Christopher Healey

Cave of the Storm Nymphs

FOR

Solo Piano

2013

Commissioned by Debby Franks

"Careless of wreck or ruin, still they sing
Their light songs to the listening ocean caves,
And wreathe their dainty limbs, and idly fling
The costly tribute of the cruel waves.
Faire as their mother-foam, and all as cold,
Untouched alike by pity, love or hate;
Without a thought for scattered pearl or gold,
And neither laugh nor tear for human fate."

(Sir Edward J. Poynter, 1903)

The Cave of the Storm Nymhps

This piece was commissioned by Dobbs Franks and composed between the 18th of January and the 1st of February, 2013.

The piece as written here presents a variety of technical challenges that are unavoidable for the full effect of the work, however, there are many simplifications which are possible and will produce a close likeness for those that would wish to enjoy the peice without needing to be a virtuoso.

This is especially true with many of the repetetive accompanimental figurations which are the colours in this musical tableux. Their ryhthm need not be produced with absolute precision, an auditory wash of colour and sound is enough in most cases, however, the harmony changes must of course be observed in the right locations in accordance with the melodic line.

Some more particular simplifications which are acceptable are the ommission of the bottom note of each four note chord in sections like mm. 19-24.

Accompaniment figures like the one that occurs in the left hand at measure 19, can be thought of, if neccessary, as untimed tremolos. How measure 43 will be rendered in this case, I leave up to the discretion of the performer.

In opening up the potential for such avenues, I hope that more people will be able to enjoy this stormy piece with their own hands and not feel put off by the challenging moments.

With that said, professional performances of the score as written are preferred where at this level it is the subtle inner naunces, the moments of slight heistation and slight pushing, outpourings of orchestral colours and singing pedaling that is there to be played with.

There is no correct interpretation of this piece as it aims to capture the essence of something extemporaneous *- the impulsive and careless destructiveness of creatures for whom such is simply their nature.*

Also, in the composer's mind, this piece captures two sides to the same event. It captures the spirit of the Nymphs but also the terror of those caught up in their chaos. It is neither supposed to be literal/programmatic nor is it linear. Reality is never straight lines and clear answers.

Lastly, to whomsoever should play this piece, may you find more than what is on the page, and in so doing, may it stay with you forever.

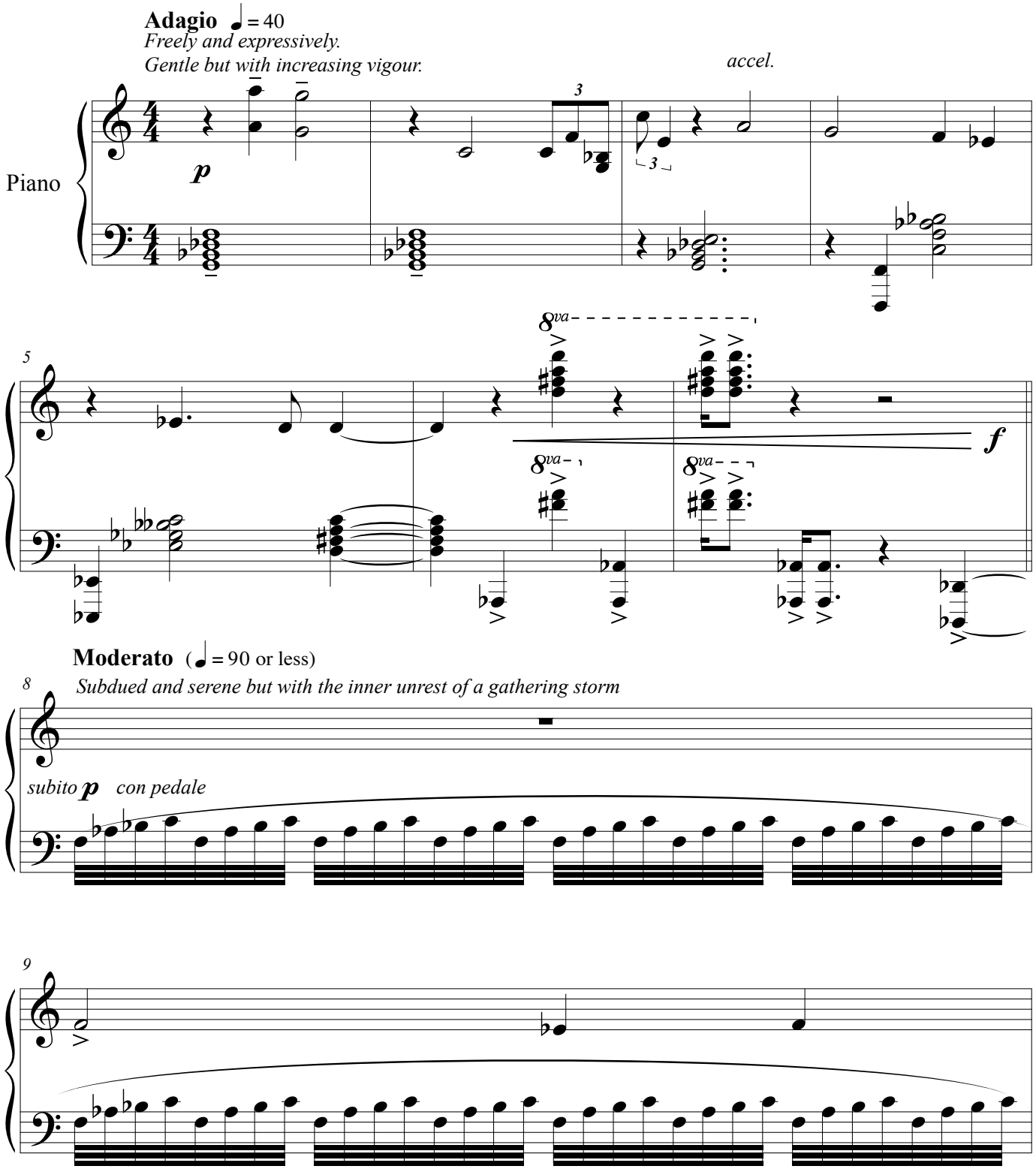
- Christopher Healey

Cave of the Storm Nymphs

Score

Commissioned by Dobbs Franks

Christopher Healey



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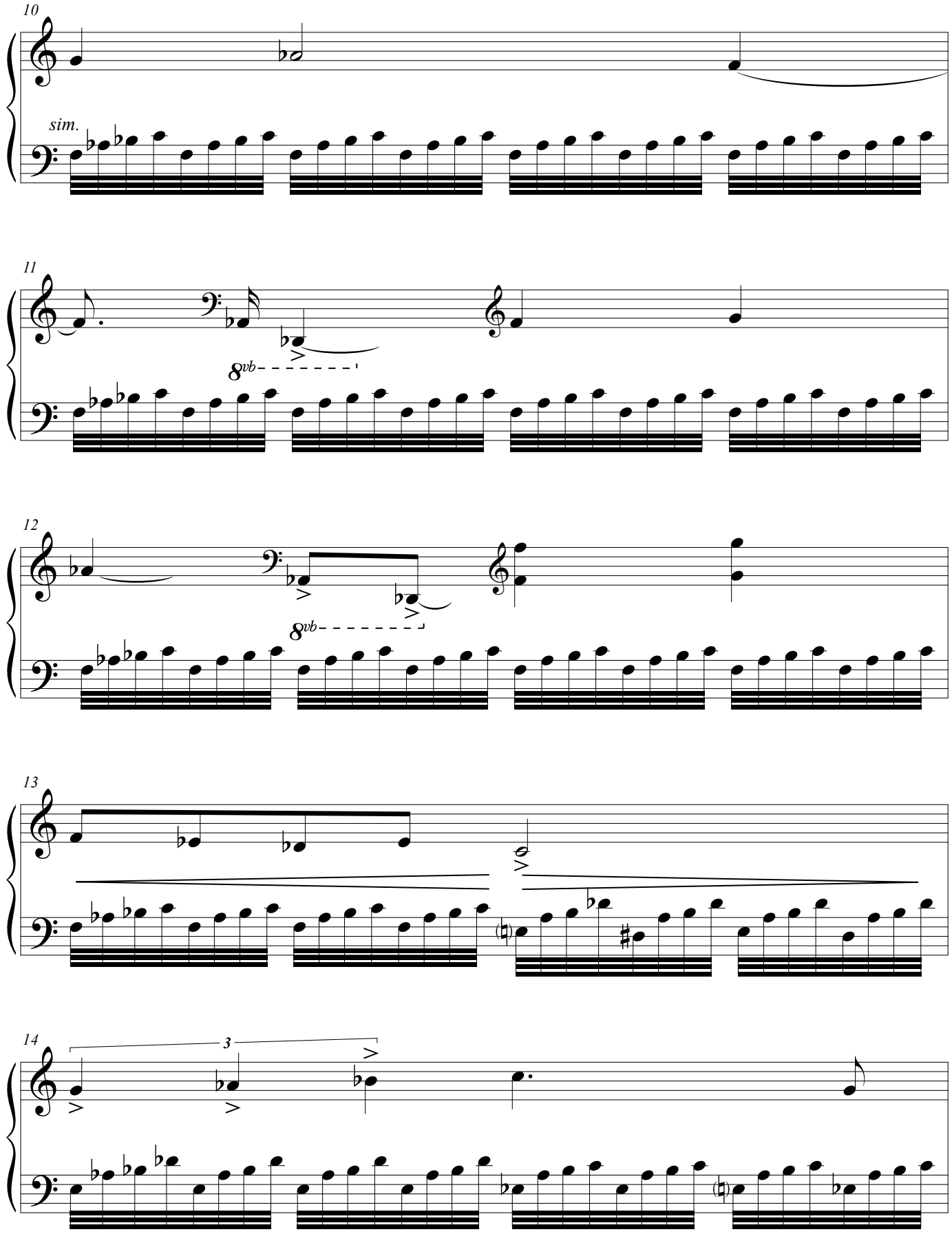
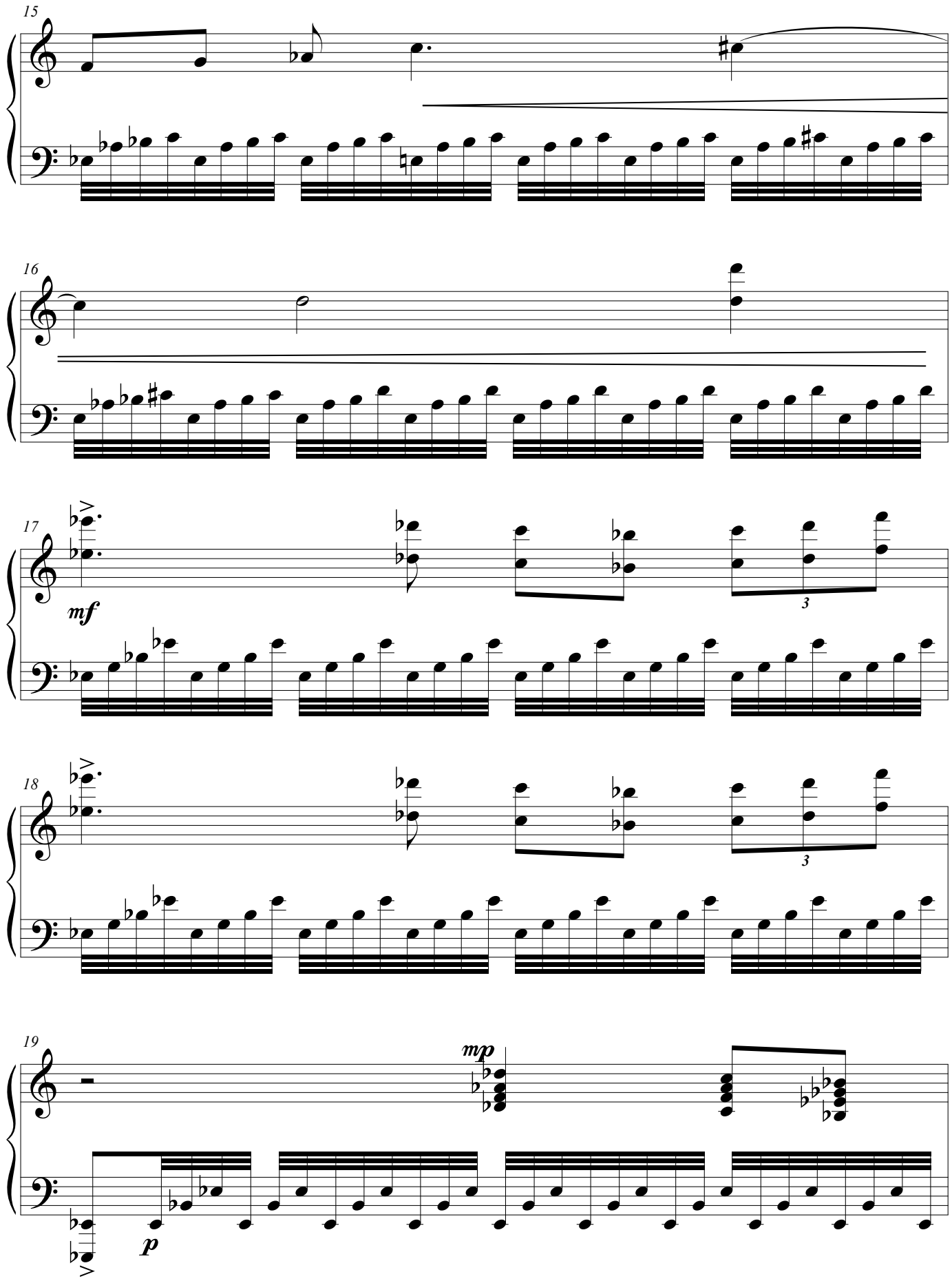
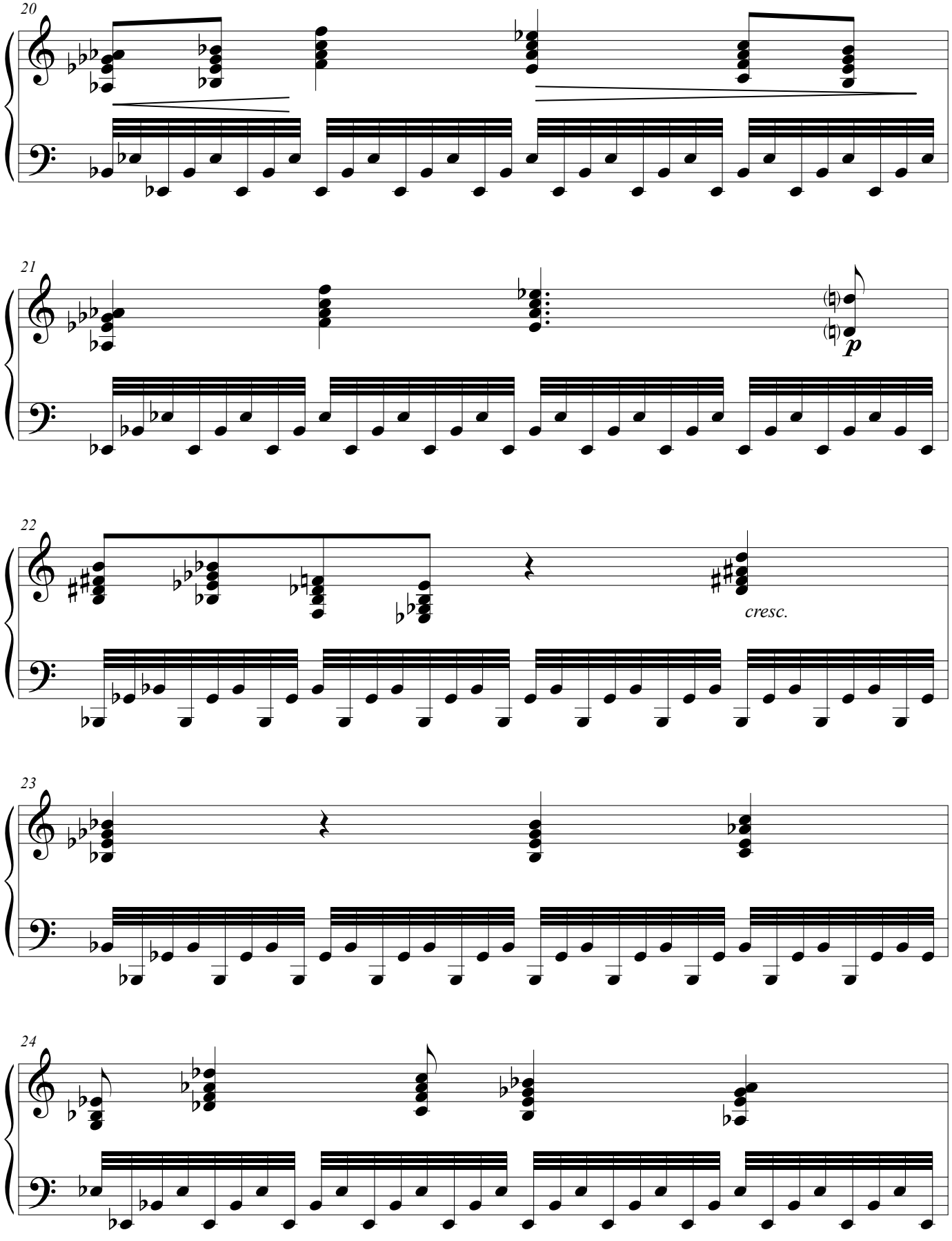
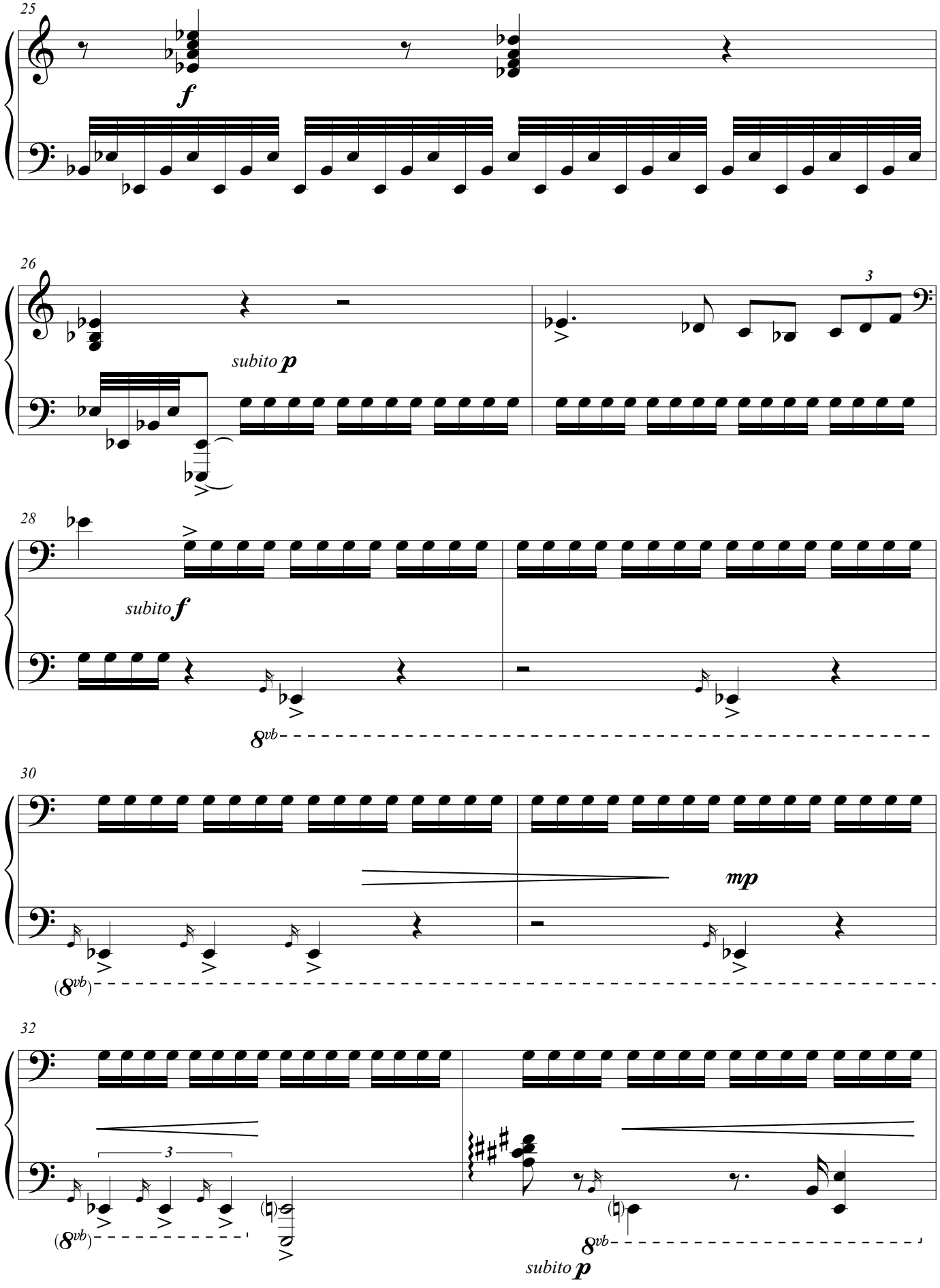
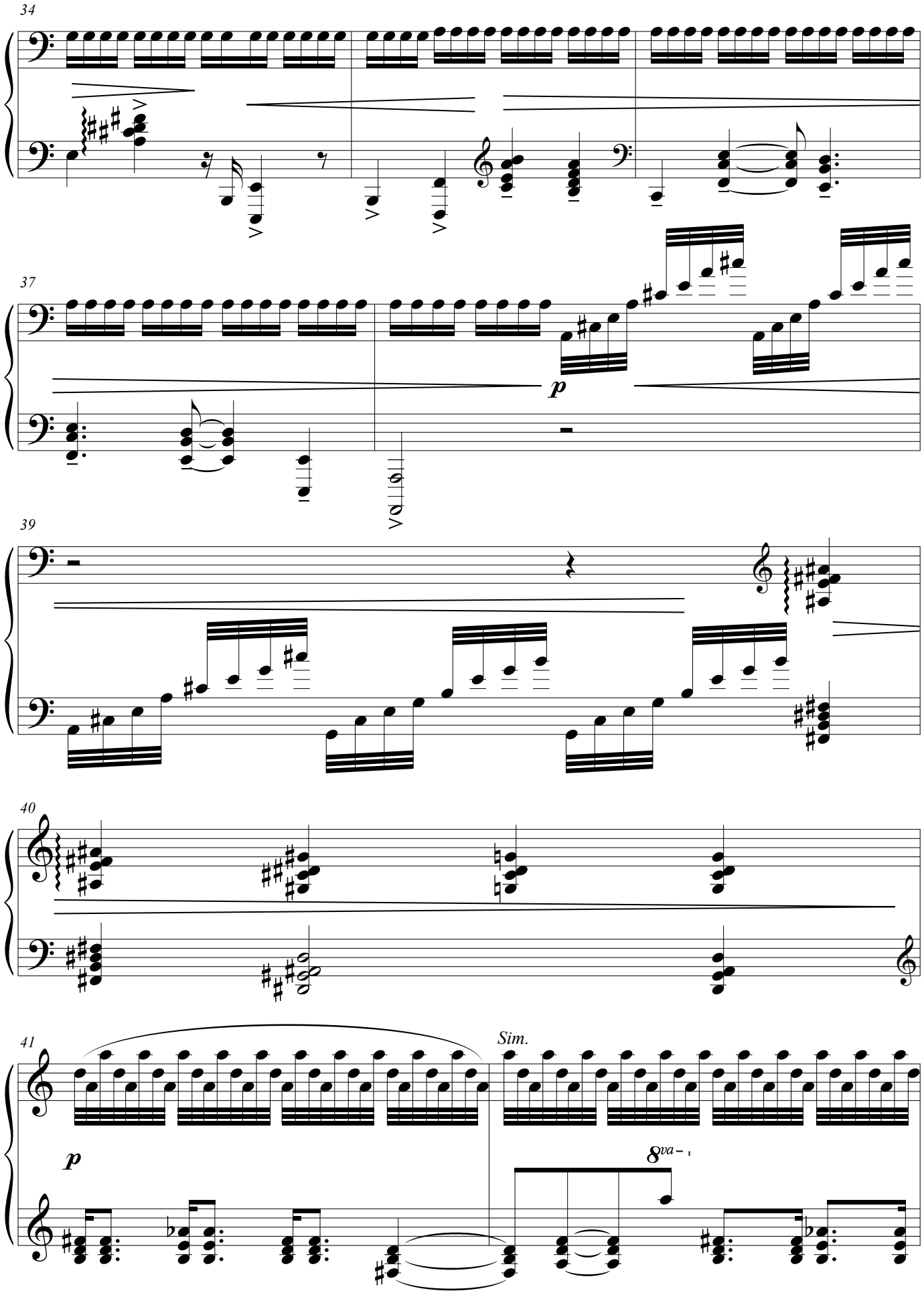
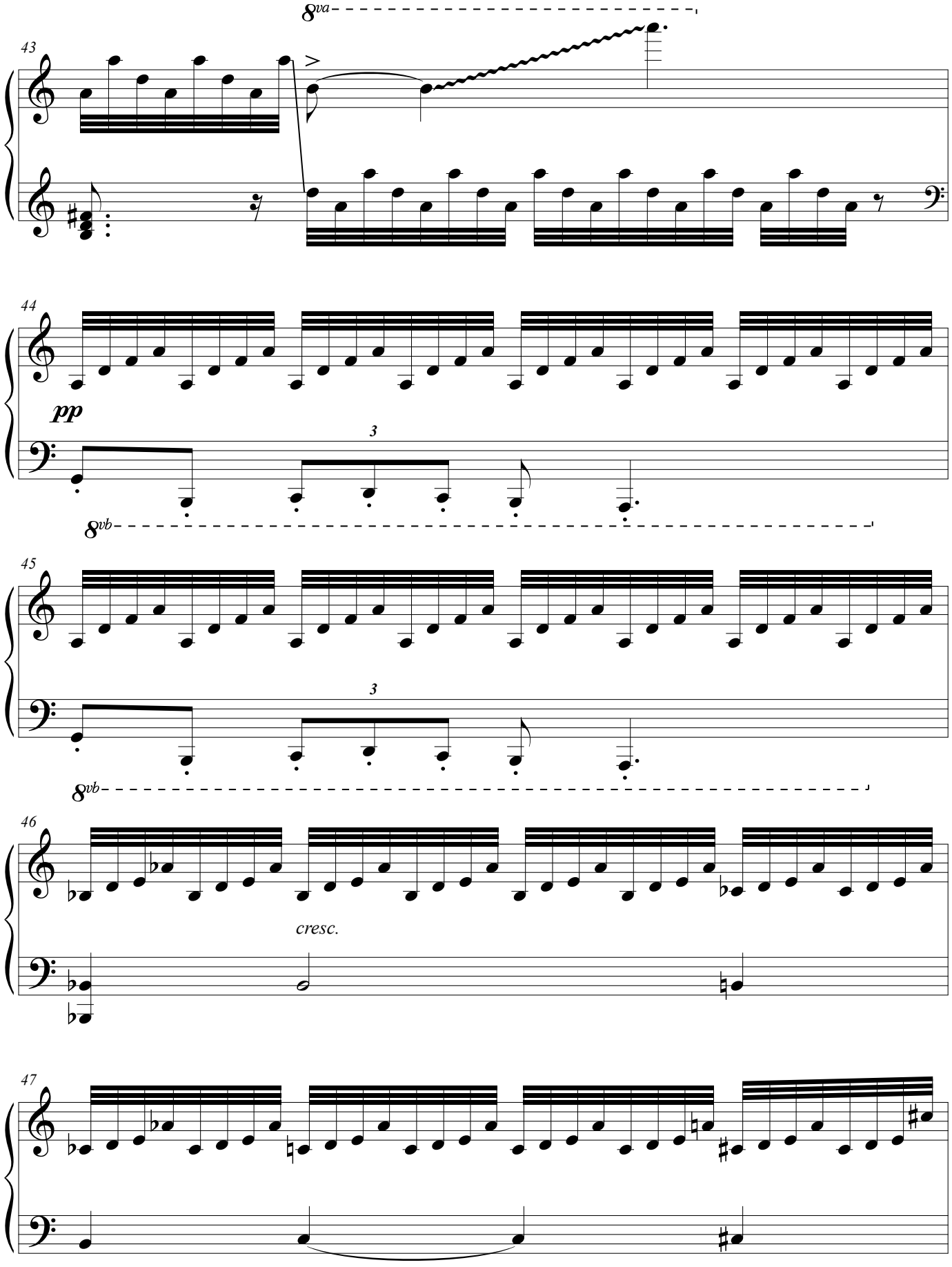

10
sim.
11
8vb
12
8vb
13
14
3


15
16
17
mf
3
18
3
19
mp
p


20
21
p
22
cresc.
23
24


25
f
26
subito p
3
28
subito f
8vb
30
mp
(8vb)
32
3
(8vb)
8vb
subito p


34
37
p
39
40
41
Sim.
p
8va


8va
43
44
pp
3
8vb
45
3
8vb
46
cresc.
47

Moderato (♩ = 90 or less)

48

mf

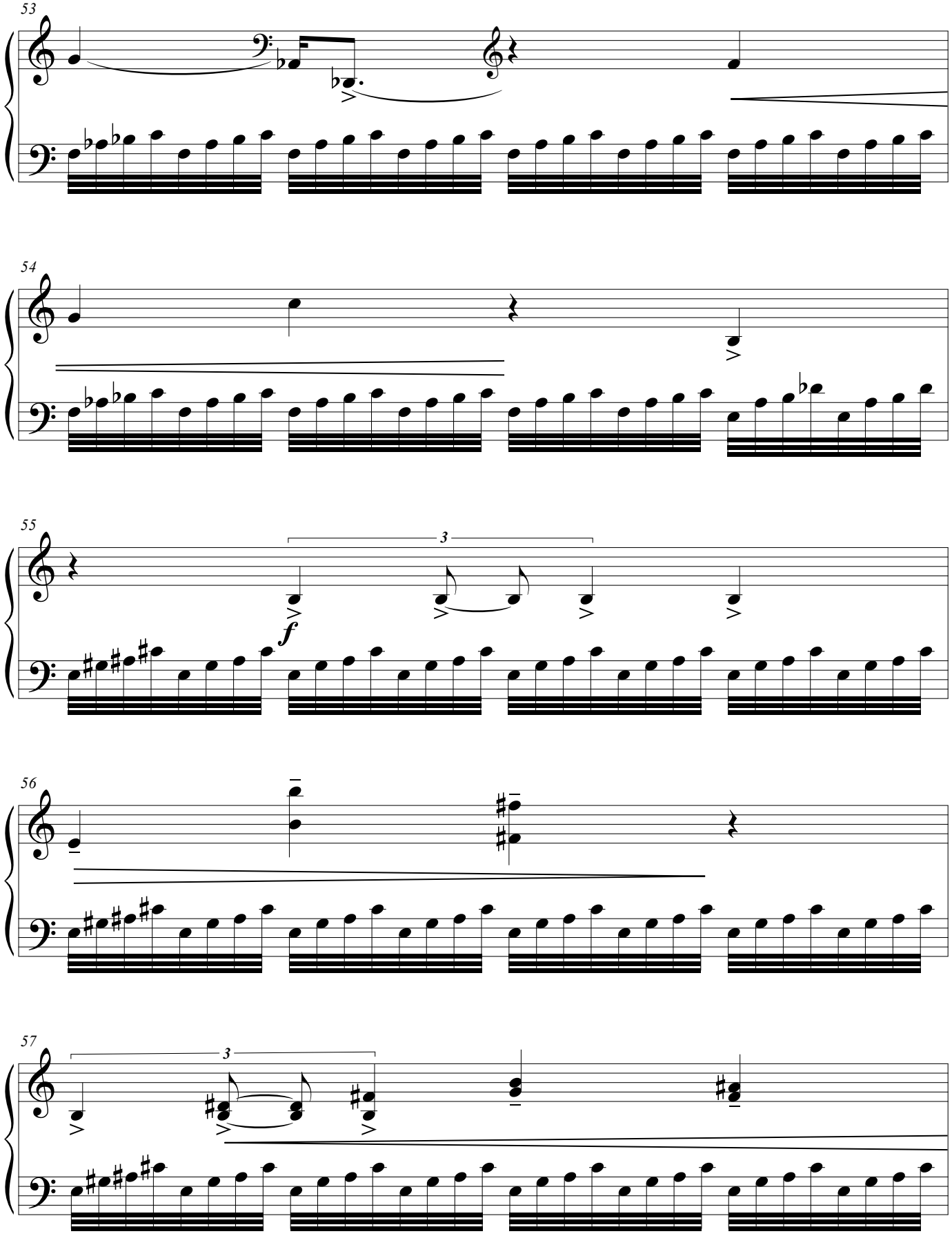
49

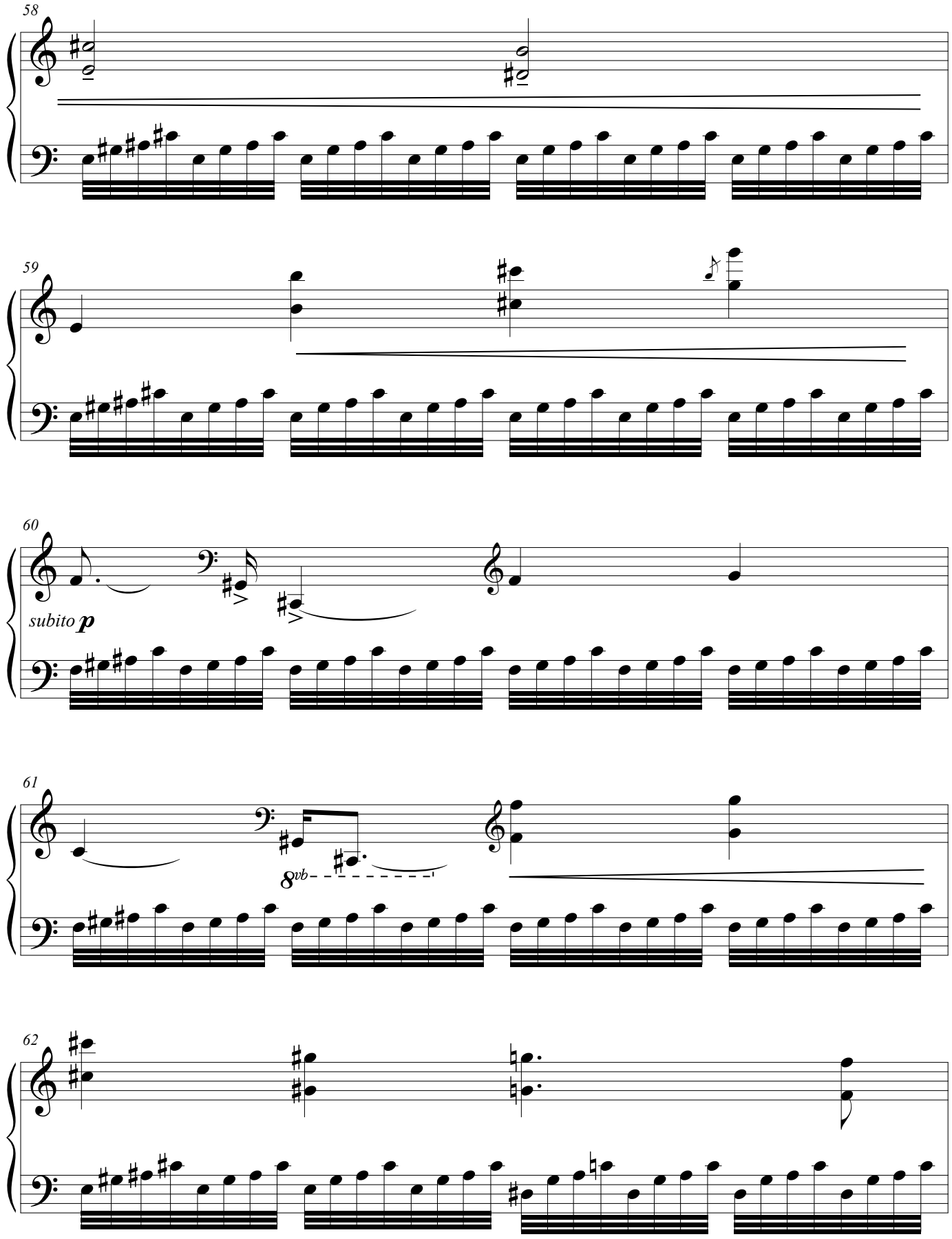
50

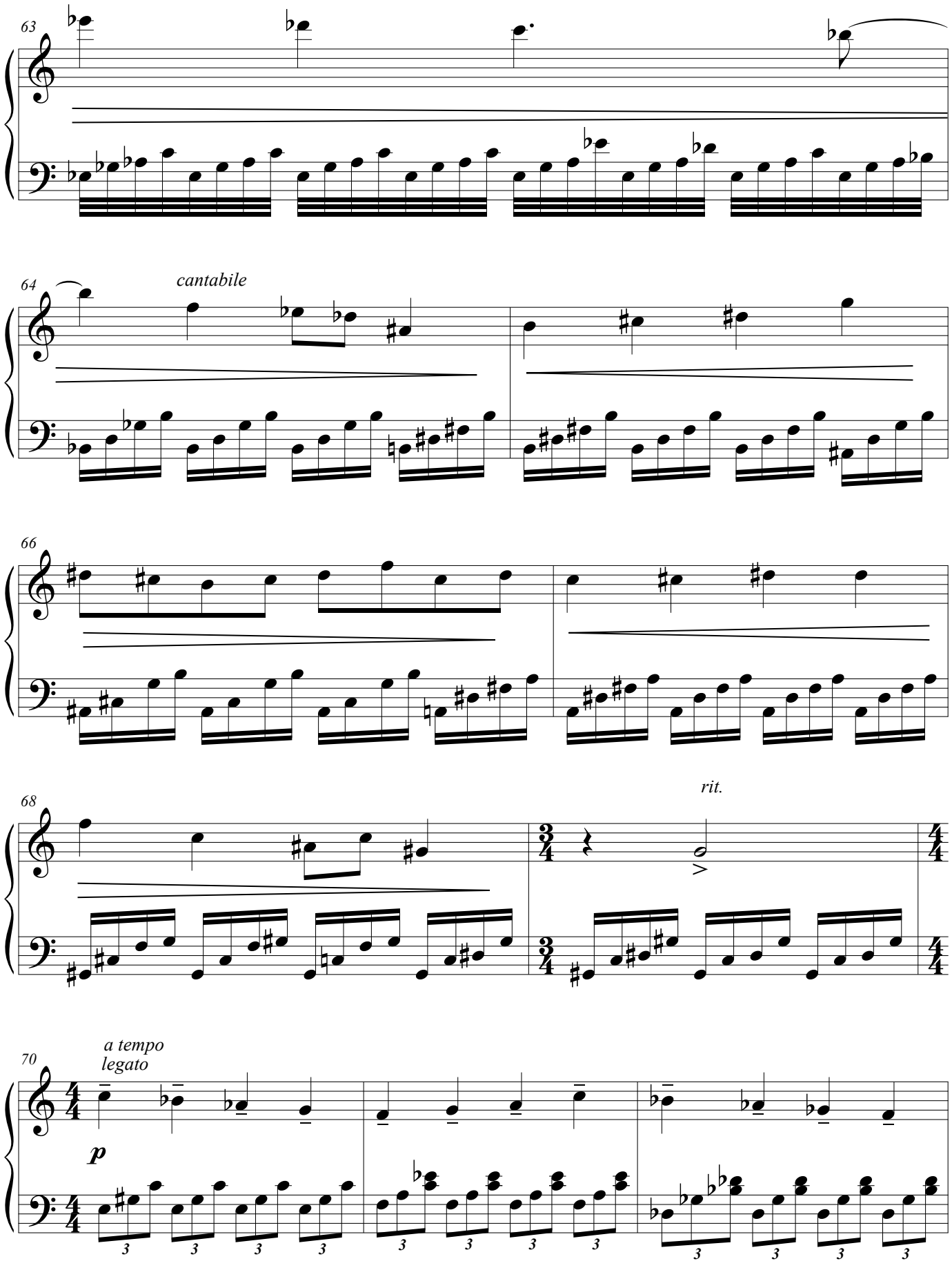
51

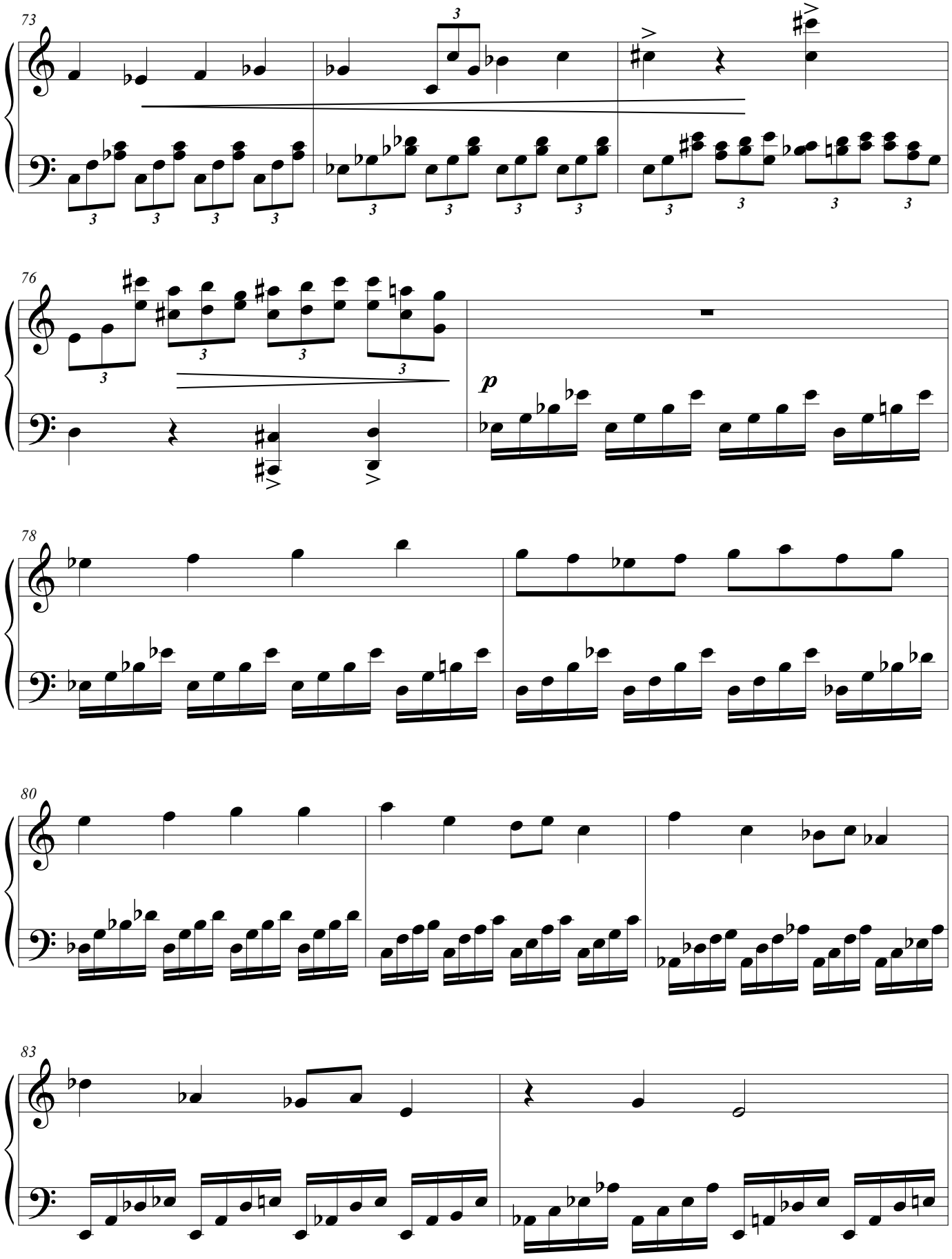
cresc. poco a poco

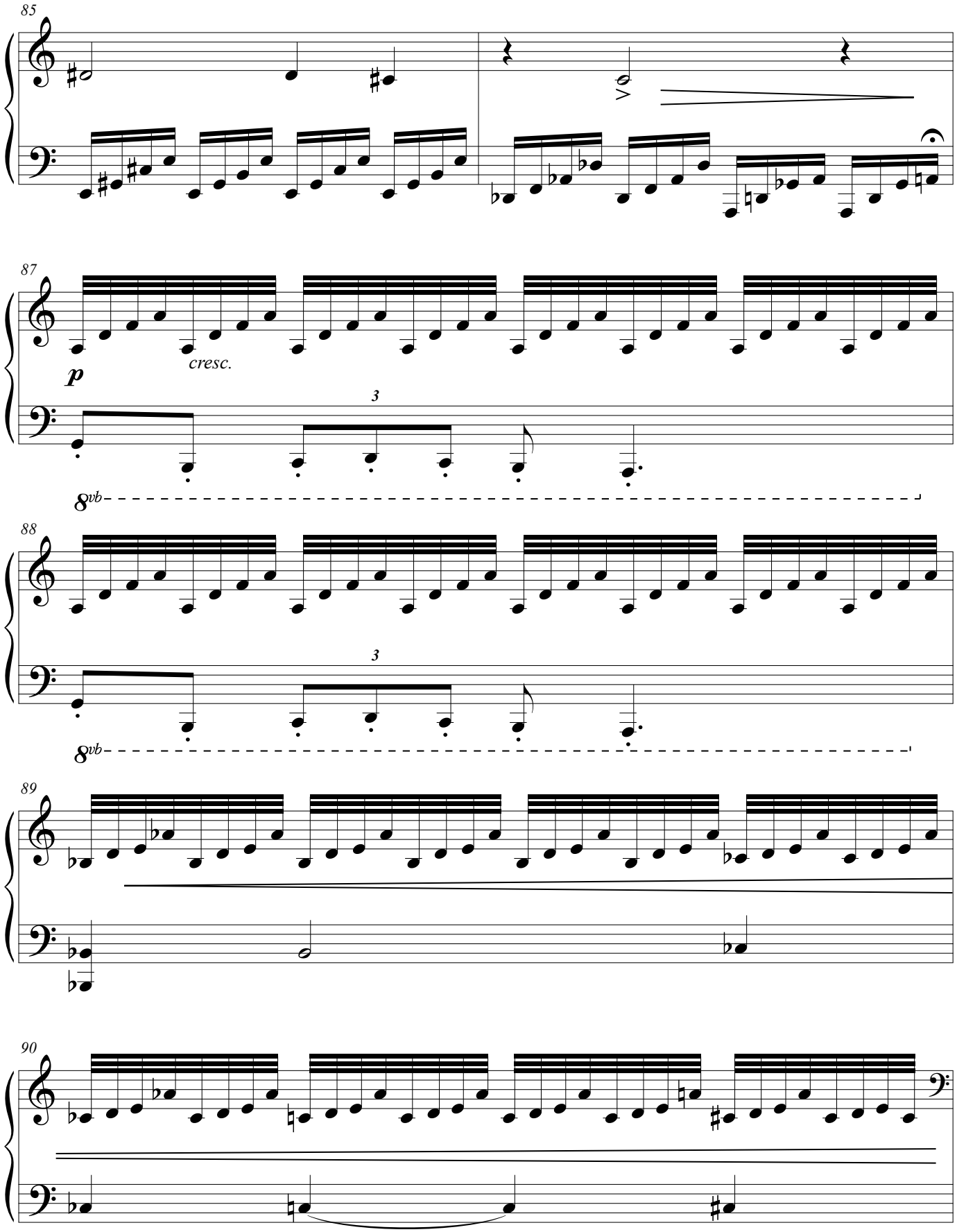
52

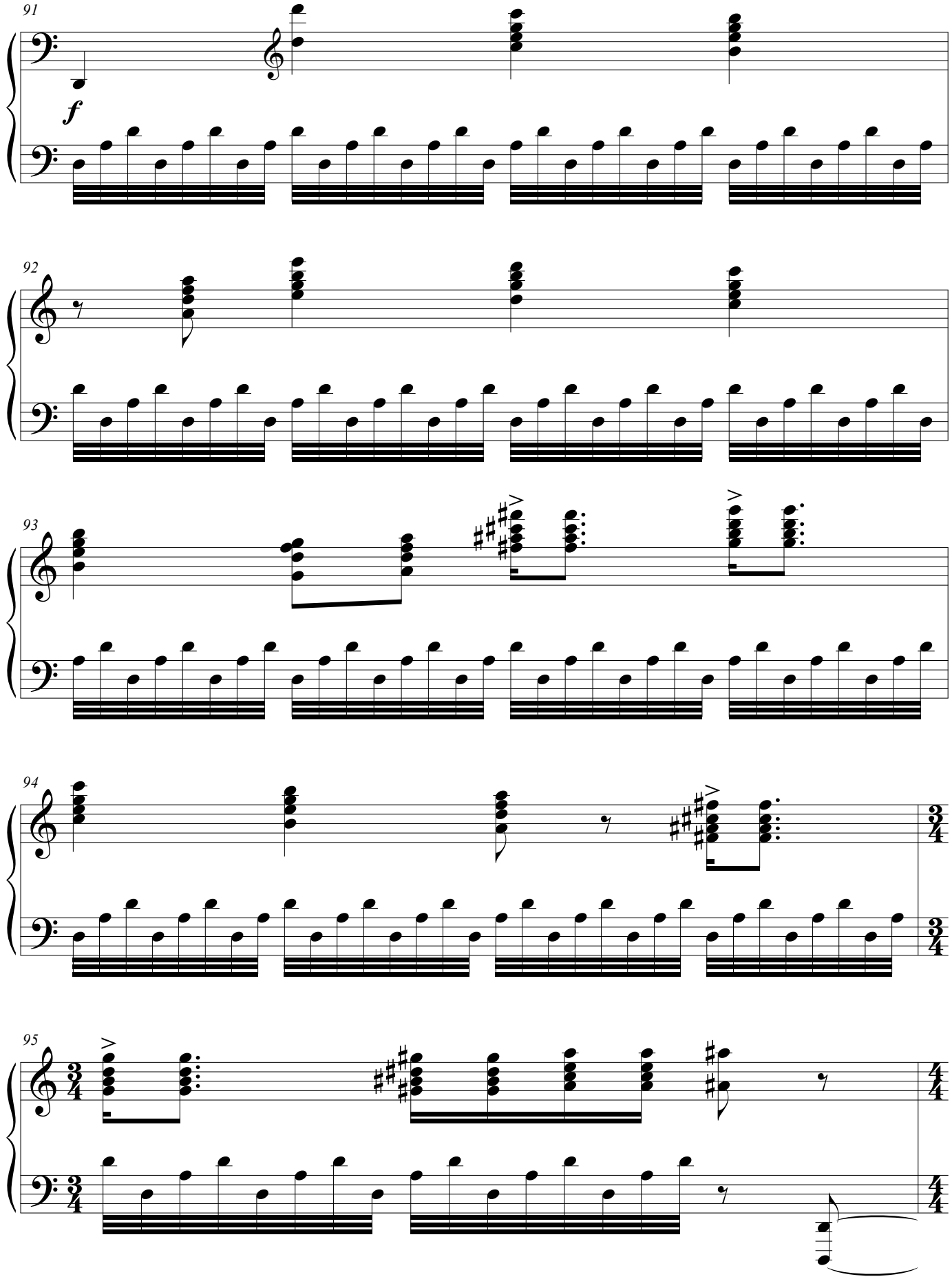

53
54
55
3
f
56
57
3

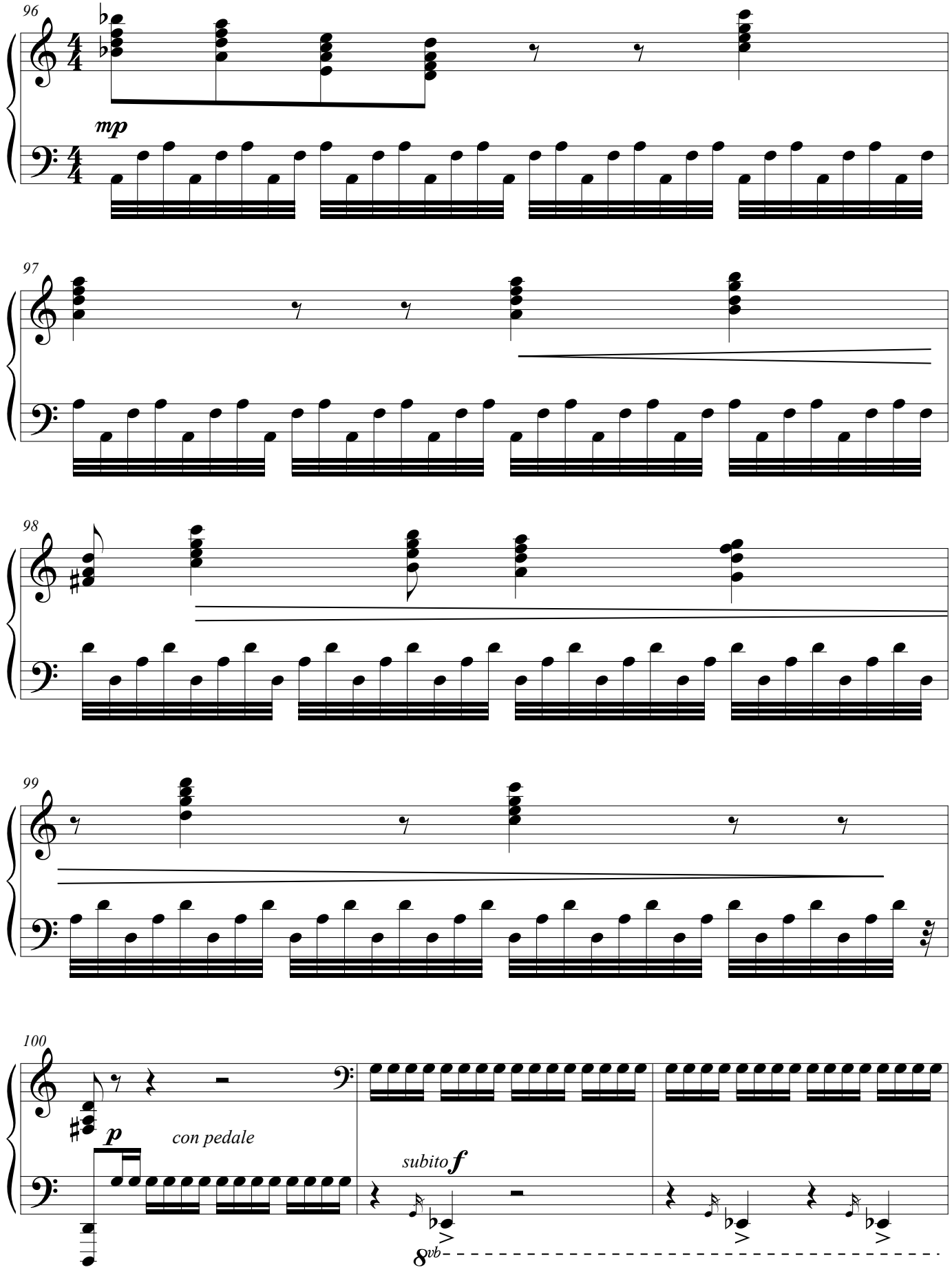

58
59
60
subito p
61
8vb
62

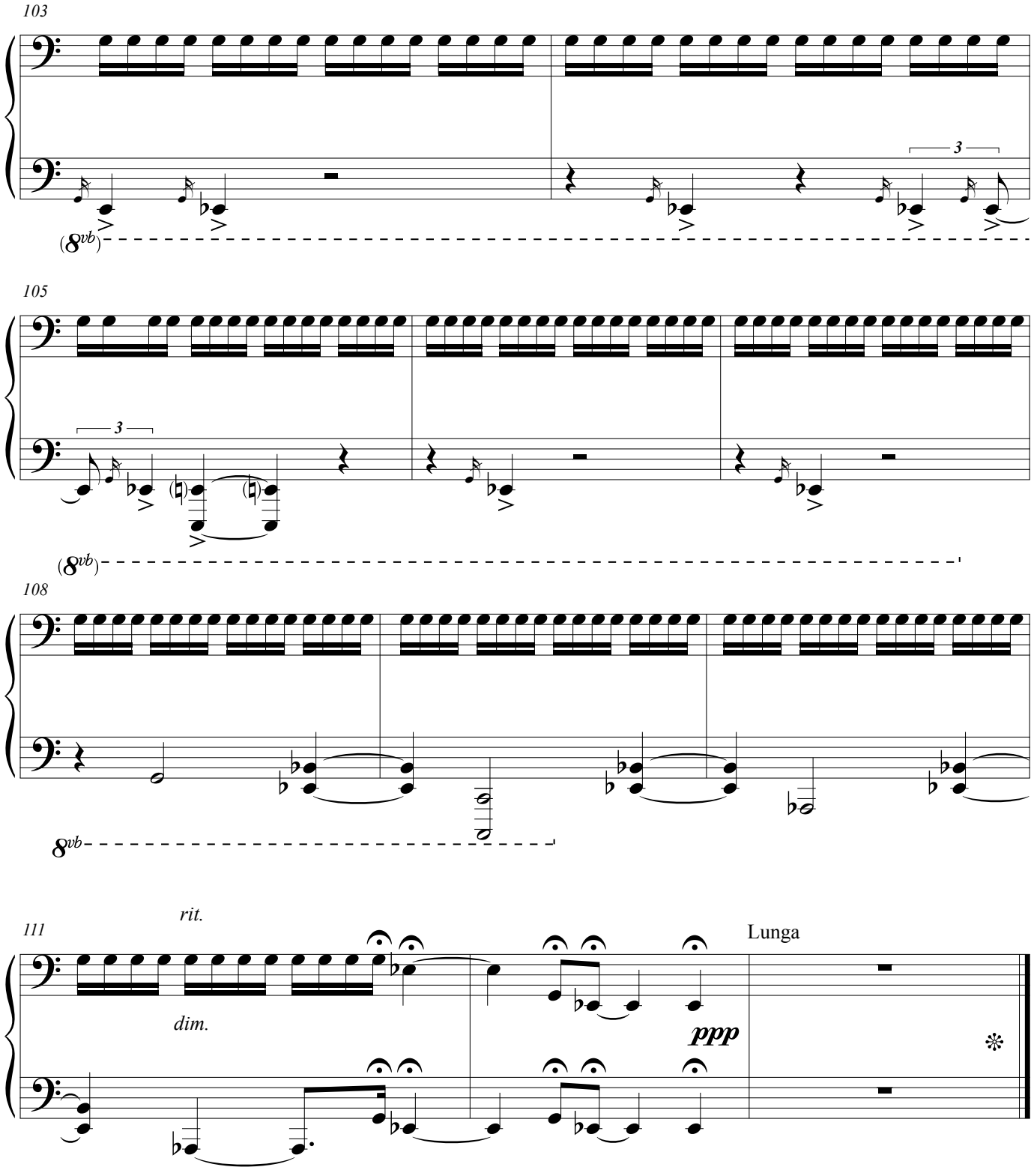

63
64
cantabile
66
68
rit.
70
a tempo
legato
p


73
76
p
78
80
83


85
87
p
cresc.
3
8vb
88
3
8vb
89
90


91
f
92
93
94
95


96
mp
97
98
99
100
p
con pedale
subito f
8vb


103
3
(8vb)
105
3
(8vb)
108
8vb
111
rit.
dim.
ppp
Lunga