Erwin Schulhoff

1894–1942

11 Inventionen

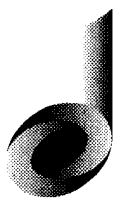
für Klavier/for Piano

Werk 36/op. 36

(1921)

Herausgegeben von/Edited by
Josef Bek

ED 8066



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Preface

The *11* (originally 12) *Inventions* were composed after a pause of ten months in Schulhoff's creative output – during this period he left Dresden and moved to Saarbrücken to take up a post at Bornschein's Conservatory in the Autumn of 1920. But he felt discontented there and could only concentrate on his composition with great difficulty. For this reason the *Inventions* did not come to him lightly. The sketches show more corrections than were usual for him; in certain passages his impetuous delections are emphasised by verbal expressions which reveal to us his agitated state of mind.

The *11 Inventions* were completed on the 23rd of March 1921. They belong to a period of search for identity and of diverse compositional pathways. In these pieces he takes up the direction he had followed in 1920 with the 1st movement of the *String sextet:* atonality, perfect fourths diminished fifths, the loosening of metrical rigidity, a tendency to short forms and concentrated expression. It was a reaction to the works of Schoenberg and Skriabin and nonetheless to those of the French Impressionists, who had fascinated Schulhoff dring his studies. In all probability he had taken composition lessons with Debussy in 1913.

This reminiscence was of decisive importance: in using the new techniques his interest lay not so much in structural combination as in the intoxicating timbre of their resultant sound. His interest in sonority was also evidenced by the pianistic details he calls for, by unusual pedalling etc.

This work was premiered by Schulhoff himself on the 11th of March 1922 in Prague.

Josef Bek

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Jedes Versetzungszeichen gilt nur für die diesbezügliche Note.

Aufführungsdauer: ca. 10 Minuten
Duration: approx. 10 minutes

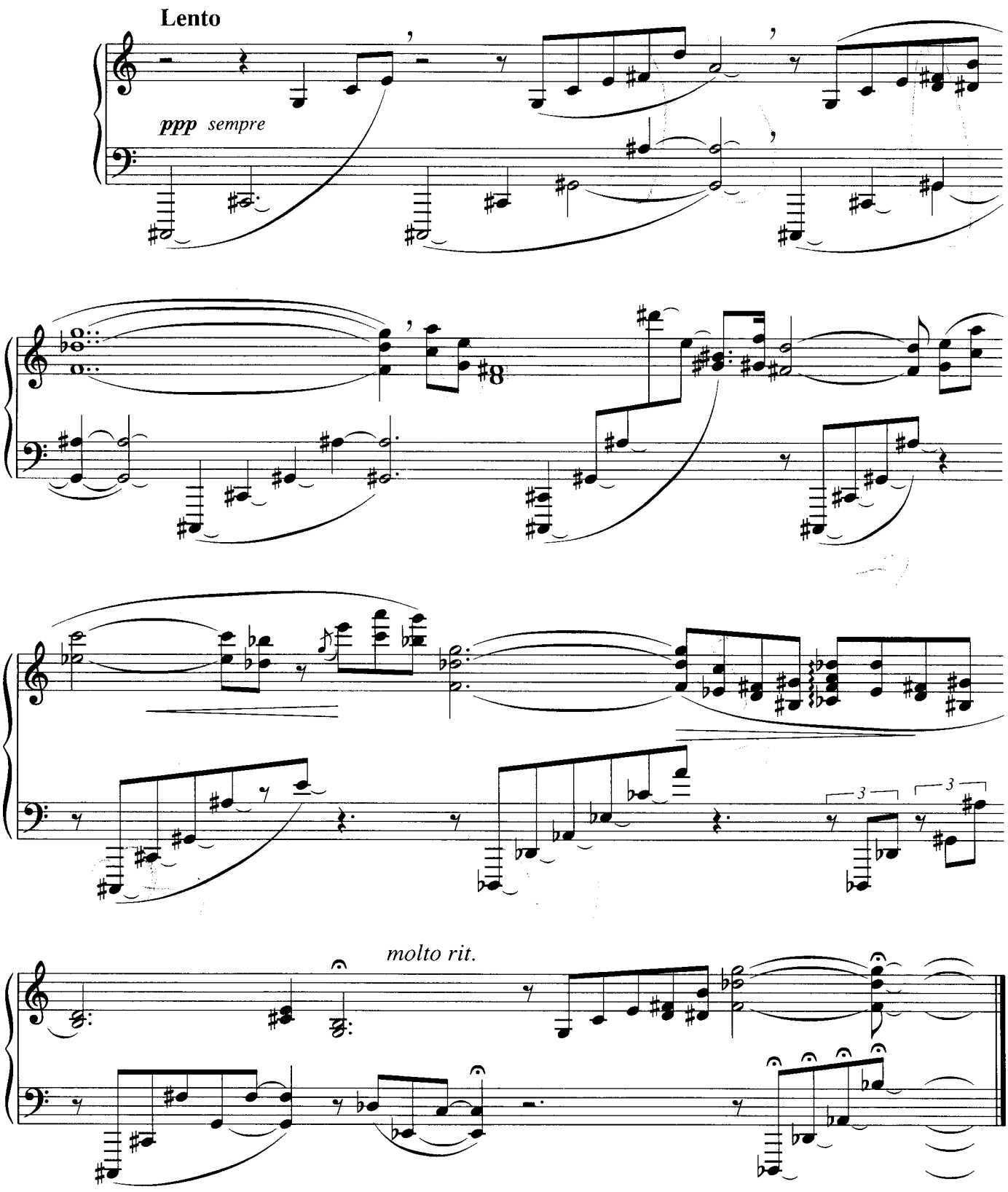
à Maurice Ravel

11 Inventionen

(1921)

1

Erwin Schulhoff
1894 - 1942



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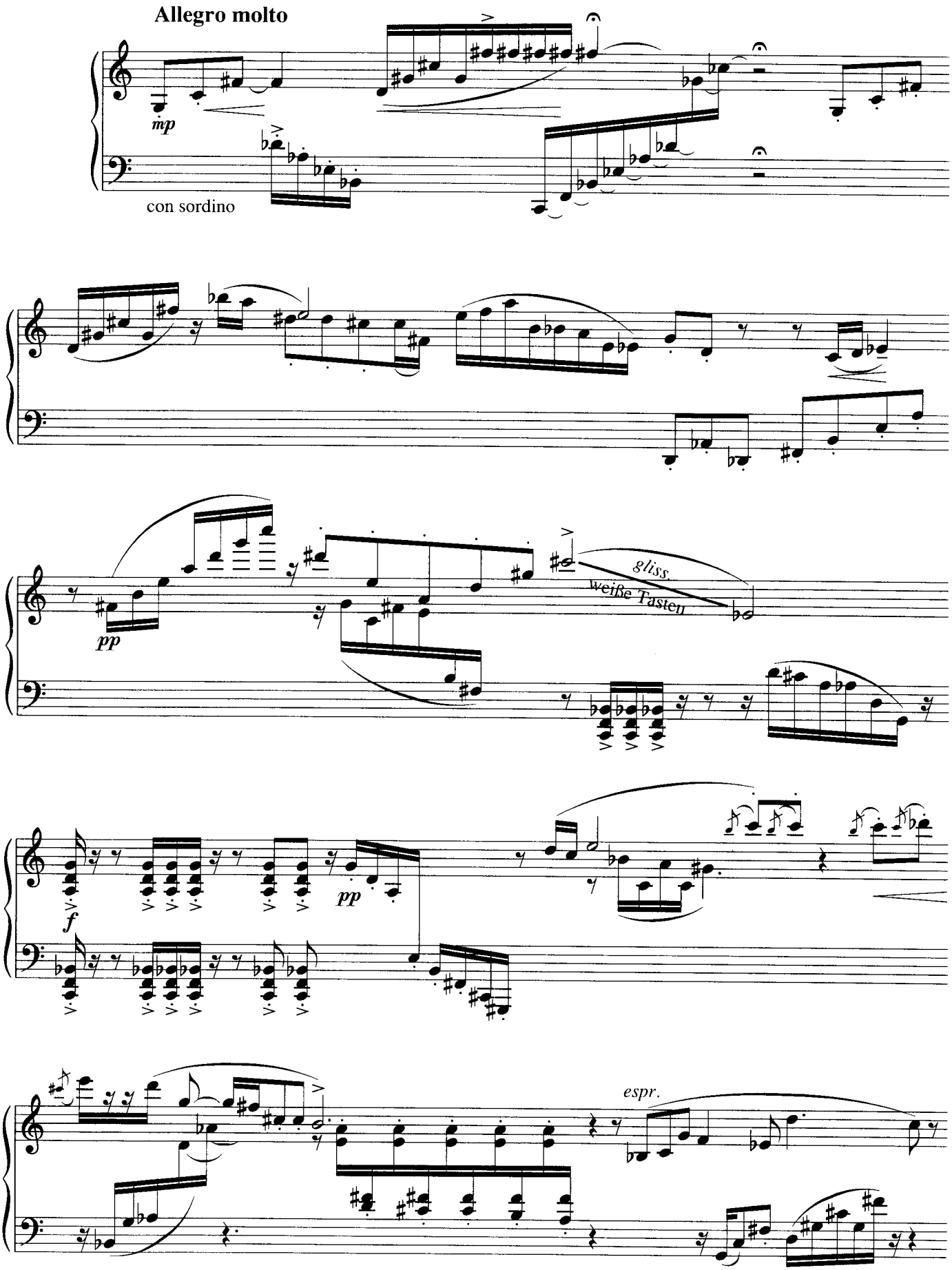
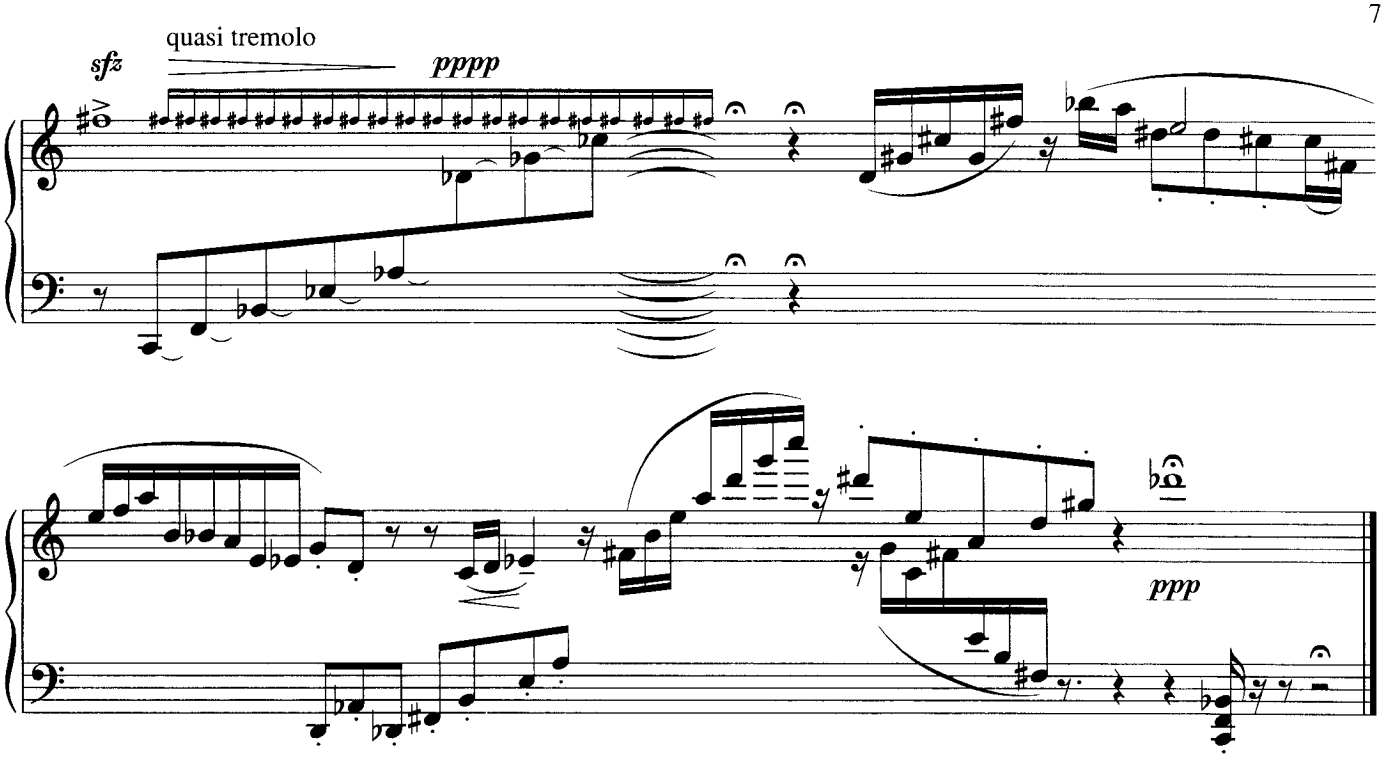
2

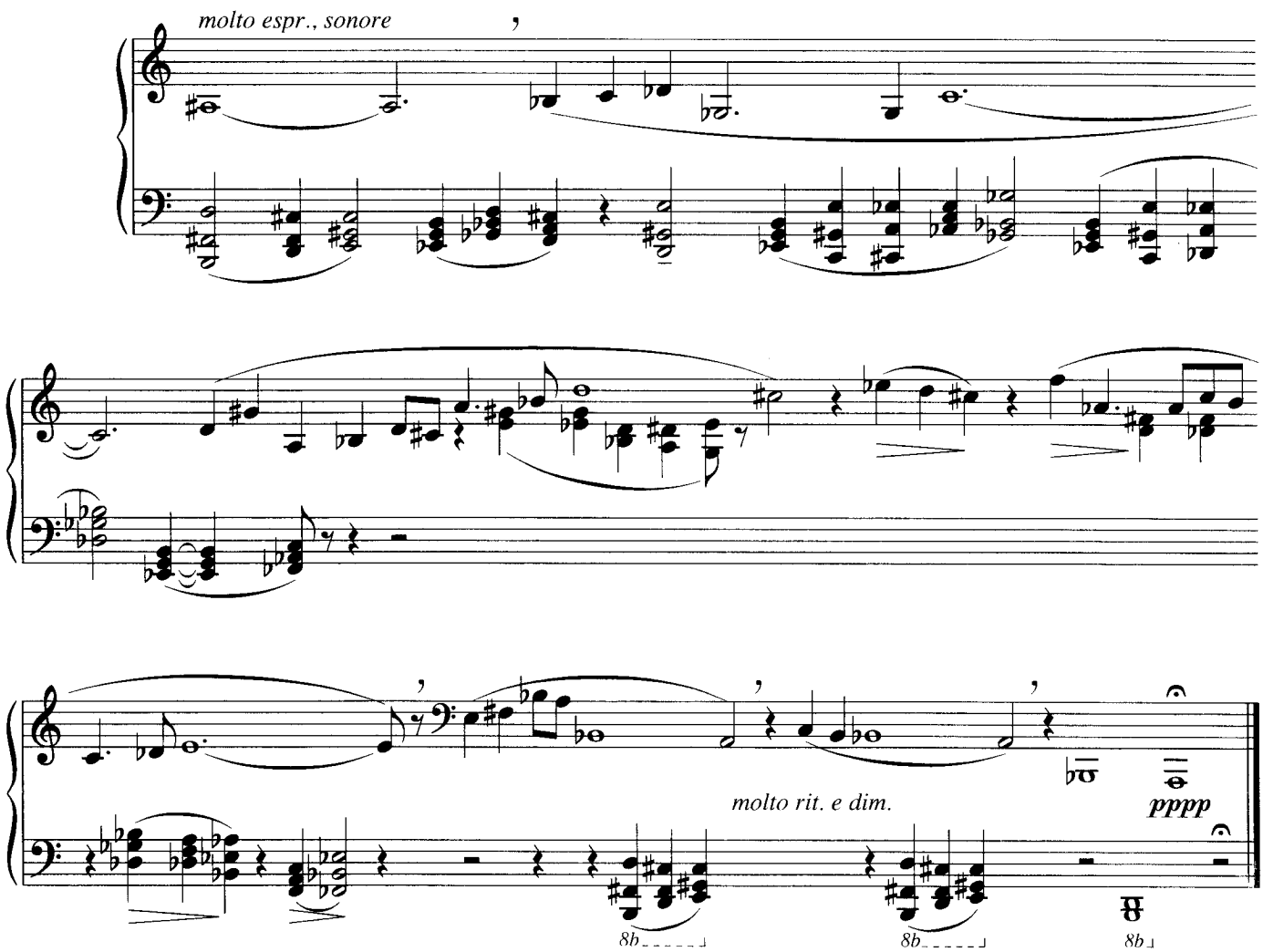
Allegro molto




quasi tremolo
sfz
pppp
ppp

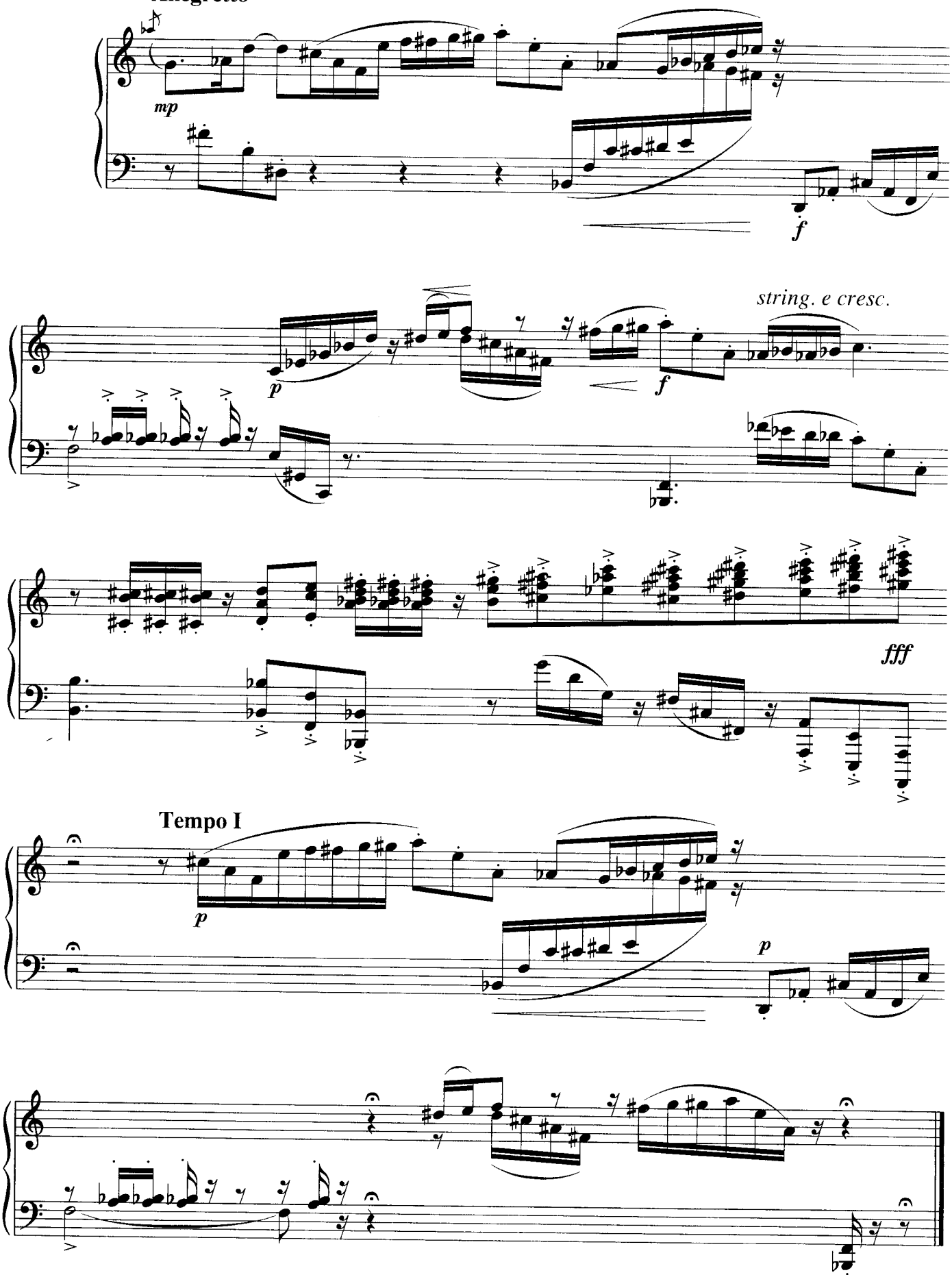
3

Lento


molto espr., sonore
molto rit. e dim.
pppp
8b
8b
8b

4

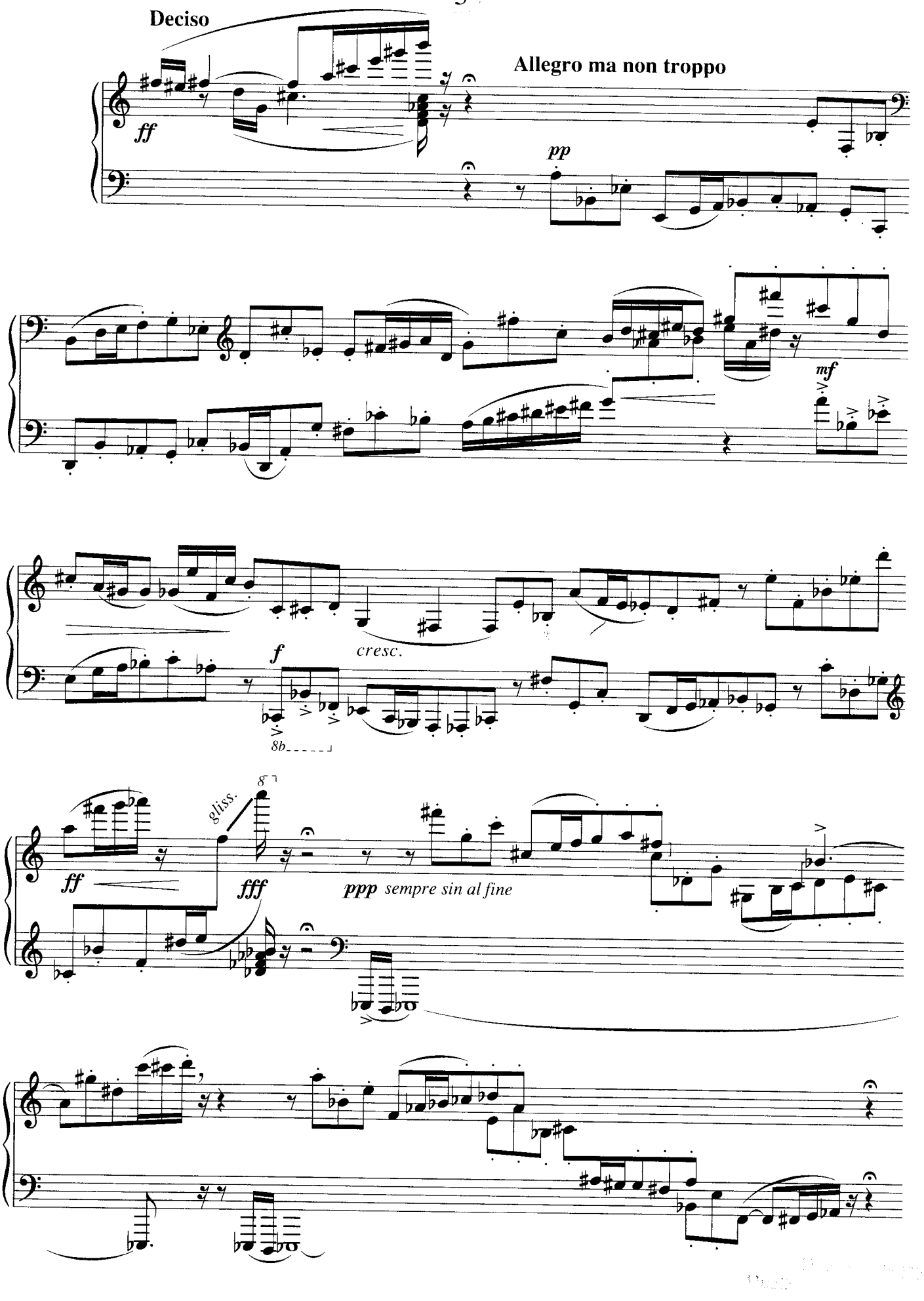
Allegretto

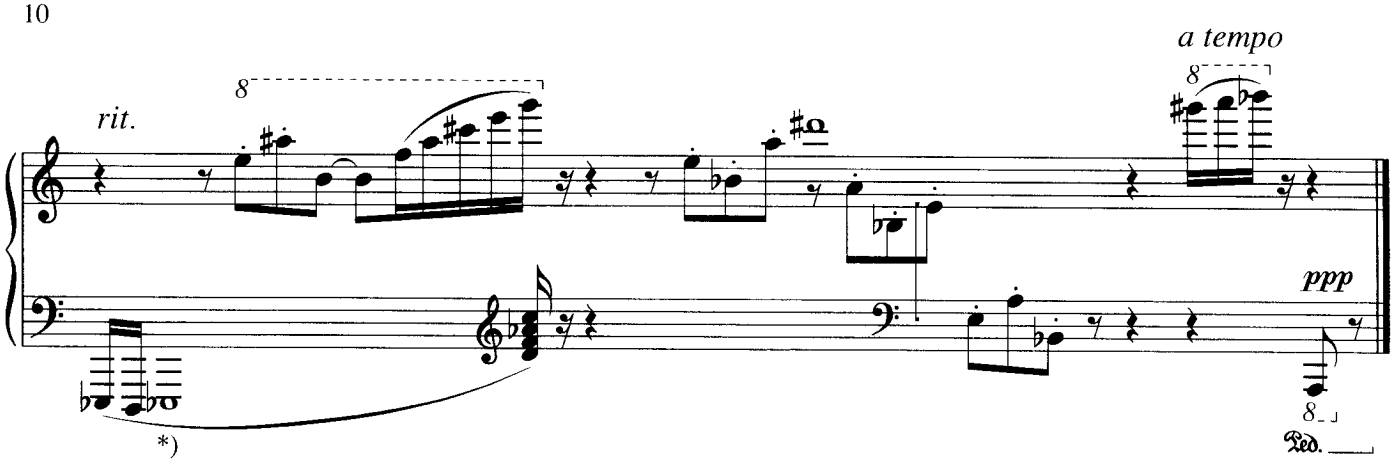


5

Deciso

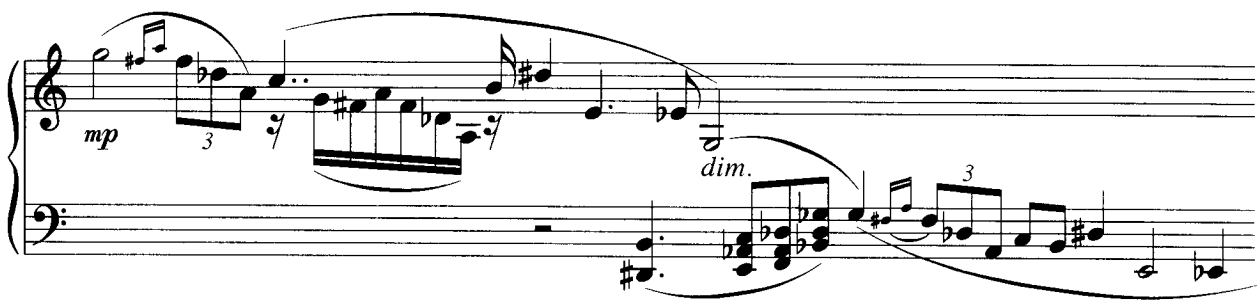
Allegro ma non troppo

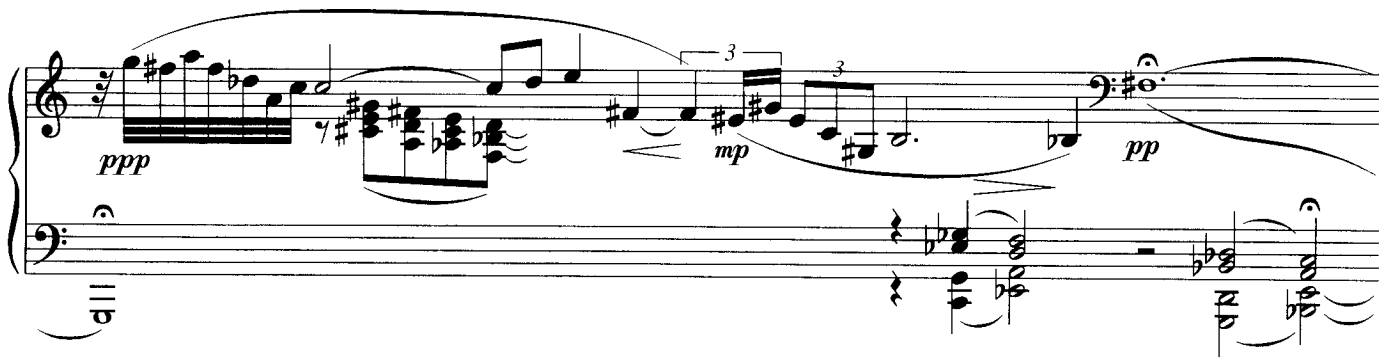




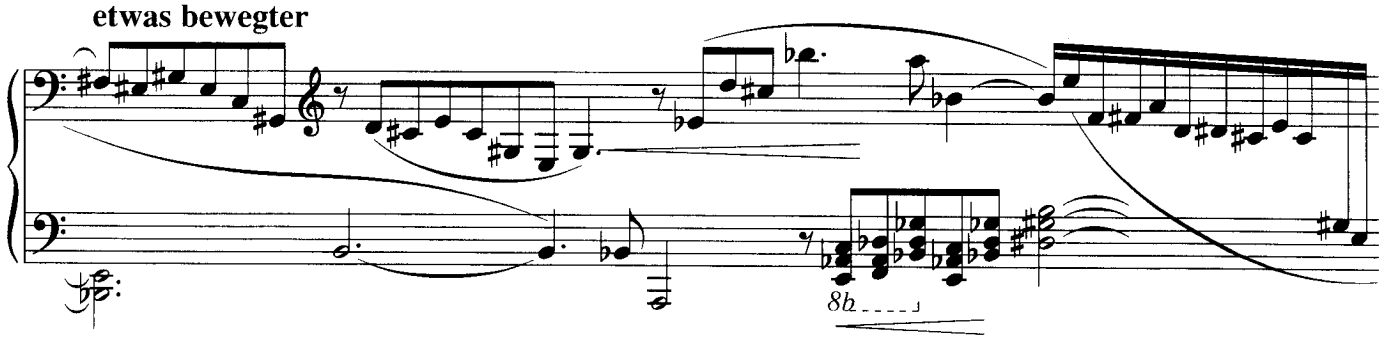
6

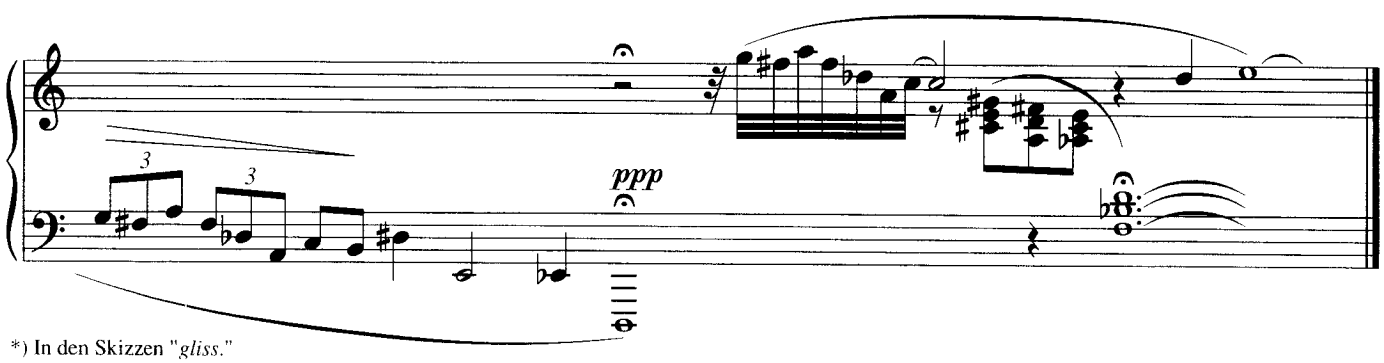
Andantino rubato





etwas bewegter

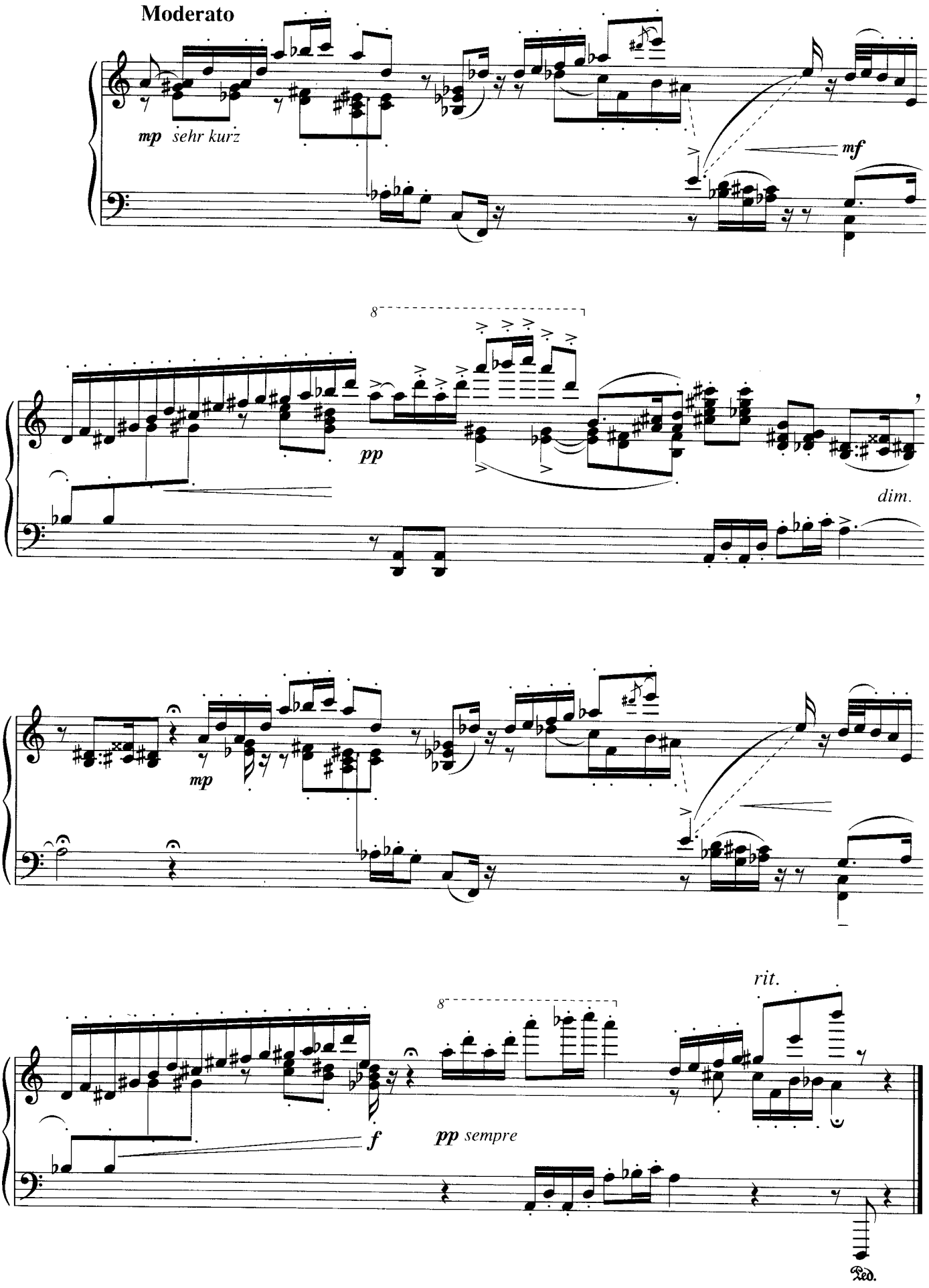




*) In den Skizzen "*gliss.*"

7

Moderato



8

Adagio espressivo

sonore e espr.

poco più mosso

ppp sempre

con sordino

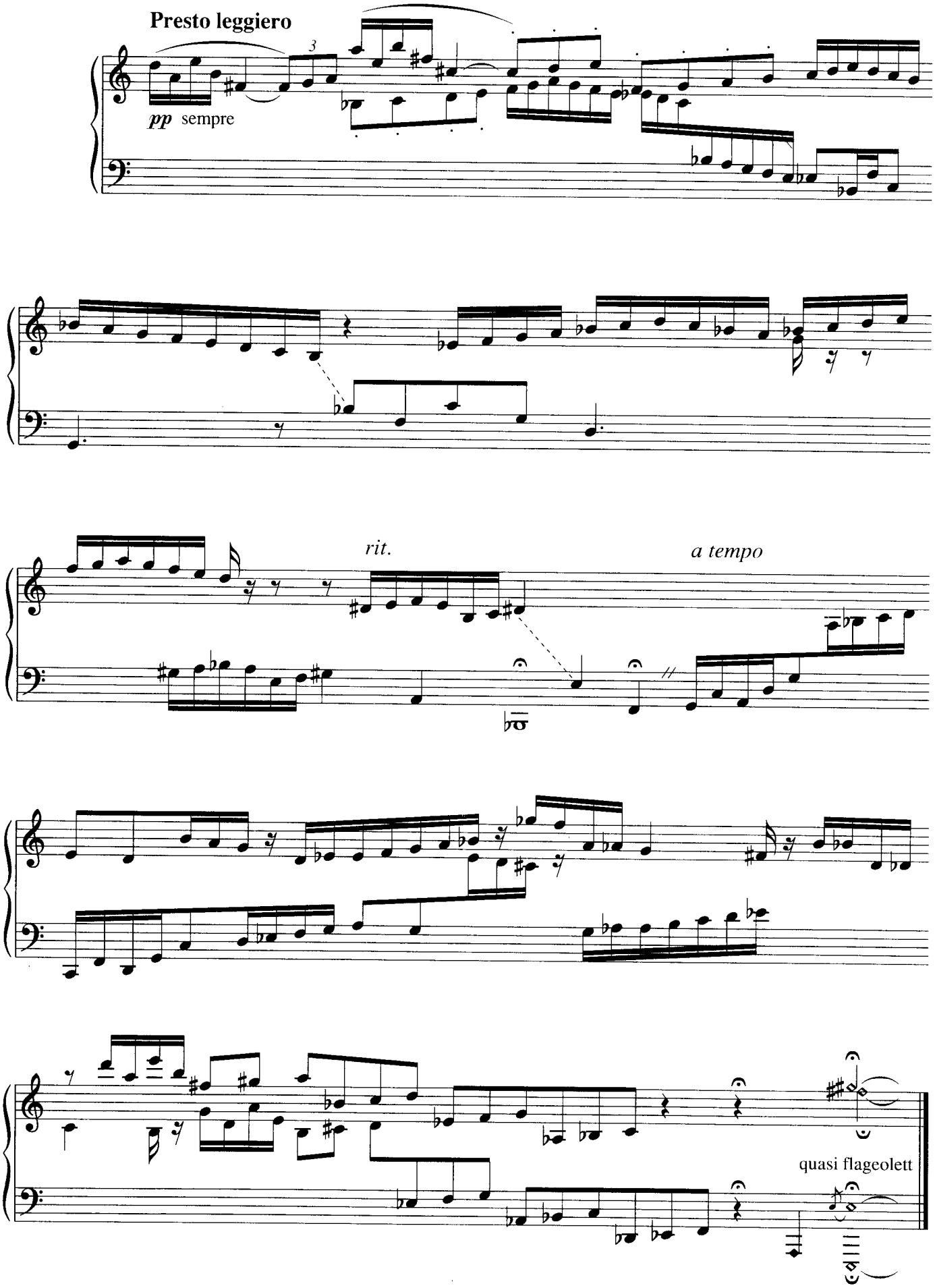
legatissimo

3 3

8

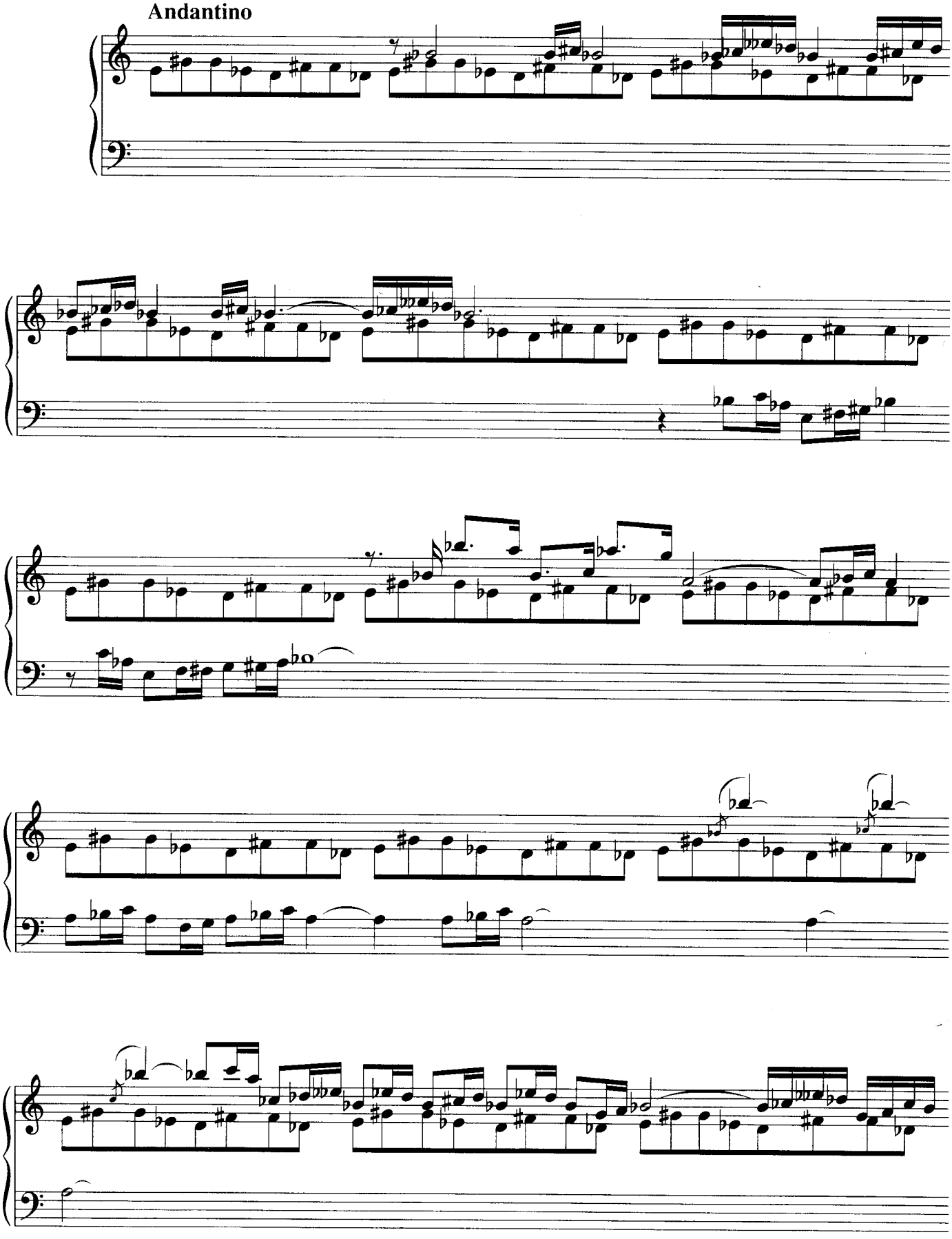
Adagio espressivo

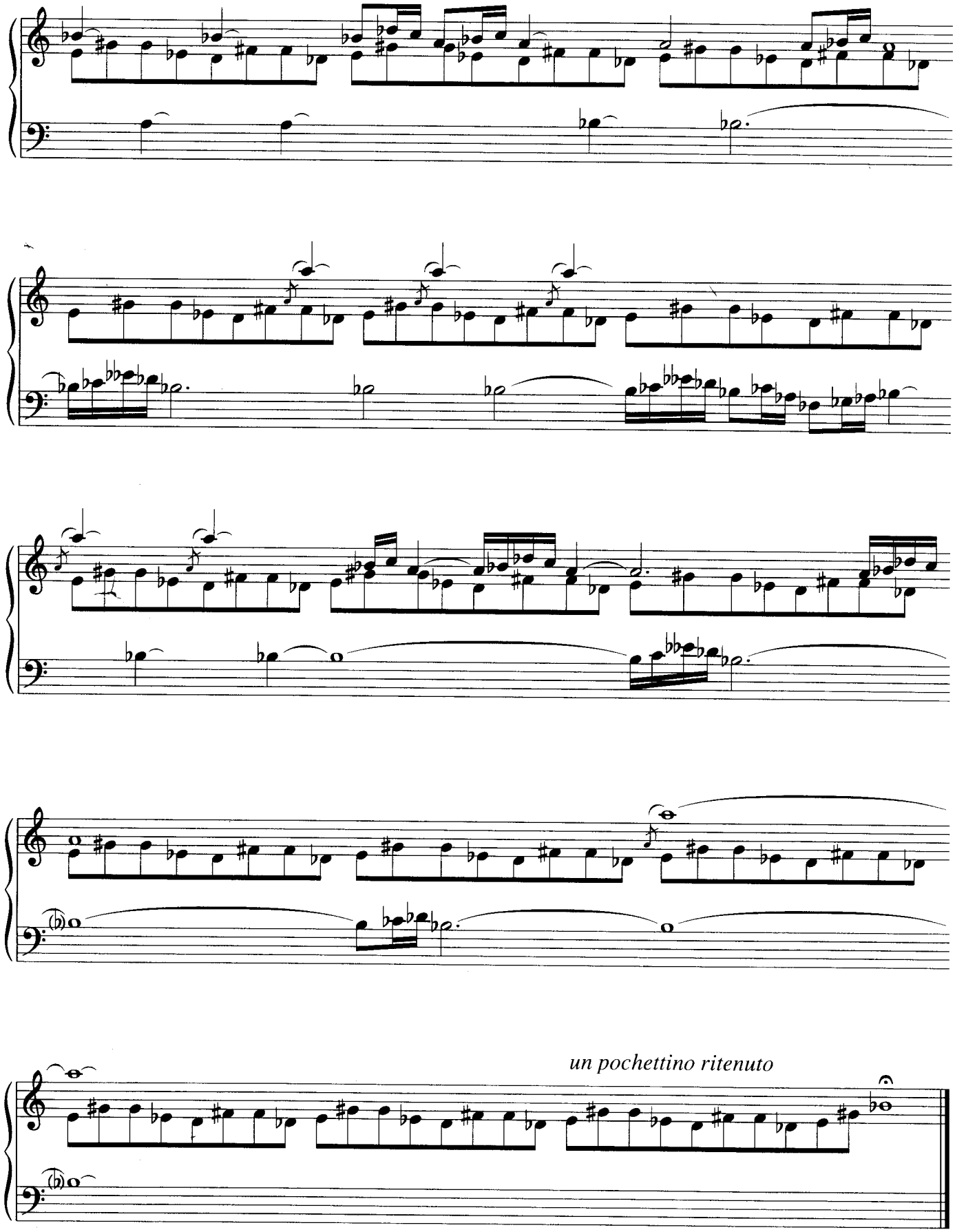
ppp


Presto leggiero
pp sempre
rit.
a tempo
quasi flageolett

10

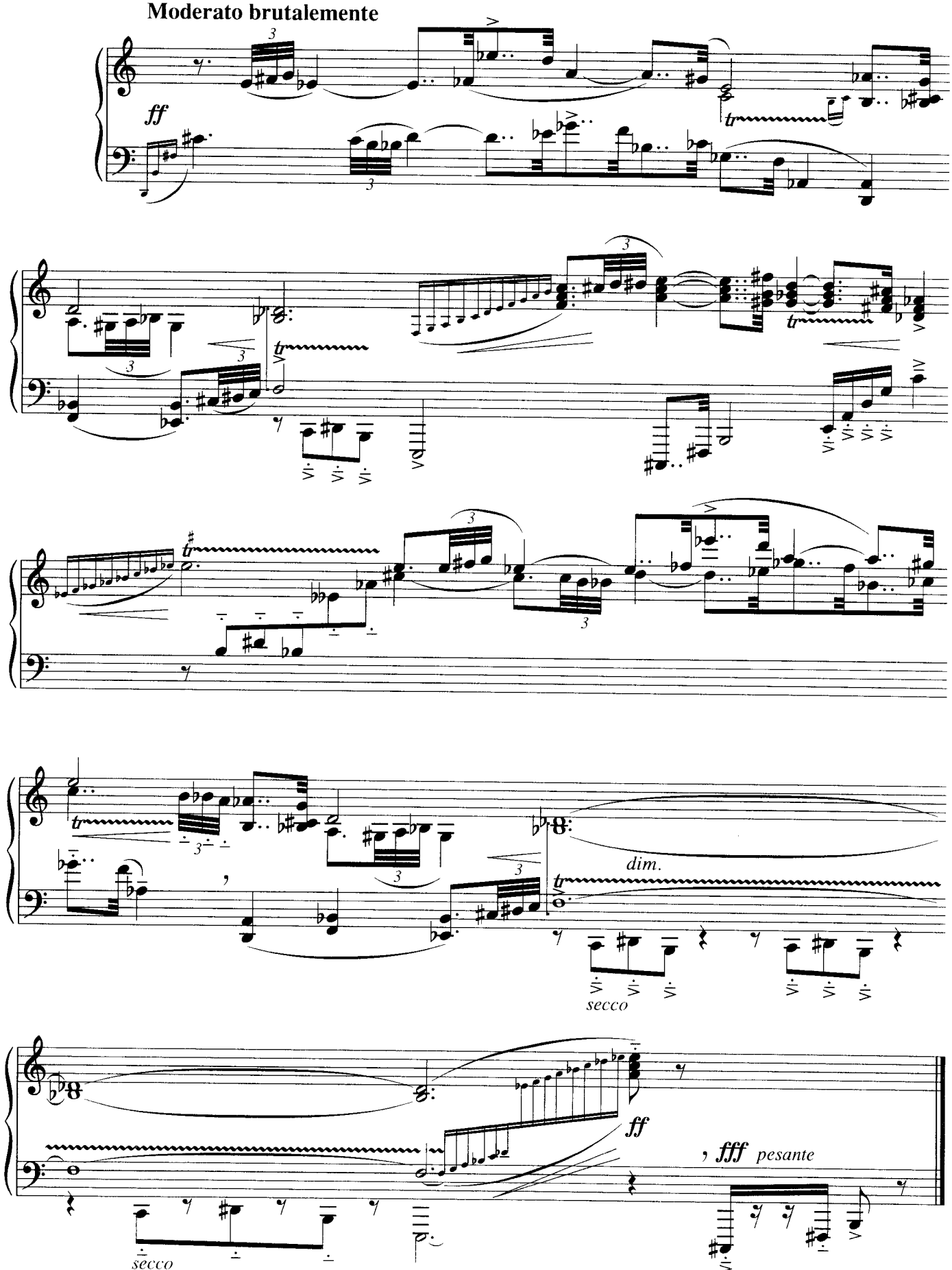
Andantino




un pochettino ritenuto

11

Moderato brutalemente



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