Three Chinese Folk Songs

arranged for Oboe and Piano

1. A Horse Runs on the Mountain

2. Why Is the Flower So Red?

3. A Small Embroidered Bag

by James Fry

for Mark Hill

Notes: Three Chinese Folks Songs was first arranged for Qiong Fang, Shanghai Opera House soprano and specialist in combining Western and Chinese vocal methods. This expanded version for trumpet and piano incorporates melodic elaboration suitable for the trumpet. The accompaniment style of each song is suggested by the text, and the figuration is derived from the folksong melody.

1. "A Horse Runs on the Mountain" — The text paints an image of a horse running on a mountainside. A cloud rises in a column while the crescent moon illuminates the city below. A young man sets his eyes on a young woman. She is talented—and can take charge of the household! He yearns to court the one of his own choosing.

2. "Why Is the Flower So Red?" — This unusual song originates from far Western China, as is evident from the Middle Eastern characteristics of the melody. Why is the flower so red? Red is the fiery emblem of pure friendship and love. Why is the flower so fresh? Freshness is the symbol of youth.

3. "A Small Embroidered Bag" — A small embroidered bag is given as a token of love and commitment. As spring winds bend the poplar and willow tips and March blossoms appear in the peach orchard, a lover comes bringing a letter. He wants a small embroidered bag: "Embroider a boat and hoist the sail! Can you guess the meaning? Embroider a Mandarin duck perched on the riverside. You rely on me; I rely on you—together always." She replies: "My lover is a young man and I am like an unfolding blossom. If you accept the small bag, my love, you must return early."

Performance note: In "Why is the Flower So Red?" the ornaments—turns, mordents, appoggiaturas—are played in Baroque style. They may begin on or before the beat, depending on context.

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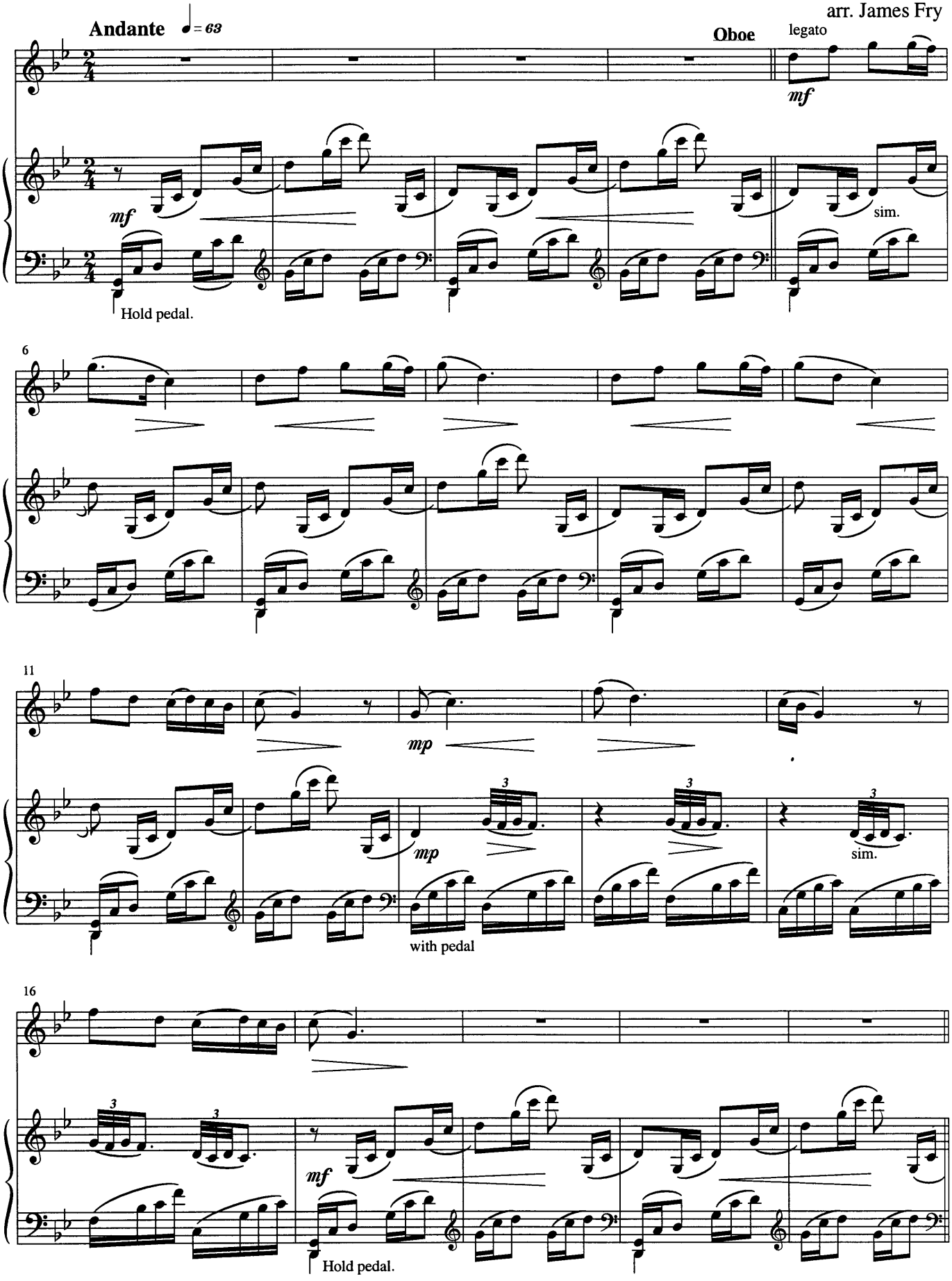
1. A Horse Runs on the Mountain

arr. James Fry



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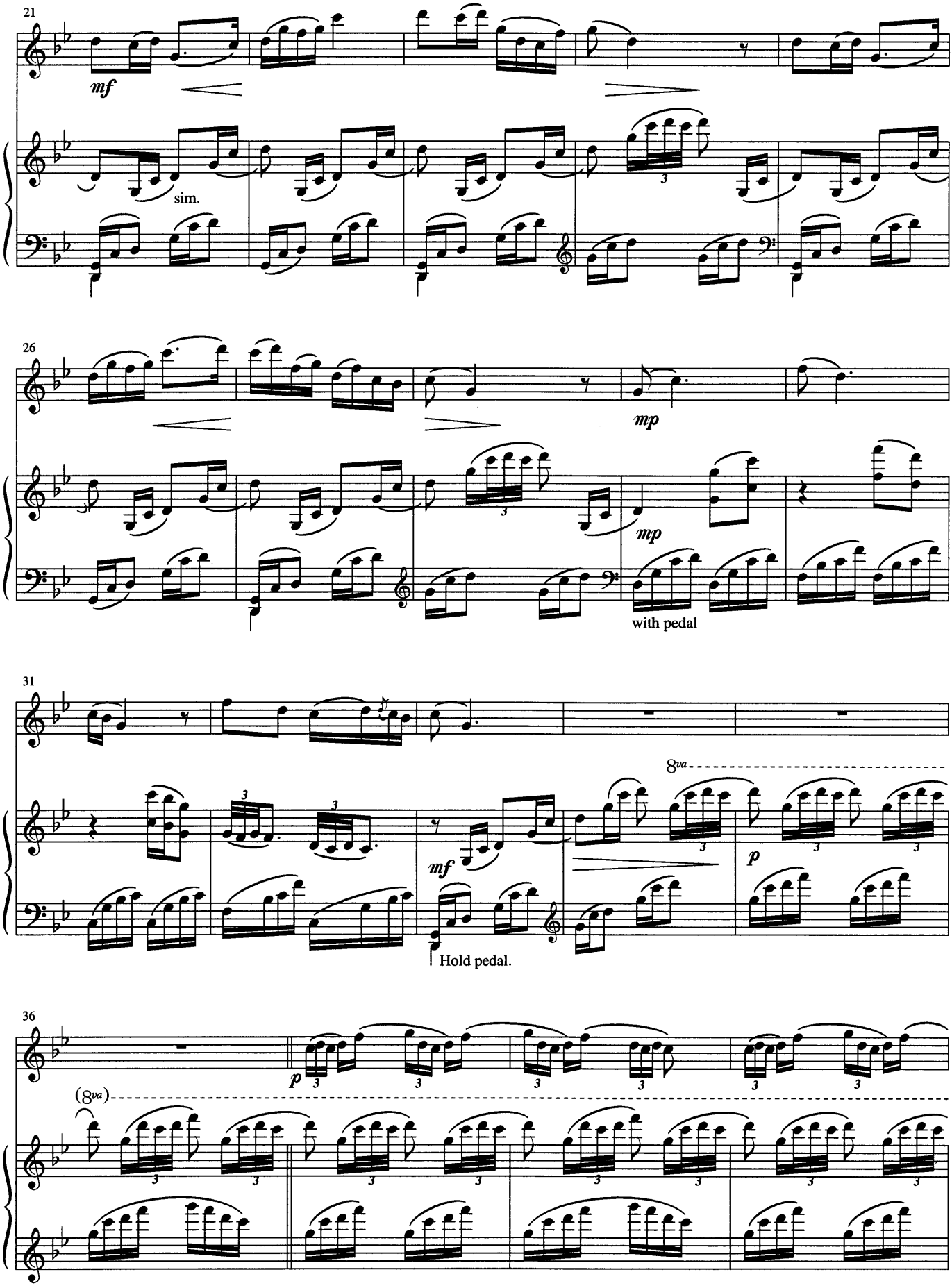
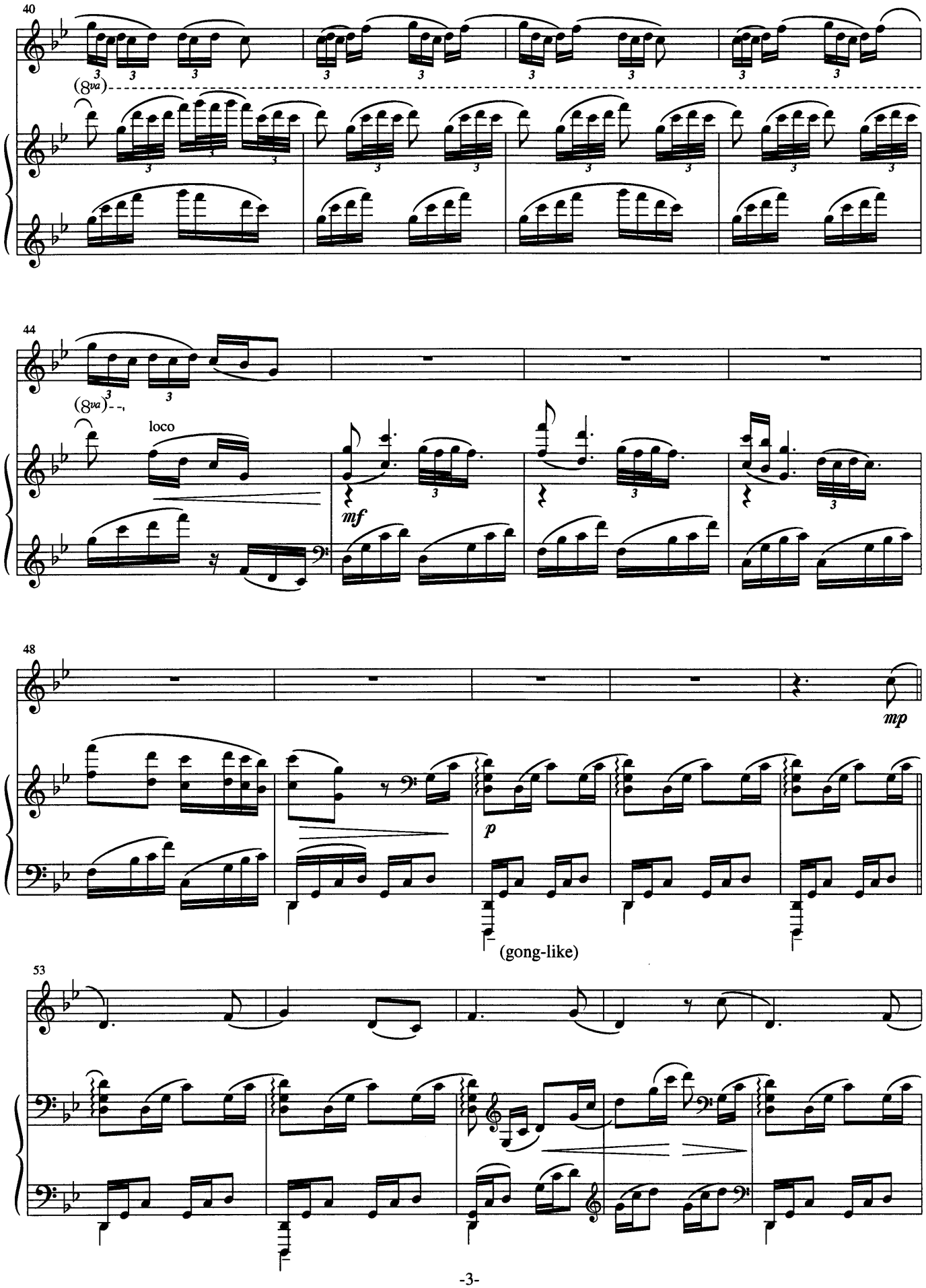
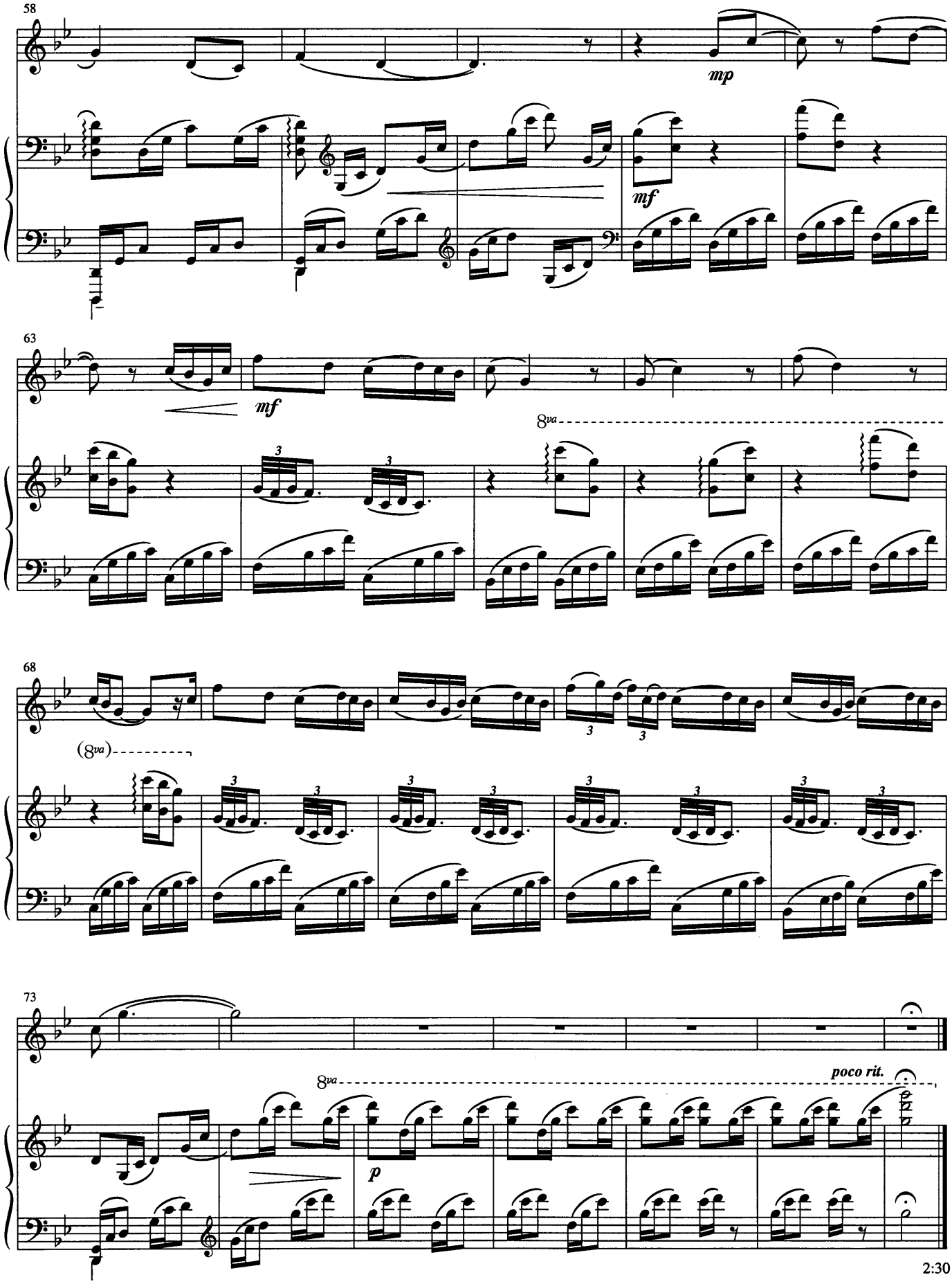
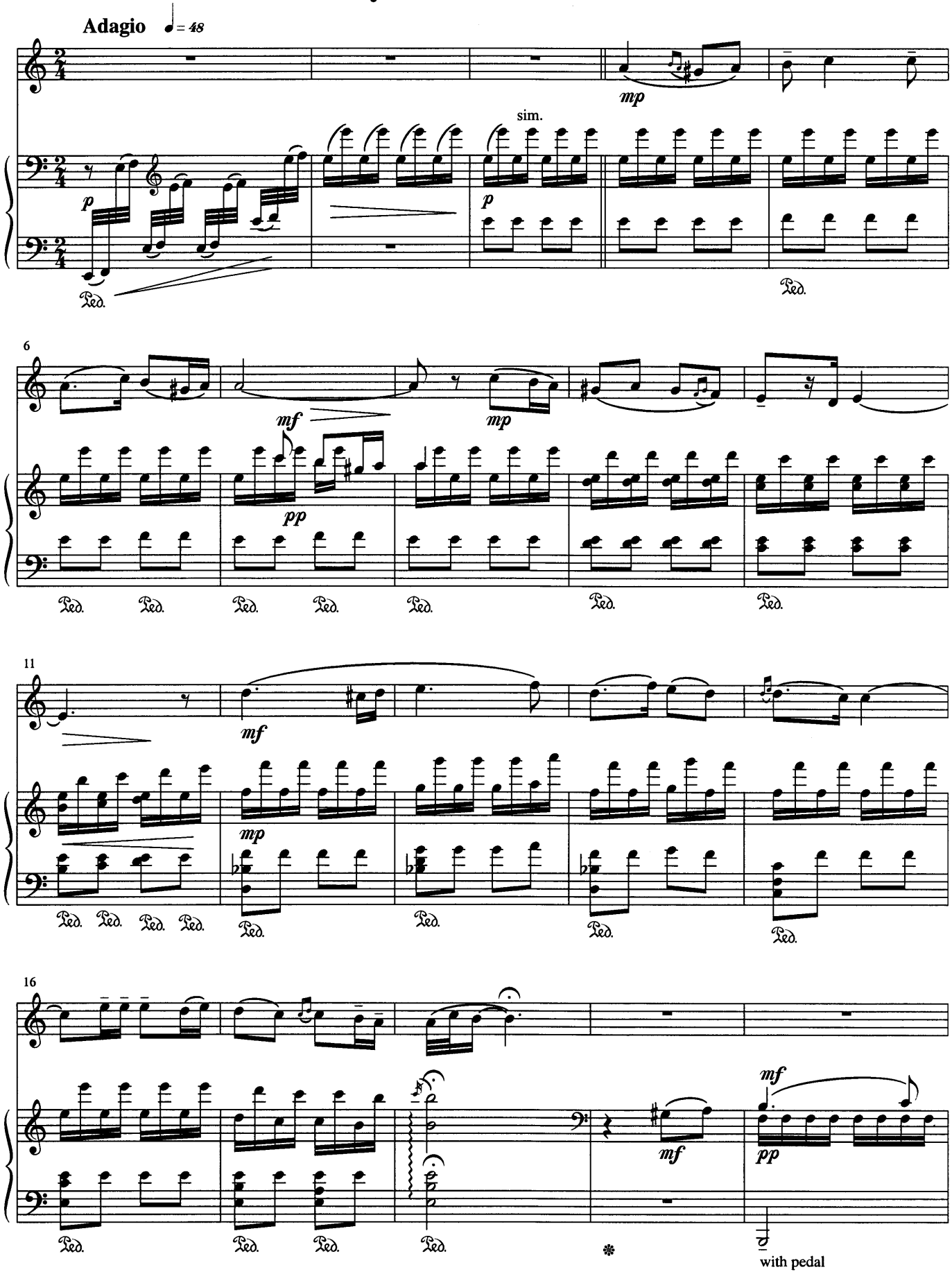
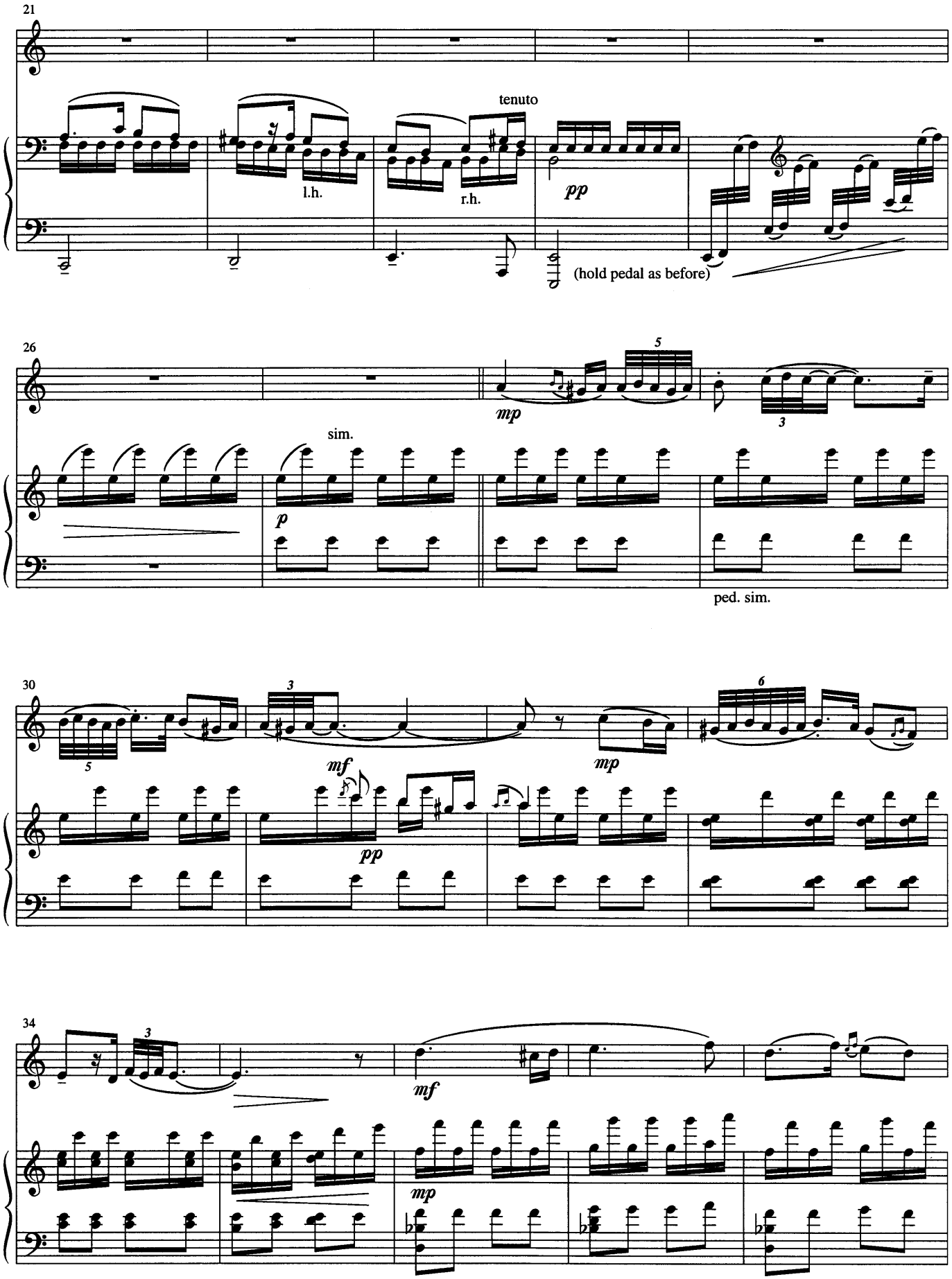

21
mf
sim.
26
mp
mp
with pedal
31
8va
mf
p
Hold pedal.
36
p
(8va)

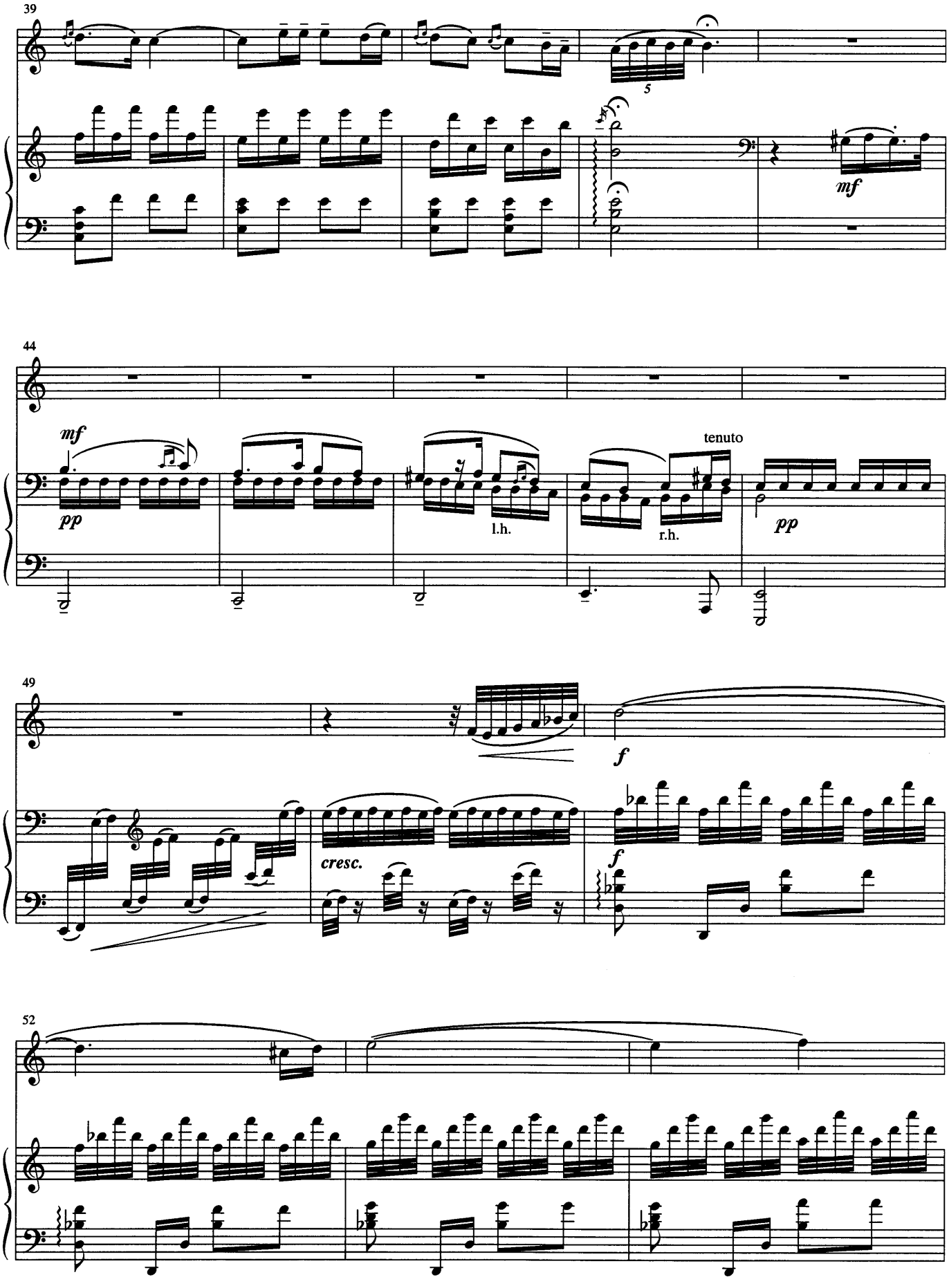

40
(8va)
44
(8va)
loco
mf
48
mp
p
(gong-like)
53

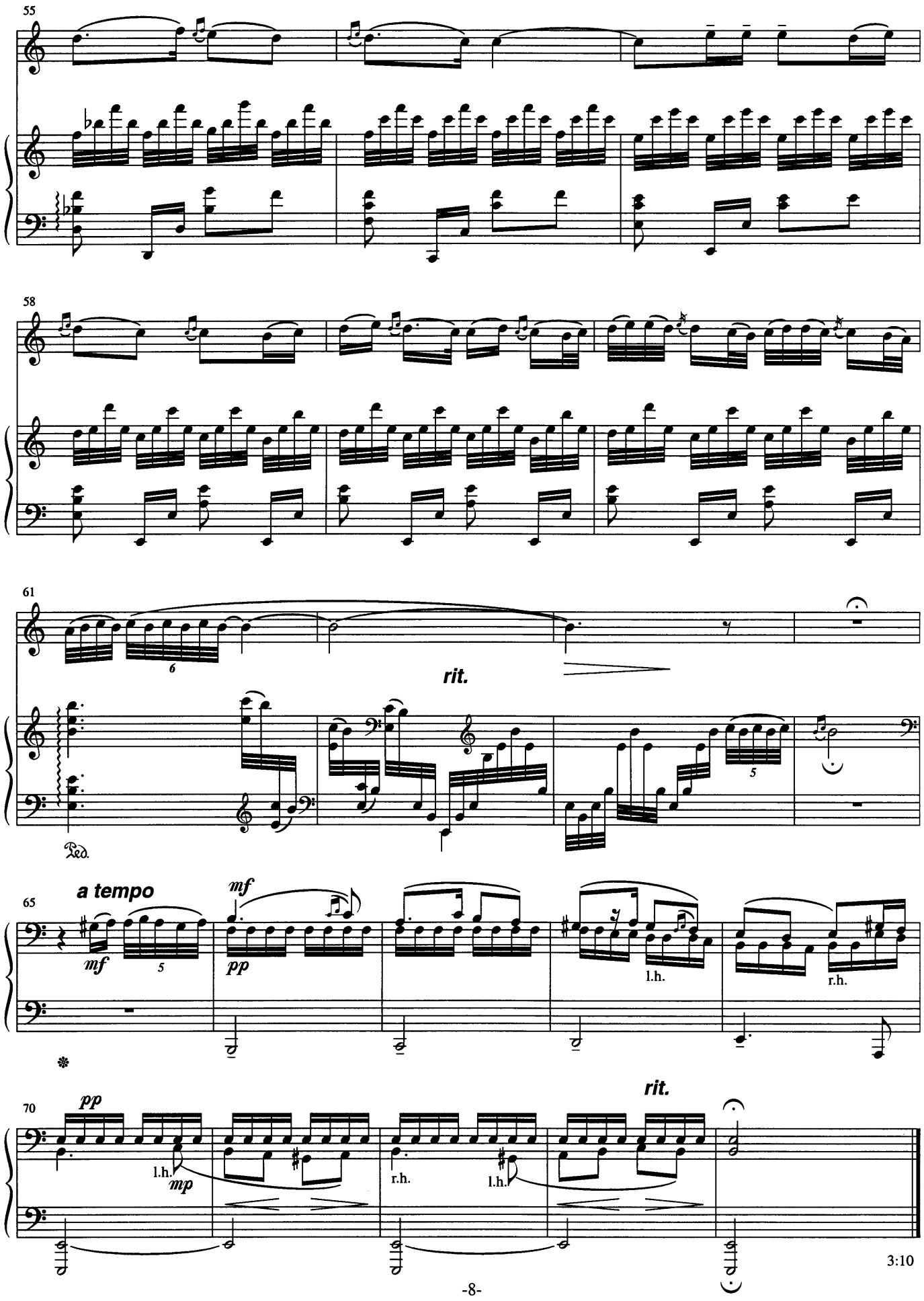

58
mp
mf
63
mf
8va
68
(8va)
73
8va
poco rit.
p
2:30

2. Why Is the Flower So Red?

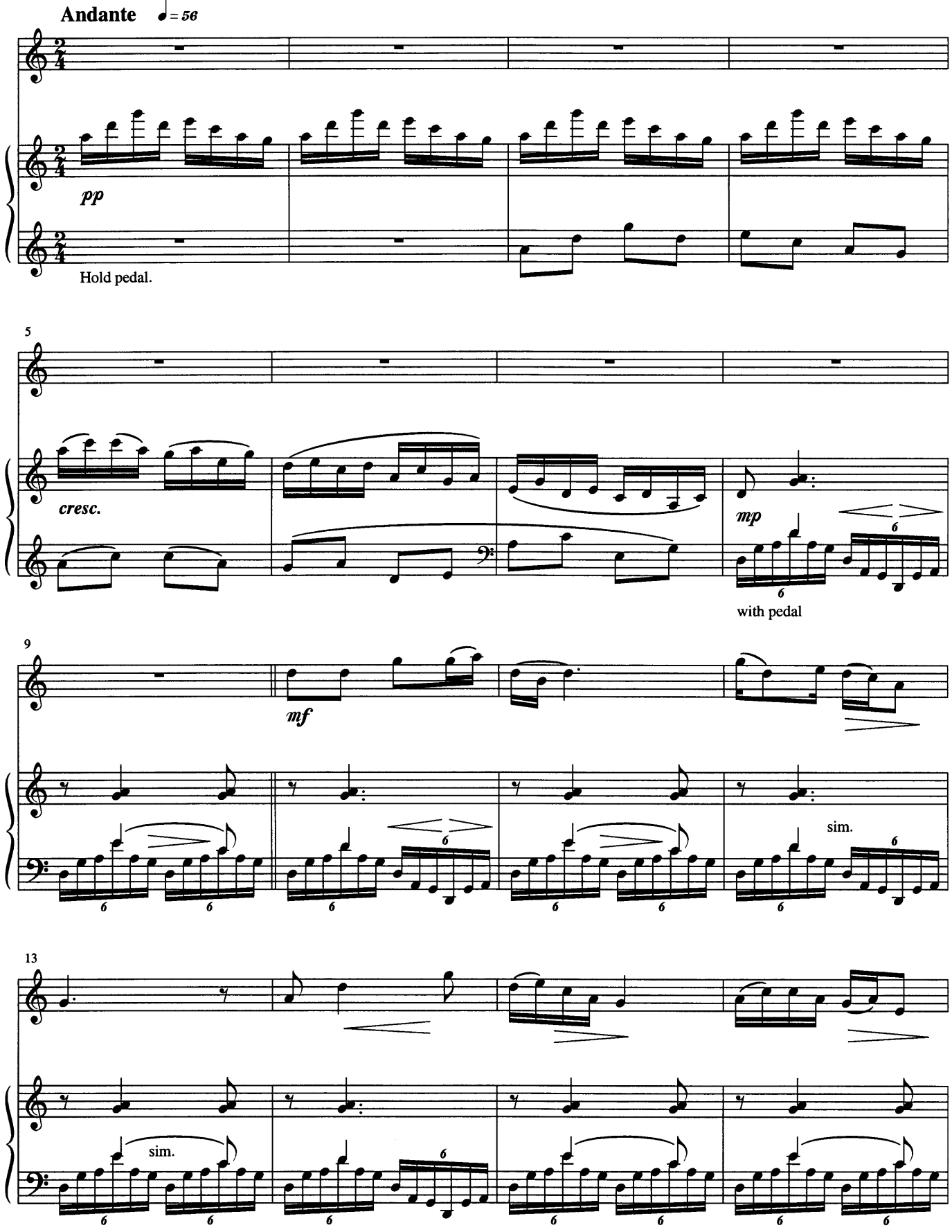


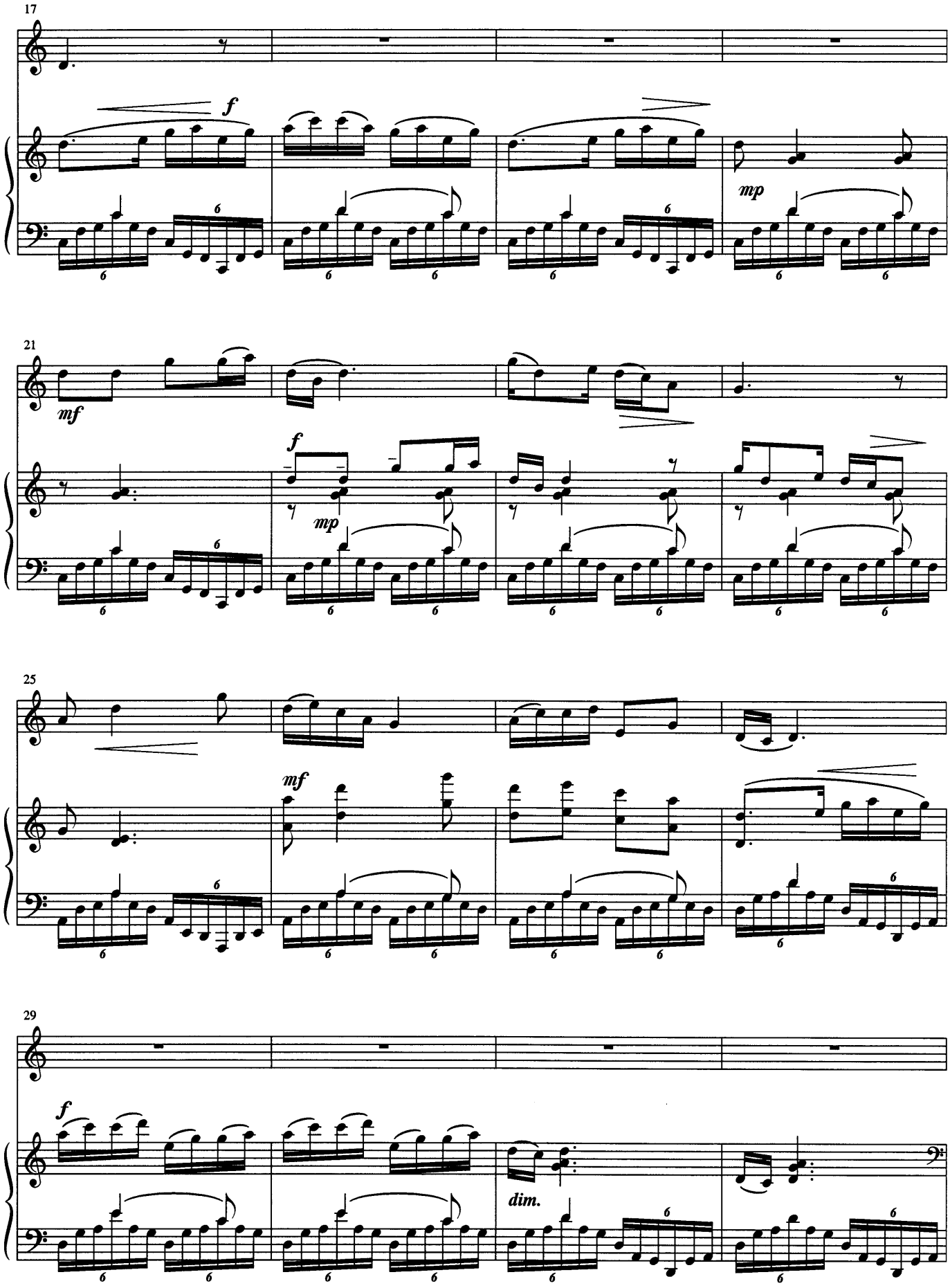

21
tenuto
l.h.
r.h.
pp
(hold pedal as before)
26
mp
sim.
p
ped. sim.
30
mf
pp
mp
34
mf
mp

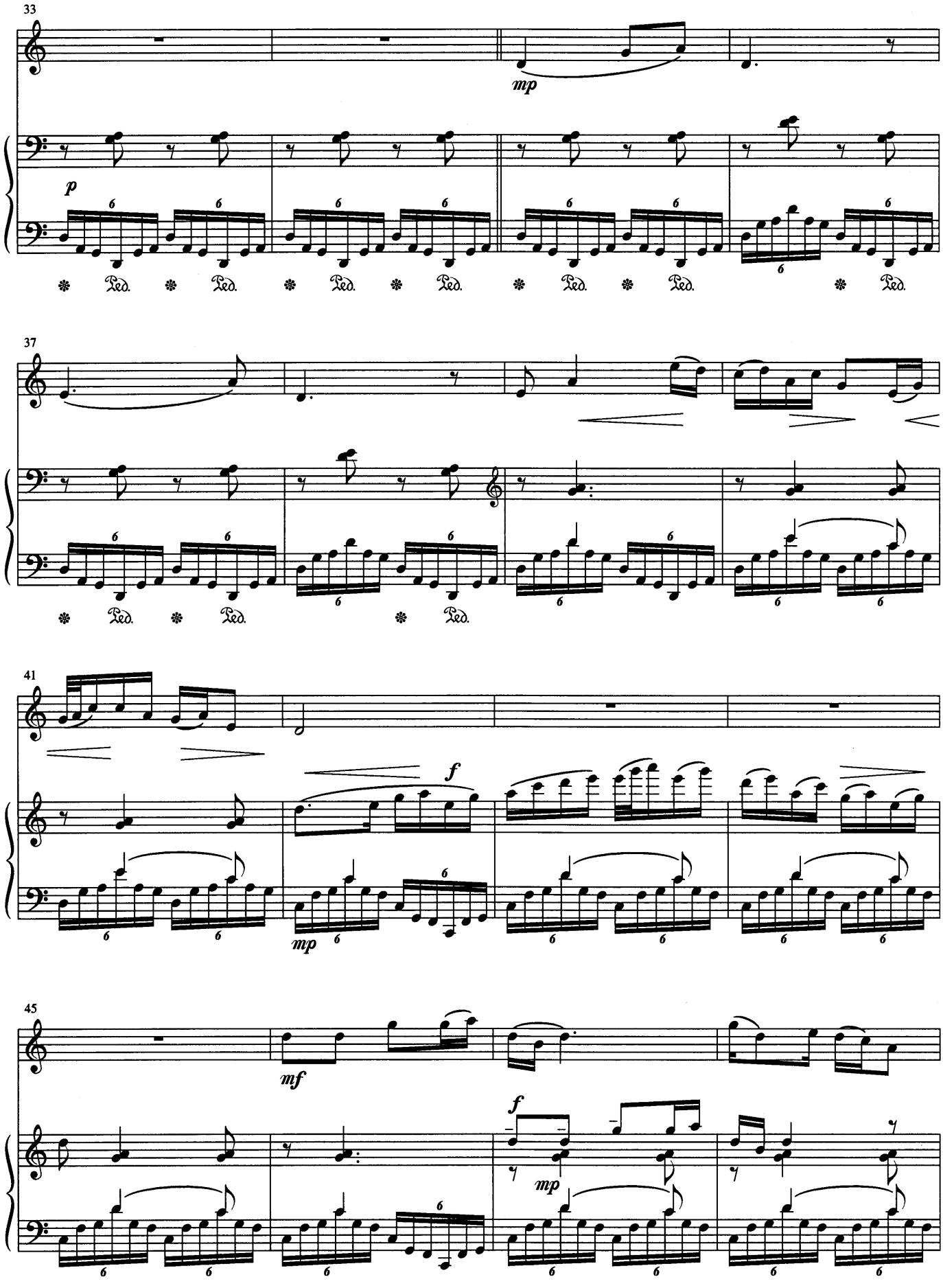

39
5
mf
44
mf
pp
l.h.
tenuto
r.h.
pp
49
f
cresc.
f
52

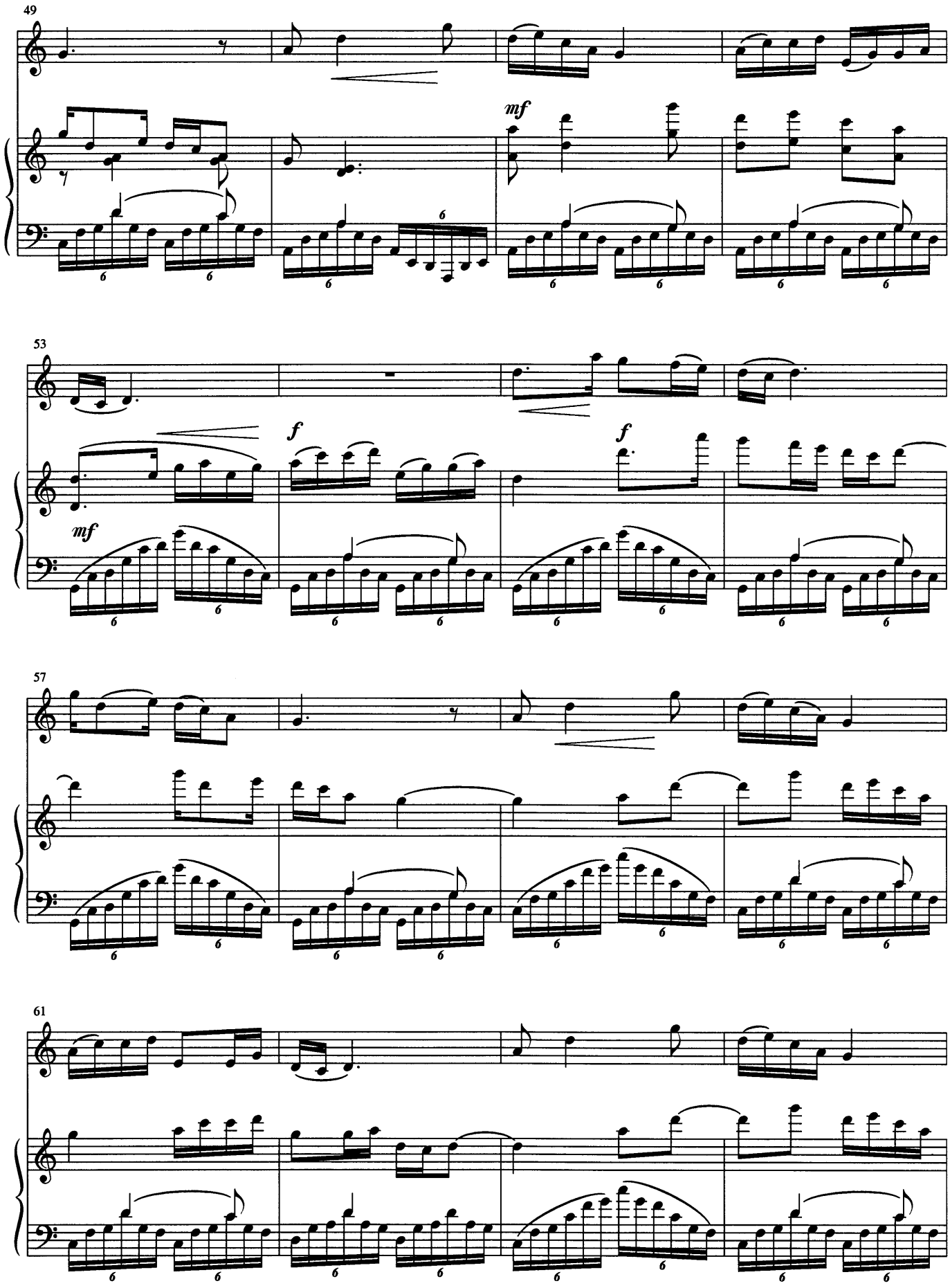

55
58
61
6
rit.
5
Ped.
a tempo
65
mf
mf
5
pp
l.h.
r.h.
70
pp
l.h.
mp
r.h.
l.h.
rit.
3:10

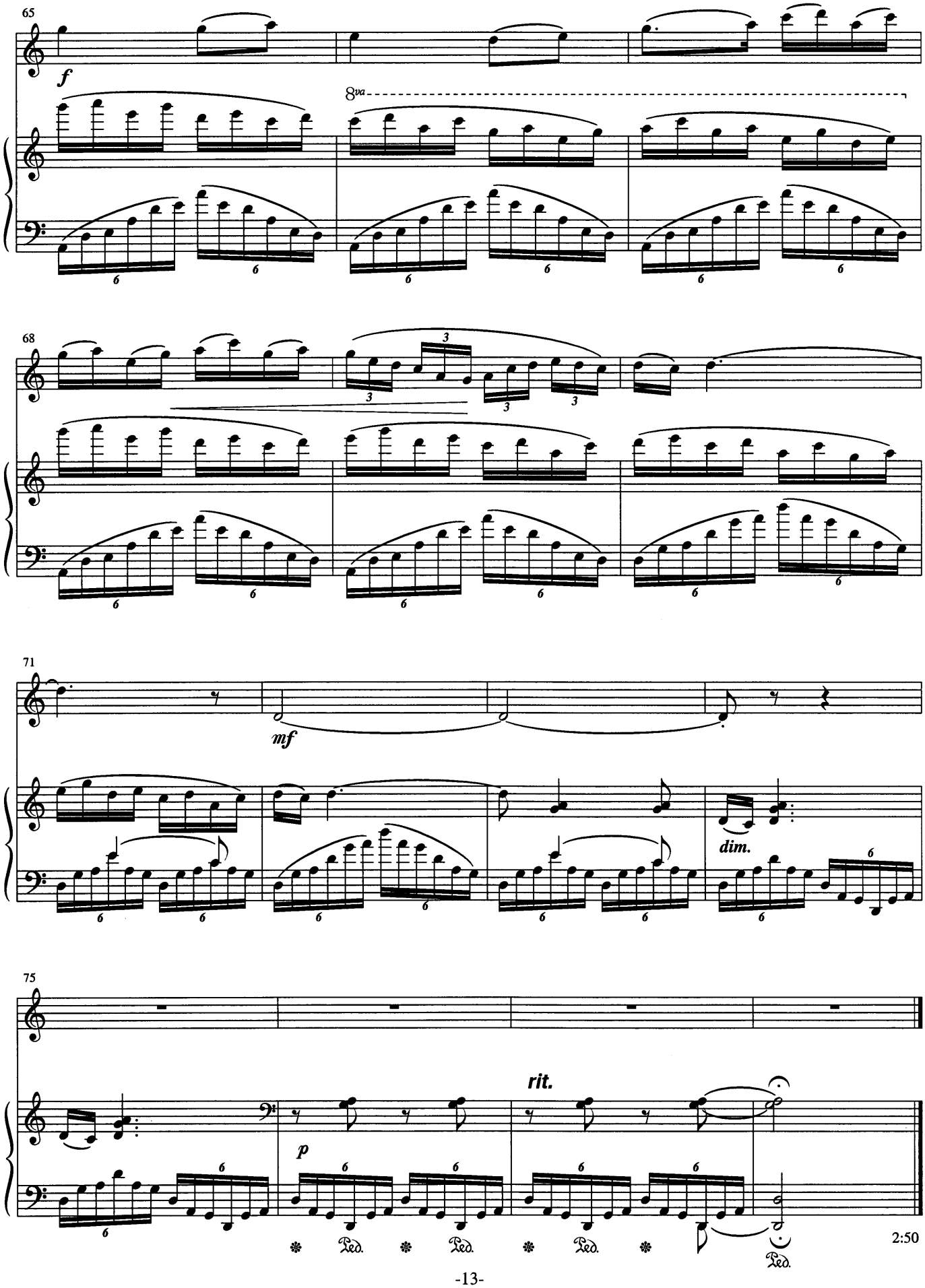
3. A Small Embroidered Bag




17
f
mp
21
mf
f
mp
25
mf
29
f
dim.


33
mp
p
Ped.
37
41
f
mp
45
mf
f
mp


49
mf
53
f
mf
f
57
61


65
f
8va
68
3
3
3
3
71
mf
dim.
75
rit.
p
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
2:50