NIGHT CROSSING with FISHERMAN
for two pianos

Frederic Rzewski (1994)
For Ursula Oppens

8× [8× 𝅗𝅥 @ 96 = 48/4 = 30"] = 4'

1. Night

(Piano 1)

♩. 96

ppp *una corda* *pp* *ppp* *ppp* *rit.....*

5

mf *mp* *mf* *p* *dim.* *pp*

9

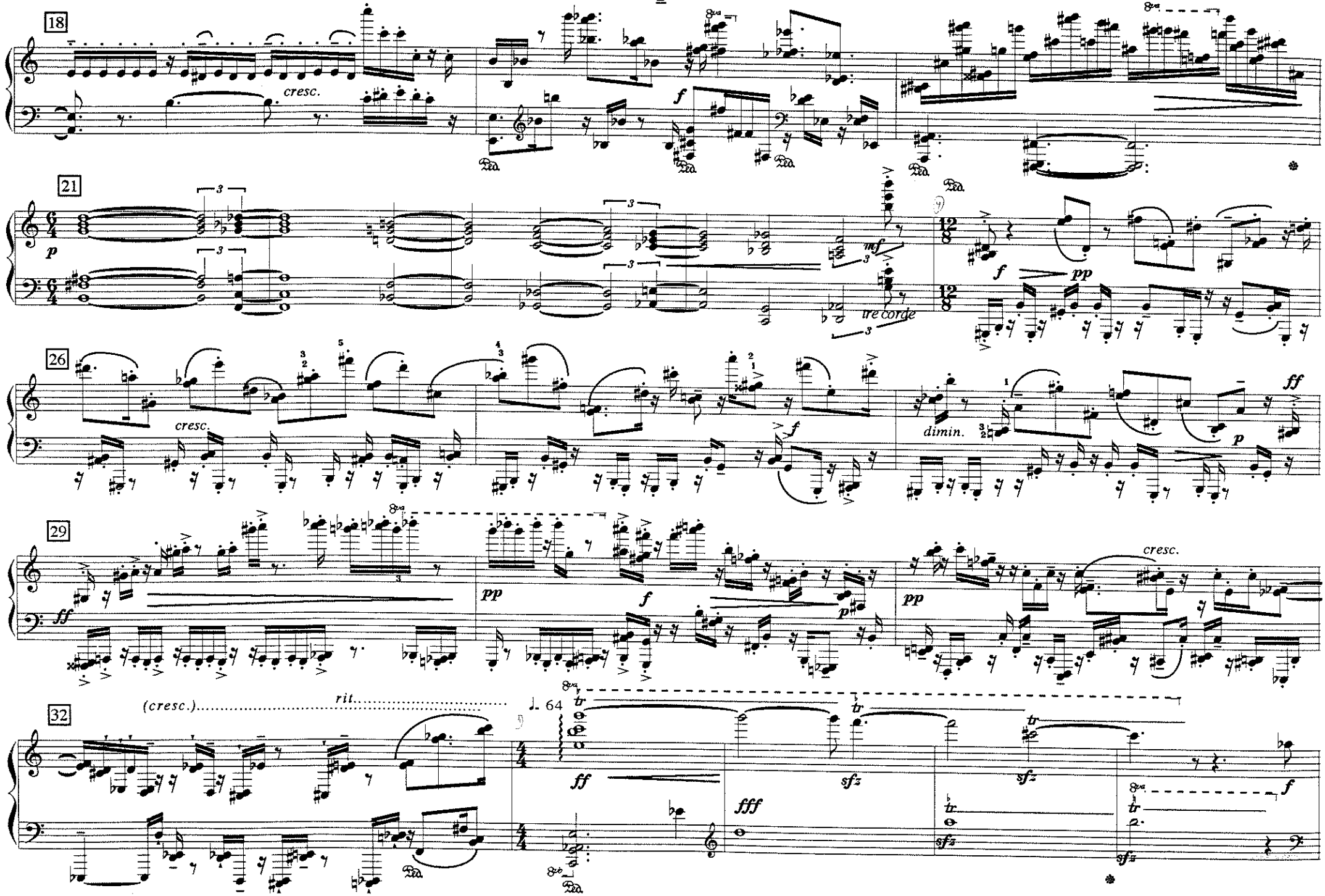
p *cresc.*

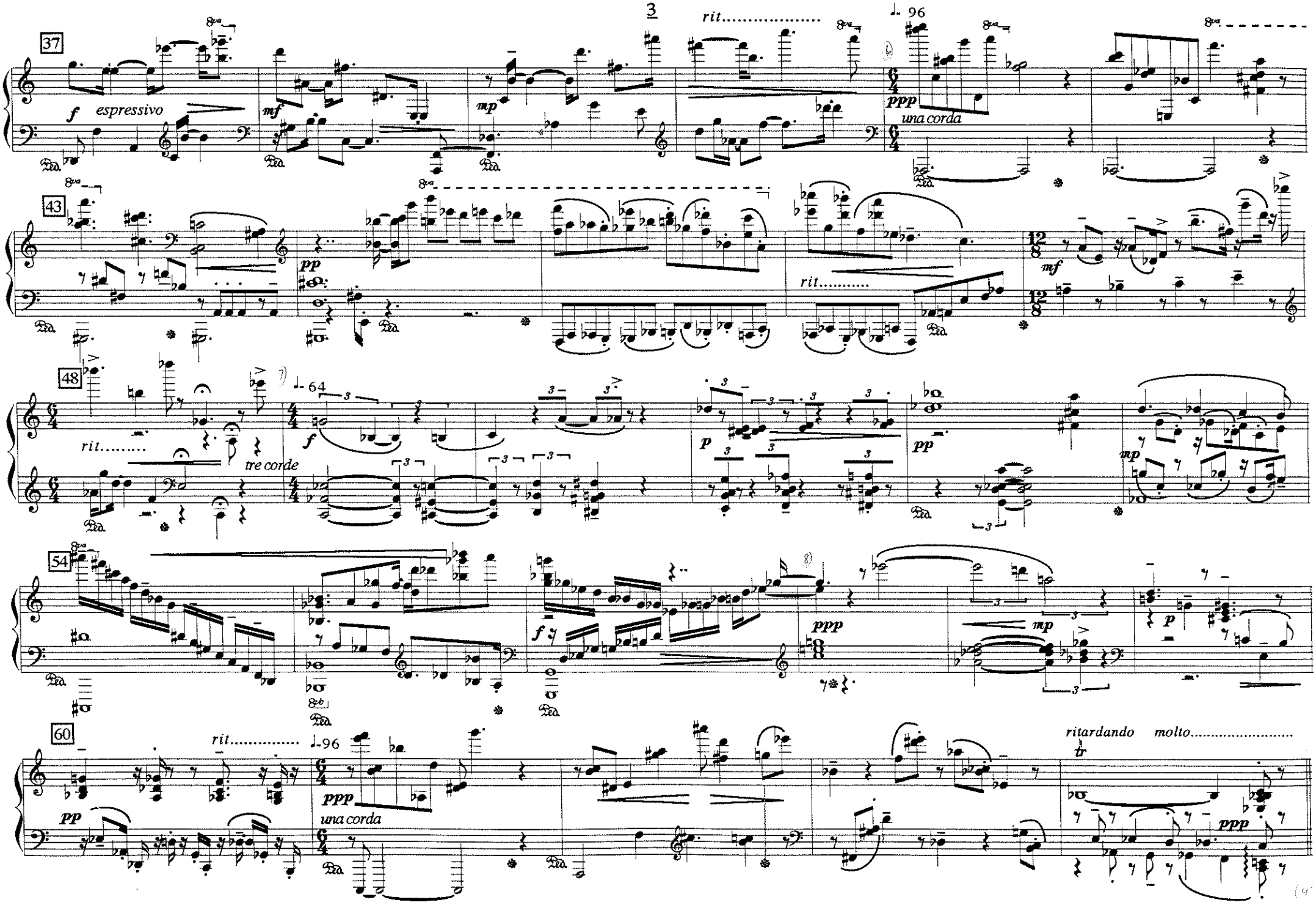
12

mf *(sust. ped.)* *f*

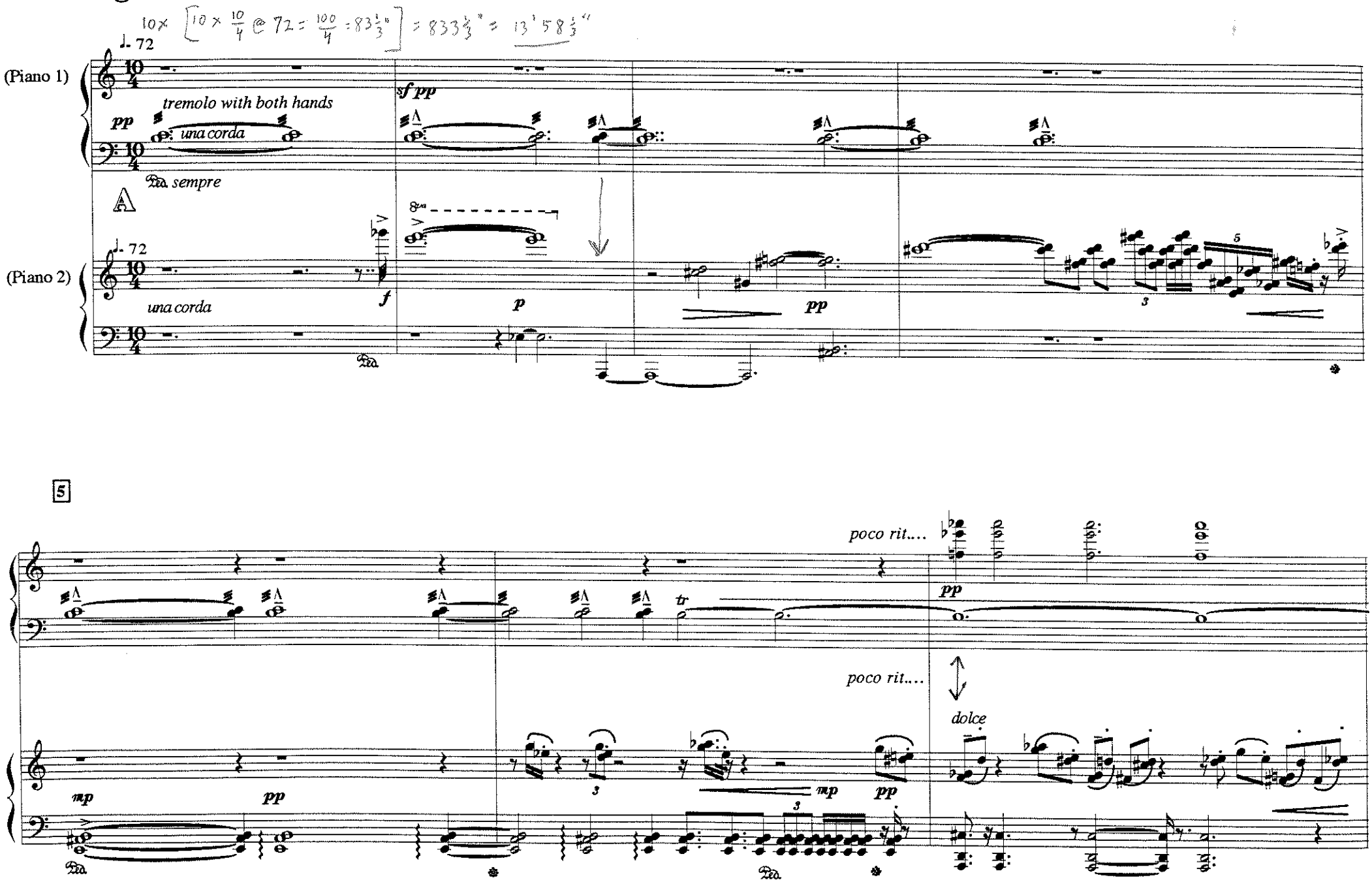
15

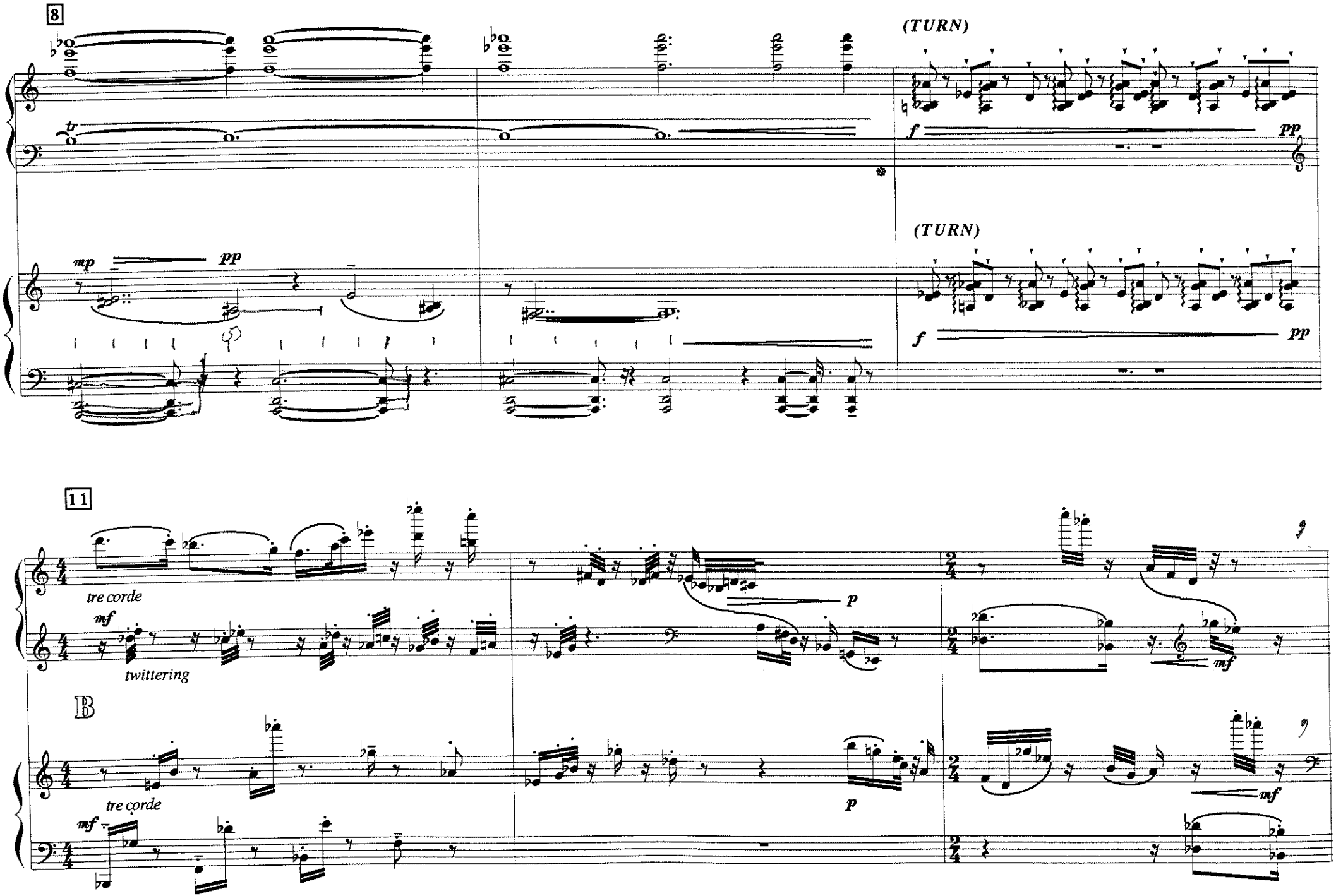
p *pp*

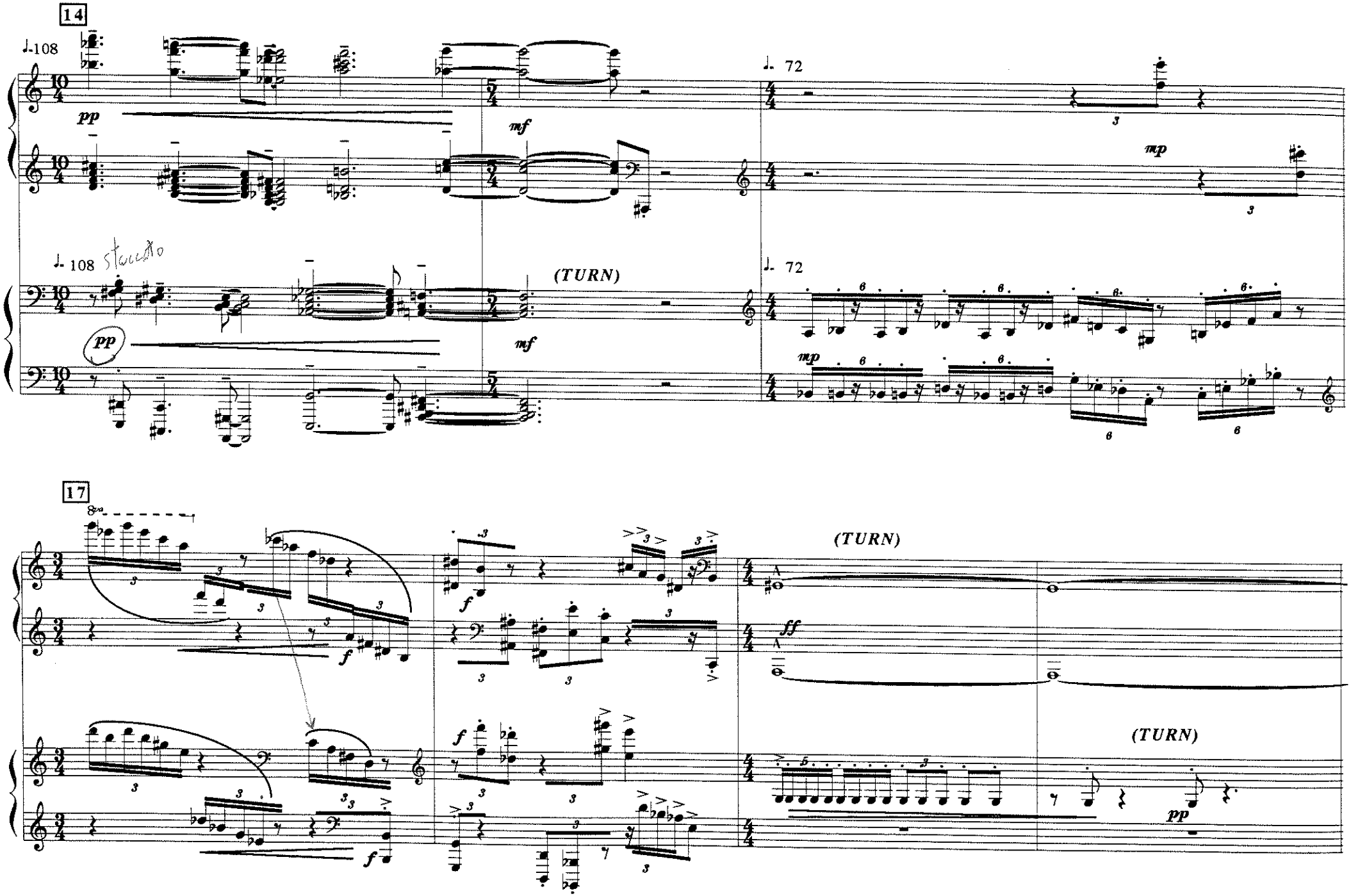

18
cresc.
f
21
p
mf
tre corde
f
pp
26
cresc.
f
dimin.
p
ff
29
ff
pp
f
p
pp
cresc.
32
(cresc.)
rit.
♩. 64
ff
fff
sfz
sfz
sfz
f

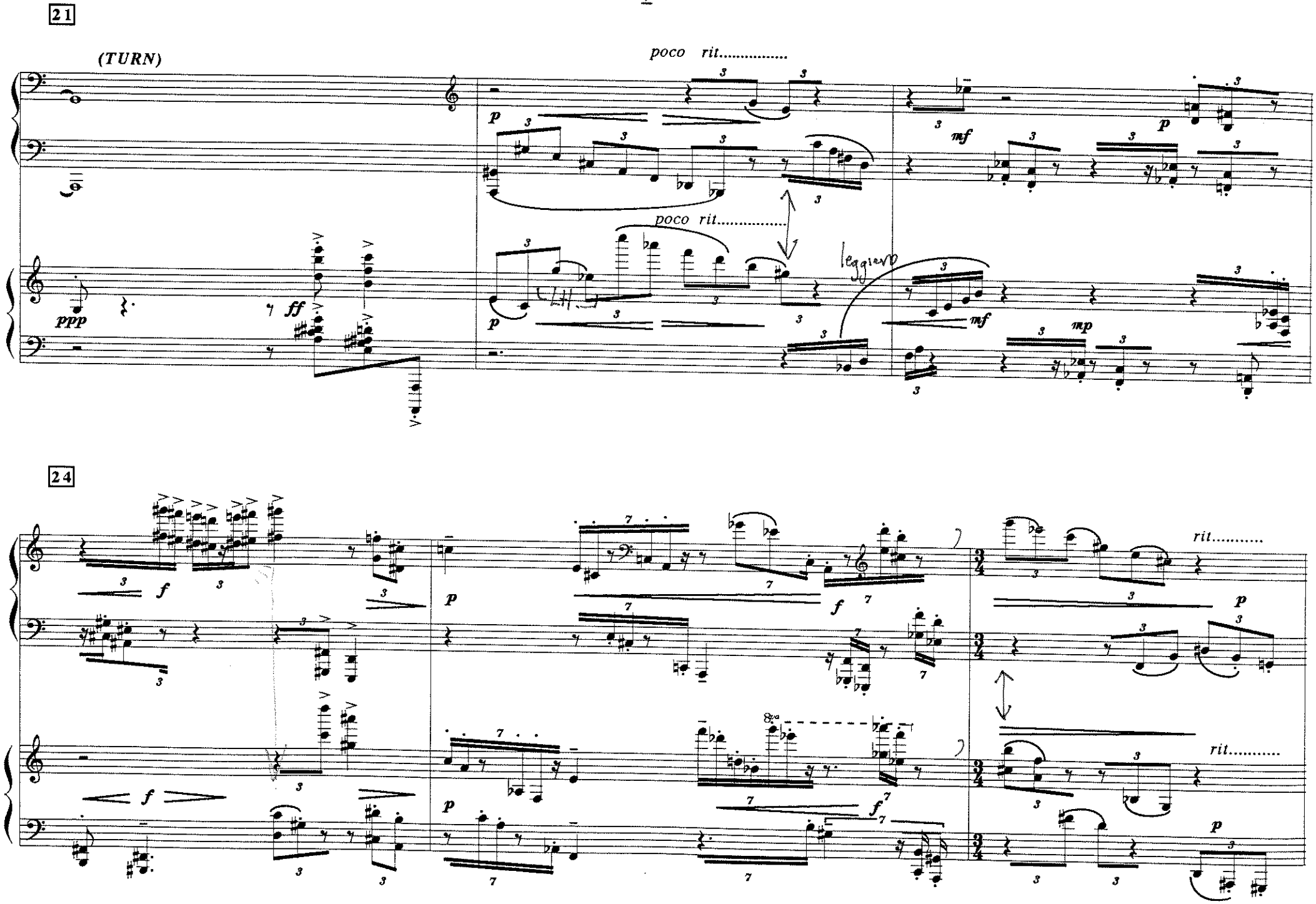

37
f espressivo
mf
mp
rit.....
♩. 96
ppp
una corda
43
pp
rit.....
mf
48
rit.....
tre corde
♩. 64
f
p
pp
mp
54
f
ppp
mp
p
60
rit.....
♩. 96
pp
ppp
una corda
ritardando molto.....
ppp

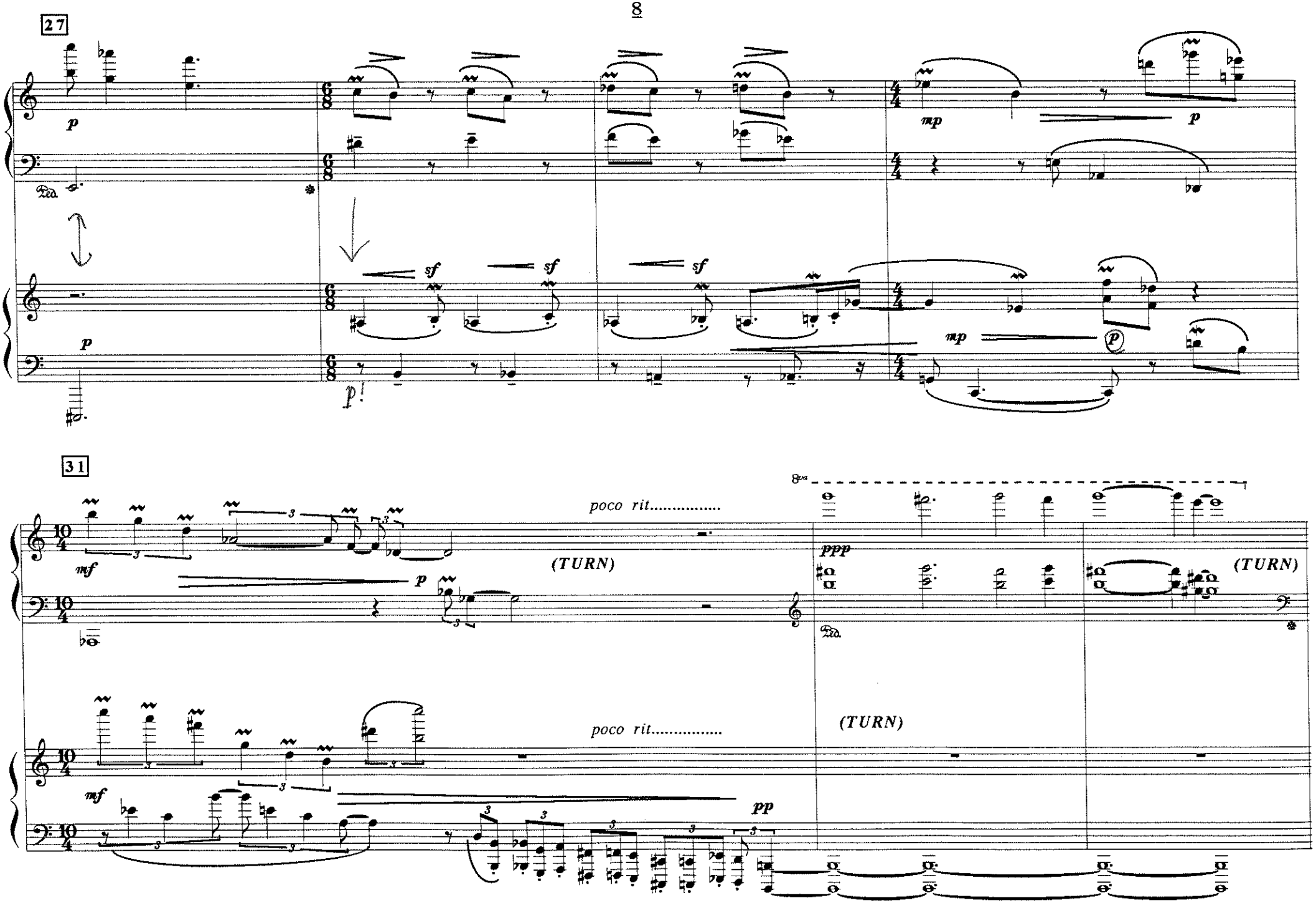
2. Crossing

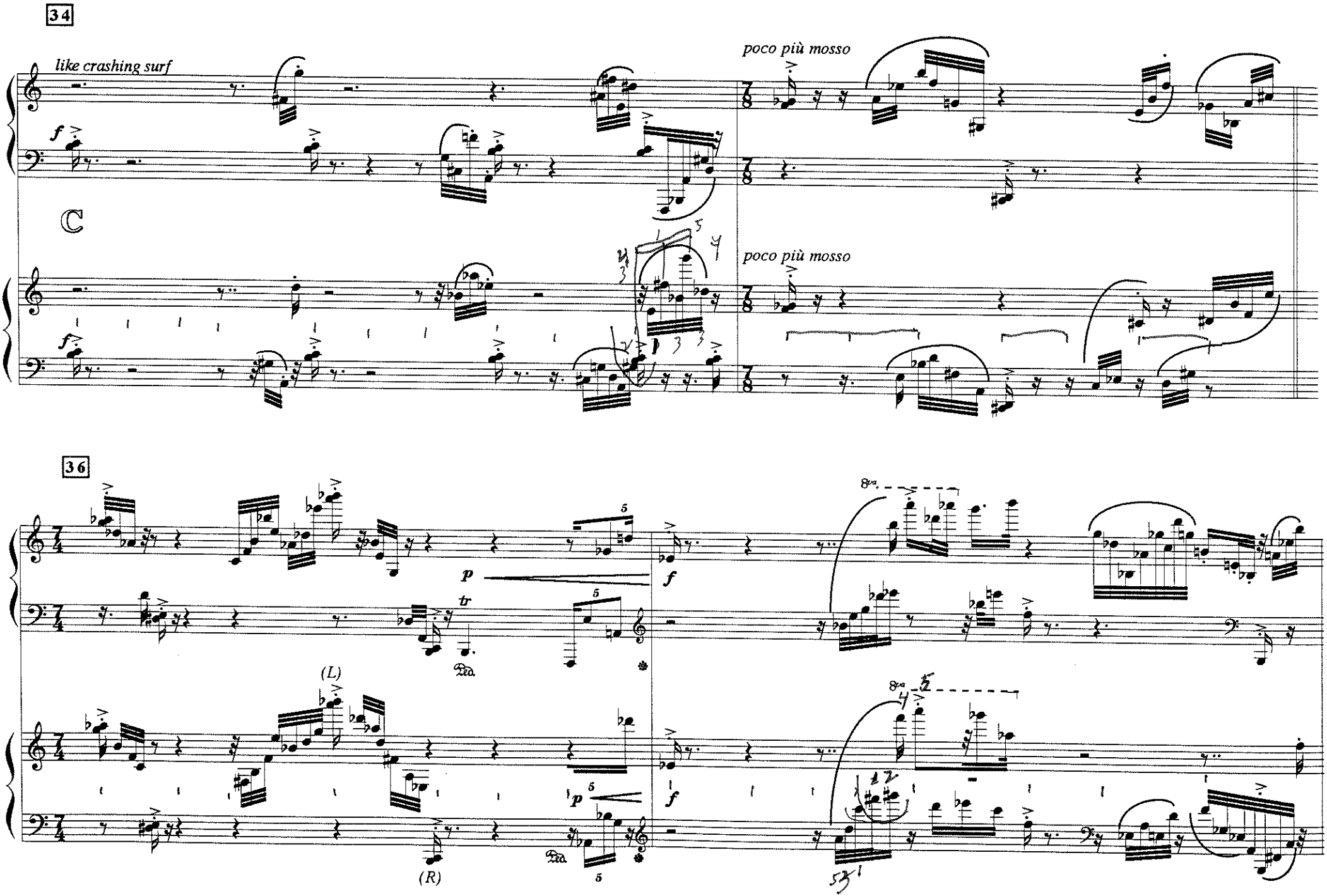

(Piano 1)
(Piano 2)
tremolo with both hands
una corda
sempre
una corda
poco rit....
dolce

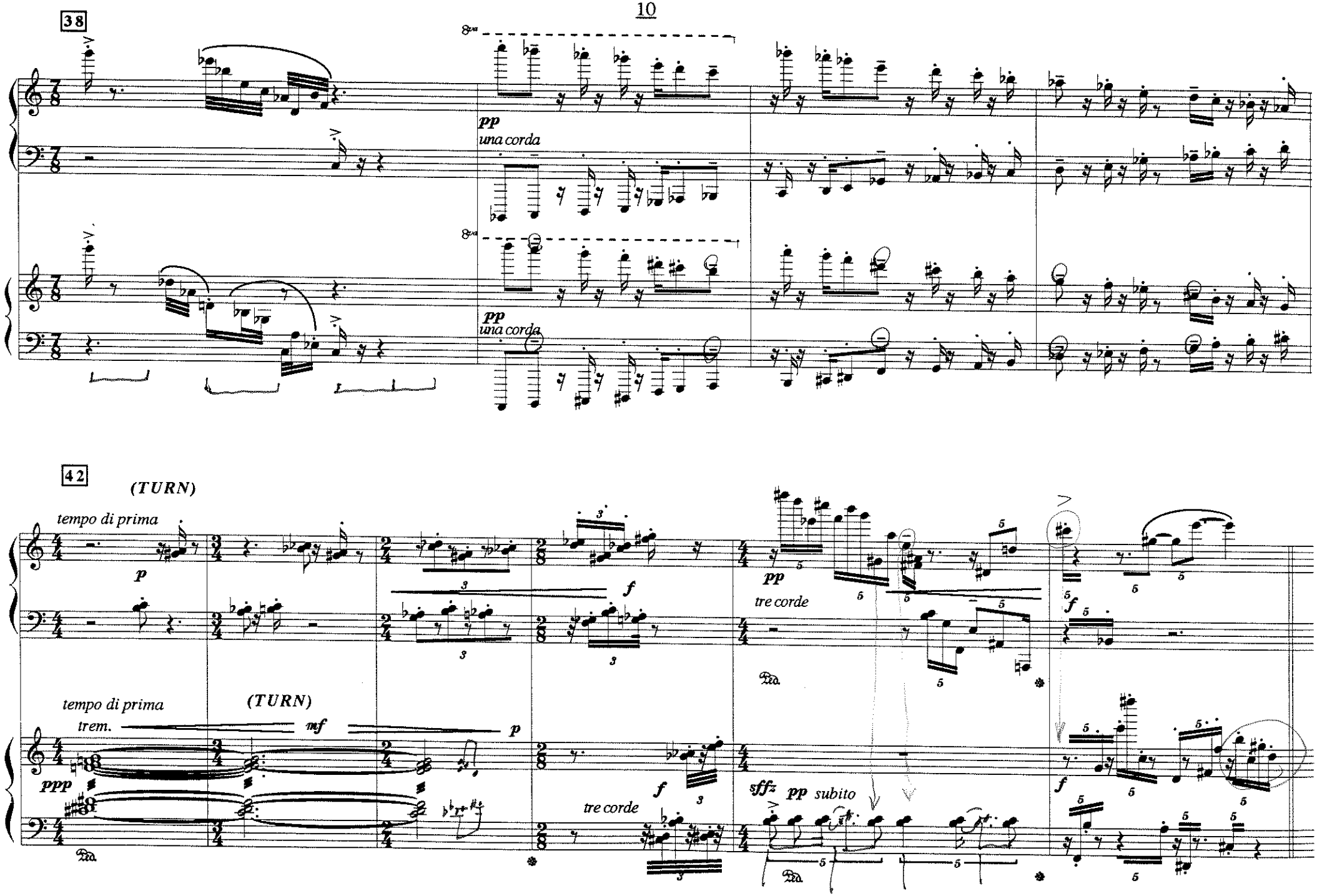

8
(TURN)
f
pp
(TURN)
f
pp
mp
pp
11
tre corde
mf
twittering
p
mf
B
tre corde
mf
p
mf

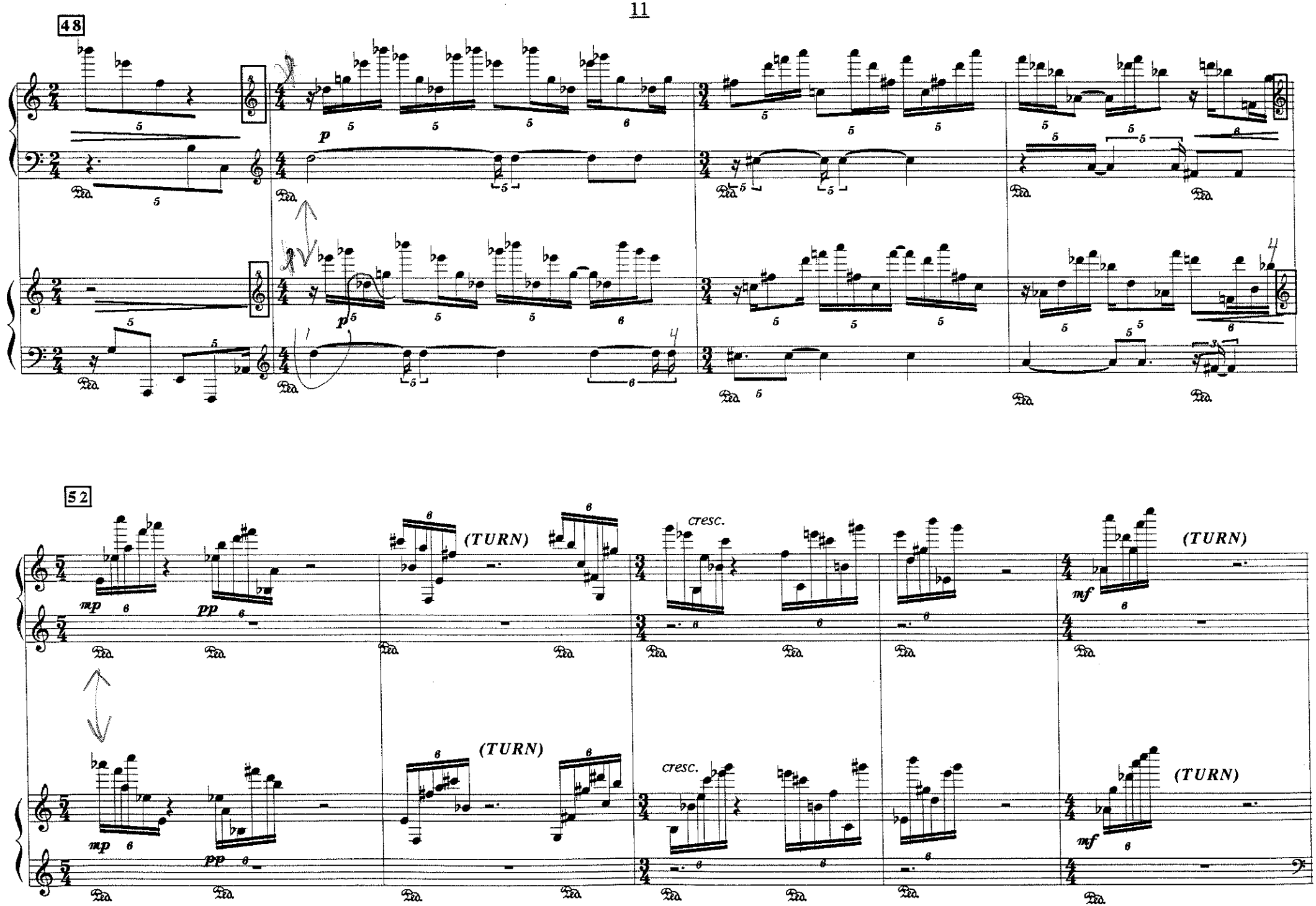

14
♩.108
pp
mf
♩. 72
mp
♩. 108 staccato
(TURN)
pp
mf
♩. 72
mp
17
(TURN)
f
ff
f
f
(TURN)
pp

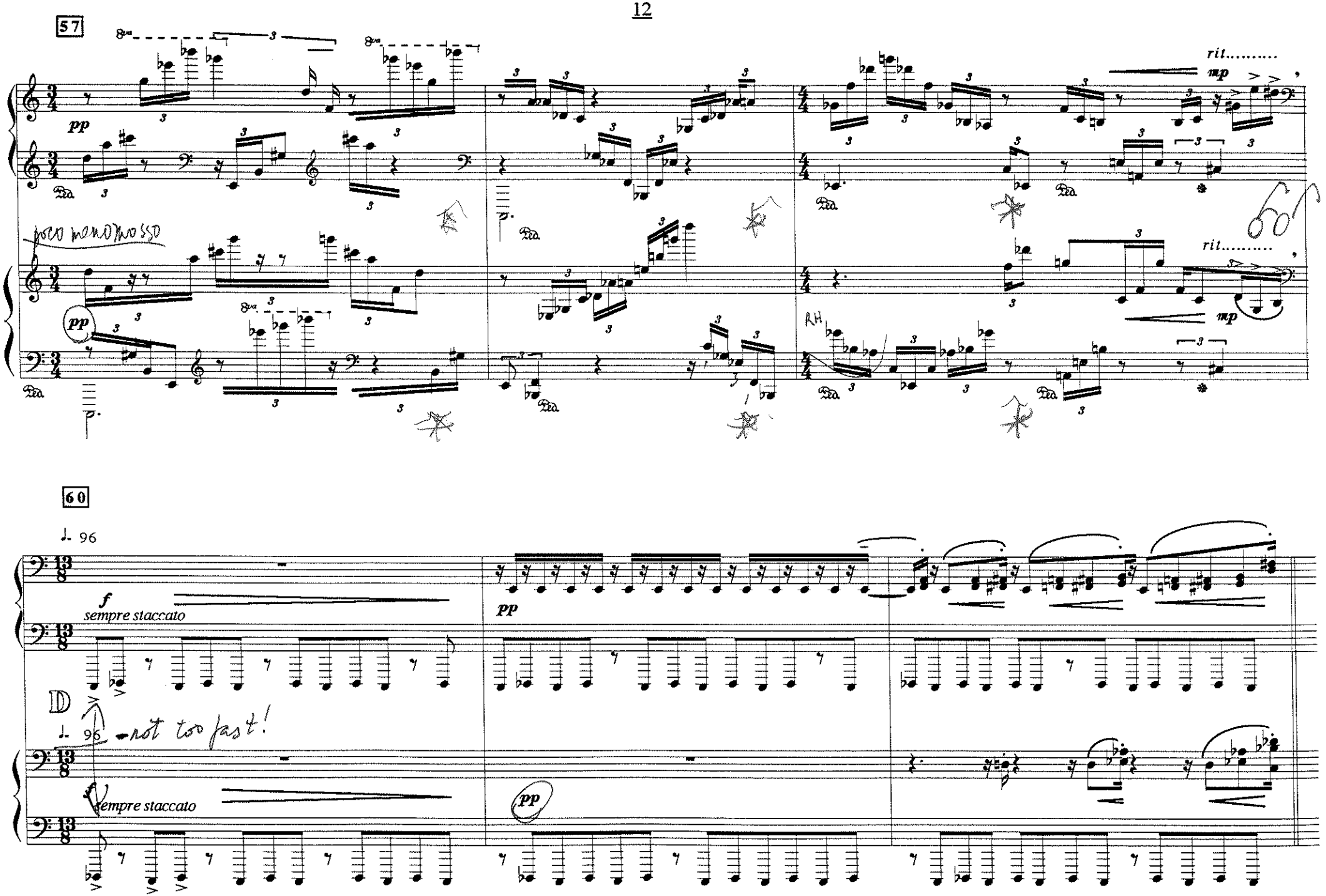

21
(TURN)
poco rit.....
poco rit.....
leggiero
24
rit.....
rit.....

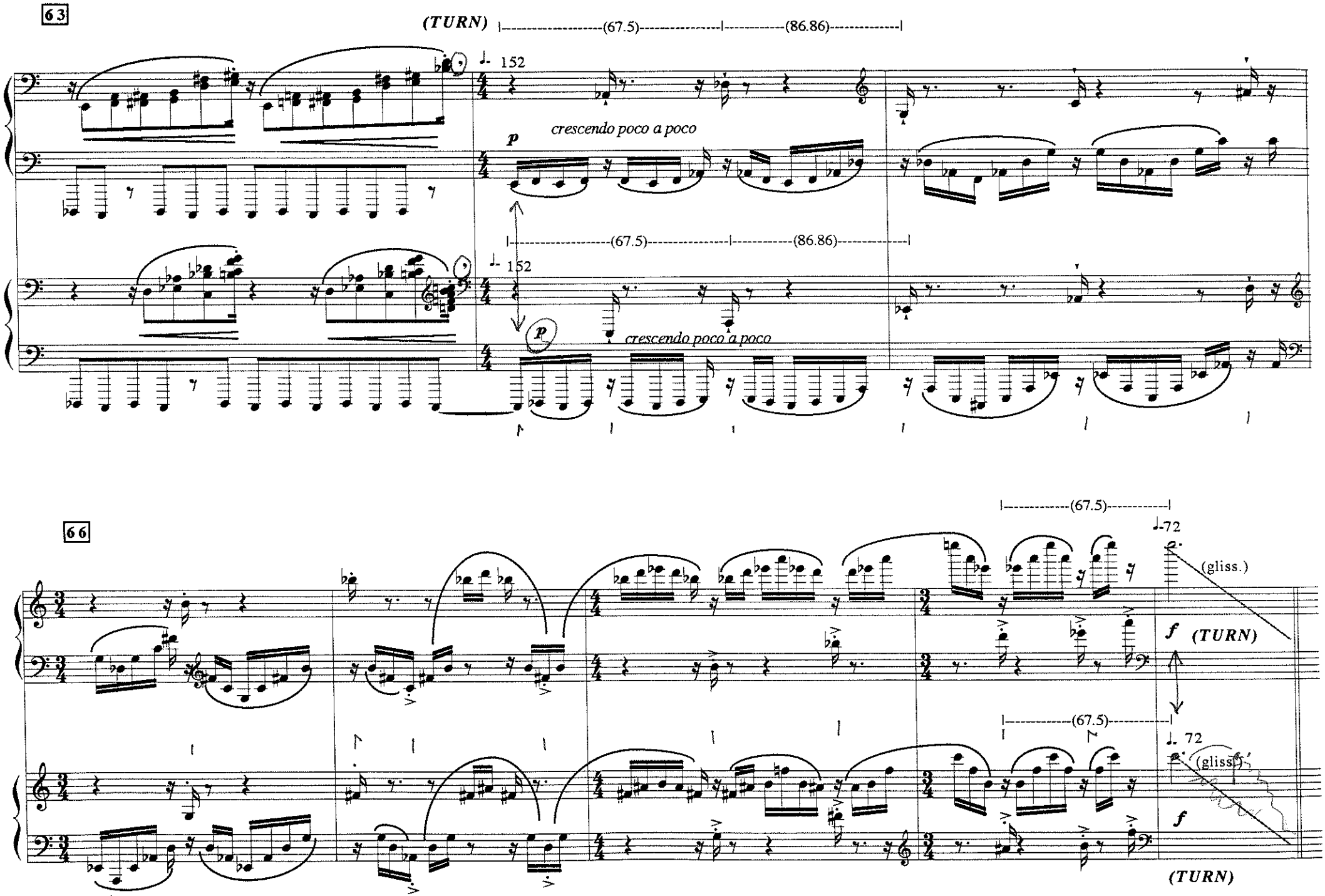

27
p
sf
mp
p!
31
mf
poco rit.....
(TURN)
ppp
8va
pp

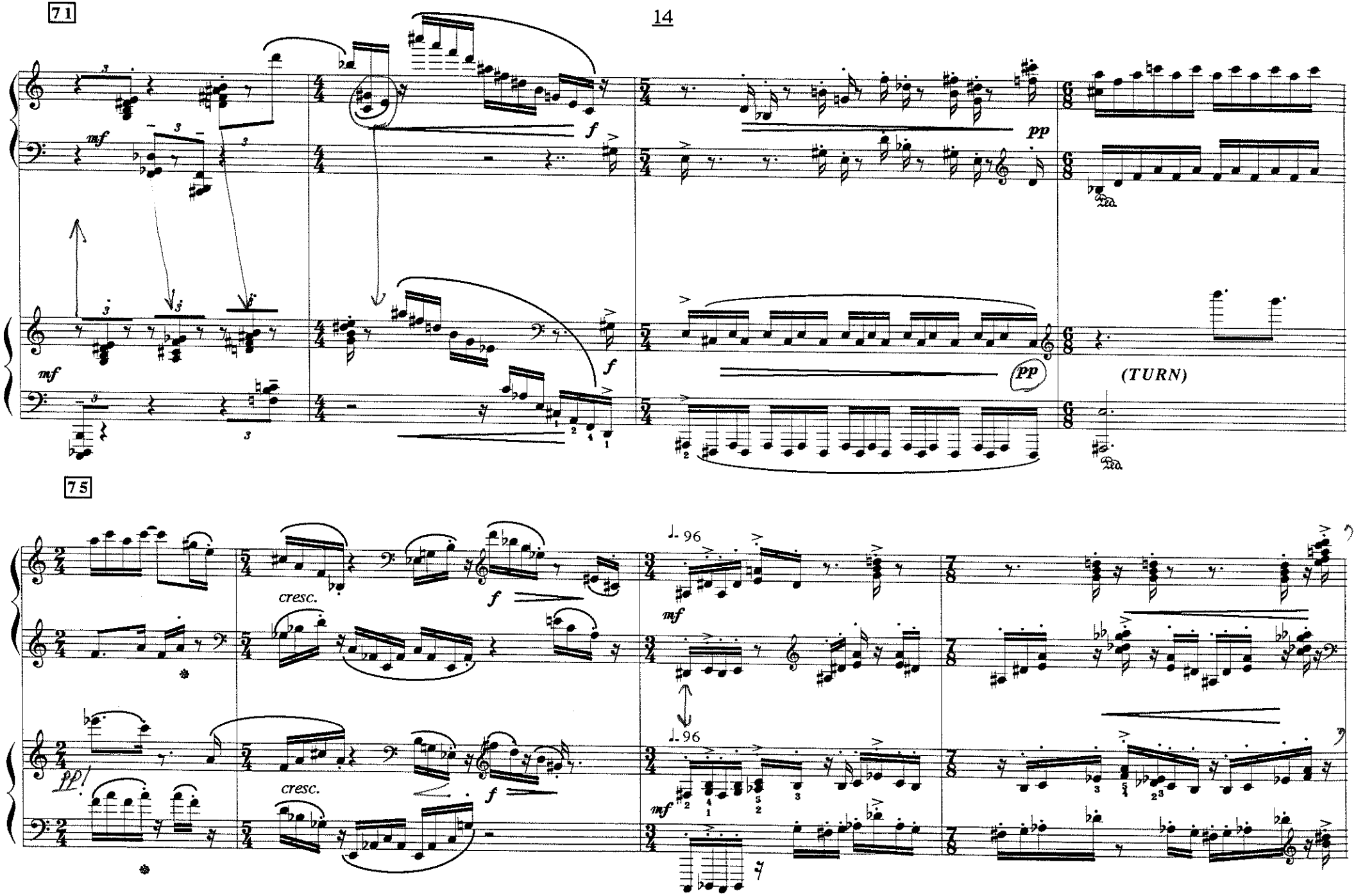

34
like crashing surf
poco più mosso
poco più mosso
36
(L)
(R)

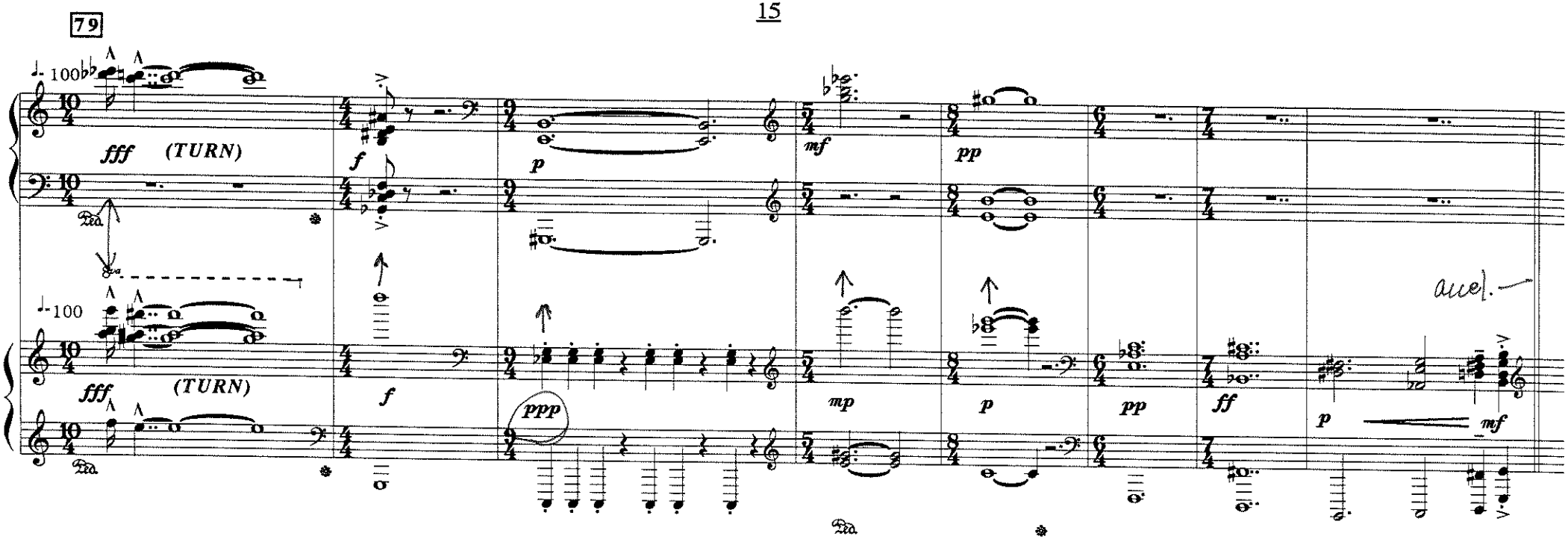

38
pp
una corda
pp
una corda
42
(TURN)
tempo di prima
p
f
pp
tre corde
tempo di prima
(TURN)
trem.
mf
p
ppp
f
tre corde
sffz
pp subito
f

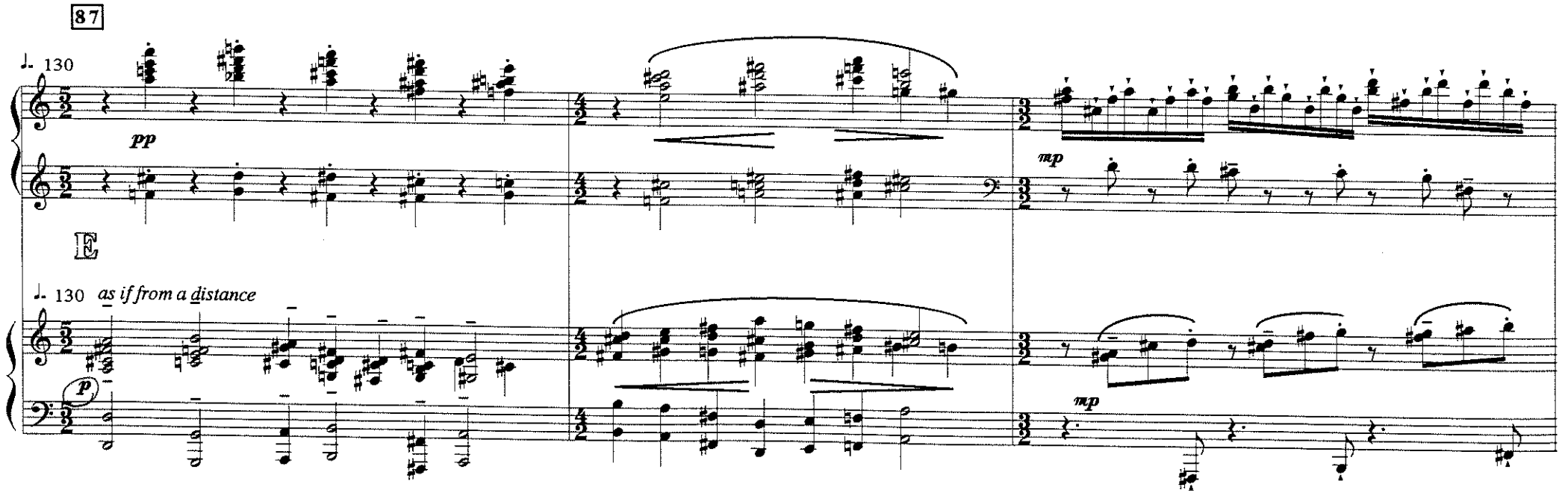

48
52
(TURN)
cresc.
mp
pp
mf

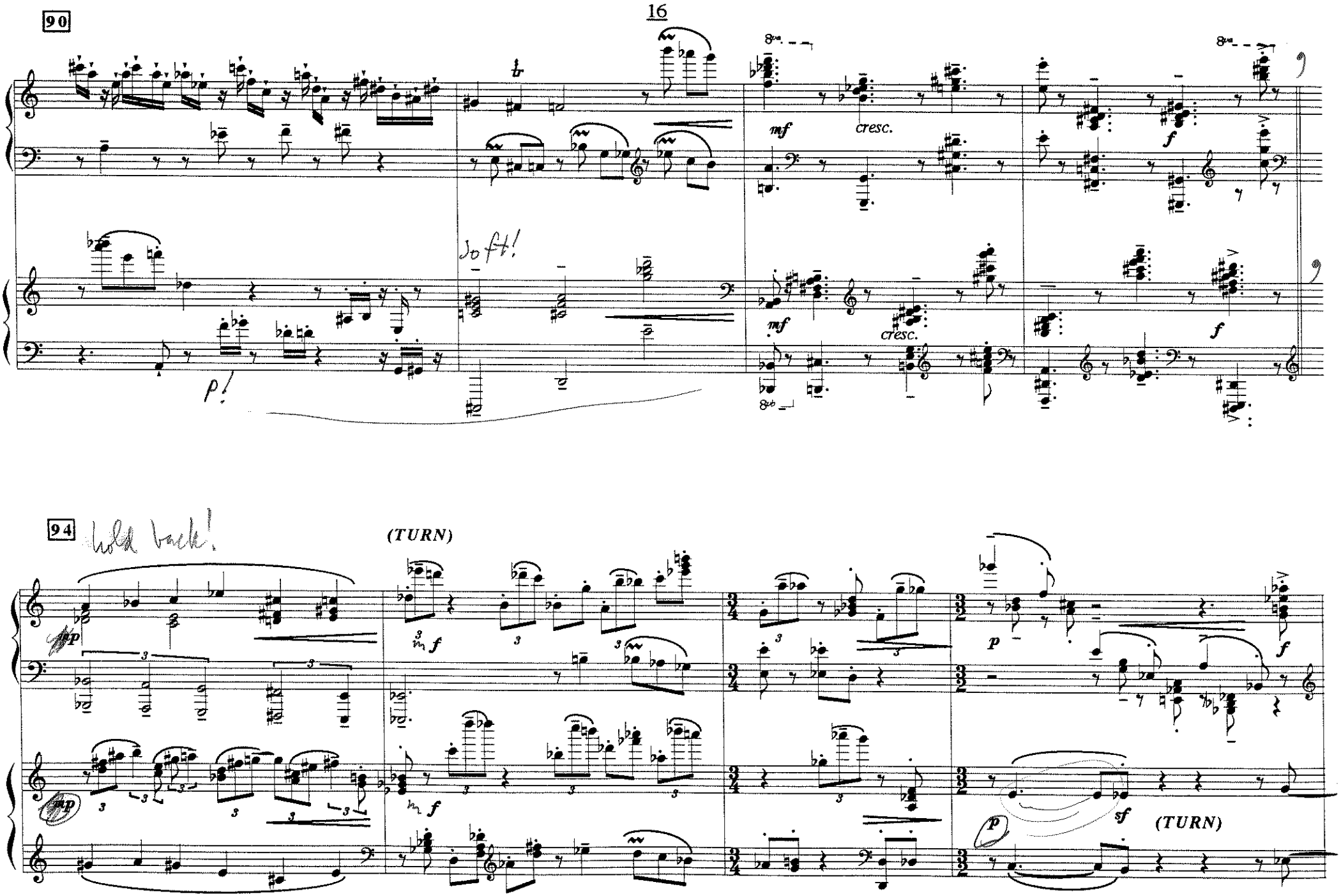

57
pp
rit.....
mp
poco meno mosso
pp
rit.....
mp
RH
60
♩. 96
f
sempre staccato
pp
D
♩. 96 - not too fast!
f
sempre staccato
pp

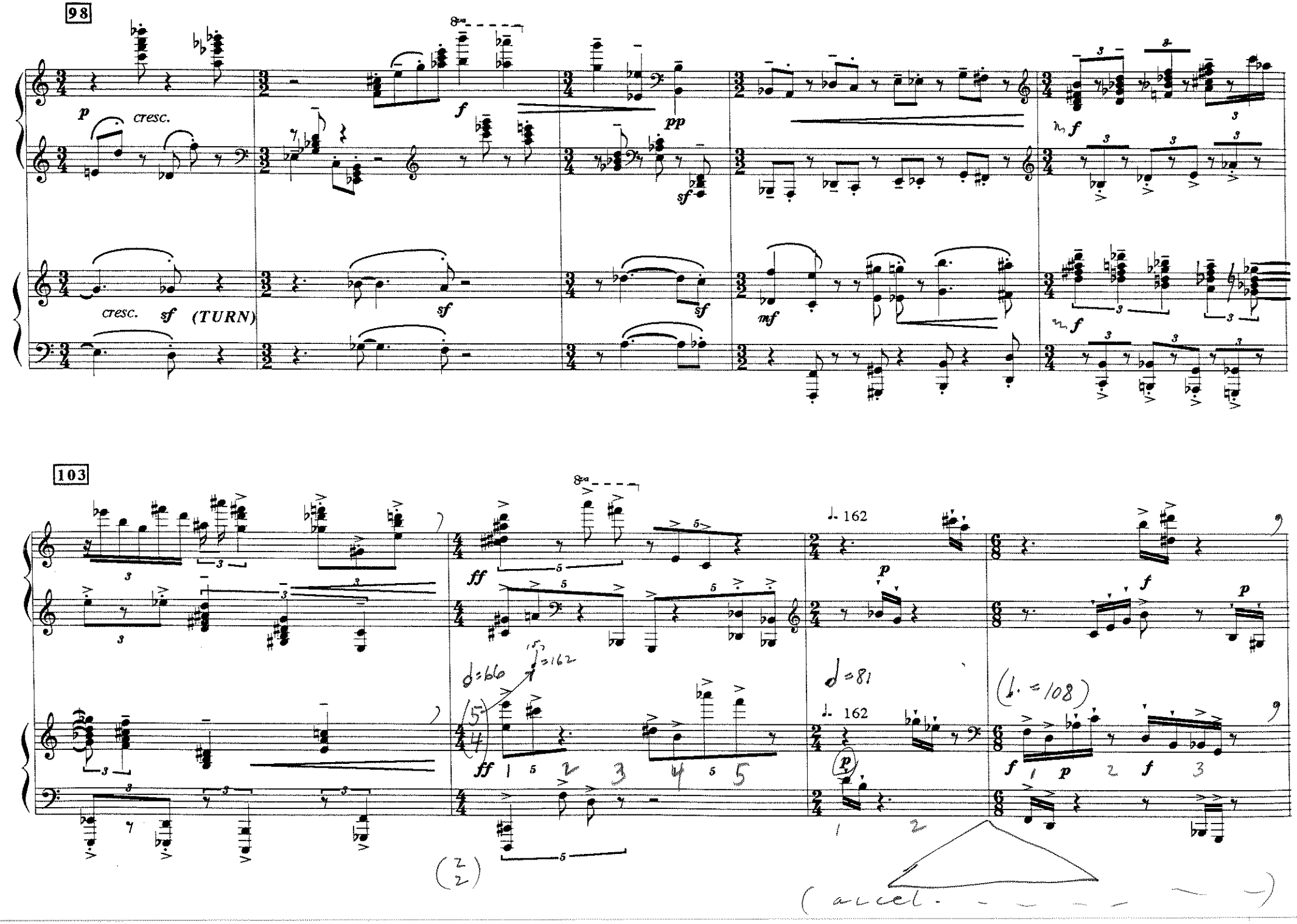

63
(TURN)
(67.5)
(86.86)
152
p
crescendo poco a poco
(67.5)
(86.86)
152
p
crescendo poco a poco
66
(67.5)
72
(gliss.)
f
(TURN)
(67.5)
72
(gliss.)
f
(TURN)

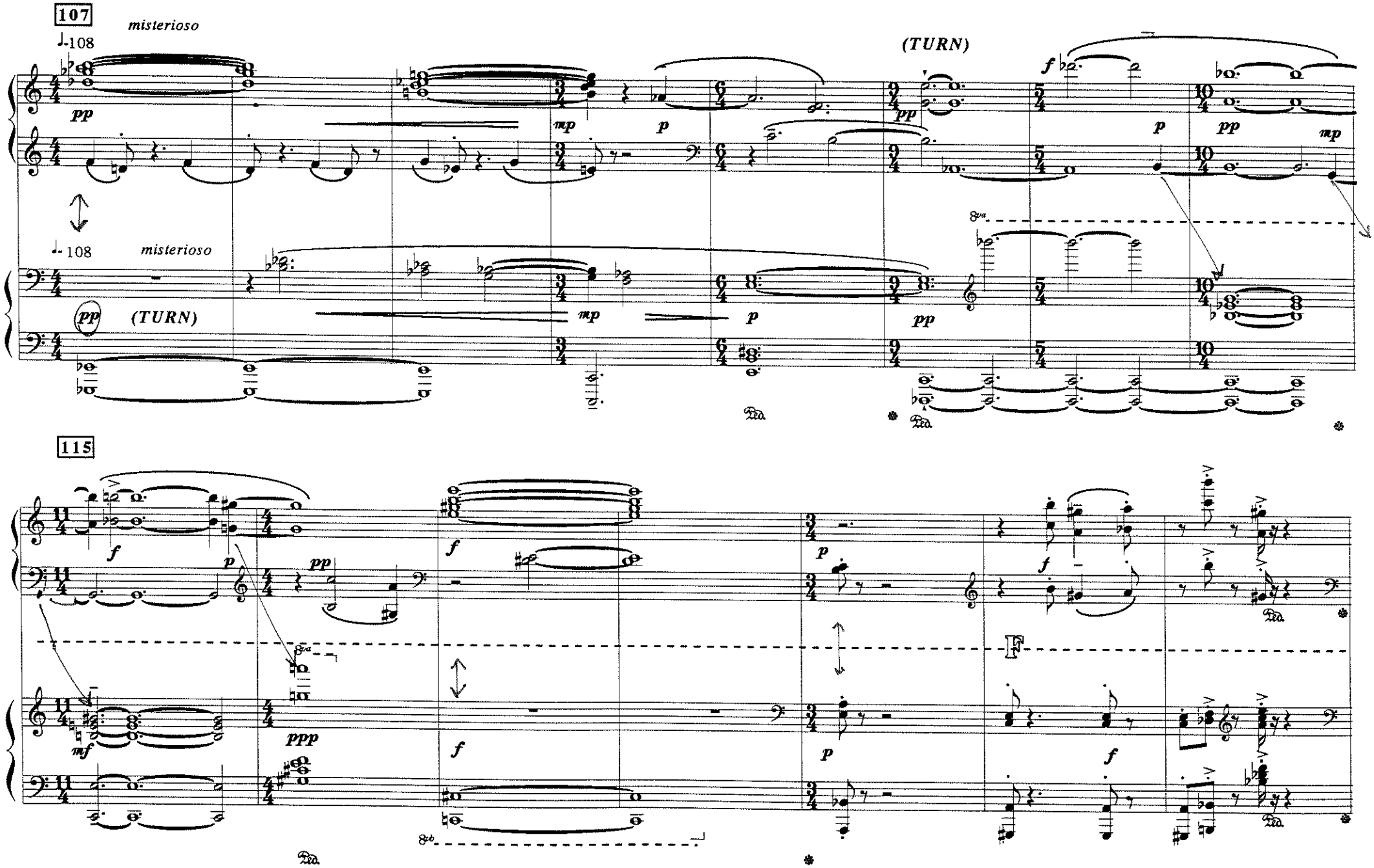

71
mf
f
pp
(TURN)
75
cresc.
♩= 96
mf
pp!


79
♩. 100
fff (TURN)
f
p
mf
pp
♩. 100
fff (TURN)
f
ppp
mp
p
pp
ff
p
mf
accel.

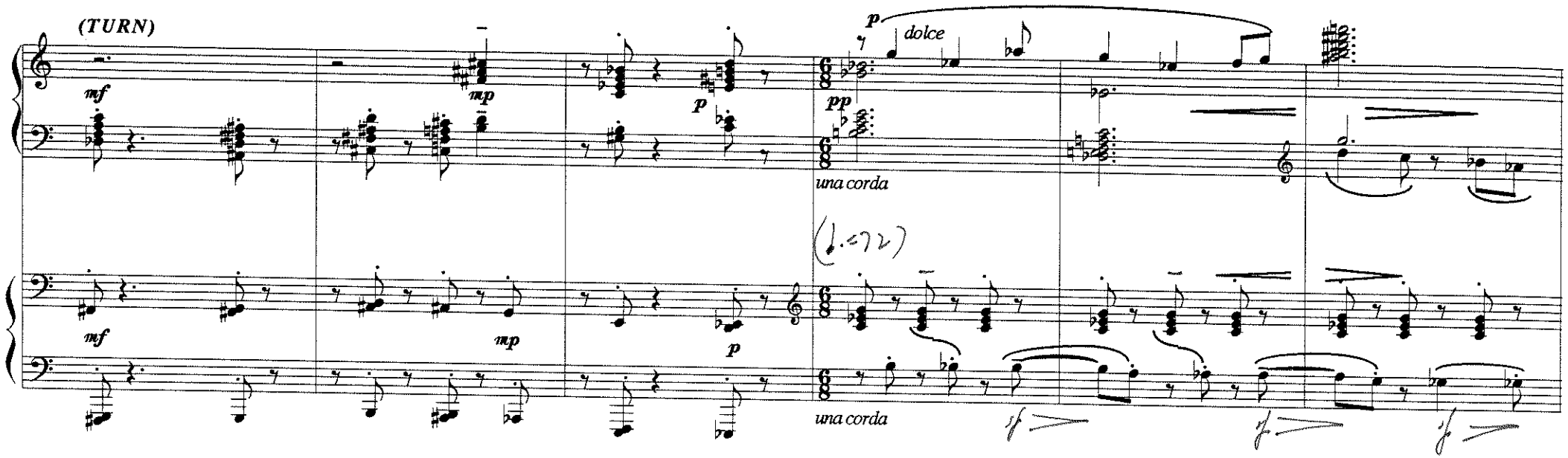

87
♩. 130
pp
mp
E
♩. 130 as if from a distance
p
mp


90
tr
8va
mf
cresc.
f
soft!
p!
94
hold back!
(TURN)
mp
mf
p
sf
(TURN)

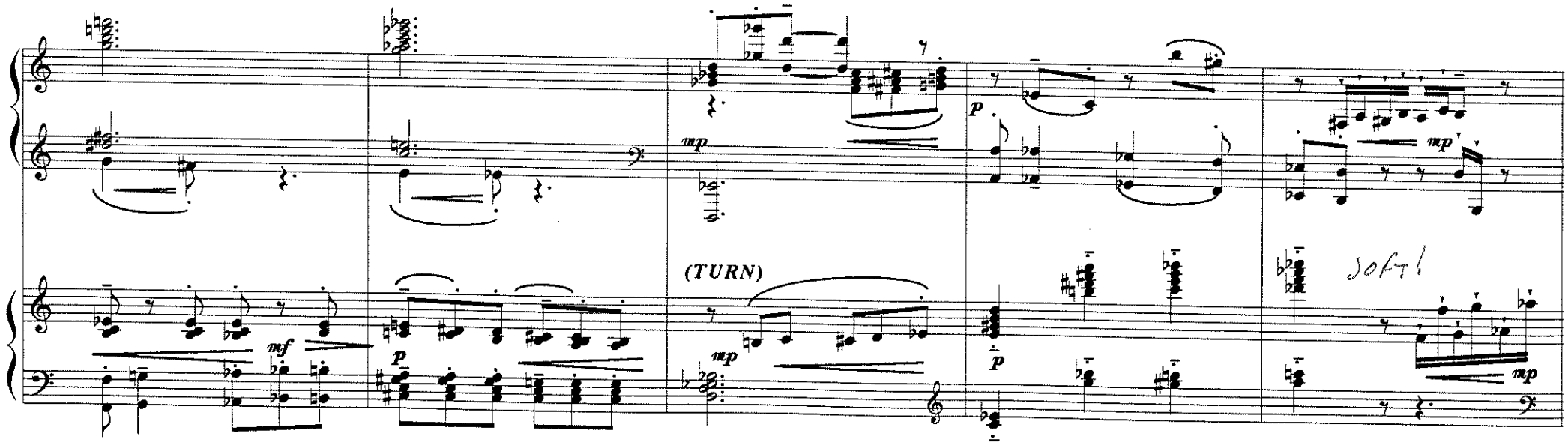

98
p
cresc.
f
pp
sf
cresc.
sf
(TURN)
mf
103
ff
♩= 162
p
f
♩=66
♩=162
♩=81
(♩.=108)
(2 2)
(accel.

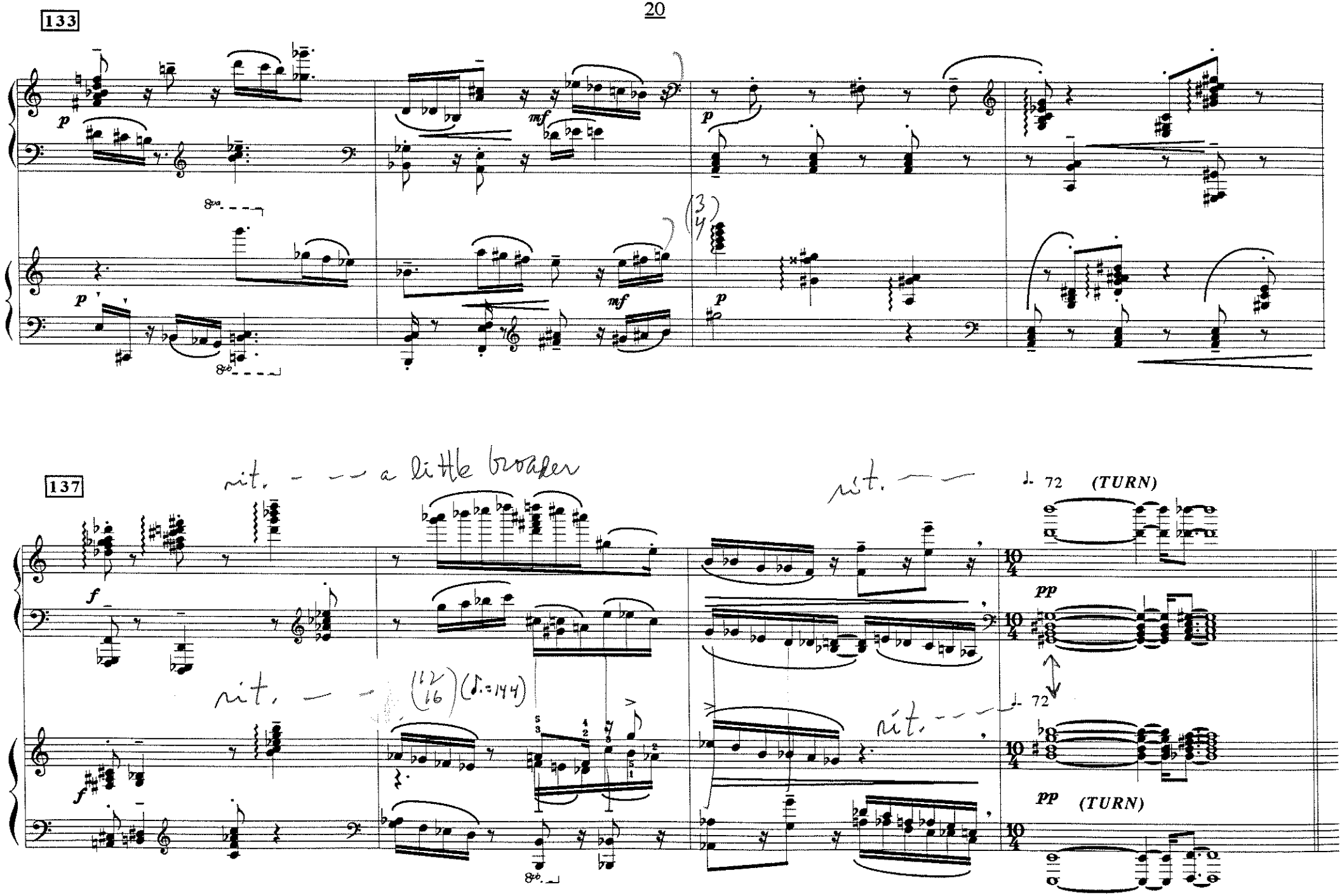

107
misterioso
♩=108
(TURN)
115

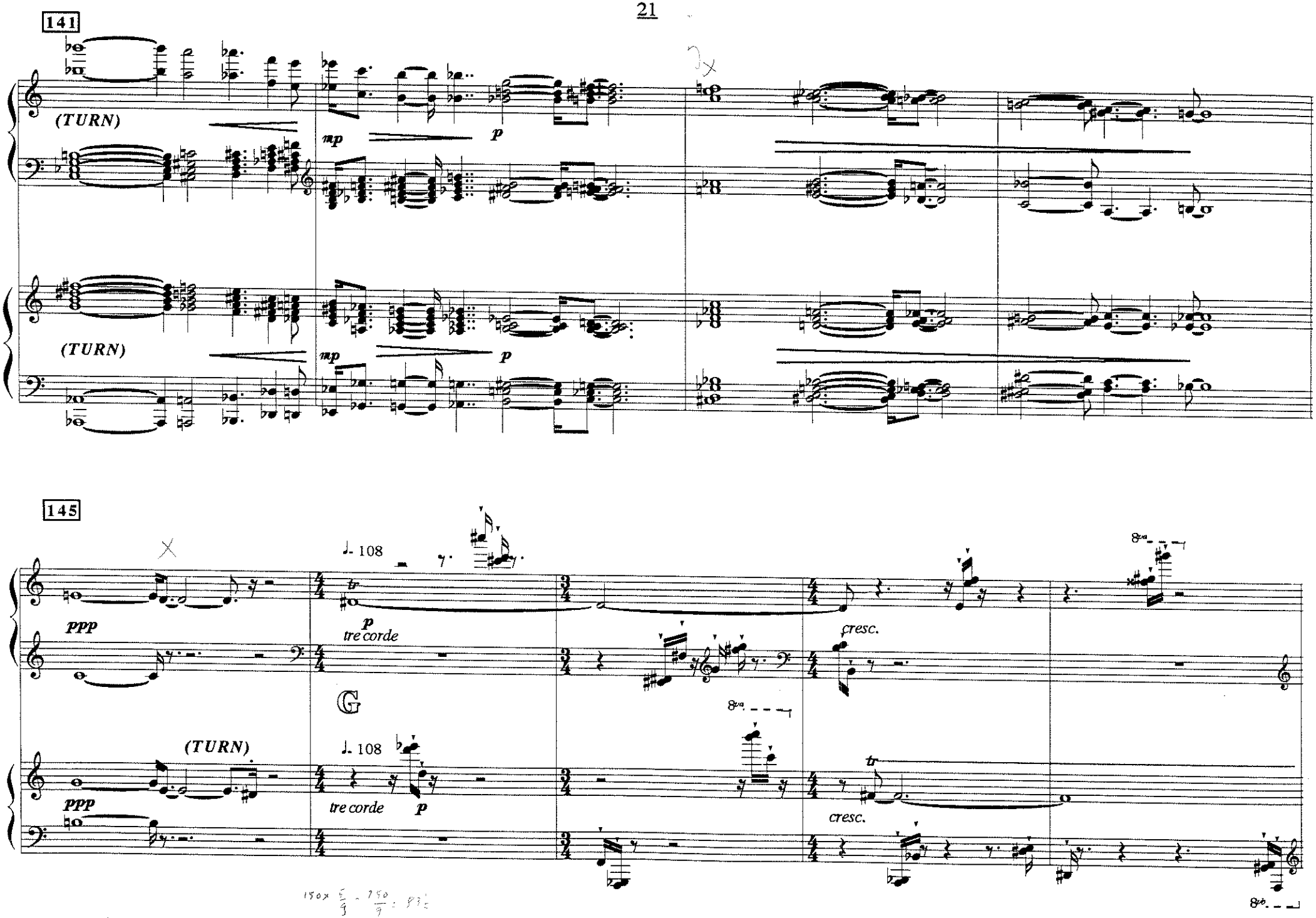
122

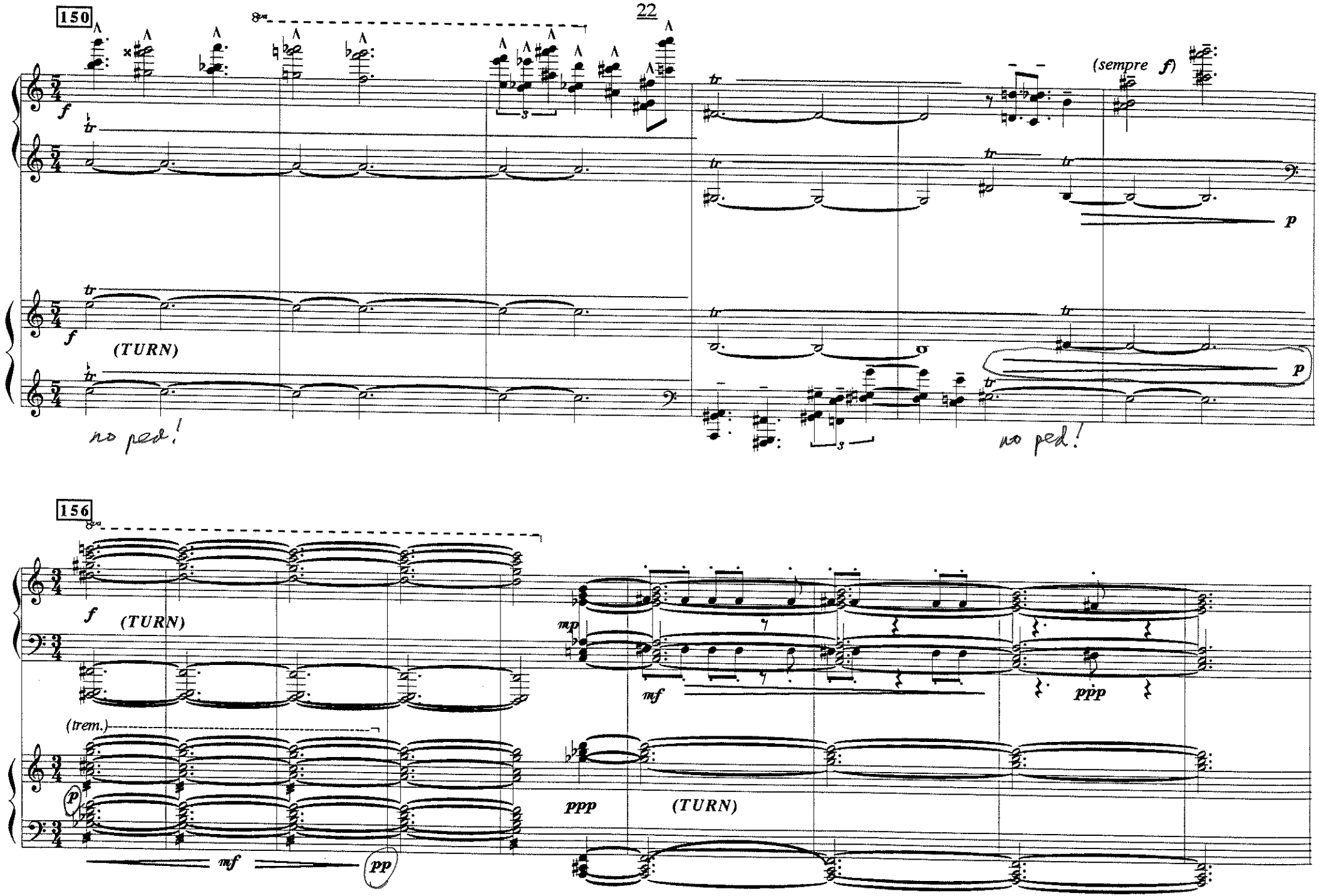

(TURN)
mf
mp
p
p
dolce
pp
una corda
(♩.=72)
mf
mp
p
una corda

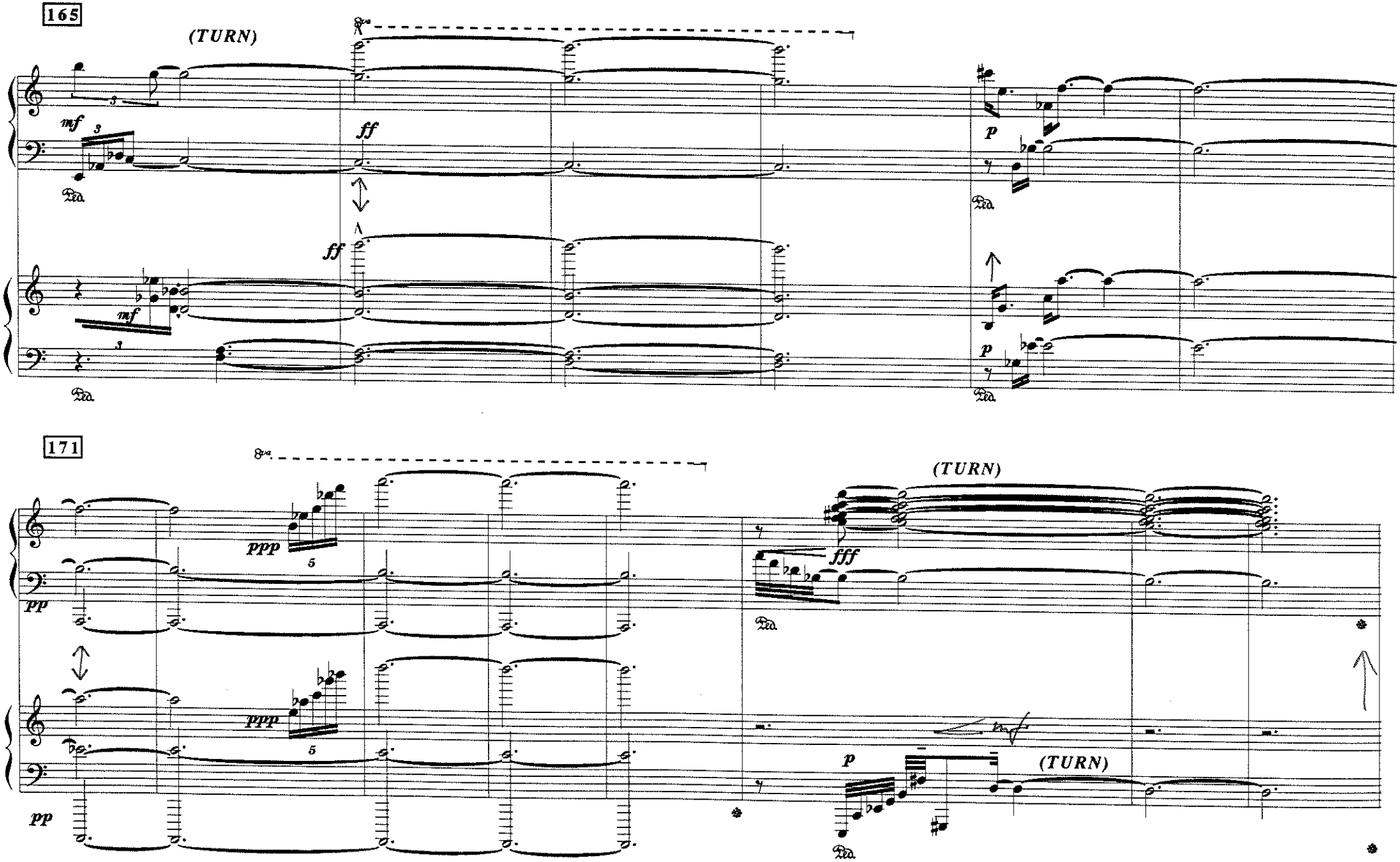
128

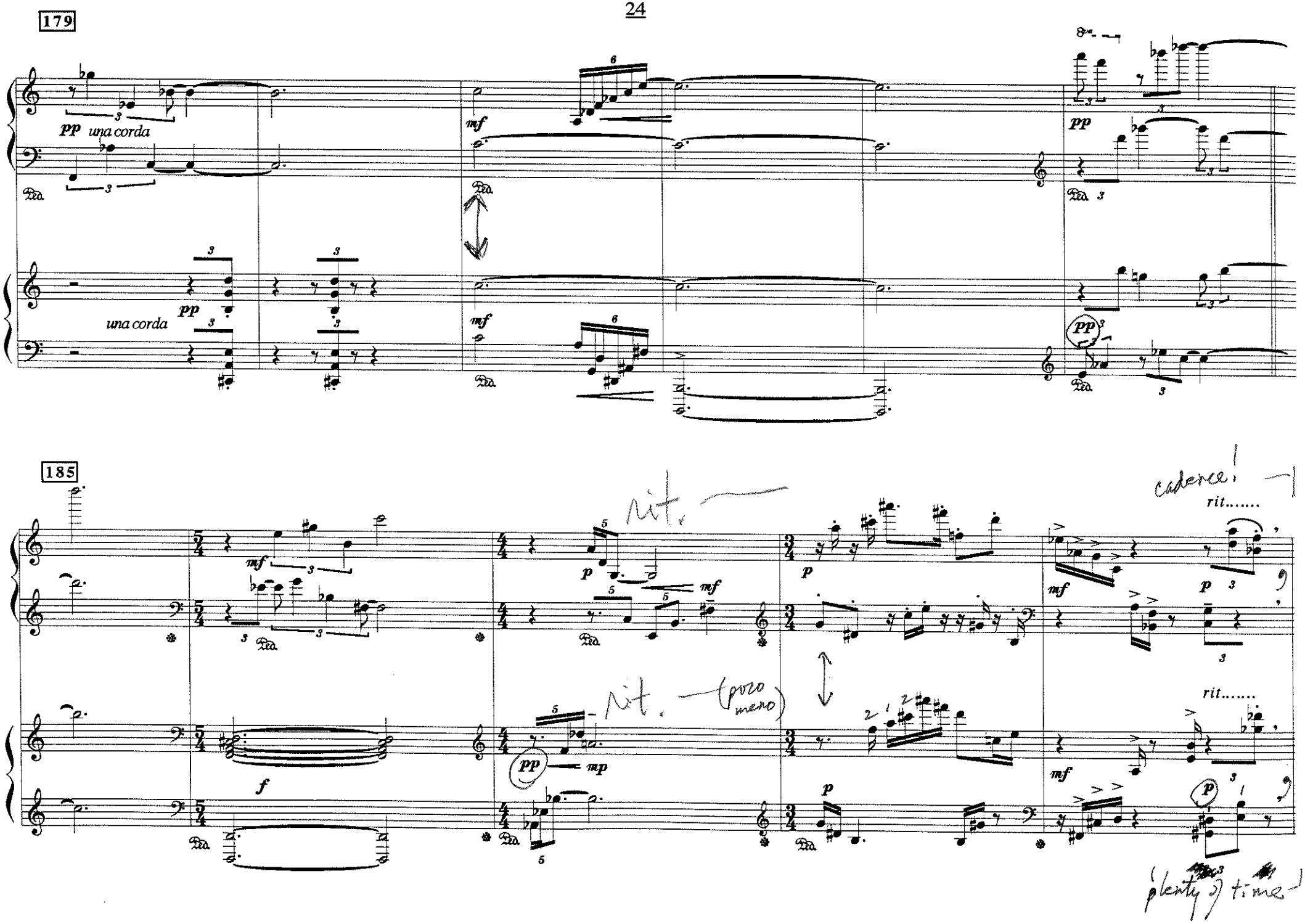

mf
p
mp
(TURN)
mp
p
p
mp
soft!
mp

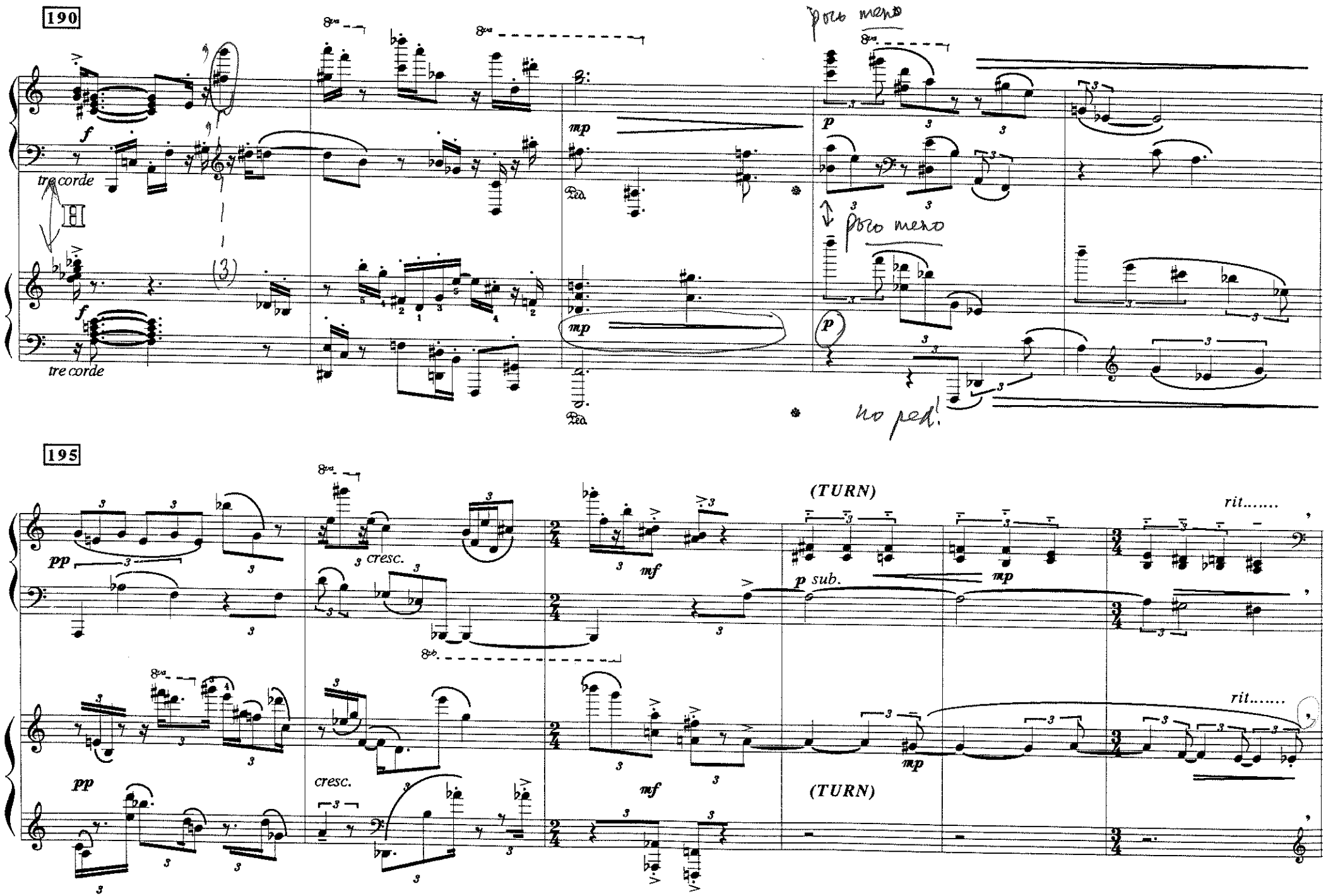

133
p
mf
p
p
mf
p
137
rit. — — a little broader
rit. — —
♩. 72 (TURN)
f
pp
rit. — — (12/16) (♪.=144)
rit. — —
♩. 72
f
pp (TURN)


141
(TURN)
mp
p
(TURN)
mp
p
145
♩. 108
ppp
p
tre corde
cresc.
8va
(TURN)
♩. 108
ppp
tre corde
p
cresc.
8va
8vb


150
(sempre f)
(TURN)
no ped!
no ped!
156
(TURN)
(trem.)
(TURN)


165
(TURN)
8va
mf
ff
p
Ped.
171
ppp
pp
fff
(TURN)


179
pp una corda
mf
pp
una corda
pp
mf
pp
185
mf
p
mf
p
mf
p
f
pp
mp
p
mf
p
rit.
rit. (poco meno)
cadence!
rit.....
rit.....
plenty of time


190
tre corde
tre corde
poco meno
poco meno
no ped.
195
cresc.
cresc.
(TURN)
(TURN)
p sub.
rit.....
rit.....

201

(TURN)

pp

p

ppp

f

pp (TURN)

mf pp

pp

ppp

(tremolo with both hands)

208

(TURN)

mp dim.

ppp

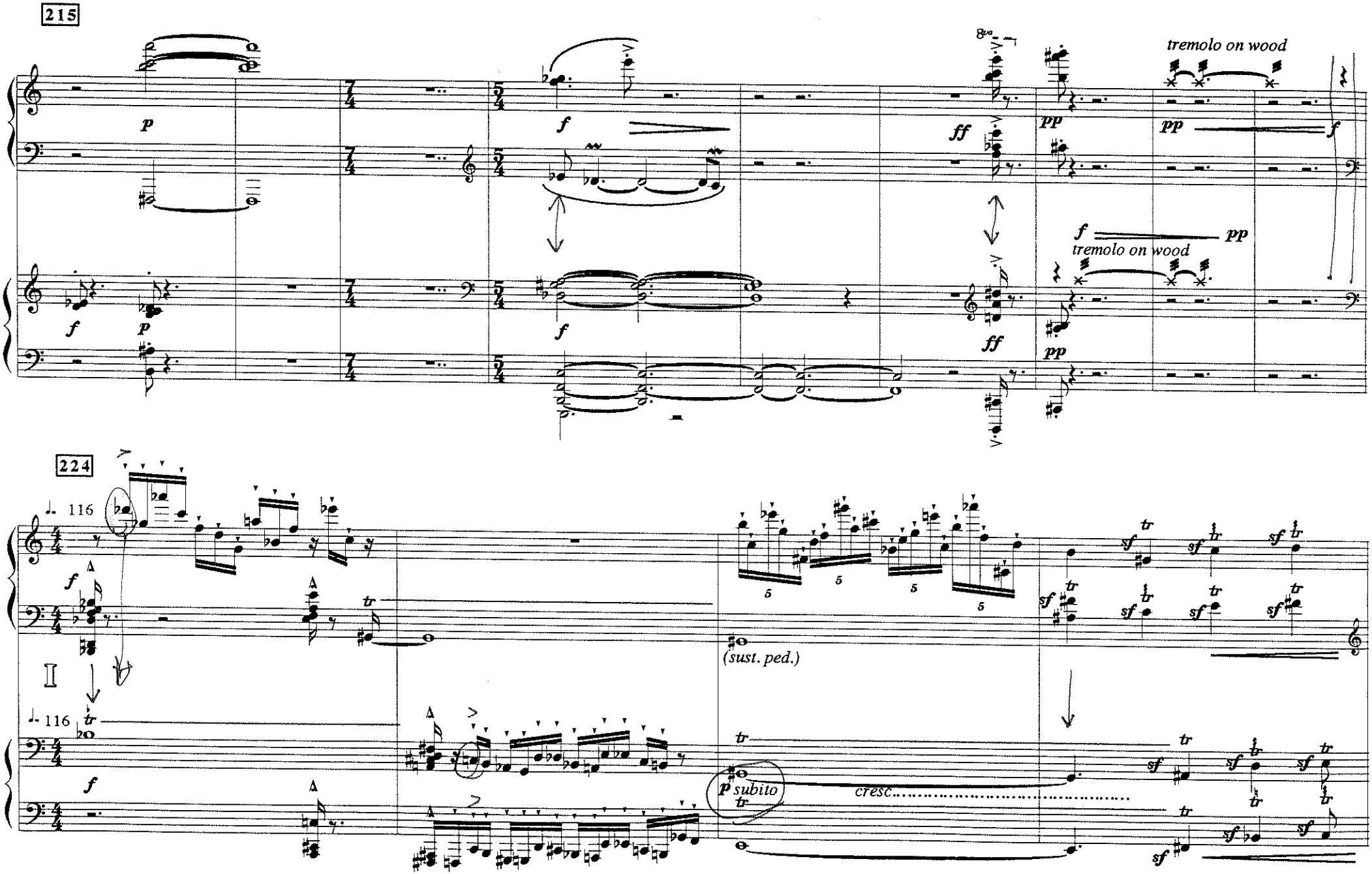
f

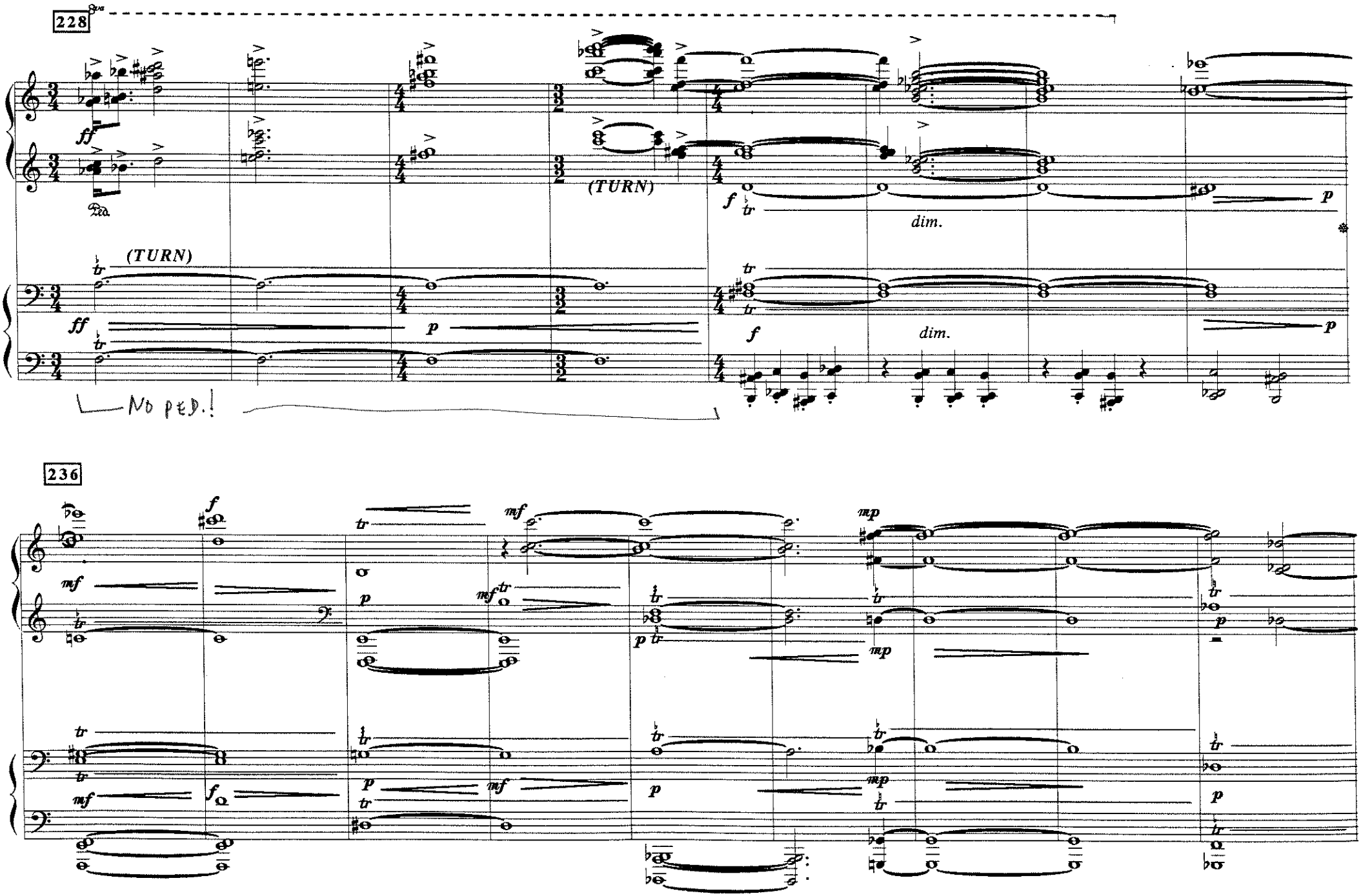
mp

f

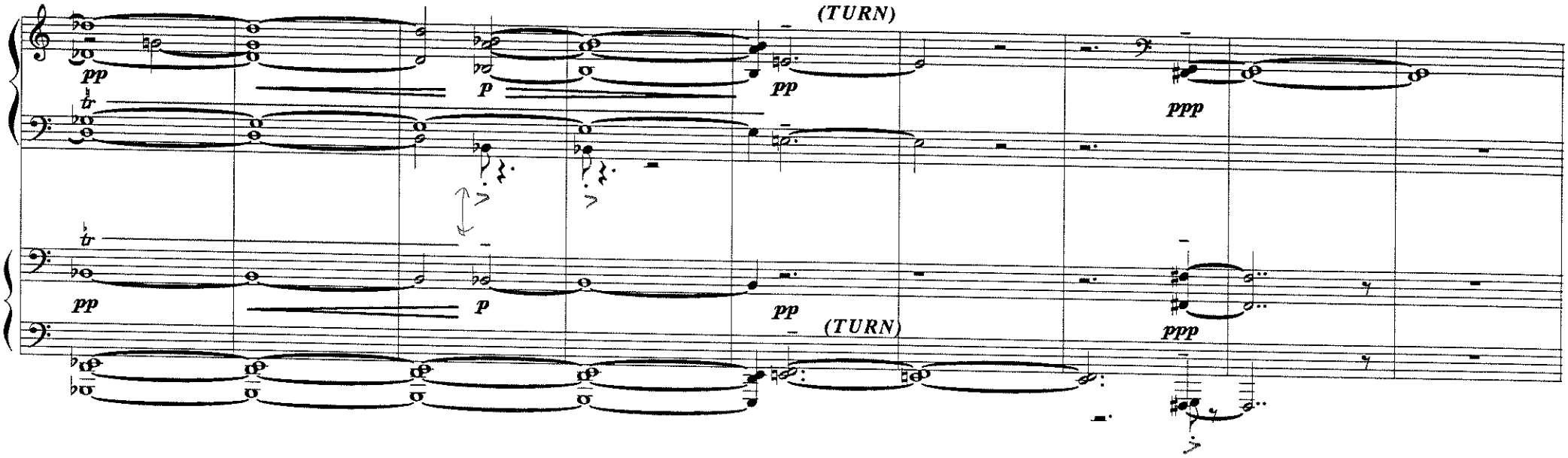
ff (TURN)

ppp

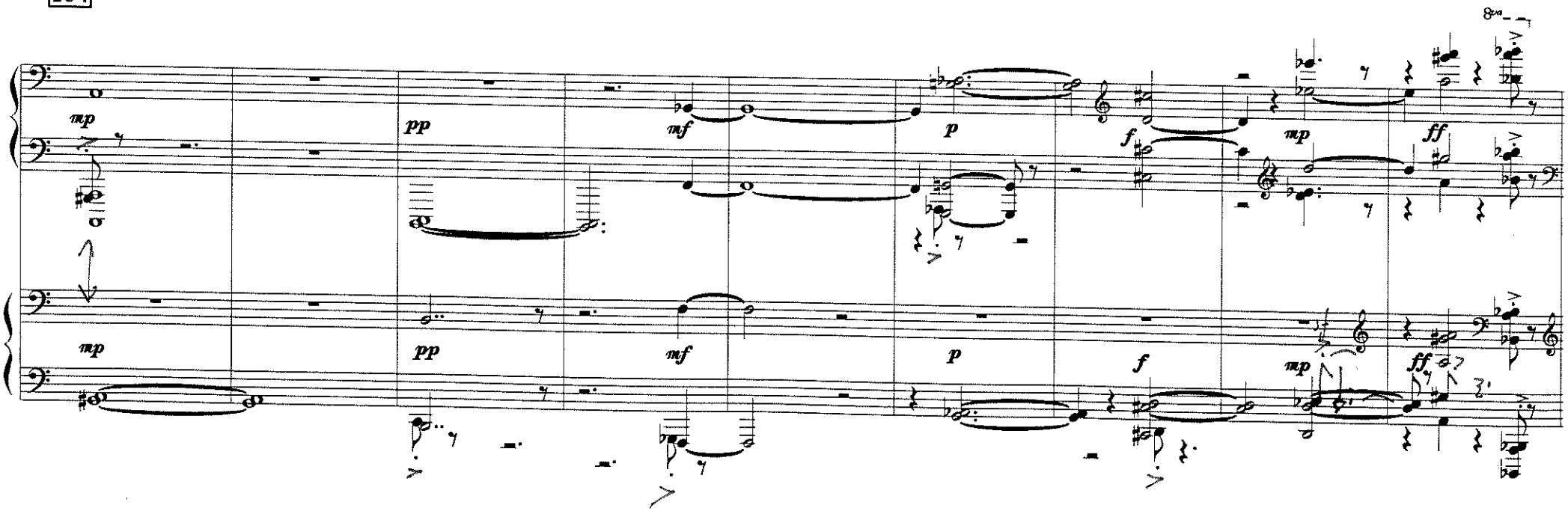

215
tremolo on wood
tremolo on wood
224
♩. 116
(sust. ped.)
p subito
cresc.
♩. 116

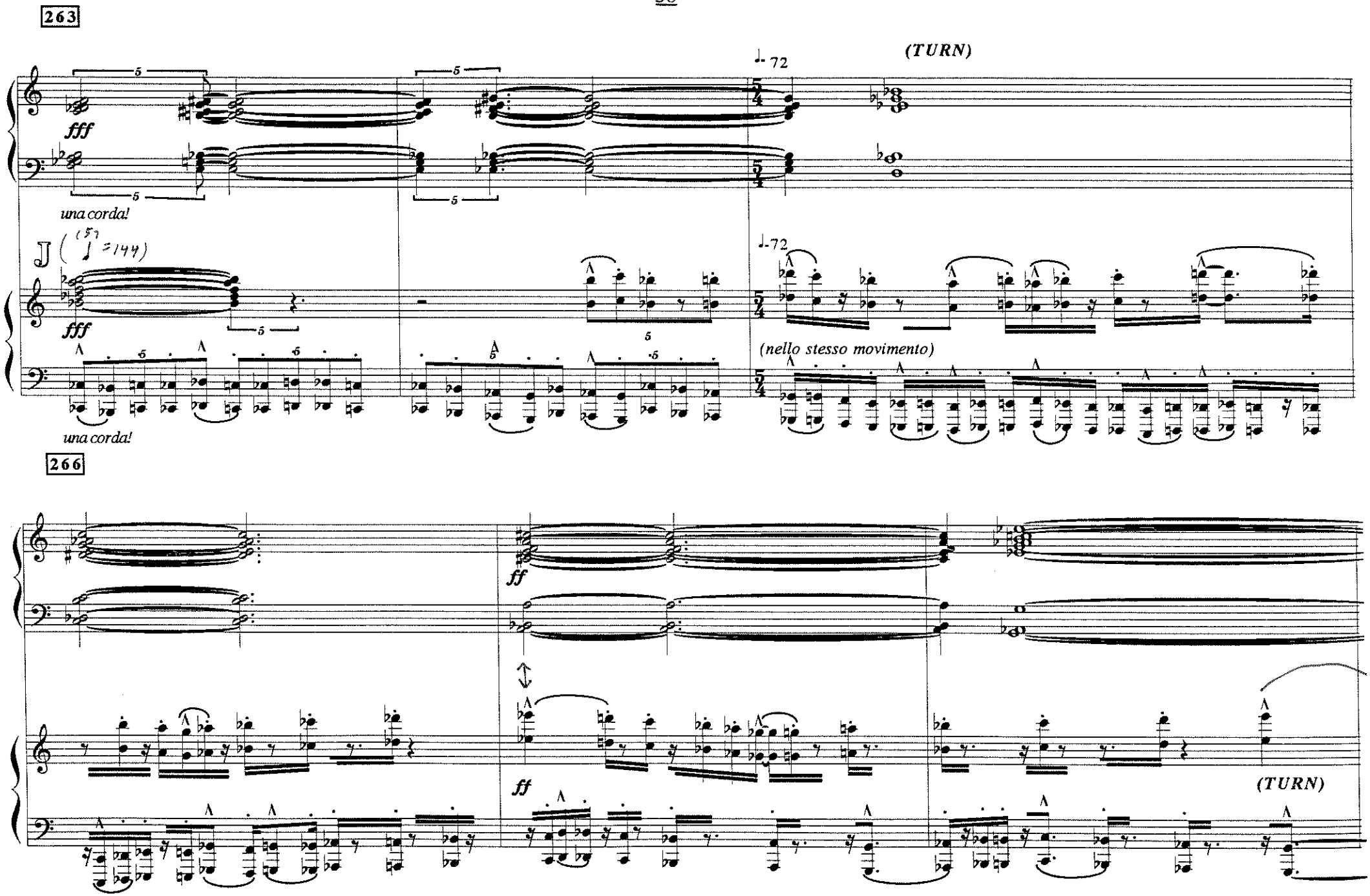

228
8va
ff
Ped.
(TURN)
f
tr
dim.
p
(TURN)
ff
p
f
dim.
p
No ped.!
236
f
mf
tr
p
mf
mp
fo

245


(TURN)
pp
p
pp
ppp
tr
pp
p
pp
(TURN)
ppp

254


8va
mp
pp
mf
p
f
mp
ff
mp
pp
mf
p
f
mp
ff


263
(TURN)
fff
una corda!
♩= 72
♩= 72
(nello stesso movimento)
una corda!
266
ff
ff
(TURN)

269

ff

(sust. ped.)

(TURN)

poco a poco diminuendo .....

poco a poco diminuendo .....

272

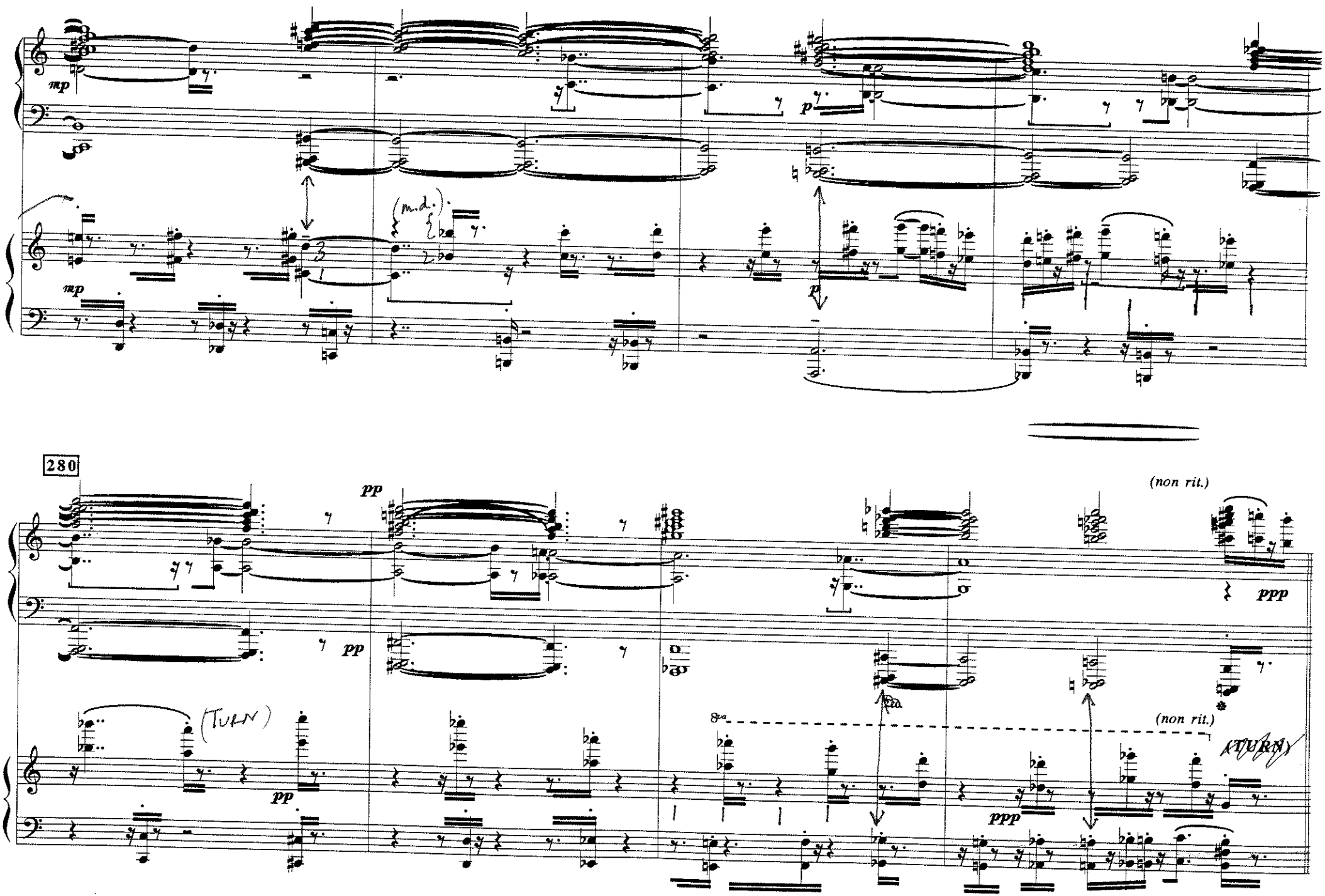
f

mf

(TURN)

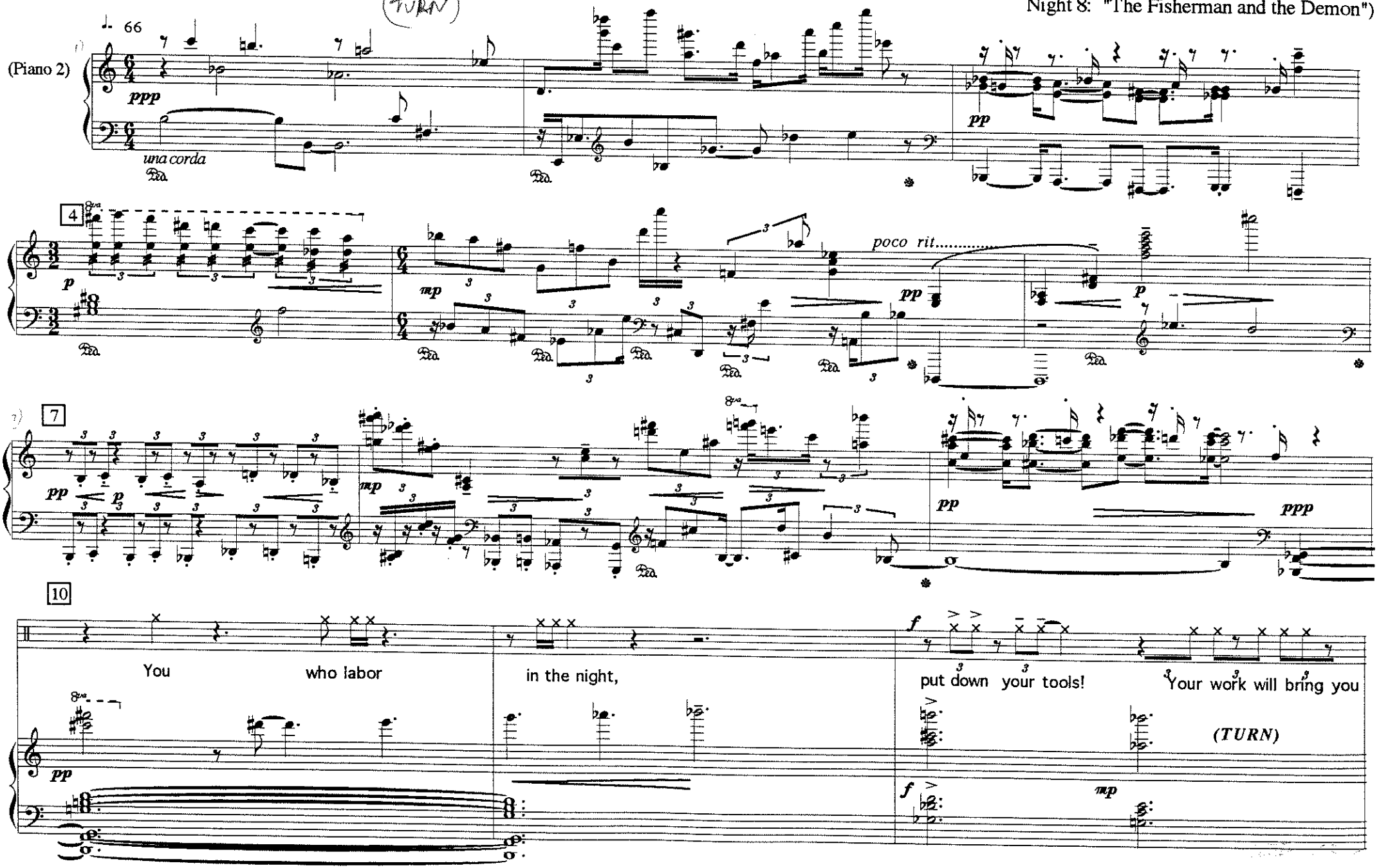
f

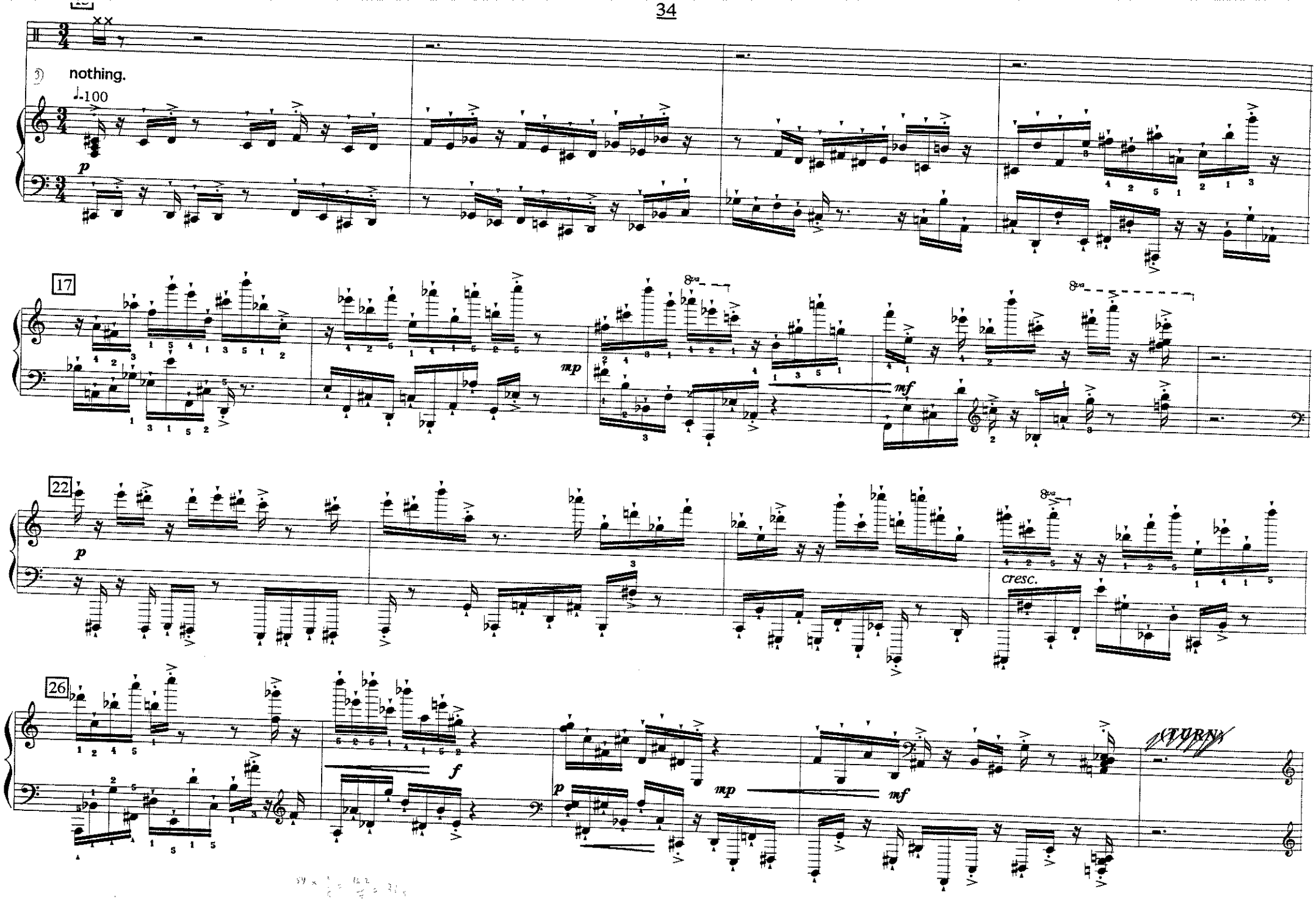
mf

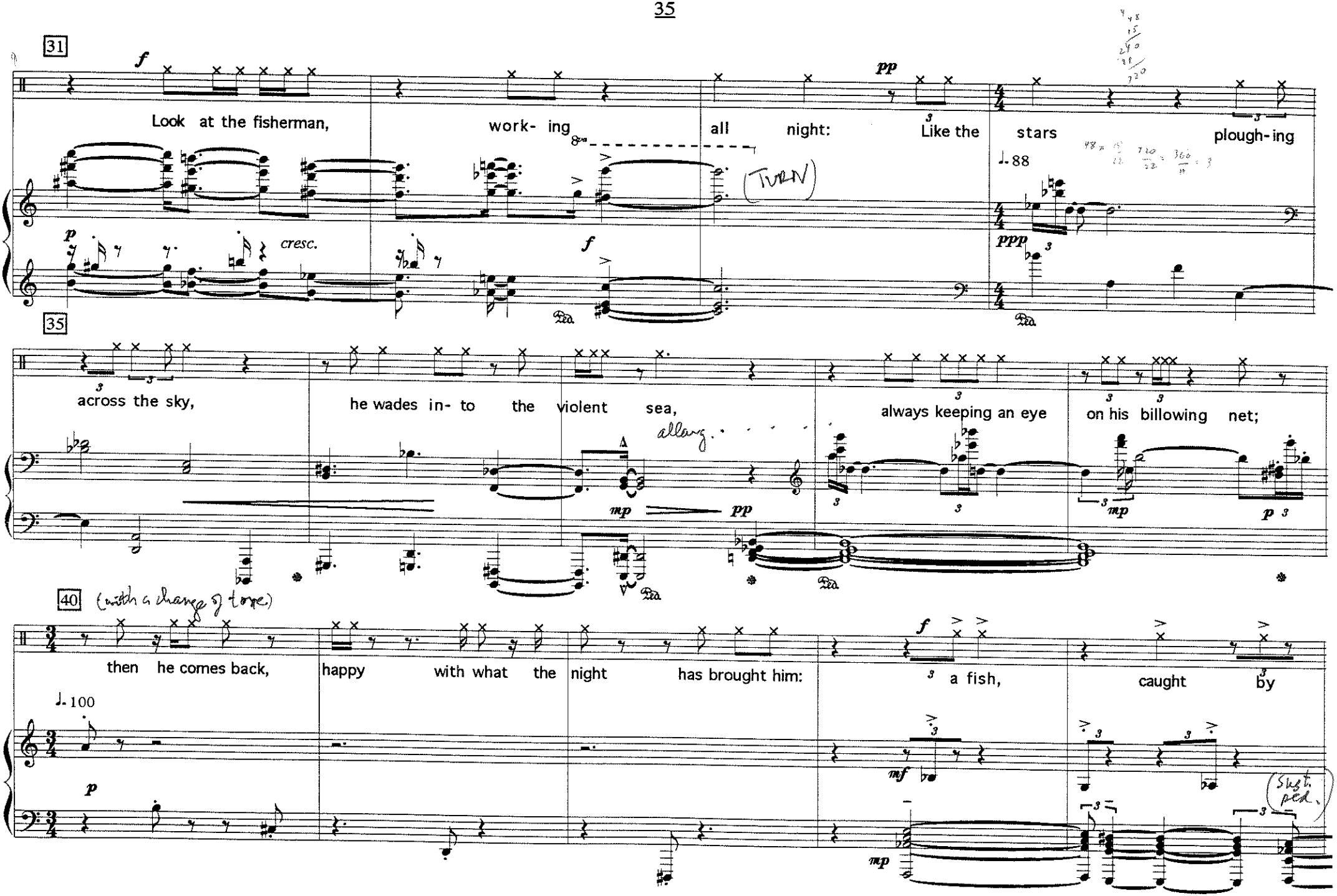

276
mp
(m.d.)
p
280
pp
(non rit.)
ppp
(TURN)
8va
(non rit.)
TURN

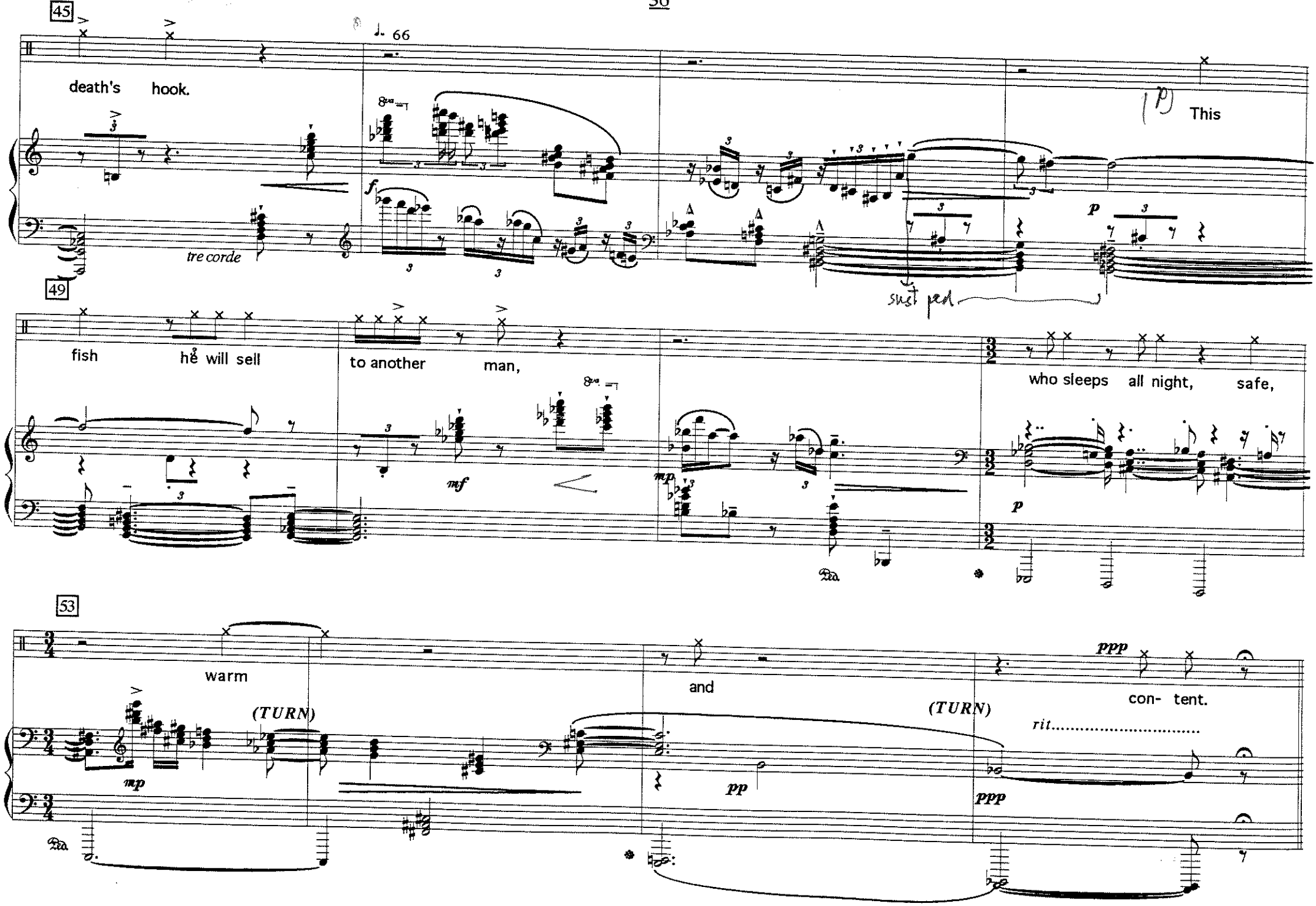
3. Fisherman

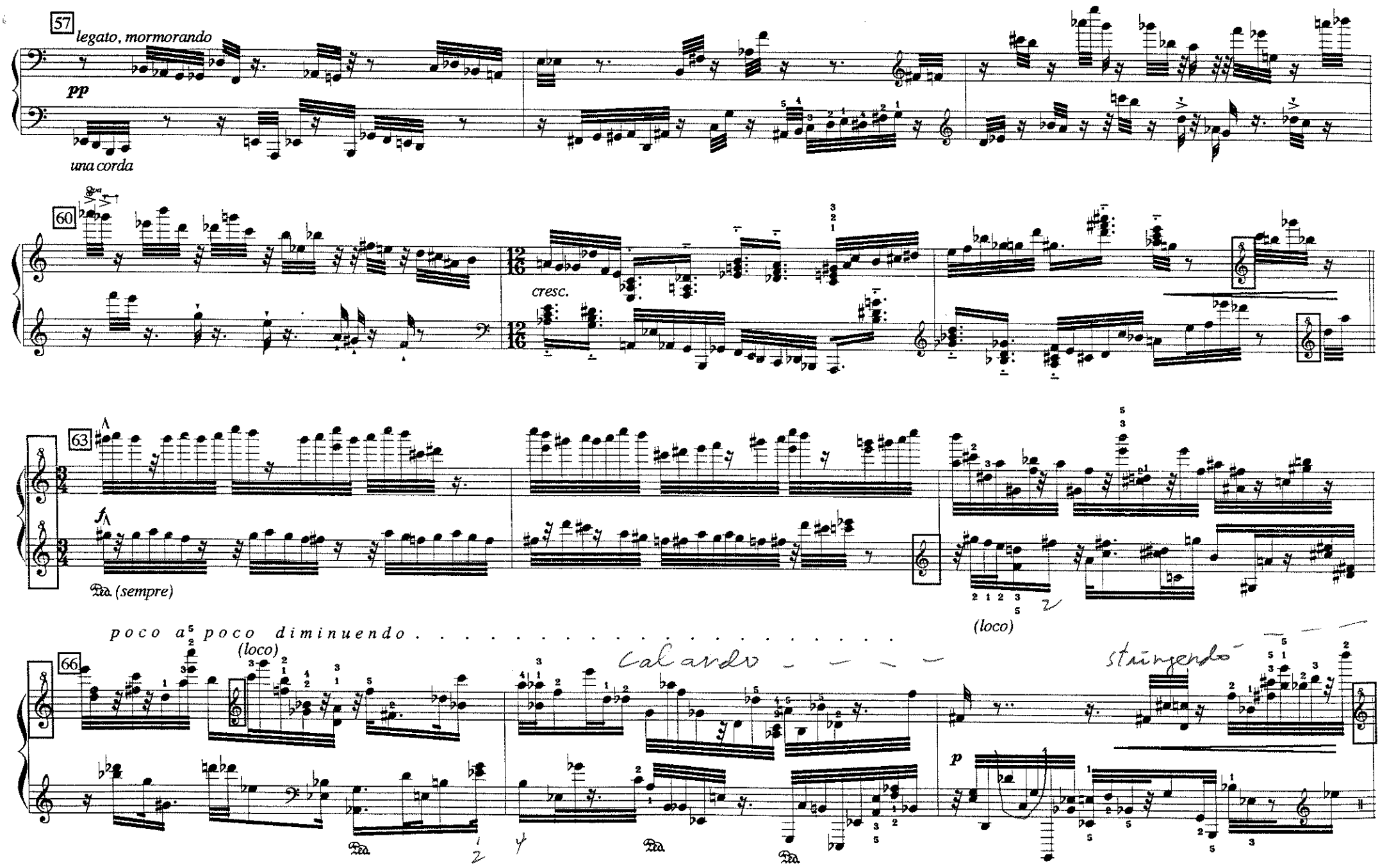
(Text: adapted from
The Arabian Nights,
Night 8: "The Fisherman and the Demon")

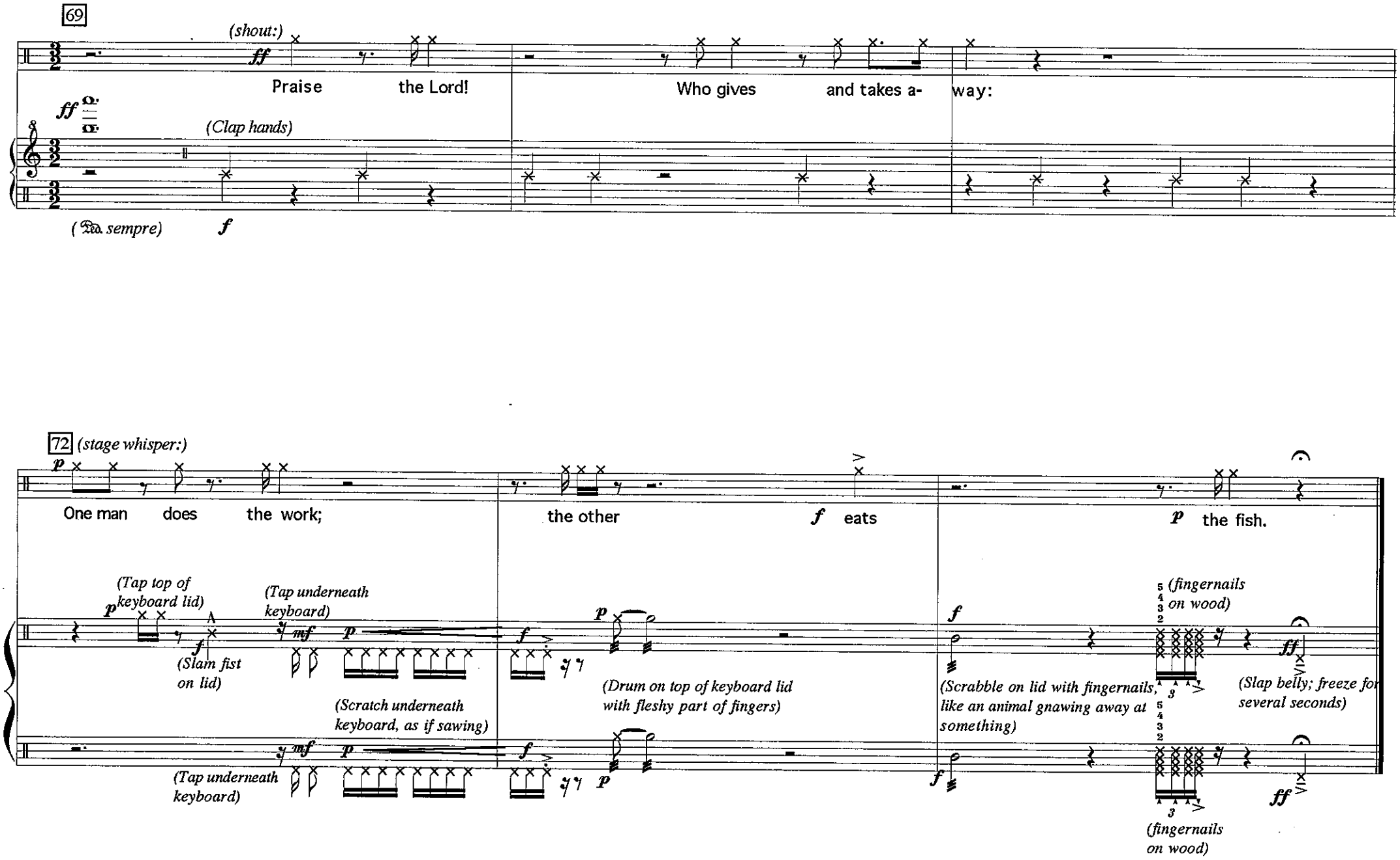



nothing.
♩=100
p
17
mp
mf
8va
22
p
cresc.
26
f
p
mp
mf
TURN


31
Look at the fisherman,
work- ing
all night:
Like the
stars
plough-ing
cresc.
TURN
♩. 88
35
across the sky,
he wades in- to the violent sea,
always keeping an eye
on his billowing net;
allarg.
40
(with a change of tone)
then he comes back,
happy with what the night has brought him:
a fish,
caught by
♩. 100
Slightly


45
♩. 66
death's hook.
This
tre corde
49
fish he will sell
to another man,
who sleeps all night, safe,
53
warm
and
con- tent.
(TURN)
(TURN)
rit.....


57
legato, mormorando
pp
una corda
60
cresc.
63
(sempre)
(loco)
poco a poco diminuendo
(loco)
66
calando
stringendo
p


69
(shout:)
ff
Praise the Lord!
Who gives and takes a-
way:
ff
(Clap hands)
(Ped. sempre)
f
72
(stage whisper:)
p
One man does the work;
the other
f
eats
p
the fish.
(Tap top of keyboard lid)
p
(Slam fist on lid)
f
(Tap underneath keyboard)
mf
p
(Scratch underneath keyboard, as if sawing)
(Tap underneath keyboard)
(Drum on top of keyboard lid with fleshy part of fingers)
(Scrabble on lid with fingernails, like an animal gnawing away at something)
(fingernails on wood)
(Slap belly; freeze for several seconds)
(fingernails on wood)