Sergei RACHMANINOV

MOMENTS MUSICAUX

Opus 16 N° 1 B♭ minor

Piano Practical Editions
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Musical Health Warning : please be aware that these editions are definitely not urtext and should be consulted together with a traditional version. They have been devised purely to help solve musical and technical problems at the piano.

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Sergei RACHMANINOV

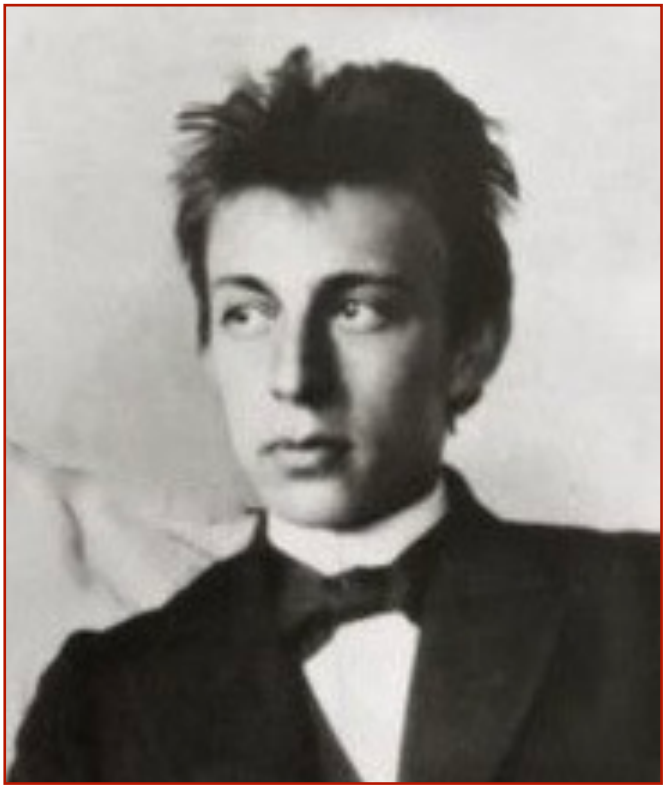
1873 - 1943

MOMENTS MUSICAUX

Opus 16 N° 1 B♭ minor

Inspired by Schubert's 1828 set of six pieces with the same title, Rachmaninov was laying the foundations for a new personal language that he would explore in the Preludes and Études Tableaux.

During a long and successful career, Rachmaninov did not hide his distaste for contemporary trends and it is possible that these "musical moments" captured his vision of piano repertoire from a former glorious era. The complete set was dedicated to Aleksandr Zatayevich, a collector of Kazakh music, who also composed three *Moments Musicaux*.



N° 1 Andantino in B♭ minor was composed between October and December 1896 – a sensuously chromatic nocturne with an enchanting and wistful melody. In variation form, the unusual section in G flat major is reminiscent of Tchaikovsky. A typical Rachmaninov glittering cadenza leads to the 4th variation skilfully concealing the theme within delicate and intricate ornamentation.

Given that the composer was born in 1873, an age of great artistic individuality, it is not surprising that he typically performed without wholly respecting the score. Some of the phrasing, dynamics and agogic markings have been modified; a zealous student will need to consult other sources.

18 added RH B flat

20 editorial pedal suggestion

29-**30** editorial pedal suggestion

38 the *con moto* curiously indicates a very similar metronome speed to the opening

55 probably an oversight

56-77 editorial soprano voice – subtle accentuation can be effective

64 possibly G flat

76-**77** A♮ is a possible alternative

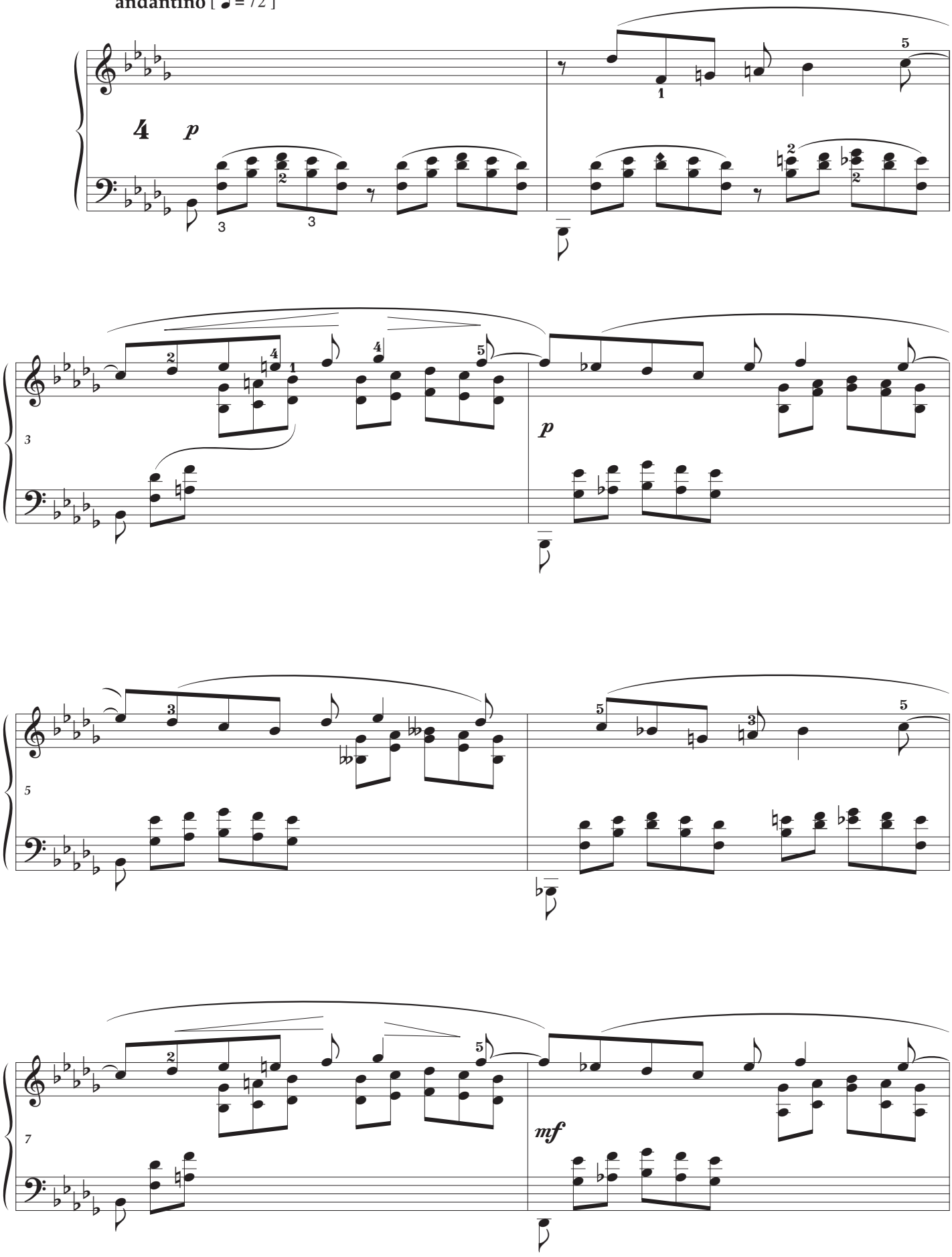
86-**88** editorial pedal suggestion

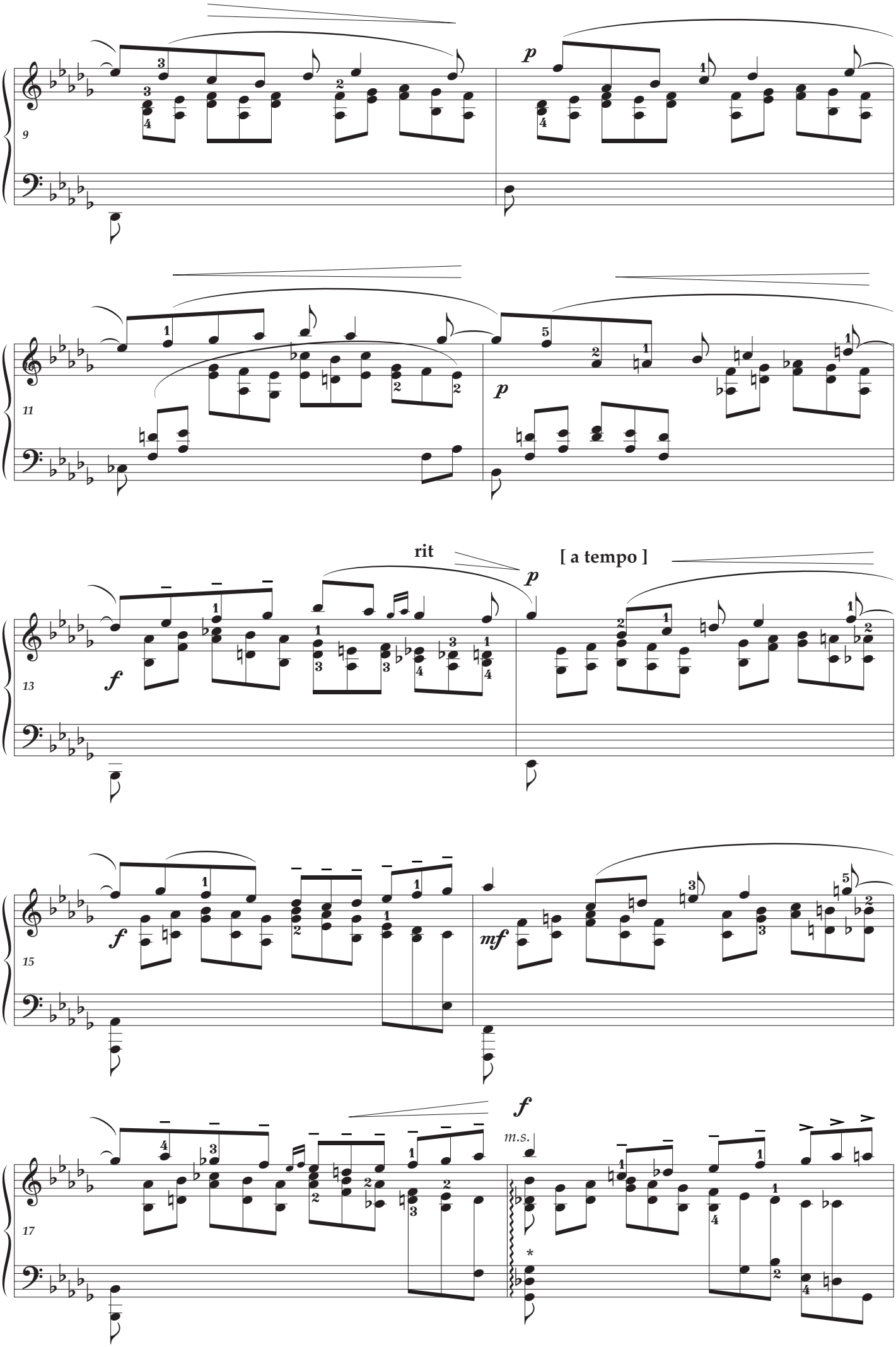
69 possibly D flat

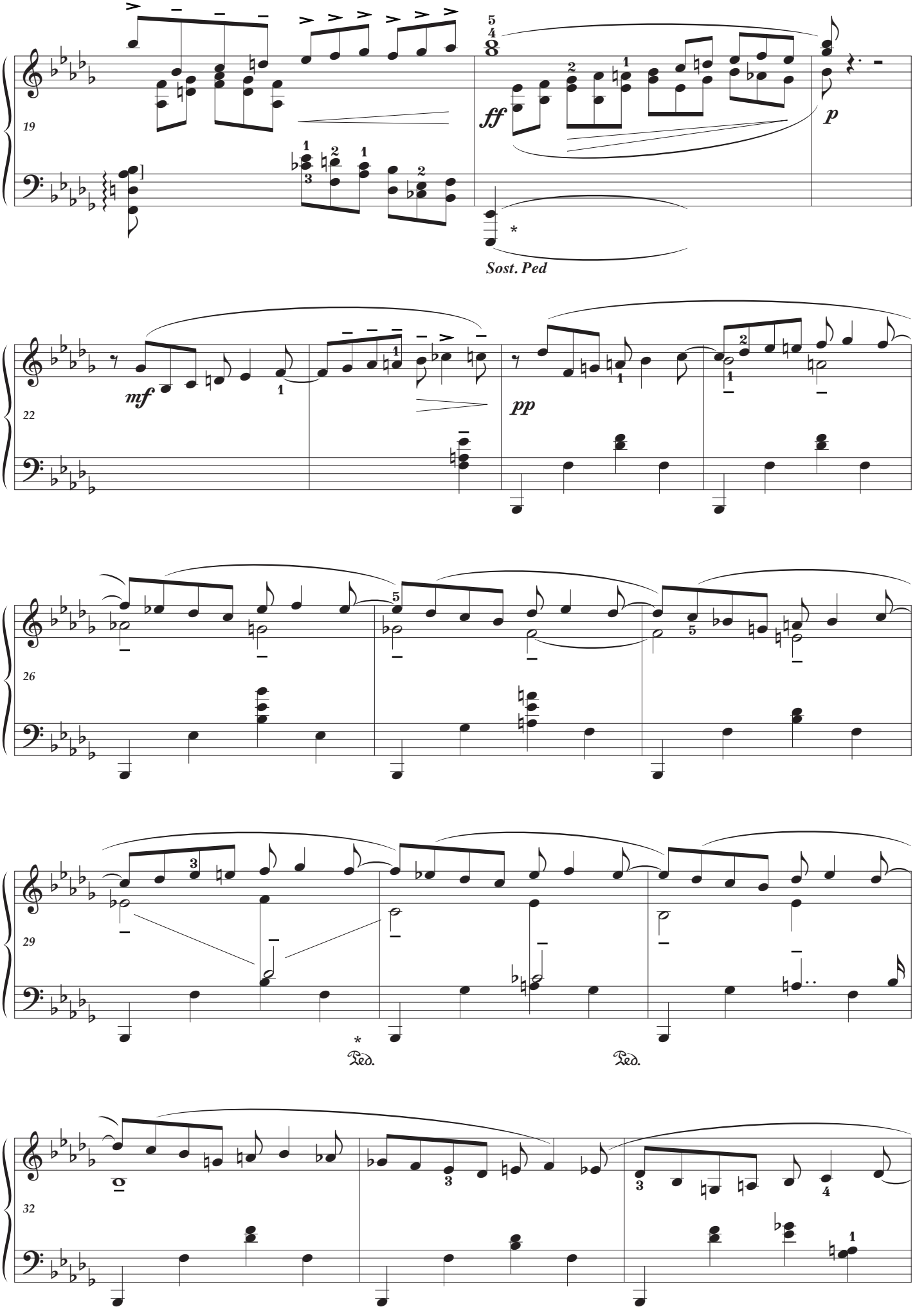
MOMENTS MUSICAUX

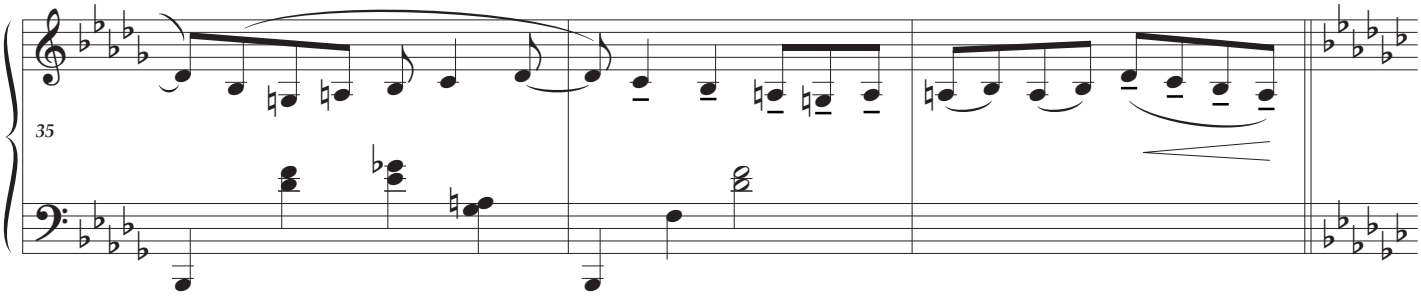
Op 16 Nº 1

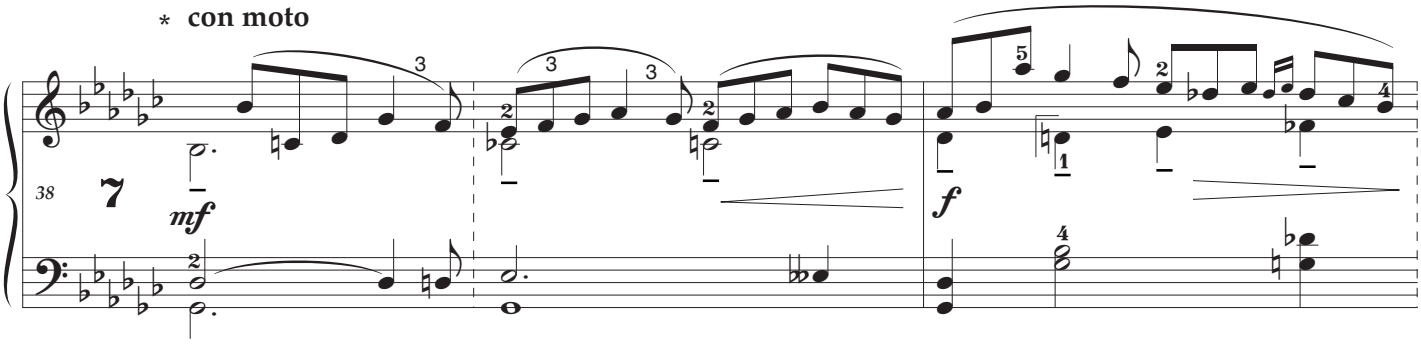
andantino [♩ = 72]

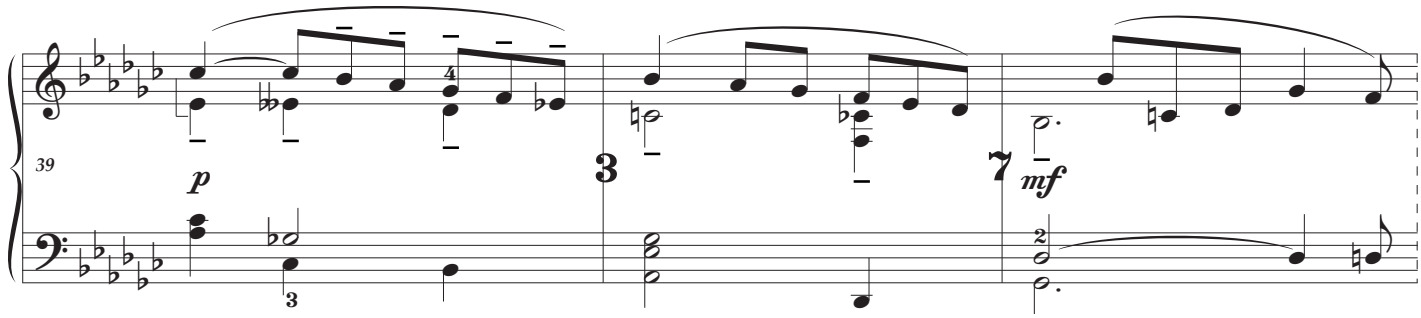


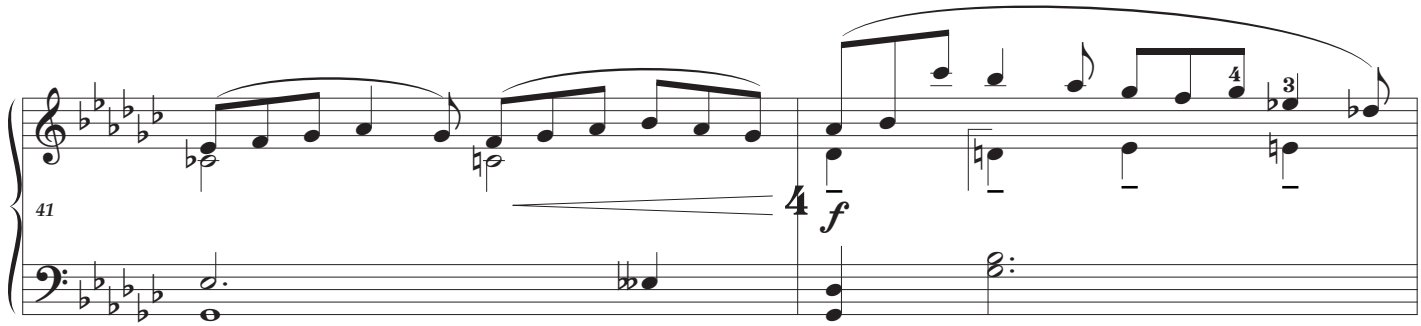

9
p
11
p
rit
[a tempo]
p
13
f
15
f
mf
f
m.s.
17
*

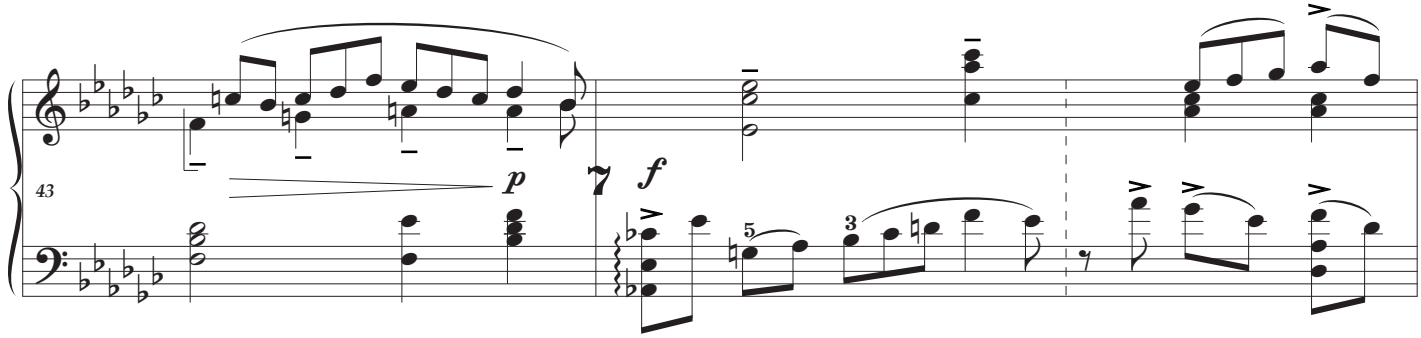

19
ff
p
Sost. Ped
22
mf
pp
26
29
Ped.
Ped.
32

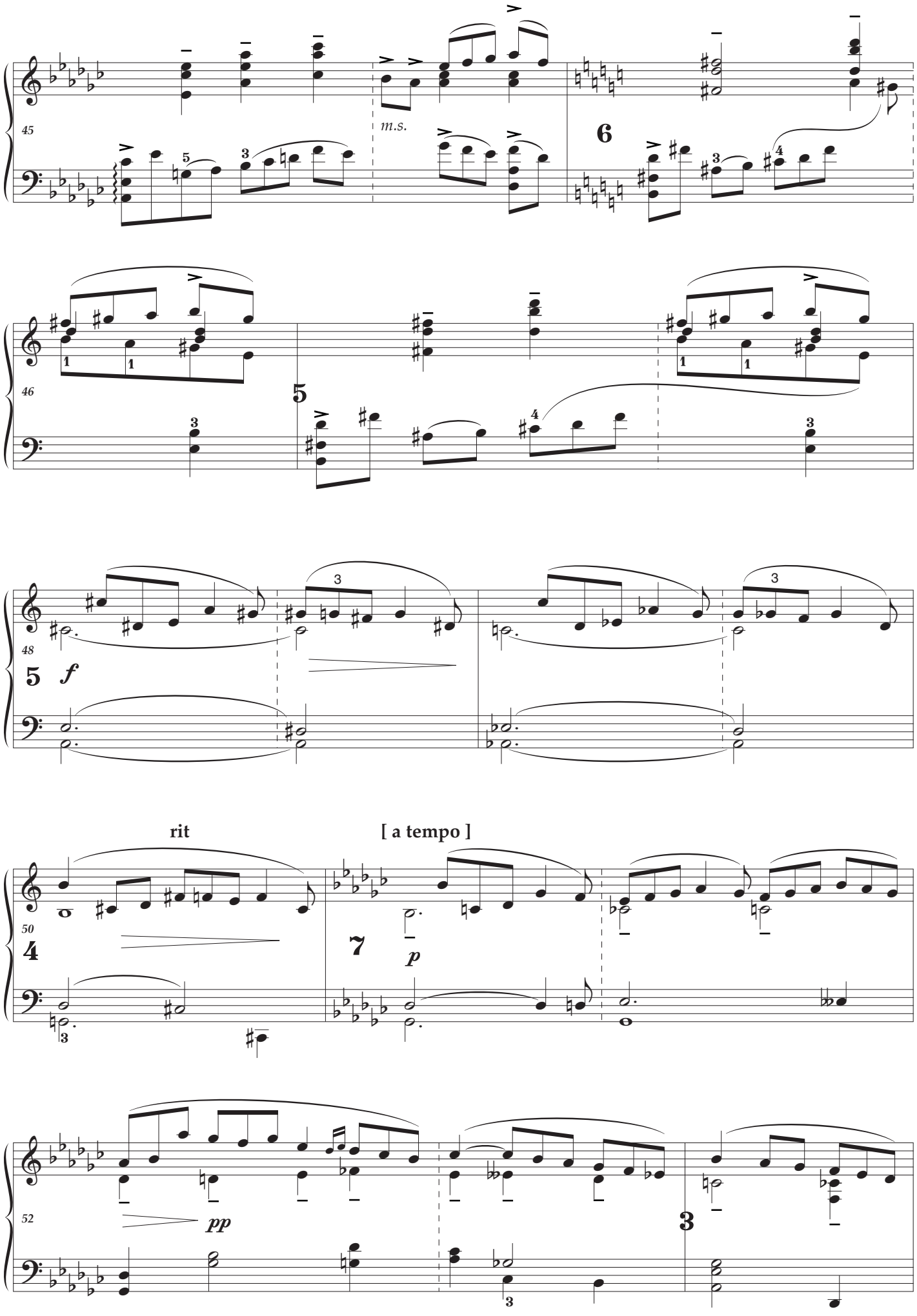

35

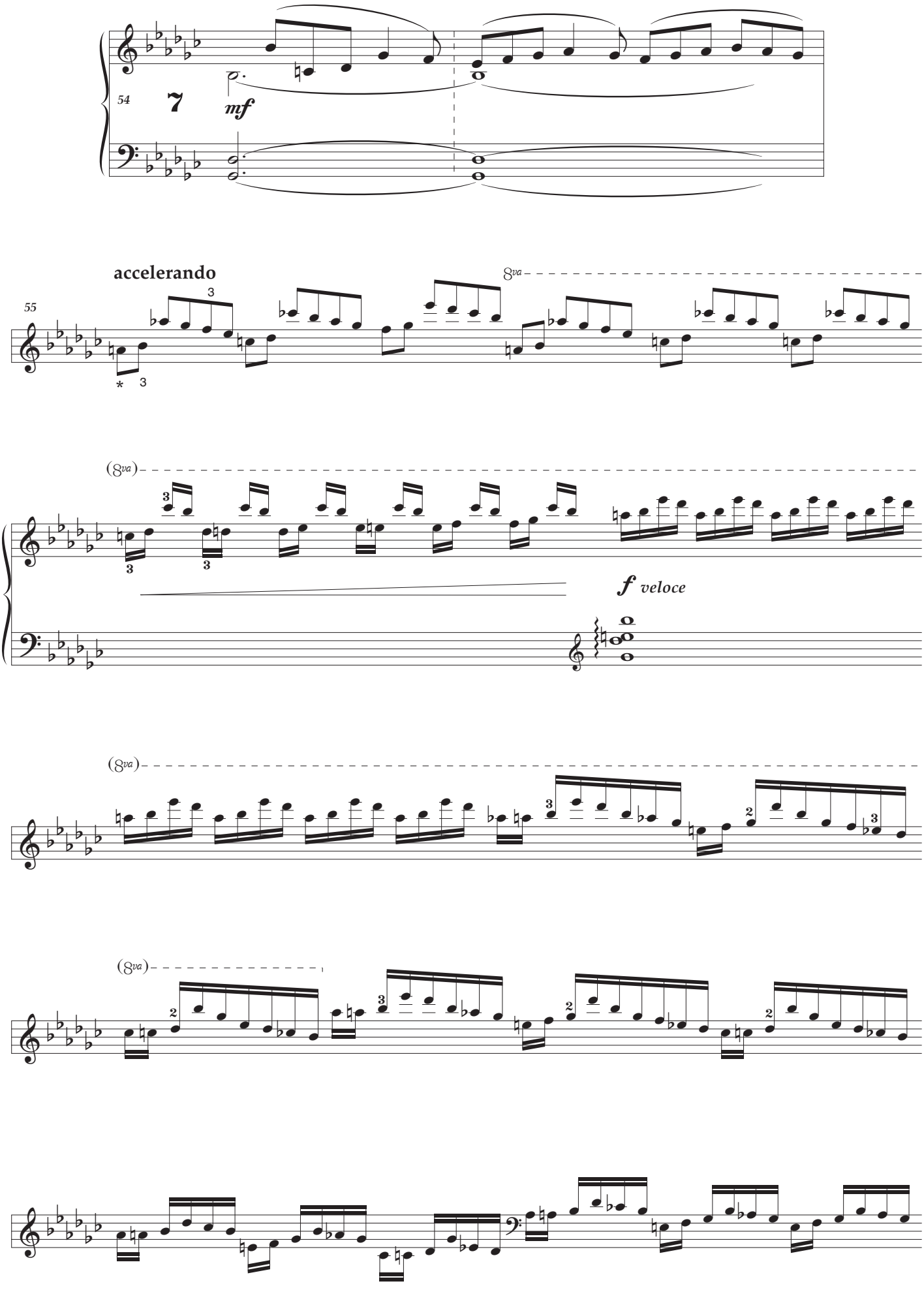

* con moto
38
7
mf
f

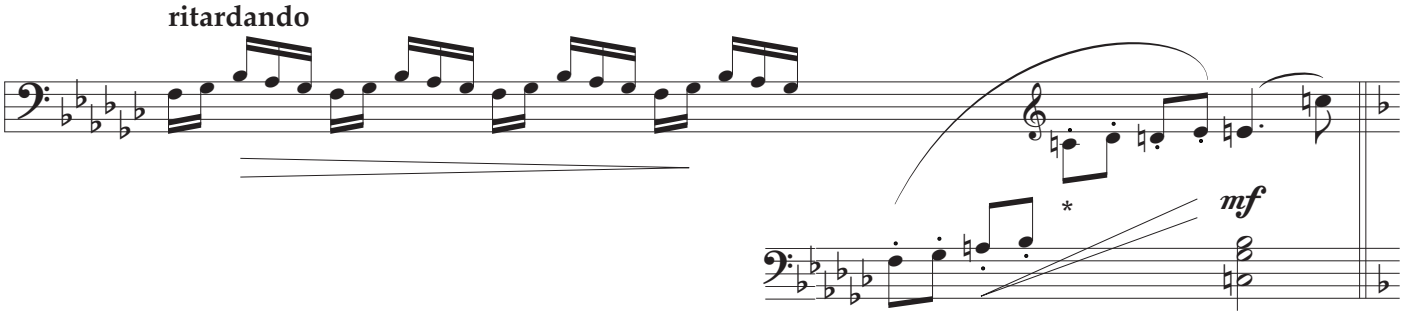

39
p
3
7
mf

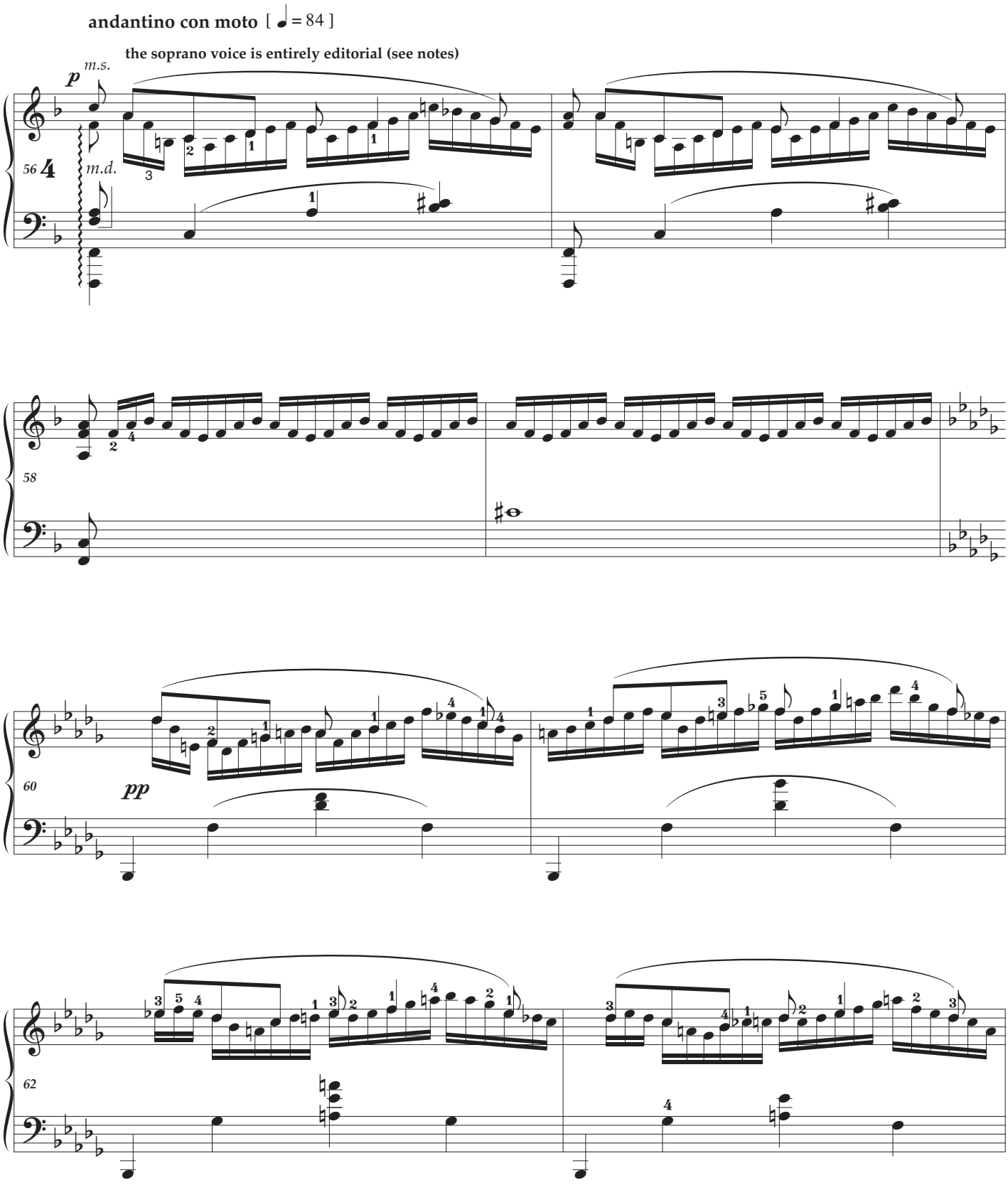

41
4
f

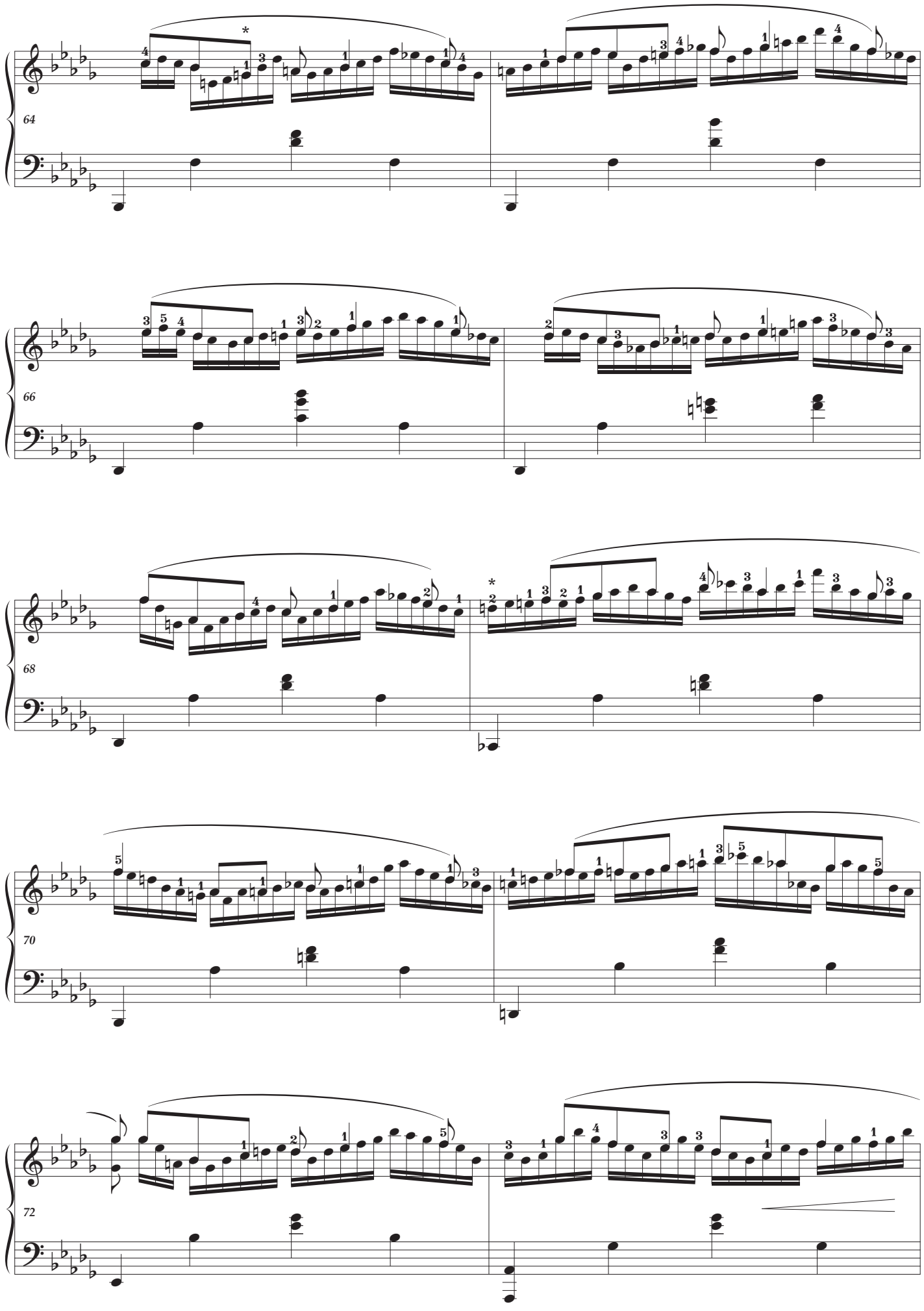

43
p
7
f

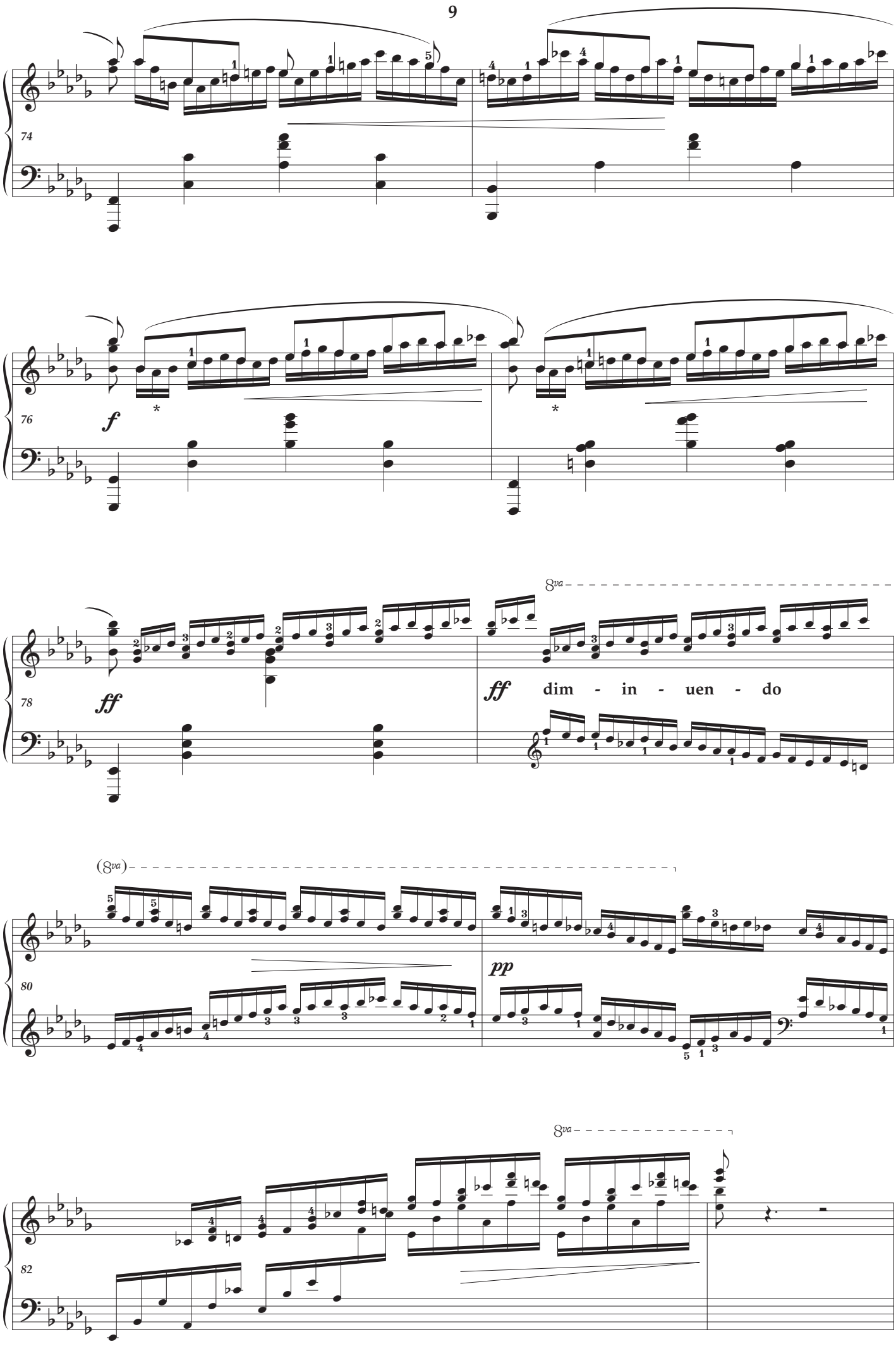

45
m.s.
6
46
5
48
5
f
rit
[a tempo]
50
4
7
p
52
pp
3

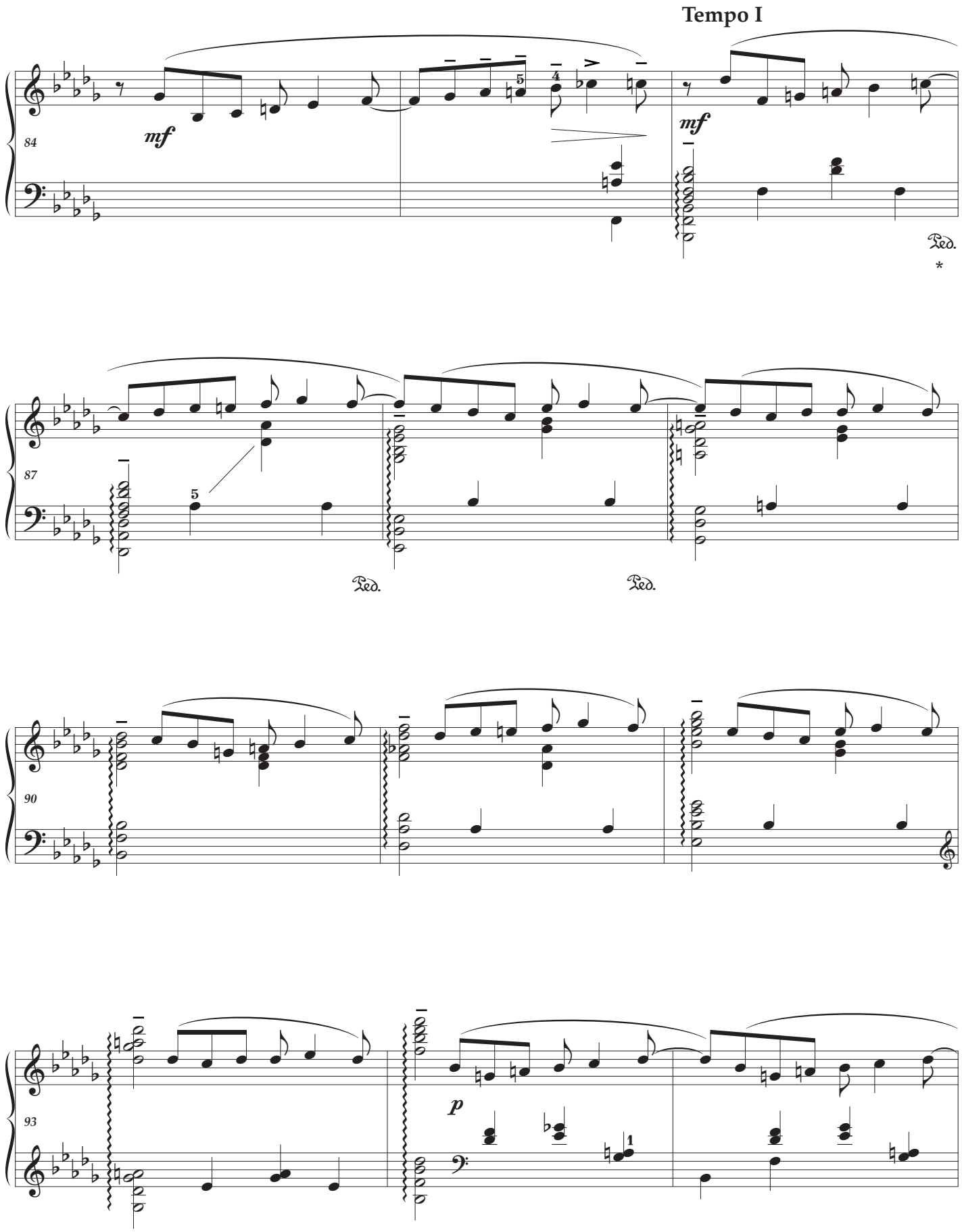

54
7
mf
55
accelerando
8va
(8va)
f veloce
(8va)
(8va)

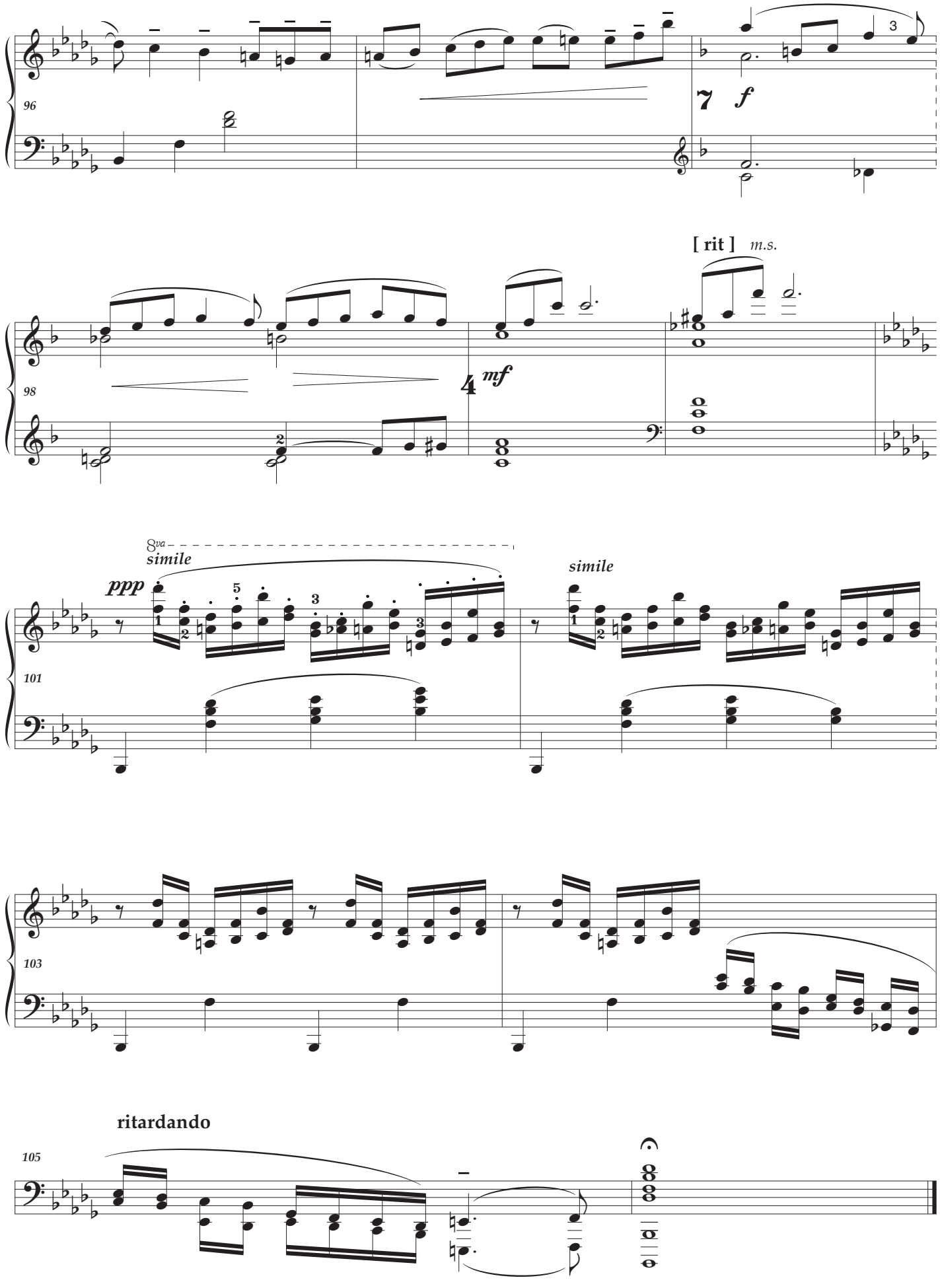

ritardando
mf


andantino con moto [♩ = 84]
the soprano voice is entirely editorial (see notes)
p
m.s.
m.d.
56
58
60
pp
62


64
66
68
70
72


74
76
f
78
ff
ff dim - in - uen - do
8va
(8va)
80
pp
8va
82


Tempo I
84
mf
mf
Ped.
*
87
Ped.
Ped.
90
93
p


96
7
f
98
[rit] m.s.
4
mf
8va
simile
ppp
simile
101
103
ritardando
105

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