Petition & Rain Dance

for Bassoon Duo & Percussion

Composer's Notes

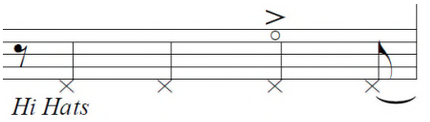
The composition *Petition and Rain Dance* is a two-part composition played without a break. The first half, 'Petition', starts with a plaintive melody that repeats in the other bassoon at various overlapping points creating an irregular cannon. Eventually a second melody emerges; the first melody now takes on a supportive role. A new mood created by these merged melodies is underscored by percussion. The simultaneous juxtaposition of these two melodies, as well as the patterns emphasized by the percussion, foreshadows the main theme for the second composition: '*Rain Dance*'.

'*Rain Dance*' is introduced with an irregular rhythmic motif, stated in unison by the bassoons, over a steady repeating pattern by the percussion. The percussion evolves and complements (and contrasts) the rhythmic part created by the two independent voices of the bassoon duo. A second theme, optimistic in temperament, is then introduced and is a rhythmic elaboration of the first theme. This second theme is an exact reiteration of the merged melodies from '*Petition*' (however in this faster incarnation it is hardly recognizable). This is repeated in various guises and the mood eventually becomes somewhat less certain.

These two pieces represent two ideas; the plea for a reprieve from a dire situation - a drought and a petition to the 'powers that be' for intercession, and the subsequent effort to bring about the desired change by taking matters into one's own hands - a ritualistic dance to bring forth the needed deluge.

Performance Notes

Hi Hat cymbals are to be played by pressing pedal to firmly contact the two cymbals. When the circular indicator appears over the note the Hi Hat cymbals are to be briefly pressed together and then immediately released.



About the Composer

Chris Milmerstadt's music has been premiered in Québec Canada at the Société de Musique Contemporaine, Nürnburg Germany, Eindhoven Netherlands, and recently at the International Society for Contemporary Music (ISCM) Zürich, Switzerland, and the International Double Reed Society (IDRS 2014). One of his music compositions, "5 Pieces after Paintings by Paul Klee", is currently housed at the archives of the Zentrum Paul Klee Museum, Bern Switzerland. His music has been performed at the US Library of Congress, Washington D.C., and other prestigious venues in North America and Europe. He has composed works for symphony orchestra, voice and instruments, string quartet, chamber ensembles, and various instrumental combinations and solo instruments.

Mr. Milmerstadt studied composition at the University of Buffalo under Yvar Mikhashoff and Rodney Sharman. Since then he has spent much time continuing his theoretical studies and formulating his own music theories which he has applied in his latest works.

He currently lives in New York with his wife and three daughters.

Score

For the DT "Double Trouble" Duo, Tama Kott and Arnold Irchai

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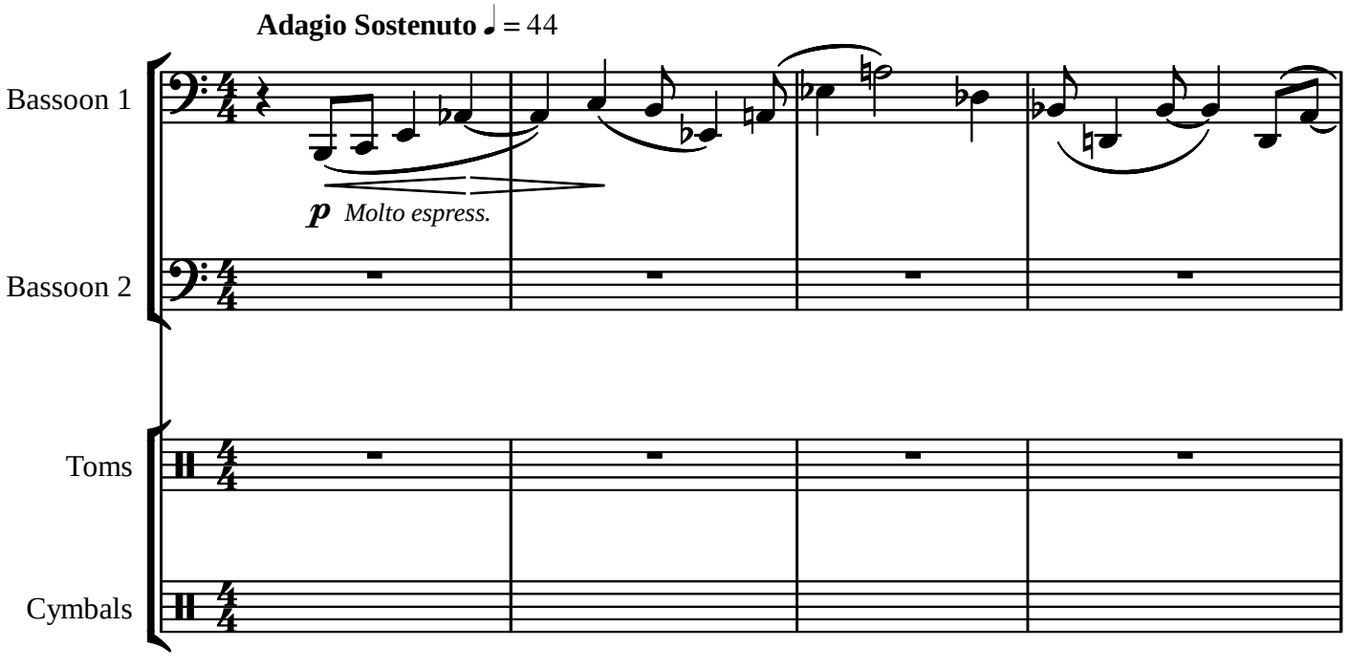
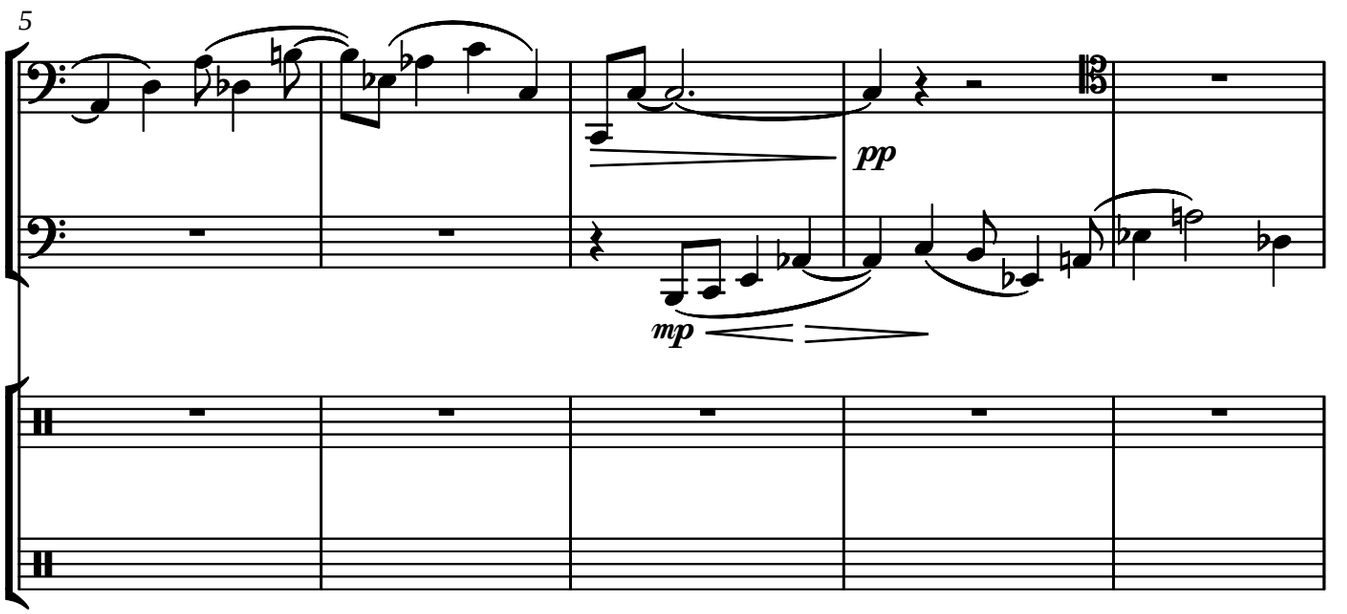
For Bassoon Duo and Percussion

Chris Milmerstadt





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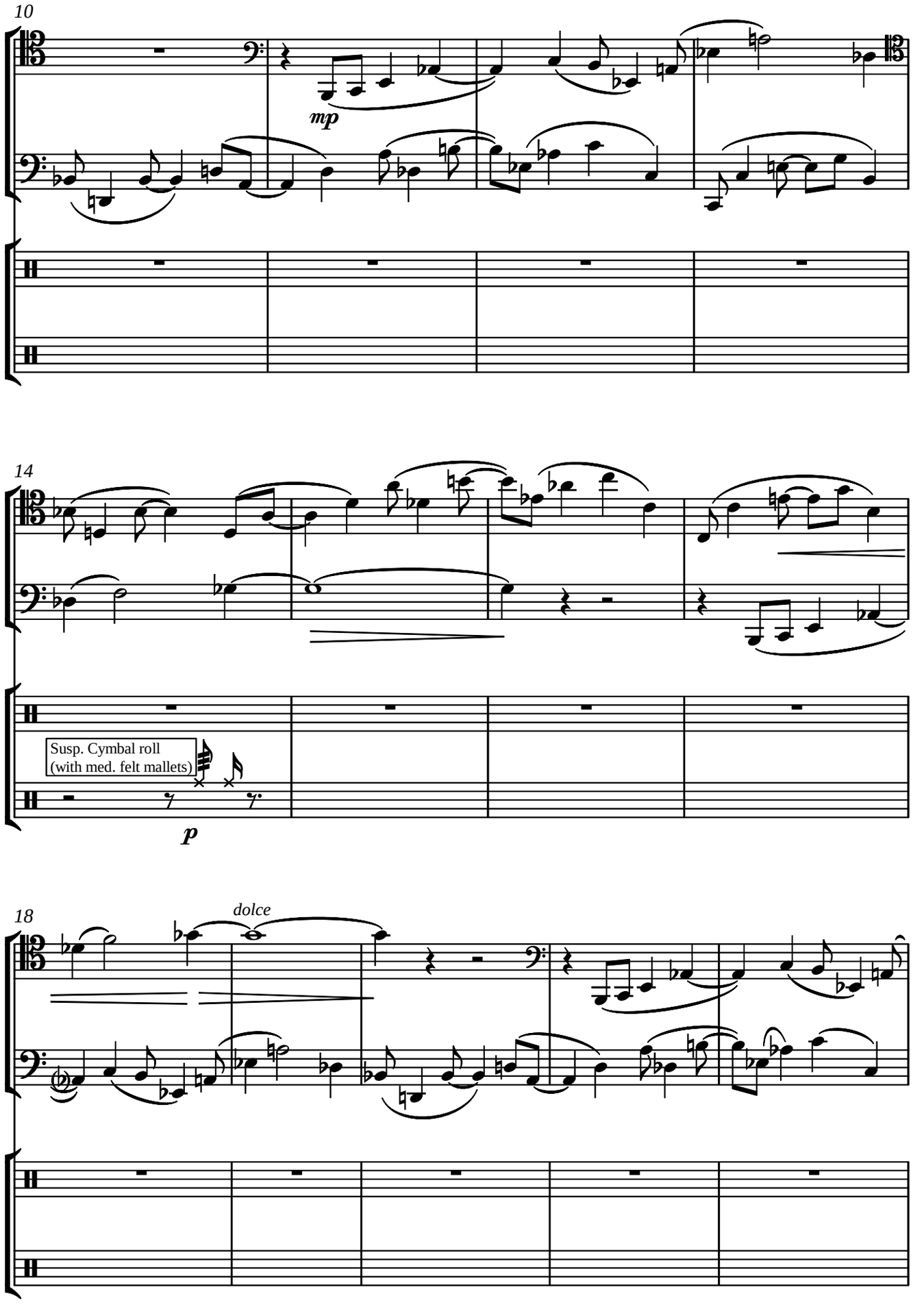
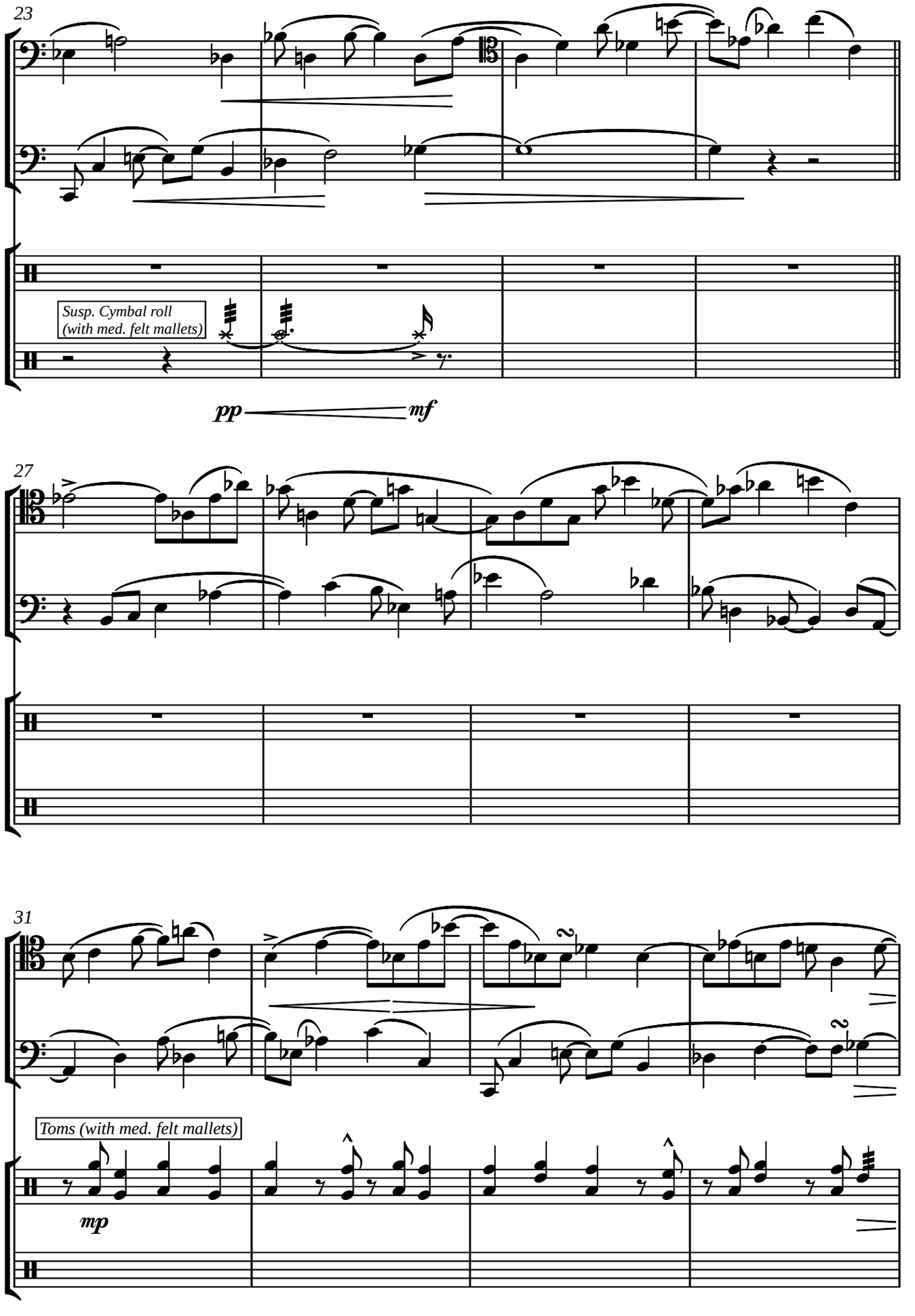

10
mp
14
Susp. Cymbal roll
(with med. felt mallets)
p
18
dolce


23
Susp. Cymbal roll
(with med. felt mallets)
pp
mf
27
31
Toms (with med. felt mallets)
mp