VOLUME 8

Jeff Manookian

GRADUS

PROGRESSIVE PIANO REPERTOIRE IN TWELVE VOLUMES

Gary Barnett
editor

Windsor Editions

Jeff Manookian

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PROGRESSIVE PIANO REPERTOIRE IN TWELVE VOLUMES

The twelve volumes of *GRADUS* is by no means a "method" in the traditional sense. It is literally what its subtitle implies: *repertoire* for the piano. Indeed, the compositions comprising this series are assembled in a progressive order – from a beginning level to advanced. And, this *magnum opus* does ingeniously address the many pedagogical demands of the ambitious piano student and those of the innovative instructor.

The harmonic language of *GRADUS*, while distinctly original and imaginative, remains remarkably accessible and musically enjoyable to its interpreter and listener. This is music of our time. The compositions of *GRADUS* straightaway explore the geography of the keyboard, while expediting a student's note-reading and other diverse pianistic skills. Above all, this series encourages an independence of thought and fosters the imagination.

The ordering of the repertoire within is totally subjective. This aspect alone would assuredly be a challenge to any composer and/or editor. For instance, a technically less demanding work may be placed later in the series due to its perceived musical or interpretive exigencies – and vice versa.

Those who explore *GRADUS* will notice the *Nineteen Nocturnes* contained therein – an analogous deference to Chopin's coinciding set of the identical quantity. Additionally, the composer has rendered regards to Debussy with the *Twelve Etudes* dispersed throughout the series. Pedagogically, the sonatina form has been a cherished vehicle among neophytes and pedagogues. Manookian has penned no less than seven of these jewels for this present collection. Nonetheless, *GRADUS* is a compilation of the highest innovation and has no equal in the abundance of pedagogical material written for the piano.

Jeff Manookian's original compositions have received worldwide accolades via their garnering numerous top awards, commissions, commercial recordings, and publications. His works are currently performed by symphony orchestras around the globe as well as by other world-class ensembles, choirs, and soloists. As a critically acclaimed pianist and conductor, Manookian has extensively concertized internationally.

The composer funneled his best creative efforts and intrinsic keyboard knowledge into the creation of *GRADUS*. Its realization occupied the span of approximately fifteen years. *GRADUS* is dedicated to memory of Manookian's two Bichon Frise dogs, Phillip and Lizzy – inasmuch as they were at his feet throughout the writing of virtually every note.

As the editor of *GRADUS*, I have endeavored to provide those who study these remarkable compositions with numerous interpretive insights and editorial indications. I profess a unique affinity and understanding of Manookian's music, having had the distinction of professionally collaborating with this composer via several premieres of his large-scale works as well as with other notable musical projects. Above all, I can claim Jeff Manookian as my close friend.

Substantial gratitude is extended to Robin Korones – a formidable pedagogue in her own right. Her altruistic efforts in the proofreading of *GRADUS* and her enlightening suggestions became invaluable in bringing this work to its final form.

– **Gary Barnett**, *editor*

Windsor Editions

to Phillip and Lizzy

GRADUS

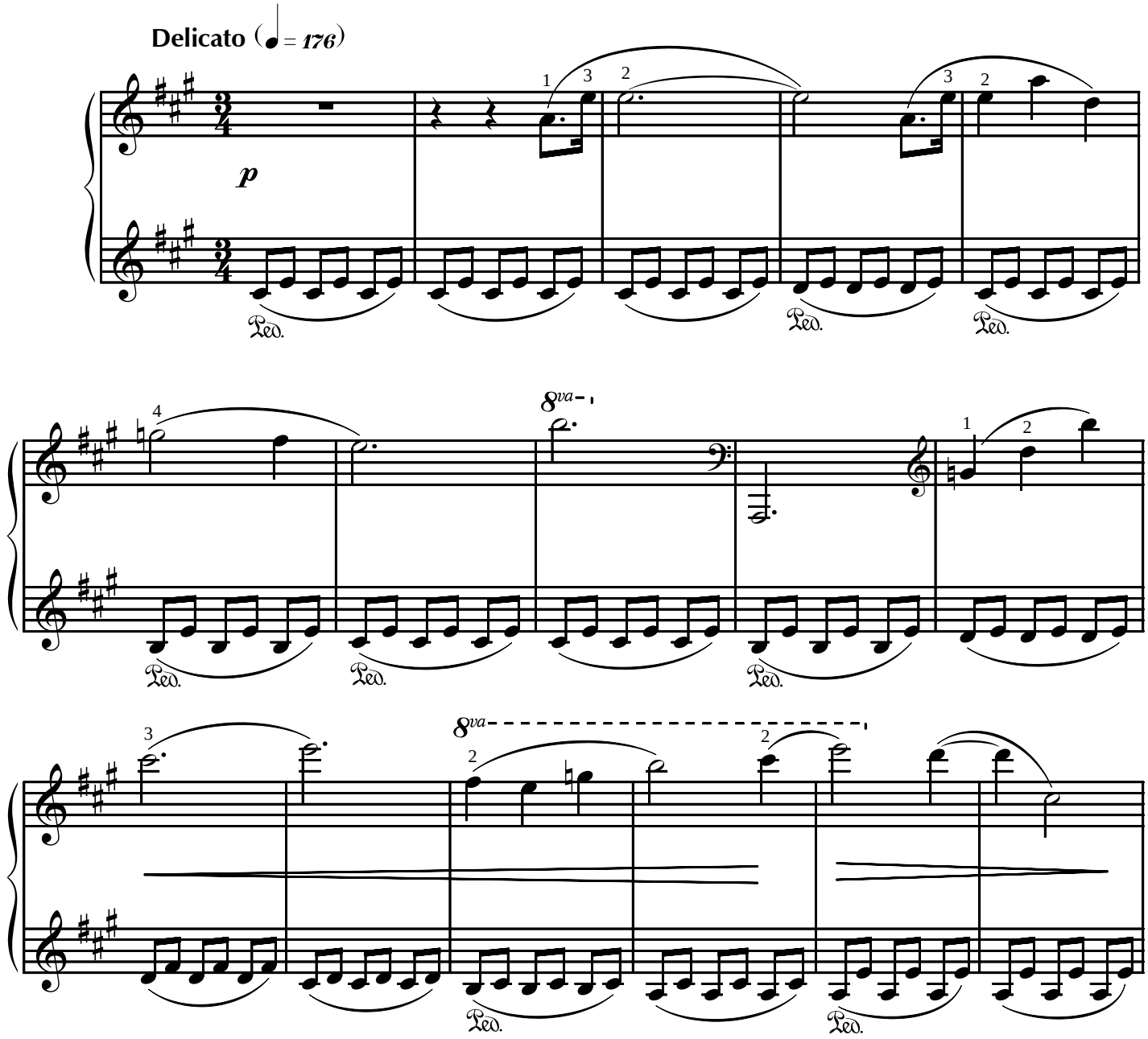
Progressive Piano Repertoire in Twelve Volumes

VOLUME EIGHT

JEFF MANOOKIAN

Sonatina No. 6

I



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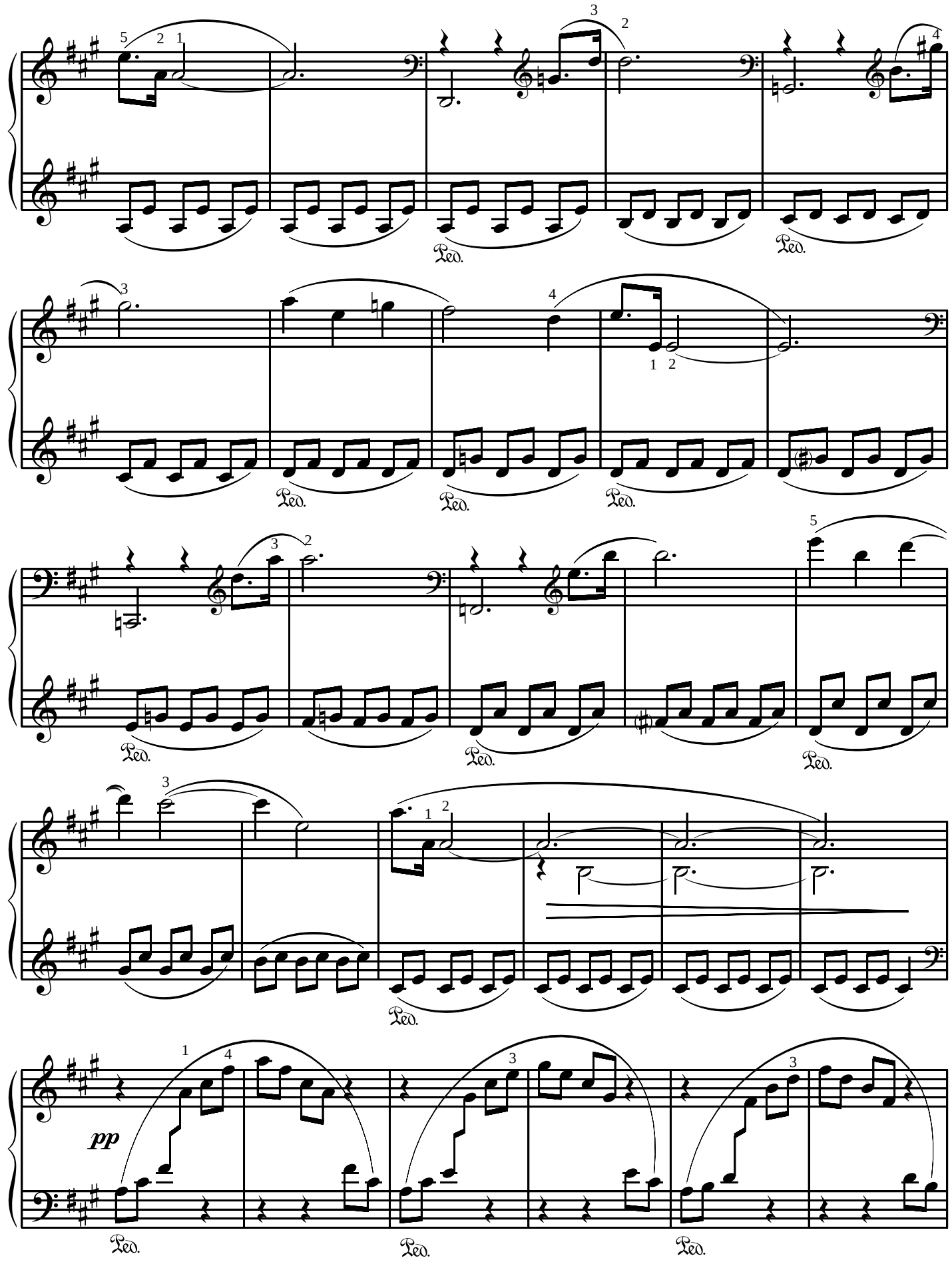
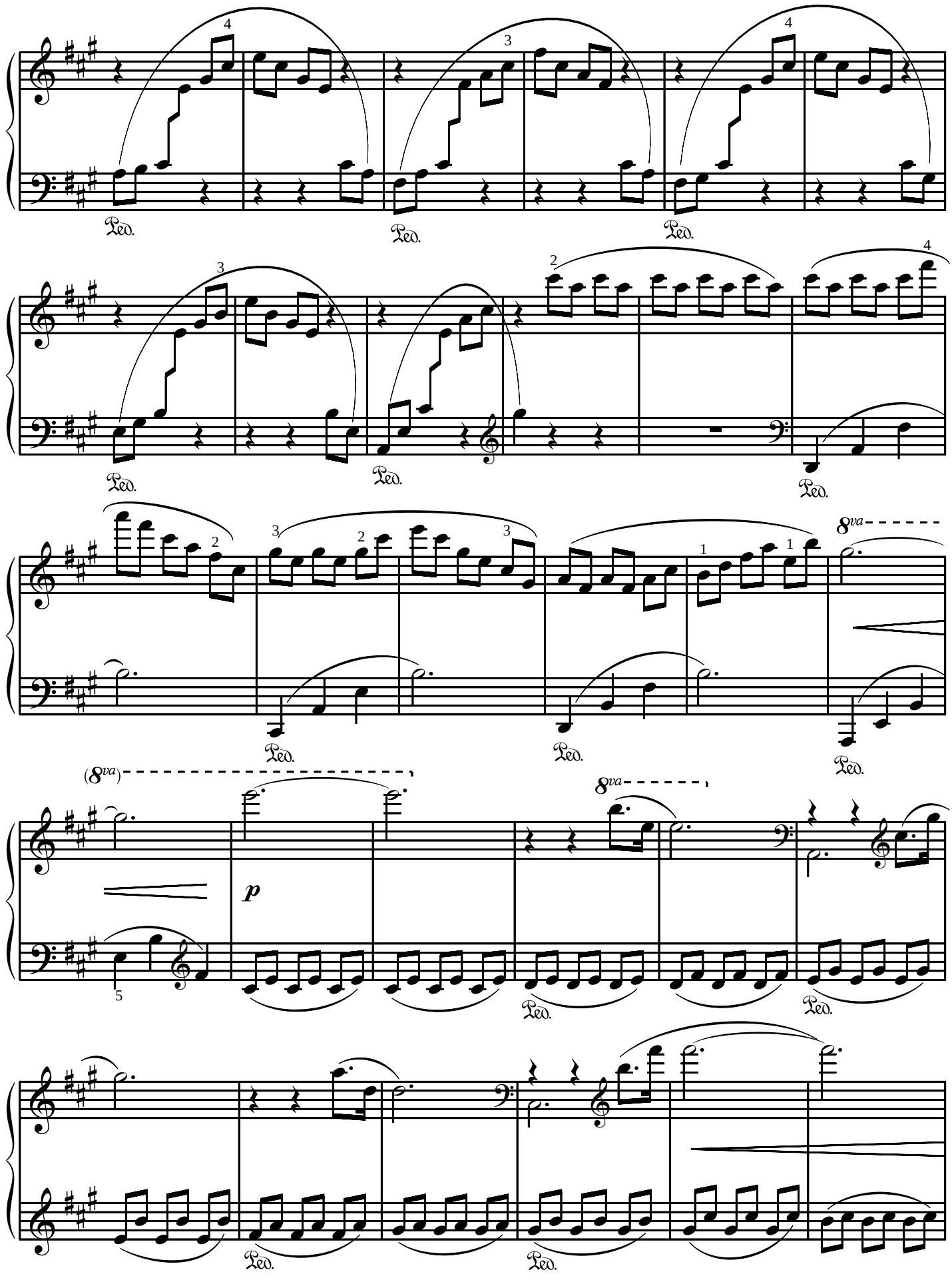
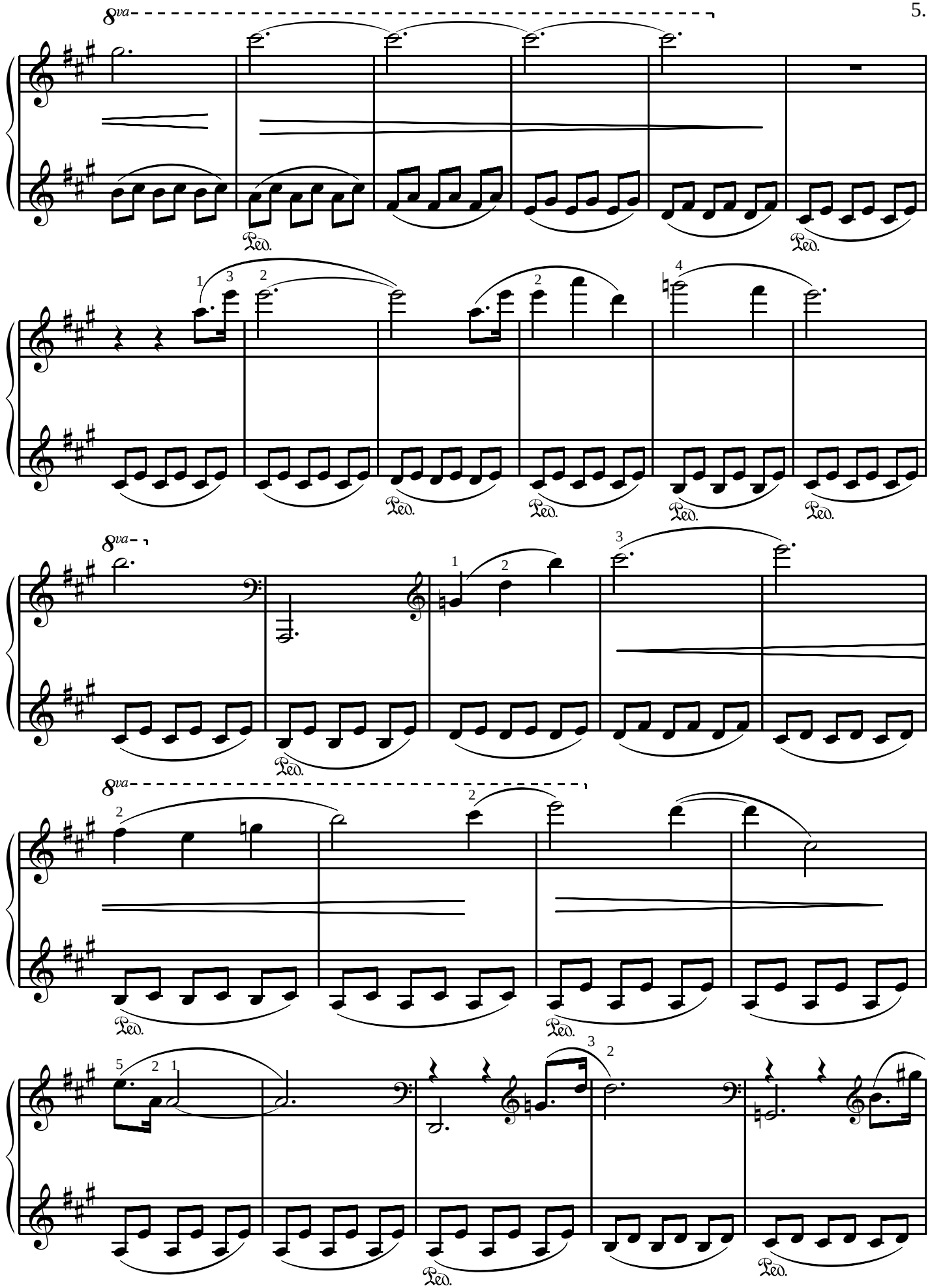
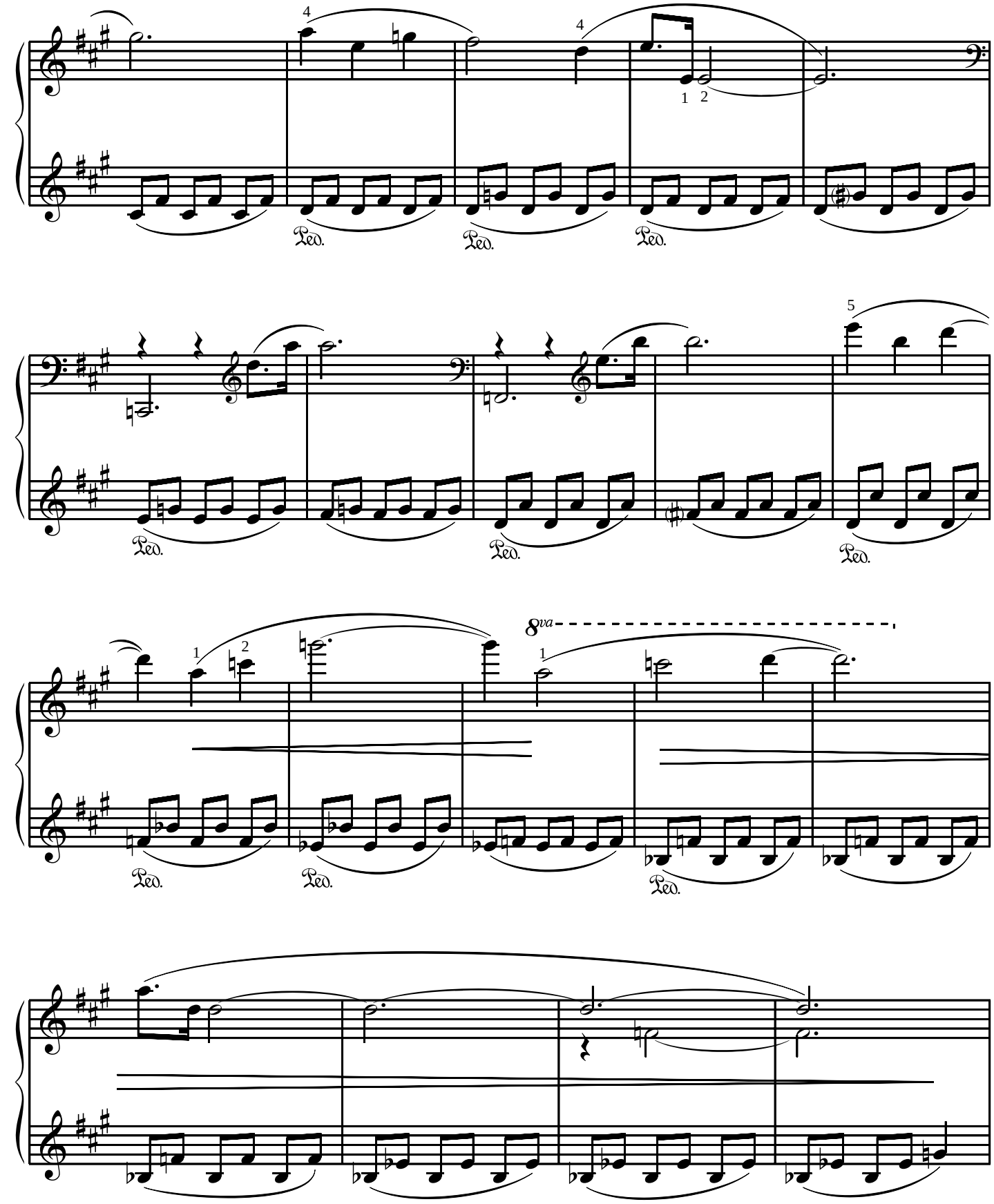

pp
Ped.

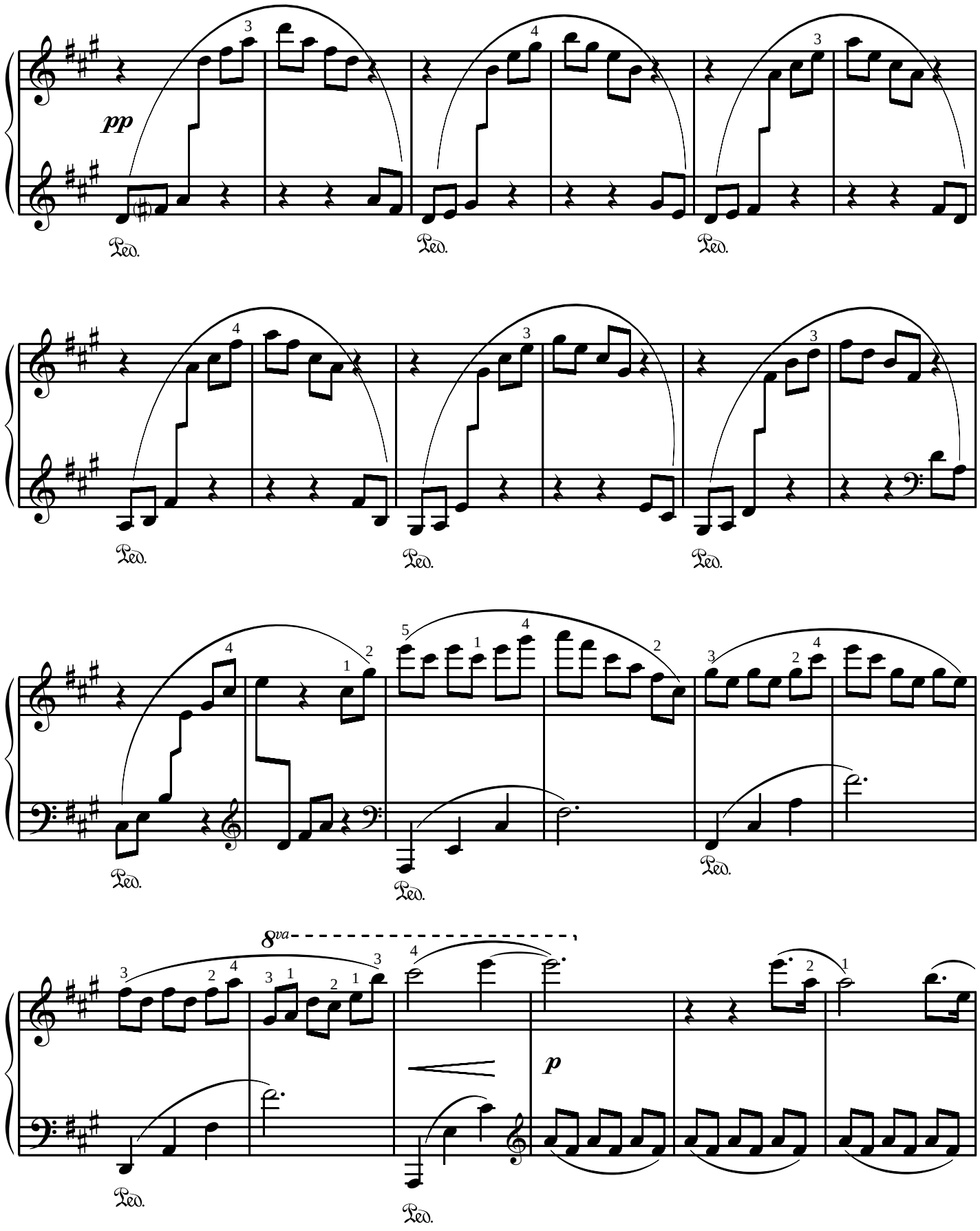
4.

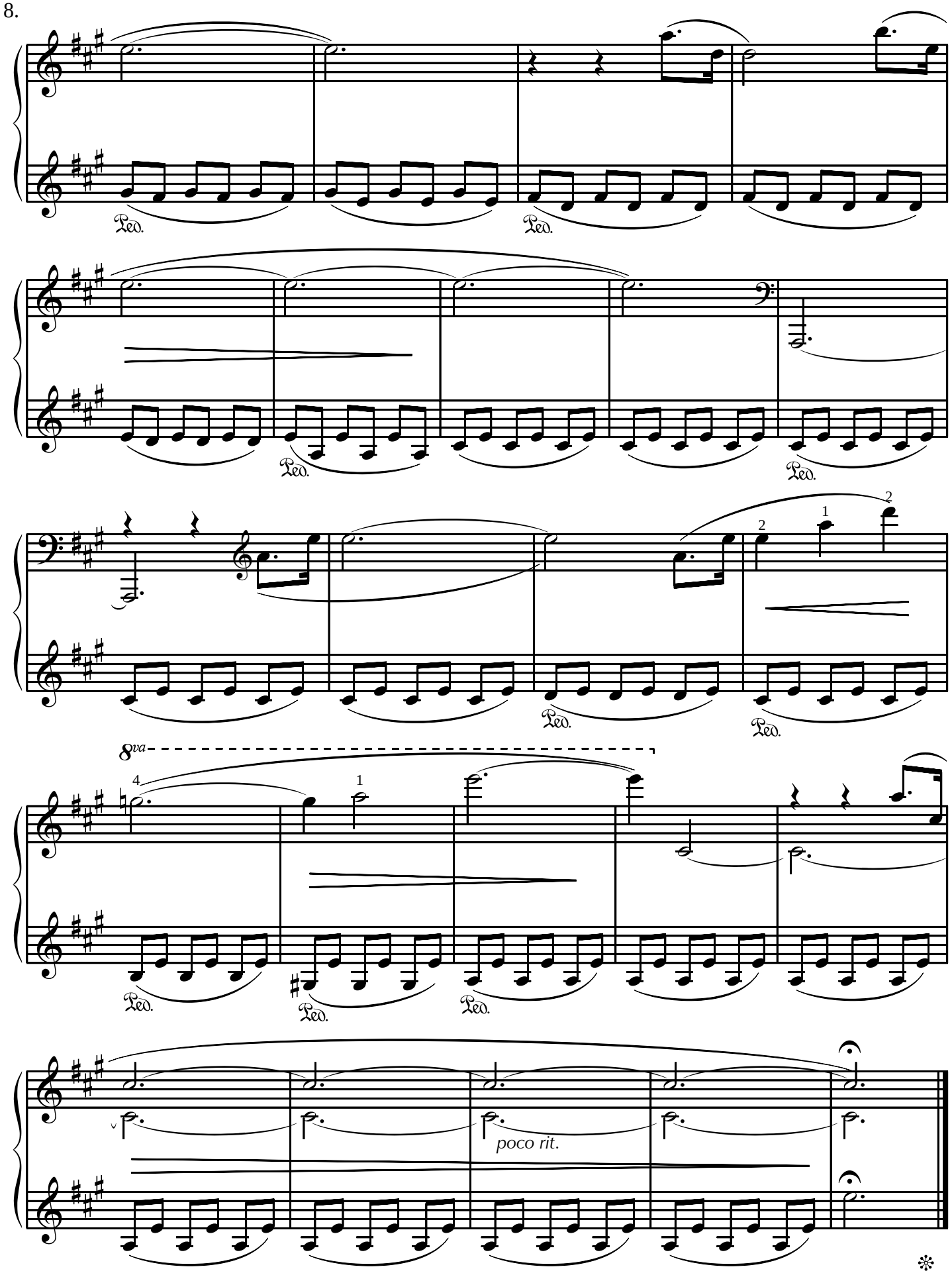



8va
Ped.
8va
8va

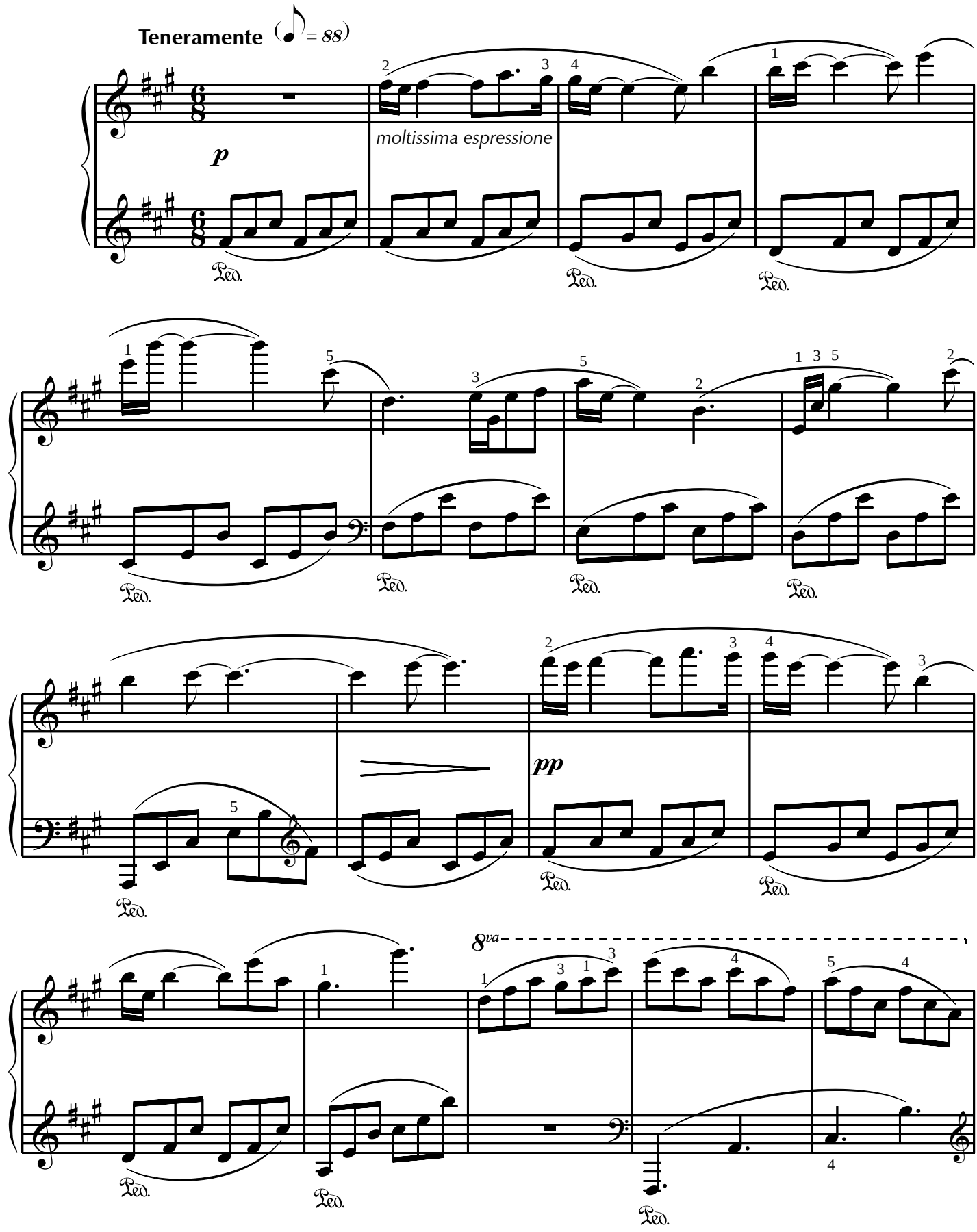
6.




pp
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
8va
p
Ped.
Ped.


Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
8va
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
poco rit.

II



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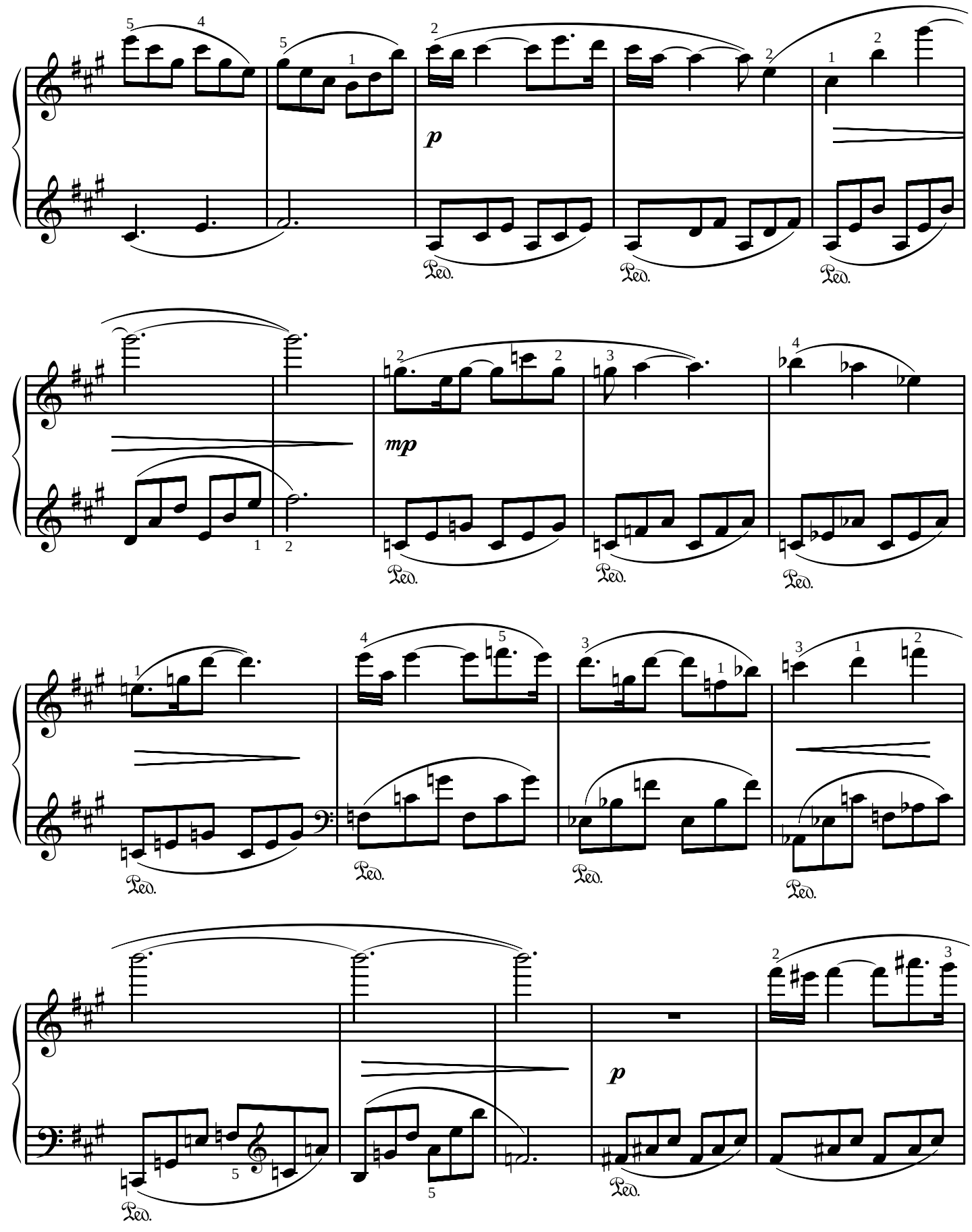
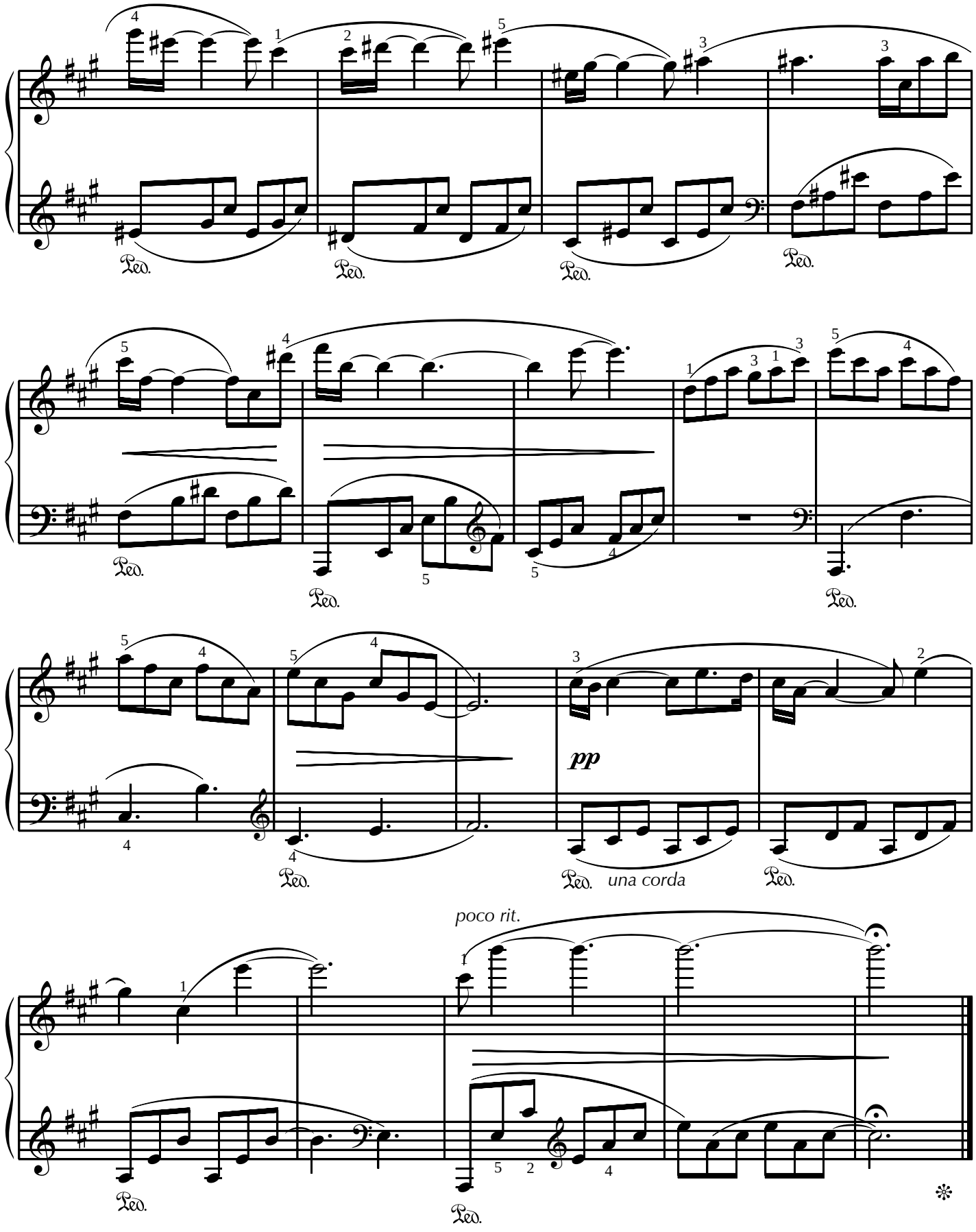
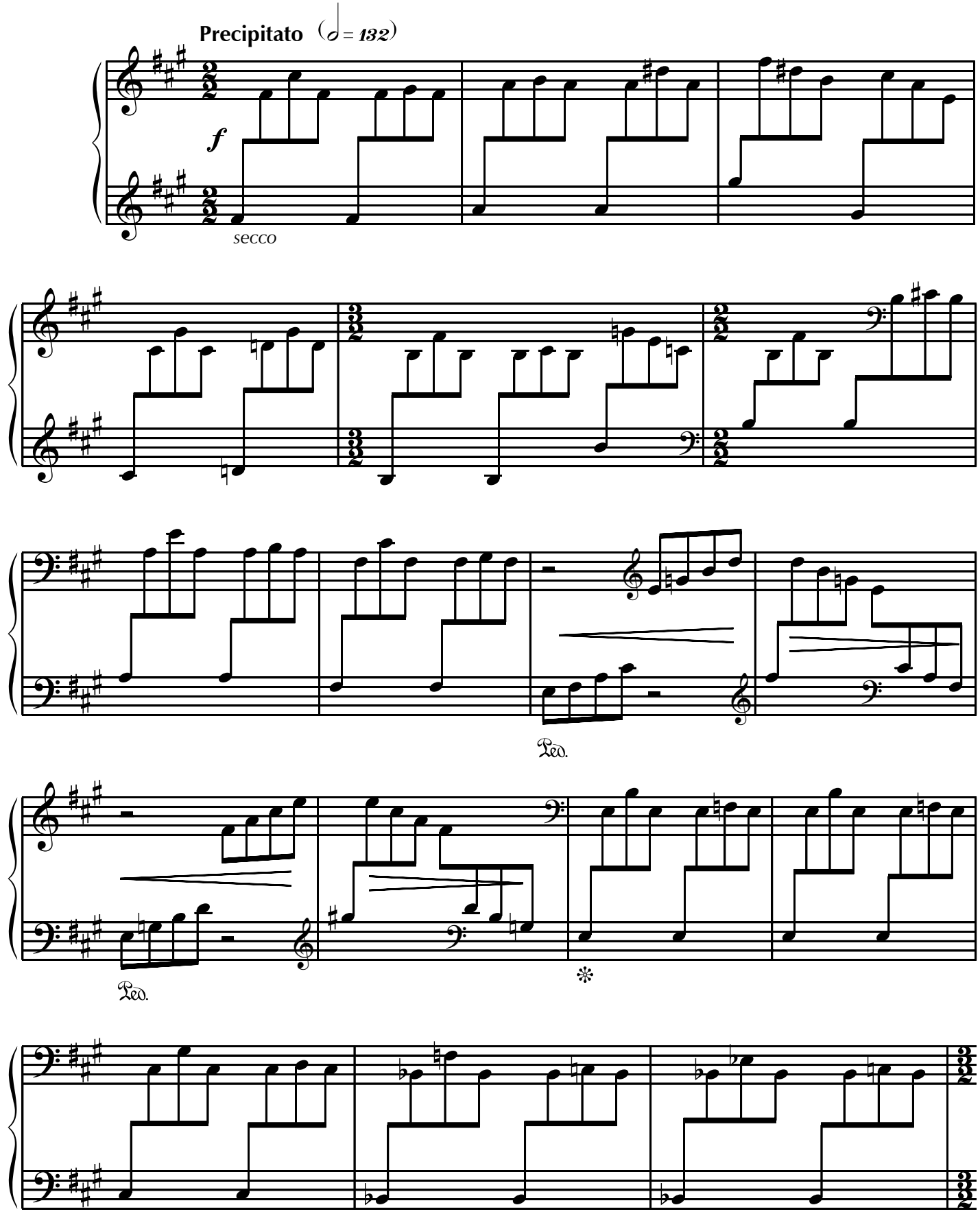
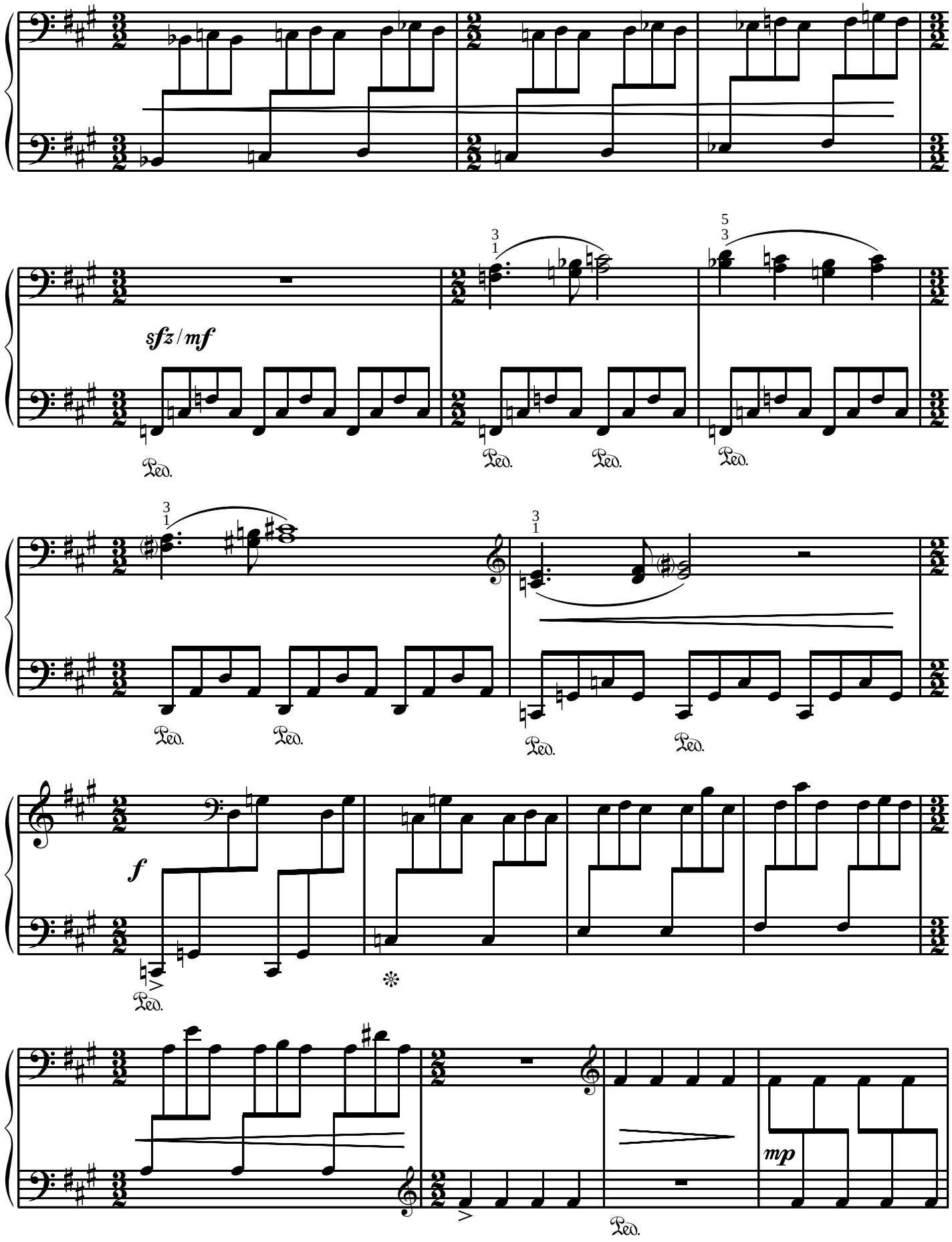
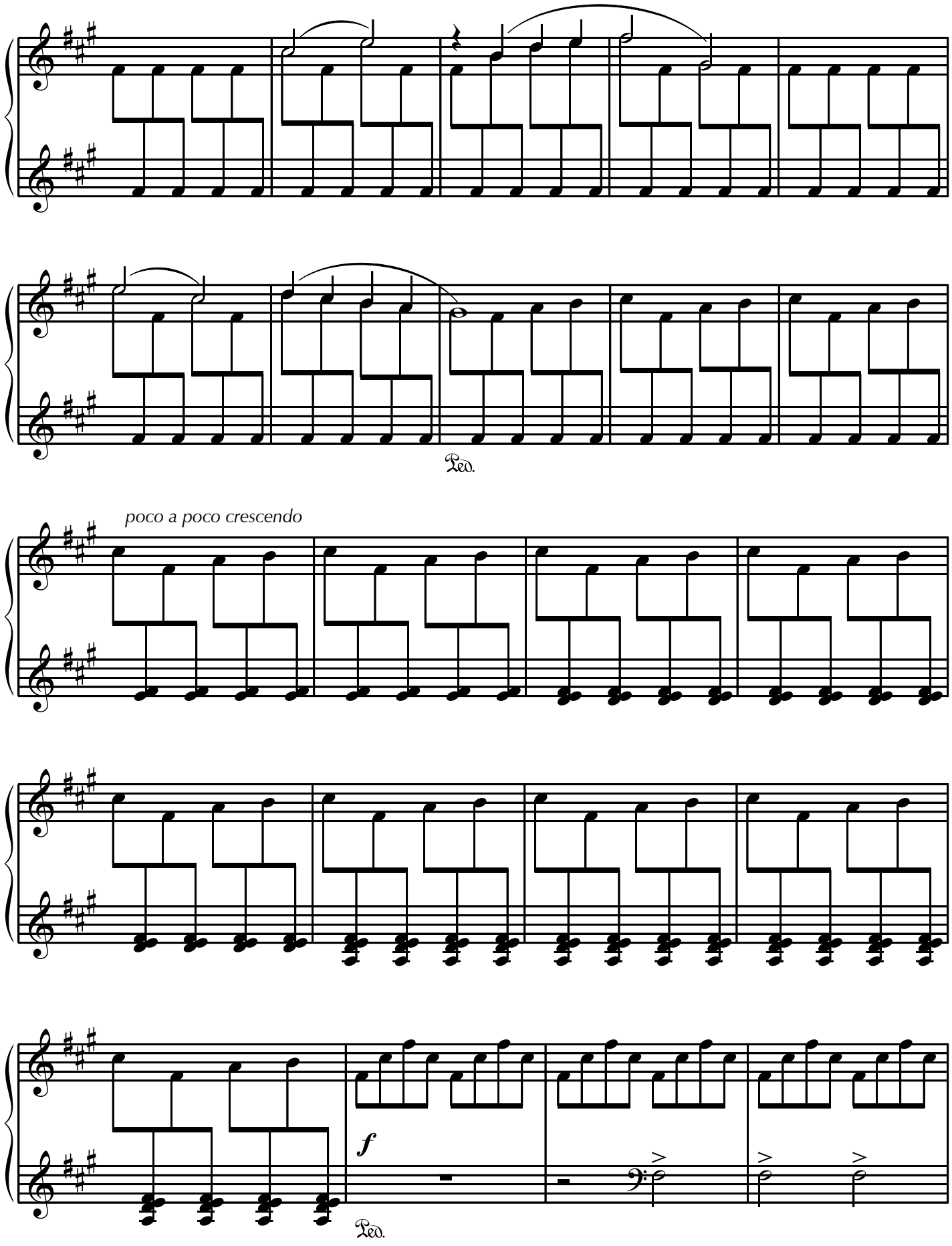


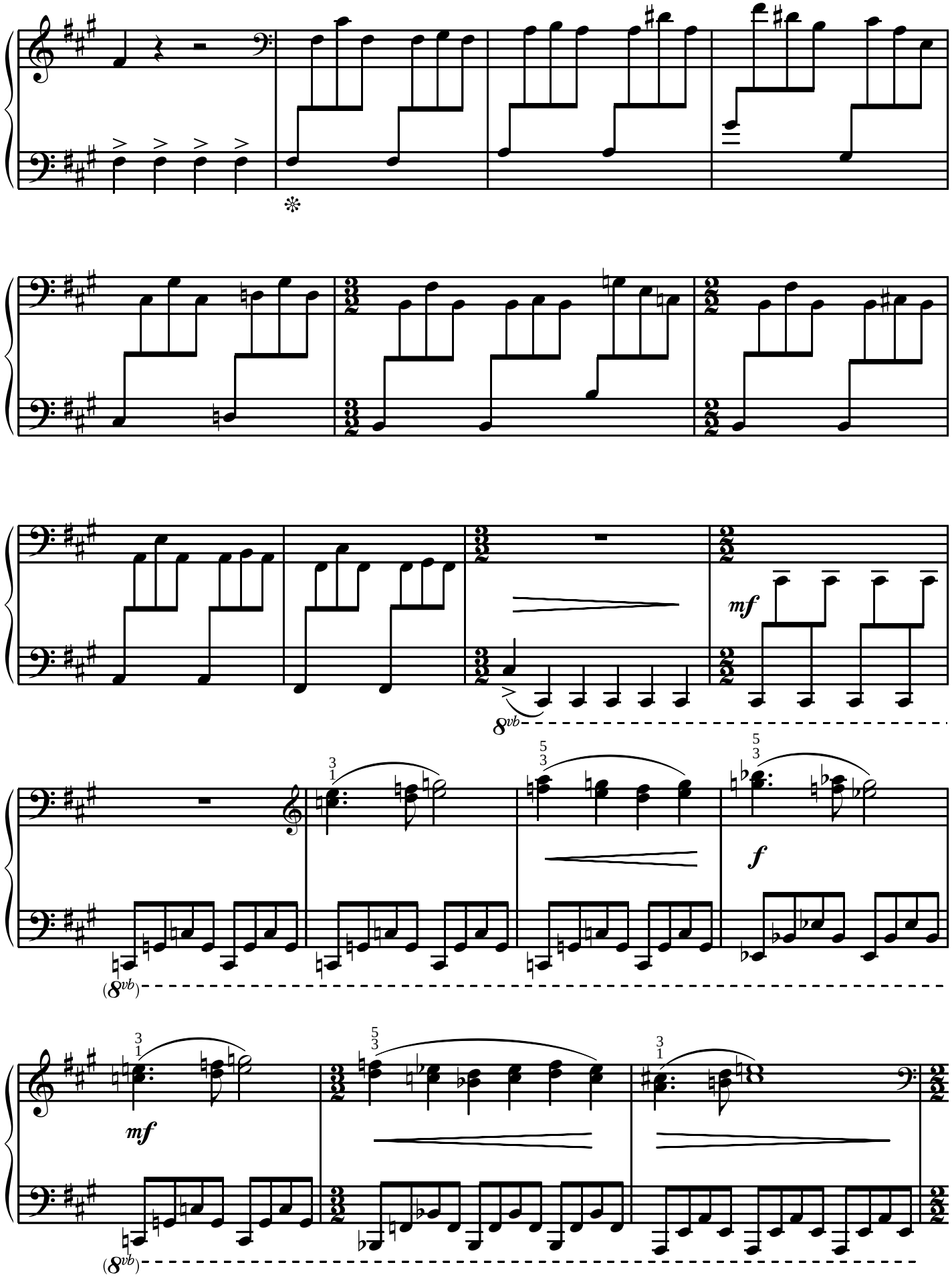

Ped.
pp
una corda
poco rit.

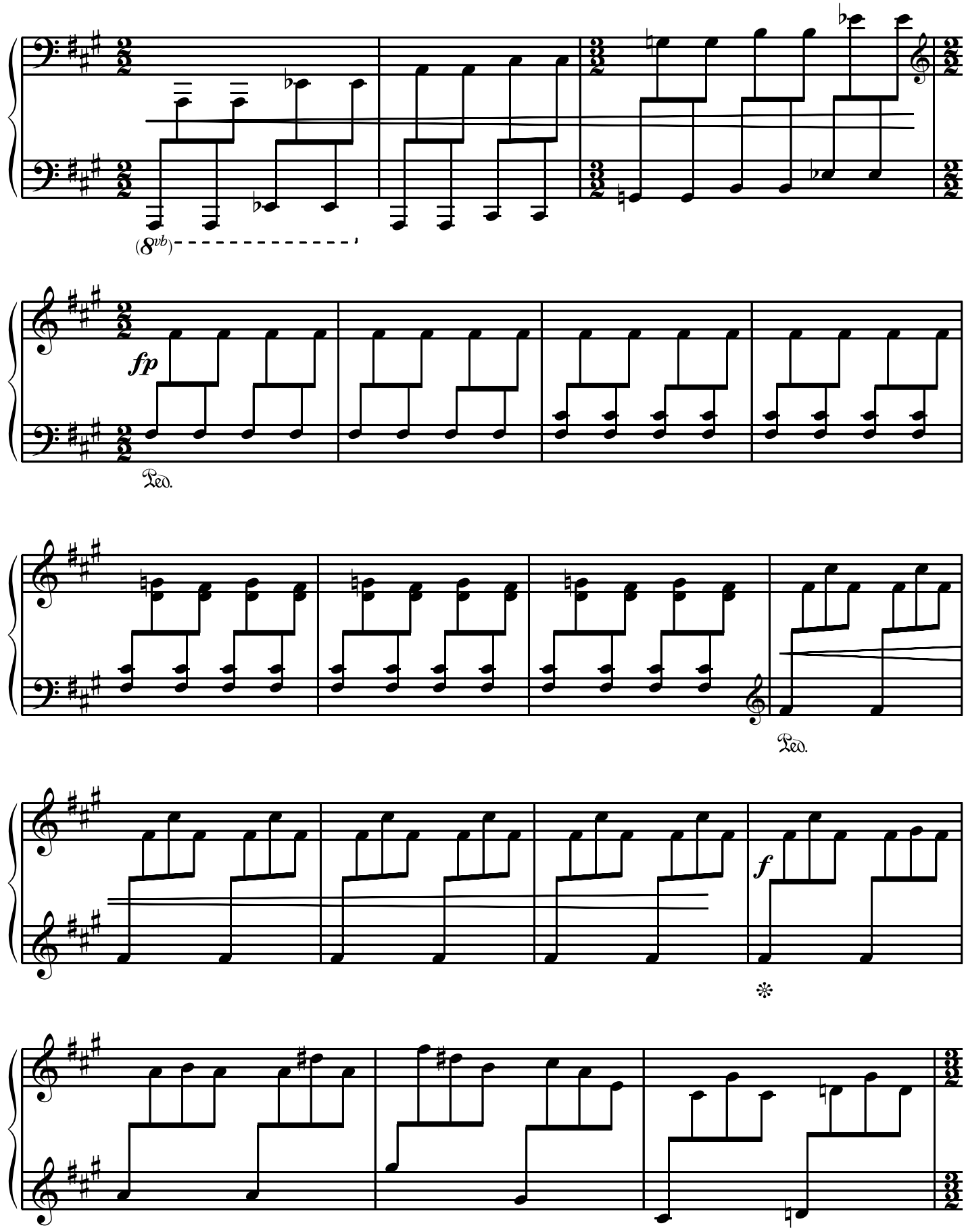
III

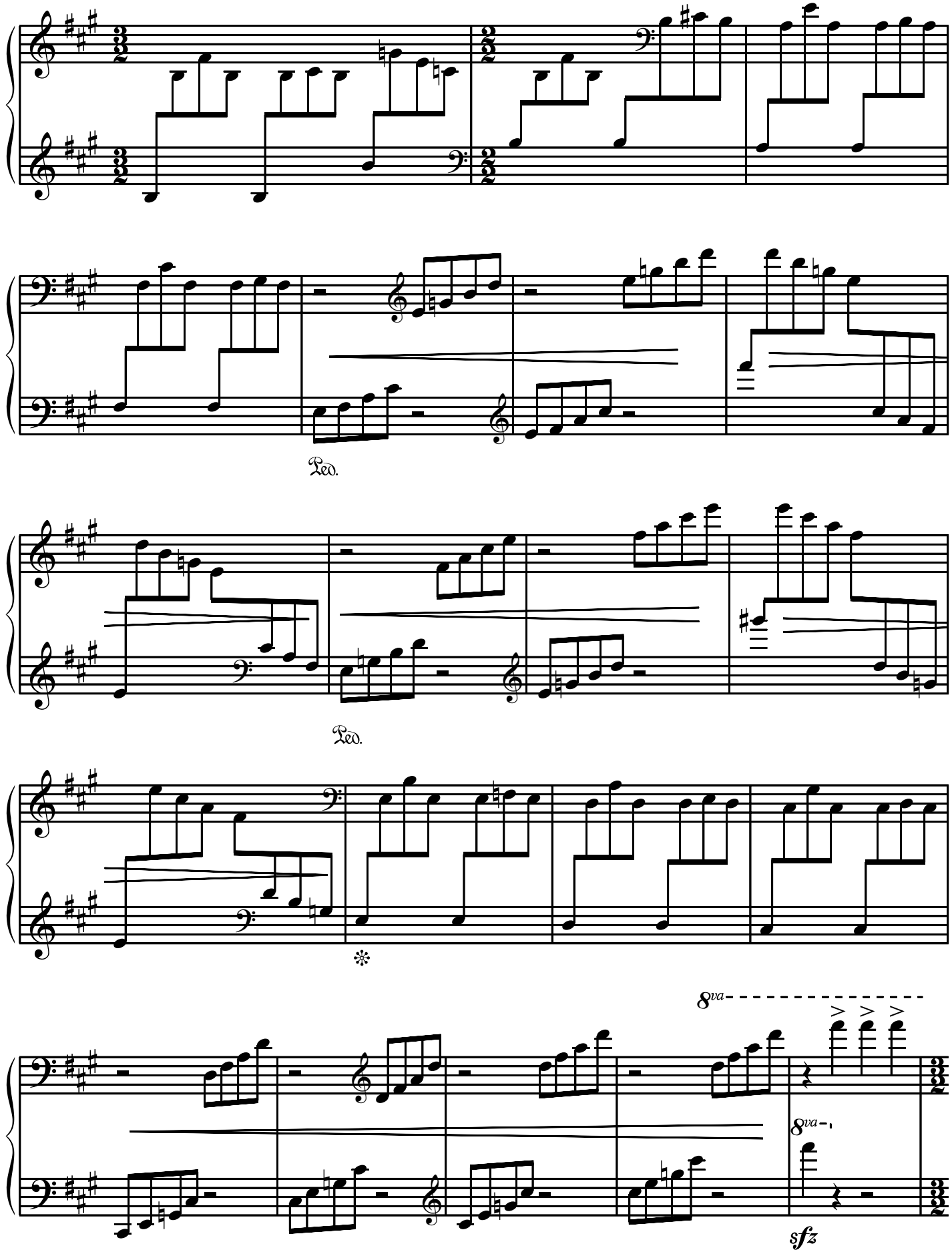


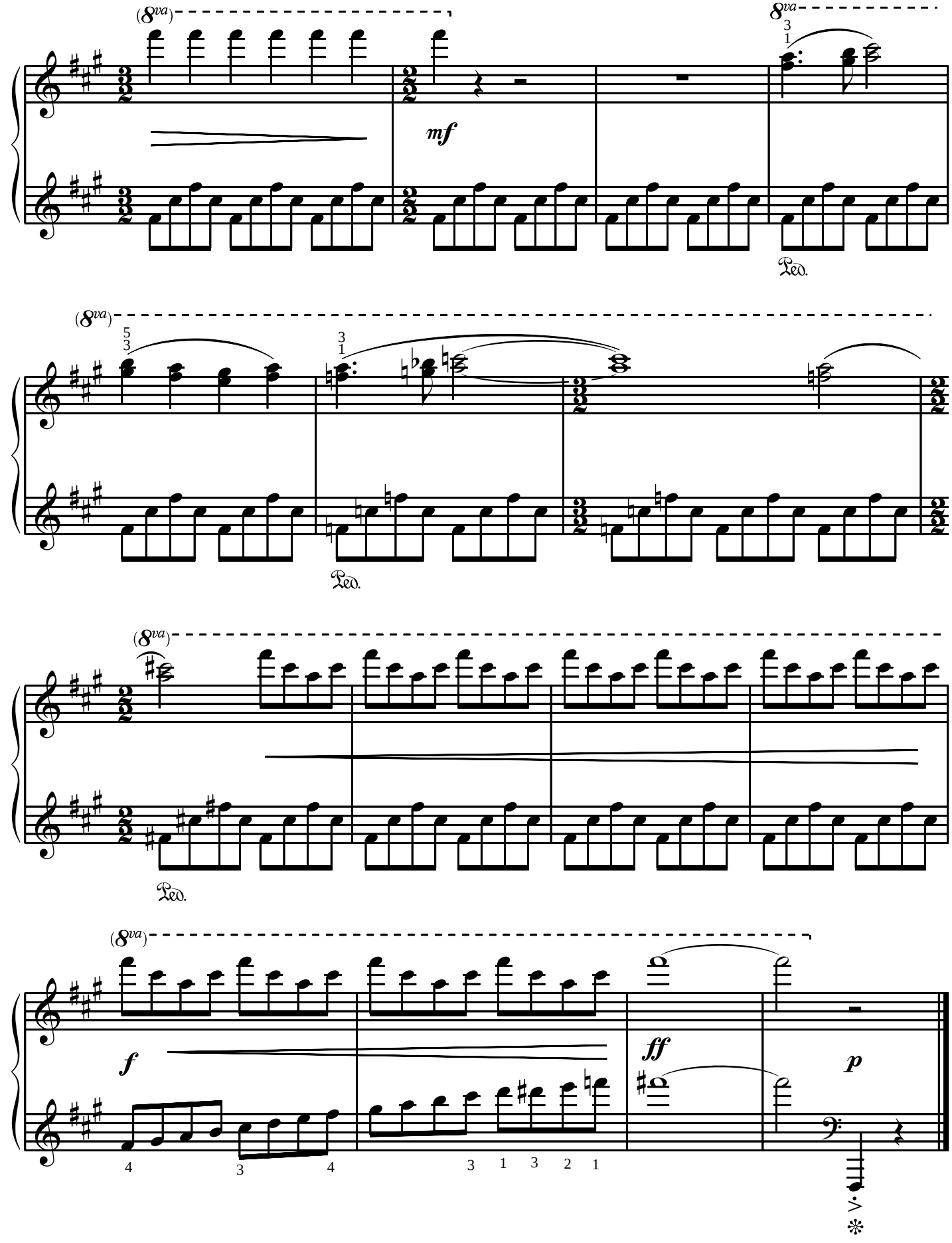

sfz / mf
Ped.
f
mp


Ped.
poco a poco crescendo
f
Ped.

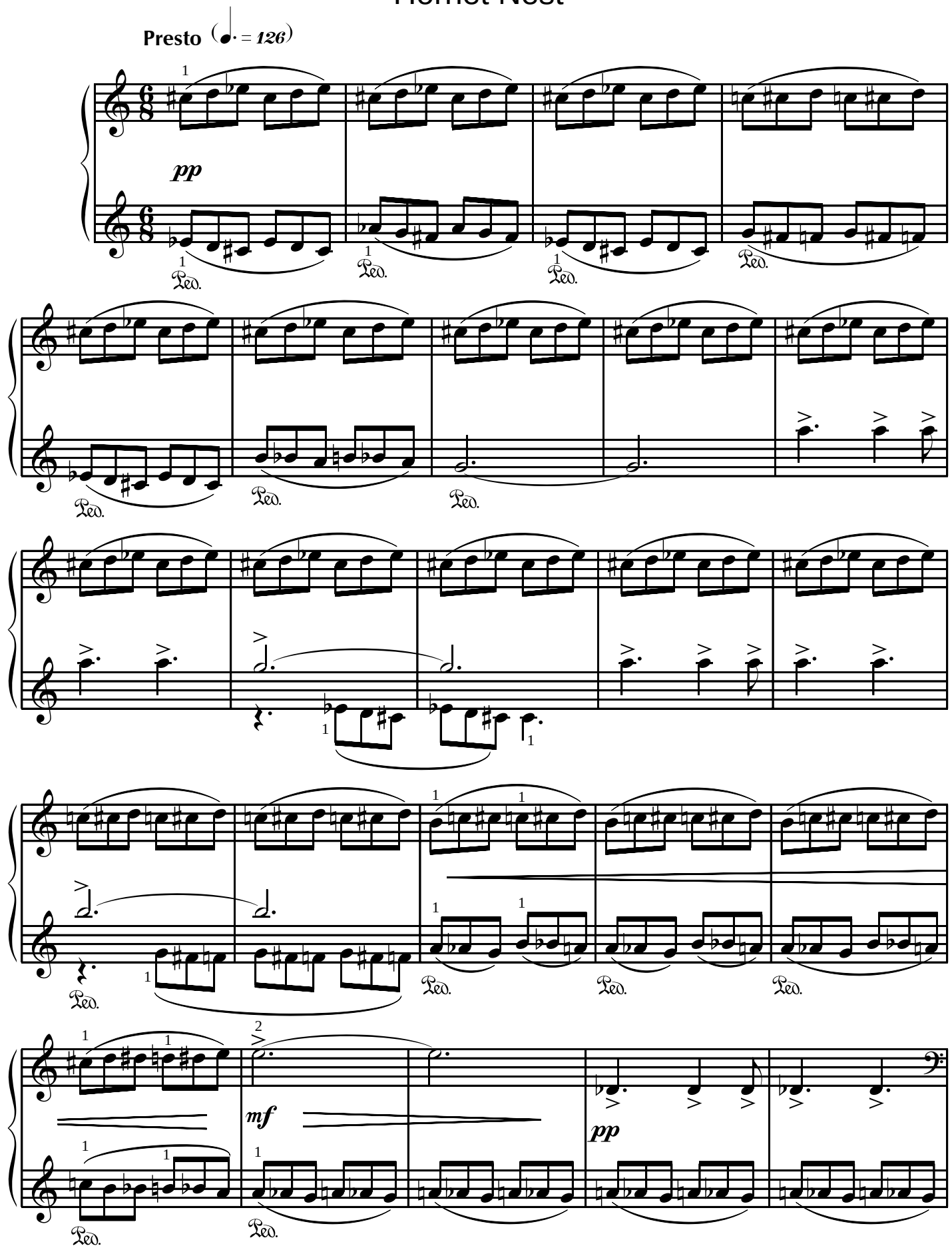

mf
8vb
f
mf
(8vb)
(8vb)

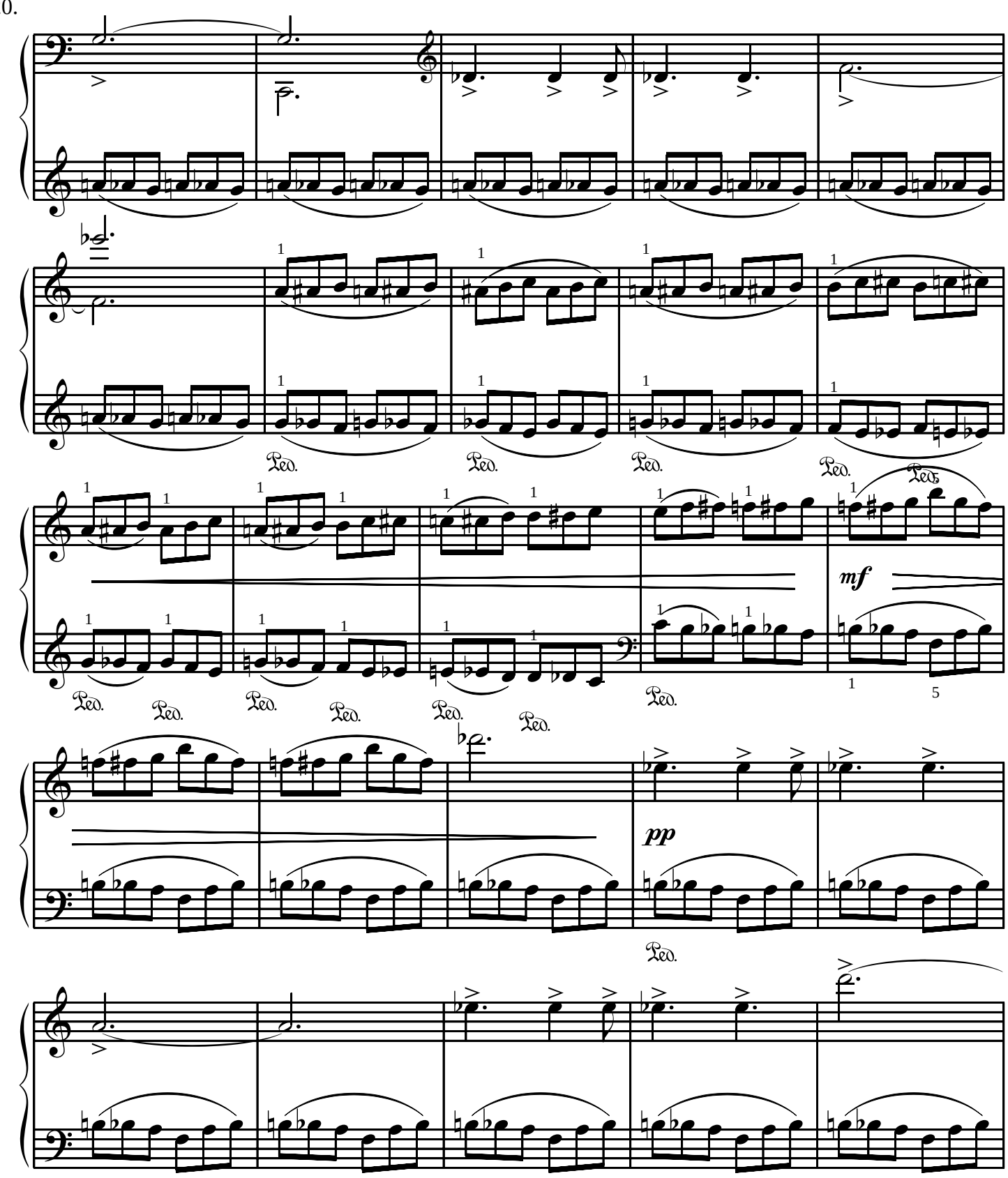

(8vb)
fp
Ped.
Ped.
f

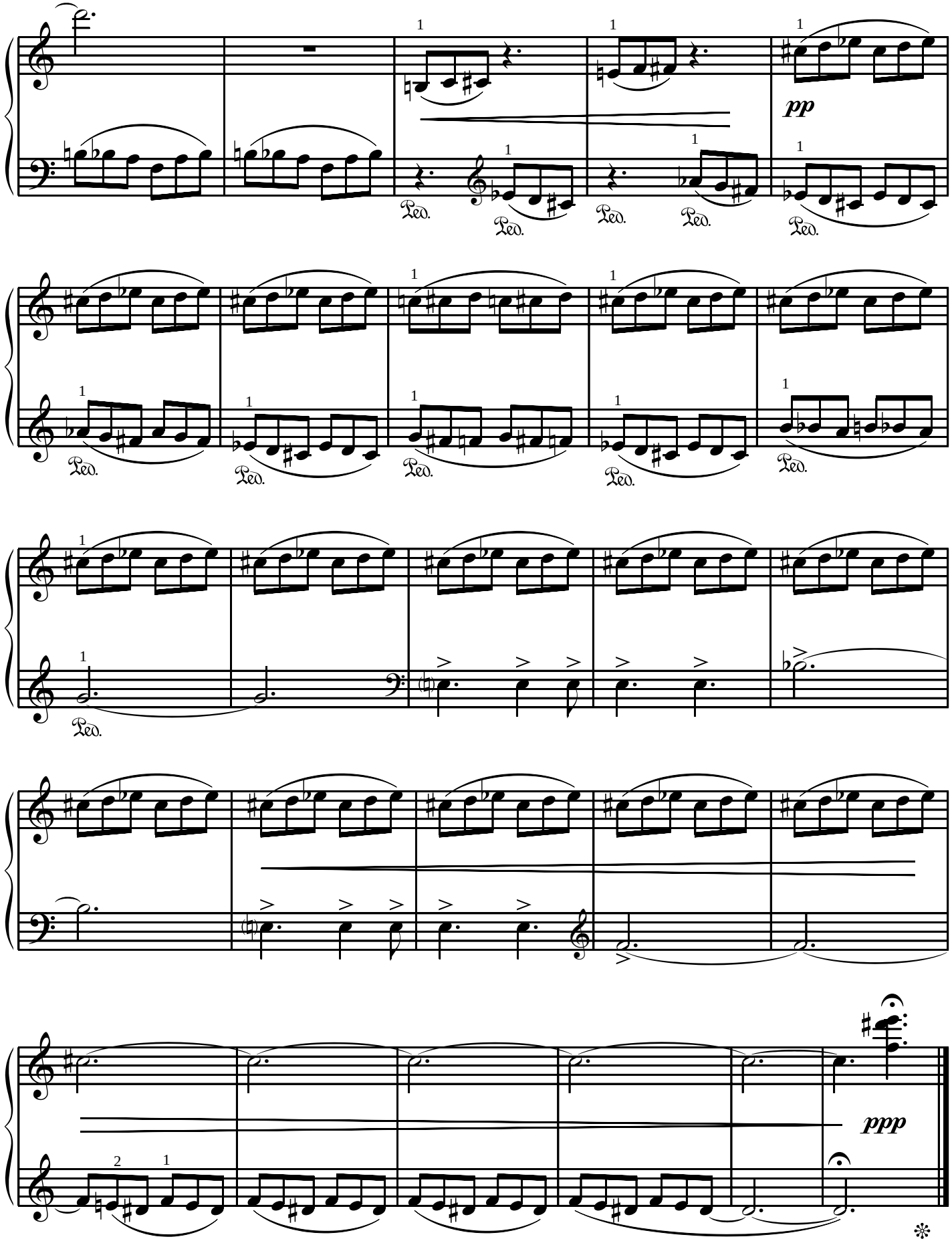

Ped.
Ped.
8va
8va
sfz


(8va)
8va
mf
Ped.
(8va)
Ped.
(8va)
Ped.
(8va)
f
ff
p

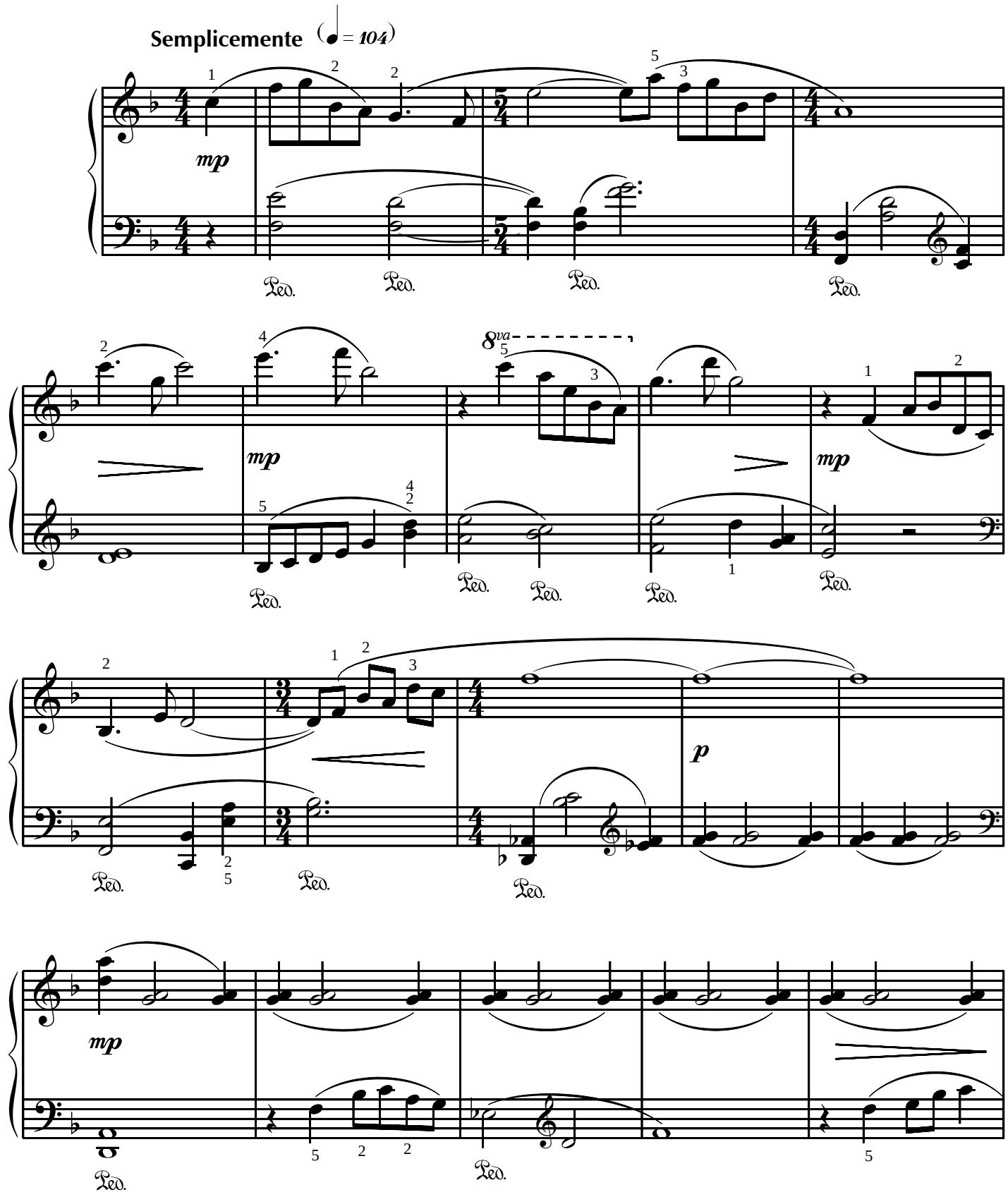
Hornet Nest

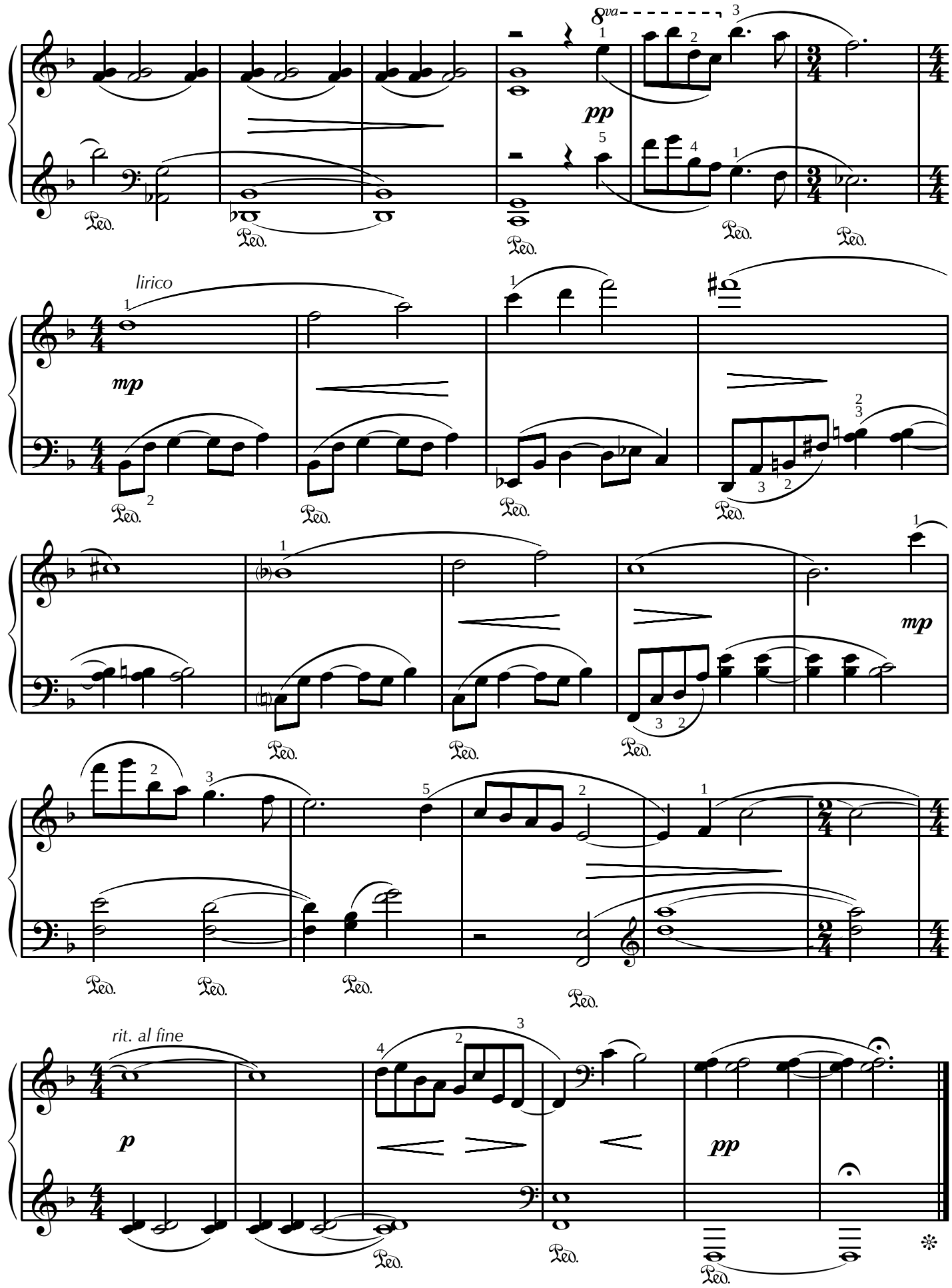



mf
pp
Ped.

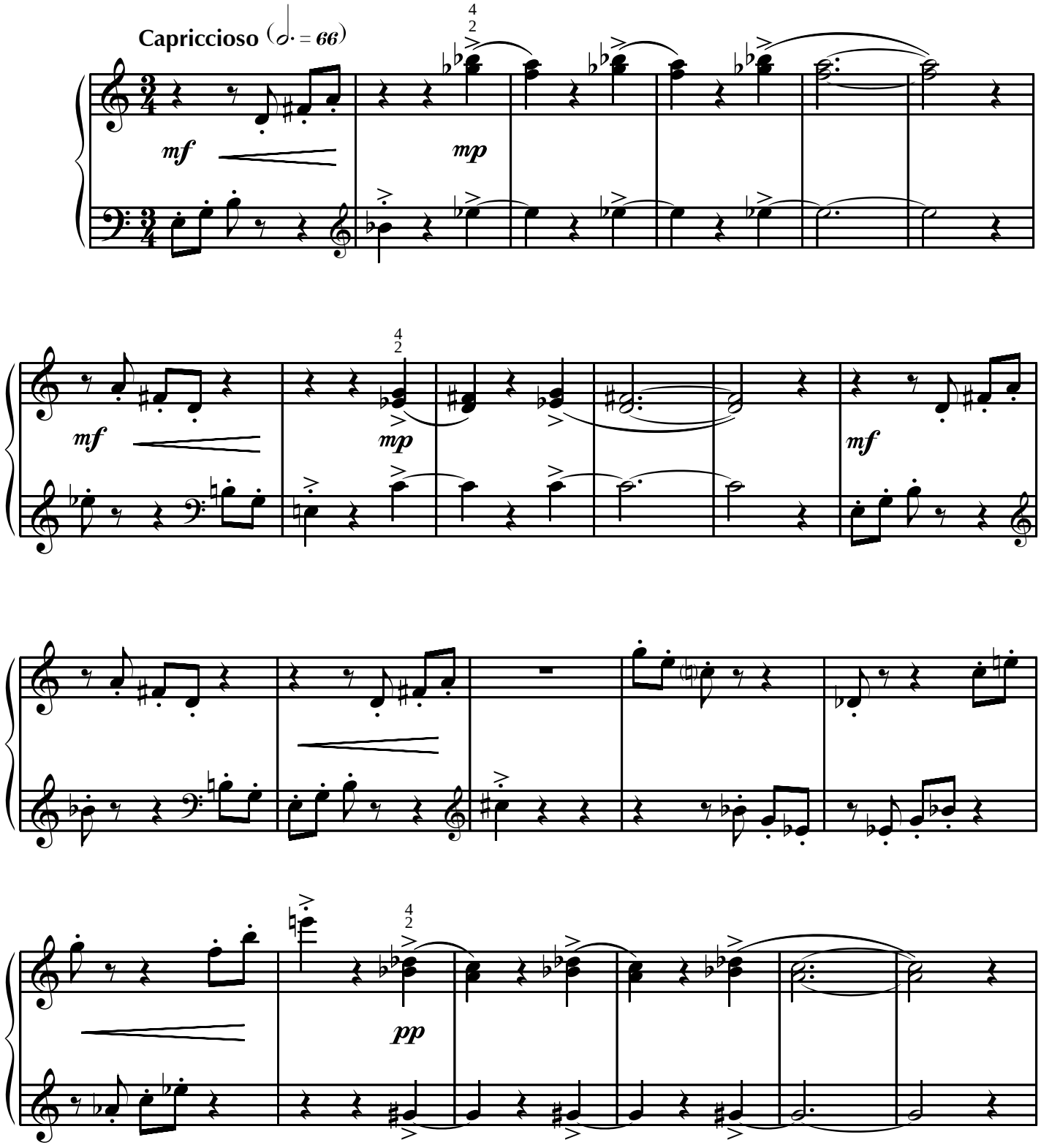

pp
Ped.
ppp

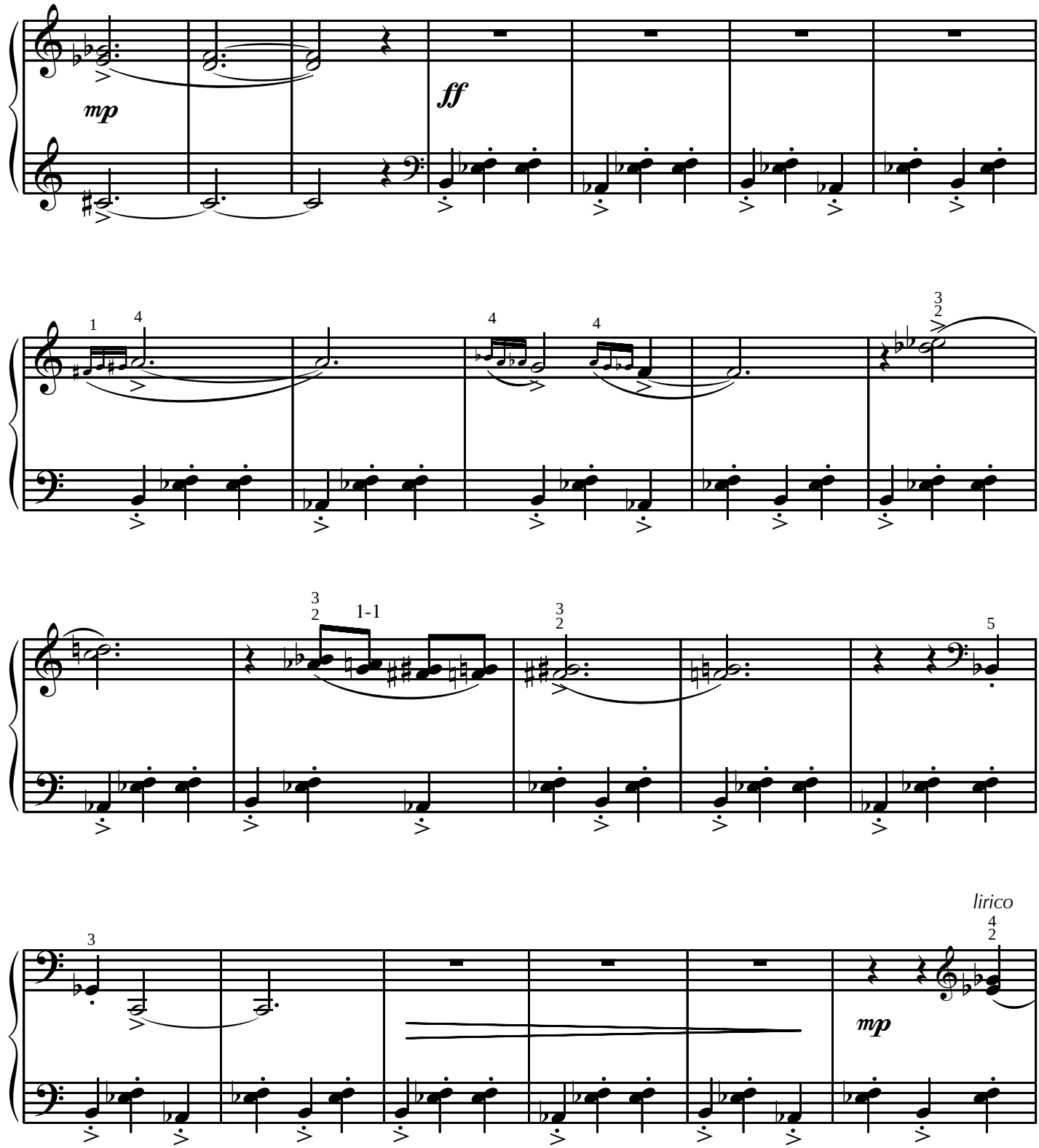
Seventh Nocturne

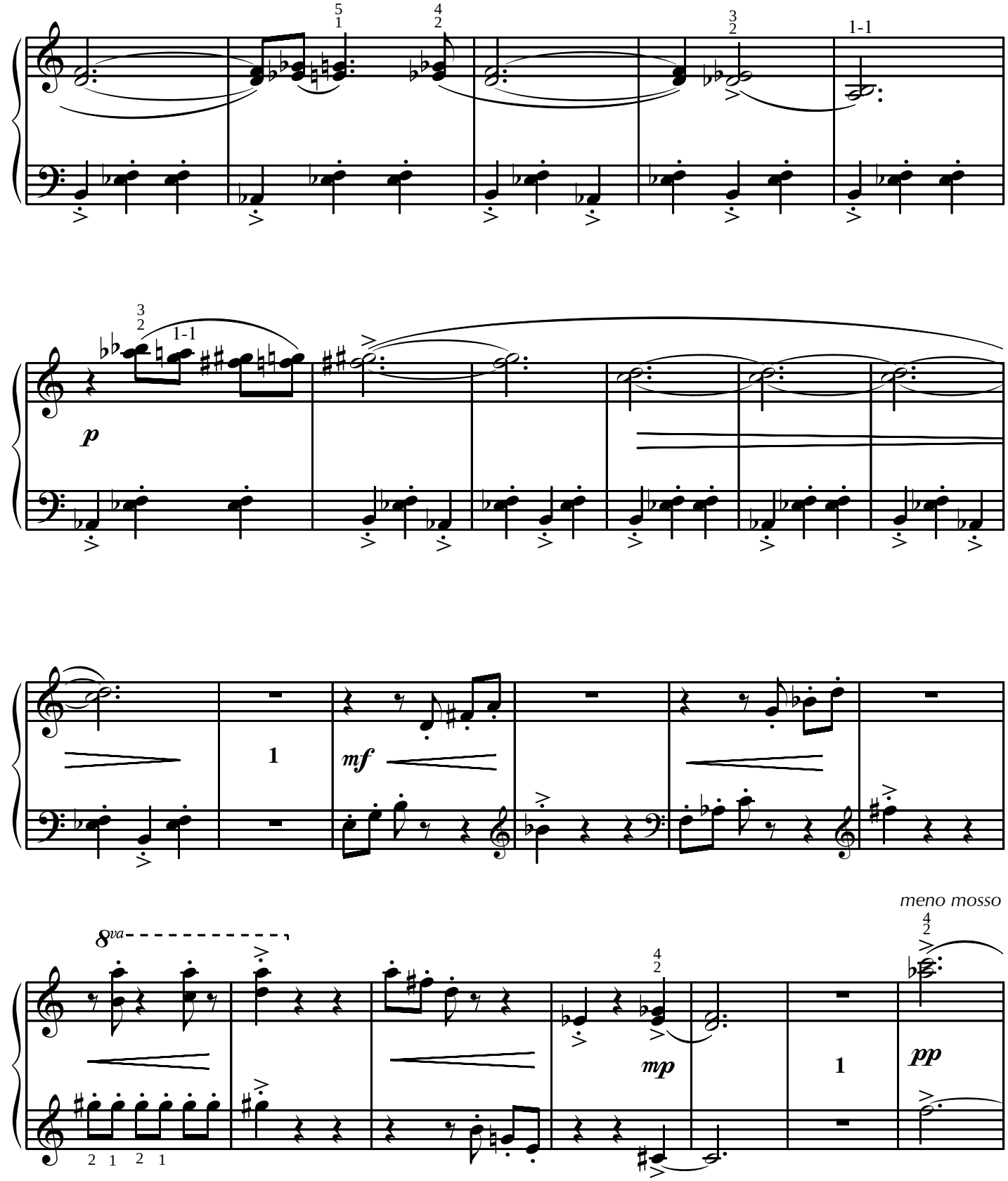


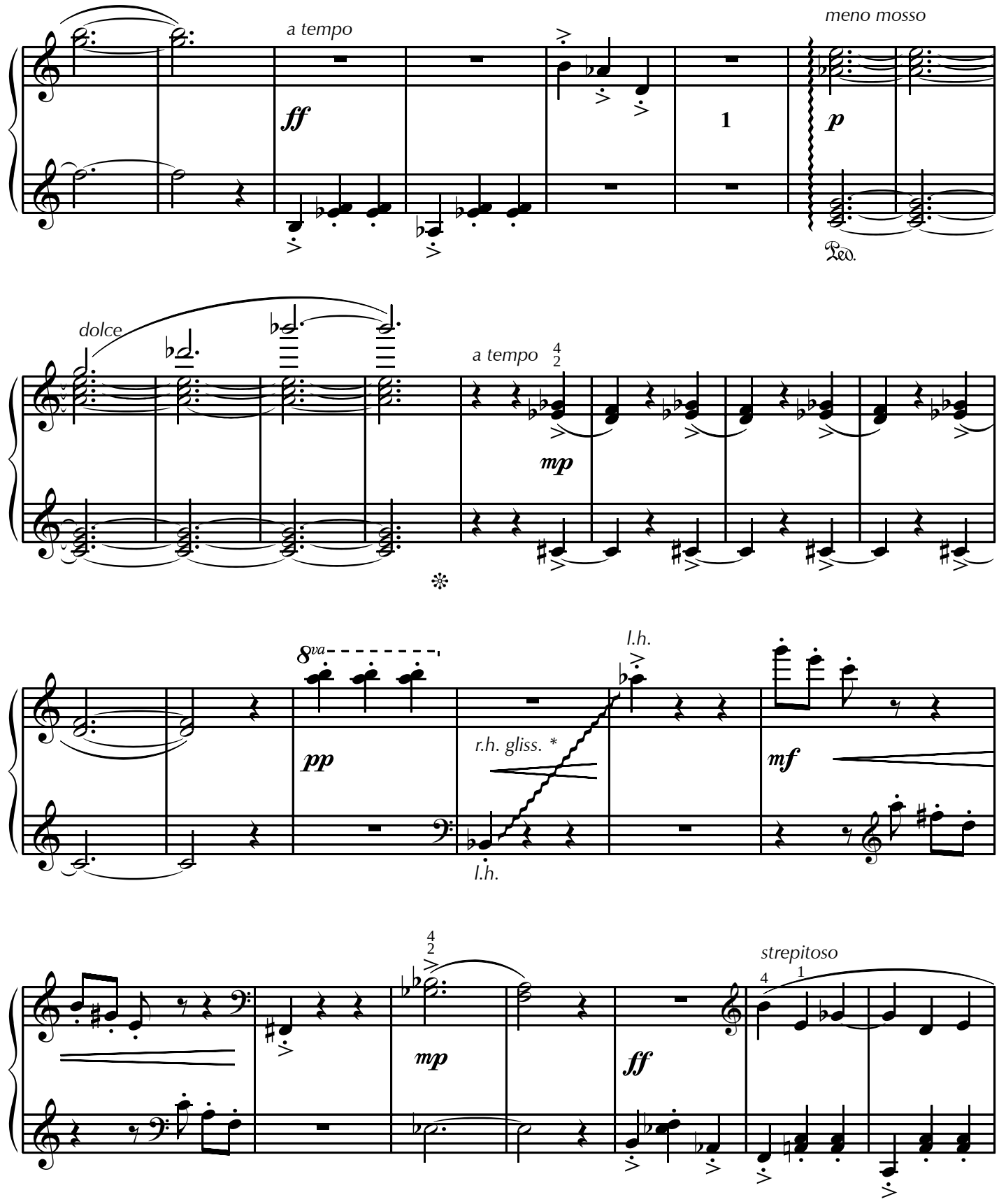

8va
pp
Ped.
lirico
mp
mp
rit. al fine
p
pp

A Day in the Life of a Cat

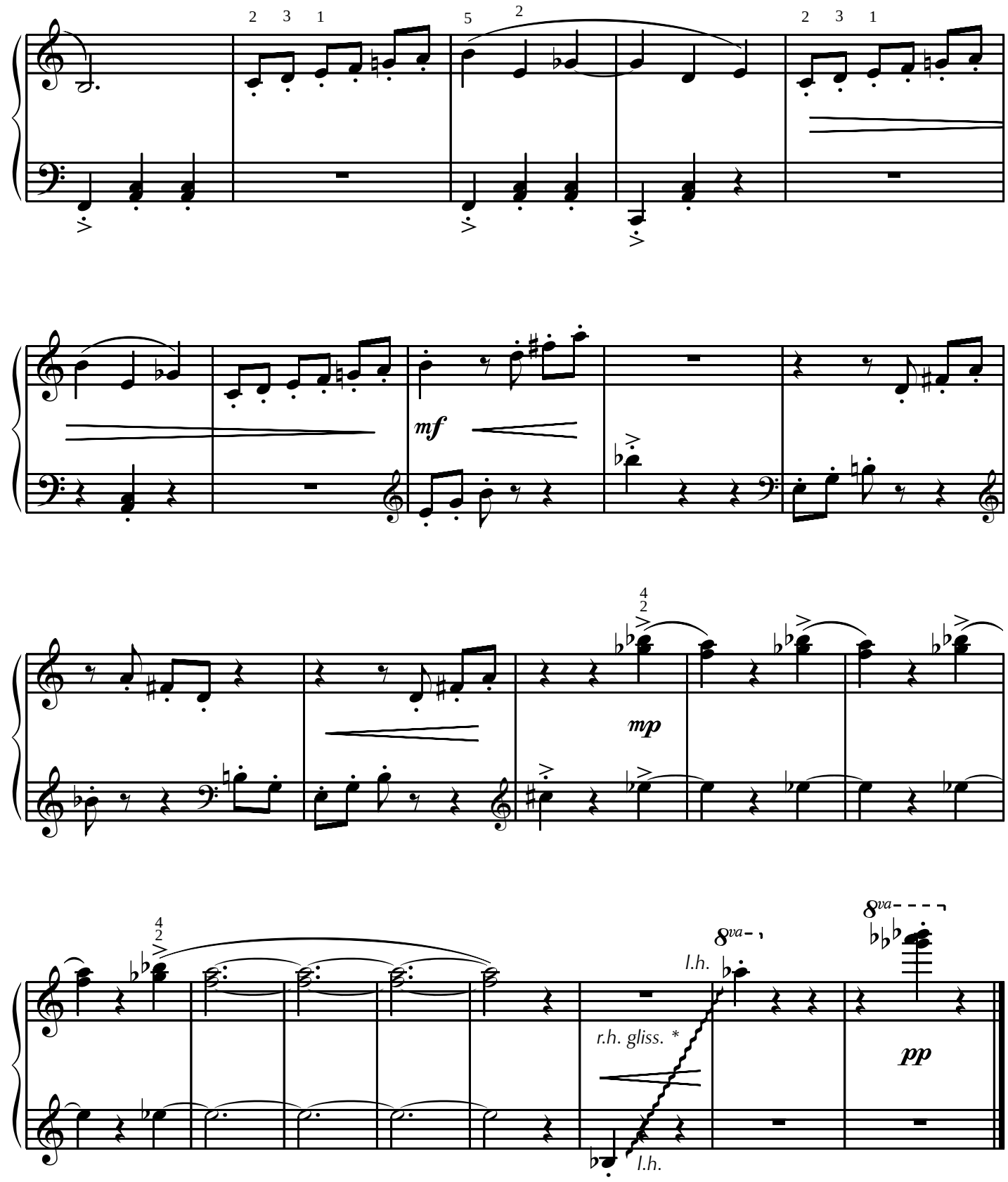



mp
ff
1
4
4
4
3
2
3
2
1-1
3
2
5
3
lirico
4
2
mp


1-1
p
1
mf
8va
mp
1
meno mosso
pp

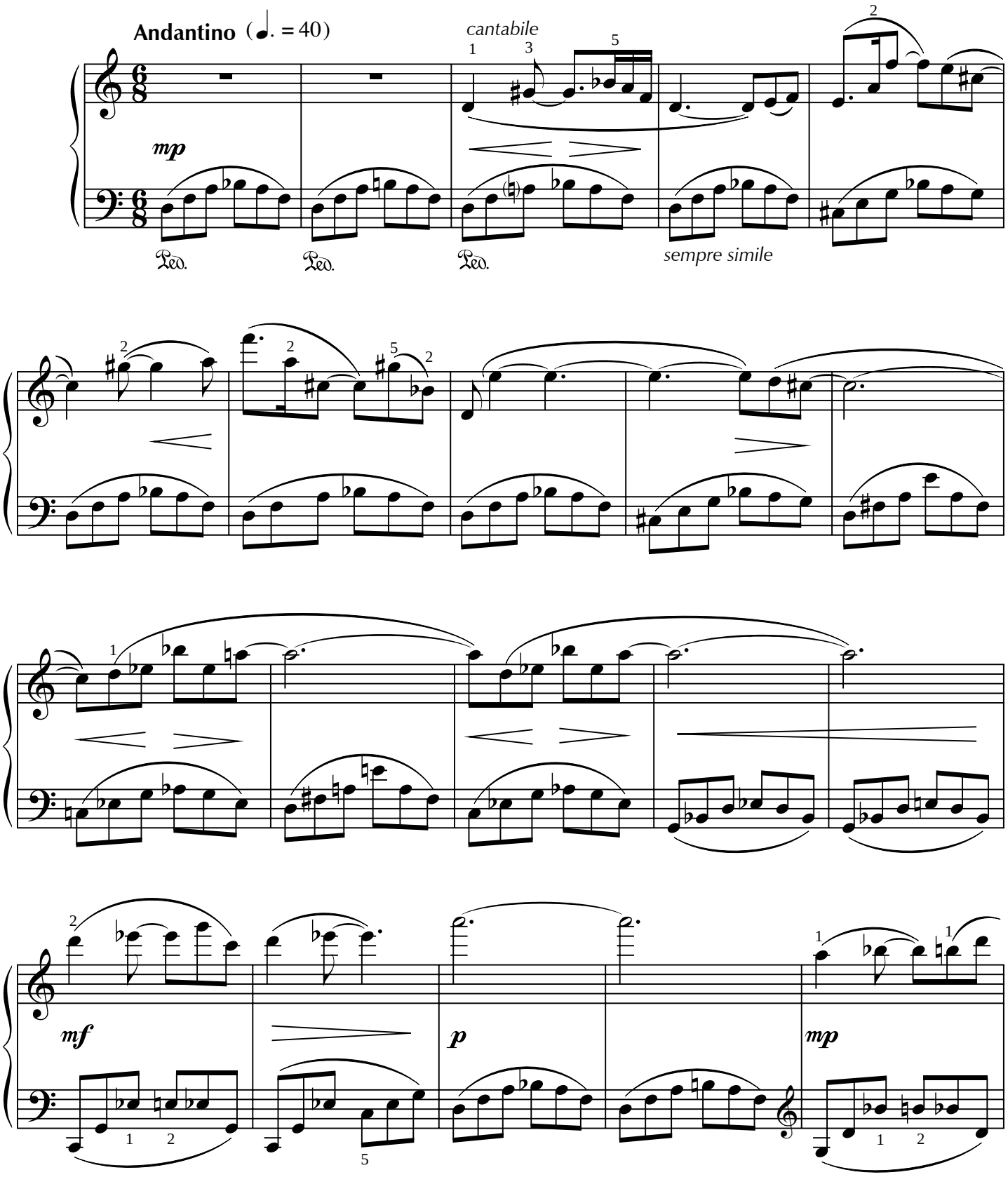


* gliss. on white keys



* gliss. on white keys

Eighth Nocturne



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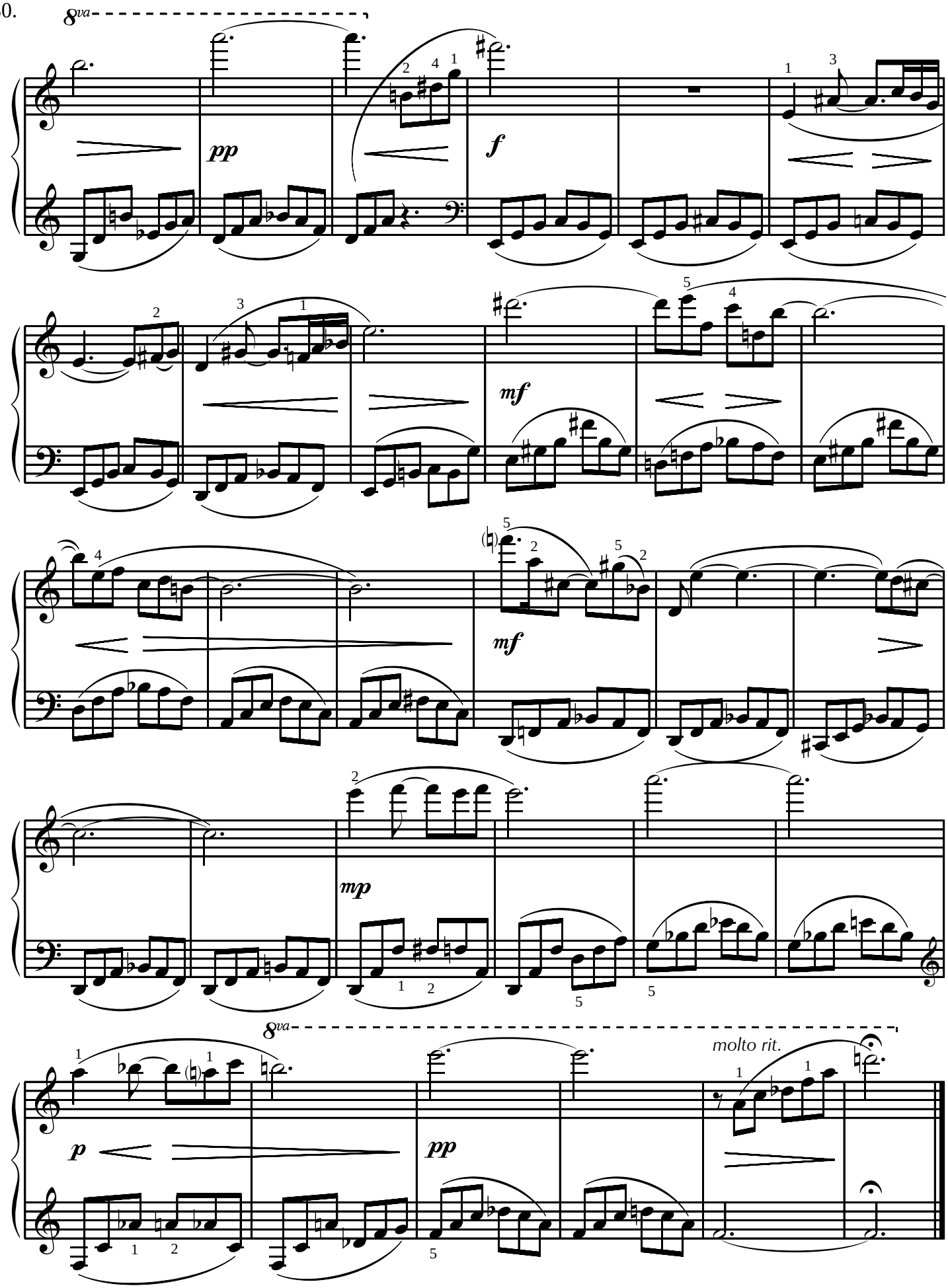
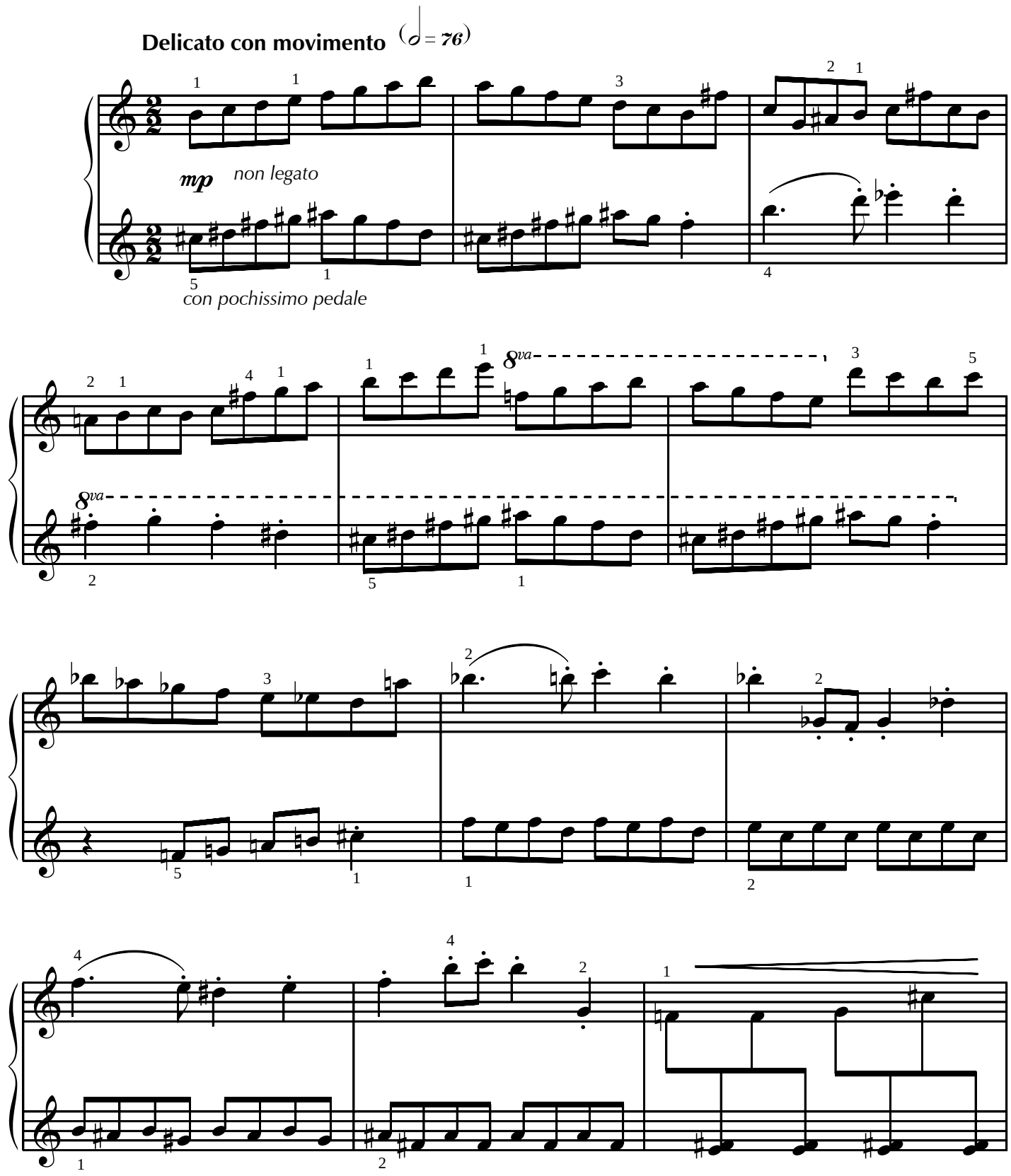


A Noiseless Patient Spider



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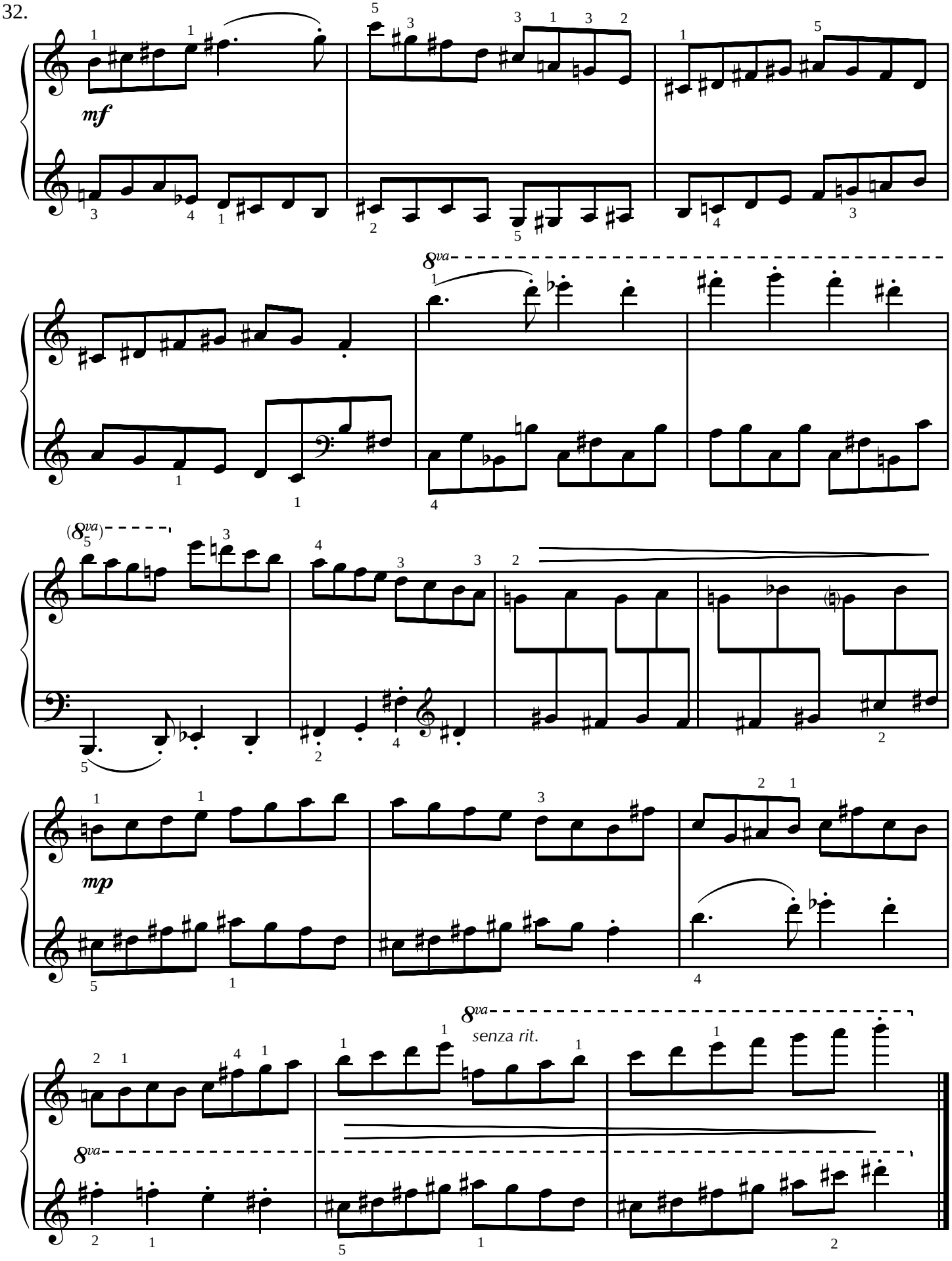
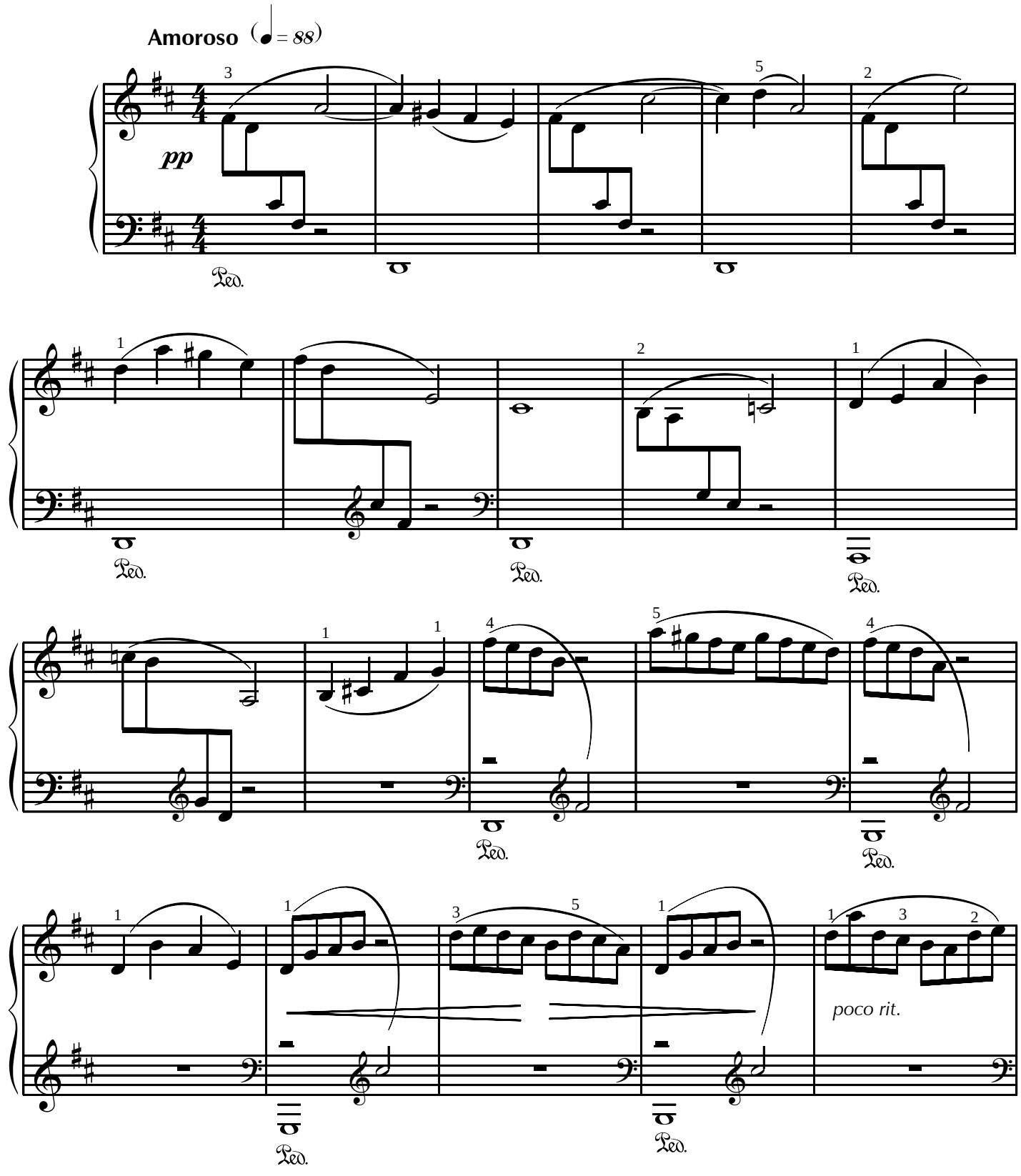
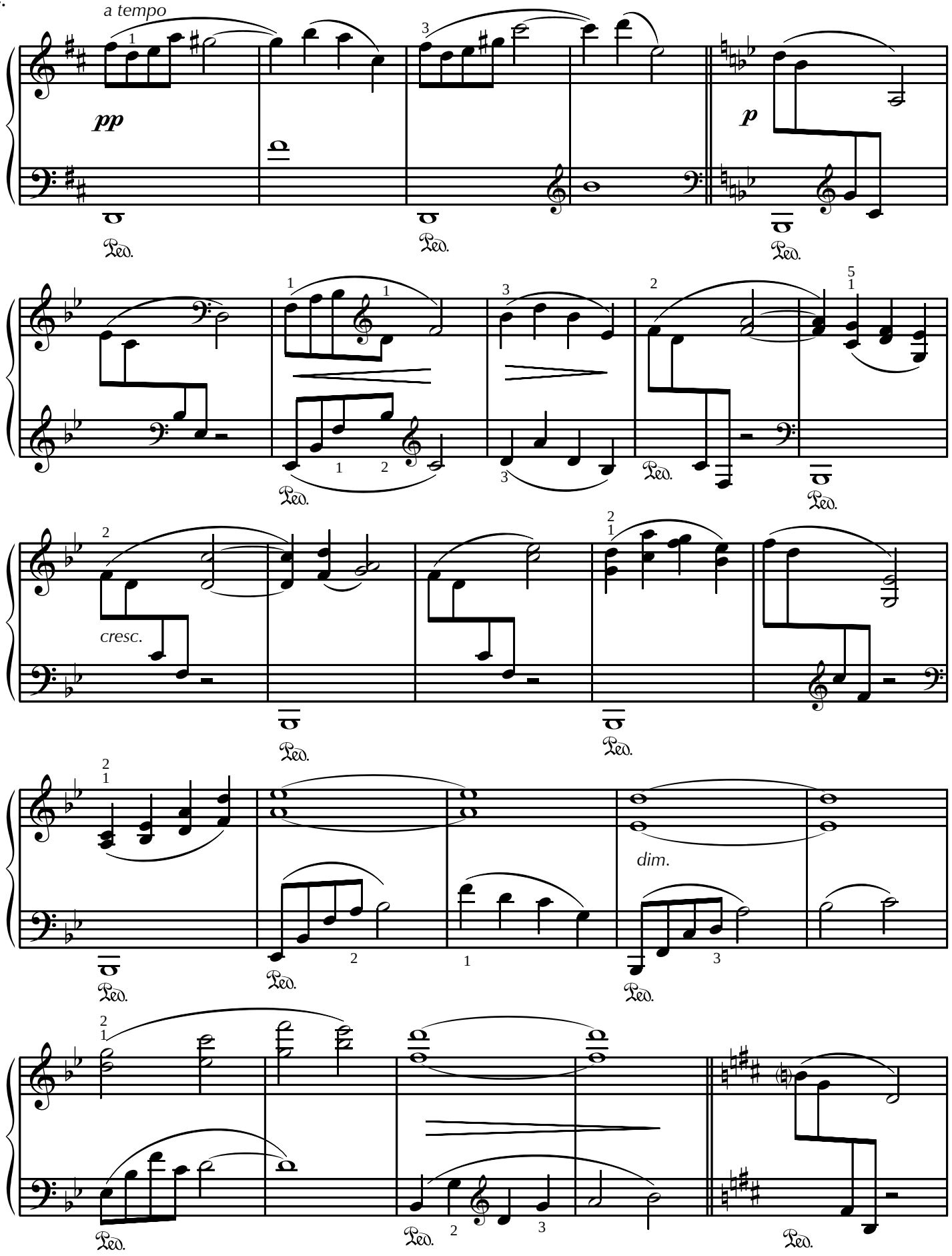
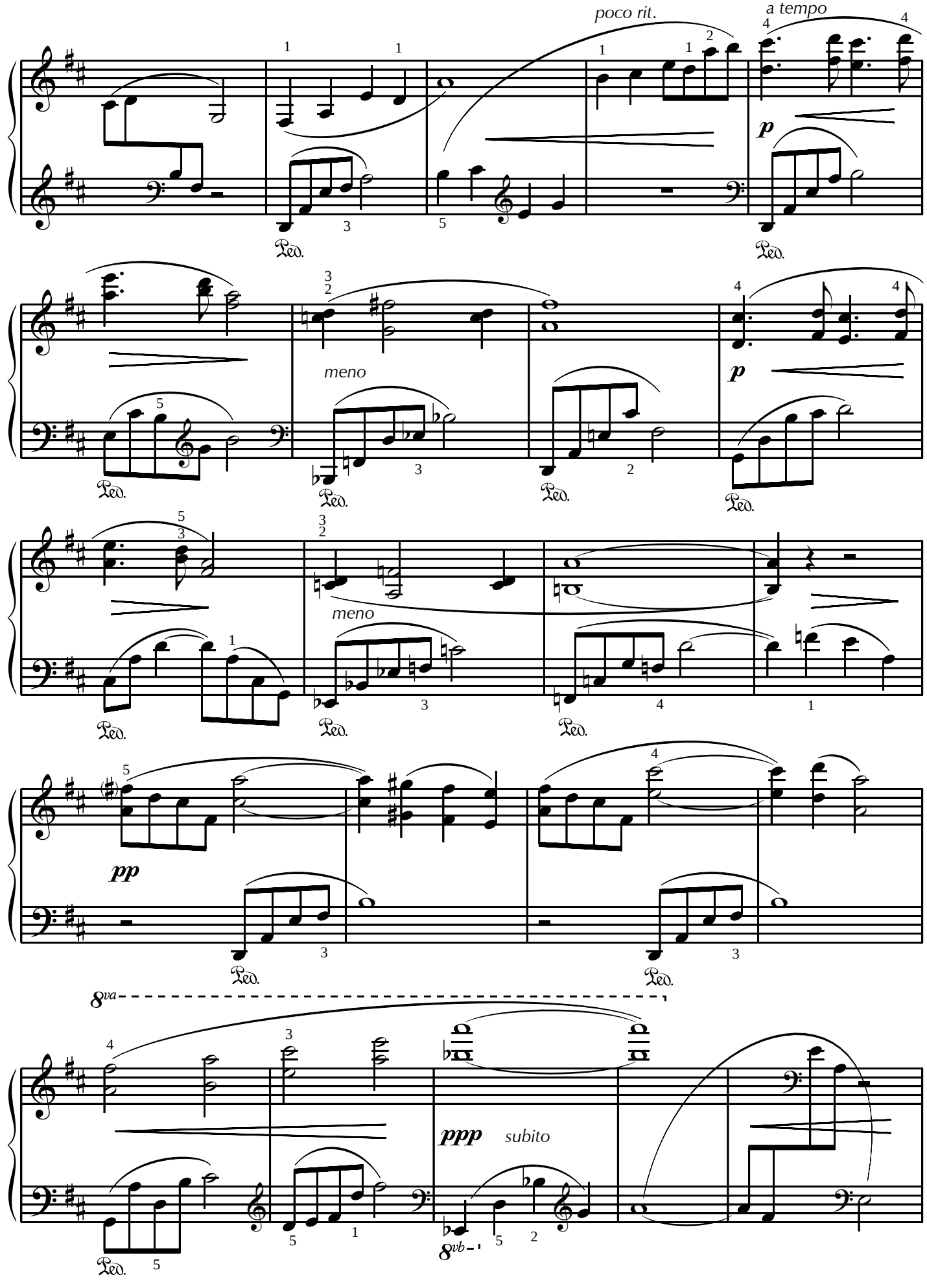
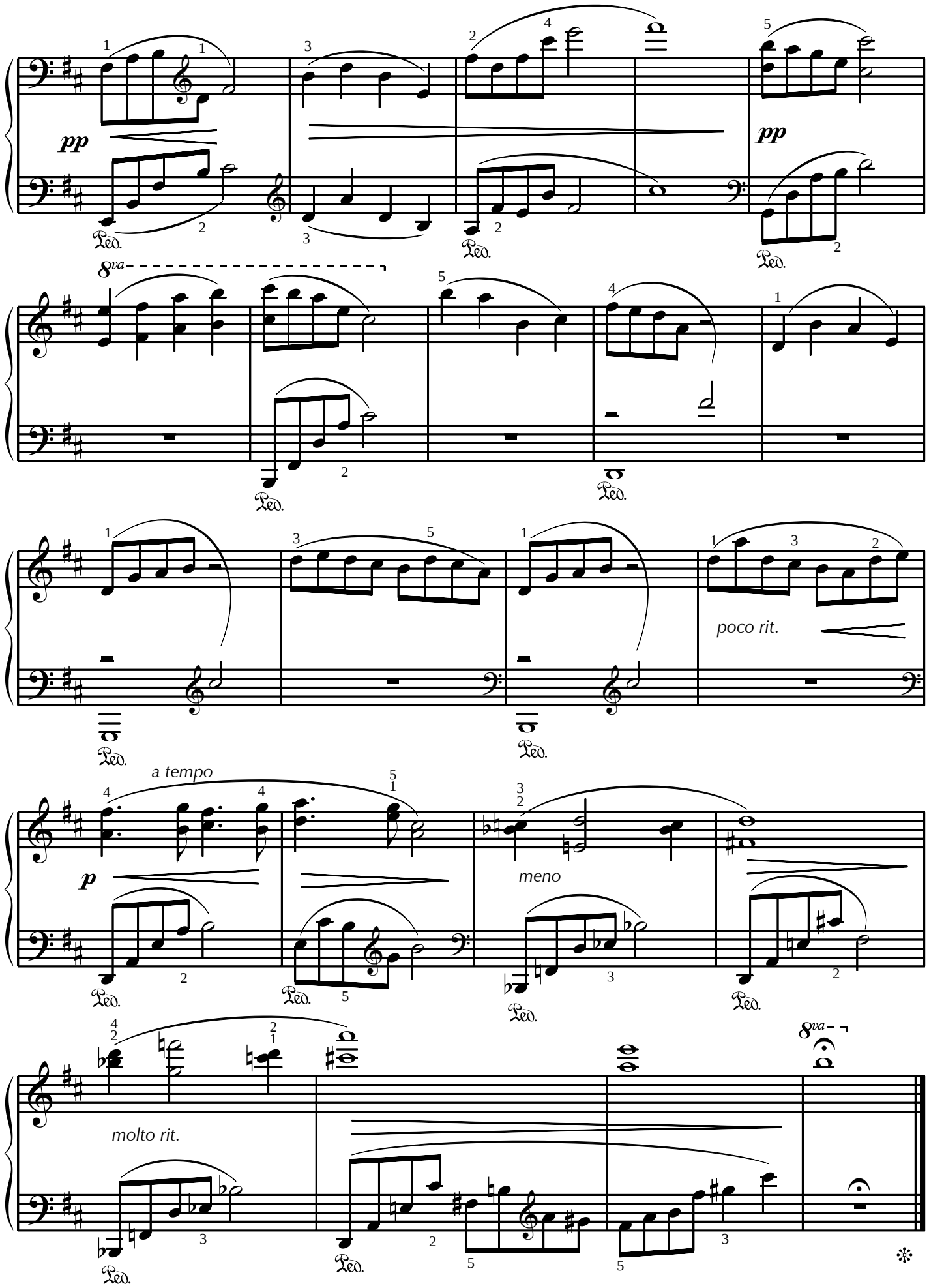


Ninth Nocturne



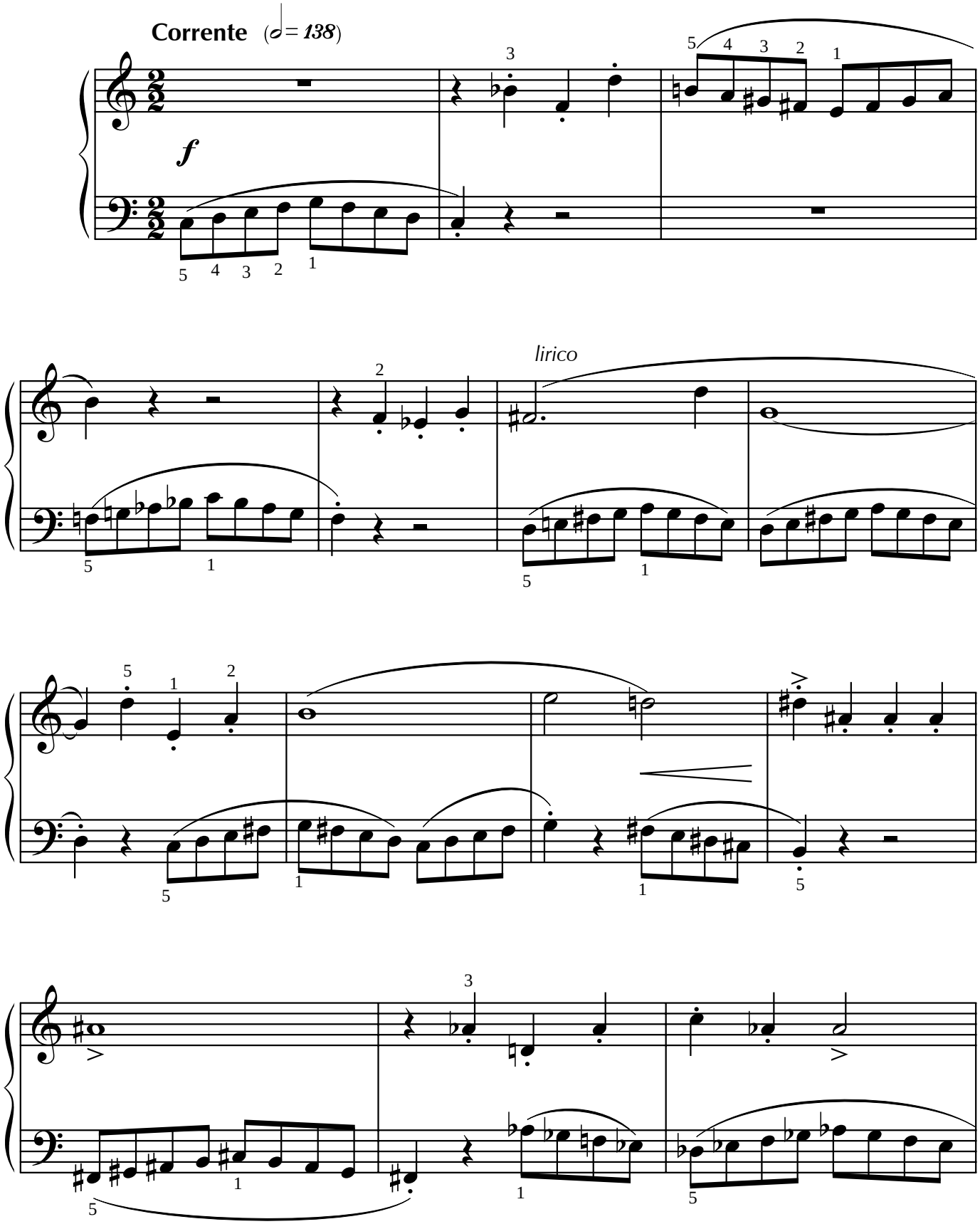

a tempo
pp
p
Ped.
cresc.
dim.


poco rit.
a tempo
p
meno
p
meno
pp
8va
ppp
subito
8vb


pp
pp
8va
poco rit.
a tempo
p
meno
molto rit.
8va
Ped.

Etude No. 1

(... for the five fingers)



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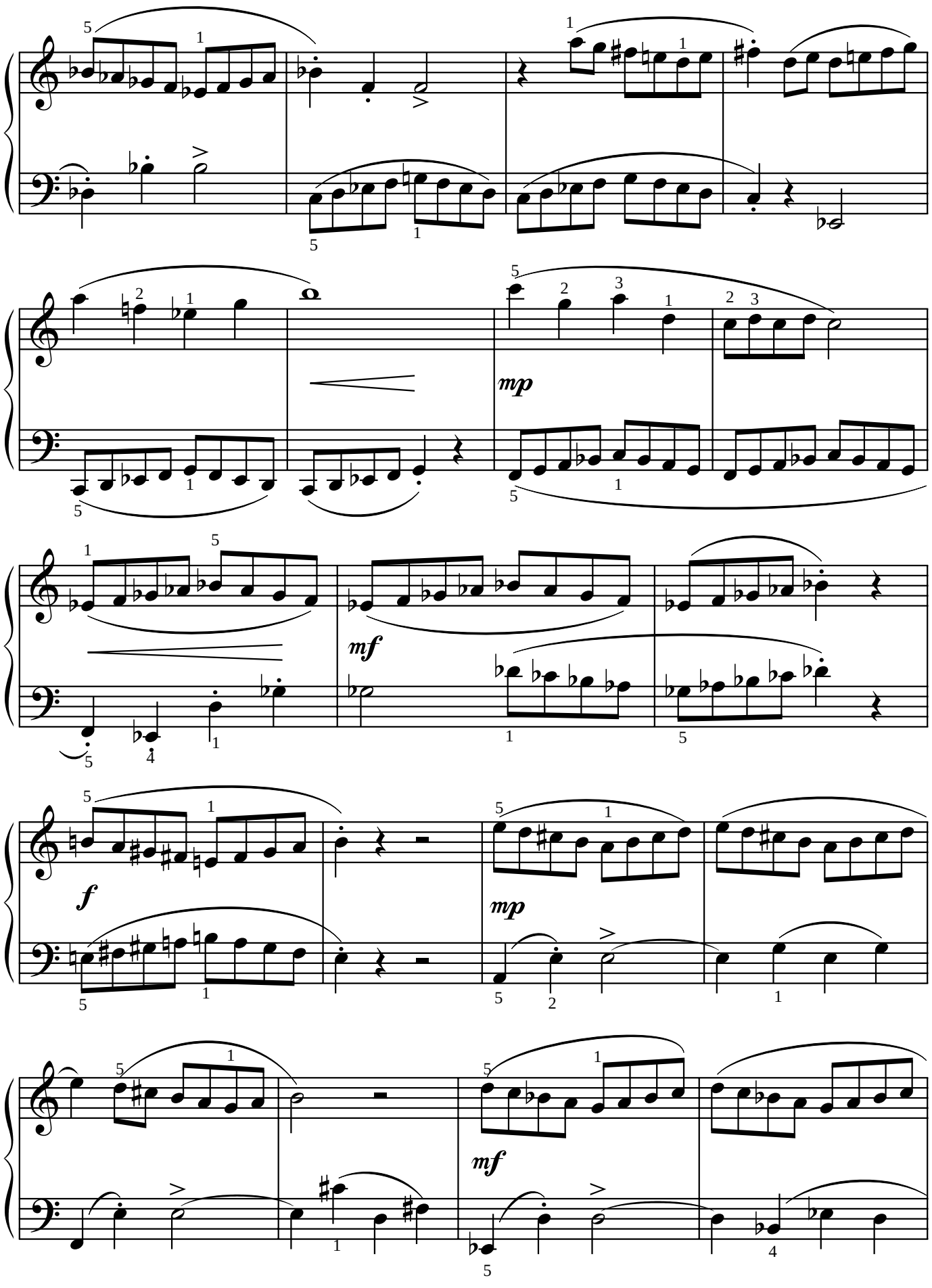
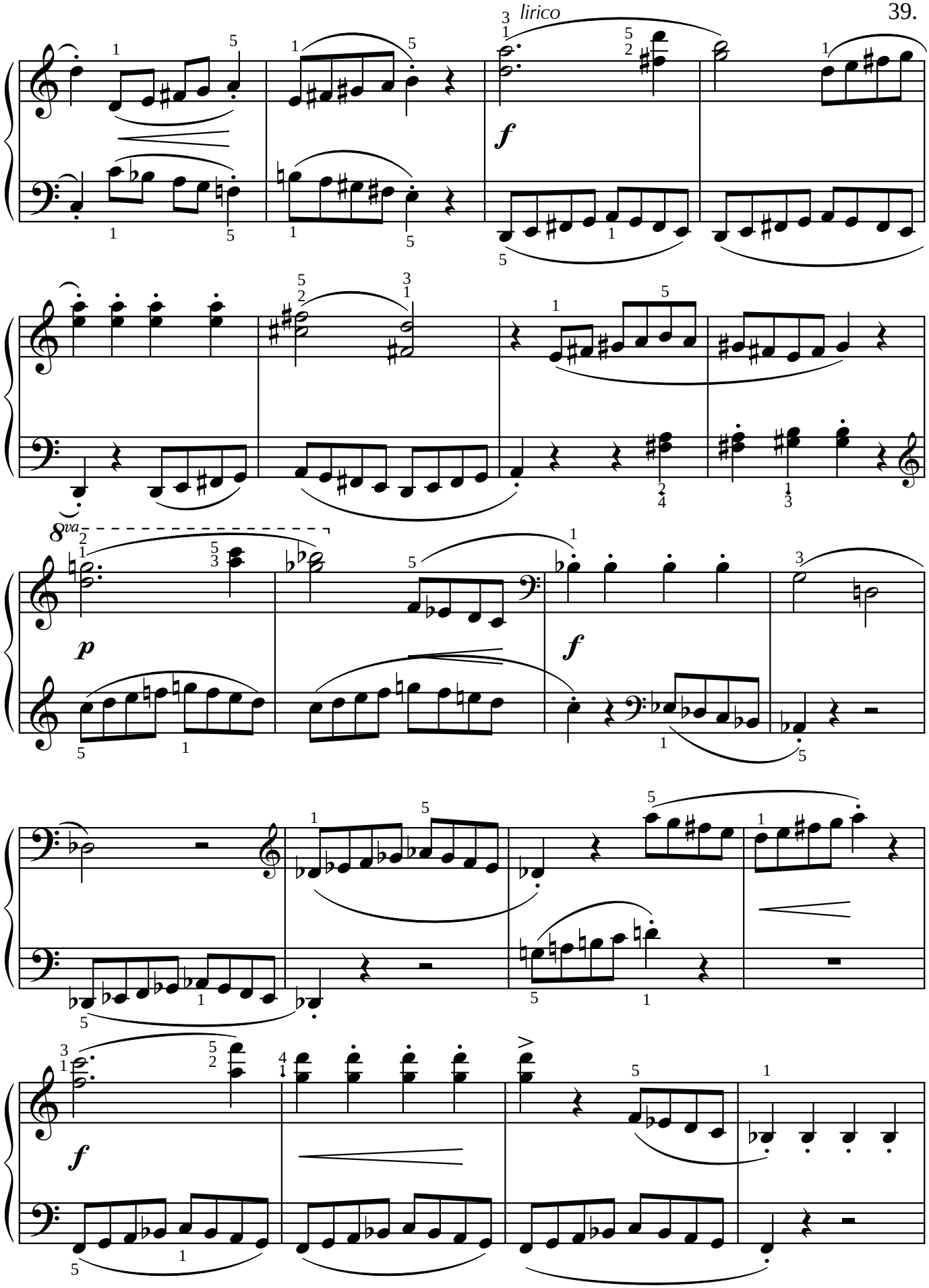
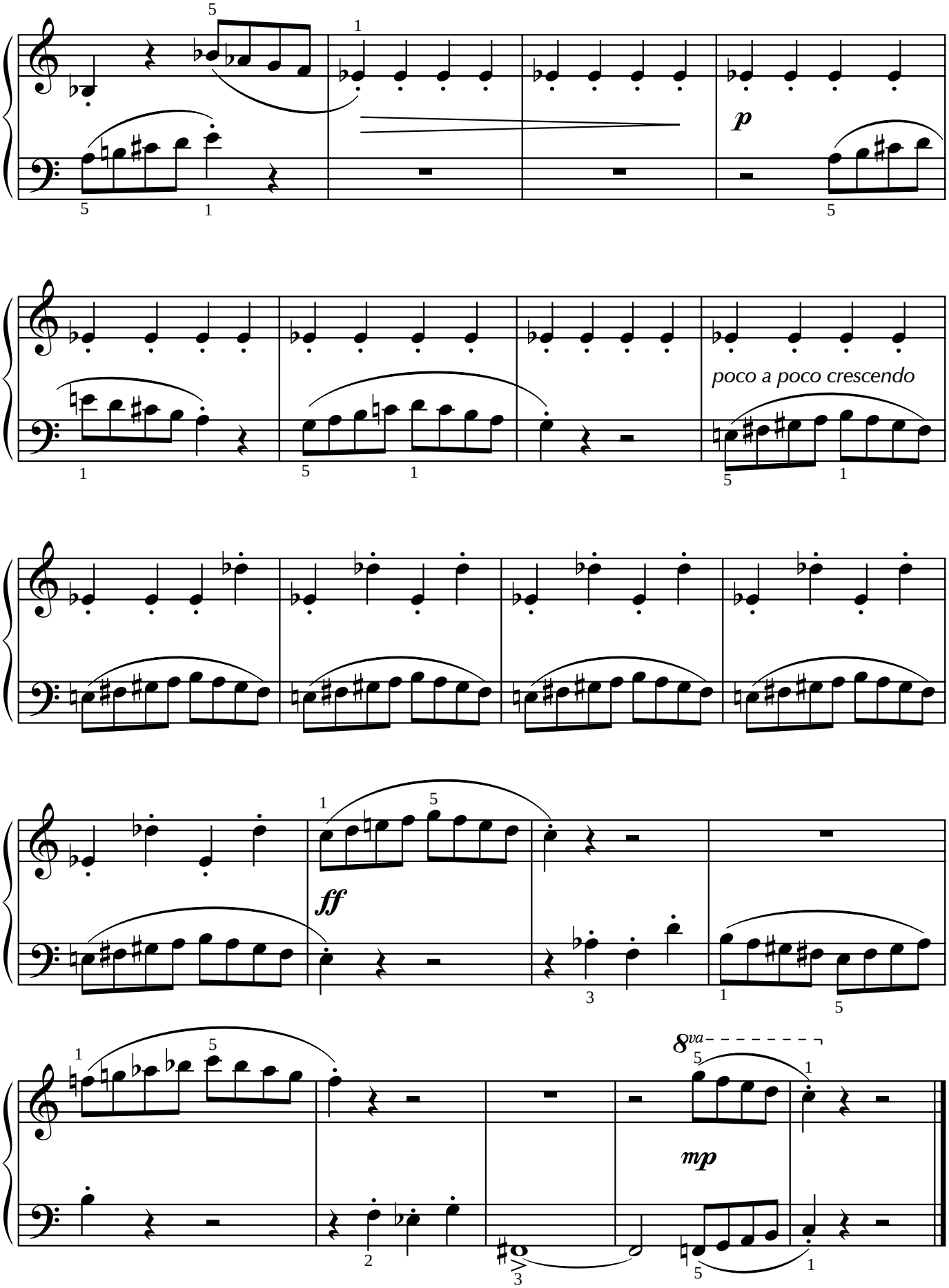



lirico
f
8va
p
f
f


p
poco a poco crescendo
ff
8va
mp