# Maurice RAVEL

*à mon cher Maître Gabriel FAURÉ*

# JEUX d'EAU

Piano Practical Editions
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Ray Alston : contact@pianopracticaleditions.com

# Maurice RAVEL 1875 - 1937

## JEUX d'EAU

*à Gabriel FAURÉ*

A fairly early pianistic gem inspired by Liszt — *les jeux d'eau à la Villa d'Este* — and this is how the composer writes of its genesis : « *the sound of water and the musical effects heard from jets, waterfalls, cascades and streams...*» In English the title translates as *"Fountains"*, or described as water features in gardens, such as those at the palace of Versailles.

Ravel's teacher and dedicatee held this piece in great esteem; a deservedly successful work, gaining great success rapidly and establishing Ravel's personality and style. It was first performed in 1902 and its musical essence much influenced his contemporaries.

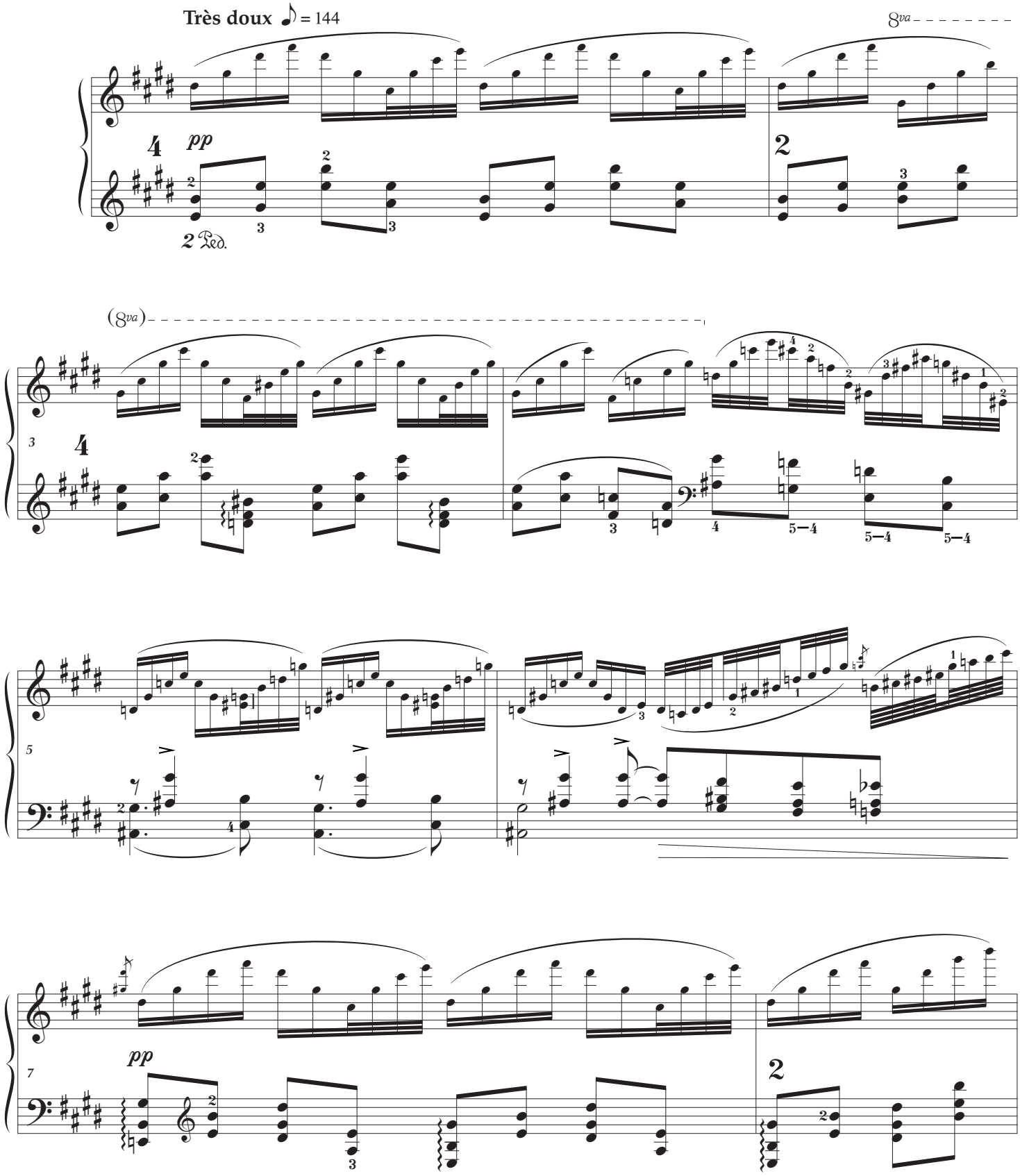
Quoted in the first edition manuscript by Ravel is a short French text by Henri de Régnier: "*the river god laughs as the water tickles him ...*" Such wonderful music richly evoking the movement and subtlety of water, original and unmatched at the beginning of the twentieth century.

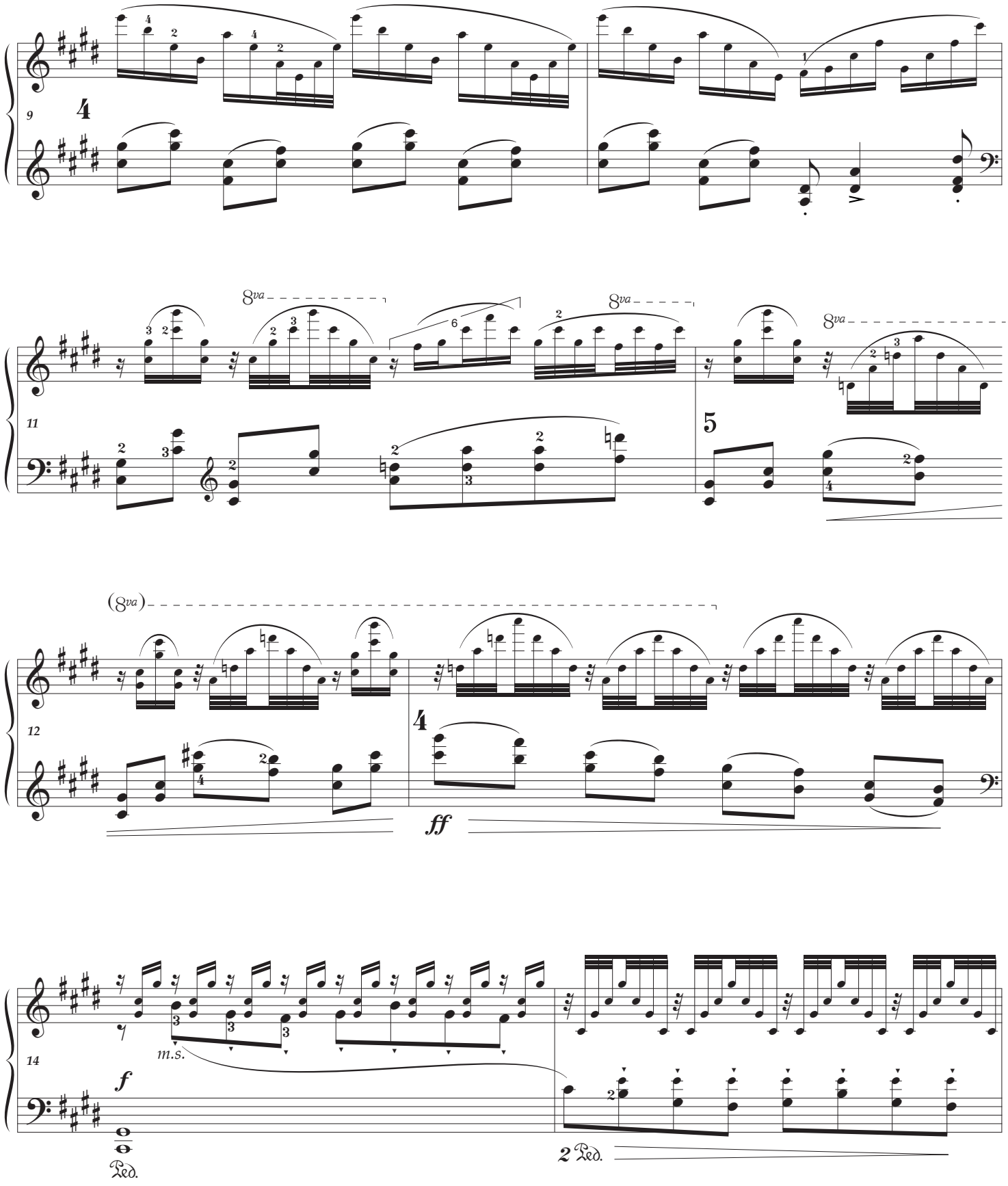
***Versailles — le Bassin de Neptune***

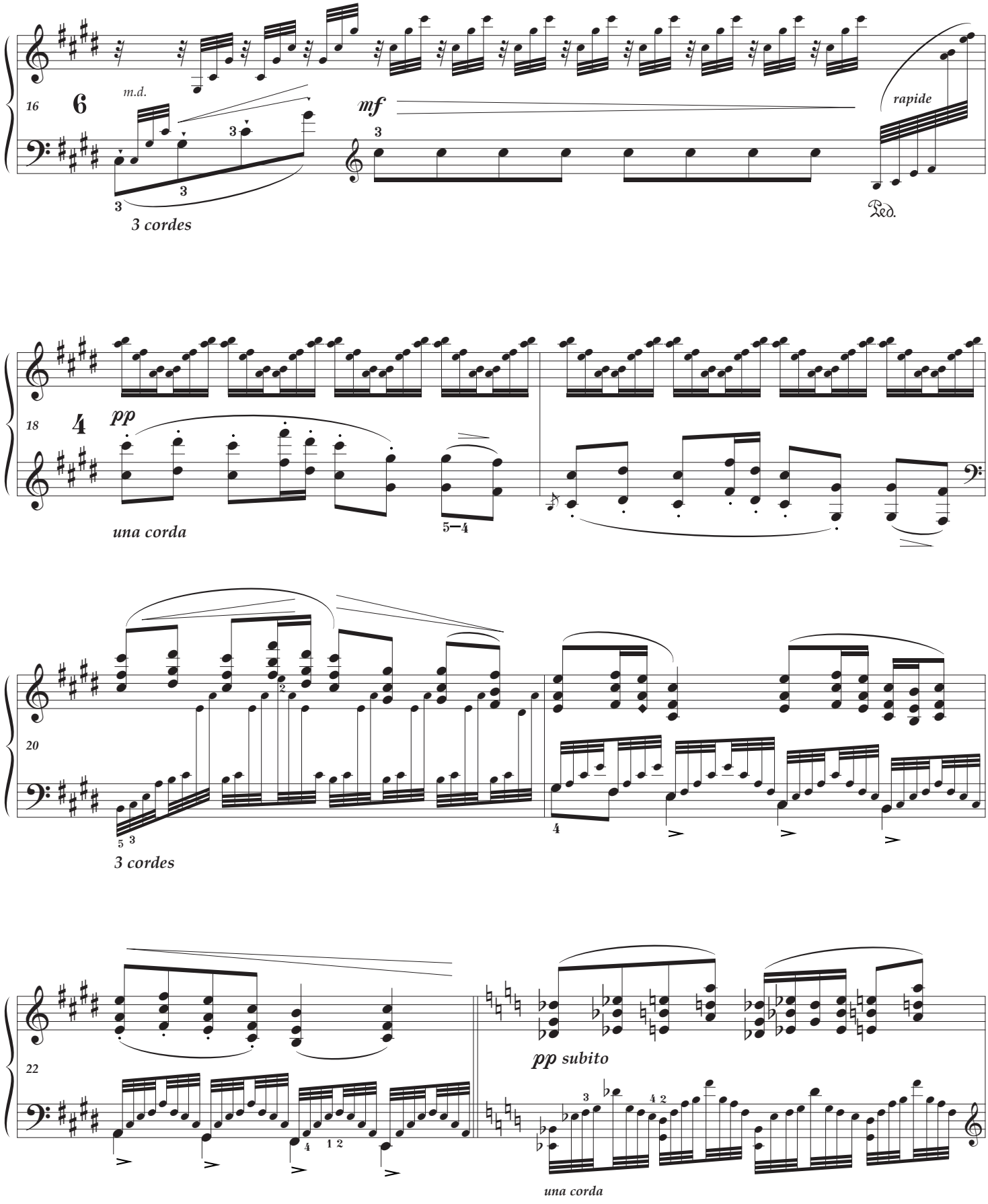
*à mon cher Maître Gabriel FAURÉ*

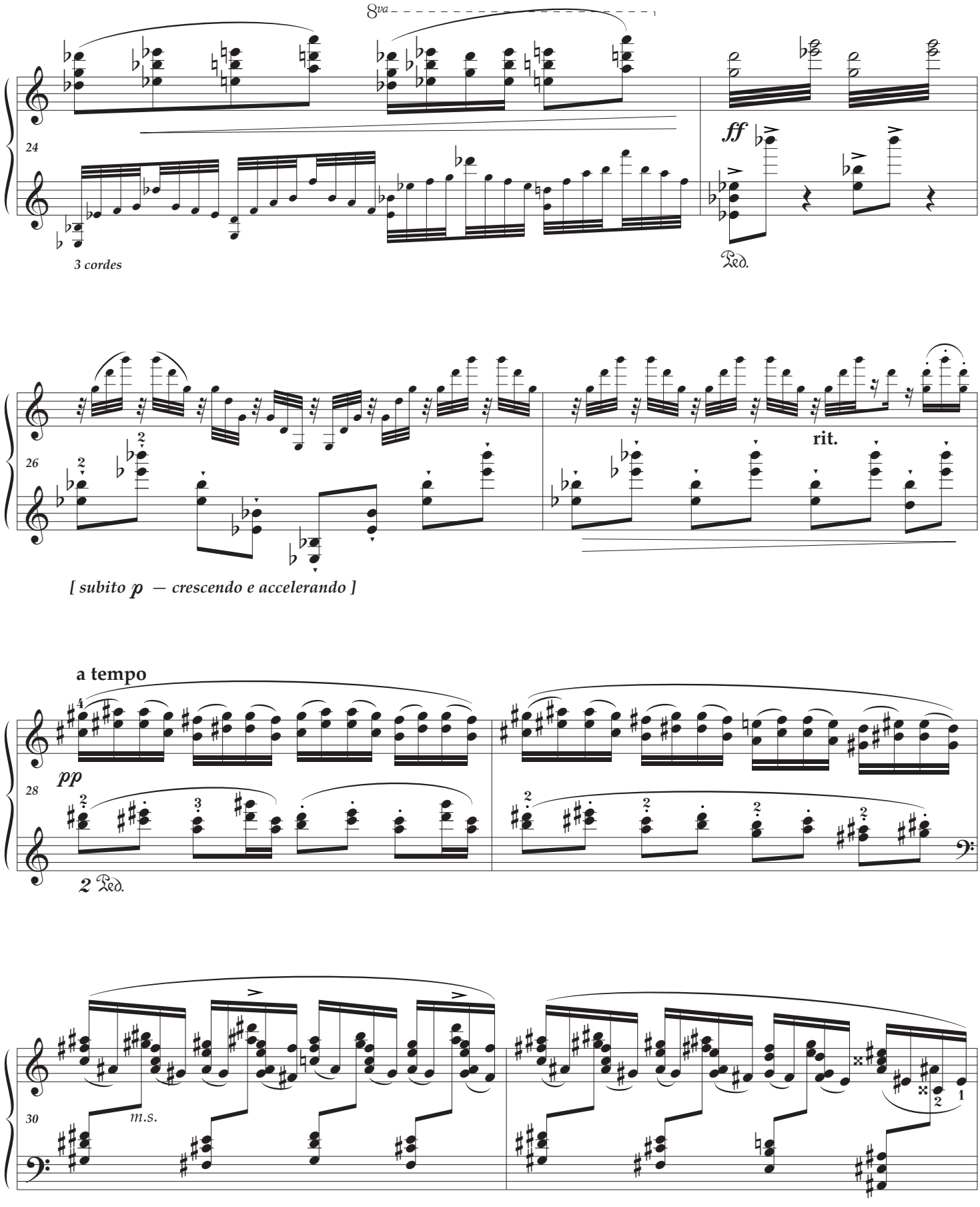
# JEUX D'EAU

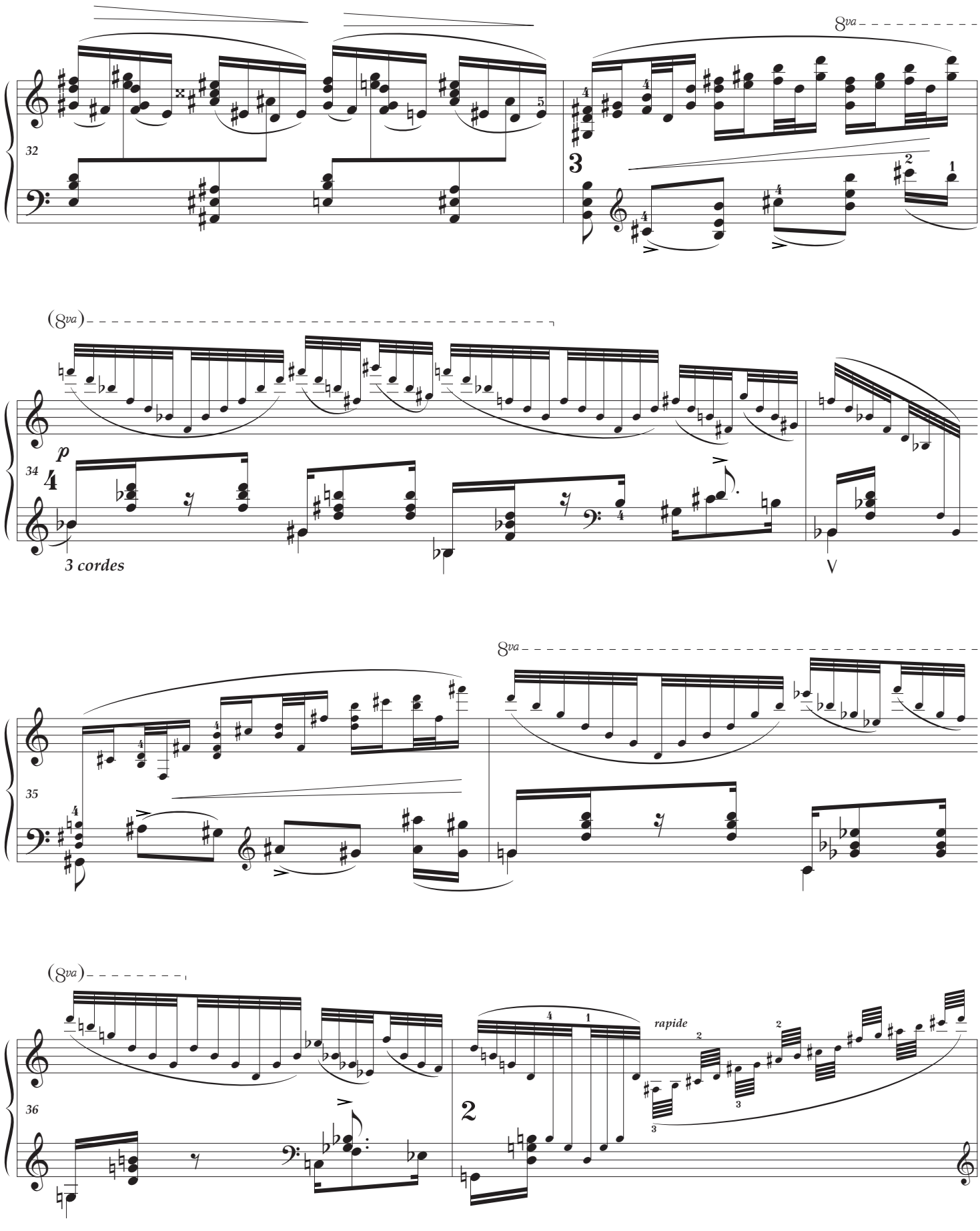
*« Dieu fluvial riant de l'eau qui le chatouille »*
*Henri de Régnier*

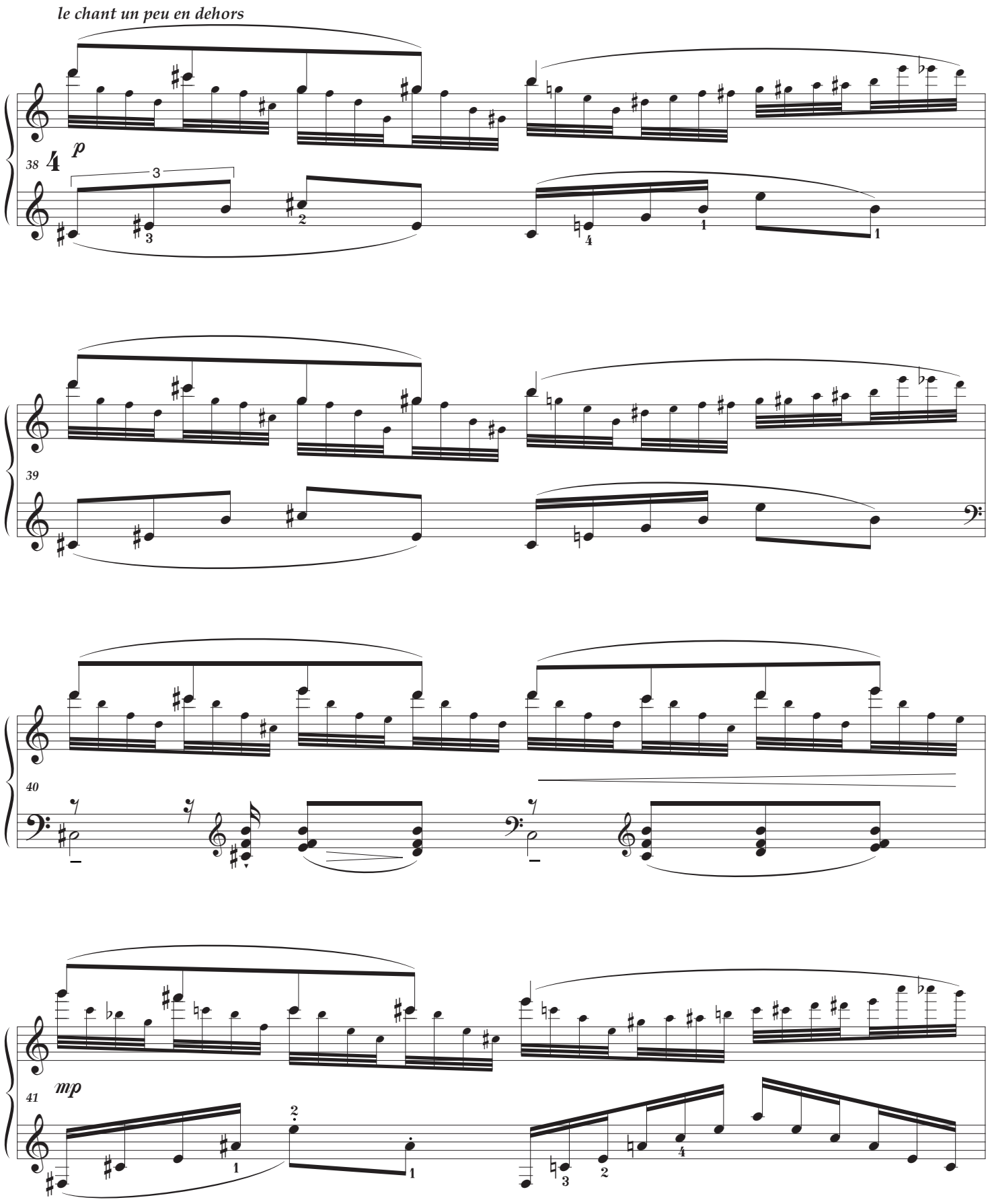


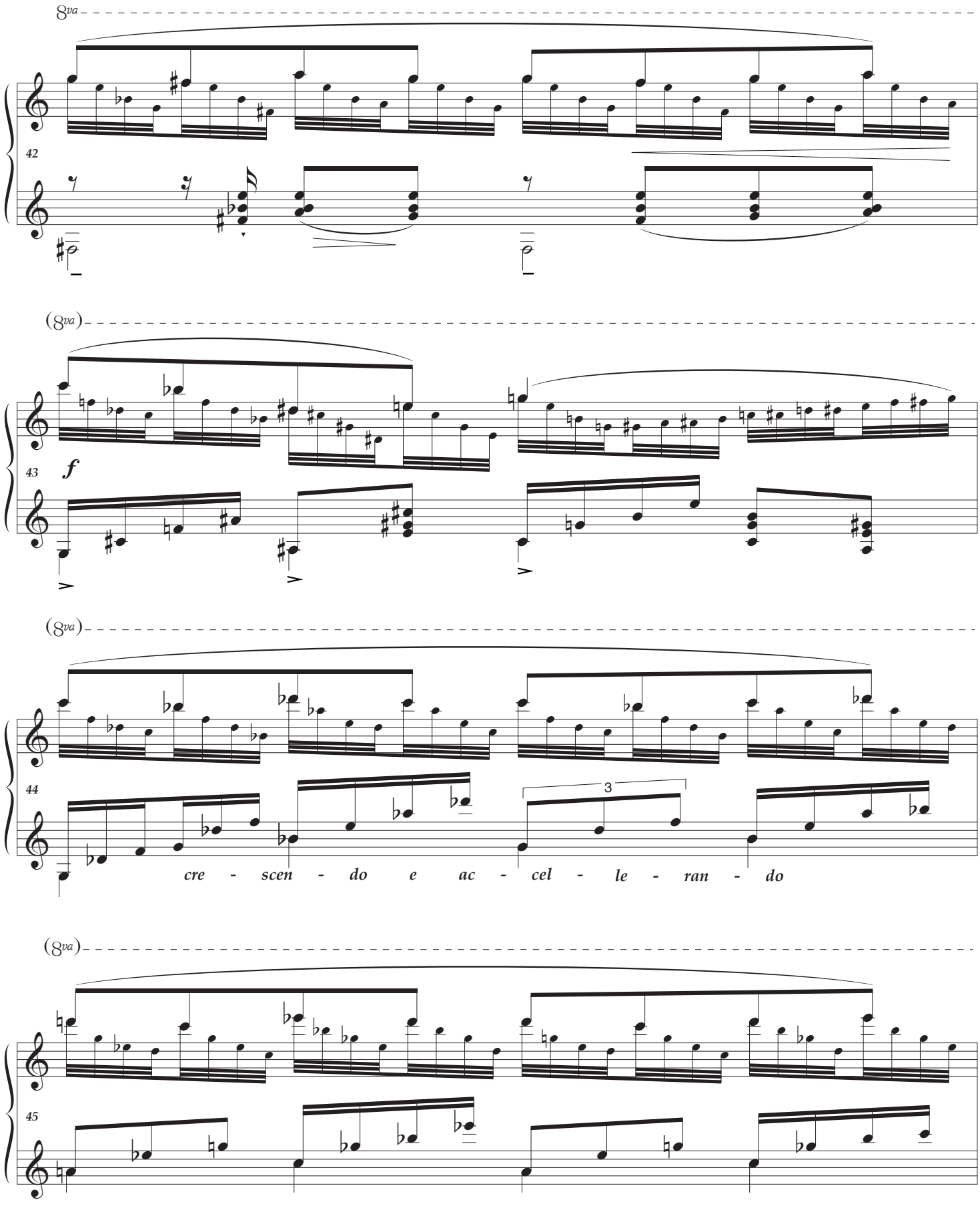

9
4
11
8va
5
(8va)
12
4
ff
14
m.s.
f
Ped.
2 Ped.

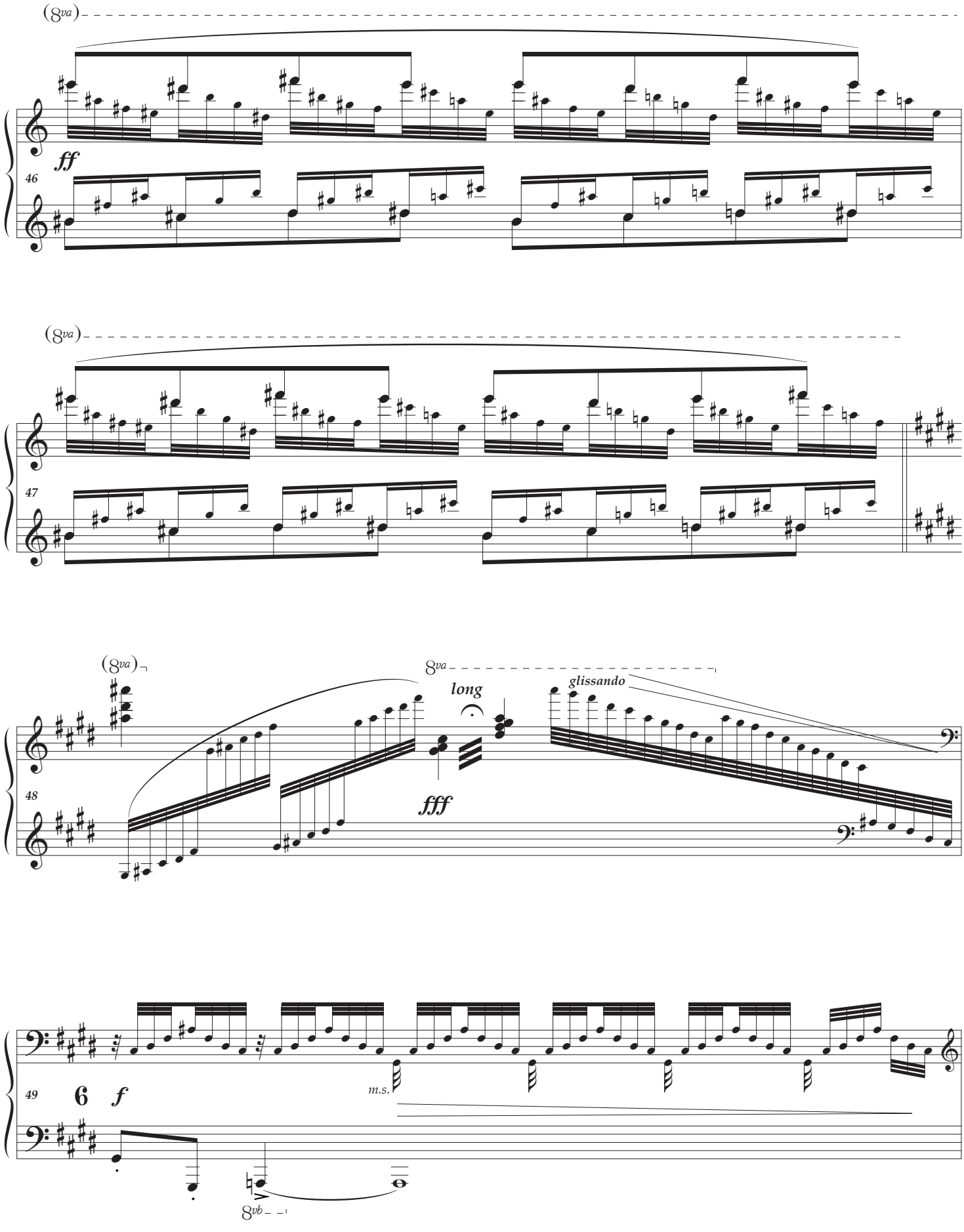

16
6
m.d.
mf
rapide
Ped.
3 cordes
18
4
pp
una corda
20
3 cordes
22
pp subito
una corda

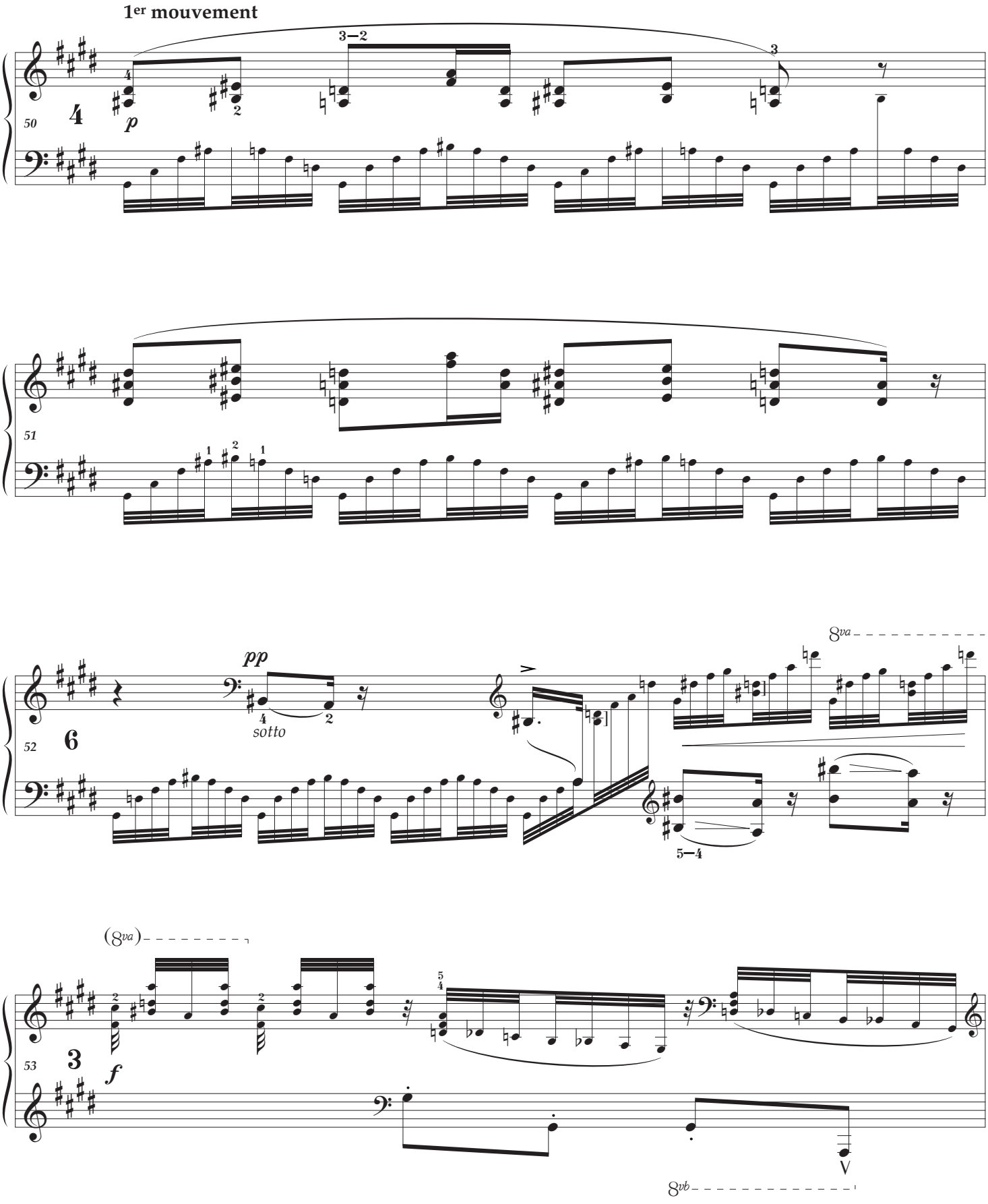

8va
24
3 cordes
ff
Ped.
26
rit.
[ subito p — crescendo e accelerando ]
a tempo
28
pp
2 Ped.
30
m.s.

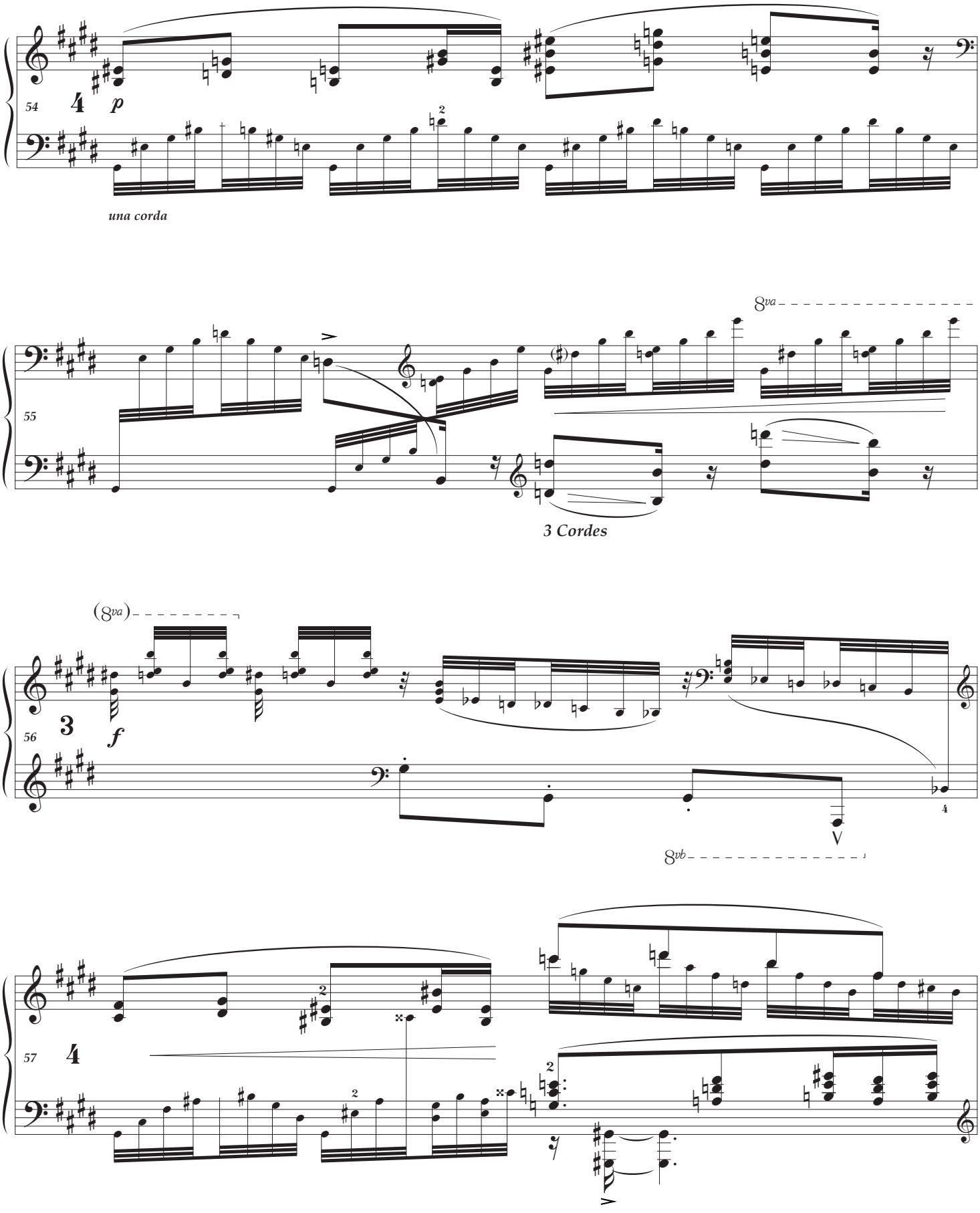

8va
32
3
(8va)
p
34
4
3 cordes
8va
35
(8va)
36
rapide
2

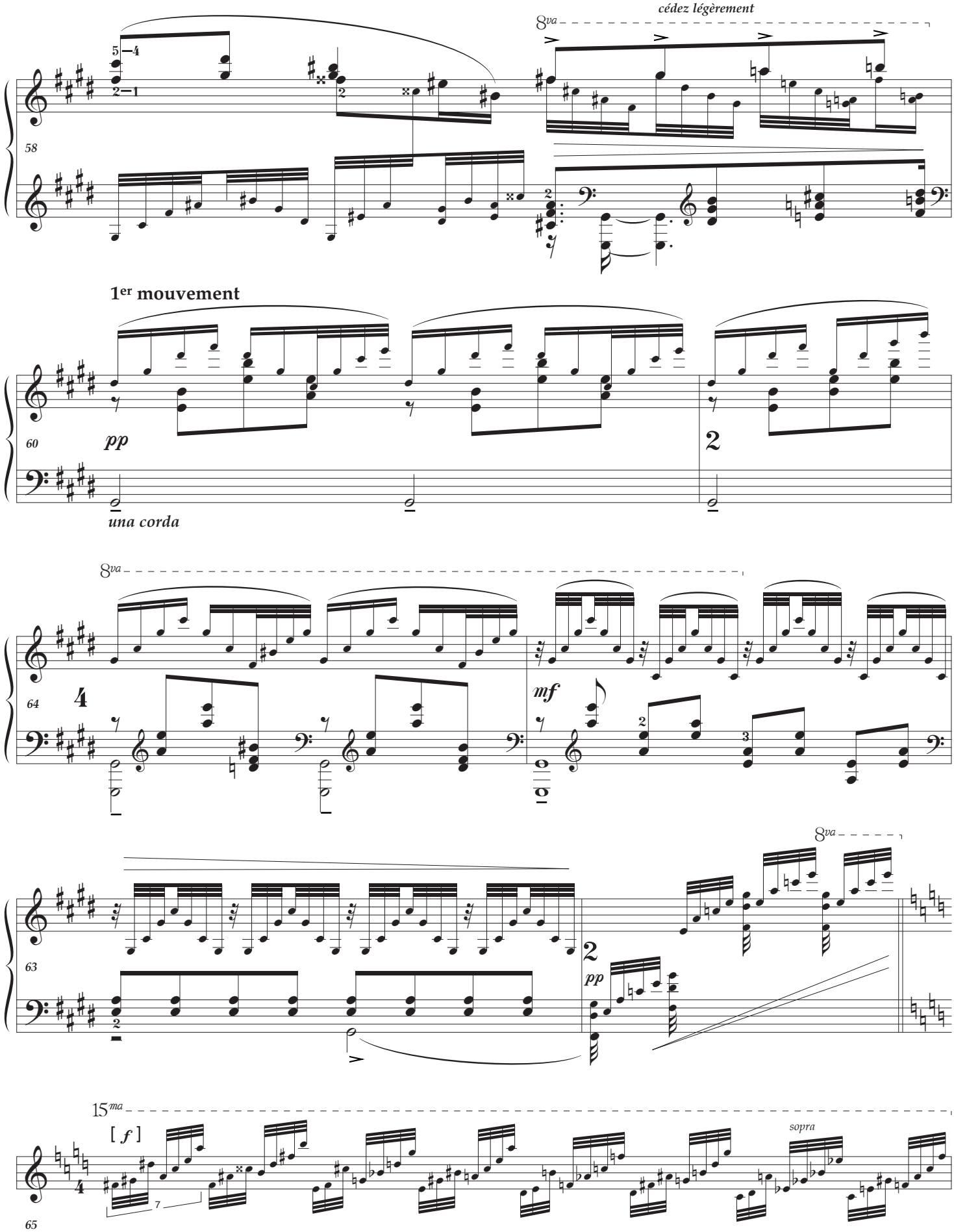

le chant un peu en dehors
p
38
39
40
mp
41

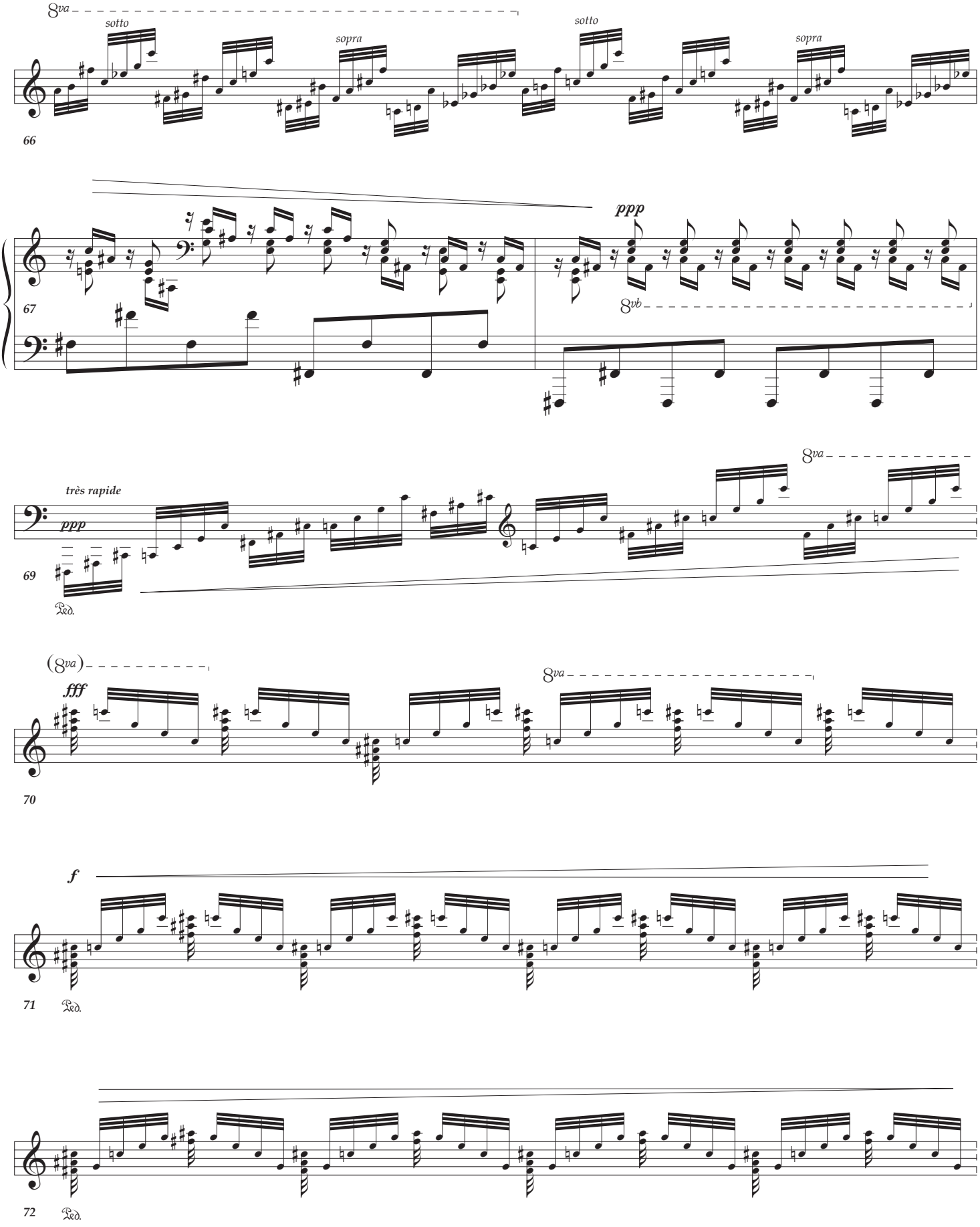

8va
42
(8va)
43
f
(8va)
44
3
cre - scen - do e ac - cel - le - ran - do
(8va)
45

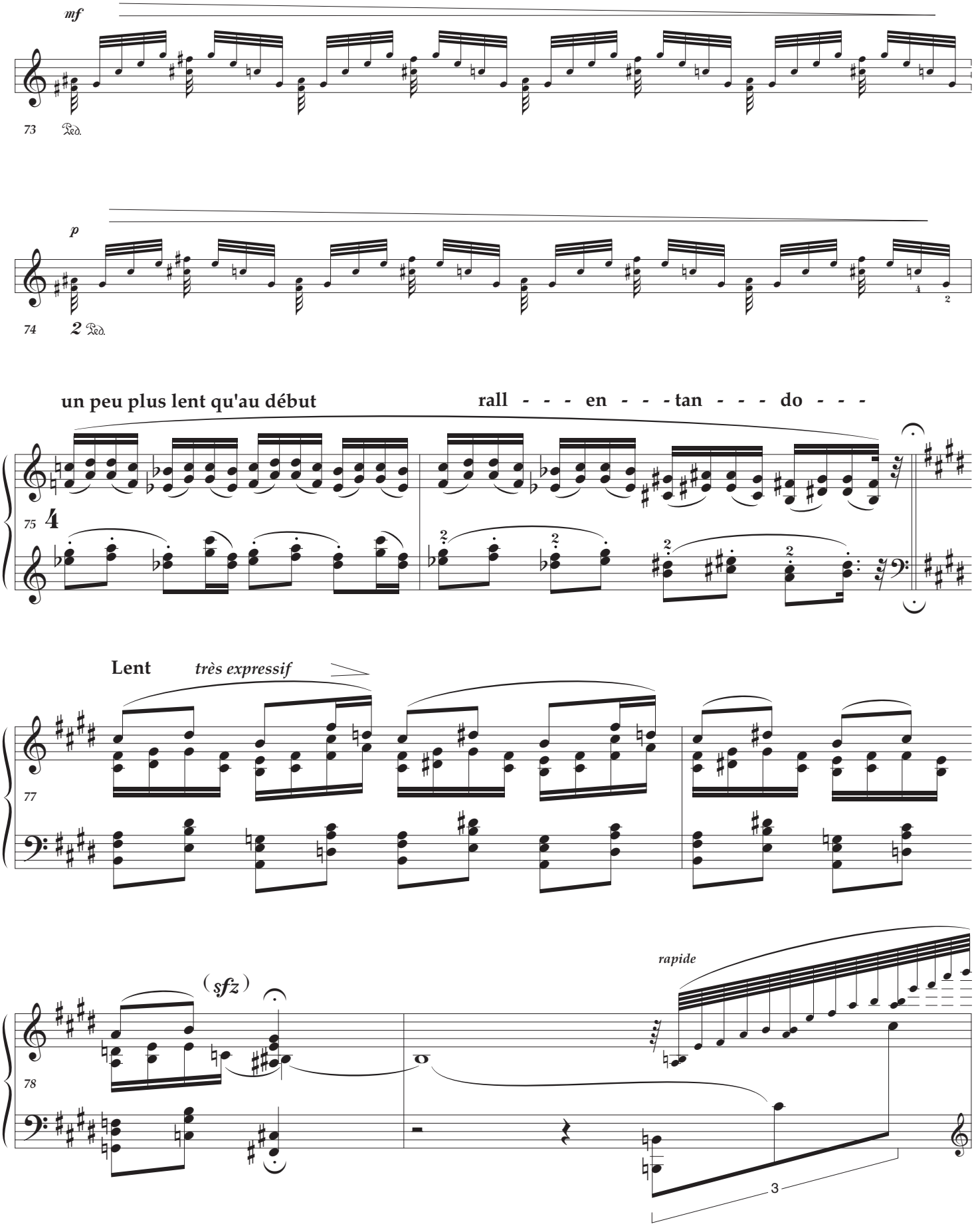

(8va)
ff
46
(8va)
47
(8va)
8va
long
glissando
fff
48
49
6
f
m.s.
8vb

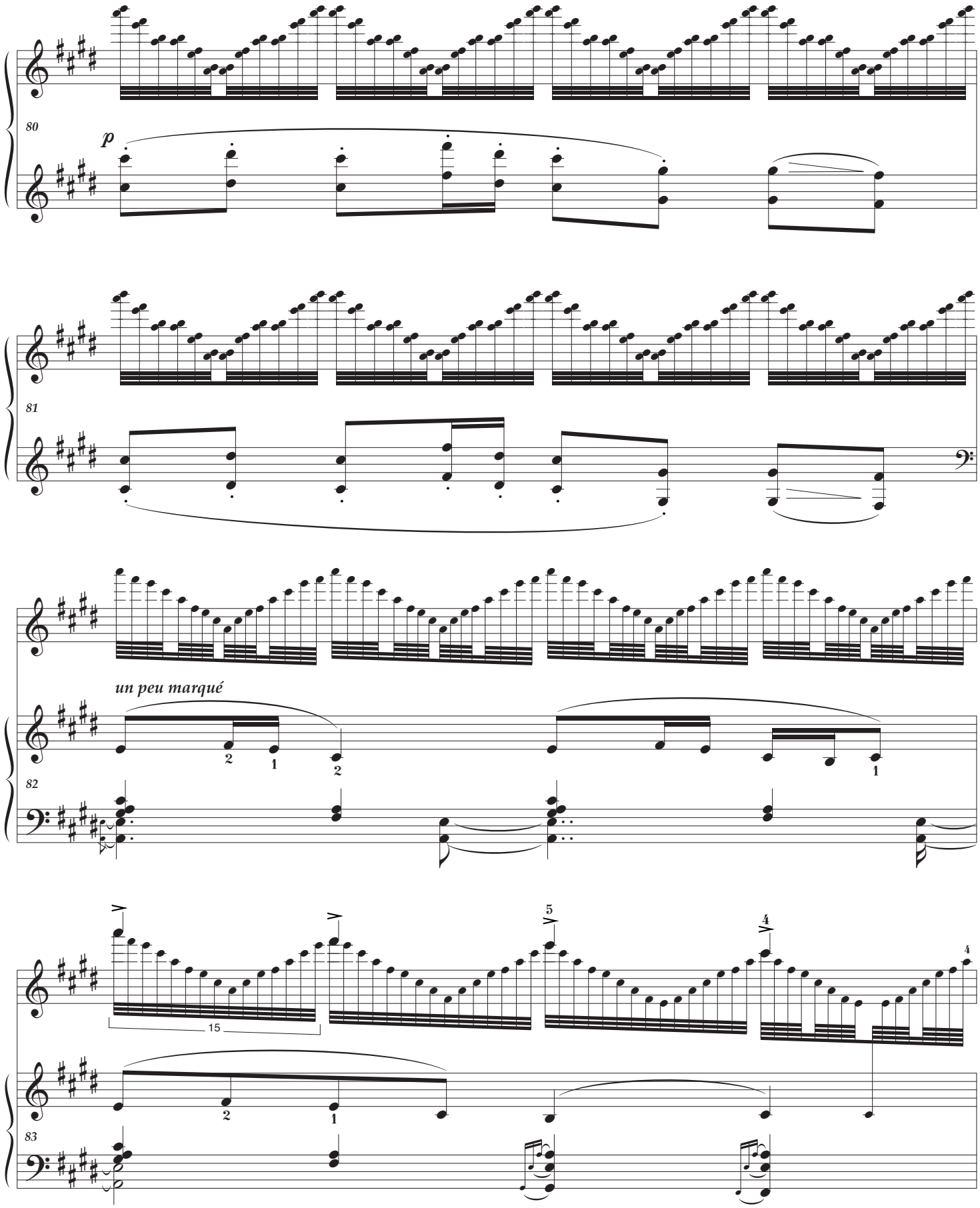

1er mouvement
50
4
p
3—2
51
52
6
pp
sotto
8va
5—4
(8va)
53
3
f
8vb

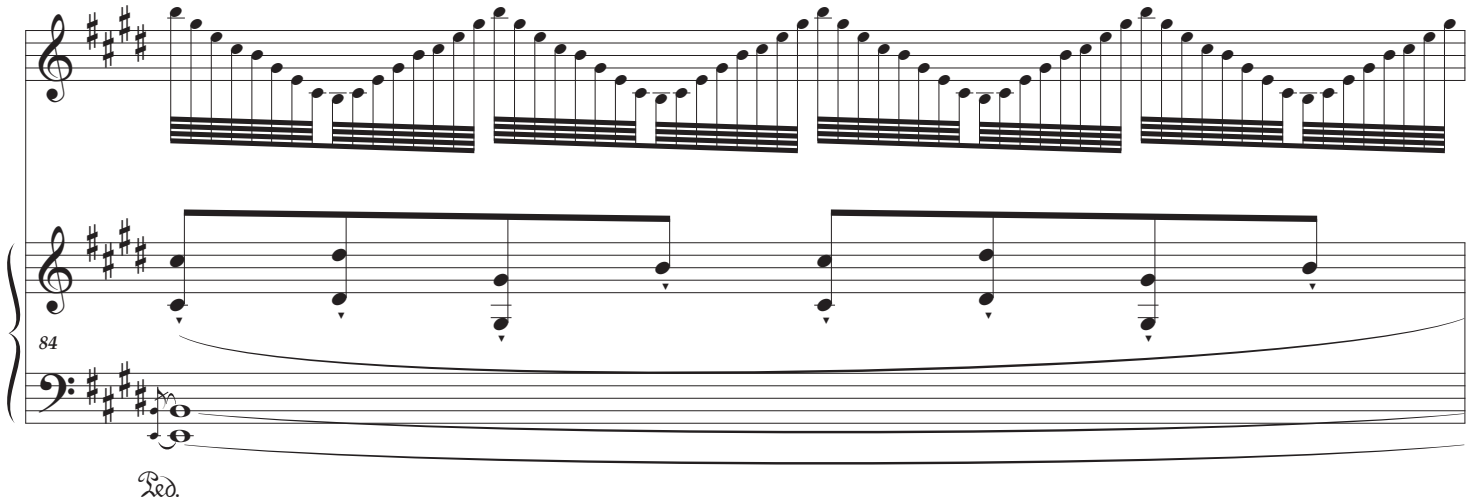

54
4
p
una corda
55
8va
3 Cordes
56
(8va)
3
f
8vb
57
4

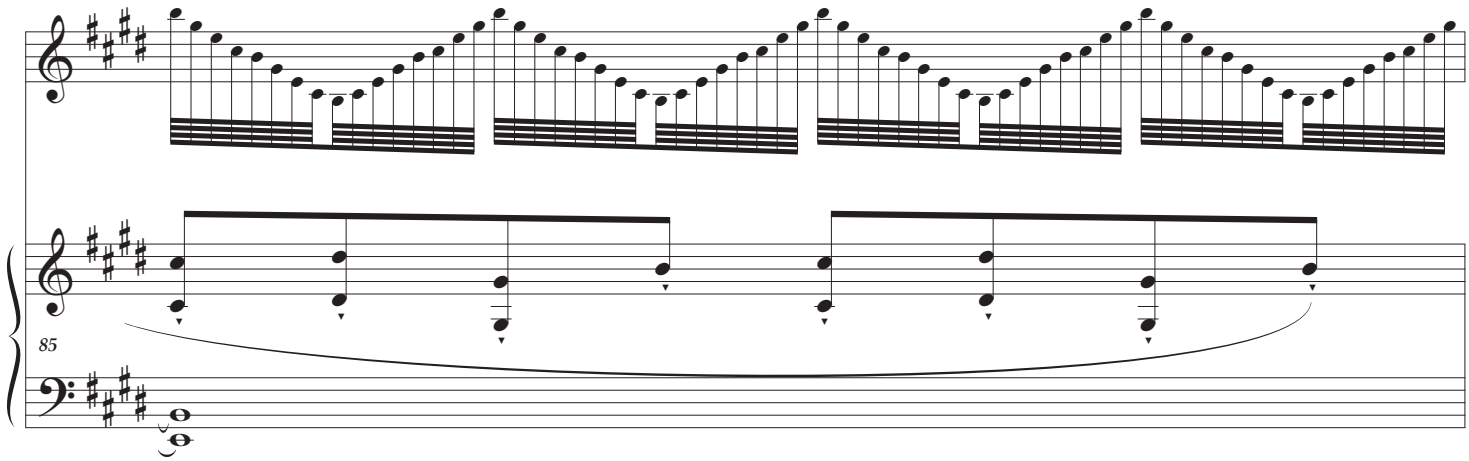

cédez légèrement
8va
58
1er mouvement
60
pp
una corda
2
8va
64
4
mf
2
3
8va
63
2
pp
15ma
[ f ]
4
7
sopra
65

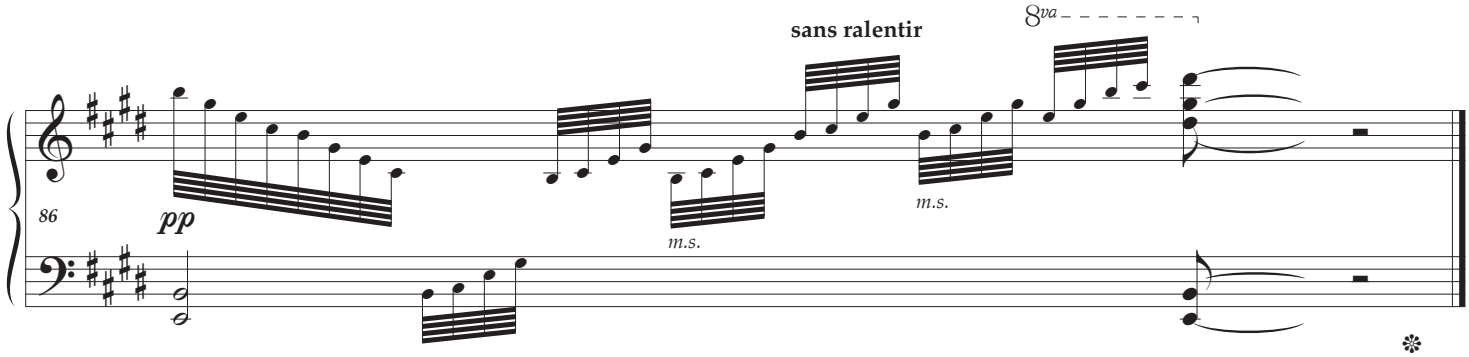

8va
sotto
sopra
sotto
sopra
66
ppp
67
8vb
très rapide
ppp
8va
69
Ped.
(8va)
fff
8va
70
f
71
Ped.
72
Ped.


mf
73
Ped.
p
74
2
Ped.
un peu plus lent qu'au début
rall - - - en - - - tan - - - do - - -
75
4
Lent
très expressif
77
(sfz)
78
rapide
3


80
p
81
un peu marqué
82
15
83


84
Ped.


85


86
pp
m.s.
sans ralentir
8va
m.s.

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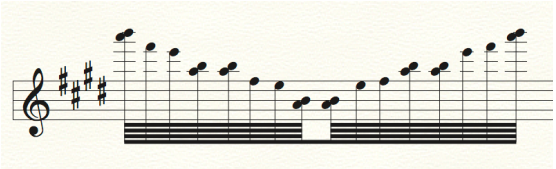
Appendix — Comments, afterthoughts & vocabulary

As an interpreter-performer I often have to ask myself why a composer has chosen a particular time or key signature and sometimes the answer is not at all obvious. Now that we have the tools with which to "re-arrange" the music otherwise, my position as an editor becomes much more interesting. When these pieces were first written I like to think that the composer did not necessarily consider all the options, (at the time they had so much else to think about) and I doubt whether a colleague, editor or proofreader would have had the temerity to question a composer's wishes. However, in retrospect I like to think that these now aged composers are approvingly viewing my modifications from above and giving the nod to my humble efforts.

Duration: **6'10**

- This rather fast metronome speed is given in the first edition — Max Eschig
- The pedal indications are by Ravel
- **12** presented in 5/4 time
- **21** the diamond-shaped semiquaver notehead can be omitted
- **23-49** presented without key signature
- **33-38** the time signatures have been modified
- **50/54/57** a Bosendorfer can manage a bass G# here
- **56-57** the crescendo to forte probably omitted in error
- **66-77** presented without key signature
- **81** in the original edition, the timing of this 4th beat is rather vague
- **82** execution :



- **85** 3rd and 4th beats — the two LH chords are originally written as acciaccaturas

| | |
|---|---|
| très doux | very gentle |
| le chant un peu en dehors | the melody slightly in relief |
| cédez légèrement | slightly yield |
| un peu plus lent qu'au début | a little slower than the opening |
| un peu marqué | a little marked |
| sans ralentir | without slowing down |