W. Jay Sydeman

Duo

for Oboe and Piano

(c. 1984)

Arts Aeturnum Productions

This is a two-movement work written in the early 80's. I was having a sort of romantic renaissance at the time, as is evident from this music. The first movement is quite (can you believe it?) pretty, although there is a middle section that becomes surprisingly dark and dramatic and goes off on some interesting rhythmic pyrotechnics as well, ending in a roaring unison. The return to the simpler first section, albeit varied and developed, is really quite welcome.

The 2nd movement is sort of a scherzo with very clear development of the motivic material, putting both performers through significant musical and technical paces. The counterpoint of J S Bach (as always) seems to be the technical ground from which all else springs.

– W. Jay Sydeman, July 2013

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. Andante – circa 5:00
II. Moderato – circa 4:00

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

Duo

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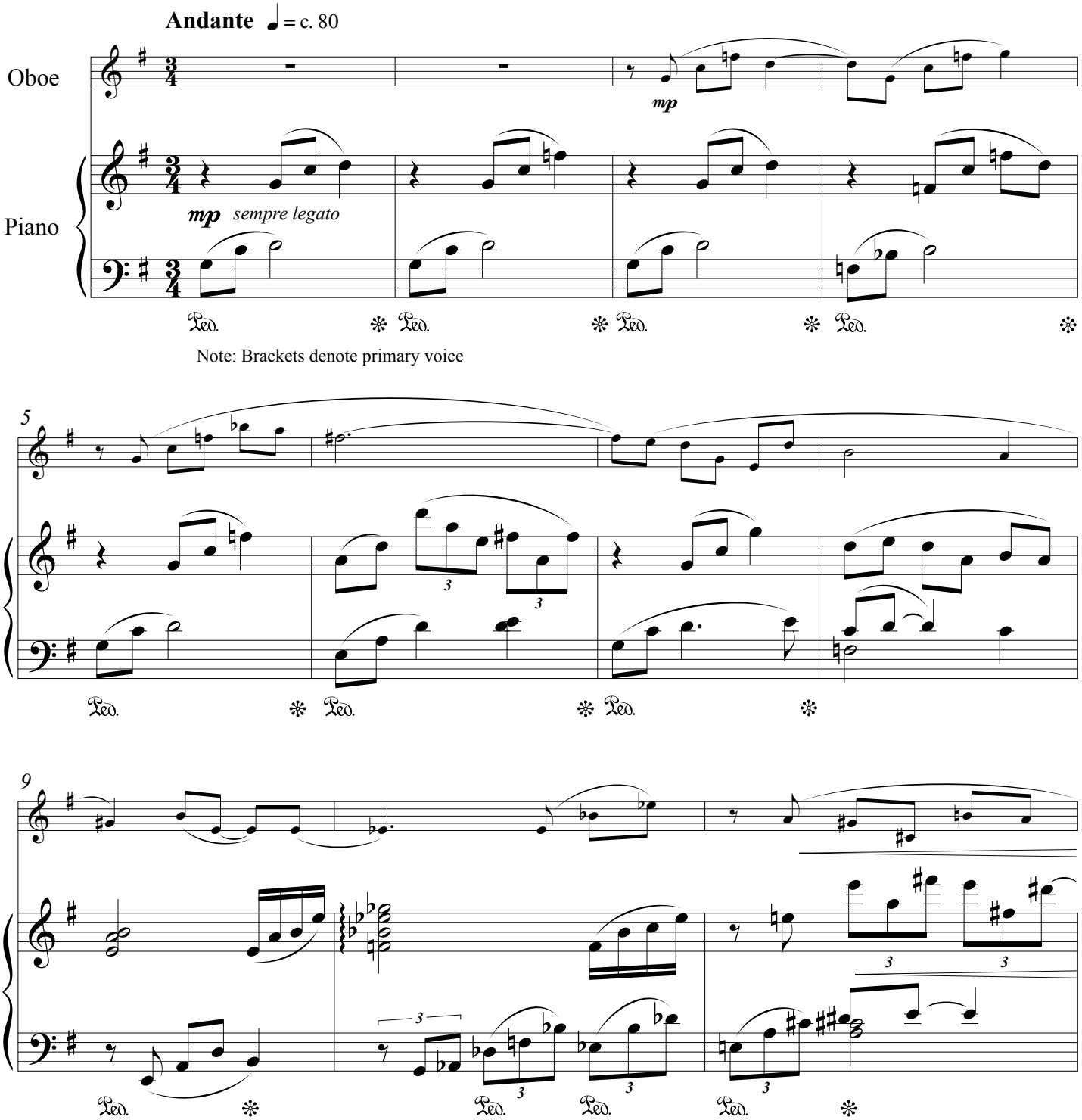
W. Jay Sydeman
(c. 1984)

I.



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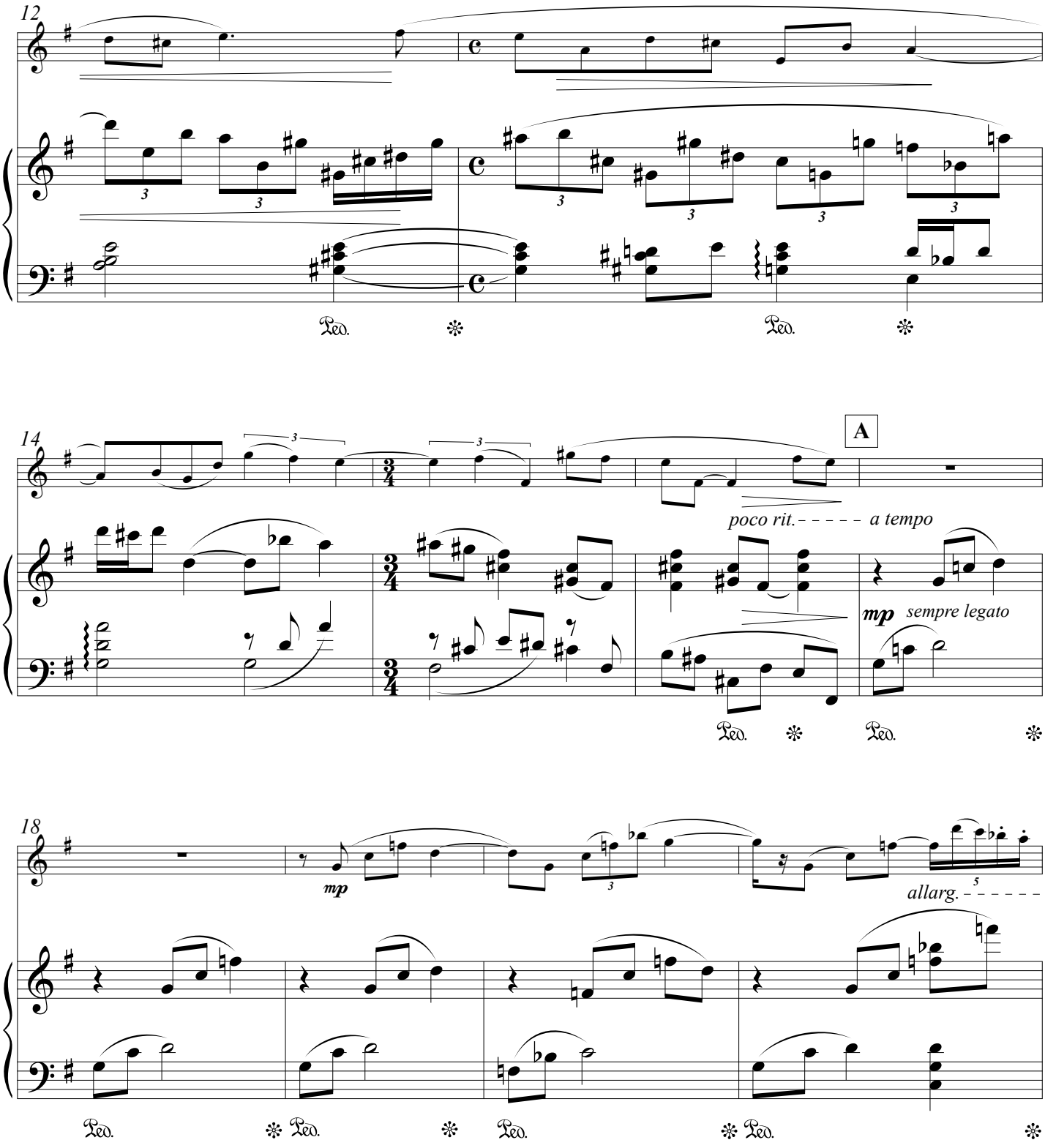
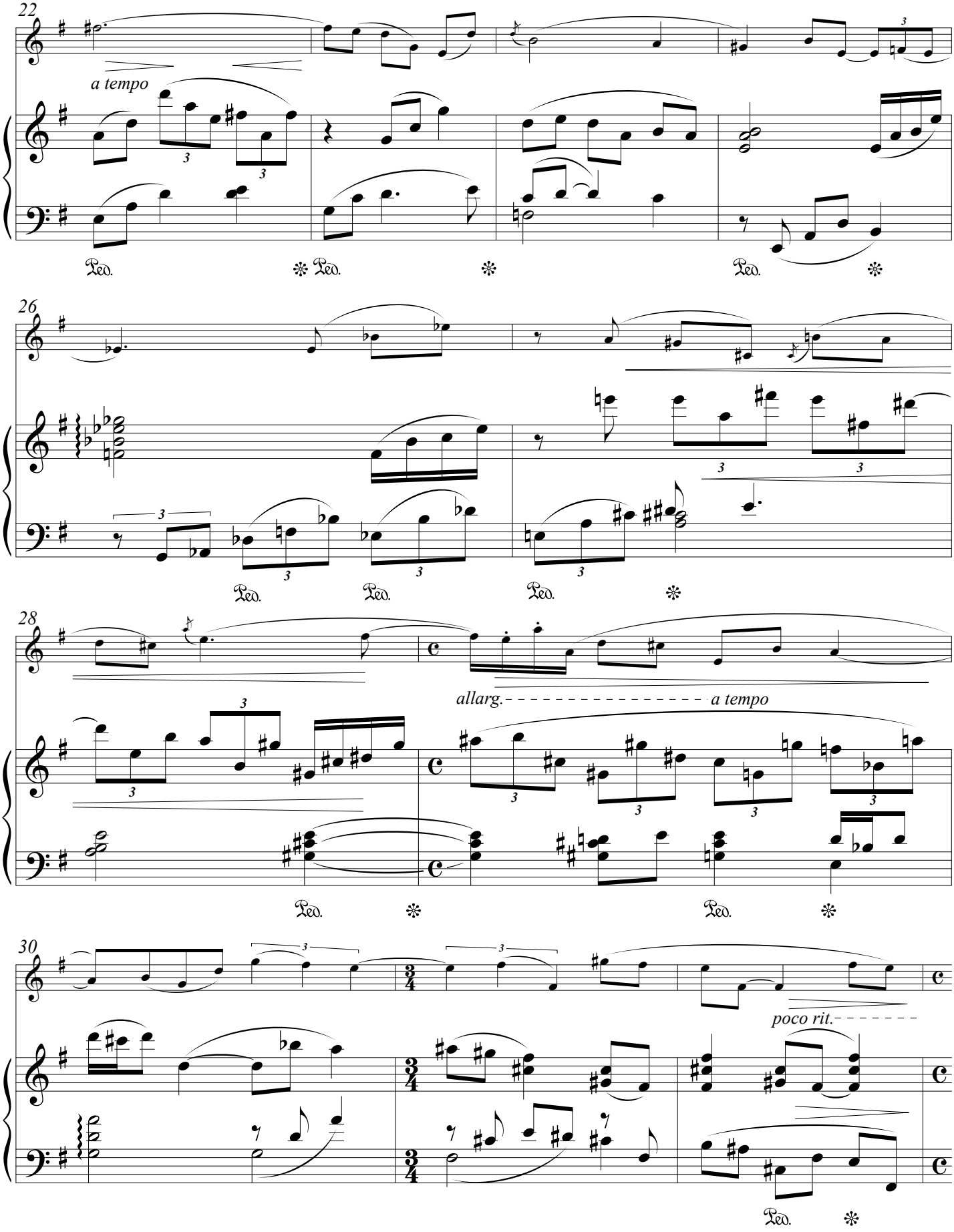
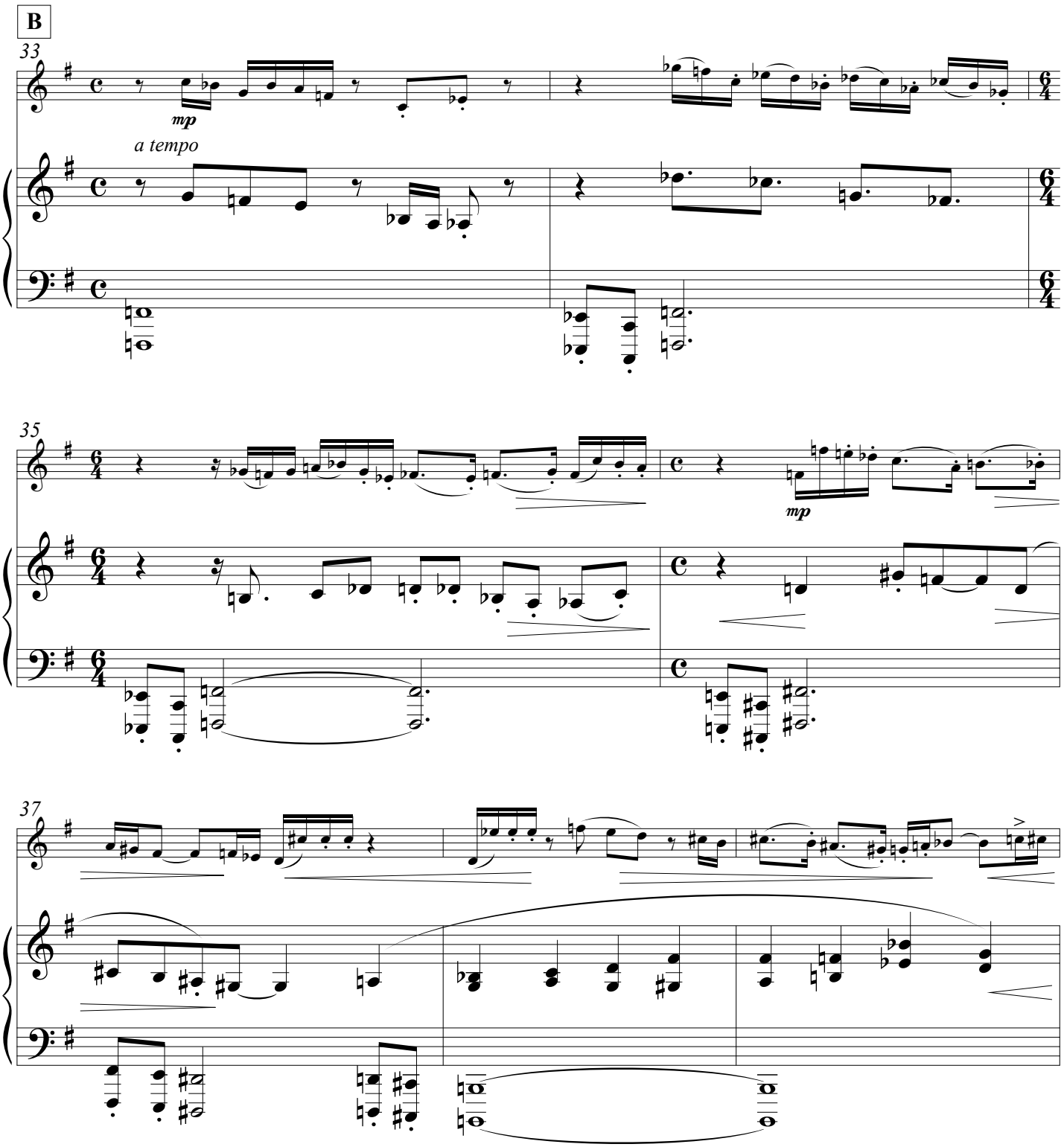
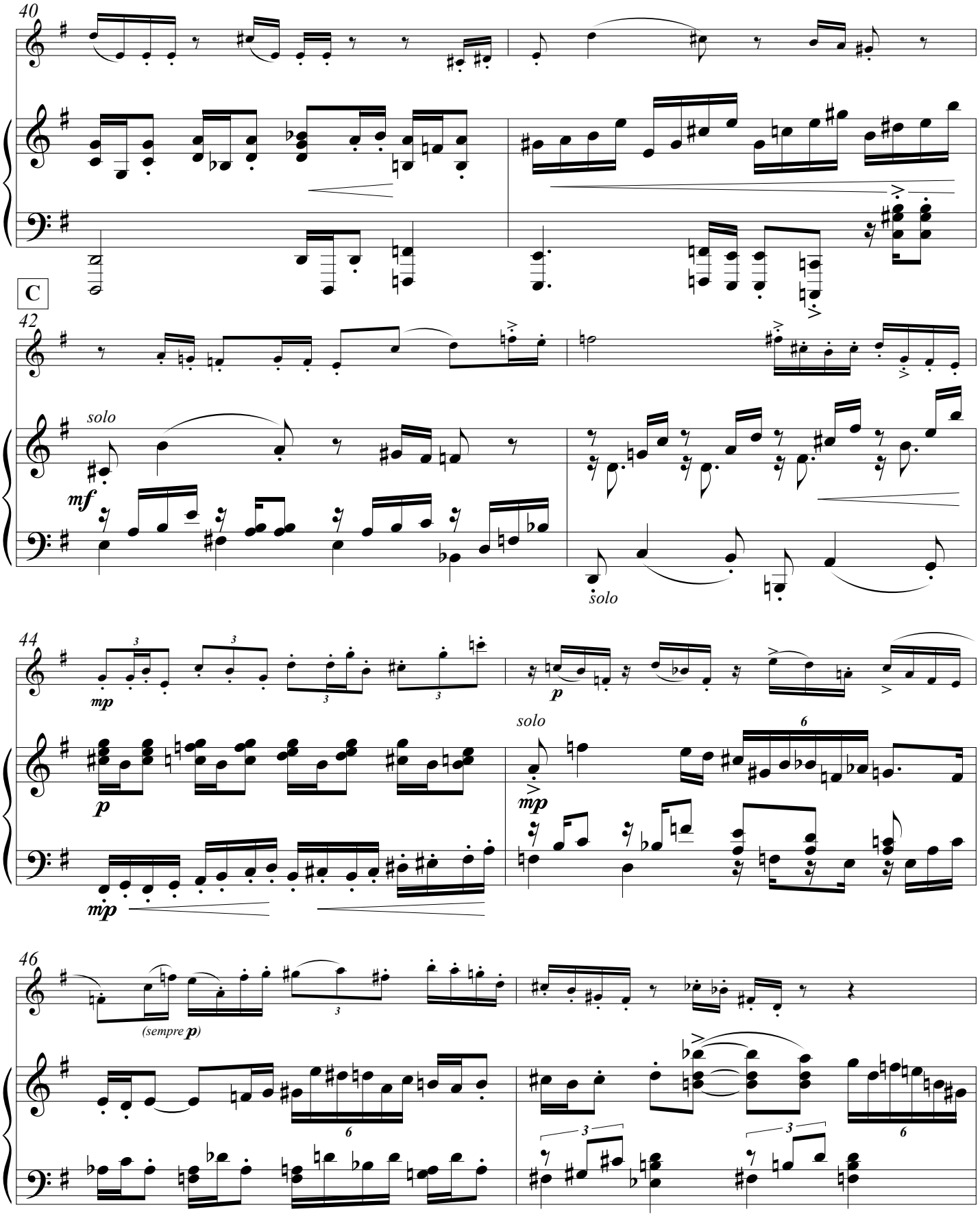
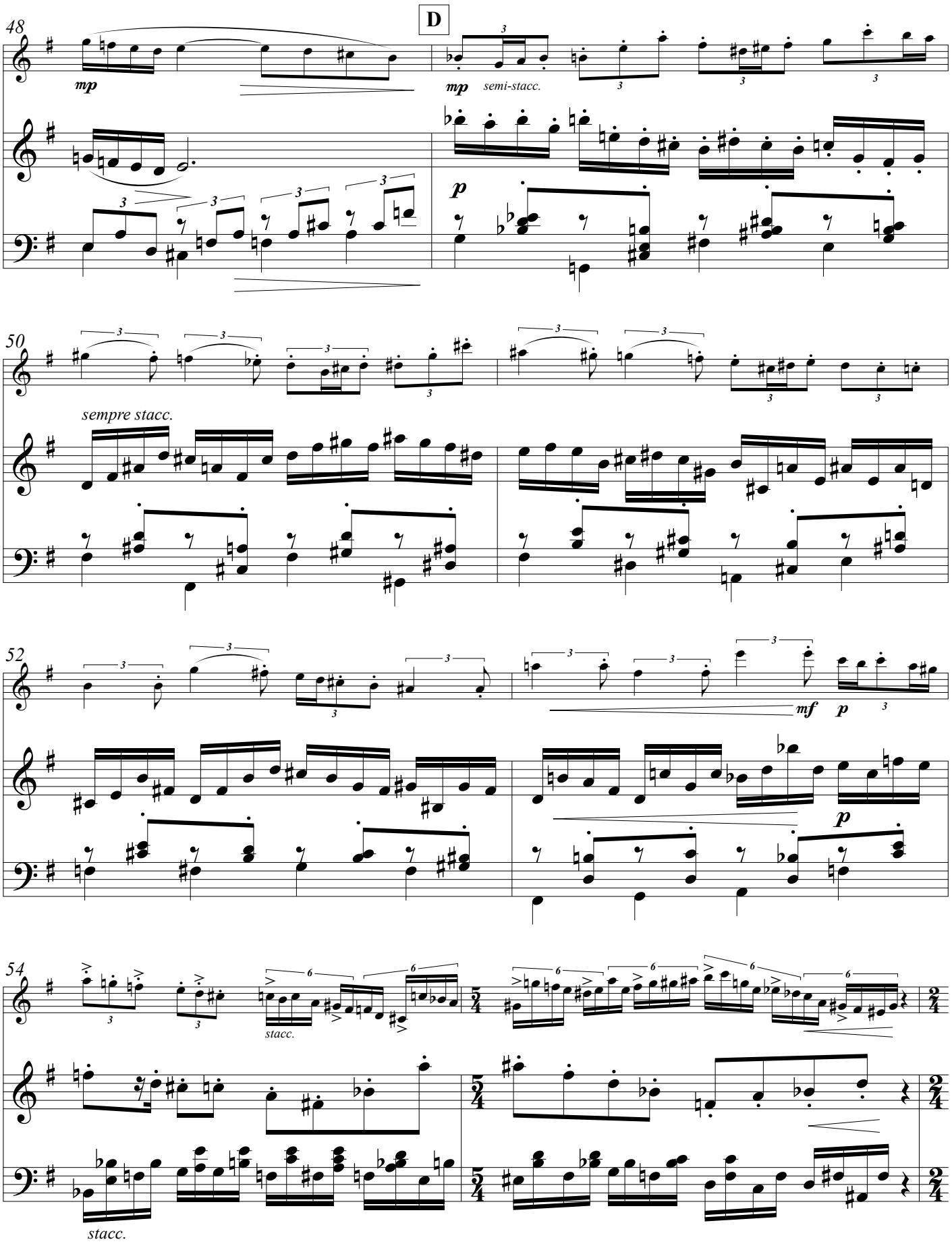
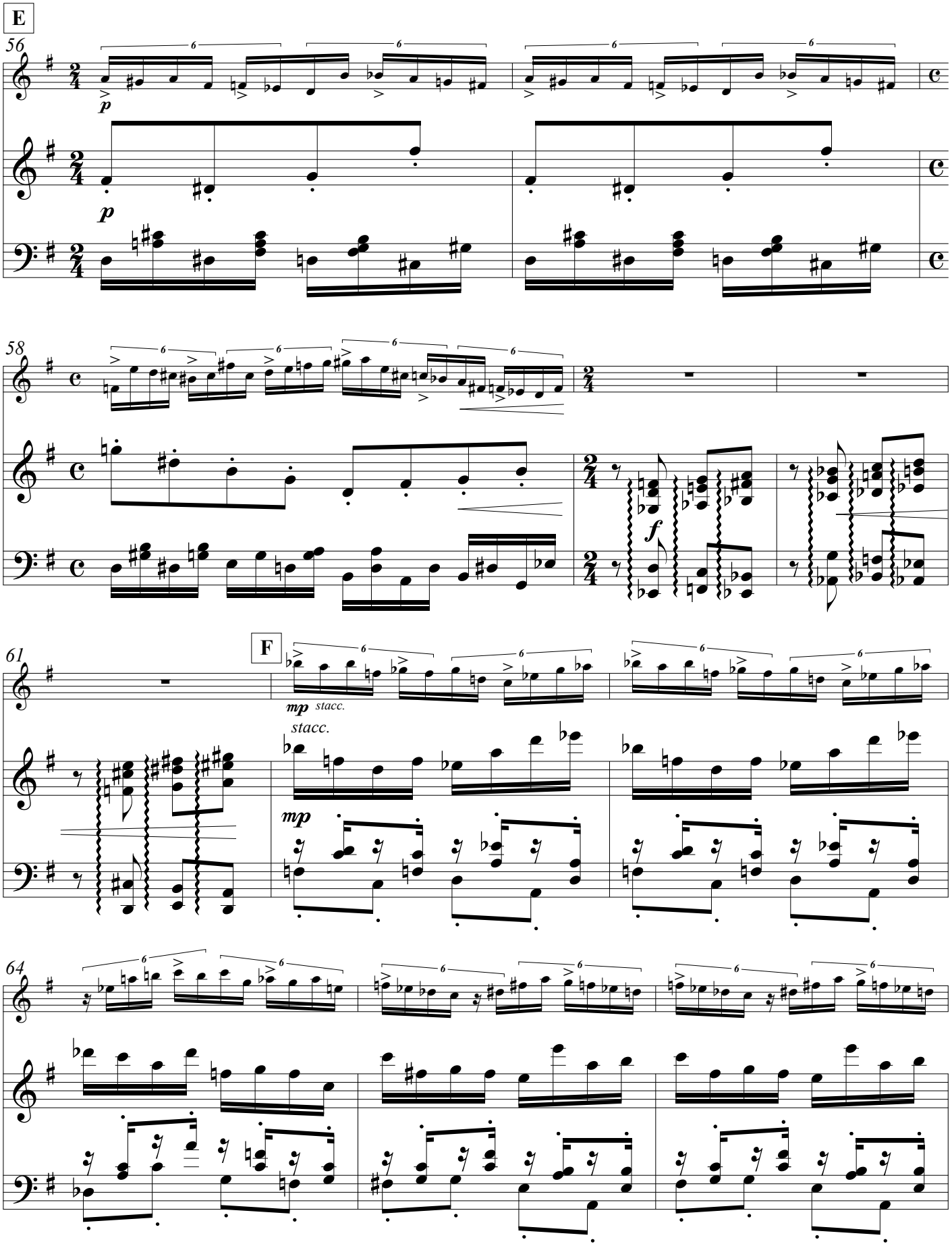

12
14
A
poco rit.
a tempo
mp
sempre legato
18
mp
allarg.
Ped.

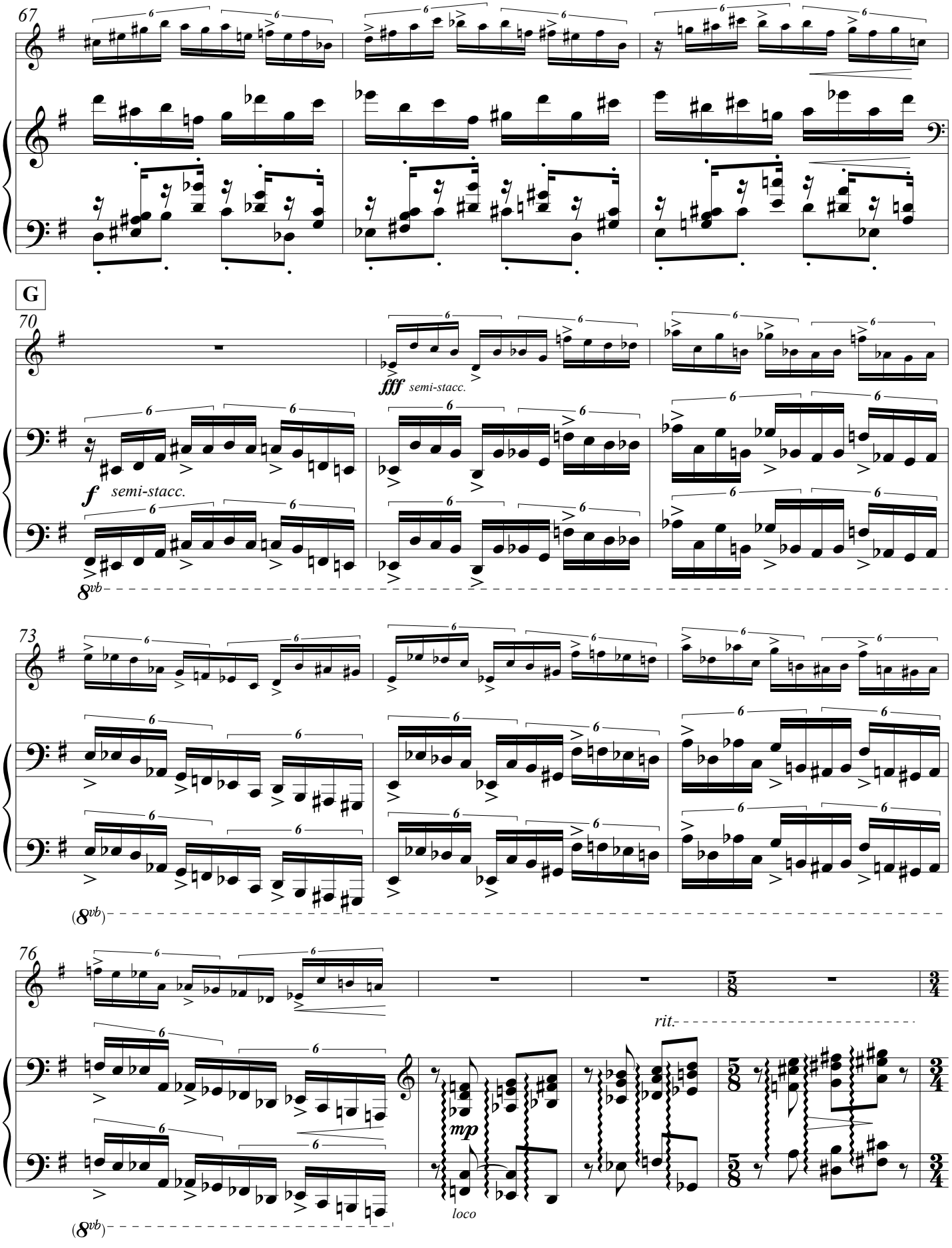

22
a tempo
Ped.
26
28
allarg.
a tempo
poco rit.
30

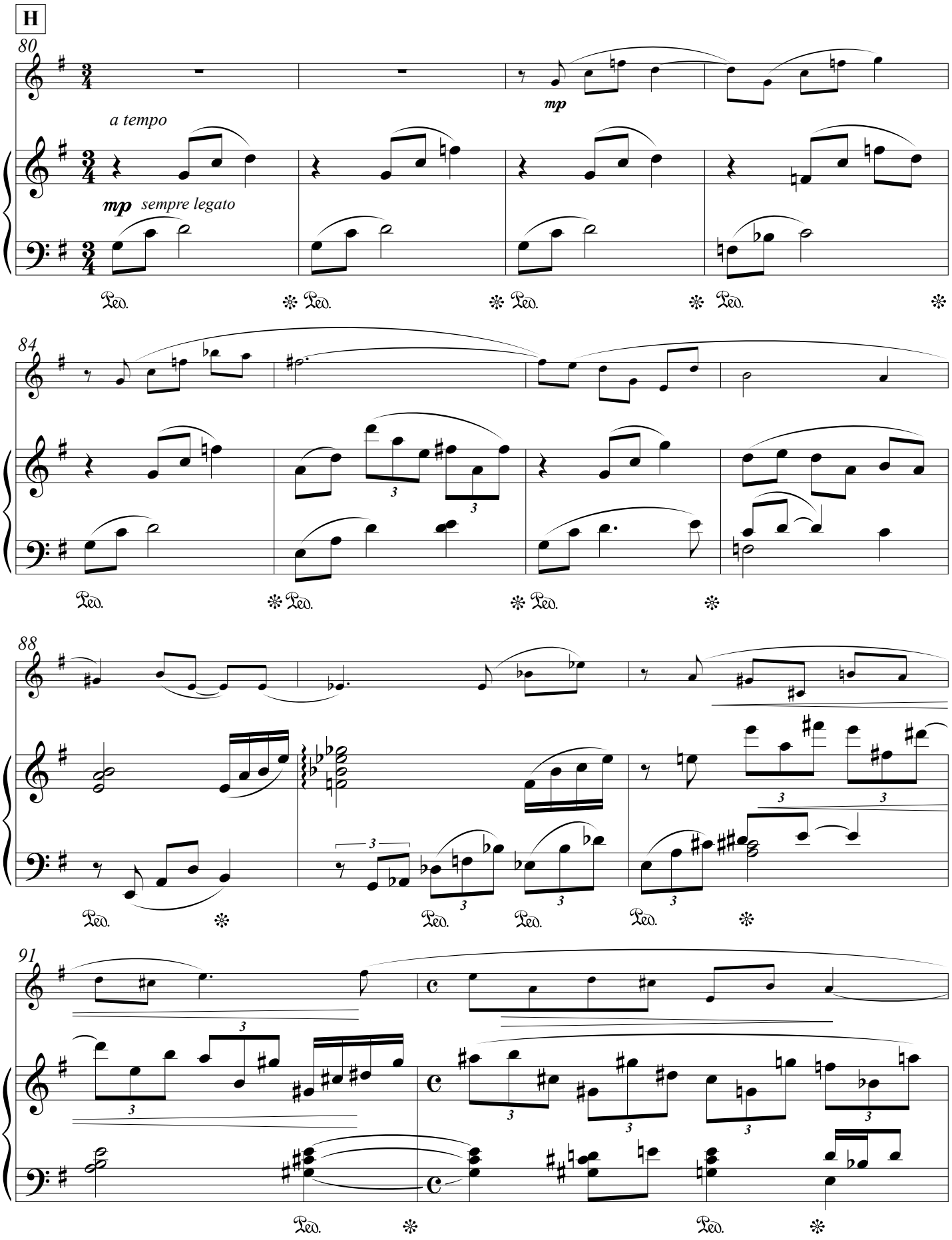

B
33
mp
a tempo
35
mp
37

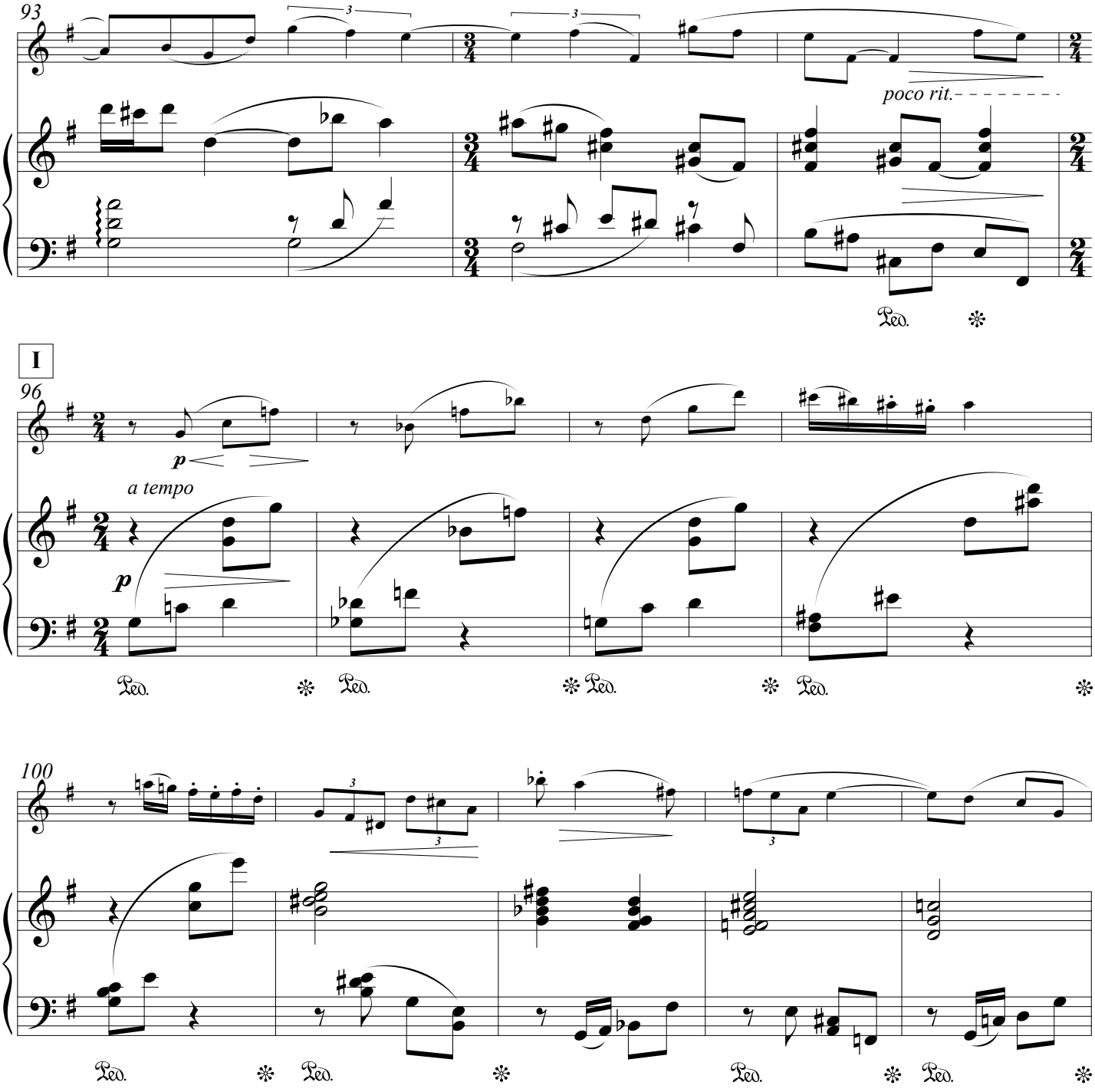

40
C
42
solo
mf
solo
44
mp
p
solo
mp
mp
46
(sempre p)

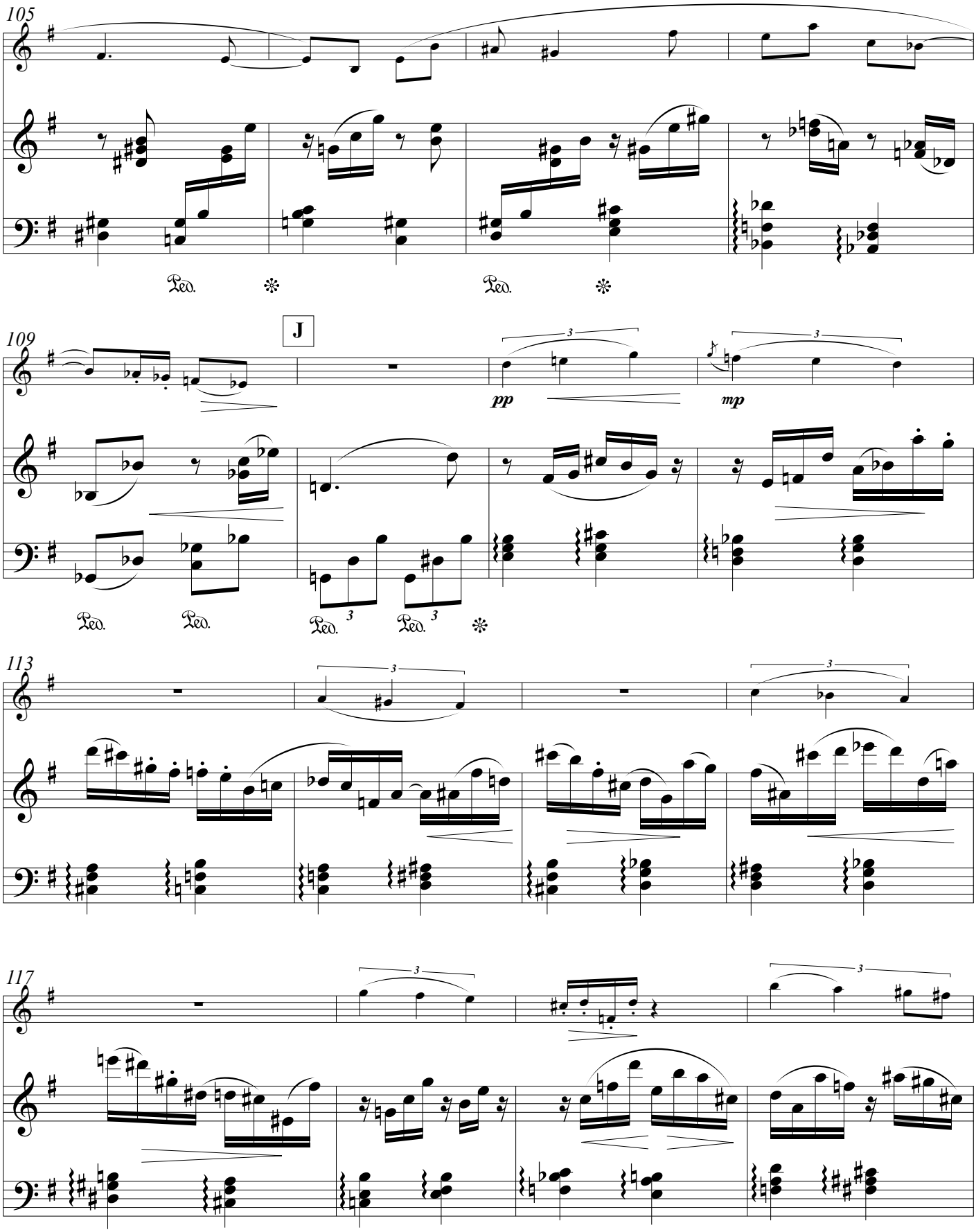

48
D
mp
mp
semi-stacc.
p
50
sempre stacc.
52
mf
p
p
54
stacc.
stacc.

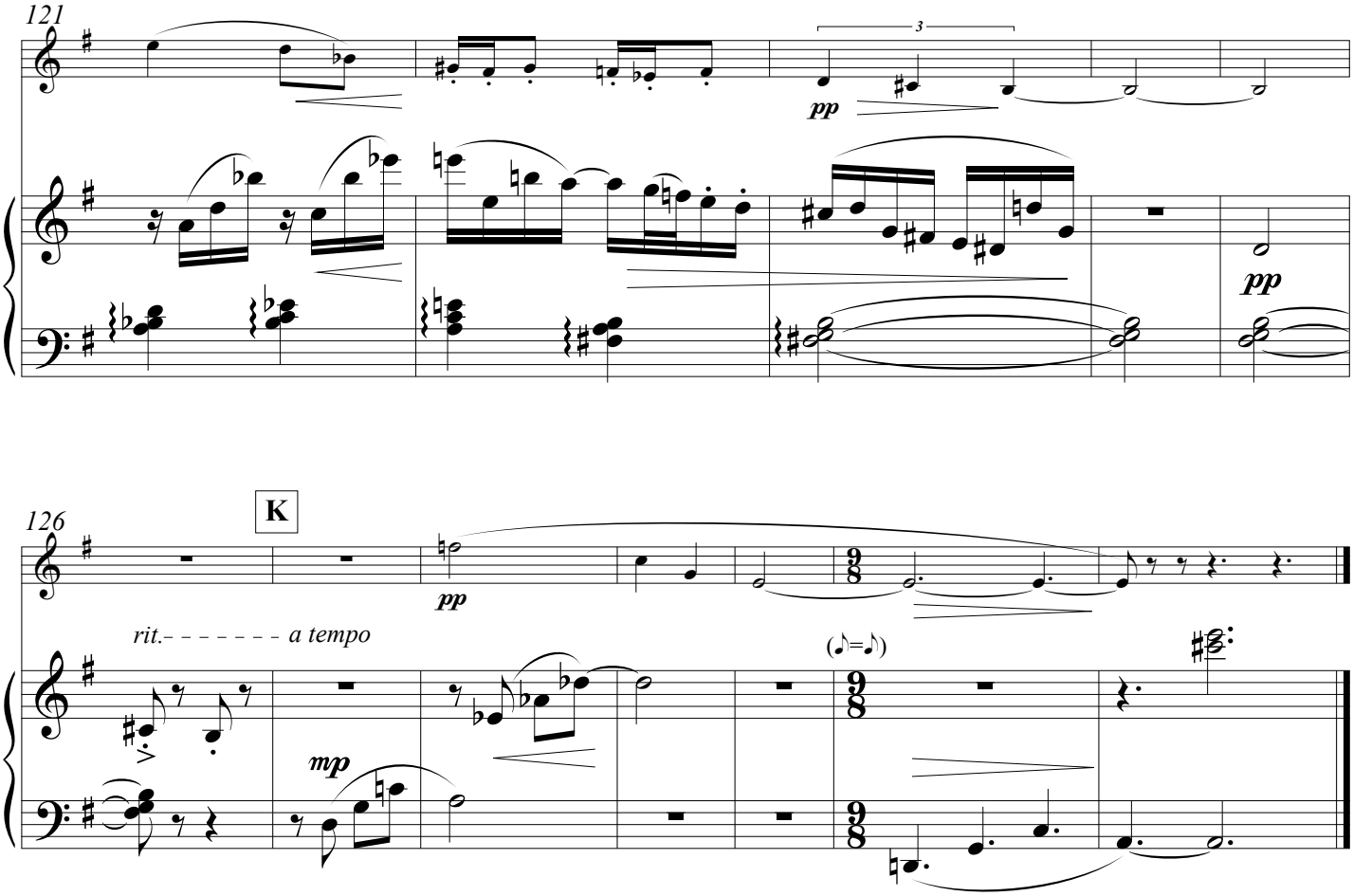

E
56
p
58
f
F
61
mp stacc.
stacc.
mp
64


67
G
70
fff semi-stacc.
f semi-stacc.
8vb
73
(8vb)
76
rit.
mp
loco
(8vb)

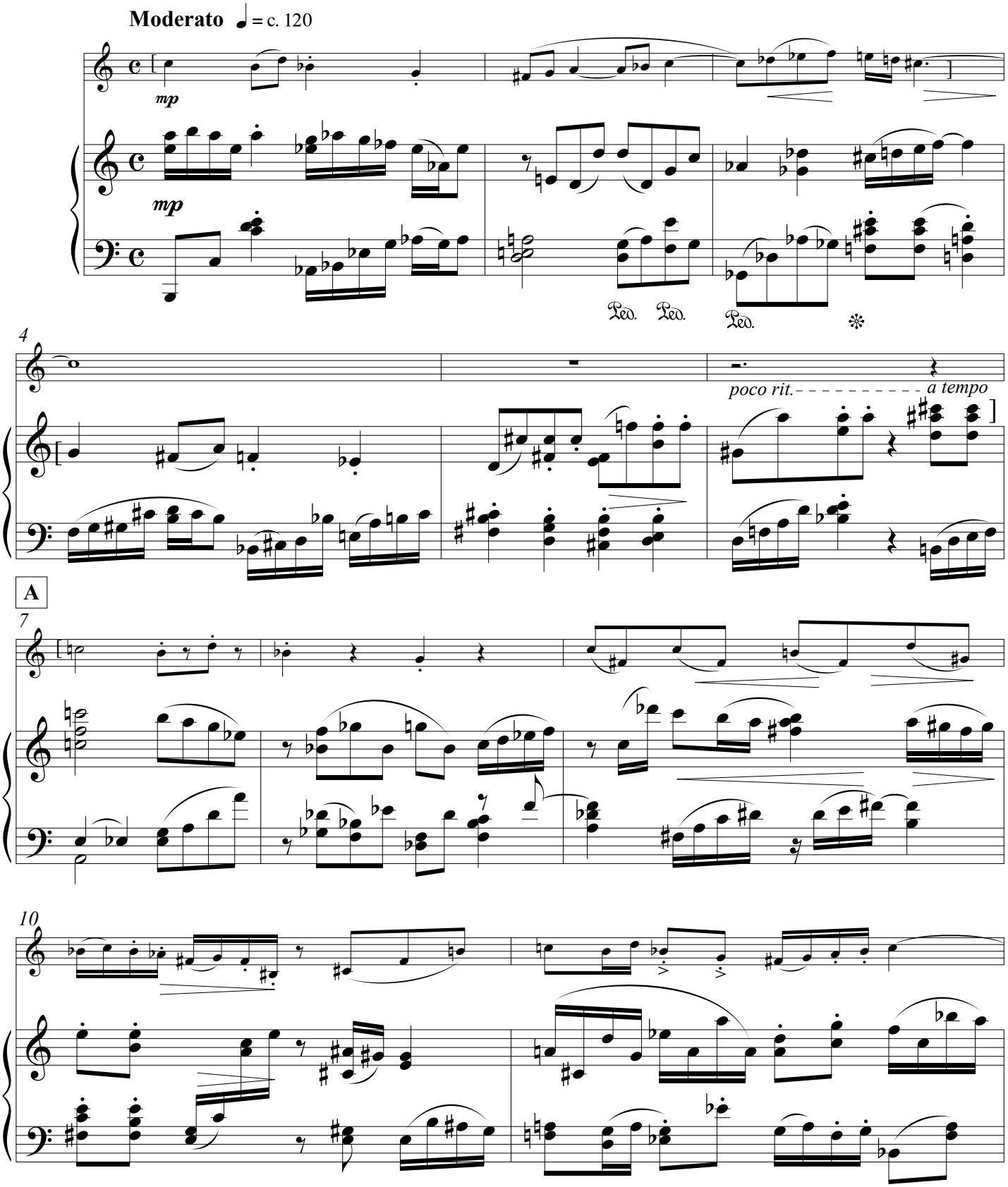

H
80
a tempo
mp
mp sempre legato
84
88
91

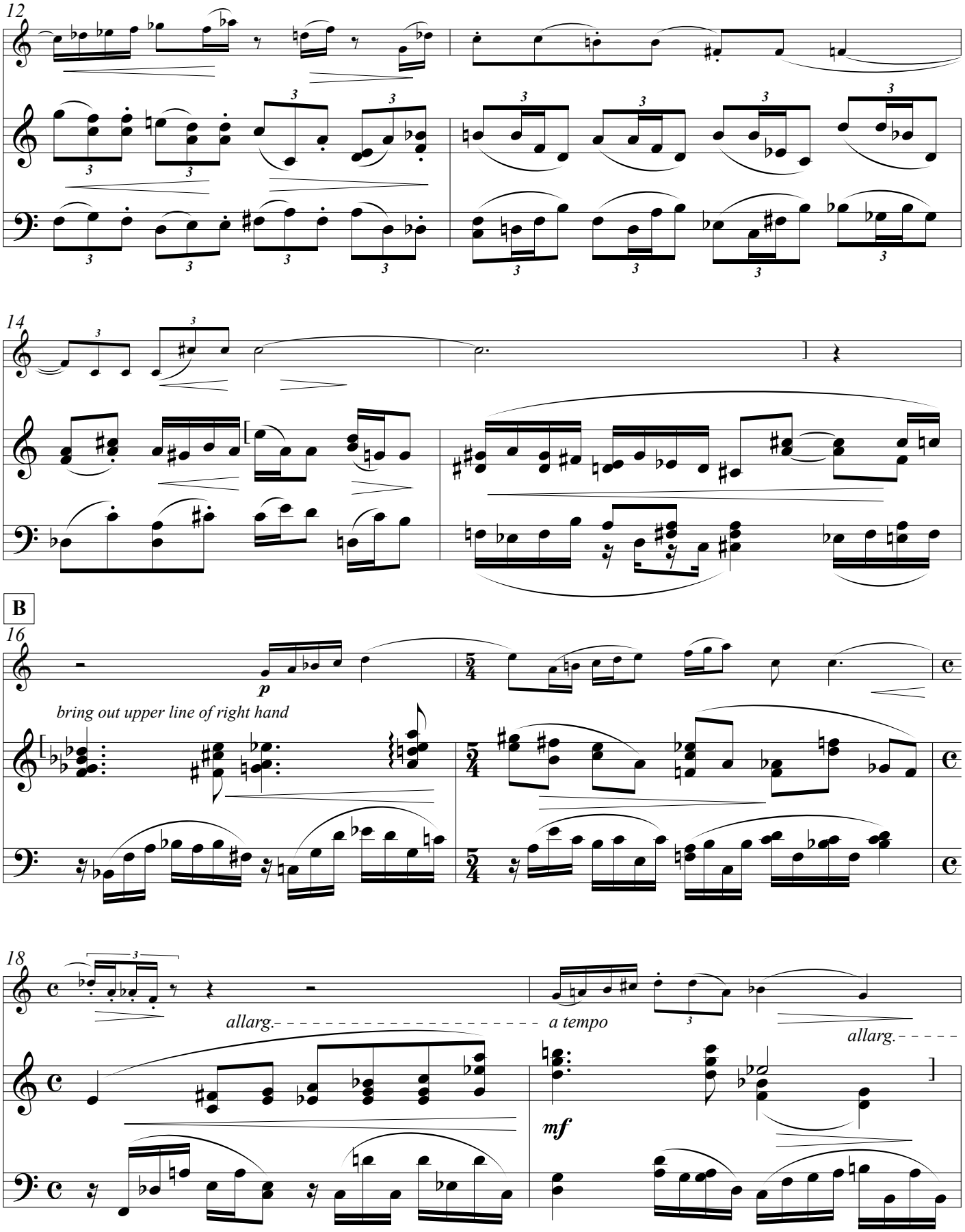

93
poco rit.
Ped.
I
96
p
a tempo
p
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
100
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

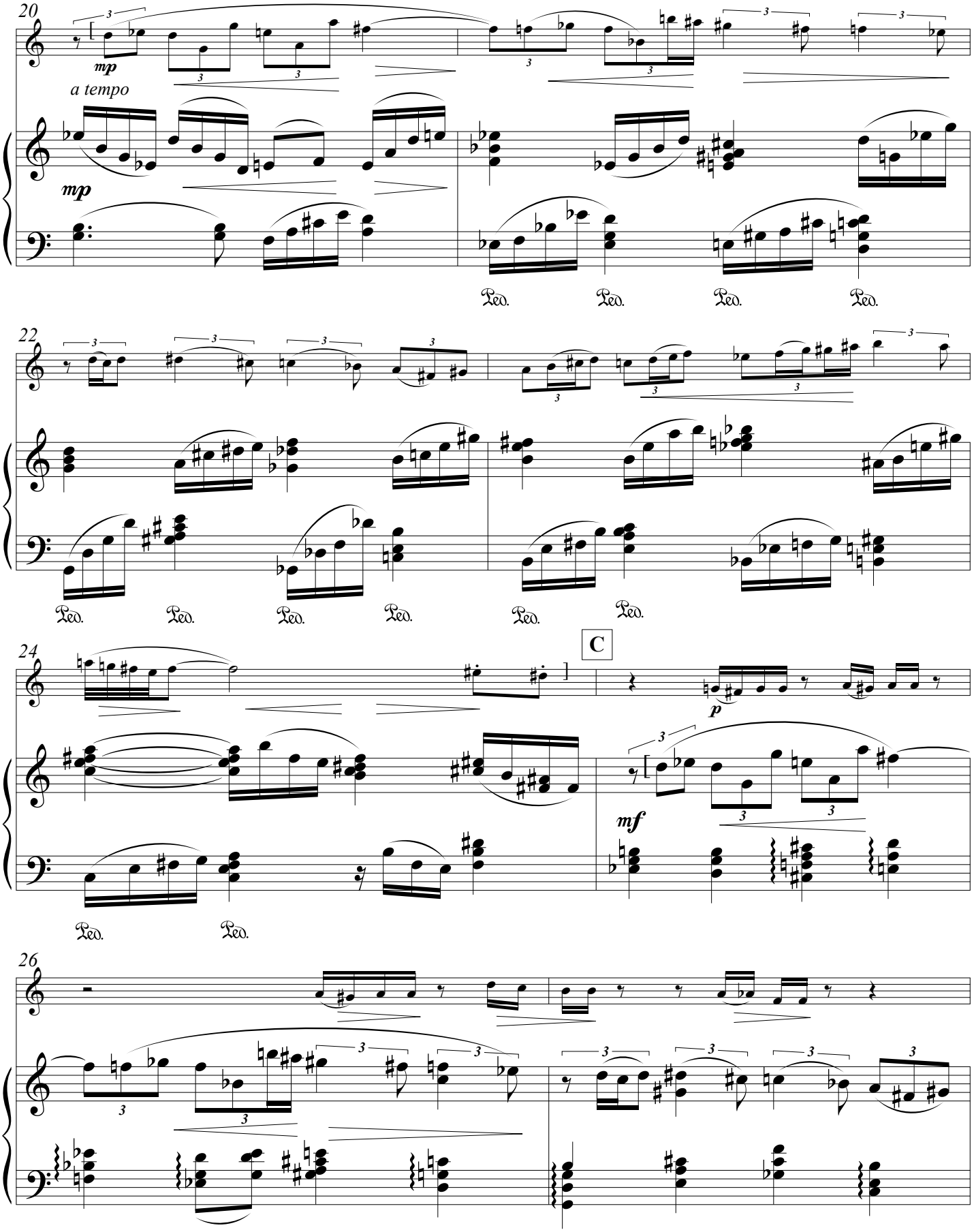

105
Ped.
Ped.
109
J
pp
mp
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
113
117

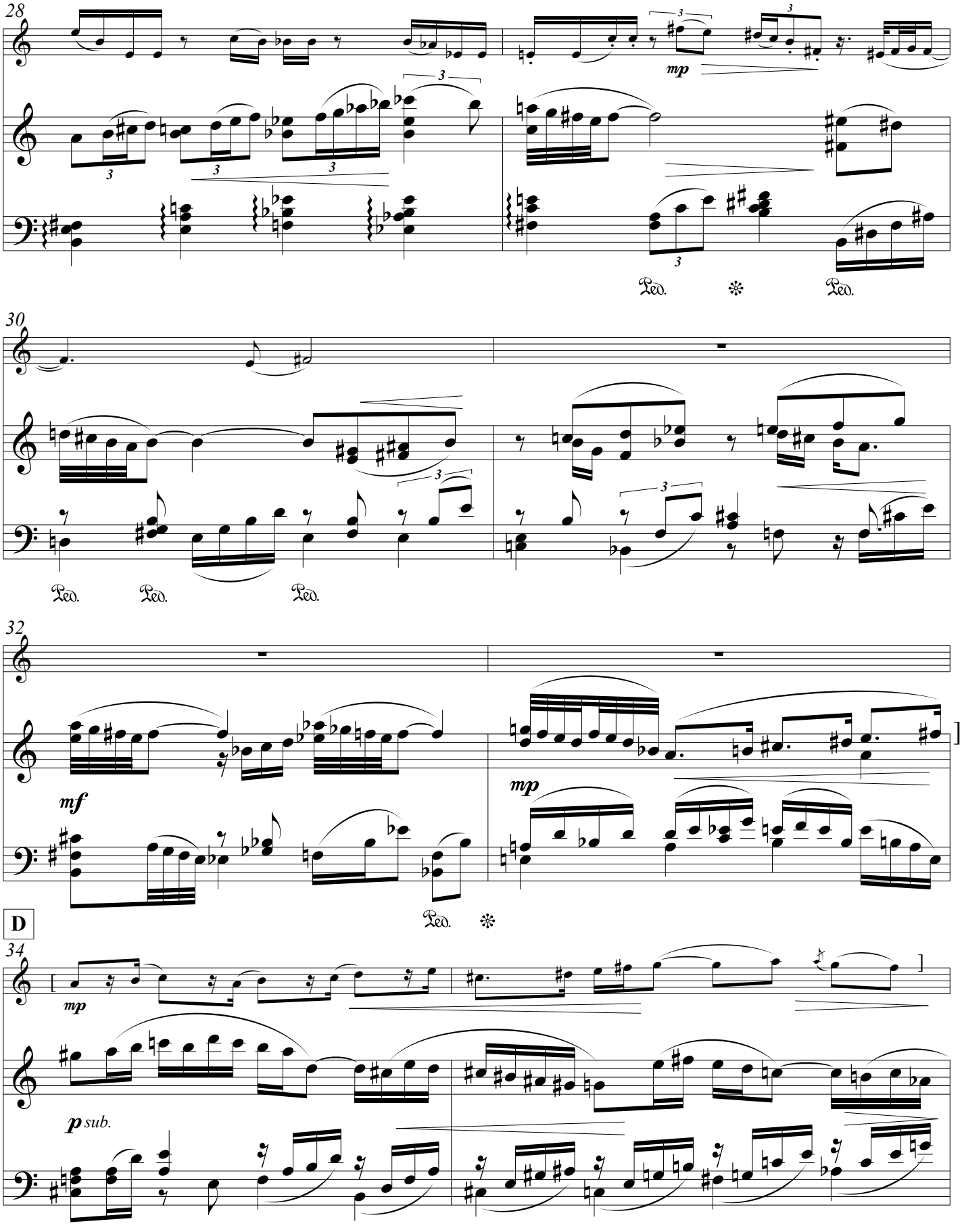

121
3
pp
pp
126
K
pp
rit.- - - - - - - a tempo
mp
(♪=♪)

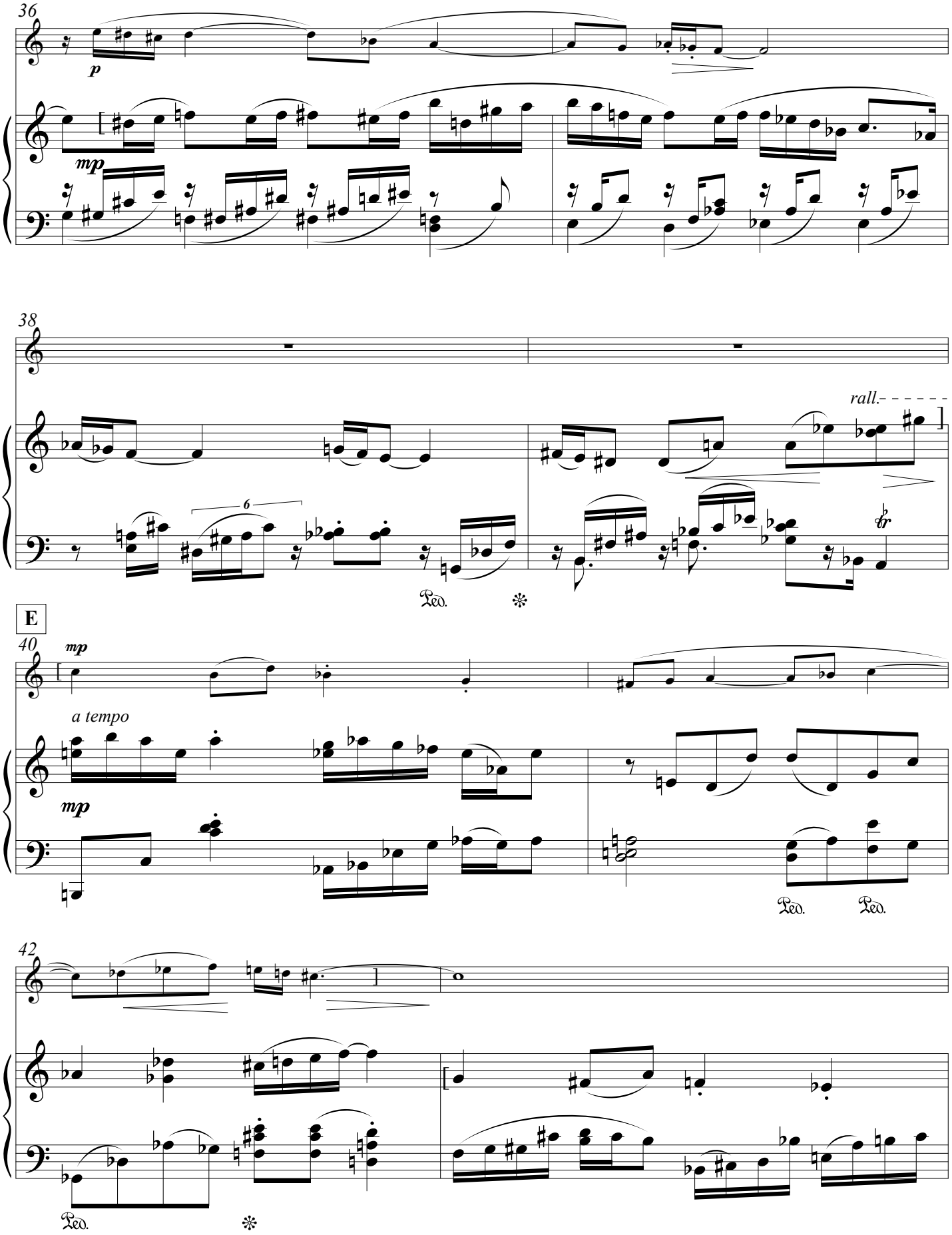
II.

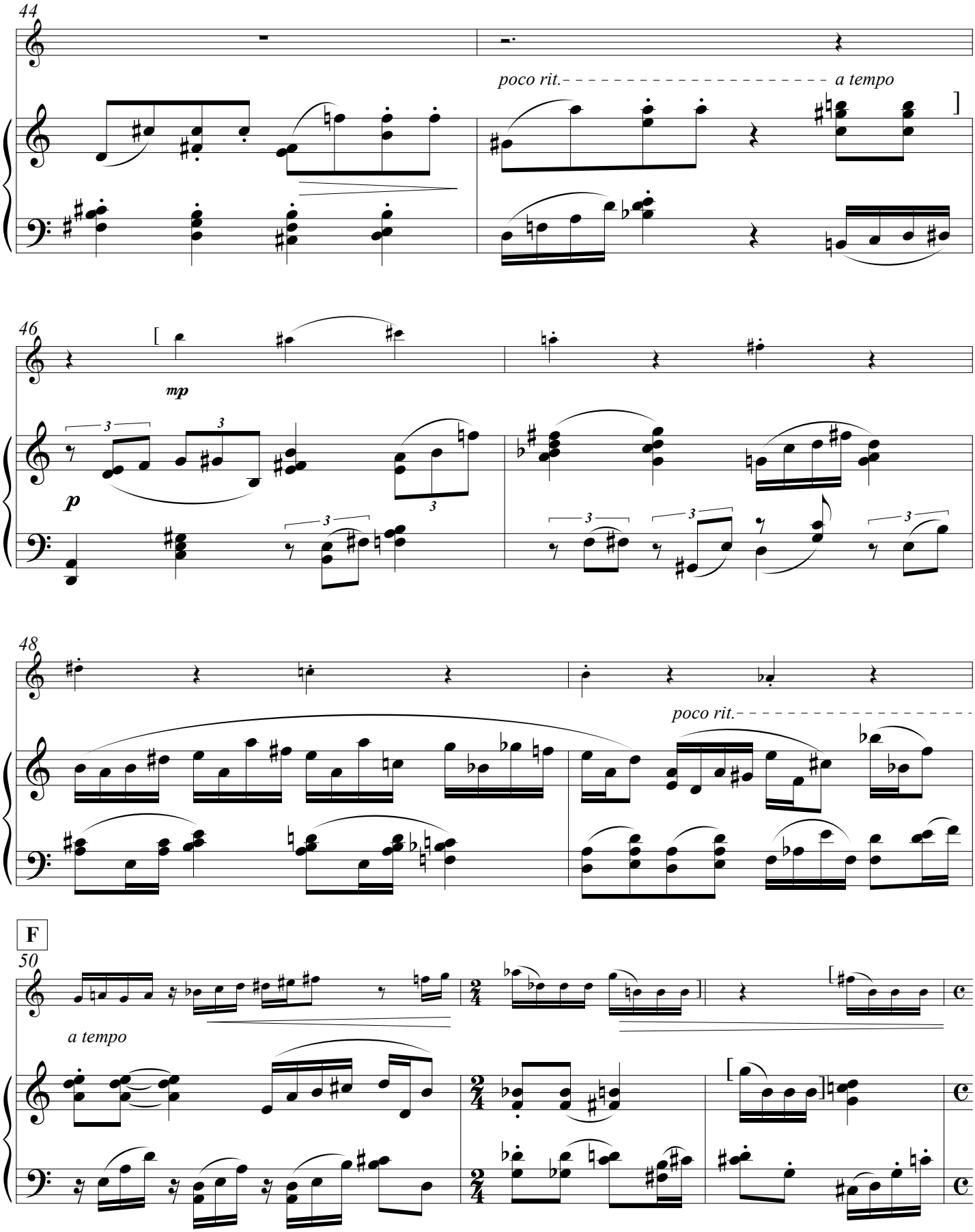


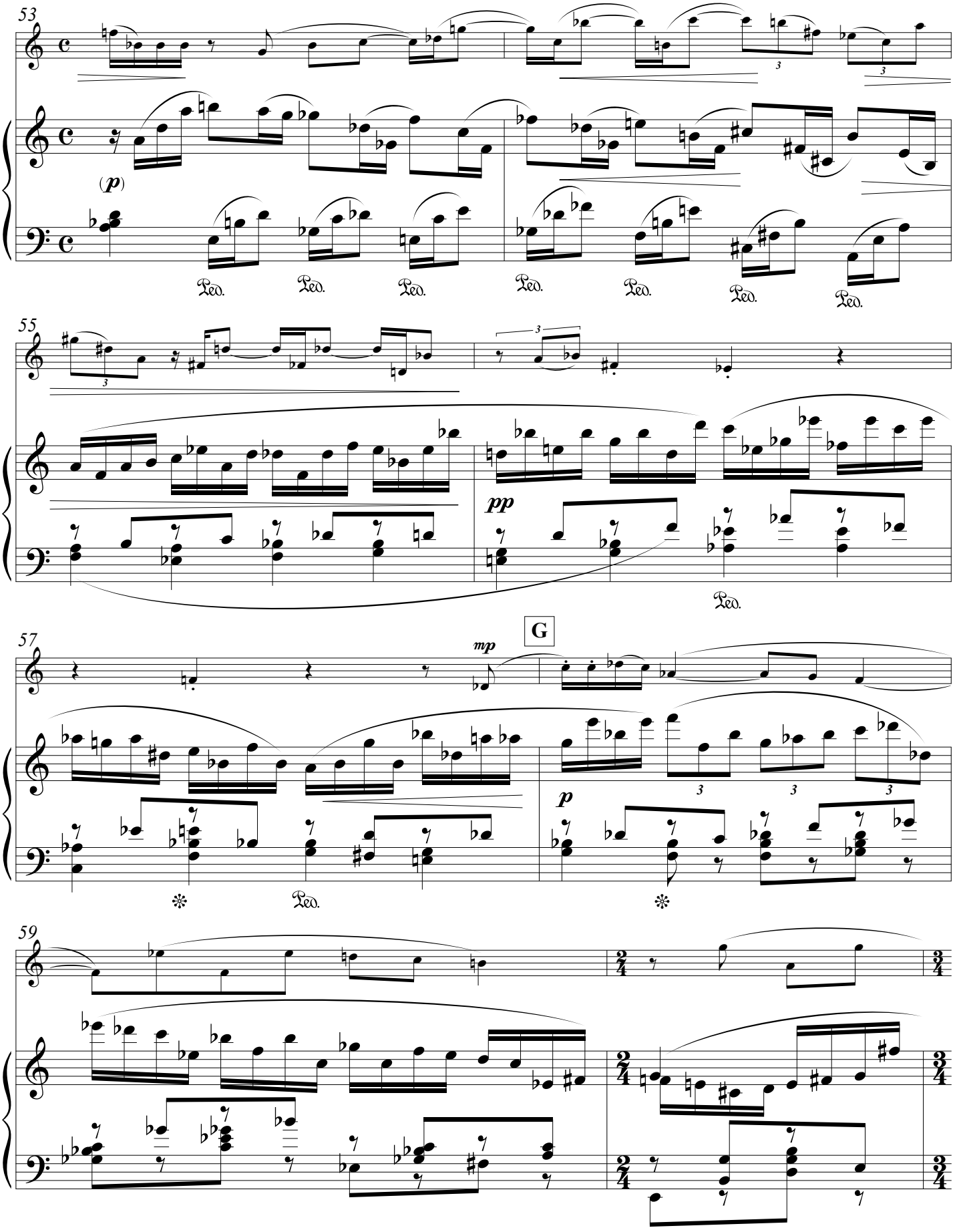

12
14
B
16
p
bring out upper line of right hand
18
allarg.
a tempo
allarg.
mf

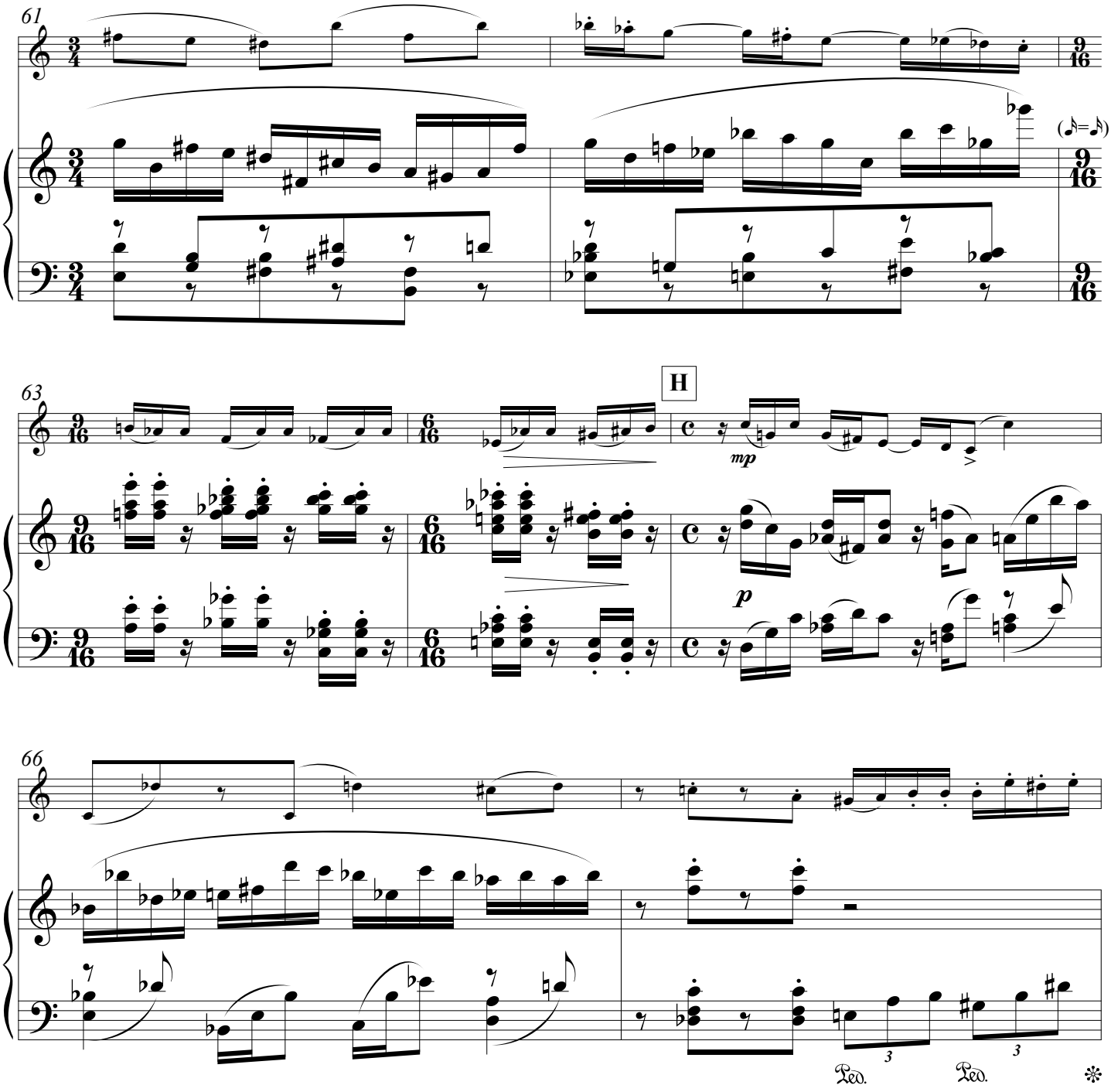

20
mp
a tempo
mp
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
22
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
24
C
p
mf
Ped.
Ped.
26

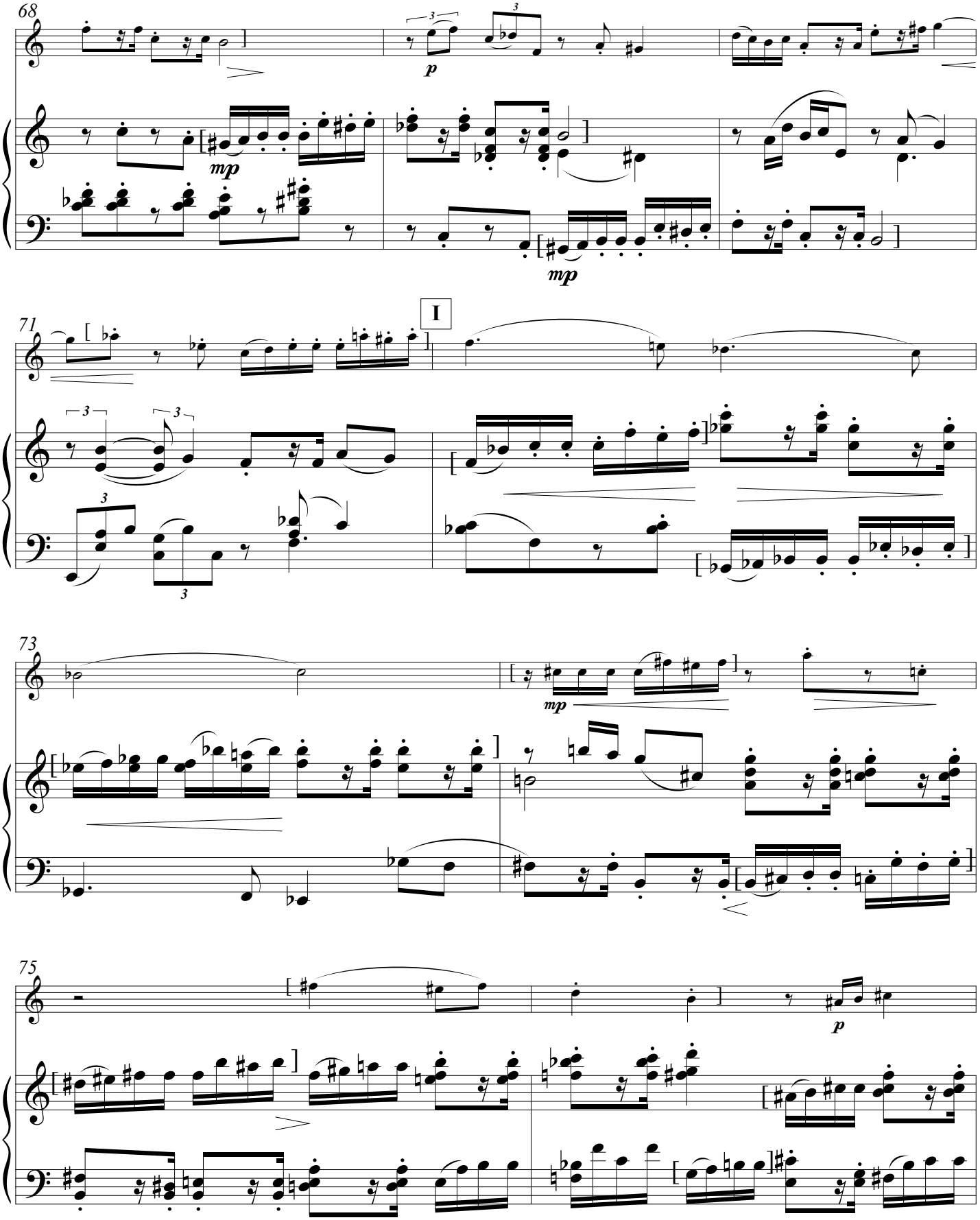

28
mp
Ped.
Ped.
30
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
32
mf
mp
Ped.
D
34
mp
p sub.

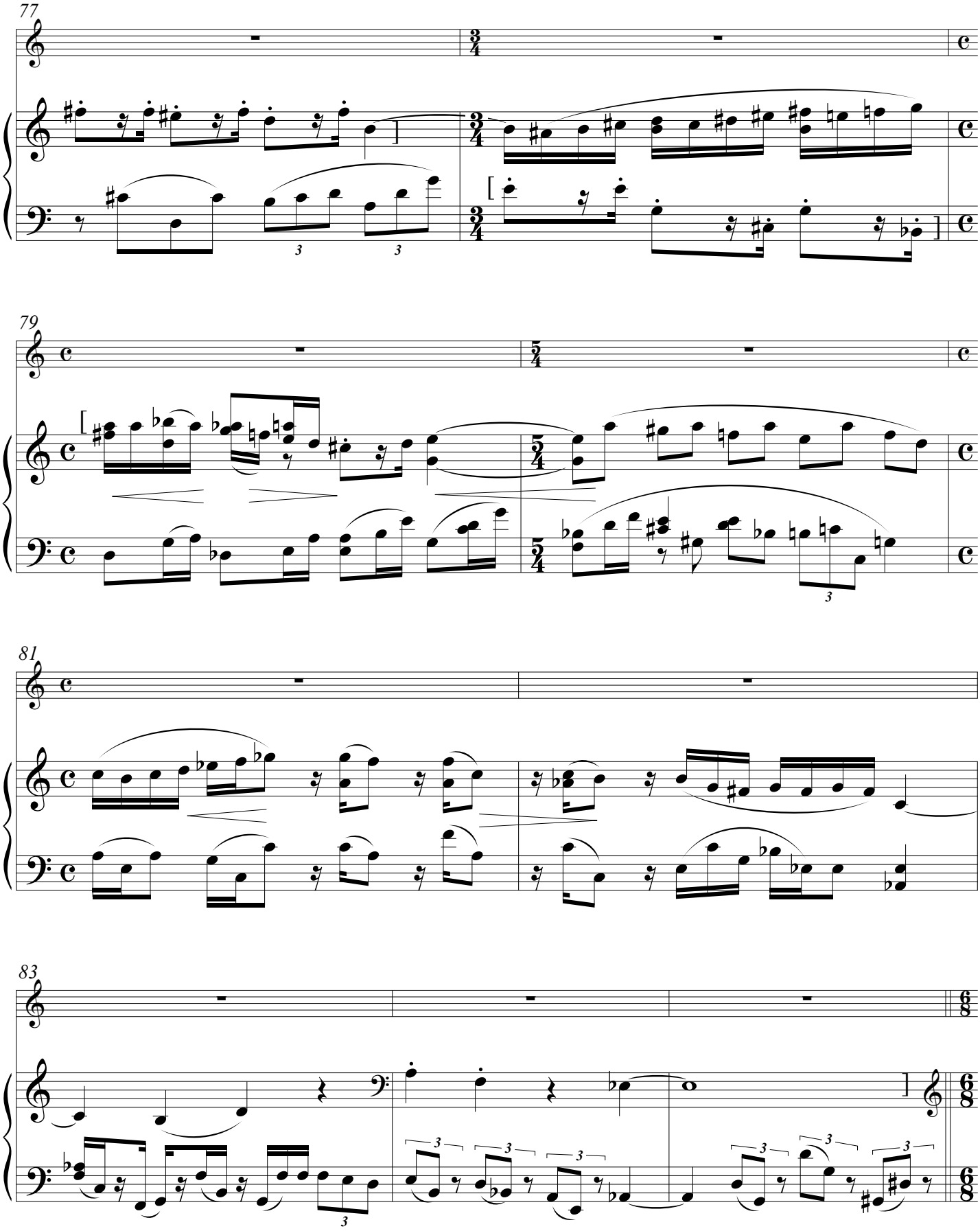

36
p
mp
38
rall.
6
Ped.
E
40
mp
a tempo
mp
Ped.
Ped.
42
Ped.

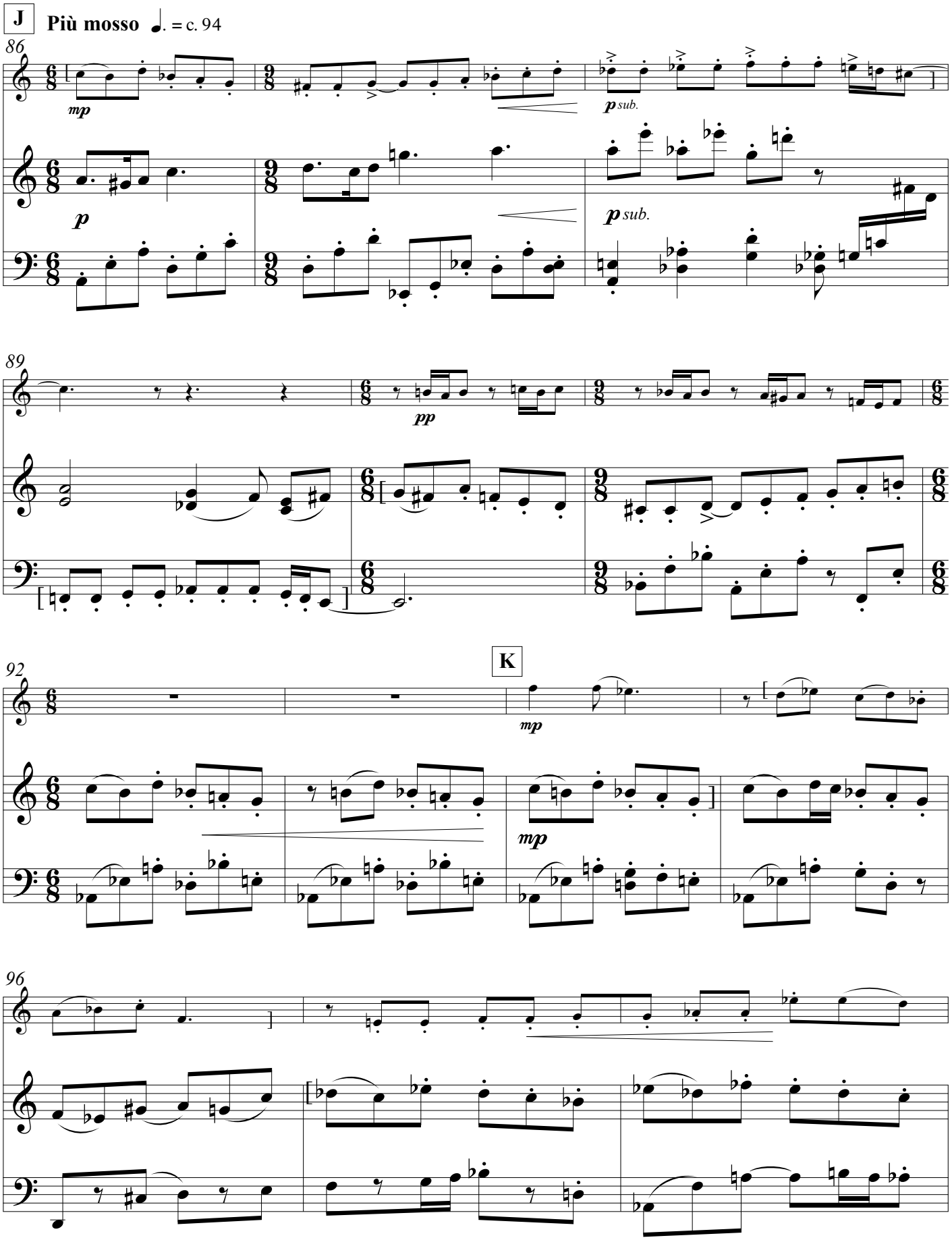

44
poco rit.
a tempo
46
mp
p
48
poco rit.
F
50
a tempo

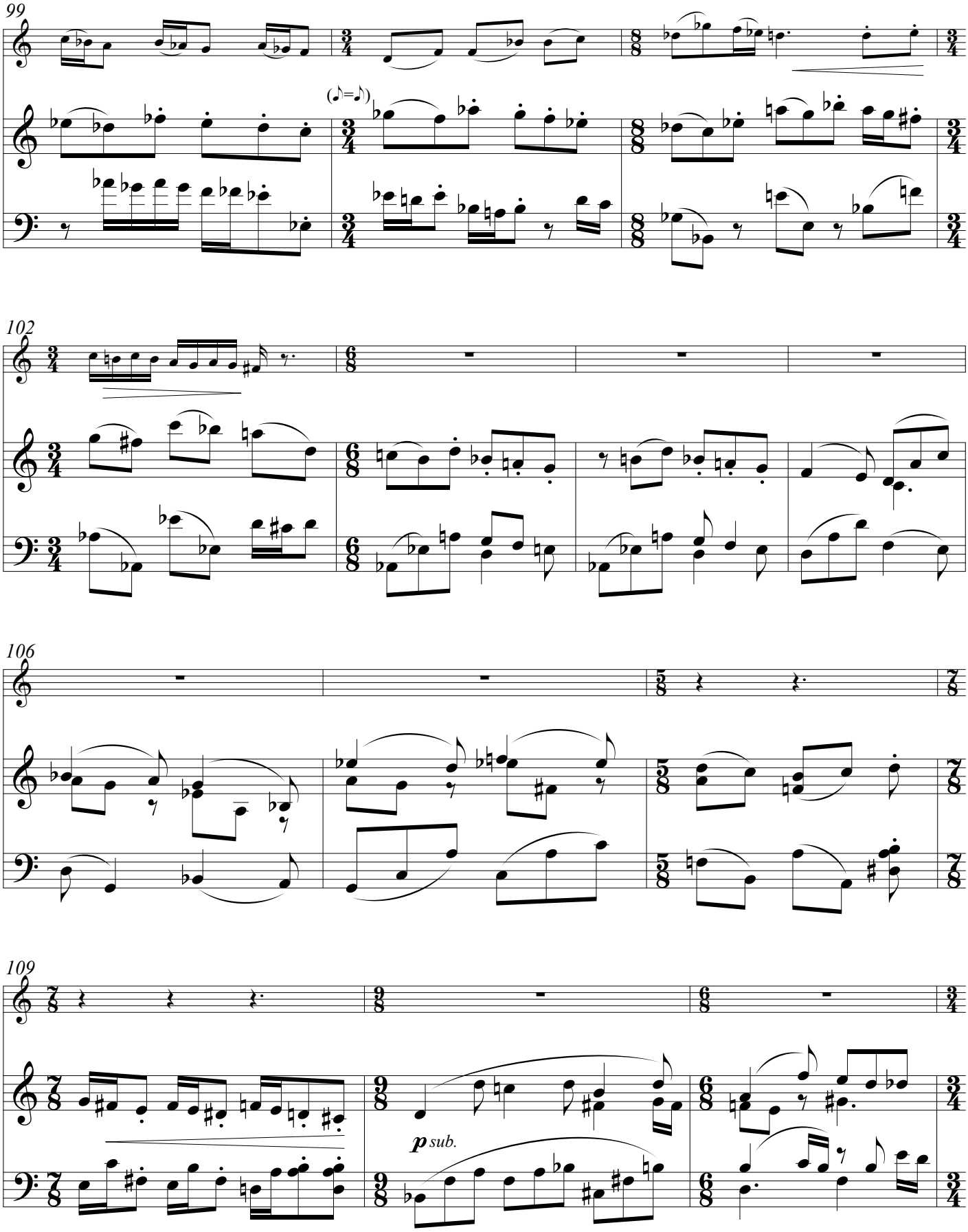

53
(p)
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
55
pp
Ped.
57
G
mp
p
Ped.
59

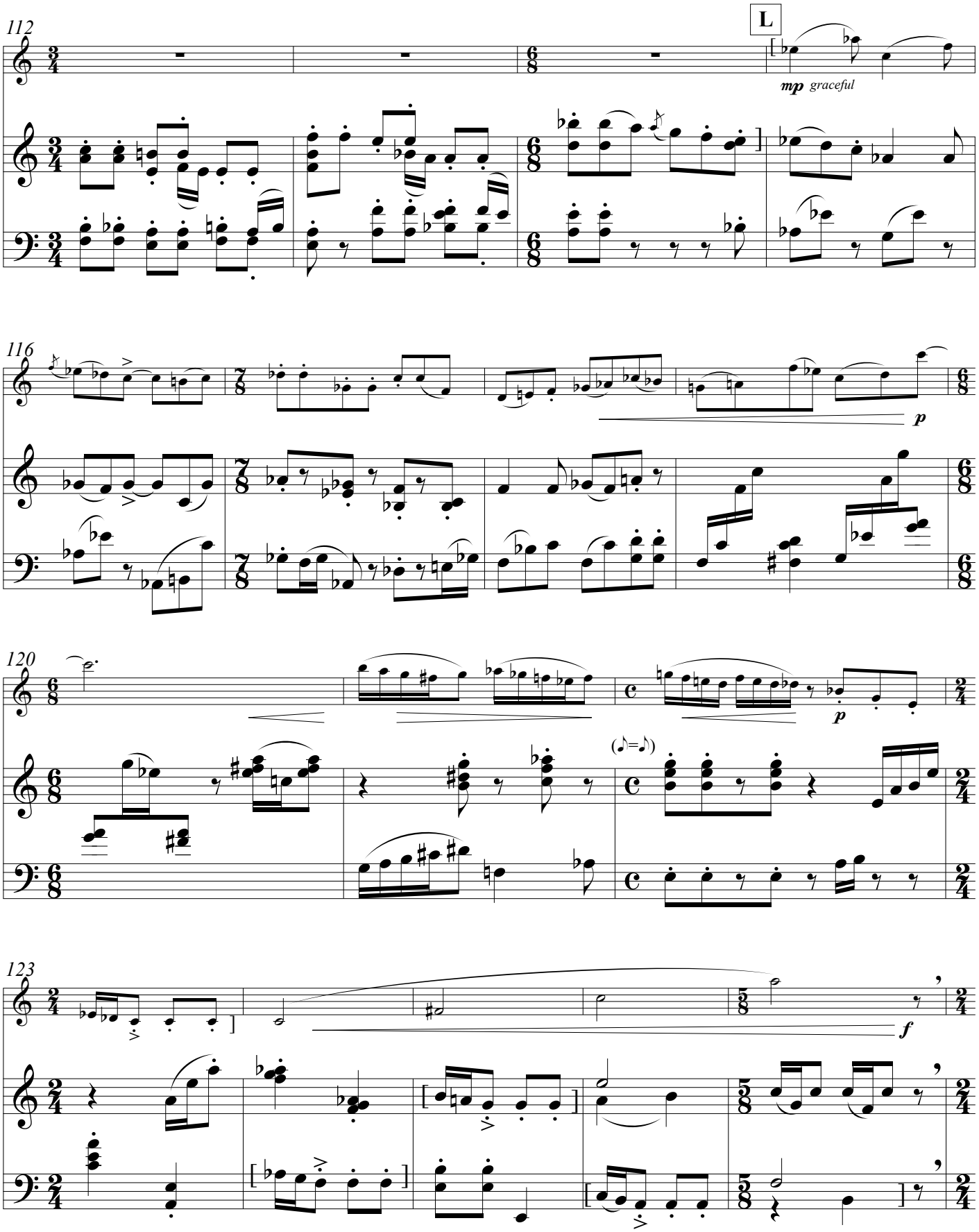

61
(♪=♪)
63
H
mp
p
Ped.
Ped.

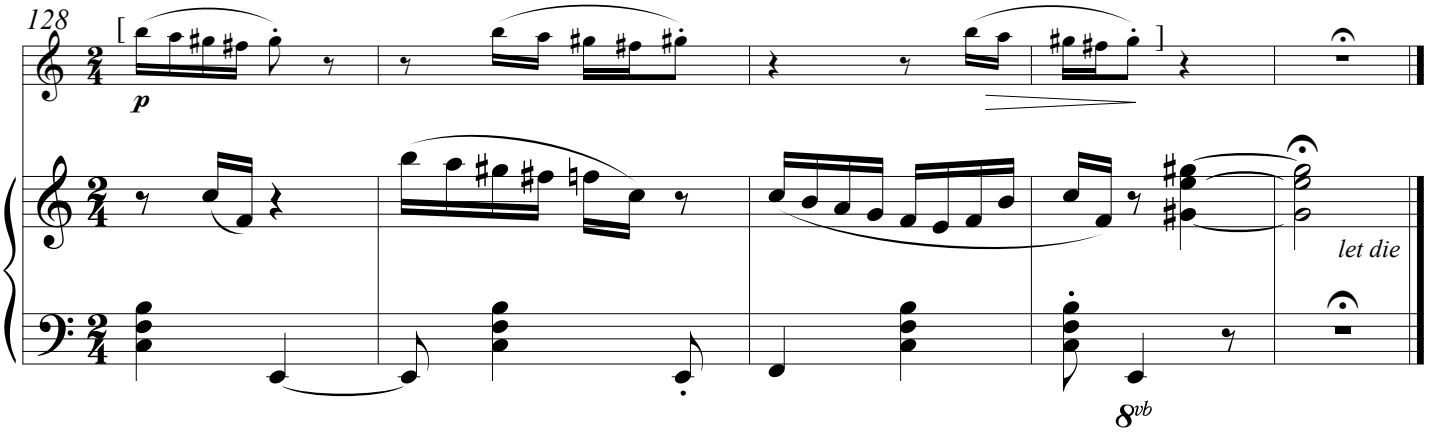

68
p
mp
mp
71
I
73
mp
75
p


77
79
81
83


J
Più mosso ♩. = c. 94
86
mp
p
p sub.
p sub.
89
pp
92
K
mp
mp
96


99
(♪=♪)
102
106
109
p sub.


112
L
mp graceful
116
p
120
p
(♪=♪)
123
f


128
p
let die
8vb