VOLUME 9

Jeff Manookian

GRADUS

PROGRESSIVE PIANO REPERTOIRE IN TWELVE VOLUMES

Gary Barnett
editor

Windsor Editions

Jeff Manookian

GRADUS

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

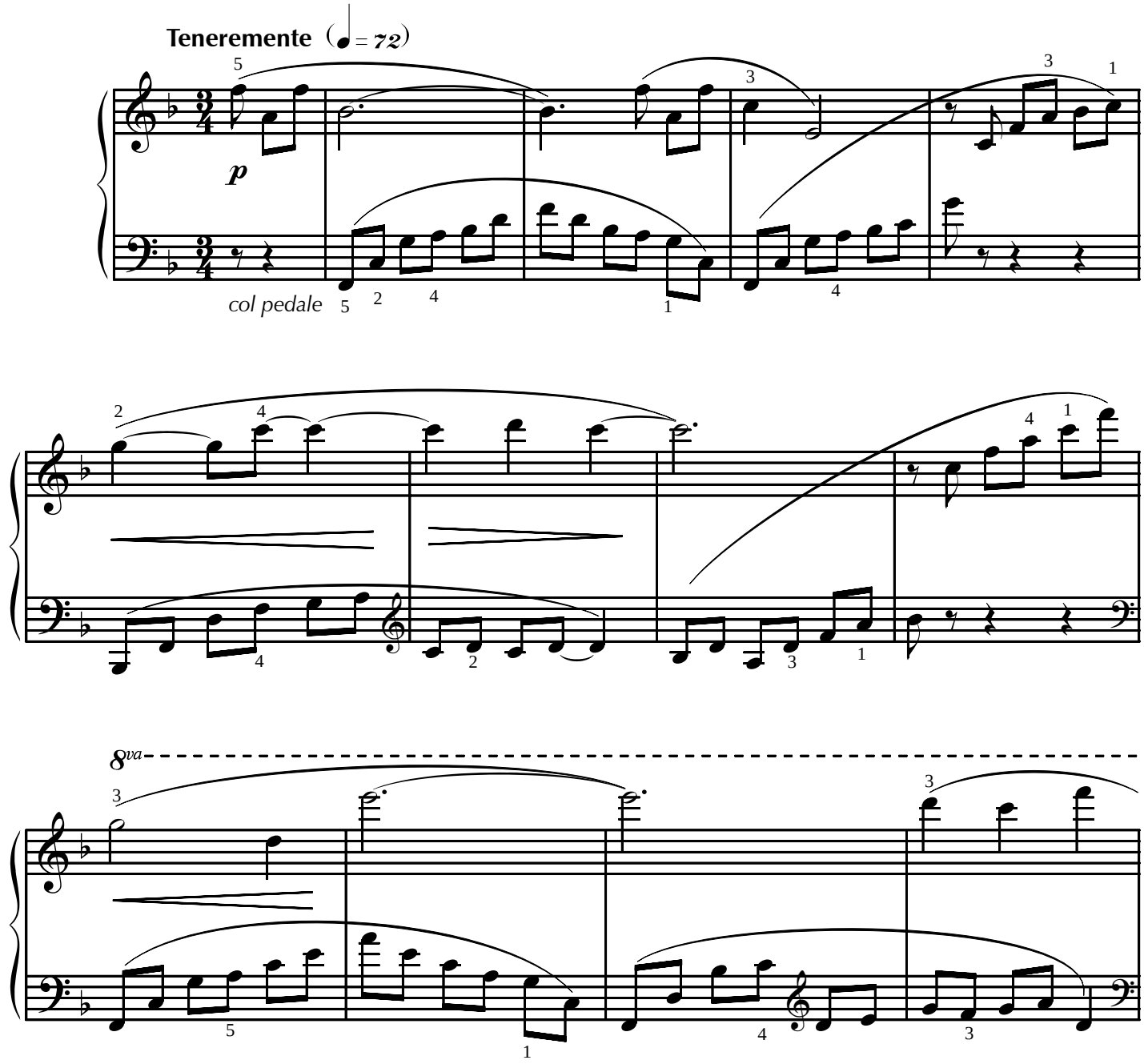
Progressive Piano Repertoire in Twelve Volumes

VOLUME NINE

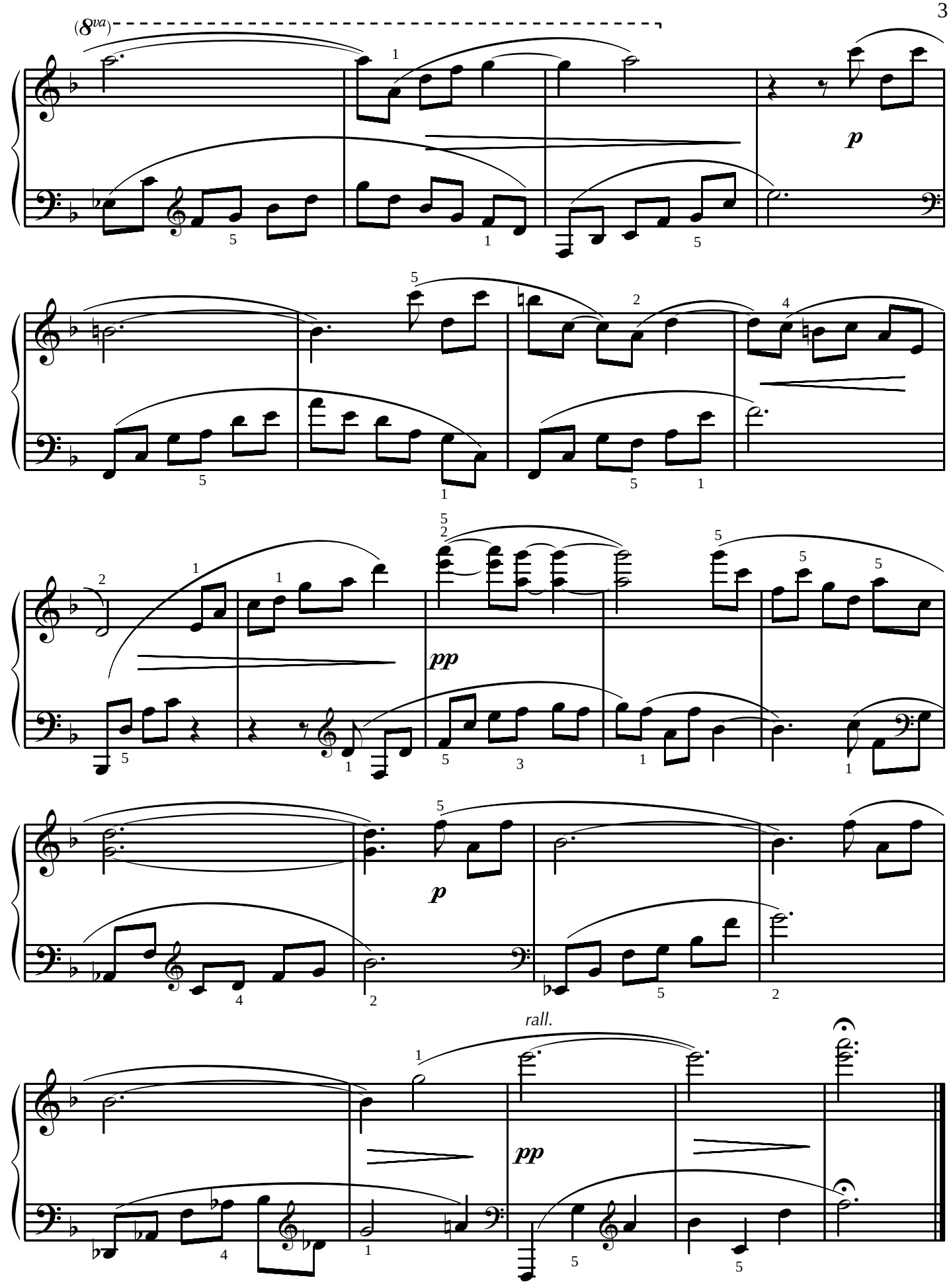
JEFF MANOOKIAN

Etude No. 2

(... for arpeggios)

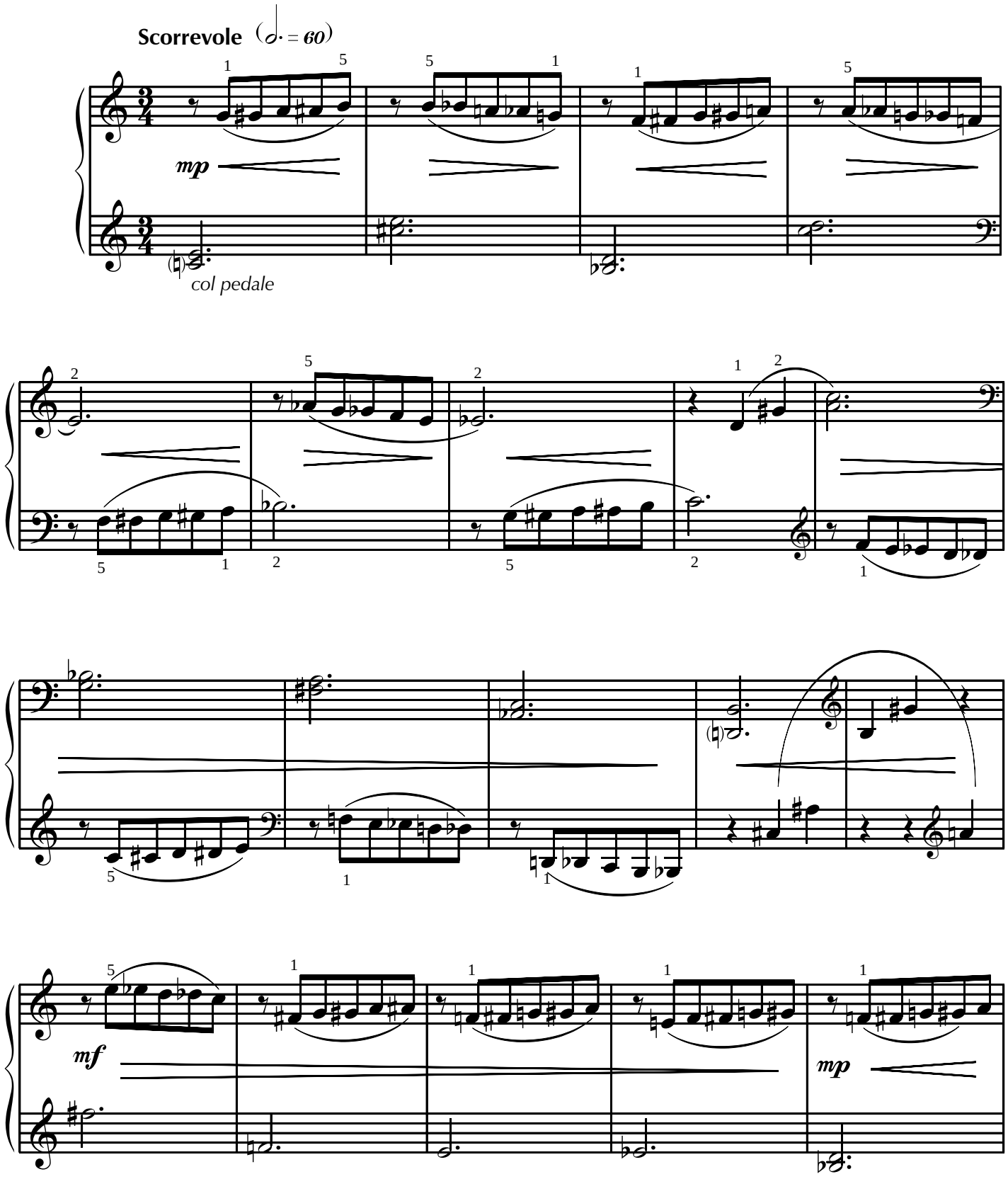


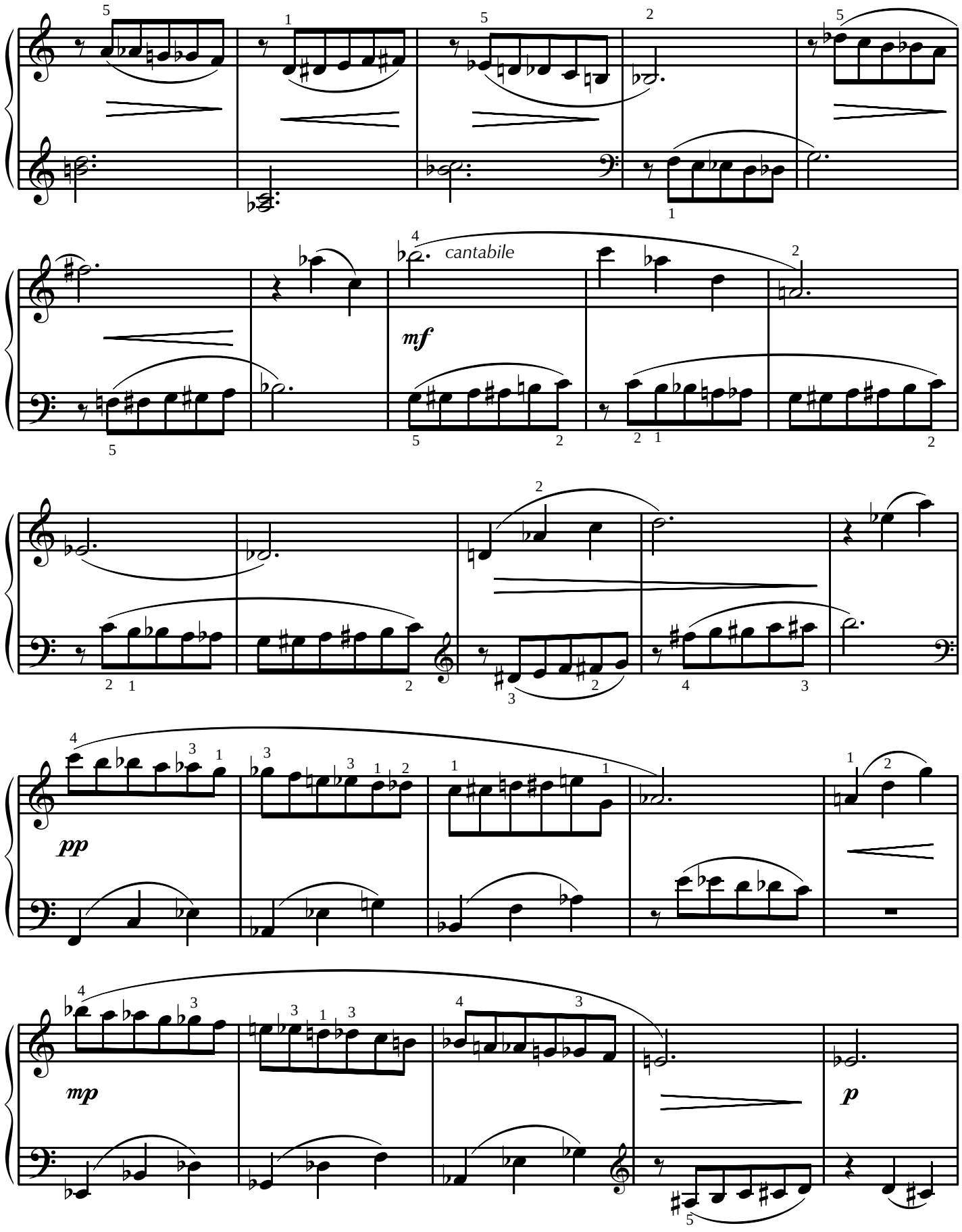
Copyright © 2006 by Windsor Editions
all rights reserved


(8va)
p
pp
p
rall.
pp

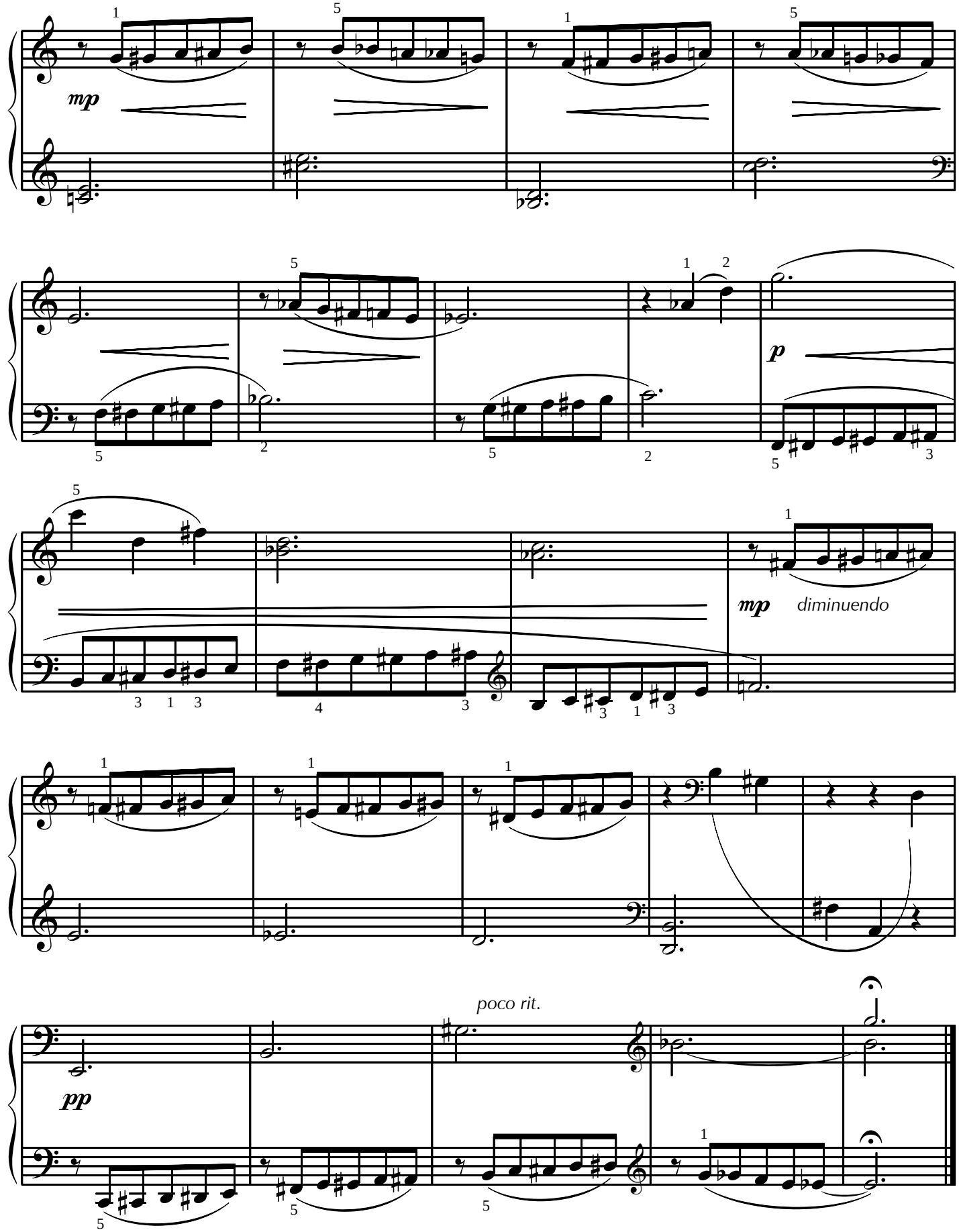
Etude No. 3

(... for chromatics)



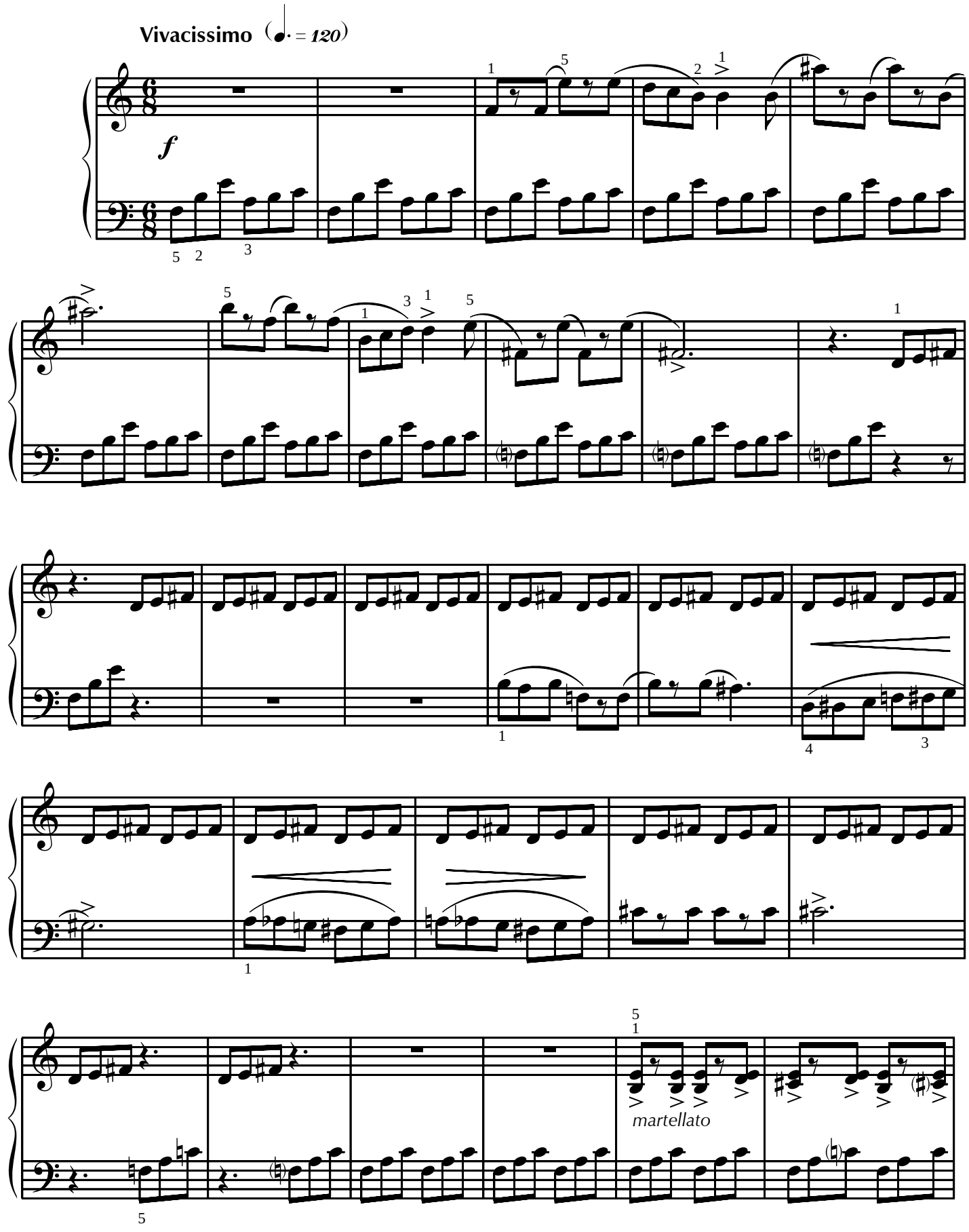

cantabile
mf
pp
mp
p

6.

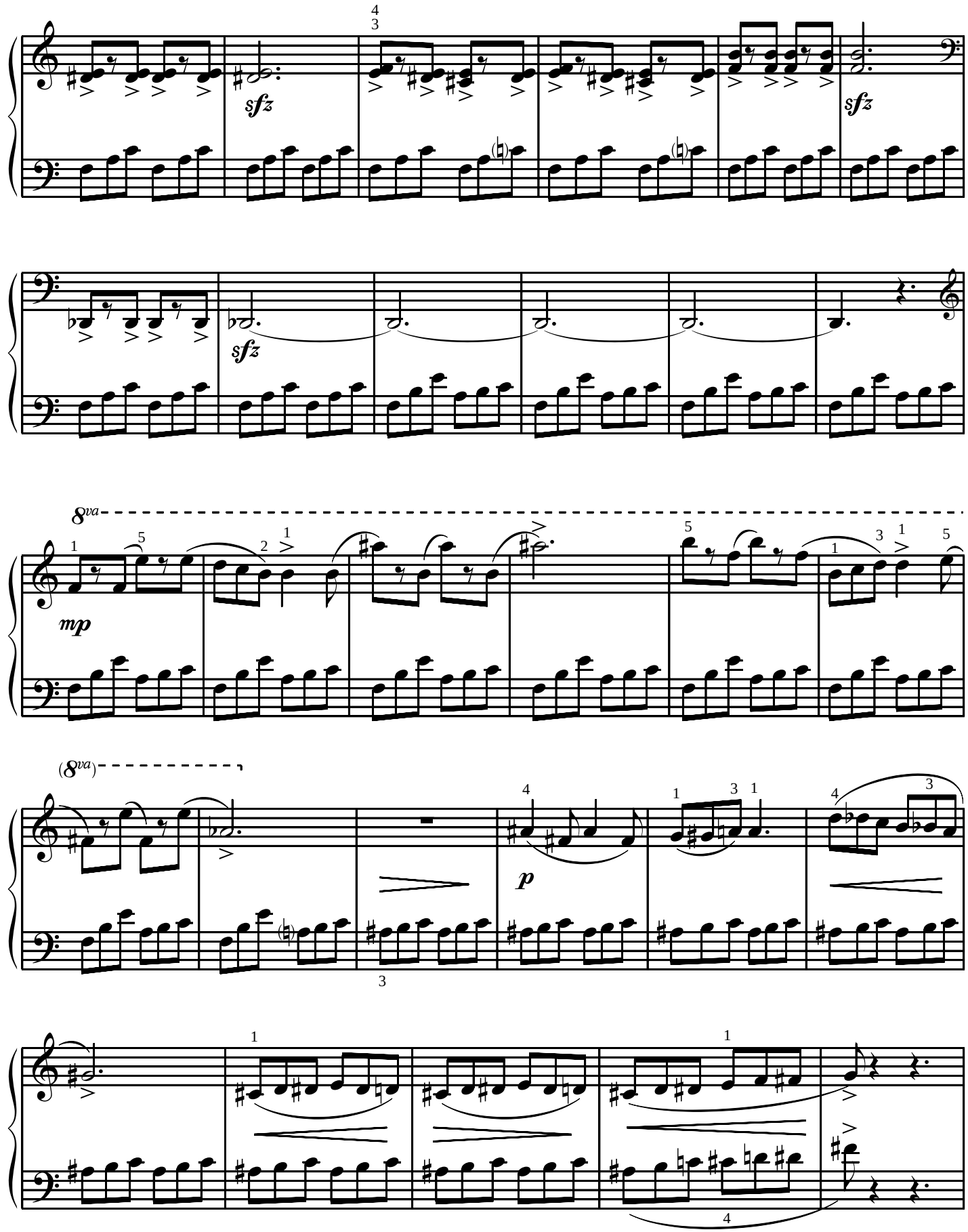


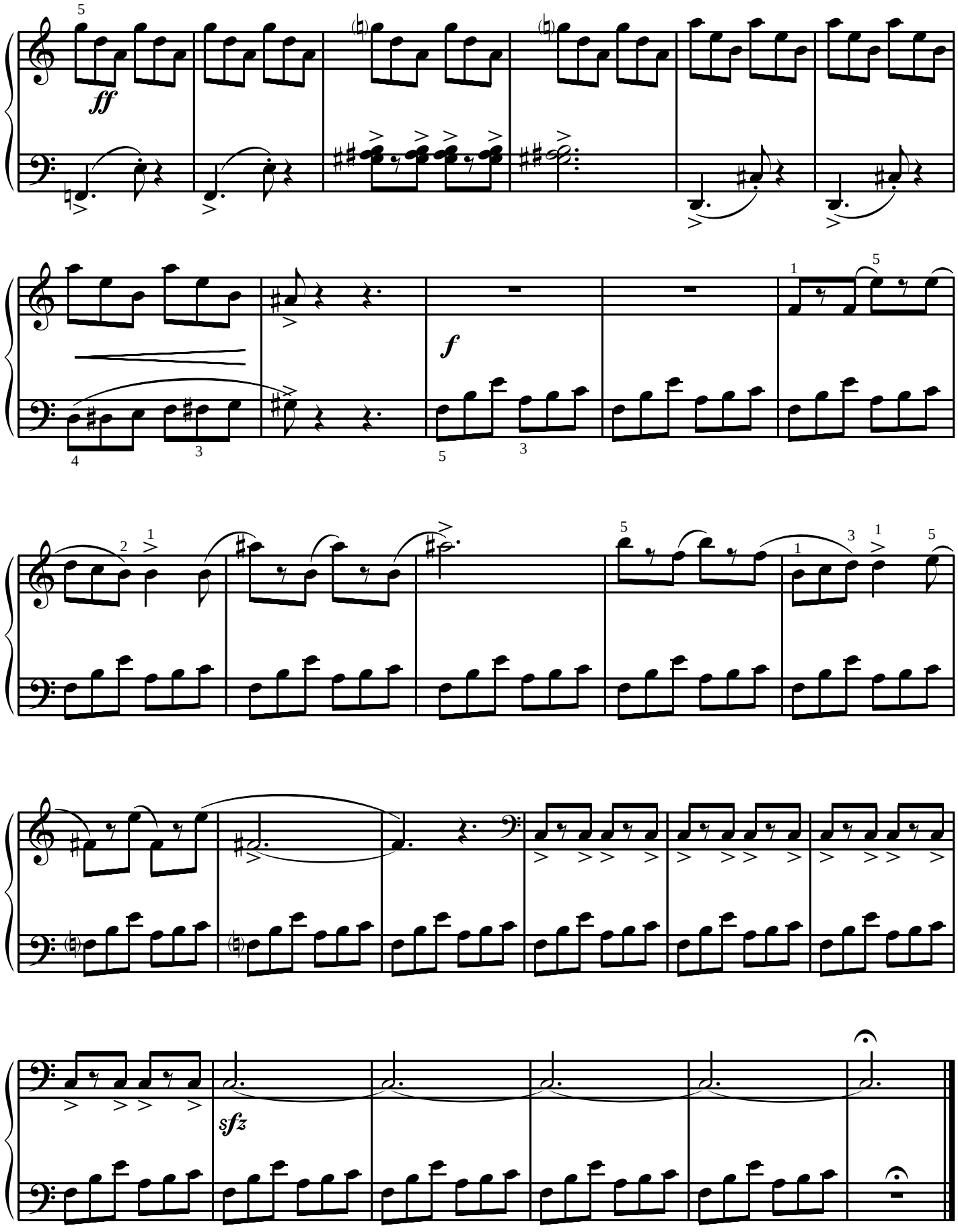
Tarantella

Vivacissimo (♩. = 120)

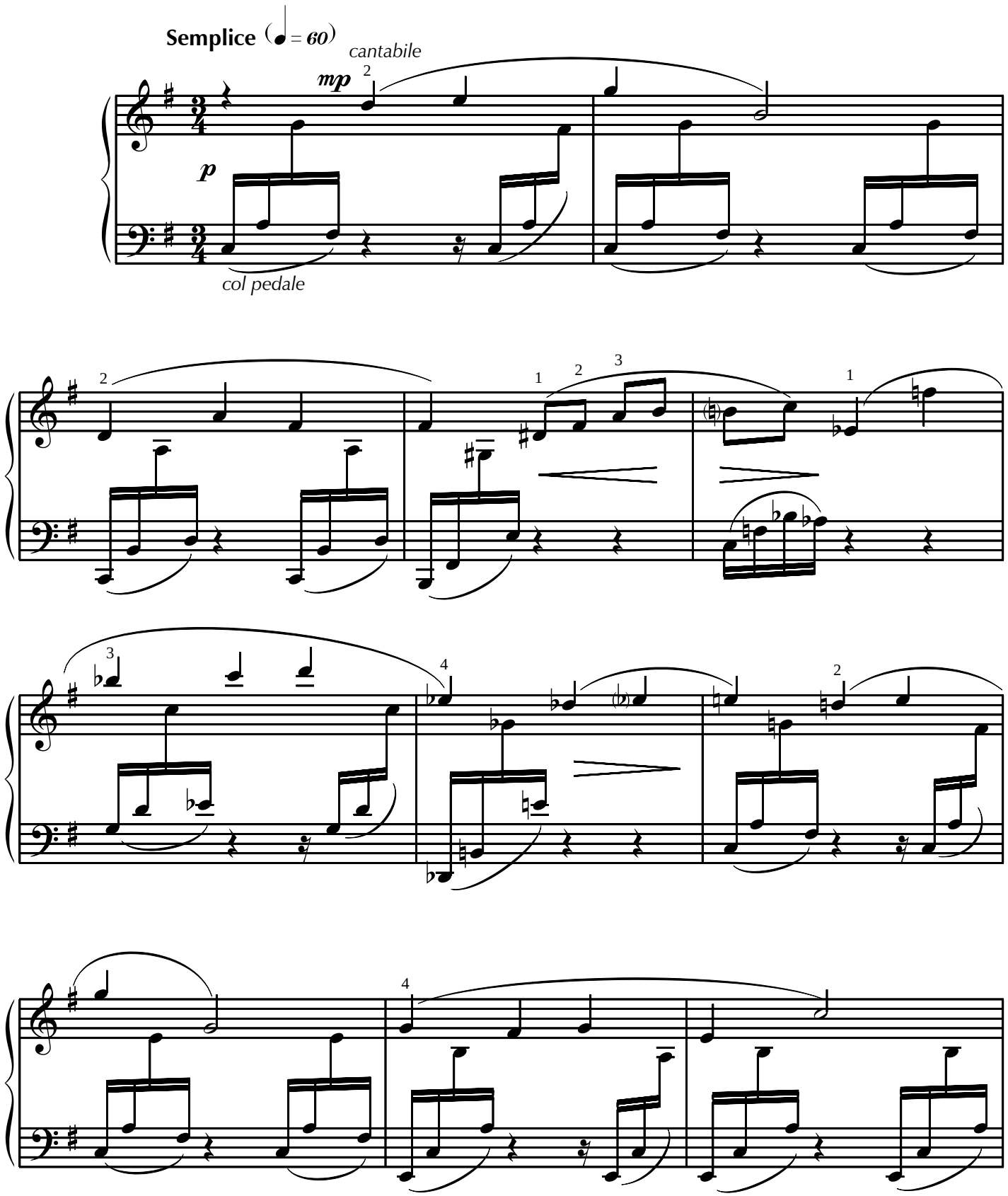


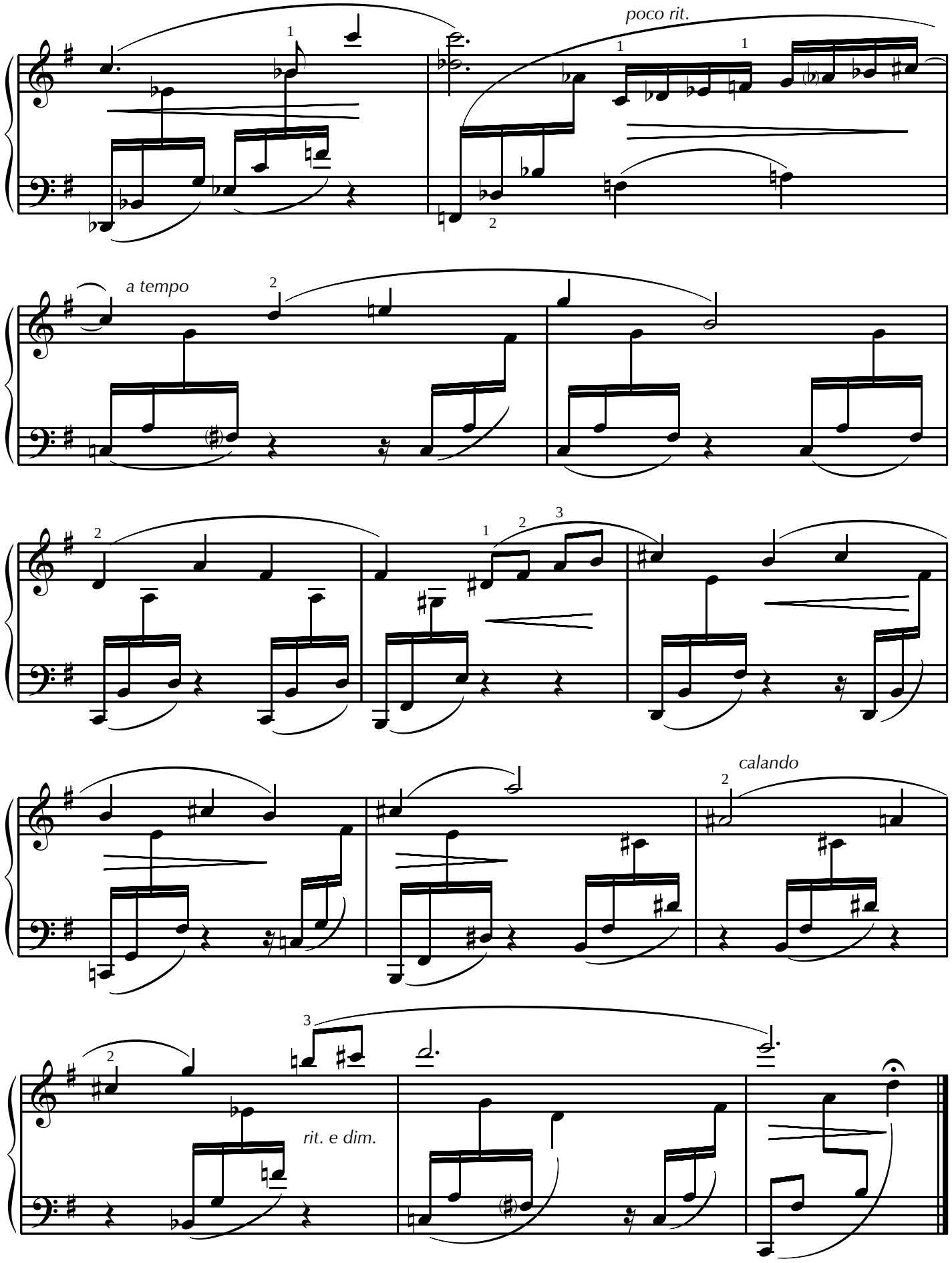
8.




ff
f
sfz

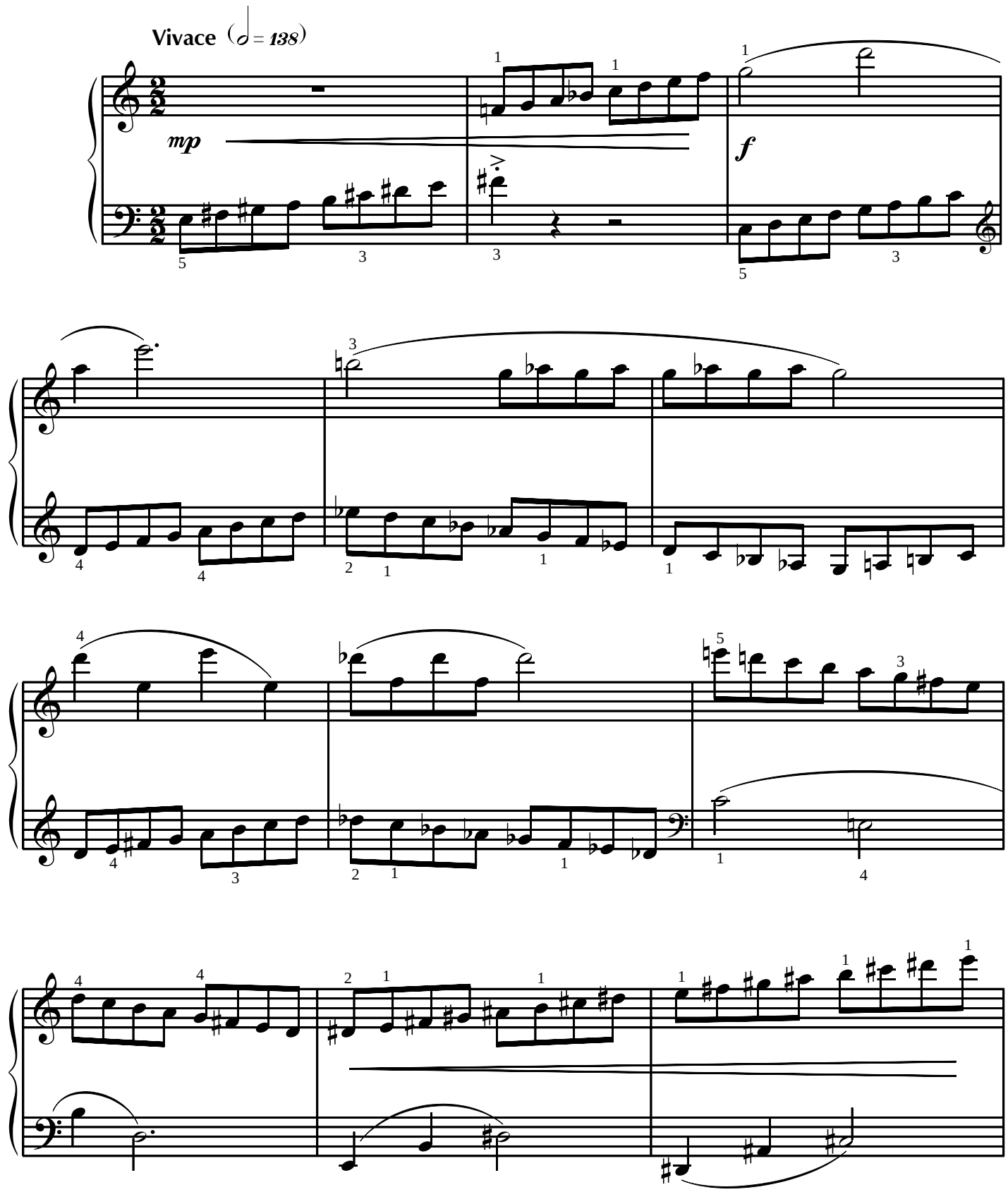
Tenth Nocturne

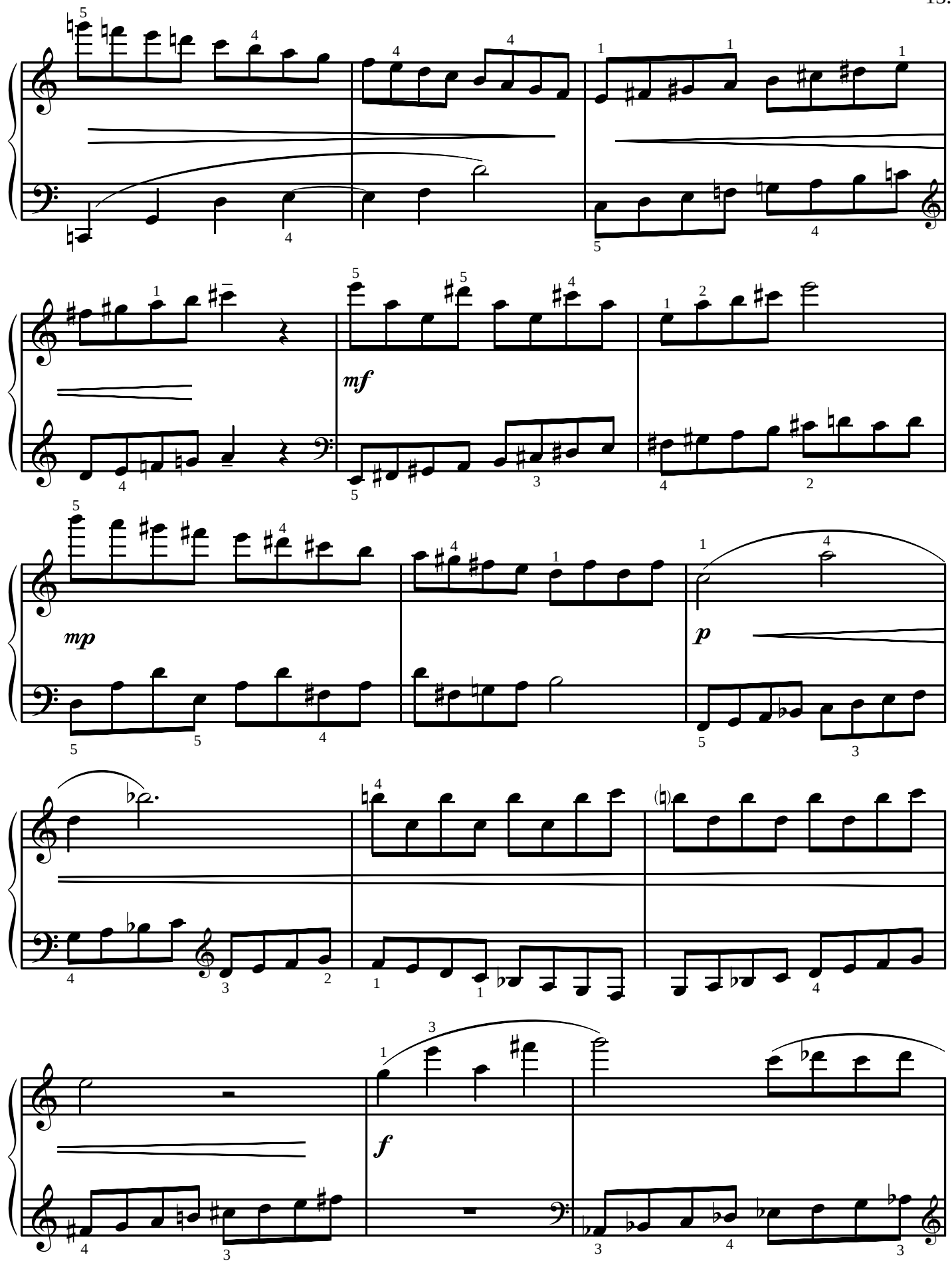



poco rit.
a tempo
calando
rit. e dim.

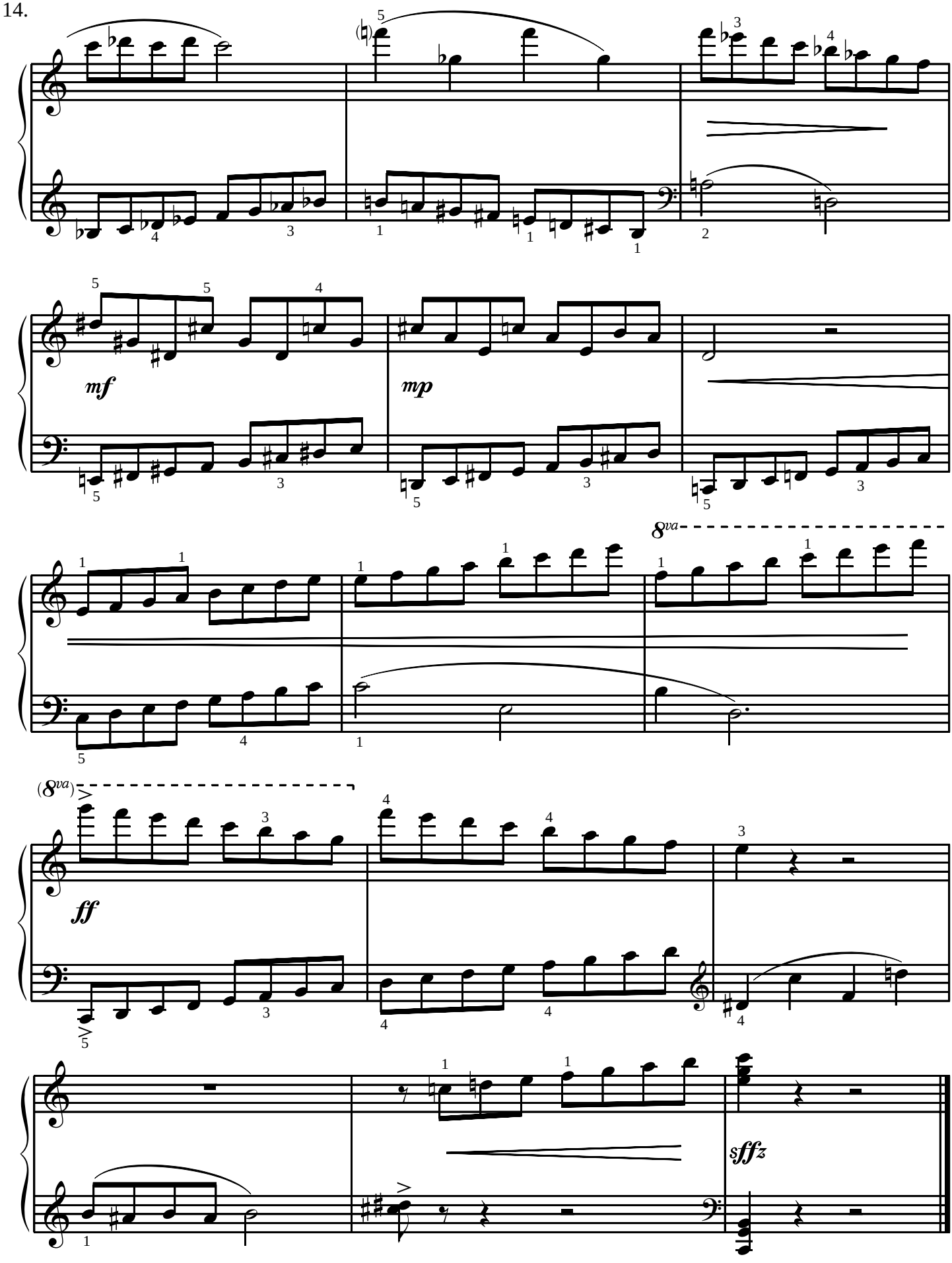
Etude No. 4

(... for scales)

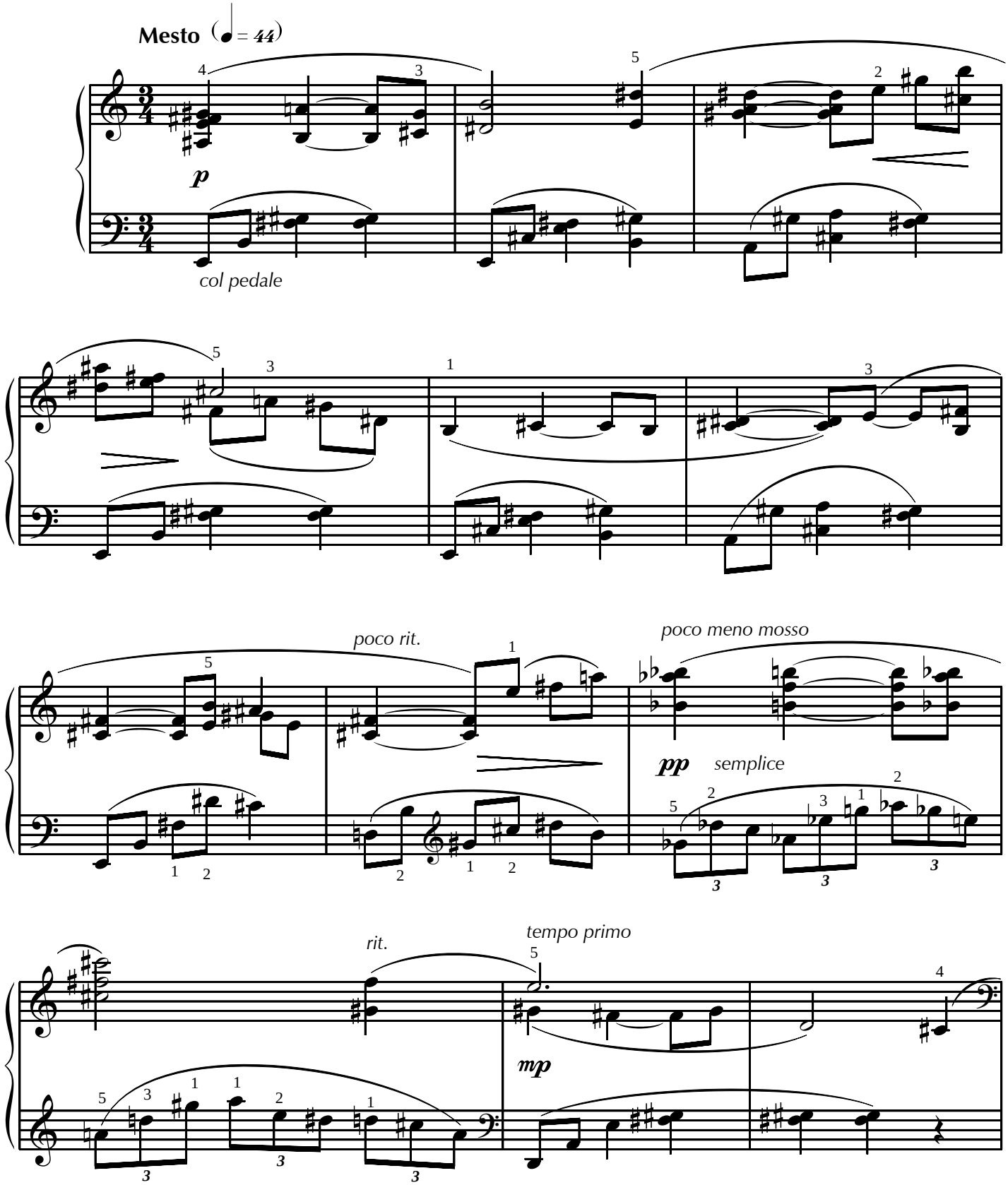



mf
mp
p
f

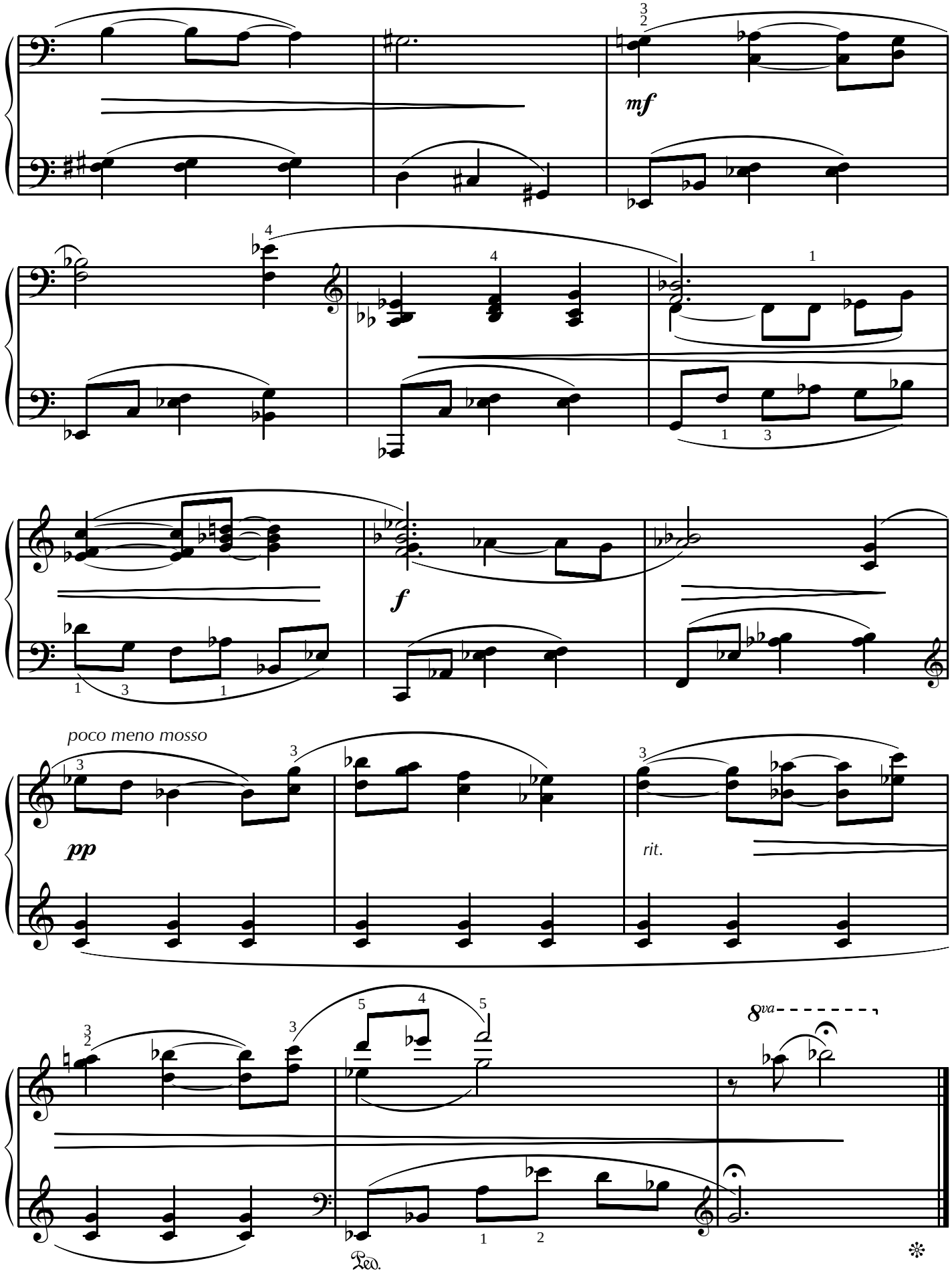
14.



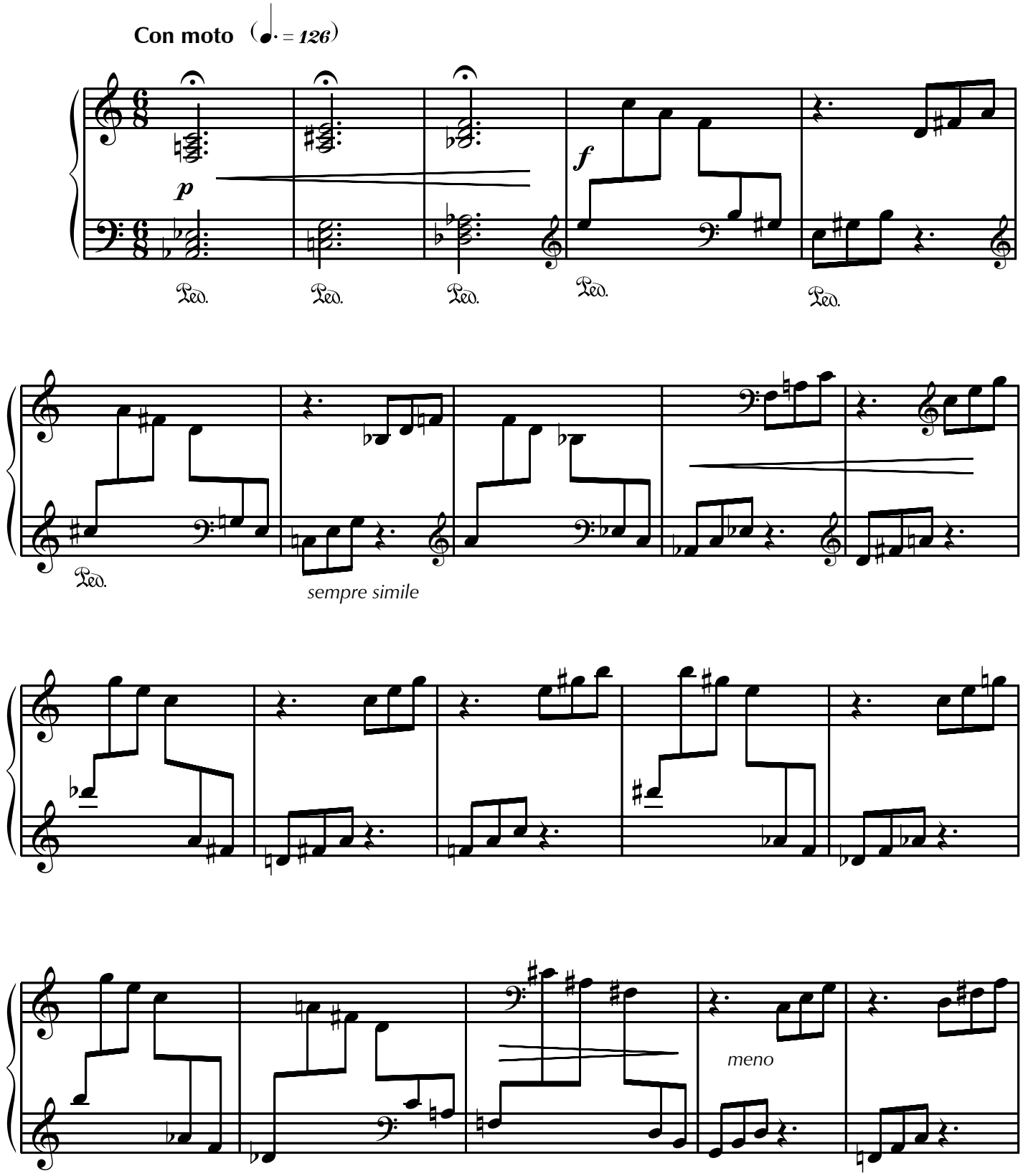
Eleventh Nocturne

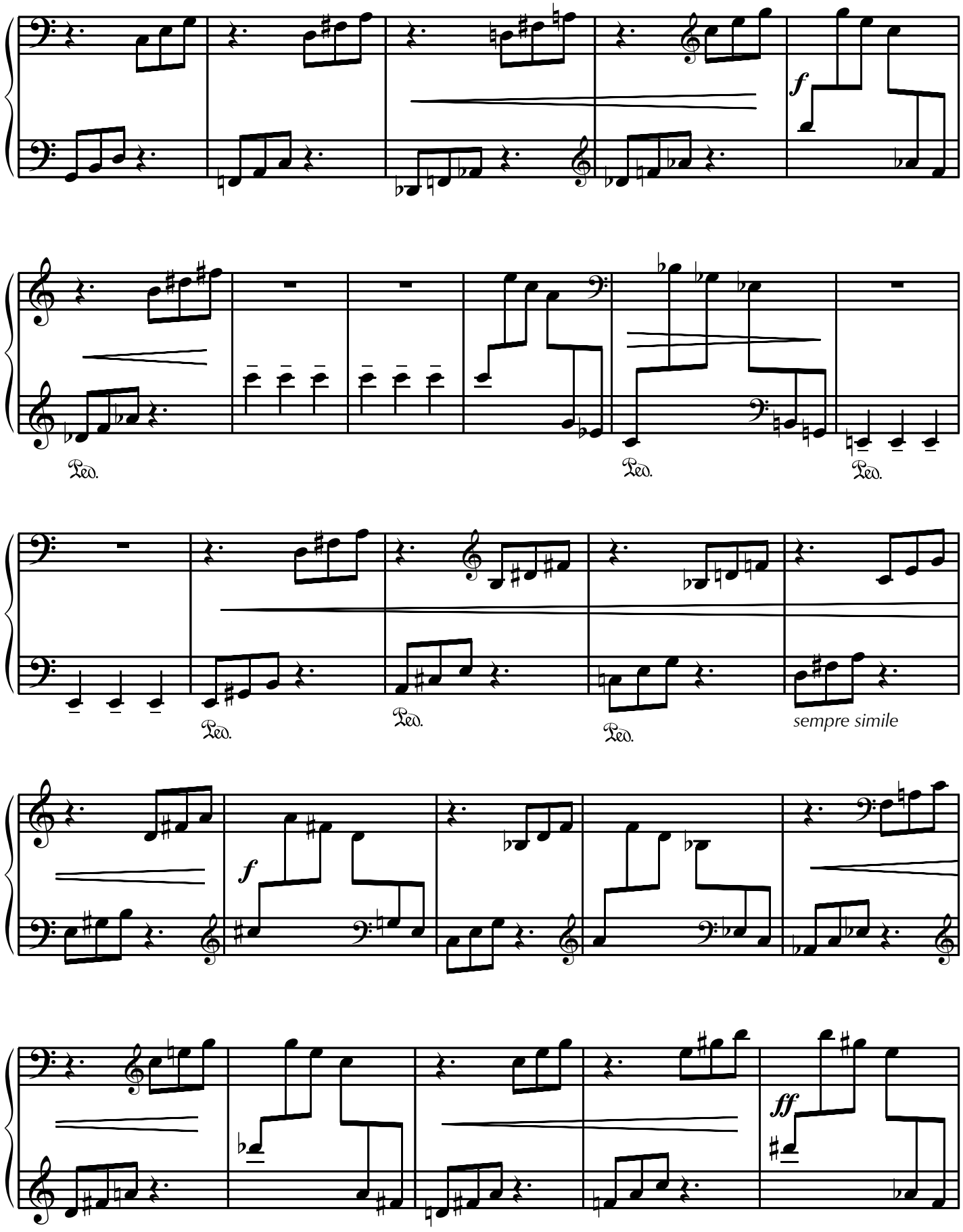


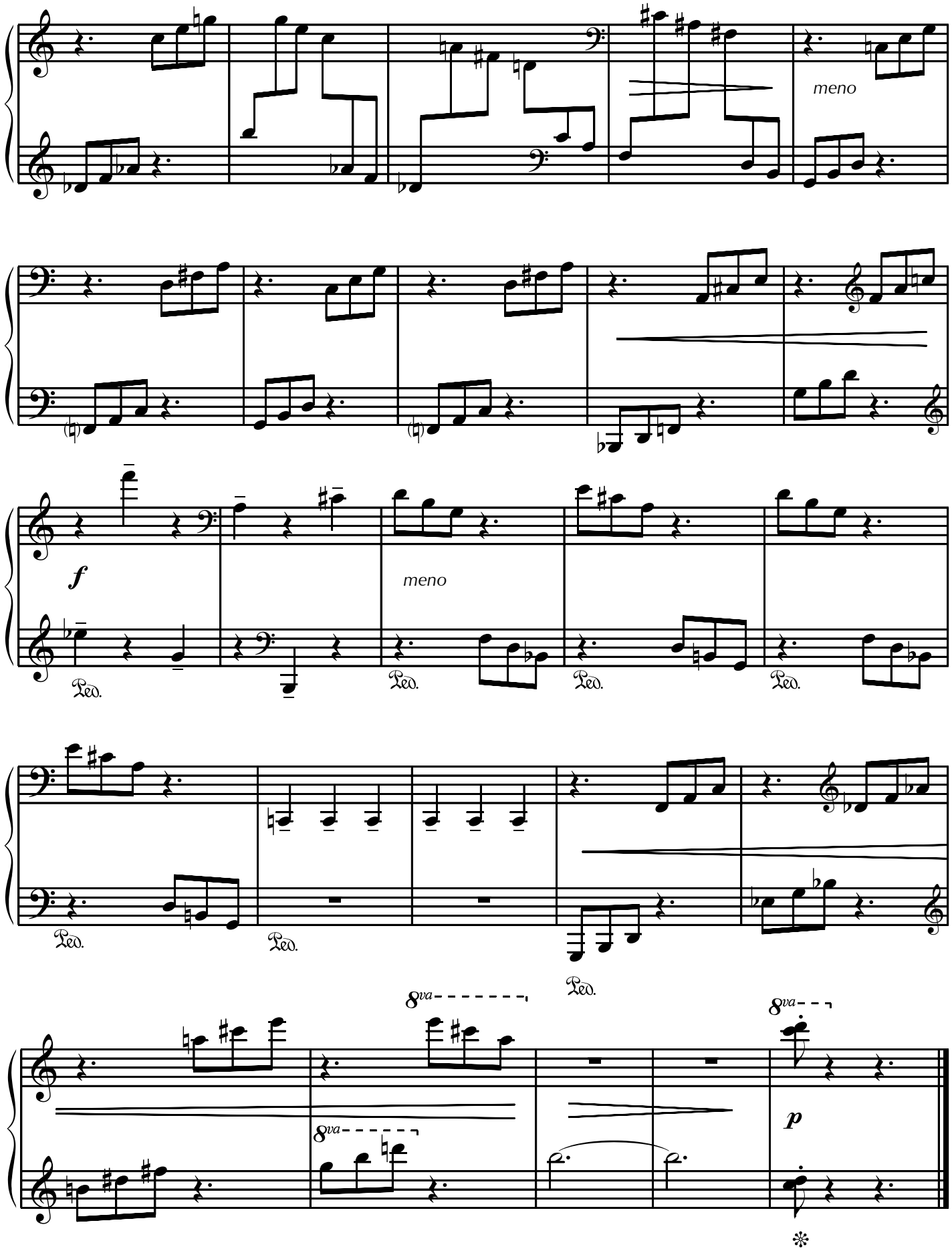
16.



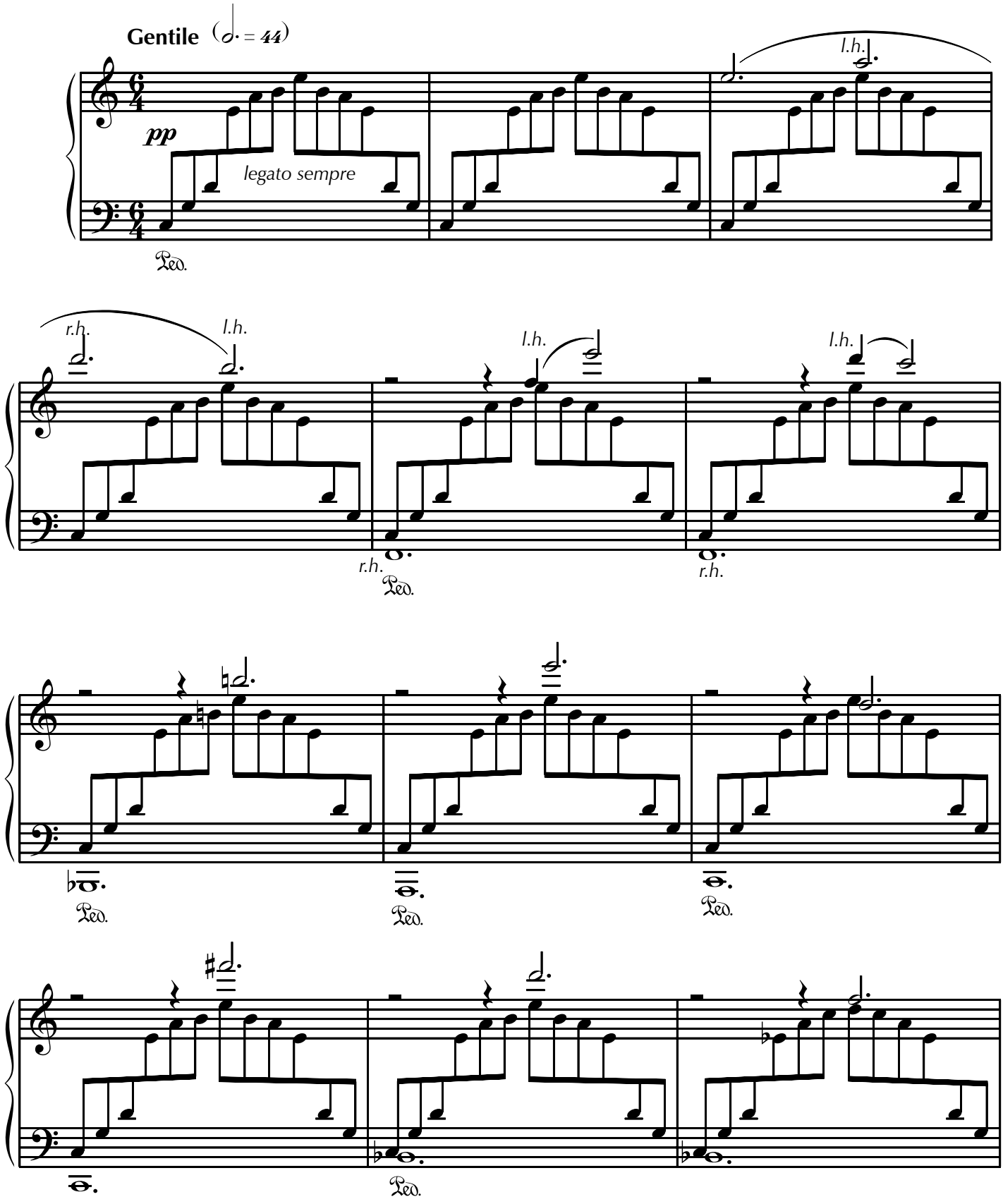
Roller Coaster

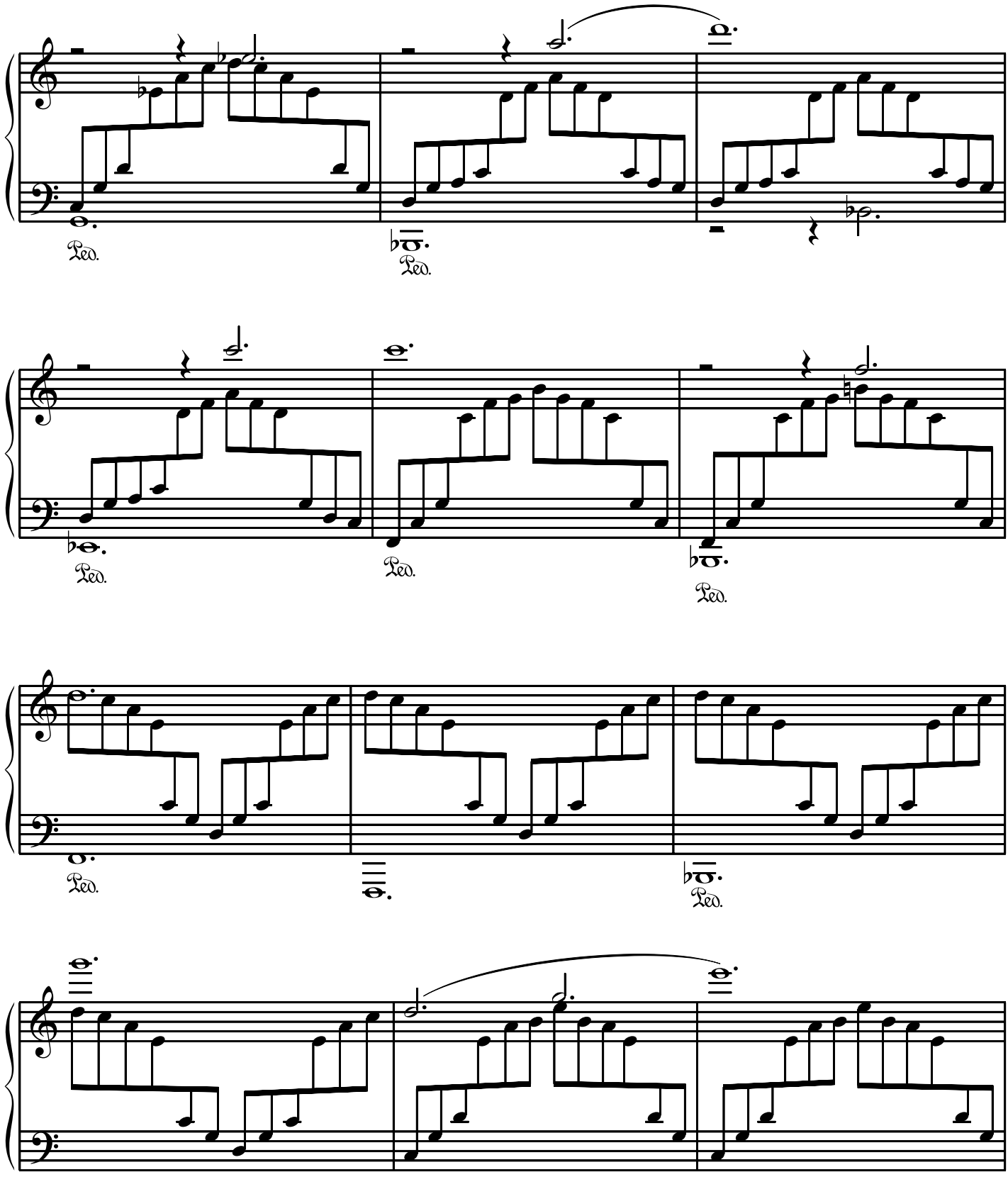


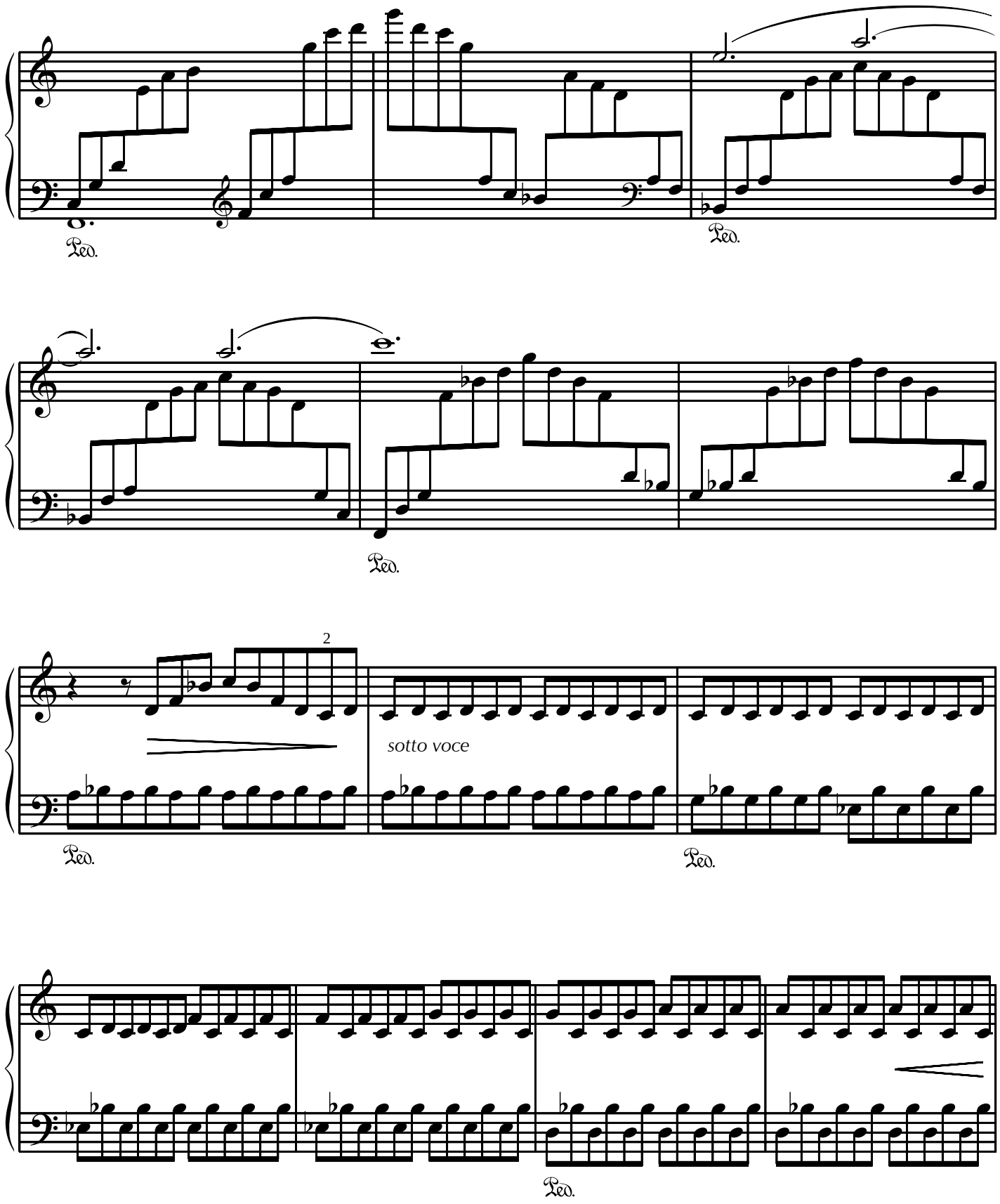

f
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
sempre simile
f
ff

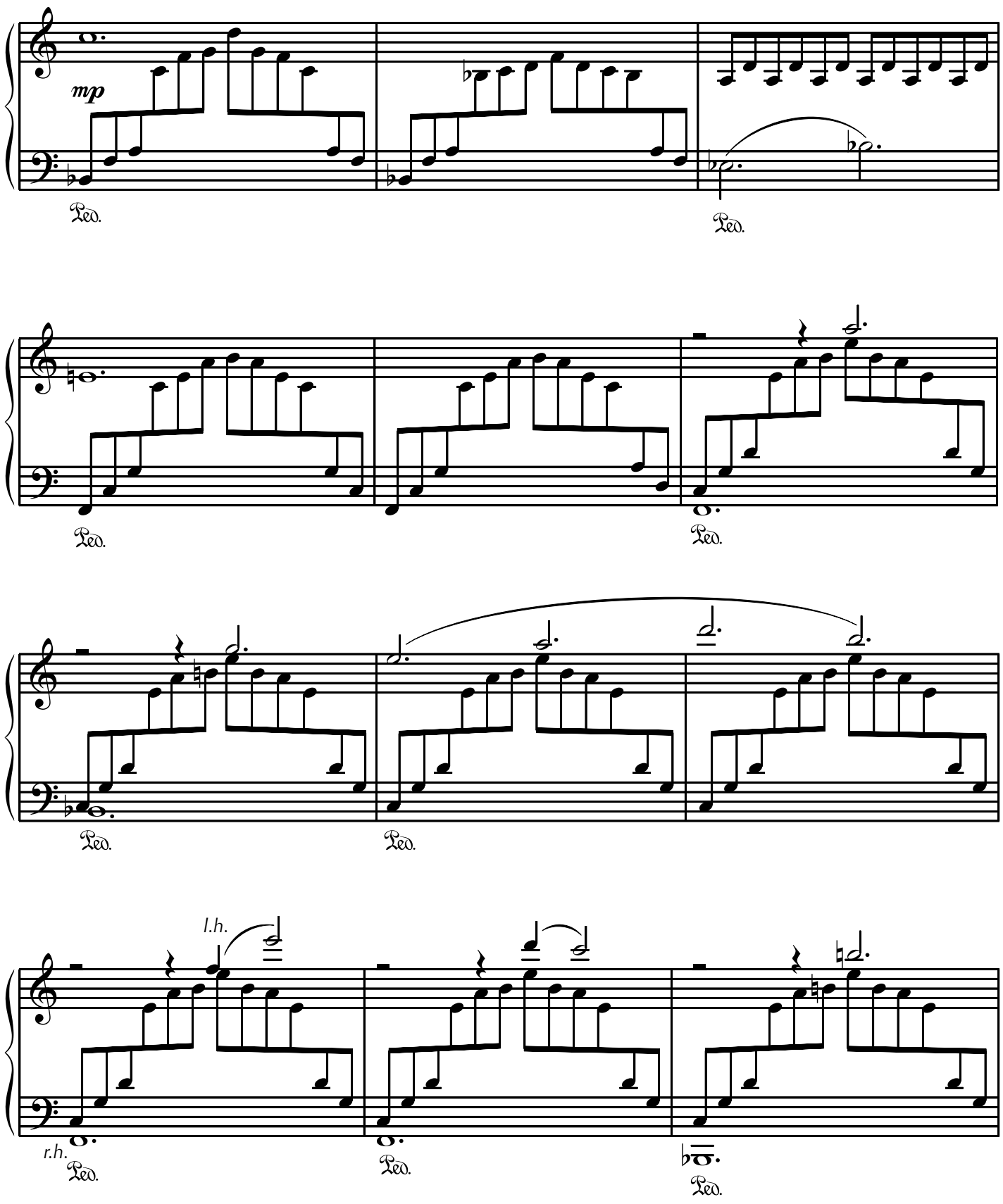

meno
f
meno
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
8va
8va
8va
p

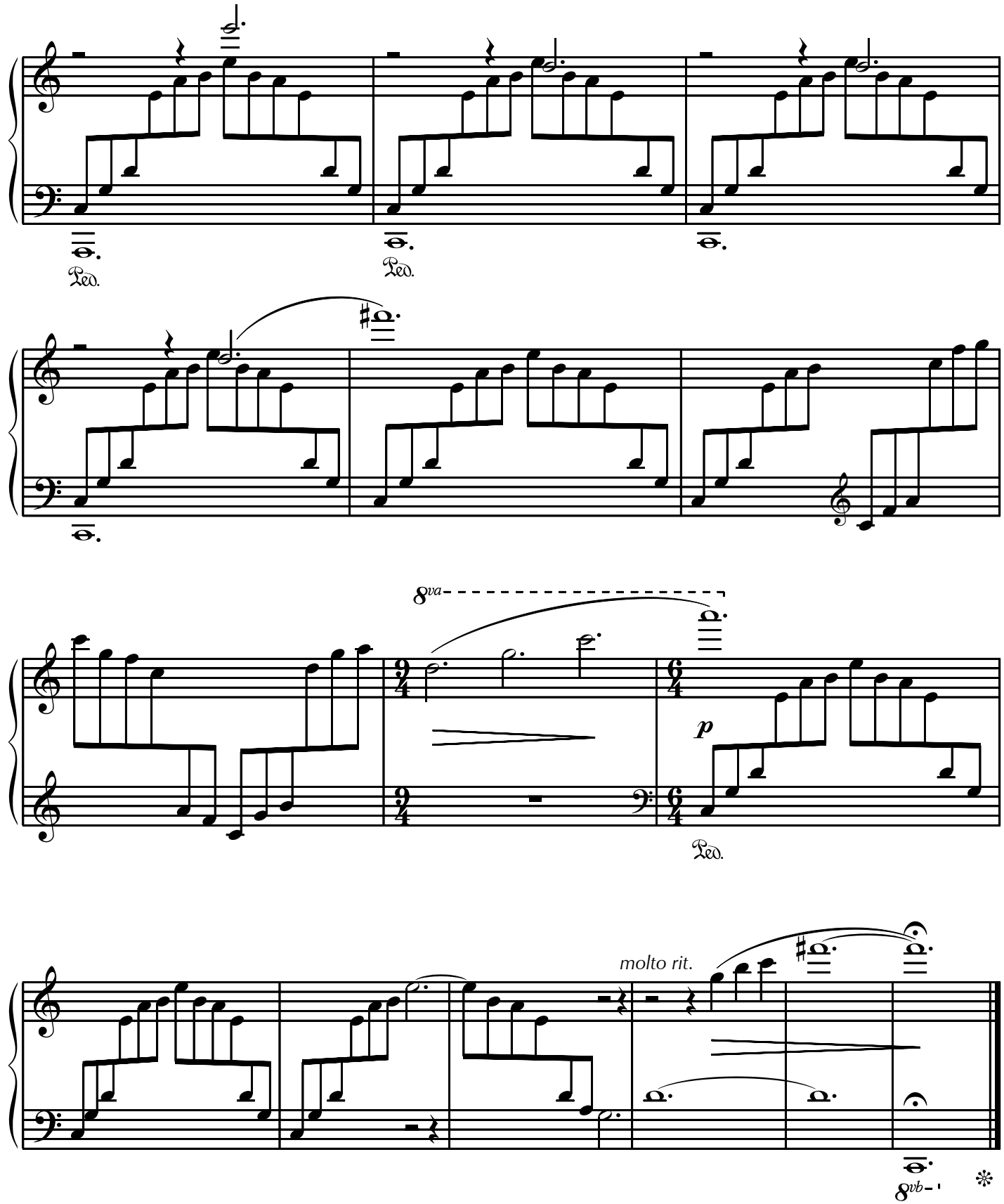
A Boat on the Ocean



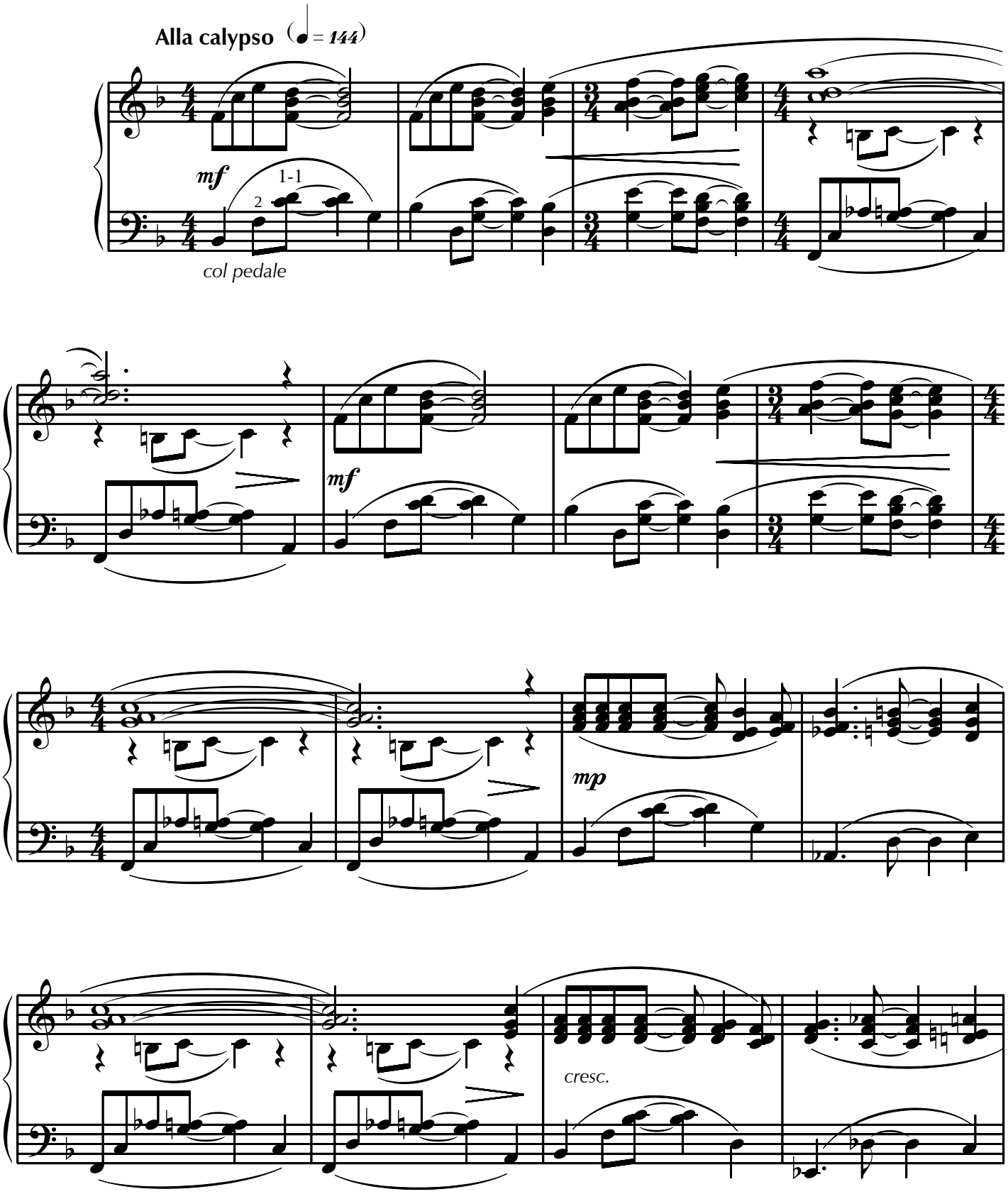

Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

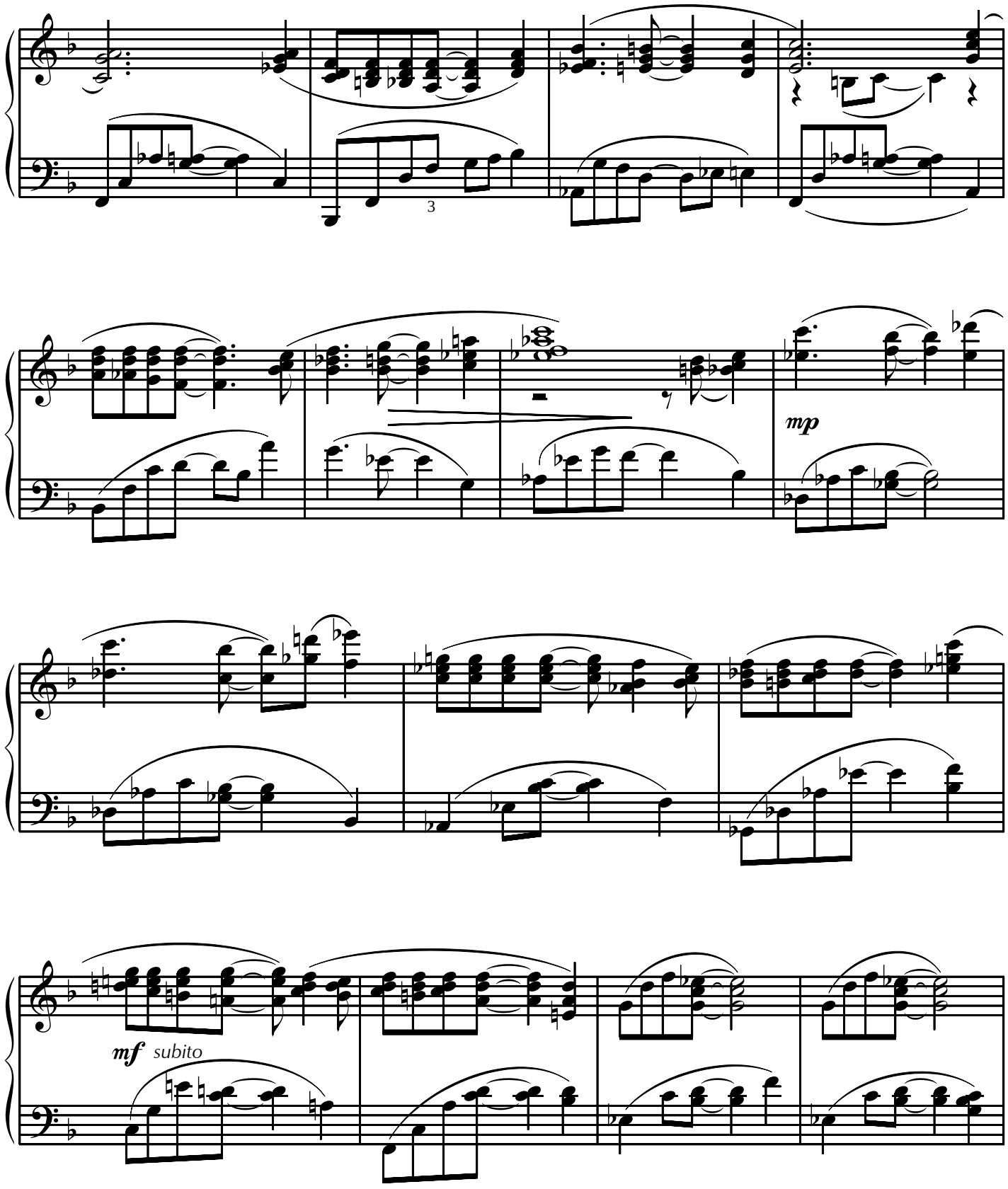

Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
2
sotto voce
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

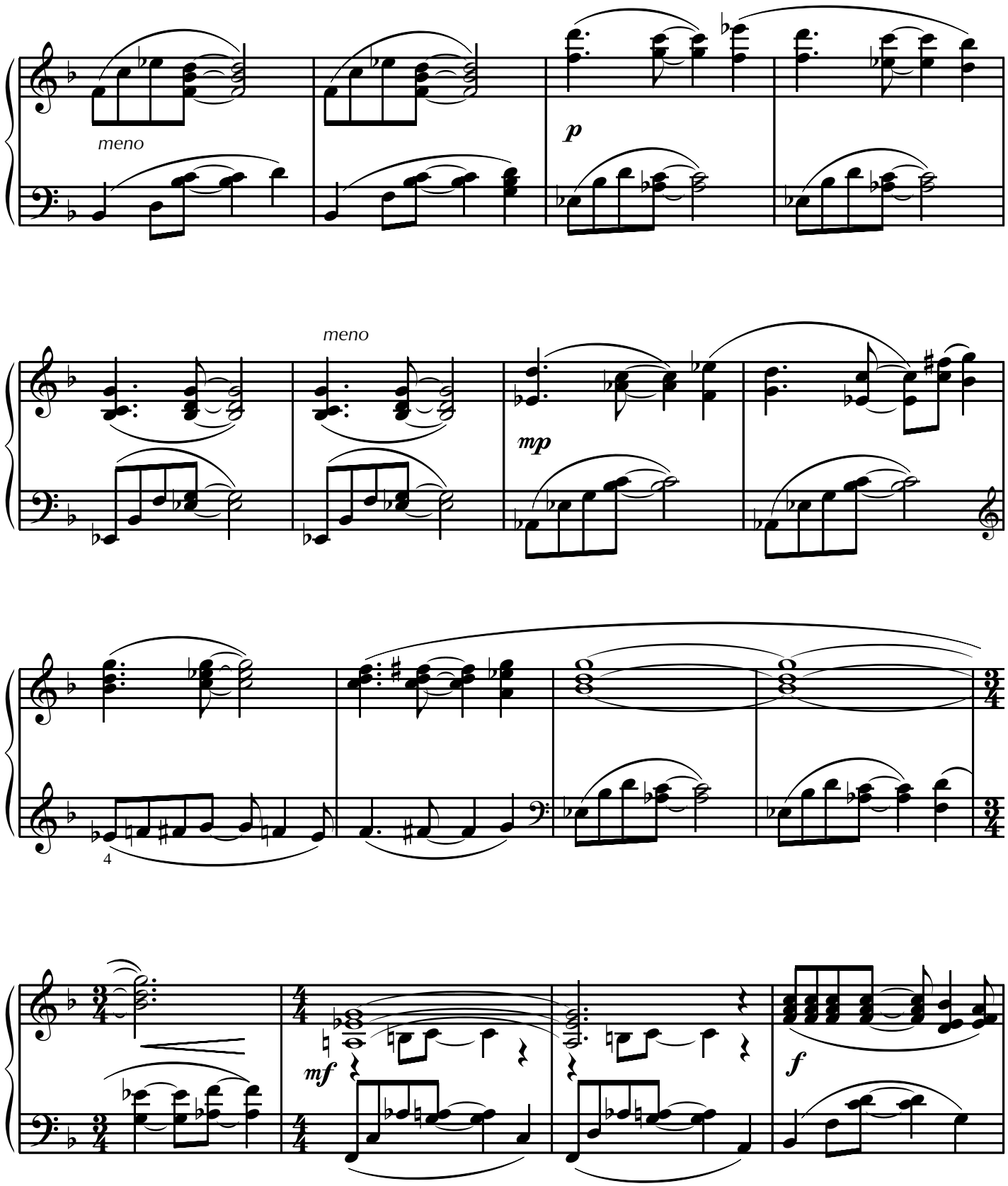

mp
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
l.h.
r.h.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

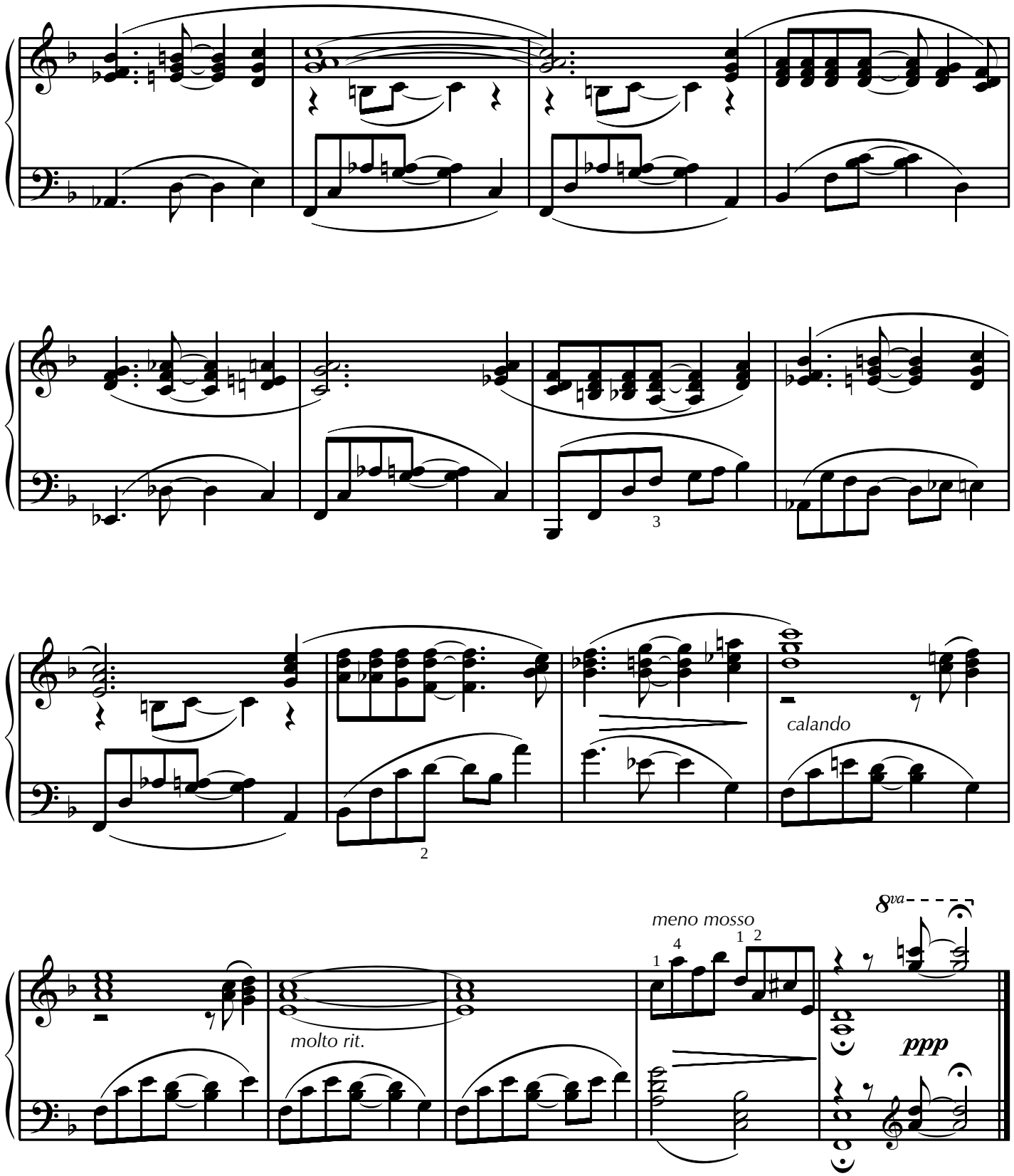

Ped.
Ped.
8va
p
Ped.
molto rit.
8vb

Song of the Open Road



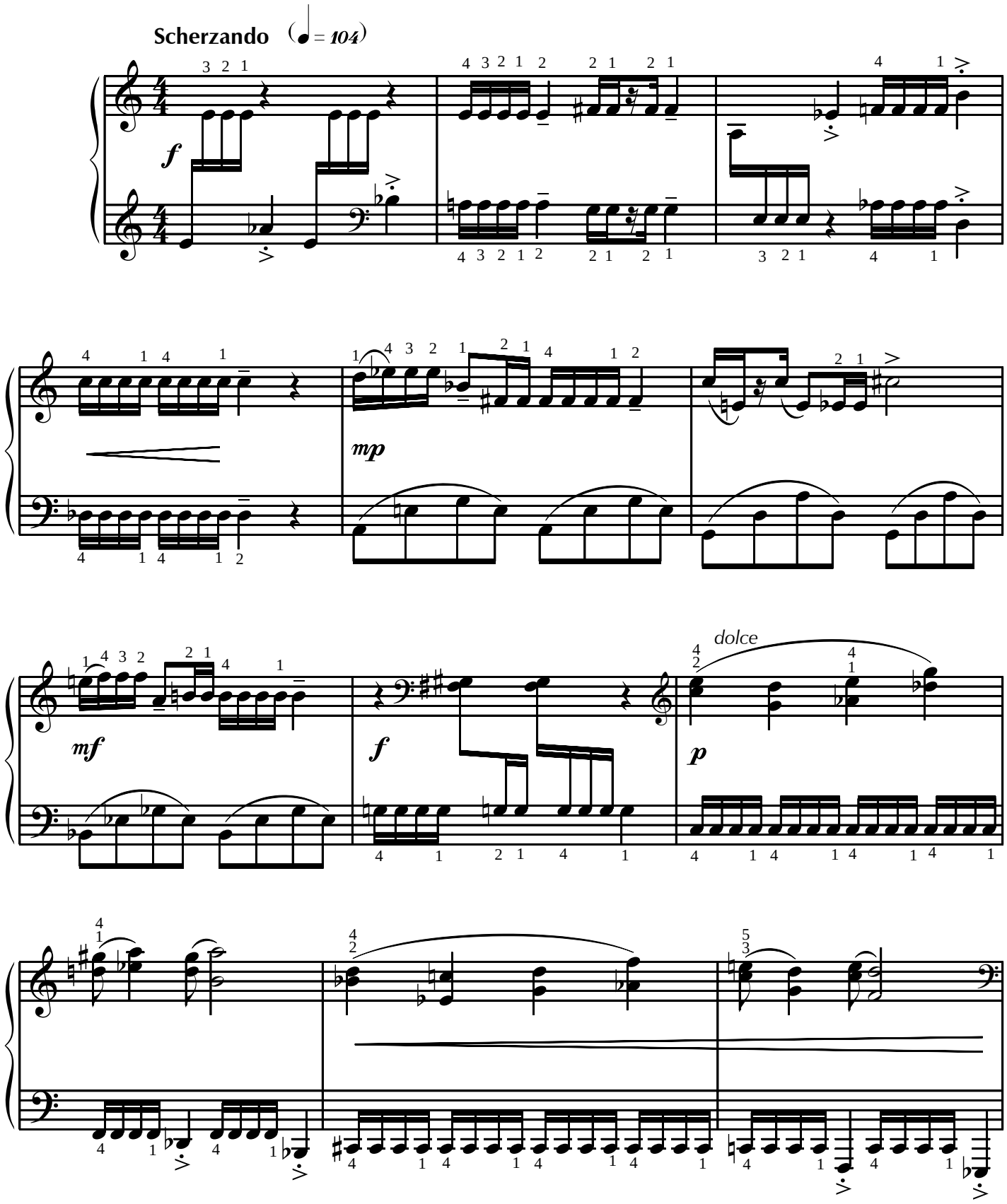

3
mp
mf subito

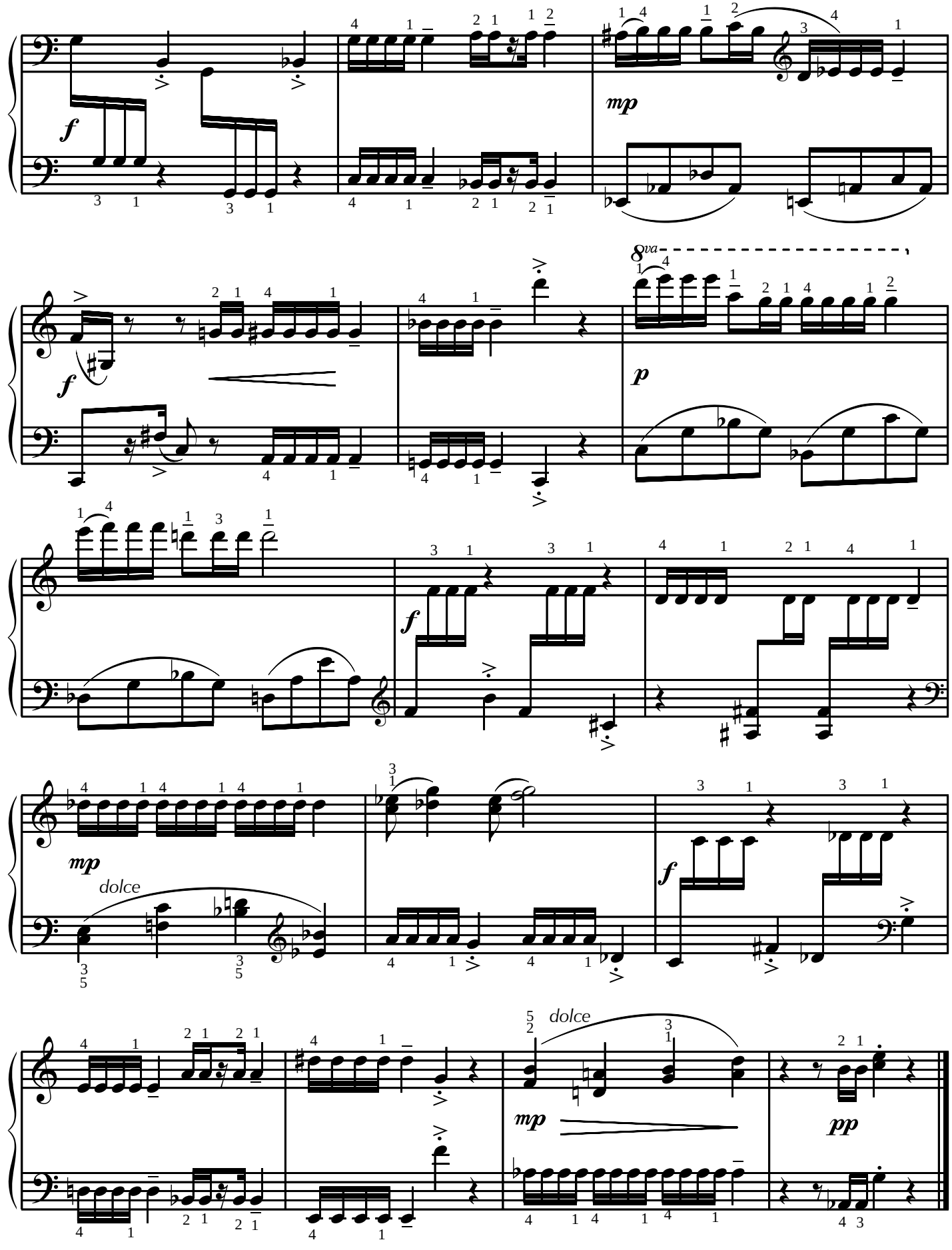

meno
p
meno
mp
4
mf
f


3
2
calando
meno mosso
molto rit.
8va
ppp

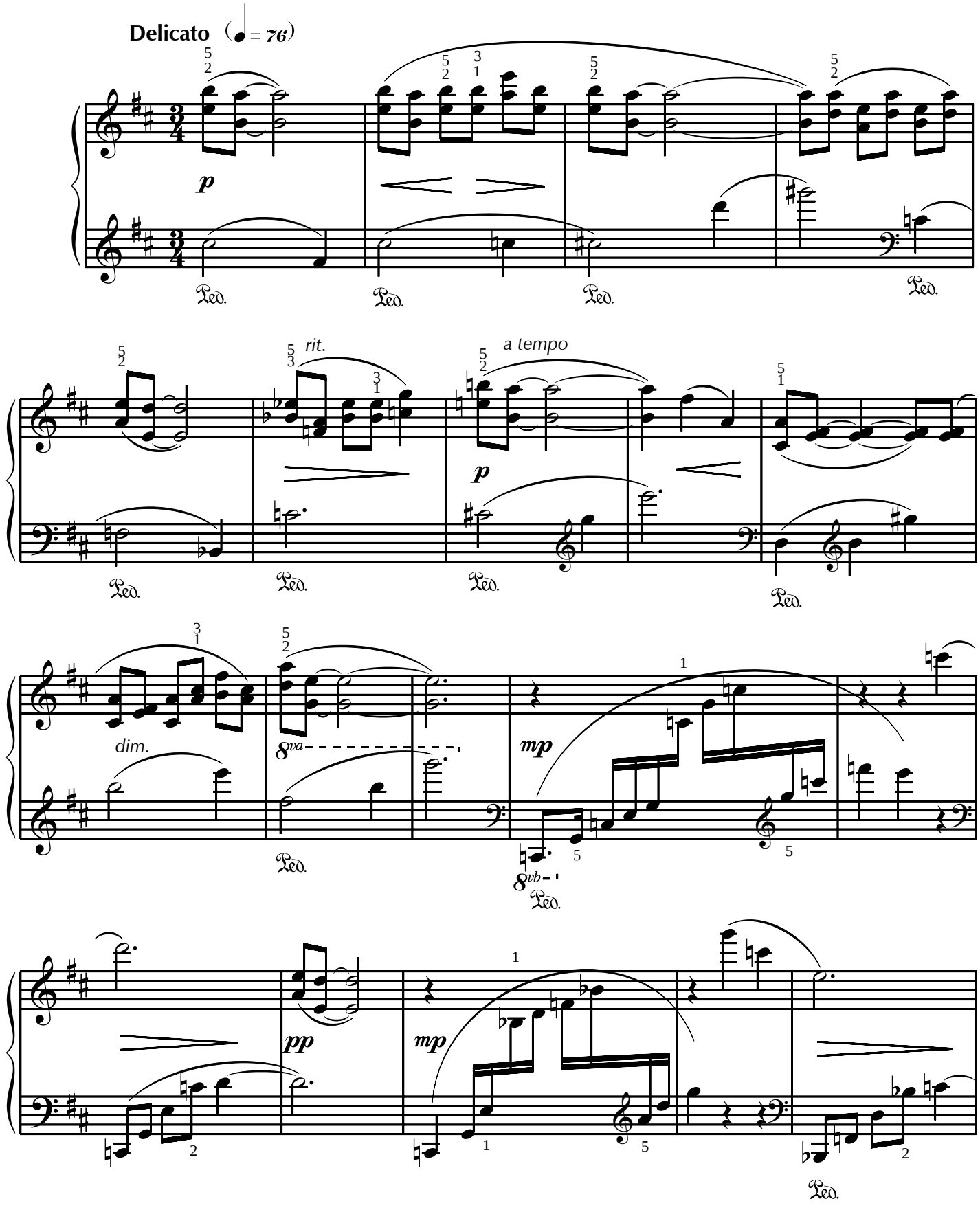
Etude No. 5

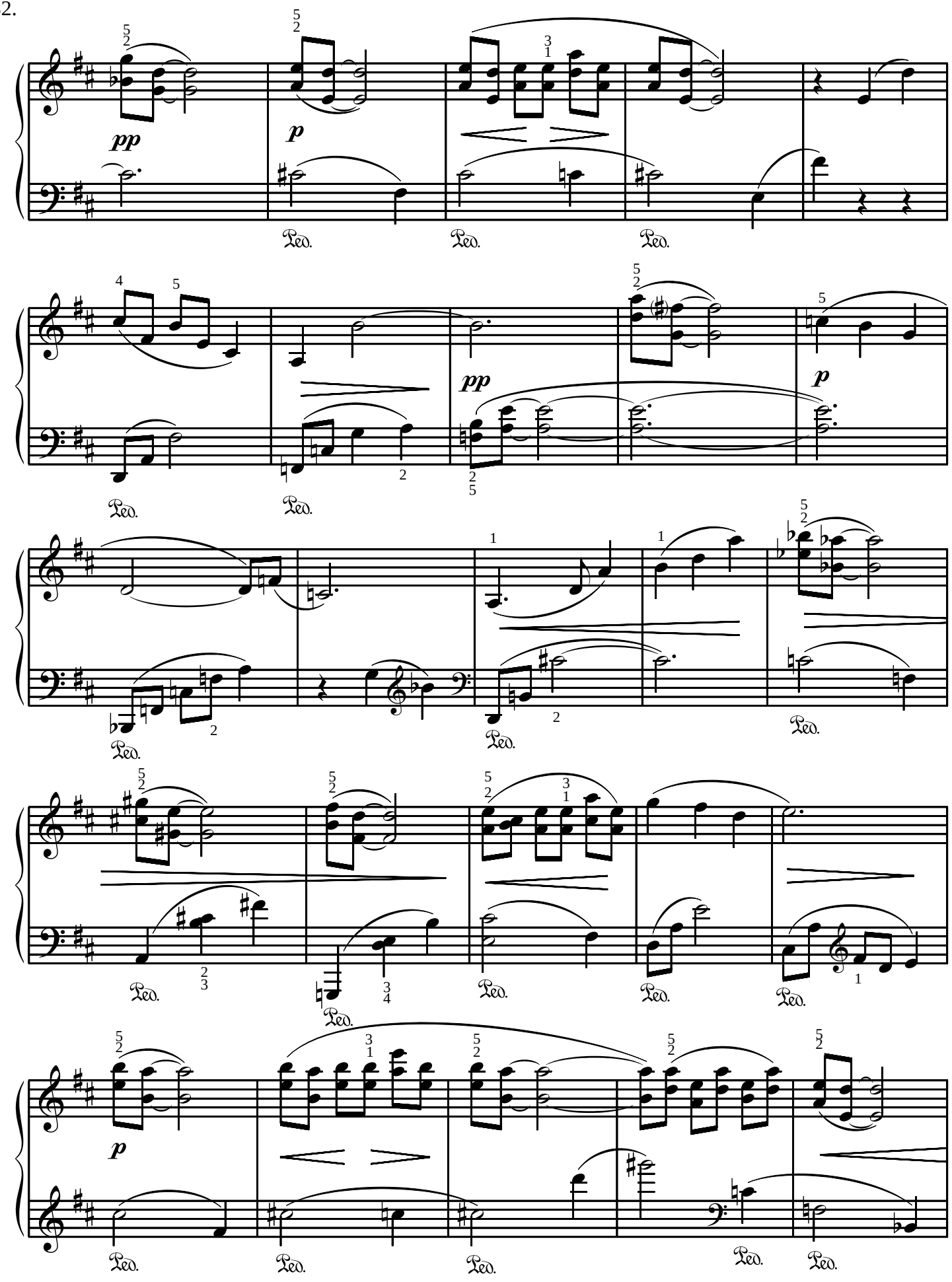
(... for repeated notes)

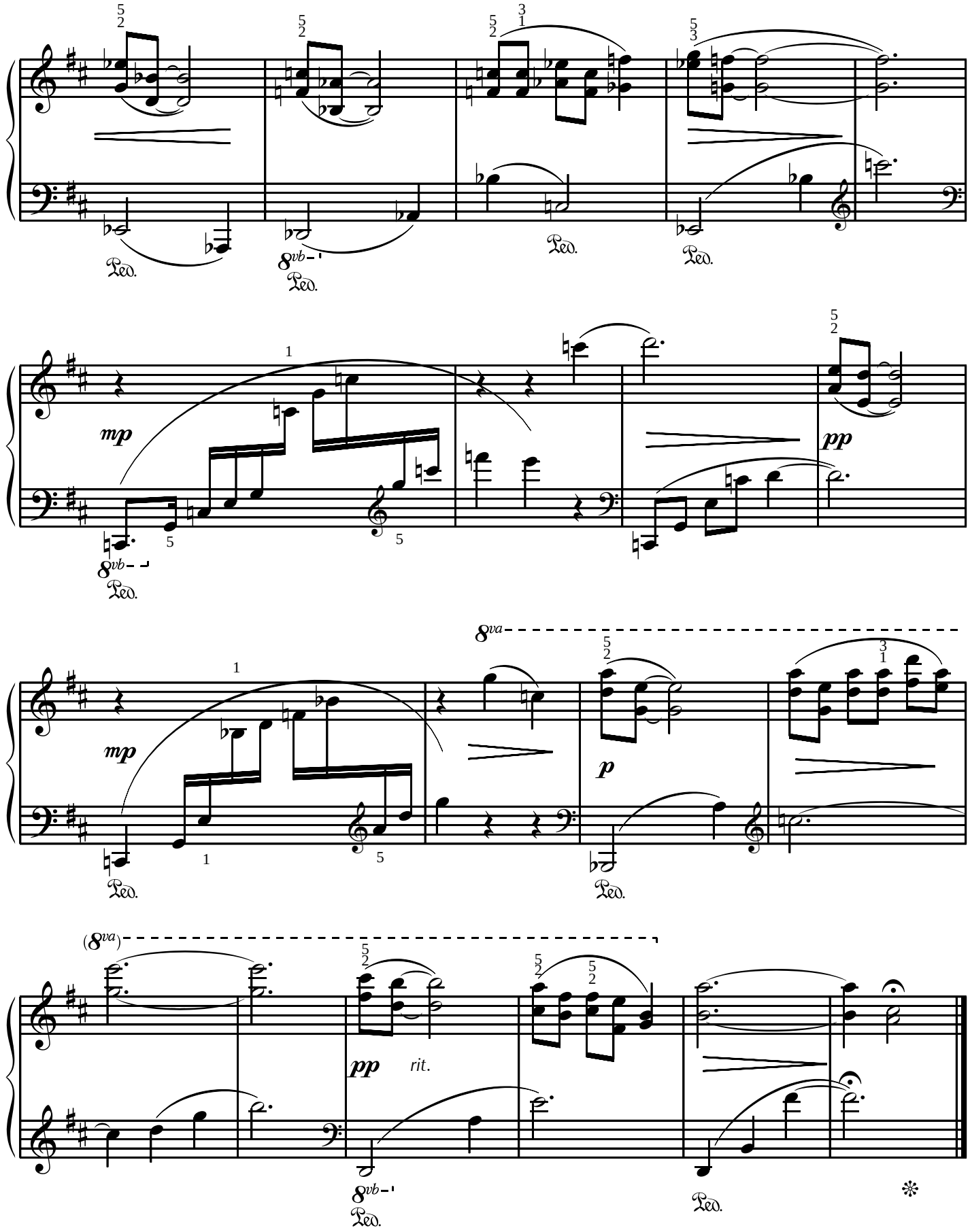



f
mp
8va
p
f
mp
dolce
f
mp
dolce
pp

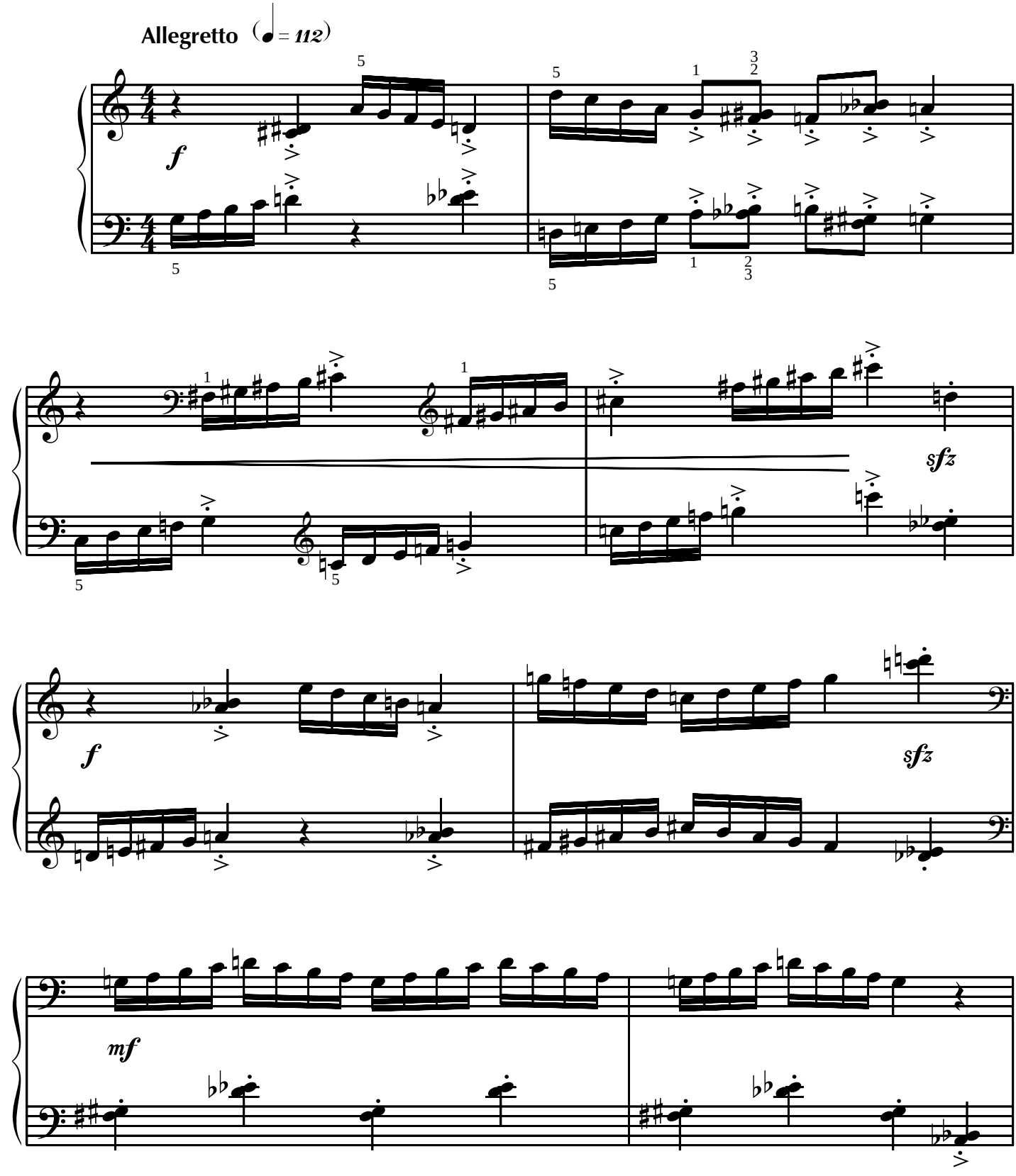
Twelfth Nocturne

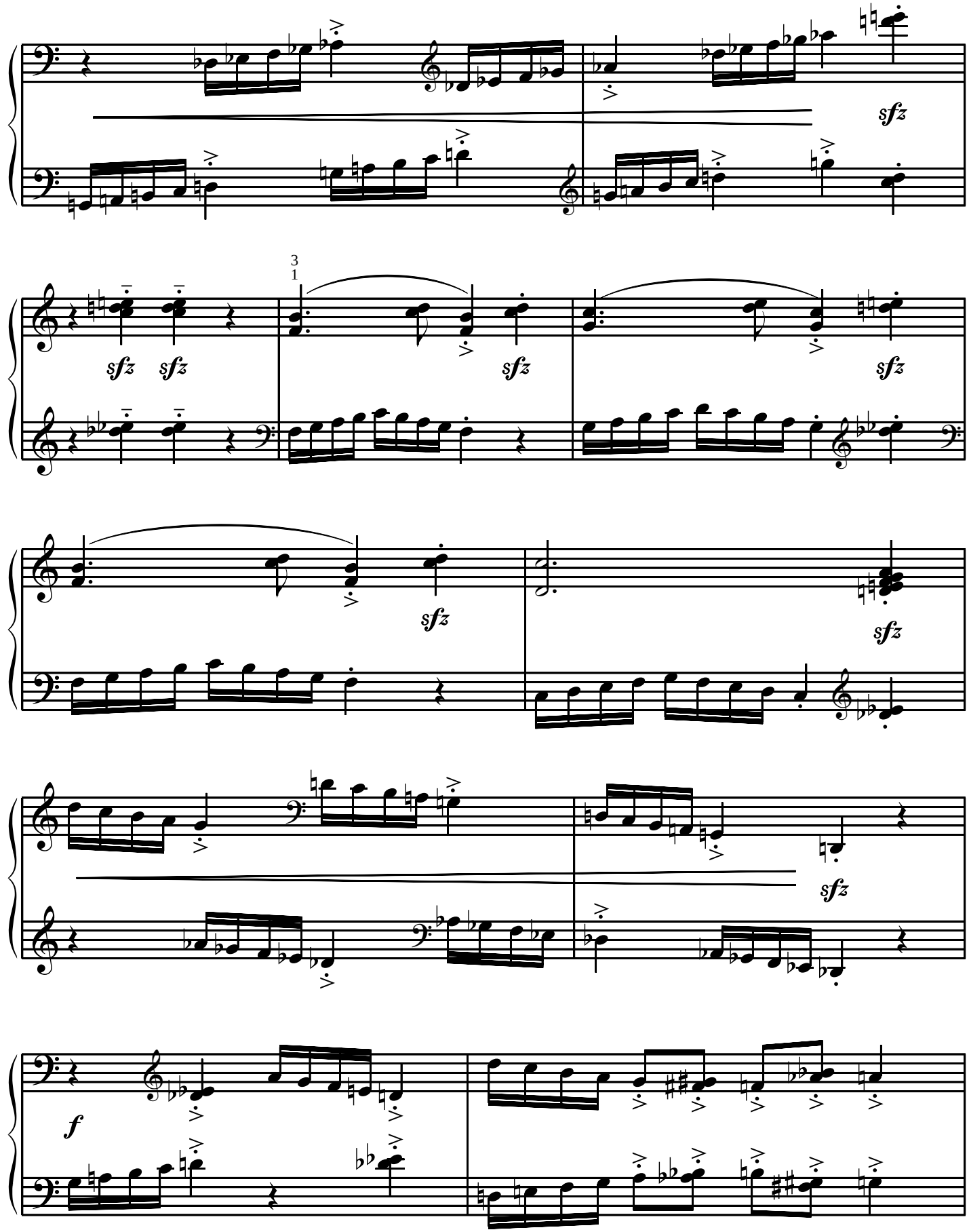


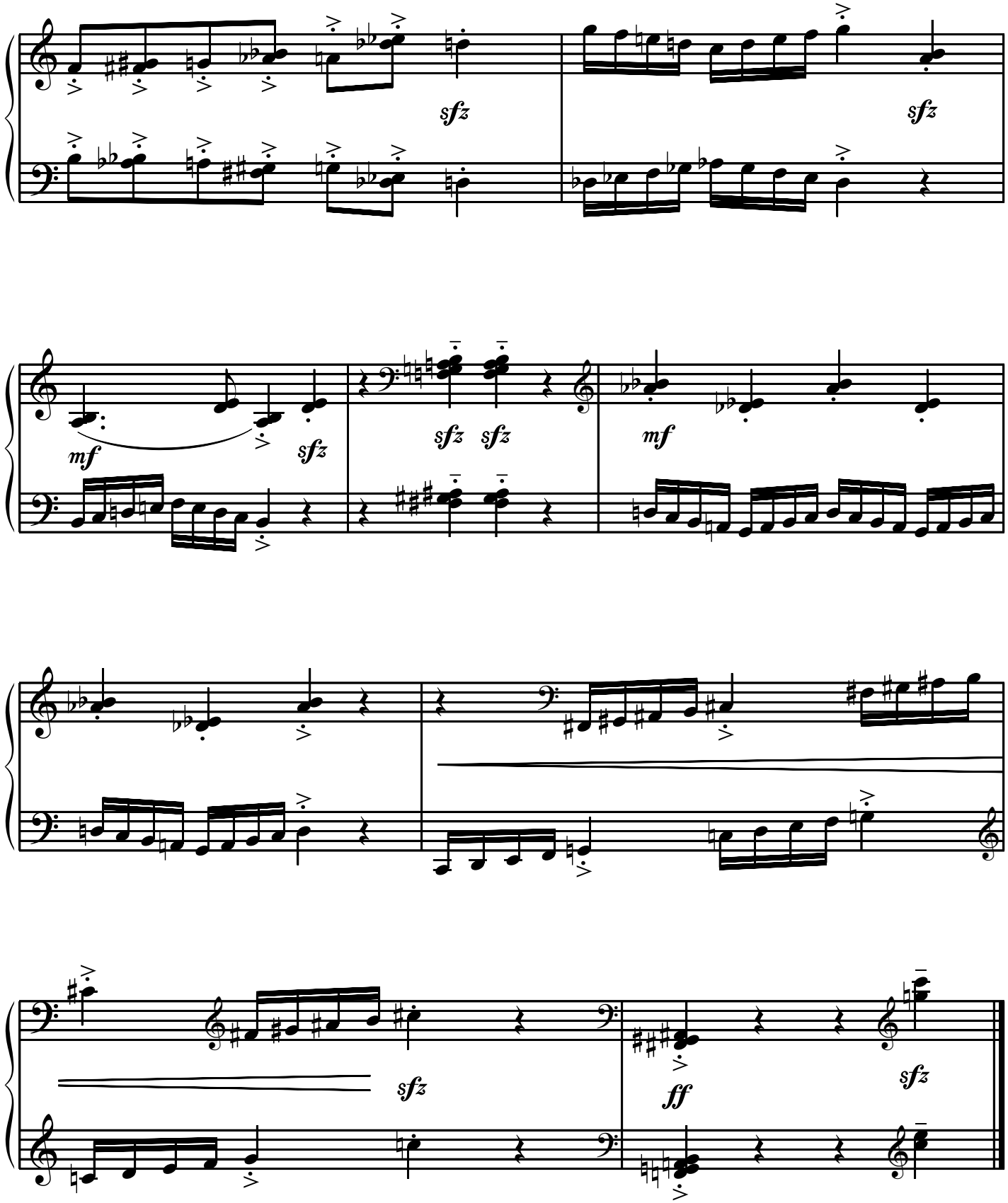

pp
p
Ped.
pp
p
Ped.


mp
pp
mp
p
pp
rit.
8va
8vb
Ped.

Burletta




sfz
sfz sfz
3
1
sfz
sfz
sfz
sfz
sfz
f


sfz
sfz
mf
sfz
sfz sfz
mf
sfz
ff
sfz