NETSUKE

ERIC SHANFIELD

NETSUKE

Eric Shanfield | ENS.2017.2 | 6.14.17-7.9.17 | 24'

Solo Piano

Netsuke should be performed with only very short pauses between movements, just long enough to make it clear that a new movement is beginning. This piece is carefully structured and is intended to be played in its entirety.

Me: "I'm writing a symphony. It's gonna be like forty minutes long."

Pat: "It's going to be forty movements?!"

Me: "No, but that's not a bad idea…"

Because traditional Japanese garments such as *kimonos* have no pockets, to hold their personal belongings men wore small containers suspended on cords from their sashes. The fasteners that secured these cords were called *netsuke*. Over time these utilitarian objects evolved from shapeless toggles into marvelously intricate miniature sculptures depicting everything from everyday scenes and common animals to mythical creatures and demons. My composition *Netsuke* consists of thirty-four tiny musical objects inspired by but not directly depicting the extraordinary masterpieces of craftsmanship I marveled at in the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's Pavilion for Japanese Art, whose impressive collection of *netsuke* suggested this piece.

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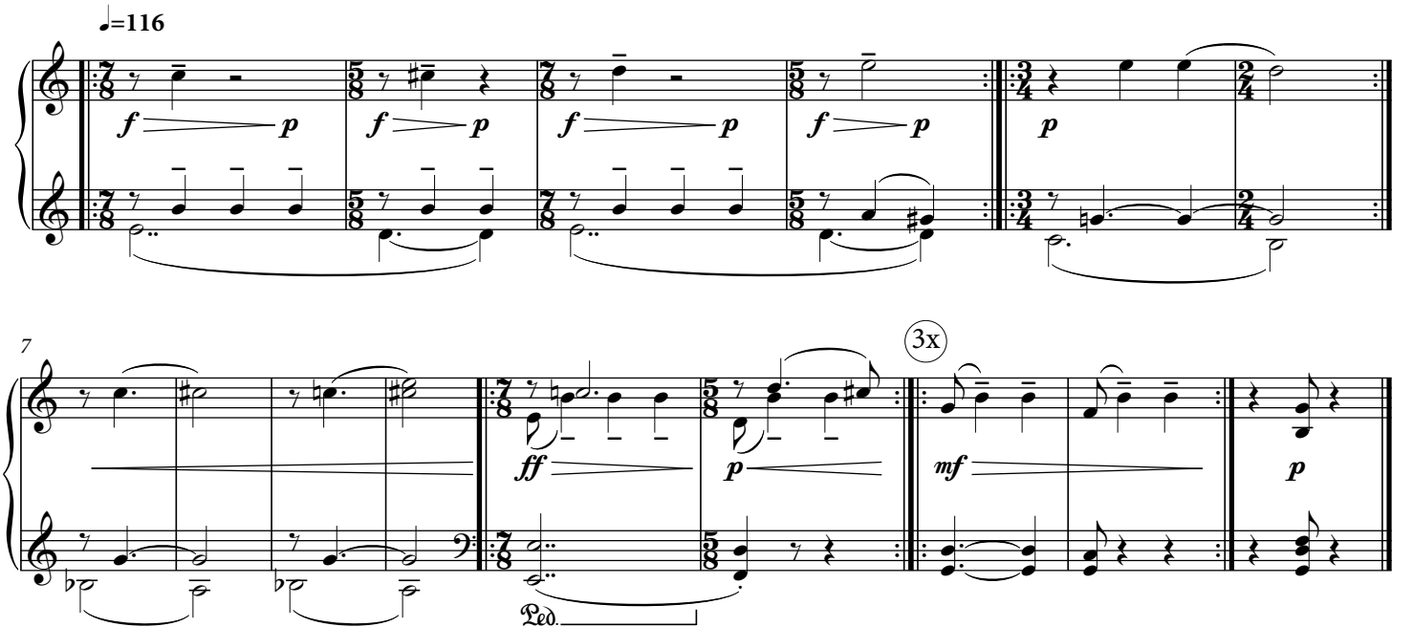
NETSUKE

1.

Eric Shanfield



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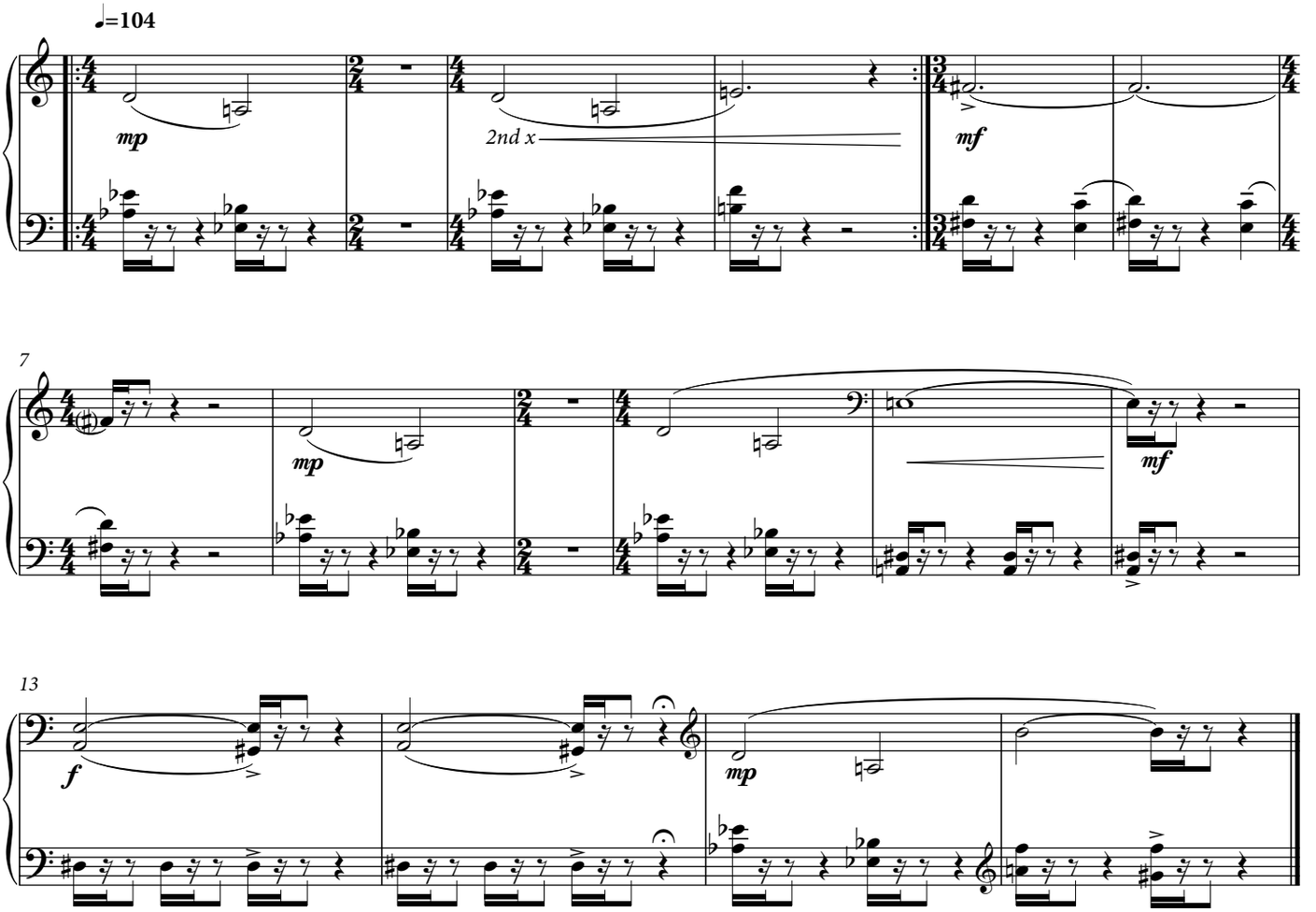

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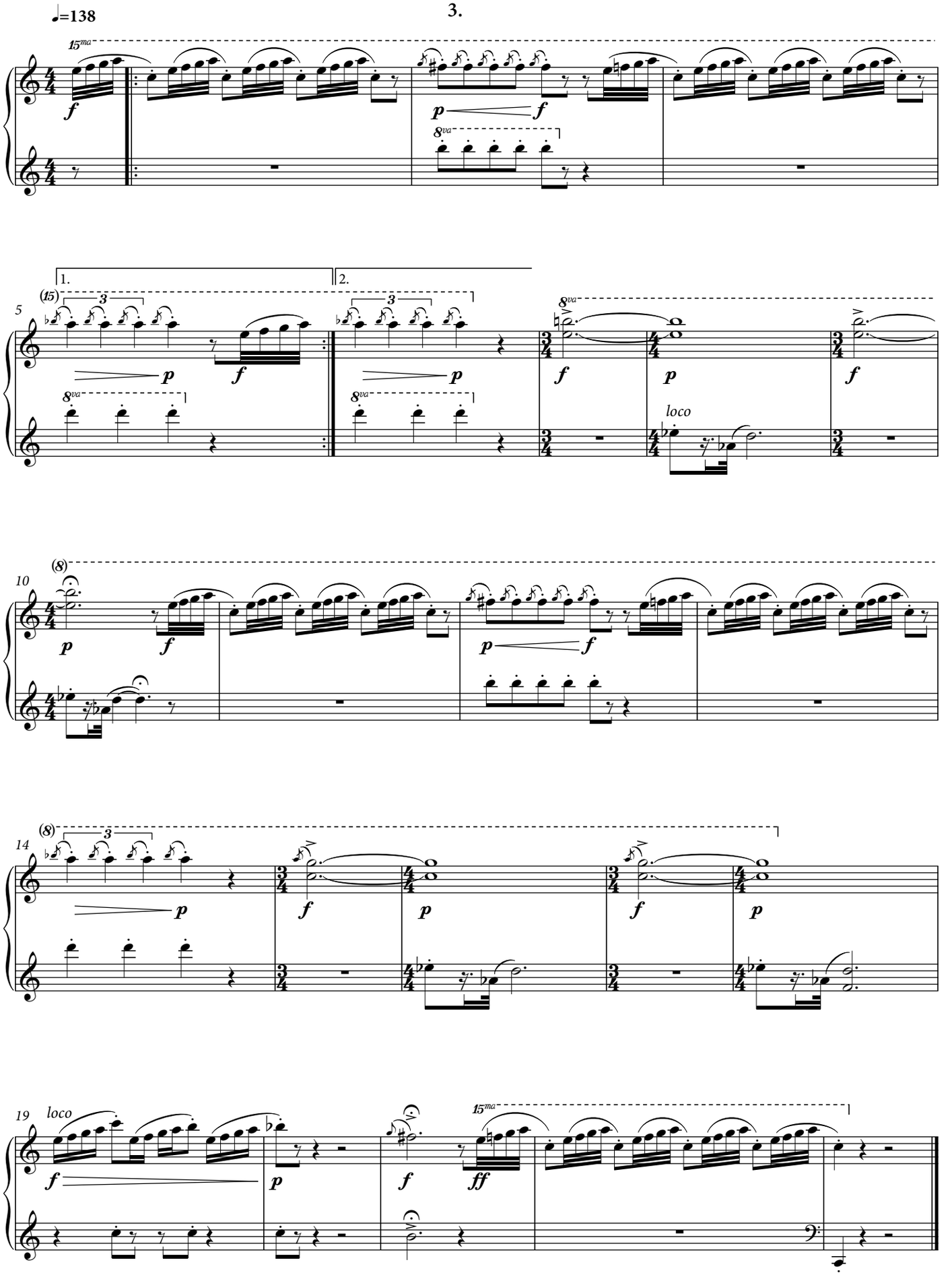
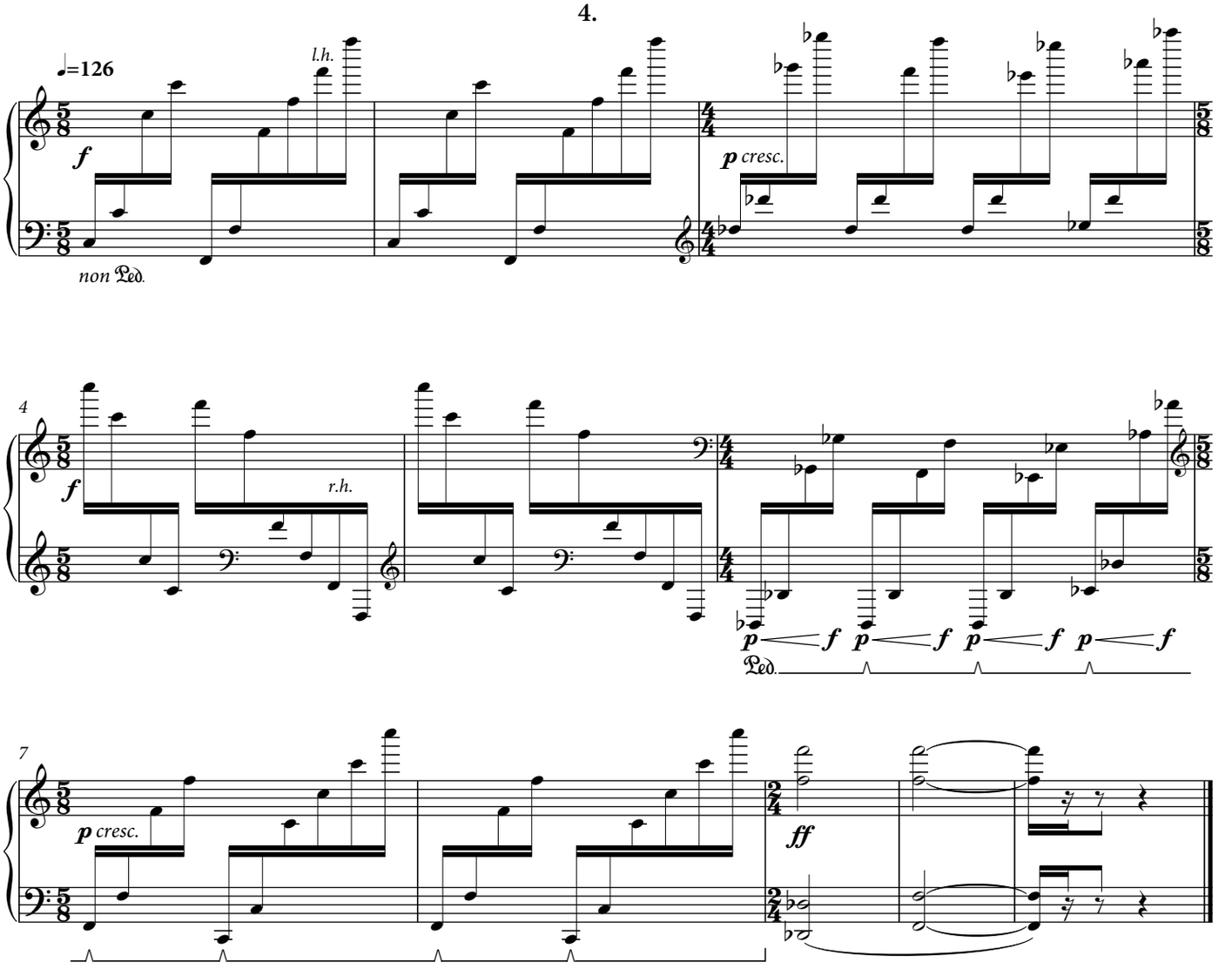
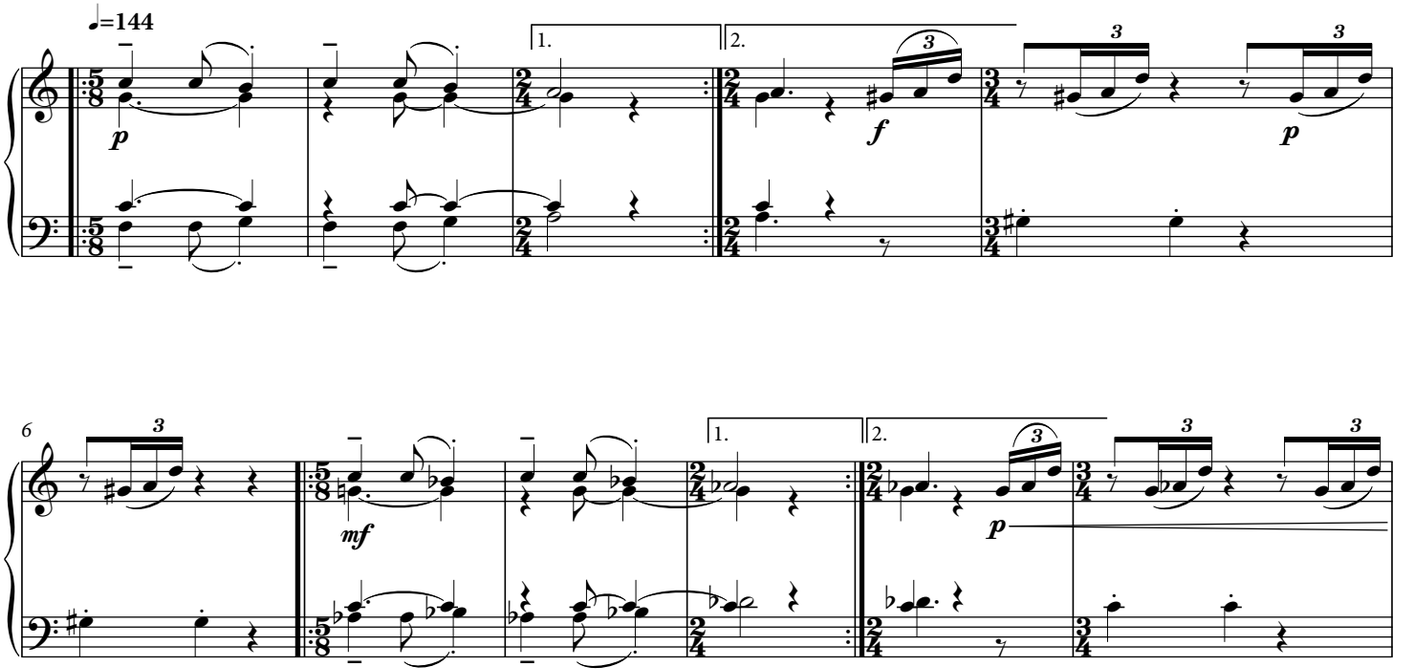
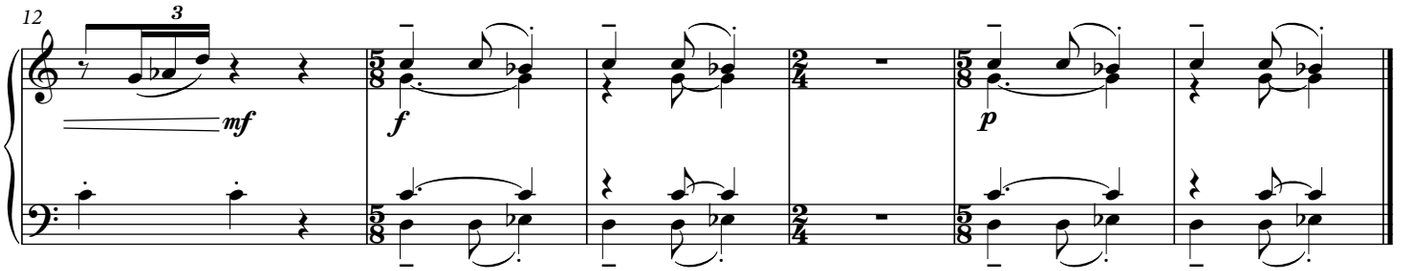

3.
♩=138
15ma
f
p
f
8va
5
1.
2.
(15)
3
p
f
8va
p
f
8va
f
p
loco
f
10
(8)
p
f
p
f
14
(8)
3
p
f
p
f
p
19
loco
f
p
f
15ma
ff

4.


♩=126
l.h.
f
p cresc.
non Ped.
4
f
r.h.
p f p f p f p f
Ped.
7
p cresc.
ff

5.


♩=144
p
1.
2.
f
3
p
6
mf
1.
2.
p
3



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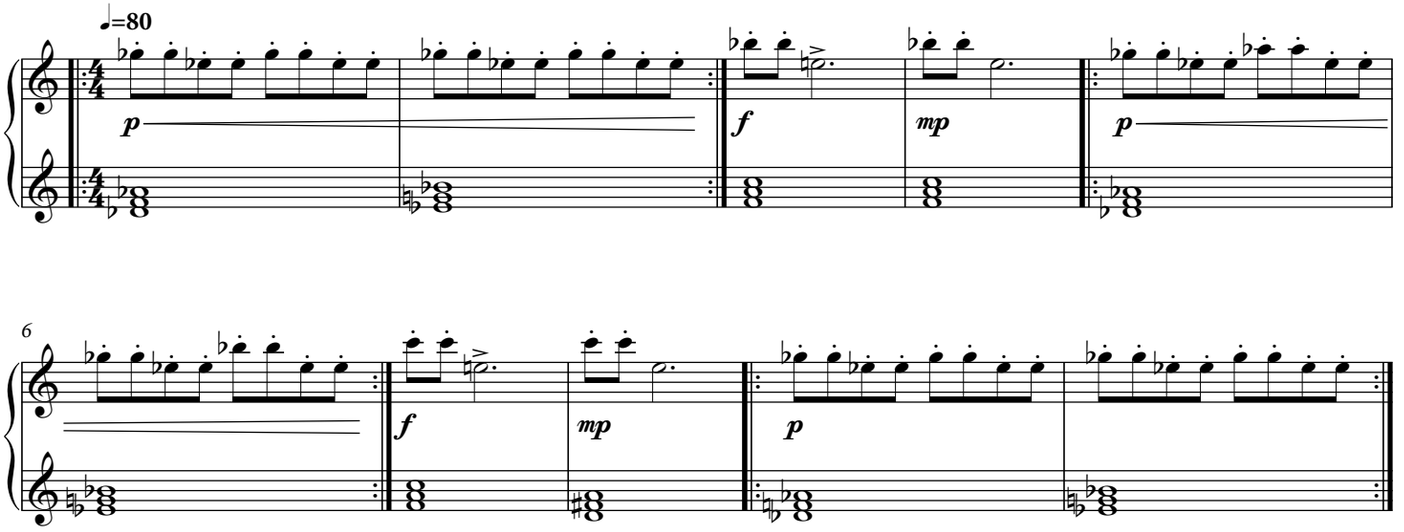

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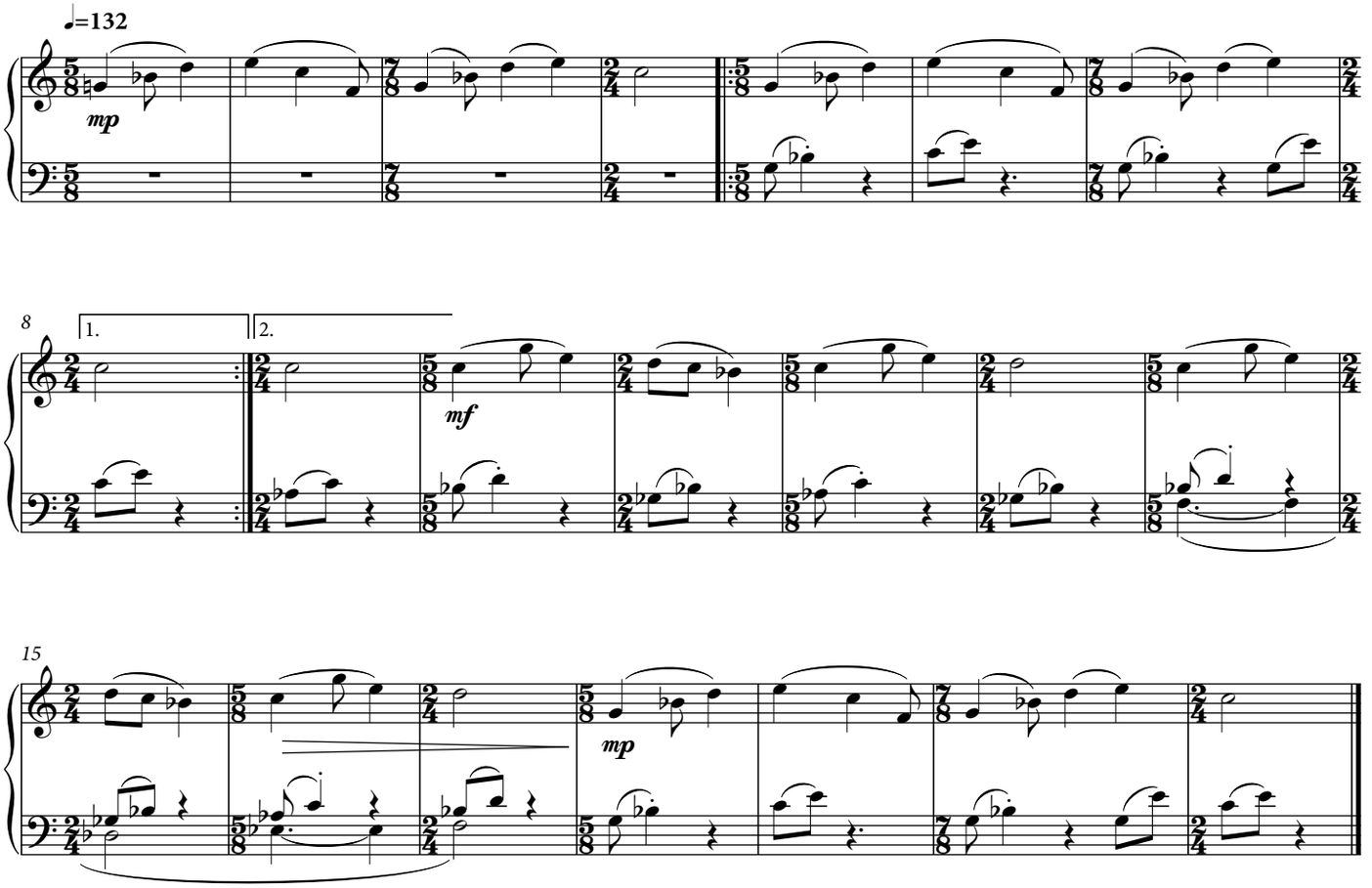

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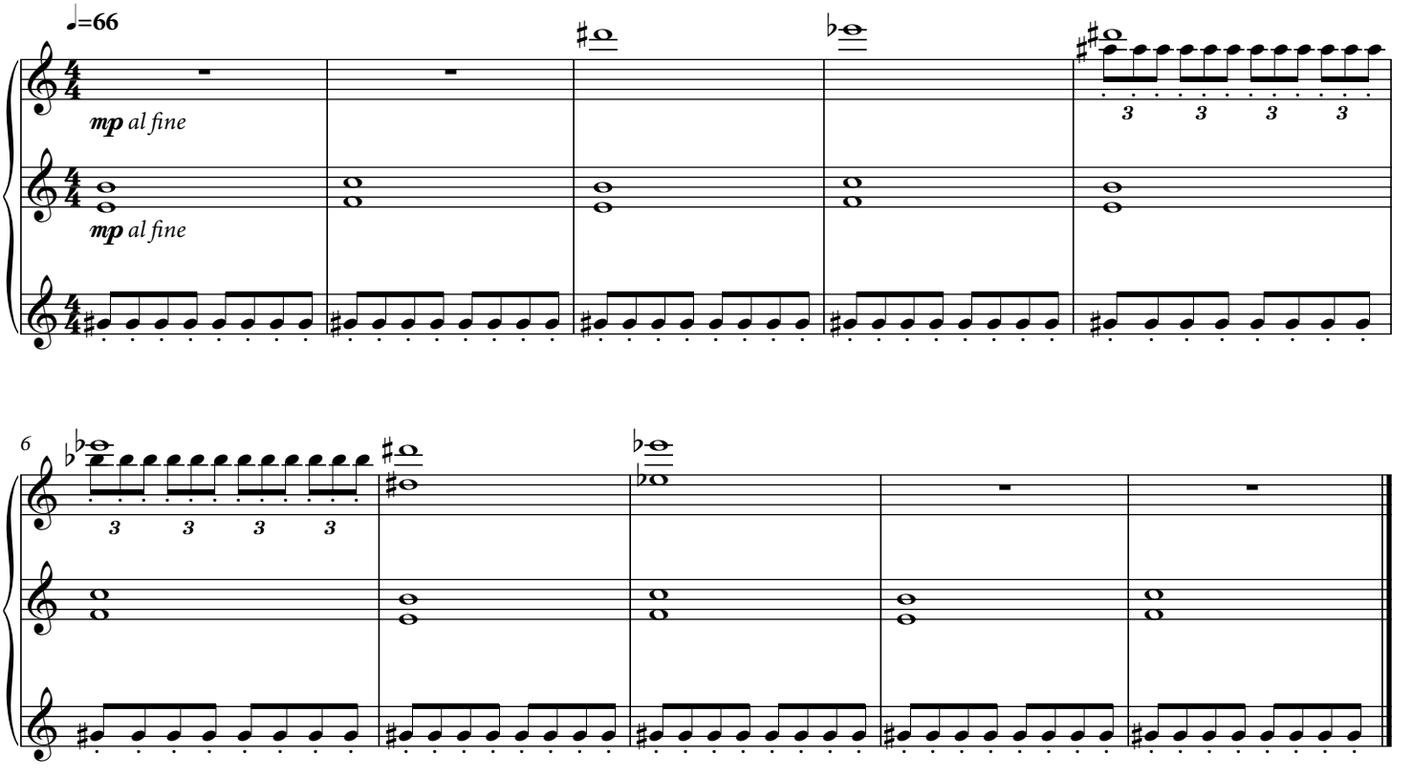

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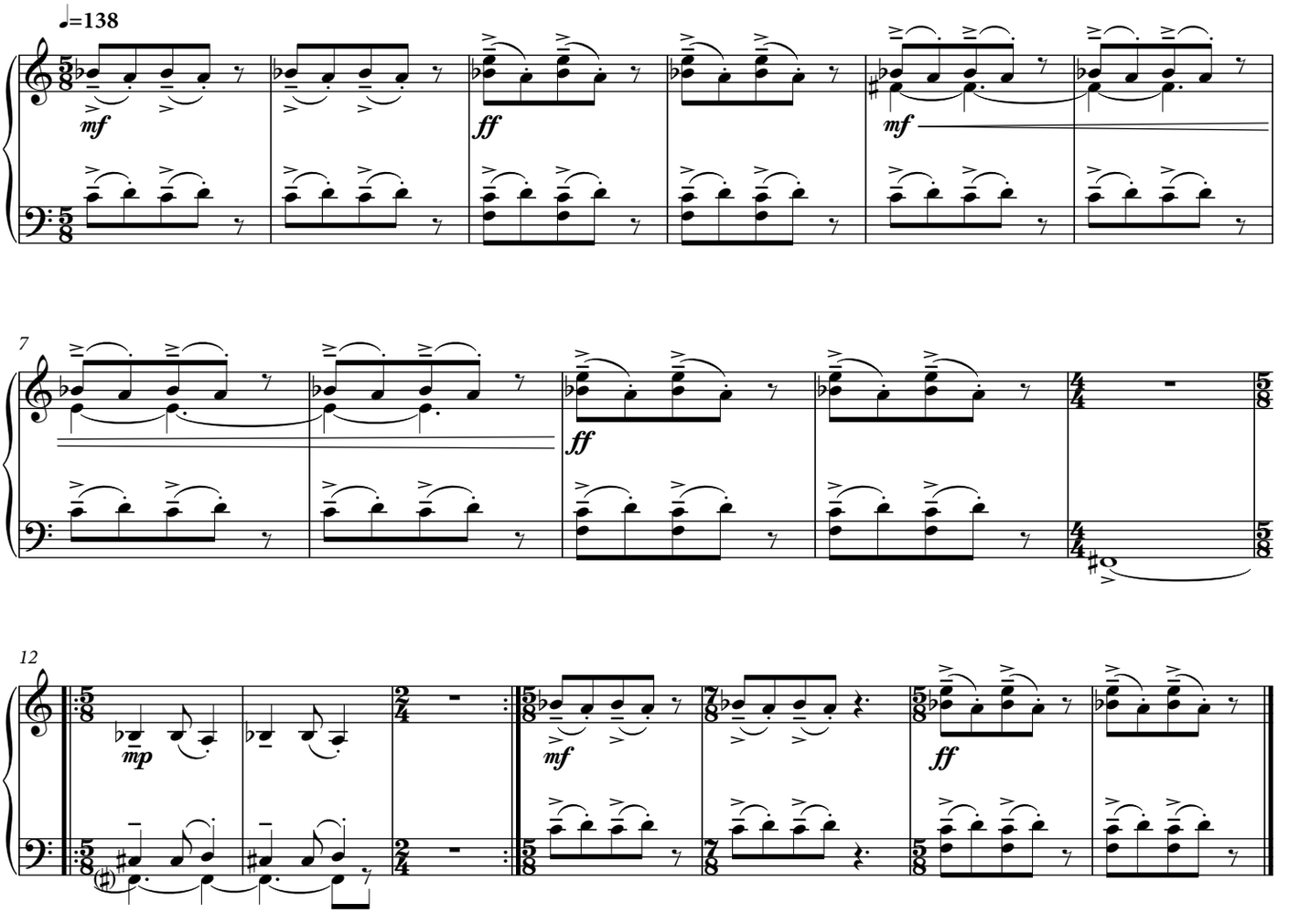

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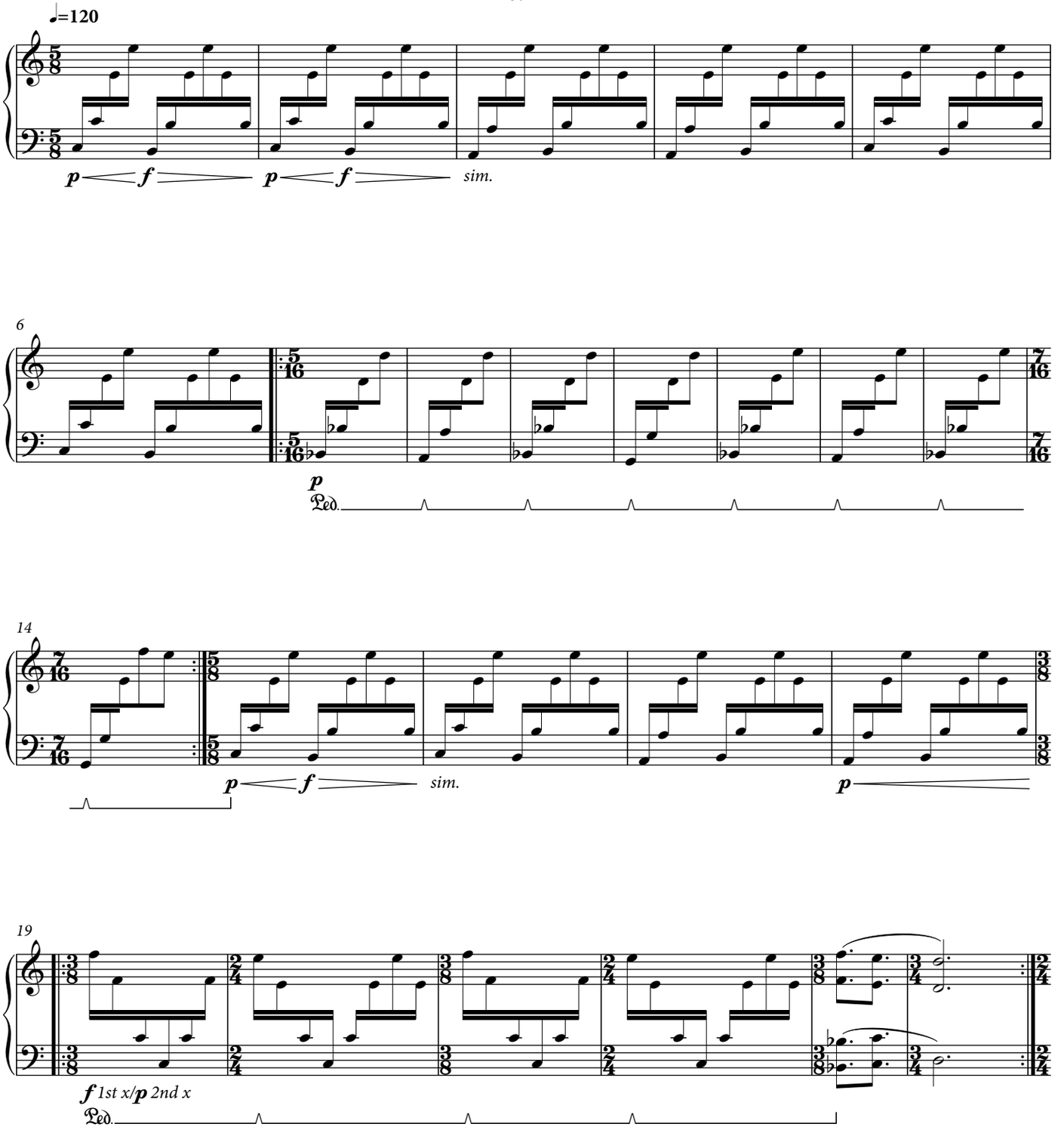
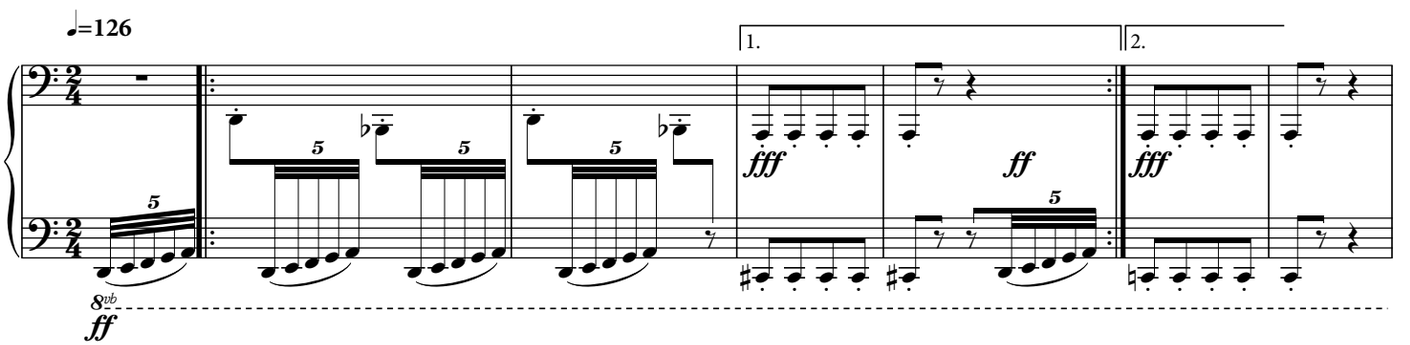
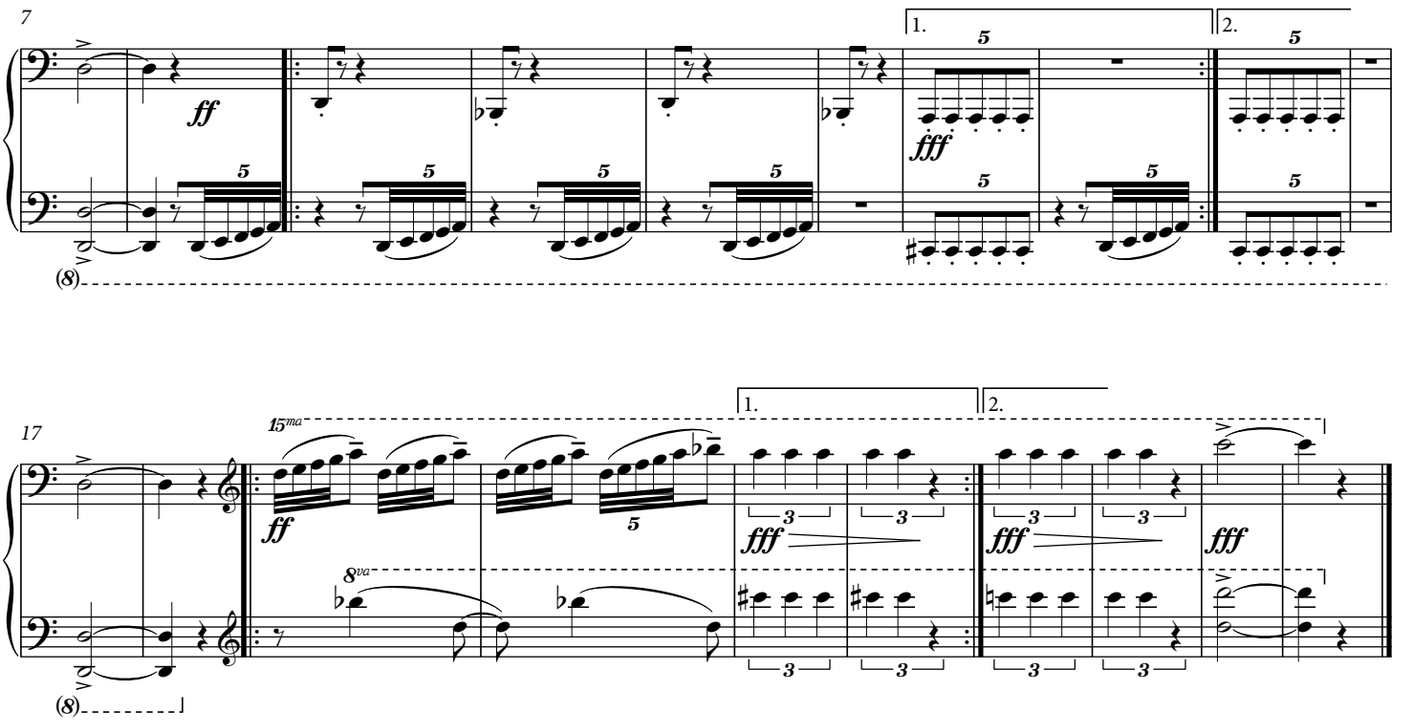

♩=120
p f p f sim.
6
p
Ped.
14
p f sim.
p
19
f 1st x/p 2nd x
Ped.

11.


♩=126
1.
2.
fff
ff
fff
8vb
ff



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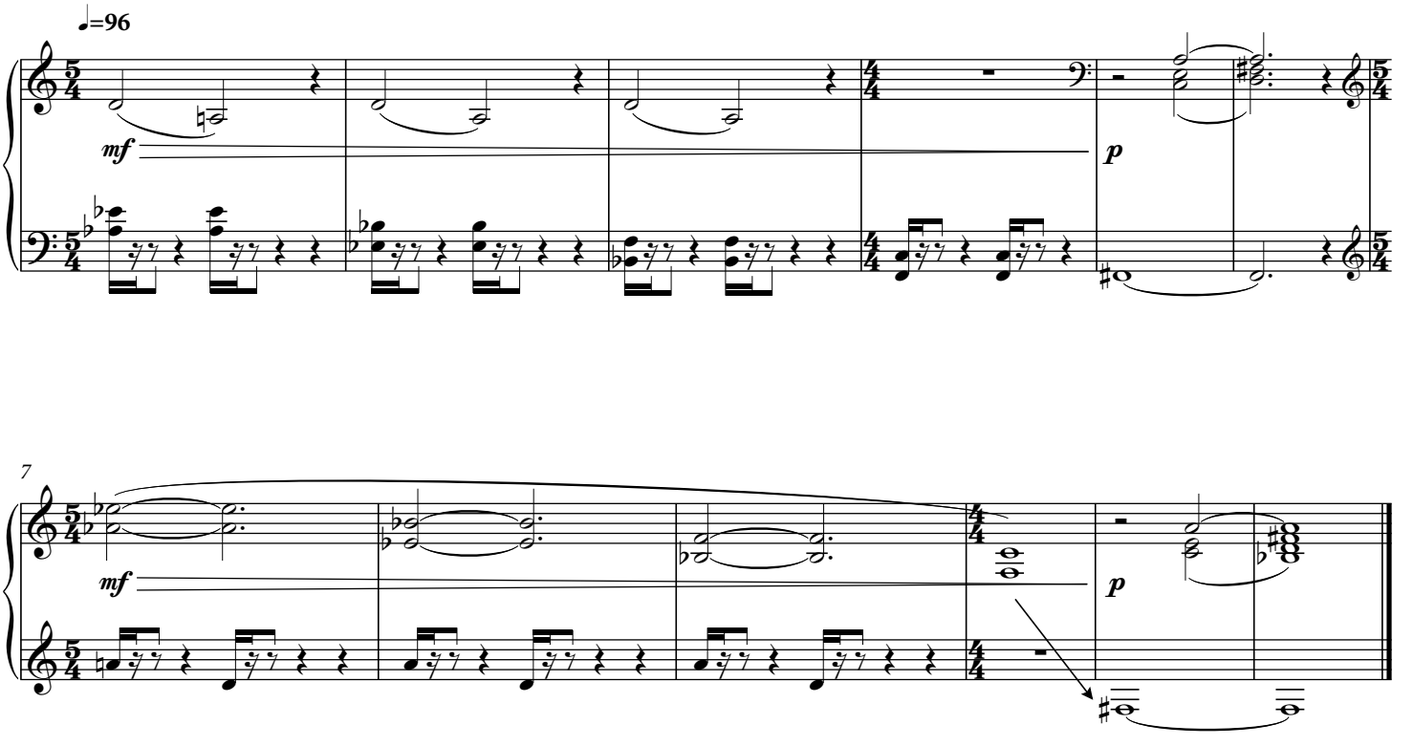

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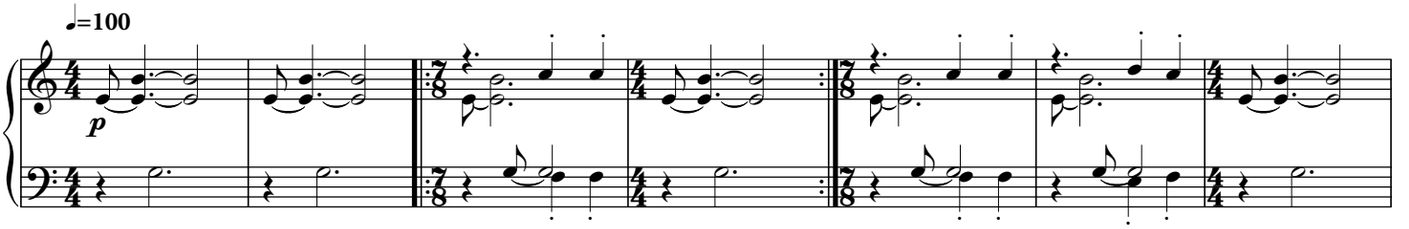
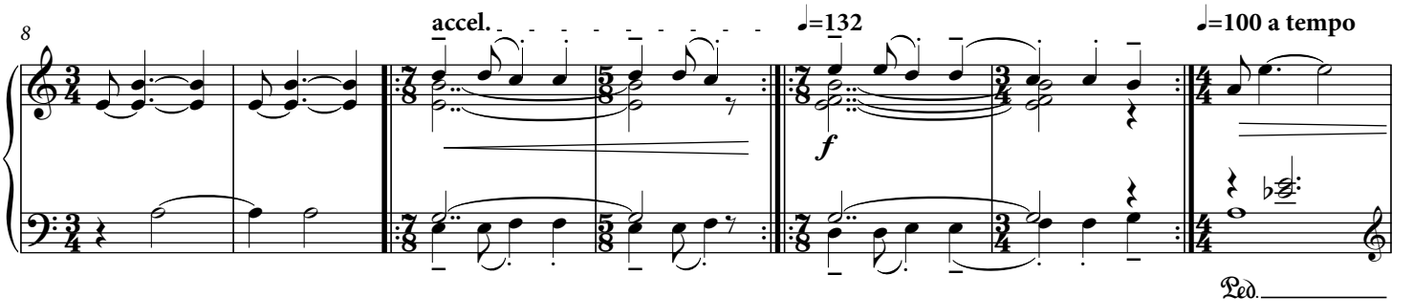
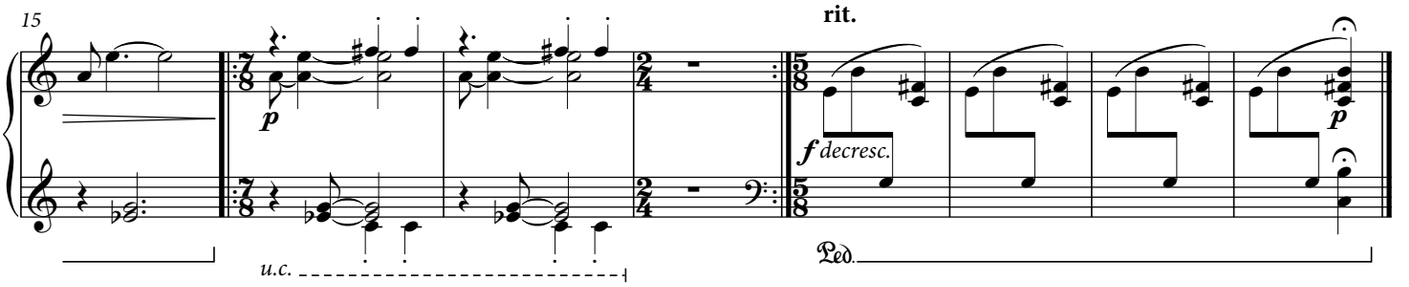
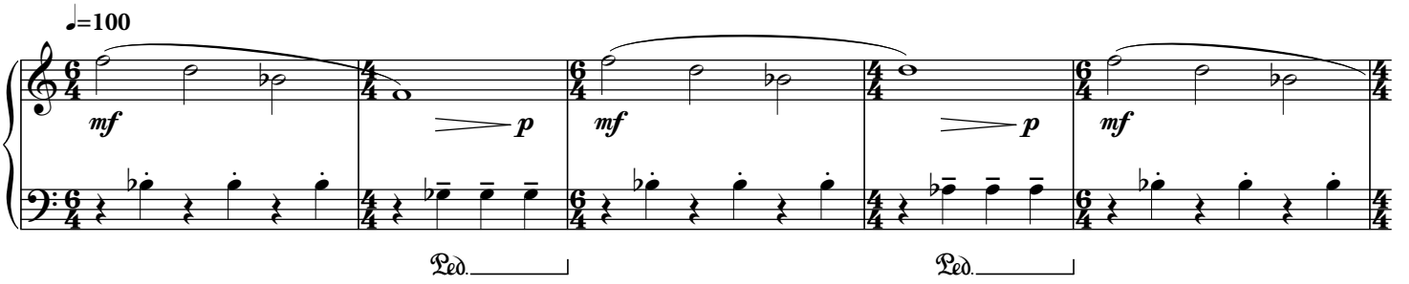
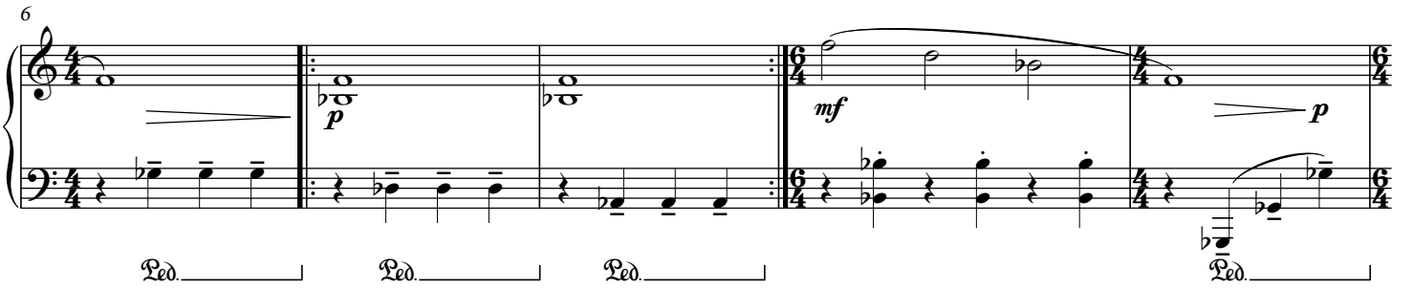


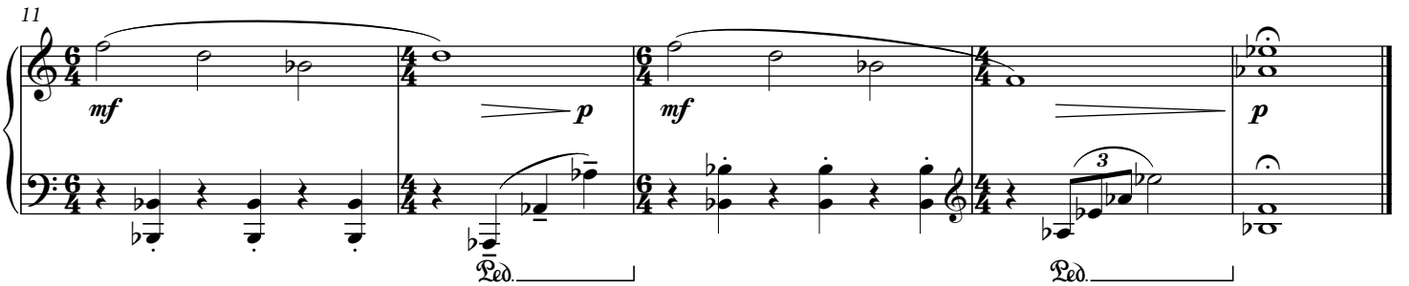

8
accel.
♩=132
♩=100 a tempo
f
Ped.


15
rit.
p
f decresc.
p
u.c.
Ped.

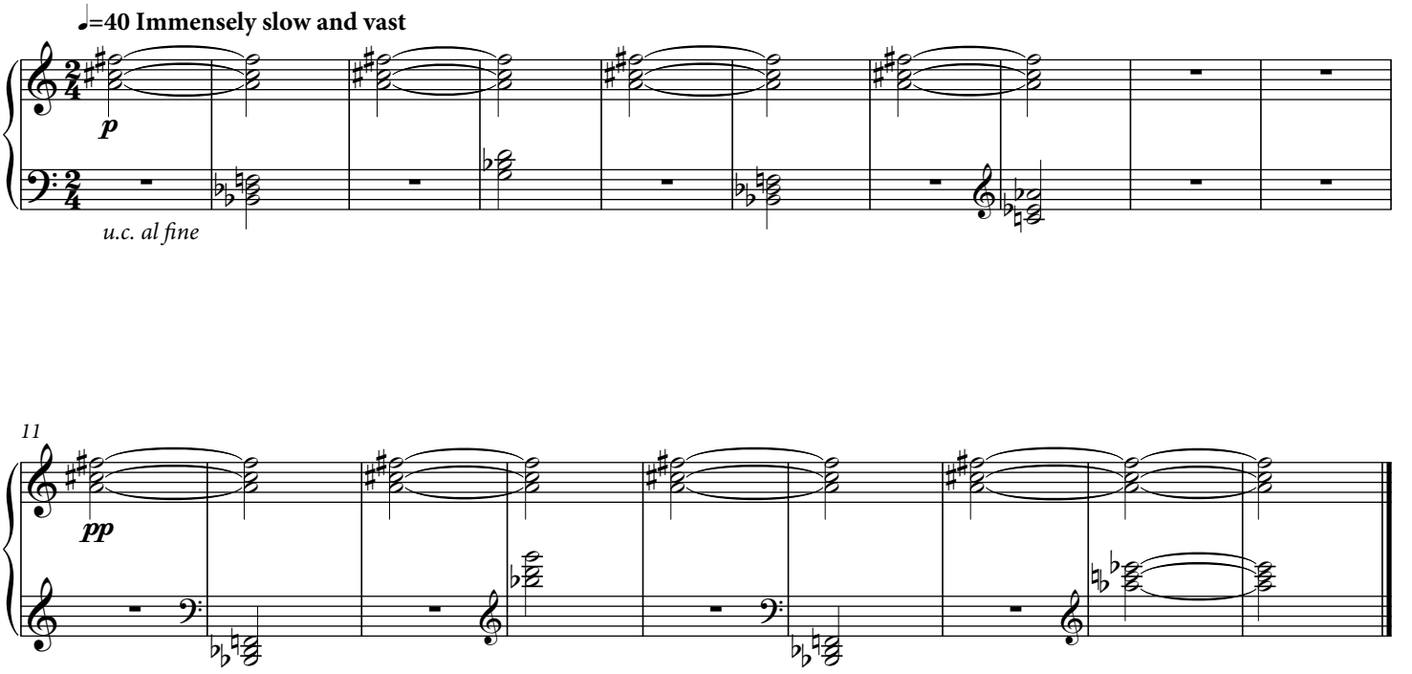
14.


♩=100
mf
p
mf
p
mf
Ped.
Ped.

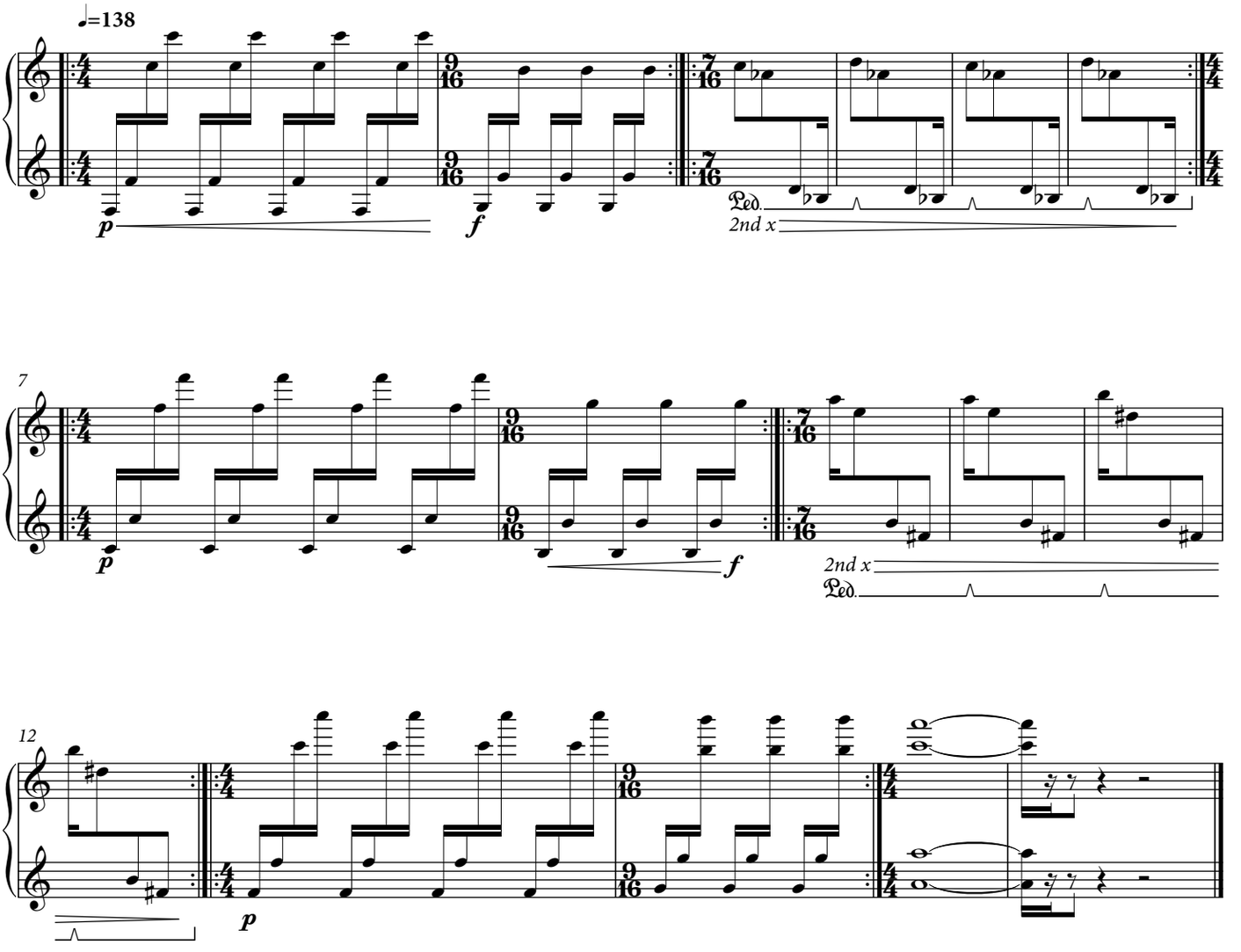

6
p
mf
p
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.


11
mf
p
mf
3
p
Ped.
Ped.

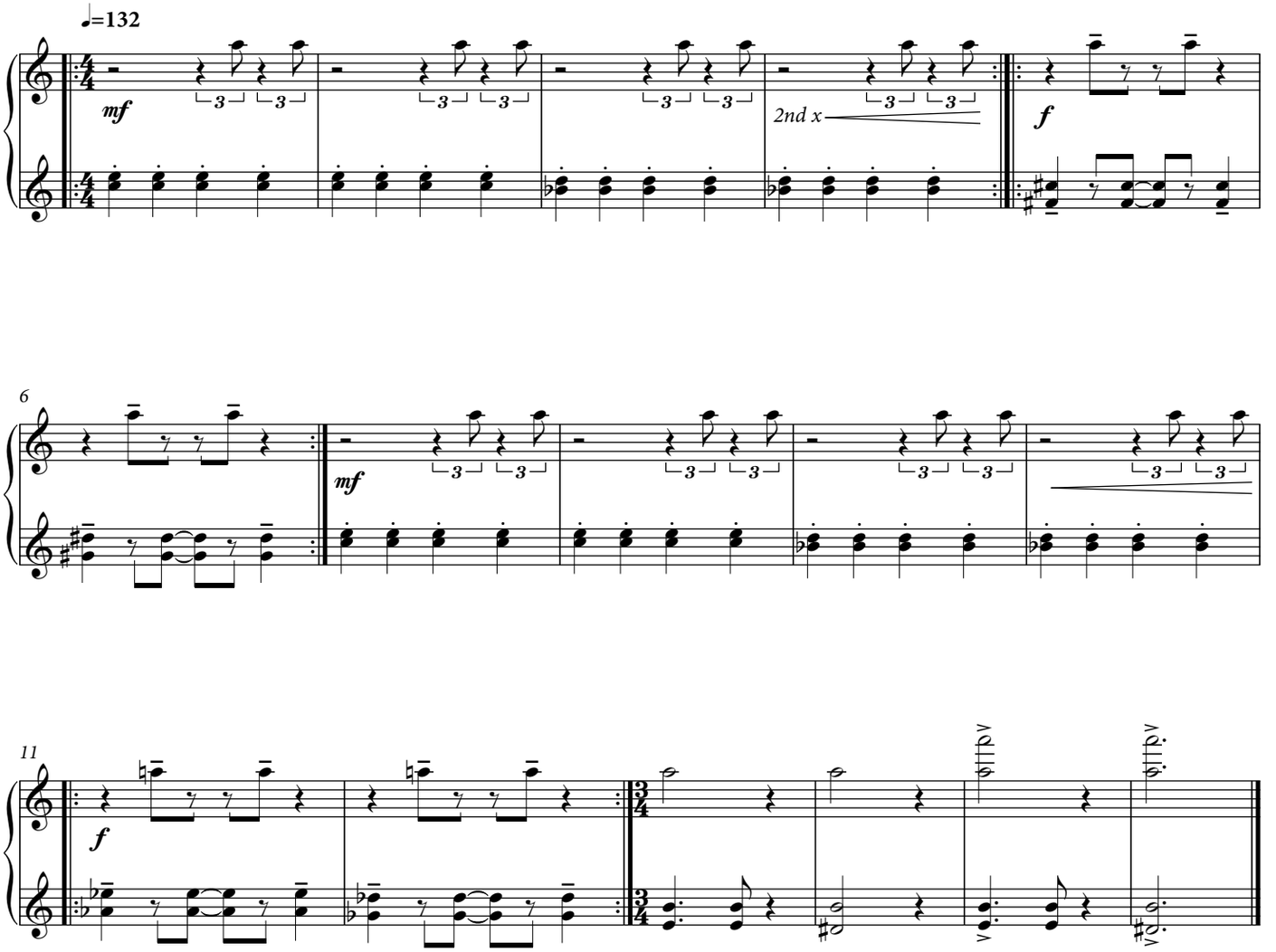
15.


♩=40 Immensely slow and vast
p
u.c. al fine
11
pp

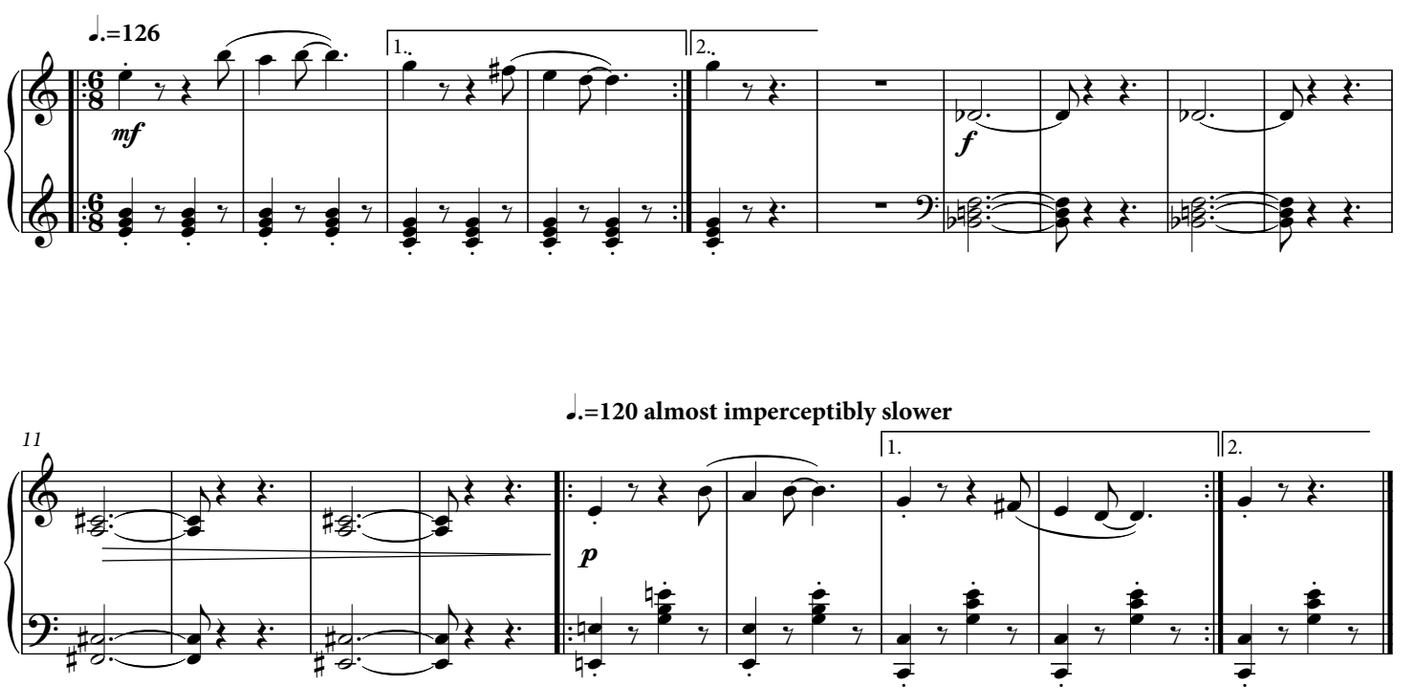
16.


♩=138
p
f
Ped.
2nd x
7
p
f
2nd x
Ped.
12
p

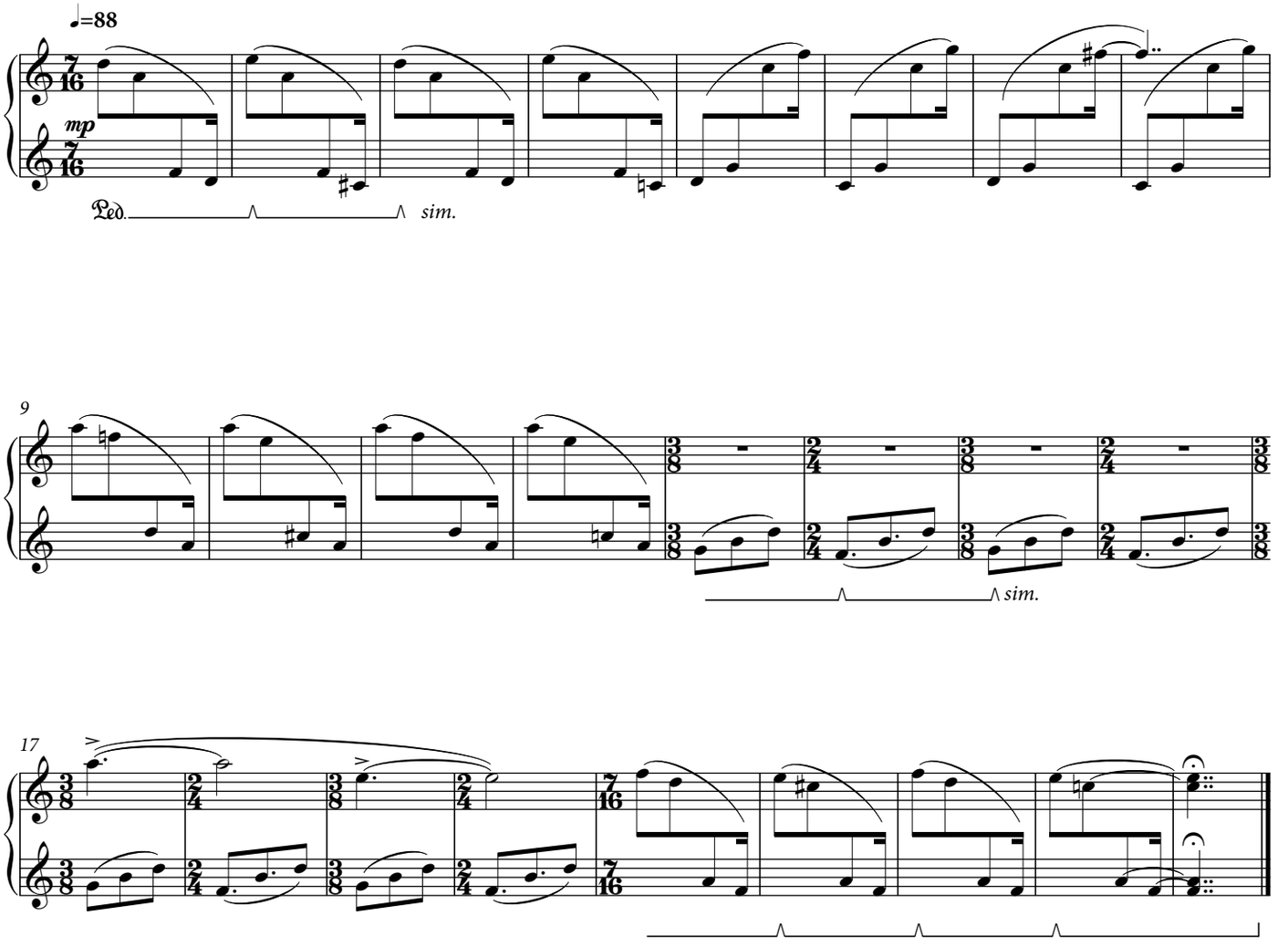
17.


♩=132
mf
2nd x
f
6
mf
11
f

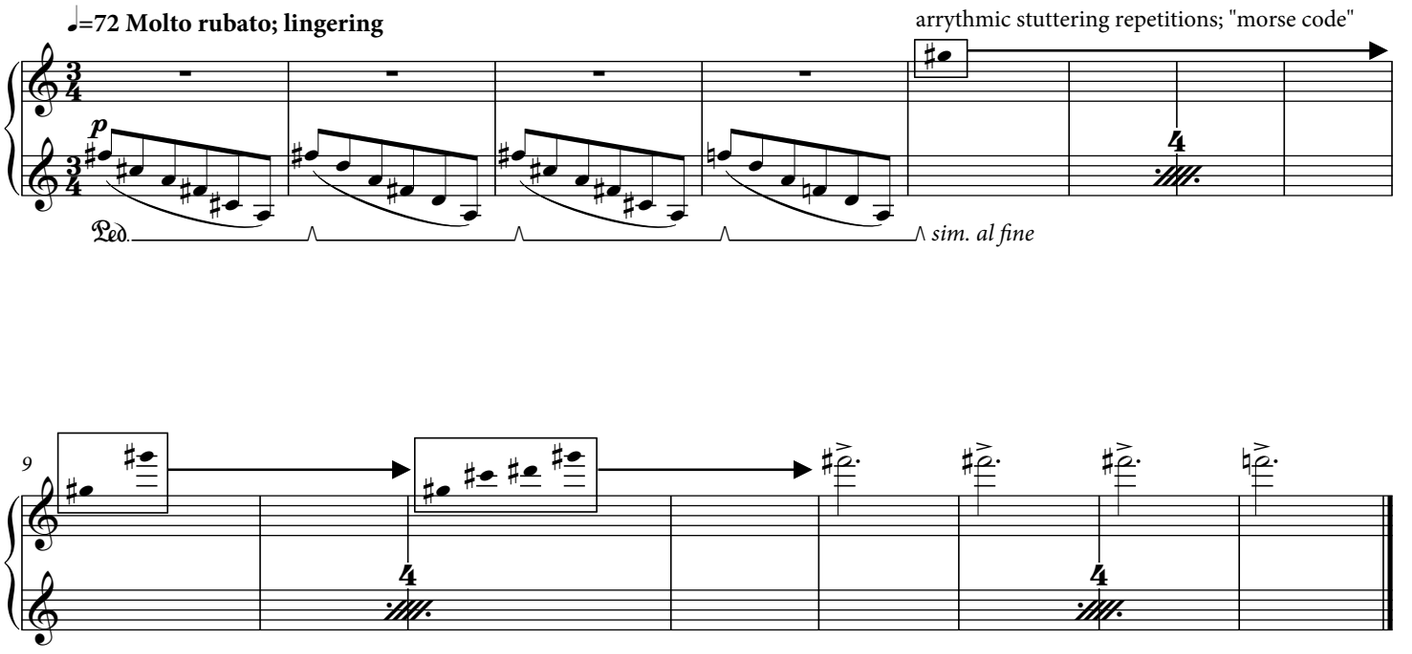
18.


♩.=126
mf
1..
2..
f
11
♩.=120 almost imperceptibly slower
p
1.
2.

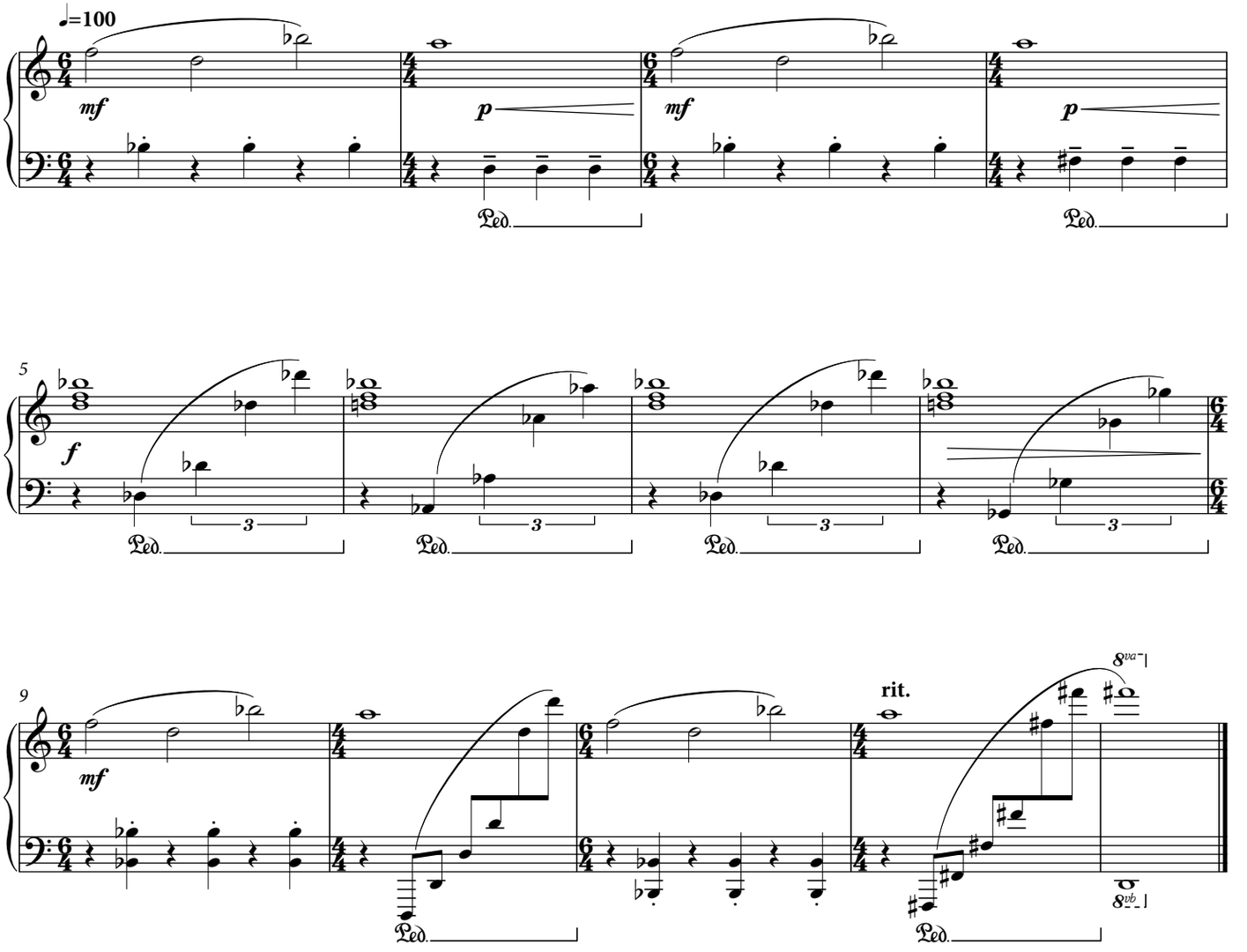
19.


♩=88
mp
Ped.
sim.
9
sim.
17

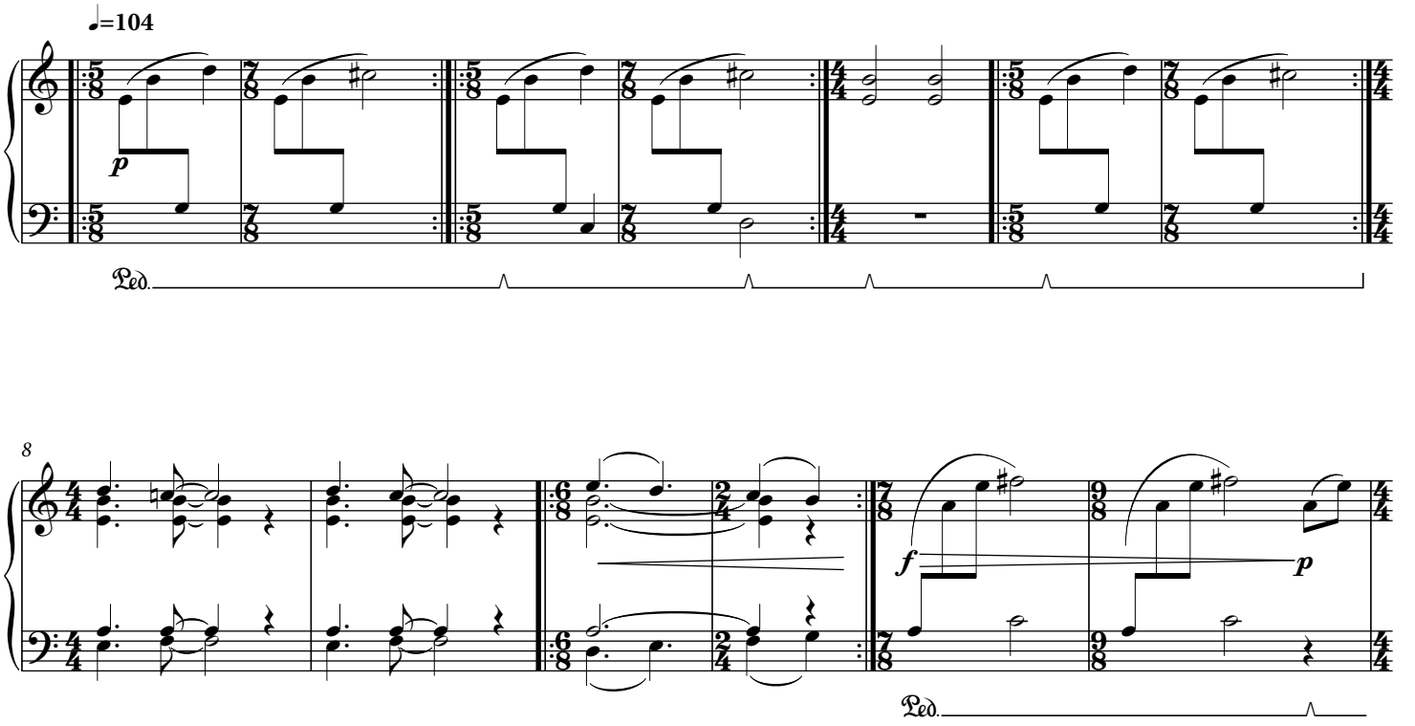
20.

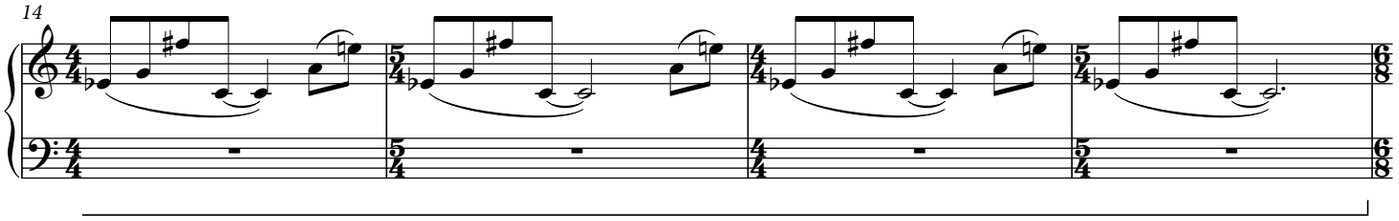

♩=72 Molto rubato; lingering
arrythmic stuttering repetitions; "morse code"
p
Ped.
sim. al fine
9

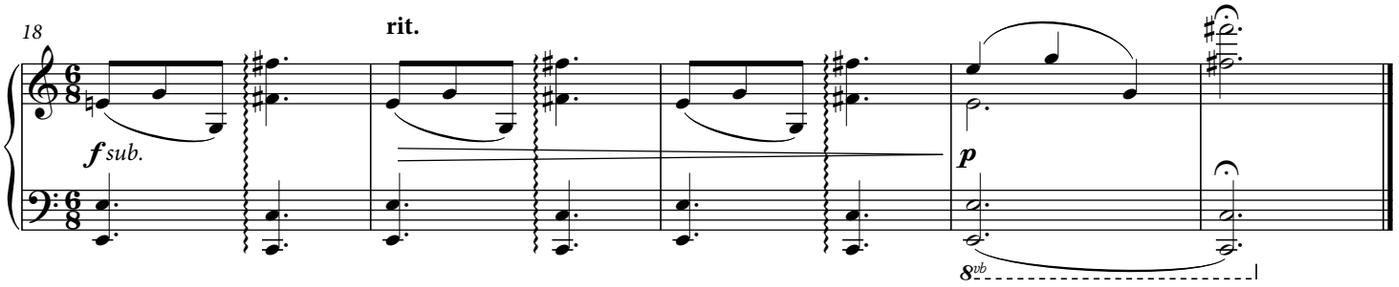
21.


♩=100
mf
p
mf
p
Ped.
Ped.
5
f
3
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
9
mf
rit.
8va
8vb
Ped.
Ped.

22.


♩=104
p
Ped.
8
f
p
Ped.





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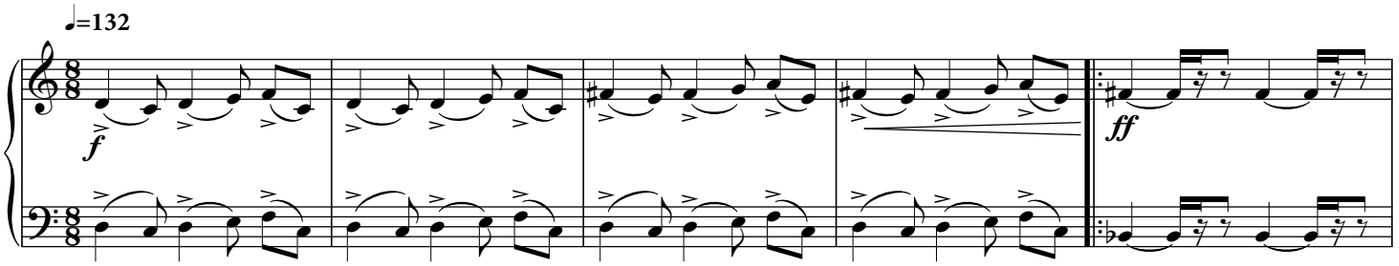

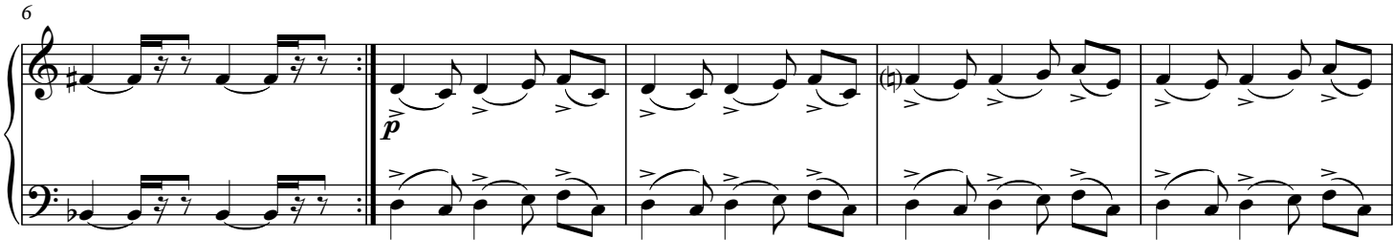

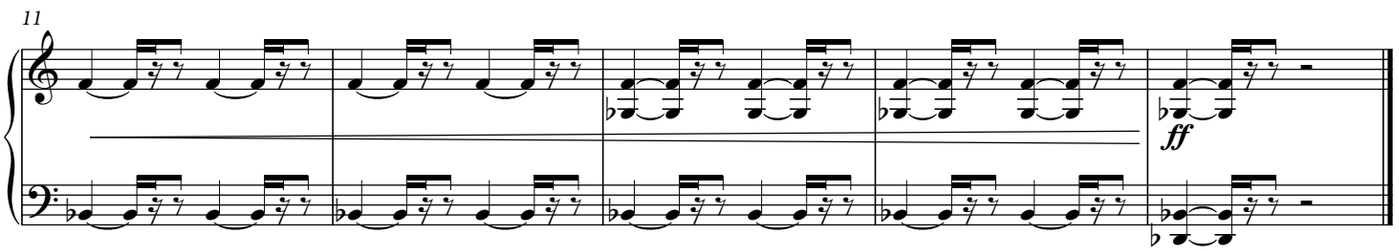

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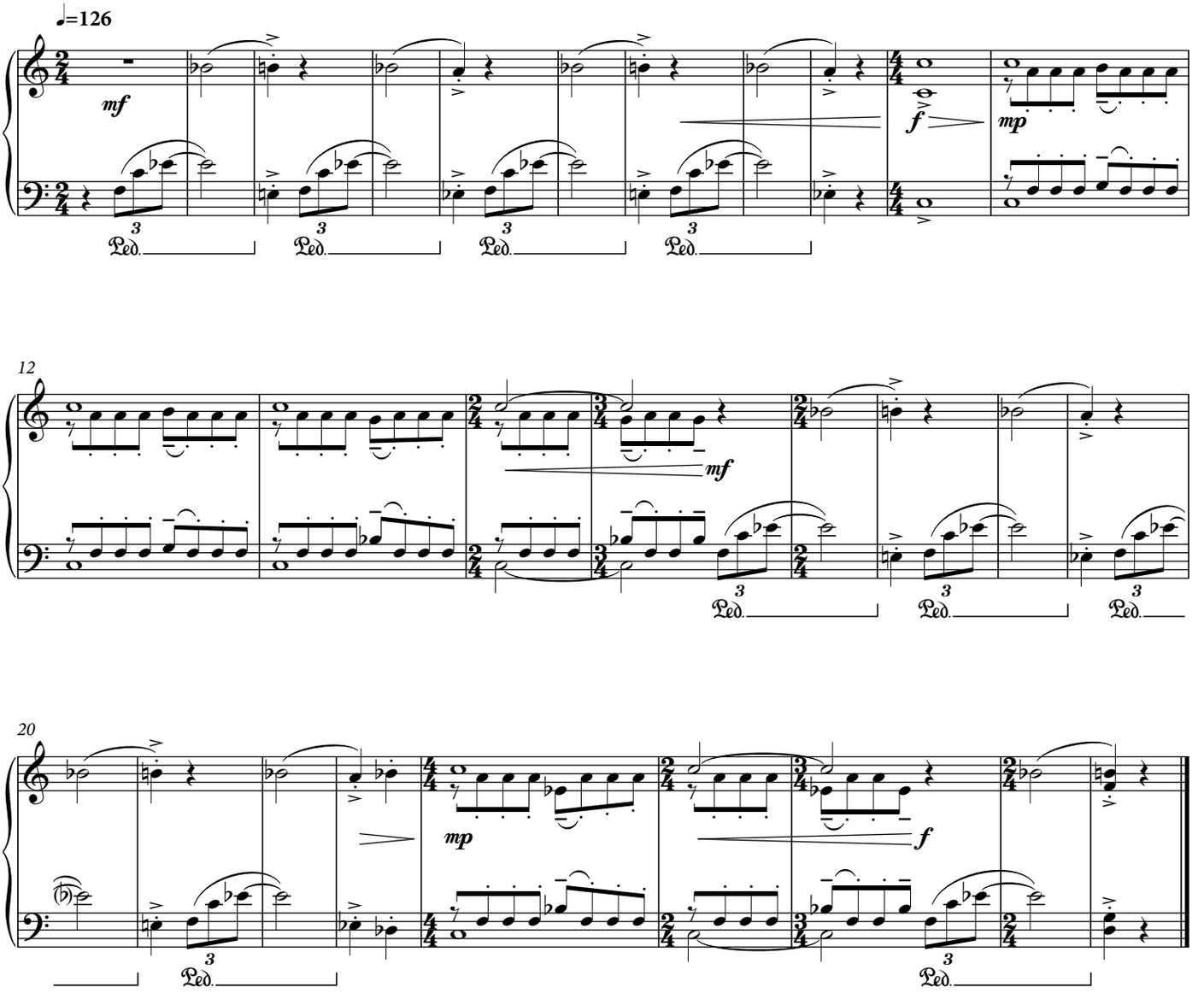

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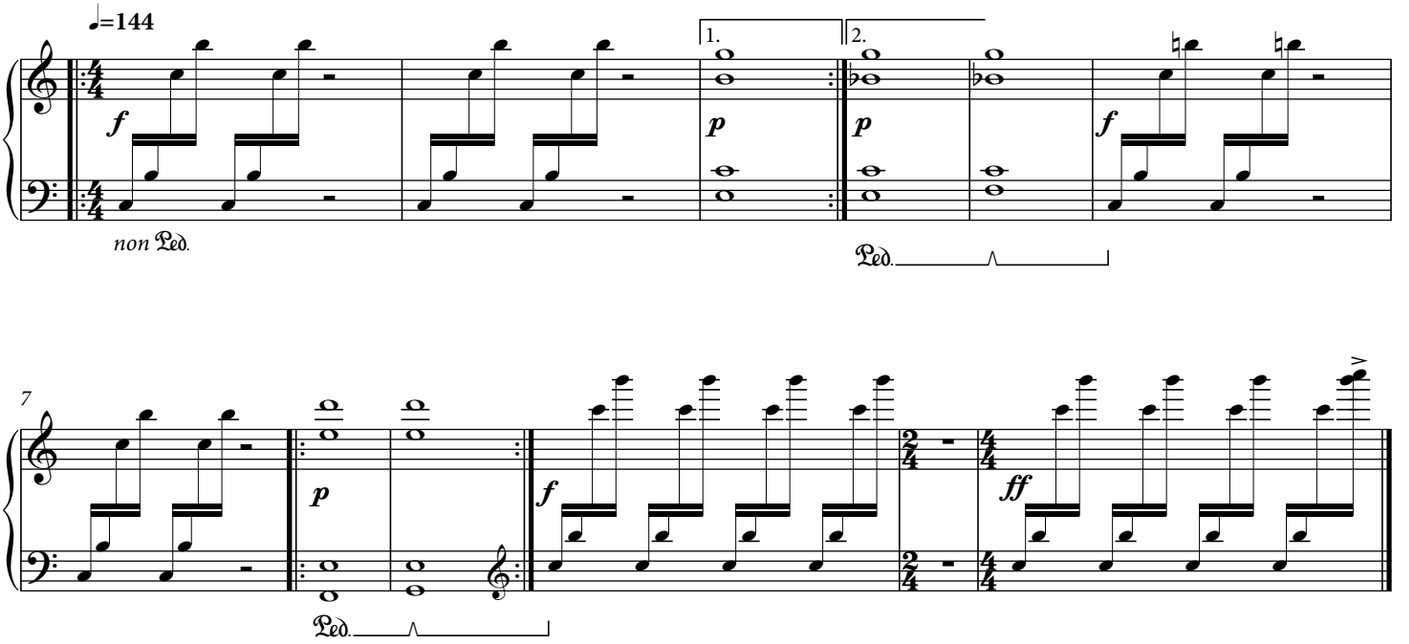

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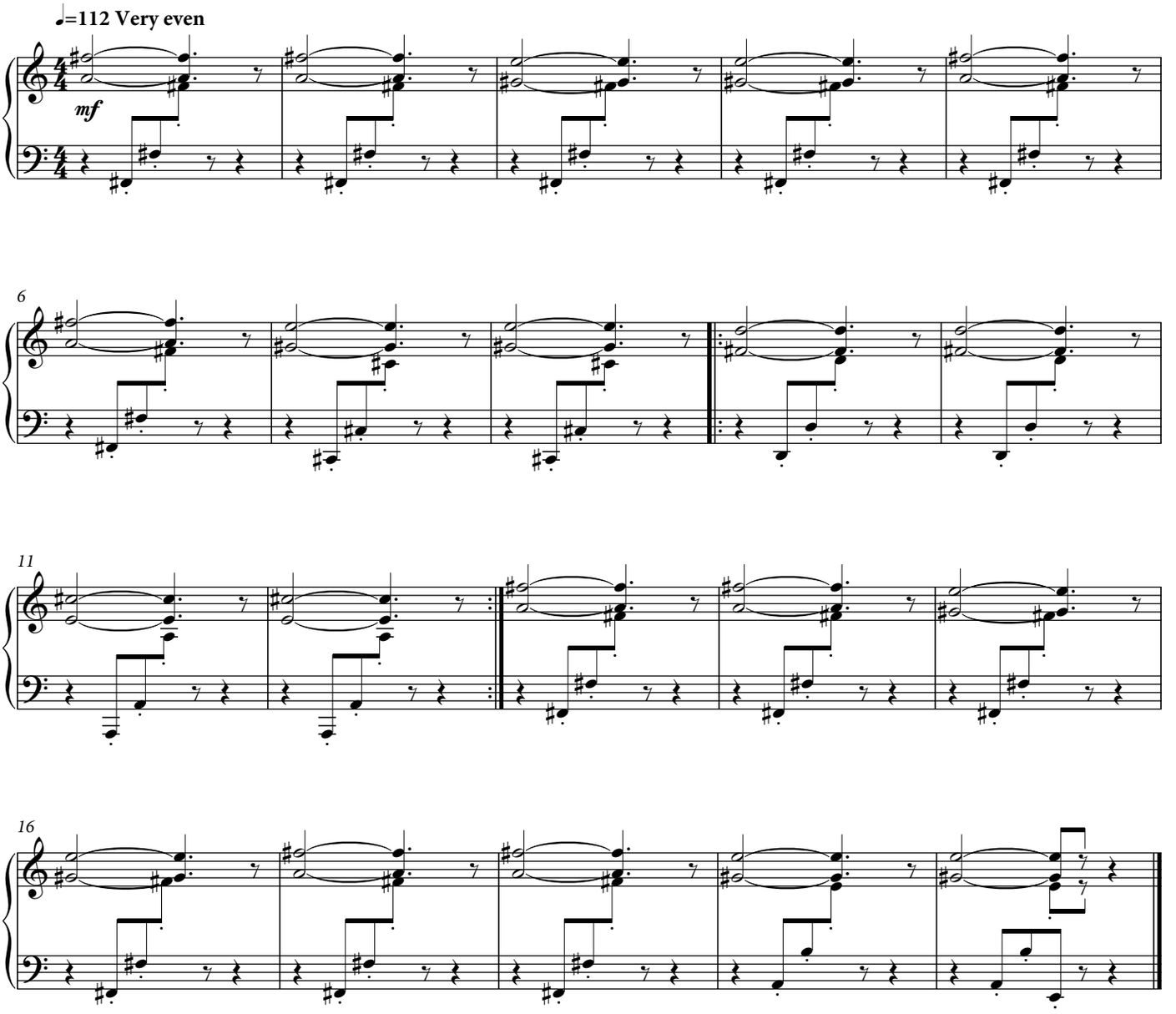

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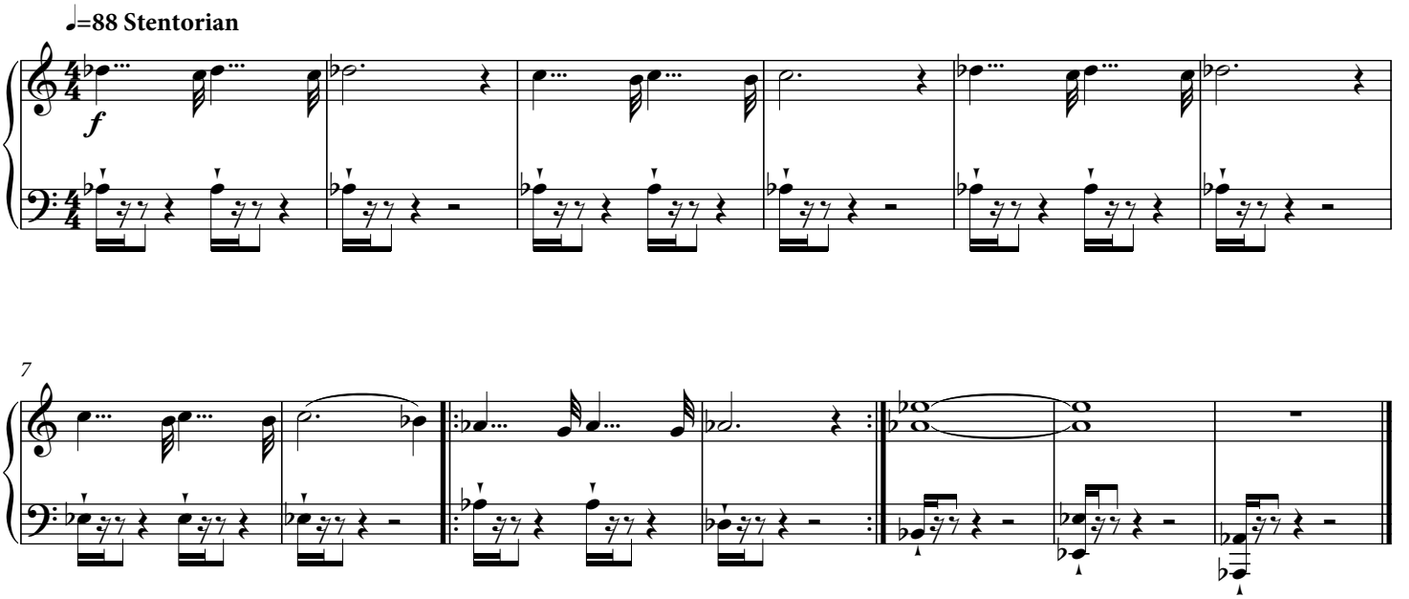

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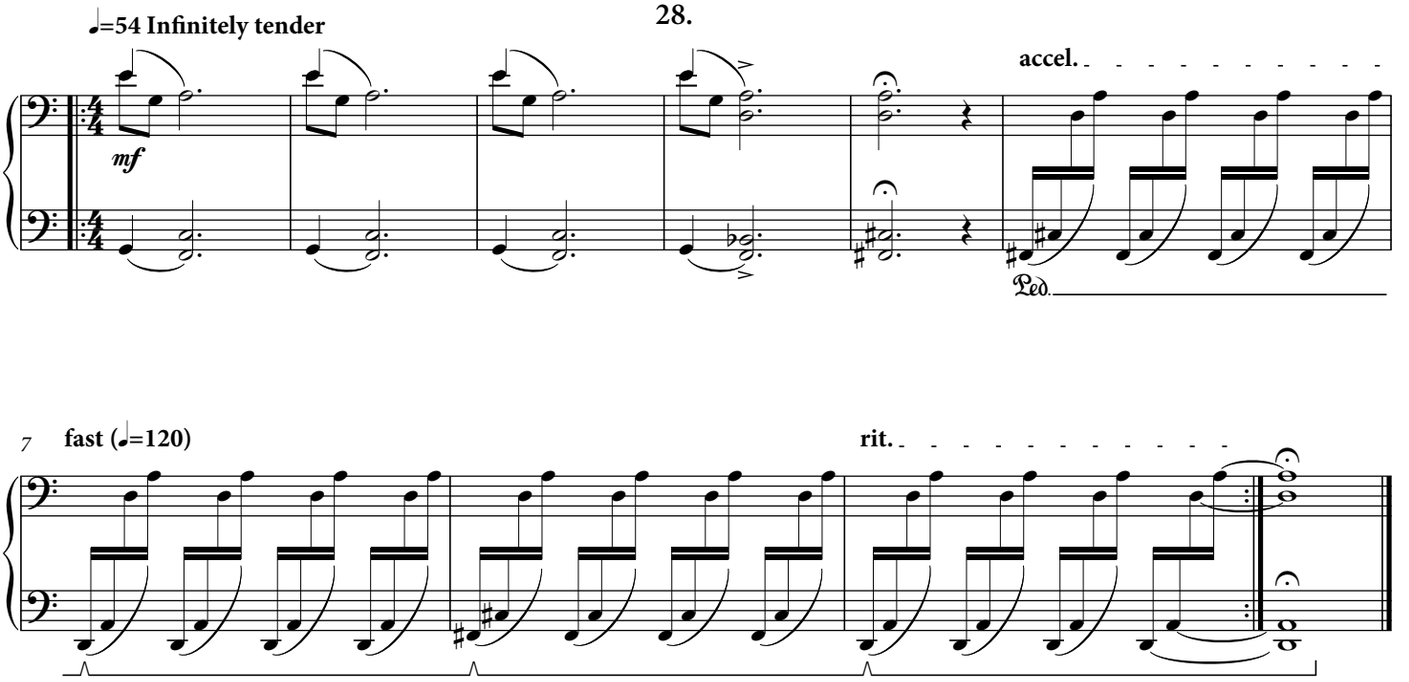
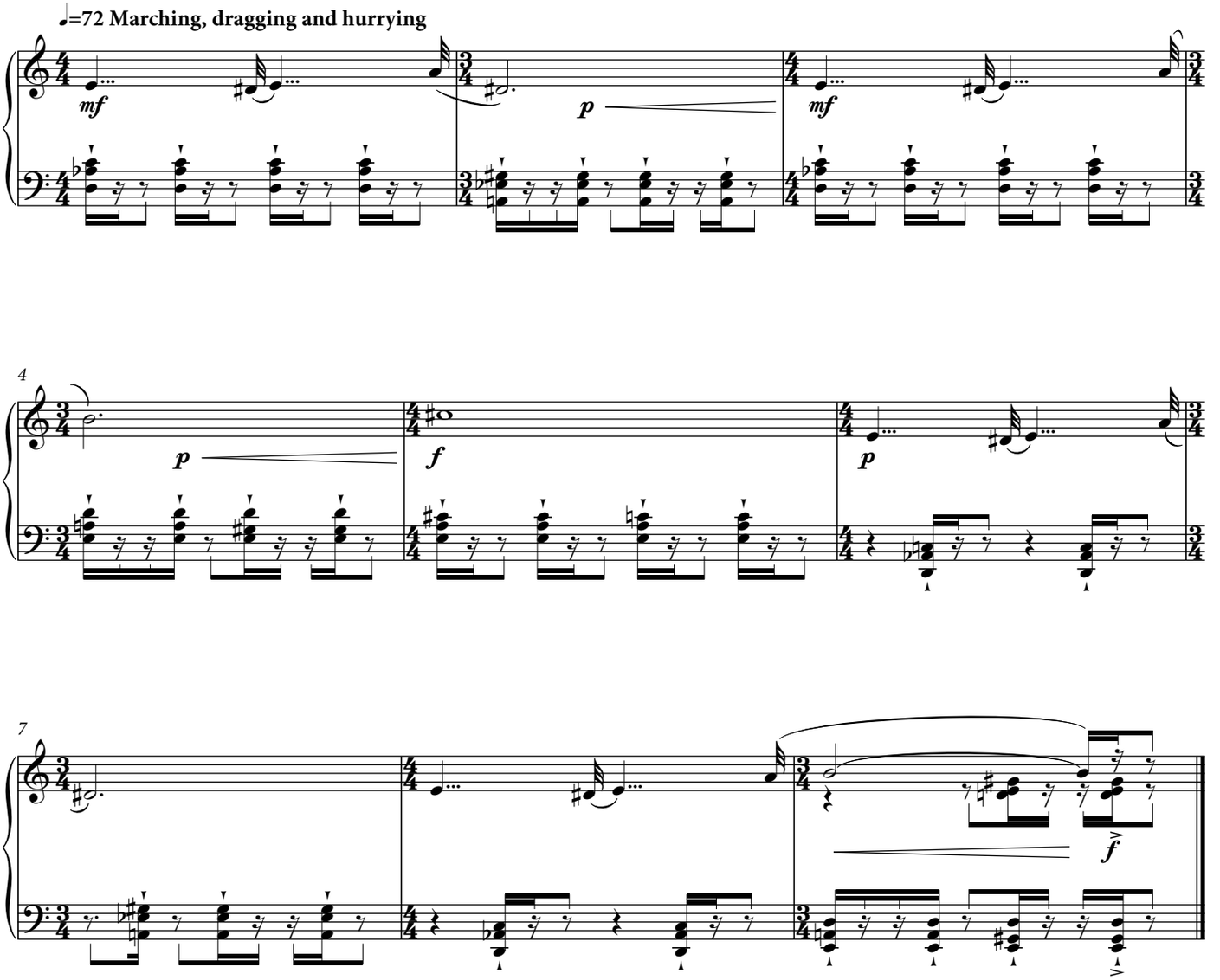
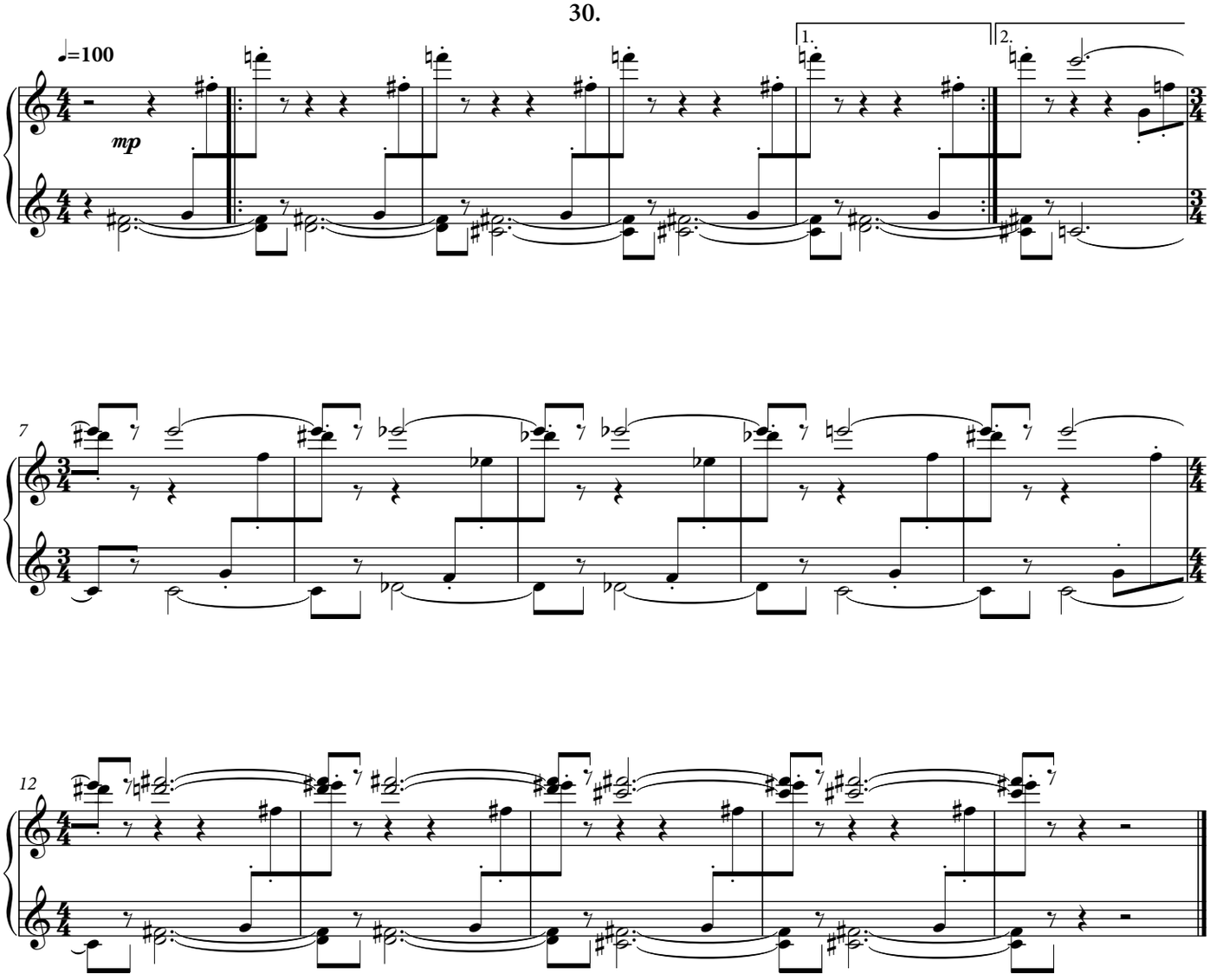

♩=54 Infinitely tender
mf
accel.
Ped.
7
fast (♩=120)
rit.

29.


♩=72 Marching, dragging and hurrying
mf
p
mf
4
p
f
p
7
f

30.



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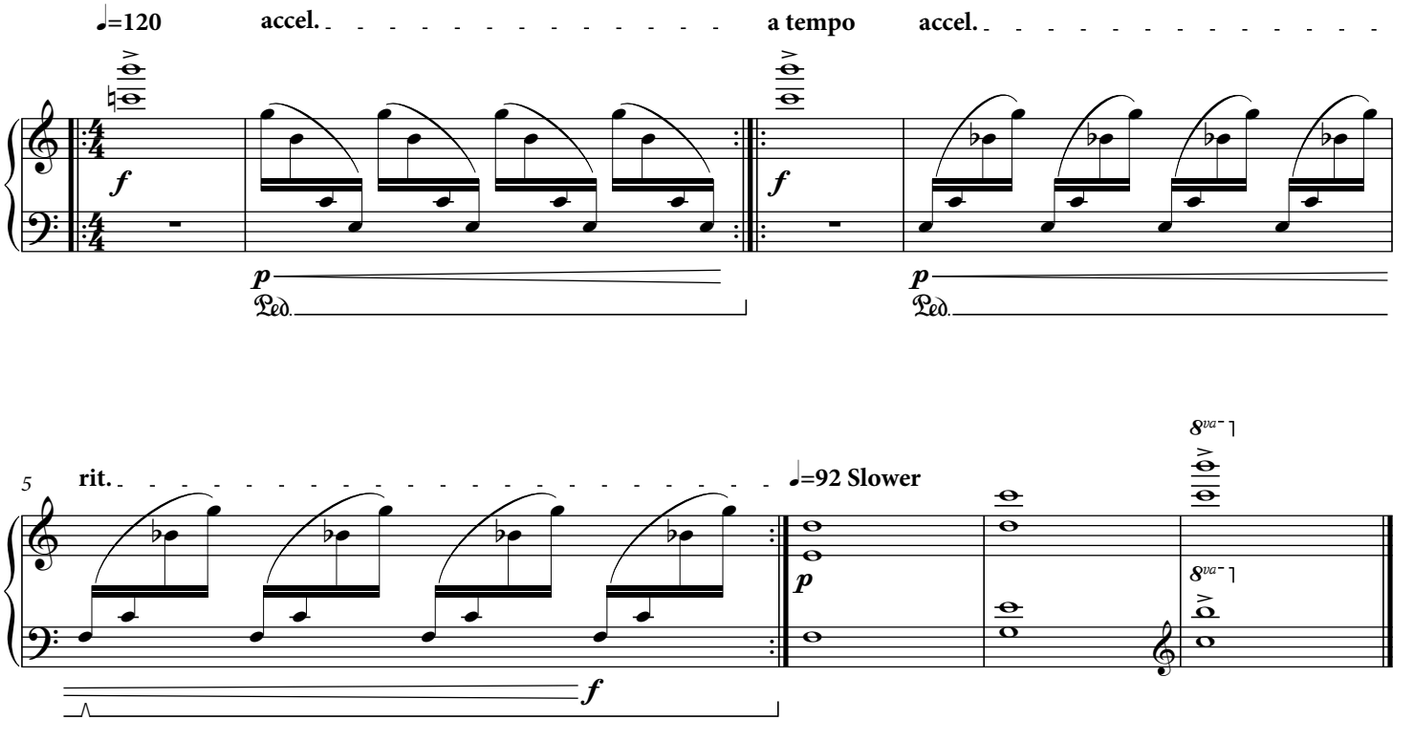

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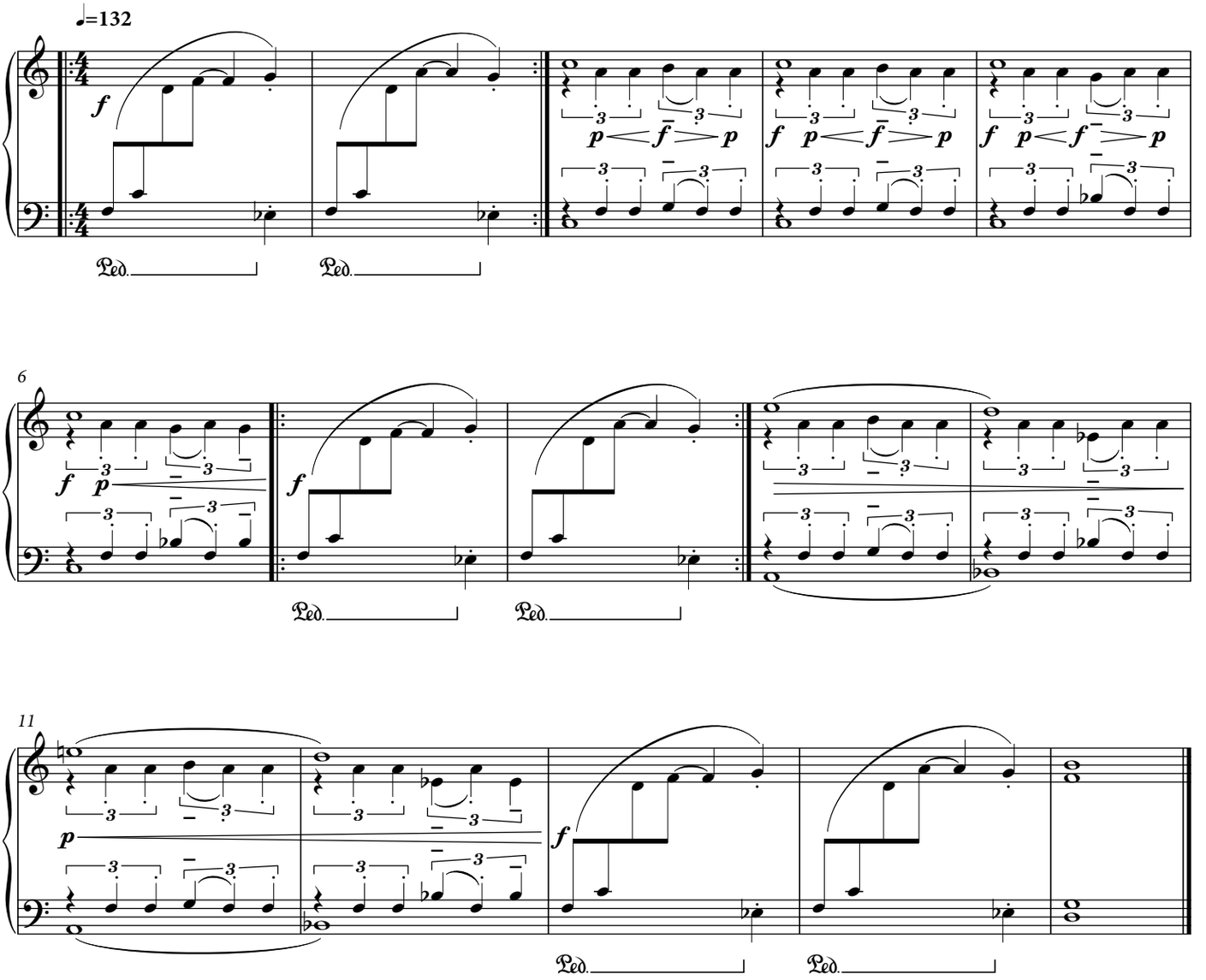
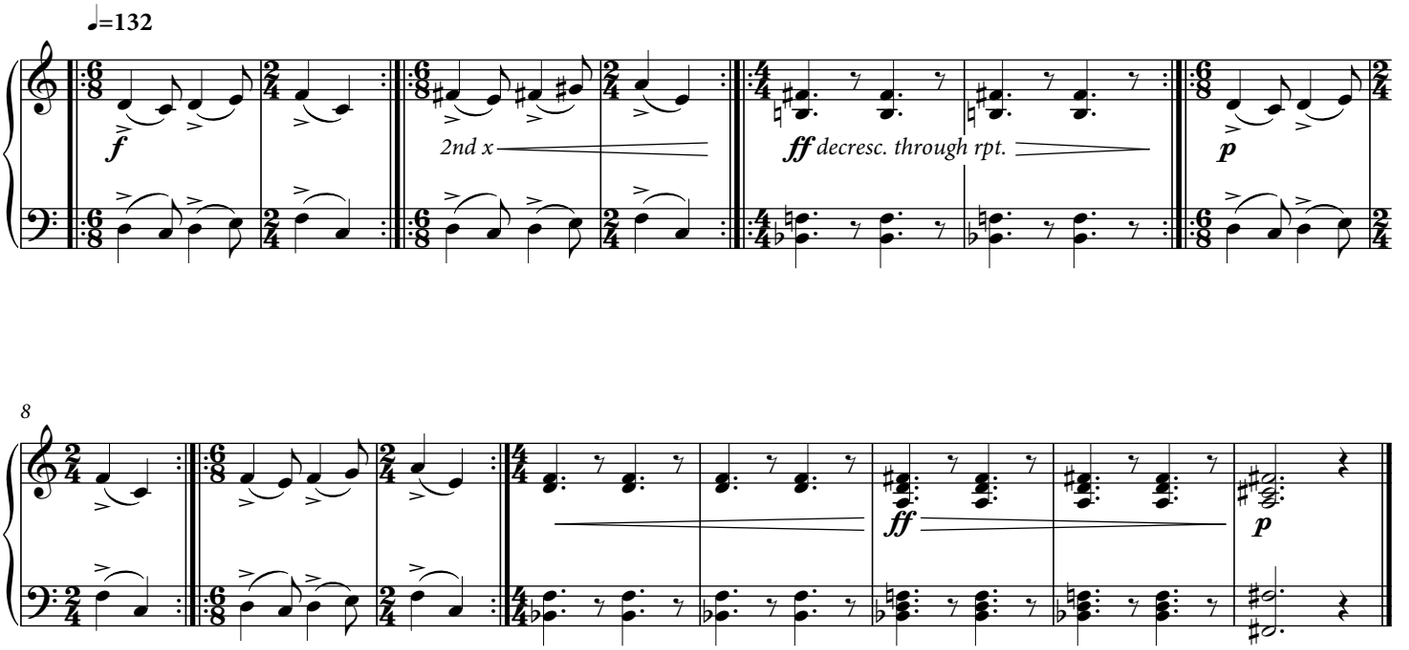
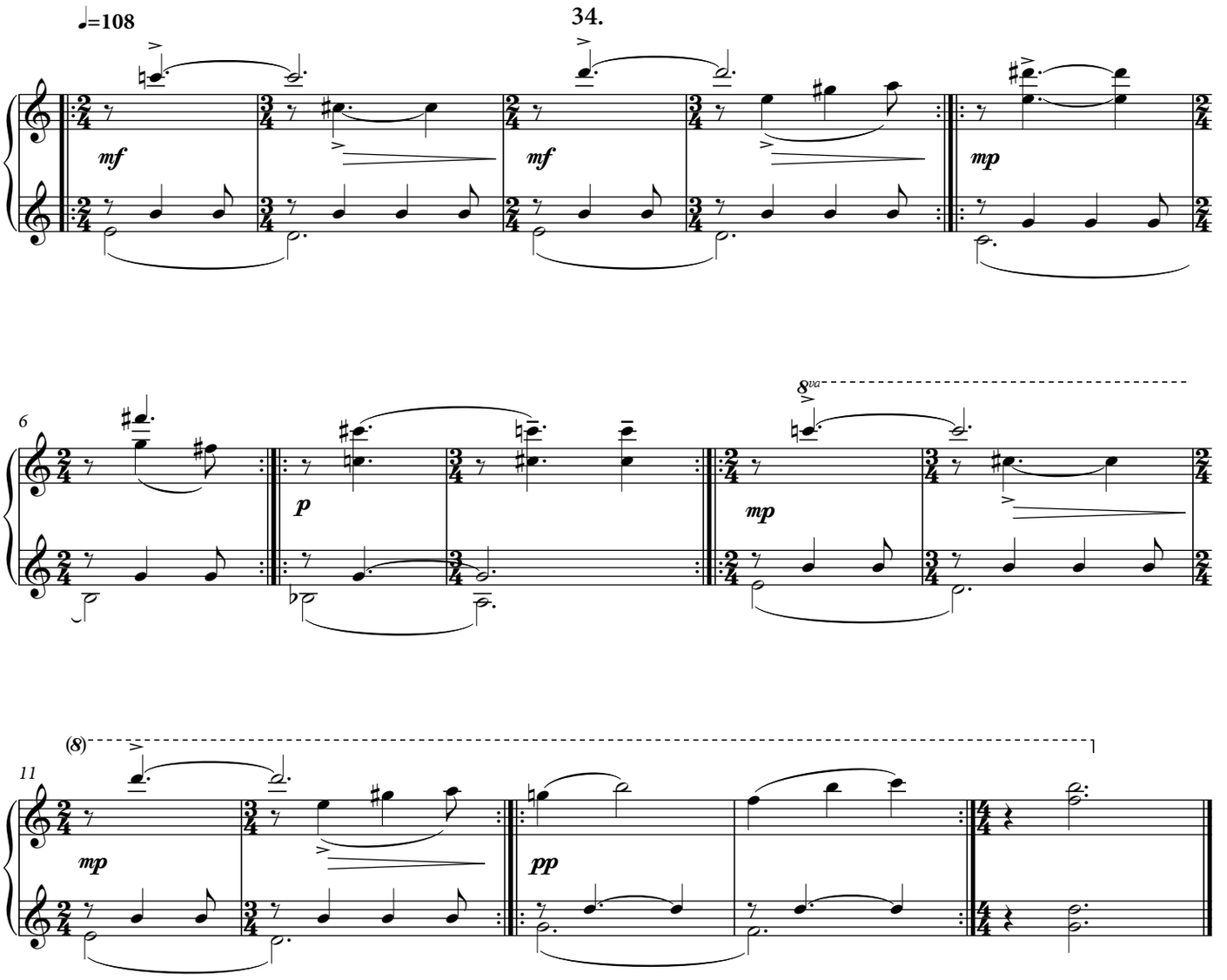

♩=132
f
p f p
f p f p
f p f p
Ped. Ped.
6
f p
f
Ped. Ped.
11
p
f
Ped. Ped.

33.


♩=132
f
2nd x
ff decresc. through rpt.
p
8
ff
p


♩=108
34.
mf
mf
mp
6
p
mp
8va
11
(8)
mp
pp