EIGHT BIBLE VIGNETTES
for the PIANO

BY

R. NATHANIEL DETT

1. Father Abraham
2. Desert Interlude
3. As His Own Soul
4. Barcarolle of Tears
5. I Am the True Vine
6. Martha Complained
7. Other Sheep
8. Madrigal Divine

50¢

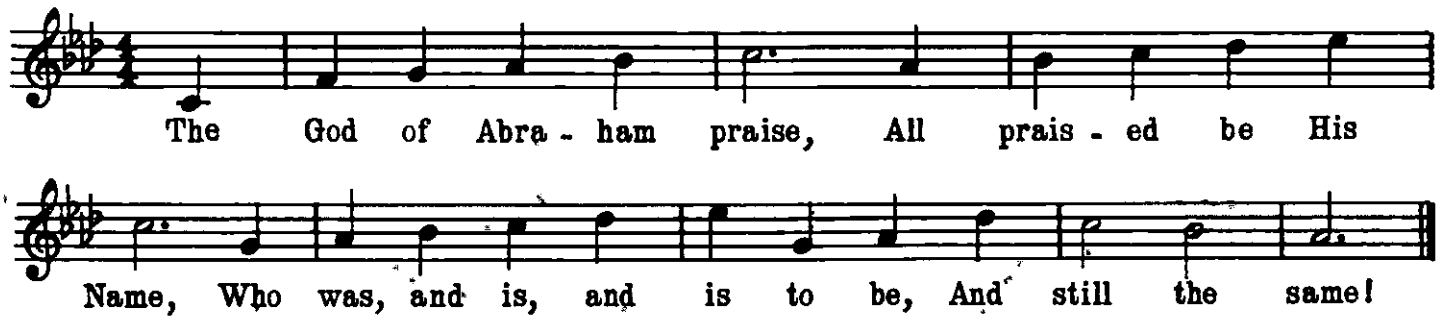
MILLS MUSIC
Music Publishers
1619 Broadway—New York, N.Y.

Father Abraham

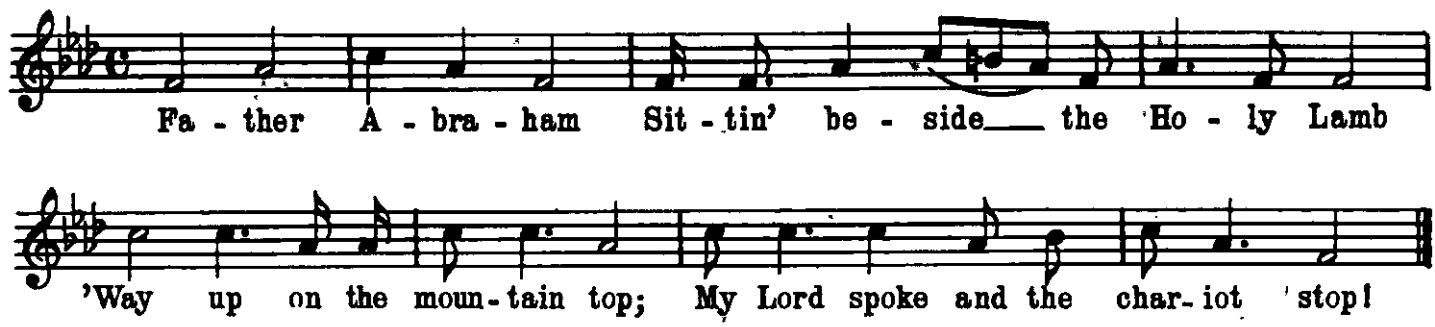
I

LEGEND:

14th CENTURY HEBREW



NEGRO SPIRITUAL



By myself have I
sworn, saith the Lord: .....

That in blessing I will bless thee,
and in multiplying I will multiply
thy seed as the stars of the heaven,
and as the sand which is upon the
seashore; and thy seed shall pos-
sess the gate of his enemies;

And in thy seed shall all the
nations of the earth be blessed;

—*Genesis xxiii*, 16-18

We will trabbel on together, Hallelujah,
Gwine to war agin de debbil, Hallelujah,
Gwine to pull down Satan's kingdom, Hallelujah,
Gwine to build up de walls o' Zion, Hallelujah.
Dere's a better day a-comin', Hallelujah!

—*Negro spiritual*

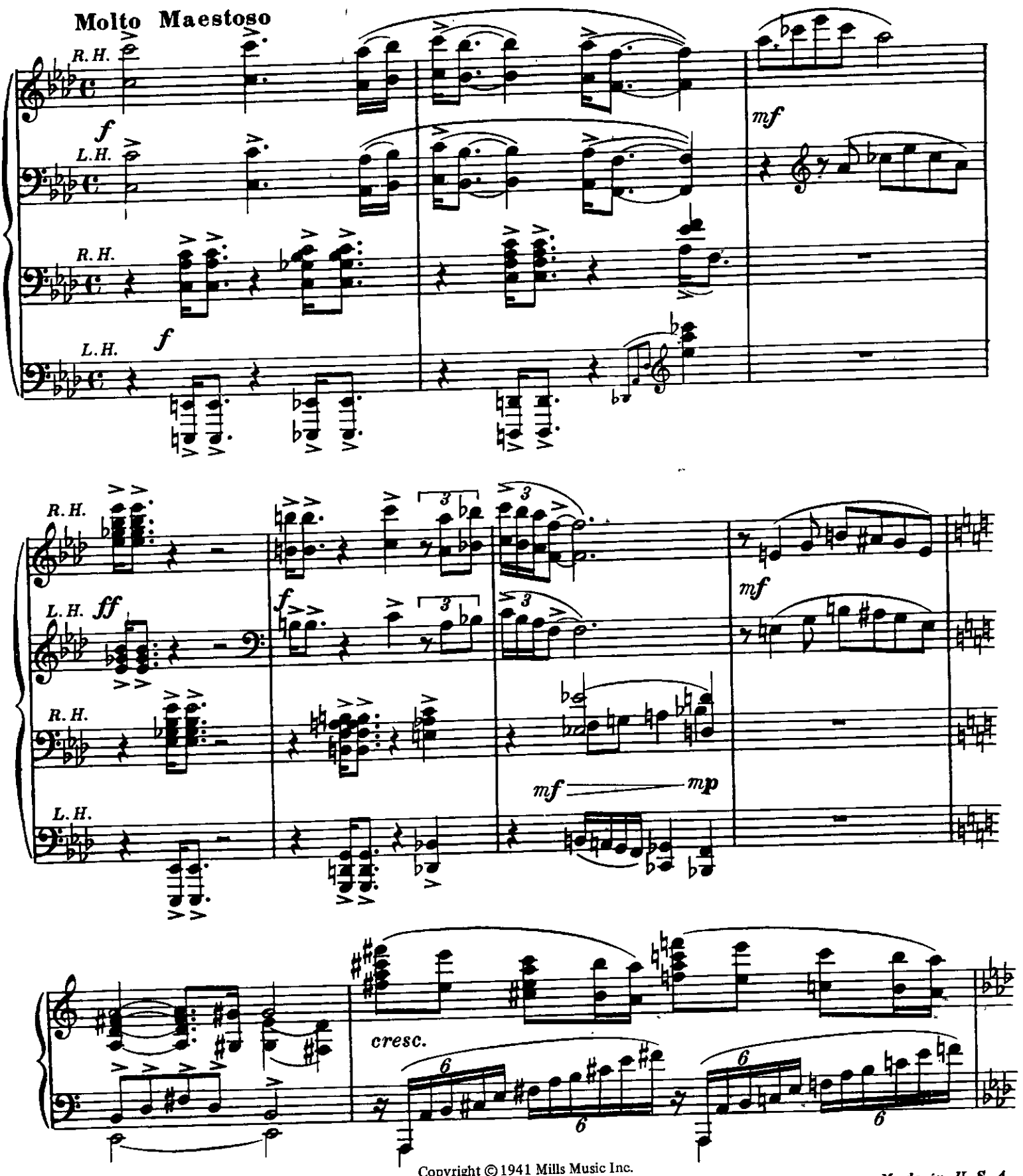
It is something more than a mere coincidence that Abraham, patriarch of Old Testament history, should also be apostrophized in the Negro spiritual; for the emotional and mystical keynote of the Negro, even as of the Jewish folksong, is emancipation and great happiness in some future state.

Moreover, from the standpoint of musicology, the interval of the augmented, or "barbaric" second (Byzantium mode) which occurs in the melody of the spiritual, identifies it as belonging more to the great family of oriental folksong than to any offshoot of Moody and Sankeyism, as has been sometimes alleged.

In this piece, appropriately the first of this set of BIBLE VIGNETTES, parts of both the Jewish and the Negro tunes are used and, because of their similarity of mood and melody, it is hoped that their association will appear to be logical and natural.

Father Abraham

I



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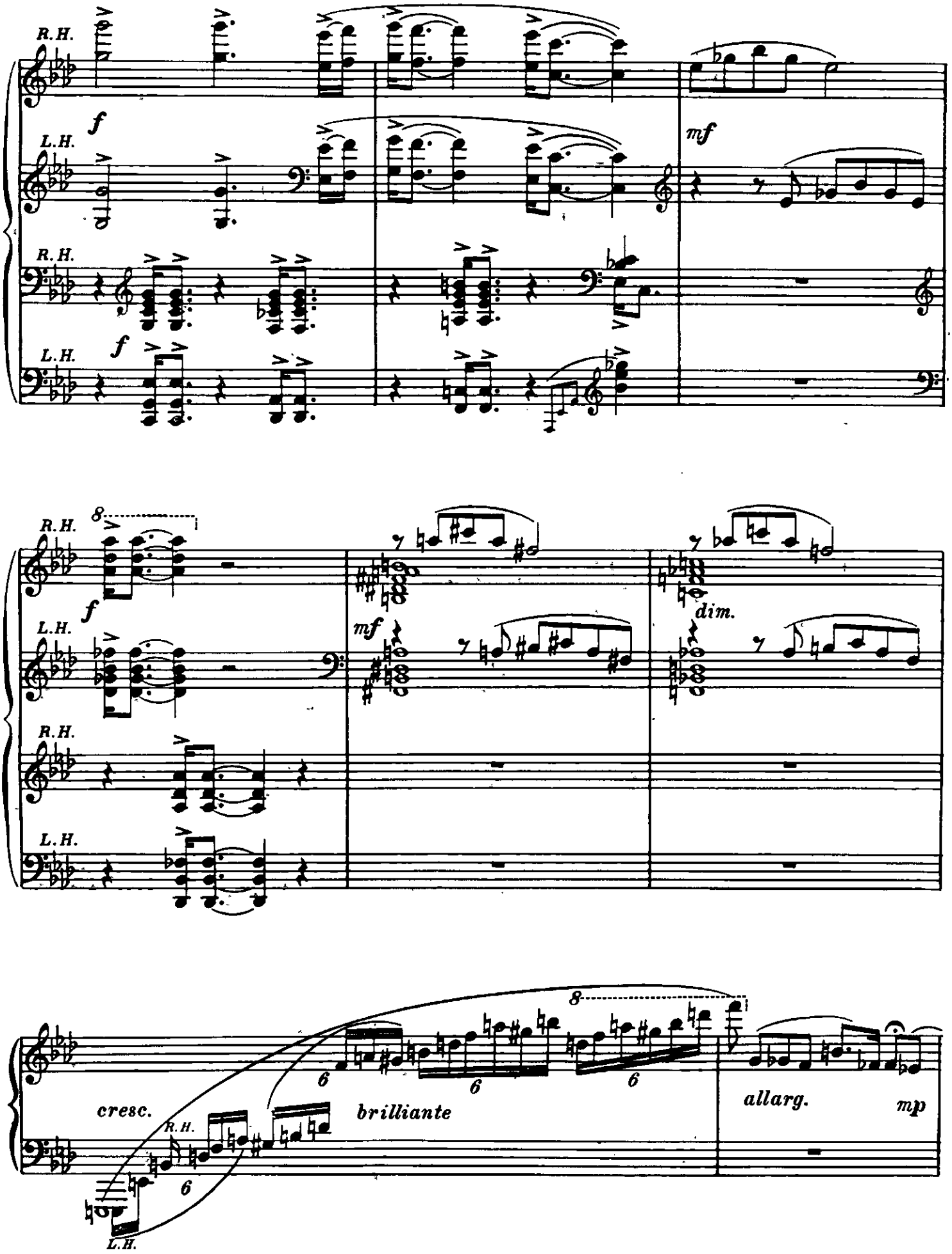
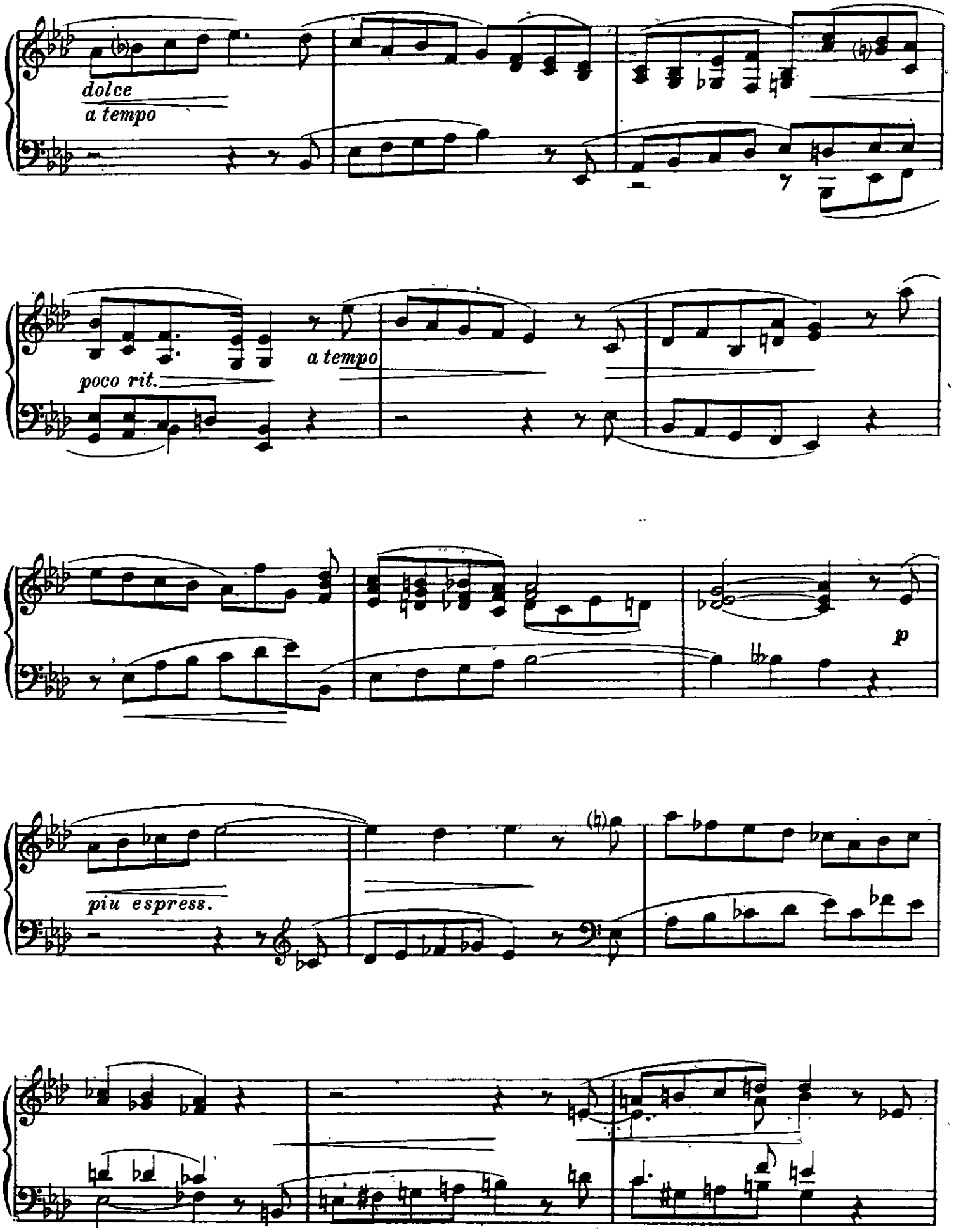
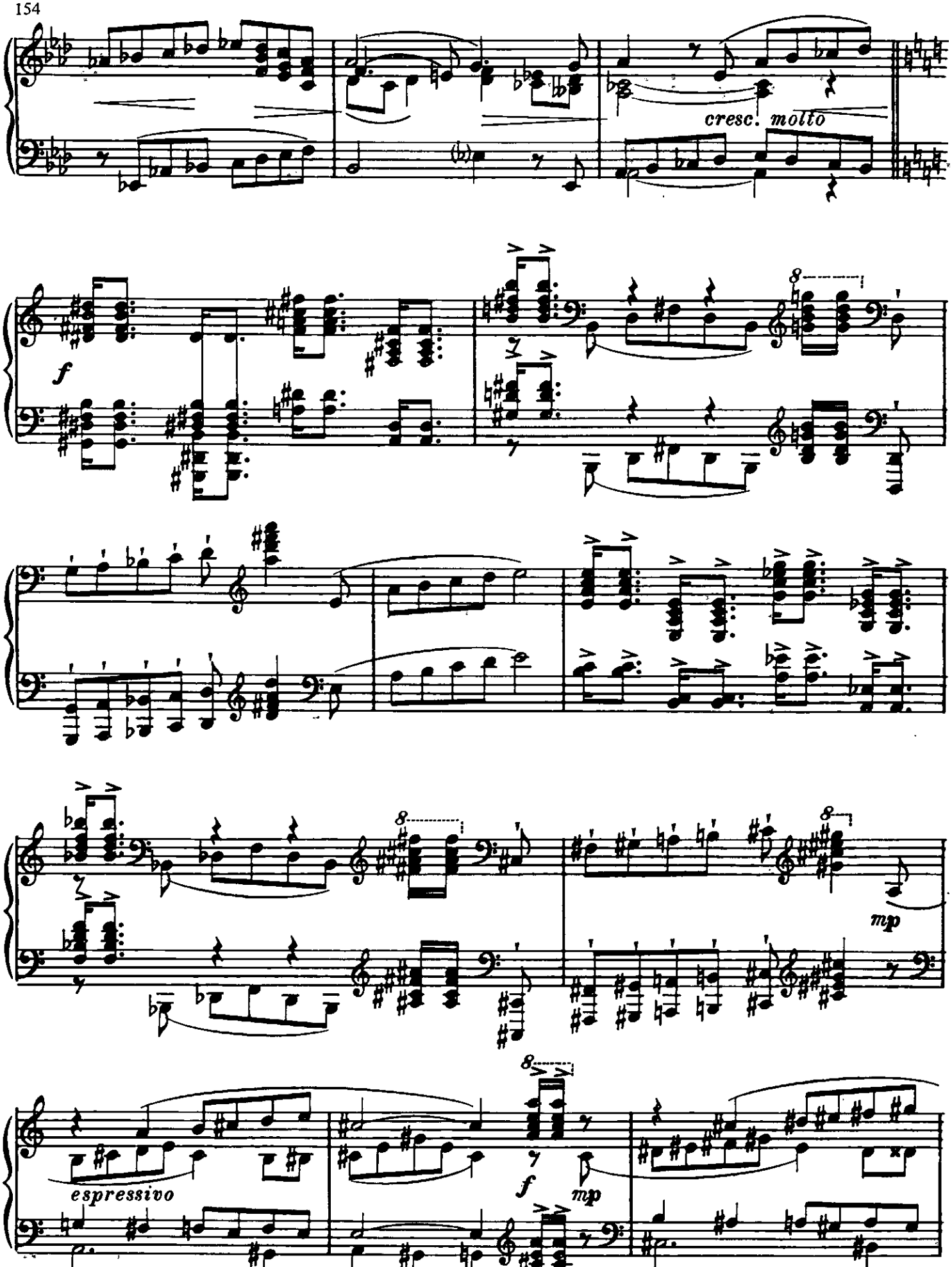
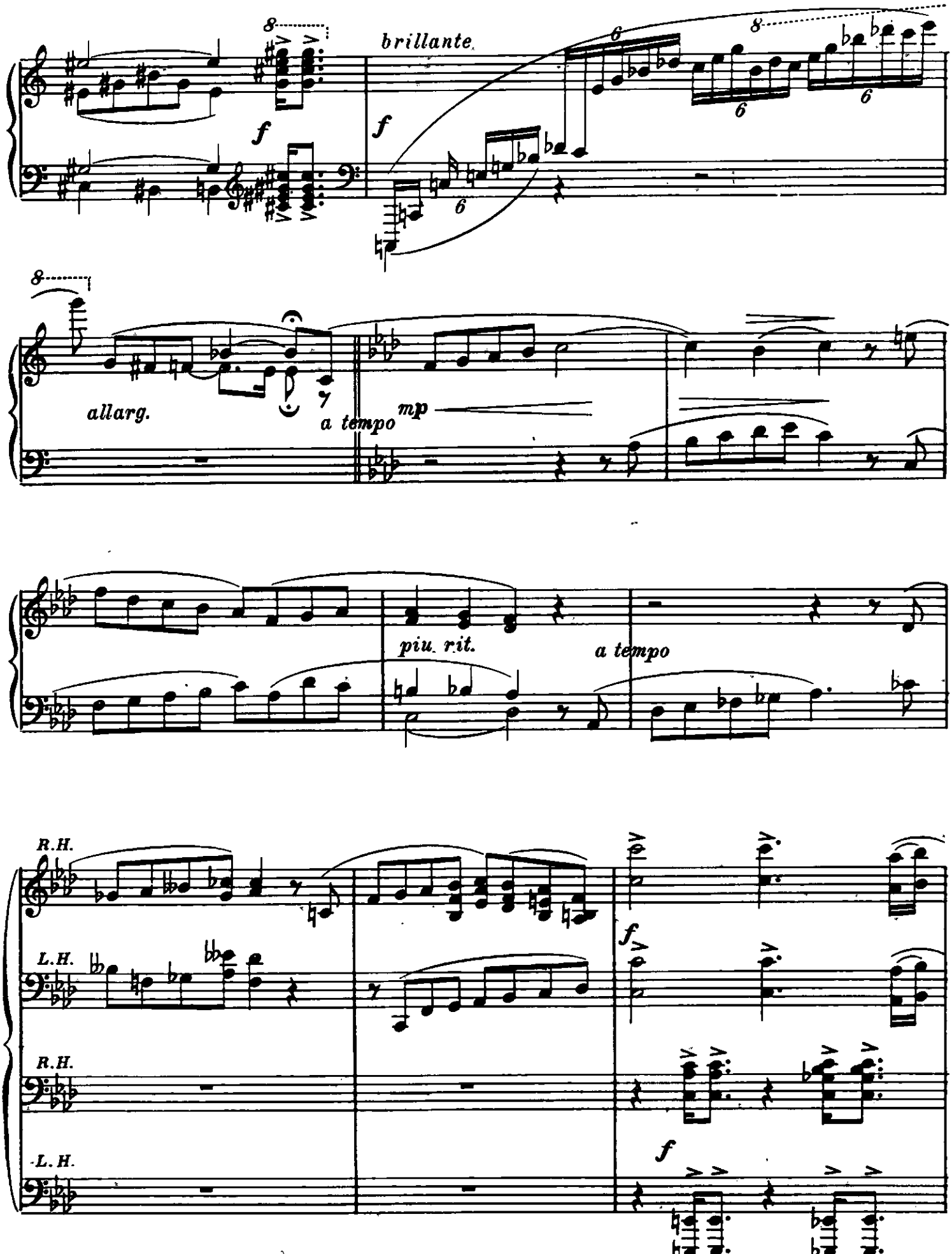
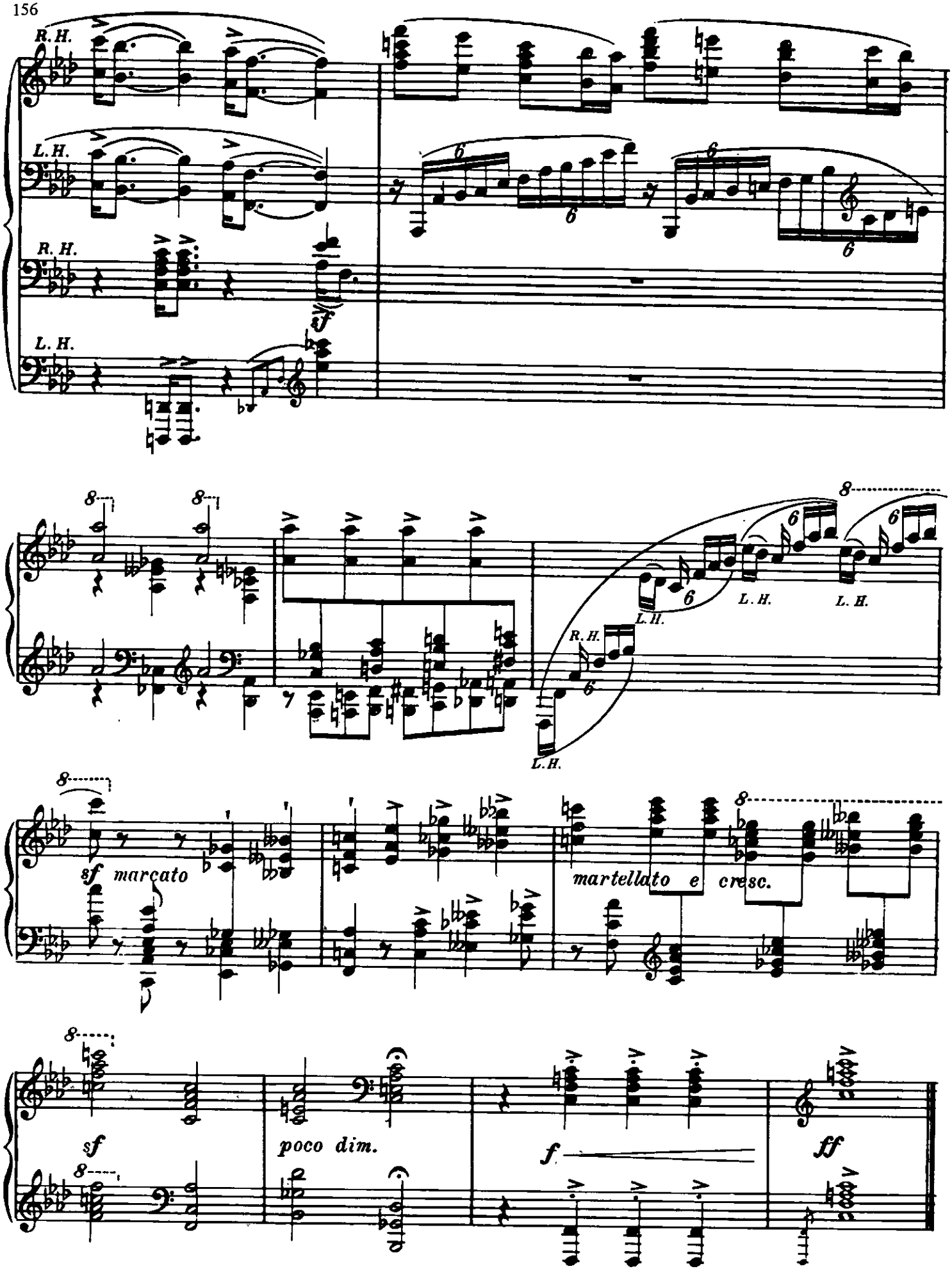

R.H.
f
L.H.
mf
R.H.
f
L.H.
8
R.H.
f
L.H.
mf
dim.
R.H.
L.H.
8
6
6
6
cresc.
brilliante
allarg.
mp
R.H.
6
L.H.


dolce
a tempo
poco rit.
a tempo
p
piu espress.


cresc. molto
f
mp
espressivo
f
mp


brillante
f
f
allarg.
a tempo
mp
piu. rit.
a tempo
R.H.
L.H.
R.H.
L.H.
f
f


R. H.
L. H.
R. H.
L. H.
sf
L. H.
L. H.
R. H.
L. H.
sf marcato
martellato e cresc.
sf
poco dim.
f
ff

DESERT INTERLUDE

II

Legend:

> And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took break and a bottle of water, and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.
>
> —Genesis xxi, -14

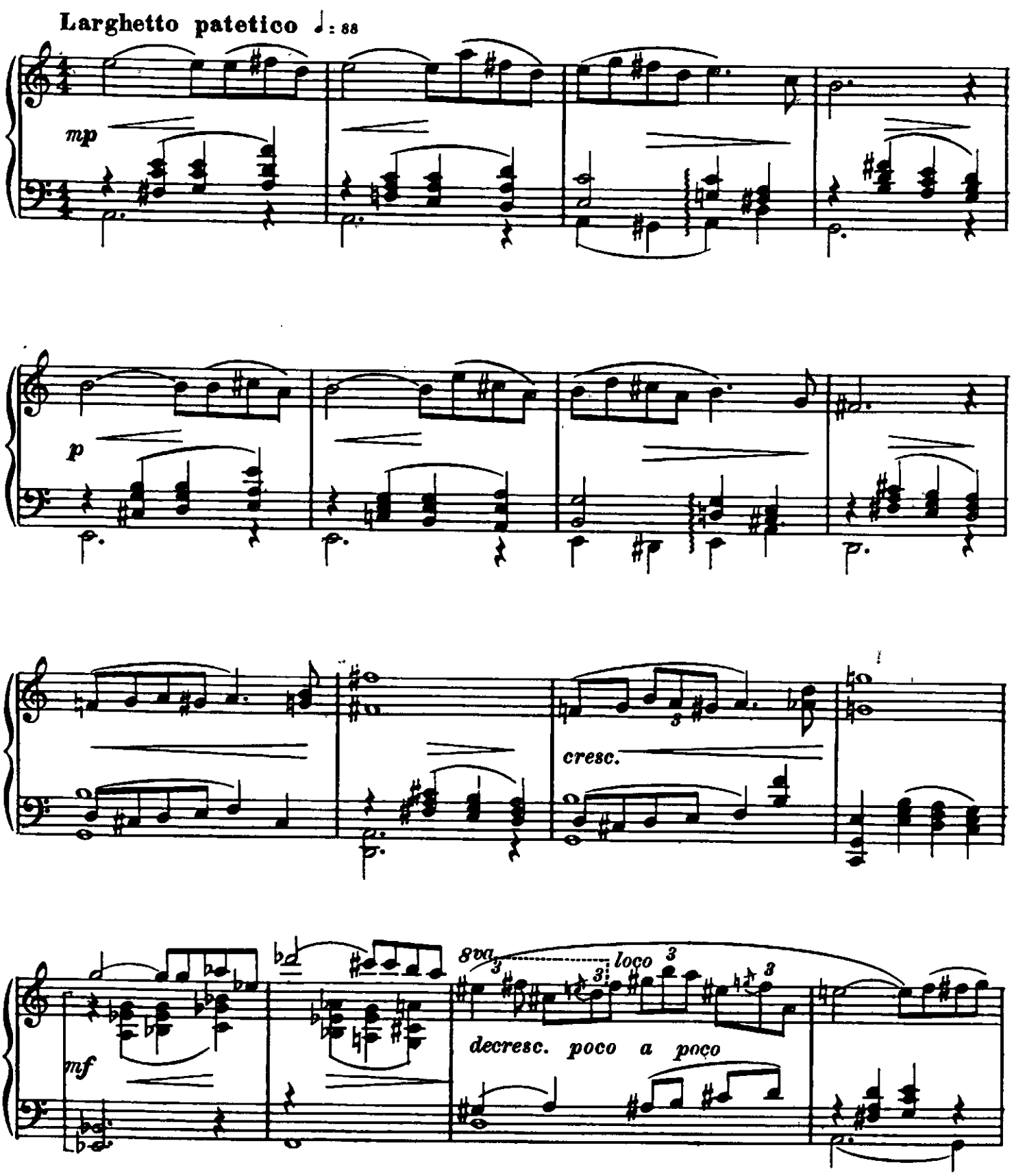
DESERT INTERLUDE, therefore, deals with that short period of time, wherein the banished Hagar, clasping the hand of Ishmael, her son, stood wonderingly, and despairingly in the desert, lost in dark contemplation.

The loaf of bread was almost gone, and the water "was spent in the bottle." The heat of the wilderness, each moment grew more oppressive.—What nostalgic thoughts of the home from which she lately had been thrust,—what fears for the immediate future,—what maternal dread for the fate of her child, filled her breast!

What should she do? Was there no hope? Had God, even as Abraham, forsaken her?

Desert Interlude

2



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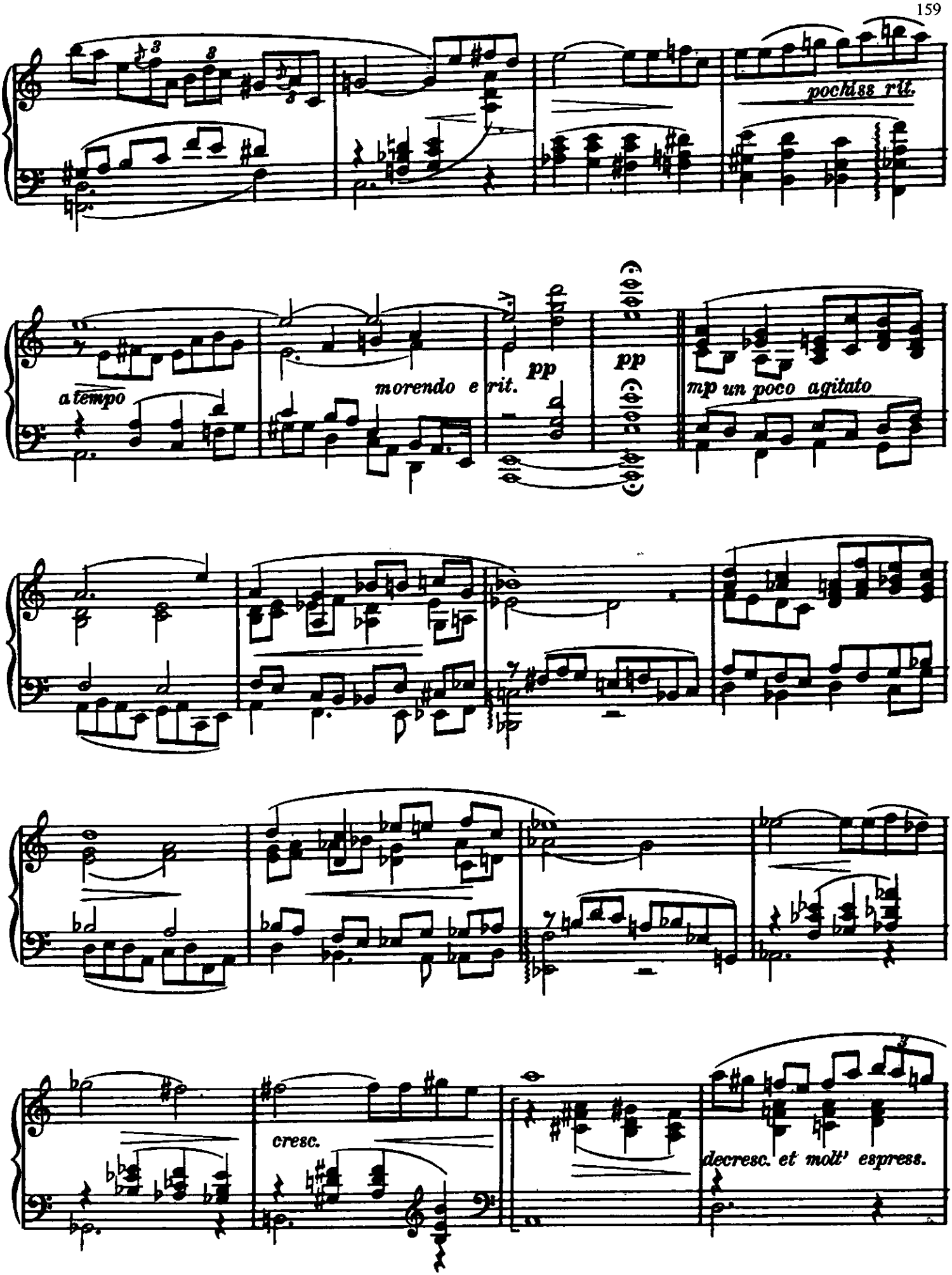
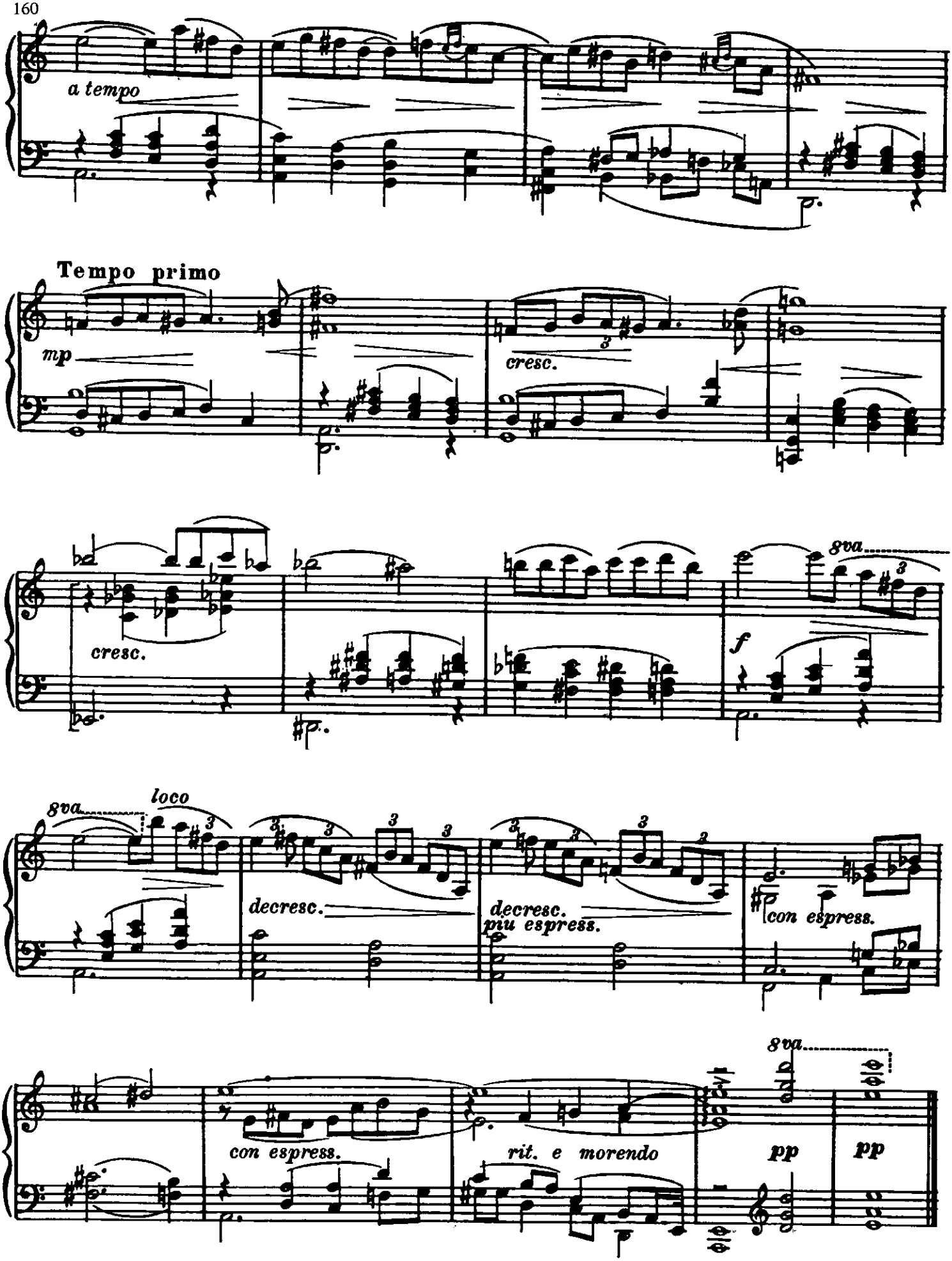

pochiss rit.
a tempo
morendo e rit.
pp
pp
mp un poco agitato
cresc.
decresc. et molt' espress.


a tempo
Tempo primo
mp
cresc.
cresc.
8va
f
8va
loco
decresc.
decresc.
più espress.
con espress.
con espress.
rit. e morendo
8va
pp
pp

AS HIS OWN SOUL

III

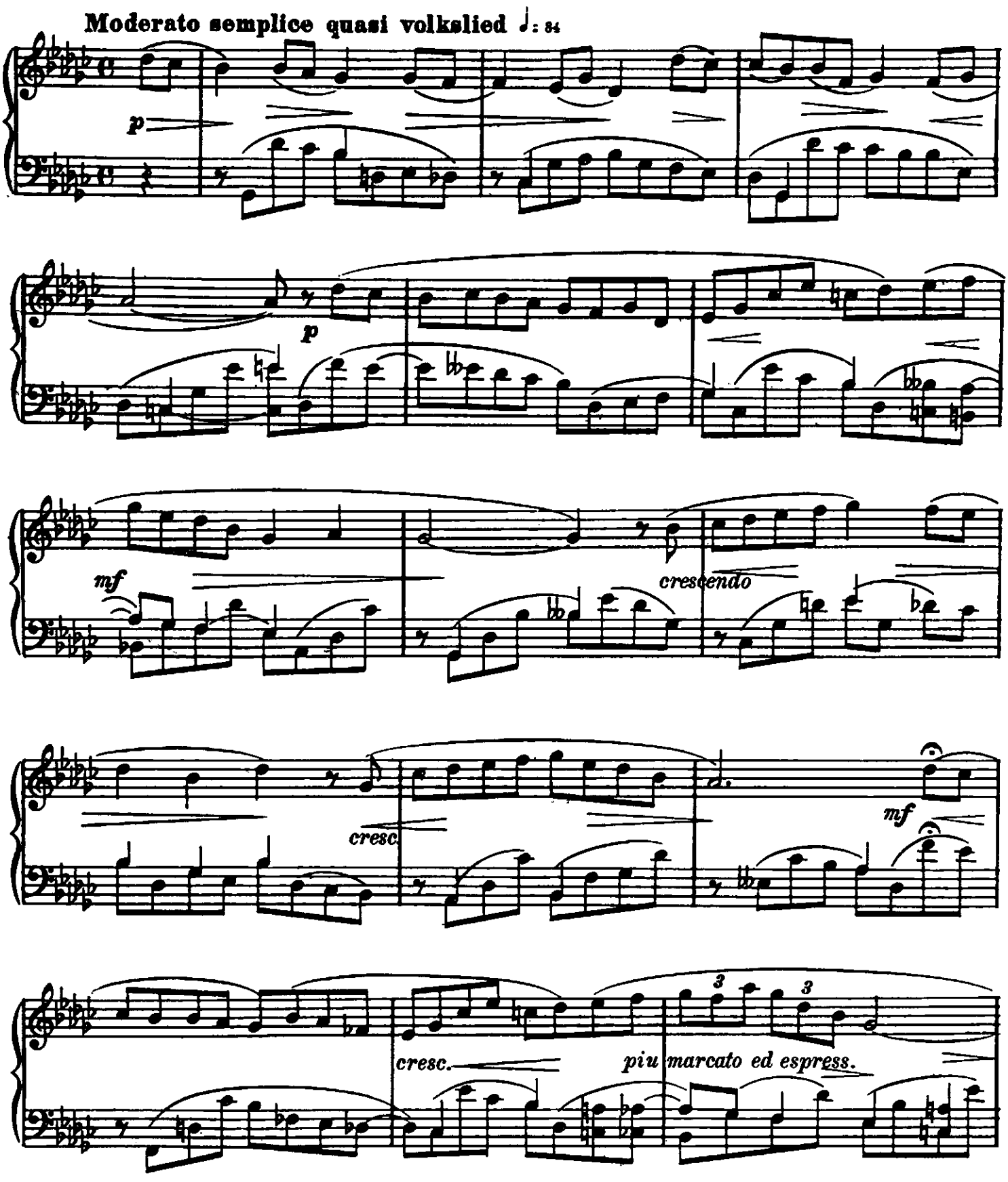
Legend:

> And it came to pass, ... that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.
>
> —Samuel xviii, -1

To the memory of Carl

As His Own Soul

3



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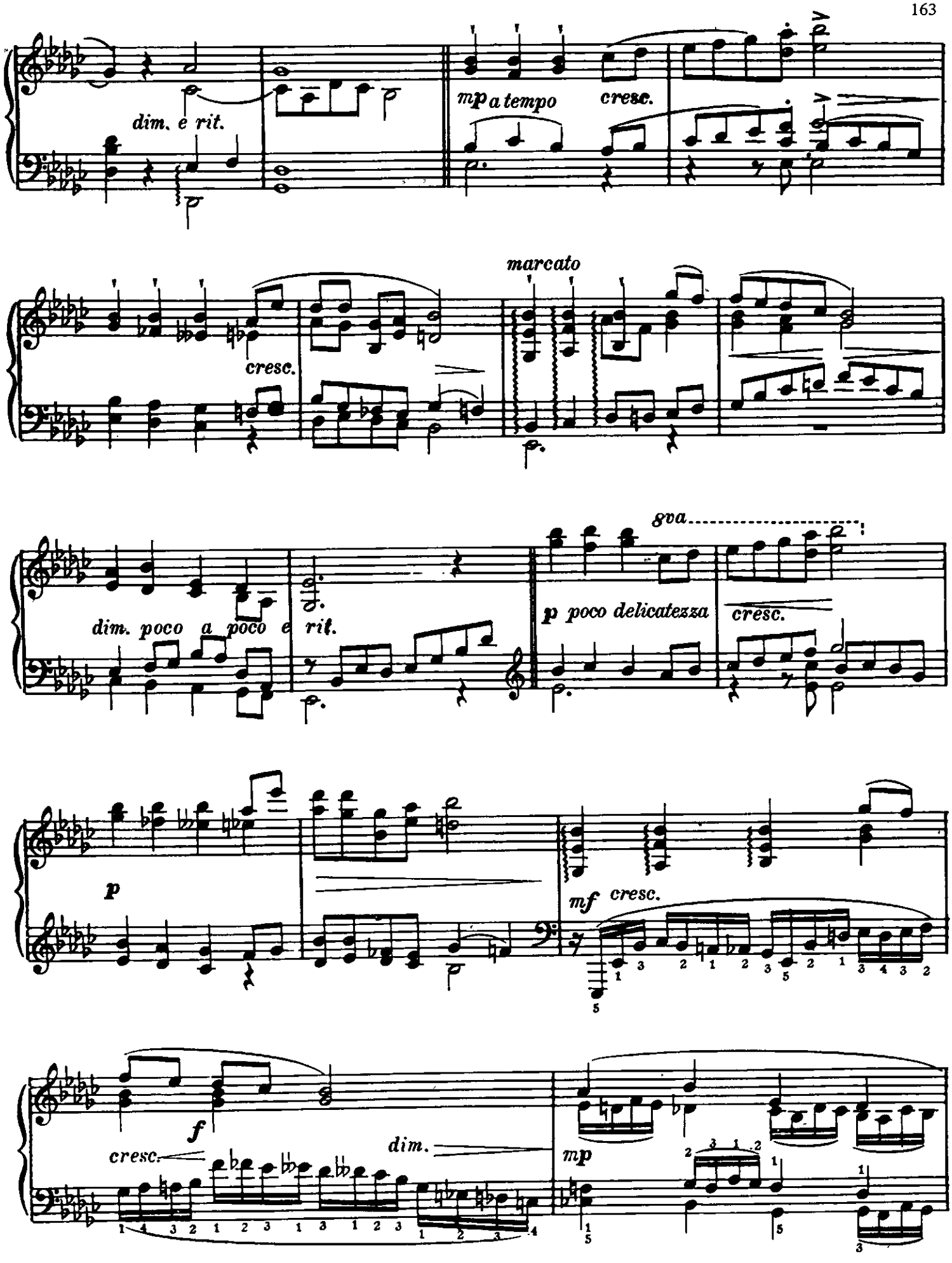
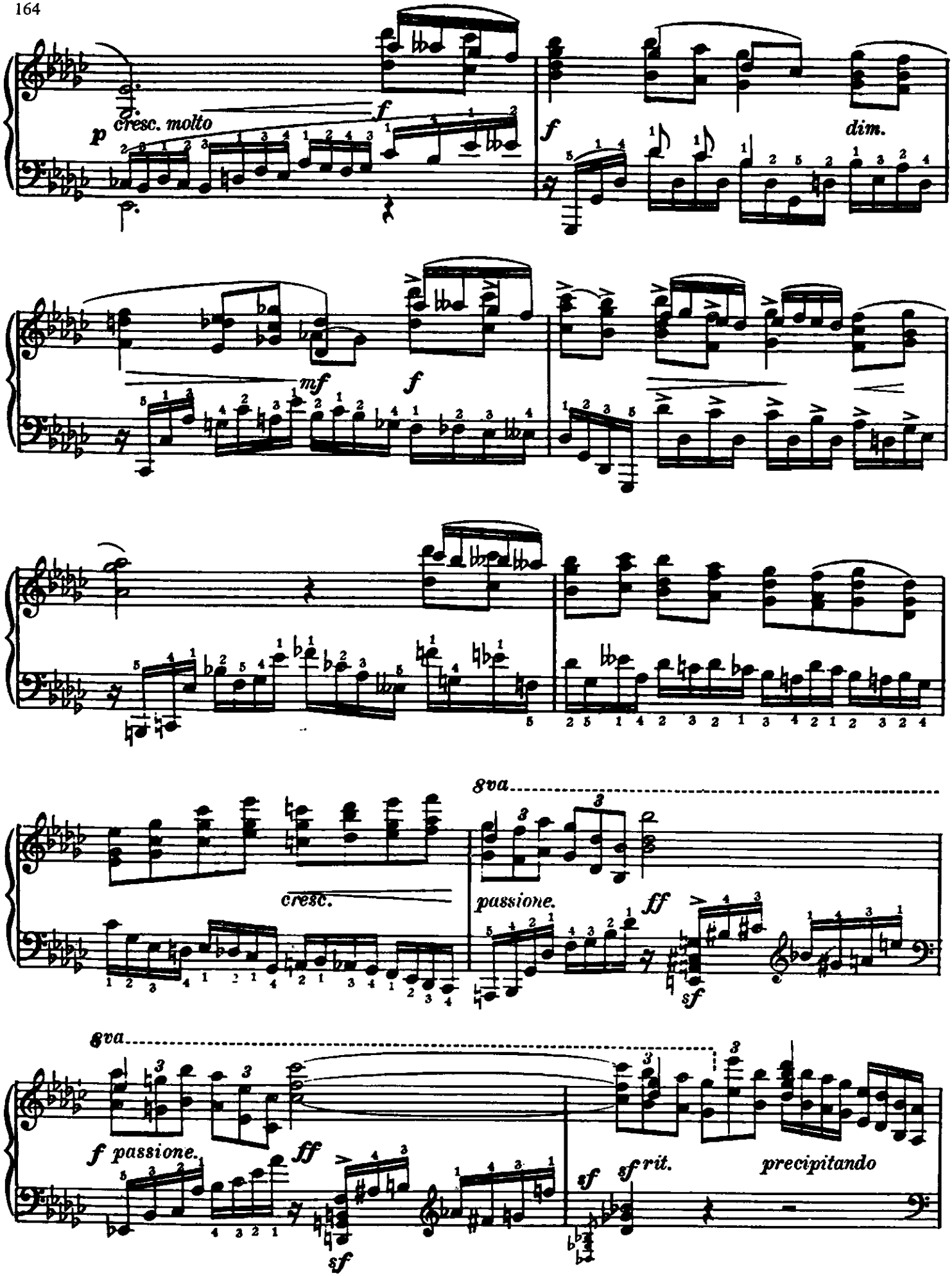
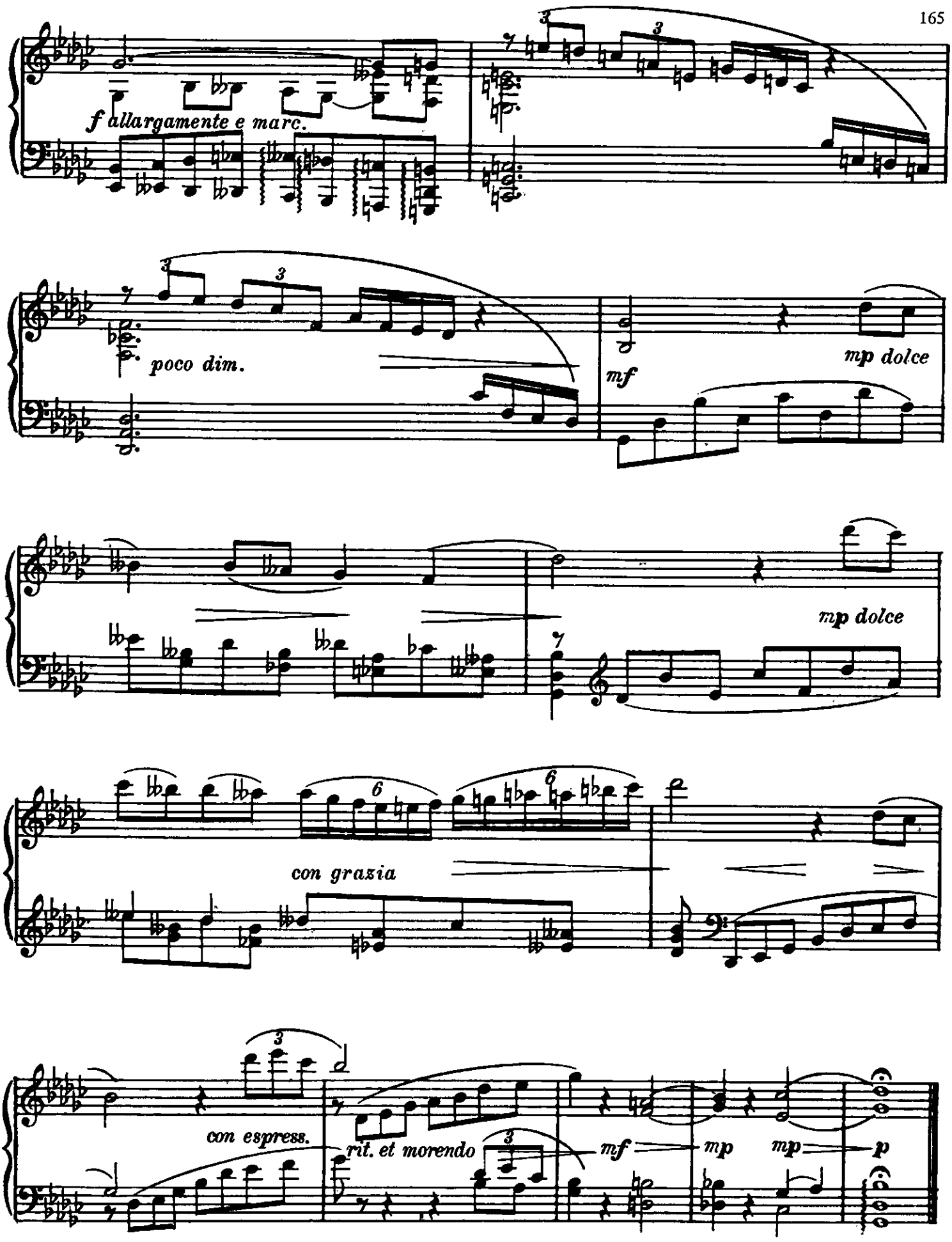
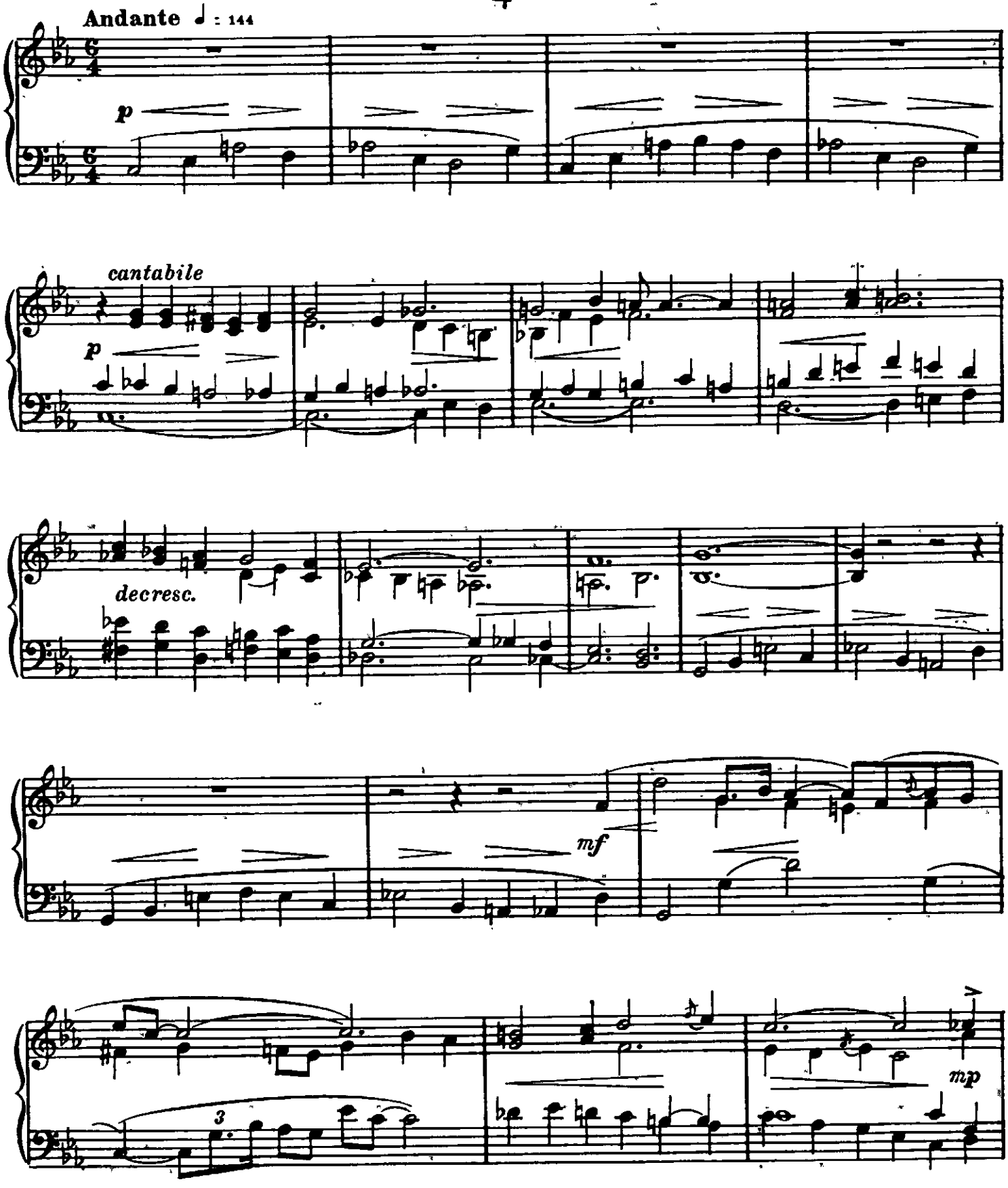

dim. e rit.
mp a tempo
cresc.
marcato
cresc.
8va
dim. poco a poco e rit.
p poco delicatezza
cresc.
p
mf cresc.
f
cresc.
dim.
mp


p
cresc. molto
f
f
dim.
mf
f
cresc.
8va
passione.
ff
sf
8va
f passione.
ff
sf
sf
sf rit.
precipitando


f allargamente e marc.
poco dim.
mf
mp dolce
mp dolce
con grazia
con espress.
rit. et morendo
mf
mp
mp
p

Barcarolle Of Tears

4



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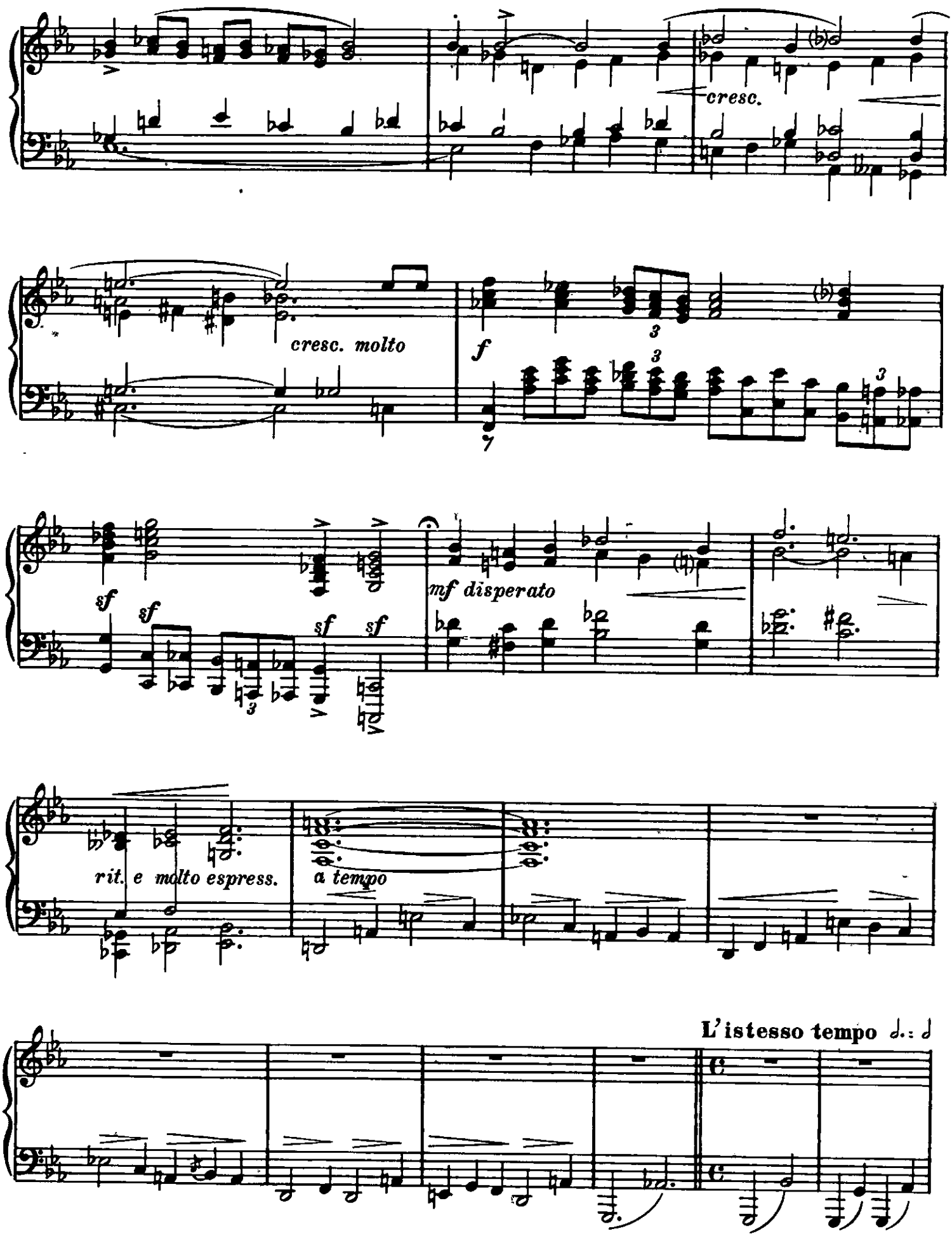
cresc.
cresc. molto
f
sf
sf
sf
sf
mf disperato
rit. e molto espress.
a tempo
L'istesso tempo