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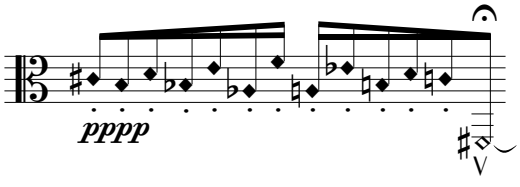
for

Piano solo

Jody Nagel



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Songs from the Aeolian

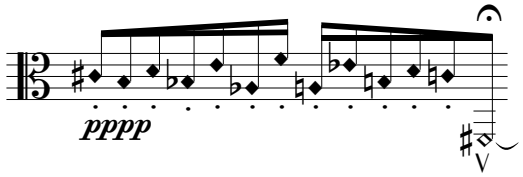
for

Piano solo

page	*Aeolian key(s)*	
127	E	1. Hymn to the death of Balder
128	B	2. An idle moment
130	F♯	3. Feeling sorry
132	G	4. Riding on a stormy night
134	D	5. Wishing
136	A	6. Bubbles settling
137	C♯ - G♯ - C♯	7. Sonatina miniature
140	G♯	8. Fleeting and Shimmering
142	E♭ - A - E♭	9. Solemn
144	B♭	10. Fantasy on Dies Irae
146	F	11. Furious
148	C - E - G♯ - C	12. Searching
150	G - E - C♯ - B♭ - G - E	13. Melancholy

Jody Nagel

(b. 1960)



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Songs from the Aeolian

for piano solo

Jody Nagel

Songs from the Aeolian
for piano solo

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These thirteen little piano pieces were composed December 19-25, 1998. Nine of the pieces are each in a single Aeolian key, while #7, #9, #12, and #13 modulate to at least one Aeolian key other than the one in which they begin. All twelve chromatic keys are represented, though the key of E-Aeolian is used twice: #1 is in E throughout and #13 ends in E. The technical difficulty of these works ranges from fairly easy to an intermediate level.

An assortment of meters, tempi, formal structures, time spans, characters and moods are to be found within this music. However, because of the lack of a leading tone, the affect of the Aeolian mode - used exclusively in all thirteen pieces - is more "modal" than that of the Harmonic Minor mode. The emphasis of harmonic progressions from the minor tonic triad to the ♭VI-chord, the v-chord, or to the iv-chord seems most to reveal the uniquely Aeolian sense of tonality, and such progressions abound within these compositions.

A list of the titles and Aeolian keys is given below. The first twelve pieces are ordered in such a fashion that their principal key-centers form a "12-tone" aggregate. The principal key centers of each group of three pieces are related by ascending perfect fifth, #1-3: E-B-F♯; #4-6: G-D-A; #7-9: C♯-G♯-E♭; #10-12: B♭ -F-C. Furthermore, the principal key centers of #1-6 form a complete diatonic hexachord (D,E,F♯,G,A,B), while the principal key centers of #7-12 form the "aggregate-producing" diatonic hexachord (G♯,B♭,C,C♯,E♭,F). Within #7, *Sonatina miniature*, the keys employed C♯-G♯-C♯ are in the traditional perfect-fifth relationship of a classical sonata. A pair of tritone-related keys, E♭ and A, govern #9. In #12, the selected keys outline a major-third cycle: C-E-G♯-C. In #13, the selected keys outline a minor-third cycle: G-E-C♯-B♭-G-E; #13 is the only piece within the collection that does not end in the same key in which it begins.

The Aeolian world contains qualities of sadness and melancholy. It can feel sorry or solemn, seem searching or stormy, and it can be furious or wishful or wistful as well. The titles reflect my own immediate reaction to just having completed each composition (i.e., the titles were assigned after the pieces were each finished.) Performers and listeners are certainly encouraged to dream up their own associations, but I suspect we will all end up basically in the same universe! (JJN.)

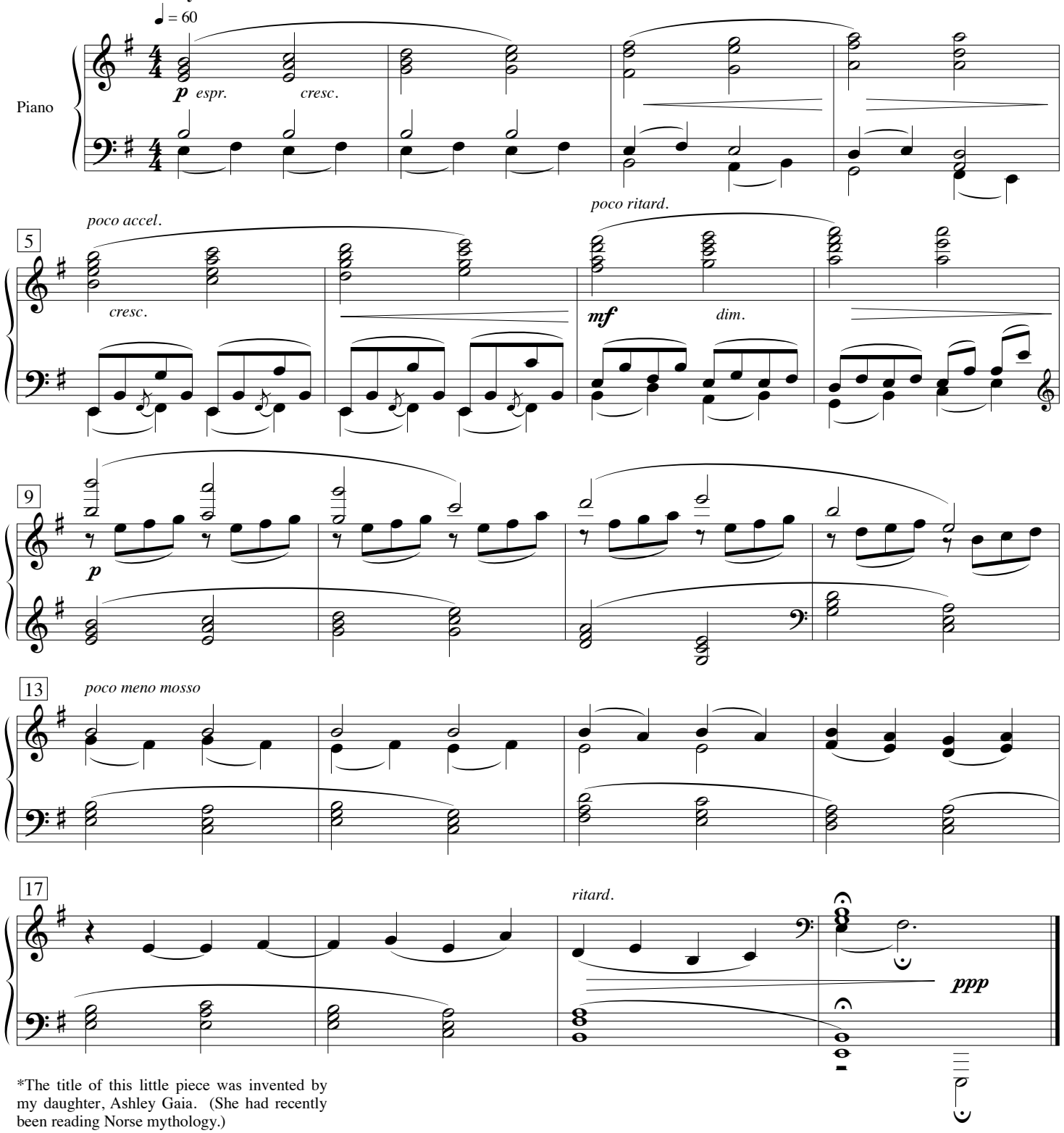
	Aeolian key(s)	
1.	E	Hymn to the death of Balder
2.	B	An idle moment
3.	F♯	Feeling sorry
4.	G	Riding on a stormy night
5.	D	Wishing
6.	A	Bubbles settling
7.	C♯ - G♯ - C♯	Sonatina miniature
8.	G♯	Fleeting and Shimmering
9.	E♭ - A - E♭	Solemn
10.	B♭	Fantasy on Dies Irae
11.	F	Furious
12.	C - E - G♯ - C	Searching
13.	G - E - C♯ - B♭ - G - E	Melancholy

Songs from the Aeolian

for solo piano

1. Hymn to the death of Balder*

JODY NAGEL



*The title of this little piece was invented by my daughter, Ashley Gaia. (She had recently been reading Norse mythology.)

December 19, 1998

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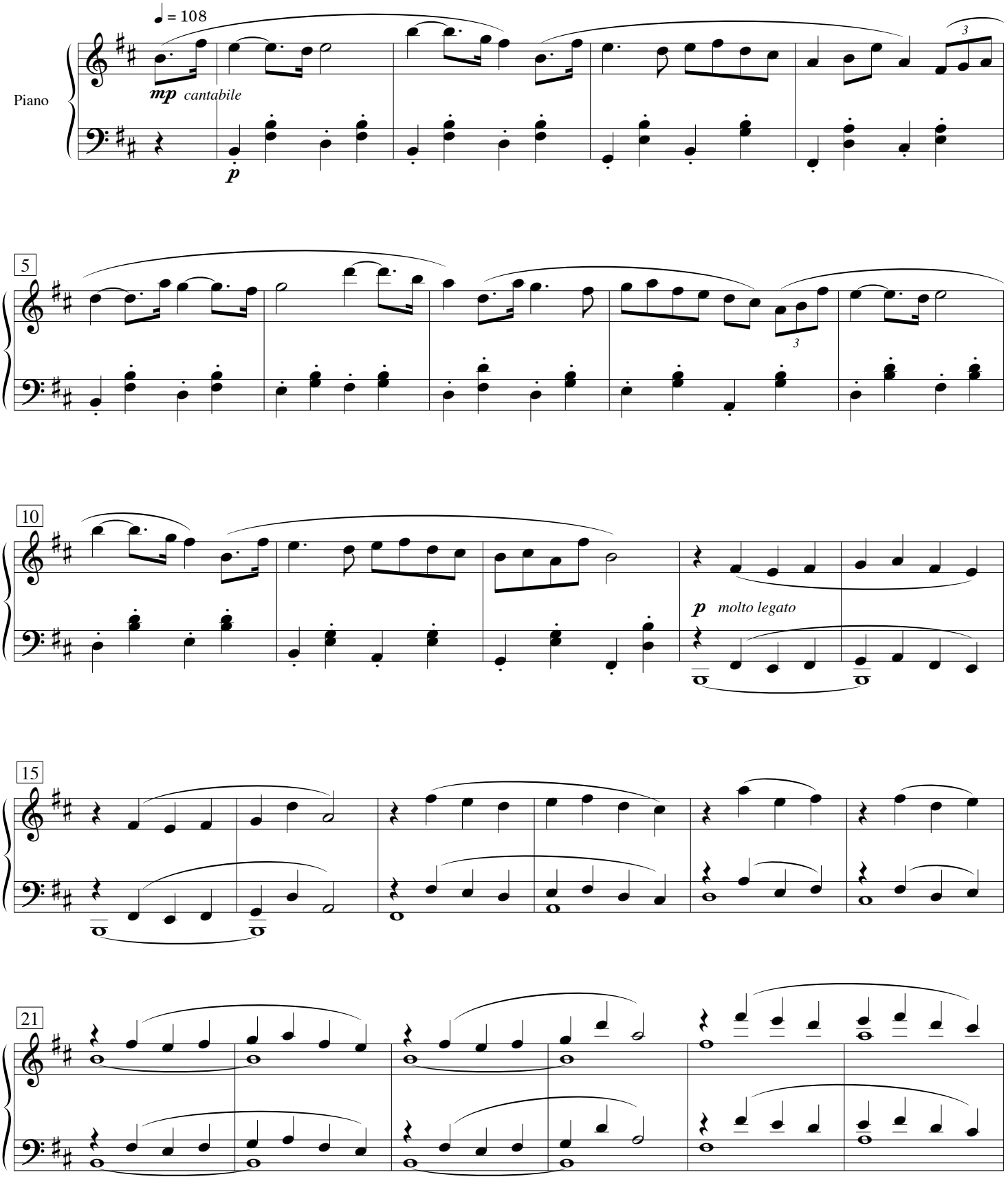
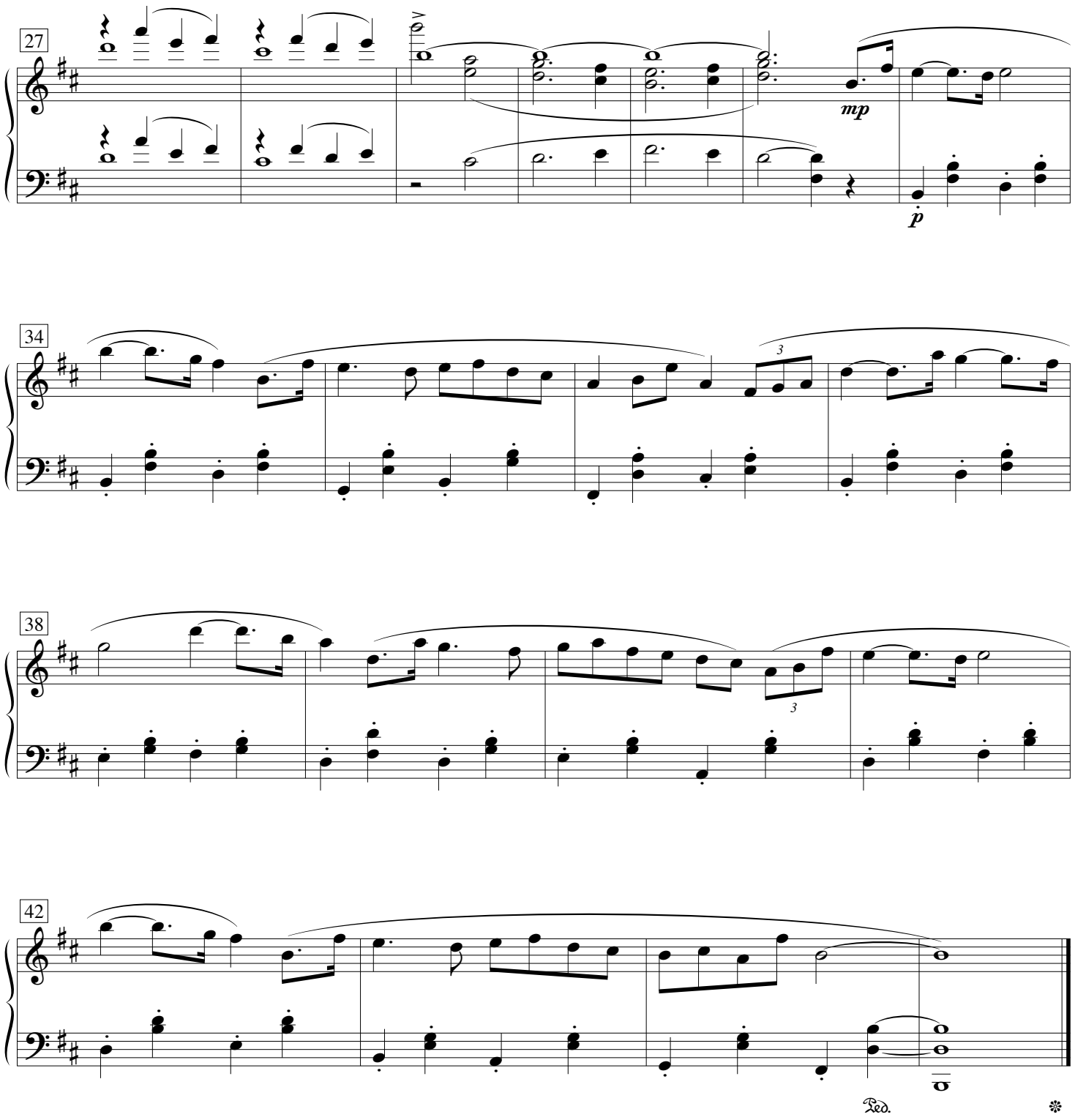
All rights reserved.
Composed December 19-25, 1998.
Computer Music-Notation by Jody Jay Nagel using "Finale."

2. An idle moment

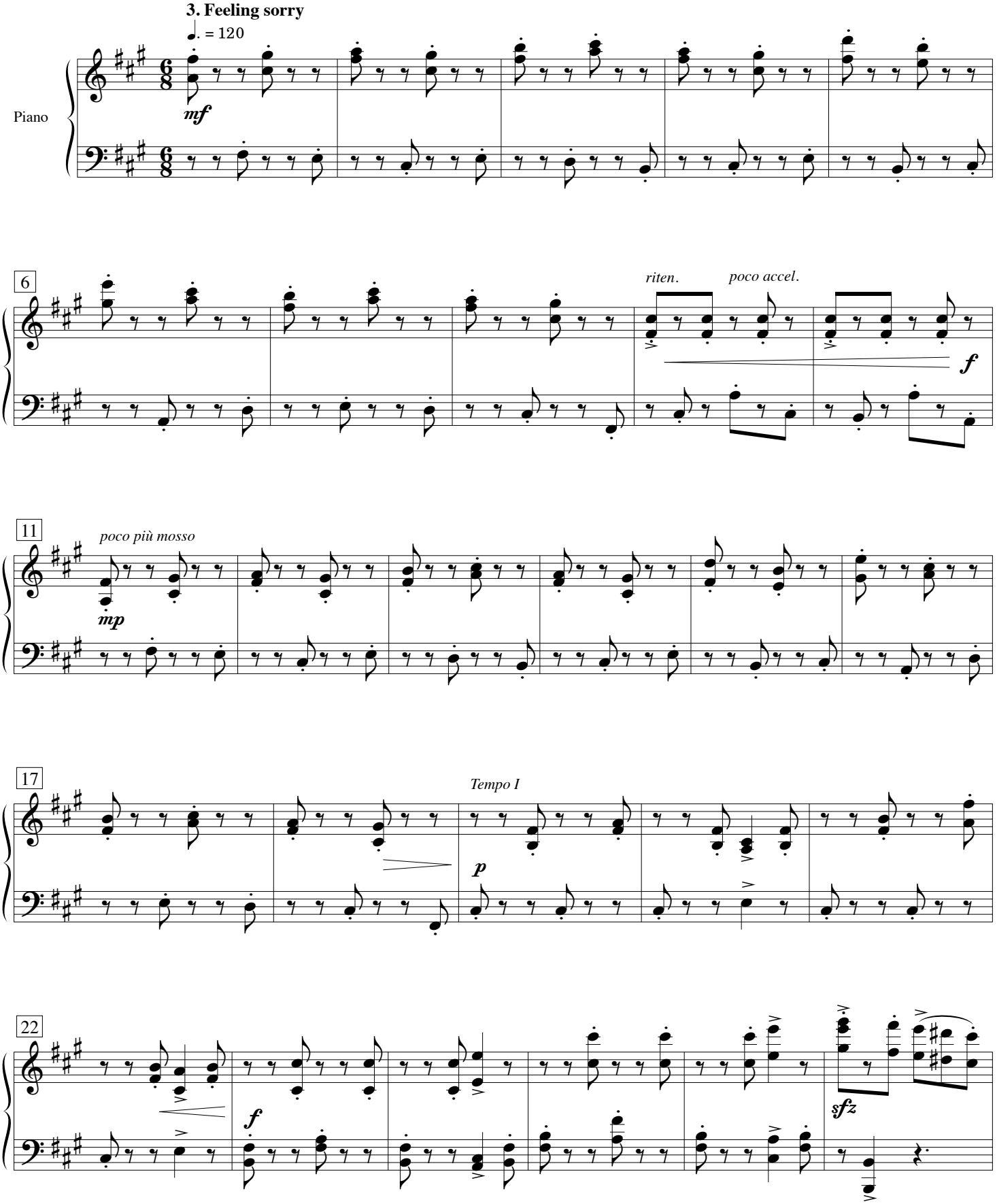
♩ = 108

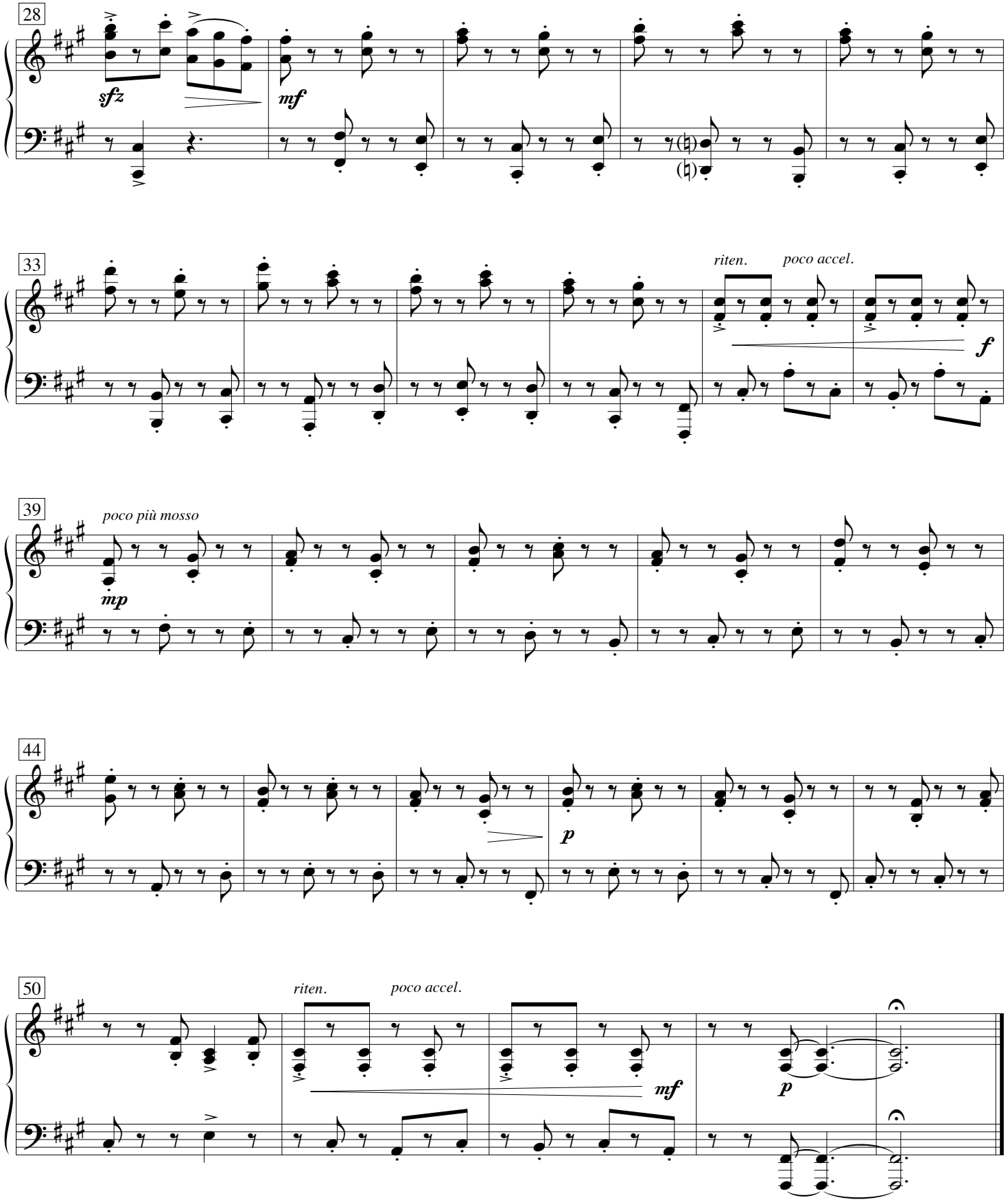




December 20, 1998

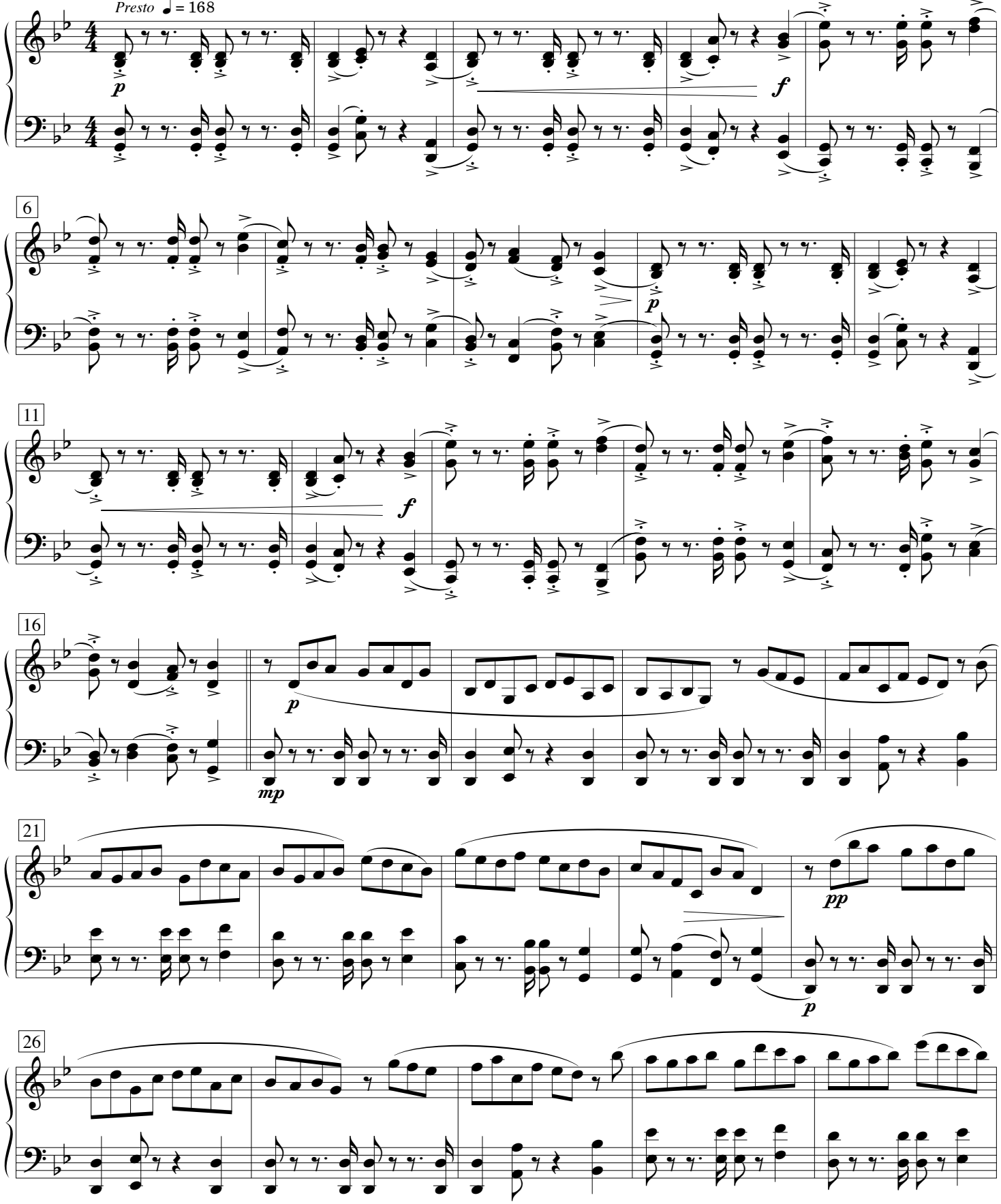
3. Feeling sorry

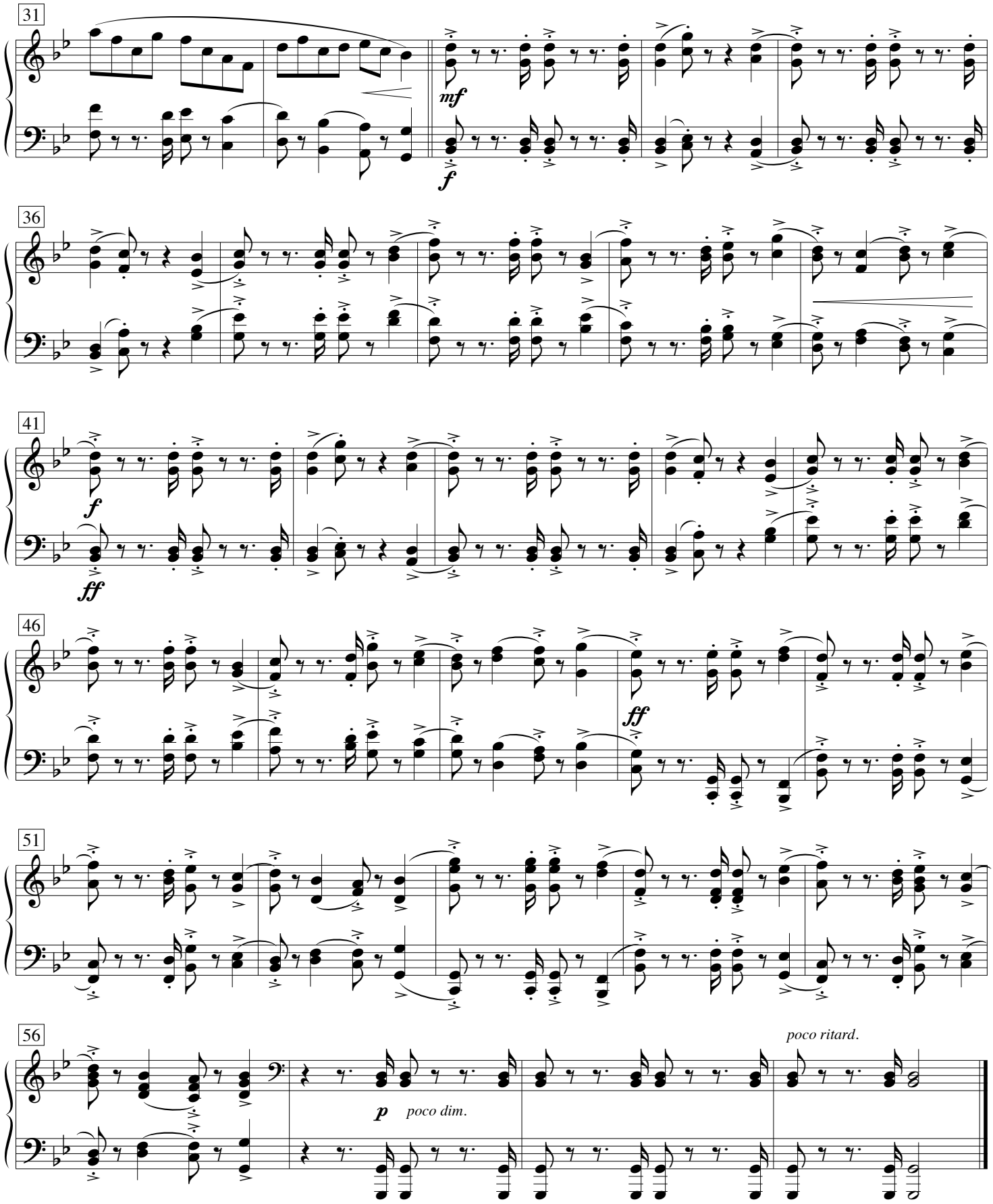



28
sfz
mf
33
riten.
poco accel.
f
39
poco più mosso
mp
44
p
50
riten.
poco accel.
mf
p

4. Riding on a Stormy night

Presto ♩ = 168



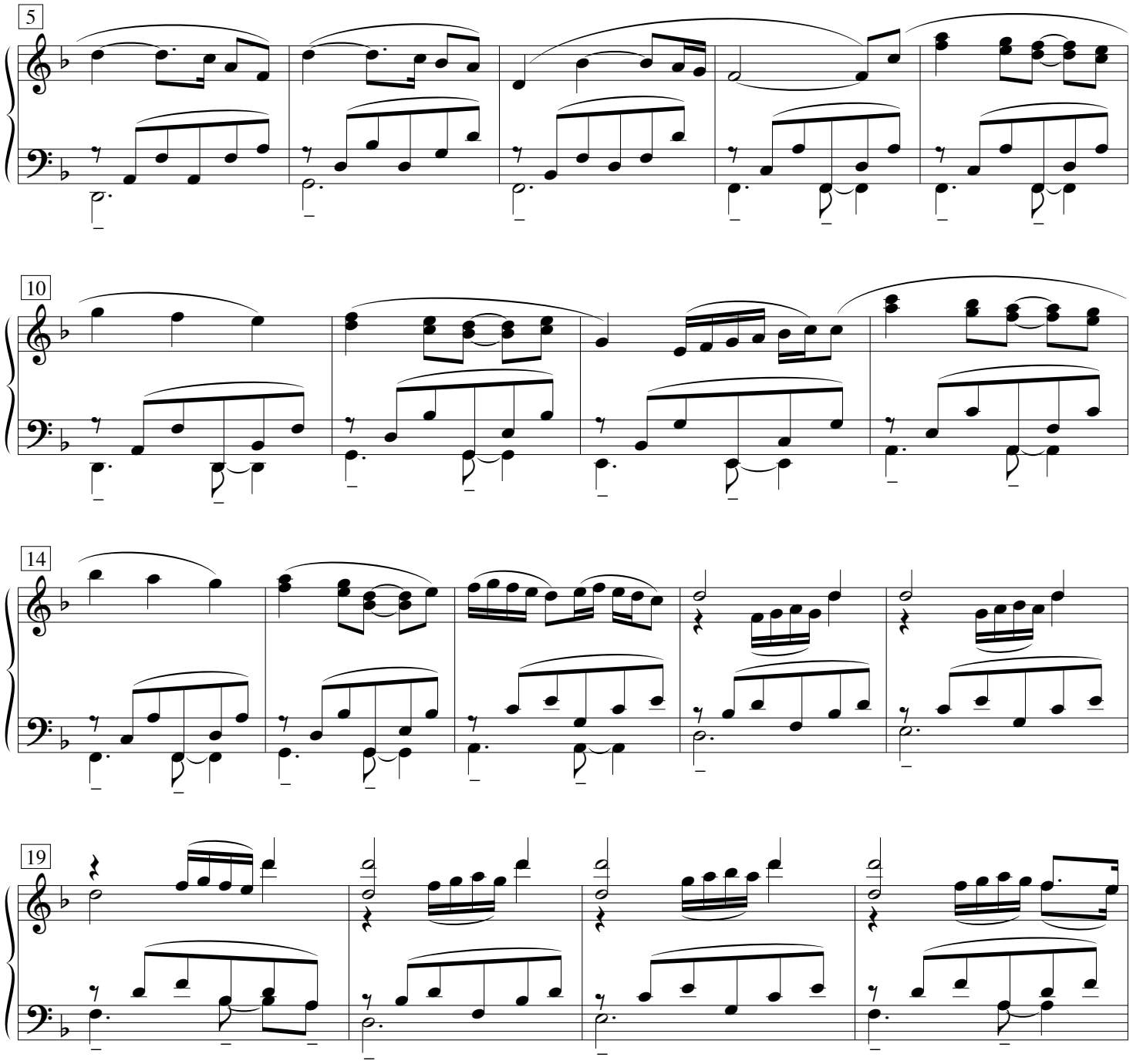

31
mf
f
36
41
f
ff
46
ff
51
56
poco ritard.
p
poco dim.

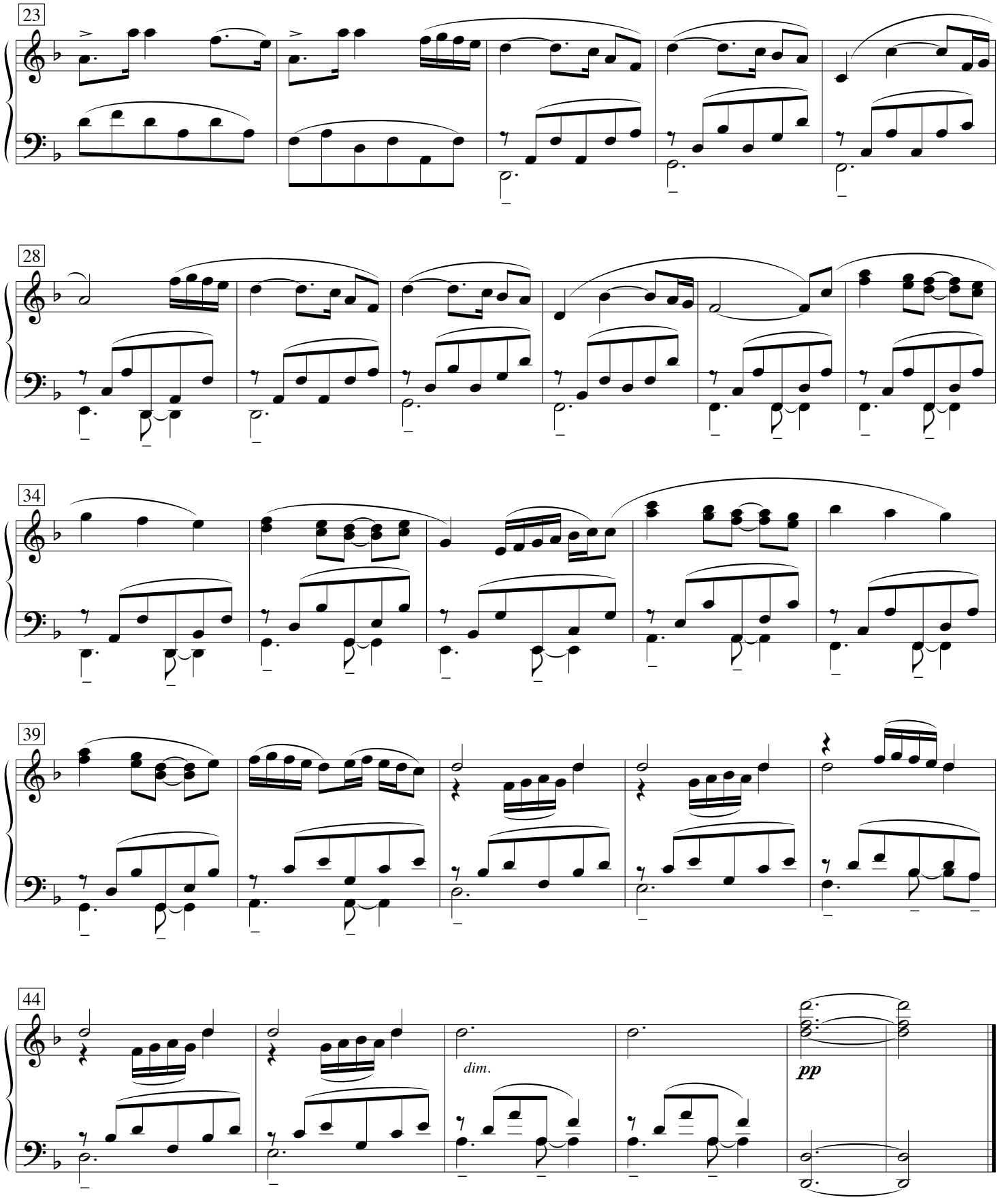
5. Wishing

♩ = 92

Piano

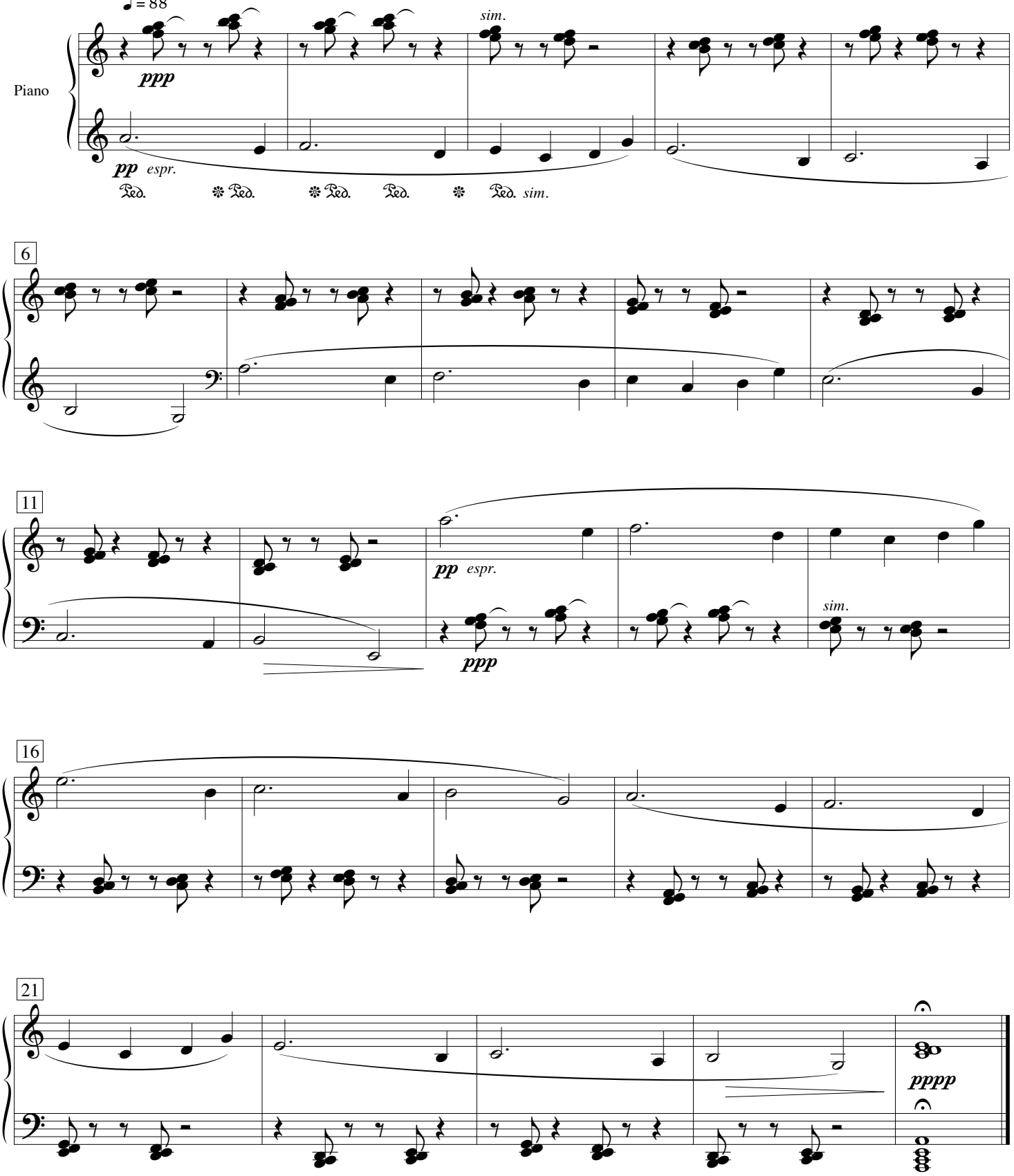
mf *molto espr.*




23
28
34
39
44
dim.
pp

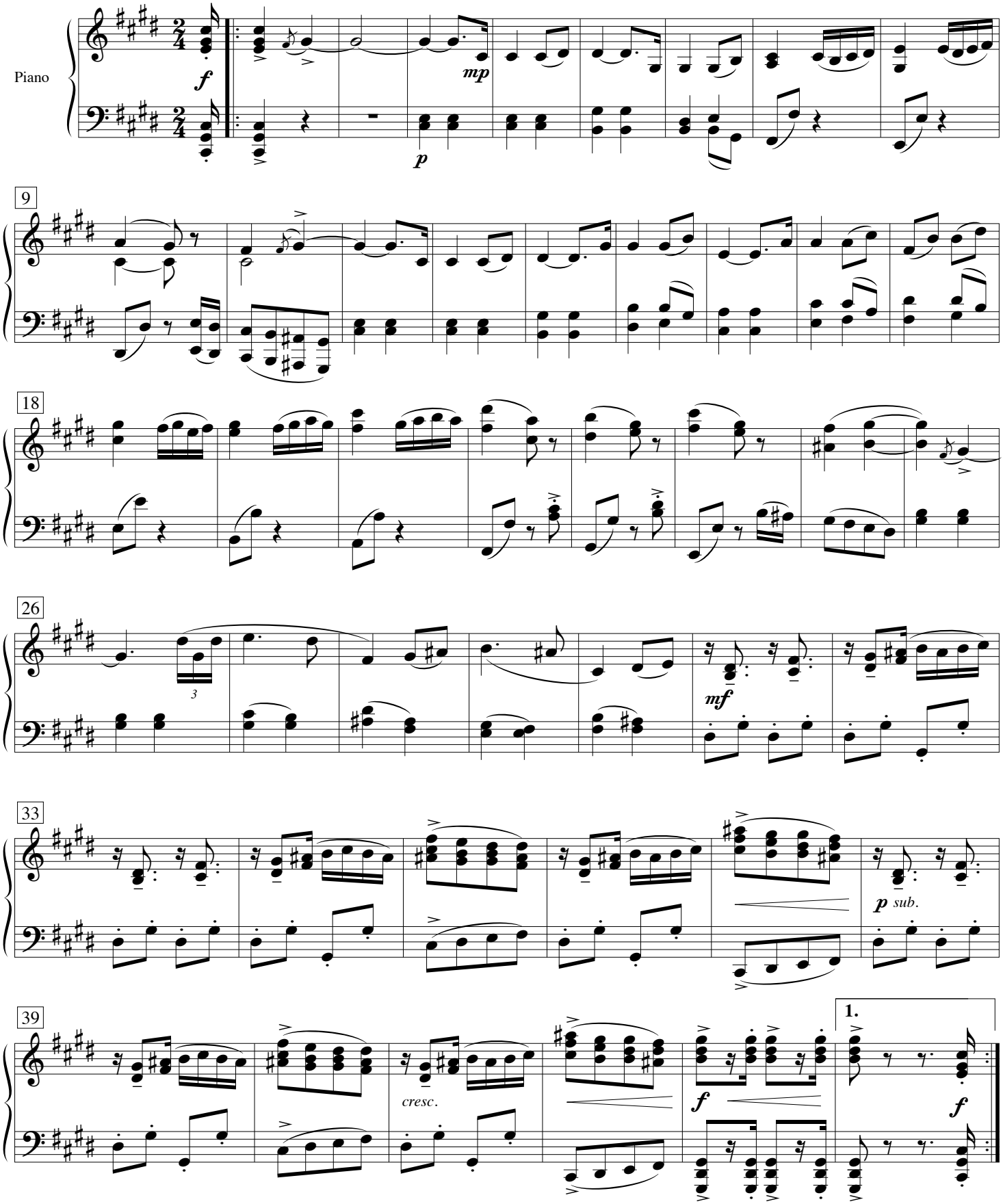
6. Bubbles settling

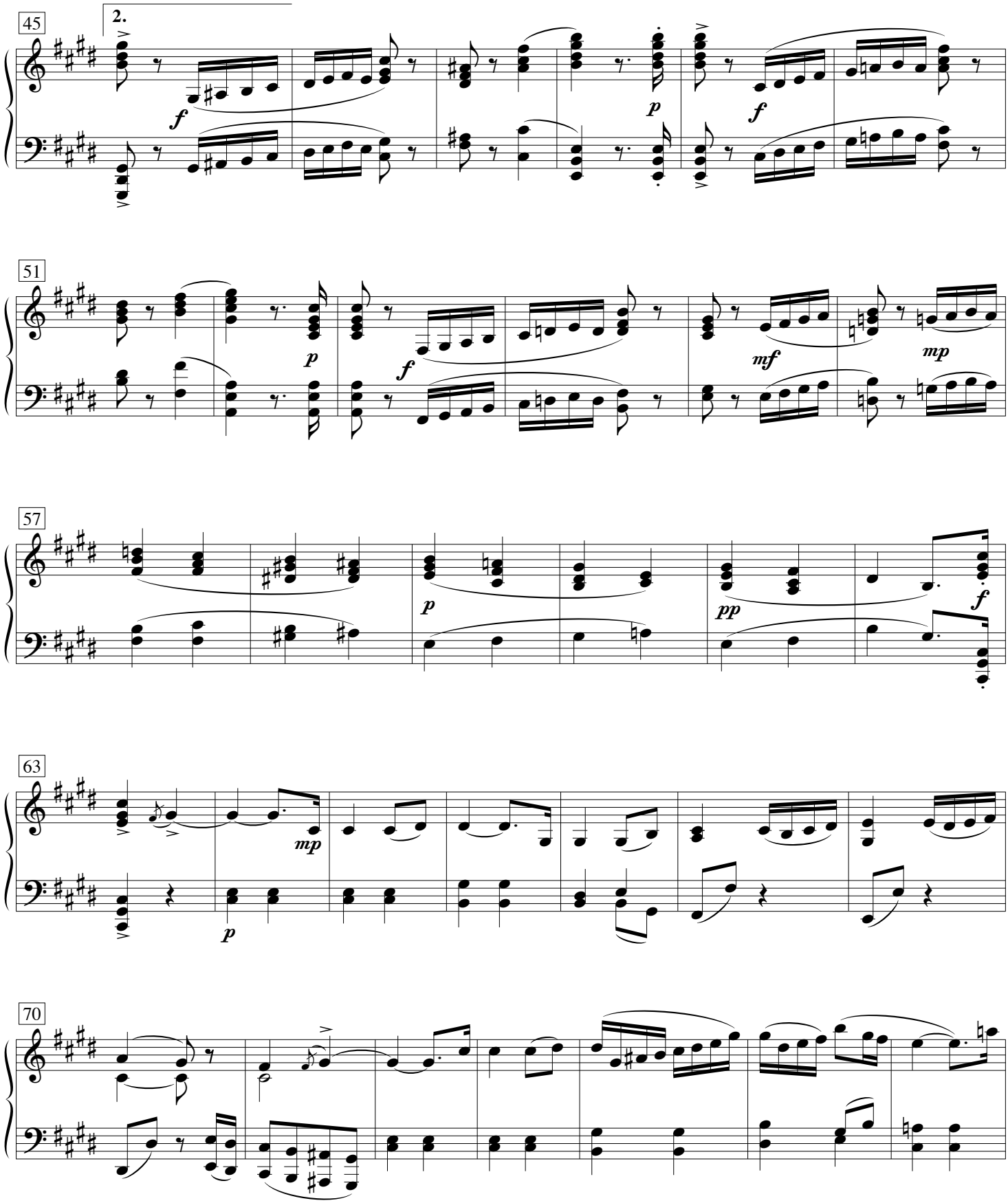
♩ = 88

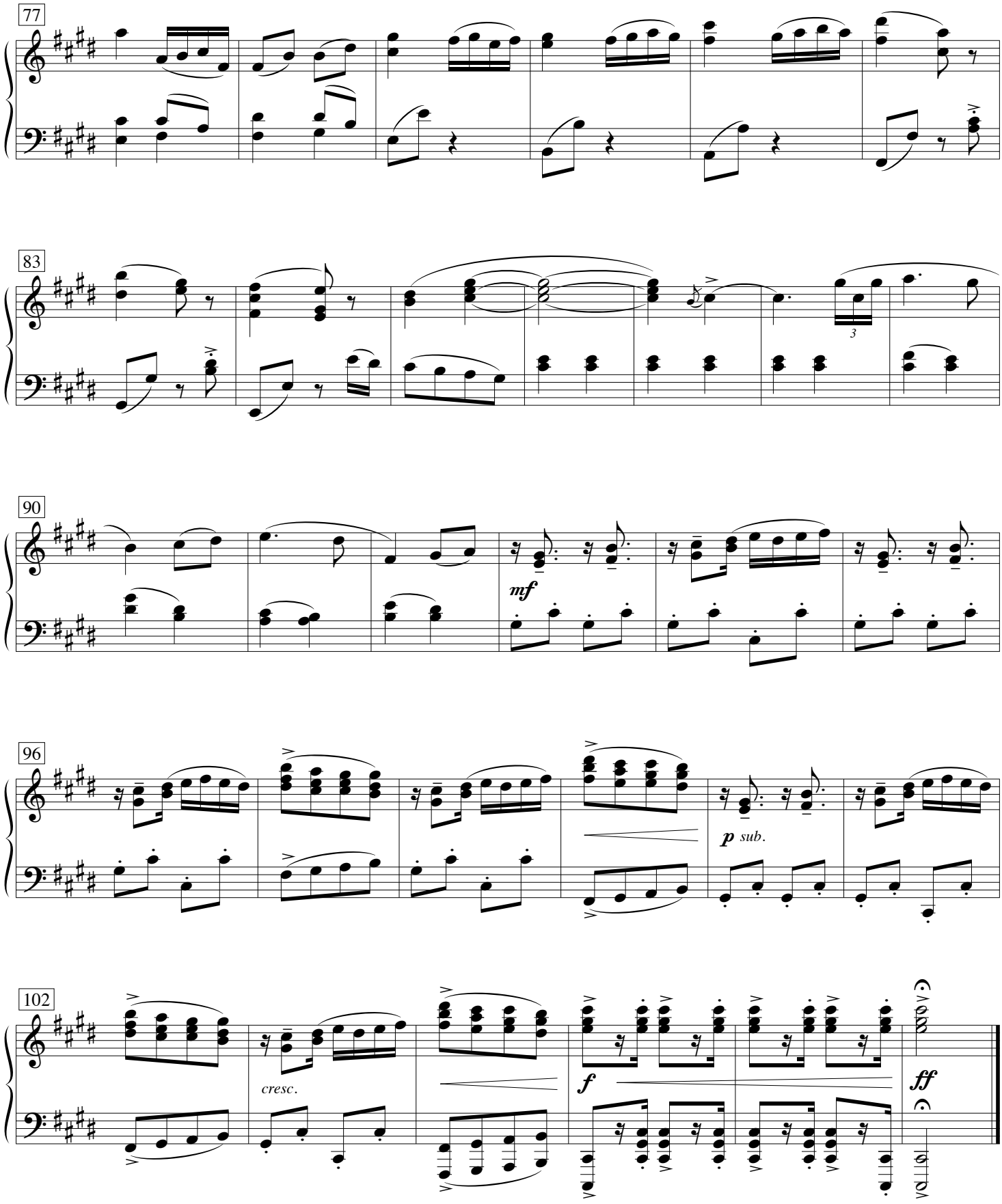


7. Sonatina miniature

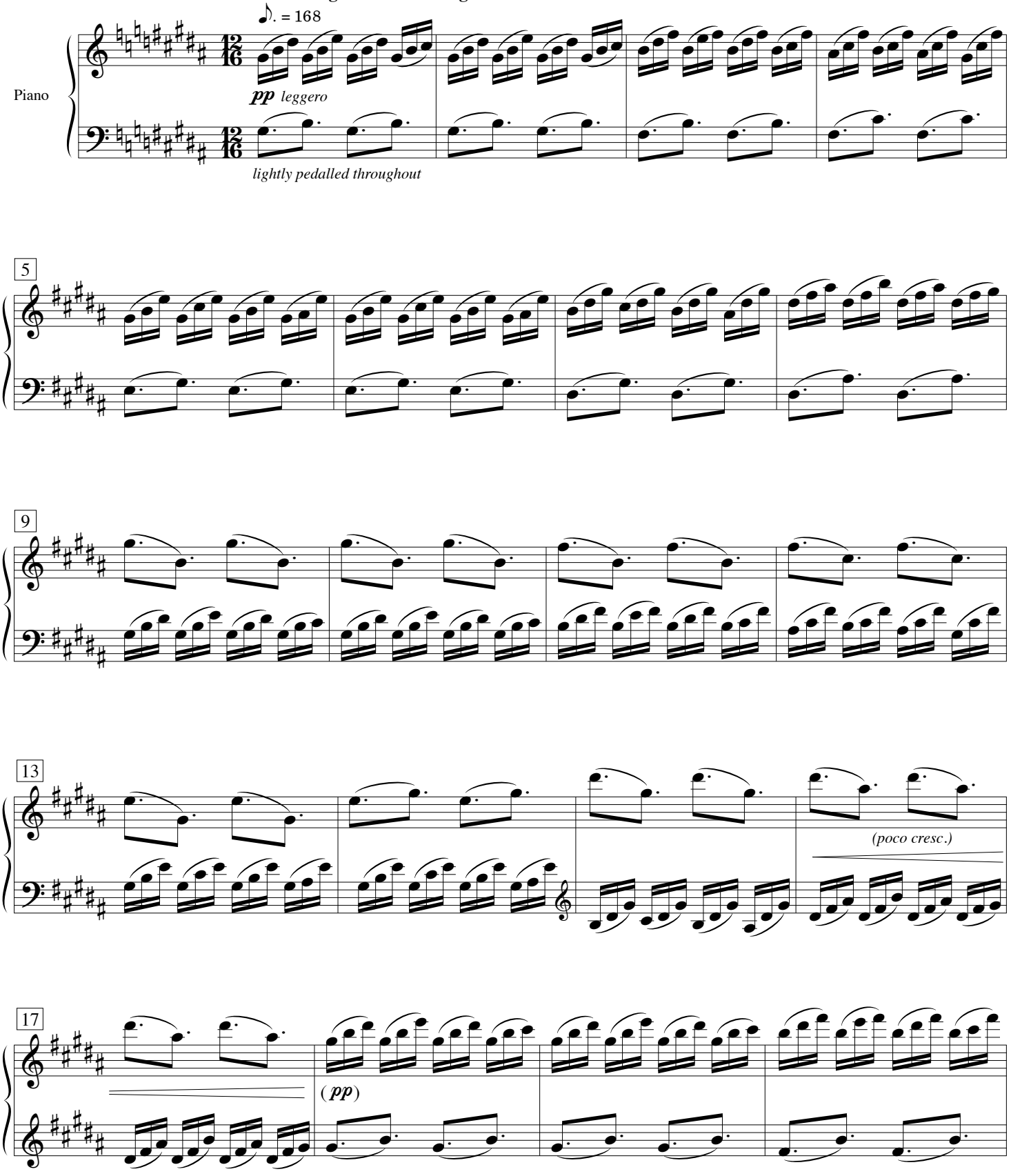
♩ = 100

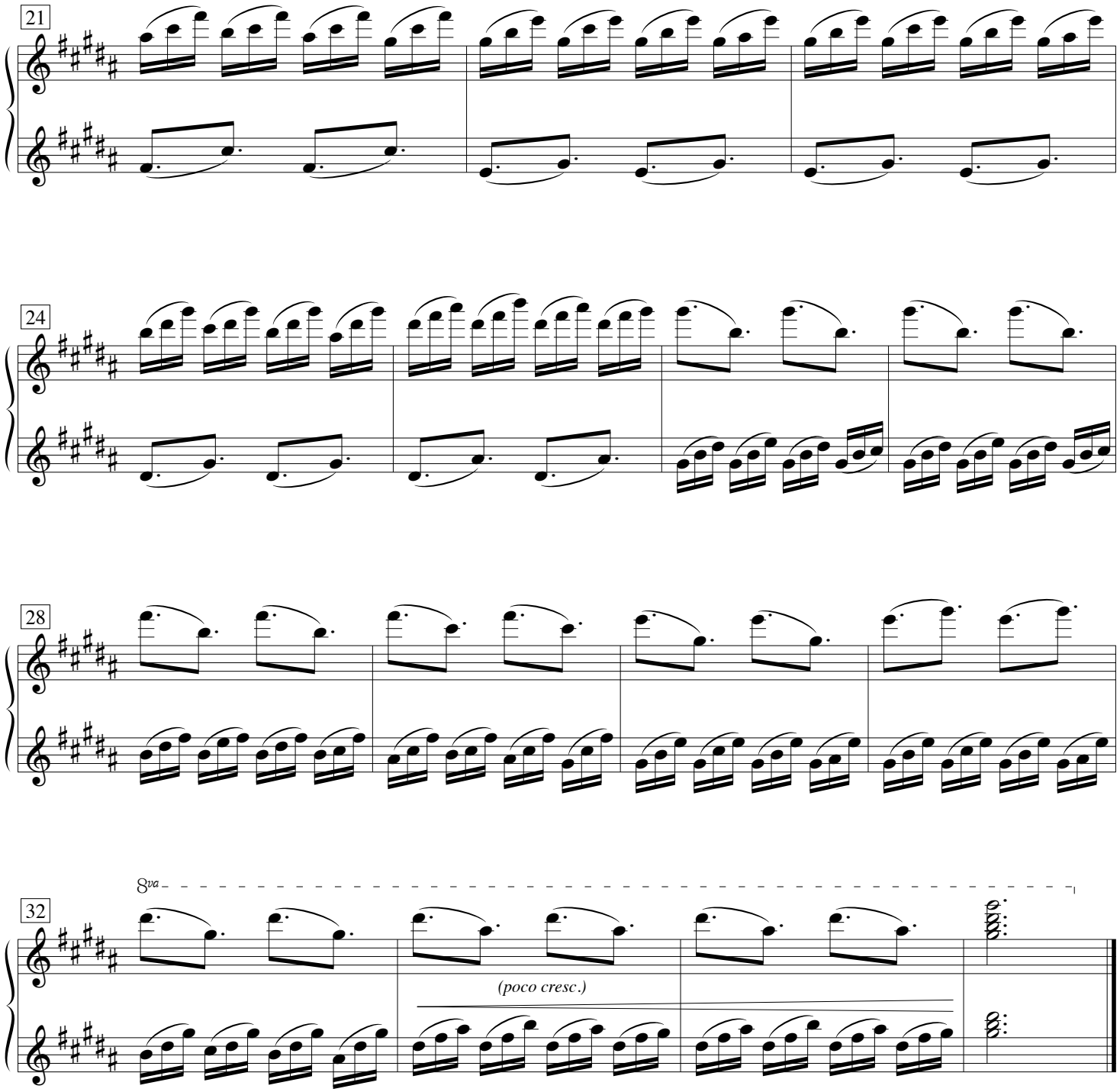



45
2.
f
p
f
51
p
f
mf
mp
57
p
pp
f
63
mp
p
70


77
83
3
90
mf
96
p sub.
102
cresc.
f
ff

8. Fleeting and shimmering





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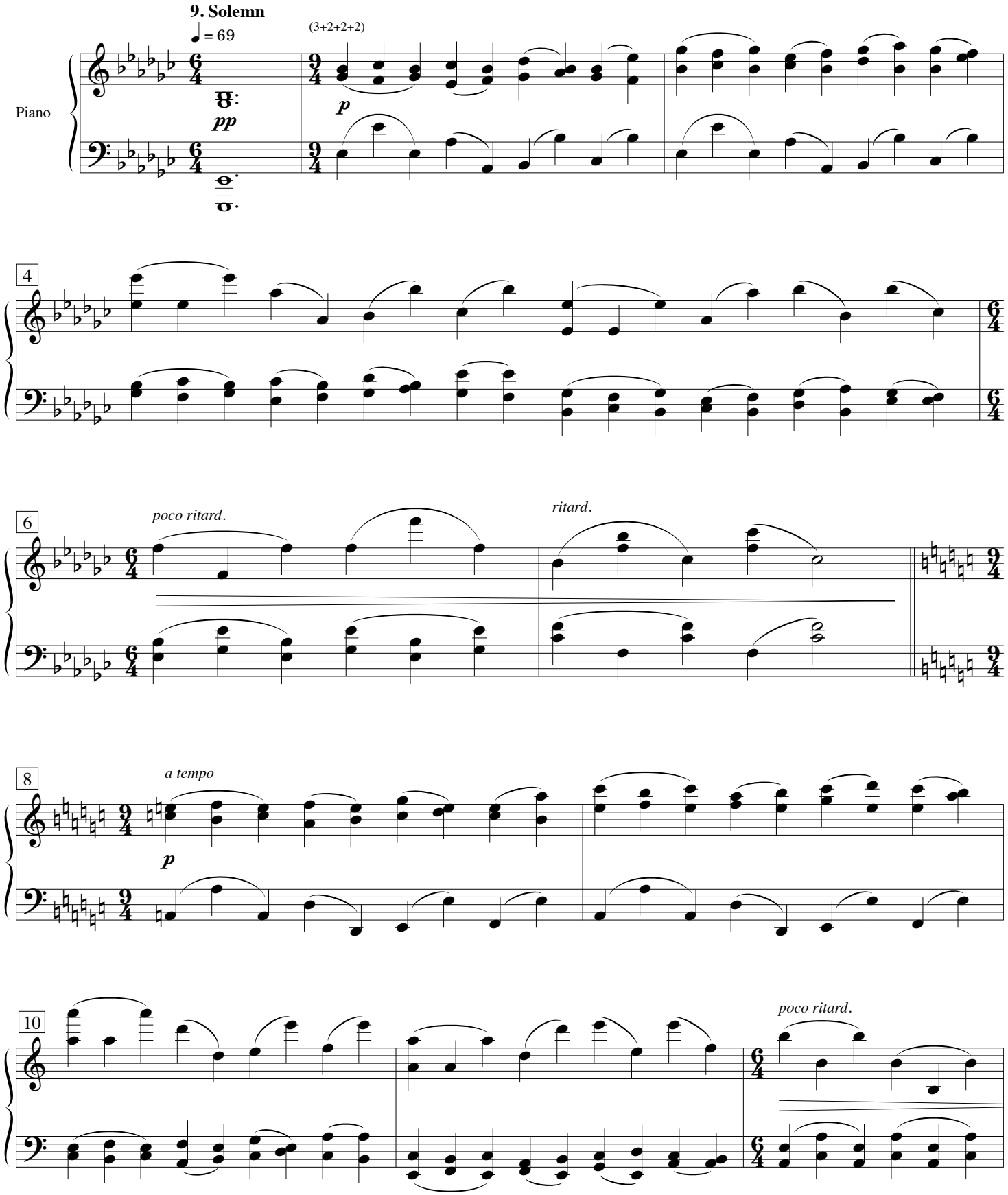
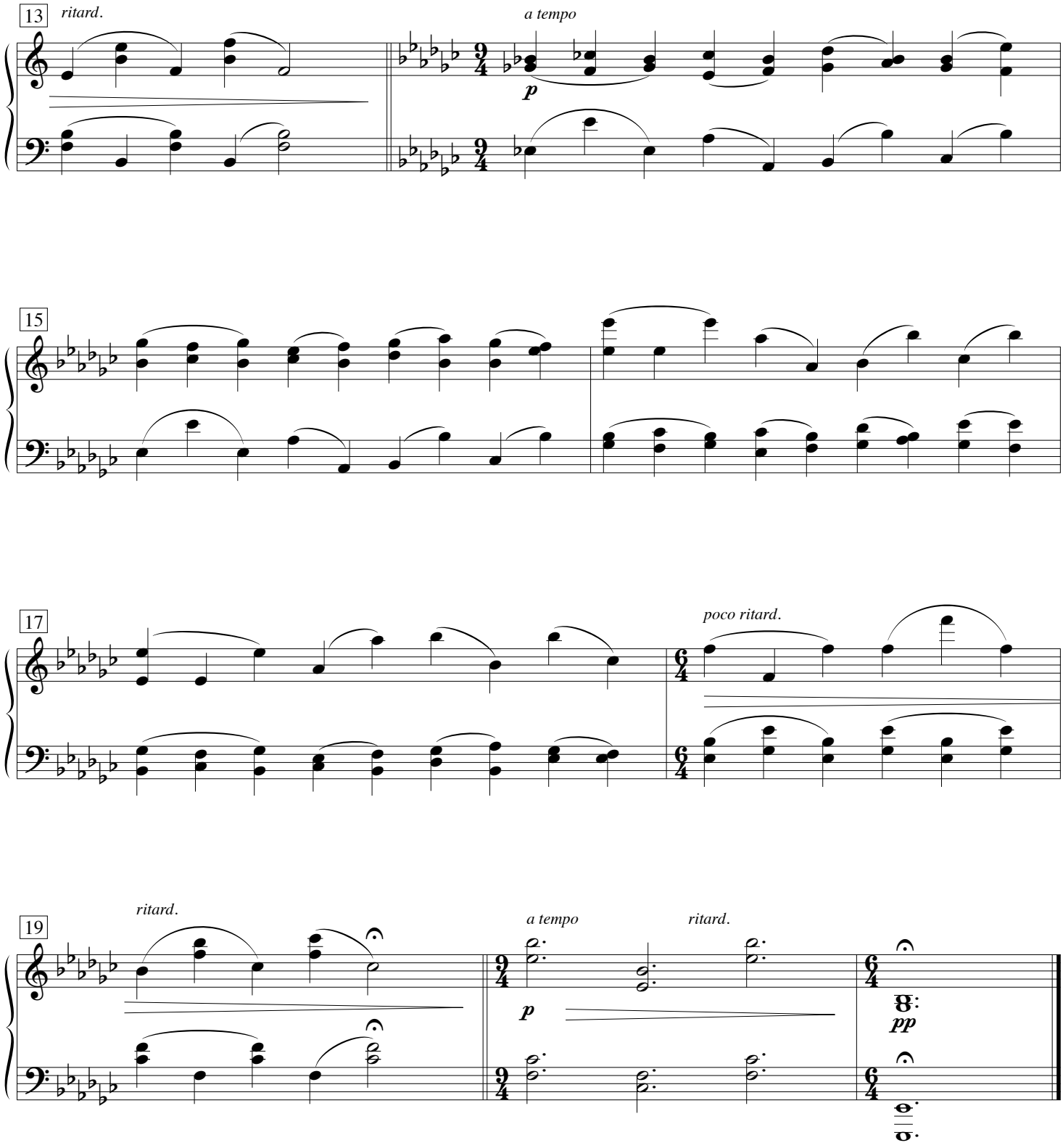

9. Solemn
♩ = 69
(3+2+2+2)
Piano
pp
p
4
6
poco ritard.
ritard.
8
a tempo
p
10
poco ritard.



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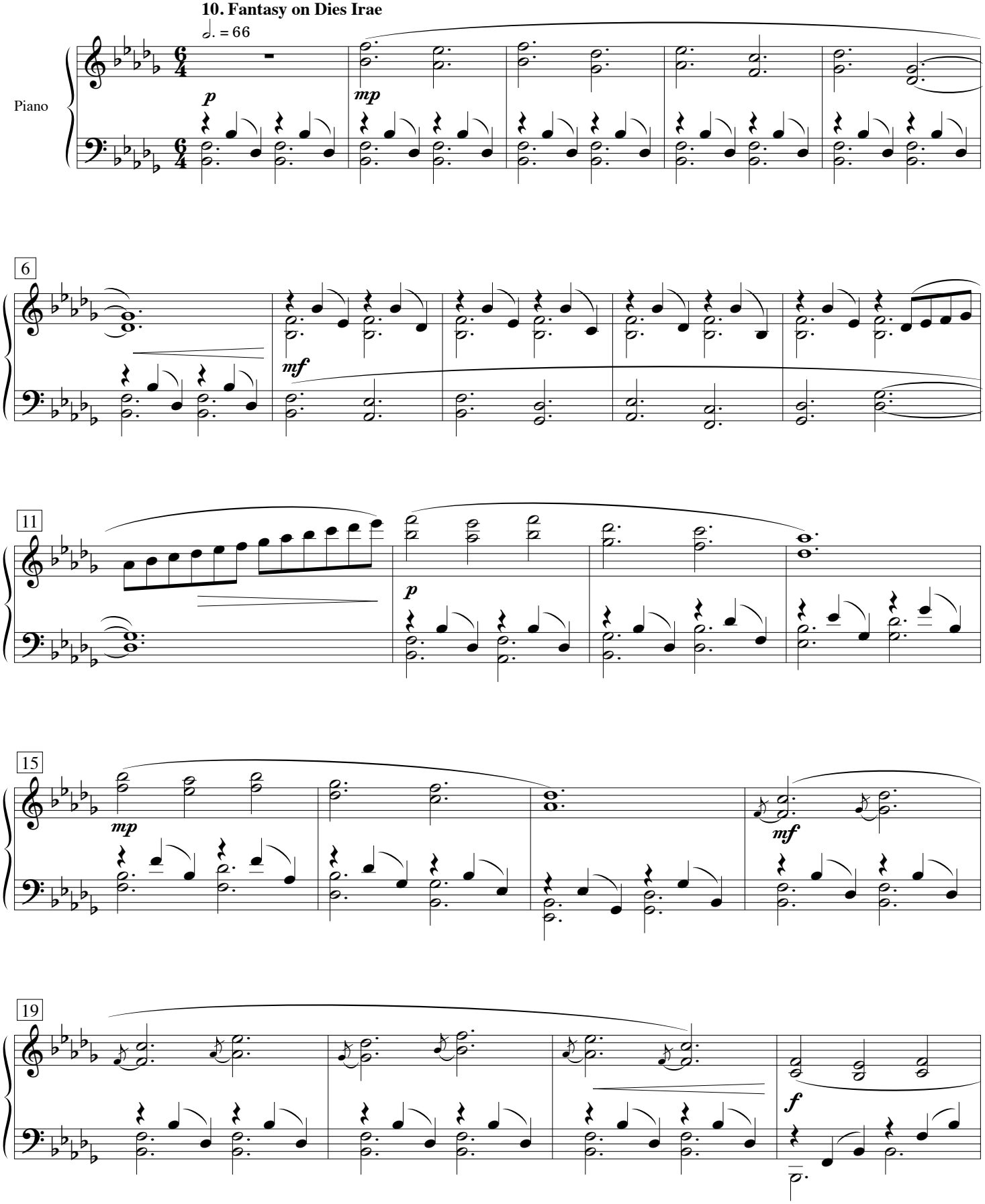
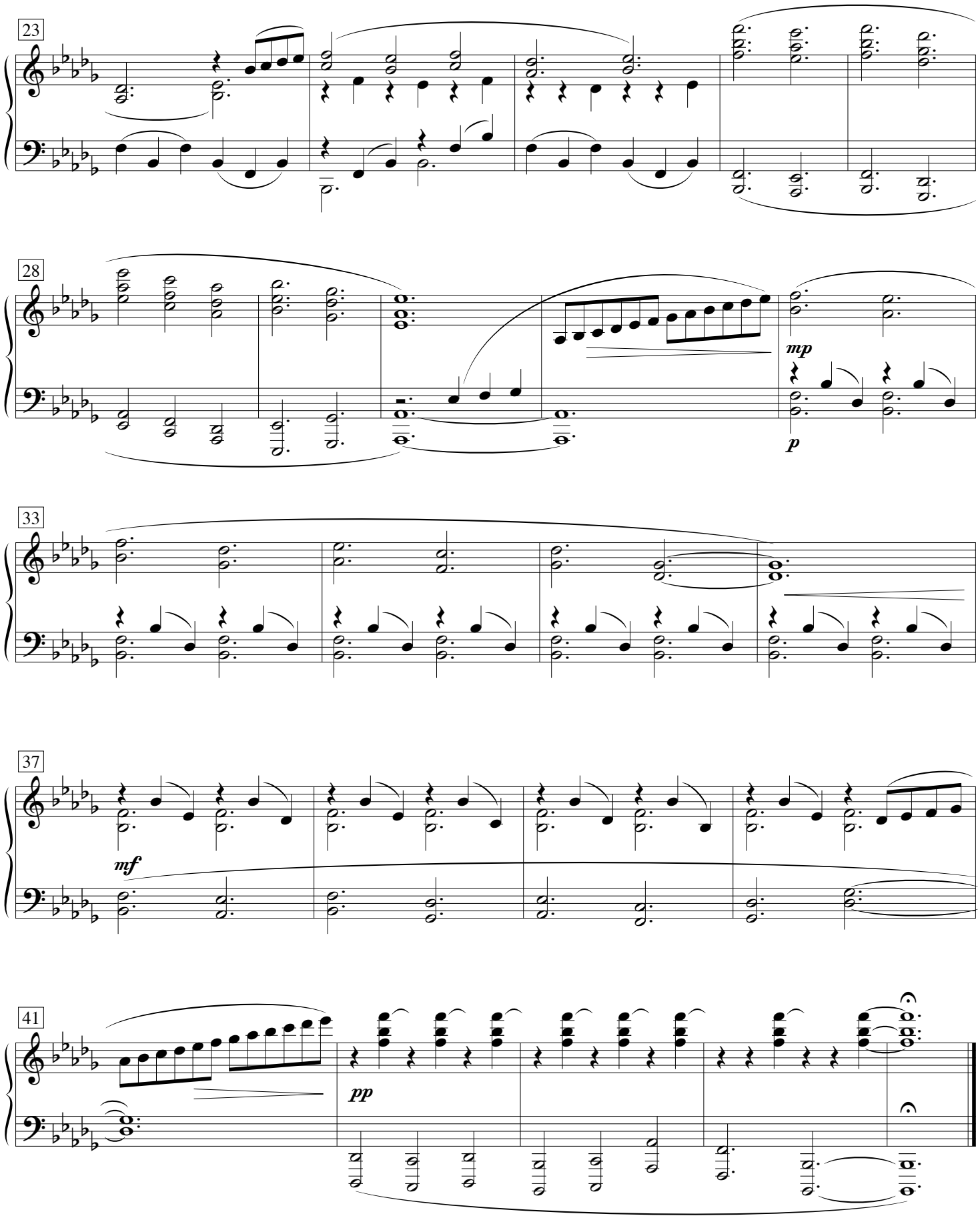
10. Fantasy on Dies Irae





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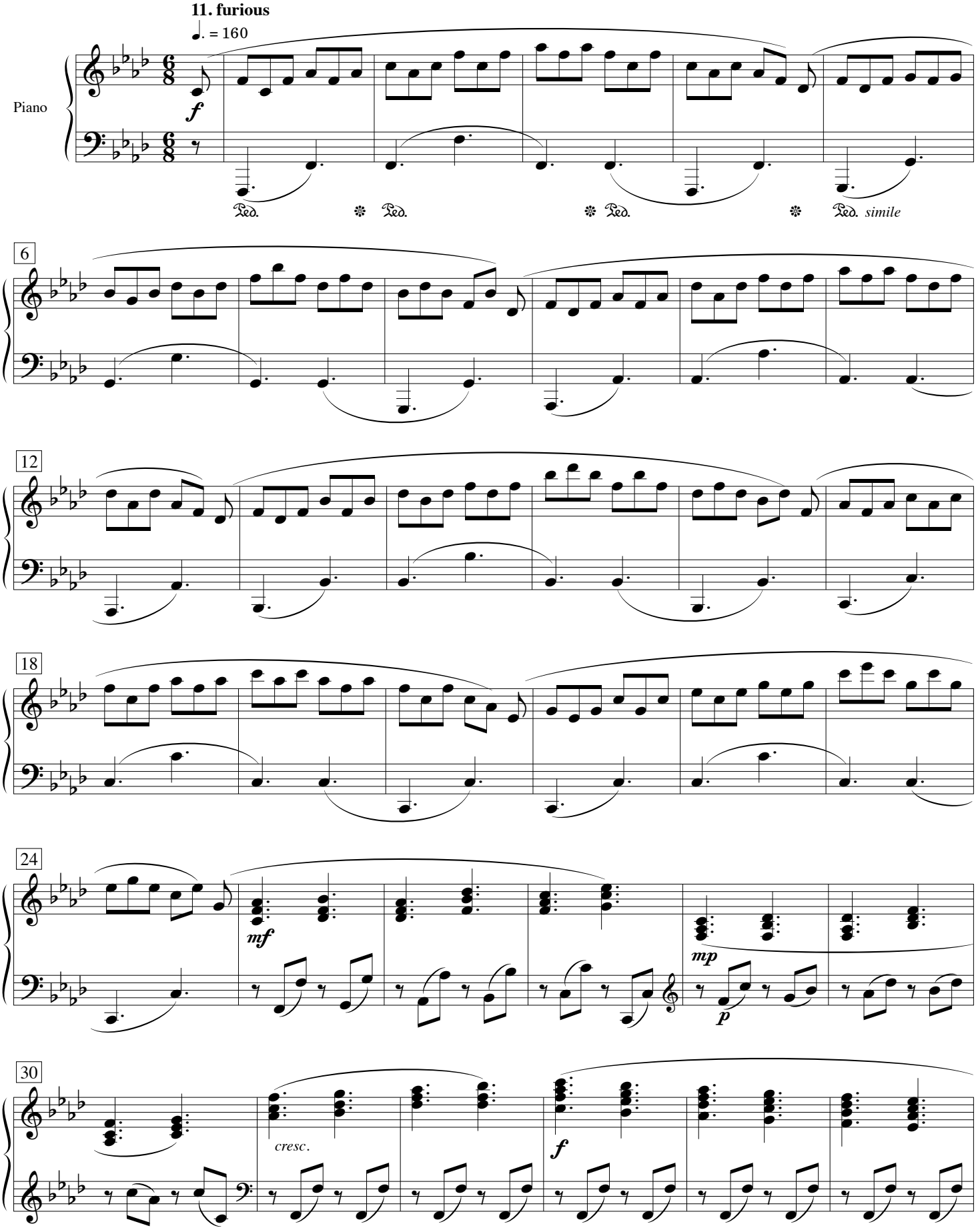
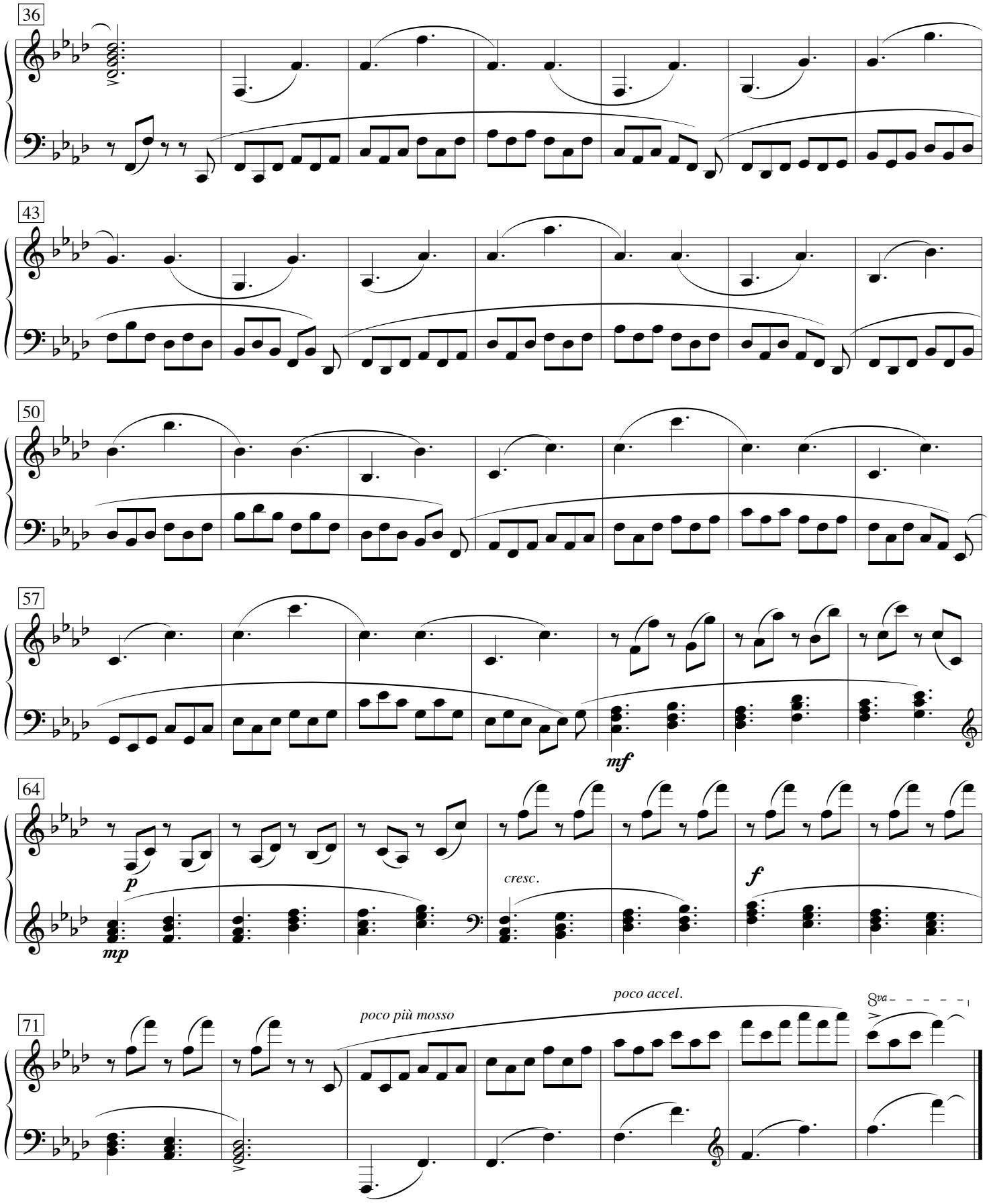
11. furious

♩. = 160

Piano




36
43
50
57
mf
64
p
mp
cresc.
f
71
poco più mosso
poco accel.
8va

12. Searching

♩ = 96

Piano

ff *f* *p*

7

pp *espr.*

Ped. Ped. Ped. *simile*

14

20

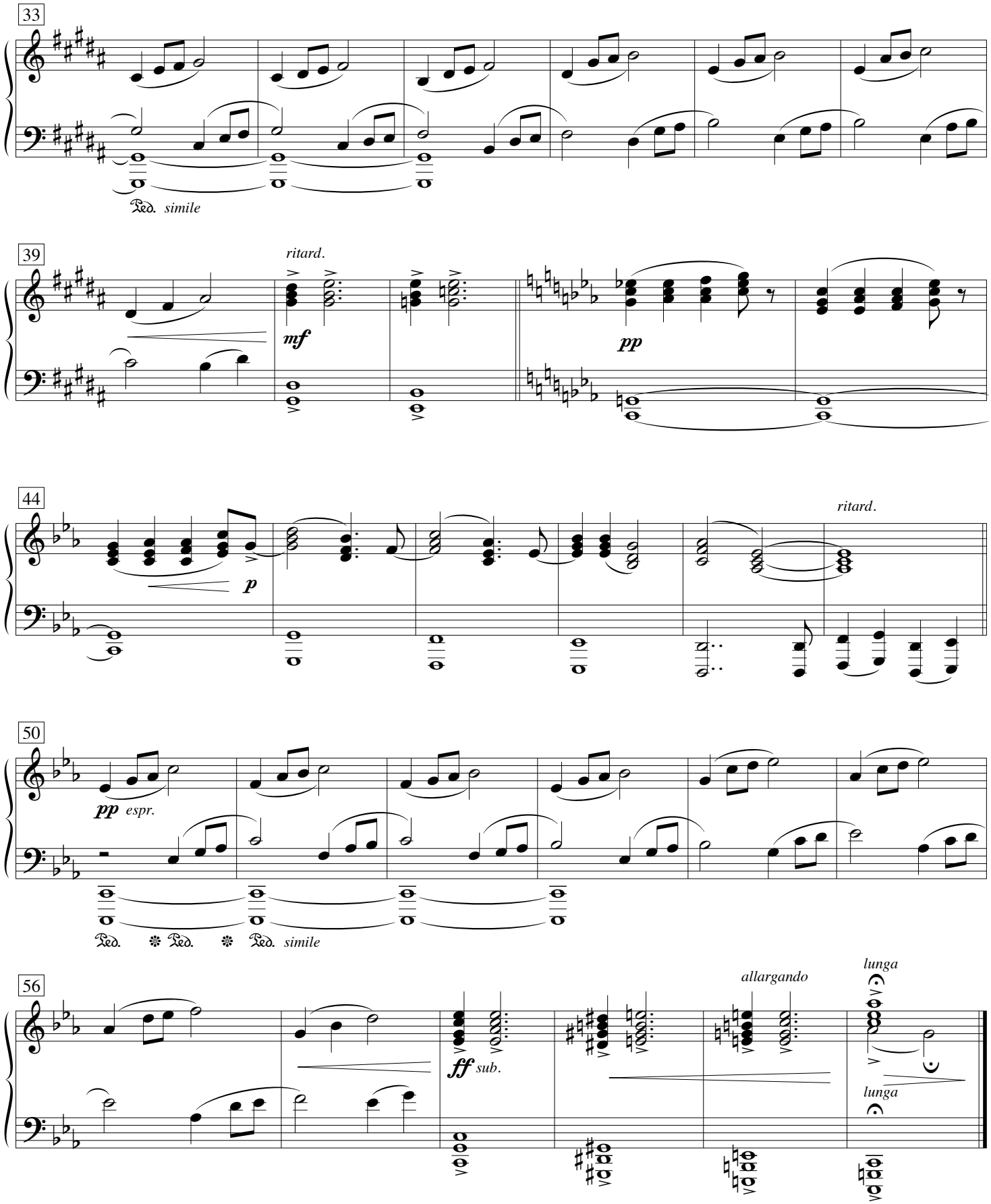
mp *p*

26

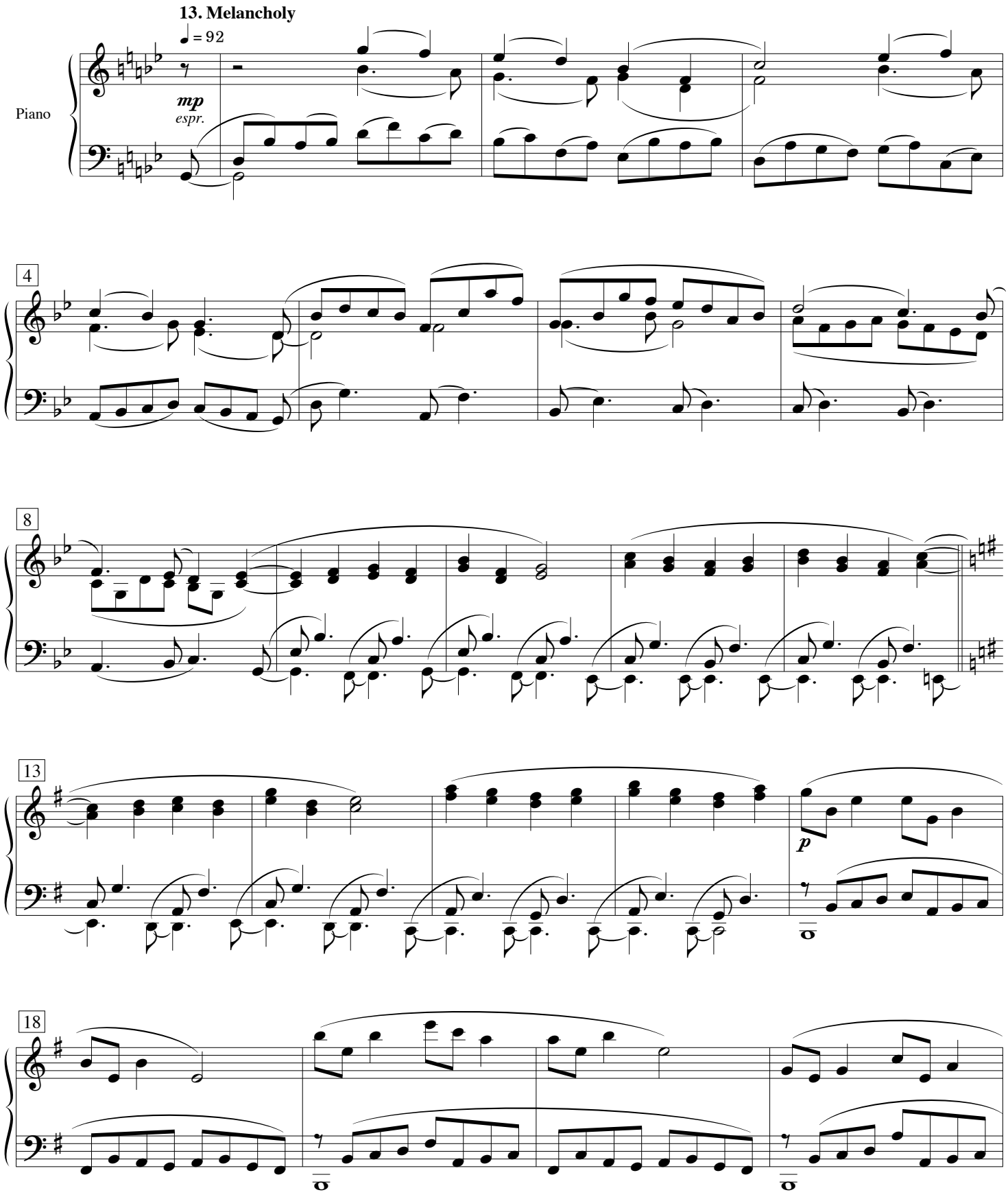
mp

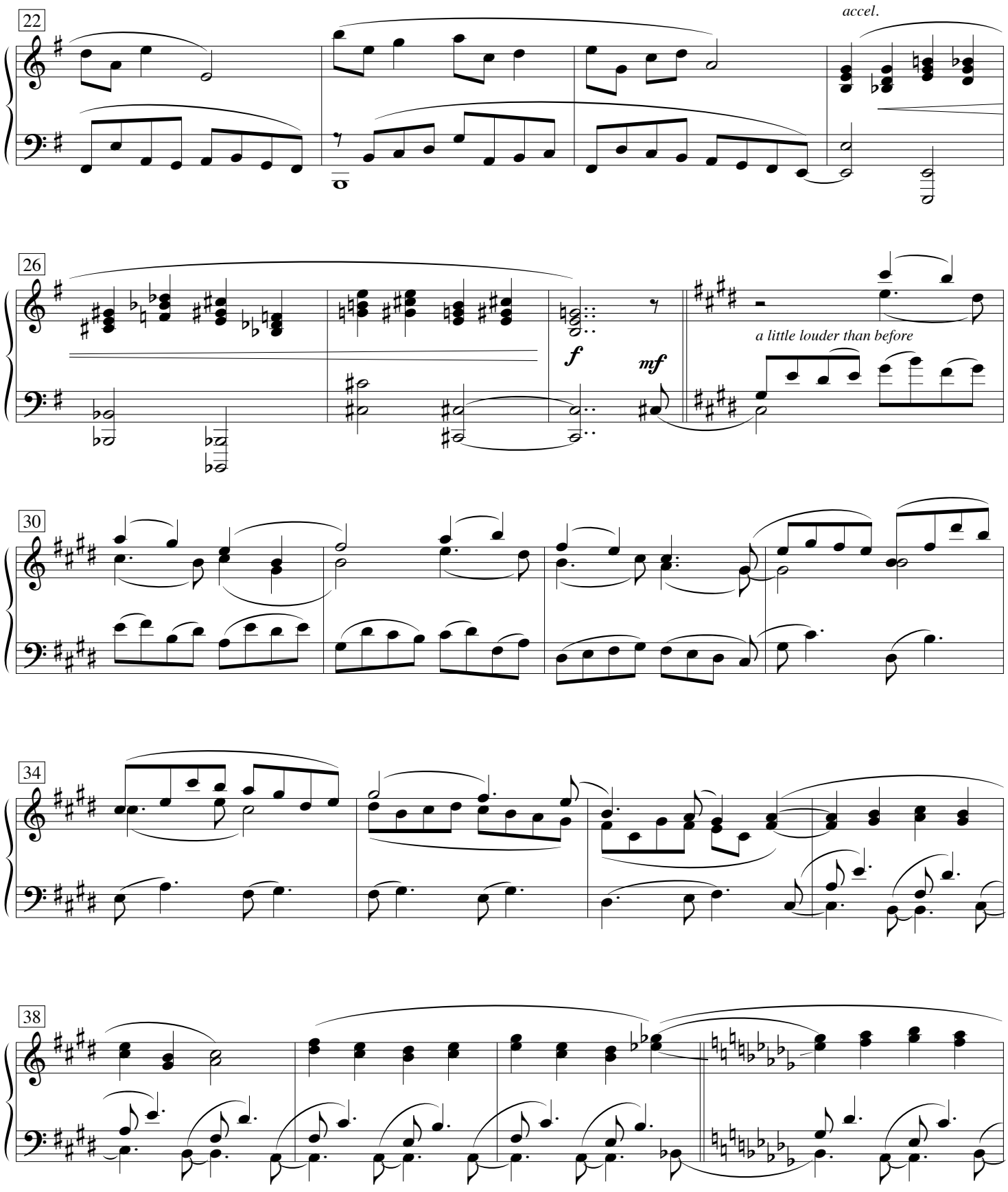
pp *espr.*

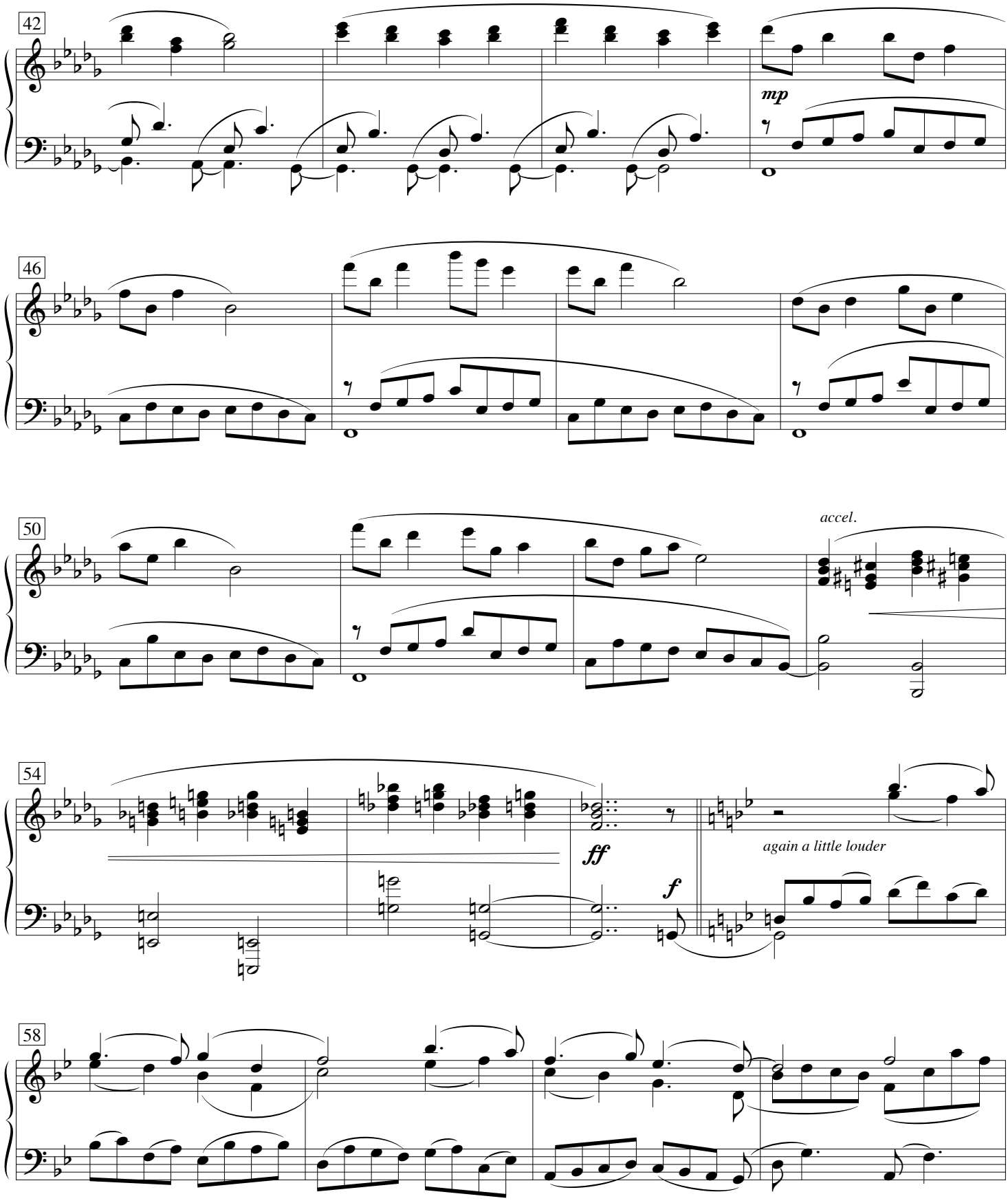
Ped. Ped.

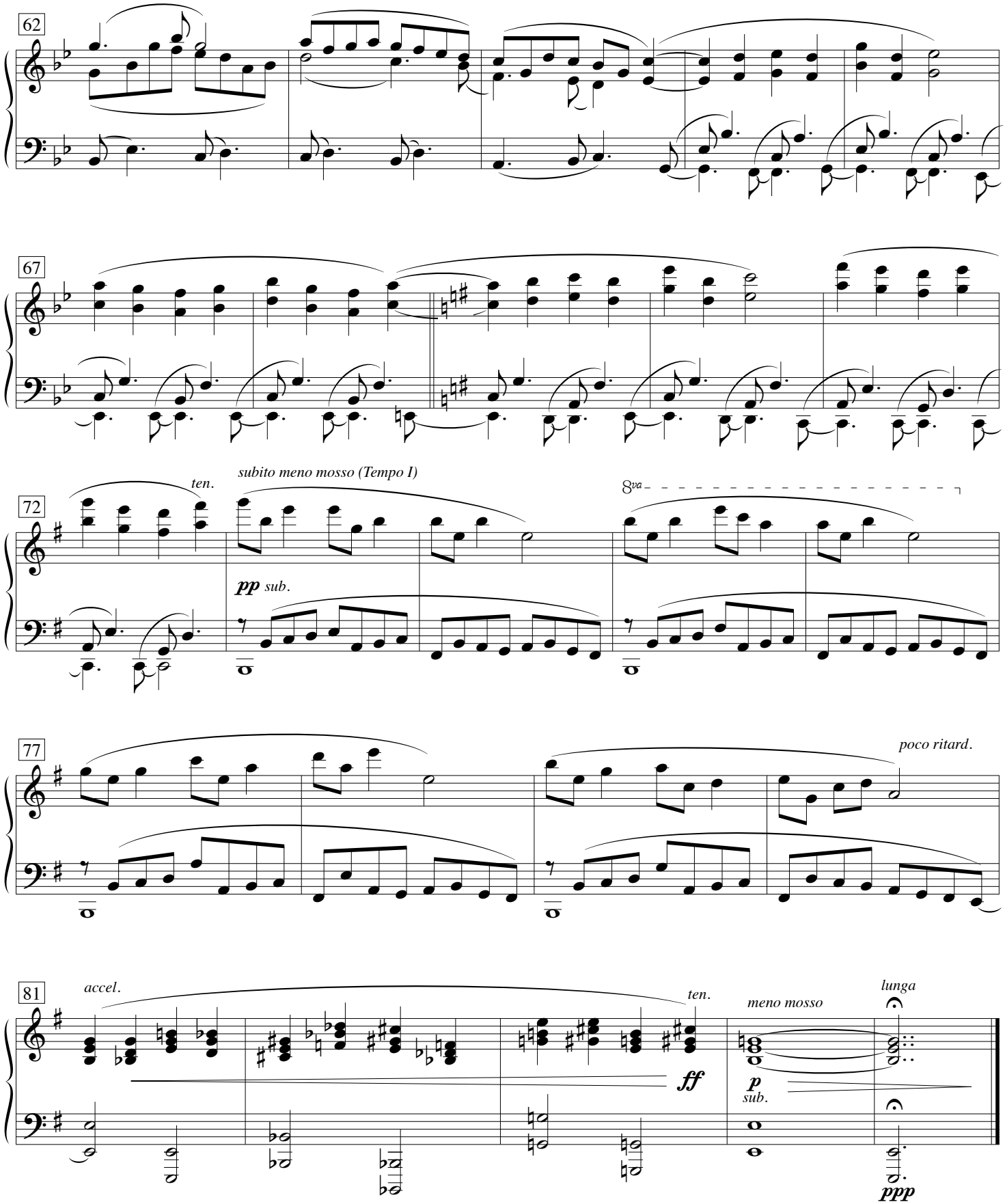

33
Ped. simile
39
ritard.
mf
pp
44
p
ritard.
50
pp espr.
Ped. Ped. Ped. simile
56
ff sub.
allargando
lunga
lunga

13. Melancholy




22
accel.
26
f
mf
a little louder than before
30
34
38


42
mp
46
50
accel.
54
ff
f
again a little louder
58


62
67
72
ten.
subito meno mosso (Tempo I)
8va
pp sub.
77
poco ritard.
81
accel.
ten.
ff
meno mosso
p sub.
lunga
ppp