Antonio Gervasoni

The Garden of the Shadows

Lima, December 3, 2012

The Garden of the Shadows

The Garden of the Shadows was composed in 2001, as a work for my second Composition Workshop, at the National Conservatory of Music. In it's original form, this piece was conceived for a woodwind octect composed of 2 flutes, 2 oboes (2nd. also English horn), 2 clarinets and 2 bassoons. Nevertheless, I always saw a great potential for this work to become a piece for piano solo.
The inspiration for The Garden of the Shadows came from two sources: the first one was a small section of the music I composed for a theatrical adaptation of Robert Graves' I, Claudius, in 2000. I always liked these few bars of the music and thought much could be done with it. Thus, it became the raw material for the harmonic and melodic development in this new work.
The second source came from the reading of The Time Machine, by H.G. Wells. In fact, the title of the work, as well as the titles of the four movements, make reference to the plot of this science fiction novel, where a scientist from the XIX century travels to the future, only to find out the human race has evolved into two separate species: the beautiful, peaceful and almost childish Eloy and their counterpart, the Morlocks, grotesque creatures of the night who live underground and fear light.
This incredible journey turns into a nightmare, when the time traveler discovers the Morlocks actually feed on the innocent Eloy. After wondering how this happened, he comes to an incredible conclusion. As science progressed, the human race is divided into two separate classes, one living in luxury and wealth, highly dependant from technology to maintain their way of life, the other living in poverty, underground, operating this technology for their masters. Eventually, after many centuries, the underground people can no longer tolerate light and their only source for food are the mindless Eloy, their intelligence now lost to the exhuberant leisure of the life they chose. Once the slaves, the Morlocks are now the masters. They are like shepherds, taking care of their flock, making sure they are properly fed before they come for them.
"Here was the same beautiful scene, the same abundant foliage (...) Around the blots upon the landscape rose the cupolas above the ways to the Under-world. I understood now what all the beauty of the Over-world people covered.
Very pleasant was their day, as pleasant as the day of the cattle in the field. (...) And their end was the same."
H.G. Wells, The Time Machine.

Antonio Gervasoni, Lima, November 22, 2010

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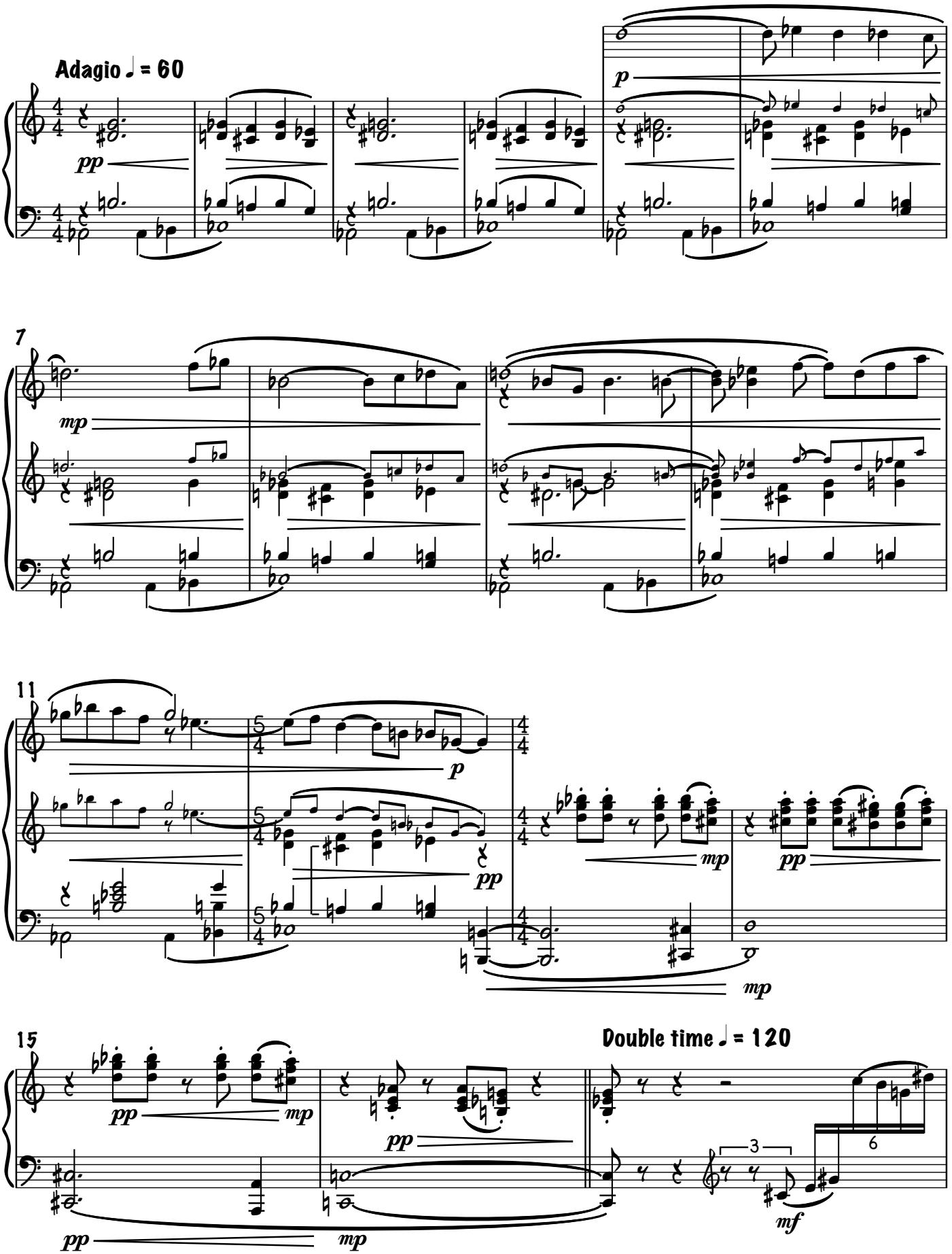
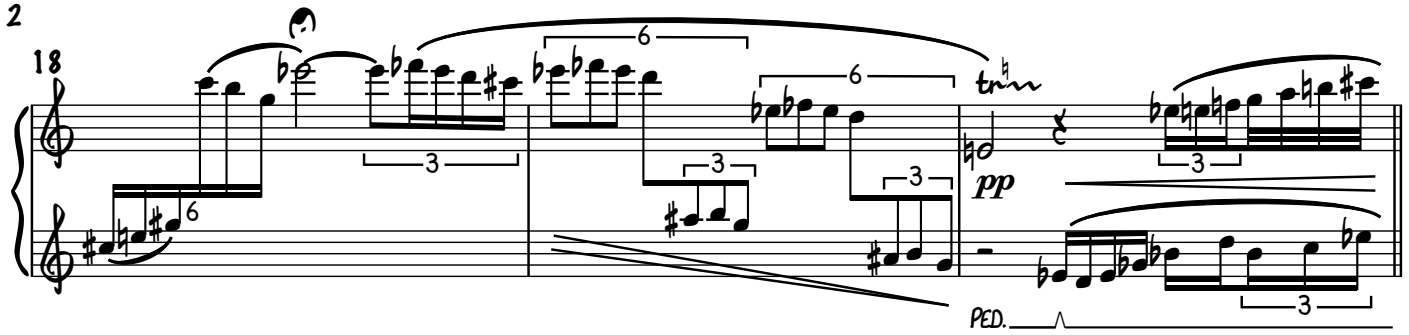
The Garden of the Shadows

I. The Garden

Antonio Gervasoni

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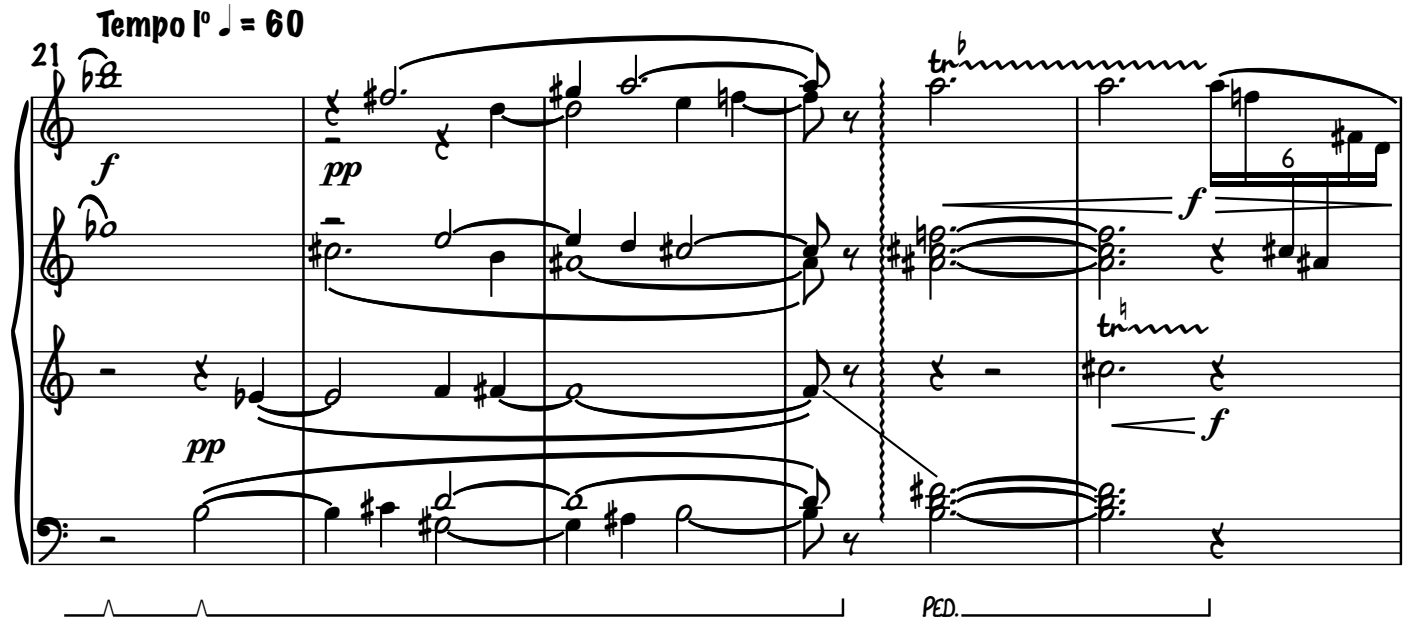
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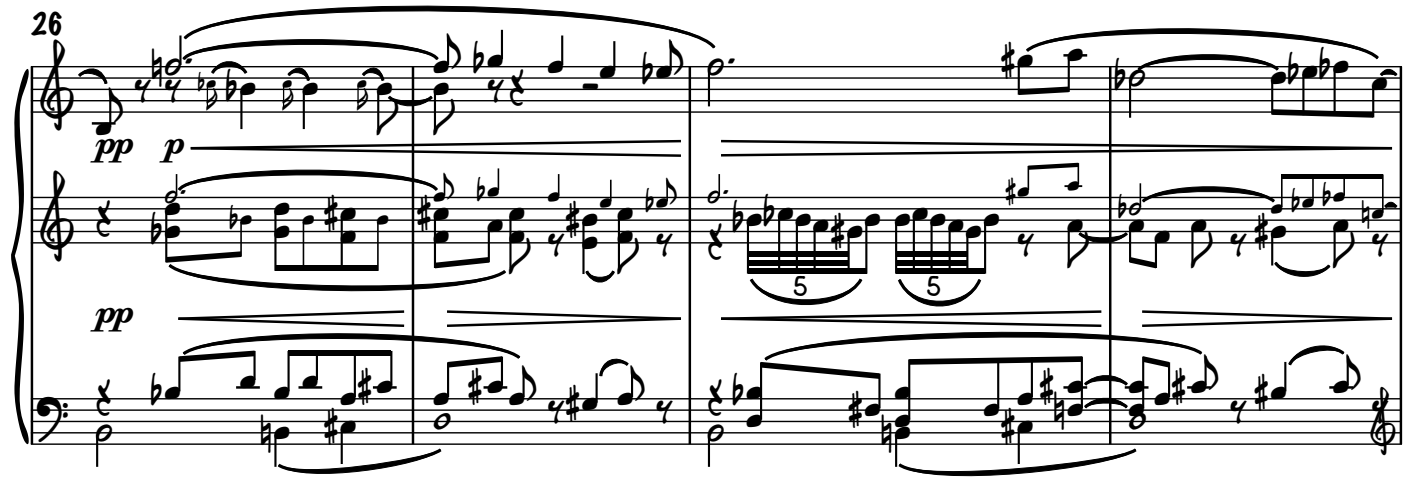
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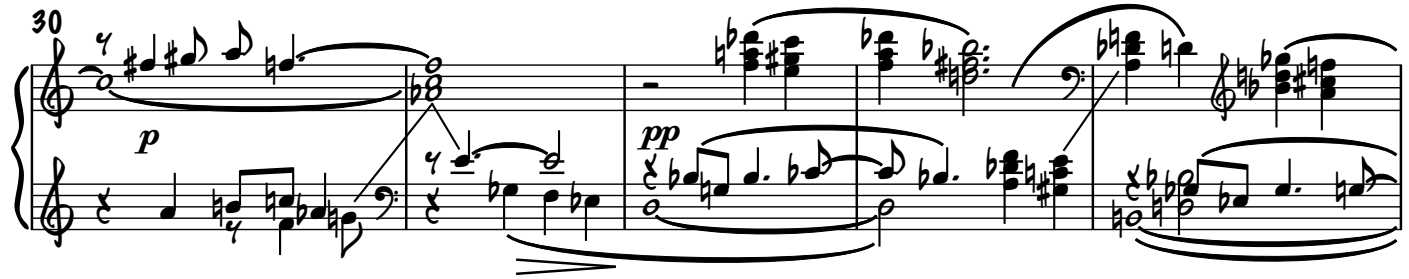
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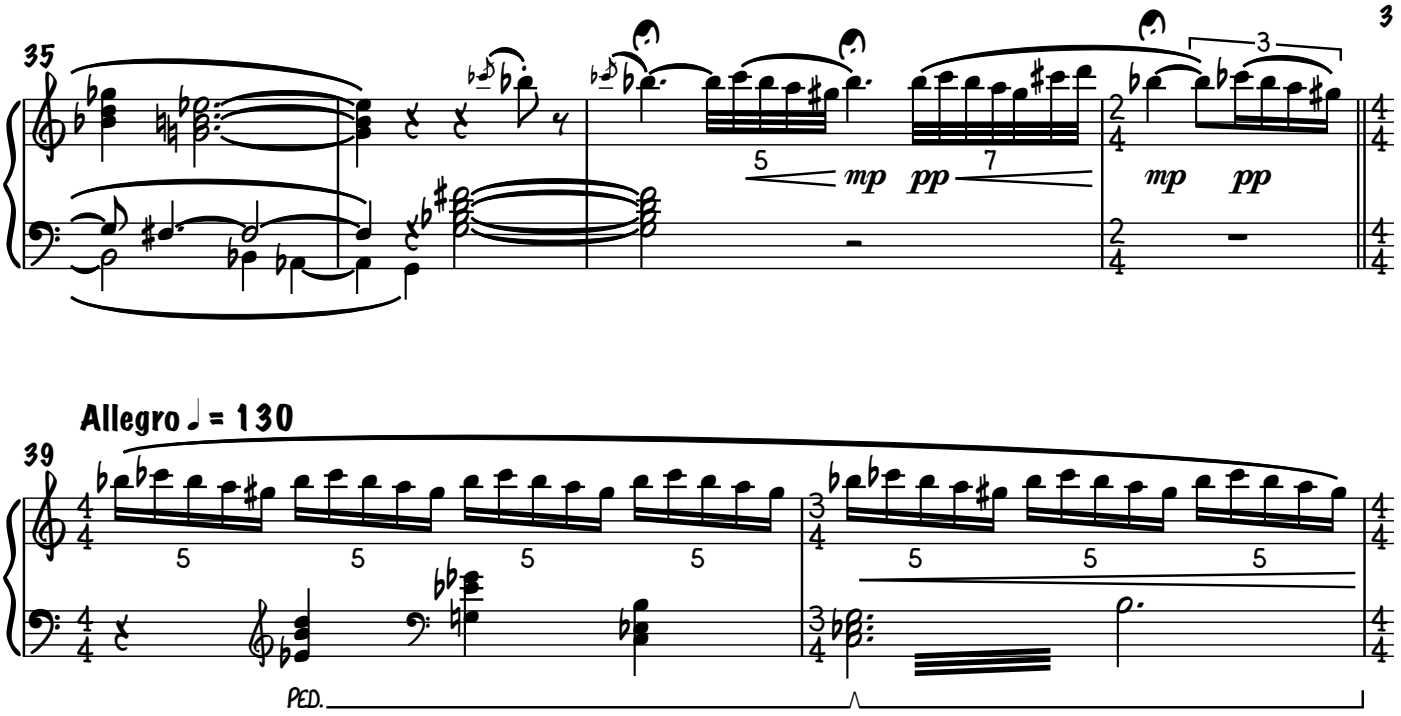
35
5
mp
pp
7
3
mp
pp

Allegro ♩ = 130
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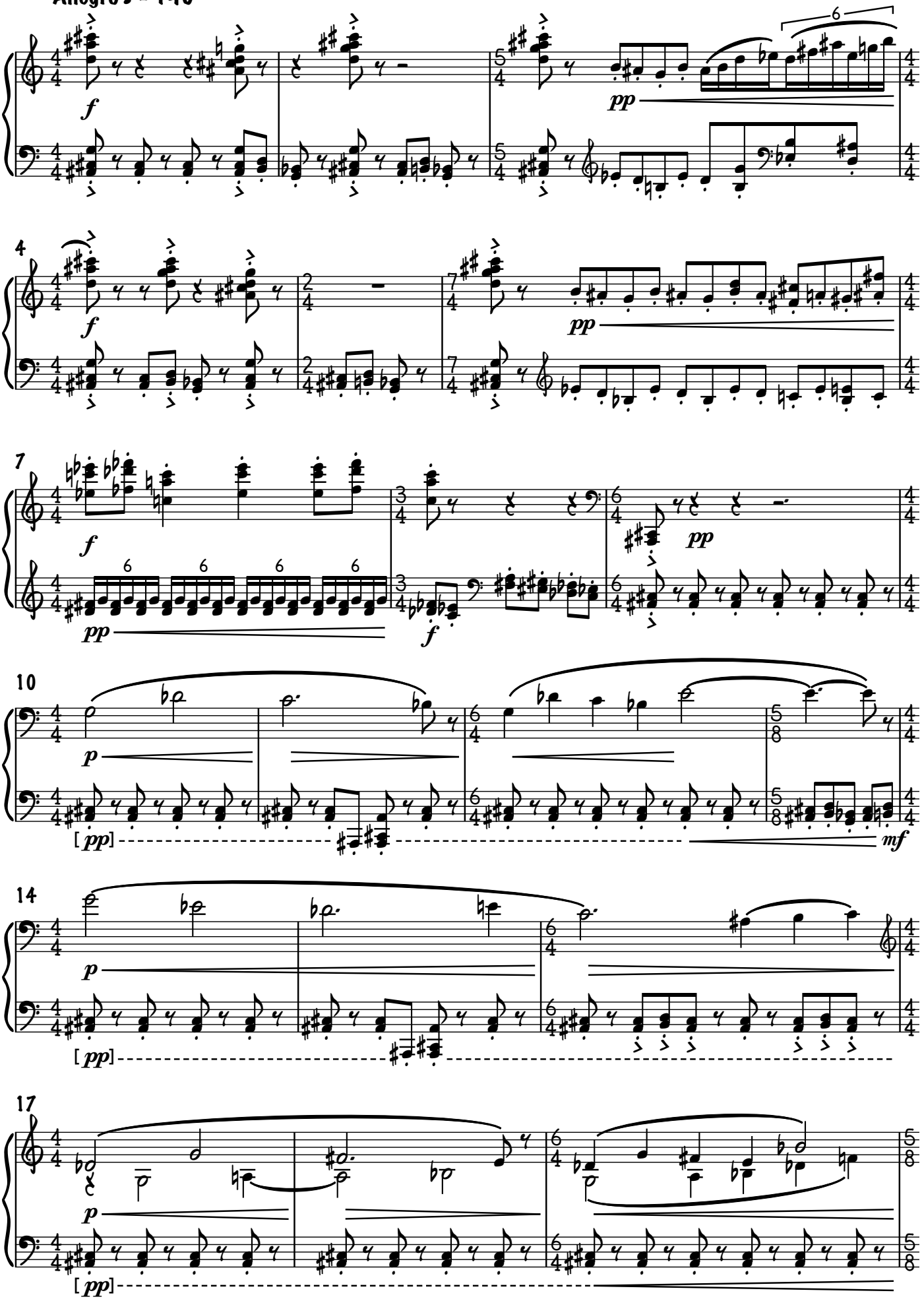
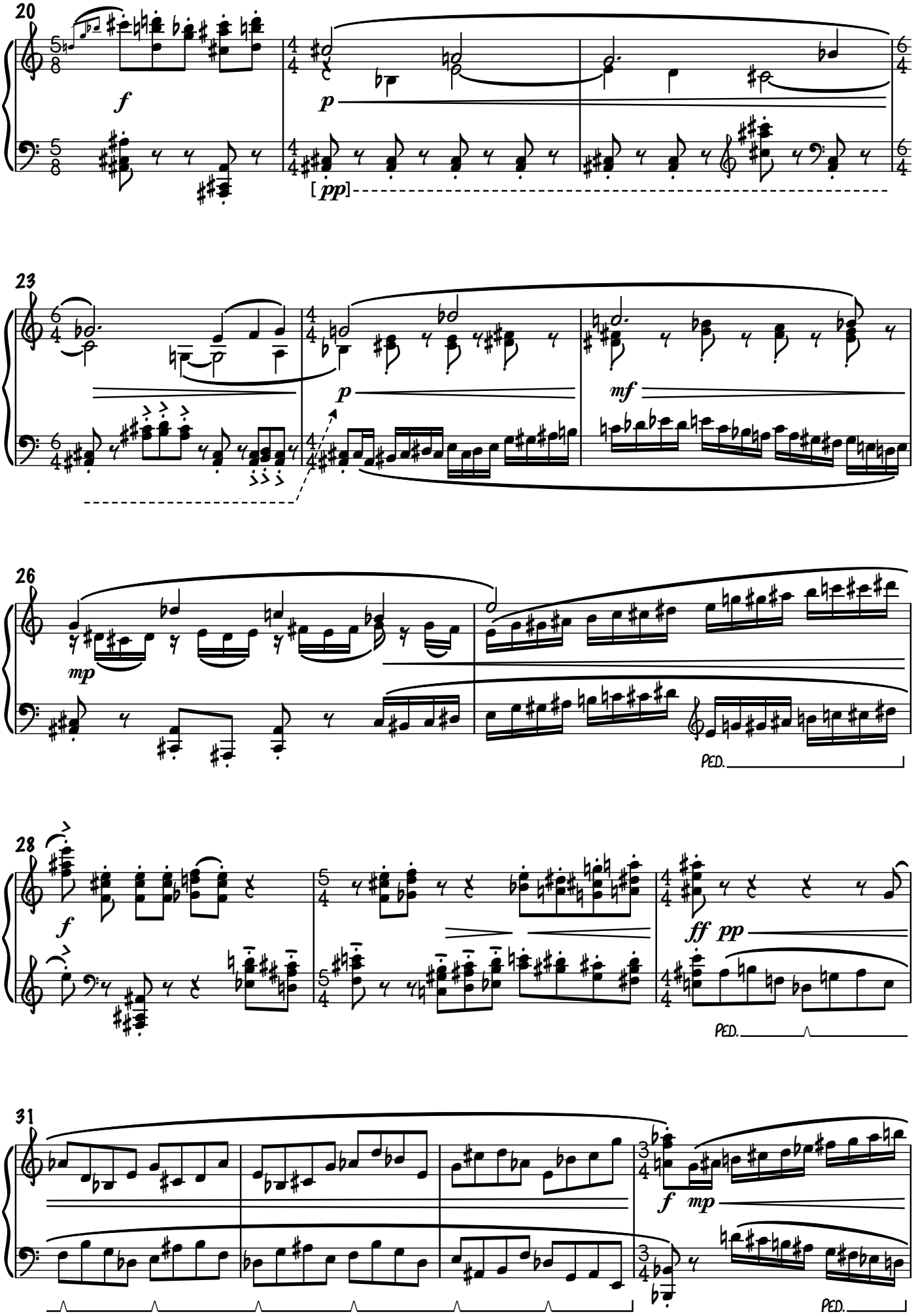
5
5
5
5
5
5
5
PED.

II. The Hunt

Allegro ♩ = 140

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p
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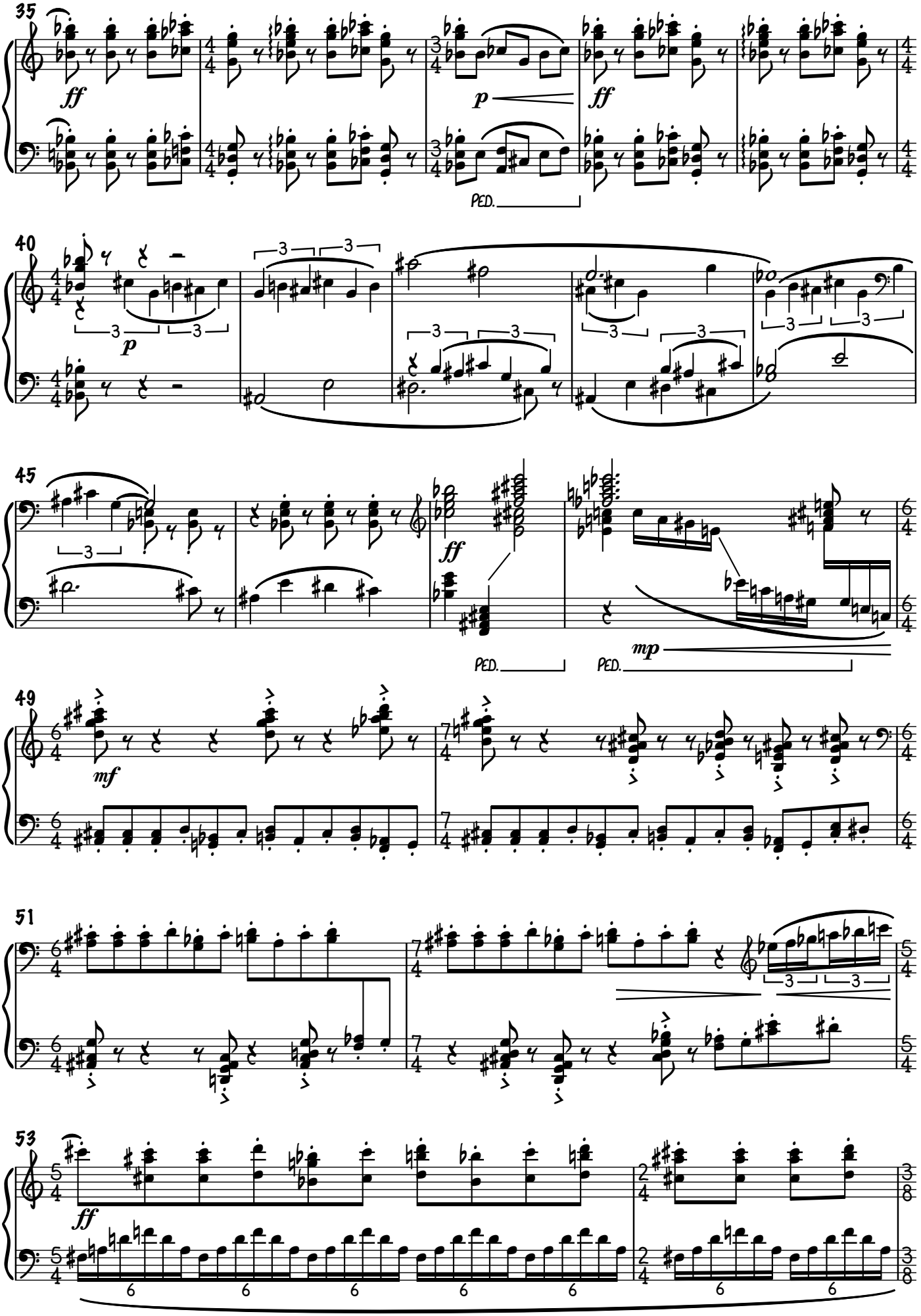
23
p
mf
26
mp
PED.
28
f
ff pp
PED.
31
f mp
PED.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PED.
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PED.
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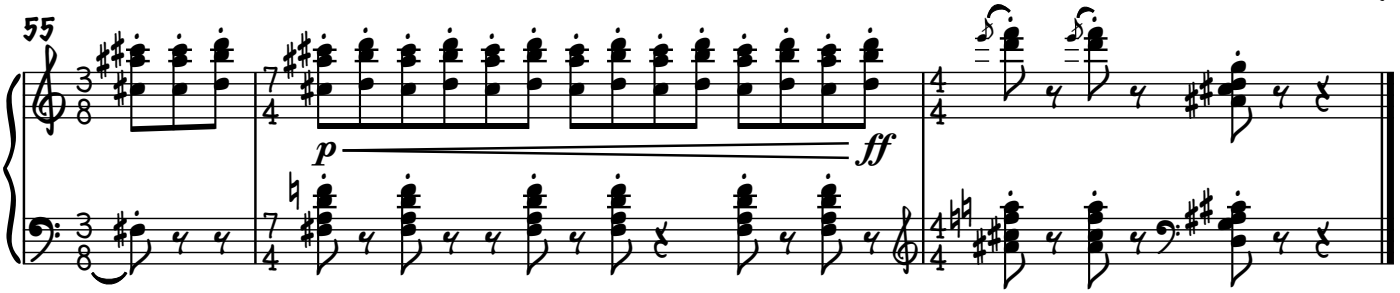
mf
51
53
ff
6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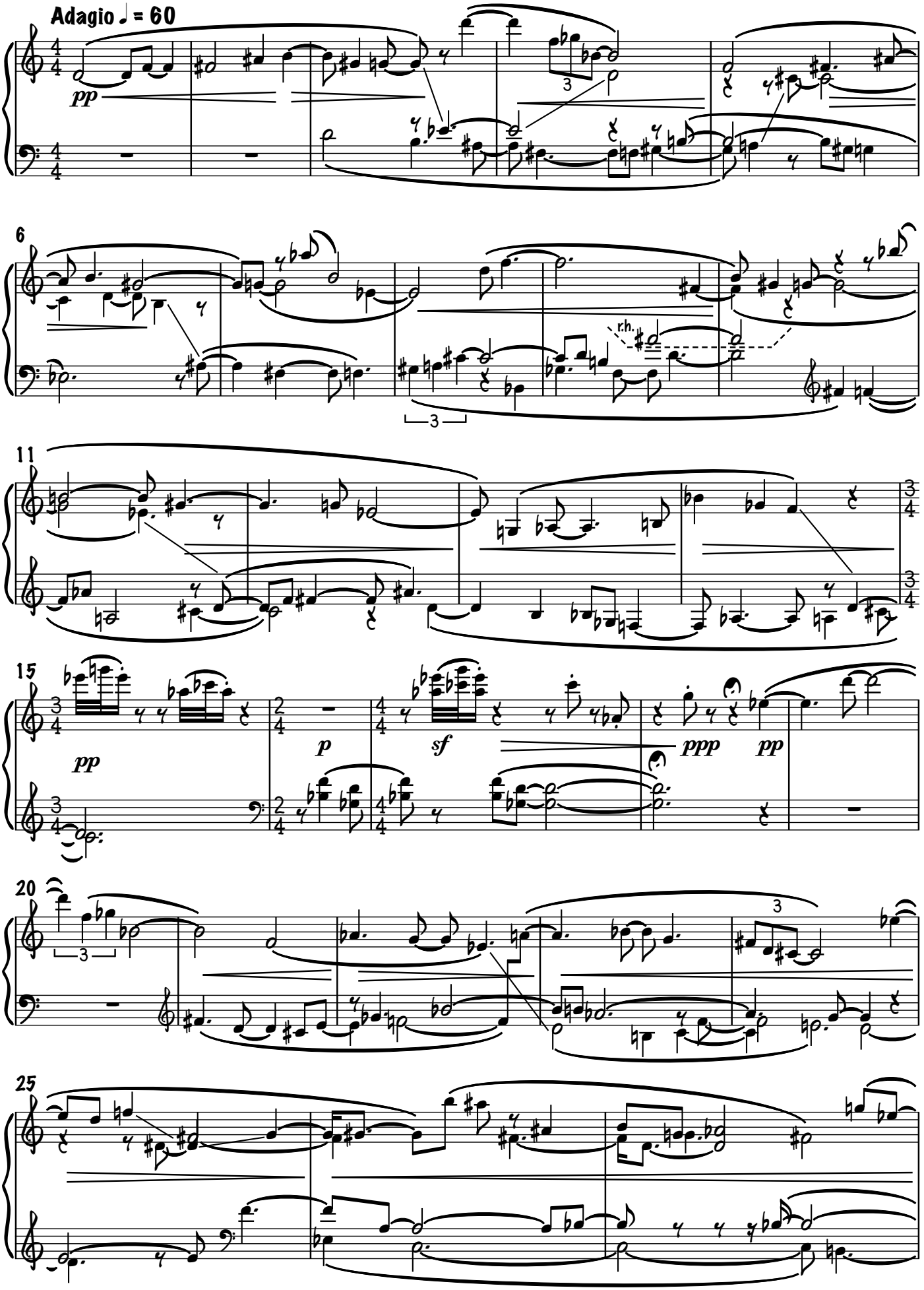
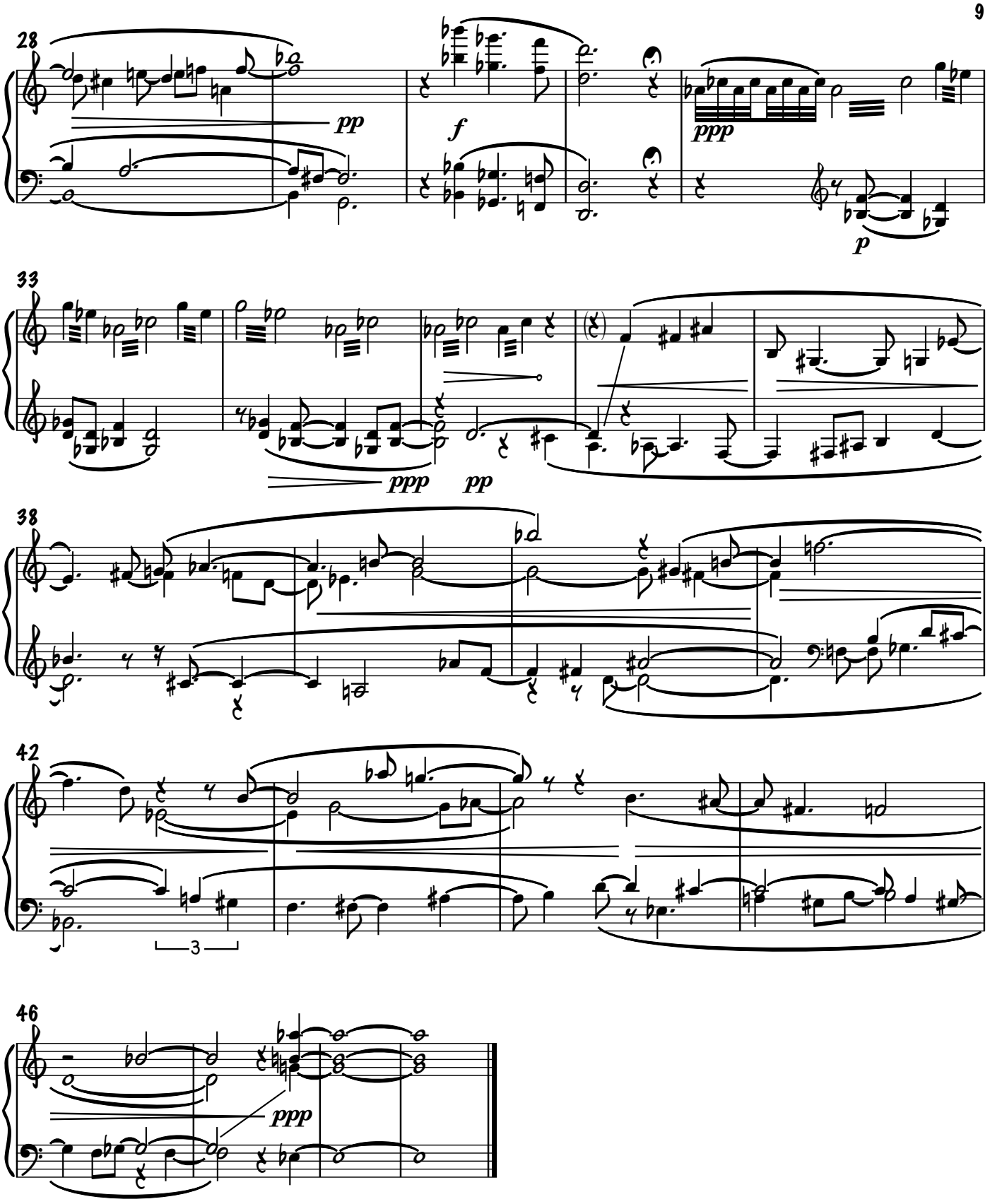
p
ff

III. Adoration of the Black Moon

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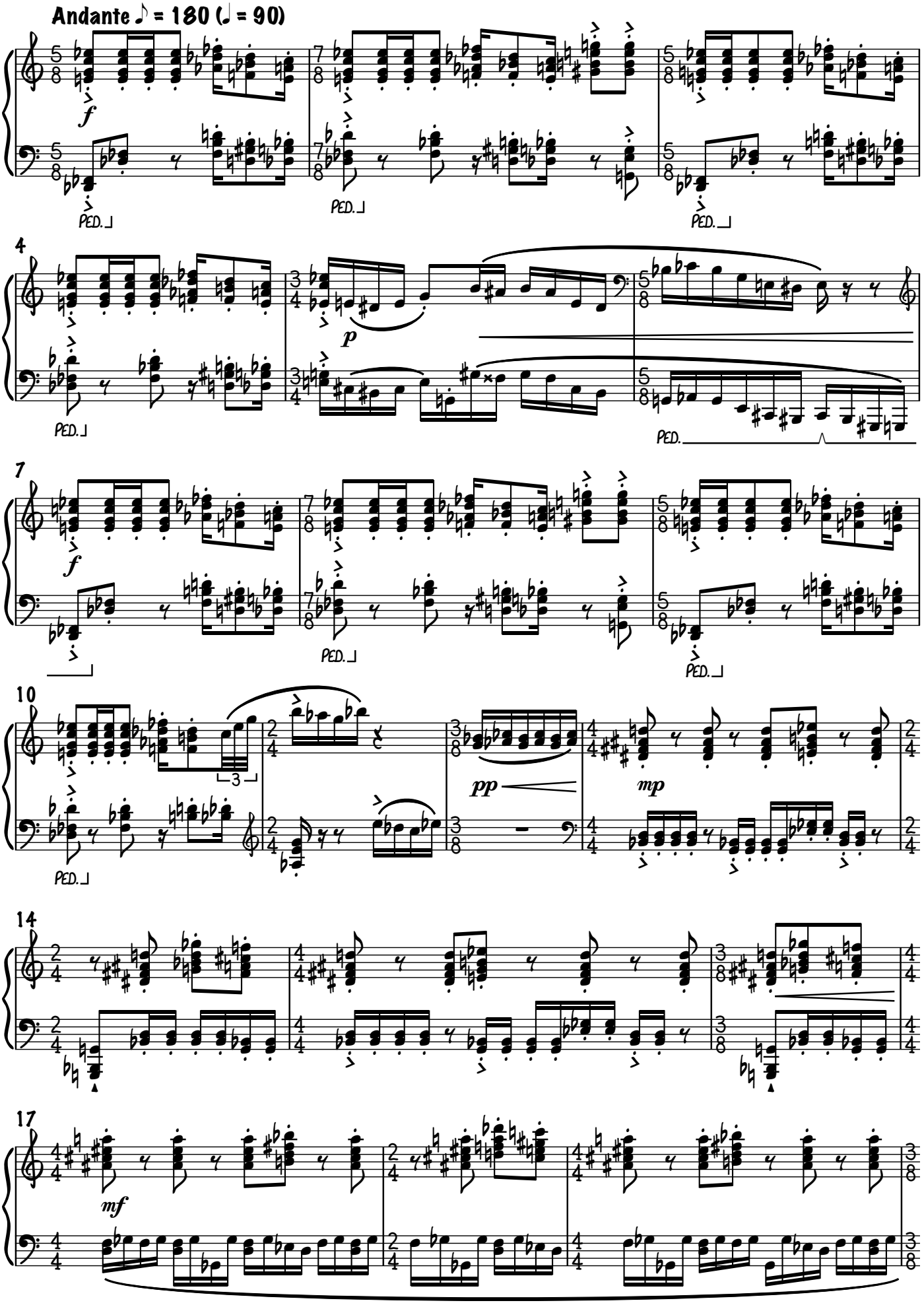
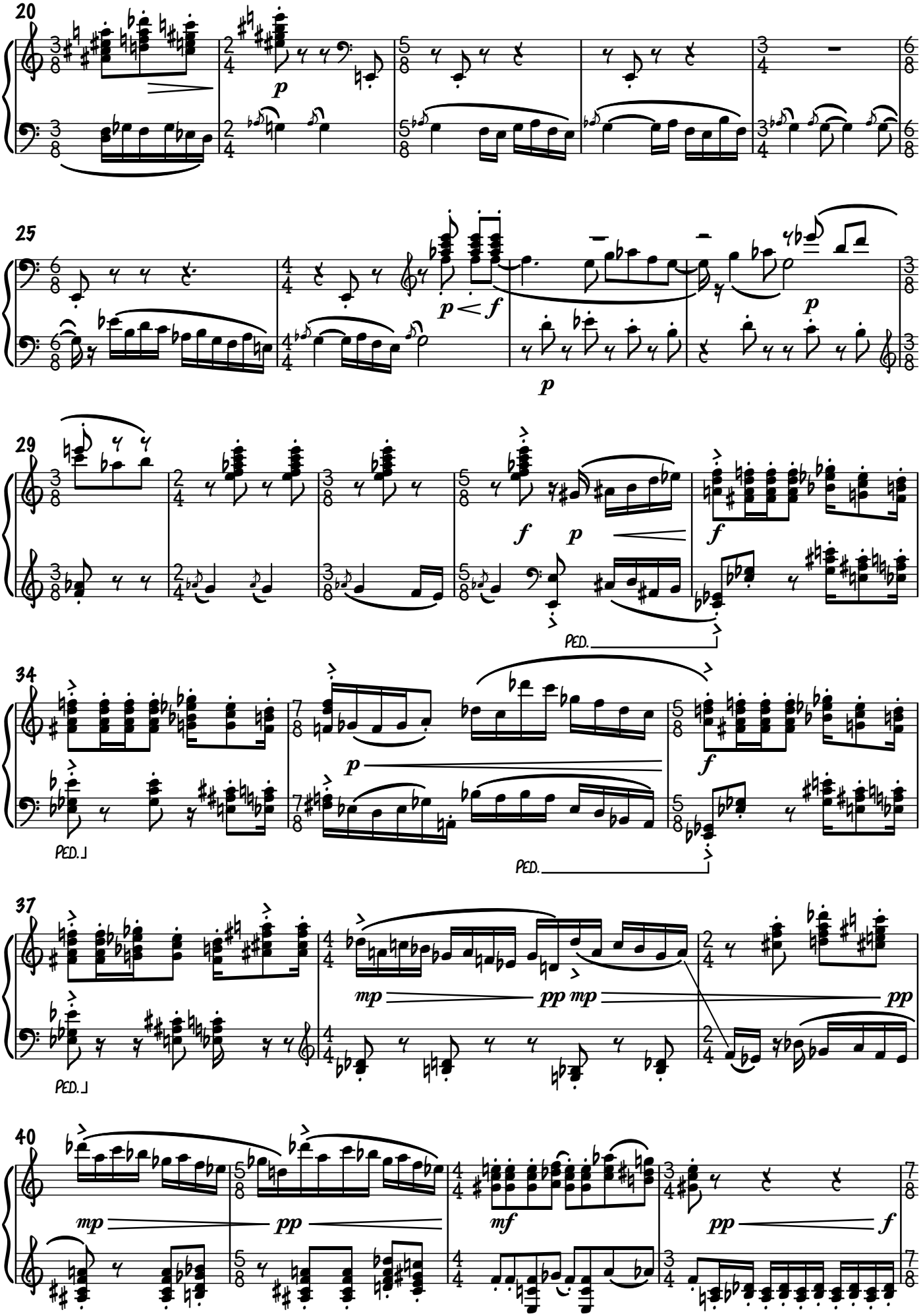
pp
f
ppp
p
33
ppp
pp
38
42
3
46
ppp

IV. The Feast

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29
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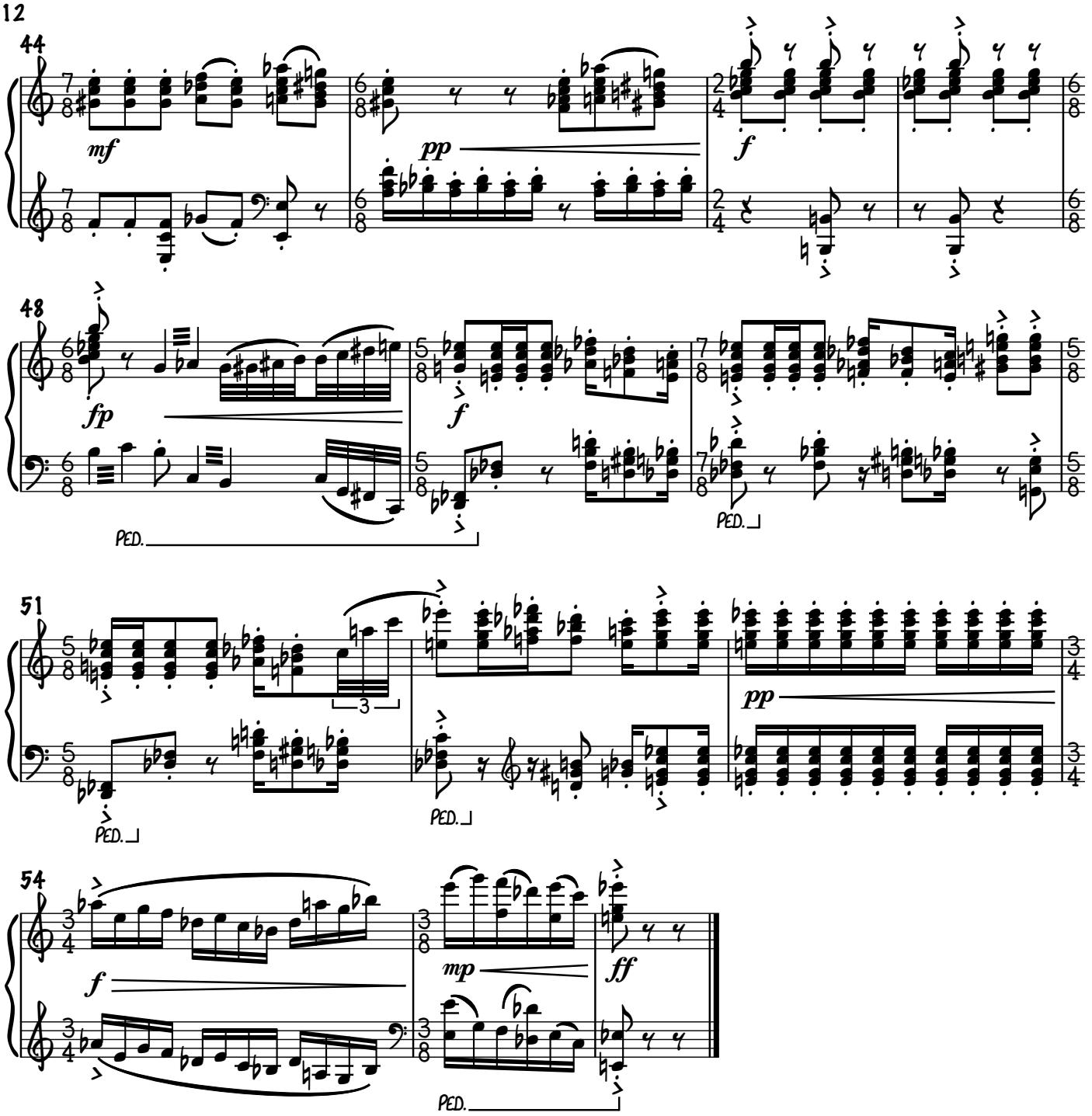
mf
pp
f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