Five Preludes

for piano solo

Richard Whalley

Five Preludes

for piano solo

Two Lines Transcended	page 2
A Butterfly Flaps Its Wings	page 4
Still Waters	page 10
Humpty Dumpy	page 12
Masquing the Medusa	page 14

Programme note

Masquing the Medusa is a tribute to my friend and colleague John Casken, and was composed for a concert celebrating his work at Manchester University in January 2008. This short prelude pays homage to him by taking ingredients from two of his compositions and putting them together in my own way. The notes of the melody are taken from the oboe part of *Masque* and the accompaniment figure stems from a prominent figure in the piano part of *Blue Medusa*.

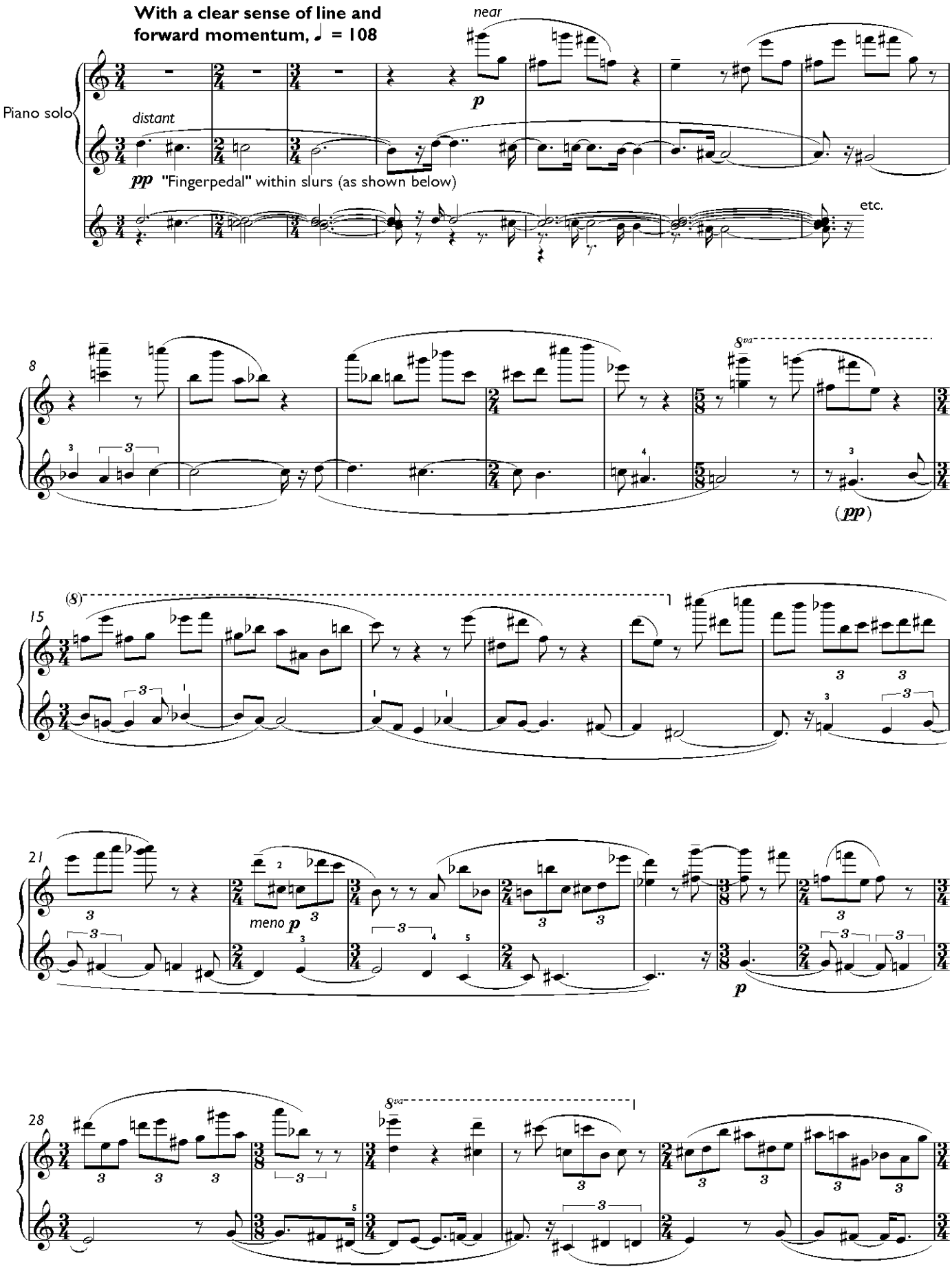
The remaining preludes were composed during the spring of 2009, born from a feeling that *Masquing the Medusa* needs to be part of something bigger. For me there's something very tantalizing about miniatures, each offering glimpse of a different world. I think of these as preludes in the Debussian sense; he deliberately placed the titles of each his preludes at the end of the music, so that people would be free to revel in their own associations and imagery, and not be too influenced by his titles. My titles were thought up after composition of the preludes, so I would encourage performers and listeners to do the same here.

This set of preludes was selected as a Winner of the International Music Prizes for Excellence in Composition Competition, 2009.

Total duration: c. 12 mins

Two Lines, Transcended

Richard Whalley



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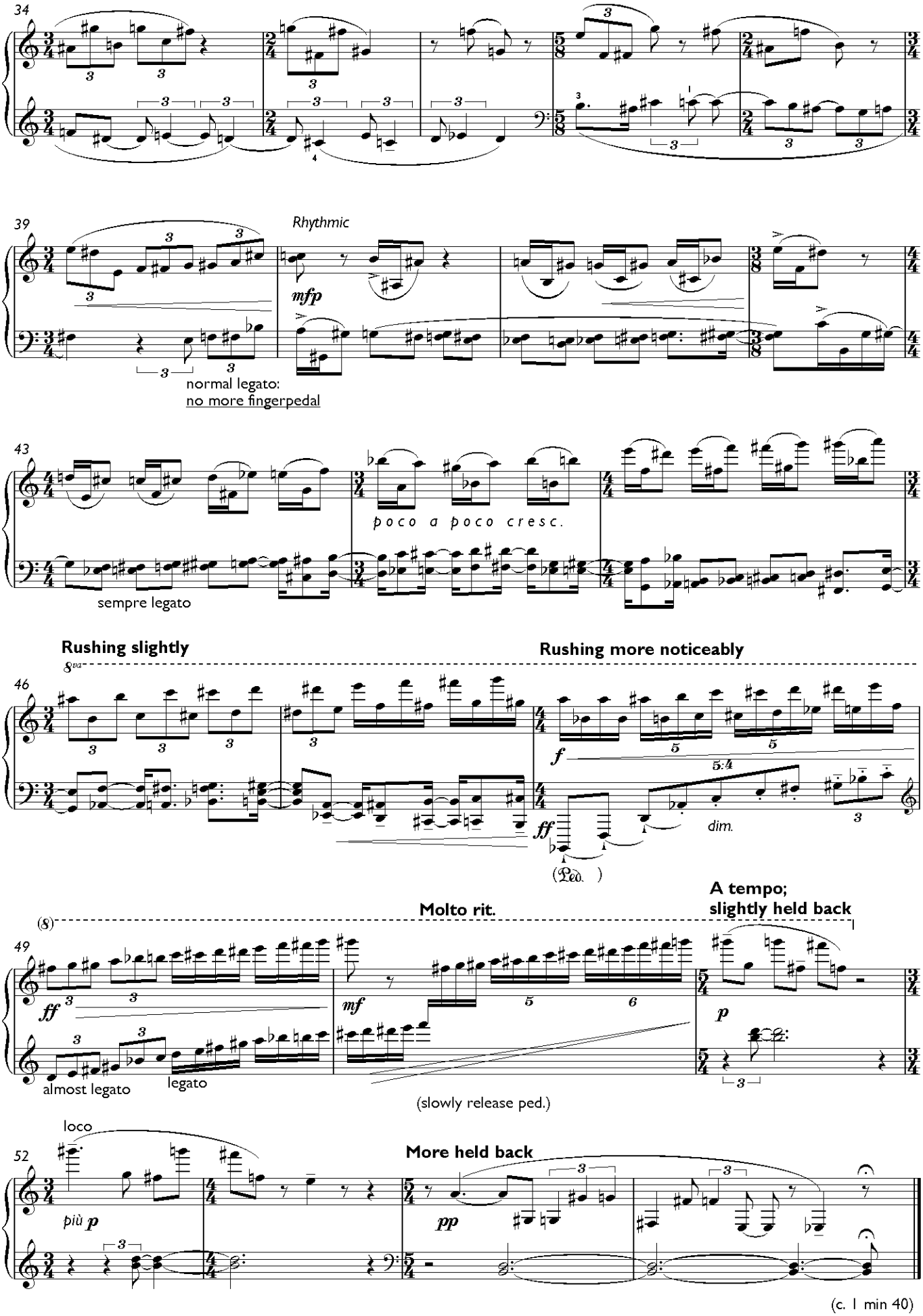
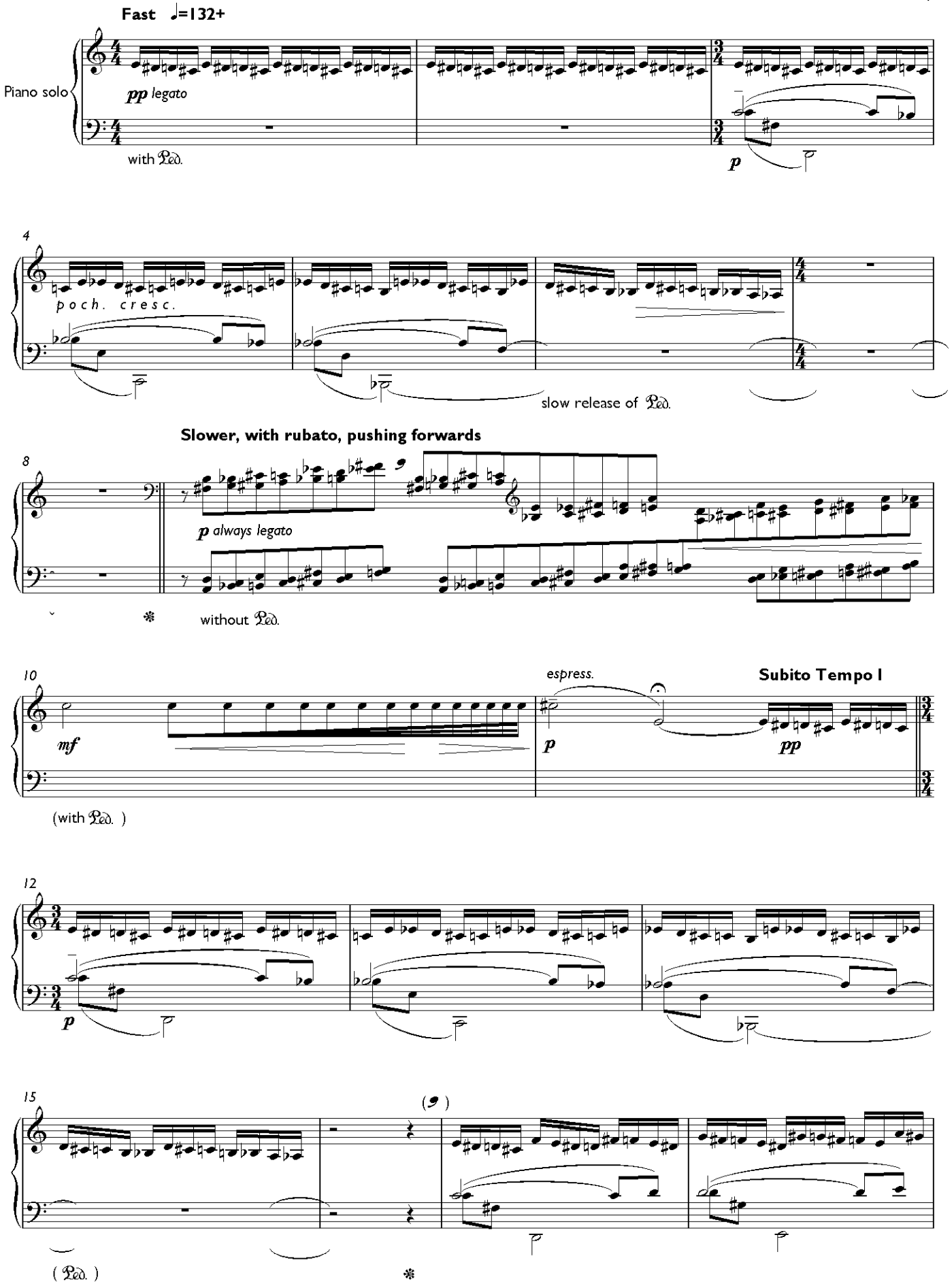


(c. 1 min 40)
16th March 09

A Butterfly Flaps Its Wings

Richard Whalley



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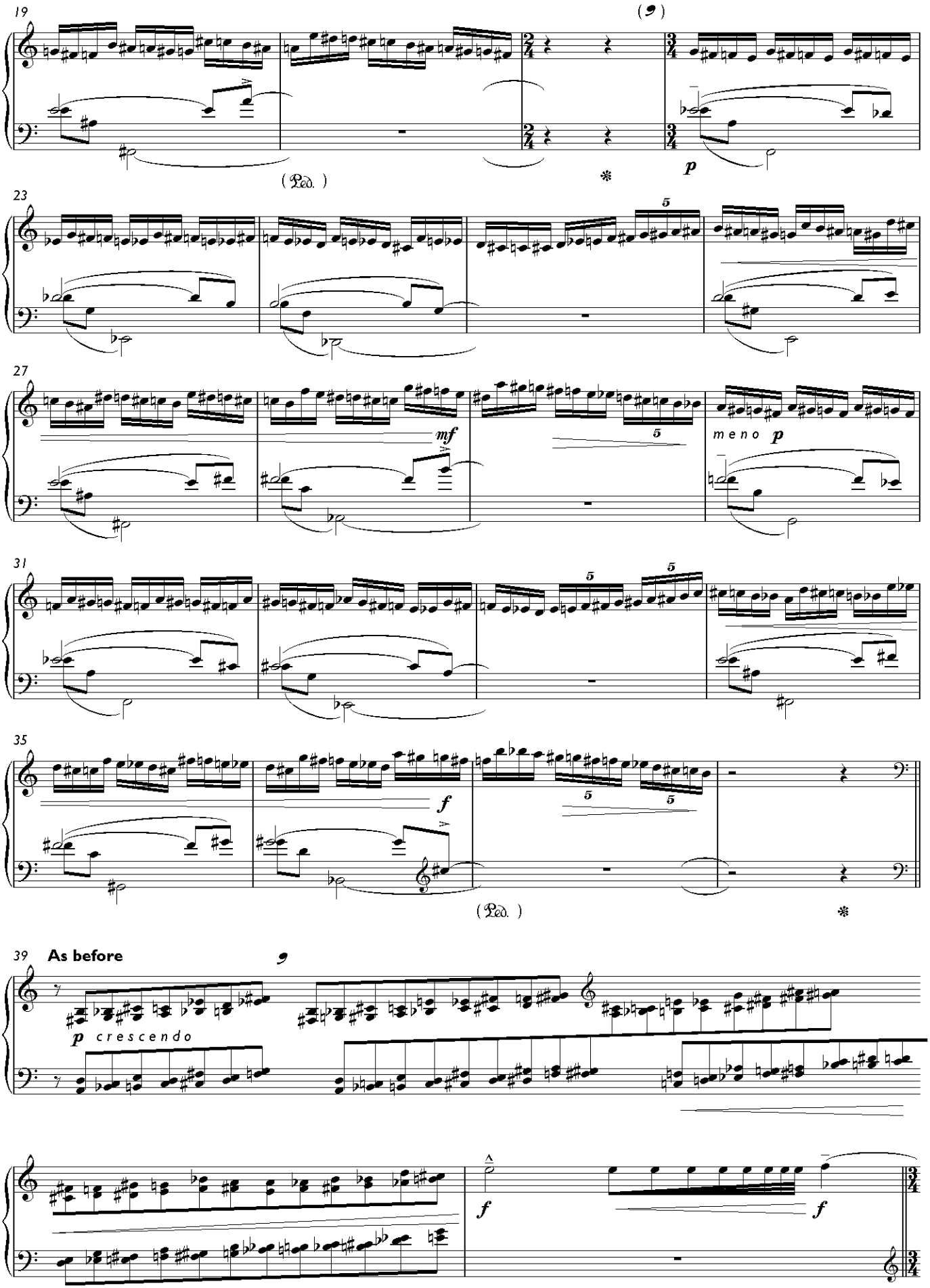
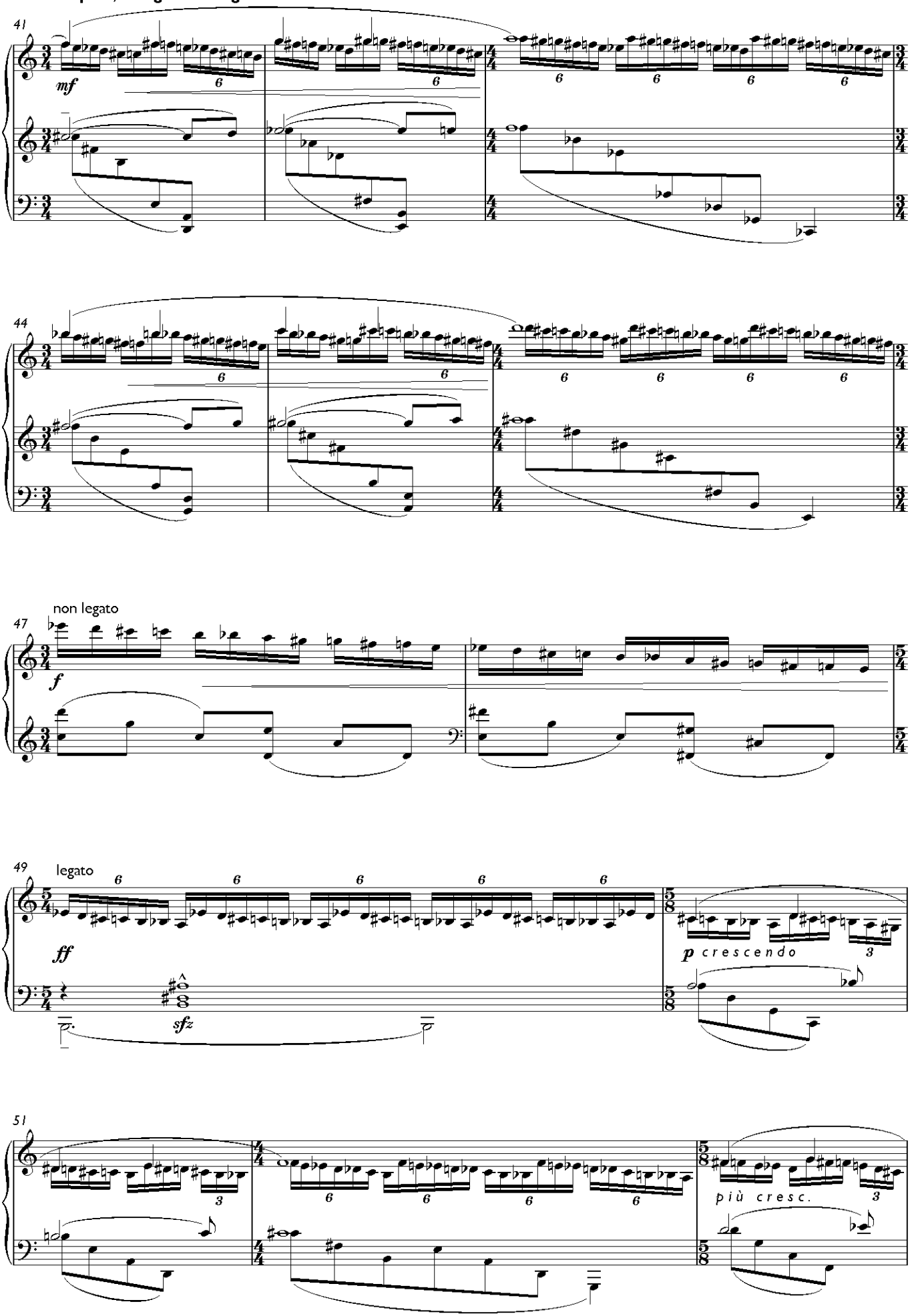

19
(9)
(Ped.)
*
p
23
5
27
mf
5
meno p
31
5
5
35
f
5
5
(Ped.)
*
39
As before
9
p cresc e n d o
f
f

Tempo I ; bring out rising lines



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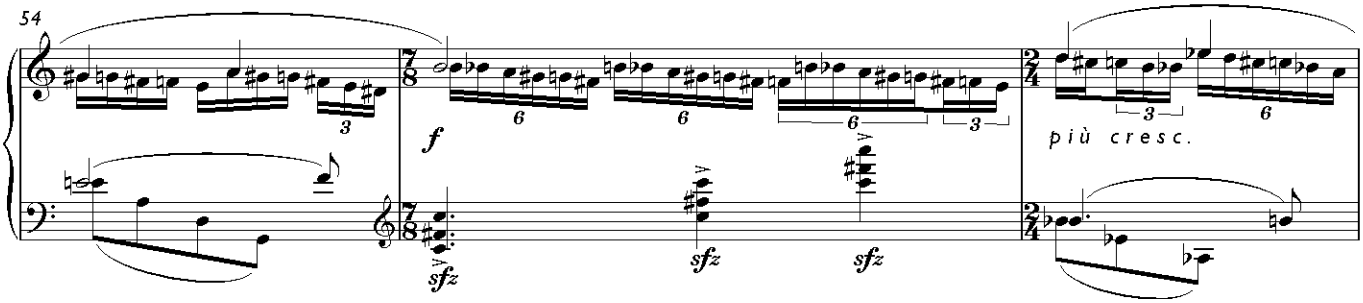
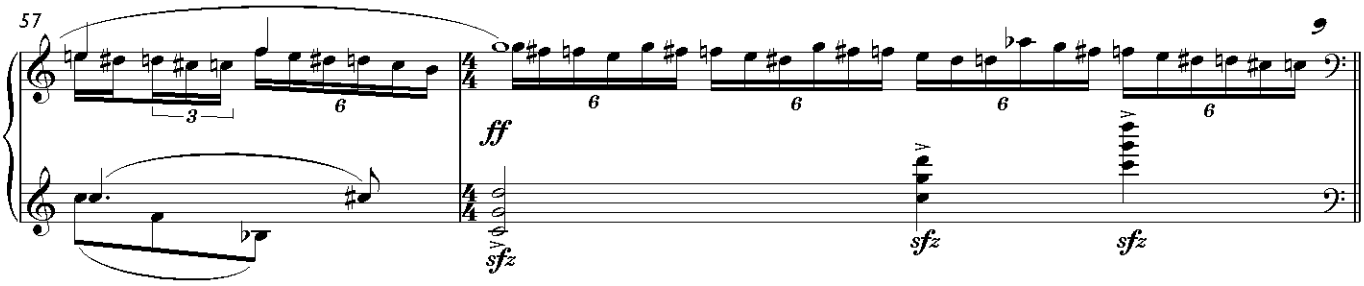
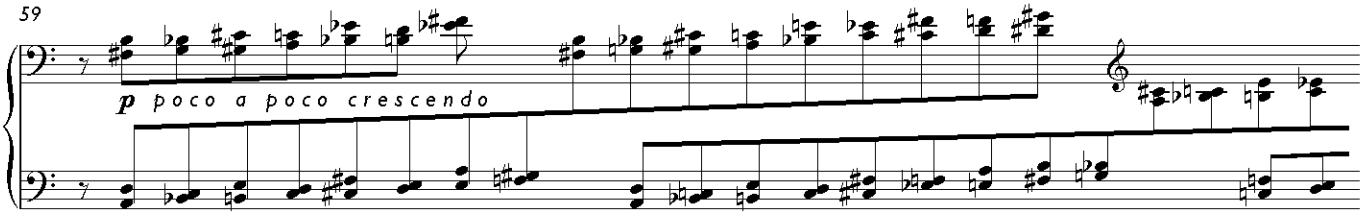
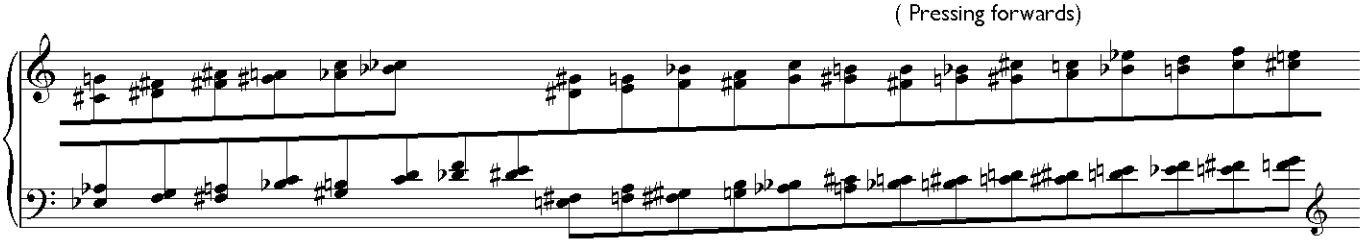
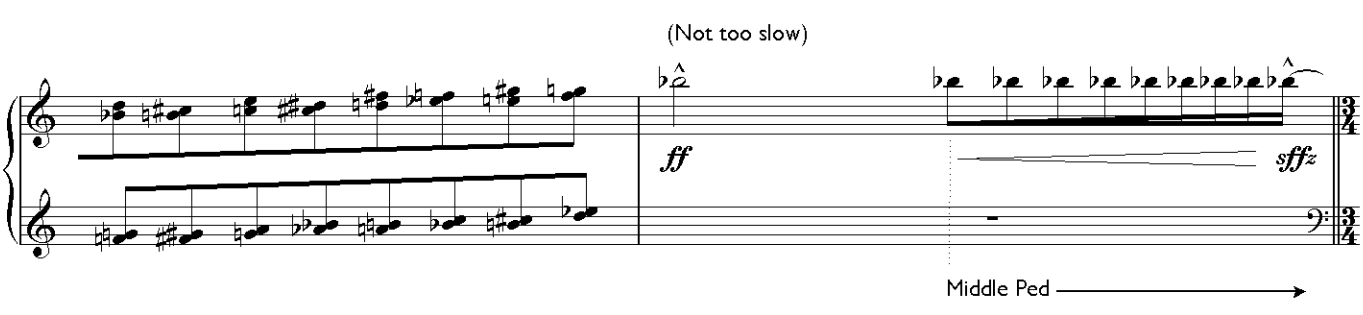

54
f
sfz
sfz
sfz
più cresc.


57
ff
sfz
sfz
sfz

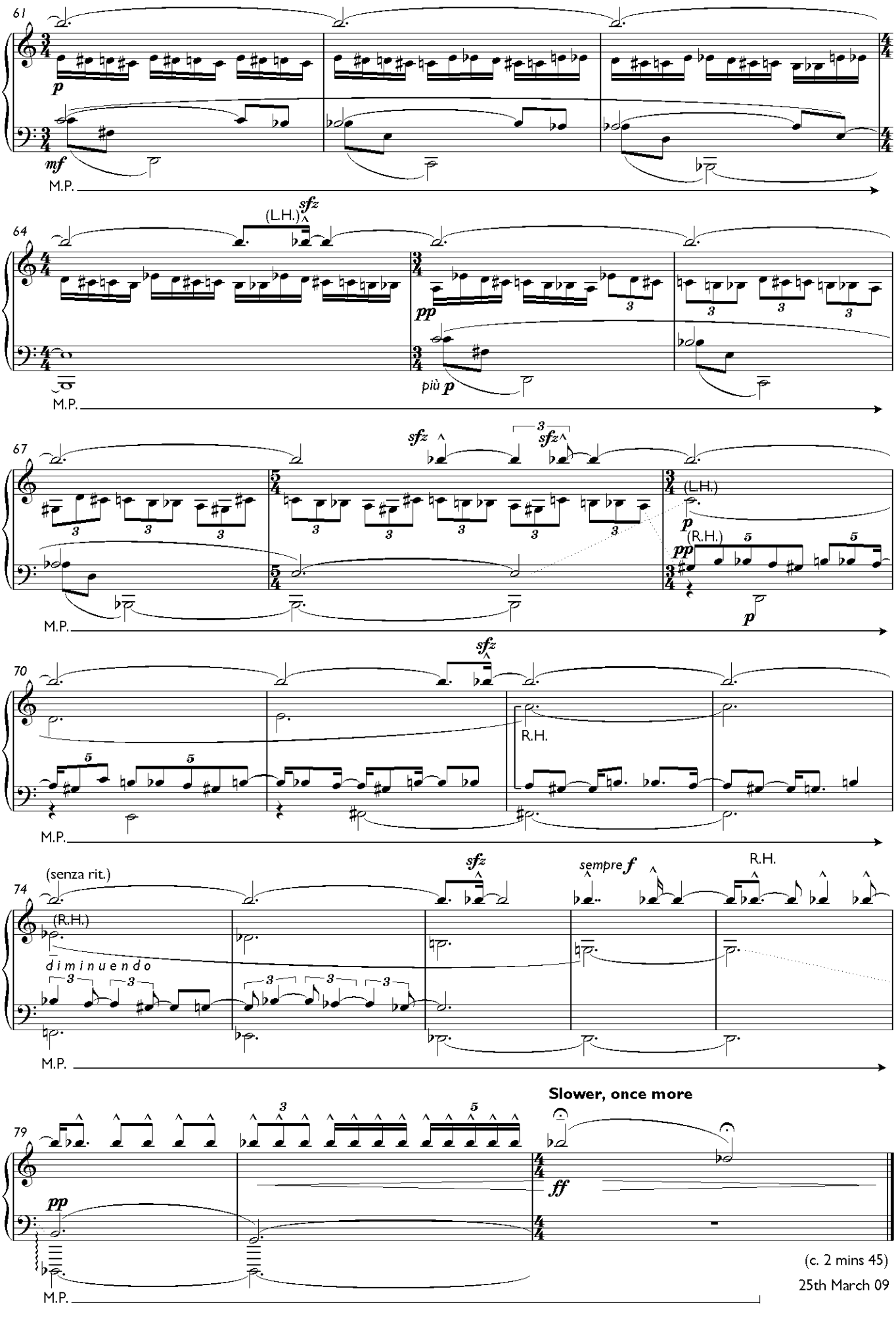
As before


59
p poco a poco crescendo


(Pressing forwards)


(Not too slow)
ff
sffz
Middle Ped

Tempo I



(c. 2 mins 45)

25th March 09

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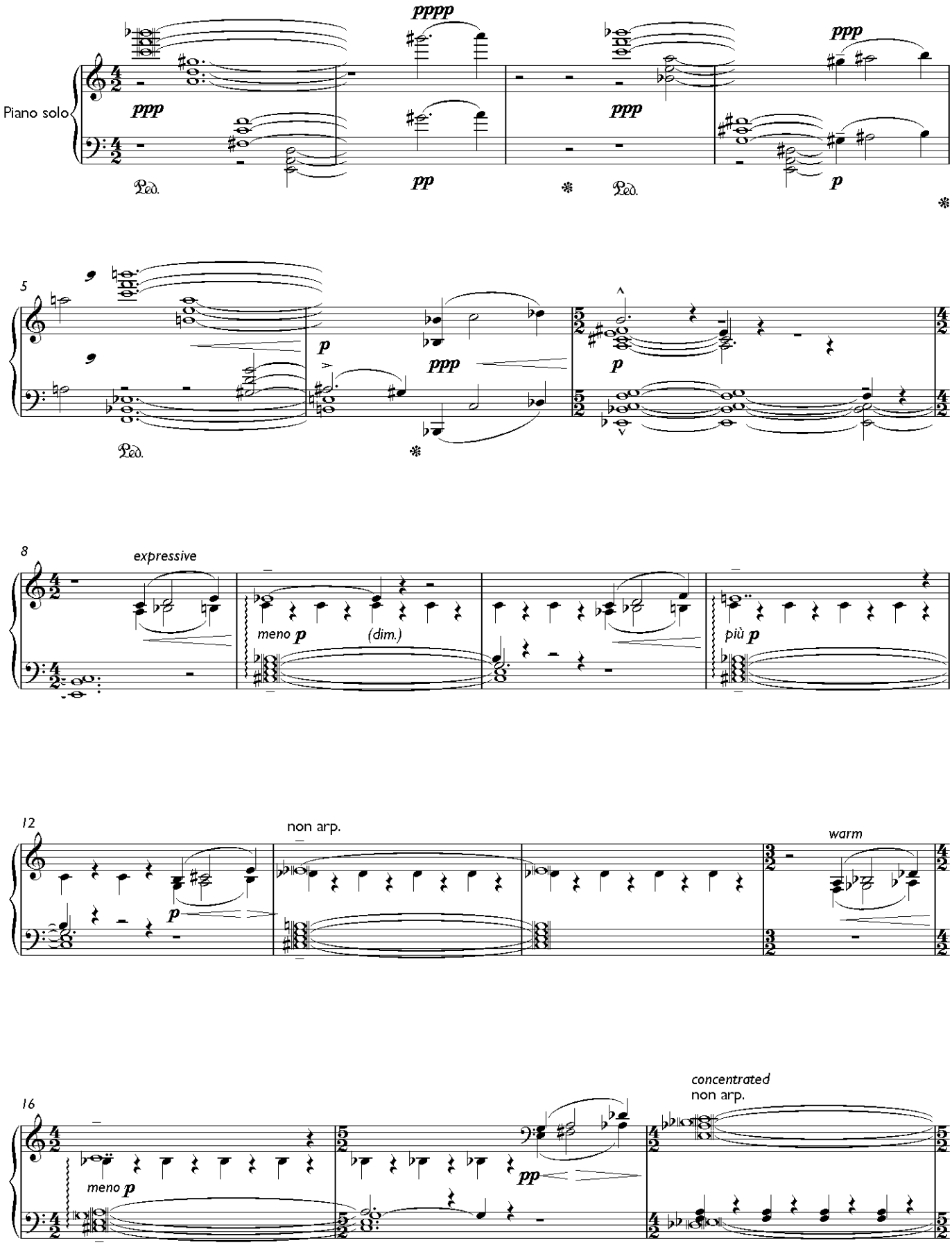
Still Waters

Extremely calm, ♩ = 40

Richard Whalley



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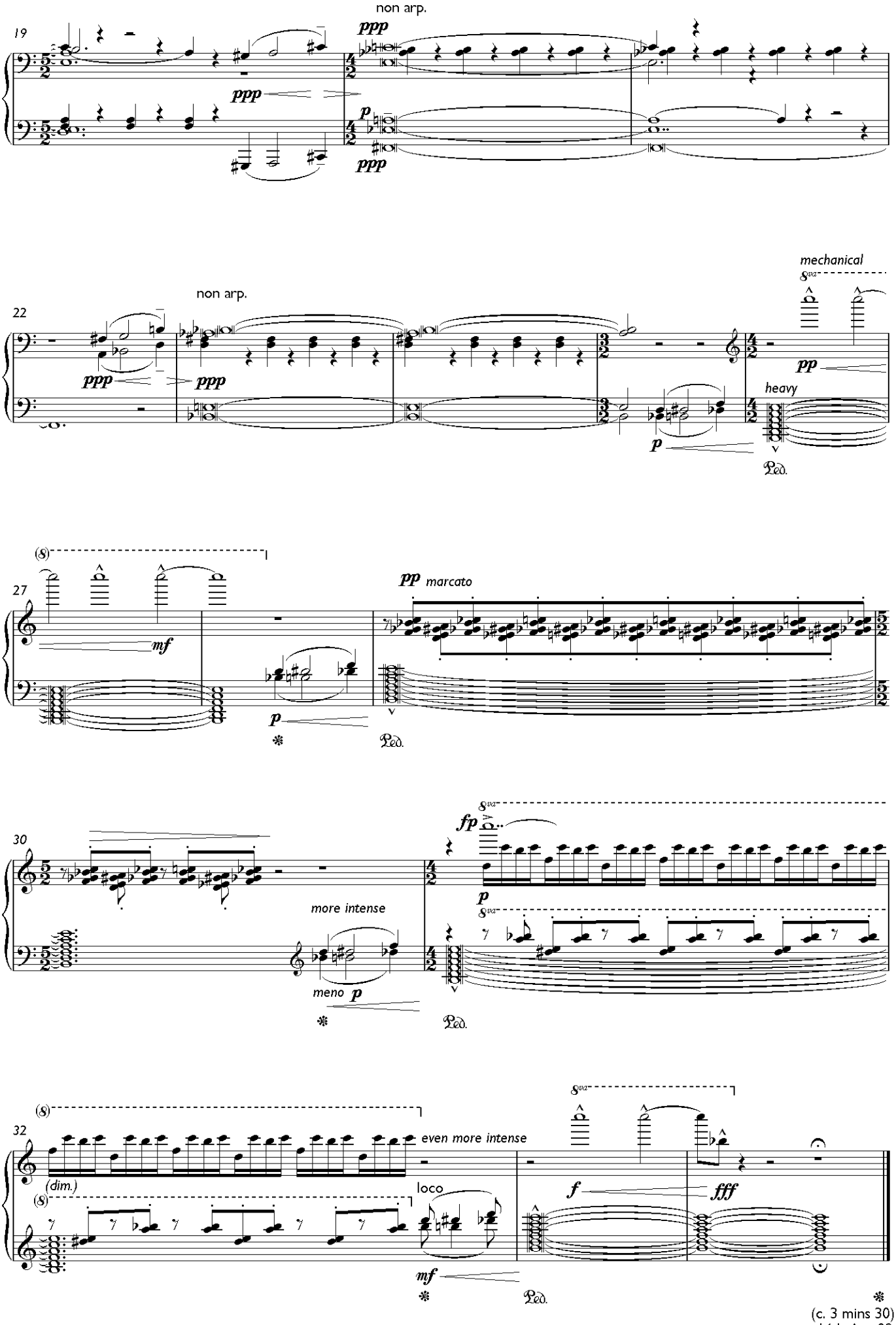


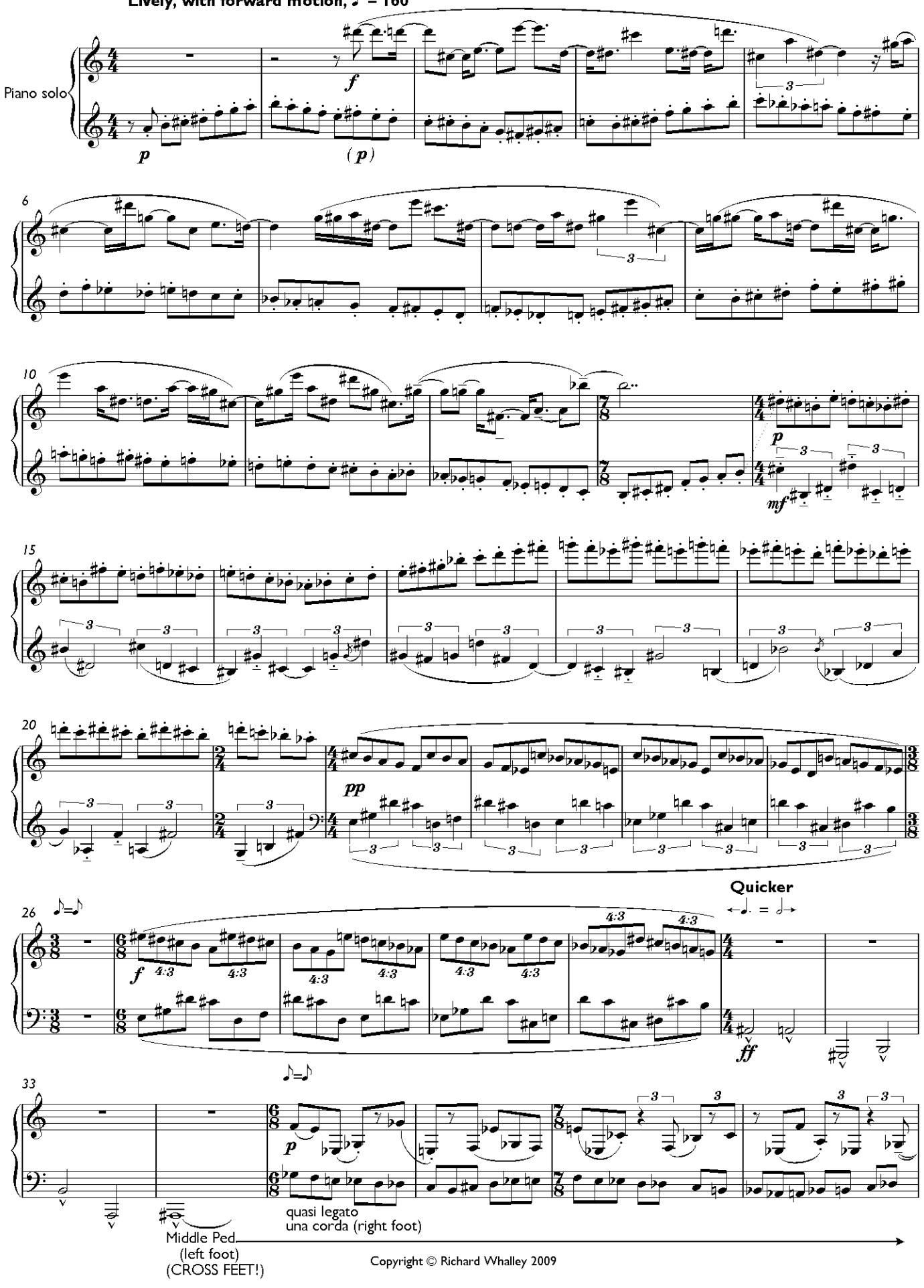
(c. 3 mins 30)
14th Apr 09

Humpty Dumpty

Richard Whalley

Lively, with forward motion, ♩ = 160

Piano solo



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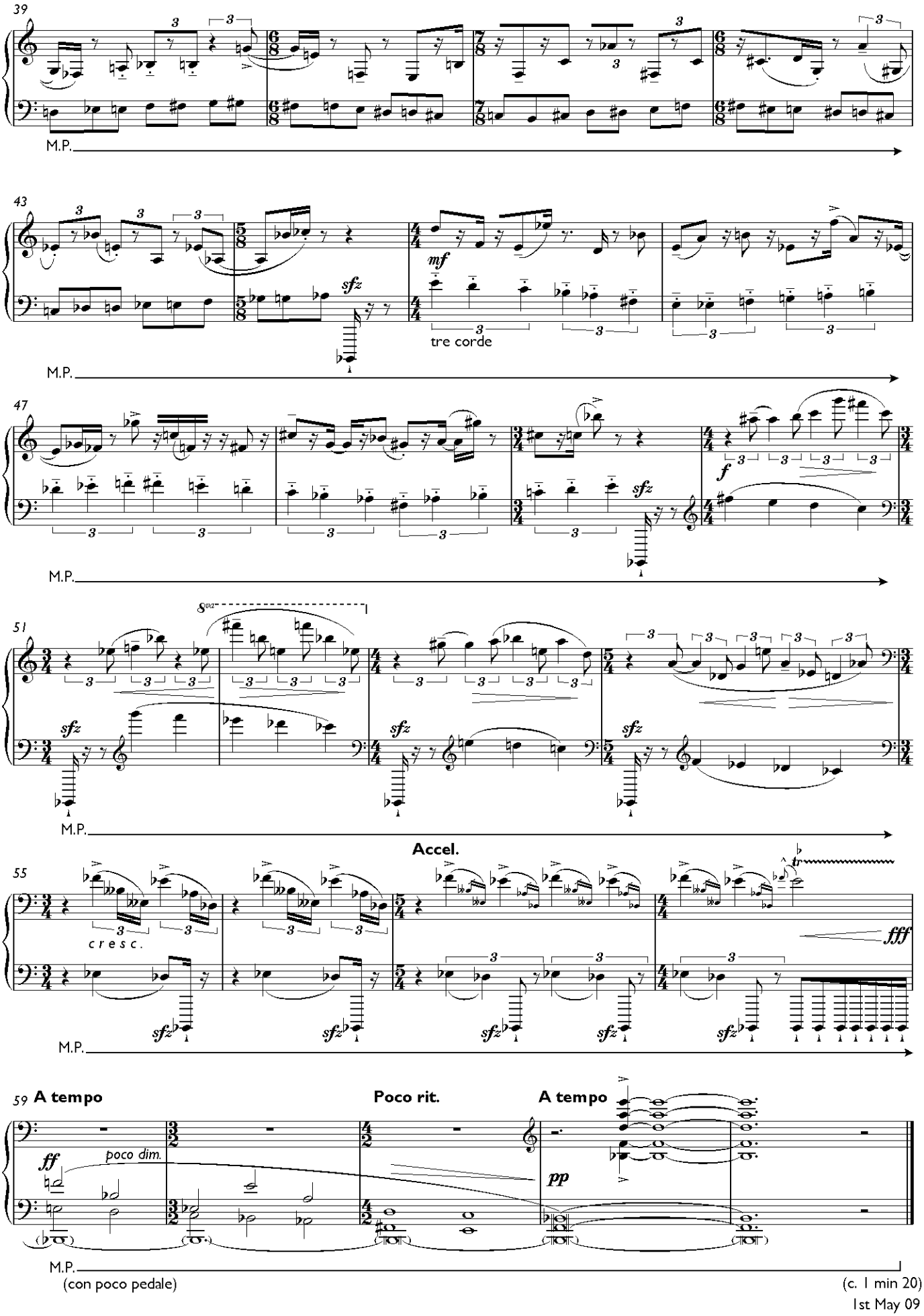

(c. 1 min 20)

1st May 09

Masquing the Medusa

for John Casken

Richard Whalley

Expressive with rubato ♩ = 48

Piano solo

ppp *p* *molto cantabile* *ppp*

With pedal

4

mf (always in relief)

(ppp)

7

(pushing forward very slightly)

p *ppp*

(release ped) (ped)

9

(becoming more expansive)

cresc.

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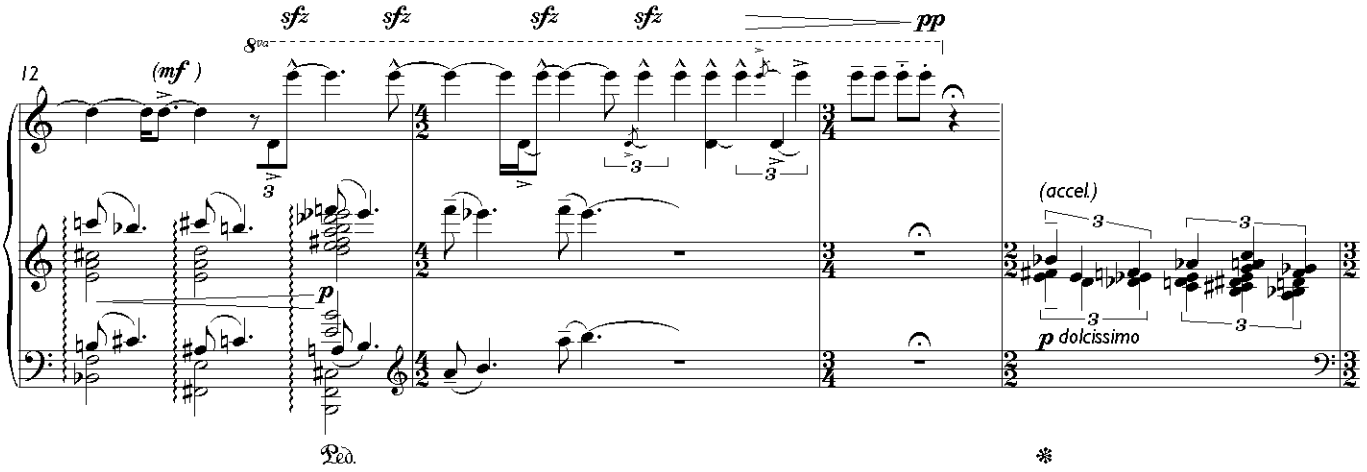

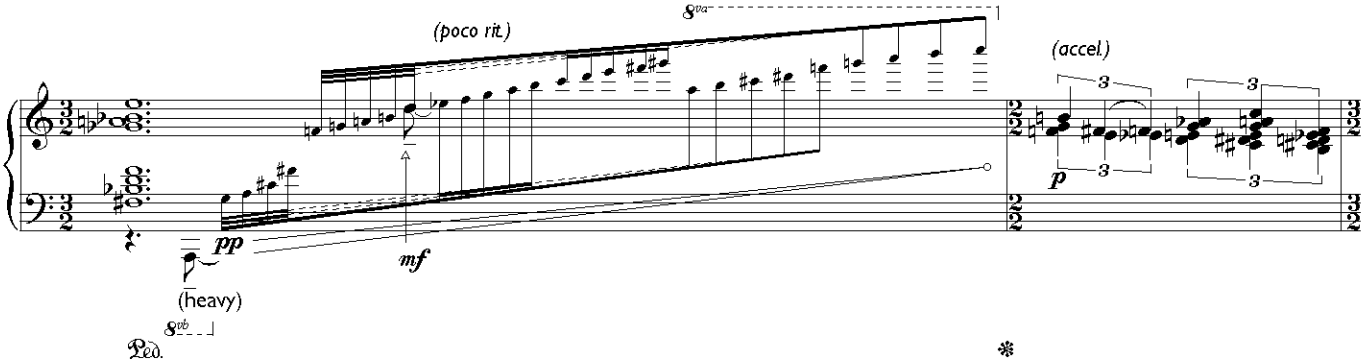

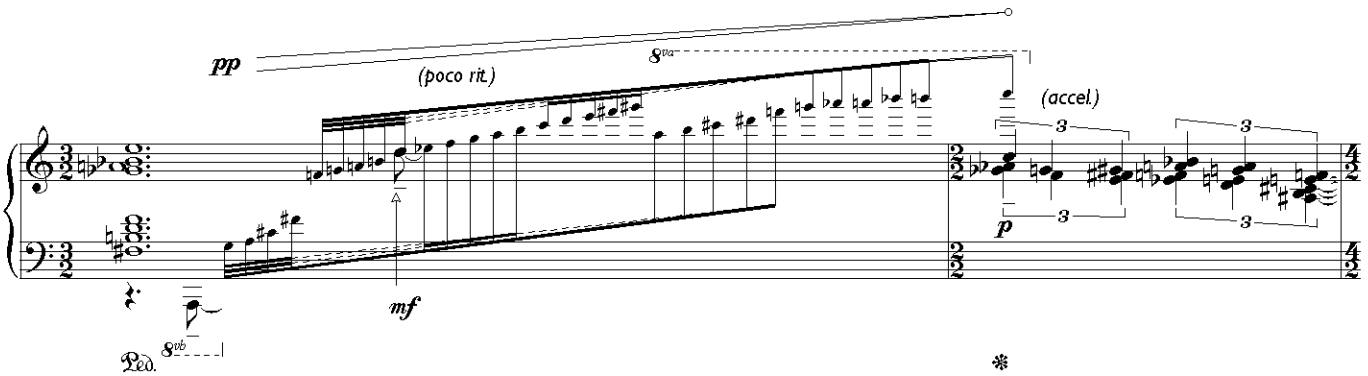

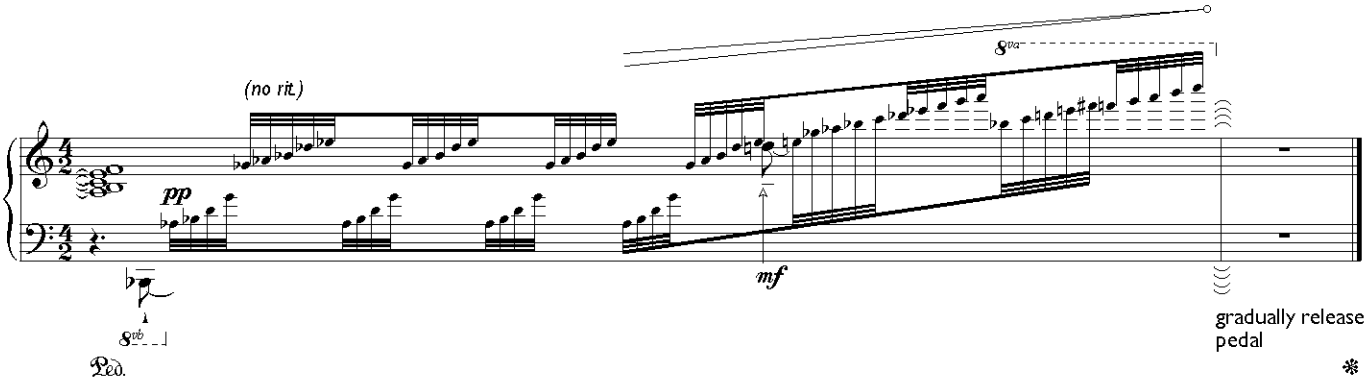

(c. 2 mins 15)

30th Aug 07