W. Jay Sydeman

Doorknocking

for Solo Piano

(2006)

Arts Aeternum

Doorknocking... aha, a pun! This piece was written for a festival in Dornach, Switzerland, the center for Rudolf Steiner's work. There could be an implication that, as Steiner knocked quite vehemently on the doors of what we think we know about the material world, this piece reflects that. Sadly that isn't so. It's just an elegant piece for piano

– W. Jay Sydeman, November 2011

W. Jay Sydeman's life mirrors the breadth and variety of his music. Born in New York in 1928 and educated at Manhattan's Mannes School of Music, he quickly became one of the most sought-after and honored composers of his generation, receiving commissions from such prestigious groups as the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Tanglewood Music Center, and the Boston Symphony, which premiered his orchestral work in memory of John F. Kennedy in 1966. "Sydeman uses a whole battery of far out techniques," wrote the *New York Times*, "but he has an uncanny ability to throw in the whole avant-garde machinery as if it were the simplest, most normal way of making music in the world ... More than many of his colleagues, he seems to know what will sound well, and he works for some remarkably attractive, pure textures. His sounds seem to grow from a physical sense of exactly what material is right."

In 1970, after a heady period that included awards from the National institute of Arts and Letters, the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Library of Congress, Sydeman left New York – and composition – to begin a journey of personal and artistic exploration.

"Around 1980," he has written, "I returned to composition – at first a large number of choral works which reconnected me to the source of all music – the human voice. Out of this new lyric impulse have evolved all of my works since that time – more romantic, more accessible. I create music for the musician."

– Howard Hersh,
Artistic Director of "Music Now"

Sydeman is part of a composers' group in Nevada City annually producing the "Wet Ink Festival of New Music." He now lives in Mendocino and hosts a bi-weekly program on KZYX, "The Mind of a Composer," 10 am to noon on Mondays, introducing and commenting on contemporary music.

Duration:
I. Poco allegro – circa 2:00
II. Rubato, delicate and elegant – circa 2:15
III. Allegro – circa 1:00

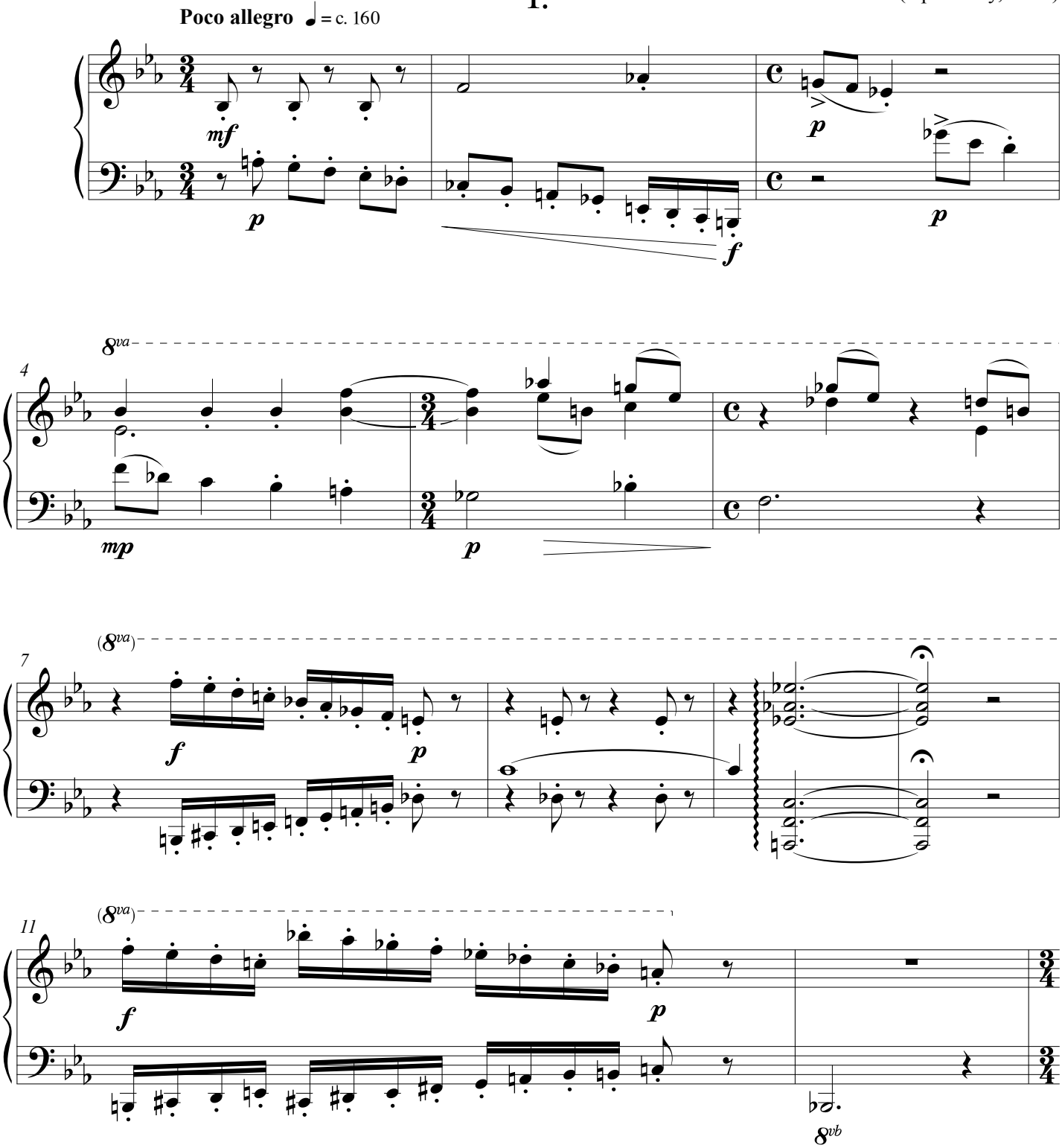
To contact the composer:
Jeanne Duncan, Sydeman Archive Publications
707-962-0394
www.williamjaysydeman.com

Edited and engraved by Rick Shinozaki (Albany, CA) in consultation & collaboration with the composer.

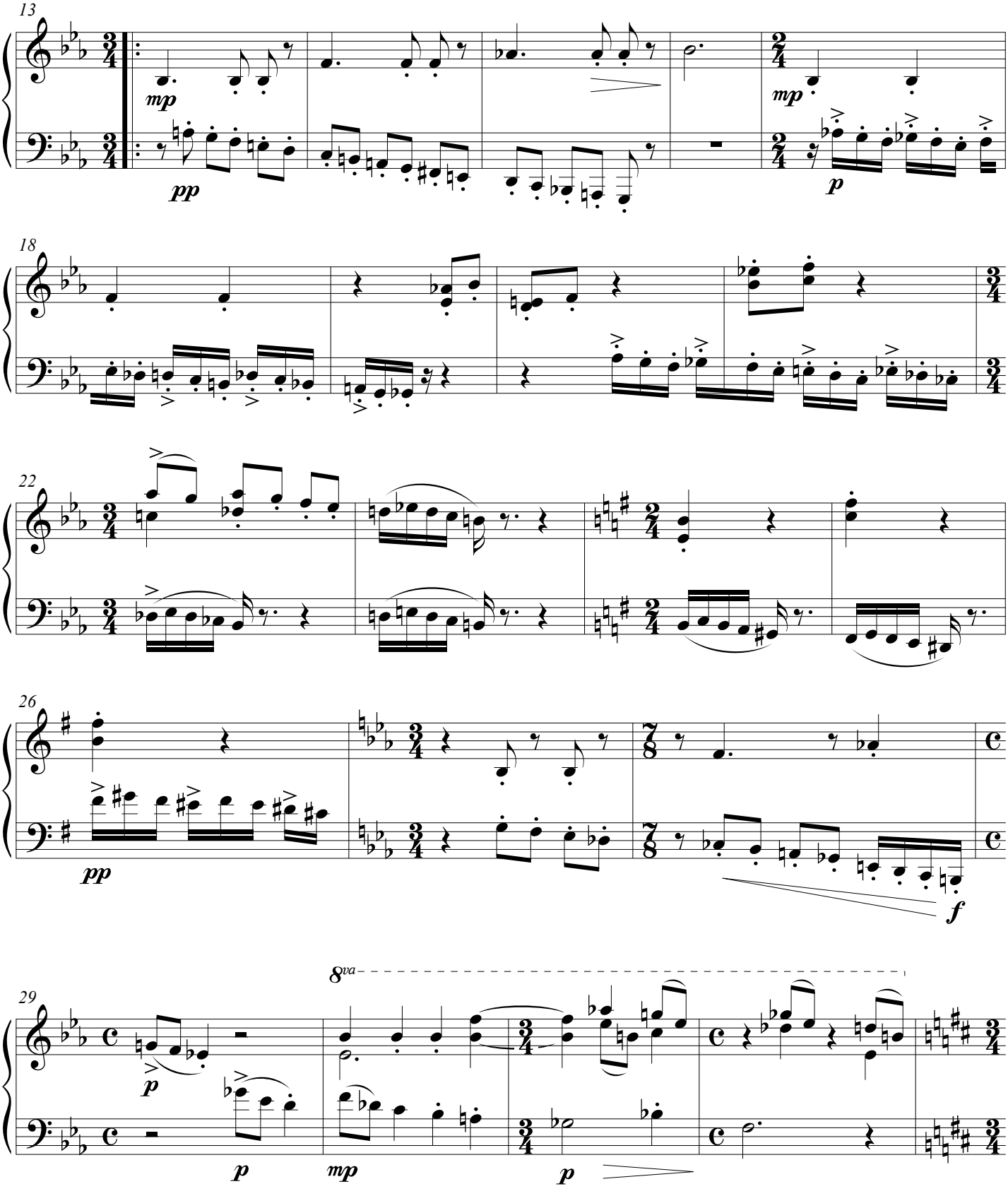
Doorknocking
for Solo Piano

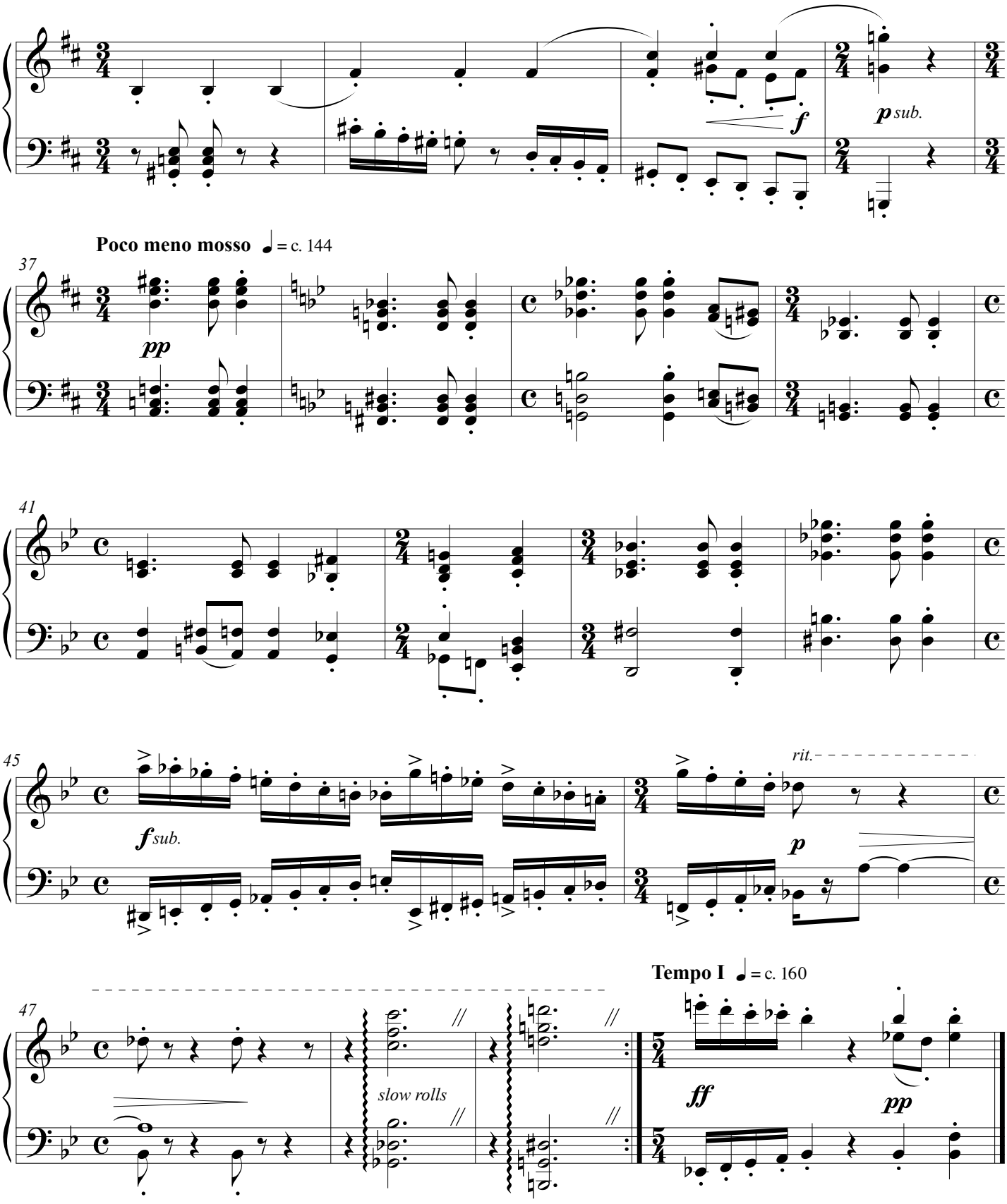
W. Jay Sydeman
(April-May, 2006)

I.

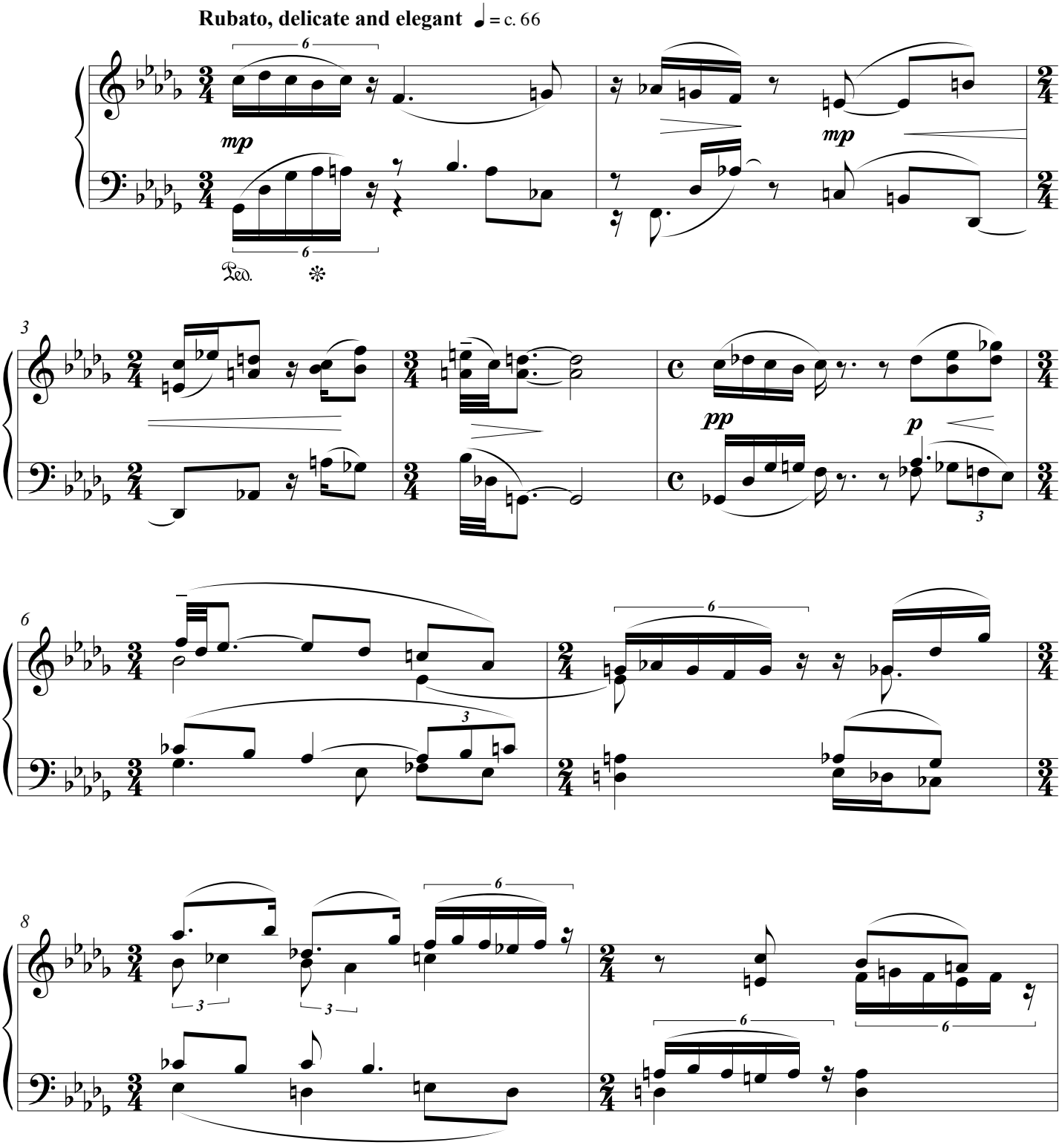


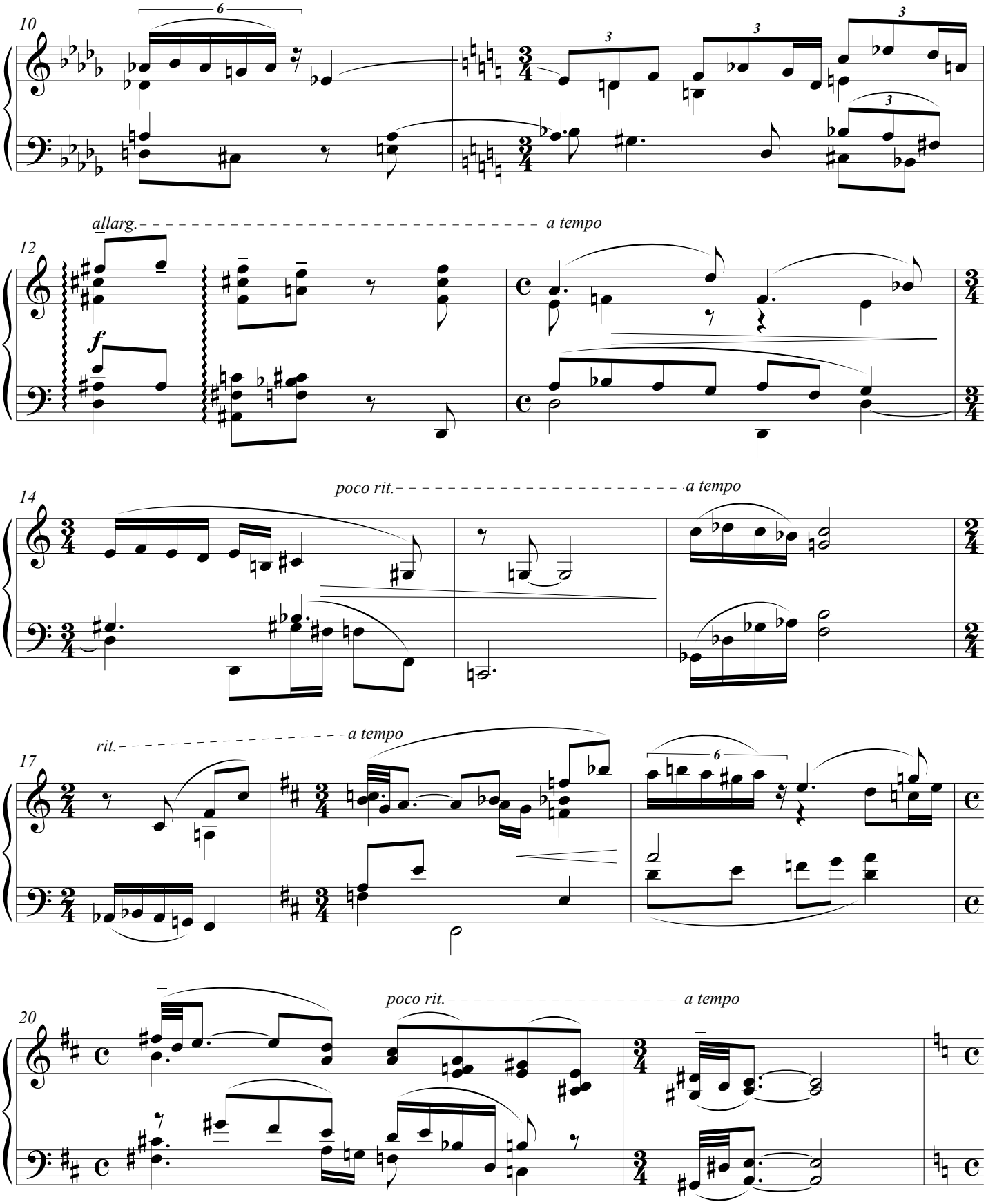
© 2012 Arts Aeturnum Productions. All rights reserved. v. 2018-11-29

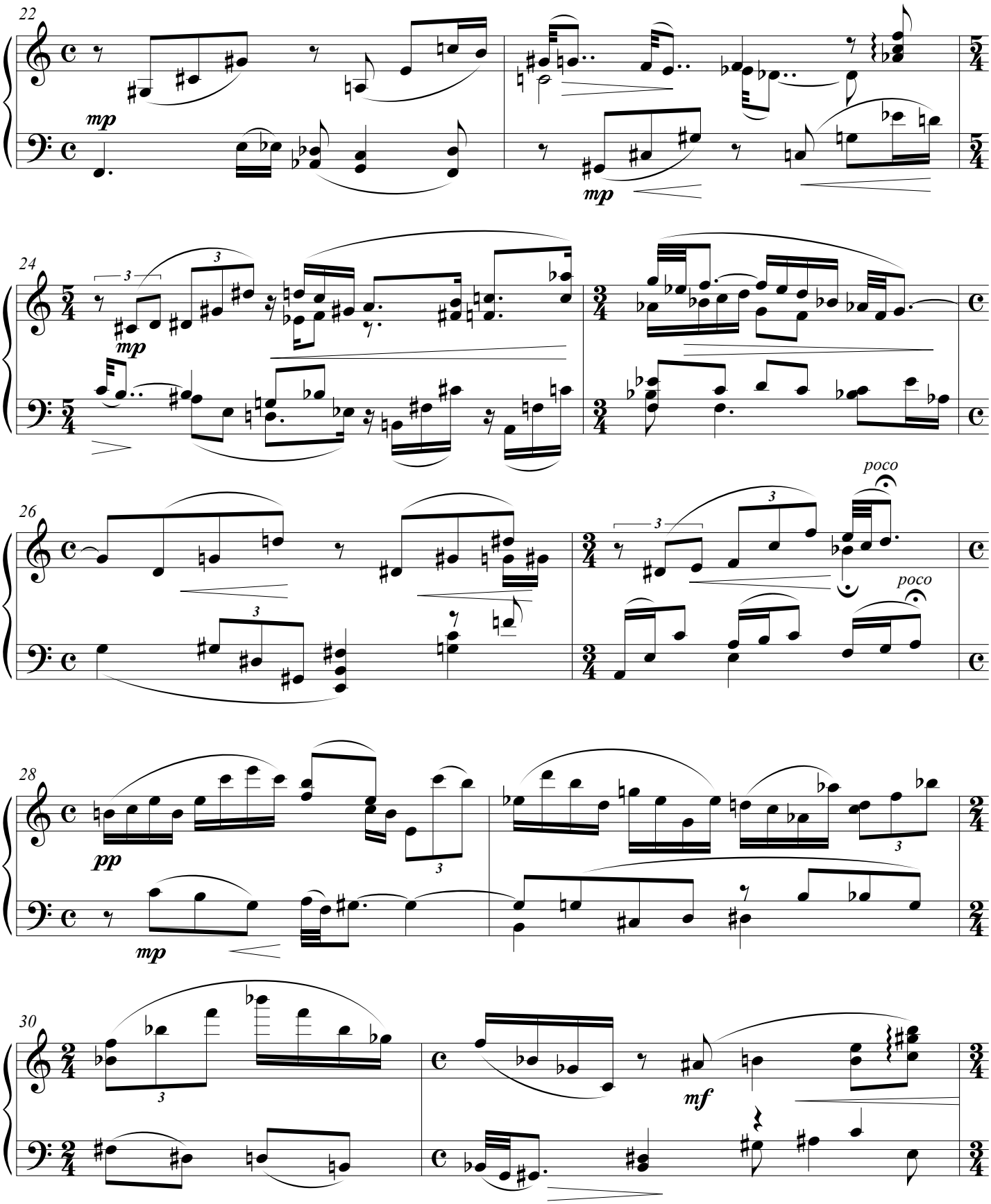

13
mp
pp
mp
p
18
22
26
pp
f
29
8va
p
mp
p

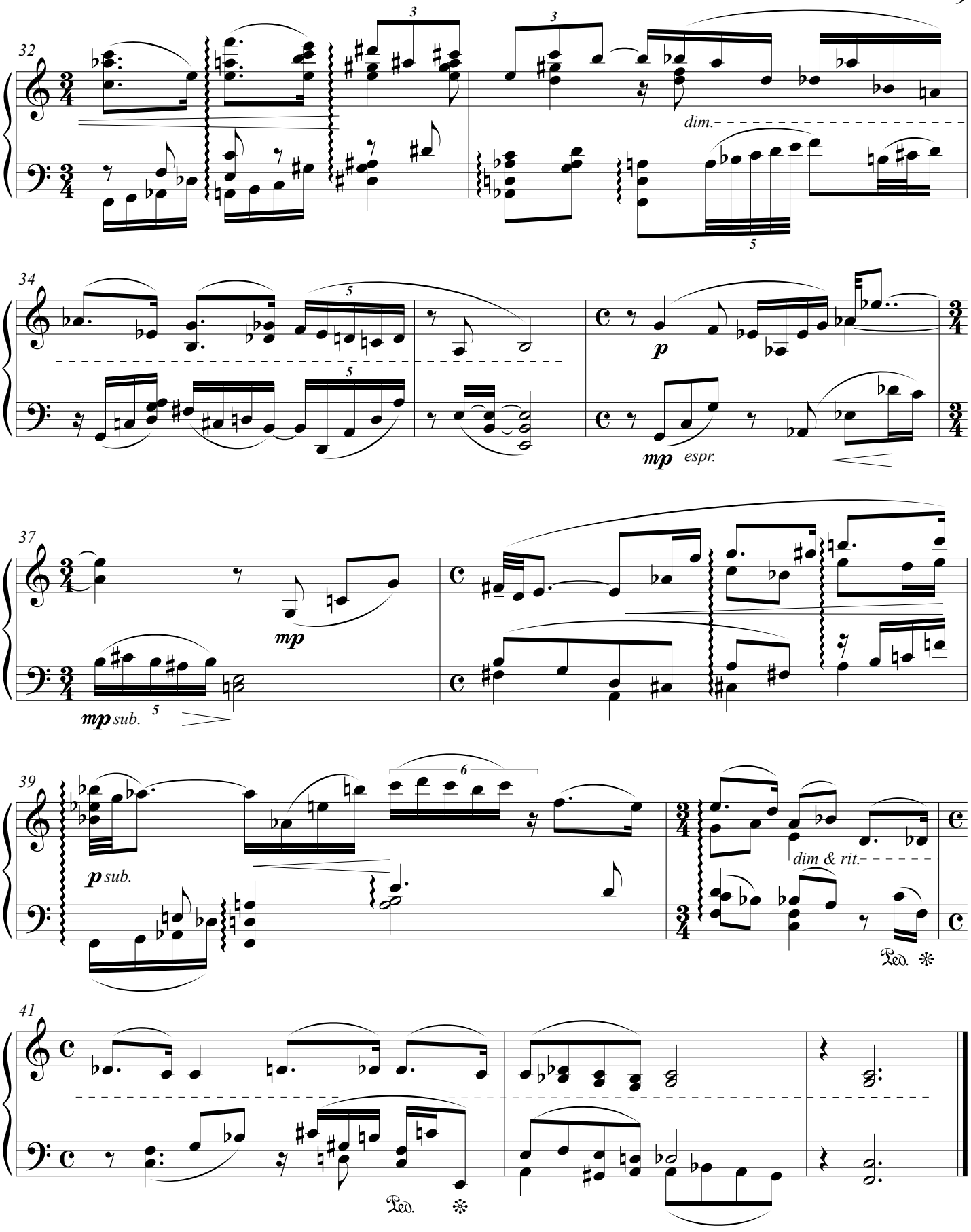

f
p sub.
Poco meno mosso ♩ = c. 144
37
pp
41
45
f sub.
p
rit.
47
slow rolls
Tempo I ♩ = c. 160
ff
pp

II.

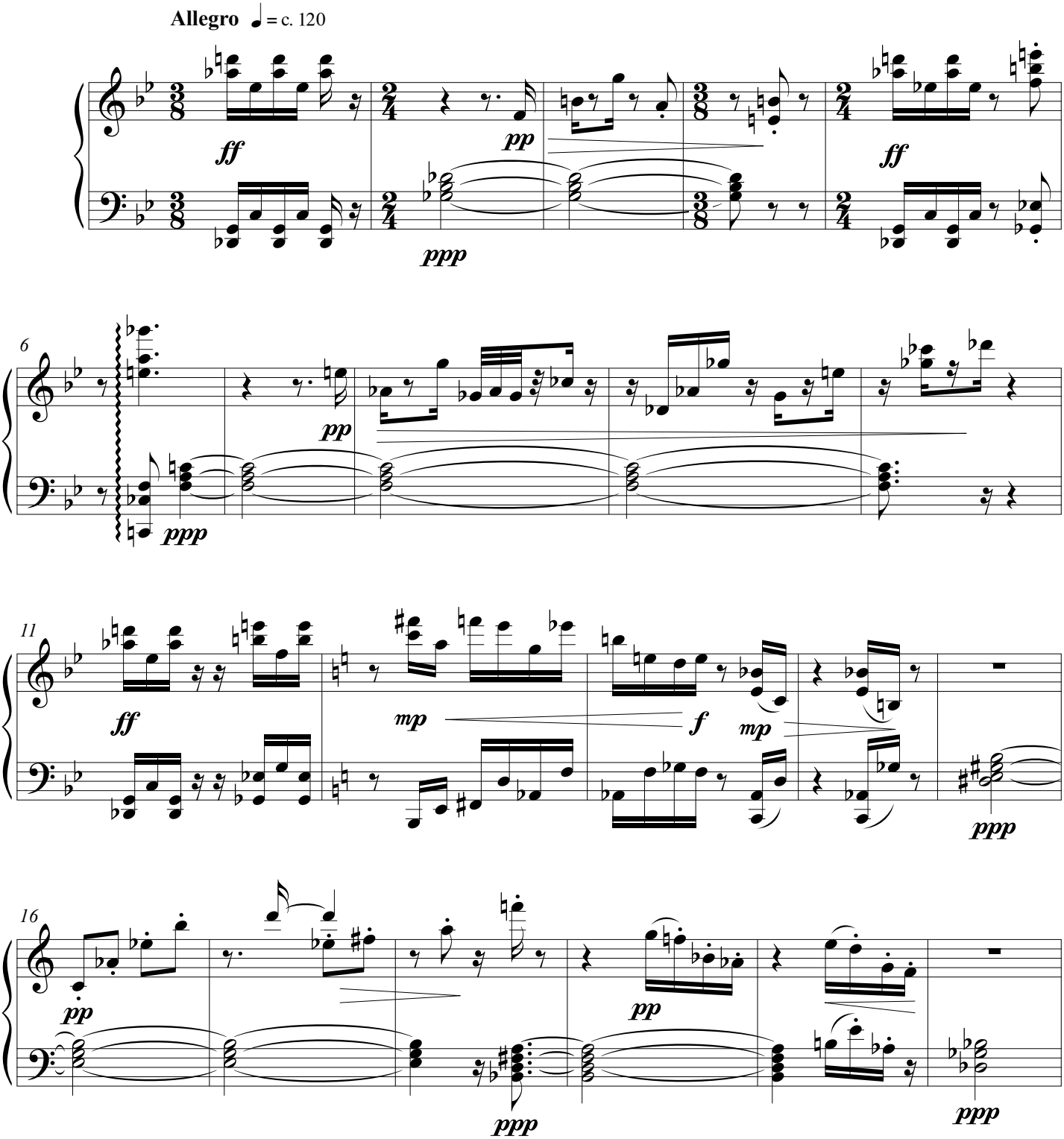


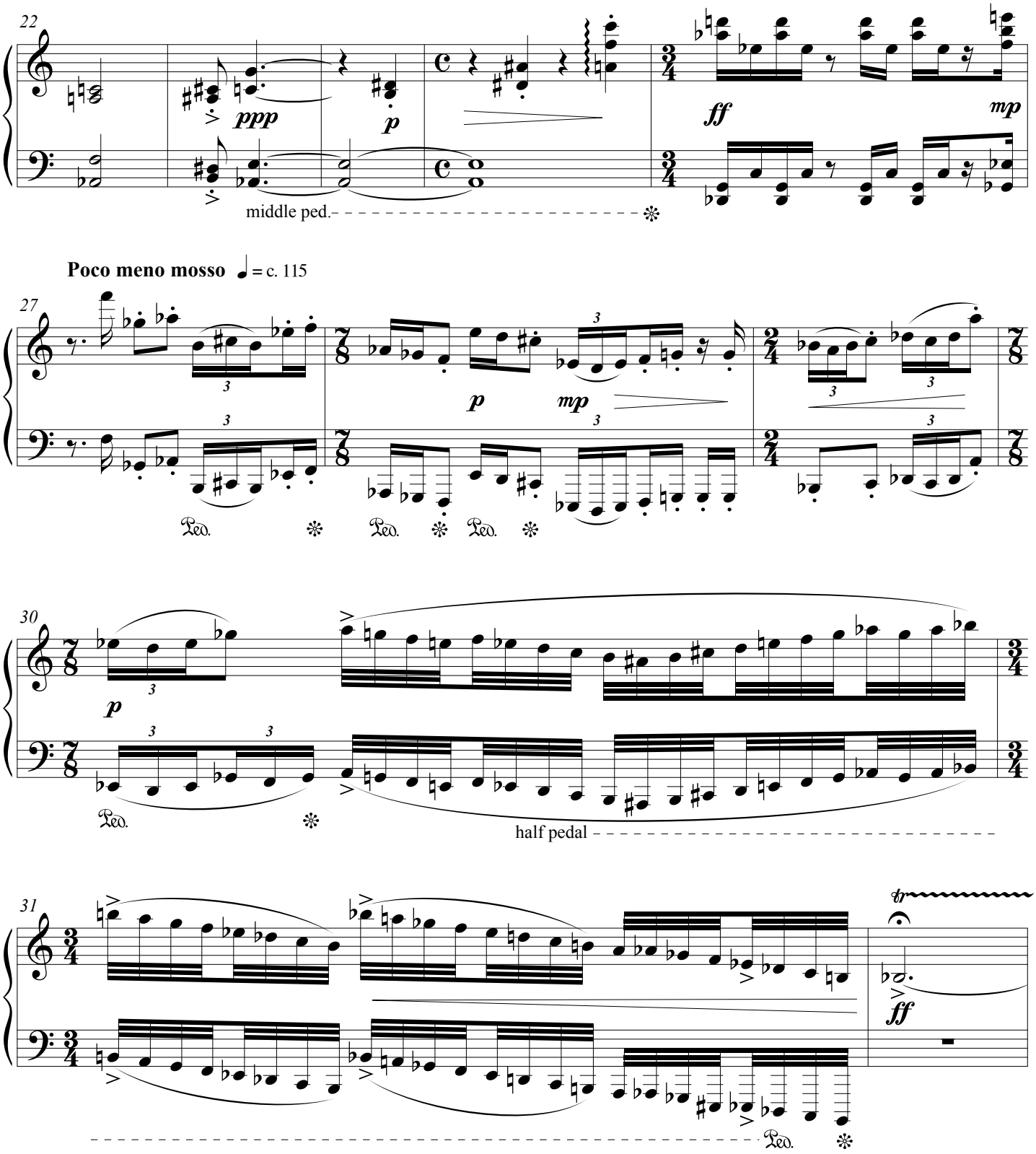

10
6
3
3
3
3
allarg.
a tempo
12
f
poco rit.
a tempo
14
rit.
a tempo
17
6
poco rit.
a tempo
20

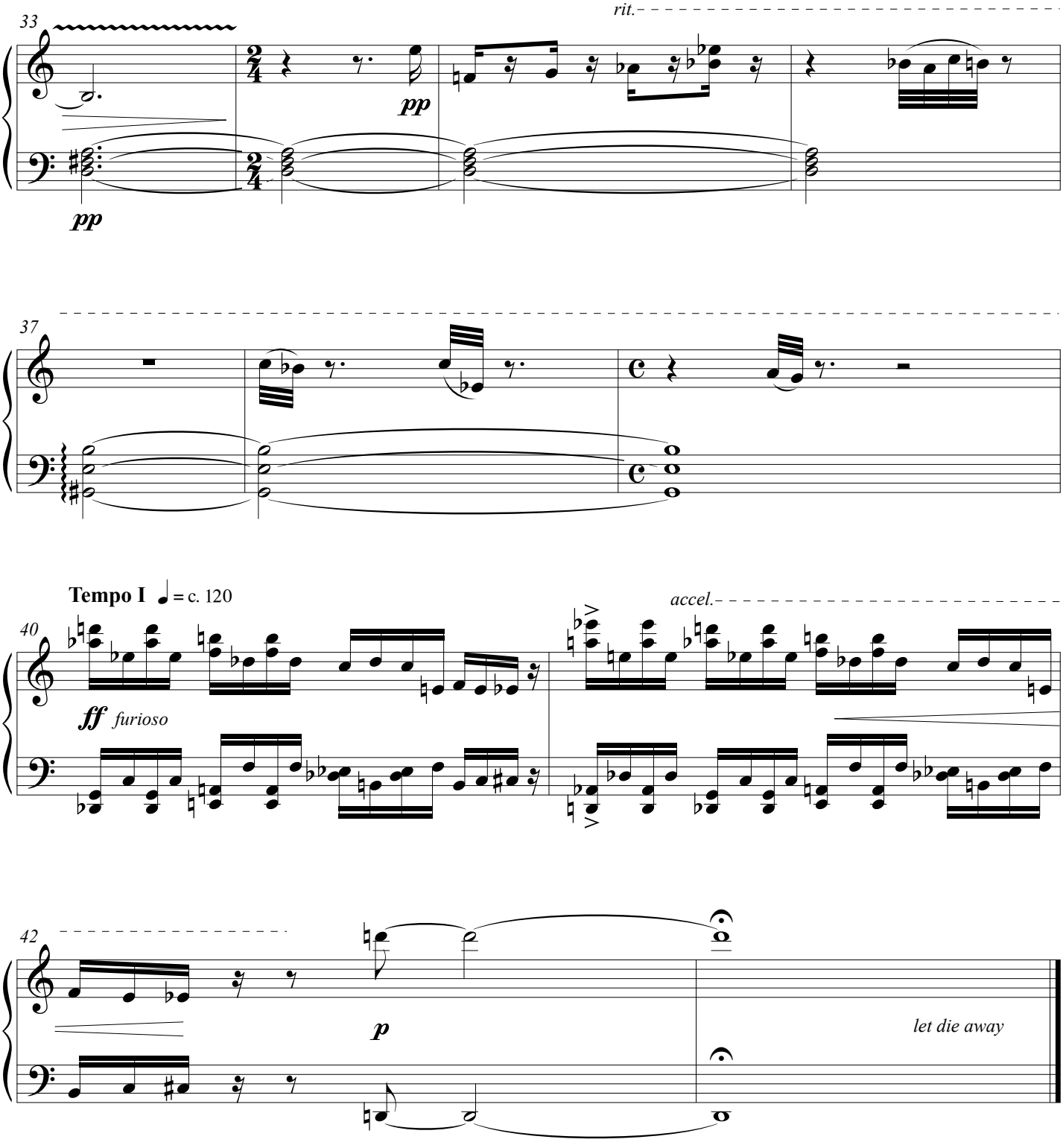

22
mp
mp
24
3
3
mp
26
3
3
poco
poco
28
pp
3
mp
30
3
mf


32
dim.
34
p
mp espr.
37
mp
mp sub.
39
p sub.
dim & rit.
Ped.
41
Ped.

III.


Allegro ♩ = c. 120
ff
pp
ppp
ff
6
pp
ppp
11
ff
mp
f
mp
ppp
16
pp
pp
ppp
ppp


22
ppp
p
ff
mp
middle ped.
Poco meno mosso ♩ = c. 115
27
p
mp
Ped.
30
p
half pedal
31
tr
ff
Ped.


33
rit.
pp
pp
37
Tempo I ♩ = c. 120
40
accel.
ff furioso
42
p
let die away