Katherine Ryan Ayres

Empty Glass House

for brass quintet

Copyright © 2023 Katherine Ryan Ayres, all rights reserved. - KRA0019

Performance Notes:

Empty Glass House is a piece about frailty and private reflection. To achieve this emotional affect, the piece should be performed with the musicians backstage, with all musicians facing away from the audience and arranged in a straight line instead of the ordinary brass quintet setup. The horn player must also have an absorbtive shield behind them (i.e. something soft that produces a dampening effect), so as not to project directly toward the audience. If playing backstage is impractical or impossible, but there is a balcony or service level available, the musicians should play there, in as close a configuration as possible to how they would perform if they were backstage (i.e. in a straight line, facing away from the audience). If this is also not an option, the piece must be played behind the audience, as close to the exit as possible, again in the configuration specified above. If a shield for the horn player is not possible, the horn player can alternatively play with a mute.

All notes marked with tenuto-staccato are played roughly the same length - clearly short, but not to the point of sounding stiff or clipped. Any notes marked tenuto are merely played full value - the marking does not imply any accent.

All silences are to be observed for their full duration. A slight rubato is permissable when the musicians are playing.

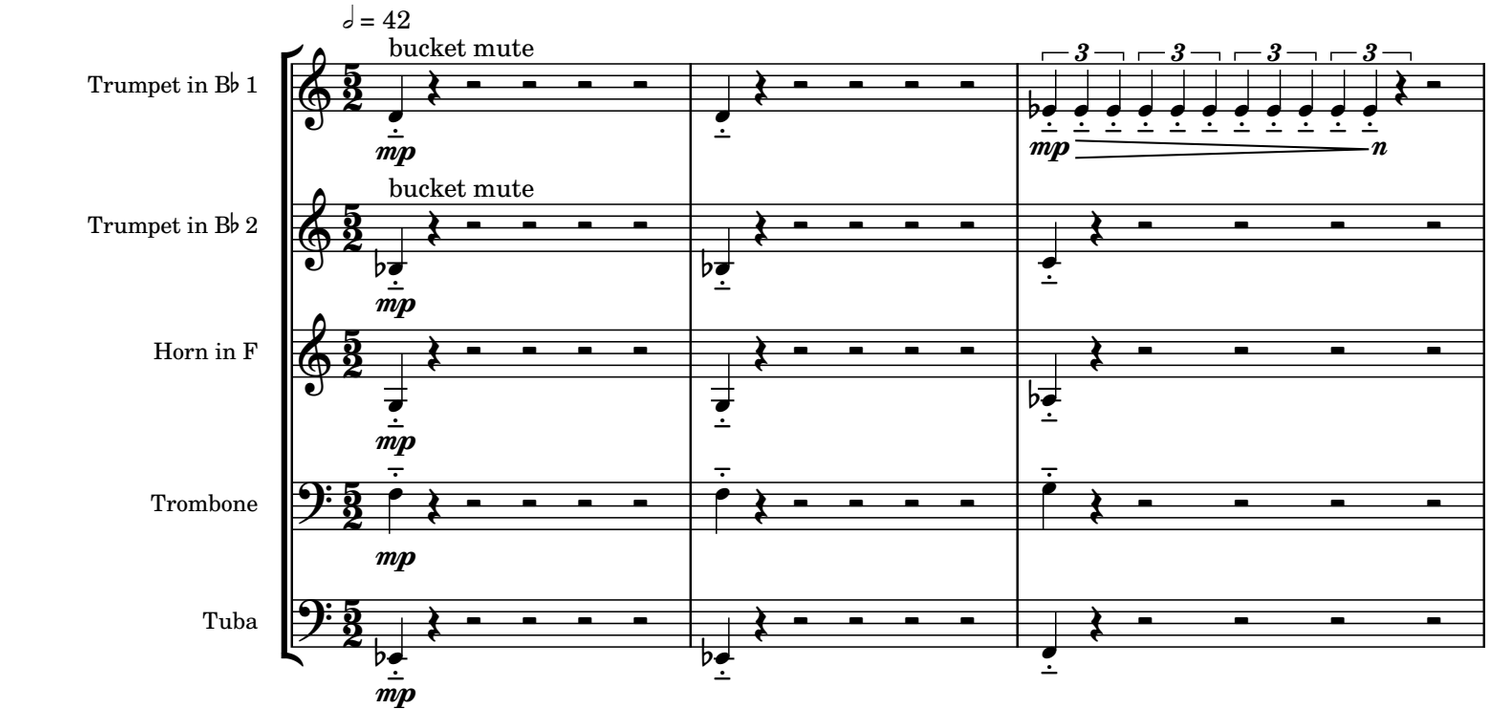
'Niente' and pianissimo should be taken with a grain of salt - it is important that when sound is made that despite being soft if never sounds timid or as though there has been a mistake. The softest moments of the piece should be played at the most comfortable soft dynamic the players can manage, and the louder parts should be scaled accordingly. The fact that the musicians will be separated from the audience by their placement in the hall will assist in exaggerating the dynamic extremes.

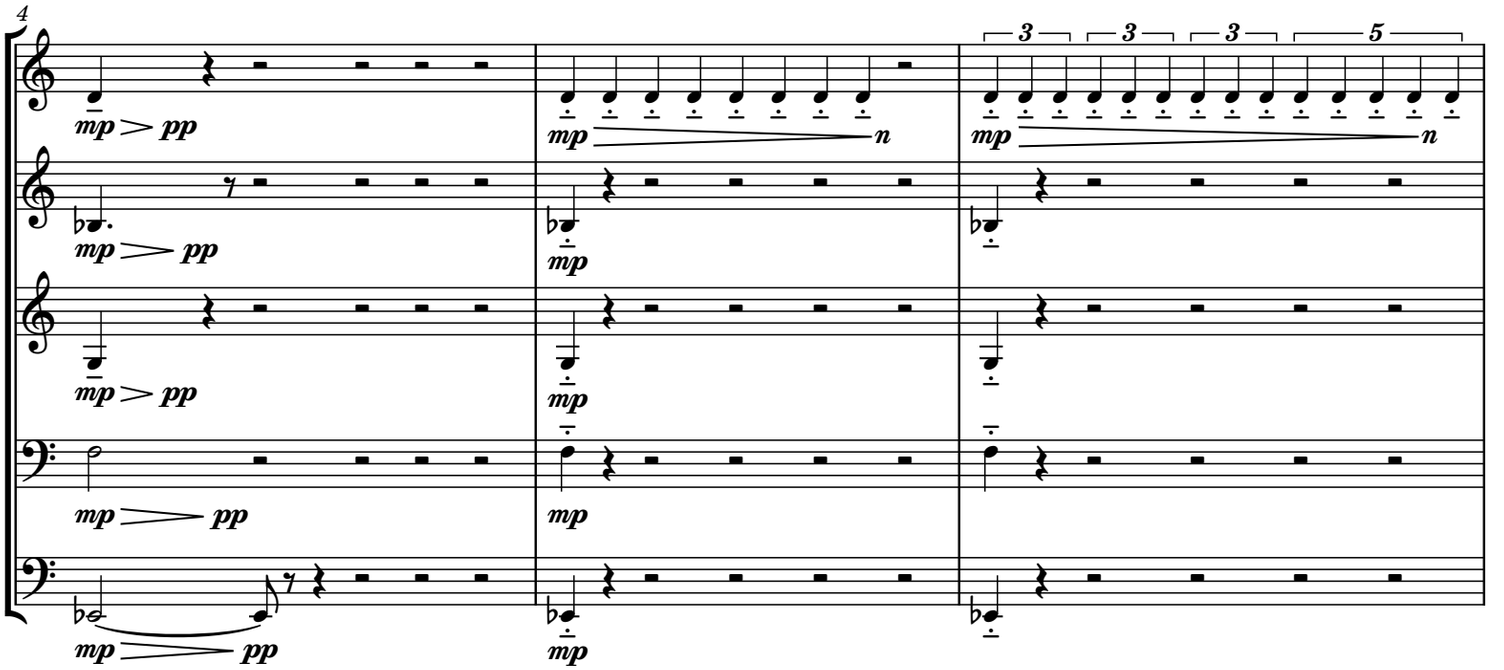
Score in C

Empty Glass House

for brass quintet

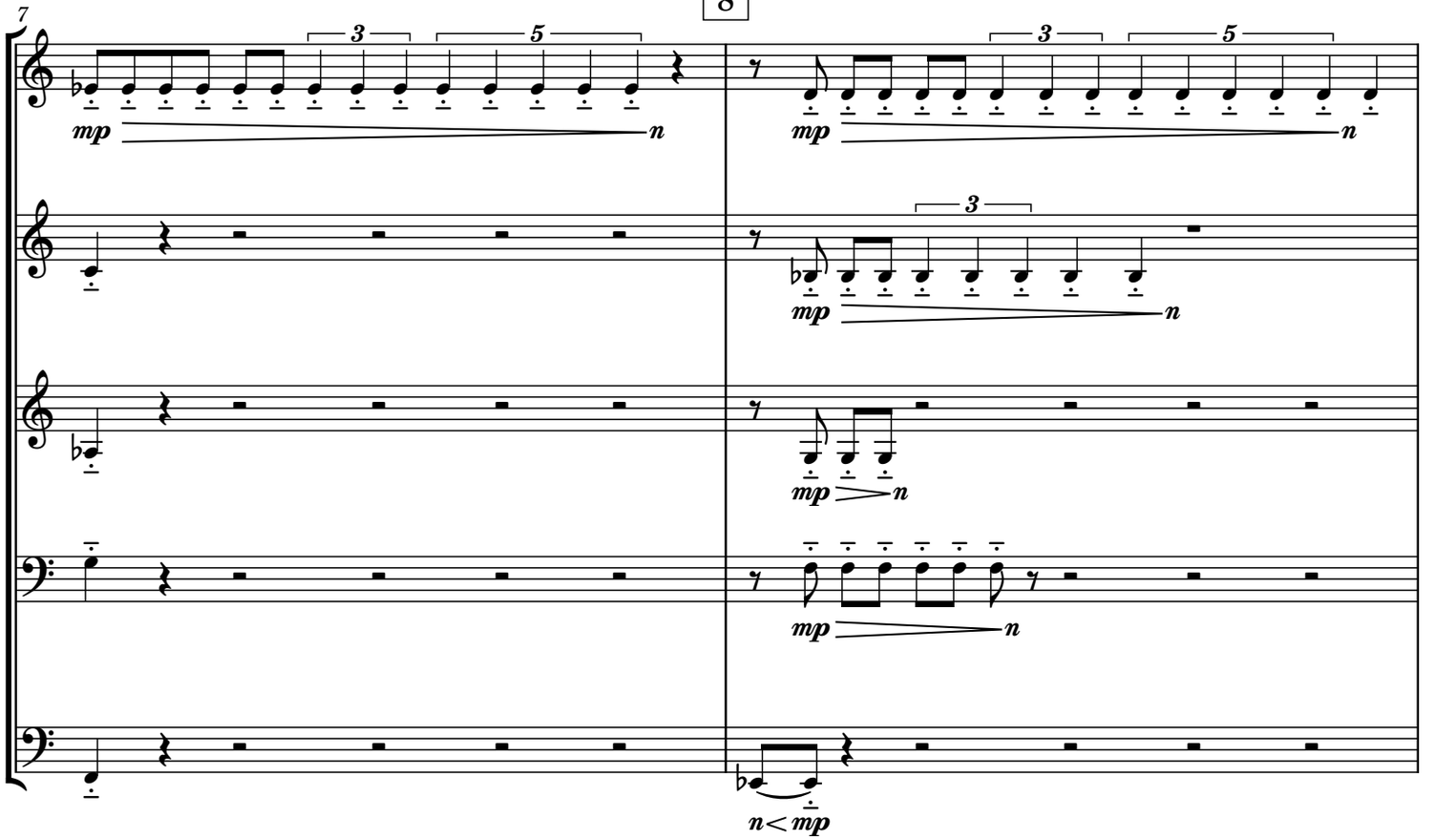
Katherine Ryan Ayres (2015, rev. 2023)

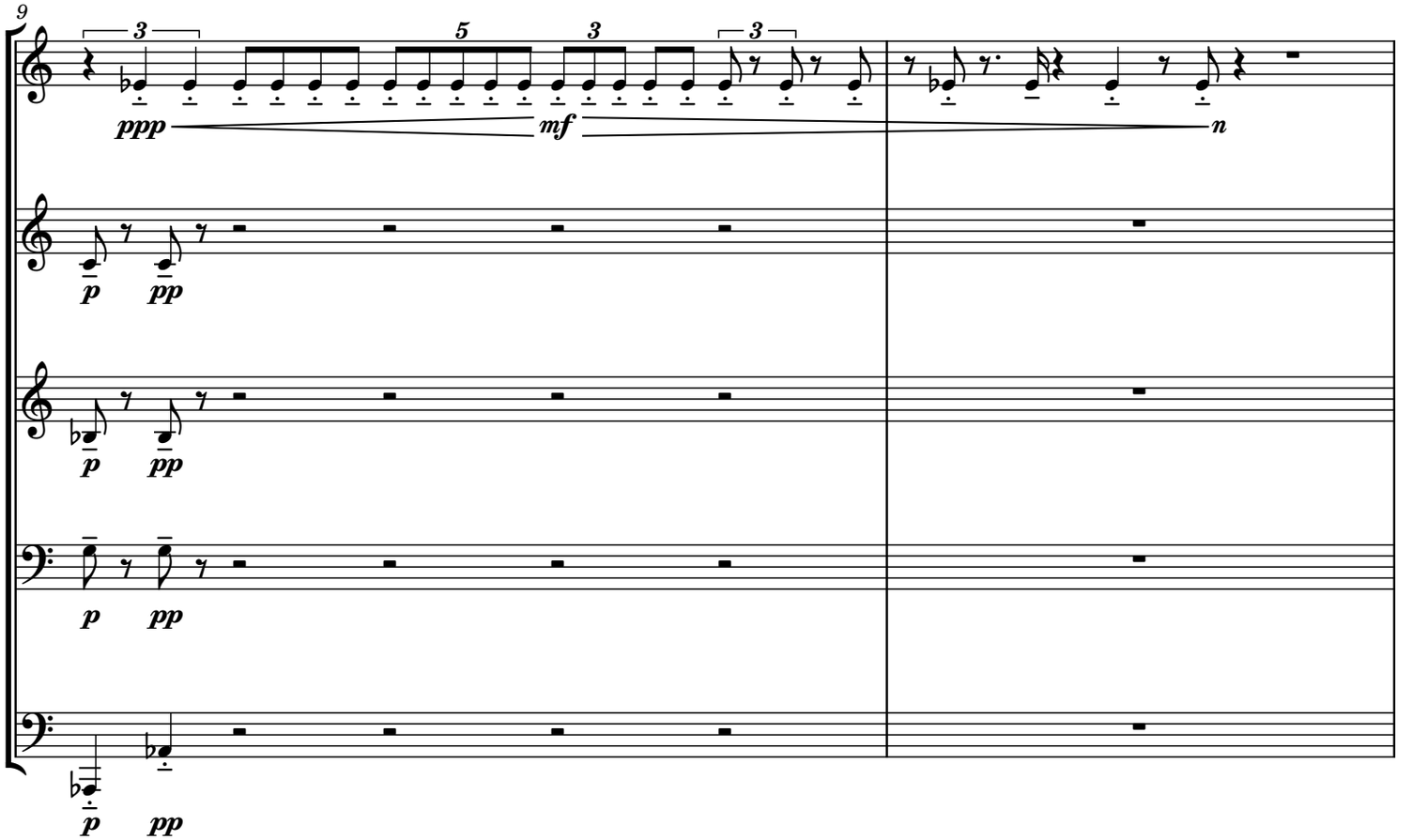


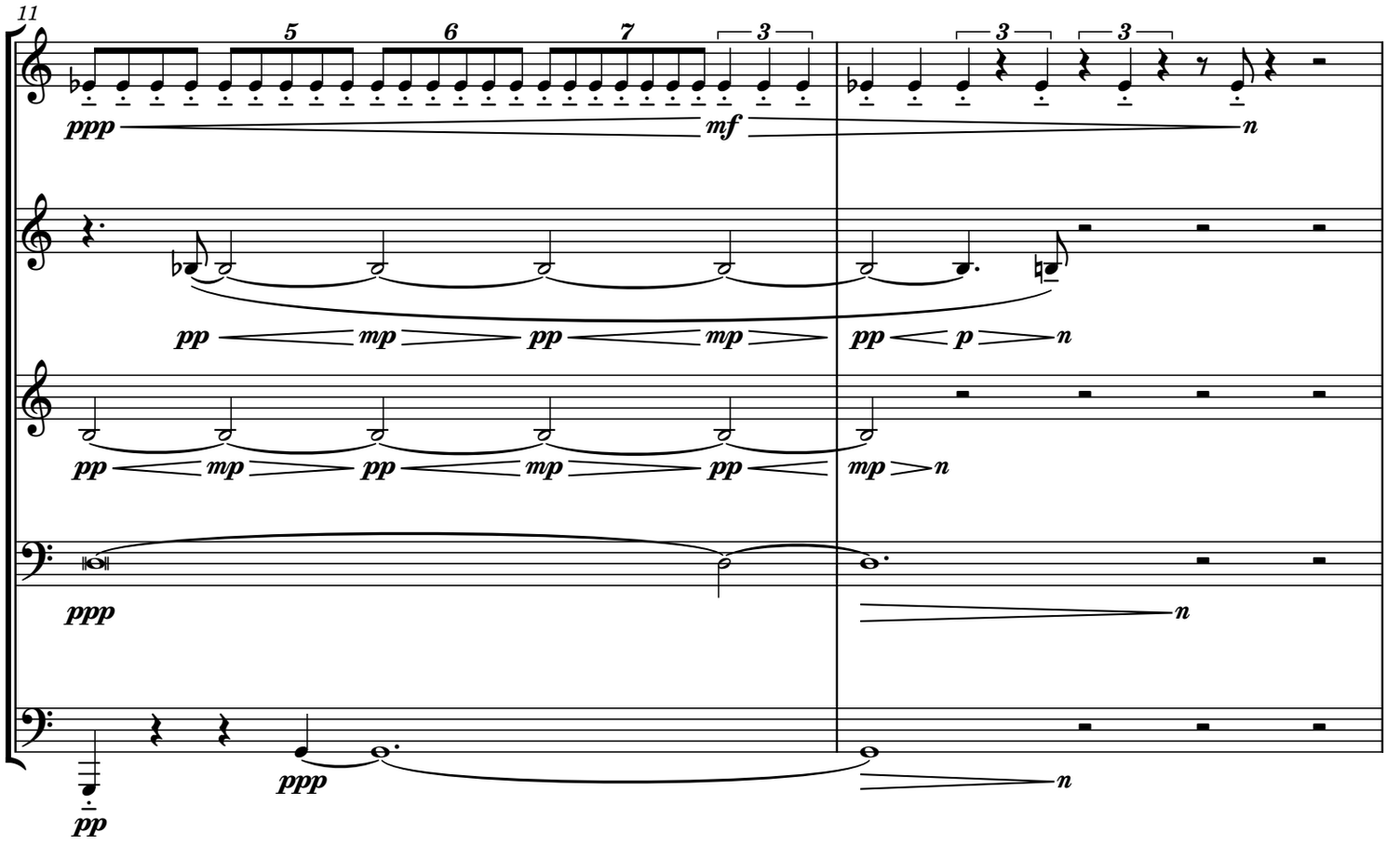


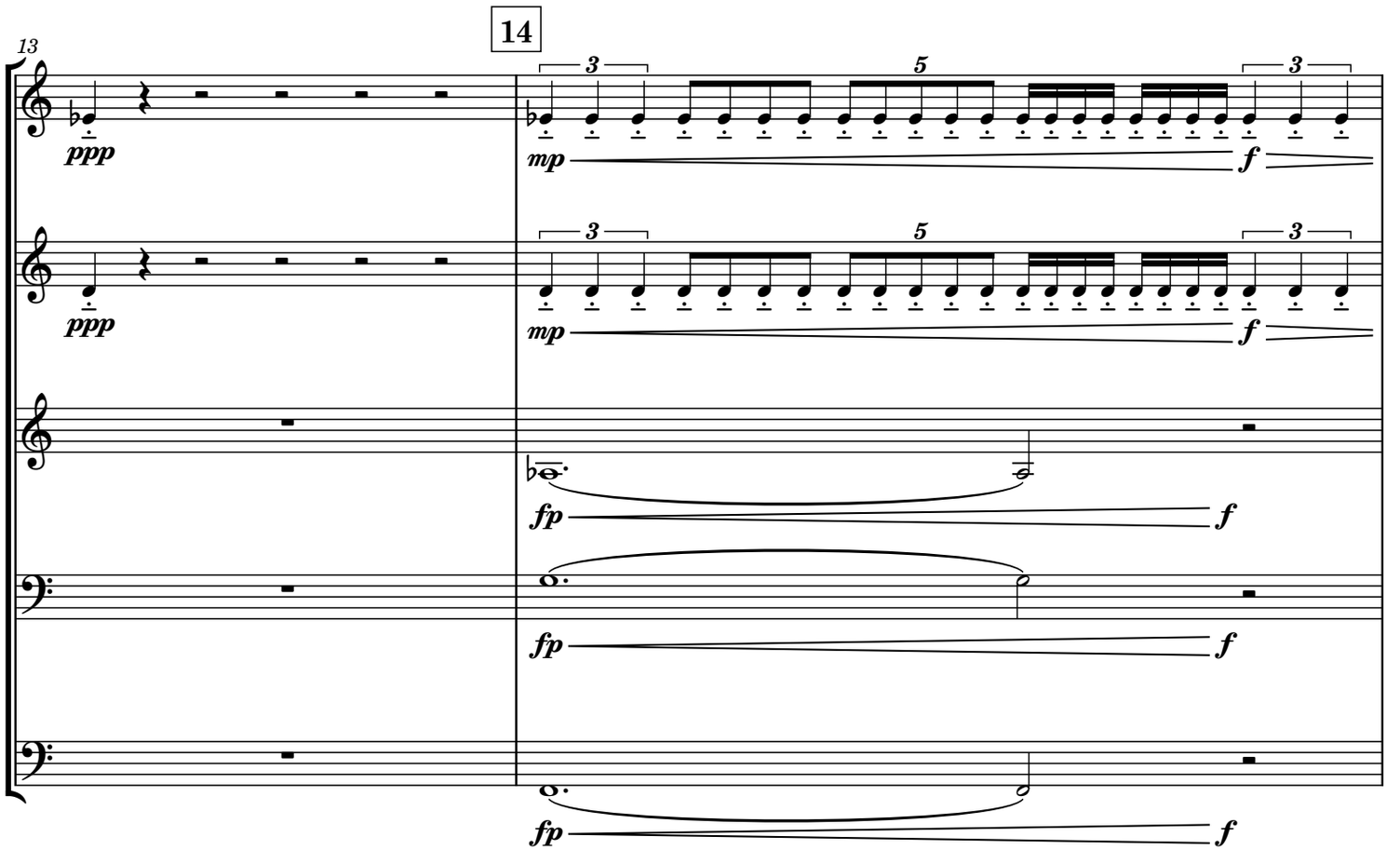
Copyright © 2023 Katherine Ryan Ayres, all rights reserved. - KRA0019

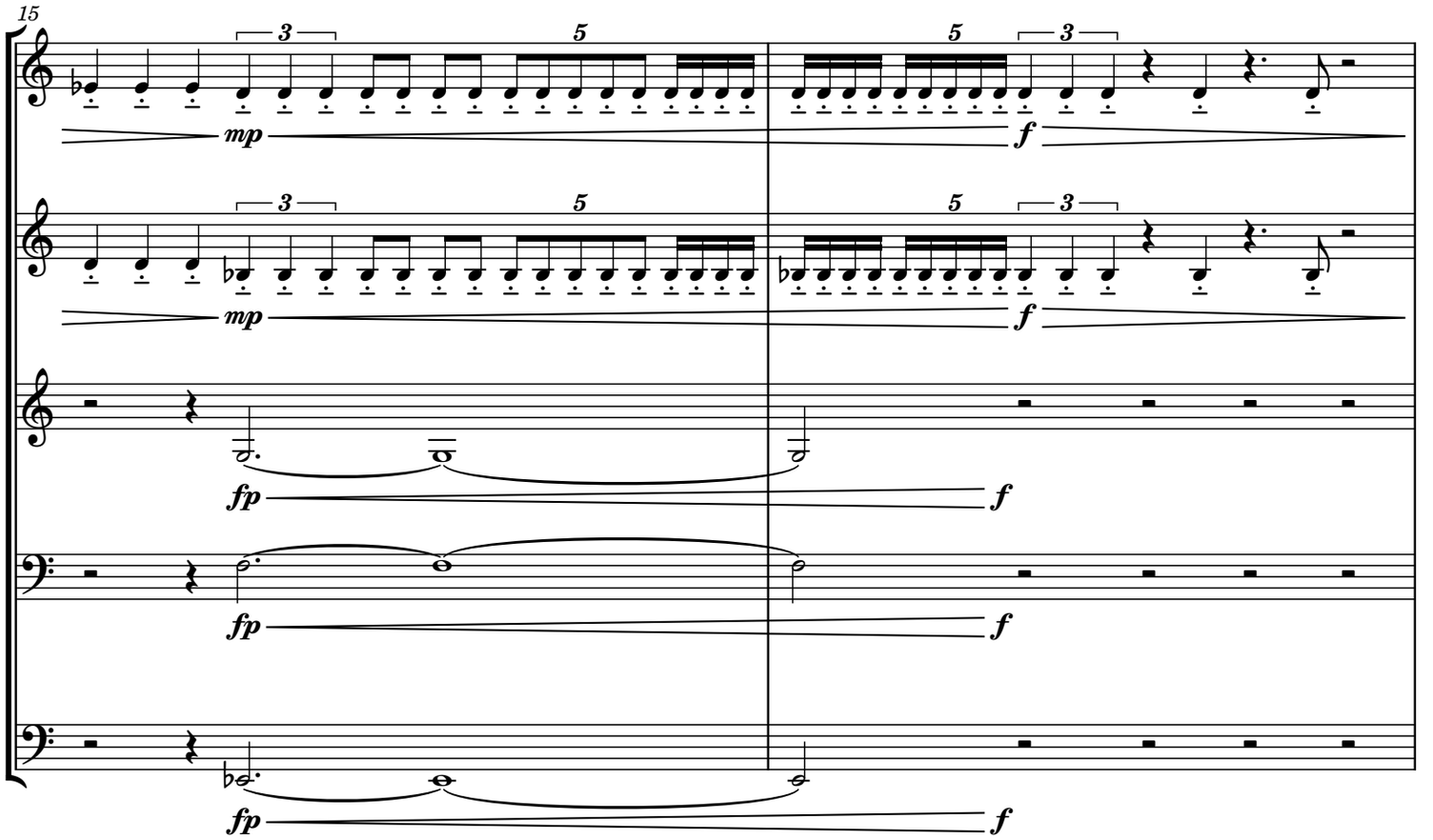
8

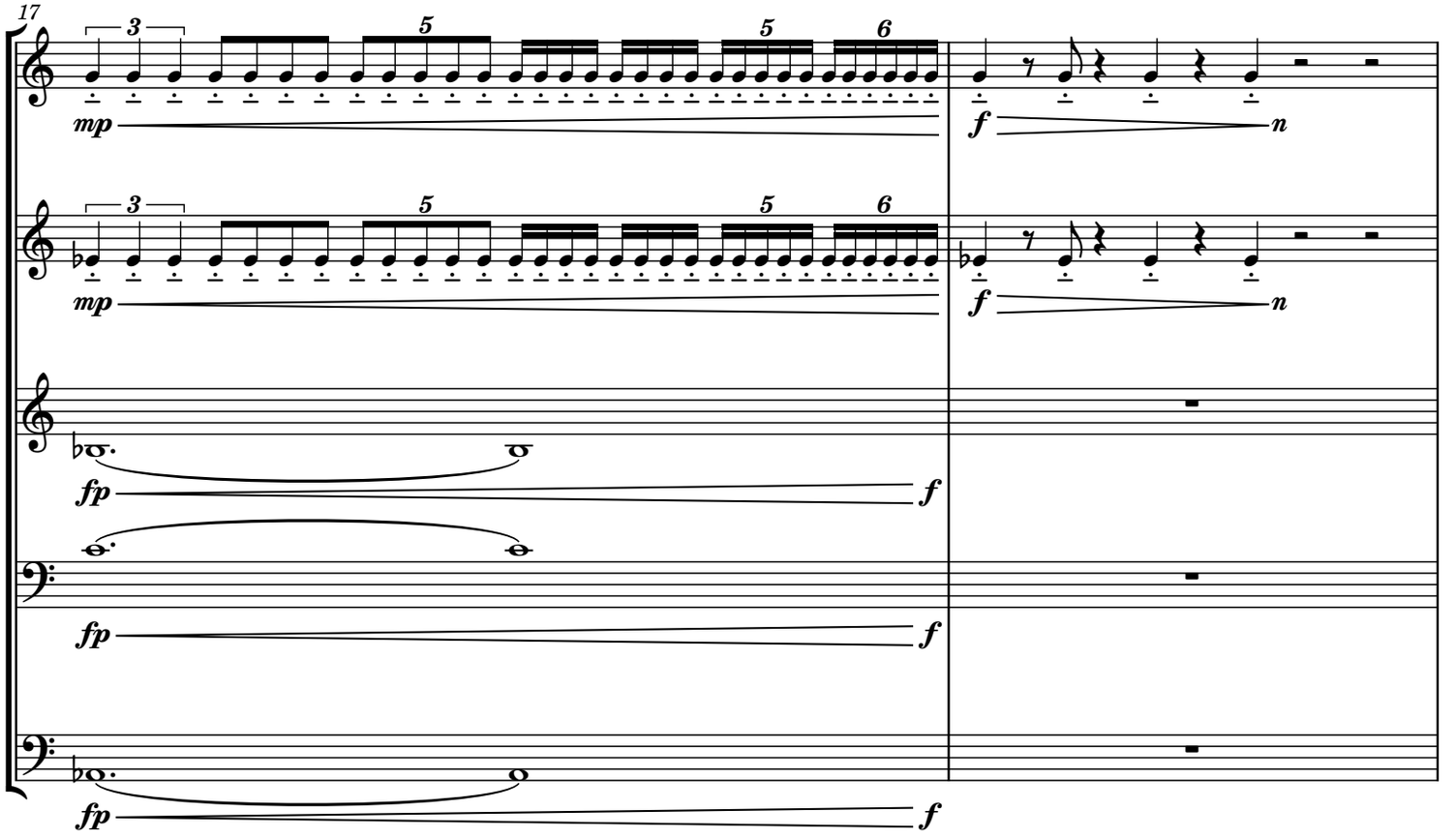





11
5
6
7
3
3
3
ppp
mf
n
pp
mp
pp
mp
pp
p
n
pp
mp
pp
mp
pp
mp
n
ppp
n
ppp
n
pp

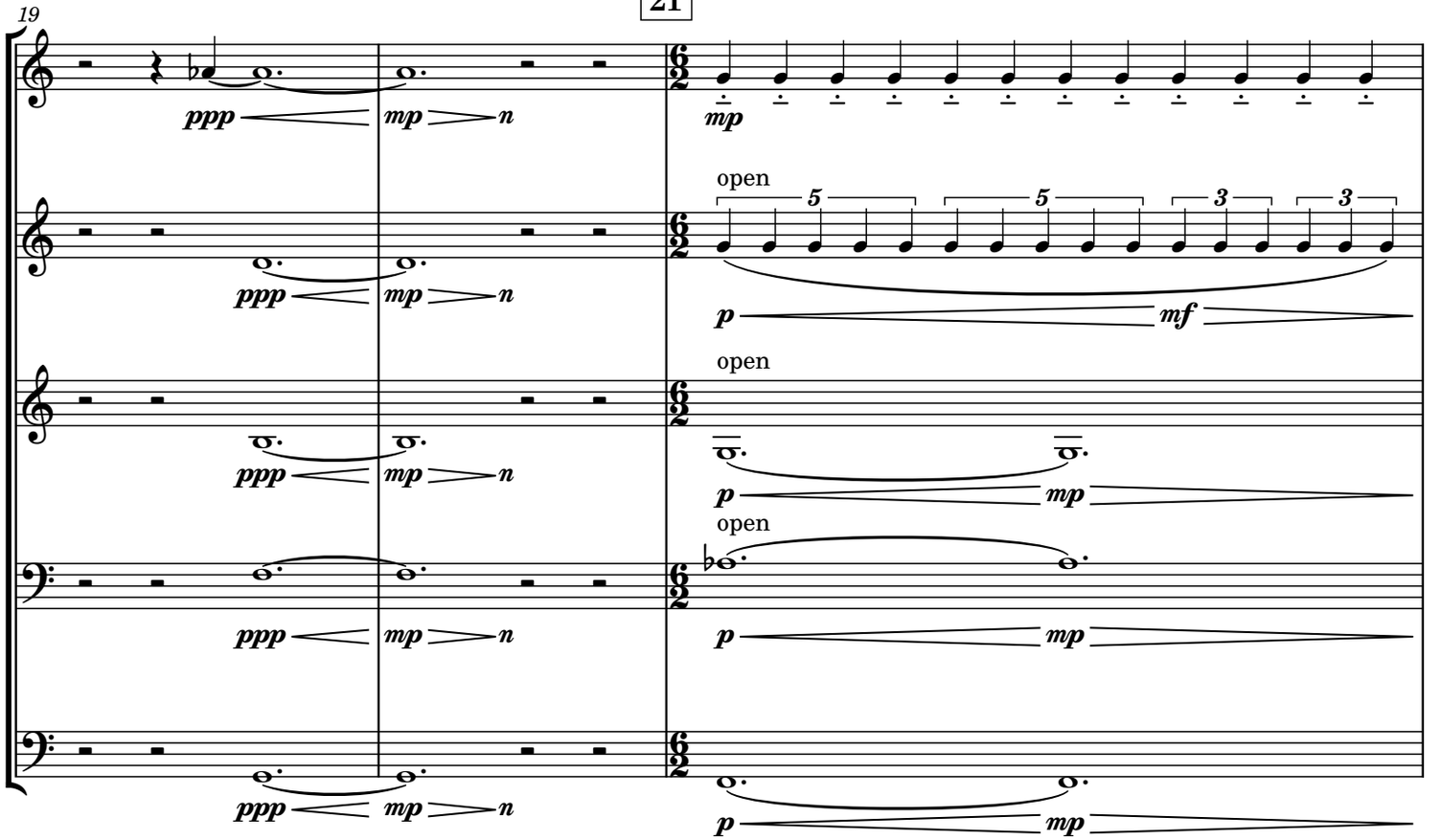

14
13
3
5
3
ppp
mp
f
ppp
mp
f
fp
f
fp
f
fp
f


15
3
5
mp
f
fp

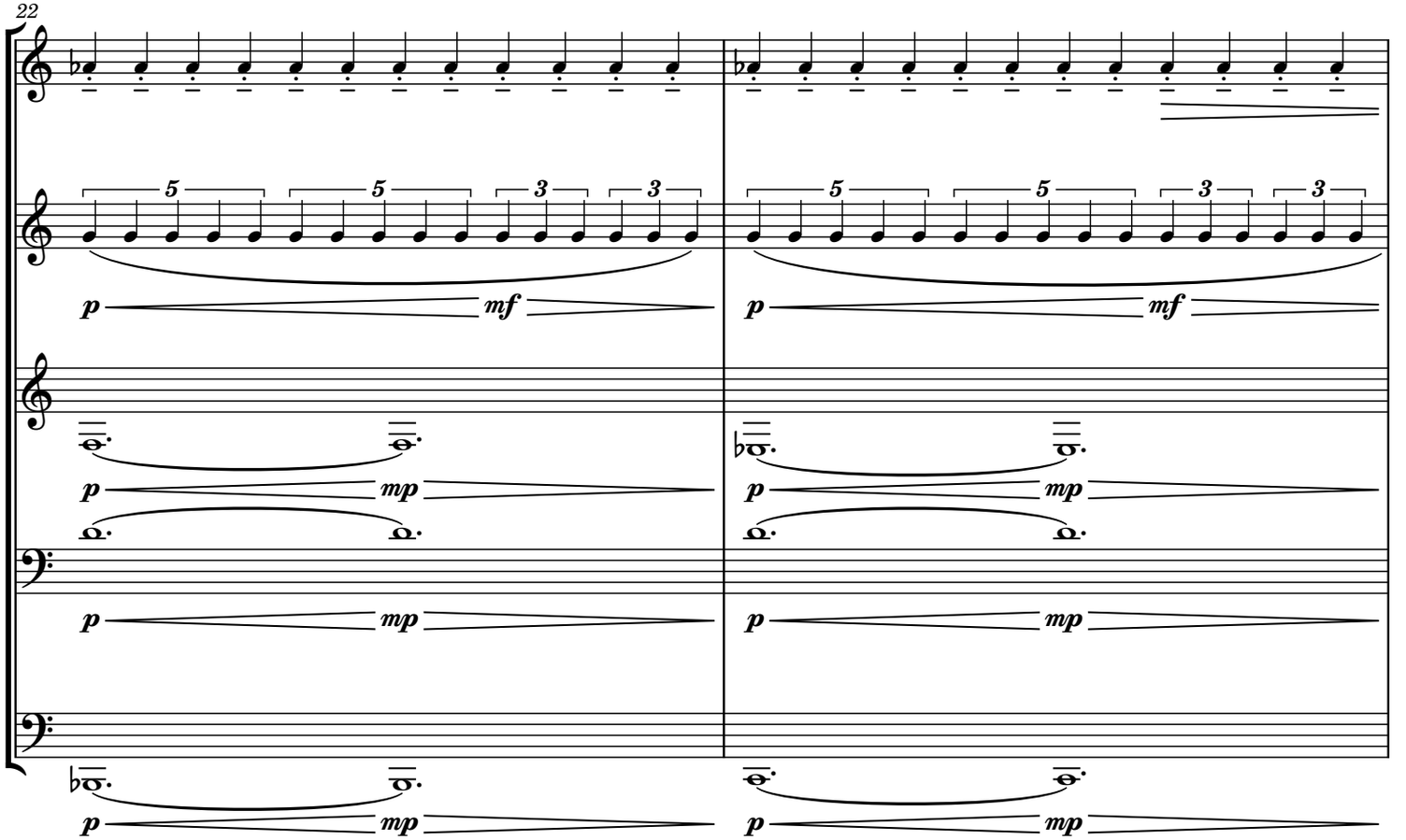

17
3
5
6
mp
f
n
fp

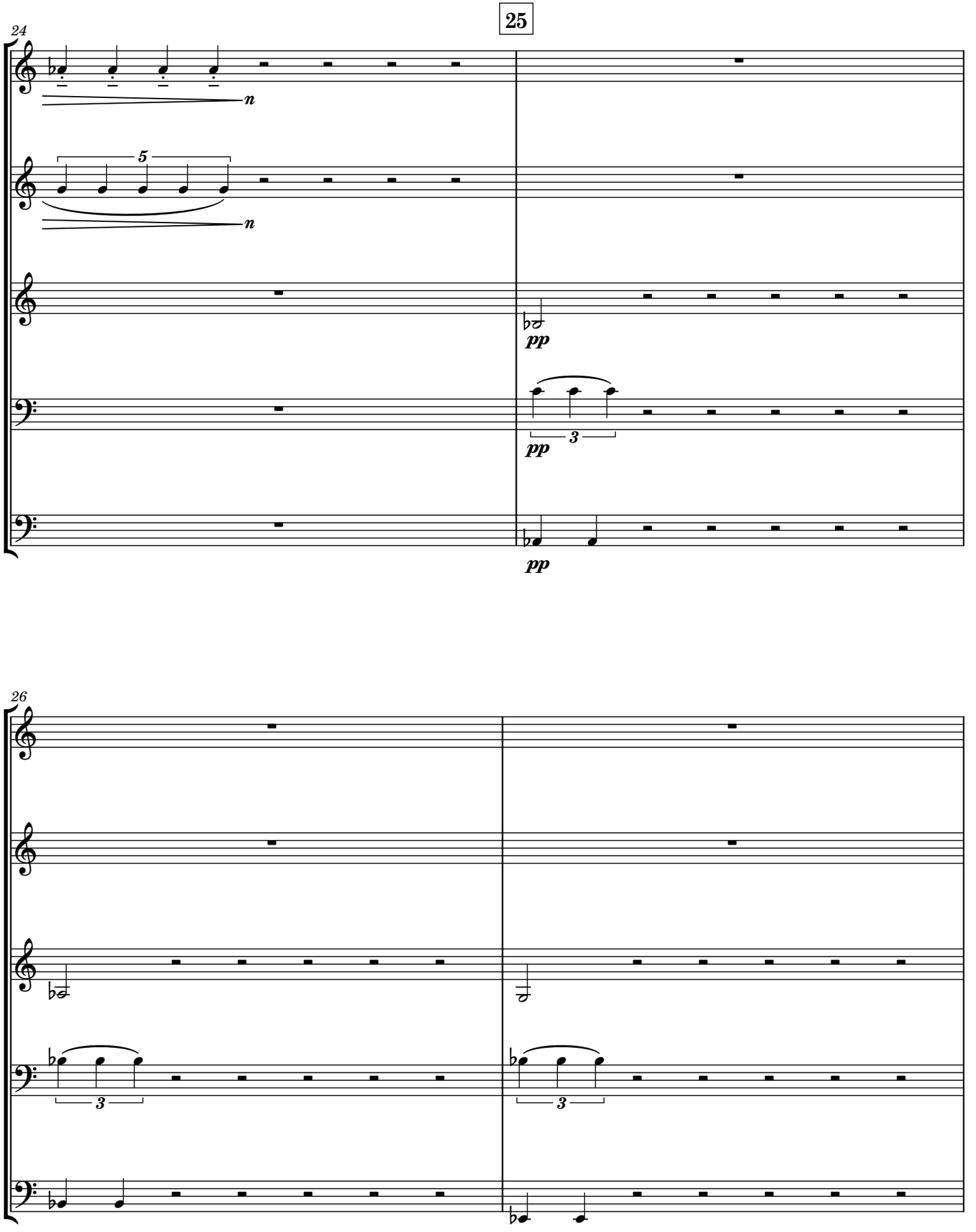
21

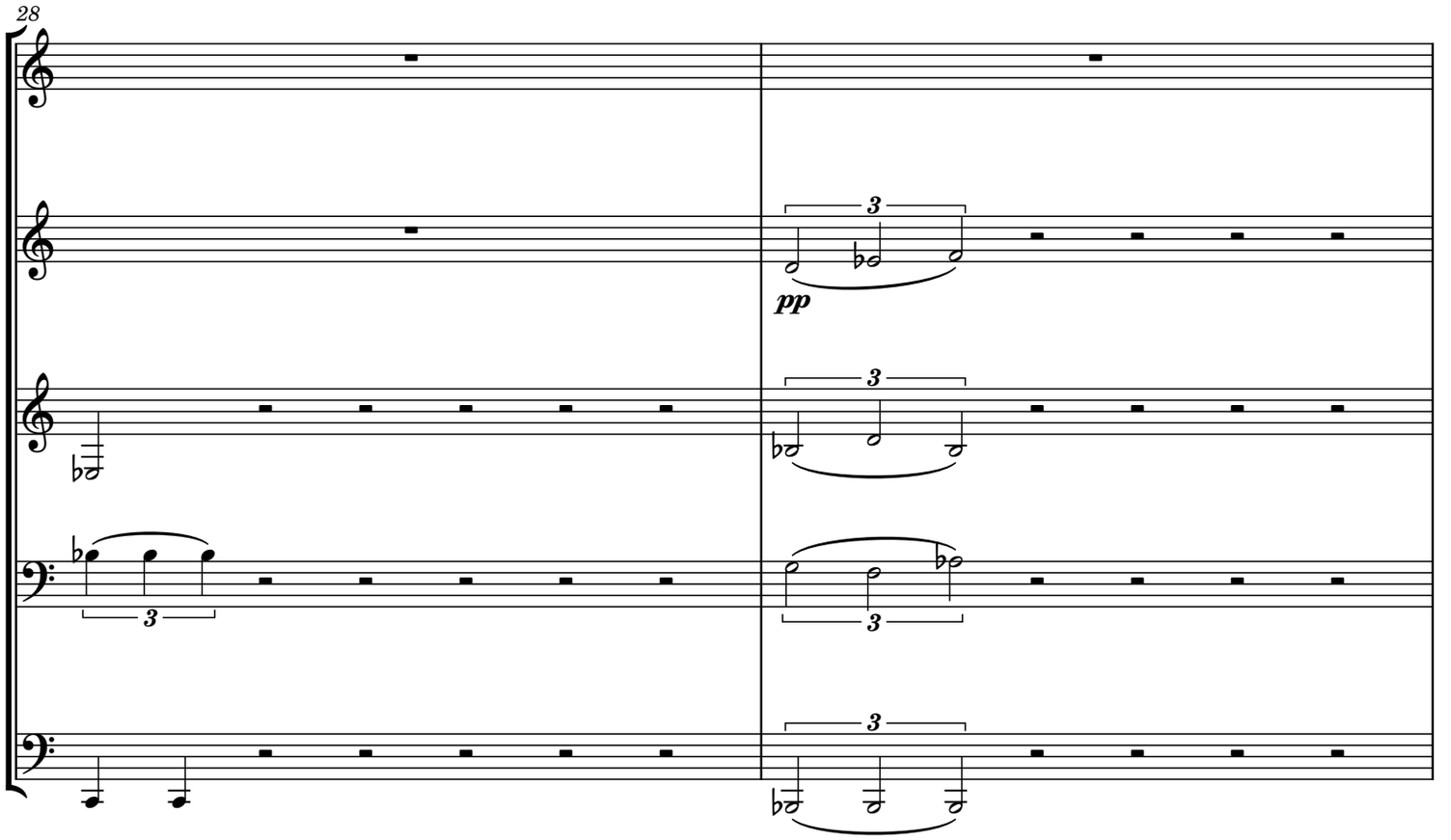
19

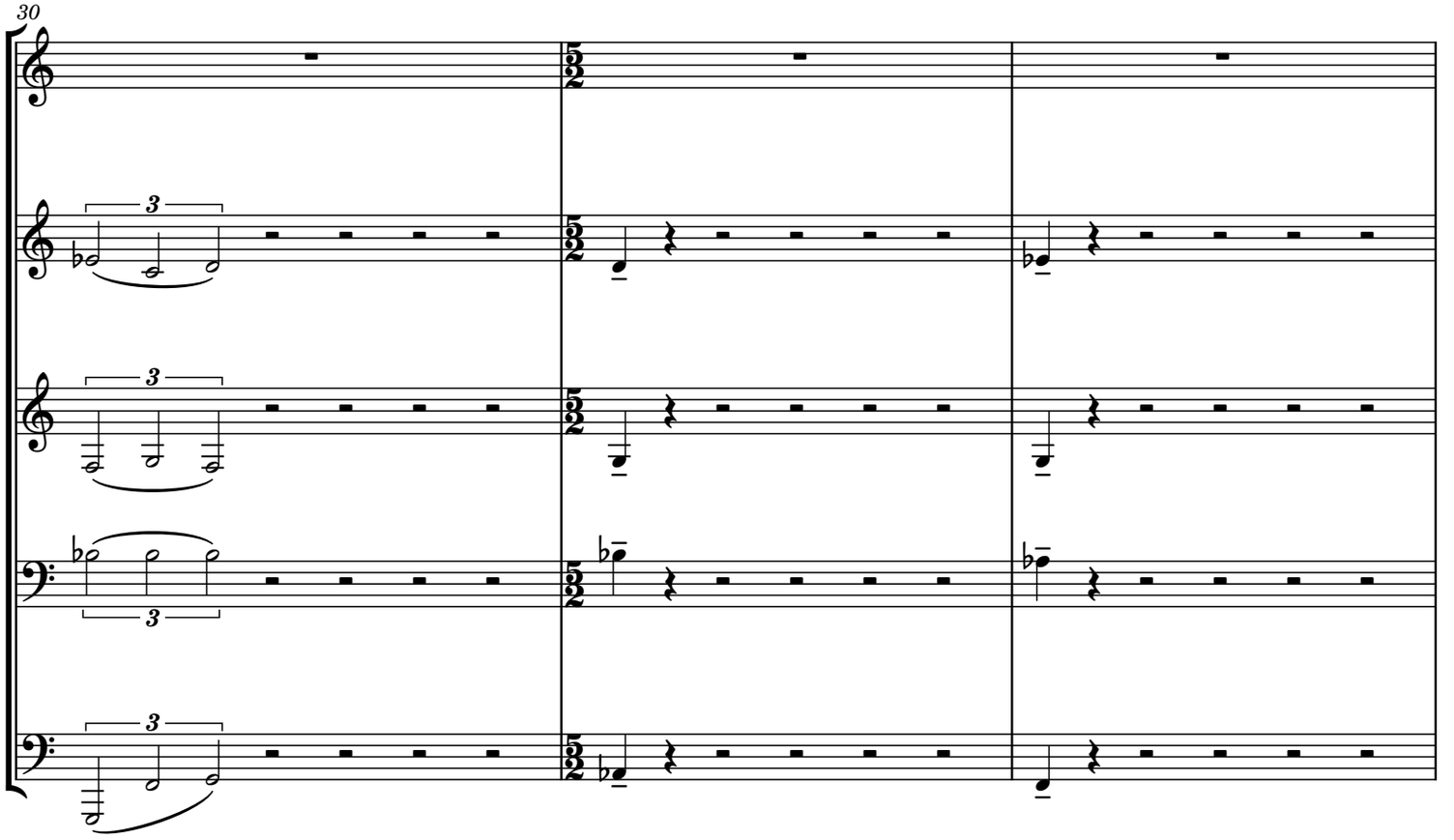


22

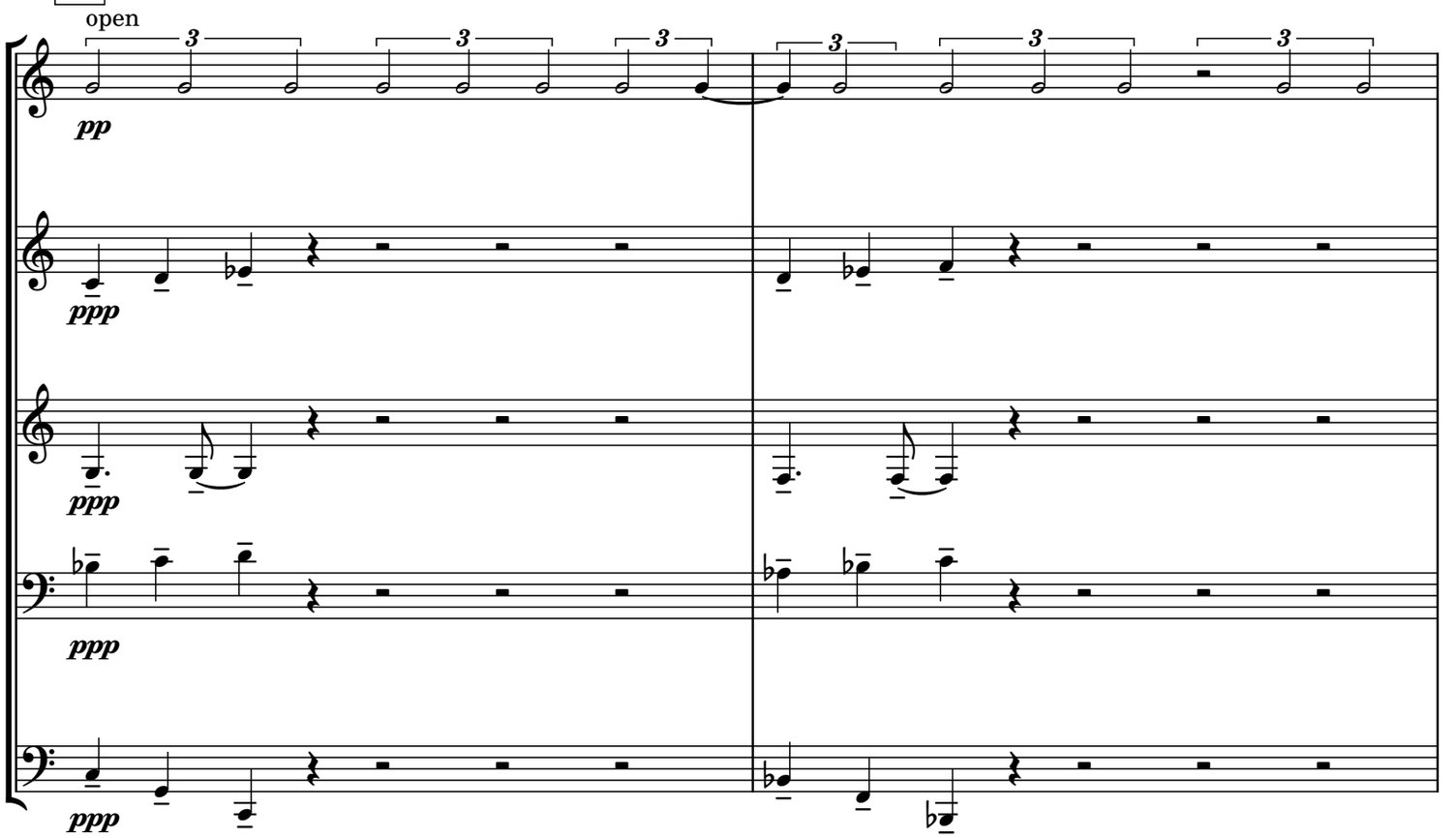



25
24
n
5
n
pp
3
pp
pp
26
3
3

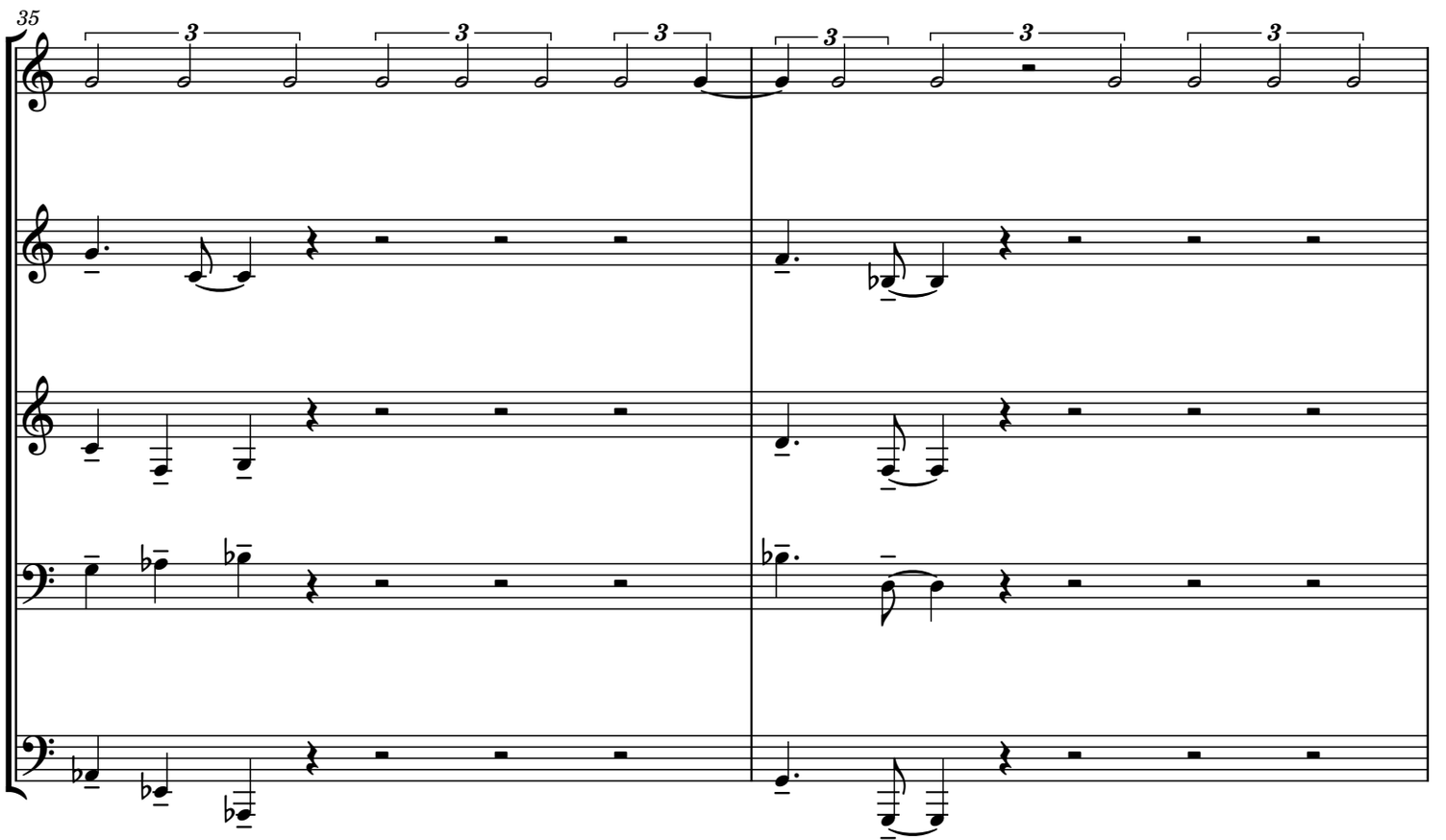

28
3
pp

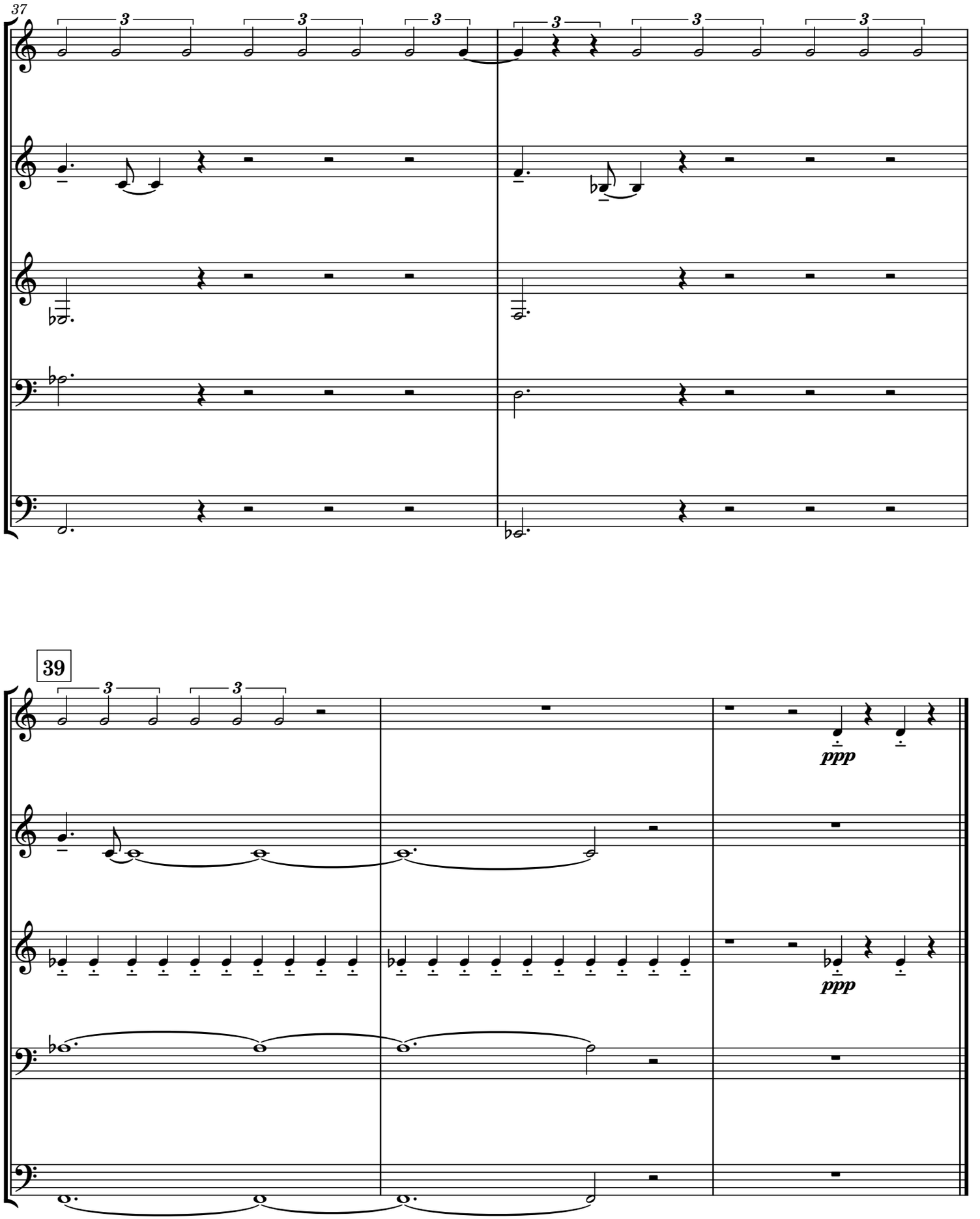

30
3

33



35




37
39
ppp
ppp