PERCY ALDRIDGE GRAINGER

SENTIMENTALS

Nr 1. COLONIAL SONG

Originally composed for 2 voices (soprano and tenor), harp and full orchestra.

Composed as Yule-gift for mother, 1911	Scored as Yule-gift for mother, 1912	Rescored, early 1914

Short Program Note

In this piece the composer has wished to express feelings aroused by thoughts of the scenery and people of his native land, Australia. It is dedicated to the composer's mother.

Long Program Note

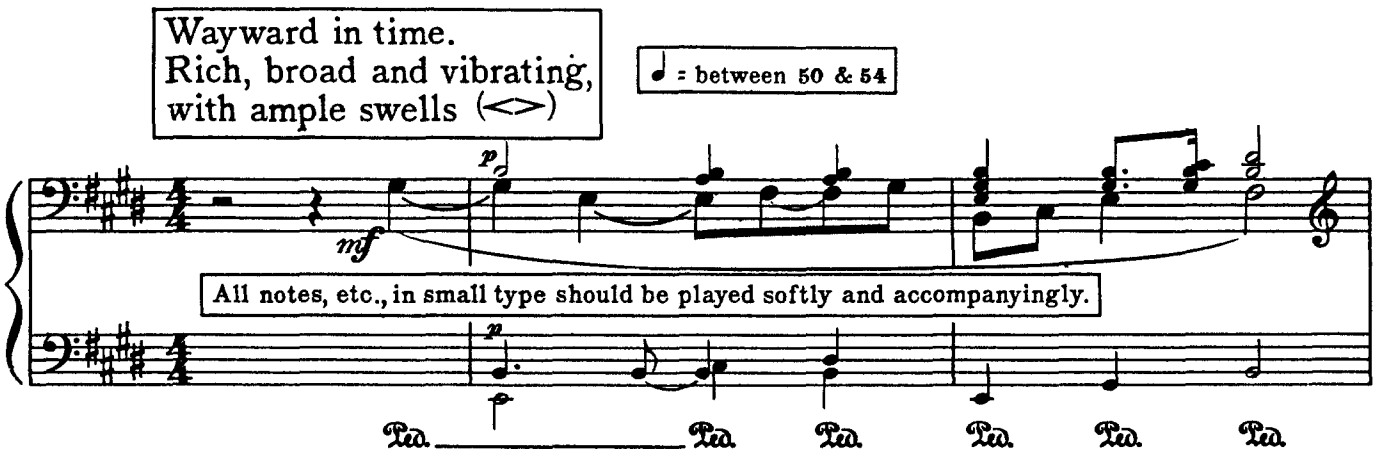
No traditional tunes of any kind are made use of in this piece, in which I have wished to express feelings aroused by thoughts of the scenery and people of my native land, (Australia), and also to voice a certain kind of emotion that seems to me not untypical of native-born Colonials in general.

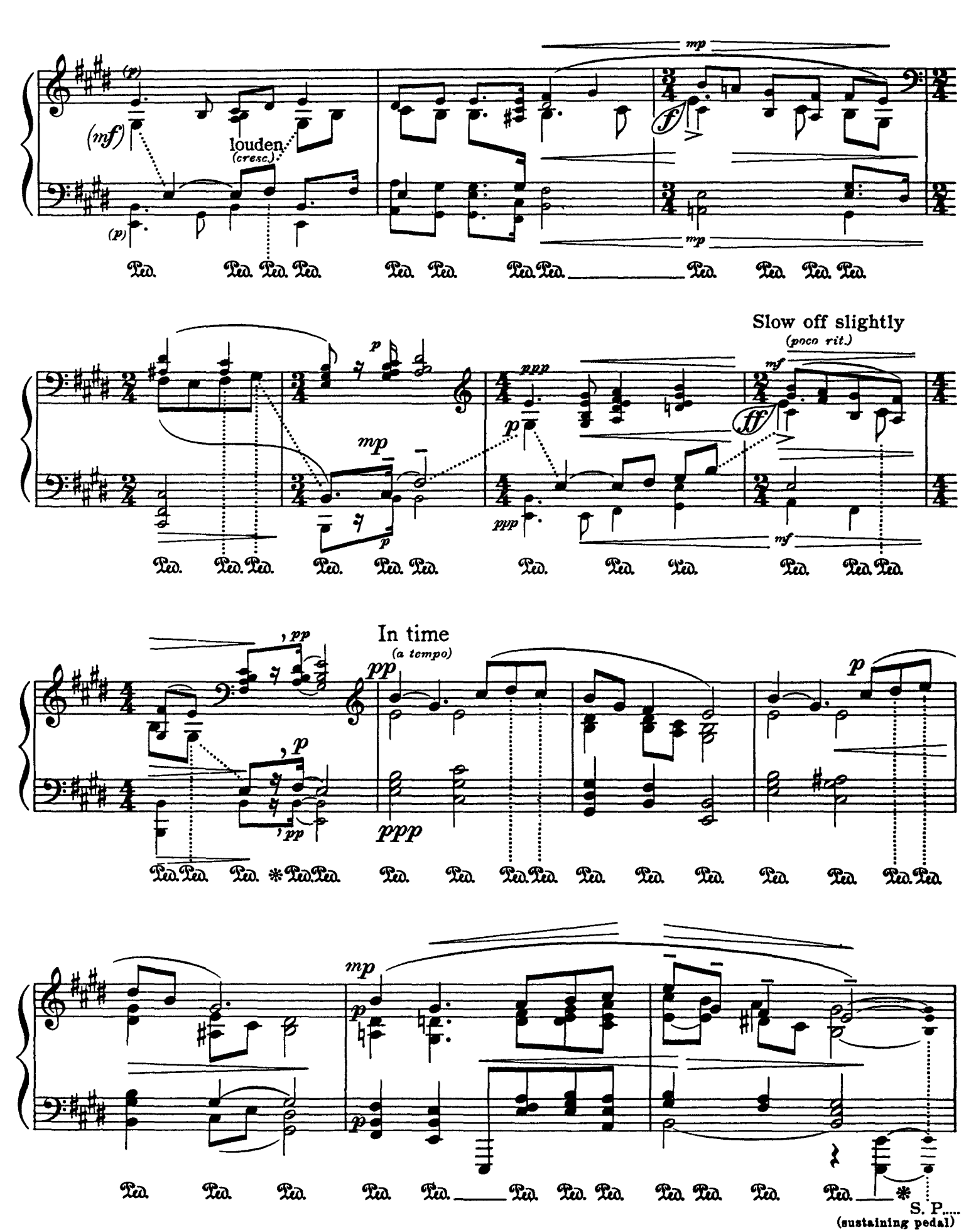
Perhaps it is not unnatural that people living more or less lonelily in vast virgin countries and struggling against natural and climatic hardships (rather than against the more actively and dramaticly exciting counter wills of their fellow men, as in more thickly populated lands) should run largely to that patiently yearning, inactive sentimental wistfulness that we find so touchingly expressed in much American art; for instance in Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn," and in Stephen C. Foster's adorable songs "My Old Kentucky Home," "Old Folks at Home," etc.

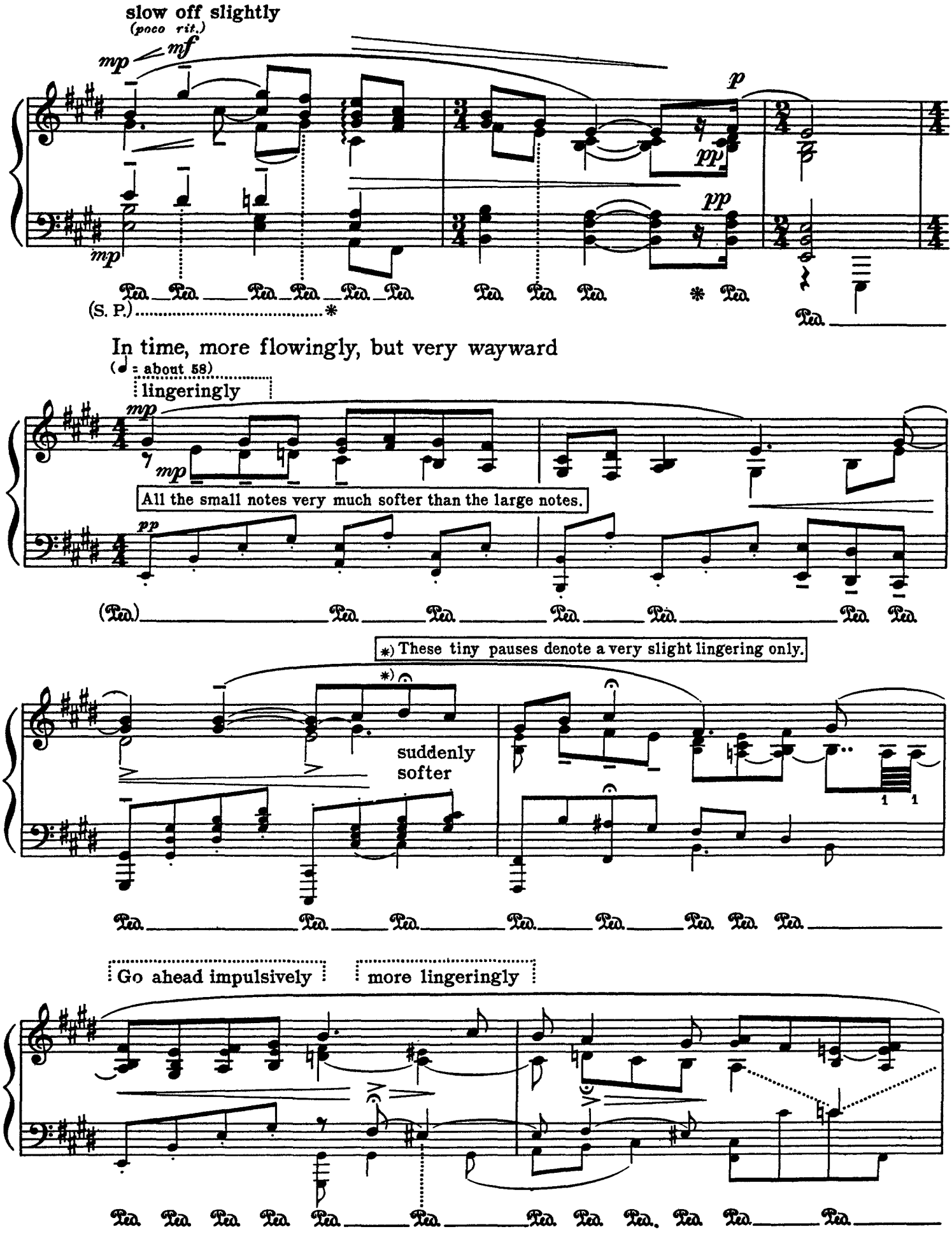
I have also noticed curious, almost Italian-like, musical tendencies in brass band performances and ways of singing in Australia (such as a preference for richness and intensity of tone and soulful breadth of phrasing over more subtly and sensitively varied delicacies of expression), which are also reflected here.

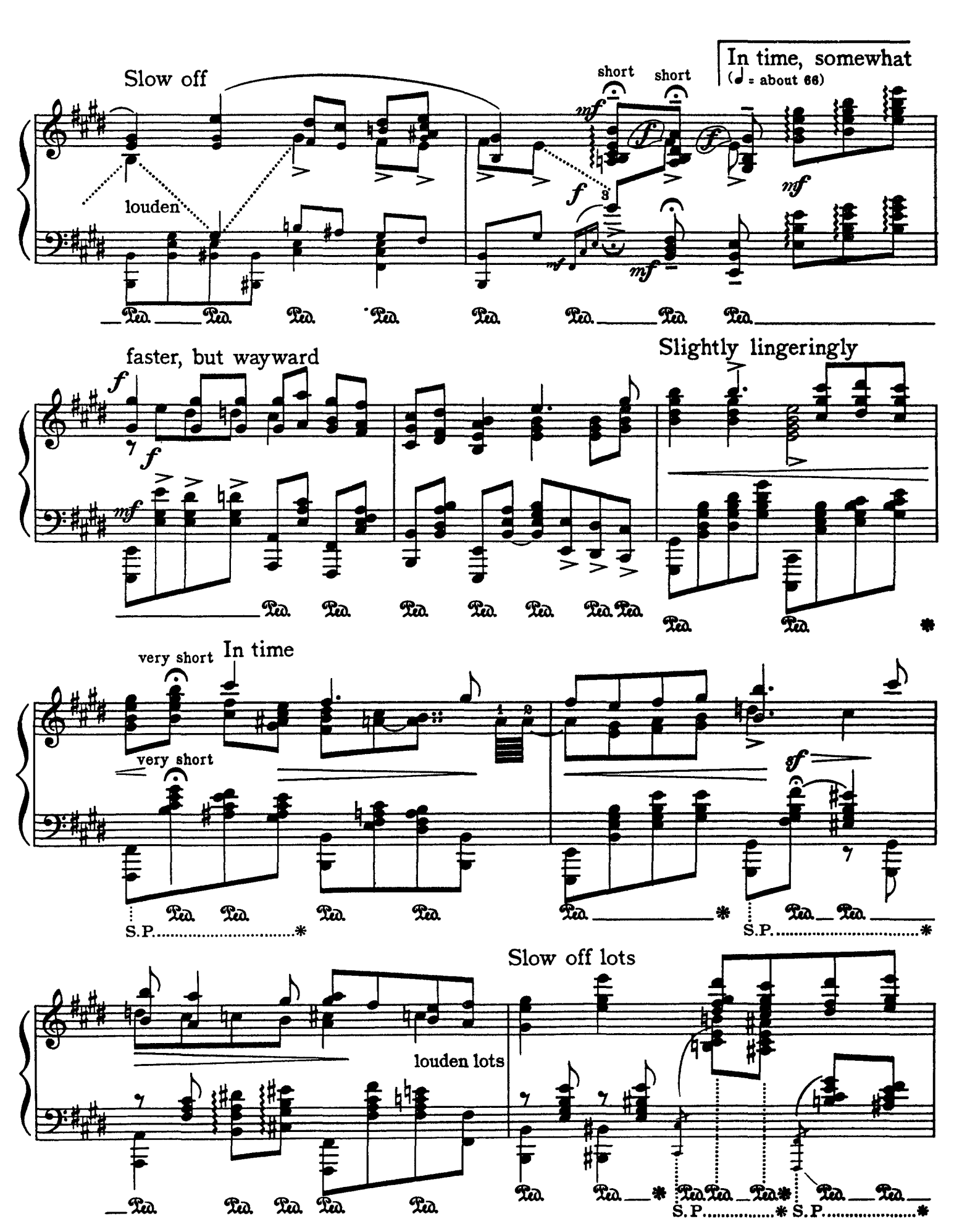
Percy Aldridge Grainger

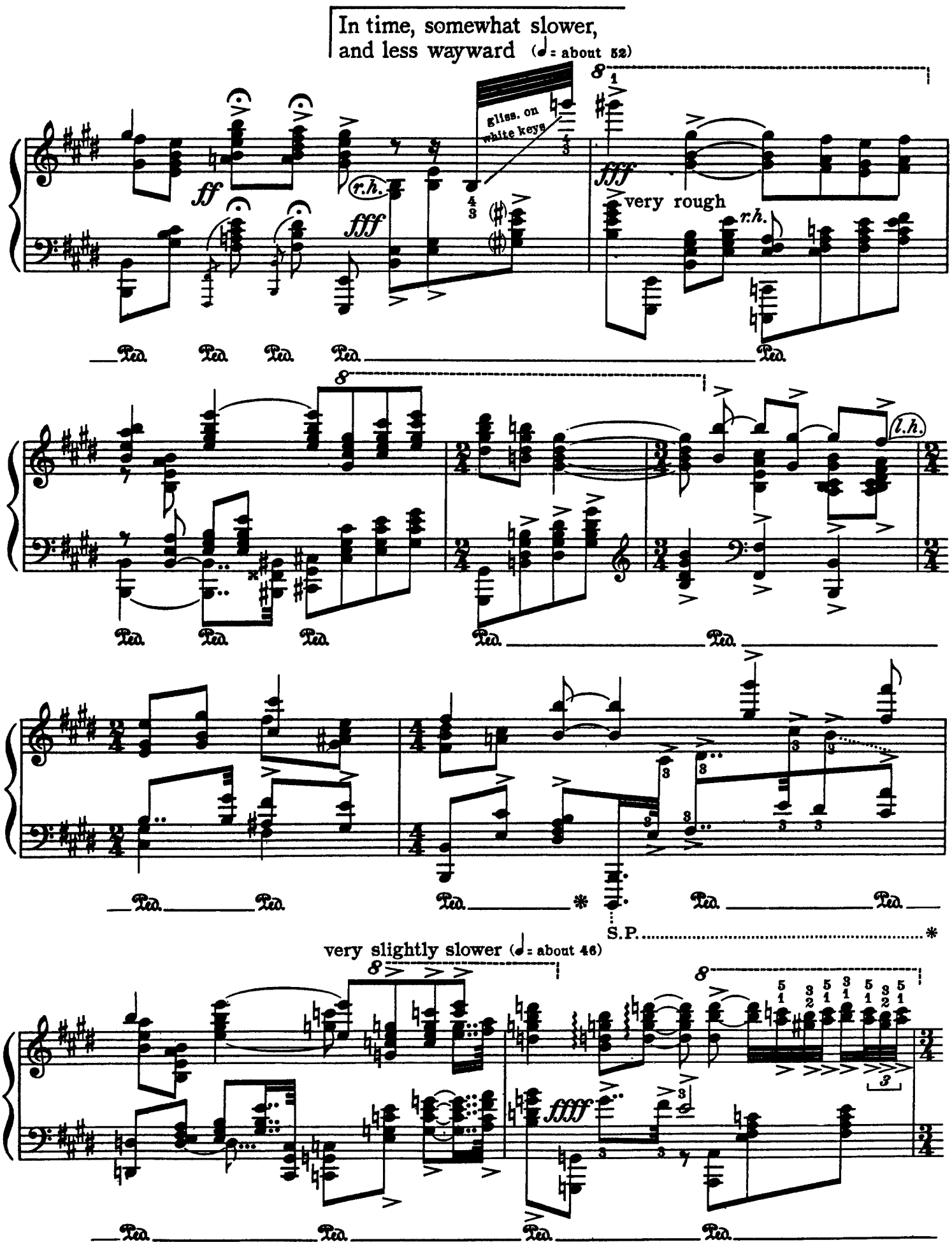
Piano Solo

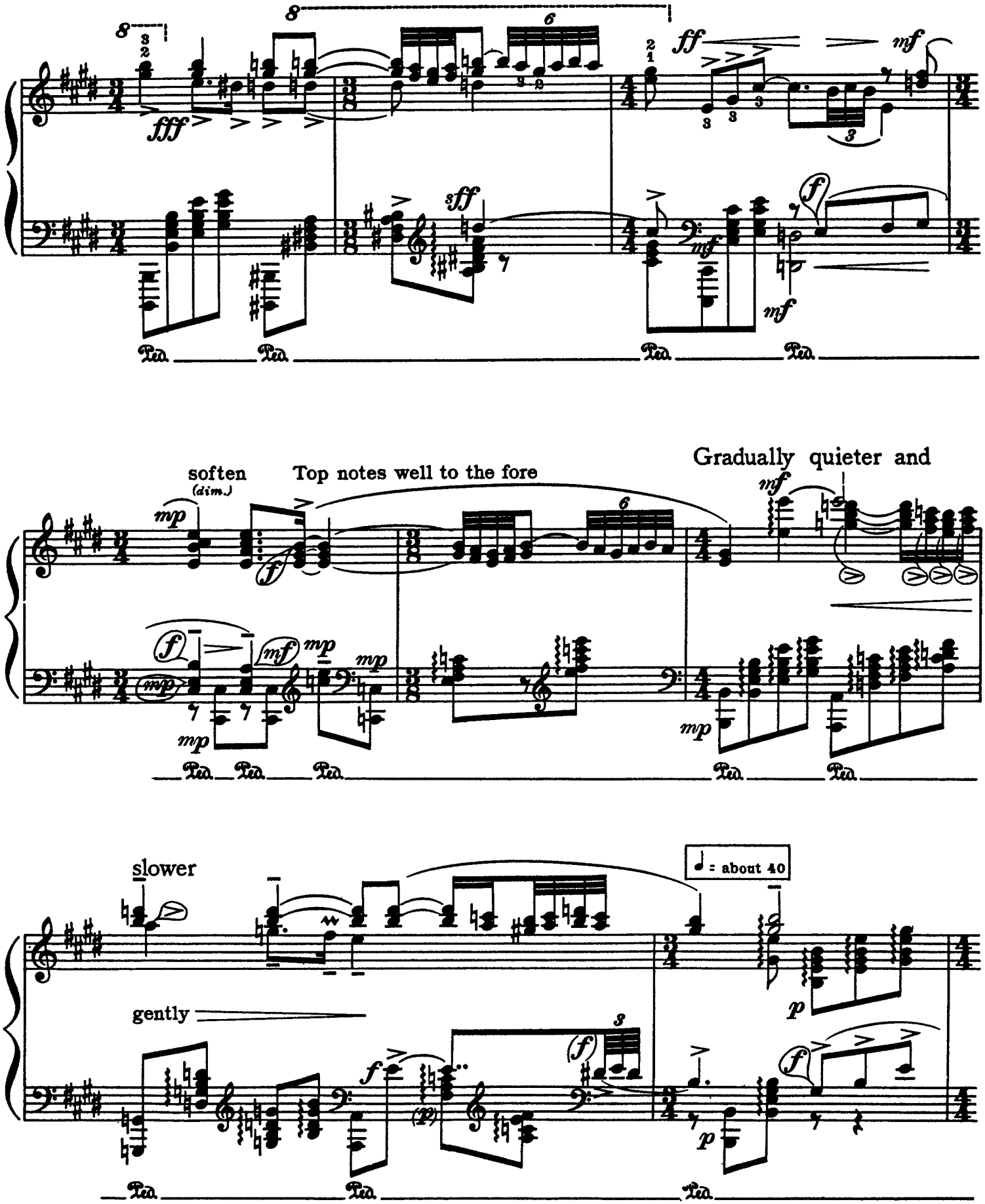



(p)
(mf)
louden
(cresc.)
(p)
mp
f
mp
Slow off slightly
(poco rit.)
p
mp
p
ppp
p
ppp
mf
ff
mf
pp
In time
(a tempo)
pp
p
p
pp
ppp
mp
p
p
S. P.....
(sustaining pedal)

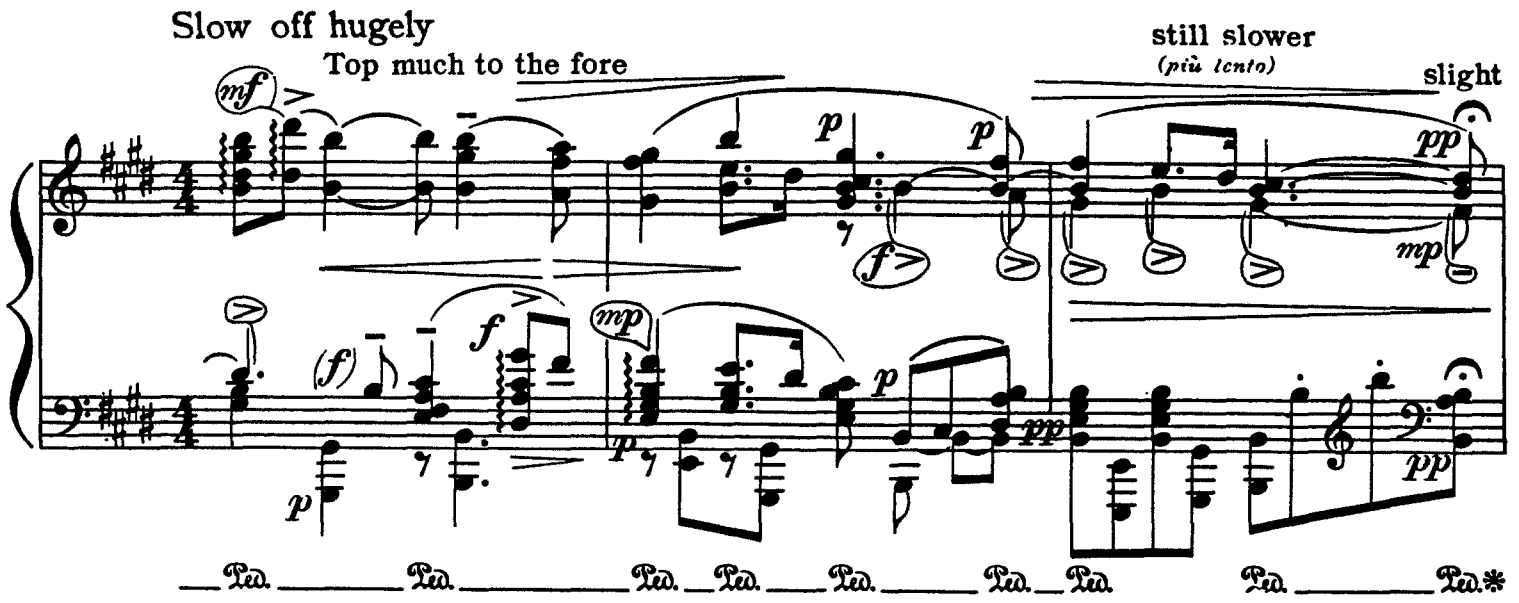

slow off slightly
(poco rit.)
mp
mf
p
pp
mp
pp
Ped.
(S. P.)
*
In time, more flowingly, but very wayward
(♩ = about 58)
lingeringly
mp
mp
All the small notes very much softer than the large notes.
pp
(Ped.)
*) These tiny pauses denote a very slight lingering only.
*)
suddenly
softer
1
1
Go ahead impulsively
more lingeringly

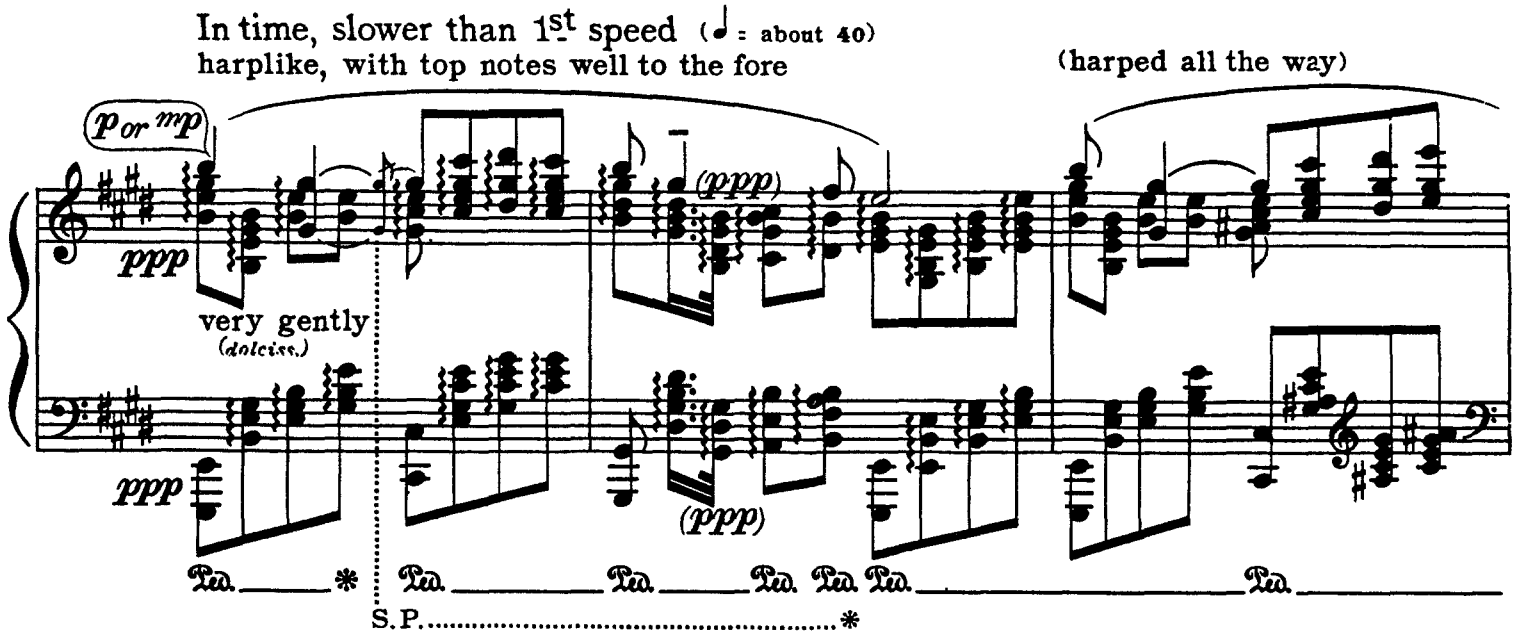

Slow off
short
short
In time, somewhat
(♩ = about 66)
louden
faster, but wayward
Slightly lingeringly
very short
In time
very short
S.P.
S.P.
Slow off lots
louden lots
S.P.
S.P.

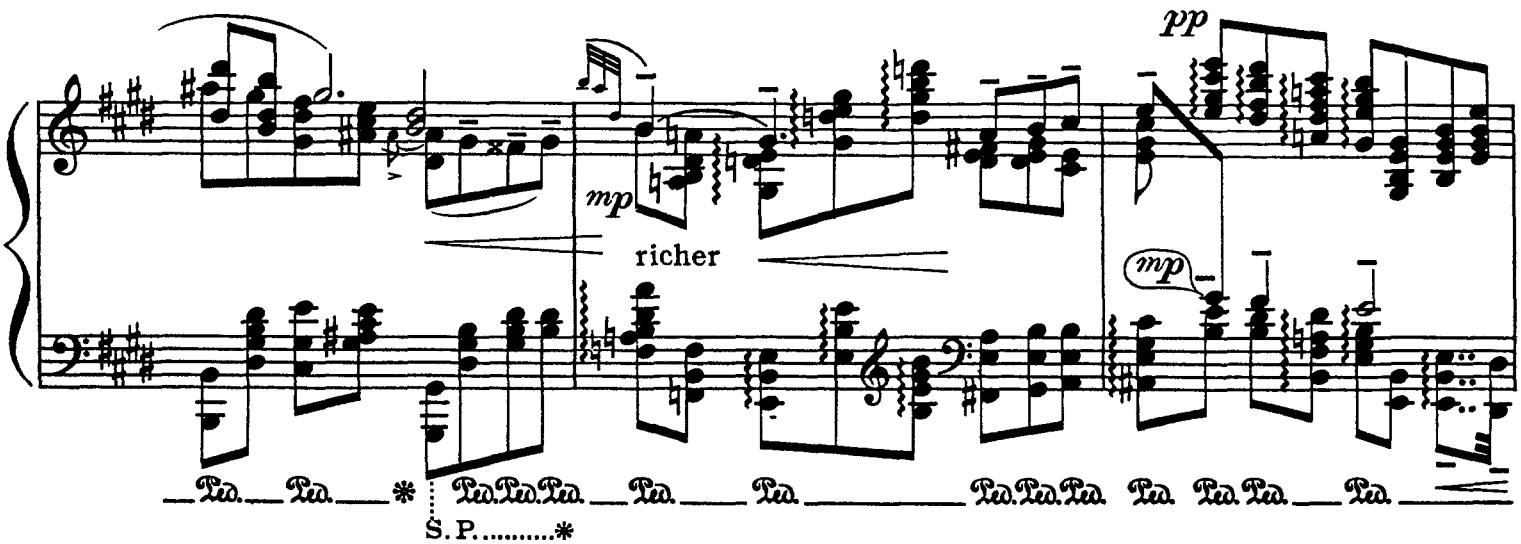

In time, somewhat slower,
and less wayward (♩ = about 52)
gliss. on white keys
very rough
very slightly slower (♩ = about 46)

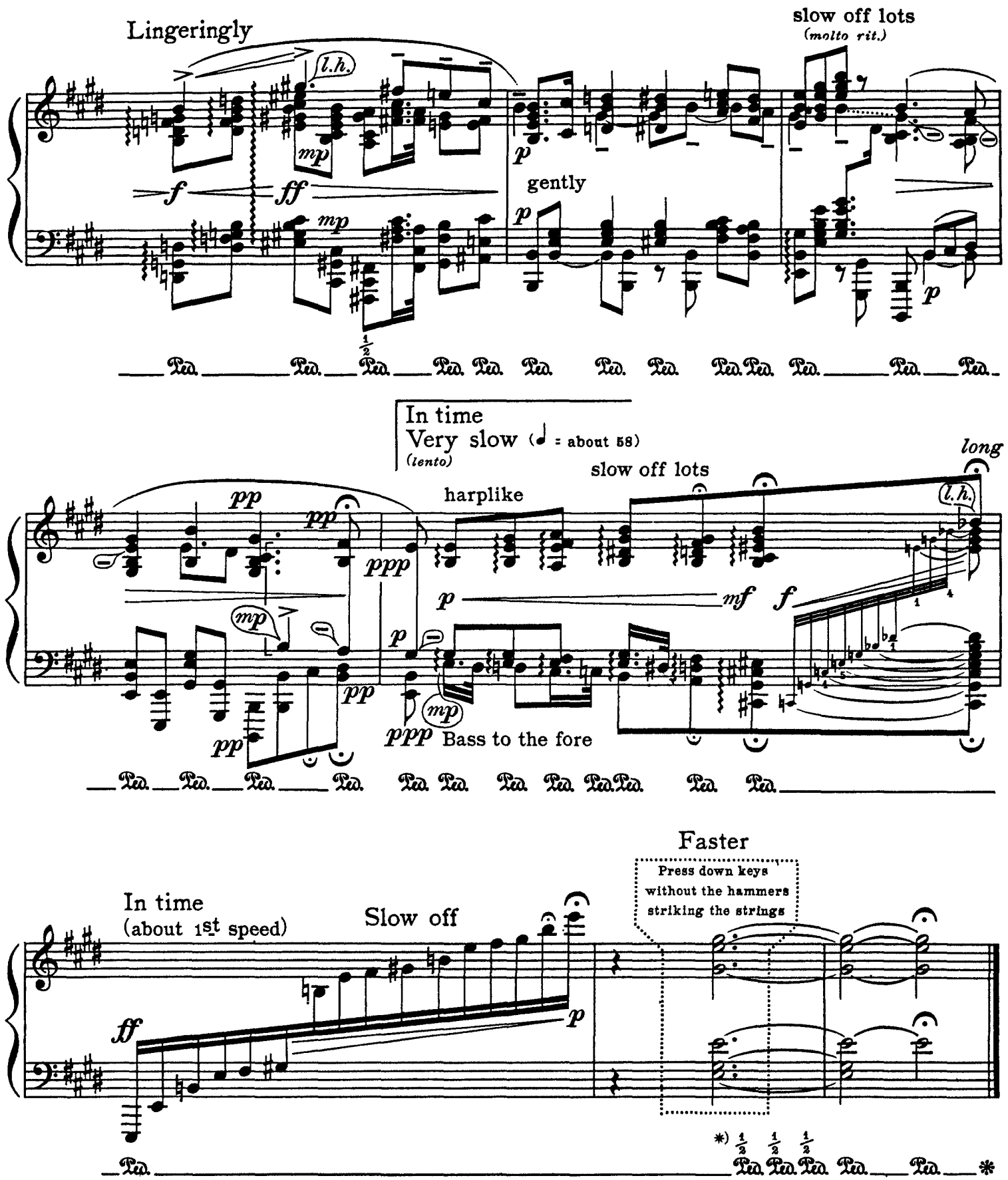


soften
(dim.)
Top notes well to the fore
Gradually quieter and
slower
gently
♩ = about 40


Slow off hugely
Top much to the fore
still slower
(più lento)
slight


In time, slower than 1st speed (♩ = about 40)
harplike, with top notes well to the fore
(harped all the way)
very gently
(dolcissimo)
S. P.


richer
S. P.



*) By "half pedalling" is meant lifting up the right foot pedal just so high that the dampers only partially arrest the vibrations of the strings.