Tractatus

Philip Armstrong

Five short pieces for solo piano

Tractatus takes as a point of departure the first five propositions from the philosophical work, Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus, by Austrian Ludwig Wittgenstein.

Just as the treatise seeks to identify the relationship between language and reality, so the piano writing seeks to explore the relationship between propositional language and music.

Proposition 1.	The world is all that is the case.
Proposition 2.	What is the case—a fact—is the existence of states of affairs.
Proposition 3.	A logical picture of facts is a thought.
Proposition 4.	A thought is a proposition with sense.
Proposition 5.	A proposition is a truth-function of elementary propositions.

(Translation by Pears/McGuinness)

Music written in 2008 in Vienna

Proposition 1: The world is all that is the case

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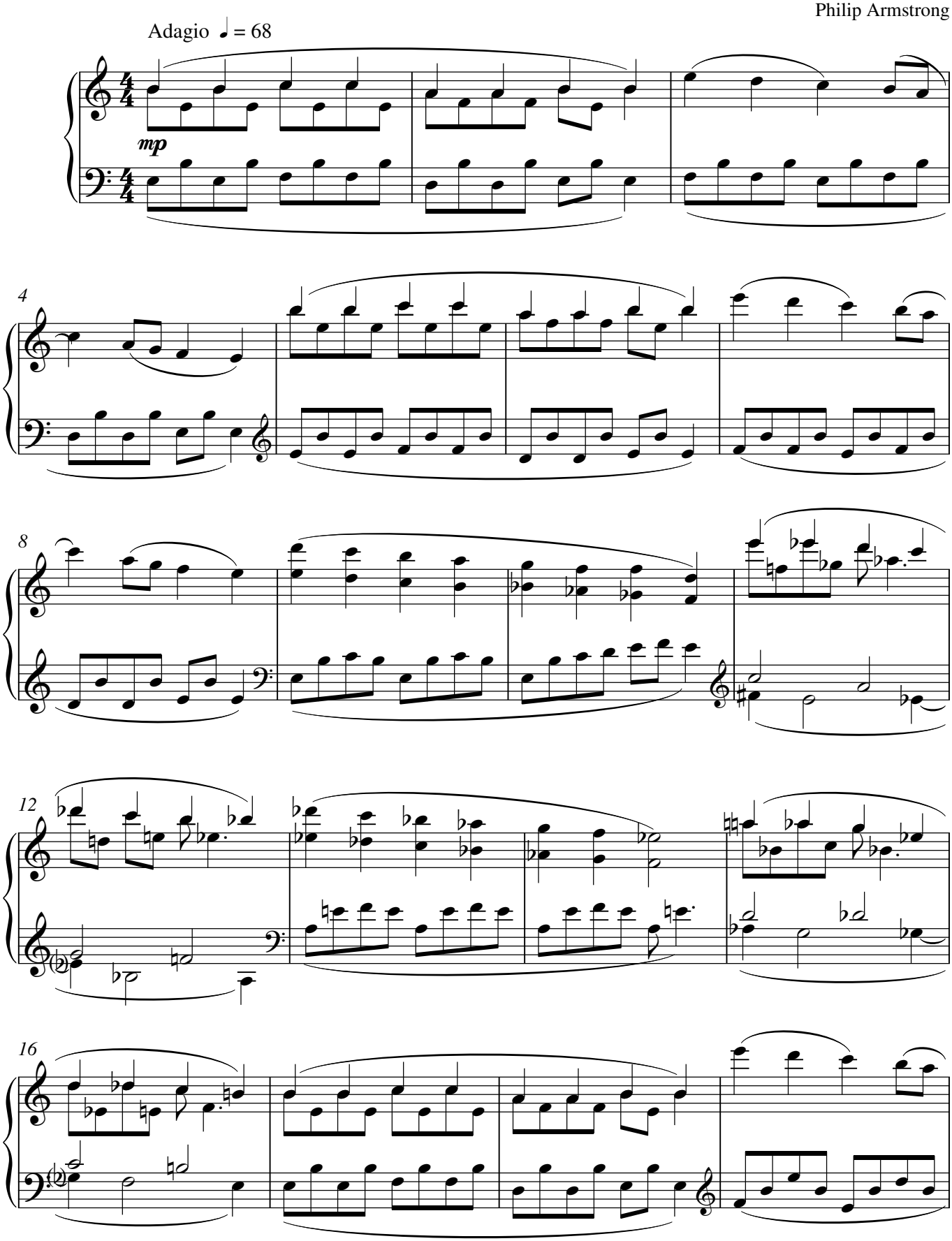

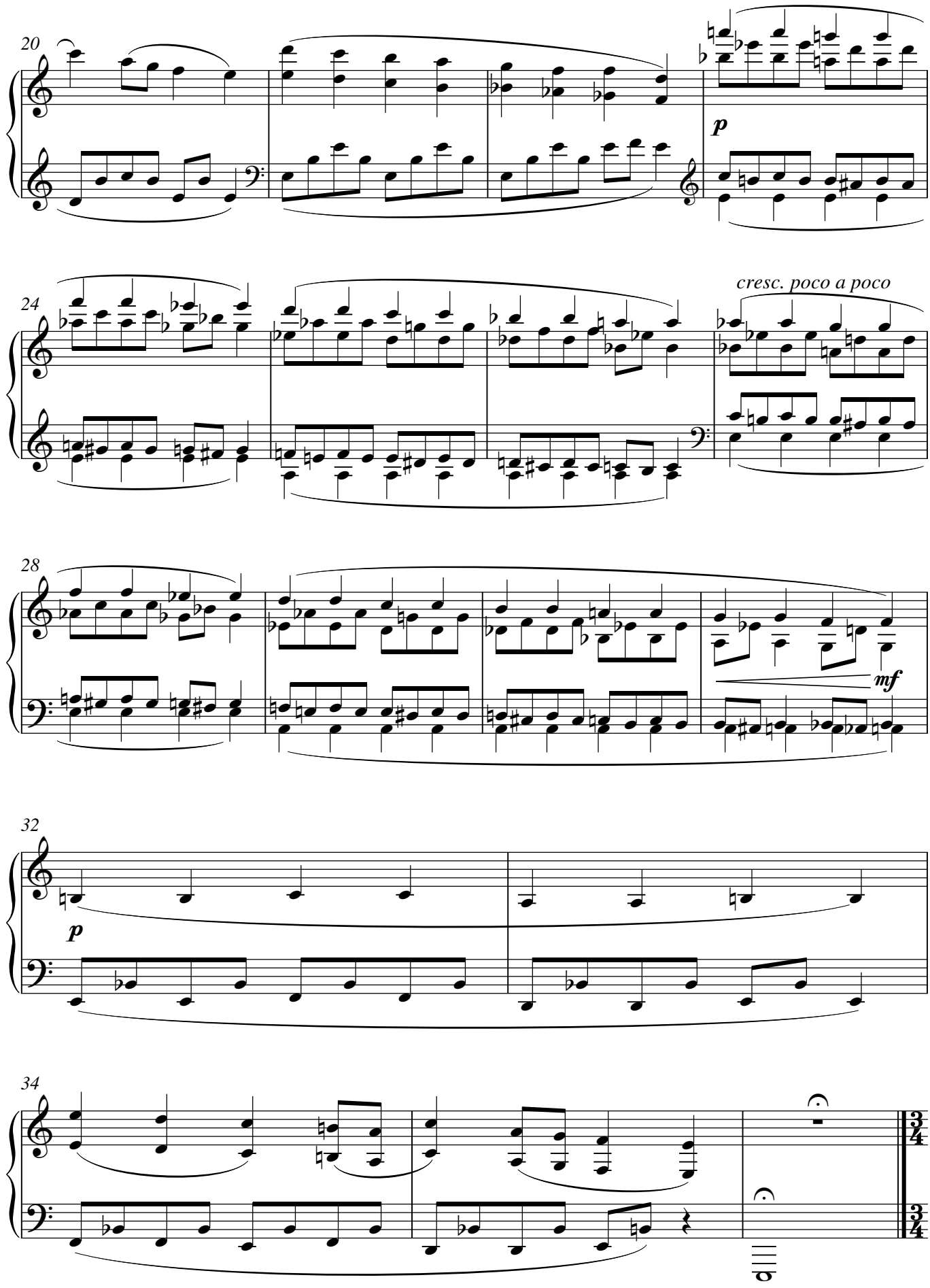
20
p
24
cresc. poco a poco
28
mf
32
p
34

Proposition 2: What is the case—a fact—is the existence of states of affairs

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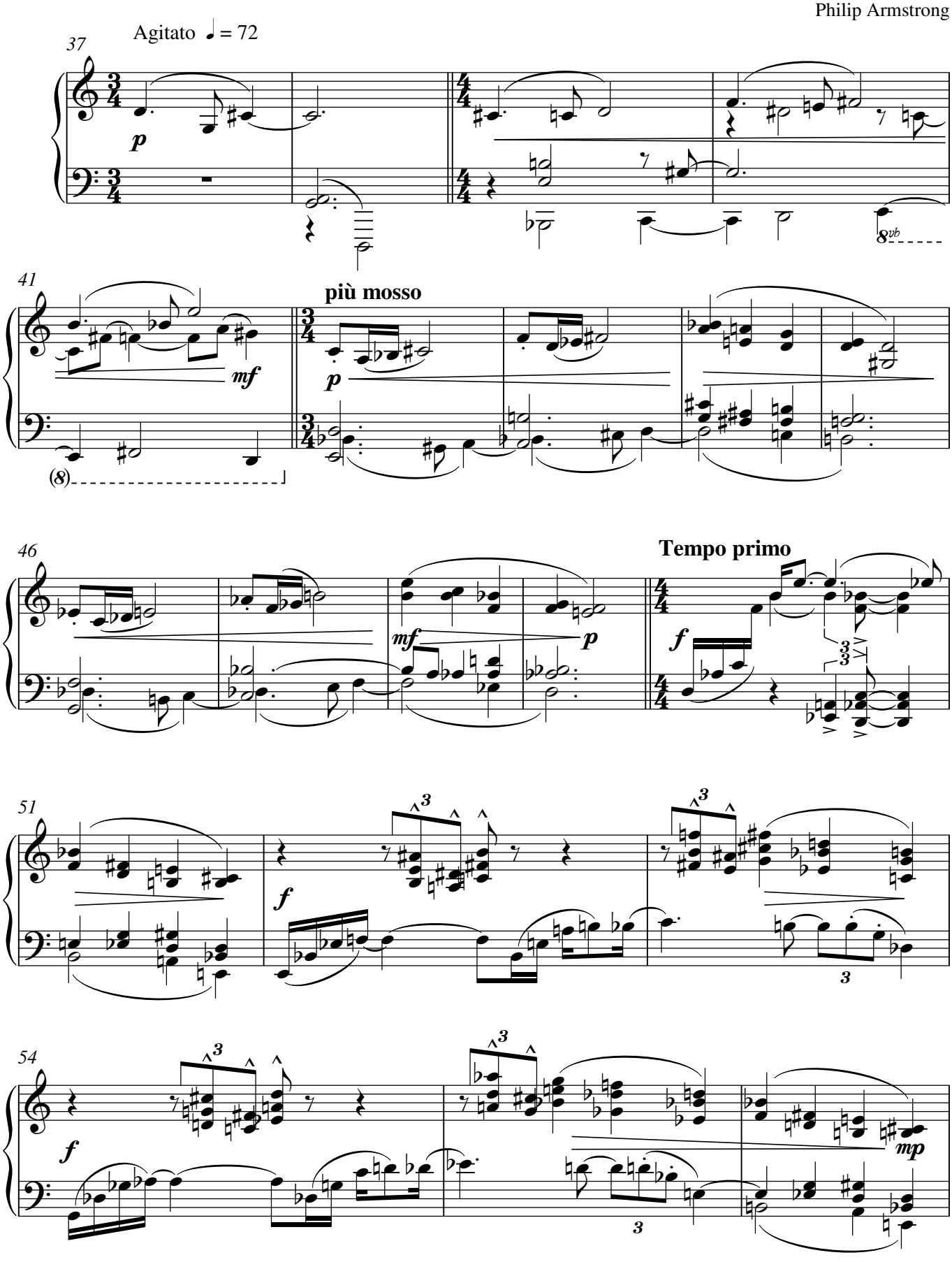

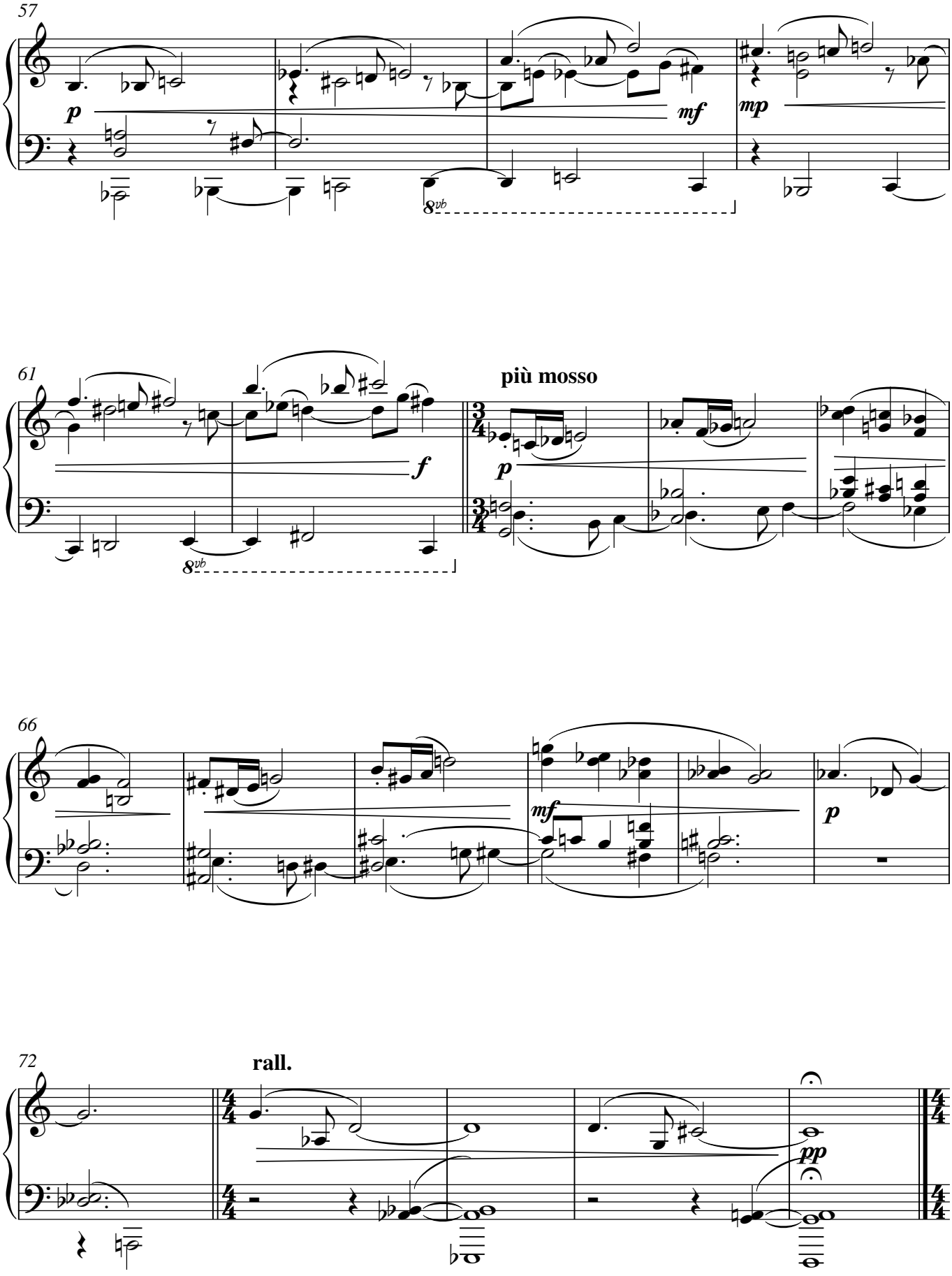
57
p
mf
mp
8vb
61
più mosso
f
p
8vb
66
mf
p
72
rall.
pp

Proposition 3: A logical picture of facts is a thought

Andante espressivo ♩ = 72

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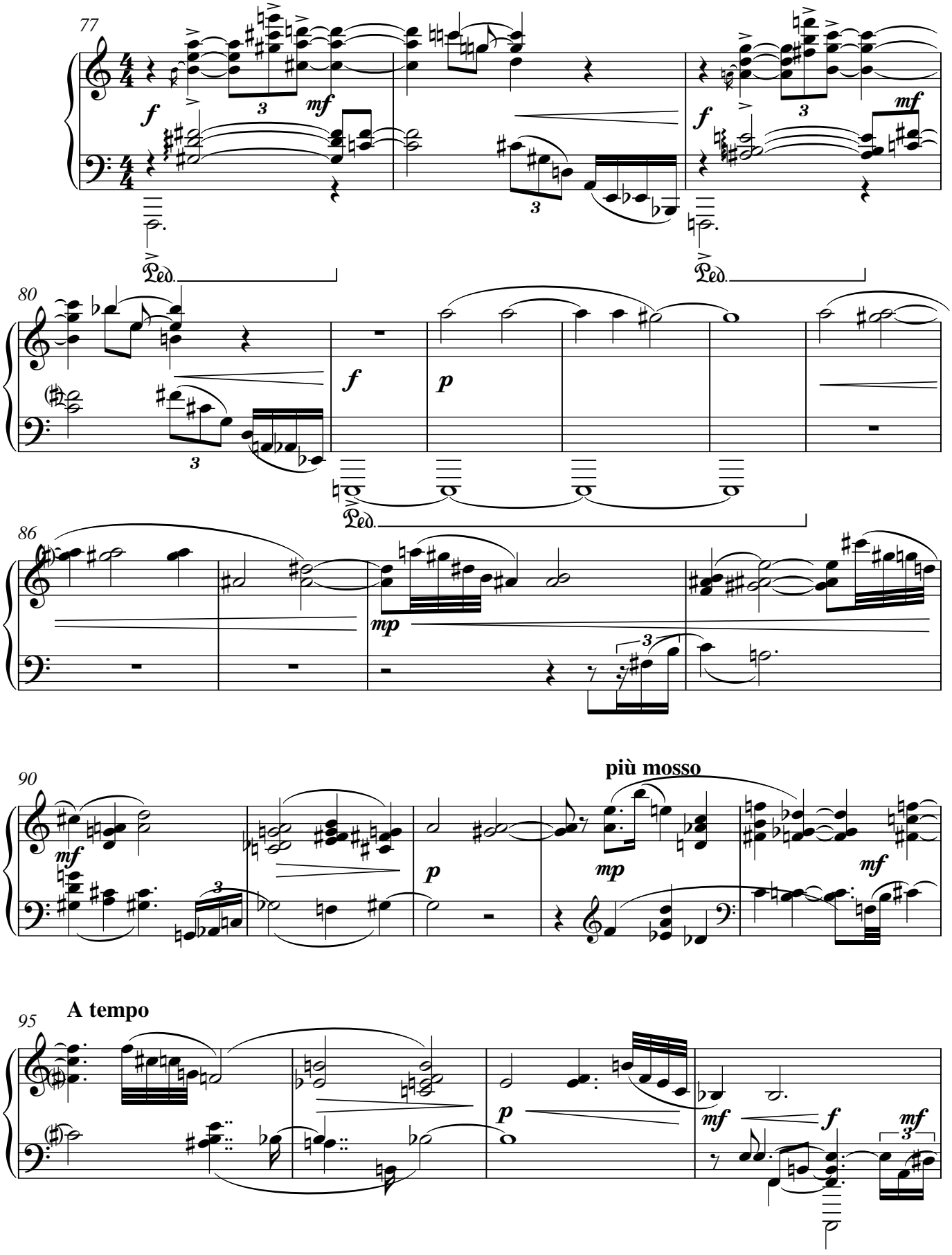

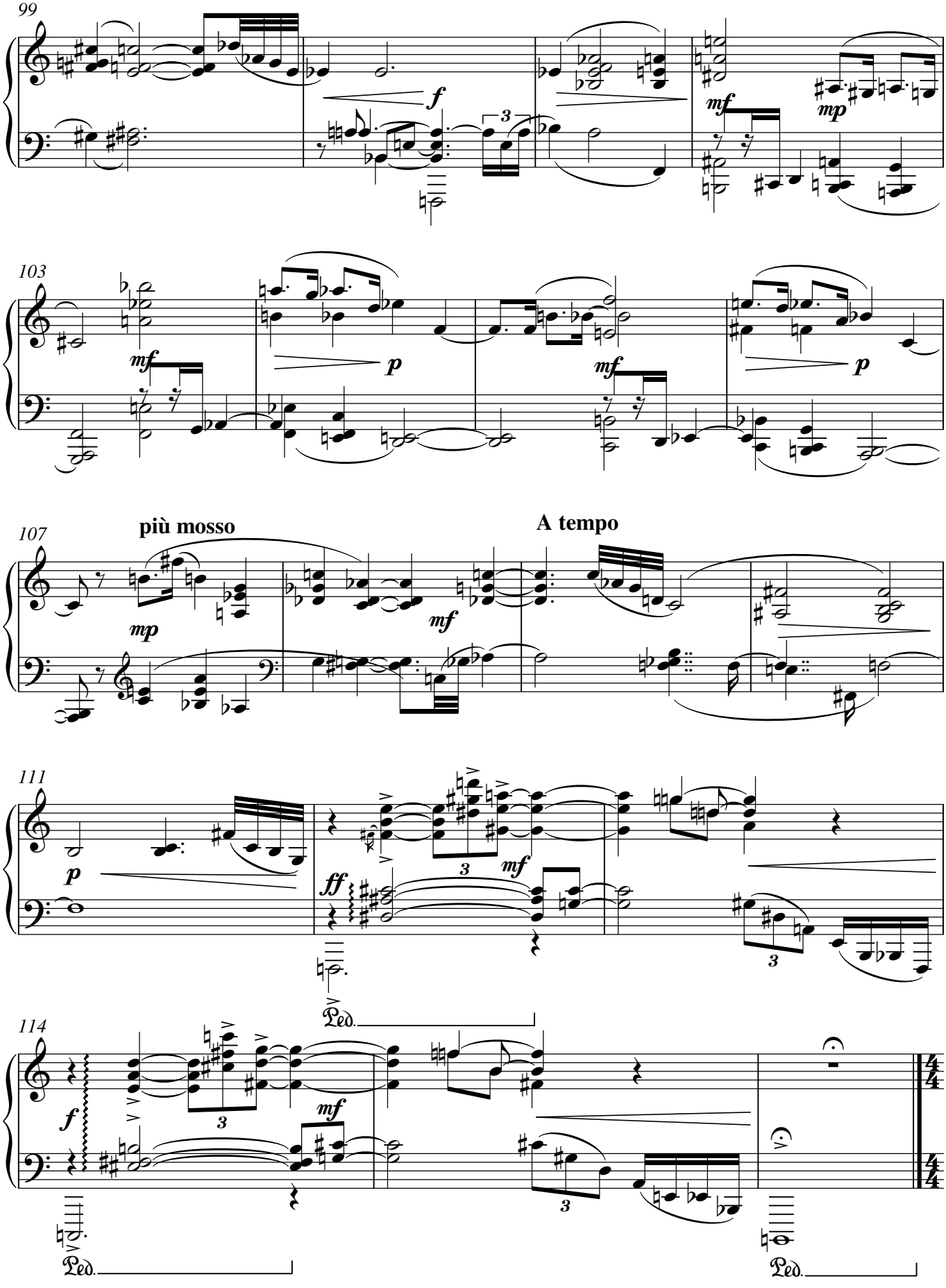
99
f
mf
mp
103
mf
p
mf
p
107
più mosso
mp
mf
A tempo
111
p
ff
mf
3
3
Ped.
114
f
mf
3
3
Ped.
Ped.

Proposition 4: A thought is a proposition with sense

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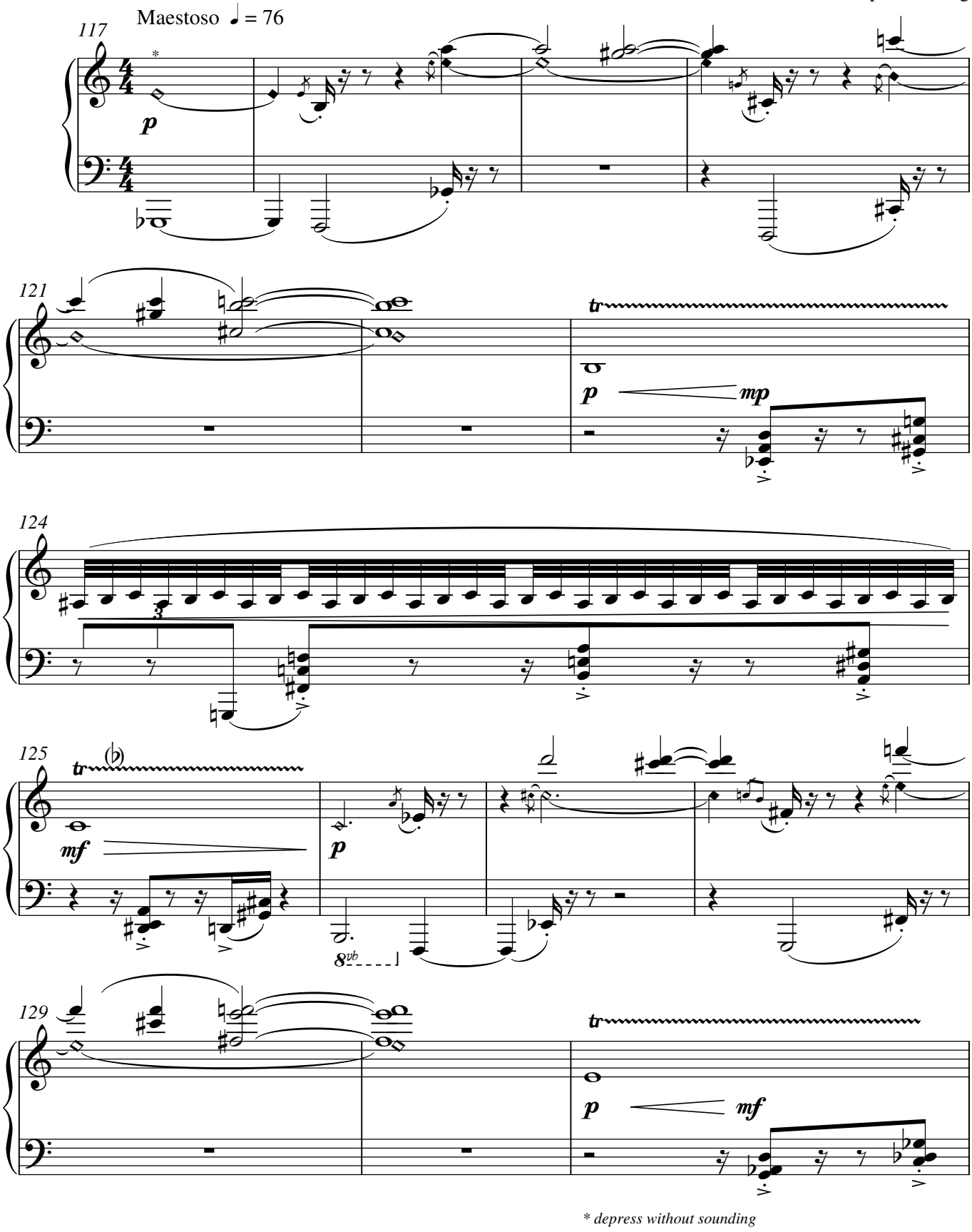
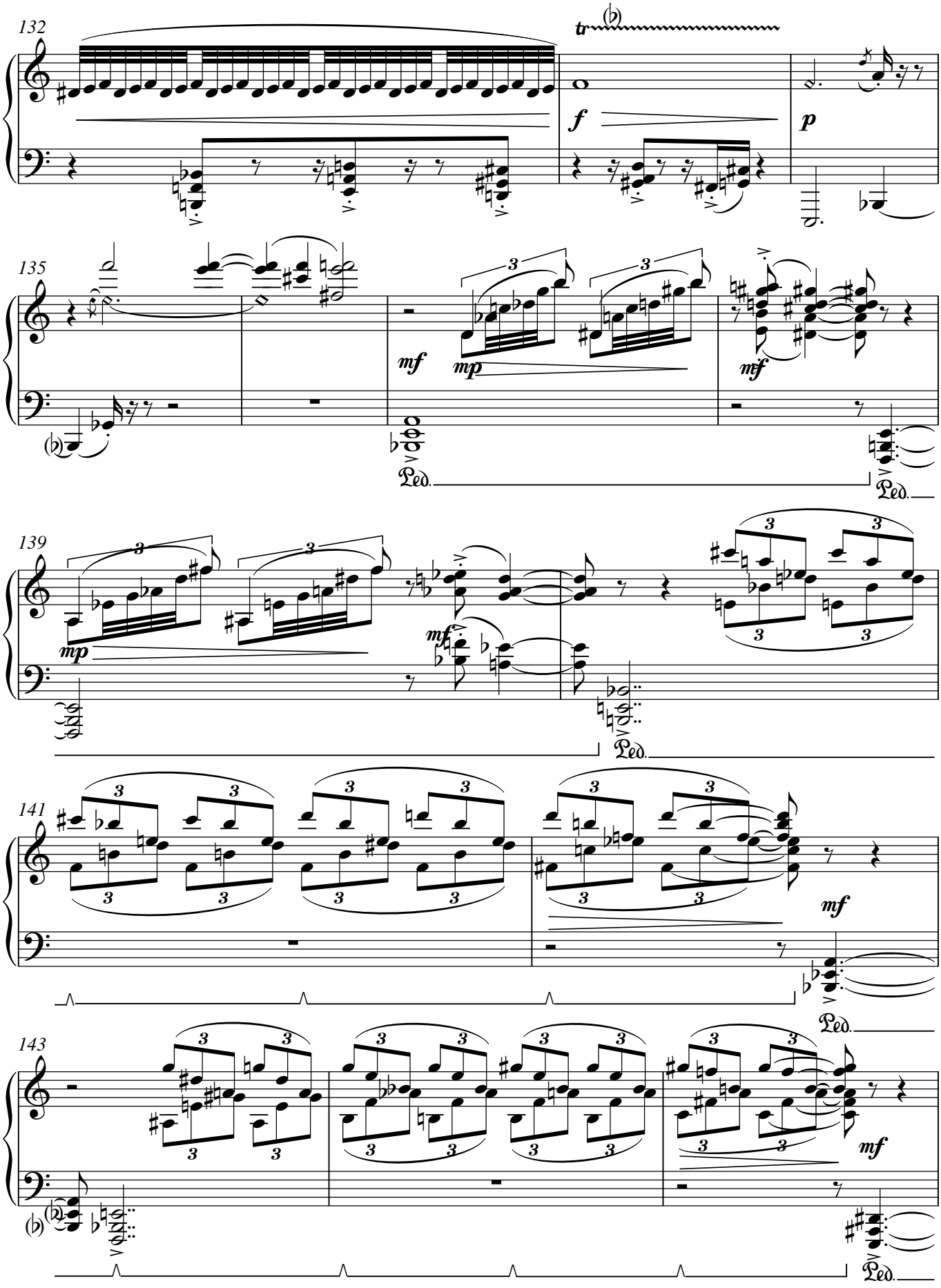
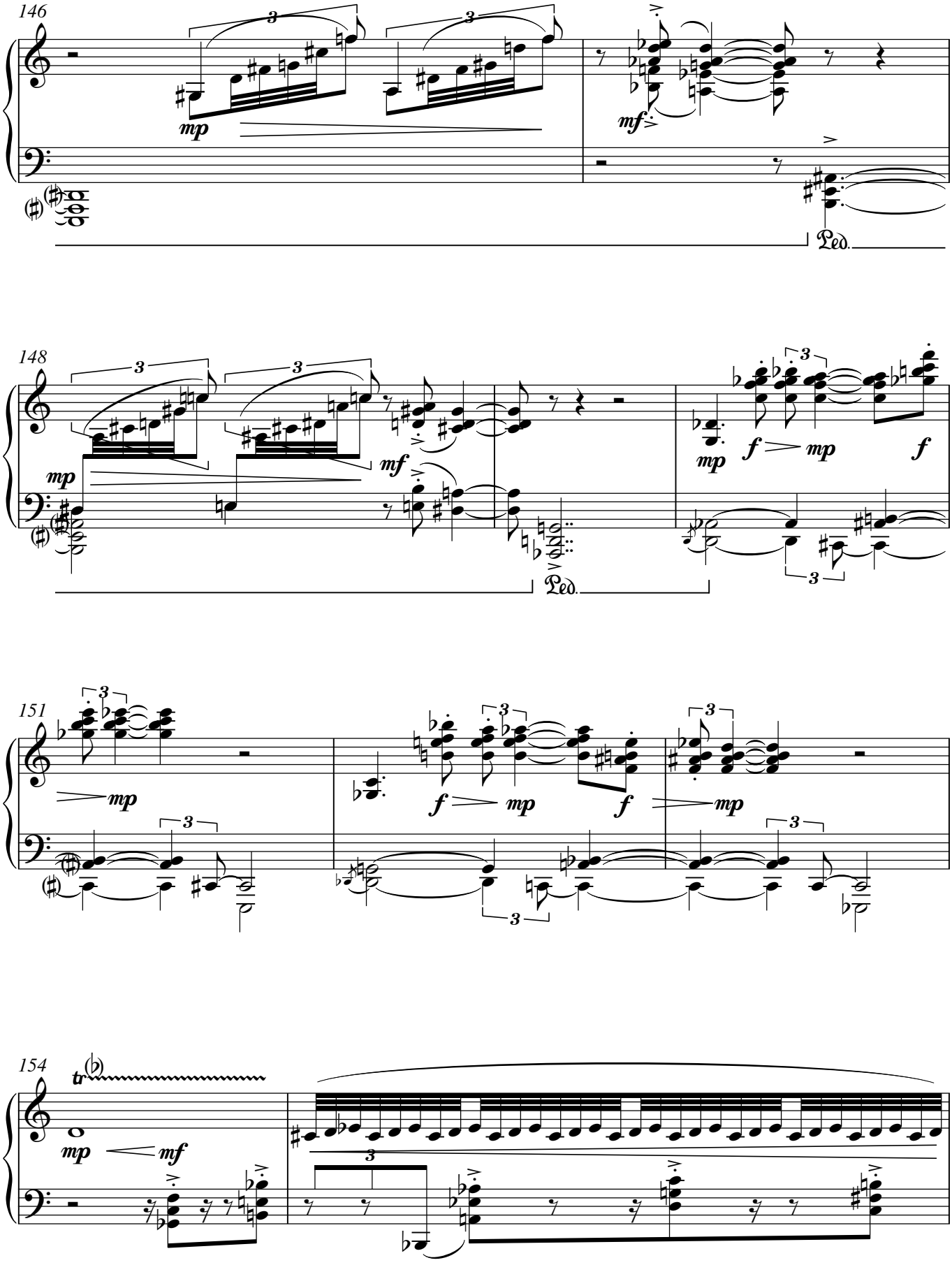
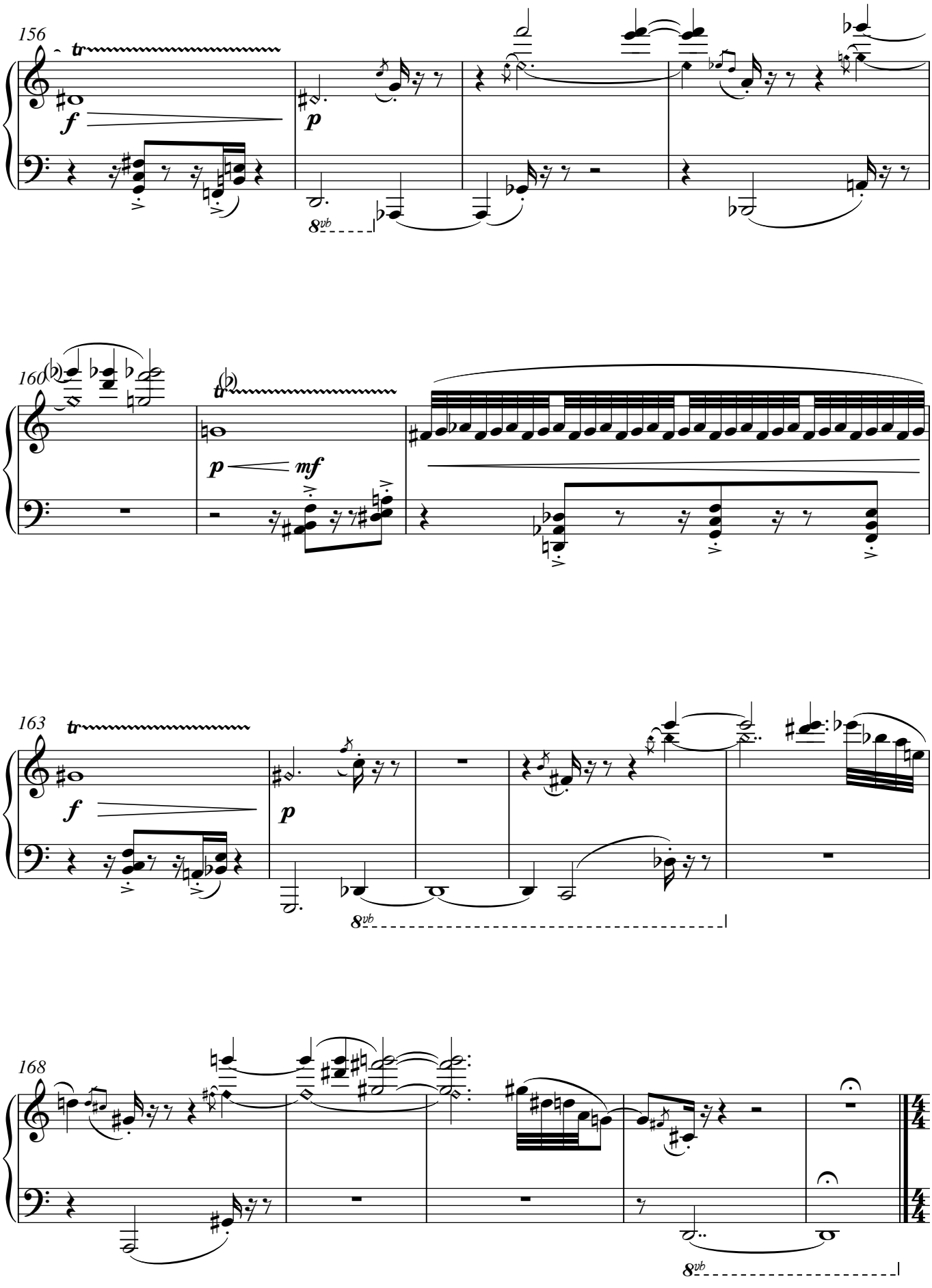
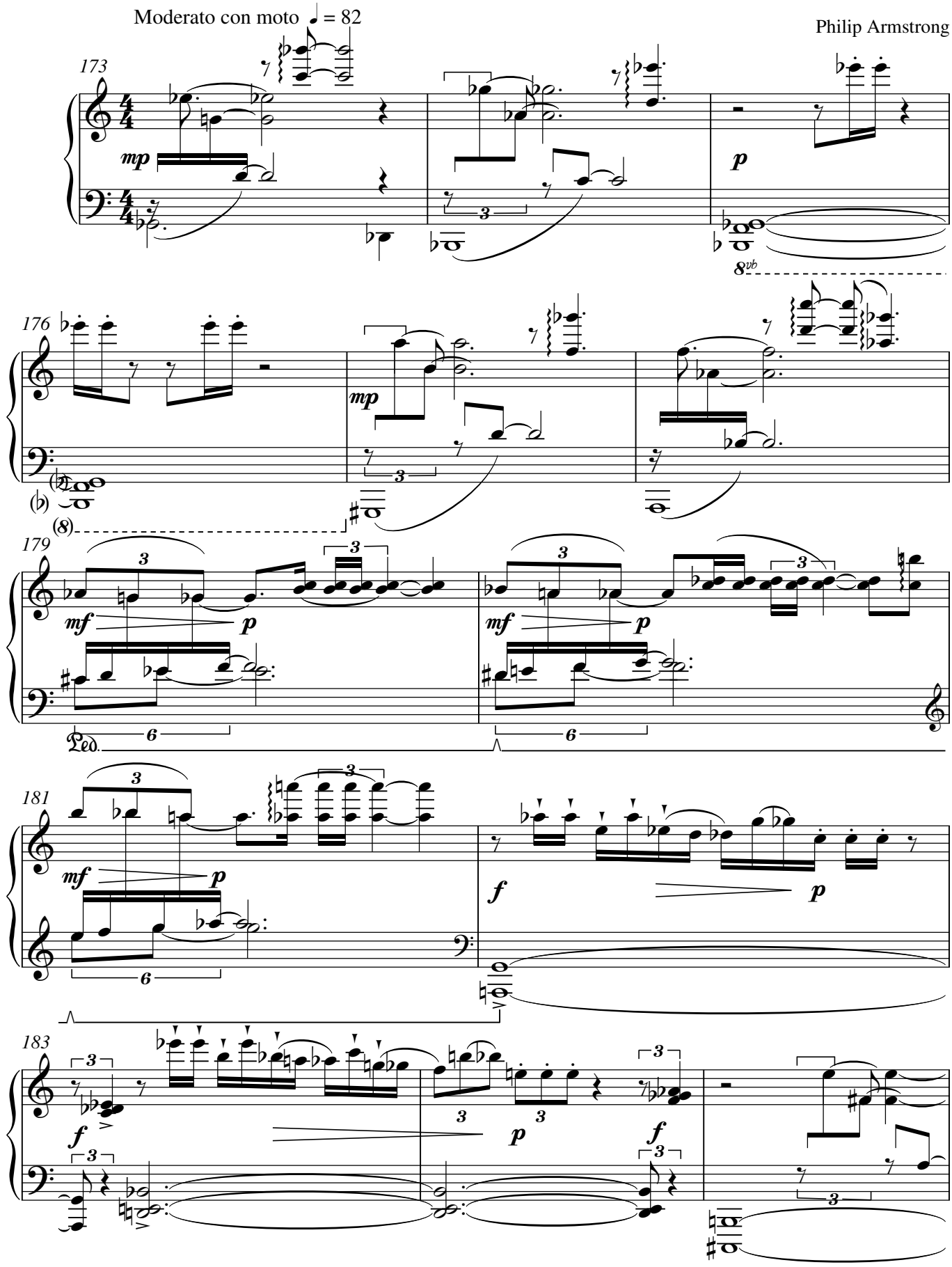


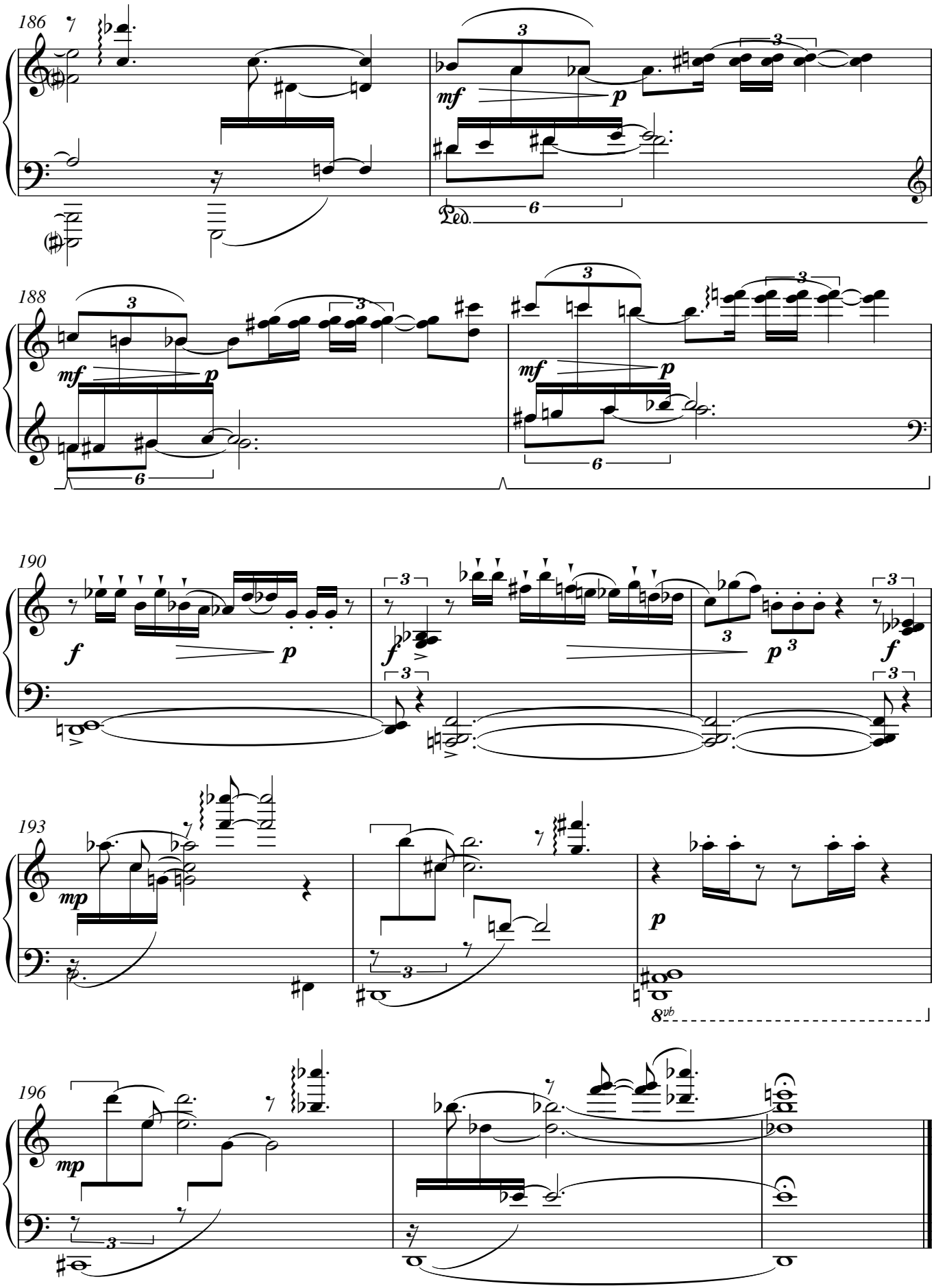

132
tr
f
p
135
mf
mp
mf
Ped.
Ped.
139
mp
mf
Ped.
141
mf
Ped.
143
mf
Ped.


146
148
151
154
mp
mf
f
Ped.
tr


156
160
163
168
8vb

Proposition 5: A proposition is a truth-function of elementary propositions




186
mf
p
Ped.
188
mf
p
mf
p
190
f
p
f
p
3
f
193
mp
p
8vb
196
mp