Edward Cowie

Spell Checks

(2003)

for flute(s) & guitar

UNITED MUSIC
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First performance: 26 February 2007, Voices II Festival, Plymouth, UK
Richard Hand, guitar, Jennifer Stinton, flute.

1. Kingcup *(flute)*
2. Violet *(alto flute)*
3. Heather *(piccolo)*
4. Columbine *(flute)*

Spell Checks consists of four movements for flute and guitar. While each movement is named after a common wild flower to be found in Britain, its source of inspiration is to be found in the dramatic and lyric writings of William Shakespeare, who really did know his natural history!

But there is more. Wild flowers have long been used in what is nowadays called homeopathy. The healing and therapeutic properties of **some** wild flowers is well known and often applied. Then there is the mystical side to flowers; their symbolism and their association with the casting of spells and for the purpose of inducing super-sensory states of mind and body.

All these facets of the four named flower movements are translated into a series of acoustic (sonic) 'portraits'. As is usual in my composition process, especially where some natural phenomenon has been the primal source, I made many visual studies of these flowers and the taxonomy and 'architecture' of each flower has also influenced the 'shape' of the melodies and the structure of pitch-groups and rhythms.

One exception is the movement for piccolo and guitar, *Heather,* which also happens to be the name of my visual-artist wife! It is her creative work that has most especially shaped this movement. But then, a lot of her work is about growing things, and the way she makes her work is not dissimilar from the way a flowering plant grows.

Spell Checks is dedicated to Richard Hand, who commissioned the work, and who has put such tremendous efforts into assisting me in the editing and notation of the guitar part. I owe him more than even a dedication can repay!

Edward Cowie. Maurens. S.W. France.
September, 2007.

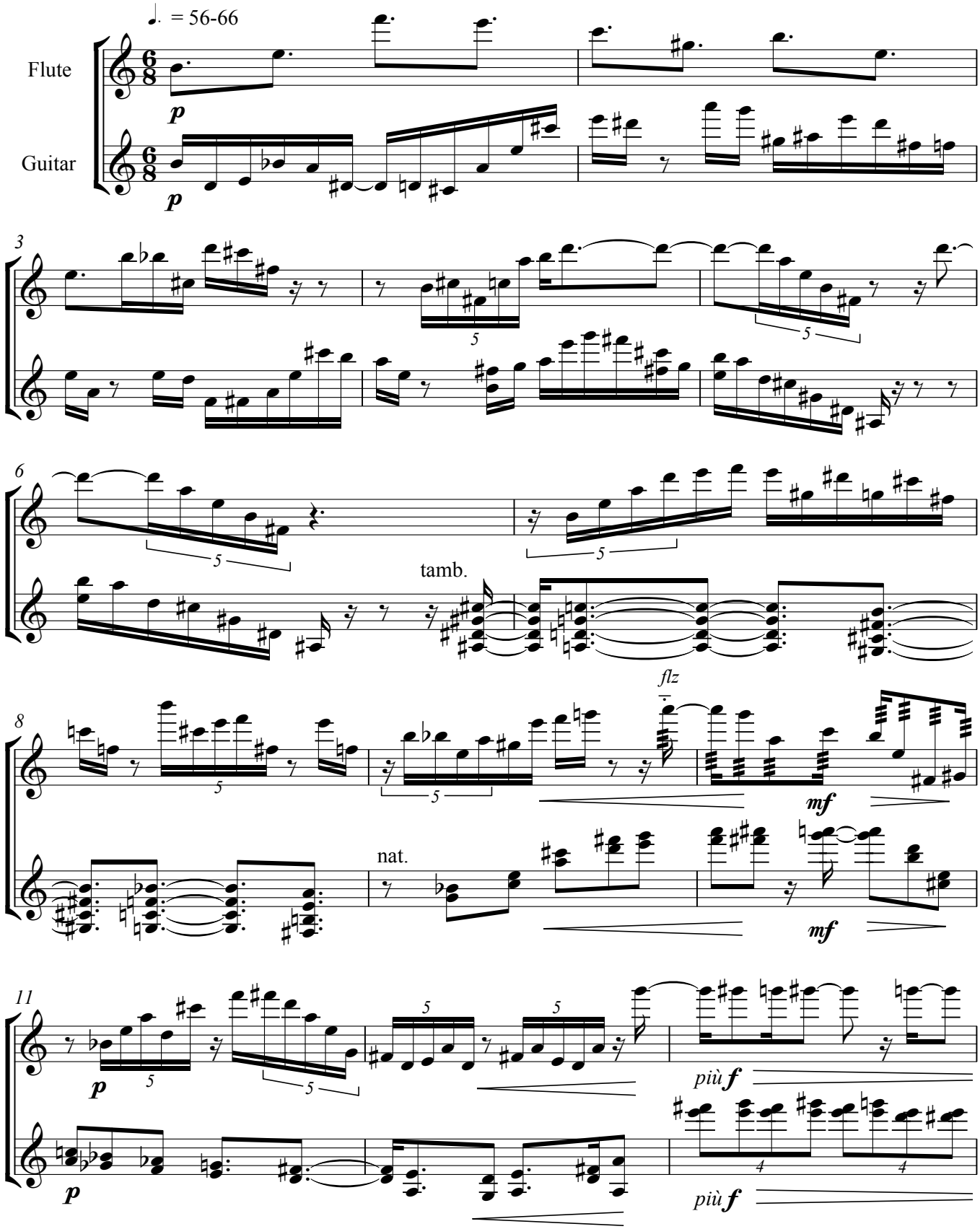
SPELL CHECKS

for flute(s) & guitar

(2003)

1. KINGCUP

Edward Cowie
(b.1943)



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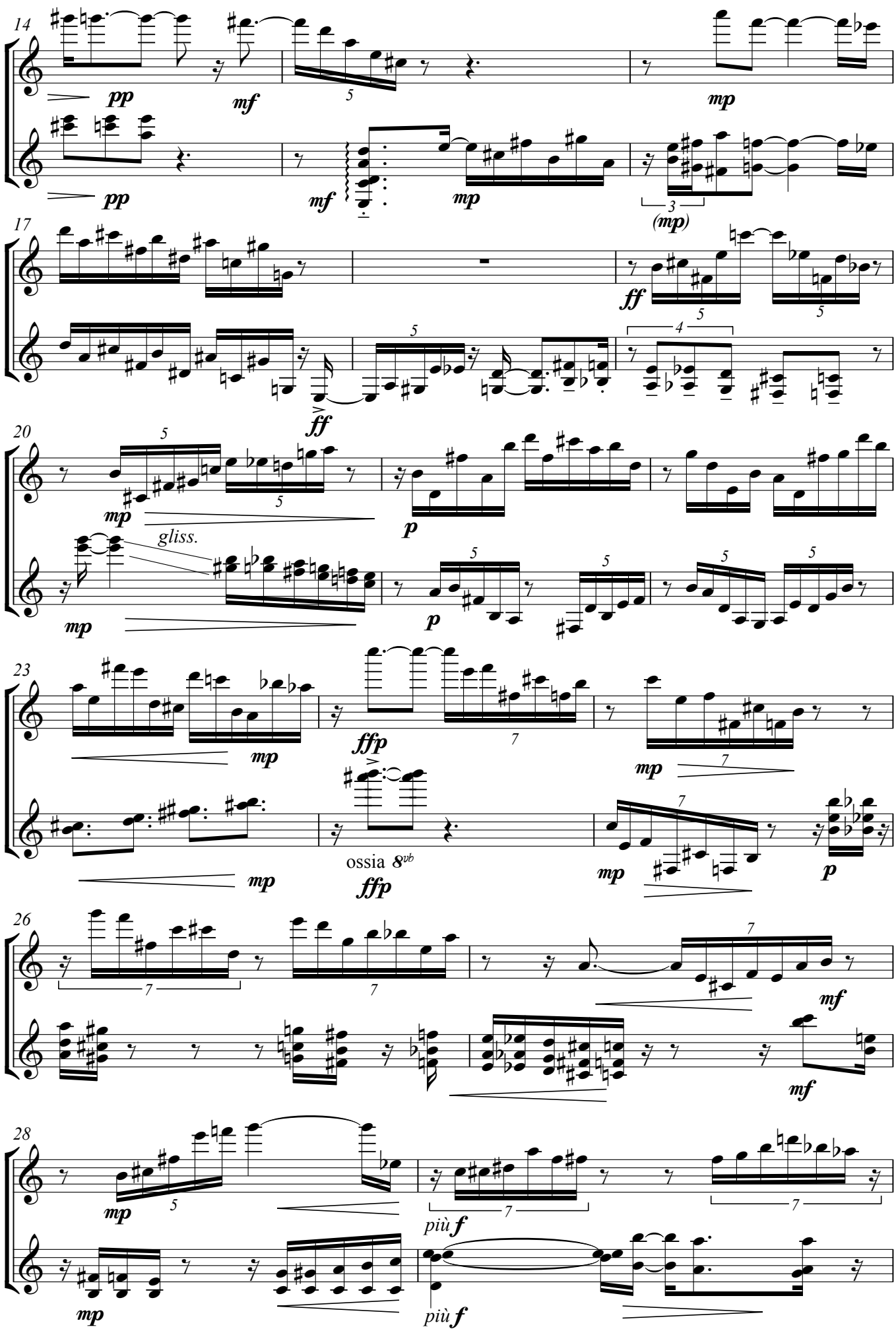
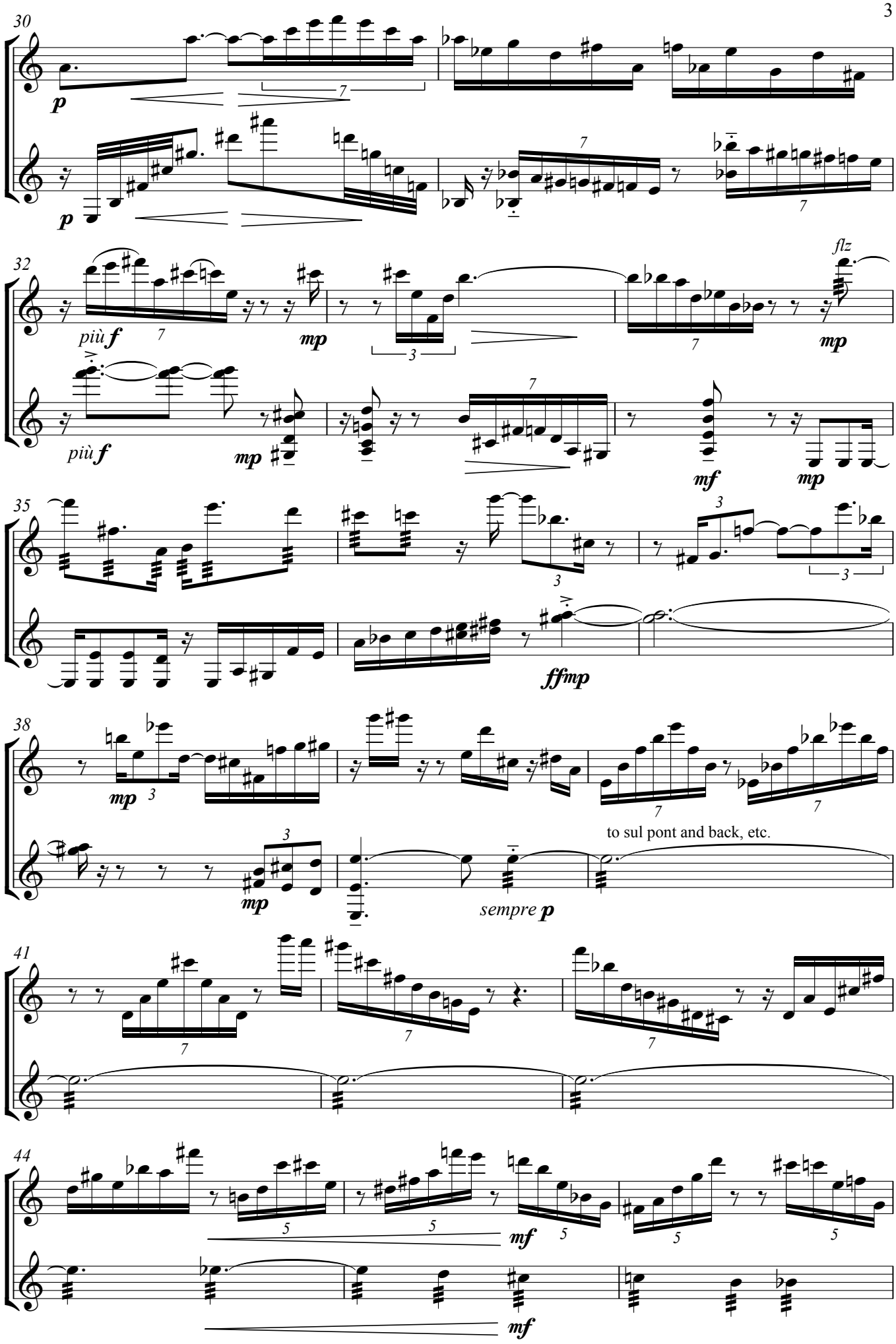
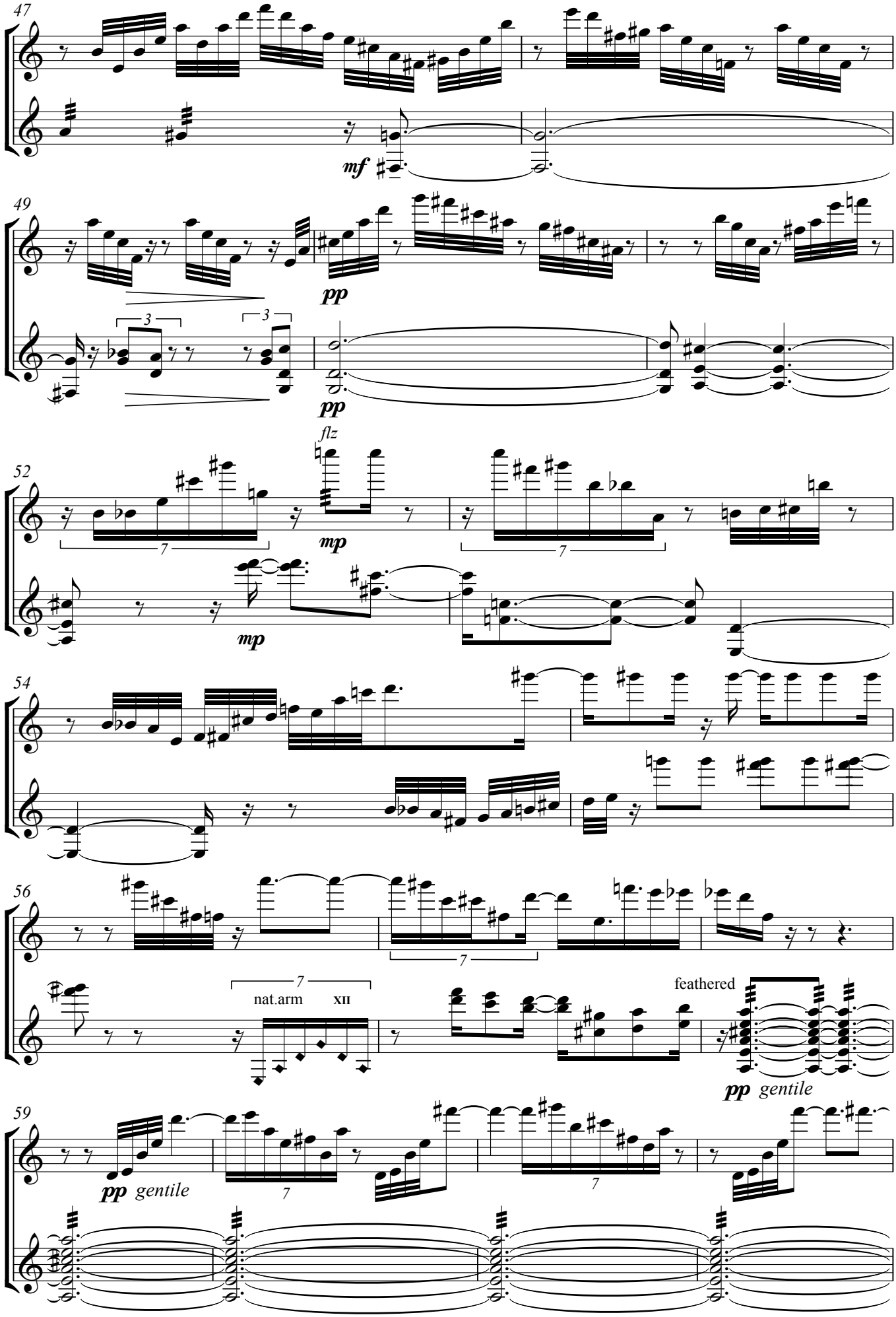
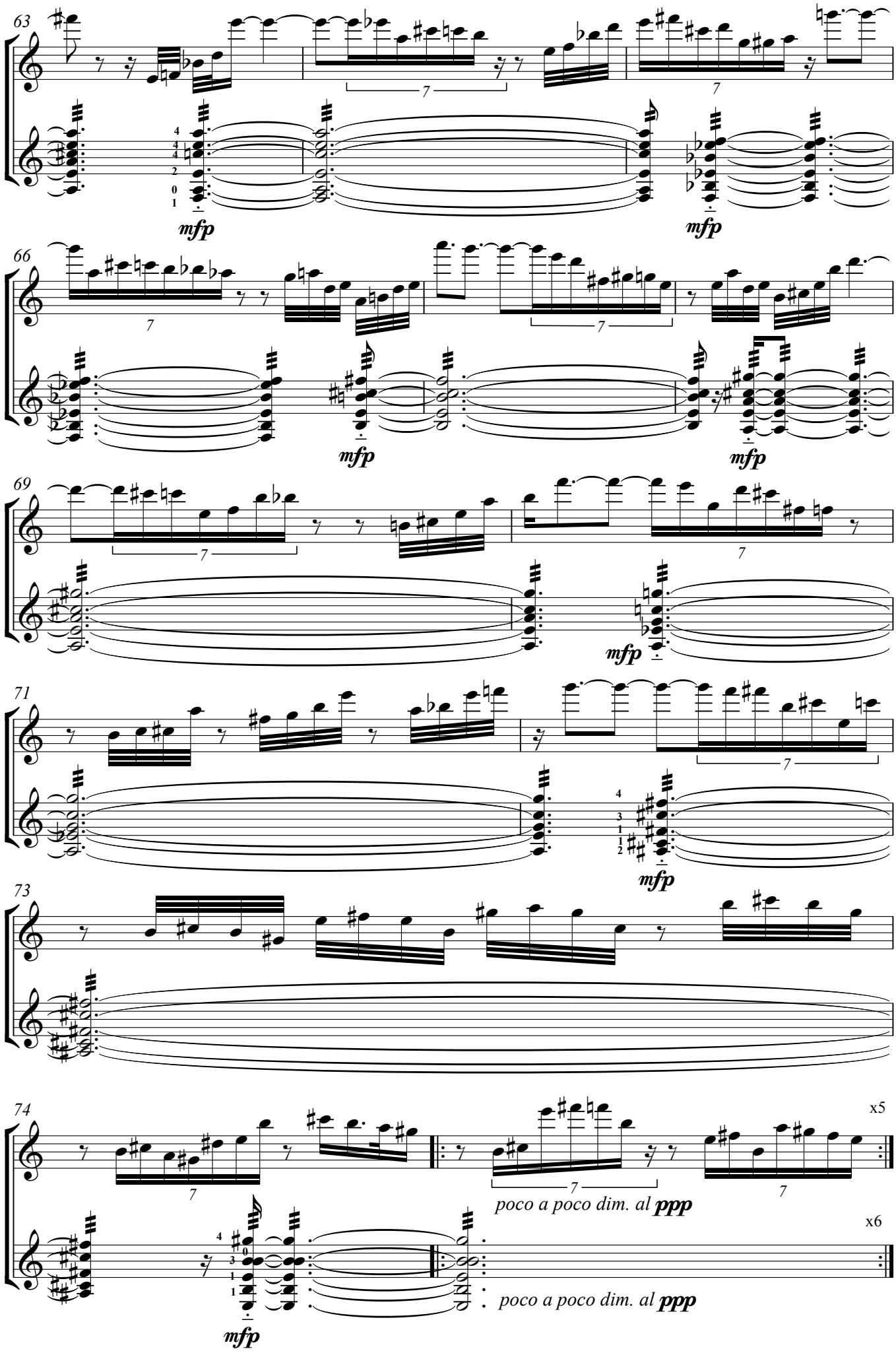
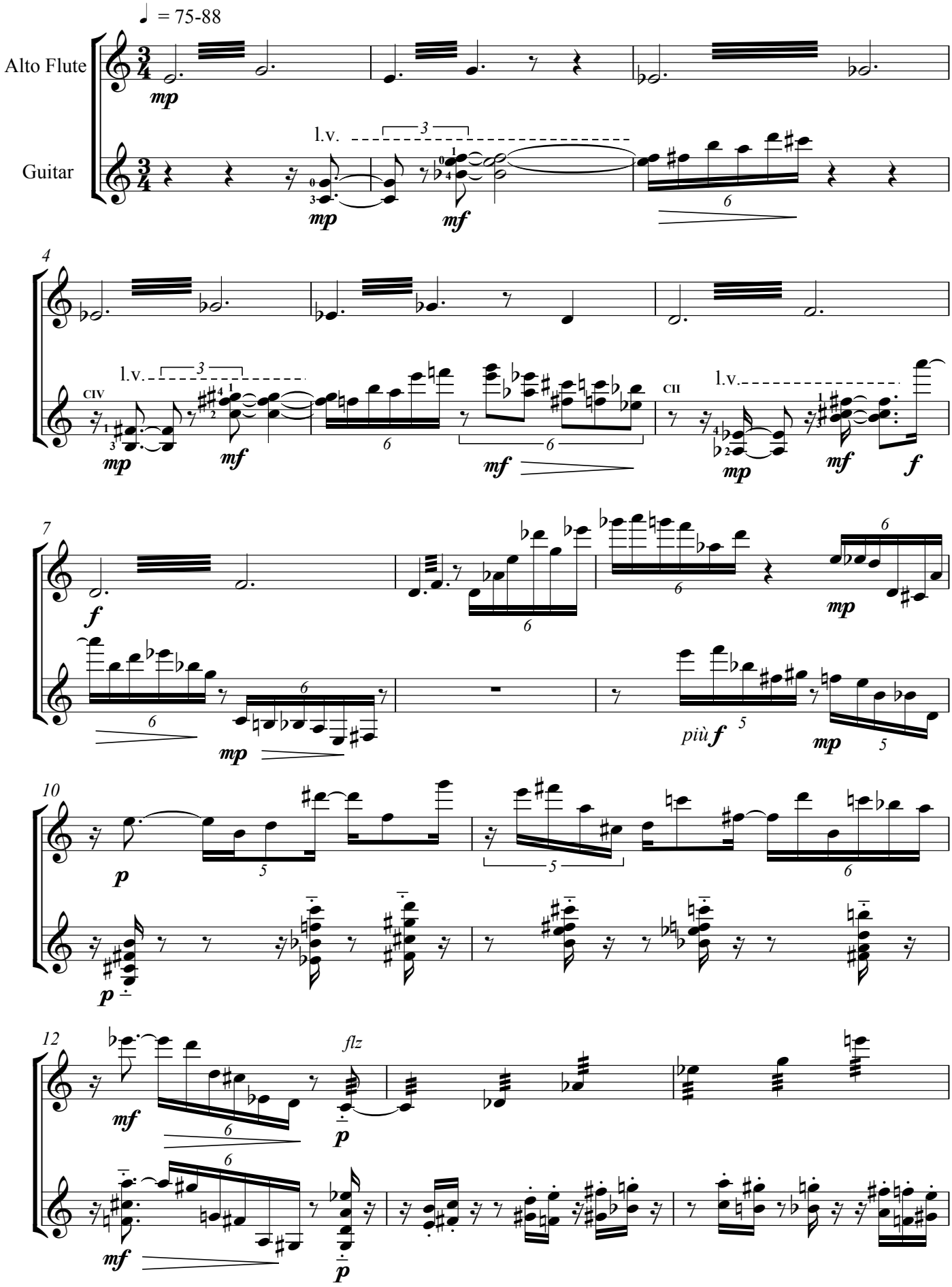

14
pp
mf
mp
pp
mf
mp
(mp)
17
ff
ff
20
mp
p
gliss.
mp
p
23
ffp
mp
mp
ossia 8vb
ffp
mp
p
26
mf
mf
28
mp
più f
mp
più f

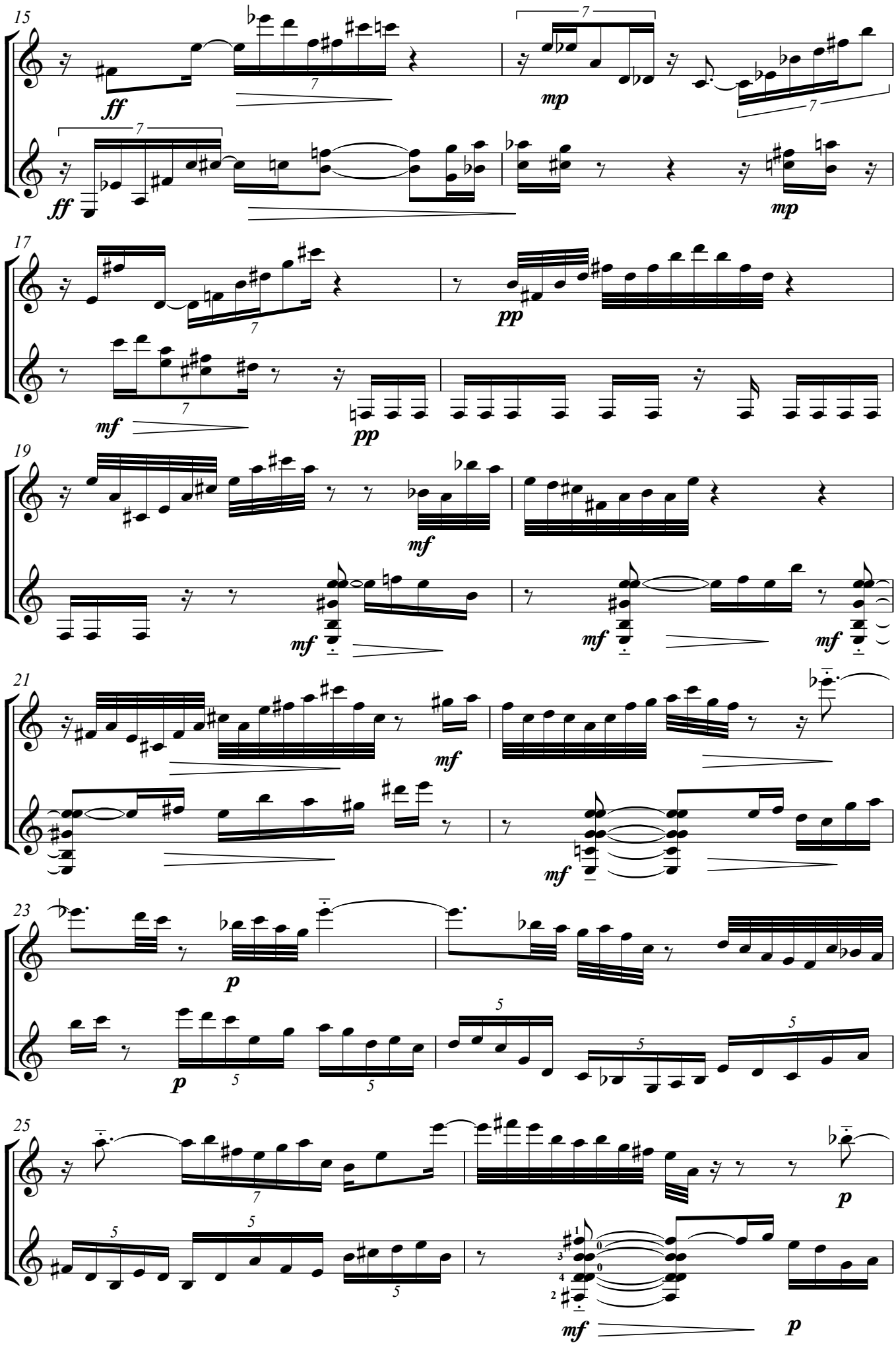

30
p
p
32
più f
mp
più f
mp
flz
mp
mf
mp
35
ffmp
38
mp
mp
to sul pont and back, etc.
sempre p
41
44
mf
mf

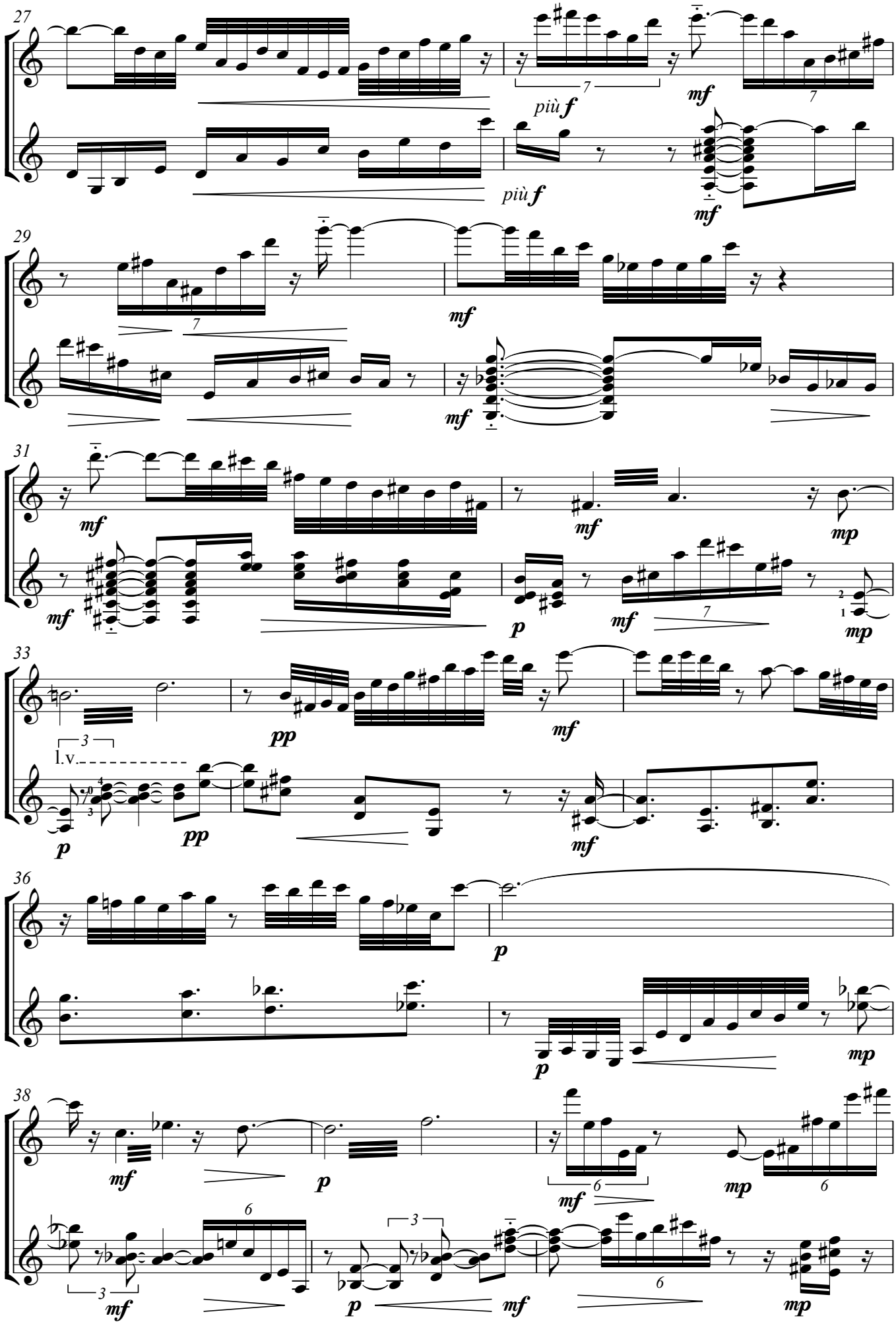

47
mf
49
pp
pp
3
3
52
flz
mp
mp
7
7
54
56
7
nat.arm
XII
7
feathered
pp gentile
59
pp gentile
7
7

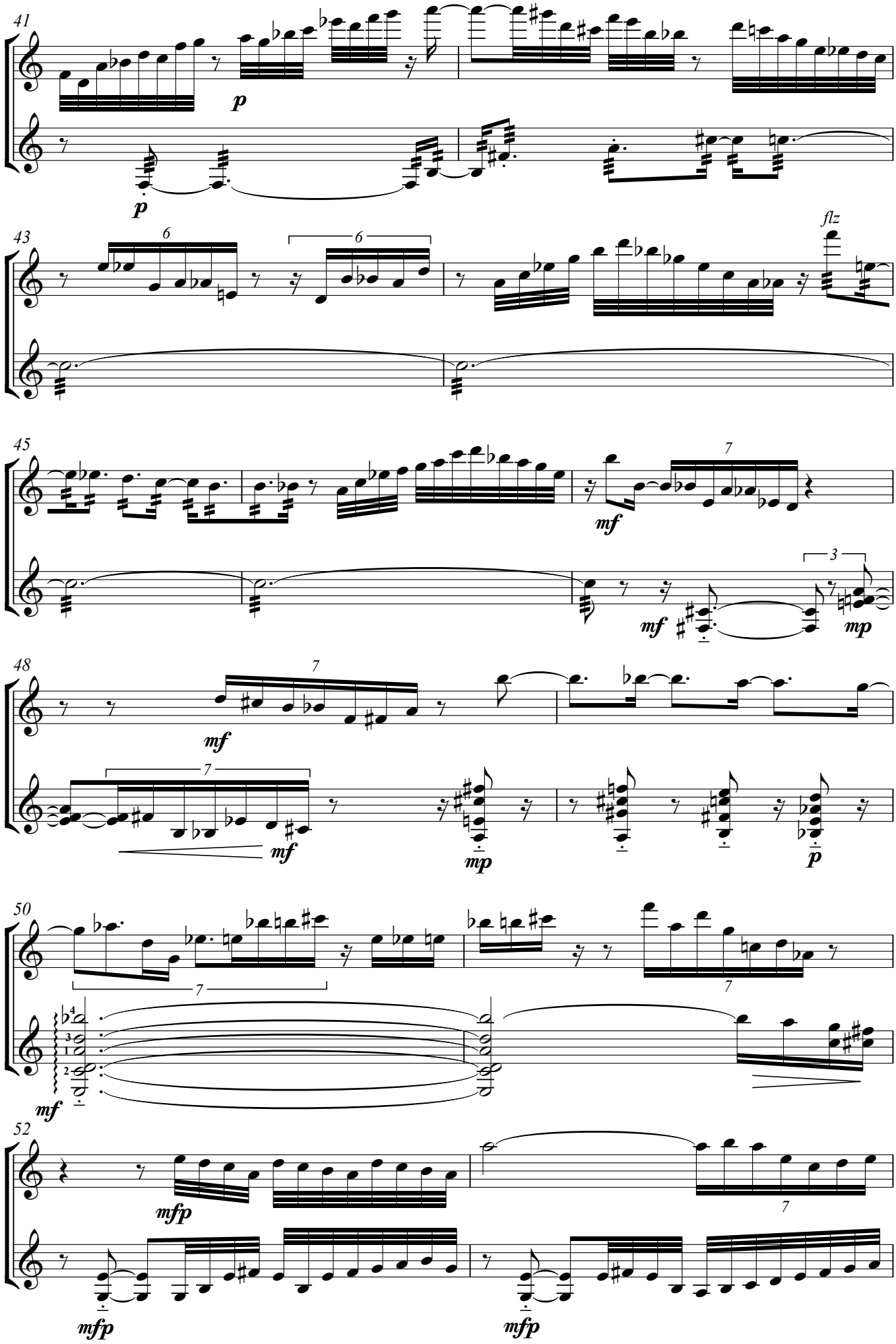

63
mfp
mfp
66
mfp
mfp
69
mfp
71
mfp
73
74
x5
poco a poco dim. al ppp
x6
poco a poco dim. al ppp
mfp

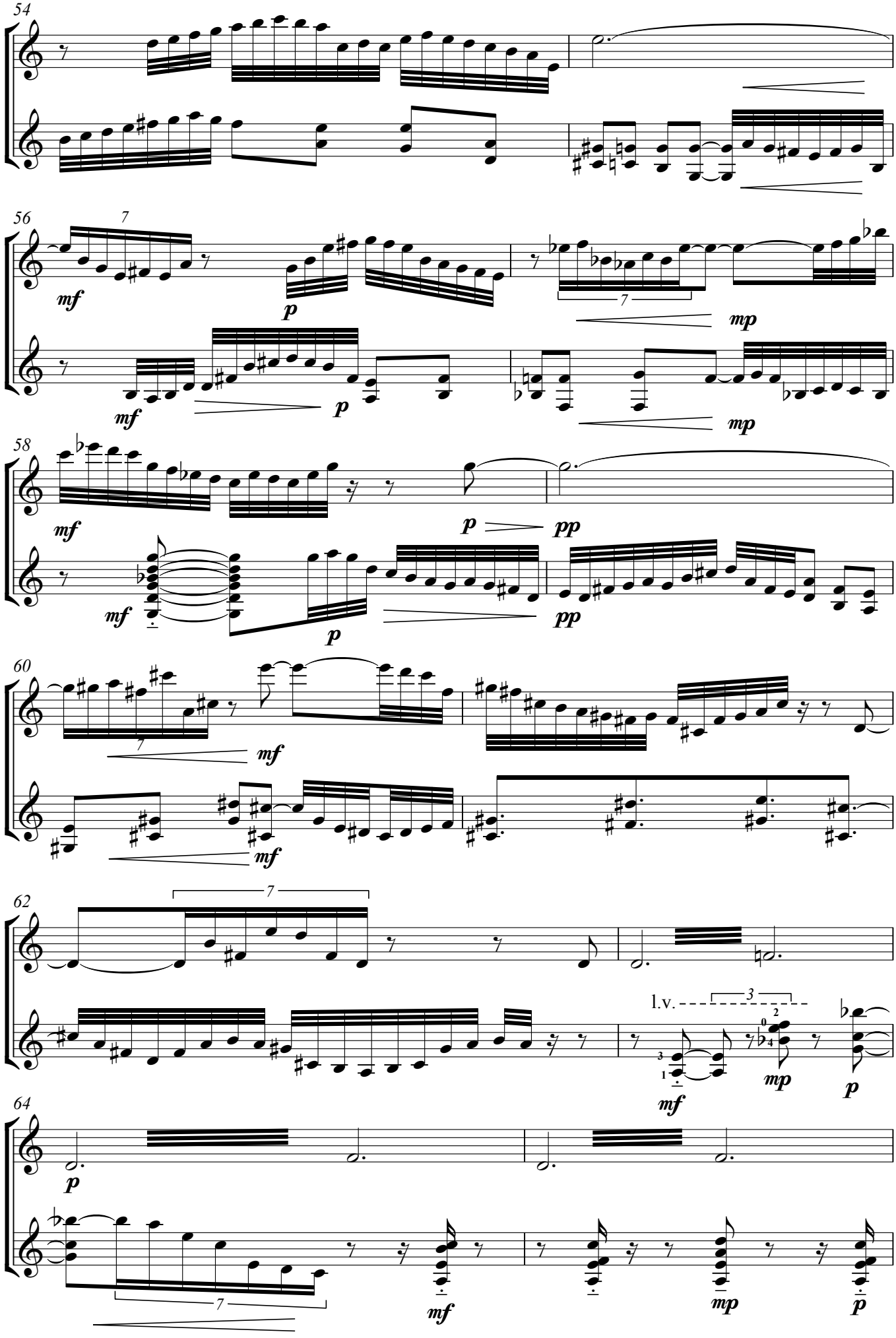
2. VIOLET

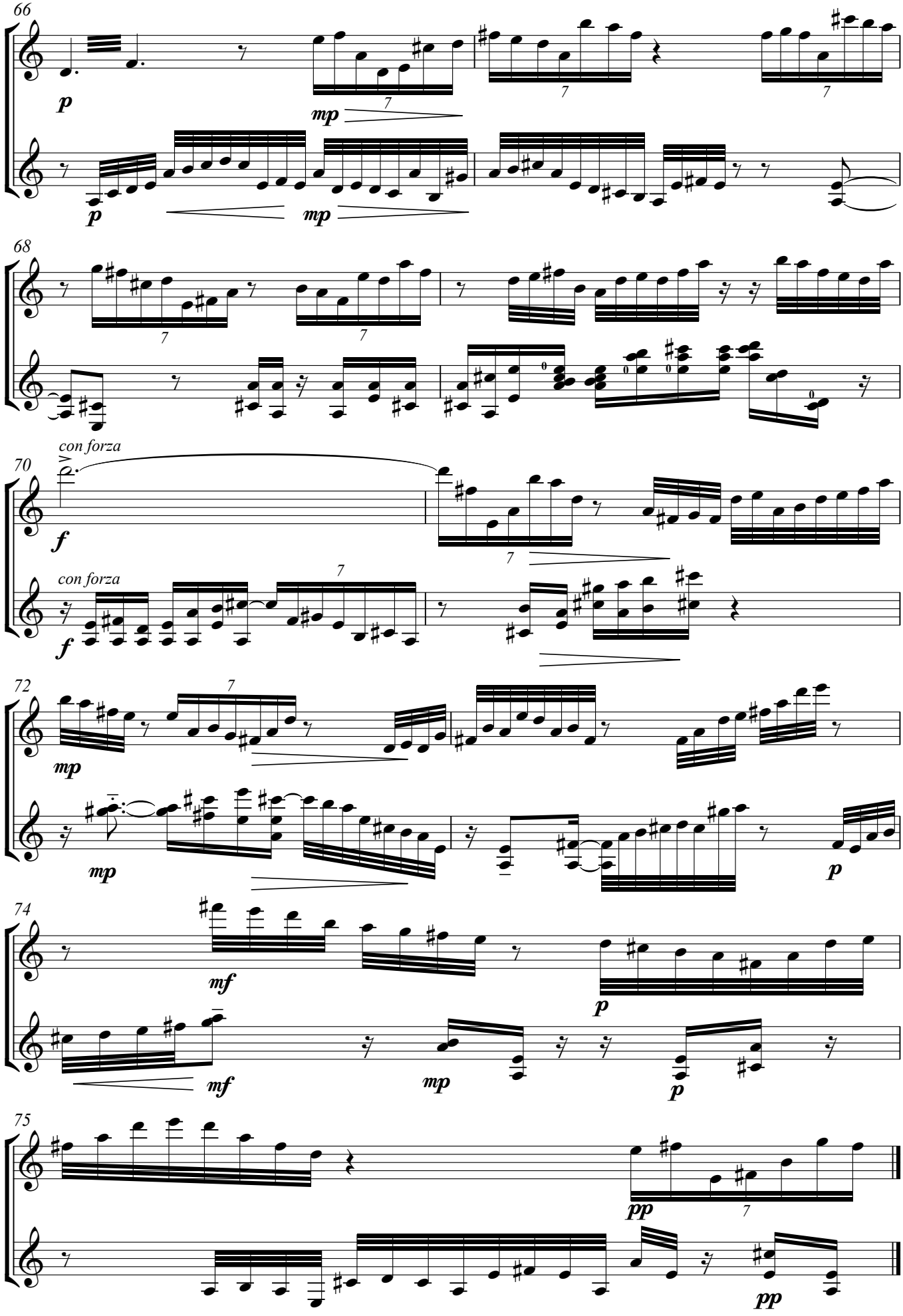



15
ff
mp
17
pp
mf
19
mf
21
mf
23
p
25
p

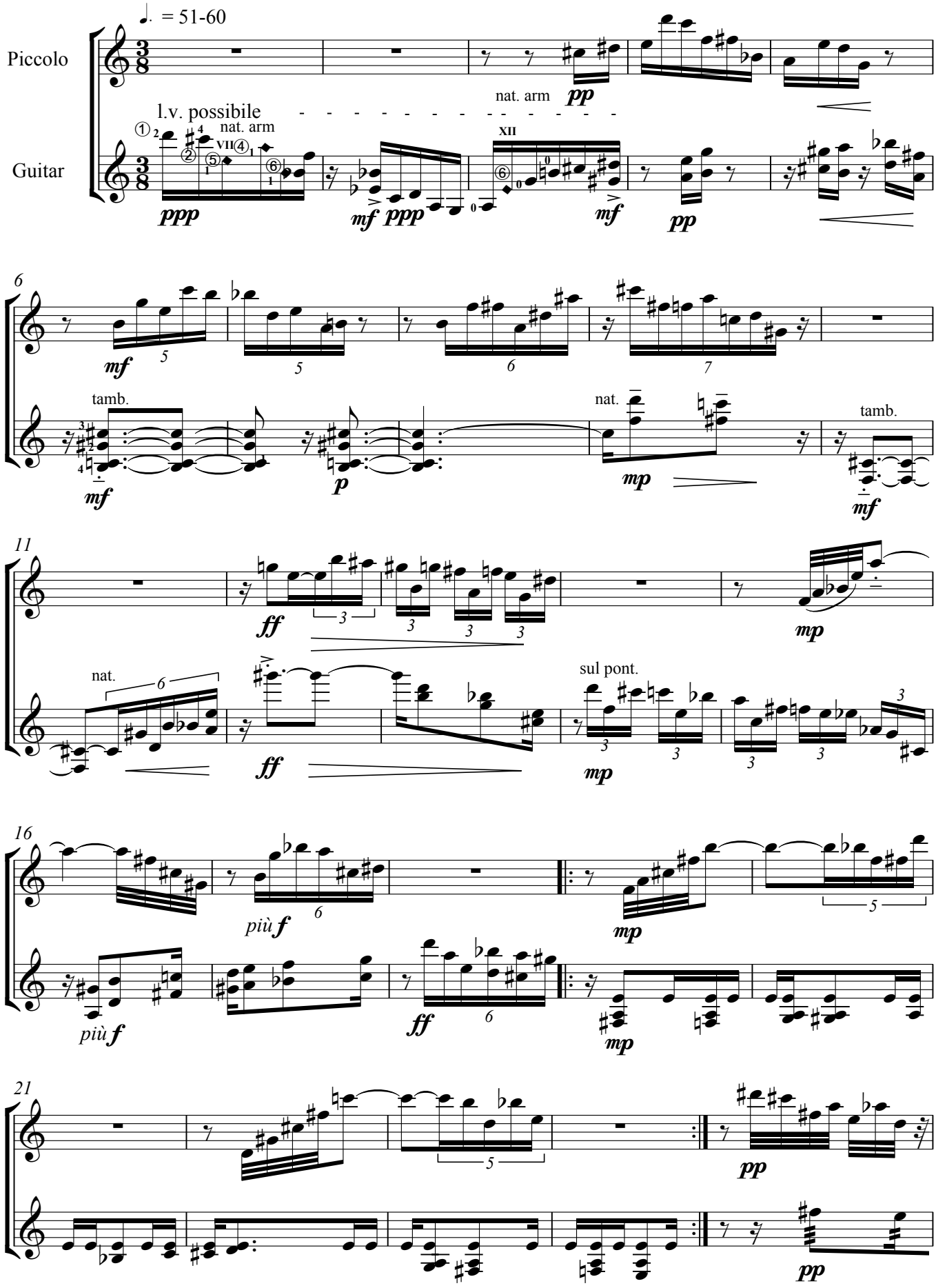

27
più f
mf
più f
mf
29
mf
mf
31
mf
mf
mf
p
mf
mp
mp
33
pp
mf
l.v.
p
pp
mf
36
p
p
mp
38
mf
p
mf
mp
mf
p
mf
mp

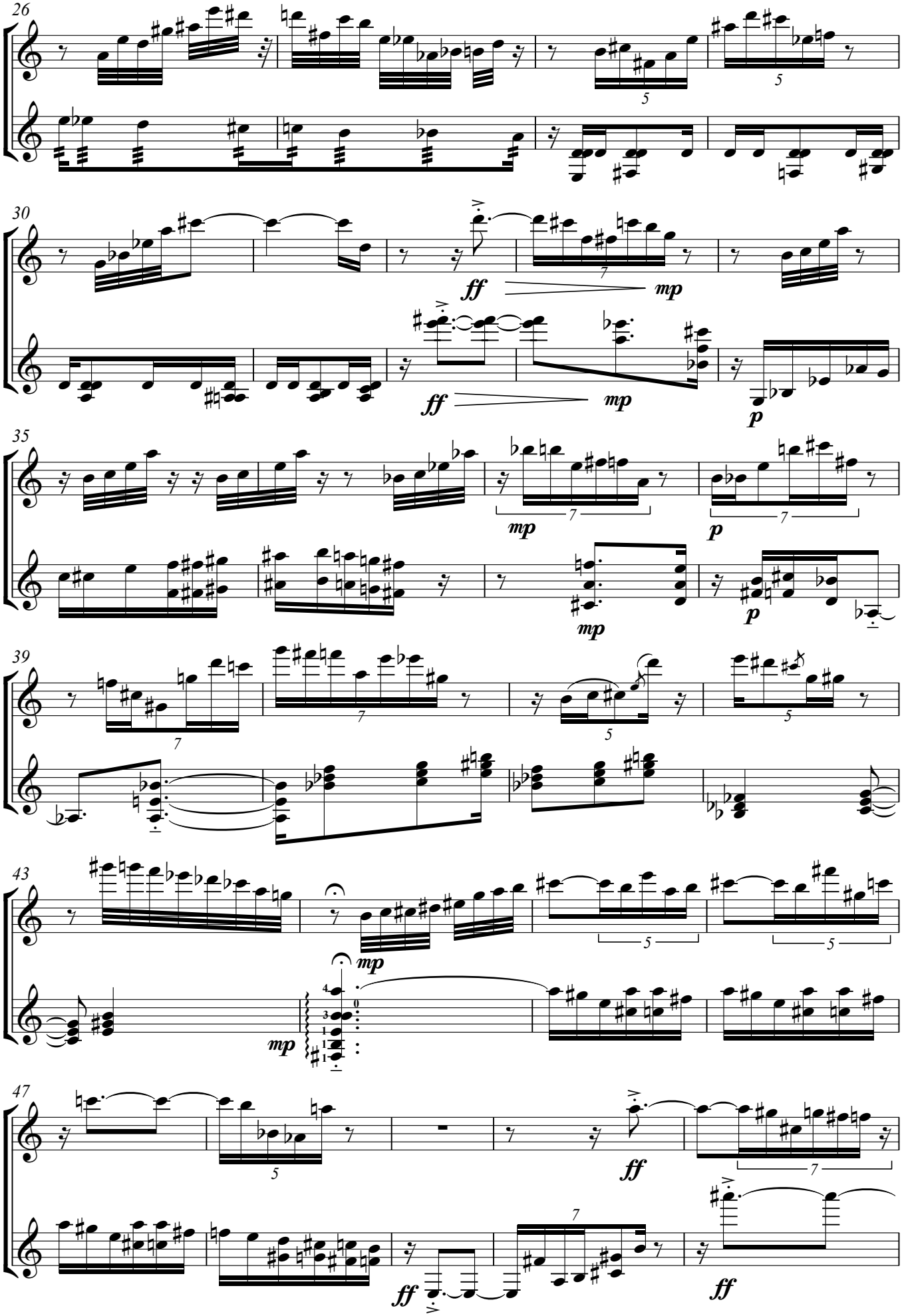

41
p
p
43
6
6
flz
45
mf
7
mf
3
mp
48
mf
7
mf
7
mp
p
50
7
7
mf
52
mfp
7
mfp
mfp

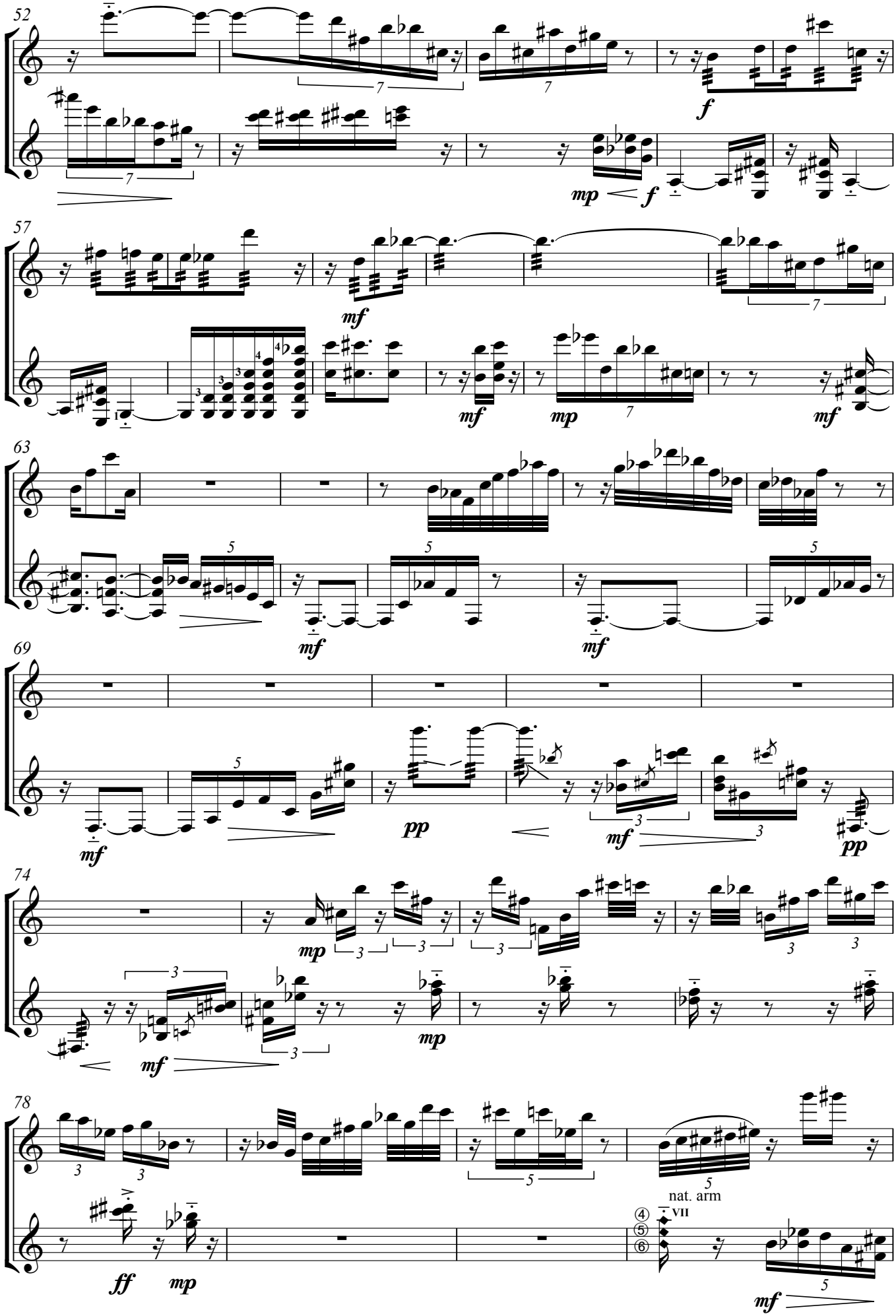

54
56
mf
p
mp
58
mf
p
pp
60
mf
62
l.v.
3
mf
mp
p
64
p
mf
mp
p

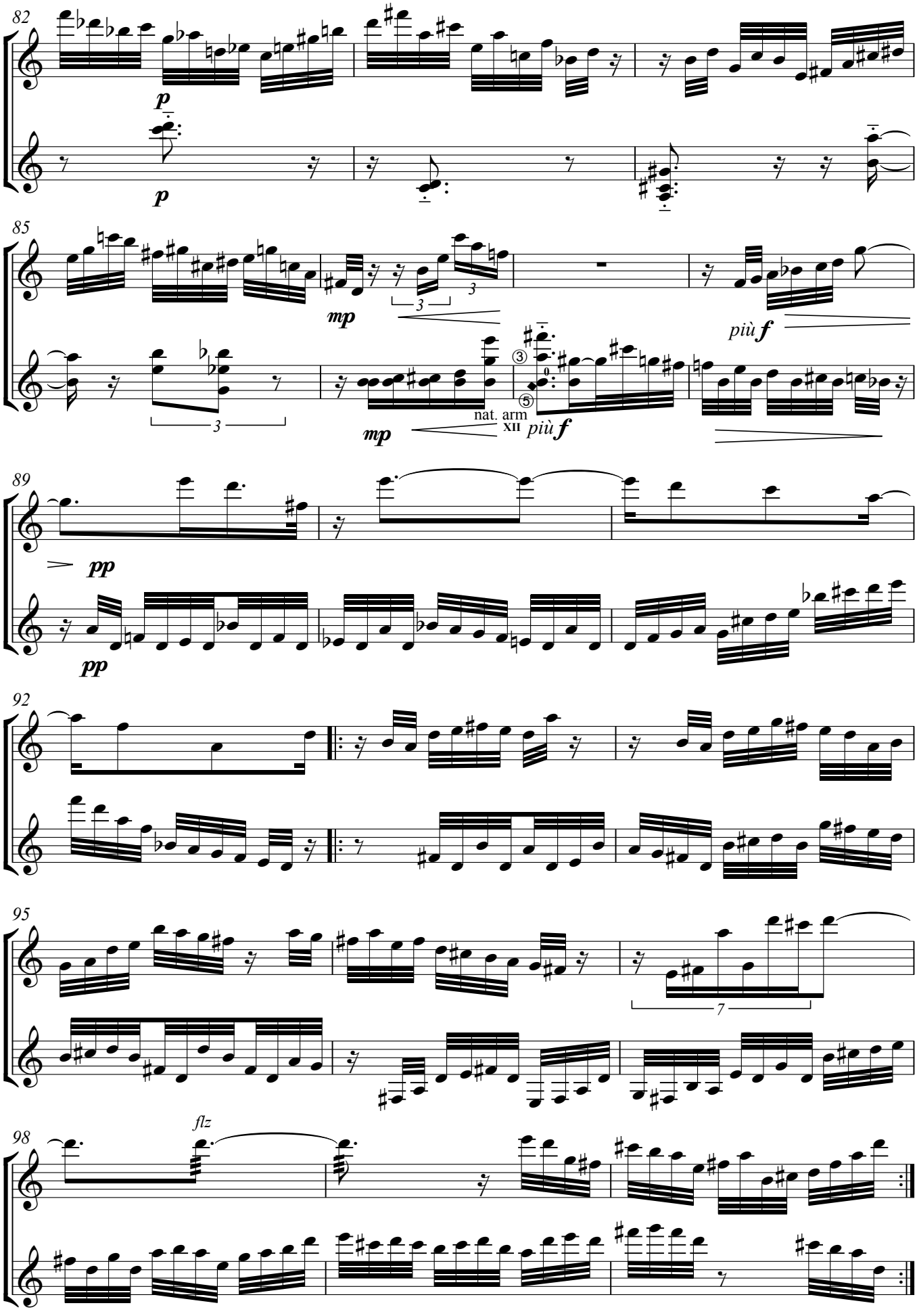

66
p
mp
p
mp
68
7
7
70
con forza
f
7
con forza
f
72
7
mp
mp
p
74
mf
p
mf
mp
p
75
pp
7
pp

3. HEATHER

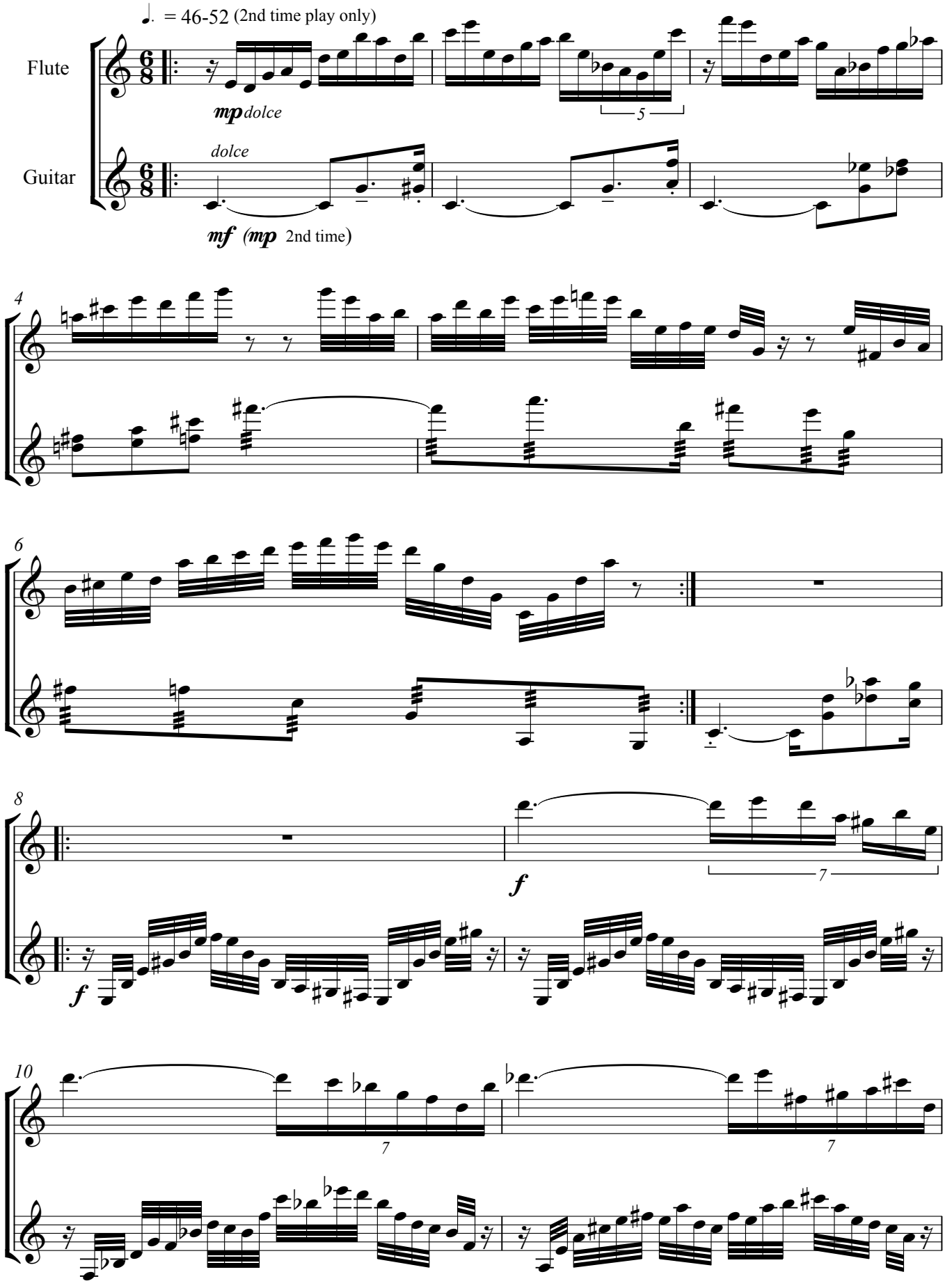

♩. = 51-60
Piccolo
Guitar
l.v. possibile
nat. arm
nat. arm
ppp
mf
ppp
mf
pp
pp
6
mf
tamb.
mf
p
nat.
mp
tamb.
mf
11
ff
mp
nat.
ff
sul pont.
mp
16
più f
più f
ff
mp
mp
21
pp
pp

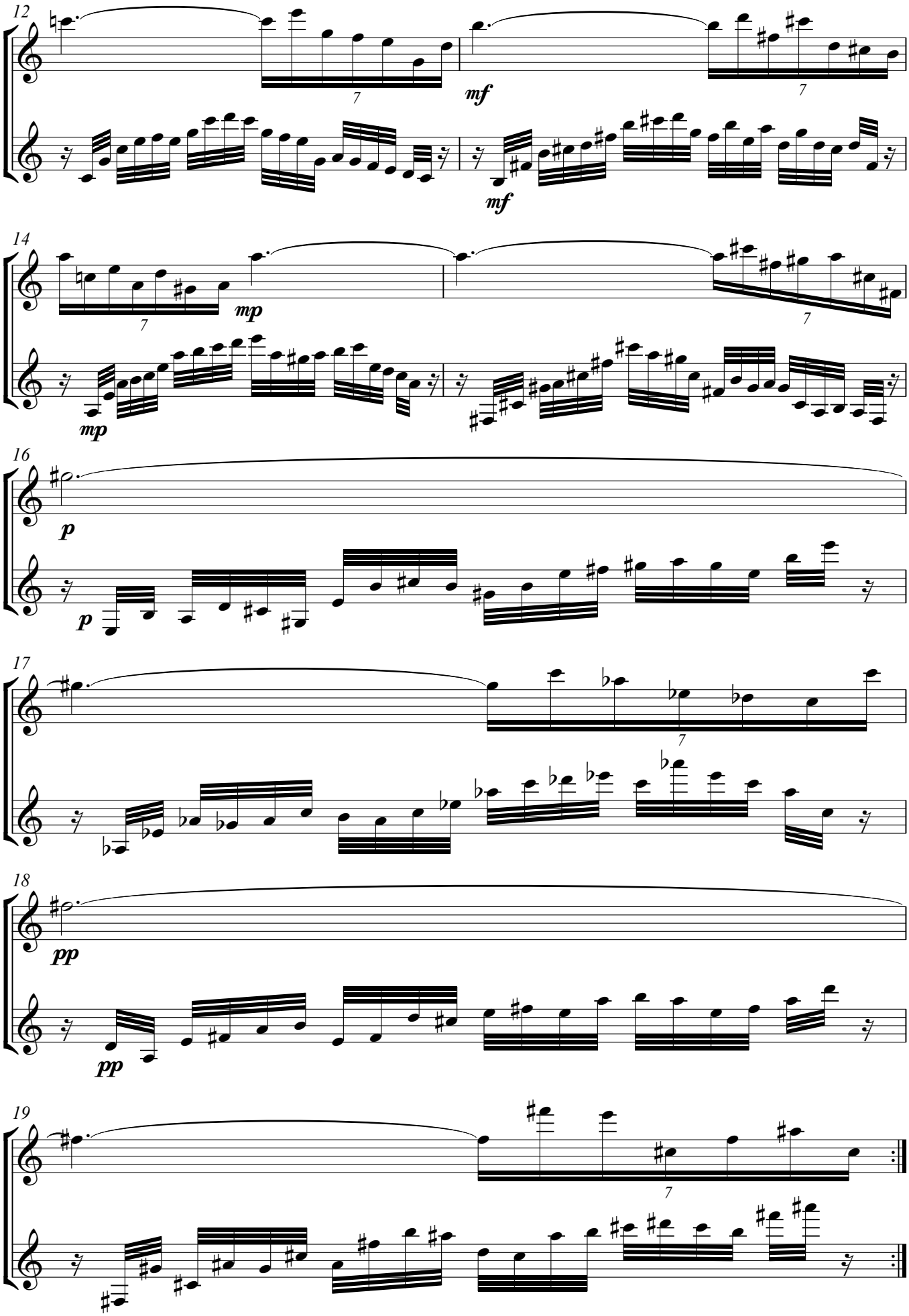

26
30
35
39
43
47
ff
mp
p

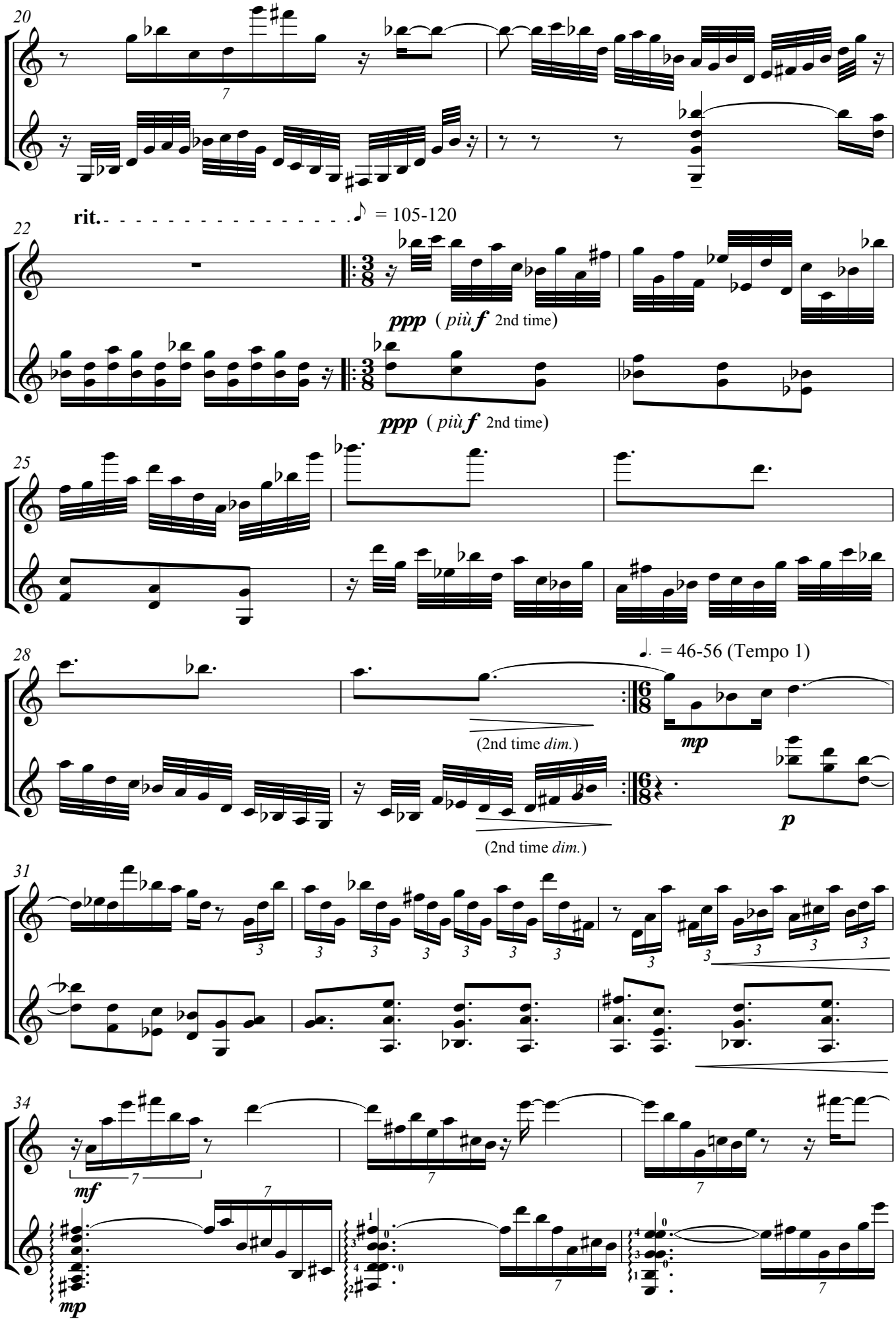

52
57
63
69
74
78
nat. arm

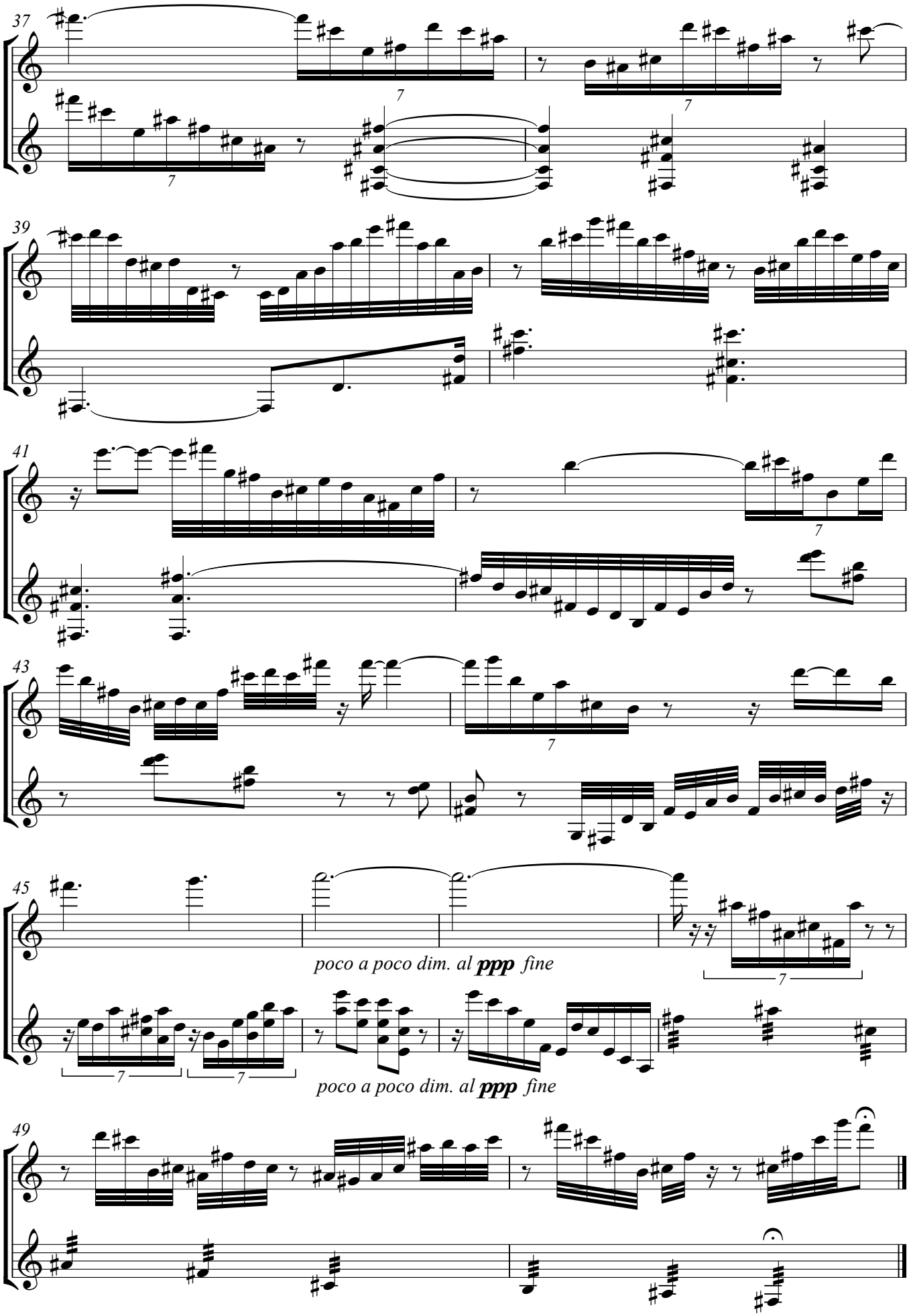

82
p
p
85
mp
3
3
più f
3
mp
nat. arm
XII
più f
89
pp
pp
92
95
7
98
flz

4. COLUMBINE


♩. = 46-52 (2nd time play only)
Flute
Guitar
mp dolce
dolce
mf (mp 2nd time)
4
6
8
10
f
f
5
7
7
7


12
mf
mf
14
mp
mp
16
p
p
17
18
pp
pp
19


20
7
rit.
♪ = 105-120
22
ppp (più f 2nd time)
ppp (più f 2nd time)
25
28
♩. = 46-56 (Tempo 1)
(2nd time dim.)
mp
p
(2nd time dim.)
31
3
34
mf
7
mp


37
7
7
7
39
41
7
43
7
45
poco a poco dim. al ppp fine
7
7
poco a poco dim. al ppp fine
49

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