Piano

James M. Stephenson

Burden of Destiny

for Solo Trumpet and Piano

Music for Brass
www.stephensonmusic.com

Program Notes: Burden of Destiny
(2009)

by James M. Stephenson

In the winter of 2007, the Chicago Symphony was on a Florida tour, which included Naples, where I was living at the time. After their performance, I had the opportunity to meet Chris Martin (Principal Trumpet), where he implied that it would be nice someday to get a new piece from me. Two years later, which included my family's move from Naples to Chicago, and after many text-messages and emails, the opportunity finally presented itself in the form of a recital to be held at the International Trumpet Guild's (ITG) Conference, to be held in Harrisburg, PA.

When considering what to write for Chris, I was looking to do something that would be a relatively serious piece, and one that would represent both of our ties to Chicago (I am originally from the area). It was during this search that I was reminded of Carl Sandburg's poem, 'Chicago', and I decided to give it a read to see what might serve as inspiration.

Those of us from the city are well aware of the famous lines "Hog butcher for the World" or "City of Big Shoulders" - but it was a line describing the city, hidden later in the poem, that caught my eye: "Under the terrible burden of destiny laughing as a young man laughs." The idea of being burdened by something unknown, such as destiny, struck a chord with me, and inspired me to being work on the piece.

The piece immediately takes on a serious nature, starting almost hauntingly slowly and simply, not yet daring to take on the impending difficulty which is sure to come at any time. The challenges do in fact arrive, and it is during these moments that I strove to portray some of Chicago's known qualities, the working man's city, "strong and cunning", a "tall bold slugger set vivid against the little soft cities." I wanted to write a strong piece, full of action and weight, all the while showing off what I believe to be Chris Martin's best qualities as a musician: which in a word would basically be: Everything.

I do believe the piece could also be done as a multi-media venture, using a narrator to read the poem, either before, or interspersed throughout the performance of the 9 minute work.

Jim Stephenson
May, 2009

Premiere date: May 30, 2009. Harrisburg, PA. [ITG Conference]

Piano

for Chris Martin and Rebecca Wilt

Burden of Destiny

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Piano

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Burden of Destiny

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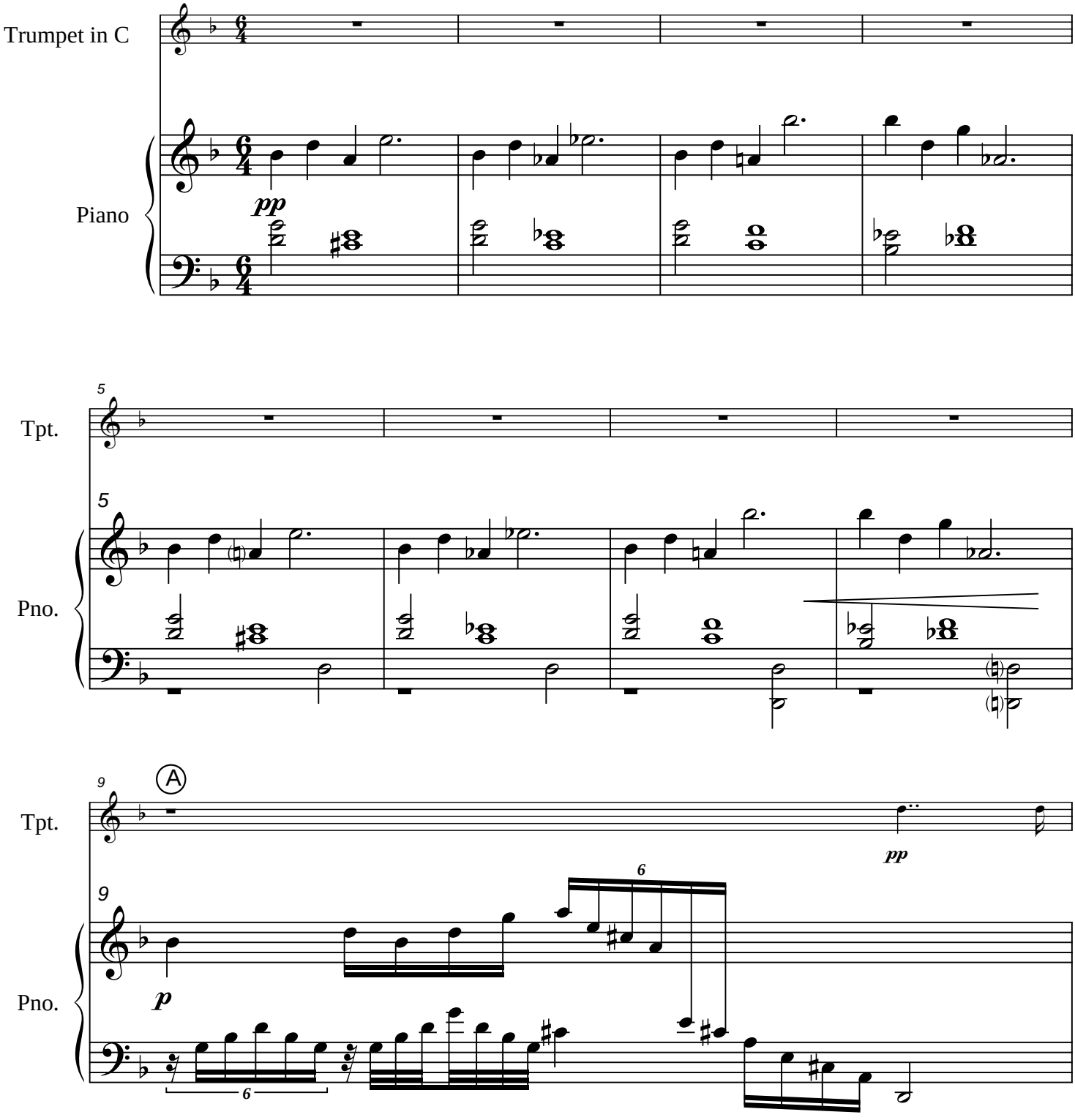
2009

Distant, Reminiscing (♩ = c. 76)



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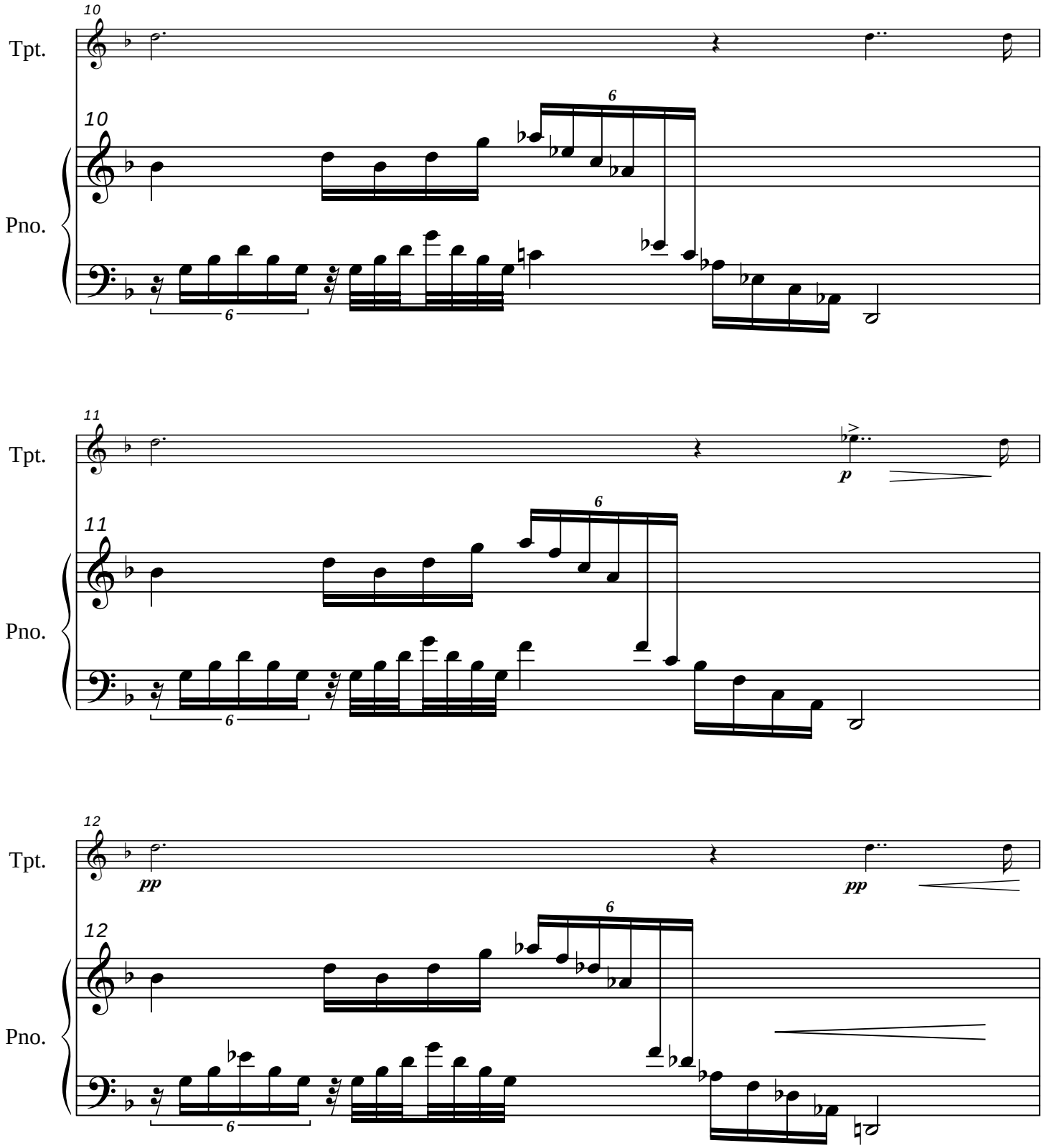
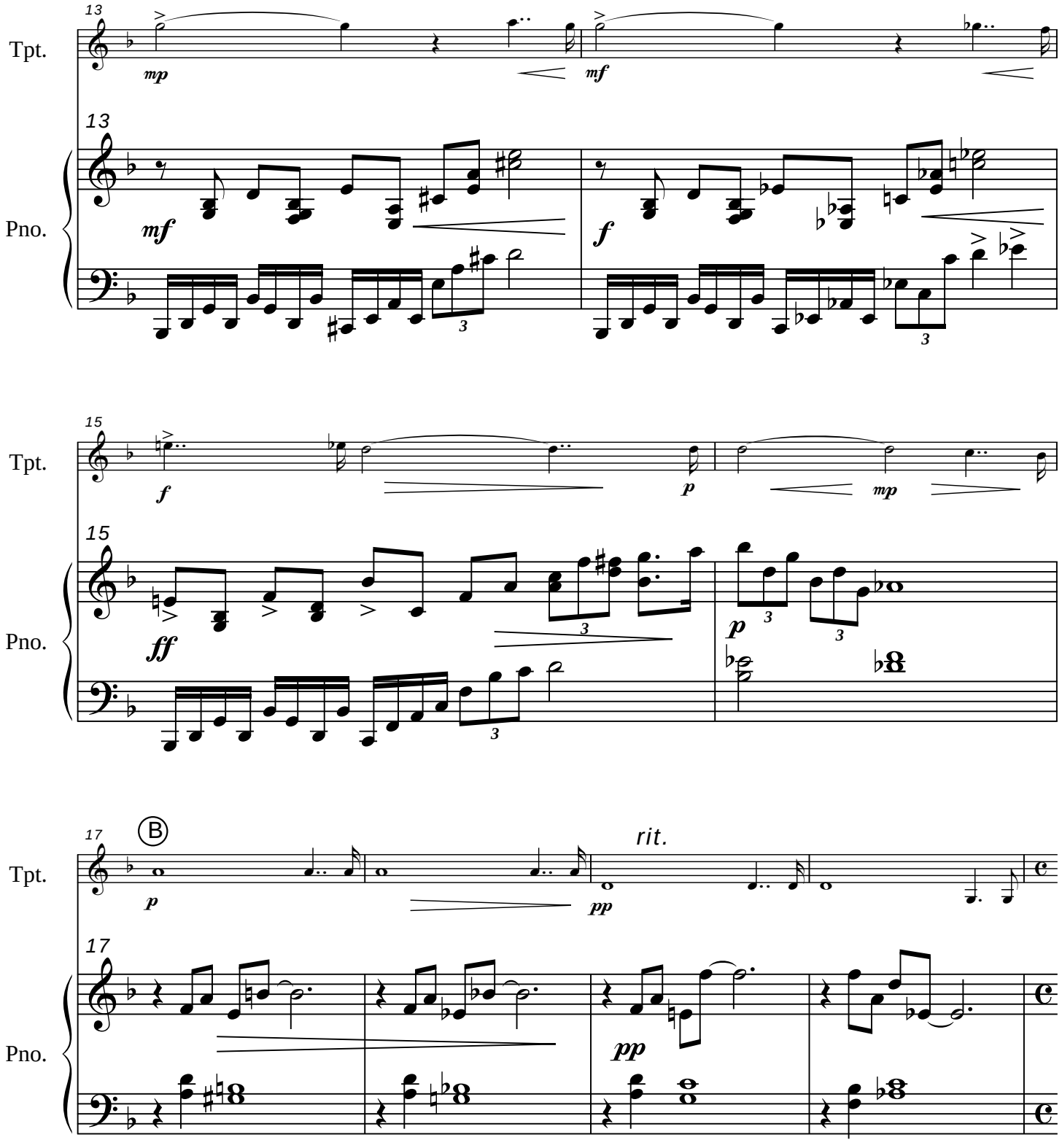
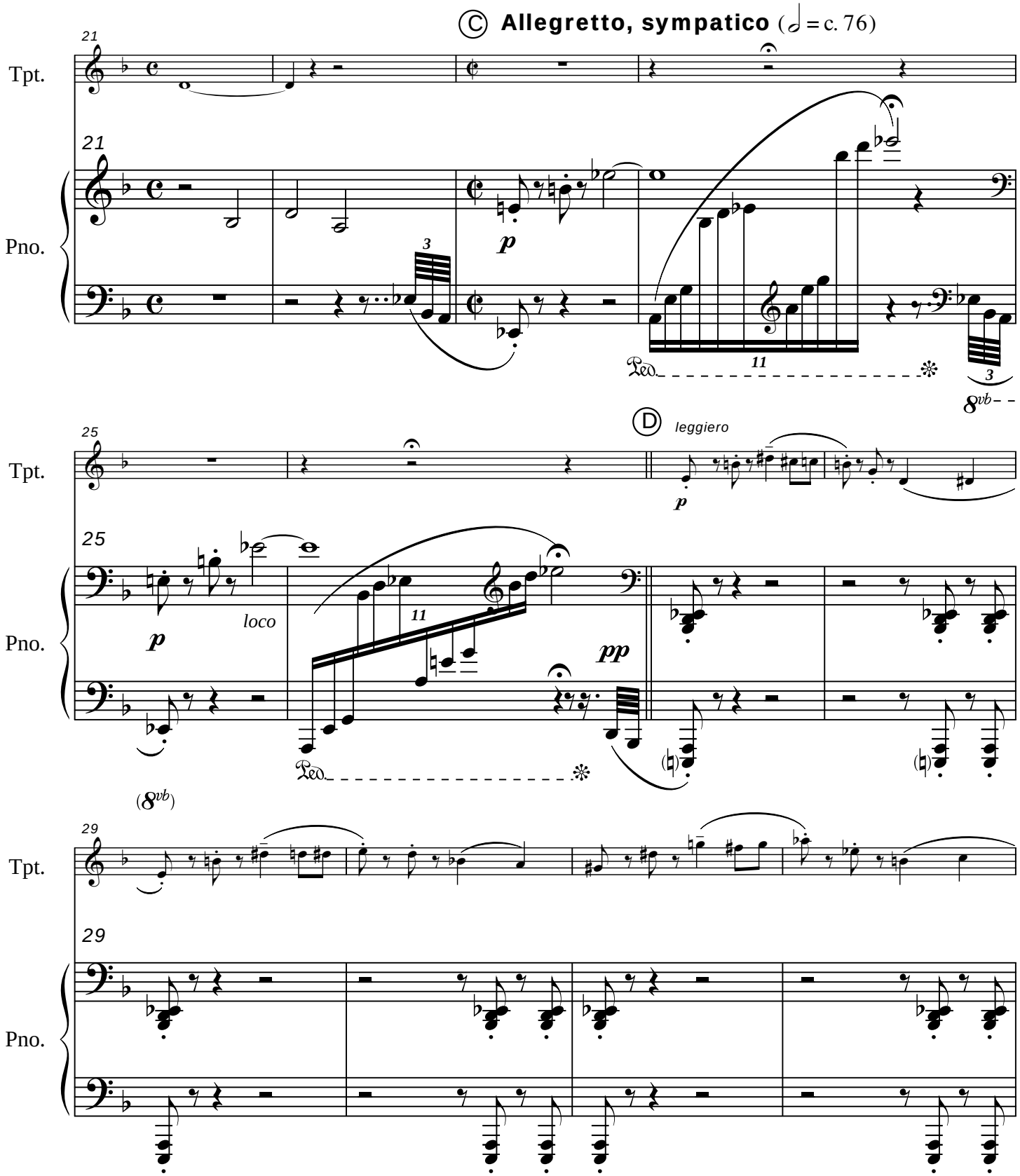
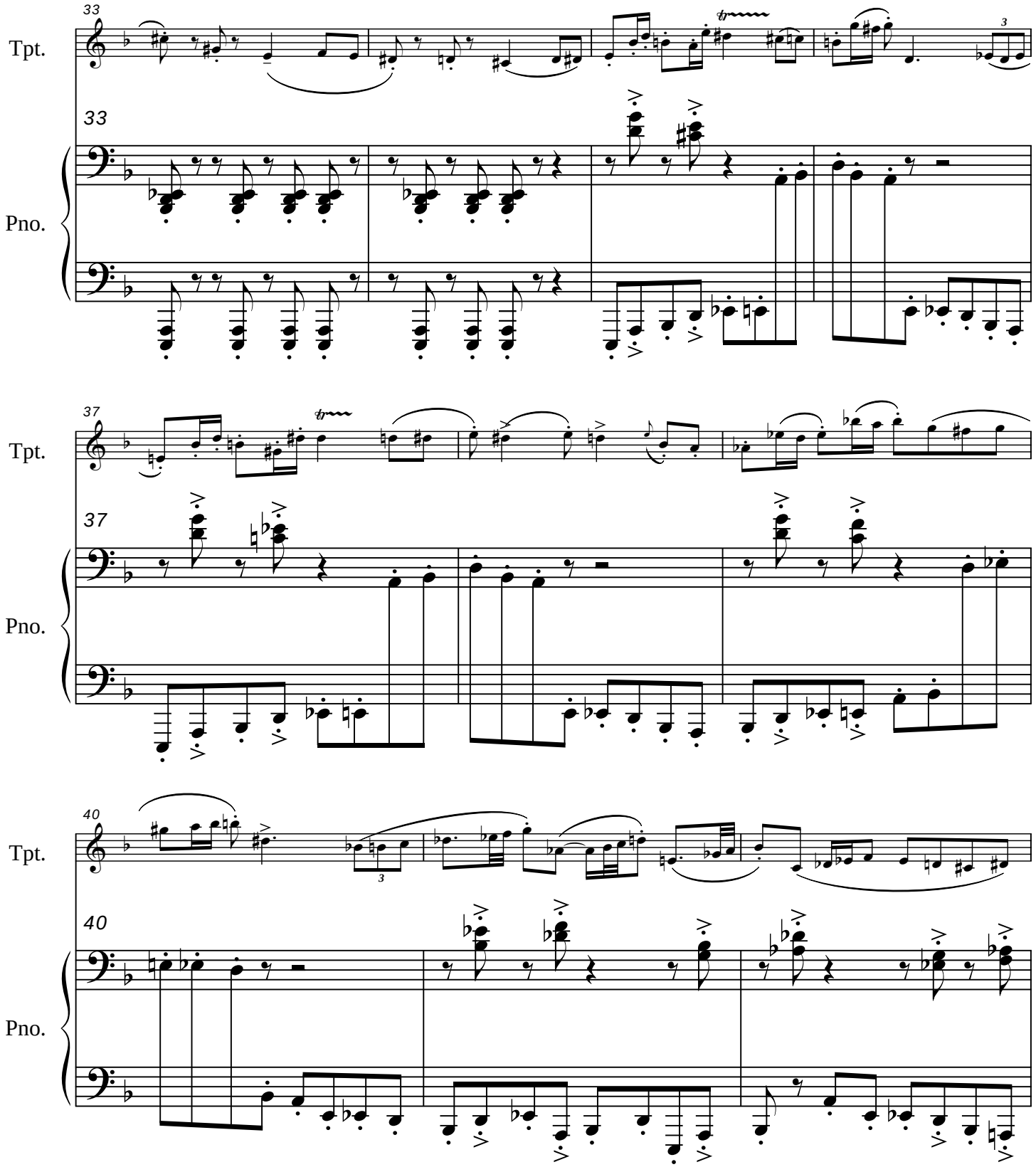

10
Tpt.
10
Pno.
6
6
11
Tpt.
p
11
Pno.
6
6
12
Tpt.
pp
pp
12
Pno.
6
6


13
Tpt.
mp
mf
13
Pno.
mf
f
15
Tpt.
f
p
mp
15
Pno.
ff
p
17
B
Tpt.
p
pp
rit.
17
Pno.
pp


Ⓒ Allegretto, sympatico (𝅗𝅥 = c. 76)
21
Tpt.
Pno.
p
3
11
Ped.
8vb
Ⓓ leggiero
25
loco
pp
(8vb)
29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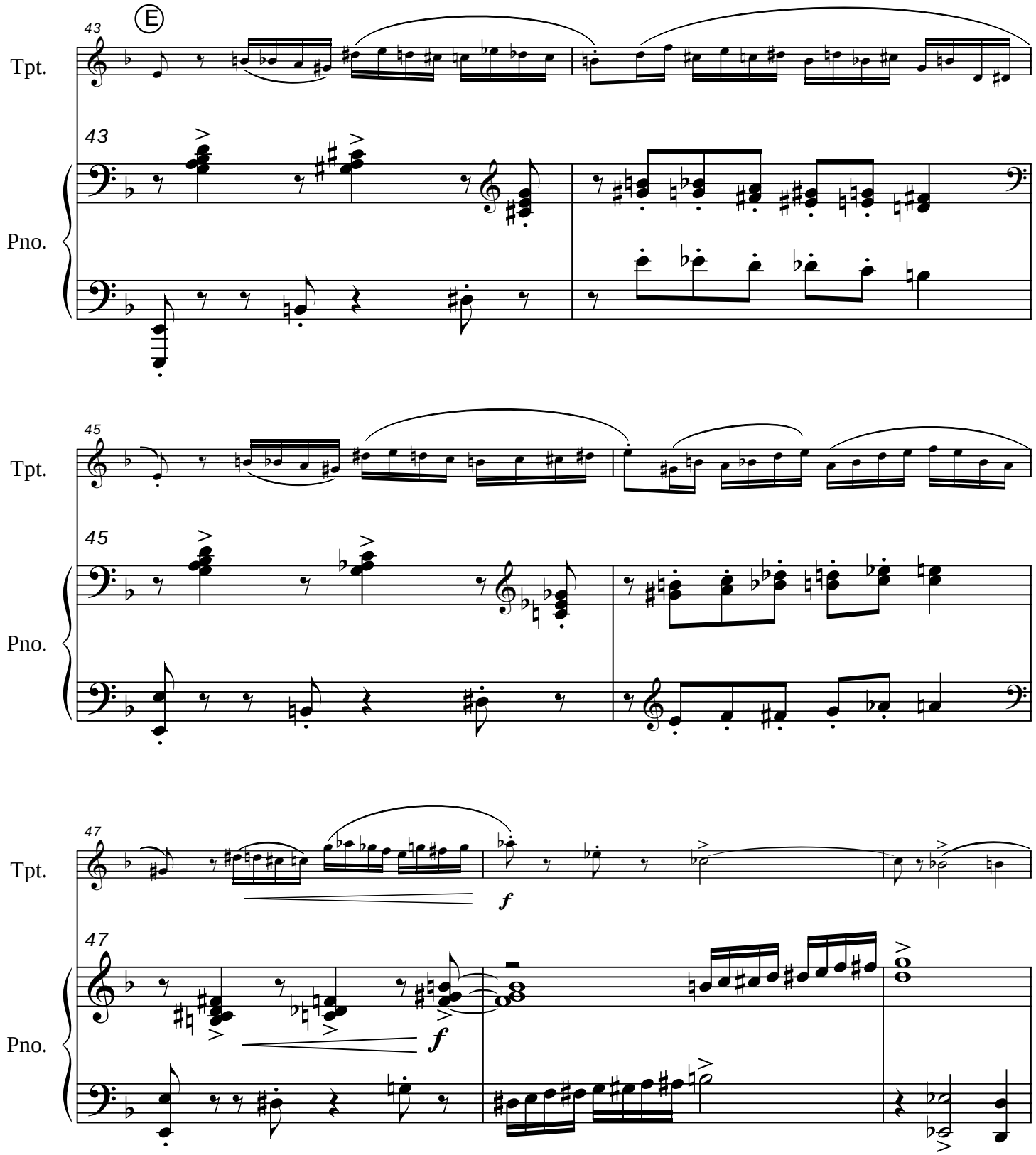
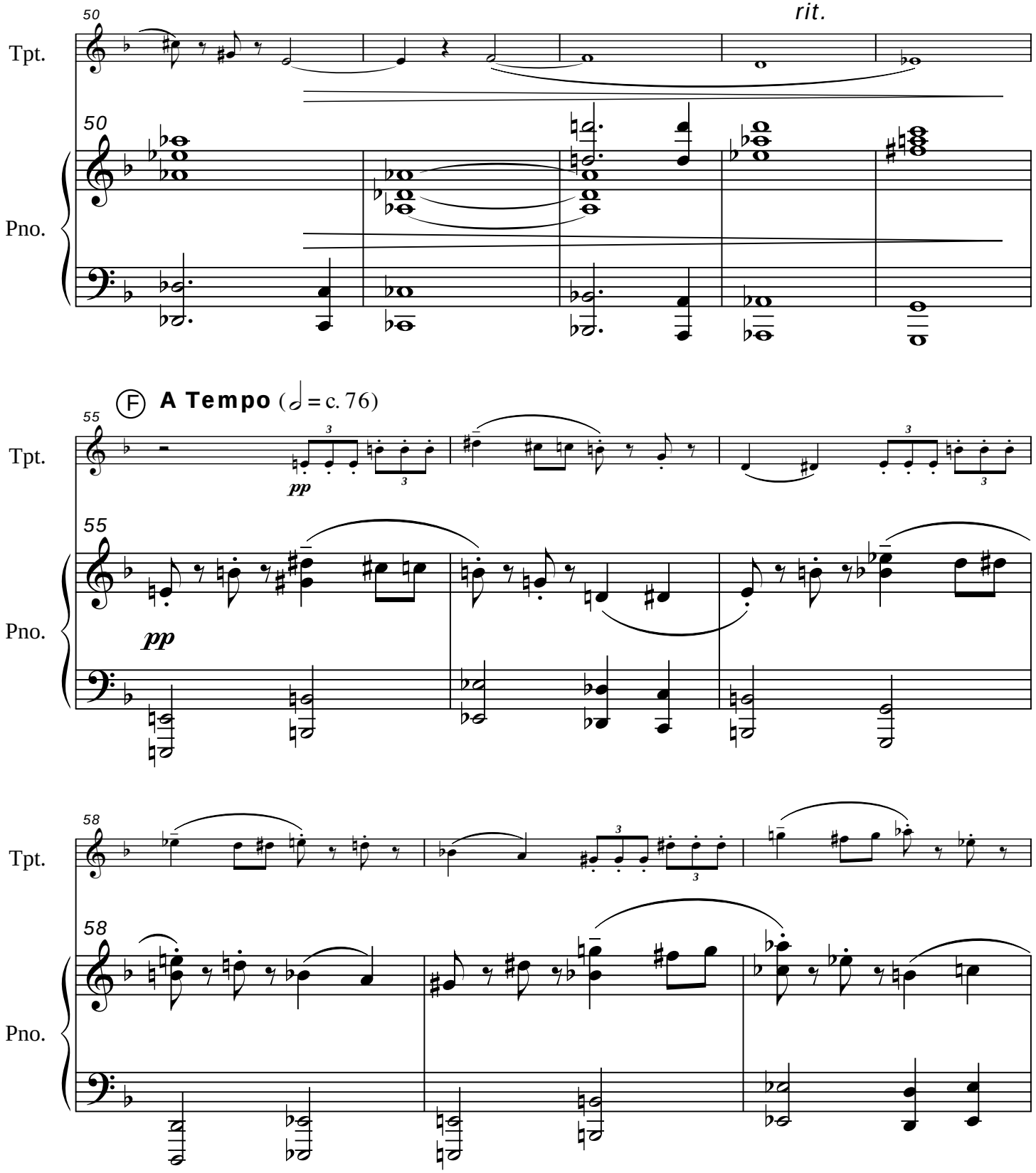
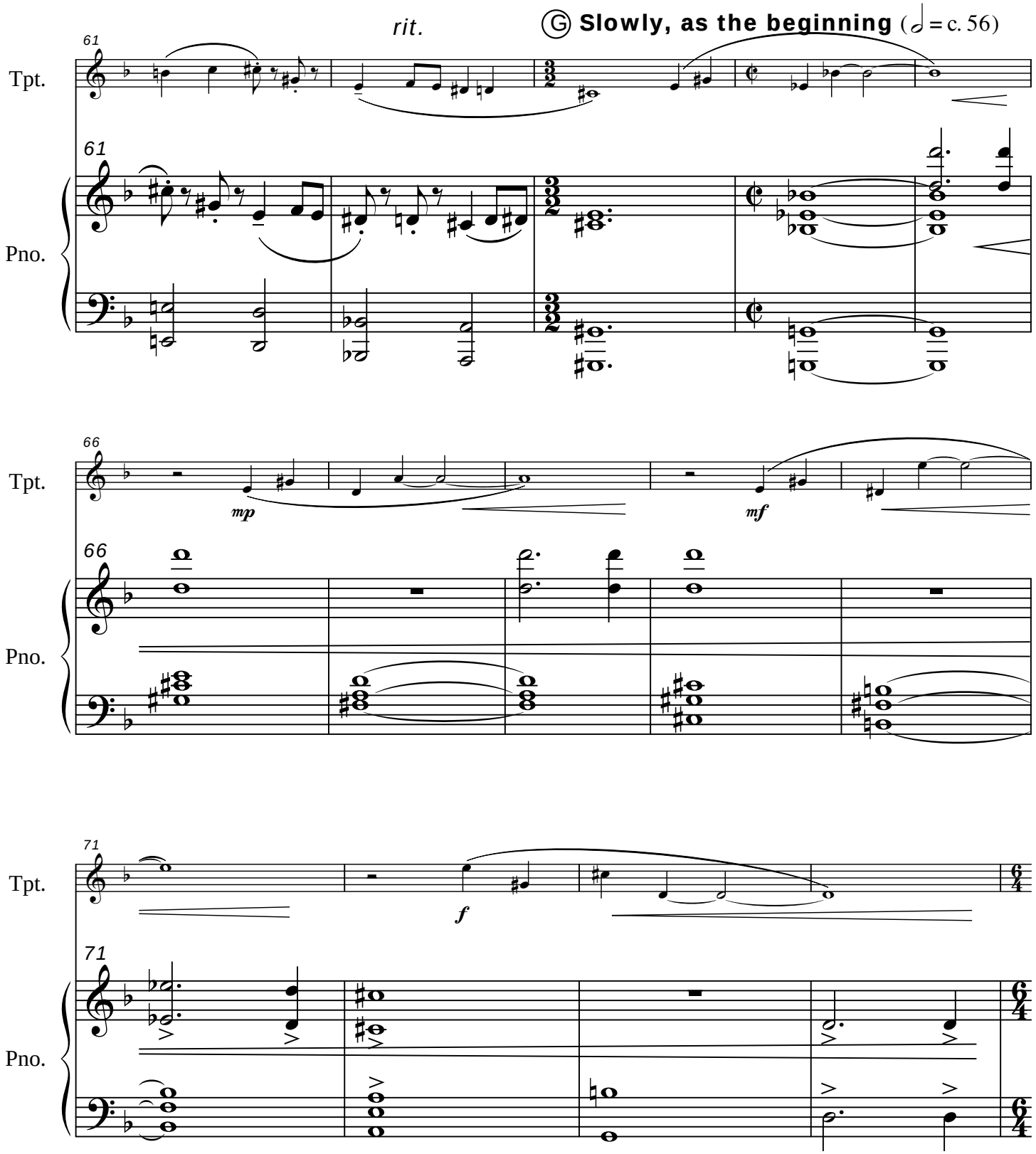
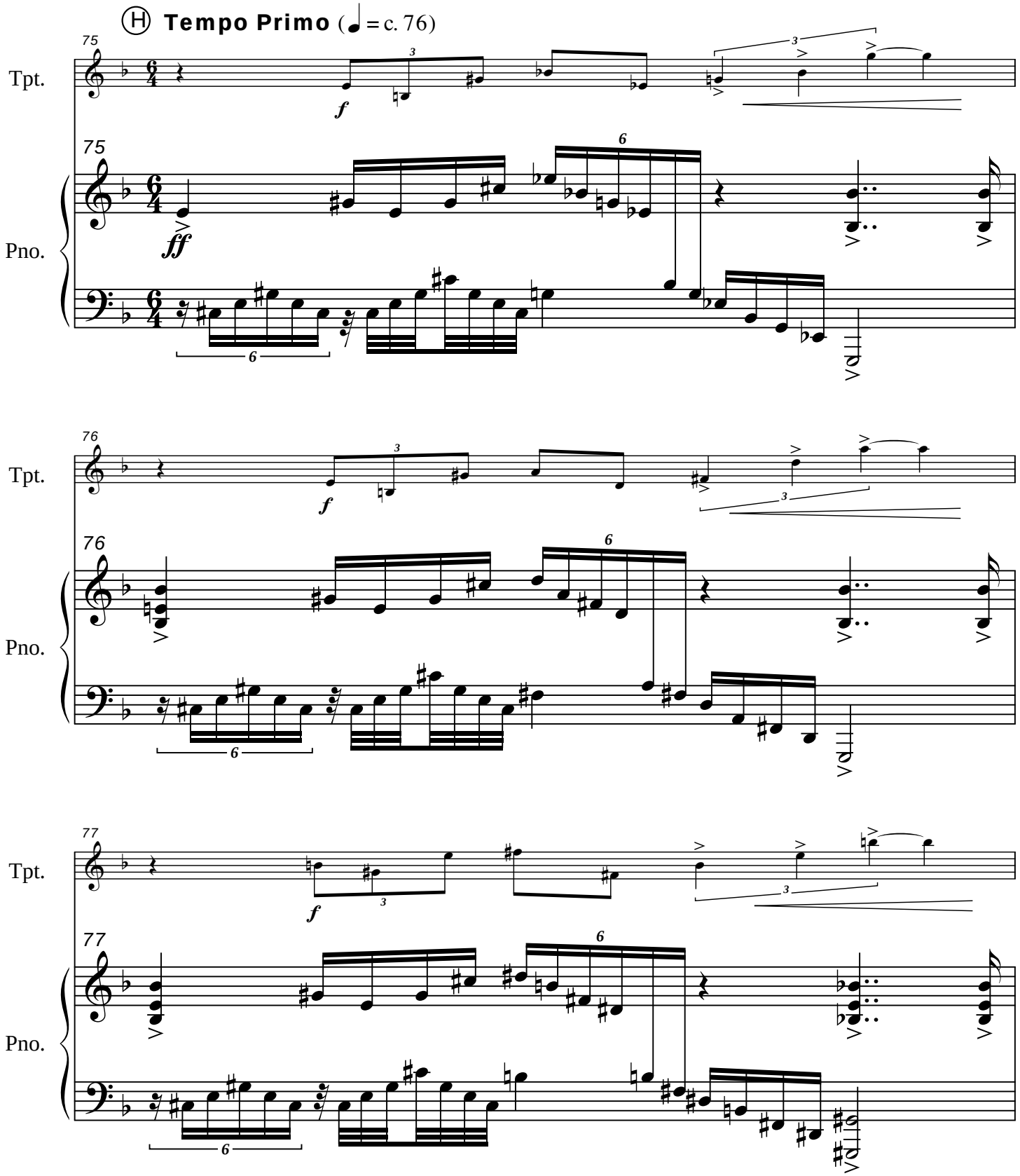
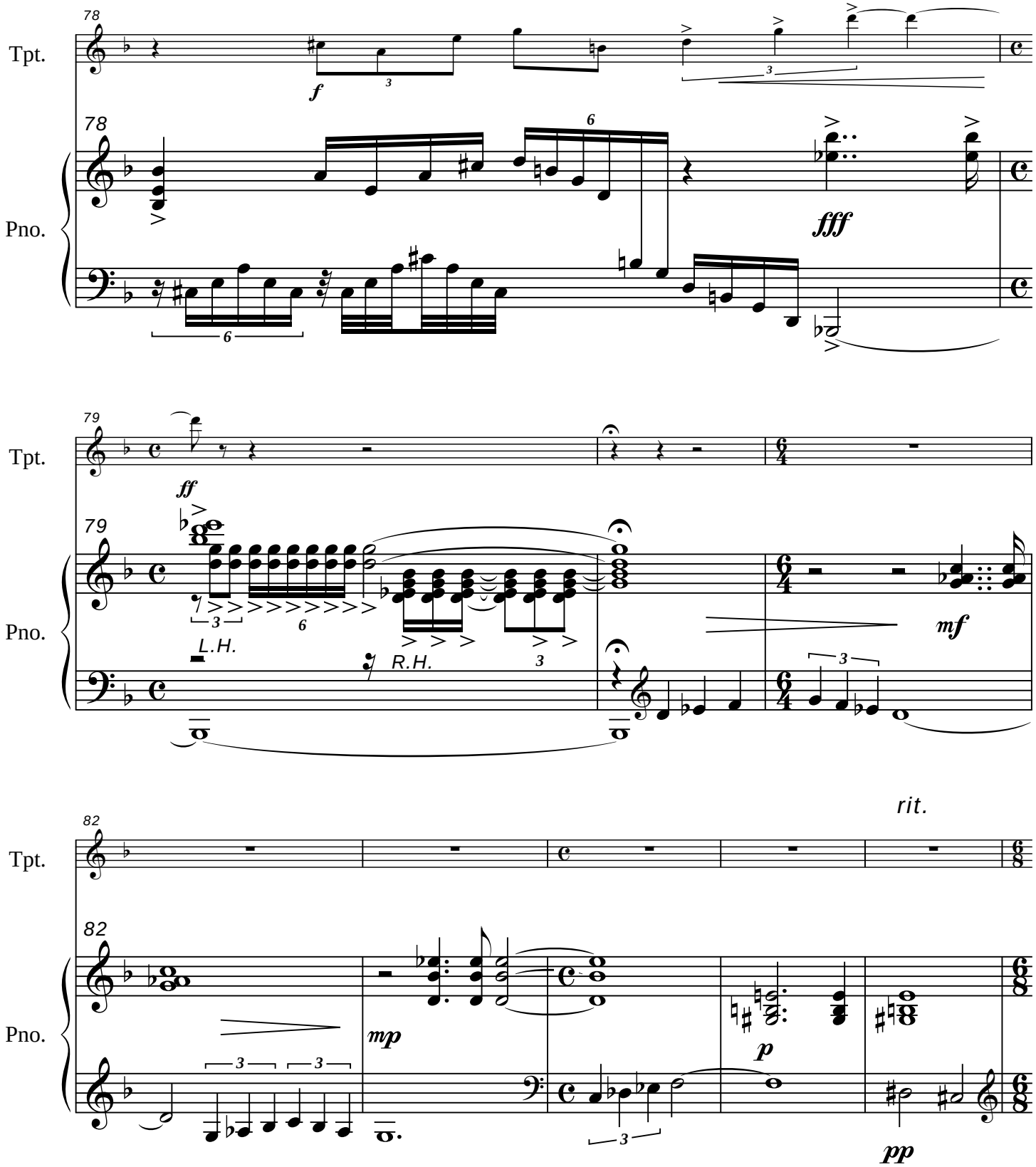
Tpt.
33
Pno.
37
Tpt.
37
Pno.
40
Tpt.
40
Pno.

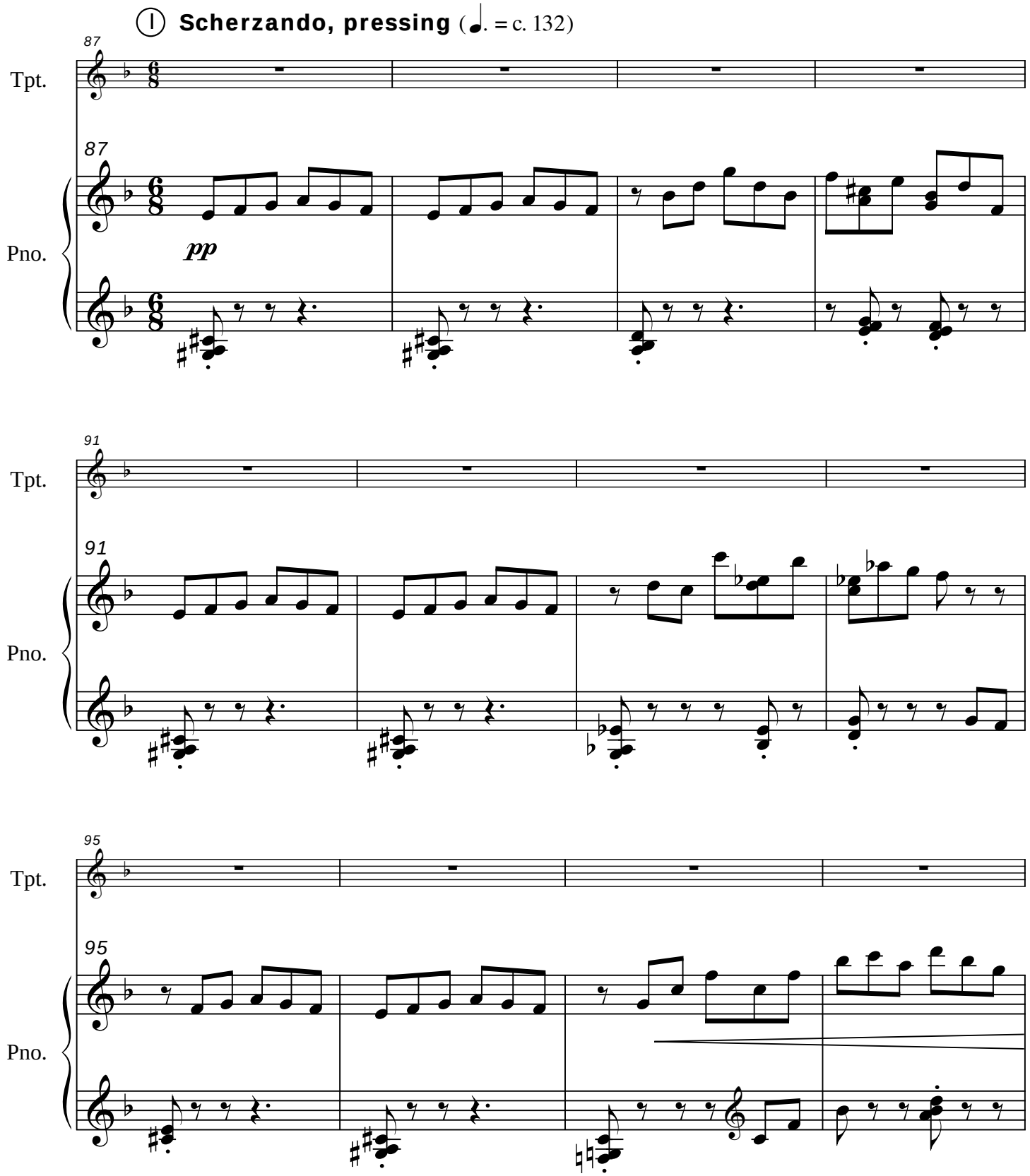

43
E
Tpt.
43
Pno.
45
Tpt.
45
Pno.
47
Tpt.
f
47
Pno.
f

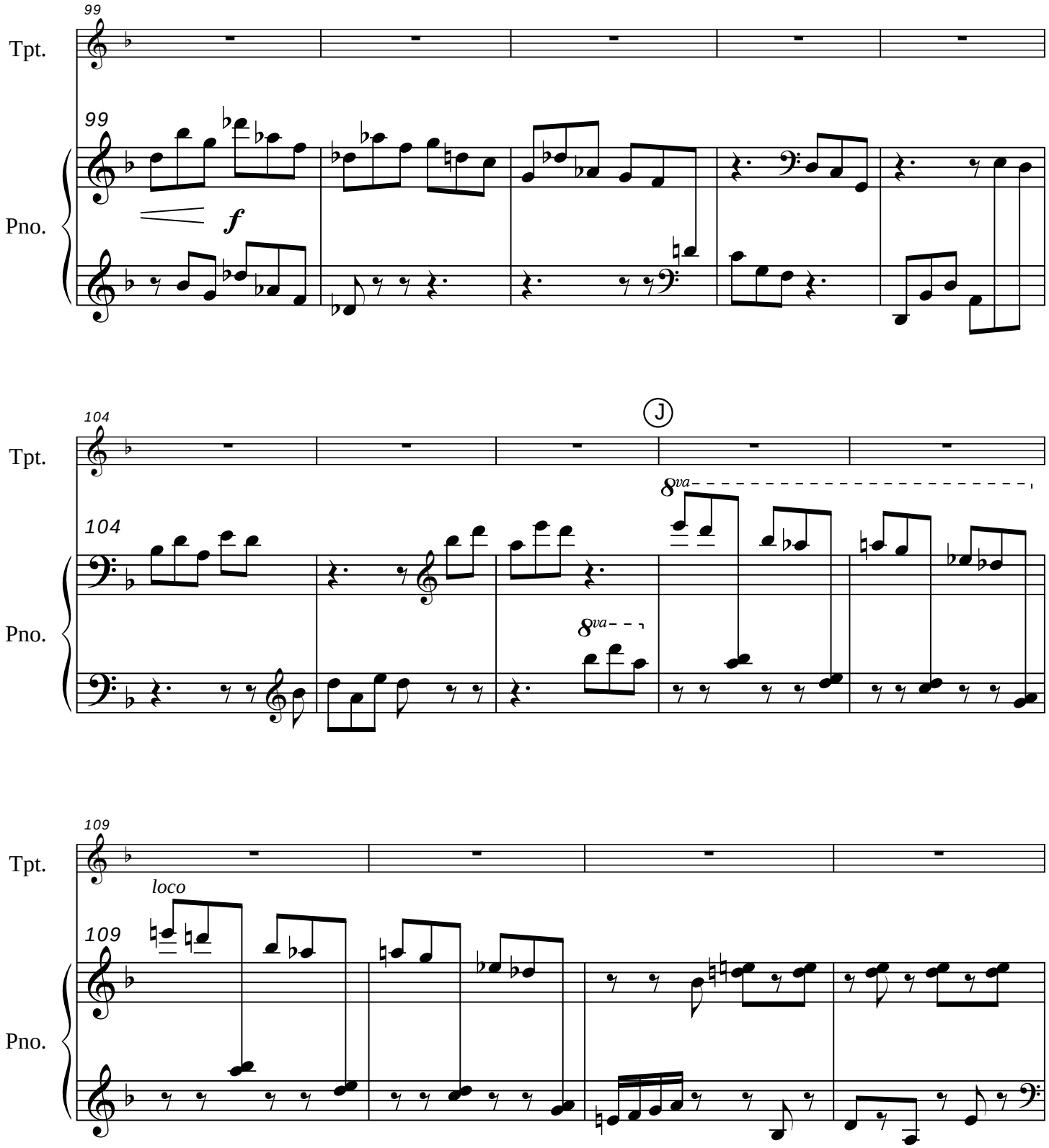

50
rit.
Tpt.
50
Pno.
Ⓕ A Tempo (𝅗𝅥 = c. 76)
55
Tpt.
pp
55
Pno.
pp
58
Tpt.
58
Pno.

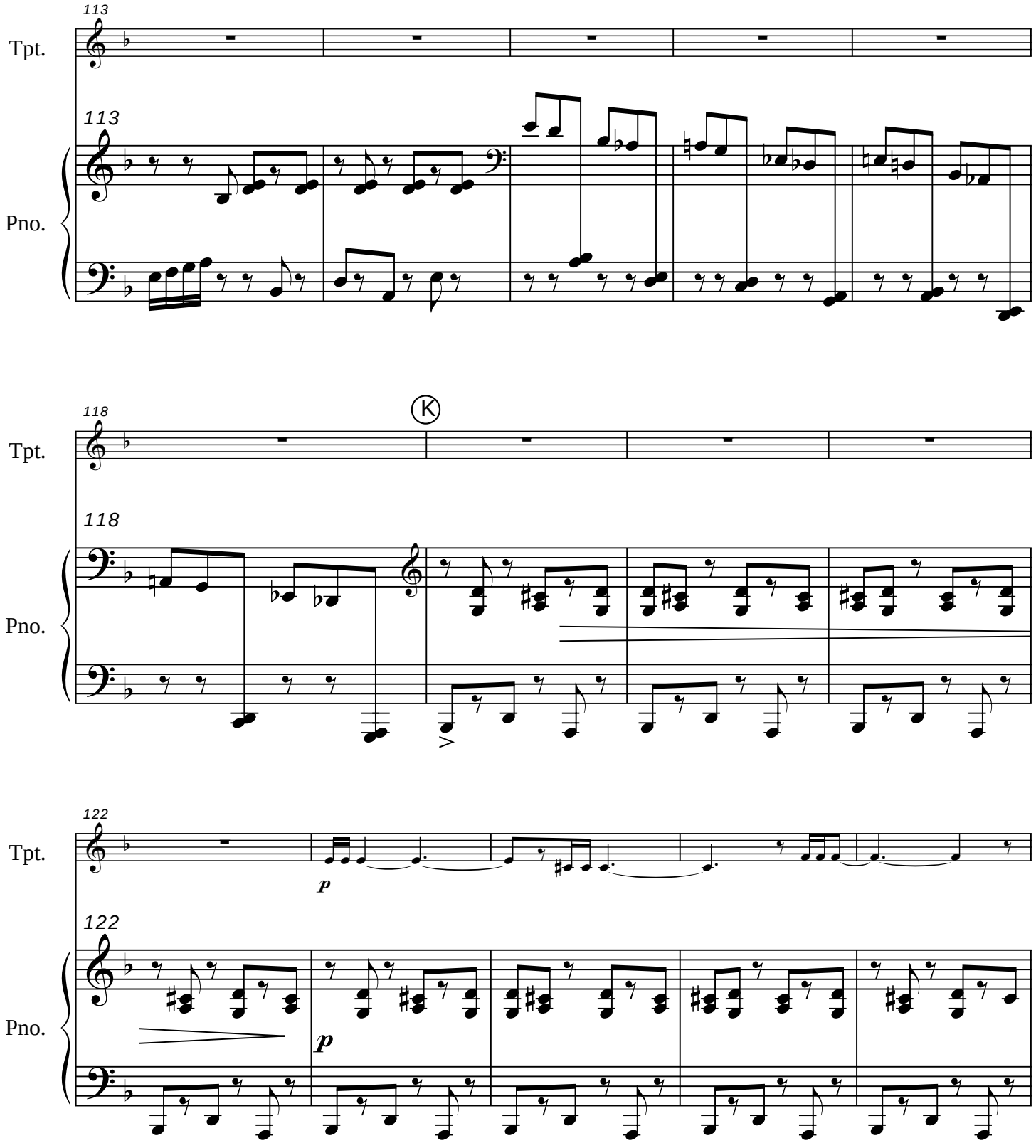

rit.
Ⓖ Slowly, as the beginning (𝅗𝅥 = c. 56)
61
Tpt.
Pno.
66
mp
mf
71
f

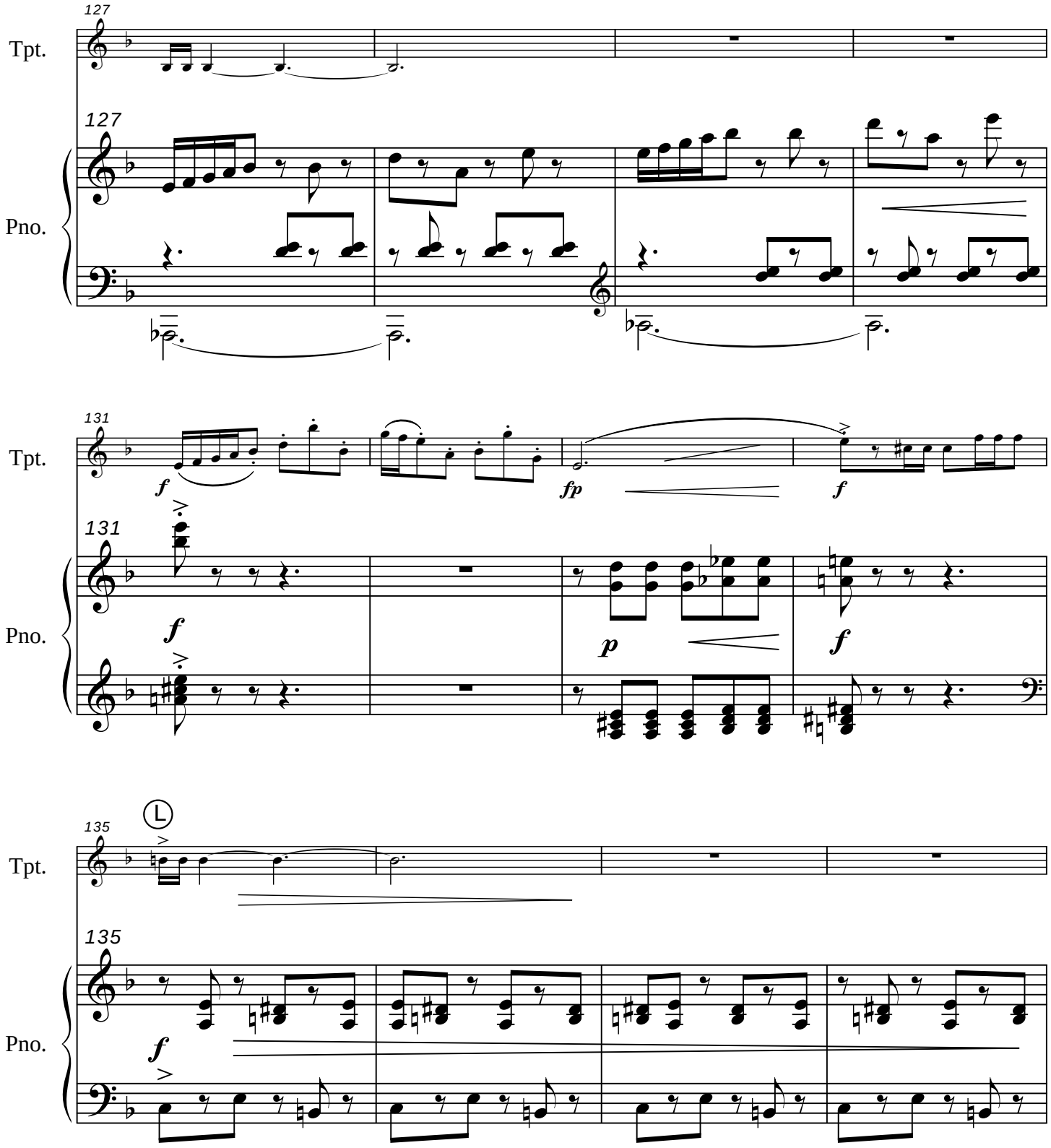

Ⓗ Tempo Primo (♩ = c. 76)
75
Tpt.
Pno.
f
ff
76
77

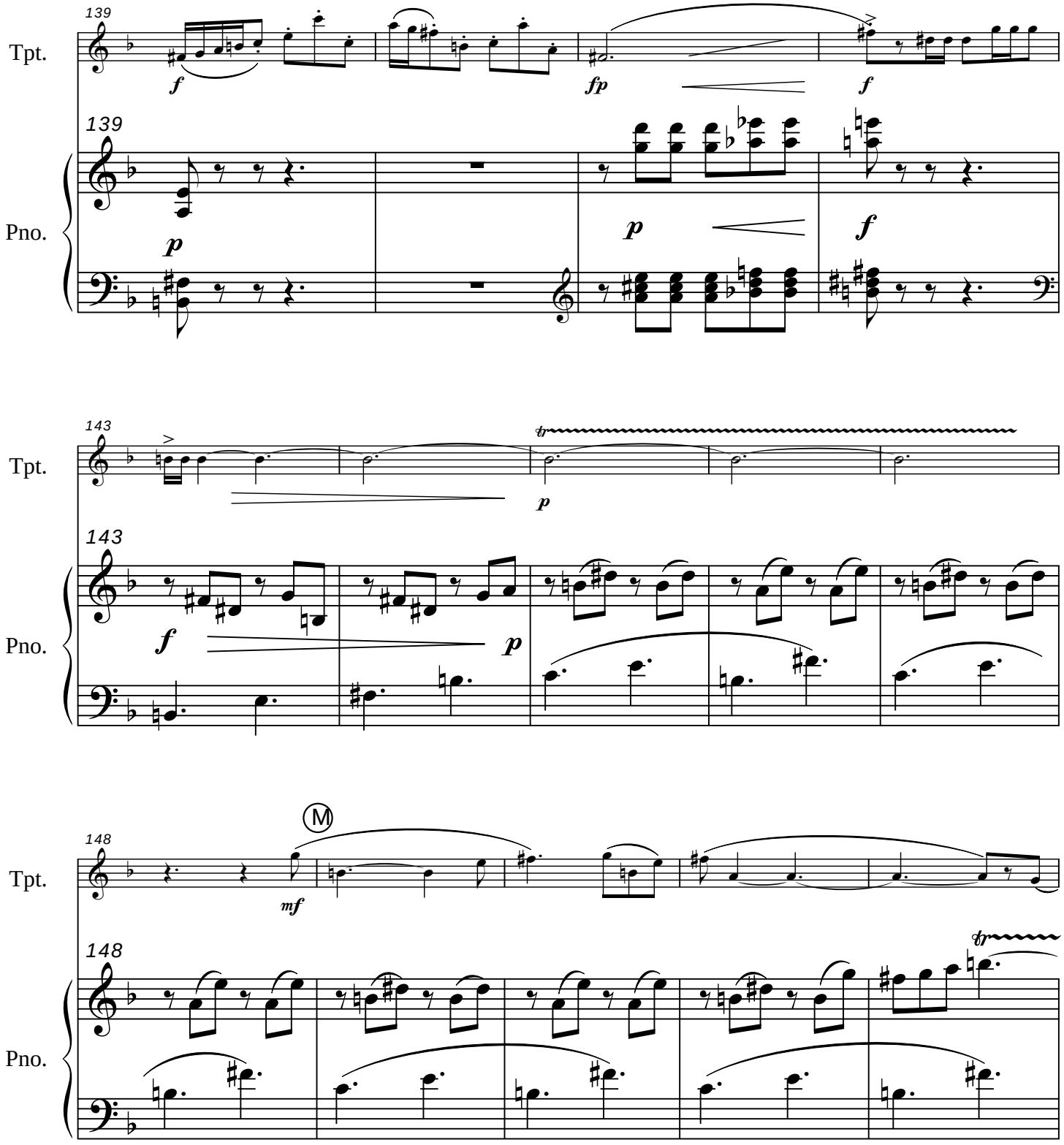

78
Tpt.
Pno.
f
fff
79
ff
L.H.
R.H.
mf
82
rit.
mp
p
pp


Ⅰ Scherzando, pressing (♩. = c. 132)
87
Tpt.
87
Pno.
pp
91
Tpt.
91
Pno.
95
Tpt.
95
Pno.


99
Tpt.
99
Pno.
f
104
Tpt.
J
8va
104
Pno.
8va
109
Tpt.
loco
109
Pno.


113
Tpt.
113
Pno.
118
Tpt.
K
118
Pno.
122
Tpt.
p
122
Pno.
p


127
Tpt.
127
Pno.
131
Tpt.
f
fp
f
131
Pno.
f
p
f
135
Tpt.
135
Pno.
f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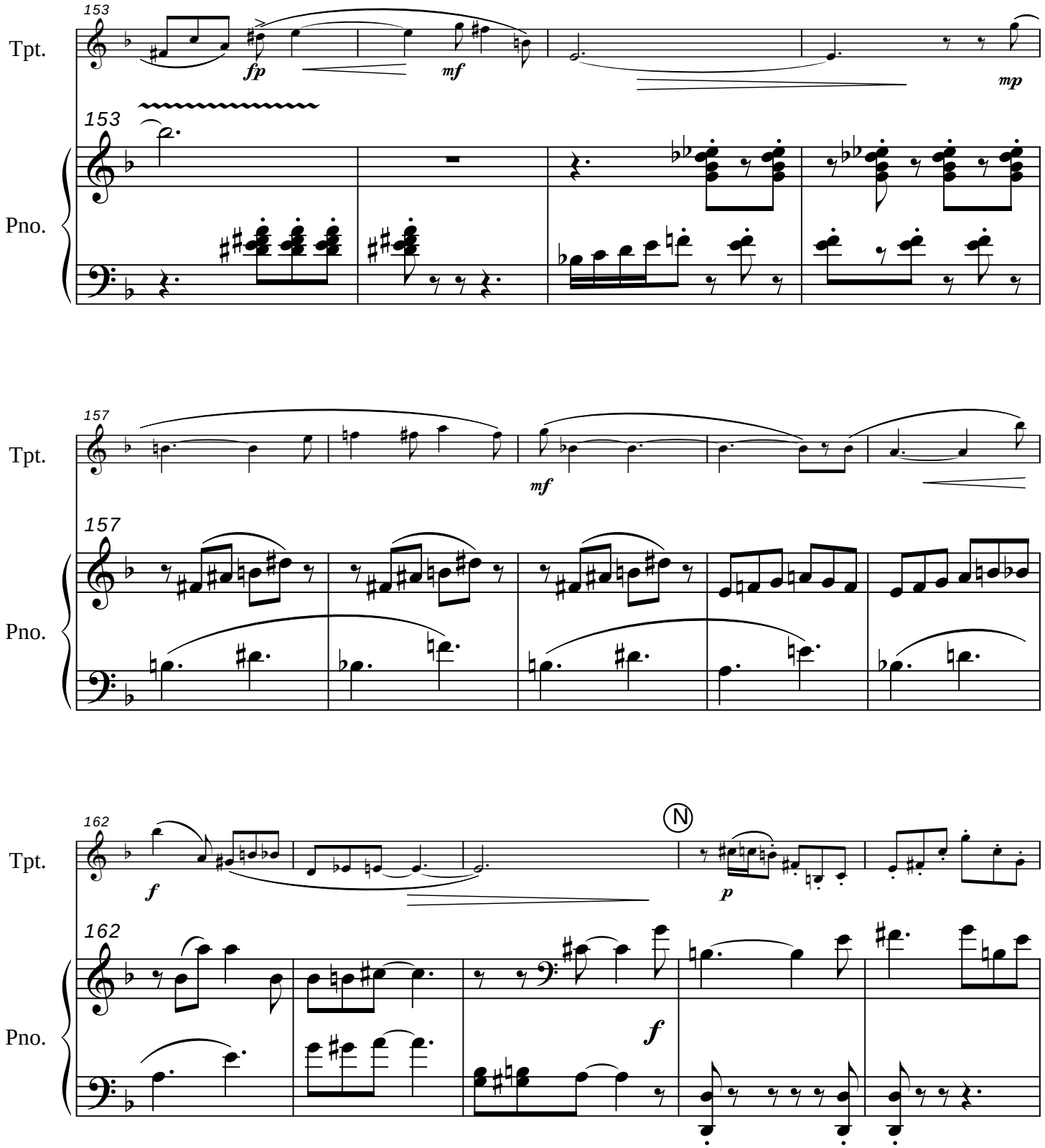
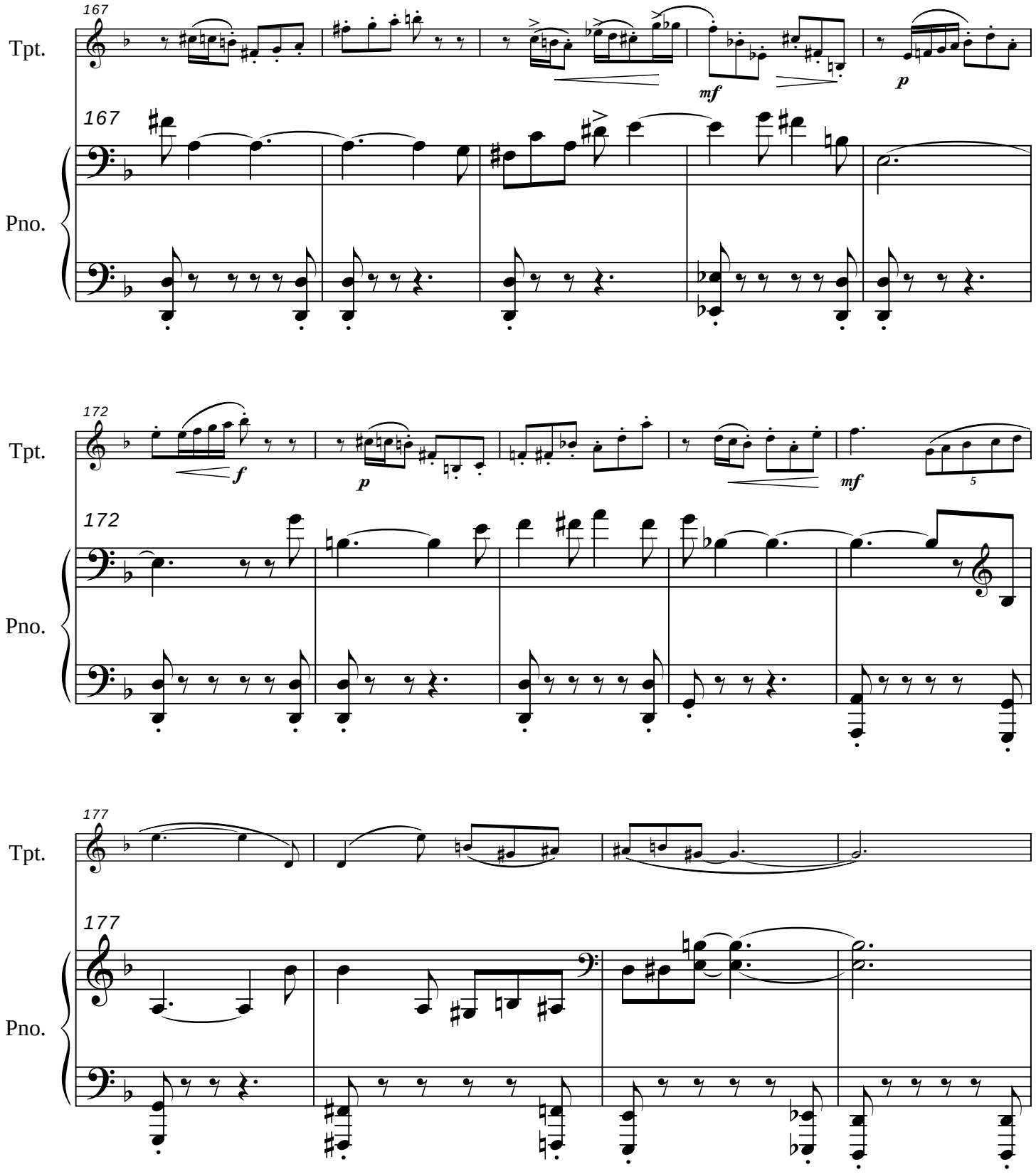
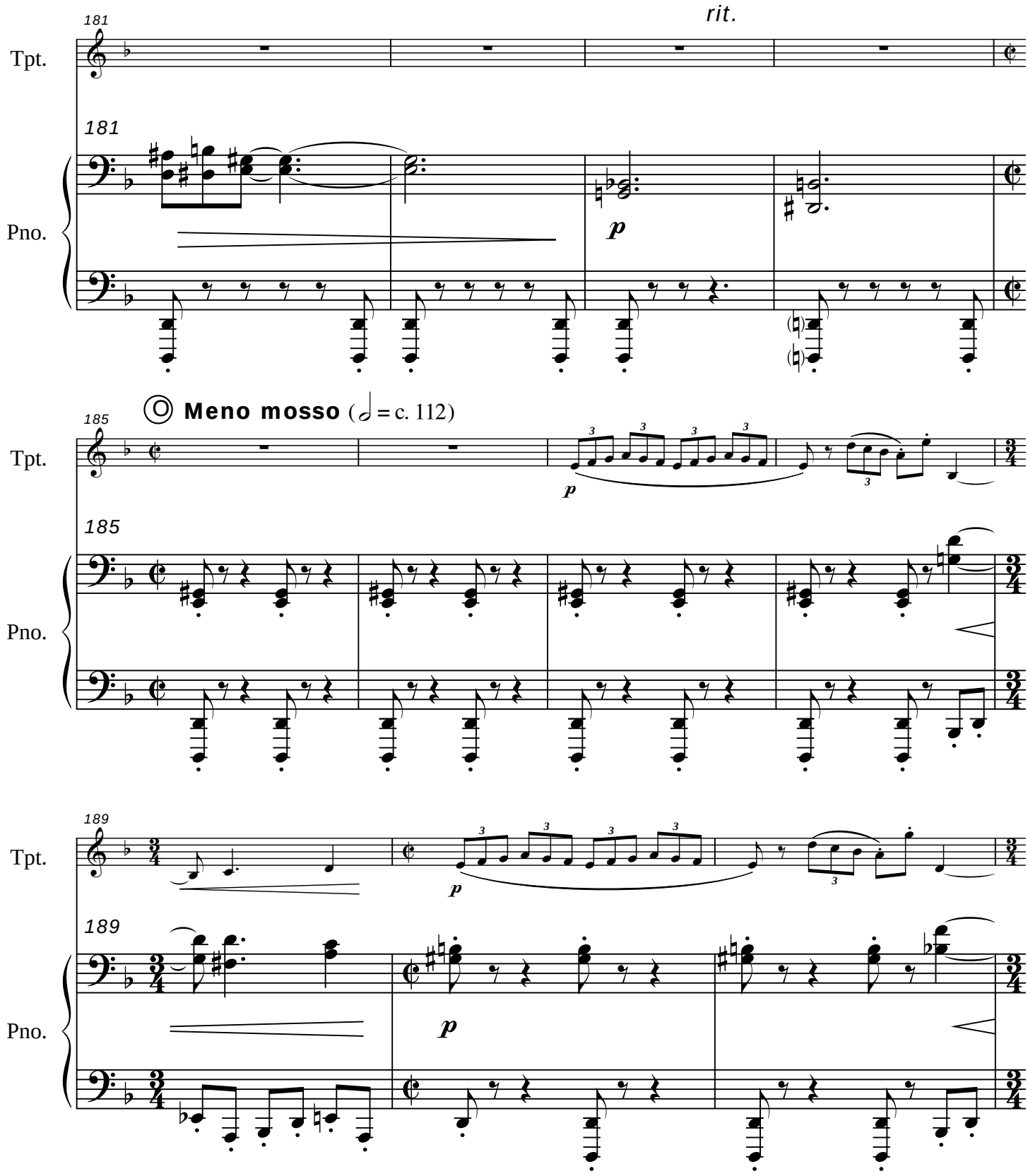
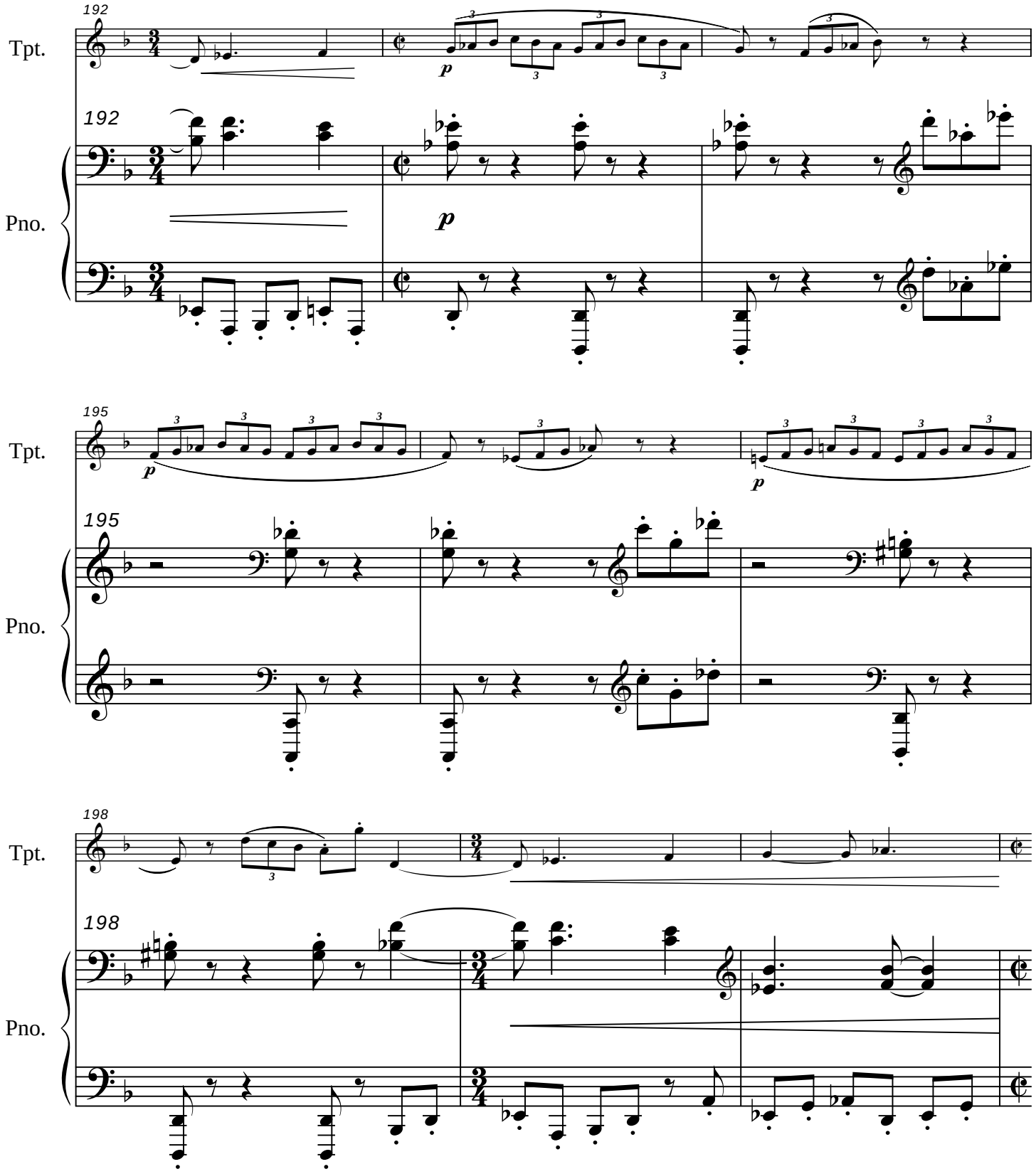
Tpt.
f
fp
f
139
Pno.
p
p
f
143
Tpt.
tr
p
143
Pno.
f
p
148
Tpt.
M
mf
148
tr
Pno.


153
Tpt.
fp
mf
mp
153
Pno.
157
Tpt.
mf
157
Pno.
162
Tpt.
f
N
p
162
Pno.
f


167
Tpt.
167
Pno.
mf
p
172
Tpt.
f
p
mf
172
Pno.
177
Tpt.
177
Pno.


181
rit.
Tpt.
181
Pno.
p
185
Meno mosso (𝅗𝅥 = c. 112)
Tpt.
p
185
Pno.
189
Tpt.
p
189
Pno.
p


192
Tpt.
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p
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195
Tpt.
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198
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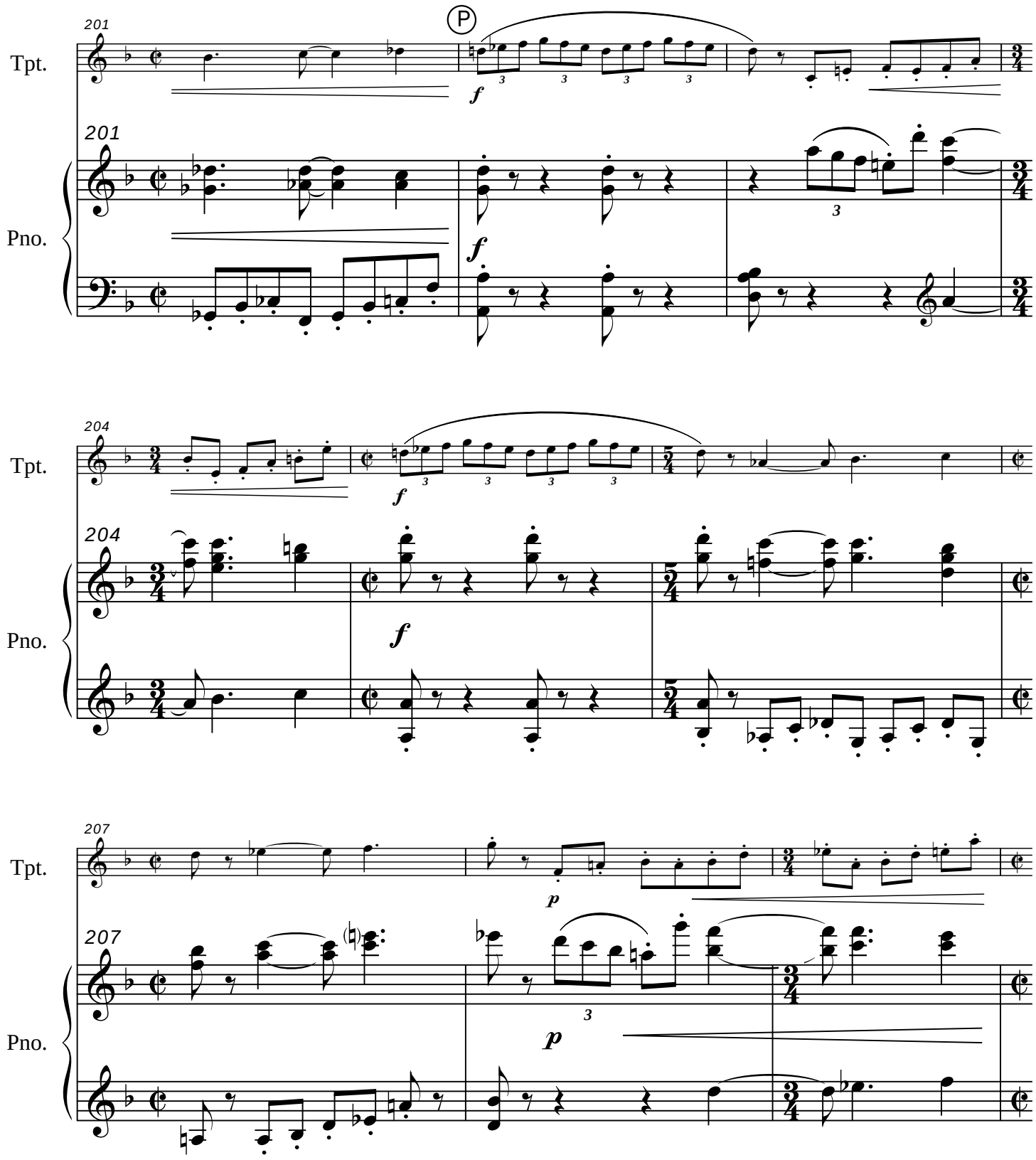
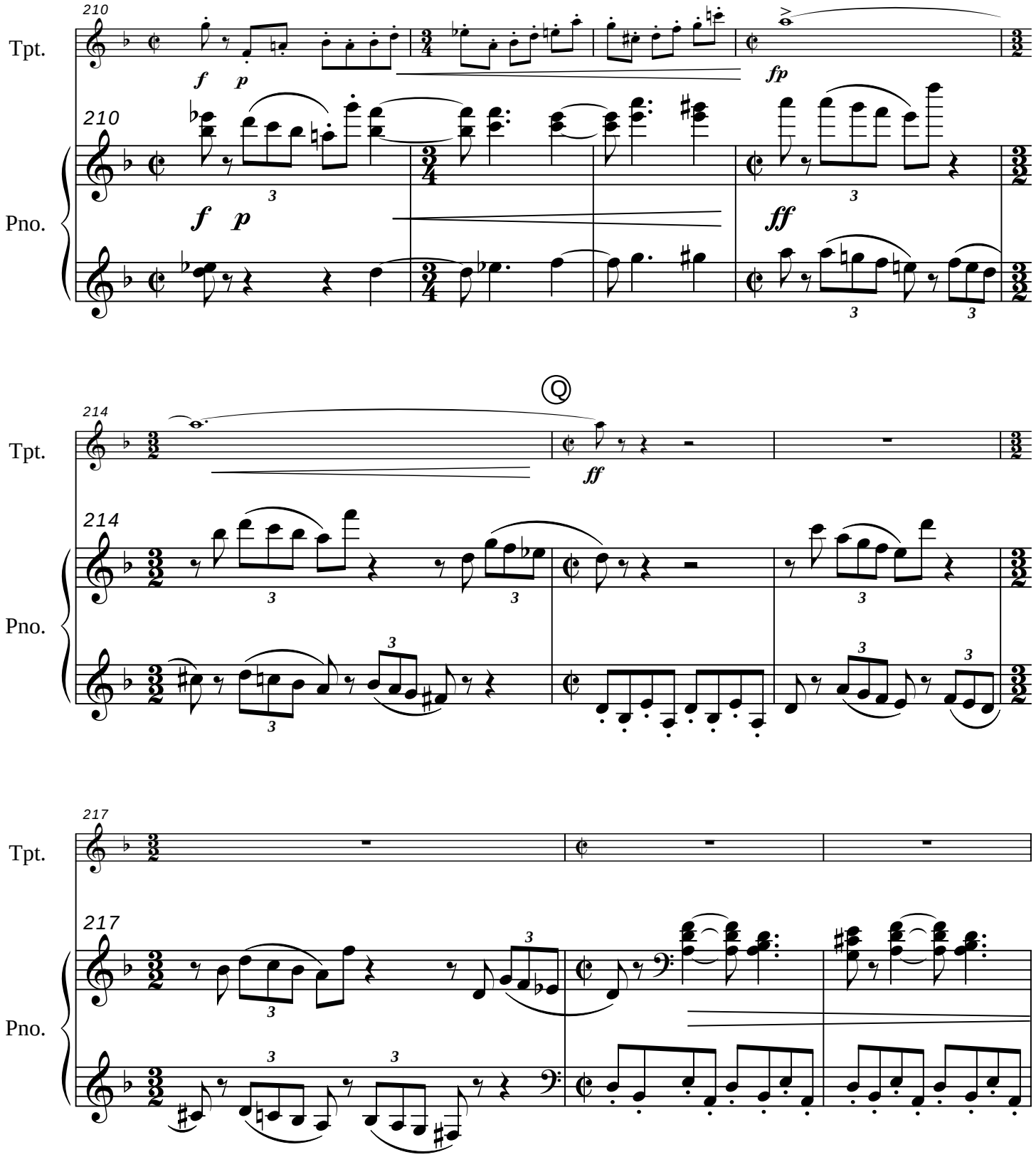
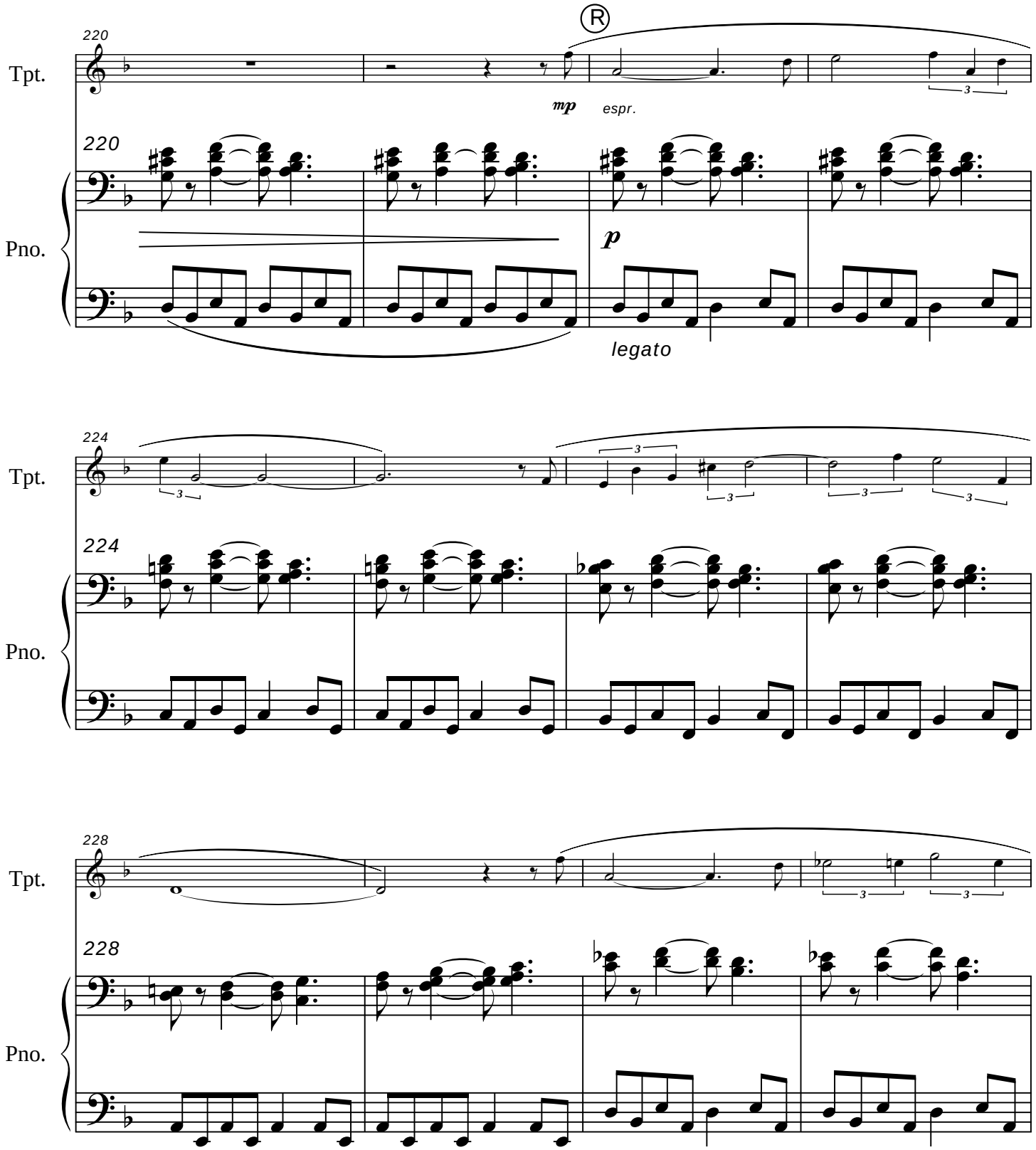
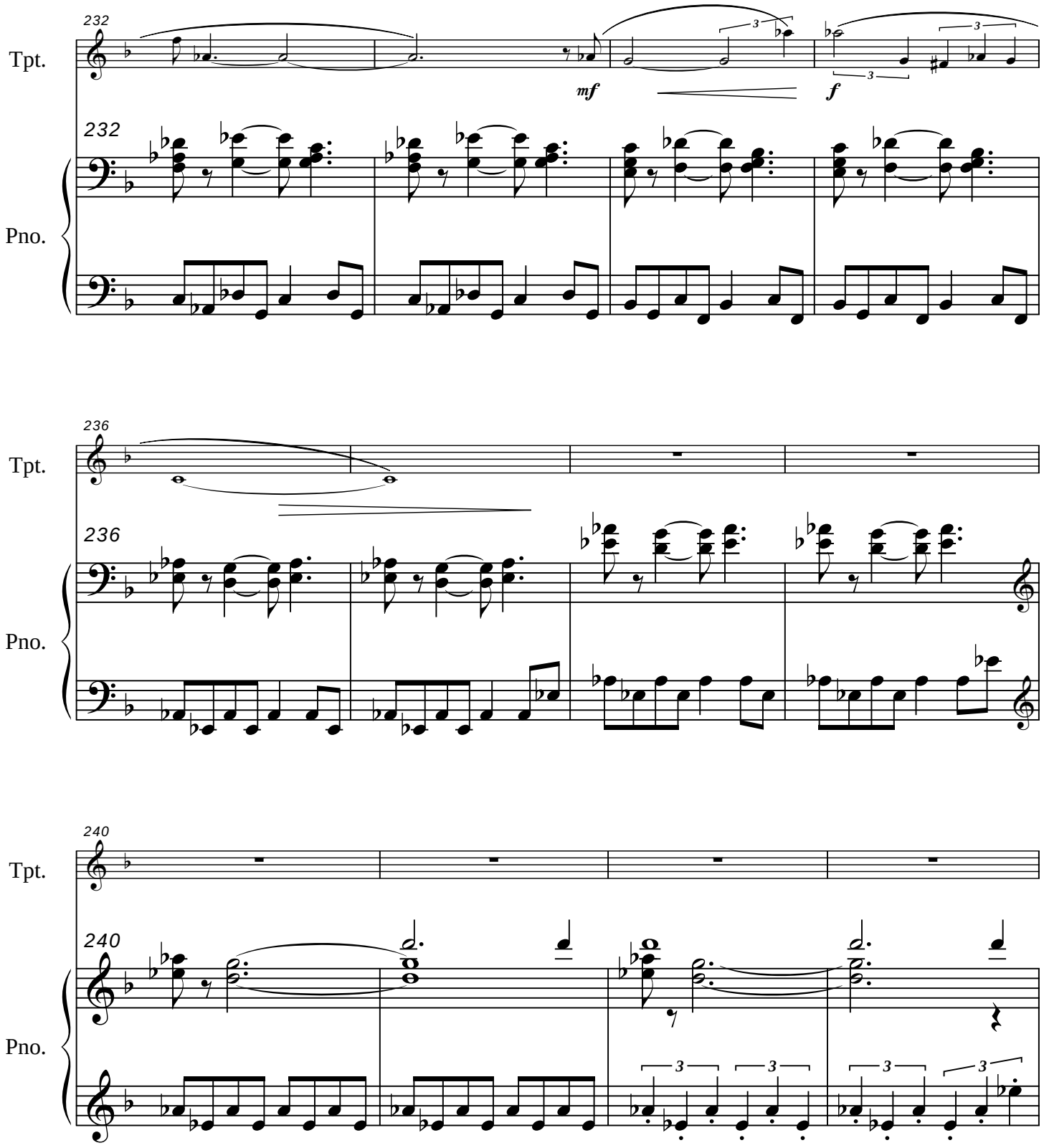
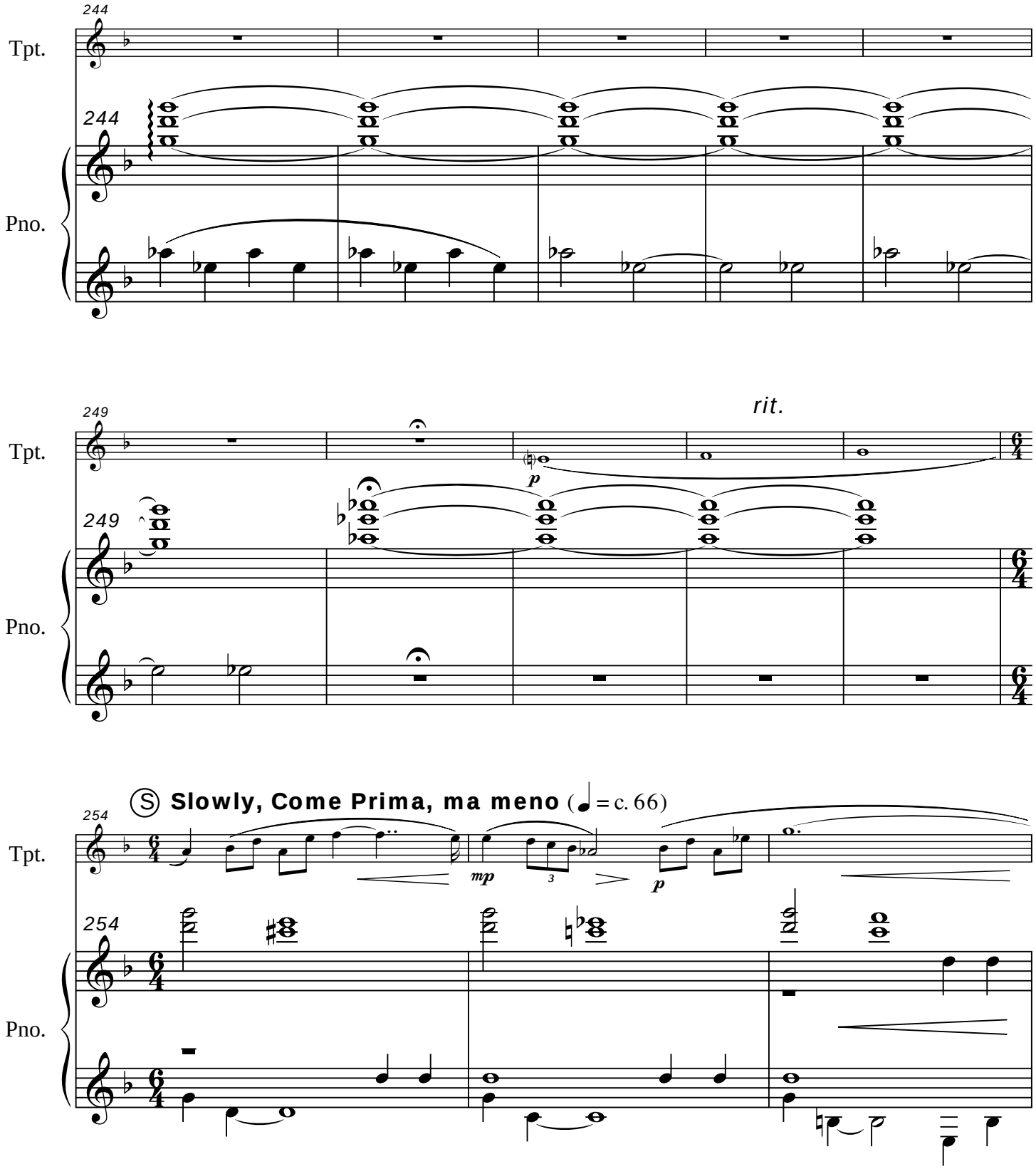
198
Pno.

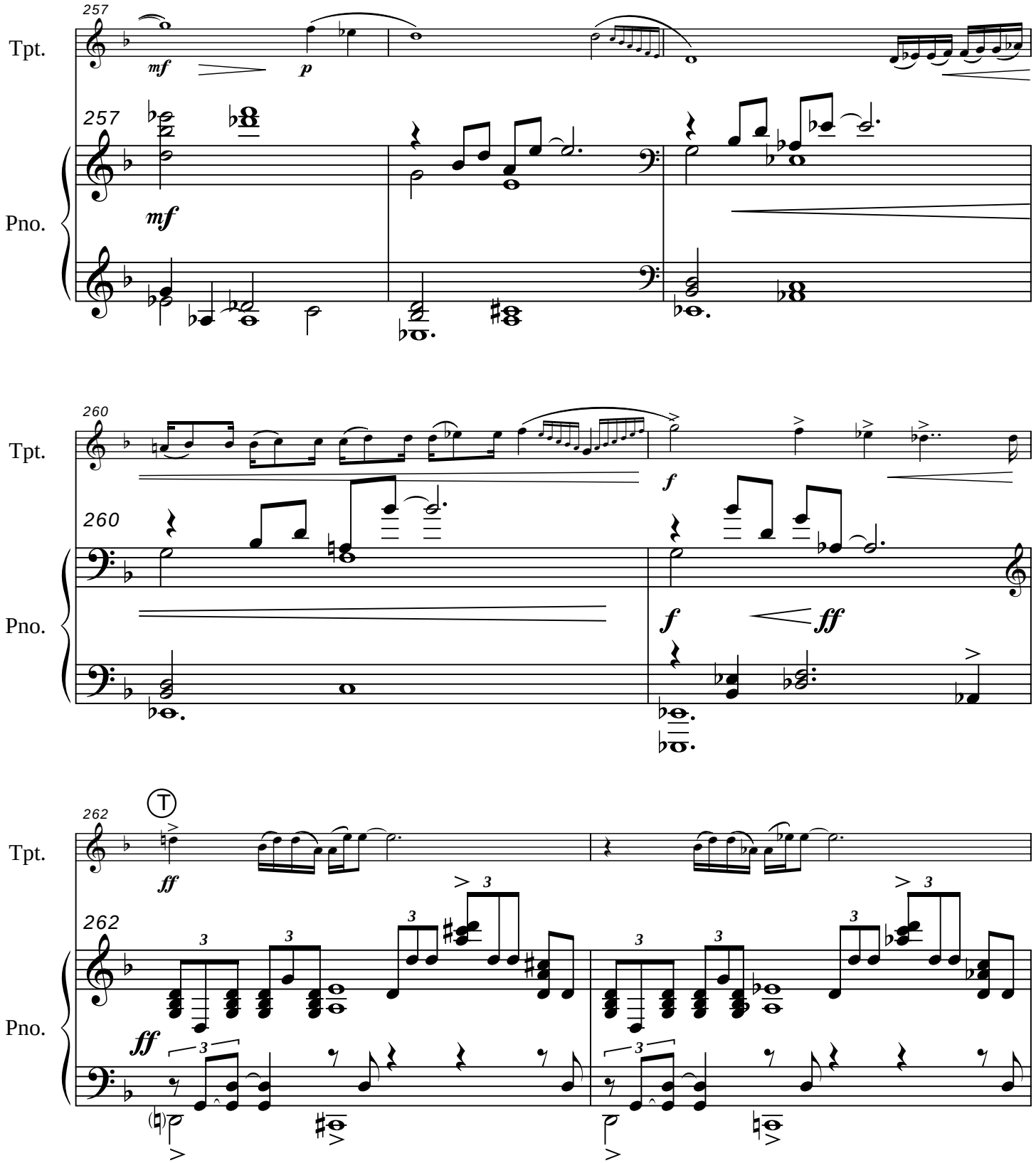

201
Tpt.
Pno.
P
f
204
207
p

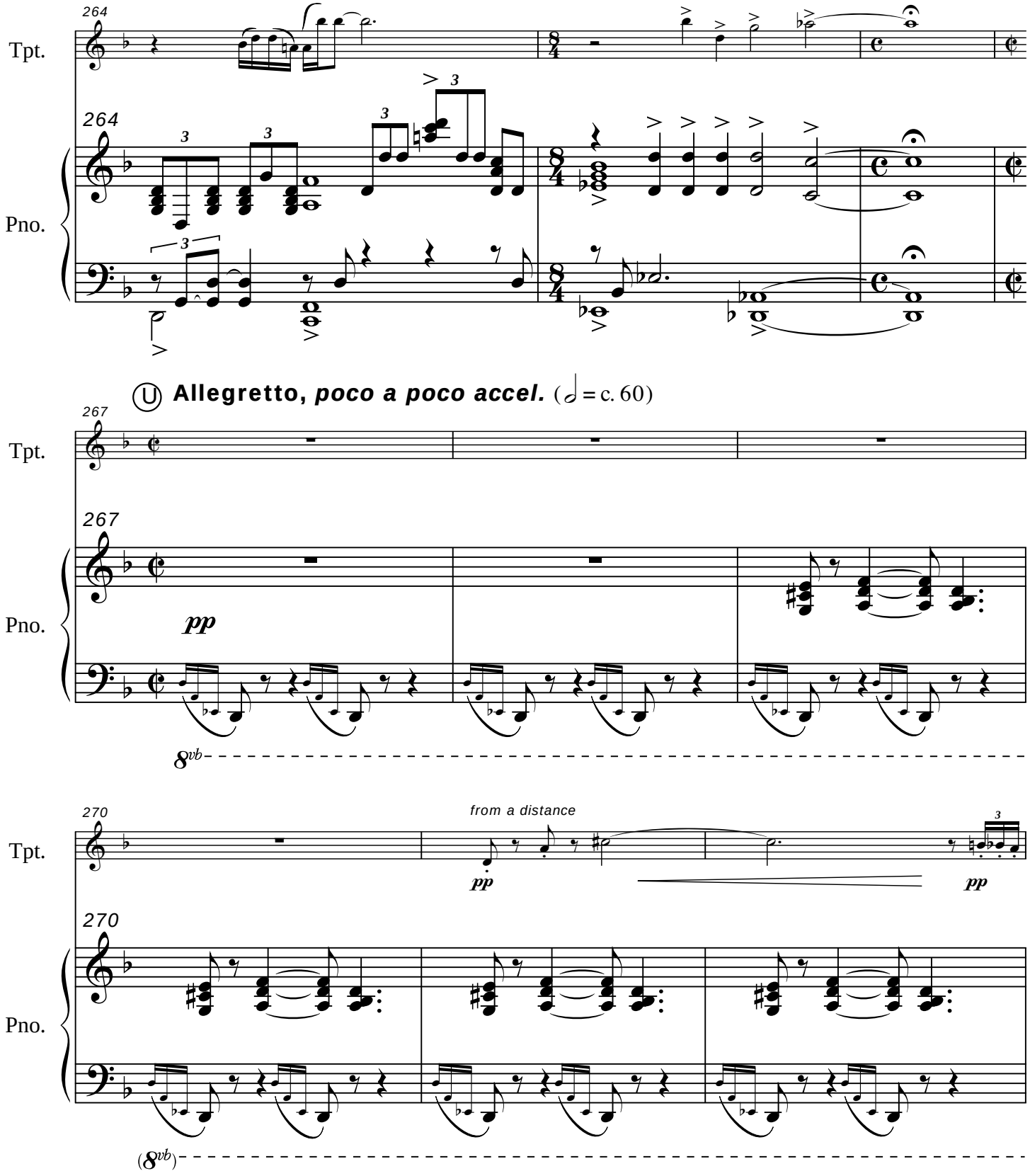

210
Tpt.
f
p
fp
210
Pno.
f
p
ff
214
Tpt.
ff
214
Pno.
Q
217
Tpt.
217
Pno.

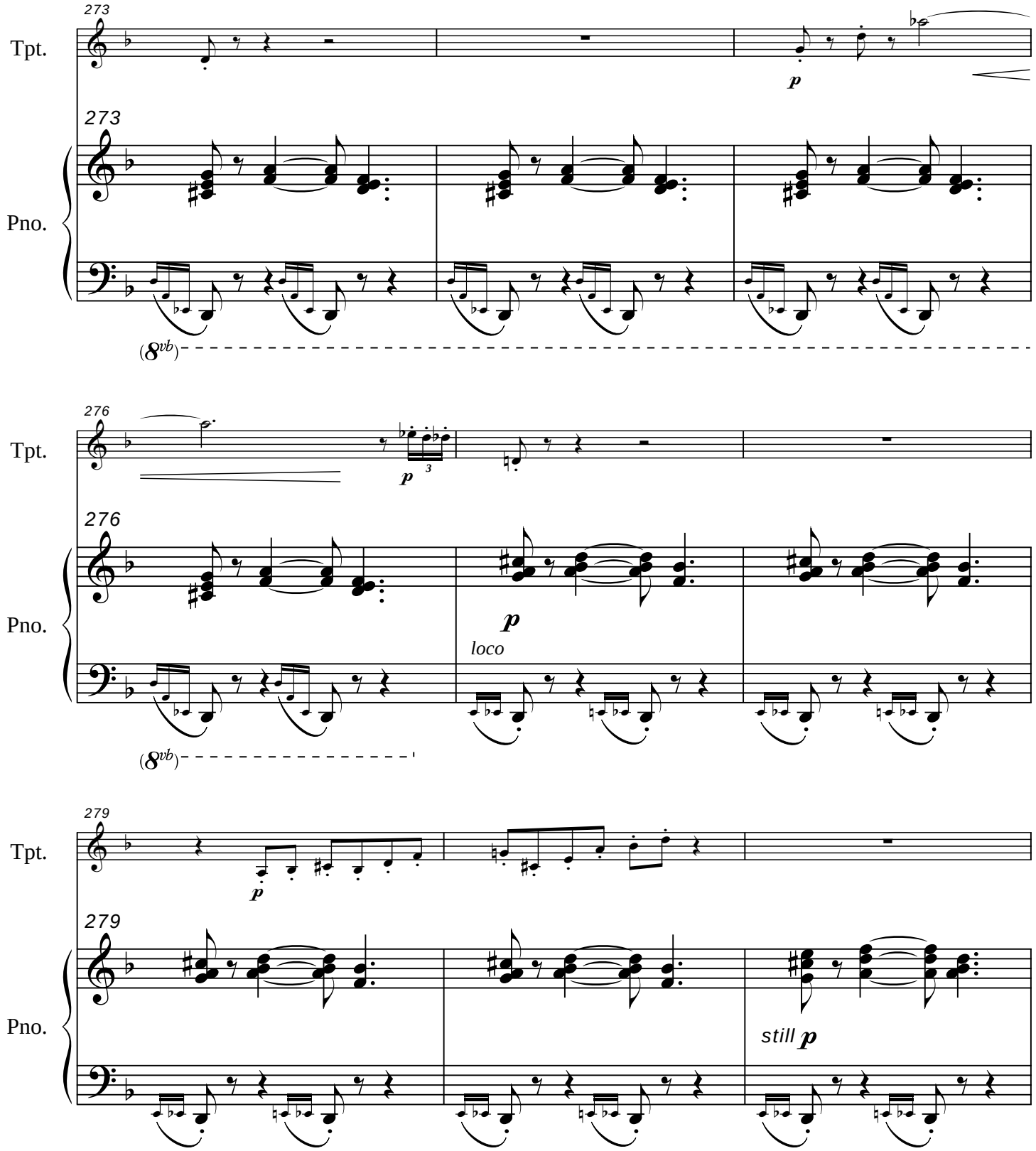

220
Tpt.
Pno.
mp
espr.
p
legato
224
228

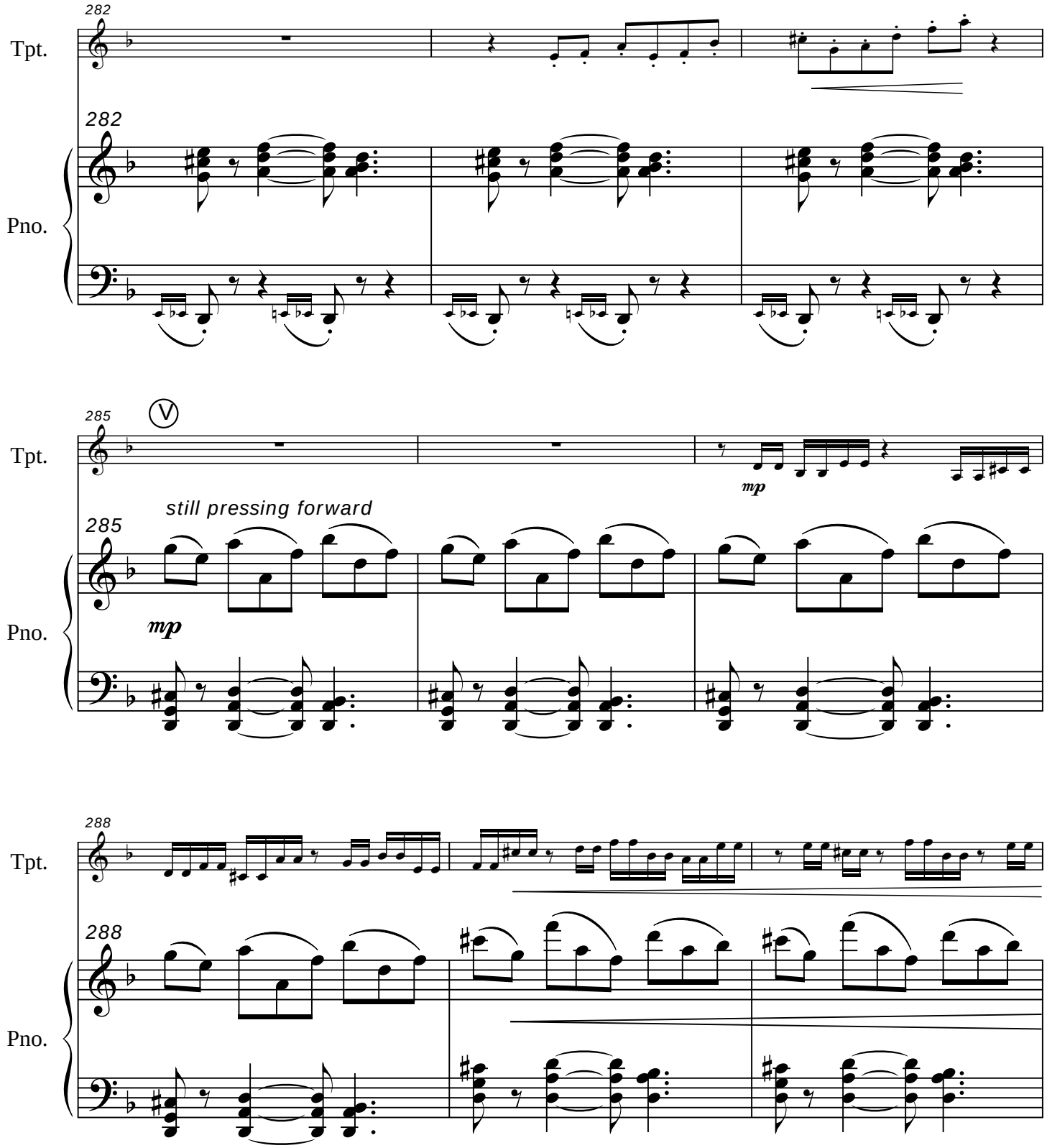

232
Tpt.
mf
f
232
Pno.
236
Tpt.
236
Pno.
240
Tpt.
240
Pno.

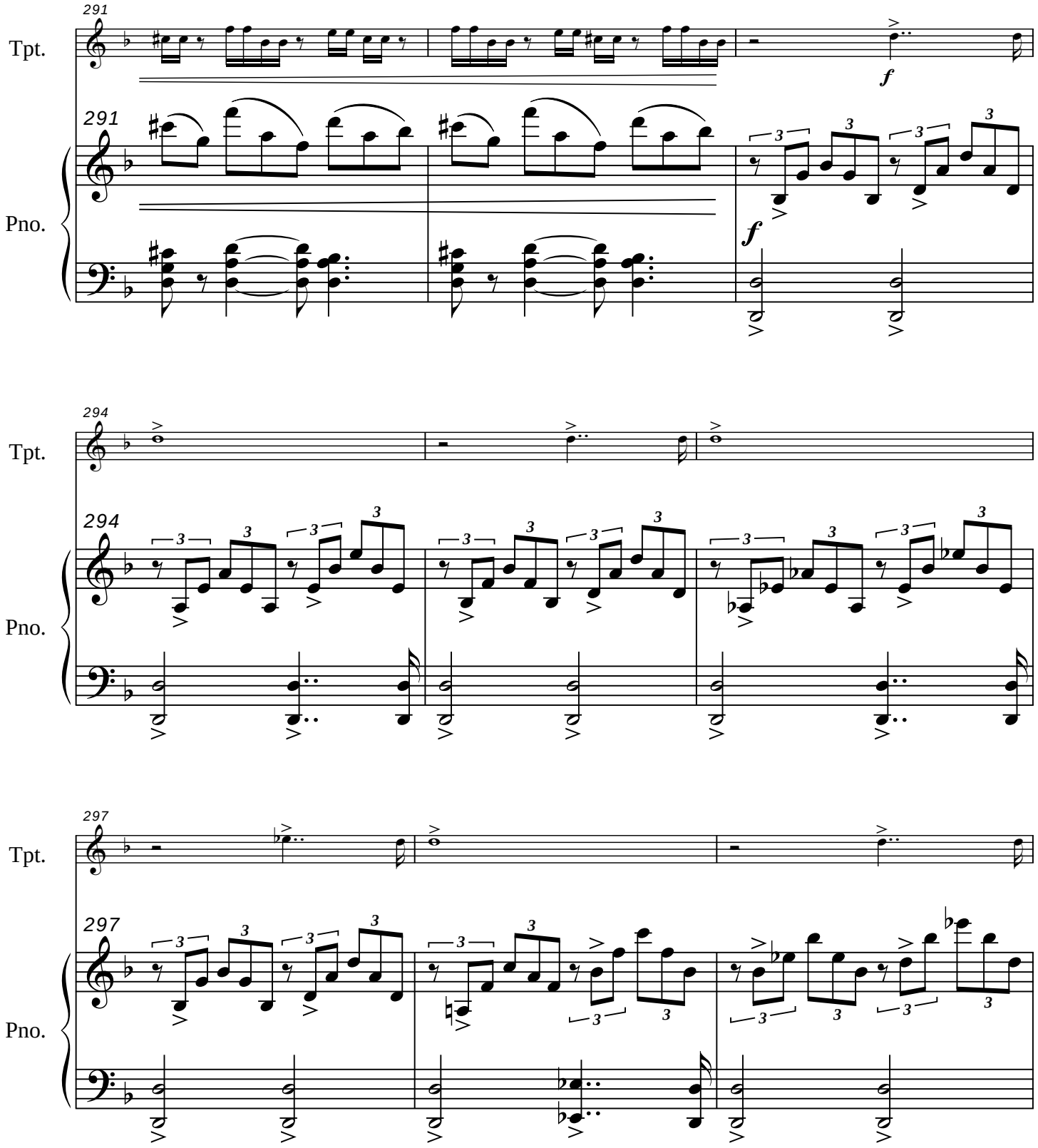

244
Tpt.
244
Pno.
249
rit.
Tpt.
p
249
Pno.
Ⓢ Slowly, Come Prima, ma meno (♩ = c. 66)
254
Tpt.
mp
3
p
254
Pno.


257
Tpt.
mf
p
257
Pno.
mf
260
Tpt.
f
260
Pno.
f
ff
262
Tpt.
ff
262
Pno.
ff


264
Tpt.
264
Pno.
Ⓤ Allegretto, poco a poco accel. (𝅗𝅥 = c. 60)
267
Tpt.
267
Pno.
pp
8vb
270
from a distance
Tpt.
pp
pp
270
Pno.
(8vb)


273
Tpt.
273
Pno.
p
(8vb)
276
Tpt.
276
Pno.
p
loco
(8vb)
279
Tpt.
p
279
Pno.
still p


282
Tpt.
282
Pno.
285
Ⓥ
Tpt.
mp
still pressing forward
285
Pno.
mp
288
Tpt.
288
Pno.


291
Tpt.
291
Pno.
f
f
294
Tpt.
294
Pno.
297
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297
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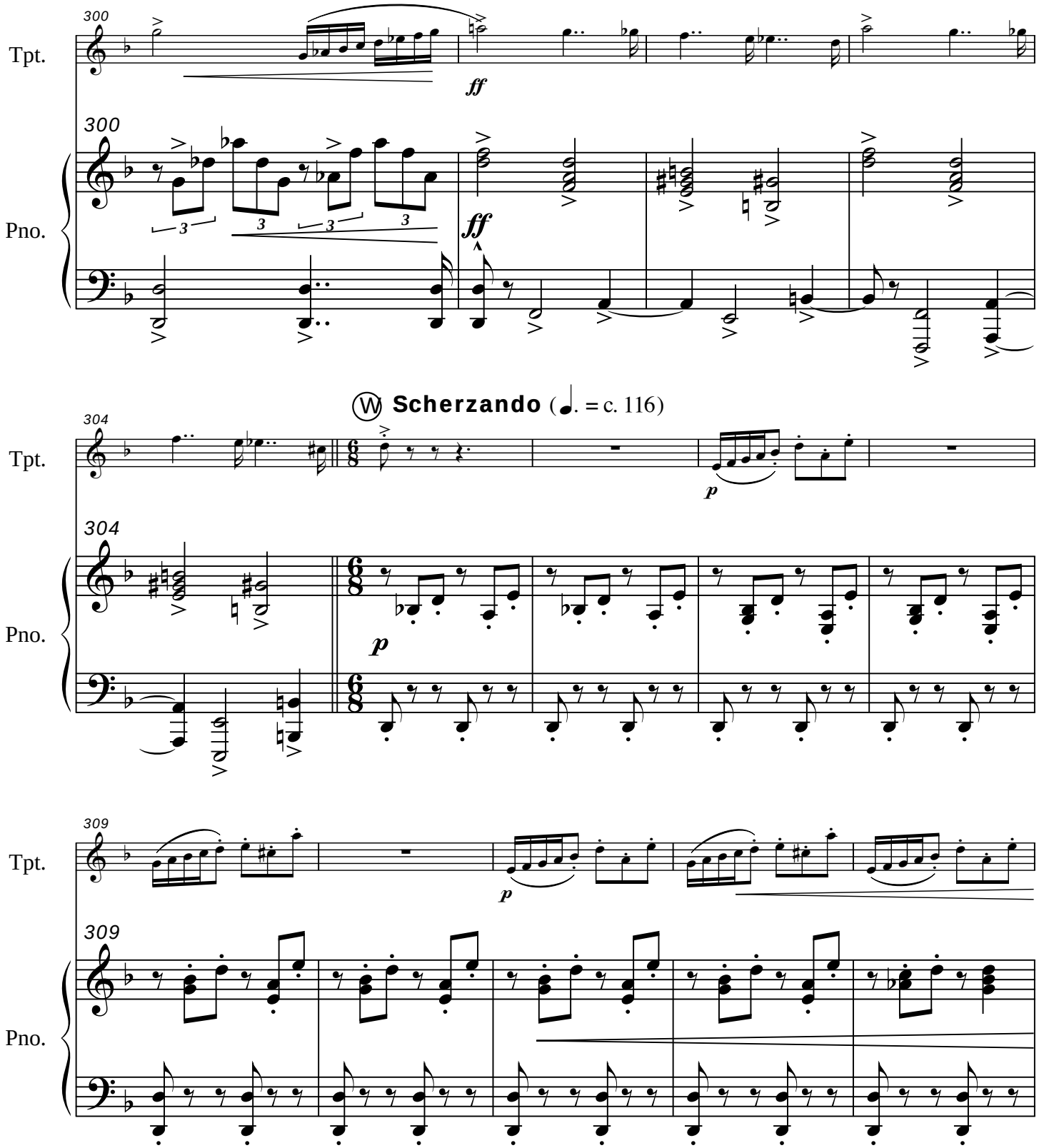
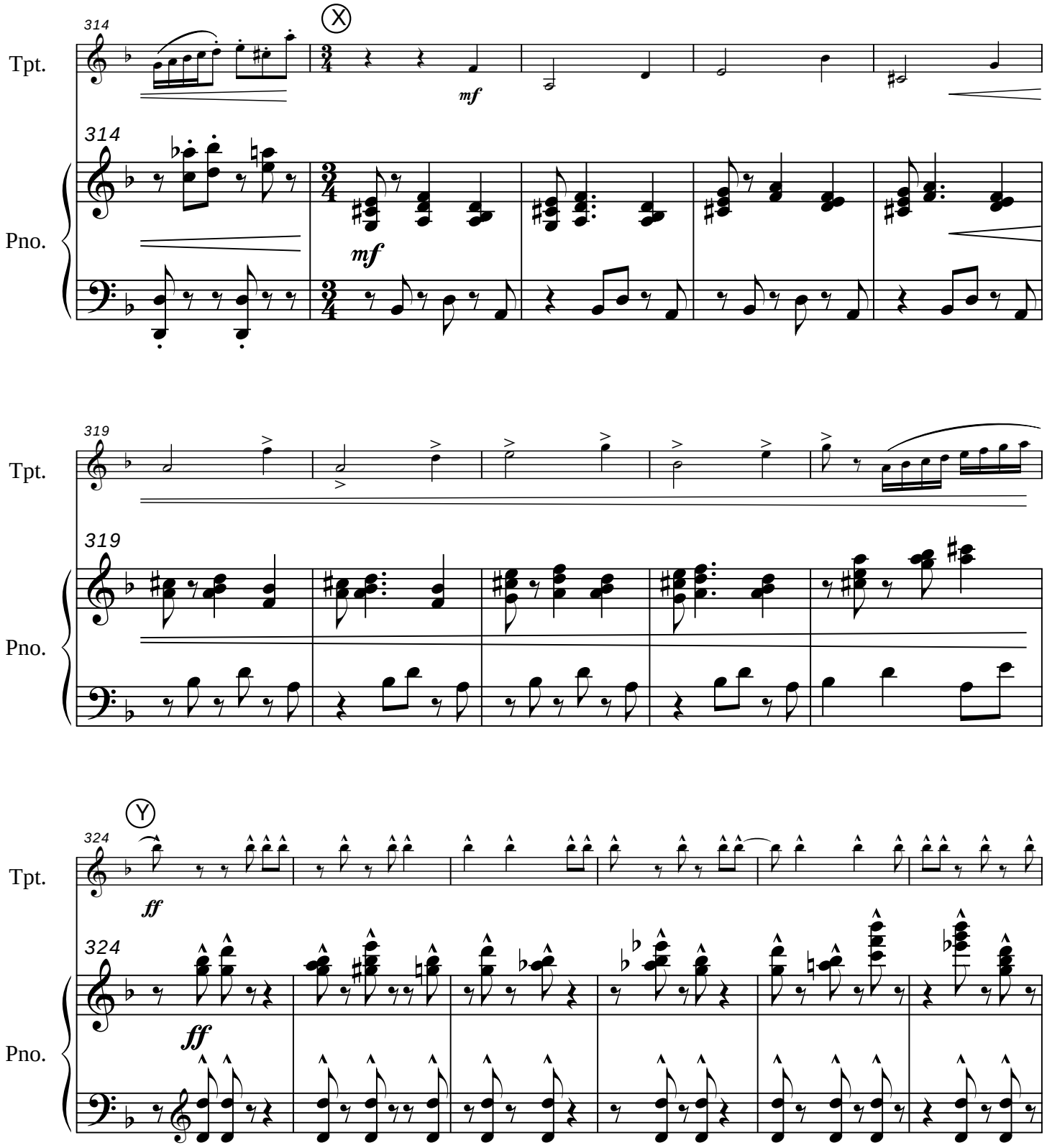

300
Tpt.
ff
300
Pno.
ff
Ⓦ Scherzando (♩. = c. 116)
304
Tpt.
p
304
Pno.
p
309
Tpt.
p
309
Pno.


314
Tpt.
314
Pno.
X
mf
mf
319
Tpt.
319
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Y
324
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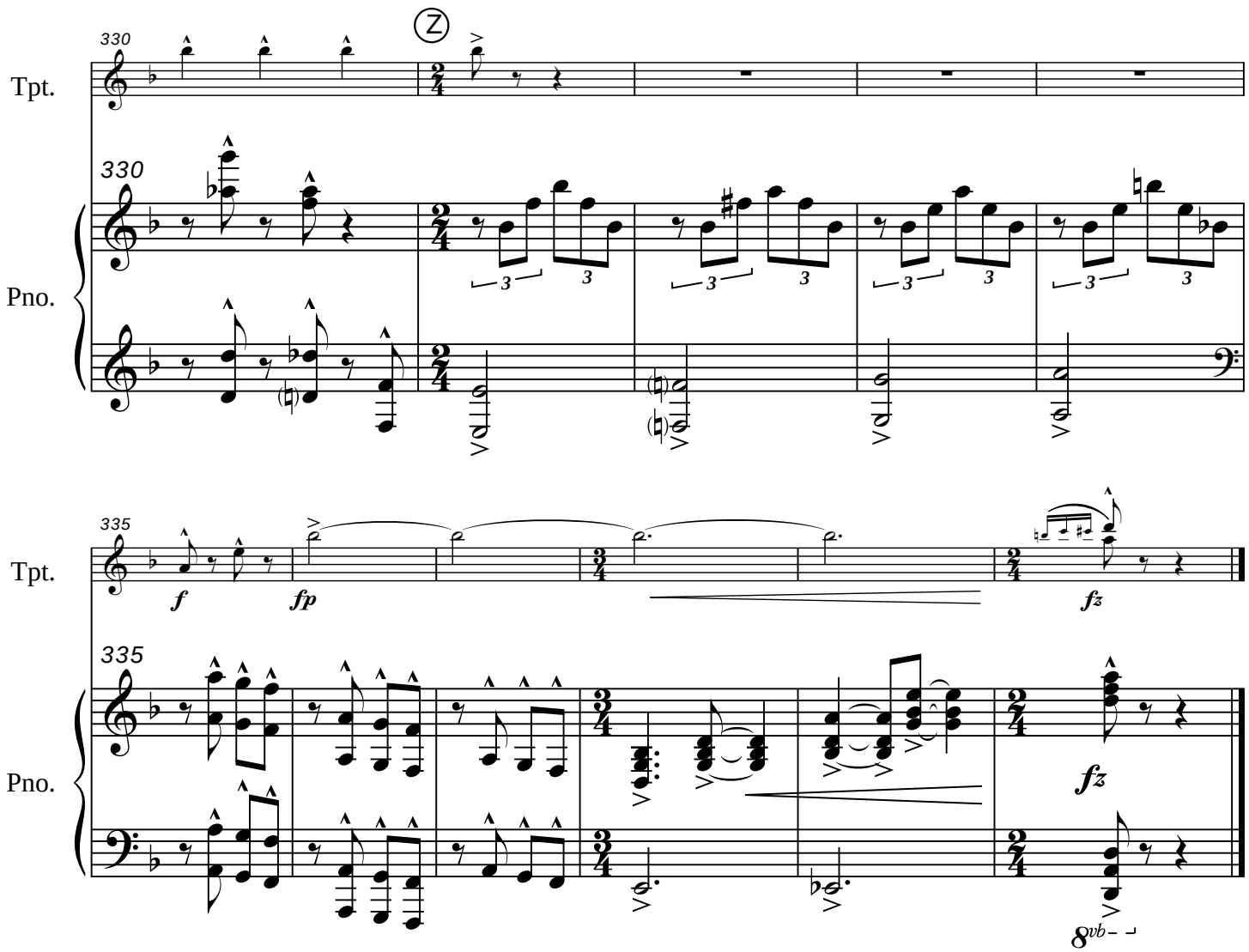
ff
324
Pno.
ff


330
Z
Tpt.
330
Pno.
335
Tpt.
f
fp
fz
335
Pno.
fz
8vb