Hanagasa Ondo

(花笠音頭)

Rhapsodic Variations on a Japanese folk song, for piano

Sebastian Anthony Birch

Hanagasa Ondo - Rhapsodic Variations on a Japanese folk song, for piano

This piece was commissioned by Japanese pianist, Keiko Sato, seeking a work combining her heritage and her western classical training. The piece consists of 5 variations on the Japanese folk song, Hanagasa Hondo, interspersed by restatements of the main melody. The variations pay homage to my favorite composers for the keyboard: Bach, Chopin, Brahms and Rachmaninoff.

Hanagasa Ondo (花笠音頭) is a folk song from Obanazawa , a city in the Yamagata prefecture north of Tokyo, Japan. The name literally means "flower straw-hat song." The song was first sung by the construction workers who built the artificial lake, Tokura, in 1911. Since 1963 the song has been used to accompany a local community dance called the *Hanagasa Odori* (花笠踊り).

The song is in compound rhythm, and includes nonsensical cheering words of encouragement, *Ha Yassho Makkasho*. These cheers, called kakegoe, encourage the musicians and the dancers. The dance is performed with a simple straw hat decorated with synthetic flowers. About 10,000 dancers participate in this dance every year.

Hanagasa Ondo
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Introduction - Allegro Giocoso ♩.=112

1

9

16

23

poco rit.

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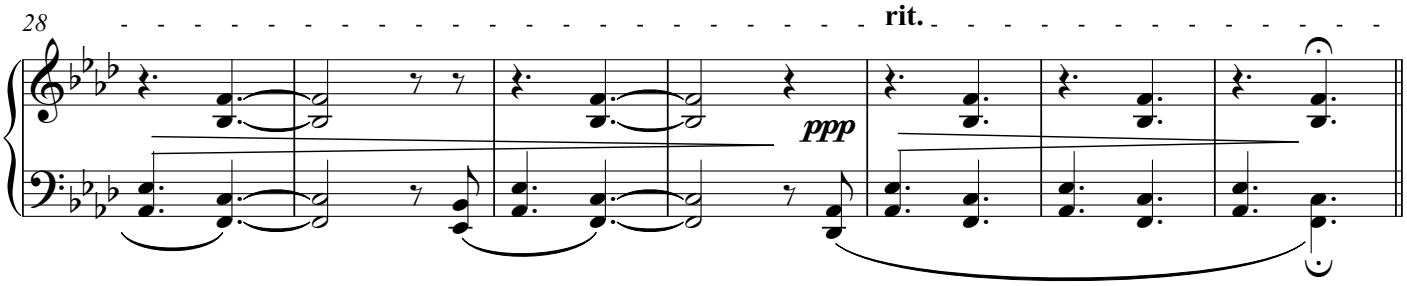
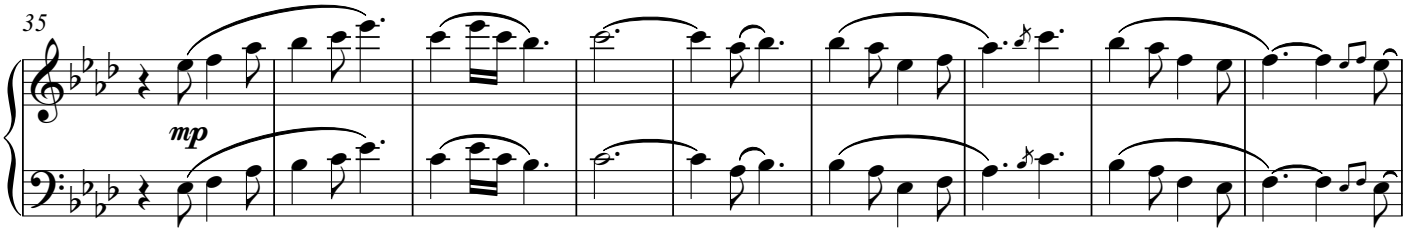
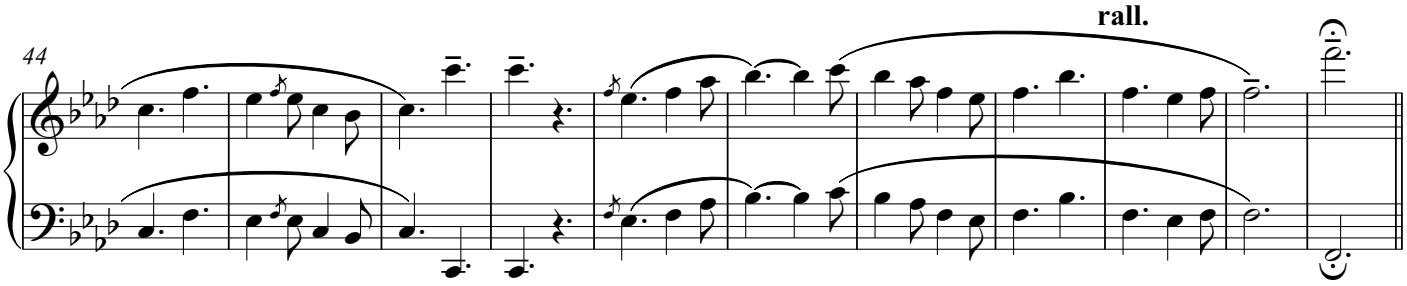
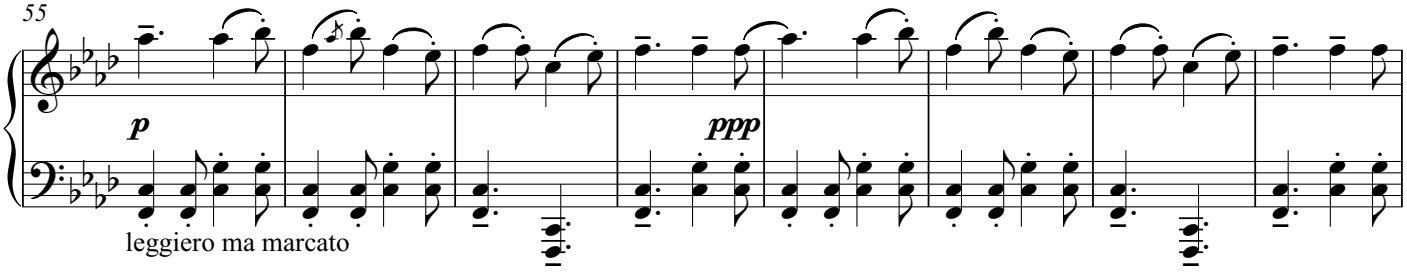


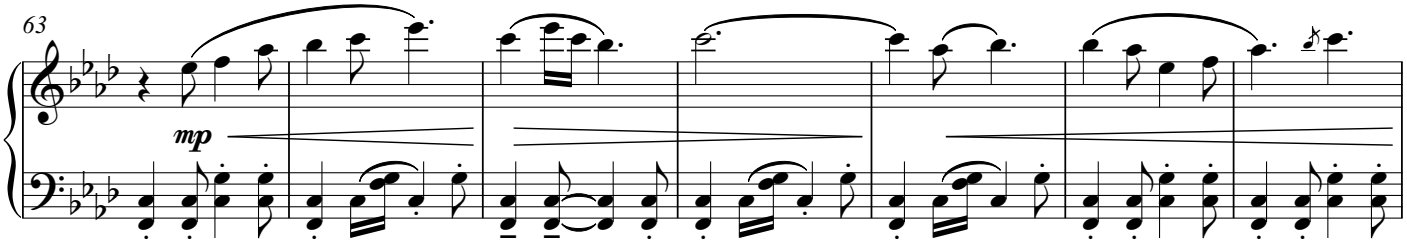
Theme
Molto cantabile





Più mosso ♩.=132





70

pp

mp

77

rit.

p

Interlude 1 Tranquillo

83

pp

mp

91

8va

ppp

98

(8)

Variation 1 - Presto

105

pp
leggierissimo

108

111

114

117

120

rit.

Interlude 2

Maestoso ♩.=80

125

ff *p*

rit. A tempo ♩.=80

134

p *ff* *ff*

rit.

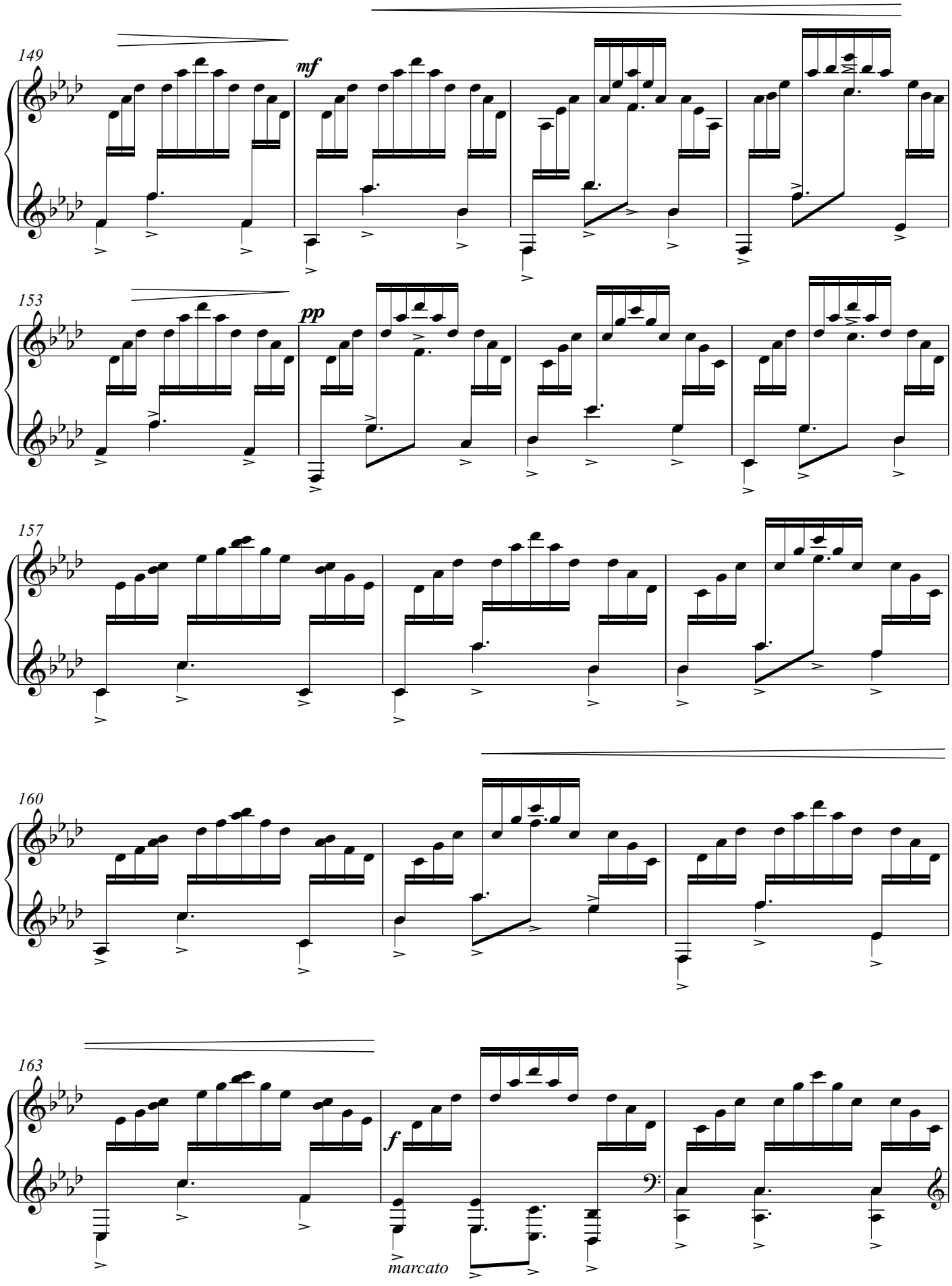
140

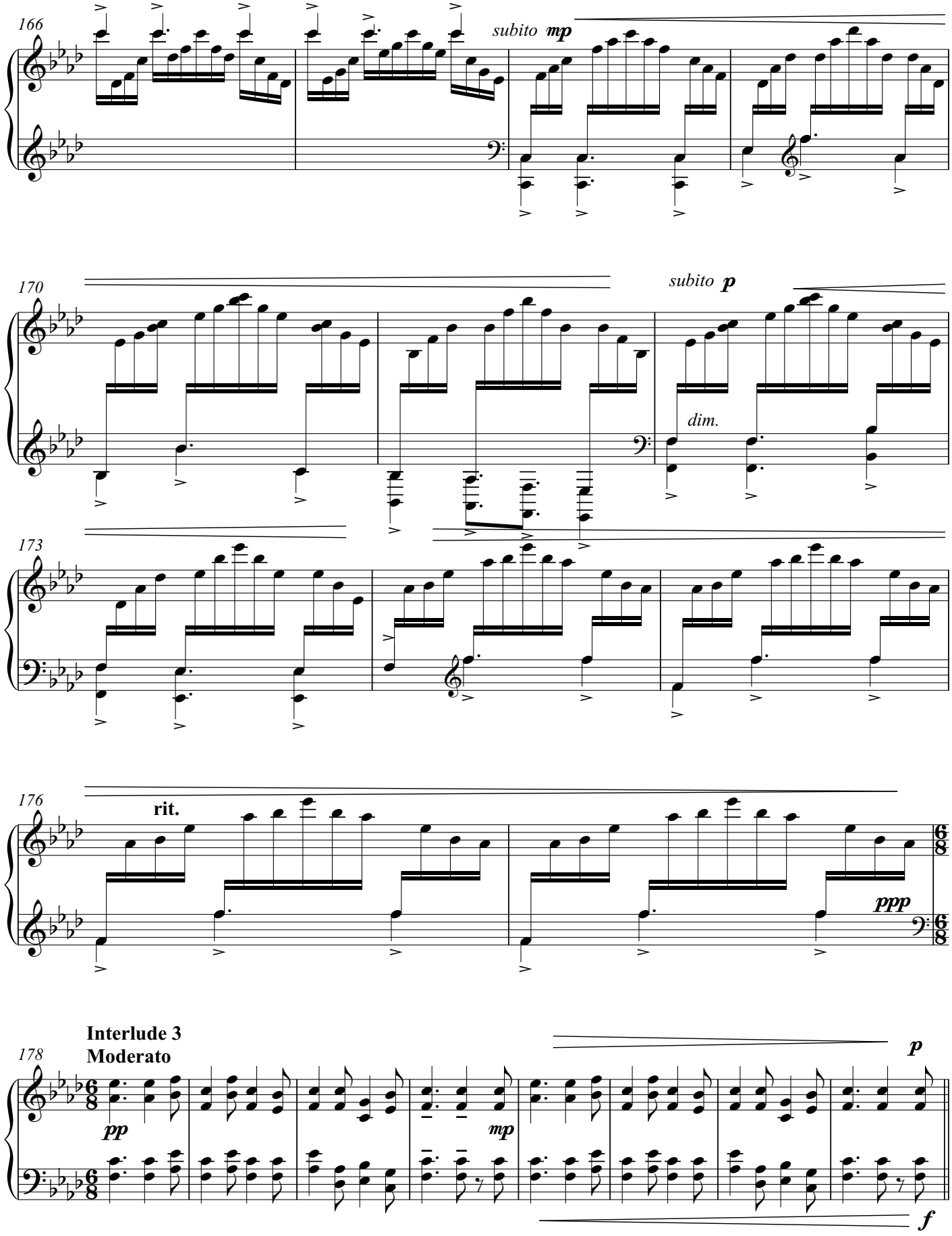
ppp

Variation 2 - Prestissimo

146

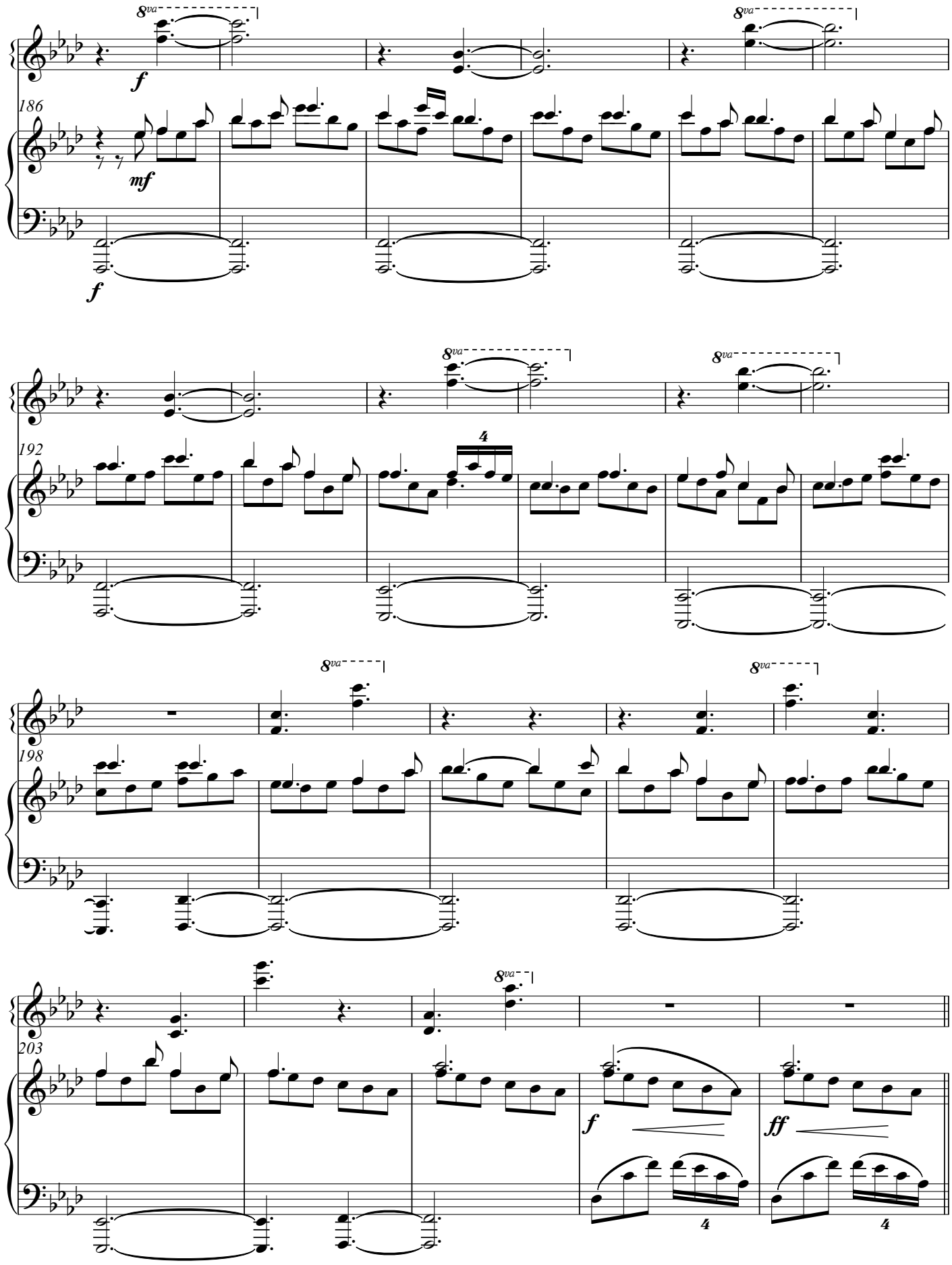
mf


149
mf
153
pp
157
160
163
f
marcato


166
subito mp
170
subito p
dim.
173
176
rit.
ppp
Interlude 3
Moderato
178
pp
mp
p
f

Variation 3

Andante espressivo ♩.=80



Interlude 4
Moderato

208

ff

ppp

212

pp

8va

Variation 4
Andante espressivo ♩.=80

216

8va

p *legatissimo*

dolce

222

(8)

228

(8)

234

(8)

mp

pp

238

8va

p

pp

Variation 5

Allegro Martellato ♩=144

242

pp

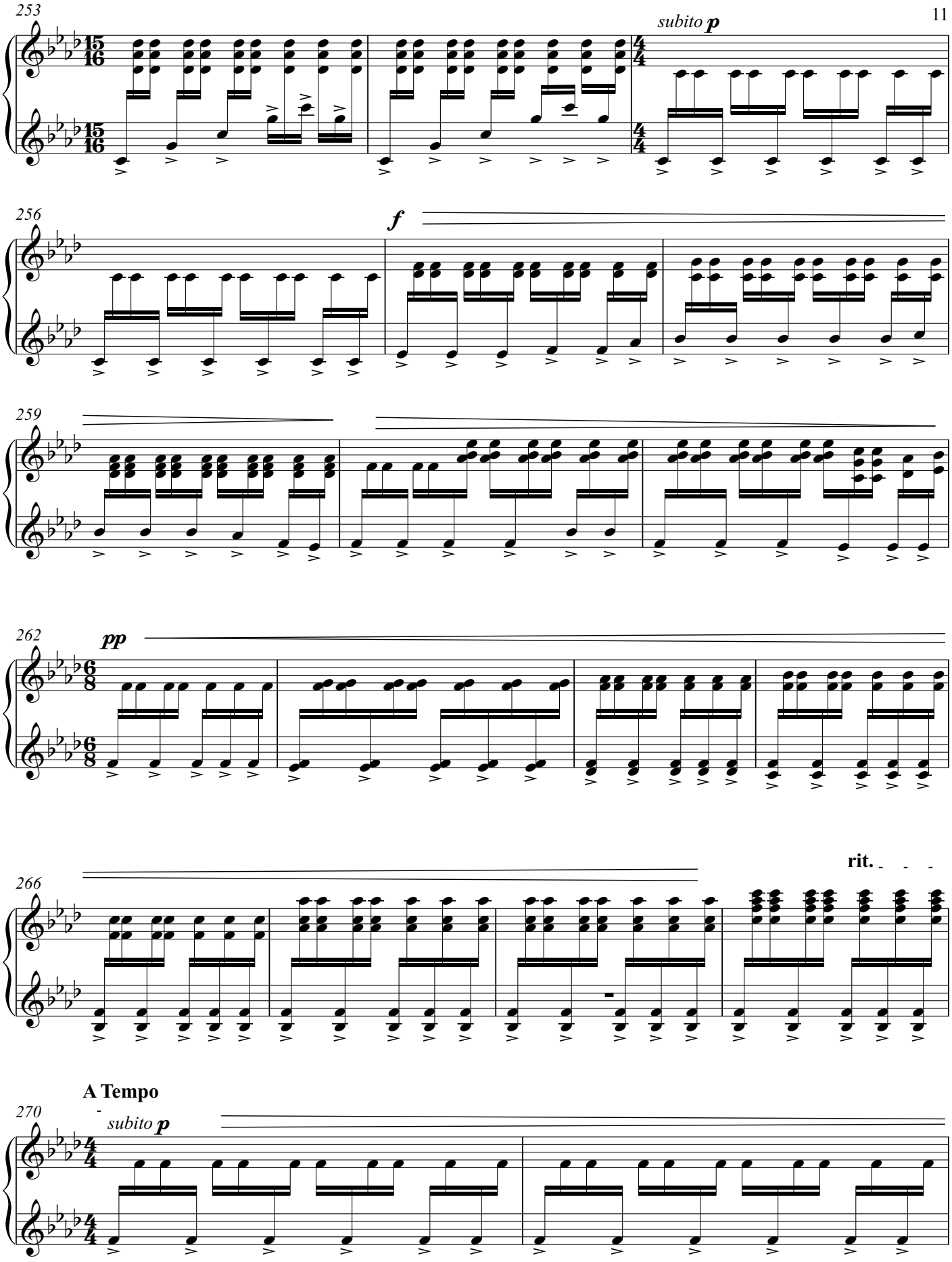
f

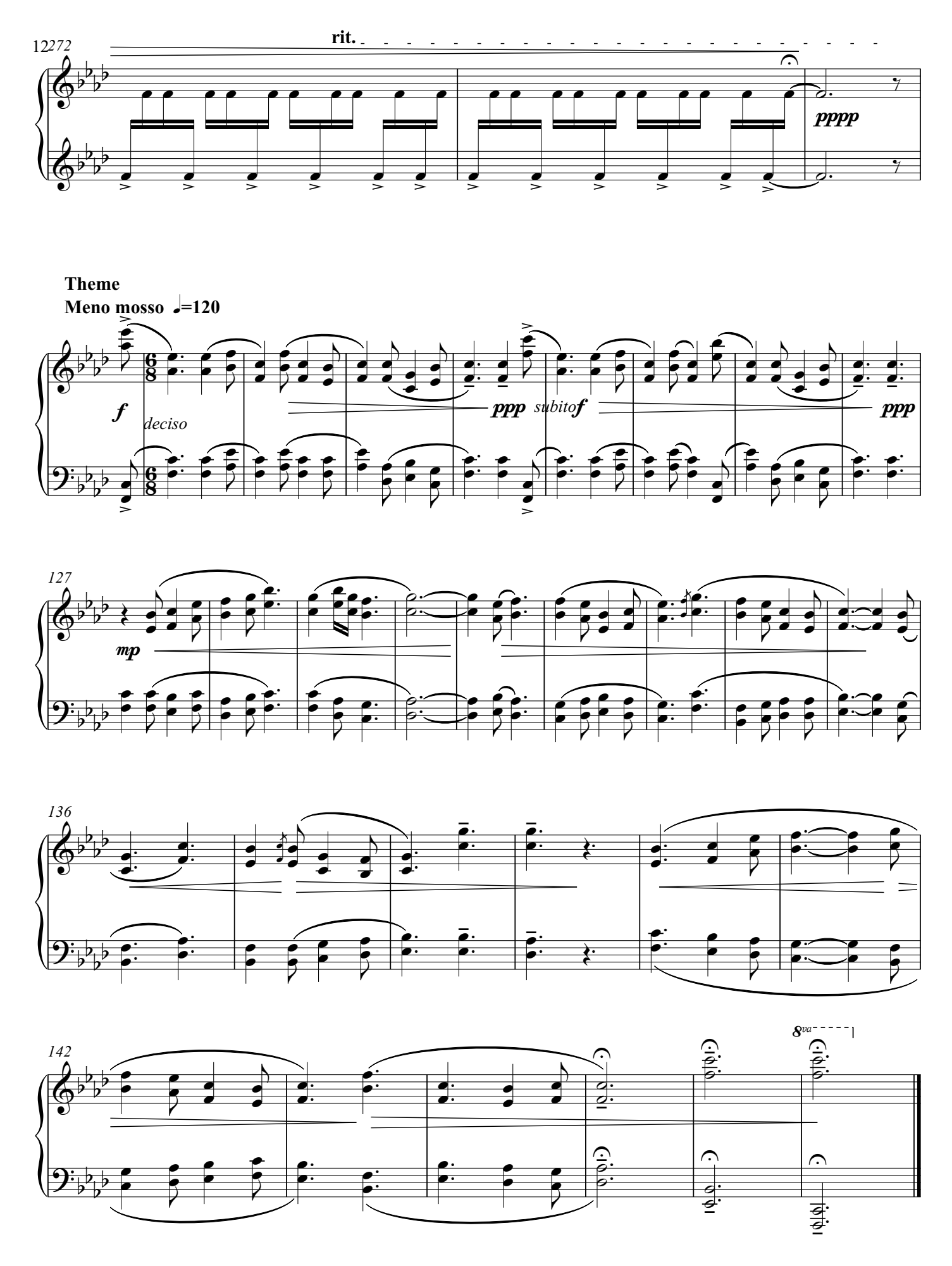
marcata la melodia

245

247

250


253
subito p
256
f
259
262
pp
266
rit.
A Tempo
270
subito p


12272
rit.
pppp
Theme
Meno mosso ♩=120
f
deciso
ppp
subito f
ppp
127
mp
136
142
8va