Tre Pezzi Italiani

for solo piano,
op. 64

Andrew Ardizzoia
2023

Notes

I'd always thought the tune *Bella Ciao*—with its straightforward melody and simple harmonies—would make an excellent melody for variation. After hearing it all day long on the Italian news during the independence celebrations on April 25, 2022, I sat down and wrote a little fantasy. A simple presentation of the theme is followed by a lyrical, chromatic setting, and a longer version which fragments the melody and sets it against a propulsive eighth note ostinato.

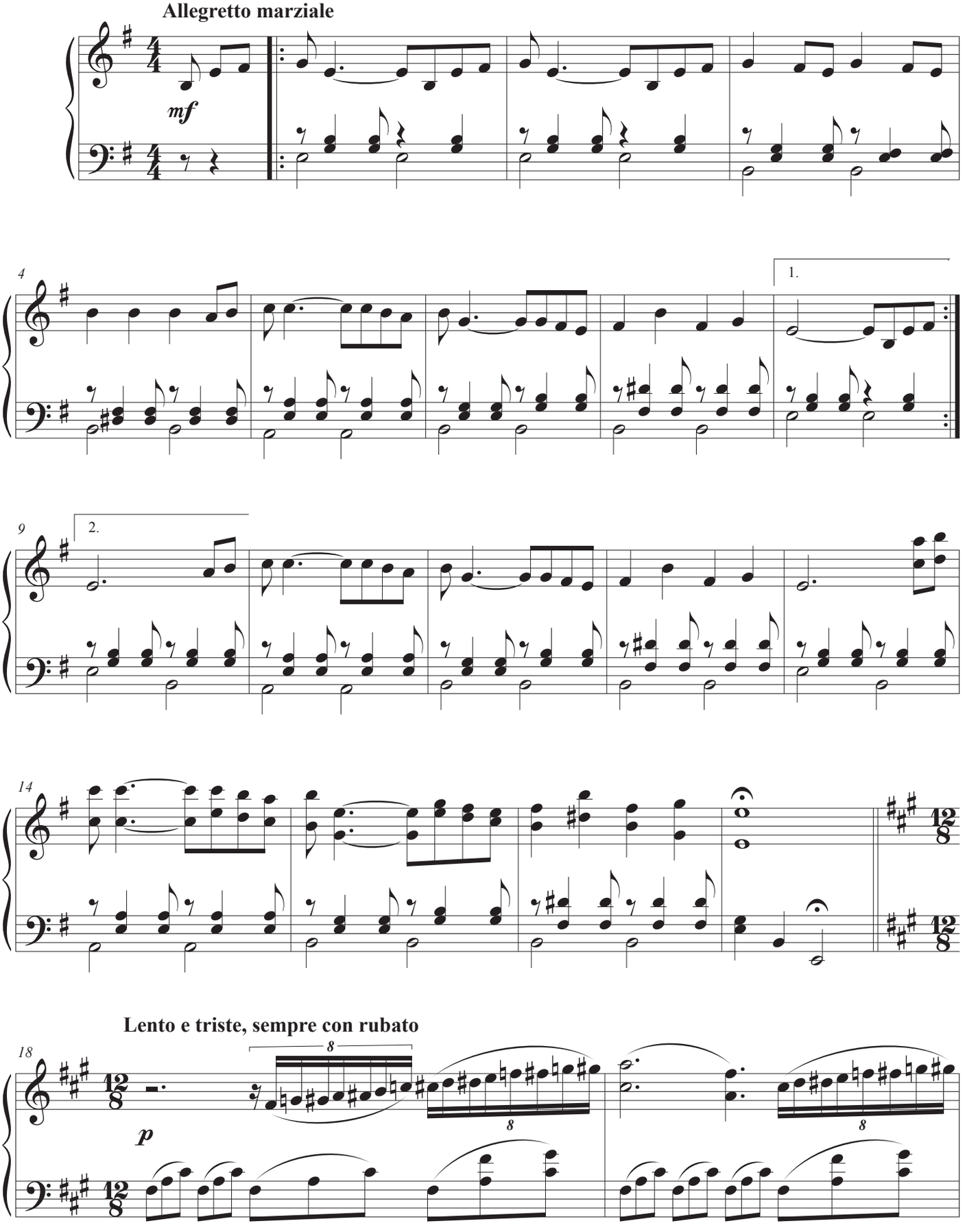
Santa Lucia has three particular pitch events that I sought to exploit in my three variations: a three note chromatic set in the second phrase, a moment in the last strain which includes a half-step followed by a perfect fourth (a set commonly found in post-tonal music), and an unexpected fully diminished chord prior to the final cadence. These three components informed the harmonic and melodic aspects of the subsequent variations.

After casting about for a fast dance tune to finish the suite (and not finding anything I liked), I decided to write my own *tarantella* as an homage to the folk-inspired piano works of Bartók and Ginastera. In three sections in ascending keys (A, B-flat, and finally C), it builds to a frenzied conclusion of glissandos and polychords.

per Vinny Trovato, con gran amicizia e rispetto profondo

Piccola Fantasia su "Bella Ciao"

Allegretto marziale



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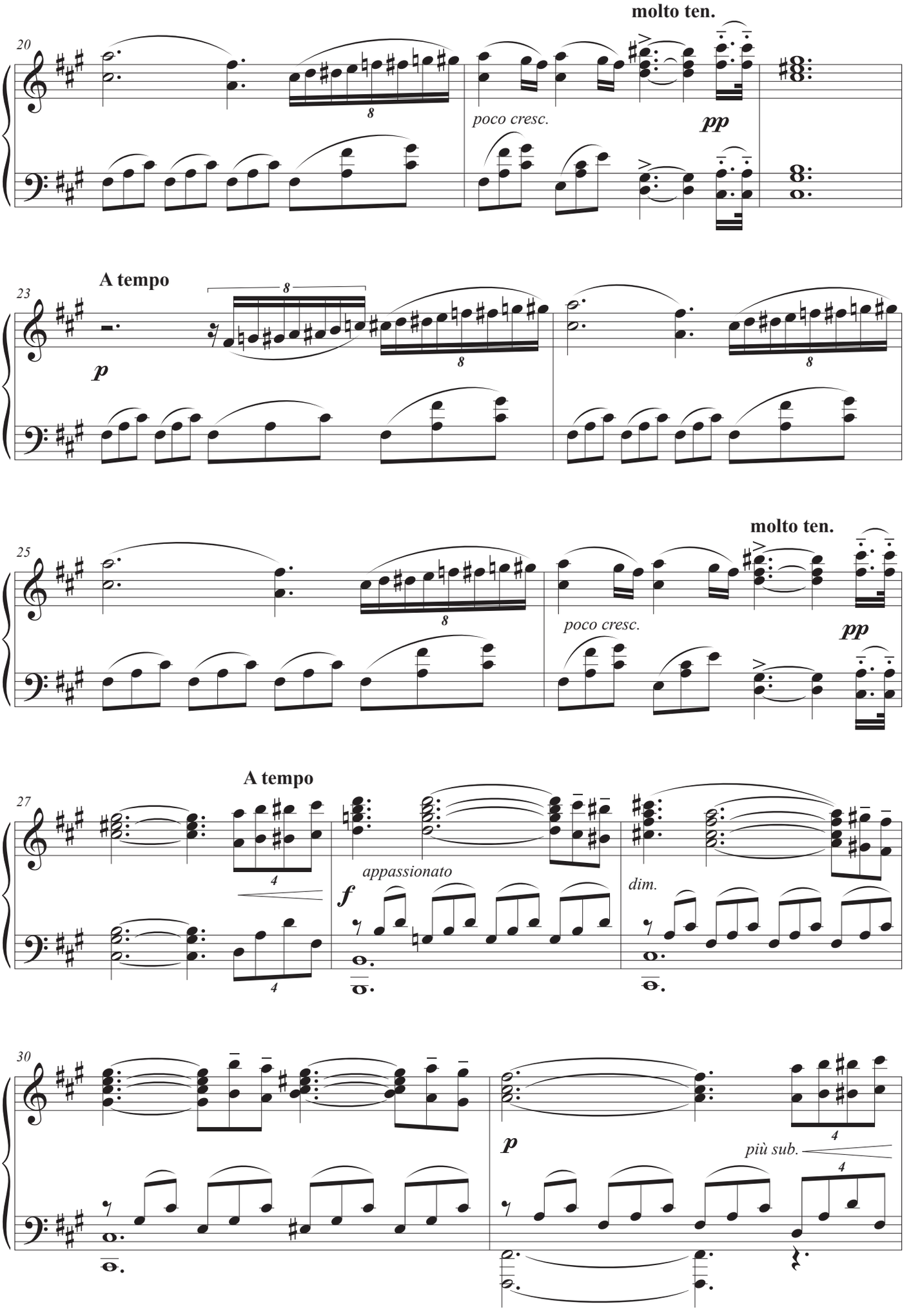
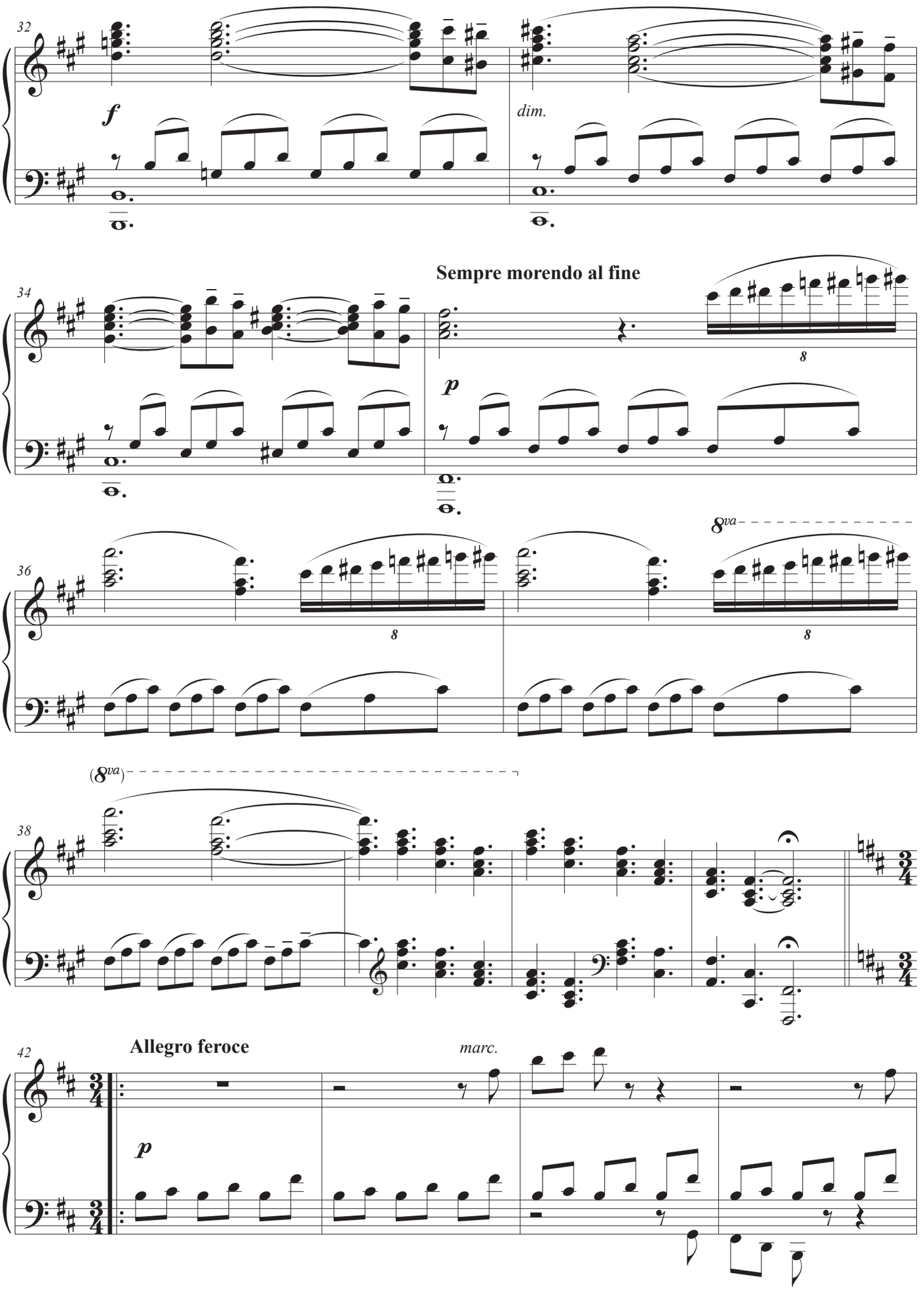
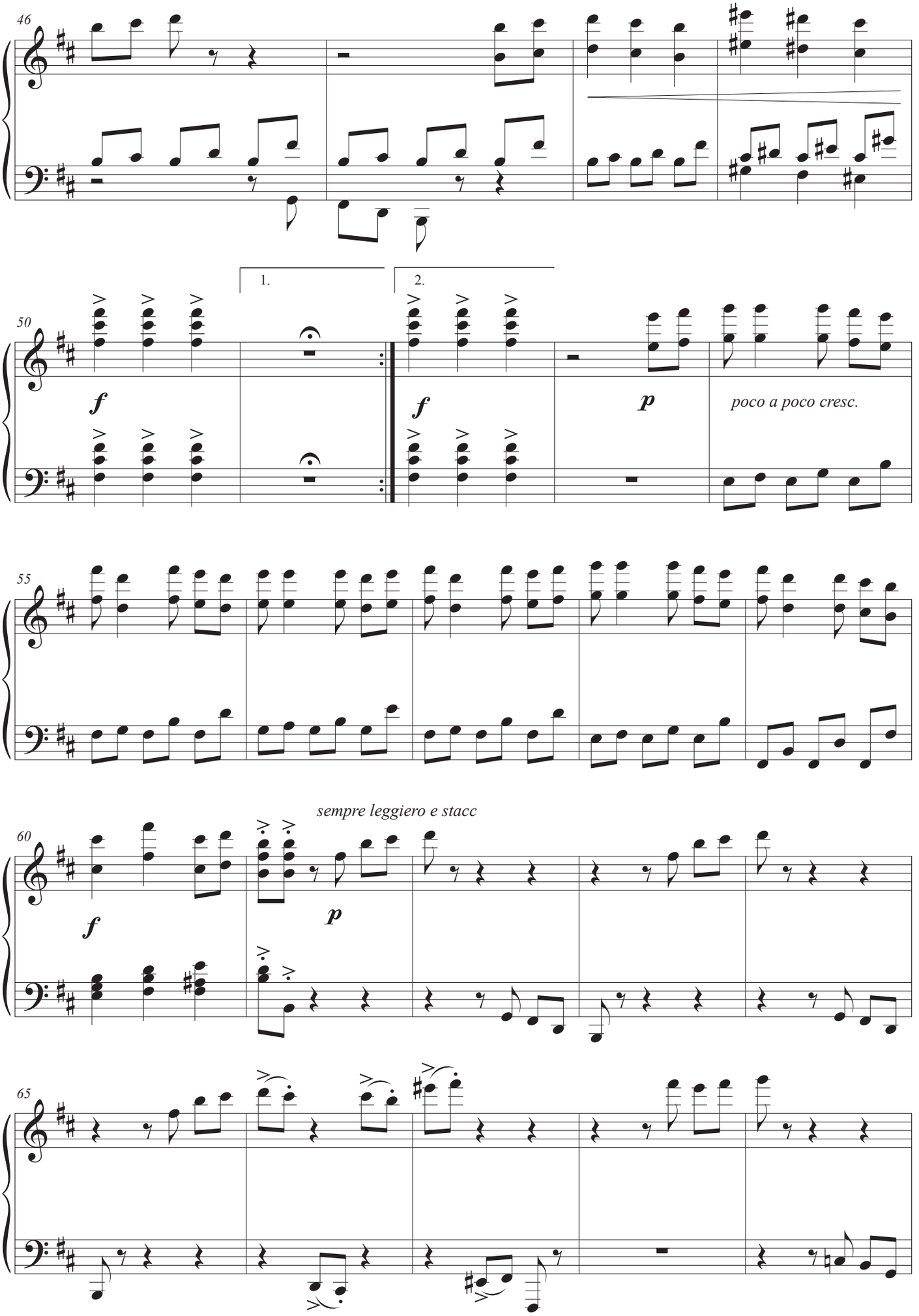
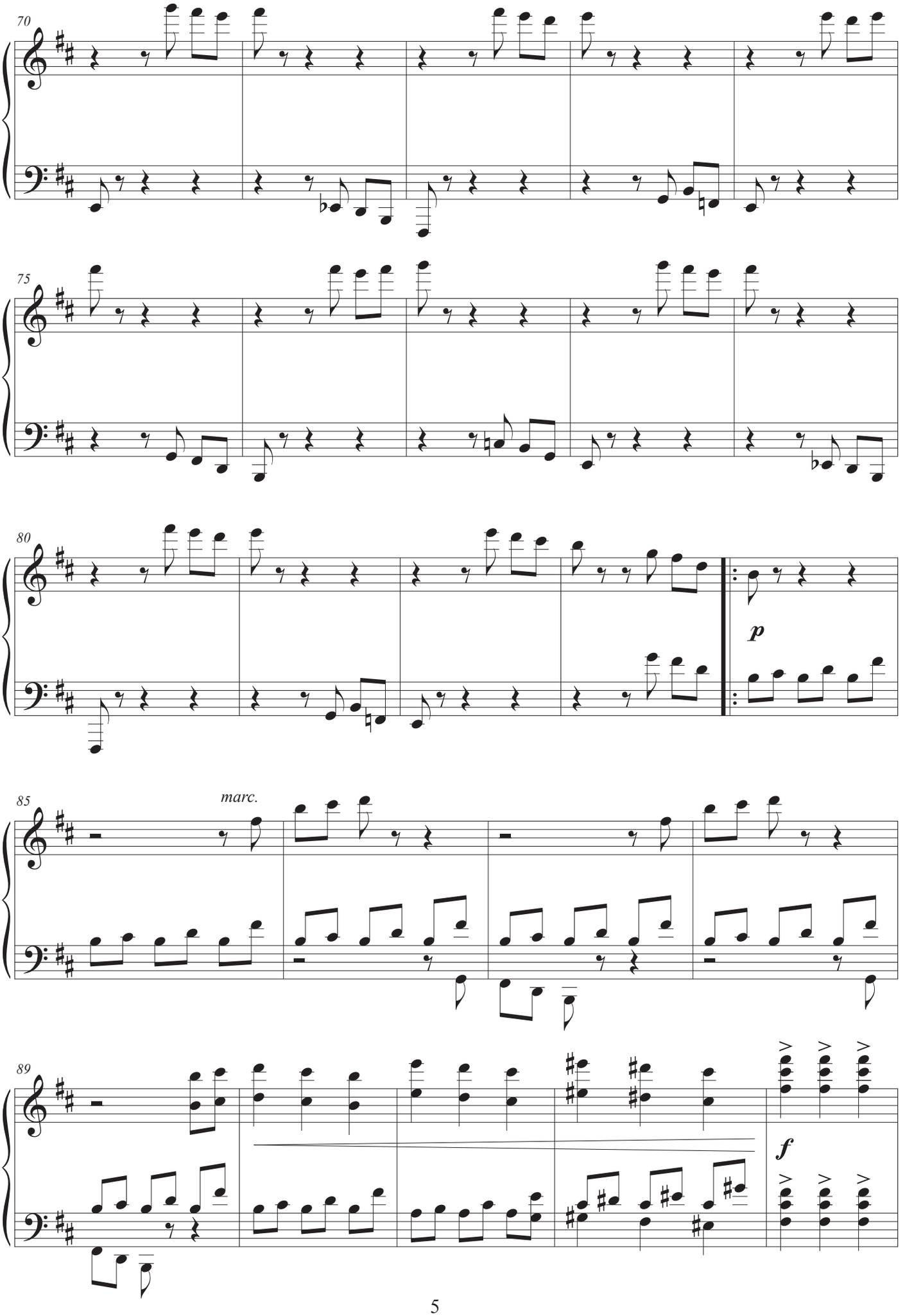
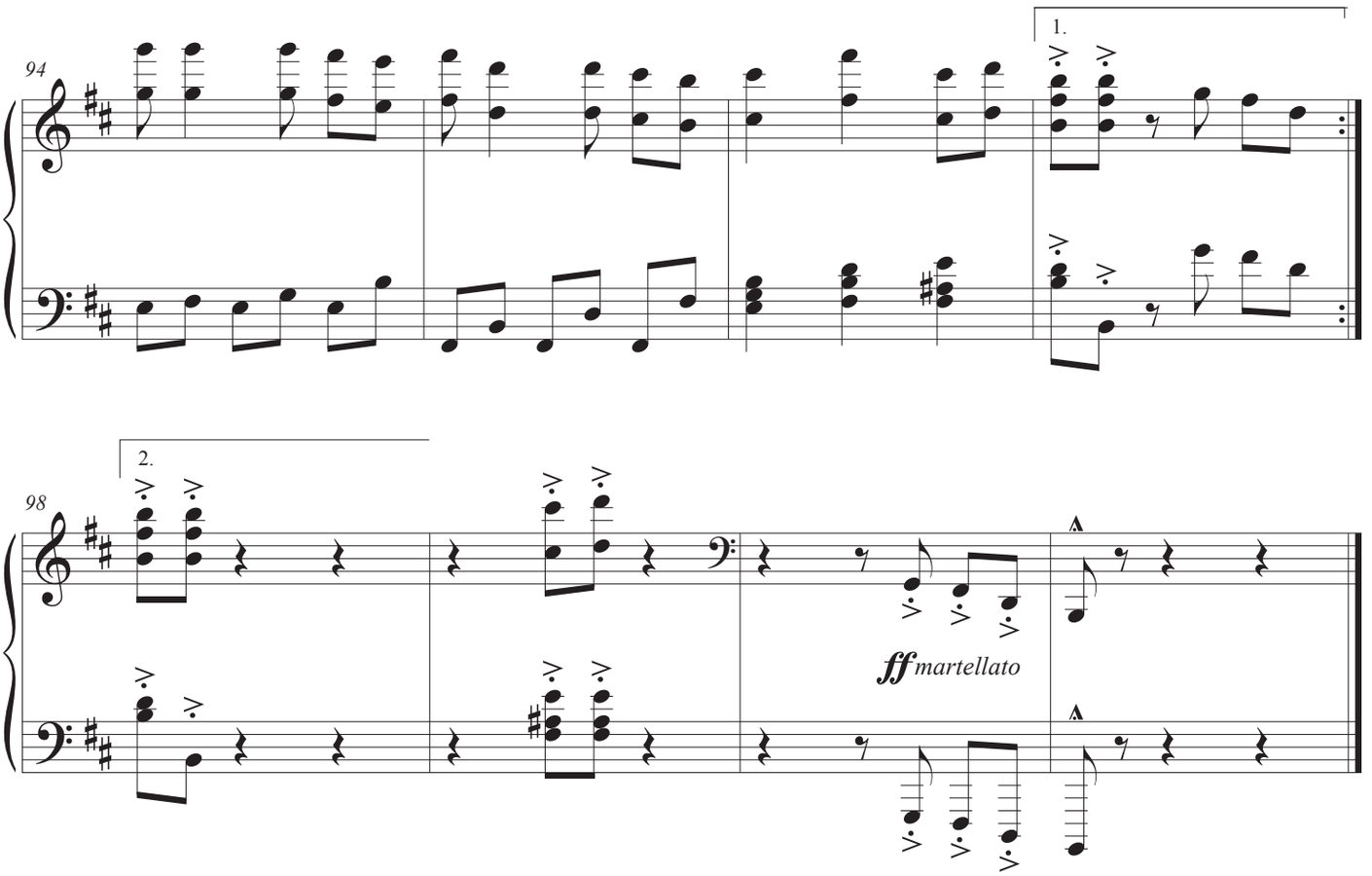

molto ten.
20
poco cresc.
pp
A tempo
23
p
molto ten.
25
poco cresc.
pp
A tempo
27
appassionato
f
dim.
30
p
più sub.


32
f
dim.
34
Sempre morendo al fine
p
8
36
8va
8
8
(8va)
38
42
Allegro feroce
marc.
p

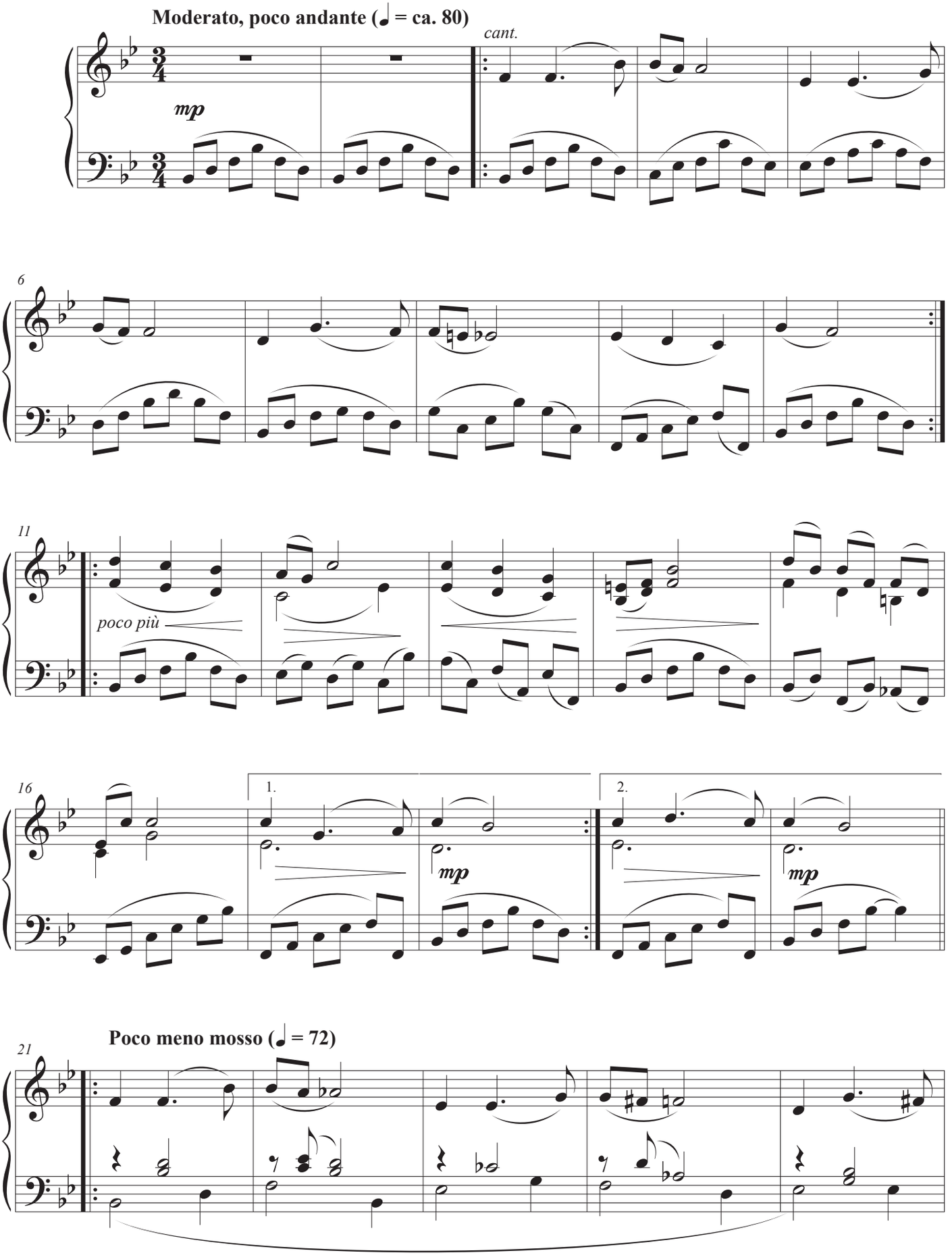

46
50
1.
2.
f
f
p
poco a poco cresc.
55
sempre leggiero e stacc
60
f
p
65

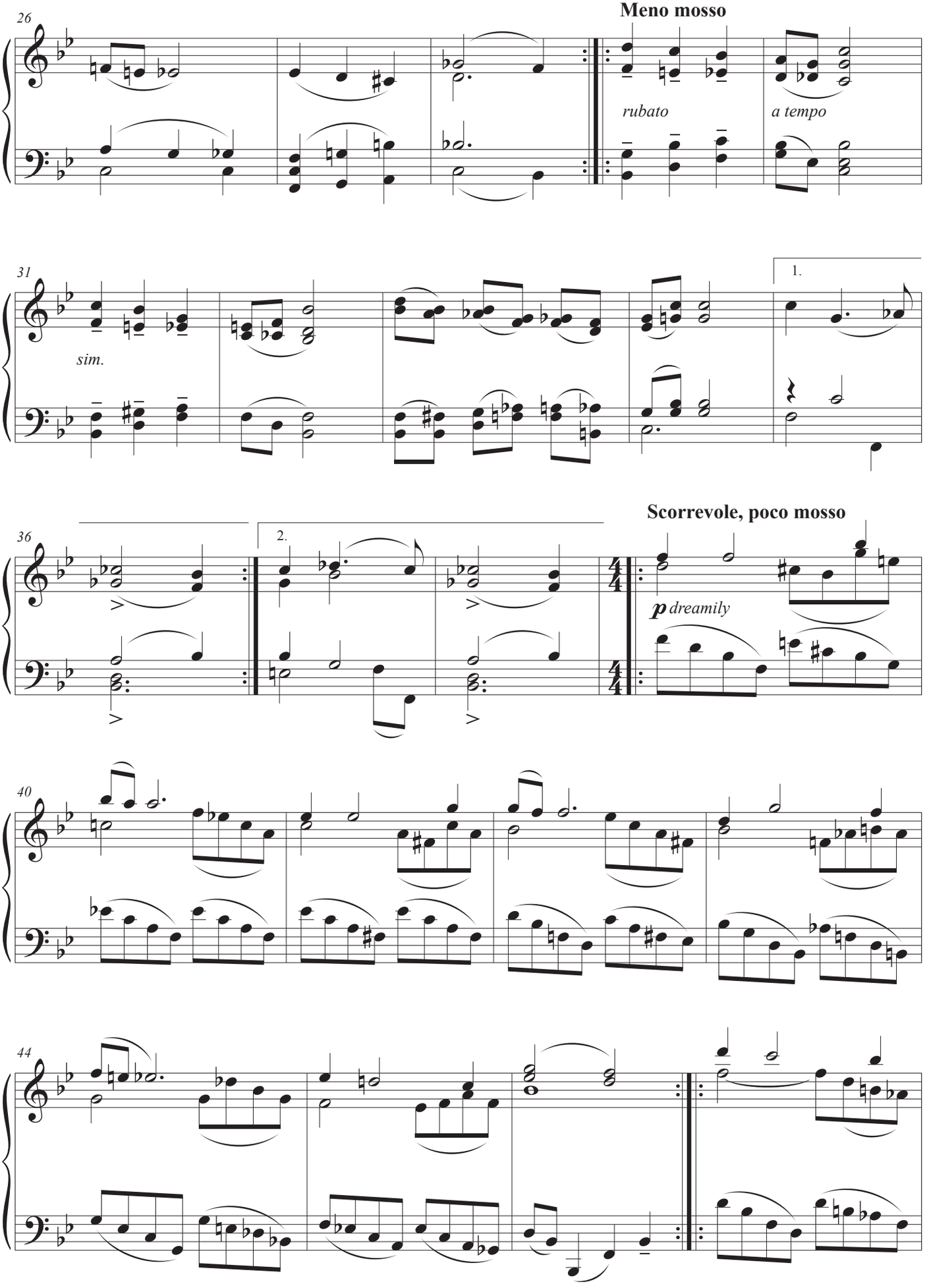

70
75
80
p
85
marc.
89
f

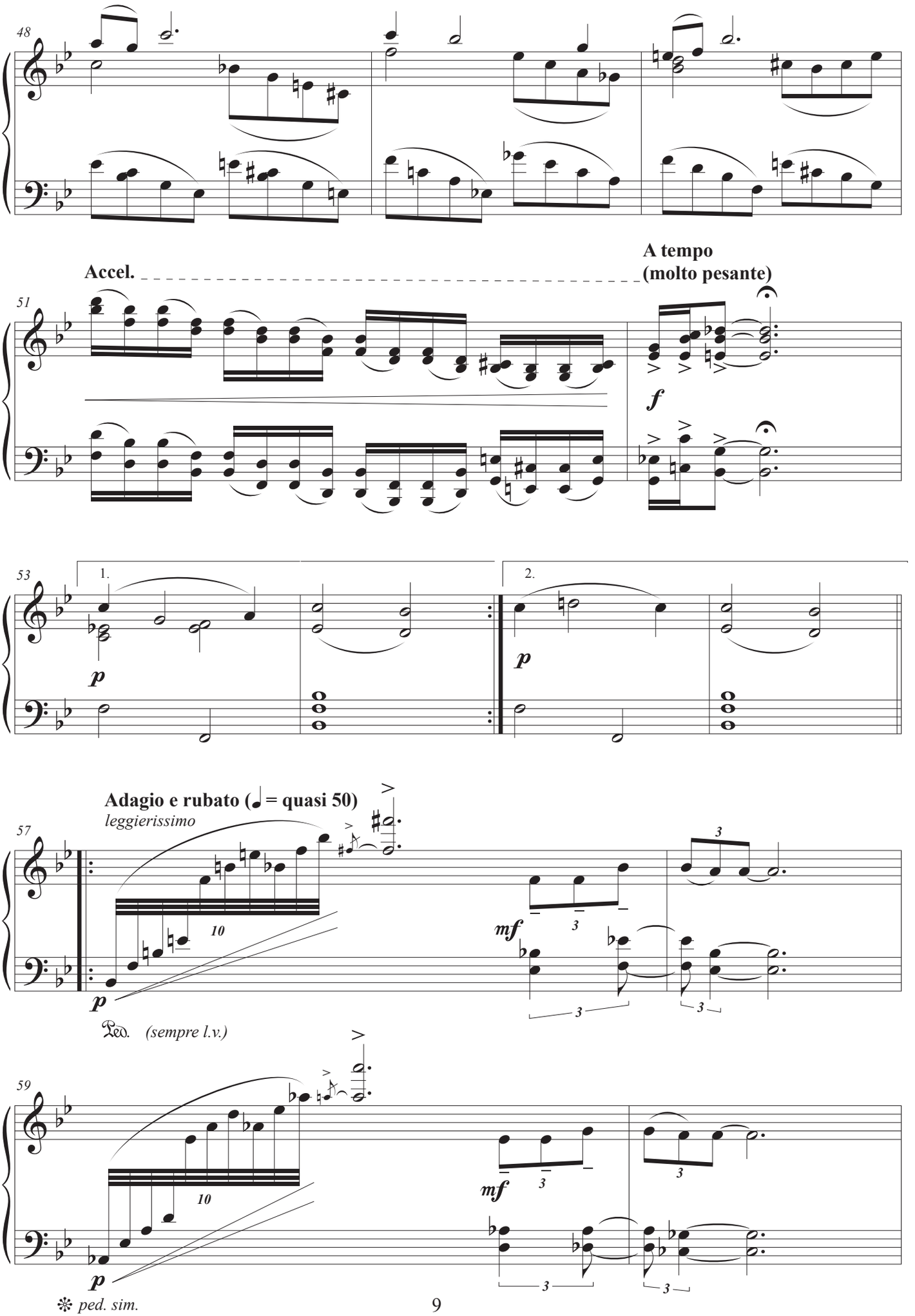

94
1.

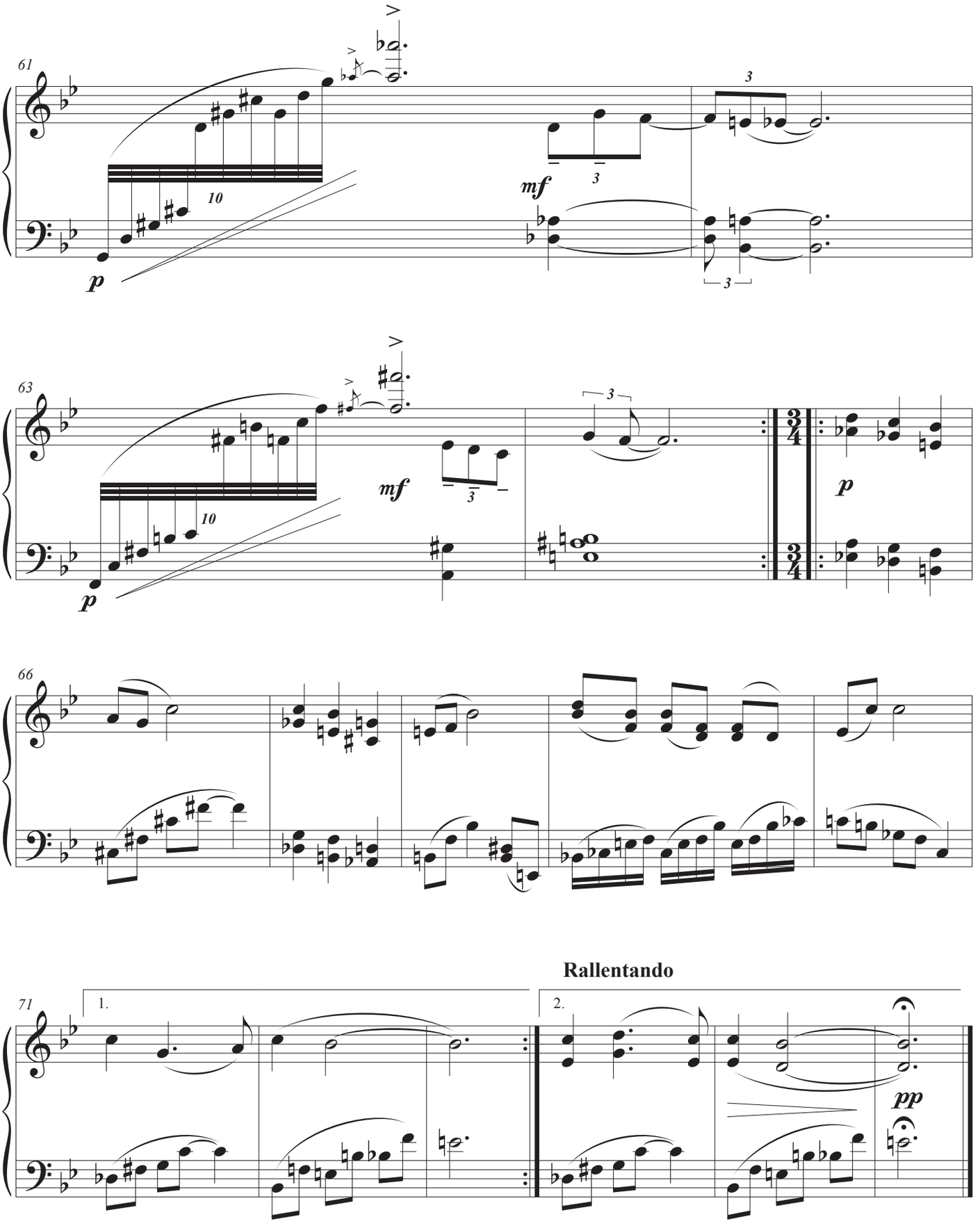
98
2.
ff martellato

Distorzioni su "Santa Lucia"



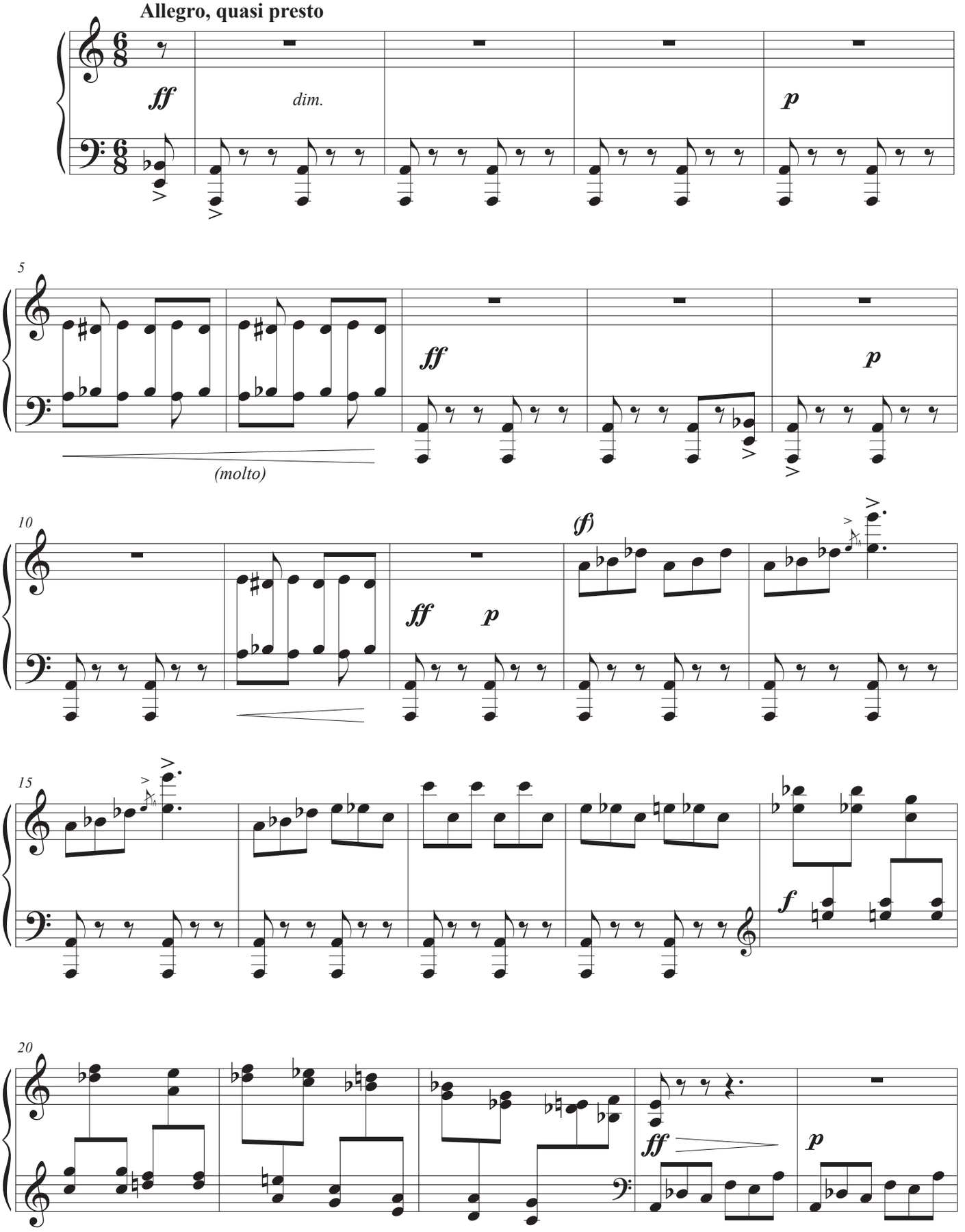

26
Meno mosso
rubato
a tempo
31
sim.
1.
36
2.
Scorrevole, poco mosso
p dreamily
40
44

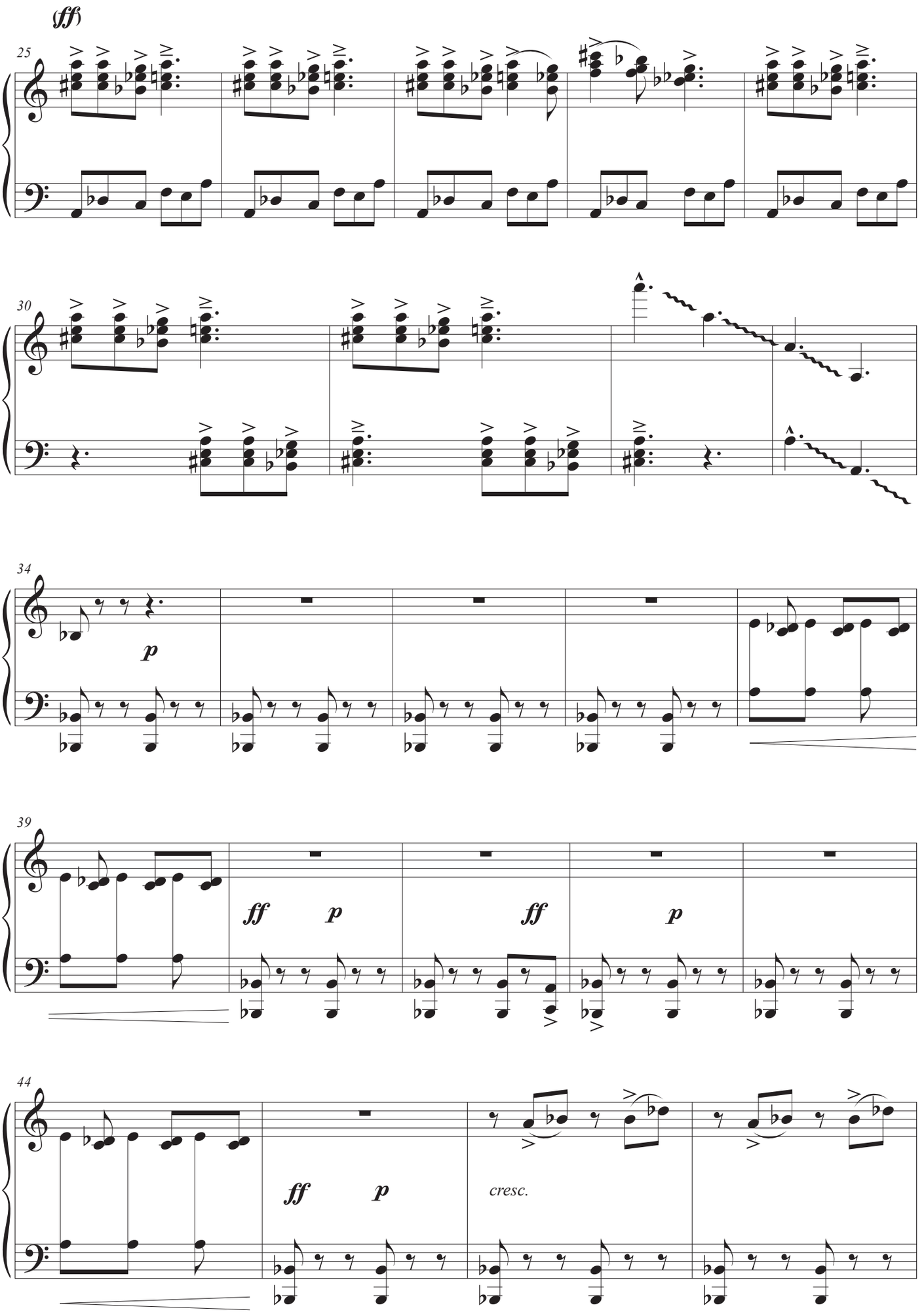

48
Accel.
A tempo
(molto pesante)
51
f
53
1.
2.
p
p
Adagio e rubato (♩ = quasi 50)
leggierissimo
57
10
p
mf
3
Ped. (sempre l.v.)
59
10
p
mf
3
✻ ped. sim.

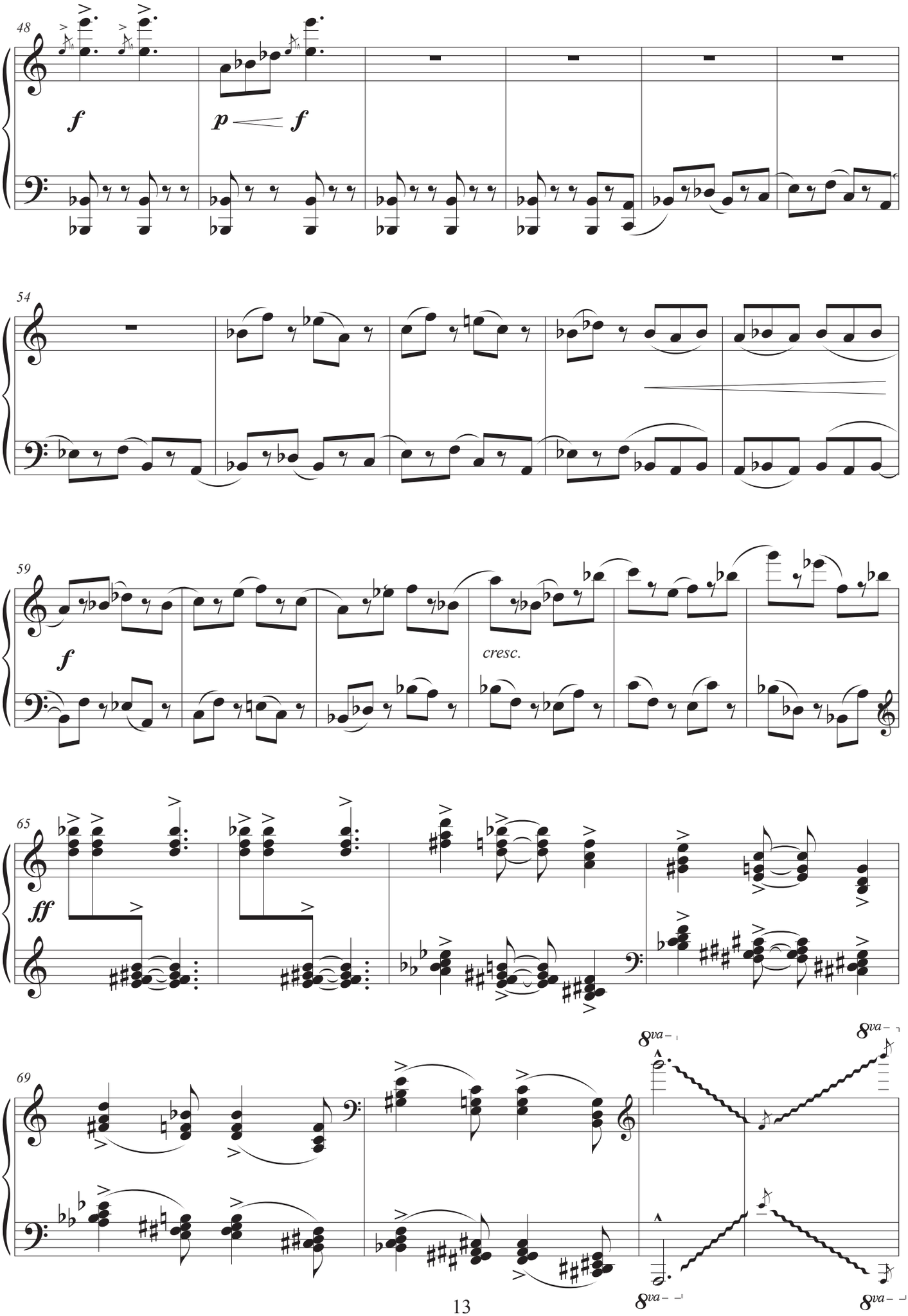


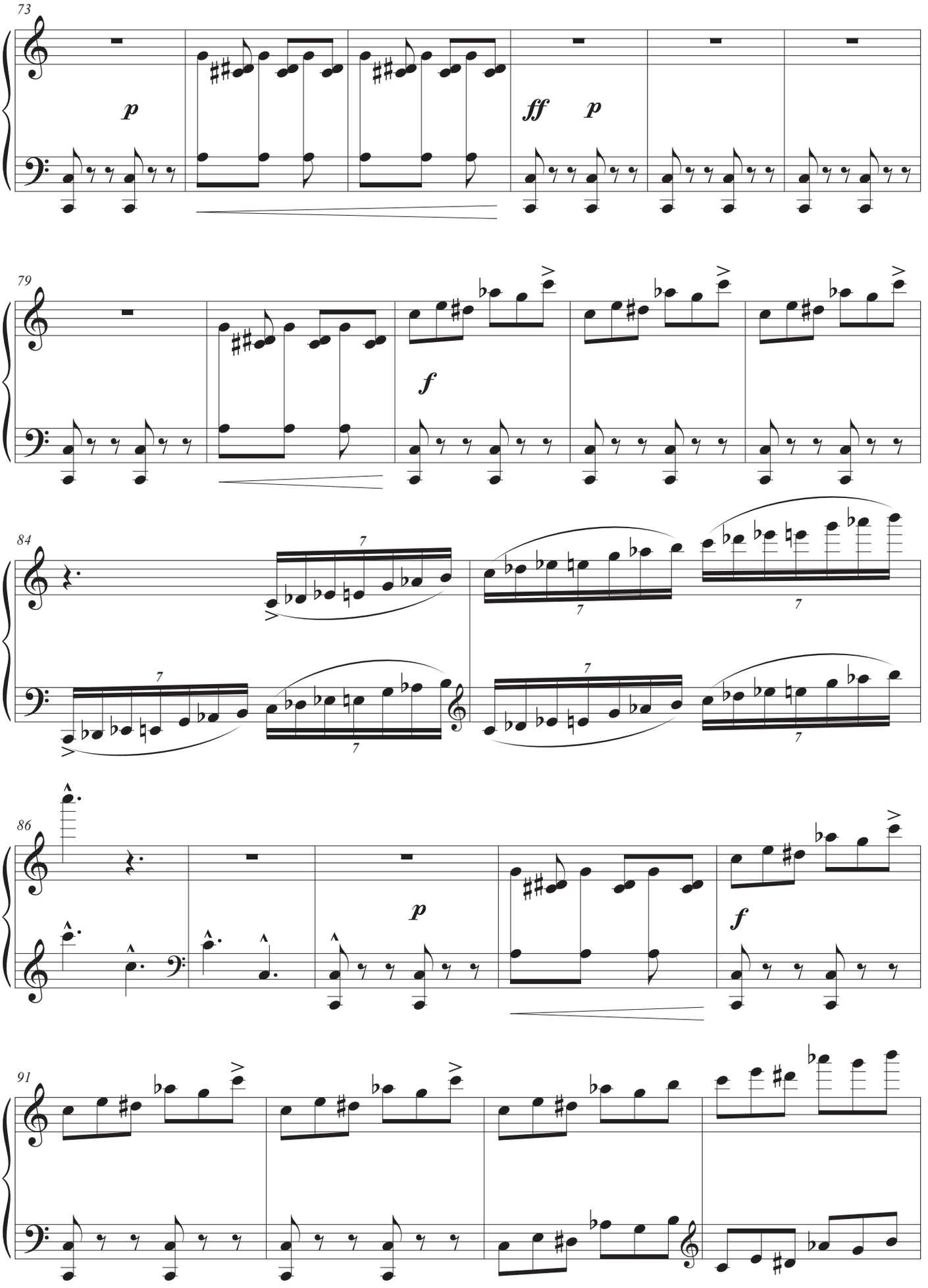
Aprile, 2023

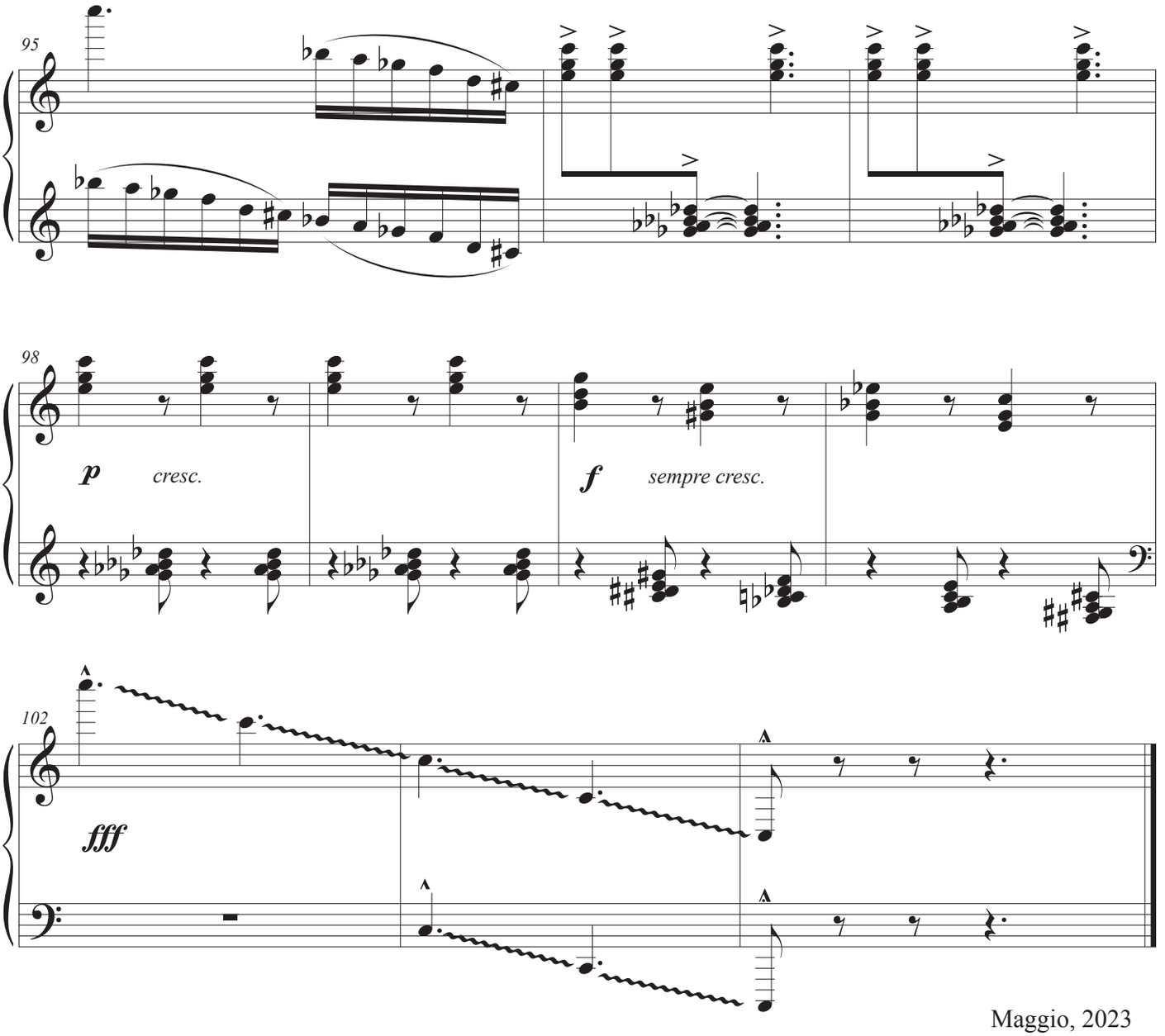
Tarantella Fantastica




(ff)
25
30
34
p
39
ff
p
ff
p
44
ff
p
cresc.


48
f
p
f
54
59
f
cresc.
65
ff
69
8va
8va
8va
8va


73
p
ff
p
79
f
84
7
7
7
7
7
86
p
f
91



Maggio, 2023