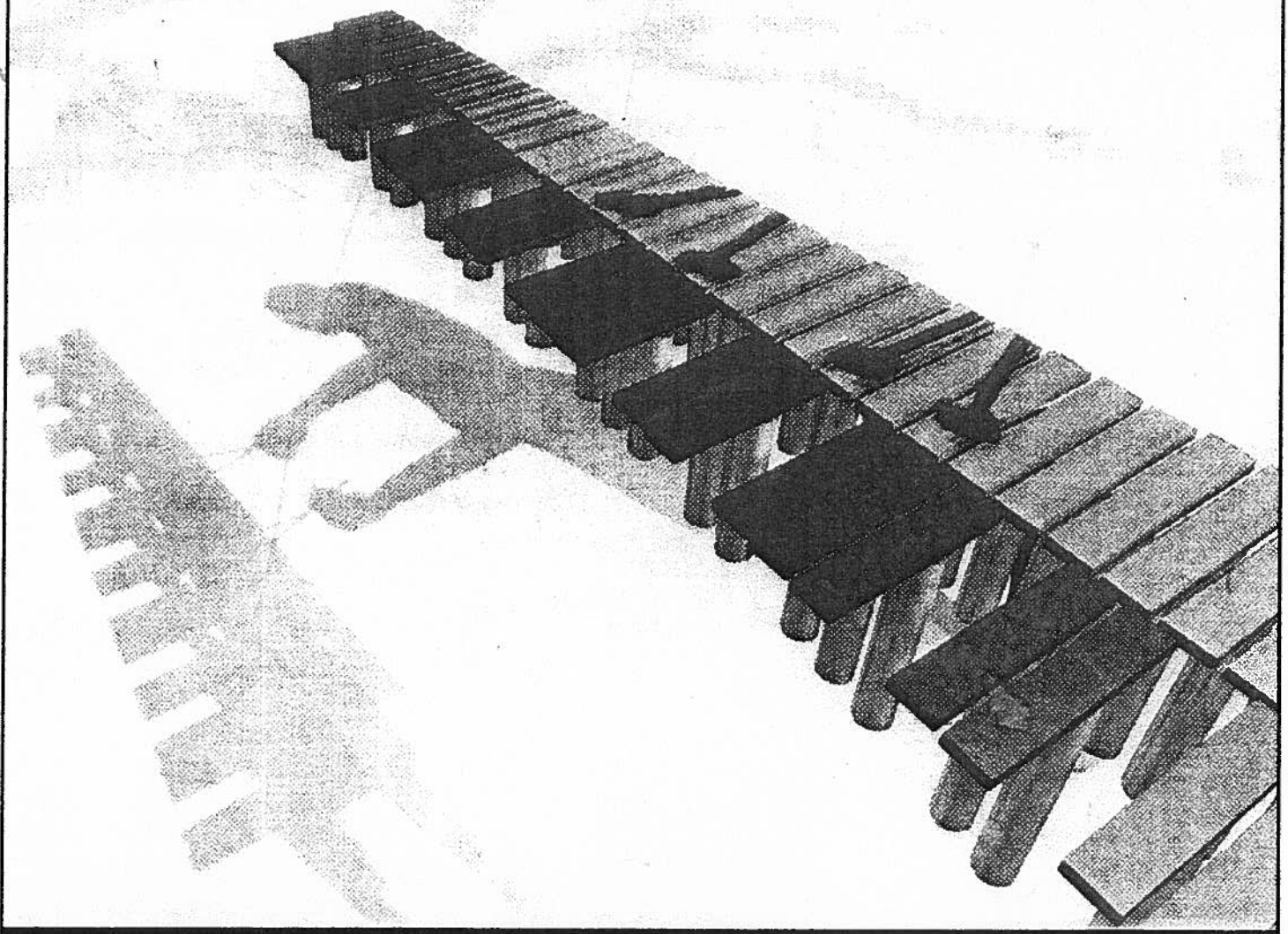
Virginia Tate



for solo marimba

by Paul Smadbeck

Keyboard Percussion Publications

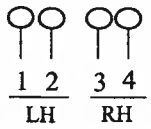
In the summer of 1995 I received a call from Dr. J.C. Combs, professor of percussion at Wichita State University, inviting me to come out and perform as a guest artist with the WSU Percussion Ensemble. I was delighted for the opportunity to play marimba in public once again, and in preparing for this visit I was inspired to return to composing after a long hiatus. The result was an early version of a one movement work for solo marimba which I subsequently completed and named in memory of my wife Lois' mother, Virginia Tate, who passed away tragically in 1986 at the age of 52.

In all of my compositions for marimba, I tend to utilize an arpeggiated style of playing which brings out both the percussive strength of the instrument as well as its legato capabilities and richness of tone. Virginia Tate is consistent with these compostional goals.

Musically, I wanted to initially create for the listener a mood of quitet reflection. The form is a fairly simple AABC Coda, prefaced by an introduction in c-sharp. The primary melodic theme, also in sharp, is stated twice and leads to a rather forceful section in f-sharp which develops fragments of earlier material. This is followed by a contrasting dolce in G, which builds in intensity and leads to a coda. Here, the listener is teased into an expectation of a return to the primary melodic theme when, instead, the material from the introduction is used in a downward cascade of chords, ending in a quiet echo of the opening theme.

Paul Smadbeck

September, 2005



Virginia Tate

Paul Smadbeck

Moderato, poco rubato

Marimba

mp

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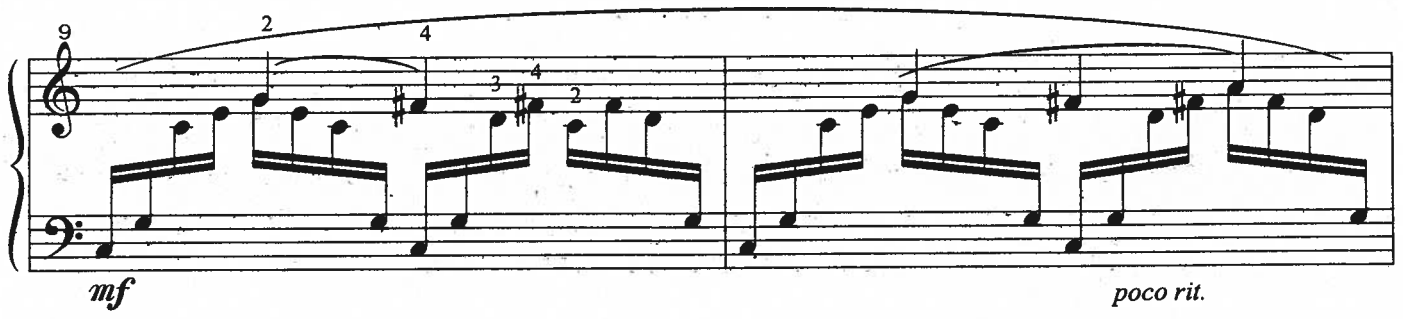
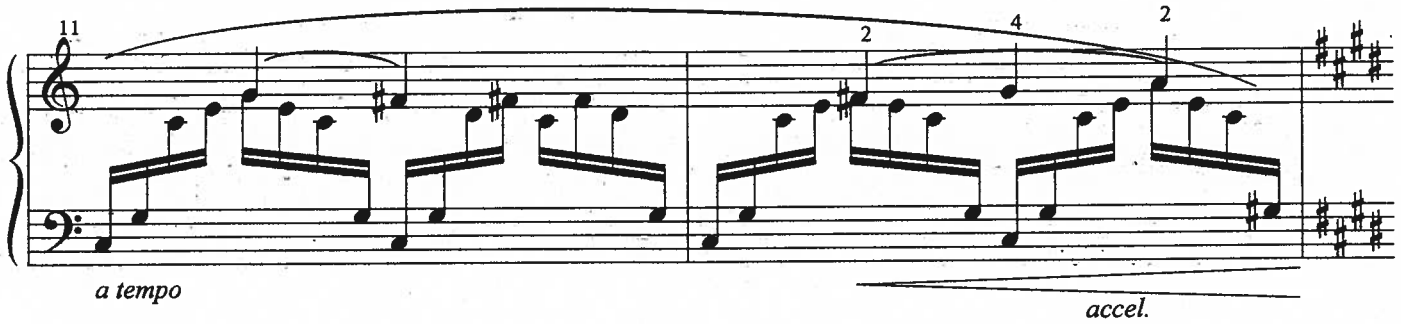
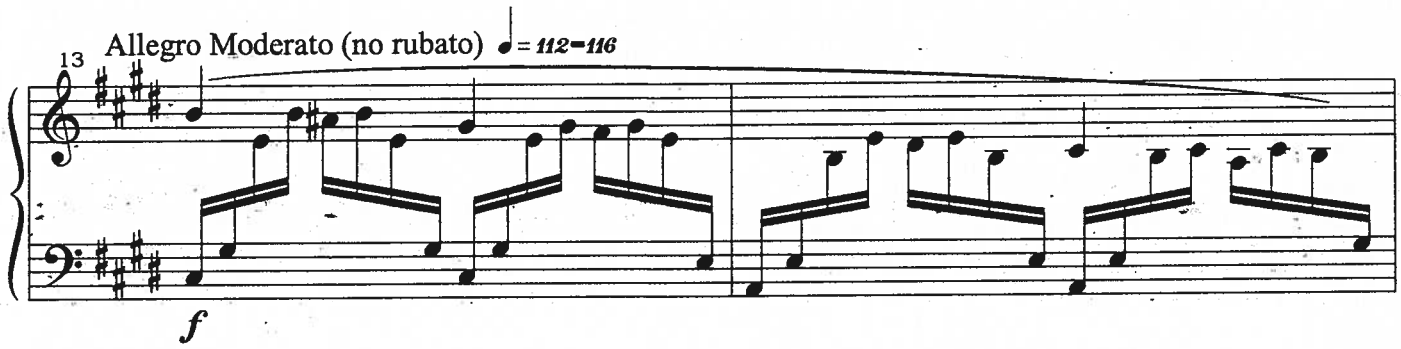
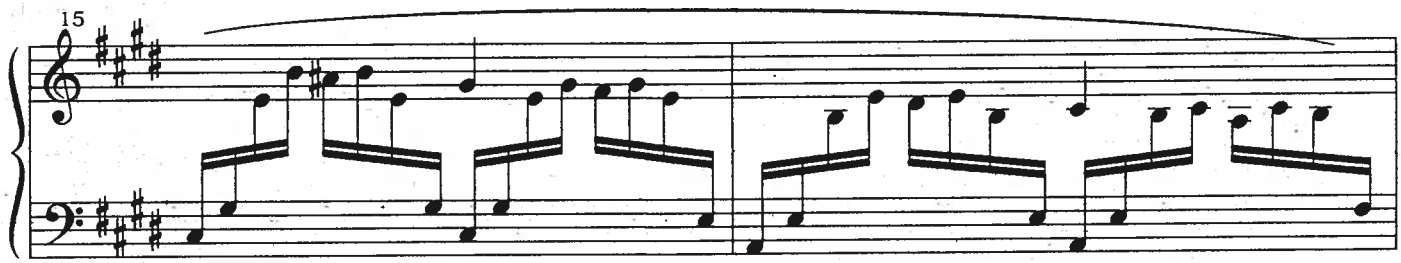
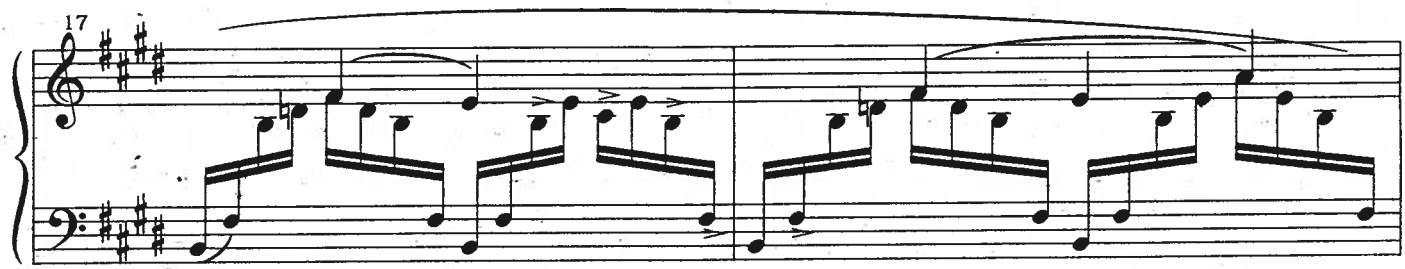
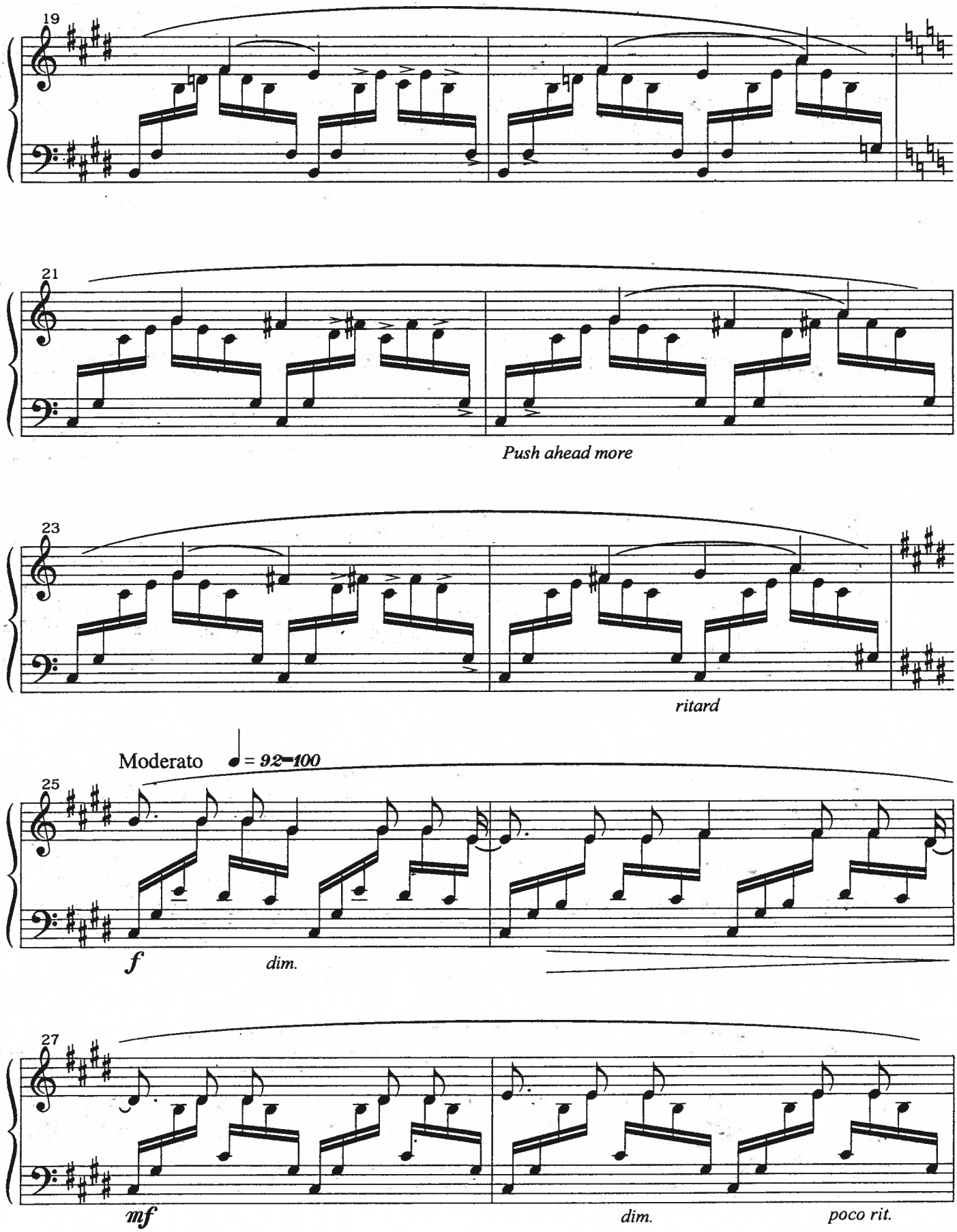

9
2
4
3
4
2
mf
poco rit.

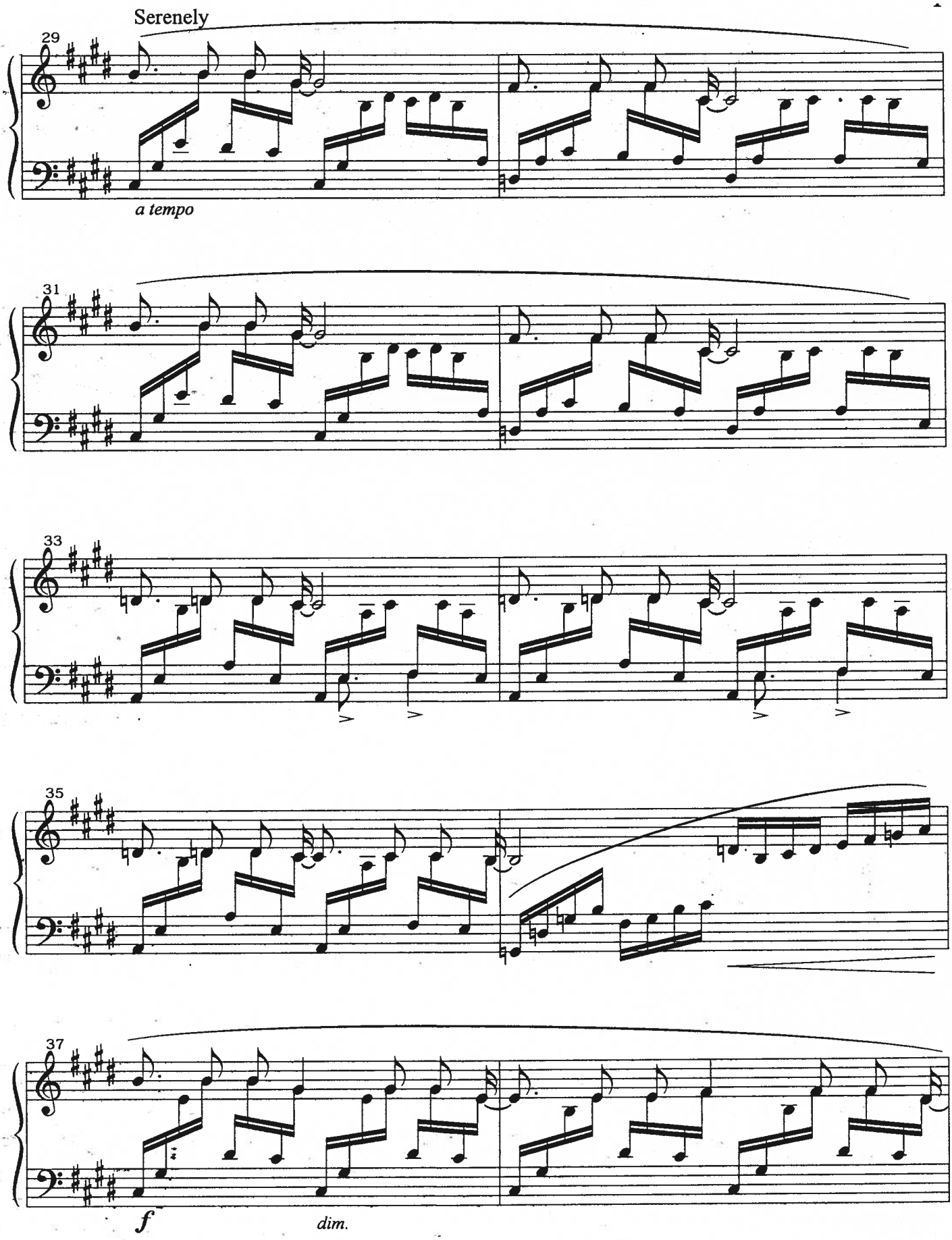

11
2
4
2
a tempo
accel.

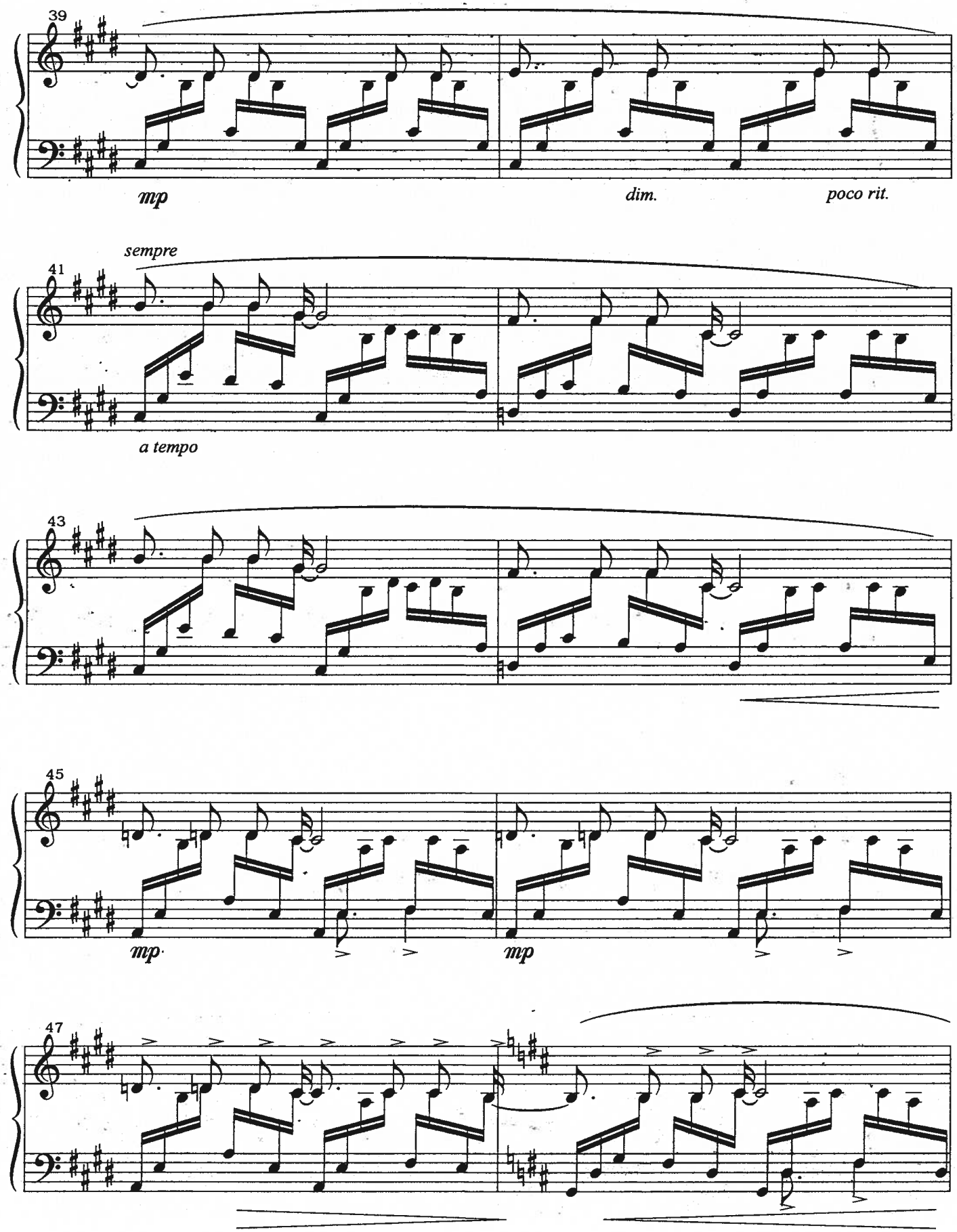

Allegro Moderato (no rubato) ♩= 112-116
13
f

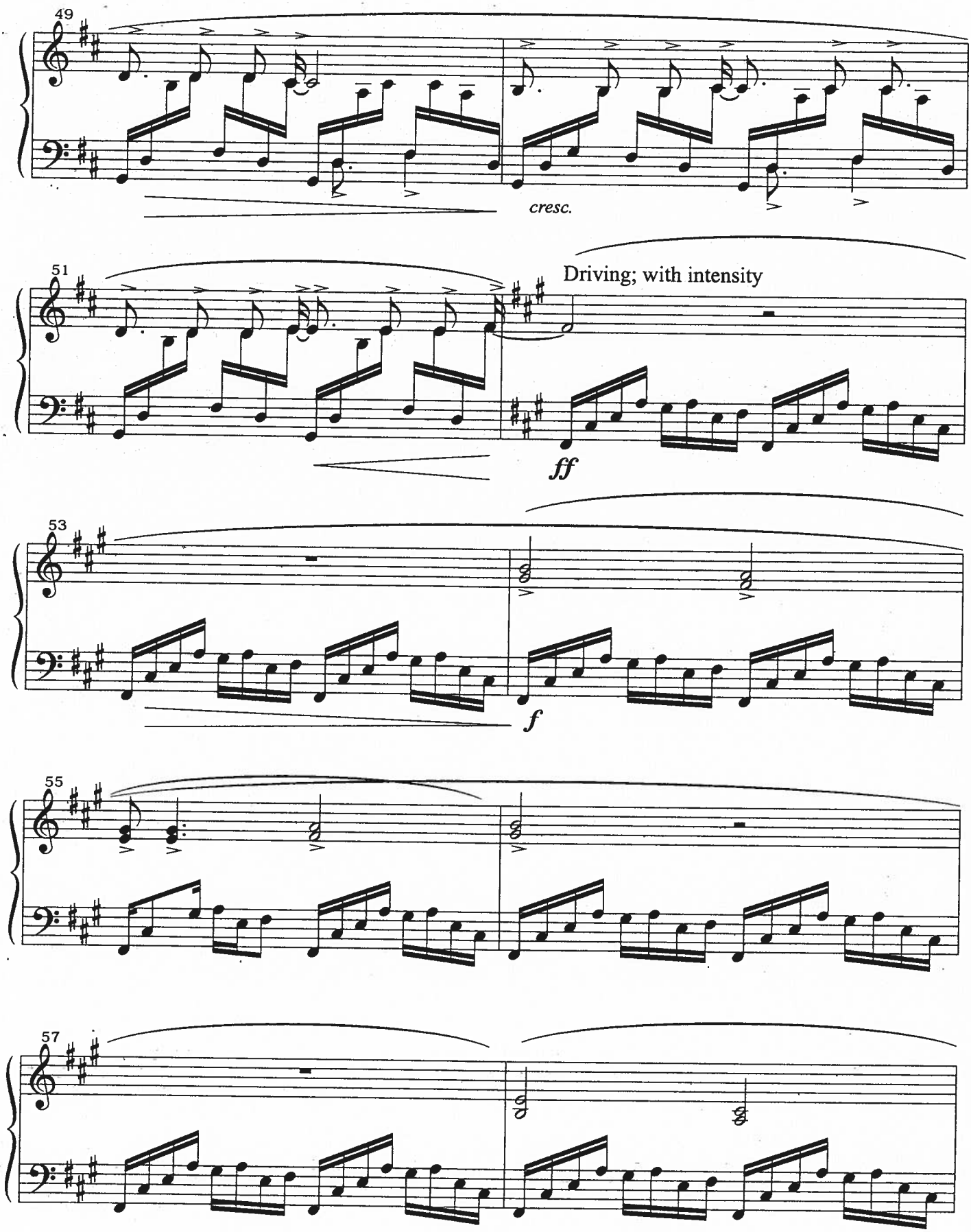

15

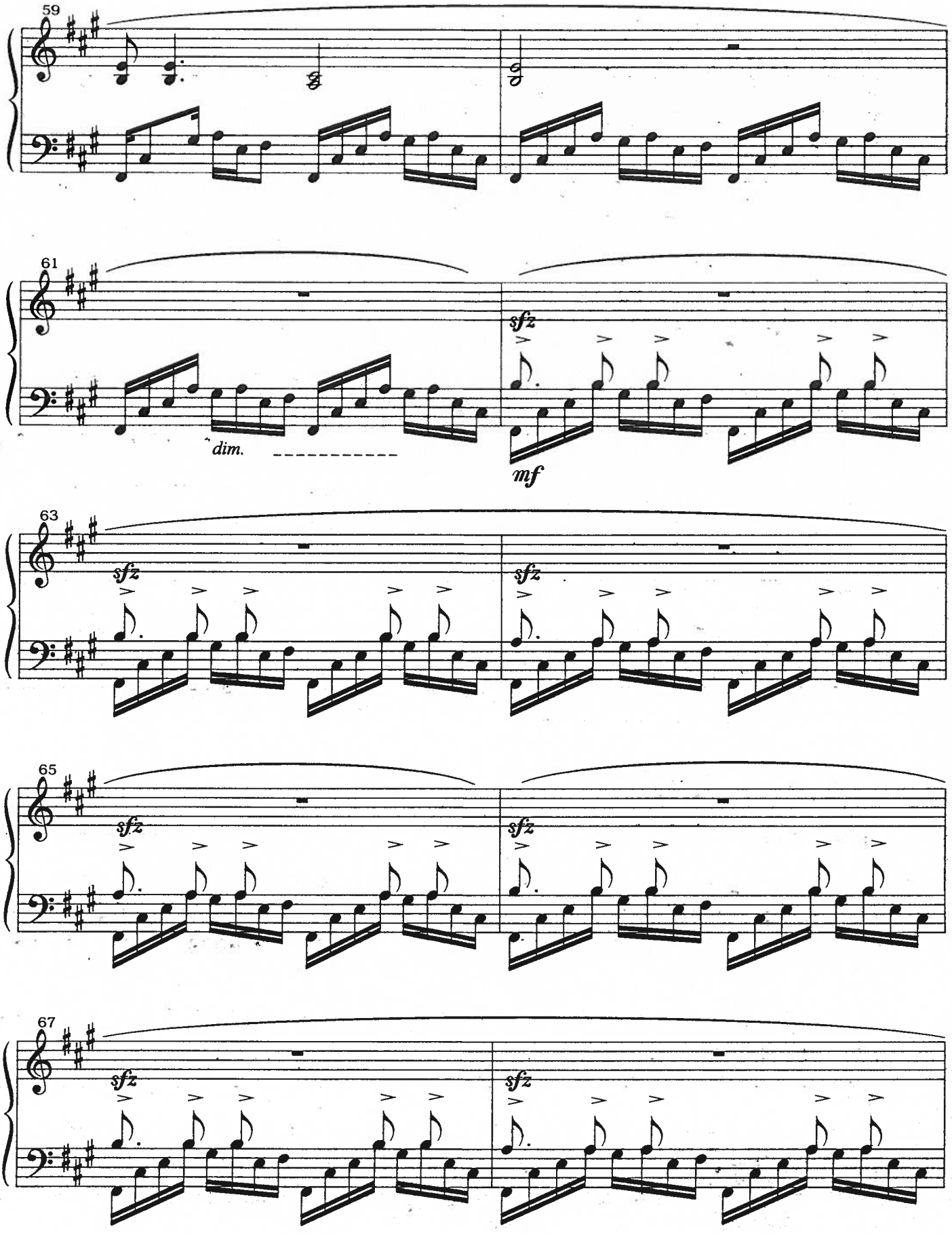

17
push ahead slightly

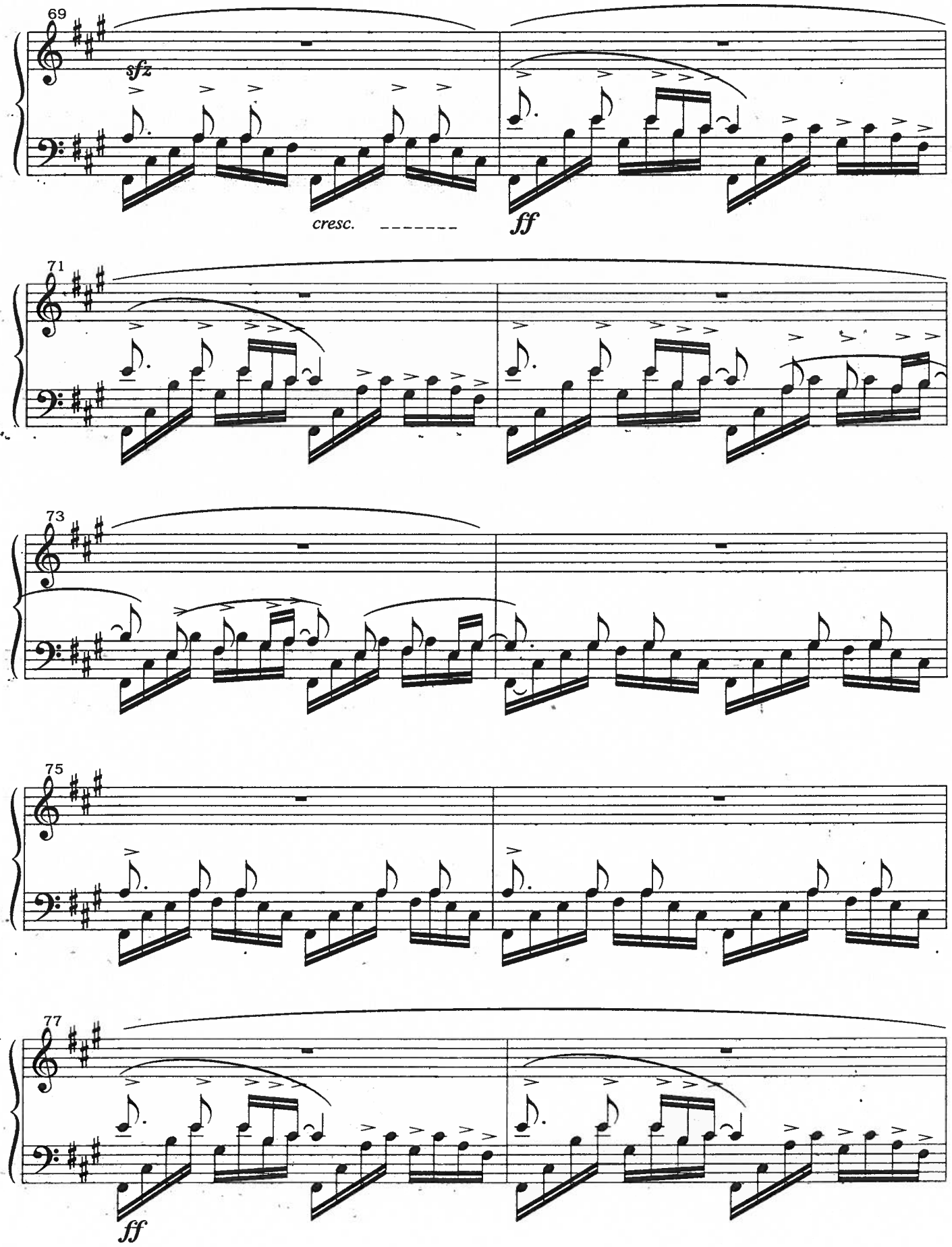

19
21
Push ahead more
23
ritard
Moderato
♩ = 92-100
25
f
dim.
27
mf
dim.
poco rit.

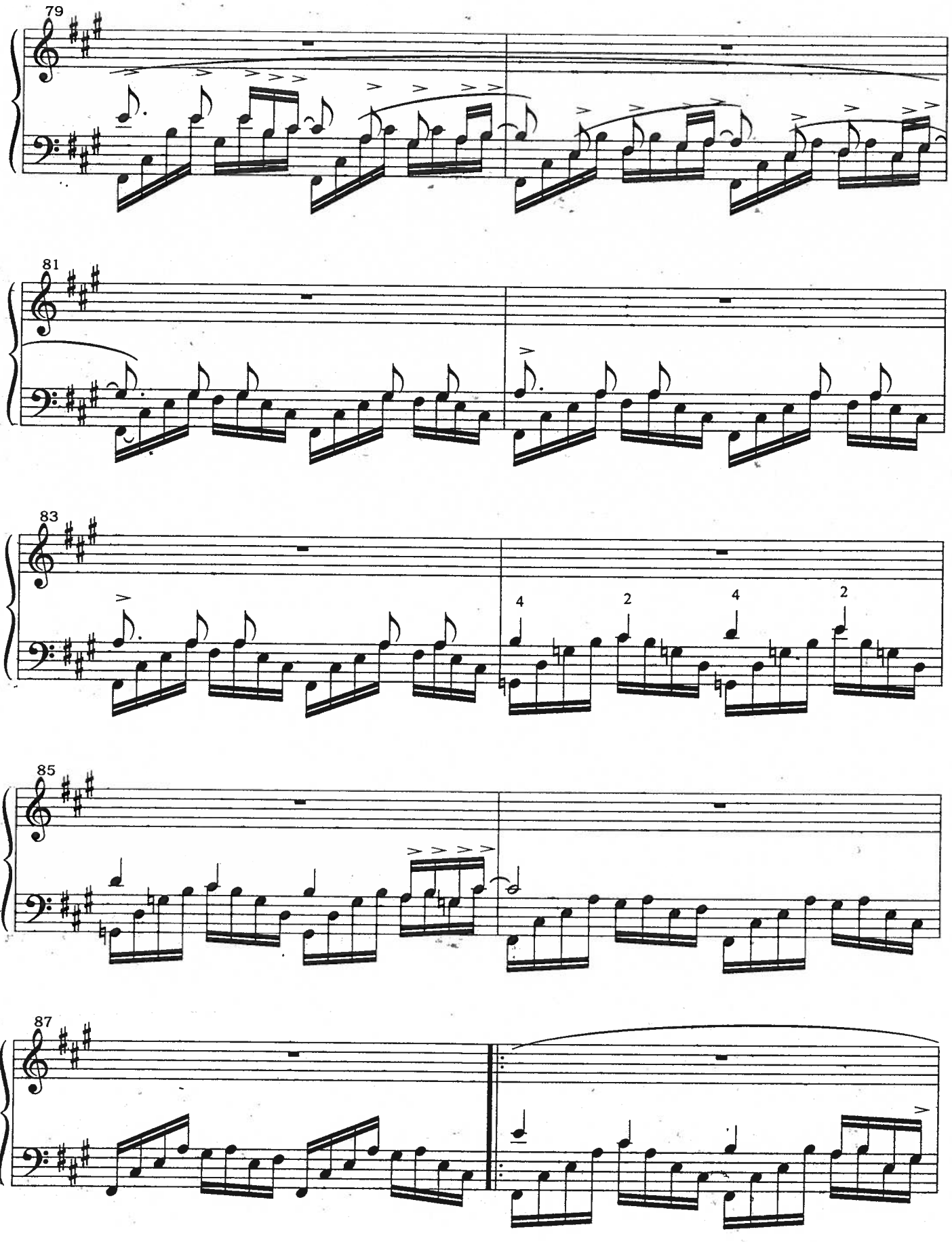

Serenely
29
a tempo
31
33
35
37
f
dim.

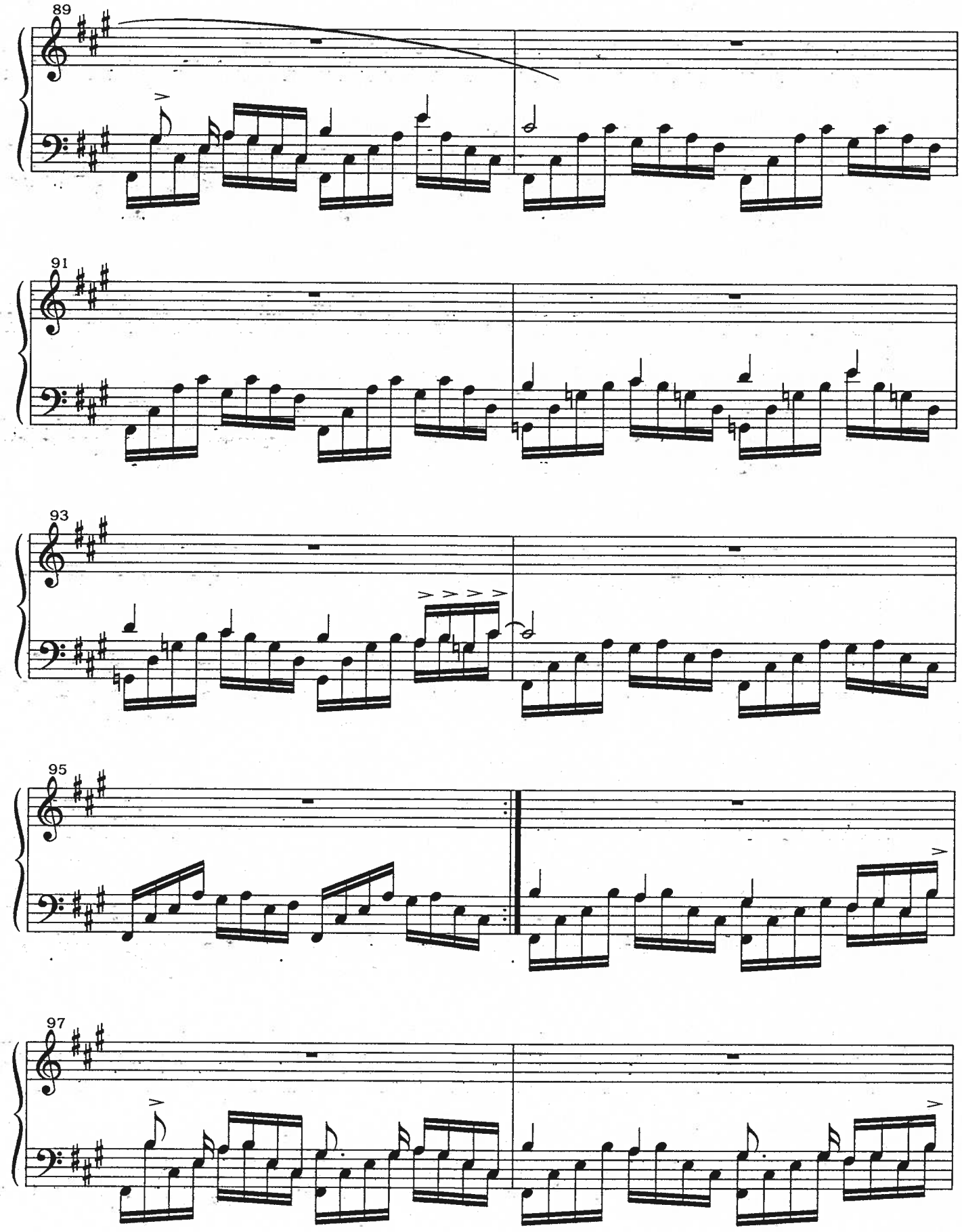

39
mp
dim.
poco rit.
sempre
41
a tempo
43
45
mp
mp
47

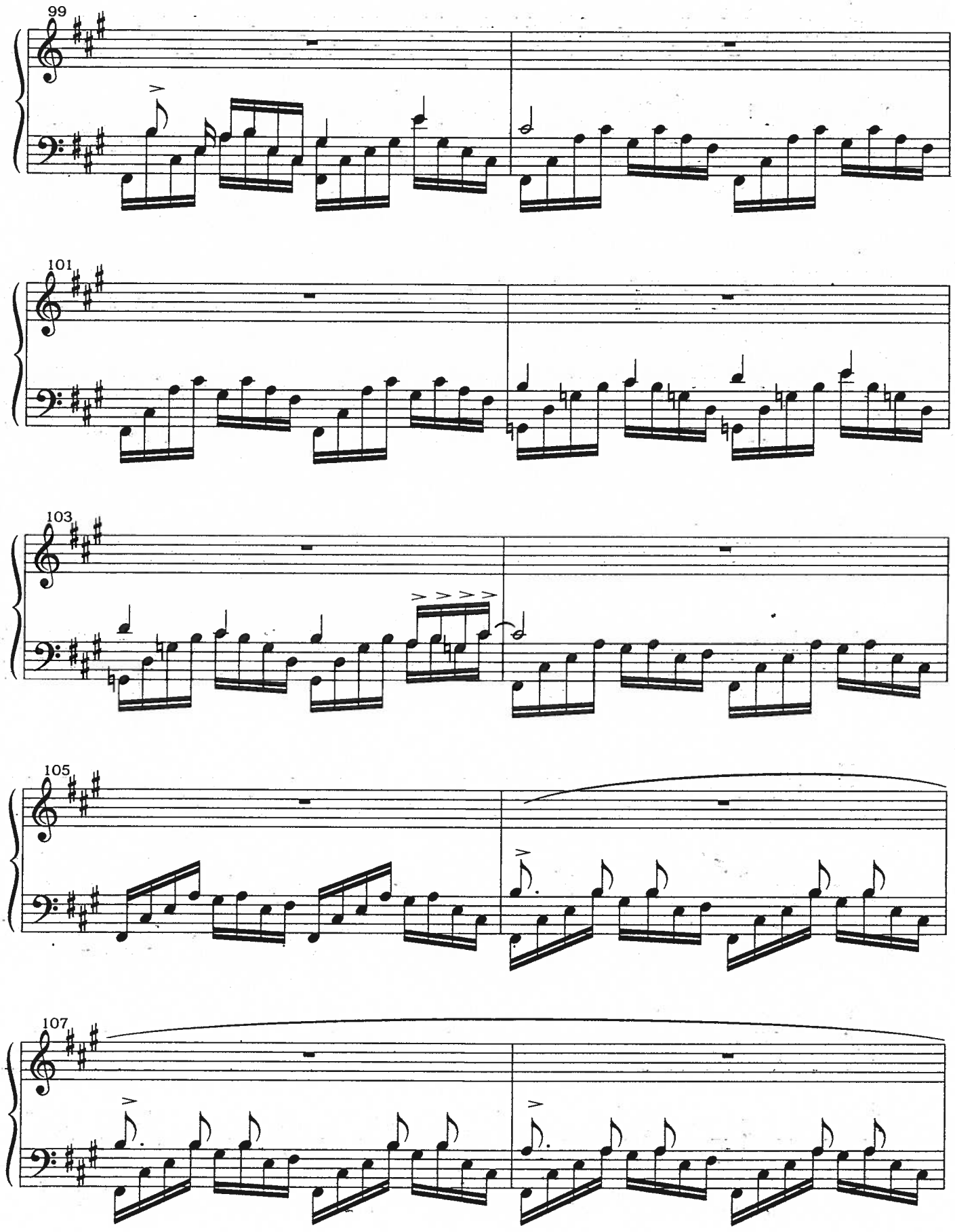

49
cresc.
51
Driving; with intensity
ff
53
f
55
57

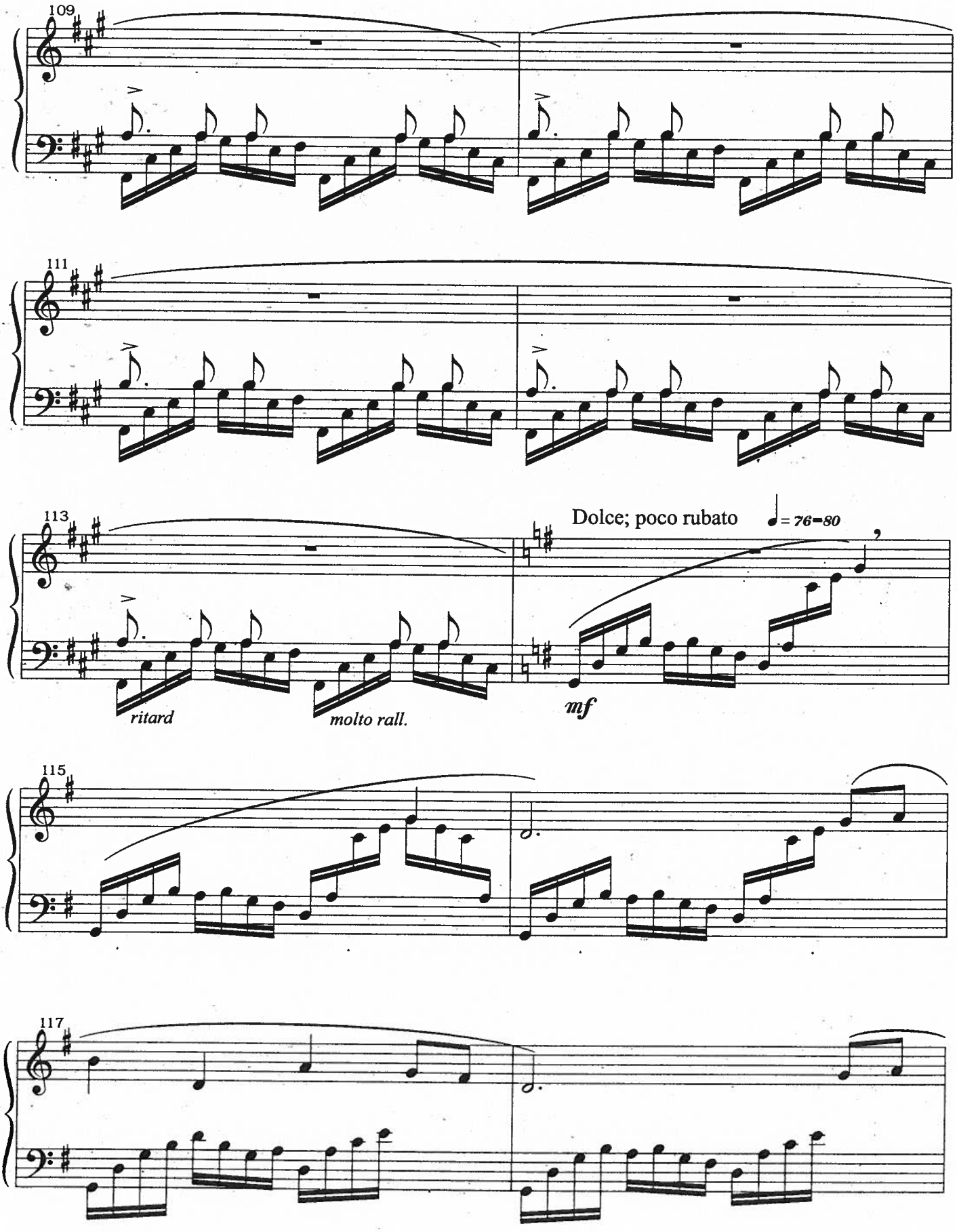

59
61
dim.
sfz
mf
63
sfz
sfz
65
sfz
sfz
67
sfz
sfz

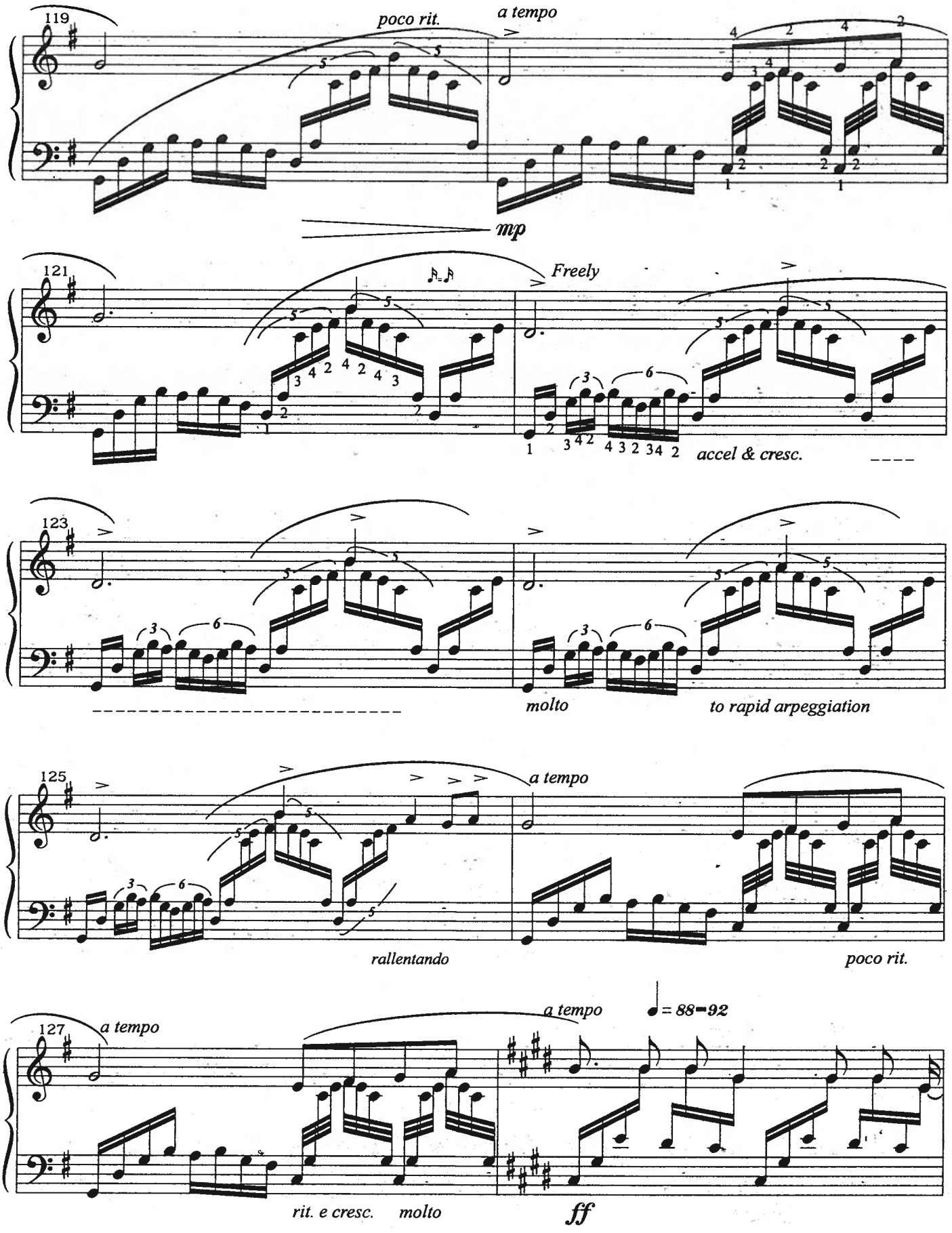

69
sfz
cresc.
ff
71
73
75
77
ff

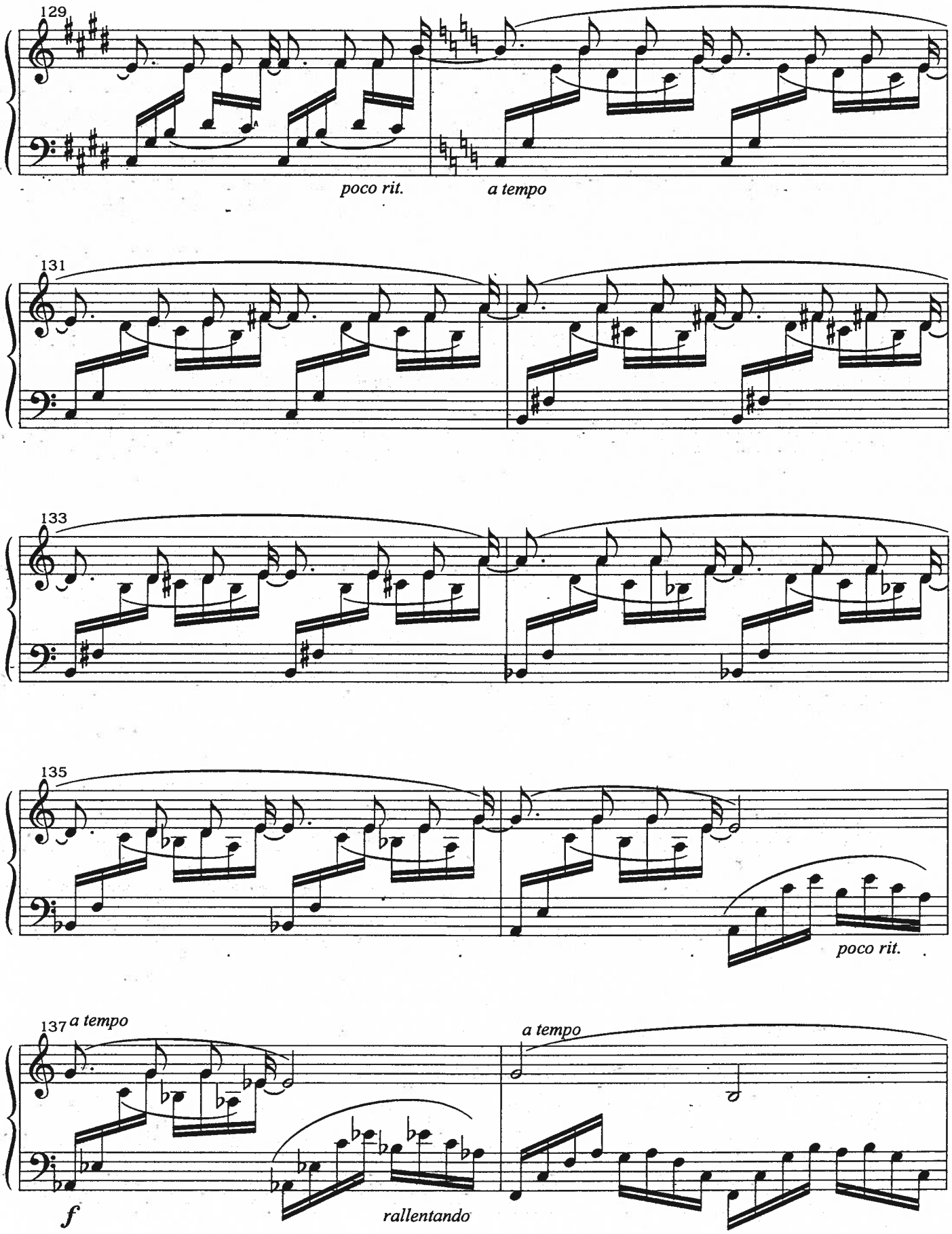

79
81
83
4
2
4
2
85
87

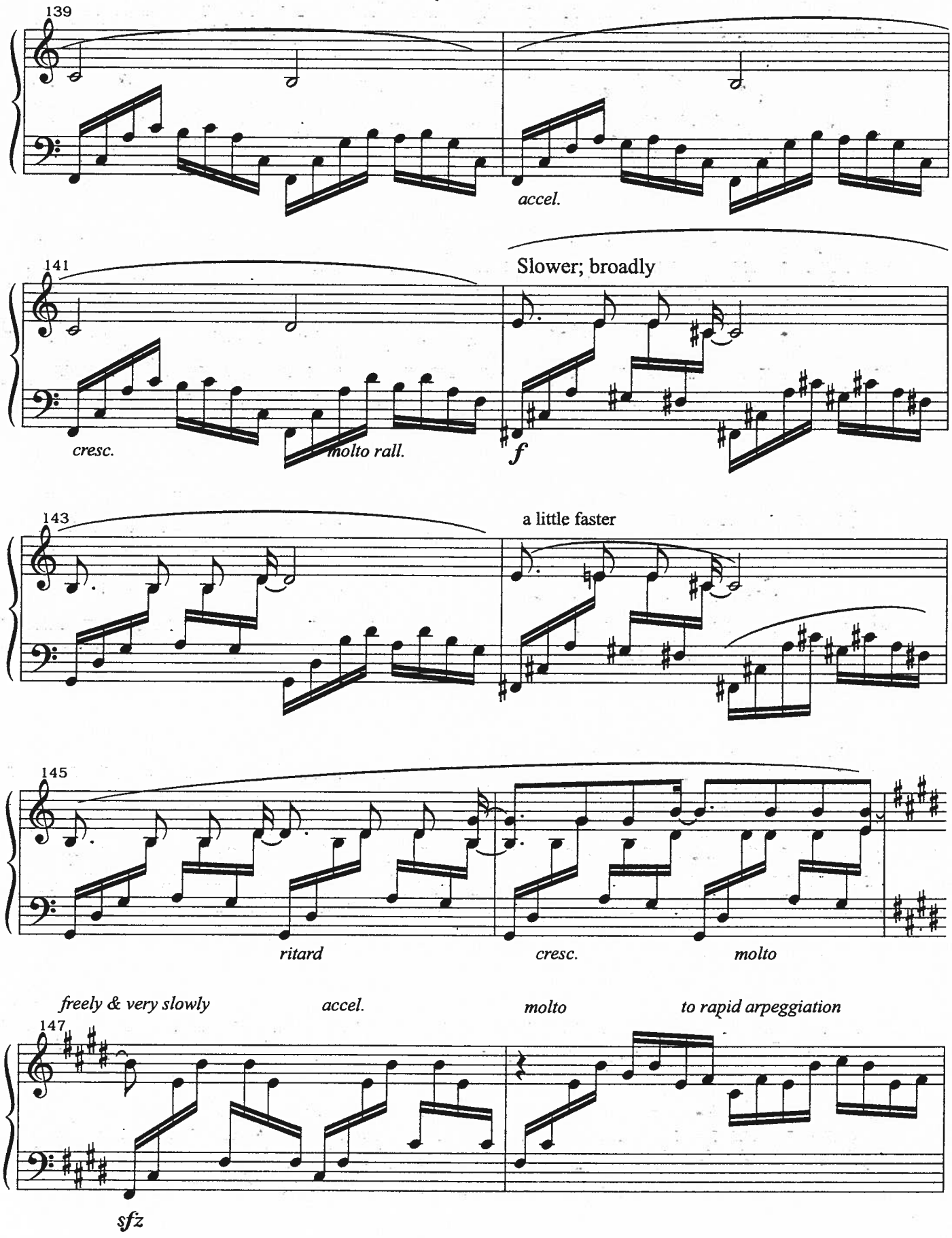

89
91
93
95
97

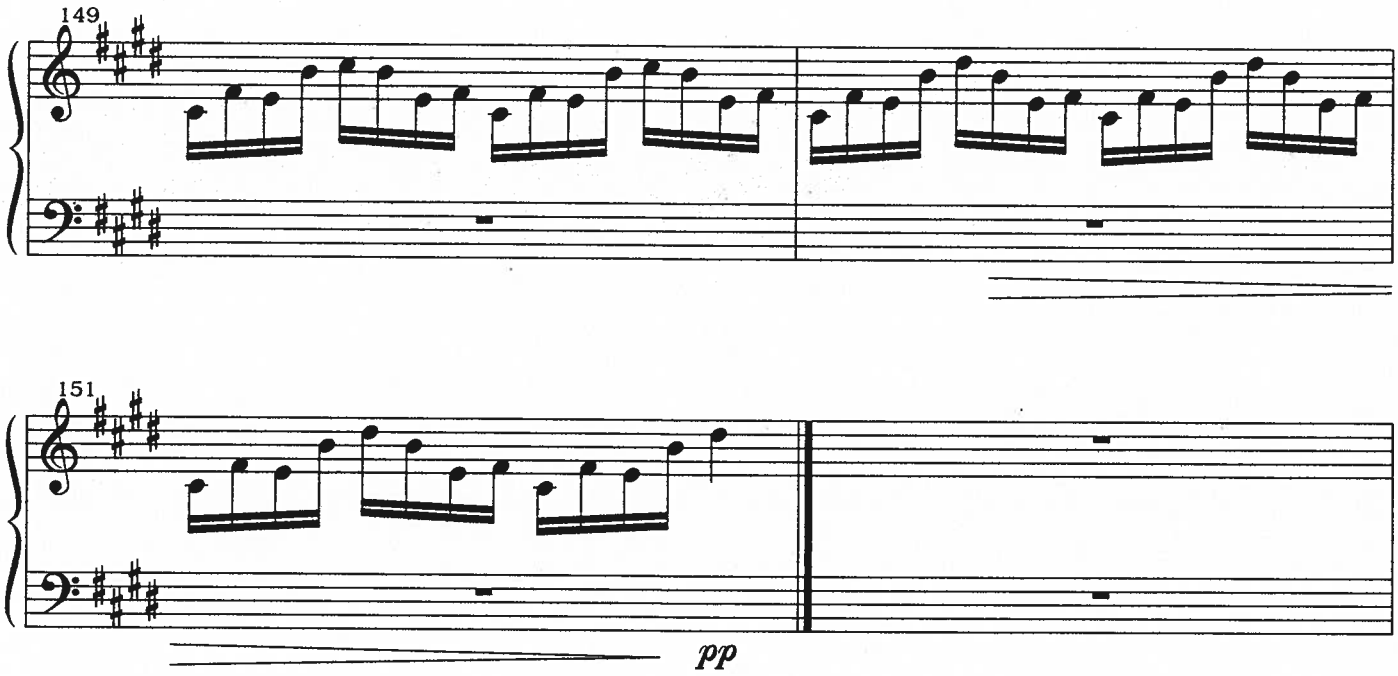

99
101
103
105
107


109
111
113
Dolce; poco rubato
♩= 76-80
ritard
molto rall.
mf
115
117


119
poco rit.
a tempo
mp
121
Freely
accel & cresc.
123
molto
to rapid arpeggiation
125
a tempo
rallentando
poco rit.
127
a tempo
a tempo
♩= 88-92
rit. e cresc.
molto
ff


129
poco rit.
a tempo
131
133
135
poco rit.
137
a tempo
a tempo
f
rallentando


139
accel.
141
Slower; broadly
cresc.
molto rall.
f
143
a little faster
145
ritard
cresc.
molto
freely & very slowly
accel.
molto
to rapid arpeggiation
147
sfz


149
151
pp