Huit Etudes Importantes et Nécessaires

für Klavier

Michael Mikulka

"Huit Etudes Importantes et Nécessaires" is a series of eight concert etudes which may be performed individually, but have also been designed to form a coherent composition when performed consecutively. My original plan was to write such an unusual concept for each etude that the pianist would need to acquire a completely impractical and otherwise unnecessary skill: something that would fit the format of an etude but defy the original purpose of an etude. As I started writing, it became clear that there is actually a varying level of usefulness for the quirky techniques developed in this composition.

Here is a synopsis of each etude:

I. Repeated leaps of several octaves with both hands
II. A theme and variations featuring rapid pedaling techniques
III. Very specific note values in a stylistically rubato setting
IV. Playing notes and diatonic clusters delicately with the face
V. Tremolos with rapid fingering switches
VI. Twenty distinct dynamic levels used to play a lot of 5ths
VII. Extreme hand-crossings set in a permanent poco ritardando
VIII. Strangely-set-up metric modulations lead to the devil's trill's staircase and all 88 piano keys played simultaneously

Huit Etudes Importantes et Nécessaires

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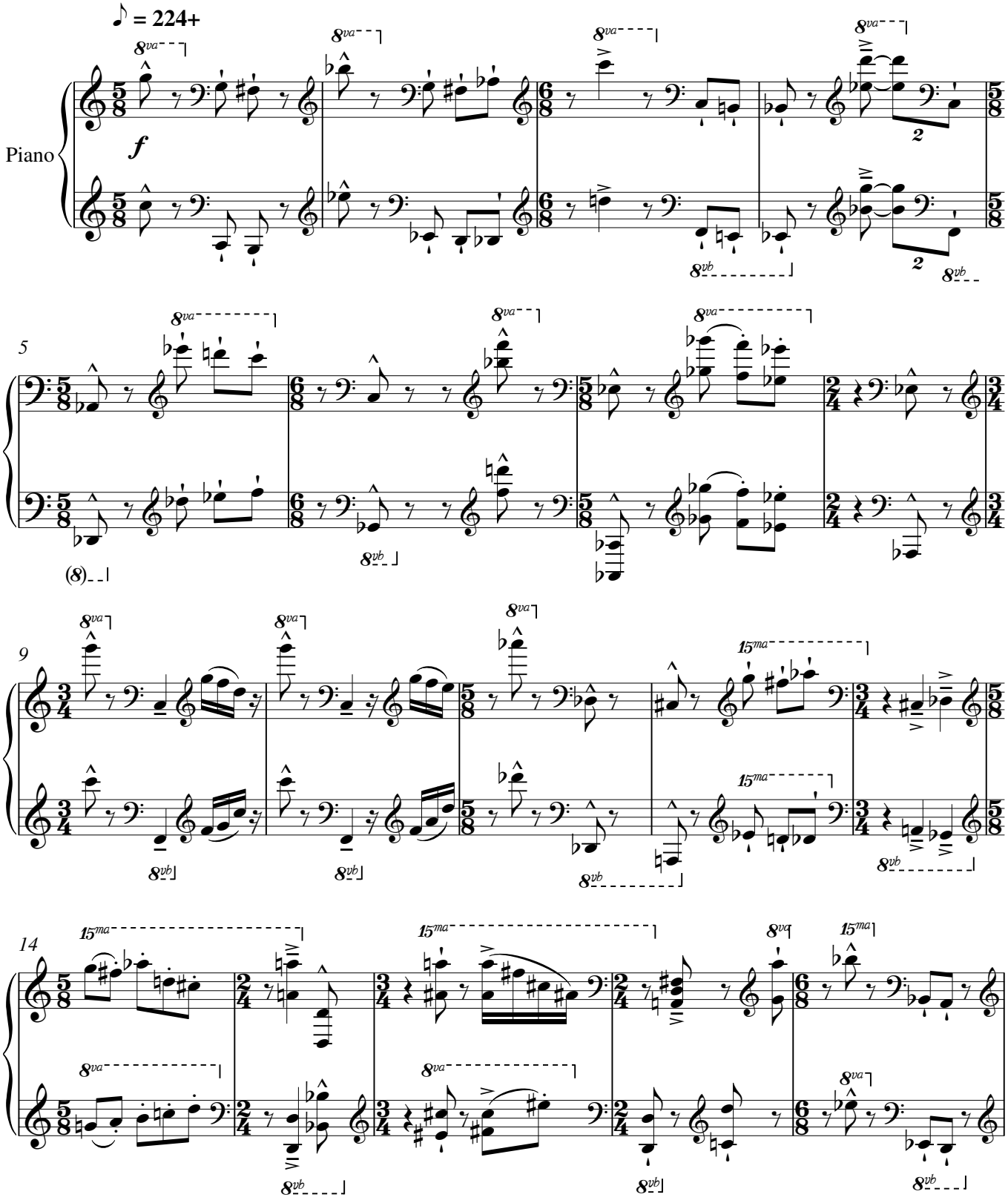
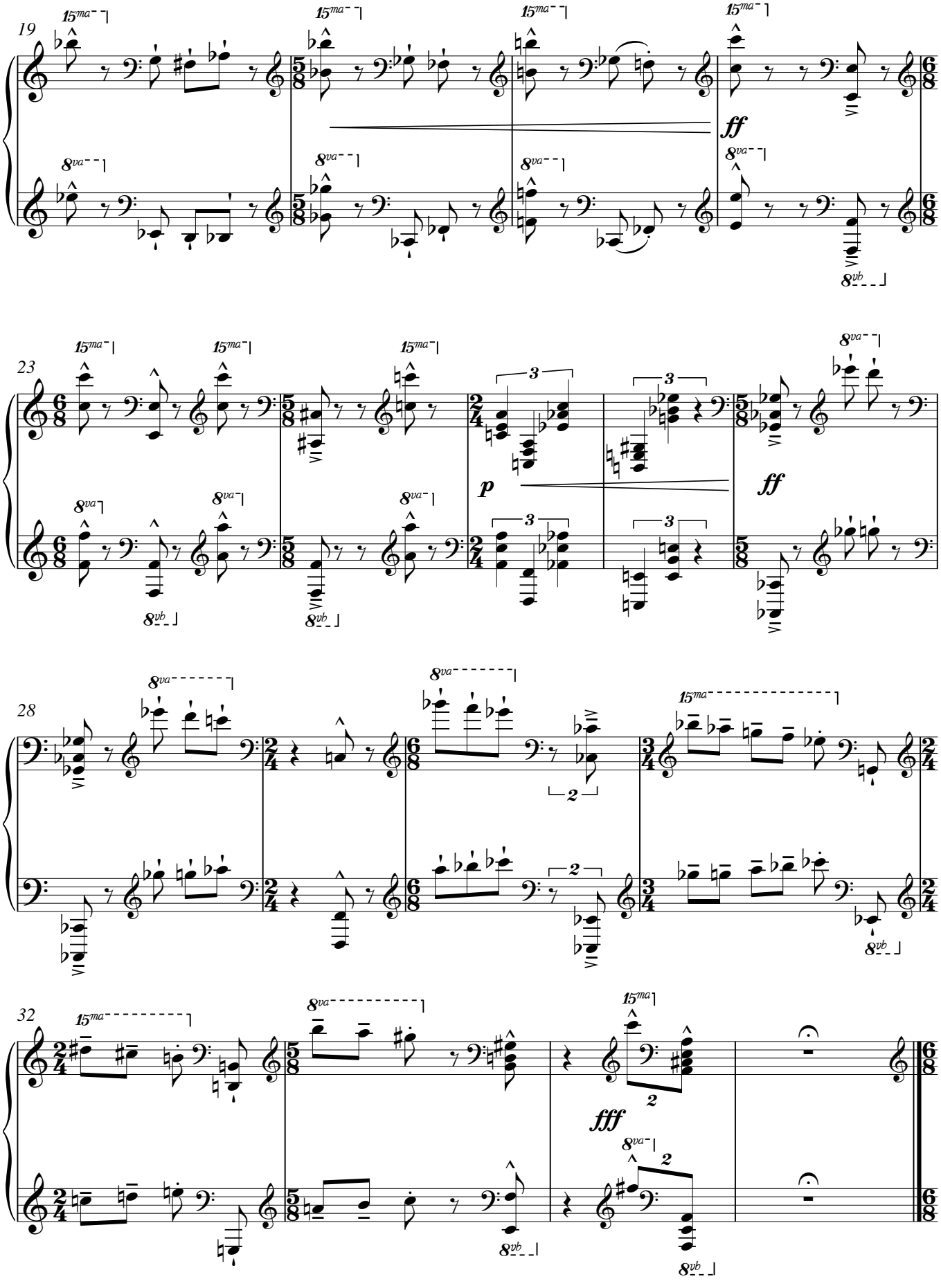
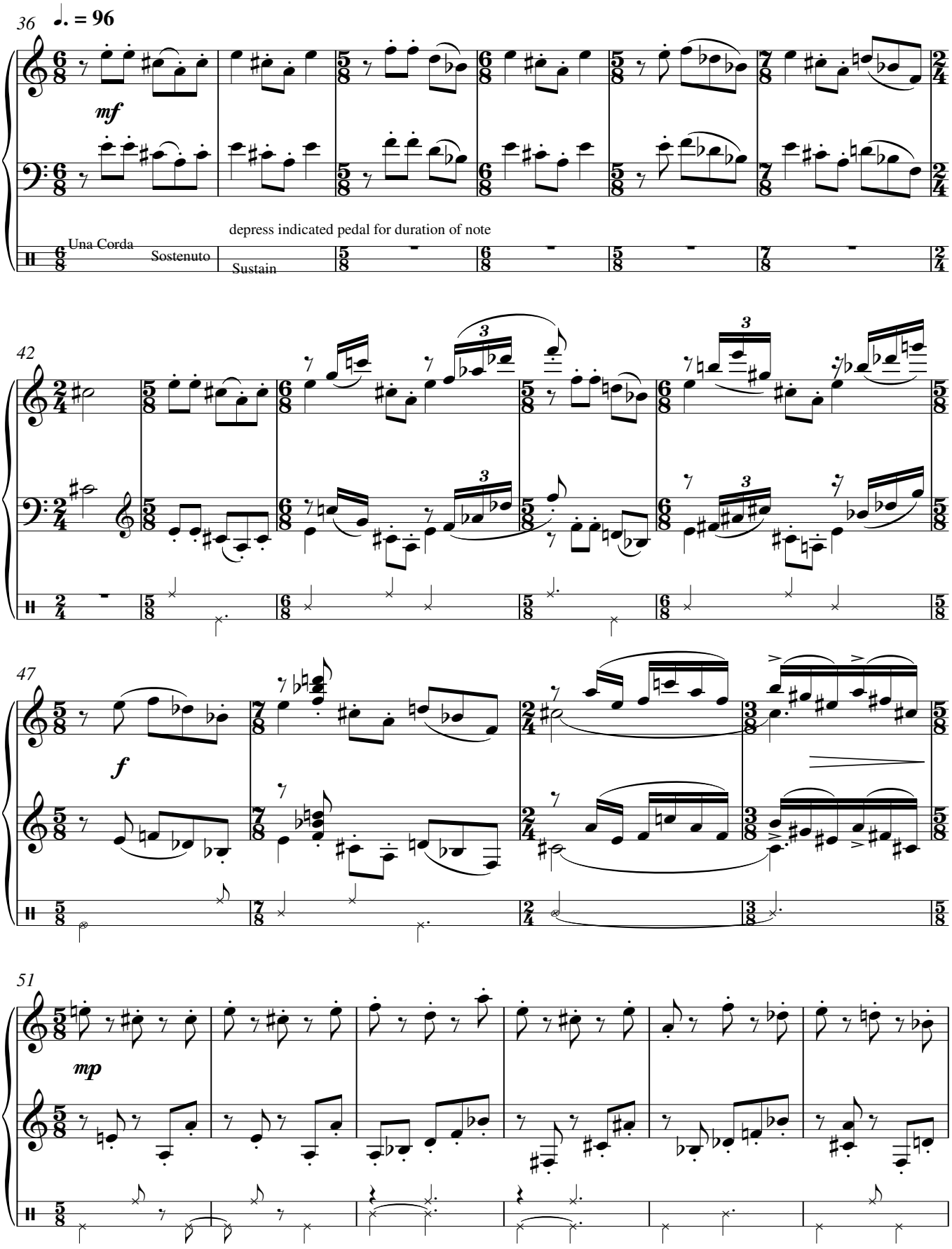
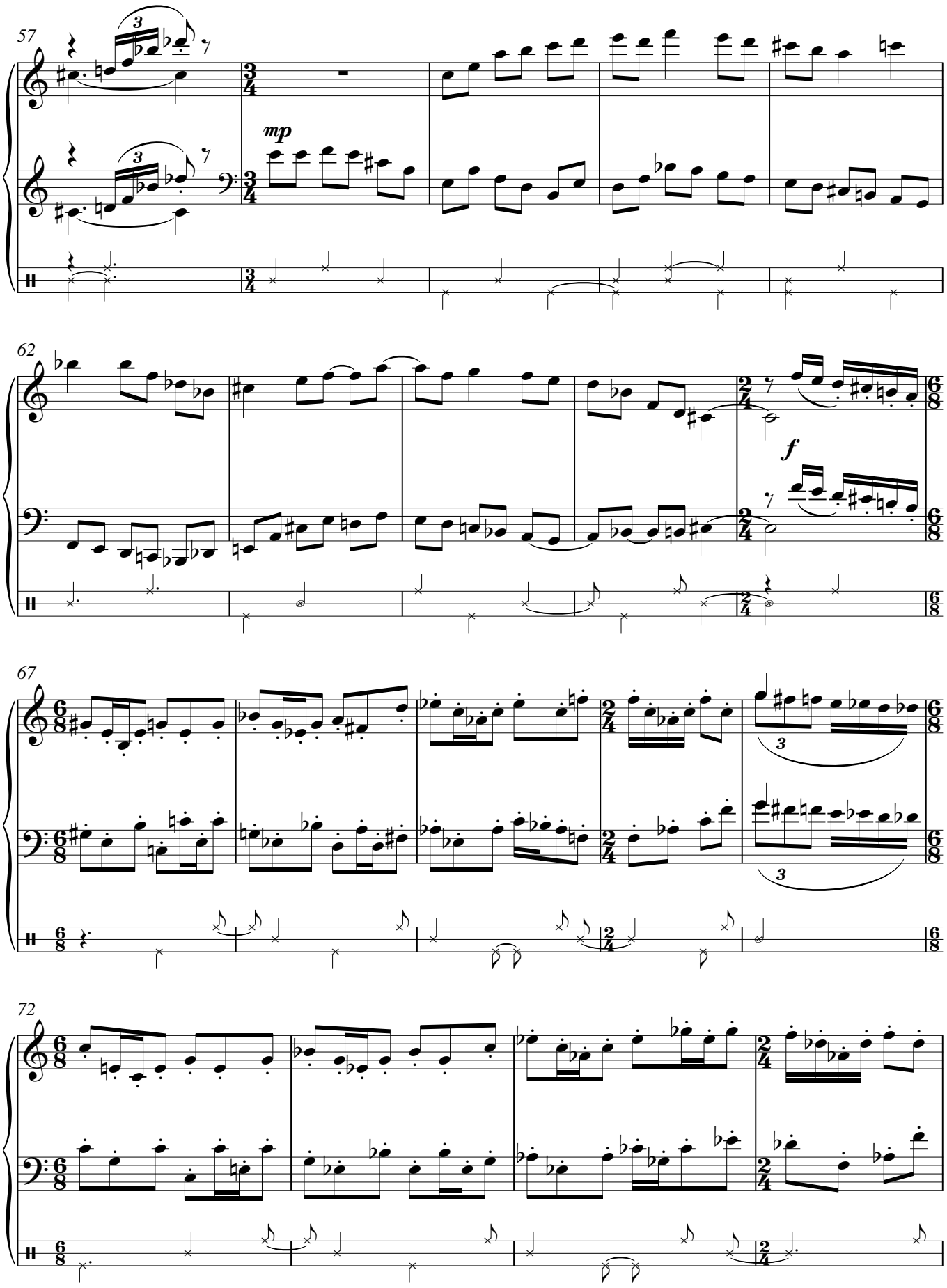
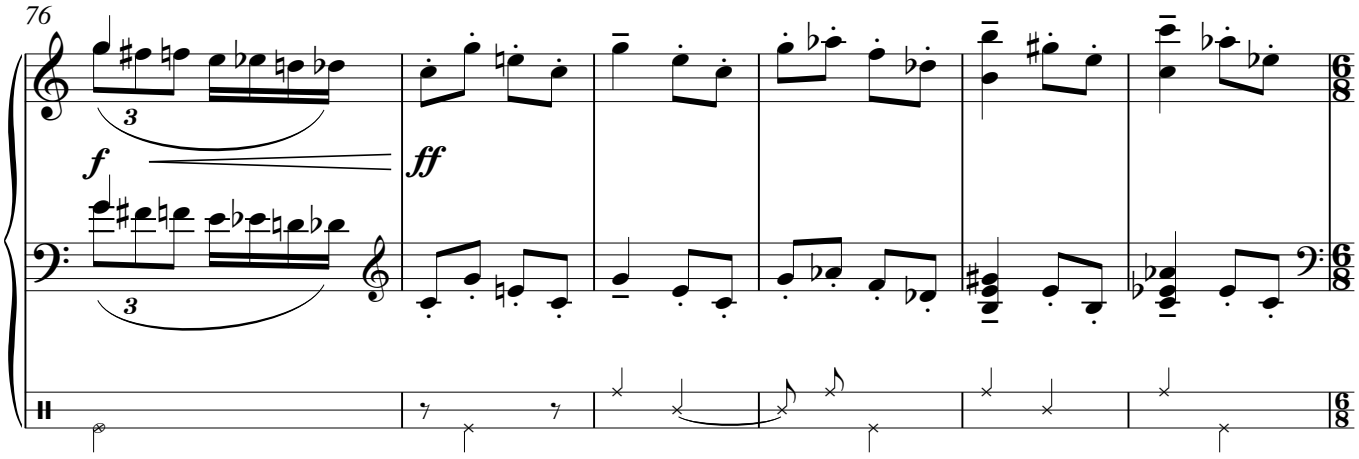
I.

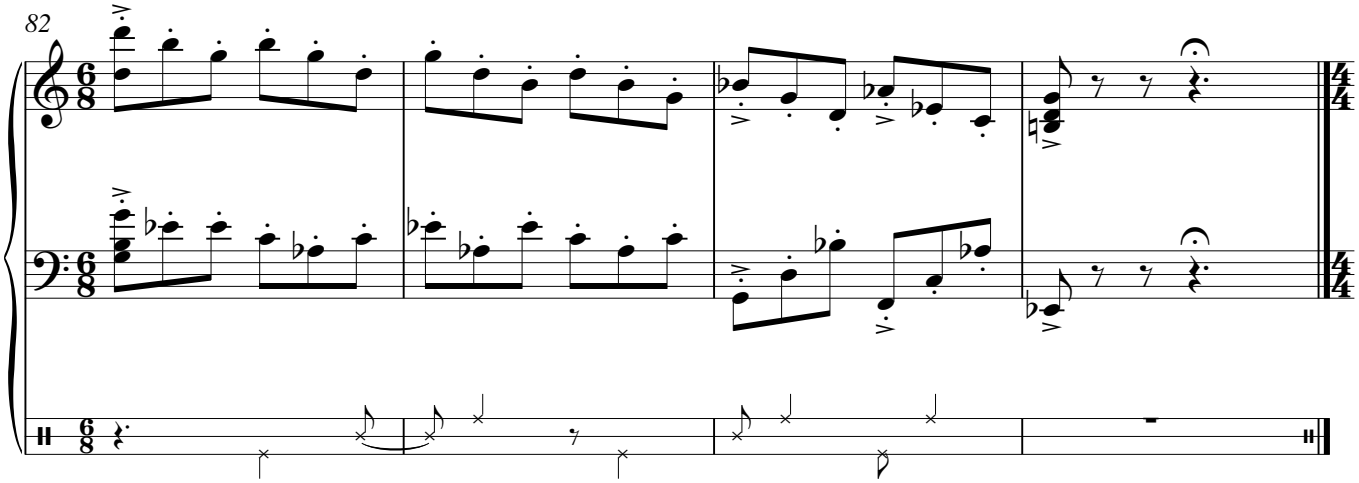



19
23
28
32
ff
p
ff
fff

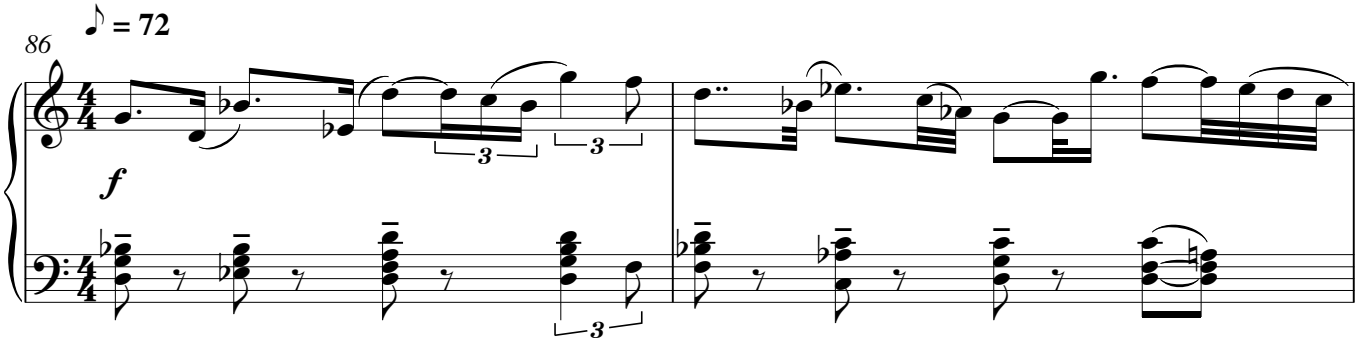

36
♩. = 96
mf
depress indicated pedal for duration of note
Una Corda
Sostenuto
Sustain
42
47
f
51
mp

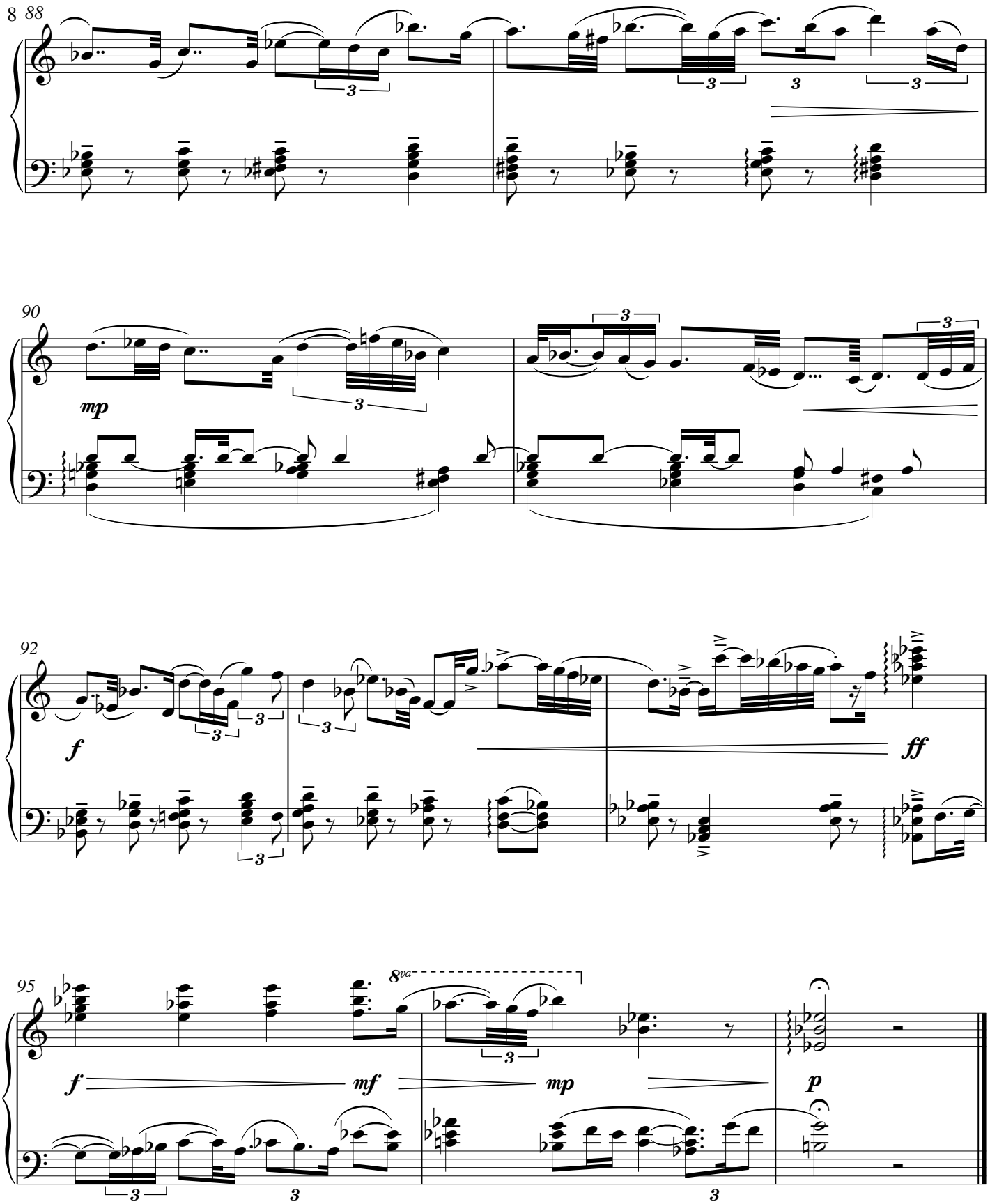

57
mp
62
f
67
72



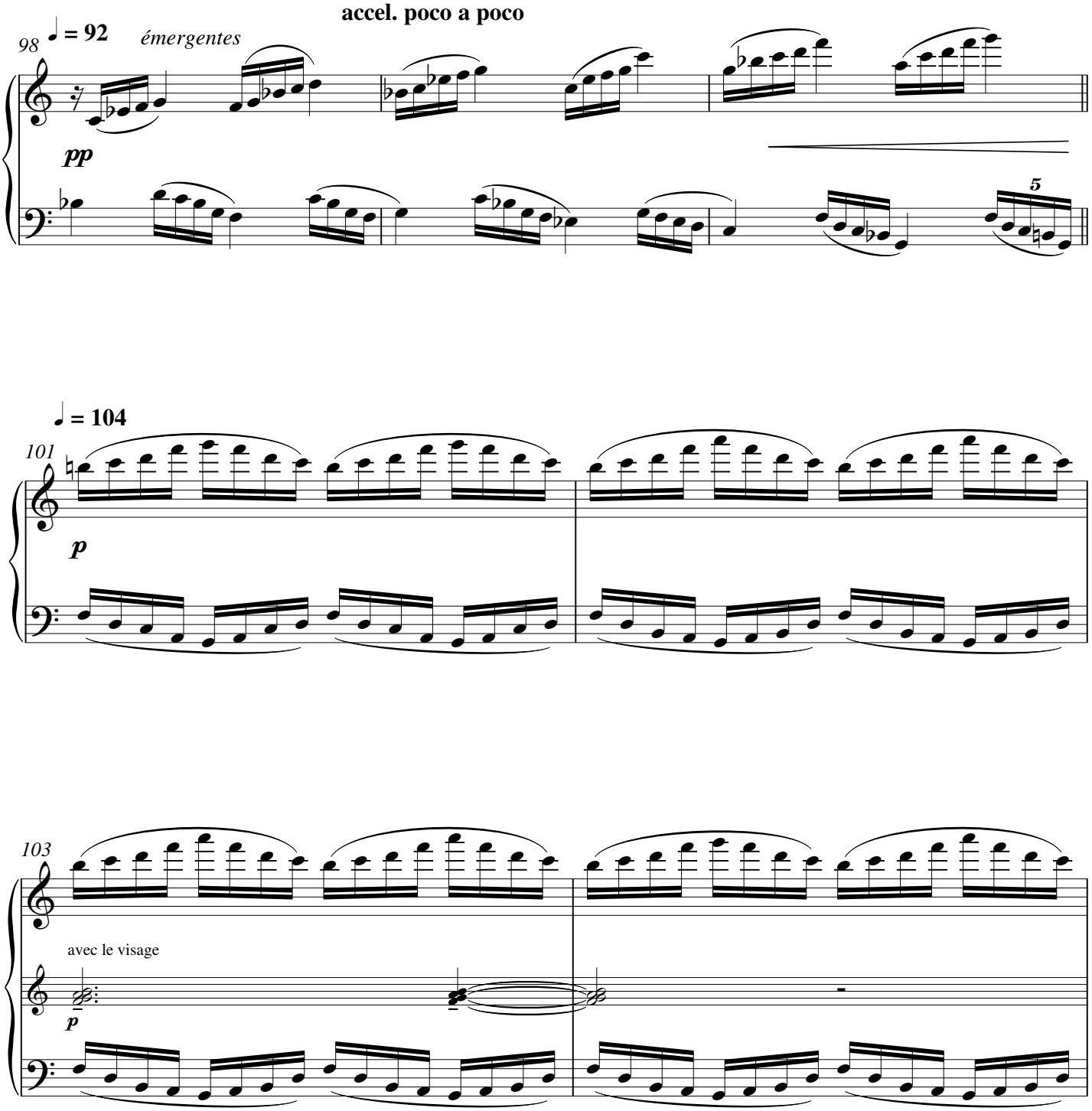


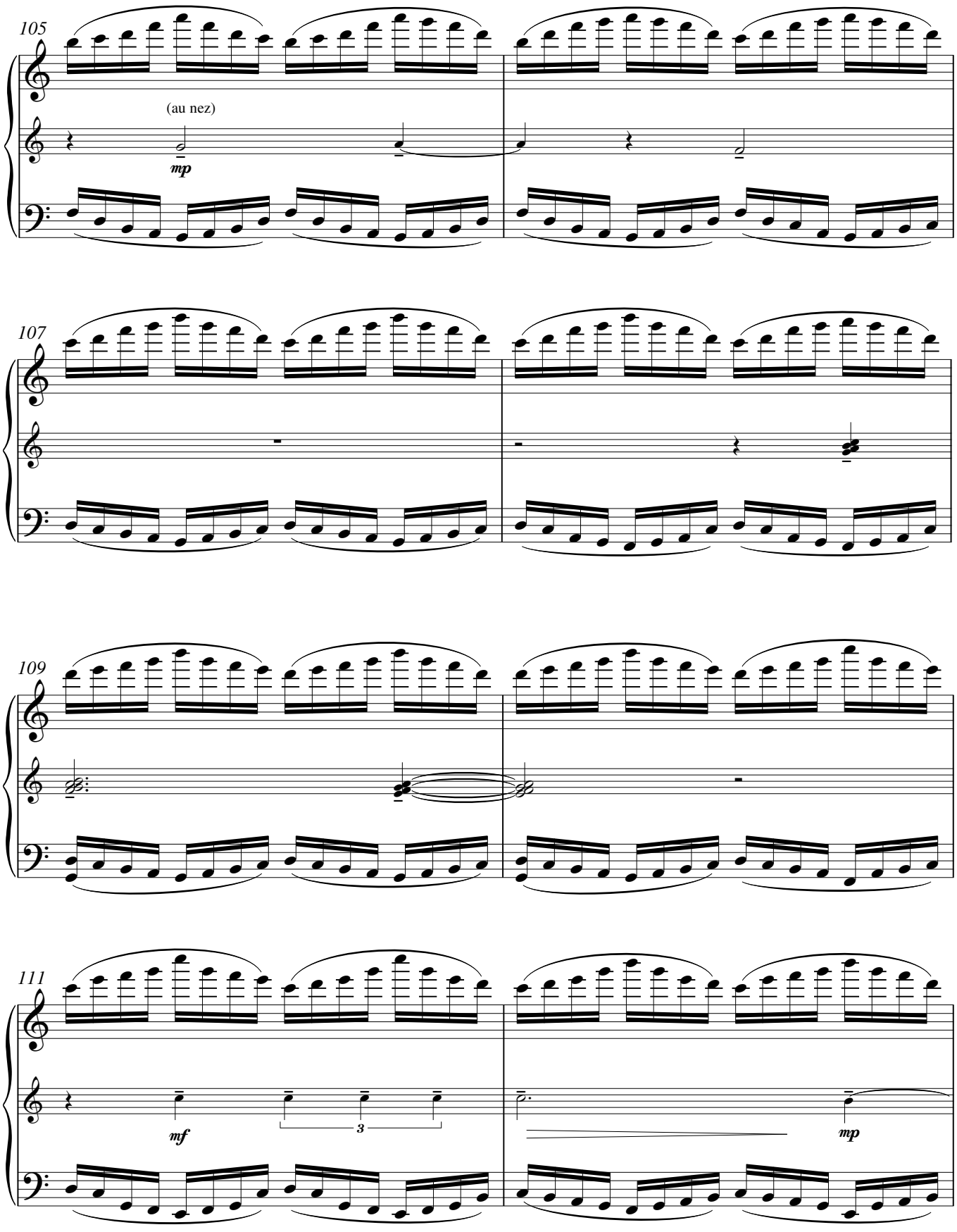
III.




8 88
90
mp
92
f
ff
95
8va
f
mf
mp
p

IV.


accel. poco a poco
98
♩ = 92
émergentes
pp
5
♩ = 104
101
p
103
avec le visage
p


105
(au nez)
mp
107
109
111
mf
3
mp

113

115

117

p

molto rit.

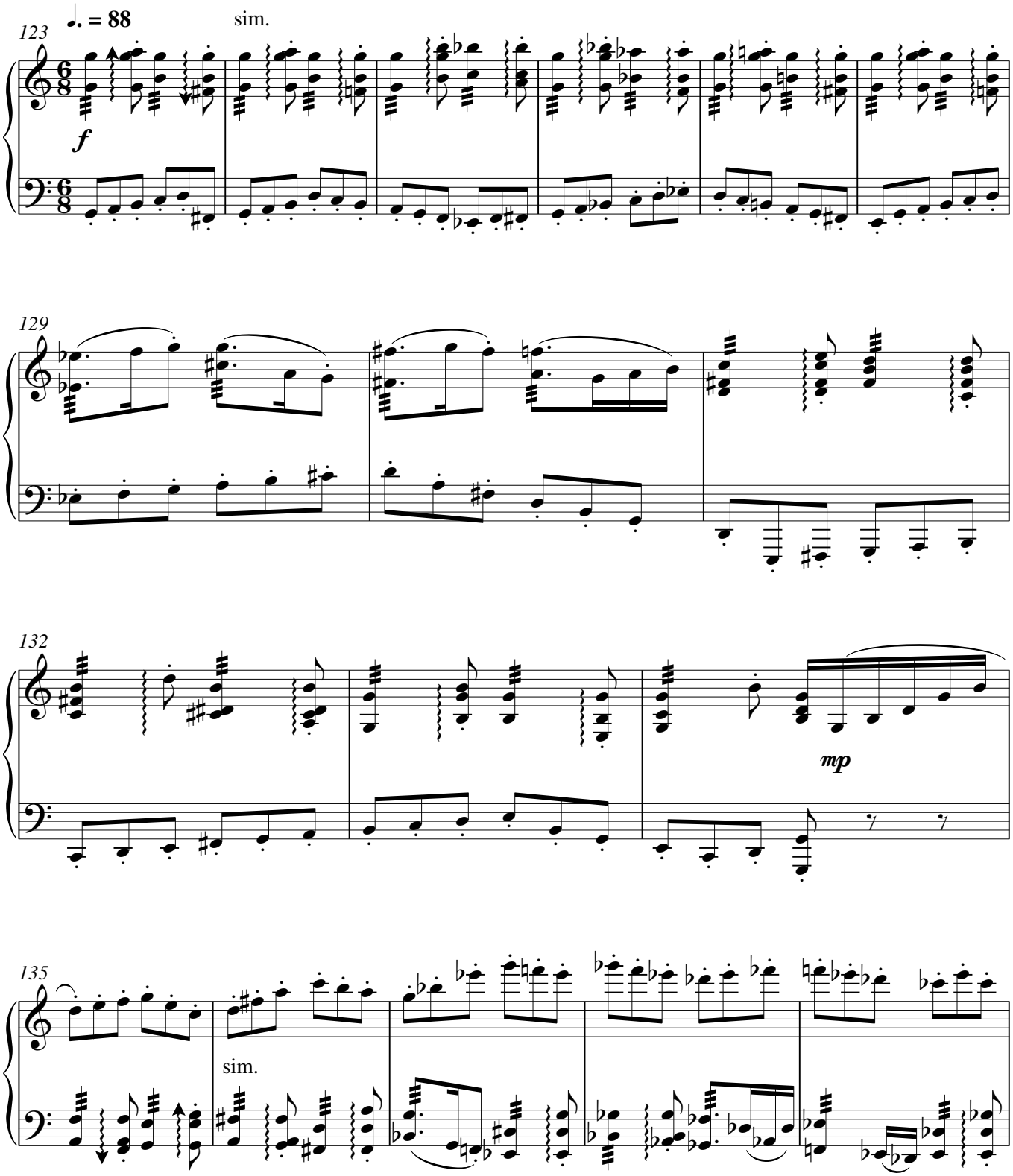
119

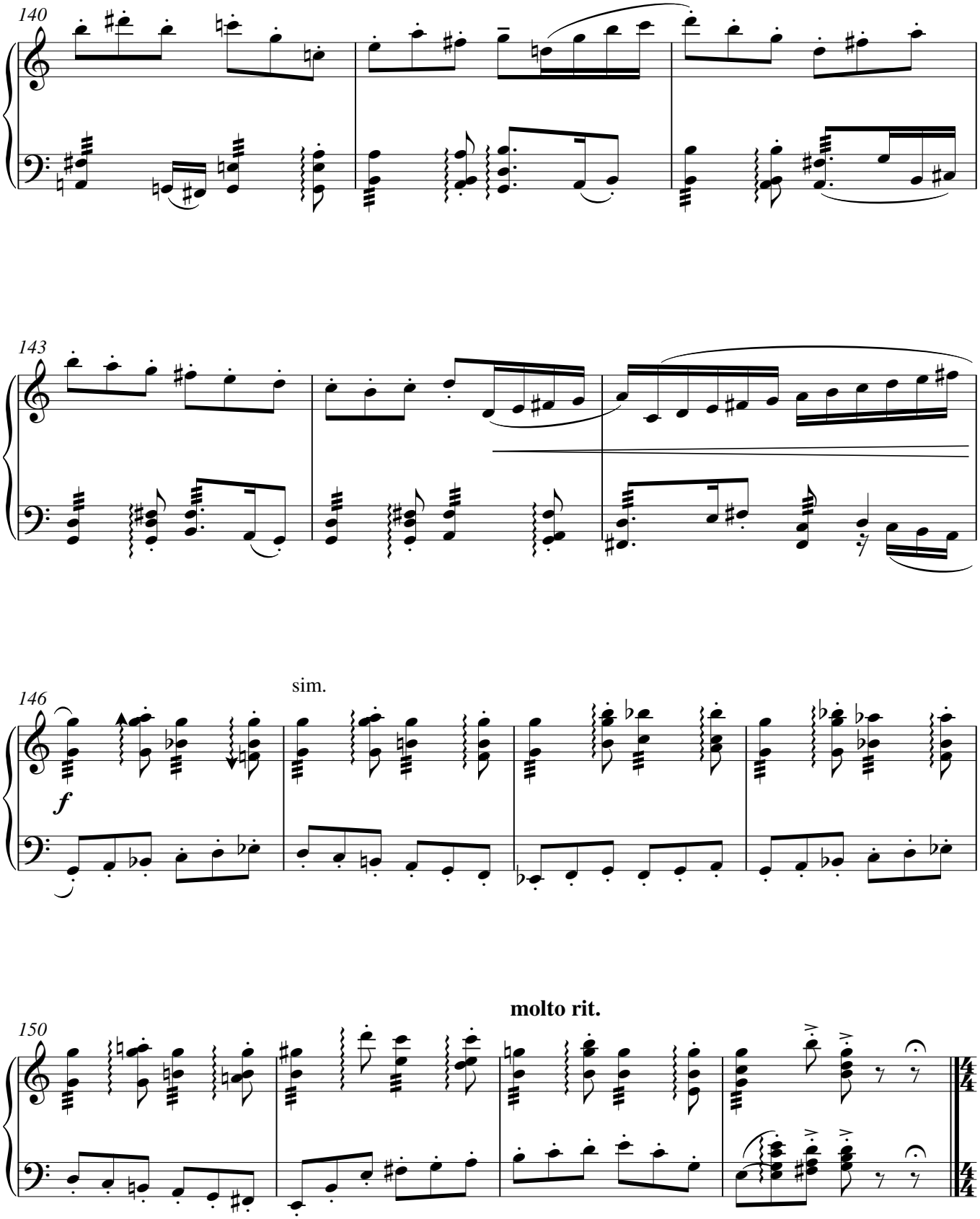
pp

p

5 6

V.



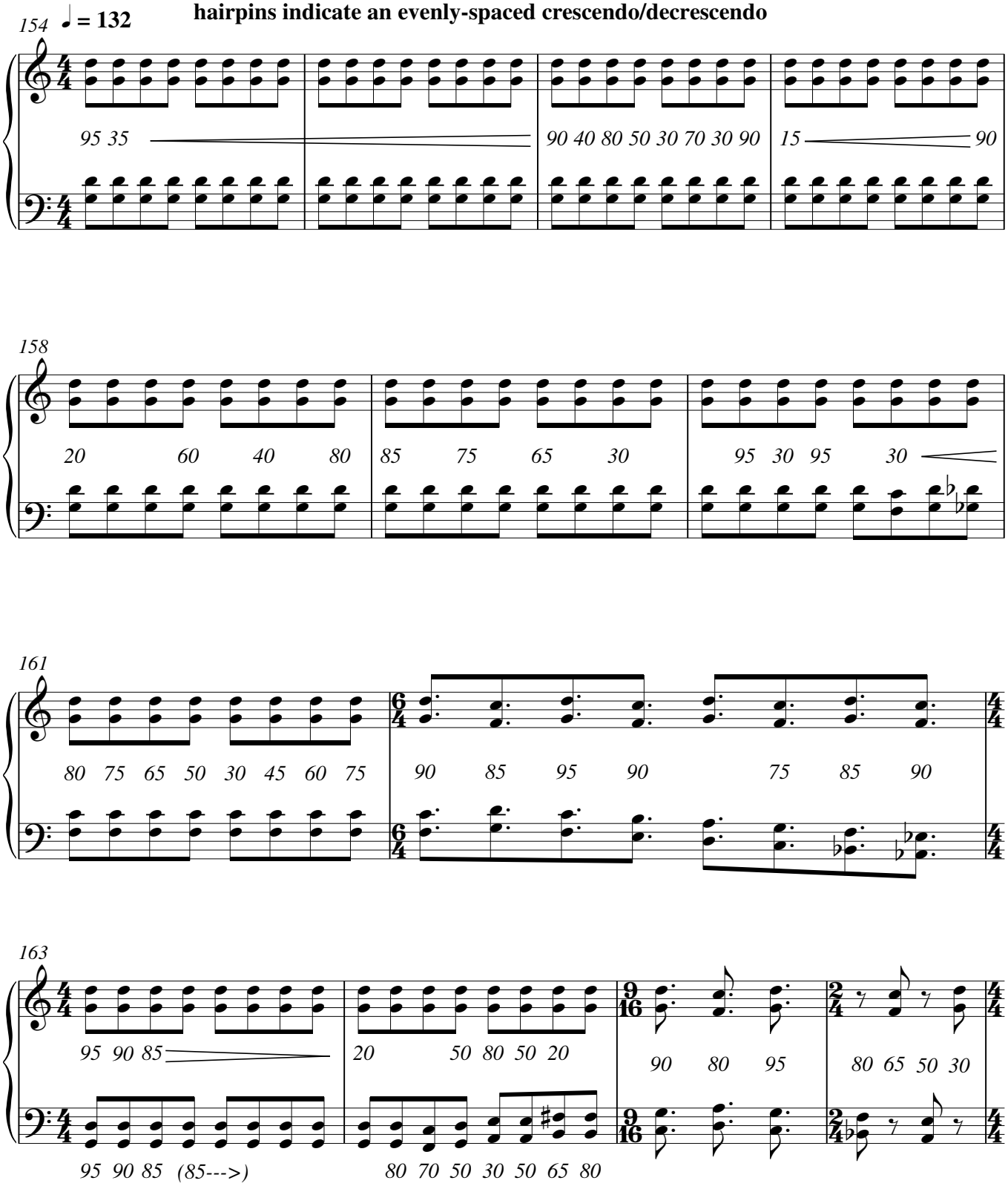

140
143
146
sim.
f
molto rit.
150

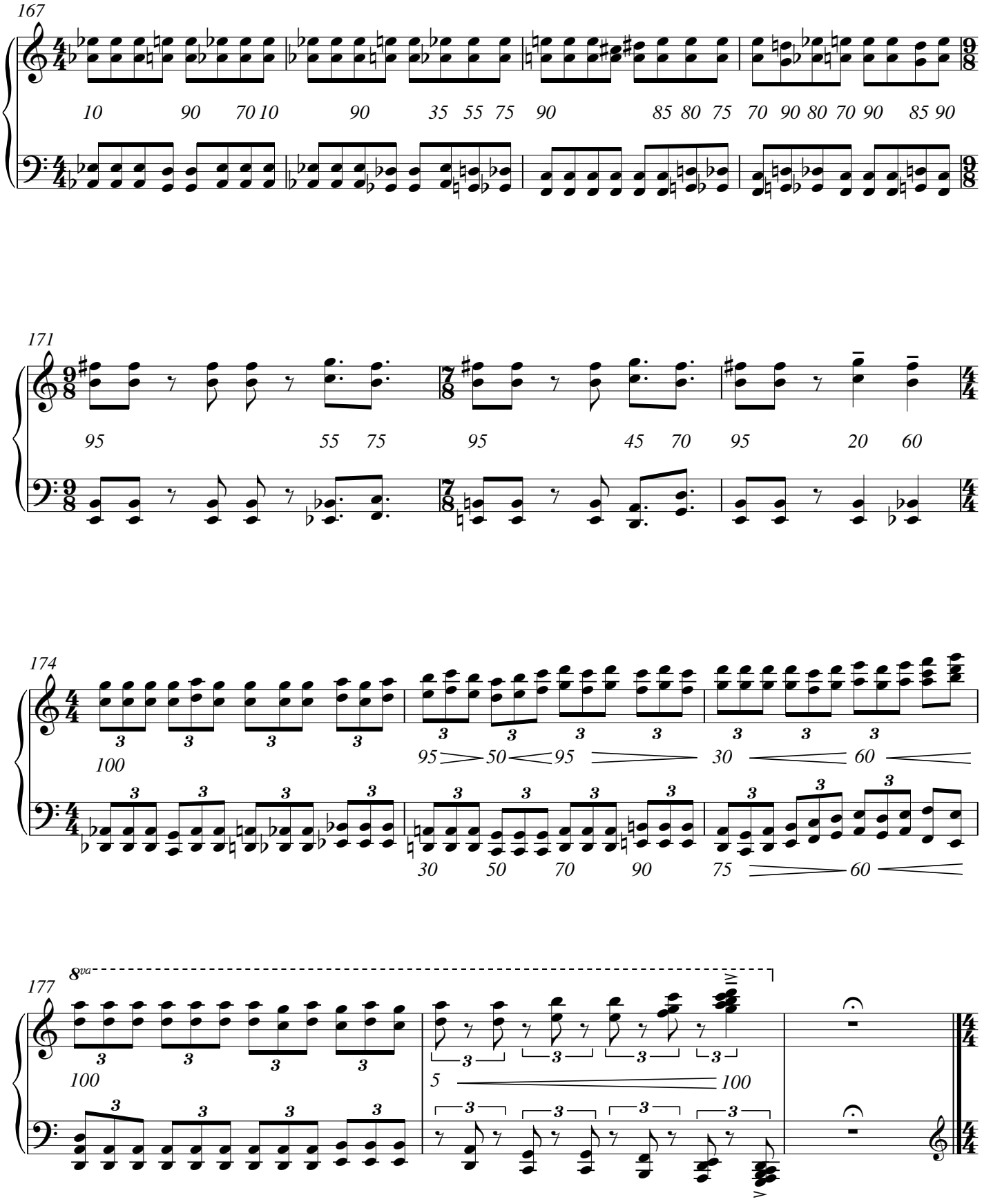
VI.

Sgombro

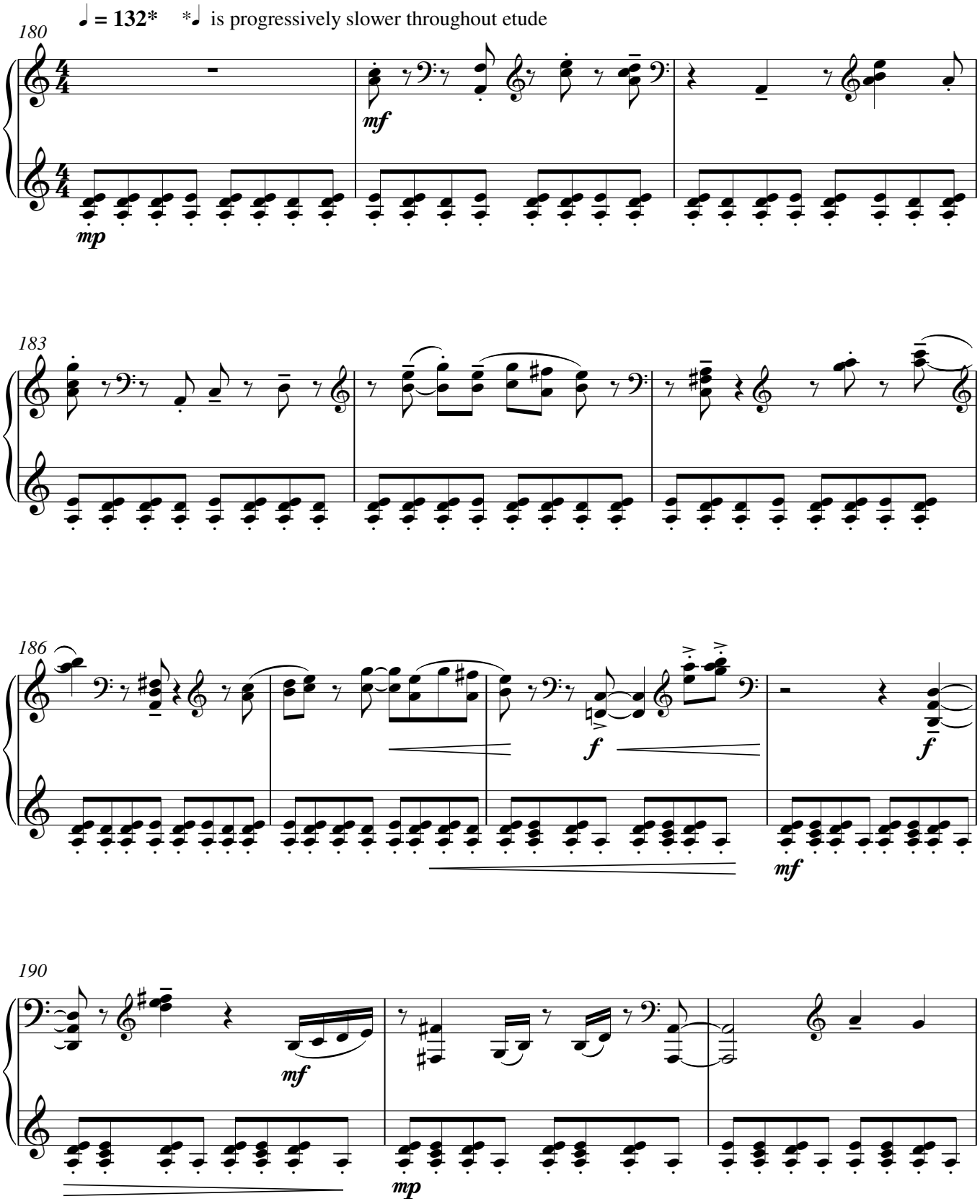
♩ = 132

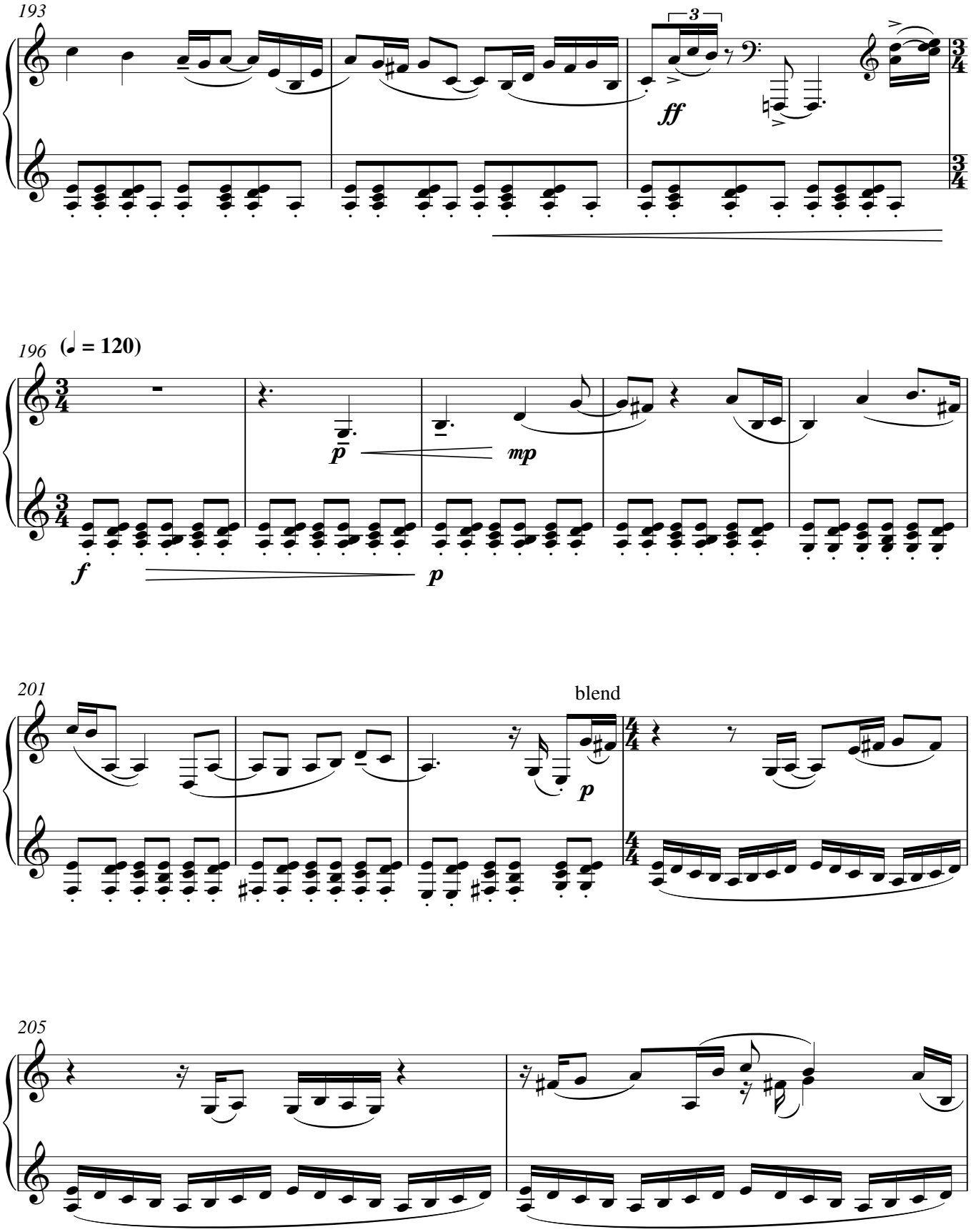
***numbers indicate dynamic levels on scale of 0-100.**
hairpins indicate an evenly-spaced crescendo/decrescendo

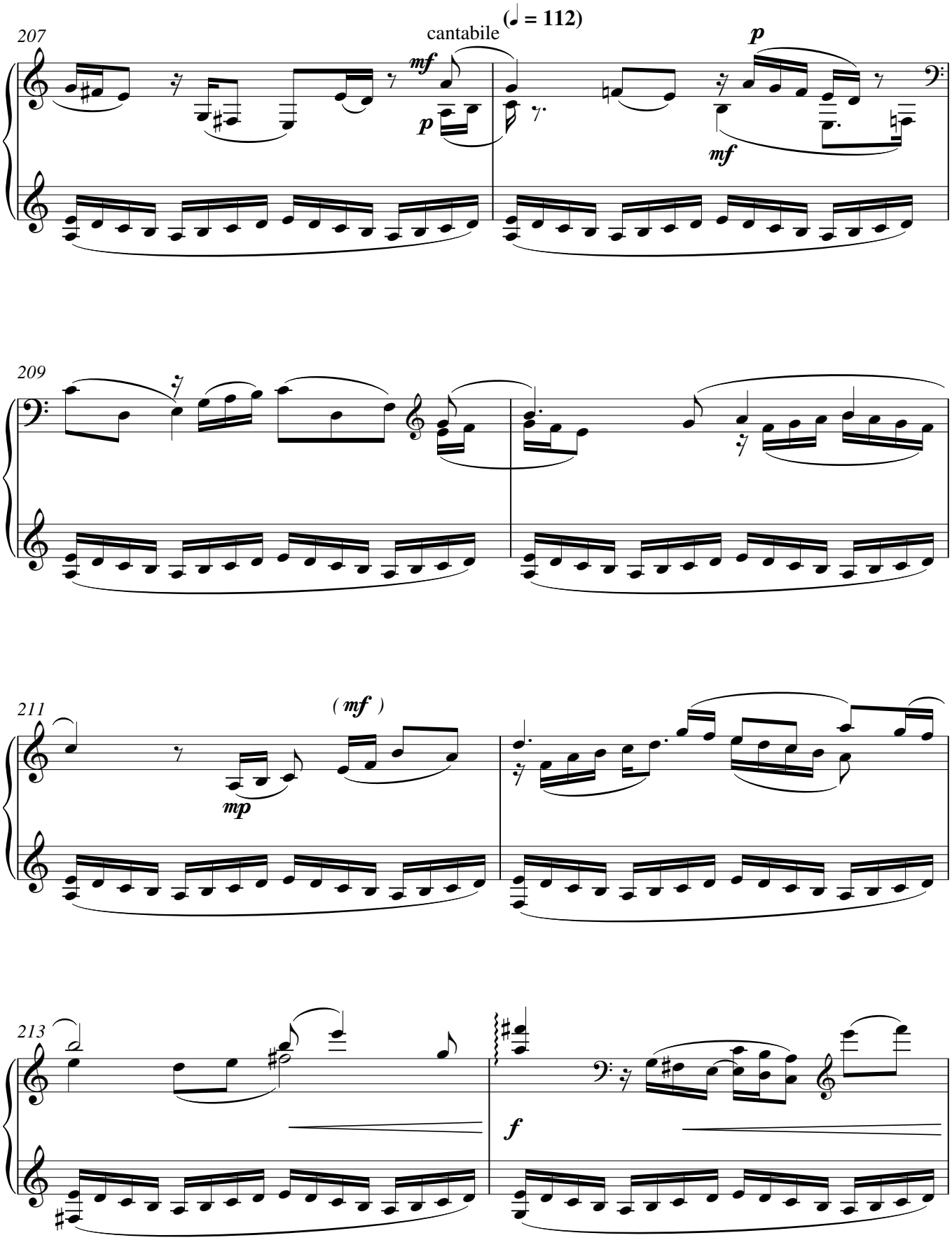


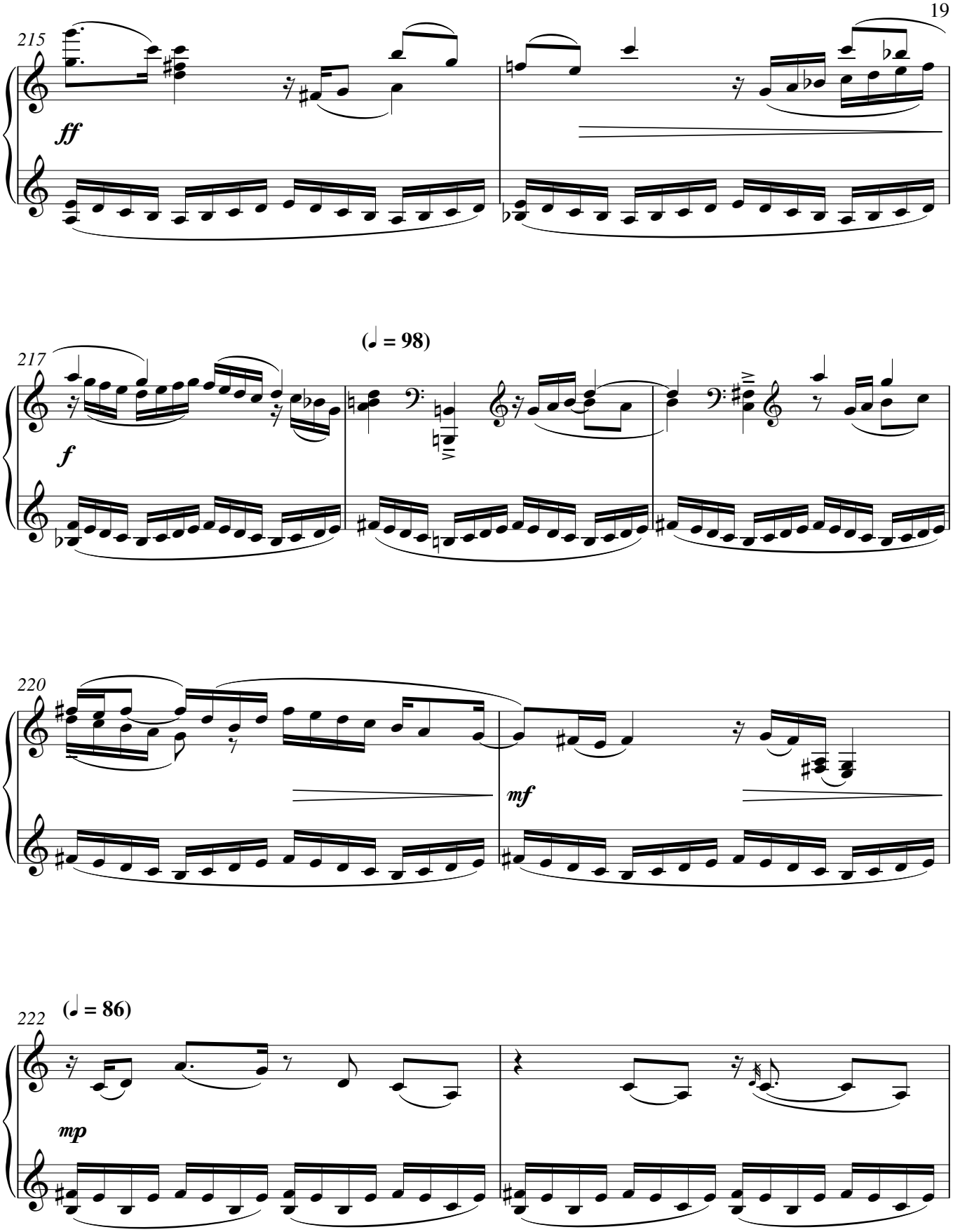

167
10 90 70 10 90 35 55 75 90 85 80 75 70 90 80 70 90 85 90
171
95 55 75 95 45 70 95 20 60
174
100
95 50 95 30 60
30 50 70 90 75 60
177
8va
100
5 100

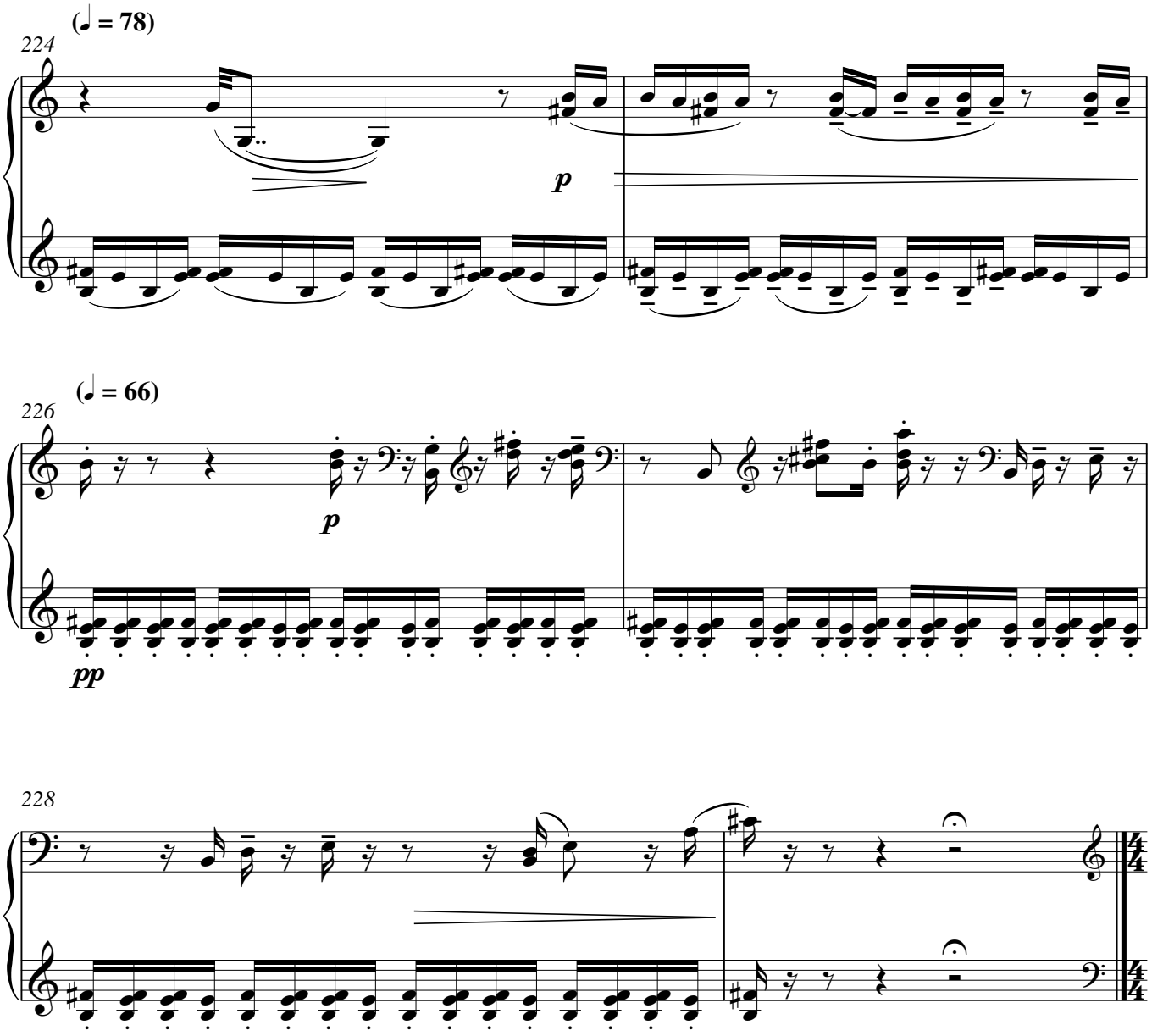
VII.


♩ = 132* *♩ is progressively slower throughout etude
180
mf
mp
183
186
f
f
mf
190
mf
mp

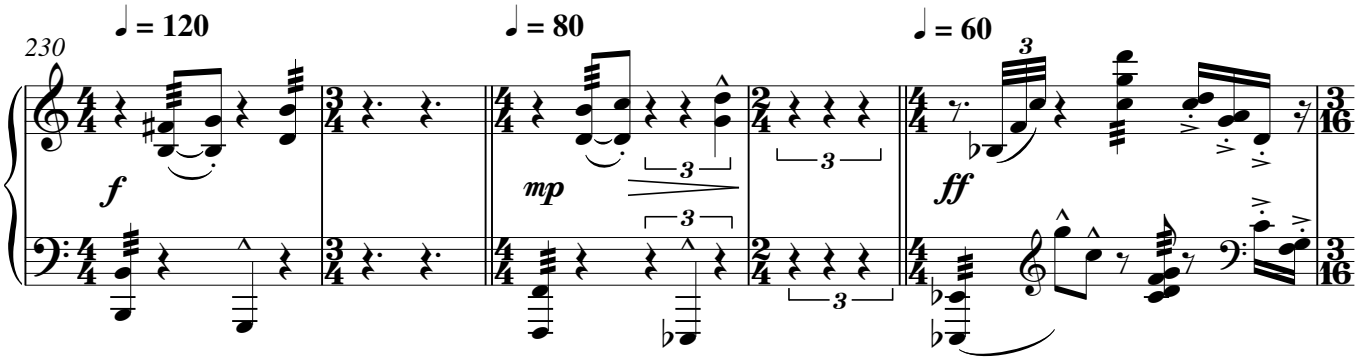

193
3
ff
196
(♩ = 120)
p
mp
f
p
201
blend
p
205

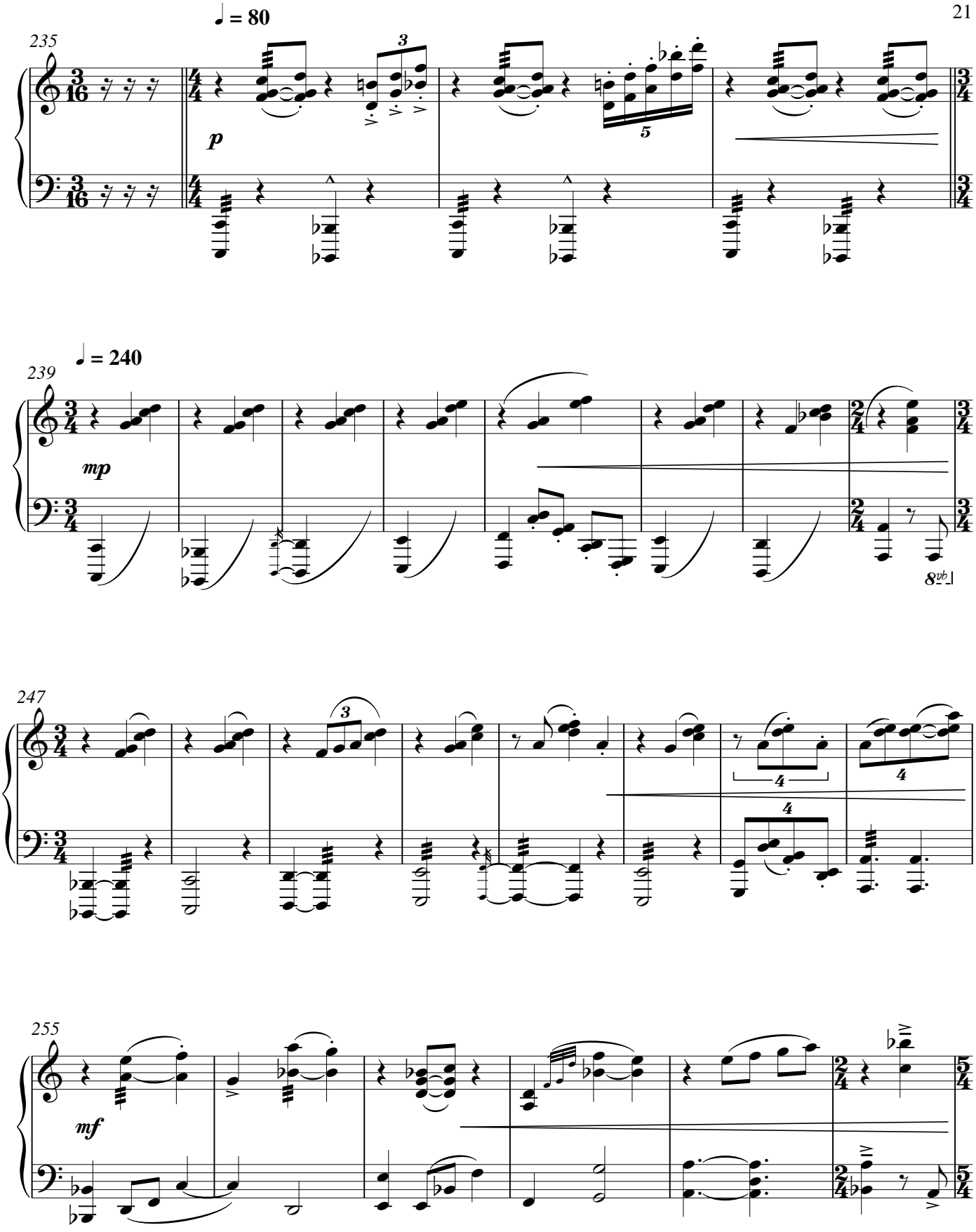

207
cantabile
(♩. = 112)
mf
p
p
mf
209
211
(mf)
mp
213
f

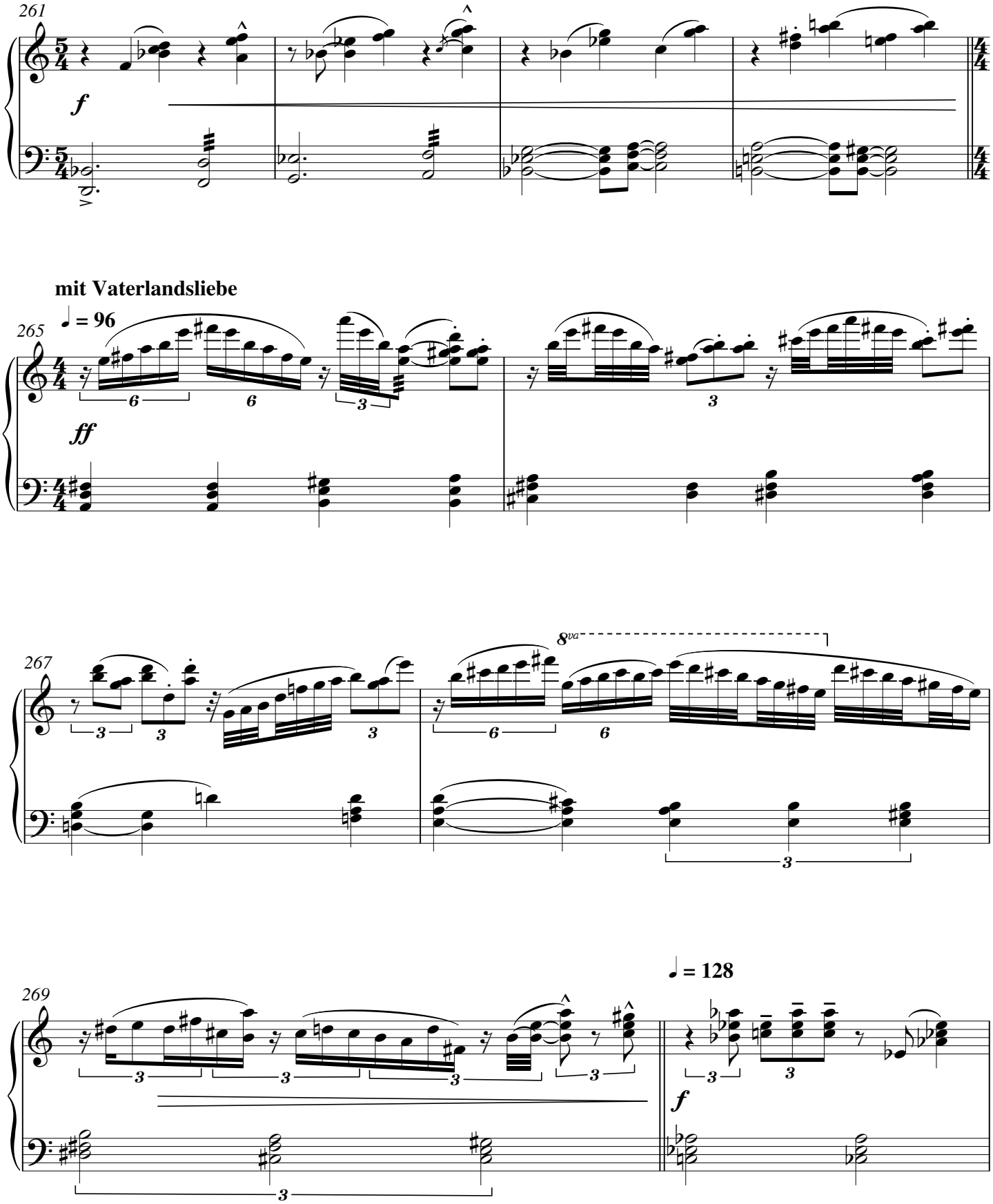

215
ff
(♩ = 98)
217
f
220
mf
(♩ = 86)
222
mp

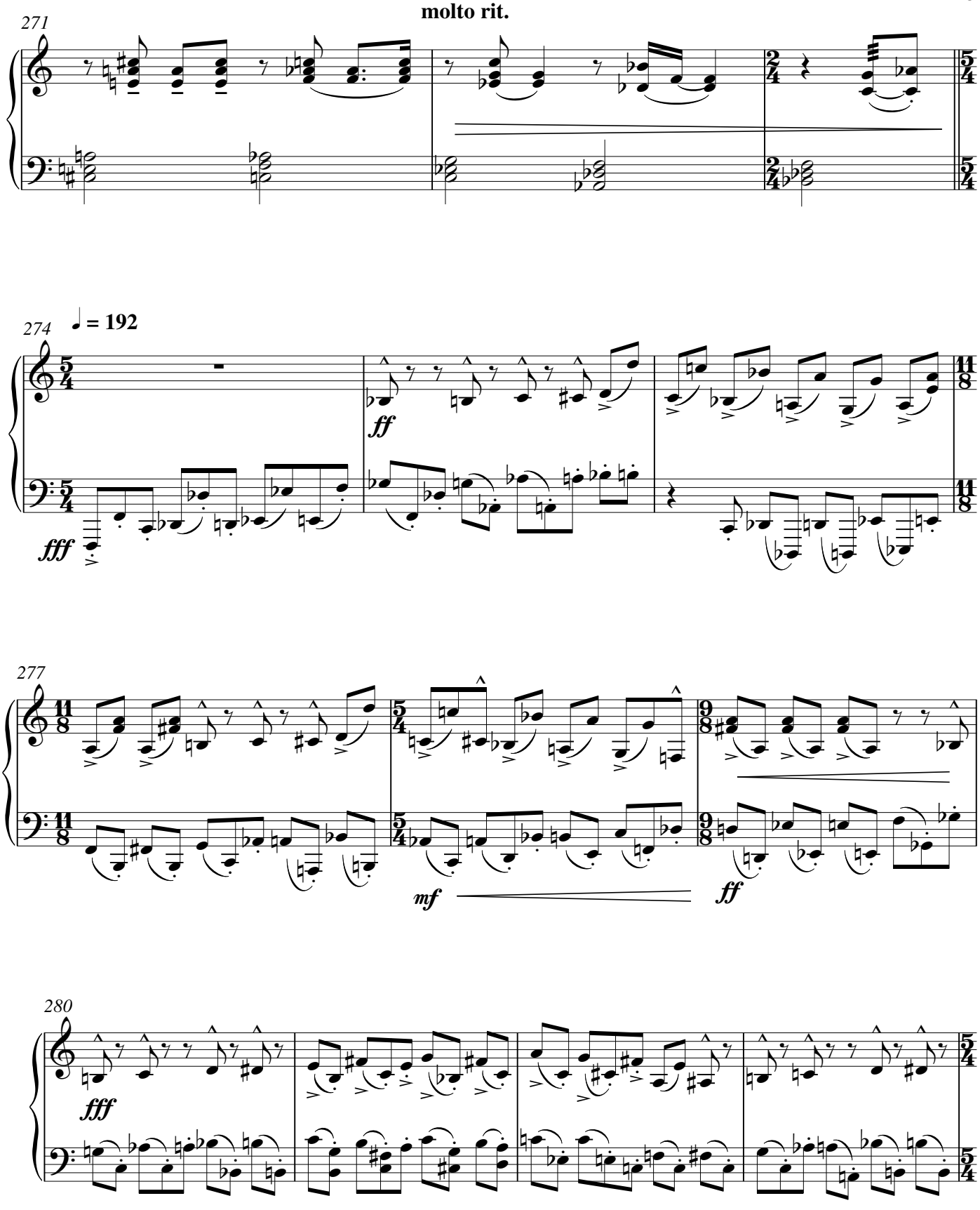


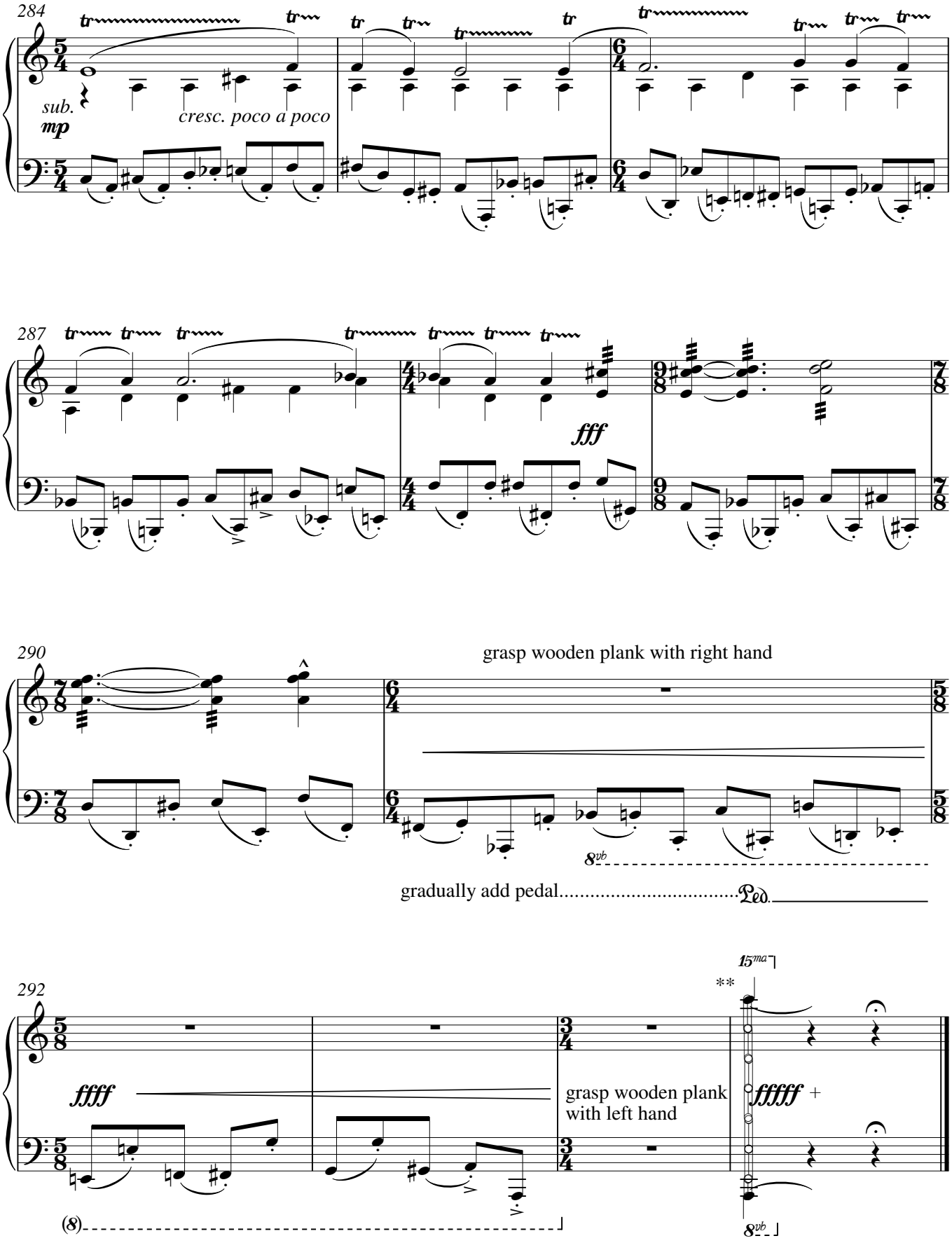
VIII.




235
♩ = 80
p
239
♩ = 240
mp
8vb
247
255
mf


261
f
mit Vaterlandsliebe
♩ = 96
265
ff
267
8va
269
♩ = 128
f


molto rit.
271
274
♩ = 192
ff
fff
277
mf
ff
280
fff


284
sub.
mp
cresc. poco a poco
287
fff
290
grasp wooden plank with right hand
8vb
gradually add pedal.....Ped.
292
ffff
grasp wooden plank
with left hand
15ma
**
fffff +
(8)
8vb
**hit all 88 keys with a 47.5" wooden plank
Ped.