Sonata in the Old Style

Ellen Schwindt

I composed Sonata in the Old Style in 2017 after a long season of playing Beethoven's music for solace. The piece reflects my familiarity with certain Beethoven sonatas, some keyboard music by Zipoli, and my current understanding of the spiritual efficacy of Arvo Pärt's tintinabulation method.

Ellen Schwindt
South Conway, NH
February 7, 2018

On the cover

"Requiem" by Stephen Kull

Oil, acrylic, and charcoal pencil on canvas: 18" by 24"

In Antarctica, the magnificent Larsen C ice shelf is melting and breaking up as a consequence of global warming. Ellen is at her piano on one of the ice floes and is playing a requiem mourning this sad and monumental loss. A solitary, majestic, and perhaps the last remaining Emperor Penguin (Aptenodytes forster), stands on a nearby floe looking at her. An individual of this specie of penguin may grow as tall as 48 inches and weigh as much as 100 pounds. I believe this penguin is listening to Ellen play her requiem and is hoping for some solace from her as well. Ellen is composing her requiem as she is playing it. Can penguins cry?

ISMN: 979-0-800108-05-1

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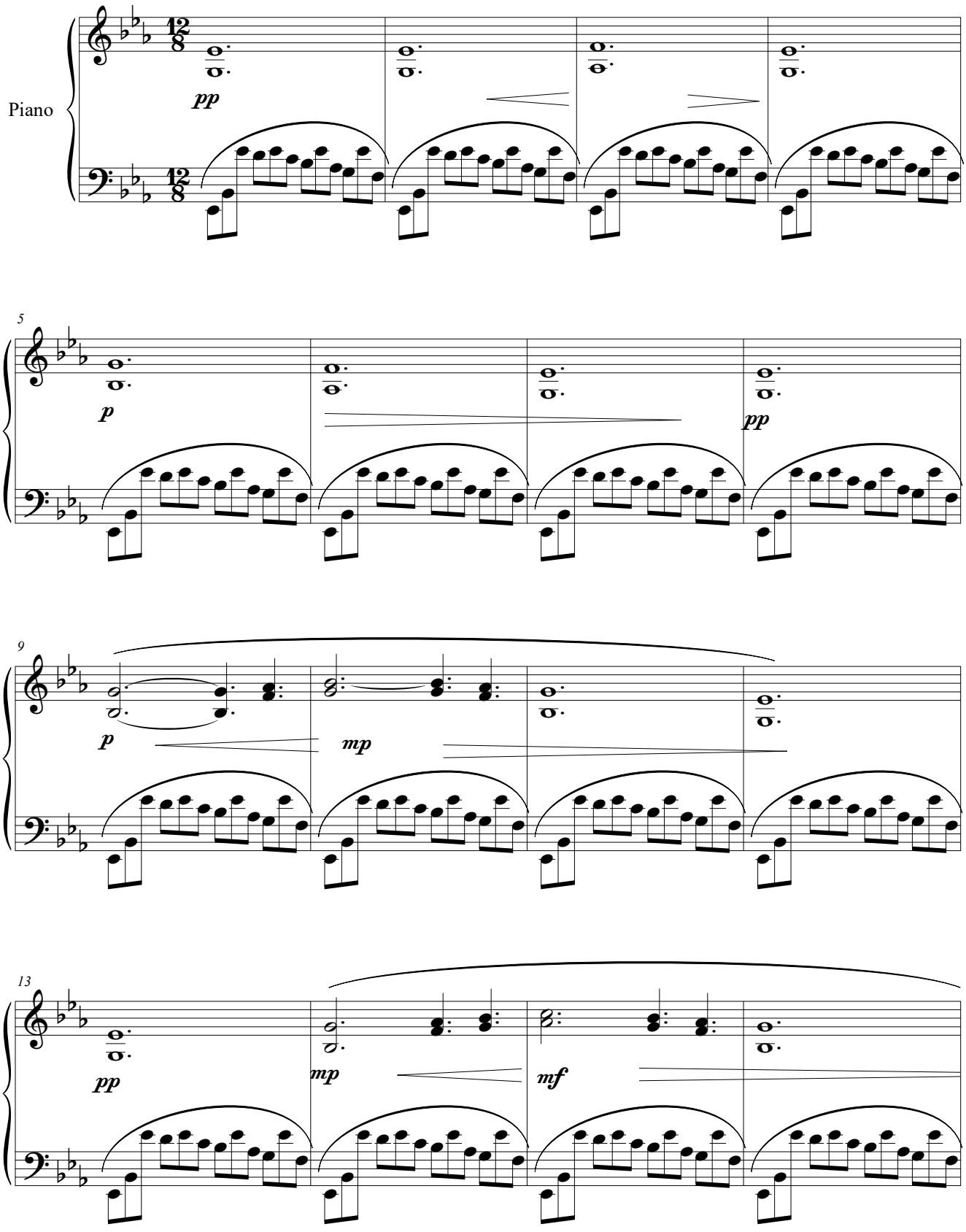
Sonata in the Old Style

Ellen Schwindt
2017

I.

Ellen Schwindt

Pastorale



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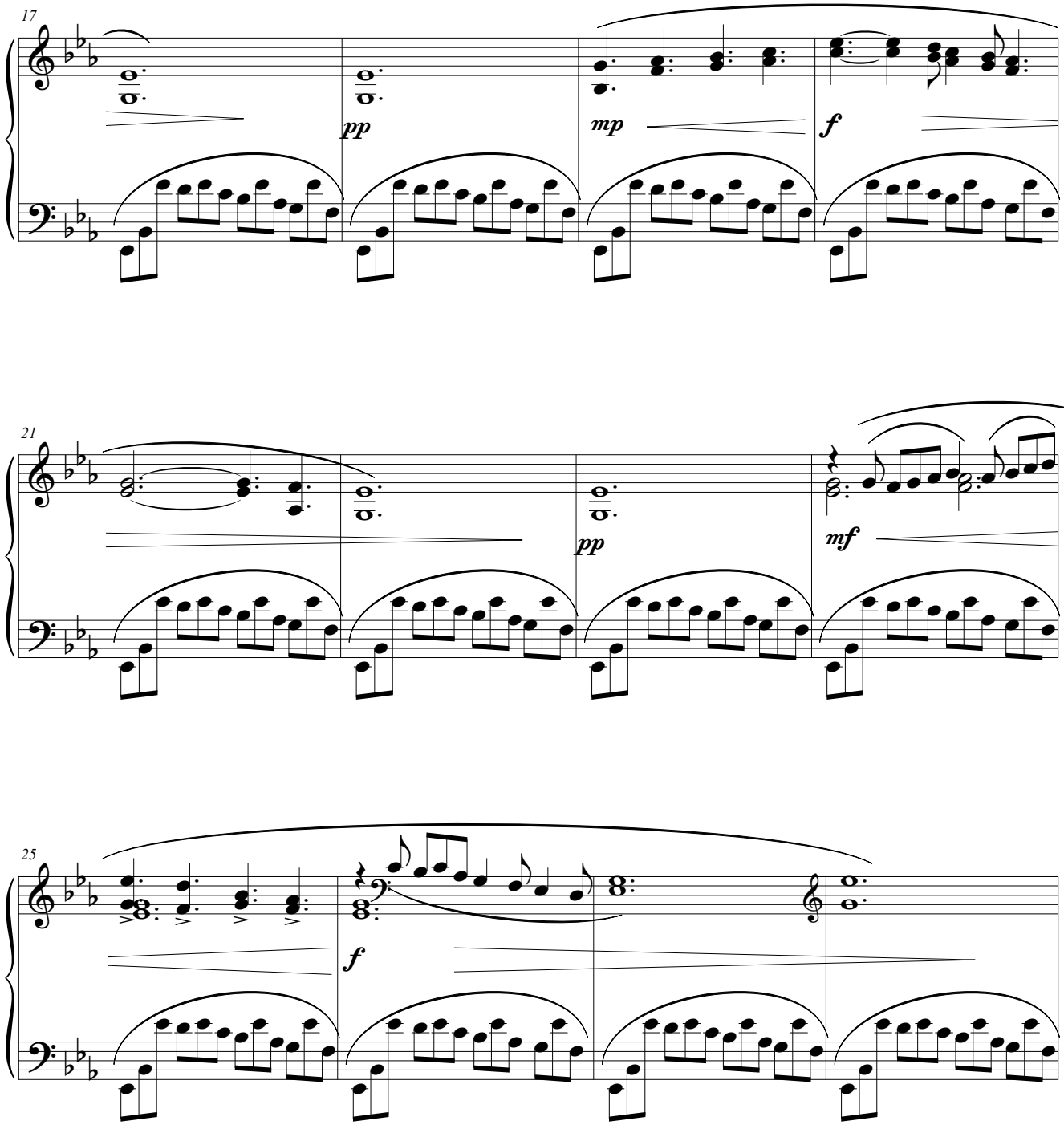
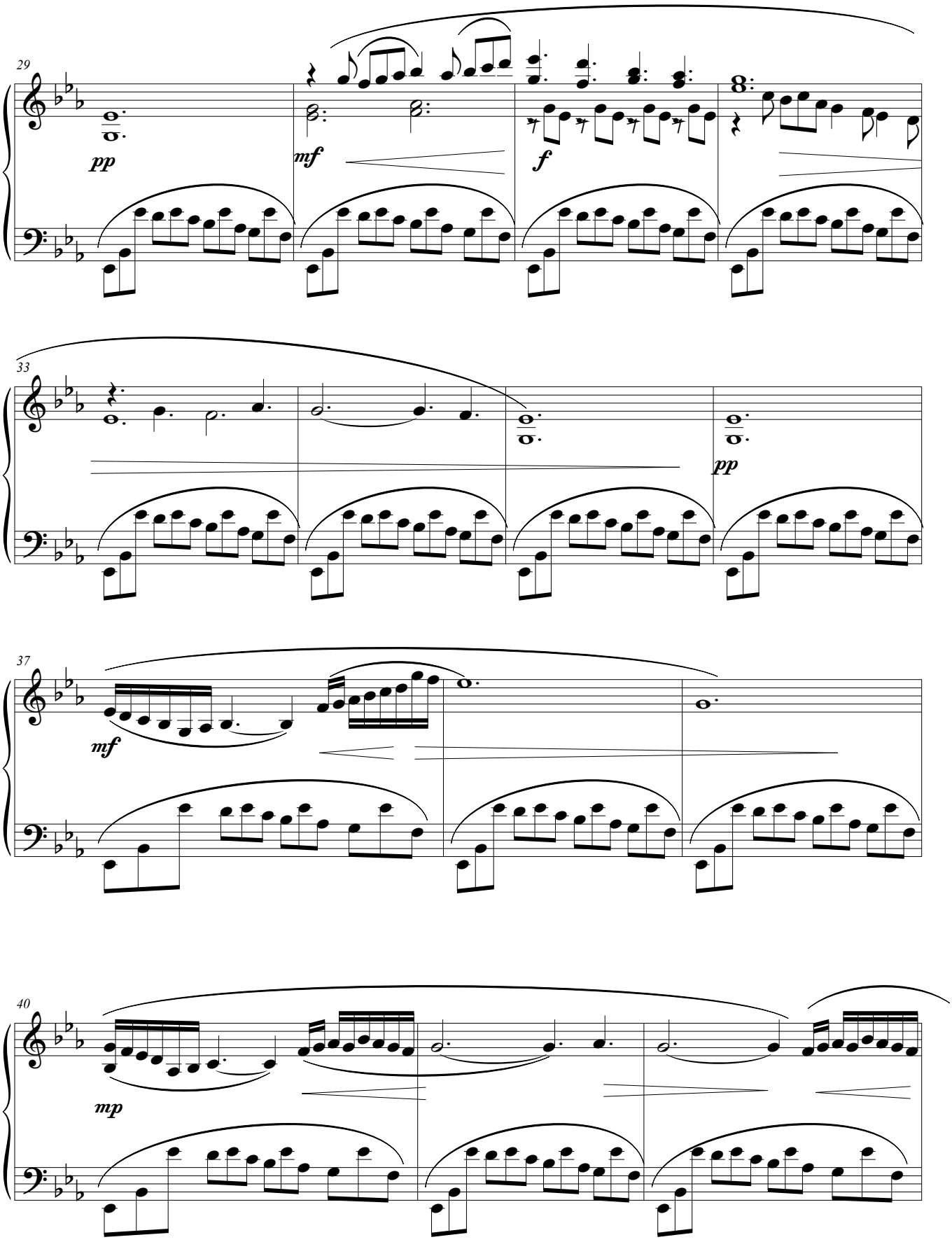
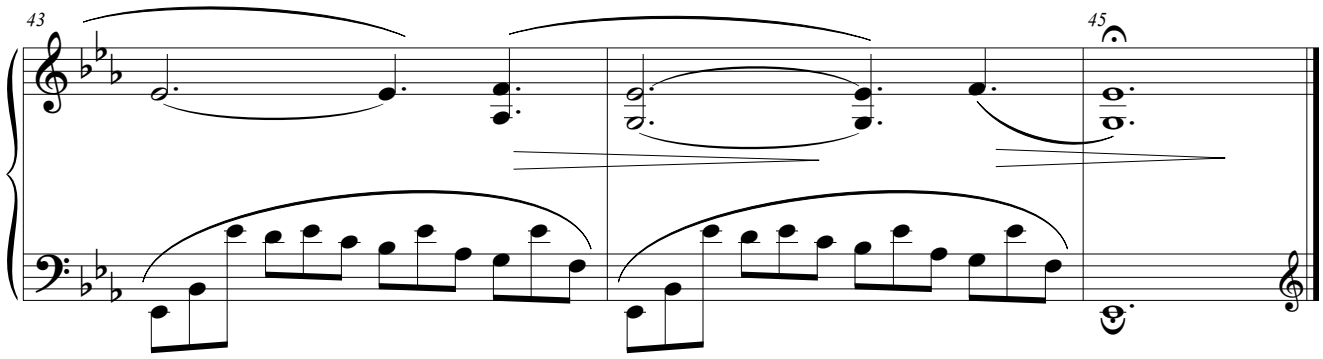
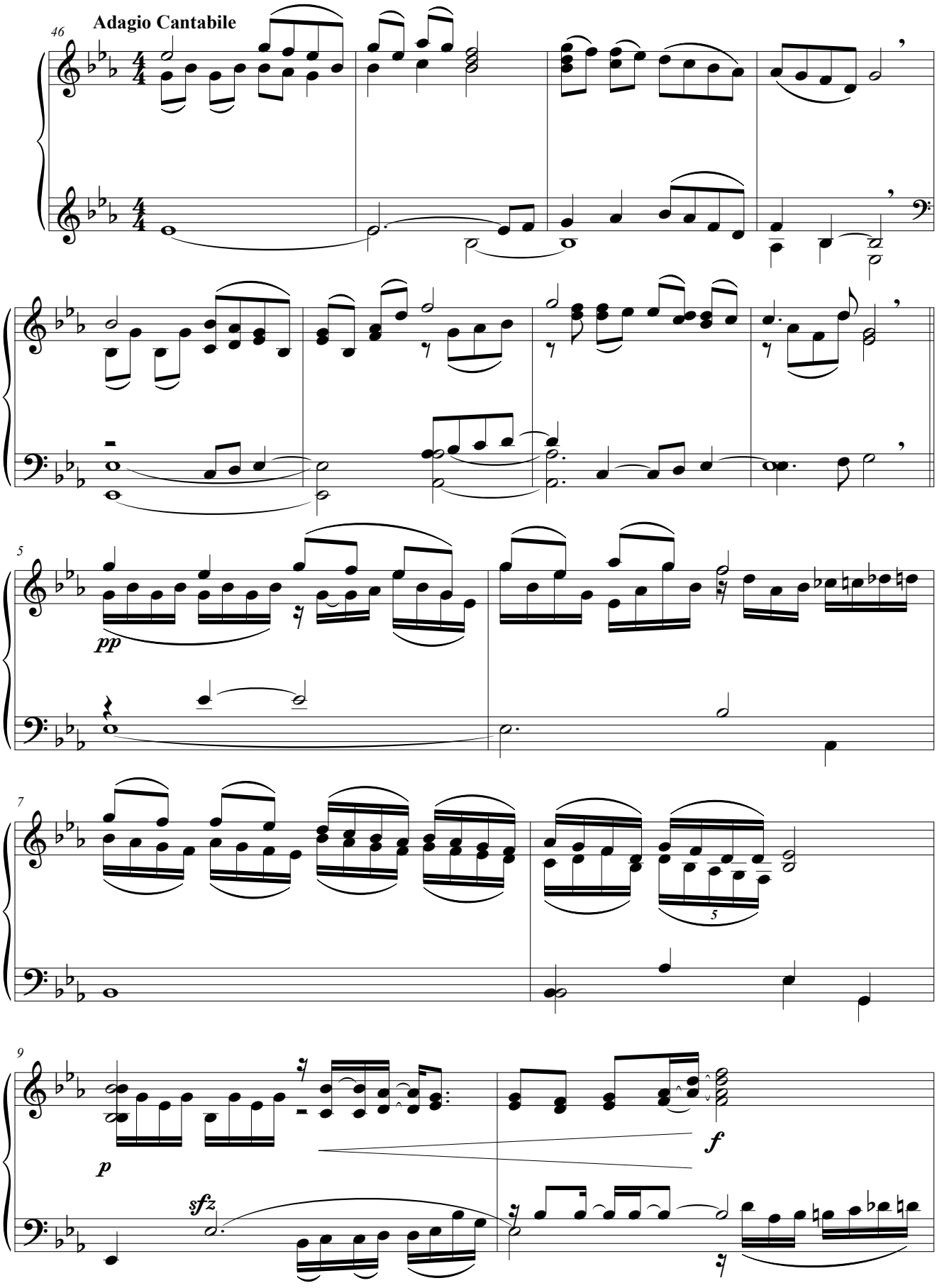
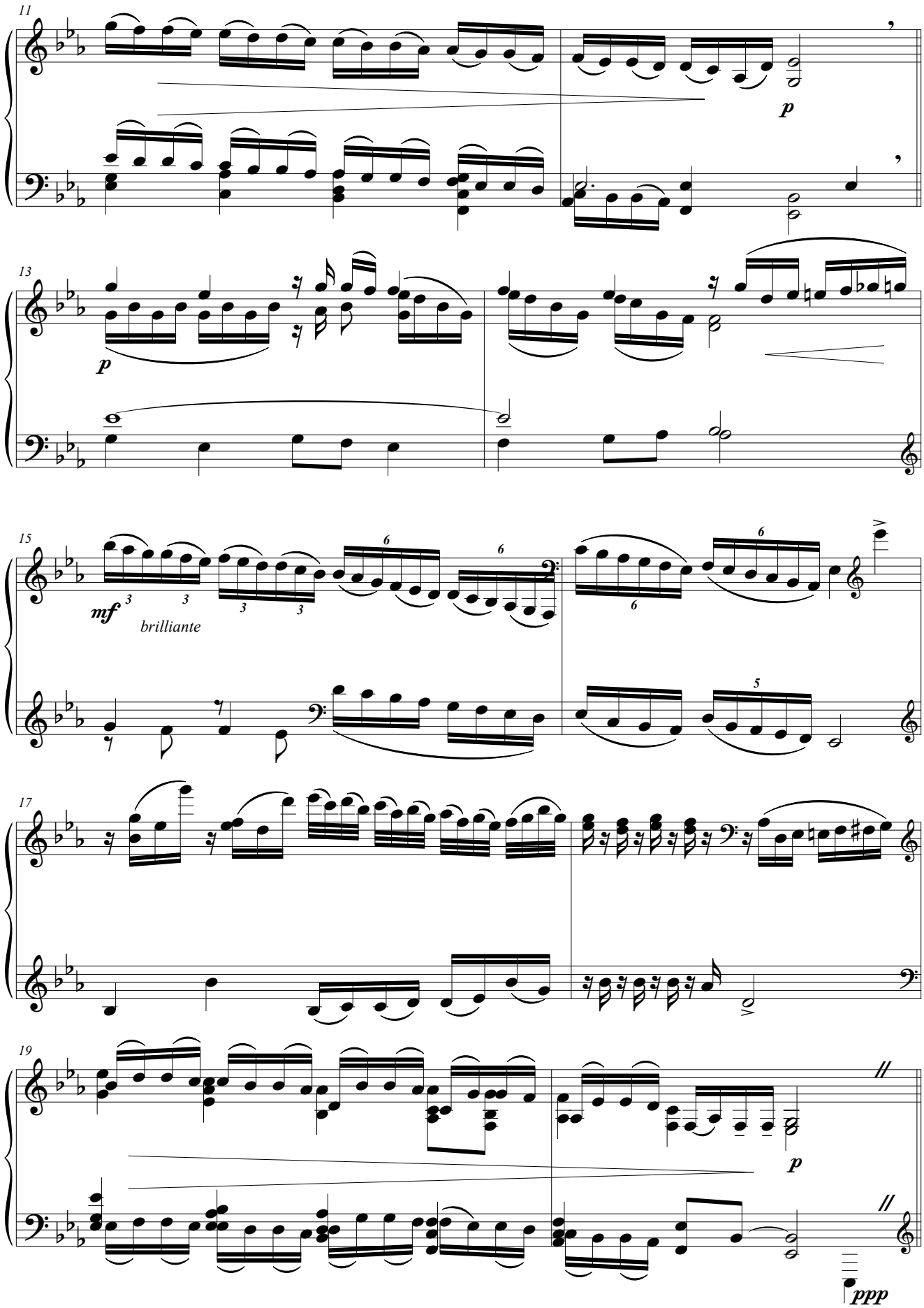

17
pp
mp
f
21
pp
mf
25
f

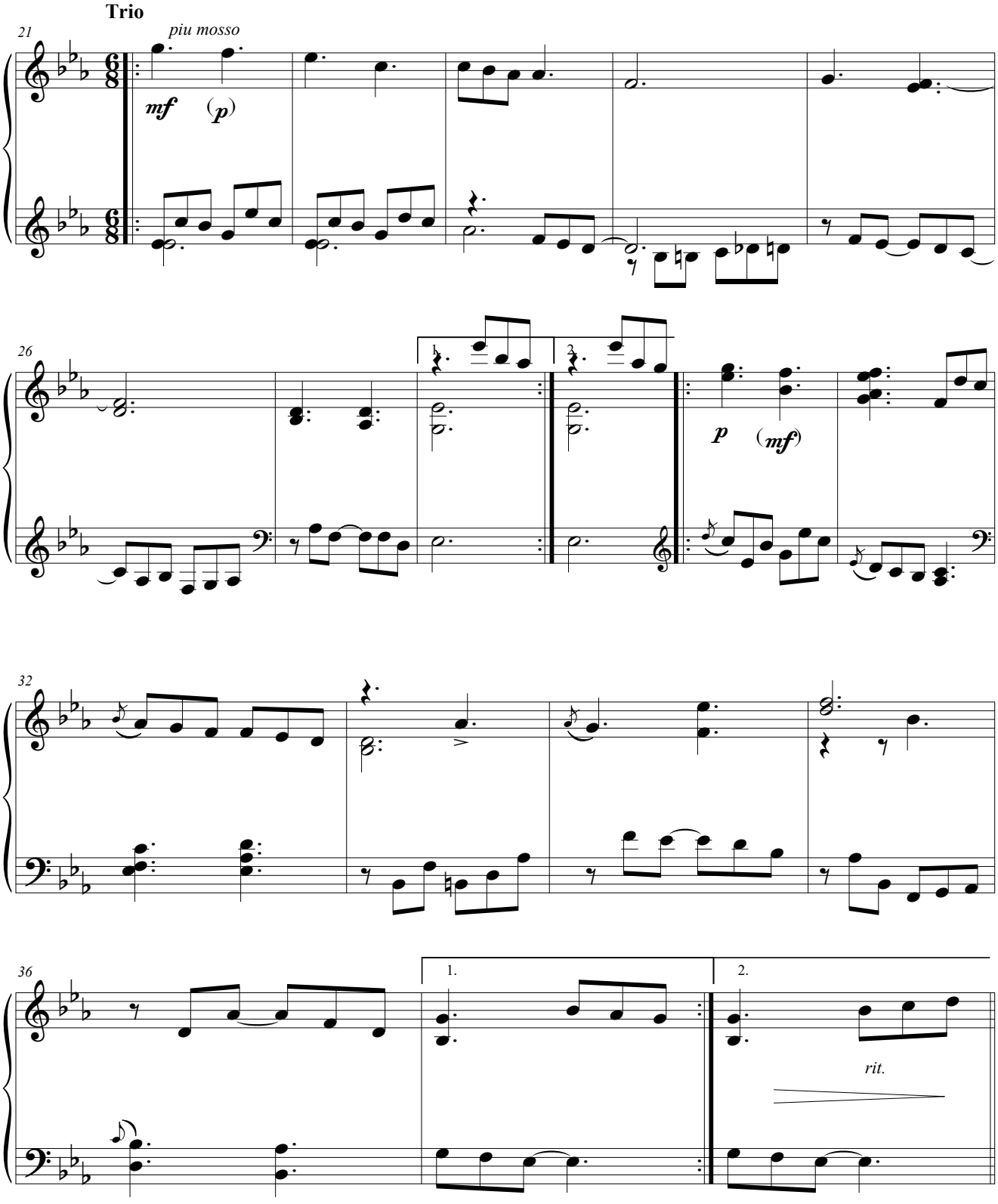

29
pp
mf
f
33
pp
37
mf
40
mp

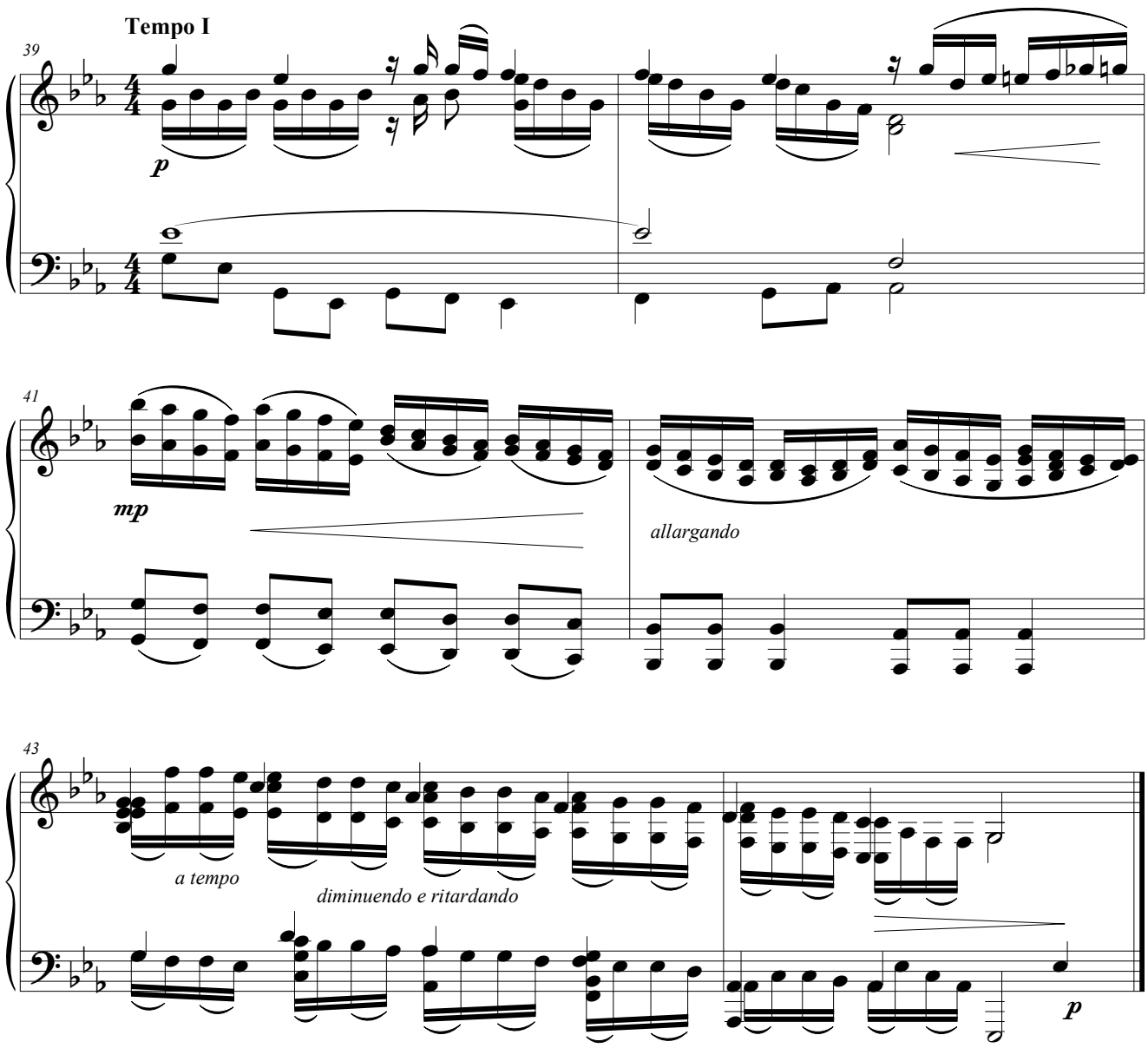

43
45

II.



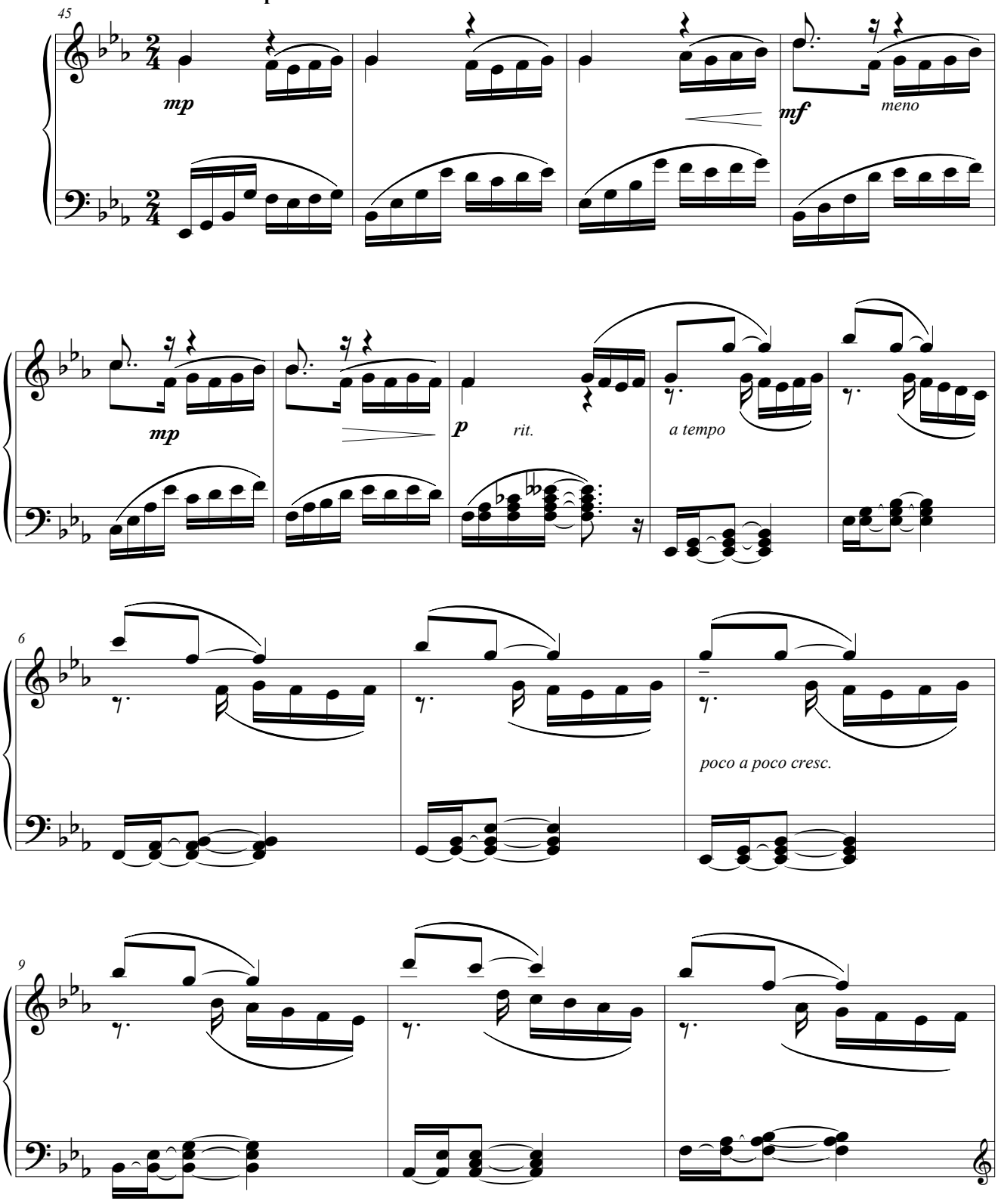

11
p
13
p
15
mf
brilliante
17
19
p
ppp

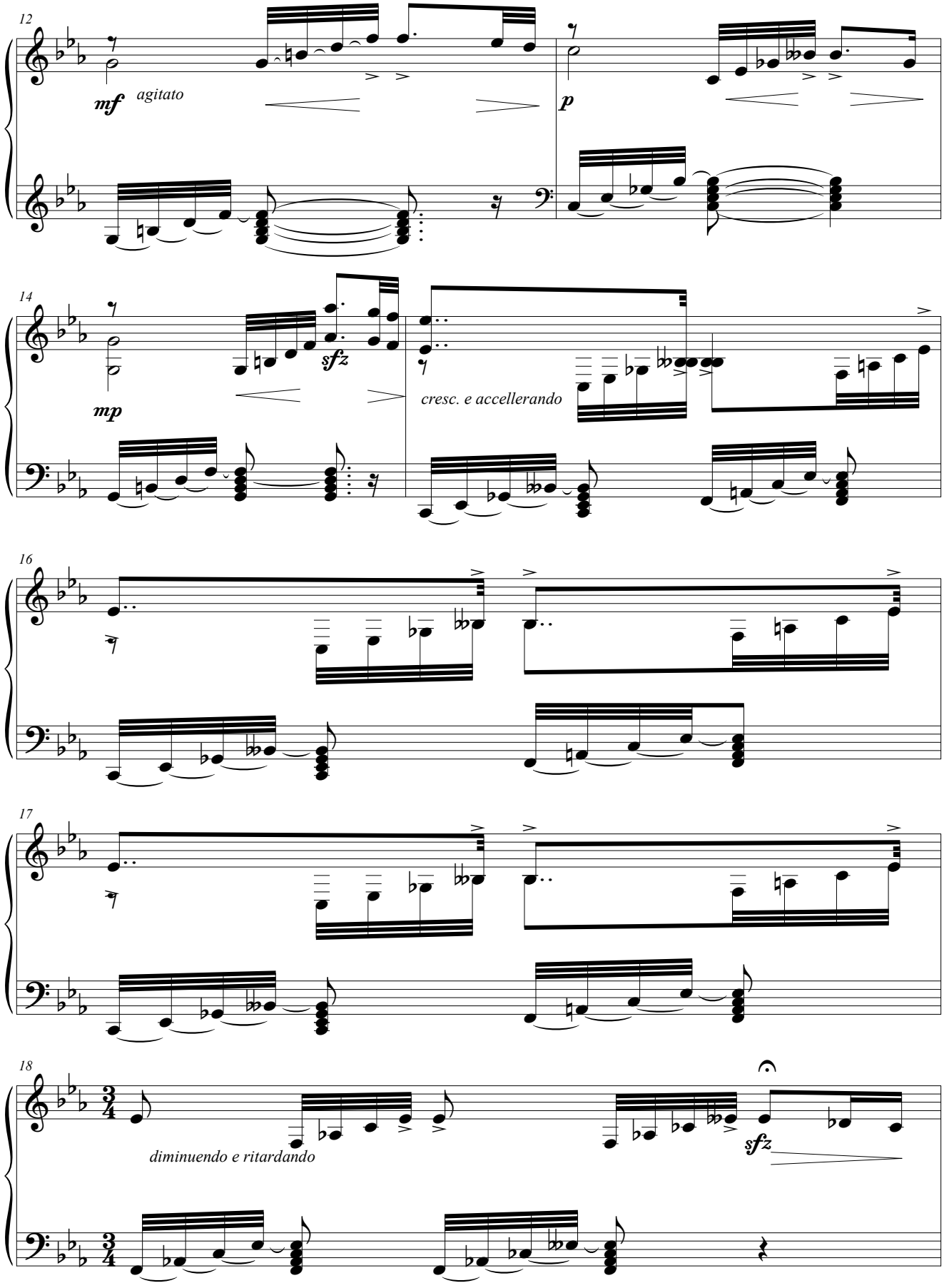

Trio
21
piu mosso
mf
(p)
26
1.
2.
p
(mf)
32
36
1.
2.
rit.

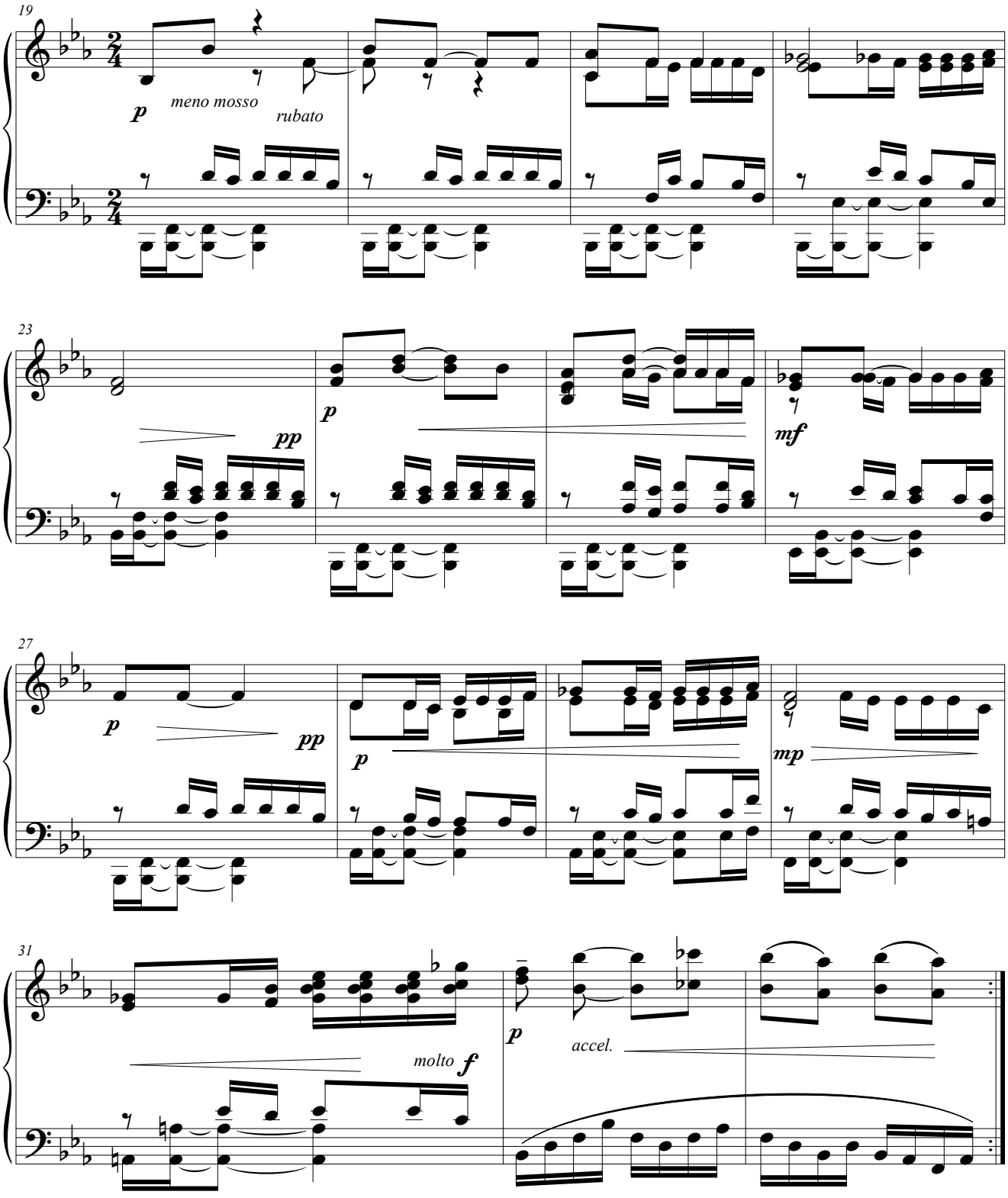

Tempo I
39
p
41
mp
allargando
43
a tempo
diminuendo e ritardando
p

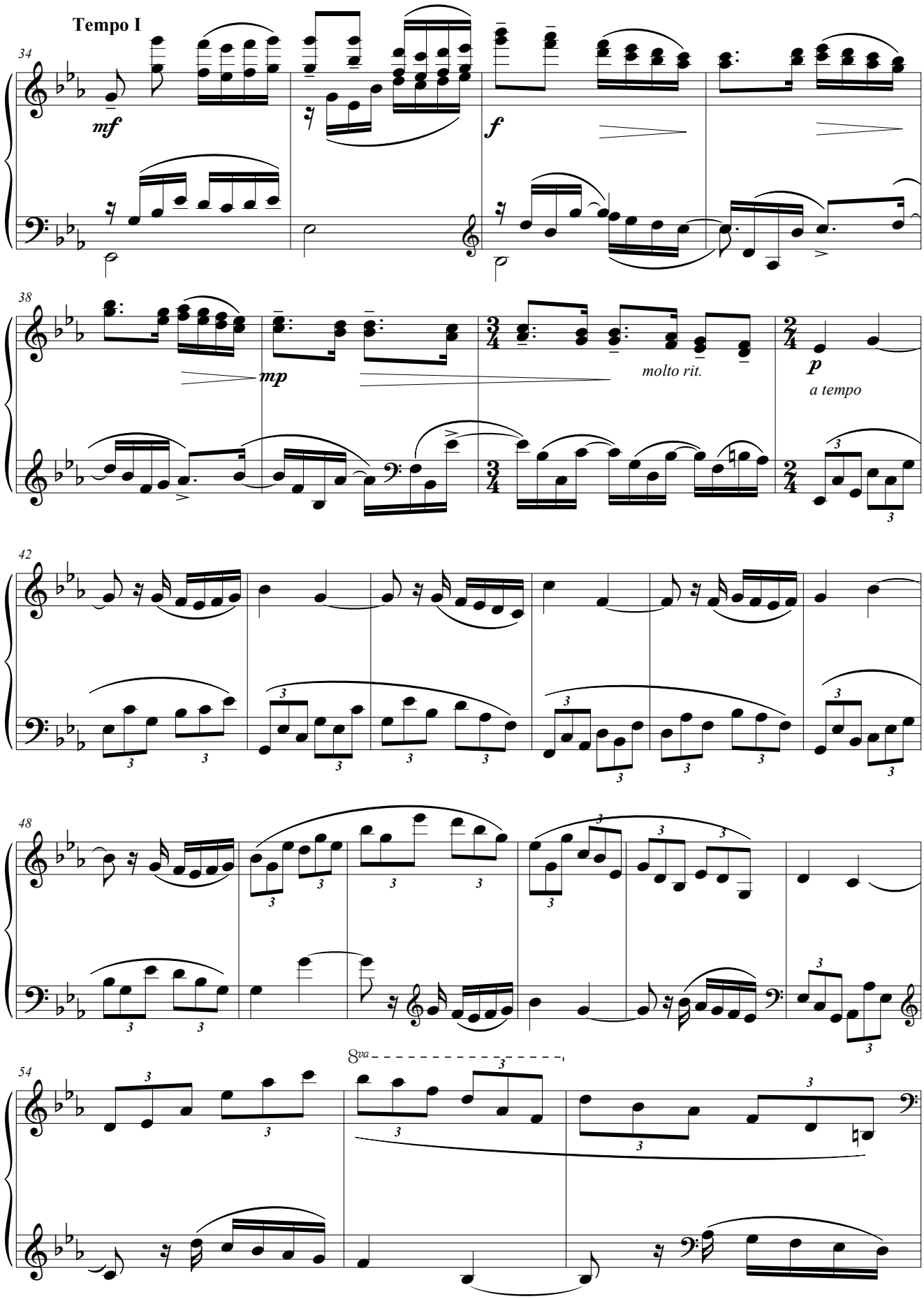
III.

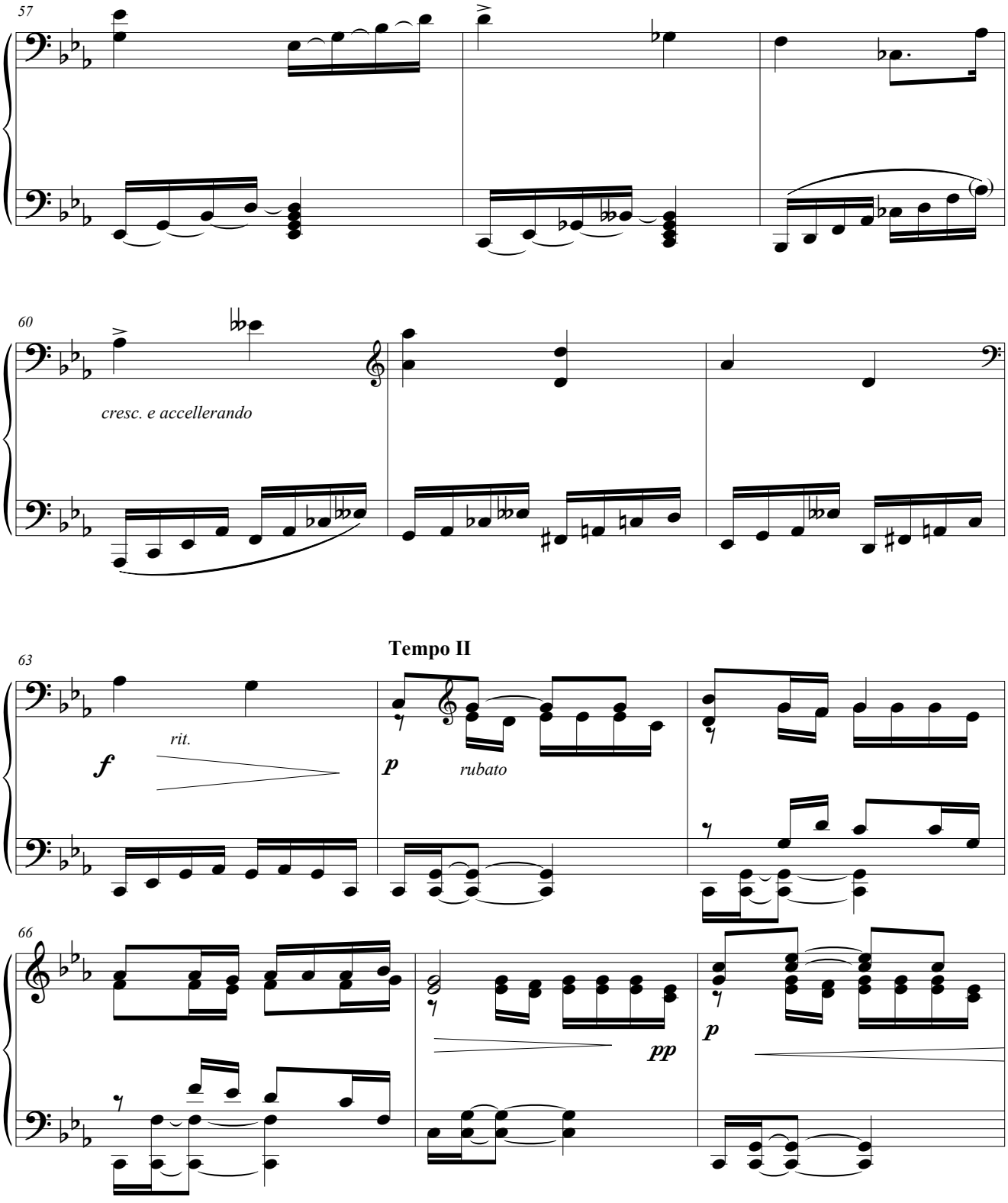
Andante Semplice

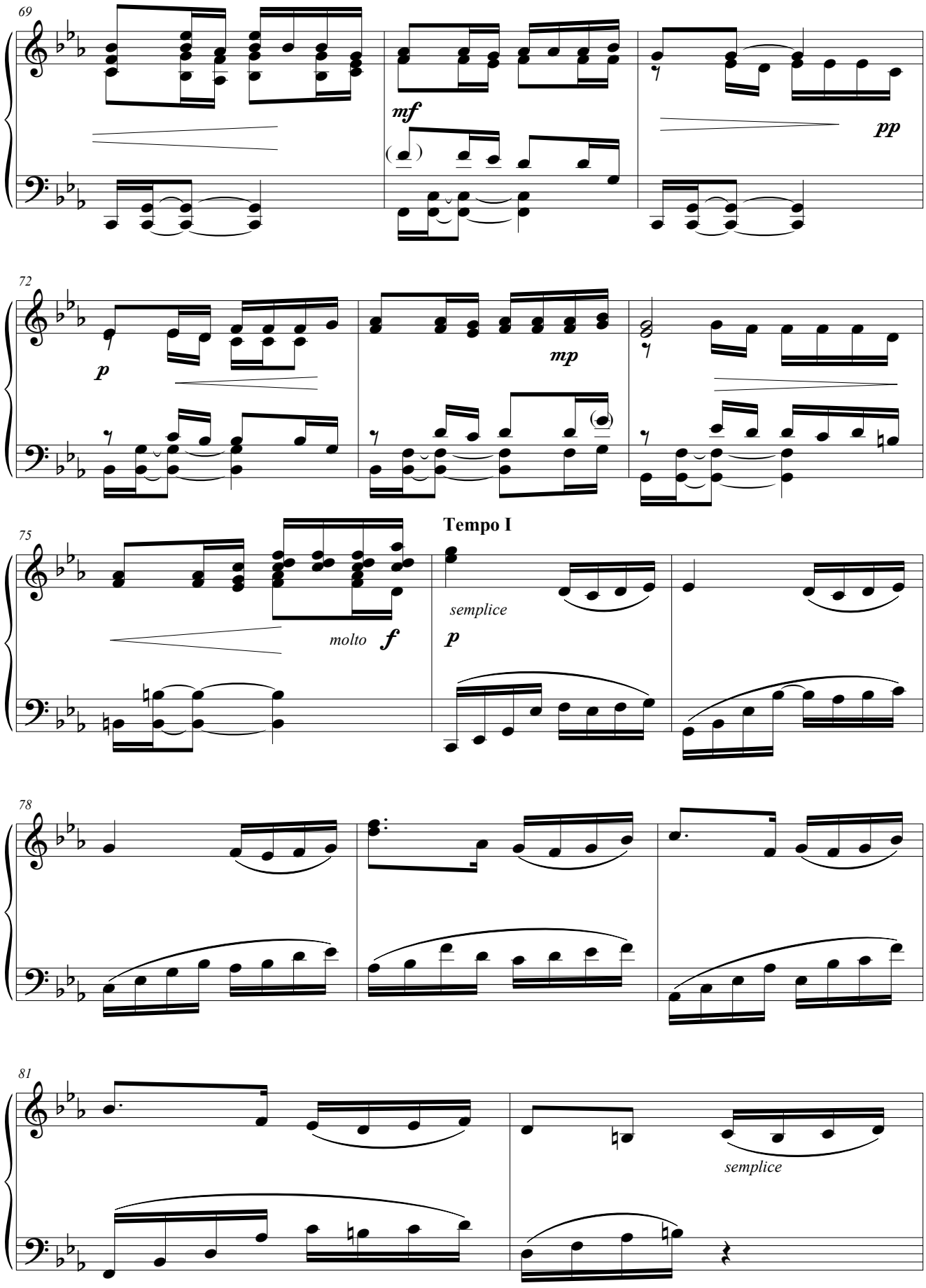


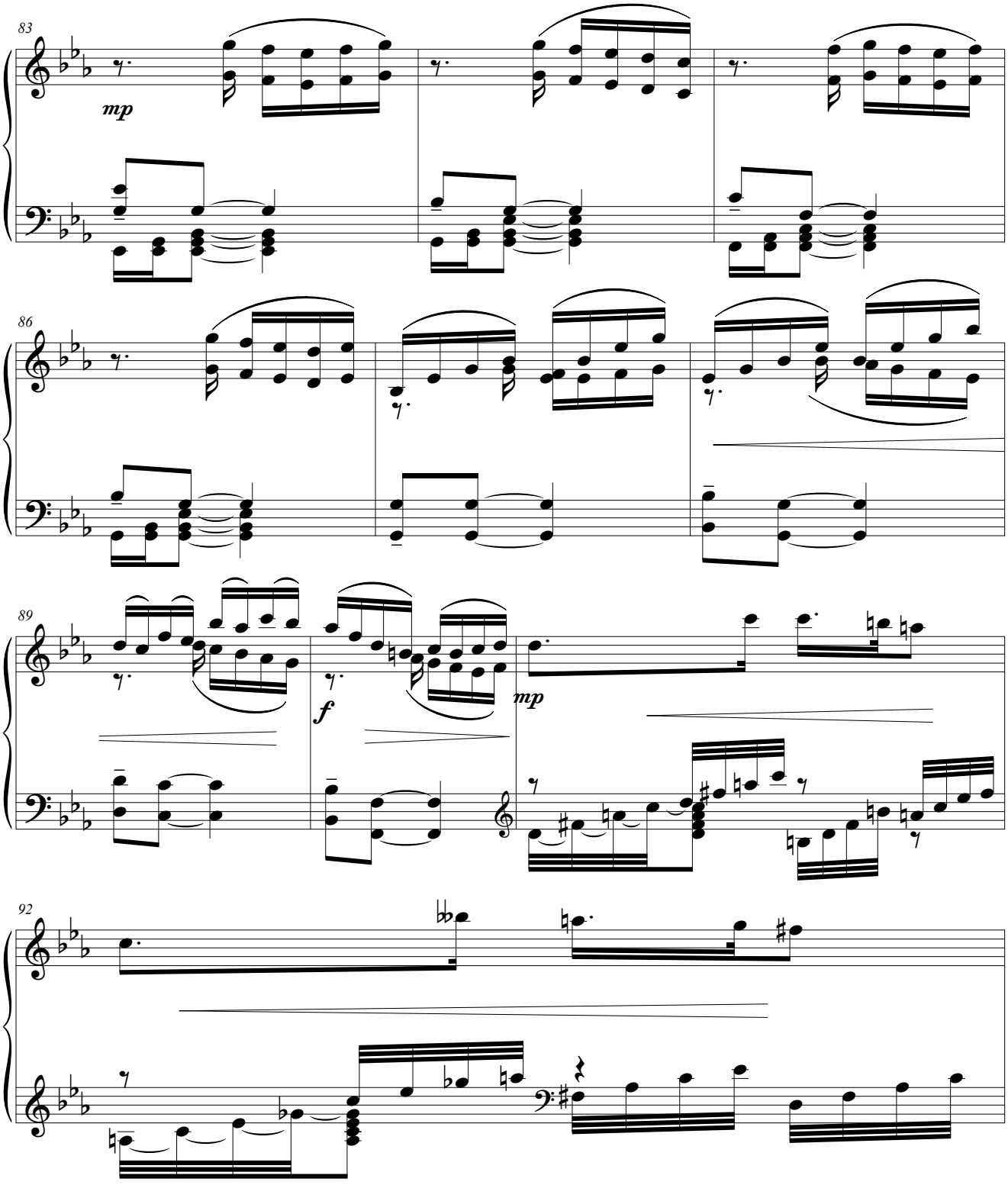

12
mf
agitato
p
14
mp
sfz
cresc. e accellerando
16
17
18
diminuendo e ritardando
sfz

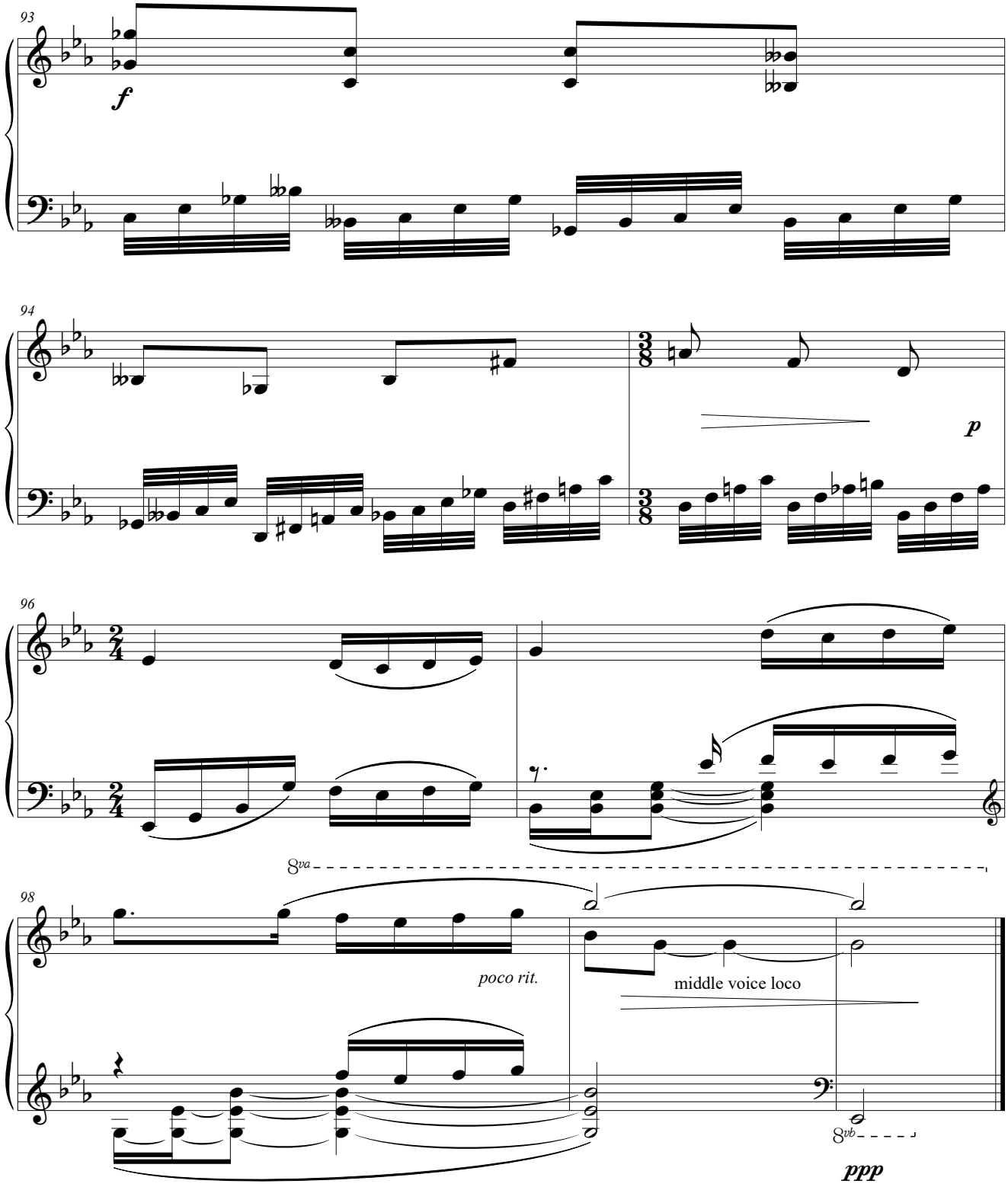

19
meno mosso
rubato
23
27
31
molto
accel.


Tempo I
34
mf
f
38
mp
molto rit.
p
a tempo
42
48
54
8va


57
60
cresc. e accellerando
Tempo II
63
f
rit.
p
rubato
66
pp
p


69
mf
pp
72
p
mp
75
Tempo I
molto f
semplice
p
78
81
semplice


83
mp
86
89
f
mp
92


93
f
94
p
96
8va
98
poco rit.
middle voice loco
8vb
ppp