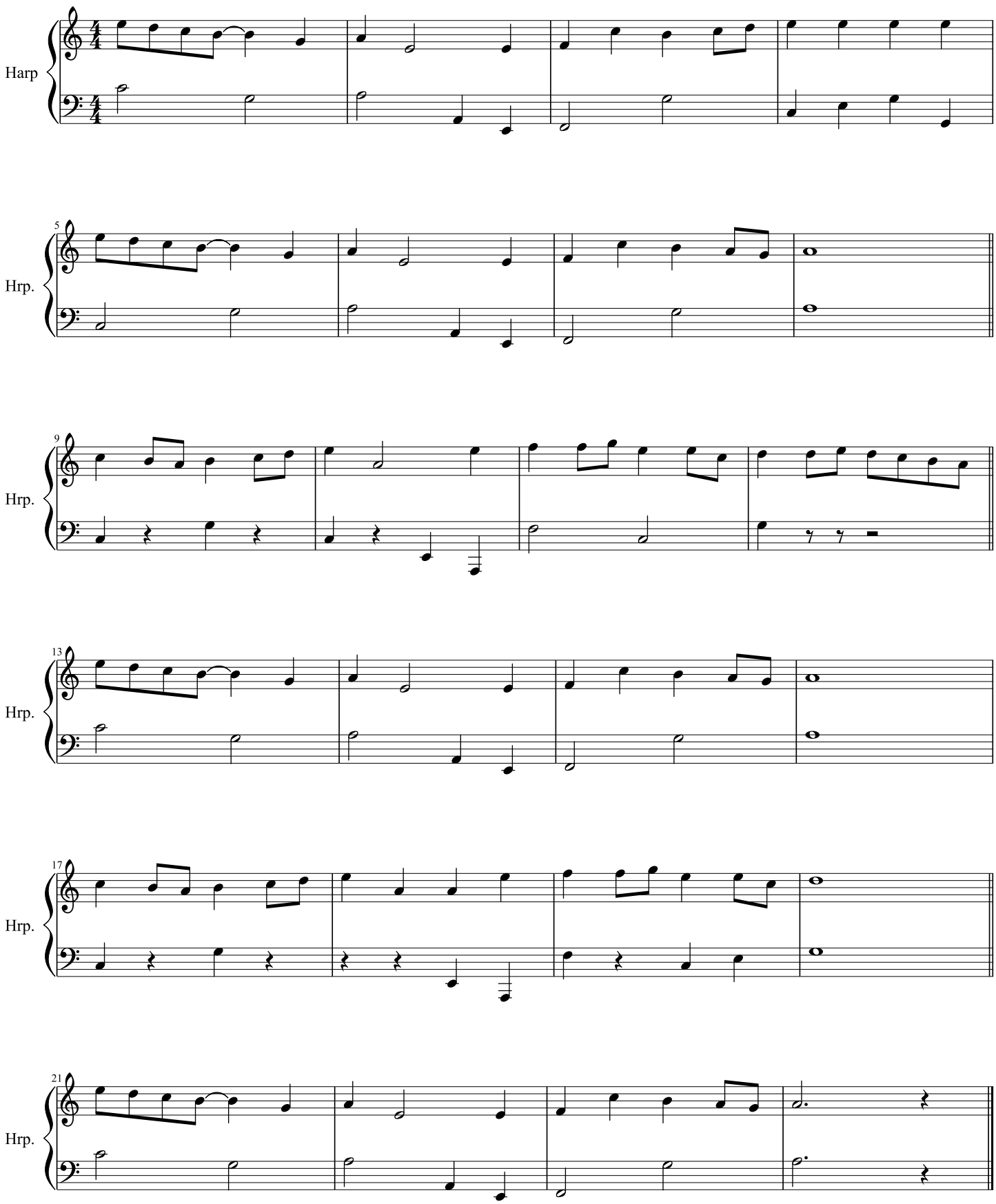Guarding the line