~ Written for the American Composers' Invitational of the
12th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition ~

Improvisations 1-3

Solo Piano

(2004)

Paul Rudy

(1962)

© 2004 by Twisted Trail Music

Program Notes

For years, I have enjoyed spending hours at the piano improvising. These sessions opened my ears and taught me that there is no sound the piano can produce that is not resonant and beautiful. This richness of resonance in any combination of notes, thick/thin, wide/narrow, fast/slow, short/long…is unique to the piano. For some time, I have also been interested in the intersection of composition and improvisation. ***Improvisations 1-3*** is the result of a many years of trying to bring these two loves together. The process for this work began with my own improvisations on a midi piano, gathering material much like I would in the studio. From that source material, the composition unfolded in a process through shaping bits and chunks of music much like I would an electroacoustic work. The result is a thoroughly composed composition which maintains some of the playful spontaneity of the original improvisations, and capitalizes on what the piano does best: sing its amazing sounds. Special thanks to Ben Broening for use of his Disklavier!

Performance Note

It is far more important that Improvisations 1-3 be played in a relaxed, improvised sounding style. All sections can be played with considerable freedom, and the tempos marked are merely targets, not absolutes.

Duration: ca. 9’

Biography

Paul Rudy (1962) was born in South Bend, Indiana, USA. He is Assistant Professor of Composition and Director of the Inter-media/Music Production and Computer Technology Center at the Conservatory of Music, University of Missouri, Kansas City. From 1995-2001 he was the composition technologist at the Aspen Music Festival and School where he created "The Virtual Concert Hall" a radio program of electroacoustic music for public radio which also broadcast on Resonance FM (104.4) in London, England from June, 2002 to June, 2003. He is the 2002 winner of the EMS Electroacoustic Music Prize (Stockholm, Sweden) along with other recognition from the Bourges Electroacoustic Music Competition, the Fulbright Foundation, Meet the Composer, the National Music Teachers Association, and the Missouri Music Teachers Association. Commissions include Meet the Composer USA, the American Composer’s Forum Jerome Composer Commissioning Project, Music From China, New York New Music Ensemble, Kansas City Chorale, newEar, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, the UMKC Accordion Orchestra, and the Missouri Music Teachers Association. His works, published by Twisted Trail Music, have been broadcast and performed worldwide and can be found on Living Artist, SCI (Capstone), SEAMUS and Centaur recordings. In addition to composing he has an avid interest in bicycling, hiking, camping, and mountaineering. In 1994 he completed the Colorado Grand Slam after climbing all 54 of Colorado's 14,000 ft peaks.

http://www.paulrudy.com

Music ©2004 by Twisted Trail Music

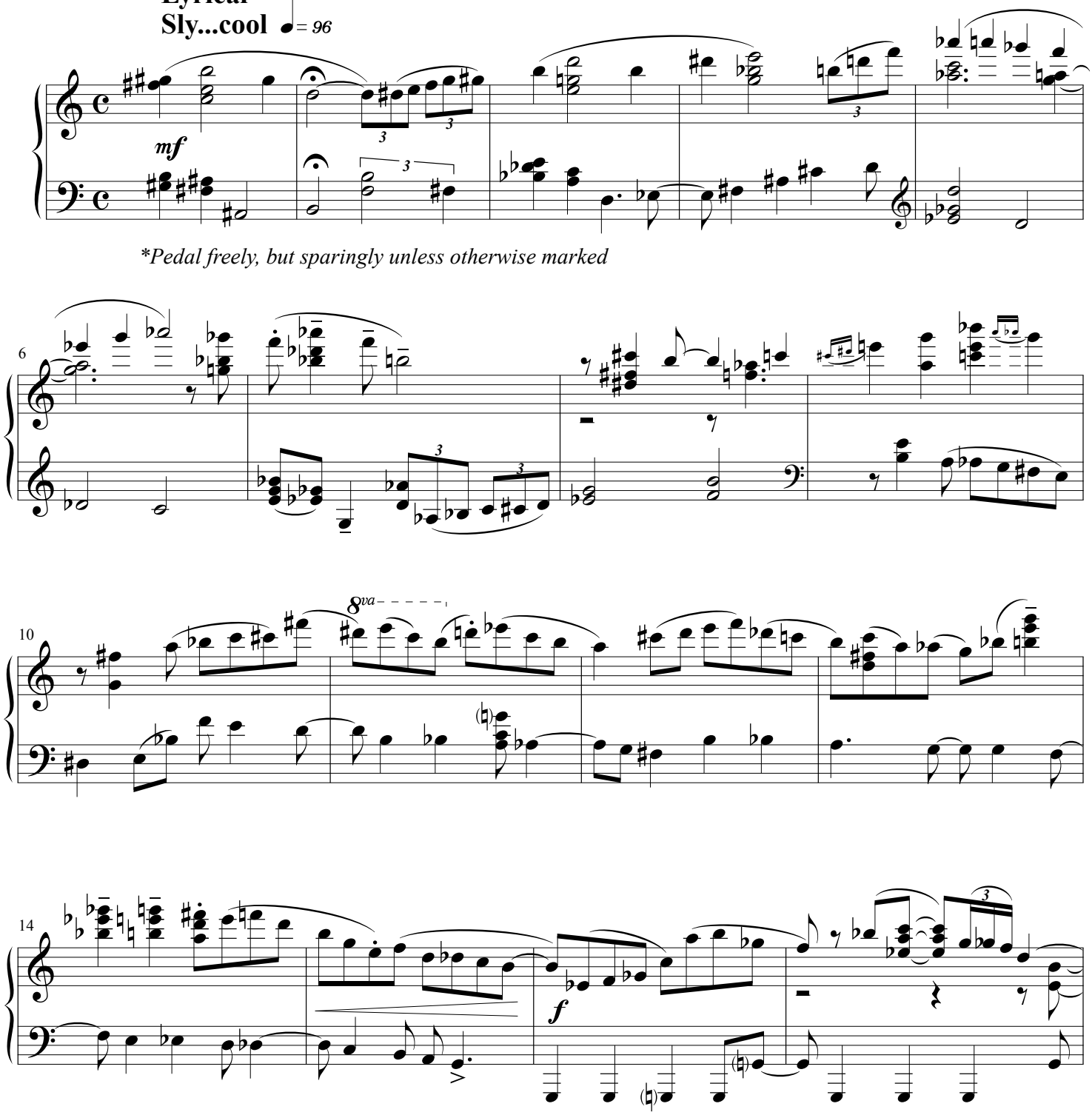
~Written for the American Composer's Invitational of the 12th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition~

Improvisations 1-3

for solo piano

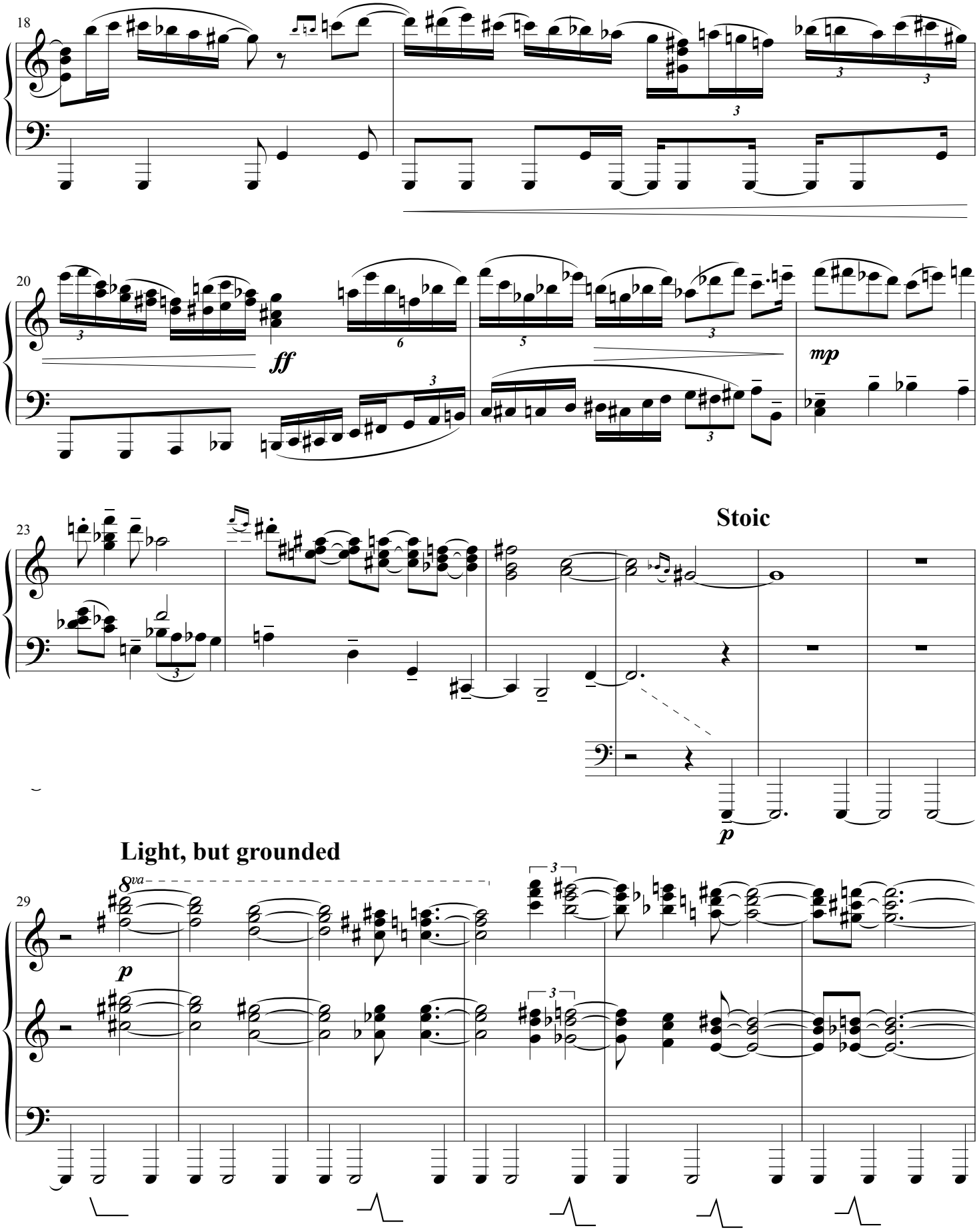
Paul Rudy
(b. 1962)

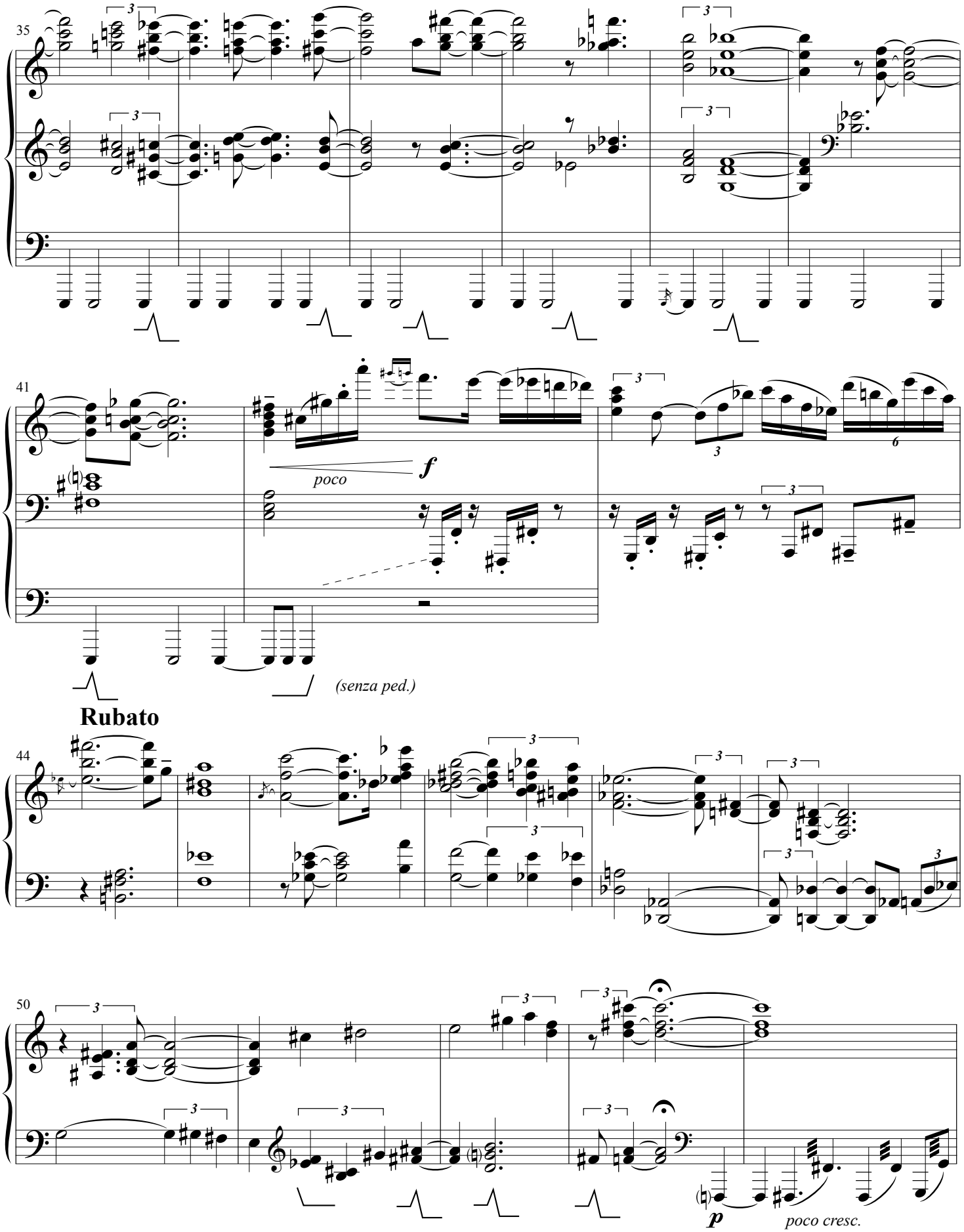
Lyrical
Sly...cool ♩ = 96

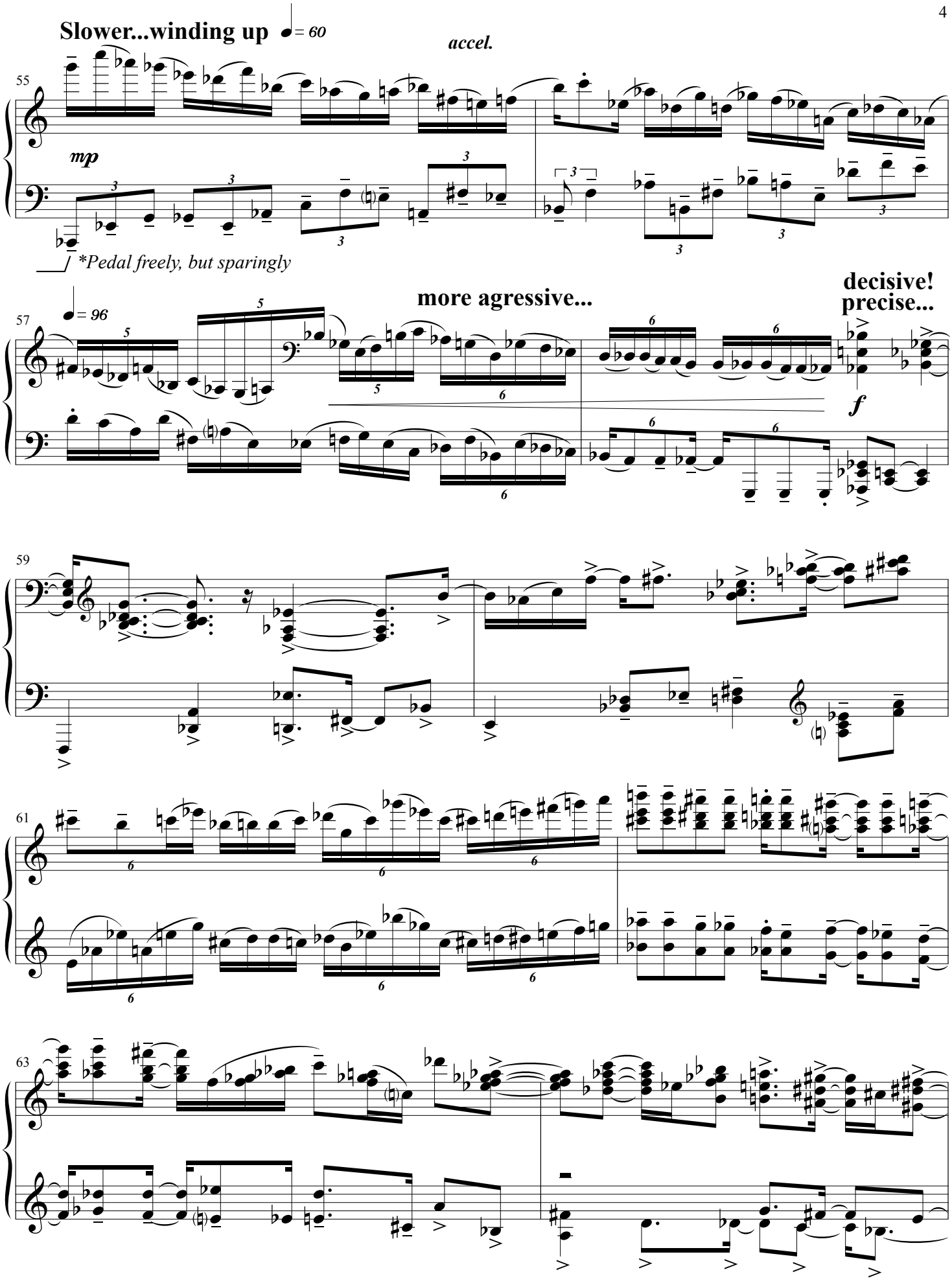


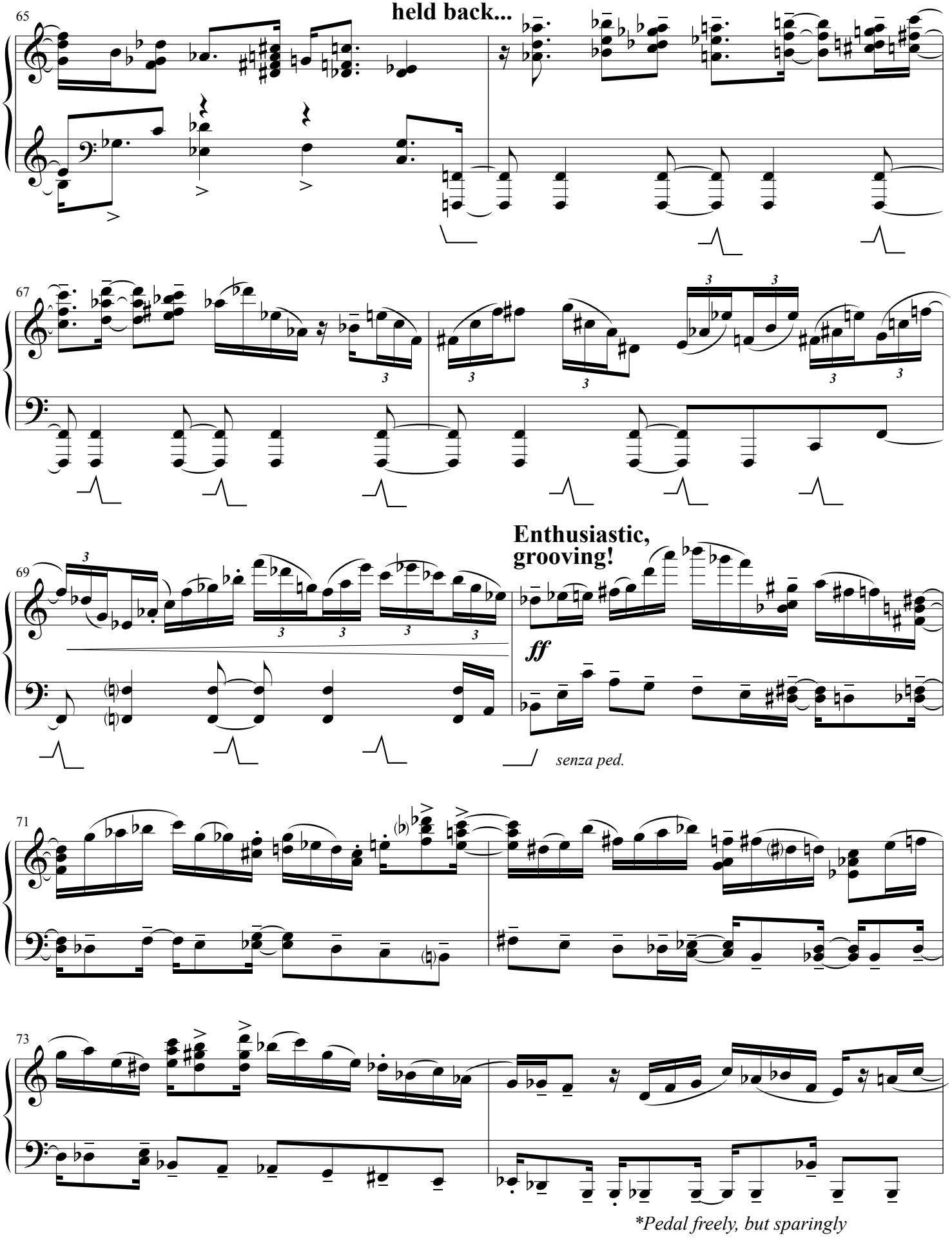
Duration: ca. 10'

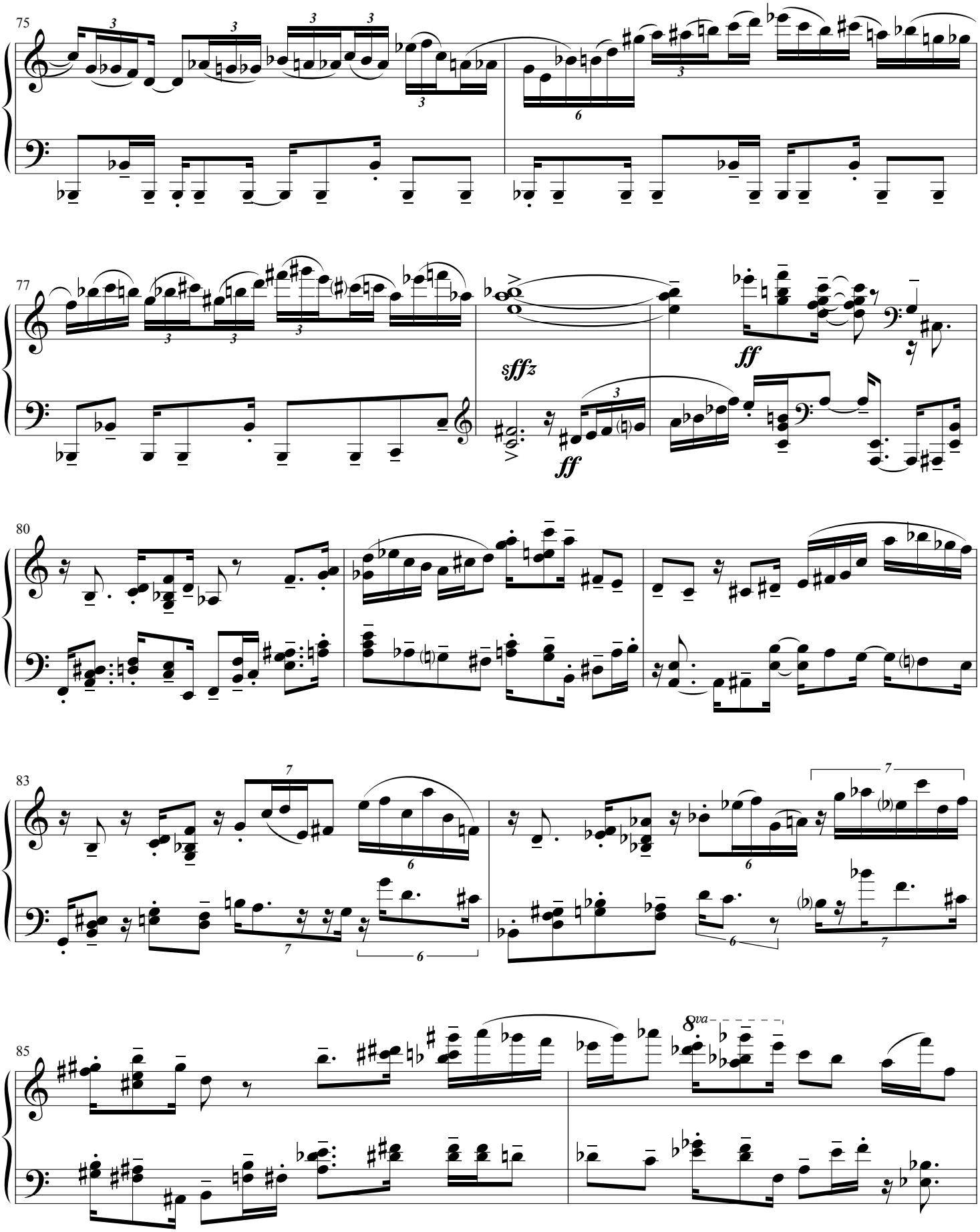
© 2004 Twisted Trail Music

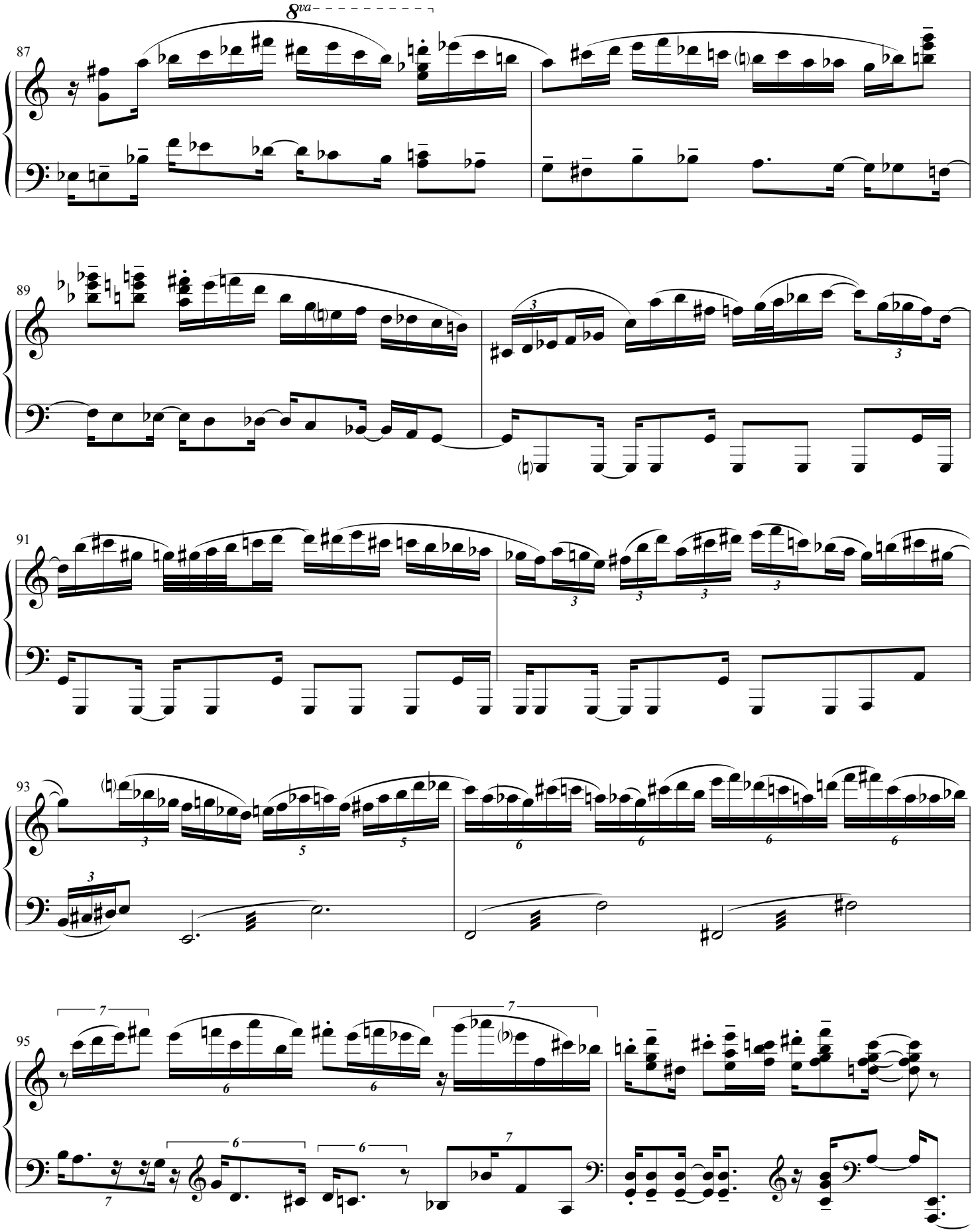

18
20
ff
mp
23
Stoic
p
Light, but grounded
8va
29
p

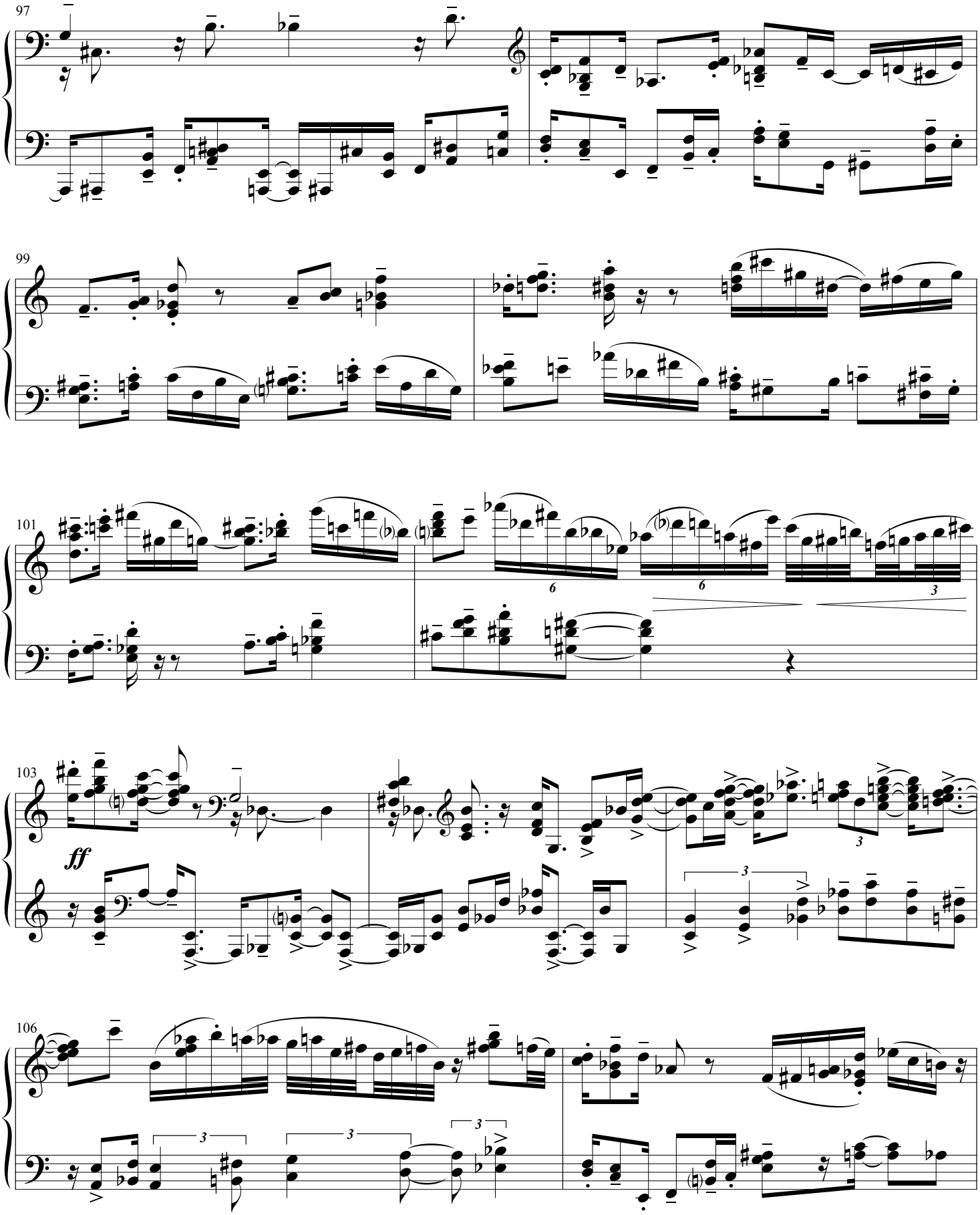

35
41
poco
f
(senza ped.)
Rubato
44
50
p
poco cresc.

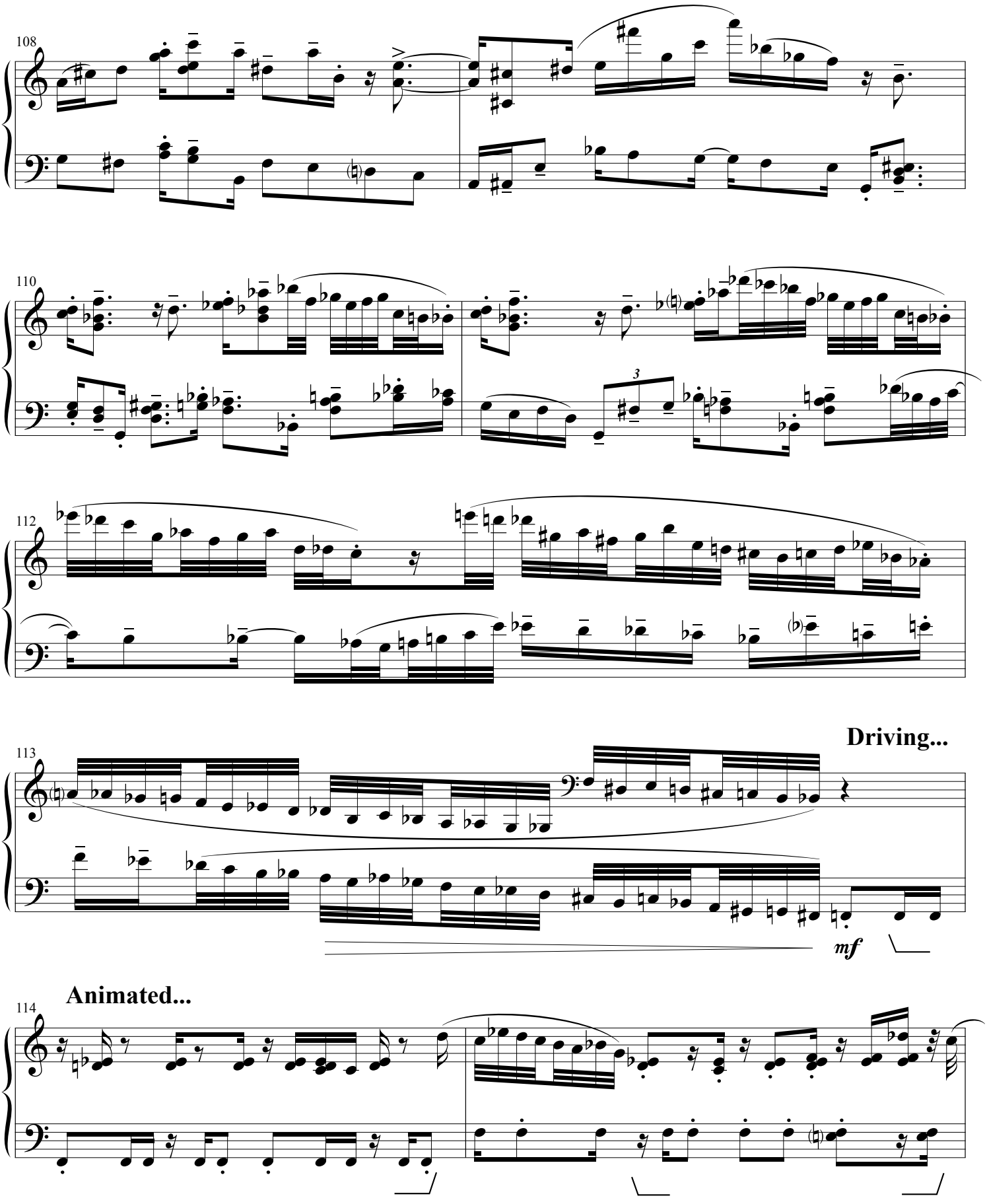

Slower...winding up
♩ = 60
accel.
55
mp
*Pedal freely, but sparingly
more agressive...
decisive!
precise...
57
♩ = 96
f
59
61
63

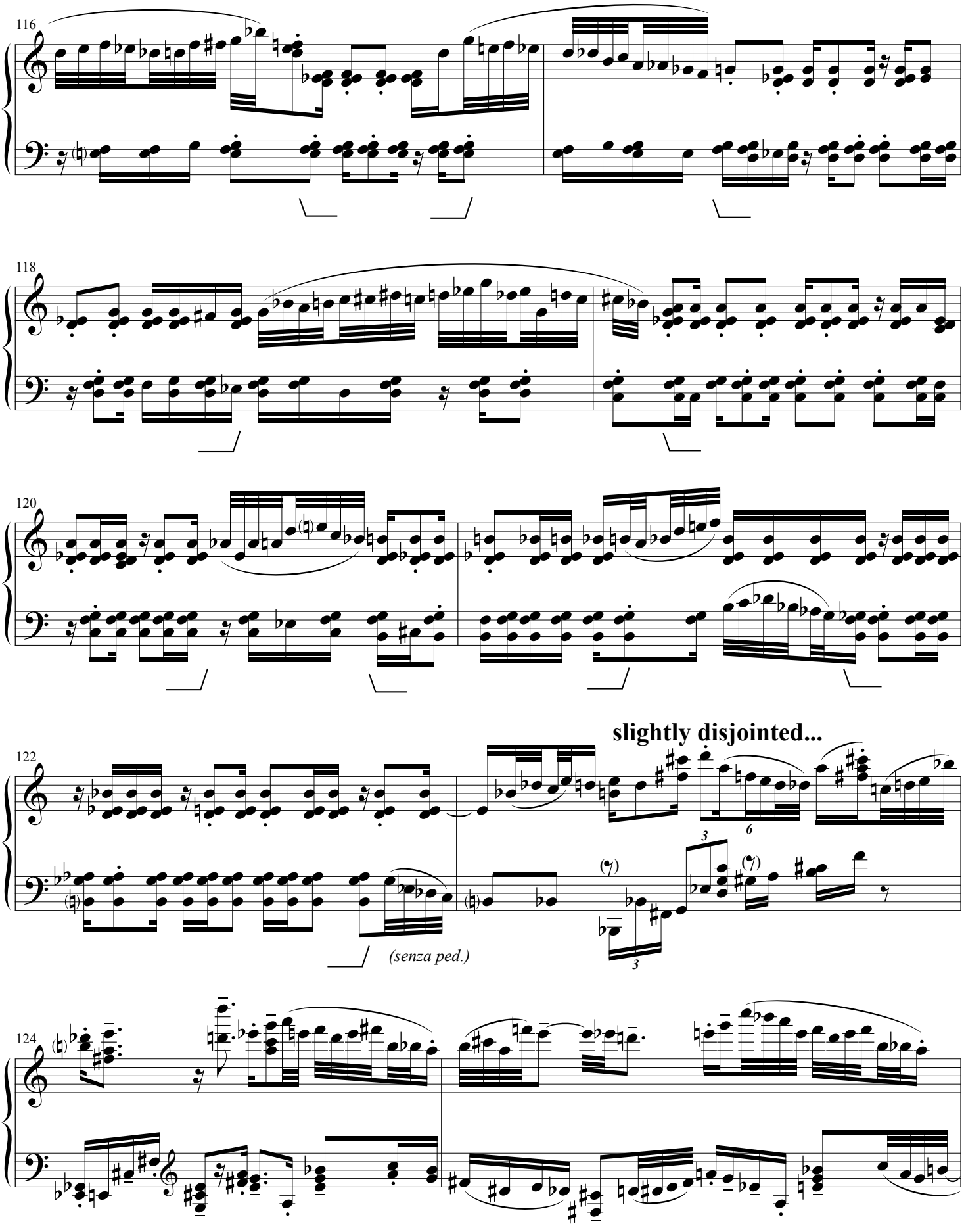

65
held back...
67
69
Enthusiastic,
grooving!
ff
senza ped.
71
73
*Pedal freely, but sparingly

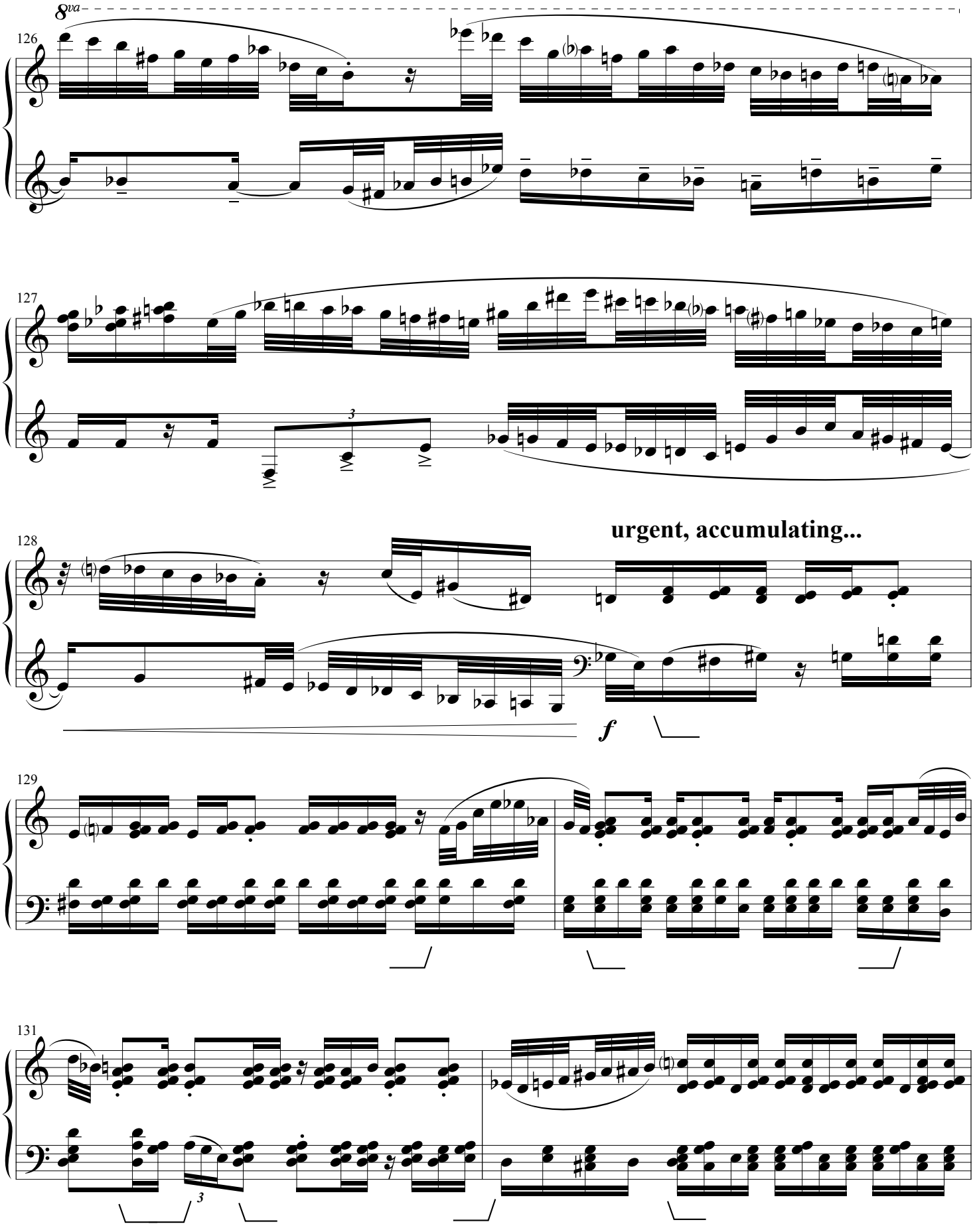

75
77
sffz
ff
ff
80
83
8va
85

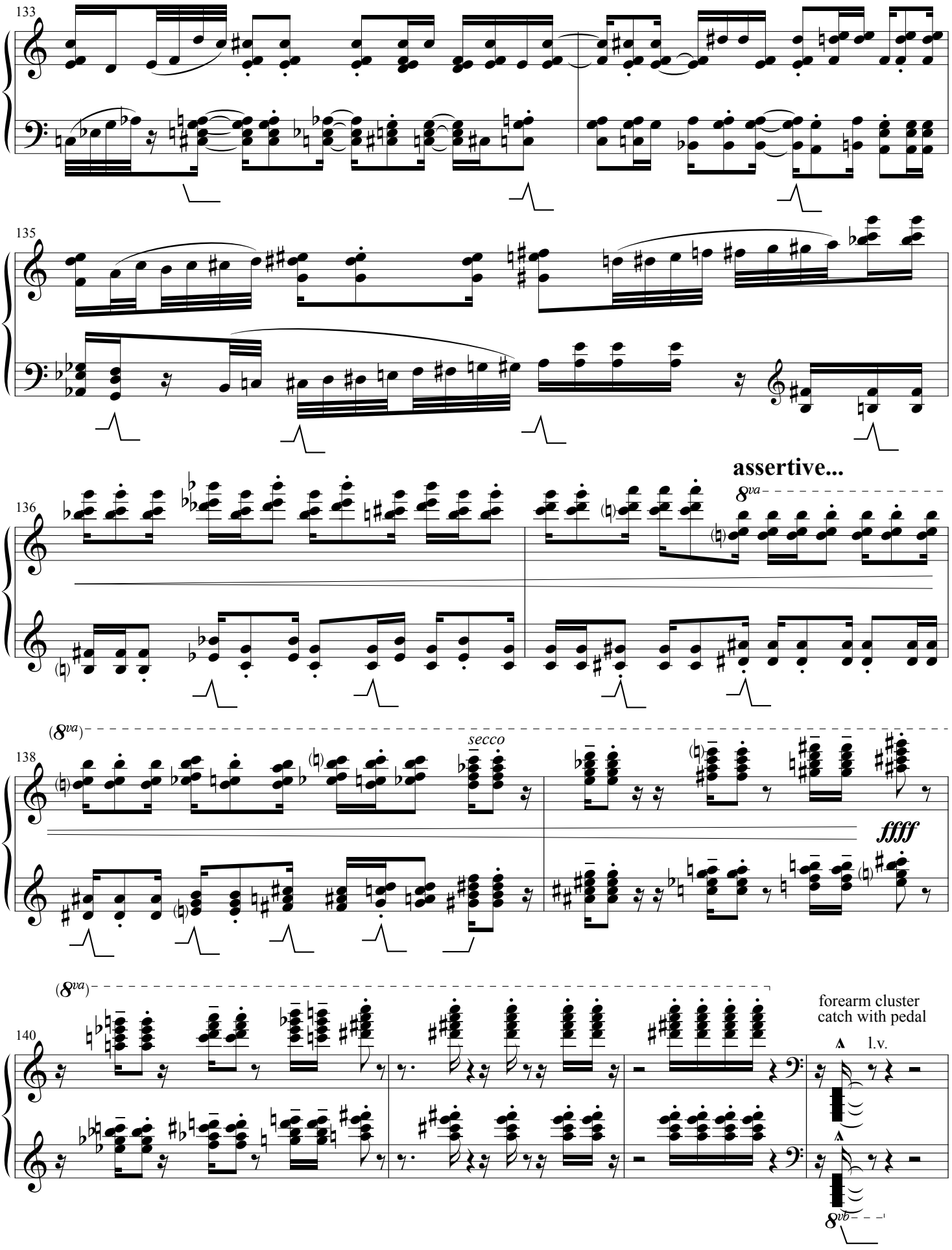

8va
87
89
91
93
95

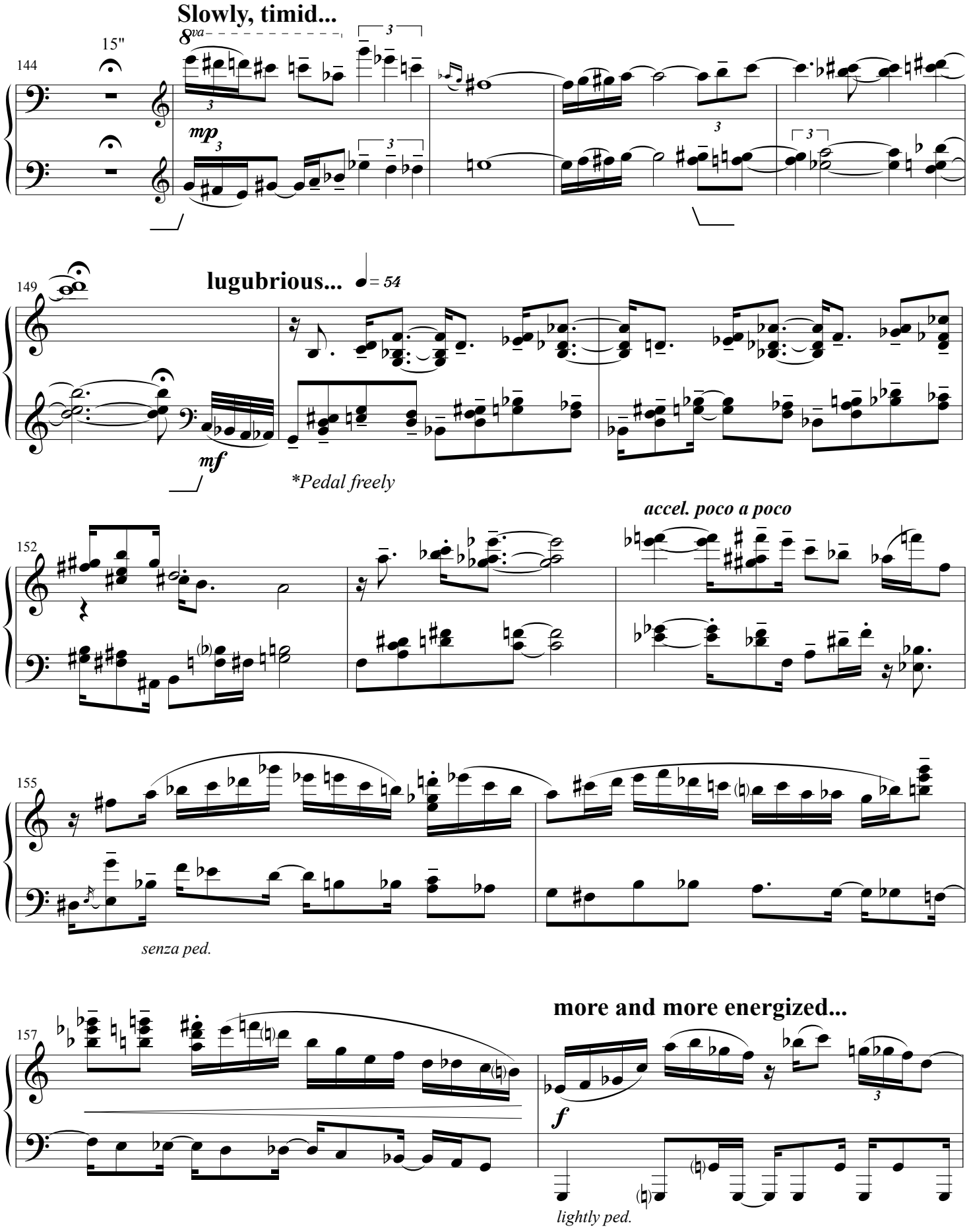

97
99
101
103
ff
106

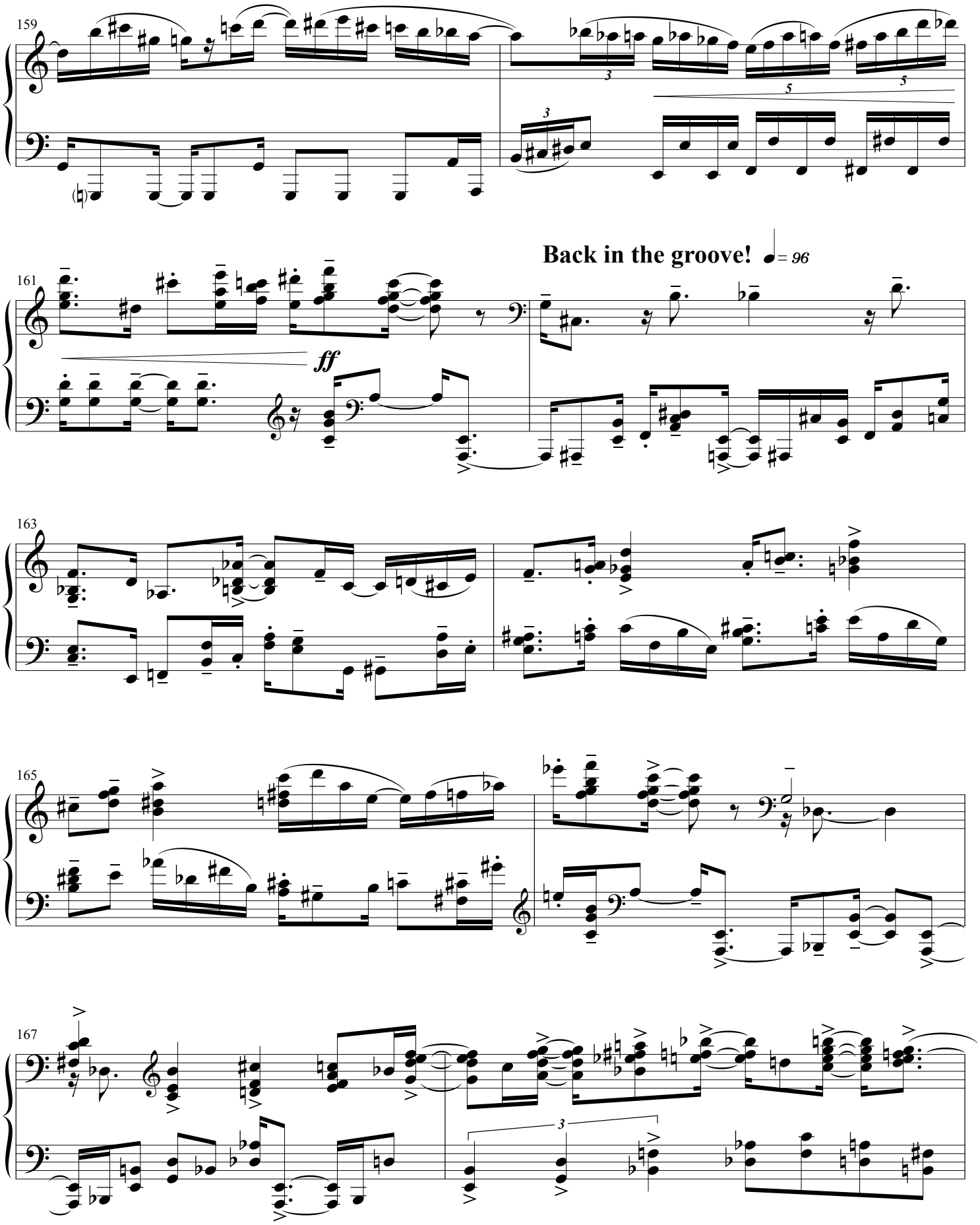

108
110
112
113
Driving...
mf
114
Animated...

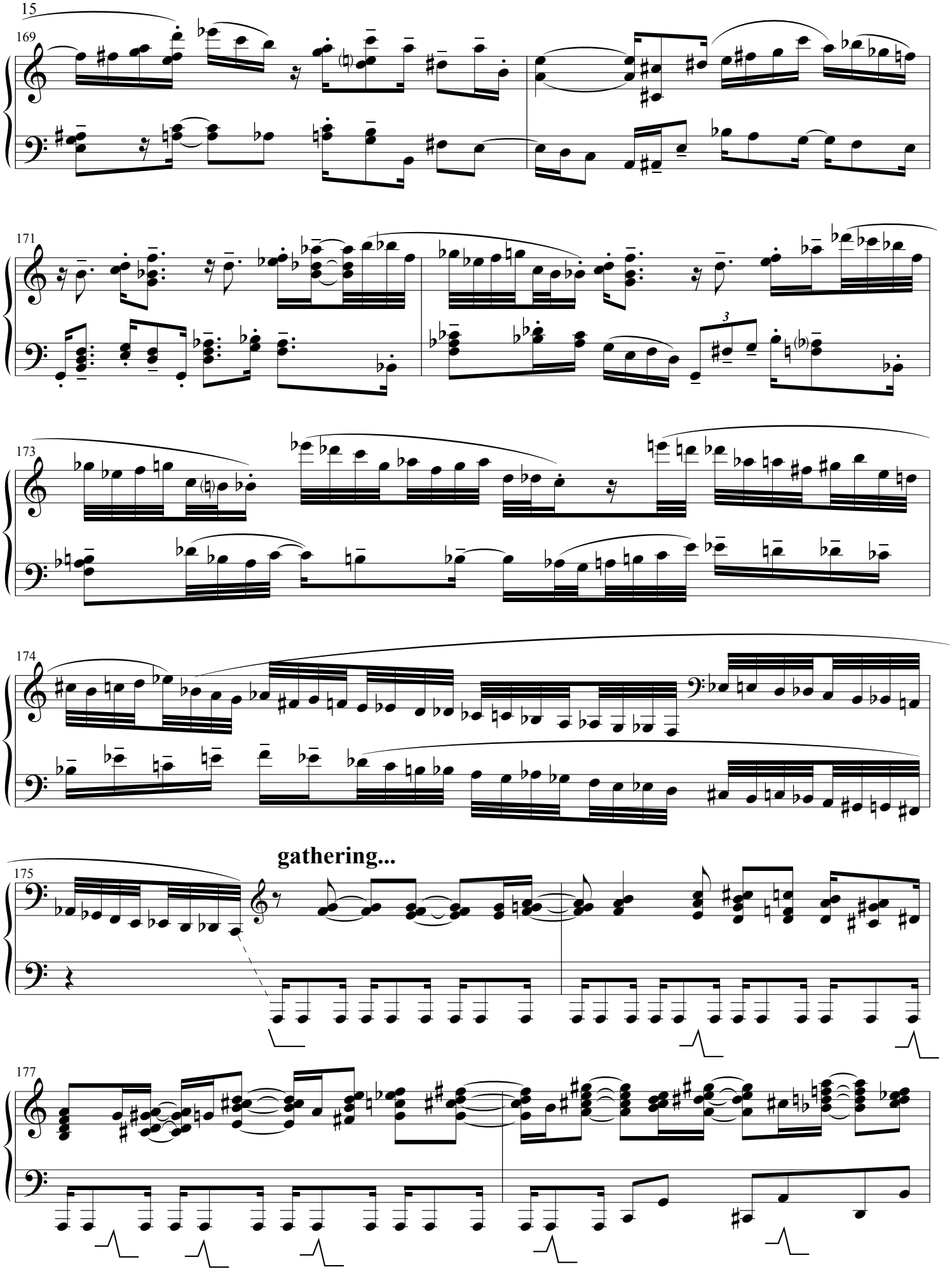

116
118
120
122
slightly disjointed...
(senza ped.)
124

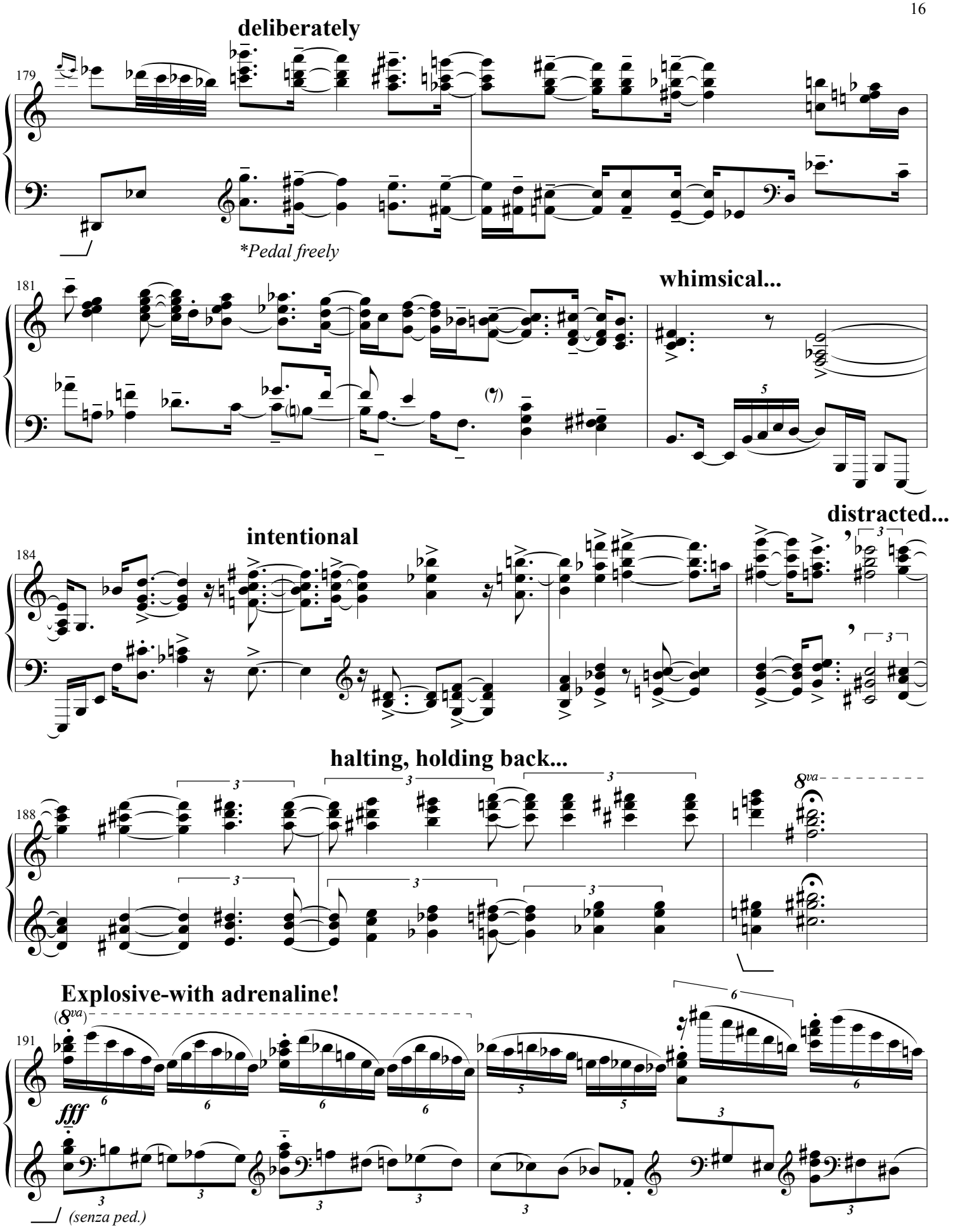

8va
126
127
128
urgent, accumulating...
f
129
131

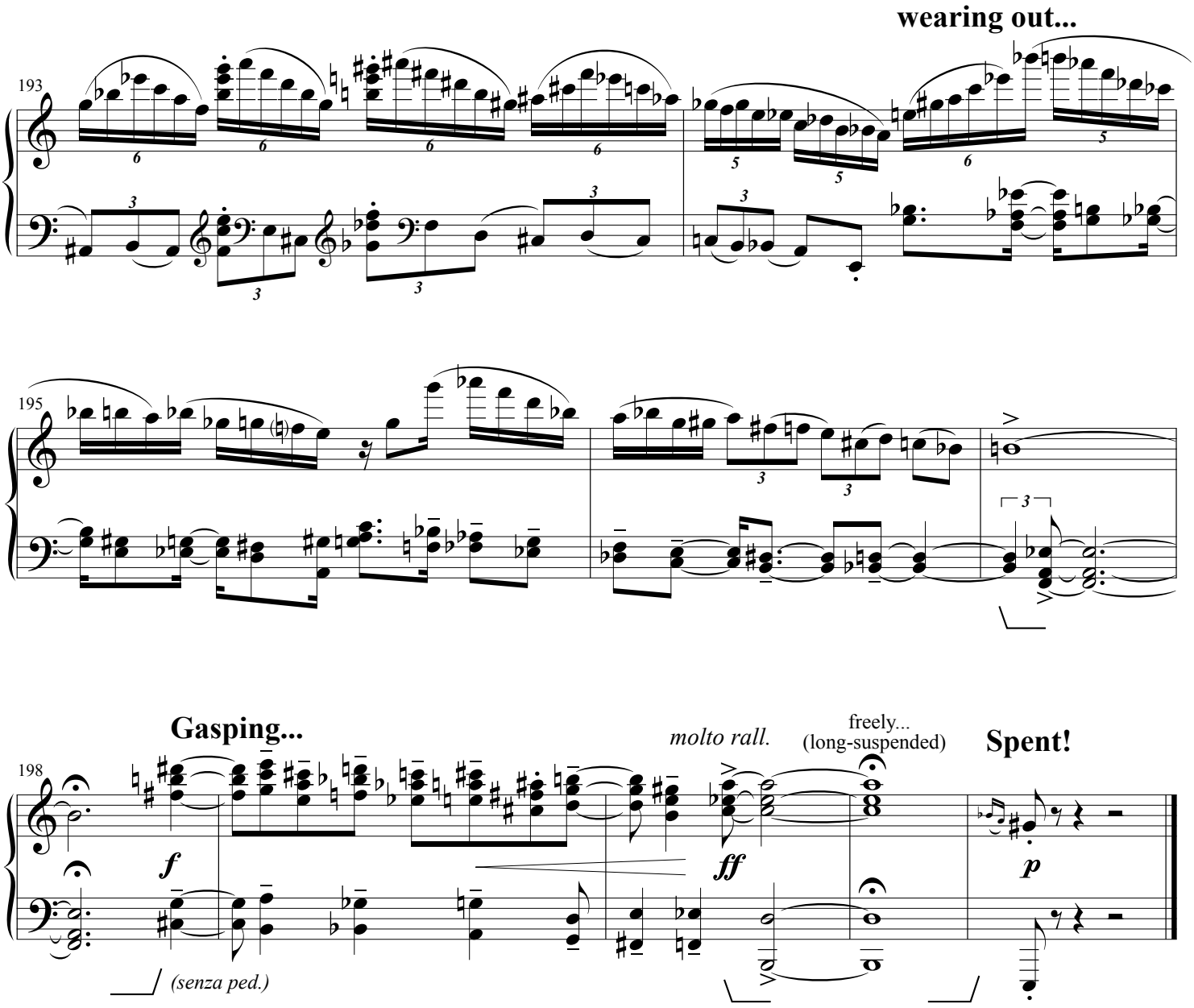

133
135
assertive...
8va
136
(8va)
secco
138
ffff
(8va)
forearm cluster
catch with pedal
l.v.
140
8vb


Slowly, timid...
8va
15"
144
mp
149
lugubrious...
= 54
mf
*Pedal freely
152
accel. poco a poco
155
senza ped.
157
more and more energized...
f
lightly ped.


159
161
Back in the groove!
= 96
ff
163
165
167


169
171
173
174
gathering...
175
177


deliberately
179
*Pedal freely
181
whimsical...
distracted...
intentional
184
halting, holding back...
188
8va
Explosive-with adrenaline!
(8va)
191
fff
(senza ped.)


wearing out...
193
195
Gasping...
198
molto rall.
freely...
(long-suspended)
Spent!
f
ff
p
(senza ped.)