JUDITH SHATIN

To Keep the Dark Away

Solo Piano

Mendigo Music

Program Note

To Keep the Dark Away is a solo piano piece inspired by the poetry of Emily Dickinson. Both the title and each of the five movement names are drawn from lines of her poetry. The piece was commissioned by Ms. Ellen Waldo for pianist Gayle Martin, to whom it is dedicated; both shared my enthusiasm for Dickinson's poetry. I composed *To Keep the Dark Away* while awaiting surgery and the images of all five poems felt especially apt: from the first, with its singing to keep the dark away to the internal glee of the second, the dark strength of the third, the ethereal light of the fourth and the flight into music suggested by the fifth. The lines that serve as movement titles are given below, with the numbers associated with them.

This is the third piece I composed for Gayle, who has been the muse for my piano compositions since we were students at The Juilliard School. Previous pieces include my piano concerto, *The Passion of St. Cecilia*, and a solo companion piece, *Fantasy on St. Cecilia*. –JS

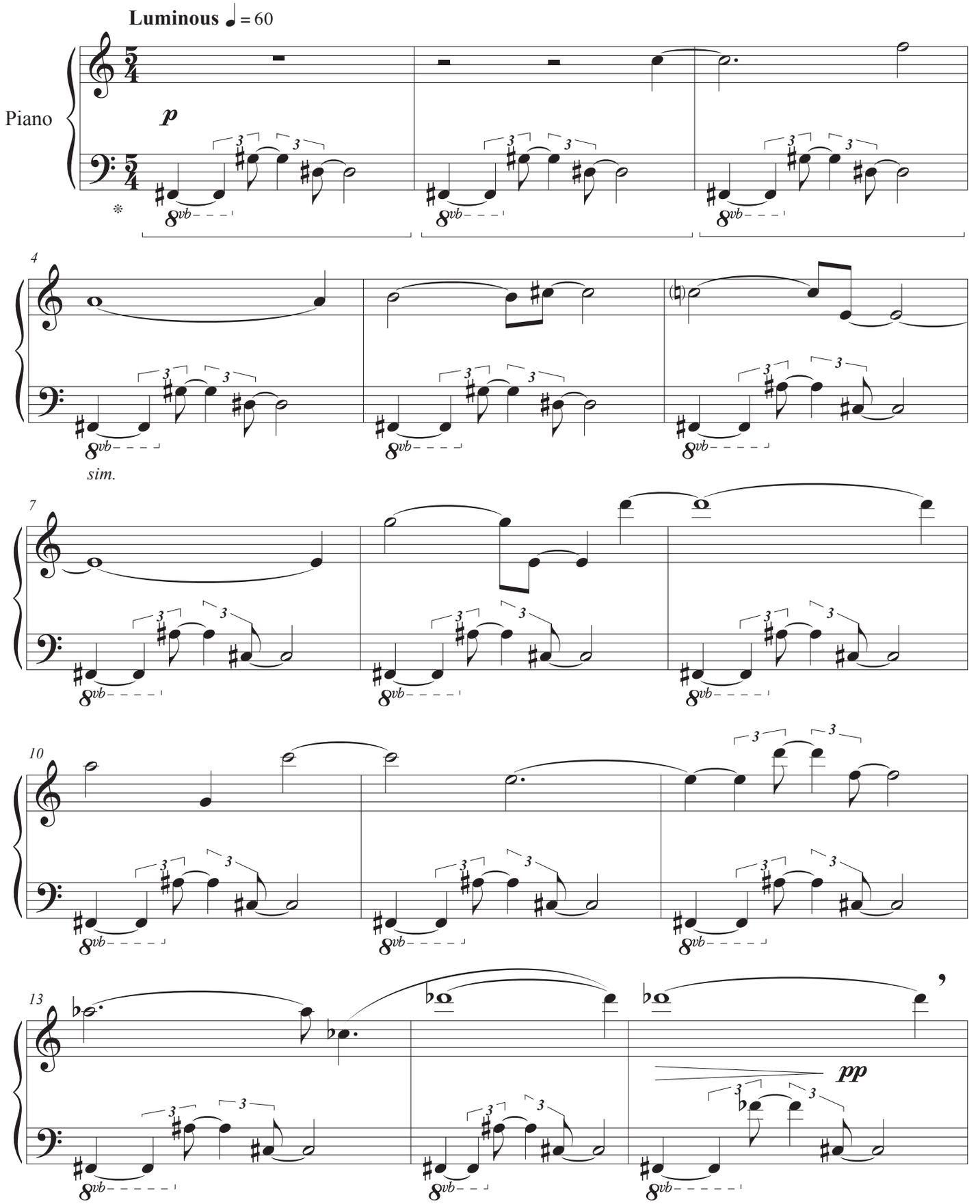
1. #850 To Keep the Dark Away
2. #326. A Glee Possesseth Me
3. #686. An Actual Suffering Strengthens
4. #1577 The Auroral Light
5. #500. Whose Spokes a Dizzy Music Makes

World Premiere
Gayle Martin
Tenri Cultural Institute
NY, NY
4/17/11

Duration: ca. 10:30

1. To Keep Away the Dark

Judith Shatin



* Use half pedal at pedal changes;
Create a light pedal overhang

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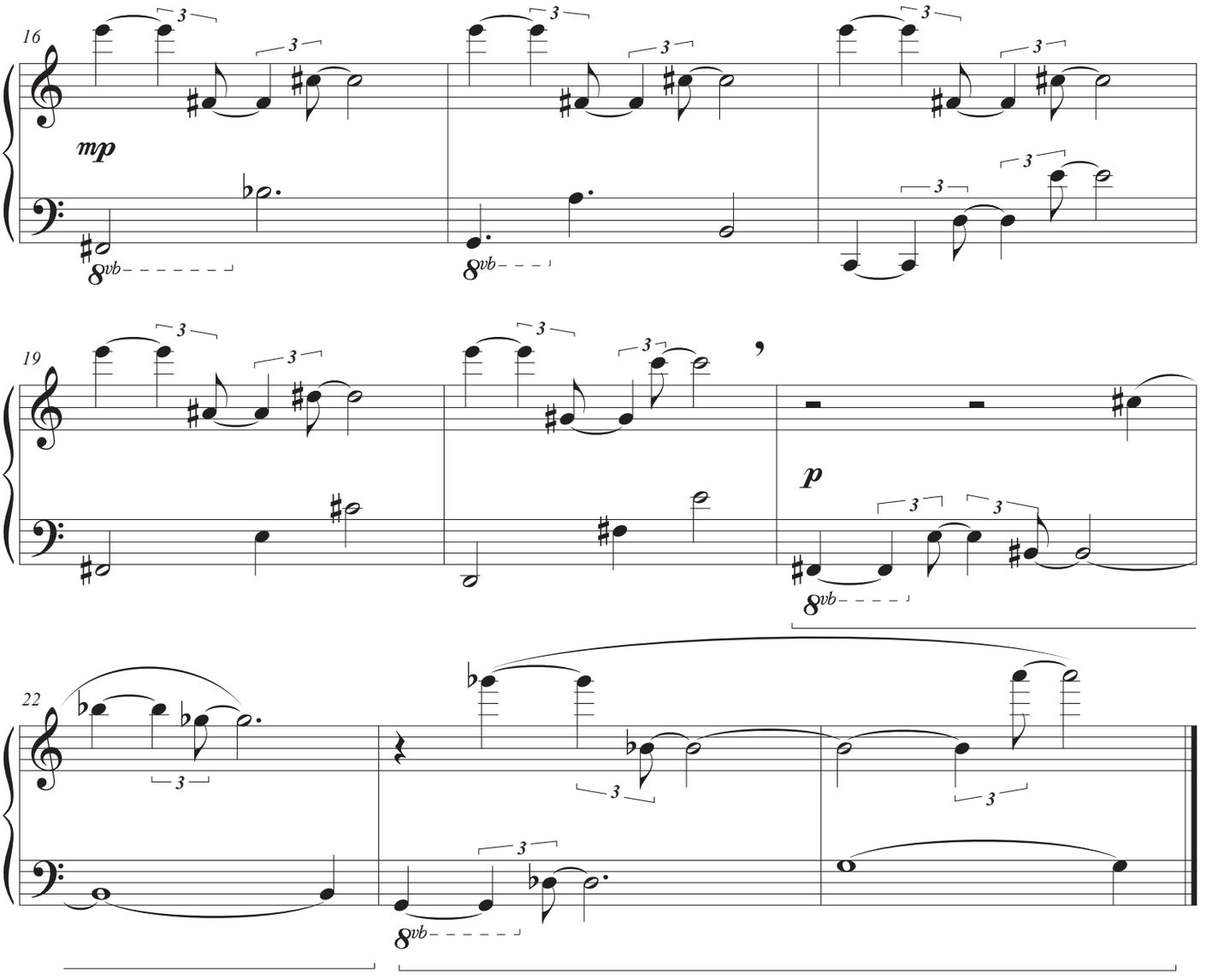
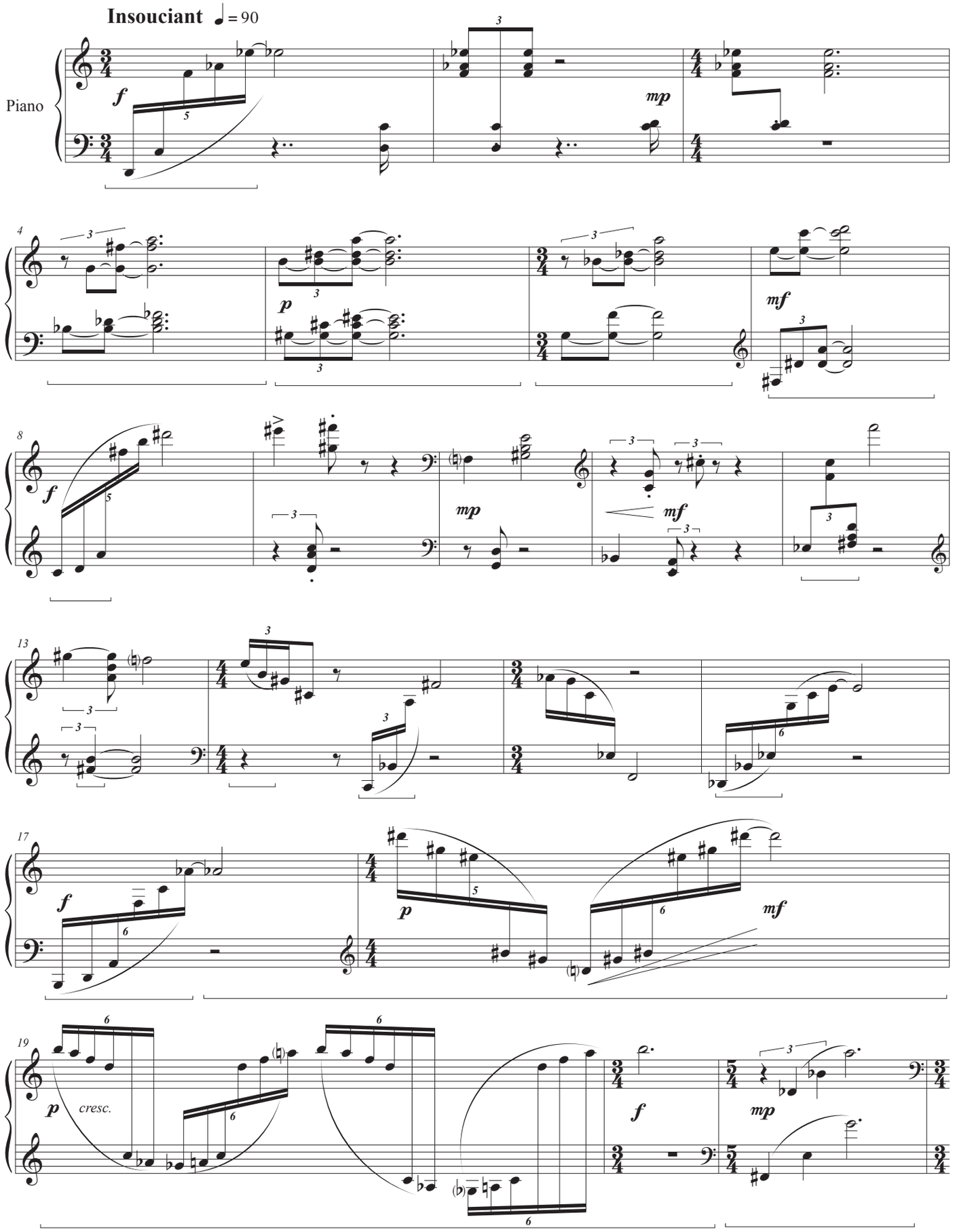
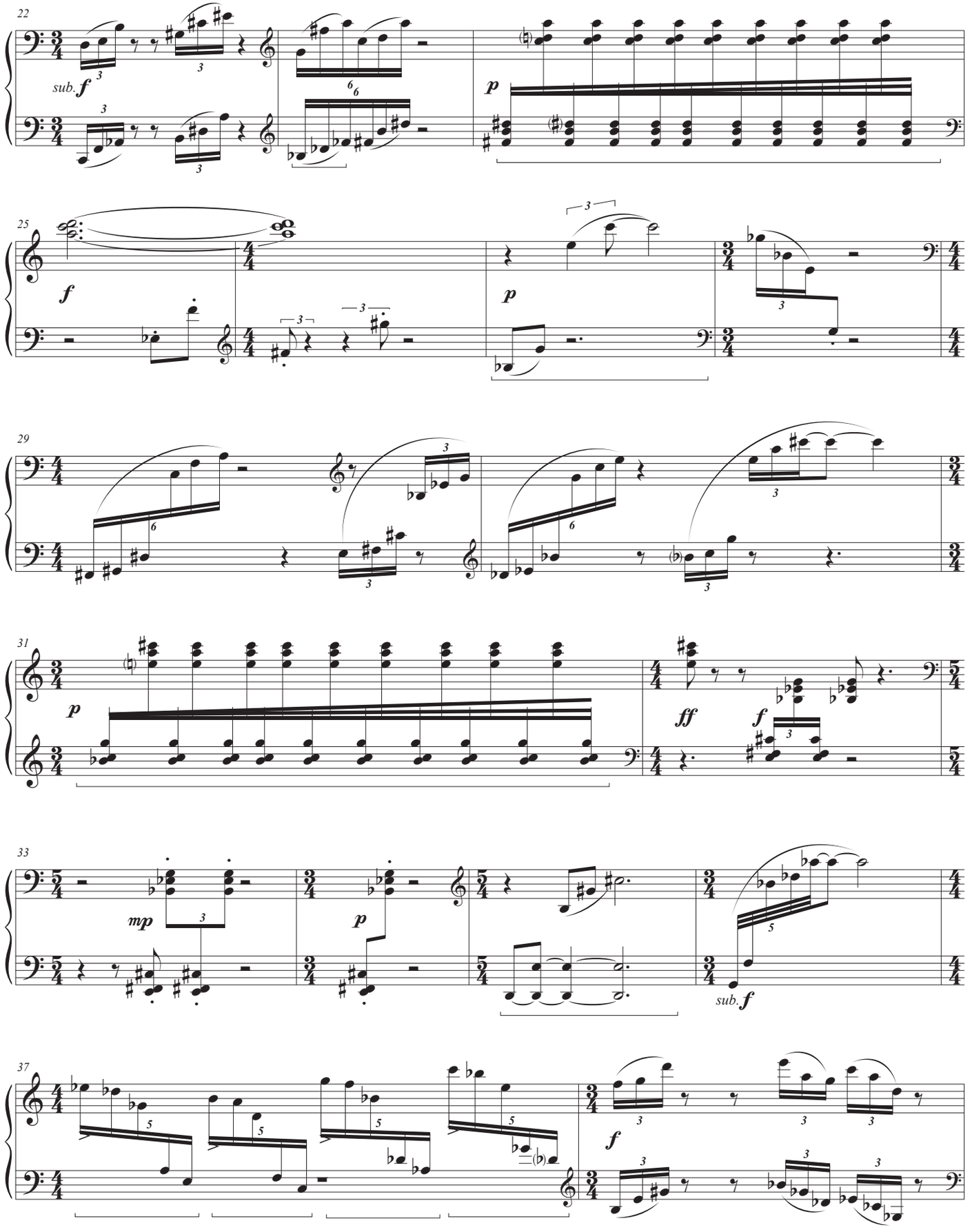
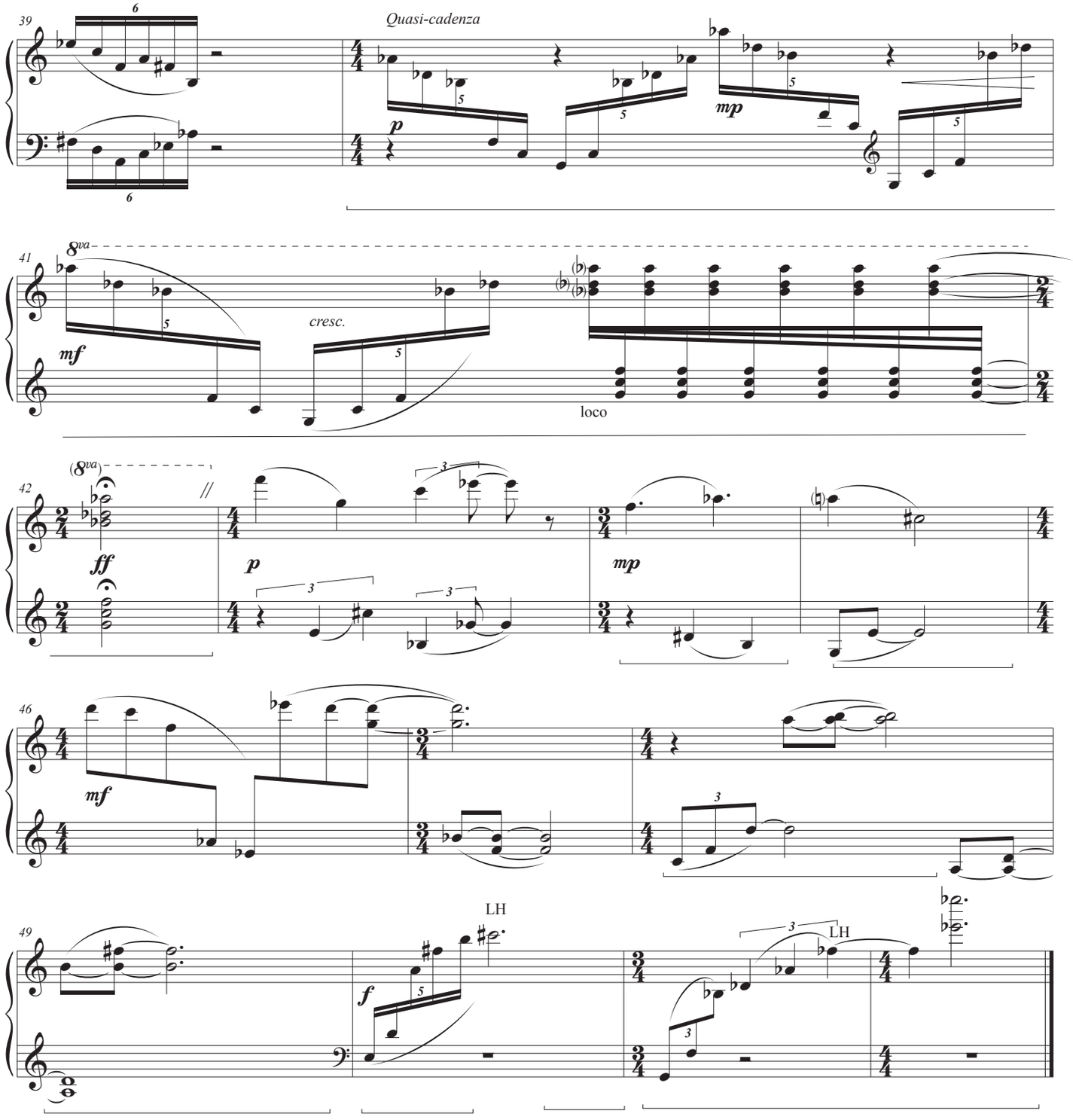

16
mp
8vb
19
p
8vb
22
8vb

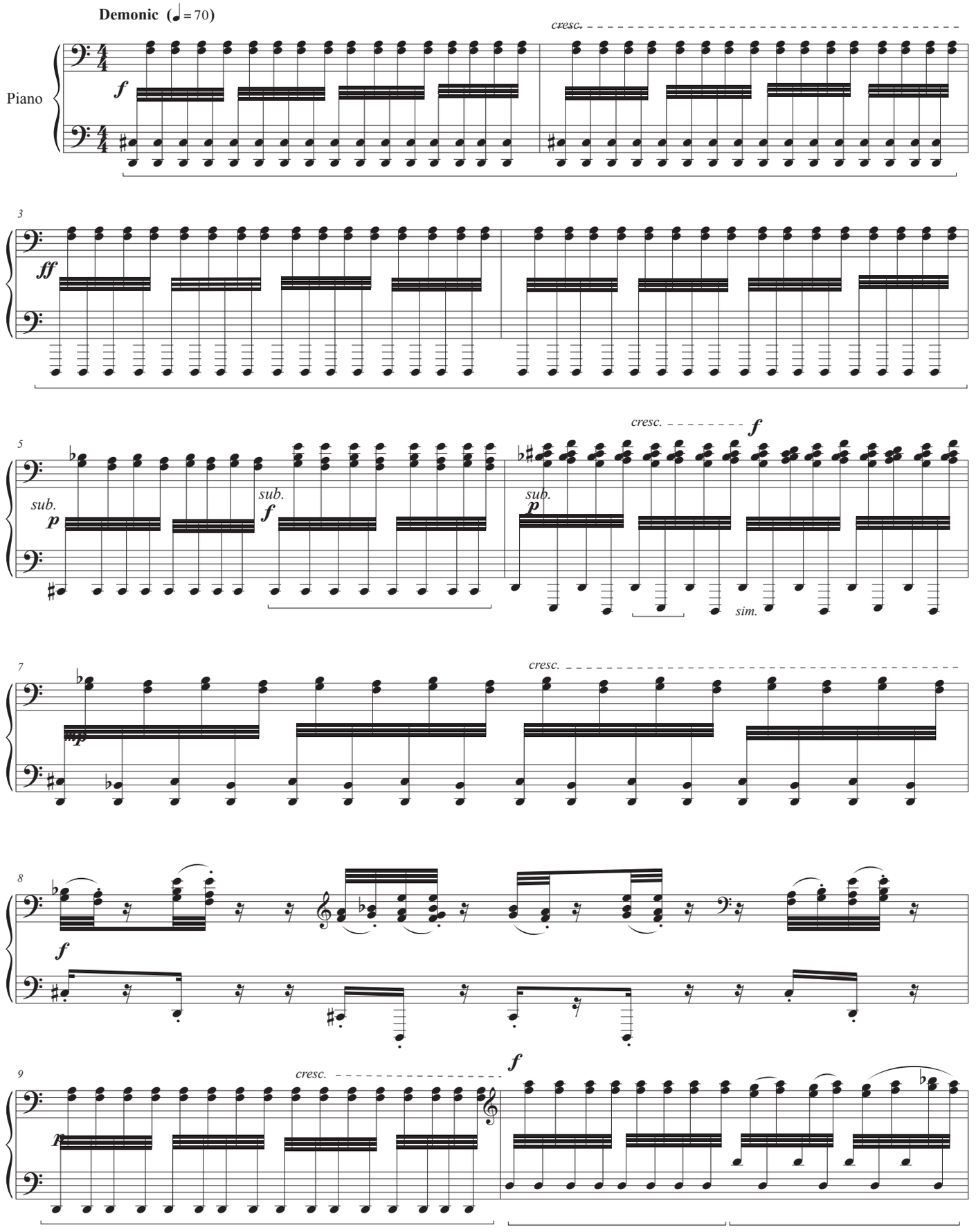
2. A Glee Possesseth Me

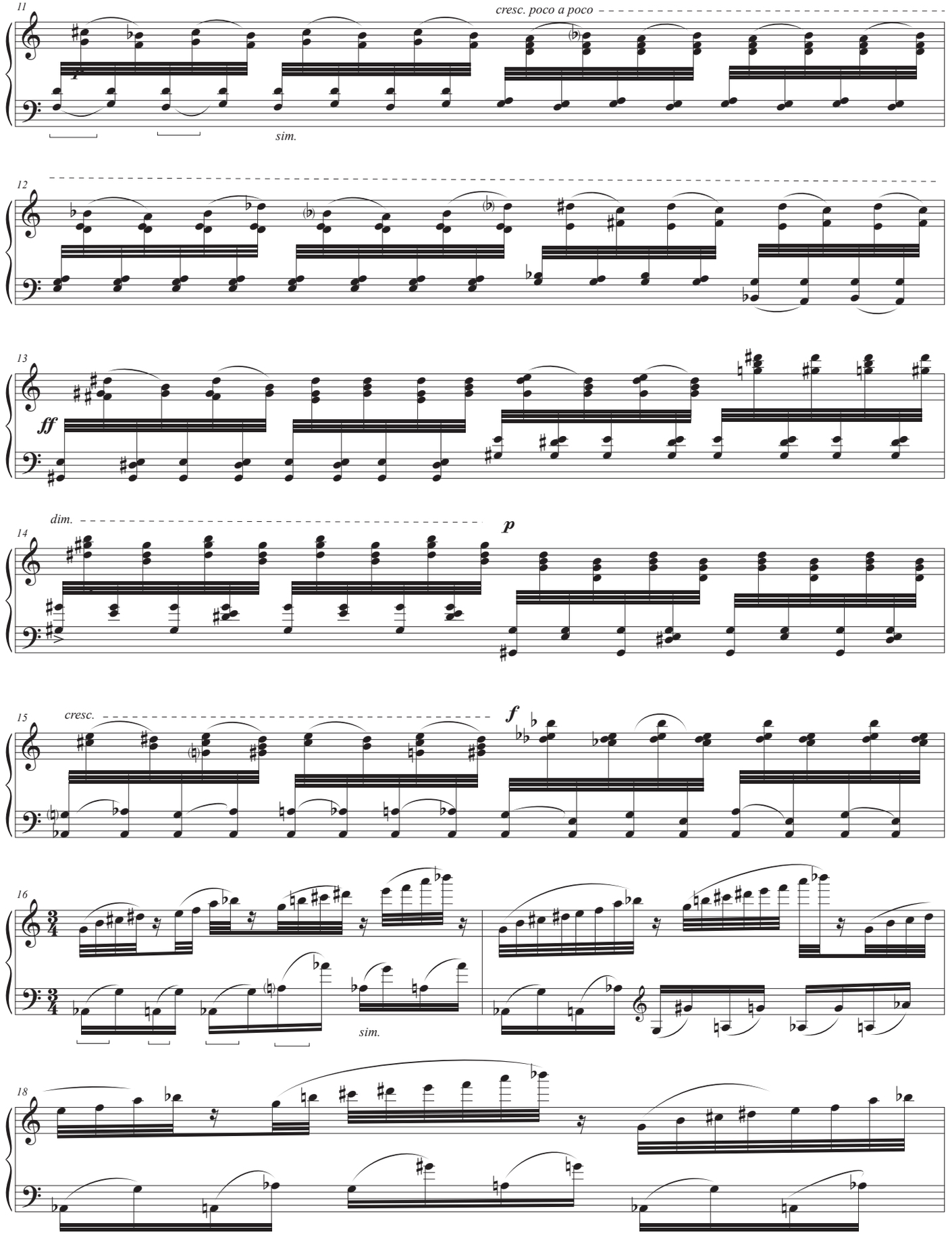


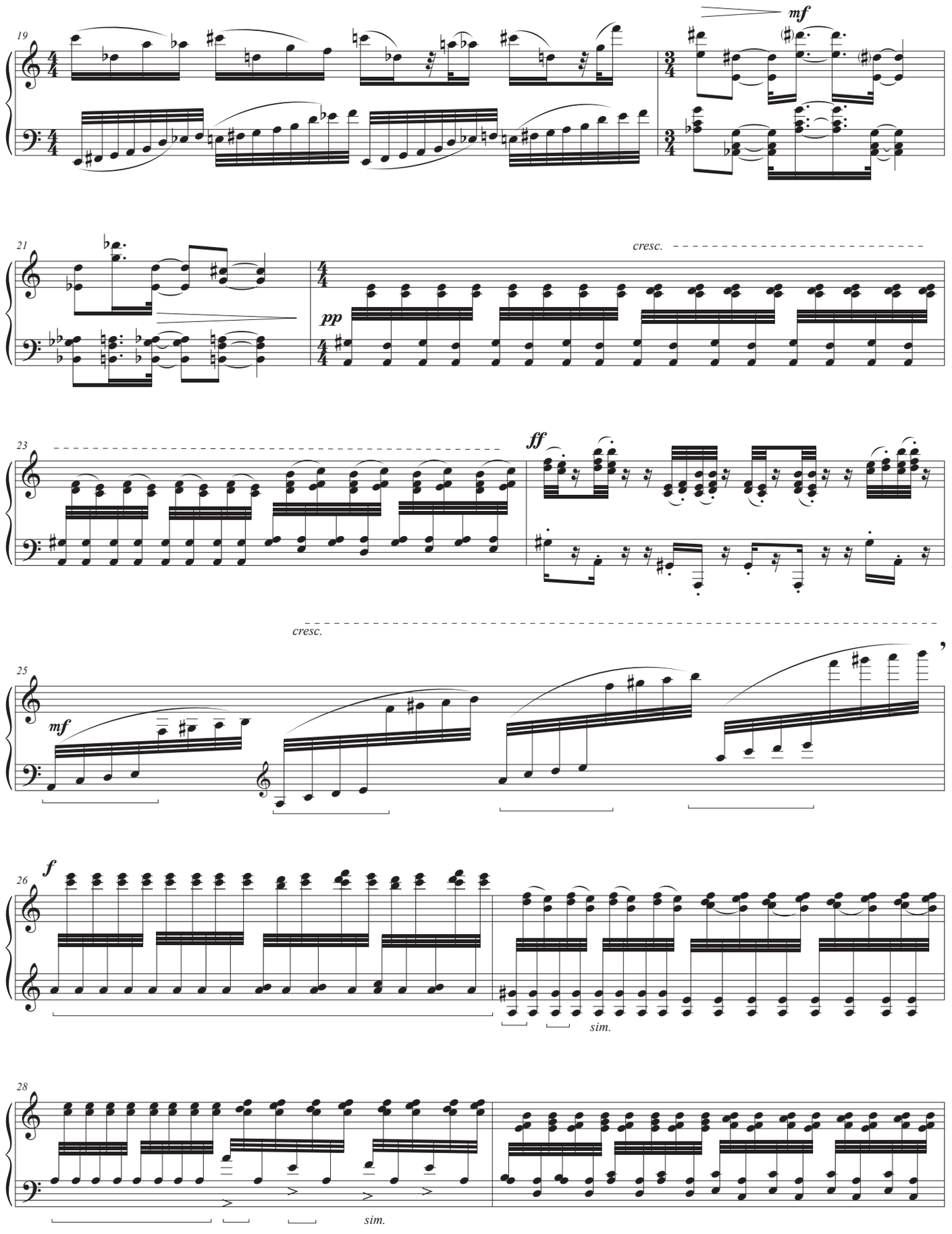

22
sub. f
p
25
f
p
29
31
p
ff
f
33
mp
p
sub. f
37
f

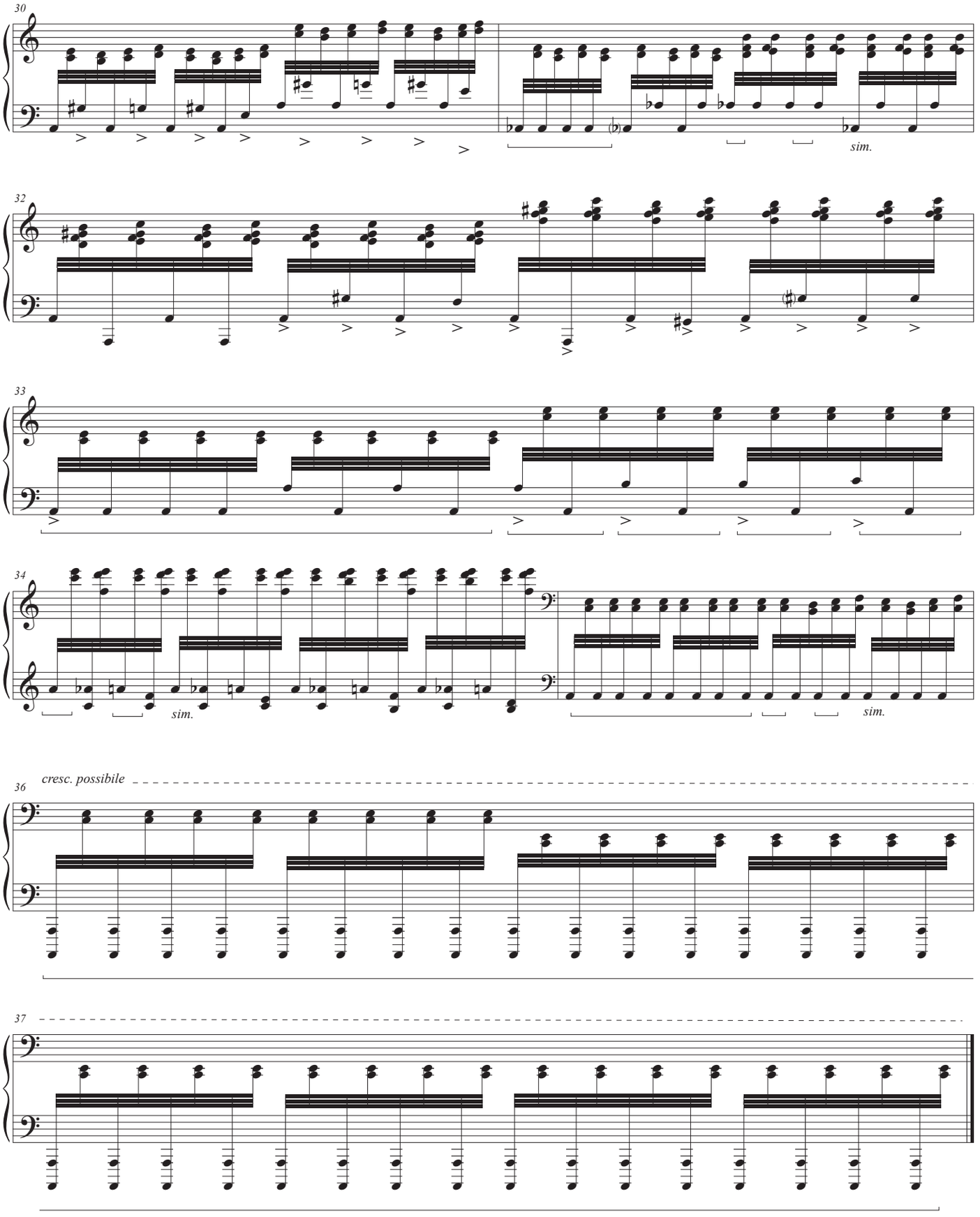

39
Quasi-cadenza
p
mp
41
8va
mf
cresc.
loco
42
(8va)
ff
p
mp
46
mf
49
LH
f
LH

3. An Actual Suffering Strengthens

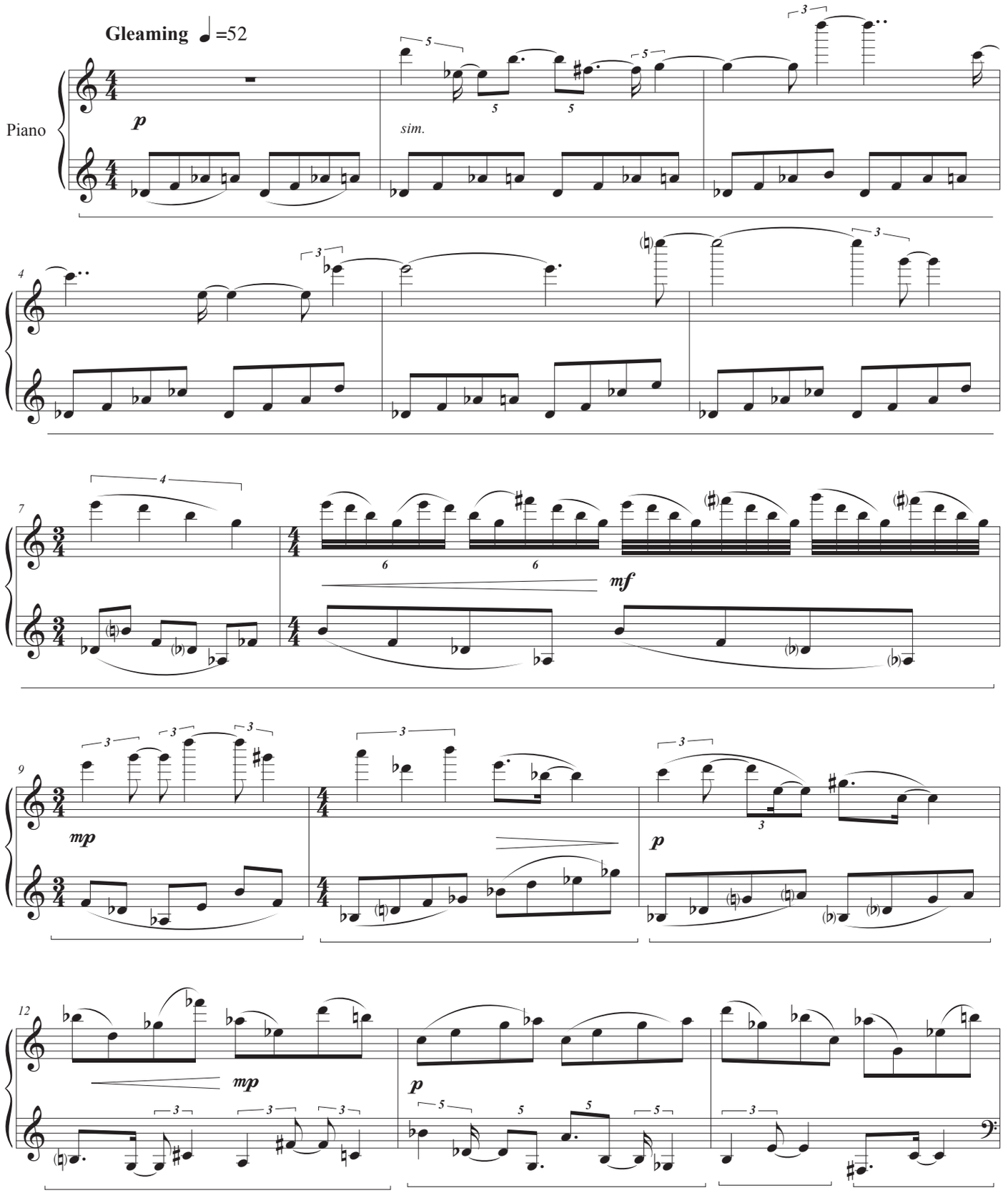


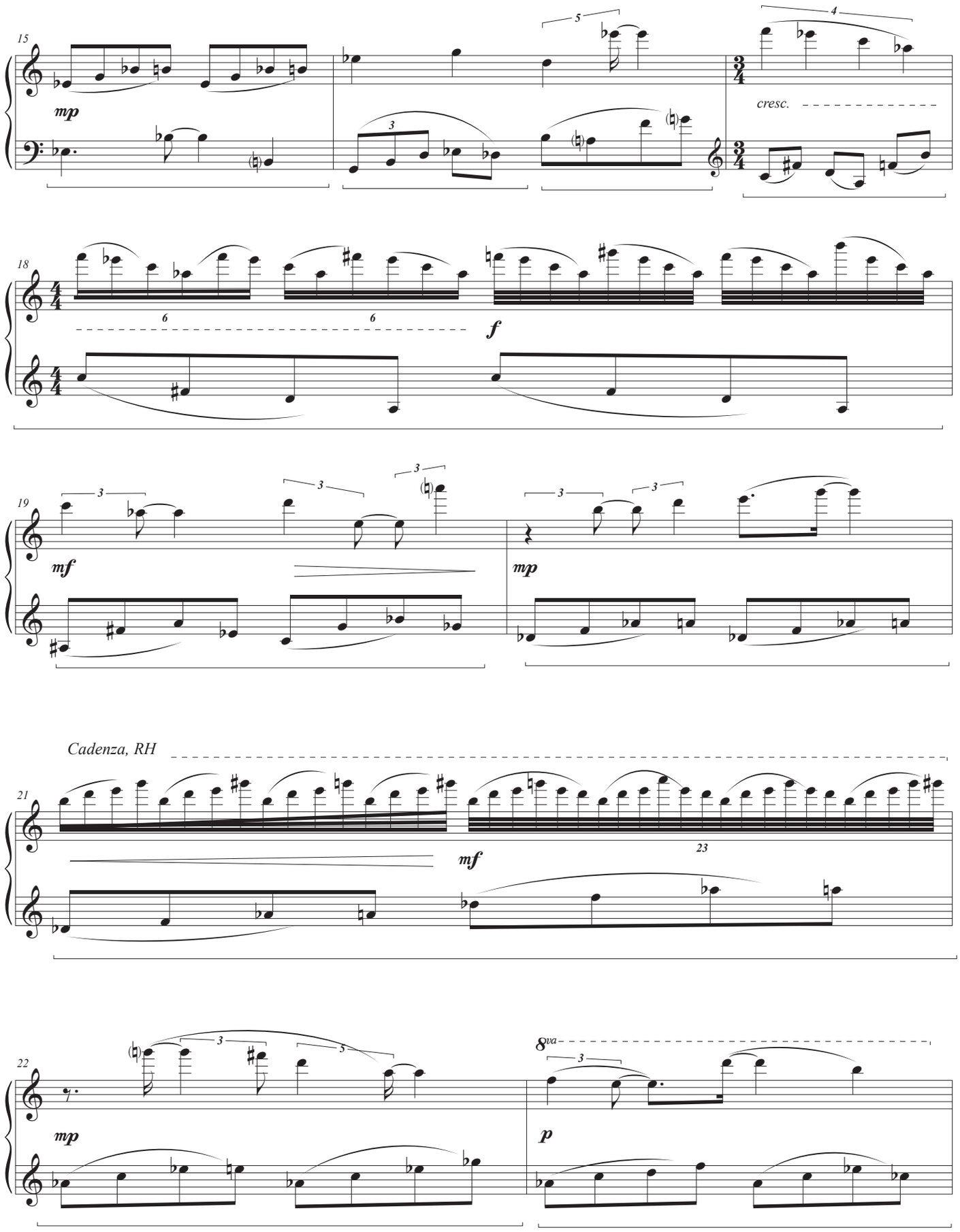

11
cresc. poco a poco
sim.
12
13
ff
dim.
14
p
15
cresc.
f
16
sim.
18

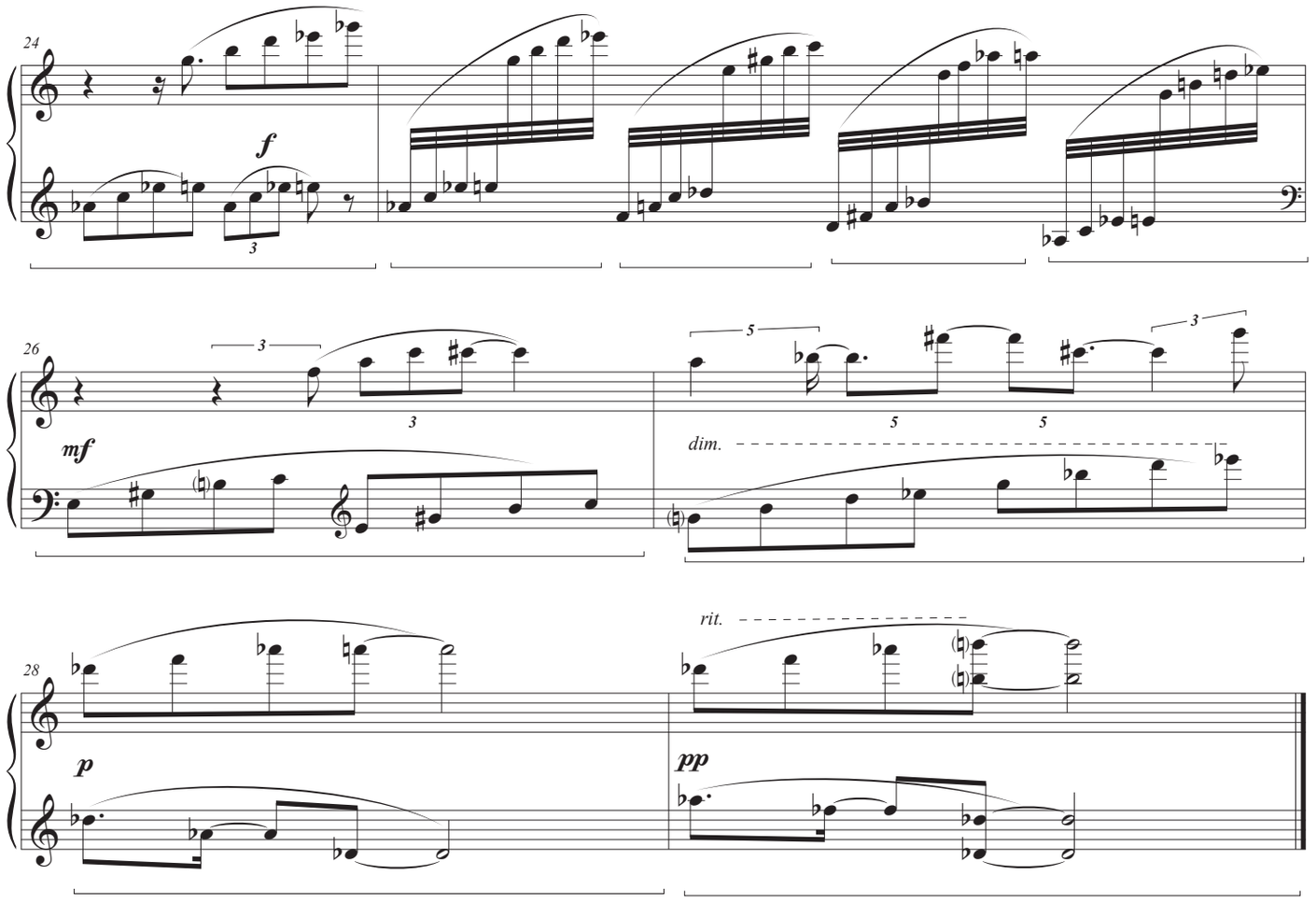

19
mf
21
cresc.
pp
23
ff
cresc.
25
mf
26
f
sim.
28
sim.


30
sim.
32
33
34
sim.
sim.
36
cresc. possibile
37

4. The Auroral Light



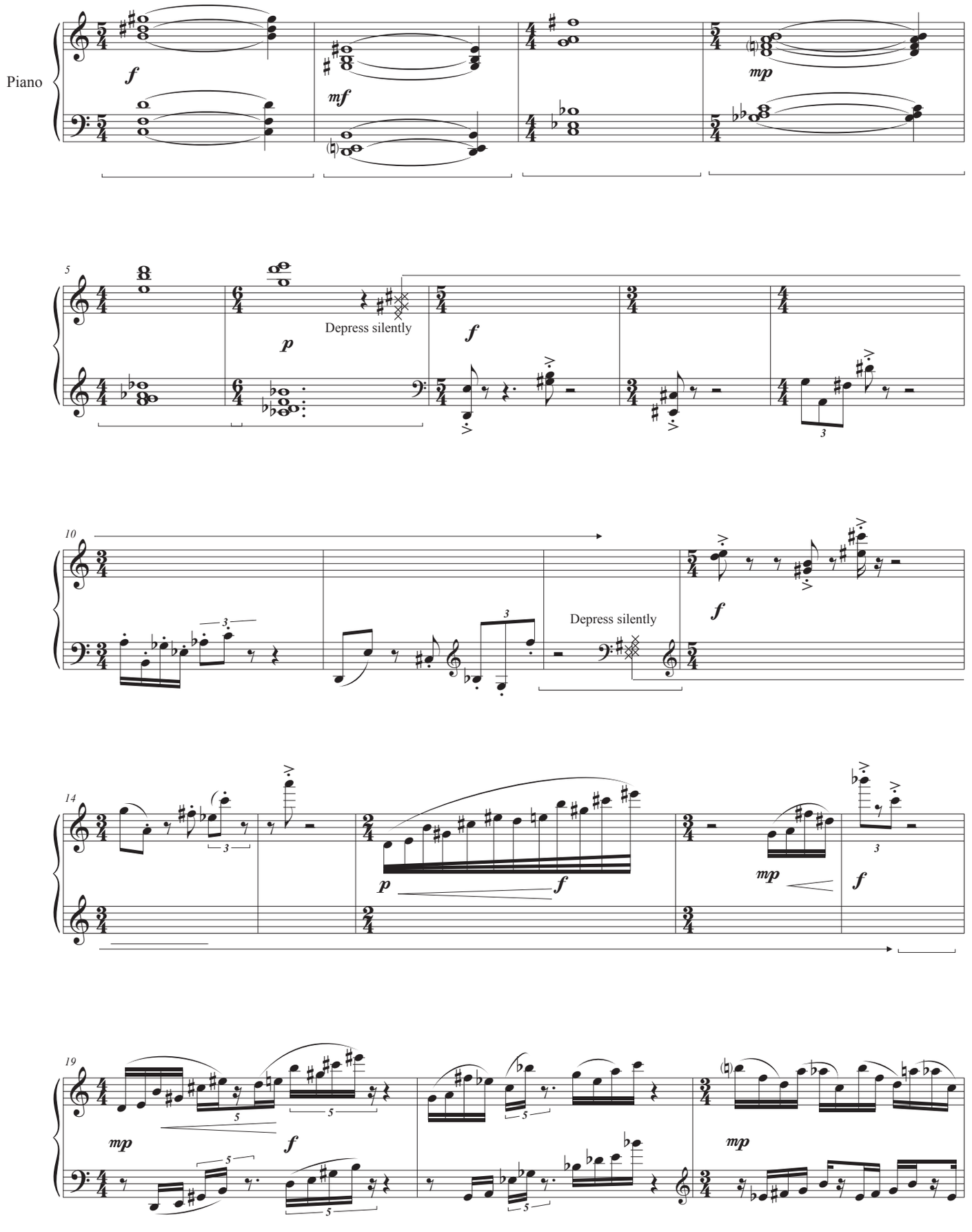

15
mp
cresc.
18
f
19
mf
mp
Cadenza, RH
21
mf
23
22
mp
8va
p

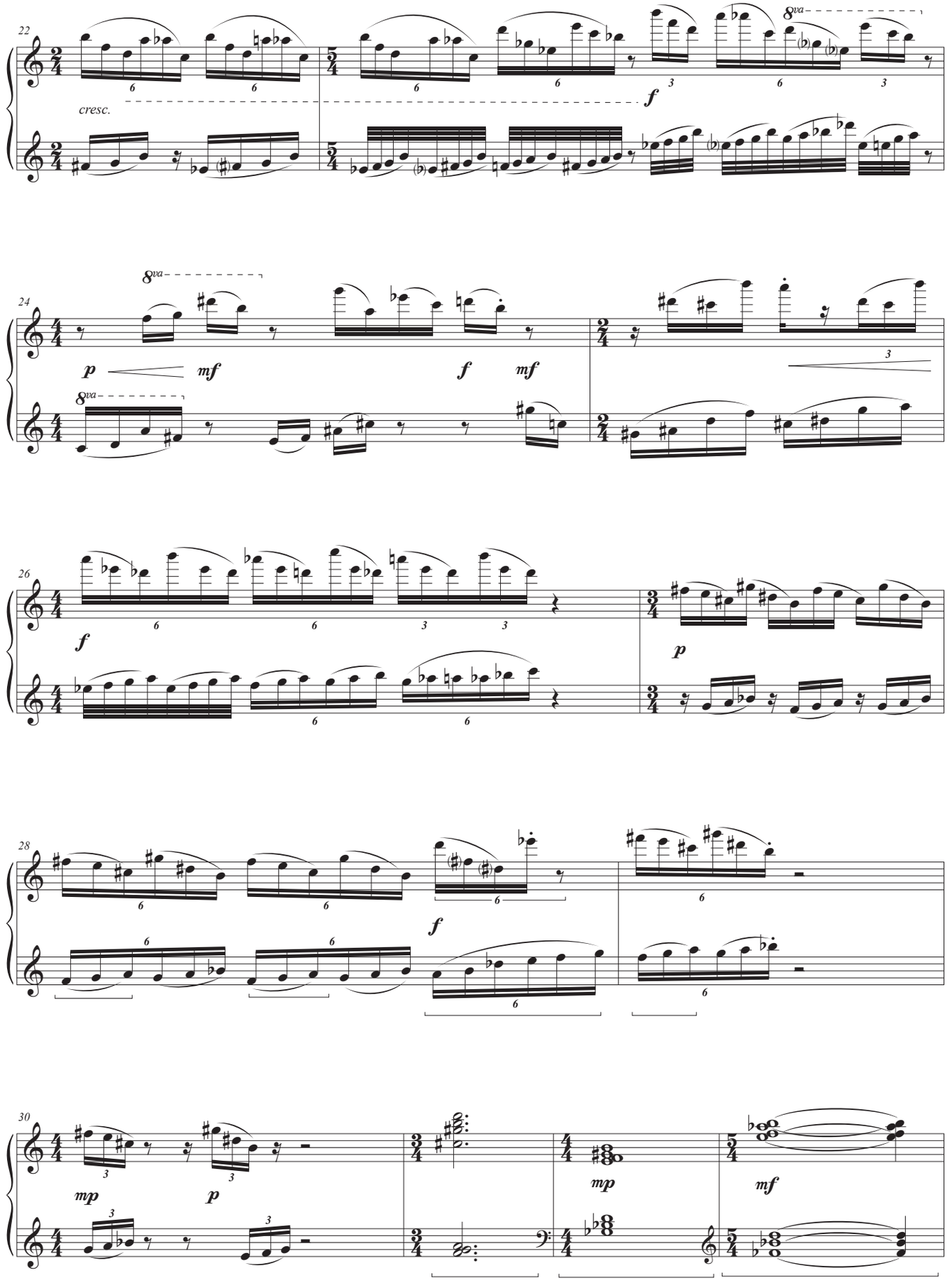

24
f
3
26
3
3
mf
5
5
5
3
dim.
28
p
rit.
pp

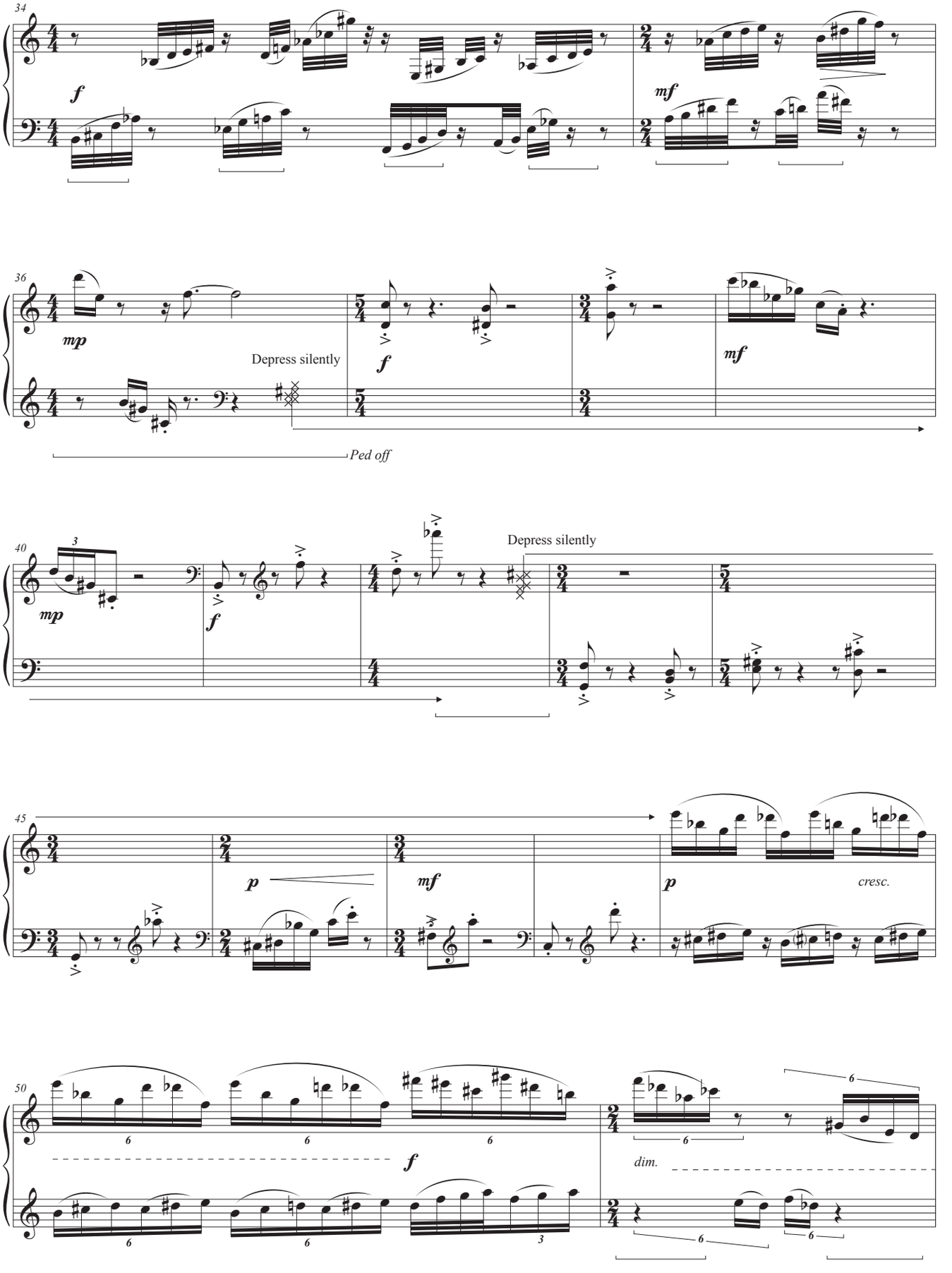
5. Whose Spokes a Dizzy Music Makes

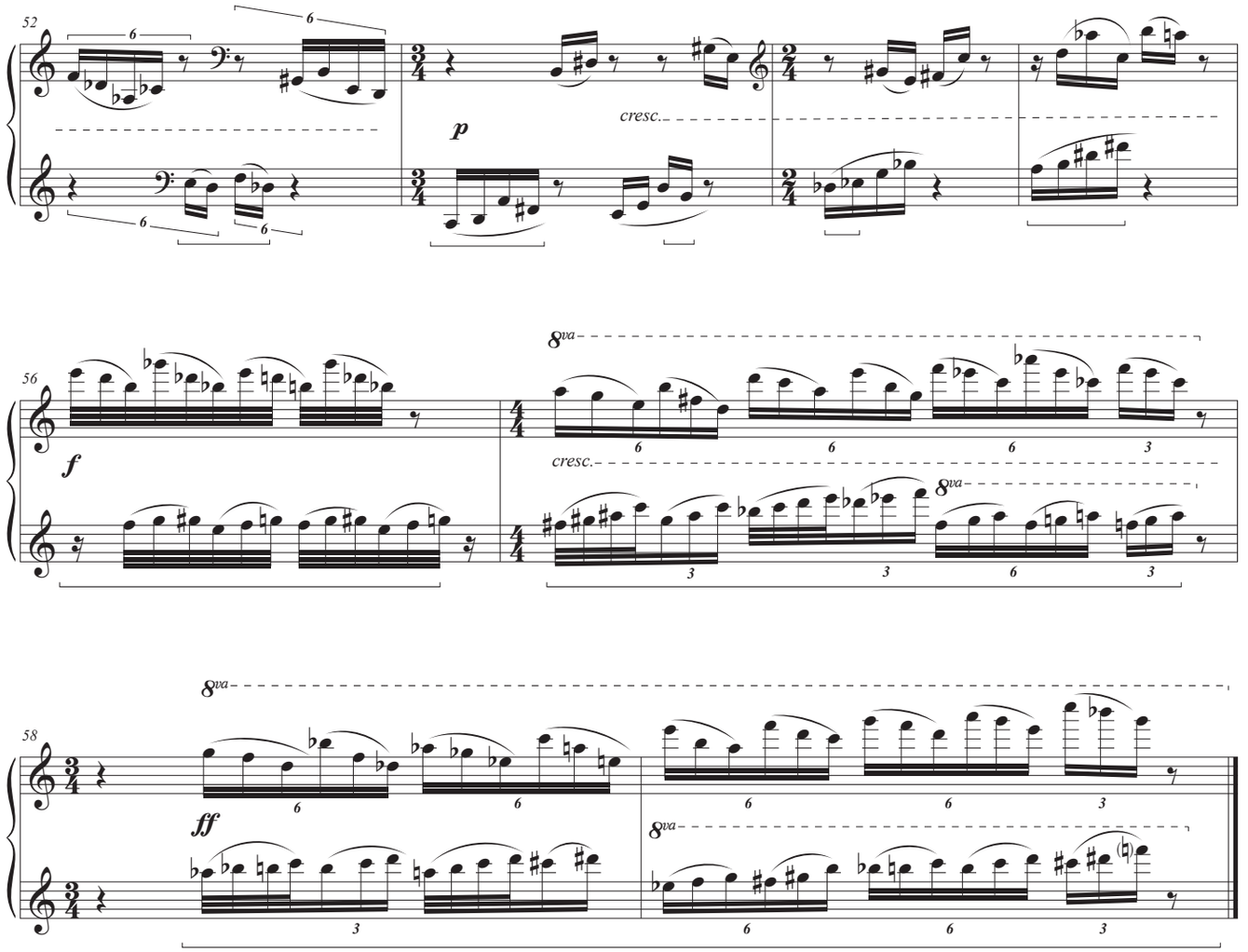
Sonorous ♩ = 100

Piano




22
cresc.
f
8va
24
8va
8va
p
mf
f
mf
26
f
p
28
f
30
mp
p
mp
mf


34
f
mf
36
mp
Depress silently
f
mf
Ped off
40
3
mp
f
Depress silently
45
p
mf
p
cresc.
50
6
f
dim.


52
p
cresc.
56
f
8va
cresc.
58
ff