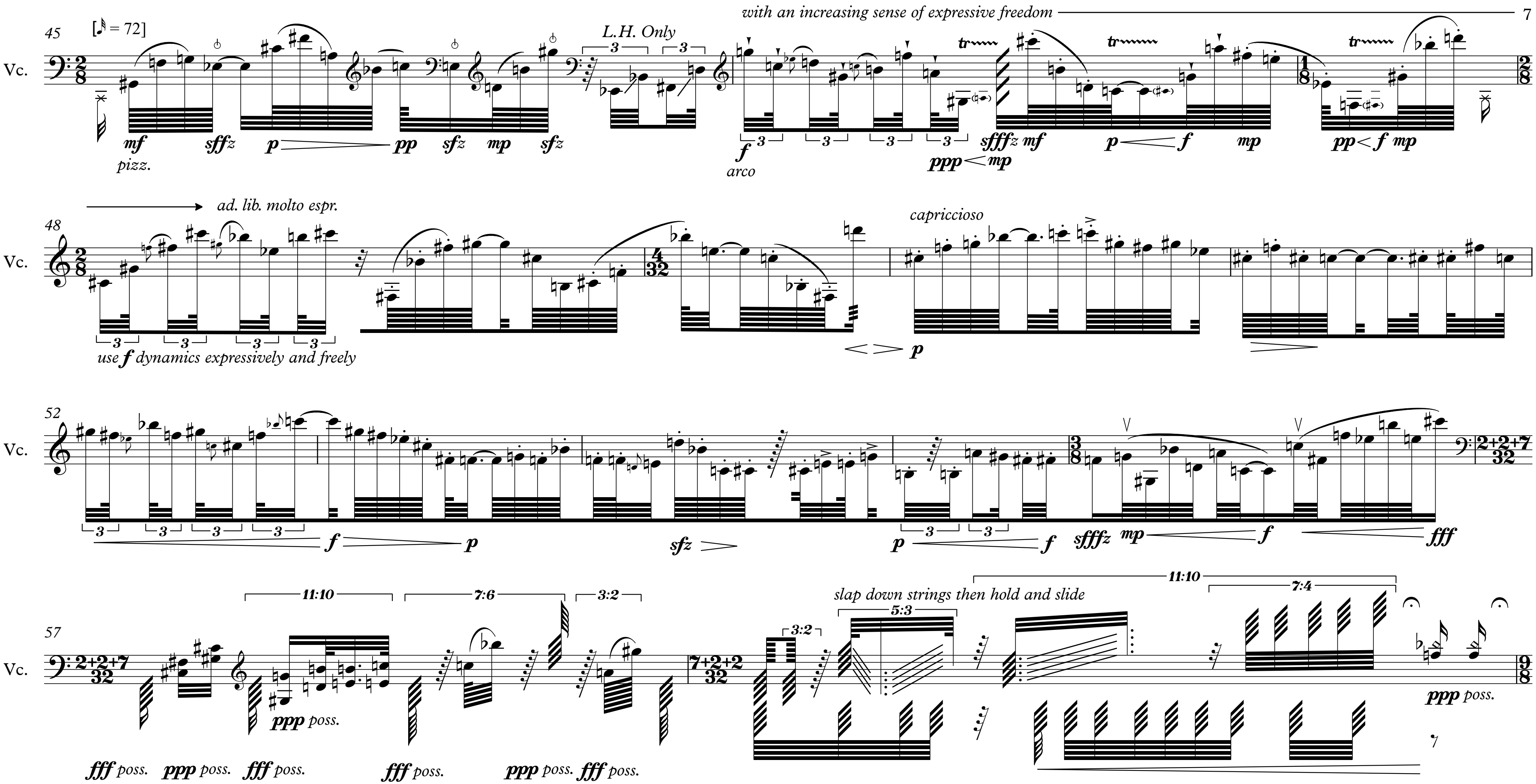
COL LEGNO

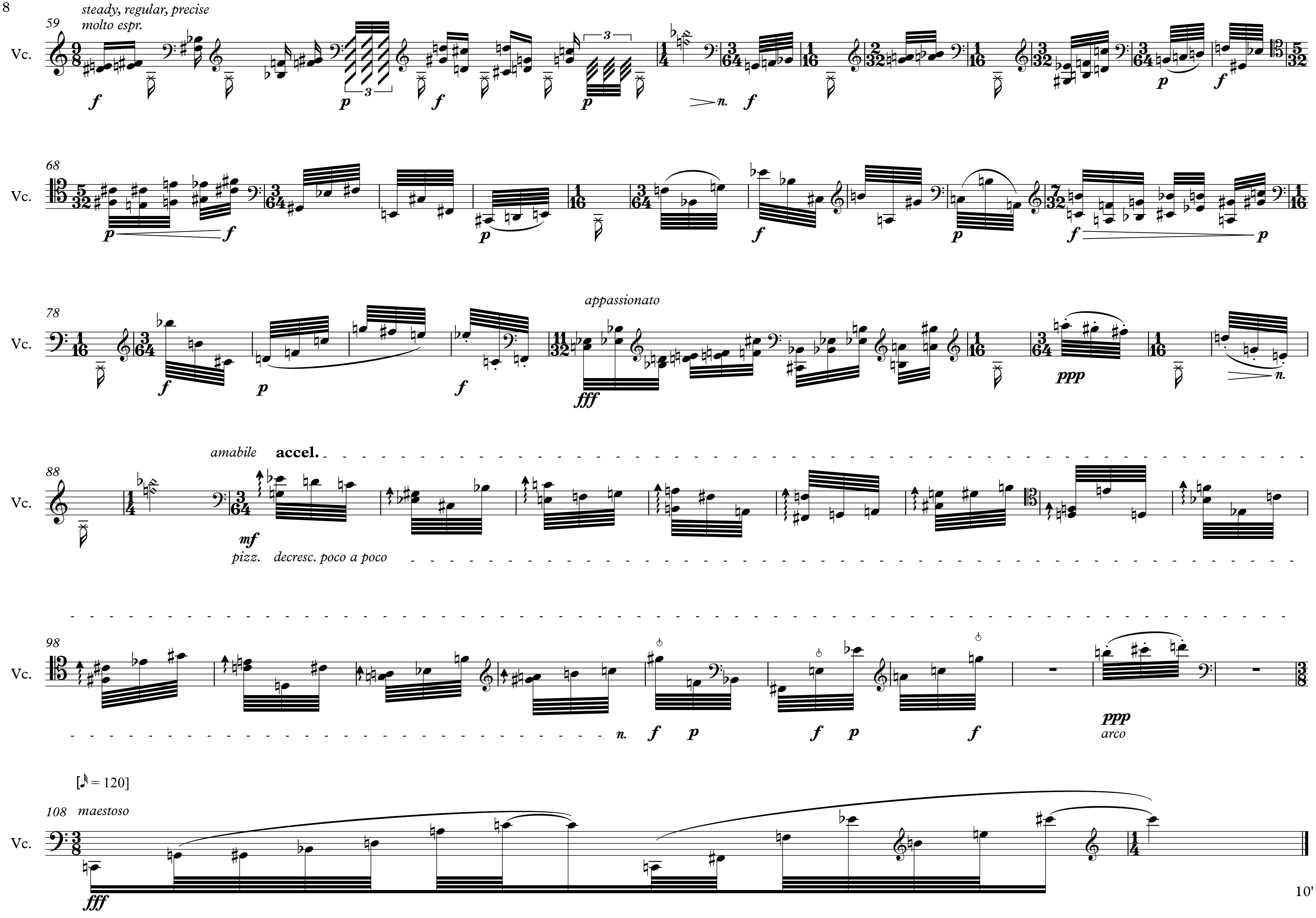
is always battuto.


[♪ = 72] accel.
STRONG
[♪ = 120] 1' rall.
WEAK
[♪ = 72] 2' [♪ = 120] rall.
WEAK
Violoncello
3:2
6:4
pp ff
mp pizz.
fff
arco n. mf ppp
pizz.
L.H. only → sul pont → sul tasto
p arco
f pizz.
n.
col legno (ricochet)
[♪ = 72] 4' accel.
STRONG
[♪ = 120] 7" [♪ = 72]
WEAK
3' [♪ = 120] STRONG
7
Vc.
5:4
L.H. only
ff pizz.
pp arco
fff mp col legno
arco normale
sul tasto → sul pont → molto sul tasto
pizz.
f R.H.
col legno between bridge and tailpiece
p arco
ppp pizz.
mf ppp col legno
normale → sul tasto
mf ppp arco normale
n. f
STRONG → WEAK
STRONG → WEAK
rall.
[♪ = 72] 6'
STRONG
11
7:6
7:4
f fff
p ppp
sul tasto → sul pont normale
L.H. only
ricochet
pizz.
R.H.
ff
pp
mp mf
p n. arco normale espr.
WEAK → STRONG
accel.
[♪ = 72]
[♪ = 120] 8'
WEAK
13
5:3
tr
p ppp pizz.
arco sul pont → normale
f fff
mp mf sul tasto → normale
ff
pp pizz.
mf col legno
mp arco sul pont.
n. L.H. only
f pizz.
fff
normale → sul tasto → molto sul tasto
n. p normale
[♪ = 72]
A LITTLE STRONG
5'
A LITTLE WEAK
→ NORMAL
15
L.H. bar strings and slide
11:12
fff poss.
R.H. slap strings with flat of fingers
col legno (ricochet)
11:10
p f ppp
molto sul tasto → sul tasto → molto sul tasto
ff pizz. normale
mf
pp
ppp poss. pitches here may be approximated
arco
mp pizz. arco

Play these fragments (b. 19-37) in any order, pausing between them for as long as you wish but no longer than seven seconds.
Knock the cello at some point within each pause. The music should now be played neither STRONG nor WEAK.


L.H. slap open strings at top of finger board, and hammer-on vibrato notes
R.H slap strings at bottom of finger board
Vc.
19
30
38
40
41
44
arco
sul tasto
pizz.
normale
col legno
alla punta
arco
normale
pizz.
col legno
arco
L.H.
R.H. molto col legno
arco
sul pont.
R.H.
pizz.
normale
col legno
sul tasto
arco
al tallone
R.H
molto espr.
arco
normale
col legno sul tasto → normale
pizz.
arco
col legno sul pont. → normale
L.H. only
attempt to cresc. on each L.H. trill by increasing intensity
rall.
[♪ = 63] [♪ = 72]
espr.
pizz.
sul pont.
L.H.
only
pizz.
normale
L.H.
only
pizz.
sul tasto
L.H.
only
arco
normale → sul pont.
normale
(B♭)
pizz.
accel.
[♪ = 120]
pizz.
[♪ = 72]
with an increasing sense of expressive freedom → thwarted, but resisting!
arco
rall.
Slide up
A string
Bar and slide up
A and D Strings
[♪ = 63]
Bar and slide up
A and D and
G Strings
fff poss.
13:14


with an increasing sense of expressive freedom
45
[♪ = 72]
Vc.
L.H. Only
3
3
tr
tr
tr
mf
pizz.
sffz
p
pp
sfz
mp
sfz
f
arco
ppp
mp
sfffz
mf
p
f
mp
pp
f
mp
ad. lib. molto espr.
capriccioso
48
Vc.
3
3
3
3
use f dynamics expressively and freely
p
52
Vc.
3
3
3
3
f
p
sfz
p
f
sfffz
mp
f
fff
slap down strings then hold and slide
11:10
7:6
3:2
11:10
3:2
5:3
7:4
57
Vc.
ppp poss.
fff poss.
ppp poss.
fff poss.
fff poss.
ppp poss.
fff poss.
ppp poss.


steady, regular, precise
molto espr.
59
Vc.
f
p
3
f
p
n.
68
Vc.
p
f
78
Vc.
appassionato
fff
ppp
n.
88
Vc.
amabile
accel.
mf
pizz.
decresc. poco a poco
98
Vc.
n.
f
p
f
p
f
ppp
arco
[𝅘𝅥𝅯 = 120]
108
maestoso
Vc.
fff
10'