MINIATURES FOR PIANO

by Giotto Roussies

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INTRODUCTION

In 2011 my Friend and fellow Pianist Lucas Leidinger and I sat down at the piano in my apartment in Cologne to escape the chaos of Kölner Karneval that shakes up the city yearly. Carried by the creative flow characterizing our friendship we decided to play a compositional game. The game went like this: One of us would start to play a chord, a little melody, or just a few notes, then the other would repeat that bit and add to it by playing what came up just in the moment. It is similar to the german children's game „Ich packe meinen Koffer..." (I packed my Bag). Like this, we went on, and out of it emerged a little weirdly beautiful piece that we called „Requiem für einen Narren"(Requiem for a fool), which I added to this Book as the final (but first) piece.

I enjoyed the flow and momentum the method added to the compositional process. Somehow it changed the way I came up with Ideas. It added lightness and a sense of playfulness and had a very non-theoretical, almost improvisational character. Magically the material I researched at the time just popped up and found an organic integration into the composition. The process also had a more piano-oriented, classical approach because every note counted. Compared to most Jazz composing, where the focus often lies on a melody accompanied by chord symbols, now, every note and voicing was put intentionally. On top of that, it made me practice the „weird" lines, shapes, and counterpoints that usually didn't find the right place in my playing.
At about the same time my friend Lucas and I had listened to abstract piano pieces such as Stockhausen's „Klavierstücke" so our ears were open and our minds were free. I felt very inspired and like there was a lot to discover so I decided to explore writing like that more.

This decision made me revisit this method as the years passed. In time the compositions summed up. Some were written in my apartment in Cologne, some during a longer stay in Israel in 2020, and some on my five-octave midi Keyboard in my car on a road trip across Portugal, recently. These three locations organize the compositions into the three parts of the book.

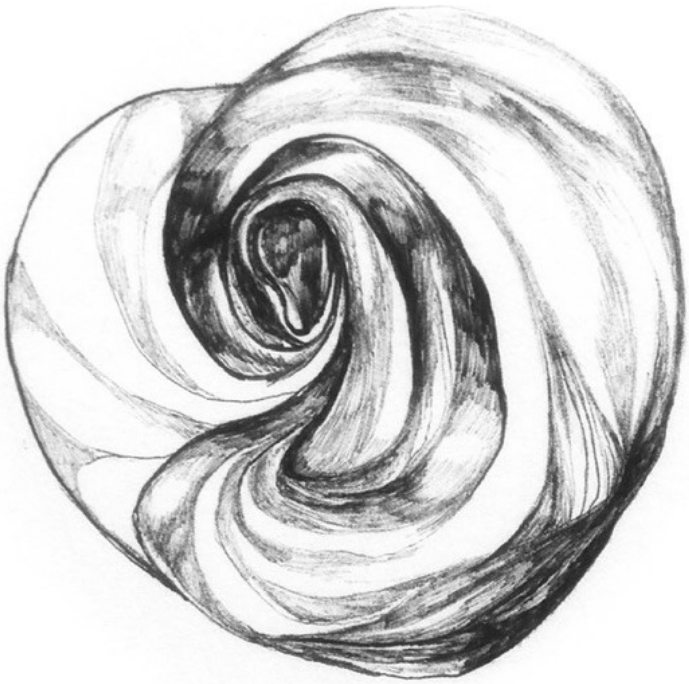
For a long time, these pieces existed only in my head, as an audio file on my laptop

or as a video I had uploaded to the Internet. With this project, they will be available in written form for the first time, making them accessible to a broad community of musicians to play!

Simultaneously, and quite similarly, to writing music I make drawings. I mostly follow my pen meditatively as the forms arise seemingly by themselves. This way of creating reminded me a lot of my compositions, not only was the process similar but also the way they sounded and looked to me. So it just felt natural to add a few of the drawings as visual complementation to the written sounds.

I hope in this book you can find some of the joy, curiosity, surprise, beauty, and inspiration that I experienced creating it.

Giotto Roussies
2022

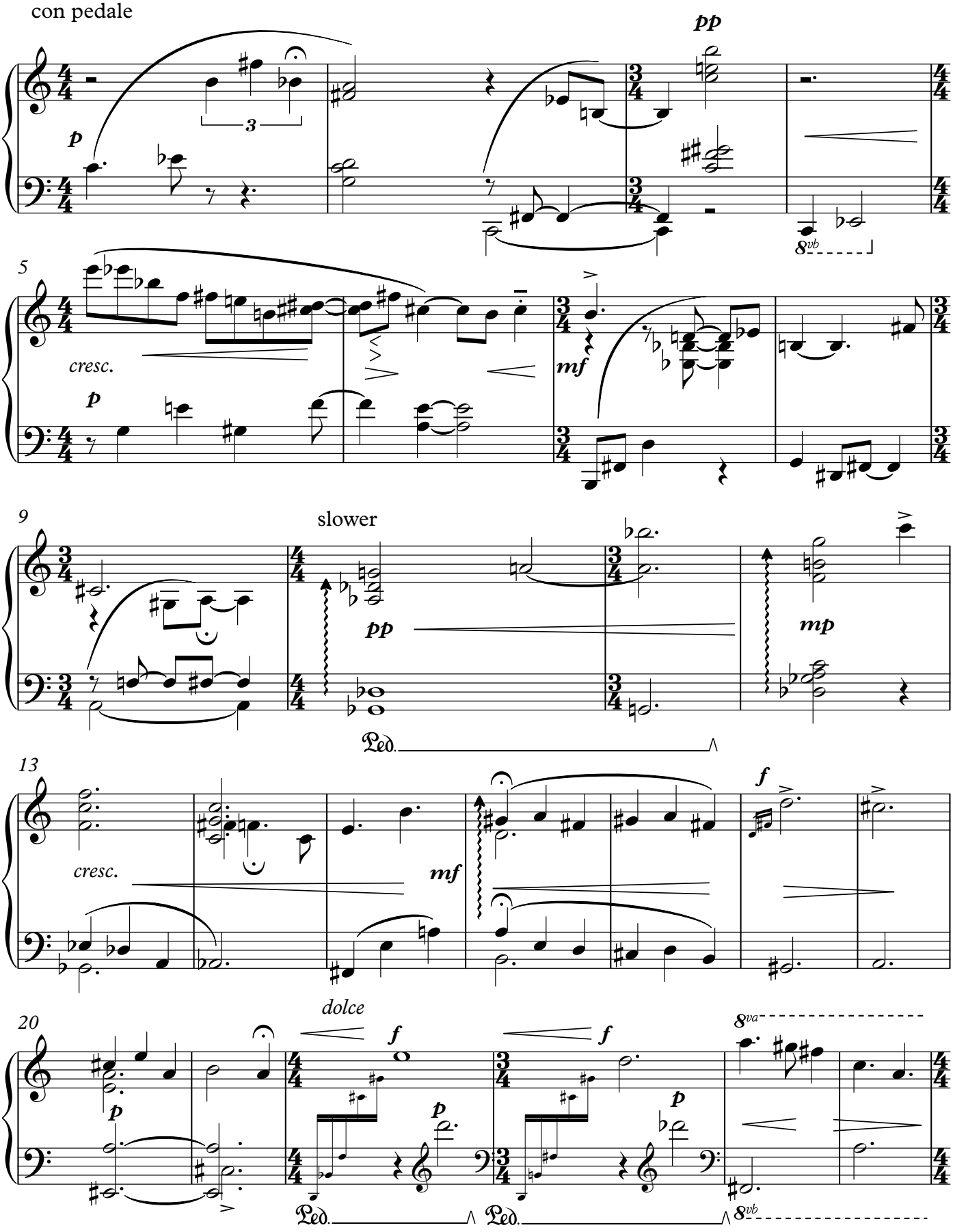


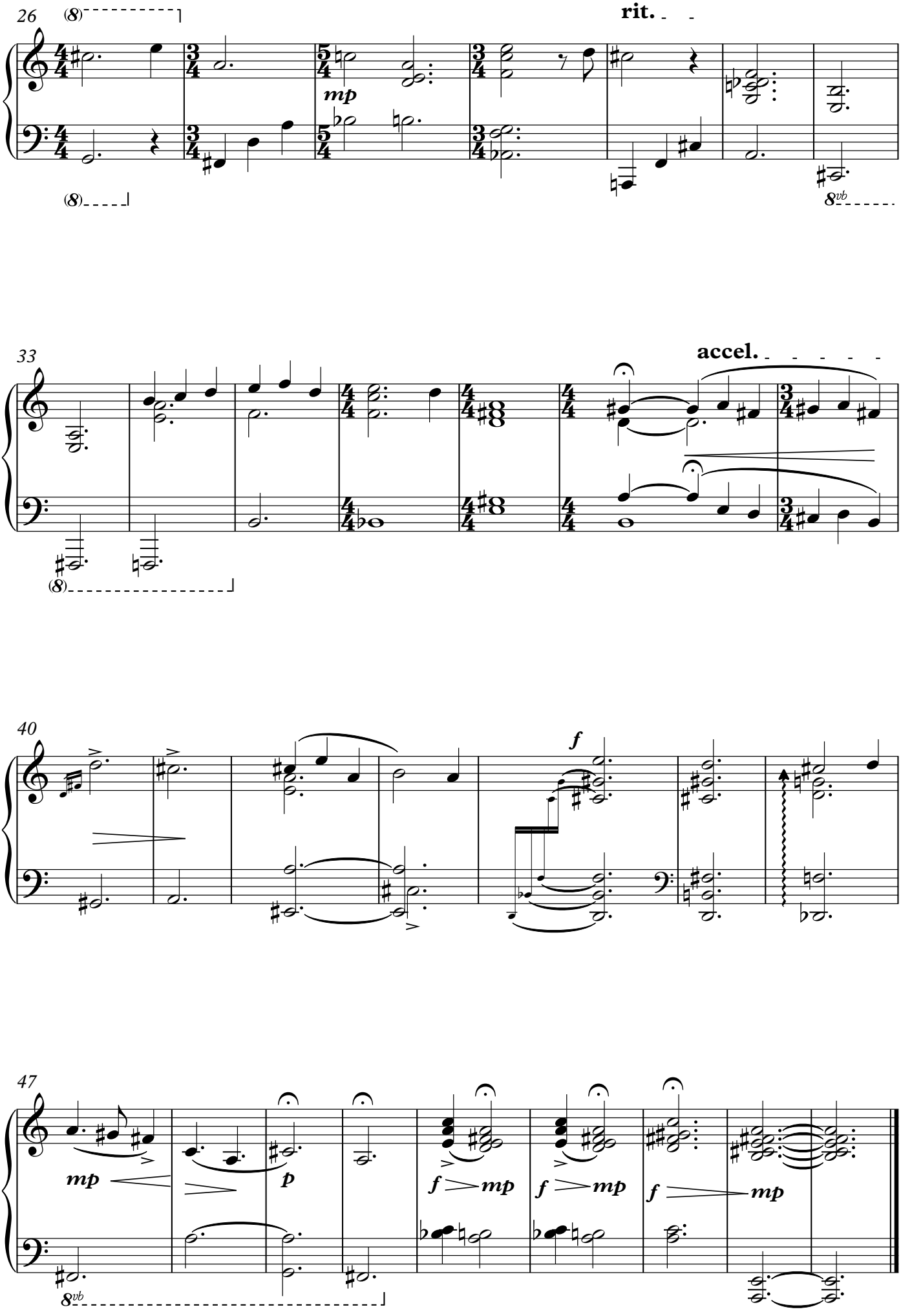
Angie's House

Giotto Roussies

Rubato *Con moto* ♩ = 105

con pedale



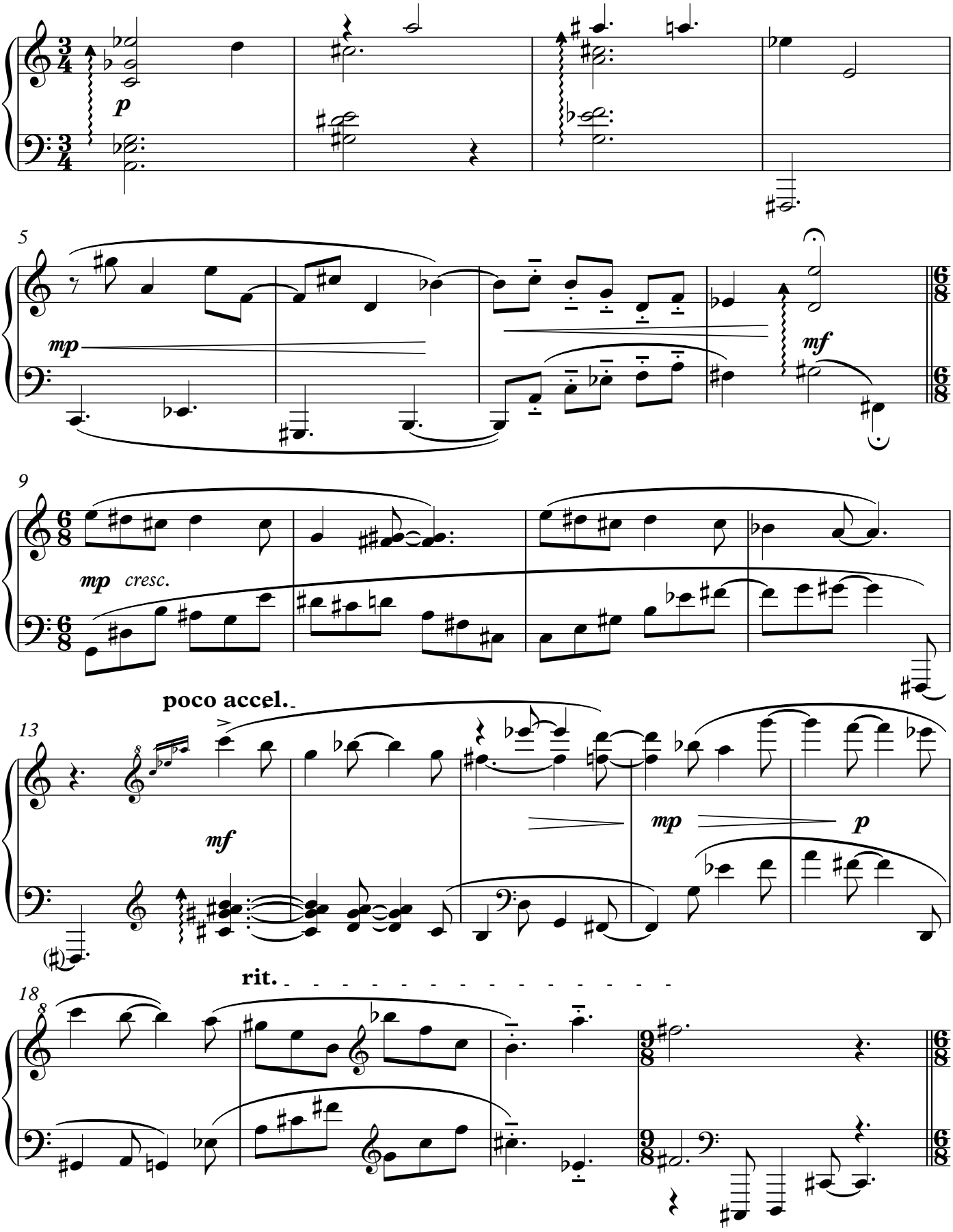

26
(8)
rit.
mp
(8)
8vb
33
accel.
(8)
40
f
47
mp
p
f
mp
f
mp
f
mp
8vb

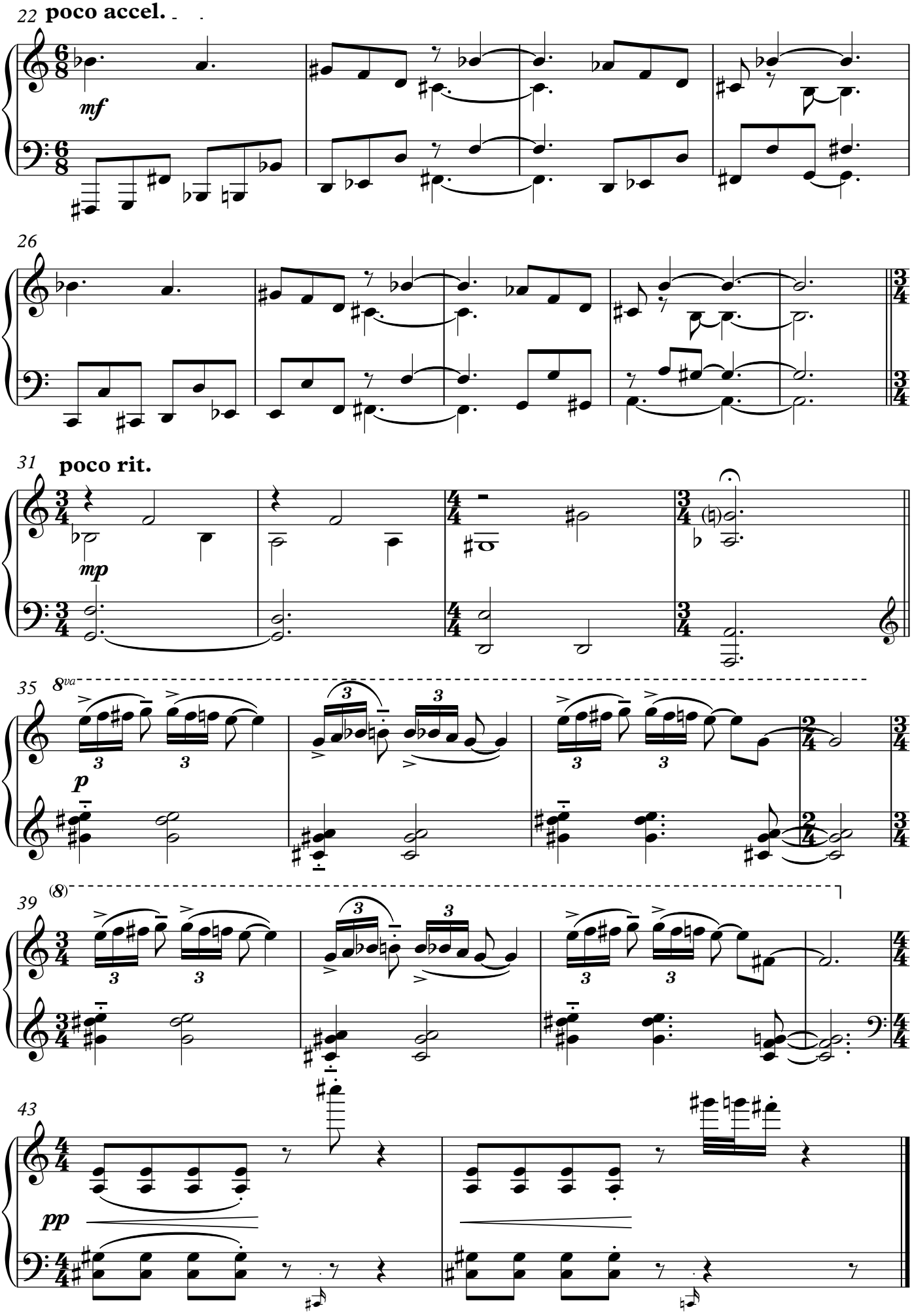
Seperate Thoughts

Delicato ♩ = 90

con molto pedale

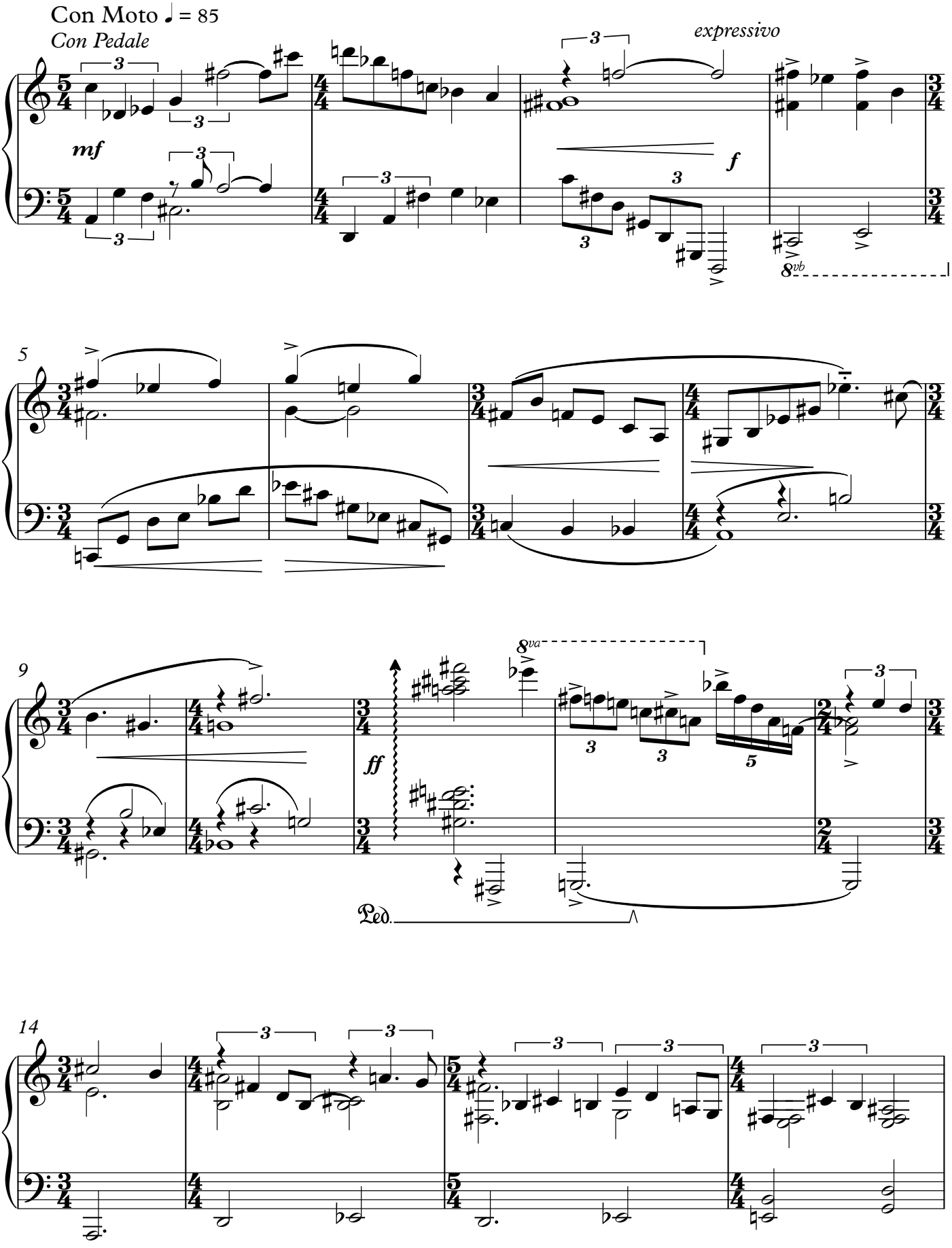
Giotto Roussies




22
poco accel.
mf
26
31
poco rit.
mp
35
8va
p
39
(8)
43
pp

Molten Glass

Giotto Roussies



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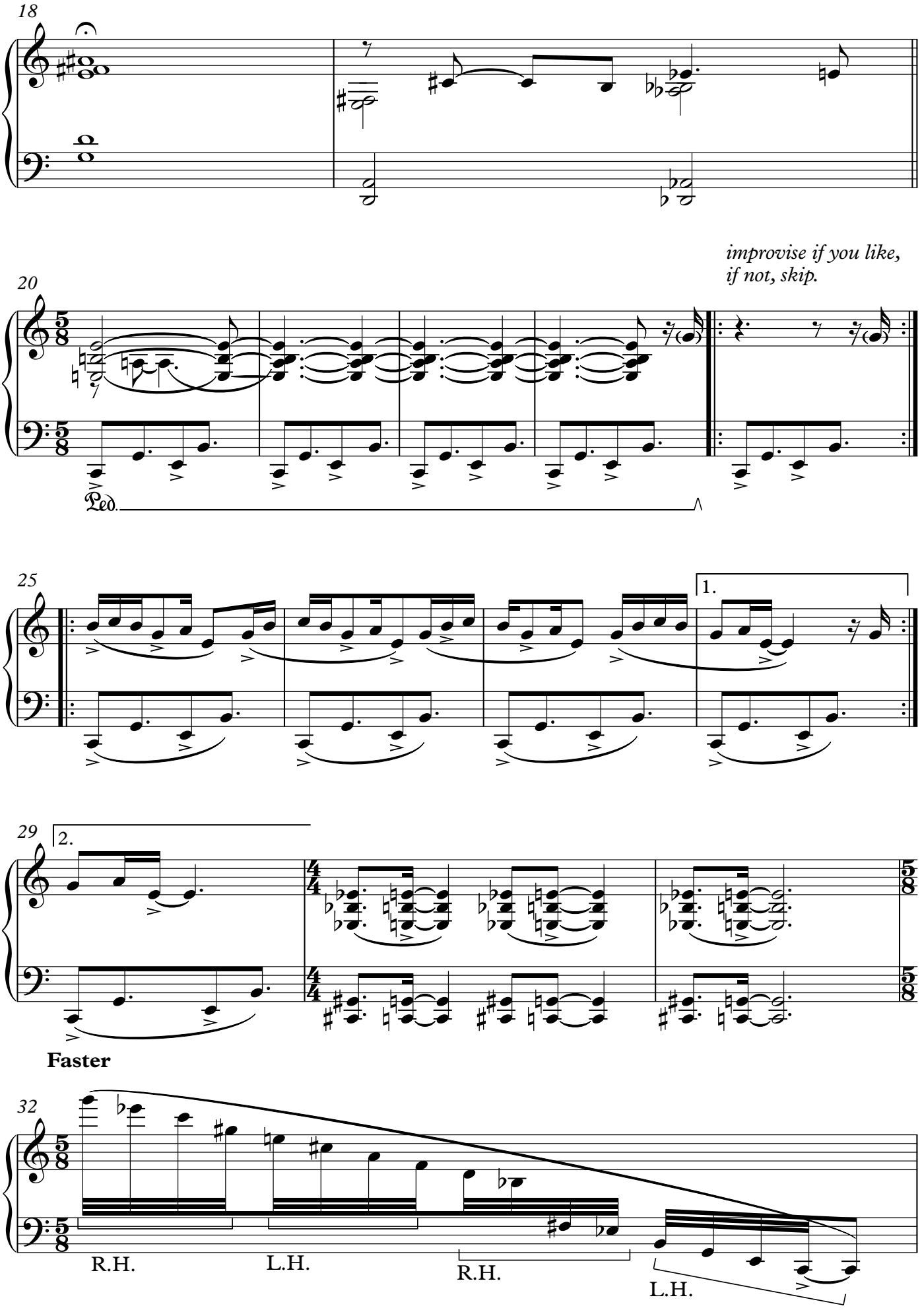
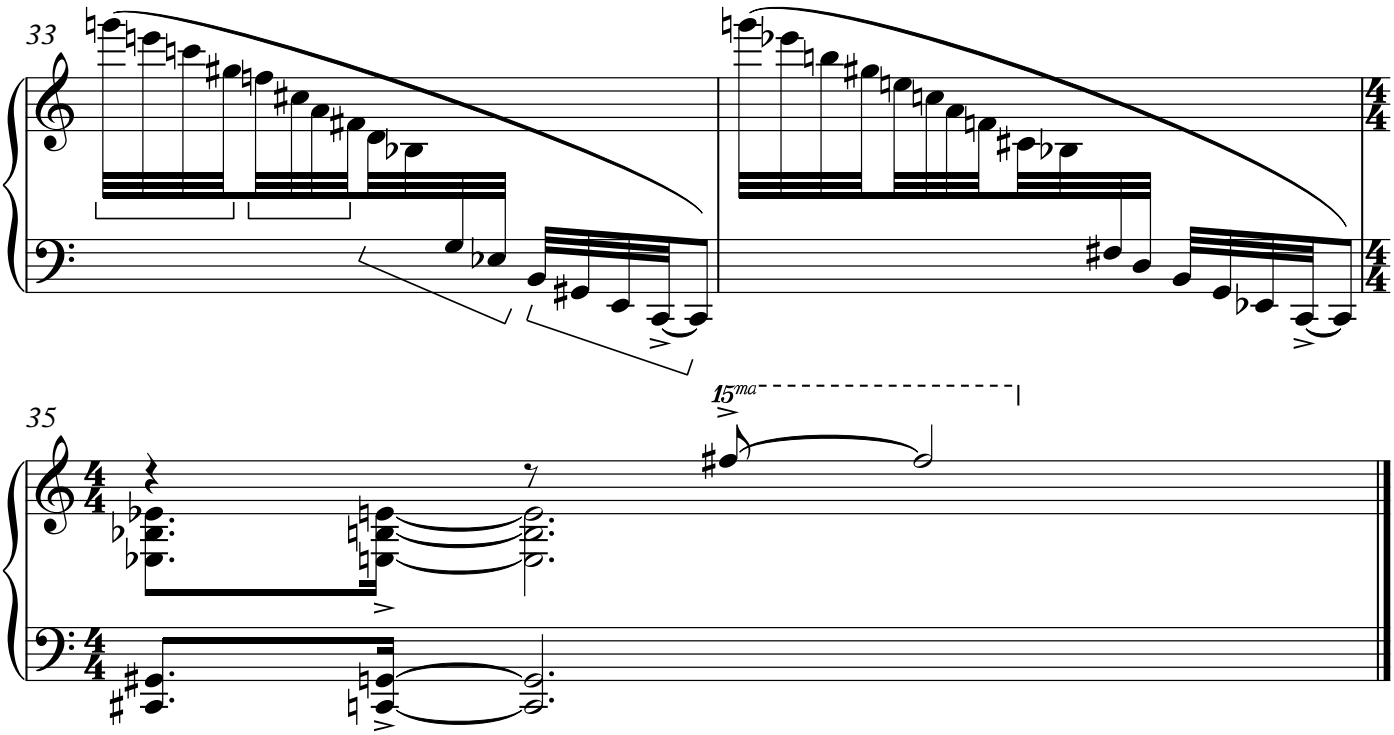
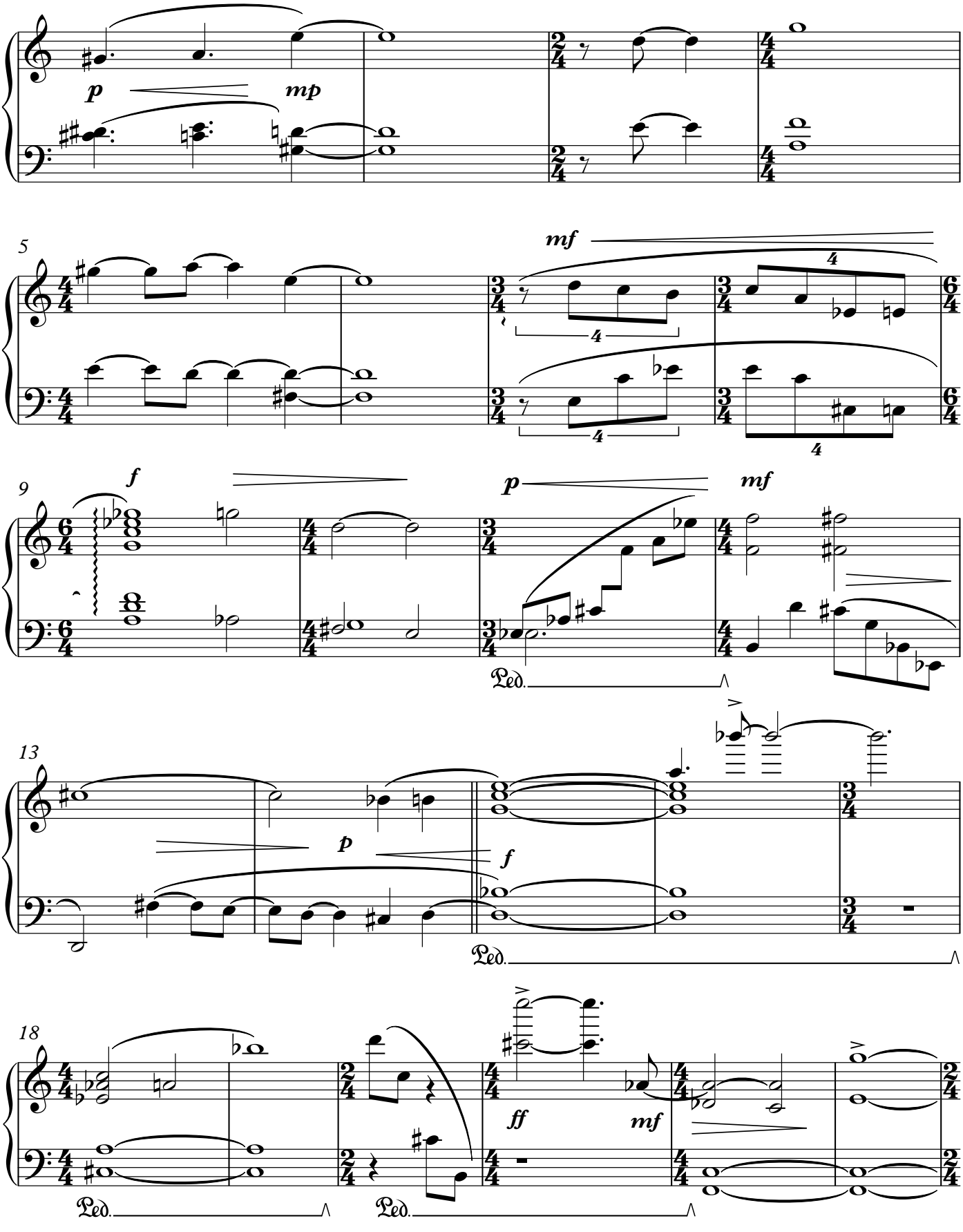

18
20
improvise if you like,
if not, skip.
Ped.
25
1.
29
2.
Faster
32
R.H.
L.H.
R.H.
L.H.

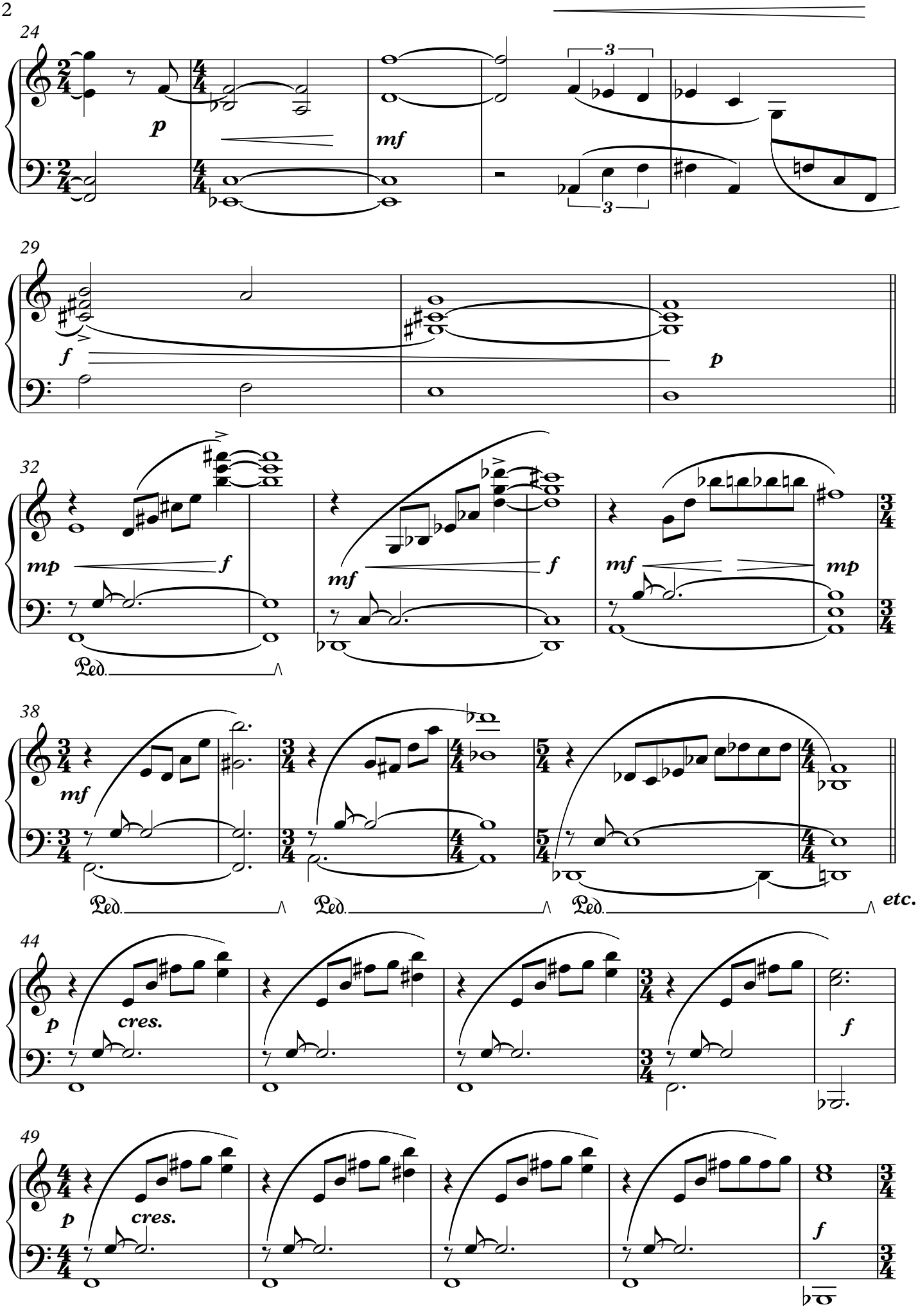

33
35
15ma

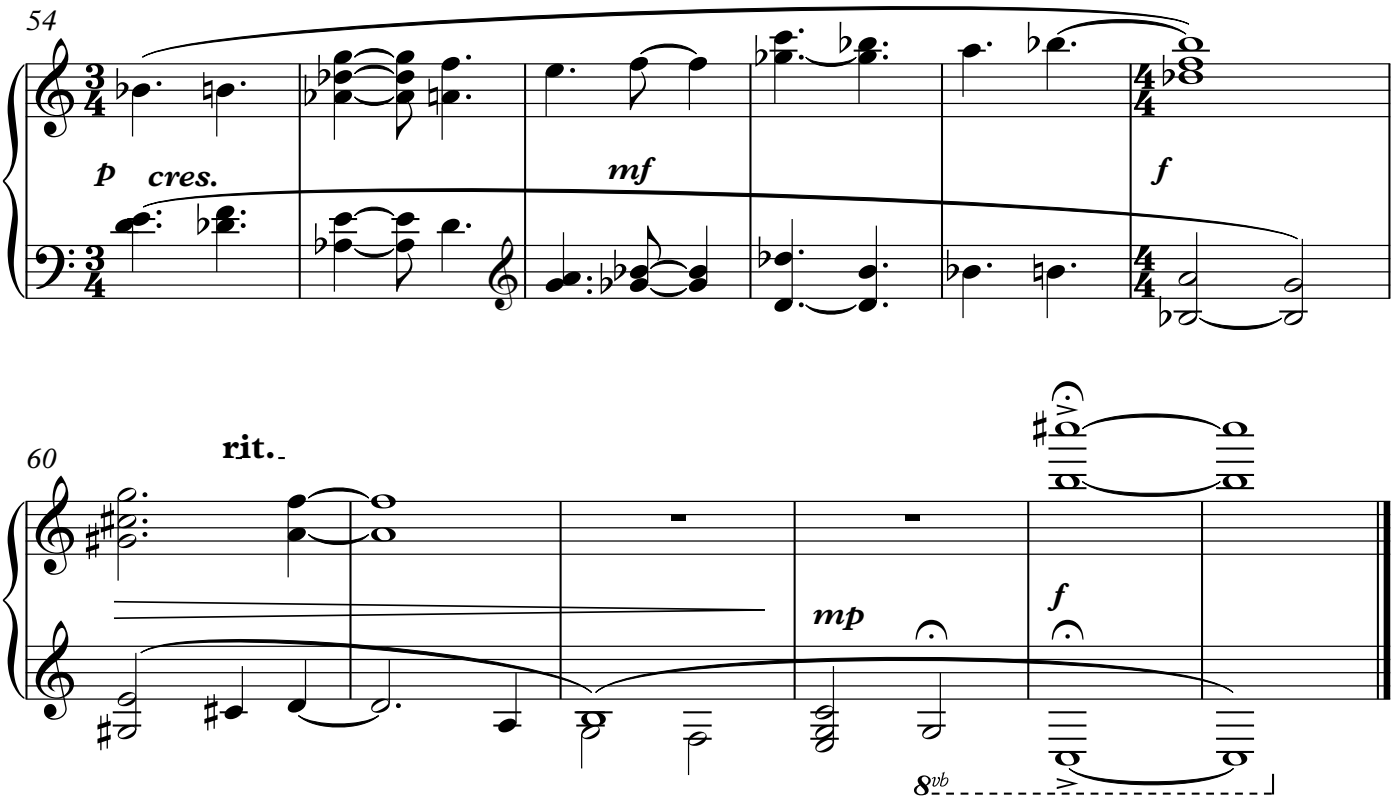
Beautiful

Giotto Roussies

Allegro con pedale (♩. = 132)




24
p
mf
3
3
29
f
p
32
mp
f
mf
f
mf
mp
Ped.
38
mf
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
etc.
44
p
cres.
f
49
p
cres.
f


54
p cres.
mf
f

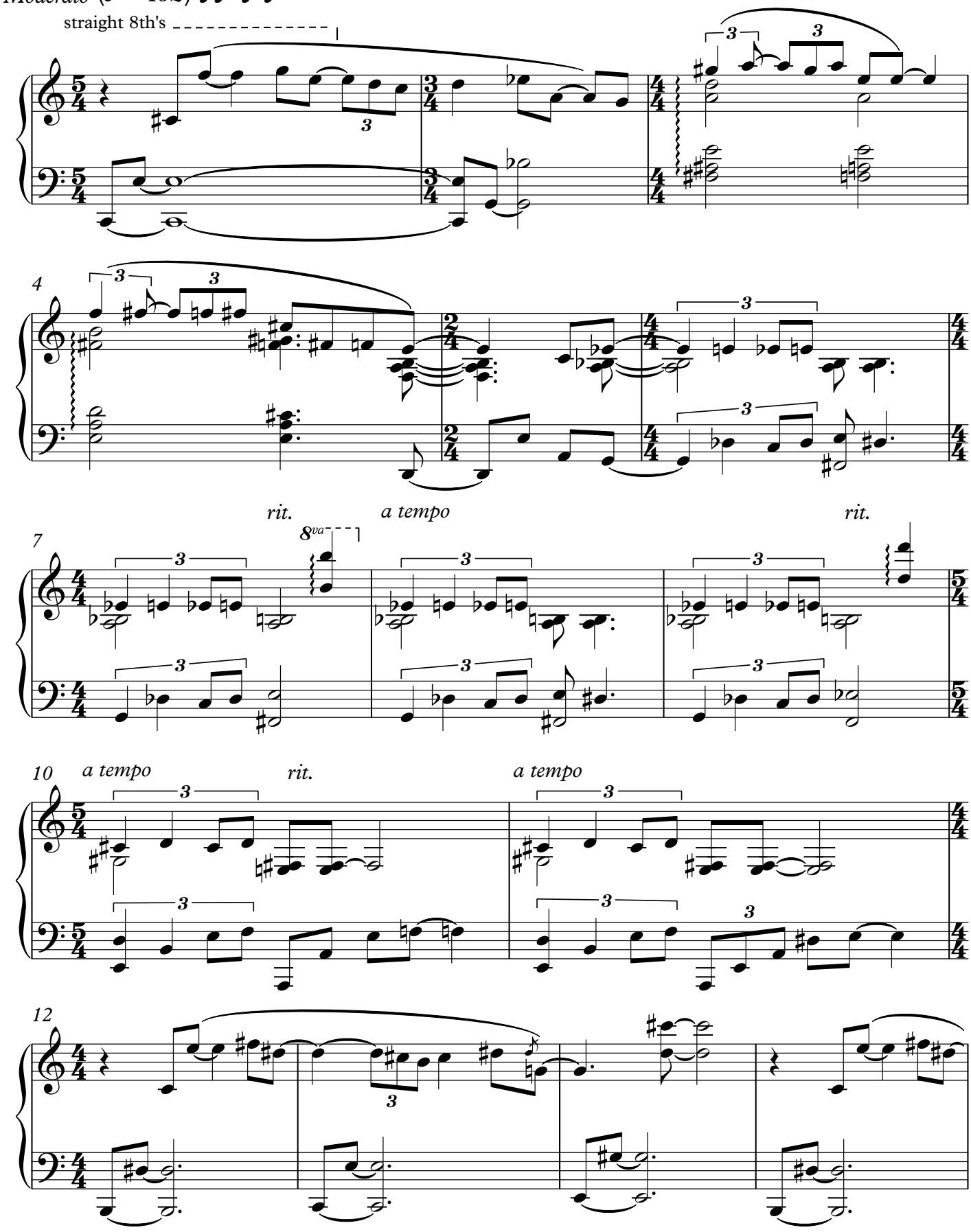
60
rit.
mp
f
8vb

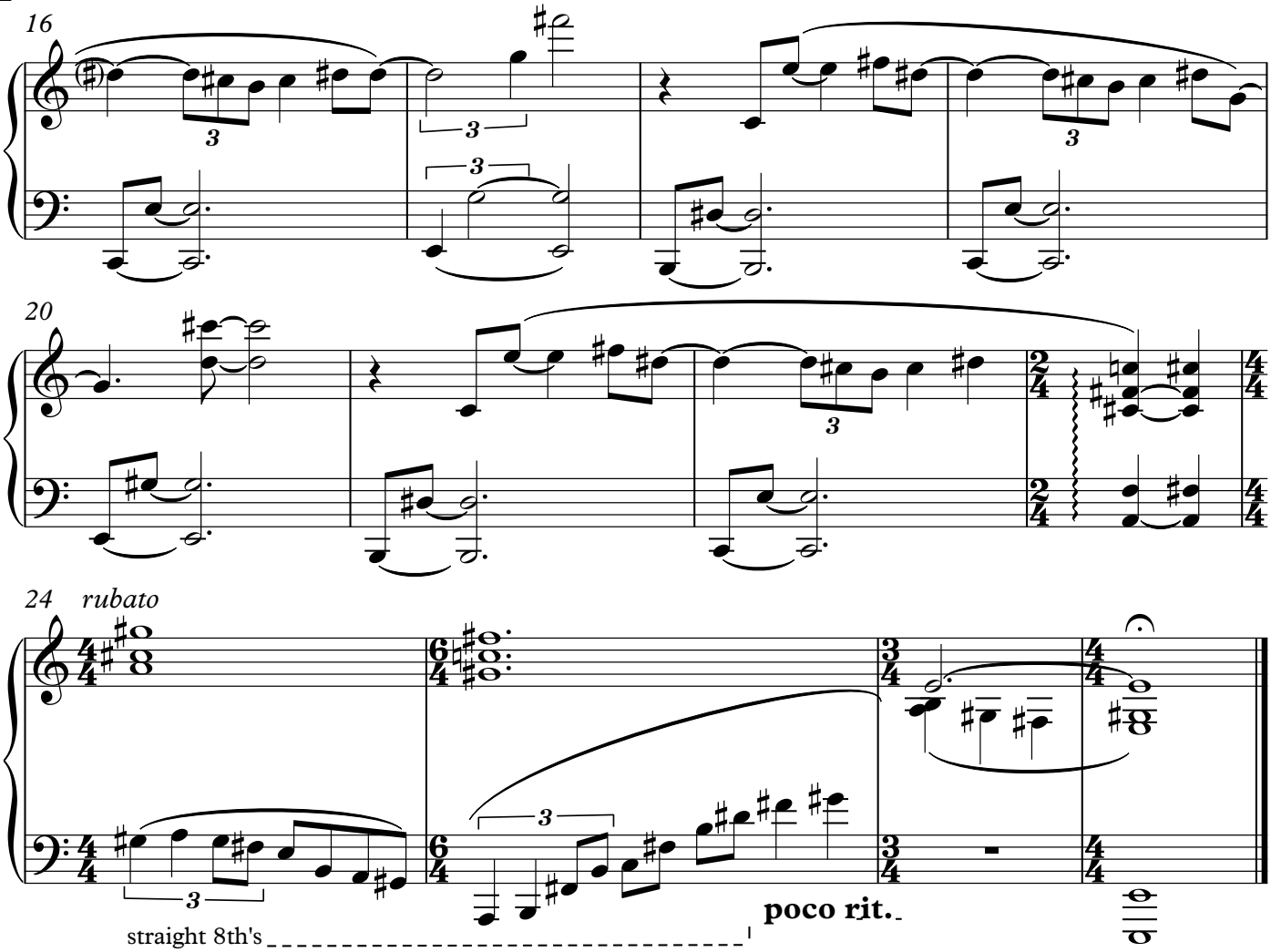
Giant Heart

Moderato (♩ = **102**) ♫=♩³♪

Giotto Roussies

straight 8th's

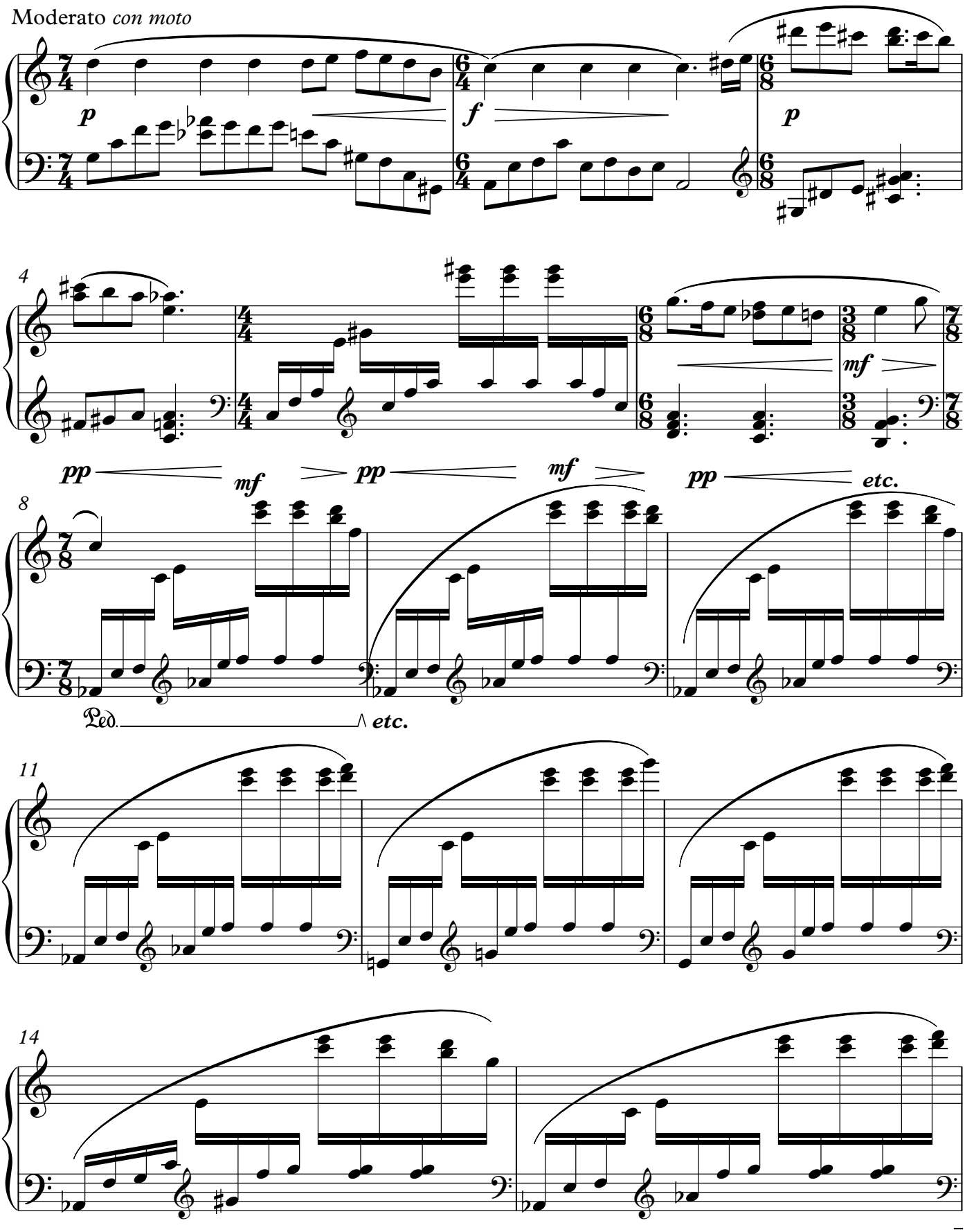


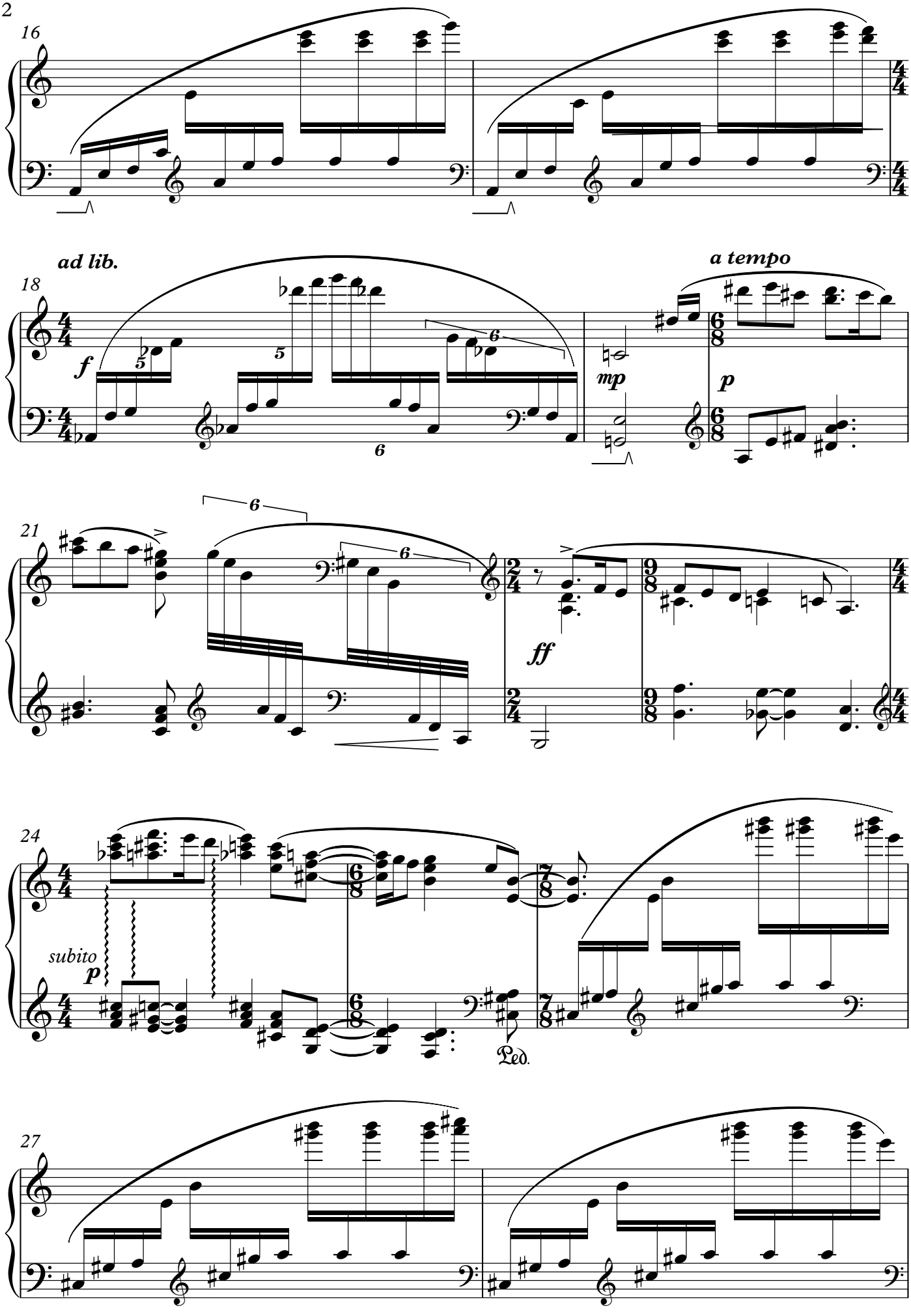

16
20
24 rubato
poco rit.
straight 8th's

Harimon Waves

Giotto Roussies

Moderato *con moto*




16
ad lib.
18
f
mp
a tempo
p
21
ff
24
subito
p
Ped.
27

29

31

33

molto rit.

35

dolce ♩ = 70

15ma

p

Ped.

poco rit.

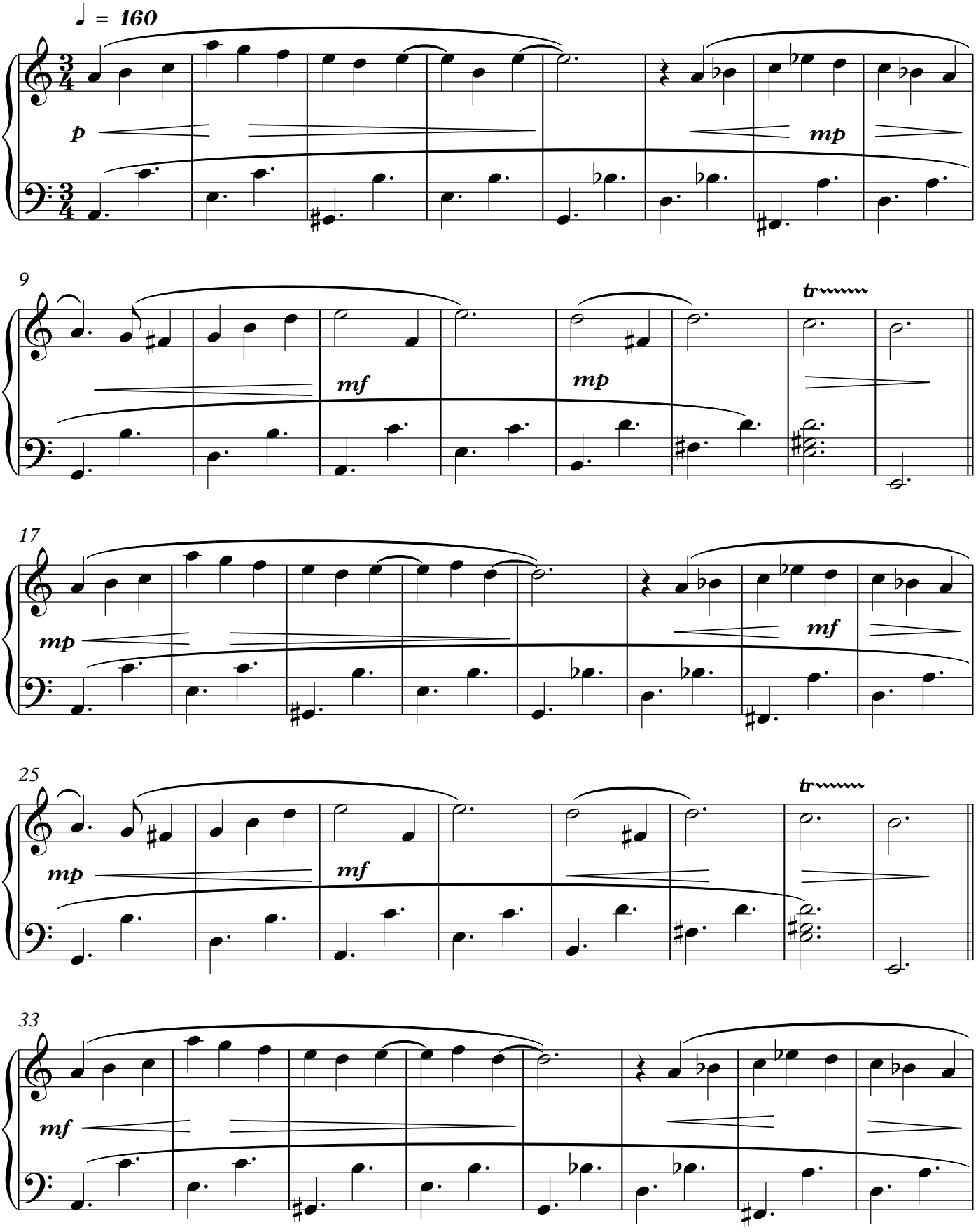
37 (15)

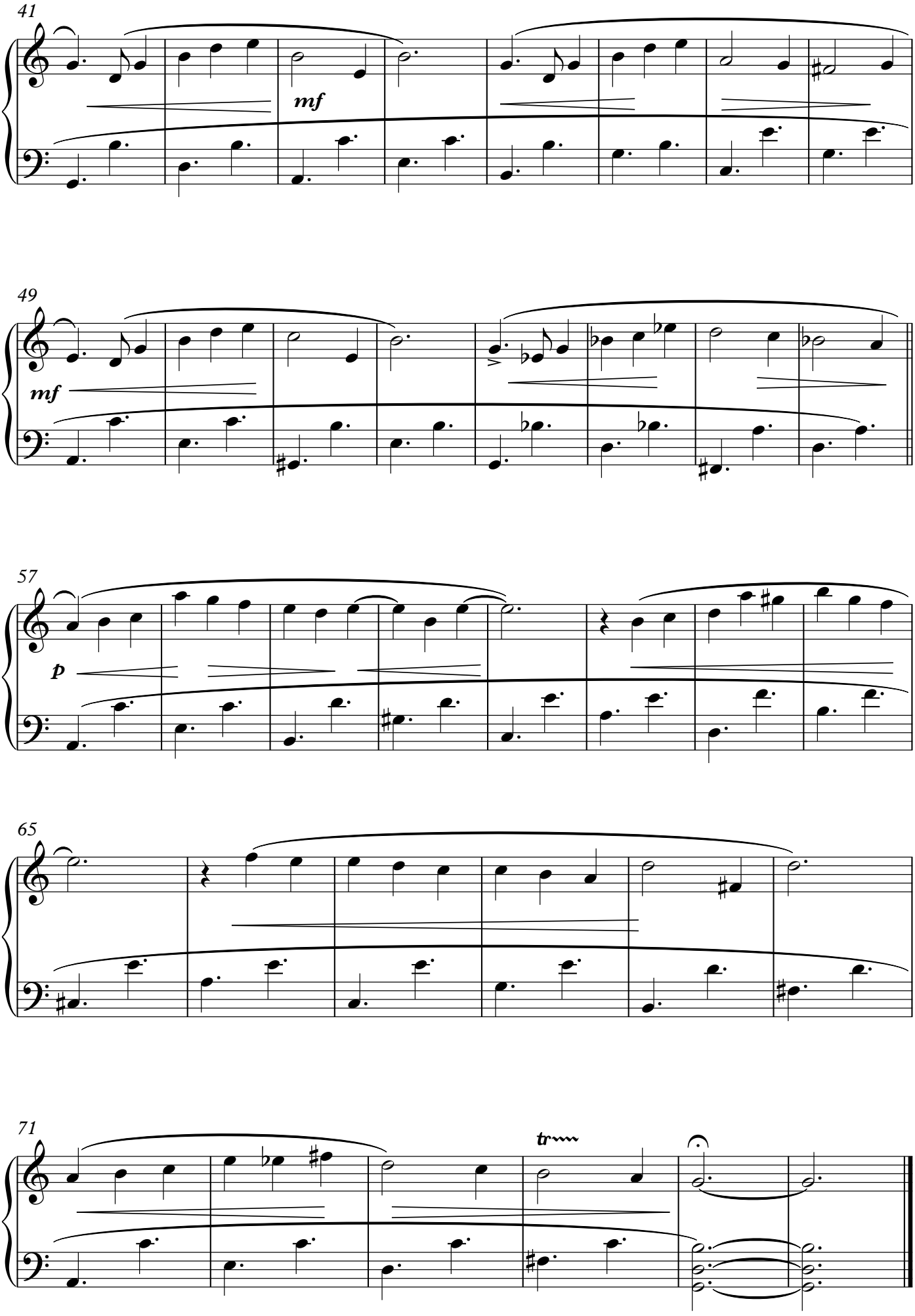
*

Aviel's Dream

Allegretto *con moto*

Giotto Roussies



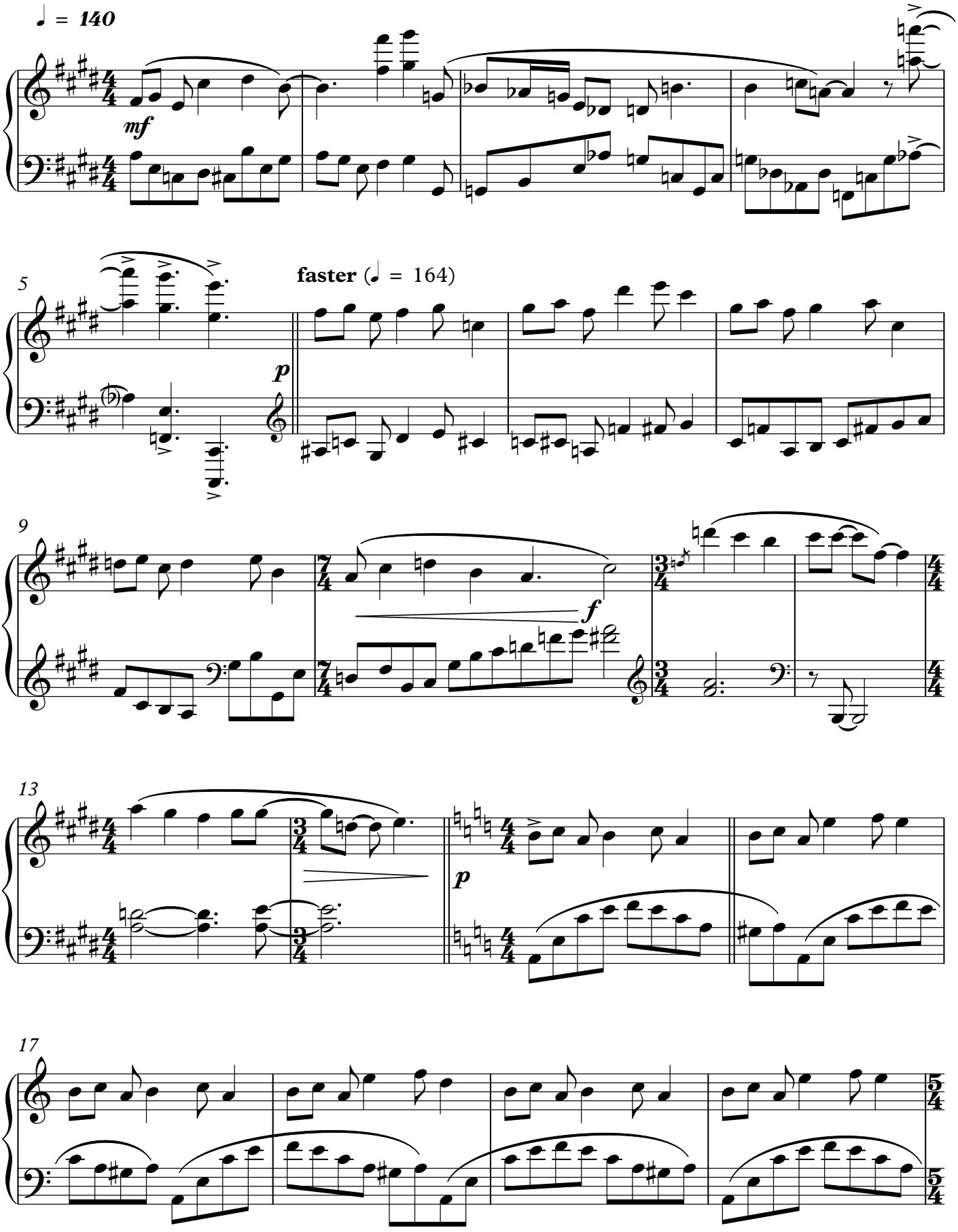

41
mf
49
mf
57
p
65
71
tr

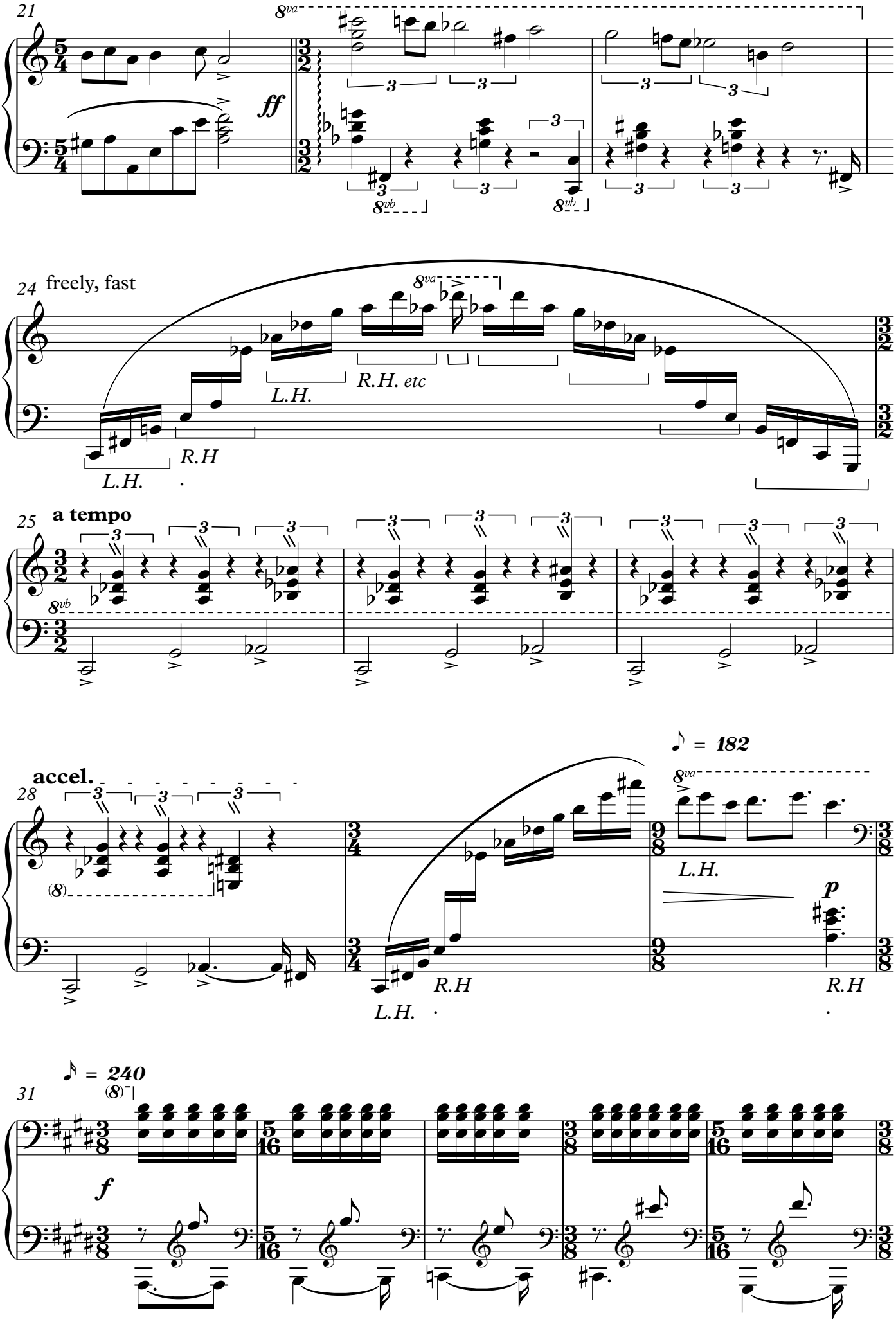
Painday

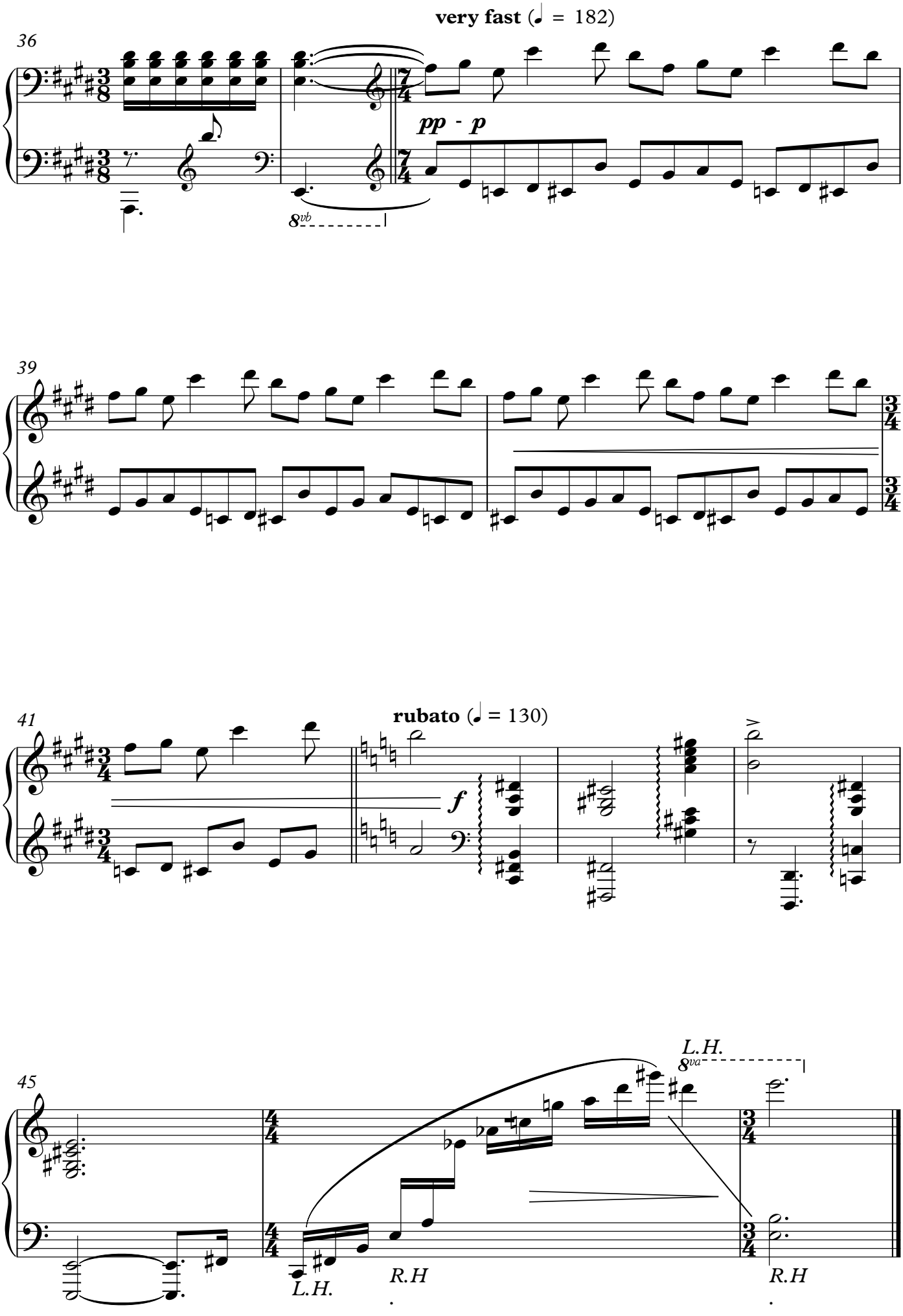
Alleggro con moto
con pedale

Giotto Roussies

♩ = **140**




21
8va
ff
8vb
24 freely, fast
8va
L.H.
R.H. etc
L.H.
R.H
25 a tempo
8vb
accel.
28
(8)
♪ = 182
8va
L.H.
p
L.H.
R.H
R.H
31
♪ = 240
(8)
f

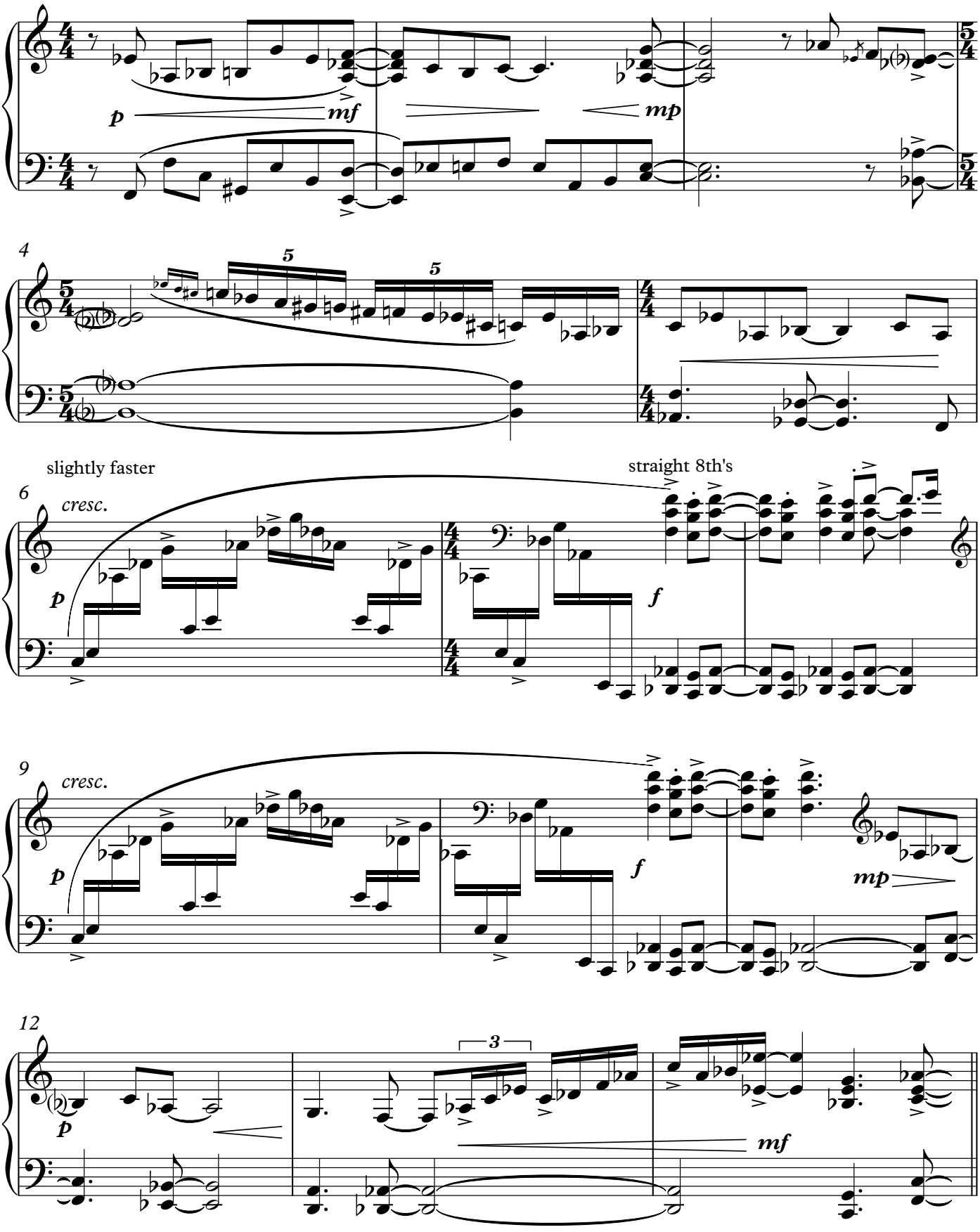

very fast (♩ = 182)
36
pp - p
8vb
39
41
rubato (♩ = 130)
f
45
L.H.
8va
L.H.
R.H
R.H

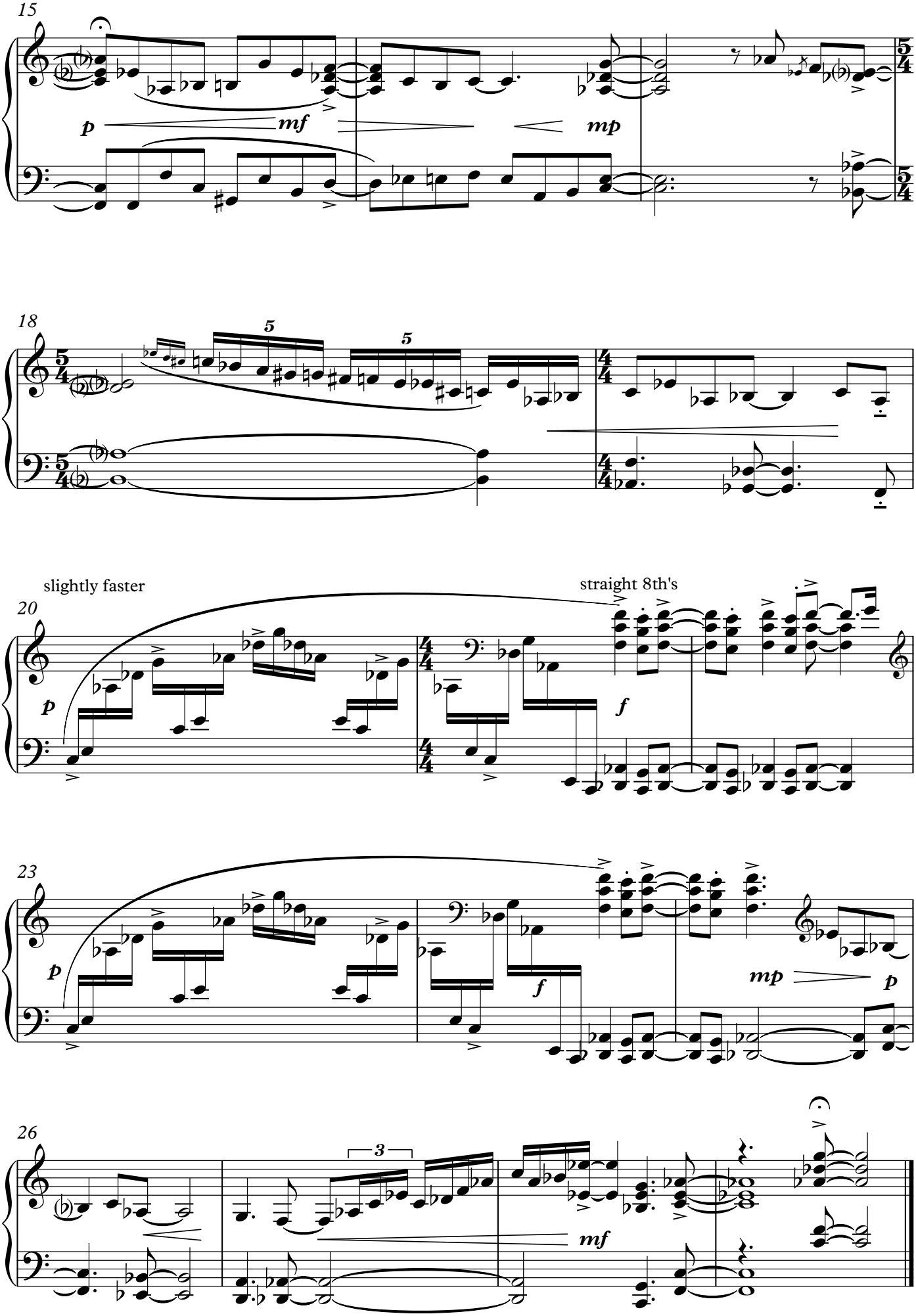
A Couch in Porto

Moderato ♩ = ***116***

Giotto Roussies

♫ = ♩ ♪ light swing

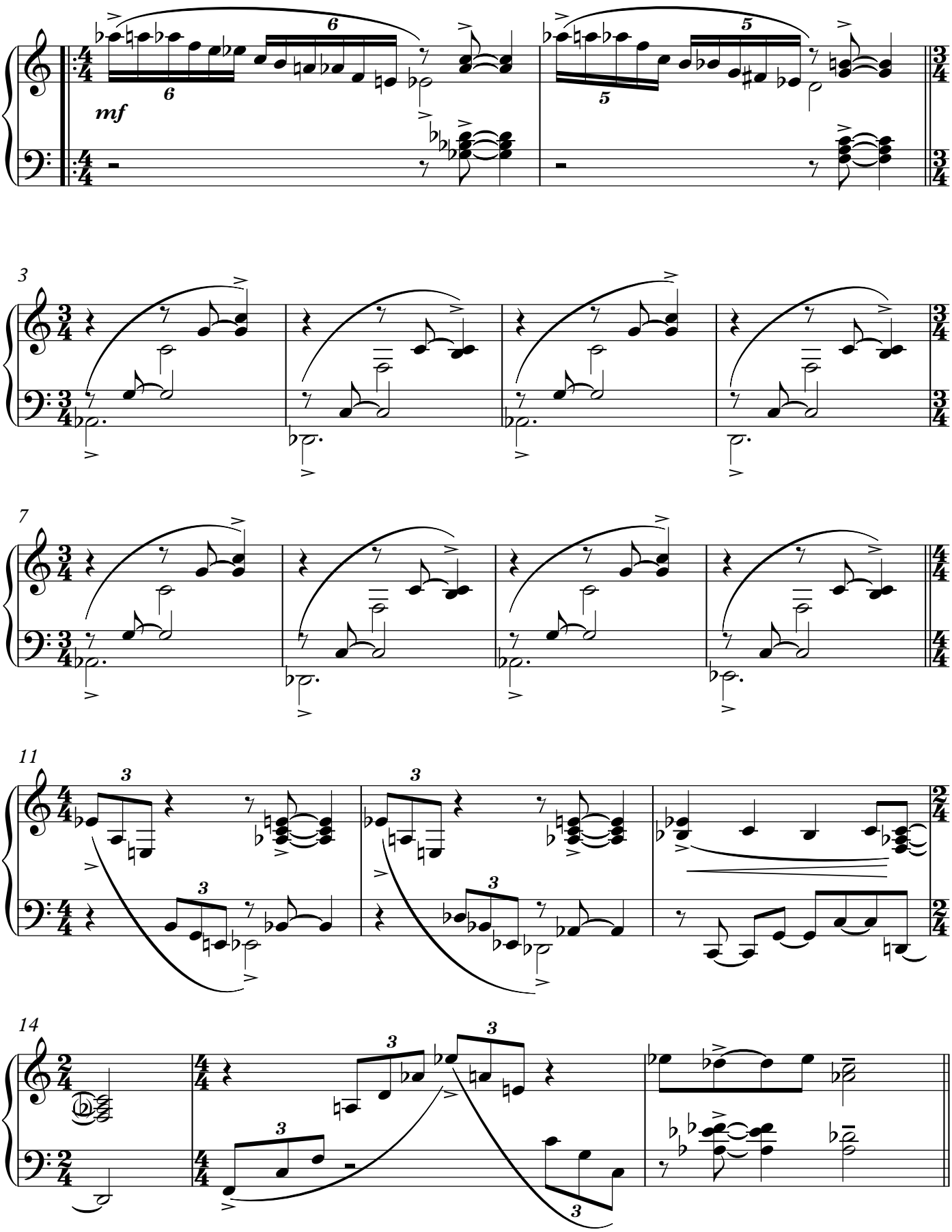



15
p
mf
mp
18
5
5
slightly faster
straight 8th's
20
p
f
23
p
f
mp
p
26
3
mf

Serra da Estrella

Allegretto straight and neutral ♩ = 200

Giotto Roussies



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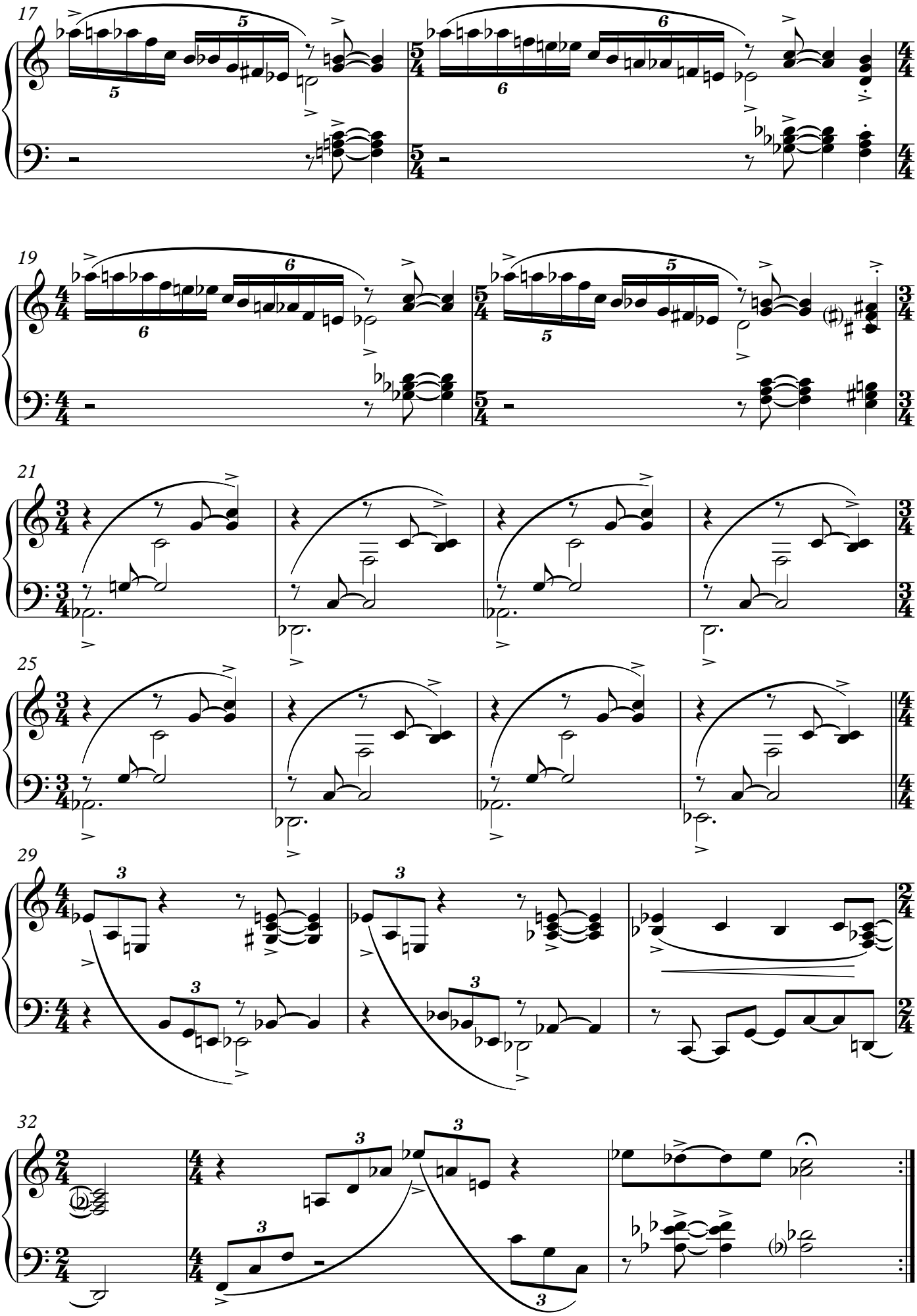
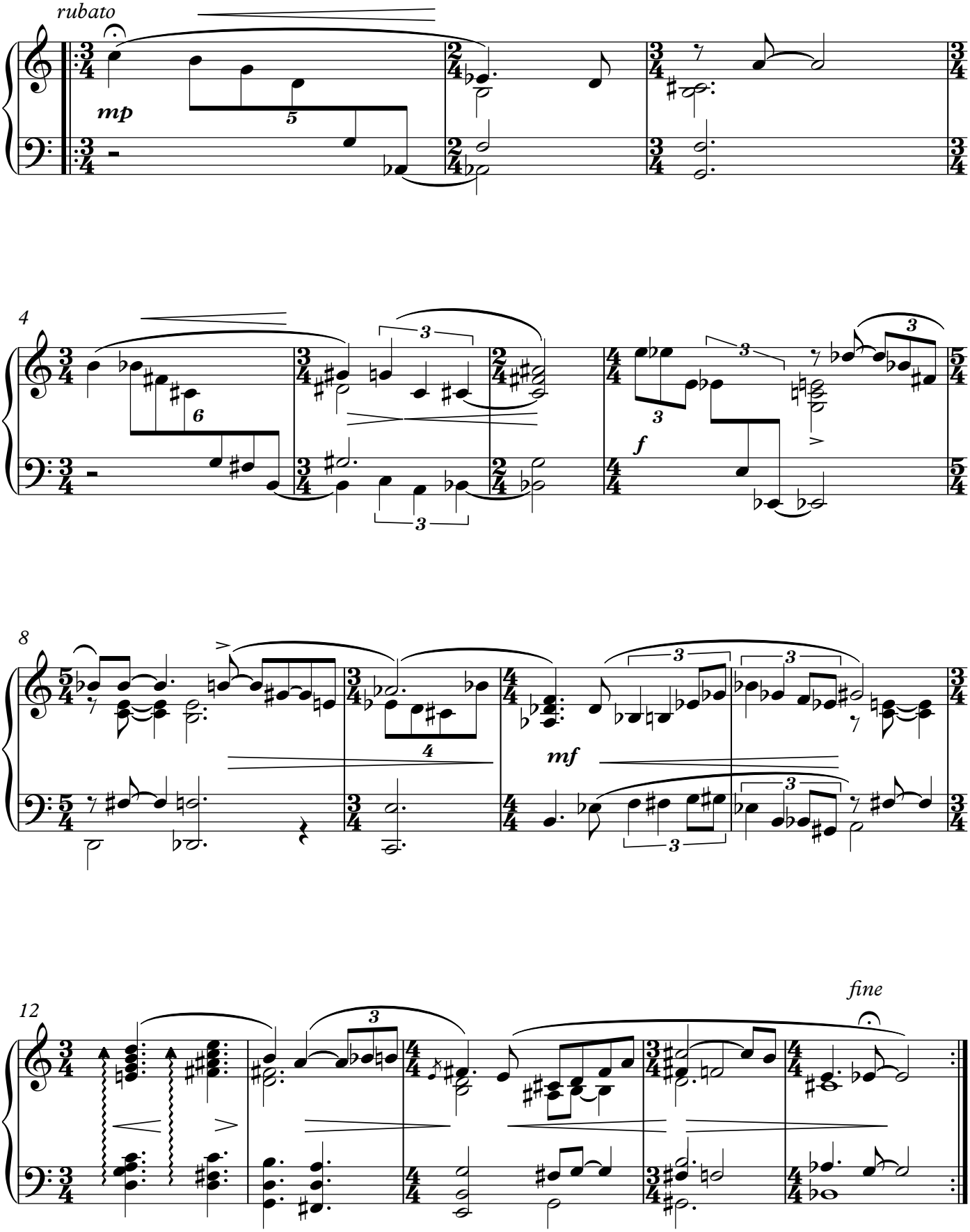

17
19
21
25
29
32

Foggy Rides

slow swing with melancholy

♩ = 70

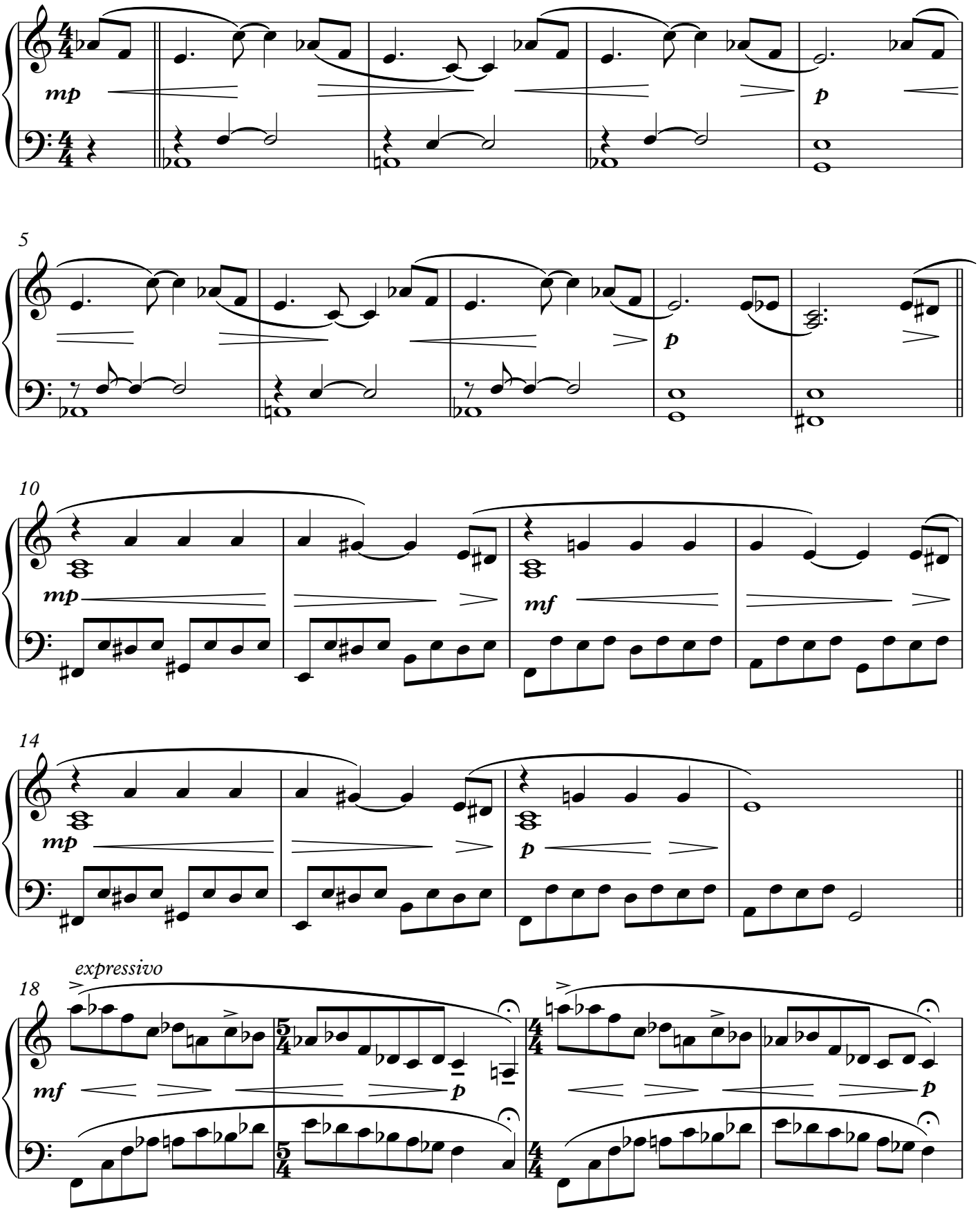
Giotto Roussies



Violets and Waves

Giotto Roussies

light with surprise ♩ = 175



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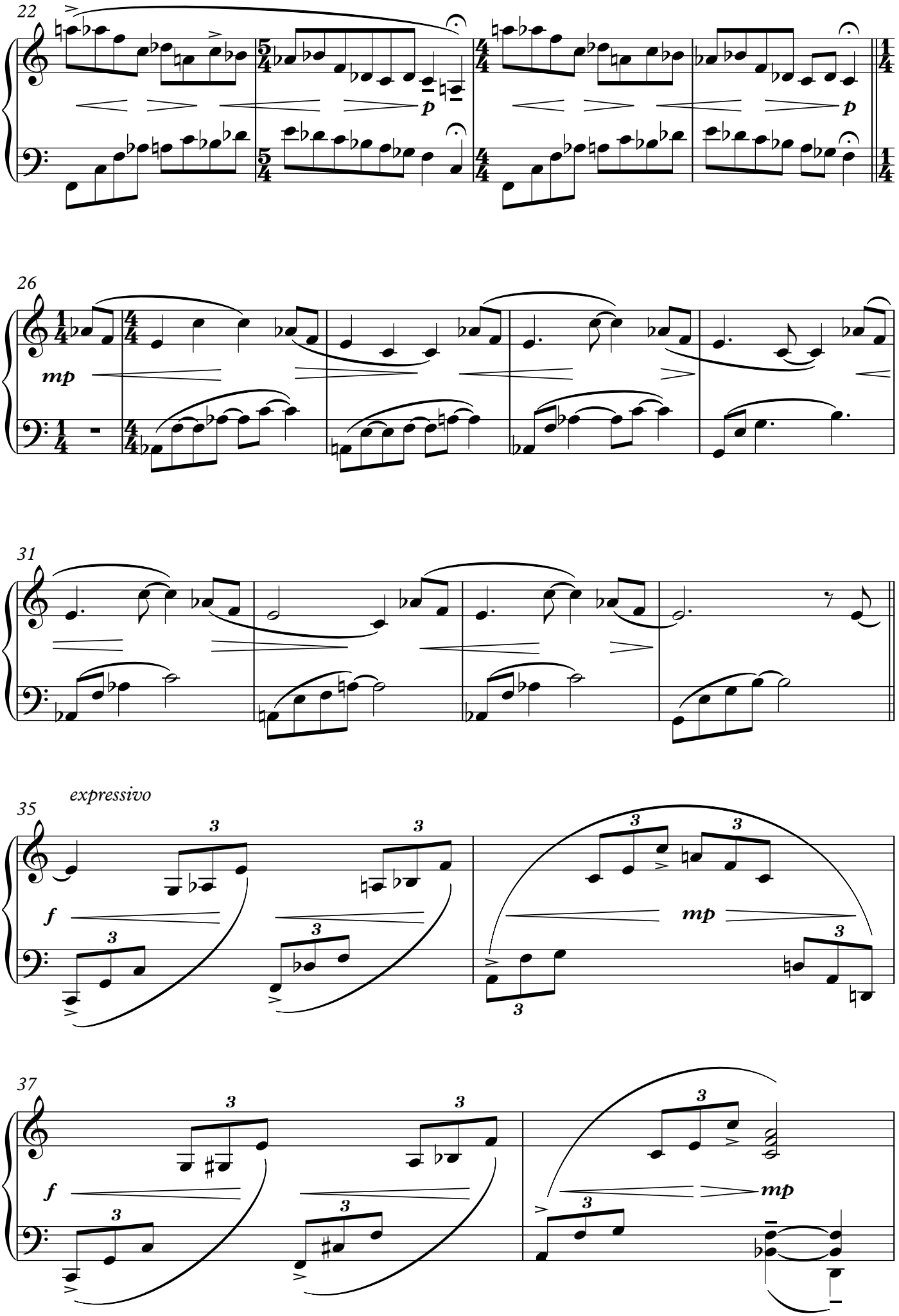
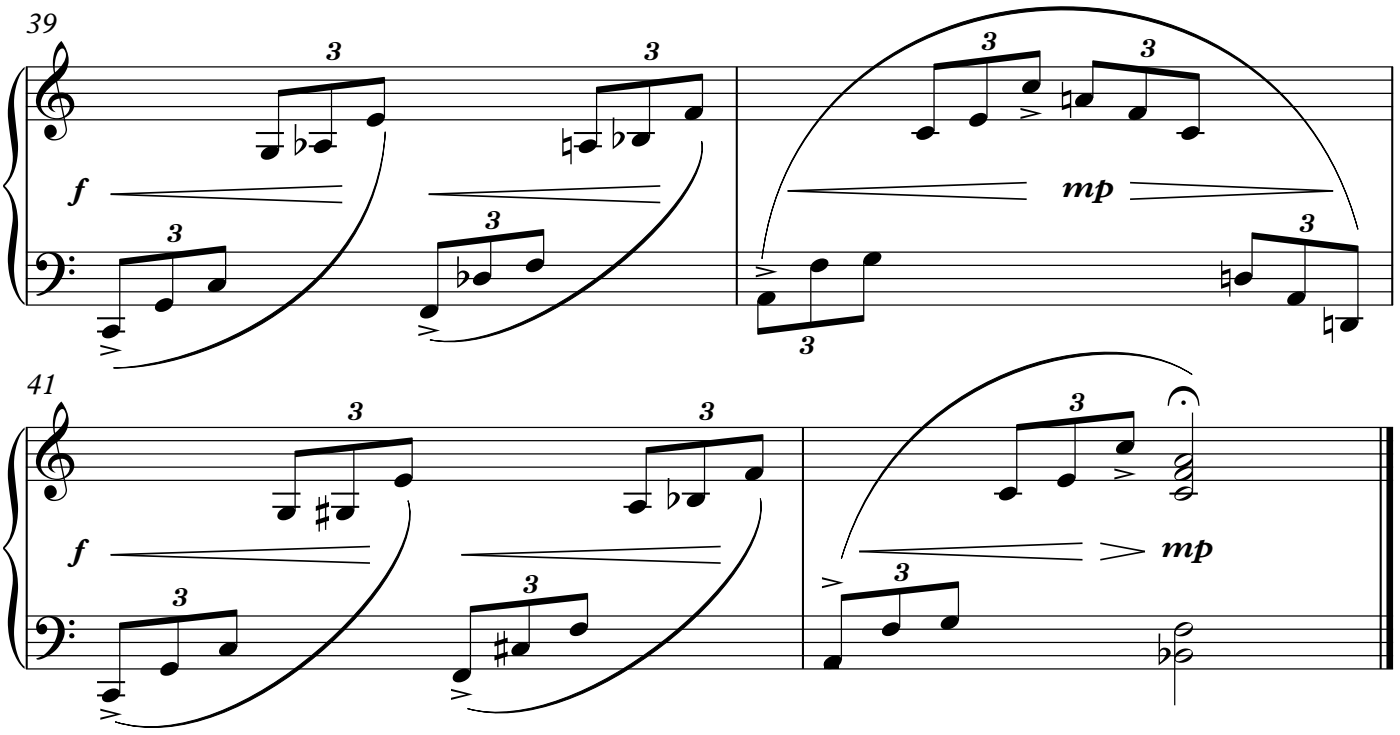

22
p
p
26
mp
31
expressivo
35
f
mp
37
f
mp

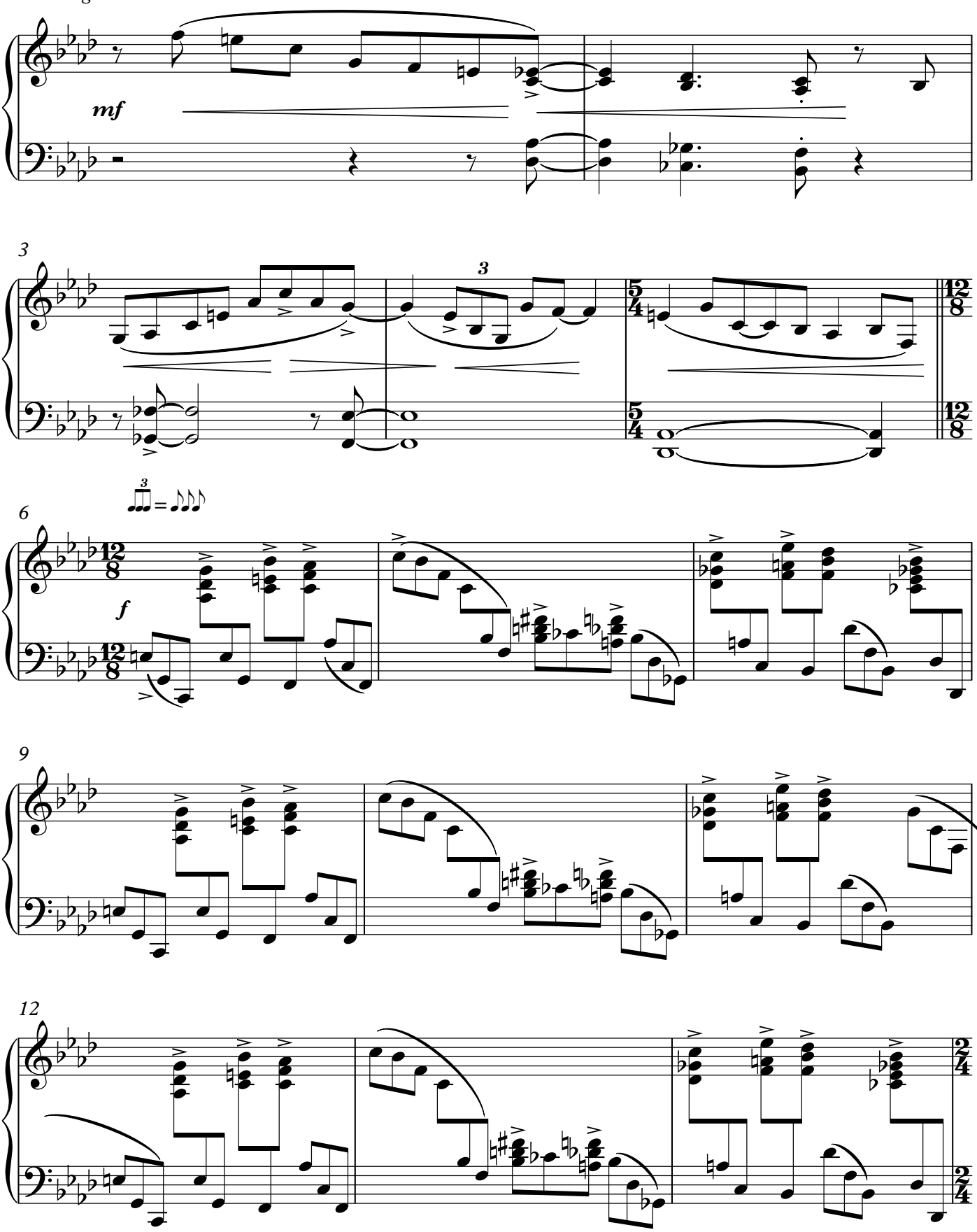

39
f
mp
41
f
mp

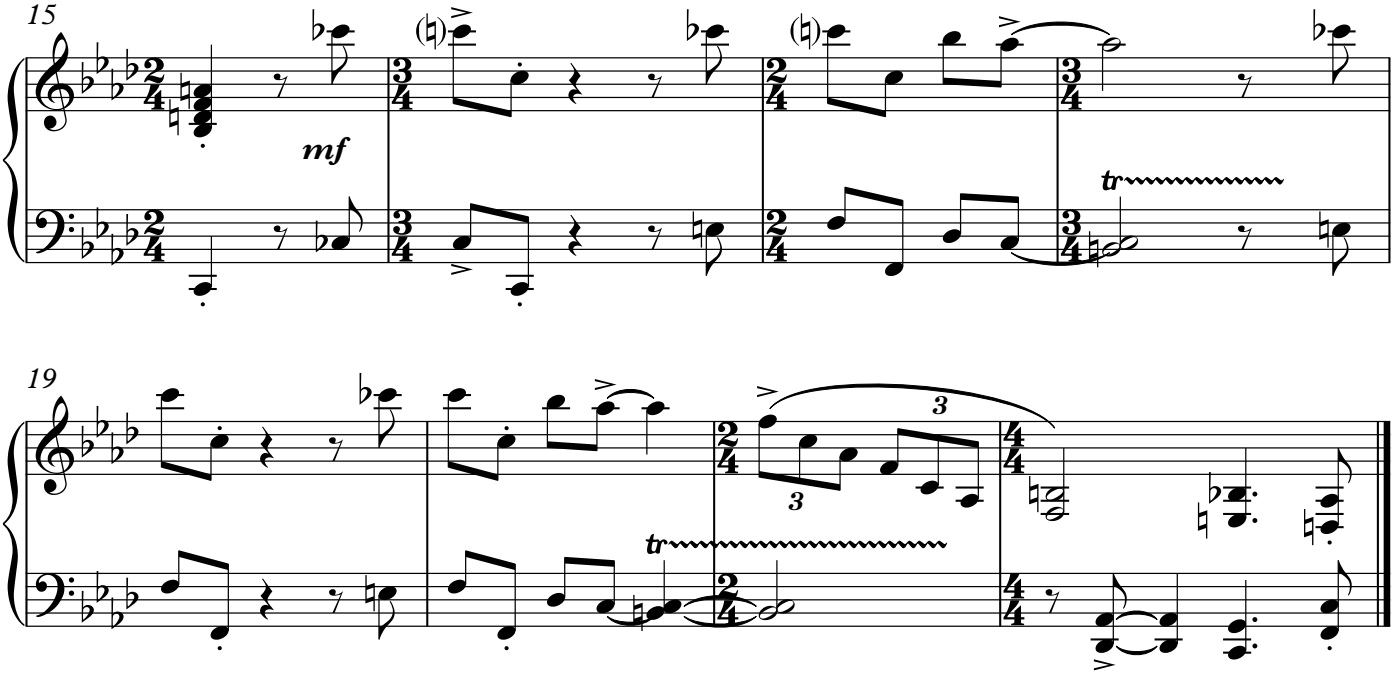
Trees

Moderato ♩ = 135

Giotto Roussies

Swing



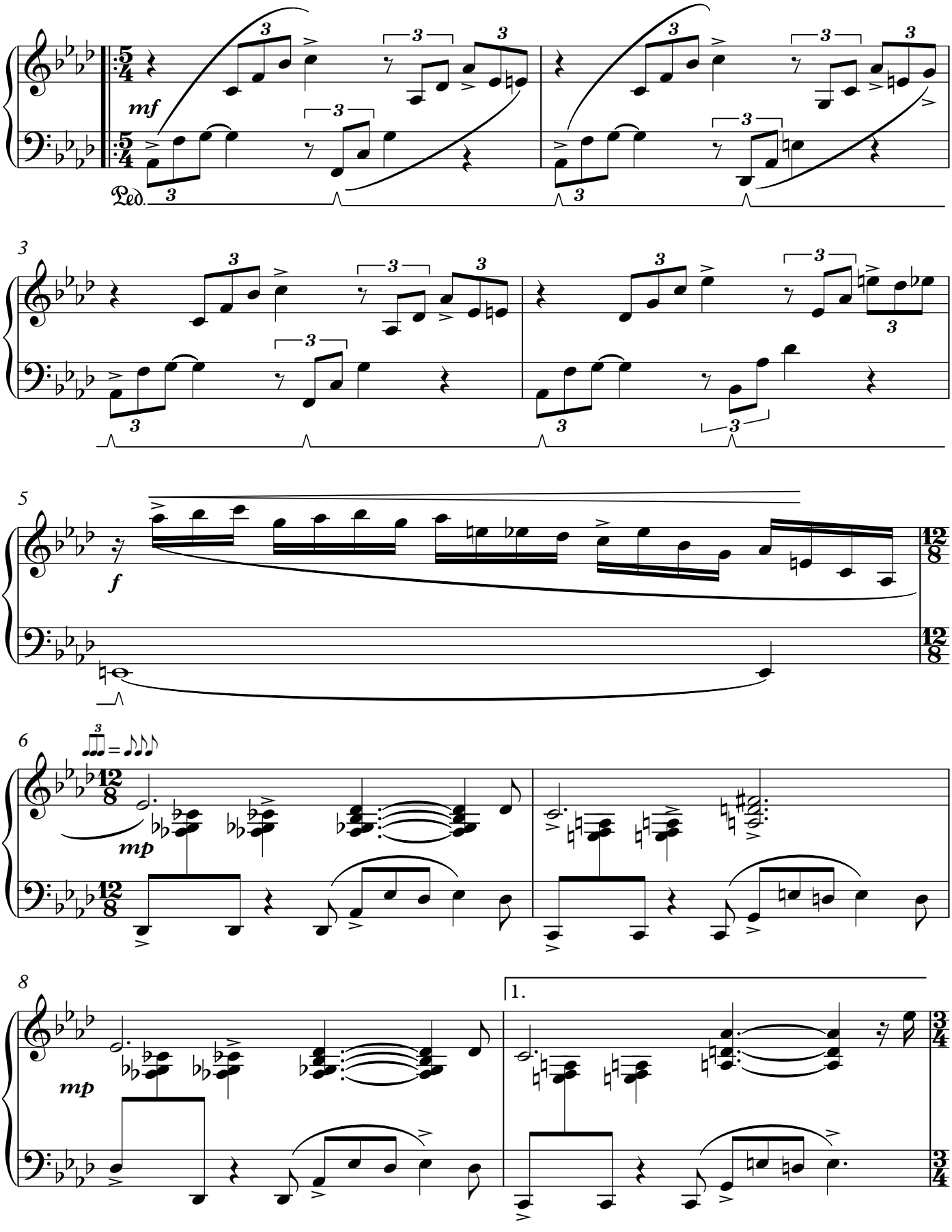

15
mf
tr

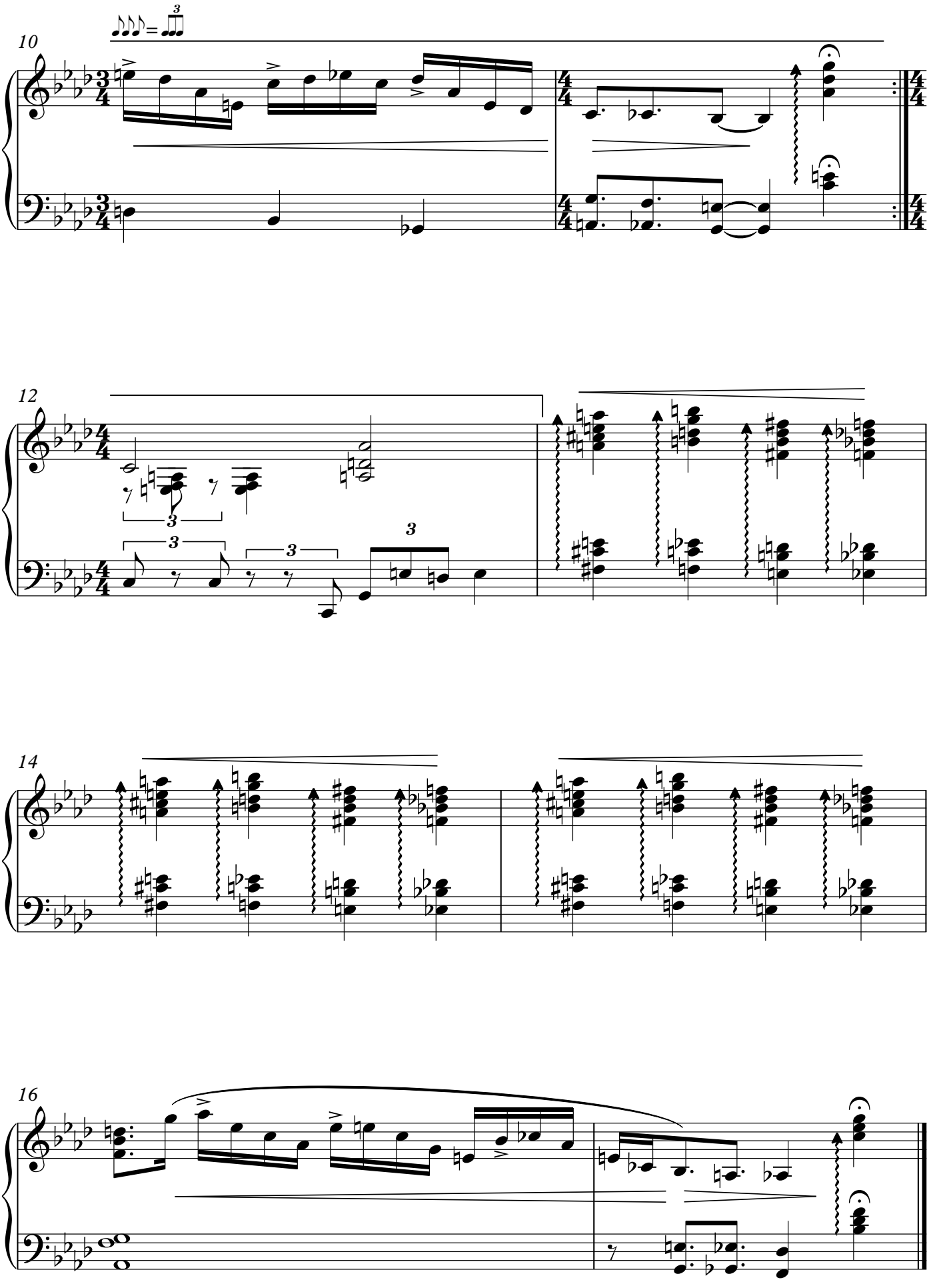
19
3
3
tr

Wind and Sand

Moderato ♩ = 125

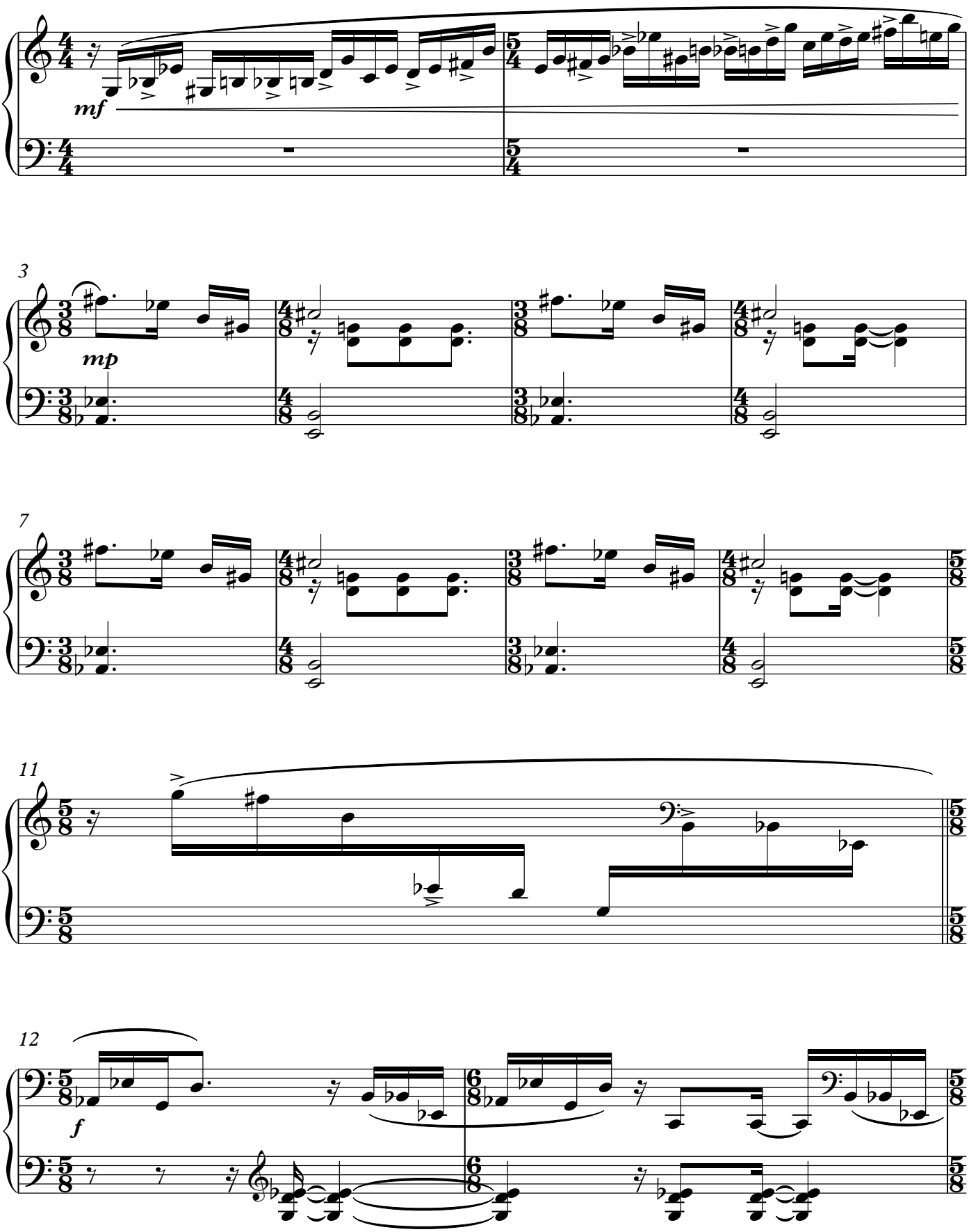
Giotto Roussies

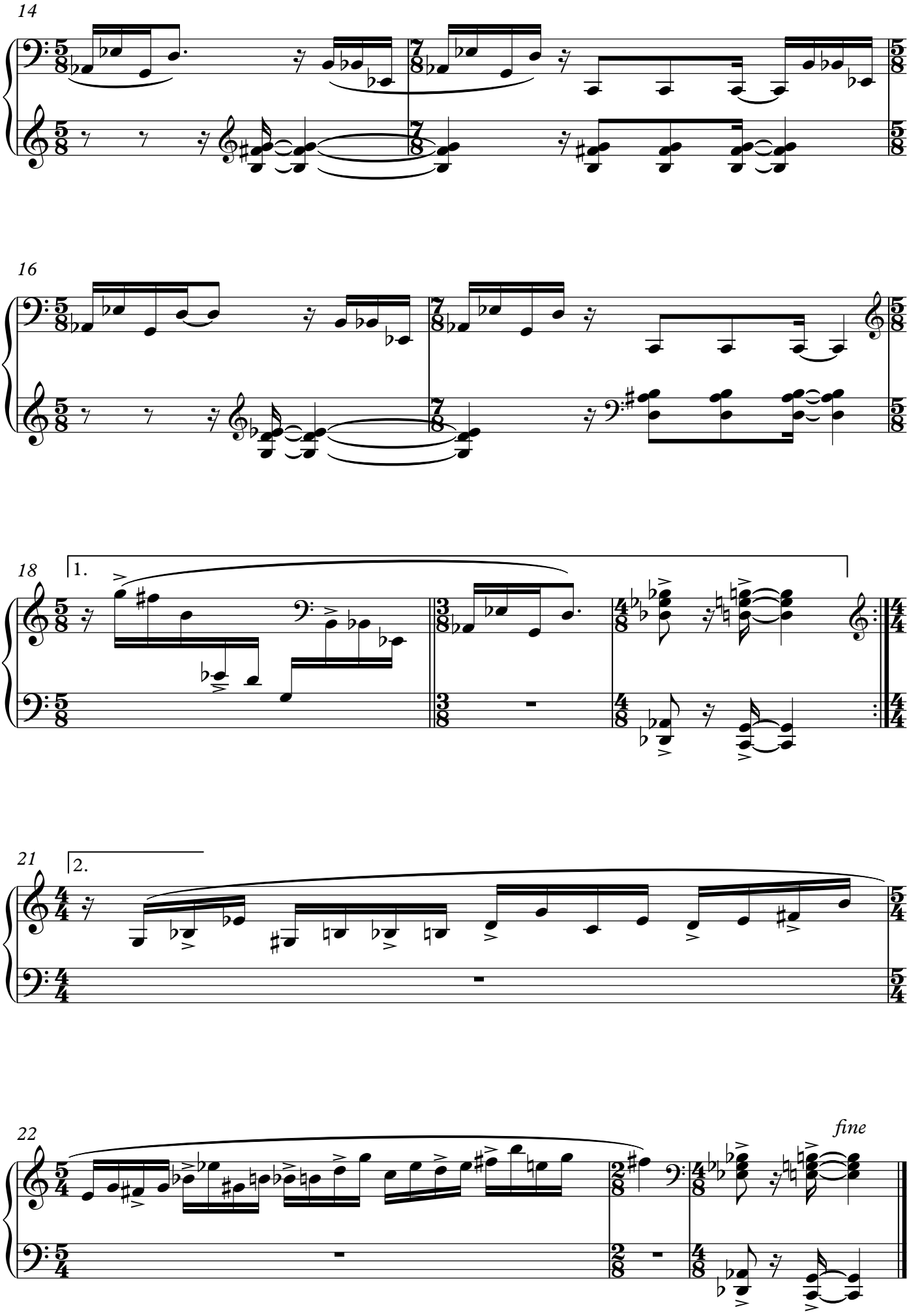



10
12
14
16

Pool

Moderato ♩ = ***140***
straight and neutral



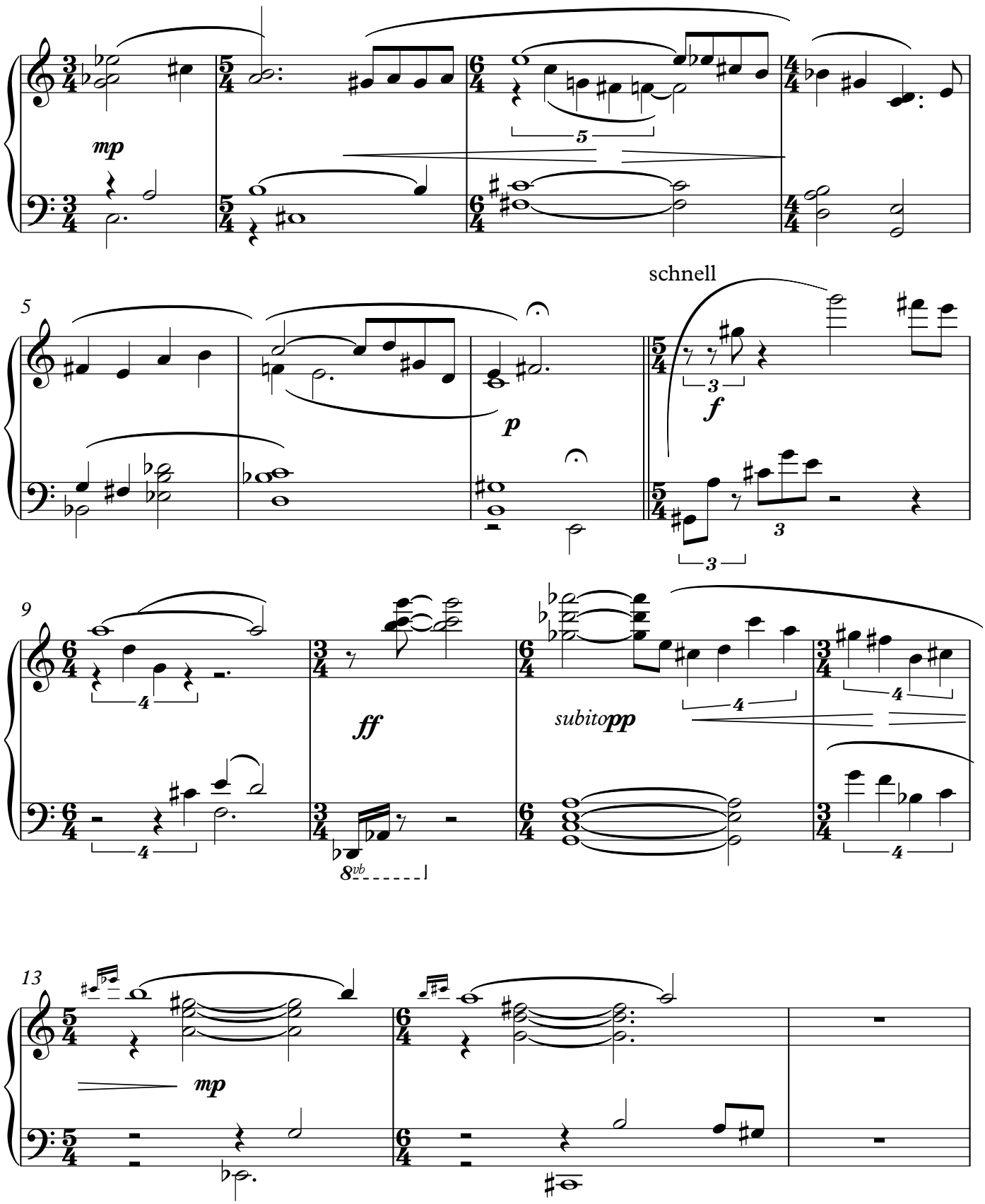

14
16
18
1.
21
2.
22
fine

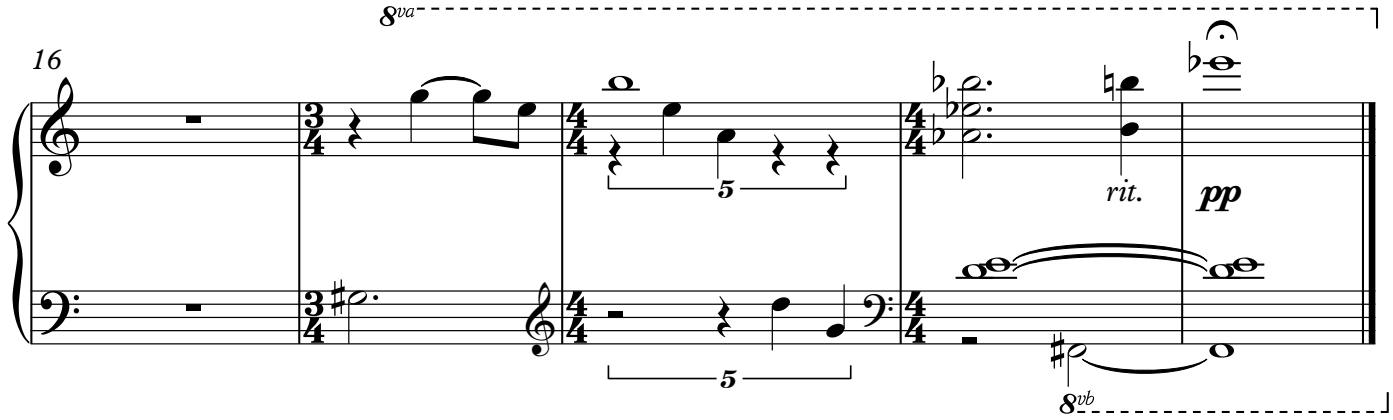
Requiem für einen Narren

Lucas Leidinger/Giotto Roussies

Moderato *ad lib*

weich und schwer mit einem Fünkchen Wahnsinn




8va
16
5
rit.
pp
5
8vb