Launy Grøndahl (1886-1960)
Dansk dirigent og komponist

Launy Grøndahl blev uddannet privat som violinist og komponist hos koncertmester i Det kgl. Kapel Axel Gade og komponisten Ludolf Nielsen. Han virkede fra 1906 som violinist i det orkester, der var tilknyttet Casino-teatret i København, og blev i 1919 dirigent i Dansk Koncertforening. Efter en studierejse til Frankrig og Italien blev han i 1925 ansat som dirigent for det nystartede radioorkester, det senere Danmarks Radiosymfoniorkester, og her virkede han til 1956. - Han gjorde gennem alle årene en stor indsats for dansk musik, ikke mindst som en fremragende fortolker af Carl Nielsens symfoniske værker. Hans banebrydende indspilning med radiosymfoniorkestret af den 4. symfoni var således stærkt medvirkende til allerede i 1950'rne at gøre Carl Nielsen internationalt kendt.

Launy Grøndahl har komponeret en række kammermusikværker bl.a. to strygekvartetter, flere orkesterværker og tre solokoncerter, hvoraf trombonekoncerten fra 1924 til stadighed har holdt sig på repertoiret.

Launy Grøndahl (1886-1960)
Danish conductor and composer

Launy Grøndahl was privately tutored in the violin and composition by Axel Gade, First Violinist of the Royal Orchestra, and the composer Ludolf Nielsen. From 1906 on he worked as violinist in the orchestra associated with the Casino Theatre in Copenhagen, and in 1919 became conductor at the Danish Musical Society. In 1925, after a study trip to France and Italy, he was appointed conductor of the newly-established radio orchestra - later the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra - and worked there until 1956.

Throughout all these years he made a great contribution to Danish music, not least as an outstanding interpreter of Carl Nielsen's symphonic works. His pioneering recording of the Fourth Symphony wiht the Radio Symphony Orchestra was a strong contributory factor in making Carl Nielsen an international name as early as the fifties.

Launy Grøndahl composed a number of chamber works including two string quartets, several orchestral works, and three solo concerti, among which the trombone concert of 1924 has constantly remained in the repertory.

Launy Grøndahl:
Concerto for trombone and orchestra

Launy Grøndahl composed his trombone concerto in 1924 during a stay in Italy, and had it printed in Milan by G. Ferrario, where it went through two issues.
The work was probably written in response to the high standard of the trombone section of the Royal Orchestra in Copenhagen, with Anton Hansen and the then young Vilhelm Aarkrogh, as the leading members. The concerto is dedicated to Vilhelm Aarkrogh, who was the soloist in the first performance. The work has since won widespread international recognition as one of the standard items in the recent trombone repertory.
The solo trombonist of the Royal Orchestra Palmer Traulsen (1913-1975) added his own very personal touch to his interpretation of the work, and in his 1974 version made various changes in the music which it has become traditional for trombonists to follow. In the present edition, however, the score has in the main been restored to its original form. At a few points, though, the shift of an octave in the solo part suggested by Palmer Traulsen has been retained, but with the textual addition *octava ad libitum*. At the same time the many errors (in the solo part, score, orchestral material and piano arrangement) which flawed previous editions have been corrected.
I am very grateful to the solo trombonist Thorkild Graae Jørgersen for advice and information on the concerto and its correct performance. As a member of the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra (1941-1989), Thorkild Graae Jørgensen is a close acquaintance of Launy Grøndahl and has several times performed the trombone concerto with the composer himself as conductor.
Important note on tempo: all three movements, at the express wish of the composer, have the same basic tempo (indicated by the metronome rate 80).

Per Gade, February 1992
Copenhagen/Tokyo

Launy Grøndahl:
Koncert for trombone og orkester

Launy Grøndahl komponerede sin trombonekoncert i 1924 under et ophold i Italien og lod den trykke i Milano hos G. Ferrario, hvor den udkom i to oplag.
Værket er formentlig skrevet under indtryk af den høje standard, som prægede basungruppen i Det kgl. Kapel i København med Anton Hansen og den dengang unge Vilhelm Aarkrogh som de ledende medlemmer. Koncerten er tilegnet Vilhelm Aarkrogh, som også forestod uropførelsen. Den har siden vundet stor international udbredelse som et af den nyere basunlitteraturs standardværker.
Solobasunist i Det kgl. Kapel, Palmer Traulsen (1913-1975) tilføjede koncerten sin helt personlige opfattelse og foretog i sin udgave fra 1974 forskellige ændringer i nodeteksten, som der siden blandt basunister er blevet tradition for at følge. I den her foreliggende udgave er teksten imidlertid ført tilbage til sin oprindelige form. Et par steder er dog den af Palmer Traulsen foreslåede oktavomlægning af solostemmen bibeholdt, men med tilføjelsen »oktava ad libitum«. Samtidig er der foretaget rettelser af de talrige fejl (i både solostemme, partitur, orkestermateriale og klaverudtog), som skæmmer de hidtidige udgaver.
Jeg skylder solobasunist Thorkild Graae Jørgensen en varm tak for råd og oplysninger vedrørende koncerten og den korrekte udførelse. Som medlem af Danmarks Radiosymfoniorkester (1941-1988) har Thorkild Graae Jørgensen et nært kendskab til Launy Grøndahl og har flere gange fremført trombonekoncerten under komponistens egen ledelse.
Vigtig note vedr. tempo: alle tre satser har ifølge komponistens udtrykkelige ønske samme grundtempo (angivet ved metronombetegnelsen 80).

Per Gade februar 1992
København/Tokyo

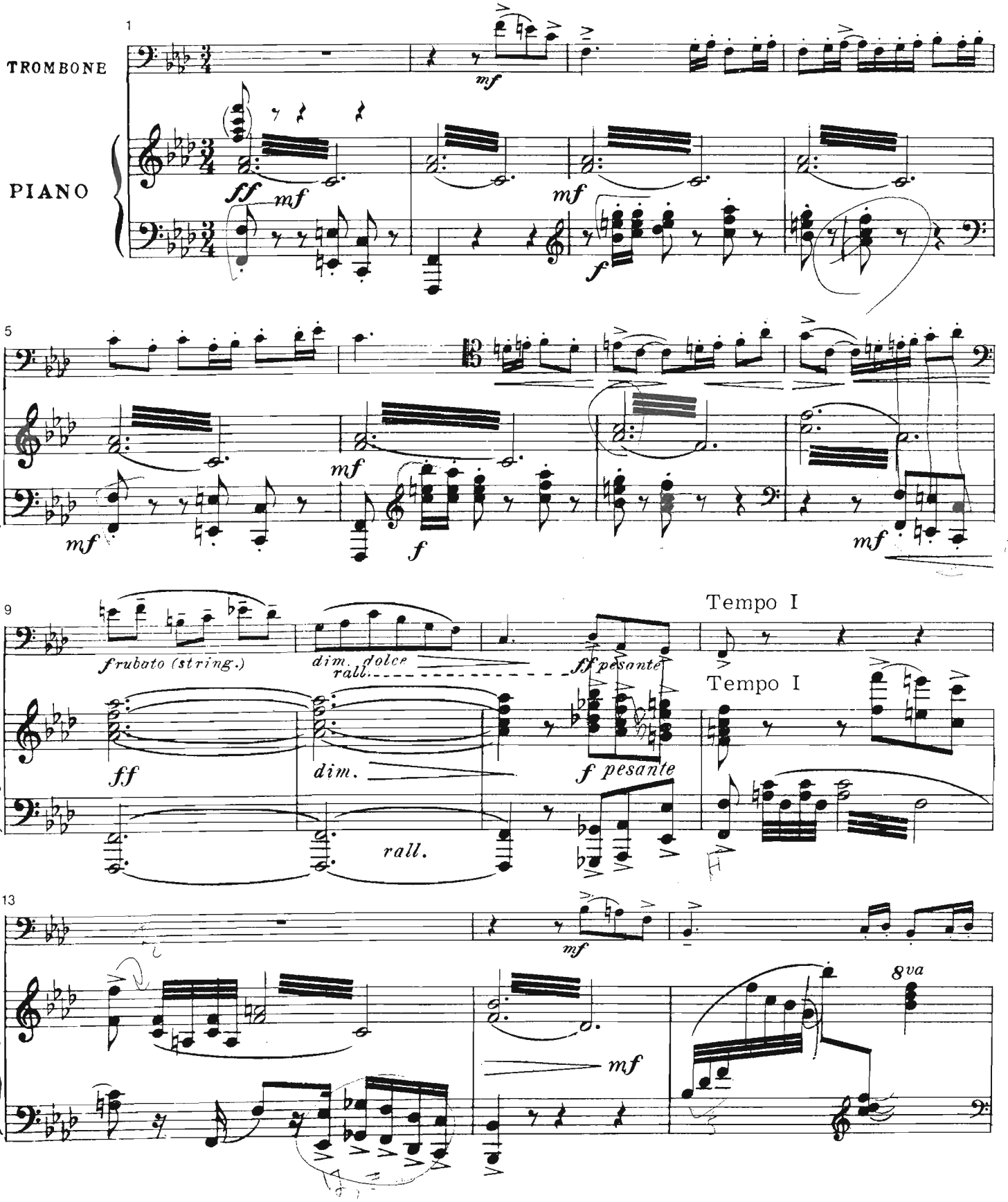
CONCERT

Pour Trombone et Piano ou Orchestre

LAUNY GRÖNDAHL (1924)

I.

Moderato assai ma molto maestoso (♩ = 80)



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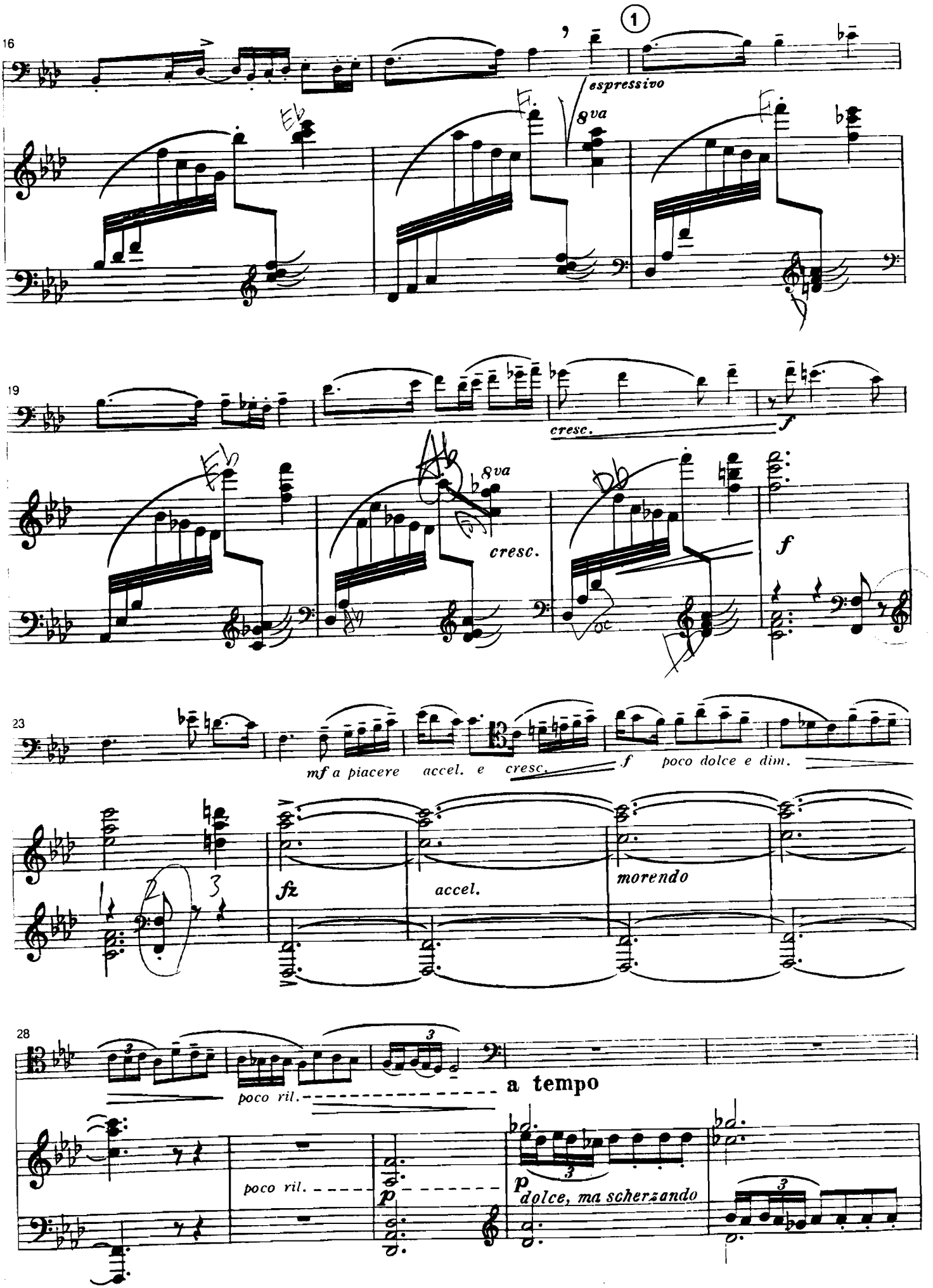
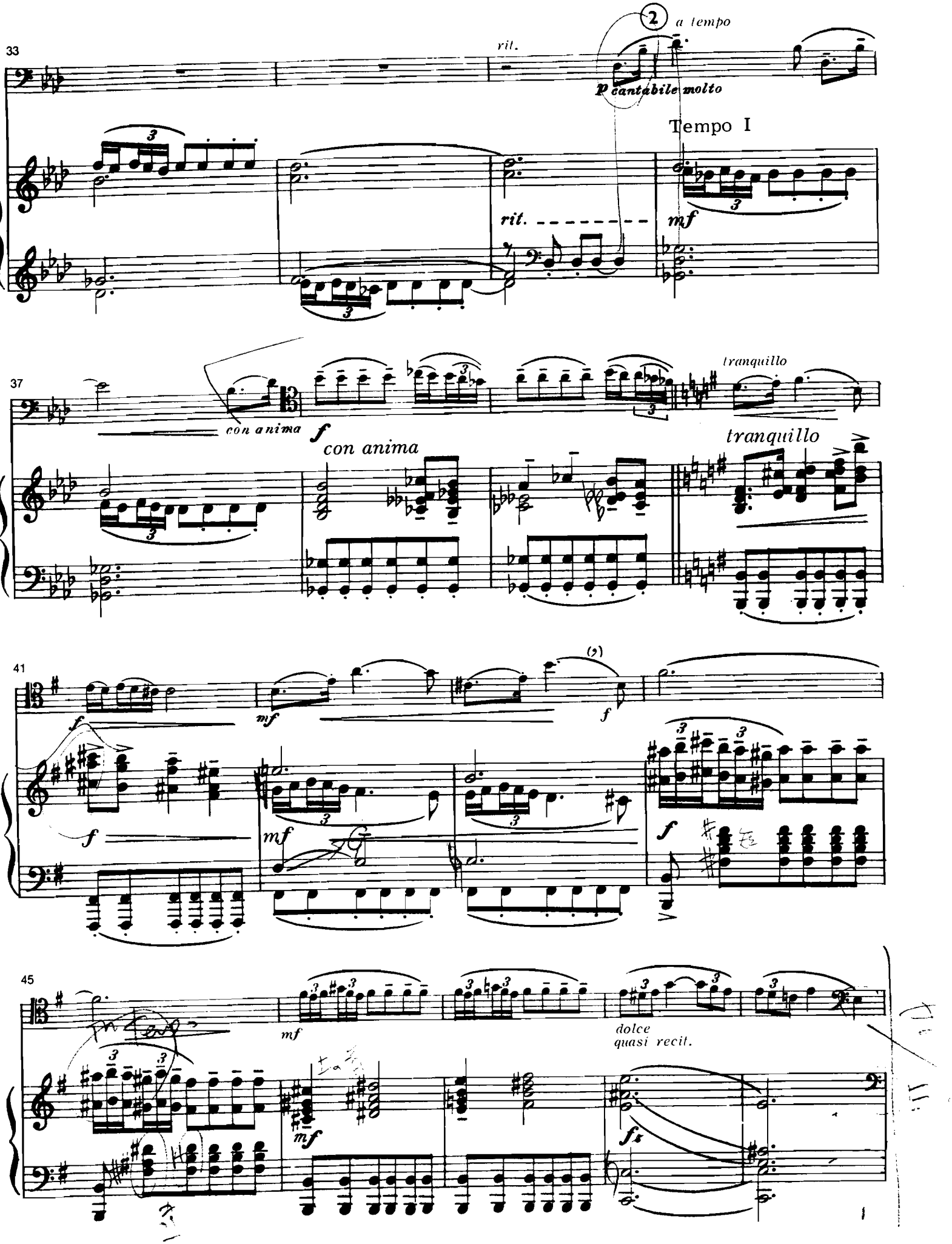

16
1
espressivo
8va
19
cresc.
f
8va
cresc.
f
23
mf a piacere
accel. e cresc.
f
poco dolce e dim.
fz
accel.
morendo
28
poco ril.
a tempo
poco ril.
p
p
dolce, ma scherzando



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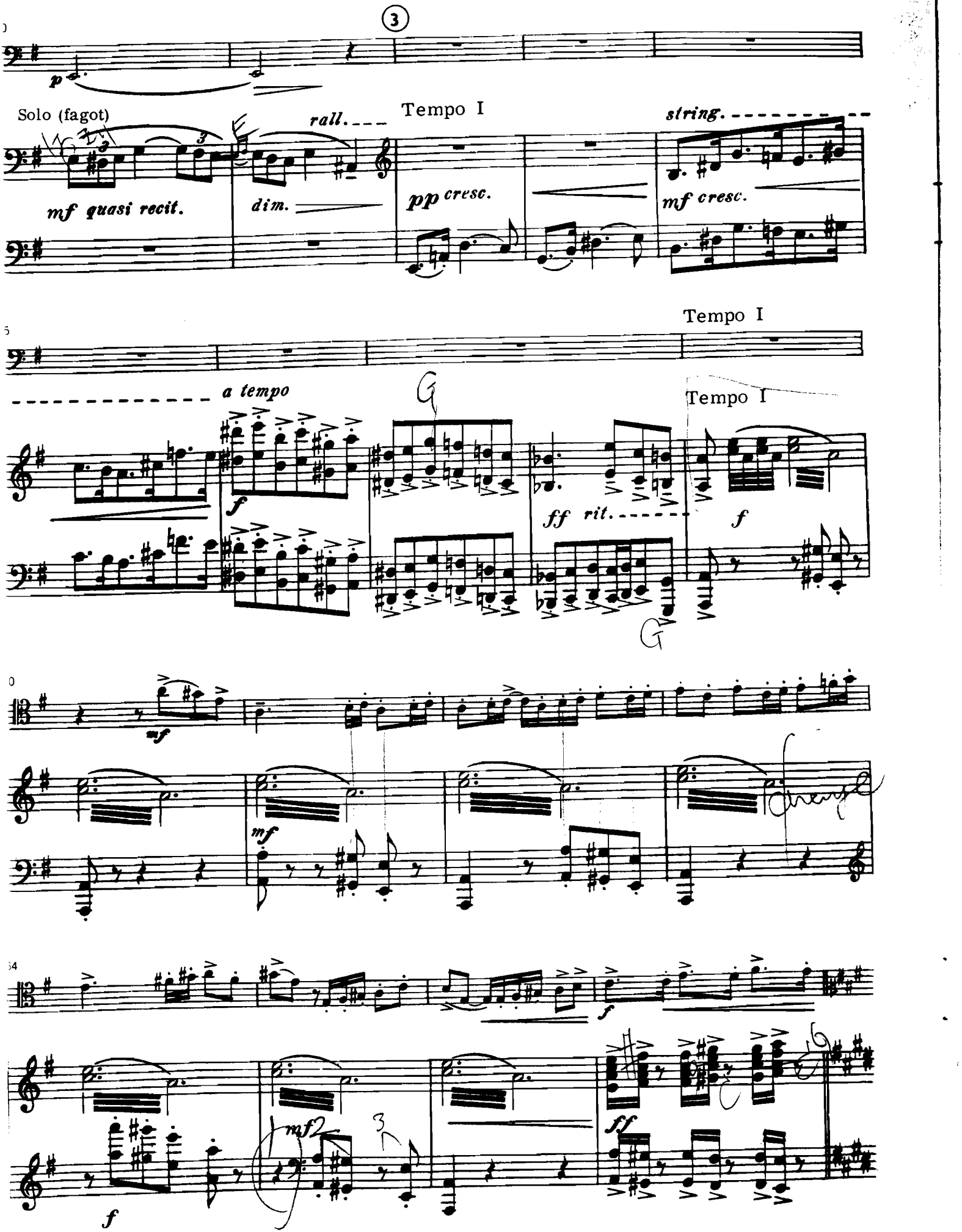
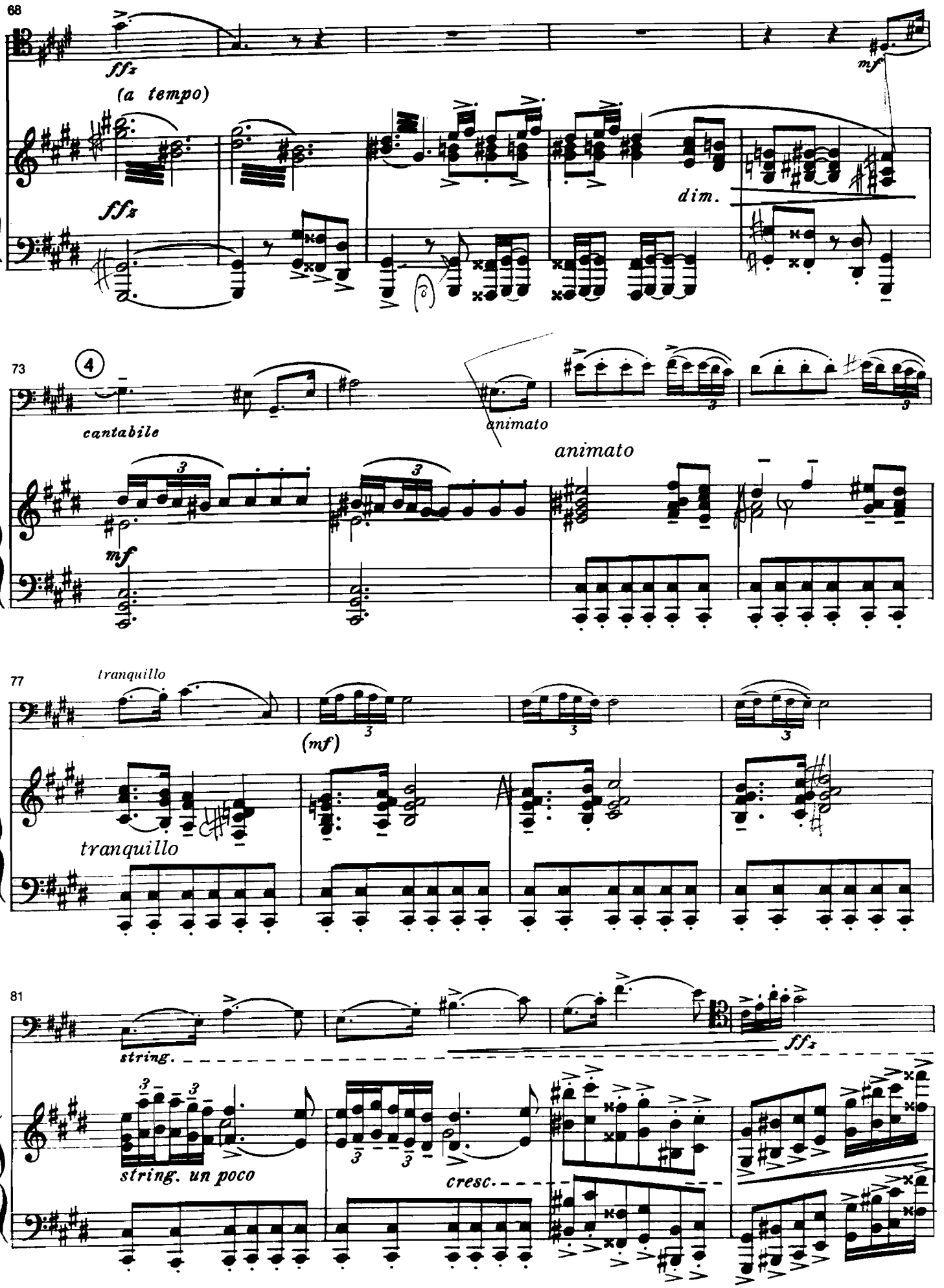
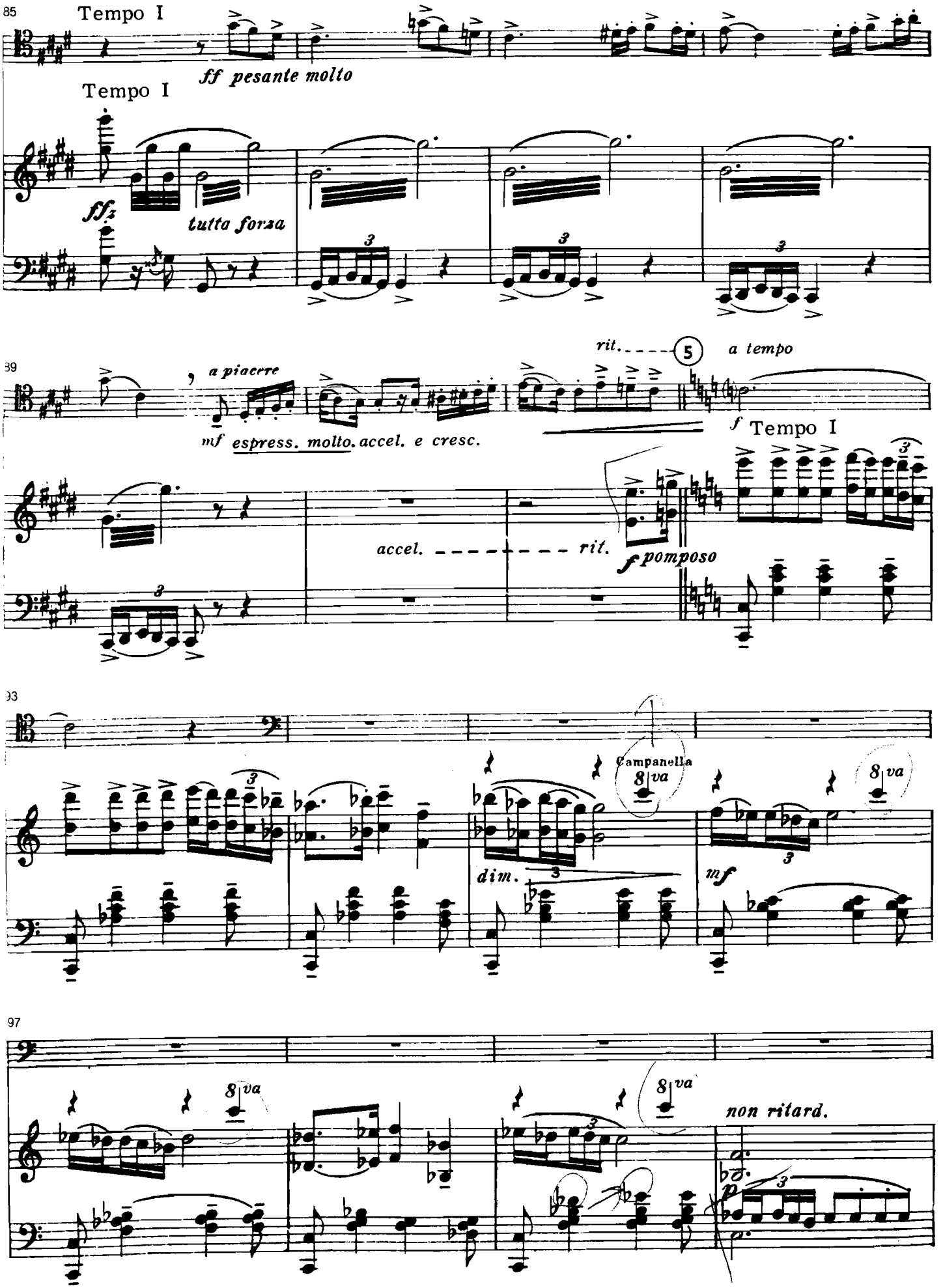
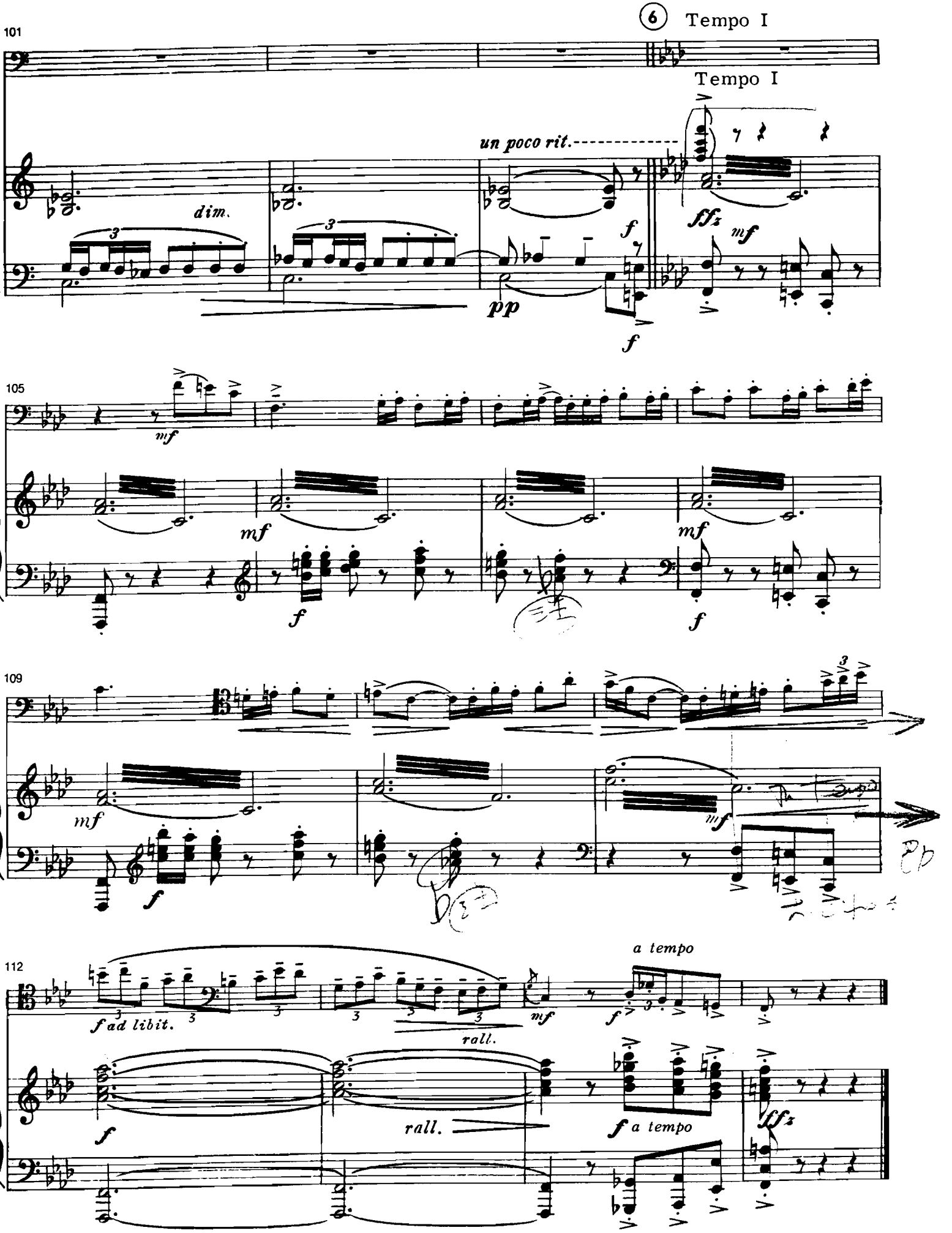
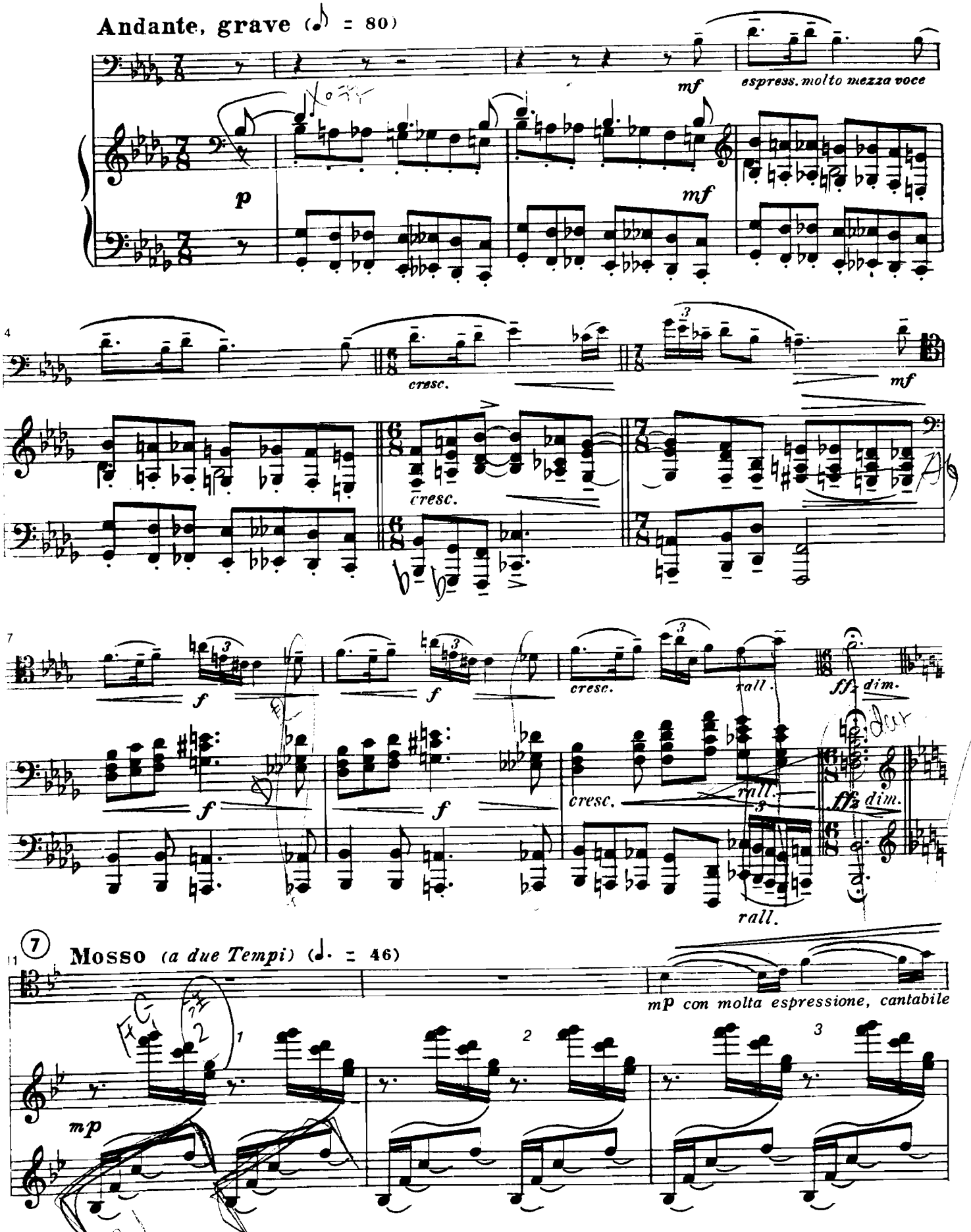

p
Solo (fagot)
rall.
Tempo I
string.
mf quasi recit.
dim.
pp cresc.
mf cresc.
Tempo I
a tempo
f
ff rit.
Tempo I
f
mf
mf
f
f
mf2
ff

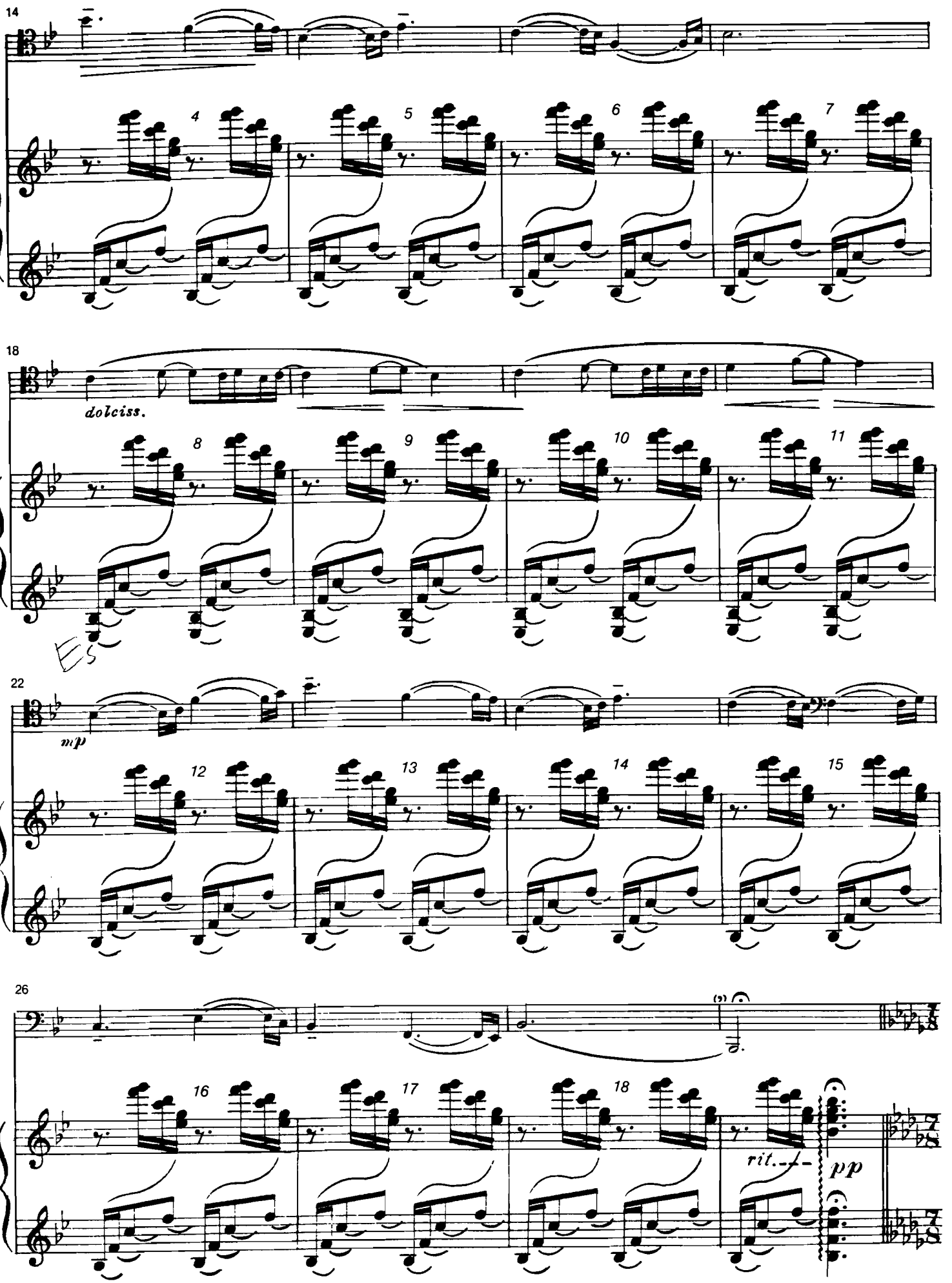

68
ffz
(a tempo)
mf
ffz
dim.
73
4
cantabile
animato
animato
mf
77
tranquillo
(mf)
tranquillo
81
string.
ffz
string. un poco
cresc.


85
Tempo I
ff pesante molto
Tempo I
fff
tutta forza
89
a piacere
mf espress. molto. accel. e cresc.
rit.
5
a tempo
f Tempo I
accel.
rit.
f pomposo
93
Campanella
8va
dim.
mf
97
8va
non ritard.


6
Tempo I
Tempo I
un poco rit.
dim.
pp
f
ffz
mf
mf
f
mf
f
mf
f
mf
f
f ad libit.
rall.
mf
a tempo
f
rall.
f a tempo
ffz

II.
Quasi una Leggenda




14
4
5
6
7
18
dolciss.
8
9
10
11
Es
22
mp
12
13
14
15
26
16
17
18
rit.
pp

Tempo I

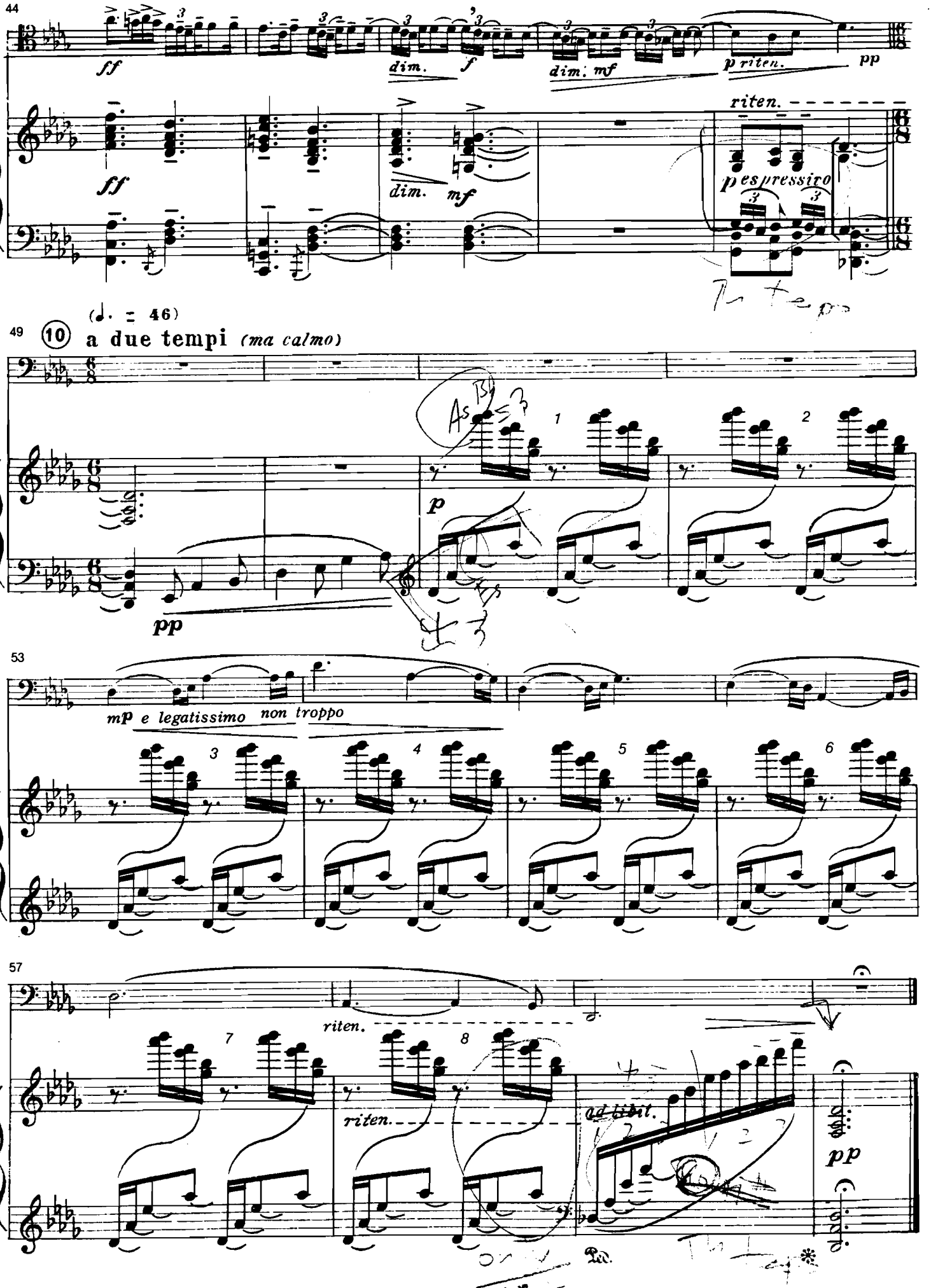
30 ⑧ **Andante, grave** (♩ = 80)

mf *p* *mf*

34 *cresc.* *cresc.* *f maestoso molto* *ff* *ff₂* *ten.*

37 *ff₂* *ad lib.* *(molto drammatico)* *molto dramatico* *ff₂* *ff₂*

39 ⑨ *f imposante* *ten. molto*

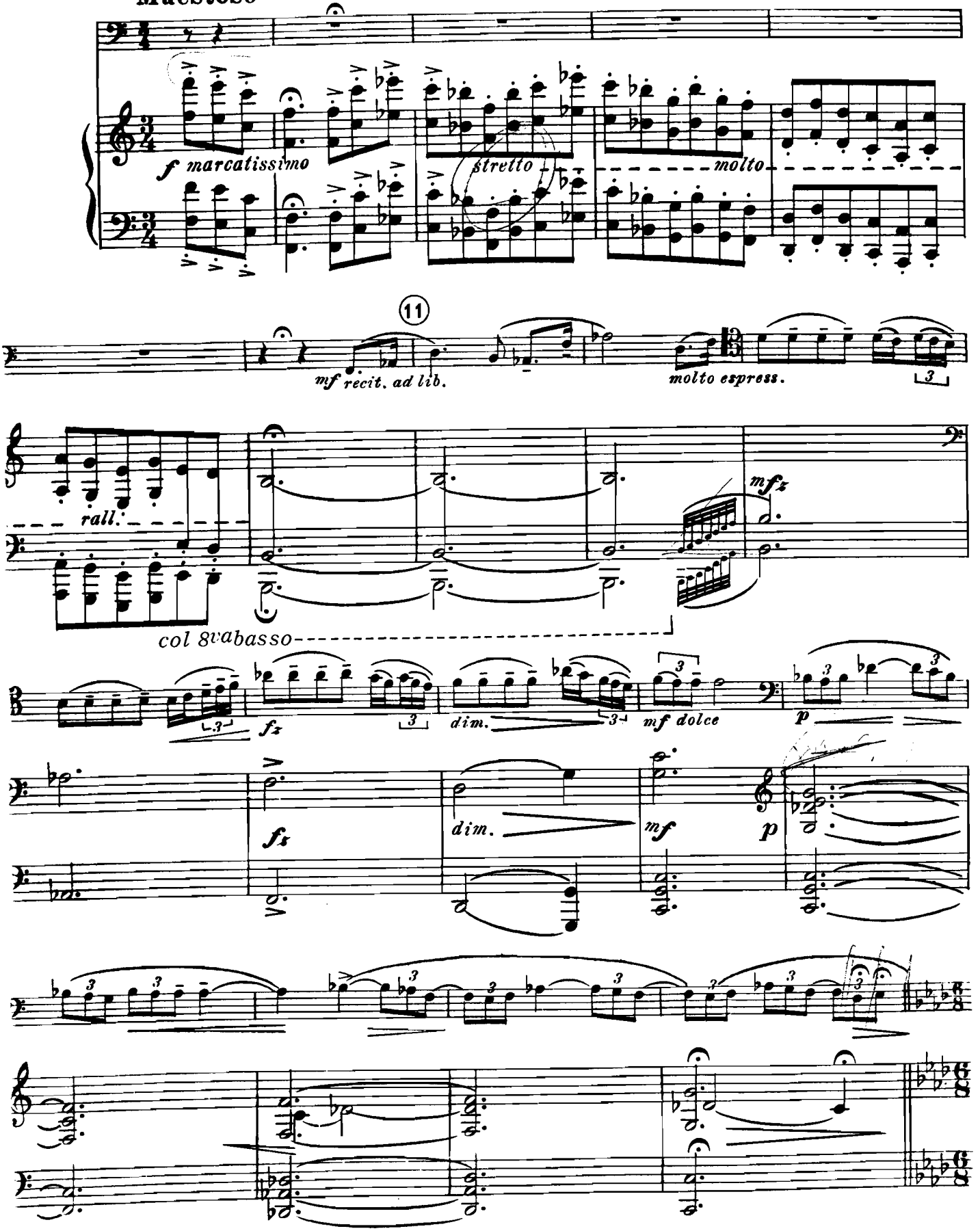

44
ff
dim.
f
dim. mf
p riten.
pp
riten.
espressivo
(♩. = 46)
49
10
a due tempi (ma calmo)
p
pp
53
mp e legatissimo non troppo
57
riten.
riten.
ad libit.
pp

III.

Finale

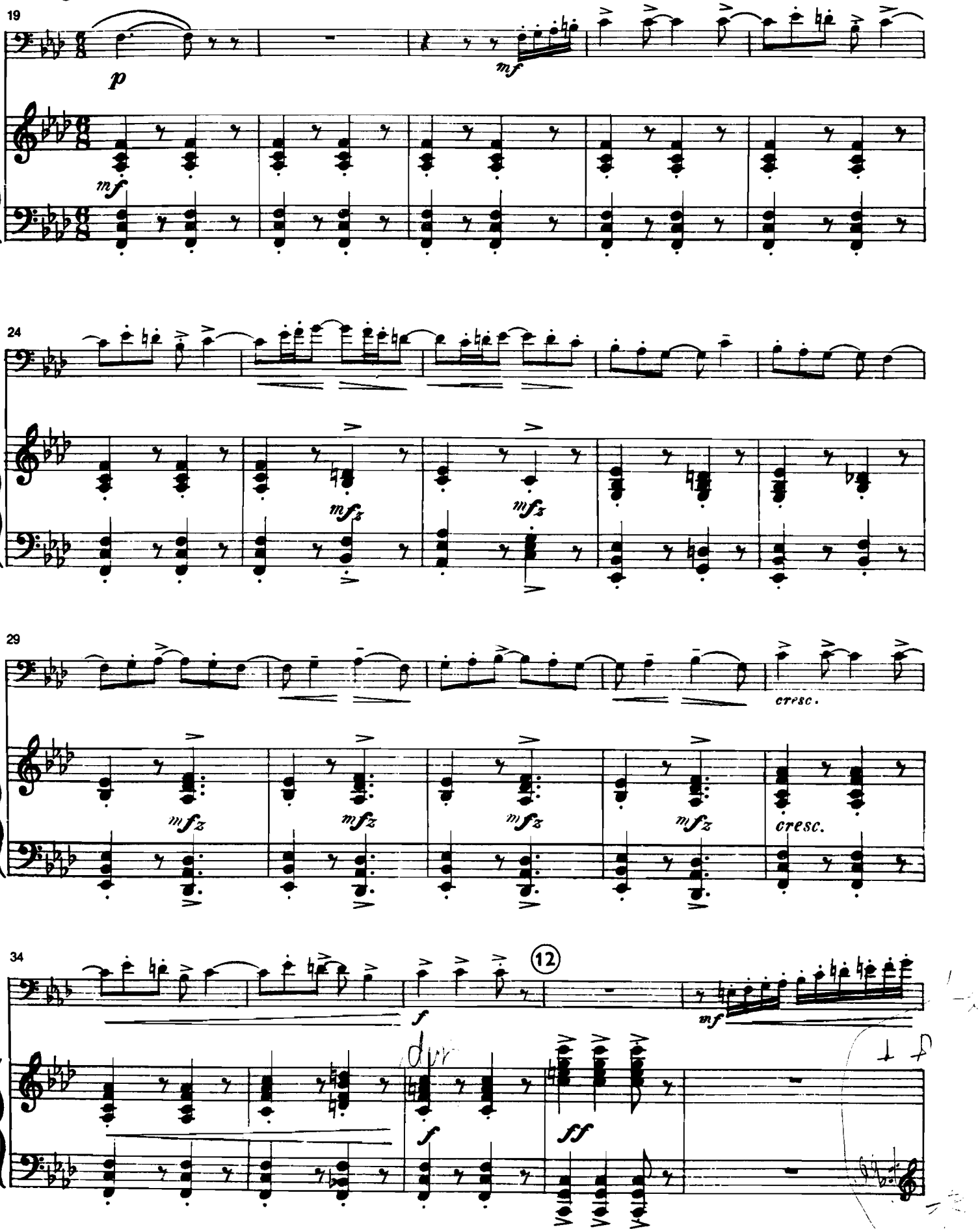
(♩ = 80)

Maestoso



RONDO

Allegretto scherzando (♩. = 80)



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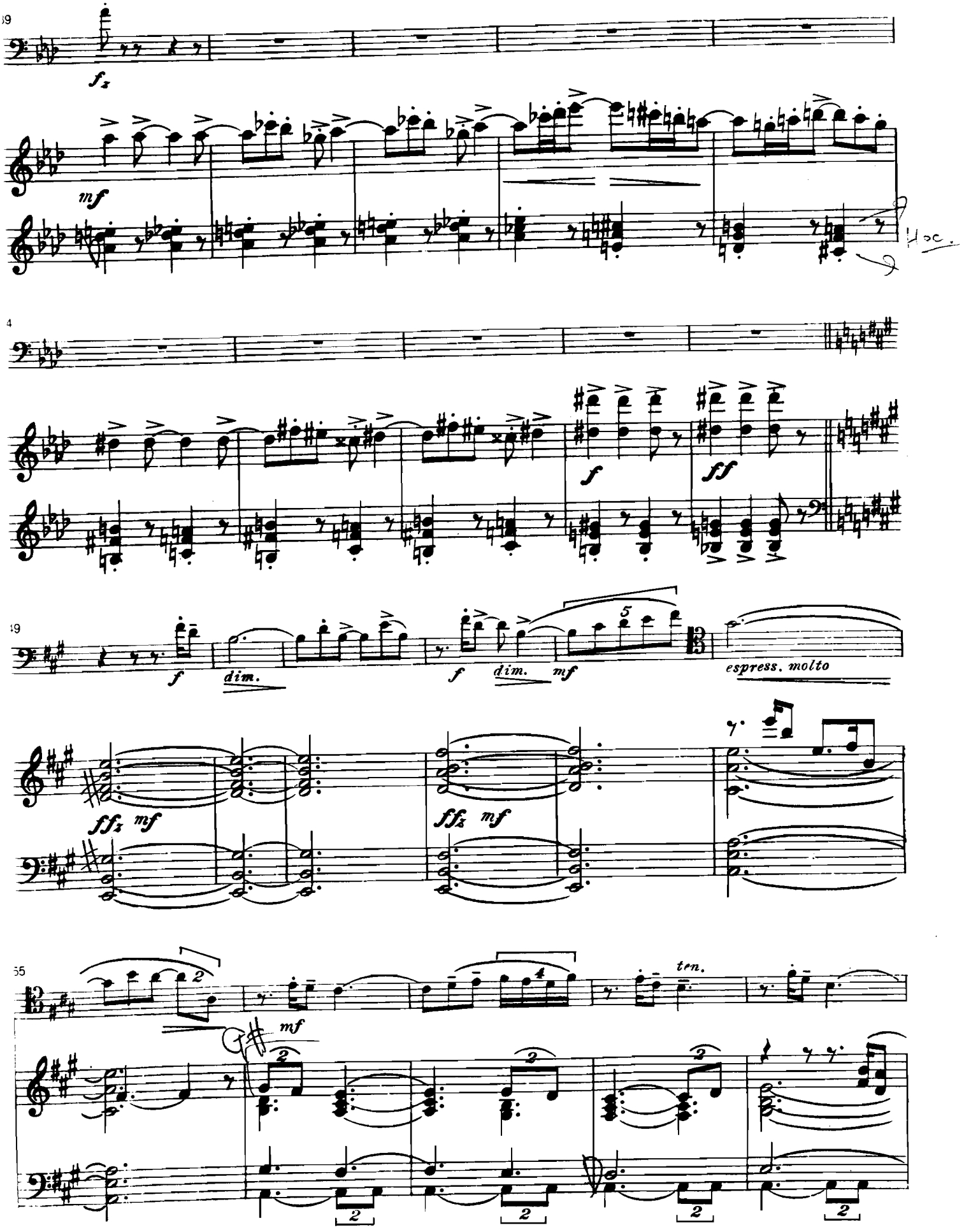
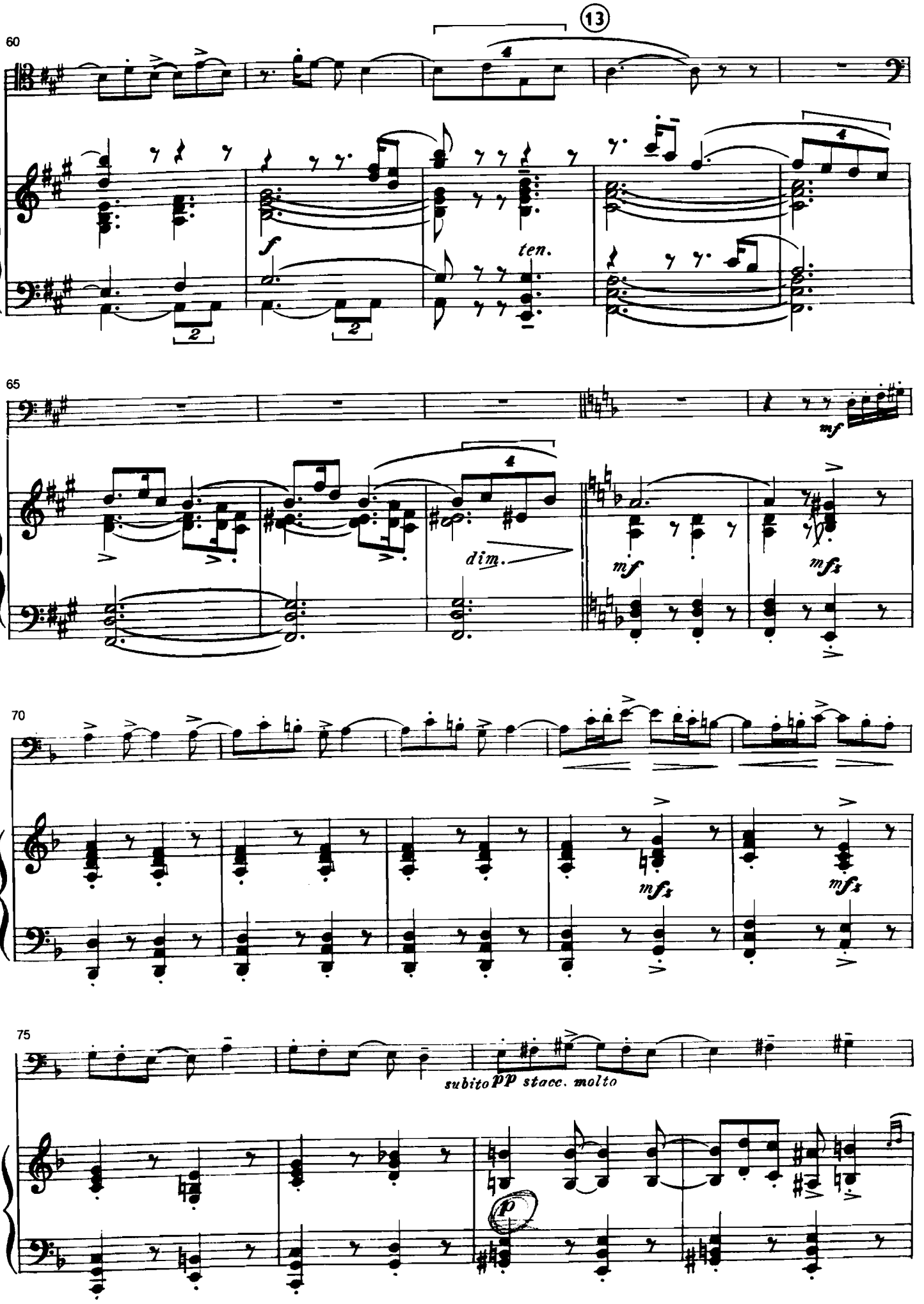
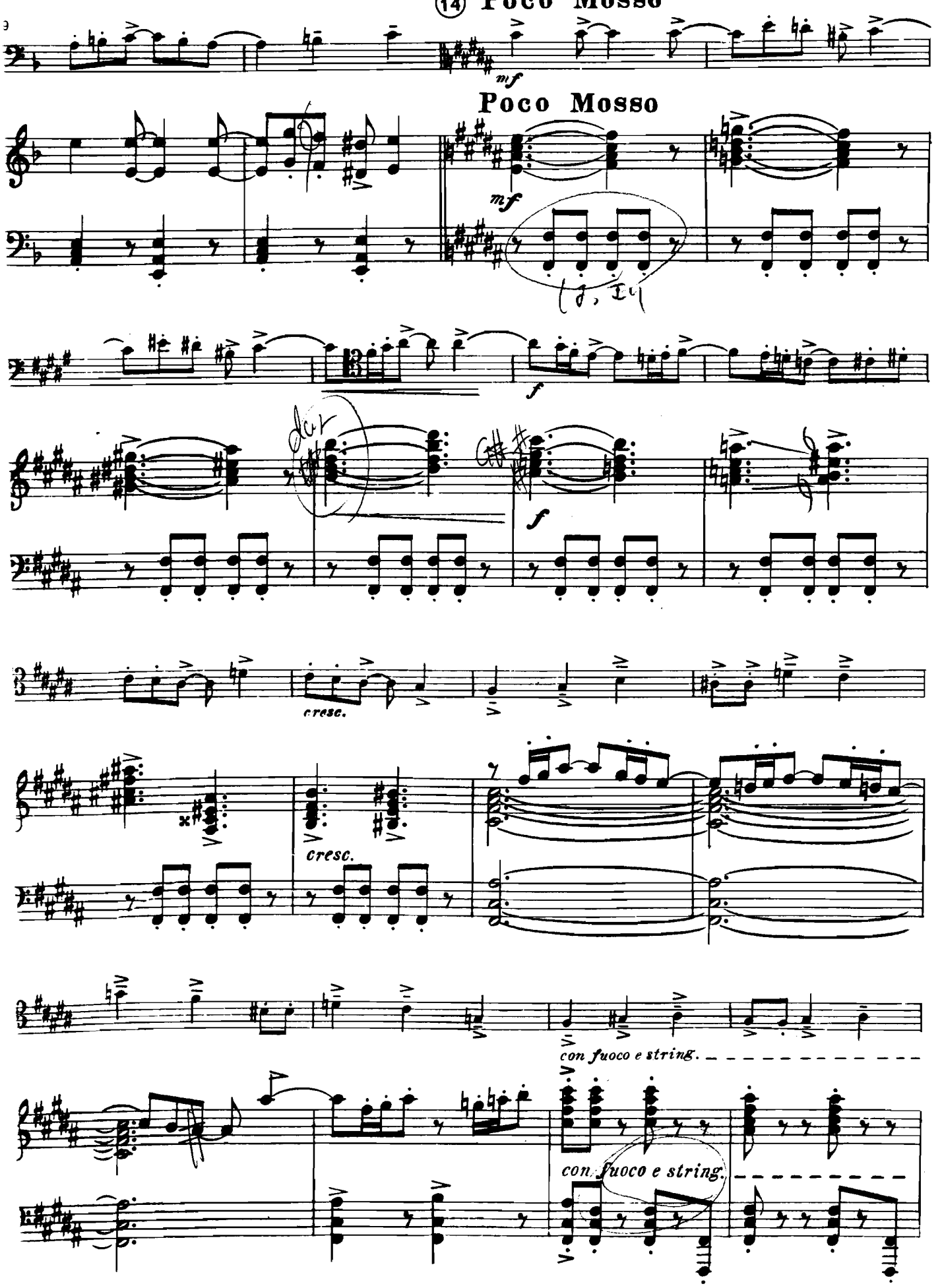

fz
mf
Hoc.
f
ff
f
dim.
f
dim.
mf
5
espress. molto
ffz mf
ffz mf
ten.
mf
2
4

© 1974


60
13
f
ten.
65
dim.
mf
mfz
70
mfz
75
subito pp stacc. molto
p



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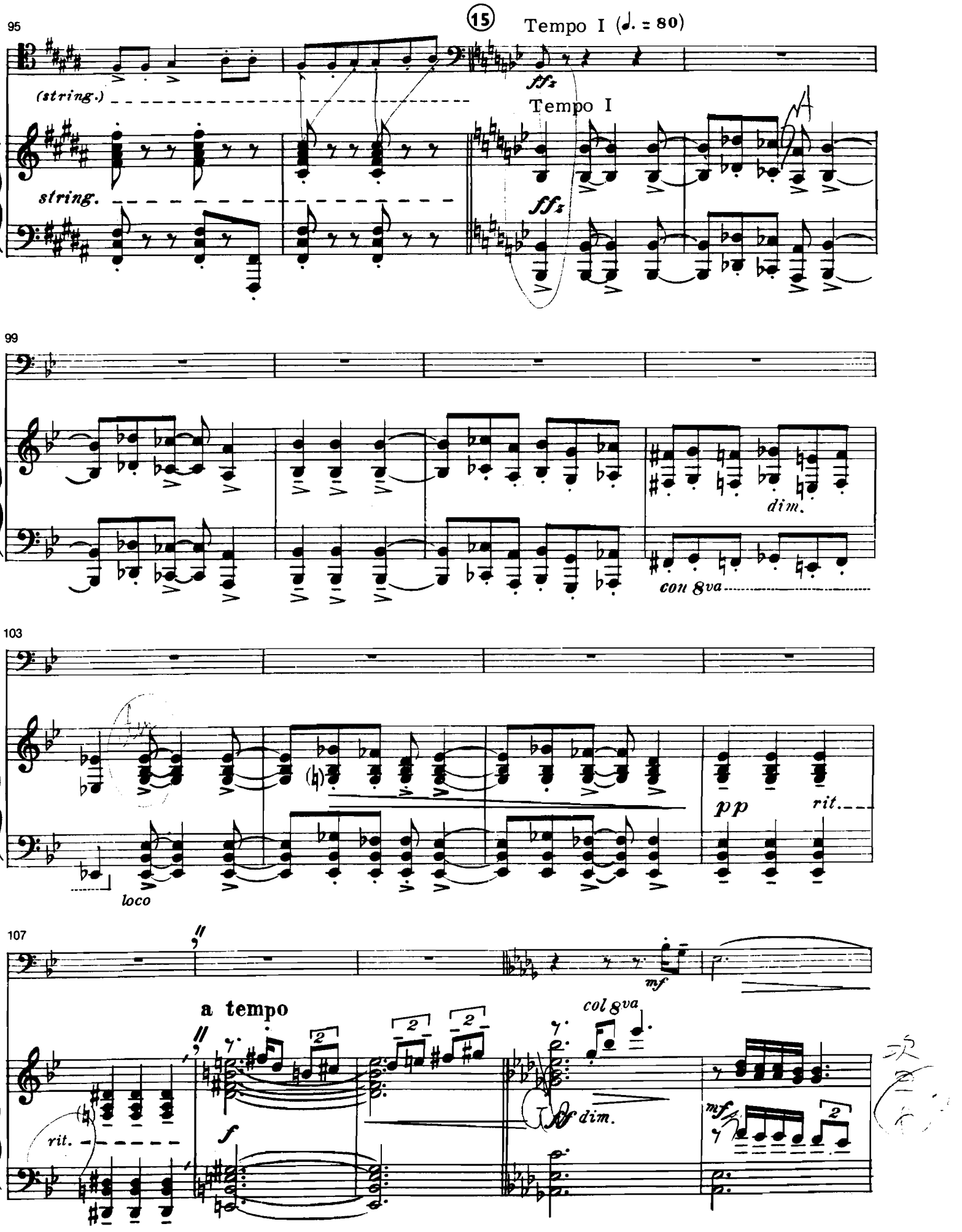

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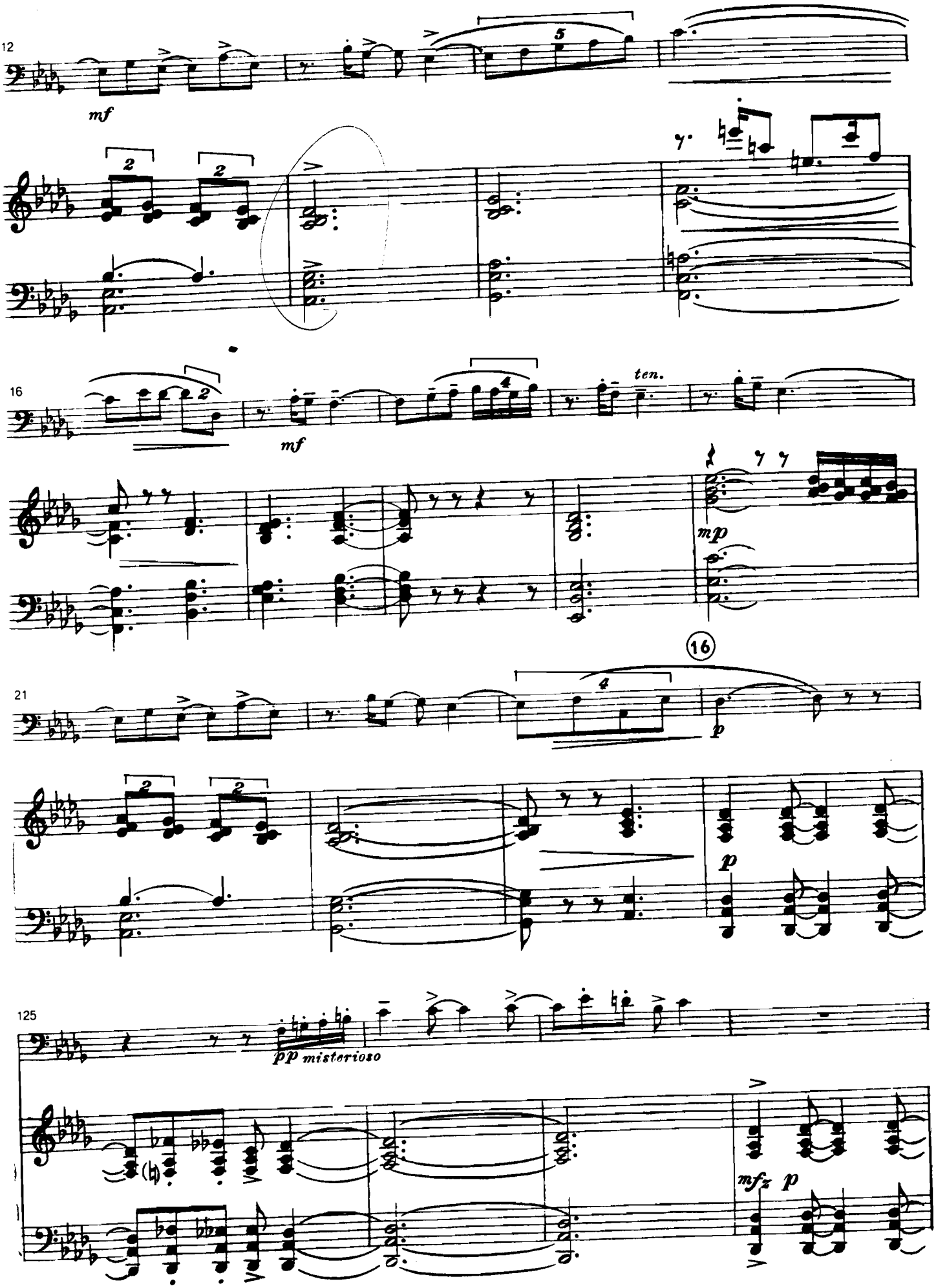
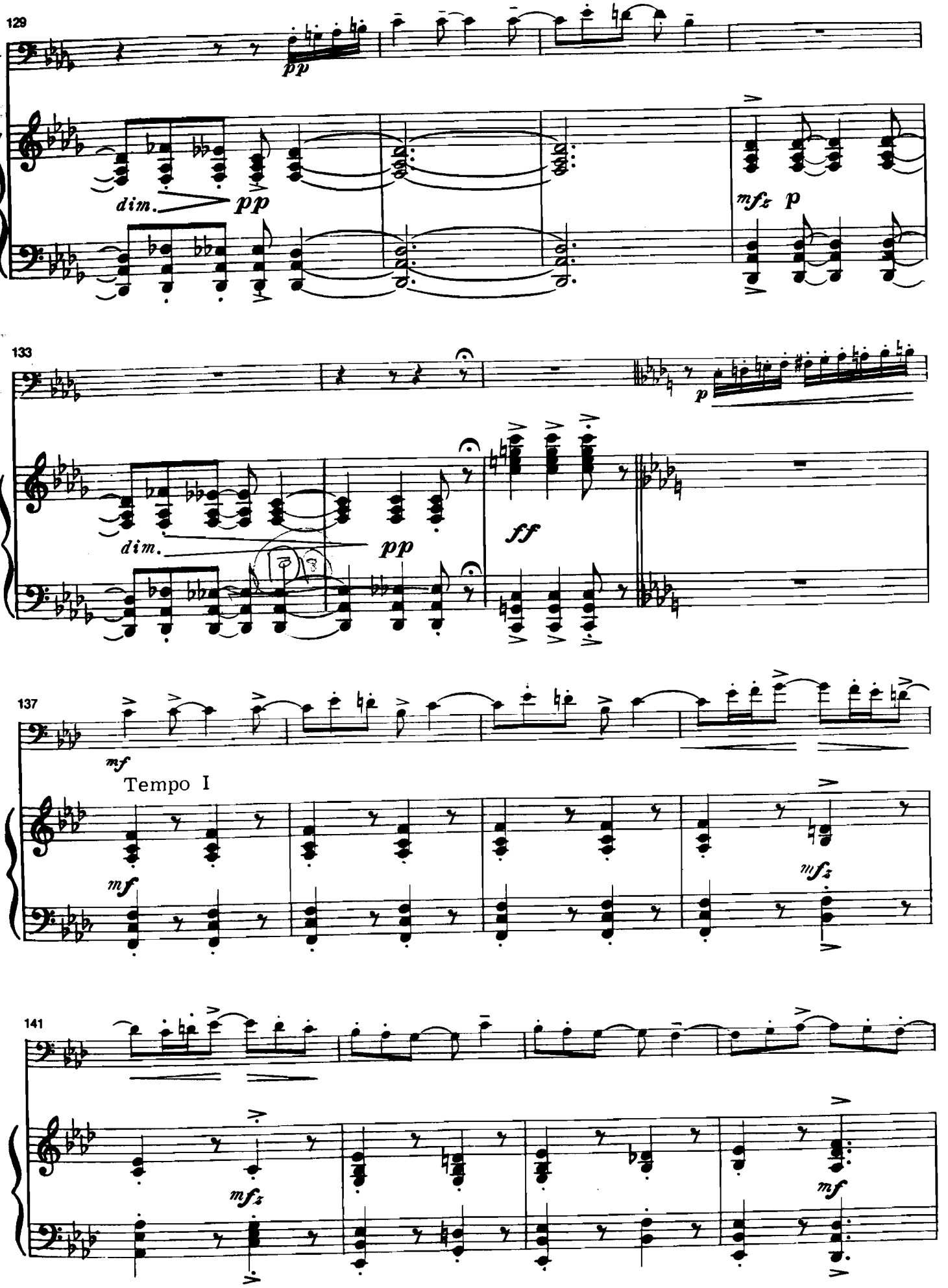

12
mf
16
mf
ten.
mp
16
21
p
p
125
pp misterioso
mfz p



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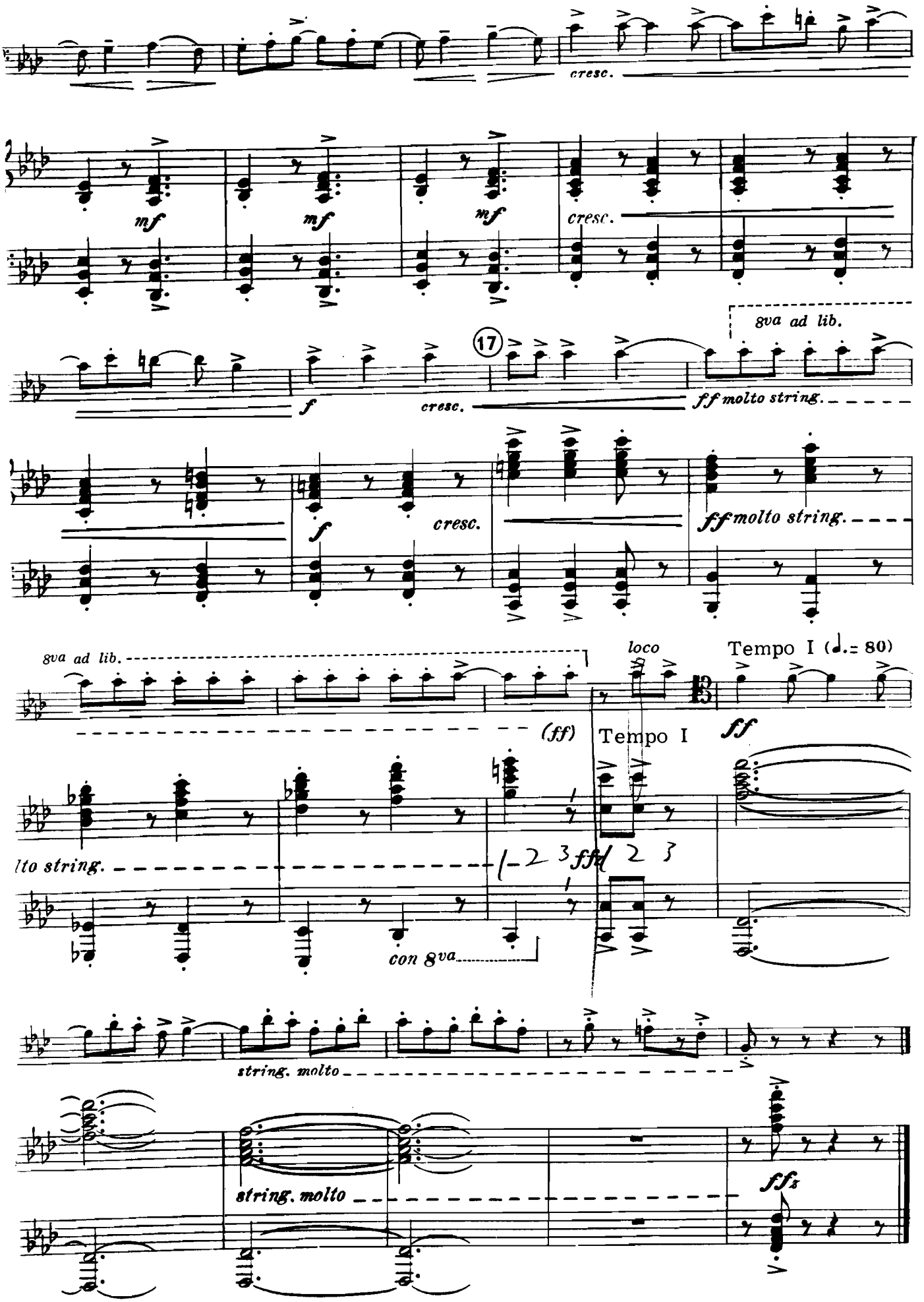

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