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Waves of Lament

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A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Music degree in Music

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Abstract

Waves of Lament is a five movement cycle for solo organ with a duration of 23 minutes. This cycle is a reflection of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through its five movements, this work aims to depict the different chapters of life during a global pandemic. *Waves of Lament*, utilizes the sounds of the organ to explore various extra-musical themes from the pandemic. The first movement explores panic and anxiety, the second looks at isolation, and the third movement explores themes of rest and reflection. The fourth movements deals with the massive amount of loss we have all experienced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Lastly, the finale explores the idea of 'hazy recollections,' and how memories float through our consciousness, particularly in our quiet moments.

Keywords

Composition, organ, Canadian Music, cycle, pandemic, COVID-19, solo music

Summary for Lay Audience

Waves of Lament is a cycle for solo organ with five movements that reflects on life during the COVID-19 pandemic. A cycle (or song cycle) is group of pieces intended to be performed together. The pieces will usually have a common theme or subject, or tell a story when heard in succession. The pipe organ is a musical instrument that has one or more manuals (or keyboards) played by the hands, and a pedal board played by the feet. This work requires an organ with at least three manuals (or keyboards) to be the most effective. To produce sound on the instrument, pressurized air is forced through pipes of varying size and length. Through the use of the organ's stops (or registrations), it is able to create a wide variety of timbres, colours and dynamics. *Waves of Lament*, utilizes the sounds of the organ to explore different themes from the pandemic, such as: isolation, panic and loss.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank my advisor Dr. Omar Daniel for his invaluable guidance and support throughout the creation of this work. I would also like to thank Michael Fitzpatrick for his role as second reader.

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WAVES OF LAMENT

for solo organ

Kennedy Kimber-Johnson

Waves of Lament

Performance Time - 23:00

I: Outbreak - 3:00
II: Isolation - 3:20
III: Reflection - 5:30
IV: Loss - 4:20
V: Memory - 6:50

This five-movement cycle is a reflection on COVID-19 and living through a global pandemic. Looking back to March 2020, the first movement, “Outbreak,” explores the extra-musical themes of panic and anxiety. The second movement, “Isolation,” reflects on the difficulties of quarantine and separation. “Reflection", movement three, explores the different sides of rest. Thinking back to the stay-at-home orders I was faced with two realities, enjoying a slower pace of life and feeling helpless. “Loss,” the fourth movement, aims to reflect on the massive amount of loss we have all experienced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic: loss of human life, loss of social interaction, loss of experiences, and loss of a sense of normalcy. The finale, “Memory,” depicts the idea of hazy recollections. This movement reflects on how particularly in our quiet moments, memories often float through our consciousness. With this work, I hope to make a bit more sense of these unprecedented times.

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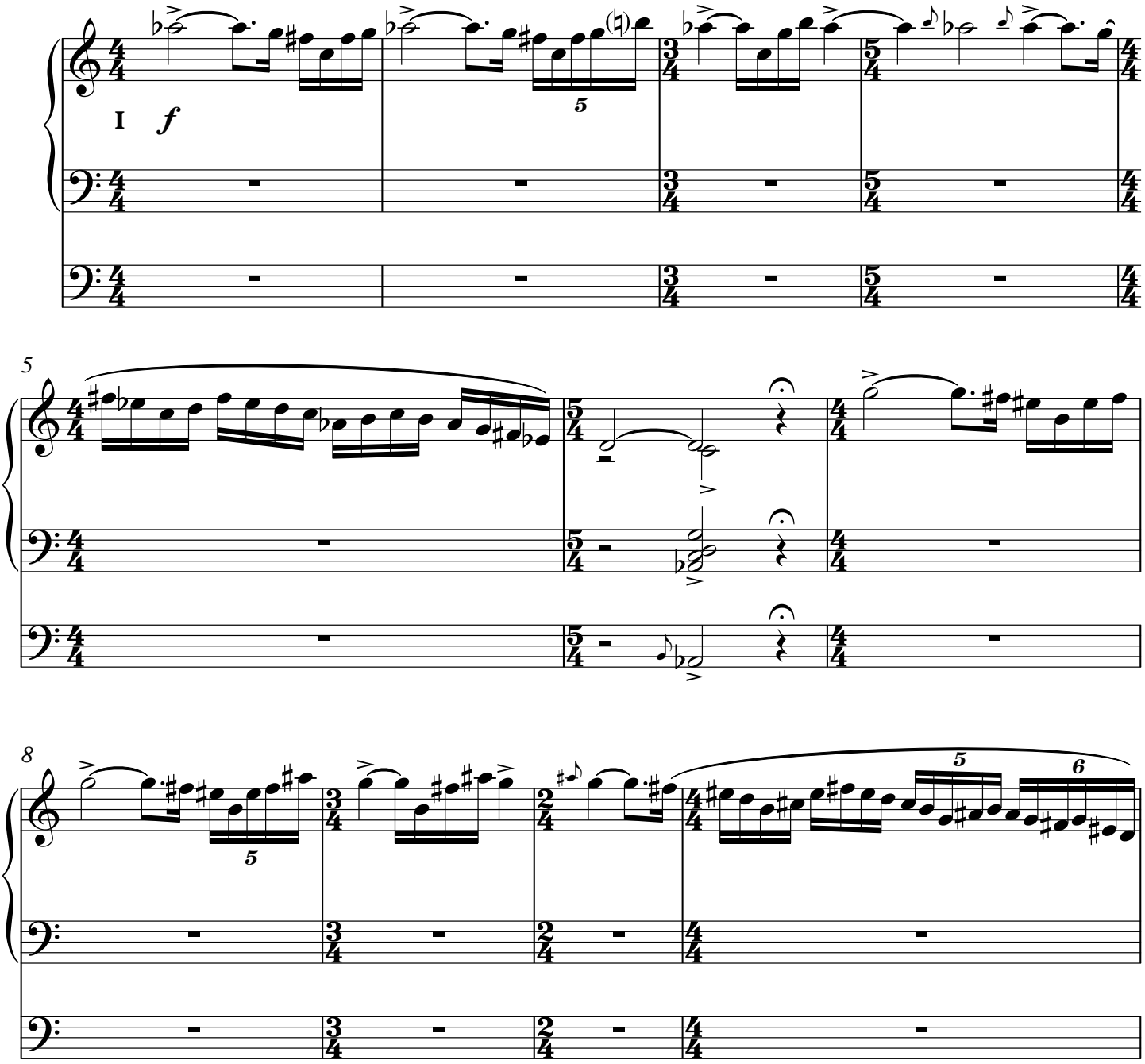
I. Outbreak

I : Fonds 8' 4' 2', mixture
II : Fonds 8' 4' 2', mixtures,
reeds 8' 4'
III : Fonds 8' 4' 2', reeds 8'
Pd : Fonds 16' 8' 4', mixture,
reeds 16' 8'
Manuals and pedals coupled

Kennedy Kimber-Johnson

Allegro con fuoco (♩ = 120)



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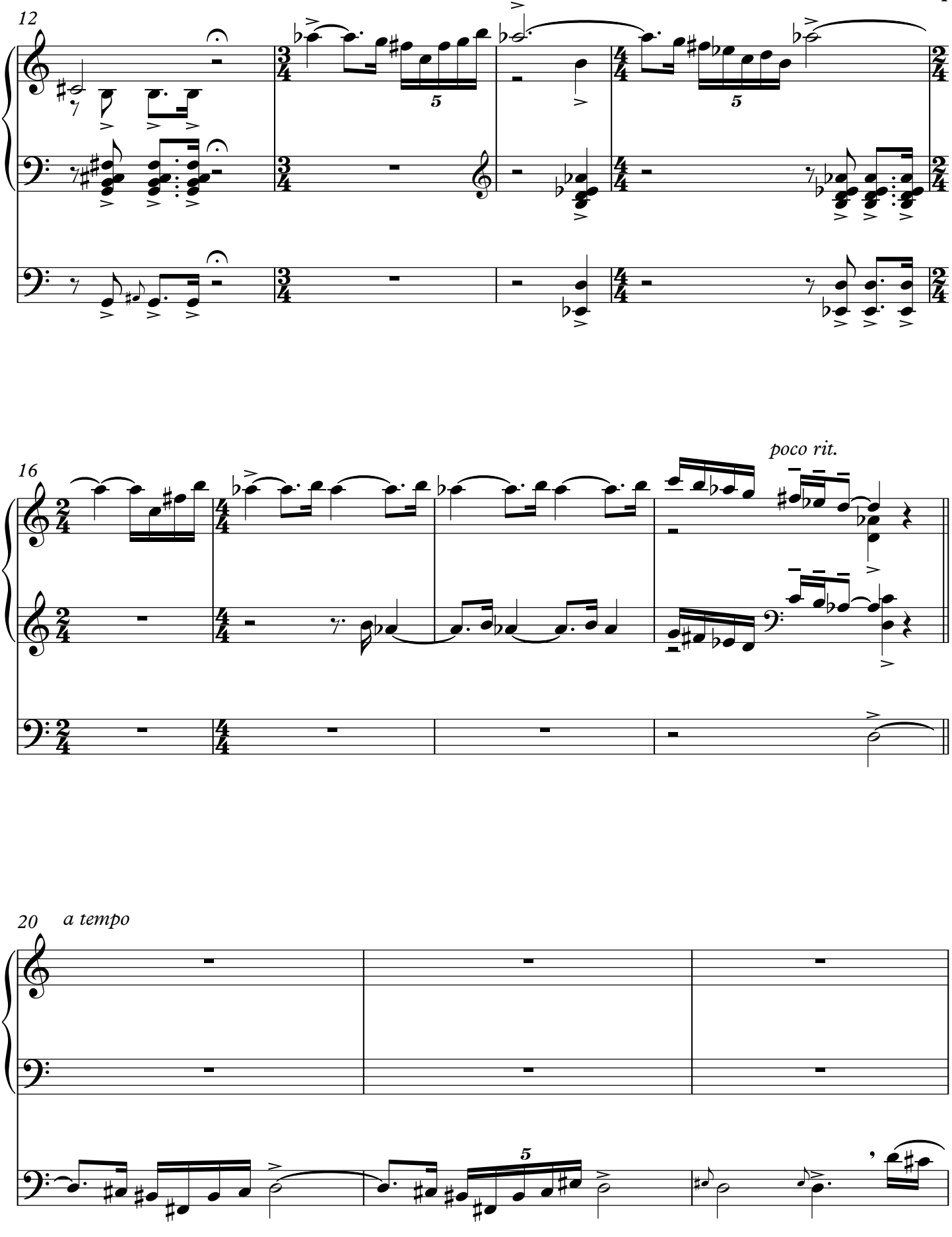
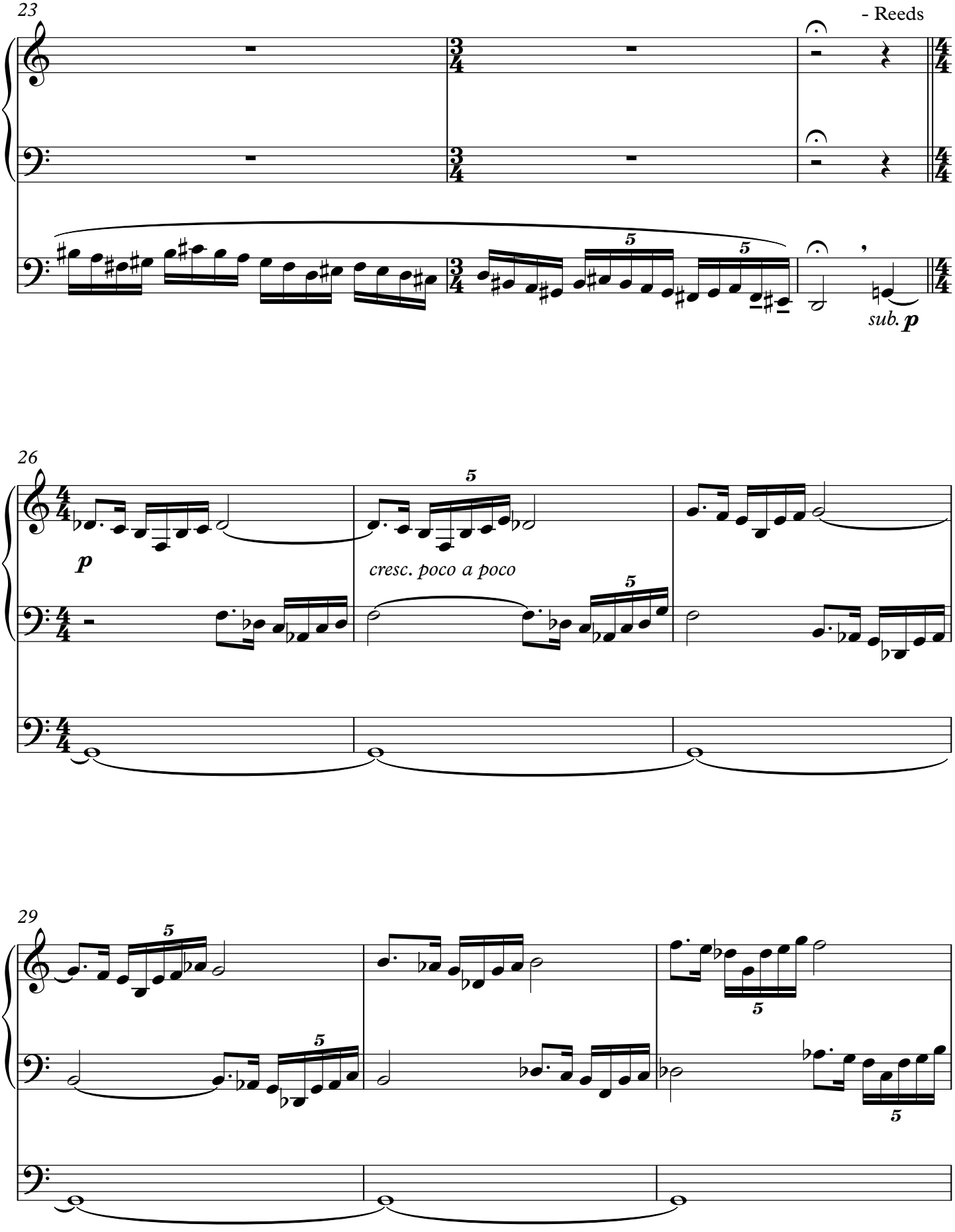
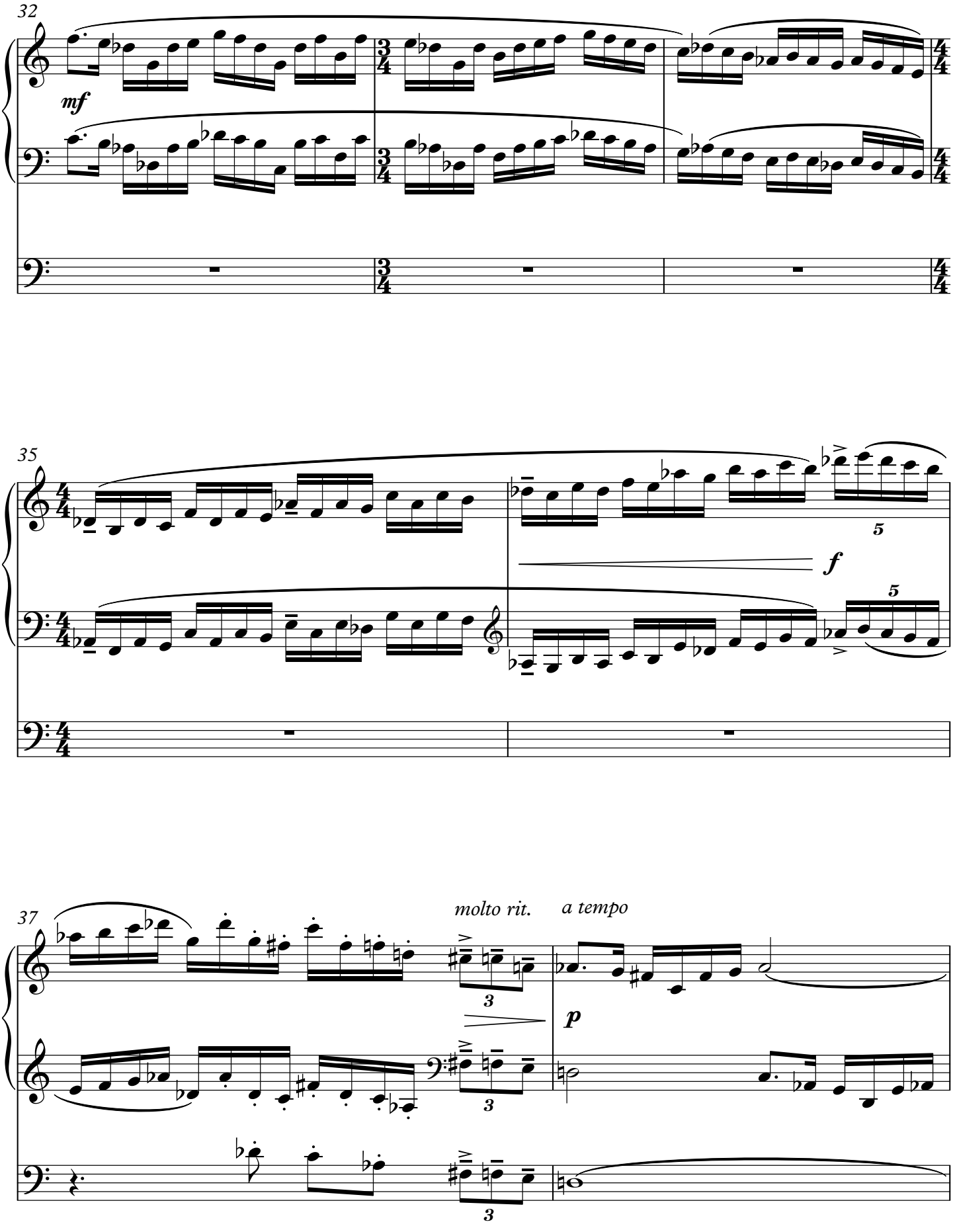

12
16
poco rit.
20
a tempo


23
- Reeds
sub. p
26
p
cresc. poco a poco
29


32
mf
35
f
5
37
molto rit.
a tempo
p
3

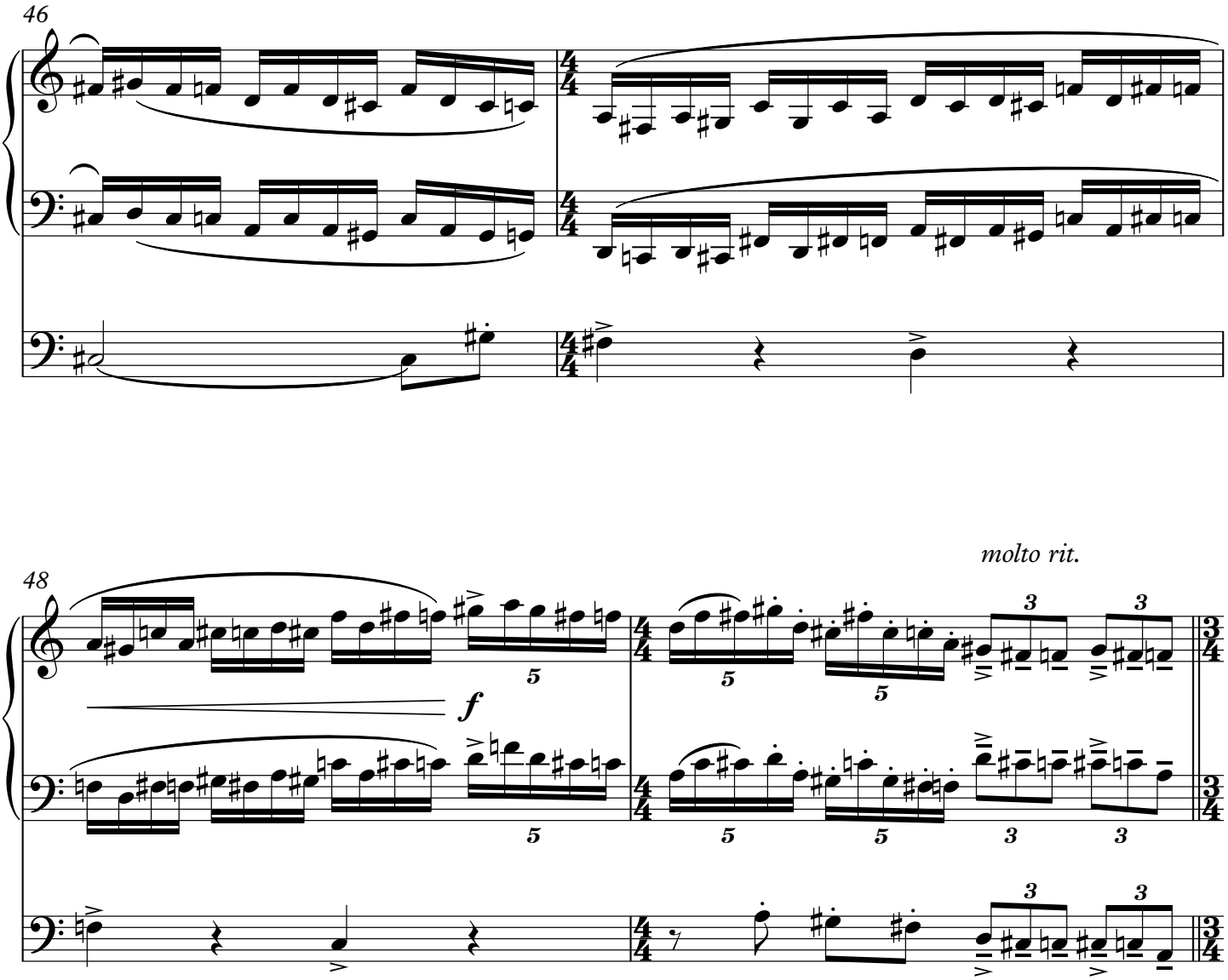
39

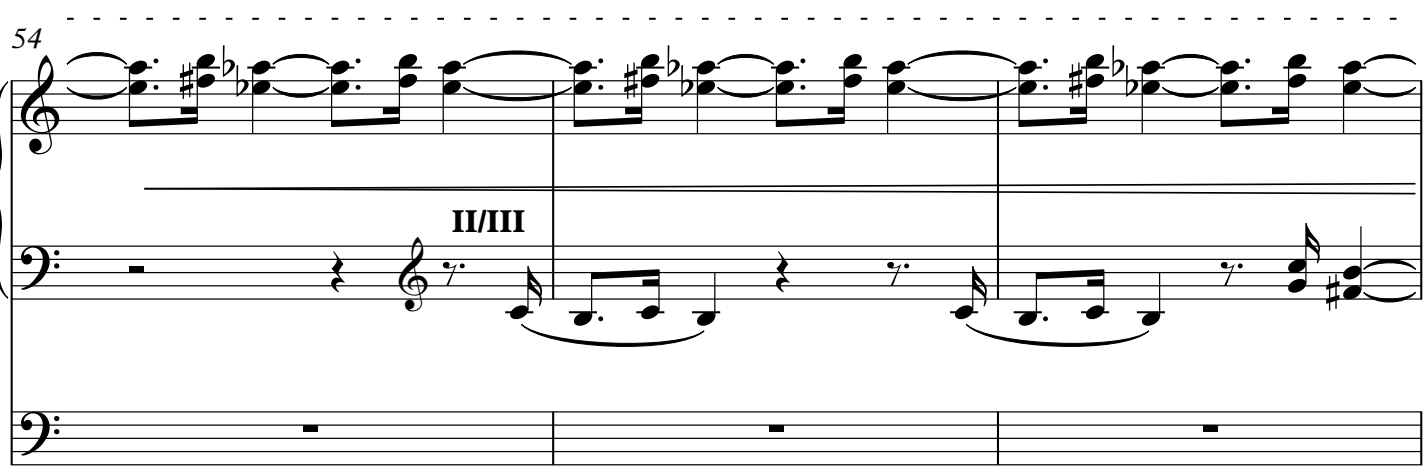
cresc. poco a poco

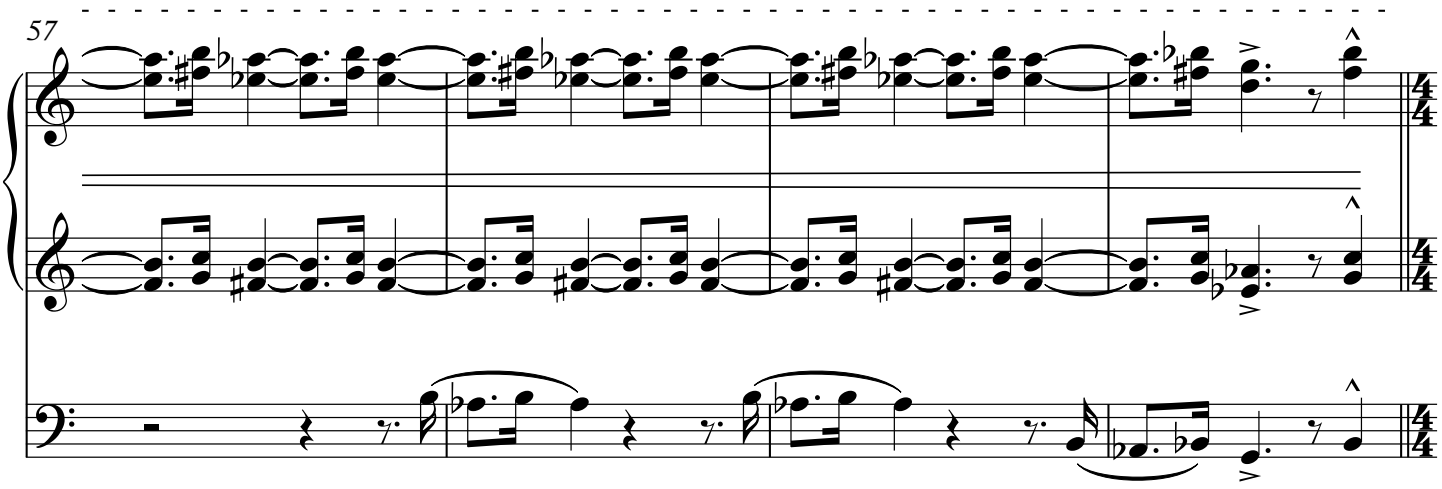
42

44

mf


46
48
molto rit.
f
Agitato ♩ = 100
50
II/III
pp
accel. poco a poco


54
II/III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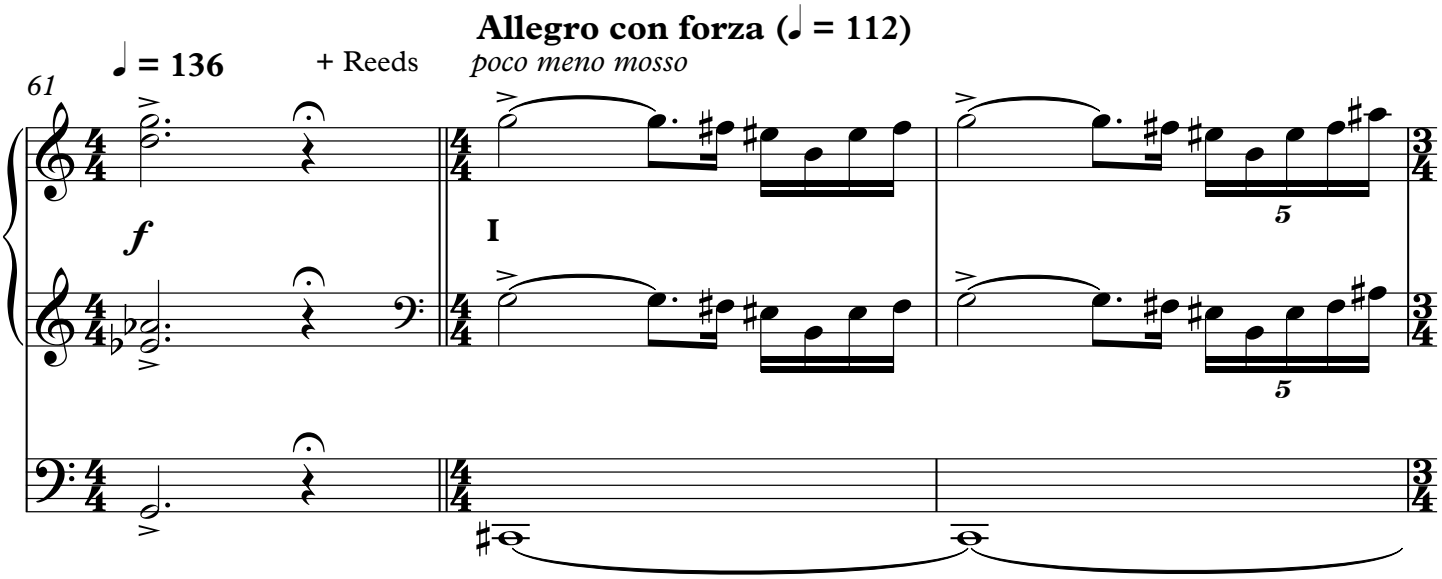
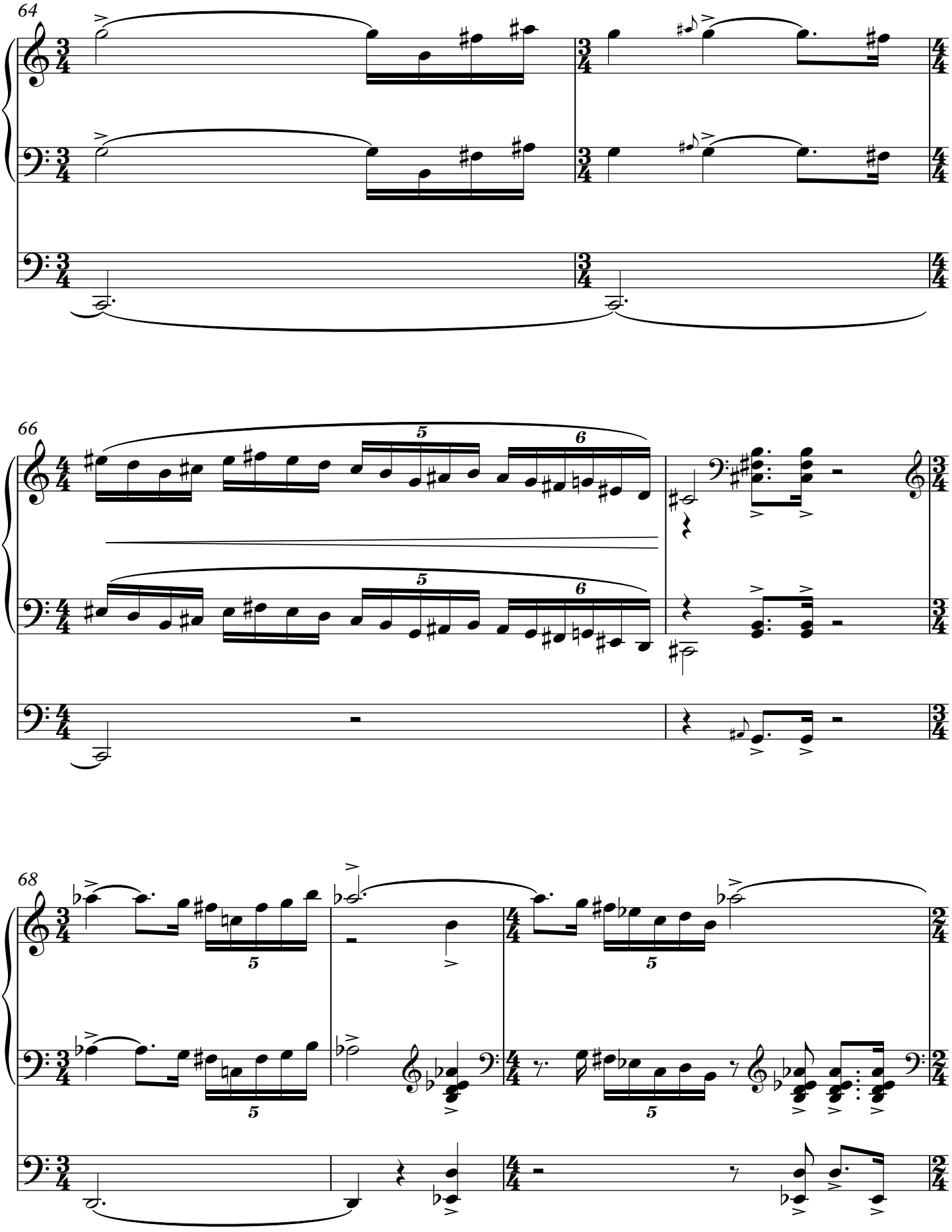
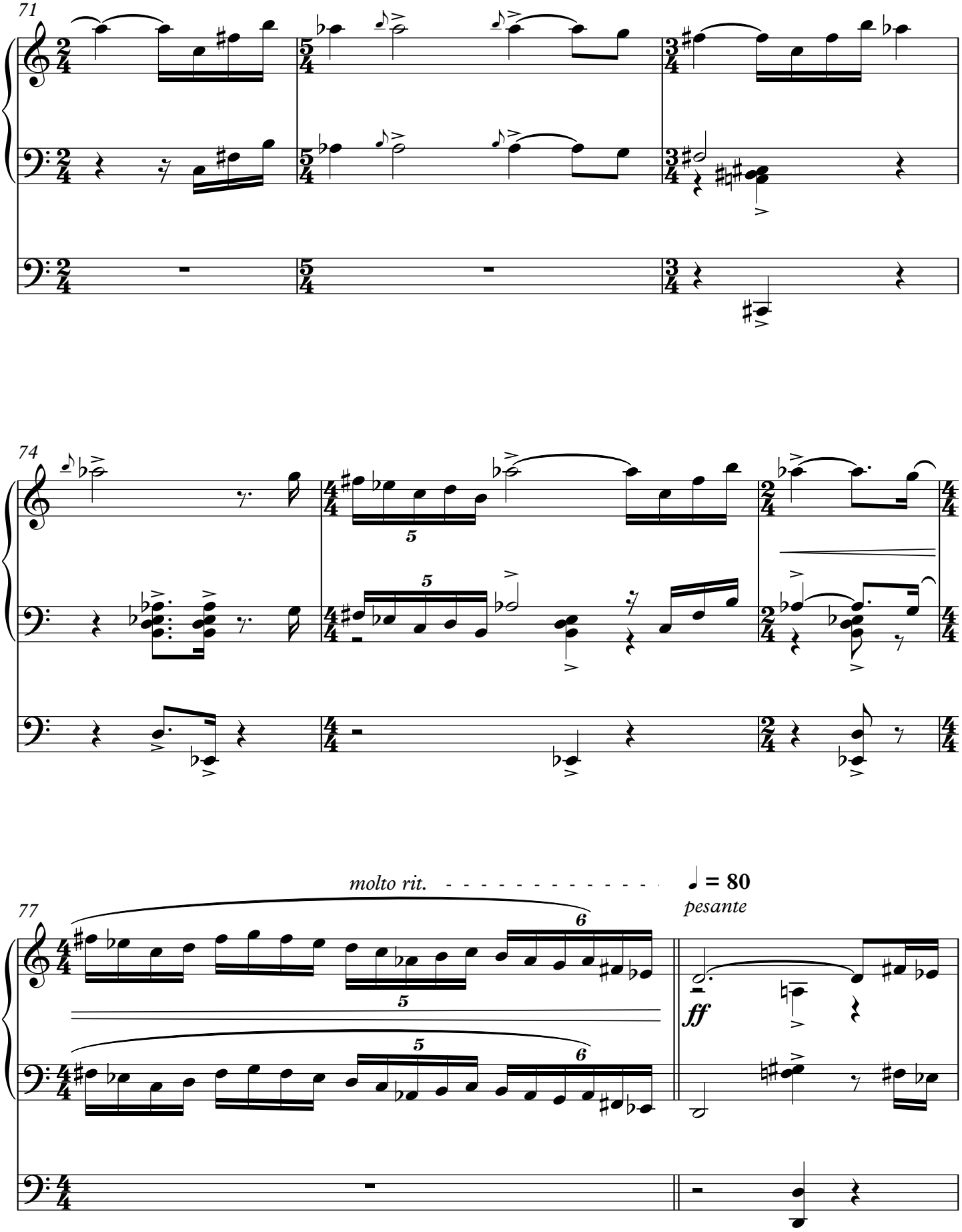
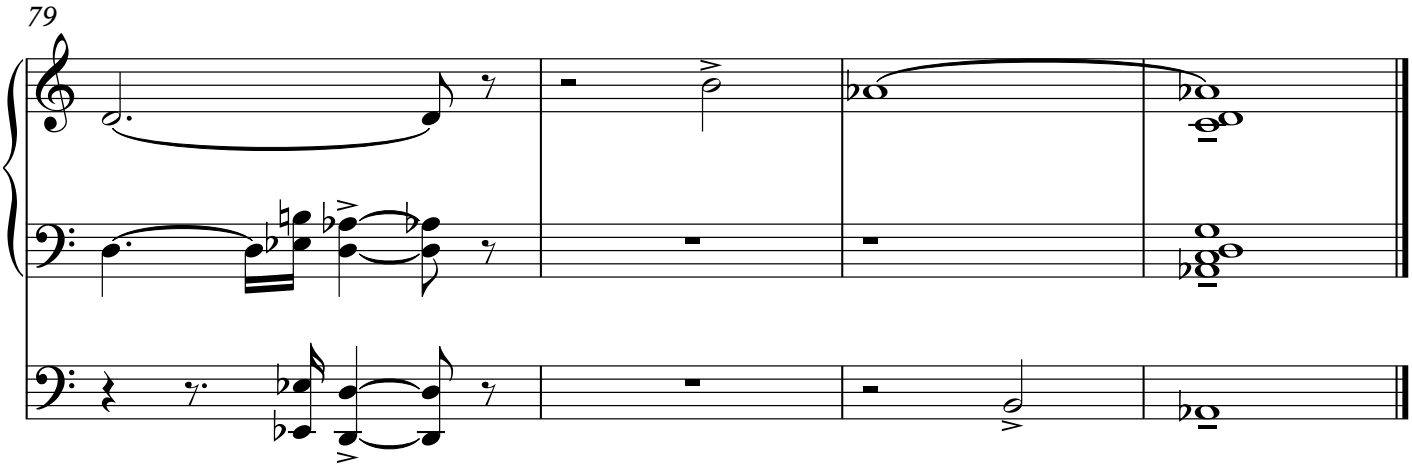

Allegro con forza (♩ = 112)
♩ = 136
+ Reeds
poco meno mosso
61
f
I
5
5


64
66
68

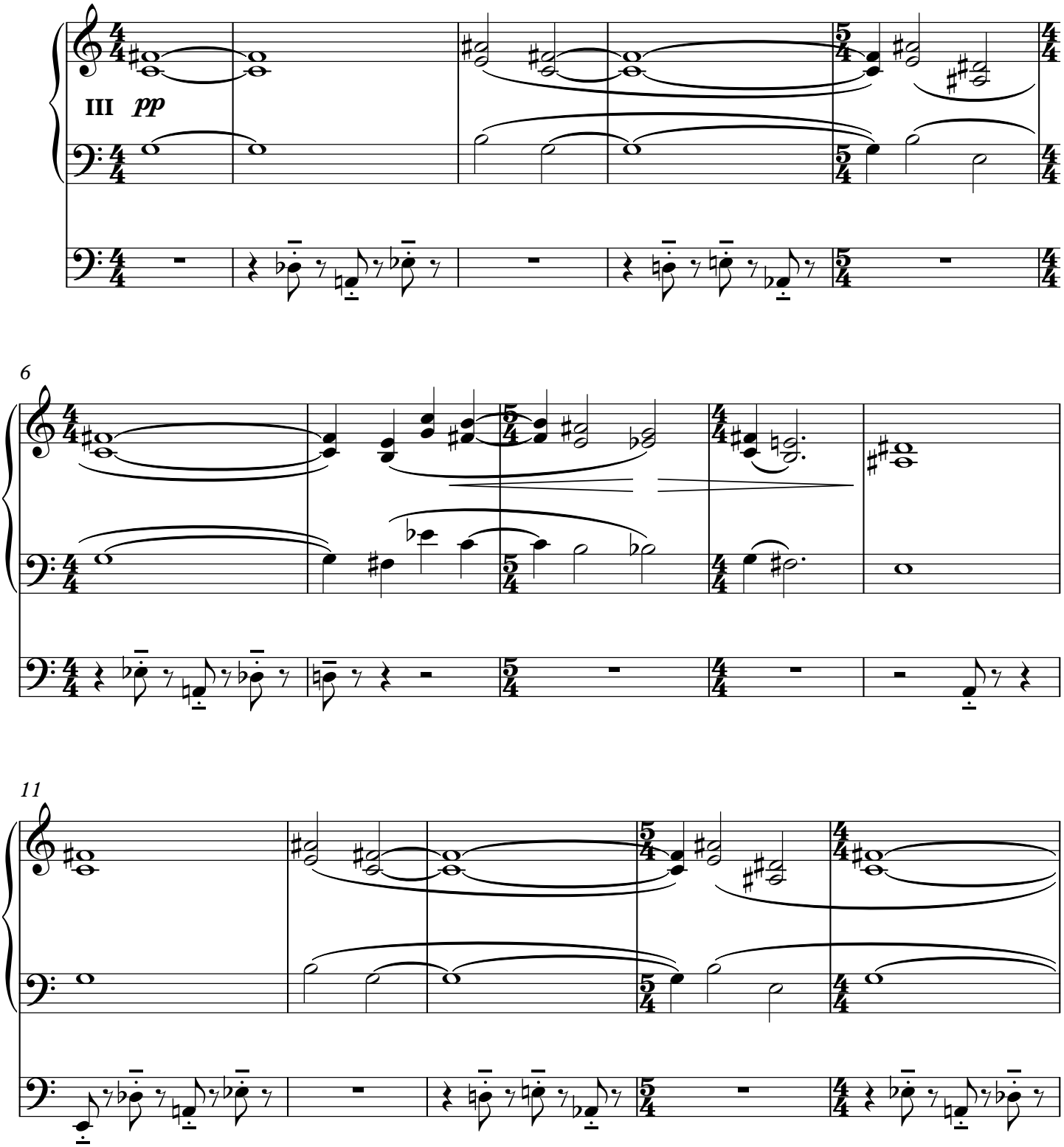

71
74
77
molto rit.
♩ = 80
pesante
ff

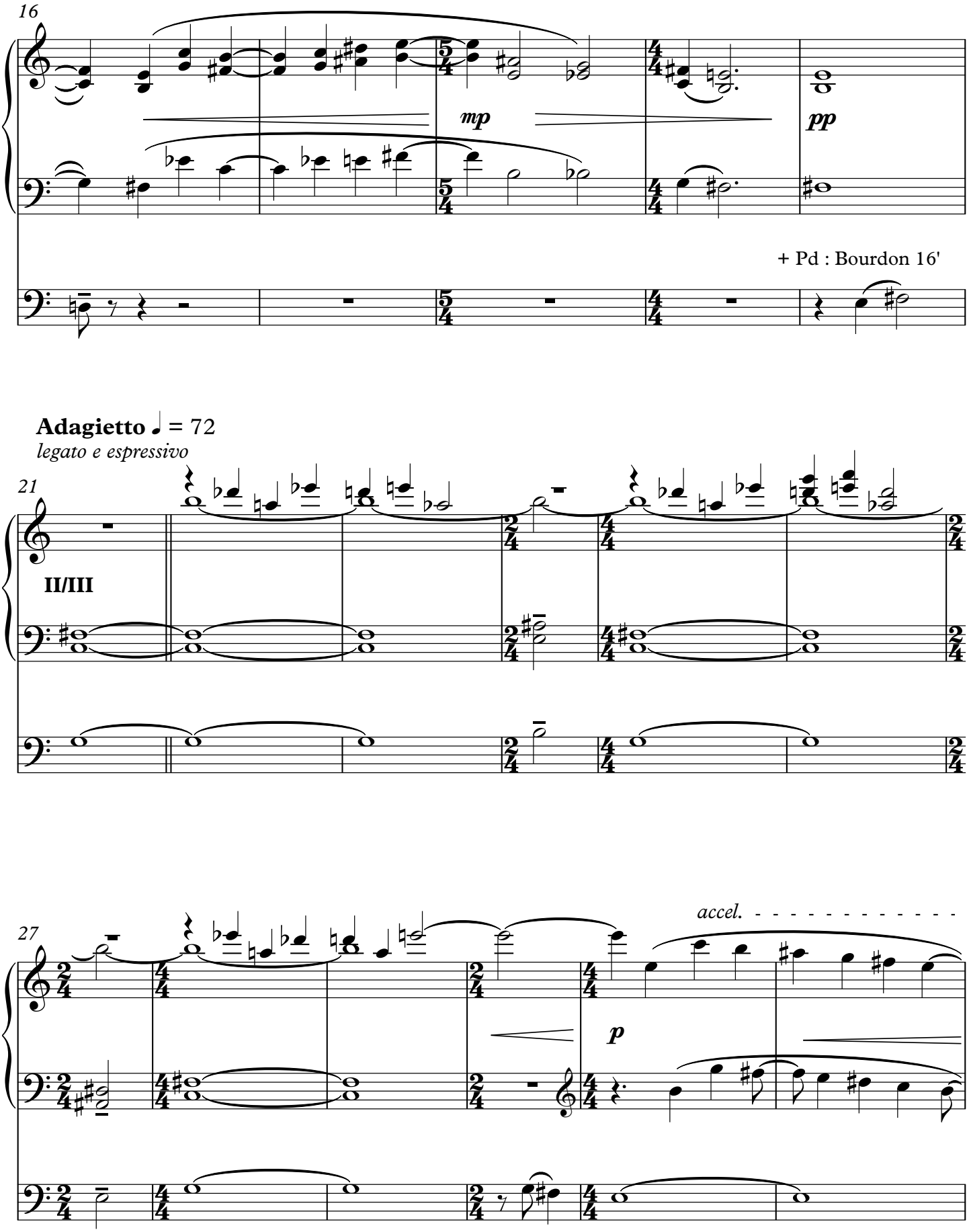

79

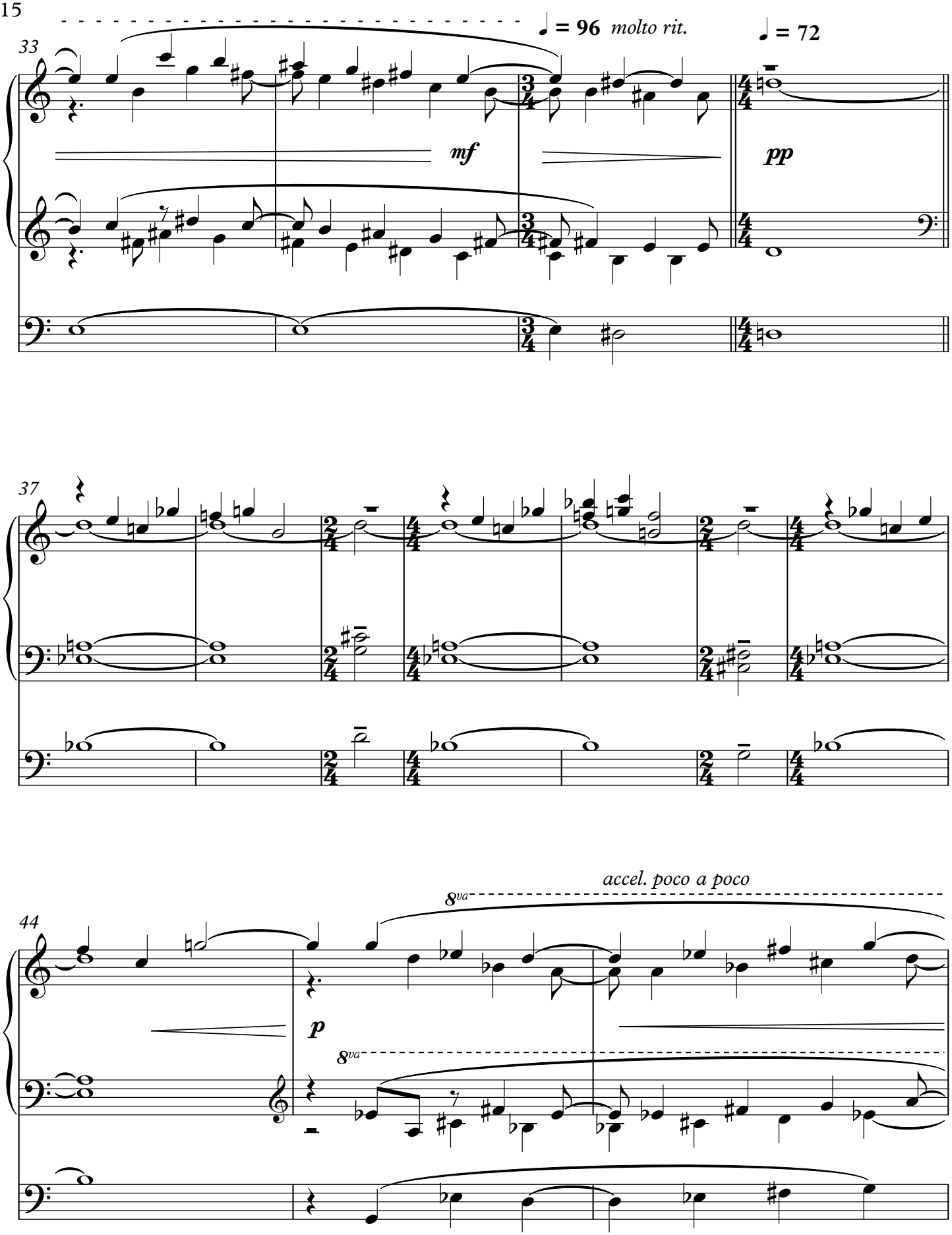
II. Isolation

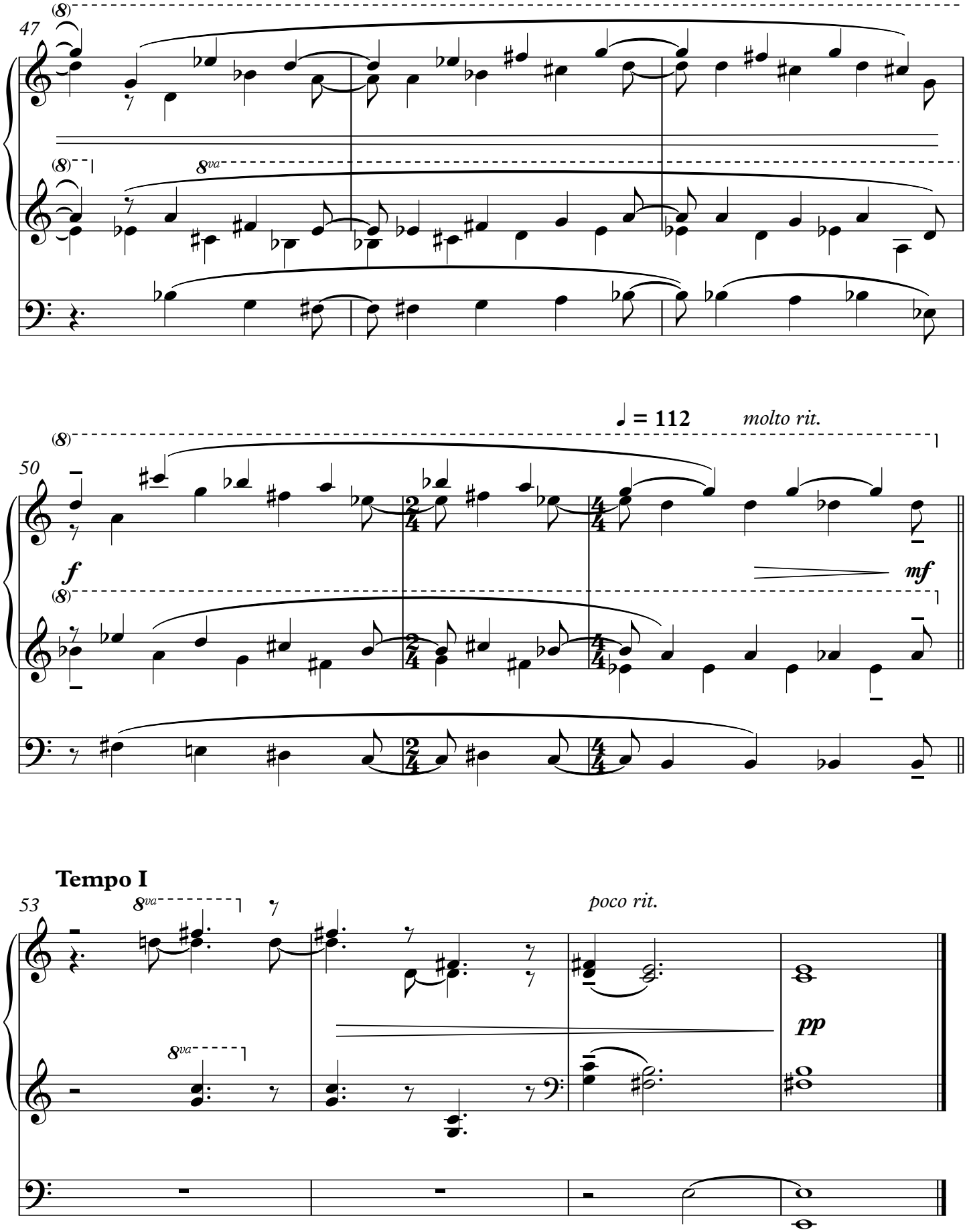
II : Flute 8', Soft principal 8'
III : Strings
Pd : soft 16', III/Pd

Lento (♩ = 56)
sostenuto e solenne




16
mp
pp
+ Pd : Bourdon 16'
Adagietto ♩ = 72
legato e espressivo
21
II/III
27
accel.
p

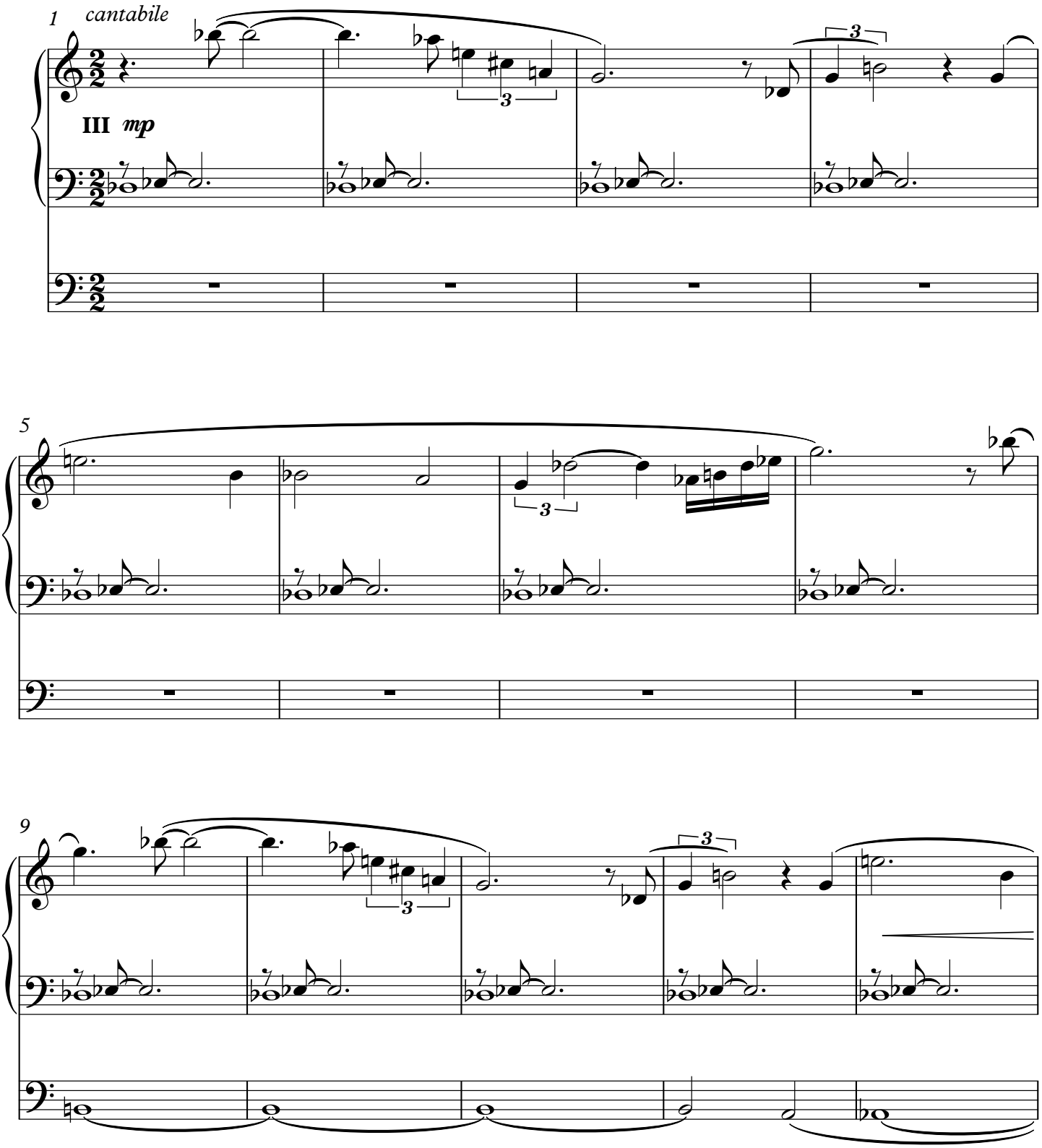

33
♩ = 96 molto rit.
♩ = 72
mf
pp
37
accel. poco a poco
8va
44
p
8va

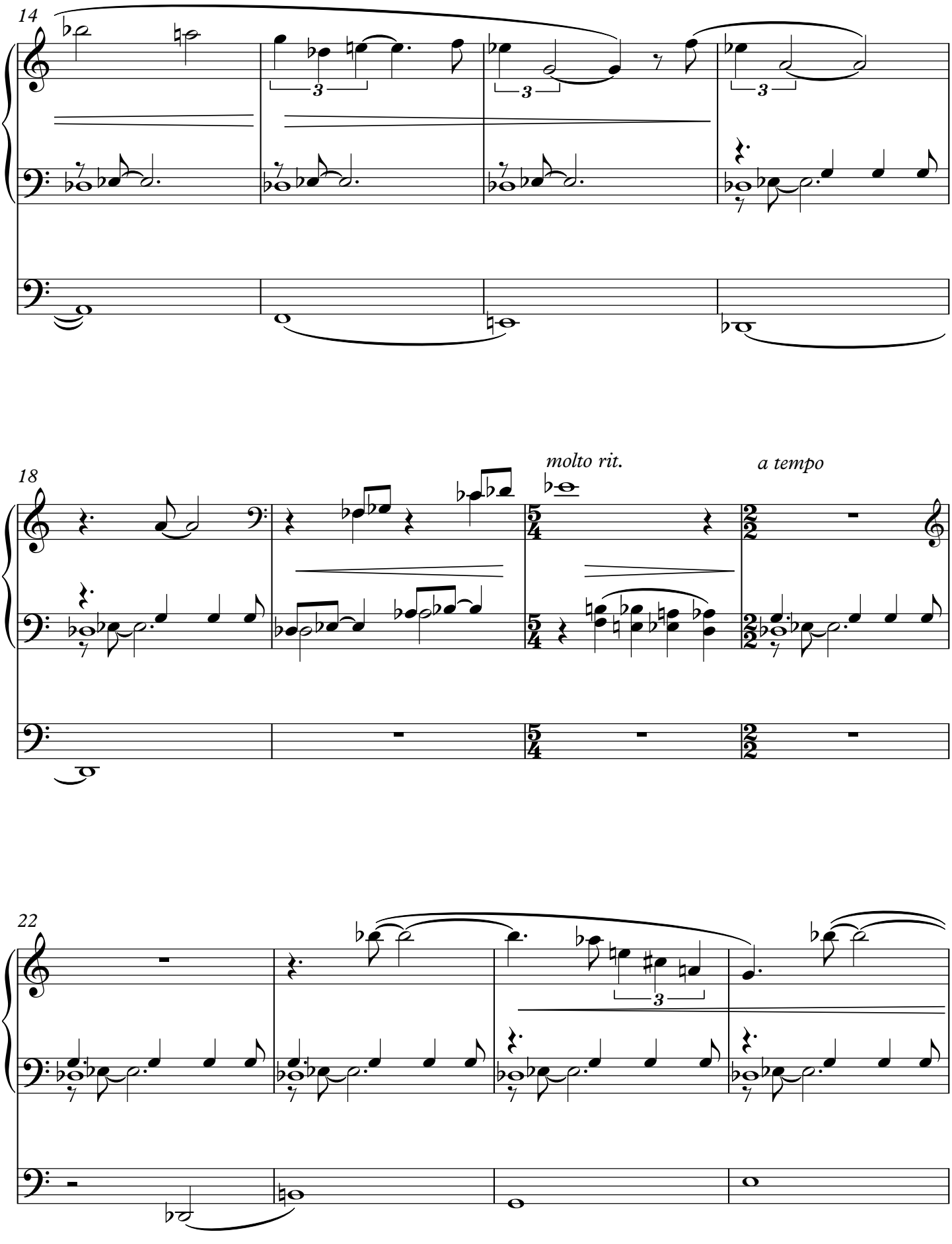

47
8va
50
♩ = 112
molto rit.
f
mf
Tempo I
53
8va
poco rit.
pp

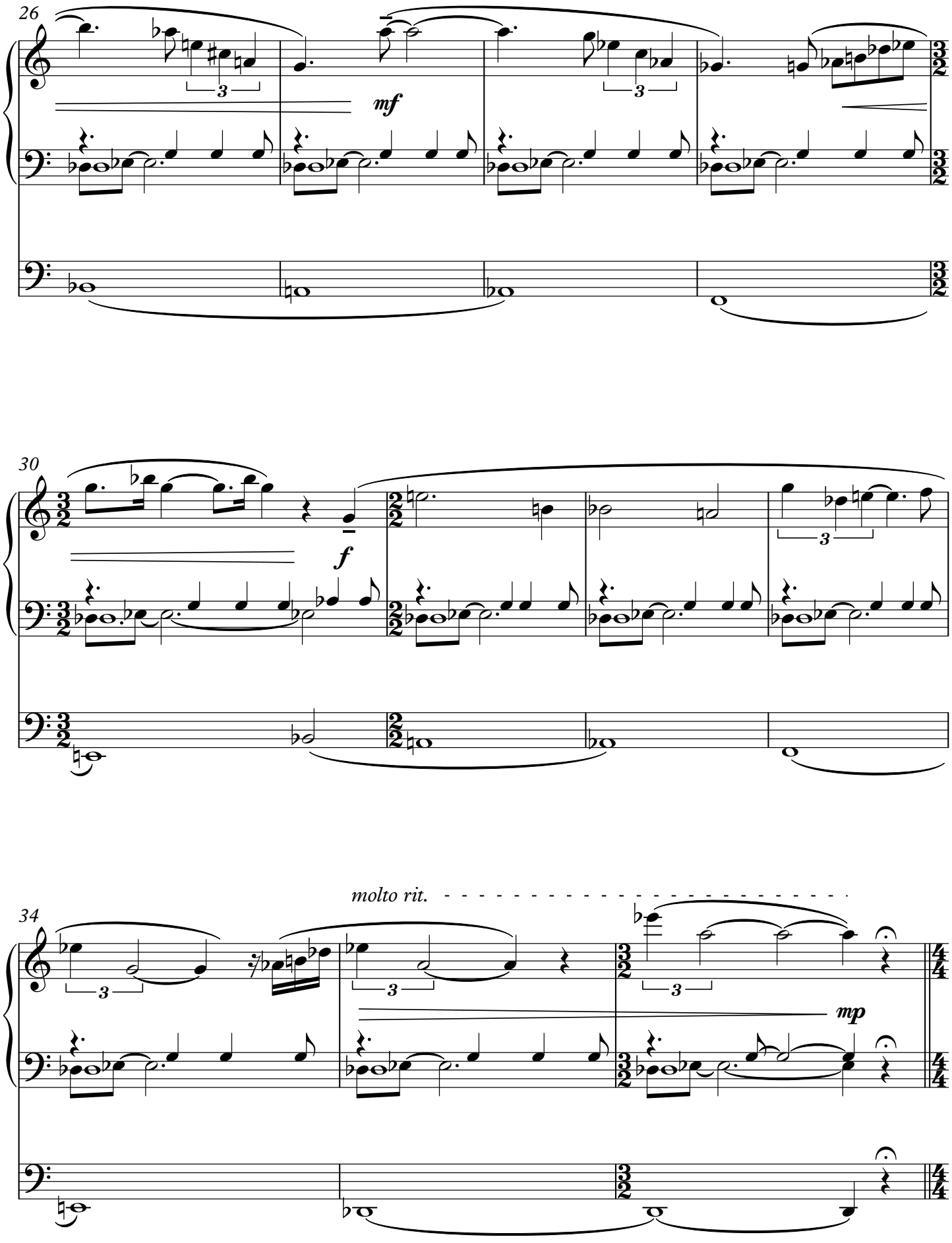
III. Reflection

II : Strings, Flute 8' 4'
III : Fonds 8', Voix Celeste,
II/III
Pd : Flute 16' 8', II/Pd, III/Pd

Andante (𝅗𝅥 = 50)

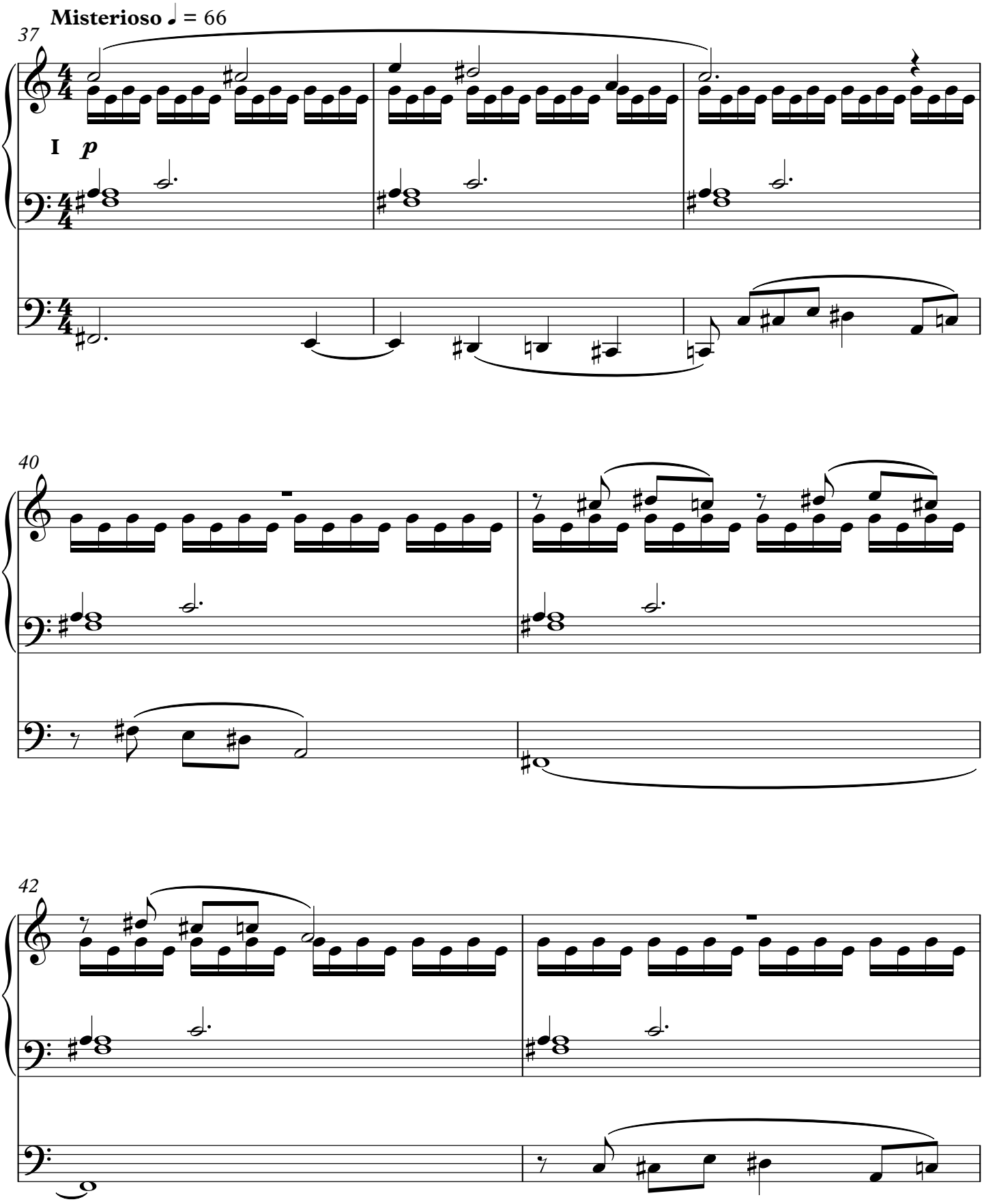


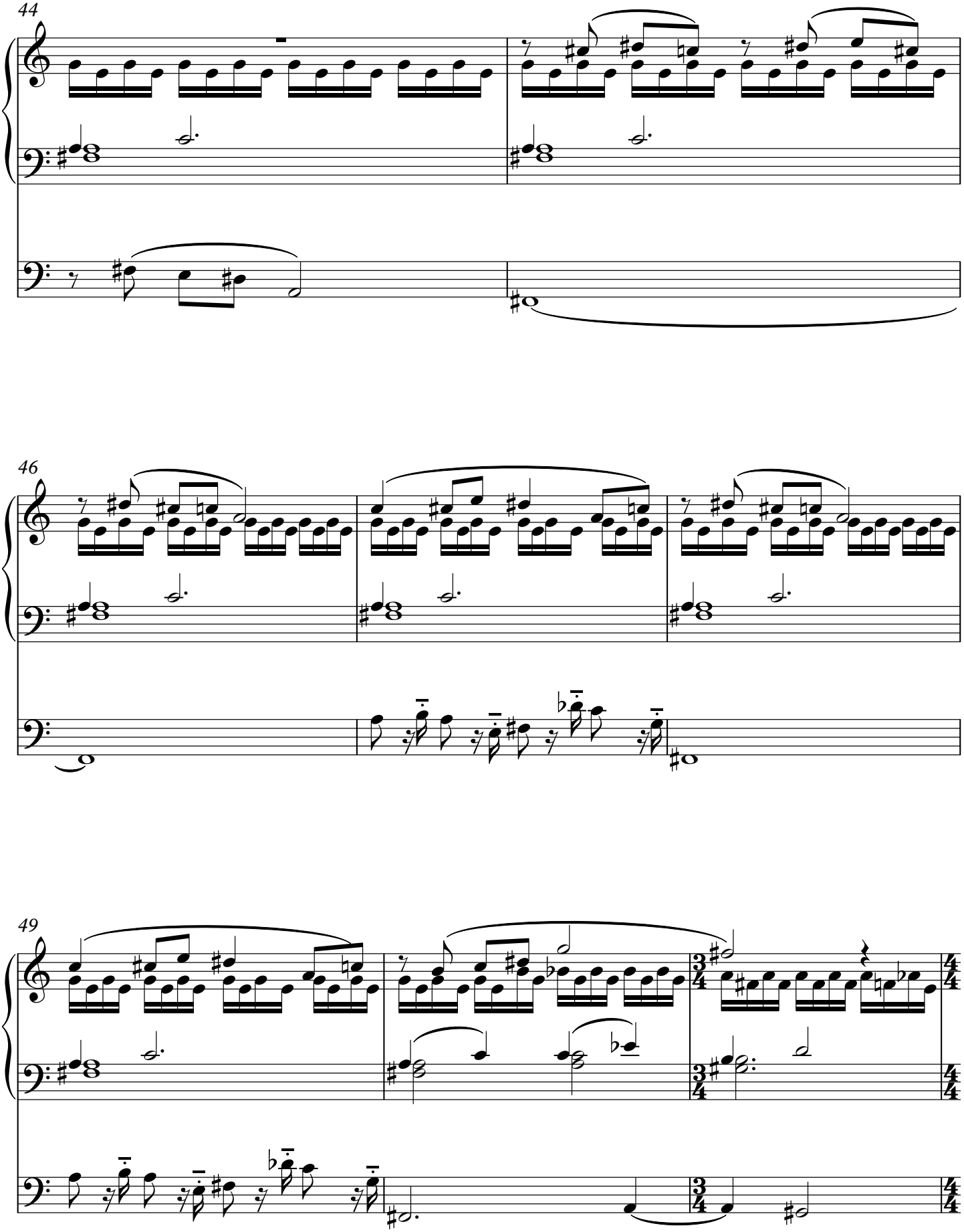

14
18
molto rit.
a tempo
22

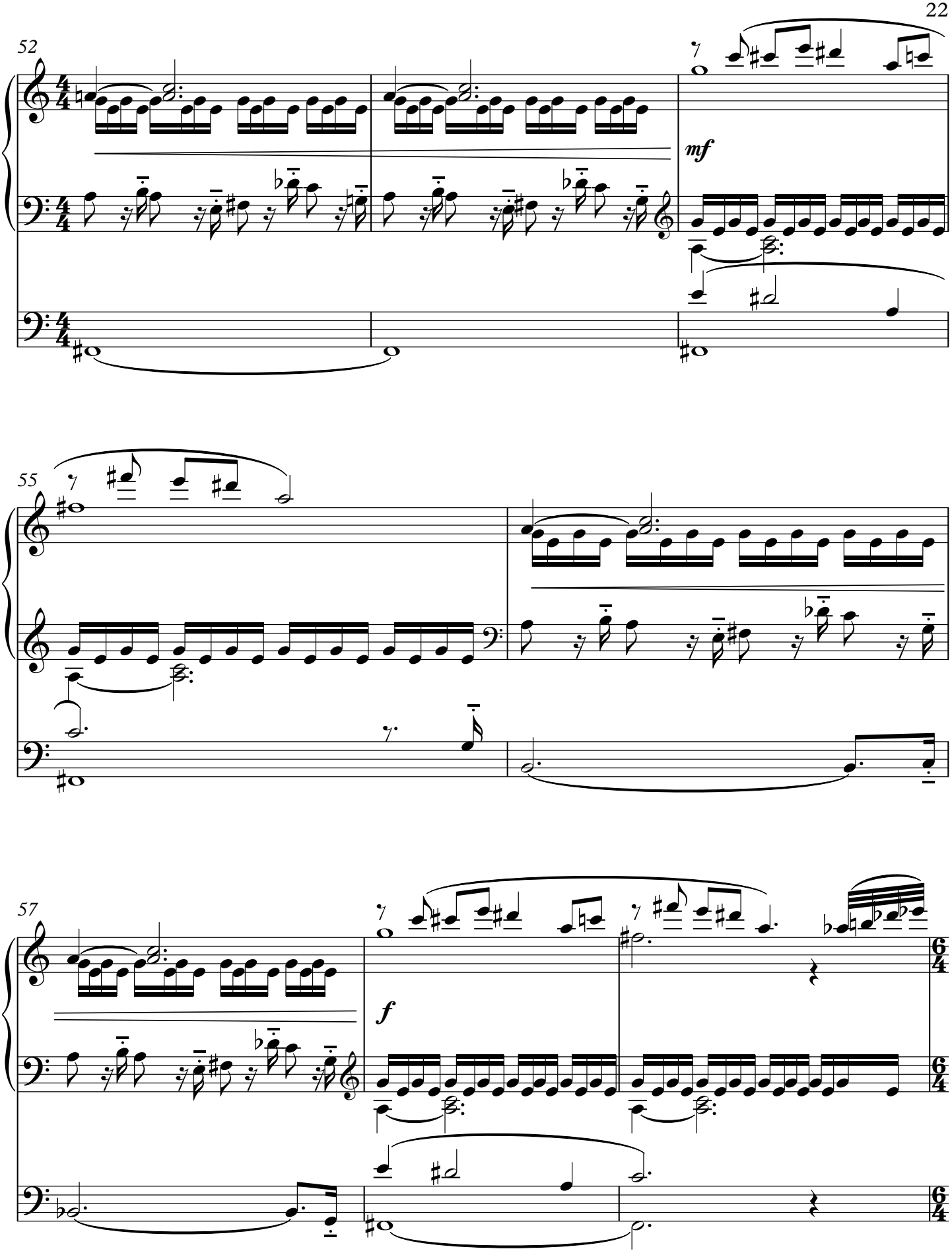

26
mf
30
f
molto rit.
34
mp

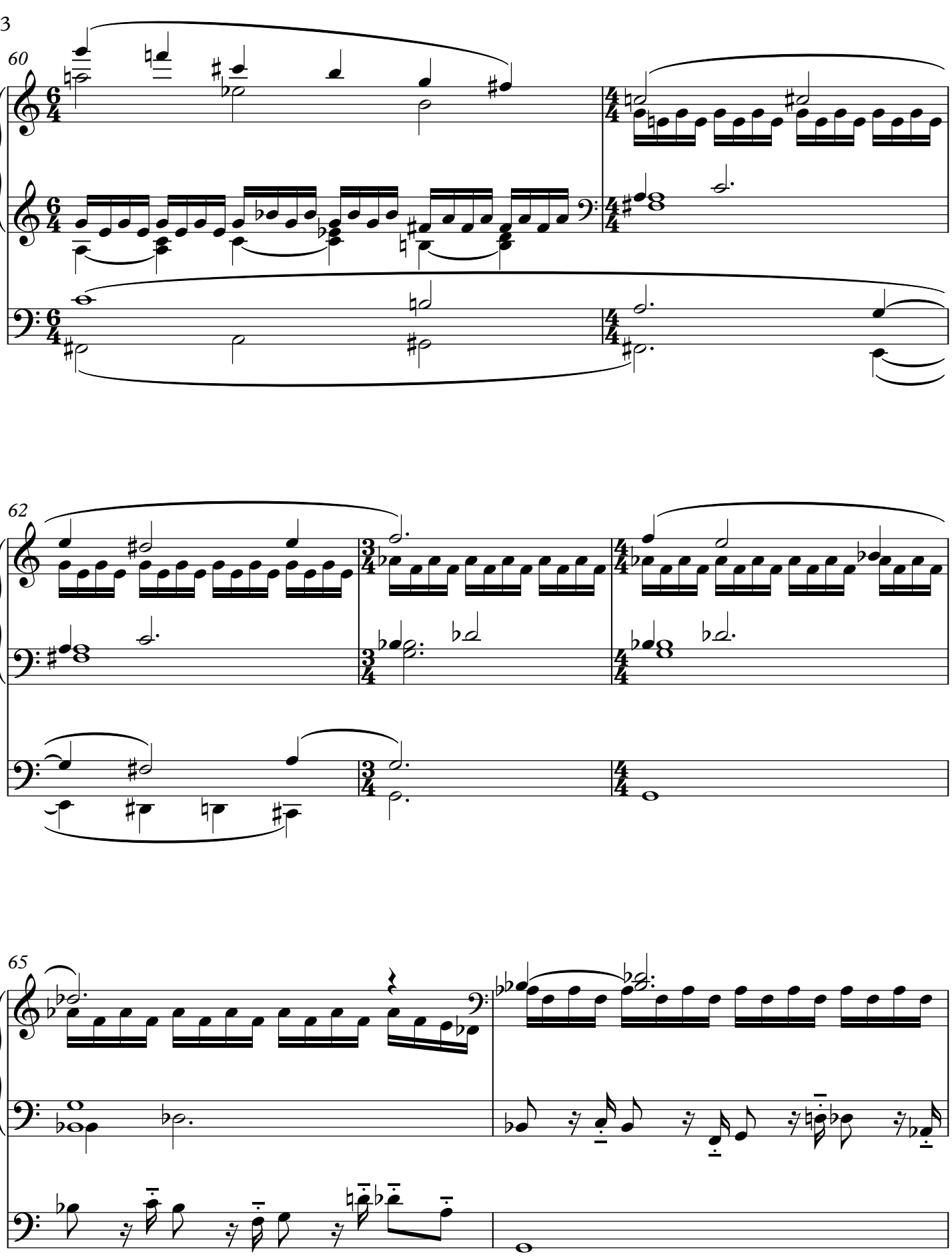
I : Principals 8' 4', Flute 8'
II : Fonds 8' 4', (with oboe)
Manuals and pedals coupled

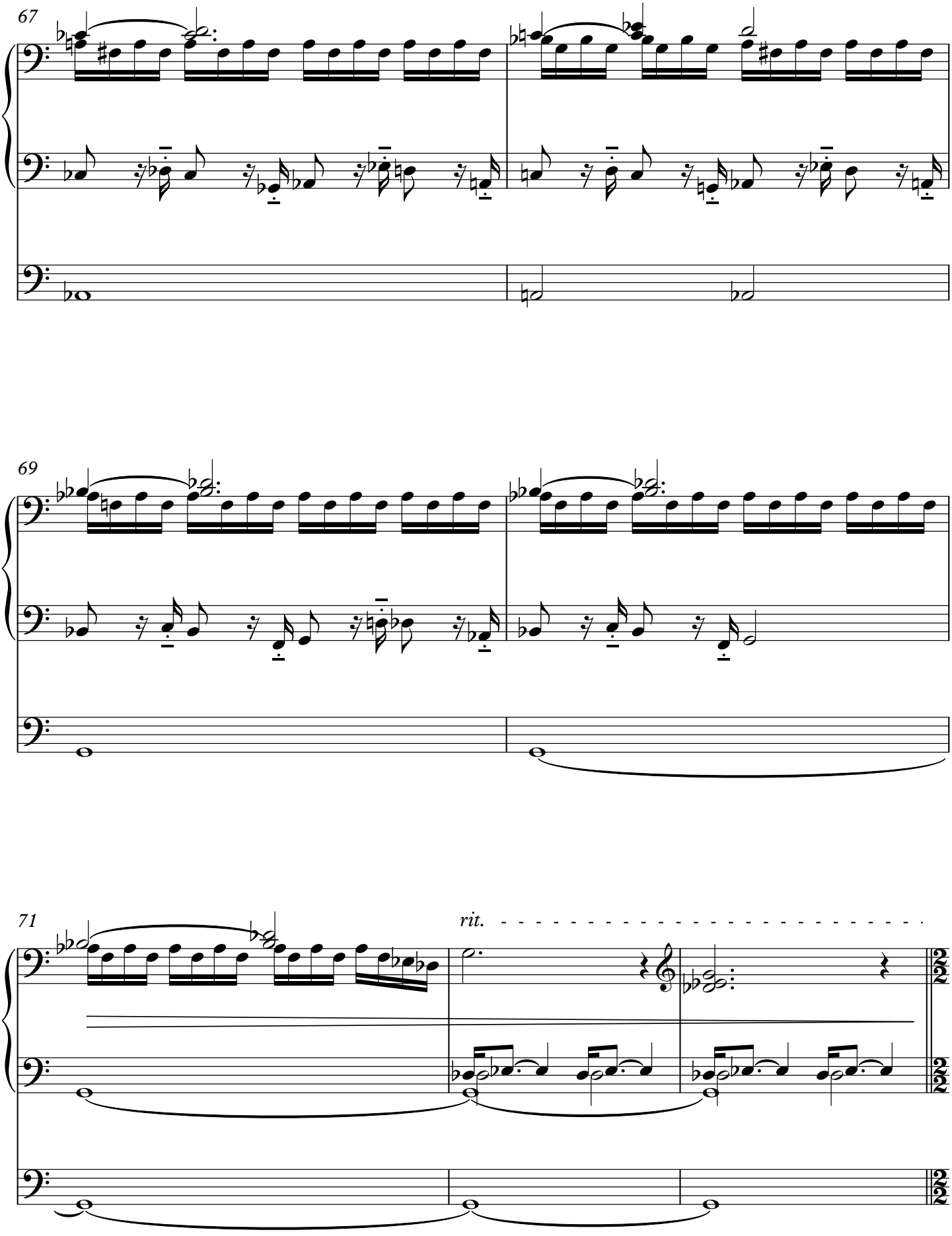
III : Fonds 8' (- voix celeste)
Pd : Principal 16' 8', Flute 16' 8'




44
46
49


52
mf
55
57
f


60
62
65

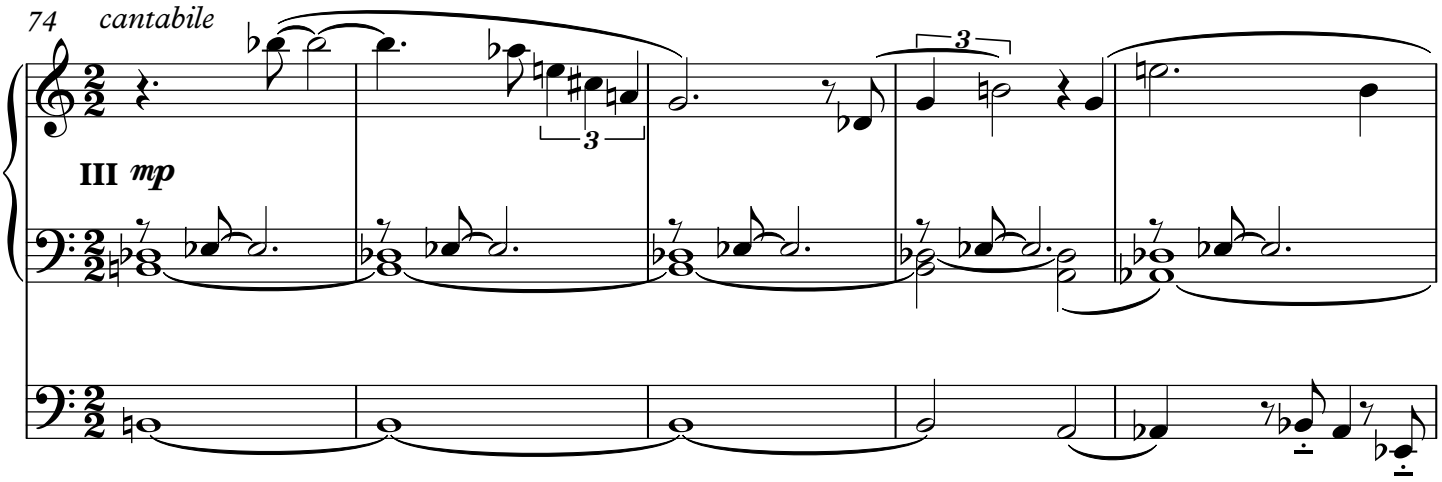

67
69
71
rit.

II : Strings, Flute 8' 4'
III : Fonds 8', Voix Celeste, II/III
Pd : Flute 16' 8', II/Pd, III/Pd

Tempo I (𝅗𝅥 = 50)

74 *cantabile*

III ***mp***



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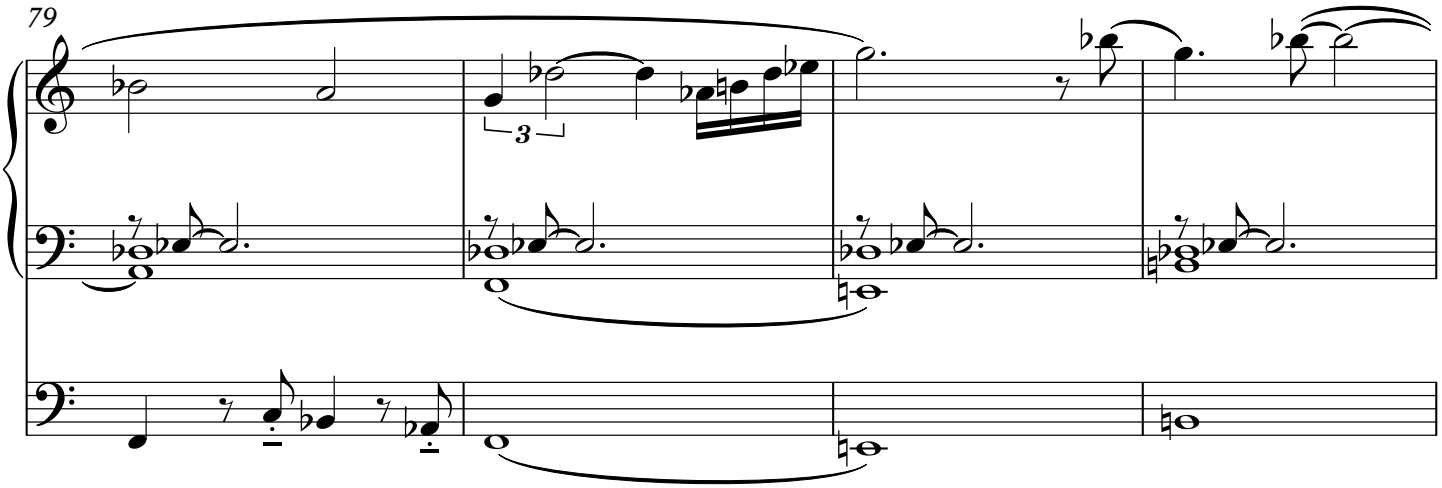
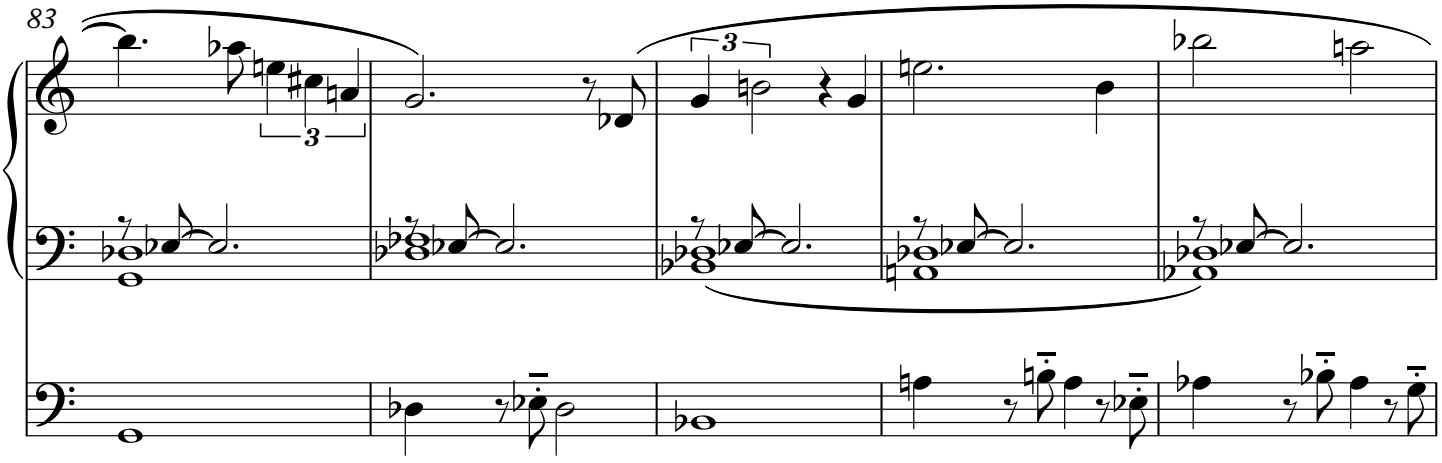


83



88

molto rit.

92 *poco meno mosso*

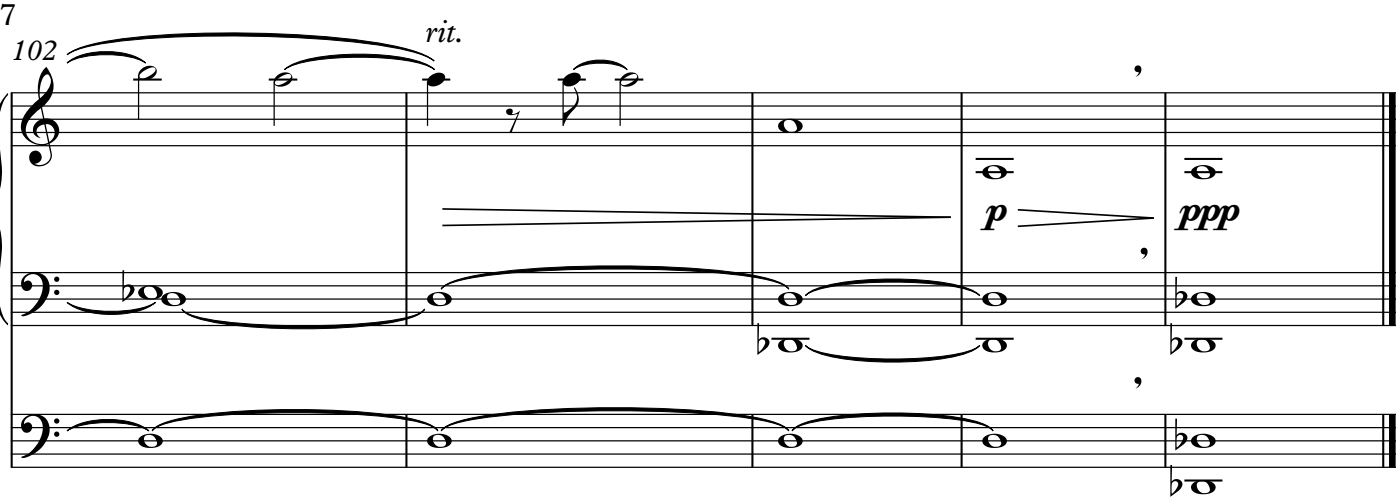
molto rit.

III : Strings, Voix Celeste
Pd : soft 16', III/Pd

Tempo I

96

sub. ***mf***

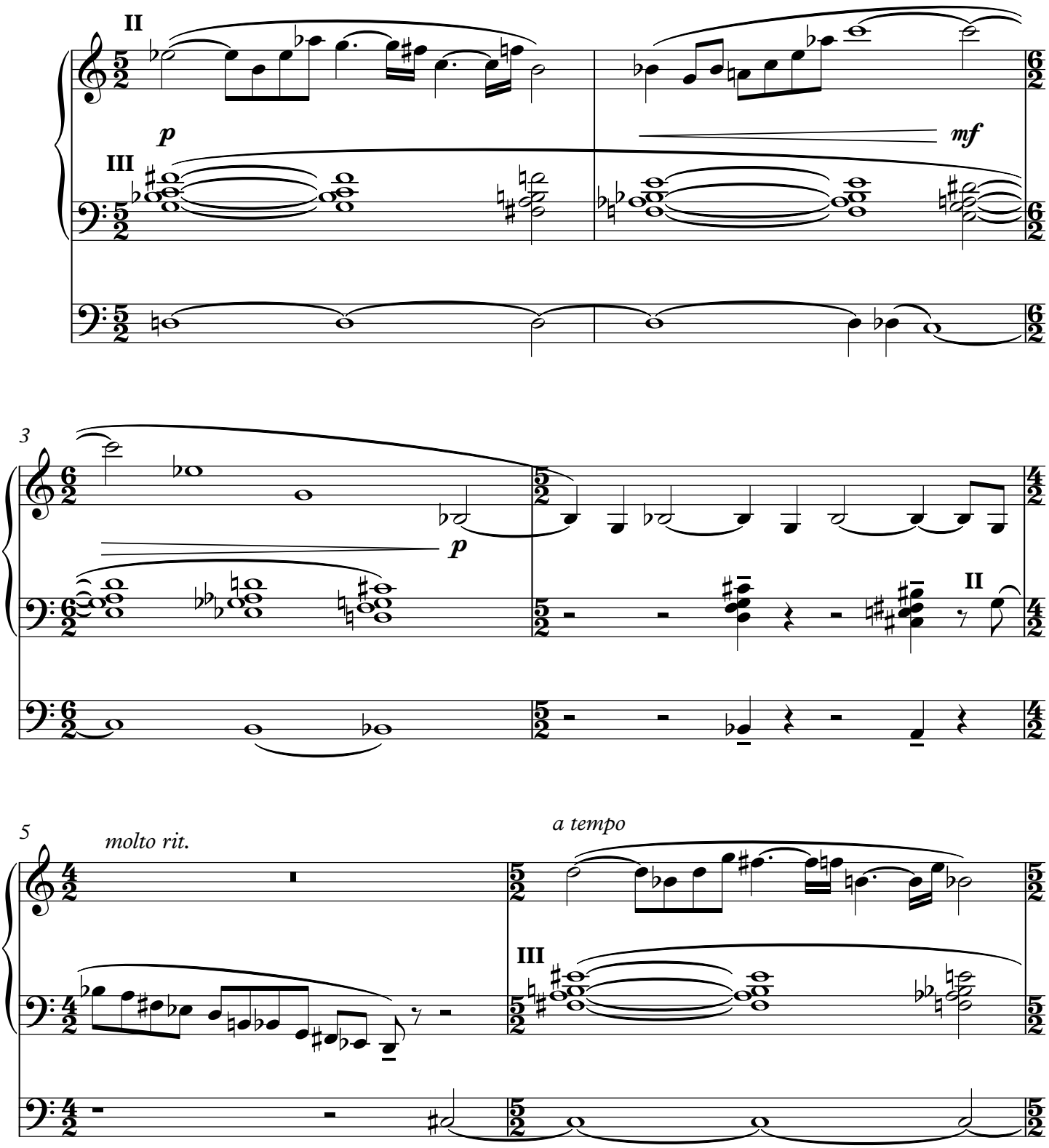

102
rit.
p
ppp

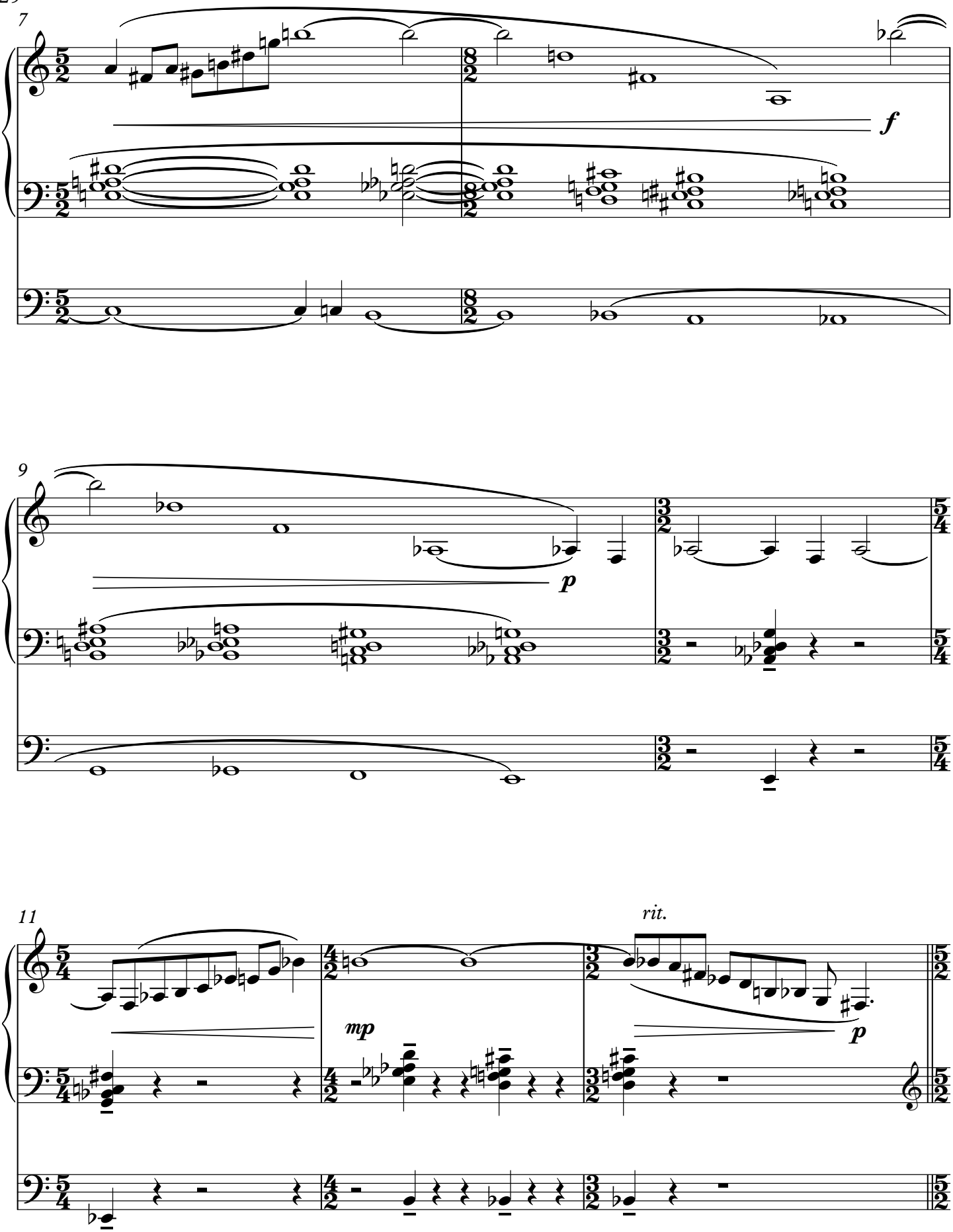
II : Hohl (Open) Flute 8'
III : Strings, Voix Celeste, Flute 8'
Pd : Bourdon 16', III/Pd

IV. Loss

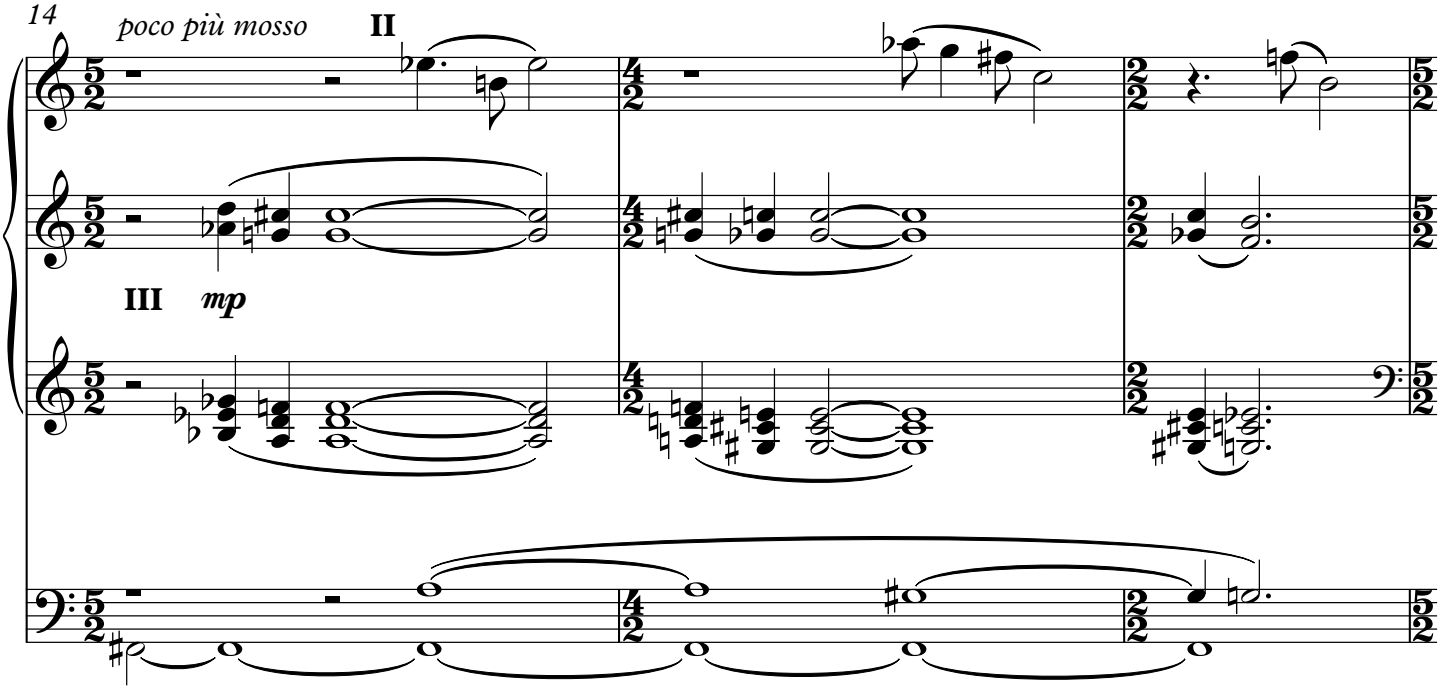
Grave (𝅗𝅥 = 30)

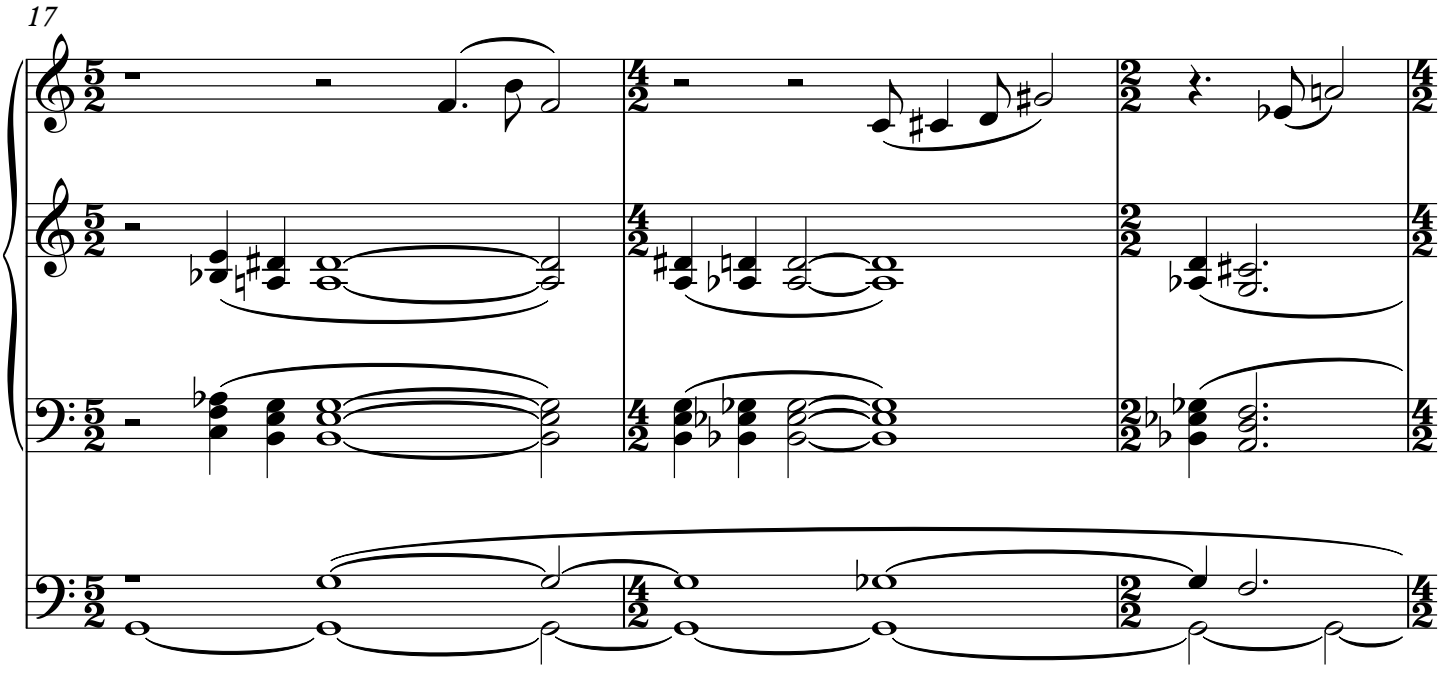
dolente




7
f
9
p
11
mp
rit.
p

II : Hohl Flute 8', III/II
III : Strings, Soft Principal 8'
Pd : Bourdon 16', III/Pd





20

rit.

p

Tempo I *legato e espressivo*

22

II Hohl Flute 8'

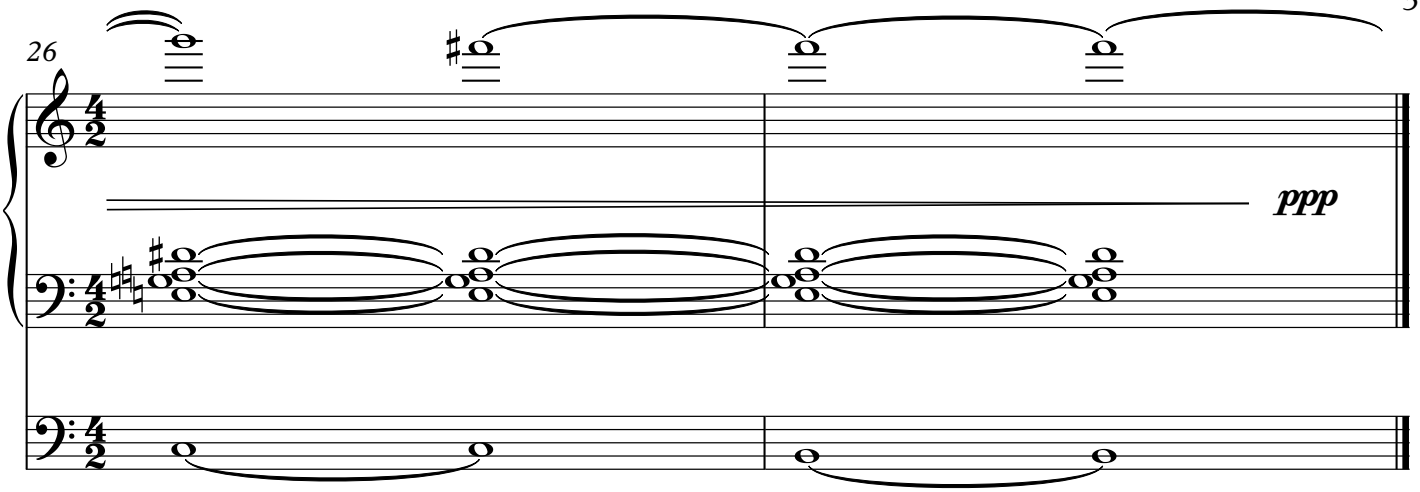
pp

III : Strings, Voix Celeste, Flute 8'
Pd : Bourdon 16', III/Pd

24

f

III

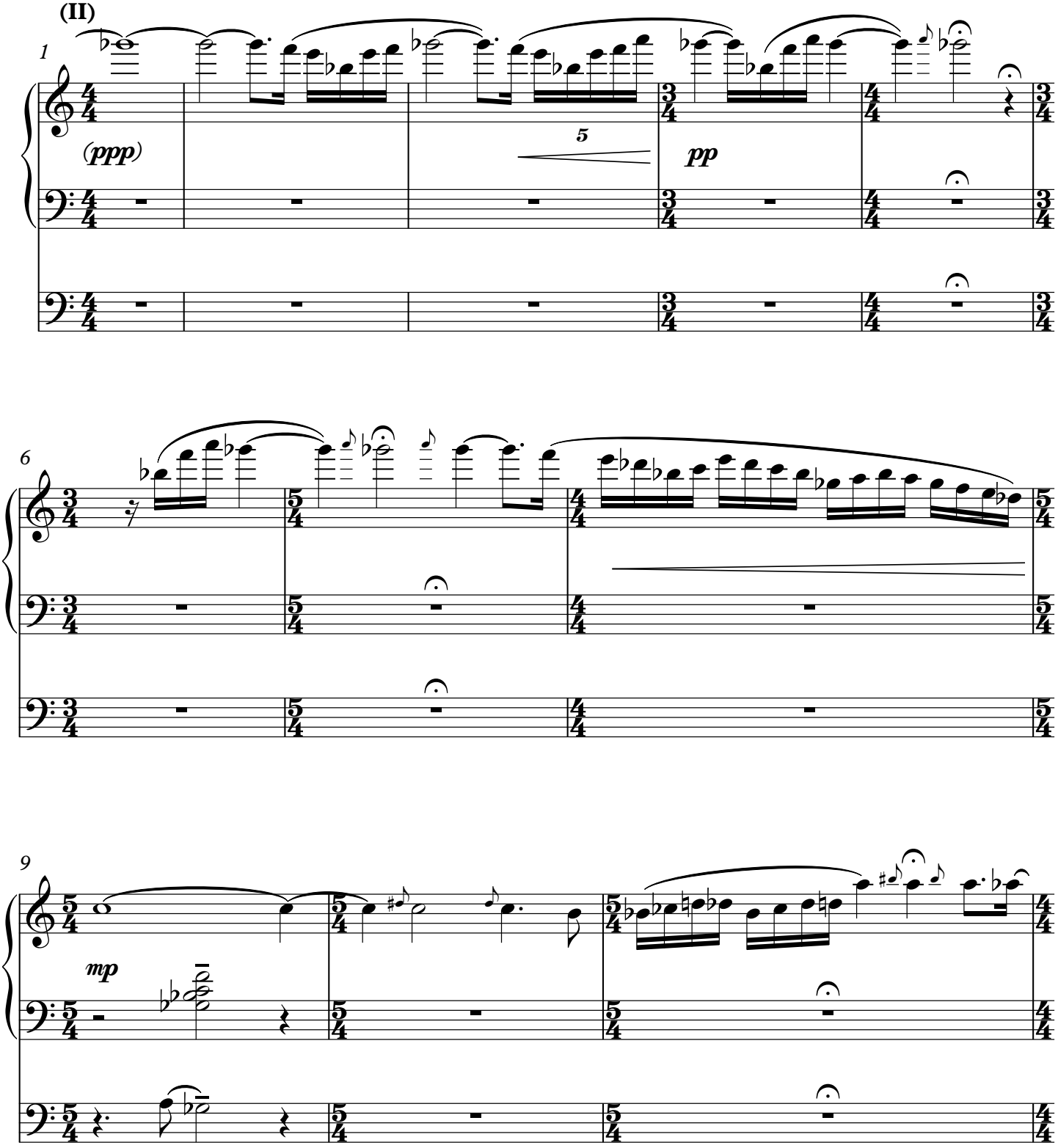

26
ppp

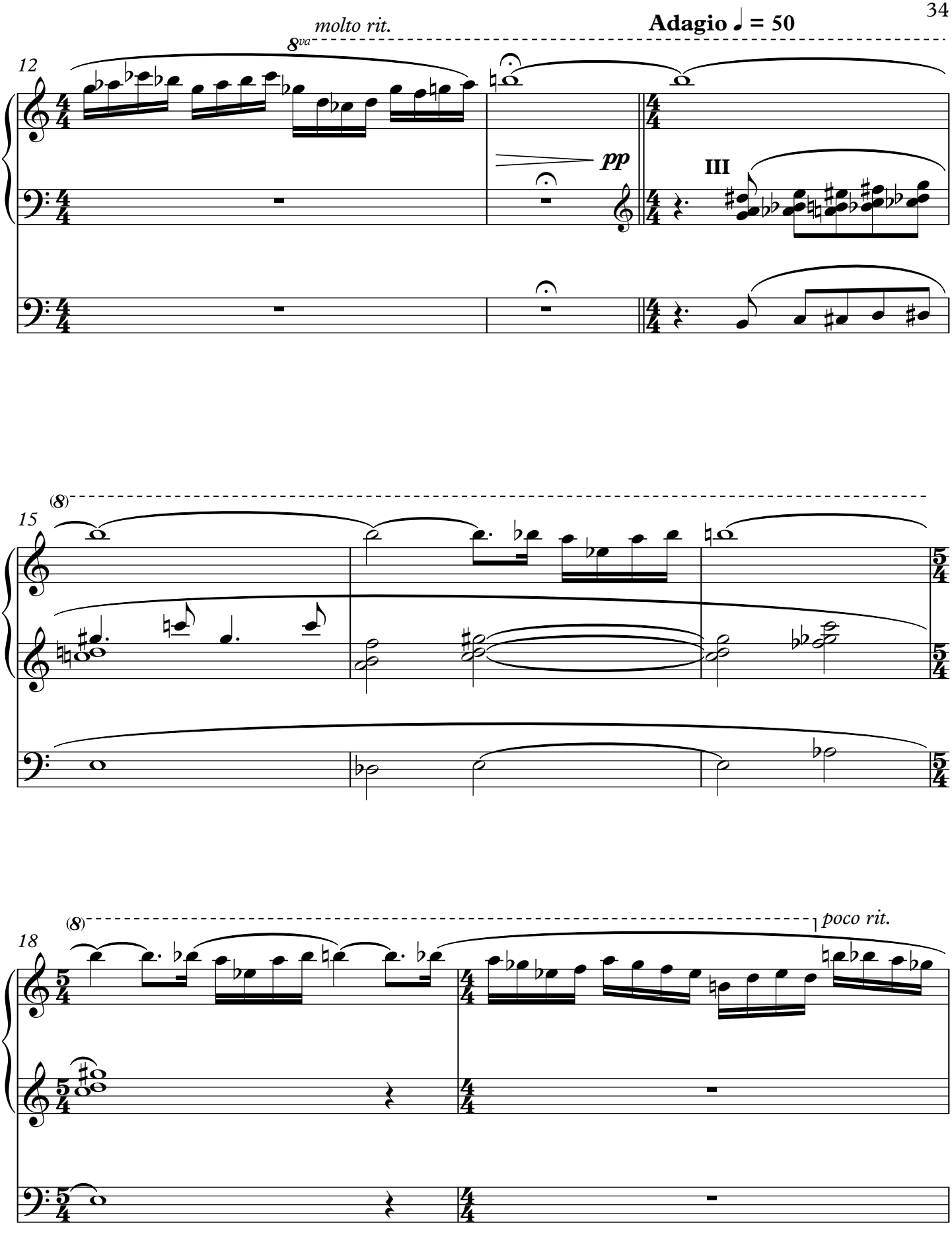
V. Memory

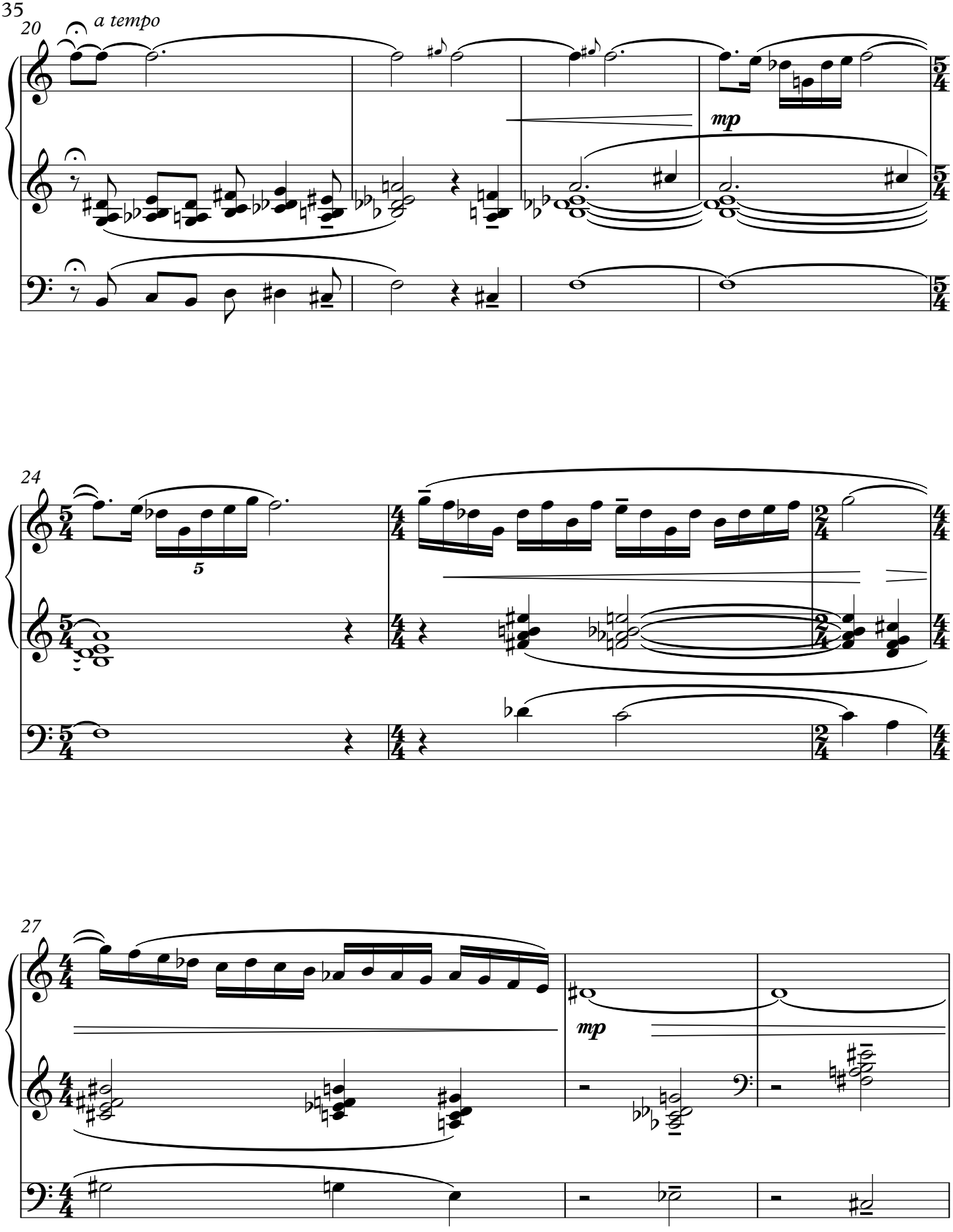
II : Hohl Flute 8'
III : Fonds 8', Flute 4'
Pd : Bourdon 16' 8', III/Pd

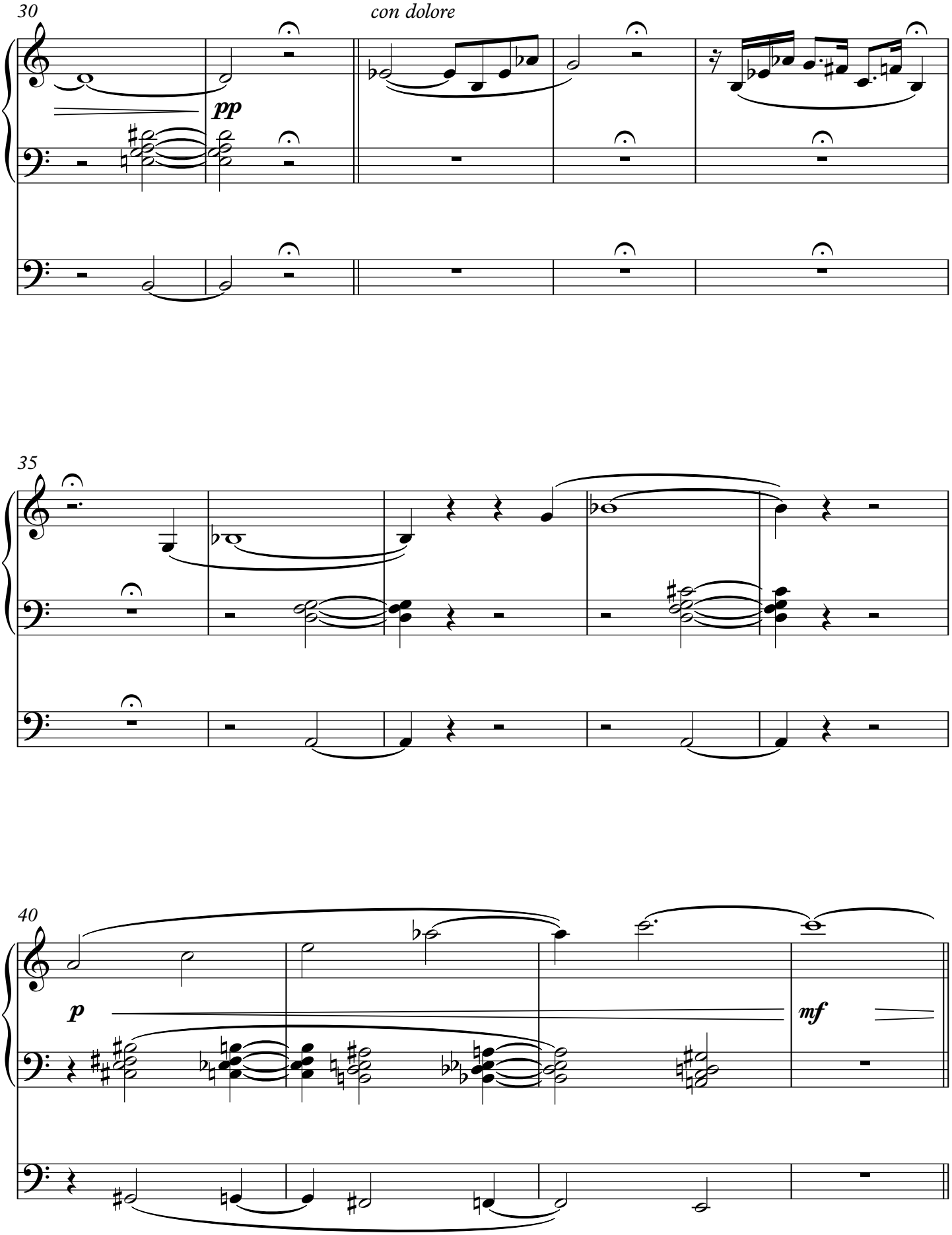
Moderato *liberamente e expressivo*

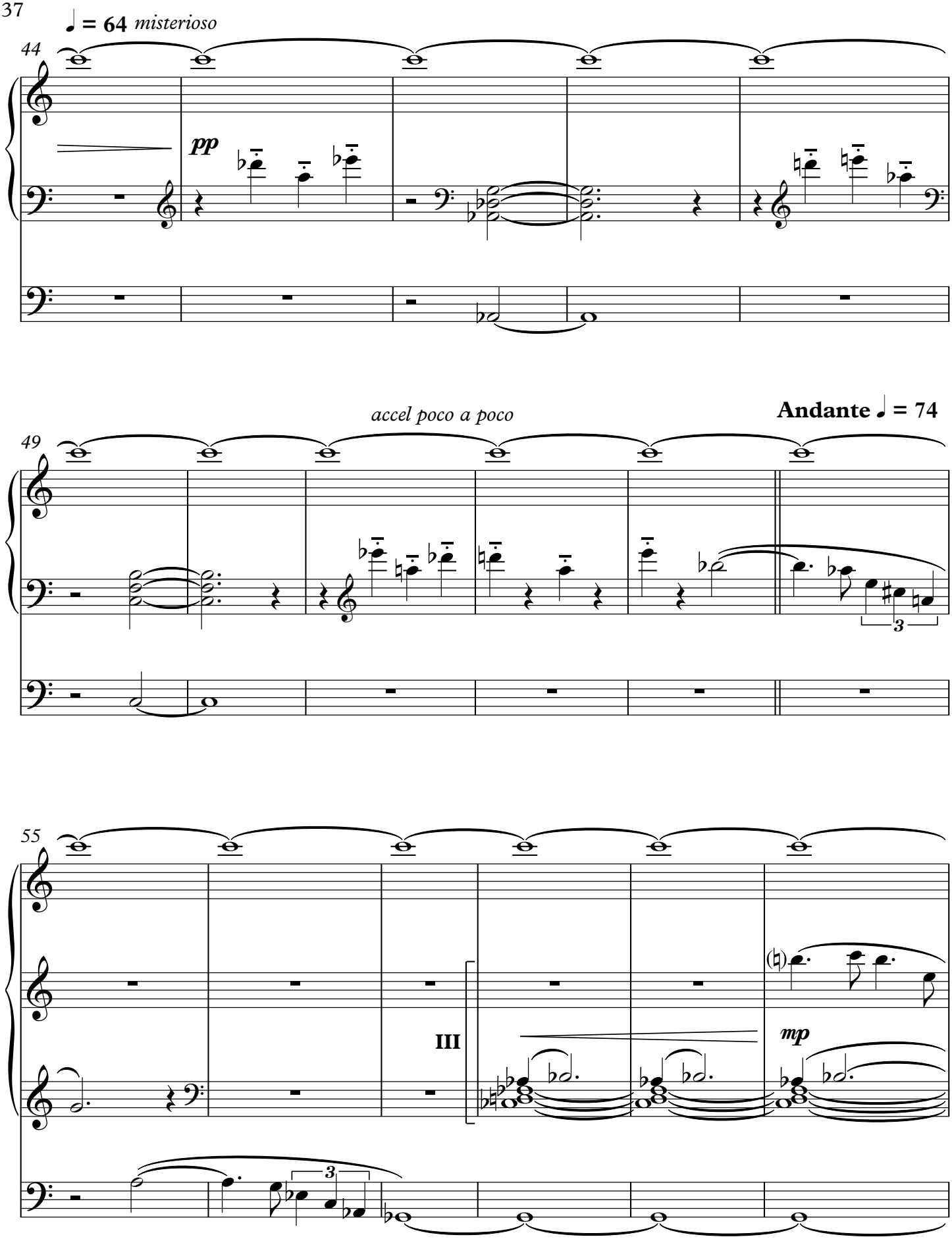
(II)

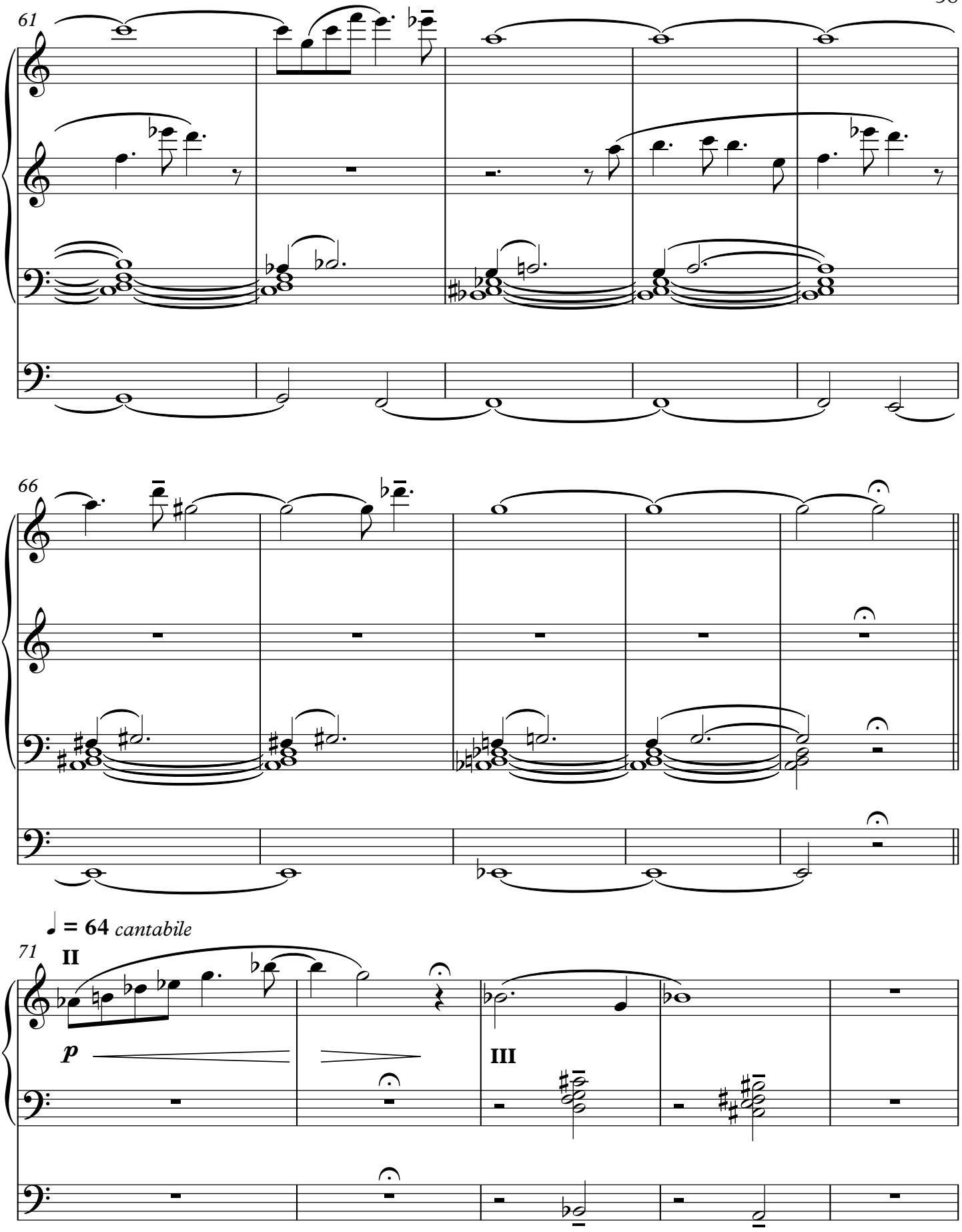


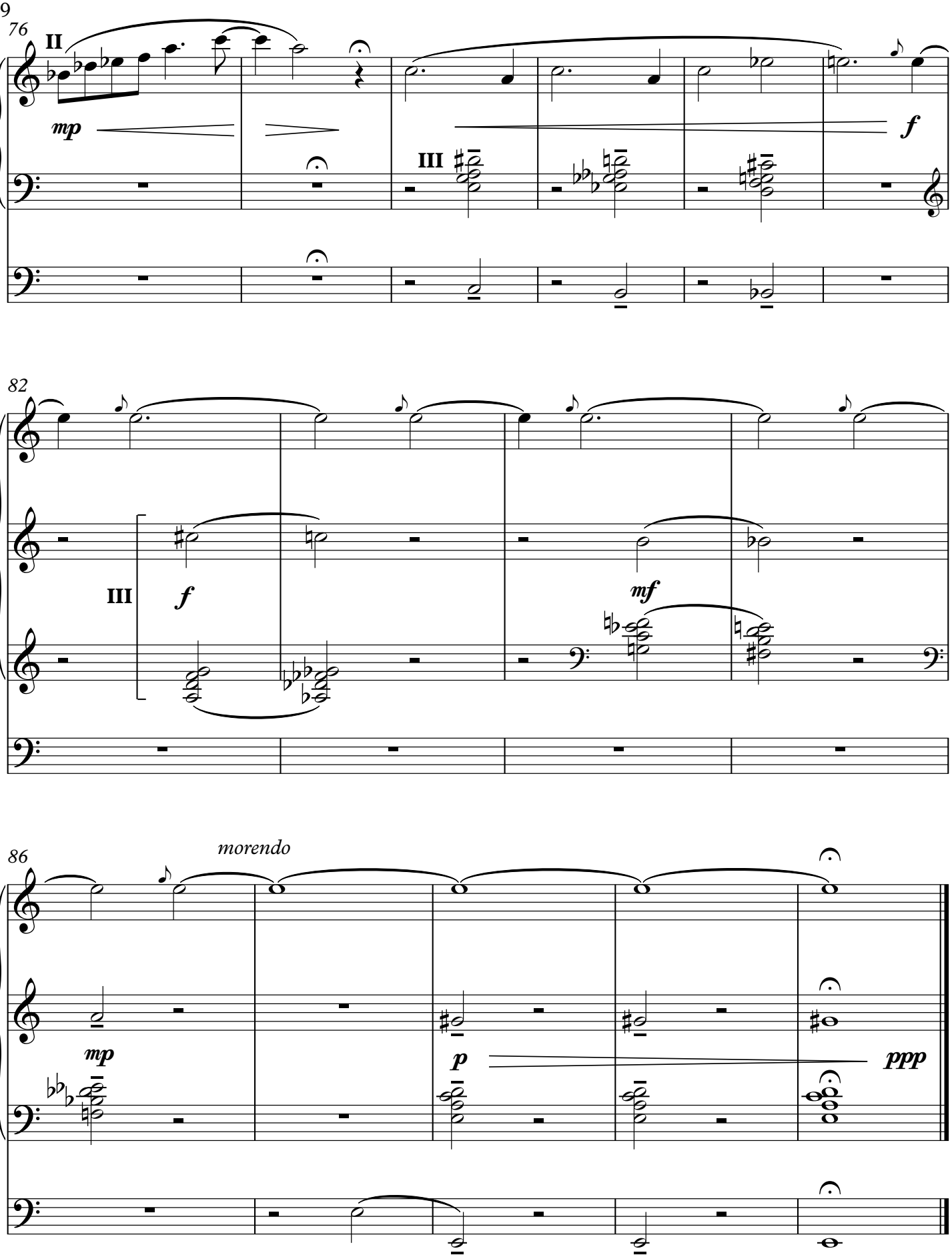

molto rit.
Adagio ♩ = 50
8va
12
pp
III
(8)
15
(8)
poco rit.
18


20
a tempo
mp
24
5
27
mp


30
con dolore
pp
35
40
p
mf


♩ = 64 misterioso
44
pp
accel poco a poco
Andante ♩ = 74
49
3
55
III
mp
3


61
66
♩ = 64 cantabile
71
II
p
III


76
II
mp
III
f
82
III
f
mf
86
morendo
mp
p
ppp

Curriculum Vitae

Name:	Kennedy Kimber-Johnson
Post-secondary Education and Degrees:	Western University London, Ontario, Canada 2014-2018 B. Mus (Music Composition)
	McGill University Montreal, Quebec, Canada 2018-2019 Gr. Dip. in Performance
	Western University London, Ontario, Canada 2019-2021 M.Mus (Music Composition)
Honours and Awards:	Elsie Jeffries Organ Award 2014, 2015, 2016
	The Western Scholarship of Distinction 2014
	Dr. Sherwood Fox Music Award 2015, 2016, 2017
	Dean's Honor List 2017, 2018
Related Work Experience	Graduate Teaching Assistant Western University 2019-2021