

Ryan Vigil

January 21, 2007 New Haven, CT

Performance Notes

General Matters:

Time (rhythm) is indicated spatially: 1 measure equals 5 seconds. Within this structure, events should be executed naturally, with no sense of rigidity. This is not to say that within each 5-second measure events may be executed freely – on the contrary, spatial placement indicates the *specific* rhythmic place of each event. Nevertheless, it is important that the music not feel metered, or rhythmic, in a traditional sense.

Noteheads:

- Indicates a short note, last half-a-second to a second-and-a-half, ad libitum
 - In the case of simultaneous events between instruments, the length (i.e., cut-off) should be coordinated
 - When not joined by a slur, a succession of short notes in a single part should be slightly separated, even when occurring within a second-and-a-half
- Indicates a long note to be held for the duration of the horizontal line following the notehead
 - when appearing to coincide, the cut-off of simultaneous long notes should also be coordinated

A Solid vertical line indicates simultaneity between parts.

Coordination:

This piece may be performed with or without conductor, depending on the needs/interests of the players. In either case, it will be necessary for all the musicians to have stopwatches, in order to coordinate various entrances and generally remain "on track." Because many of the players have long periods of inactivity, it is not necessary to count empty measures, or wait for a specific cue; rather, they need only keep track of when (in time) their next entrance takes place, and keep track of the time. It may be useful to have a "conductor" who can coordinate simultaneous events between instruments, and monitor dynamics, etc.

Stage Planning:

The composer envisioned the following setup:

Percussion

Piano

[Stage

Solo Violin

Stage

Right]

Piccolo, Flute, Alto Flute

String Quartet

Left]

[Audience]

However, musicians are free to experiment with other arrangements, including the placement of various instruments, or instrument groups, in other parts of the auditorium (aisles, balconies, etc.).

Dynamics: Refer to sounding dynamic, as opposed to played dynamic

mp = Soft but prominent

p = Soft but present

= Quite soft, delicate

ppp = Very soft, thin and distant

pppp = Barely audible

Accents:

pp

- Indicates an audible, but not violent attack followed by a normal steady-state

sf - Indicates a strong attack followed by a normal steady-state

- Indicates that the note should be held with the same intensity throughout its

duration

- Indicates a short note

Where not accompanied by an accent (> or sf), attacks should be as soft as possible.

Unless accompanied by a tenuto (-), held notes should possess a subtle, natural decay.

Accidentals: Accidentals do not carry except in the case of immediate repetition. Accidentals do not ever carry

at the octave. "Courtesy" accidentals are still given to ease reading.

Intonation: All pitches should be tuned as precisely as possible. No distinction is made between sharps and

flats etc. Melodic half-steps should note be "compressed," vertical fifths should not be

"enlarged," etc.

For harmonic instruments: Unless otherwise indicated, multiple notes appearing to line up vertically should be played as a chord.

Vibrato: Unless specifically instructed otherwise, all instruments should play without vibrato.

Notes for Particular Instruments:

Piccolo, Flute, and Alto Flute:

Around 6, 15, and 57-59 minutes into the piece the piccolo, flute, and alto flute are required to play small bells. These should be sets of very small "jingly" bells, of the type found on jewelry (the composer has found that anklets work best). Three different-sized sets should be used, with the piccolo playing the smallest and the alto flute playing the largest (which should still be quite small). These should be played very softly – simply creating a distant rustling sound.

When the piccolo, flute, and alto flute are asked to play normally (roughly from the 26 to the 46 minute-mark) care should be taken to be very soft. The players are encouraged to experiment with ways to mute or muffle the sound in order to ensure that it is not too loud. The tone should be non vibrato throughout.

Solo Violin:

The solo violin plays con sordino and non vibrato throughout. Between roughly 32 and 40 minutes into the piece care should be taken to properly coordinate with the vibraphone where indicated (generally, the vibraphone should take the lead here).

Piano:

The piano acts as the "backbone" of the piece – playing nearly continuously. An imperceptible, gradual diminuendo takes place from 20 to 60 minutes into the piece.

Percussion (one player):

The percussionist plays:

2 triangles (very small and small)

2 suspended cymbals (very small and small)

4 Japanese prayer bowls (very small, small, medium-small, medium)

Vibraphone

4 tam tams/unpitched gongs (very small, small, medium-small, medium)

The percussionist uses the following beaters, etc.:

Knitting needles, soft mallets, bow, finger tips

Where not indicated, the player should use his/her best judgment concerning beaters.

Between roughly 32 and 40 minutes into the piece care should be taken to properly coordinate with the violin where indicated (generally, the vibraphone should take the lead here).

Around the 50-minute-mark, the percussionist is required to play the cymbals in three distinct spots: dome (indicated with "+"), between dome and edge (regular stroke, indicated with "o"), and edge (indicated with "v").

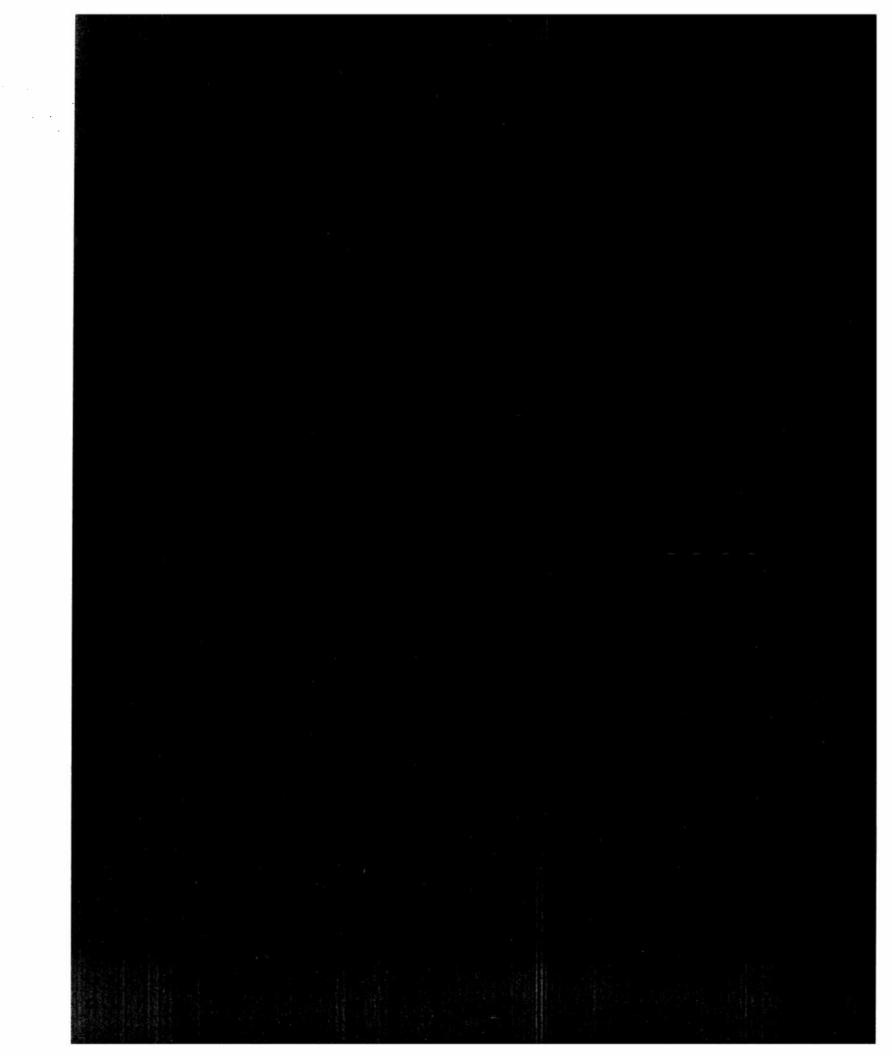
Sting Quartet:

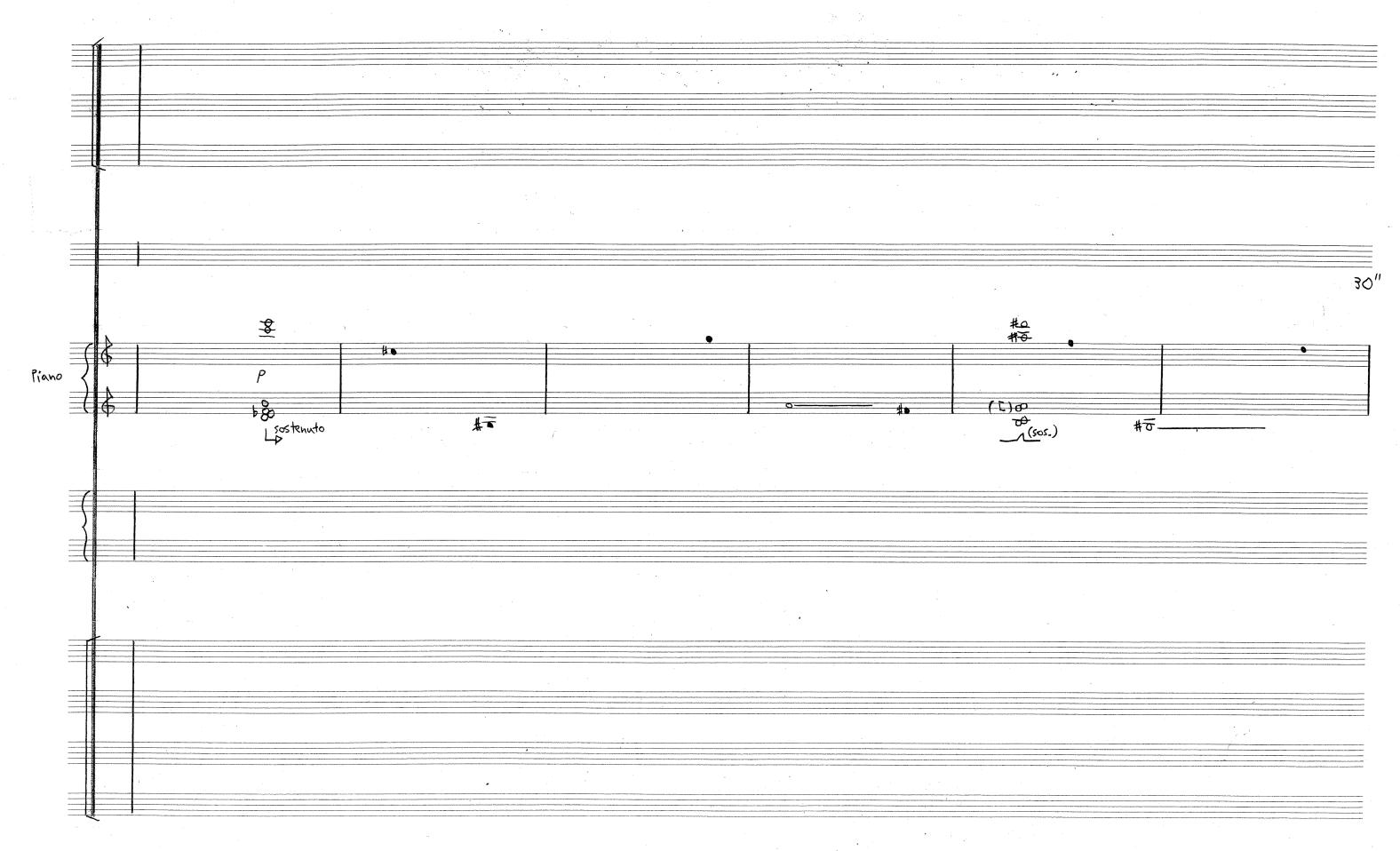
Throughout, the string quartet plays with practice mutes, as soft as possible. In the tremolo sections care should be taken that all four instruments begin and end each chord together.

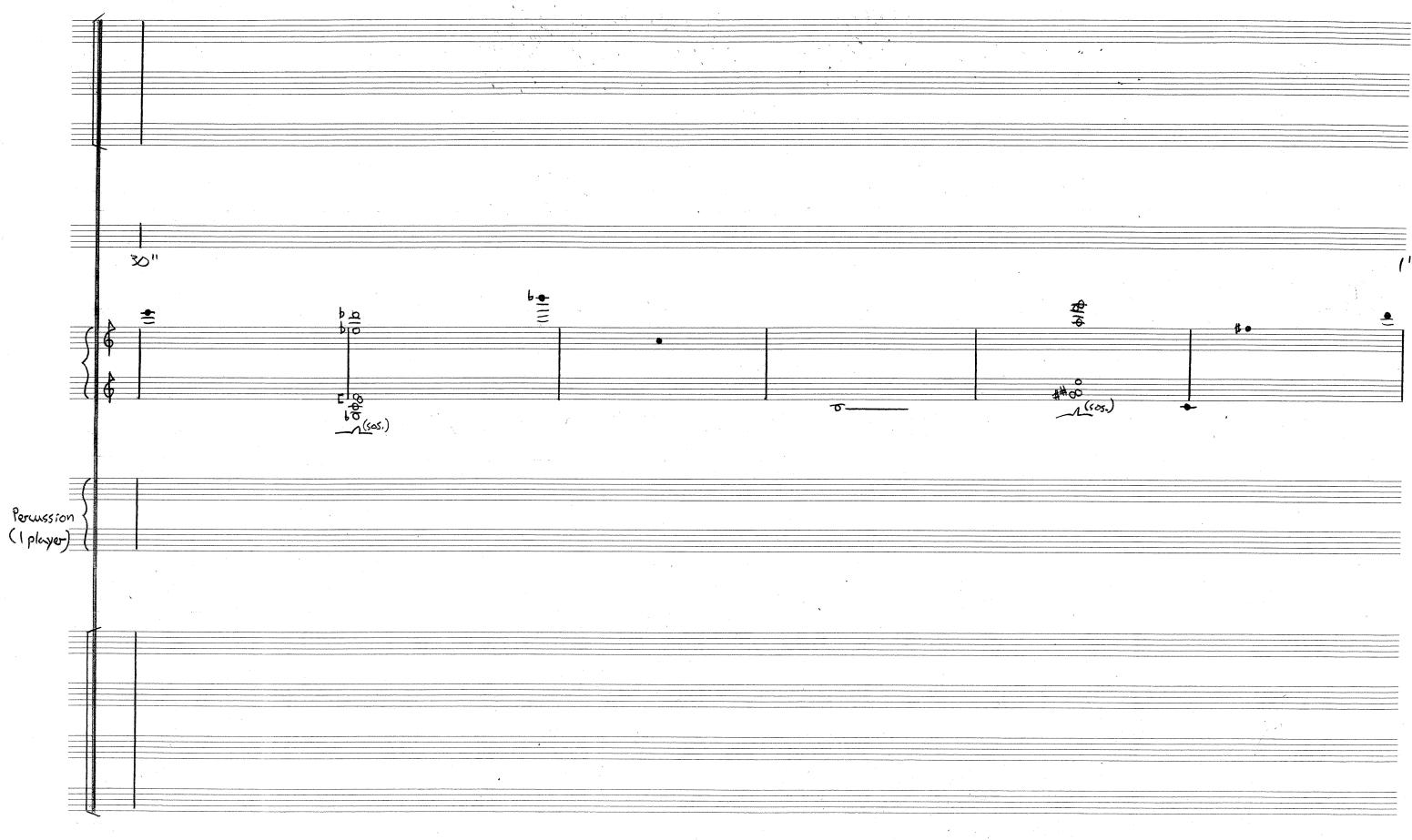
From 38 to 50 minutes into the piece the members of the string quartet are playing independent strands of music using traditional notation. These should be initiated together (at the 38 minute-mark) and then no attempt should be made to "line up" – each player should play, with flexibility, around the metronome marking given. The players should repeat their given strain of music until the next instruction: at the 41, 44, and 47 minute-marks they are requested to complete the strand they are playing (up to the repeat sign) and then continue to the next strand without pause; at the 50 minute-mark they should hold whatever note they are playing through the notated duration, and then stop playing (whether or not they are at the end of the notated passage).

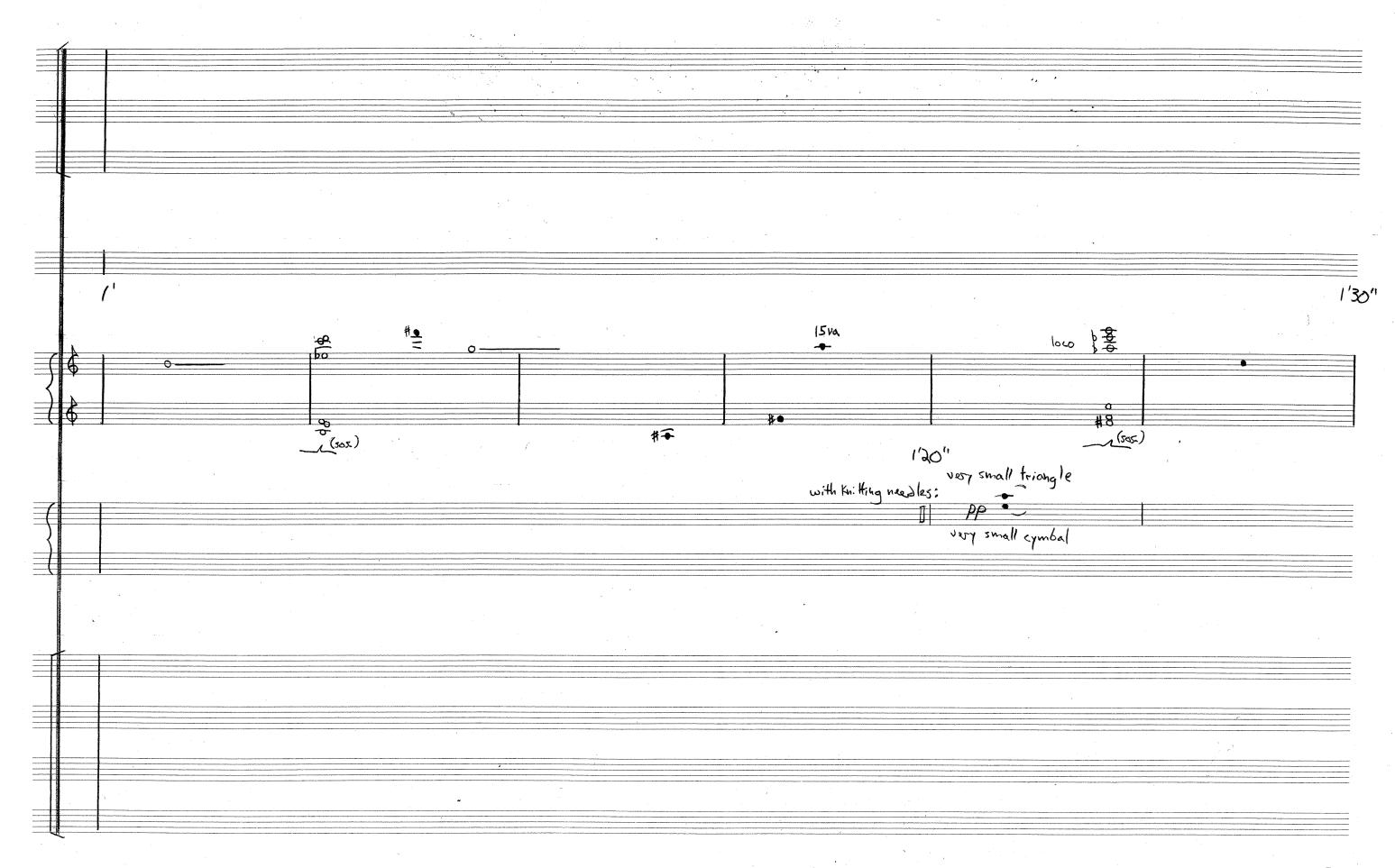
The glissando at the end of the piece should be executed as smoothly and steadily as possible.

Note: This piece is untitled



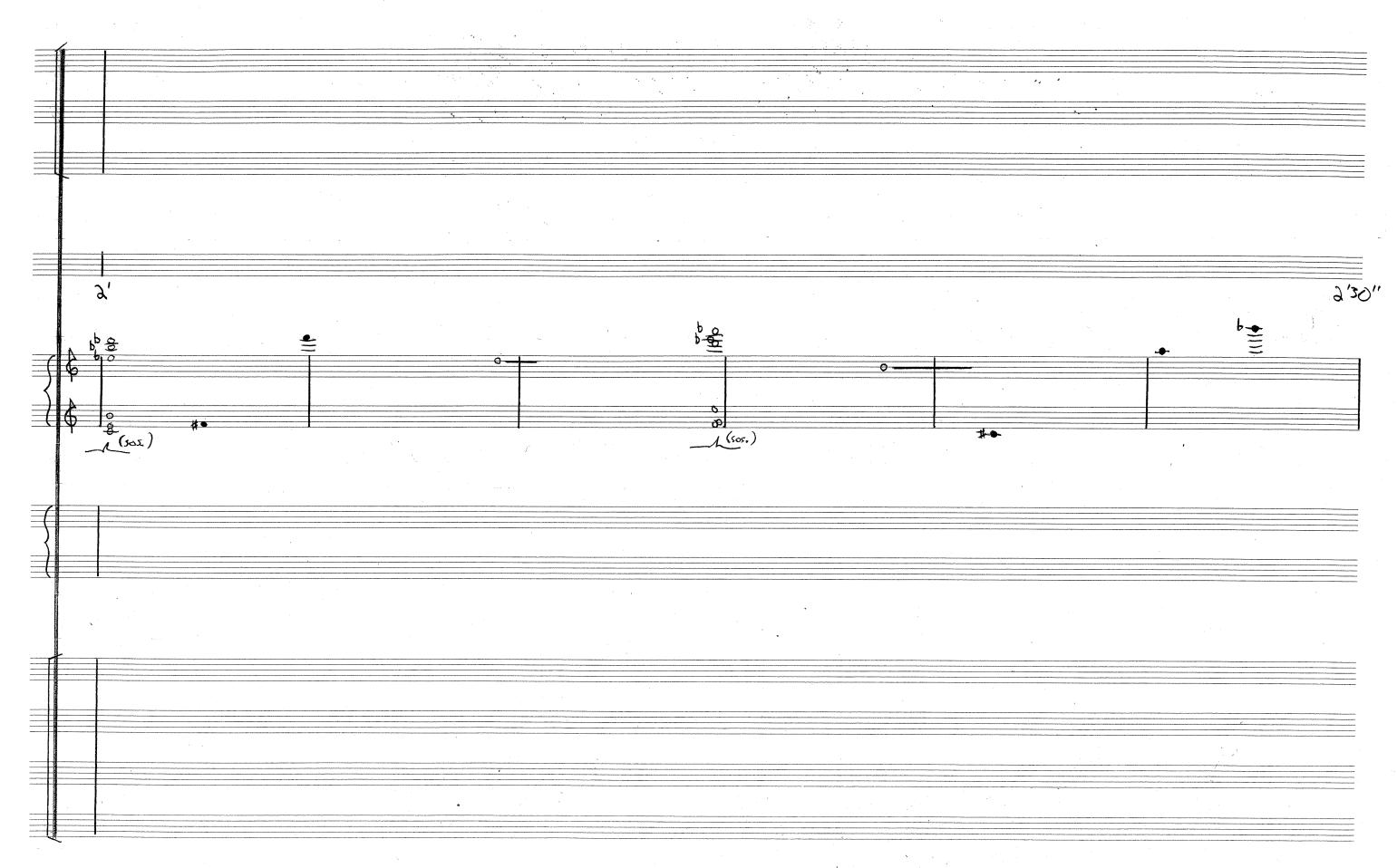


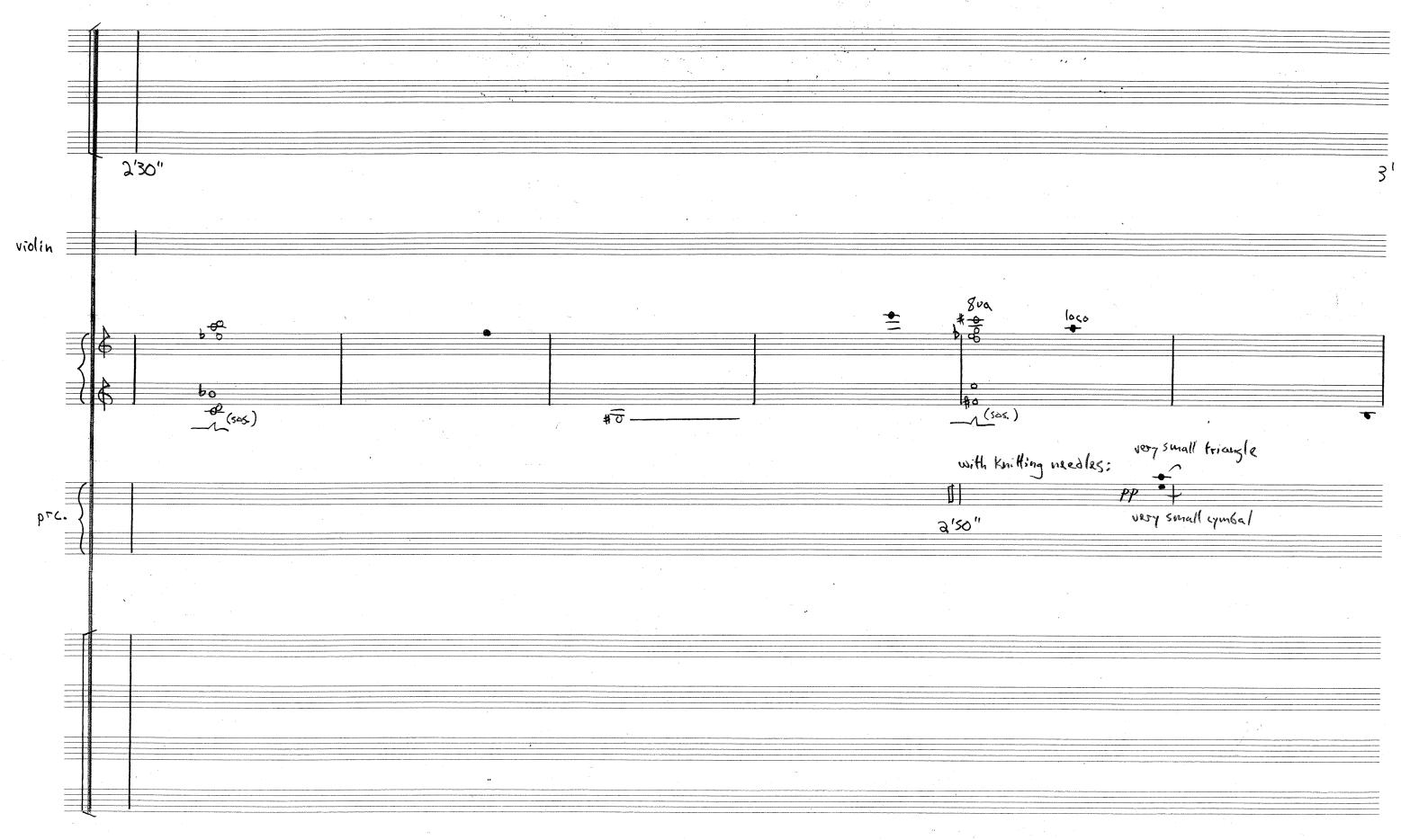


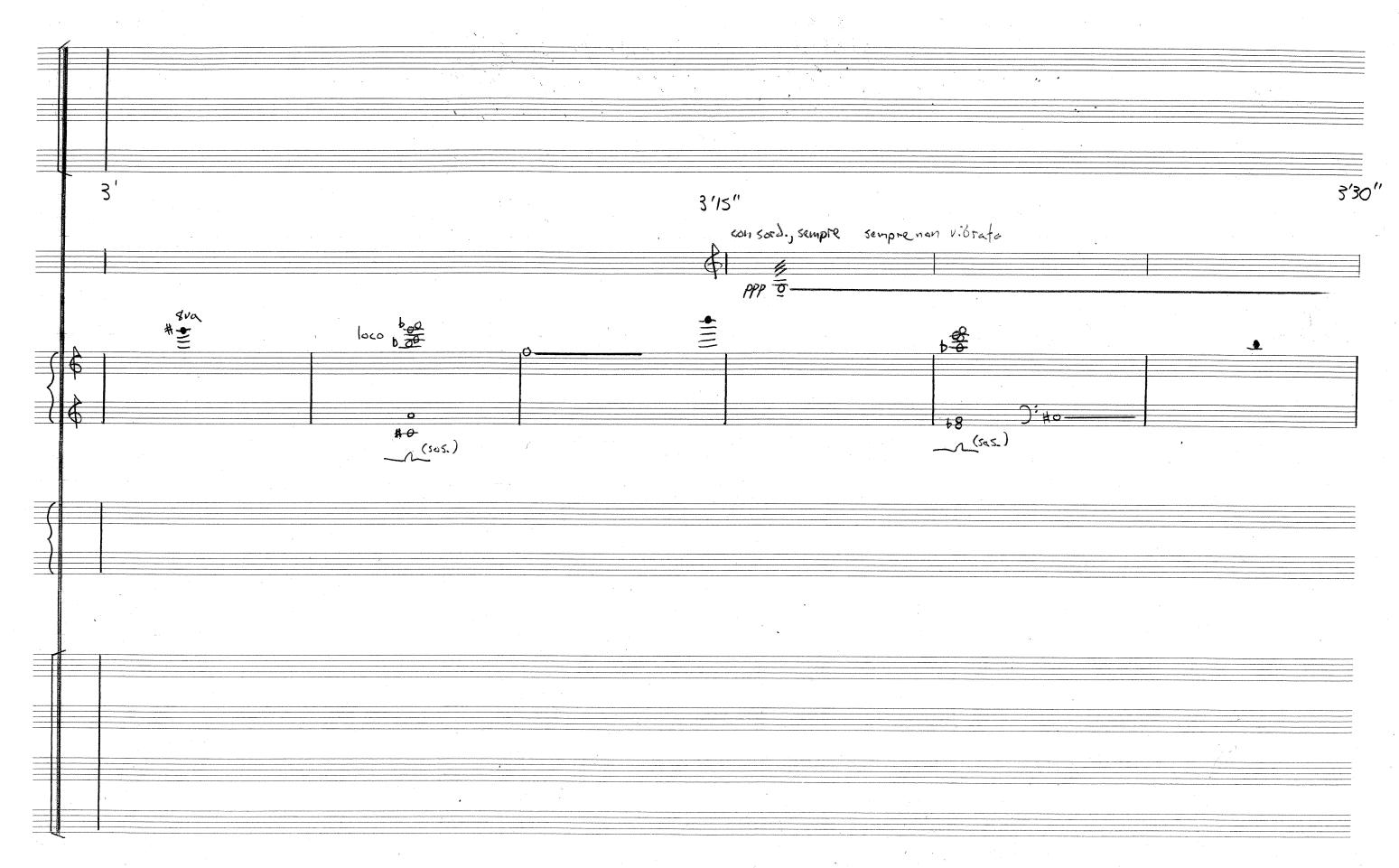


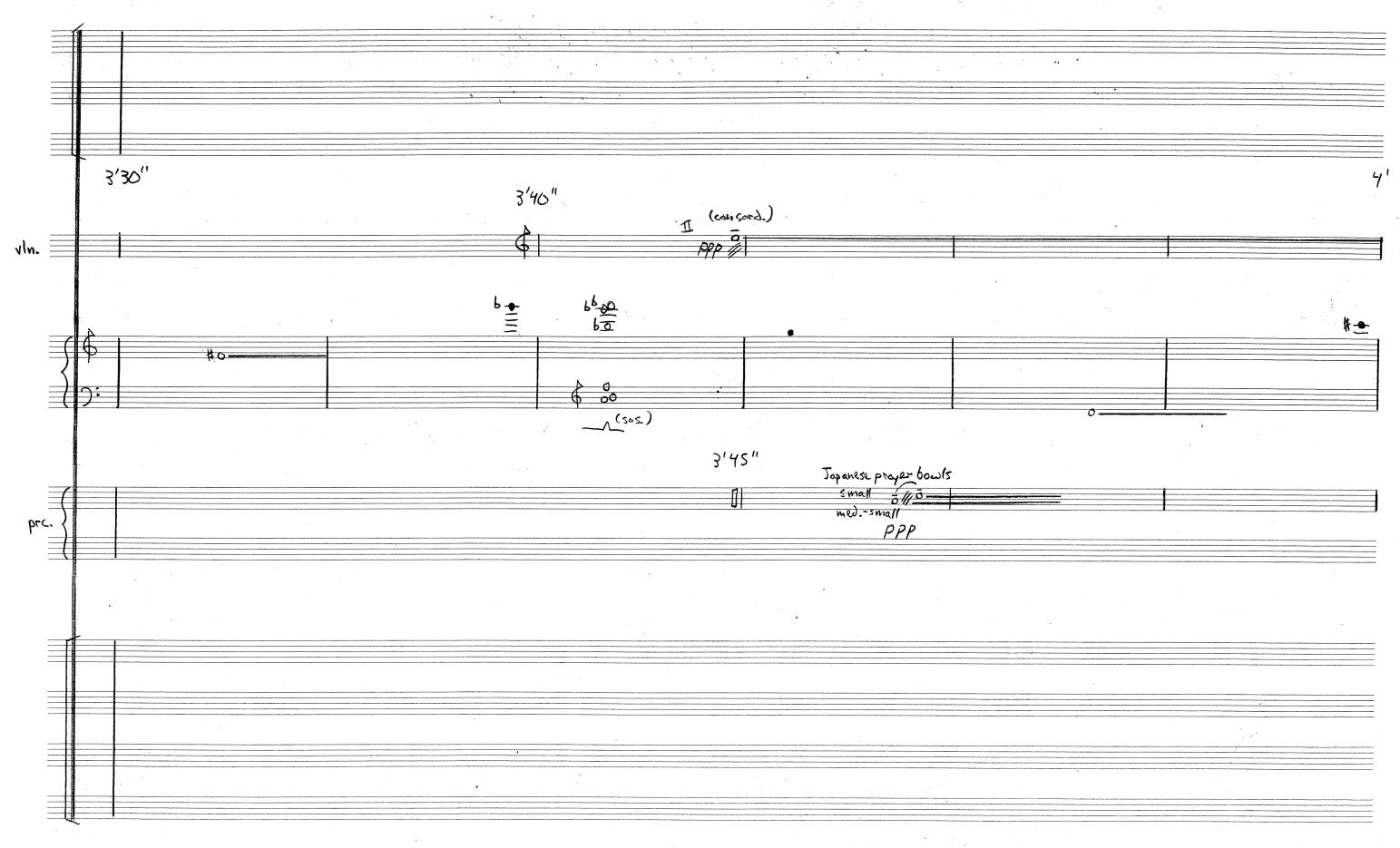
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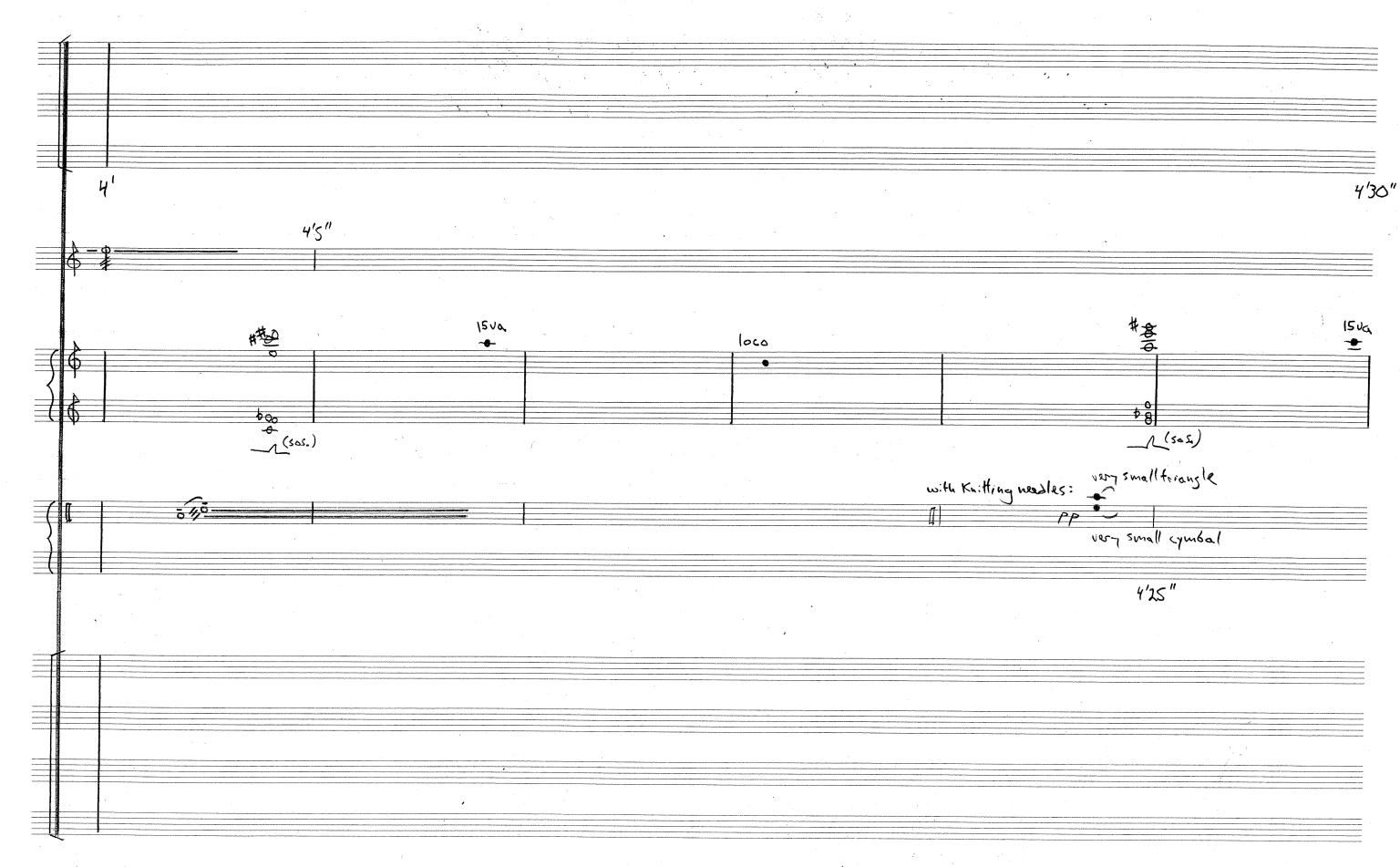
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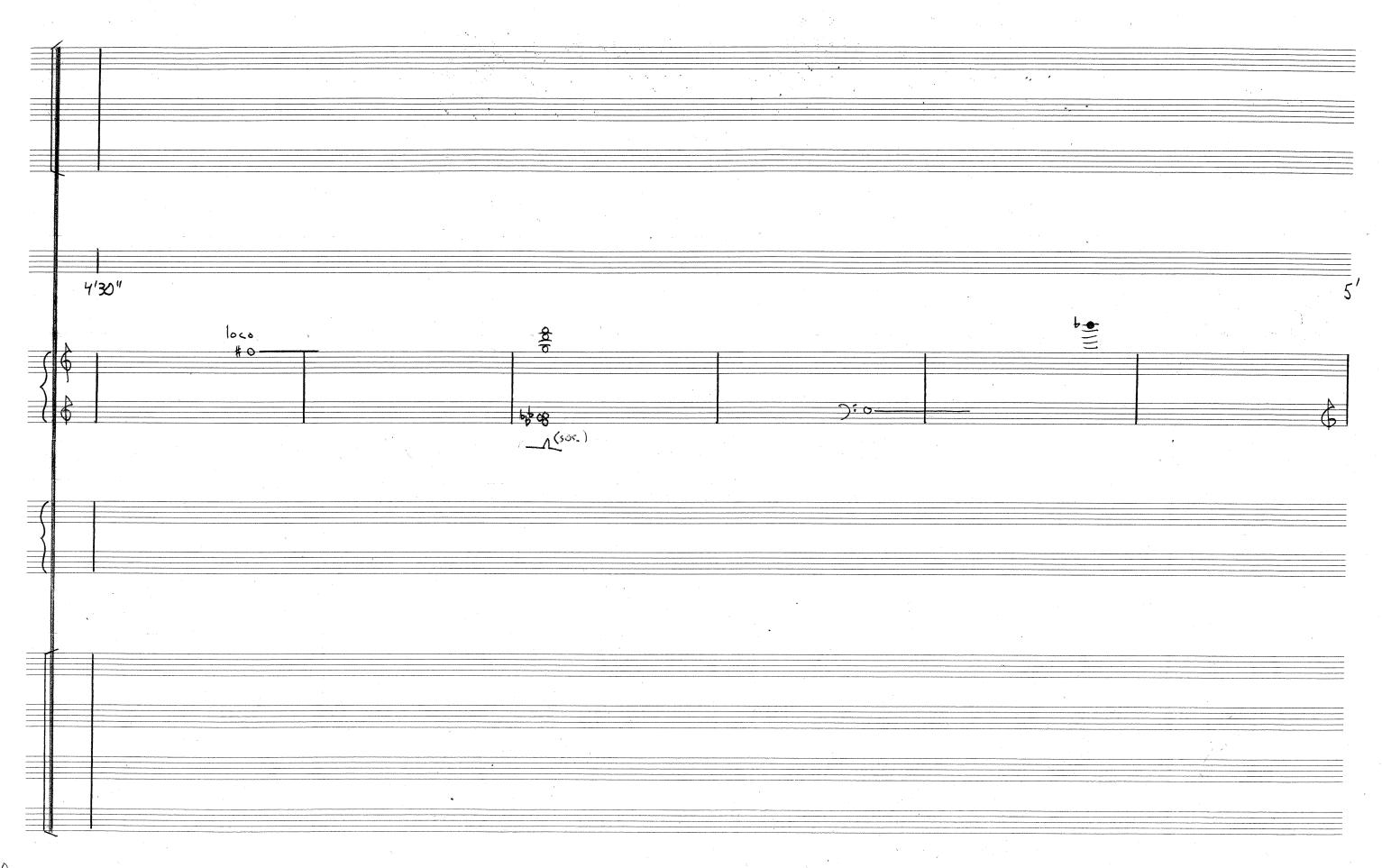


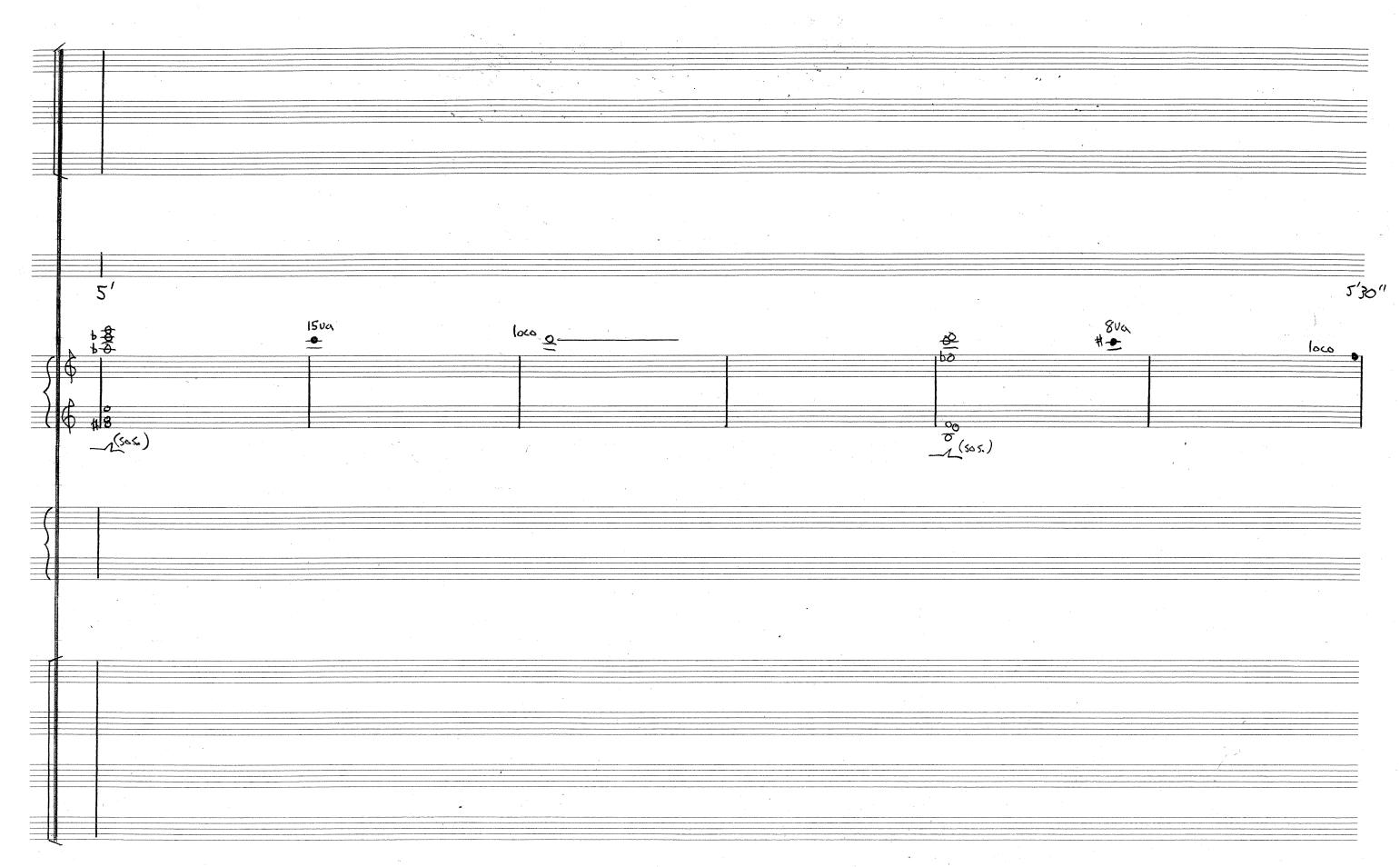


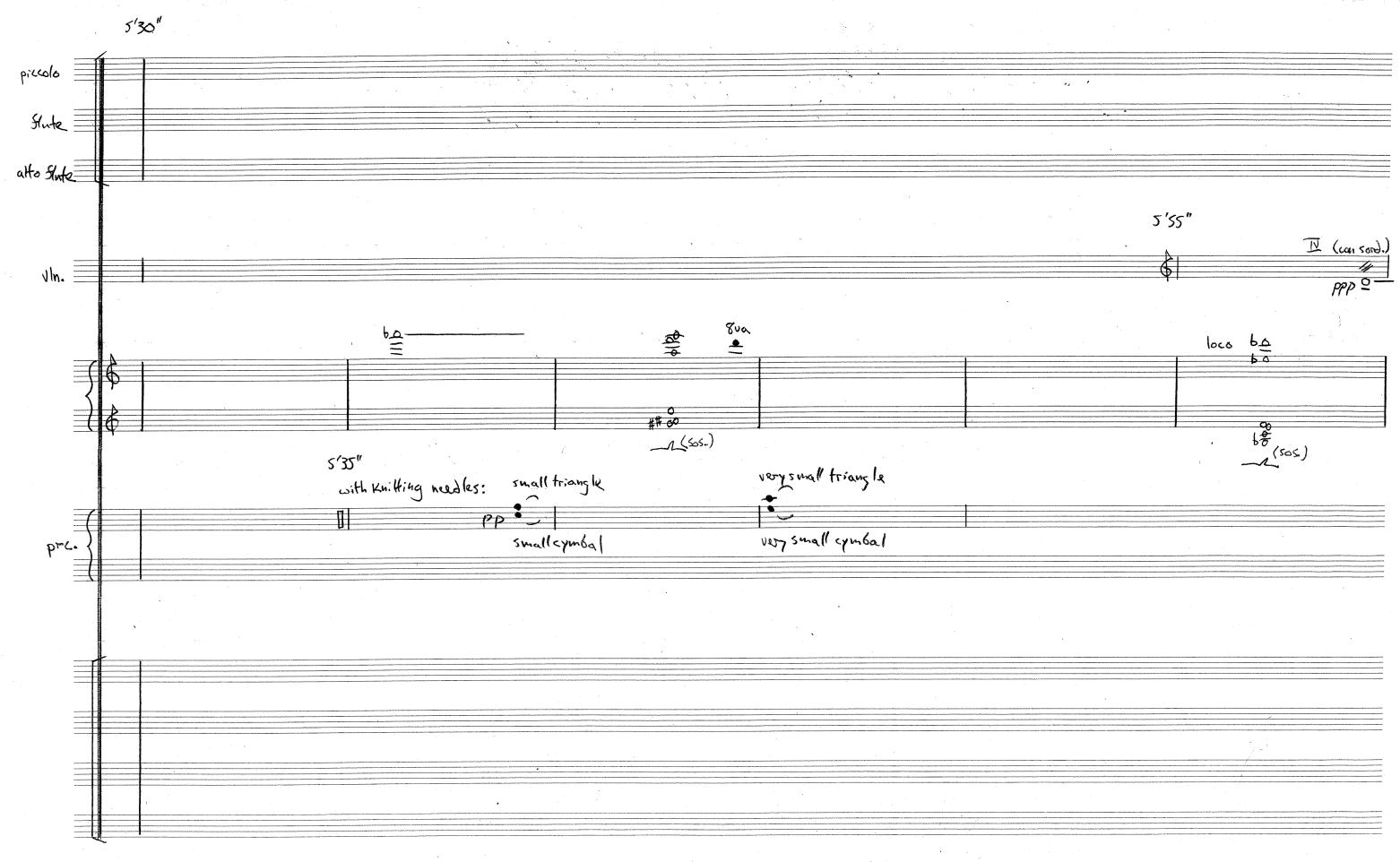


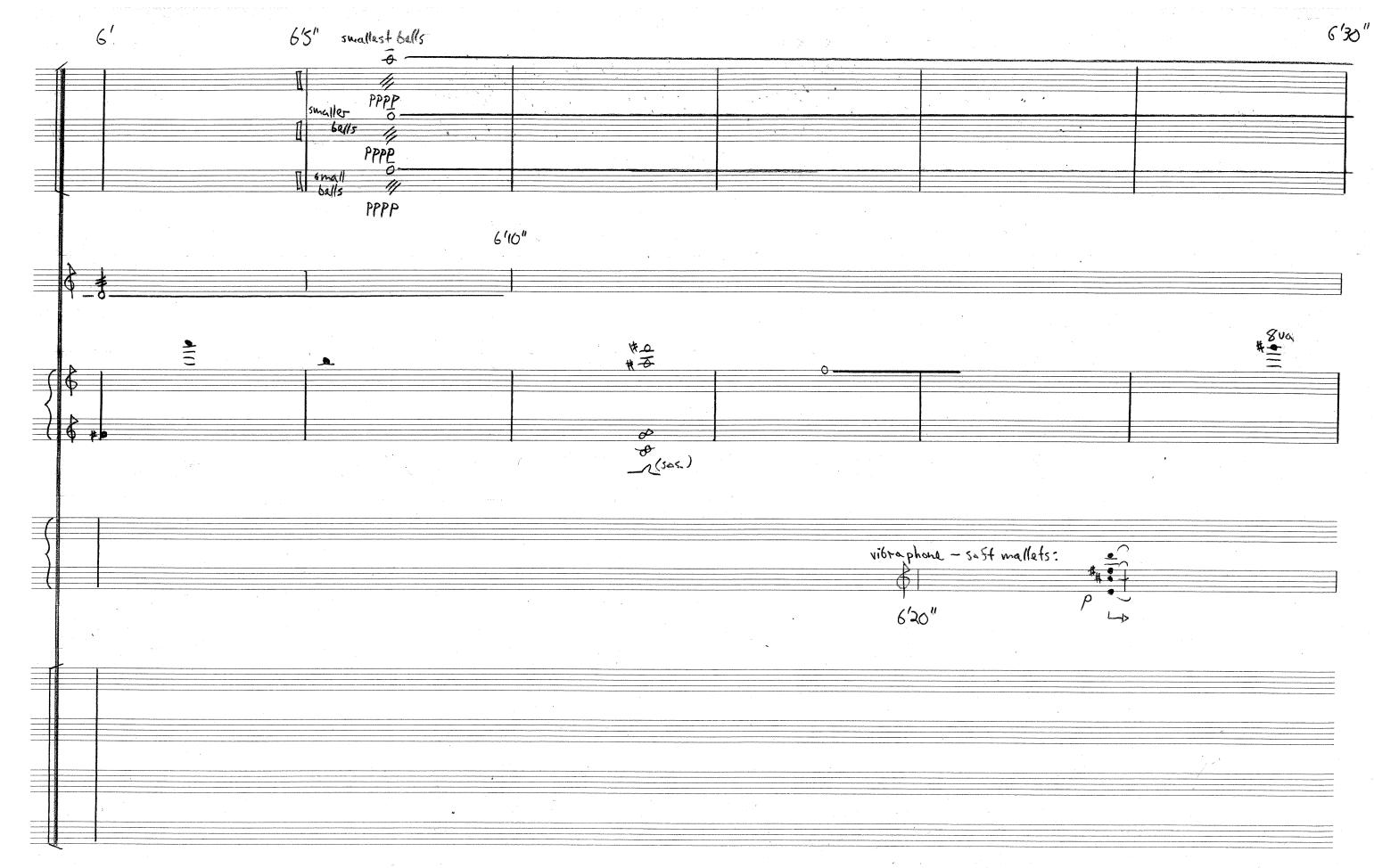


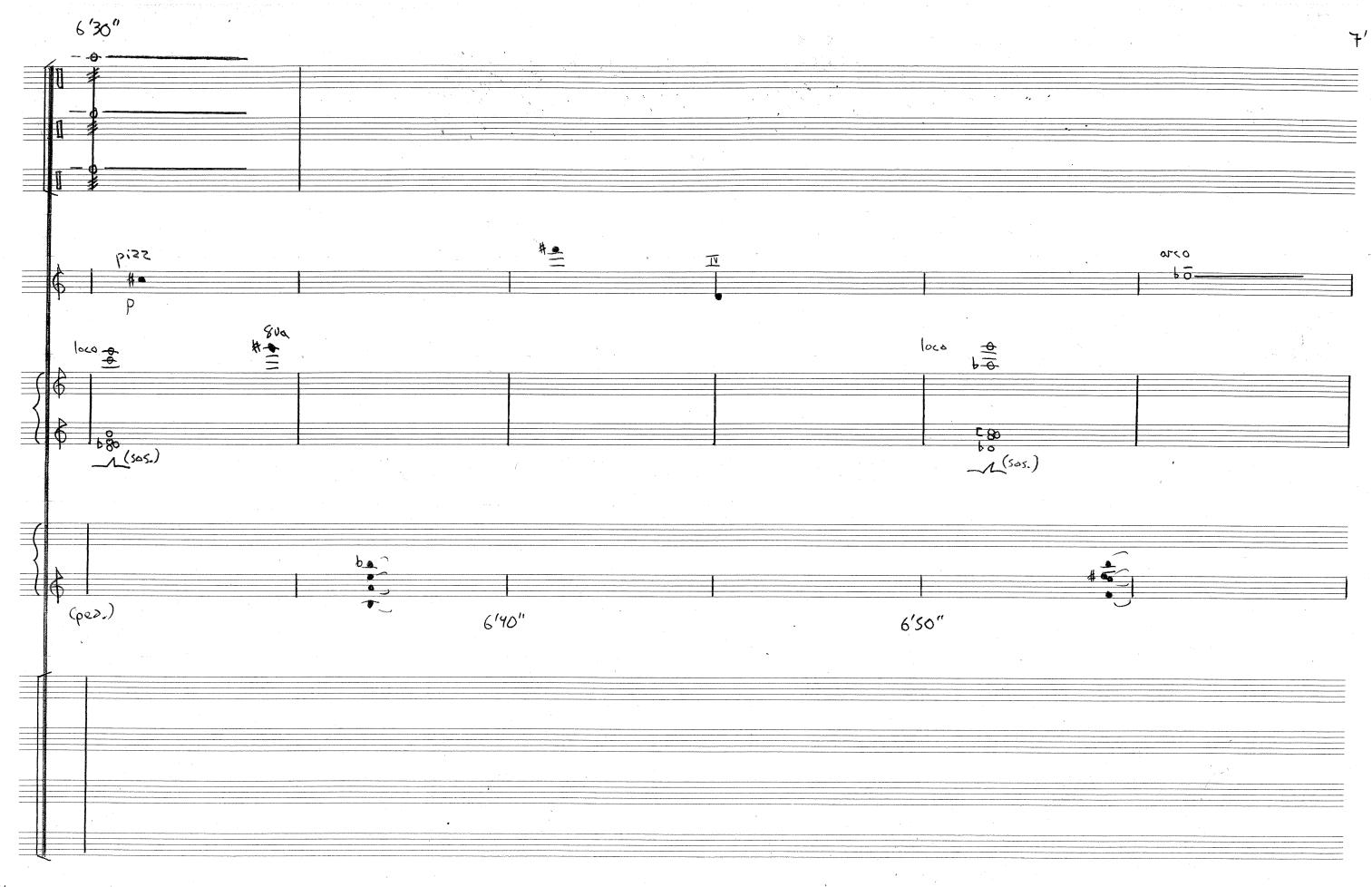


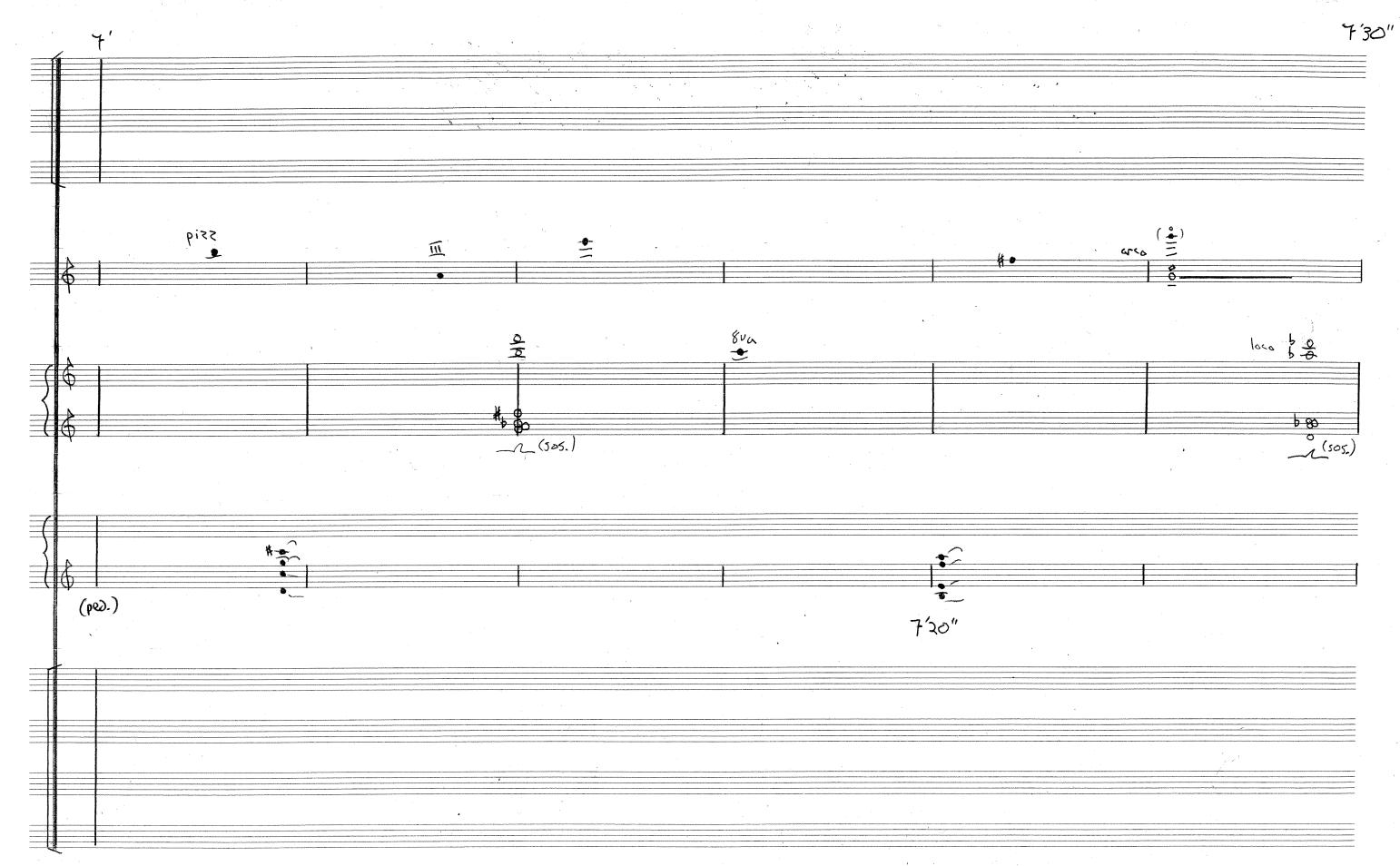


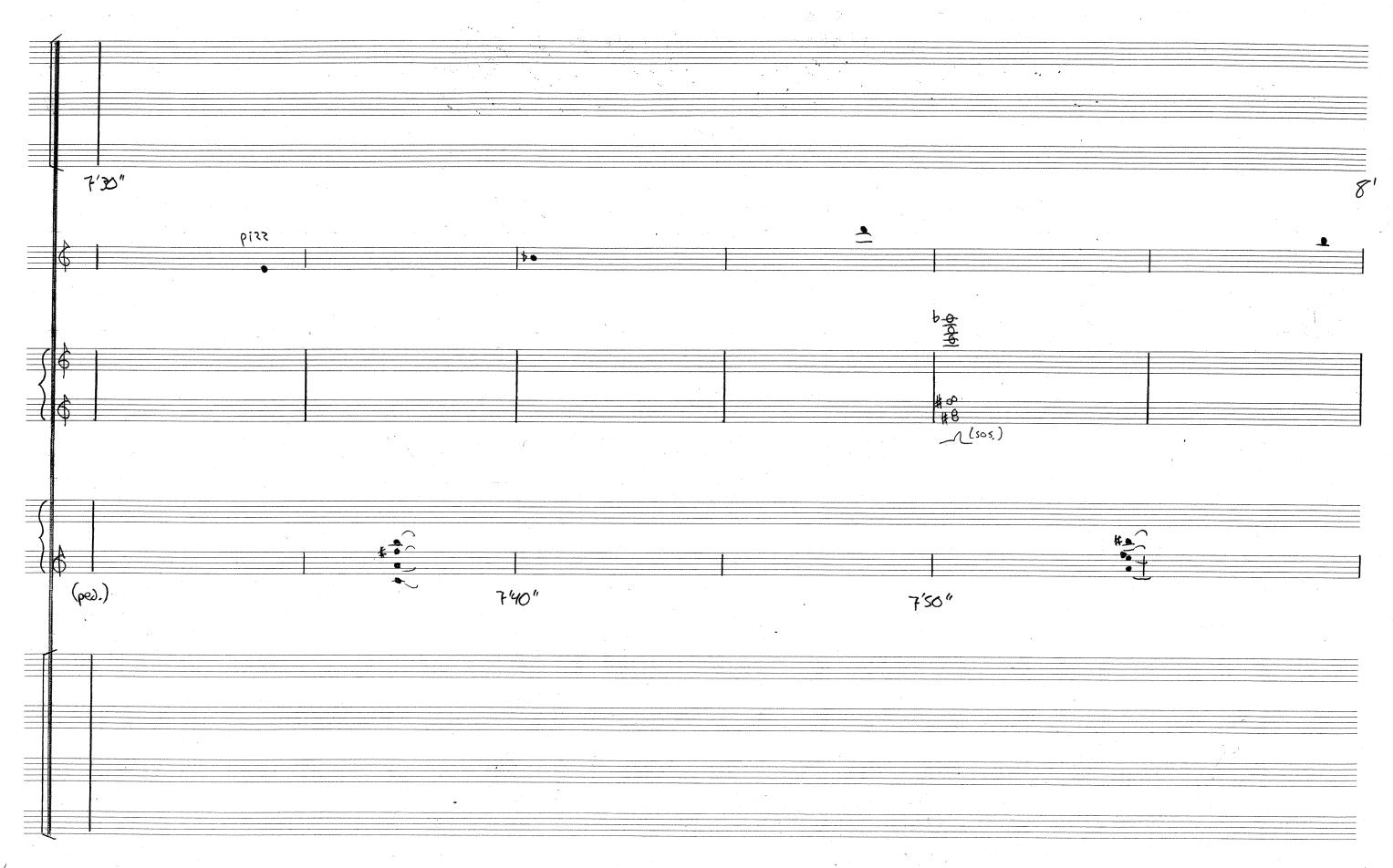


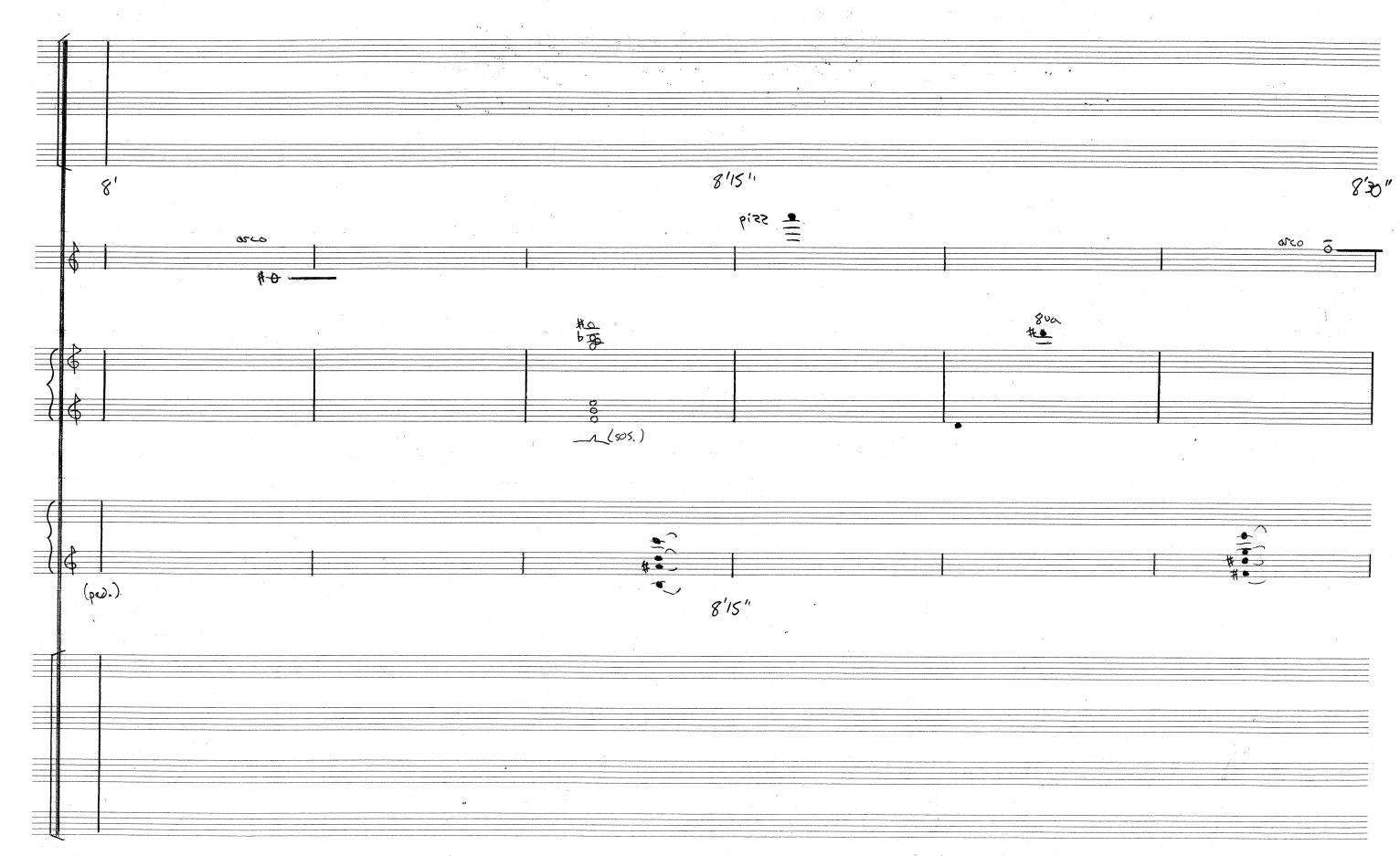


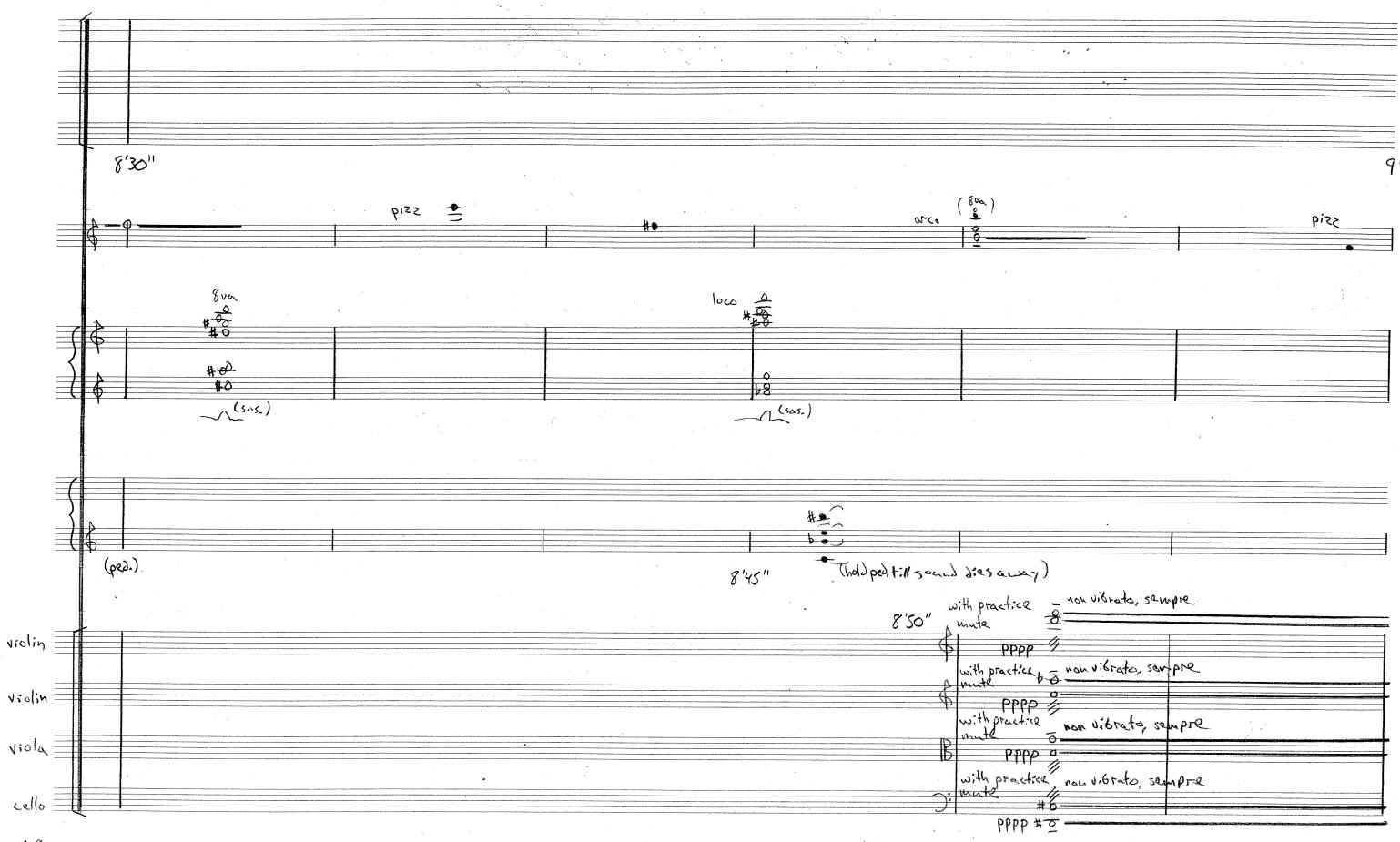


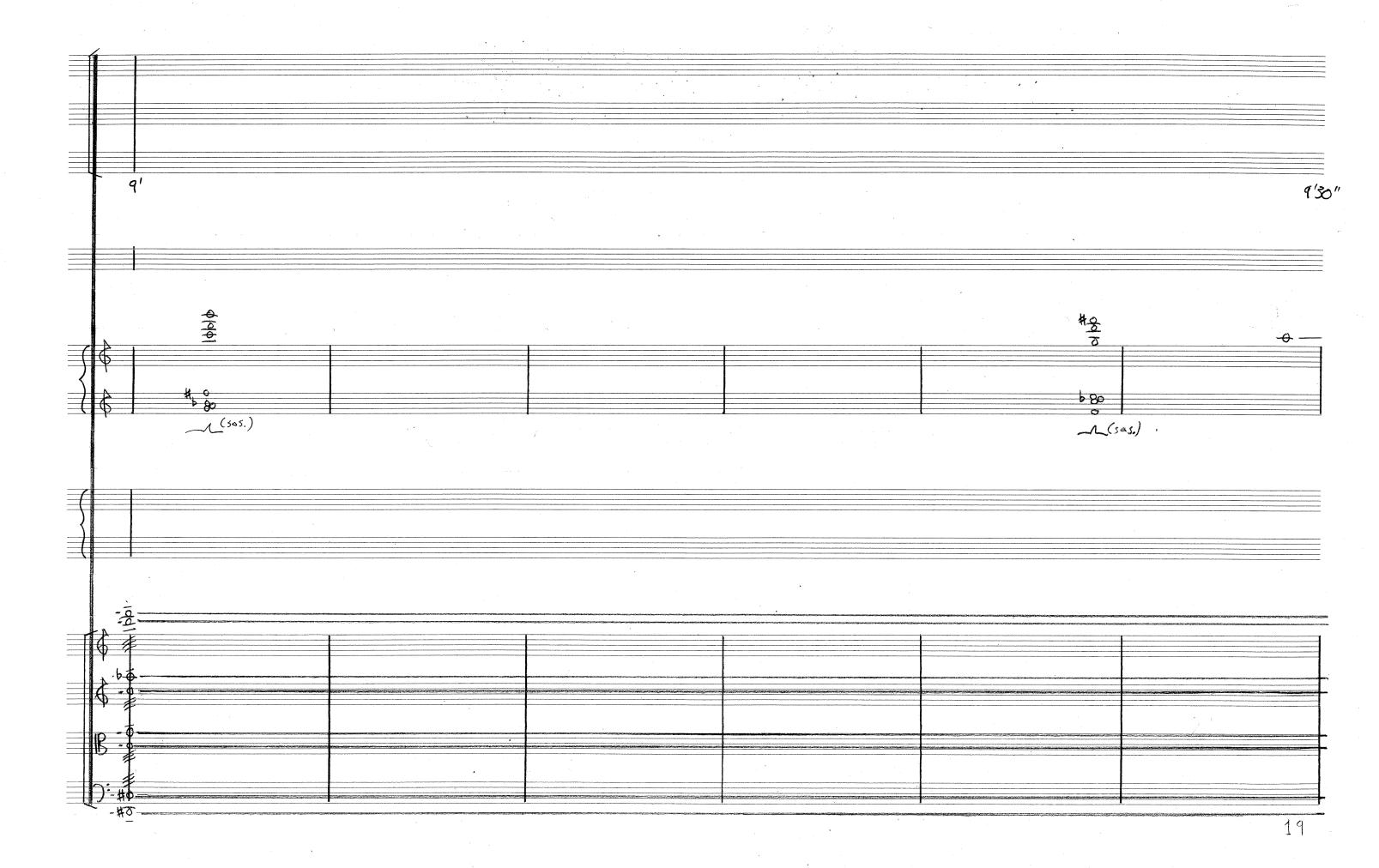


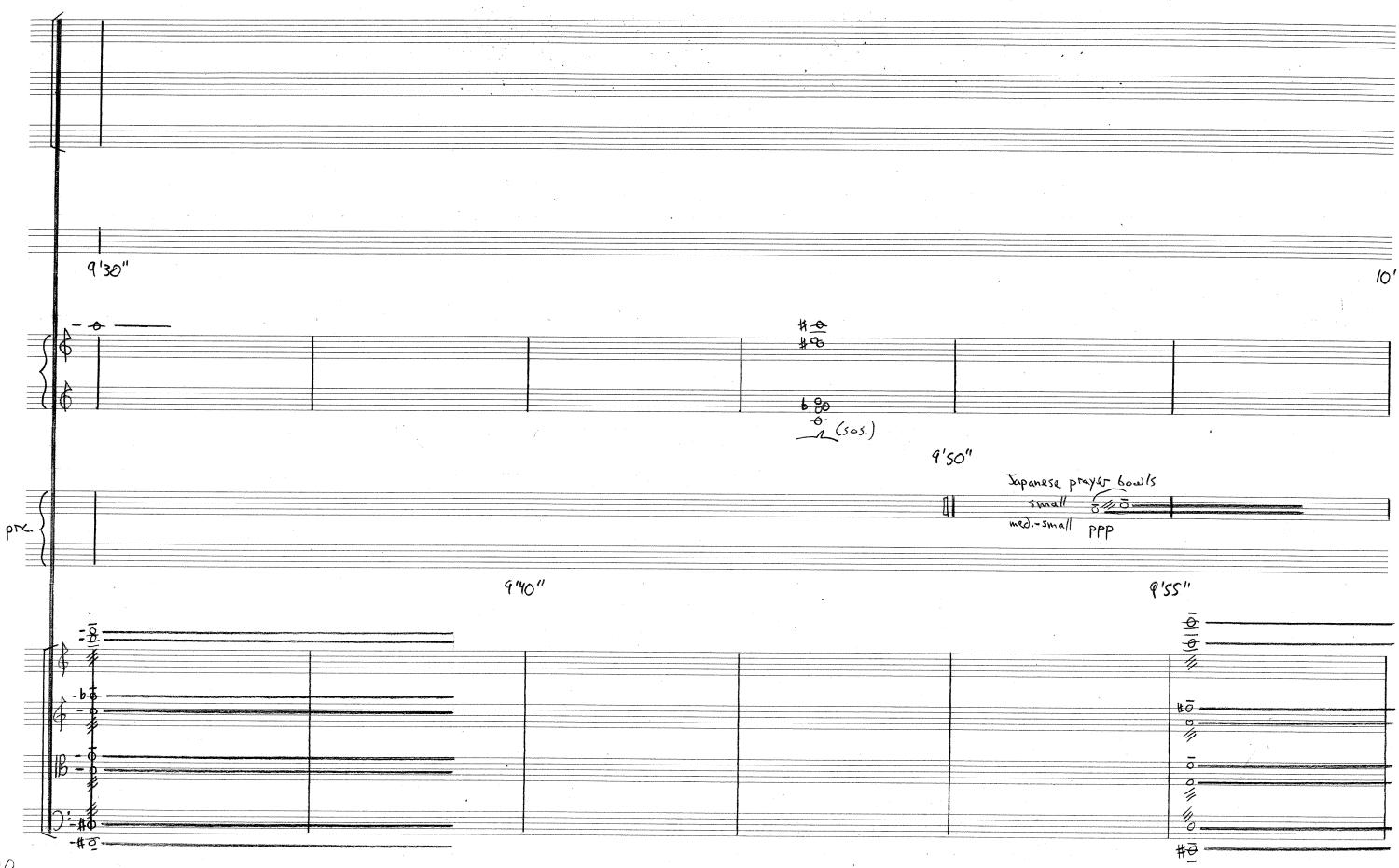


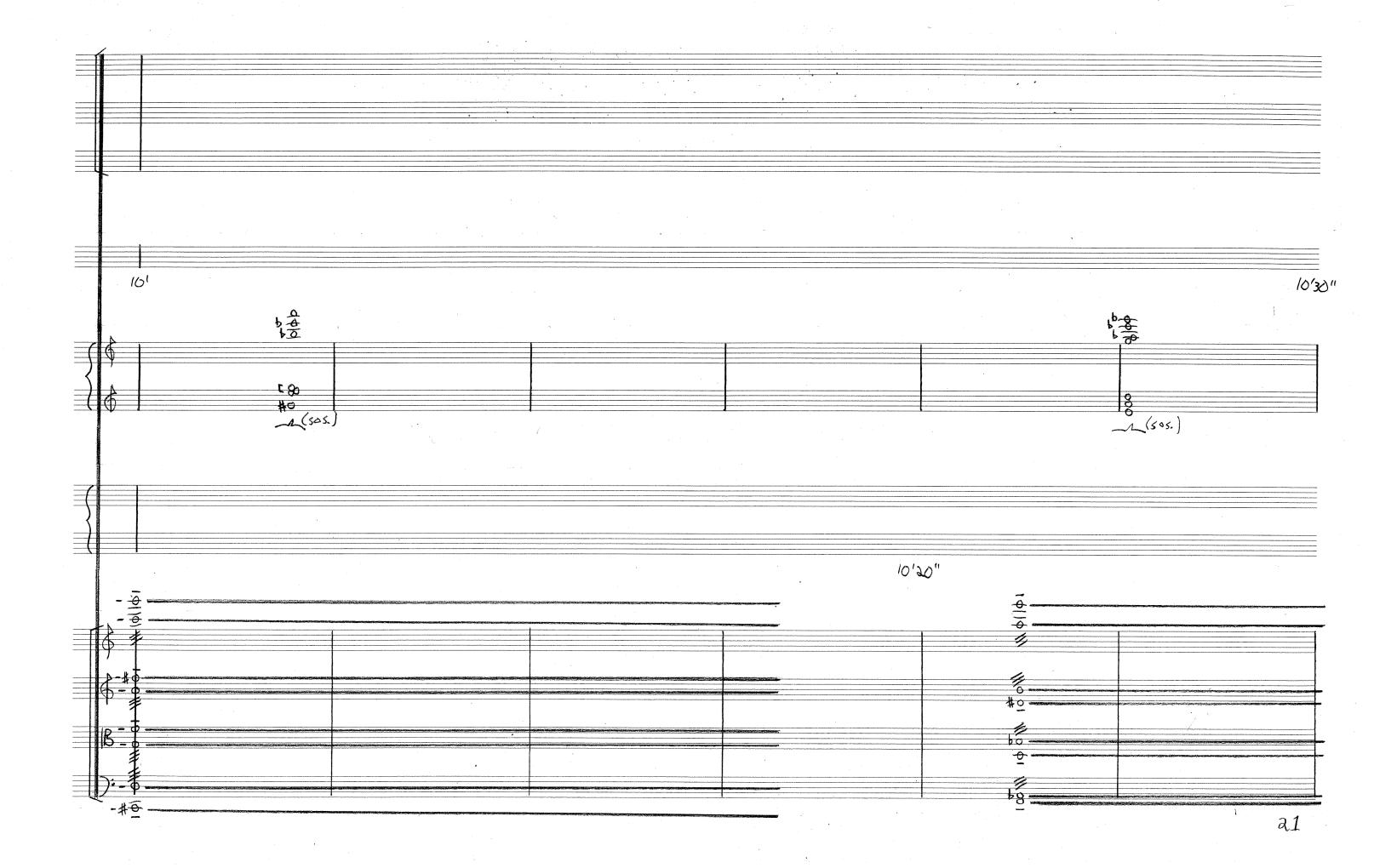


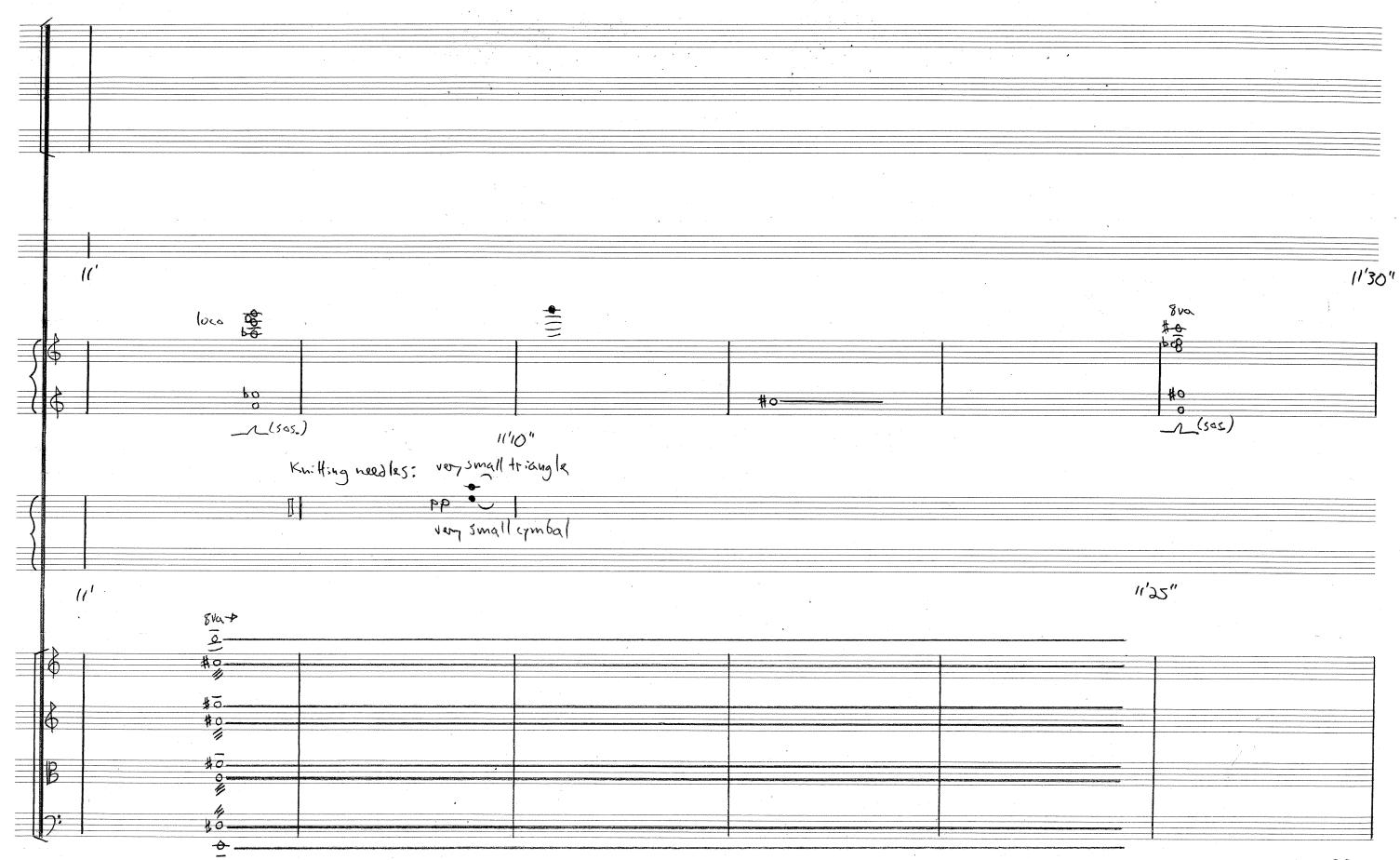


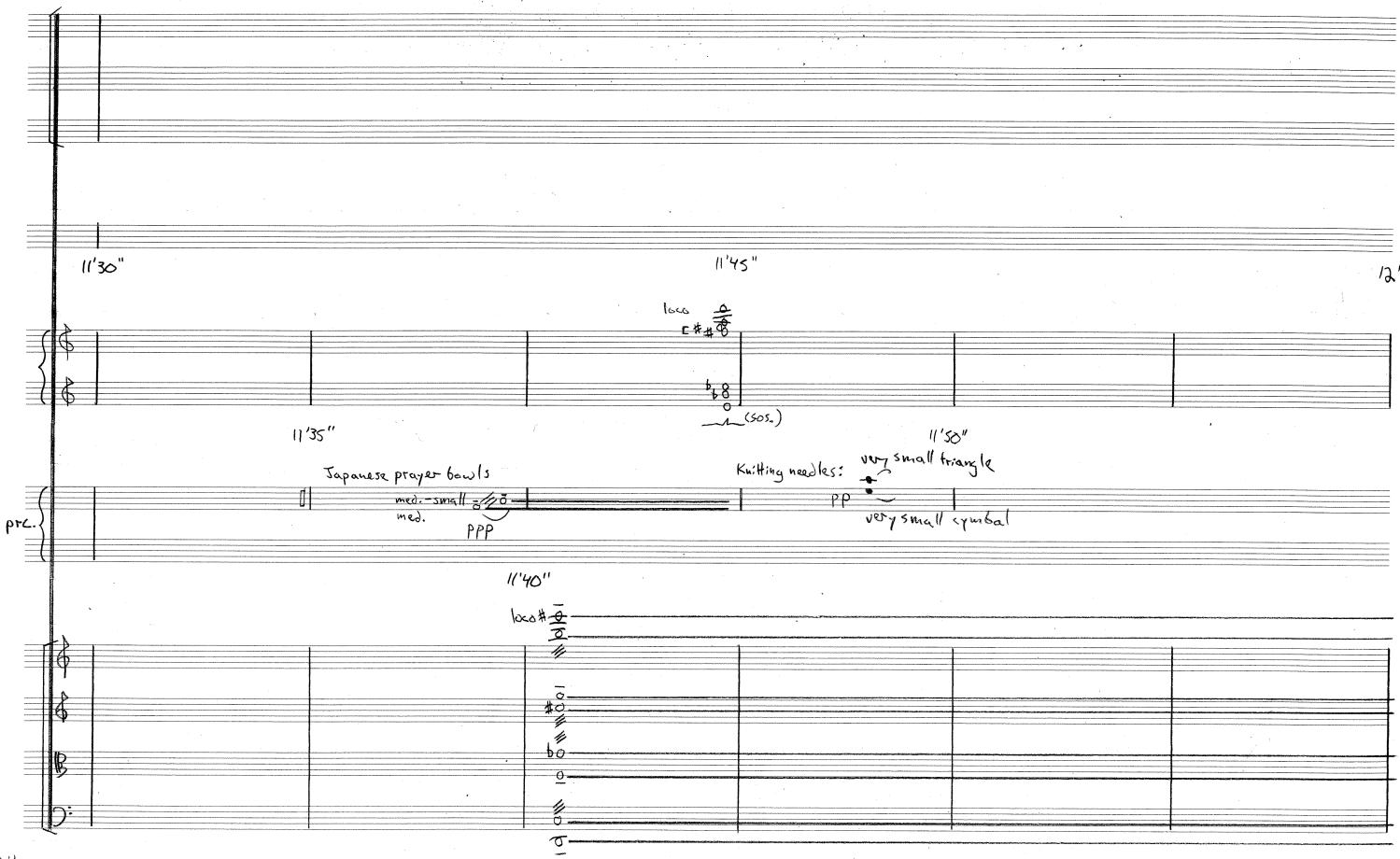


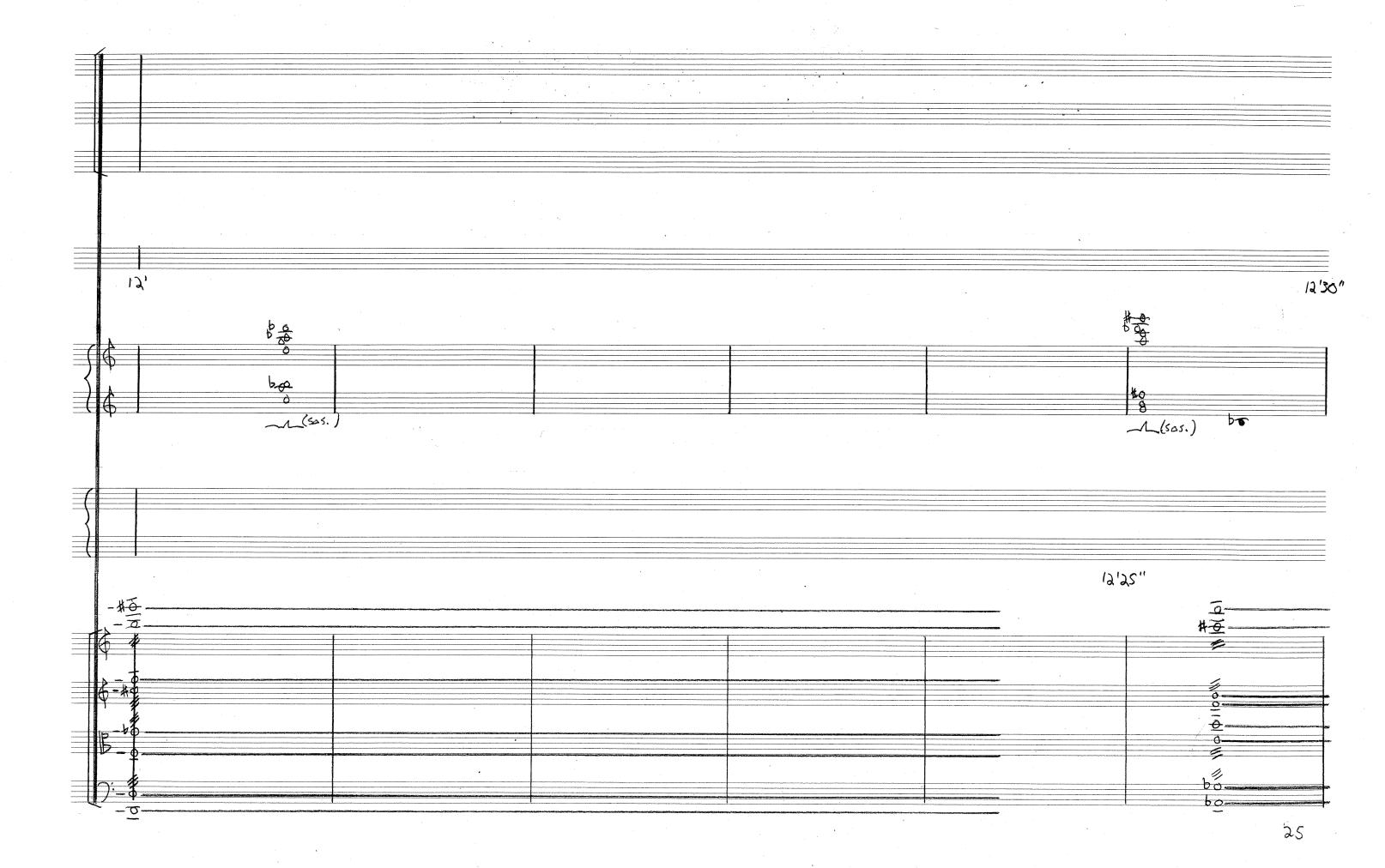


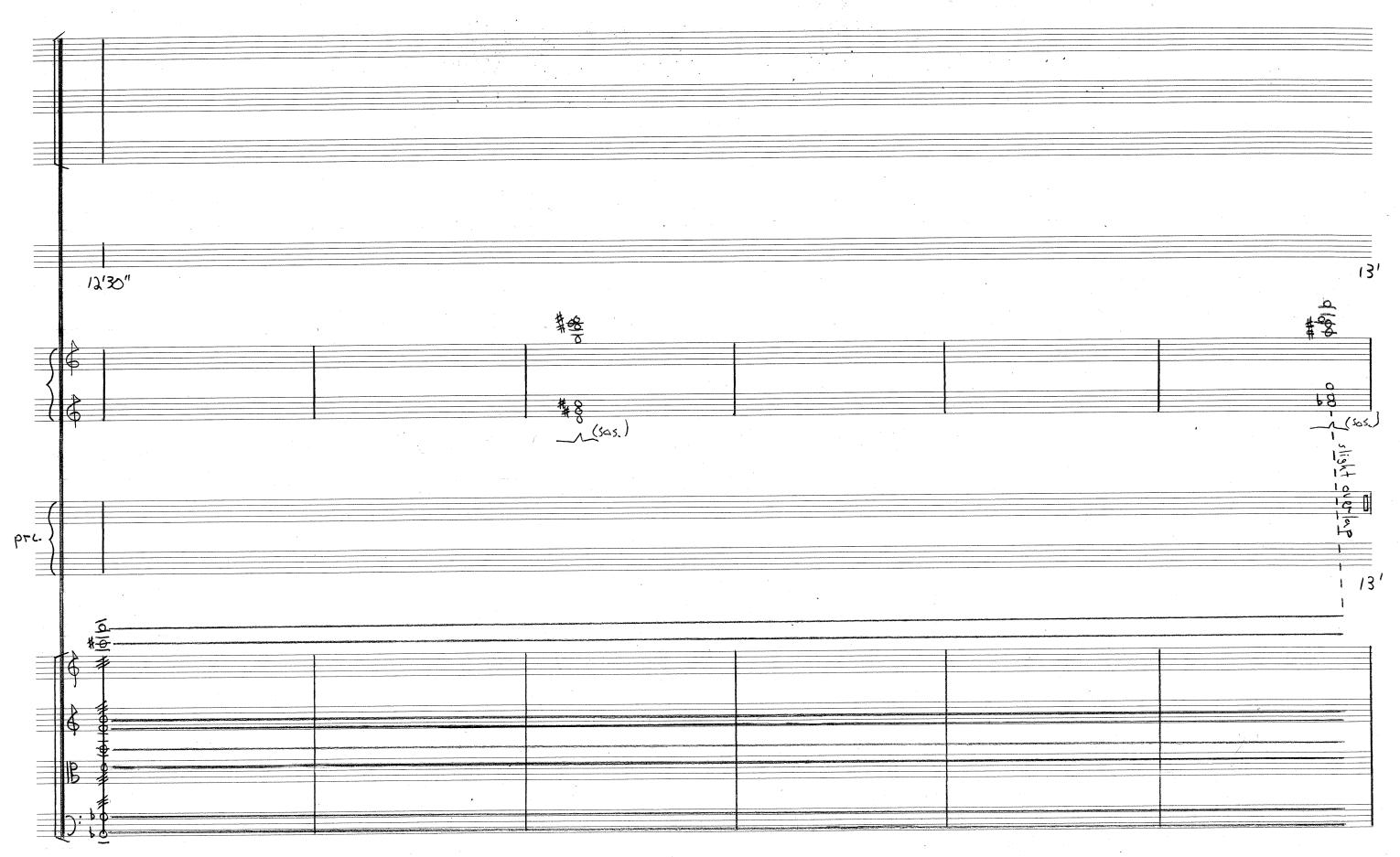


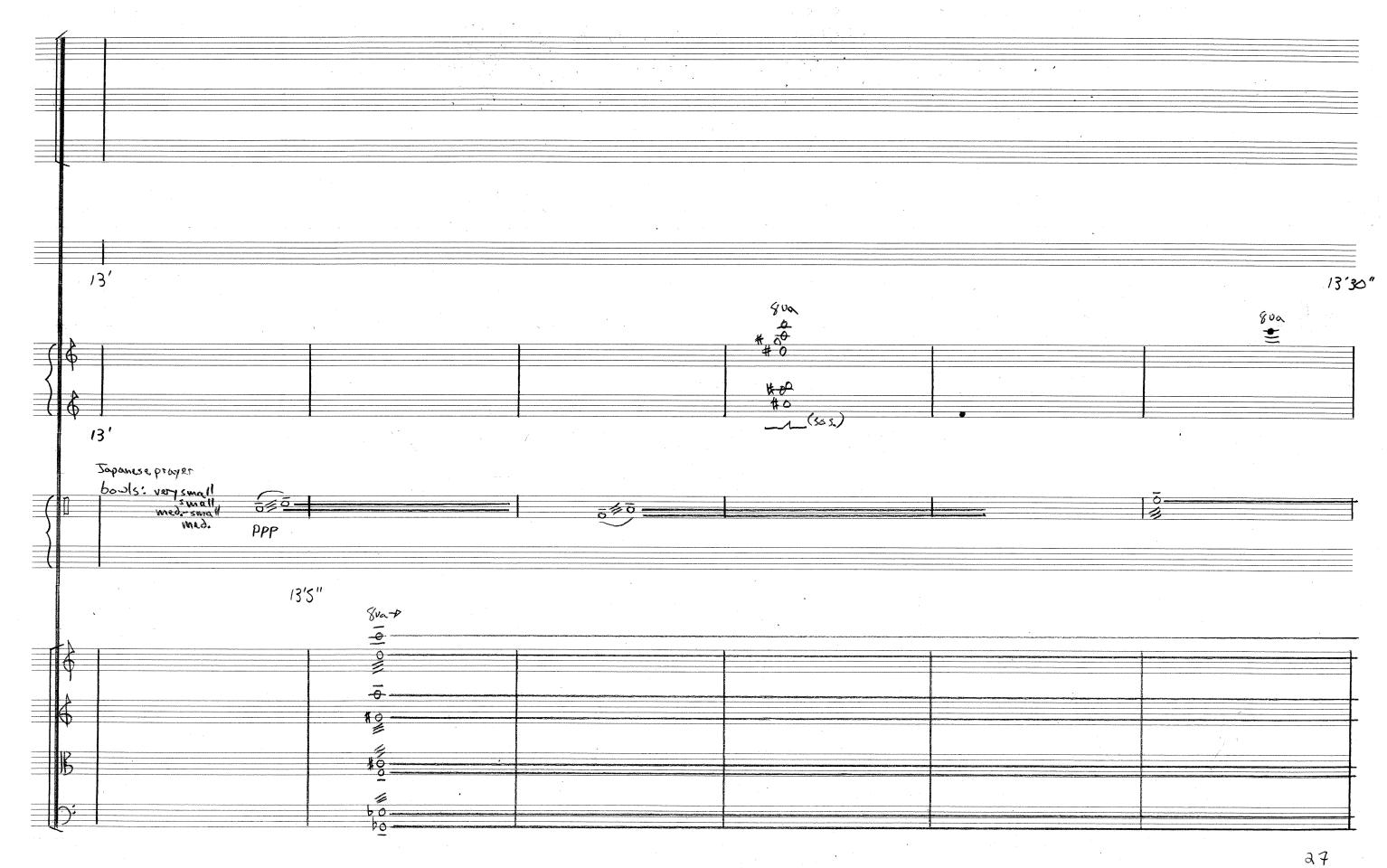


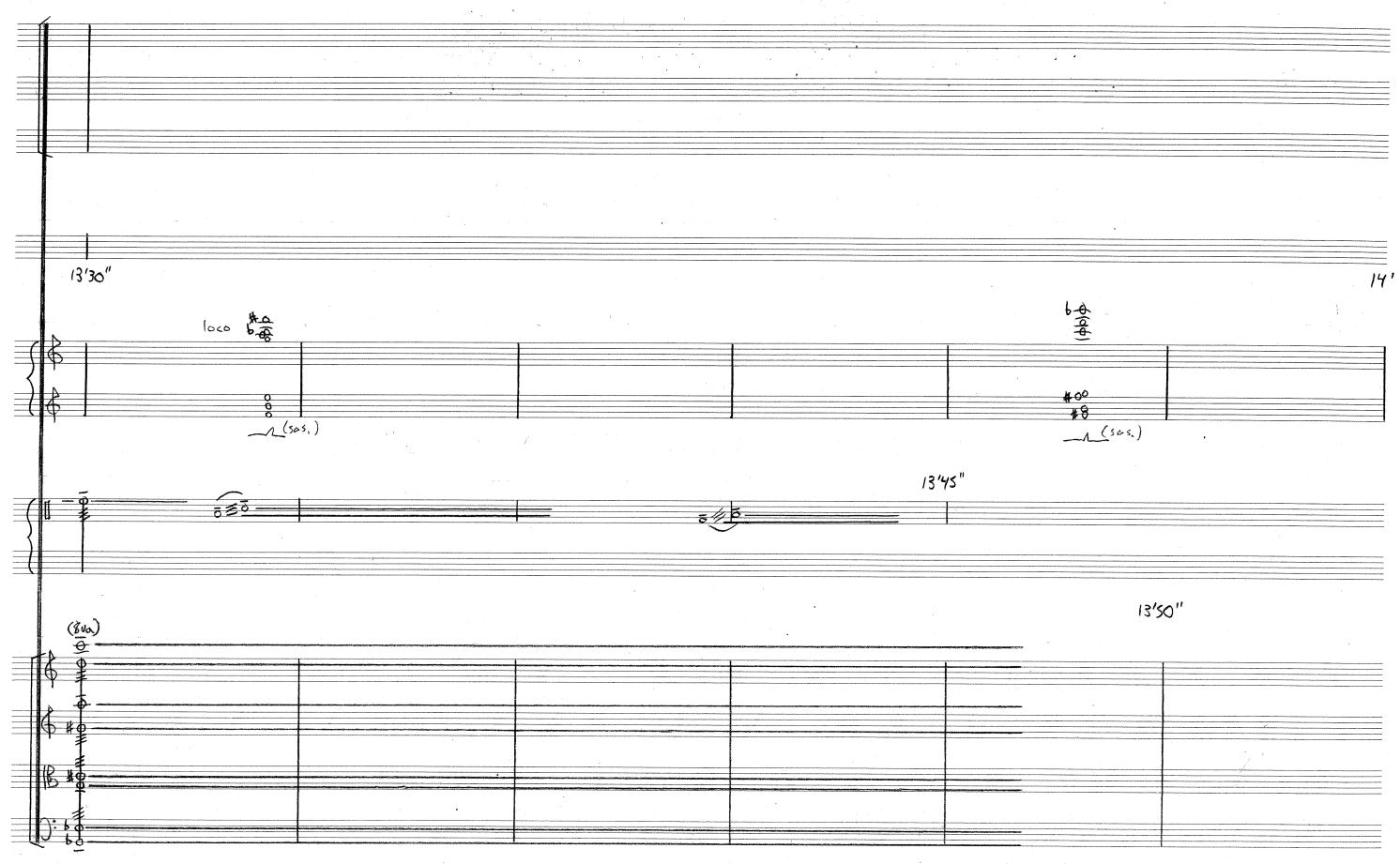


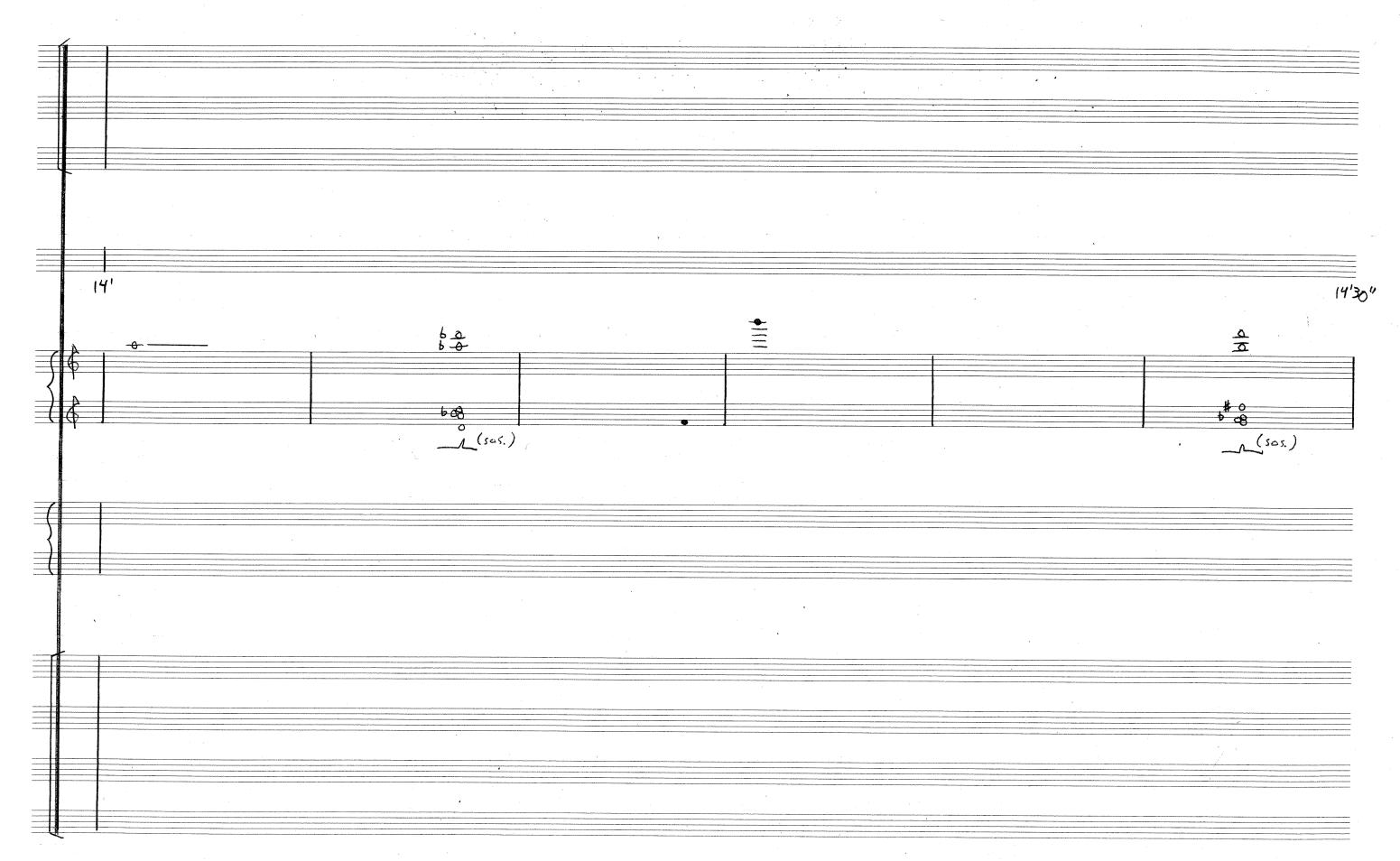


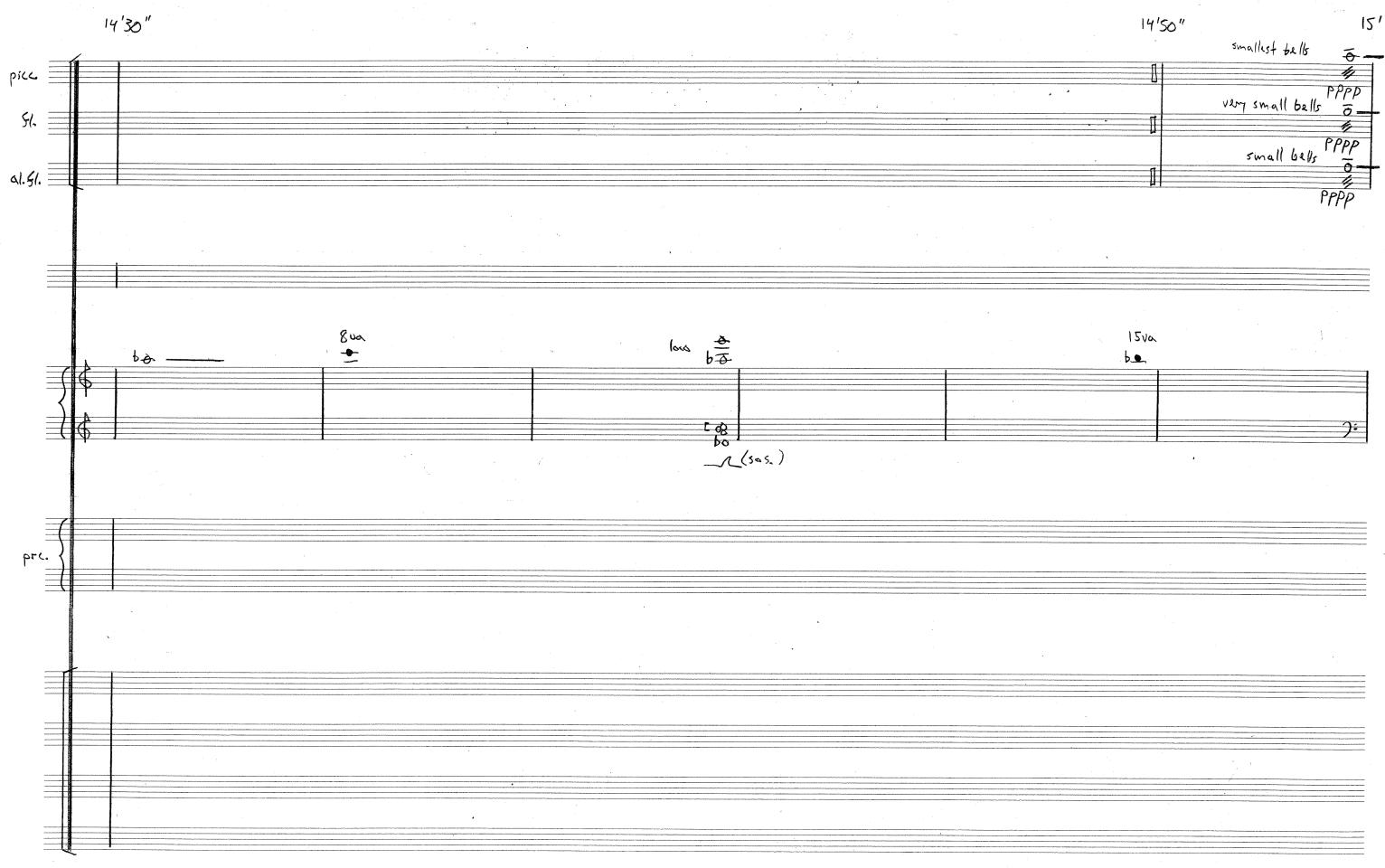


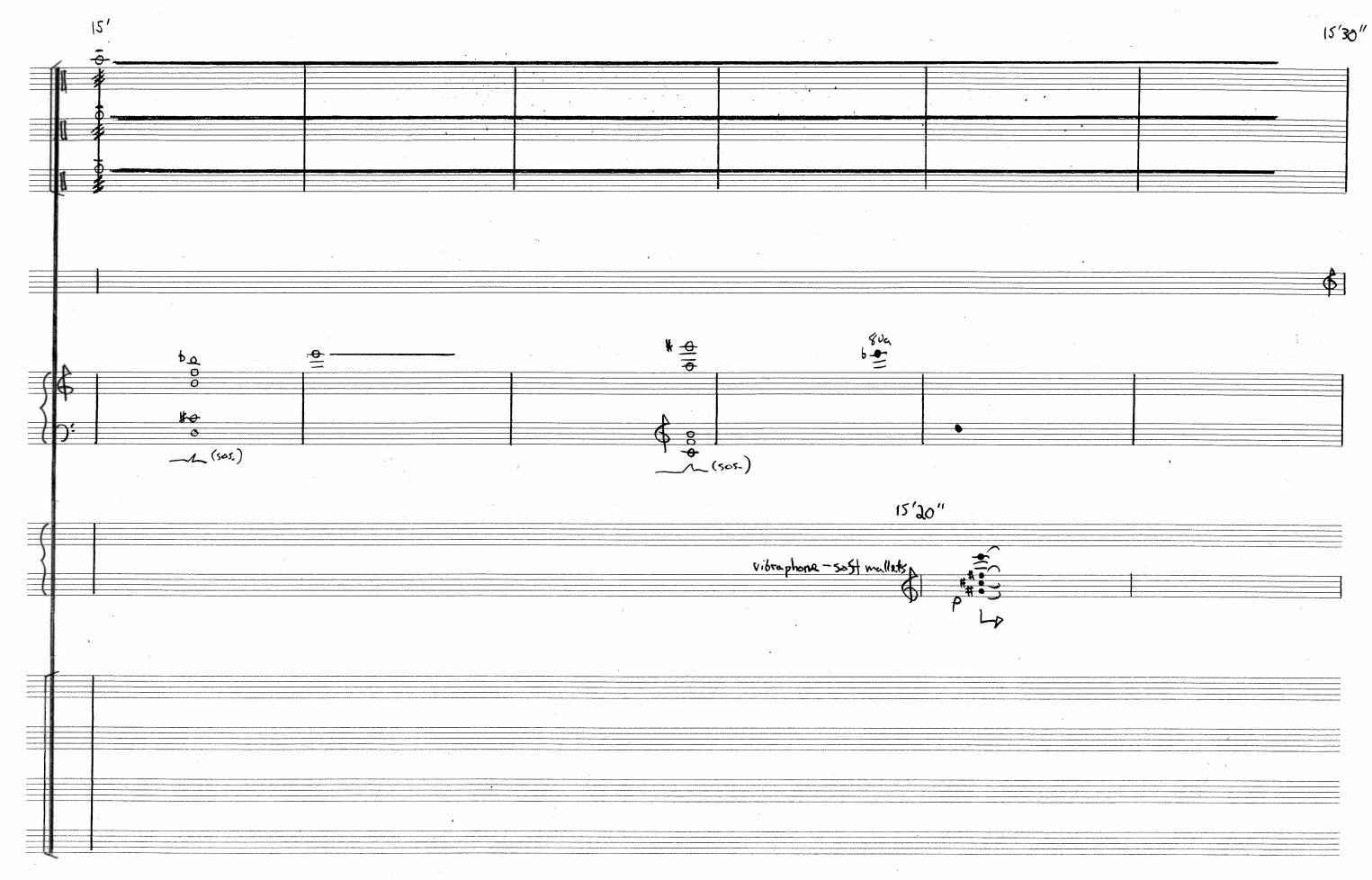


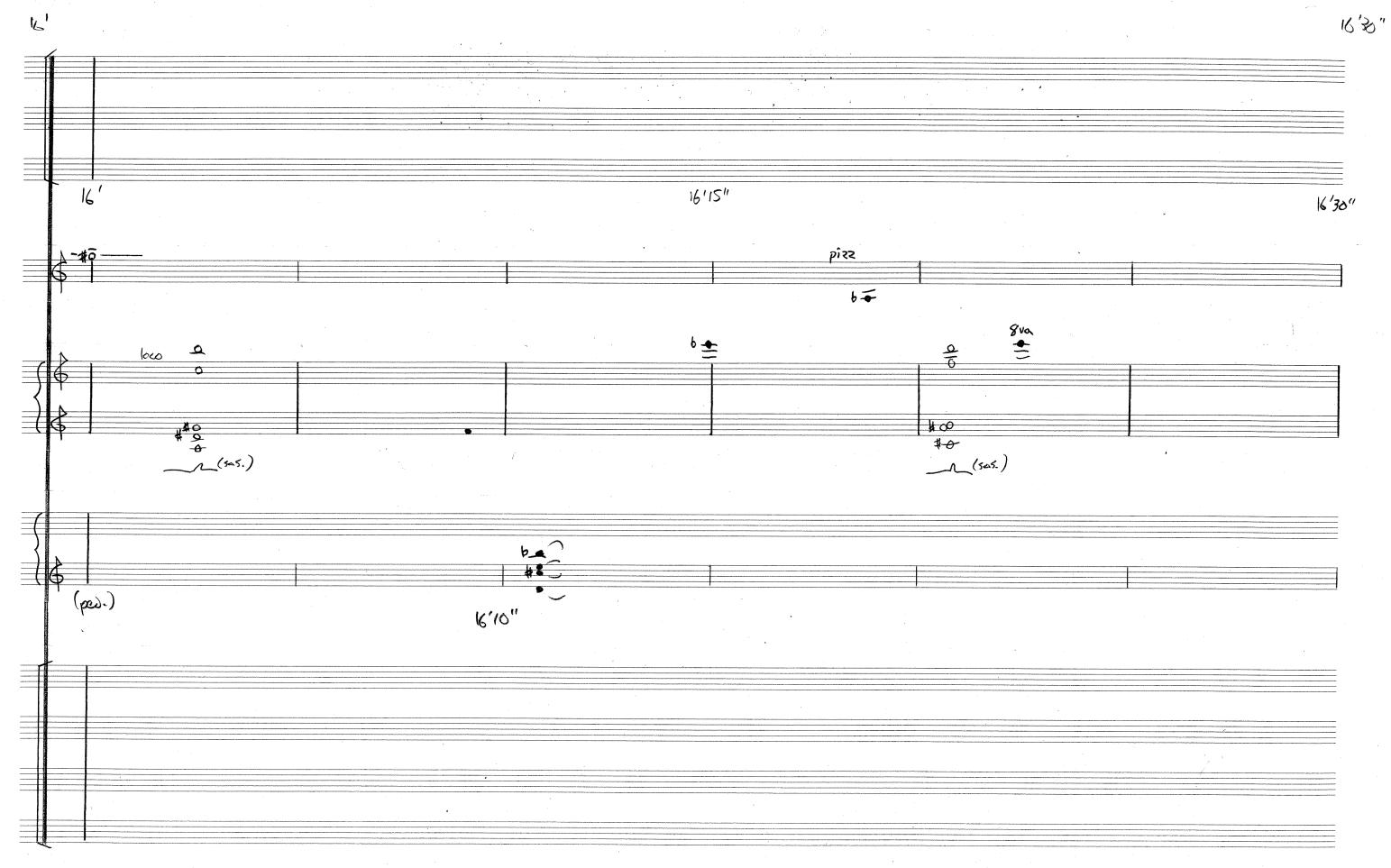


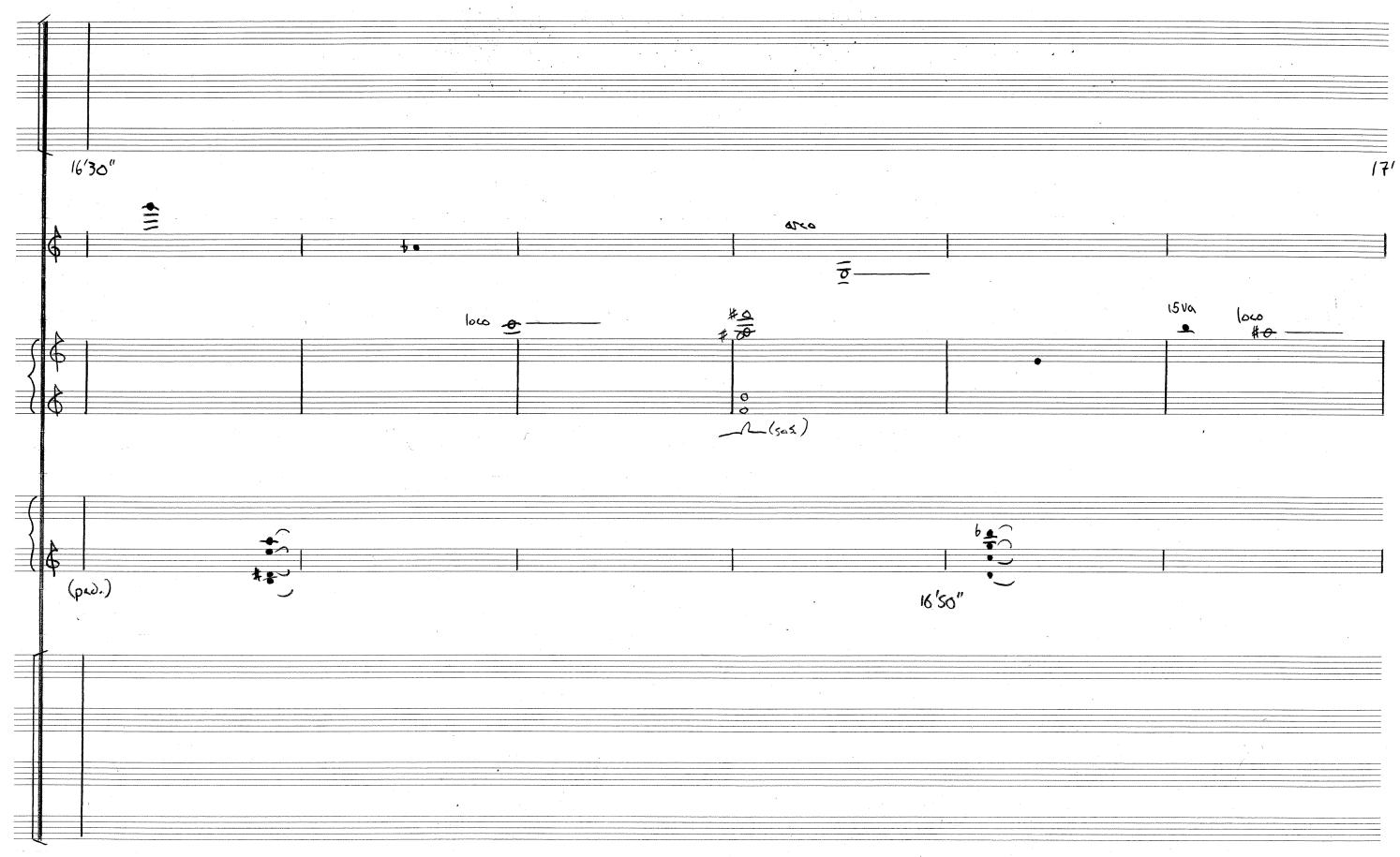


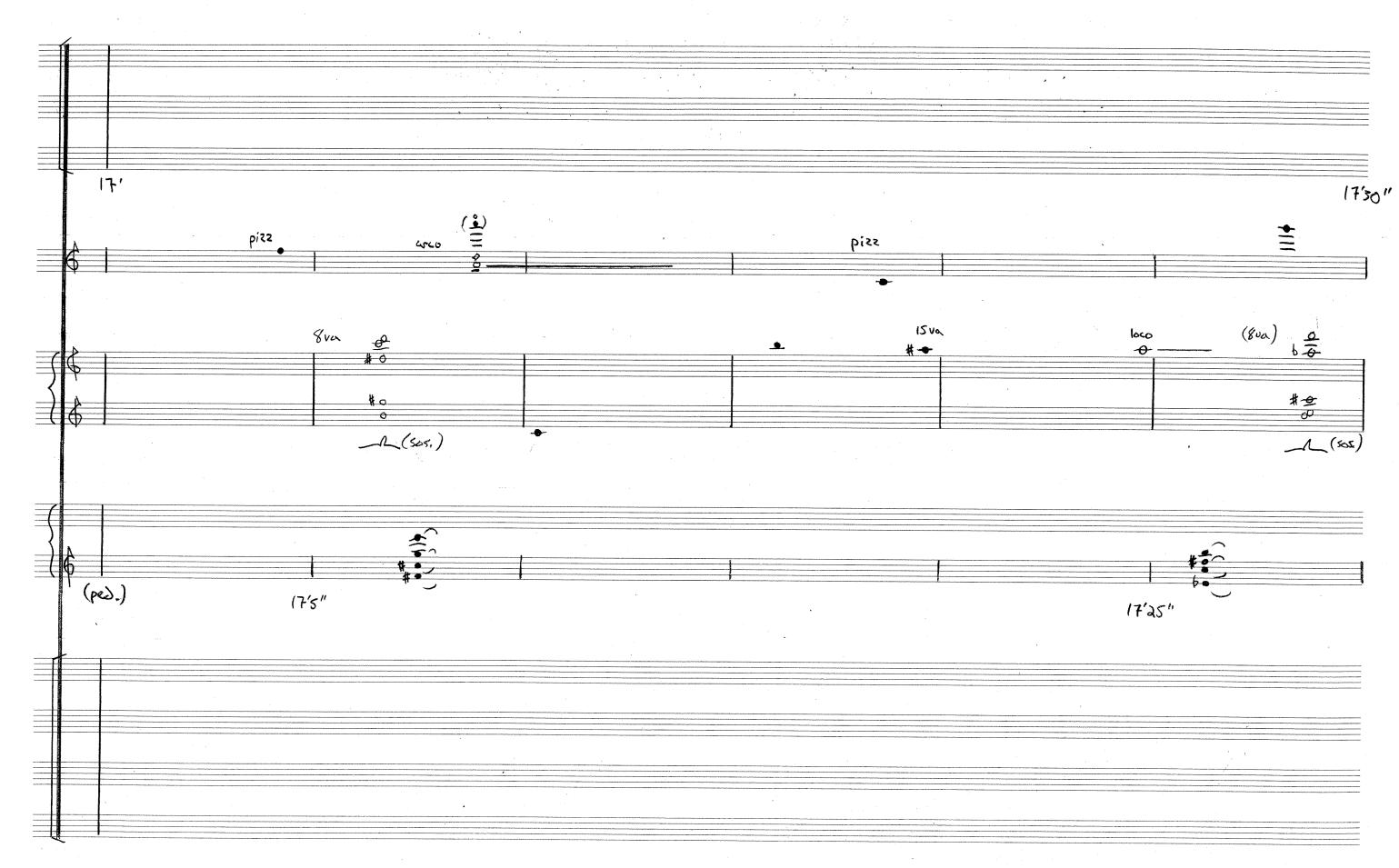


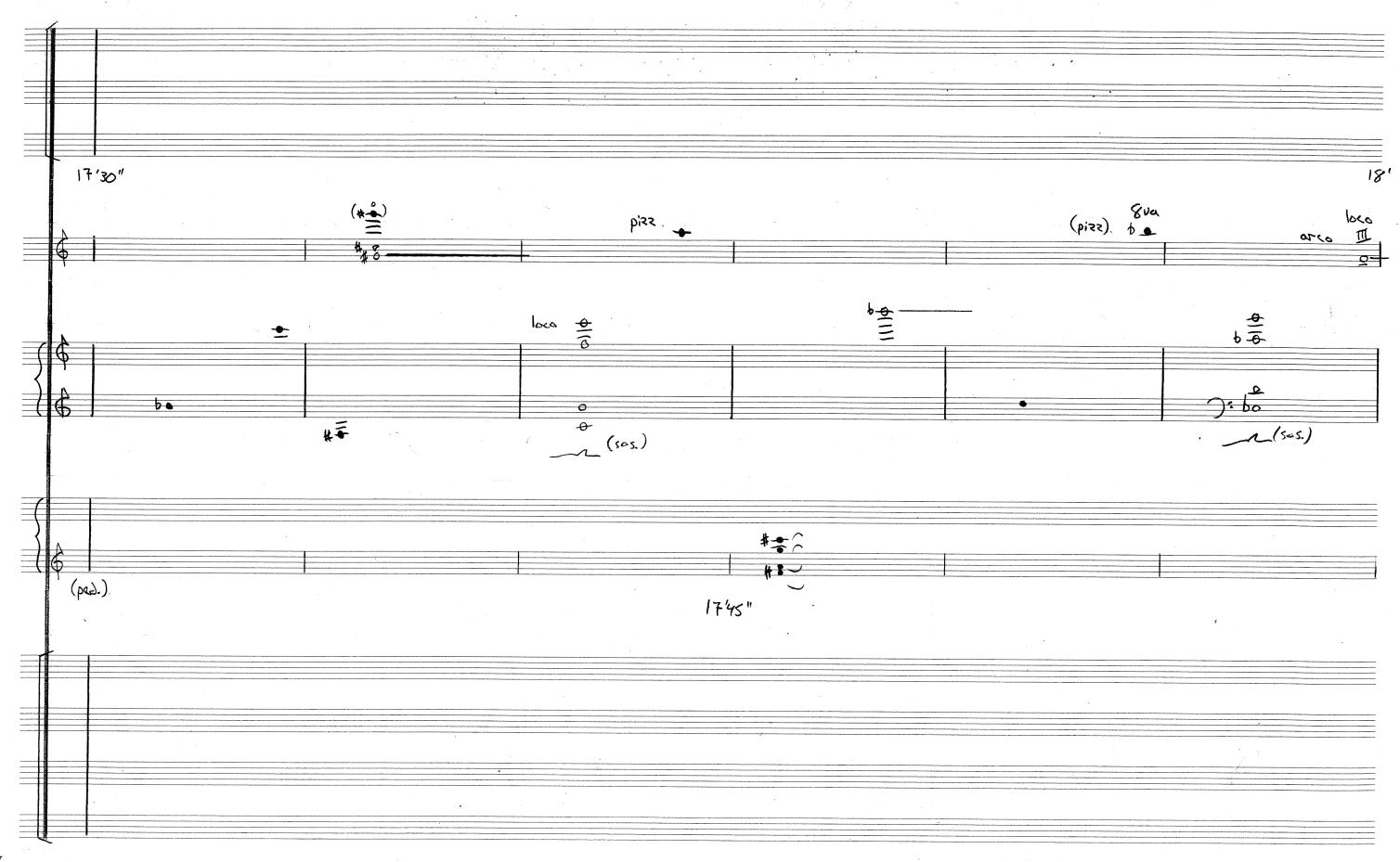


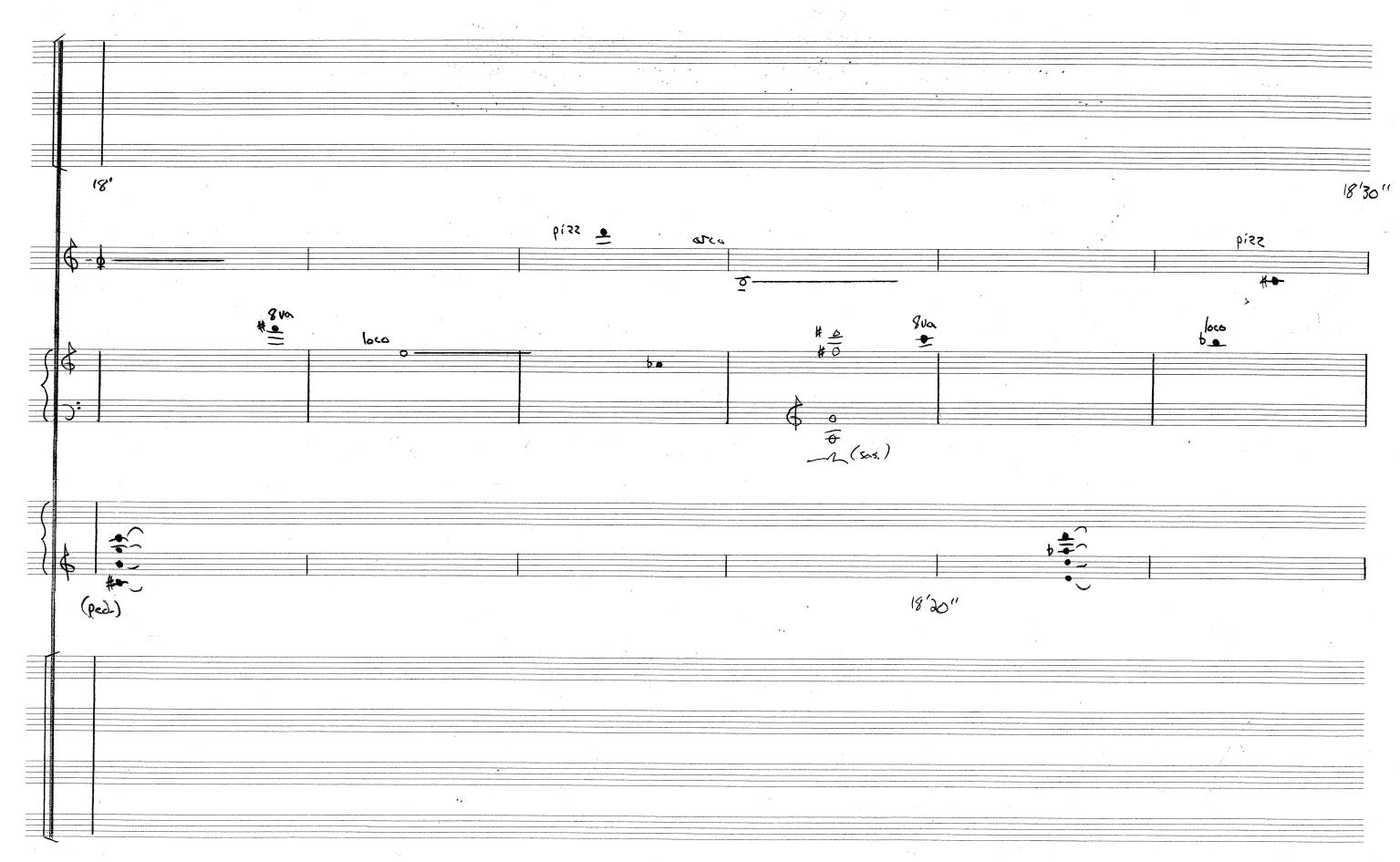


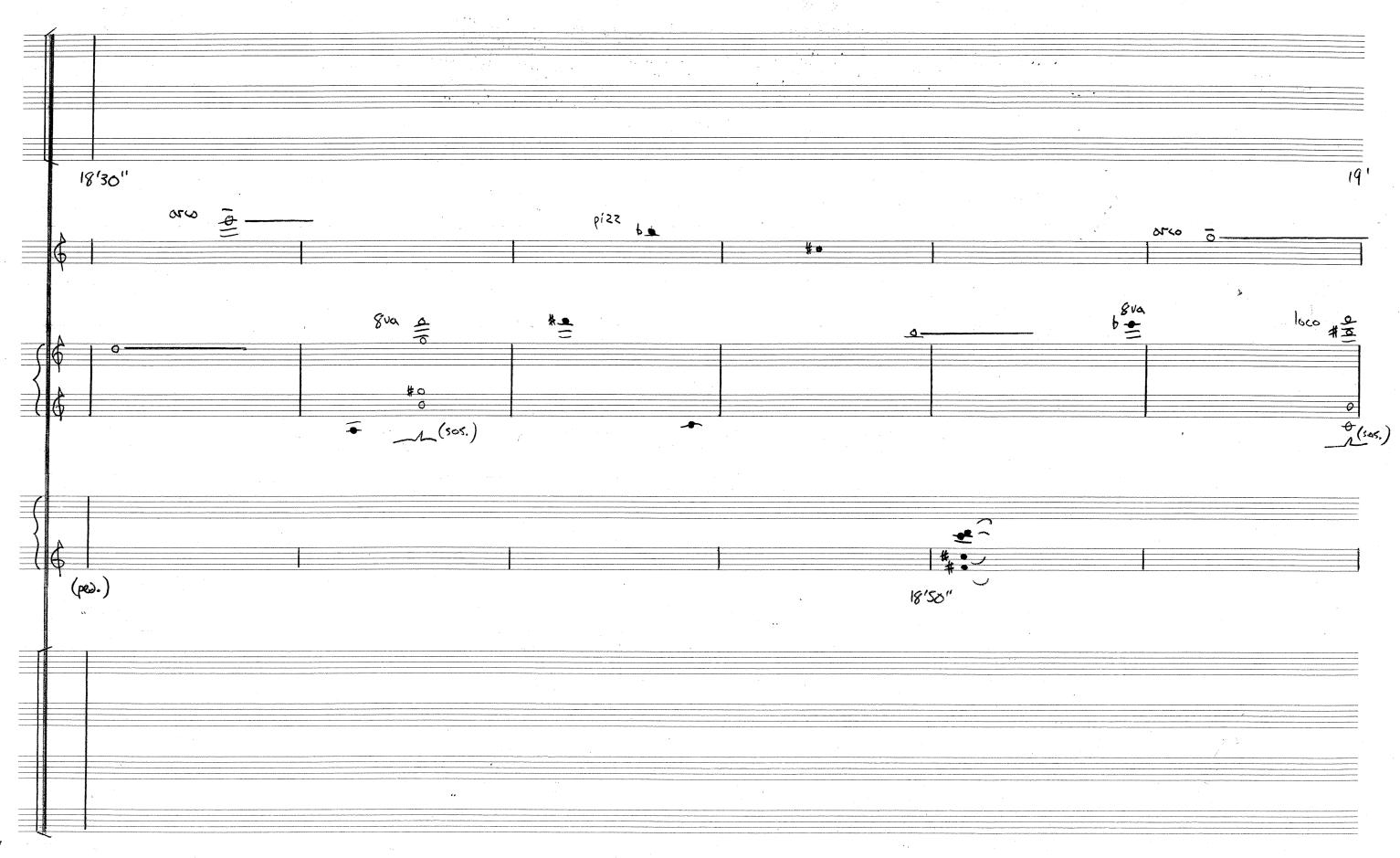


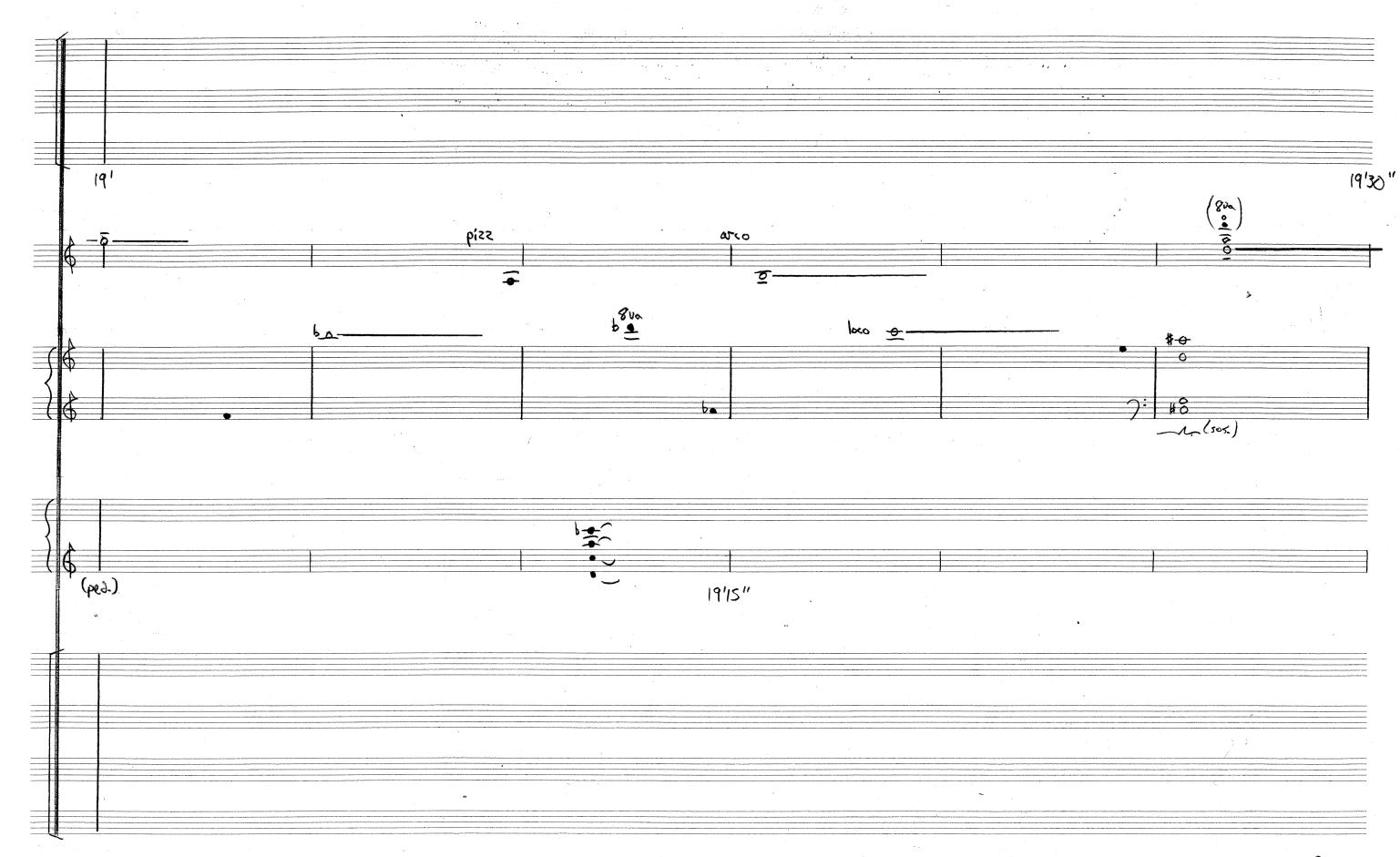


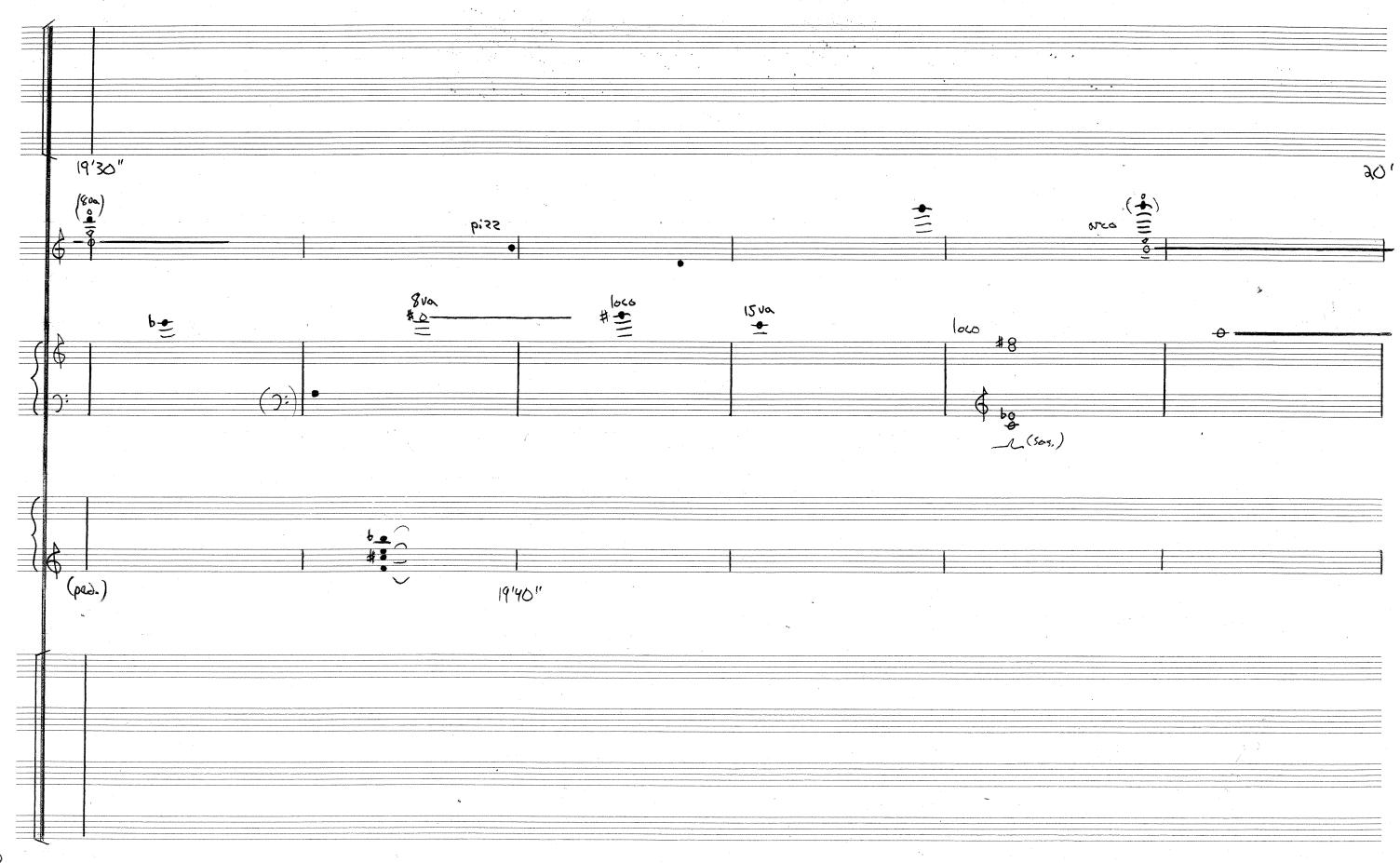


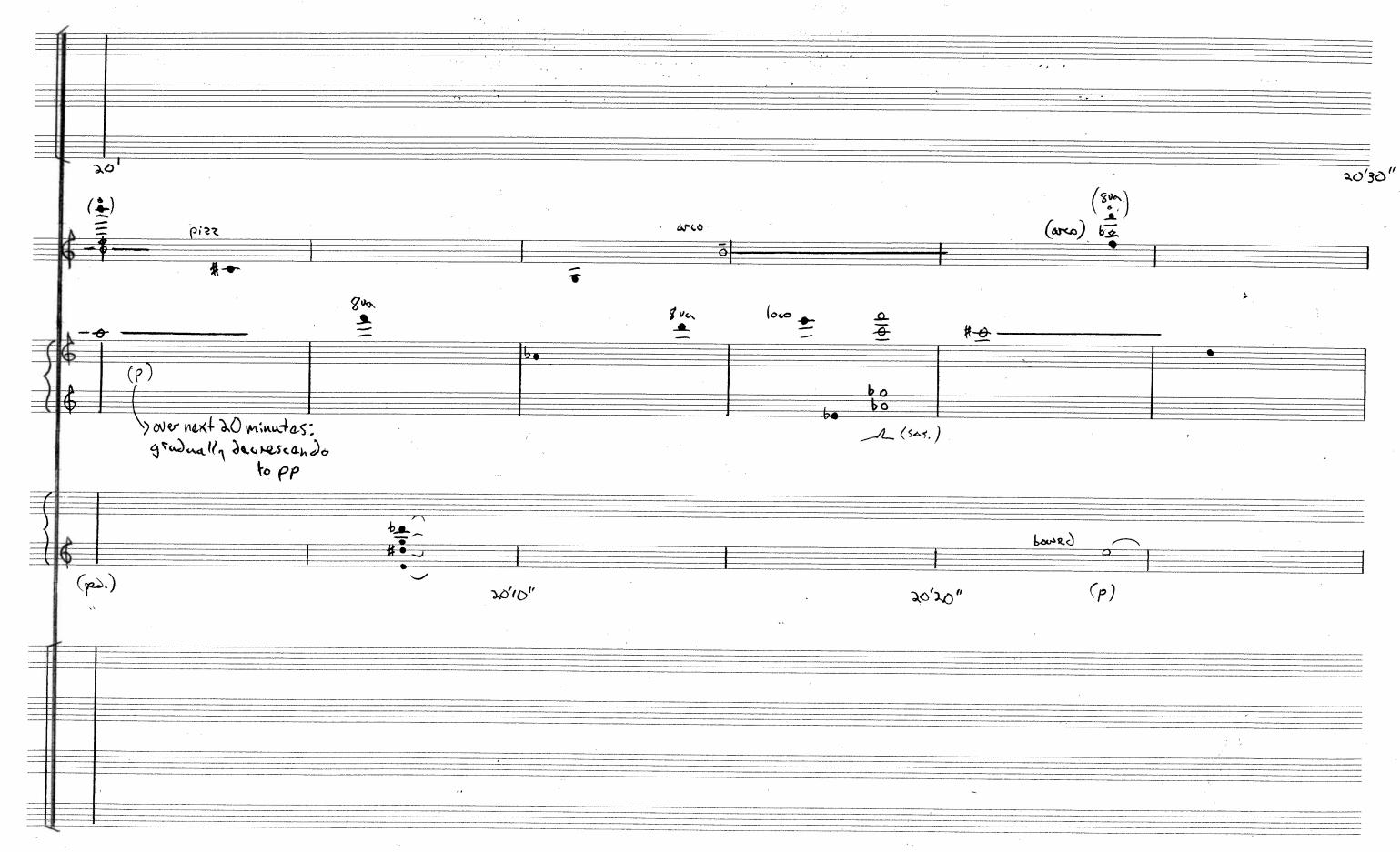


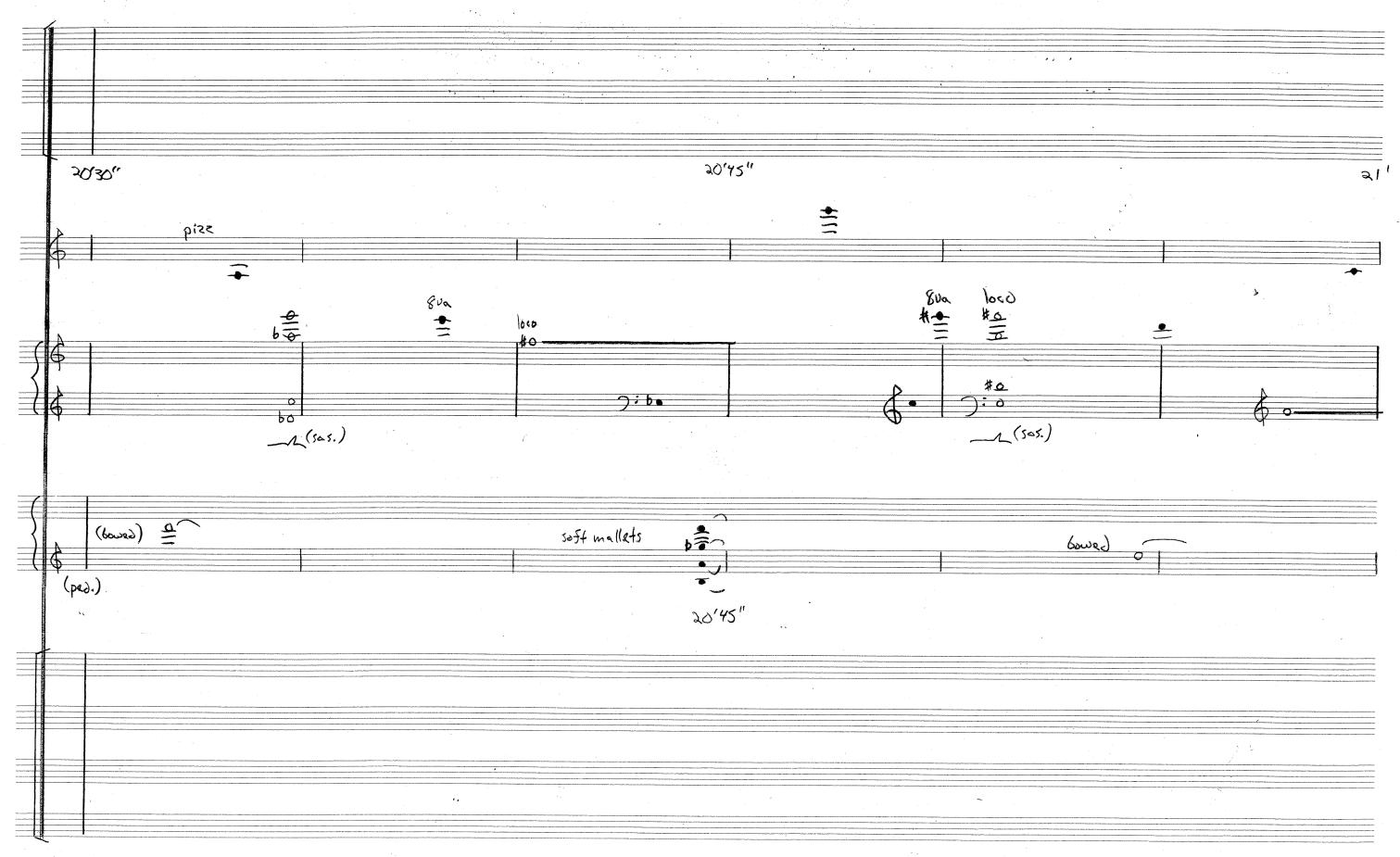


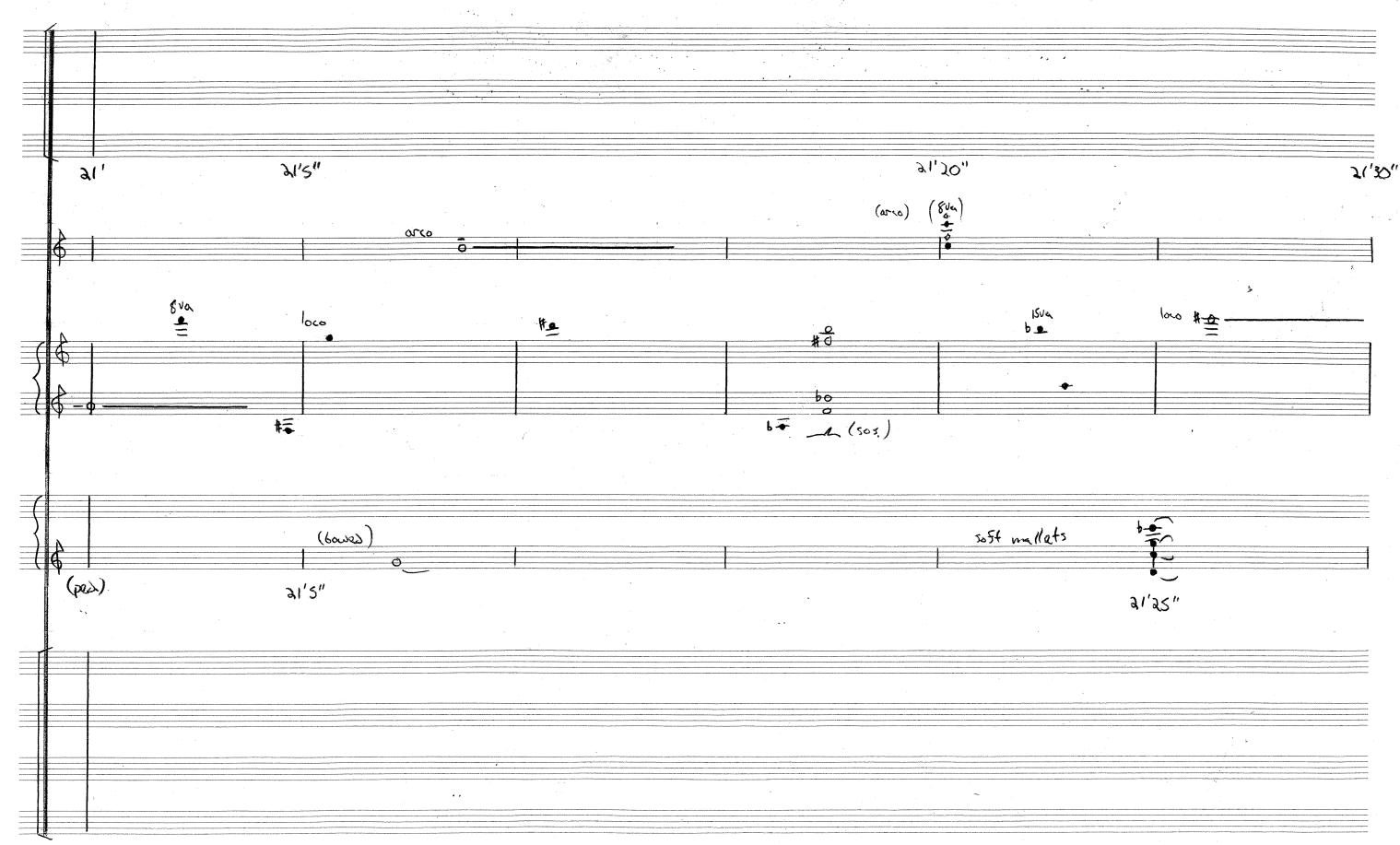


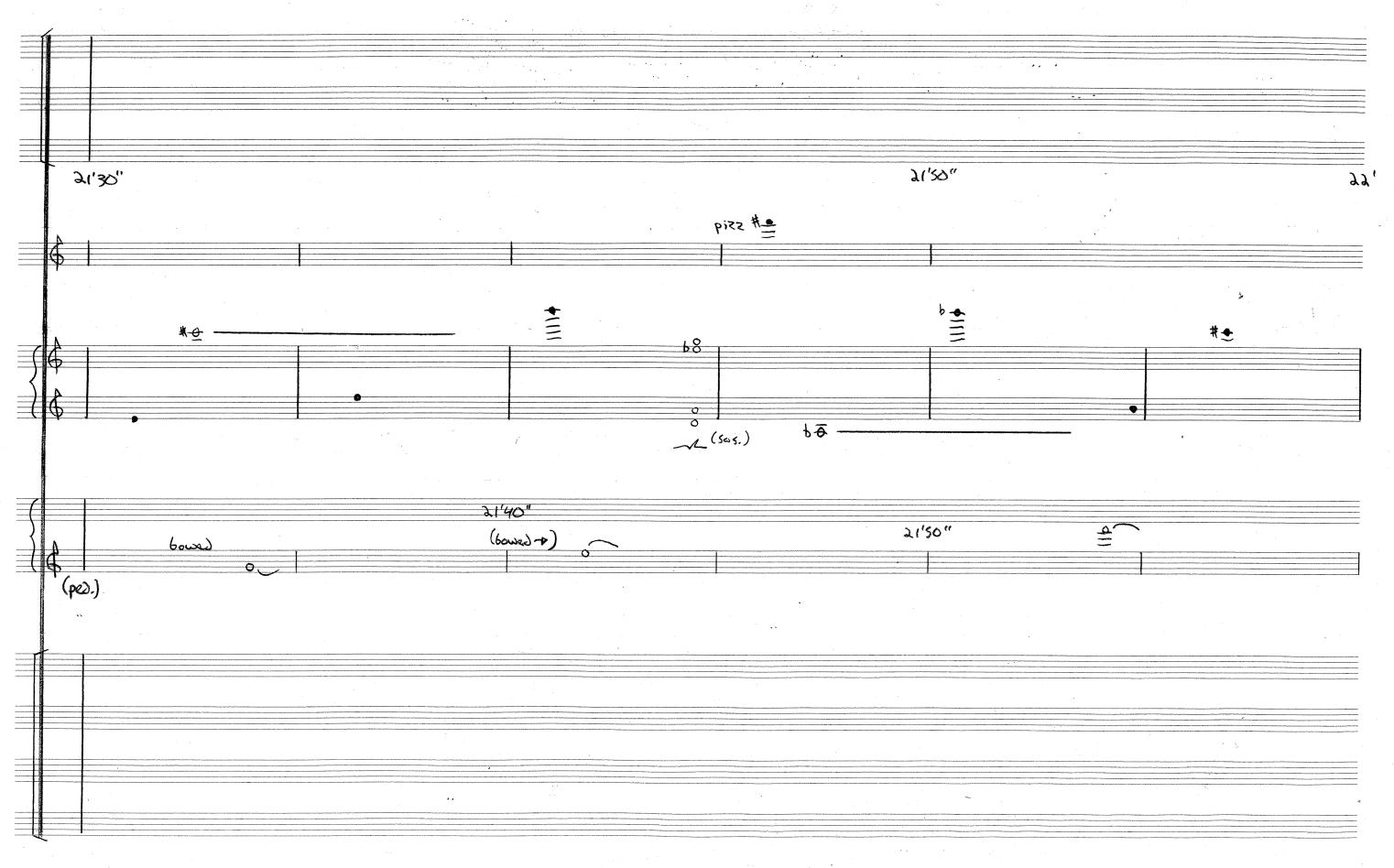


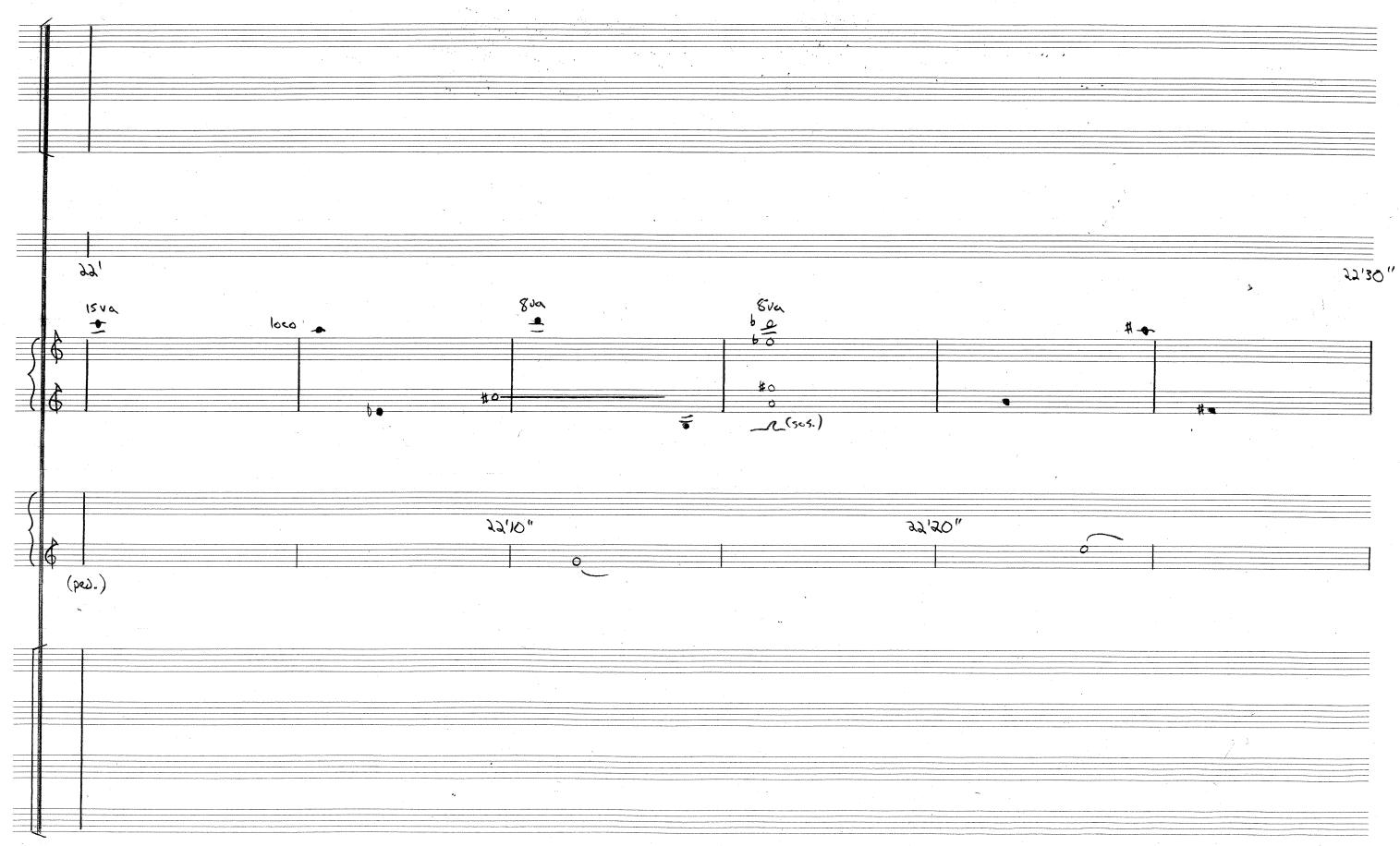


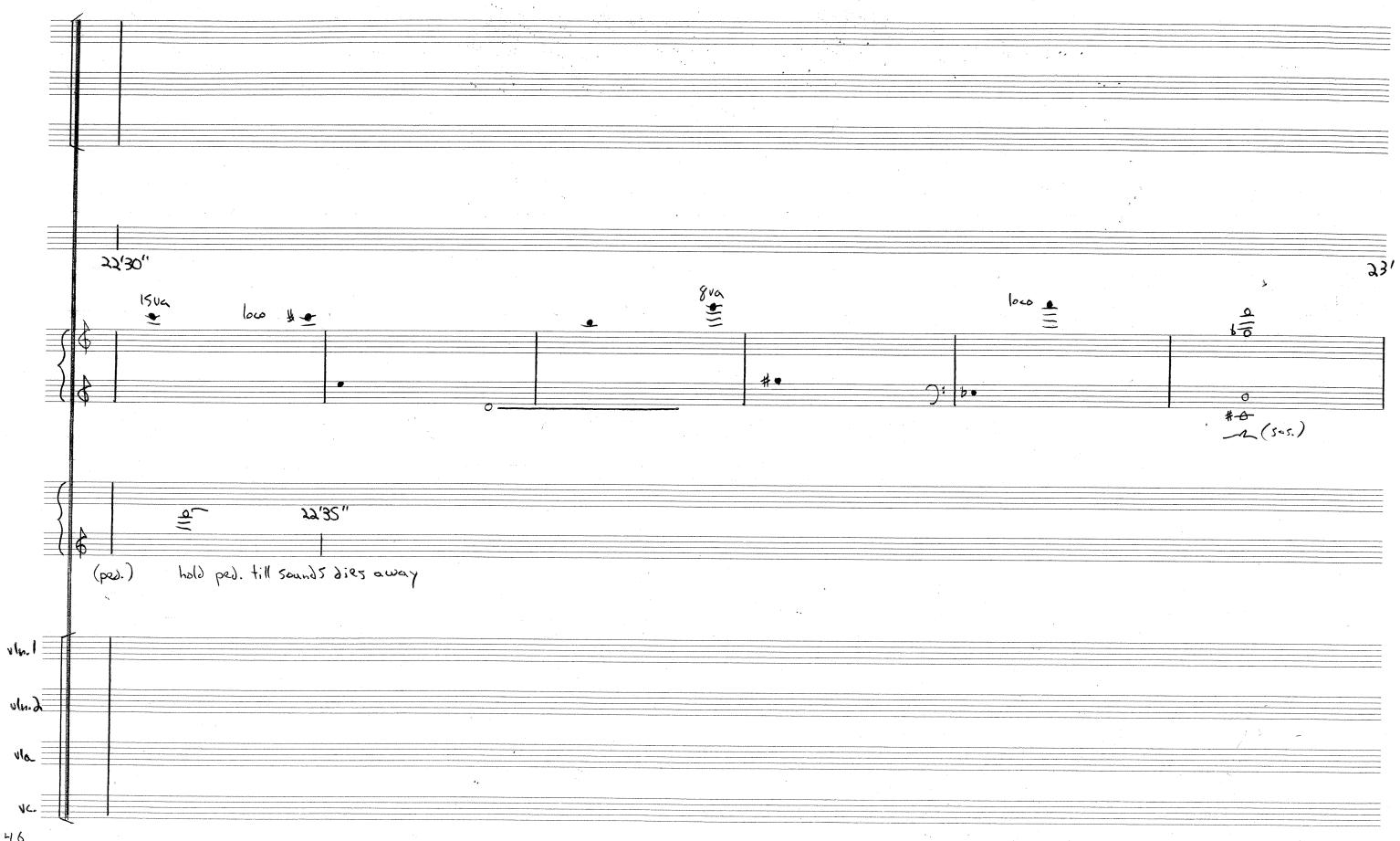


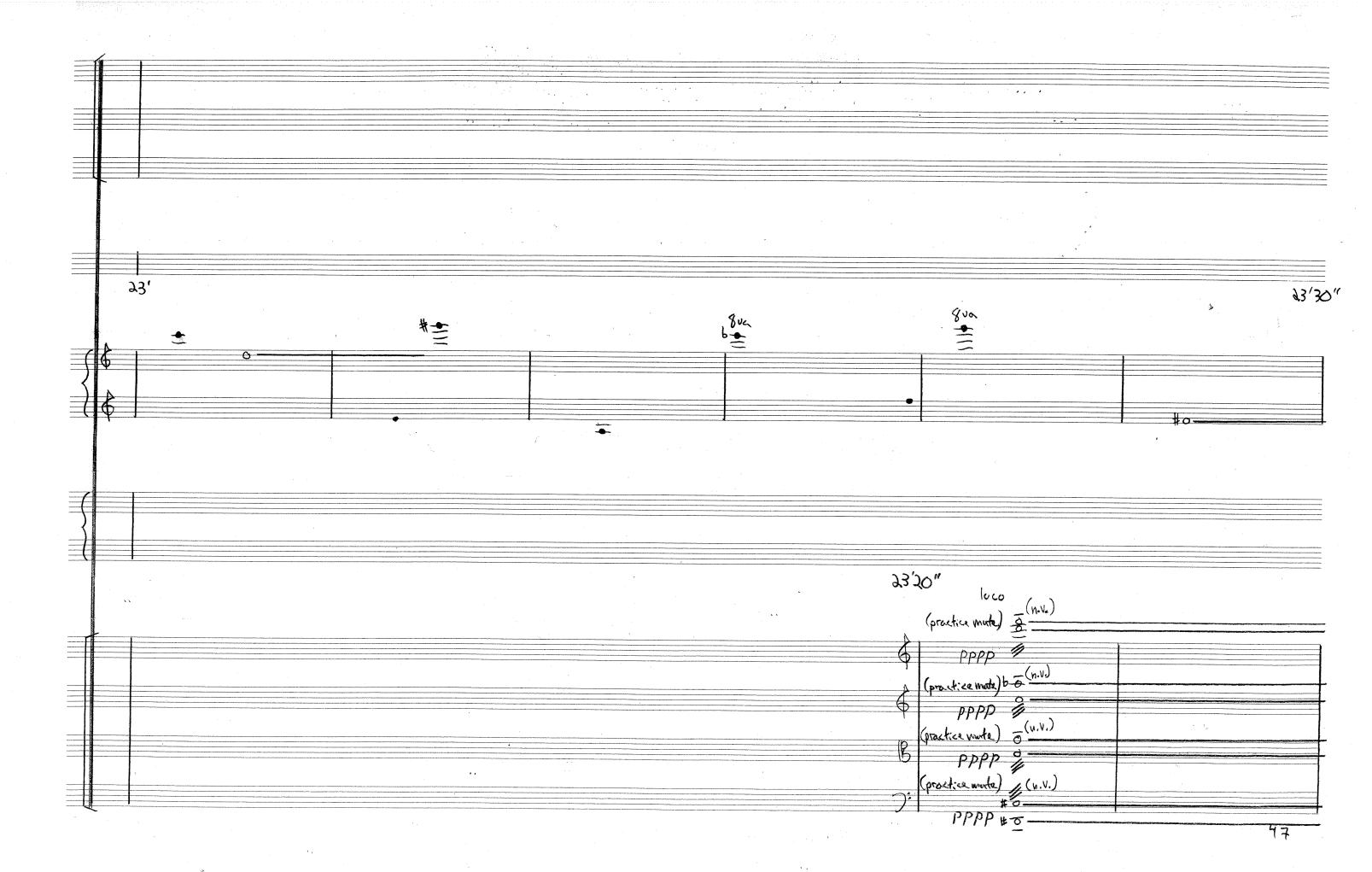


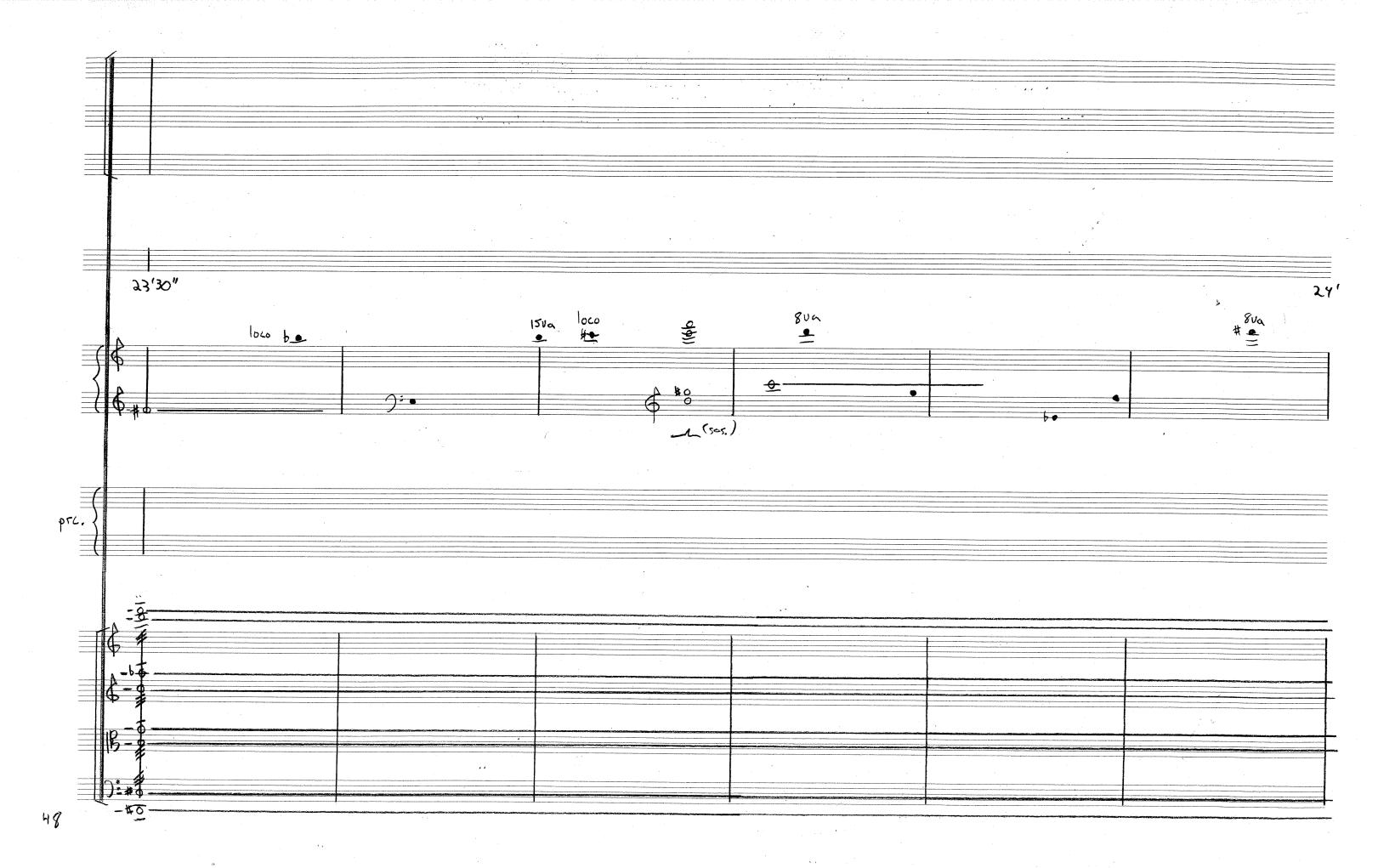


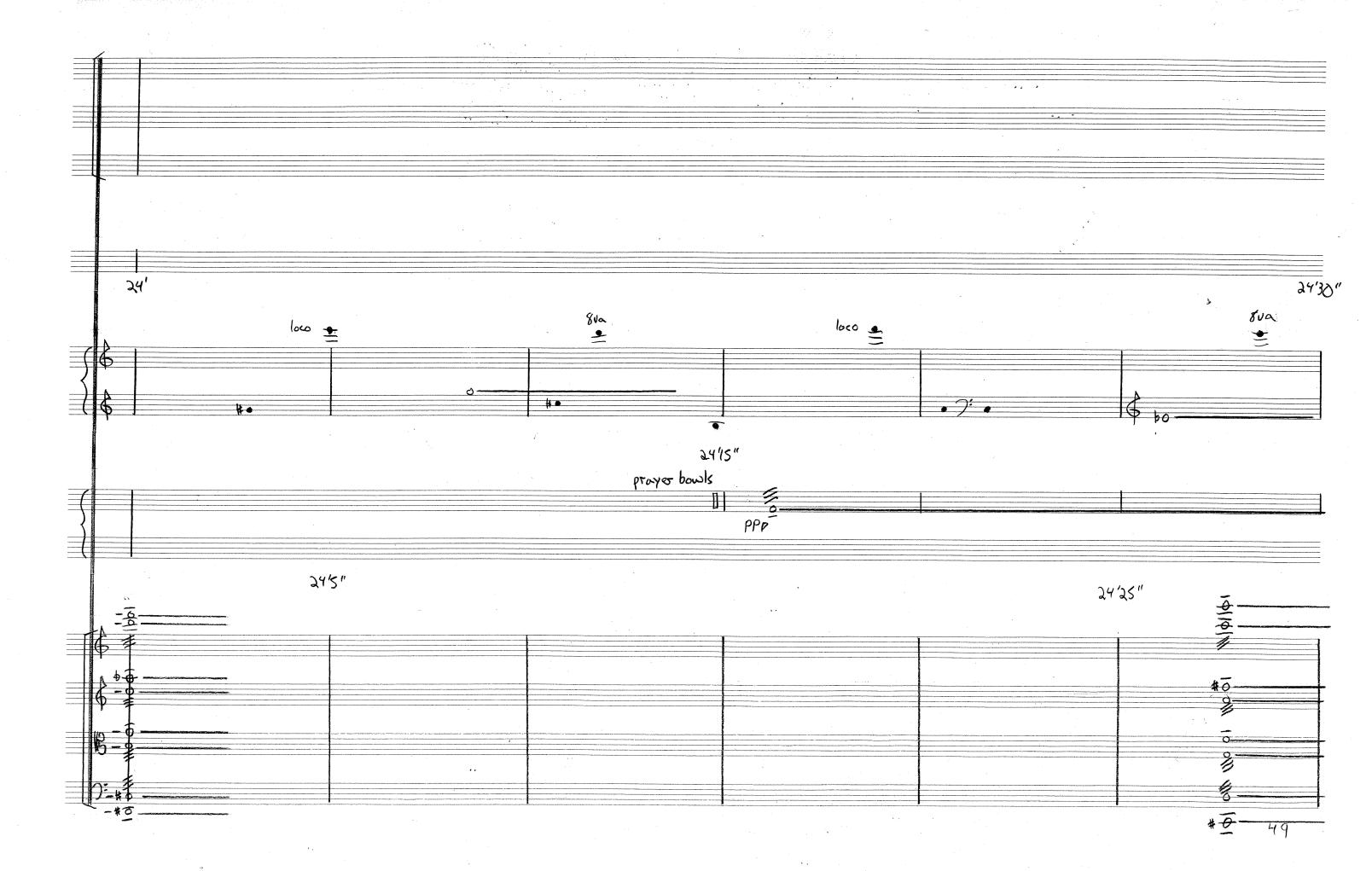


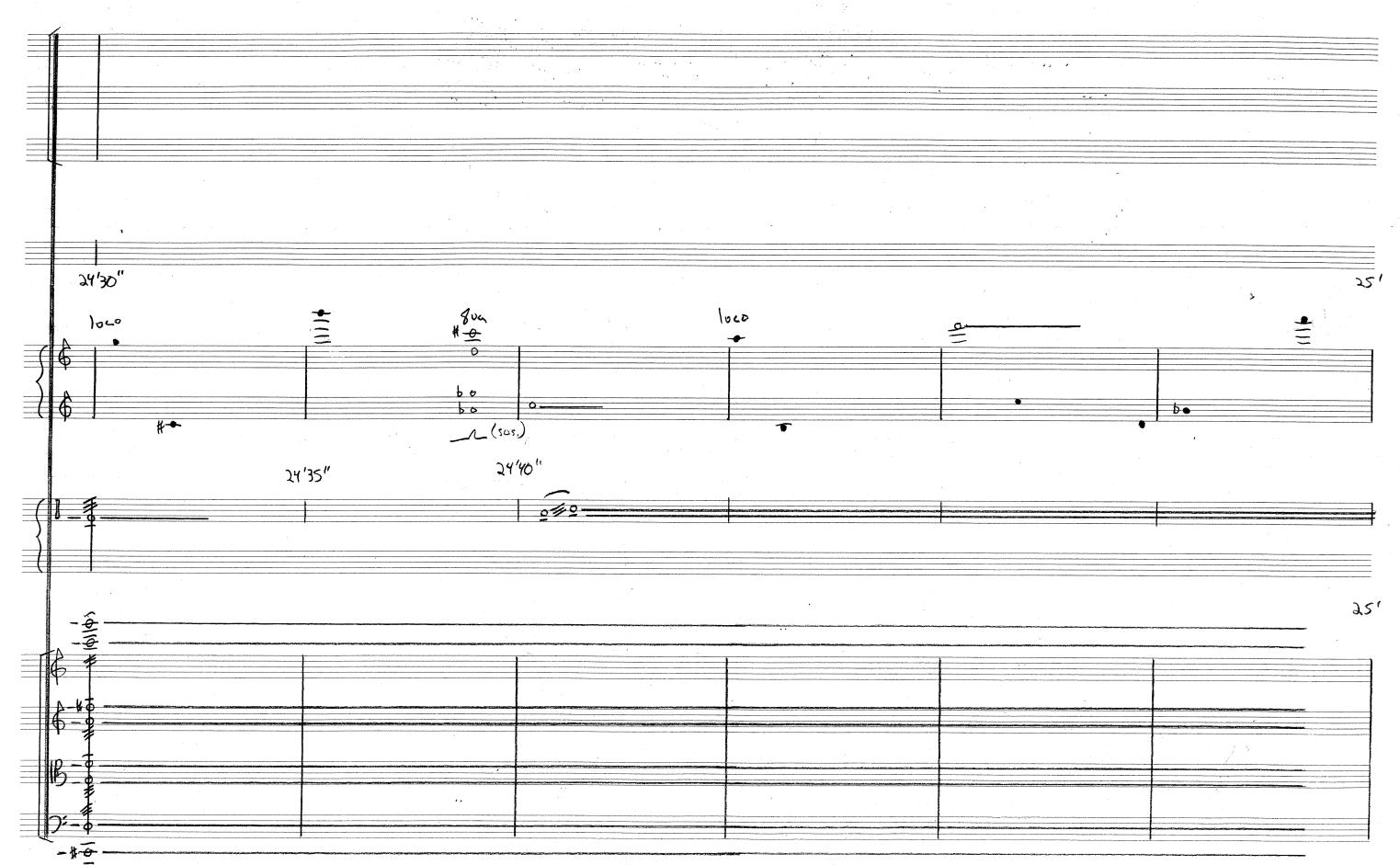


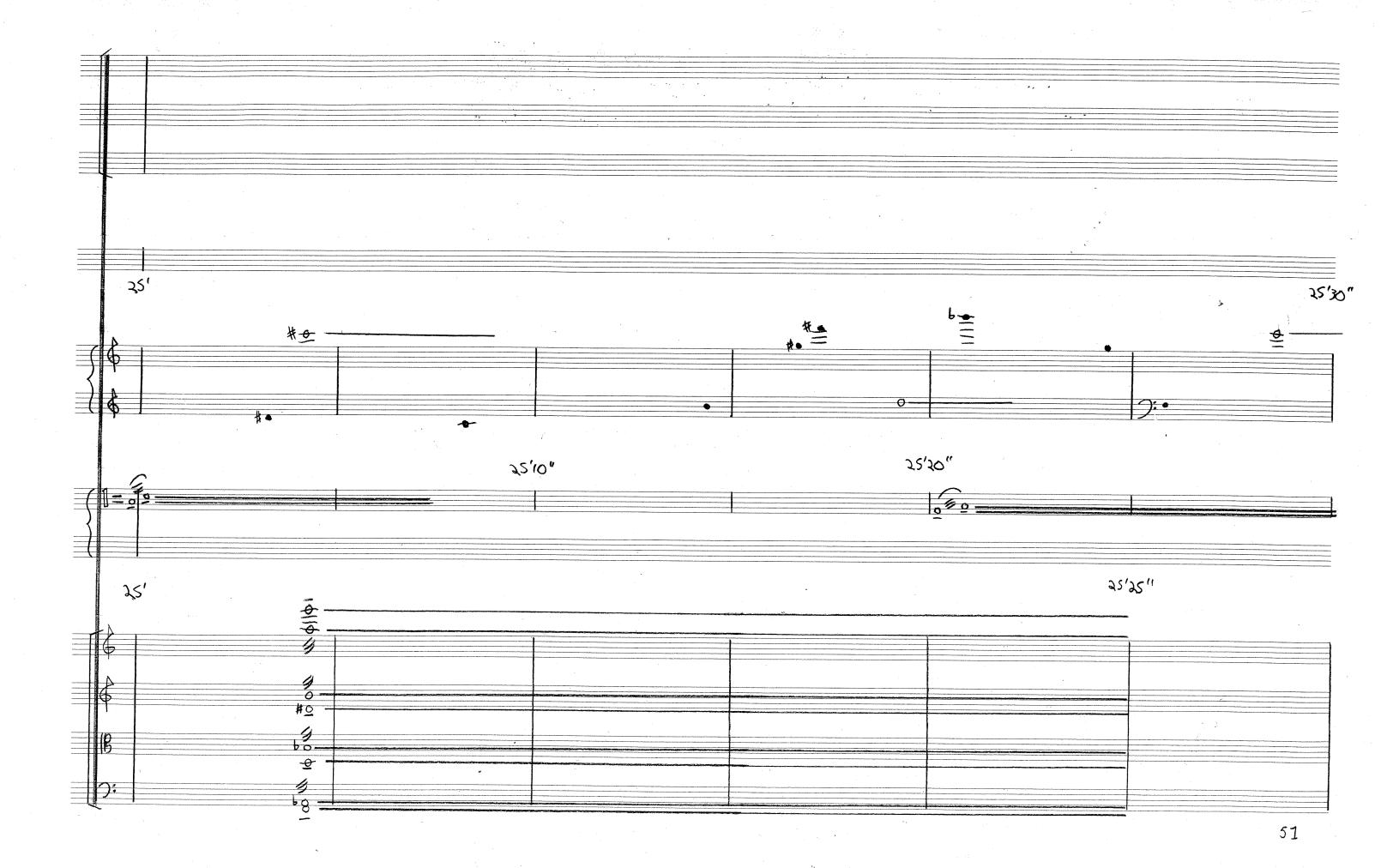


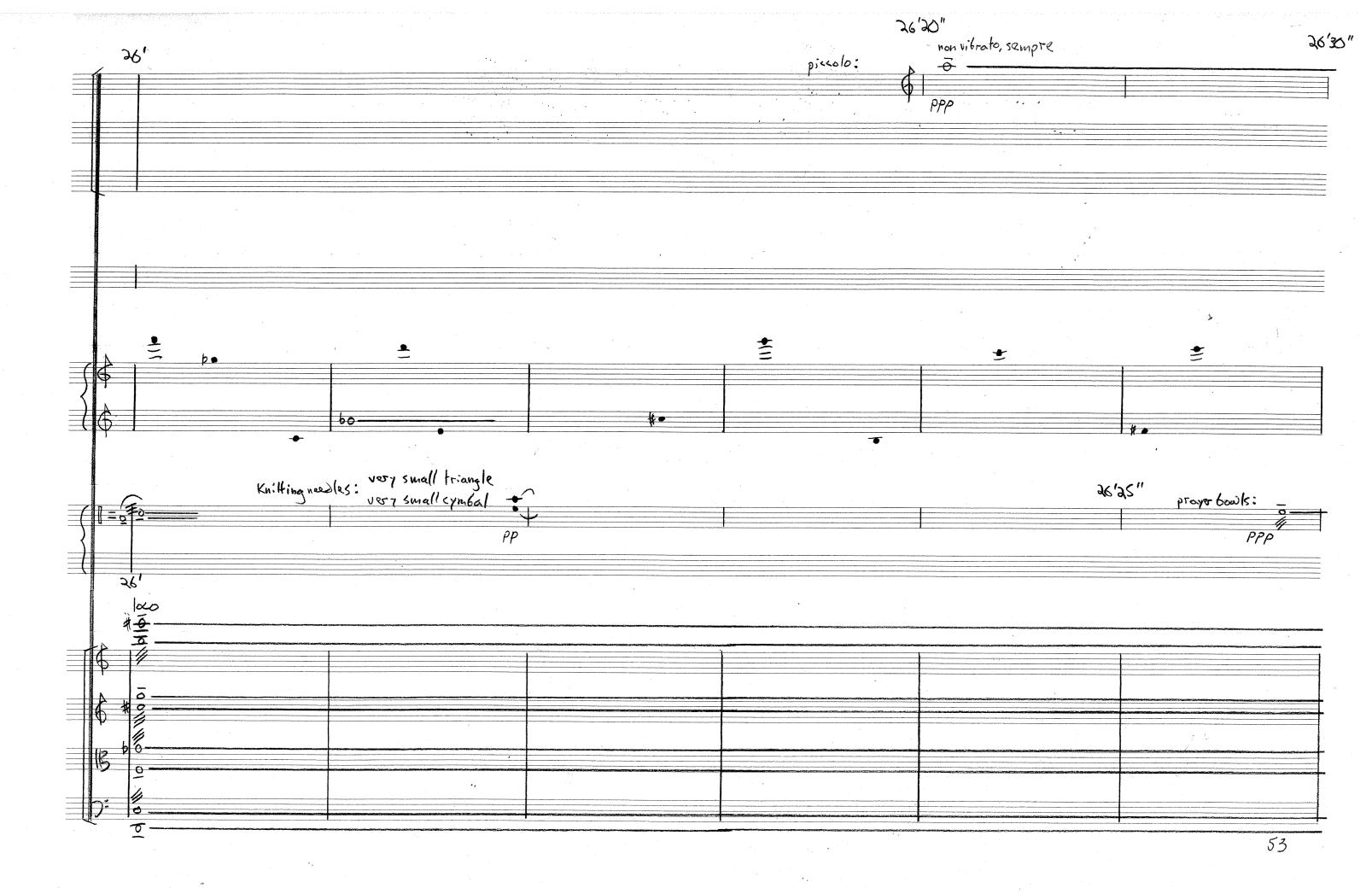


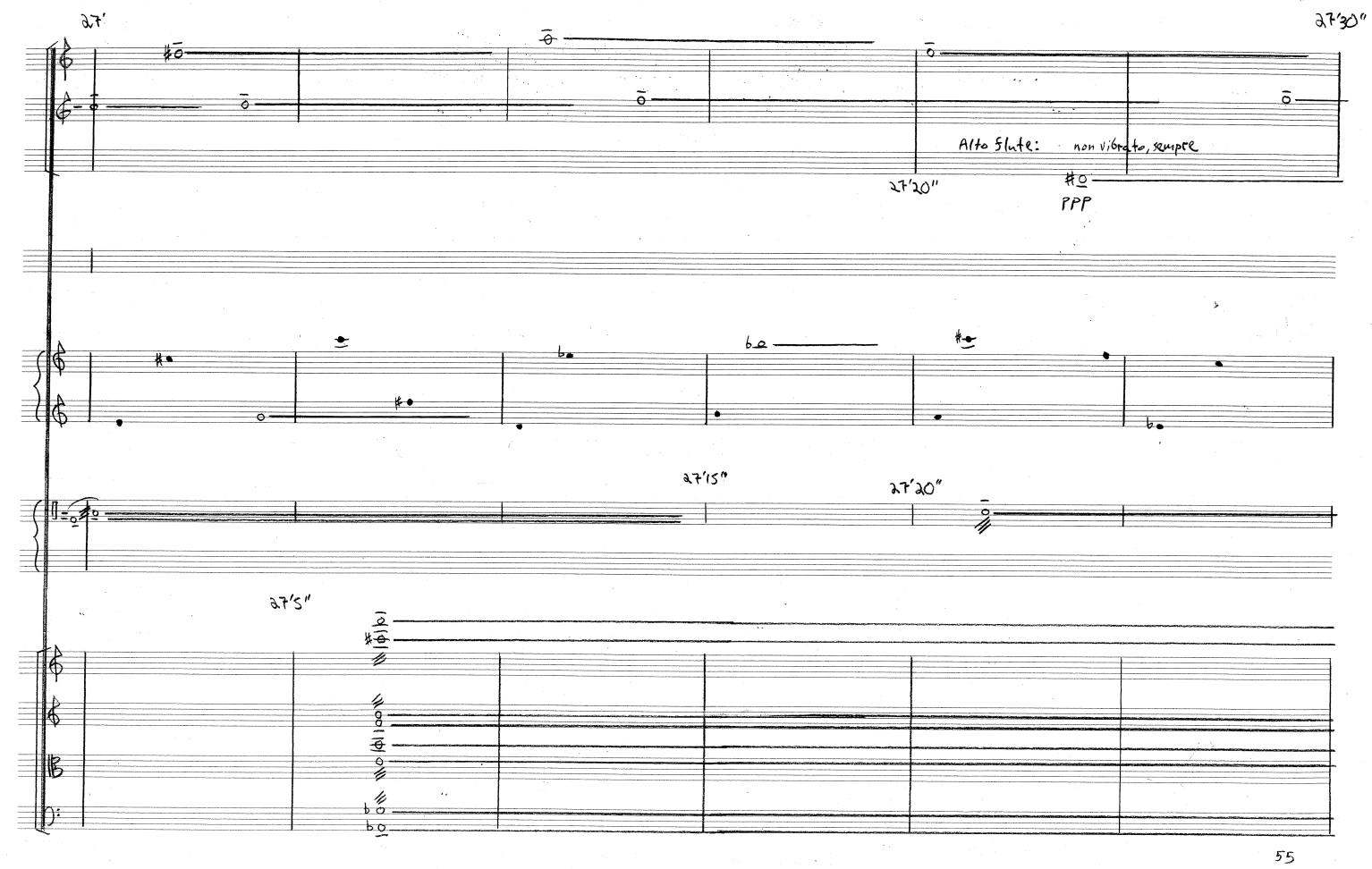


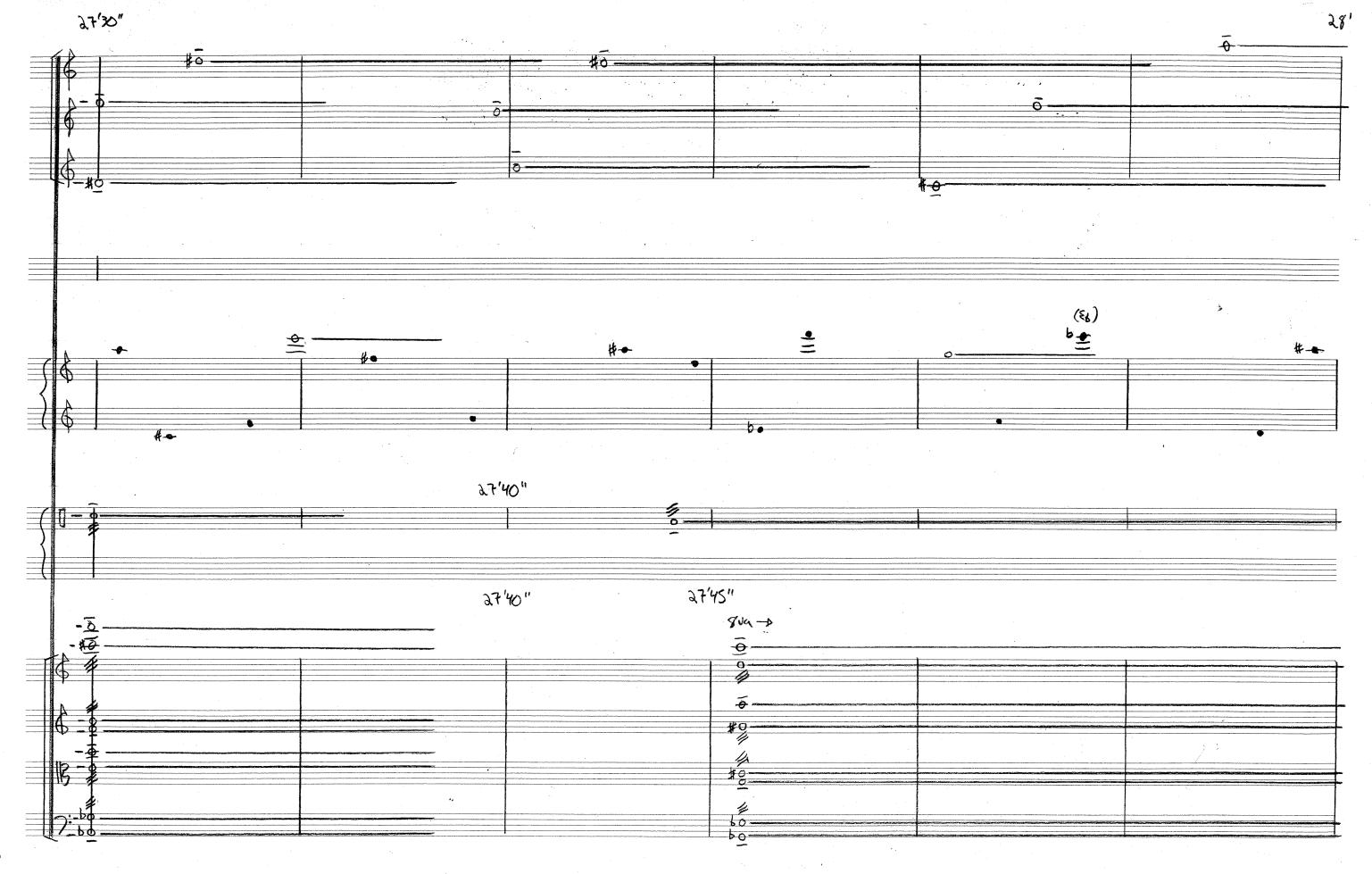


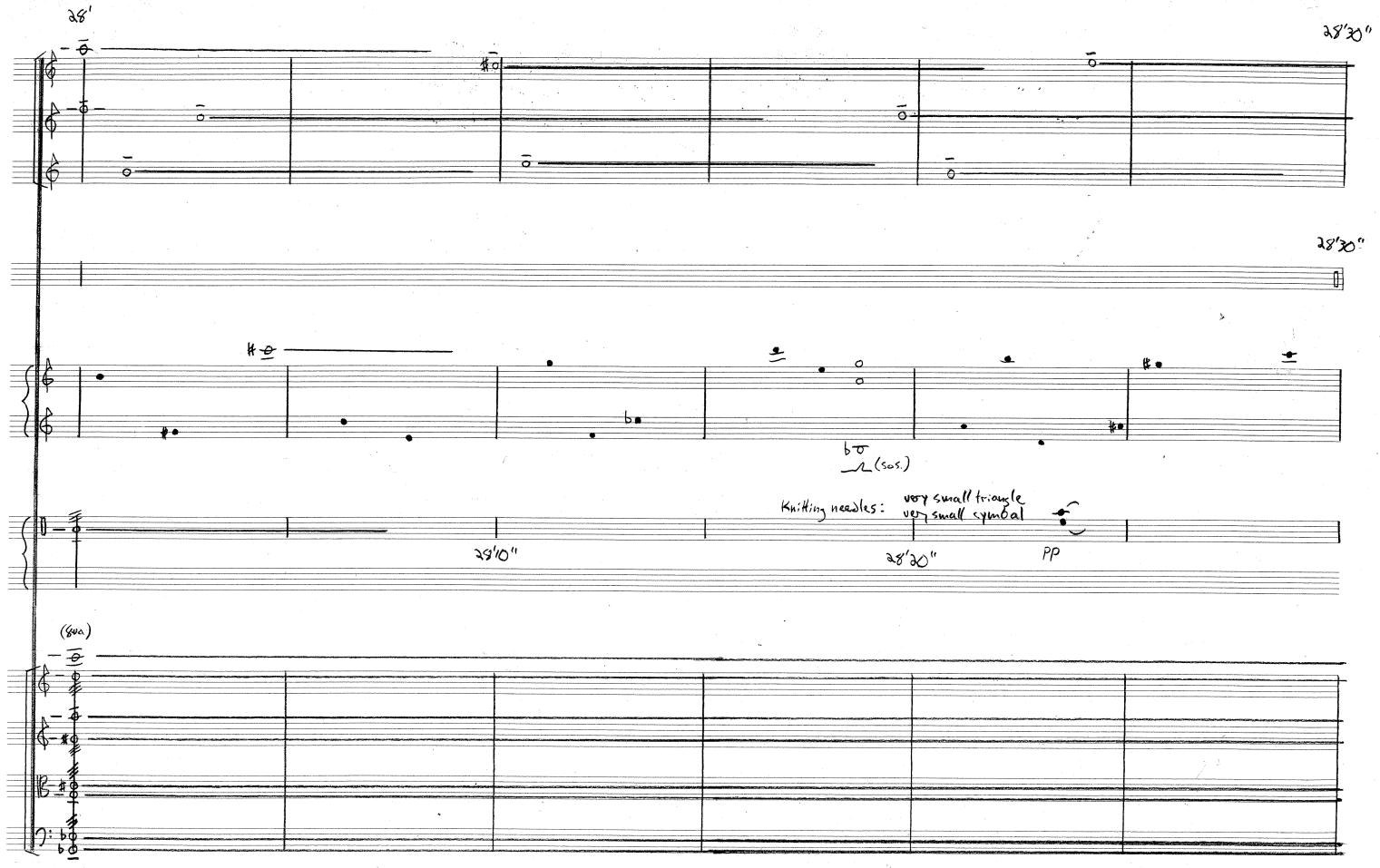


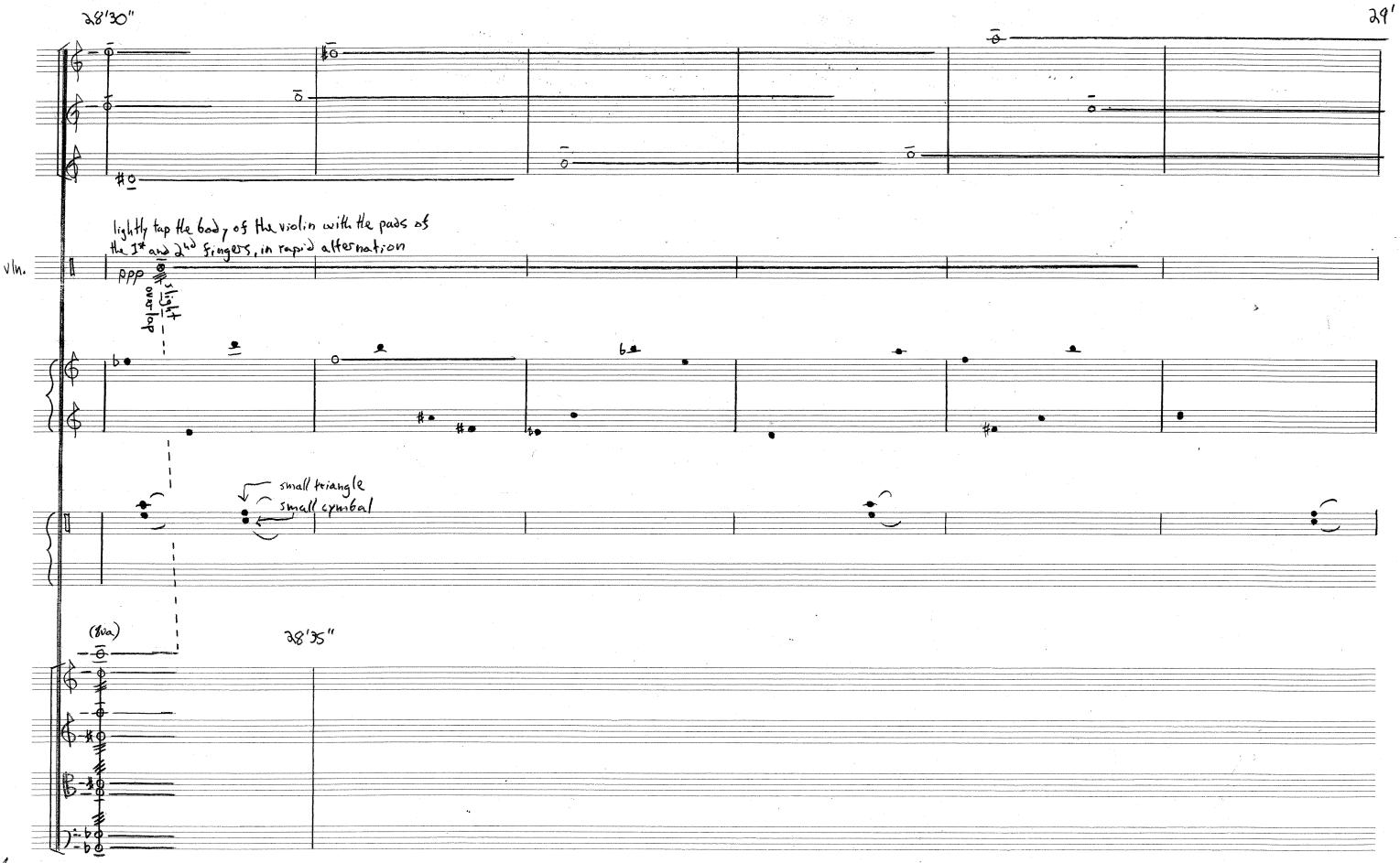


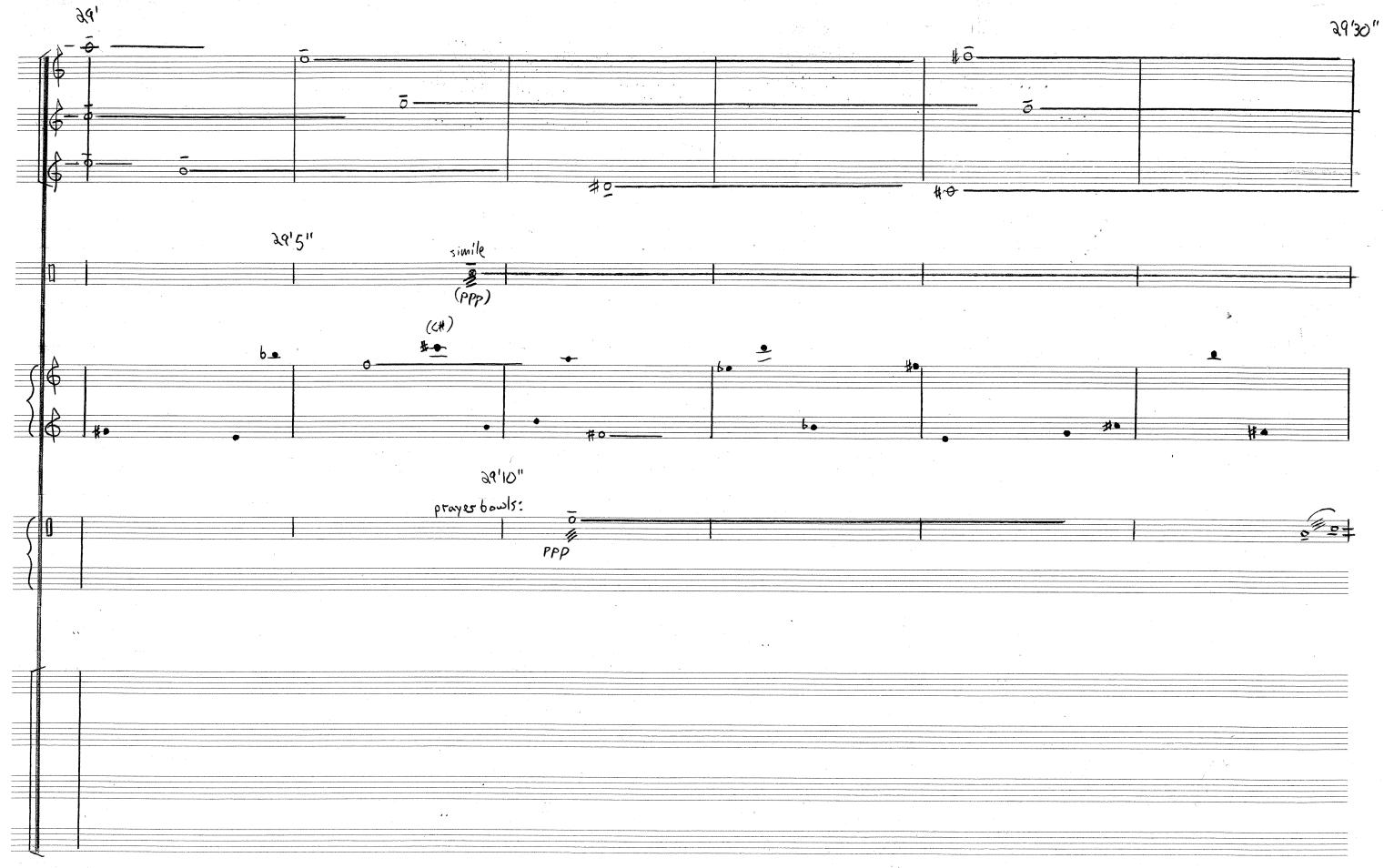


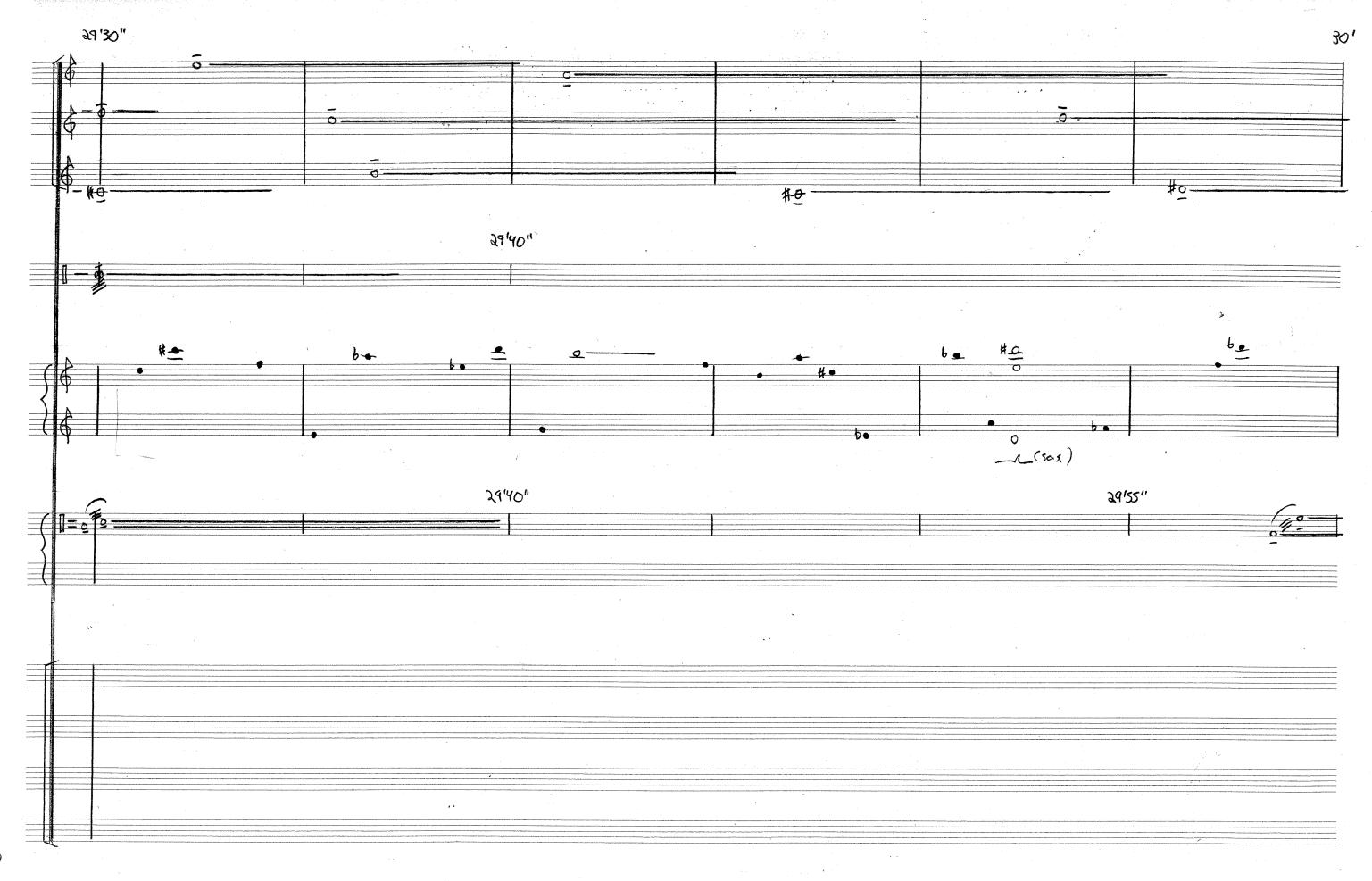


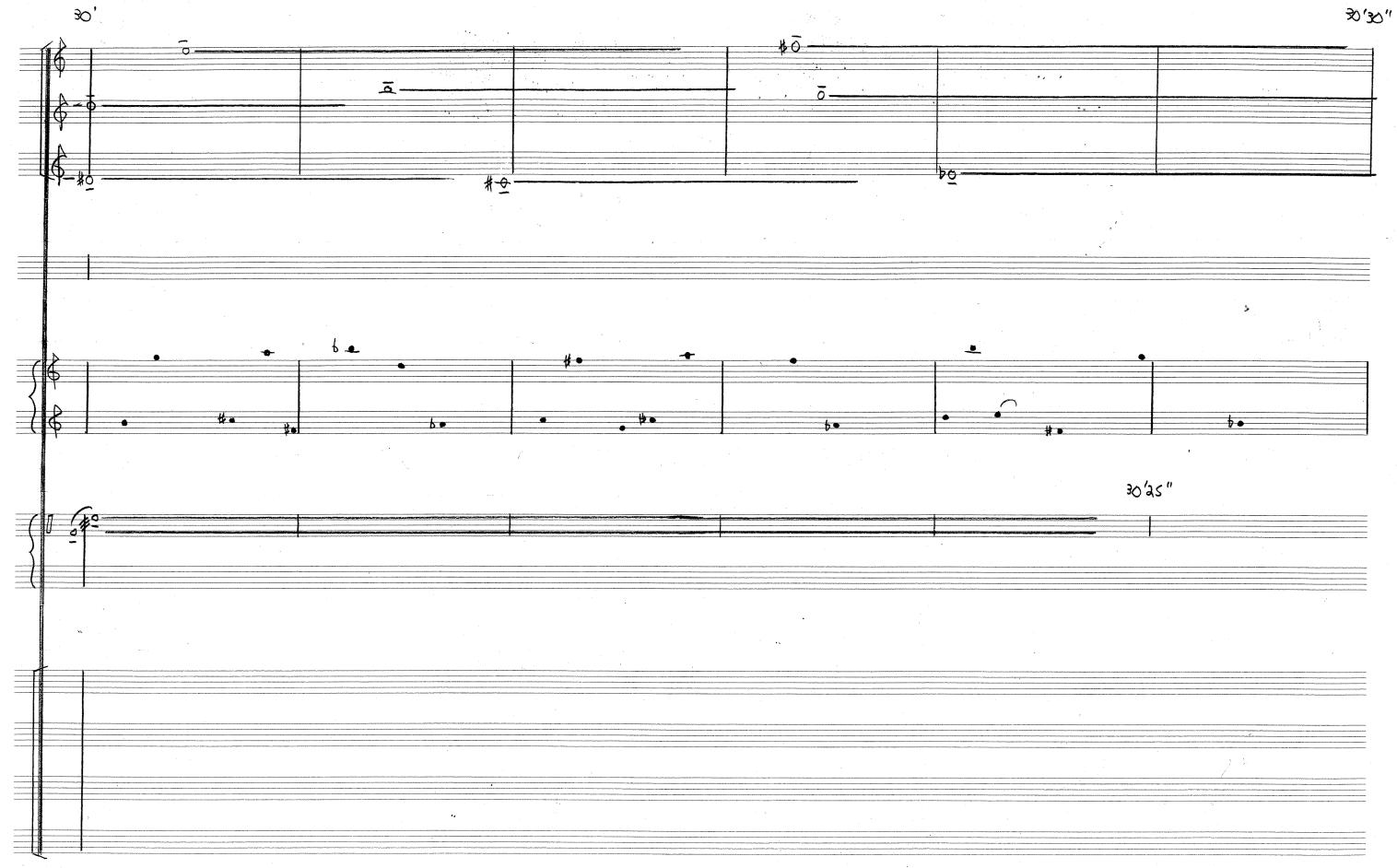


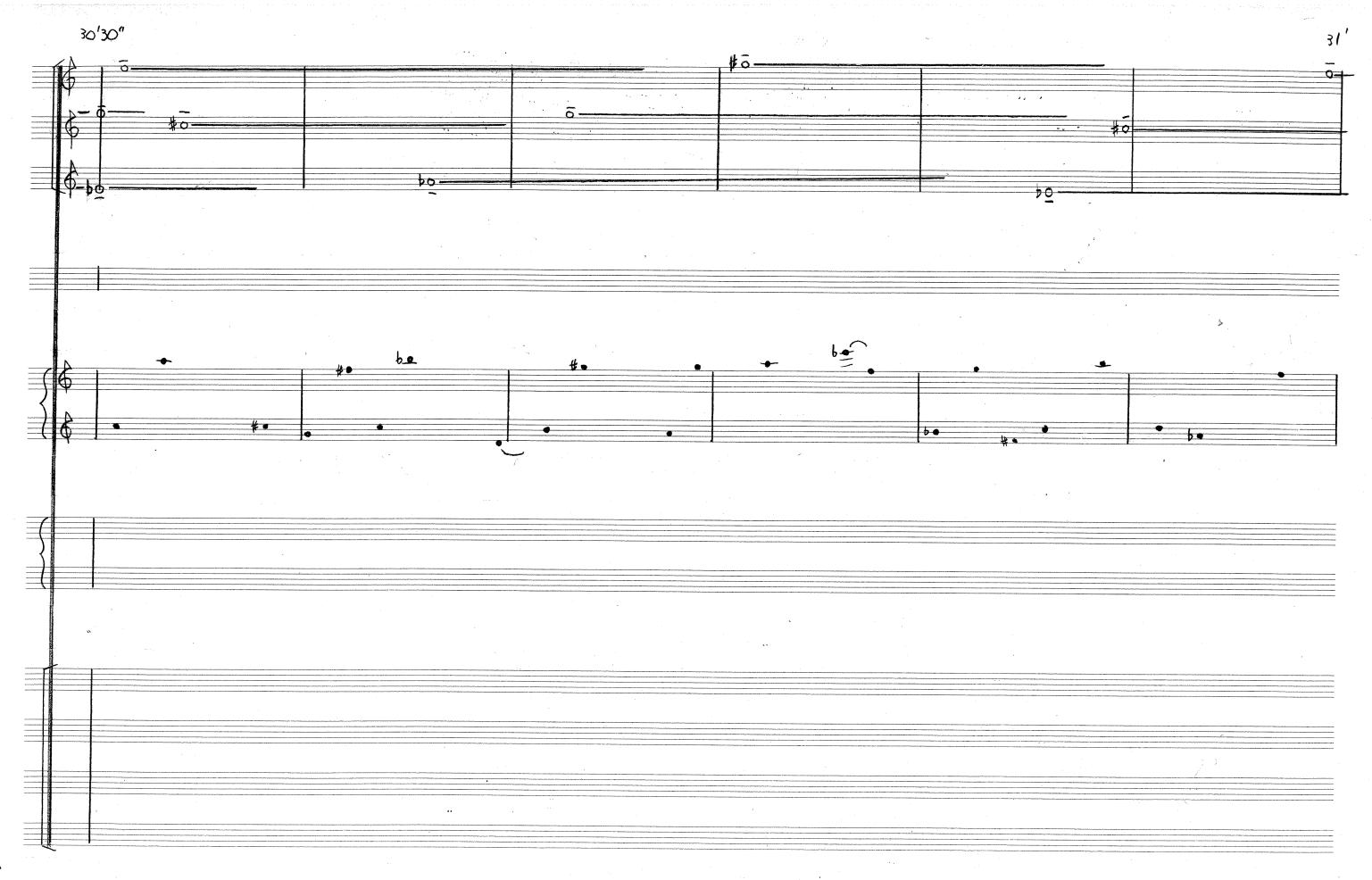


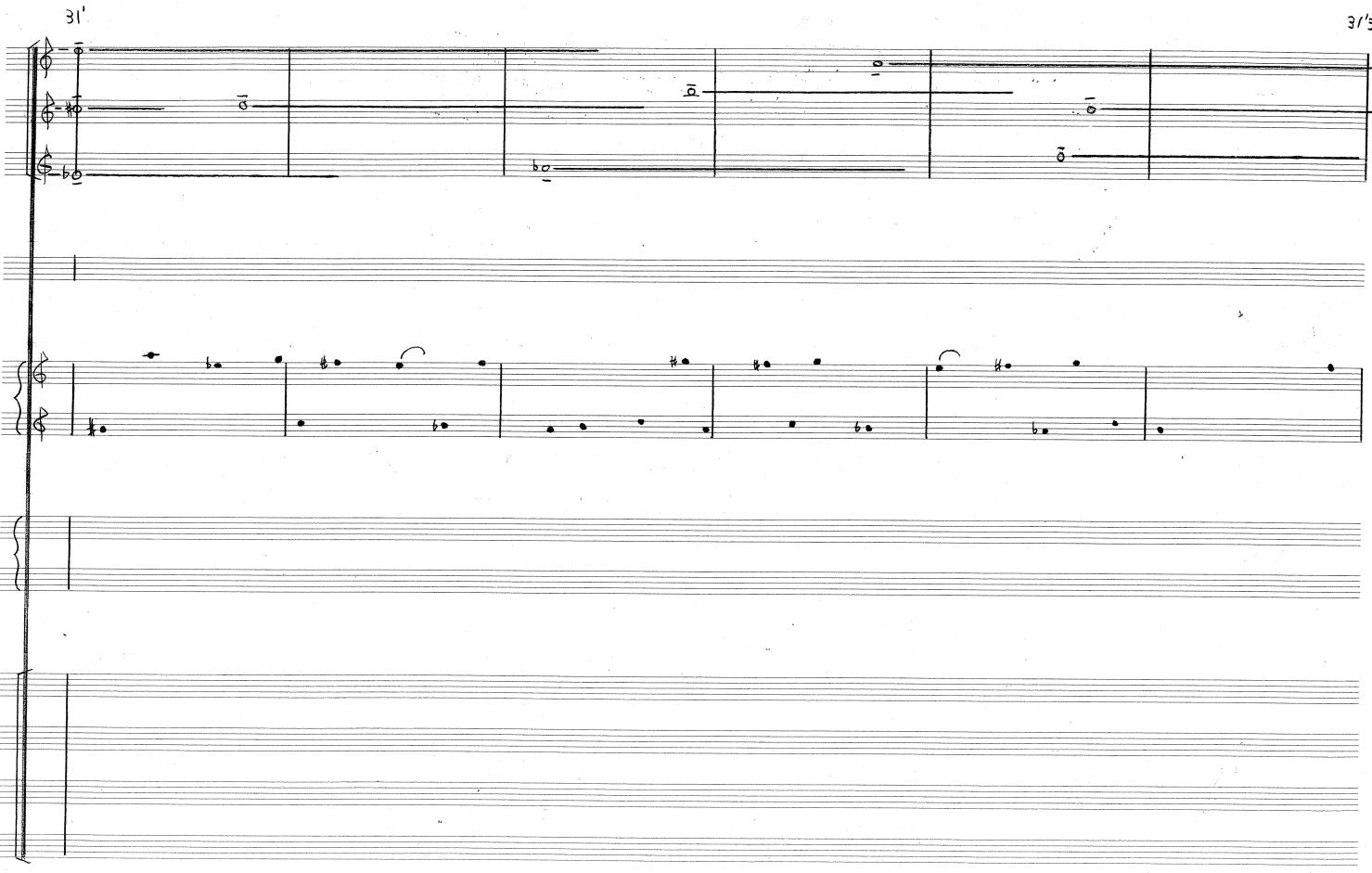


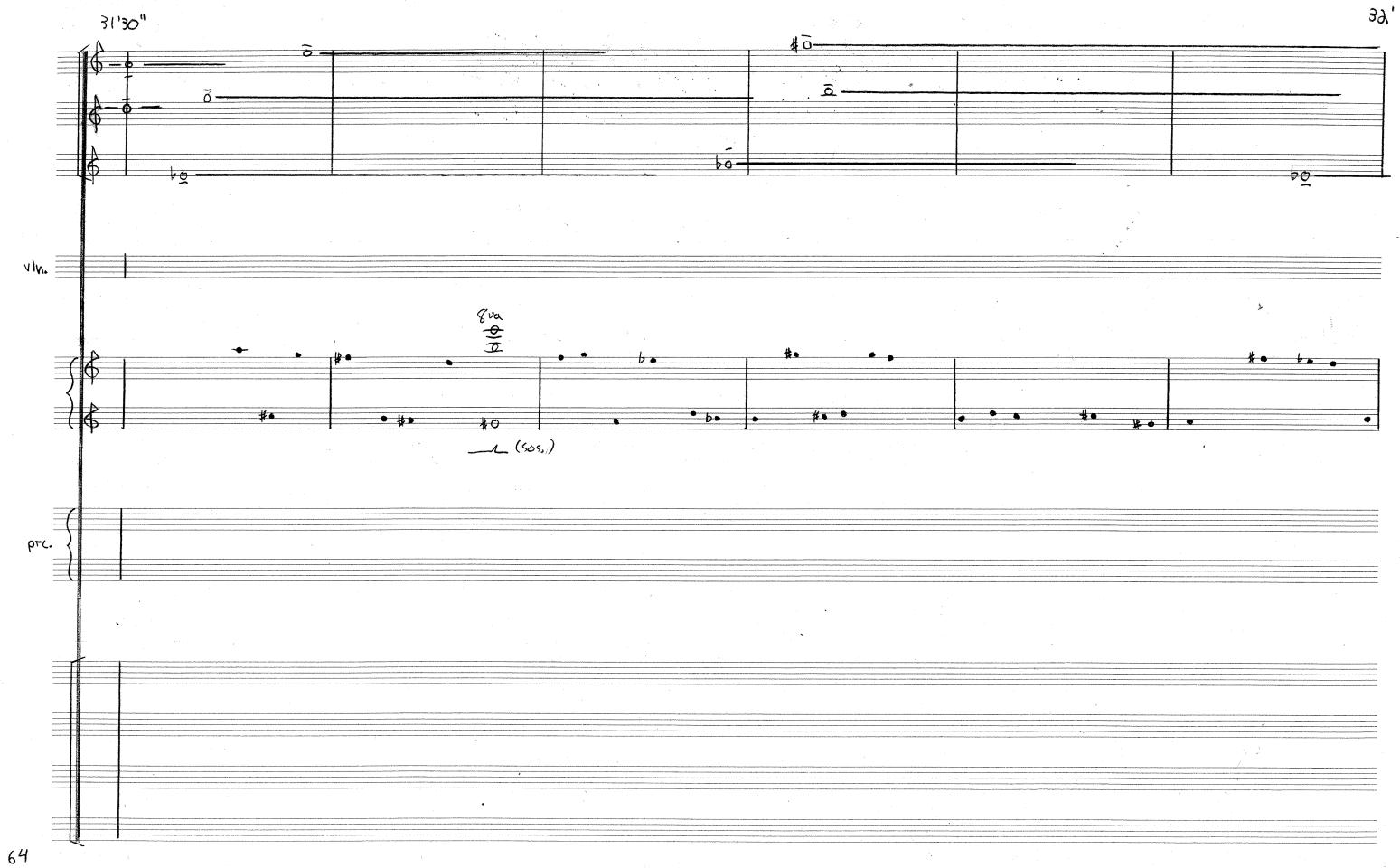


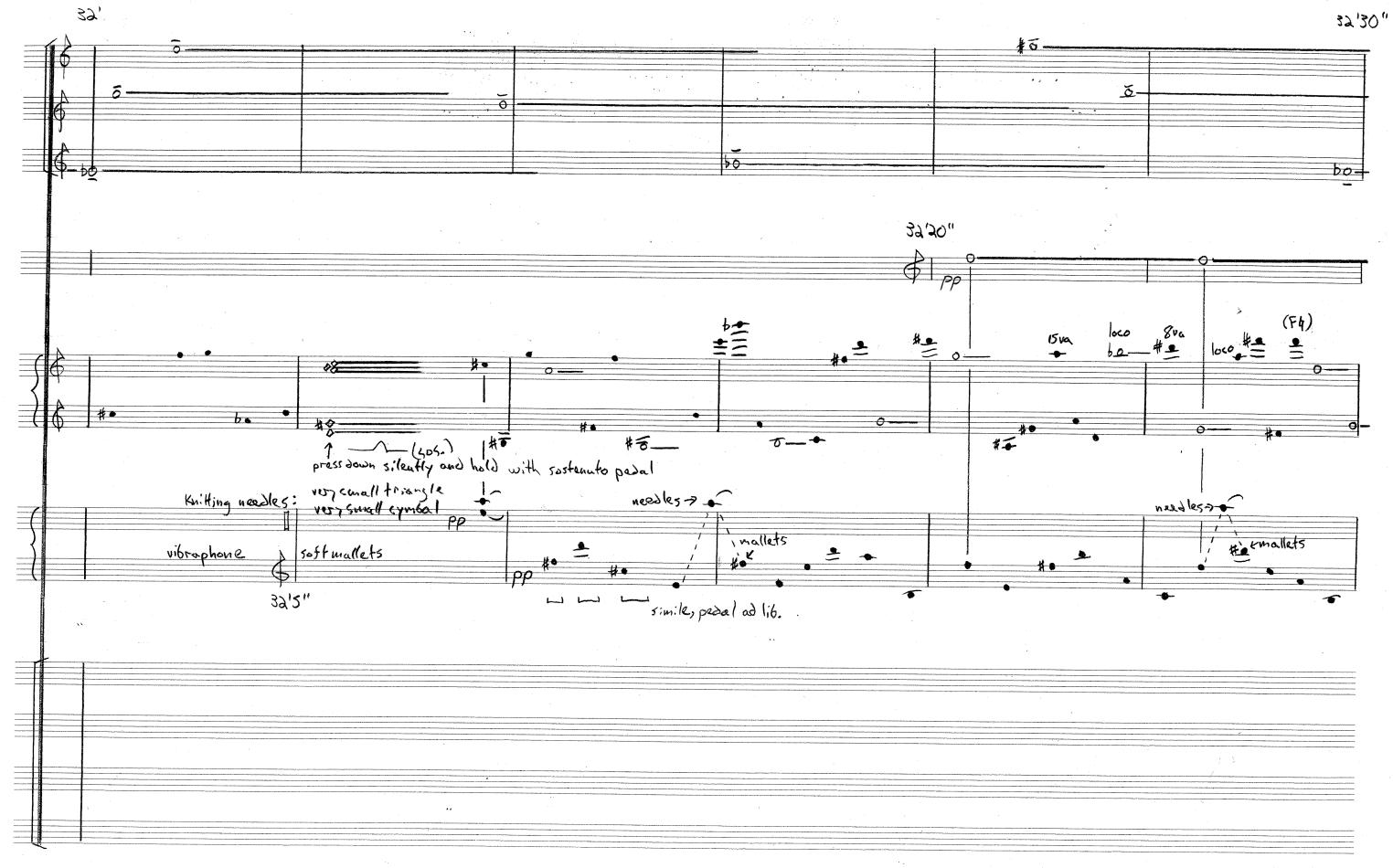


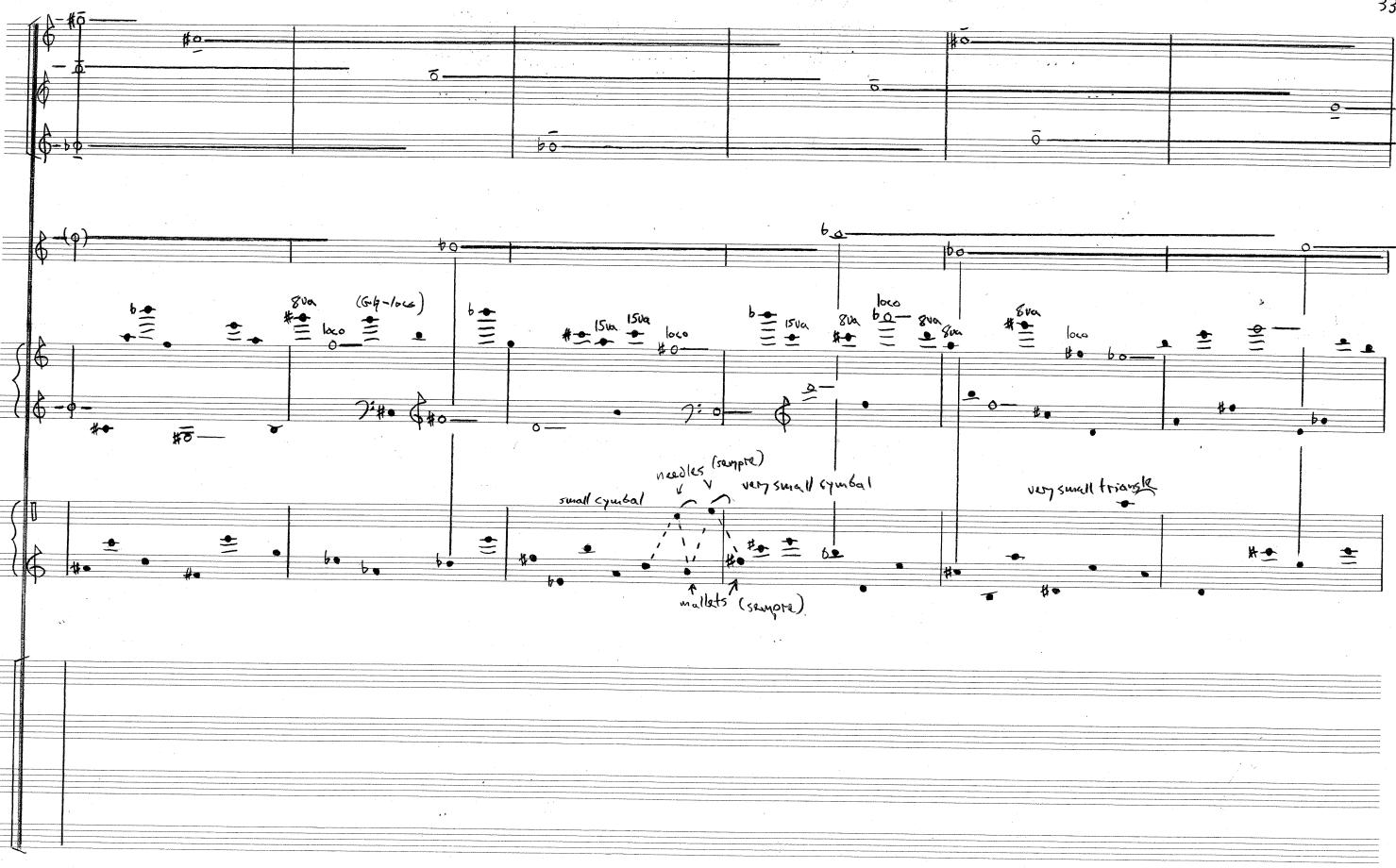


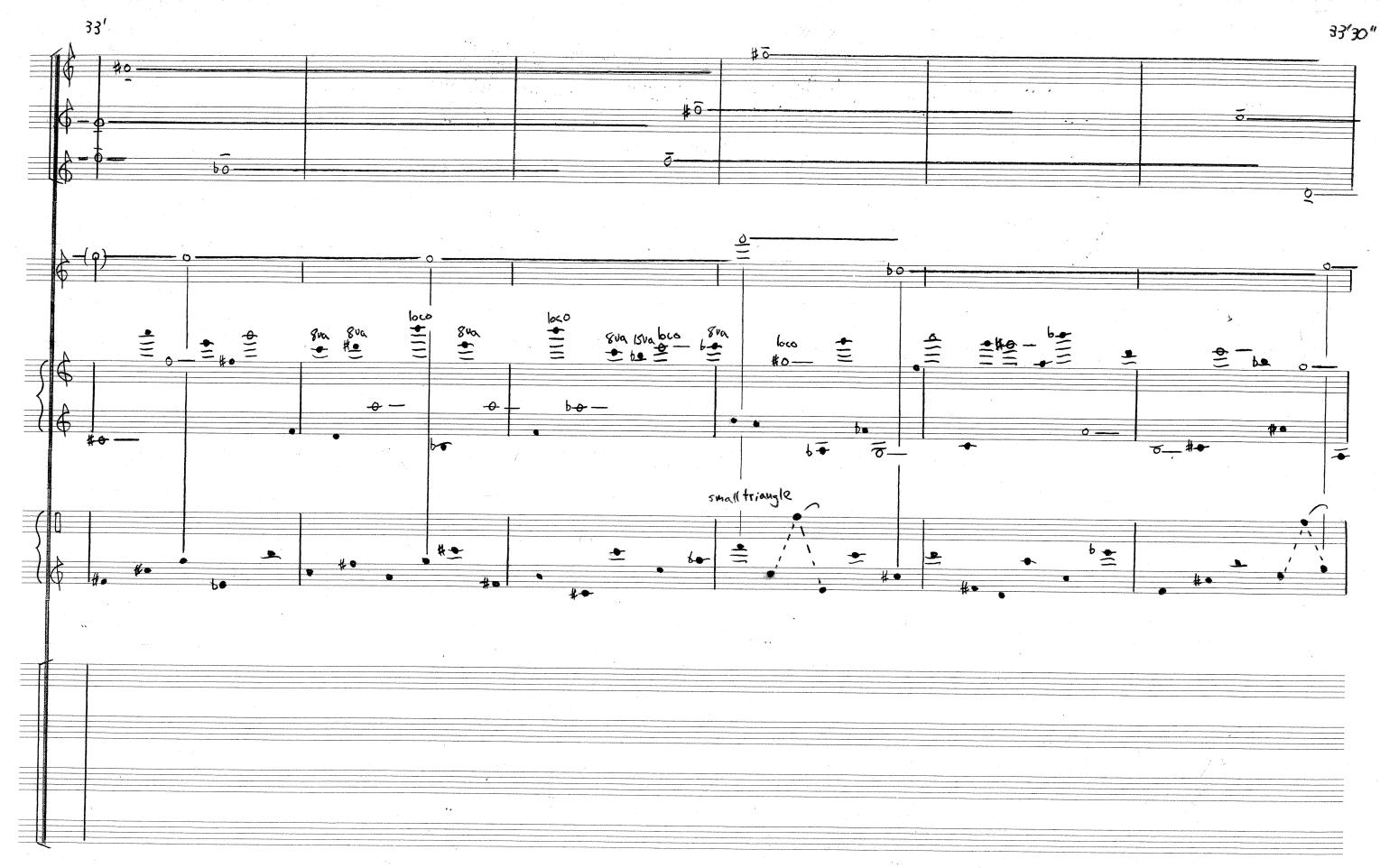




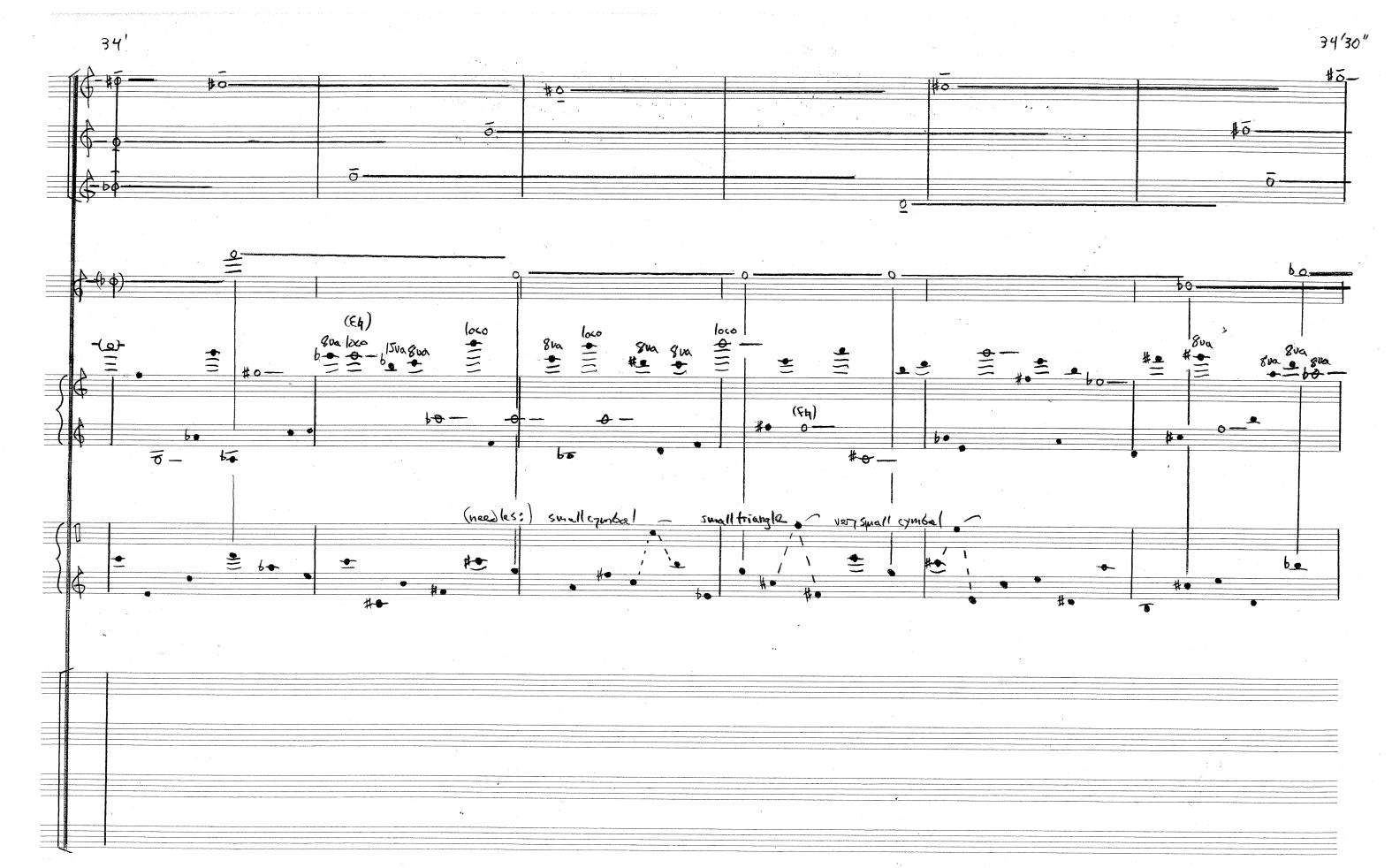


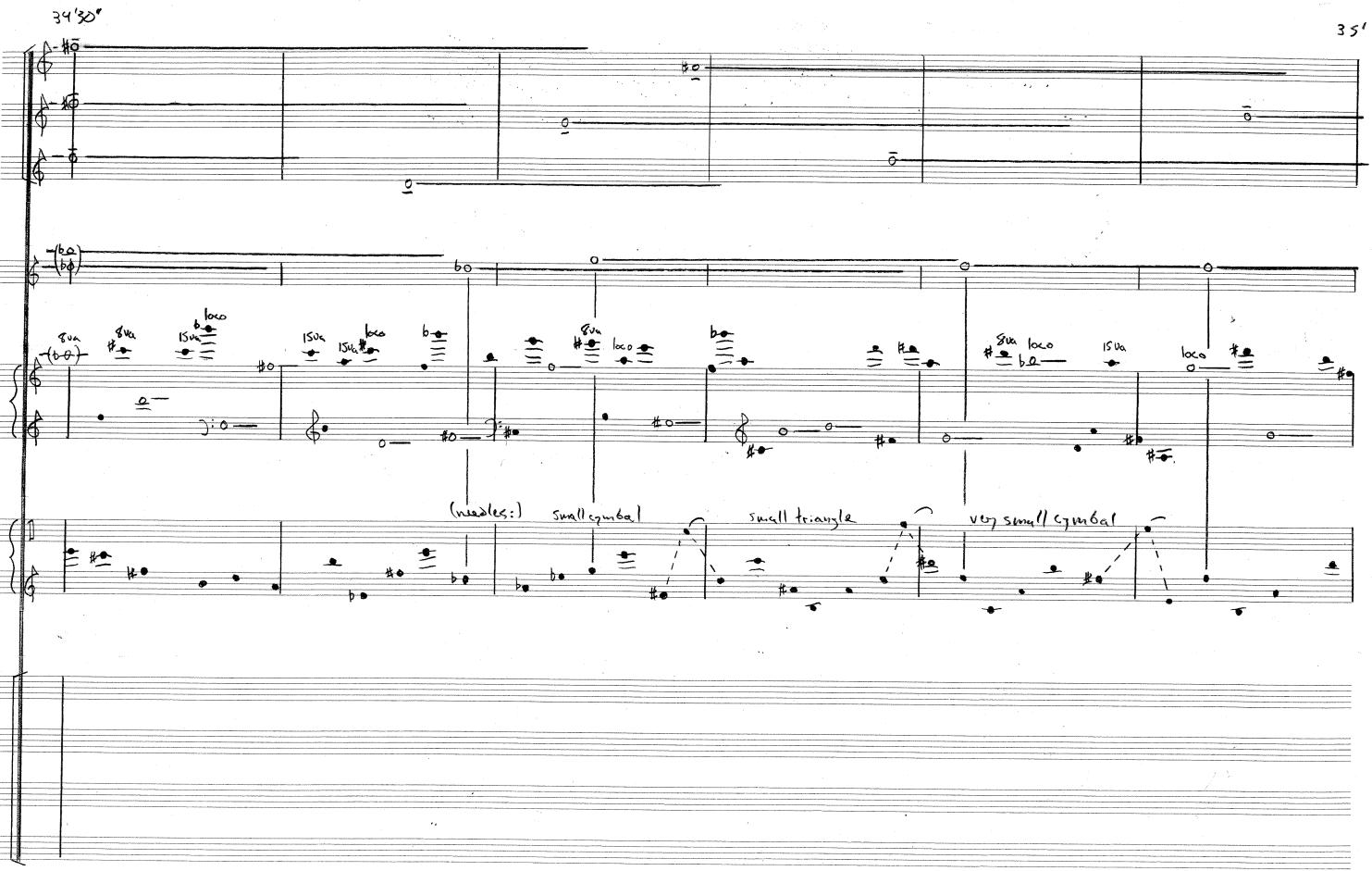


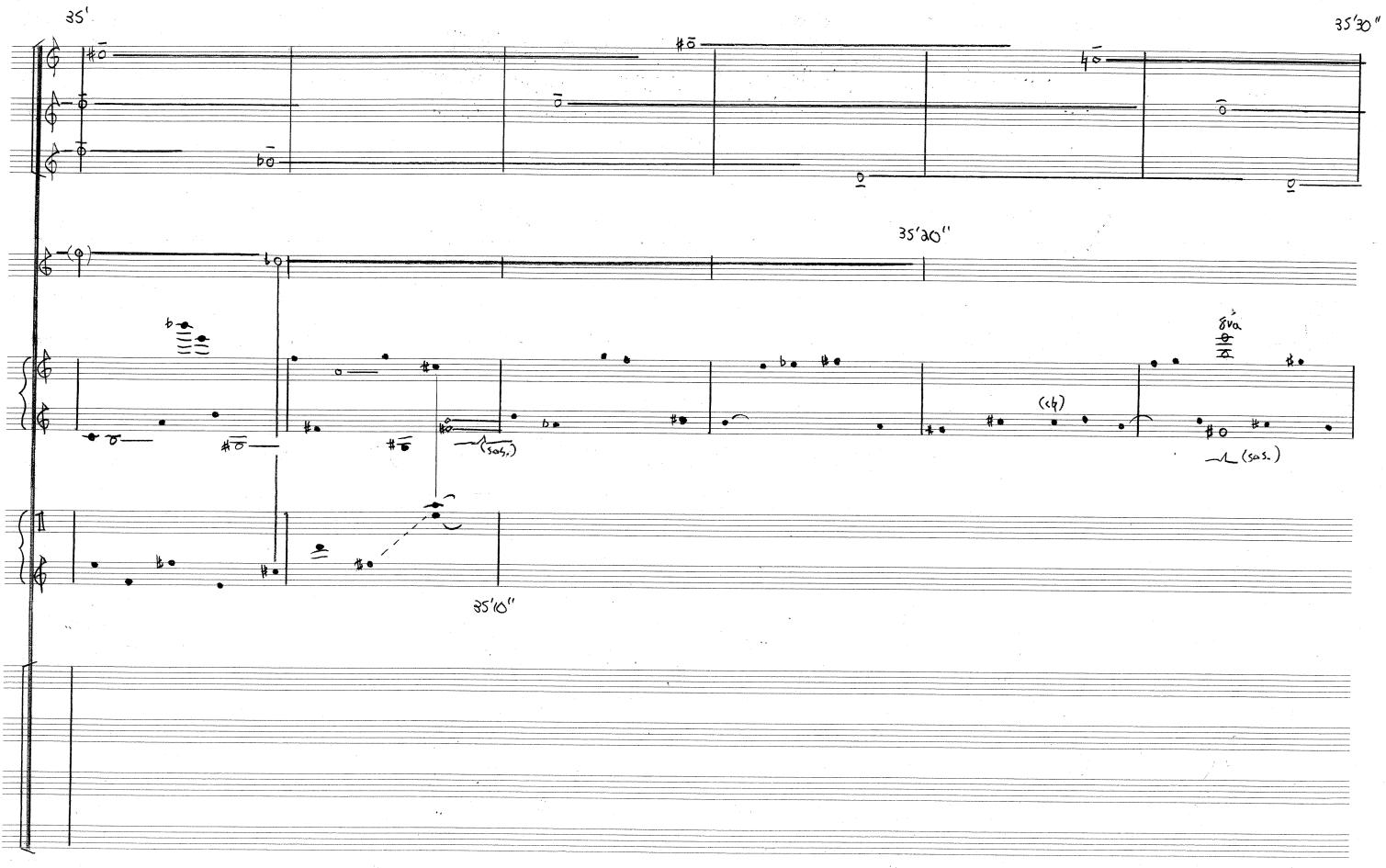


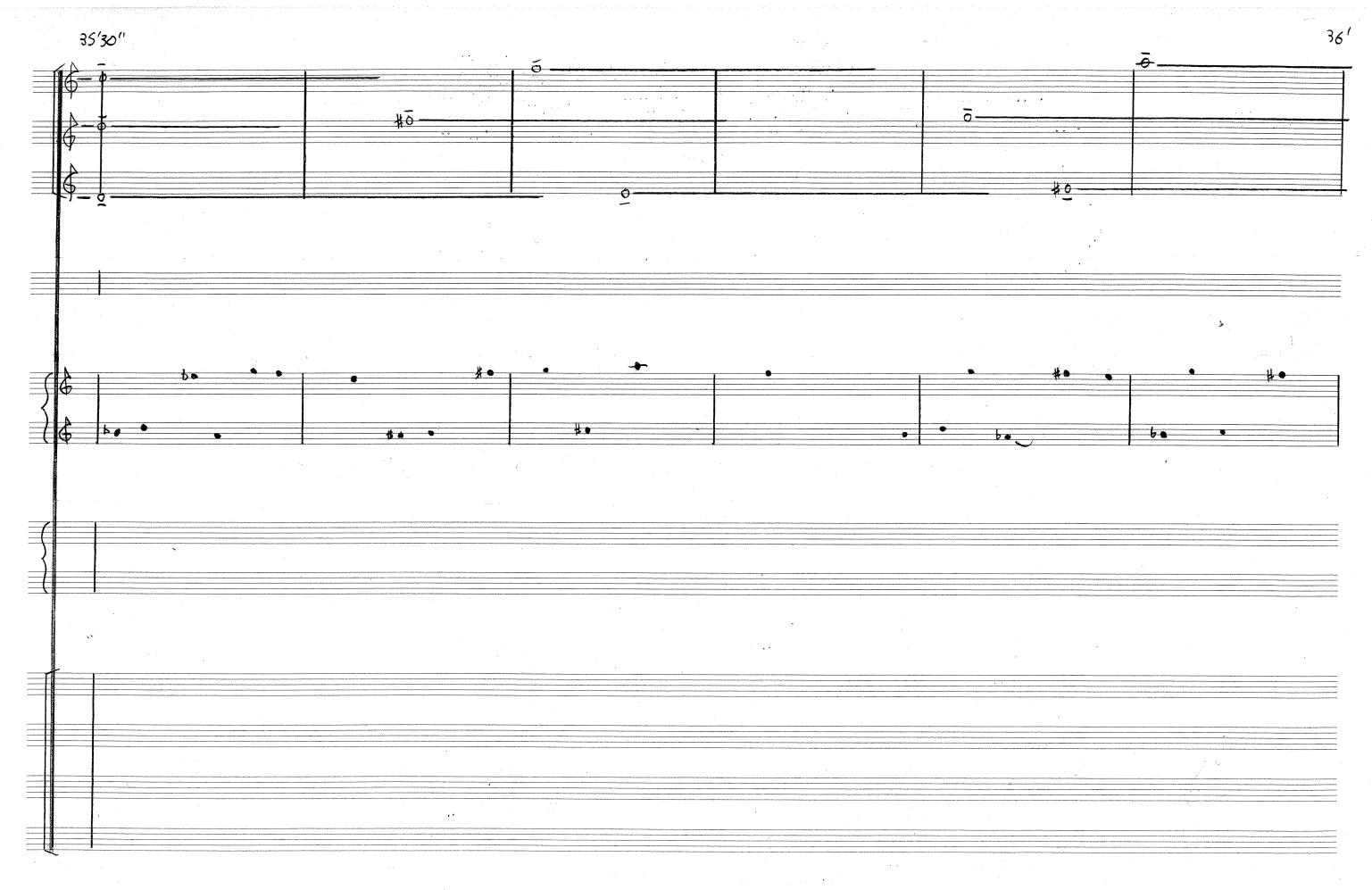


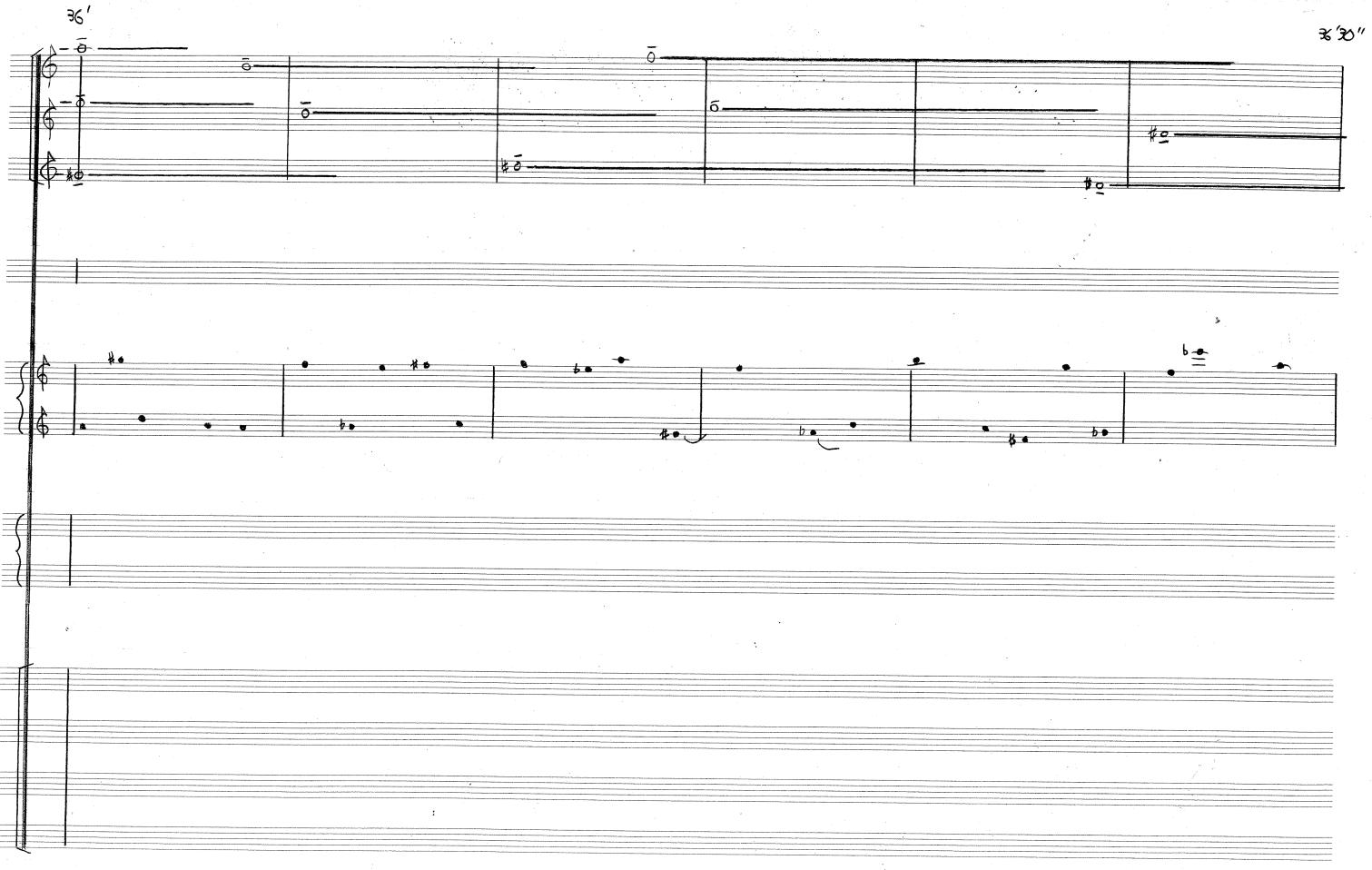


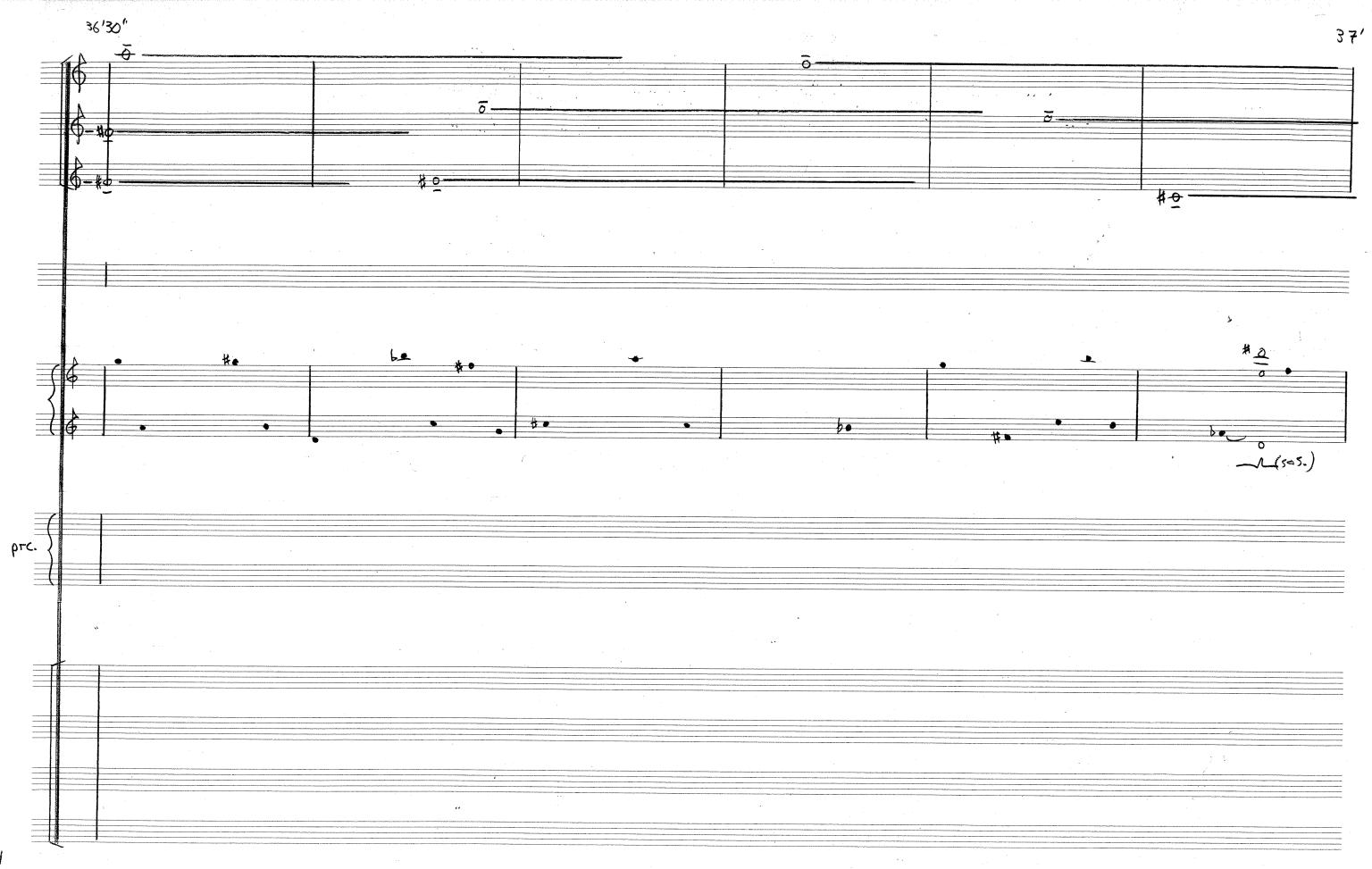


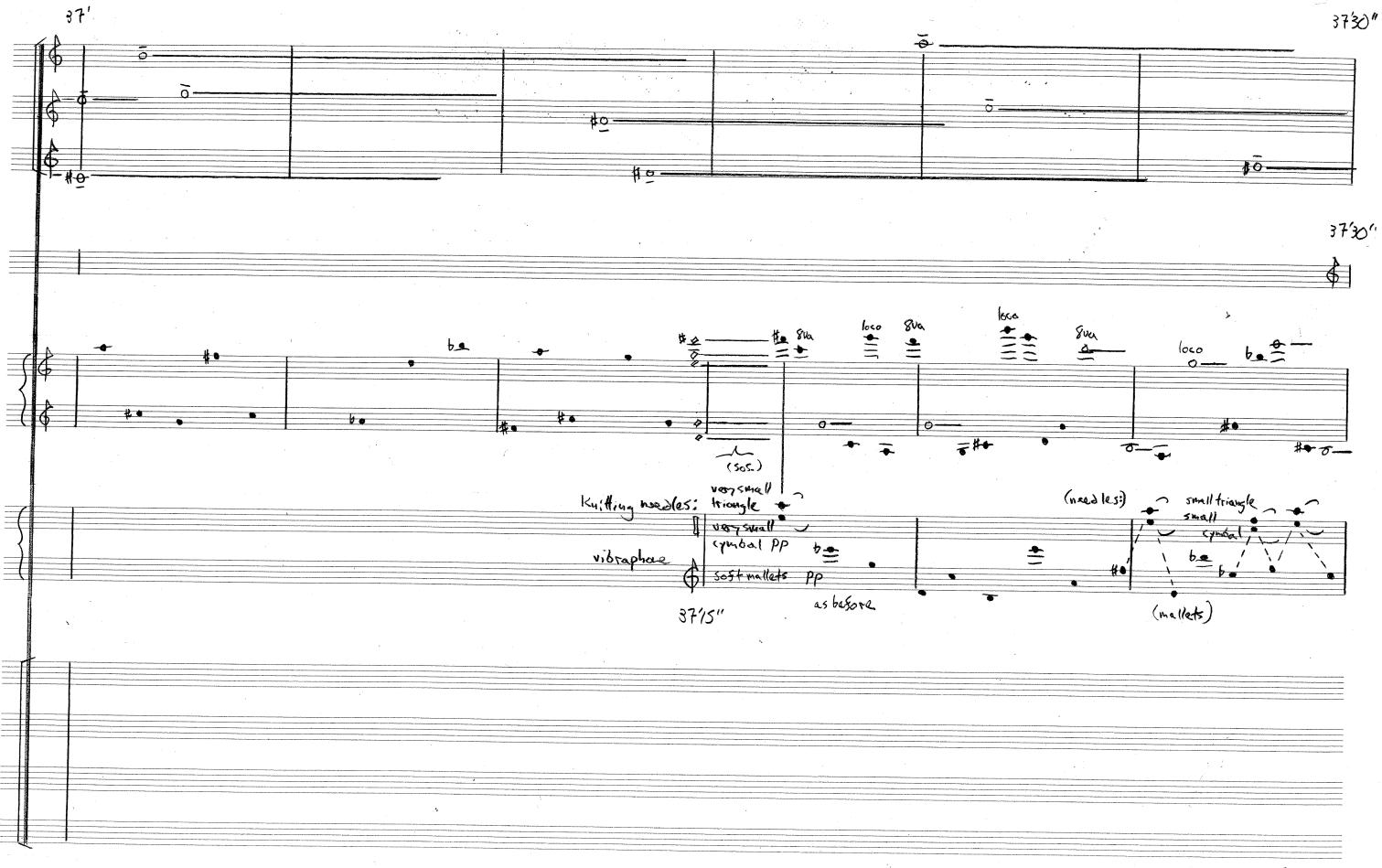


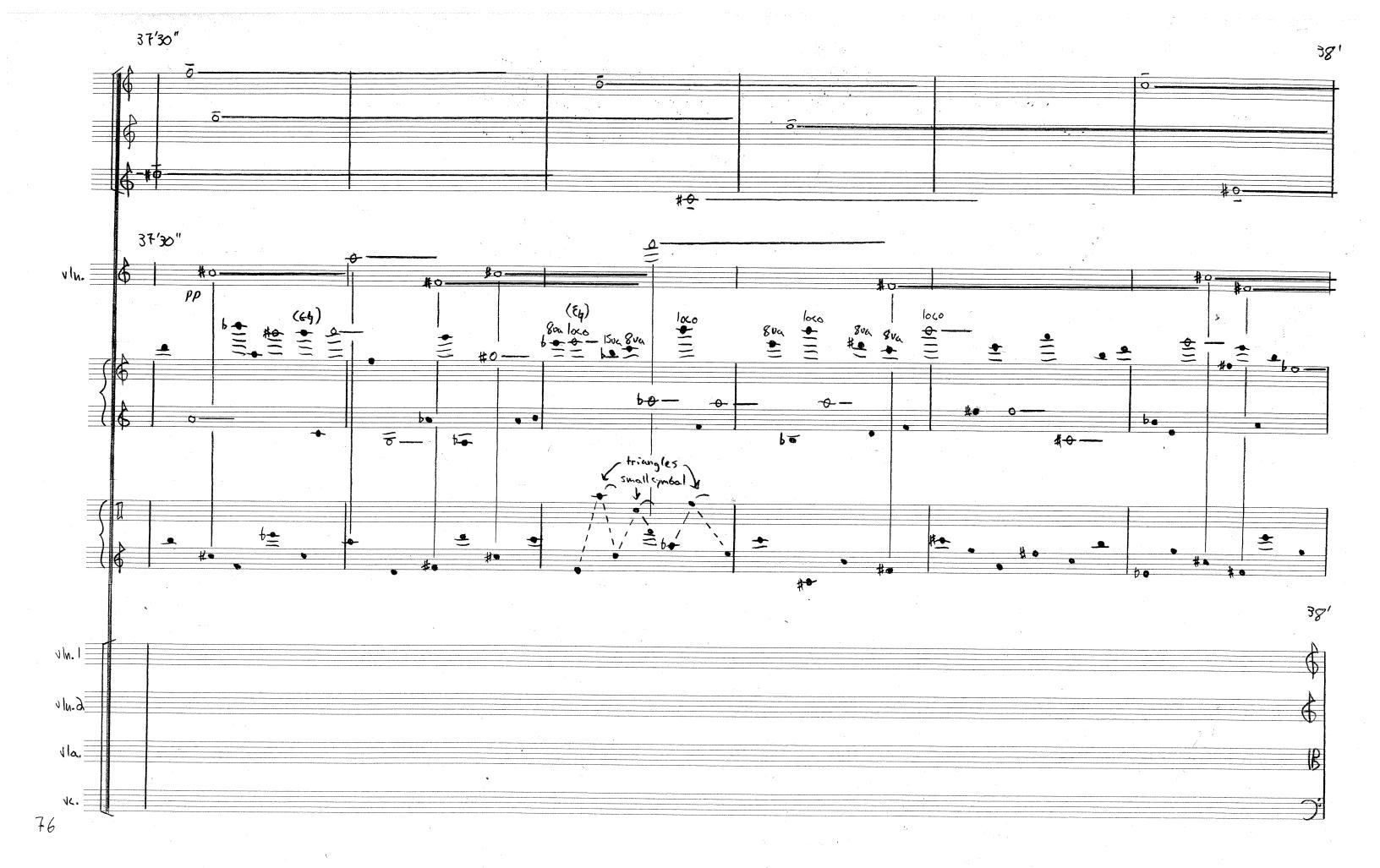














38'

