Dept. of Levitation Studies

for viola & piano

Curtis K. Hughes

2019

Score

Dept. of Levitation Studies

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Instrumentation:
Viola
Piano

duration = approximately 7’ 30”

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Also available:

“Cats & Dogs” (2013) for mezzo-soprano and viola

“insult to injury” (2003) for violin and piano

www.curtiskhughes.com

Performance Notes

- When not specifically indicated in the score, piano pedaling is at the discretion of the performer.

- While specific strings and fingerings for natural harmonics in the viola are specified in the score, the performer may choose to employ alternative methods to achieve these harmonics, provided that the resultant pitches are the same as those that would be obtained using the indicated fingerings.

Program Notes

“Dept. of Levitation Studies” was composed at the request of violist Amelia Hollander Ames and is respectfully dedicated to her and to pianist Elaine Rombola of the RAHA Duo, whose recorded performances of music by Shostakovich and Ziporyn were most inspiring.

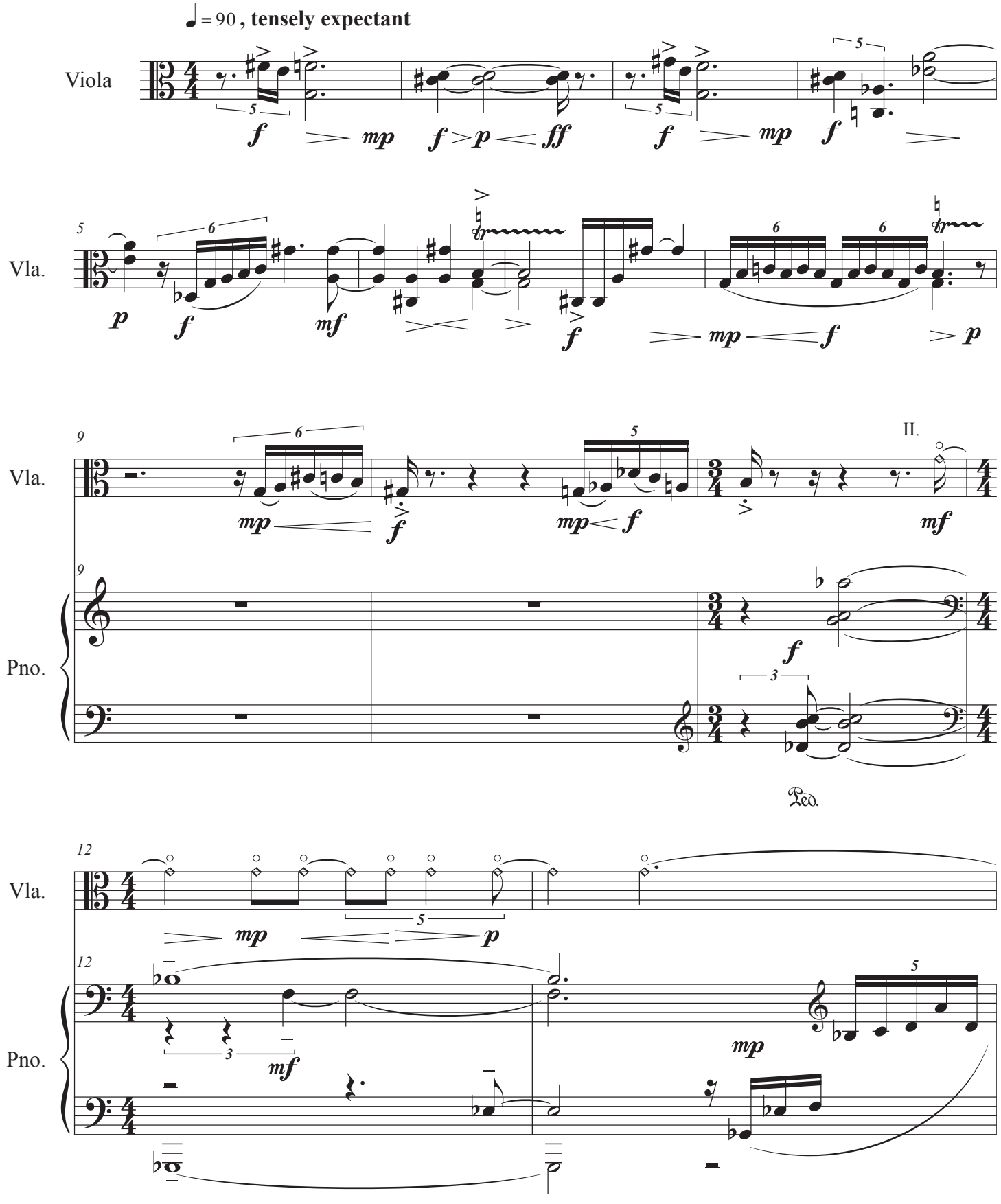
The music is suggestive of a series of attempts to achieve “take-off,” elevation, or levitation through various means, including running, leaping, and other strenuous activities. Whether these attempts are intermittently successful or not may be left to the imagination of the listener. Towards the latter half of the composition, the strategy changes to one of meditation and/or focused concentration towards the goal of hovering almost imperceptibly above the ground.

for Amelia Hollander Ames
&
Elaine Rombola

Dept. of Levitation Studies

for viola and piano

Curtis K. Hughes



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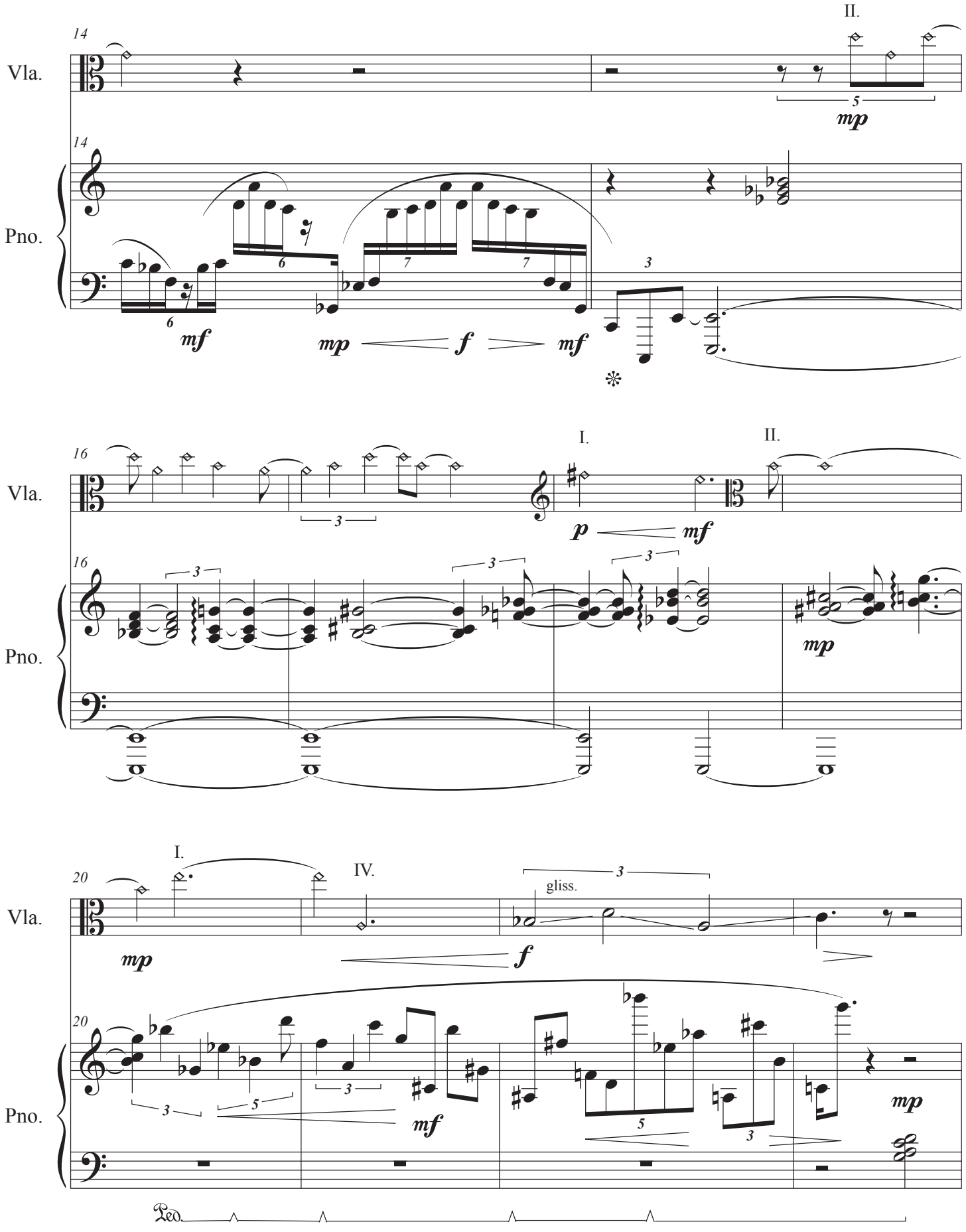
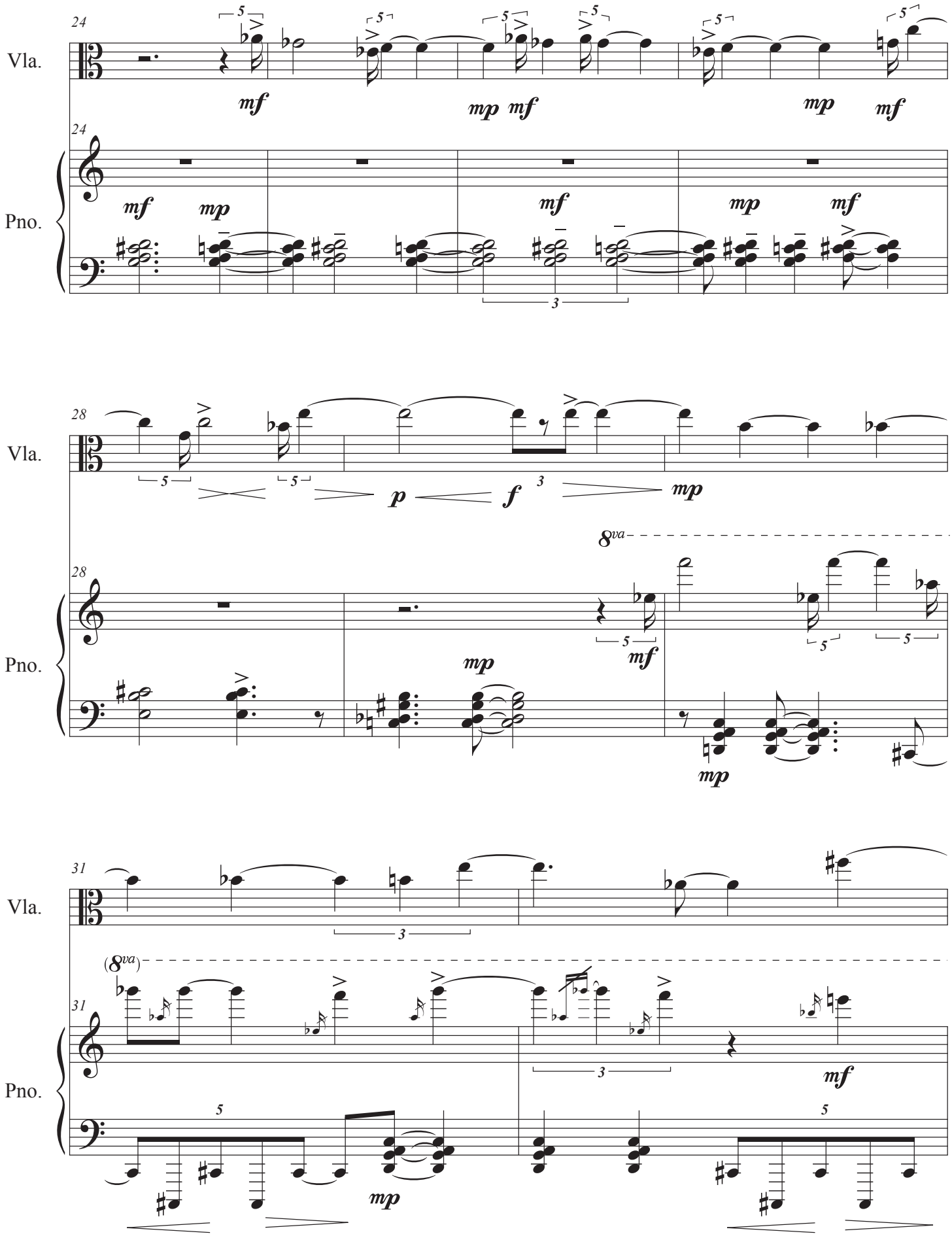
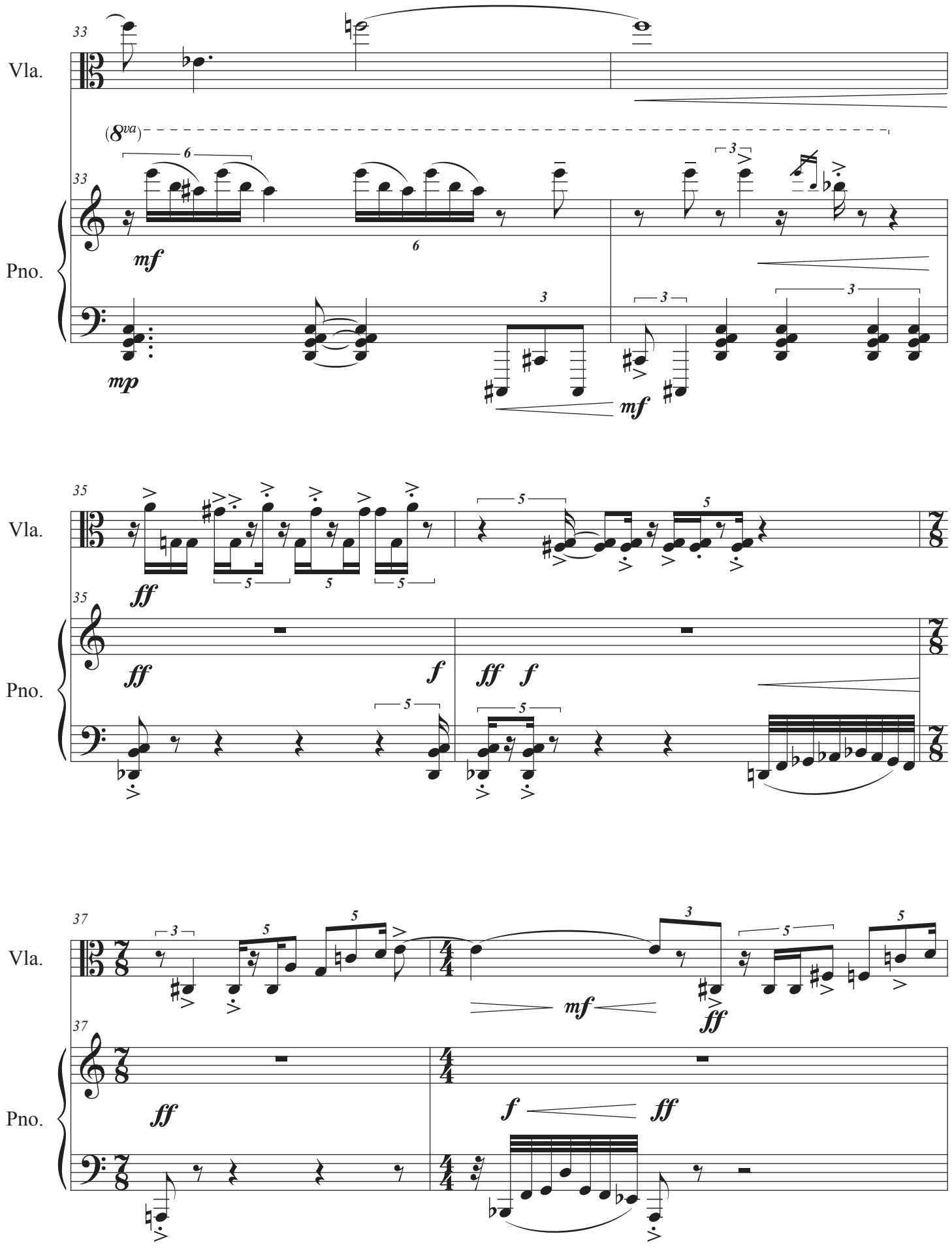
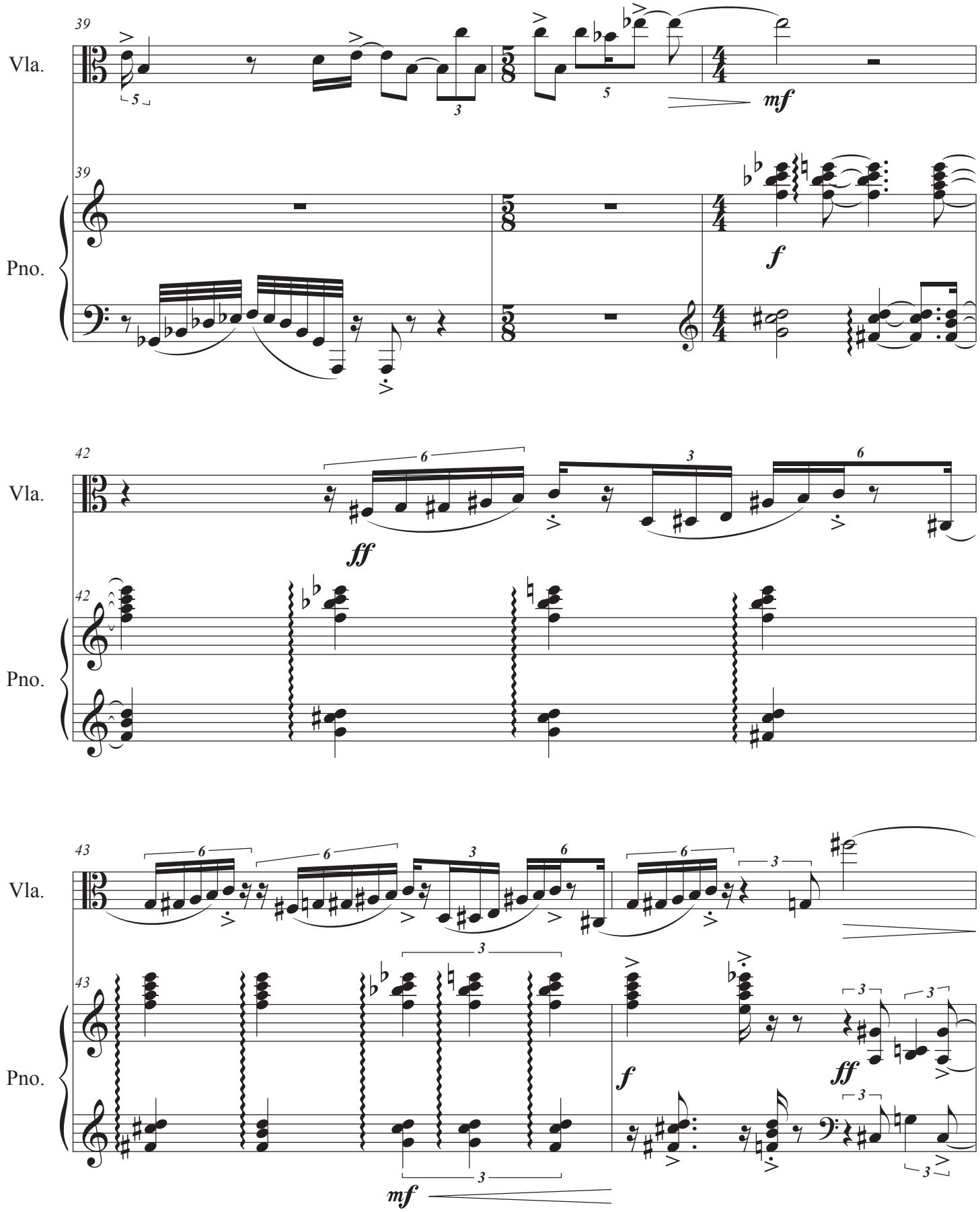

II.
14
Vla.
5
mp
14
Pno.
6
7
7
3
mf
mp
f
mf
16
I.
II.
Vla.
3
p
mf
16
Pno.
3
3
3
mp
I.
IV.
20
Vla.
gliss.
3
mp
f
20
Pno.
3
5
3
mf
5
3
mp
Ped.


24
Vla.
mf
mp mf
mp
mf
24
Pno.
mf
mp
mf
mp
mf
3
28
Vla.
p
f
3
mp
8va
28
Pno.
mp
mf
mp
31
Vla.
3
(8va)
31
Pno.
3
mf
mp


33
Vla.
(8va)
33
Pno.
mf
mp
mf
35
Vla.
ff
35
Pno.
ff
f
ff
f
37
Vla.
mf
ff
37
Pno.
ff
f
ff


39
Vla.
Pno.
mf
f
42
ff
43
mf
f
ff