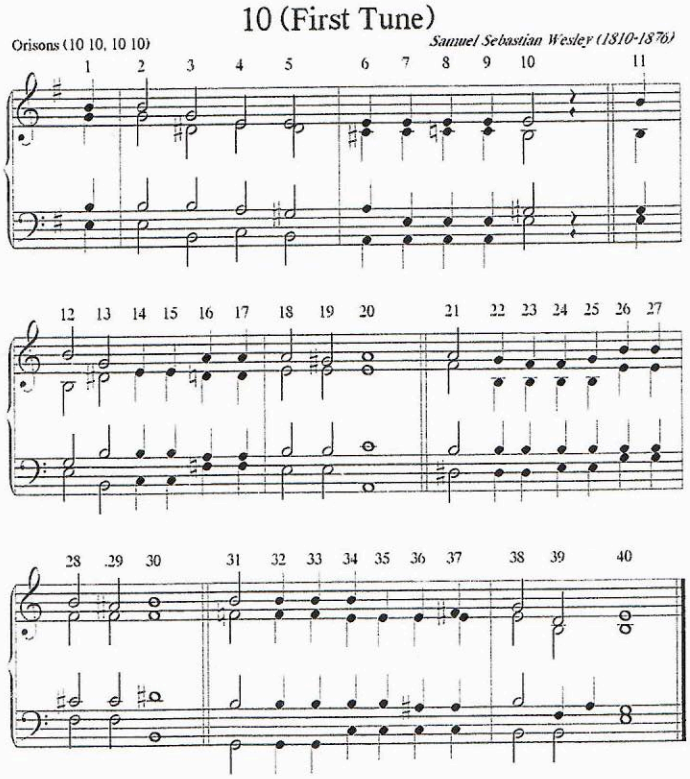
The Faraday Wheel

Paul Robinson

1. Mr Maltby's Machine
2. On a Curious Class of Optical Deception
3. Mr Maltby's Machine (Reprise)

EVENING

10 (First Tune)



In 1856, the scientist Michael Faraday visited Messrs Matlby's Mill. During the visit he noted an optical phenomenon produced by rotating spokes of a wheel which, on reaching a certain speed, seemed to reverse direction. His curiosity engaged, Faraday made a number of experiments with a light source interrupted by rotating spokes (The Faraday Wheel) and reported on his findings in a paper given to the Royal Society titled 'On a Curious Class of Optical Deceptions'.

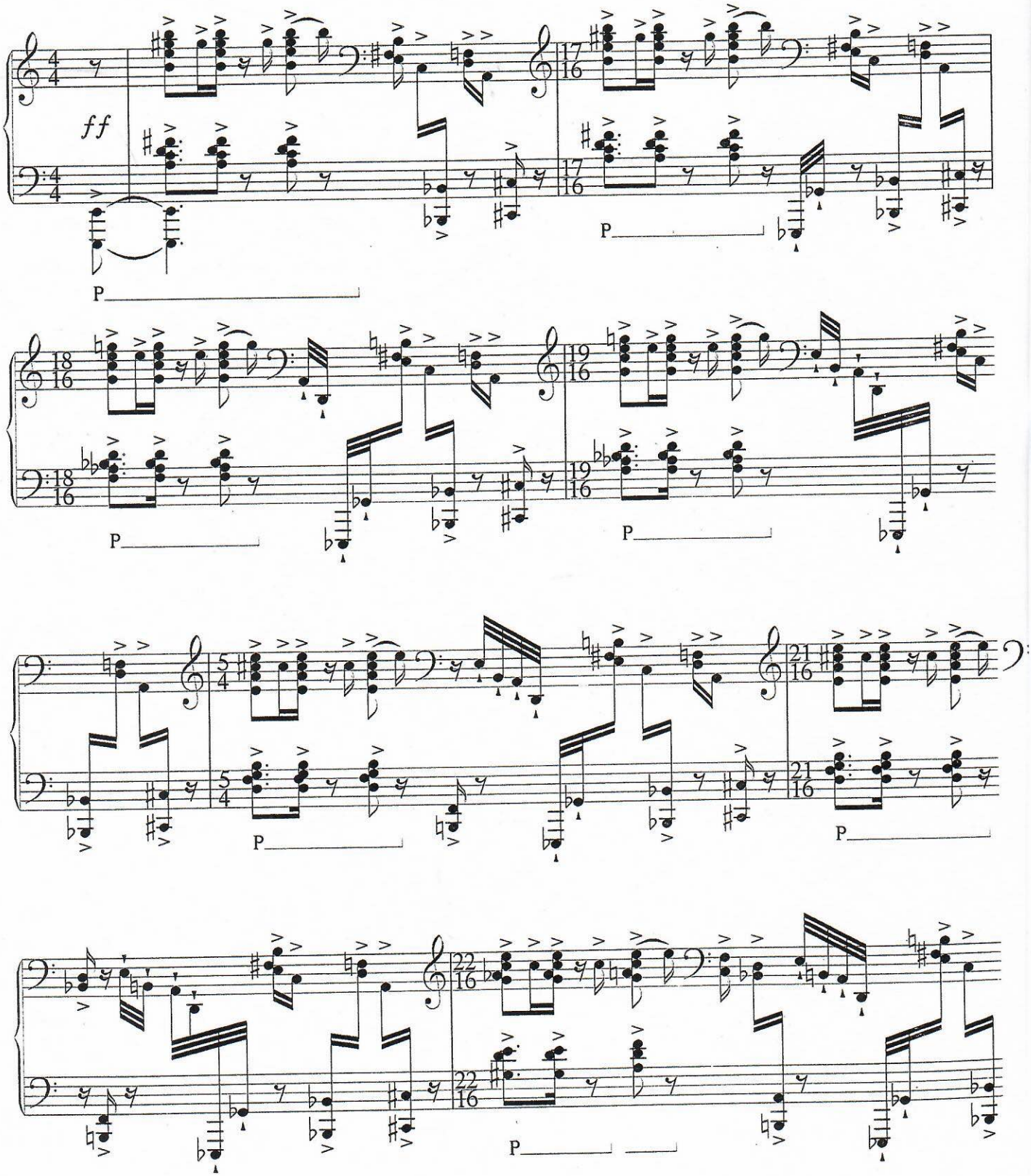
This piece is a reflection on two contrasting ways of looking at the operation of machinery – the mechanical and the lyrical. In the first passage (Mr Maltby's Machine) we hear a Wesleyan hymn being shredded, pulverized and aggressively processed. In the following passage (On a Curious Class), the repetition gives way to a more poetical effect during which our fragmented hymn makes a further appearance.

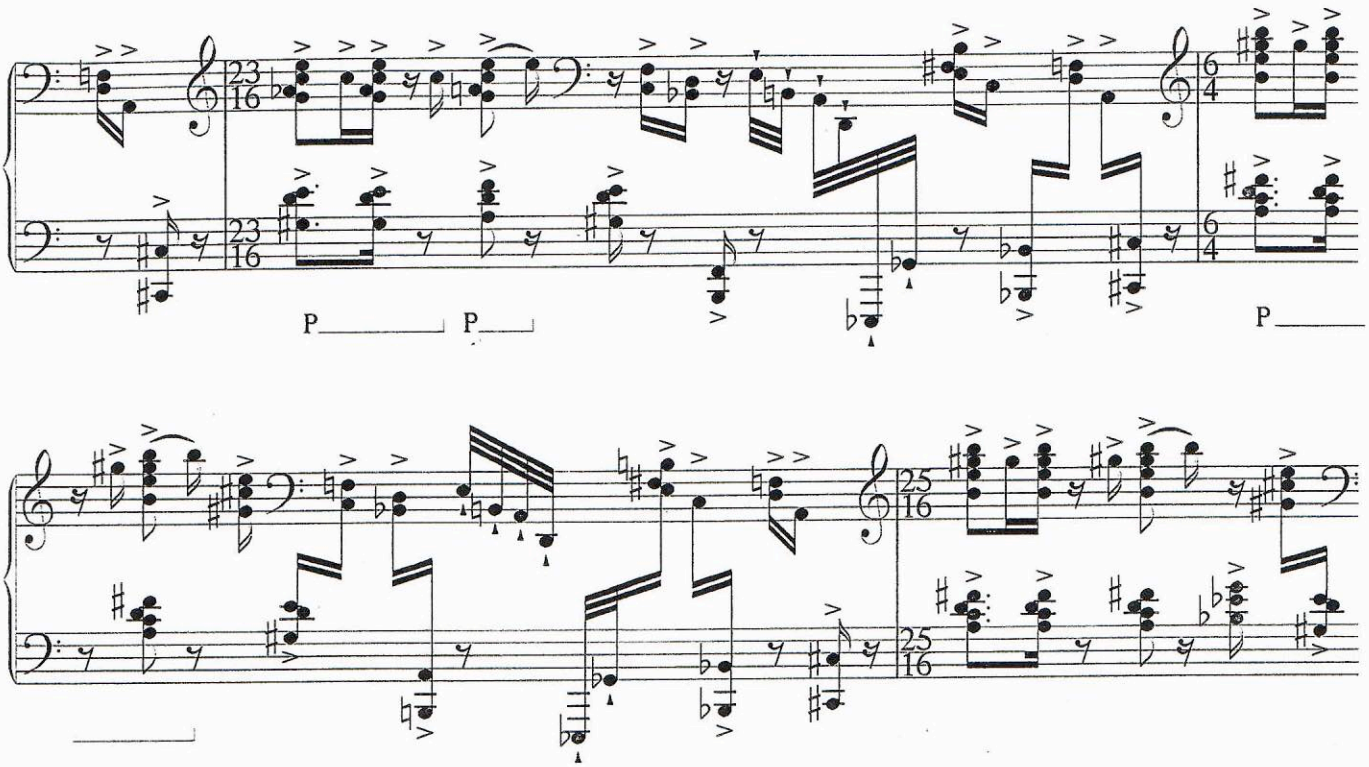
This work is the first of a series planned around the subject matter of the invention of cinema under the generic title of 'Pantomimes Lumineuses'

This work was commissioned by Peter Lawson with funds made available by North West Arts and given its first performance at the Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre on October 5th 1989.

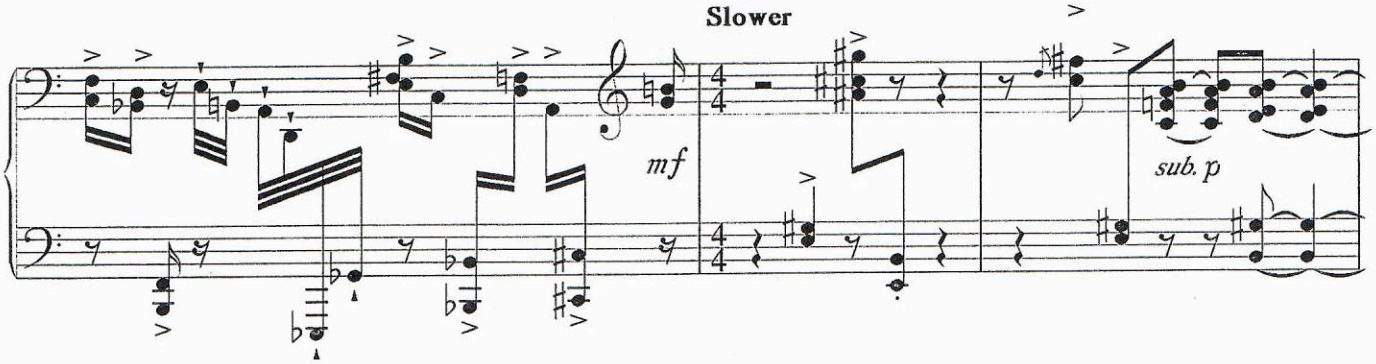
Typeset Printed and Bound by
Jane Wright
Tel: 08576 329

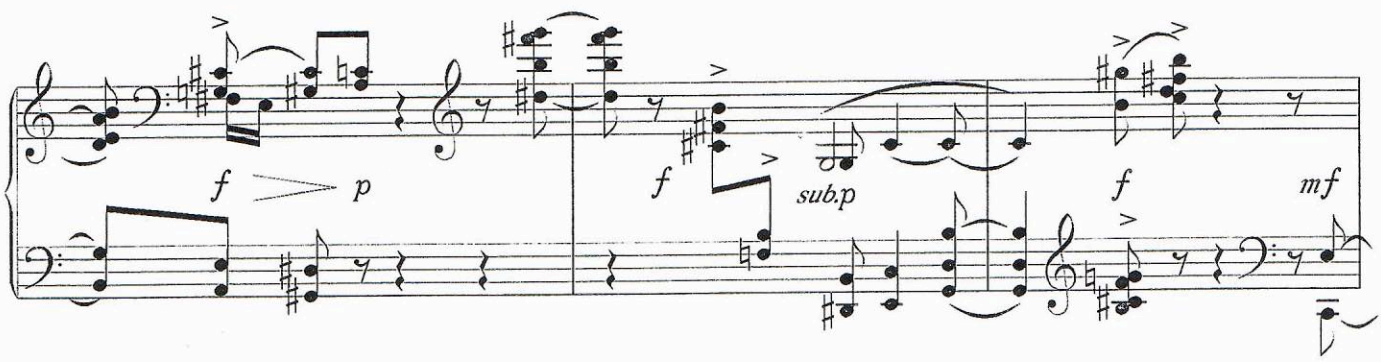
Mr Maltby's Machine

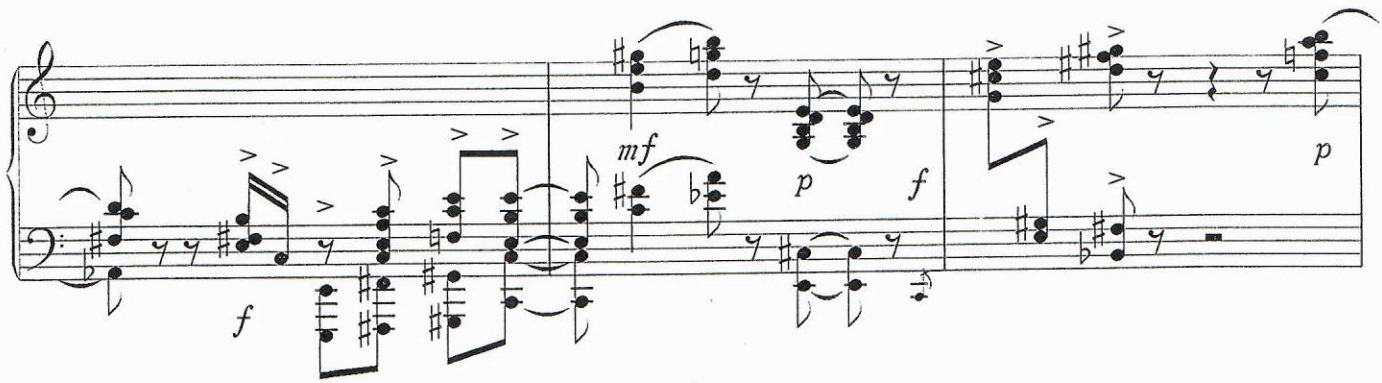


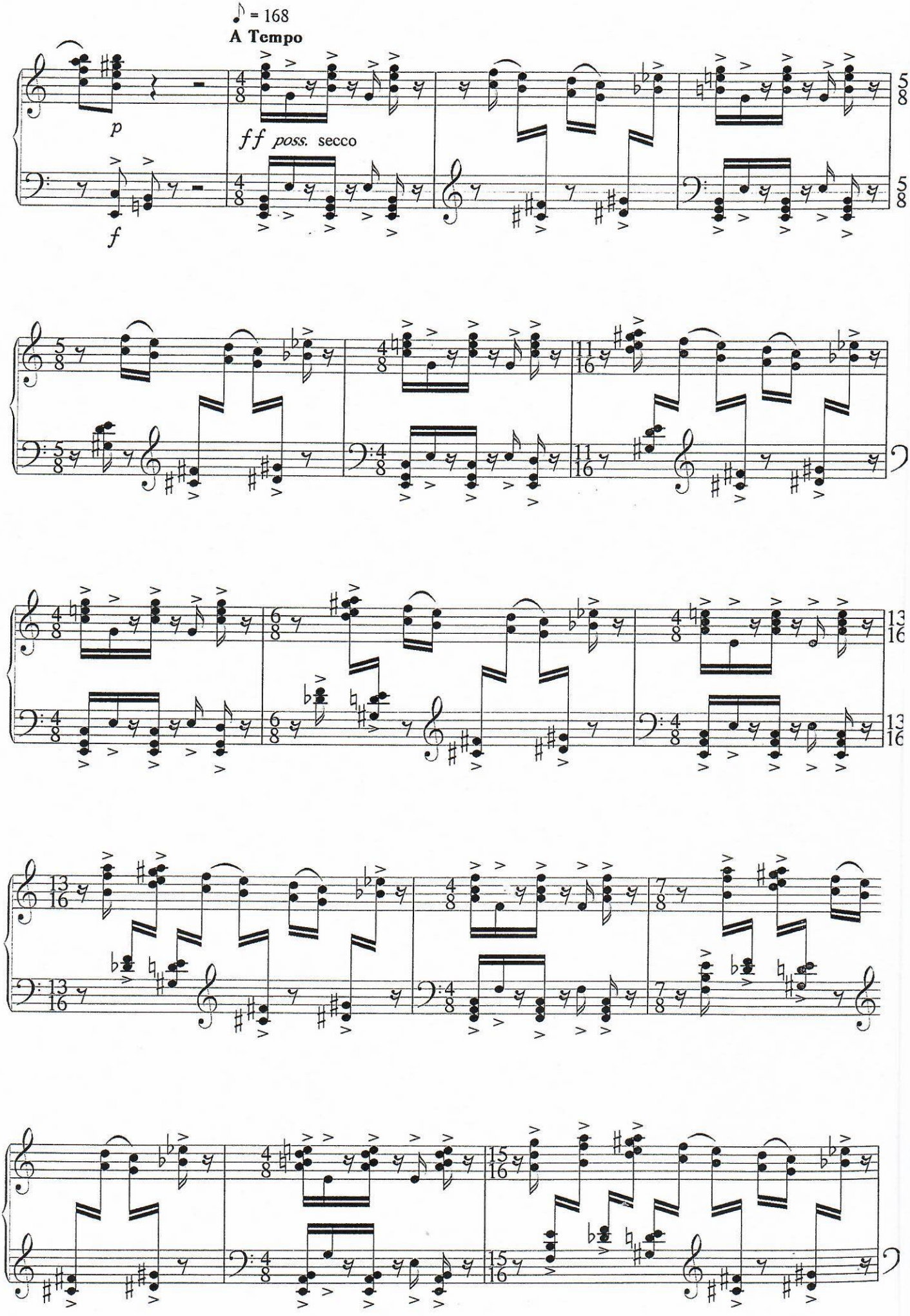


♪=♩ = 132
Slower





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A Tempo
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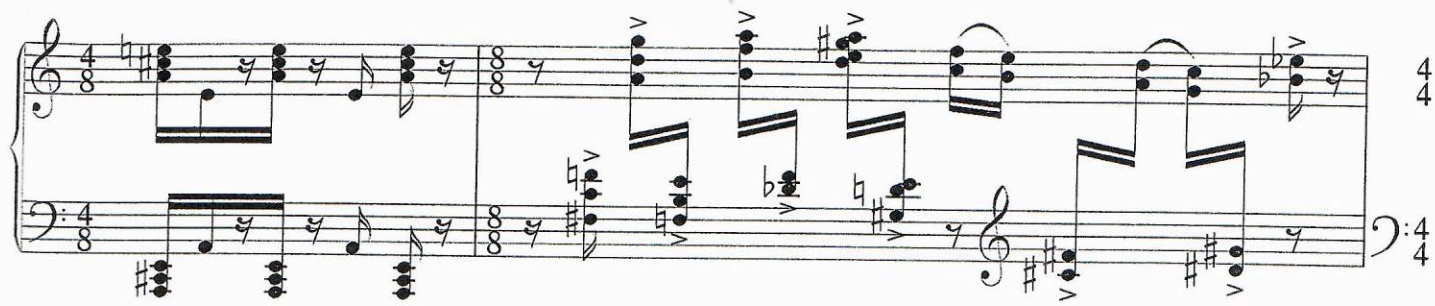
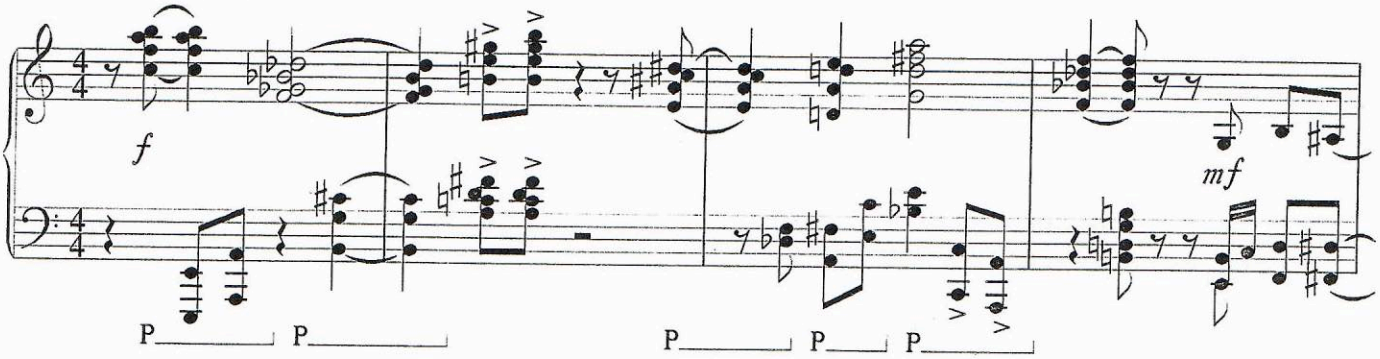
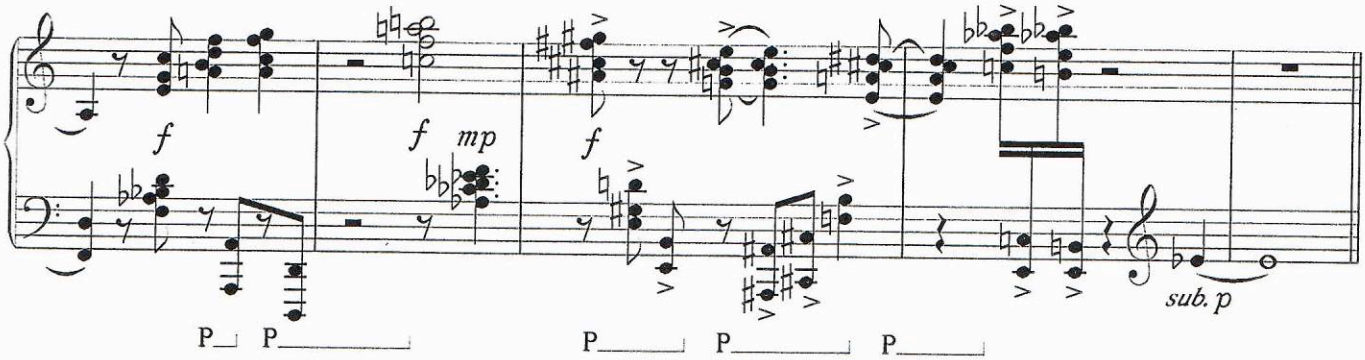
f
ff poss. secco

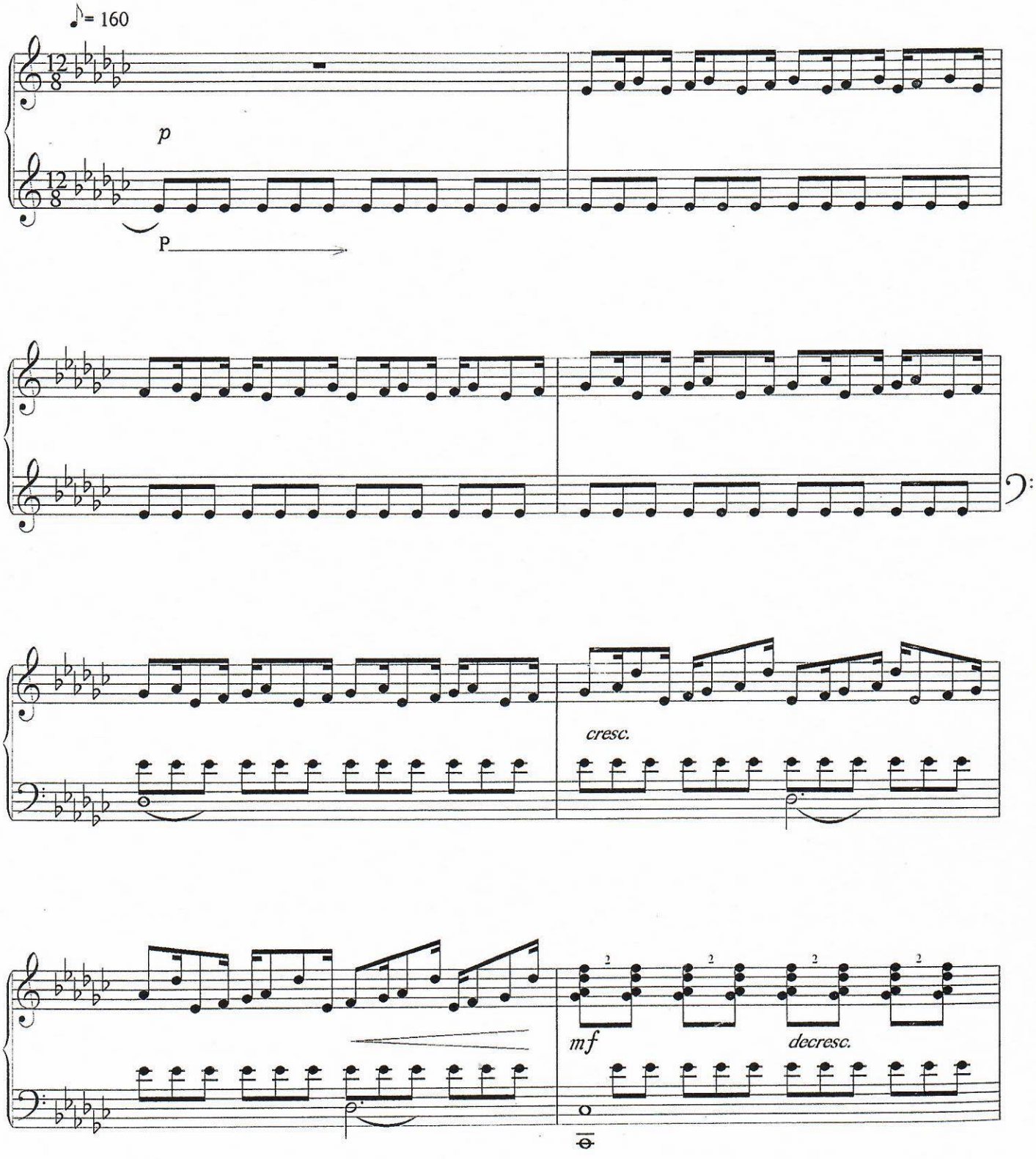


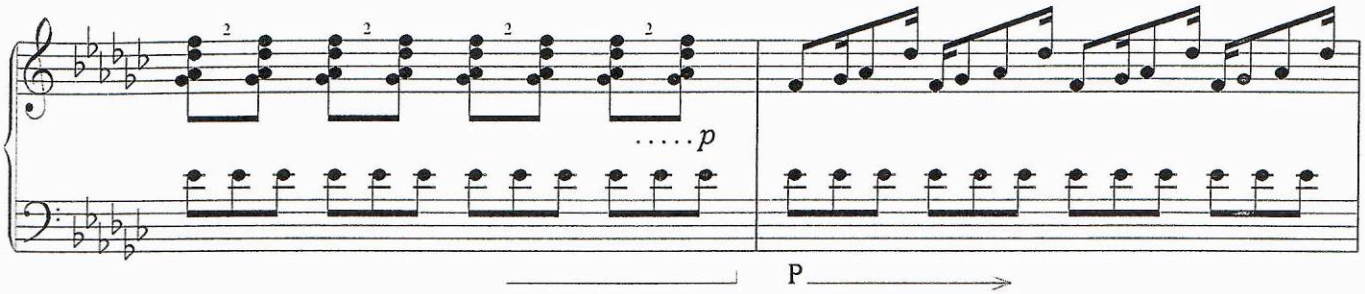
Slower ♪ = ♩ = 132





On a Curious Class of Optical Deceptions

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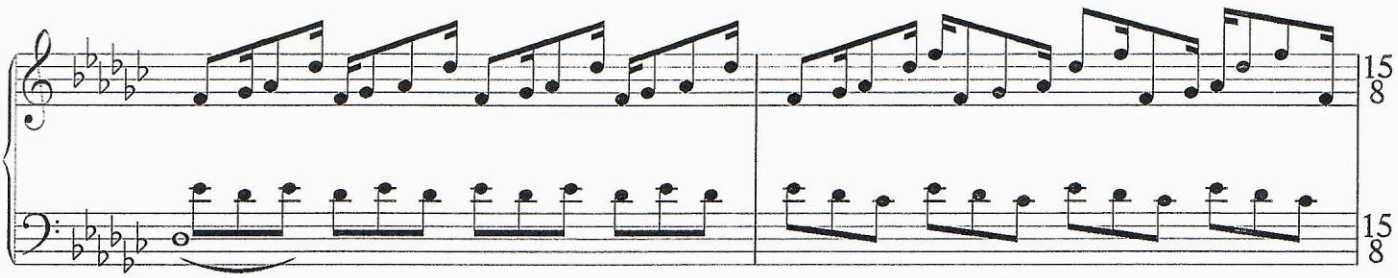
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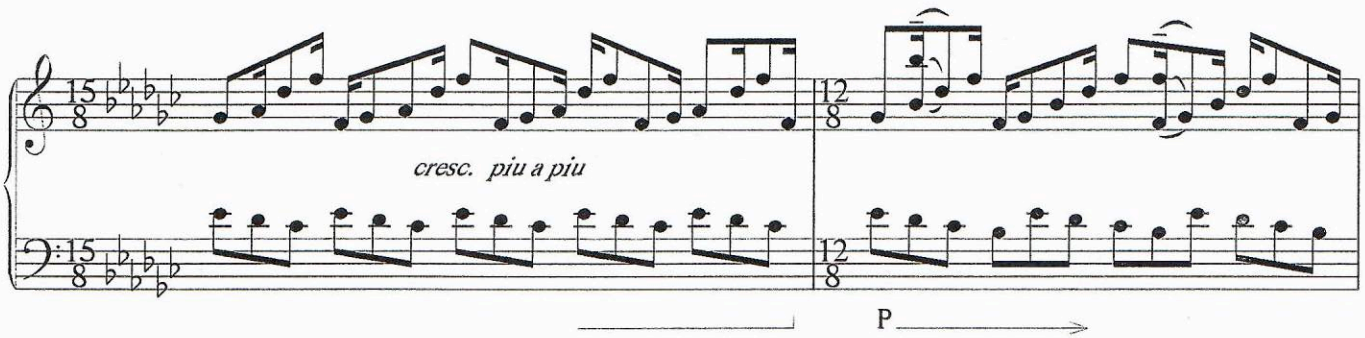
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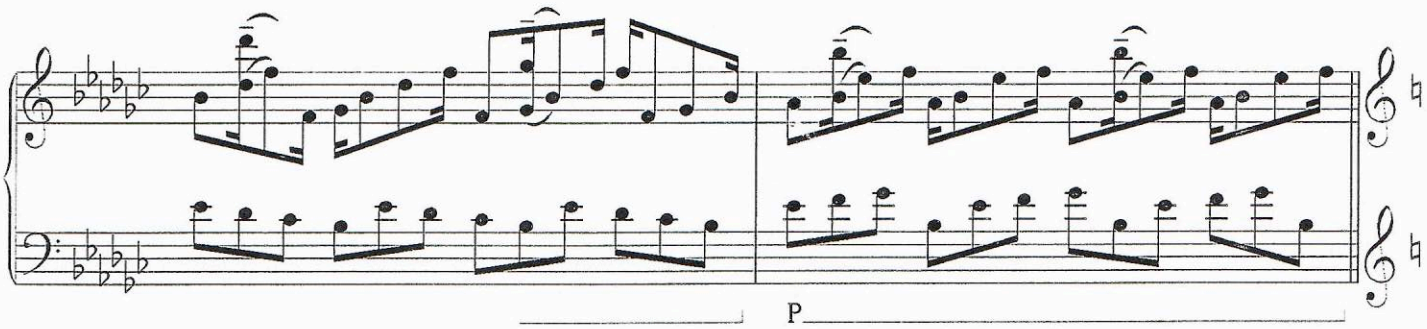
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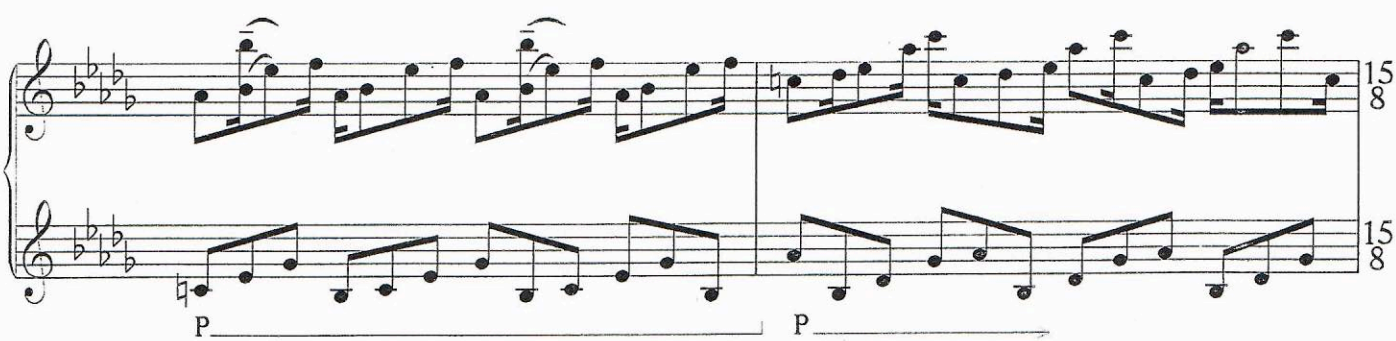
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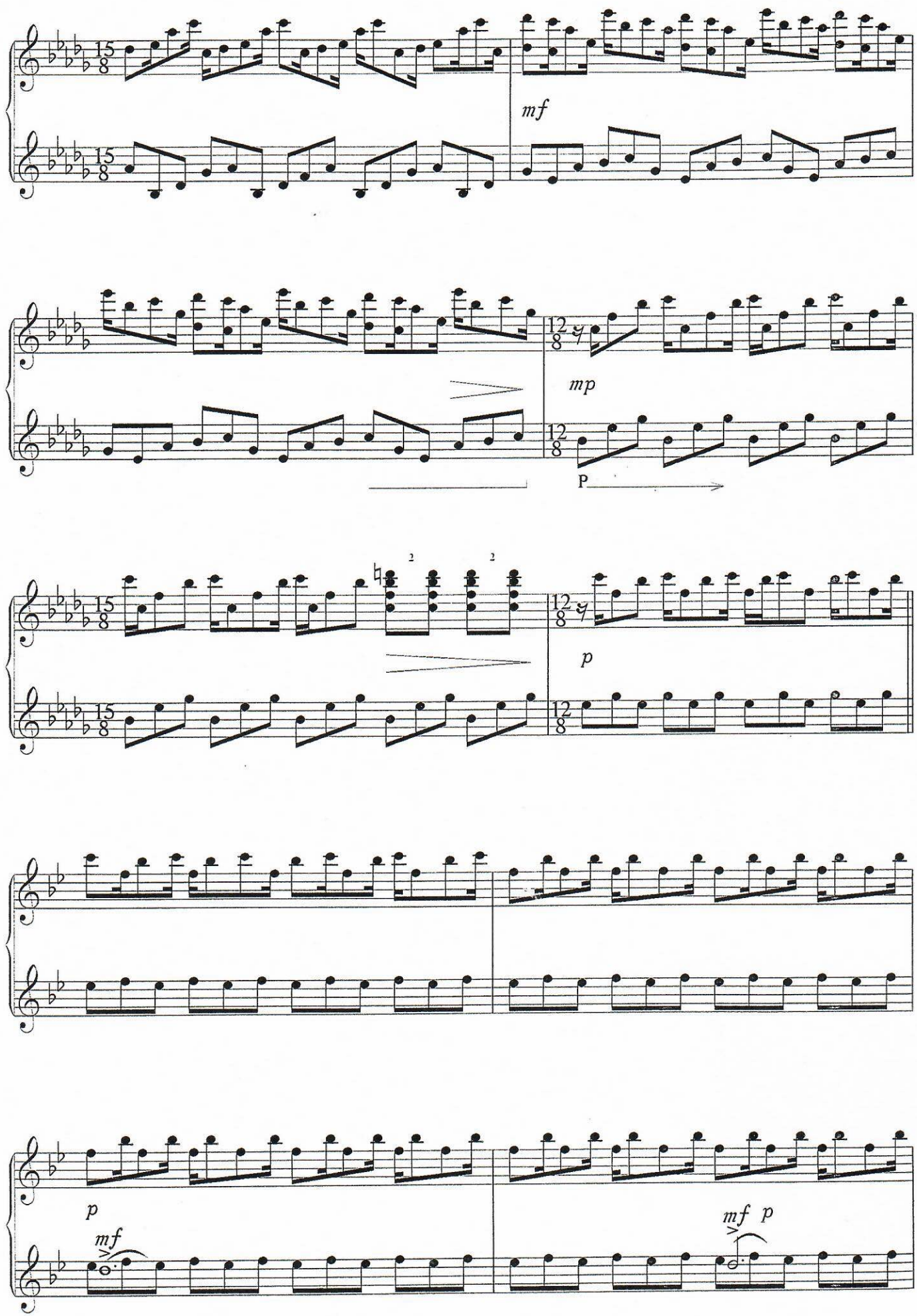
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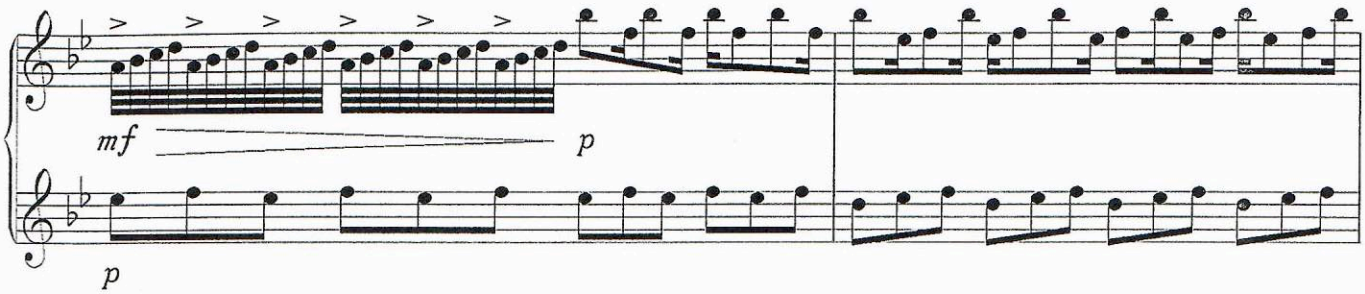
12/8
mp
P
p
mf
p
mf p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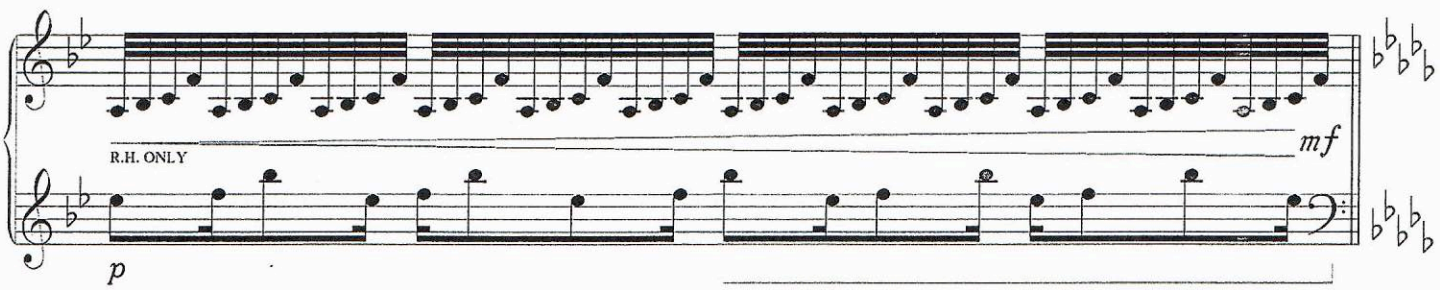
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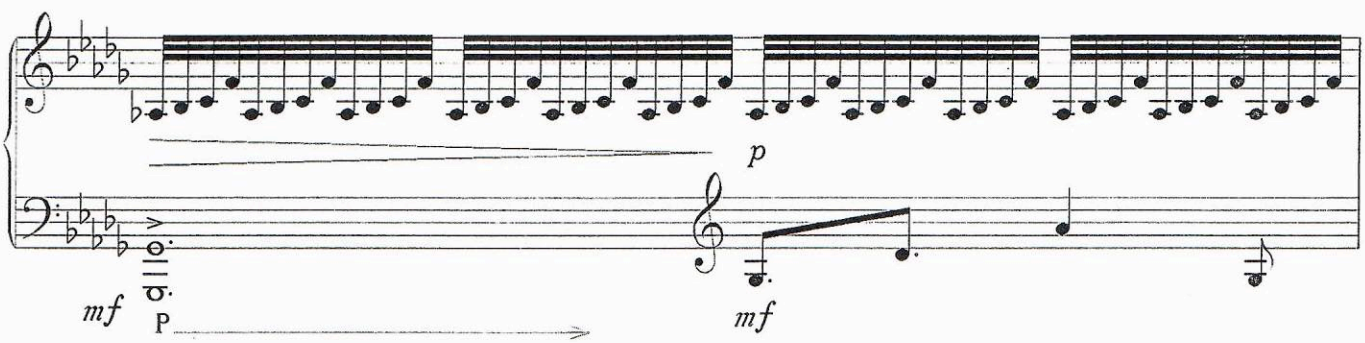
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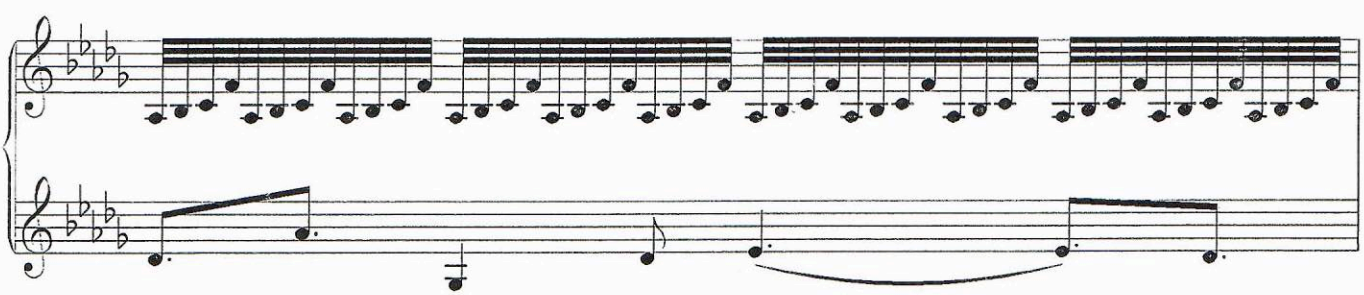

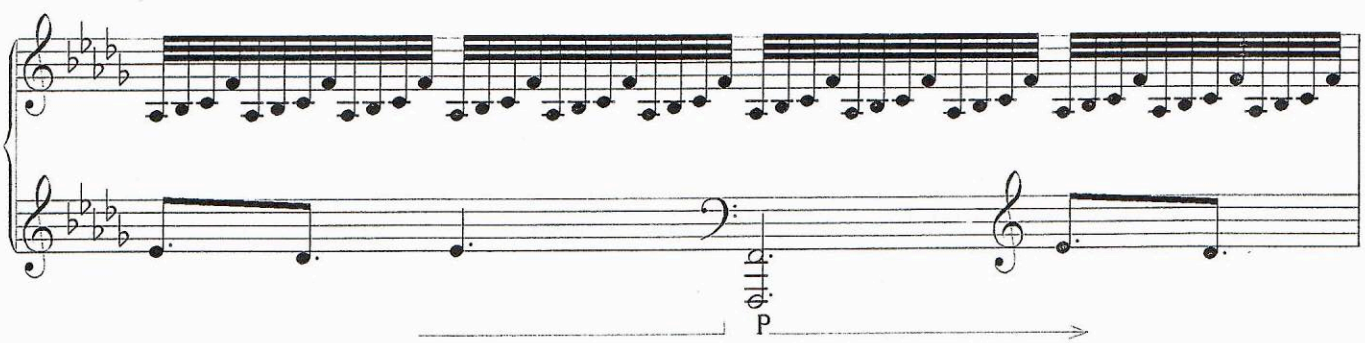
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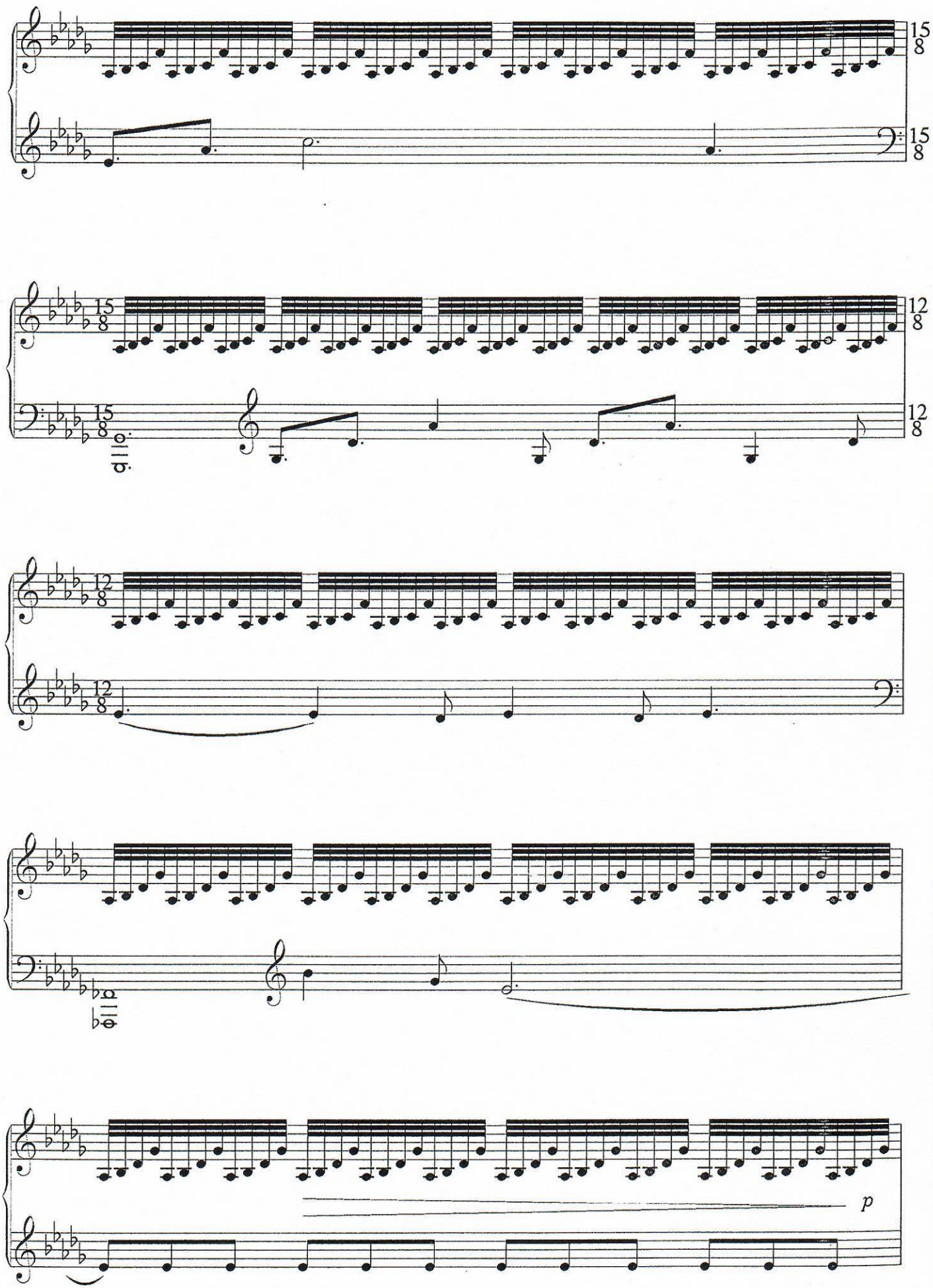
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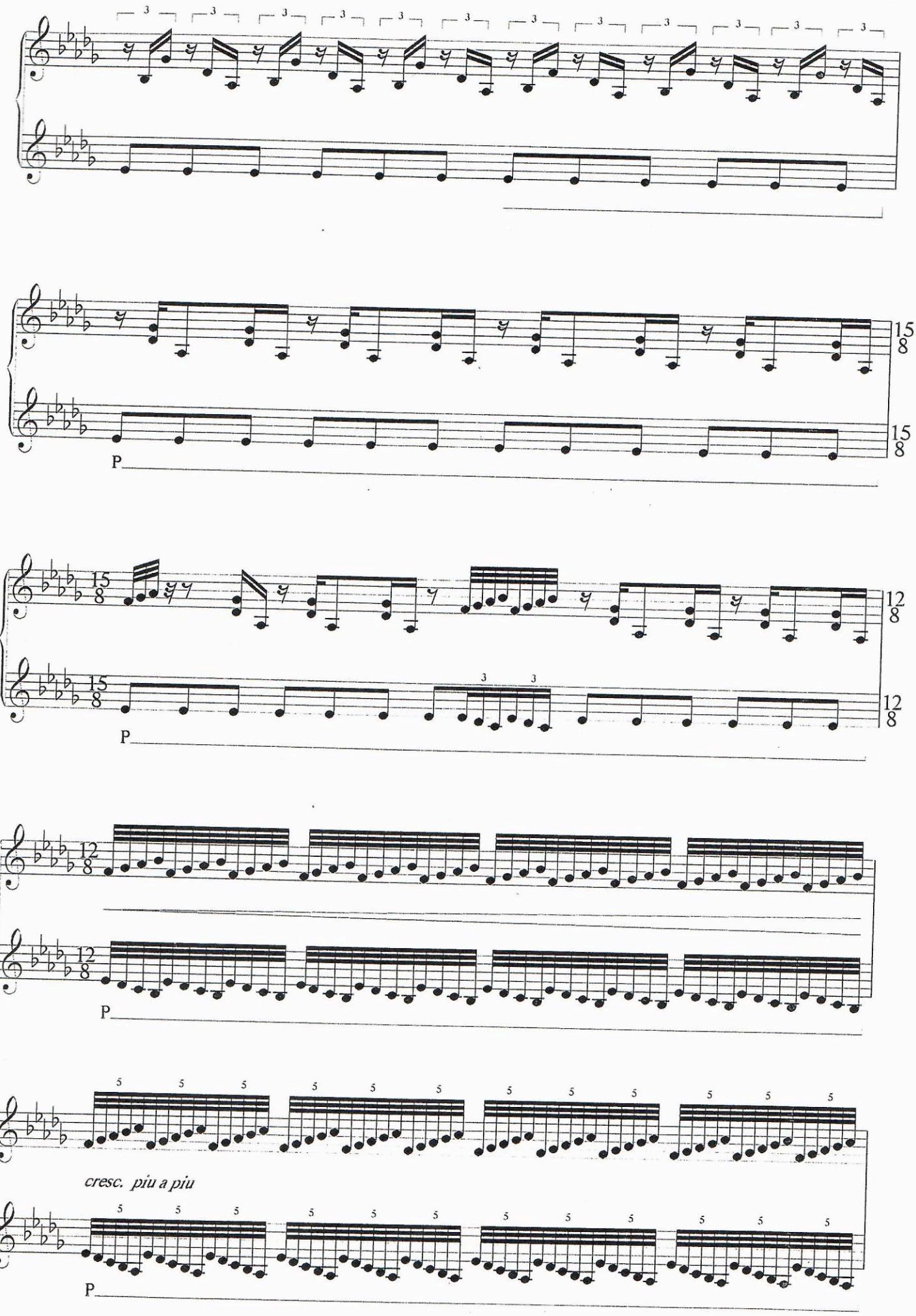
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P
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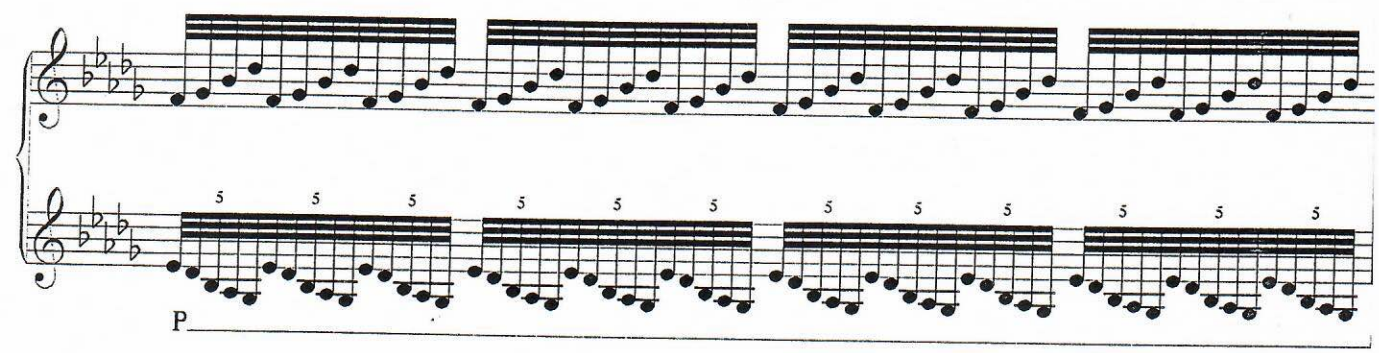
cresc. piu a piu
P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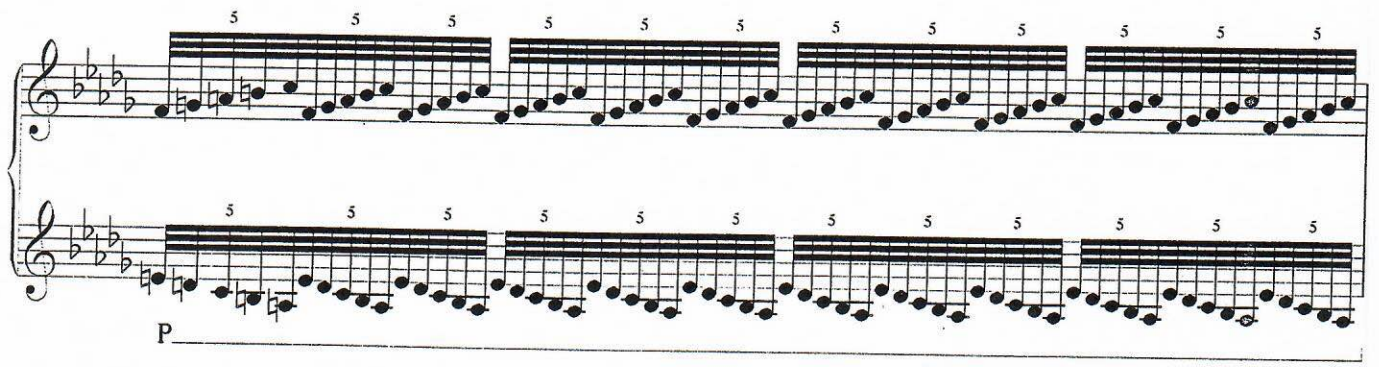
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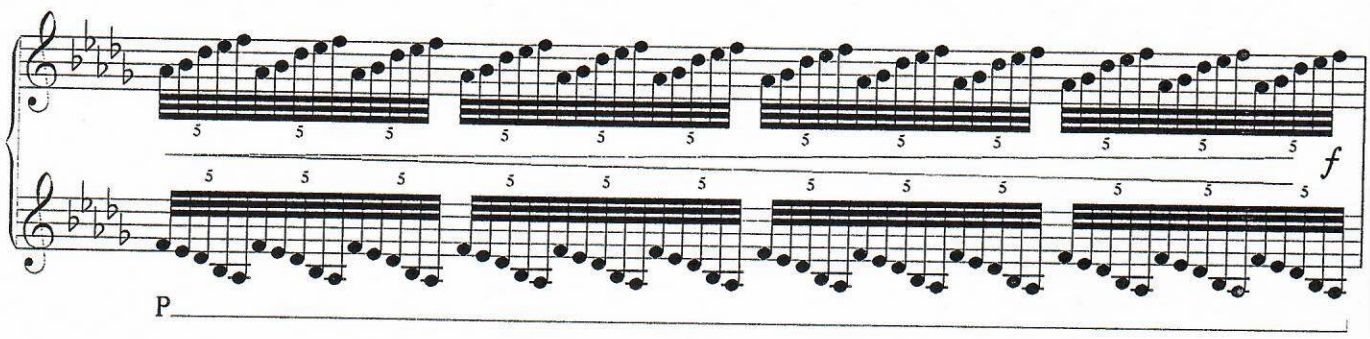
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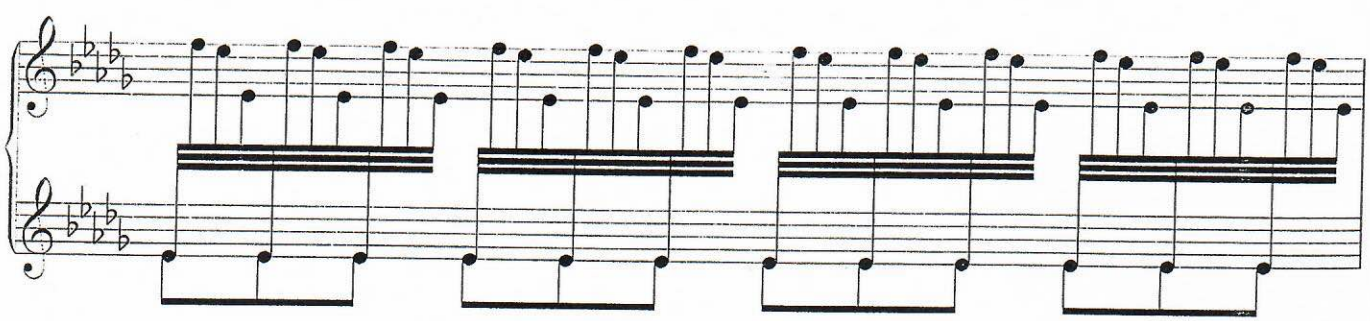

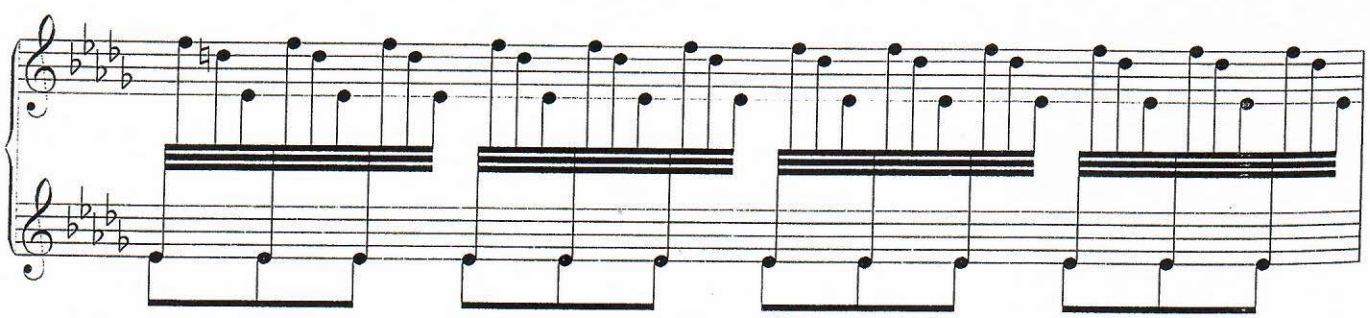

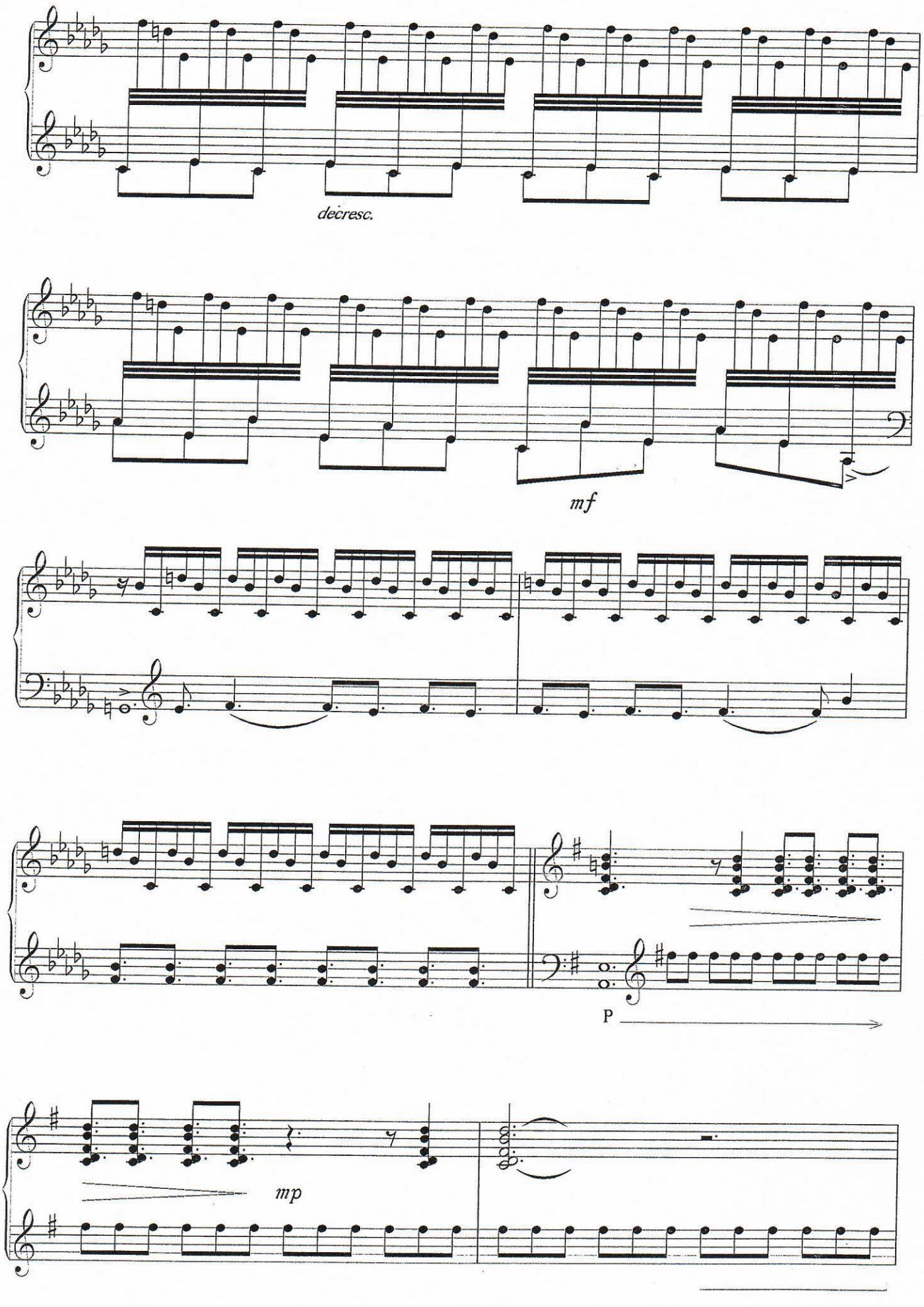
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mf
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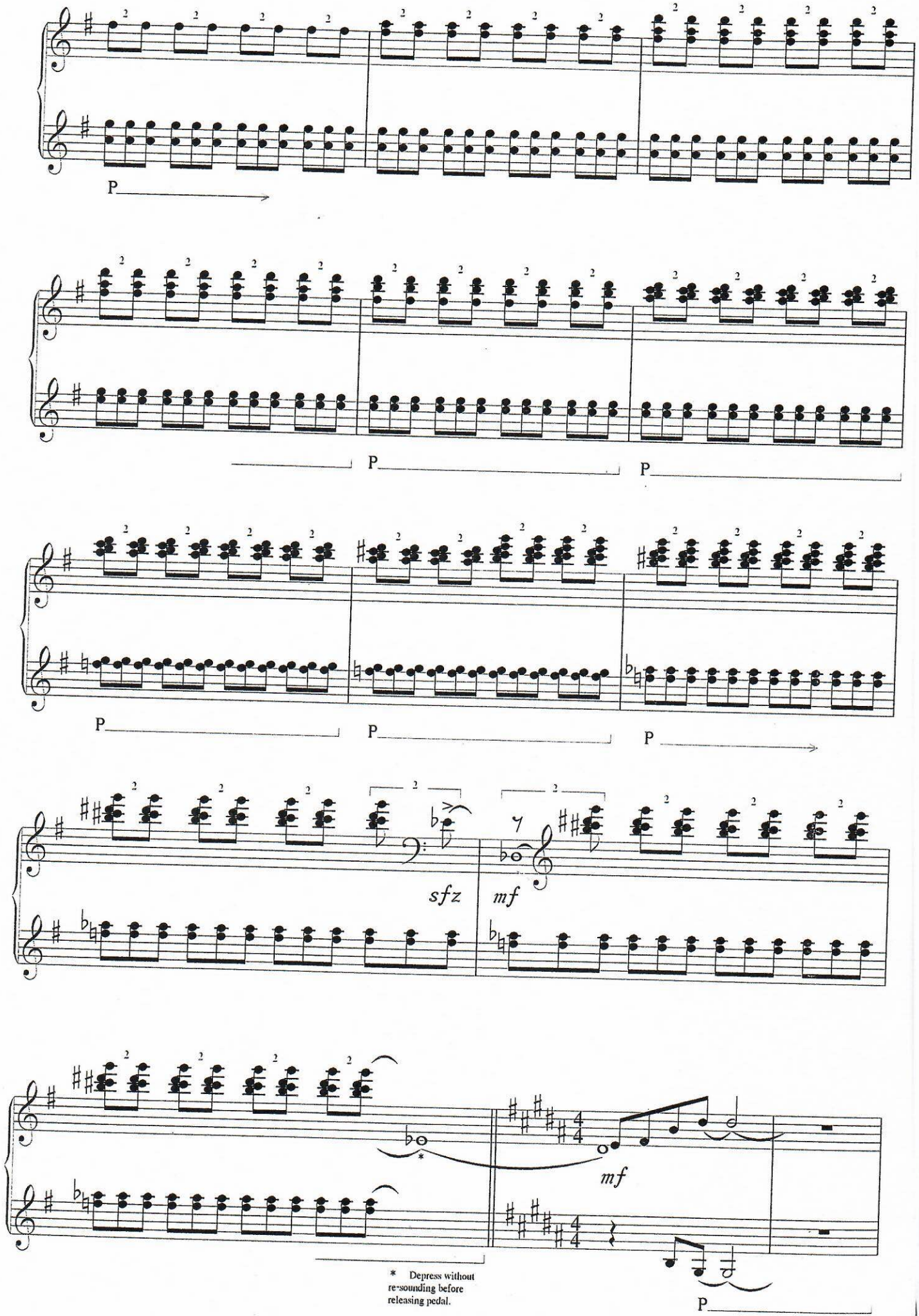
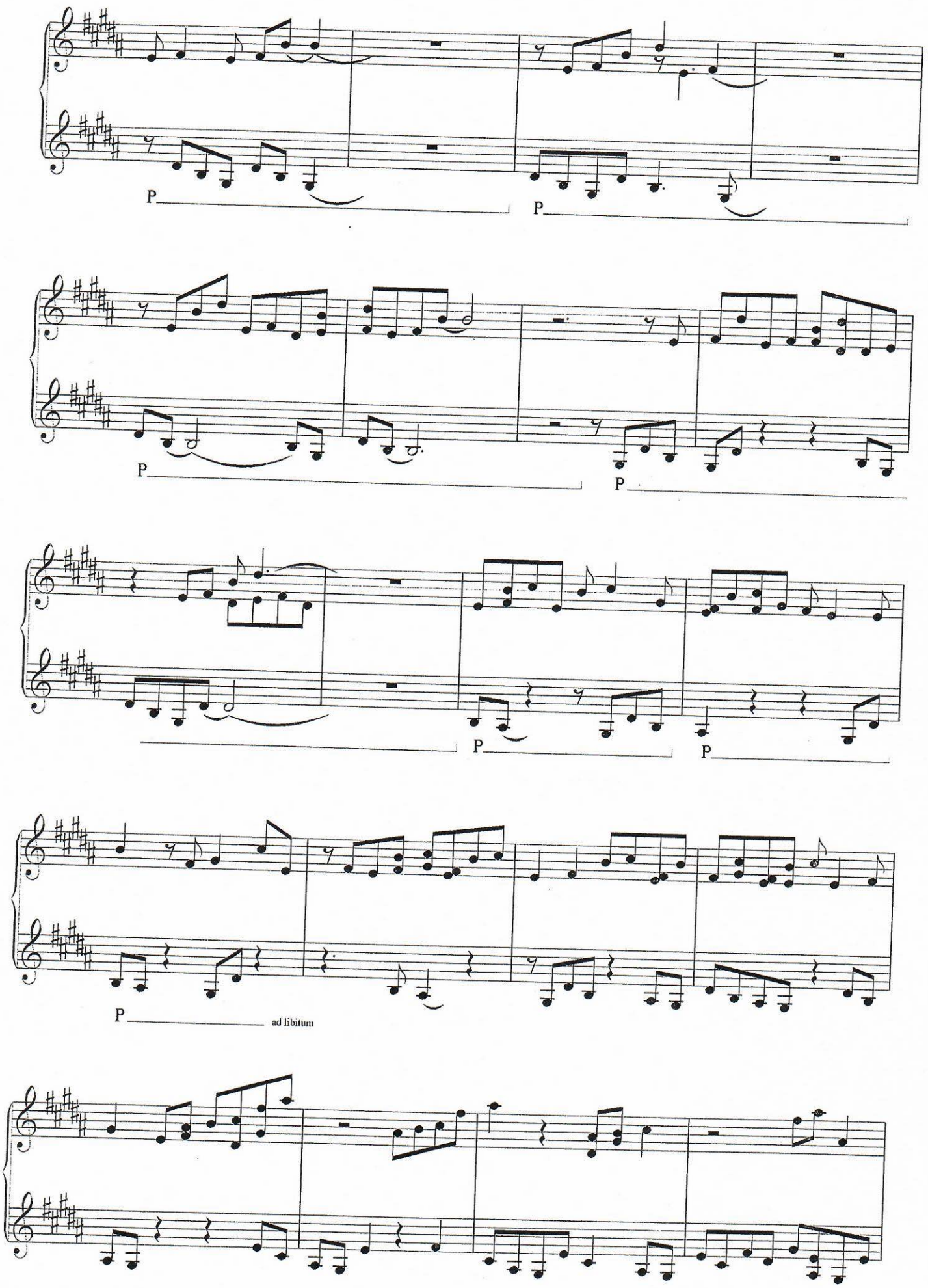
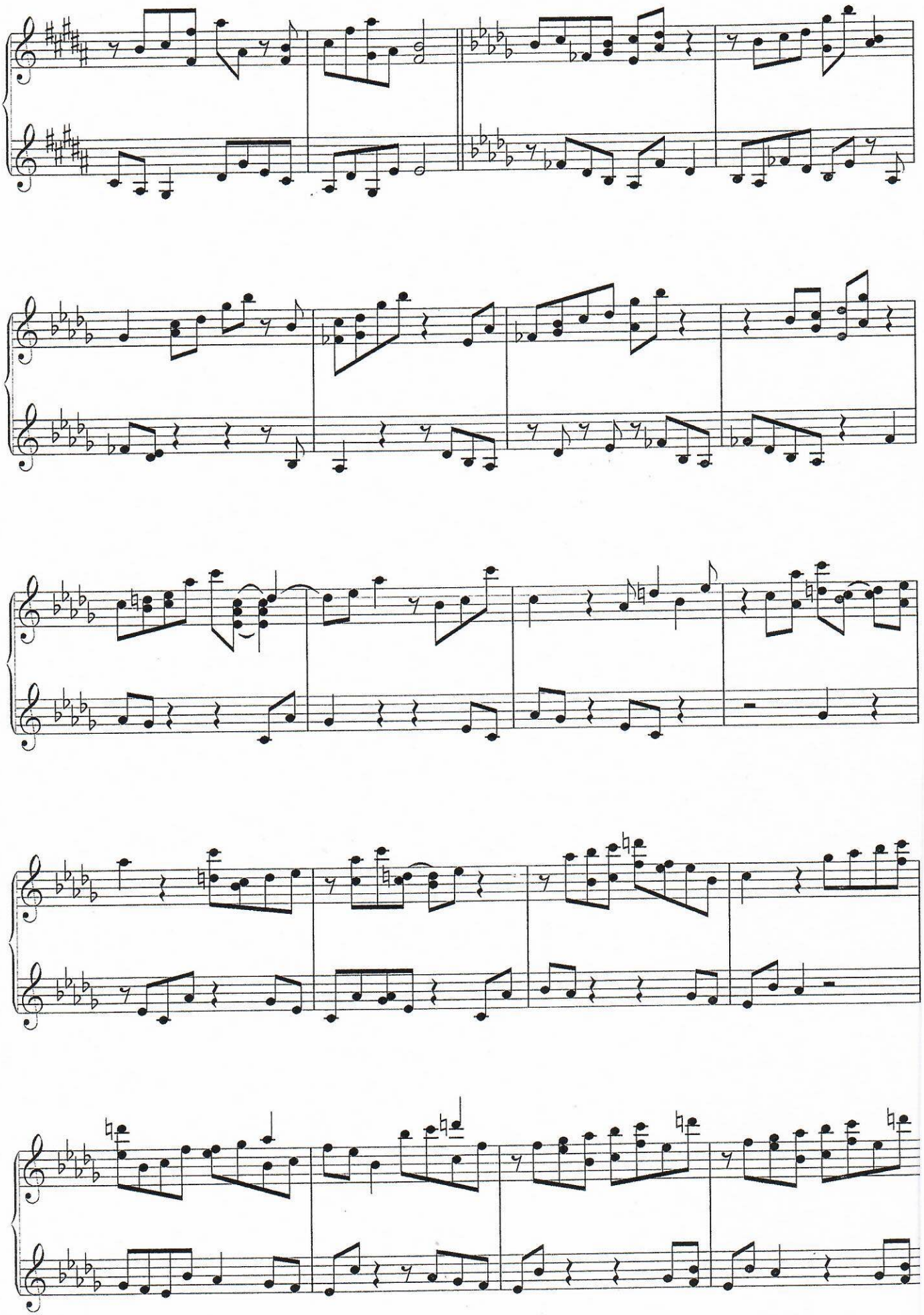
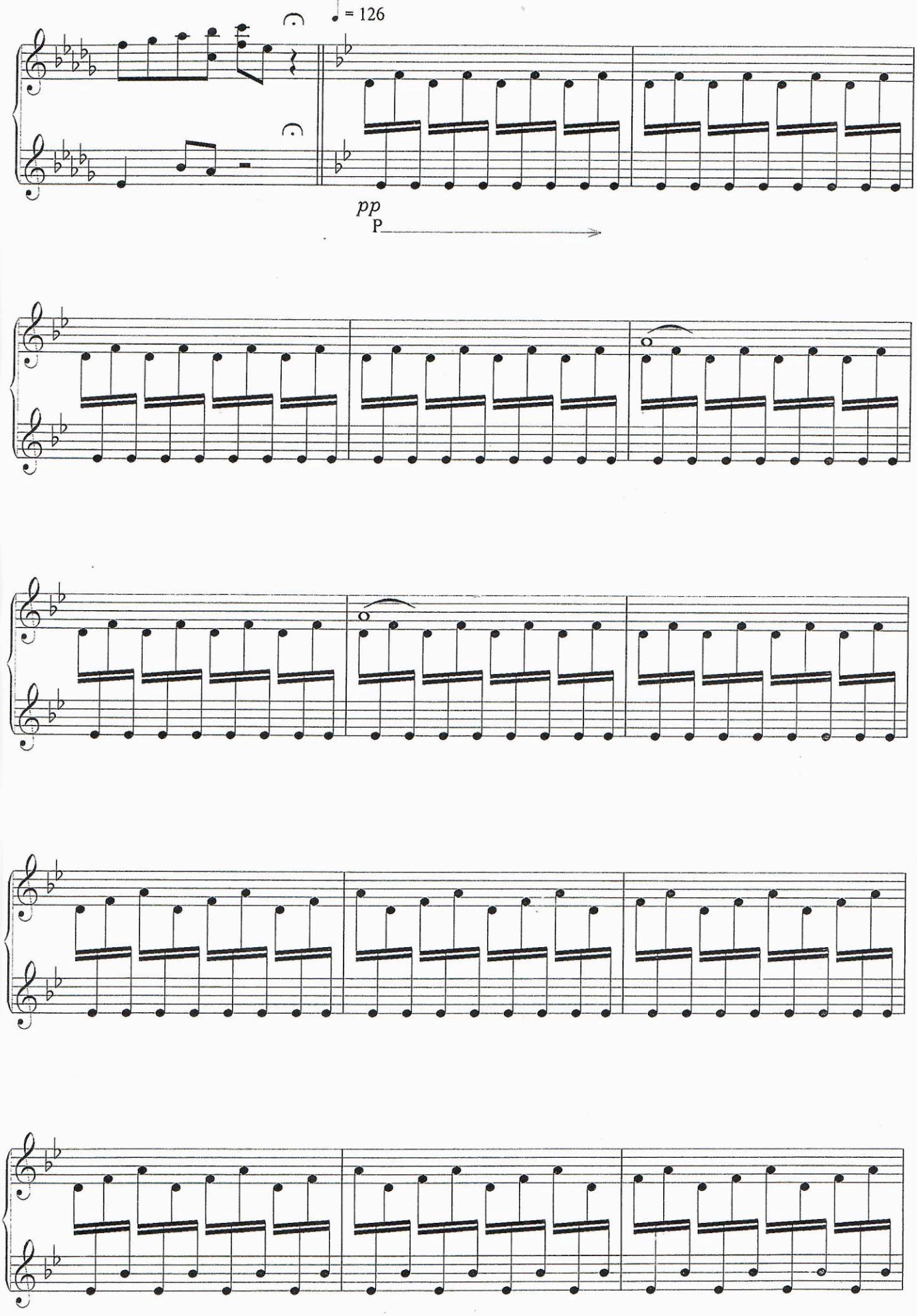


* Depress without re-sounding before releasing pedal.


P
P
P
P
P
P
P
ad libitum




♩ = 126
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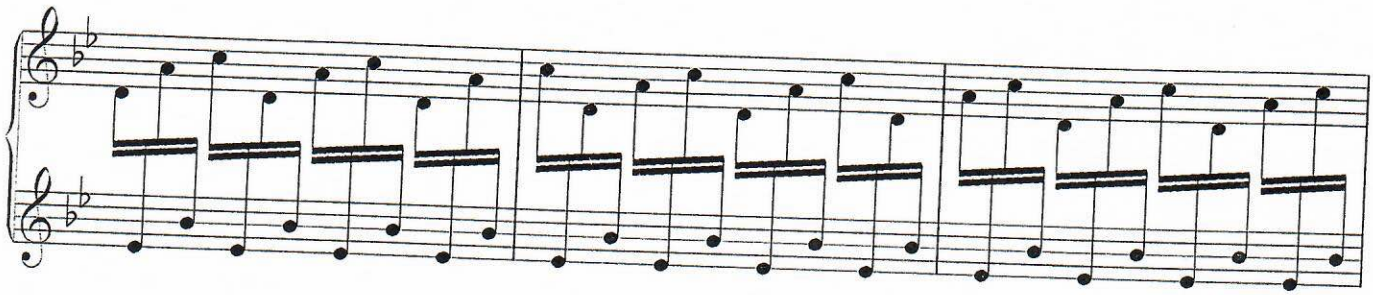

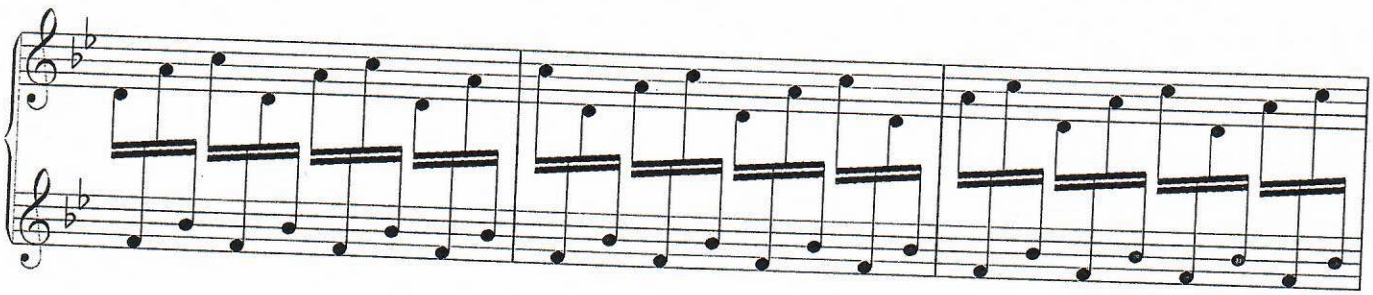

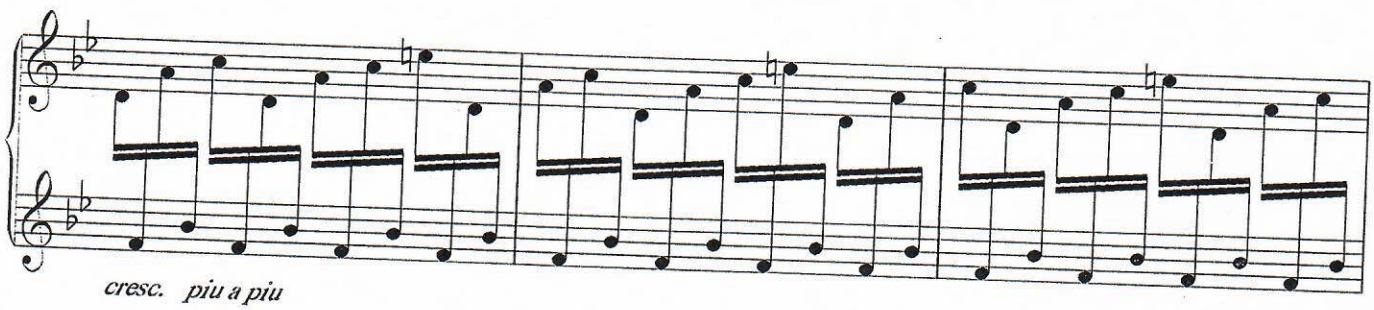
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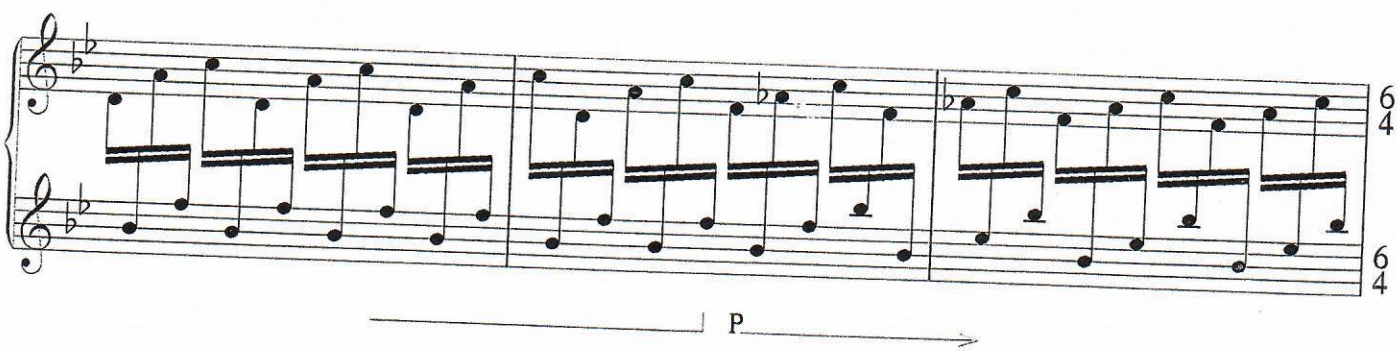
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4
6
4
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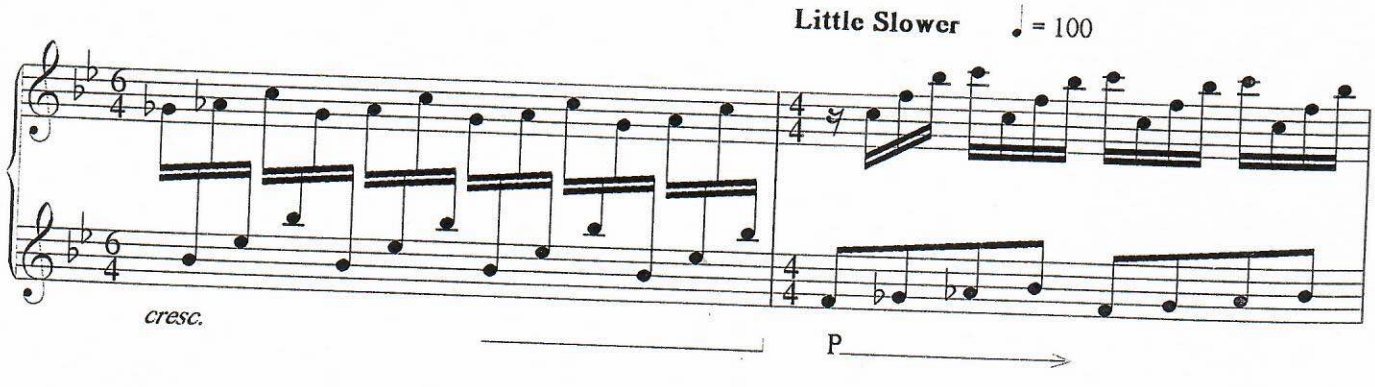
Little Slower ♩. = 100
cresc.
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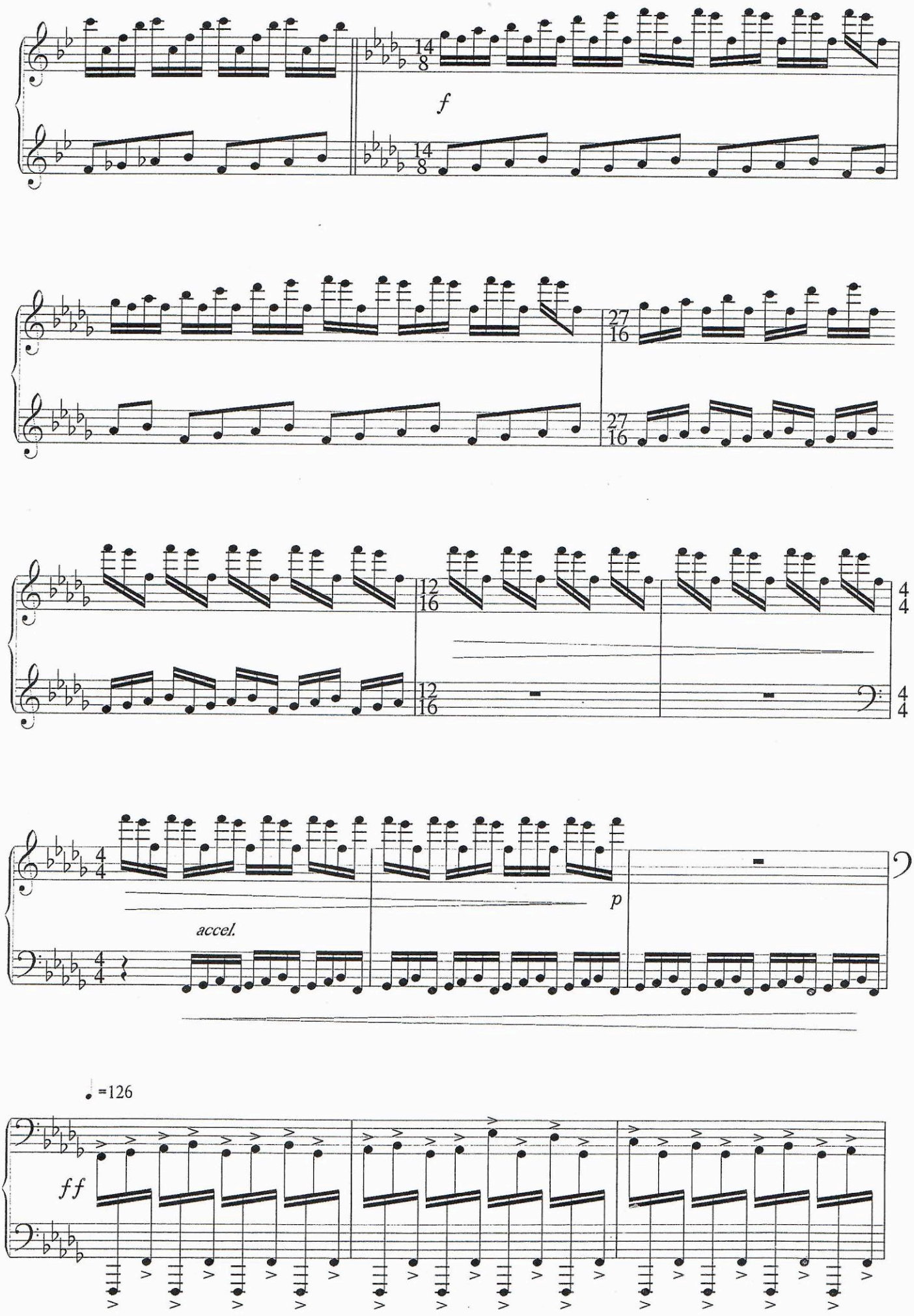
14/8
f
14/8
27/16
27/16
12/16
4/4
12/16
4/4
4/4
p
accel.
4/4
♩. =126
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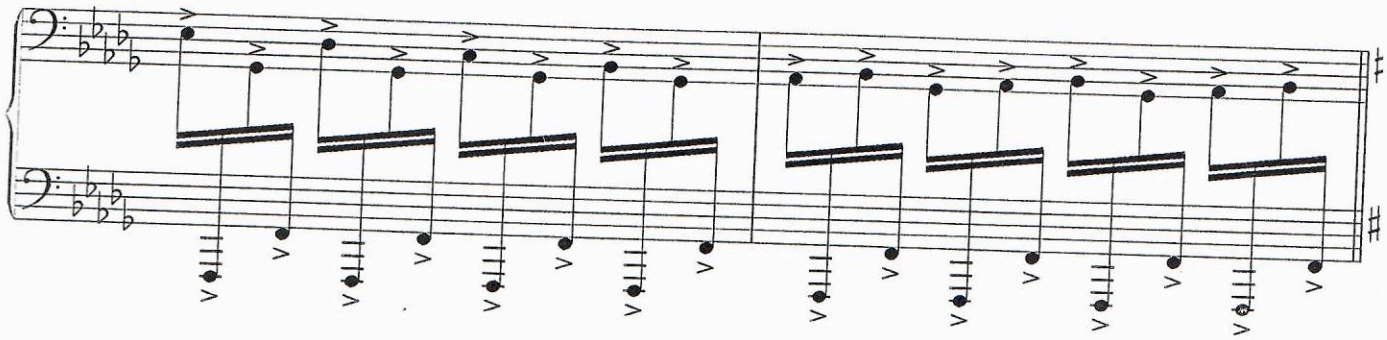

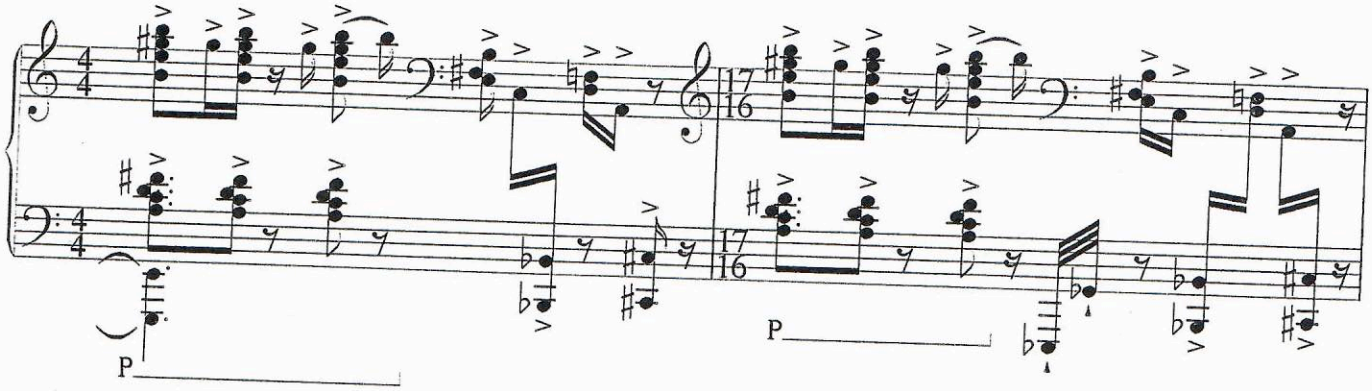
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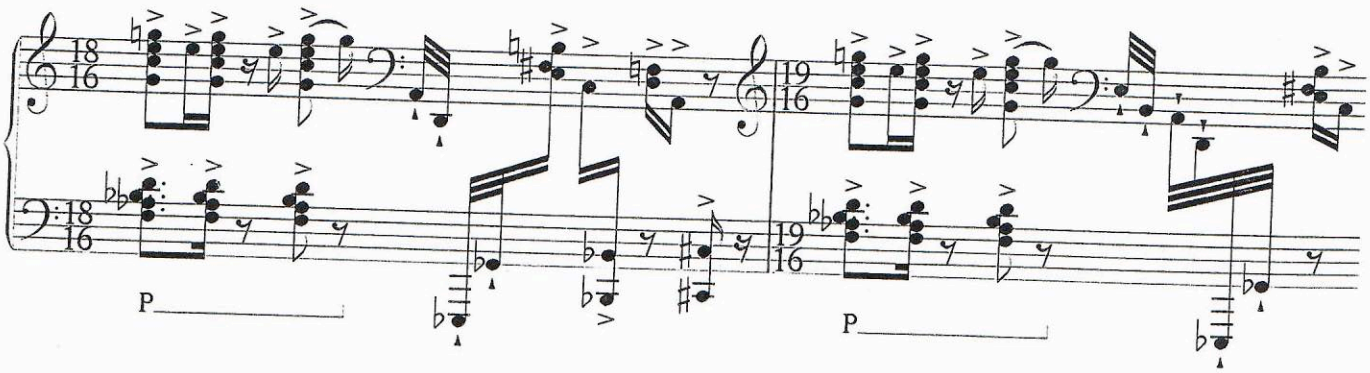
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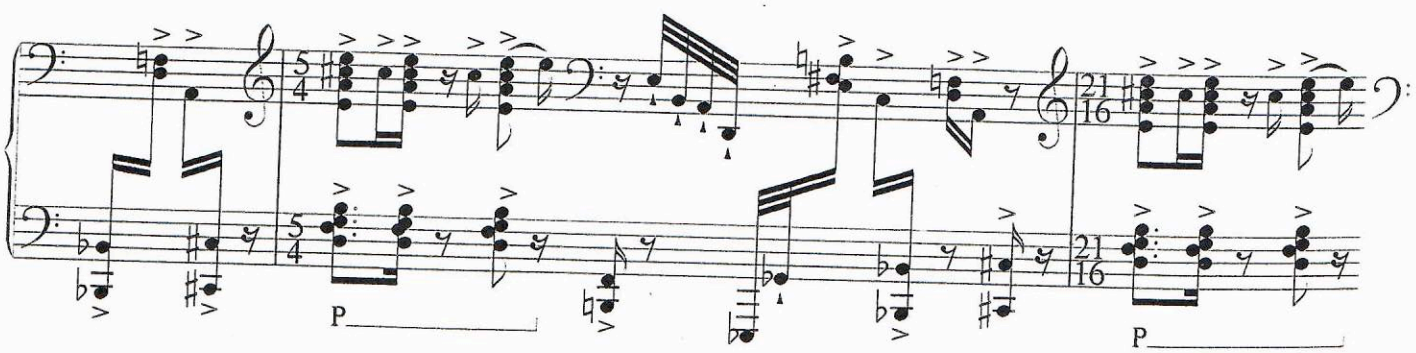
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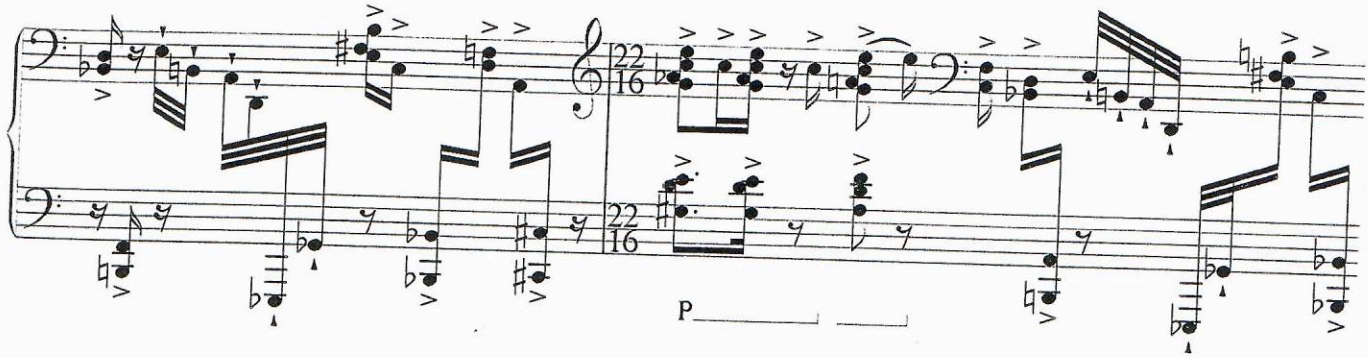
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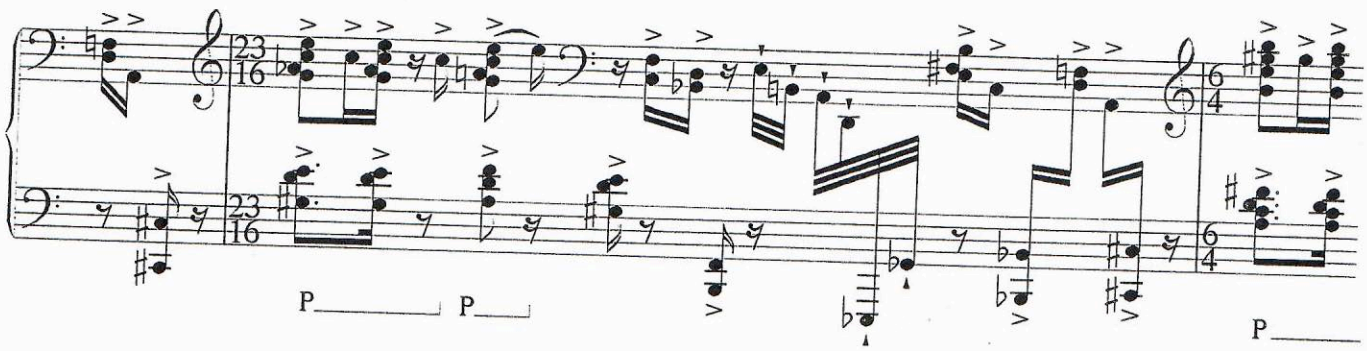
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23/16
6/4
6/4
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P
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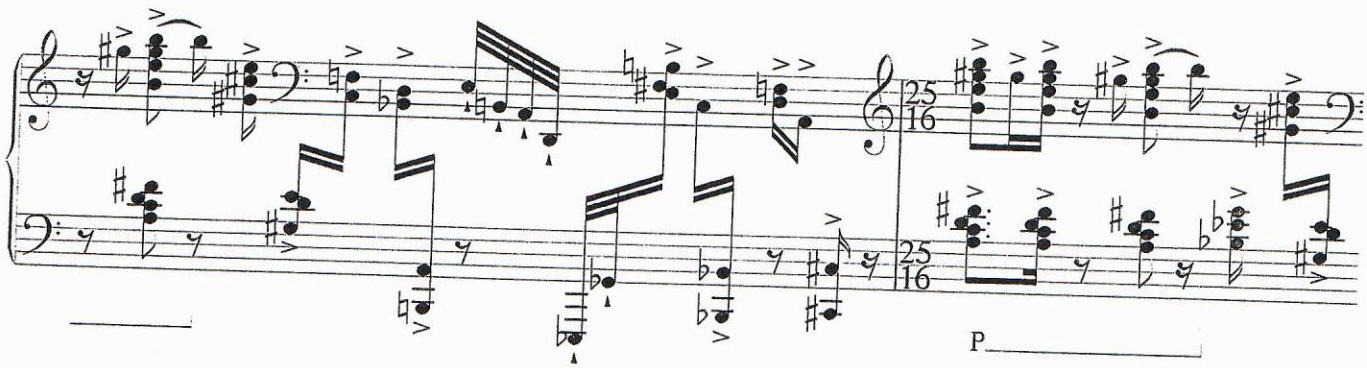
25/16
25/16
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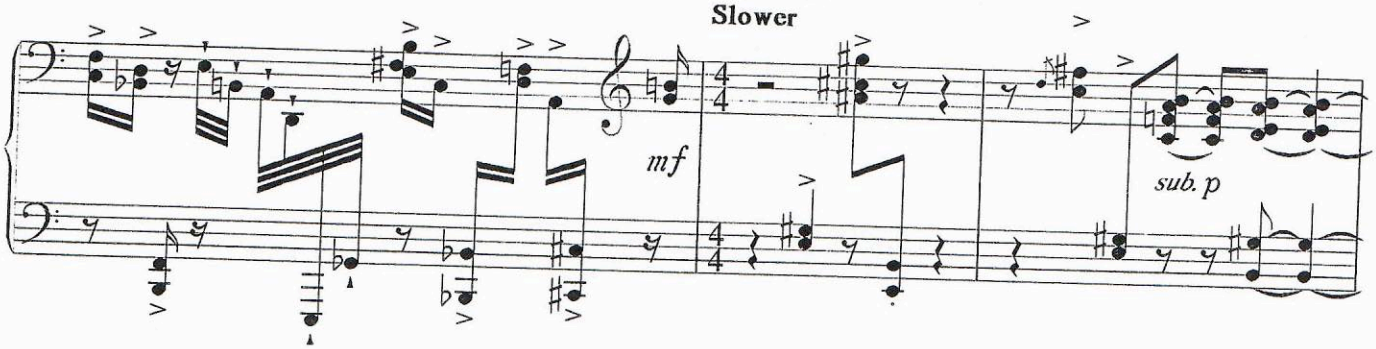
♪=♩ = 132
Slower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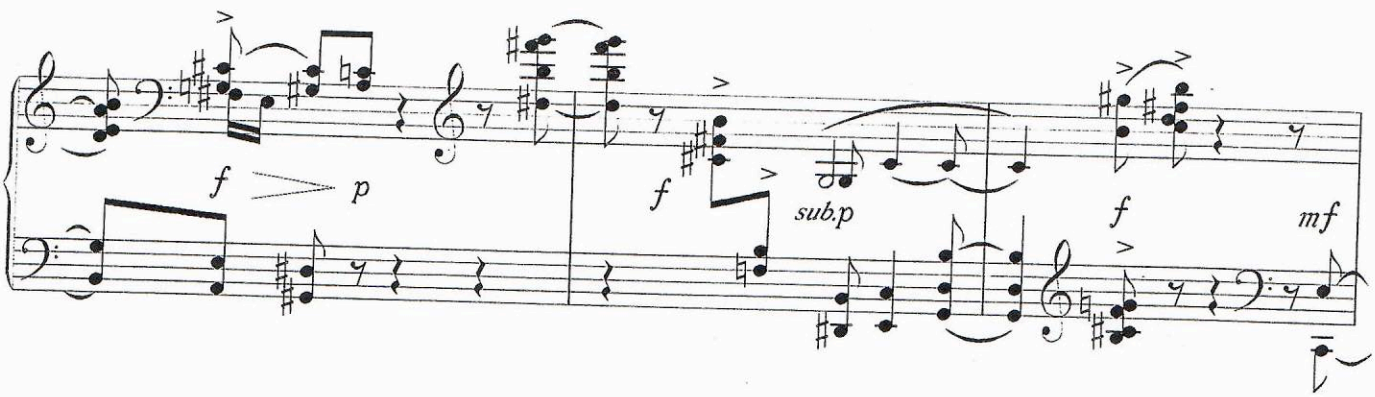
4/4
4/4
sub. p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sub.p
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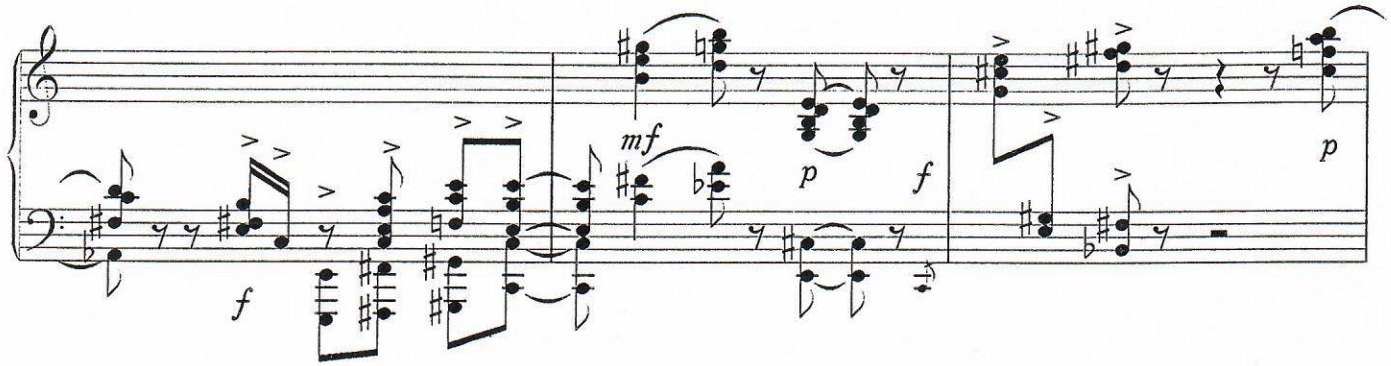

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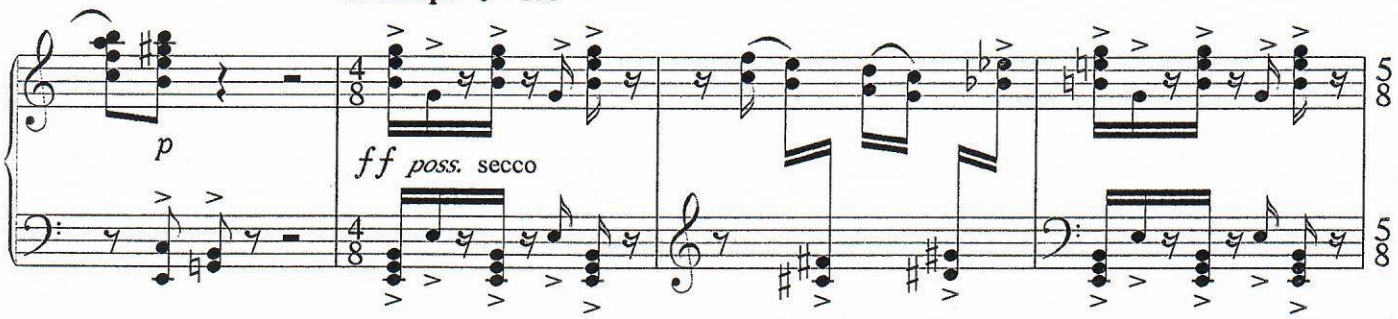

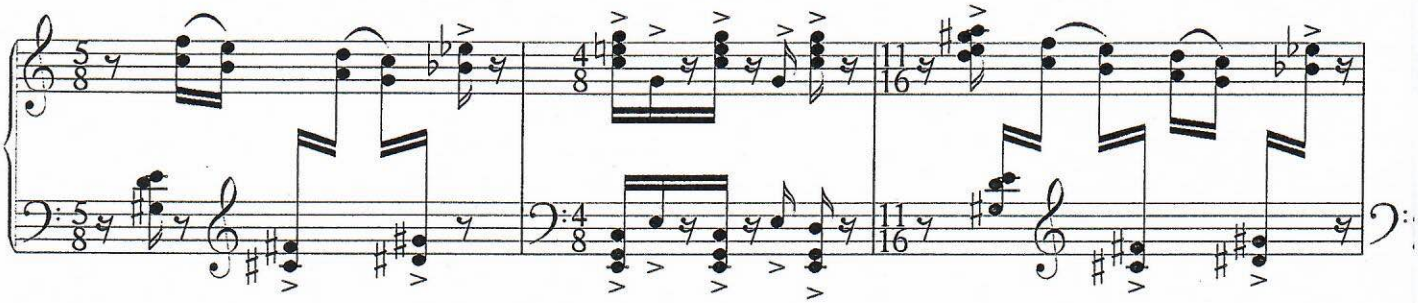

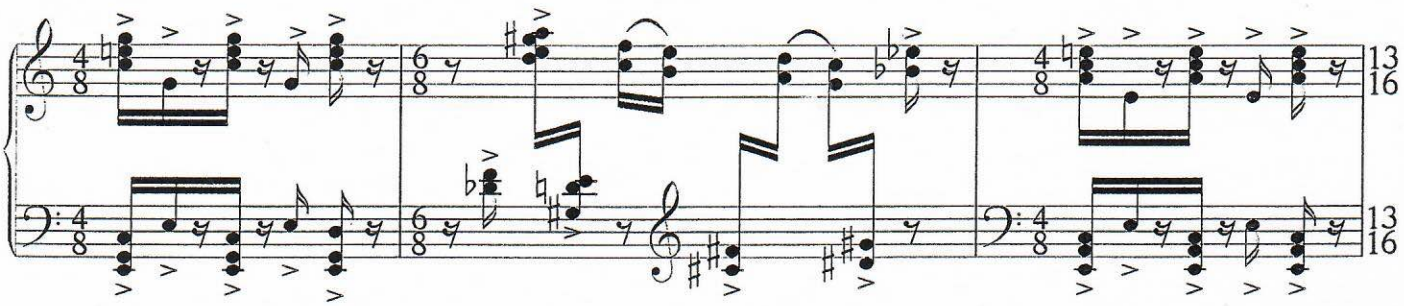

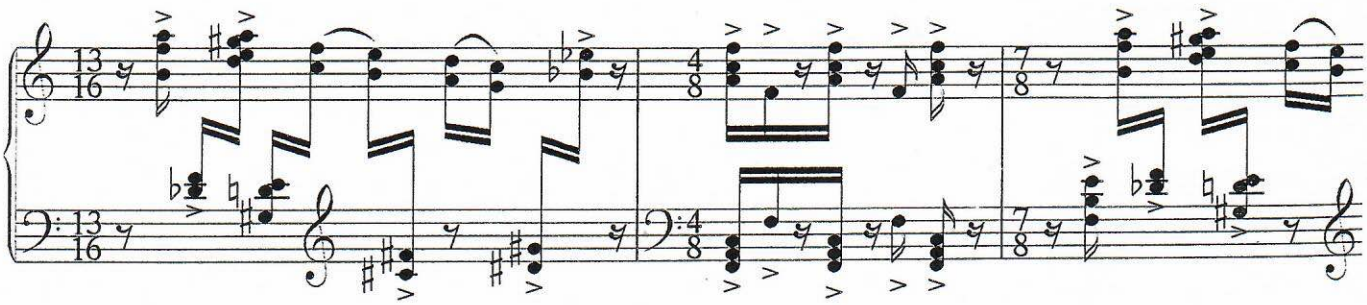

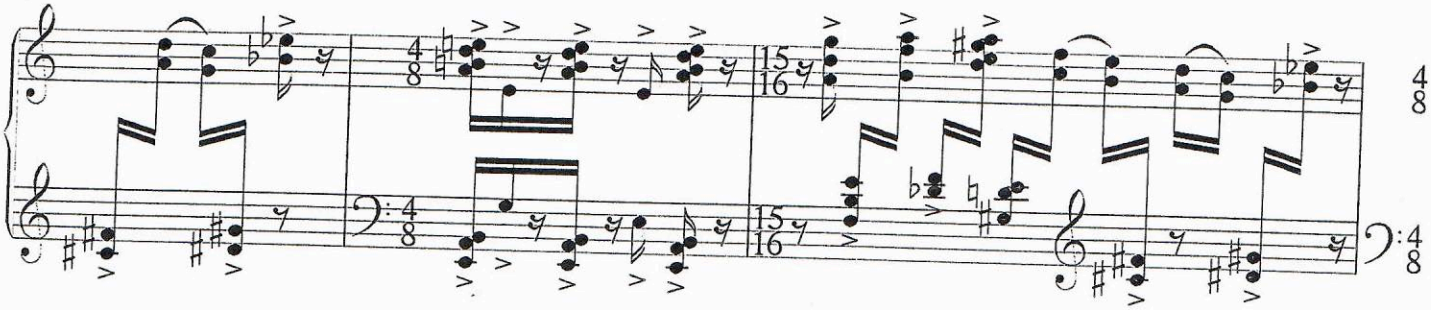

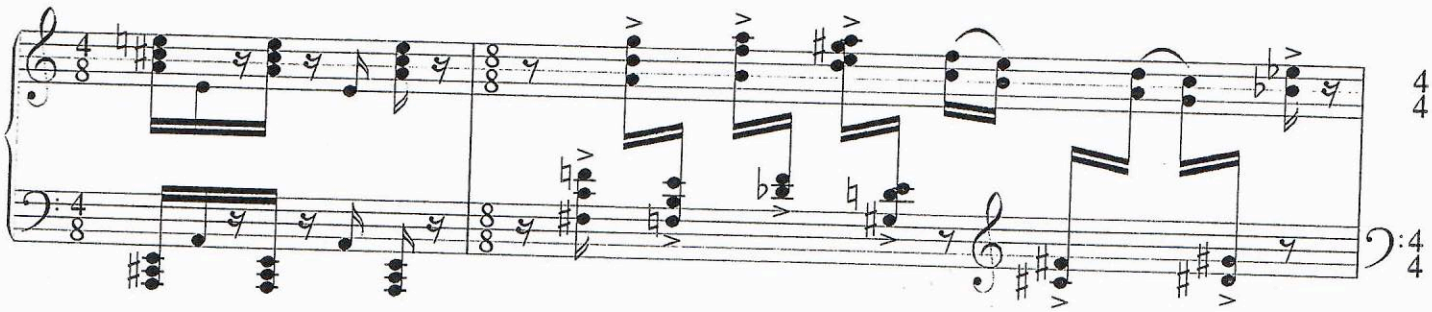
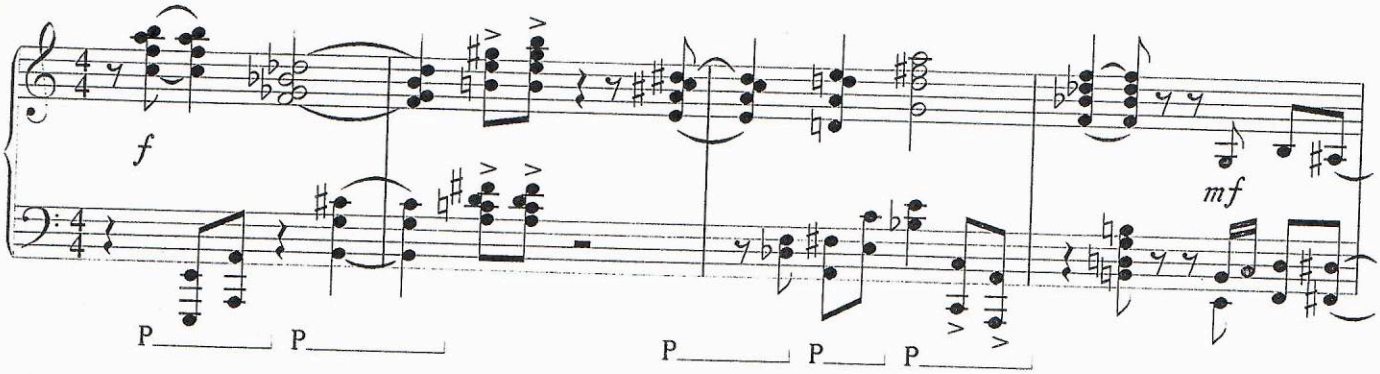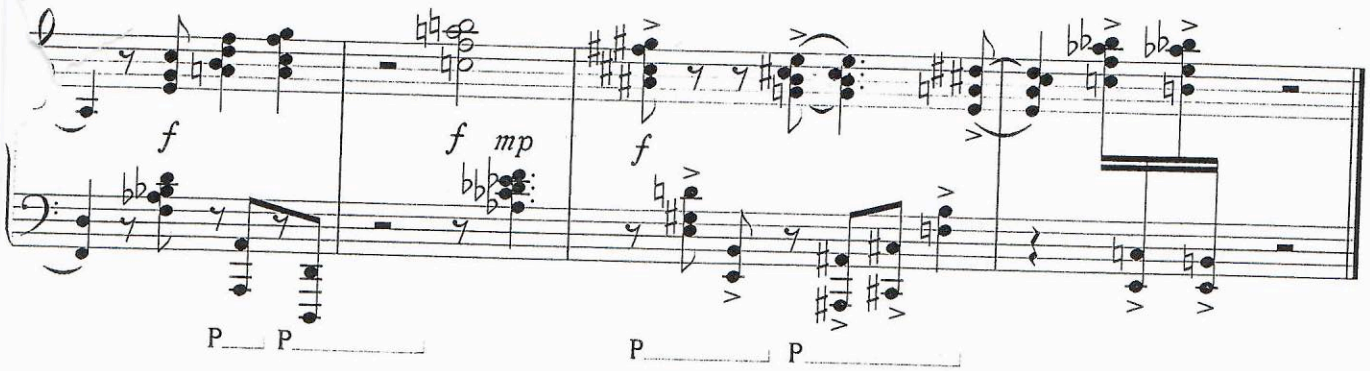
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