Naturali Periclitati

(2007)

for solo piano

John Kennedy

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Naturali Periclitati

Naturali Periclitati (loosely translated as "endangered natures") is named with the convention of using Latin for titling things in the natural world. In composing a work for Marthanne Dorminy-Gardner (a rare bird herself), my conceptual basis is not only what is being lost in nature through the effects of human civilization, but what is being lost in the human/nature interface, in the Gaian web, and in our "human nature". Because amidst all of the increasing dangers to the earth and its living creatures, so too are there endangered elements of human culture, including historical knowledge and humanist traditions. What can we preserve of this, also born of the earth? What non-quantifiable resources have we forged that might sustain the best of our "immaterial" flowering?

Naturali Periclitati is in three movements. The first movement (marked "Slow, organic, and inexorable"), opens with the spelling of one of the most ancient and rarely-used modes (the Locrian), and explores the furthest and most remote terrains of the piano in constructions and deconstructions of the mode. The second movement ("Lyric spiral"), flowing at a moderately fast tempo, expands and contracts the musical material in both horizontal and vertical planes. Cycling through a series of prime-number meters in imitation of various patterns of nature, intervallic relationships and phrase lengths bloom and fade in varying patterns. The final movement ("In a landscape"), is a series of exhortations and urgings, modulating and adapting a limited resource-pool of material – a reflection on the perilously changing modalities of the present day.

– John Kennedy
July, 2007

Naturali Periclitati

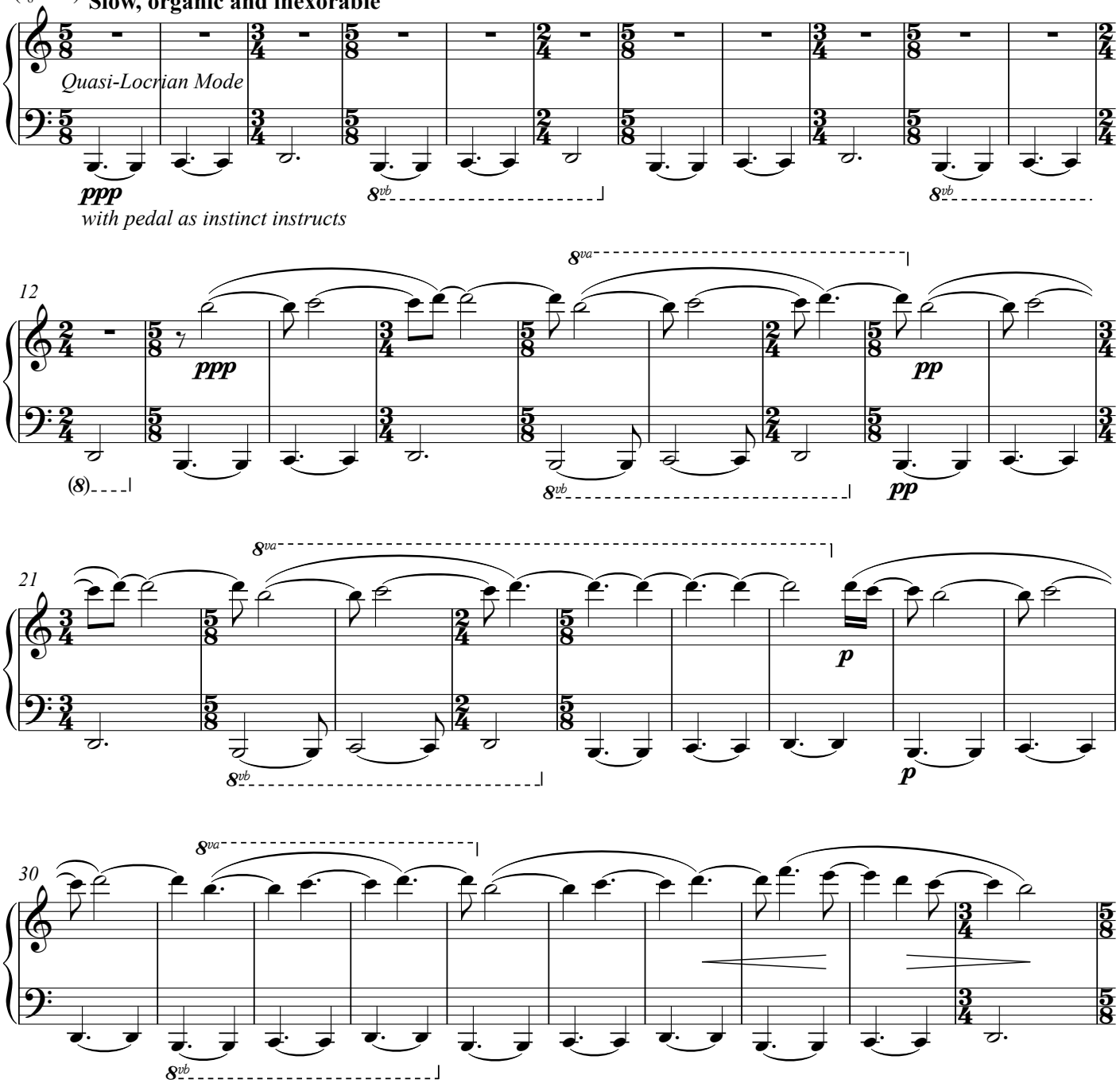
for Marthanne Dorminy Gardner

I.

John Kennedy

♩.+♩ = 40 (♪ = 200)

(15/8 x 66) **Slow, organic and inexorable**



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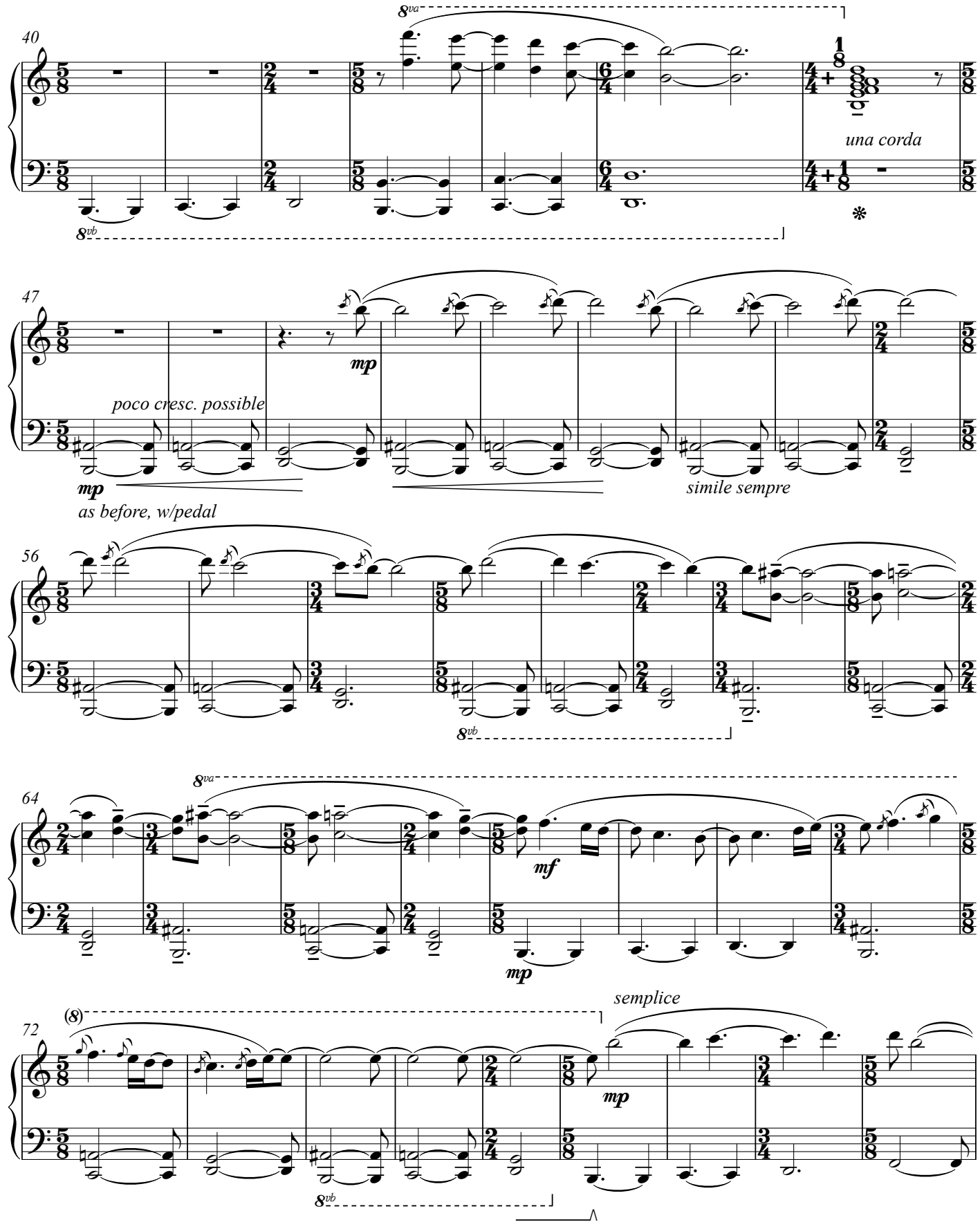
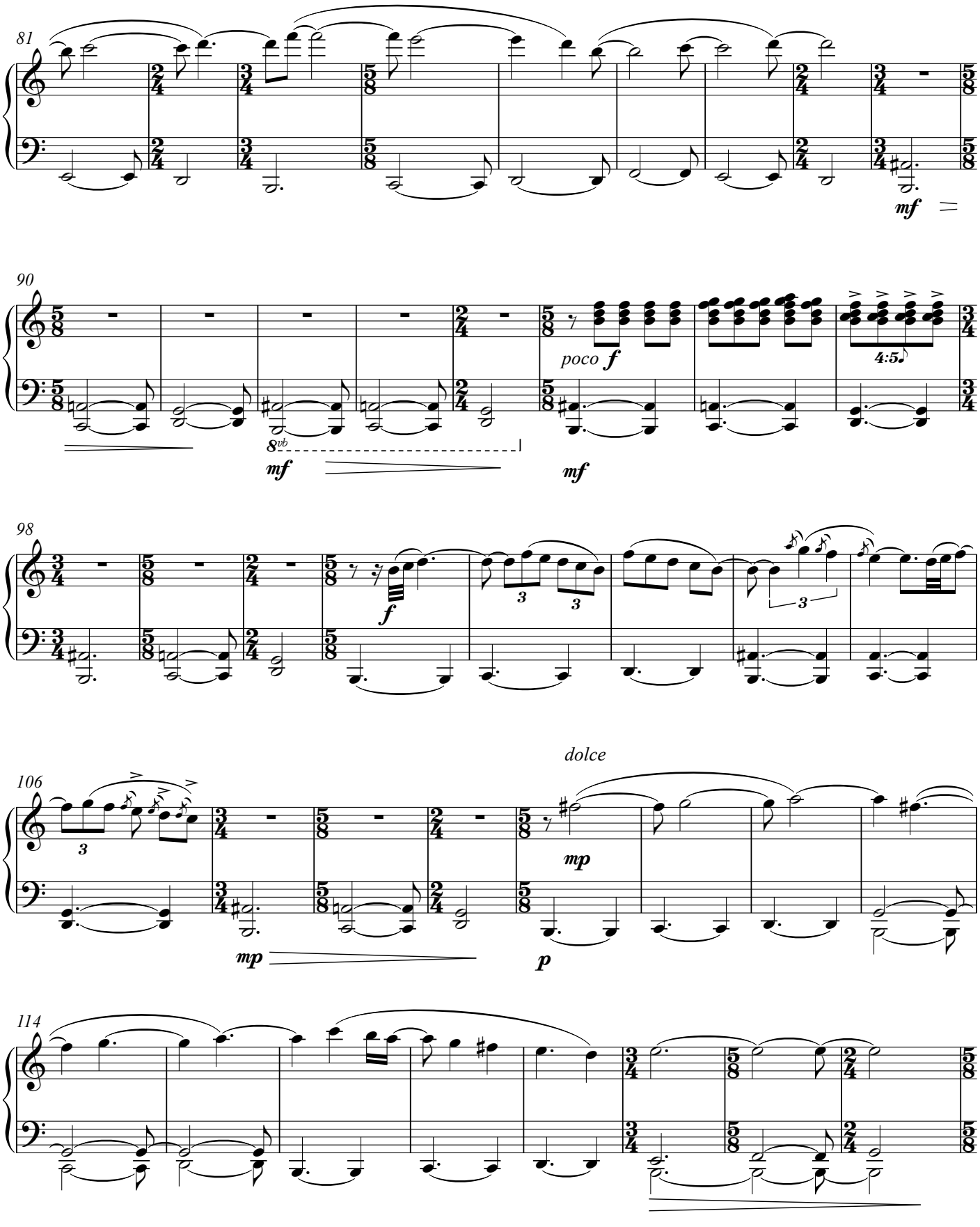
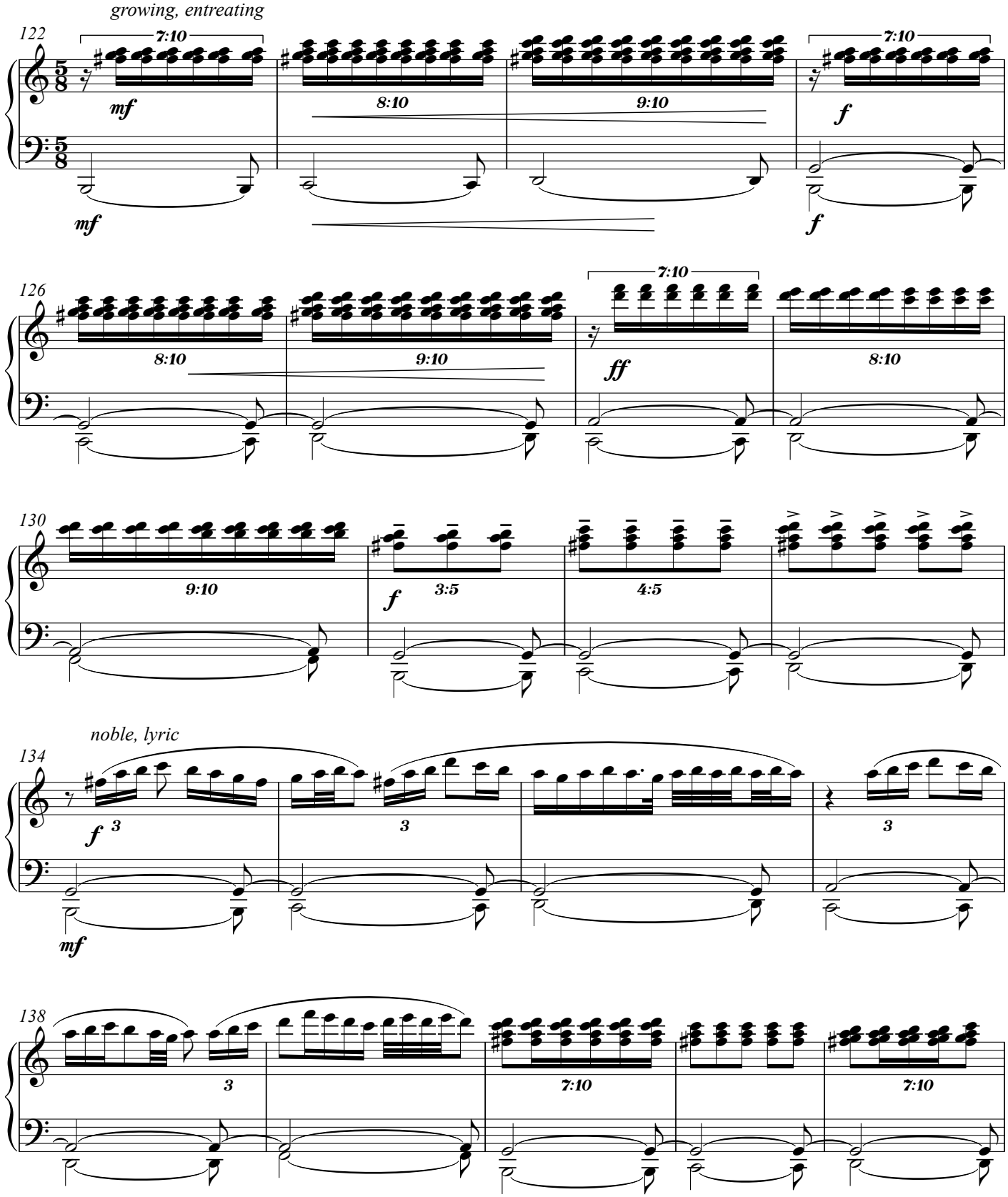
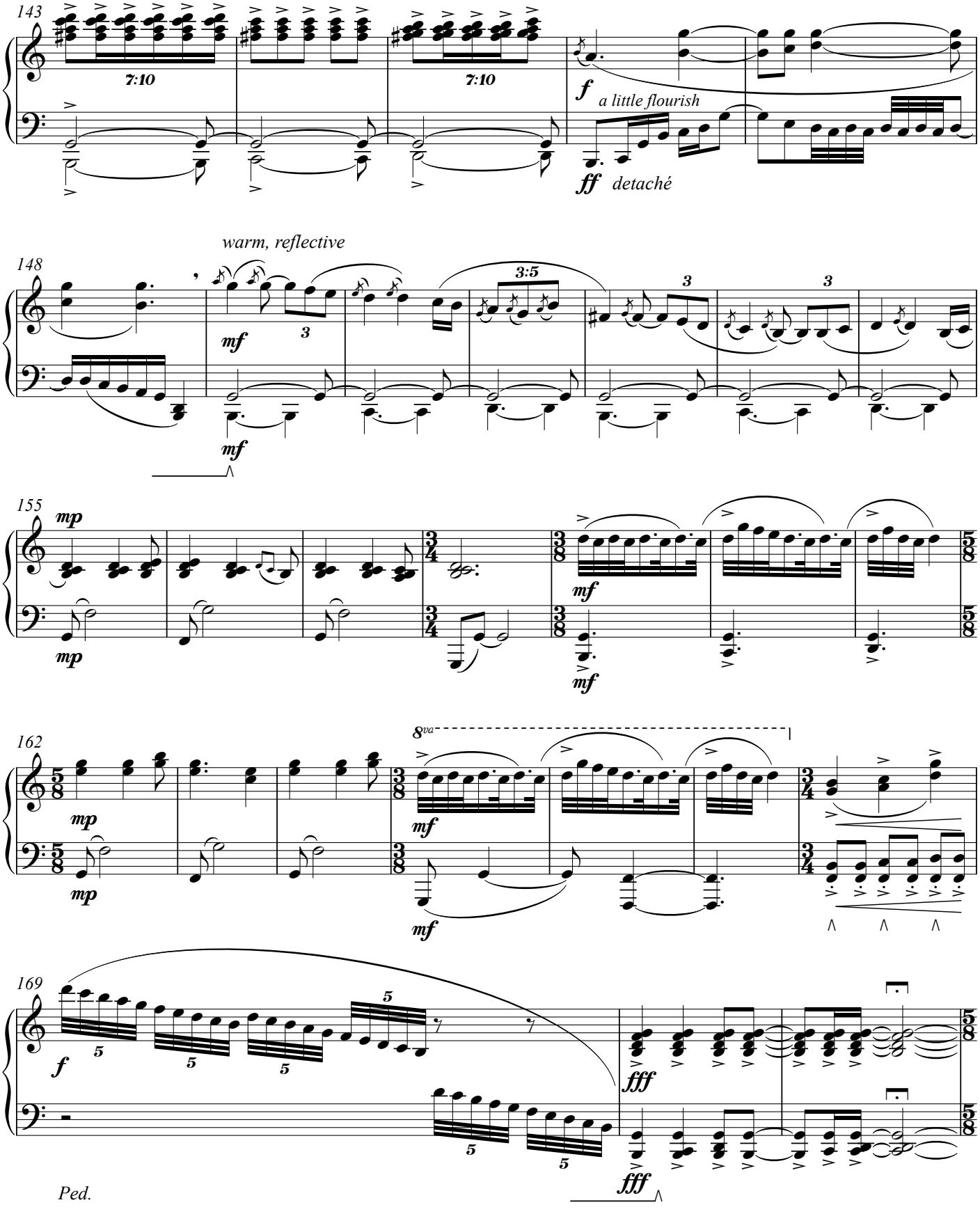
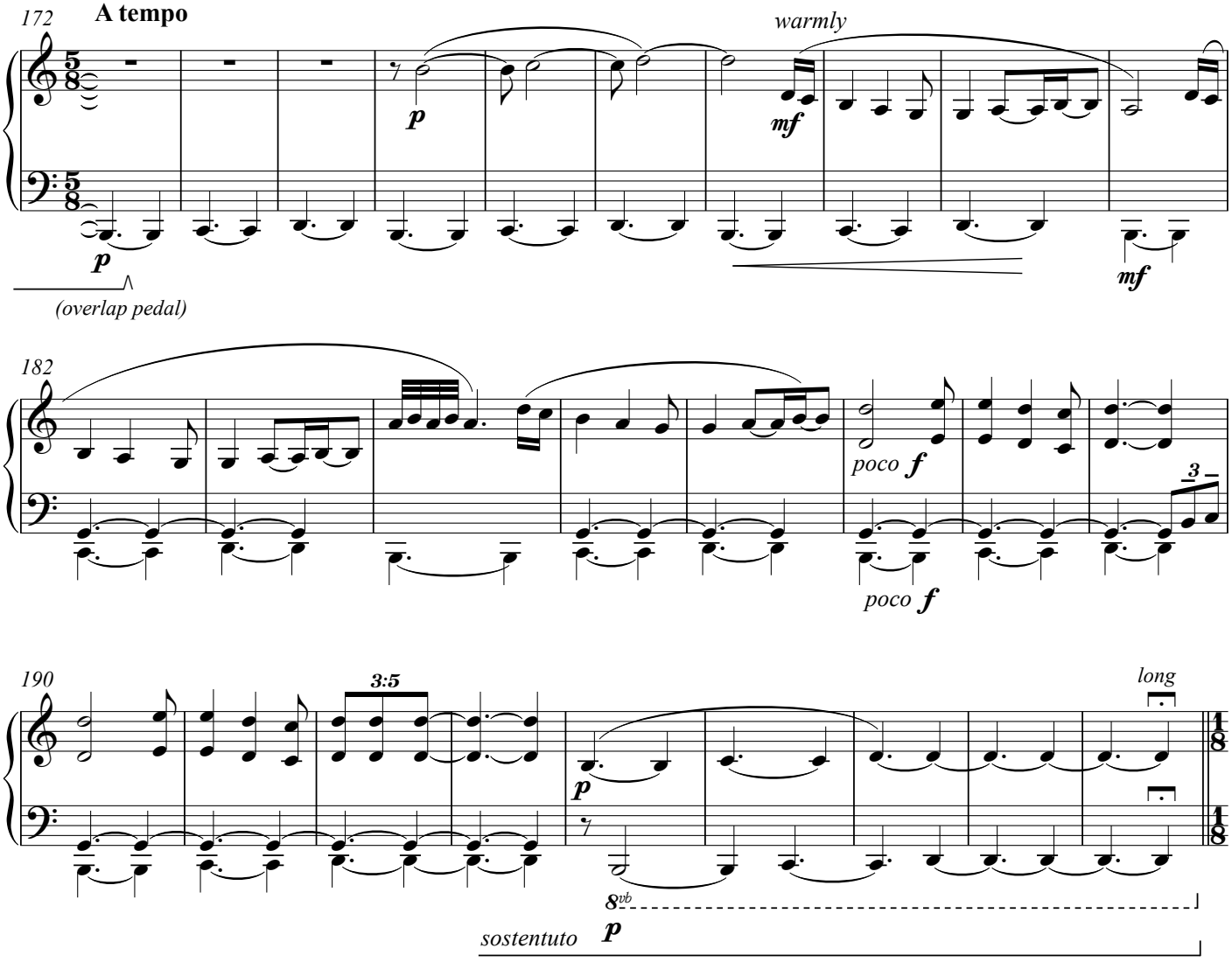

40
8va
8vb
una corda
47
mp
poco cresc. possible
mp
as before, w/pedal
simile sempre
56
8vb
64
8va
mf
mp
72
(8)
semplice
mp
8vb


81
mf
90
poco f
4:5
8vb
mf
mf
98
f
106
mp
mp
dolce
p
114


growing, entreating
122
7:10
mf
8:10
9:10
7:10
f
mf
f
126
8:10
9:10
7:10
ff
8:10
130
9:10
f
3:5
4:5
noble, lyric
134
f
3
3
3
mf
138
3
7:10
7:10

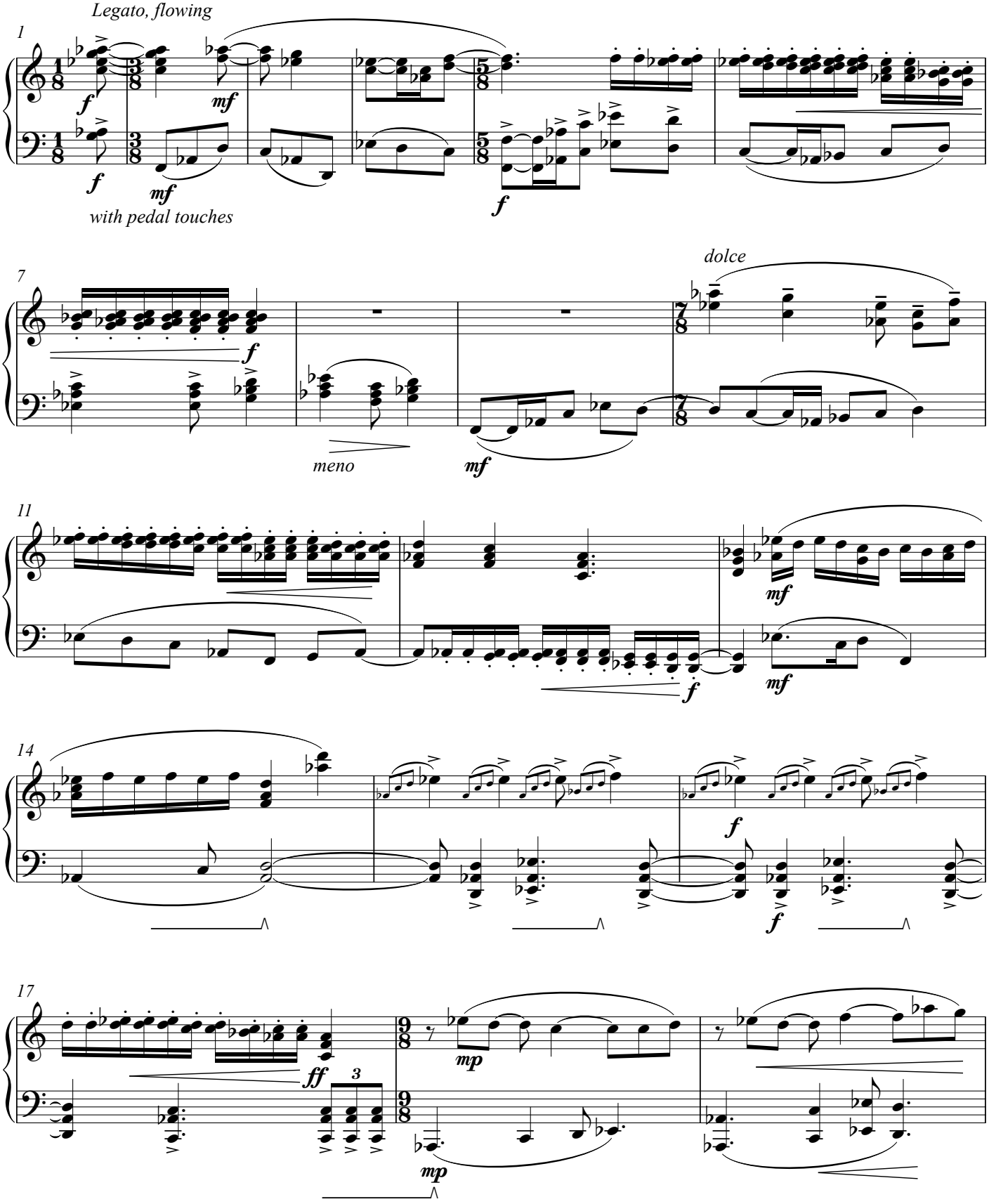

143
7:10
7:10
f
a little flourish
ff
detaché
warm, reflective
148
3:5
mf
mf
155
mp
mp
mf
mf
162
8va
mp
mp
mf
mf
169
f
fff
fff
Ped.

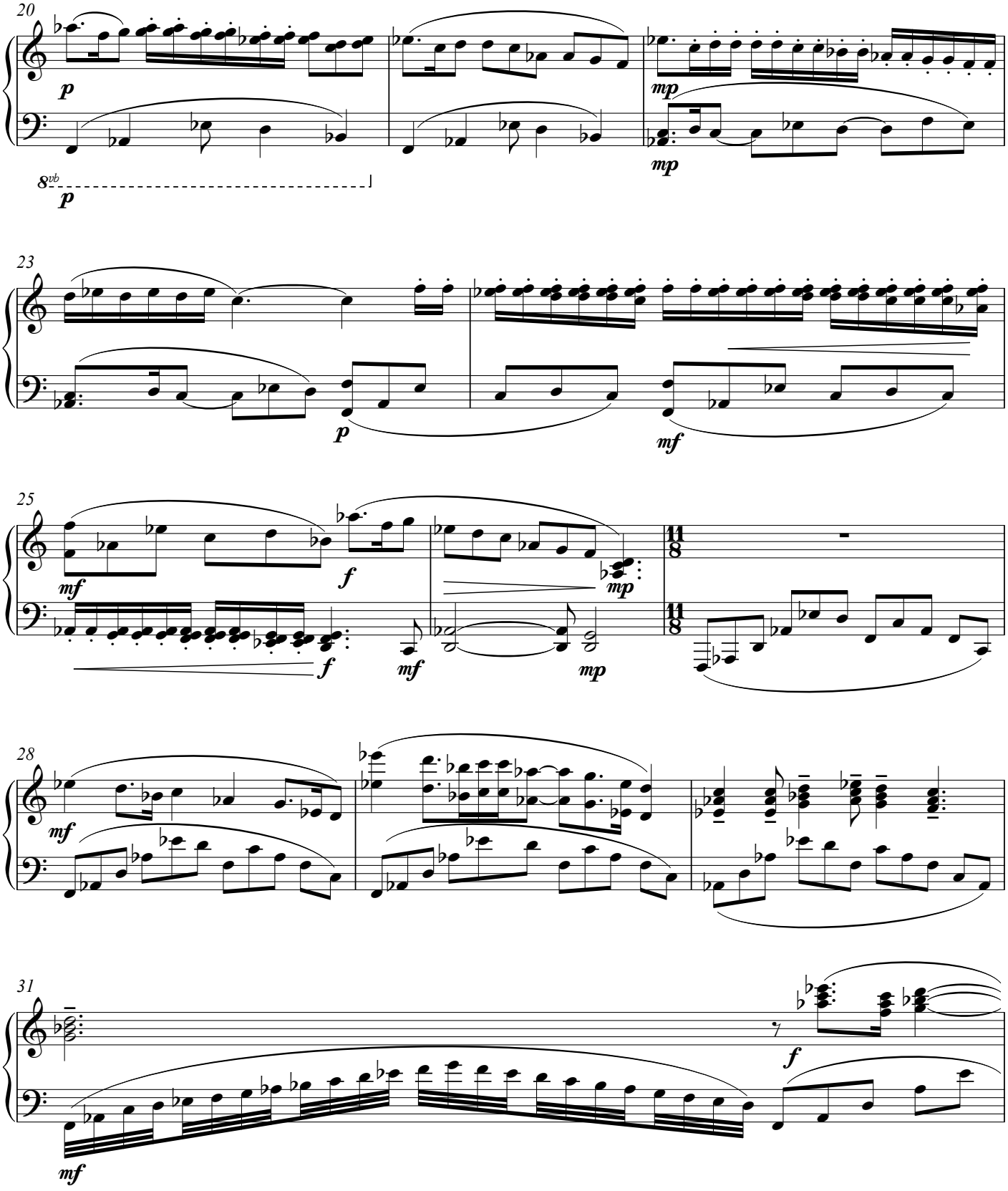

172
A tempo
warmly
p
mf
p
mf
(overlap pedal)
182
poco f
poco f
3
190
3:5
long
p
8vb
p
sostentuto

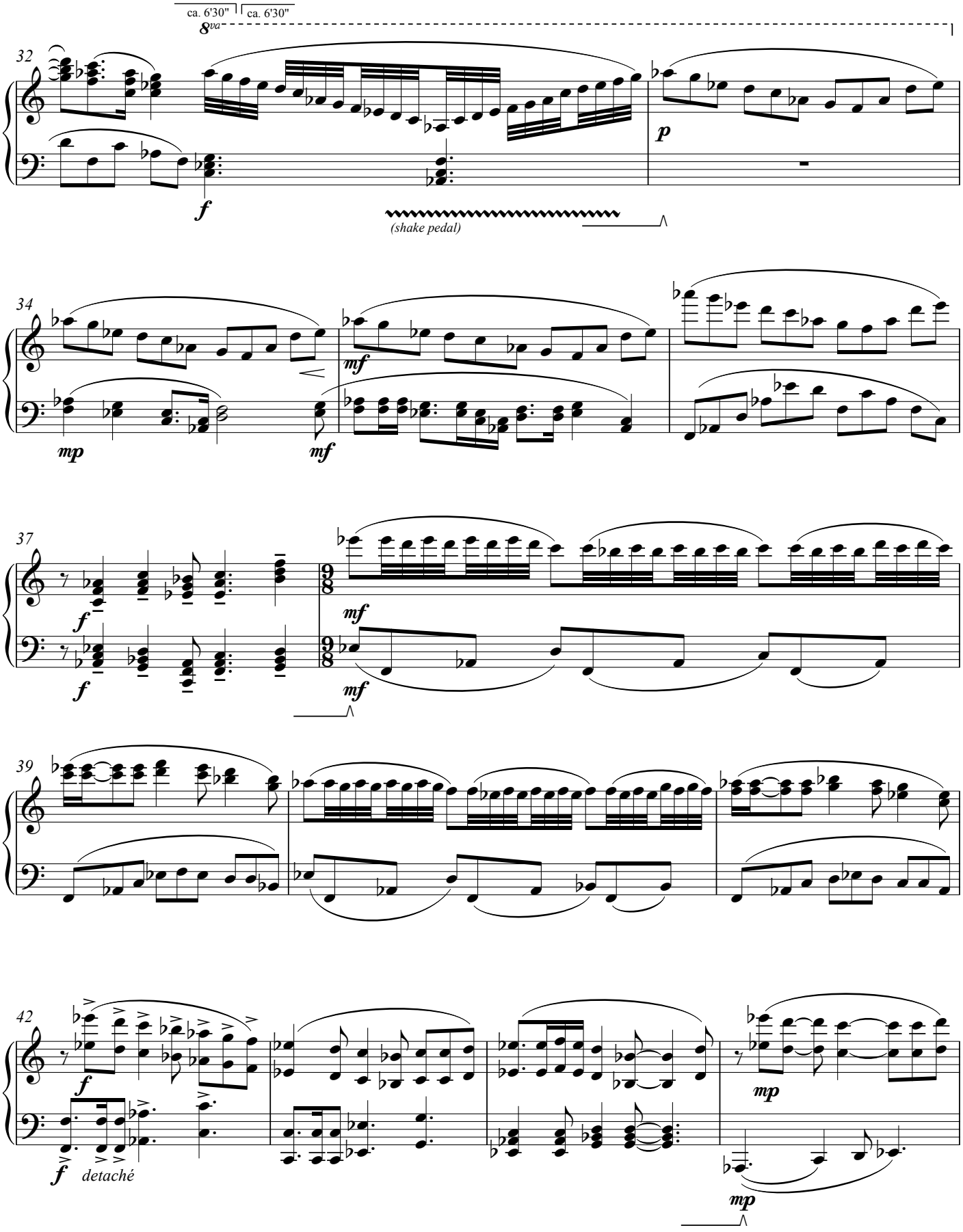
II. *Lyric spiral*

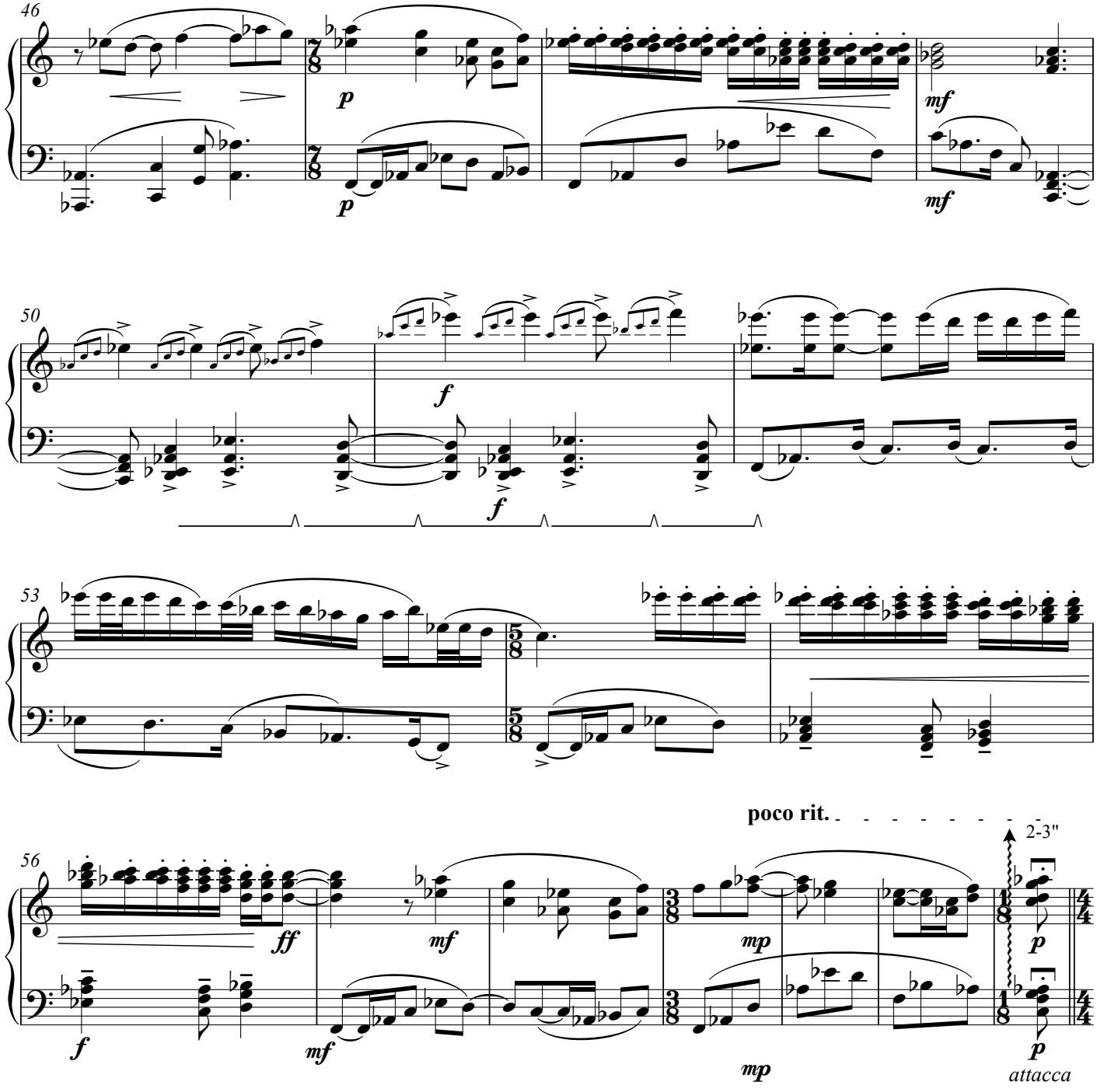
♪ = 156 **Andante,** ***elegant and not too fast***

Legato, flowing

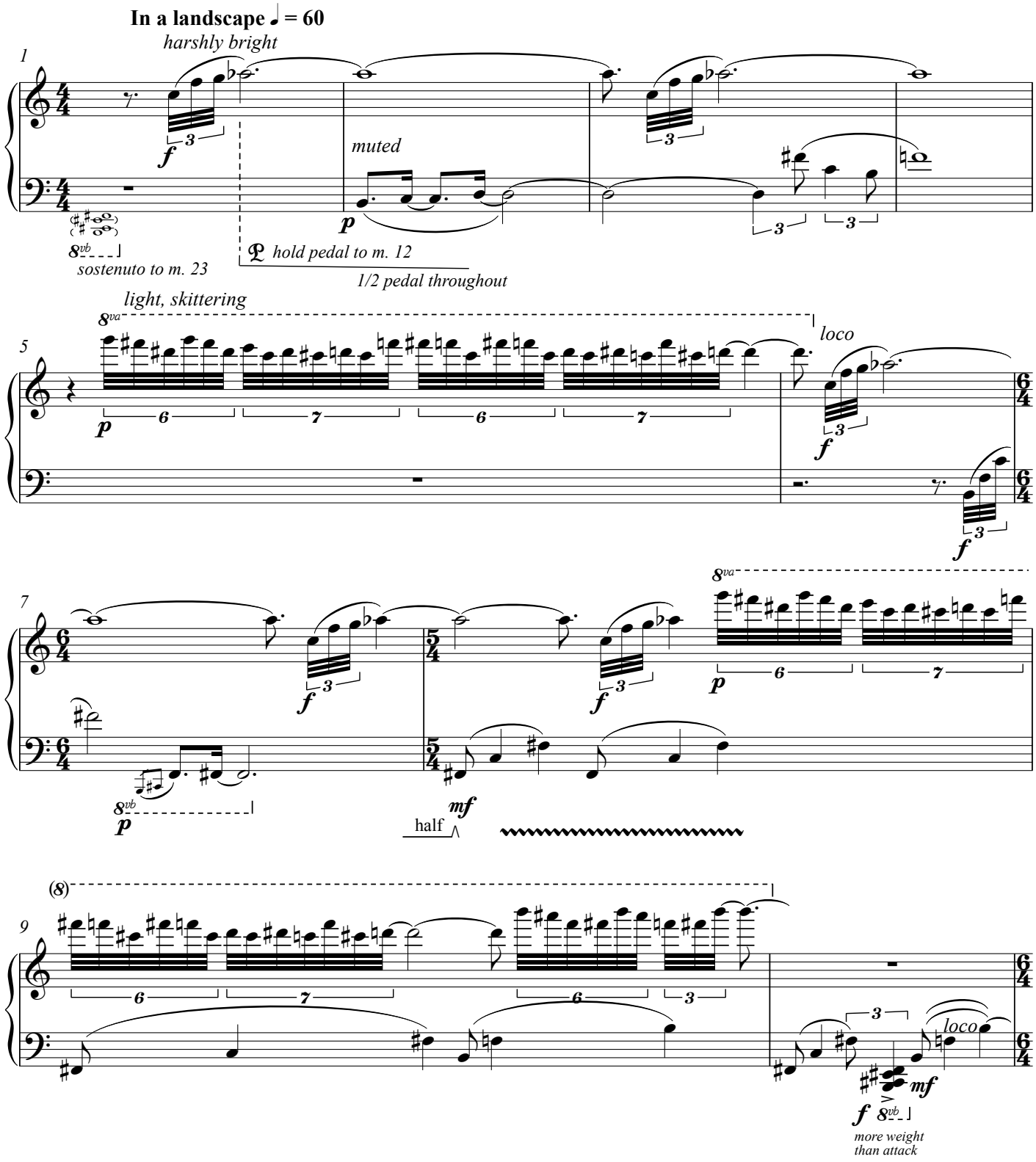


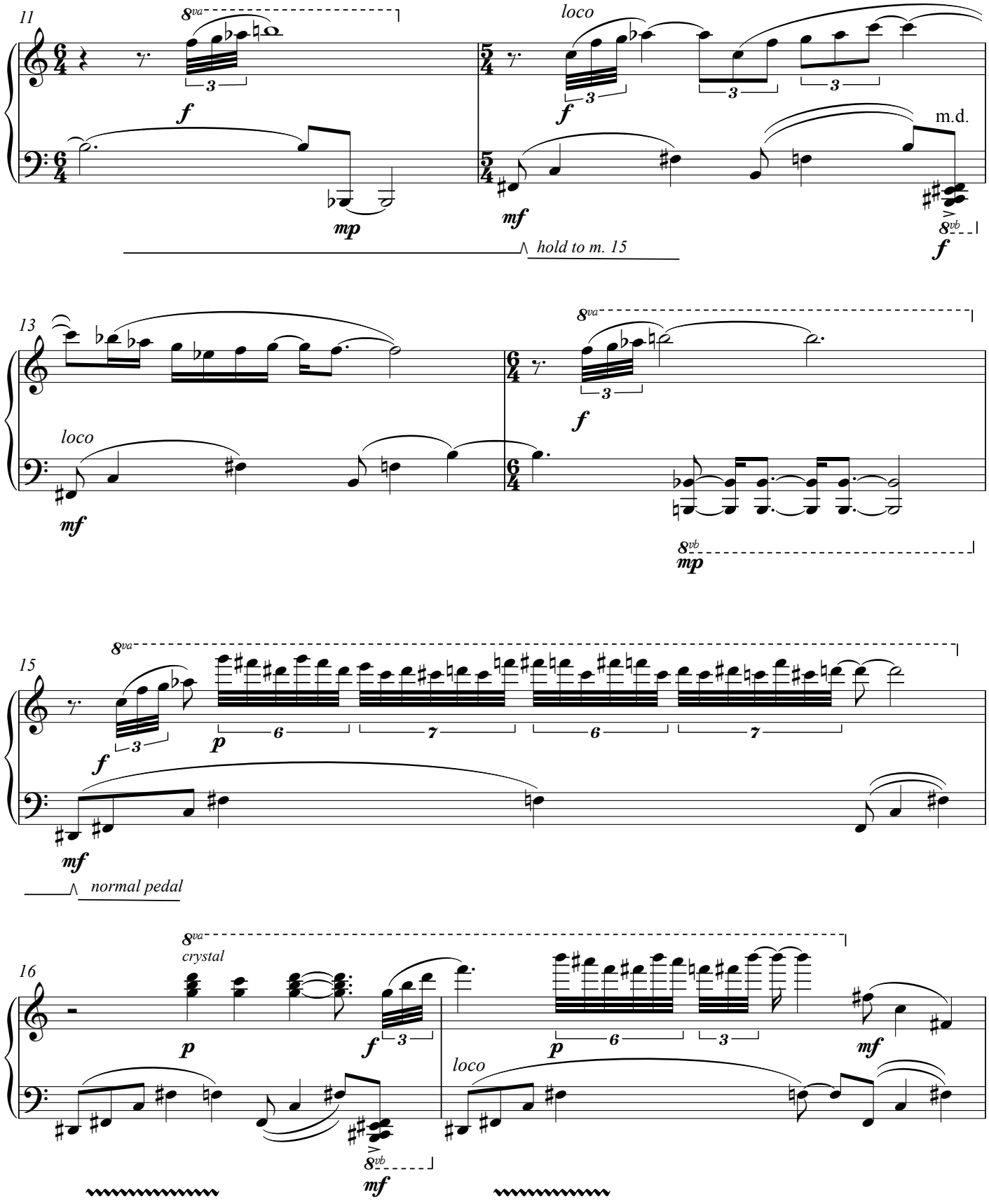

20
p
mp
mp
8vb
p
23
p
mf
25
mf
f
f
mf
mp
mp
28
mf
31
f
mf

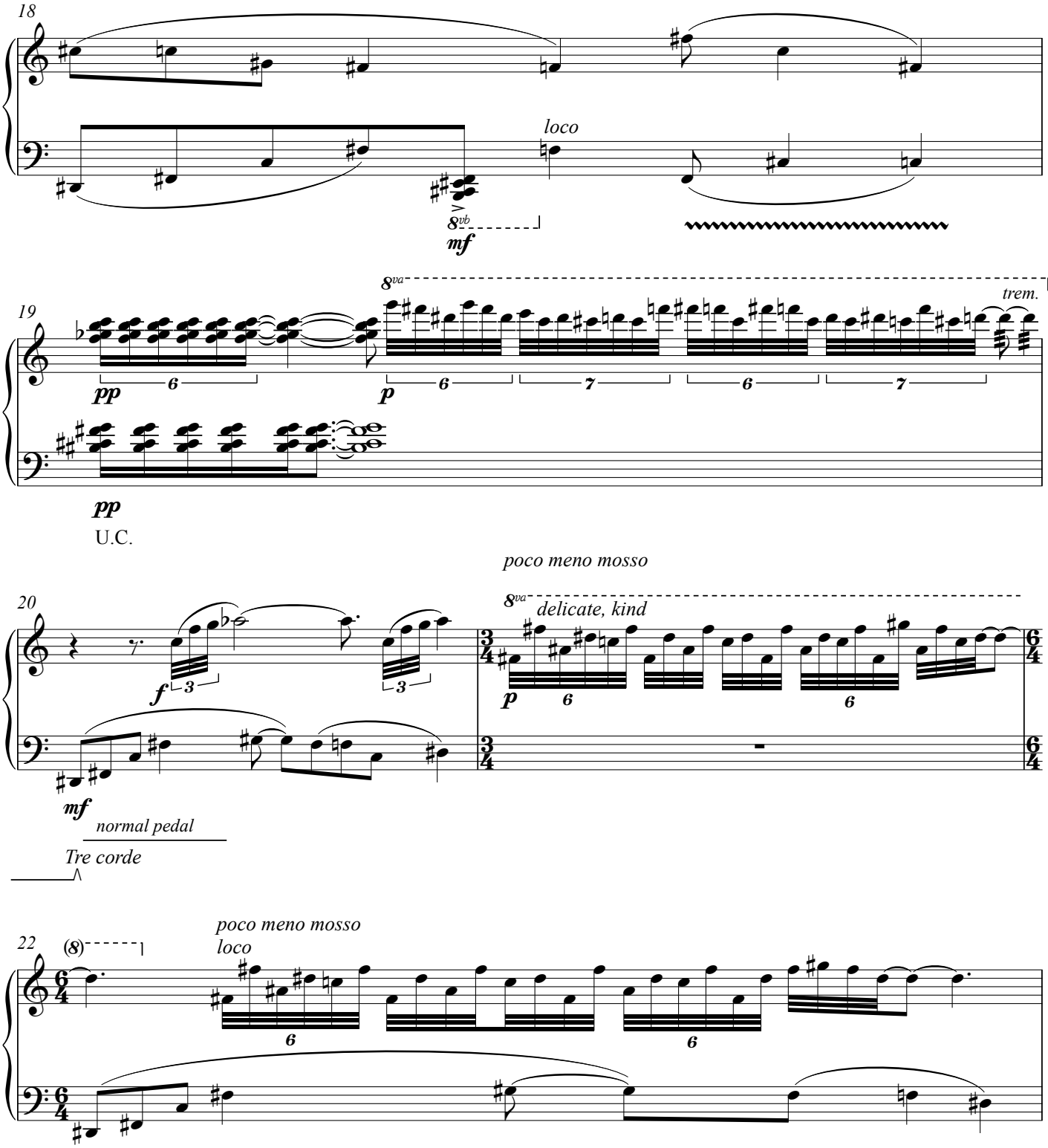

ca. 6'30"
ca. 6'30"
8va
32
f
p
(shake pedal)
34
mp
mf
mf
37
f
f
mf
mf
39
42
f
f
detaché
mp
mp

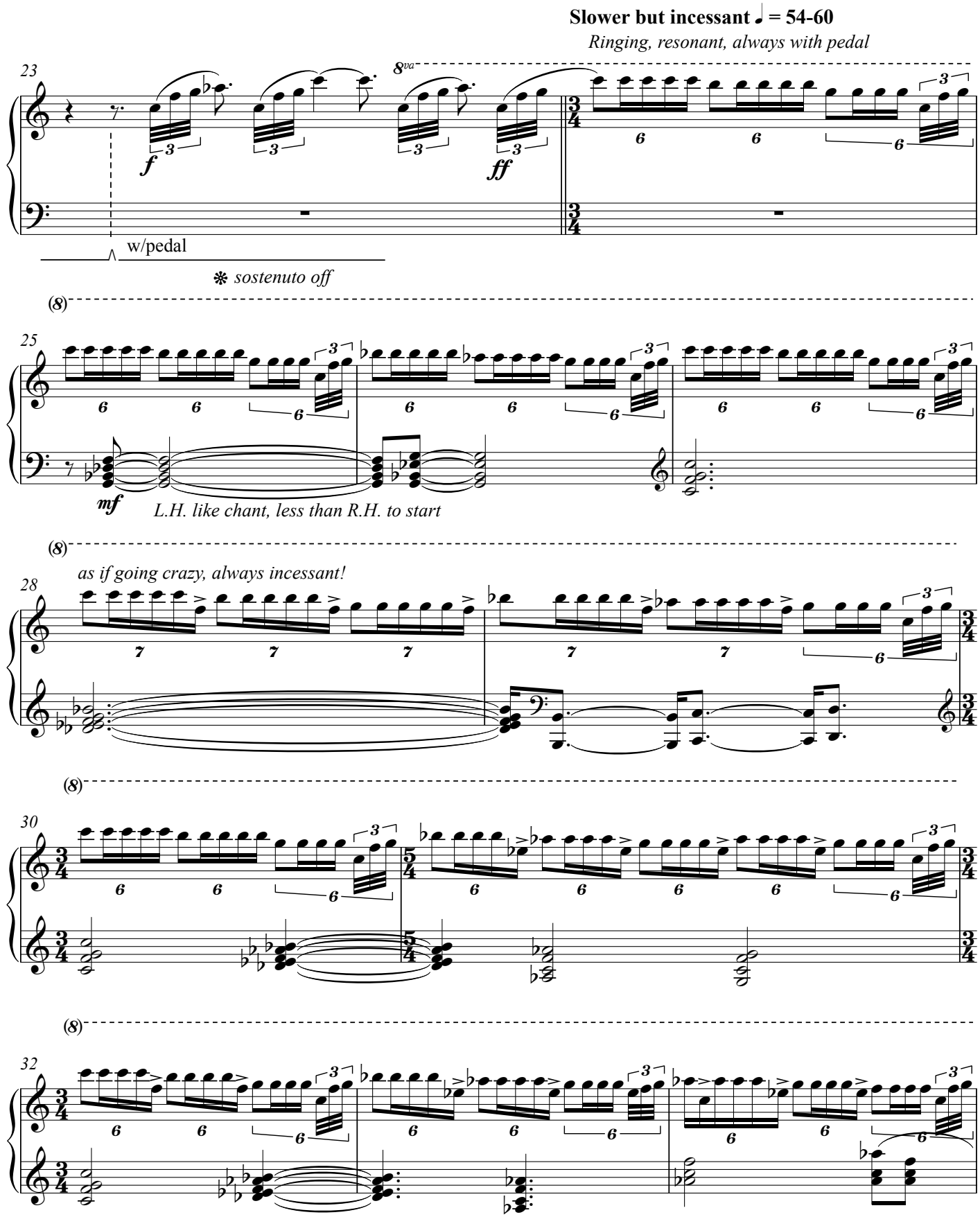

46
p
p
mf
mf
50
f
f
53
poco rit.
56
ff
mf
mf
mp
mp
2-3"
p
p
attacca

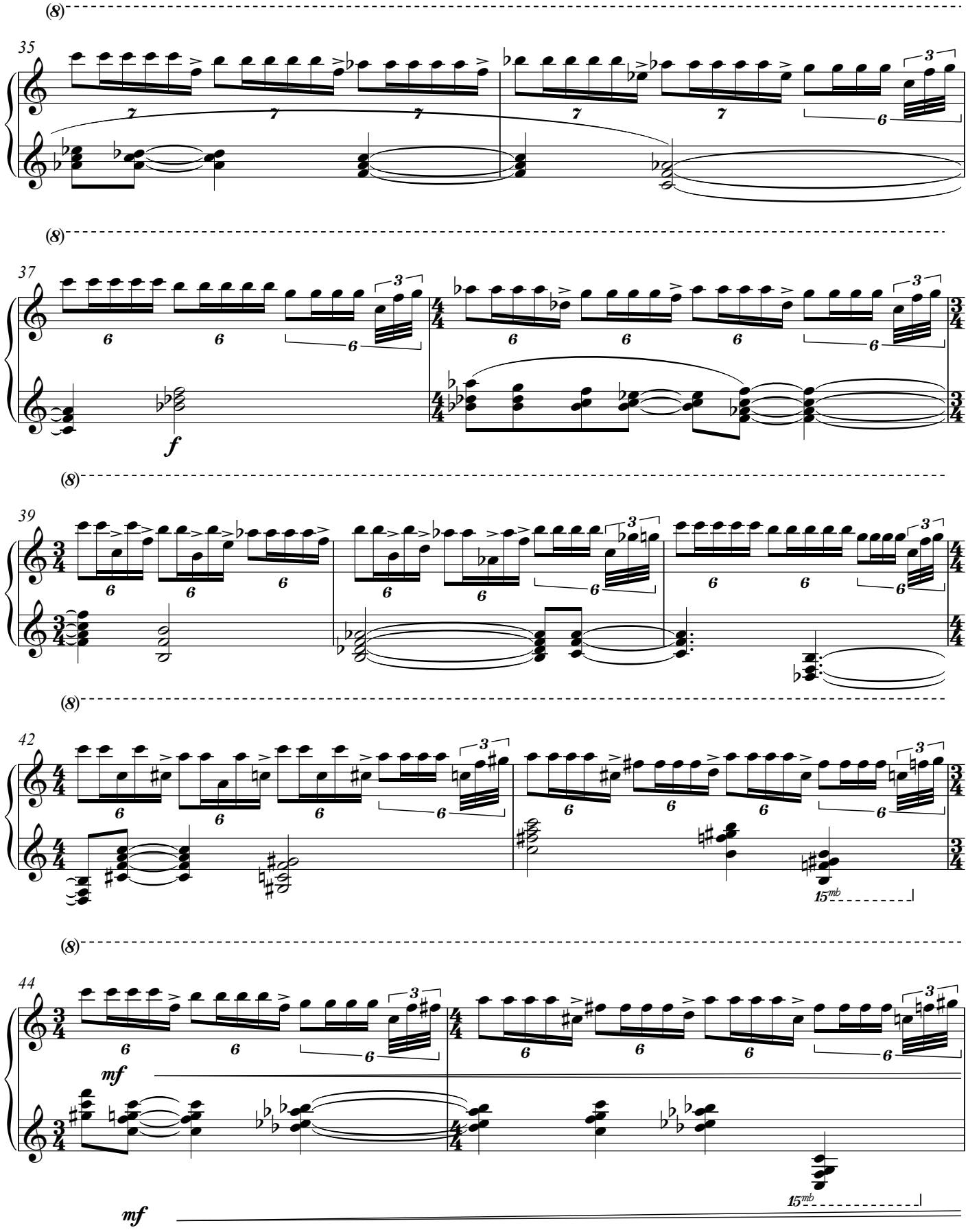
III.

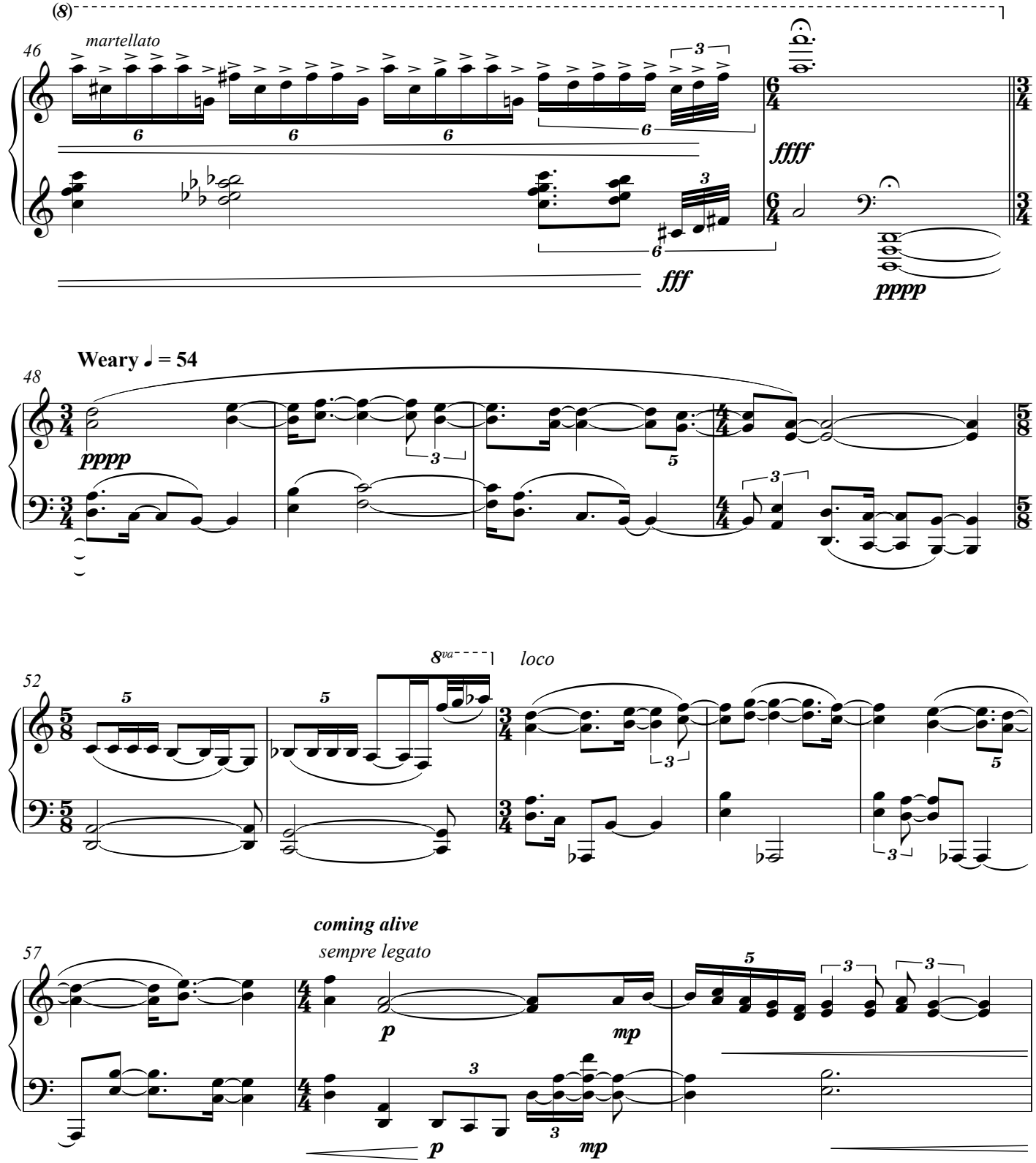

In a landscape ♩ = 60
harshly bright
1
f
muted
p
8vb
sostenuto to m. 23
hold pedal to m. 12
1/2 pedal throughout
light, skittering
5
8va
p
loco
f
7
mf
half
9
(8)
more weight
than attack

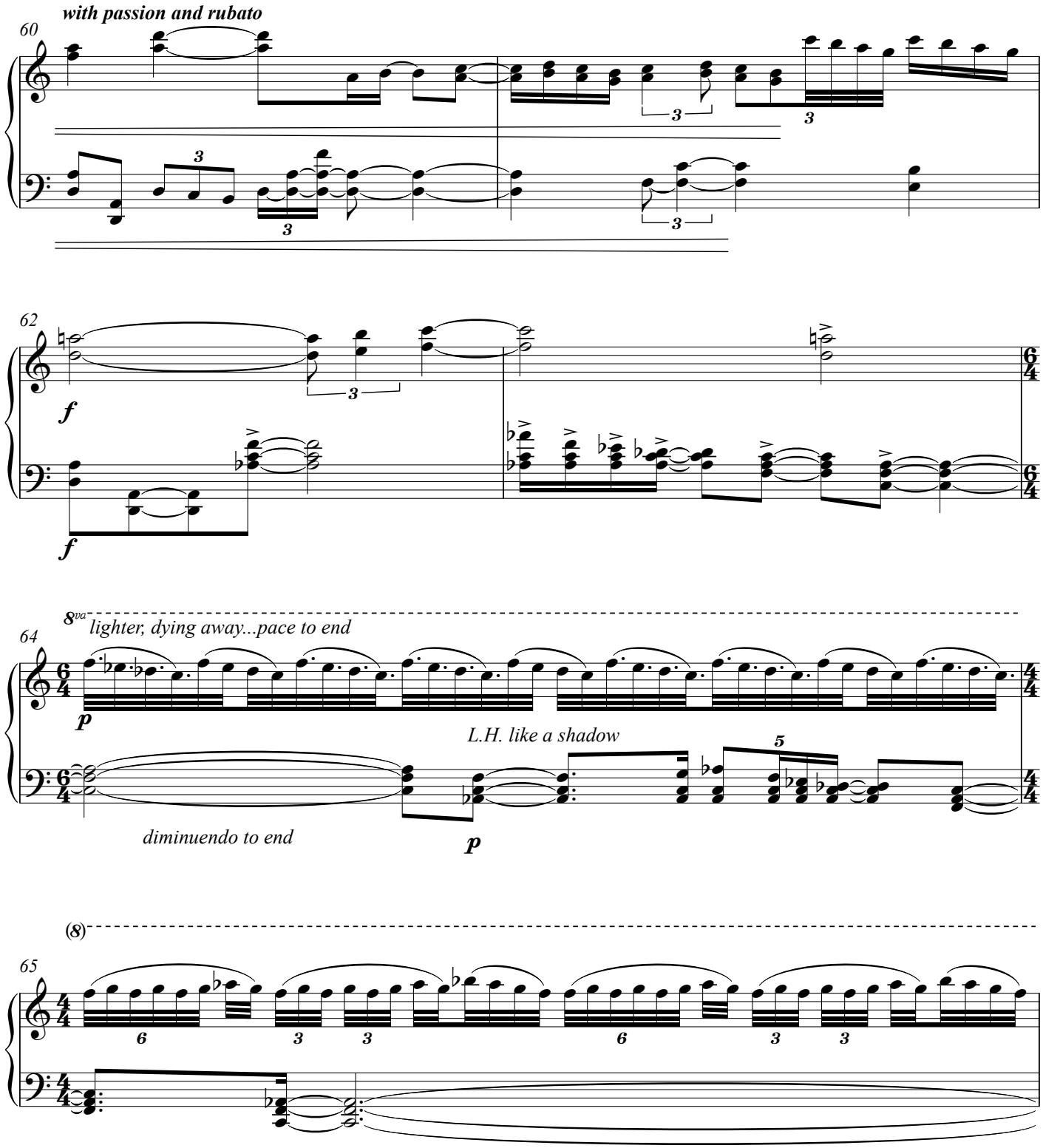

11
8va
loco
m.d.
hold to m. 15
8vb
13
loco
15
normal pedal
16
crystal

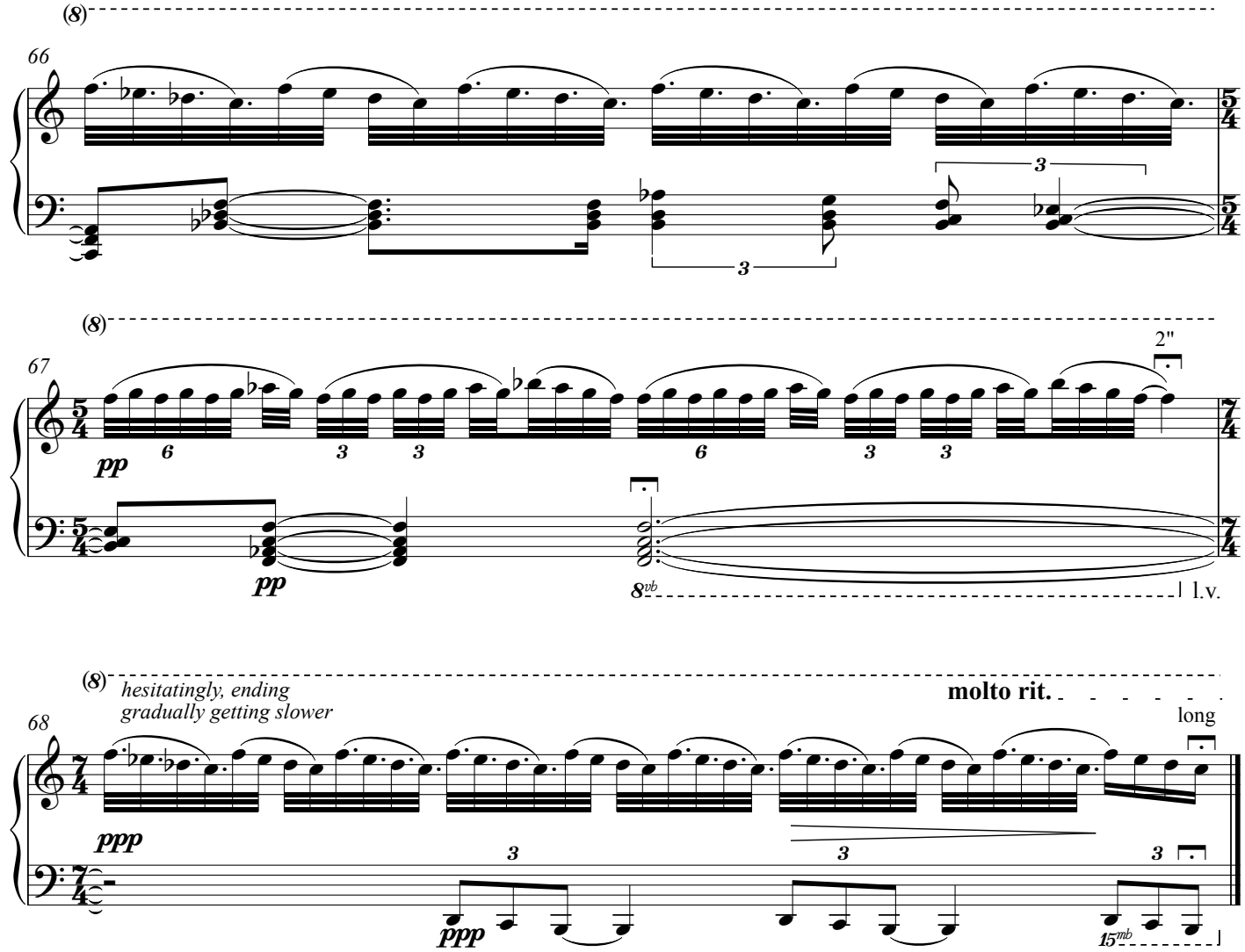

18
loco
8vb
mf
19
8va
trem.
pp
6
p
6
7
6
7
pp
U.C.
poco meno mosso
20
8va
delicate, kind
f
3
3
p
6
6
3/4
6/4
mf
normal pedal
Tre corde
22
(8)
poco meno mosso
loco
6
6


Slower but incessant ♩ = 54-60
Ringing, resonant, always with pedal
23
8va
f
ff
w/pedal
❊ sostenuto off
(8)
25
mf
L.H. like chant, less than R.H. to start
(8)
as if going crazy, always incessant!
28
(8)
30
(8)
32


(8)
35
(8)
37
f
(8)
39
(8)
42
15mb
(8)
44
mf
mf
15mb


(8)
46
martellato
ffff
fff
pppp
Weary ♩ = 54
48
pppp
52
8va
loco
57
coming alive
sempre legato
p
mp
p
mp


with passion and rubato
60
62
f
f
8va
lighter, dying away...pace to end
64
p
L.H. like a shadow
diminuendo to end
p
(8)
65



Santa Fe, July, 2007