Marc Sabat

Beautiful city

PLAINSOUND MUSIC EDITION

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for string quartet

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Notes on tuning:

The following symbols are used in addition to regular 12-tone notation to approximate the tuning of intervals based on the harmonic series:

before a note raises/lowers it by 1/6 of a semitone (about 16 cents)

before a note raises/lowers it by 1/3 of a semitone (about 33 cents)

before a note raises/lowers it by 1/2 of a semitone (50 cents)

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Notes:

The top string of each instrument is flattened by a fifth to make a unison with the second string
(A-A for violin, D-D for viola and cello).
The bottom string is lowered by a fourth to be an octave below the third string
(D-d for violin, G-g for viola and cello).
Each part is notated on two staves (D and A for violin; G and D for viola and cello).
Each staff represents a pair of matching strings.
Stems going up indicate the upper string, stems going down indicate the lower string.

Dotted slurs indicate common tones which are passed from one instrument to another.
Solid slurs indicate phrases and ties (as normal).

Each page is between 2 and 3 minutes long, with durations matching the relative positions of the notes in the score.
Tones sustain until the next dotted barline (except when tied into the next measure).
When more than one tone is indicated within a single bar, the notes should be sustained simultaneously as much as possible.
To achieve this, slow, uneven oscillations between three strings and harsh tones caused by excess pressure/sul tasto may be used.
Regular and/or fast arpeggiation should be minimized.

Common tones passed from one instrument to another are to be crossfaded slowly and smoothly.
All timbres (including extremes) are possible, but they should evolve slowly.
The group dynamic remains relatively balanced throughout, beginning and ending softly.

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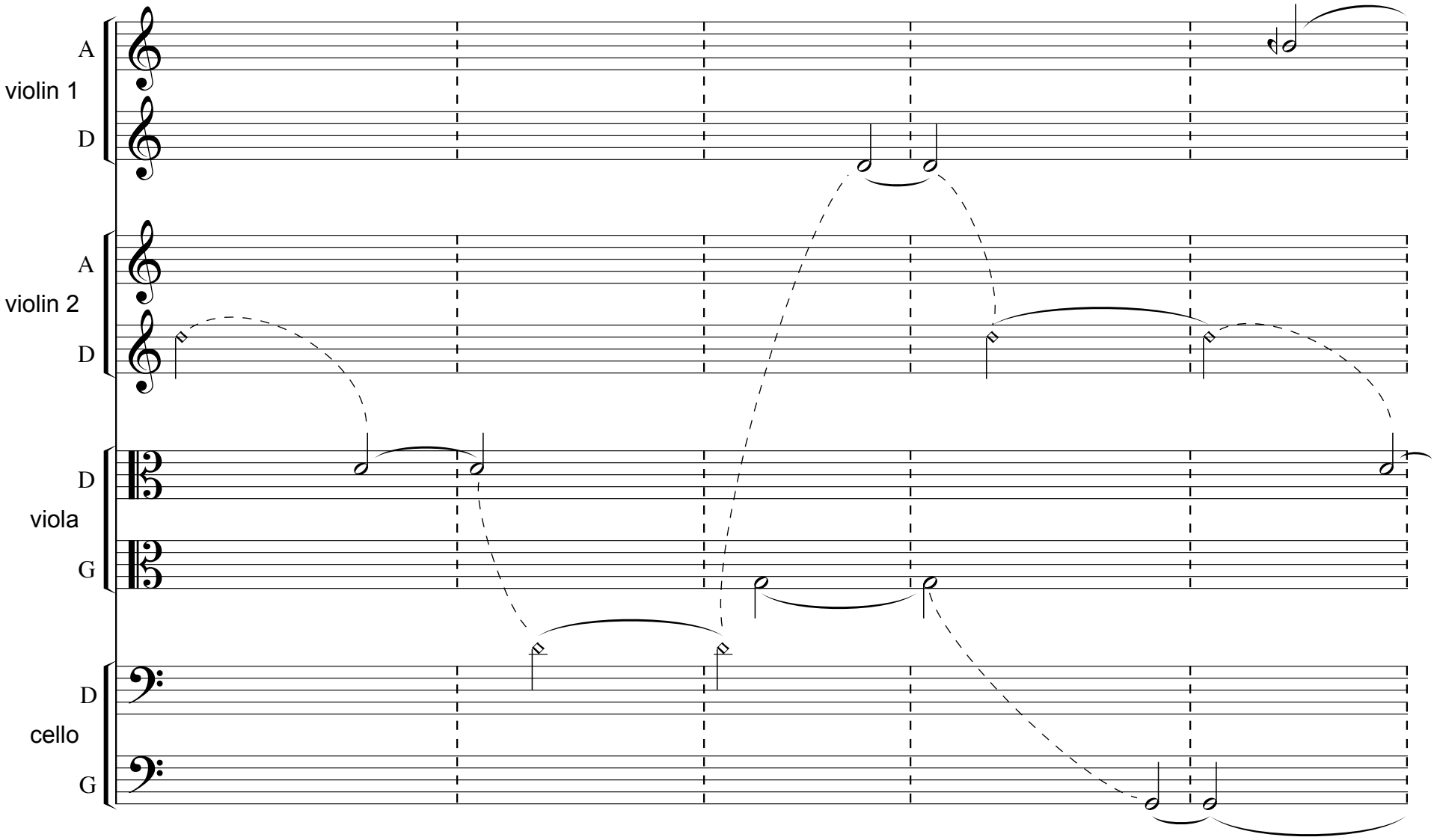

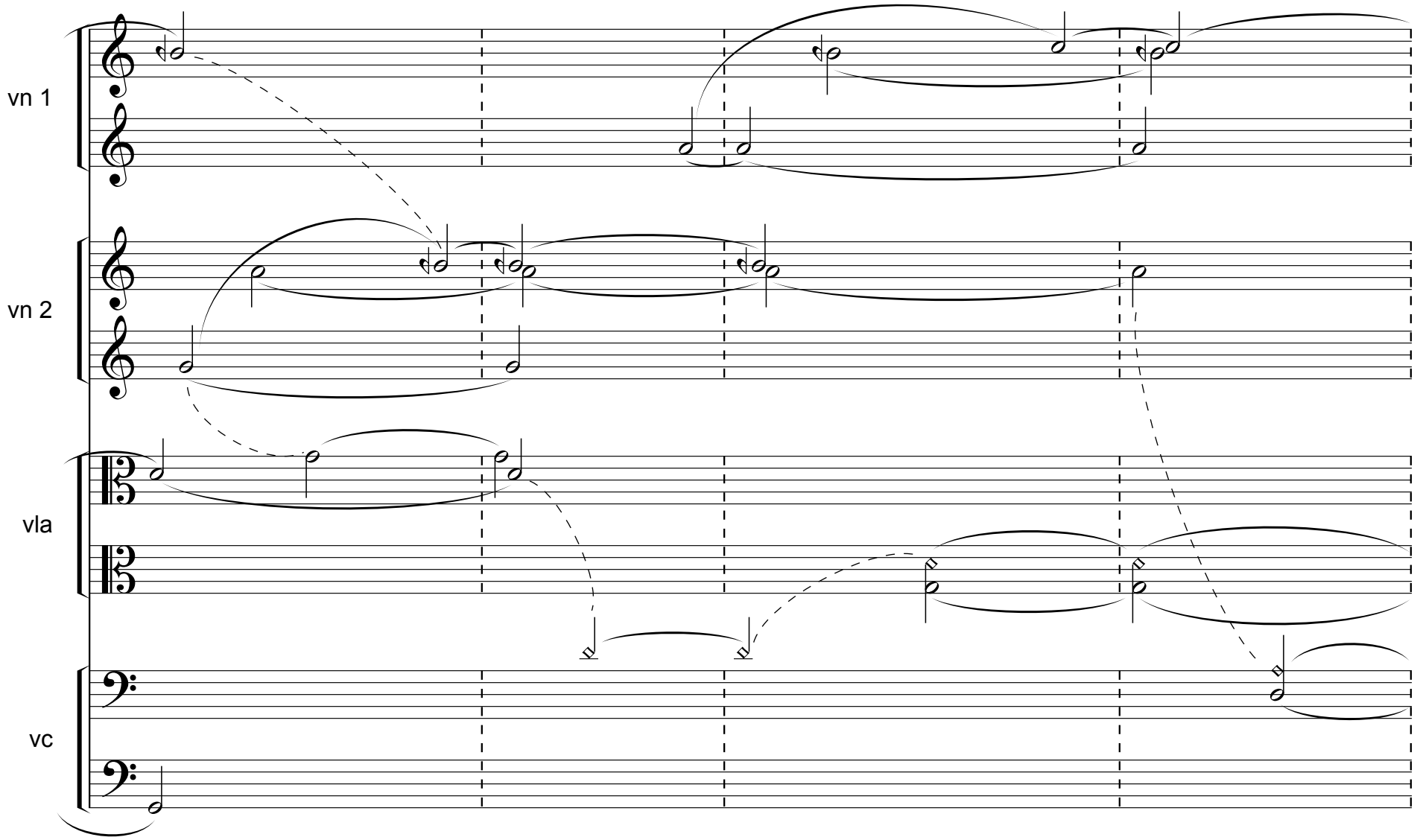
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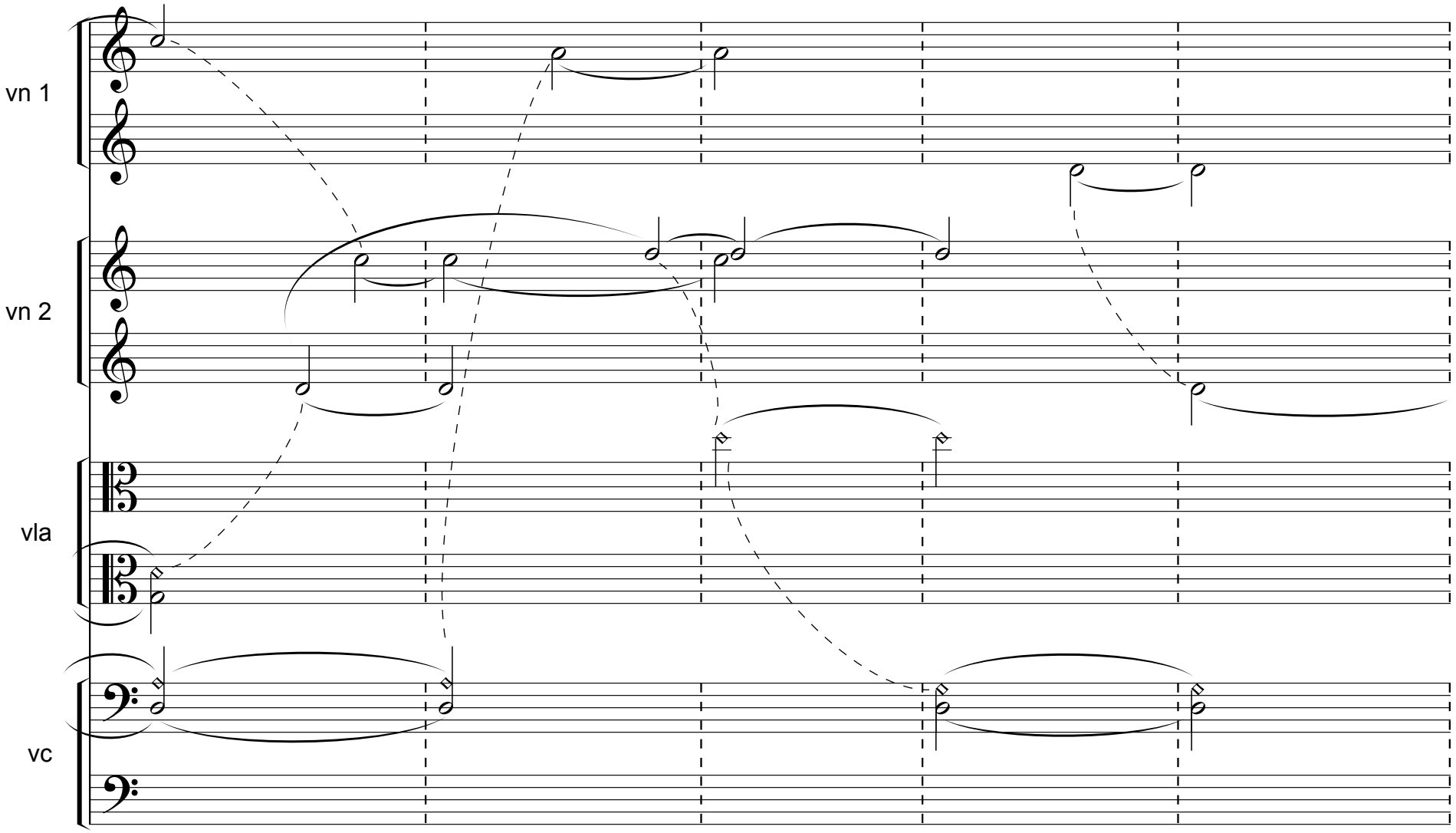
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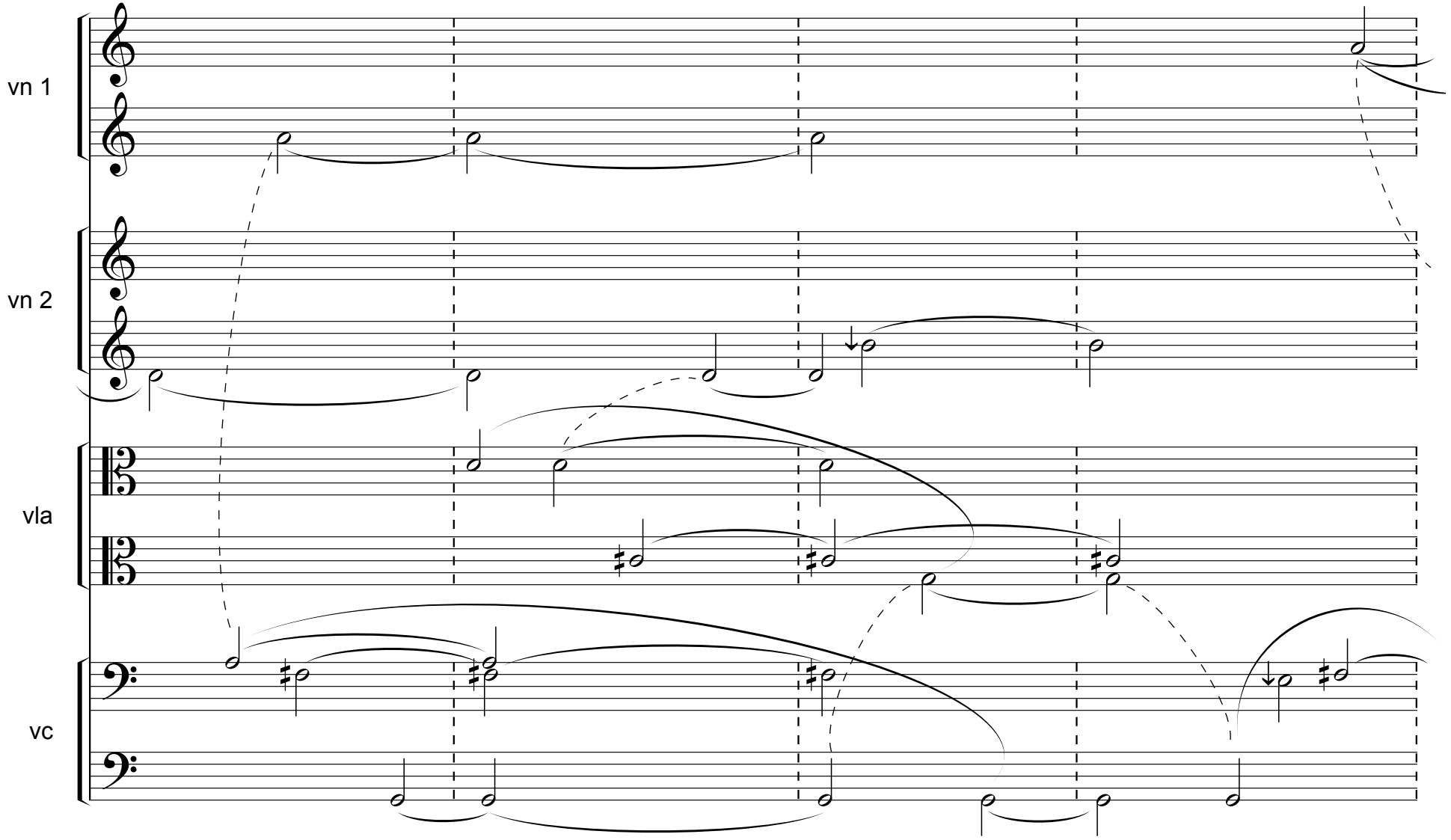
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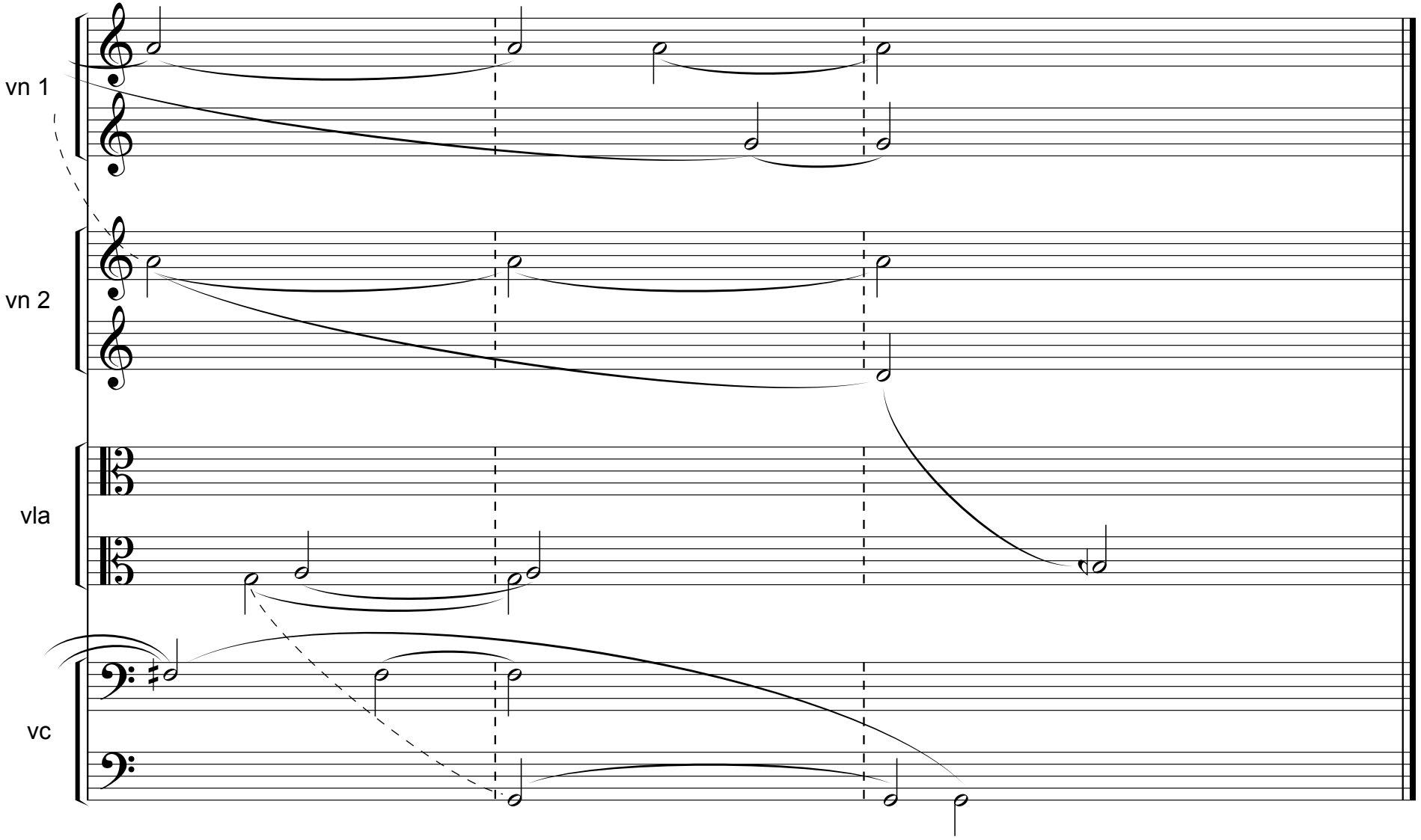
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