DEREK BELL

THREE TRANSCENDENTAL CONCERT STUDIES

III

Toccata burlesca

Oboe & Piano

AMORIS INTERNATIONAL
www.amoris.com

AI SI 026

Derek Bell

(1935-2002)

Derek Bell was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in 1935. He studied composition, piano and oboe at the Royal College of Music (London) and was awarded the Manns Prize. Amongst the positions he held during his career were those of principal cor anglais with the City of Belfast Orchestra, principal harp and principal oboe (concurrently) with the BBC Northern Ireland Orchestra, and professor of harp at the Belfast Academy of Music.

In 1976 Derek Bell joined The Chieftains playing harp, tiompán (a small cimbalom-styled hammered dulcimer, which he introduced and named after the mediaeval Irish instrument), oboe and keyboards. He participated in well over 35 CDs with this legendary Irish ensemble.

His compositions include *Pastoral* Overture, Symphony ('The Tragic') in E flat, Symphony No. 2 in D ('The Violet Flame-Comte de St. Germain', performances of which have included the prestigious Edinburgh Festival 1991), piano works and chamber music. The scores of some of his research into Irish music were published. These include *Immortal Carolan Melodies for Irish Folk Instruments*.❖

Derek Bell recorded *Toccata burlesca* (one of his *Three Transcendental Studies*◆) on the album *'Derek Bell Plays With Himself'*◈. This double tracking of various oboes with assorted accompaniments (he performed upon eight instruments) is one of his eight solo albums. Six, with harp, feature the compositions of Turlough O' Carolan (a.k.a. Terence Carolan or [Irish Gaelic] *Toirdhealbhach Ó Cearbhalláin*, 1670 - 1738). A further album features Derek Bell as pianist and many incorporate his beloved traditional Irish music.

This remarkably versatile musician also played bass oboe with The Amoris Consort.

George Derek Fleetwood Bell was awarded the MBE (Member of The Most Excellent Order of The British Empire) in 2000 by Queen Elizabeth II for his services to Irish Music. He died just two years later in Phoenix, Arizona, USA.

❖ Lyra Music Company, NY (1985)
◆ Amoris International (1997)
◈ Claddagh Records (1980)

❖❖❖

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III *Toccata burlesca*

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In 1958, Dr. Boucher, Head of the Music Department of B.B.C. Northern Ireland, commissioned me to write three oboe pieces for a radio programme of new music by Ulster composers. The result was ***Three Transcendental Concert Studies***, which are of equal virtuosity for both players. The ***Ballade pastorale*** and ***Toccata burlesca*** are for oboe and piano. ***Légende*** is for cor anglais and piano.

Ballade pastorale and *Légende* are both pure nature music. *Ballade pastorale* depicts deep lakes, rivers and birdsong in the woodlands. *Légende* portrays both the underwater life of the lakes and that of their banks where trees grow on the mountainsides.

The *Toccata burlesca* first occurred to me as I watched my Uncle, Robert Bell, leaving my house and walking down Cranmore Gardens in Belfast with such energy and unbelievably happy cheerfulness, yet he never ever touched a drop of the *poteen*❖!

He was an erudite, humble, persuasive and quiet man and, rather paradoxically, a very remarkable leader. He founded several troops of Boy Scouts as well as cricket, tennis and badminton clubs. He also demonstrated and introduced the Royal Ulster (Police) Constabulary to the amazing Japanese defence art of Ju-Jitsu in the late 1920s!

Toccata burlesca is a portrait of all these more energetic sides of his nature, but the player and listeners may imagine that it is a late Saturday night and every oboe and every piano player have been out all over the town for quite a lot to drink! Eventually they all roll home, falling suddenly unconscious to the floor - dead drunk!

The work is dedicated to the memory of Robert B. Bell, as well as to the illustrious Bulgarian oboist Professor Petro Kristov Totev and the distinguished Pennsylvanian oboist Rheta Smith. They have both recorded this piece, as has the composer!

Derek Bell
2000

❖ Unlawfully distilled Irish whiskey

NB. The studies may be performed separately, in a group of two, or all three together.

❖❖❖

Other words by Derek Bell published by **Amoris International** include
Nocturne on an Icelandic Melody (*A* SI 006)
Oboe d'amore (Oboe) & Harp (Piano)

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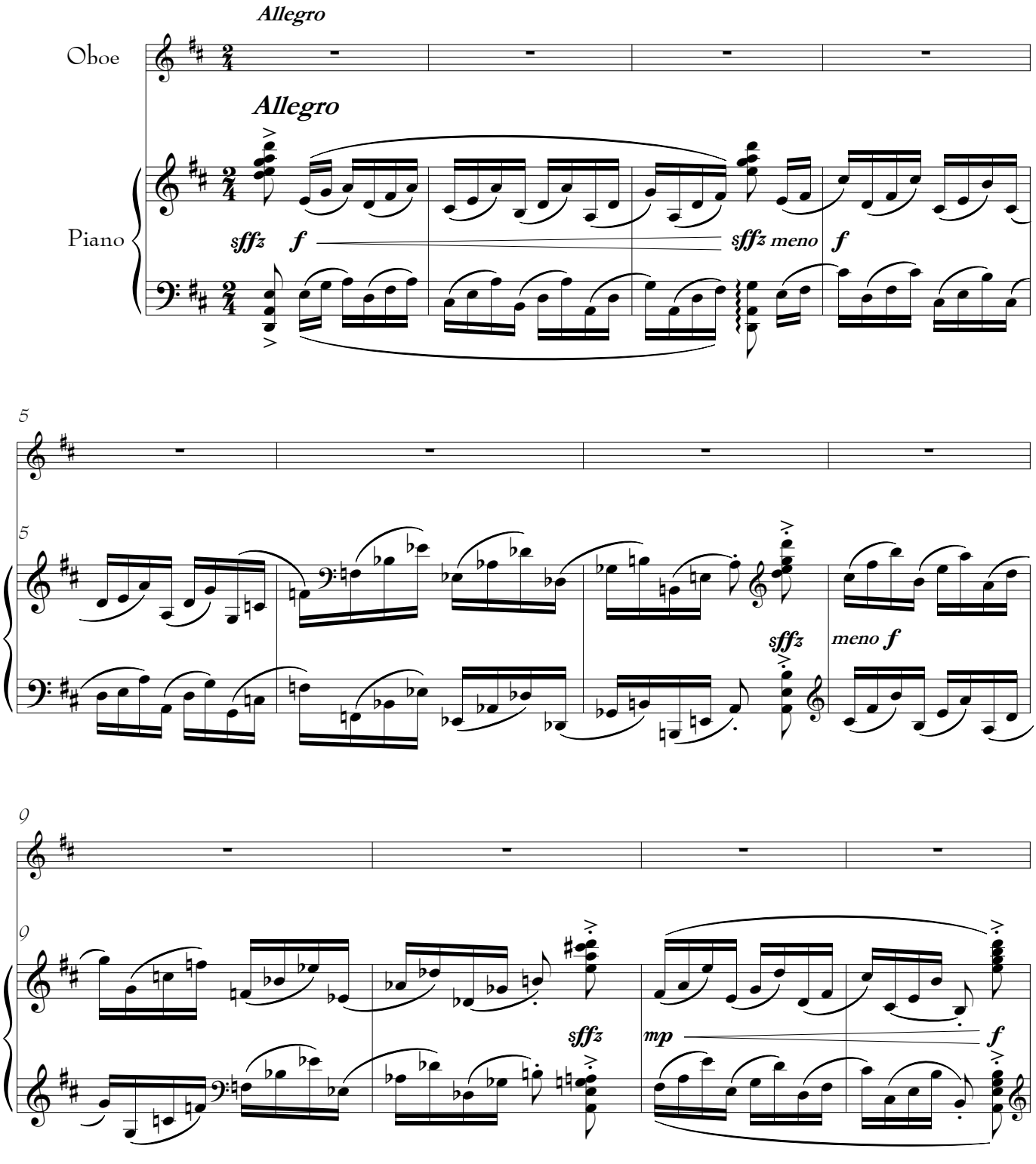
(1935 -2002)

Toccata burlesca



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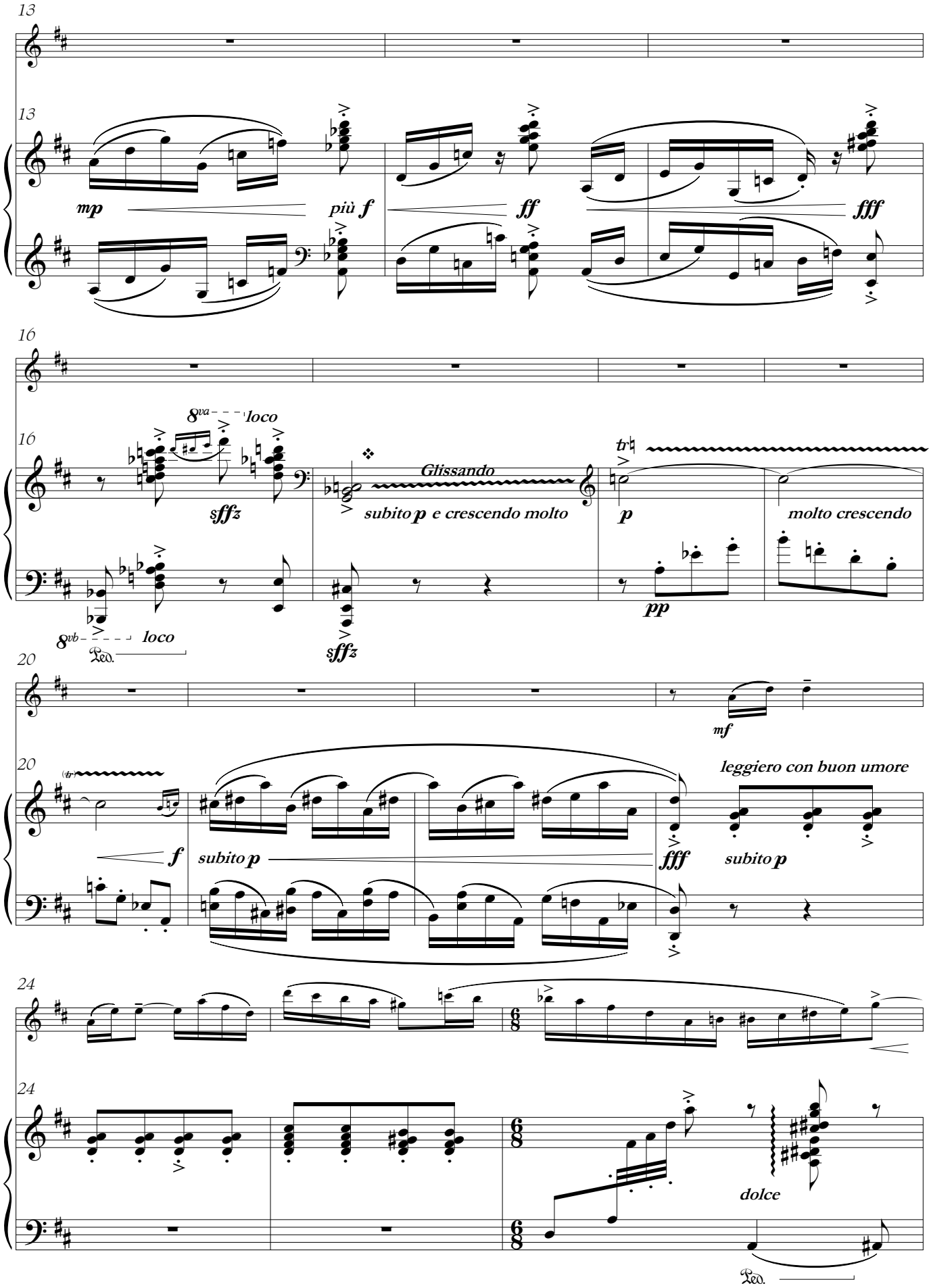
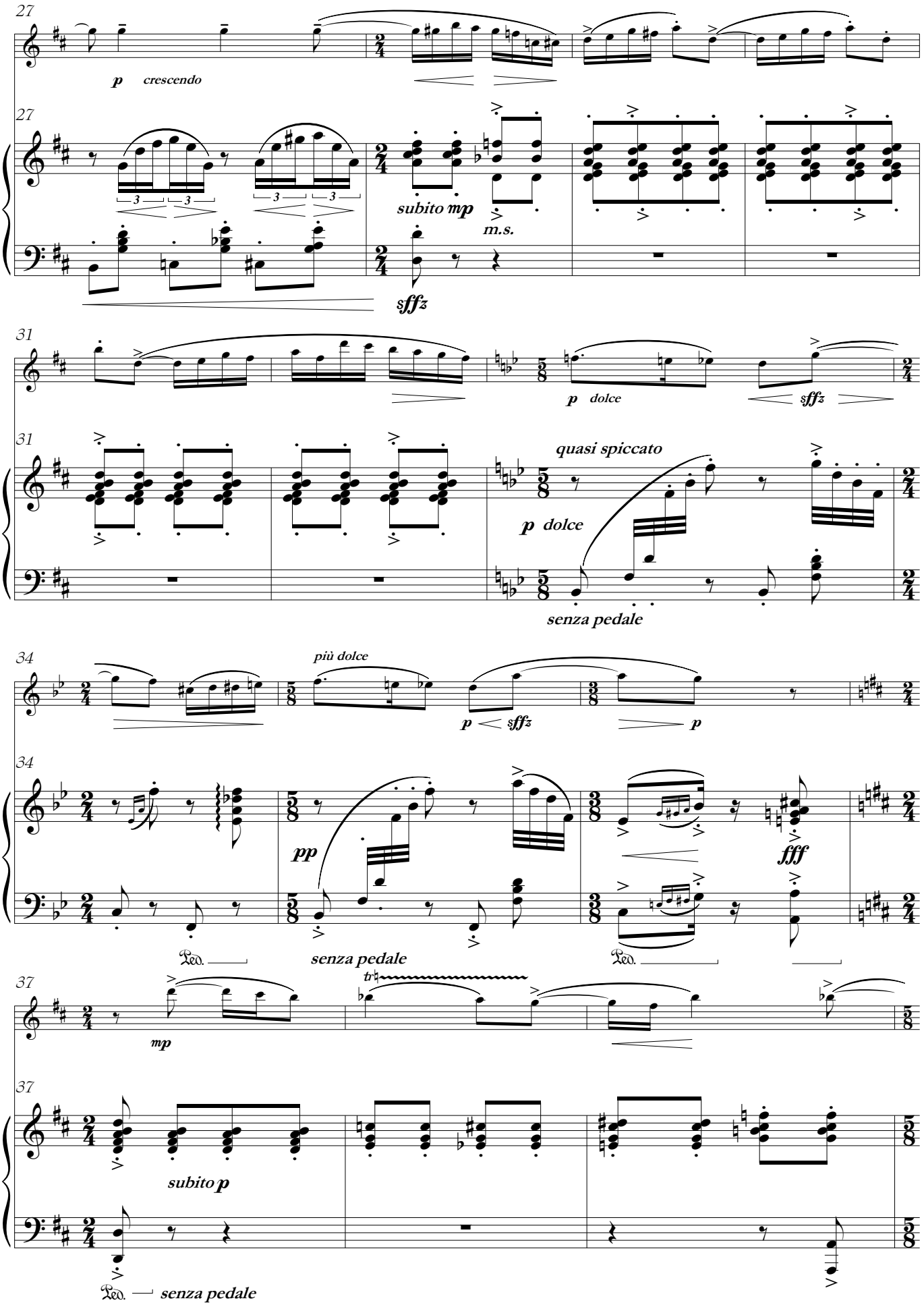
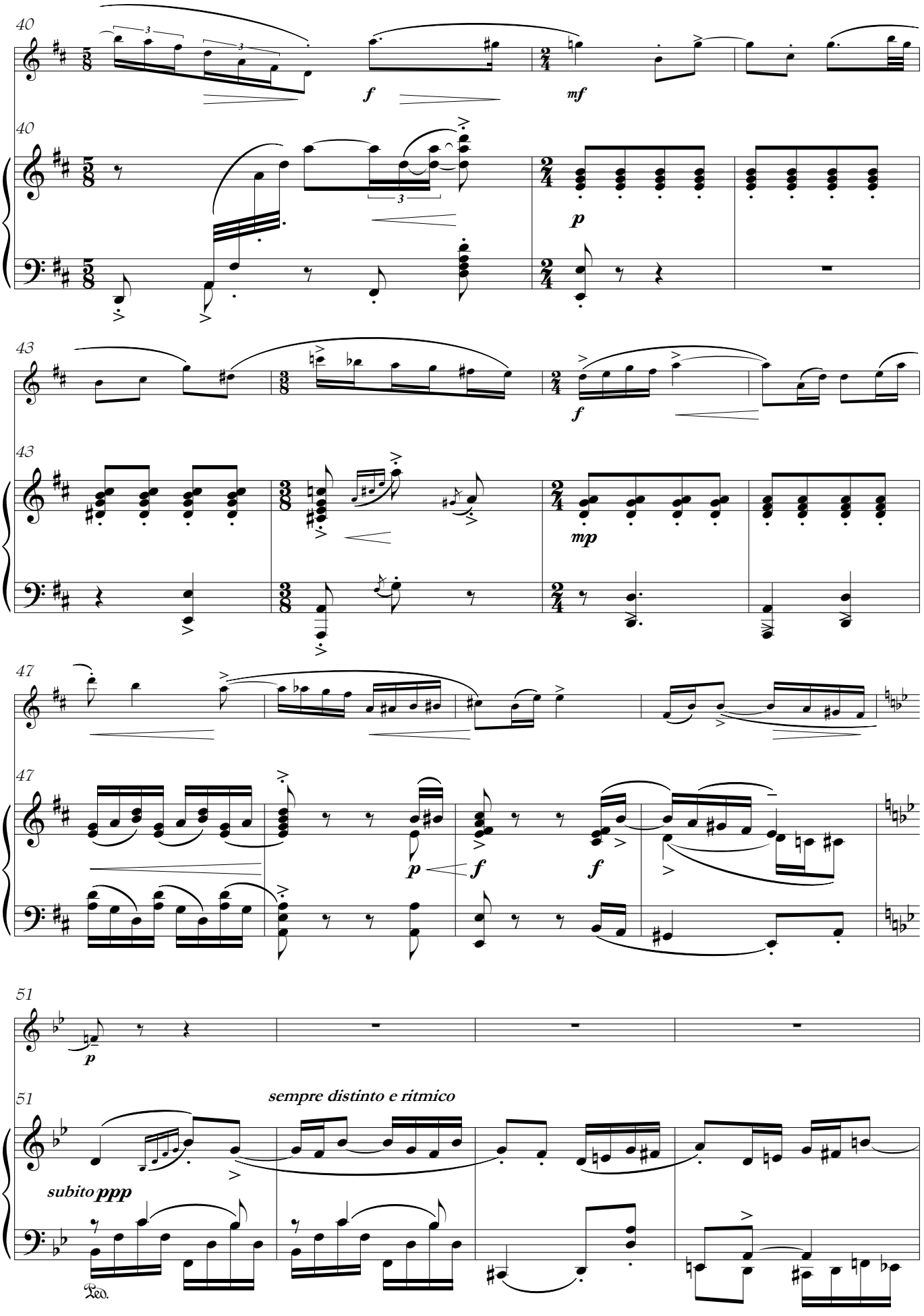
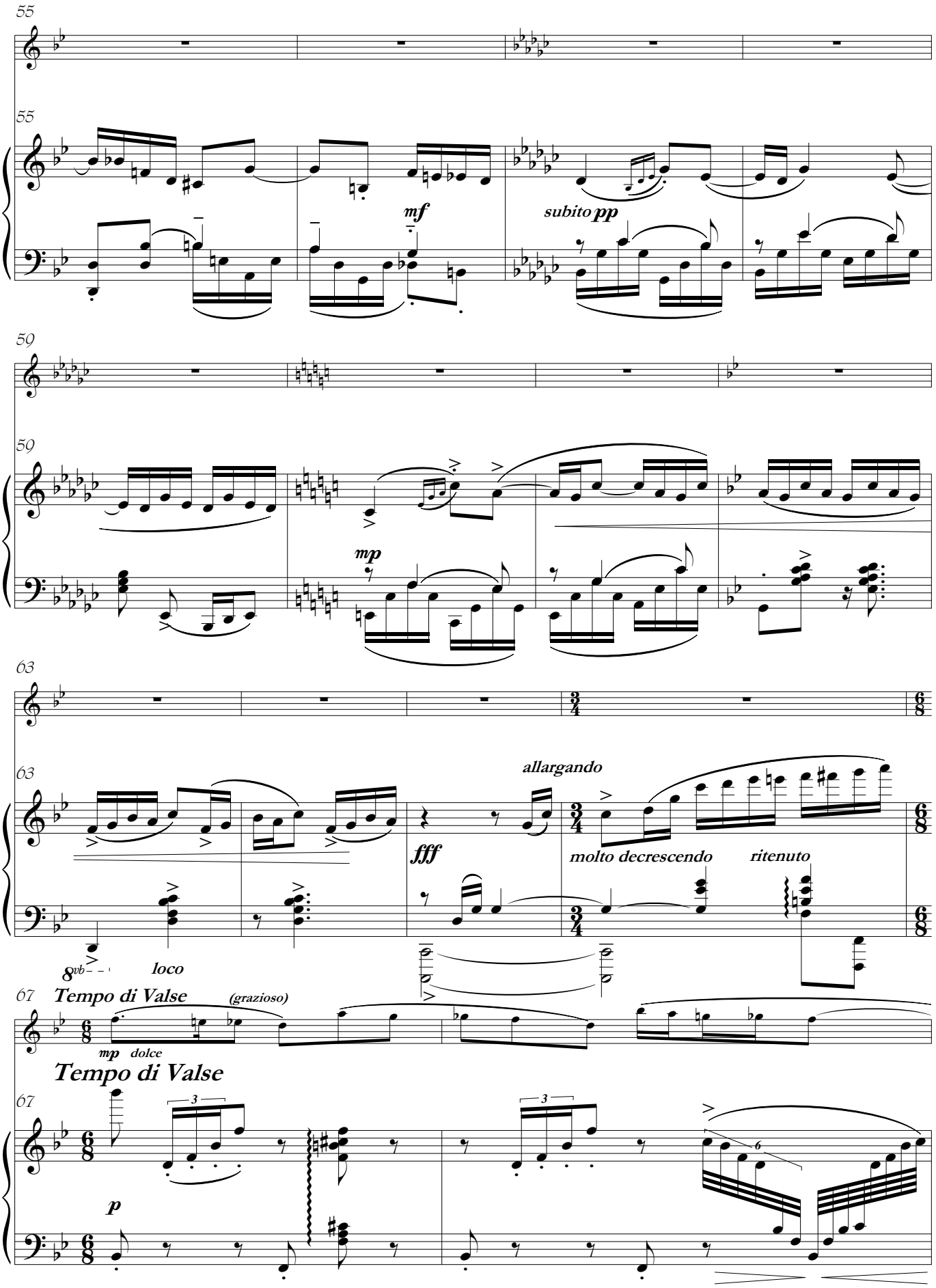
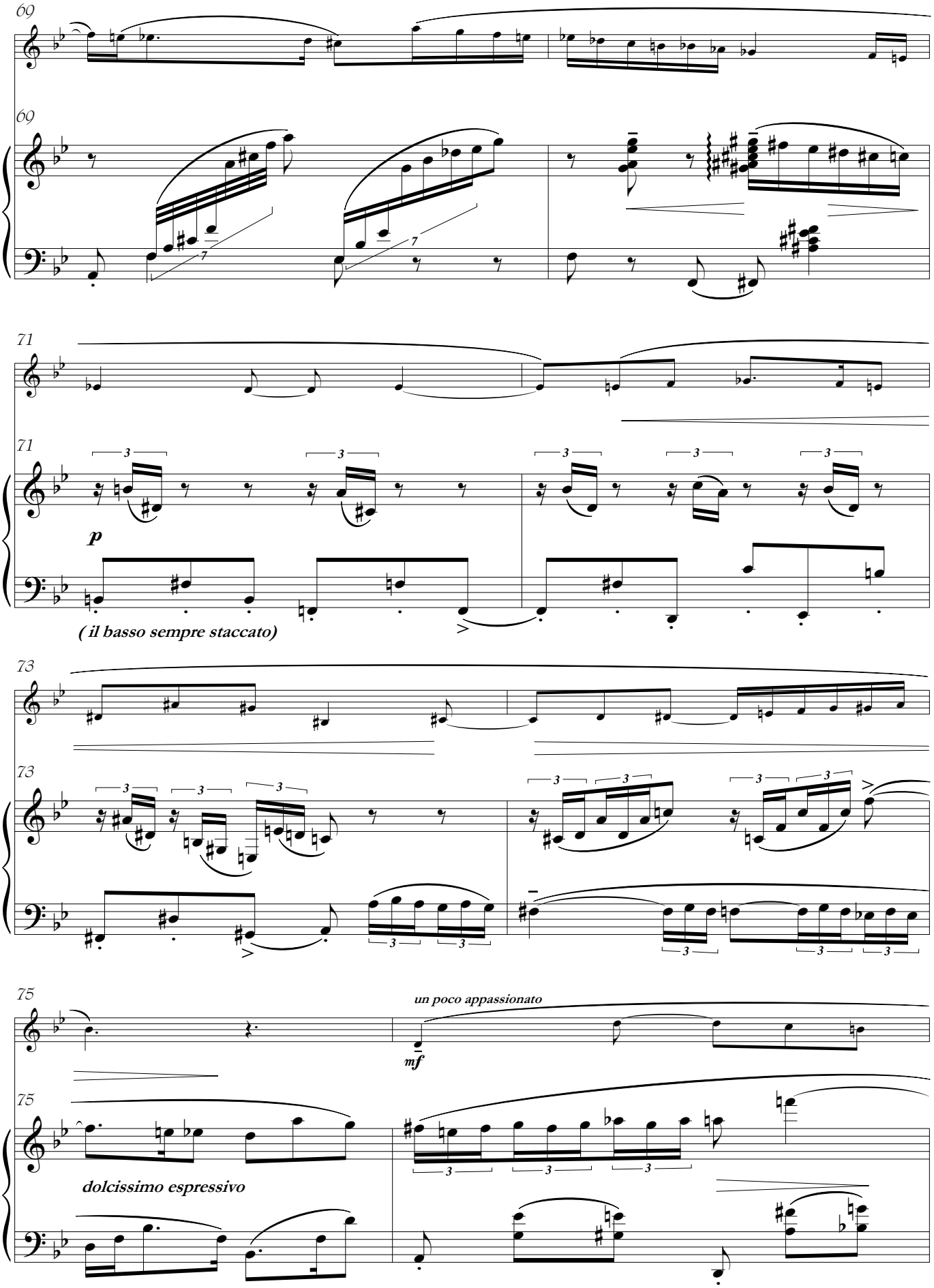


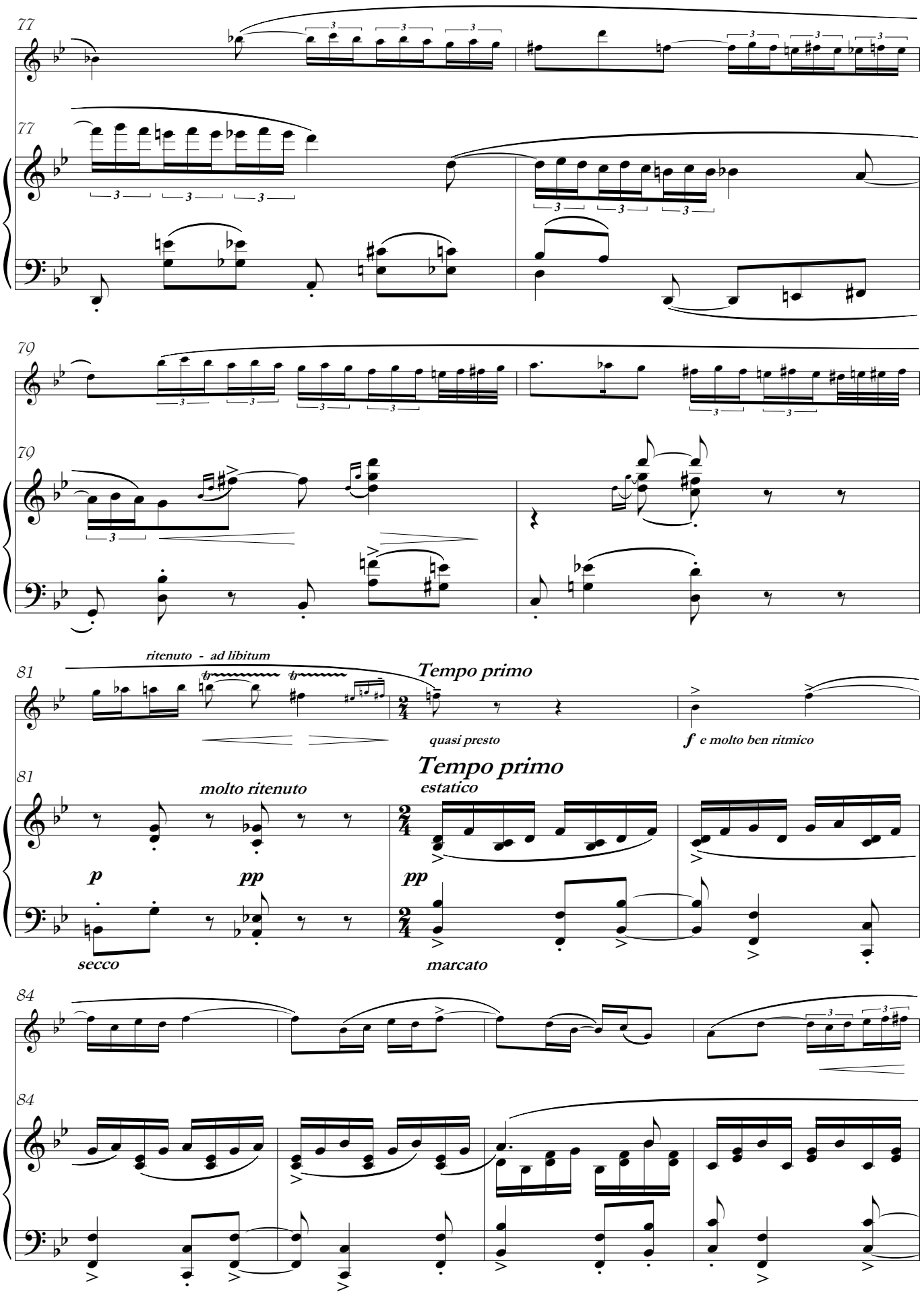
❖ *il glissando sulle chiavi bianche*

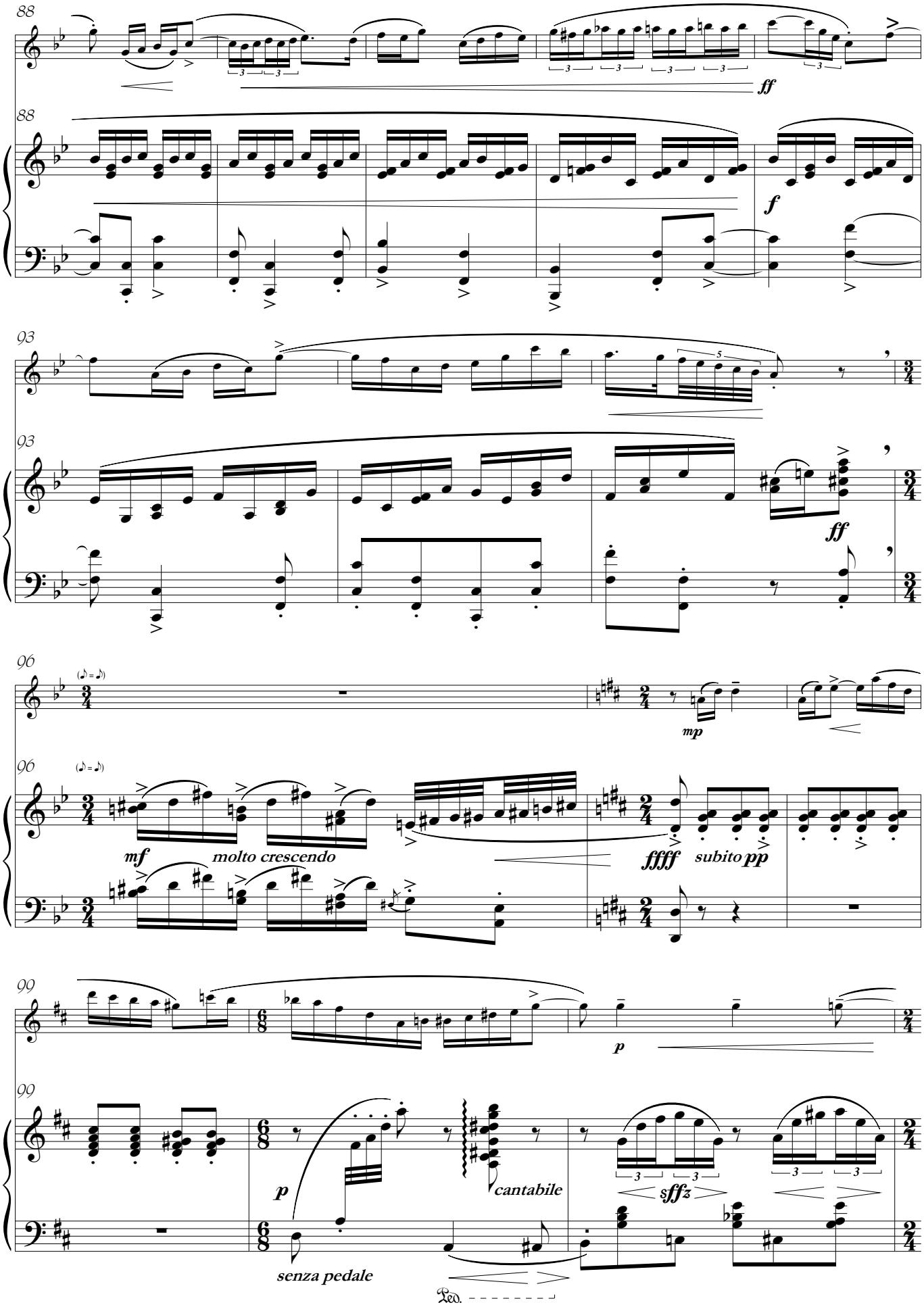

27
p crescendo
subito mp
m.s.
sffz
31
p dolce
sffz
quasi spiccato
senza pedale
34
più dolce
pp
fff
senza pedale
37
mp
subito p
senza pedale

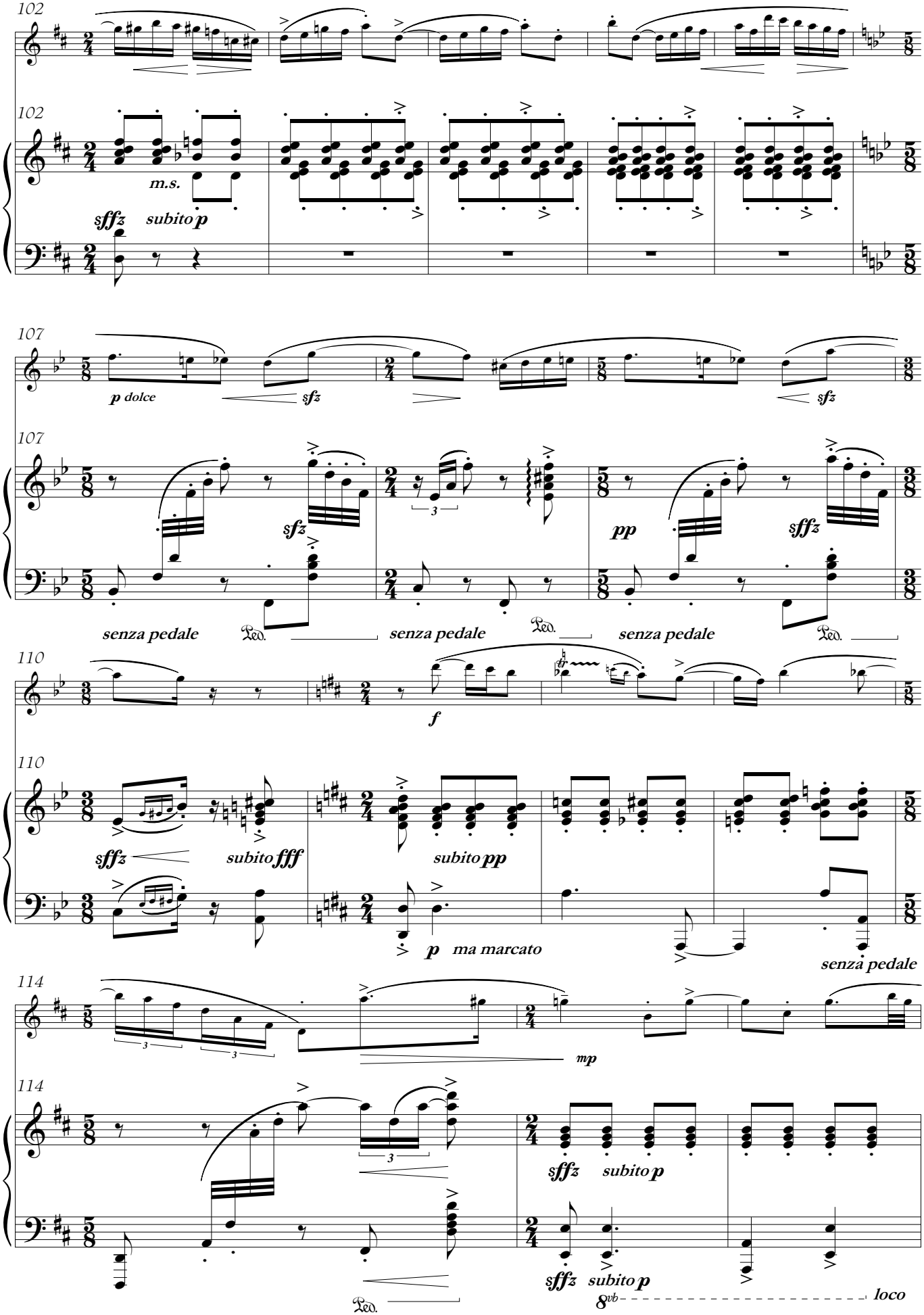

40
f
mf
40
p
43
f
43
mp
47
47
p
f
f
51
p
51
sempre distinto e ritmico
subito ppp
Ped.

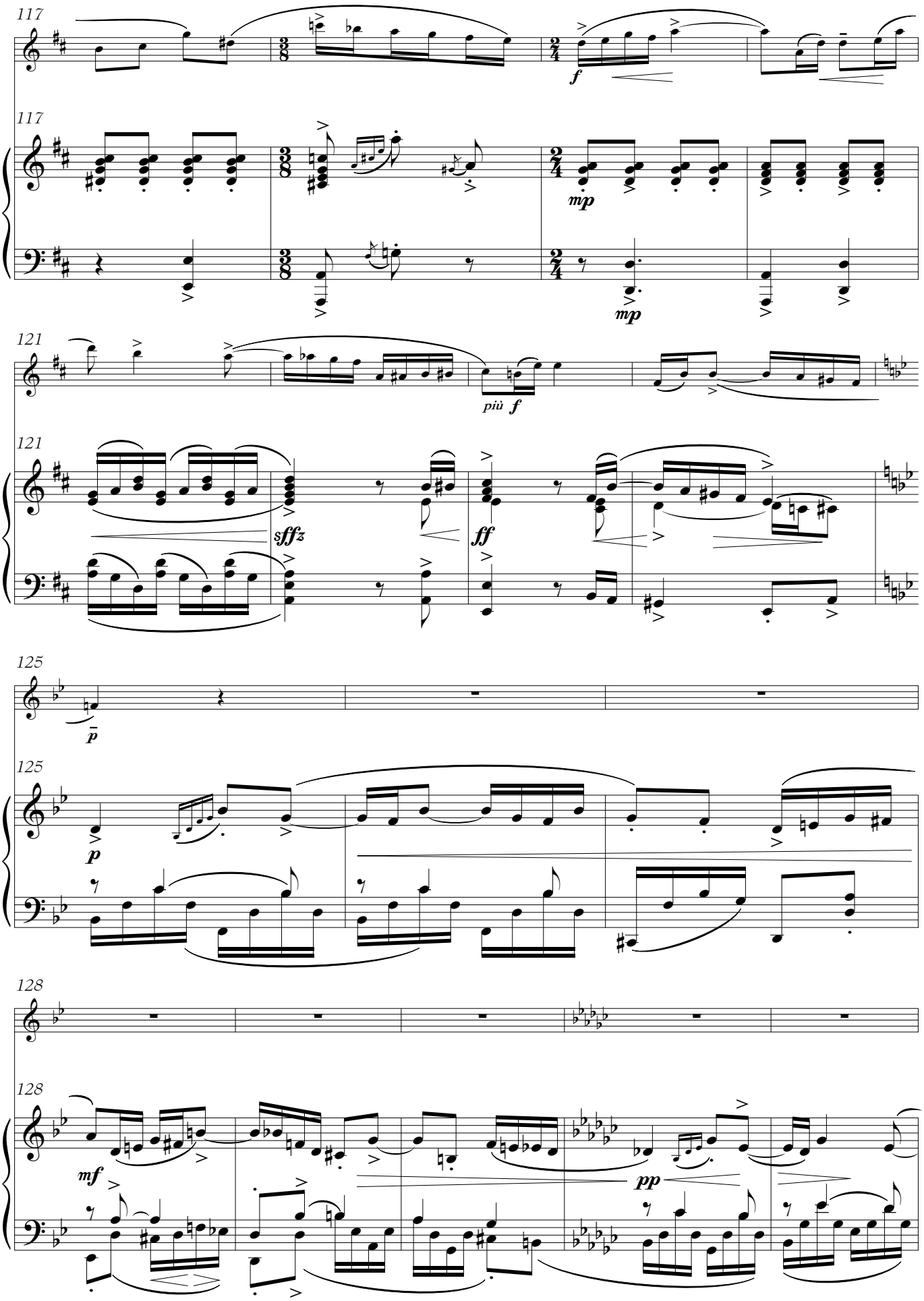

55
55
mf
subito pp
59
59
mp
63
63
allargando
fff
molto decrescendo
ritenuto
8vb
loco
67
Tempo di Valse
(grazioso)
mp dolce
Tempo di Valse
67
p

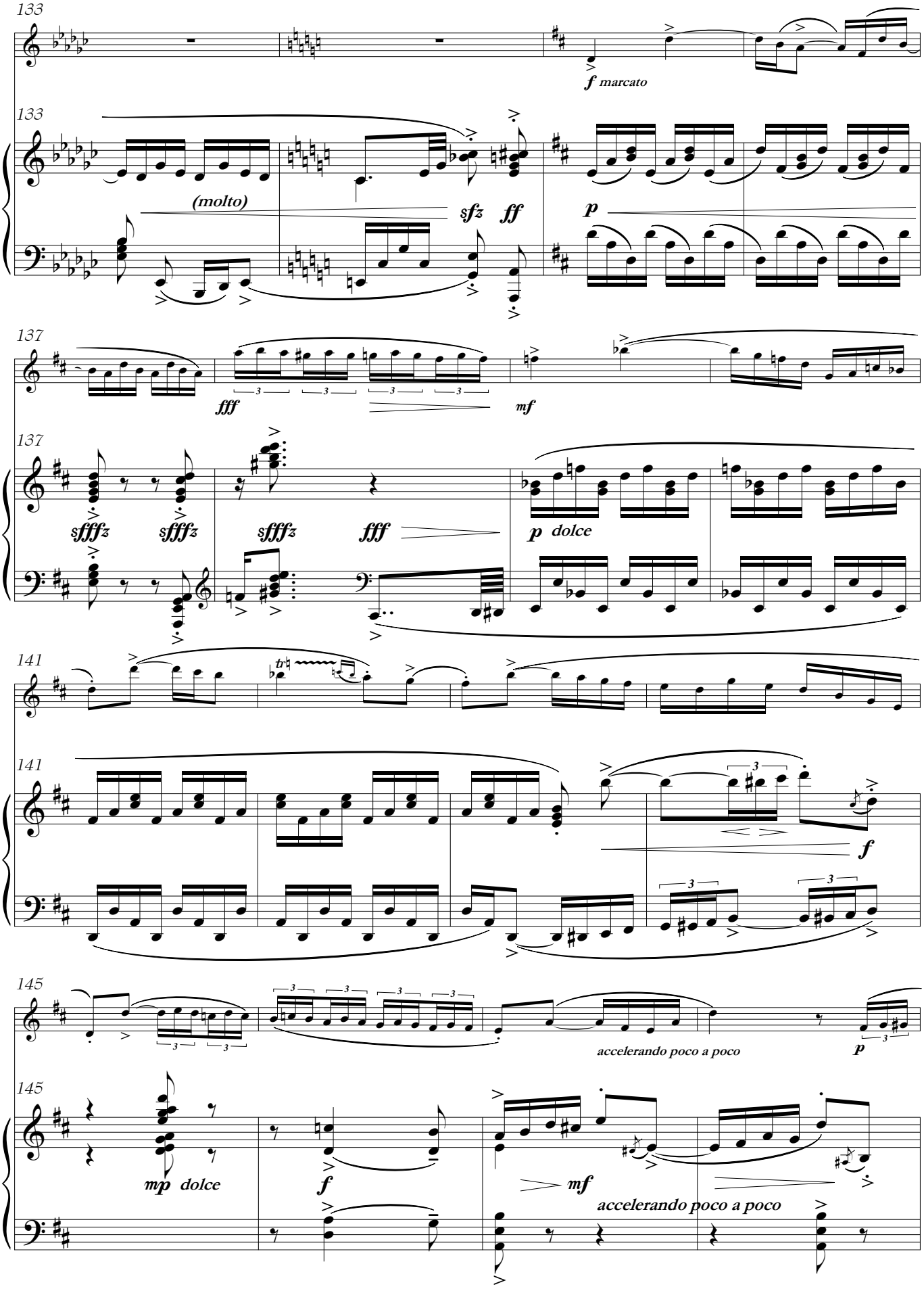

69
69
71
71
p
(il basso sempre staccato)
73
73
75
un poco appassionato
mf
75
dolcissimo espressivo

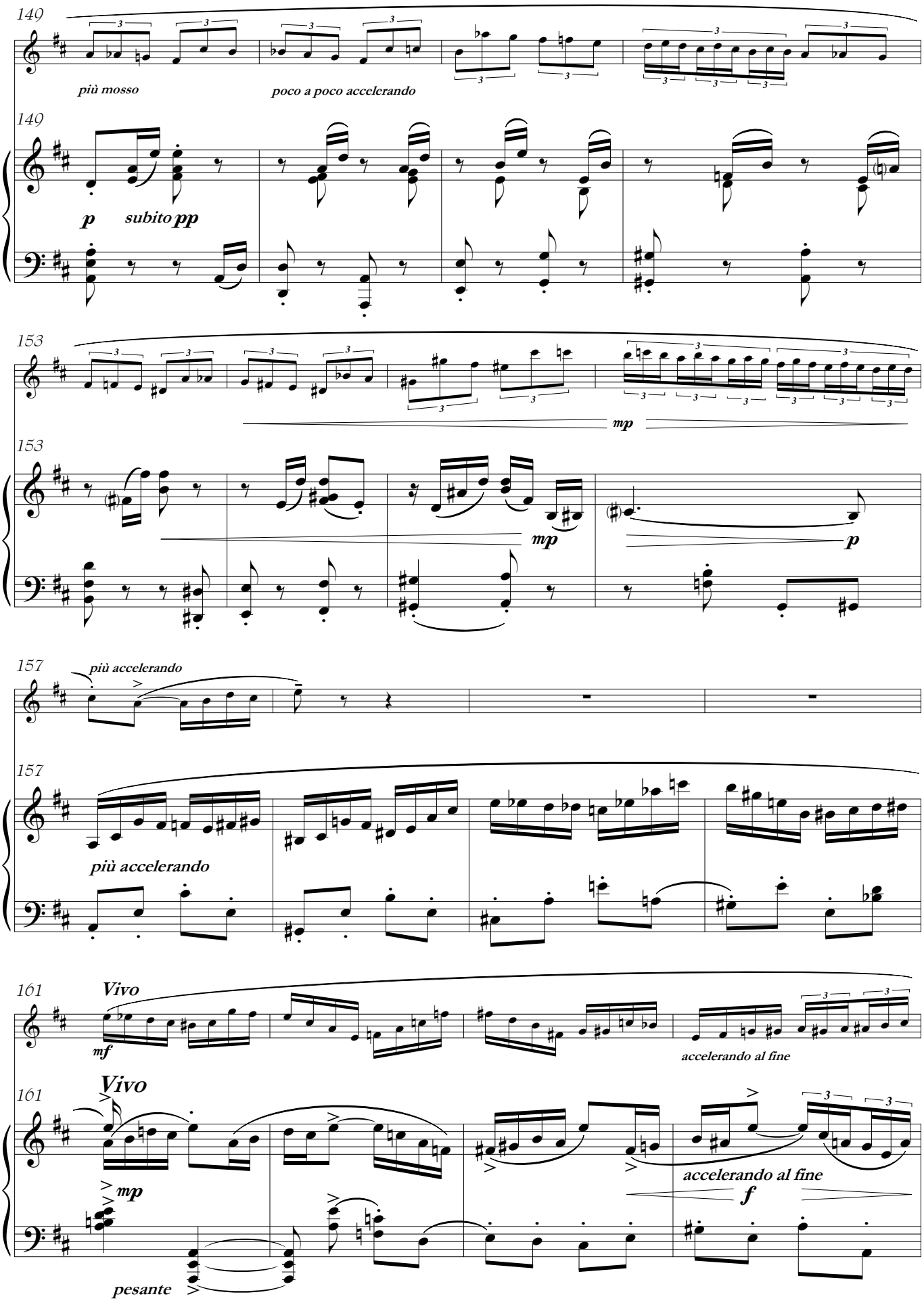

77
77
79
79
ritenuto - ad libitum
81
Tempo primo
quasi presto
f e molto ben ritmico
81
molto ritenuto
Tempo primo
estatico
p
pp
pp
secco
marcato
84
84

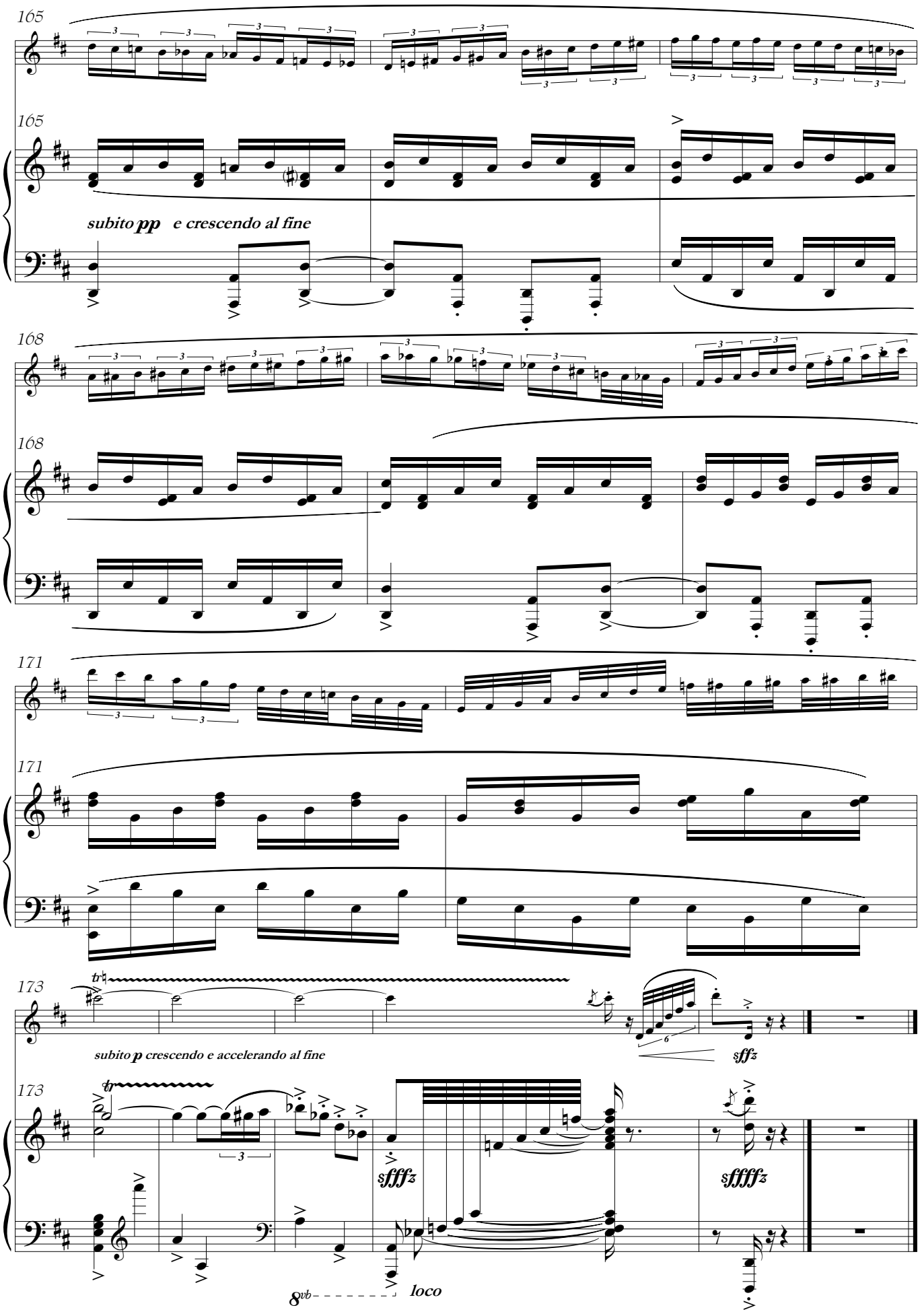

88
ff
88
f
93
93
ff
96
mp
96
mf
molto crescendo
ffff
subito pp
99
p
99
cantabile
sffz
p
senza pedale
Ped.


102
m.s.
sffz
subito p
107
p dolce
sfz
pp
senza pedale
110
f
subito fff
subito pp
p ma marcato
114
mp
loco


117
117
121
121
125
125
128
128


133
f marcato
133
(molto)
sfz
ff
p
137
fff
mf
137
sffffz
sffffz
sffffz
fff
p dolce
141
141
f
145
accelerando poco a poco
p
145
mp dolce
f
mf
accelerando poco a poco


149
più mosso
poco a poco accelerando
149
p
subito pp
153
mp
153
mp
p
157
più accelerando
157
più accelerando
161
Vivo
mf
accelerando al fine
161
Vivo
mp
accelerando al fine
f
pesante


165
subito pp e crescendo al fine
168
171
173
subito p crescendo e accelerando al fine
sffz
sfffz
sffffz
8vb
loco

III

Oboe

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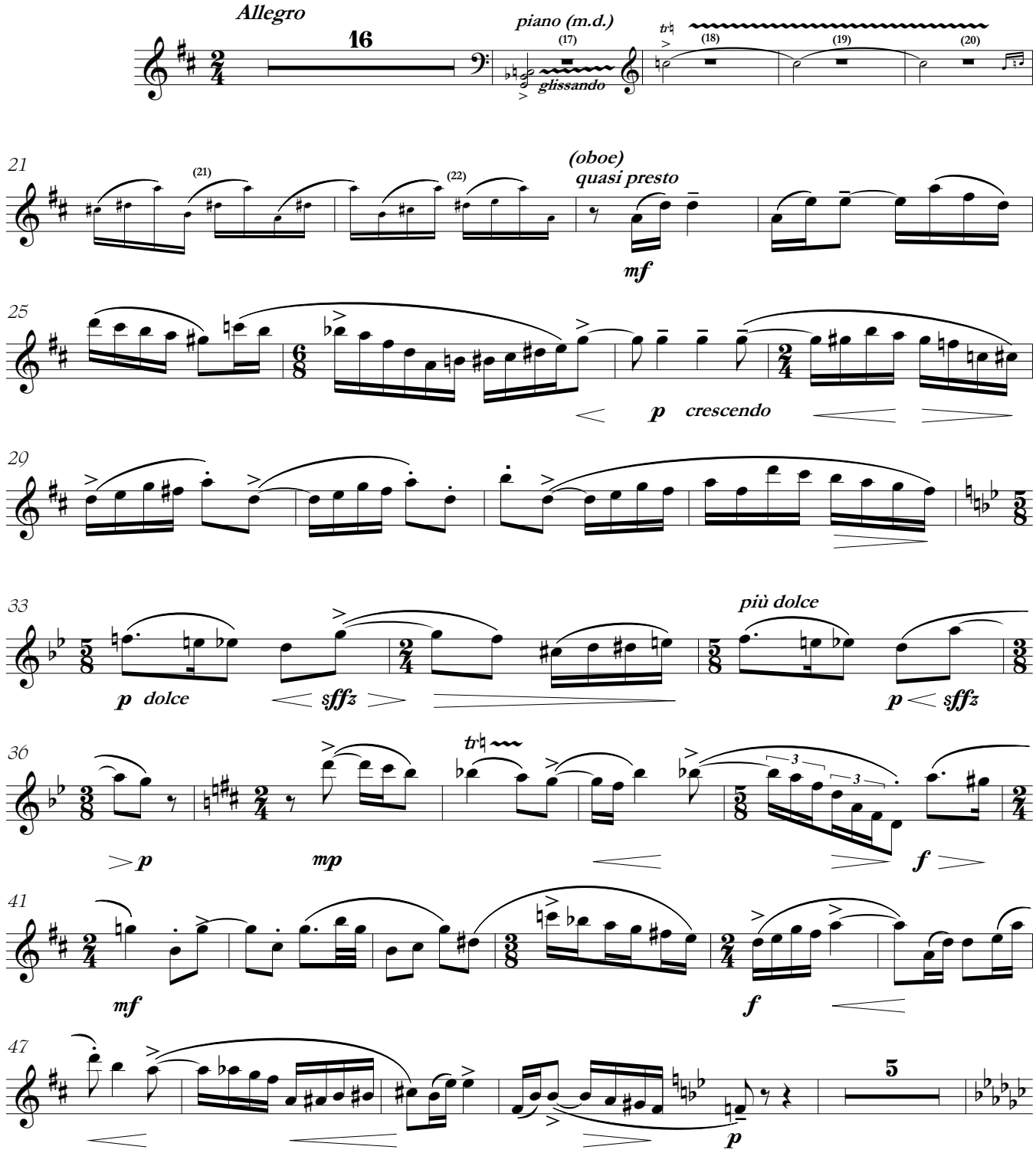
Toccata burlesca



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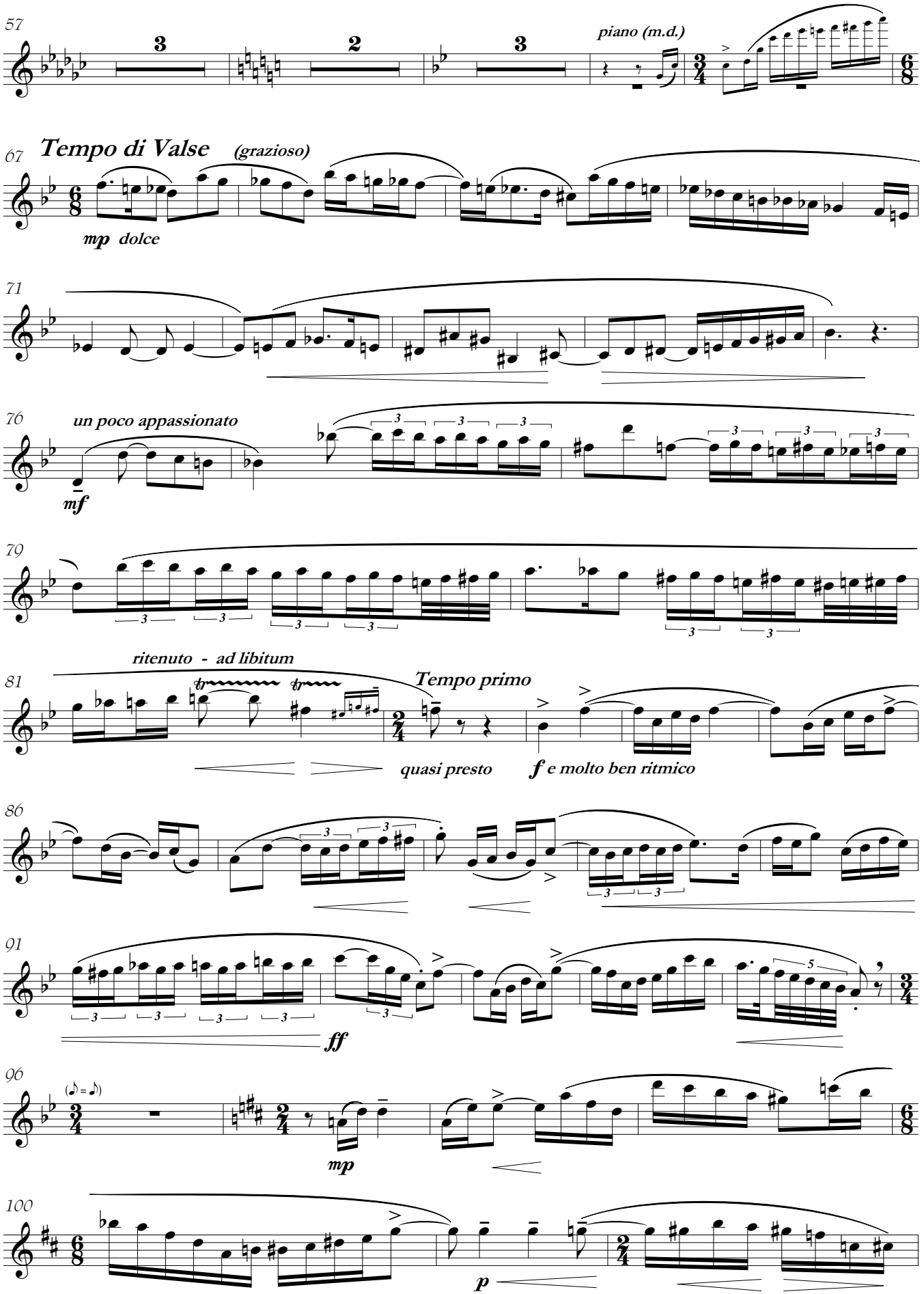
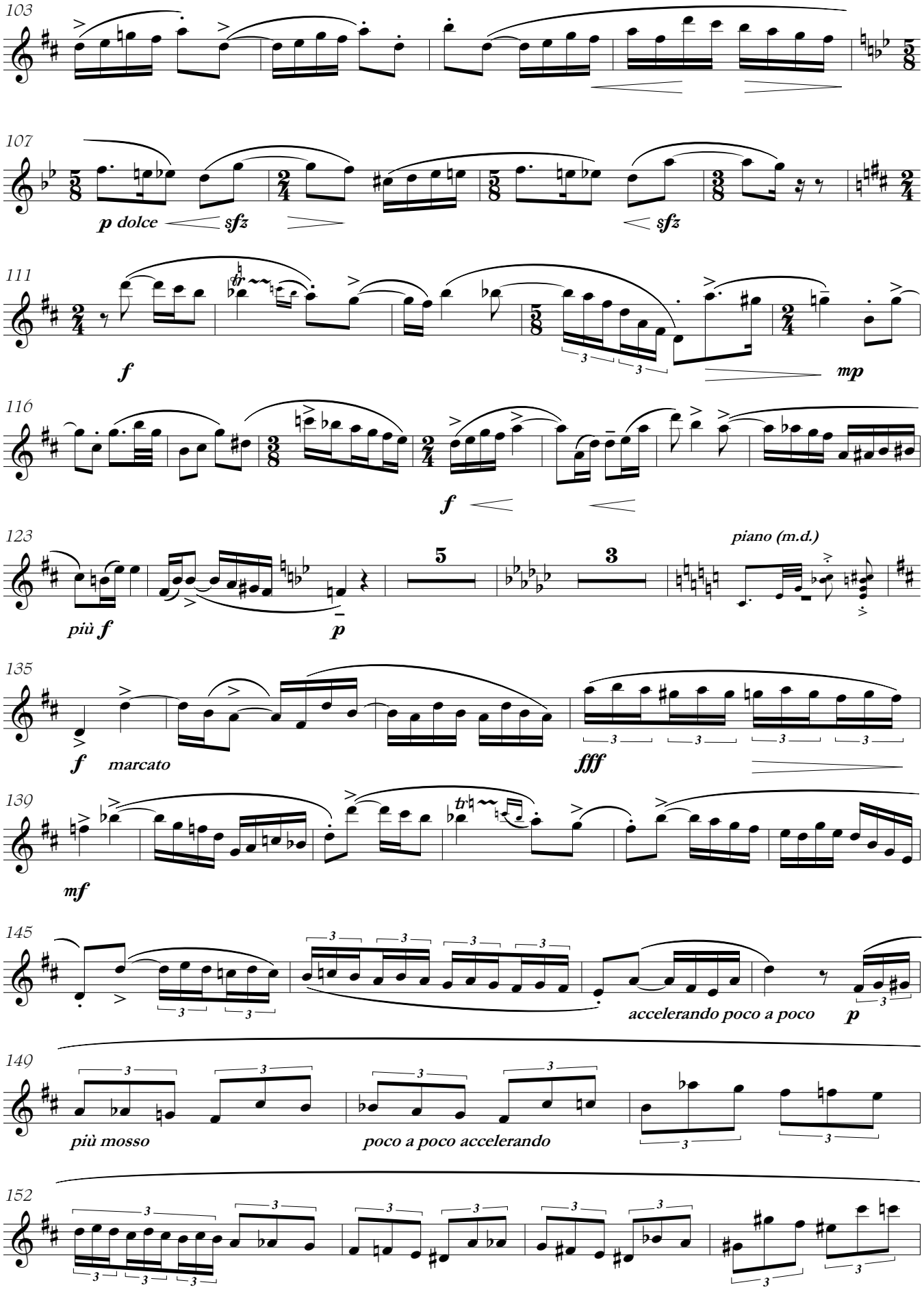
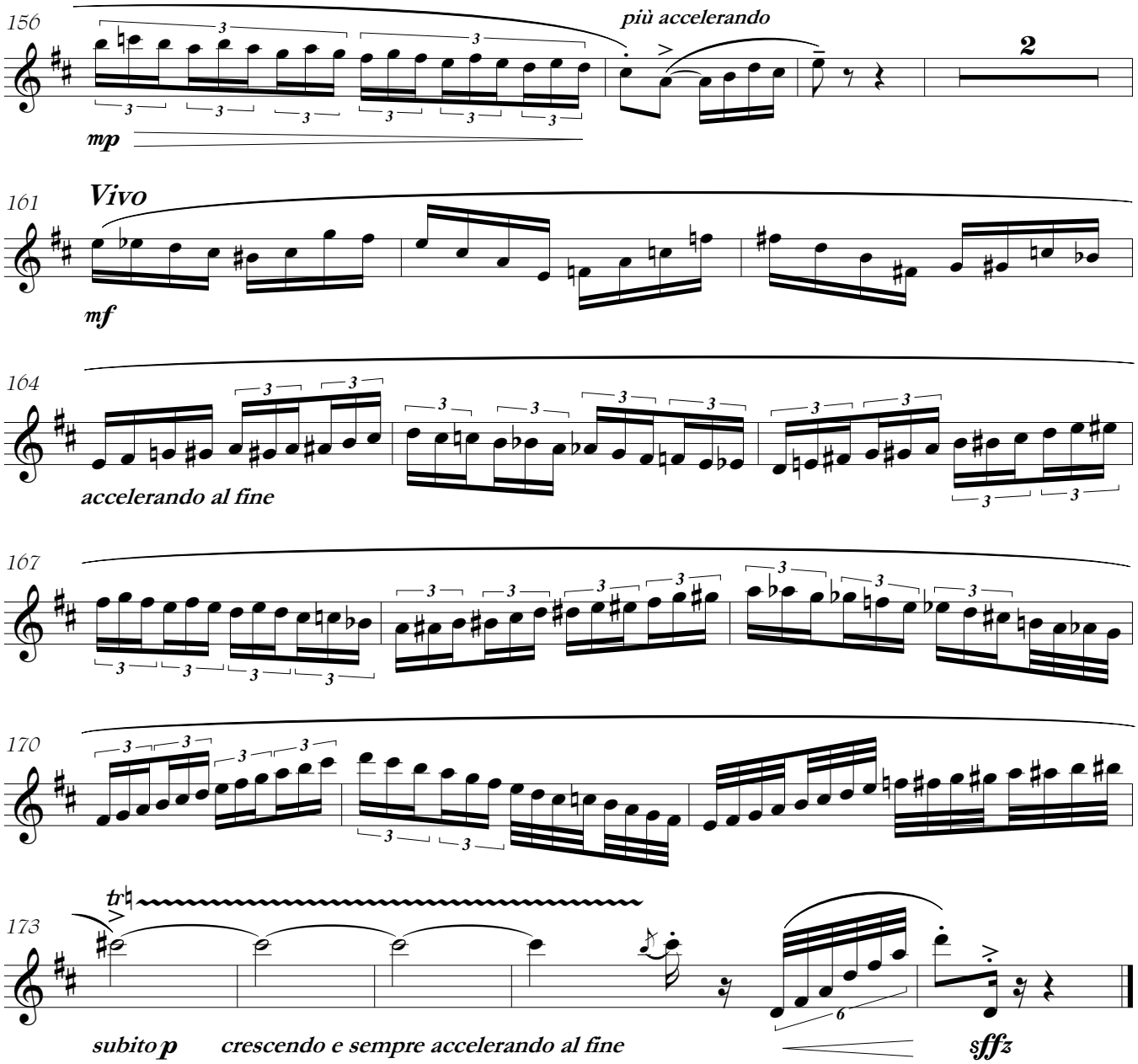
Oboe


57
piano (m.d.)
67
Tempo di Valse
(grazioso)
mp dolce
71
76
un poco appassionato
mf
79
81
ritenuto - ad libitum
Tempo primo
quasi presto
f e molto ben ritmico
86
91
ff
96
mp
100
p


103
107
p dolce
sfz
sfz
111
f
mp
116
f
123
più f
p
piano (m.d.)
135
f
marcato
fff
130
mf
145
accelerando poco a poco
p
140
più mosso
poco a poco accelerando
152


156
più accelerando
2
mp
161
Vivo
mf
164
accelerando al fine
167
170
173
tr
subito p
crescendo e sempre accelerando al fine
sffz