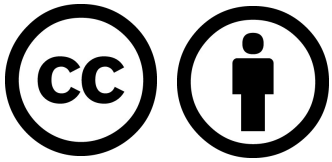
Steven O'Brien

Twenty Four Preludes, Op. 2



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Interpretation Notes

In order to avoid any confusion in the interpretation and performance of these preludes, a brief explanation on how certain aspects of this score should be interpreted has been provided below.

A short fermata ( ) should be interpreted as a very short pause or hesitation, almost as if the music slows down slightly for an instant in anticipation of the note or phrase that follows it. The performer should not hold notes or rests with a short fermata for more than half of a beat.

A standard fermata ( ) should be interpreted as a short pause, adding no more than one beat to the value of the note or rest in question.

A long fermata ( ), similar to a standard fermata, should be interpreted as a long pause, adding between one and three beats to the value of the note or rest in question.

A tenuto mark (-) indicates that the note should be held slightly longer than its written value, almost giving the impression that it is extending into the following note.

An accent mark (>) indicates that the note should be emphasized moreso than the notes that surround it.

A staccato mark (.) indicates that the note should be played with roughly half of its written value.

A staccatissimo mark ( ) indicates that the note should be played with an emphasized attack, and a very quick release, almost in the manner of pizzicato on a string instrument.

Brackets around a note head ( ) indicate that the note should be played with much less emphasis than the notes that surround it.

If the duration of the performance is a sensitive issue, the performer can treat any repeat signs liberally, and choose to ignore any that would cause the performance to continue for too long. However, in order to maintain a sense of balance throughout the performance, the performer should try to retain as many of these repeats as possible.

The metronome markings throughout these preludes should only be treated as recommendations. Ideally, the performer should aim to play within 10BPM of the recommended marking.

If these preludes are being performed on a piano with an extended lower bass range (such as the Bösendorfer 290), Preludes No. 20 and No. 24 have optional notes that utilise this extended range. Instructions have been provided on how to use these notes where appropriate.

Further Information

If you have any questions regarding these preludes, or any other works by Steven O'Brien, feel free to send an email to steven@steven-obrien.net. Reference recordings and further information, including a digital version of this score for reprinting can be found at http://www.steven-obrien.net/. Steven O'Brien can also be found on twitter @SELOBrien.

Translations

Lentissimo	Very slowly
Lento	Slowly
Largo	Slowly
Larghetto	Quite slowly
Adagio	Quite slowly
Andante	Moderately slowly
Moderato	Moderately fast
Allegretto	Moderately fast
Allegro	Fast
Vivace	Quite fast and lively
Presto	Very fast
Prestissimo	As fast as possible
Sempre	Always...
Con	With...
Molto/Assai	Very...
Poco	A little...
Ad libitum/Rubato	With free tempo
Agitato	With agitation
Doloroso/Dolore	With pain
Morendo/Mesto	With grief
Brio	With vigor
Energico	With energy
Animato	With animation
Forzando	With force
Grave	With sadness
Maestoso	With majesty
Mesto	With grief
Giocoso	With joy
Fuoco	With fire
Staccatissimo	With very pointed staccato
Resoluto	With a sense of resolution
Leggieramente	Delicately
Misterioso	Mysteriously
Marcato	Markedly (Accented)
Sostenuto	Sustained
Pathetique	Pathetically
Appassionato	Passionately
Cantabile	Song-like

Prelude No. 1

in C major, Op. 2a

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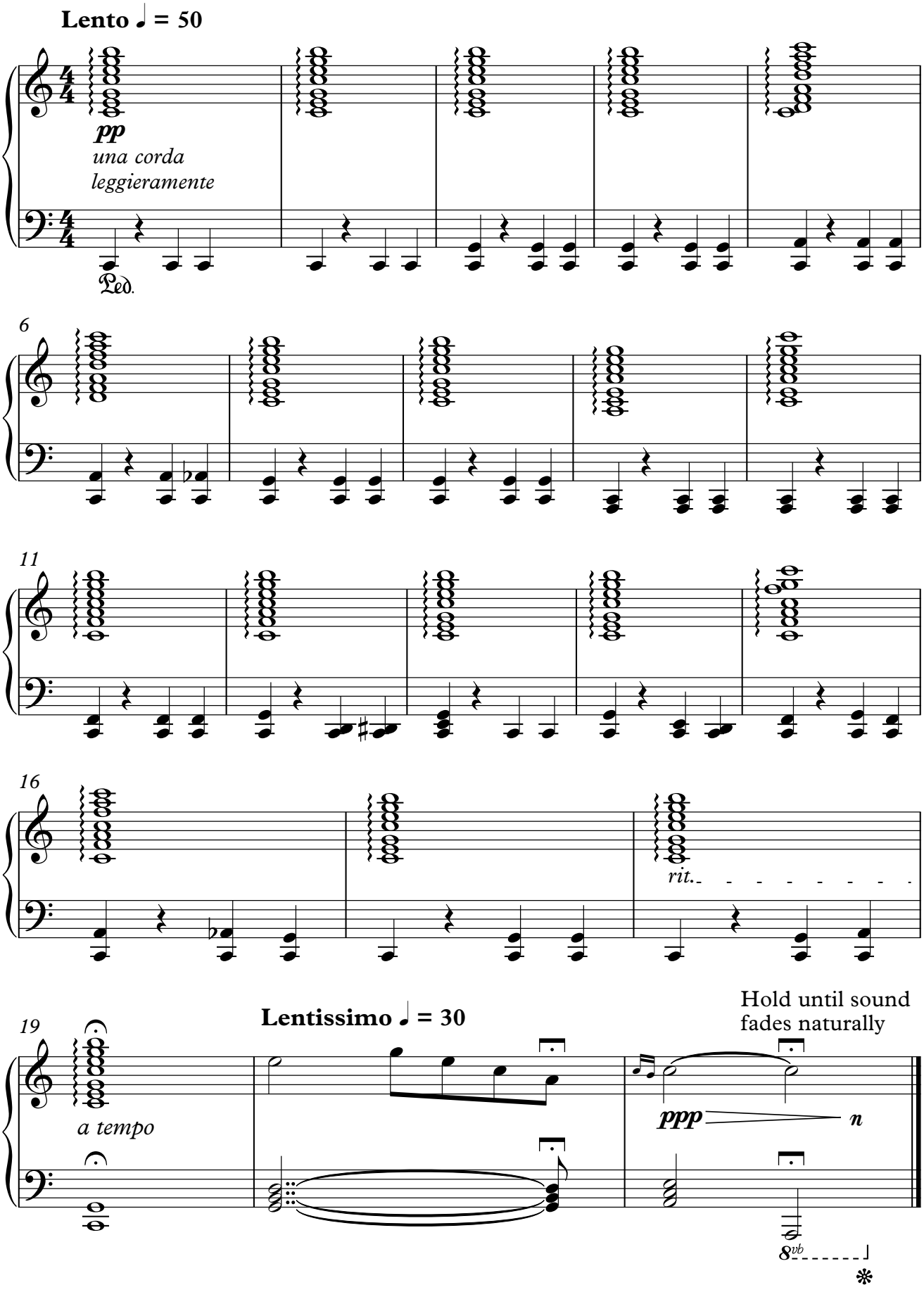

Prelude No. 2

in A minor, Op. 2b

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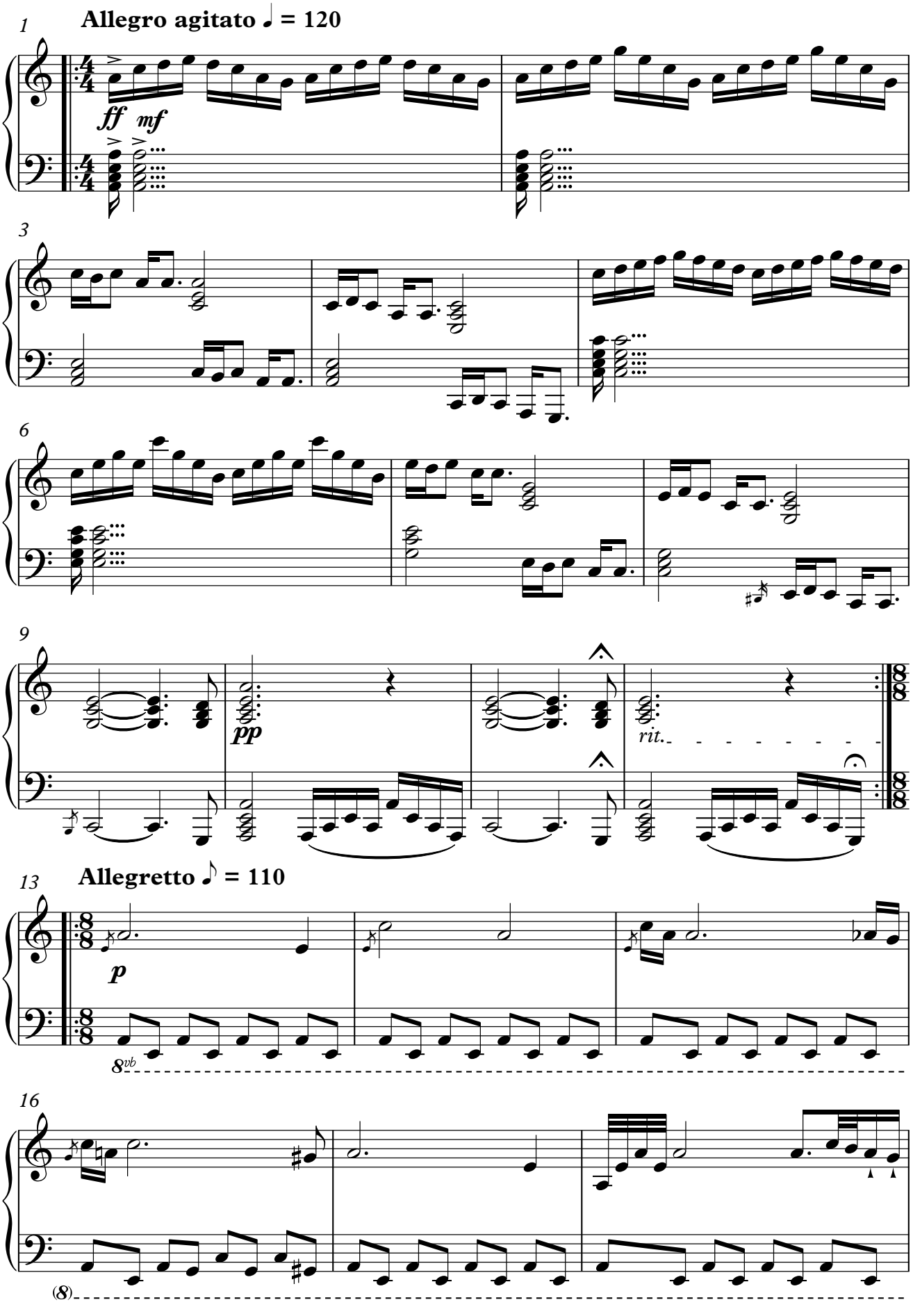

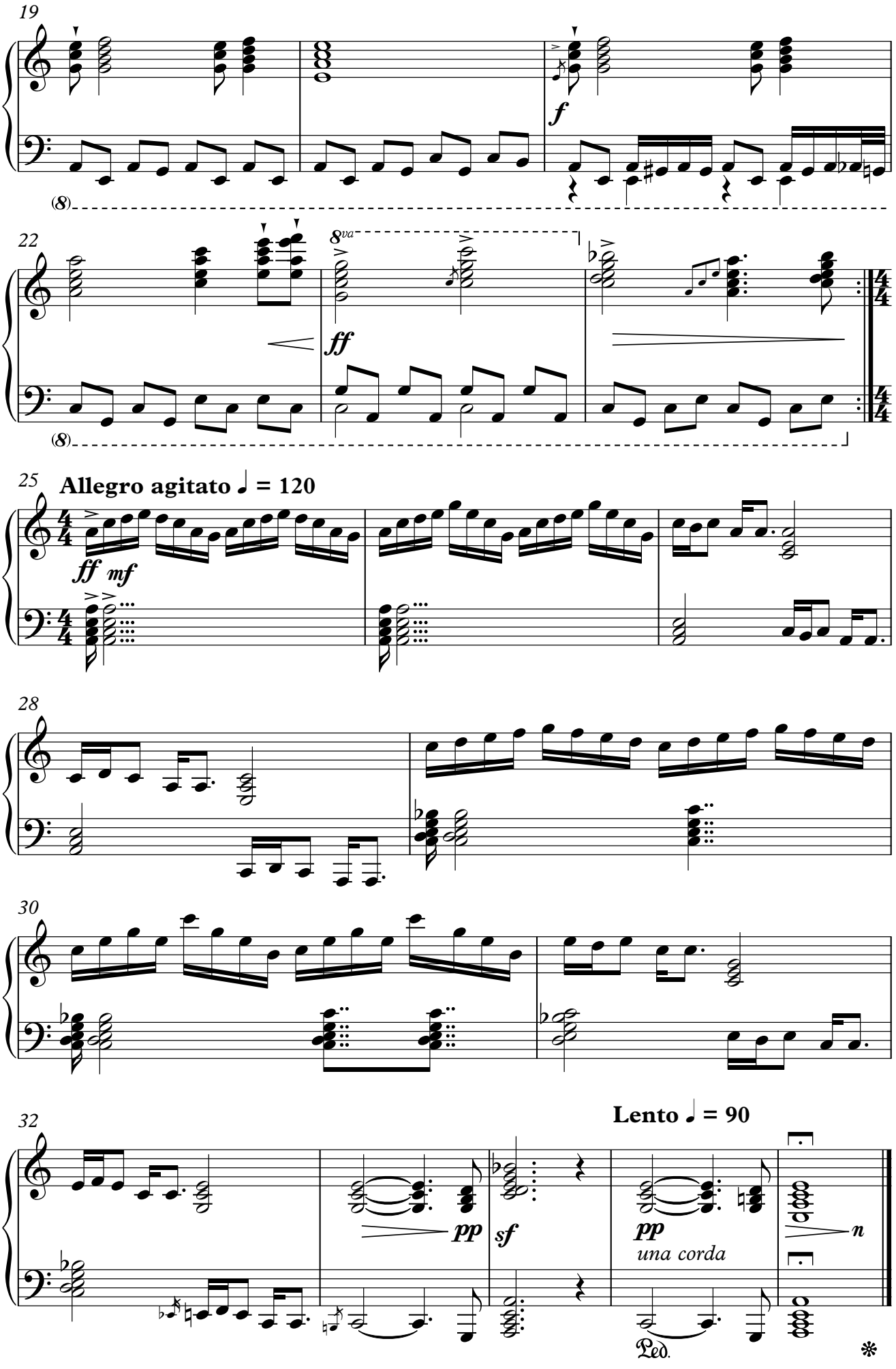
19
f
22
8va
ff
25
Allegro agitato ♩ = 120
ff mf
28
30
32
Lento ♩ = 90
pp
sf
pp
una corda
n
Ped.
*

Prelude No. 3

in G major, Op. 2c

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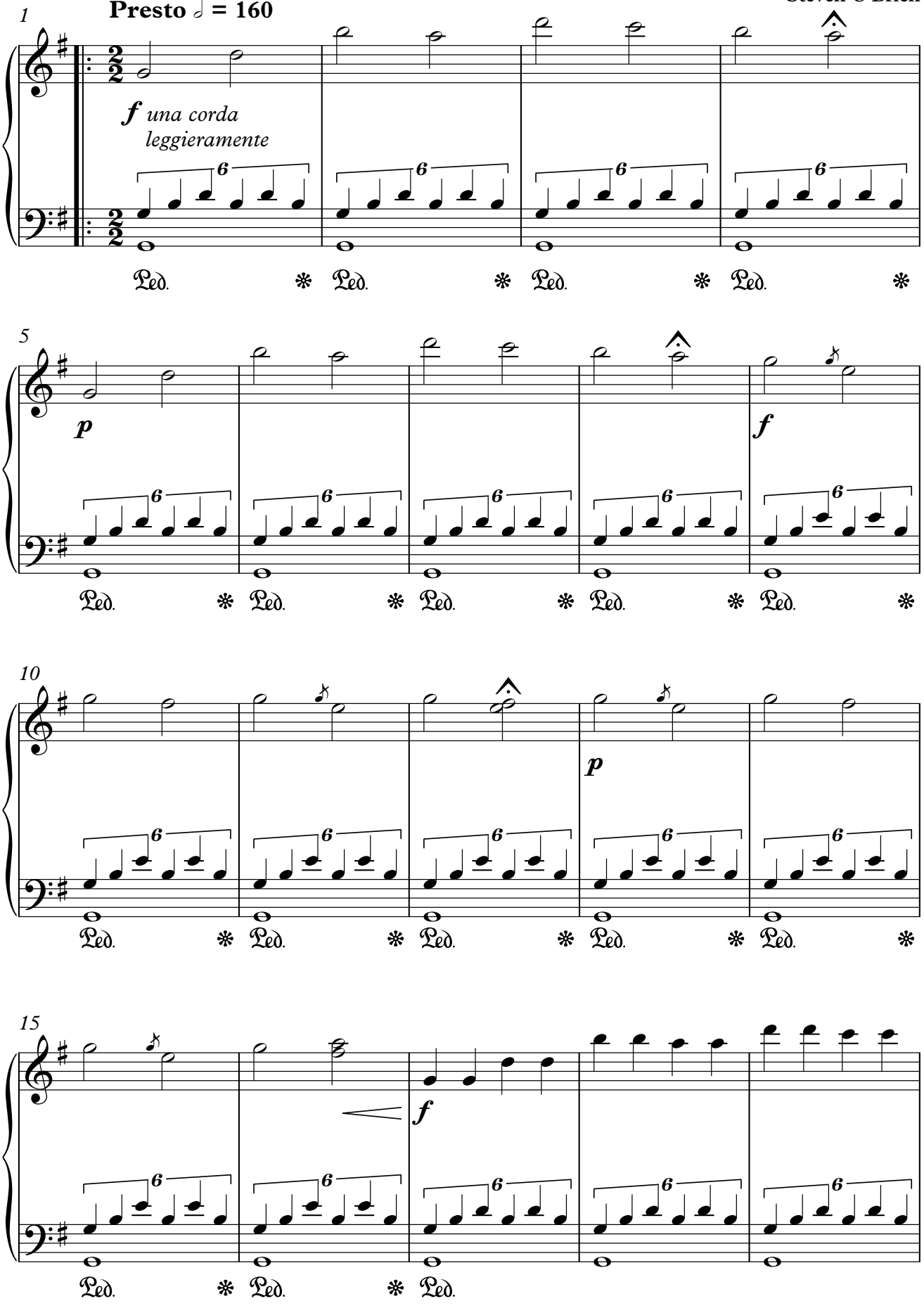

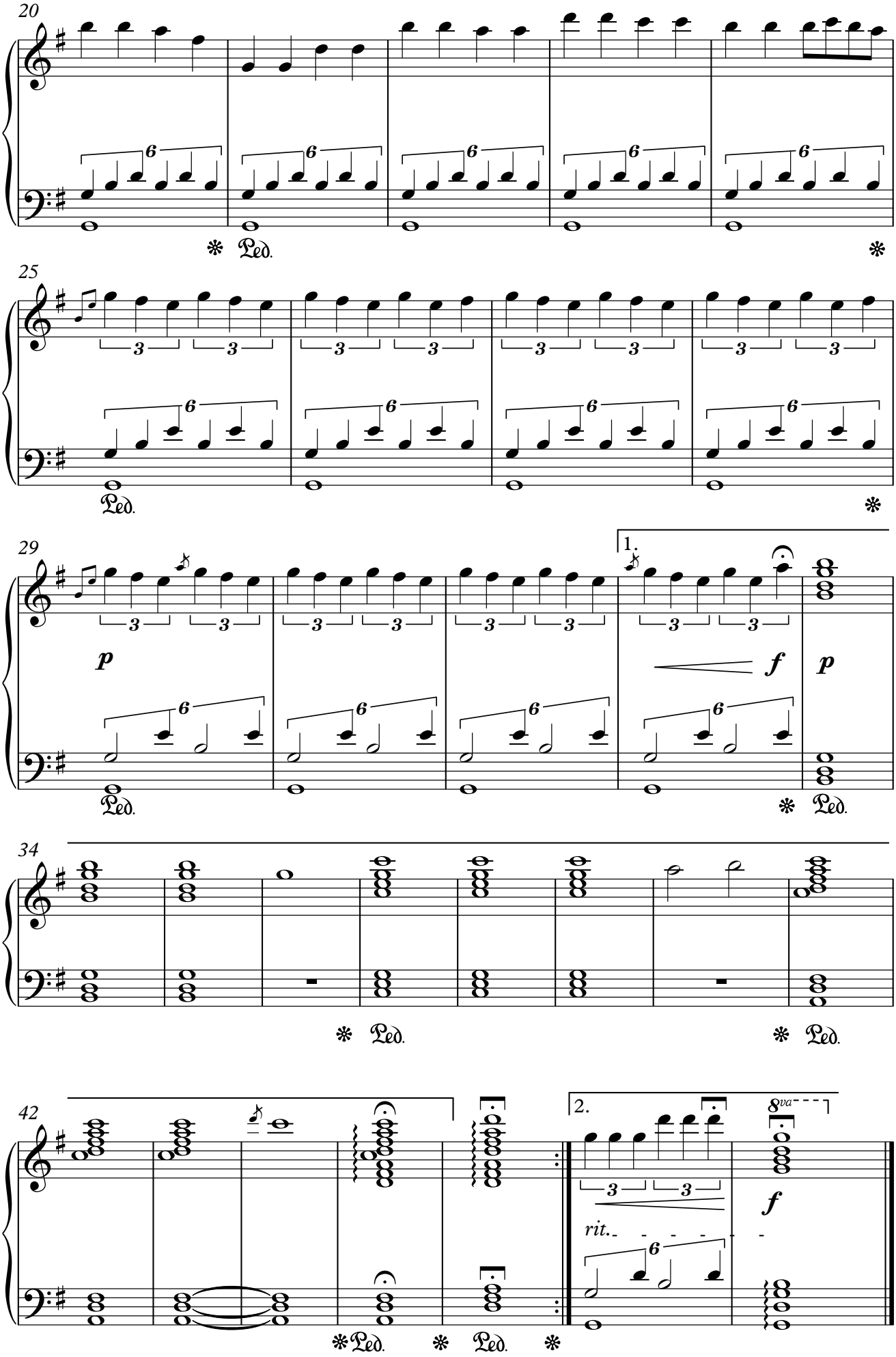
20
Ped.
25
Ped.
29
p
1.
f
p
Ped.
34
Ped.
Ped.
42
Ped.
Ped.
2.
8va
f
rit.

Prelude No. 4

in E minor, Op. 2d

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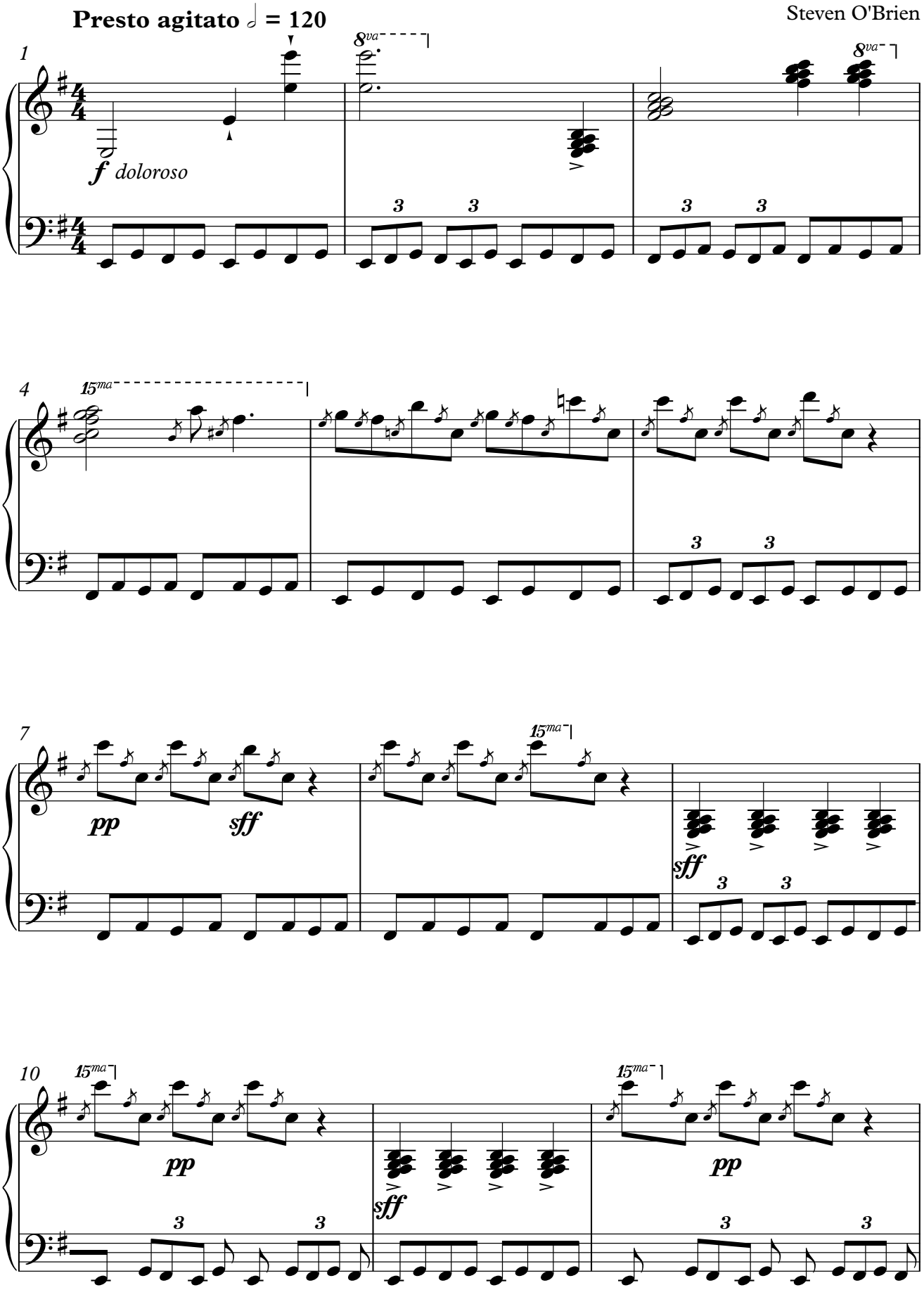
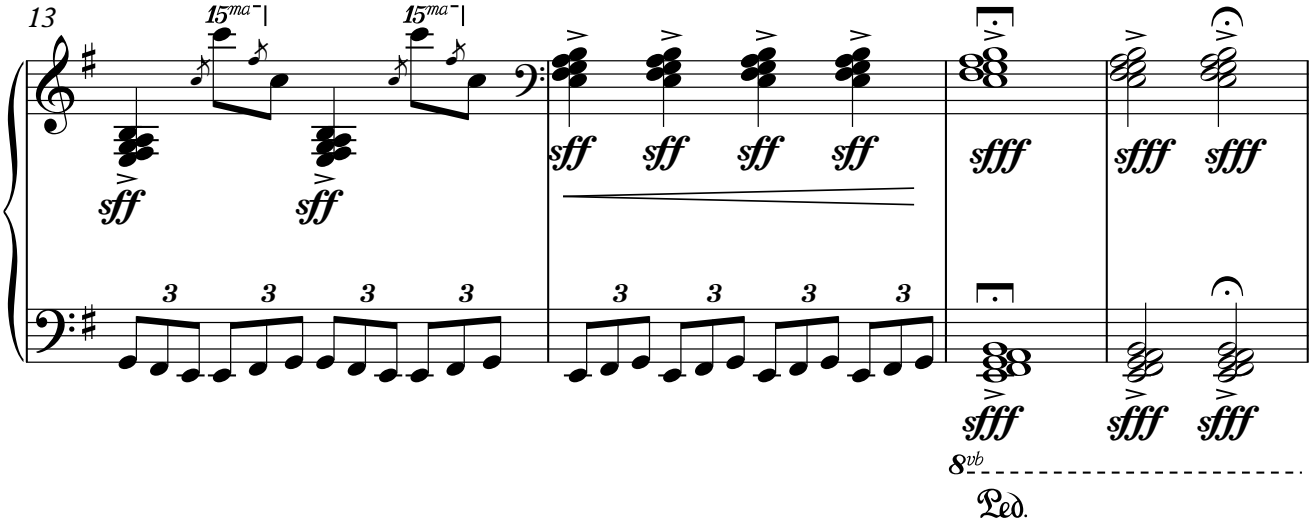
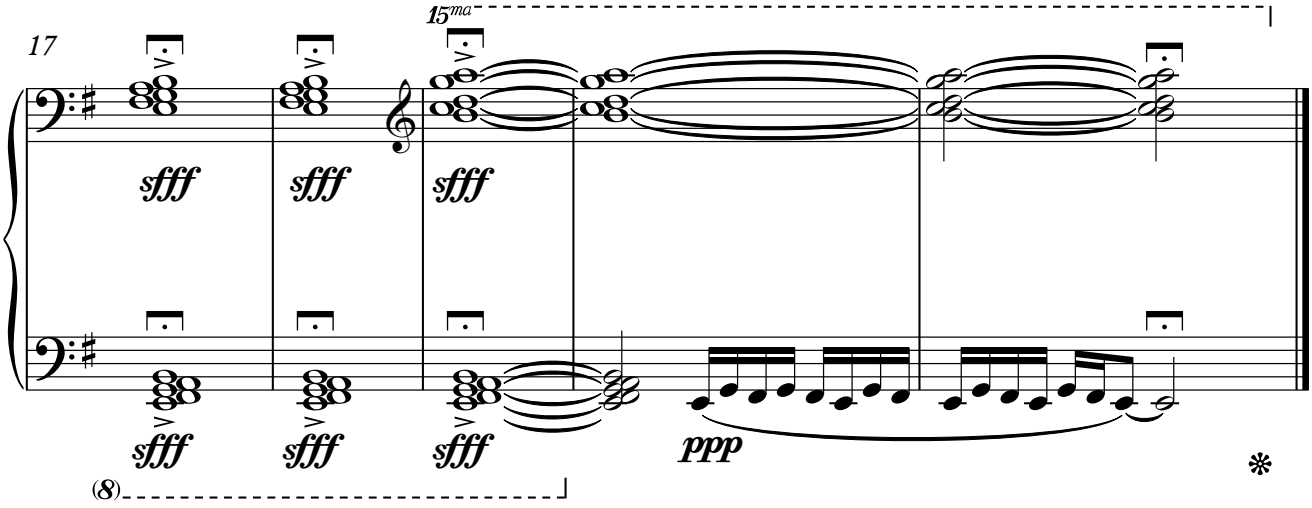



13
15ma
15ma
sff
sff
sff
sff
sff
sff
sff
sff
sfff
sfff
sfff
sfff
sfff
3
8vb
Ped.


17
15ma
sfff
sfff
sfff
sfff
sfff
sfff
ppp
(8)

Prelude No. 5

in D major, Op. 2e

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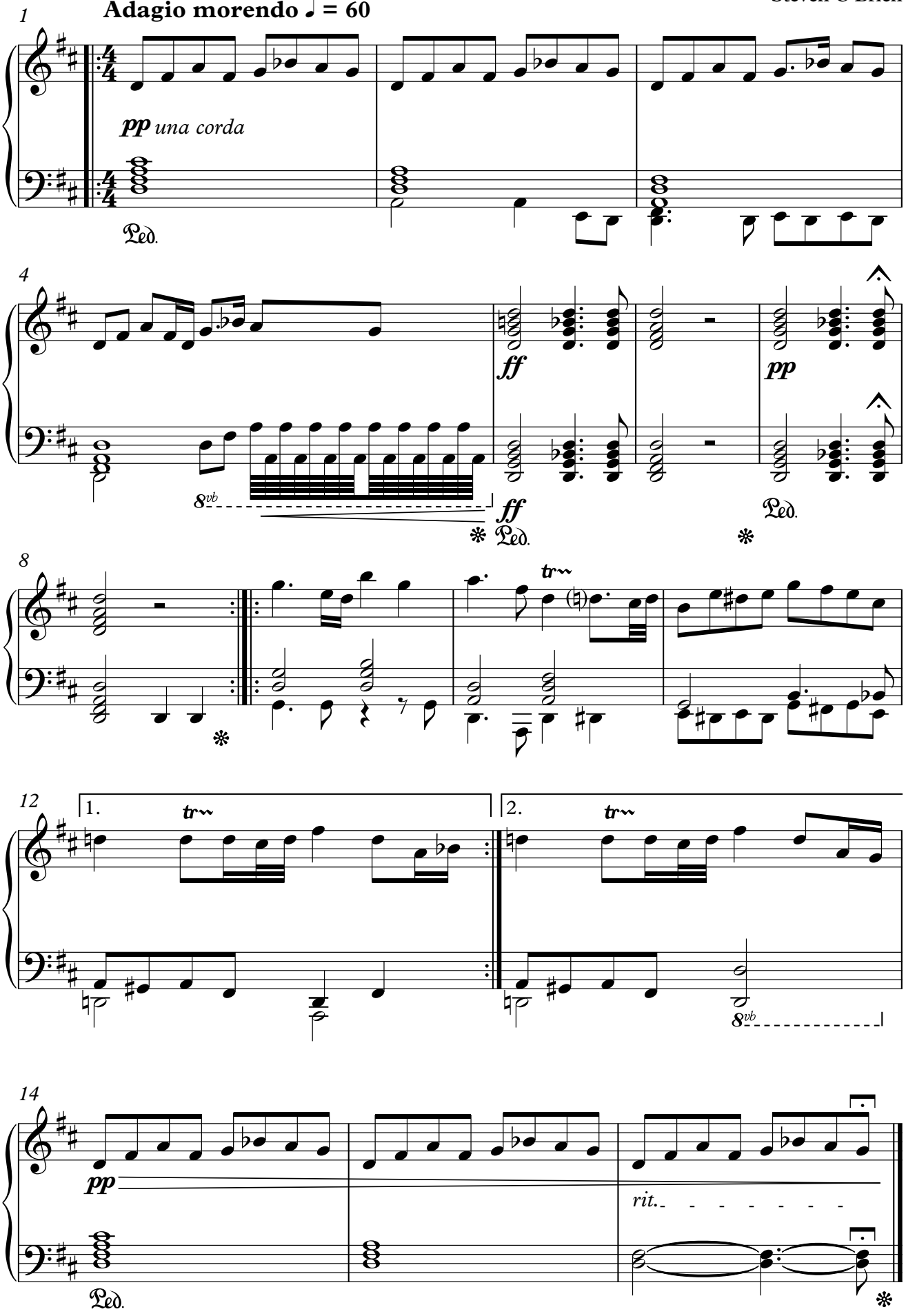

Prelude No. 6

in B minor, Op. 2f

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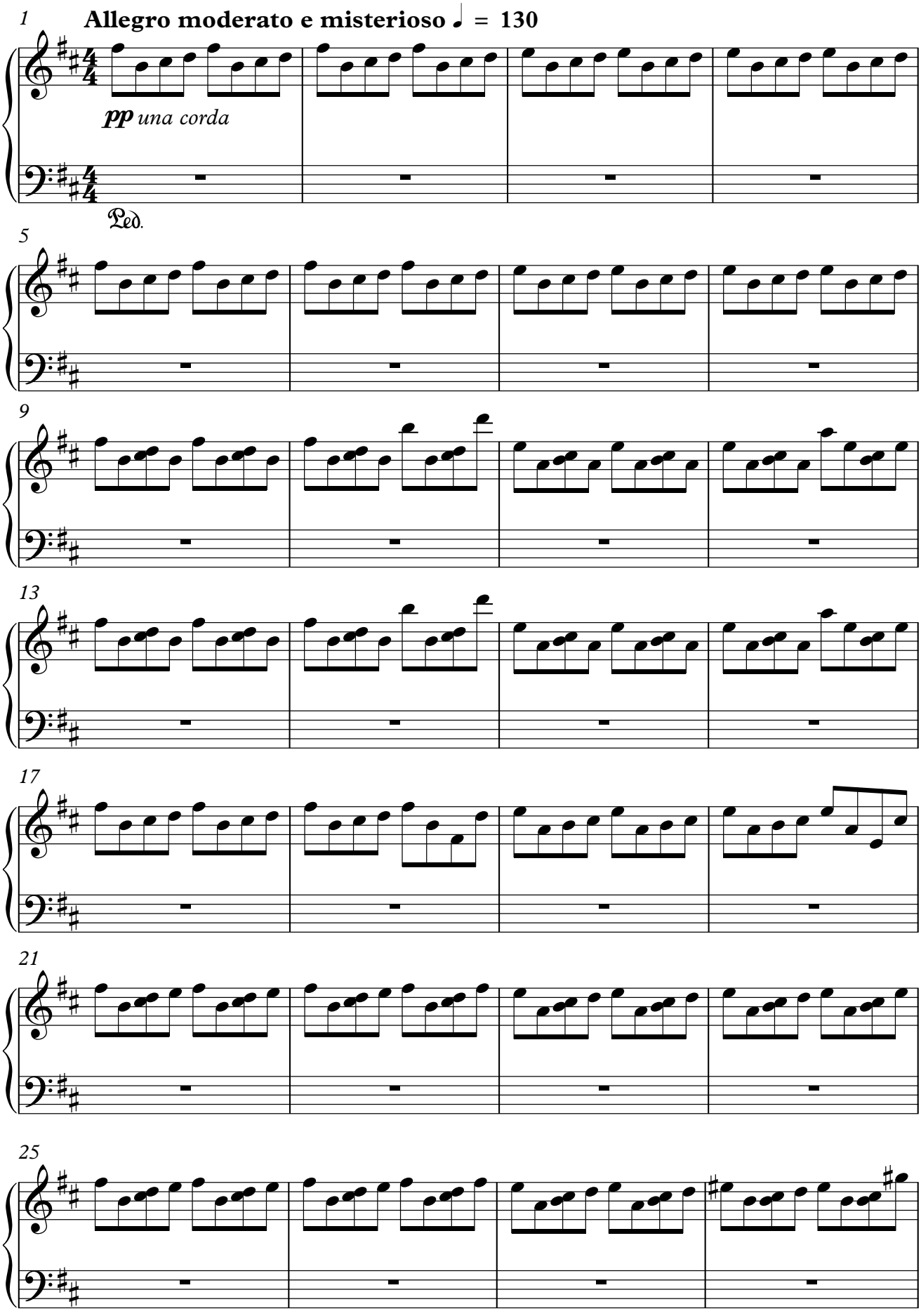
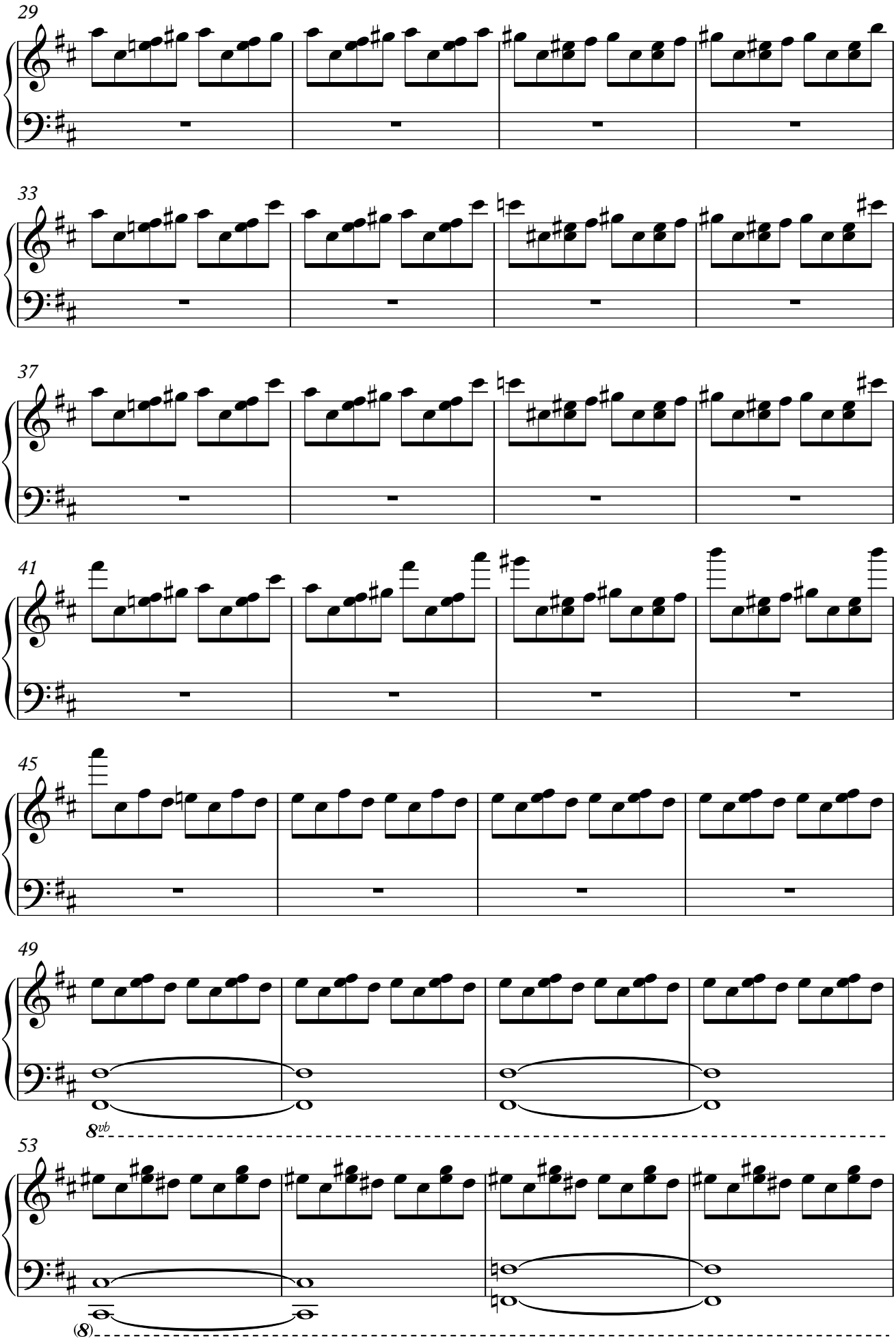
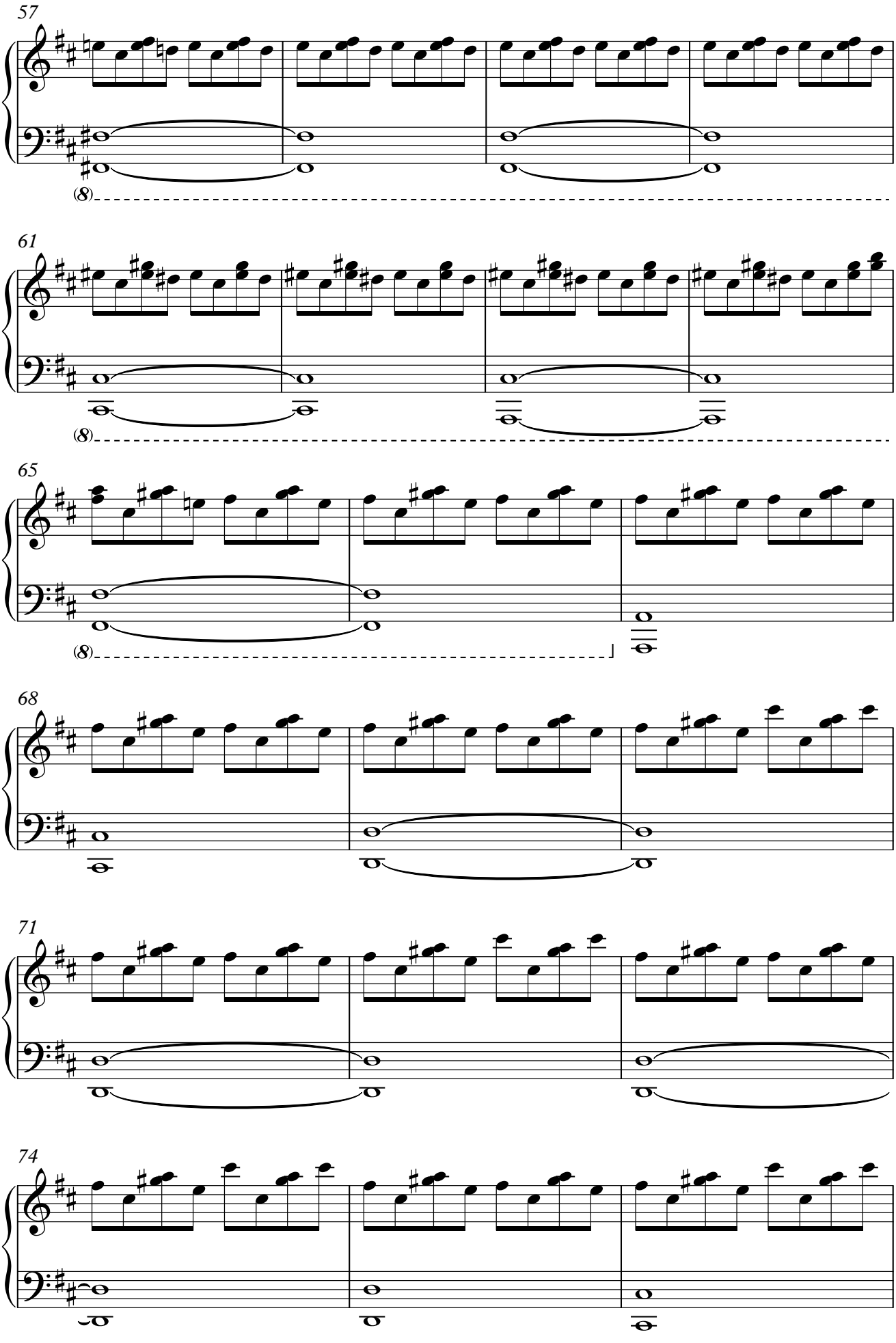
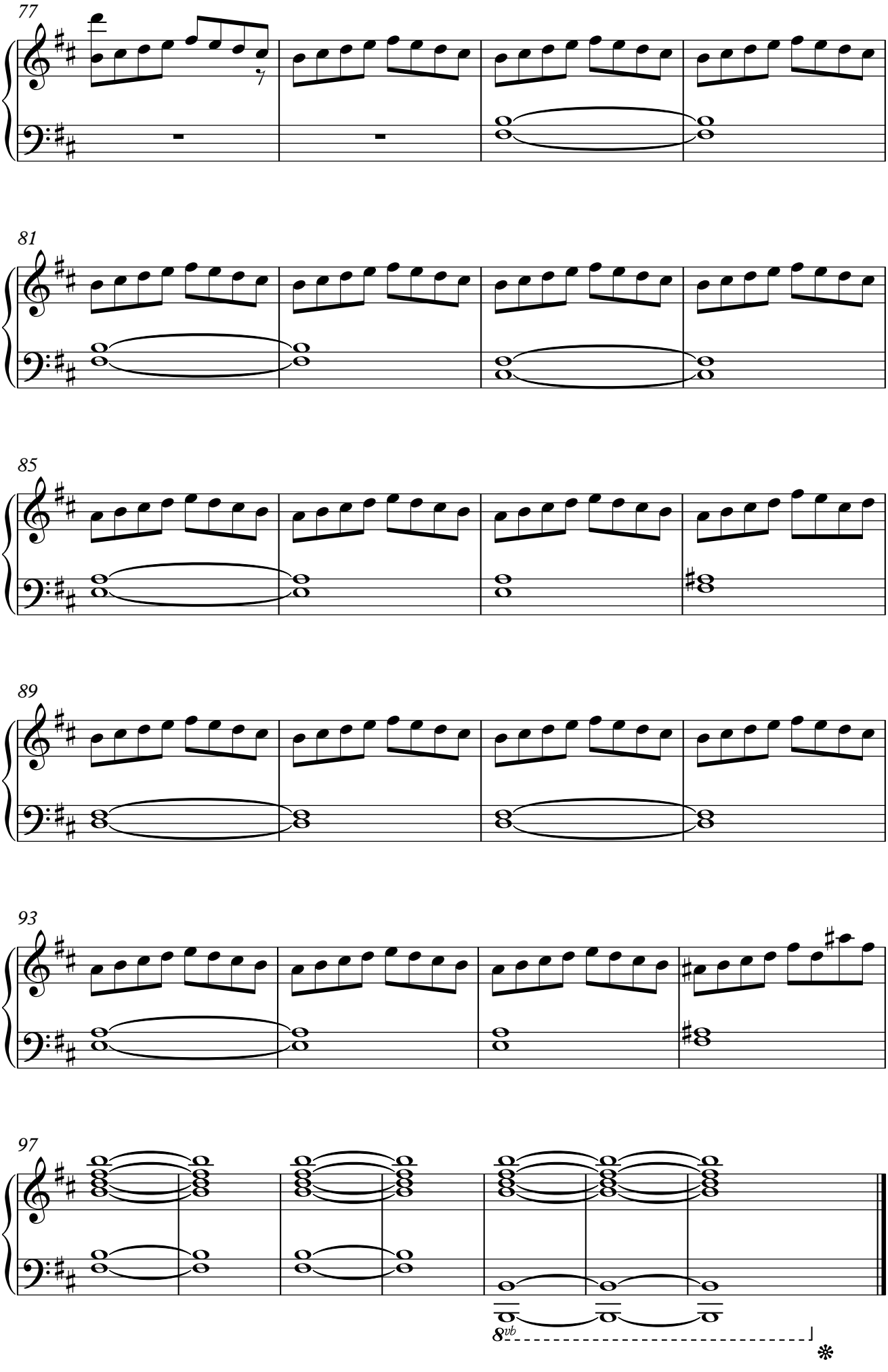



29
33
37
41
45
49
8vb
53
(8)


57
(8)
61
(8)
65
(8)
68
71
74


77
81
85
89
93
97
8vb

Prelude No. 7

in A major, Op. 2g

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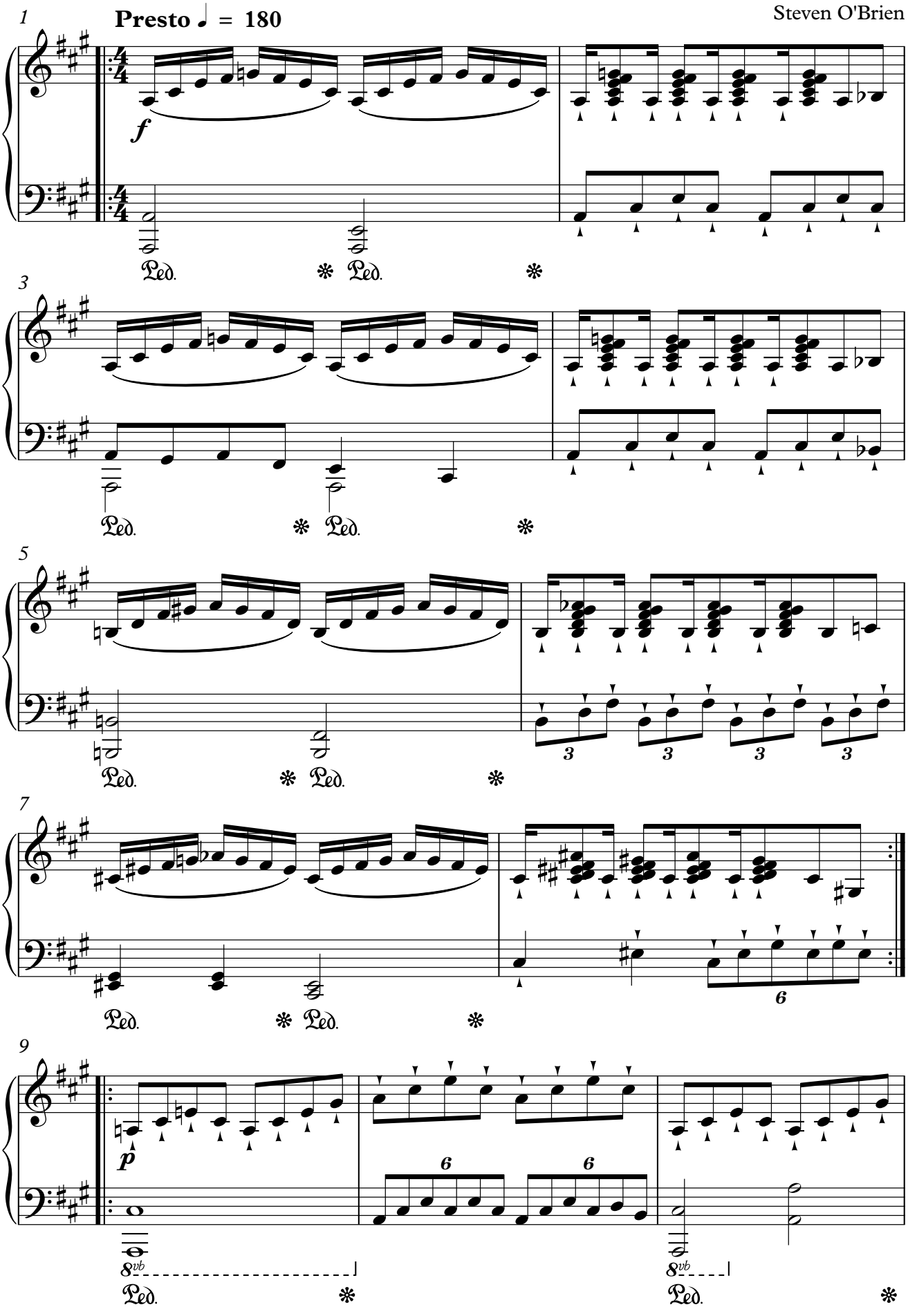
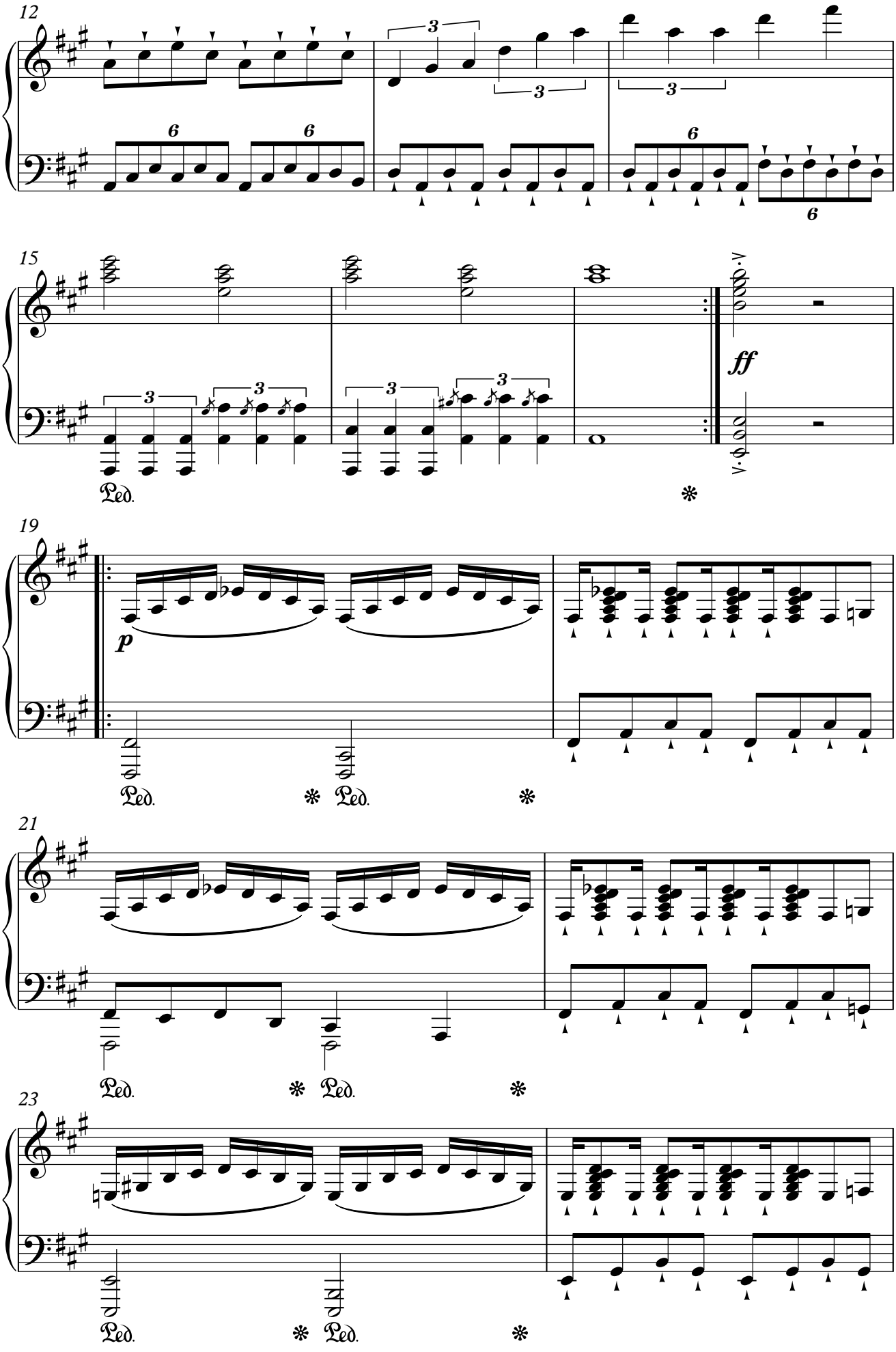
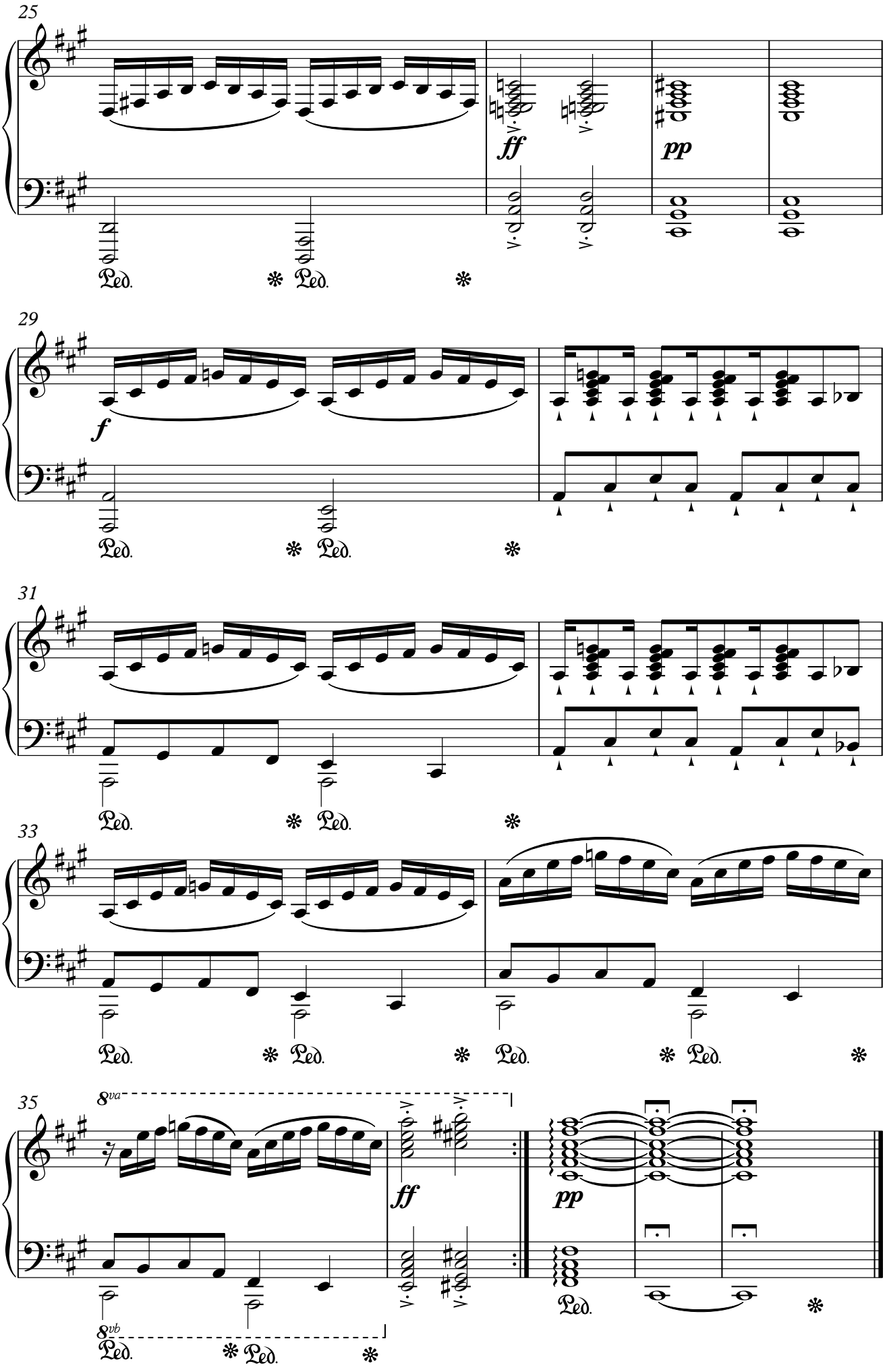



12
15
ff
19
p
21
23
Ped.


25
ff
pp
Ped.
29
f
31
33
35
8va
8vb

Prelude No. 8

in F-sharp minor, Op. 2h

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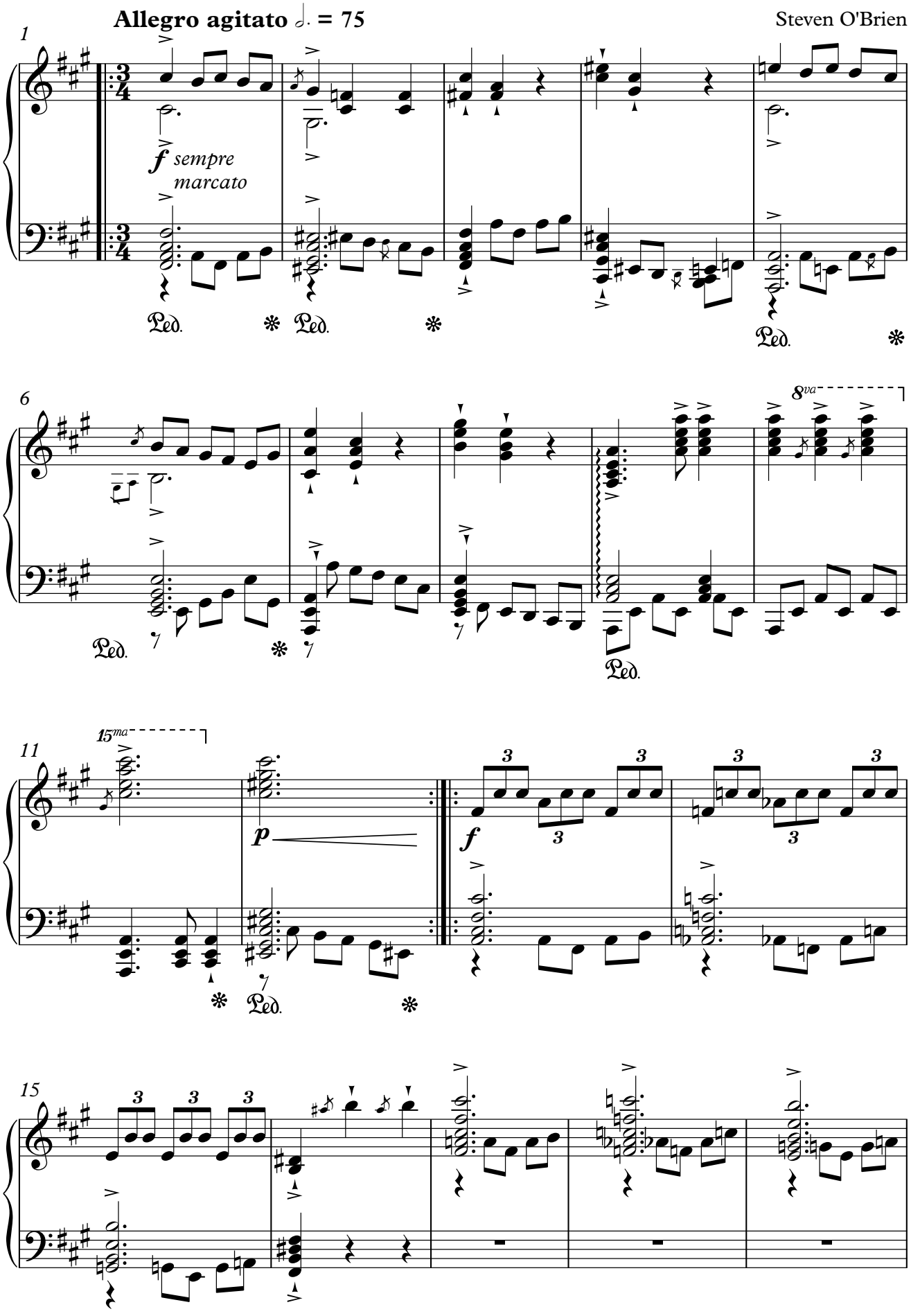

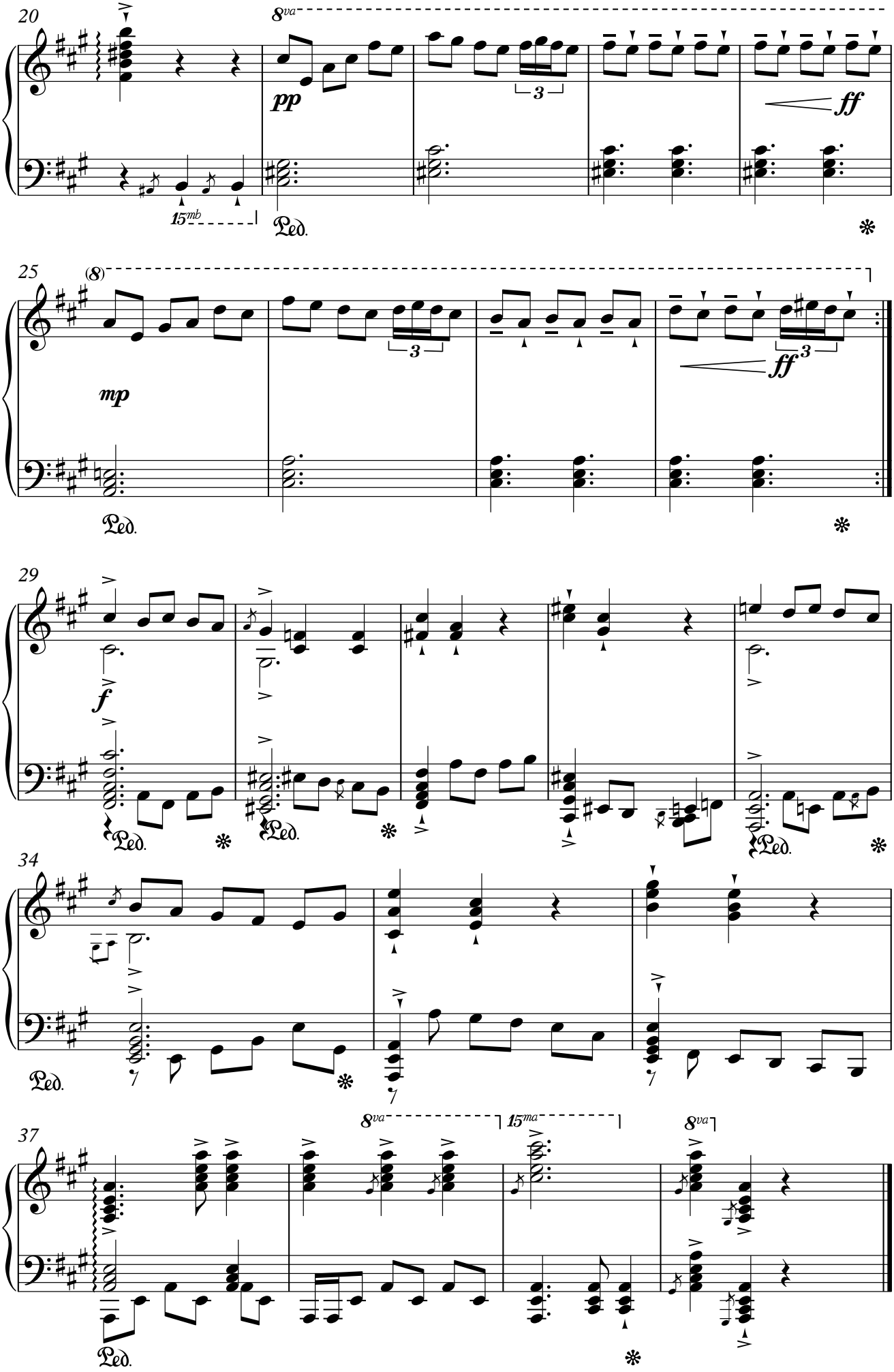
20
8va
pp
3
ff
15mb
Ped.
25
(8)
mp
3
ff
Ped.
29
f
Ped.
34
Ped.
37
8va
15ma
8va
Ped.

Prelude No. 9

in E major, Op. 2i

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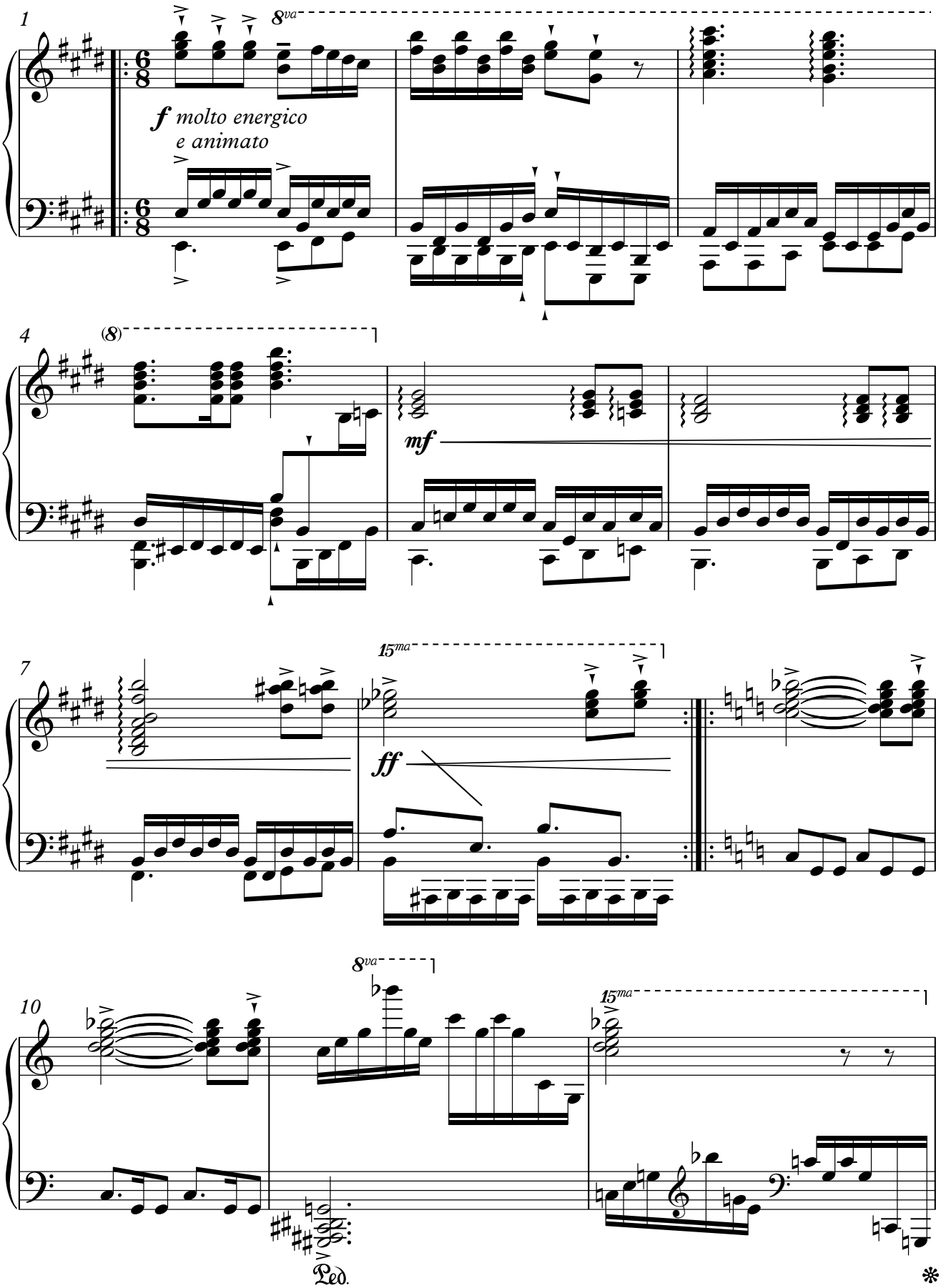
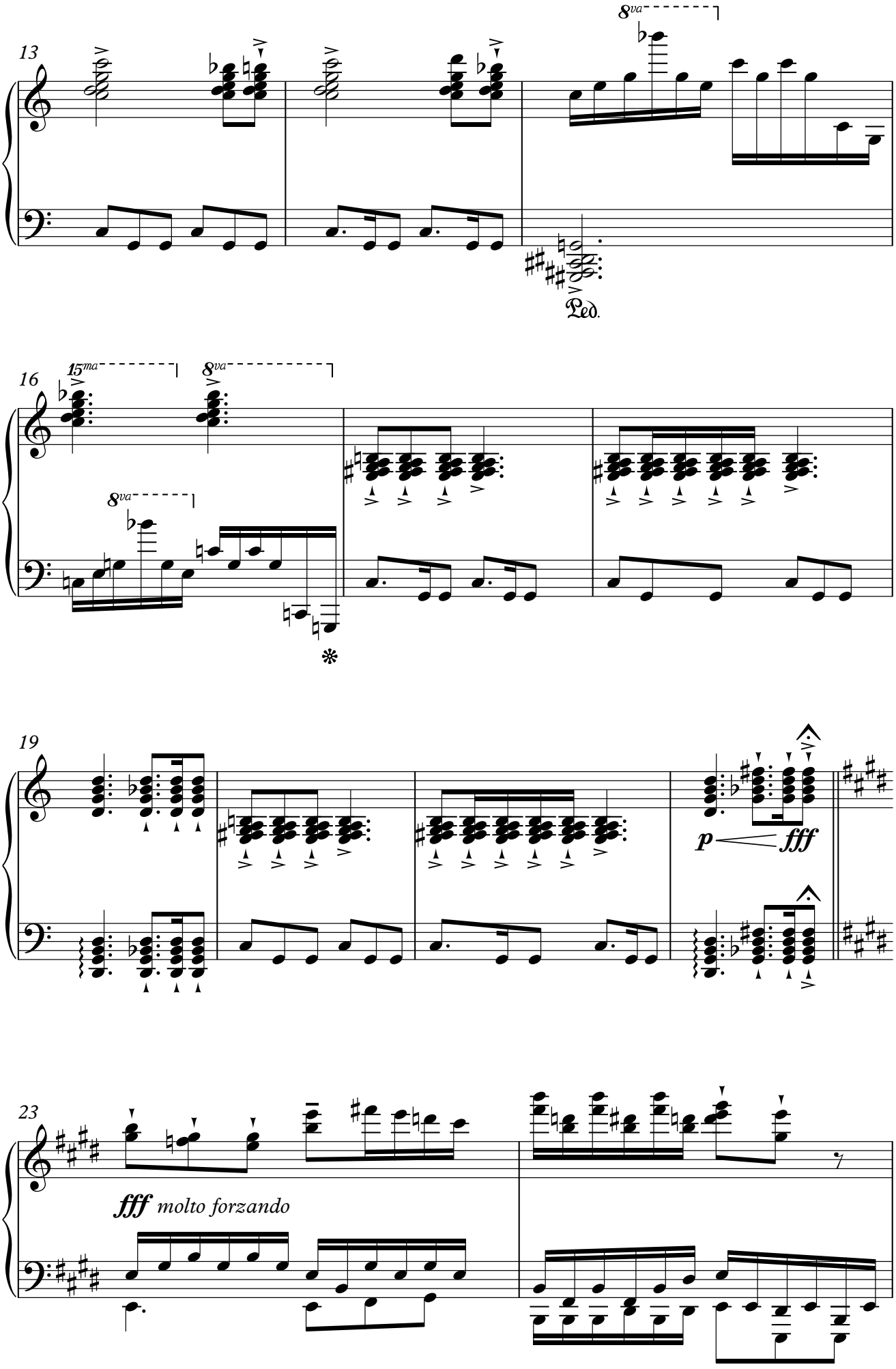
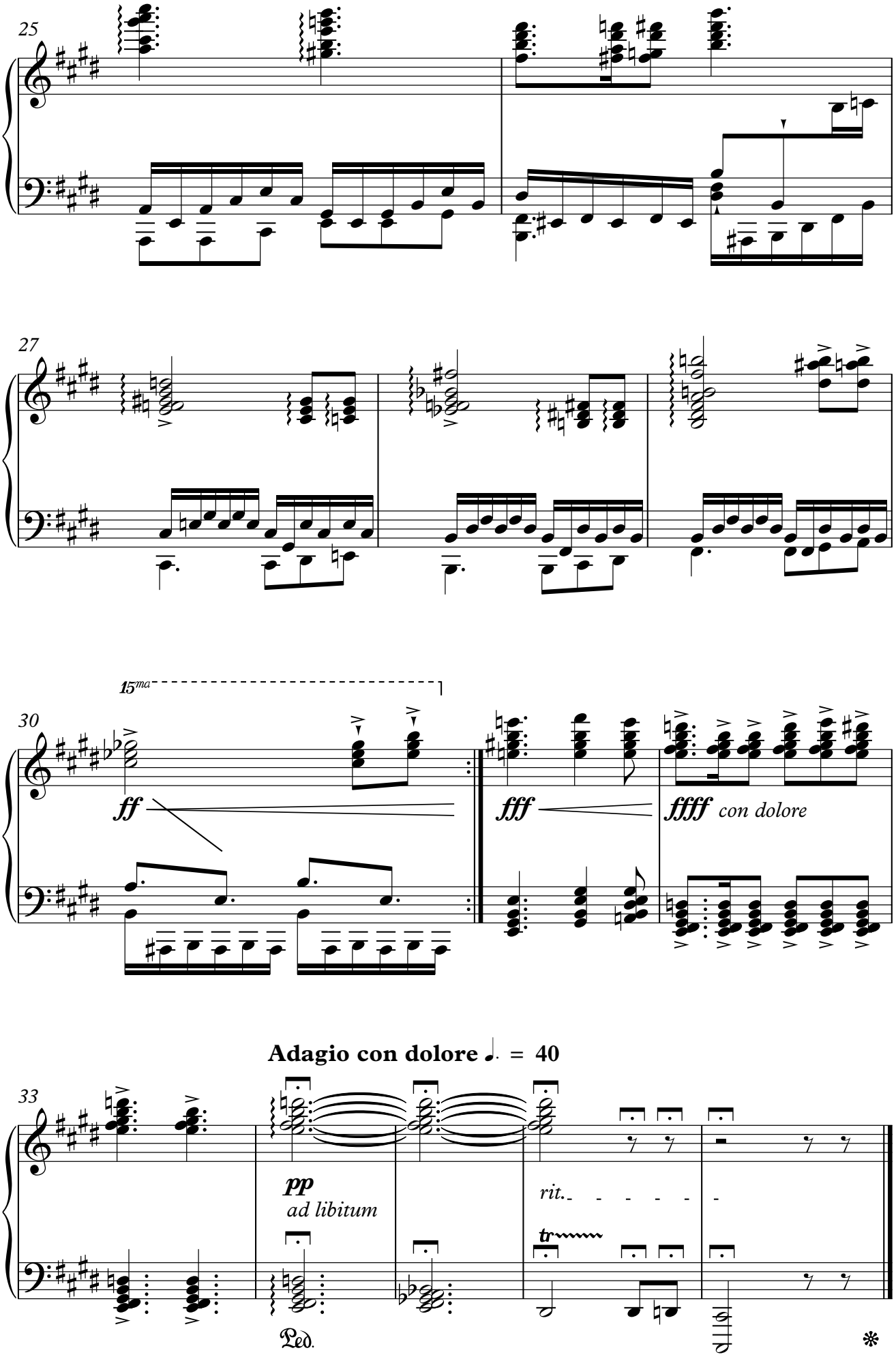


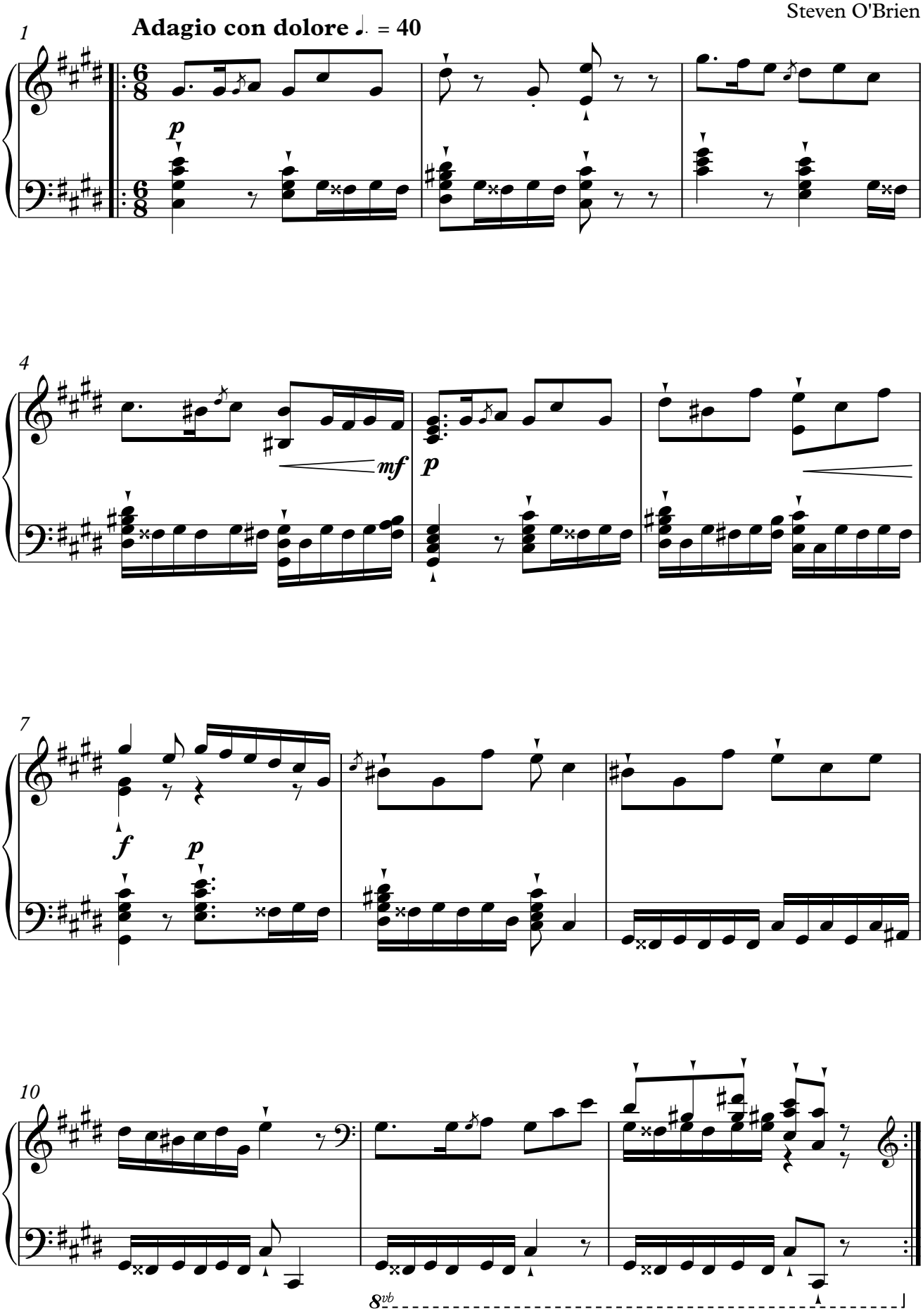

13
8va
Ped.
16
15ma
8va
8va
19
p
fff
23
fff molto forzando

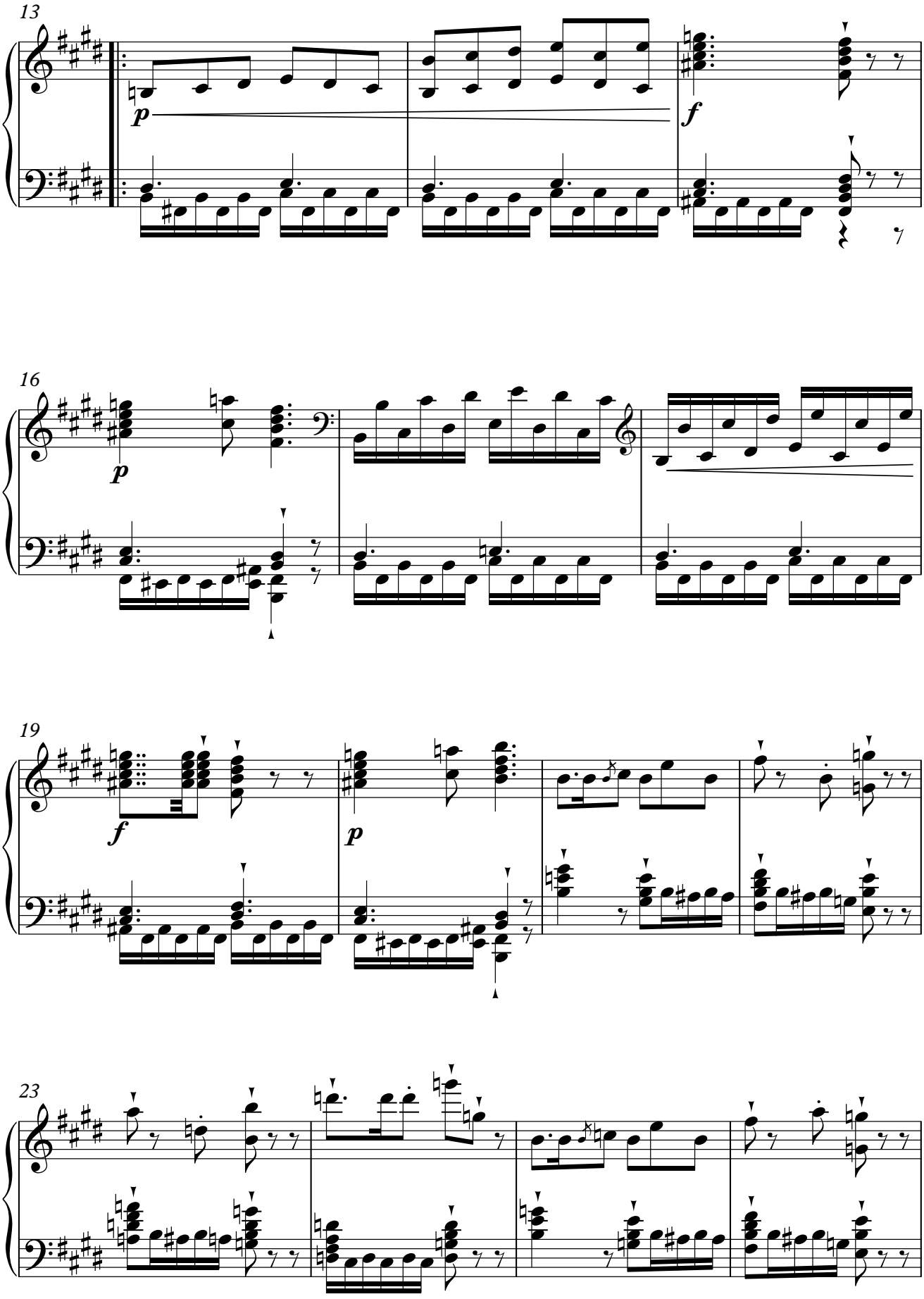

25
27
15ma
30
ff
fff
ffff con dolore
Adagio con dolore ♩. = 40
33
pp
ad libitum
rit.
tr
Ped.
*

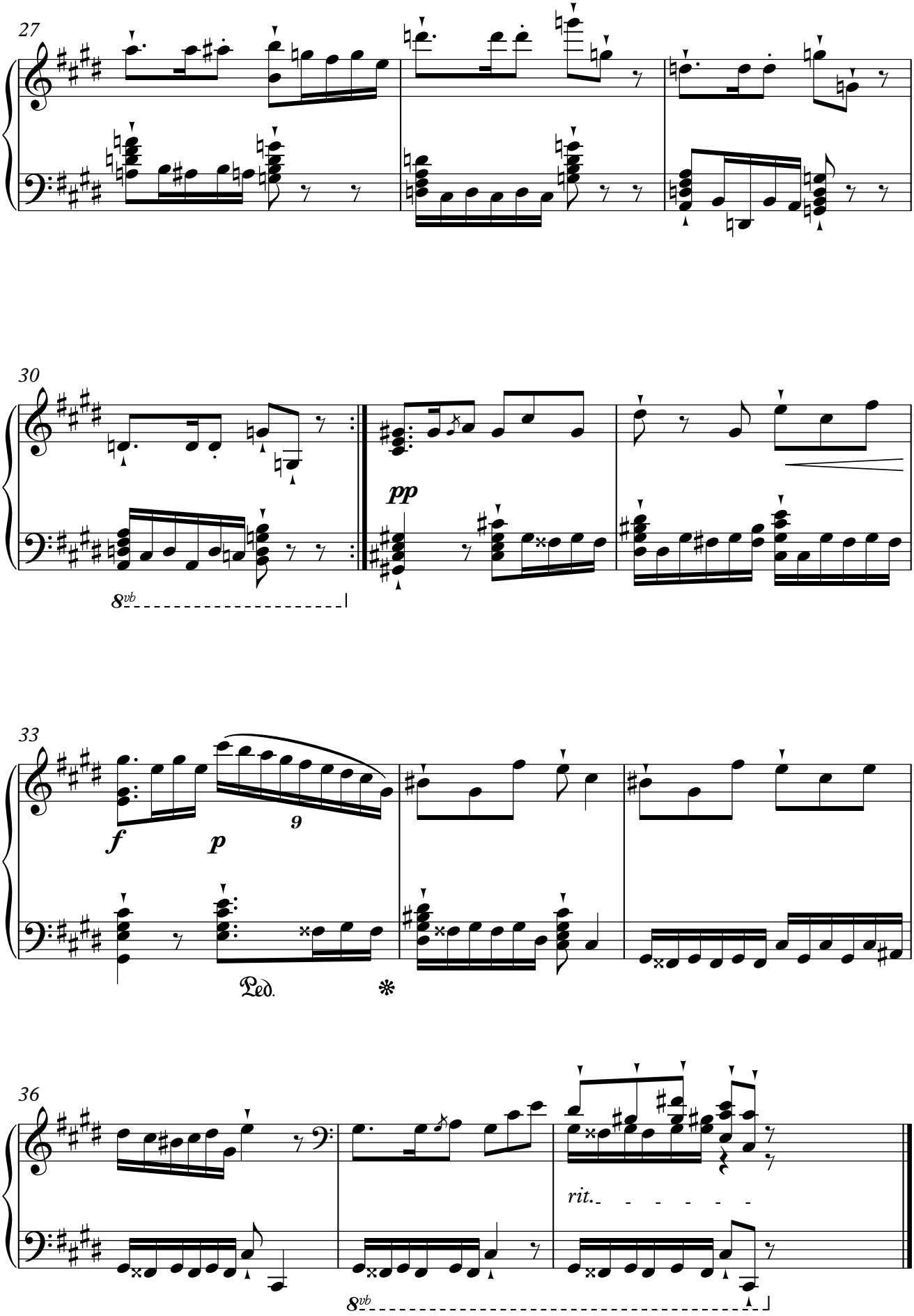
Prelude No. 10

in C-sharp minor, Op. 2j

Steven O'Brien



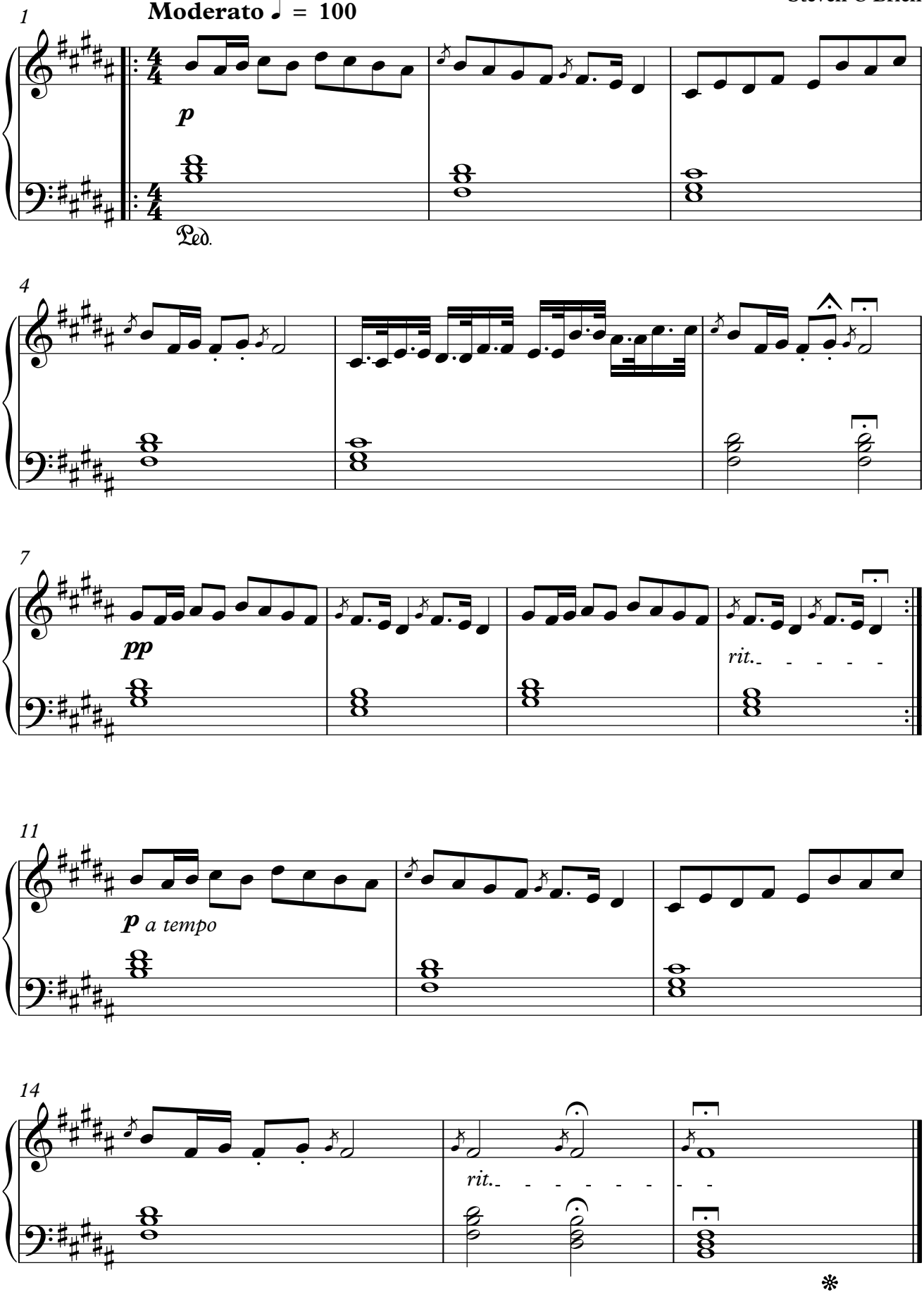

13
p
f
16
p
19
f
p
23


27
30
pp
8vb
33
f
p
9
Ped.
36
rit.
8vb

Prelude No. 11

in B major, Op. 2k

Steven O'Brien



Prelude No. 12

in G-sharp minor, Op. 21

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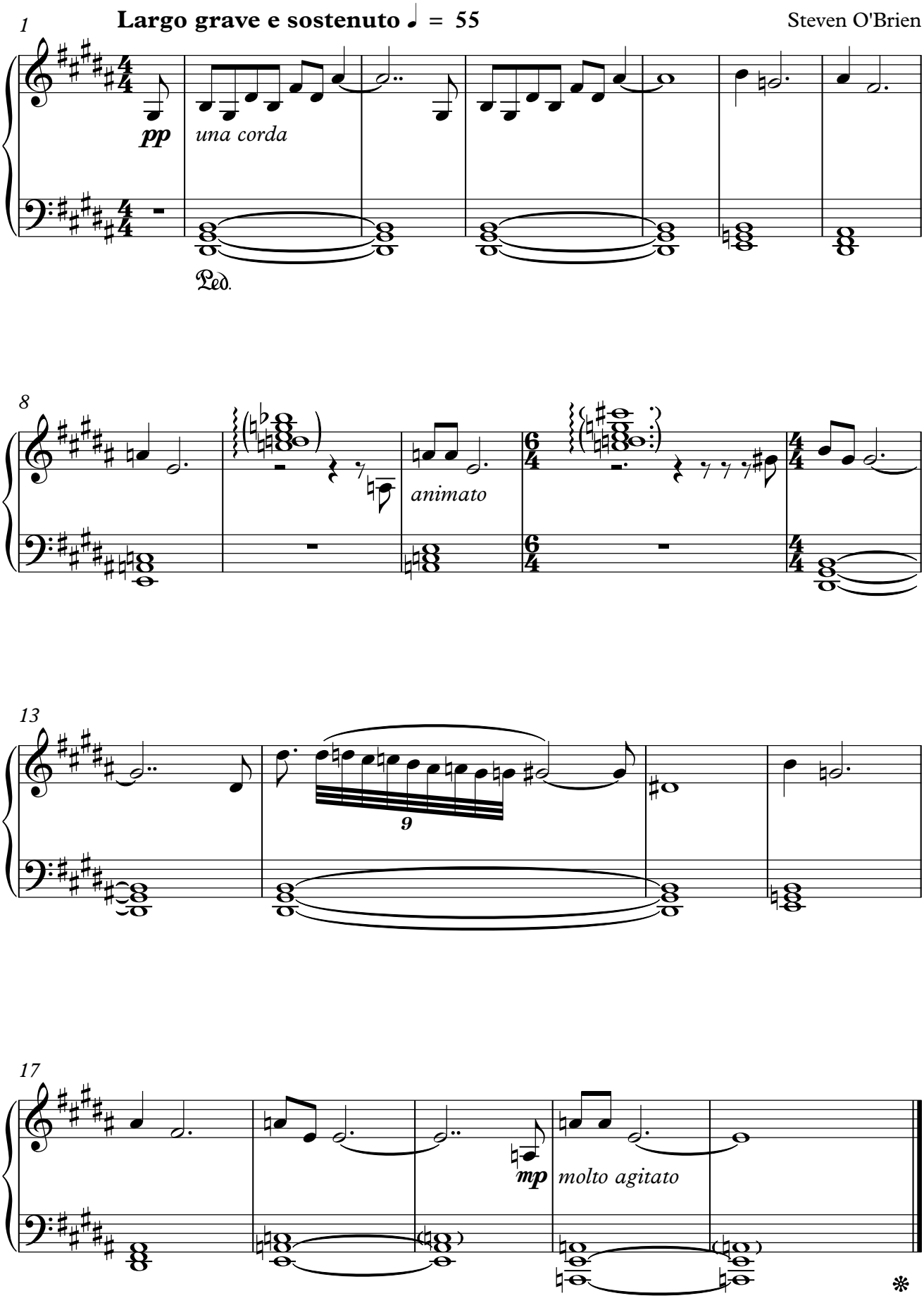
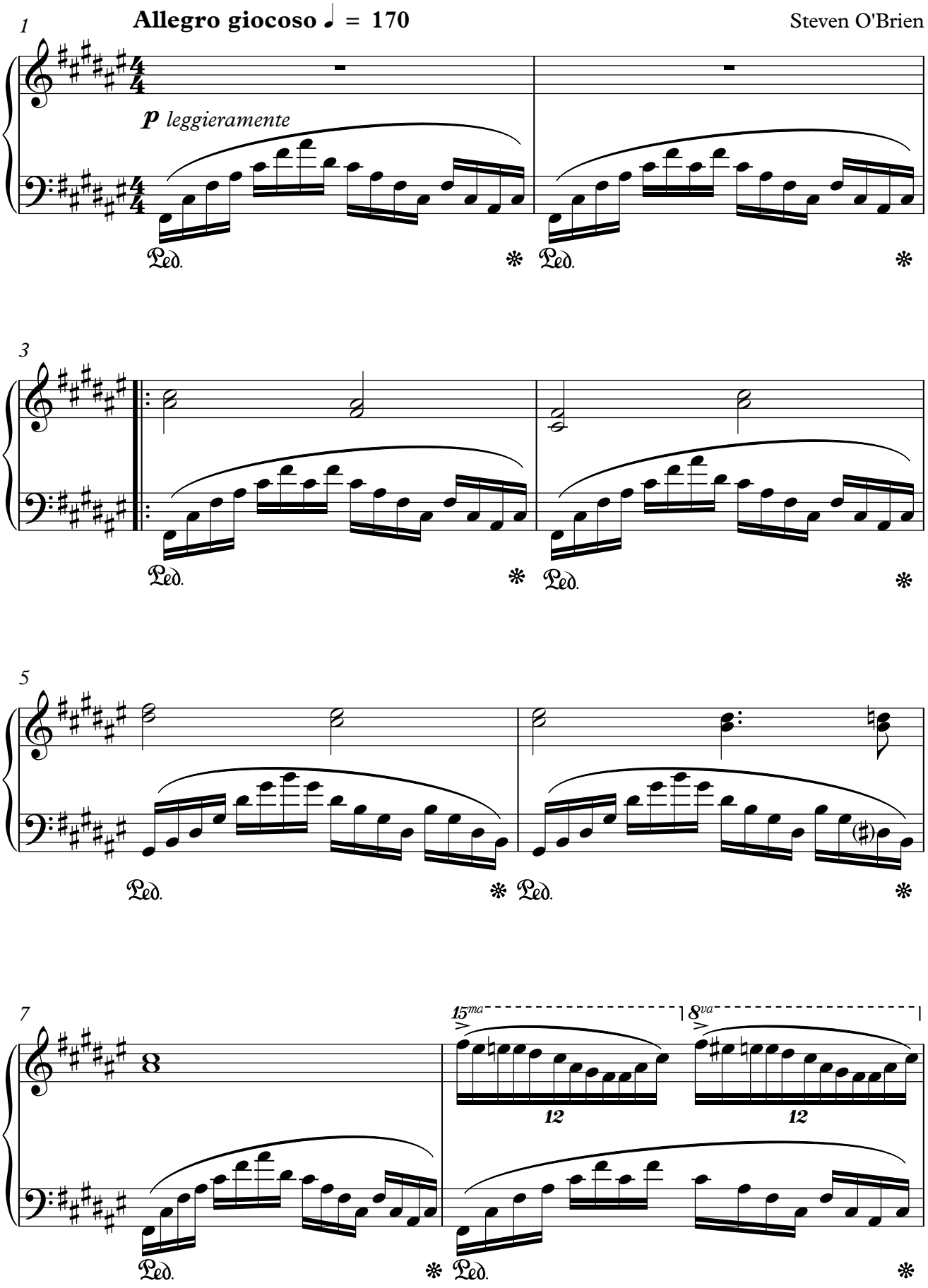
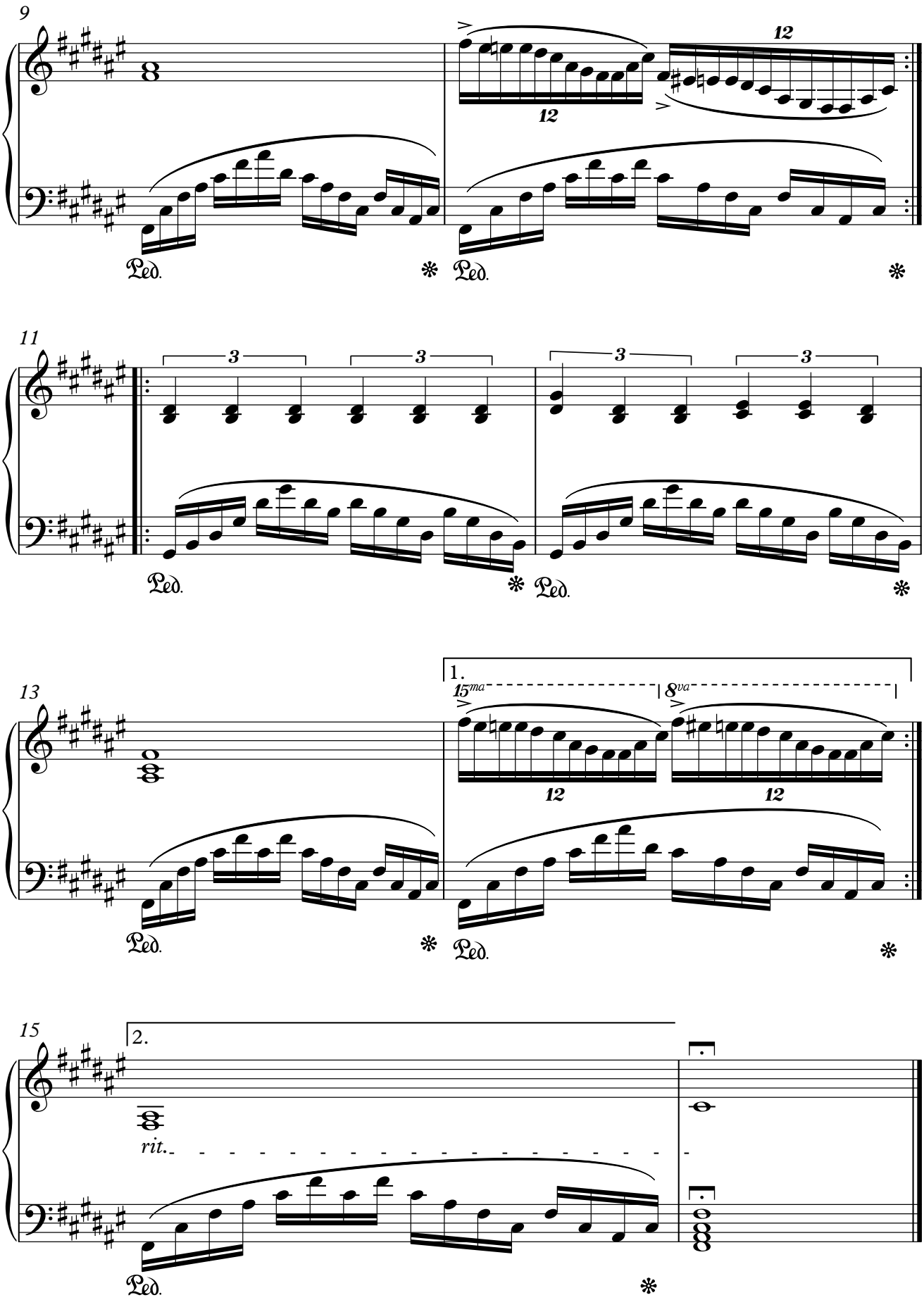


Prelude No. 13

in F-sharp major, Op. 2m

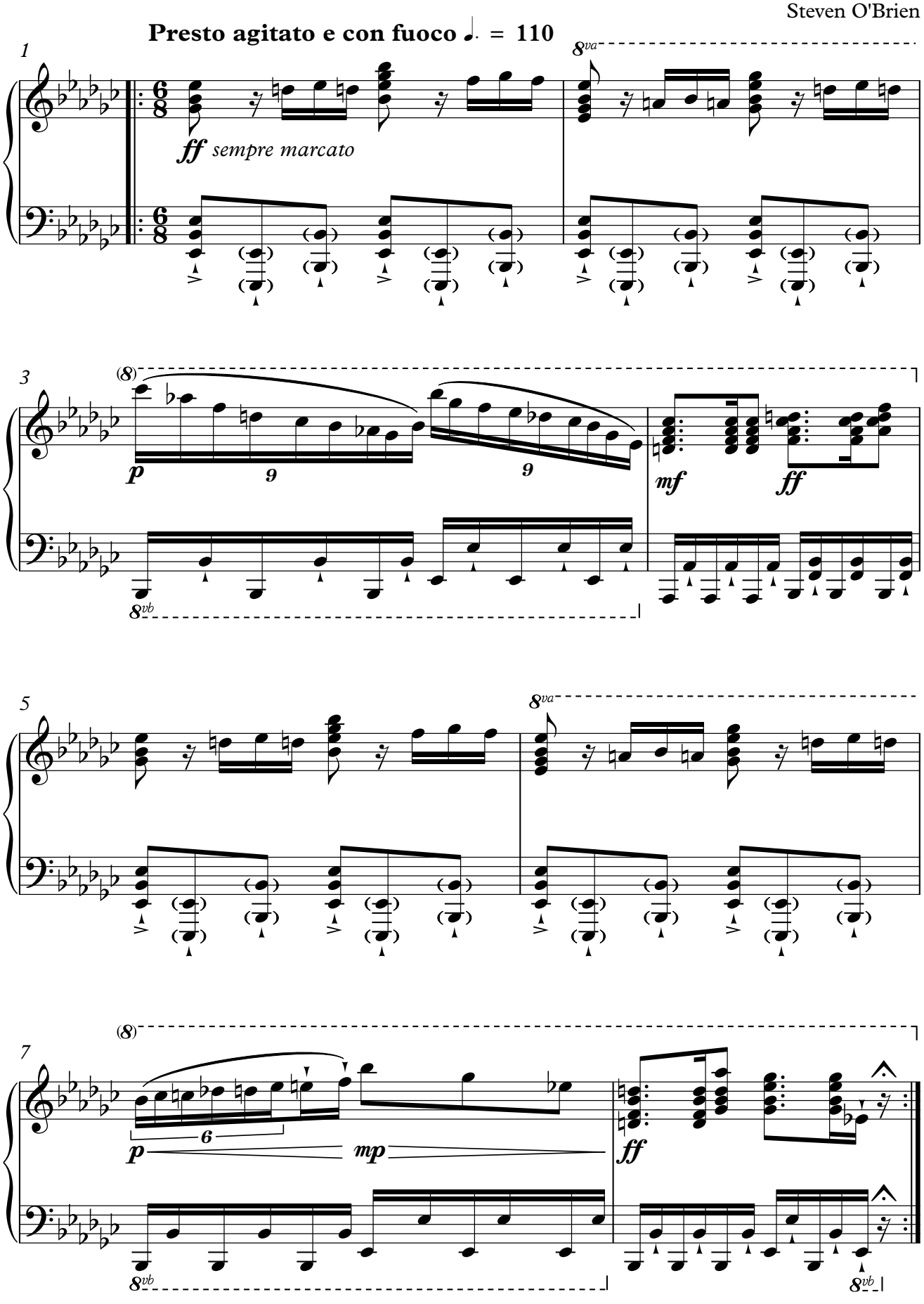


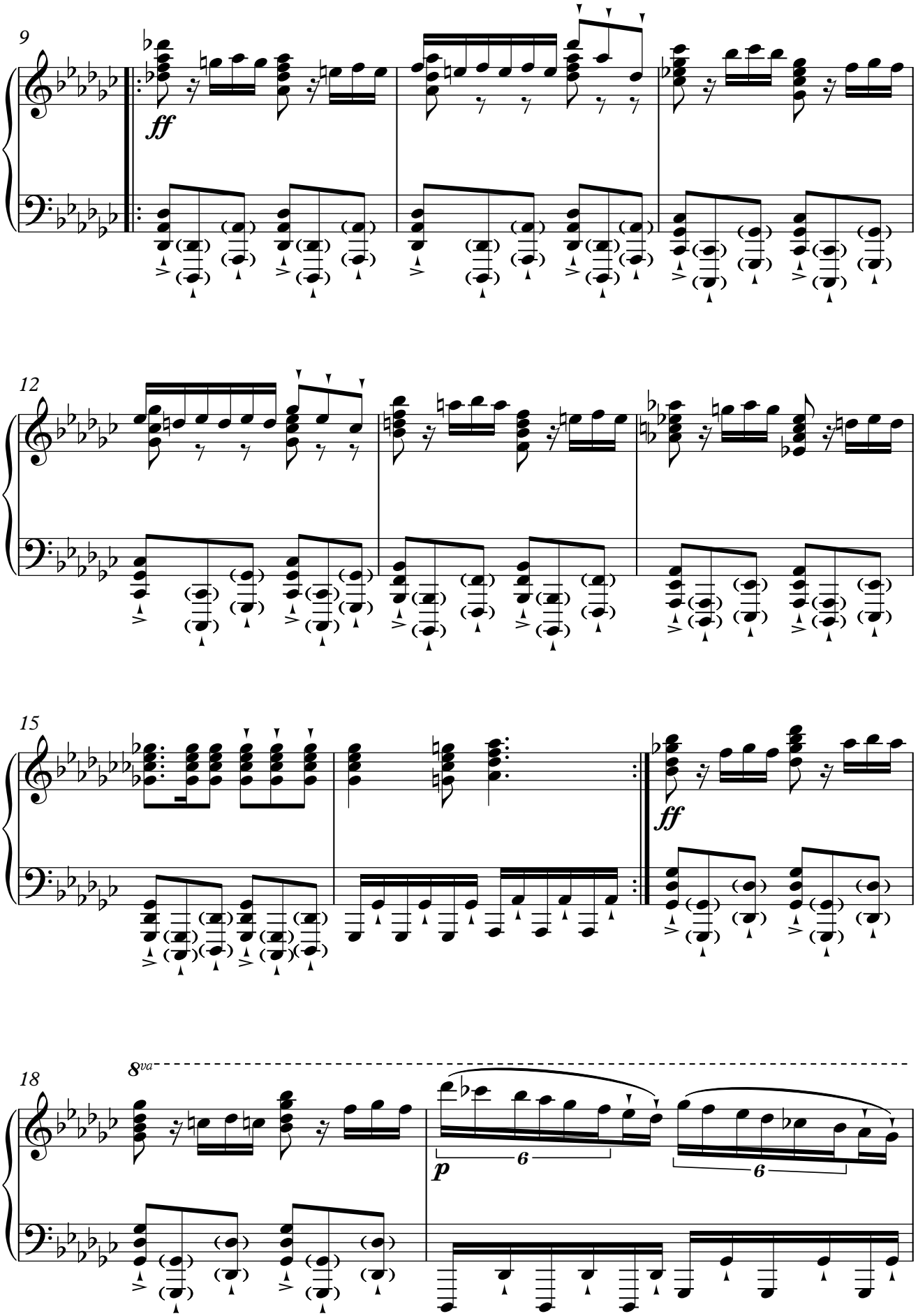

9
12
12
Ped.
Ped.
11
3
3
3
3
Ped.
Ped.
13
1.
15ma
8va
12
12
Ped.
Ped.
15
2.
rit.
Ped.

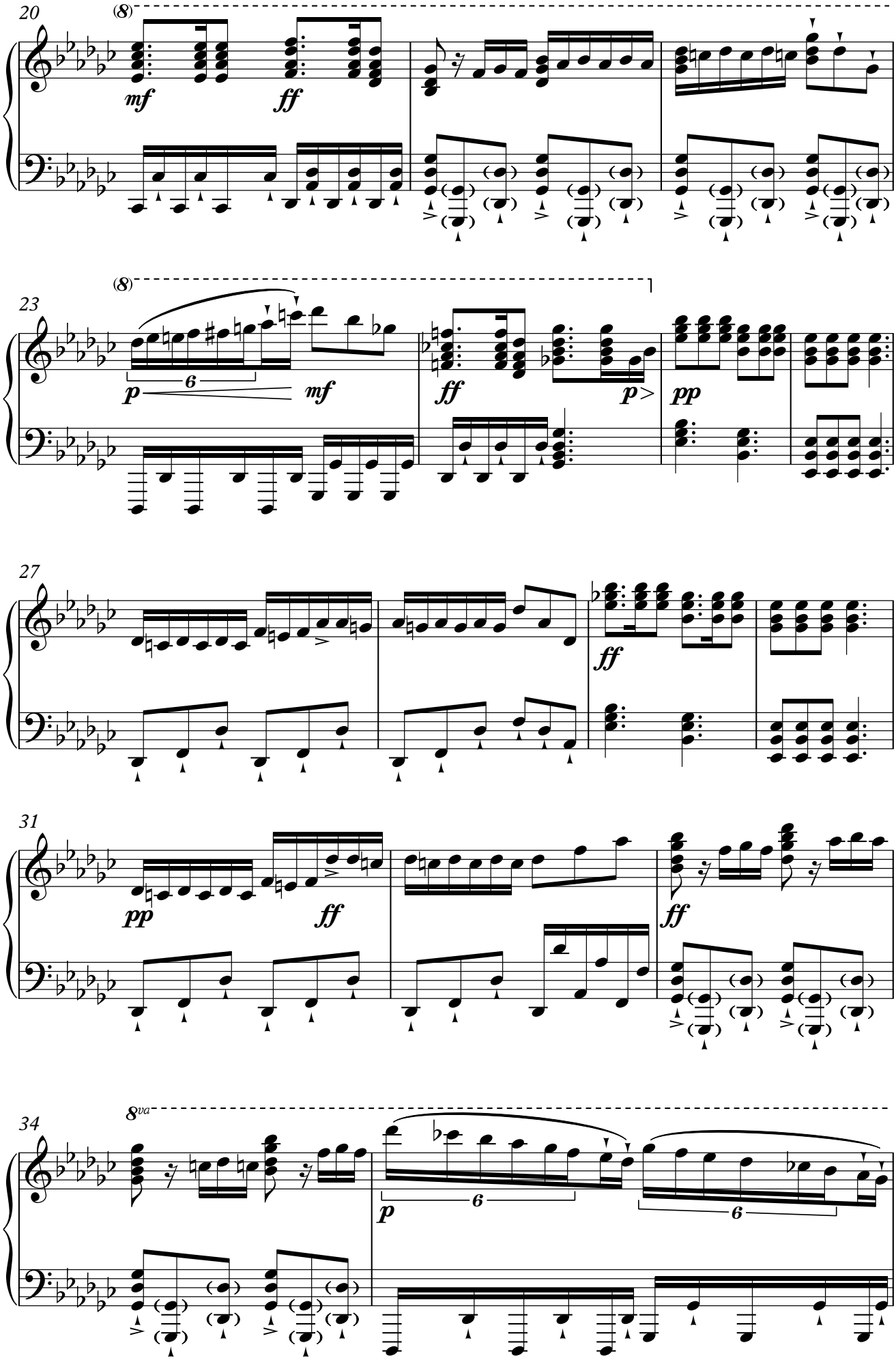
Prelude No. 14

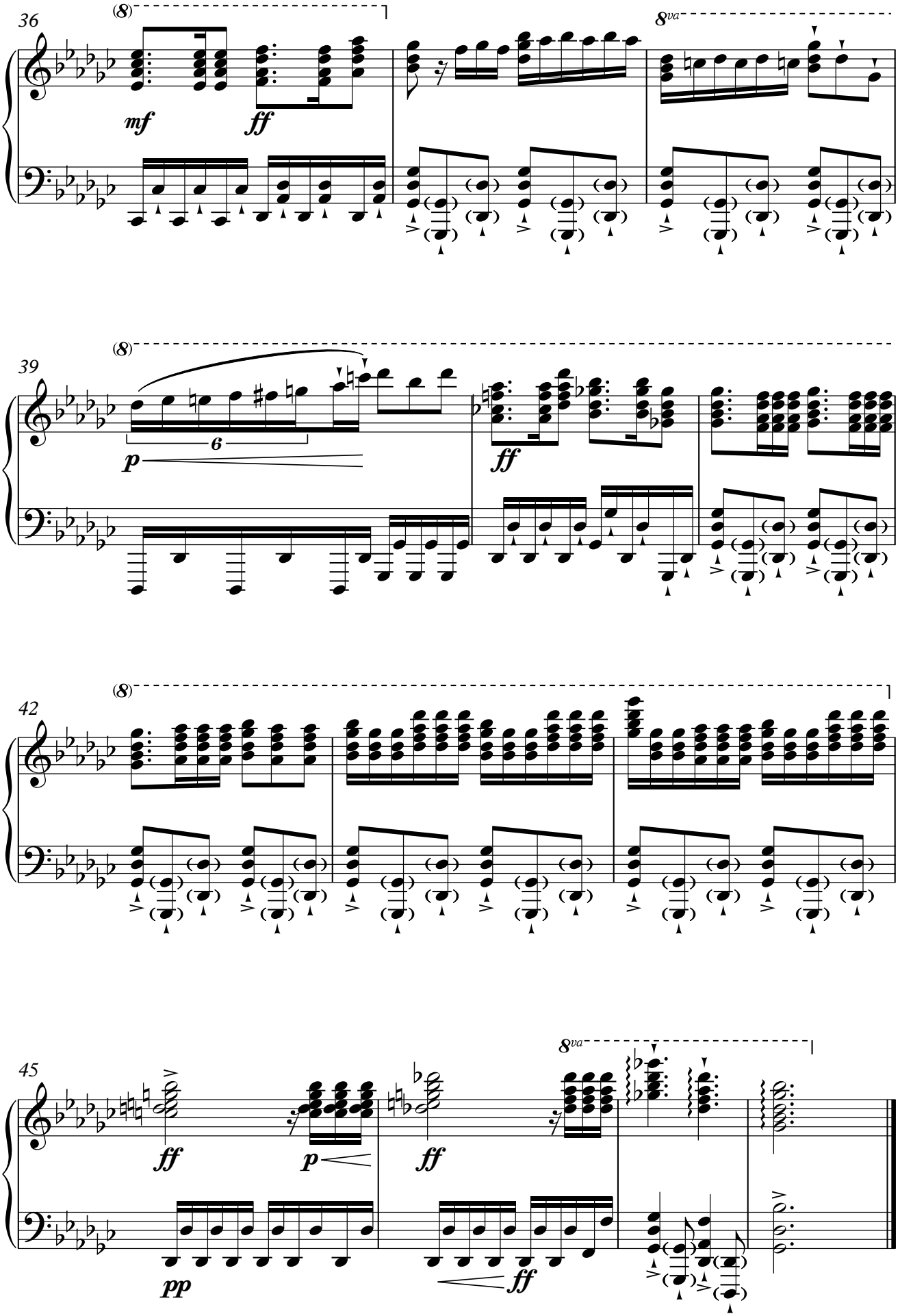
in E-flat minor, Op. 2n

Steven O'Brien




9
ff
12
15
ff
18
8va
p
6
6

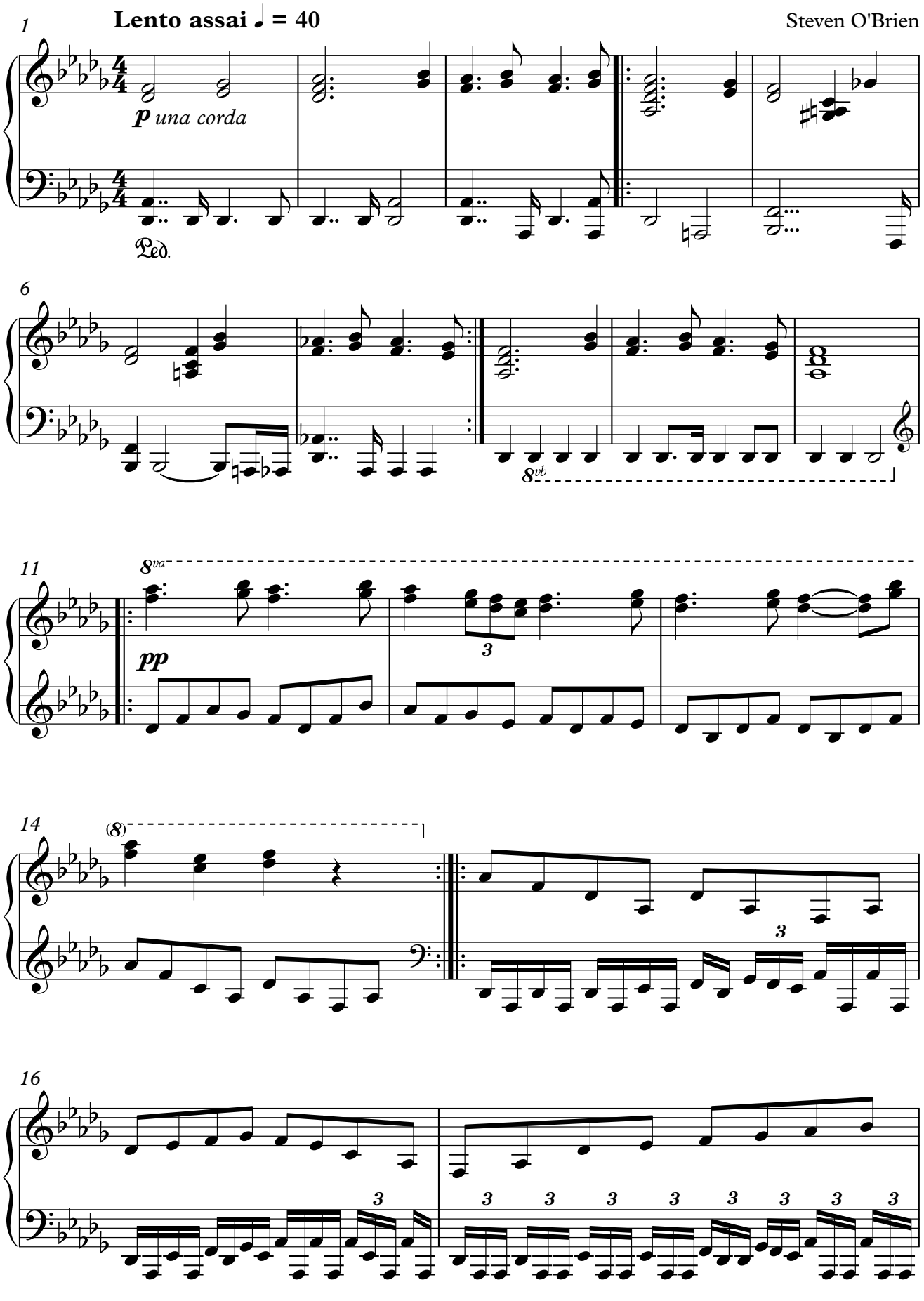

20
(8)
mf
ff
23
(8)
p
6
mf
ff
p
pp
27
ff
31
pp
ff
ff
34
8va
p
6
6


36
(8)
mf
ff
8va
39
(8)
p
6
ff
42
(8)
45
ff
p
ff
8va
pp
ff

Prelude No. 15

in D-flat major, Op. 2o

Steven O'Brien



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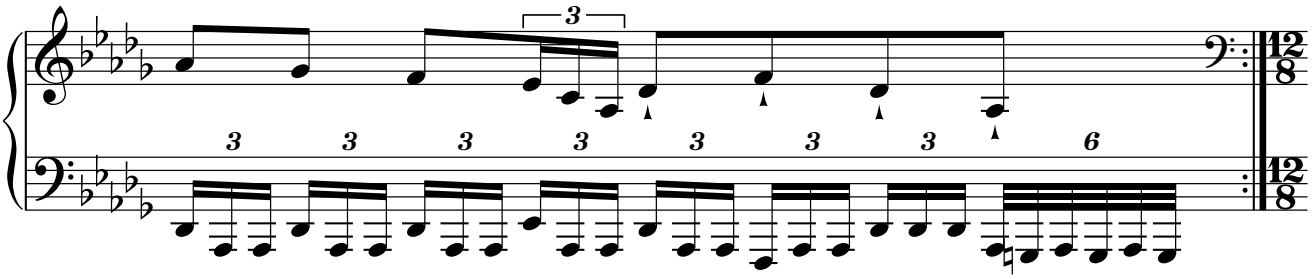
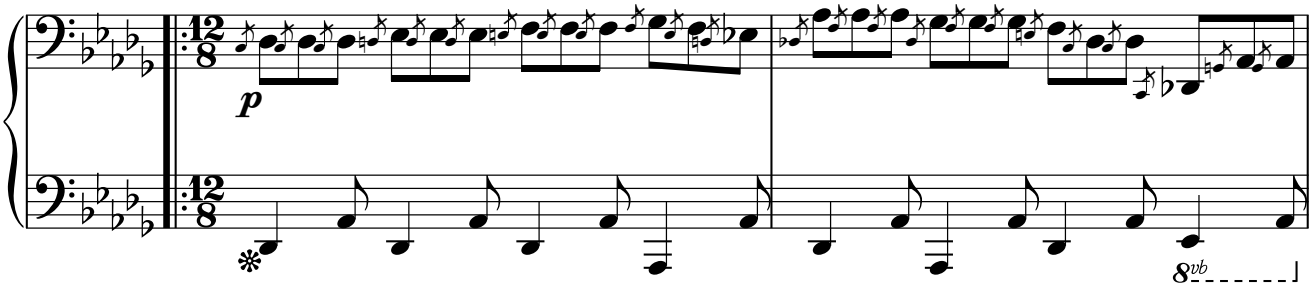


19 **Allegro animato ♩. = 85**



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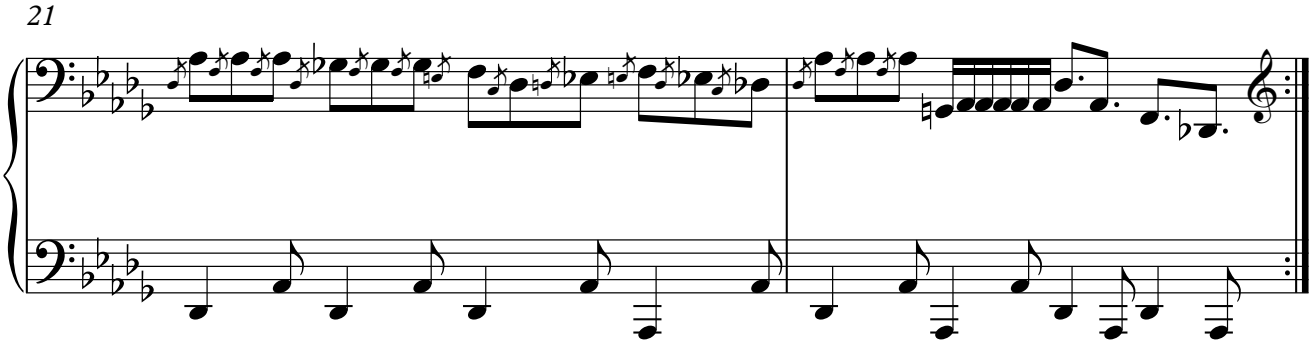
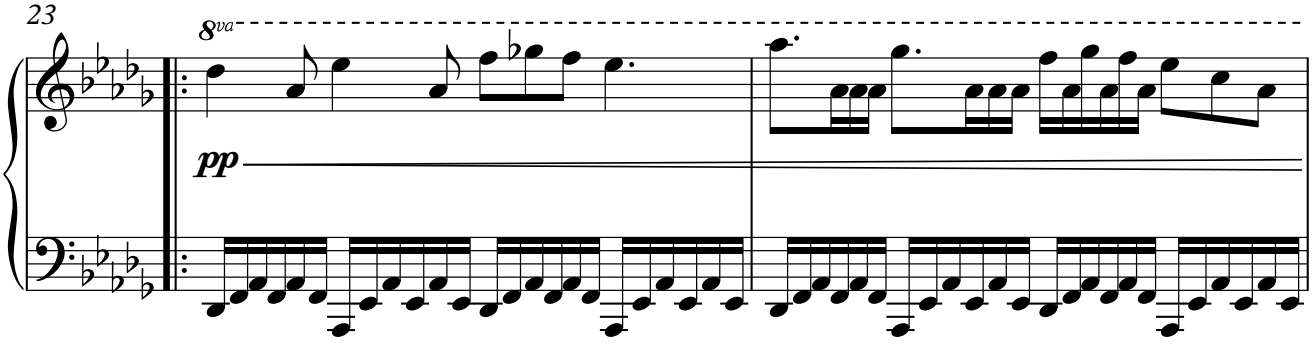
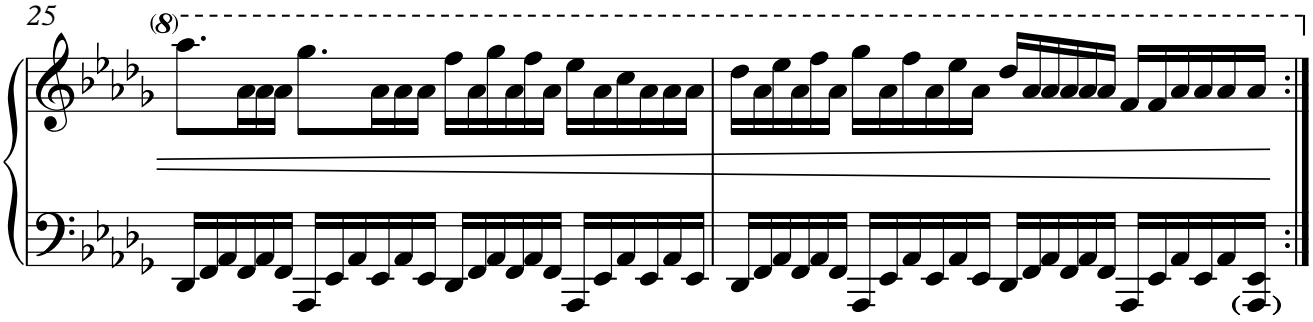
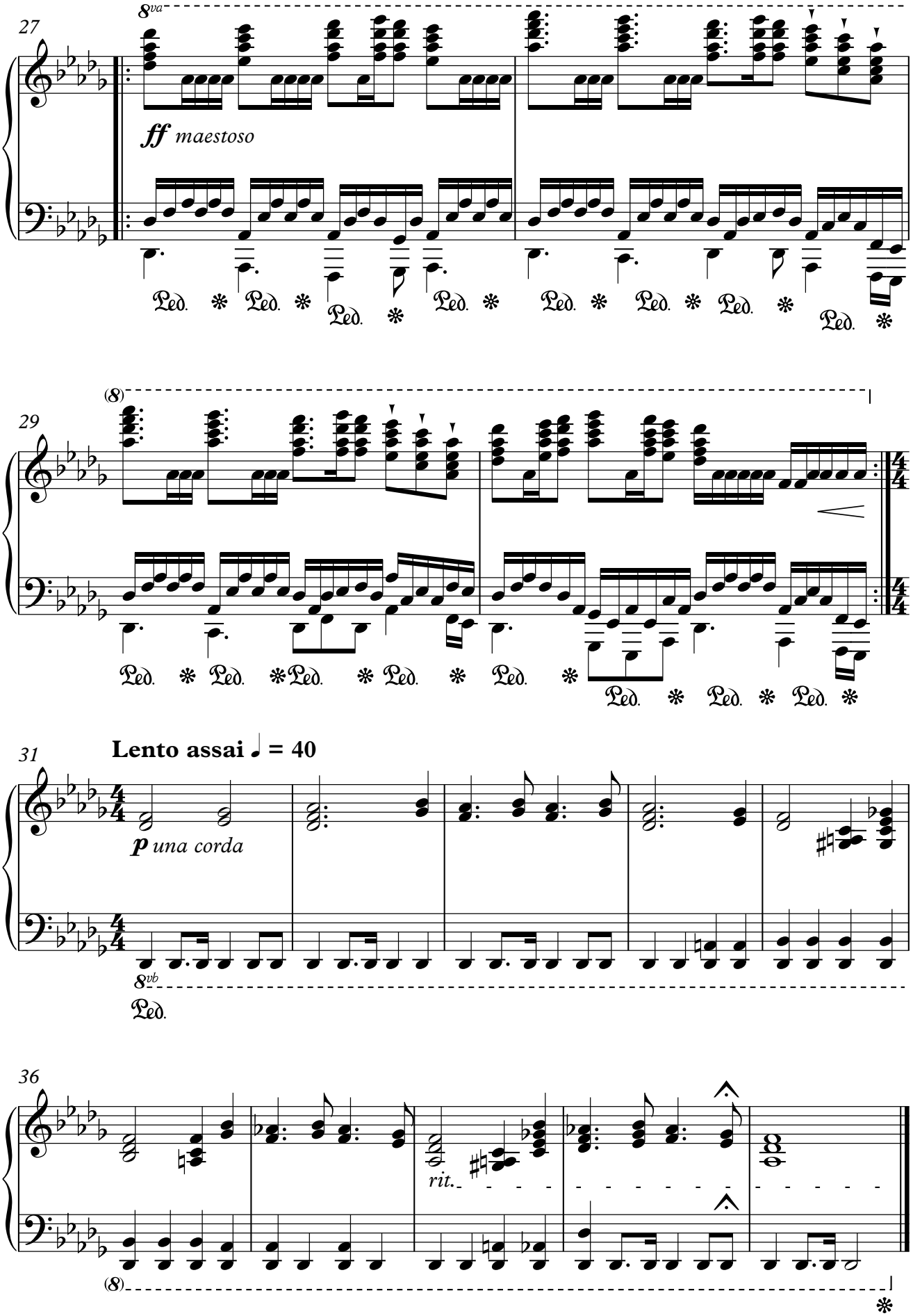


23



25



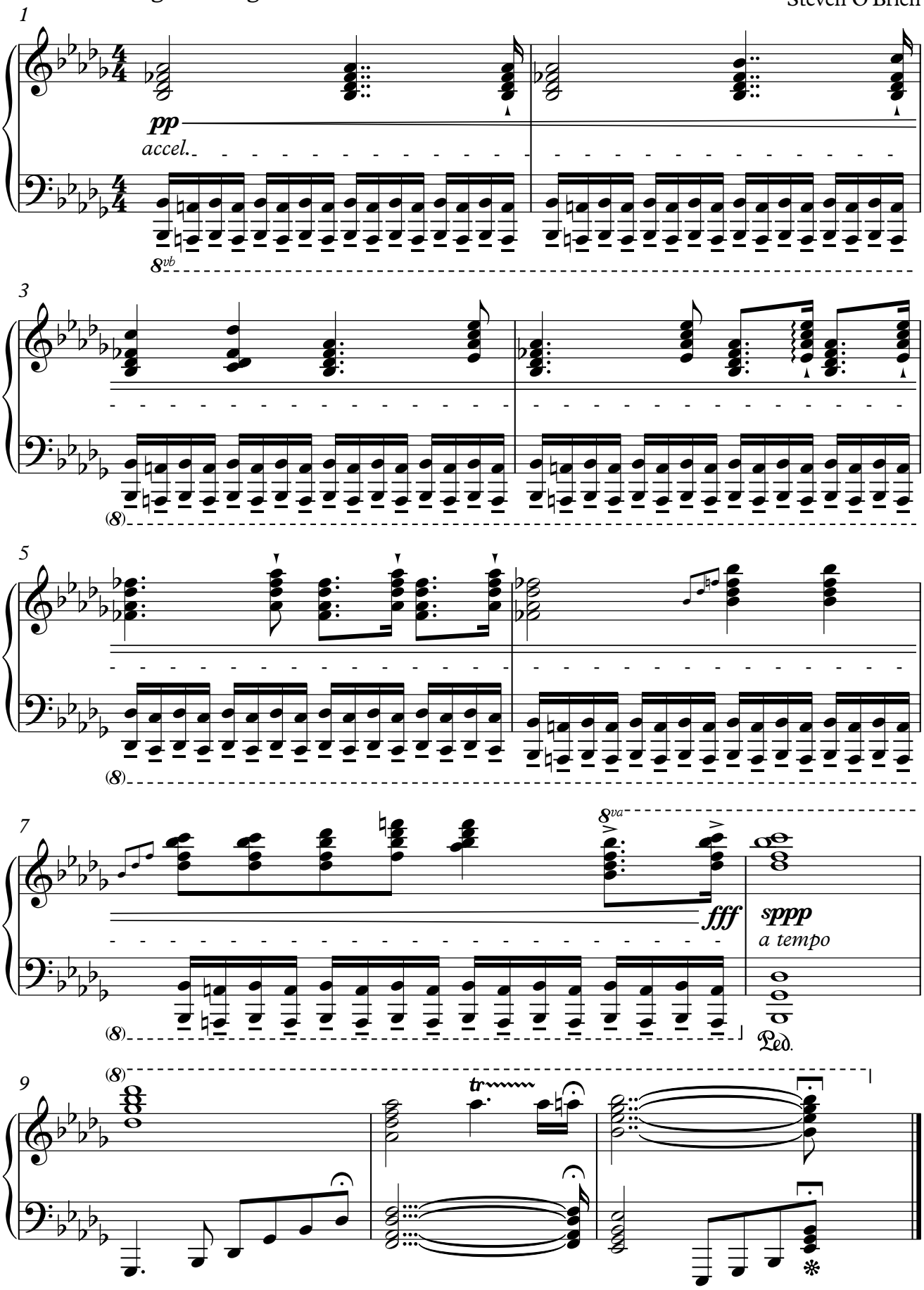

27
8va
ff maestoso
Ped.
29
(8)
Ped.
31
Lento assai ♩ = 40
p una corda
8vb
Ped.
36
rit.
(8)

Prelude No. 16

in B-flat minor, Op. 2p

Larghetto agitato ♩ = 50

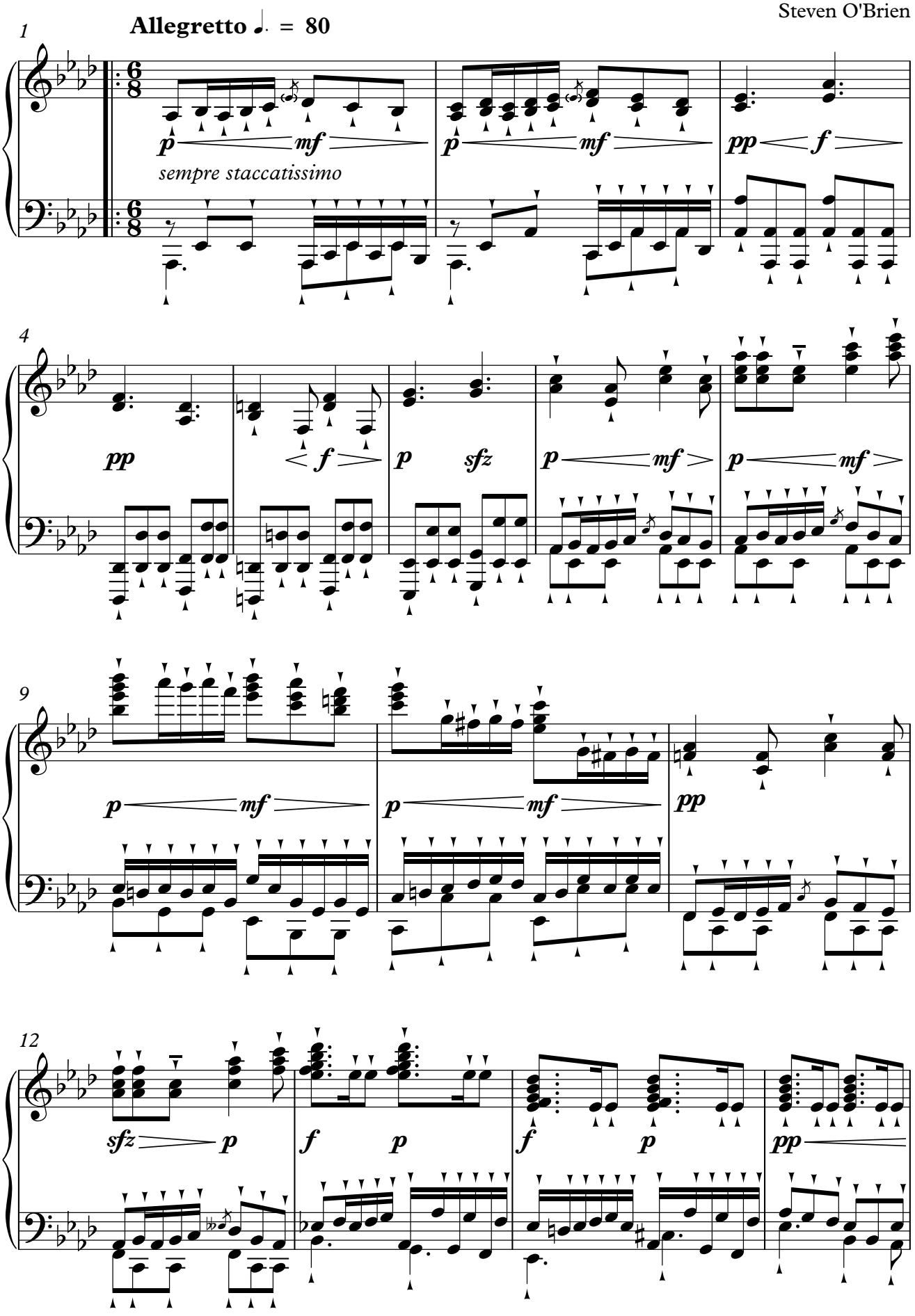
Steven O'Brien

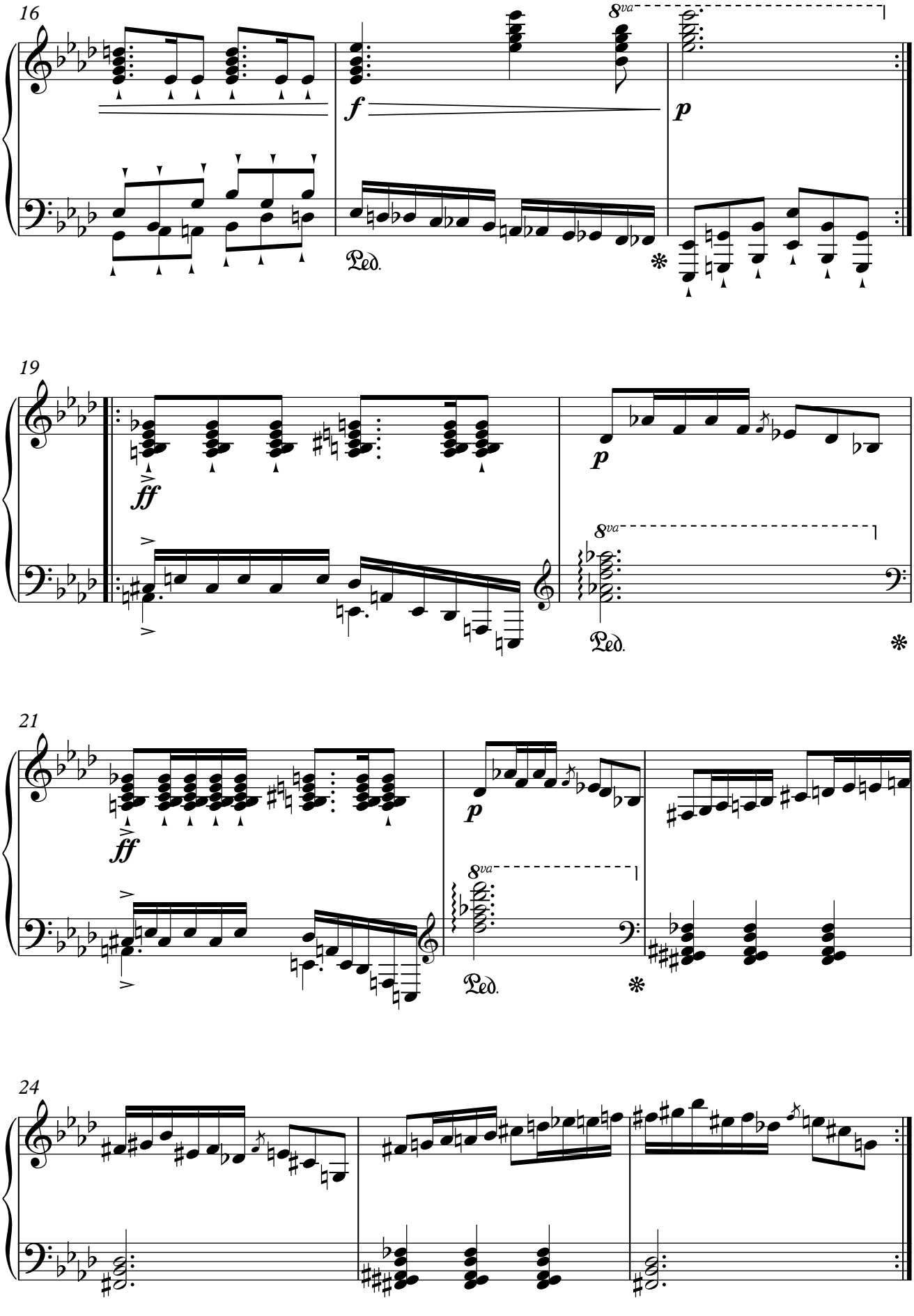


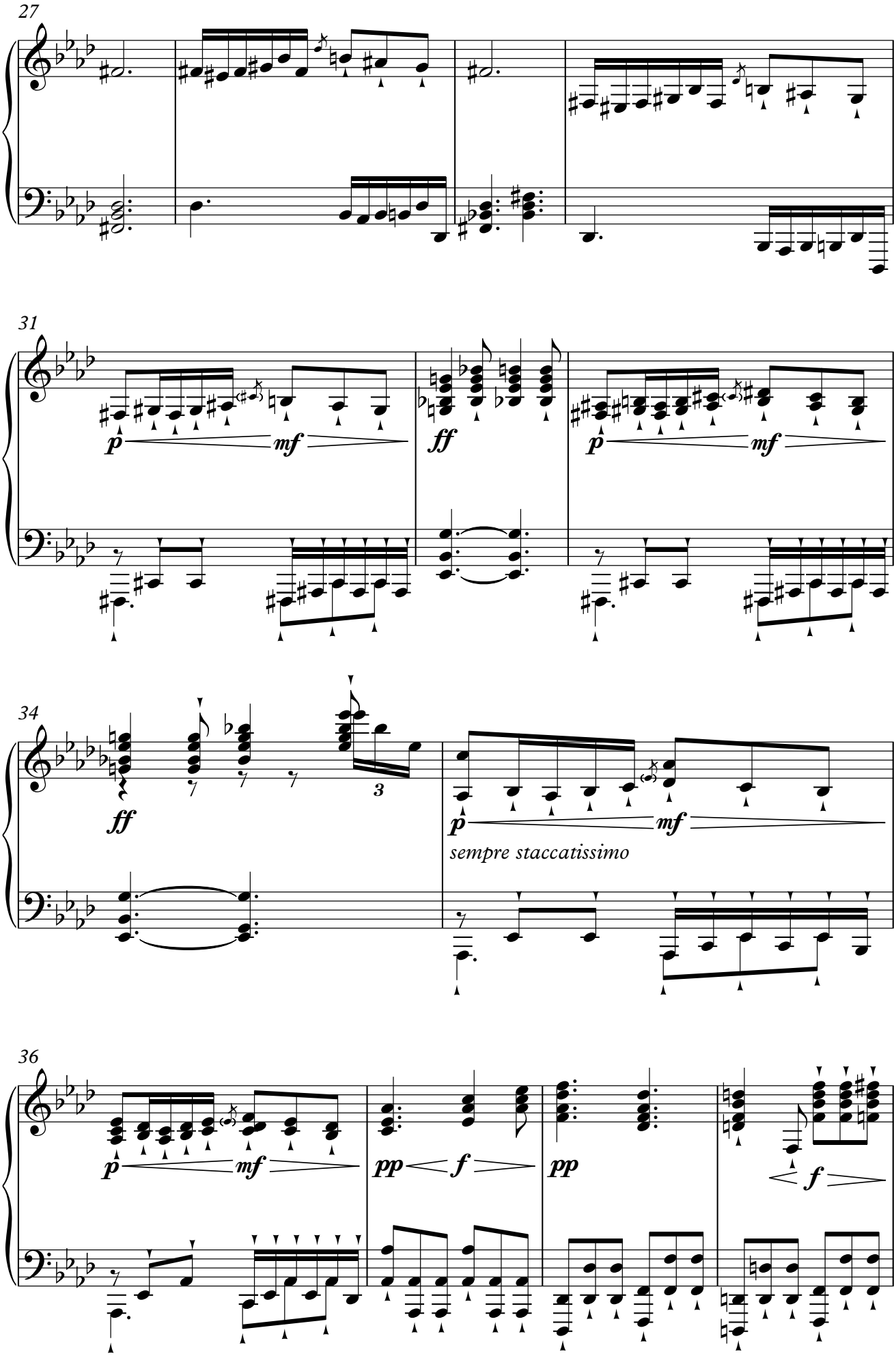
Prelude No. 17

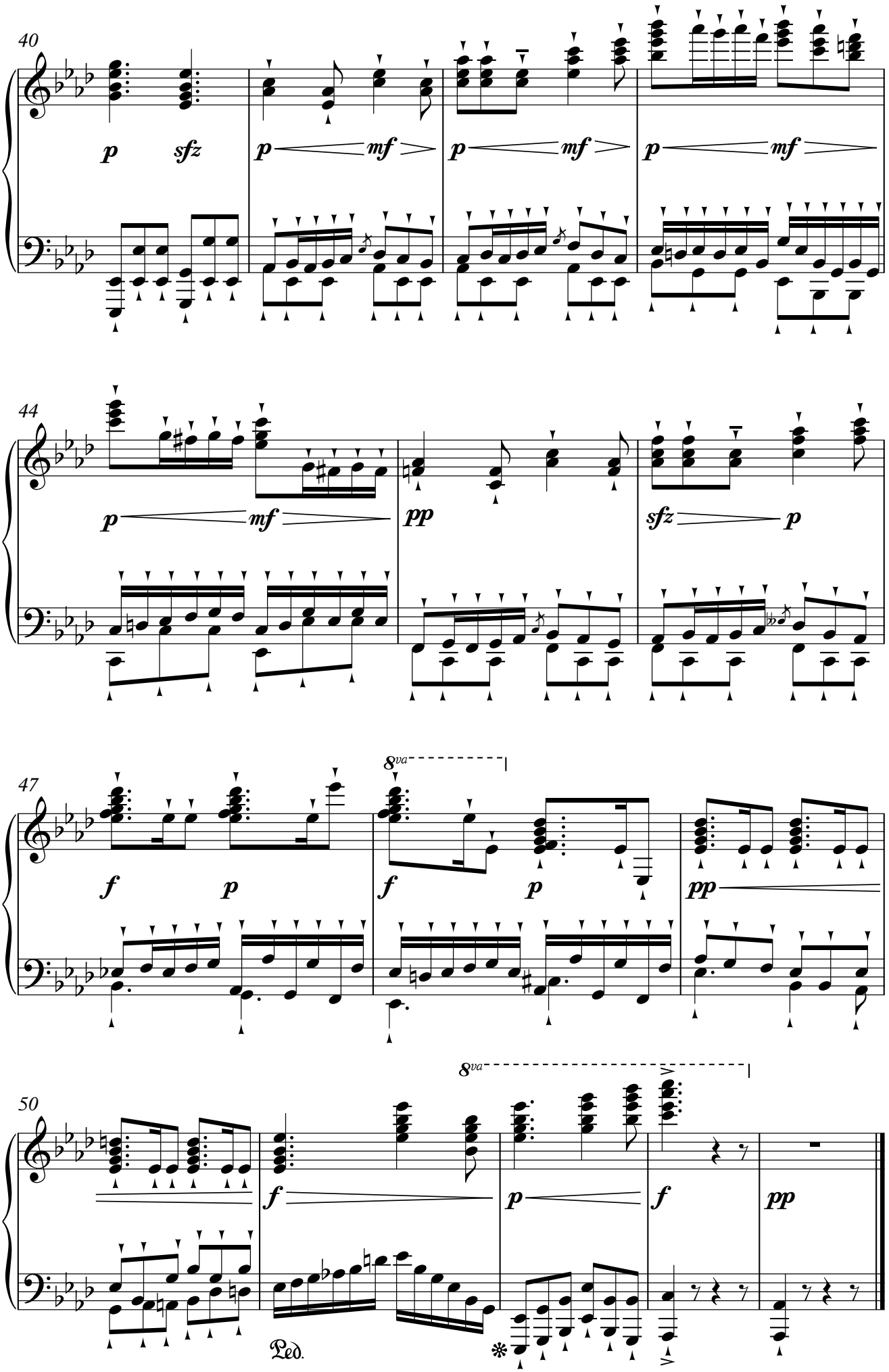
in A-flat major, Op. 2q

Steven O'Brien




16
8va
f
p
Ped.
19
ff
p
8va
Ped.
21
ff
p
8va
Ped.
24

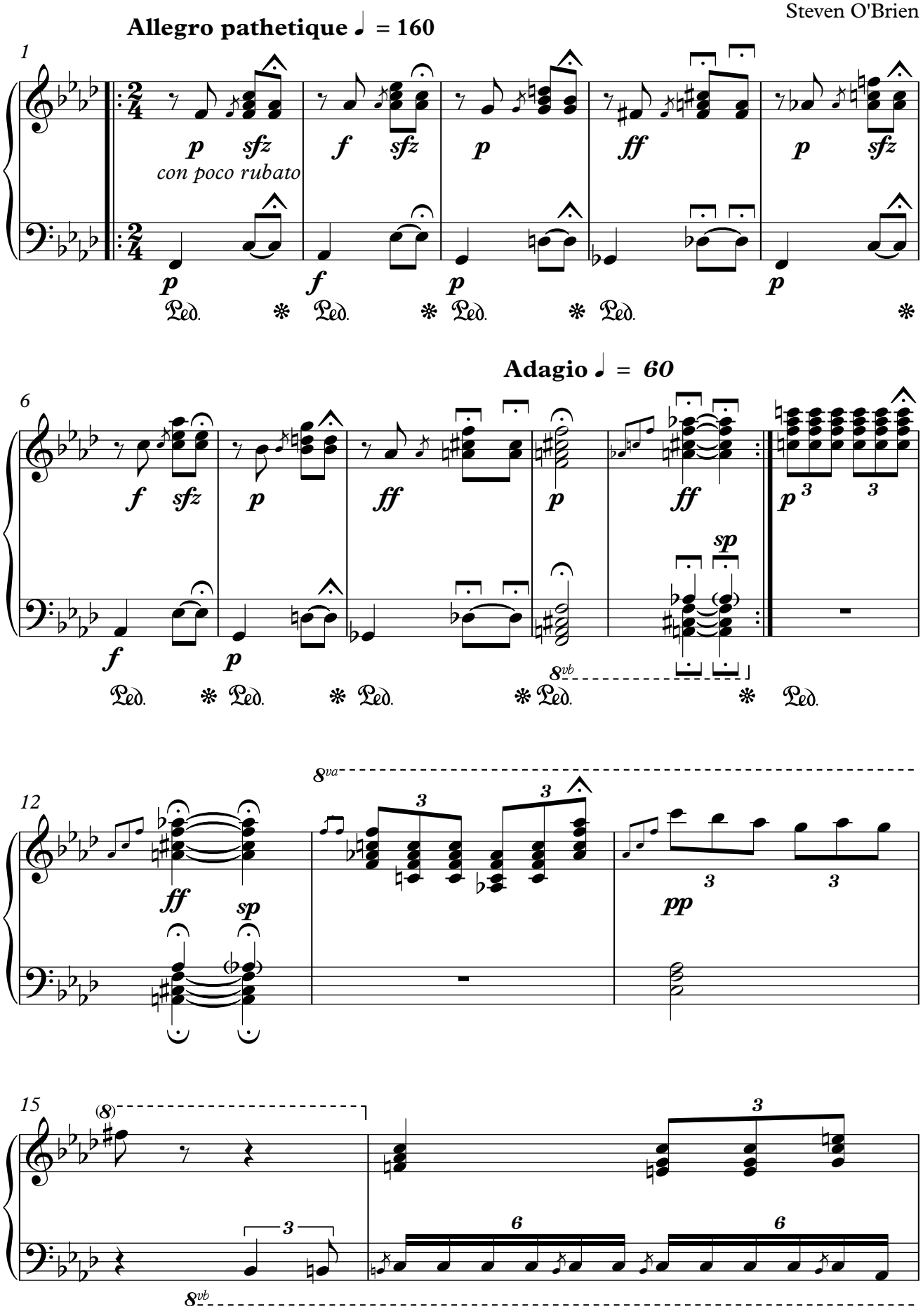

27
31
p
mf
ff
p
mf
34
ff
3
p
mf
sempre staccatissimo
36
p
mf
pp
f
pp
f

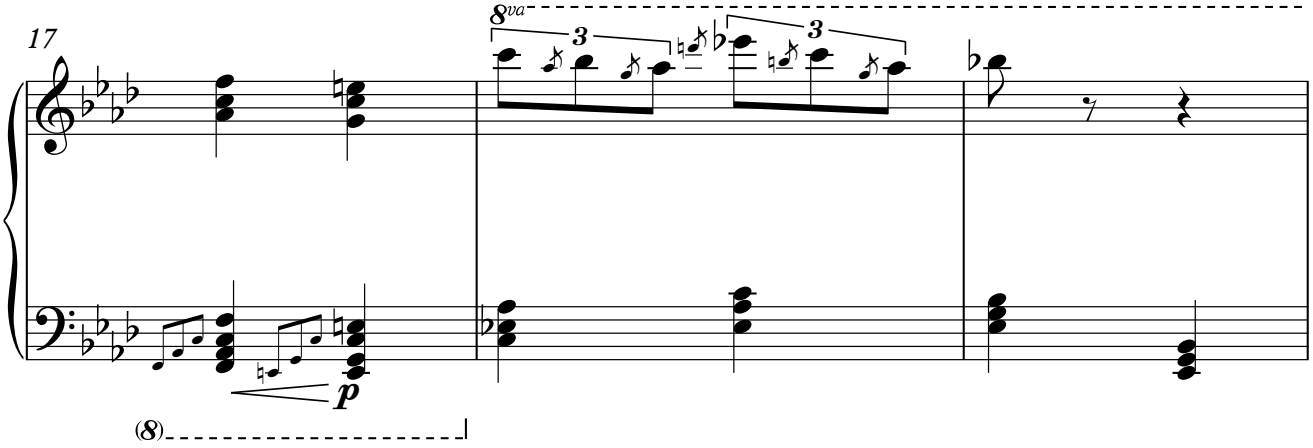

40
p
sfz
p
mf
p
mf
p
mf
44
p
mf
pp
sfz
p
47
8va
f
p
f
p
pp
50
8va
f
p
f
pp
Ped.

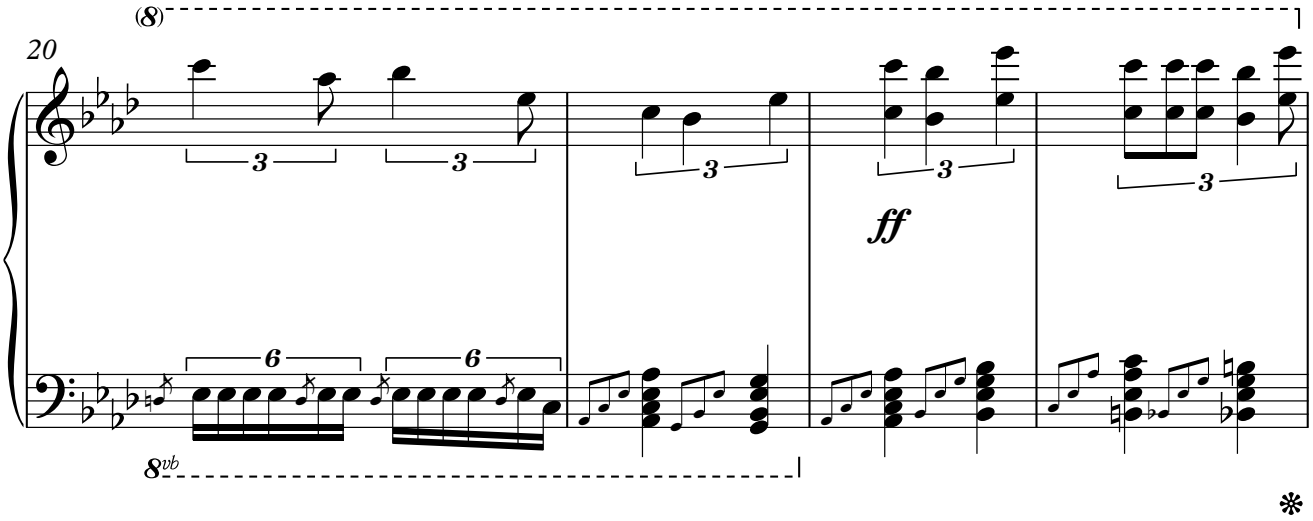
Prelude No. 18

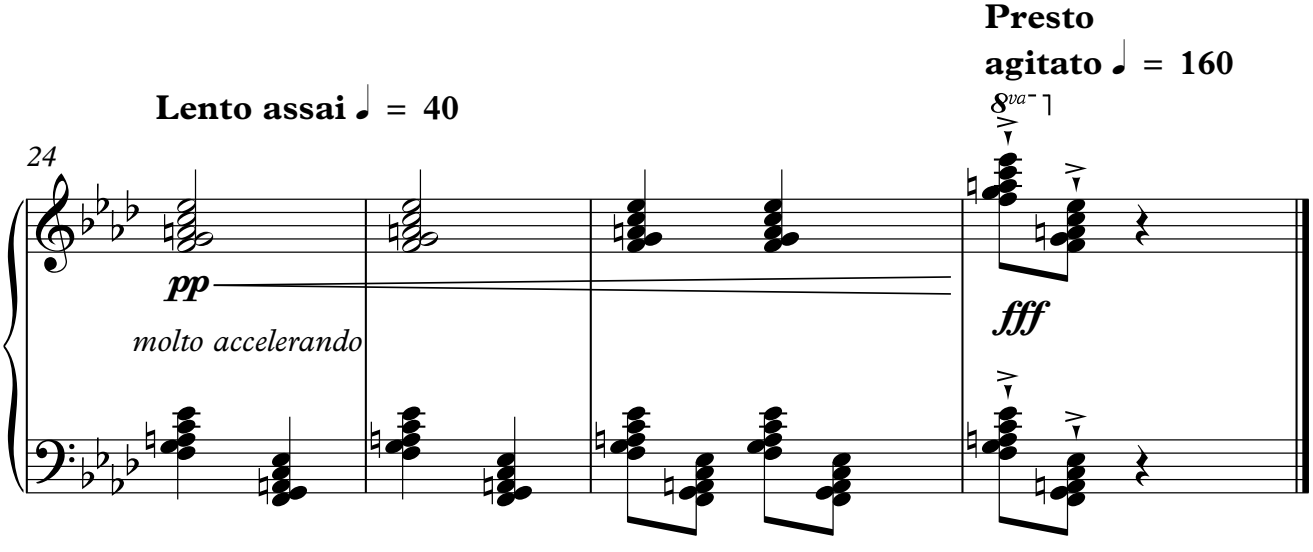
in F minor, Op. 2r

Steven O'Brien




17
8va
3
3
p
(8)
Ped.

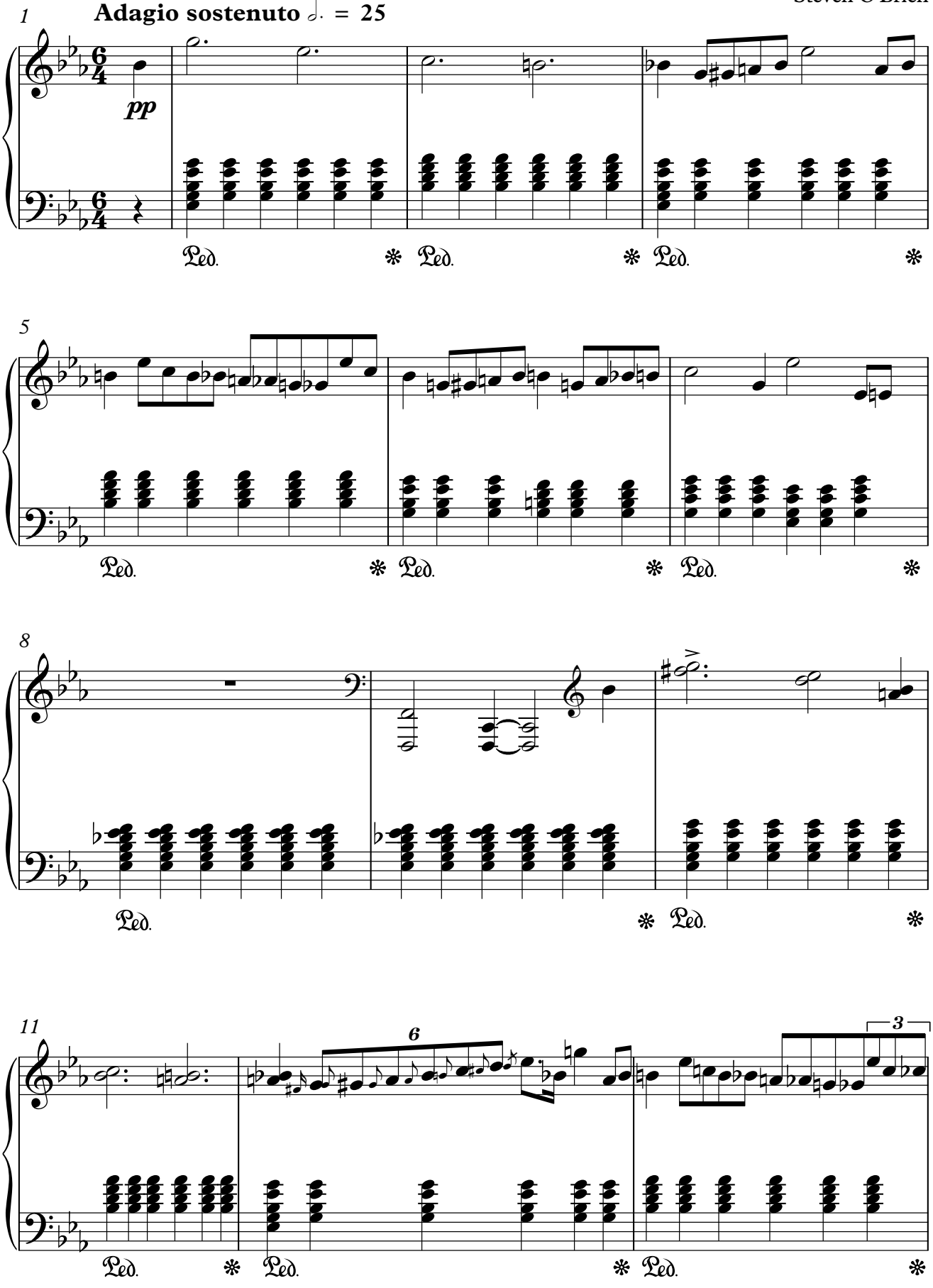

(8)
20
3
3
3
3
3
ff
6
6
8vb

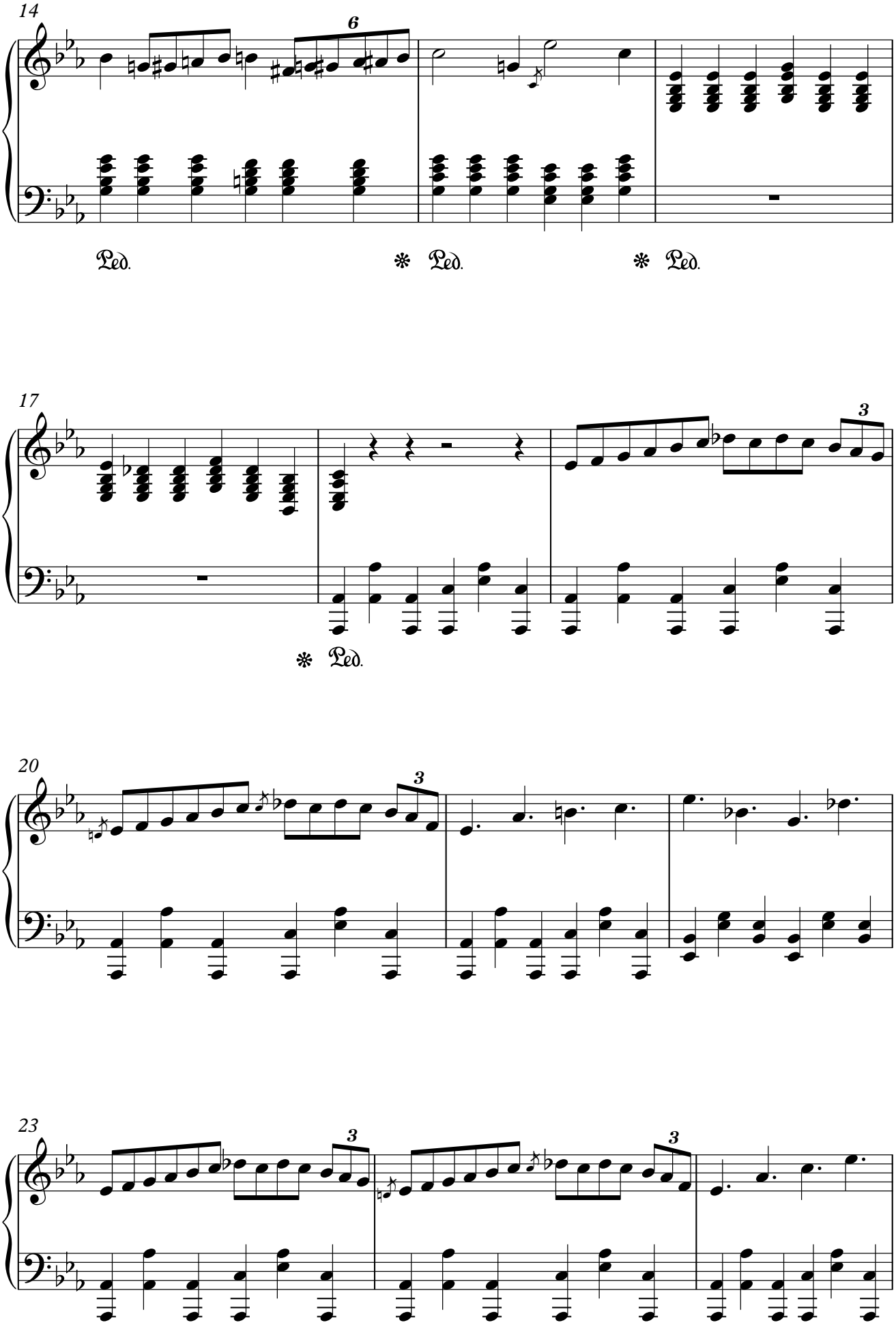

Presto
agitato ♩ = 160
Lento assai ♩ = 40
8va
24
pp
molto accelerando
fff

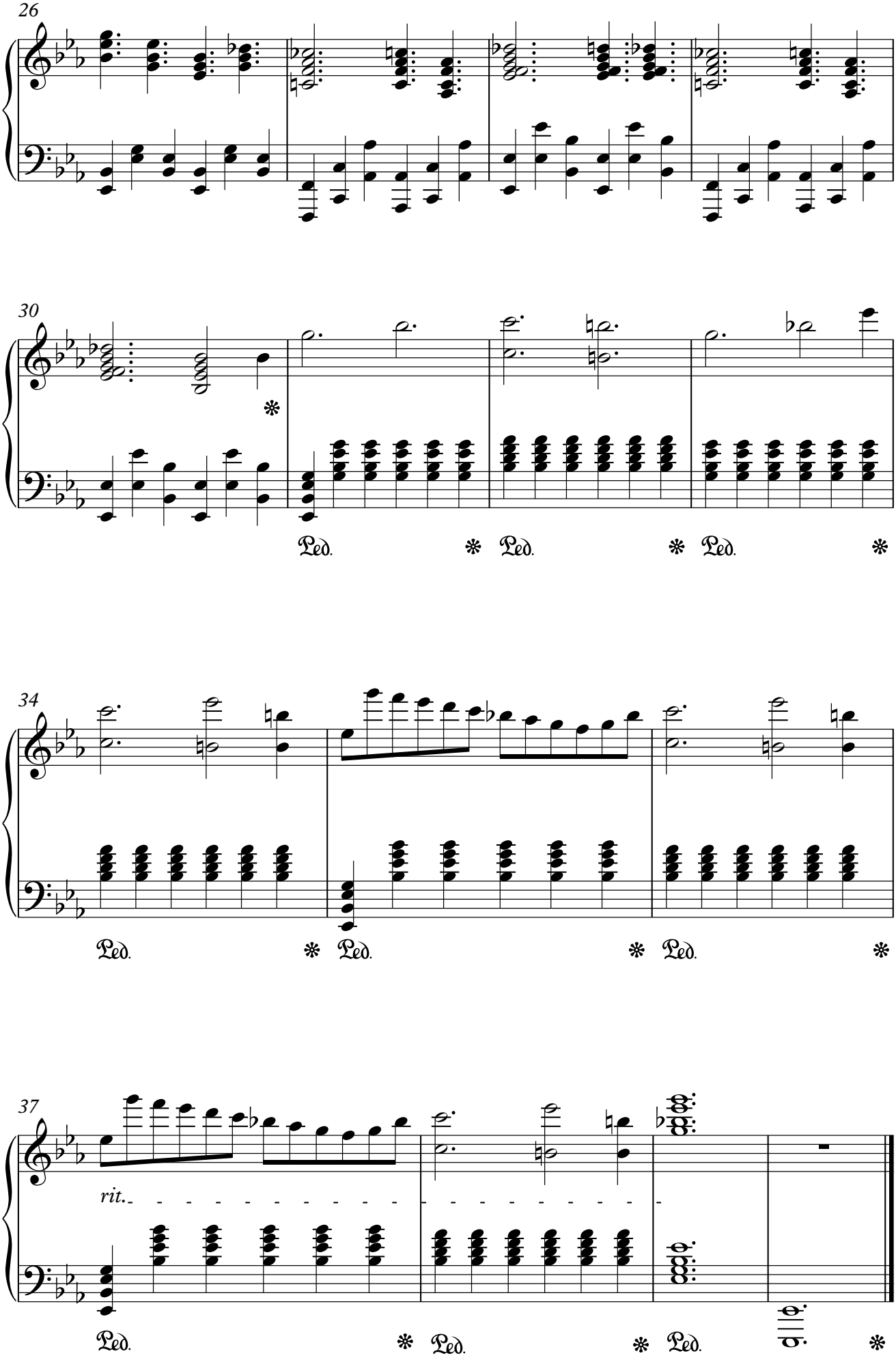
Prelude No. 19

in E-flat major, Op. 2s

Steven O'Brien



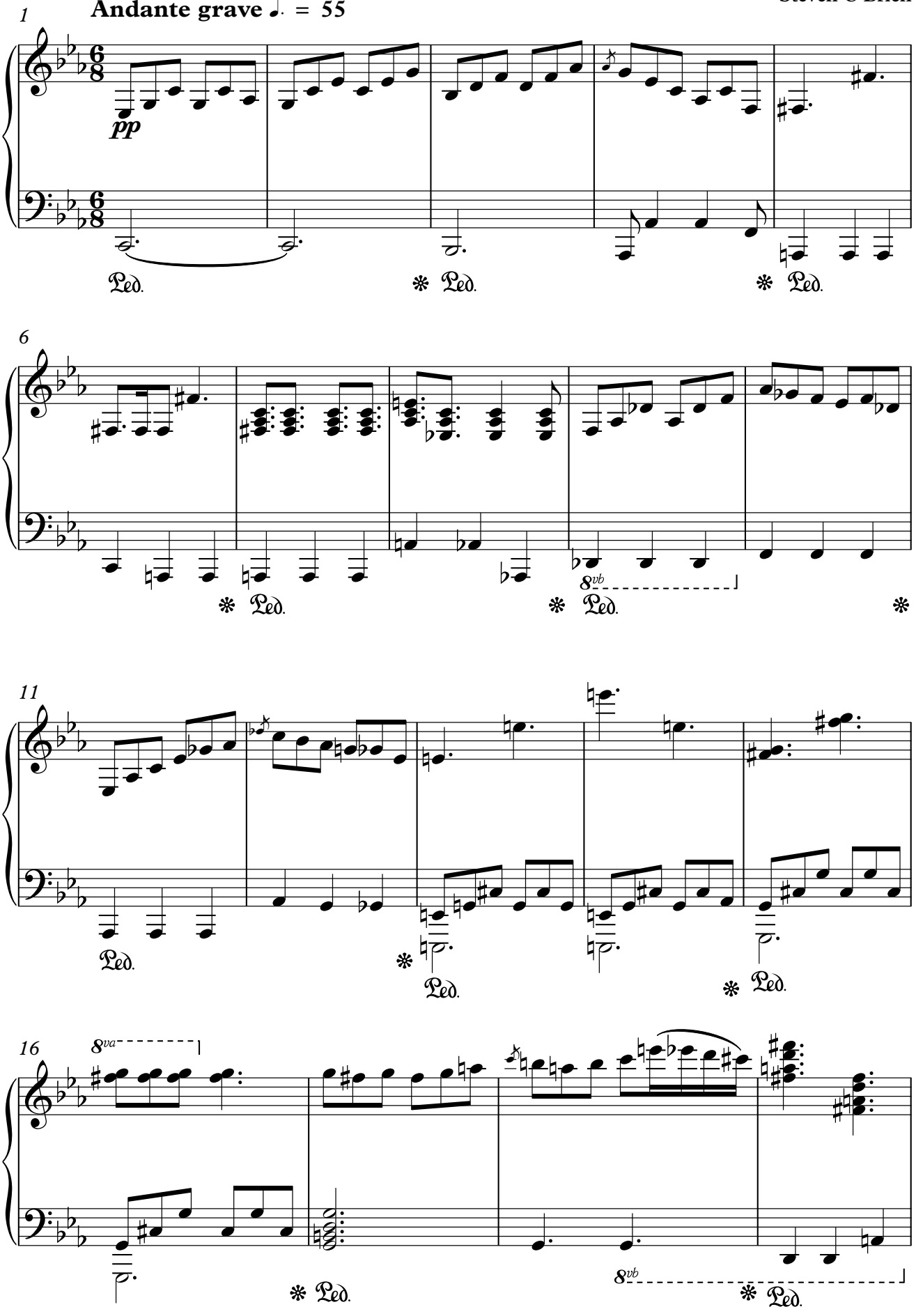

14
6
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
17
3
Ped.
20
3
23
3
3

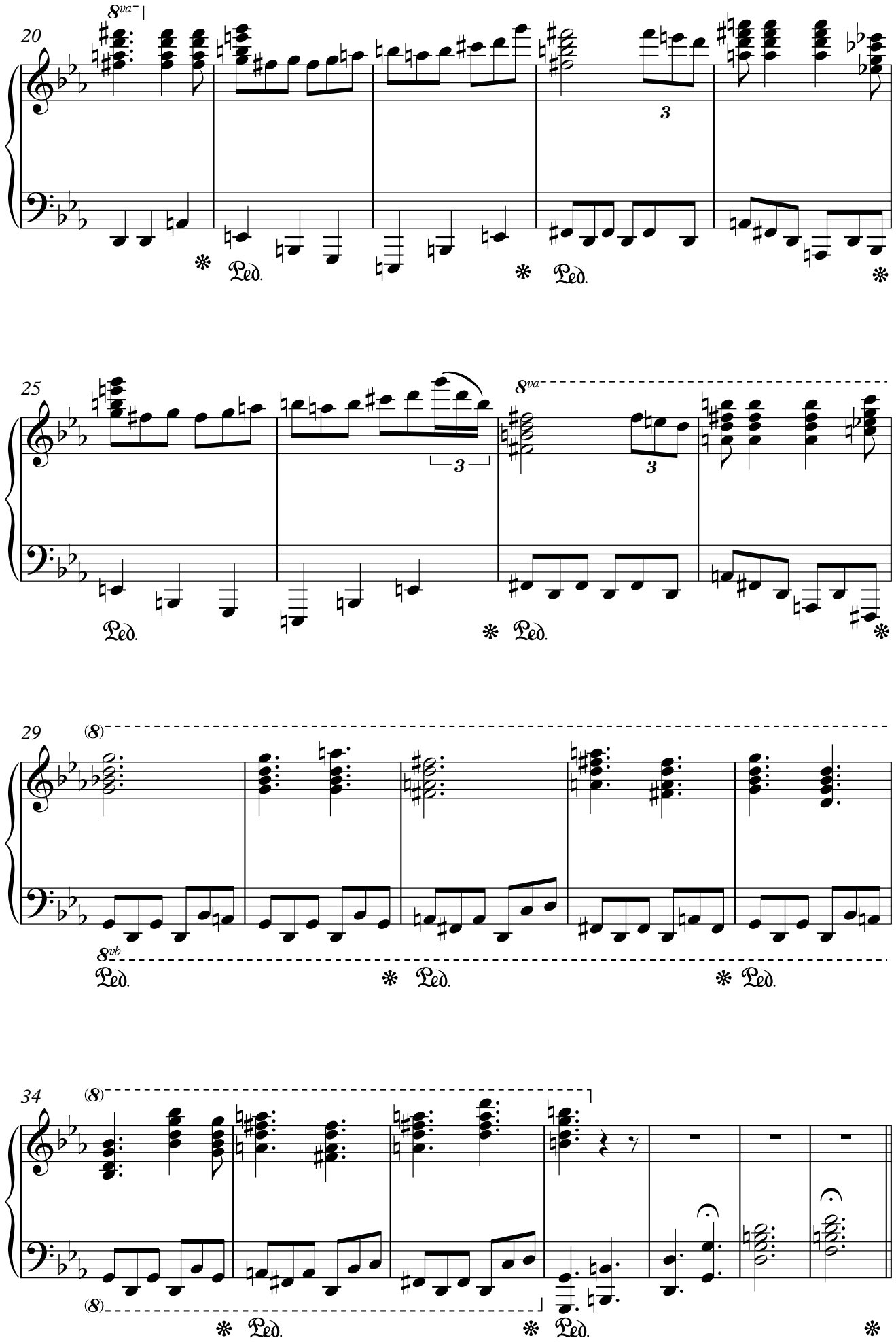

26
30
Ped.
34
Ped.
37
rit.
Ped.

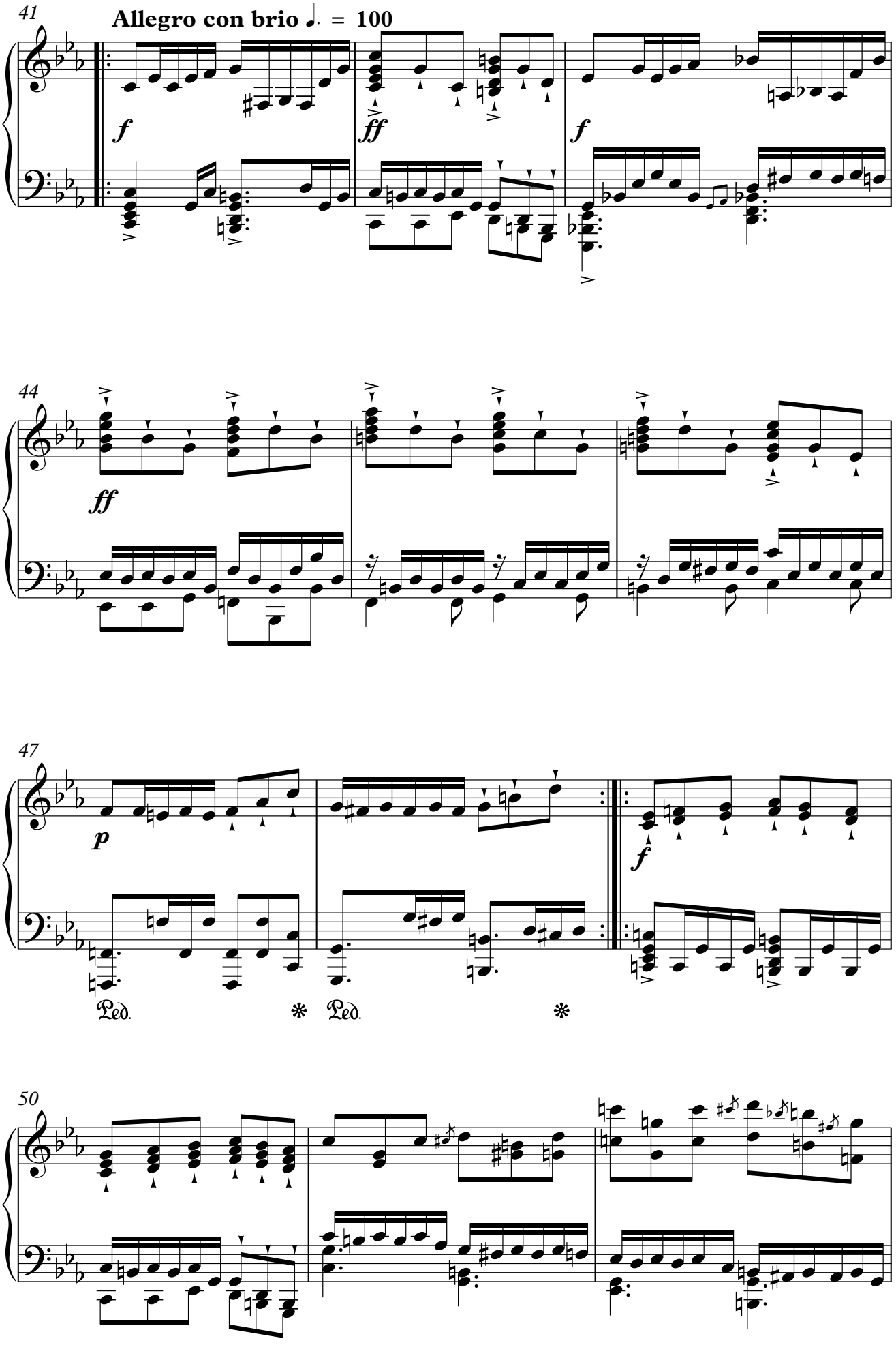
Prelude No. 20

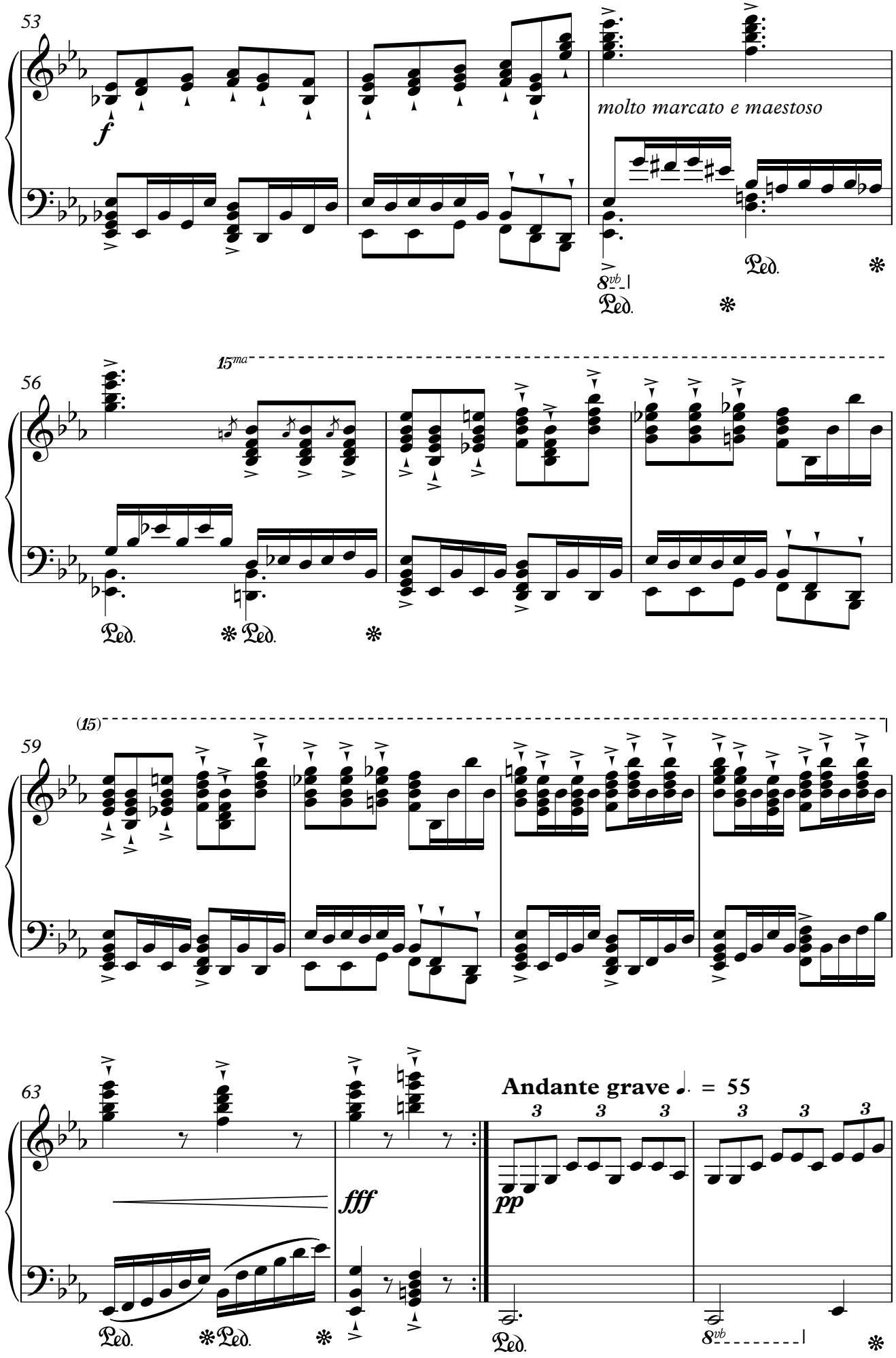
in C minor, Op. 2t

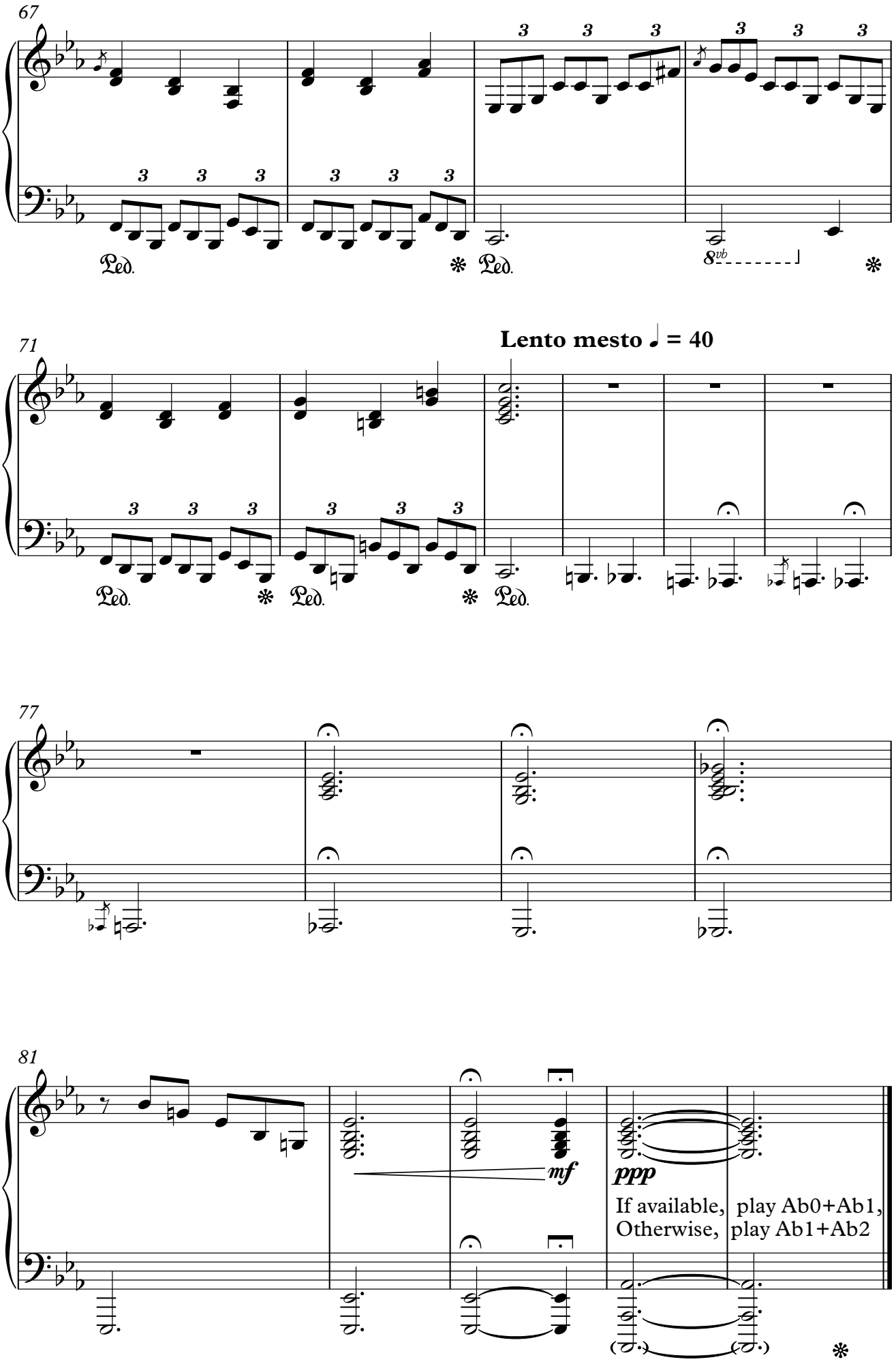
Steven O'Brien




20
8va
3
Ped.
25
8va
3
Ped.
29
(8)
8vb
Ped.
34
(8)
(8)
Ped.


41
Allegro con brio ♩. = 100
f
ff
f
44
ff
47
p
f
Ped.
Ped.
50


53
f
molto marcato e maestoso
8vb
Ped.
56
15ma
Ped.
59
(15)
63
fff
pp
Andante grave ♩. = 55
3 3 3 3 3 3
Ped.
8vb

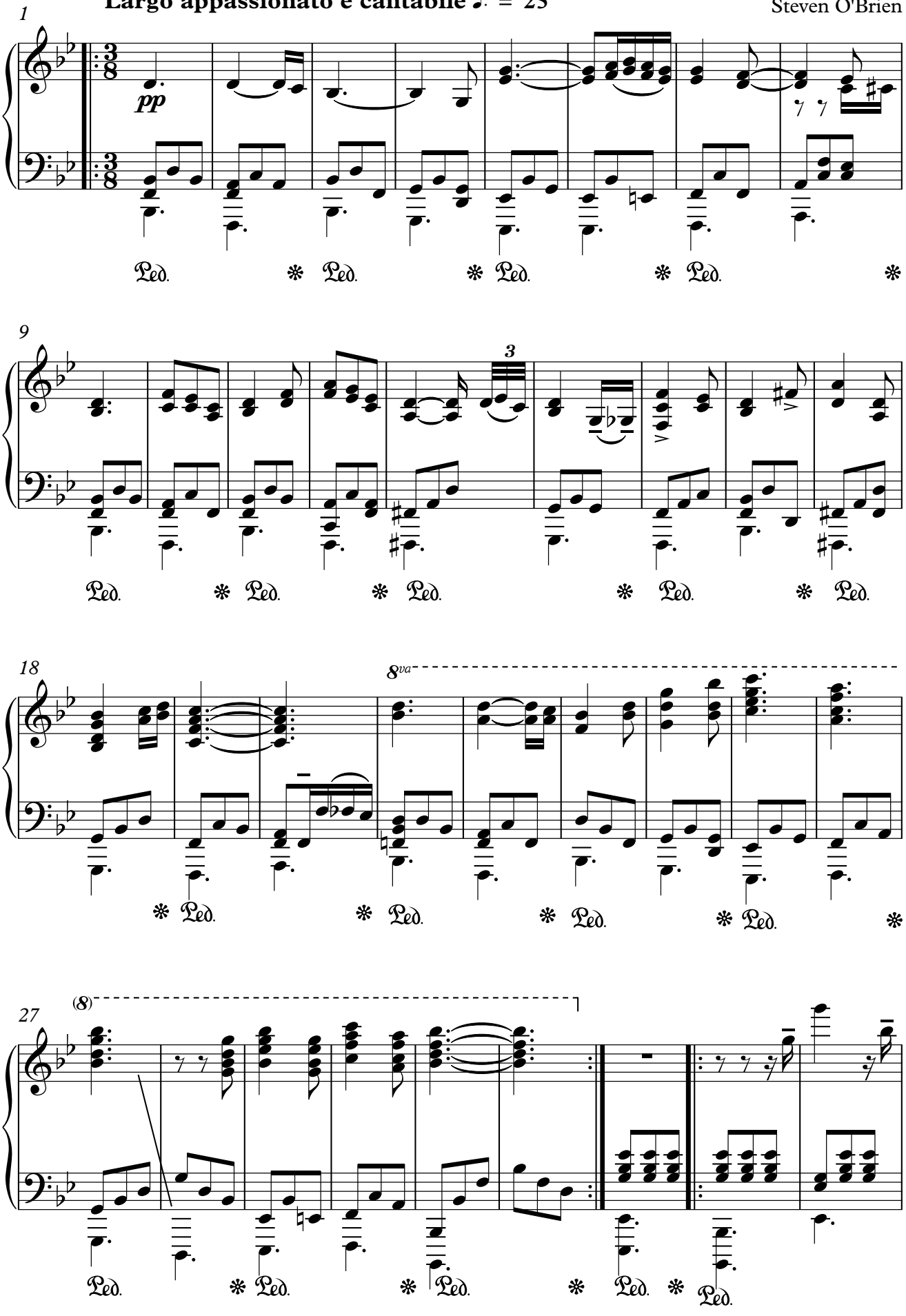

67
Ped.
Ped.
8vb
71
Lento mesto ♩ = 40
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
77
81
mf
ppp
If available, play Ab0+Ab1,
Otherwise, play Ab1+Ab2

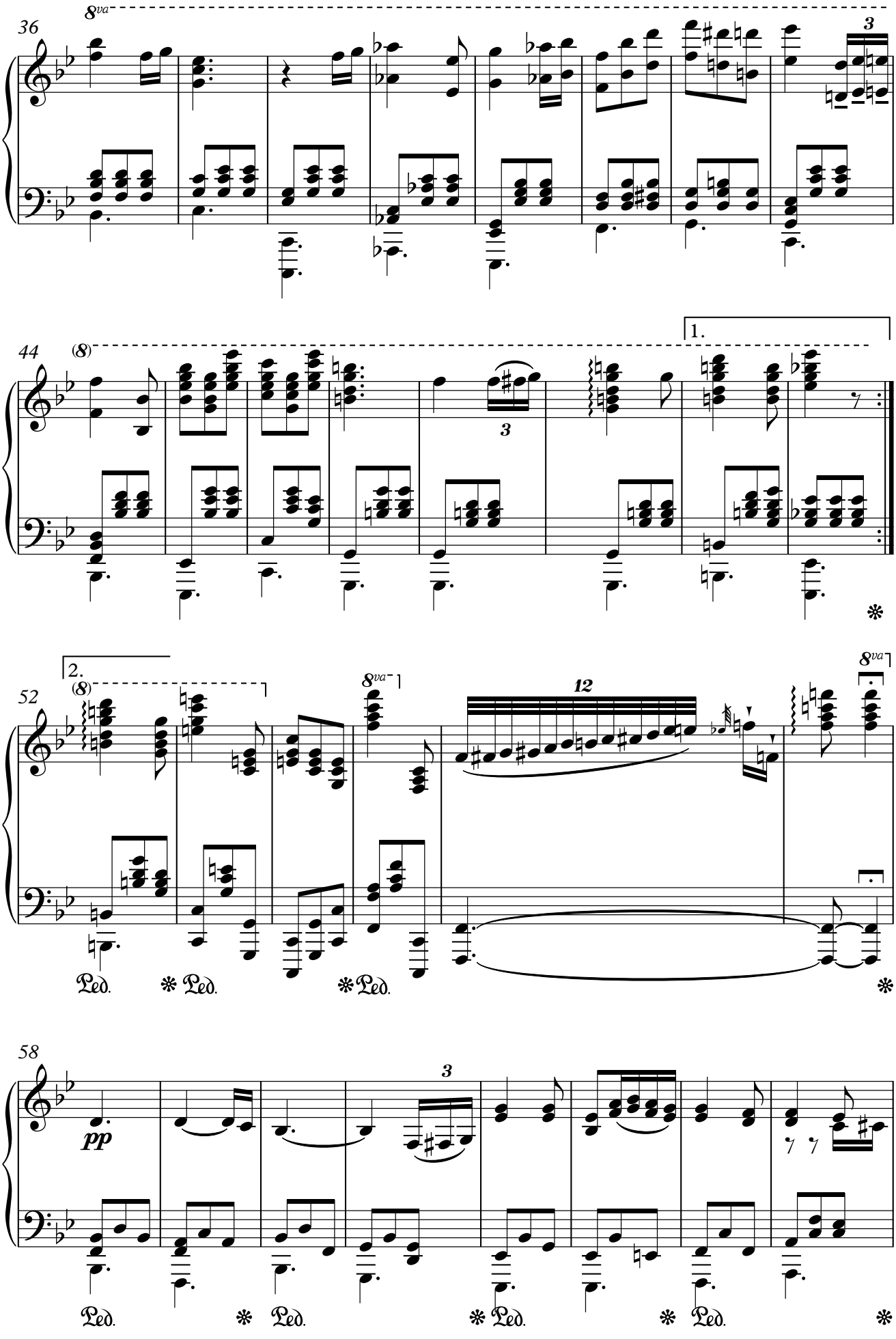
Prelude No. 21

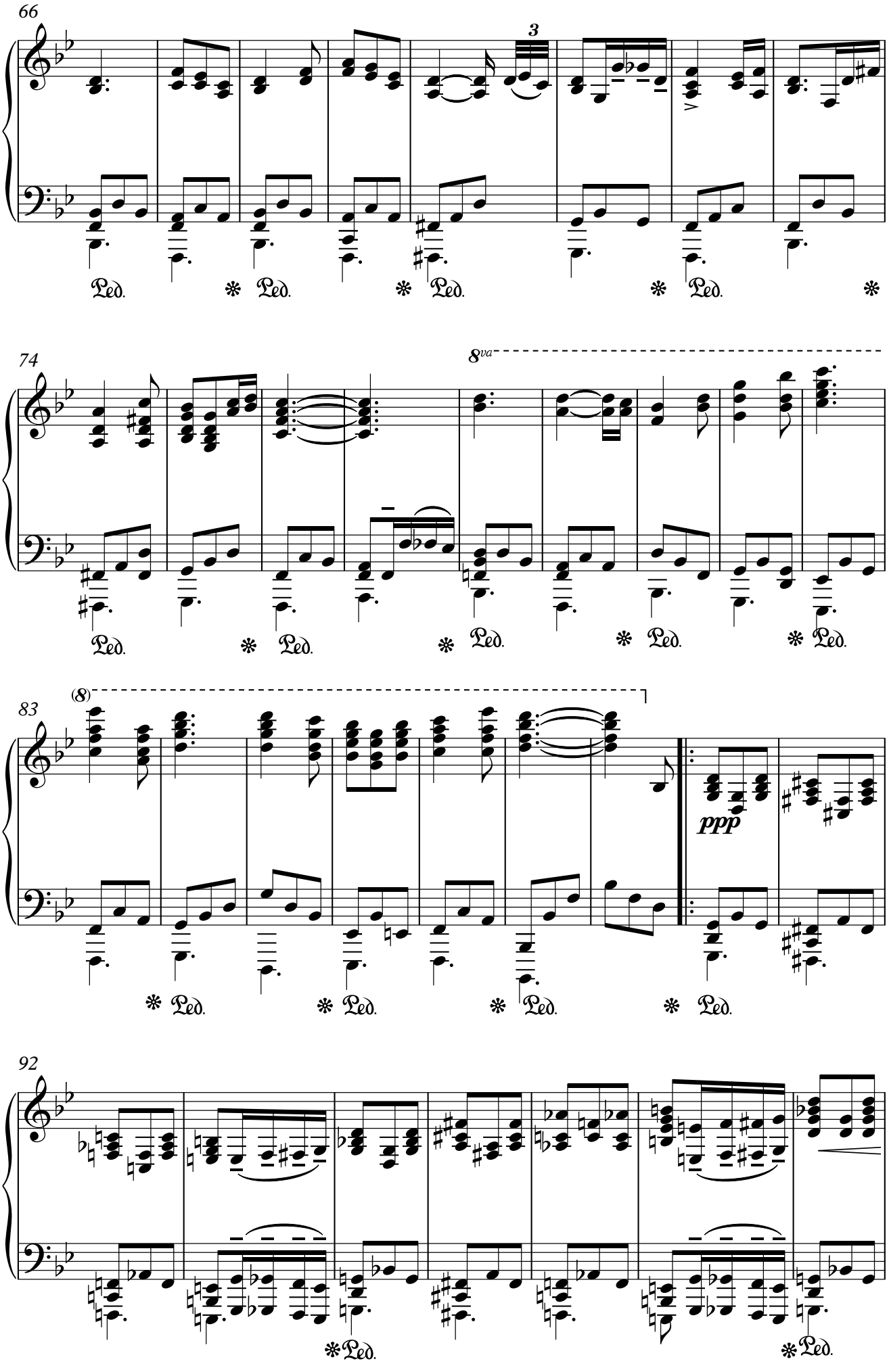
in B-flat major, Op. 2u

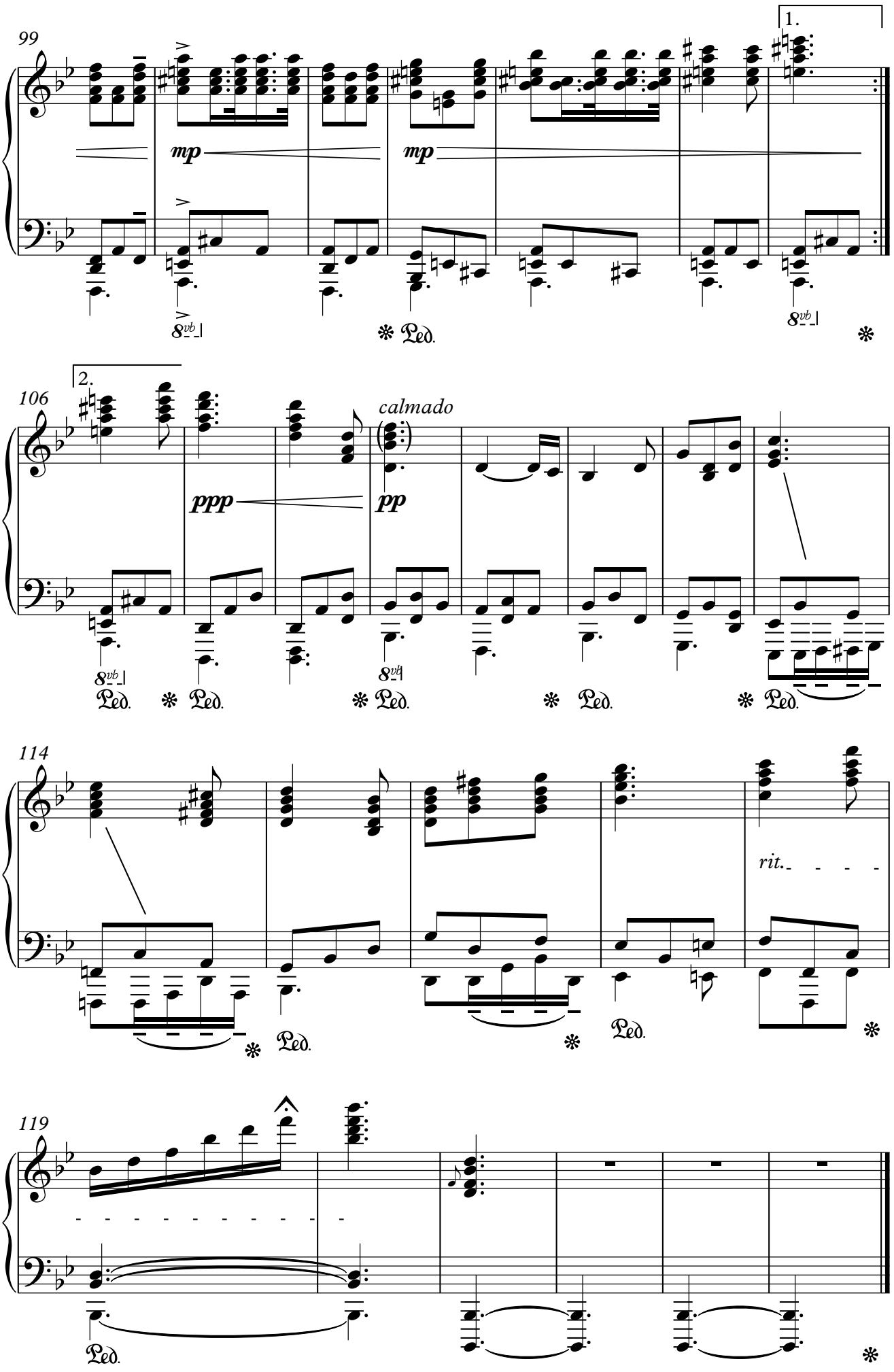
Largo appassionato e cantabile ♩. = 25

Steven O'Brien




36
8va
3
44
(8)
1.
3
2.
52
(8)
8va
8va
12
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
58
pp
3
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

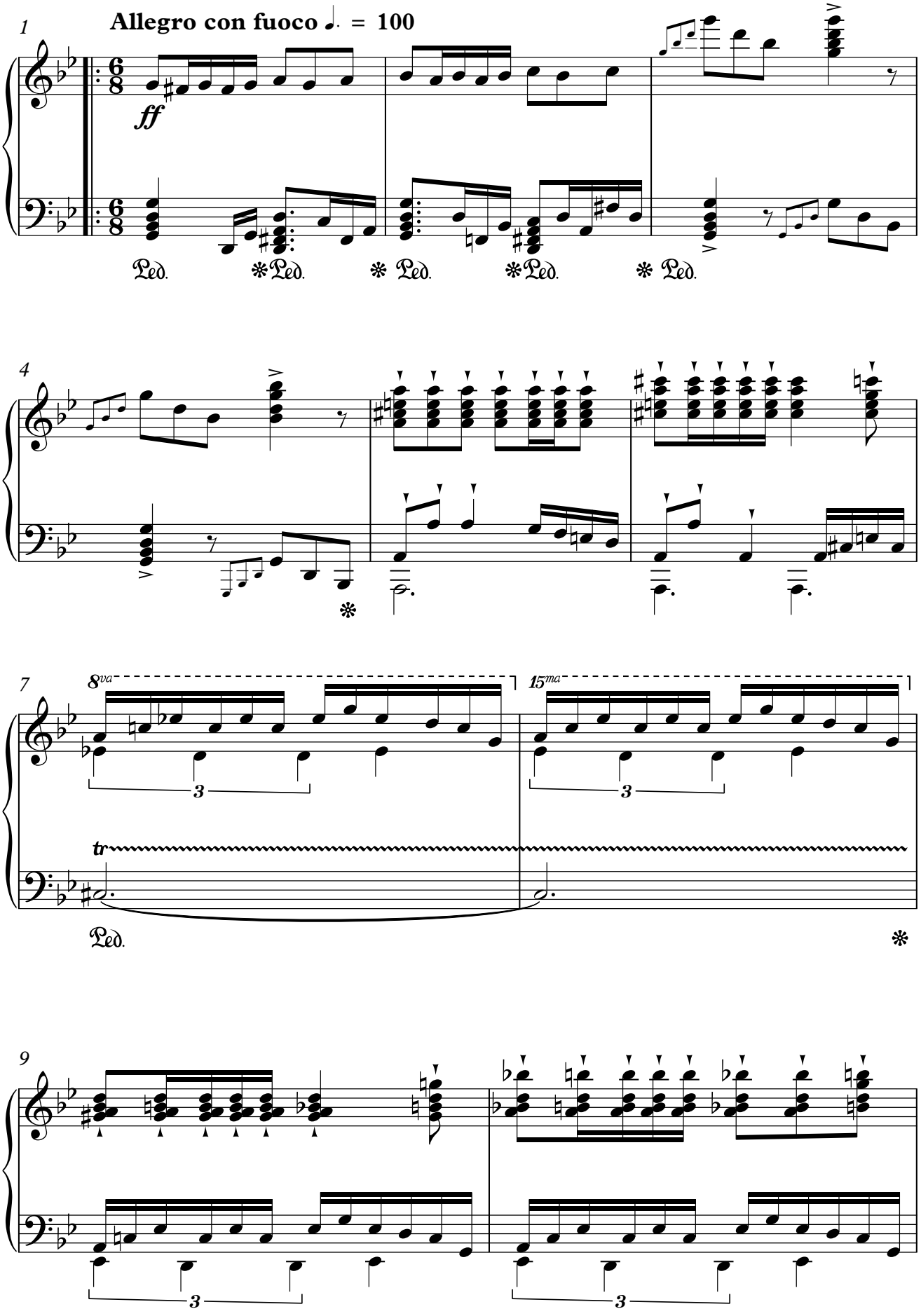

66
3
Ped.
74
8va
83
(8)
ppp
92

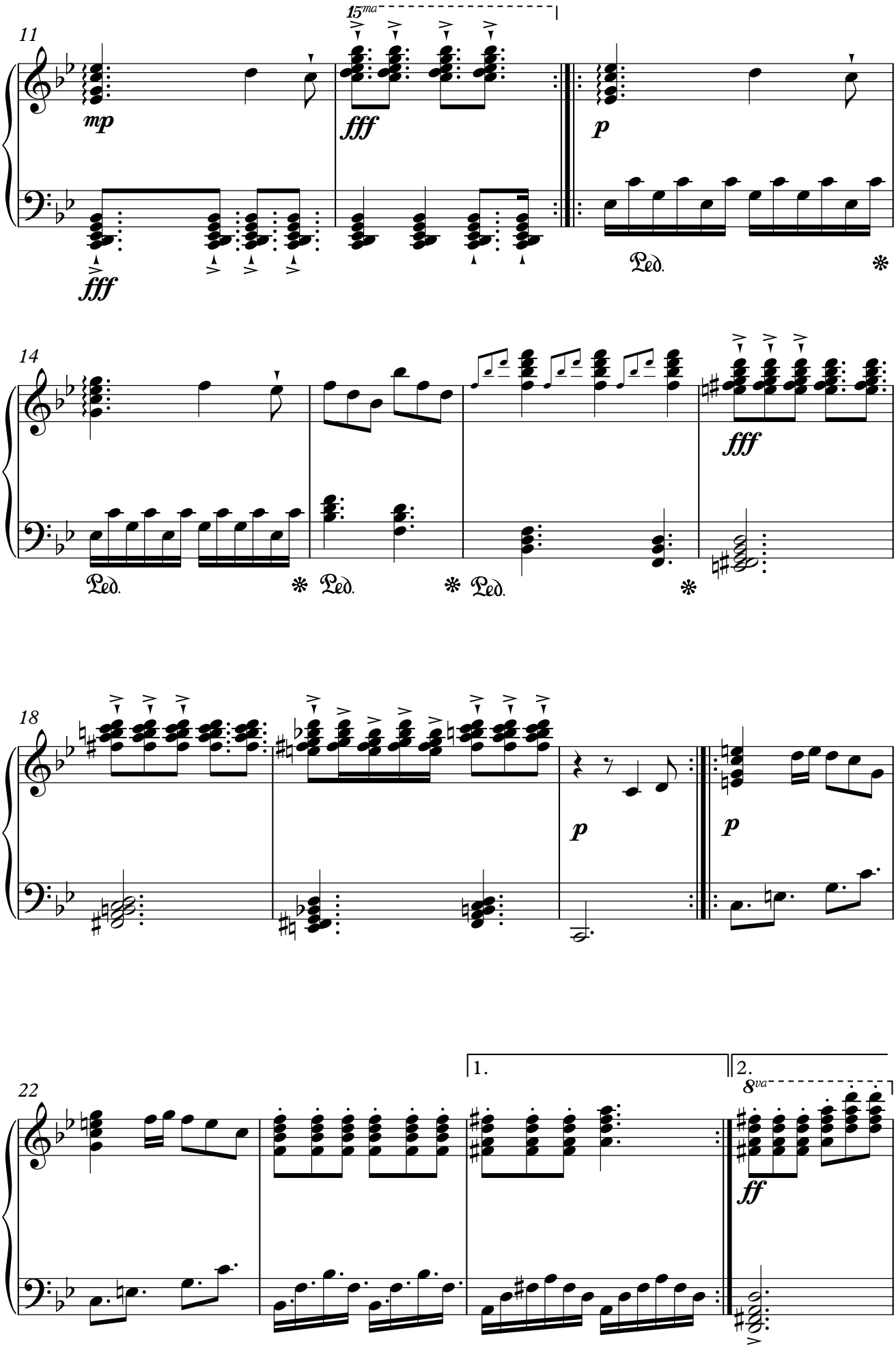

99
1.
mp
mp
8vb
Ped.
106
2.
calmado
ppp
pp
8vb
Ped.
114
rit.
Ped.
119
Ped.

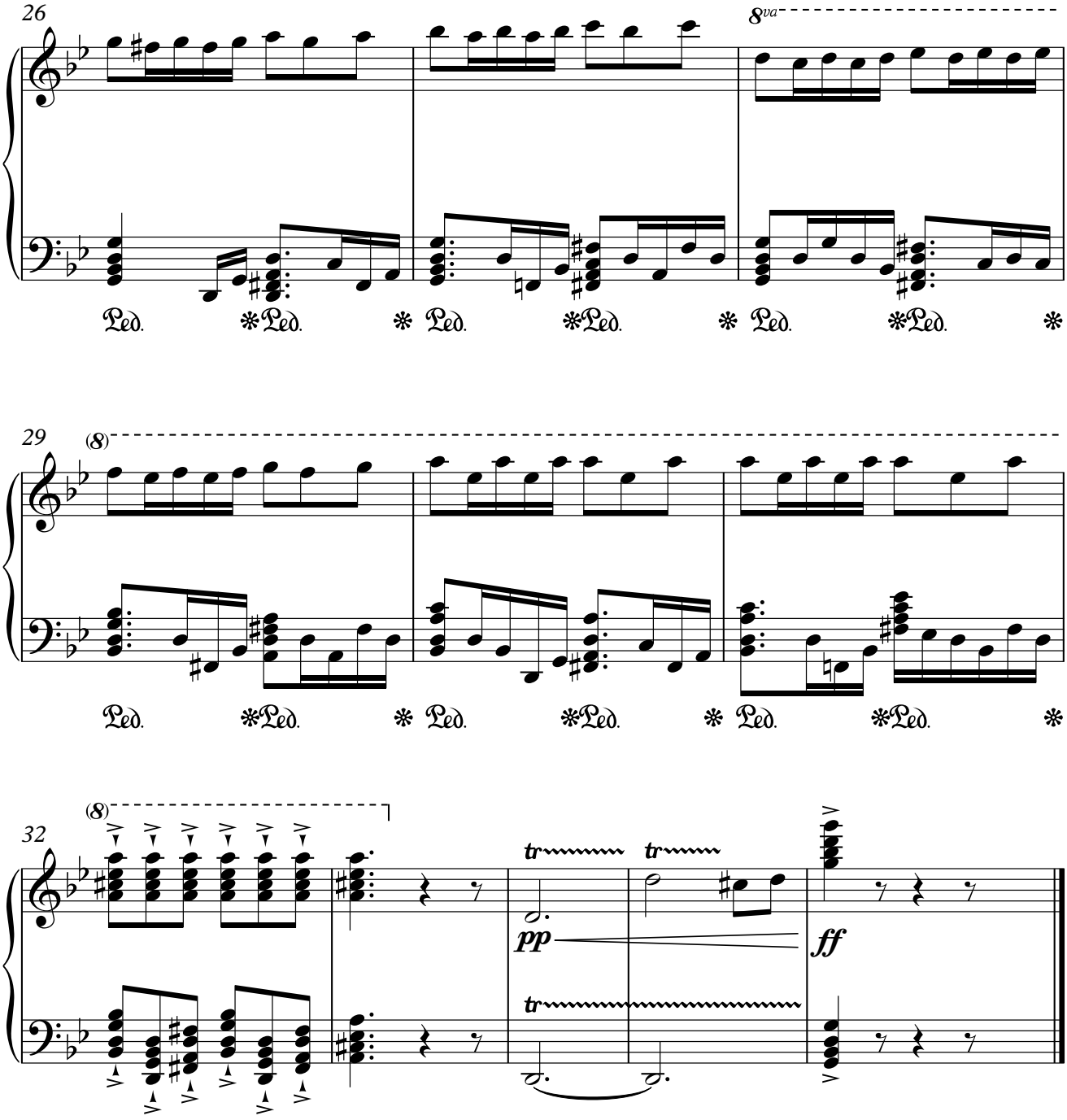
Prelude No. 22

in G minor, Op. 2v

Steven O'Brien



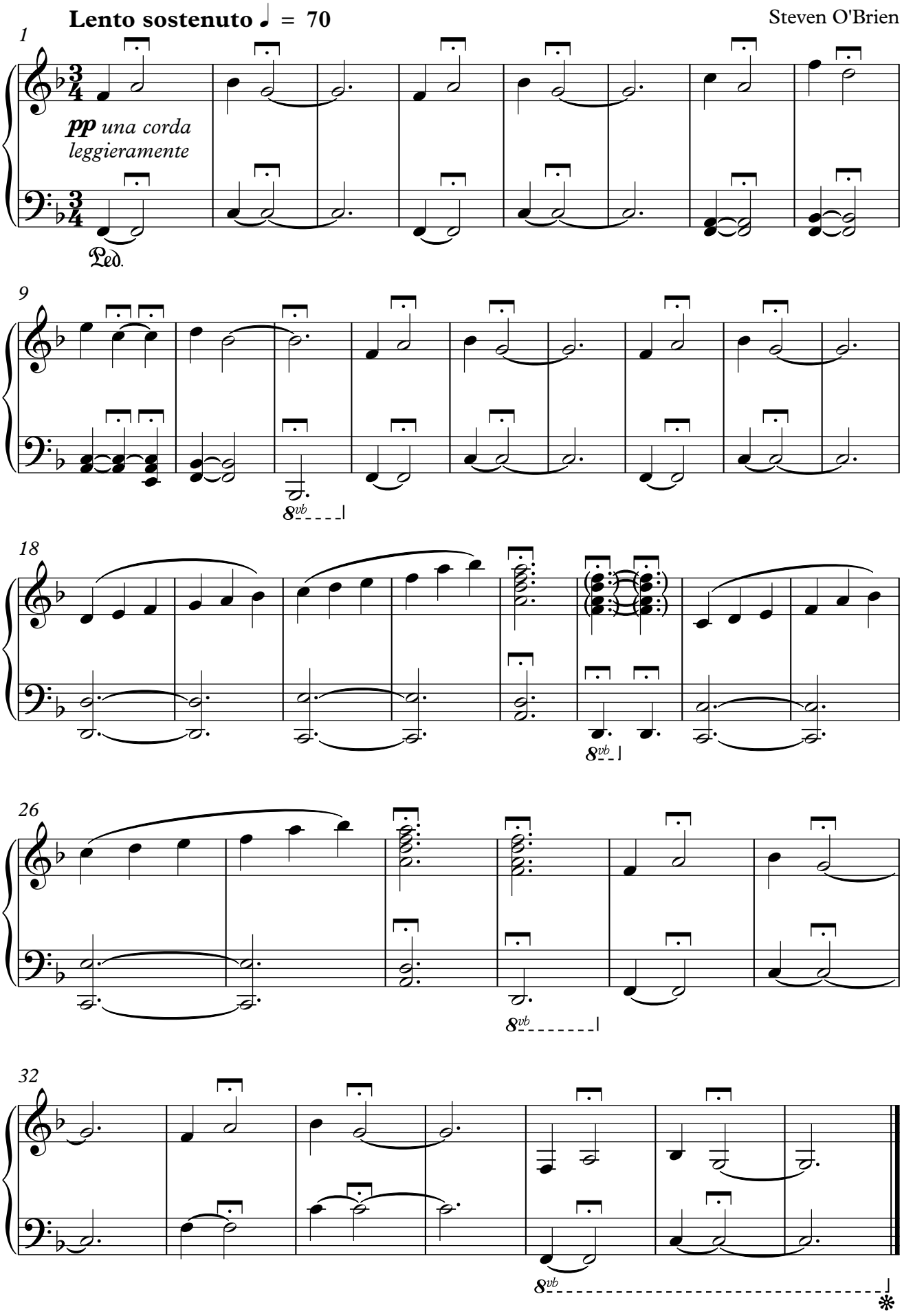

11
15ma
mp
fff
fff
p
Ped.
14
fff
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
18
p
p
22
1.
2.
8va
ff


26
8va
Ped.
29
(8)
32
(8)
tr
pp
ff

Prelude No. 23

in F major, Op. 2w

Steven O'Brien

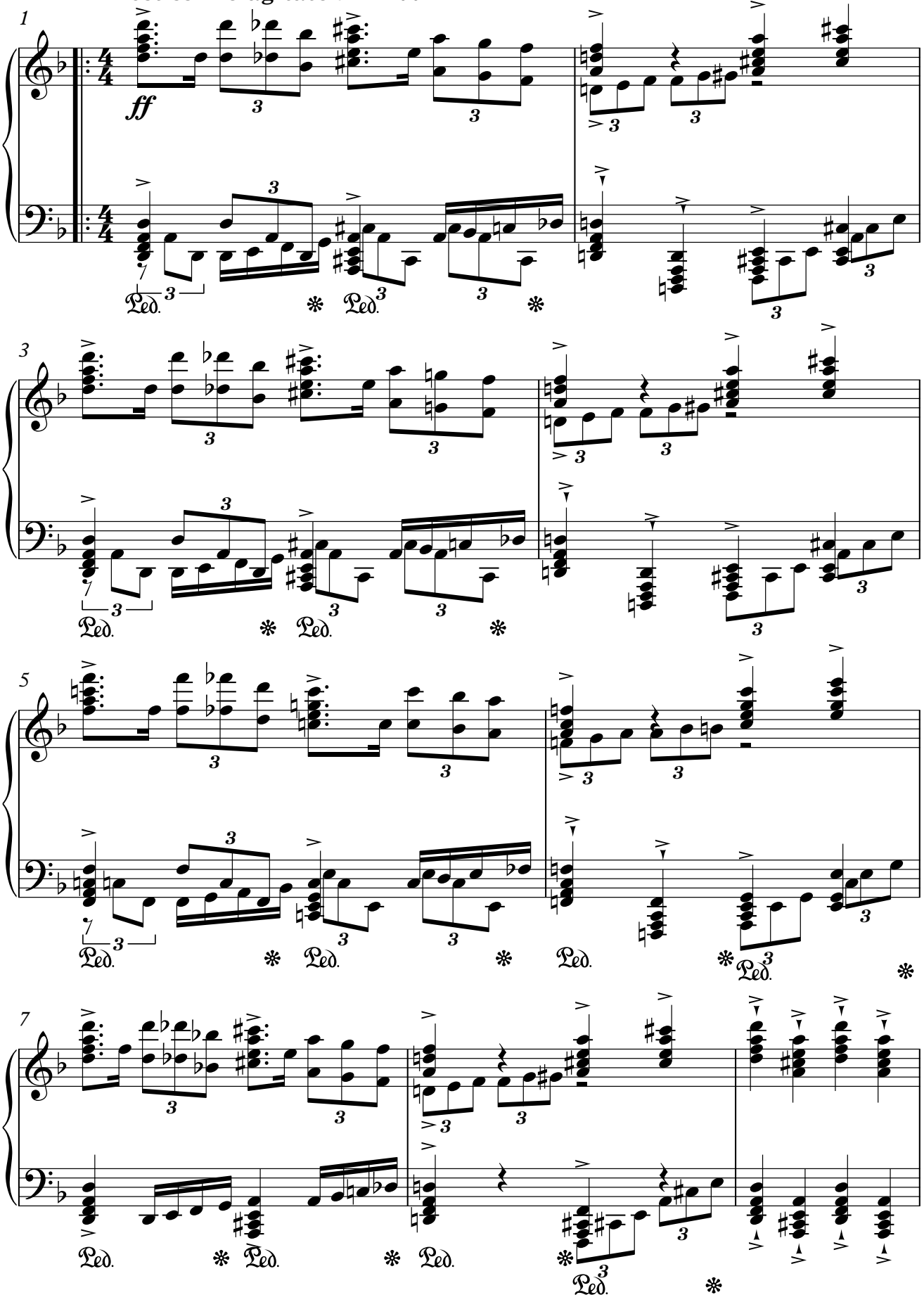


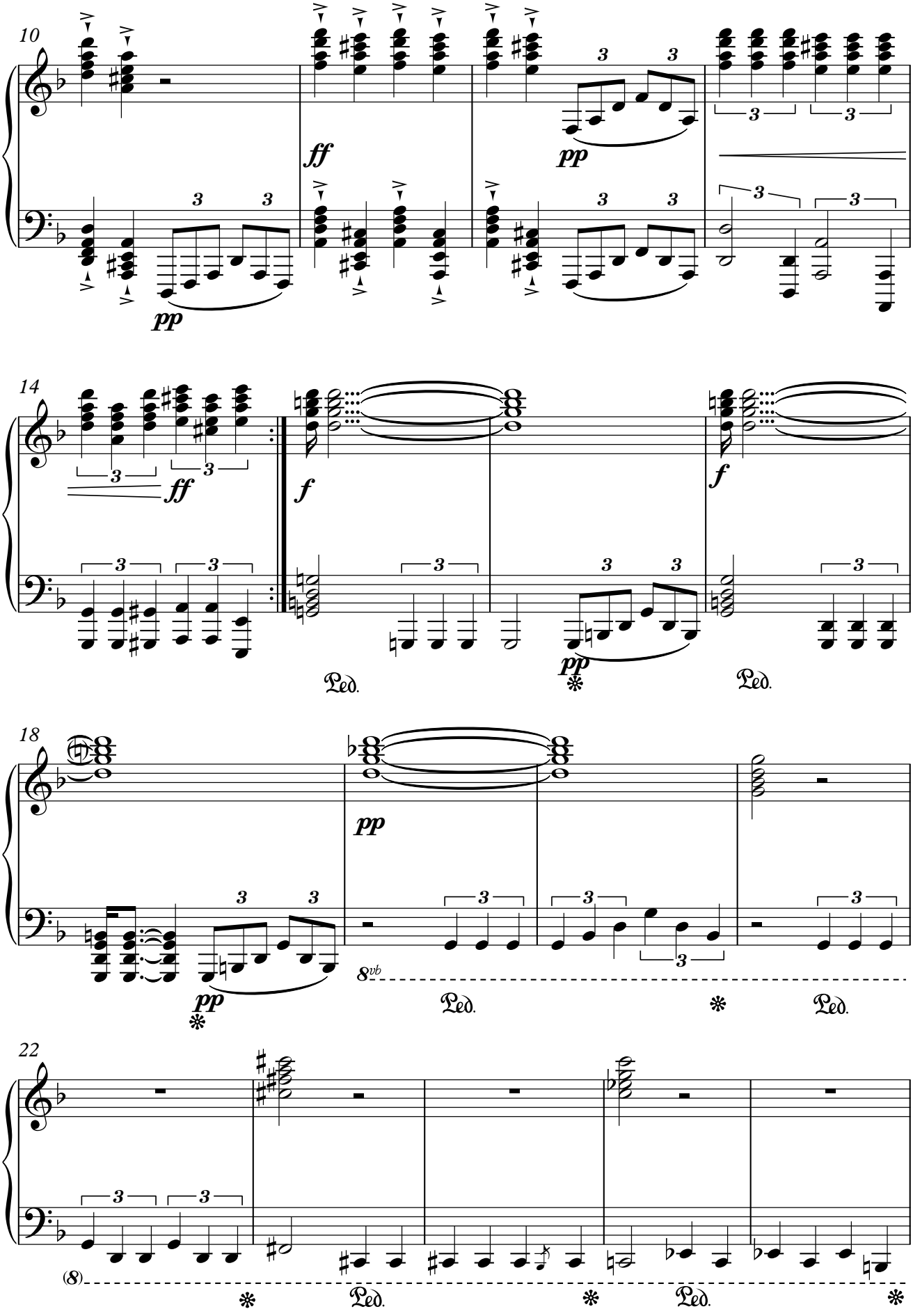
Prelude No. 24

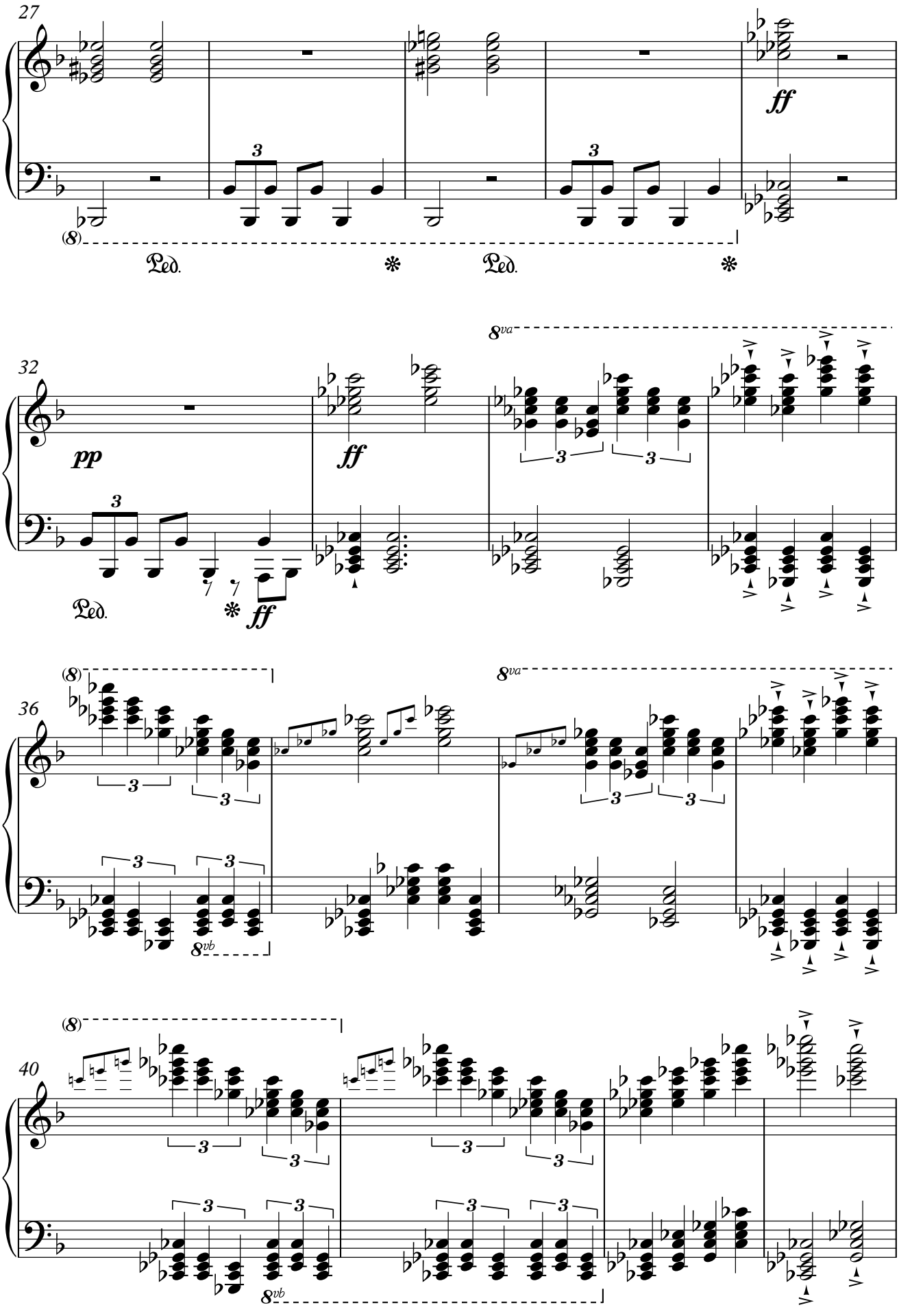
in D minor, Op. 2x

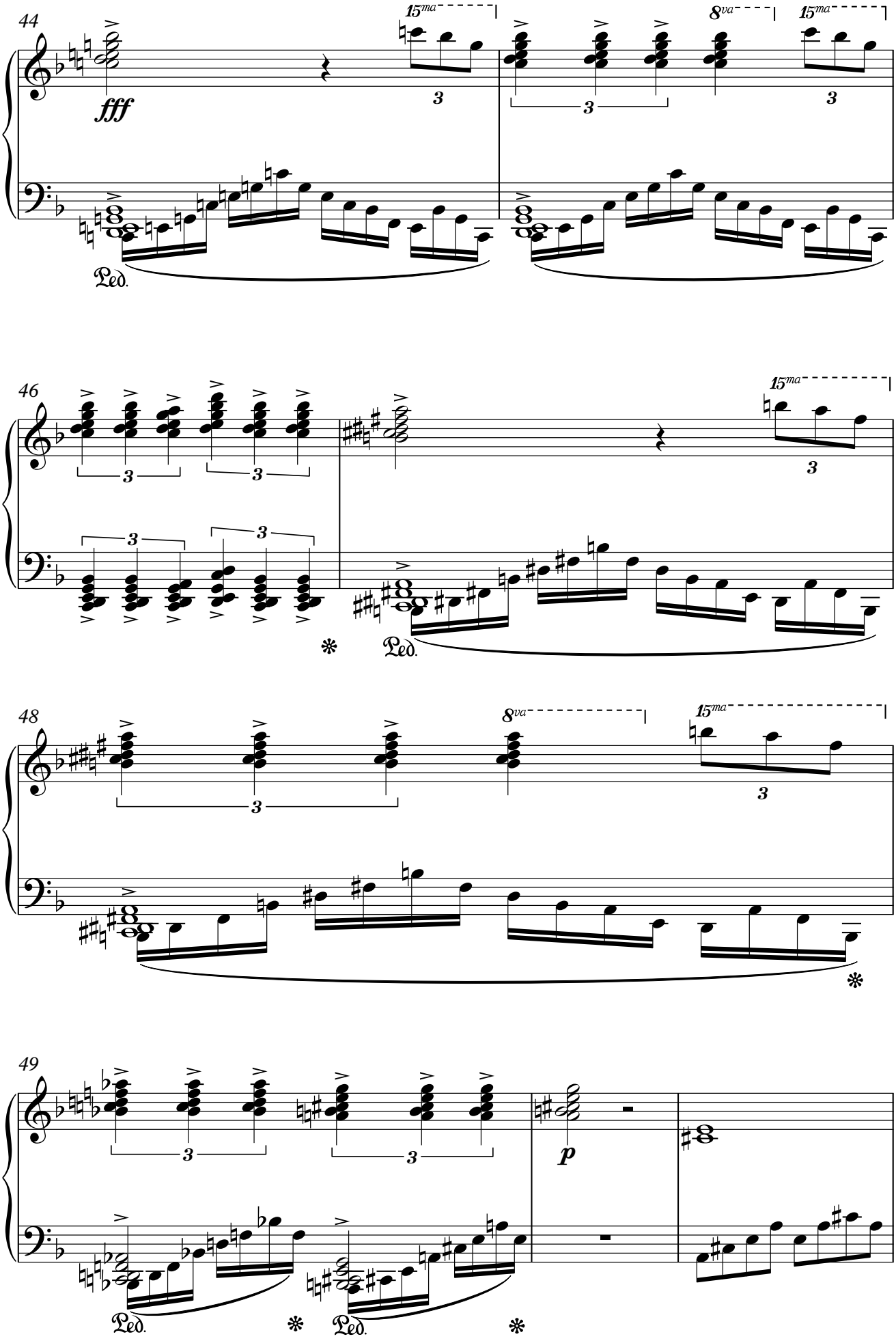
Steven O'Brien

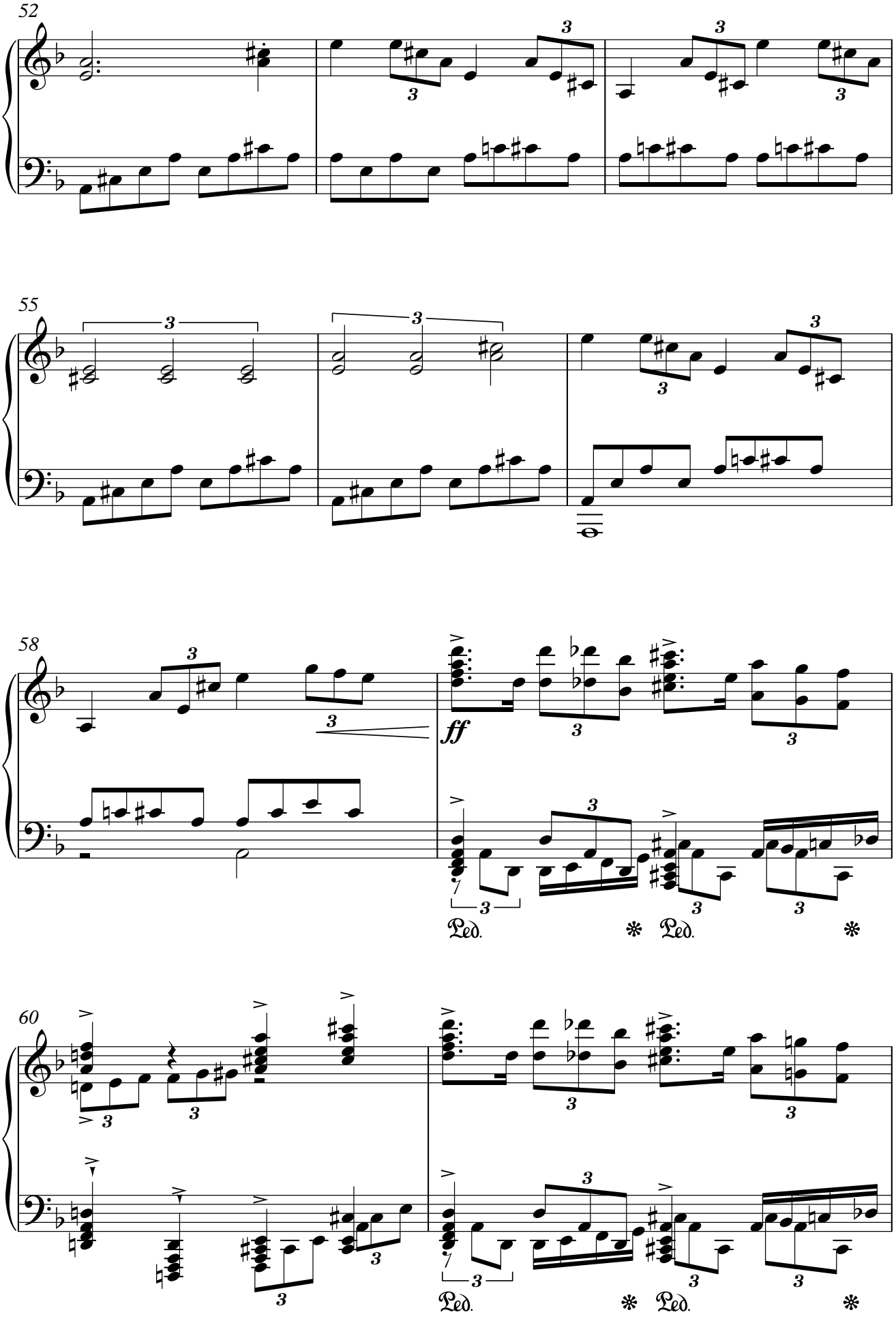
Prestissimo agitato ♩ = 100

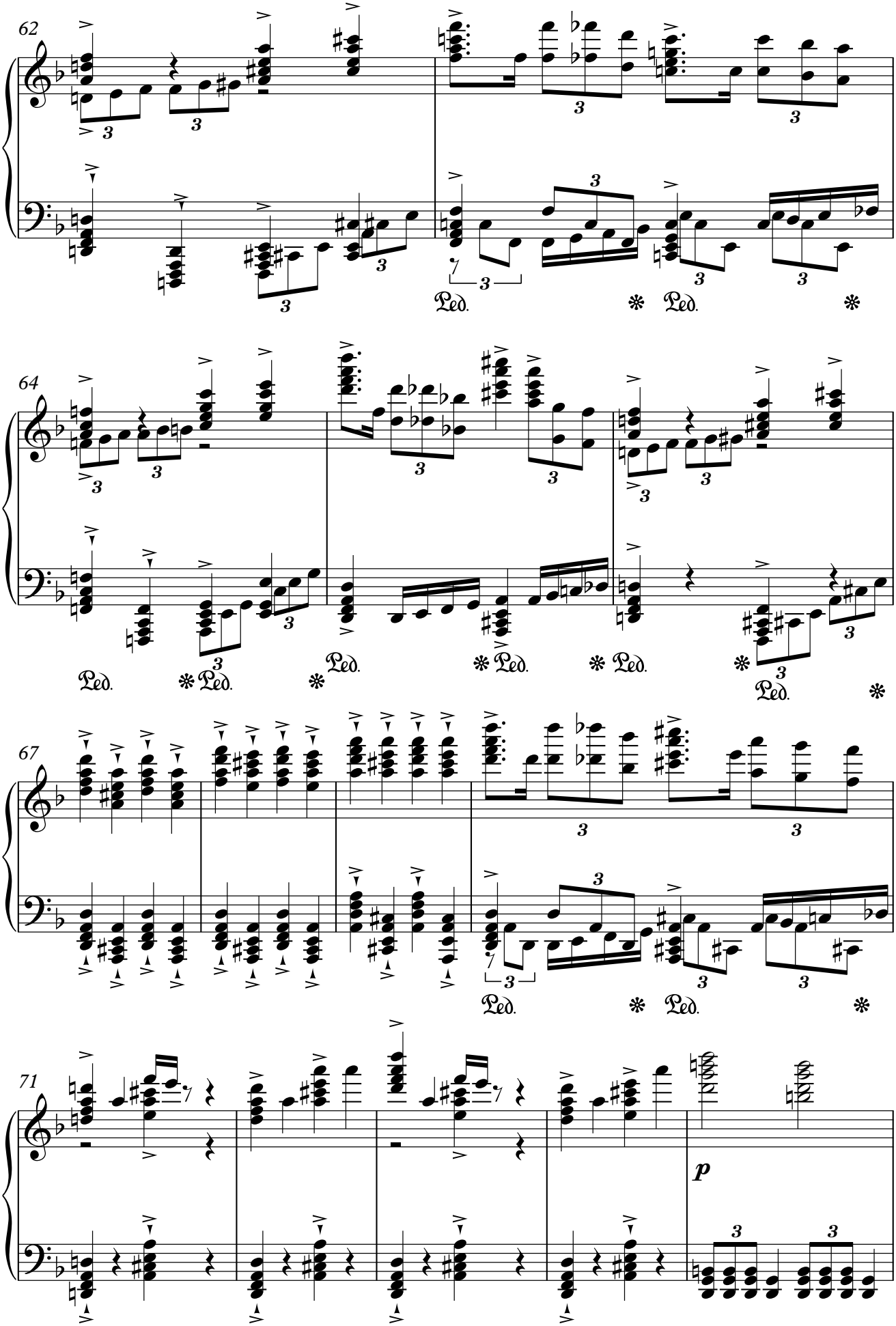


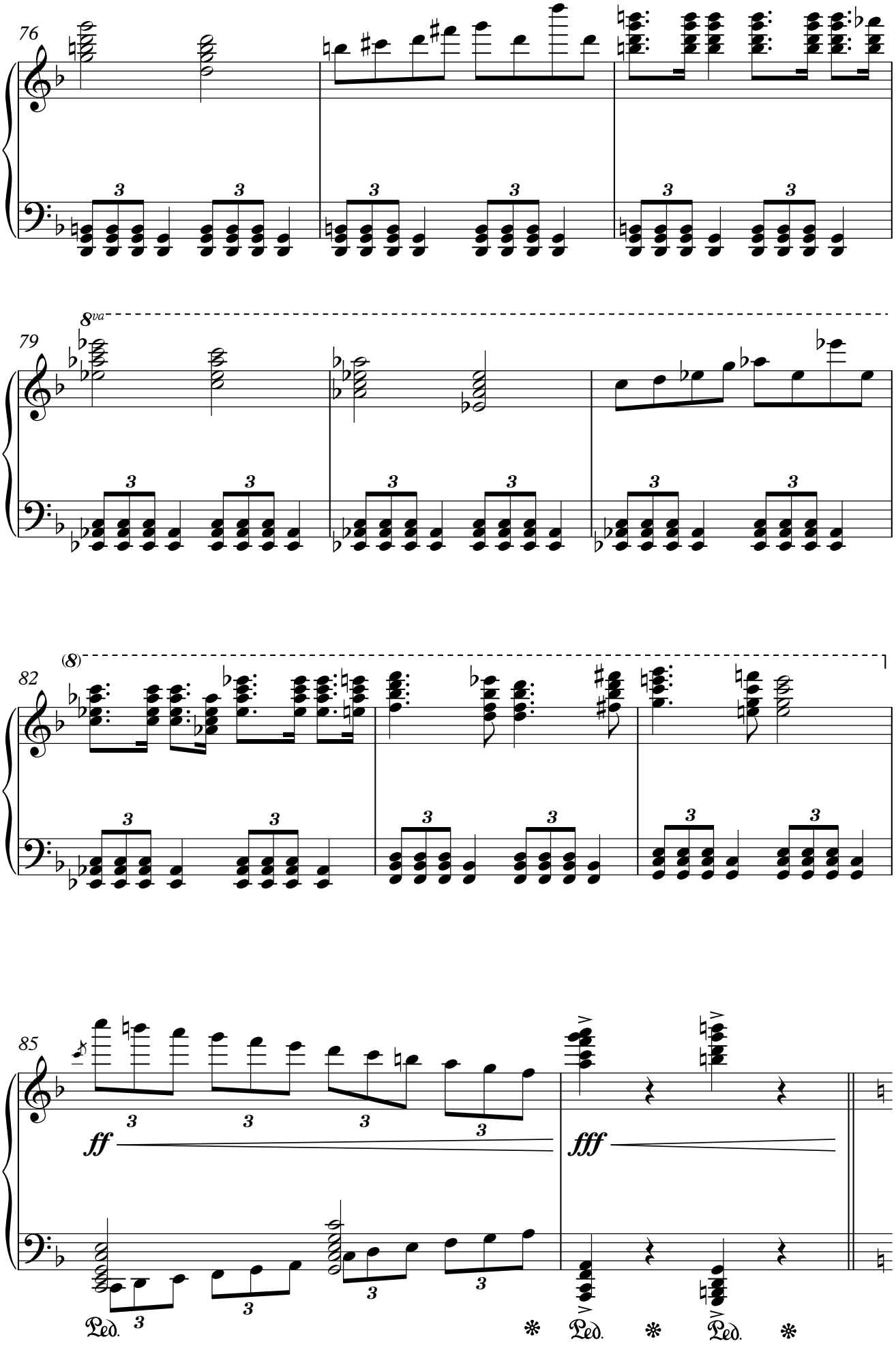

10
ff
pp
pp
14
ff
f
f
pp
Ped.
Ped.
18
pp
pp
8vb
Ped.
Ped.
22
(8)
Ped.
Ped.

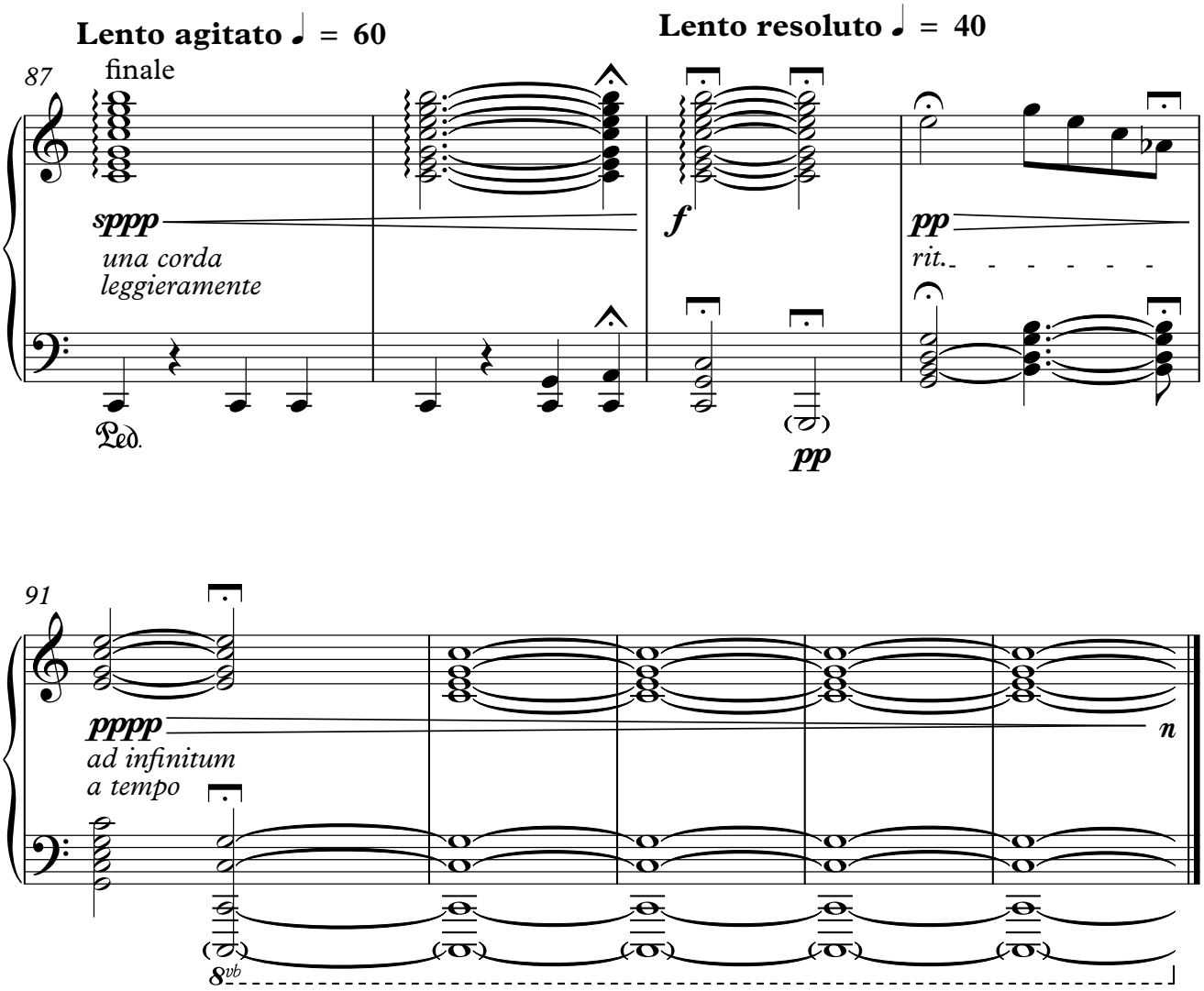

27
ff
Ped.
Ped.
32
pp
ff
Ped.
ff
8va
36
8va
8vb
40
8vb


44
fff
15ma
8va
15ma
Ped.
46
15ma
Ped.
48
8va
15ma
49
p
Ped.
Ped.


52
55
58
ff
Ped.
60
Ped.


62
Ped.
64
Ped.
67
Ped.
71
p


76
8va
79
(8)
82
85
ff
fff
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.



If available, play C0