Michael Kimber

ELEGY

for victims of violence

This Elegy was composed in response to a school shooting — a tragedy that should never occur, yet has been occurring in our nation at the rate of nearly one shooting a week. It was composed as an elegy for victims of gun violence — those who died, those who survived, those who mourn. We should all be mourning.

But mass shootings are only one of many manifestations of violence perpetrated by humans. Let this Elegy be an elegy for victims of every form of violence. More than that, let it be an elegy for humanity's failure to deal with violence in straightforward and determined ways. Thoughts and prayers are little more than an excuse for inaction. And gun violence, as flagrantly and painfully visible as it is, reveals only the tip of the iceberg.

Violence comes in many forms: violence against women, against people of color, against refugees, immigrants, indigenous peoples, people of different gender identities, people of different religious convictions, people with disabilities, children, the elderly, wartime enemies — the list could go on and on — but it must not stop without including the most egregious of all forms of violence: violence against our own unique and precious Planet, the one and only place in the Universe that sustains Life as we know it.

Let this Elegy remind us of our duty to oppose violence in all its forms and to resist the use of violence for any purpose. That's a tall order for a species that has depended on violence, throughout its history, to "get its way." The end of violence will require a paradigm shift in human consciousness. Can we achieve this before our Planet eliminates the species that has wreaked more damage during the past century than has occurred throughout its entire existence on this Earth? Due to our callous abuse of the environment we are already witnessing extinctions of plant and animal species at unprecedented rates; our own species is not immune to a similar fate!

At the conclusion of our performance of this Elegy, please remain silent — as silent as the voices of those who are no longer with us. However, do not remain silent once you leave this hall. It is up to each and every one of us to speak for those who no longer can. Please make your voices heard, loud and clear, yet always in non-violent ways.

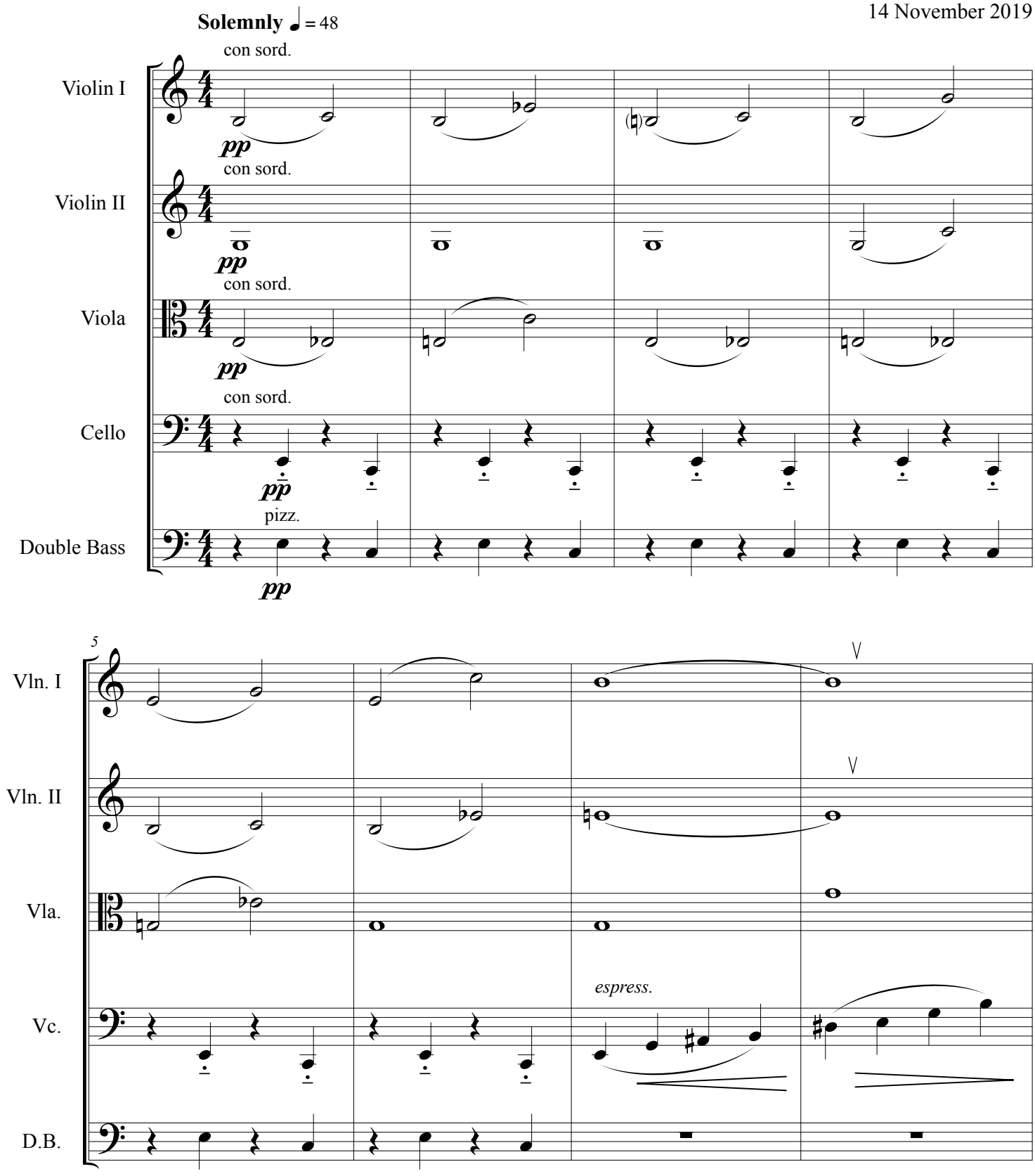
17 November 2019

ELEGY

for victims of violence

Score
Duration 2:50

Michael Kimber
14 November 2019



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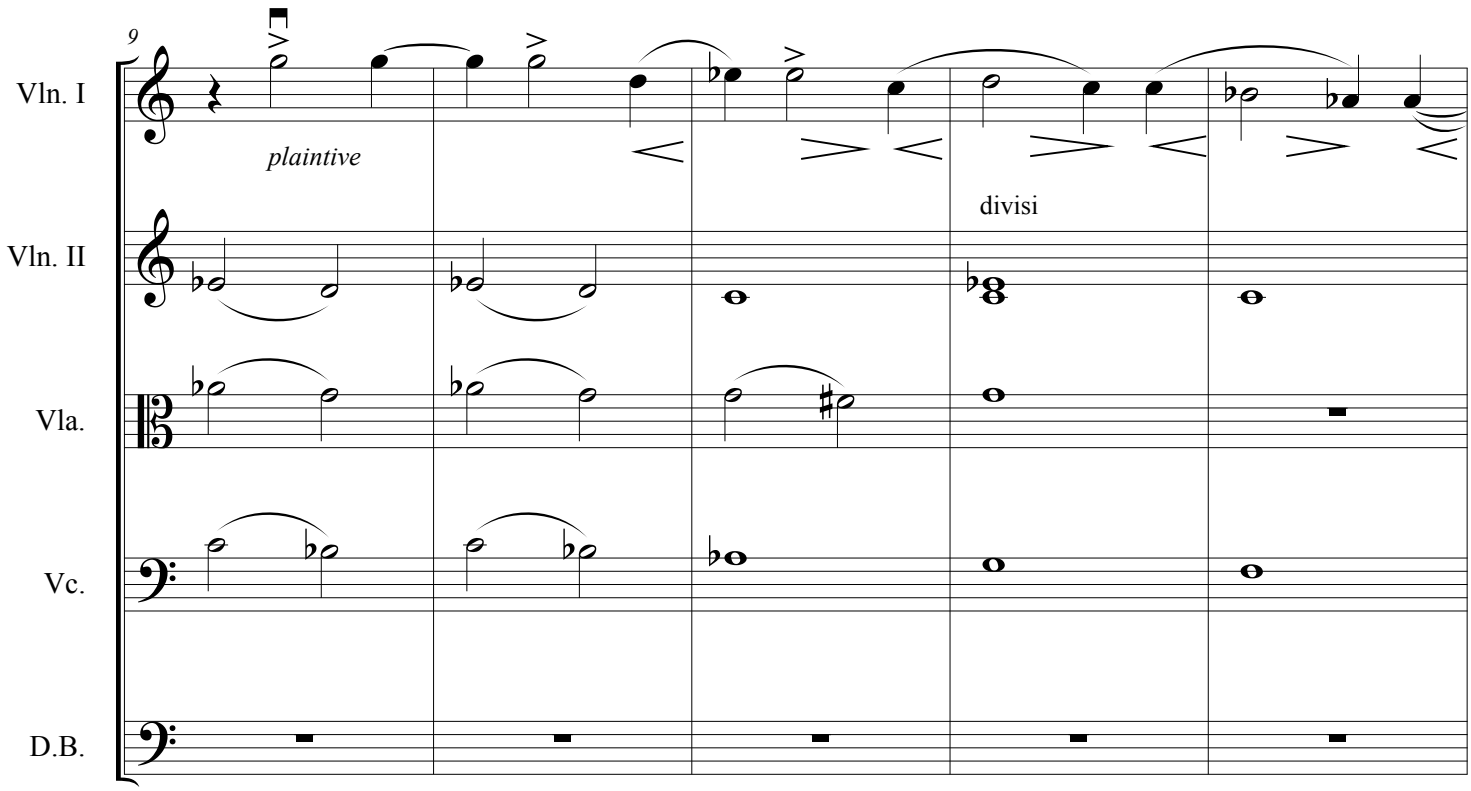
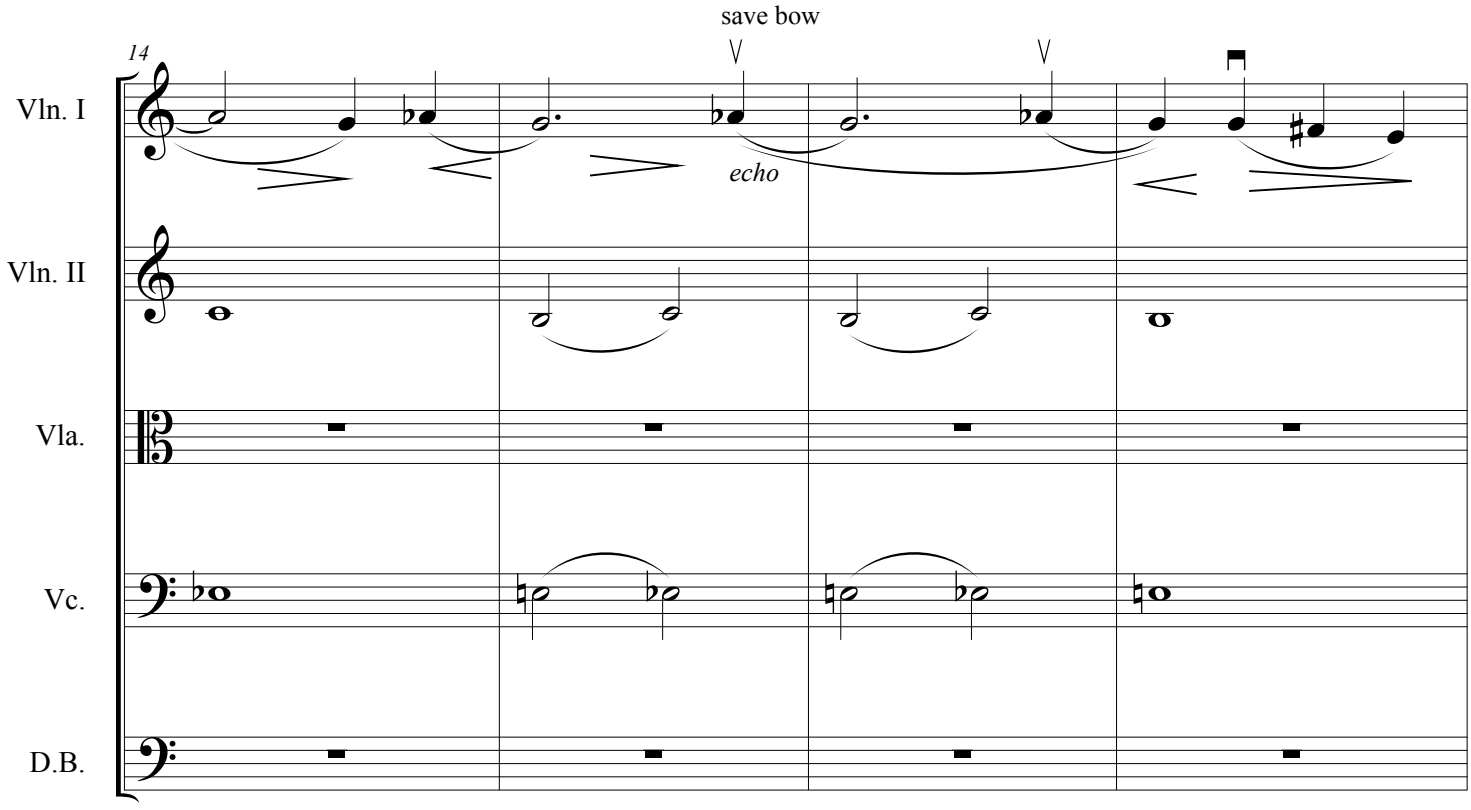
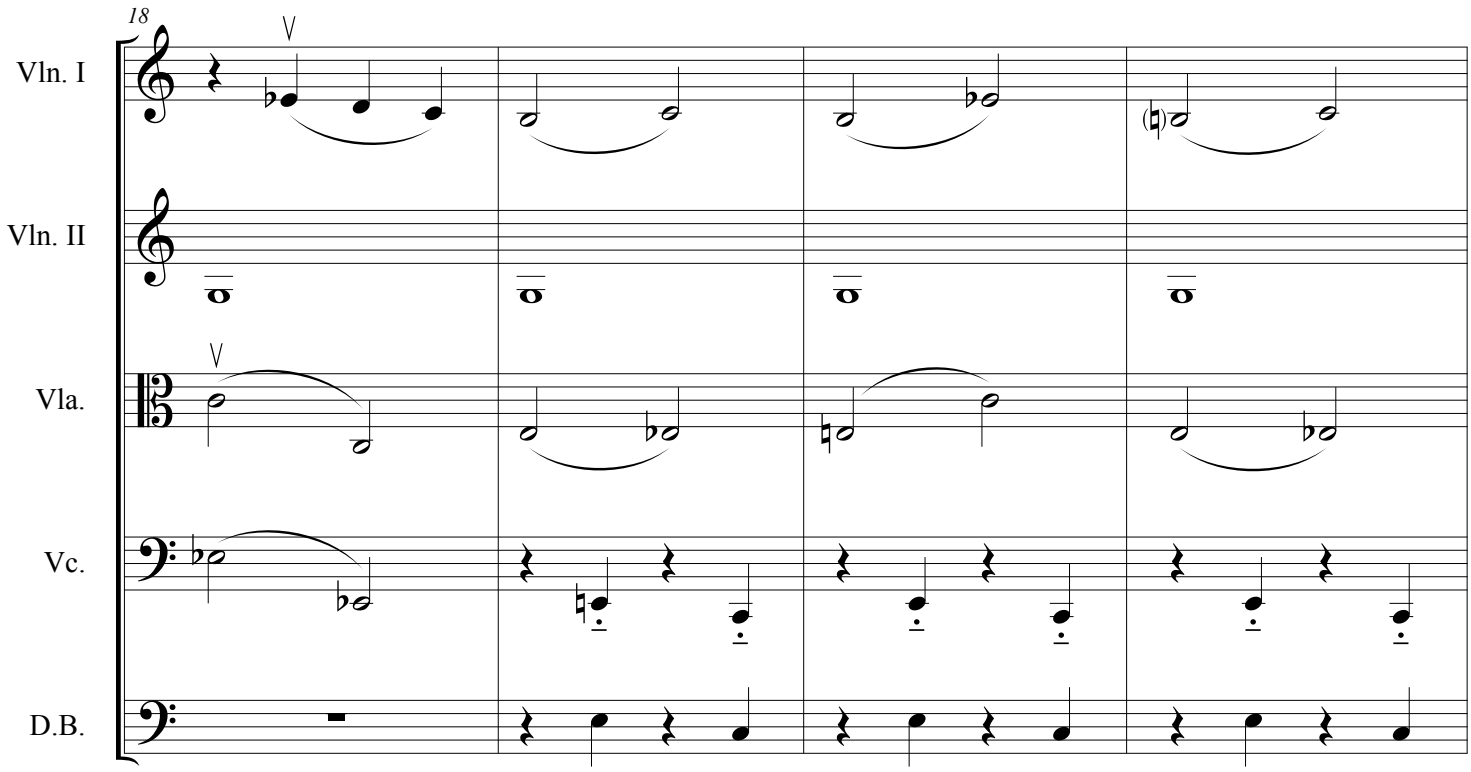
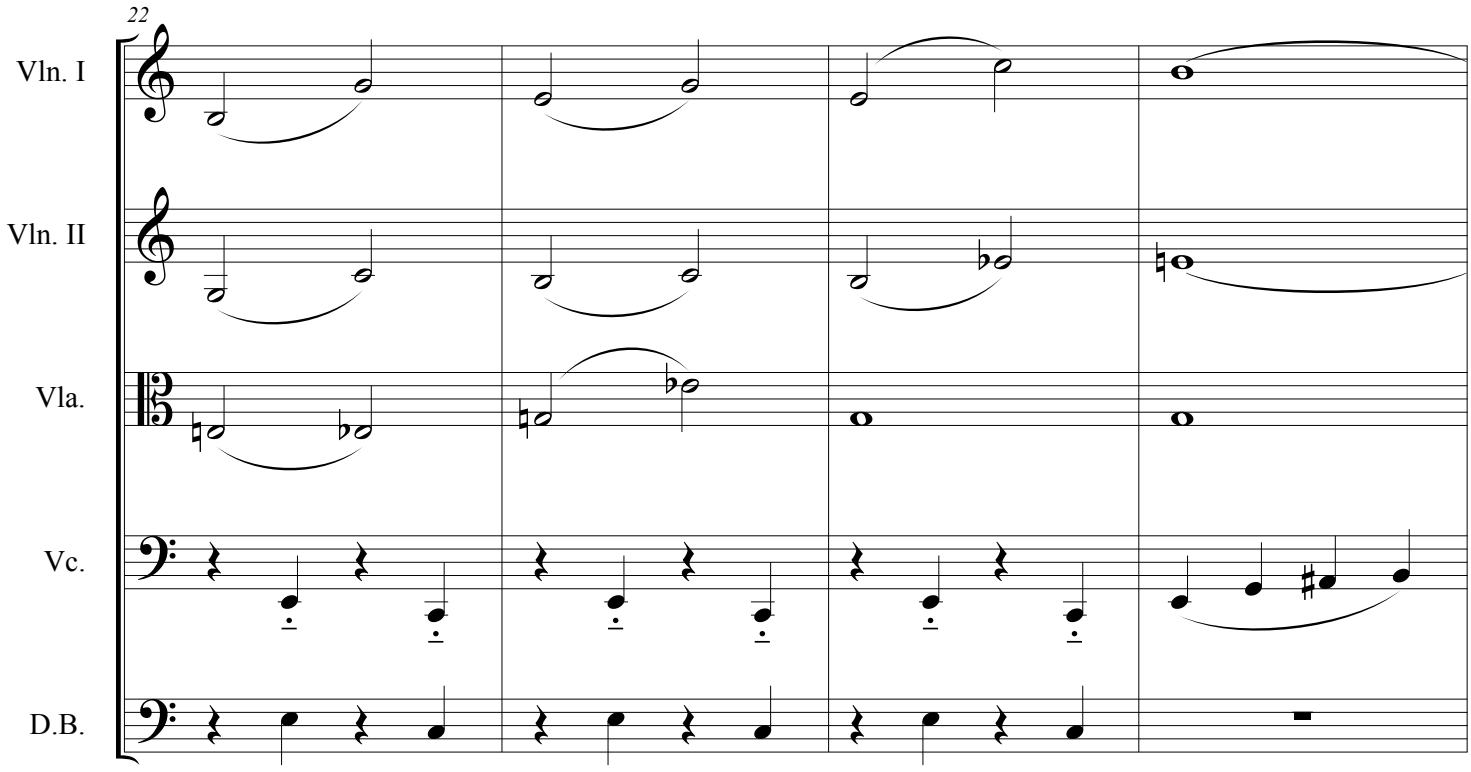
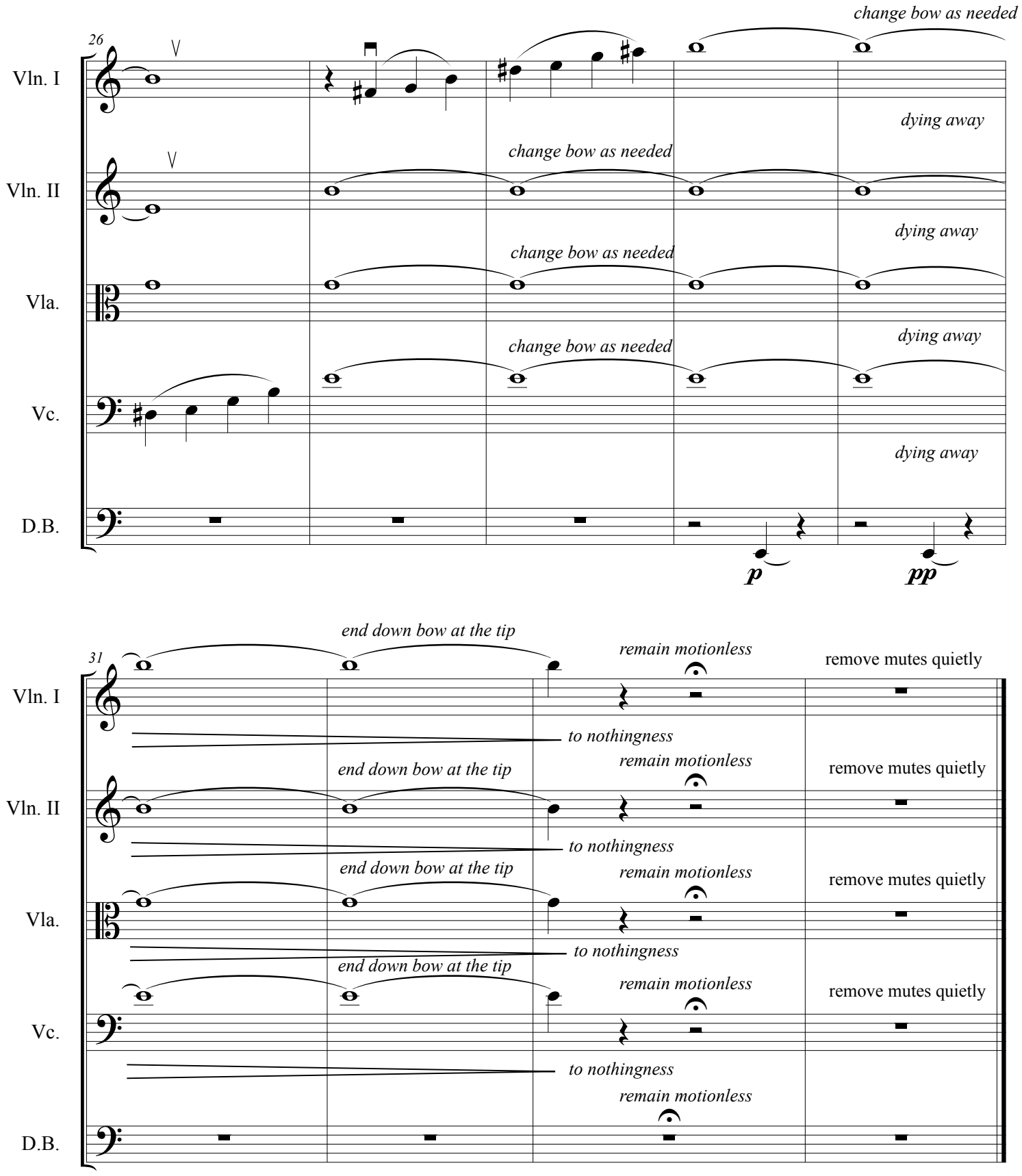

9
Vln. I
plaintive
divisi
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.


save bow
14
Vln. I
echo
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.


18
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.


22
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.


26
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
change bow as needed
dying away
p
pp
31
end down bow at the tip
remain motionless
to nothingness
remove mutes quietly