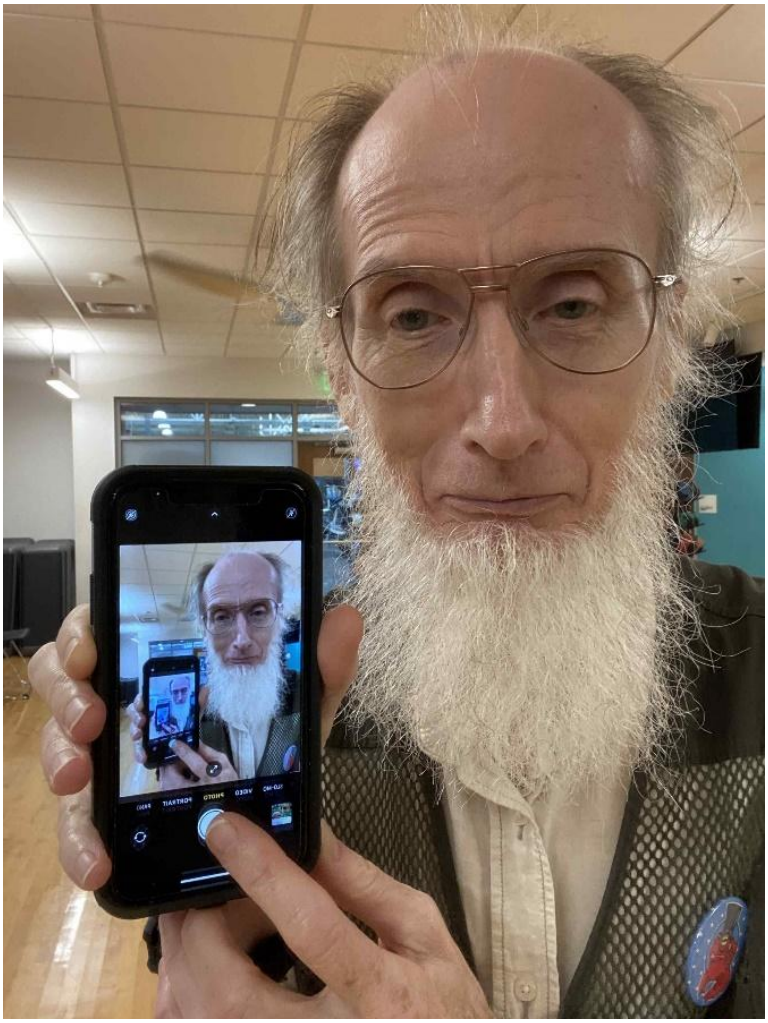
American Dances



for Violin and Piano

Bill Robinson

American Dances

for Violin and Piano

January 21—March 30, 2008; revised Nov. 26—Dec. 1, 2024
Duration: ~24 minutes ***for Eric Pritchard***

American Dances **is one of a series of pieces written for Eric Pritchard, first violinist of the Ciompi Quartet of Duke University, originally as a string quartet. At Eric's request, I arranged this work for violin and piano. This is very much an arrangement and not a simple transcription, so any comparison with the quartet will find significant variance.**

After the premiere performance of the string quartet in 2013, I was not satisfied with the first movement, and recomposed it in 2024, during the presidential election. This motivated me to give it a new title, ***Harris Waltz*****, in honor of Kamala Harris and Tim Walz, in their failed attempt to stop Donald Trump from having a second term as president. The second movement,** ***Texas Two Step*****, pays at least nominal tribute to the state of my birth and home for many years. I can't claim much authenticity in its two-stepness but at least it's fairly up-tempo and in 4/4, and appropriate for a formal and rather crazed square dance. The third movement was originally written just before the birth of Aaron Pritchard, son of Eric and Laura; during the revisions of 2024, Aaron was quite sick and undergoing difficult treatments, thus the new title to this movement,** ***Dance for the seriously ill.*** **The last movement stems from the inspired fiddling and great musicianship of the Roma people, as well as barn dances.**

In 2024, I made major revisions in the piece, and orchestrated it to become ***Symphony No. 4: American Dances*****.**

This piece requires the sostenuto pedal in several places, which should be clear by the context. I have used three staves instead of two for the piano in brief passages in the middle two movements, as this makes the score much more legible.

Bill Robinson

Publisher Parrish Press Garner NC 4th Edition December 2024
billrobinsonmusic.com

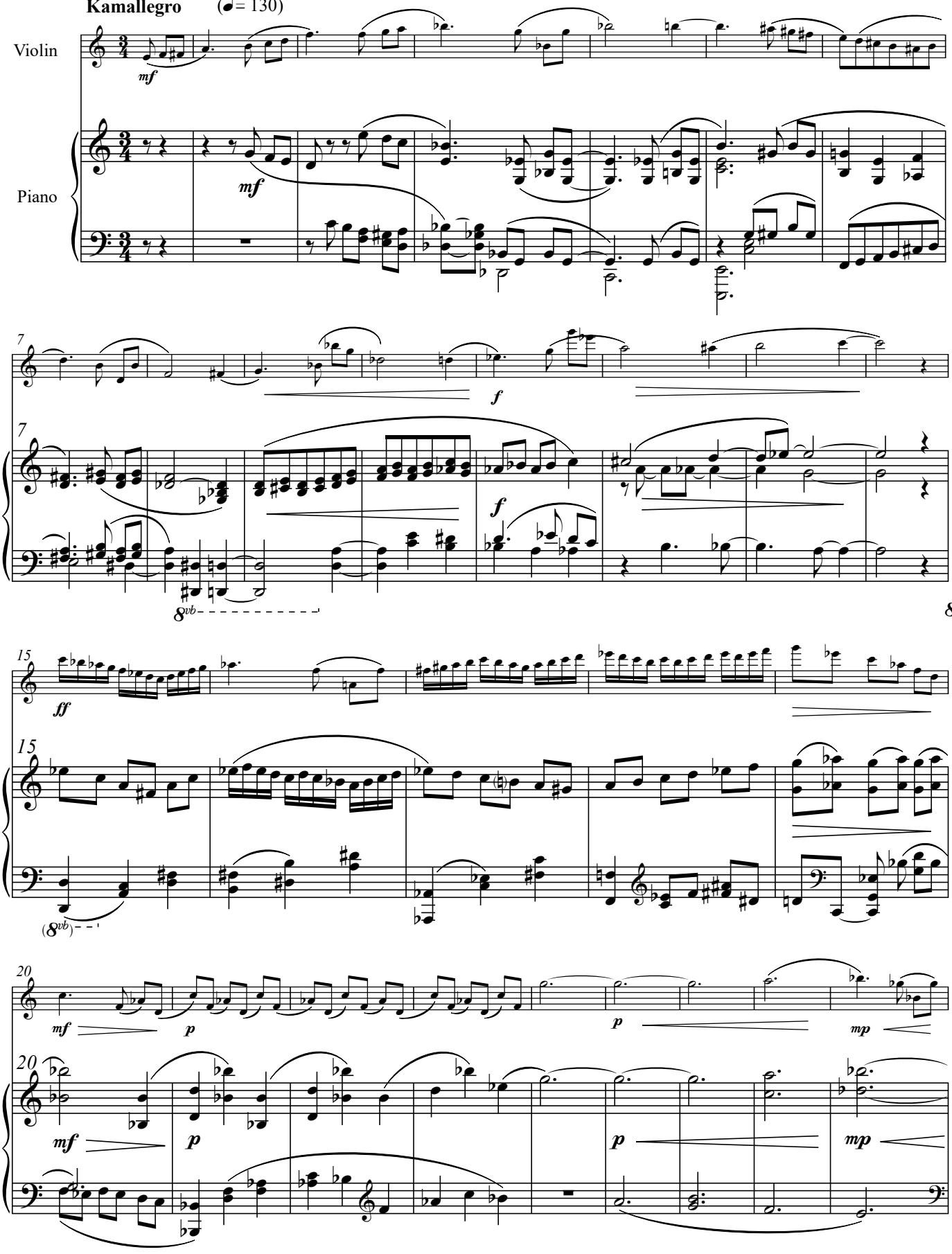
edited by Eric Pritchard

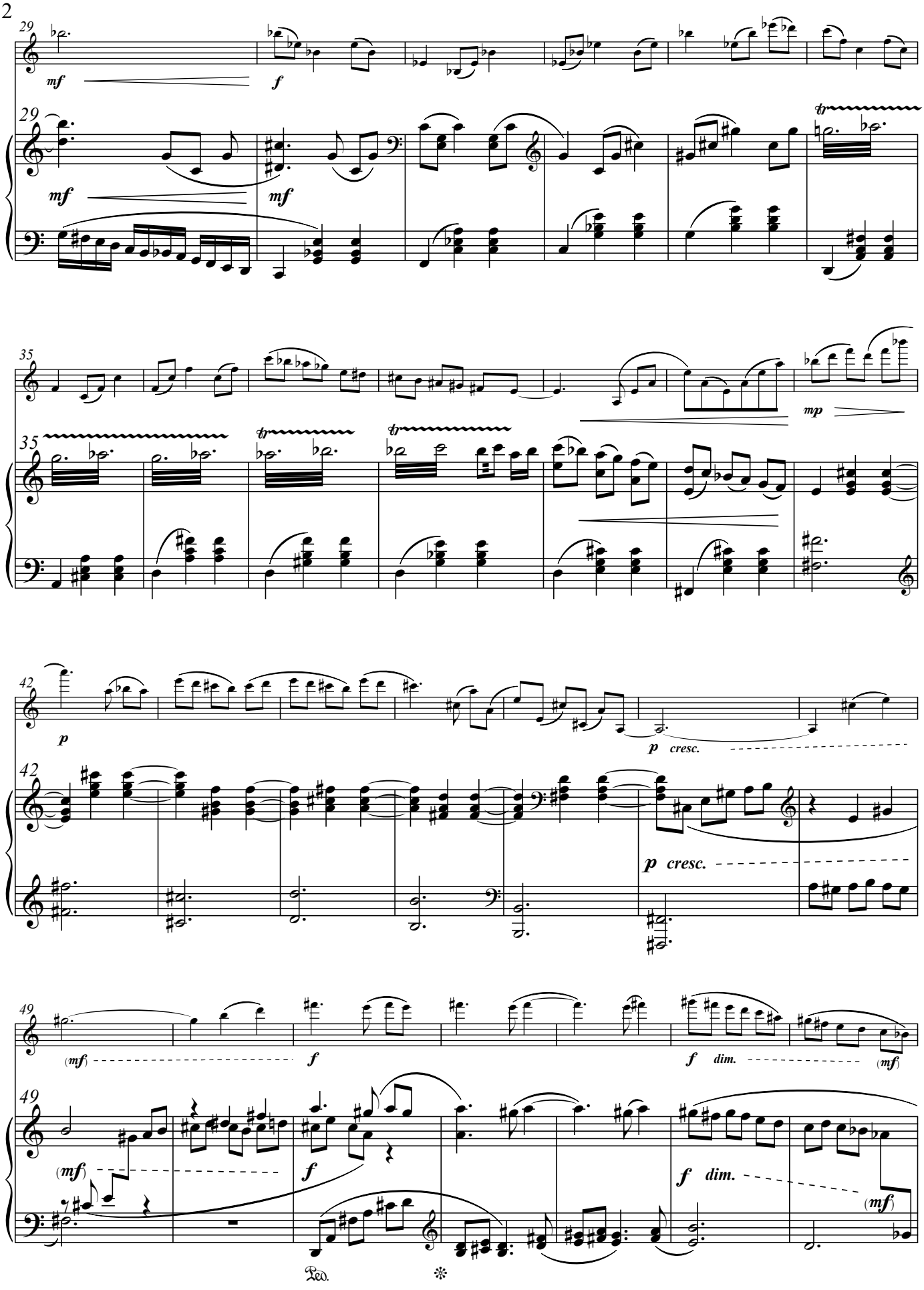
American Dances for Violin and Piano

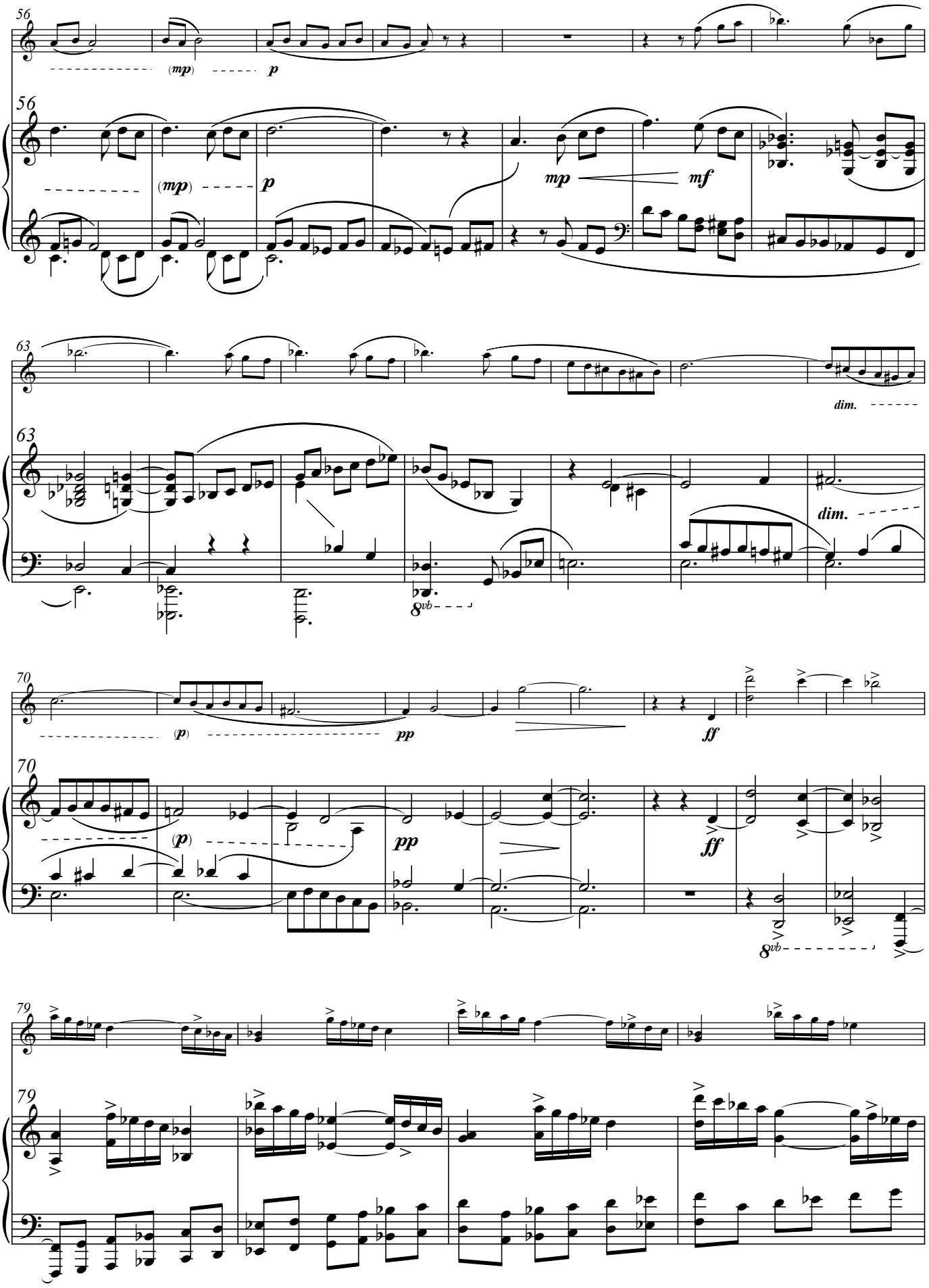
I. Harris Waltz [5:10]

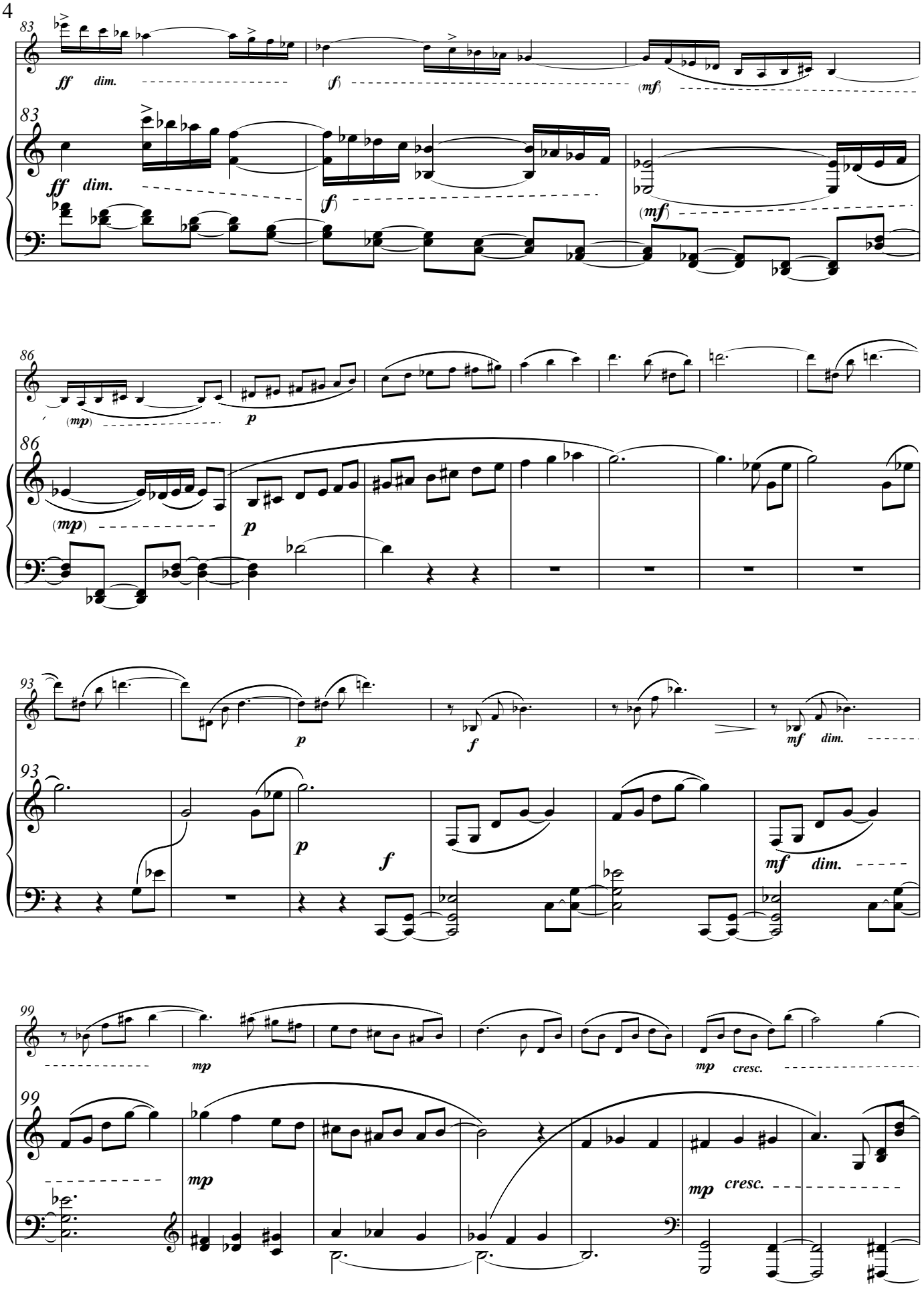
Bill Robinson

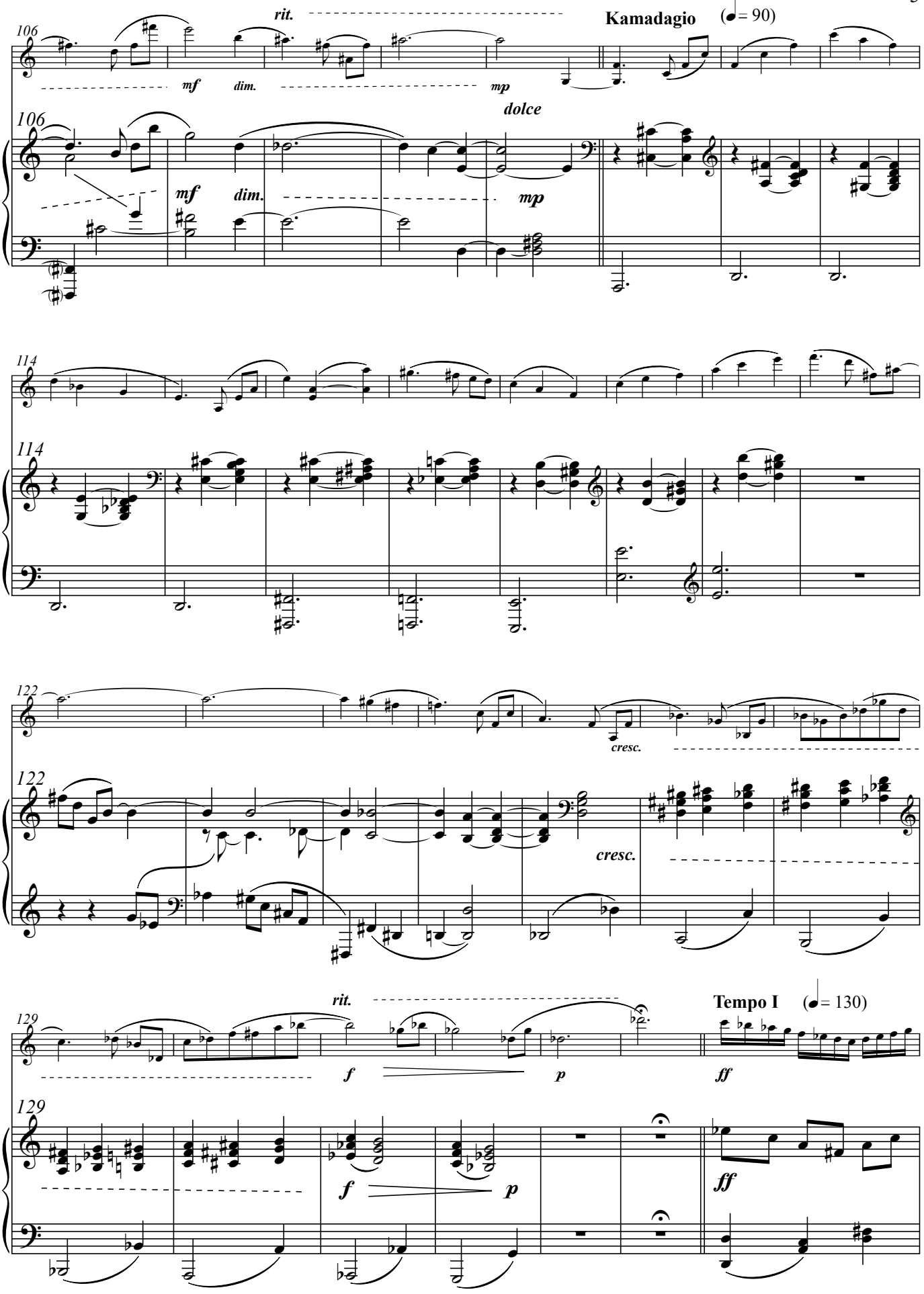
Kamallegro (♩= 130)

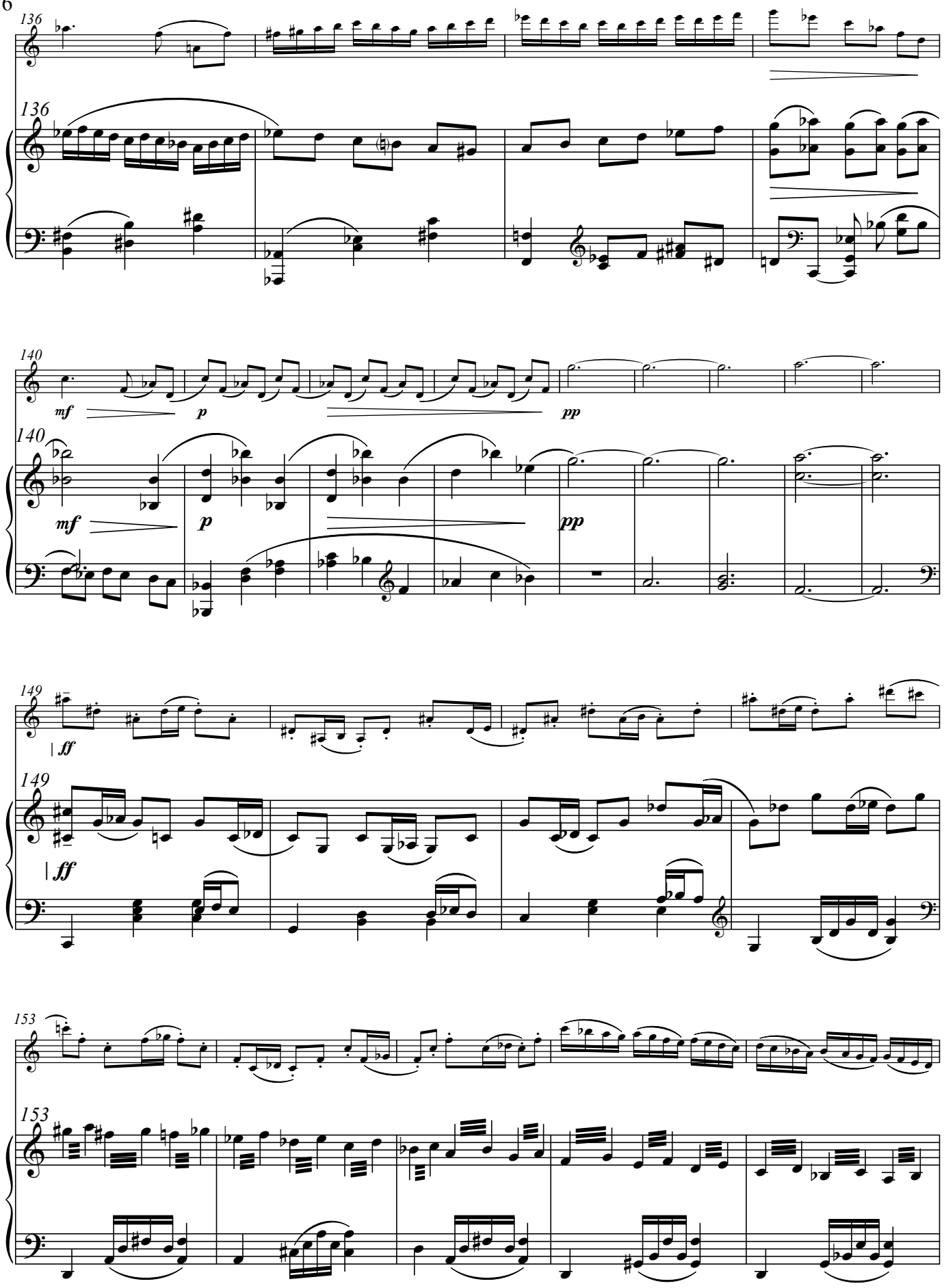


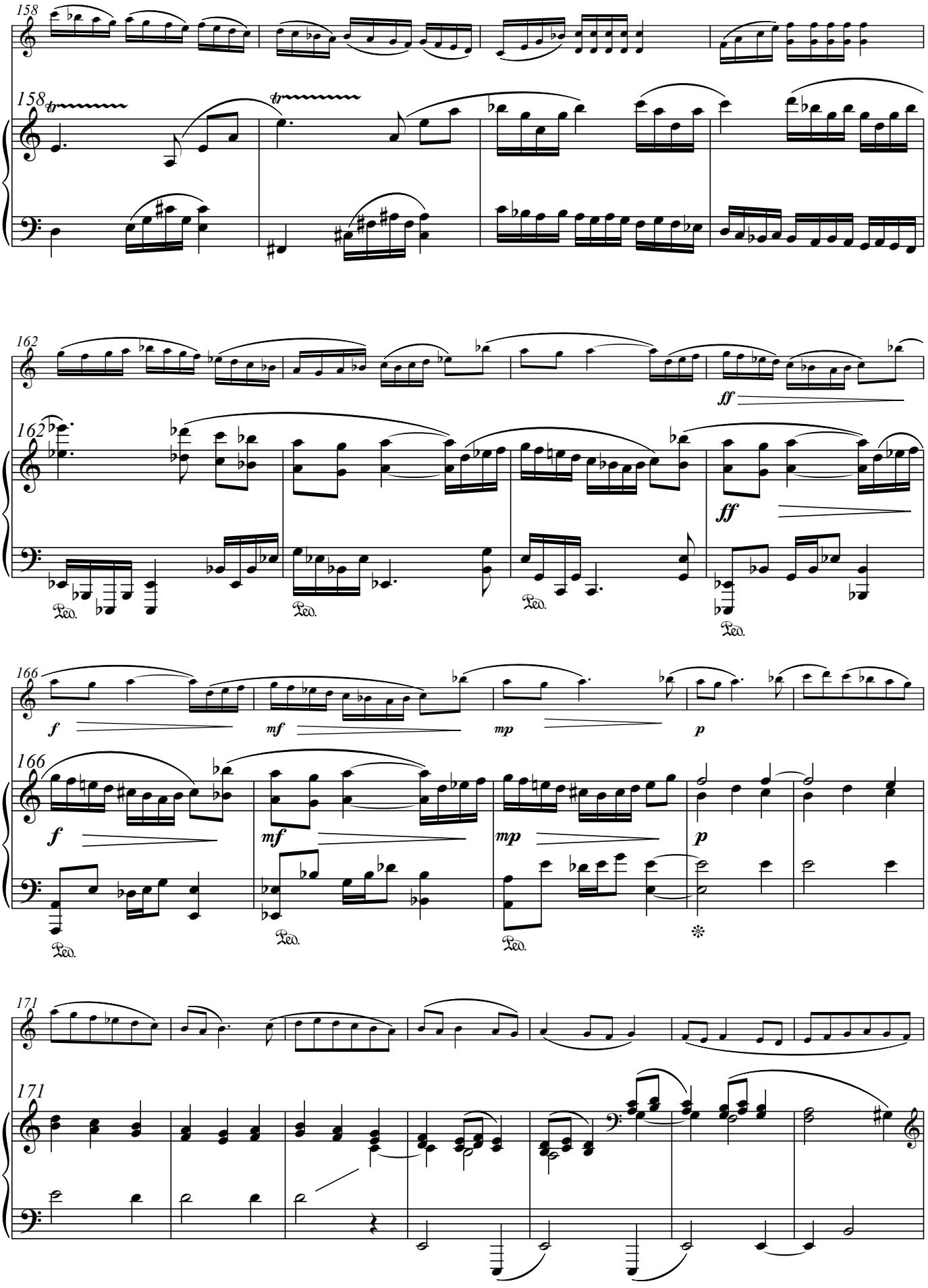

29
mf
f
mf
tr
35
mp
tr
tr
42
p
p cresc.
p cresc.
49
(mf)
f
f dim.
(mf)
(mf)
f
f dim.
(mf)
Ped.
*

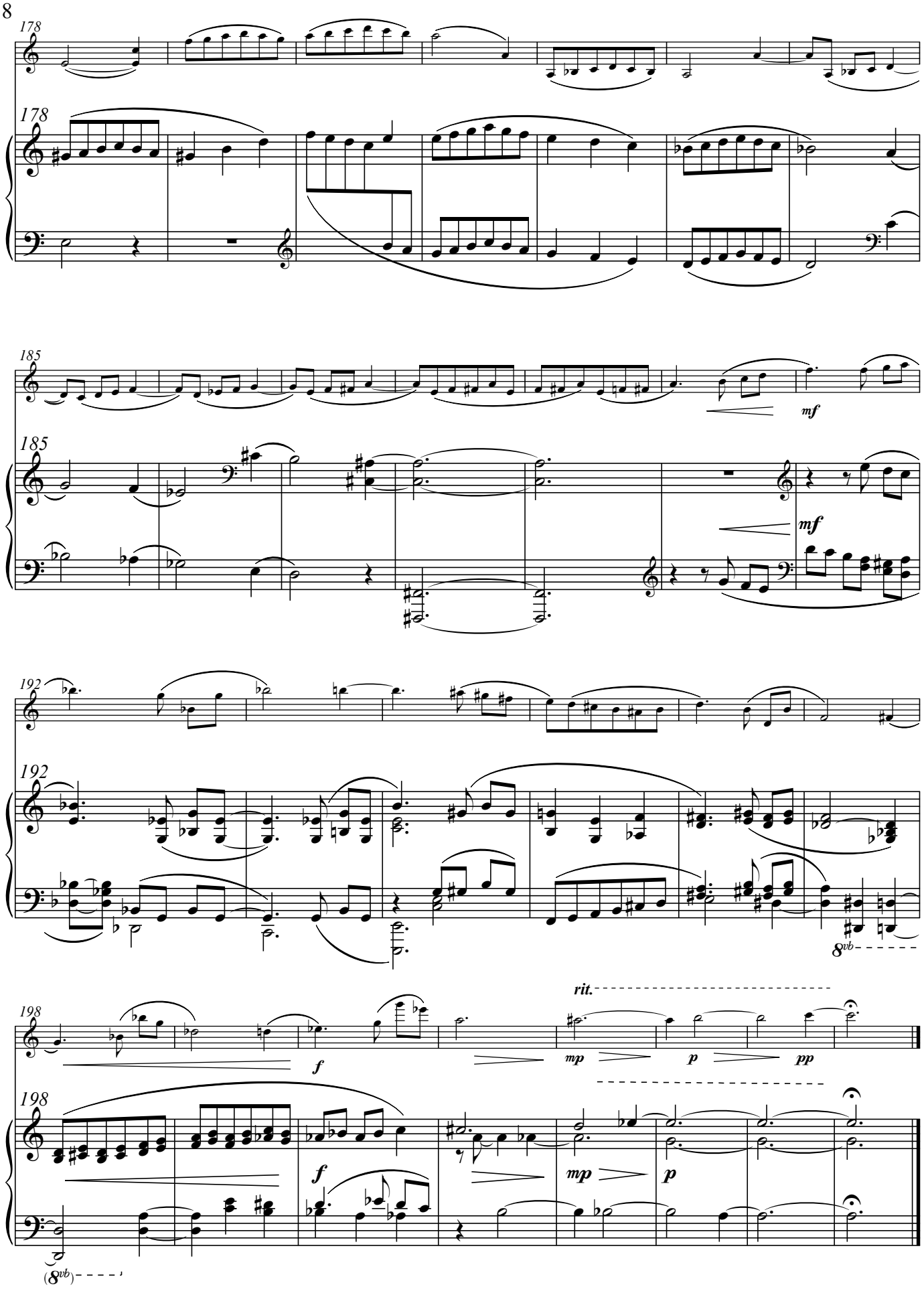

56
(mp)
p
56
(mp)
p
mp
mf
63
dim.
63
dim.
8vb
70
(p)
pp
ff
70
(p)
pp
ff
8vb
79
79


83
ff dim.
(f)
(mf)
86
(mp)
p
93
mf dim.
99
mp
cresc.


106
rit.
Kamadagio
(♩= 90)
mf
dim.
mp
dolce
114
122
cresc.
129
Tempo I
(♩= 130)
ff

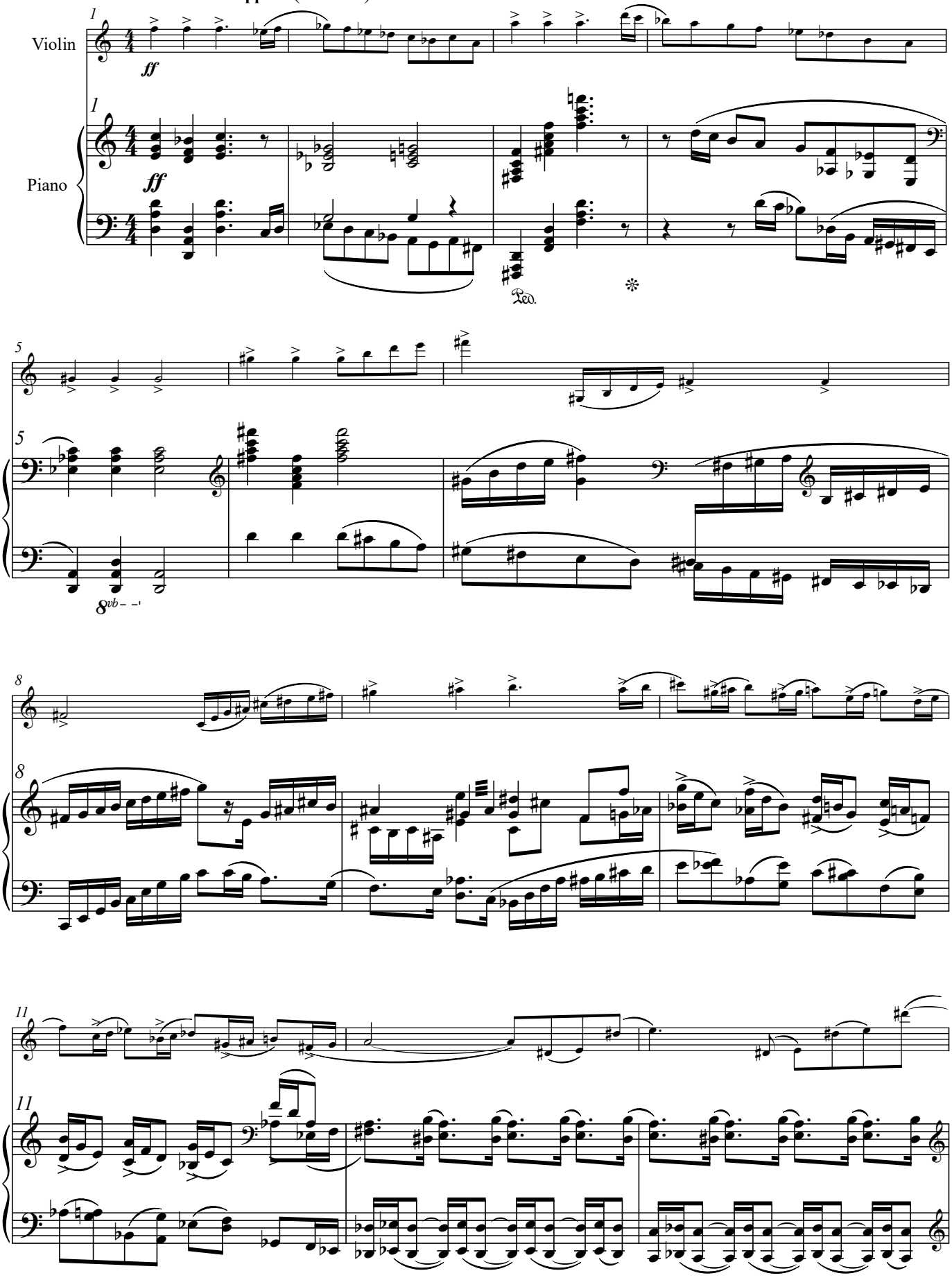

136
136
140
mf
p
pp
140
mf
p
pp
149
ff
149
ff
153
153

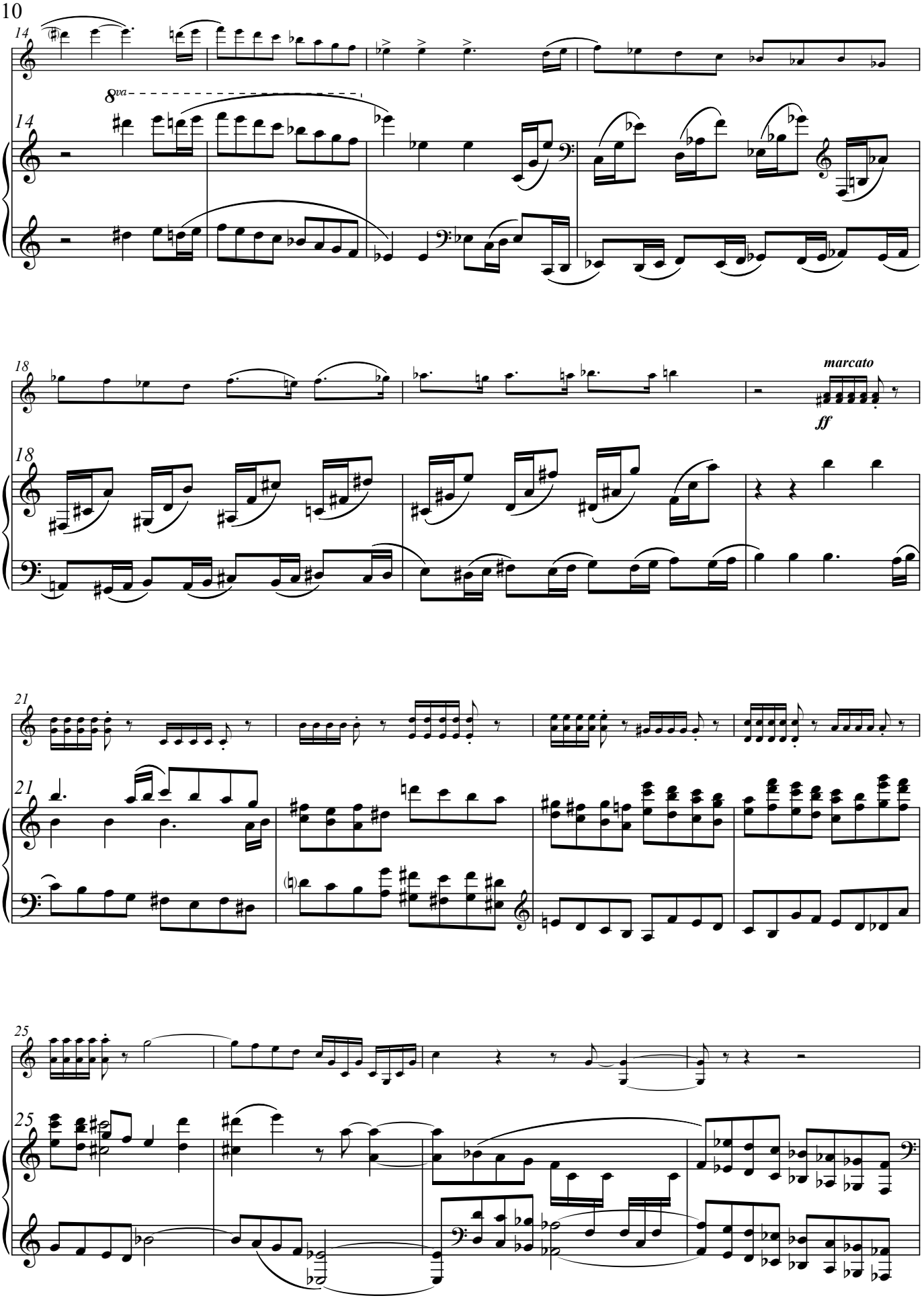

158
158
tr
tr
162
162
ff
ff
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
166
166
f
mf
mp
p
f
mf
mp
p
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
171
171

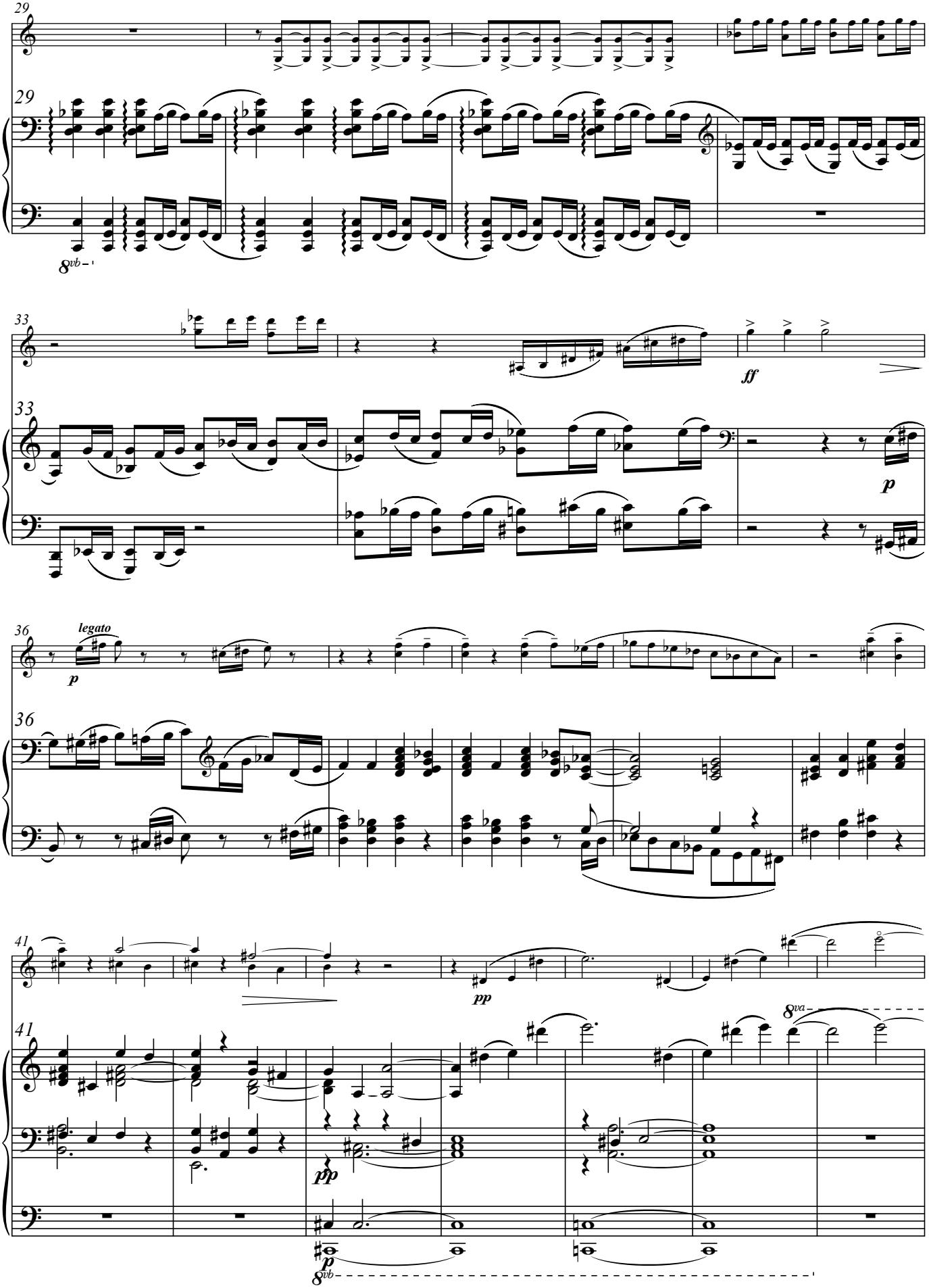

178
178
185
185
mf
mf
192
192
8vb
198
198
rit.
f
mp
p
pp
f
mp
p
(8vb)

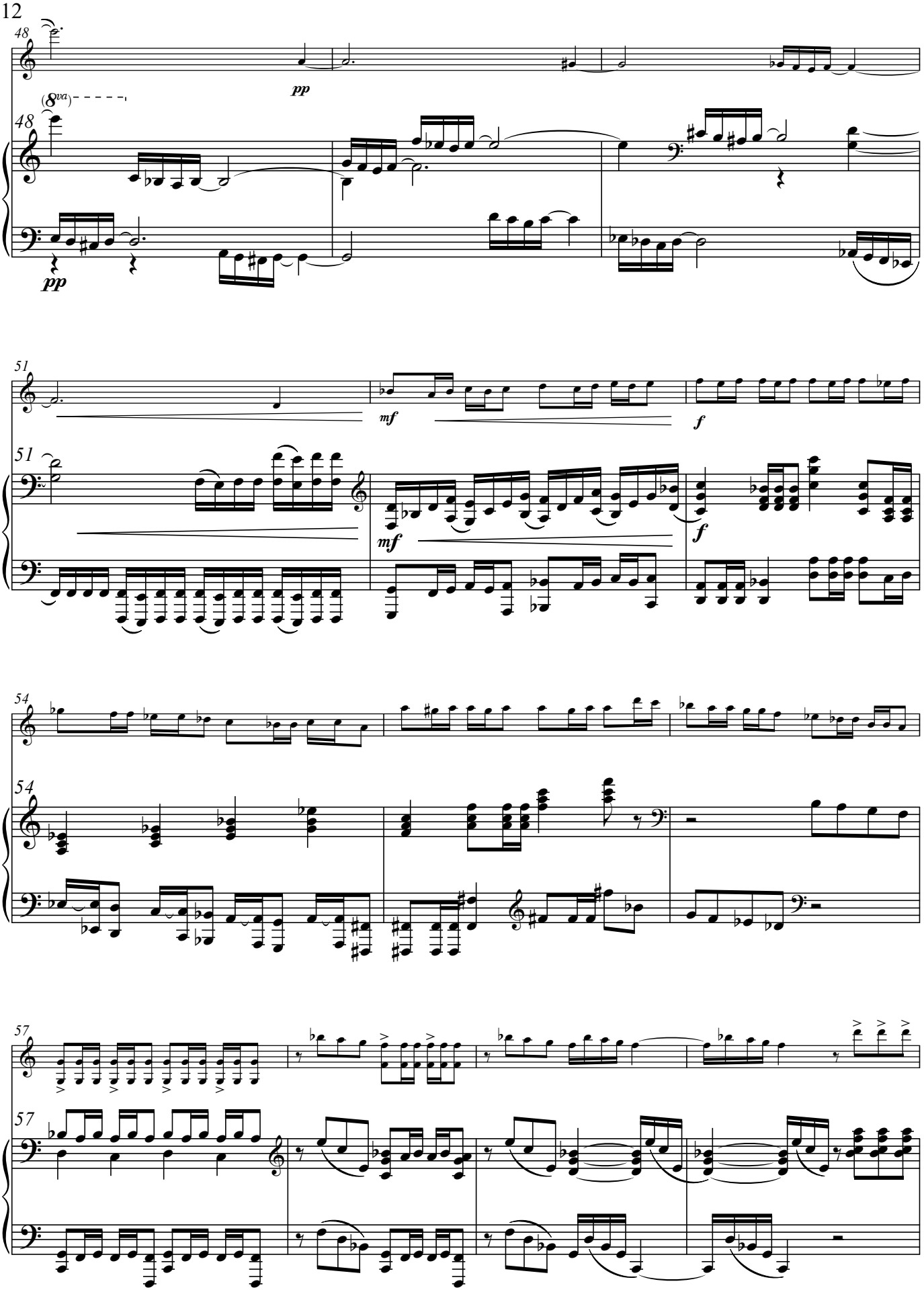
II. Texas Two Step [5:15]

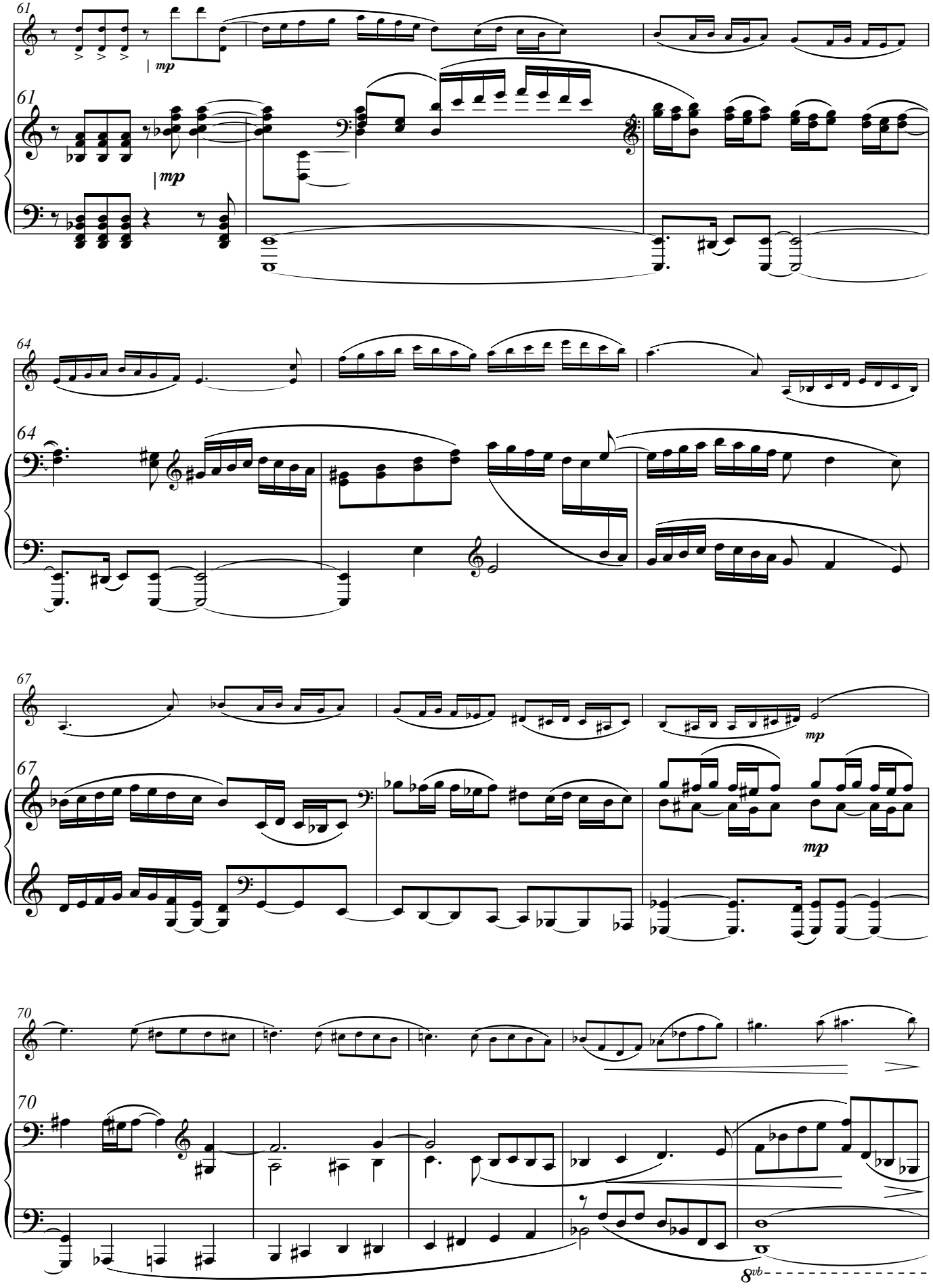
Amarillo ma non troppo (♩= 100)

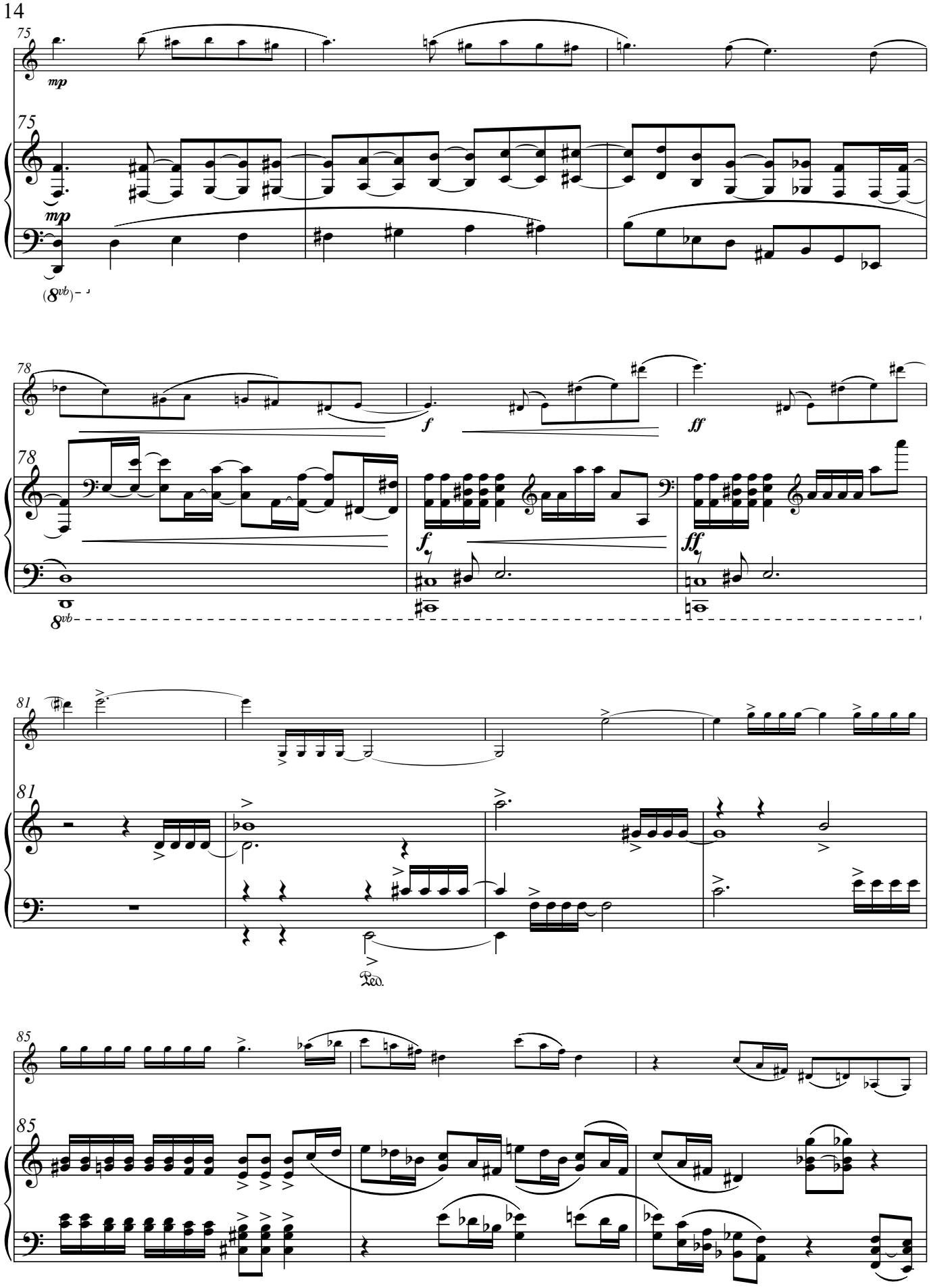


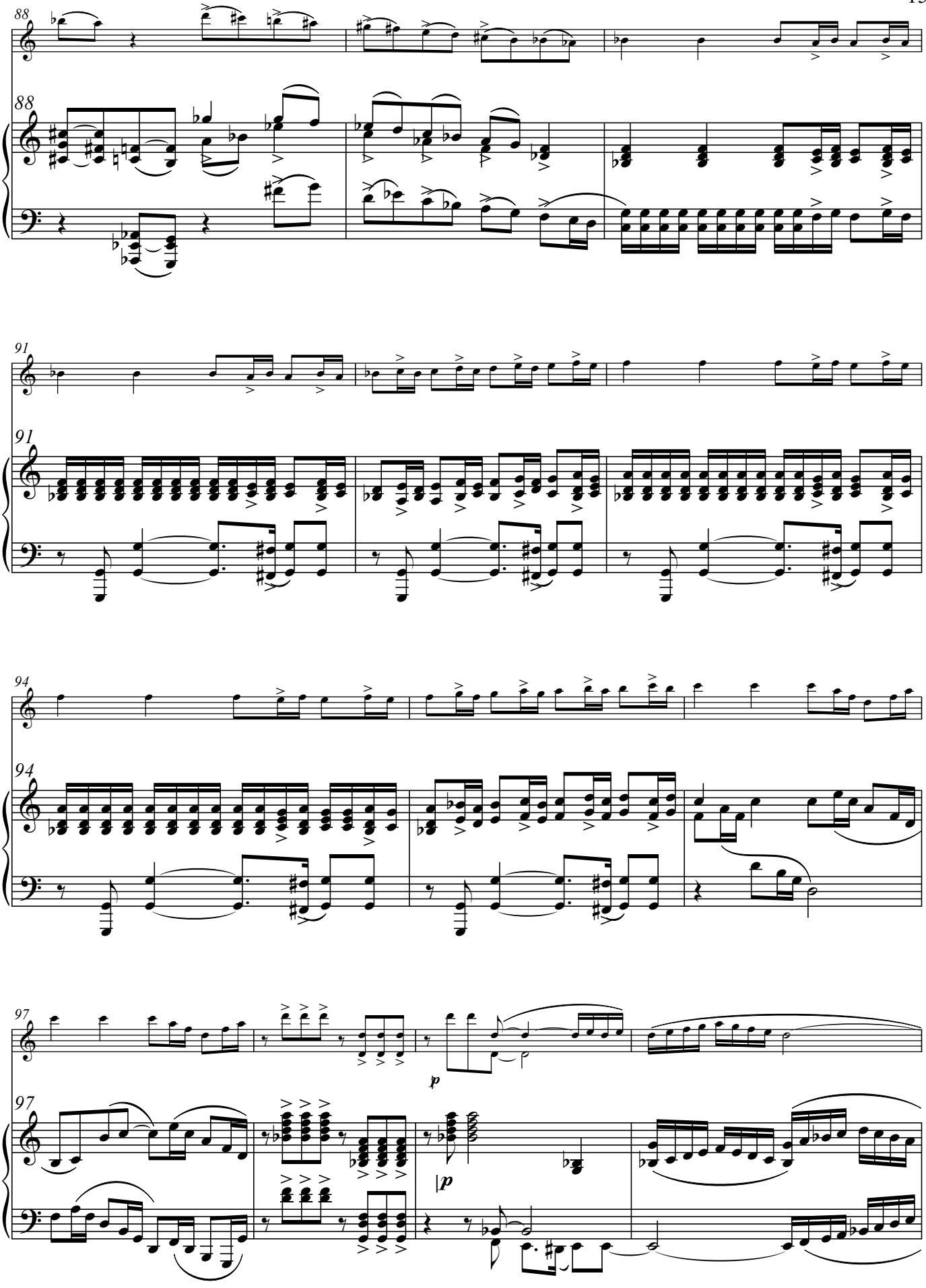

14
8va
14
18
marcato
ff
18
21
21
25
25

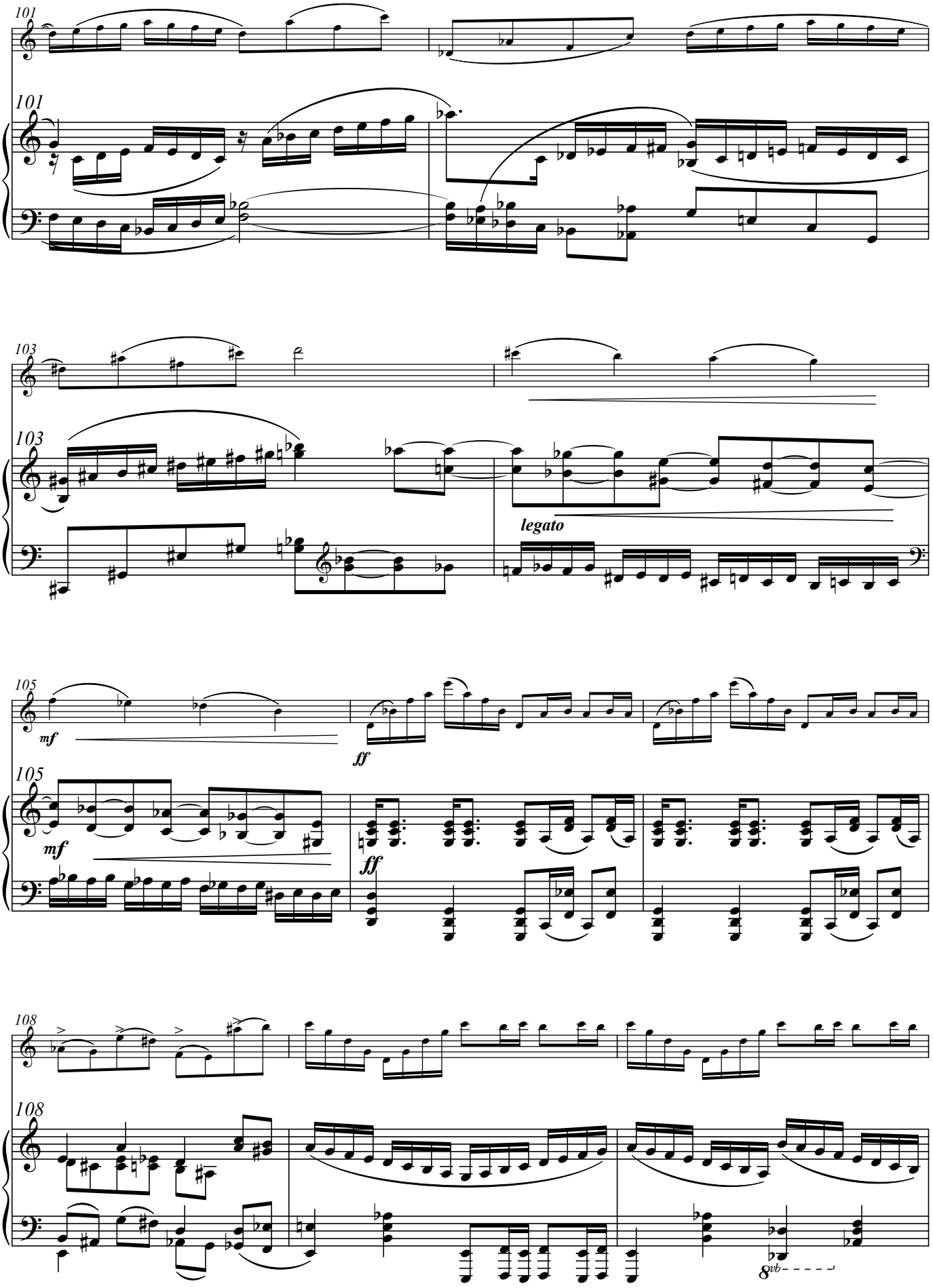

29
8vb
33
ff
p
36
legato
p
41
pp
8va
ppp
p
8vb

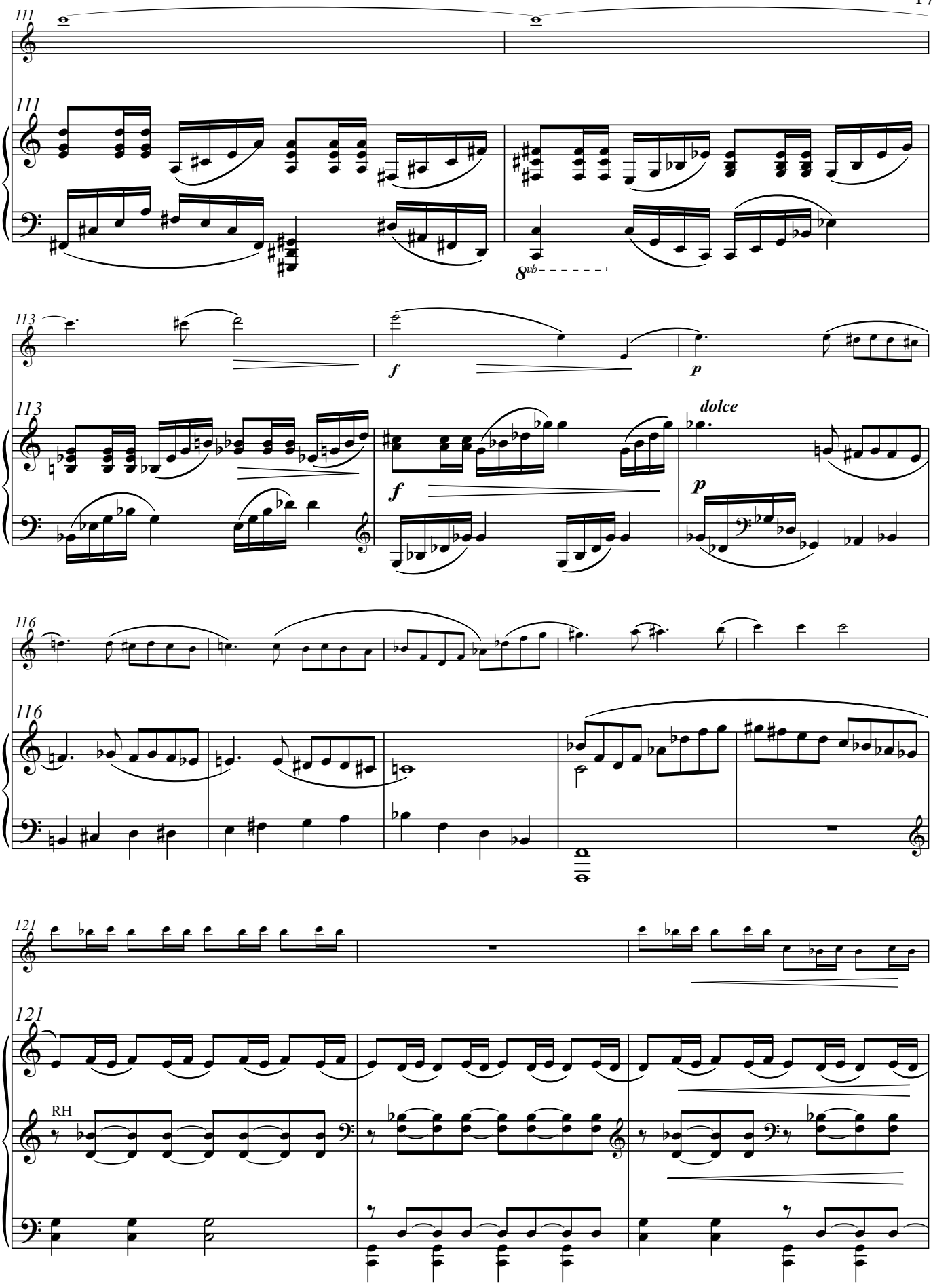

48
(8va)
pp
51
mf
f
54
57

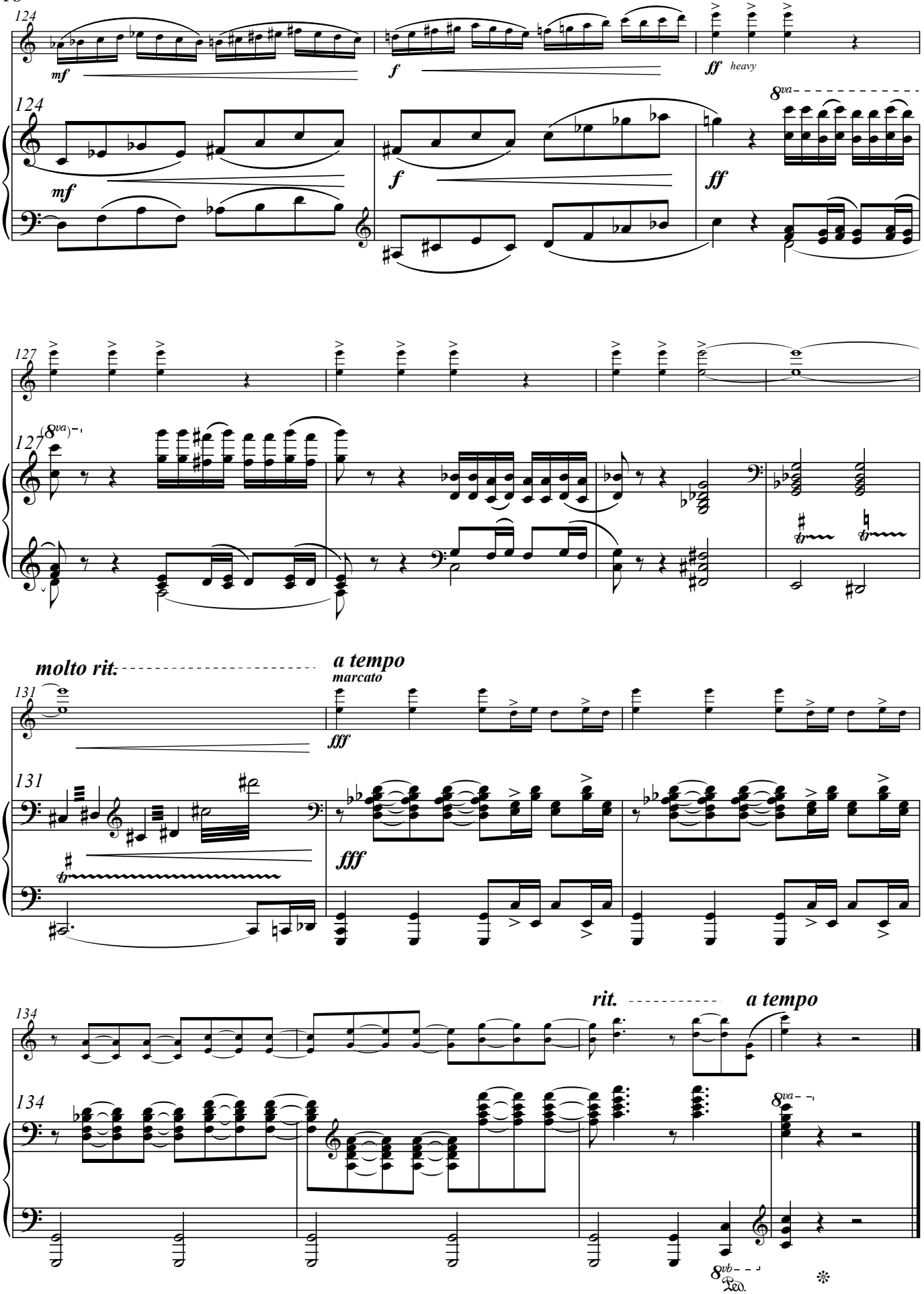

61
mp
64
67
mp
70
8vb


75
mp
75
mp
(8vb)
78
f
ff
78
f
ff
8vb
81
81
Ped.
85
85


88
88
91
91
94
94
97
97
p
p

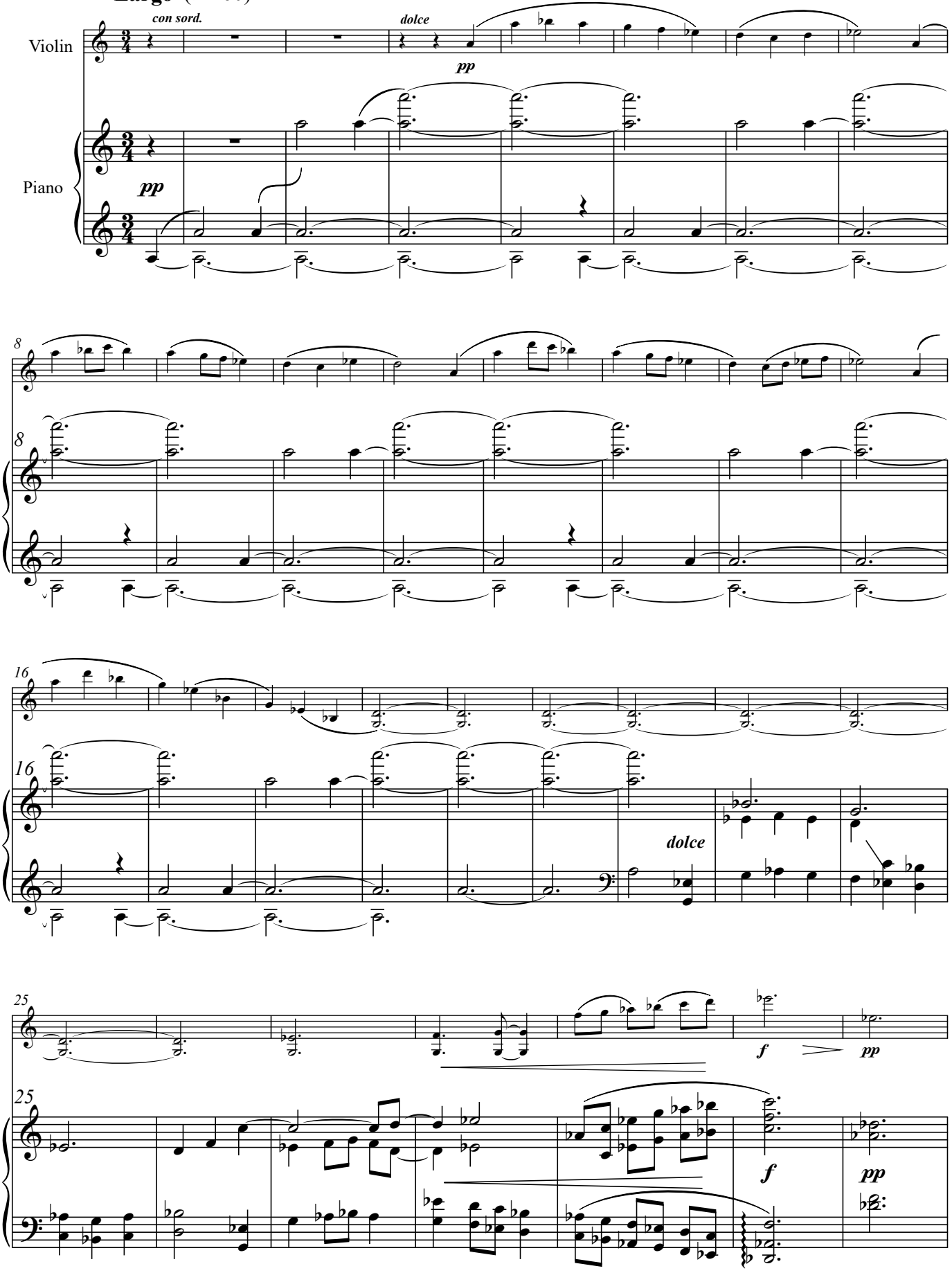

101
101
103
103
legato
105
mf
ff
105
mf
ff
108
108
8vb

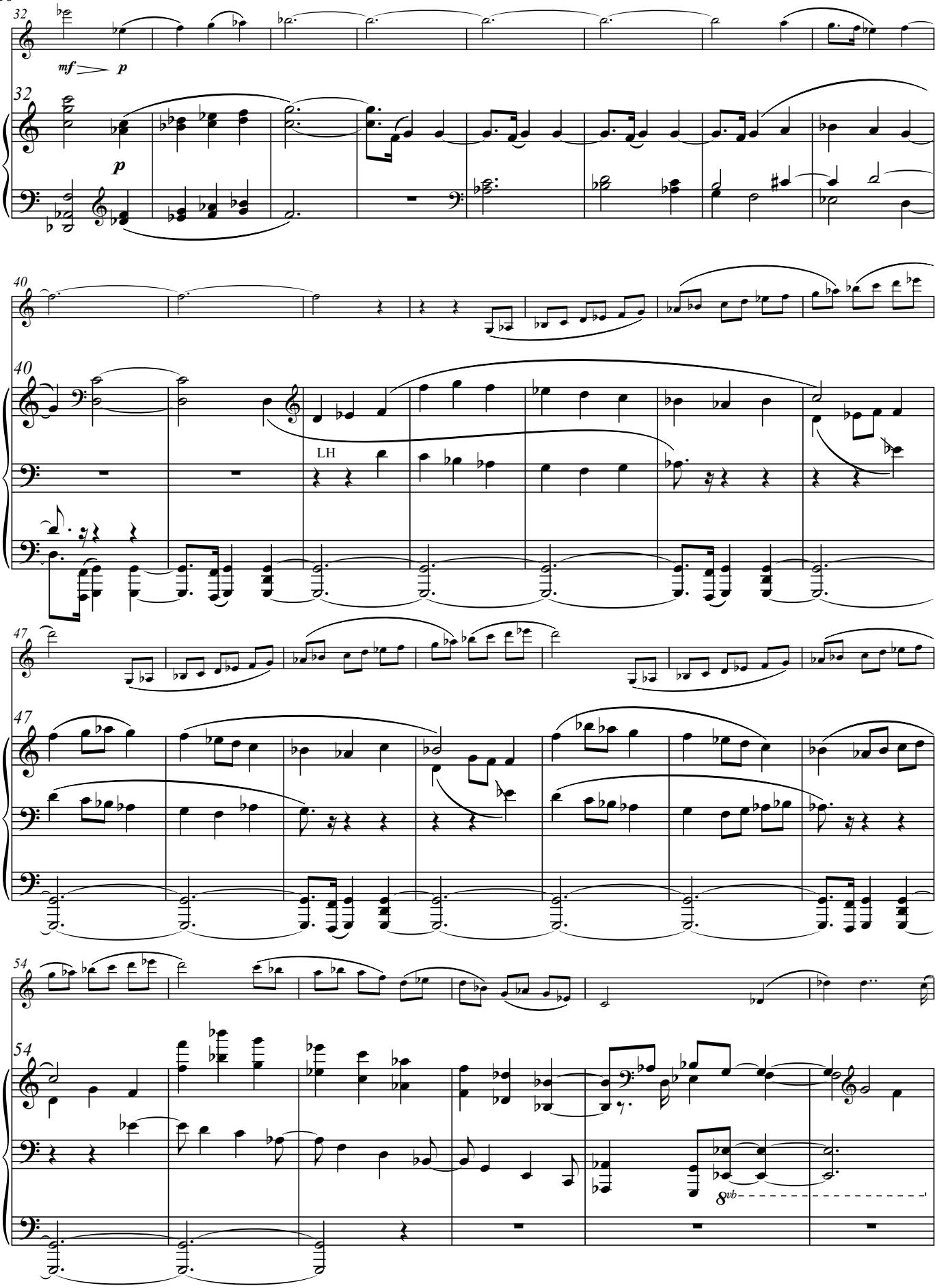

111
111
8vb
113
113
f
p
dolce
f
p
116
116
121
121
RH

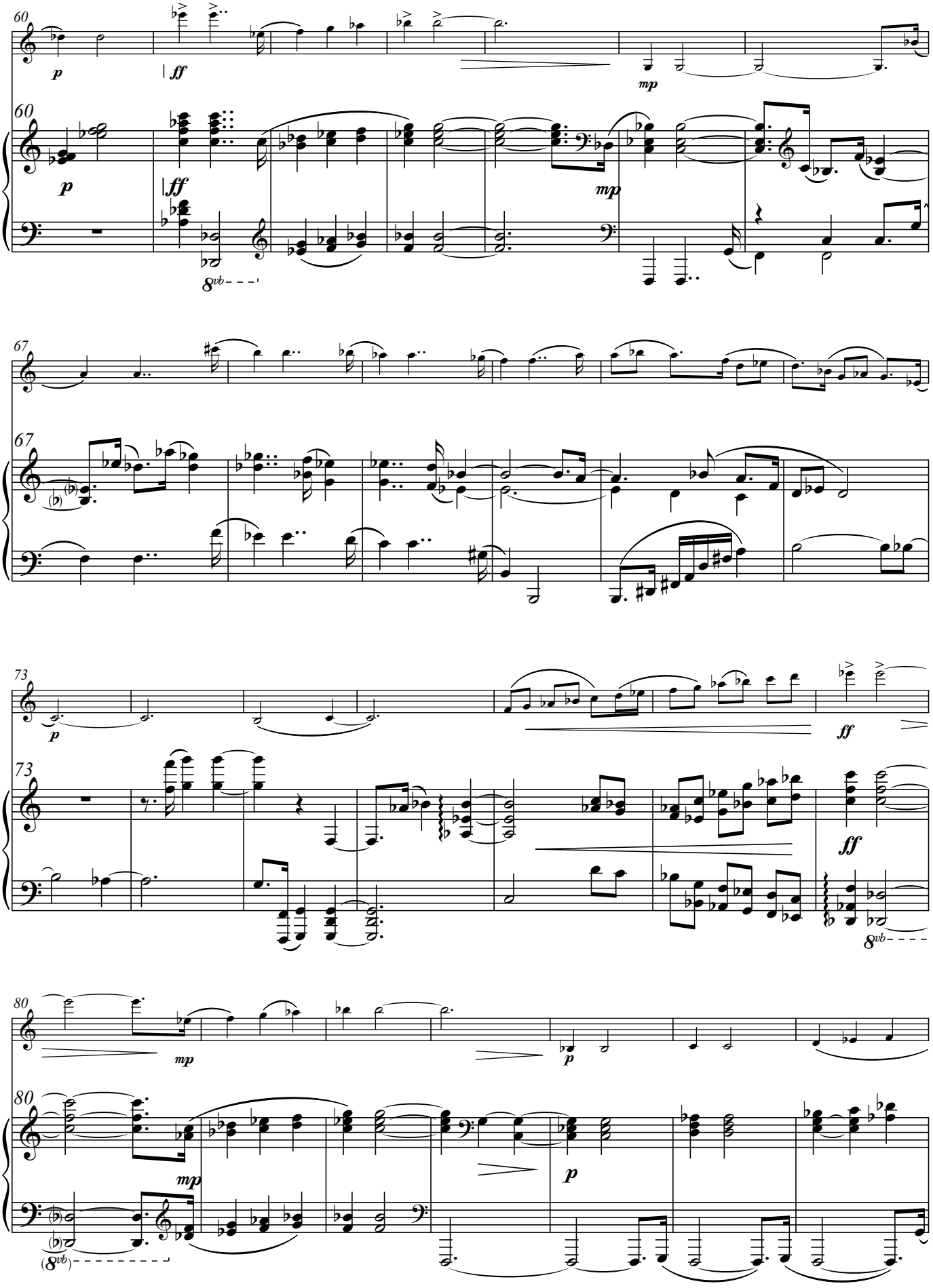

124
mf
f
ff heavy
8va
127
molto rit.
a tempo
marcato
fff
131
rit.
a tempo
134
8vb
Ped.

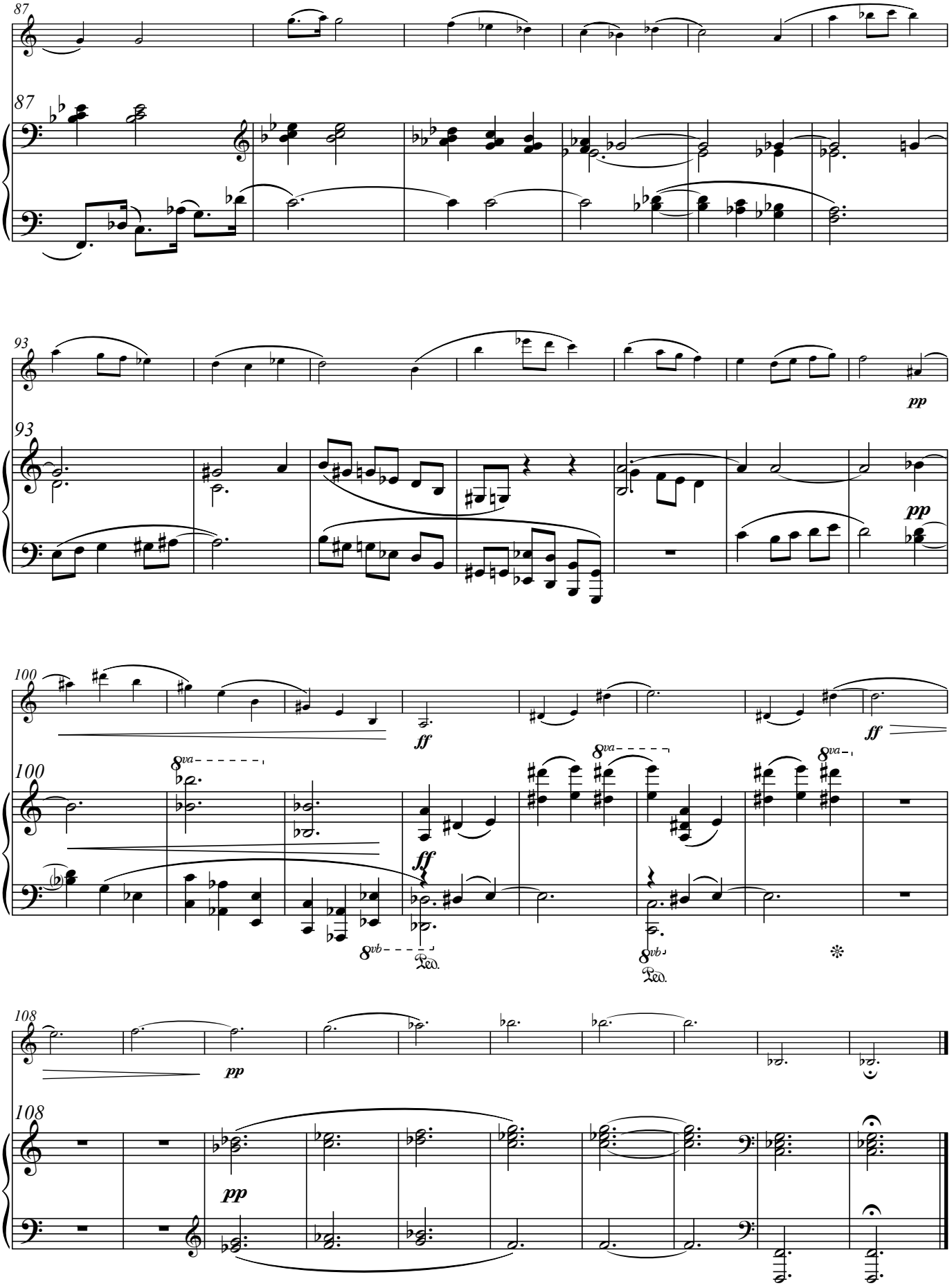
III. Dance for the seriously ill

Largo (♩= 60)

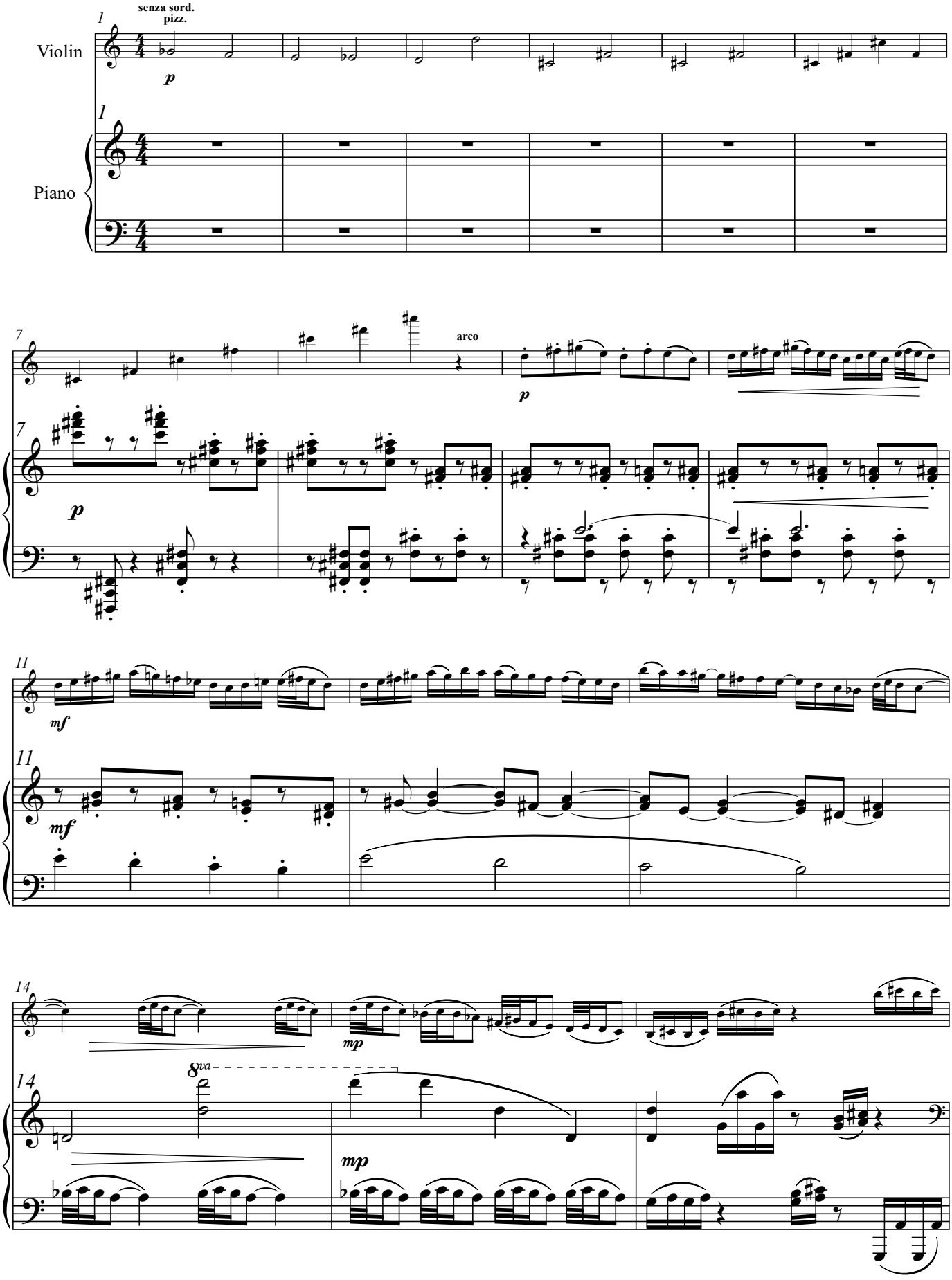


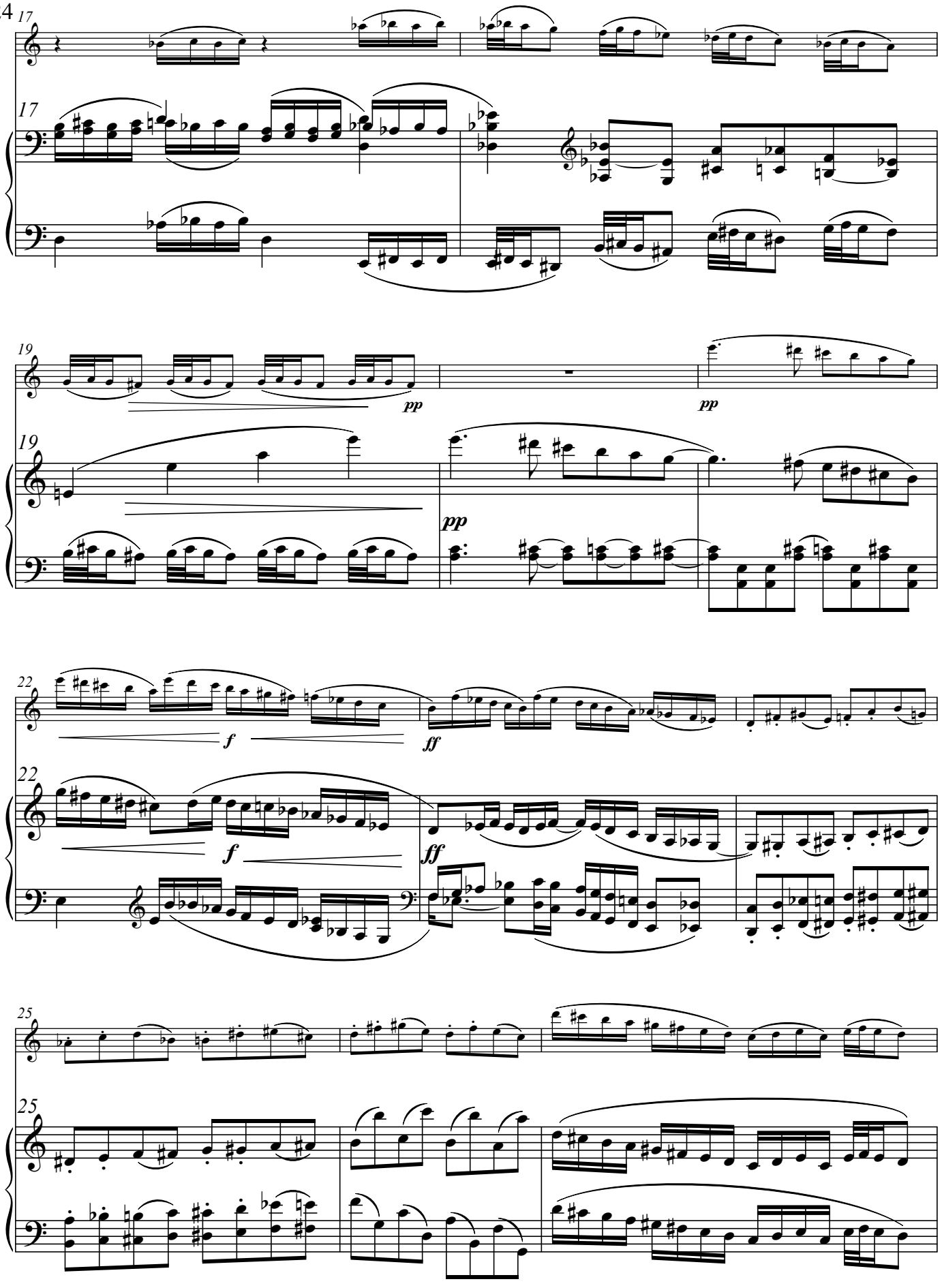

32
mf
p
32
p
40
40
LH
47
47
54
54
8vb

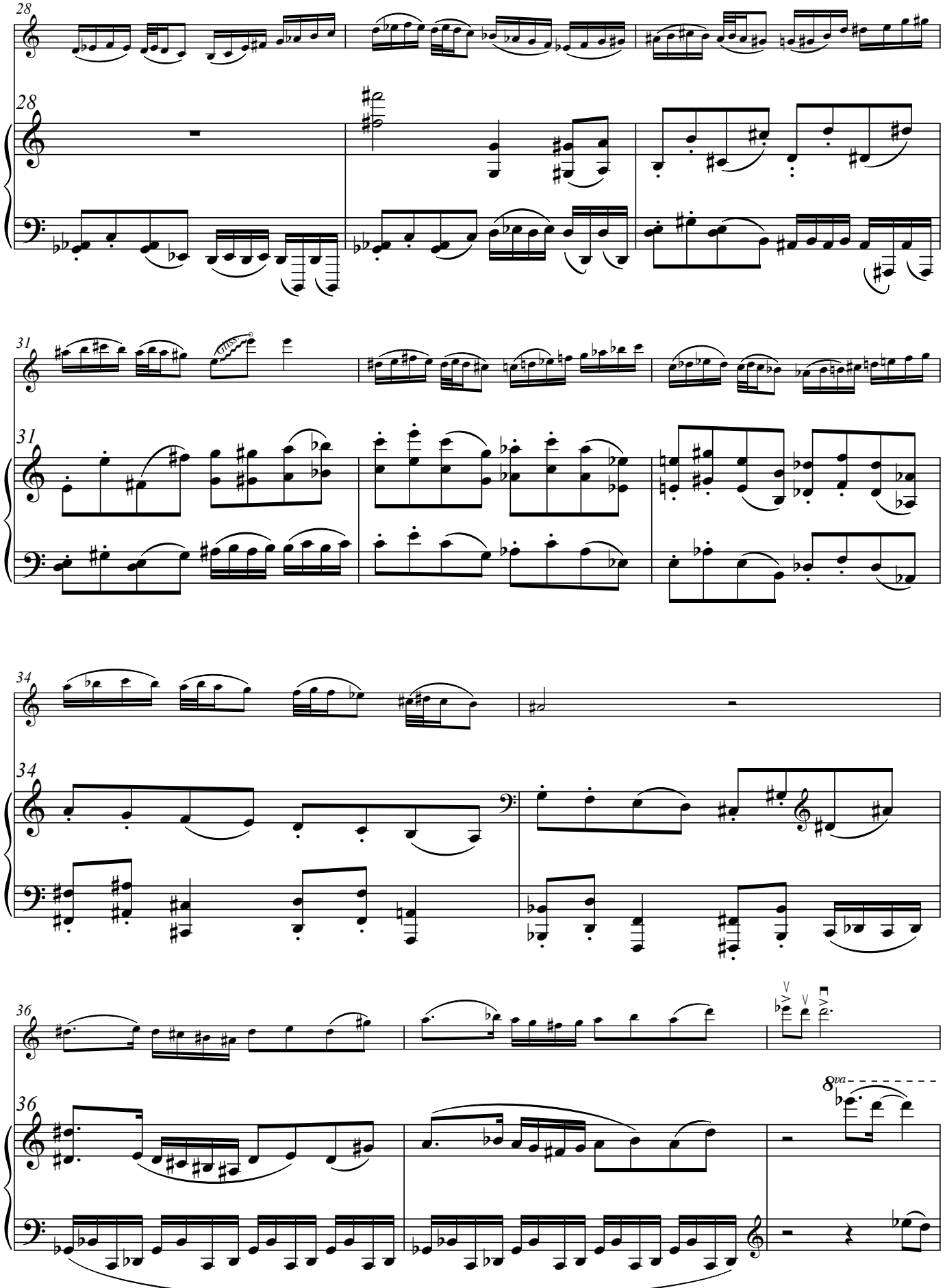

60
p
ff
mp
60
p
ff
mp
8vb
67
67
73
p
ff
73
ff
8vb
80
mp
p
80
mp
p
8vb

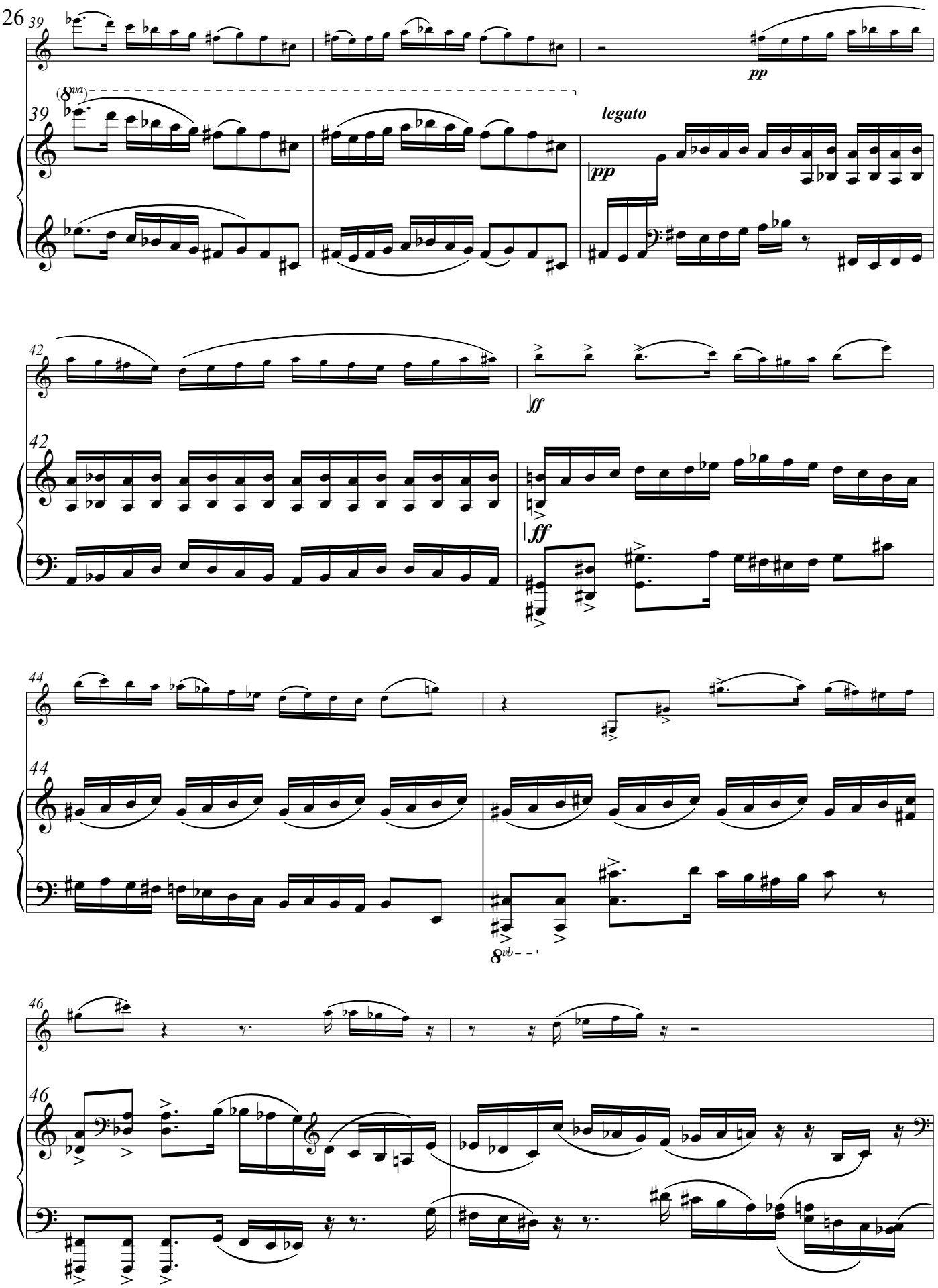

87
87
93
93
pp
pp
100
100
ff
ff
ff
8va
8va
8va
8vb
8vb
Ped.
Ped.
108
108
pp
pp

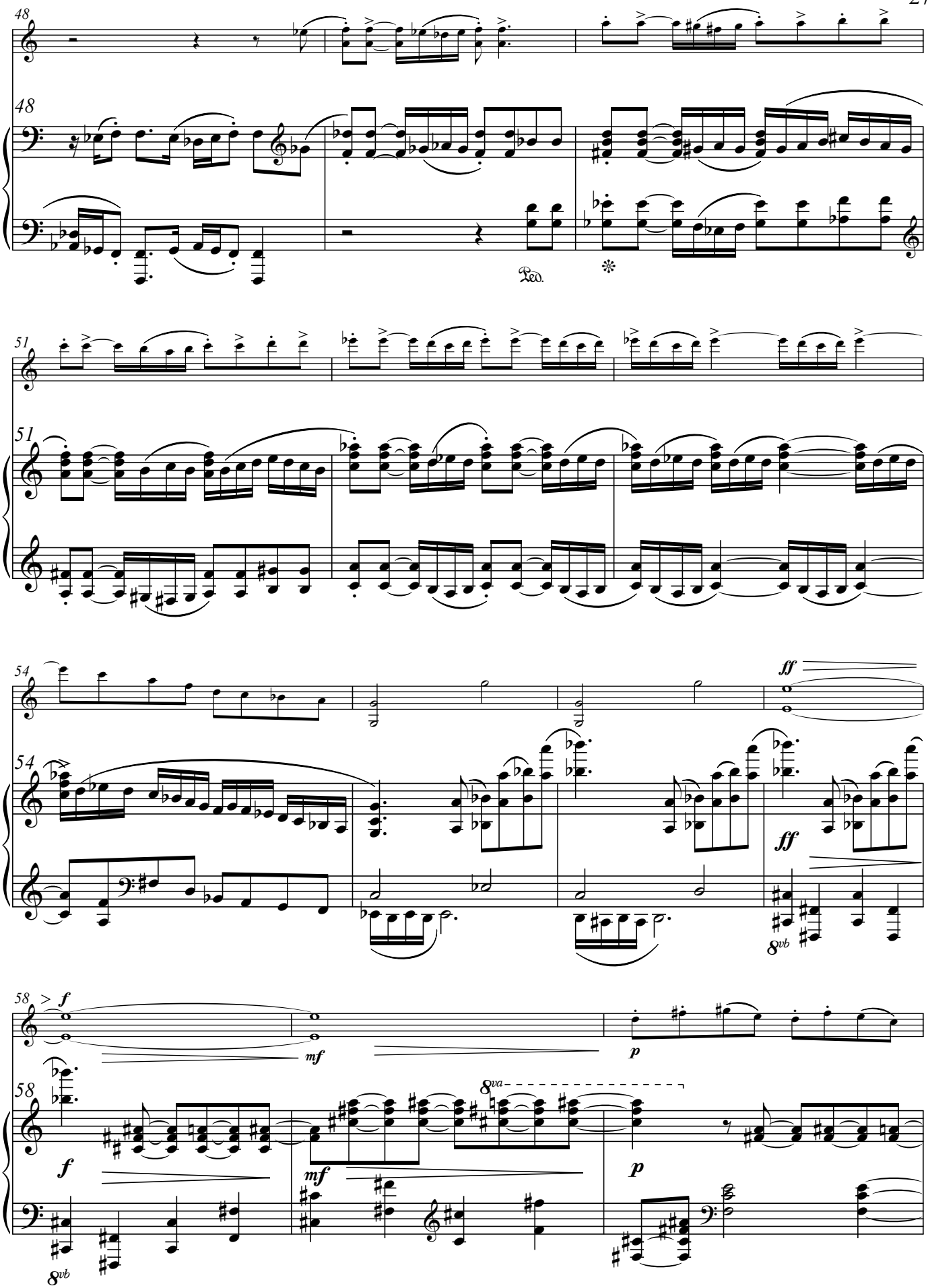
Romayana (♩= 100)

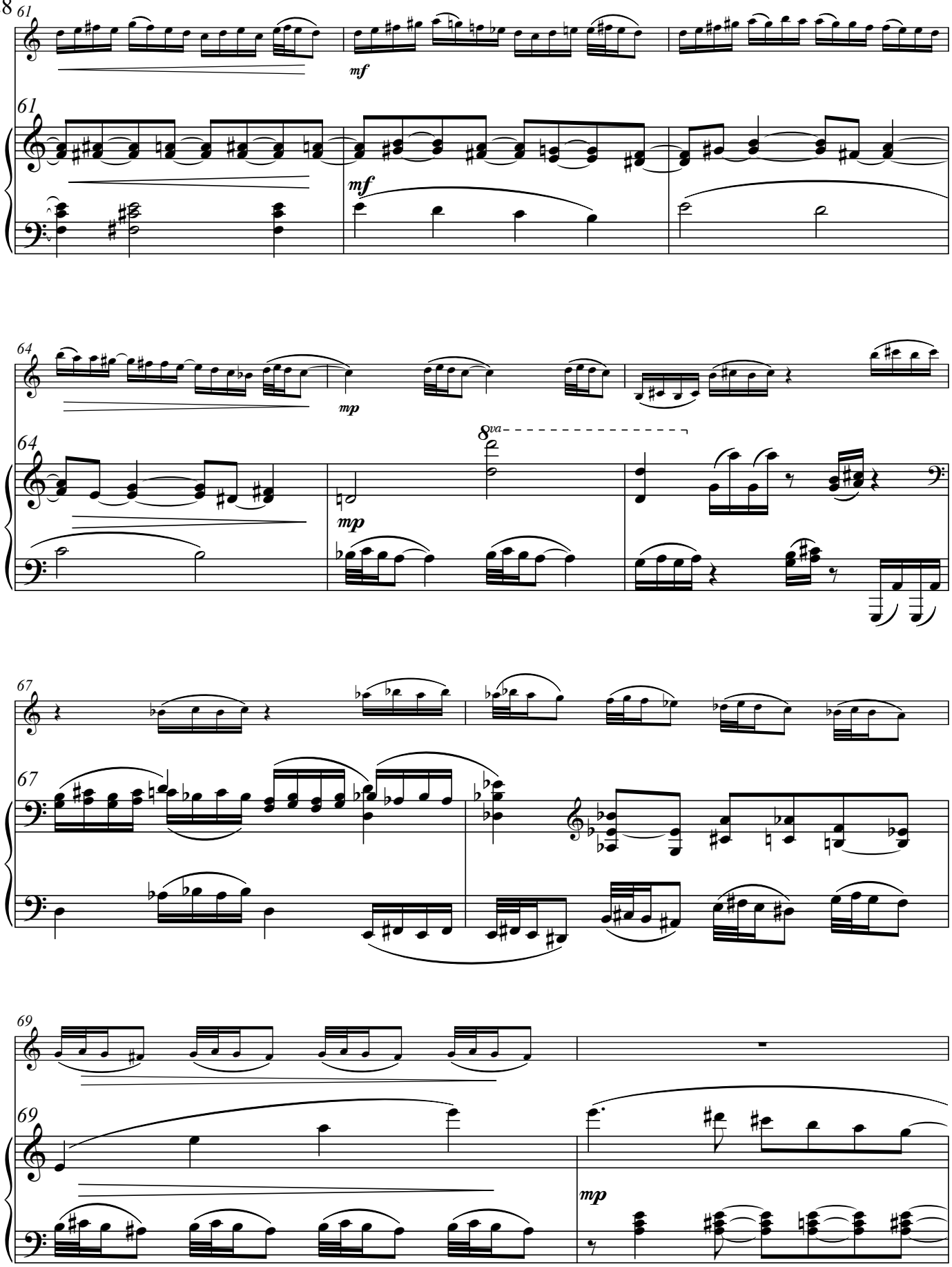


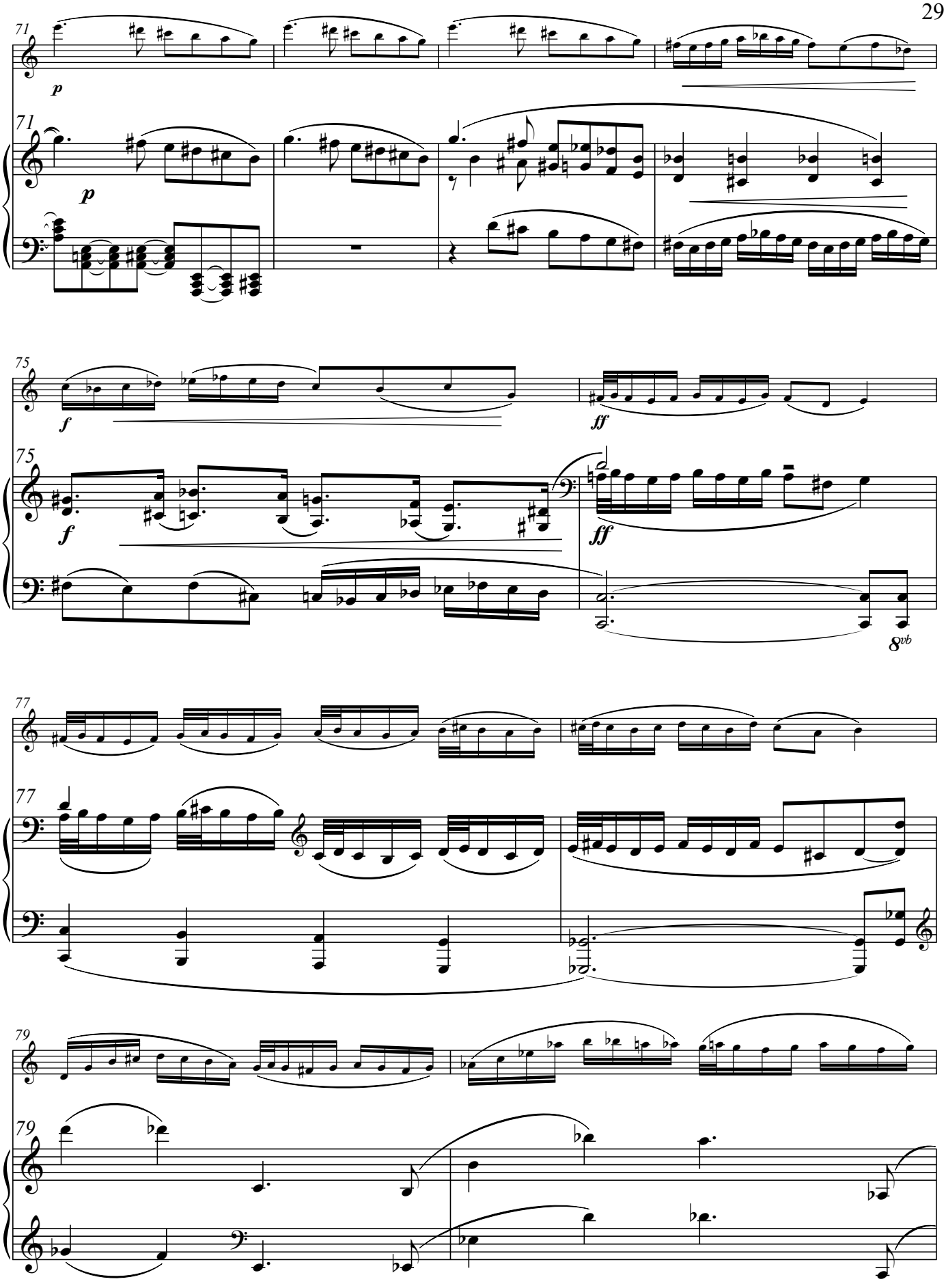

17
17
19
19
pp
pp
pp
22
22
f
ff
f
ff
25
25

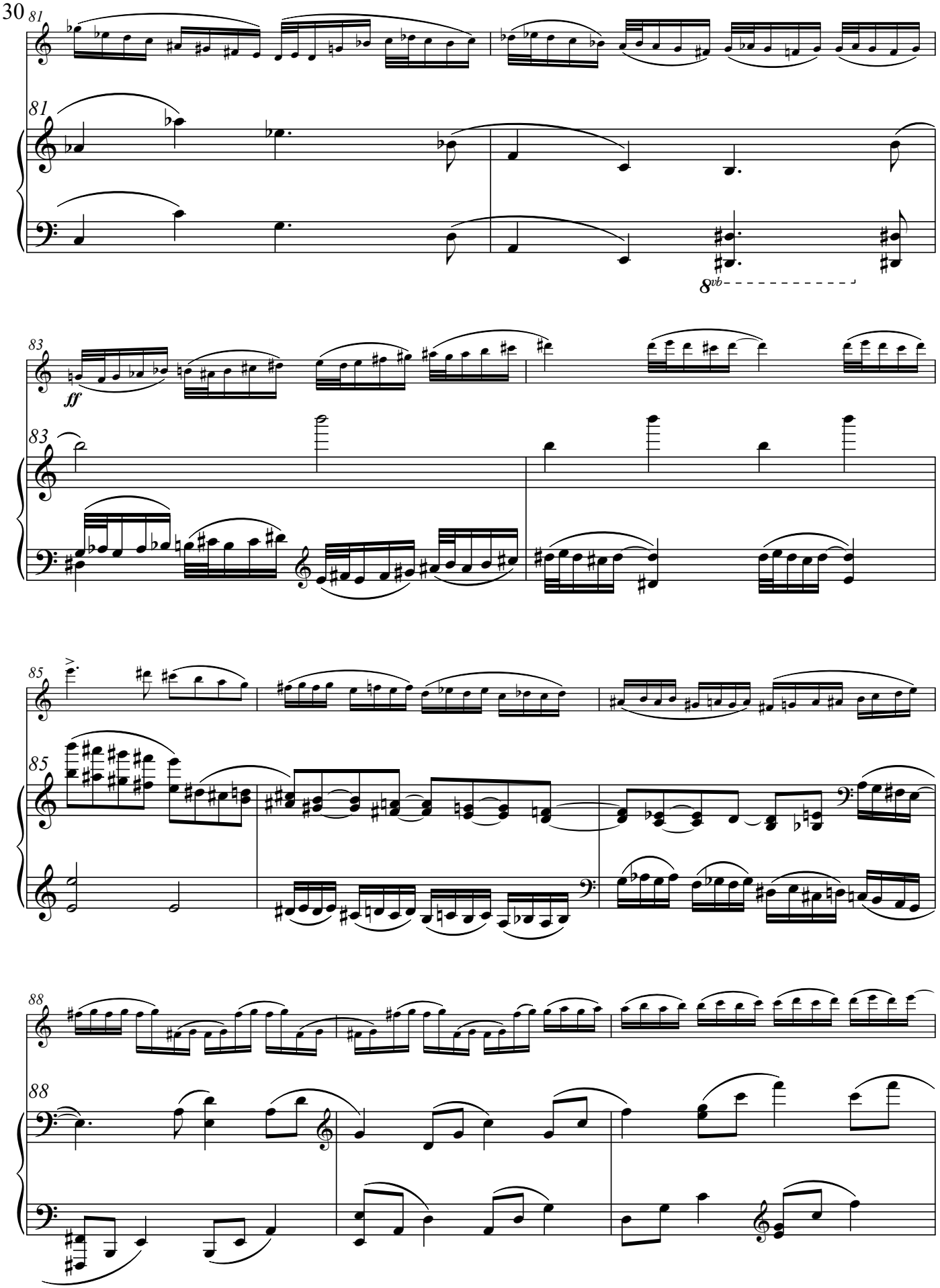

28
28
31
31
34
34
36
36
8va

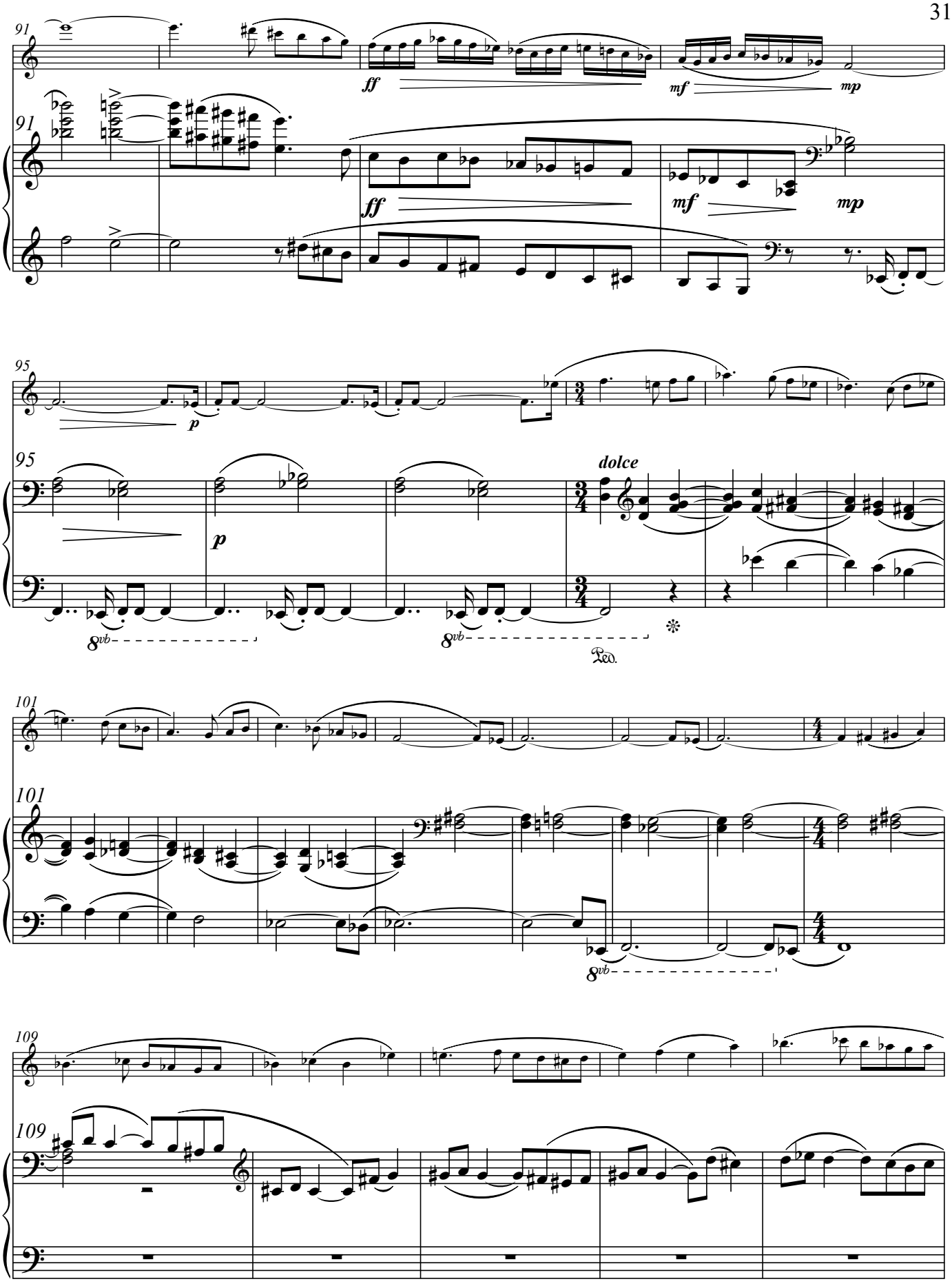

26
39
(8va)
pp
legato
42
ff
44
8vb
46

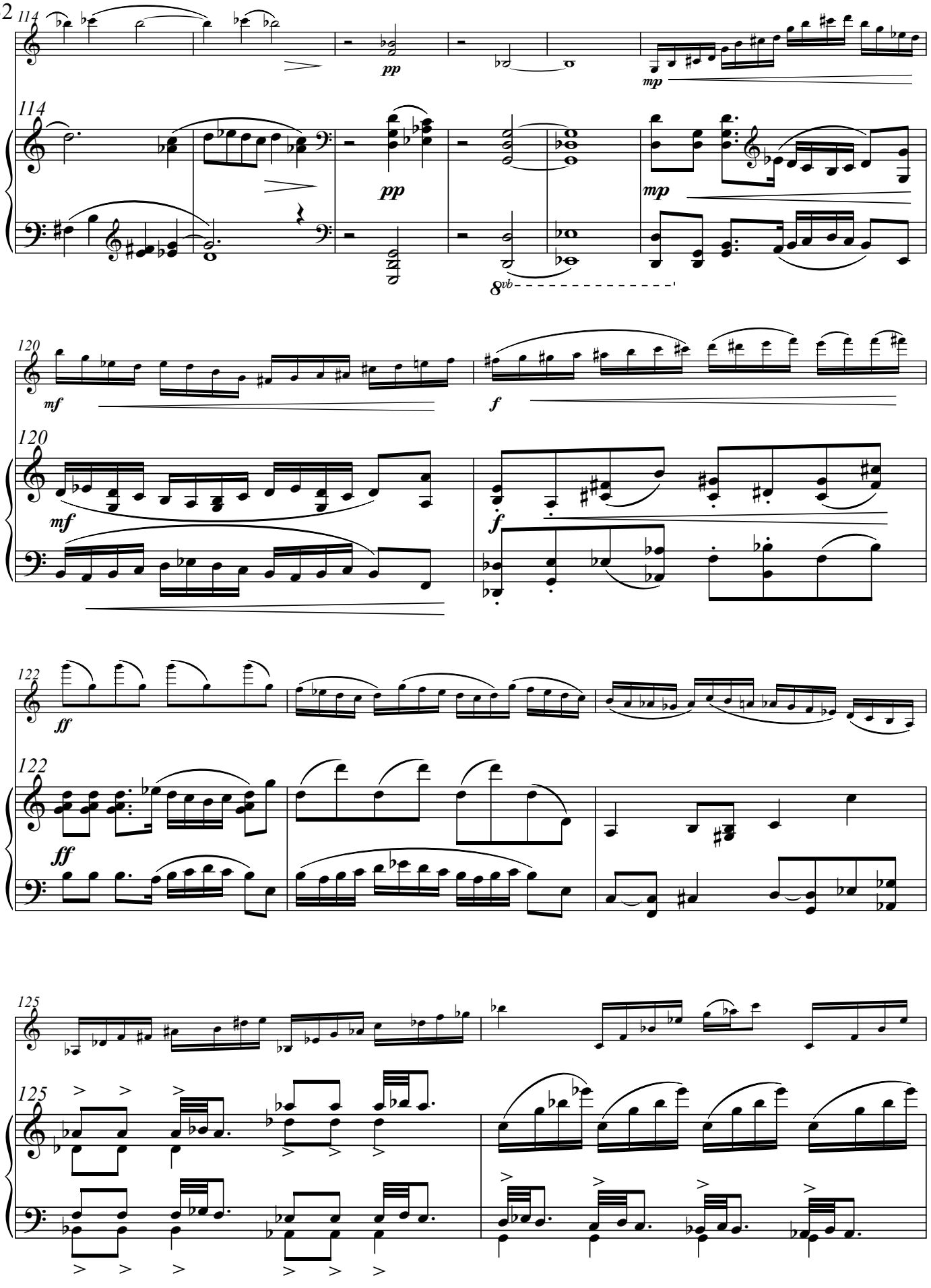

48
Ped.
51
54
ff
8vb
58
f
mf
p
8va

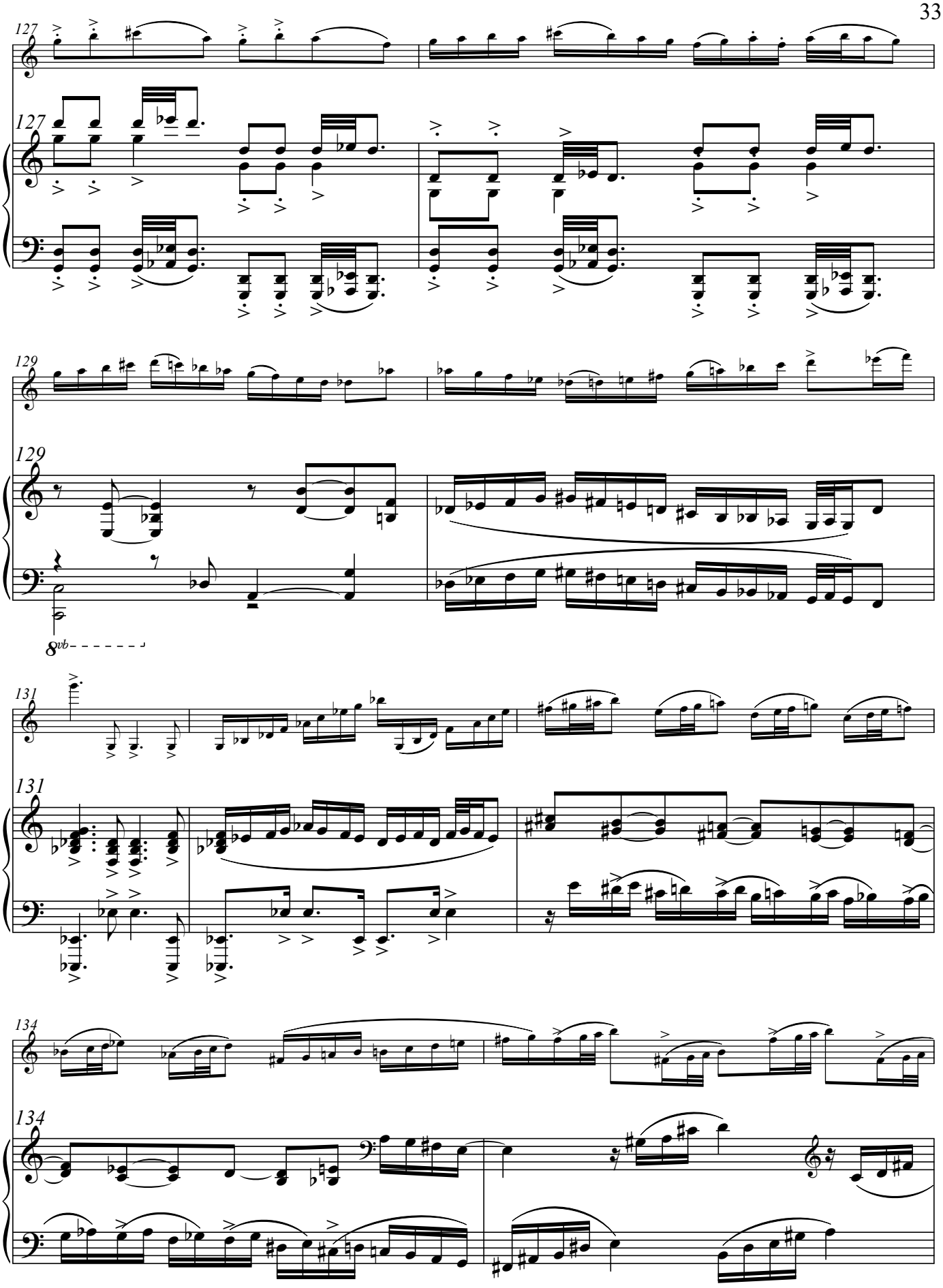

61
mf
61
mf
64
mp
64
8va
mp
67
67
69
69
mp

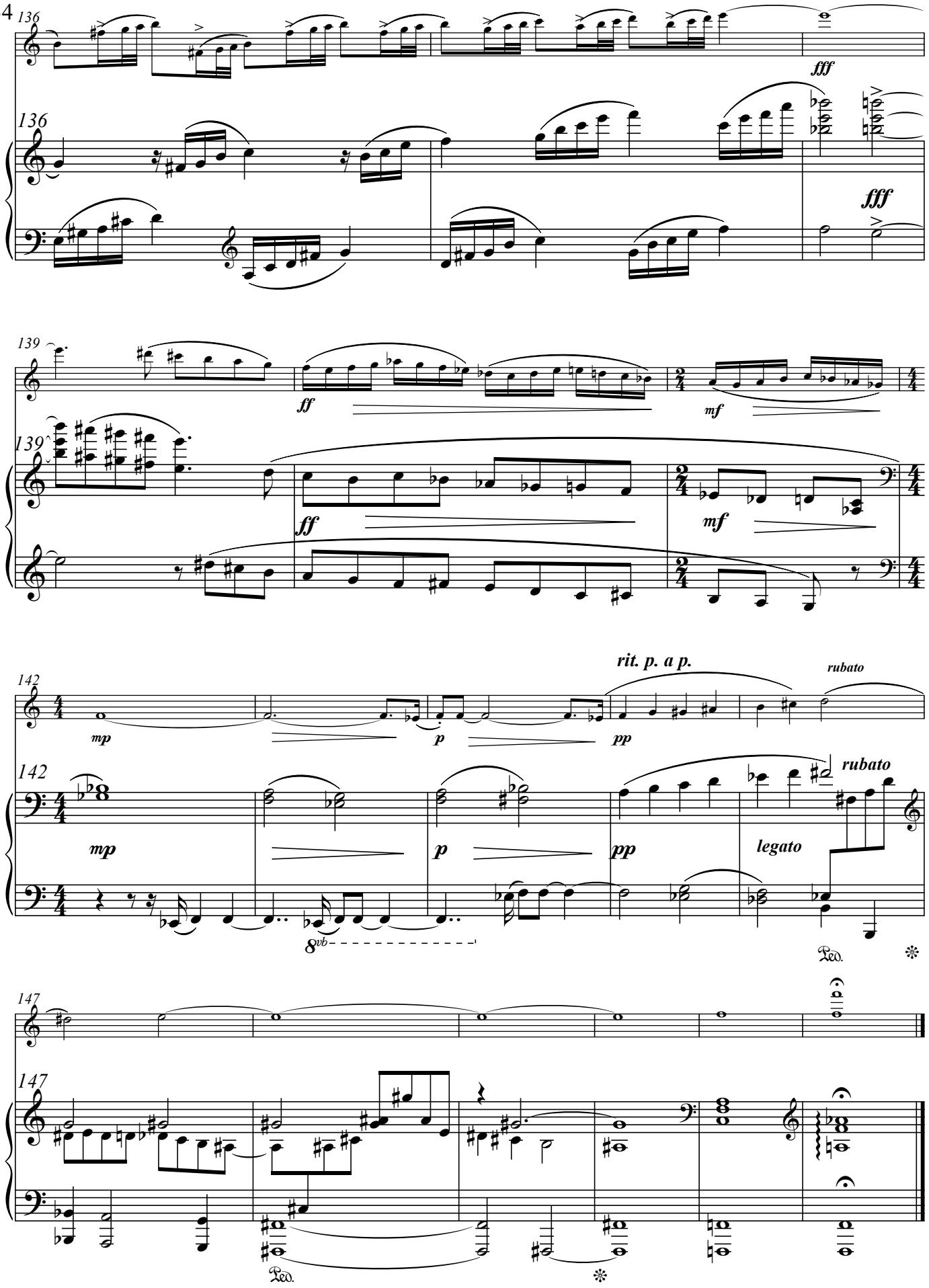

71
p
71
p
75
f
ff
75
f
ff
8vb
77
77
79
79


30
81
81
8vb
83
ff
83
85
85
88
88


91
ff
mf
mp
95
p
dolce
8vb
Ped.
101
109


114
pp
mp
8vb
120
mf
f
122
ff
125


127
127
129
129
8vb
131
131
134
134


136
fff
136
fff
139
ff
mf
139
ff
mf
142
mp
p
pp
rit. p. a p.
rubato
142
mp
p
pp
rubato
legato
8vb
Ped.
147
147
Ped.