KIAN RAVAEI

MARVELS OF CREATURES AND STRANGE THINGS EXISTING

preludes for piano

ÆI edition

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MARVELS OF CREATURES AND STRANGE THINGS EXISTING

preludes for piano

(2021)

I. The Sprite 1
II. The Siren 7
III. The Sphinx 10
IV. The Simurgh 15
V. The Sea Serpent 19
VI. The Shadhahvar 25

ÆI edition

COMPOSER'S NOTE

Marvels of Creatures and Strange Things Existing is a set of six preludes for piano, each inspired by a mythological creature. The piece takes its name from Zakariya al-Qazwini's thirteenth-century cosmographical treatise, containing descriptions of every living thing in existence, including many creatures which we may now consider mythological.

"The Sprite" portrays a nimble and mischievous fairy from European folklore. "The Siren" brings to mind the creatures from Homer's Odyssey who lure sailors to their death with their enchanting singing voices. "The Sphinx" conjures up the mercilessly riddling creature of ancient Egyptian mythology. "The Simurgh" represents the enormous, benevolent bird from Persian mythology, who symbolizes rebirth. "The Sea Serpent" evokes a sinuous serpent who drags sailors to the depths of the ocean. "The Shadhahvar" depicts a legendary deer whose antlers create music when held in the wind, like an Aeolian harp.

— Kian Ravaei

duration ca. 20'

to Brandon Zhou

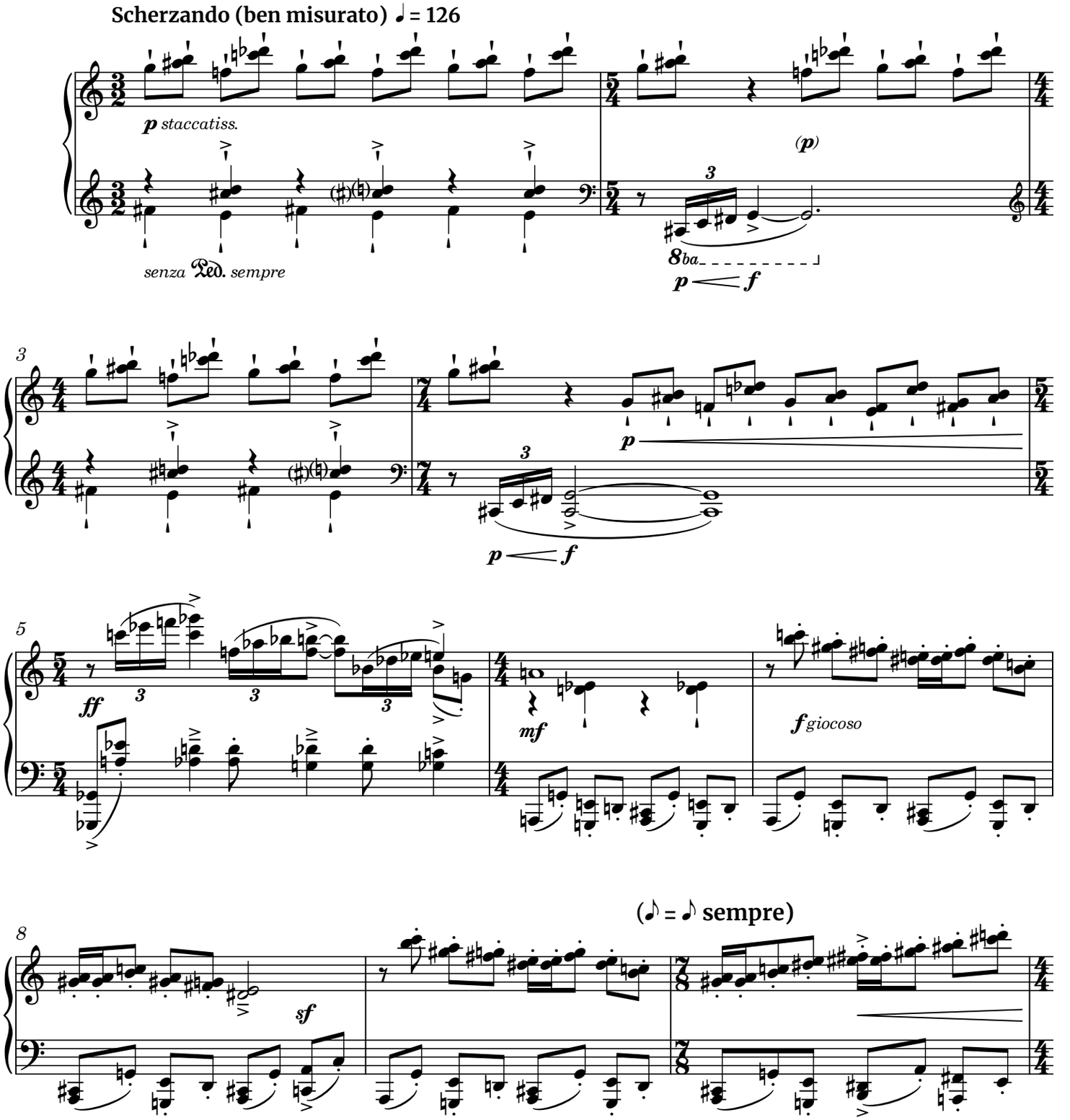
MARVELS OF CREATURES AND STRANGE THINGS EXISTING

(Preludes for Piano)

Kian Ravaei
(2021)

to Noah Meites

I. The Sprite



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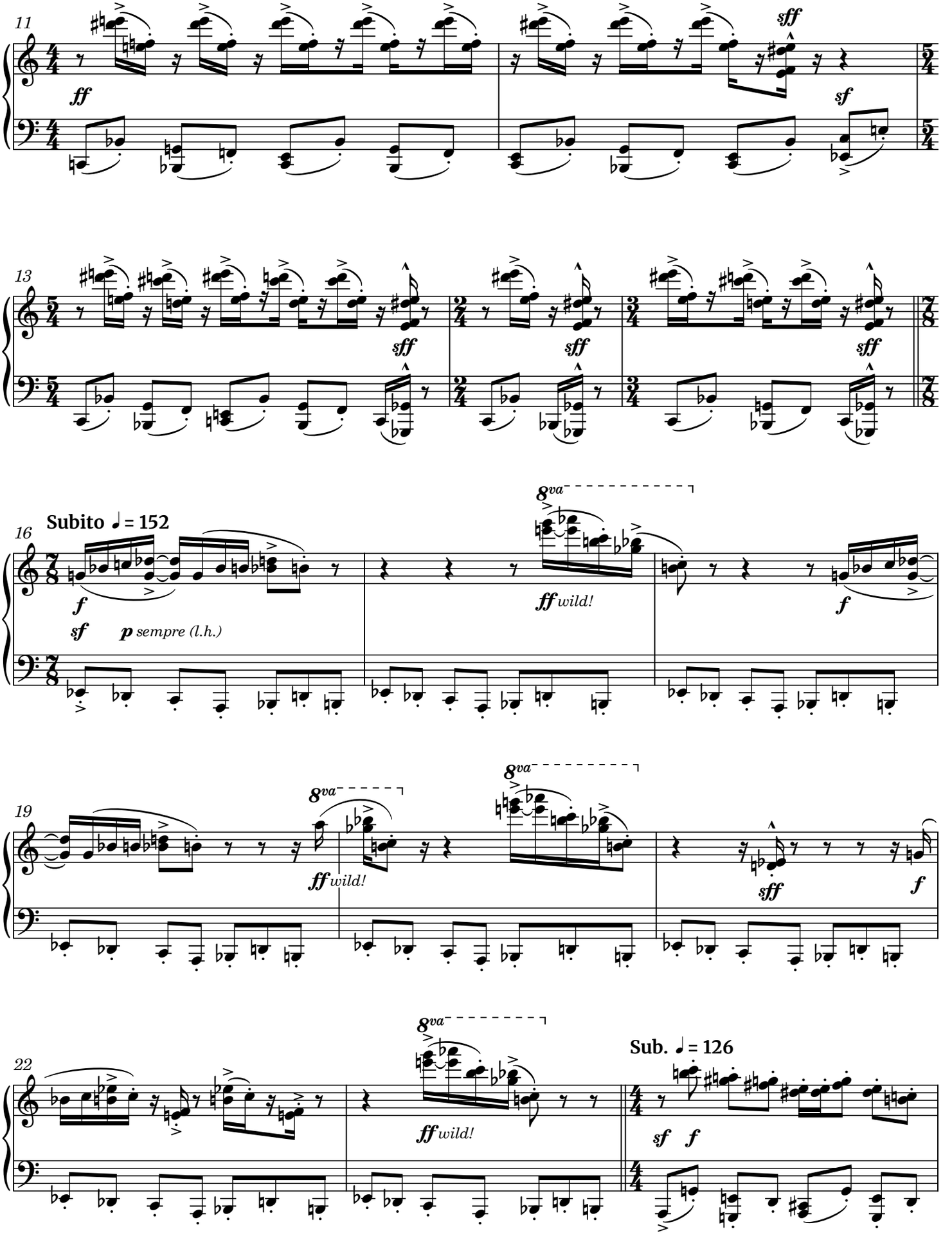
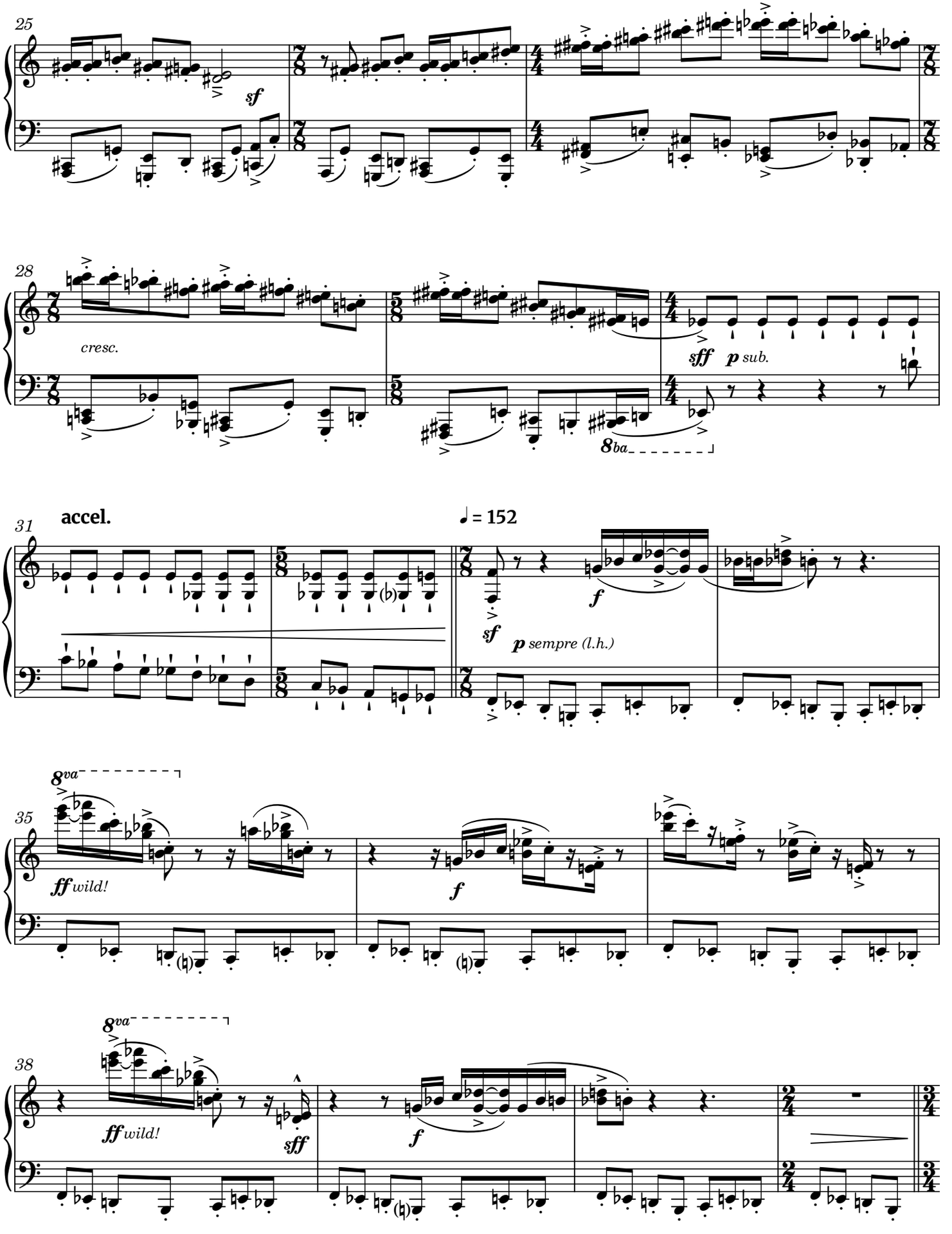
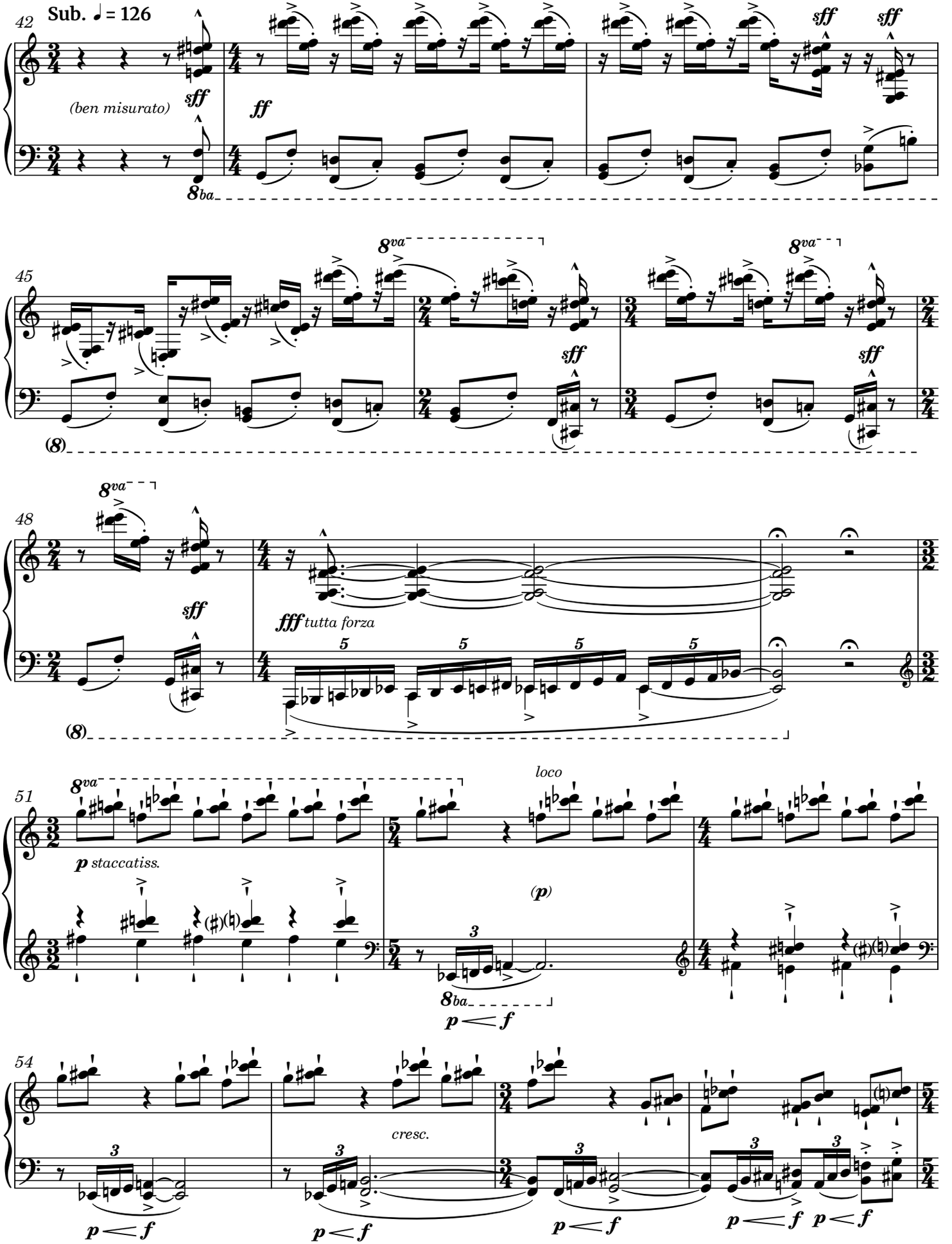
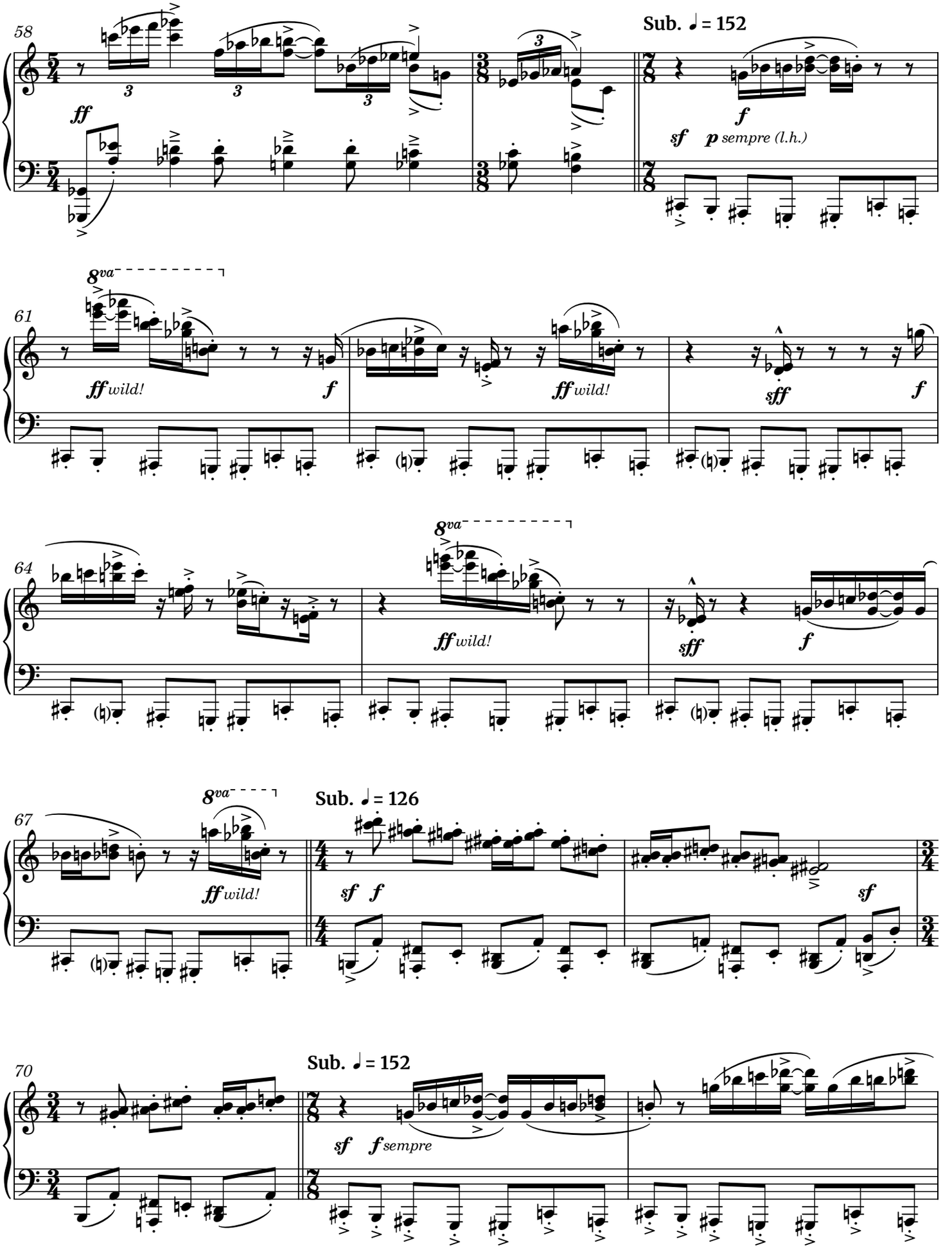
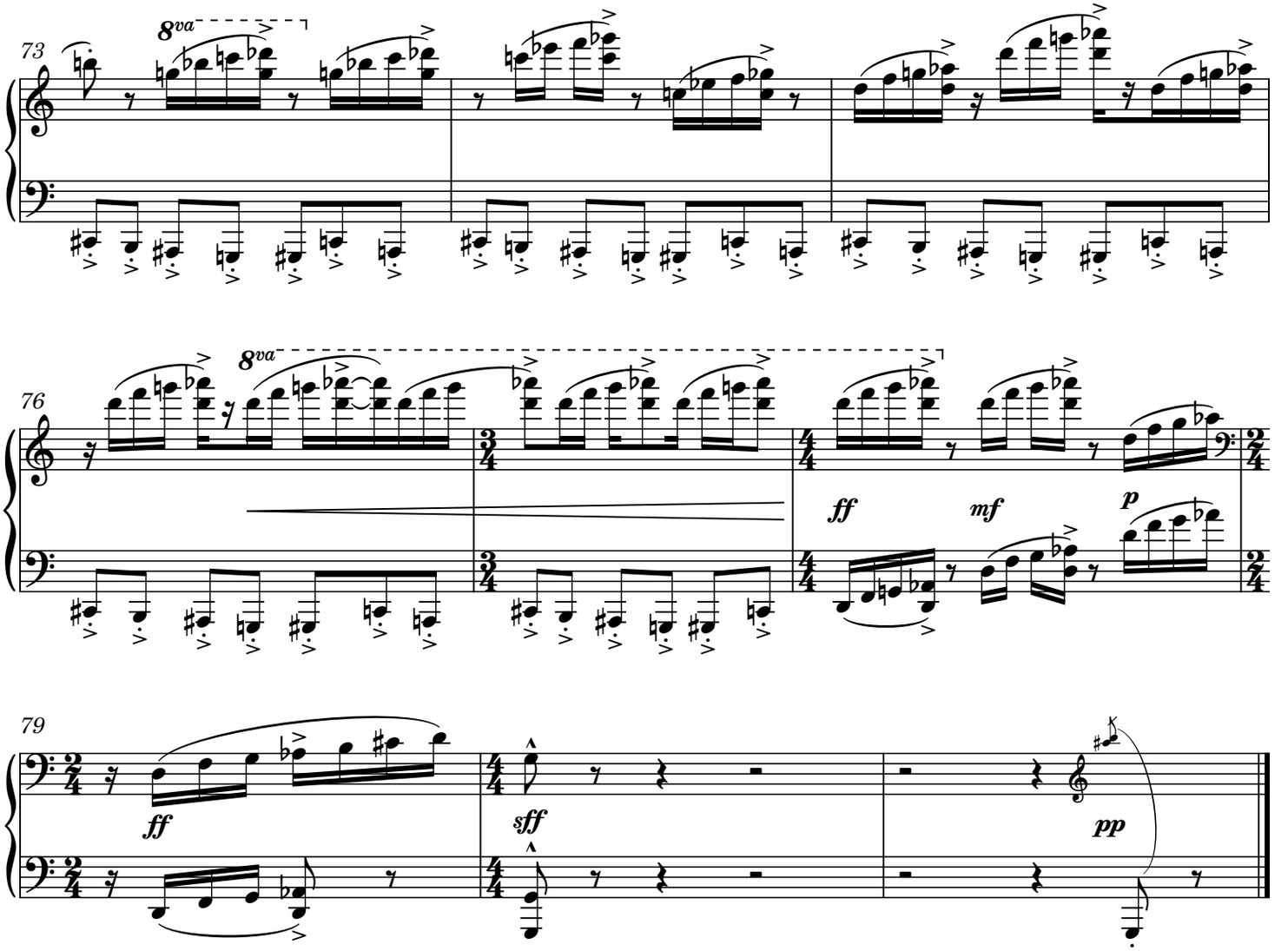

11
ff
sff
sf
13
sff
sff
sff
16
Subito ♩ = 152
f
sf
p sempre (l.h.)
8va
ff wild!
f
19
8va
ff wild!
8va
sff
f
22
8va
ff wild!
Sub. ♩ = 126
sf
f


25
sf
28
cresc.
sff
p sub.
8ba
31
accel.
♩ = 152
sf
f
p sempre (l.h.)
35
8va
ff wild!
f
38
8va
ff wild!
sff
f


42
Sub. ♩ = 126
(ben misurato)
sff
ff
8ba
sff
sff
45
8va
(8)
sff
sff
48
8va
sff
fff tutta forza
tutta forza
(8)
51
8va
p staccatiss.
loco
(p)
8ba
p < f
54
cresc.
p < f
p < f
p < f
p < f
p < f

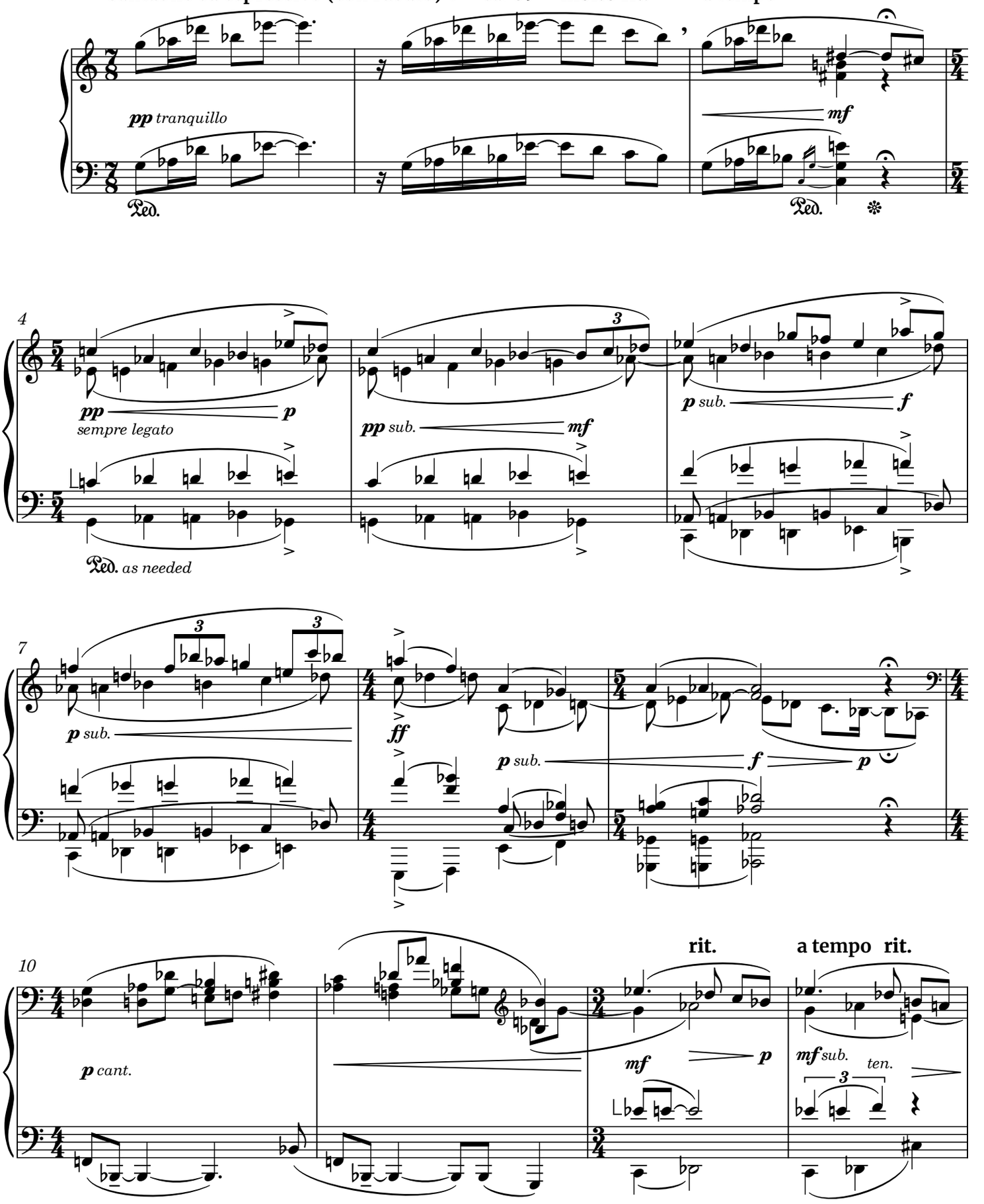

58
Sub. ♩ = 152
ff
f
sf
p sempre (l.h.)
61
8va
ff wild!
f
ff wild!
sff
f
64
8va
ff wild!
sff
f
67
8va
ff wild!
Sub. ♩ = 126
sf
f
sf
70
Sub. ♩ = 152
sf
f sempre

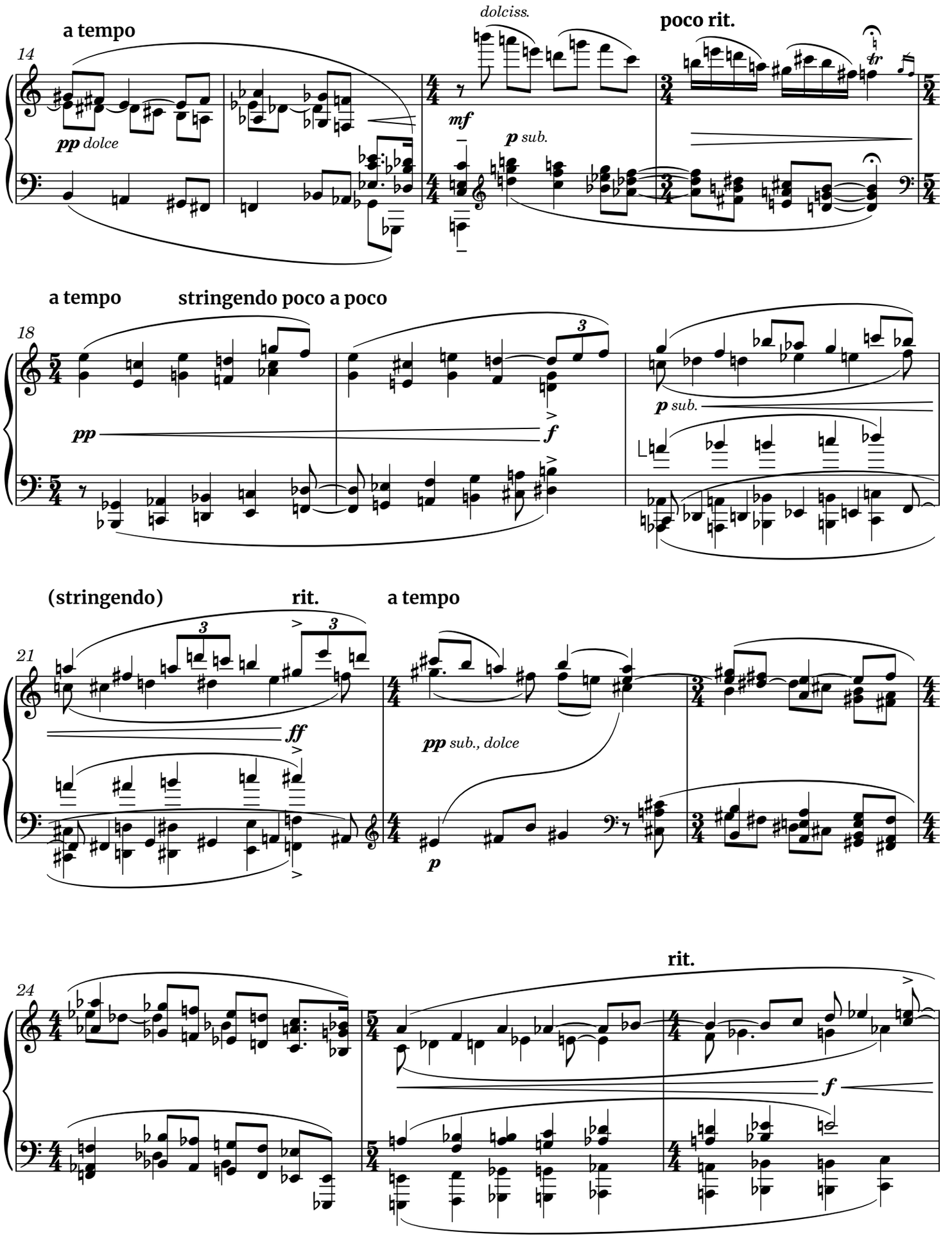

73
8va
76
8va
ff
mf
p
79
ff
sff
pp

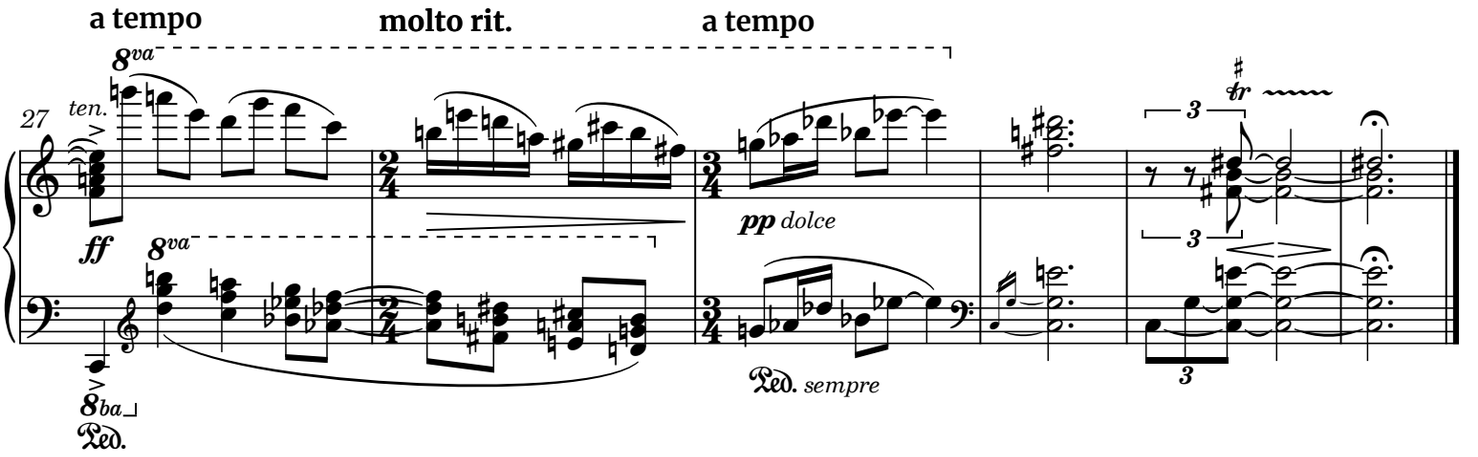
to Kay Rhie

II. The Siren

Cantabile ed espressivo (con rubato) ♪ = ca. 69 **molto rit.** **a tempo**

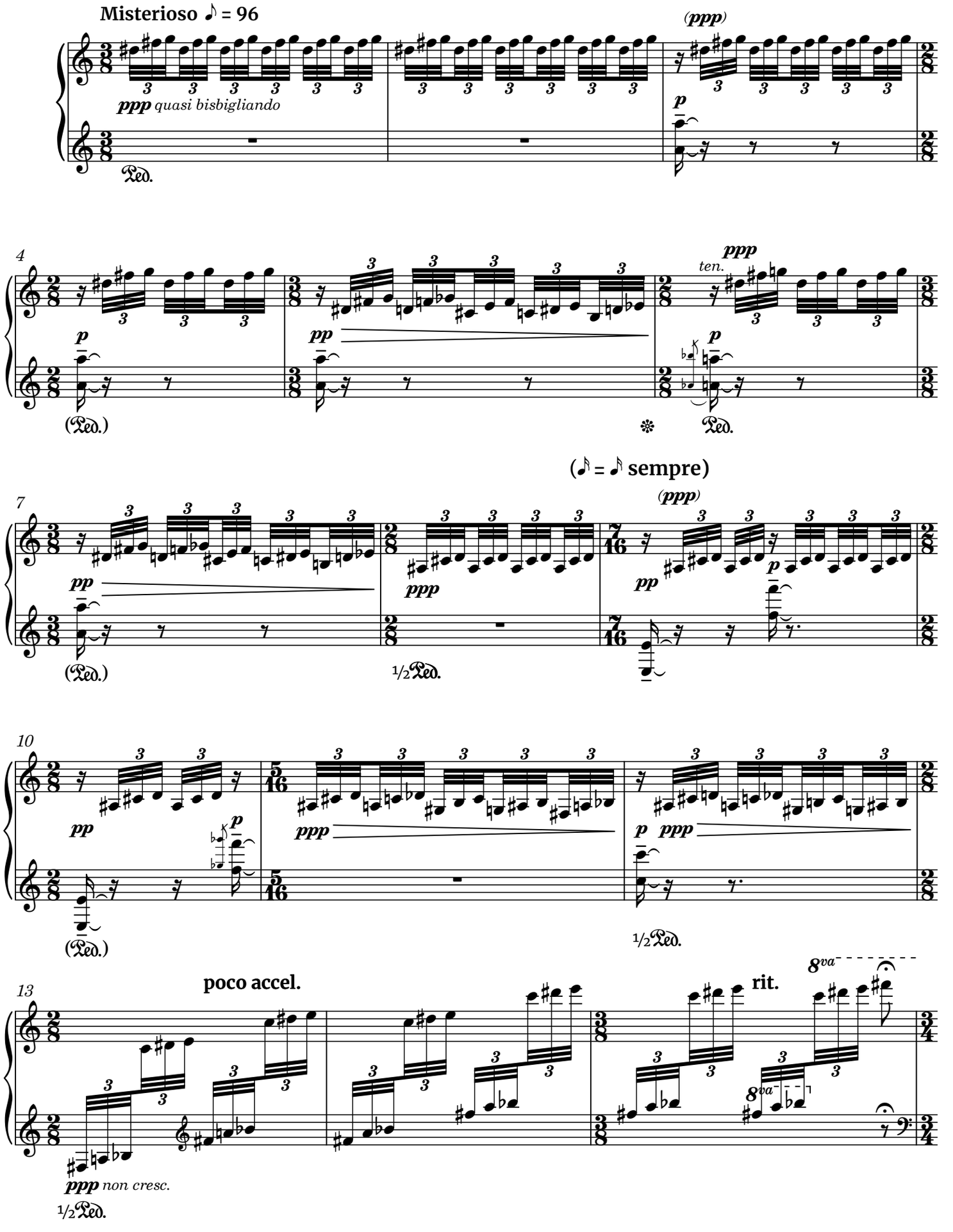


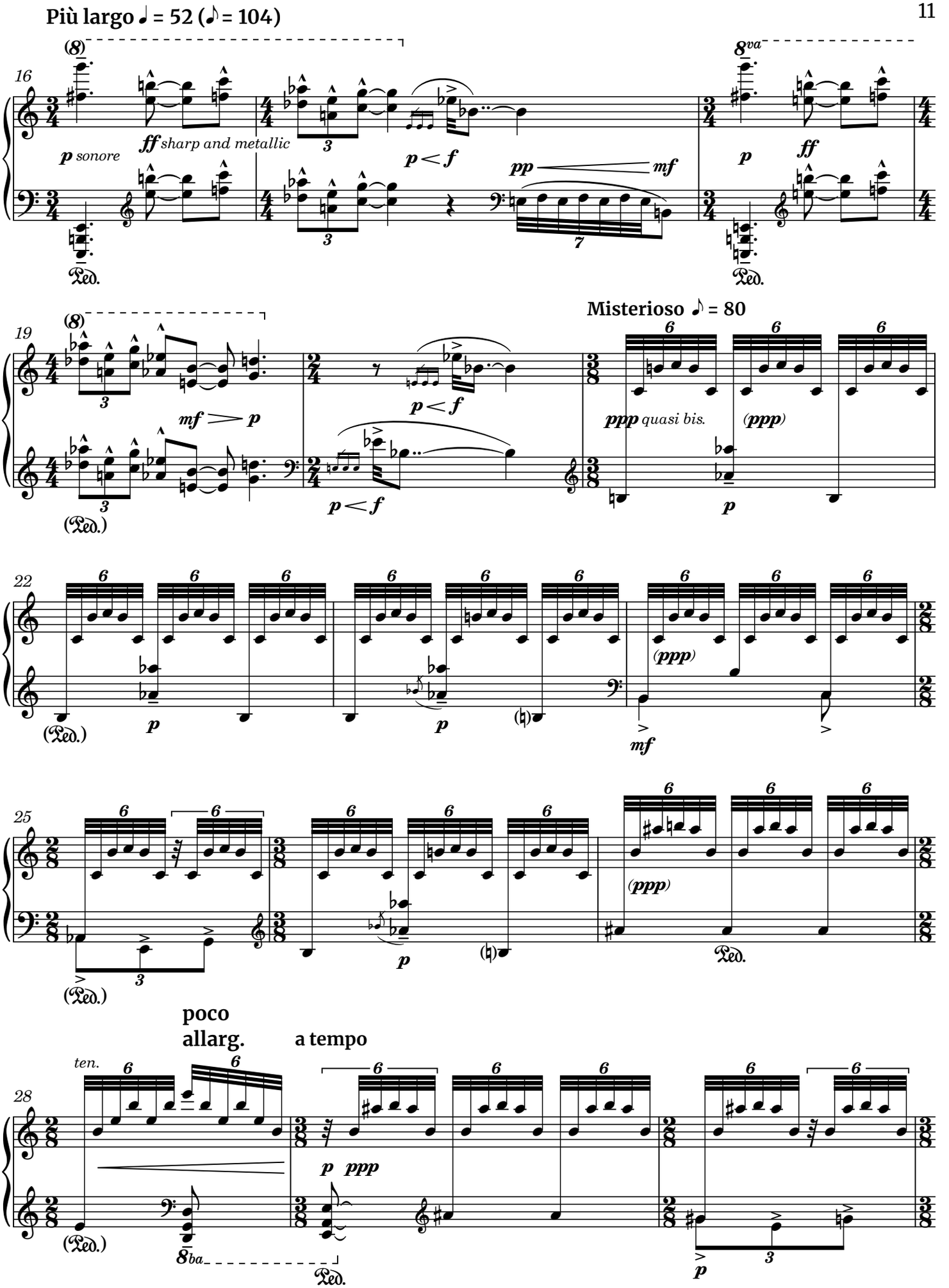

a tempo
dolciss.
poco rit.
14
pp dolce
mf
p sub.
a tempo
stringendo poco a poco
18
pp
f
p sub.
(stringendo)
rit.
a tempo
21
ff
pp sub., dolce
p
rit.
24
f

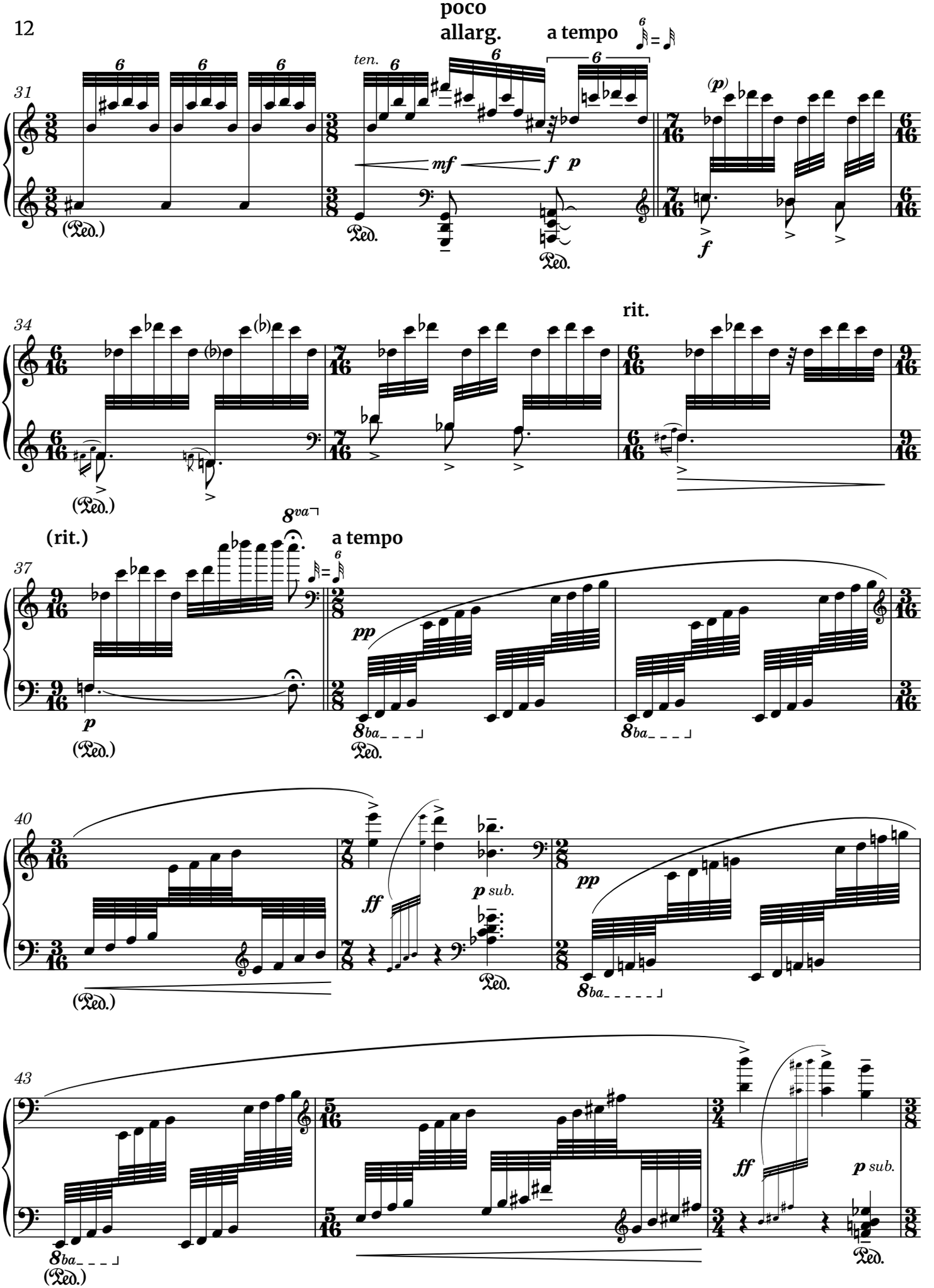

a tempo
molto rit.
a tempo
27
ten.
8va
ff
8va
8ba
Ped.
pp dolce
Ped. sempre
3
tr
3
3

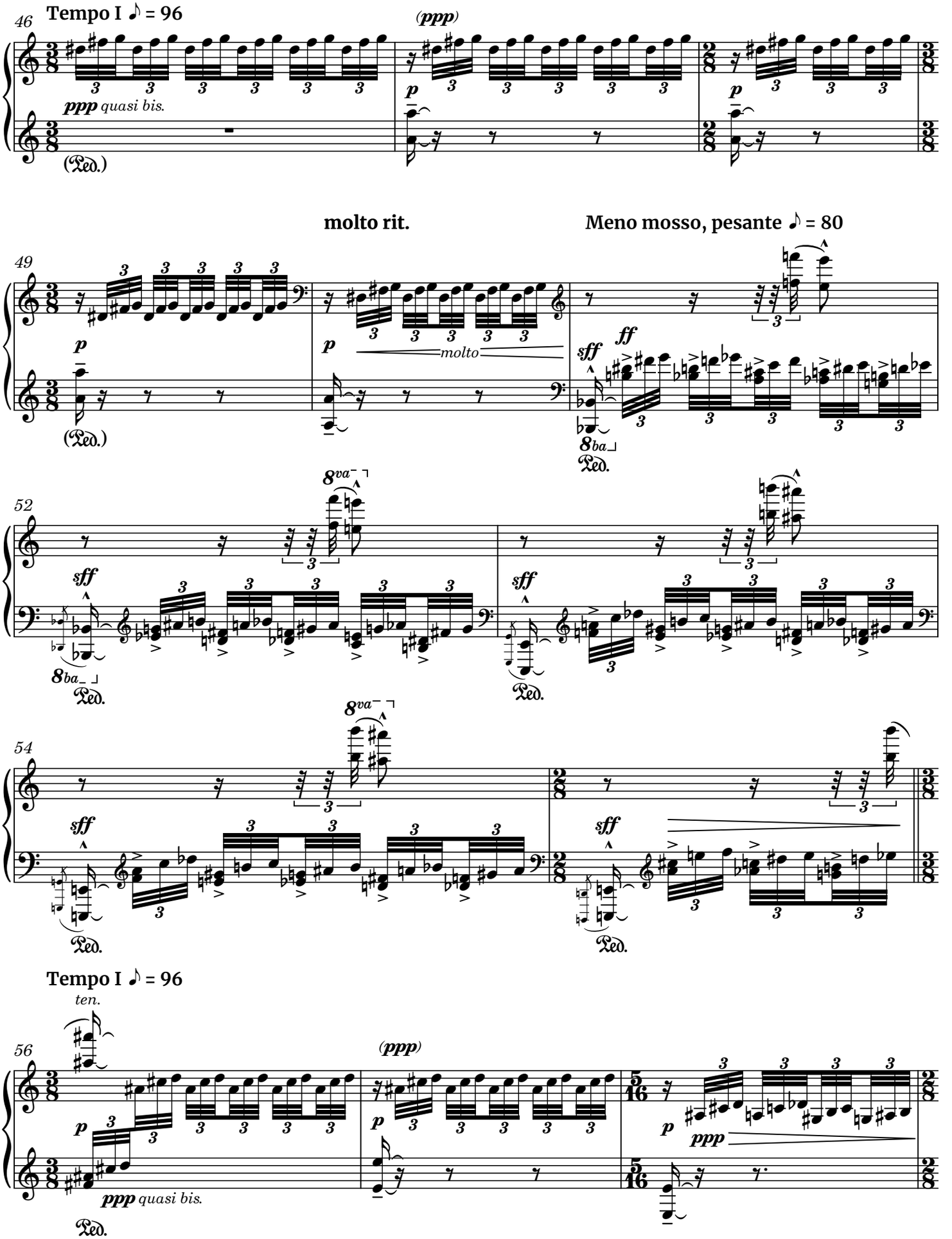
to David S. Lefkowitz

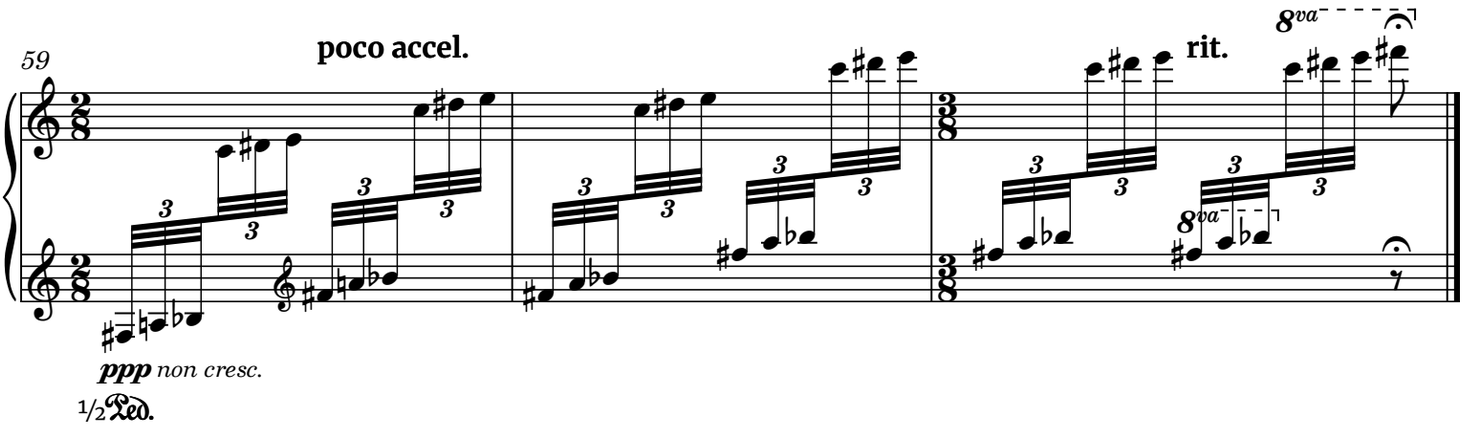
III. The Sphinx




Più largo ♩ = 52 (♪ = 104)
16
(8)
p sonore
ff sharp and metallic
p < f
pp
mf
8va
p
ff
Misterioso ♪ = 80
19
mf > p
ppp quasi bis.
(ppp)
22
25
poco
allarg.
a tempo
ten.
28
8ba
Ped.


poco
allarg.
a tempo
ten.
31
mf
f p
(p)
f
(Ped.)
34
rit.
(rit.)
8va
a tempo
37
pp
p
8ba
40
ff
p sub.
43

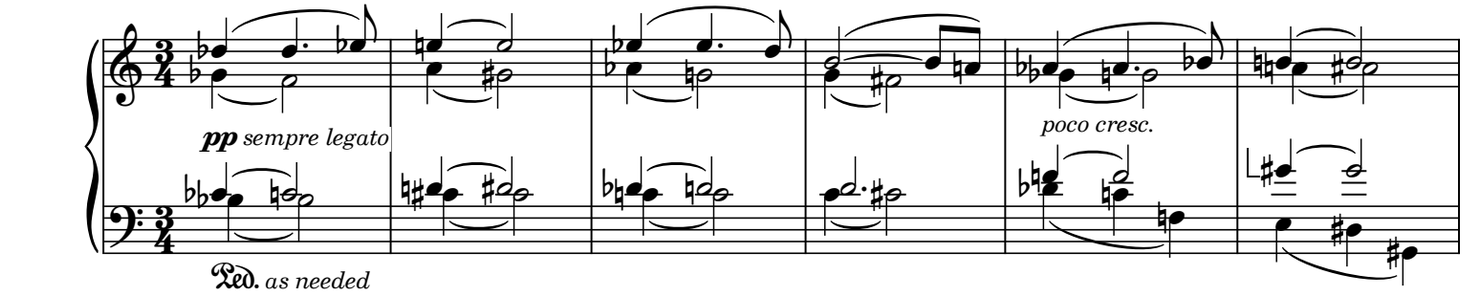

46
Tempo I ♪ = 96
(ppp)
ppp quasi bis.
p
(Ped.)
molto rit.
Meno mosso, pesante ♪ = 80
49
molto
sff
ff
8ba
Ped.
52
8va
54
Tempo I ♪ = 96
ten.
56

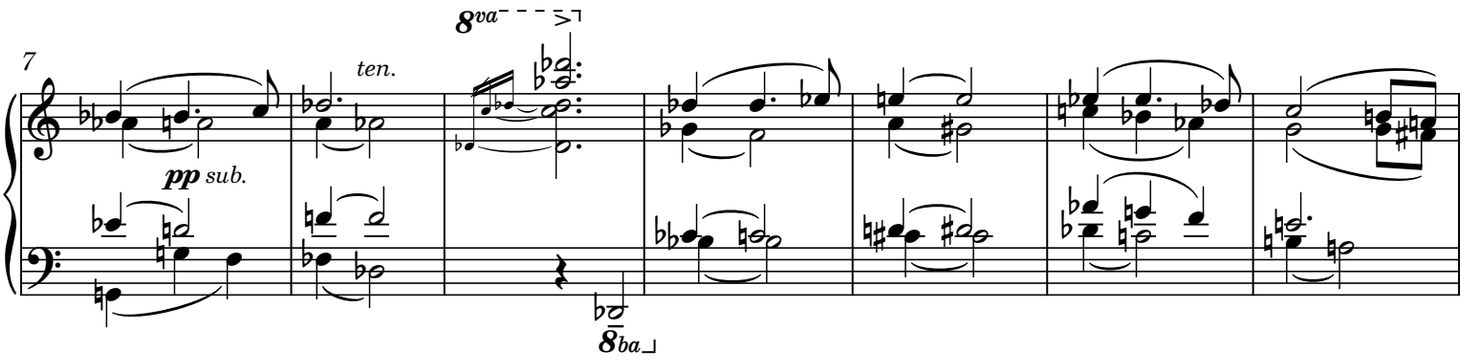

59
poco accel.
rit.
8va
8va
ppp non cresc.
1/2 Ped.

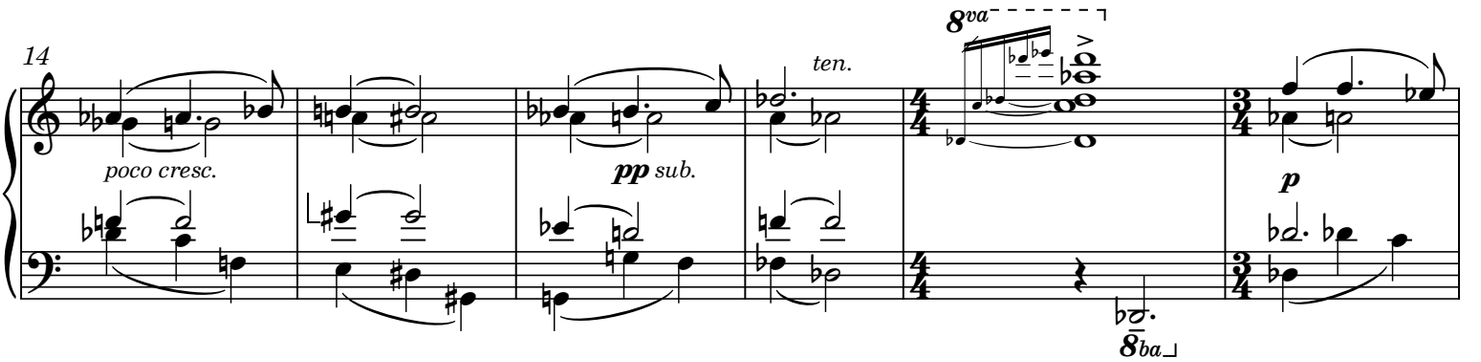
to Richard Danielpour

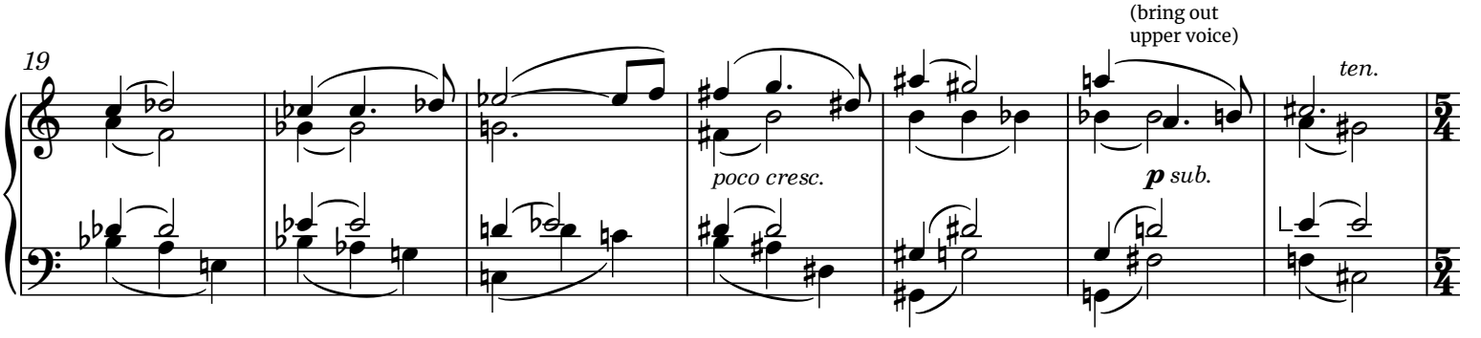
IV. The Simurgh

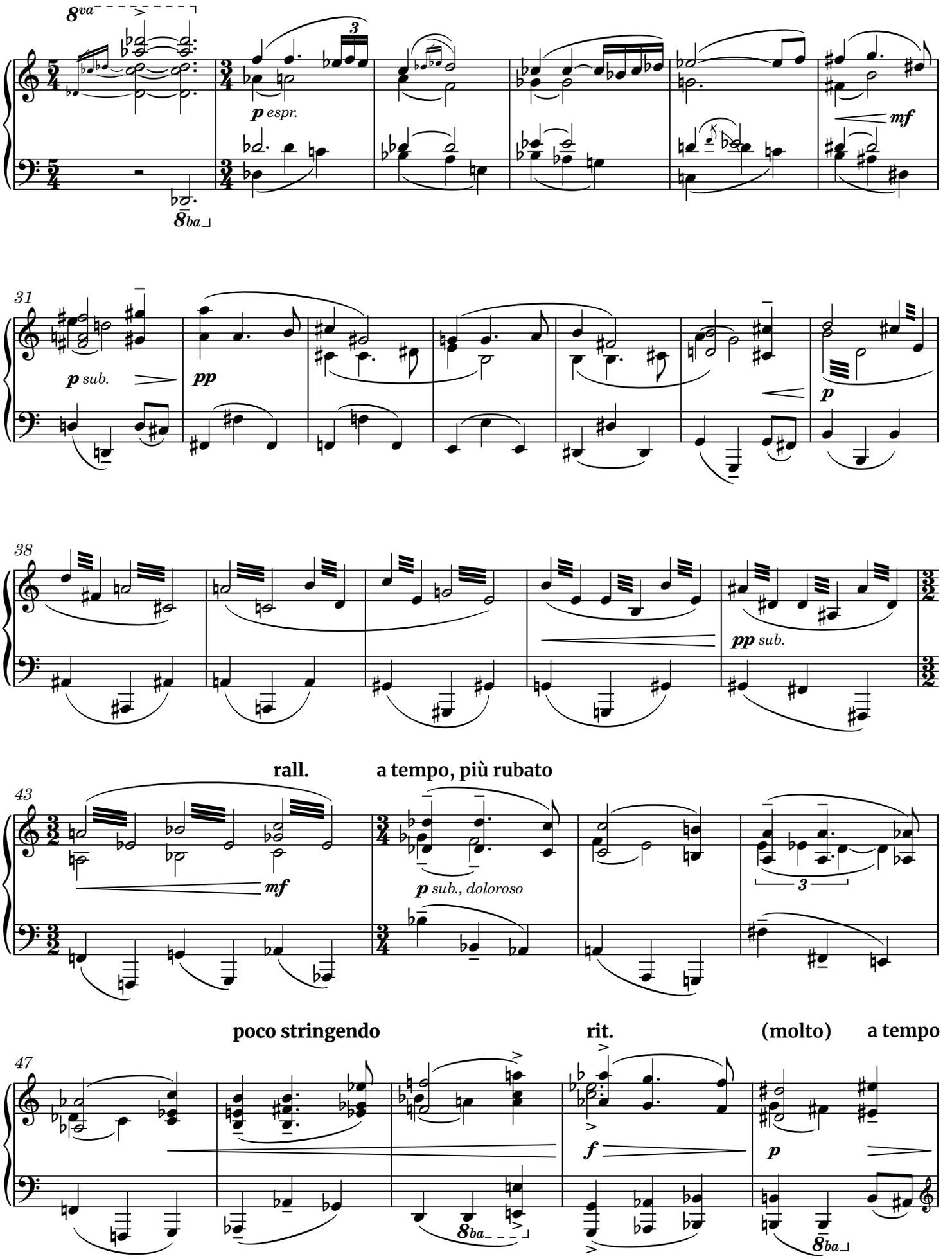
Religioso con rubato (simply flowing) ♩ = ca. 60










8va
p espr.
mf
31
p sub.
pp
p
38
pp sub.
rall.
a tempo, più rubato
43
mf
p sub., doloroso
3
poco stringendo
rit.
(molto) a tempo
47
f
p
8ba
8ba
8ba

Poco meno rubato (l'istesso tempo)

52

pp *leggerissimo*

8va 8 8va 8

lontano

poco a poco
meno lontano

rit.

57

pp *cresc.*

f

a tempo, molto appass.

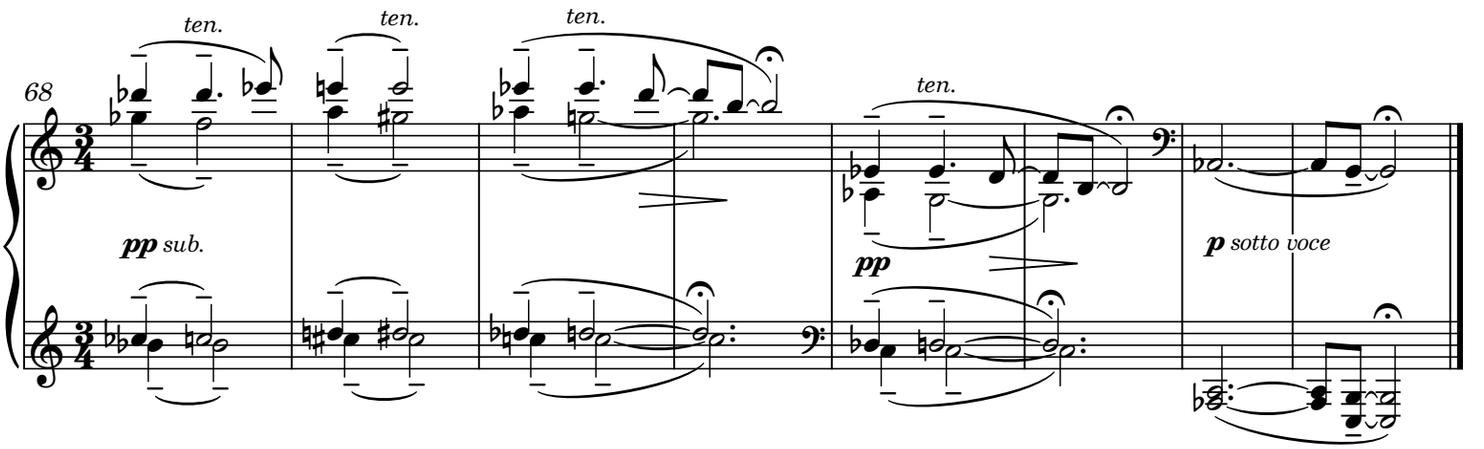
61

ff *sempre*

allarg.

65

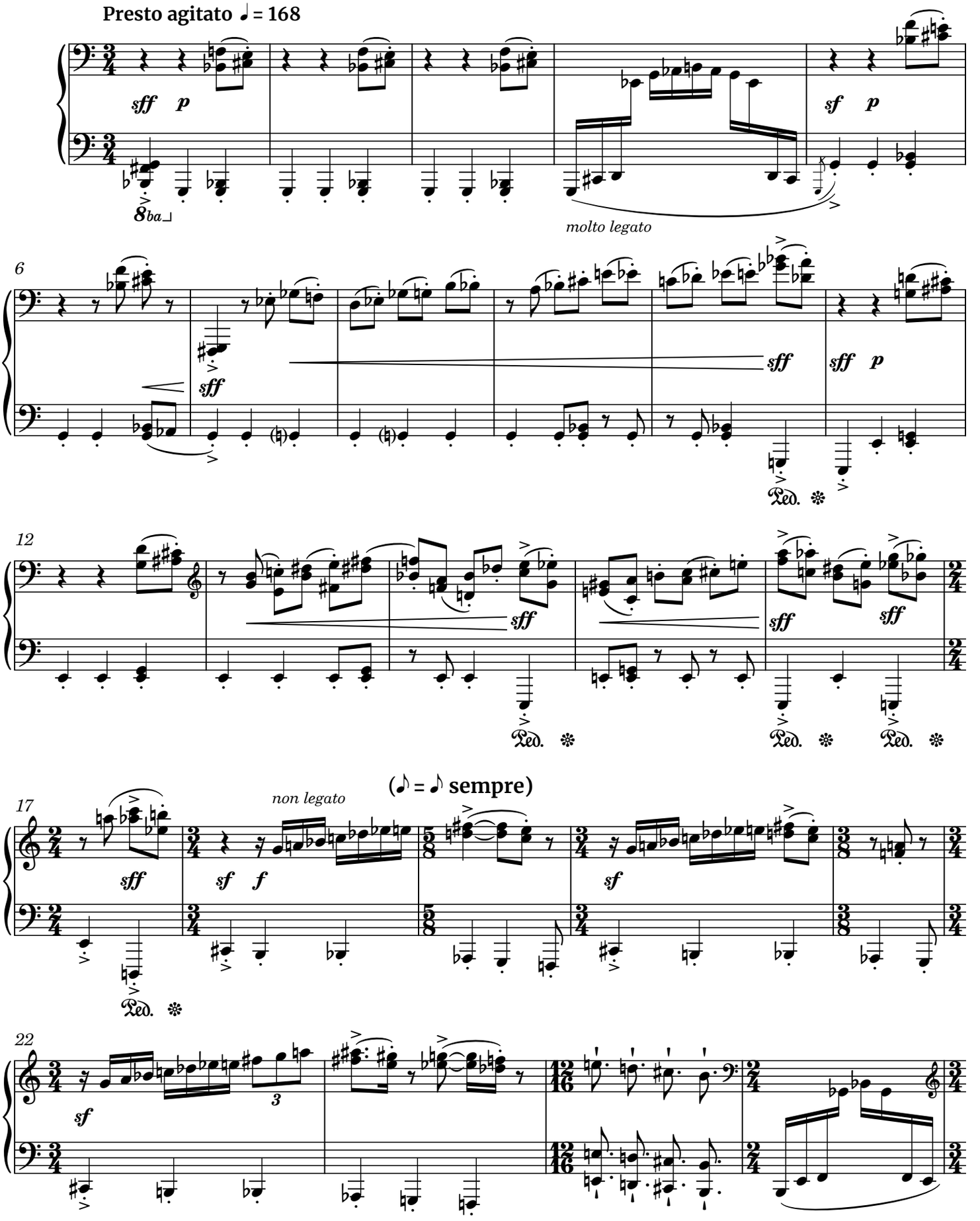
a tempo, subito tranquillo **rit.** **(Come sopra)**

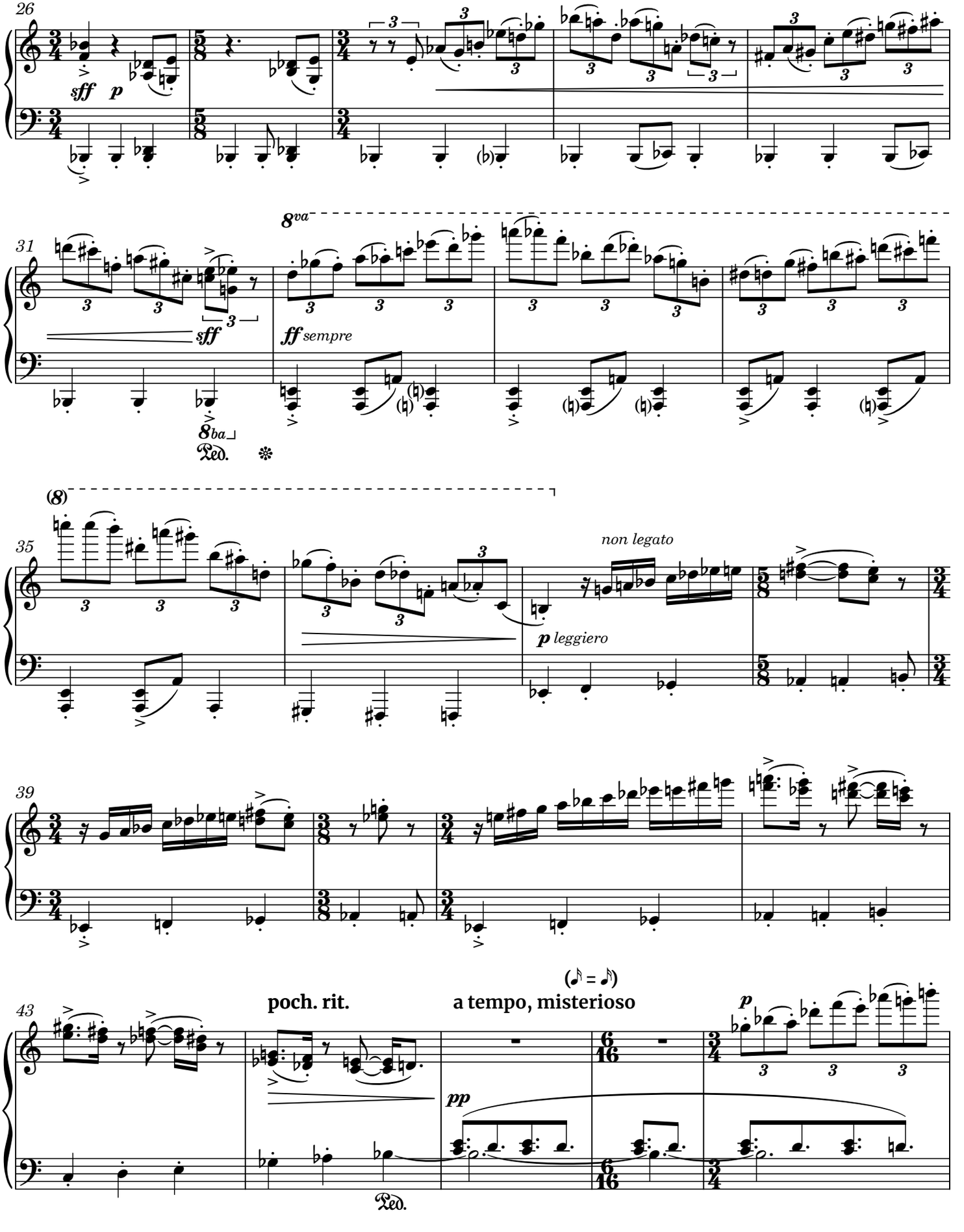


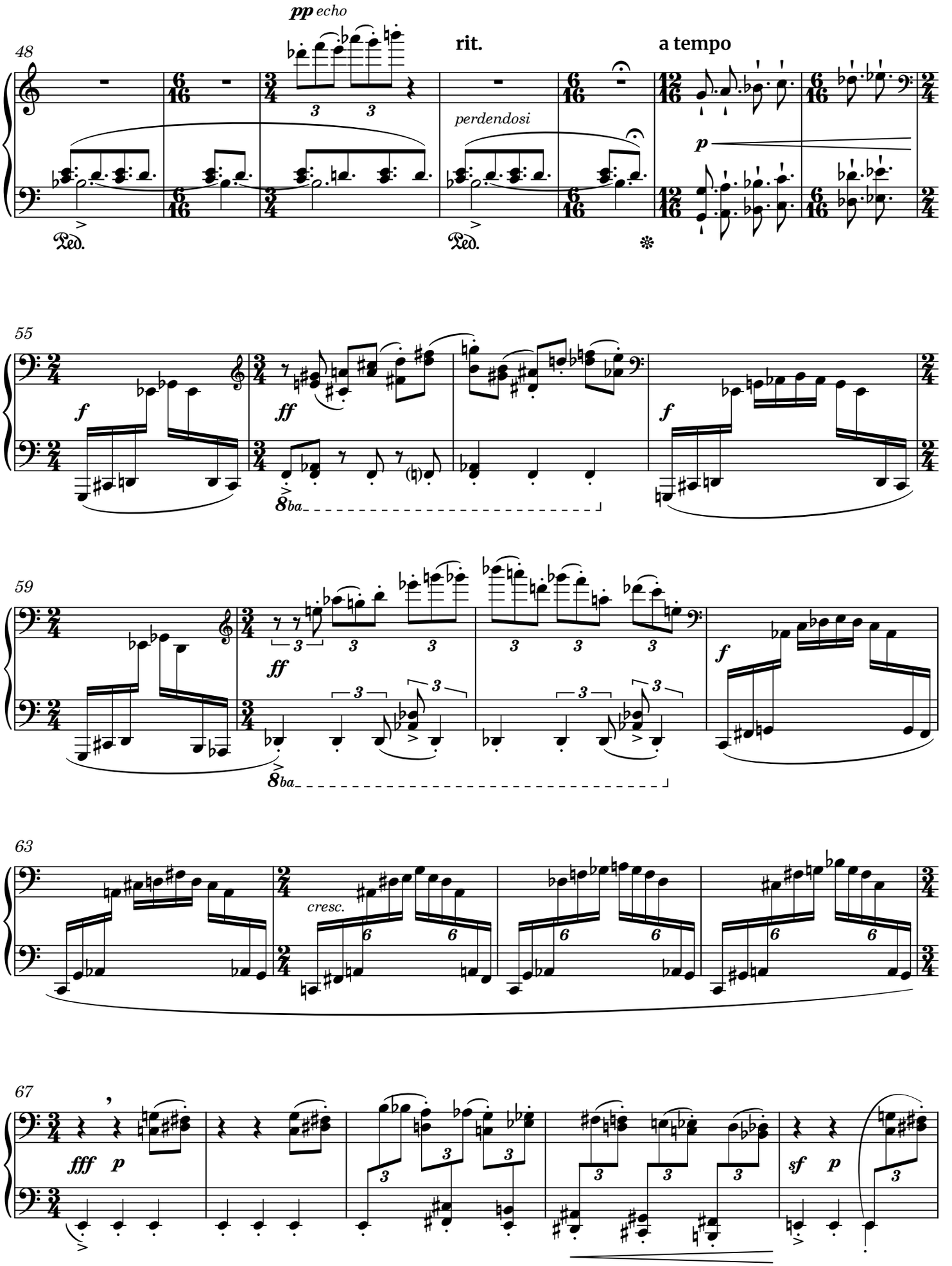
to David Kaplan

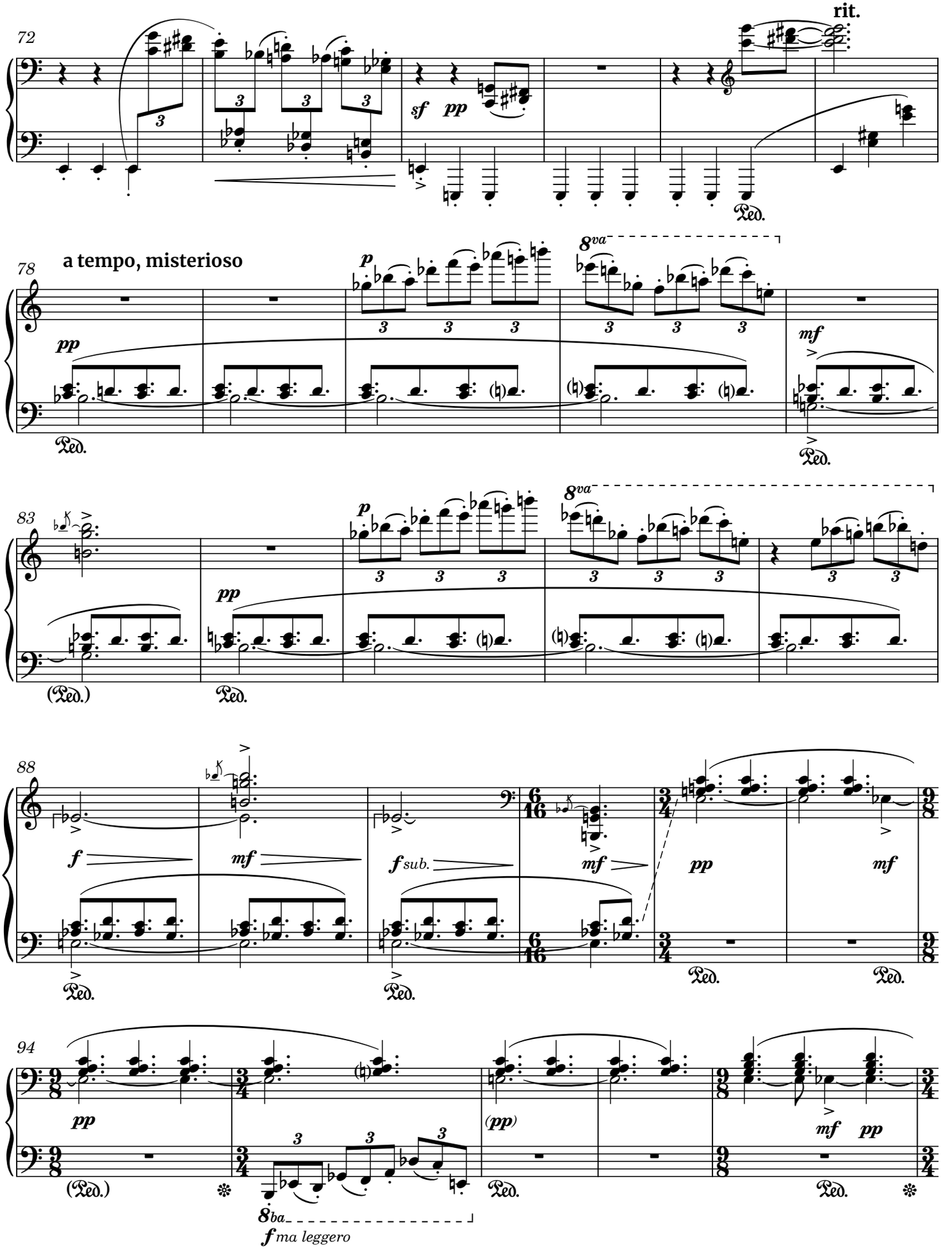
V. The Sea Serpent

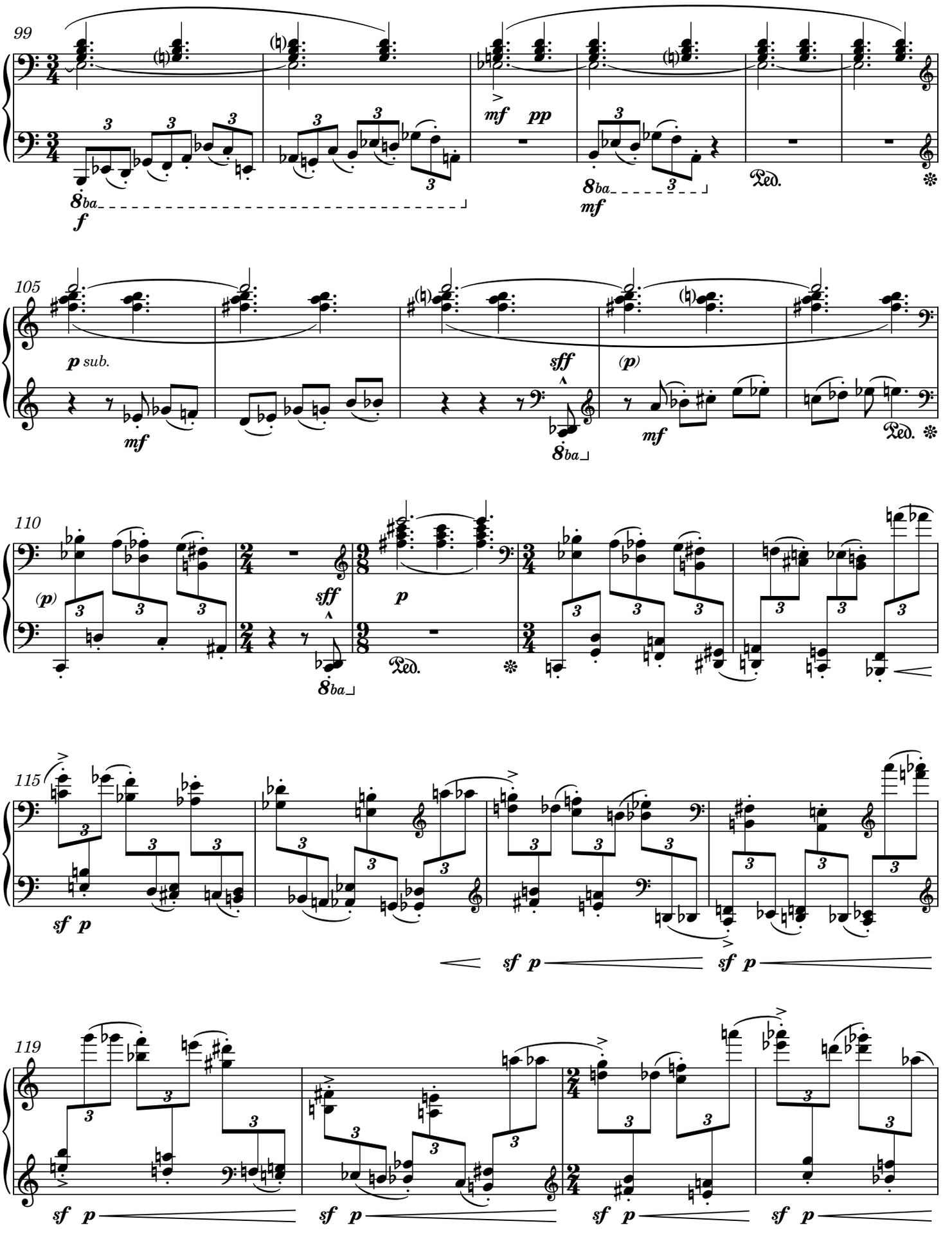
Presto agitato ♩ = 168

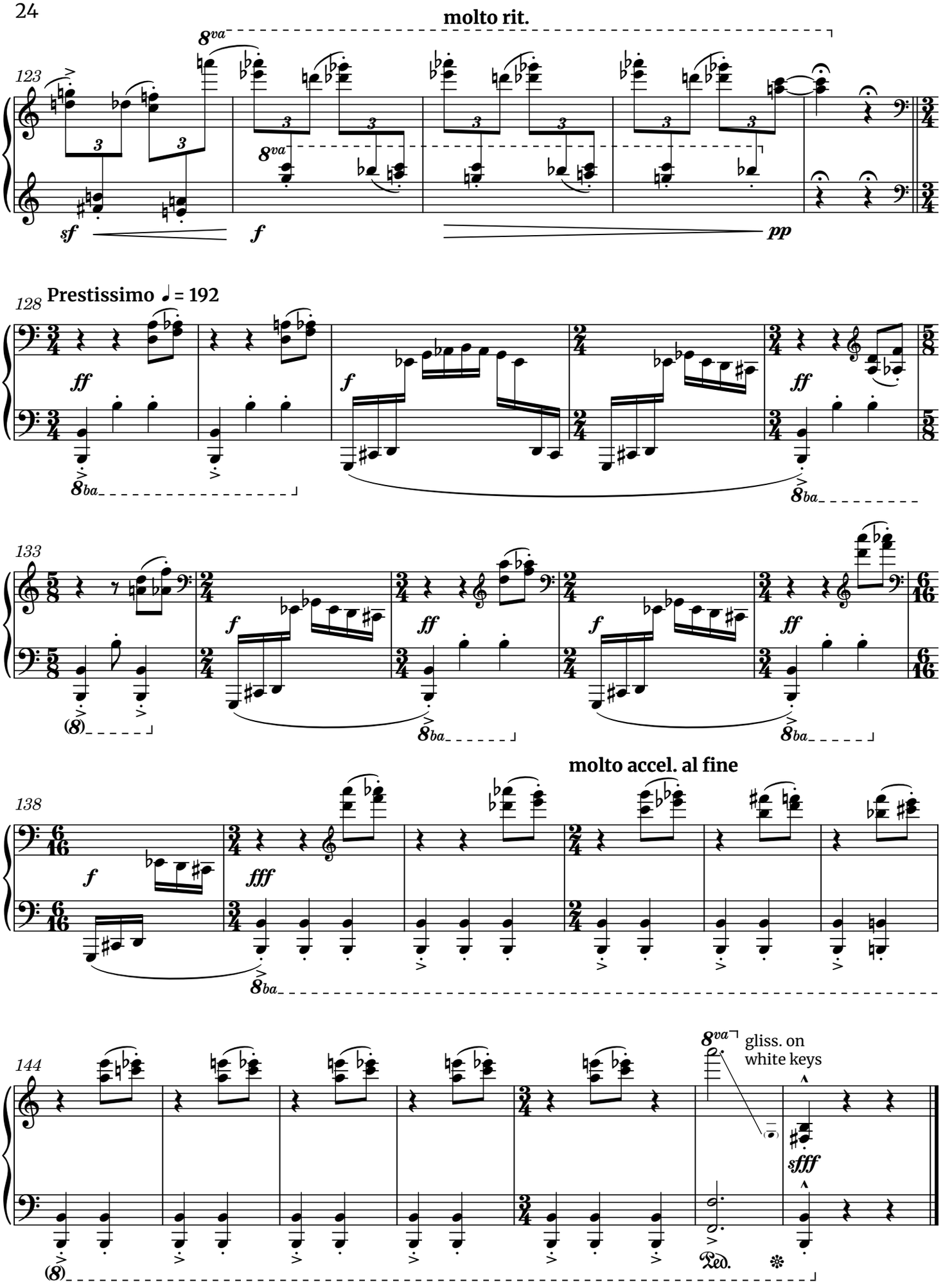



26
sff
p
31
8va
sff
ff sempre
8ba
Ped.
(8)
35
non legato
p leggiero
39
43
poch. rit.
(𝅘𝅥𝅯 = 𝅘𝅥𝅯)
a tempo, misterioso
pp
p
Ped.


48
pp echo
rit.
a tempo
perdendosi
Ped.
Ped.
55
f
ff
f
8ba
59
ff
f
8ba
63
cresc.
67
fff
p
sf
p


72
rit.
sf pp
Ped.
78
a tempo, misterioso
pp
p
8va
mf
Ped.
83
p
8va
pp
(Ped.)
Ped.
88
f
mf
f sub.
mf
pp
mf
Ped.
94
pp
(pp)
mf pp
(Ped.)
Ped.
8ba
f ma leggero

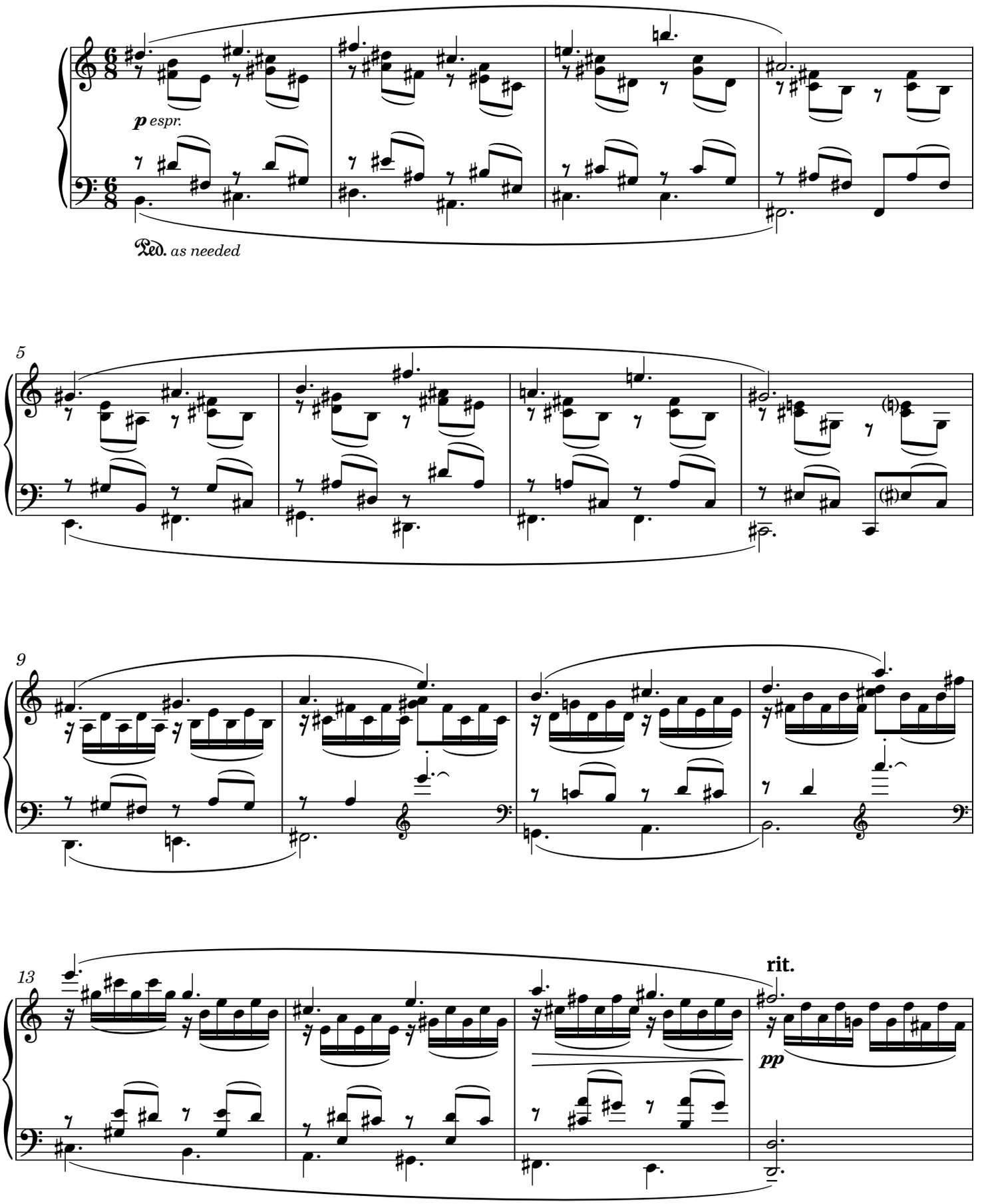

99
8ba
f
mf
pp
8ba
mf
Ped.
105
p sub.
mf
sff
(p)
mf
8ba
Ped.
110
(p)
sff
p
8ba
Ped.
115
sf p
sf p
sf p
119
sf p
sf p
sf p
sf p

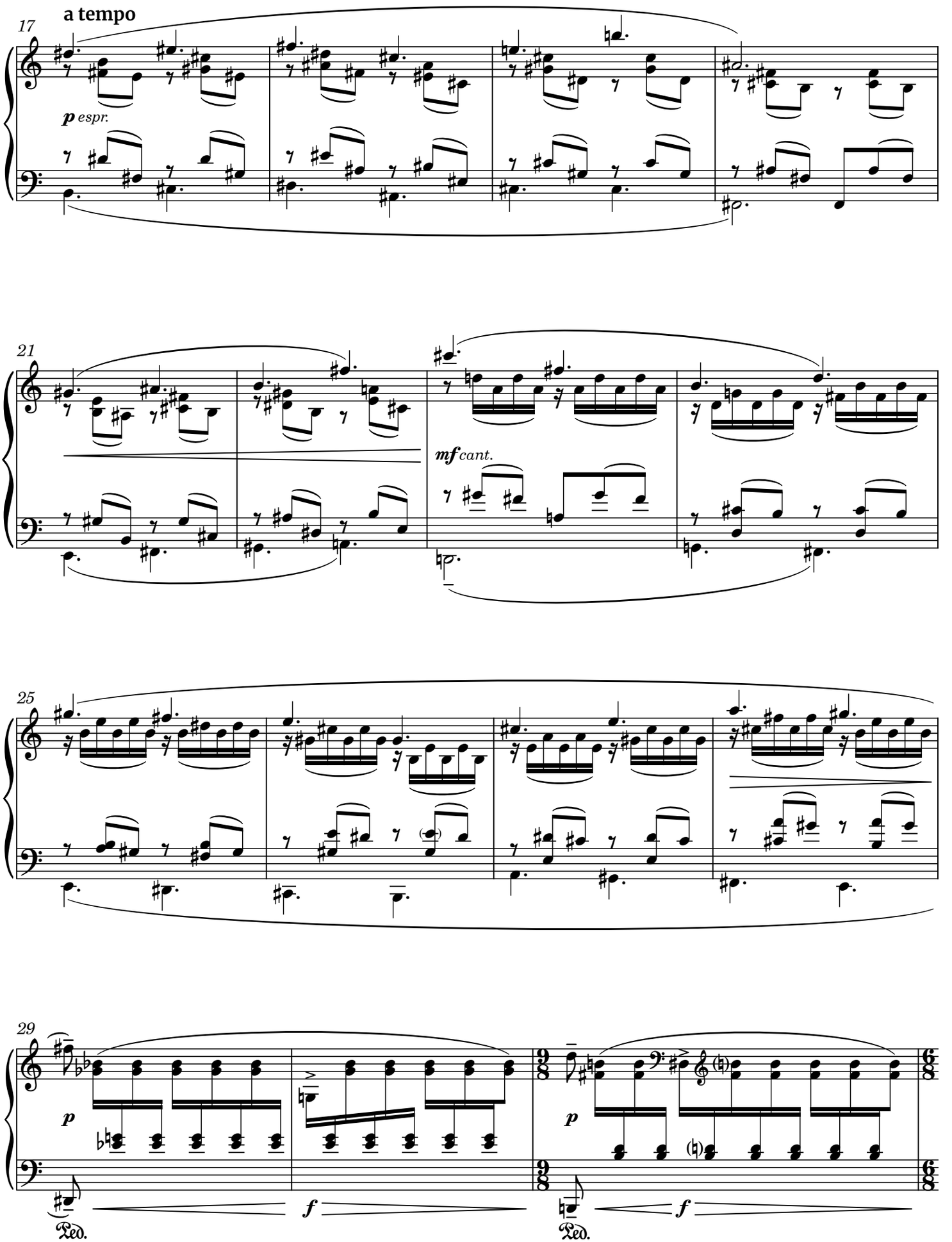

molto rit.
123
8va
sf
f
pp
128
Prestissimo ♩ = 192
ff
f
8ba
133
molto accel. al fine
138
fff
144
gliss. on
white keys
sfff
Ped.

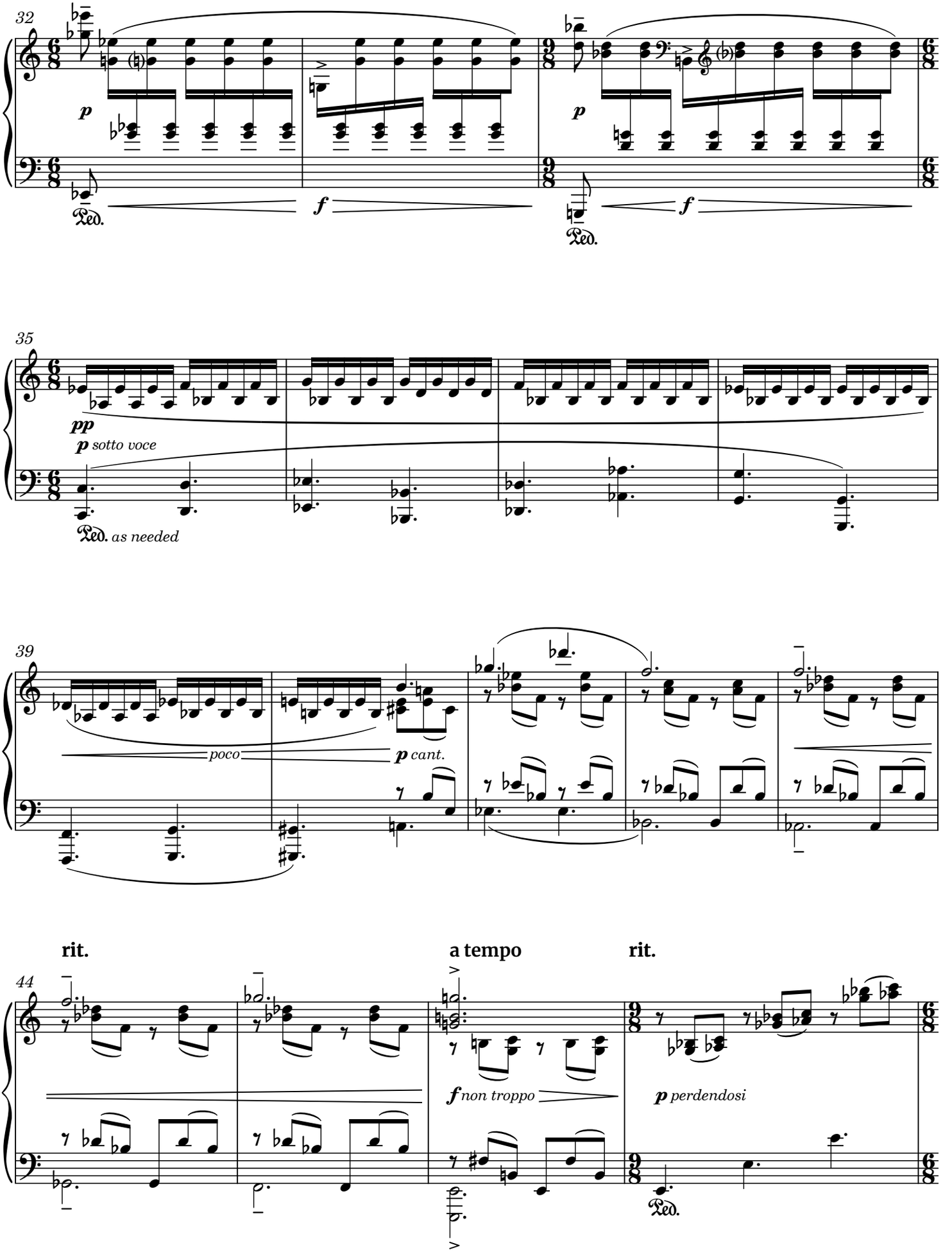
to Gloria Cheng

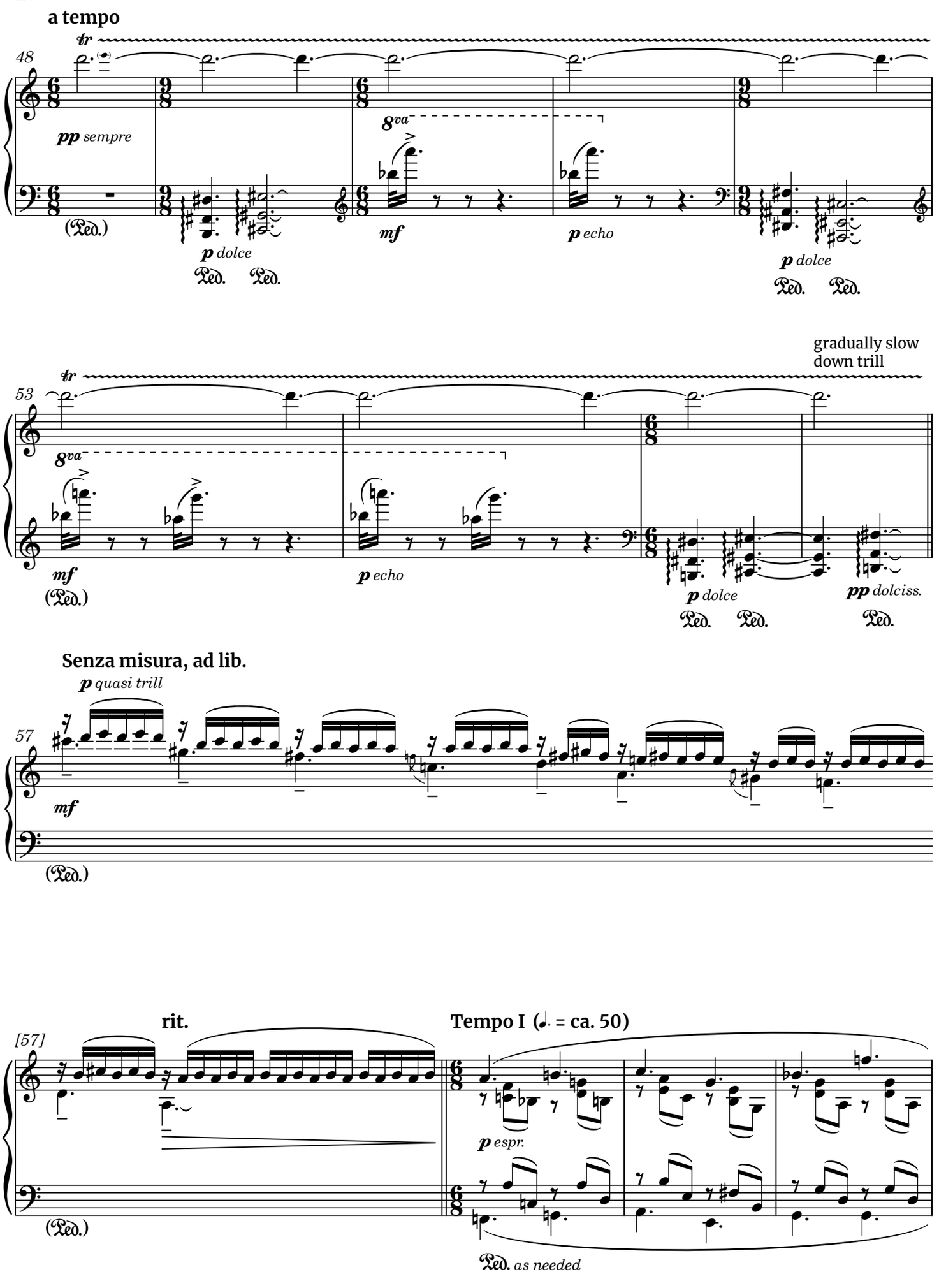
VI. The Shadhahvar

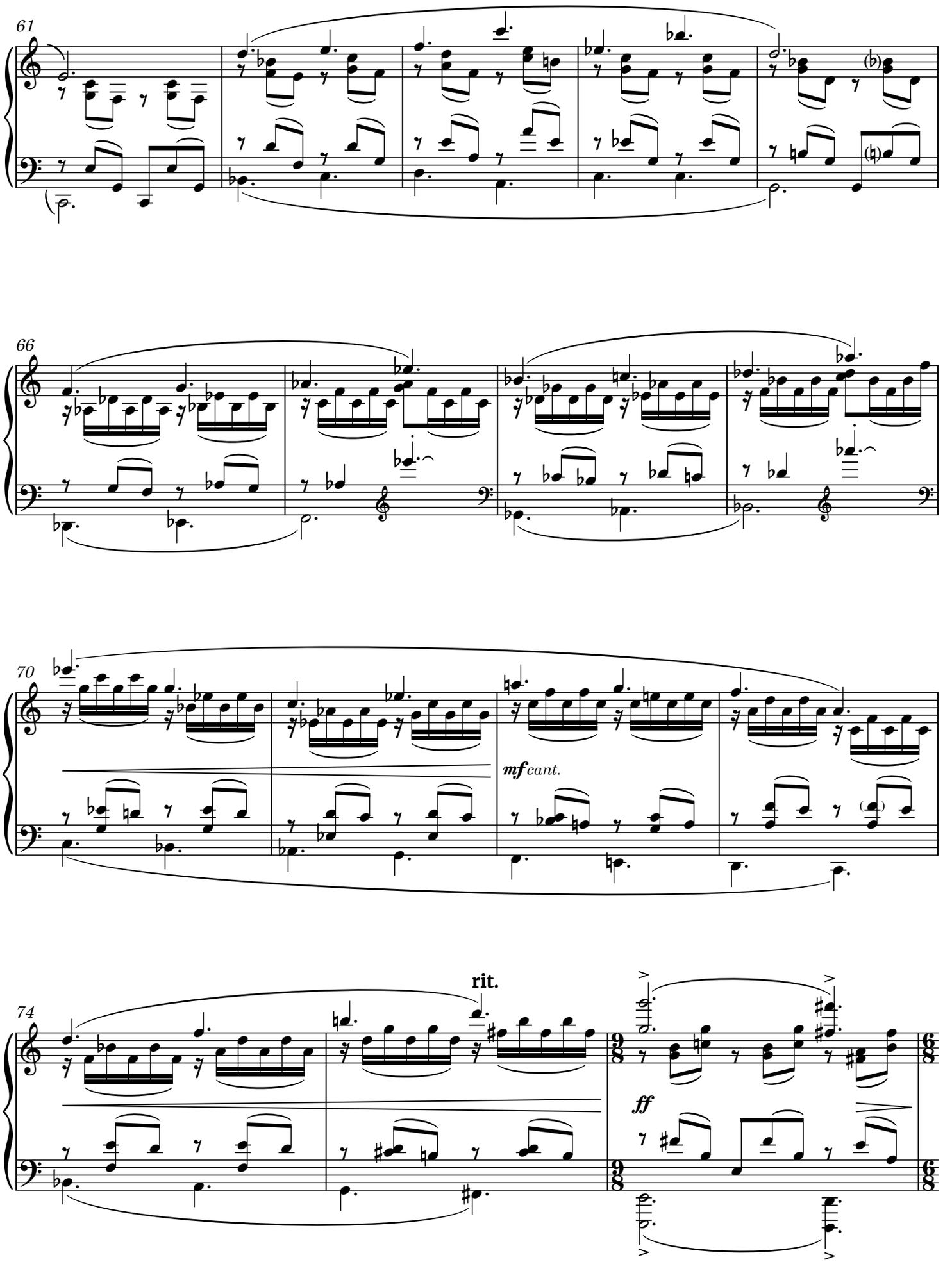
Grazioso con rubato (sempre cantabile) ♩. **= ca. 50**

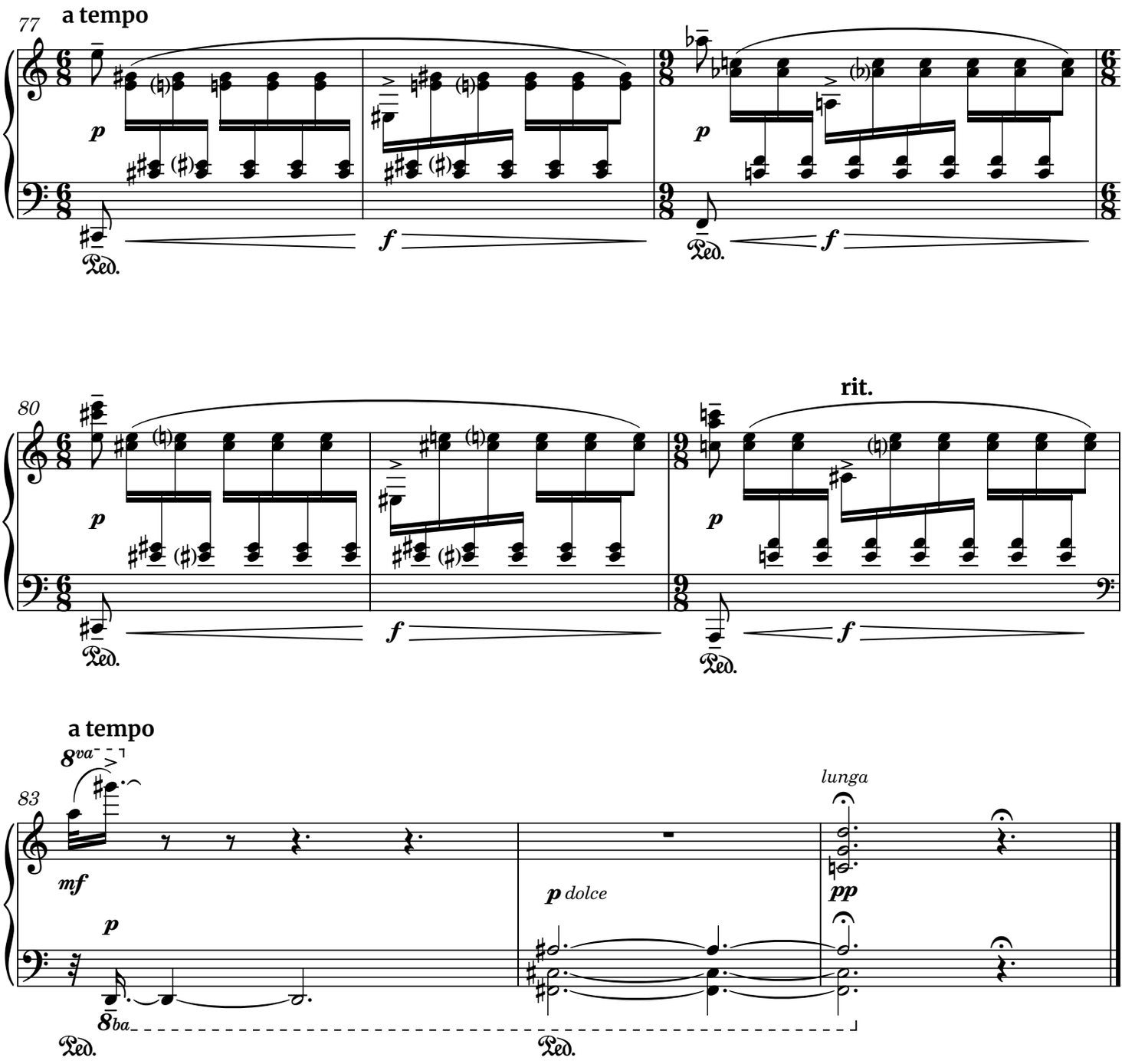



17
a tempo
p espr.
21
mf cant.
25
29
p
f
Ped.
p
f
Ped.


32
p
Ped.
f
p
Ped.
f
35
pp
p sotto voce
Ped. as needed
39
poco
p cant.
44
rit.
a tempo
rit.
f non troppo
p perdendosi
Ped.


a tempo
48
tr
pp sempre
(Ped.)
p dolce
Ped. Ped.
8va
mf
p echo
p dolce
Ped. Ped.
gradually slow down trill
53
tr
8va
mf
(Ped.)
p echo
p dolce
Ped. Ped.
pp dolciss.
Ped.
Senza misura, ad lib.
p quasi trill
57
mf
(Ped.)
rit.
[57]
(Ped.)
Tempo I (♩. = ca. 50)
p espr.
Ped. as needed


61
66
70
mf cant.
74
rit.
ff


77
a tempo
p
f
Ped.
80
rit.
83
mf
8va
8ba
p dolce
lunga
pp