Robert Percy

Chopsticks

for solo piano

Programme note

The pianist begins as if playing the popular tune *Chopsticks*. Very quickly, this is abandoned as the performer seemingly drifts into other ideas.

The piece explores connections between a number of different musical ideas, including: a gentle, pulseless monody interspersed with 'earthquake' patterns (like the rhythm of bouncing ball, coming to rest); soft, periodic, major and minor triads which echo the opening *Chopsticks* tune; a tetchy dialogue between left and right hands; and a high, rapid interplay of two augmented triads.

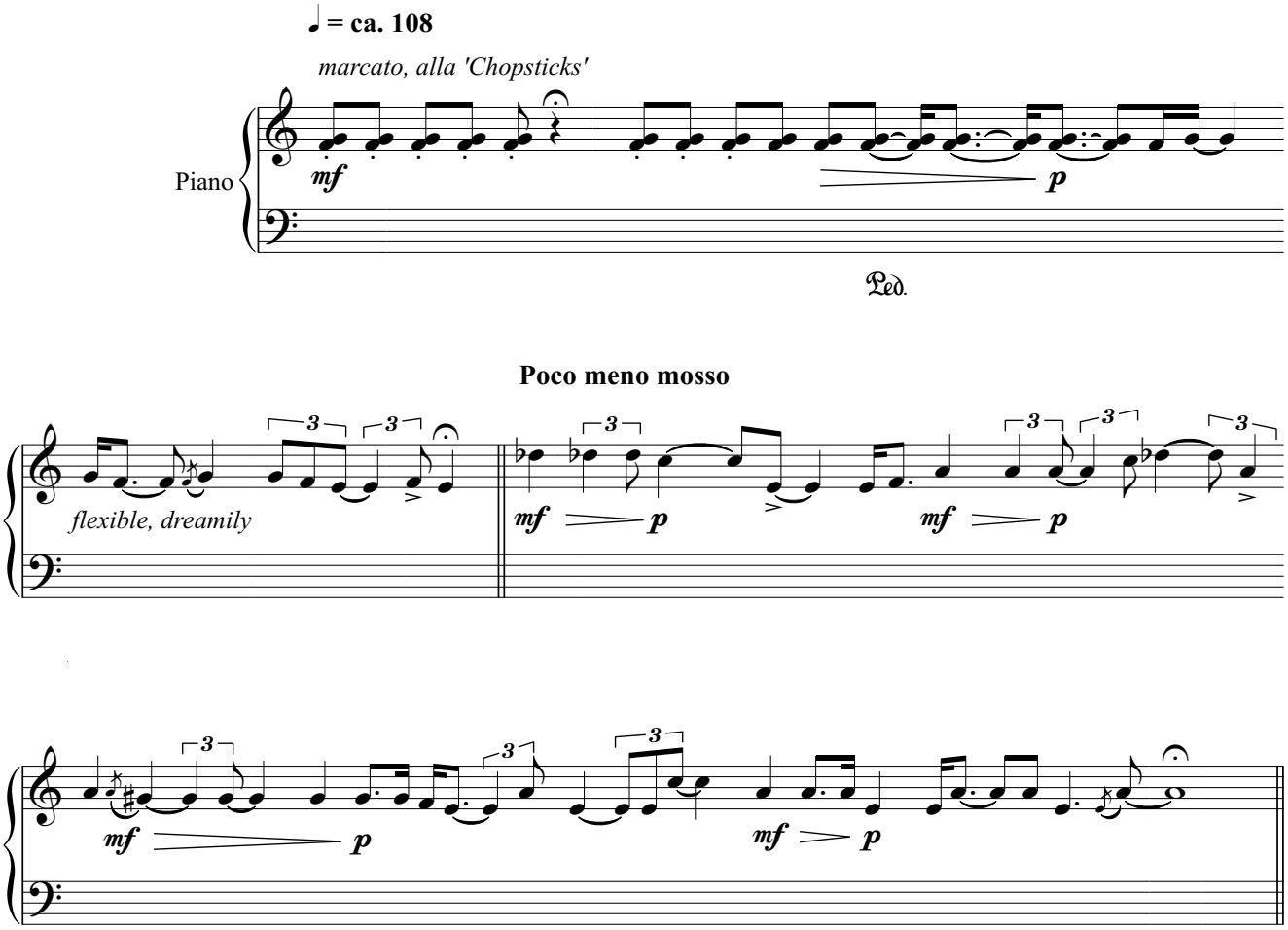
As far as pitch materials are concerned, the piece uses a six-note, limited-transposition mode (recurring minor third followed by minor second). The piece makes use of the fact that each transposition of the mode contains three pairs of major/minor triads and a pair of augmented triads. Throughout its course, the piece visits each transposition of the mode and the corresponding triads. Interacting with the mode, in its different transpositions, are the five harmonic intervals which make up the original *Chopsticks* tune. The piece finishes with a chorale-like passage which combines these intervals with the various triads.

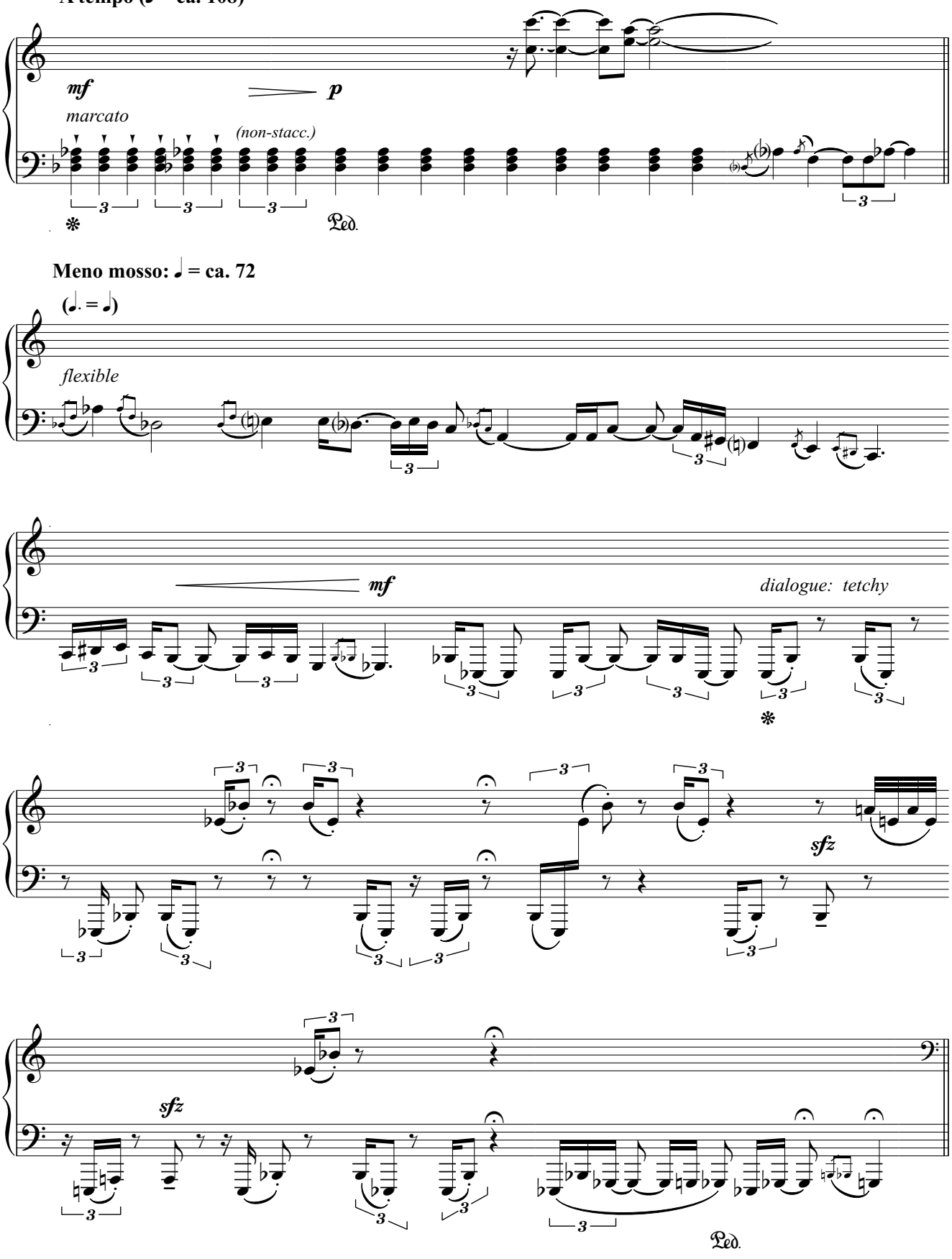
dur: ca. 12 mins

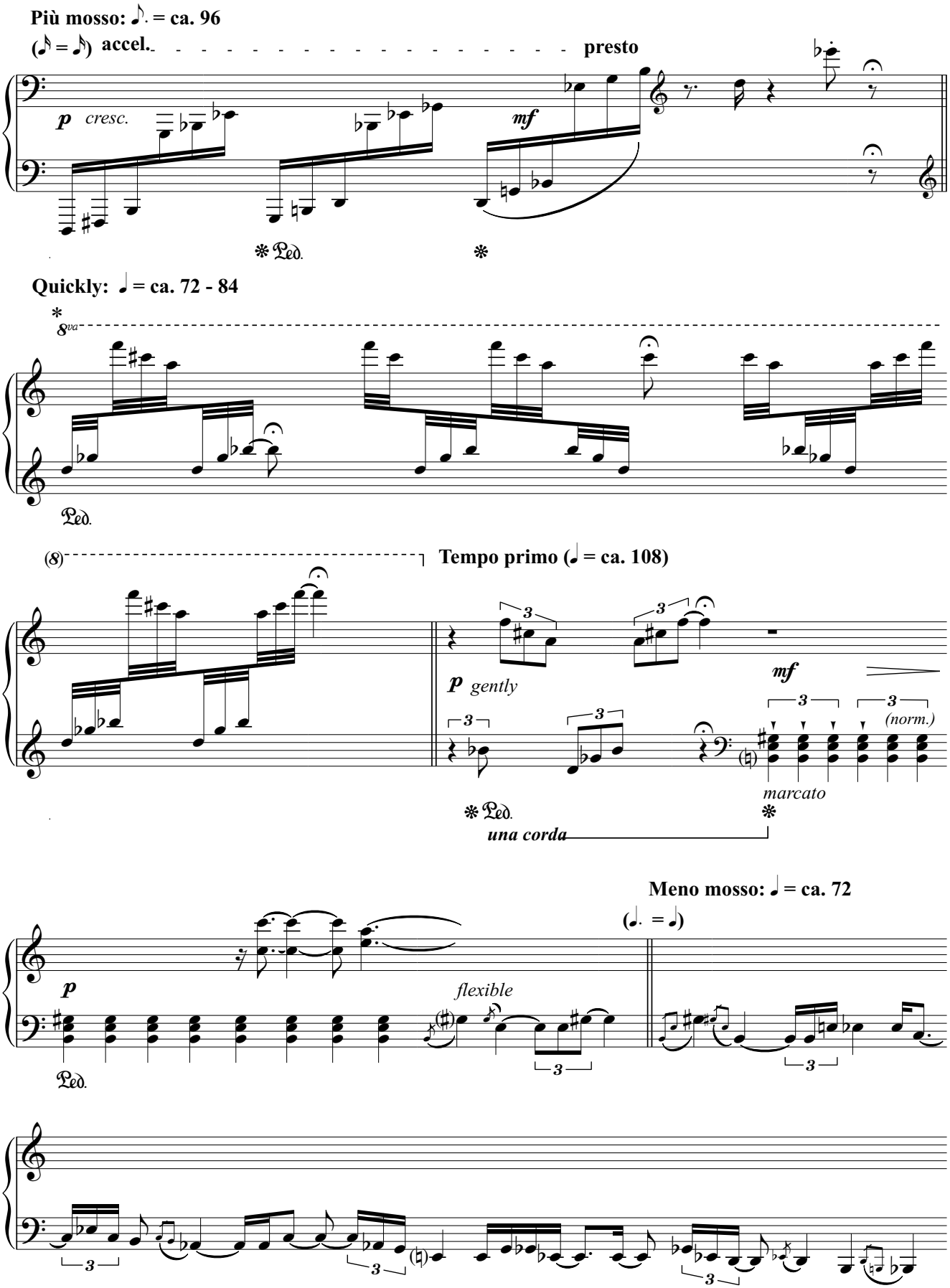
Chopsticks

for piano

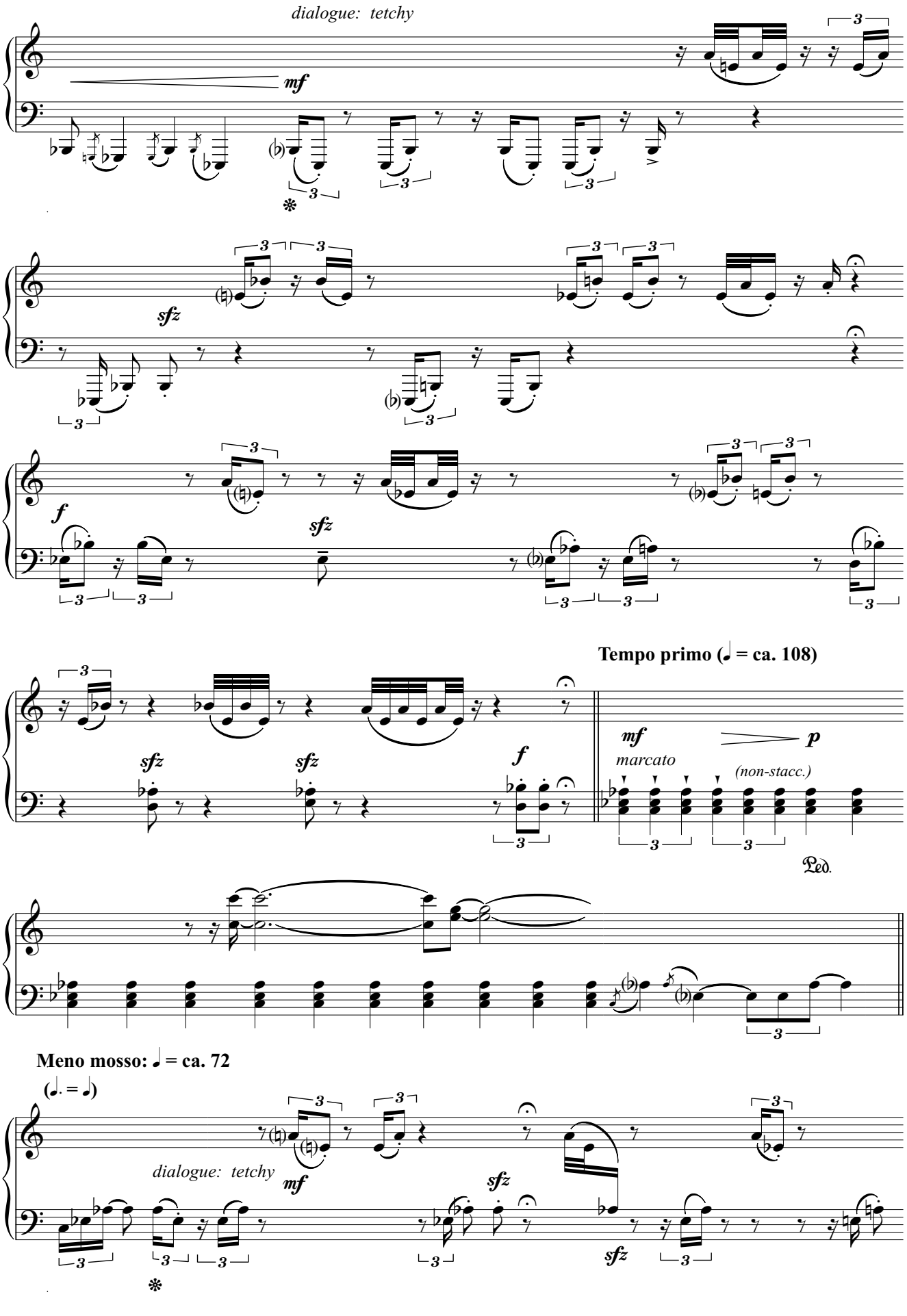
Robert Percy
(2010)



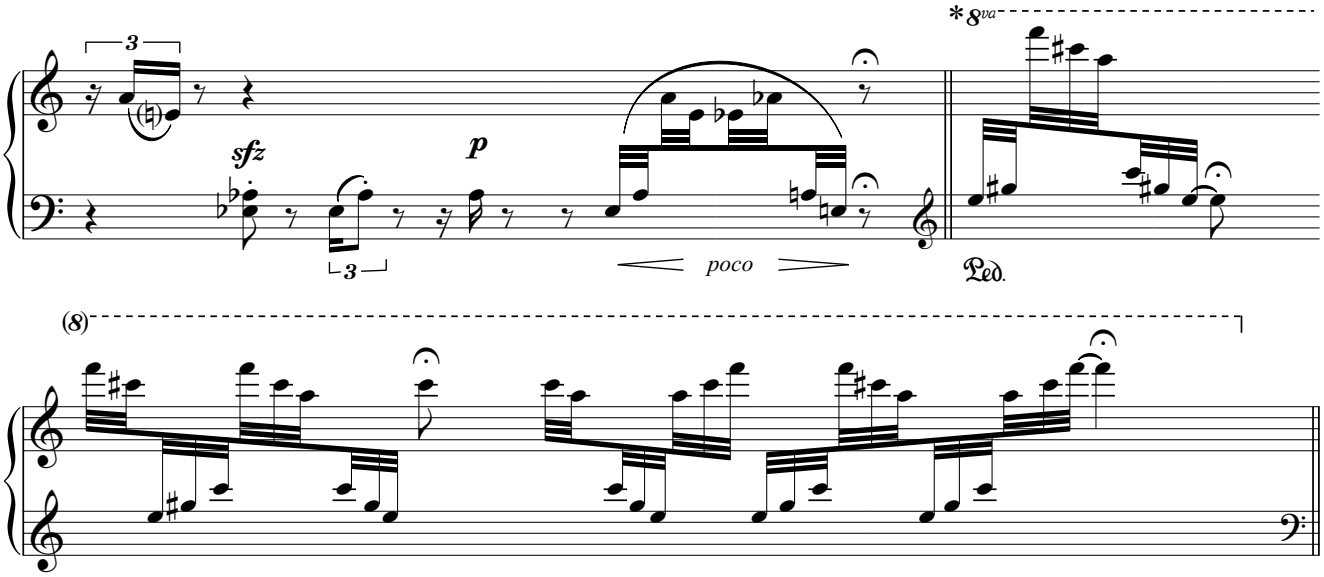

A tempo (♩ = ca. 108)
mf
p
marcato
(non-stacc.)
Ped.
Meno mosso: ♩ = ca. 72
(♩. = ♩)
flexible
mf
dialogue: tetchy
sfz
sfz
Ped.



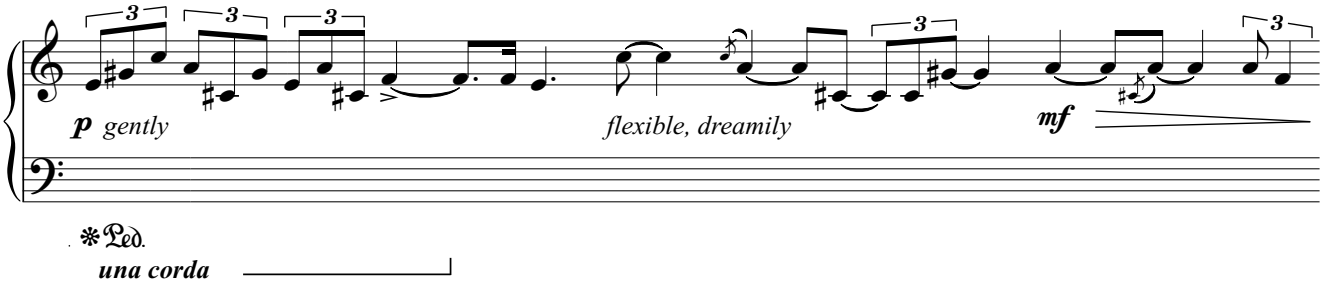
*Both hands play *8va.*

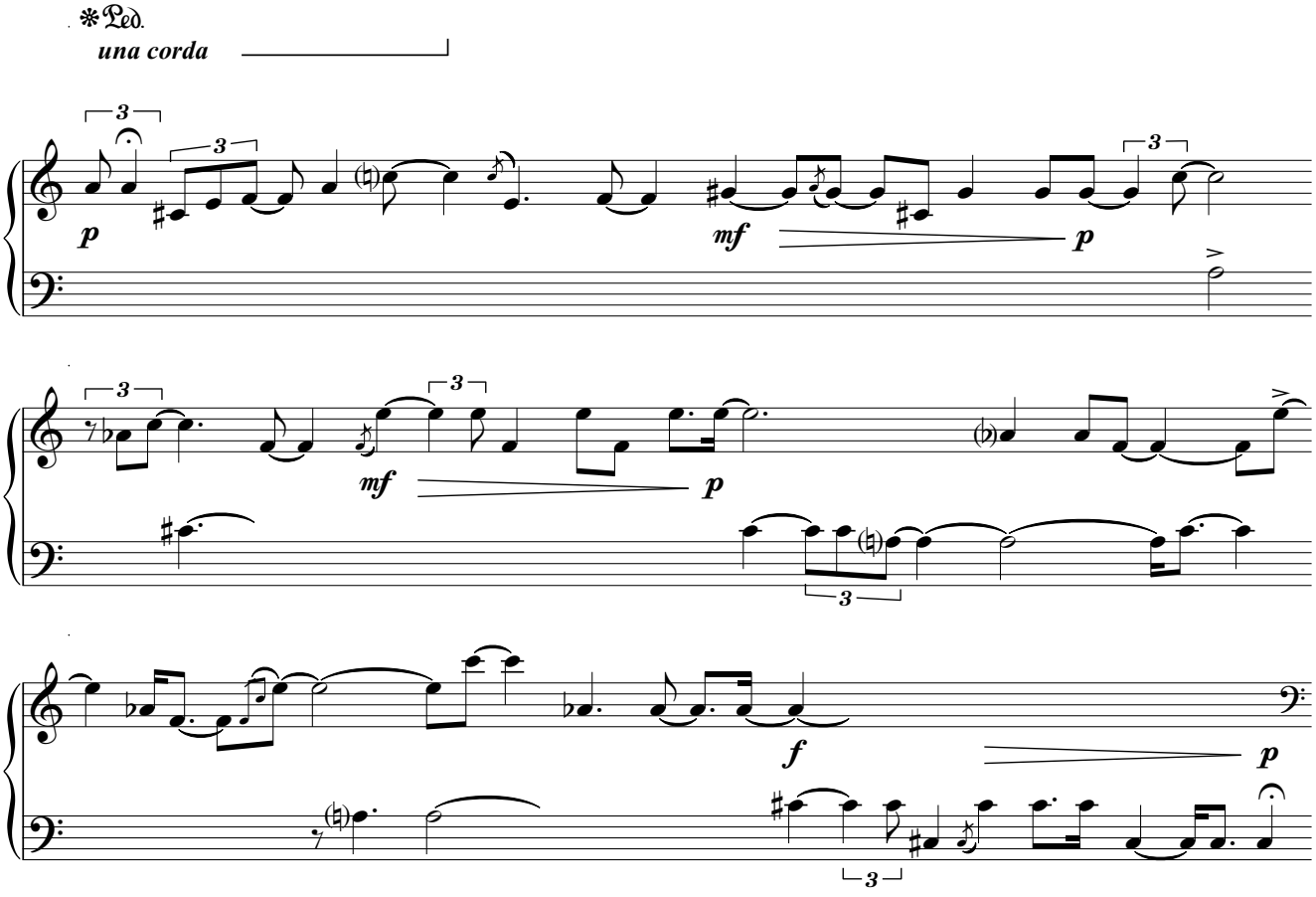

dialogue: tetchy
mf
sfz
f
sfz
sfz
f
Tempo primo (♩ = ca. 108)
mf
marcato
p
(non-stacc.)
Ped.
Meno mosso: ♩ = ca. 72
(♩. = ♩)
dialogue: tetchy
mf
sfz
sfz

Quickly: ♩ = ca. 72 - 84

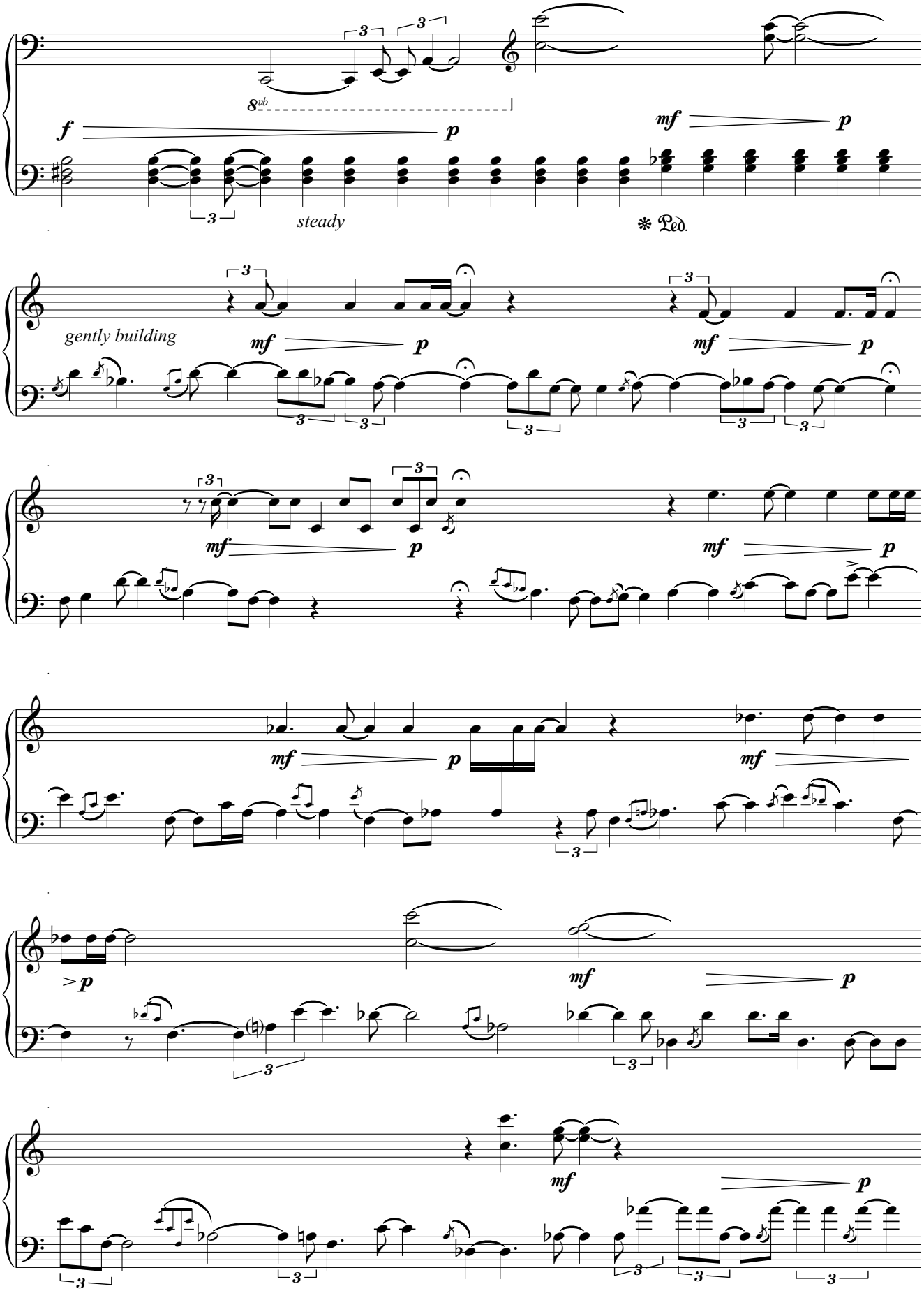


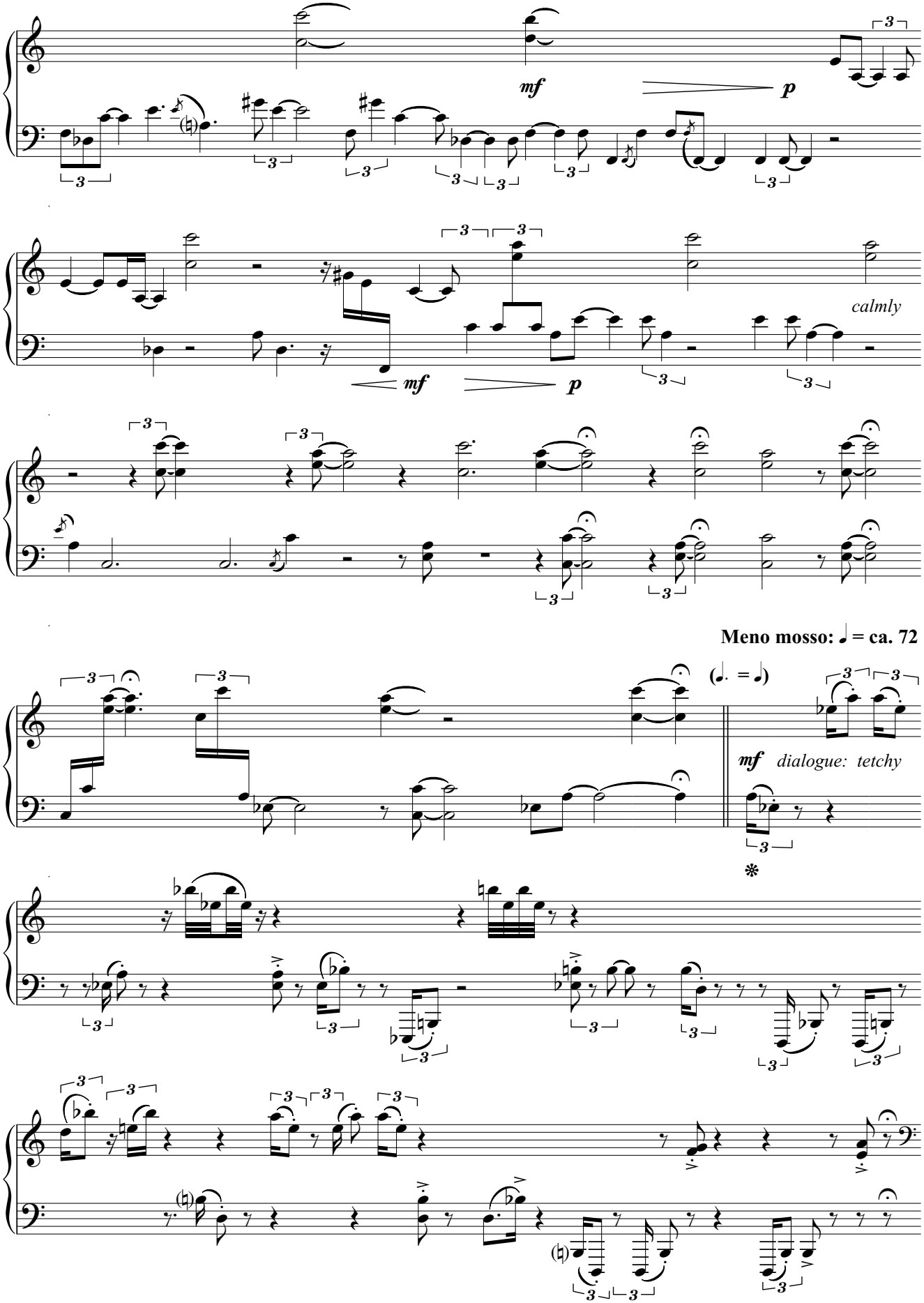
Più mosso: ♩ = ca. 96
(poco meno mosso di tempo primo)



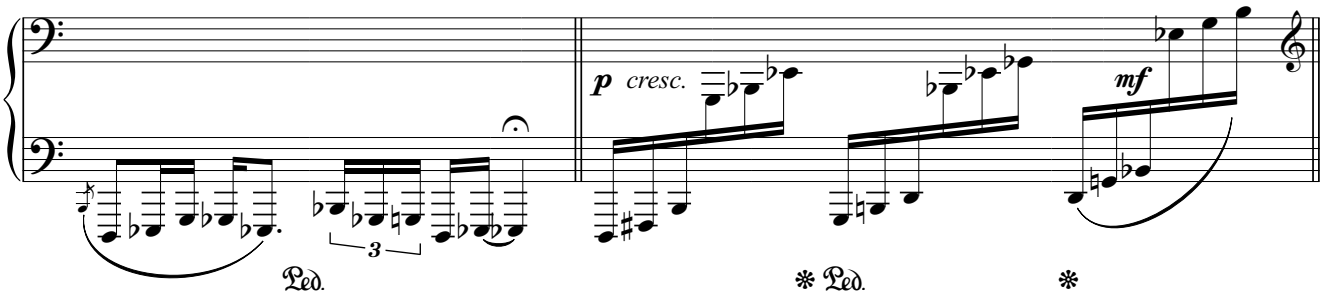


*Both hands play *8va.*

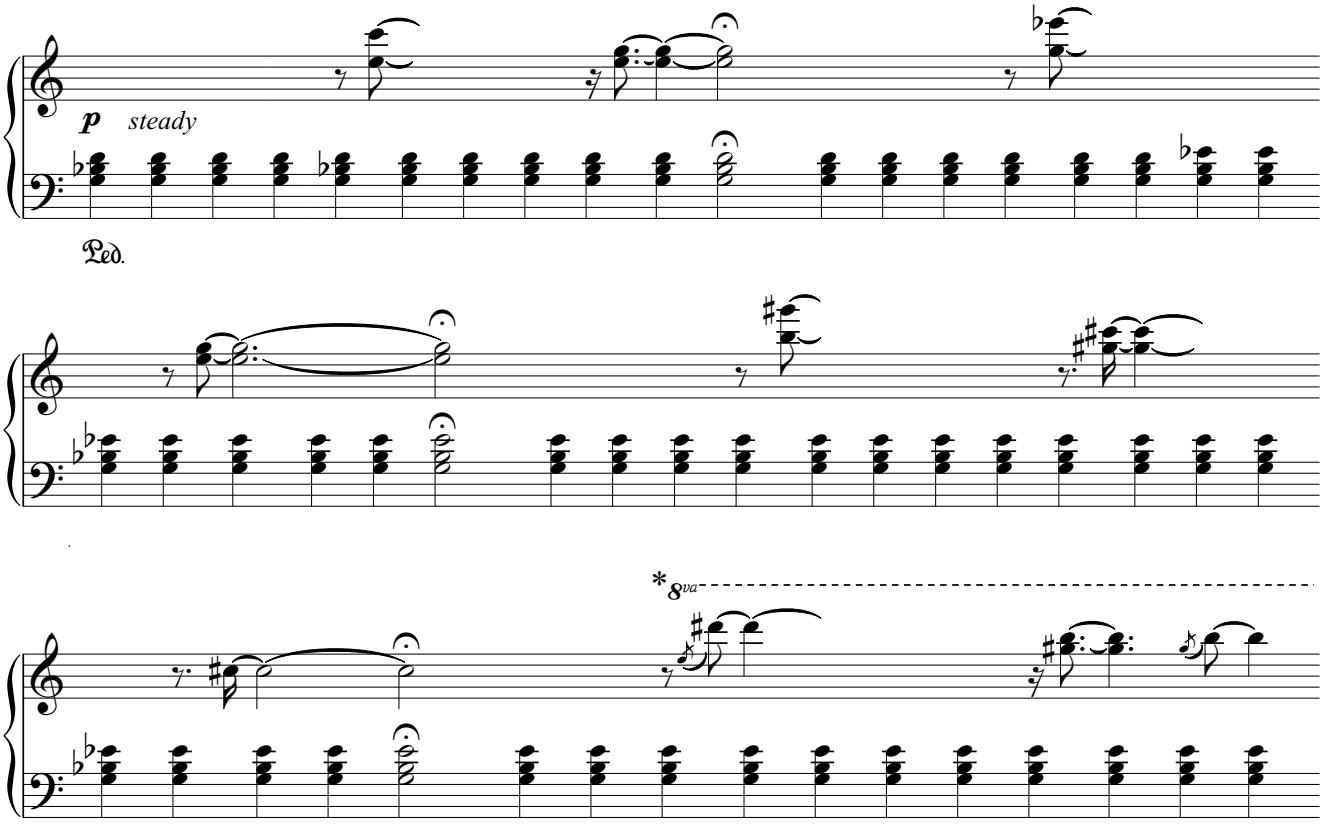

8vb
f
p
mf
p
steady
Ped.
gently building
mf
p
mf
p
mf
p
mf
p
mf
p
>p
mf
p
mf
p
mf
p


mf
p
calmly
mf
p
Meno mosso: ♩ = ca. 72
(♩. = ♩)
mf dialogue: tetchy

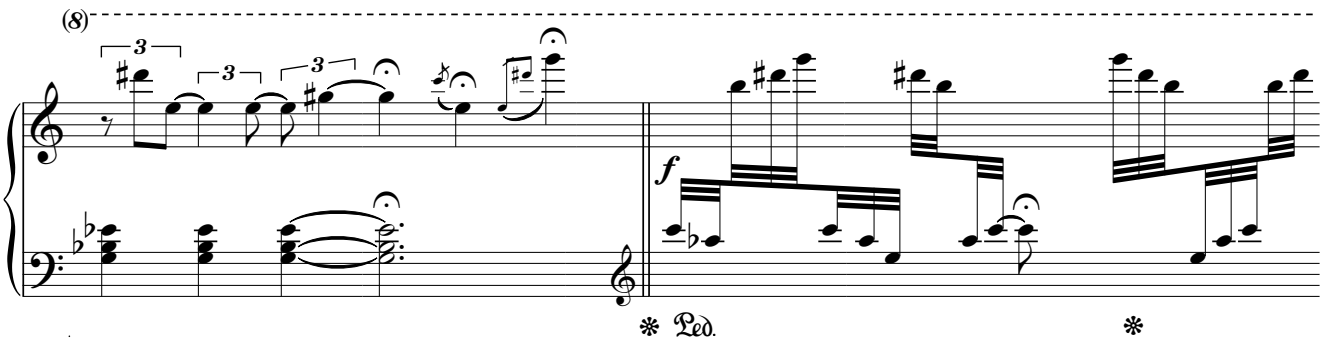
Più mosso: ♪. = ca. 96
accel. - - - - - - - - - - presto, rit. - - - - -
(♪ = ♪)



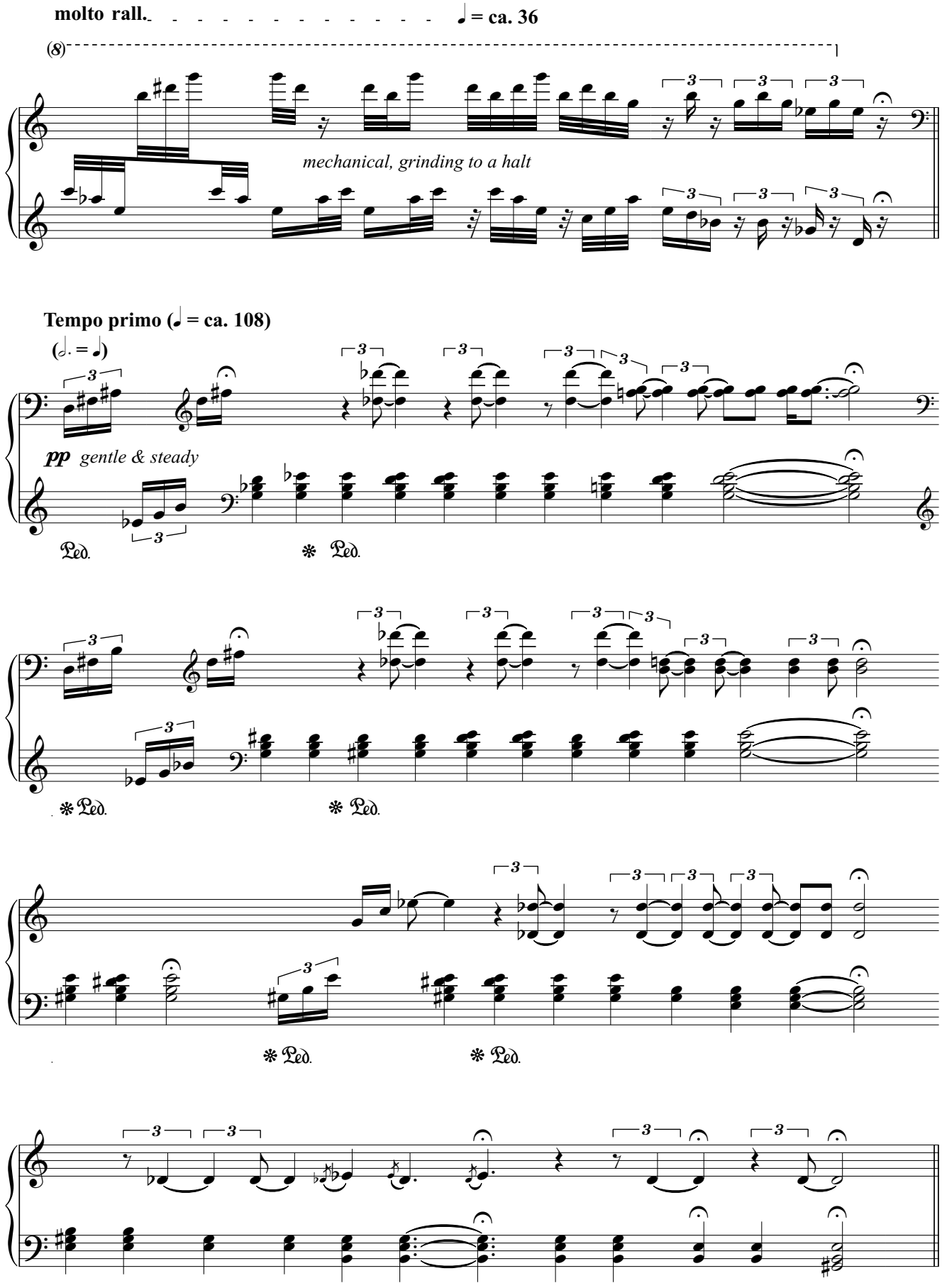
Tempo primo (♩ = ca. 108)

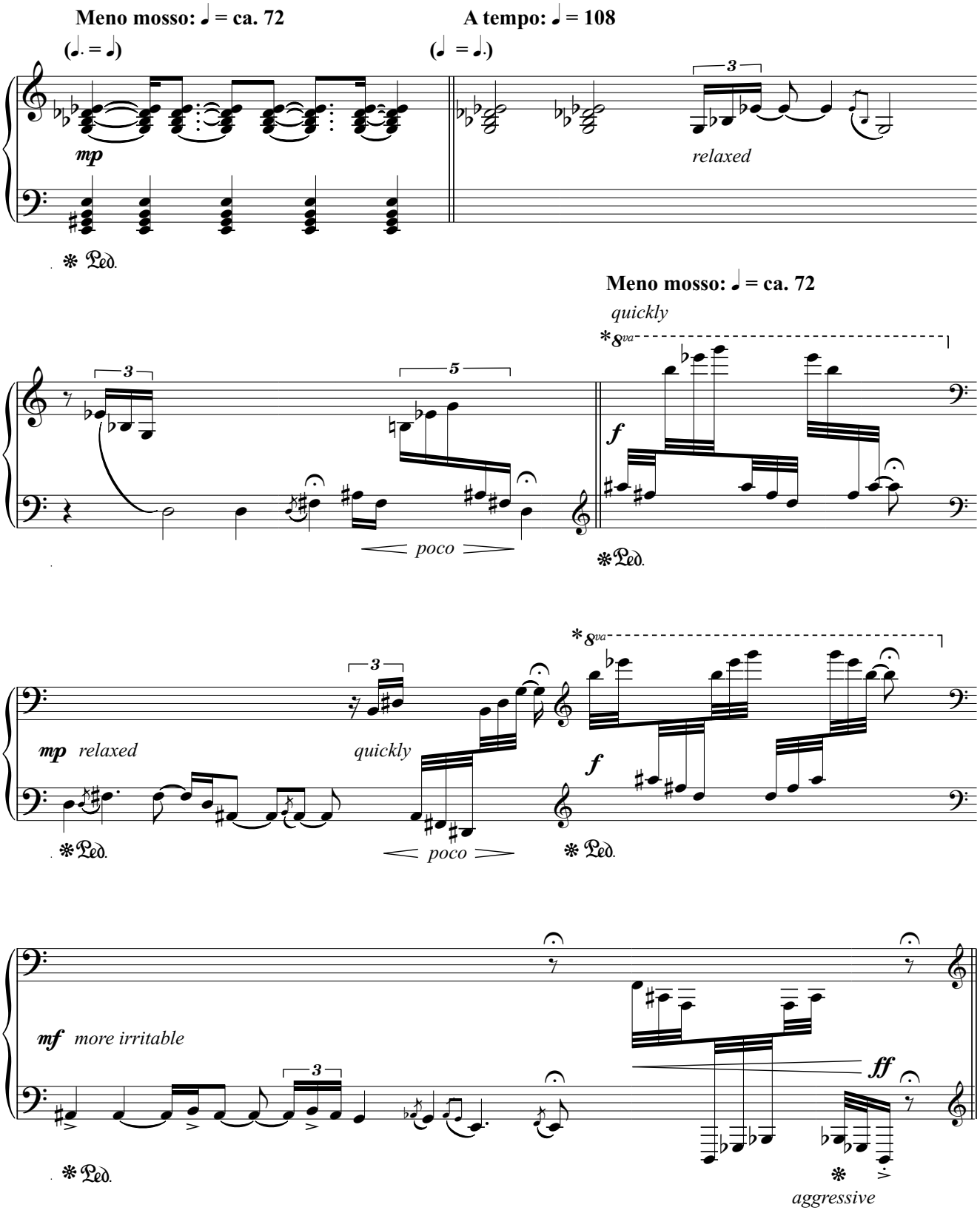


Quickly: ♩ = ca. 72 - 84



*Both hands play *8va.*


molto rall.
♩ = ca. 36
(8)
mechanical, grinding to a halt
Tempo primo (♩ = ca. 108)
(𝅗𝅥. = ♩)
pp gentle & steady
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.



*Both hands play *8va.*

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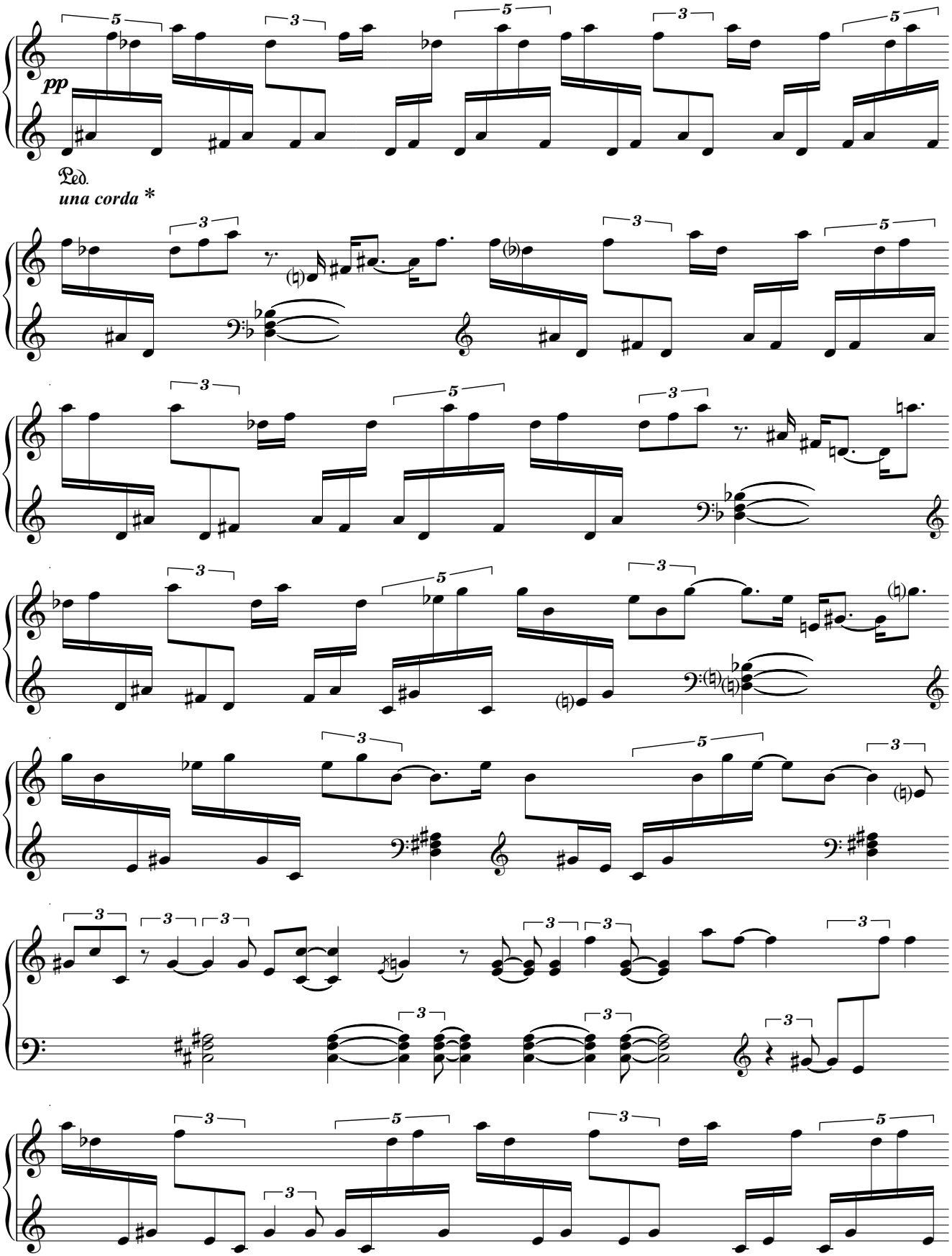
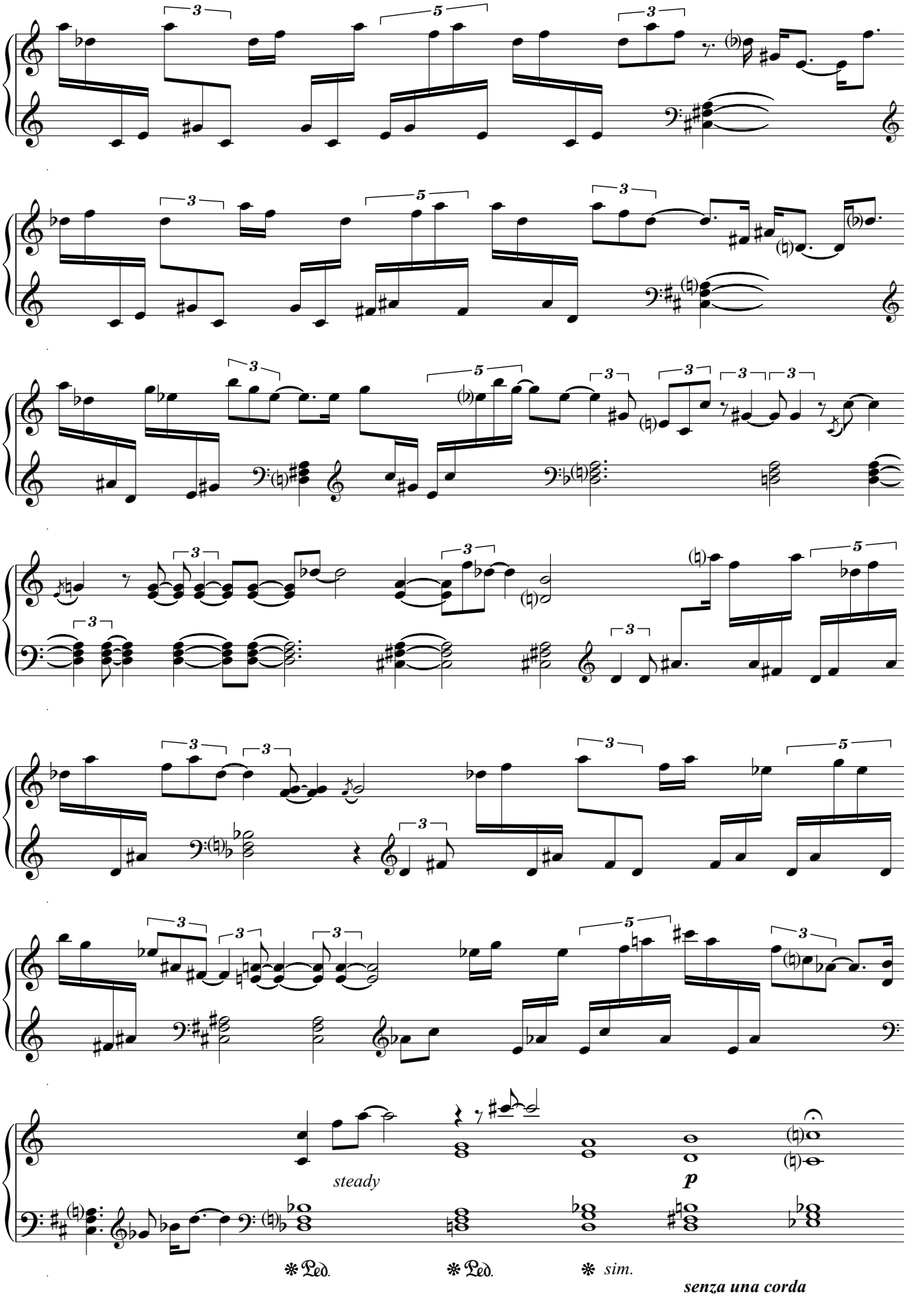
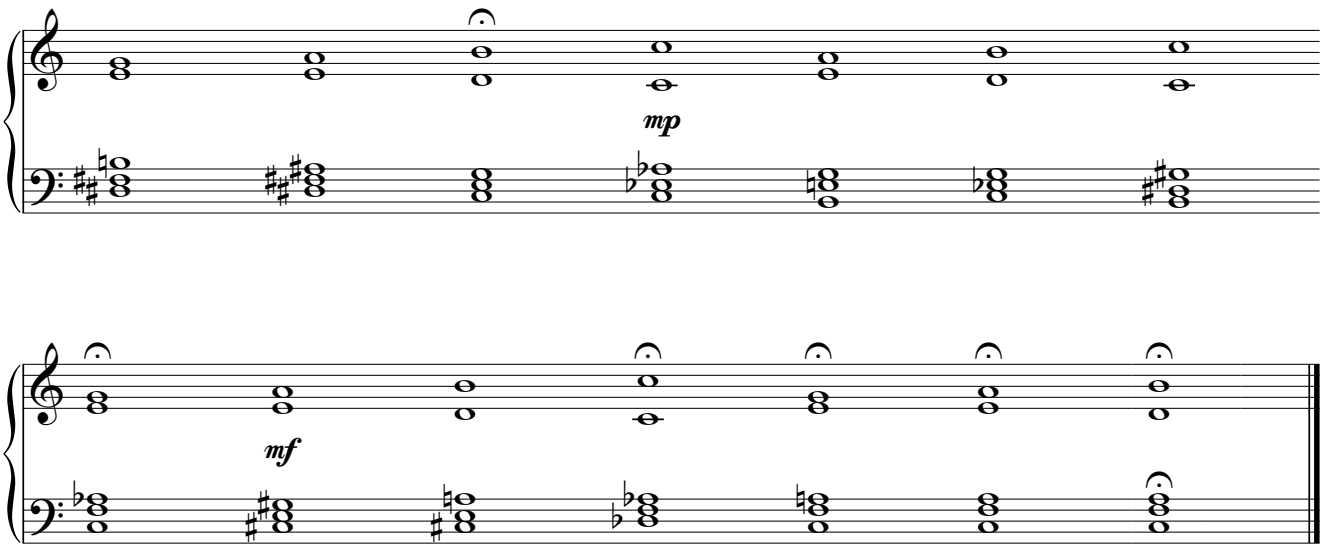
Più mosso: ♩ = ca. 96
(poco meno mosso di tempo primo)

flexible & fluid



* Una corda & damper peds. Una corda al '*senza una corda*'.


steady
p
Ped.
Ped.
sim.
senza una corda


mp

mf