Mariposa

for solo Piano

Francesca Hilditch

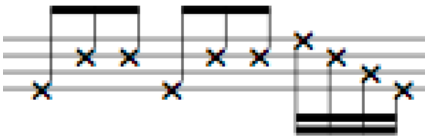
Program Notes

Mariposa was inspired by a trip in December 2019 I took to visit my family in Argentina – most of whom live in the small towns of María Susana and El Trébol in the Santa Fe province. I spent the trip surrounded by family and a sense of love and contentment. Some events were raucous and exciting (such as the large reunion dinner we had at a restaurant) and others were slower and more contemplative (when we visited the quiet cemetery on the outskirts of town where much of my family is interred). Despite this wide span of emotions on the surface, the sense of belonging and family love were always there. It is this idea I wanted to convey in *Mariposa*: being able to oscillate between loud, bombastic sections and slow, calm ones while maintaining one emotional through-line.

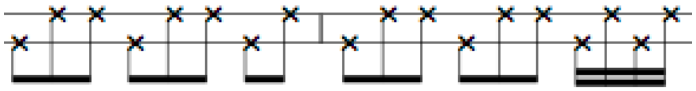
The rhythms and rhythmic patterns used throughout the piece were actually composed after the previously mentioned reunion dinner – after a night of laughter, drinking, and dancing I went to my room and just had to write out these rhythms. During my trip to the cemetery, I felt this sense of peaceful isolation (there were no buildings around besides the cemetery and a flat expanse of land surrounding it on all sides) which inspired the repetition and more static nature of the slow sections. While I was walking through the cemetery, a butterfly ("mariposa" in Spanish) was following me around – fluttering by, leaving, returning, landing, and going off again.

Performance Notes

At the end of the piece you will be asked to rhythmically tap the wood just past the upper end of the keyboard. There are two different ways this is notated and each has a slightly different technique.



In this instance, each note is meant to be played with one finger tip of the right hand mimicking the shape of the shape of the line.



In this case, the rhythm is to be played with the finger tips of both hands tapping on the wood – the bottom line representing the left hand and the top line the right.

When this occurs in the piece it will be marked at a quiet dynamic. However, it is important that it is heard so it is up to your discretion how loudly it needs to be played in specific circumstances.

Mariposa

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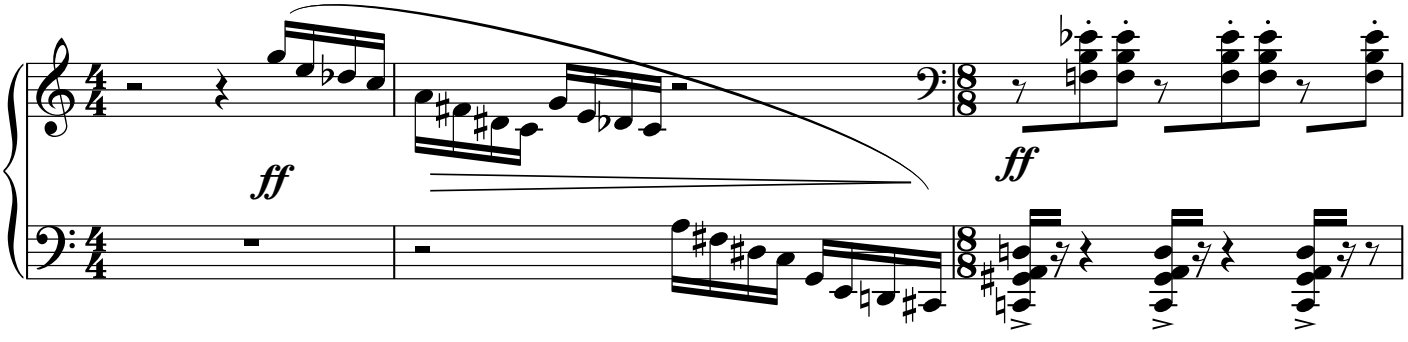
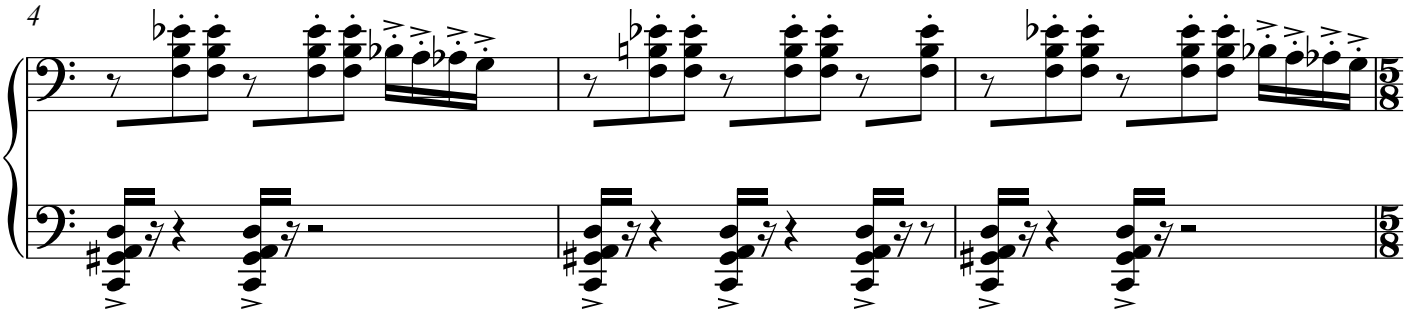
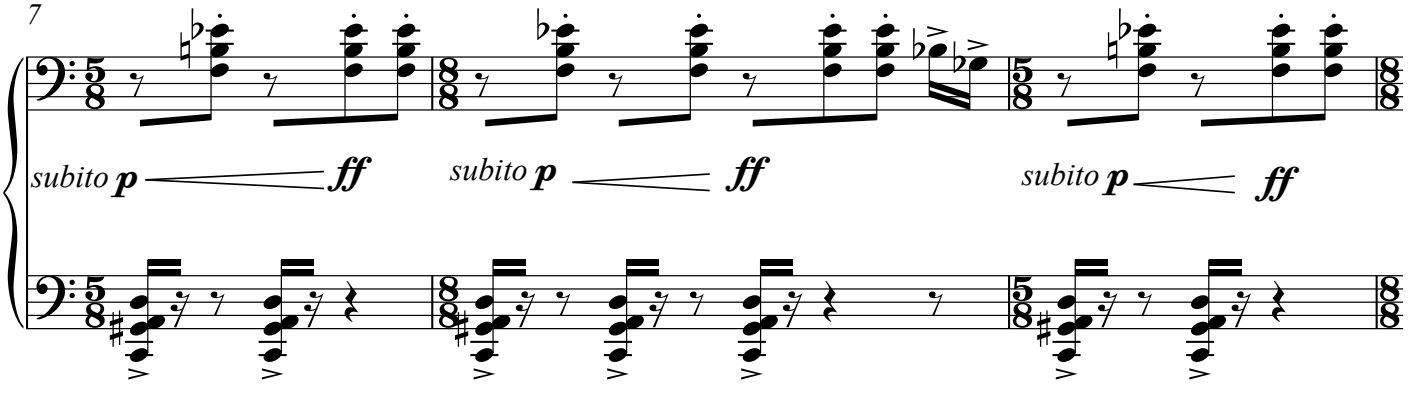
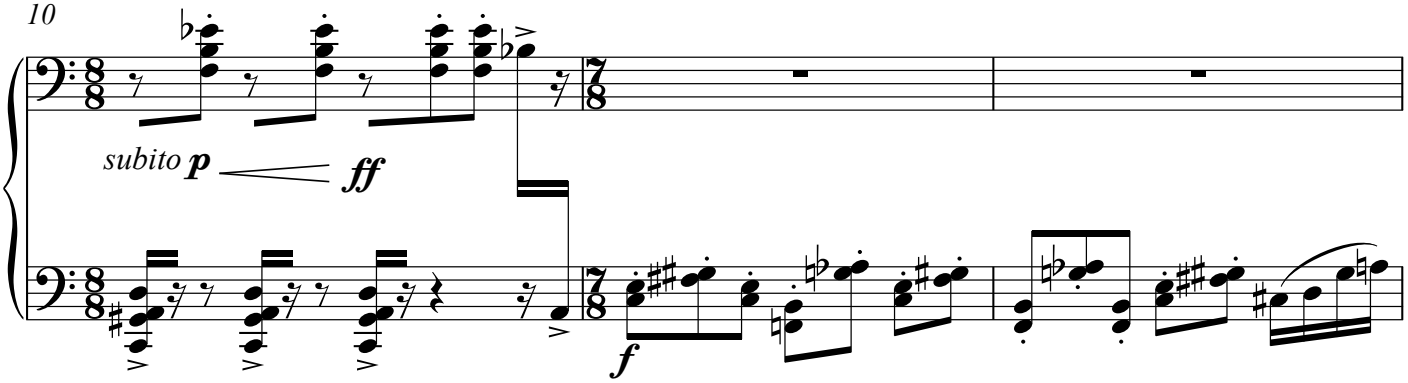
Exciting and Driven ♩ = 180



Dry and without pedal







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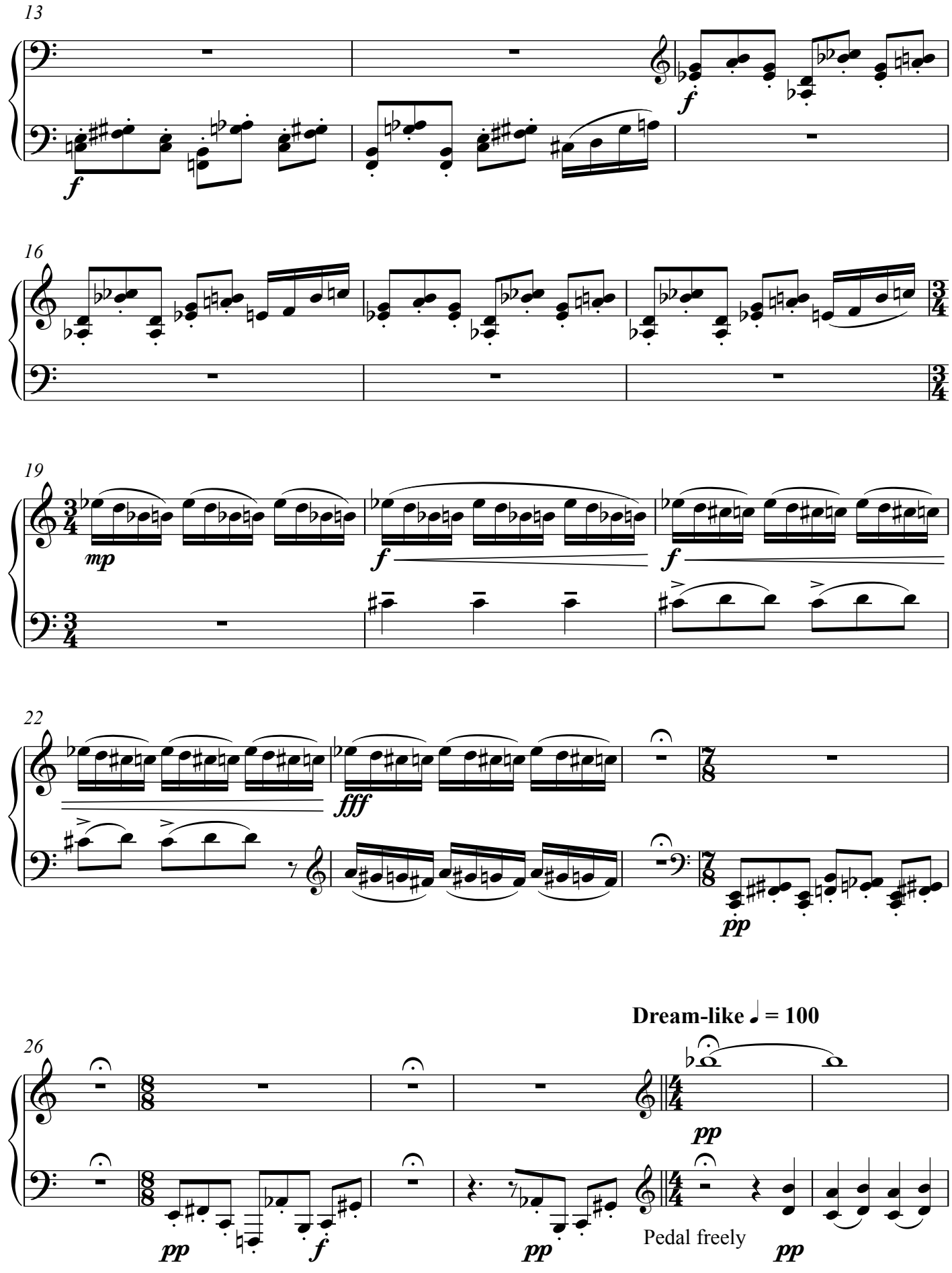
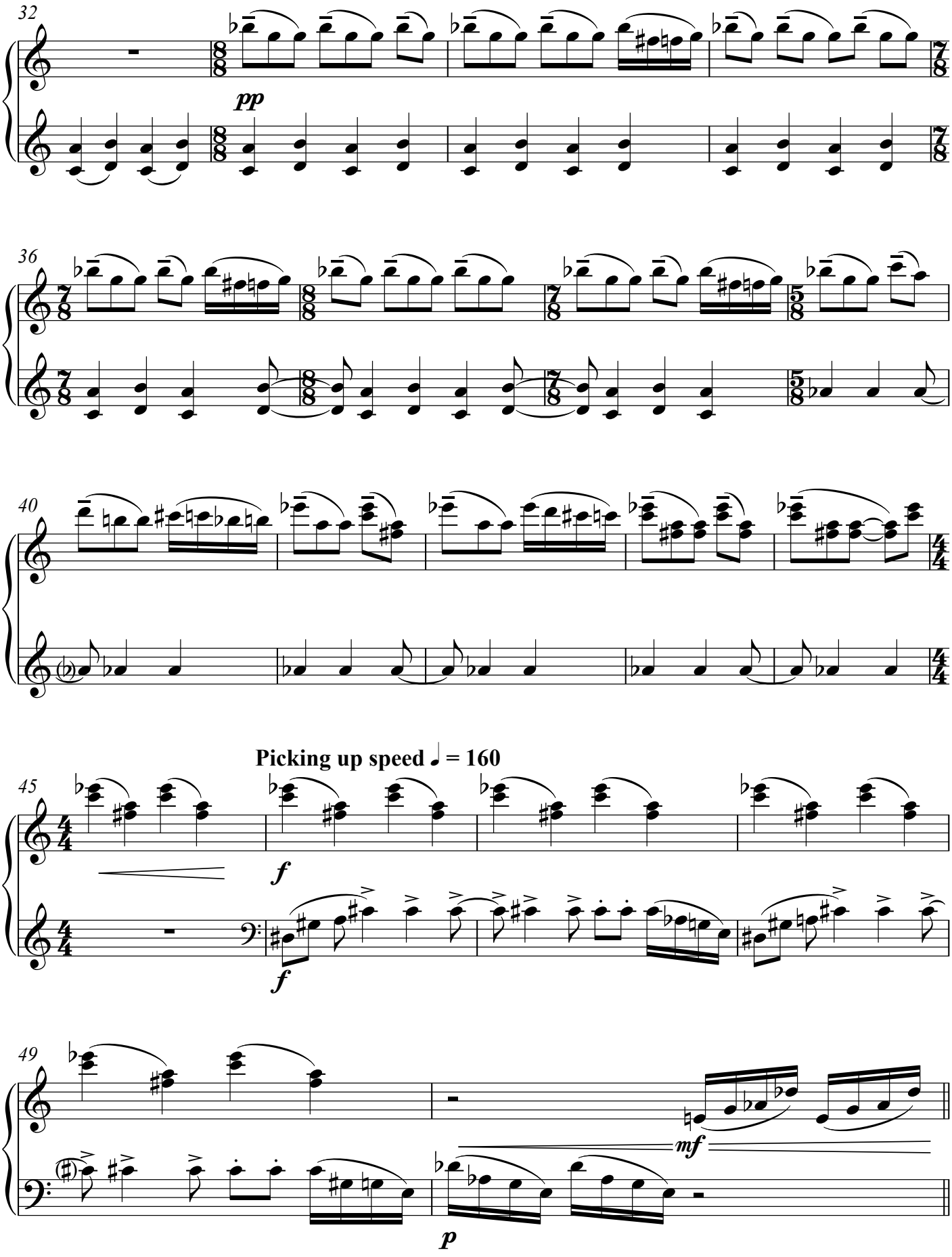
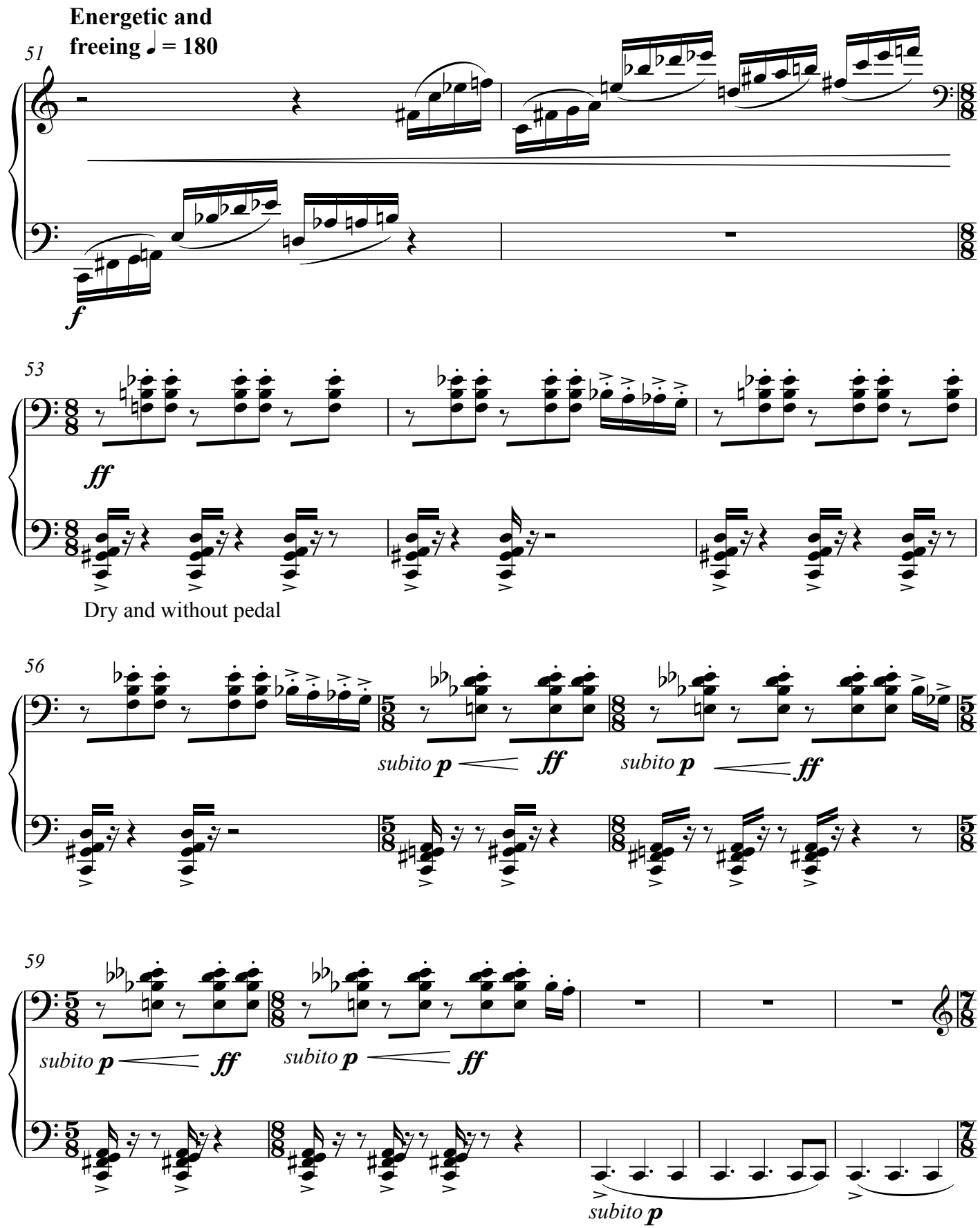
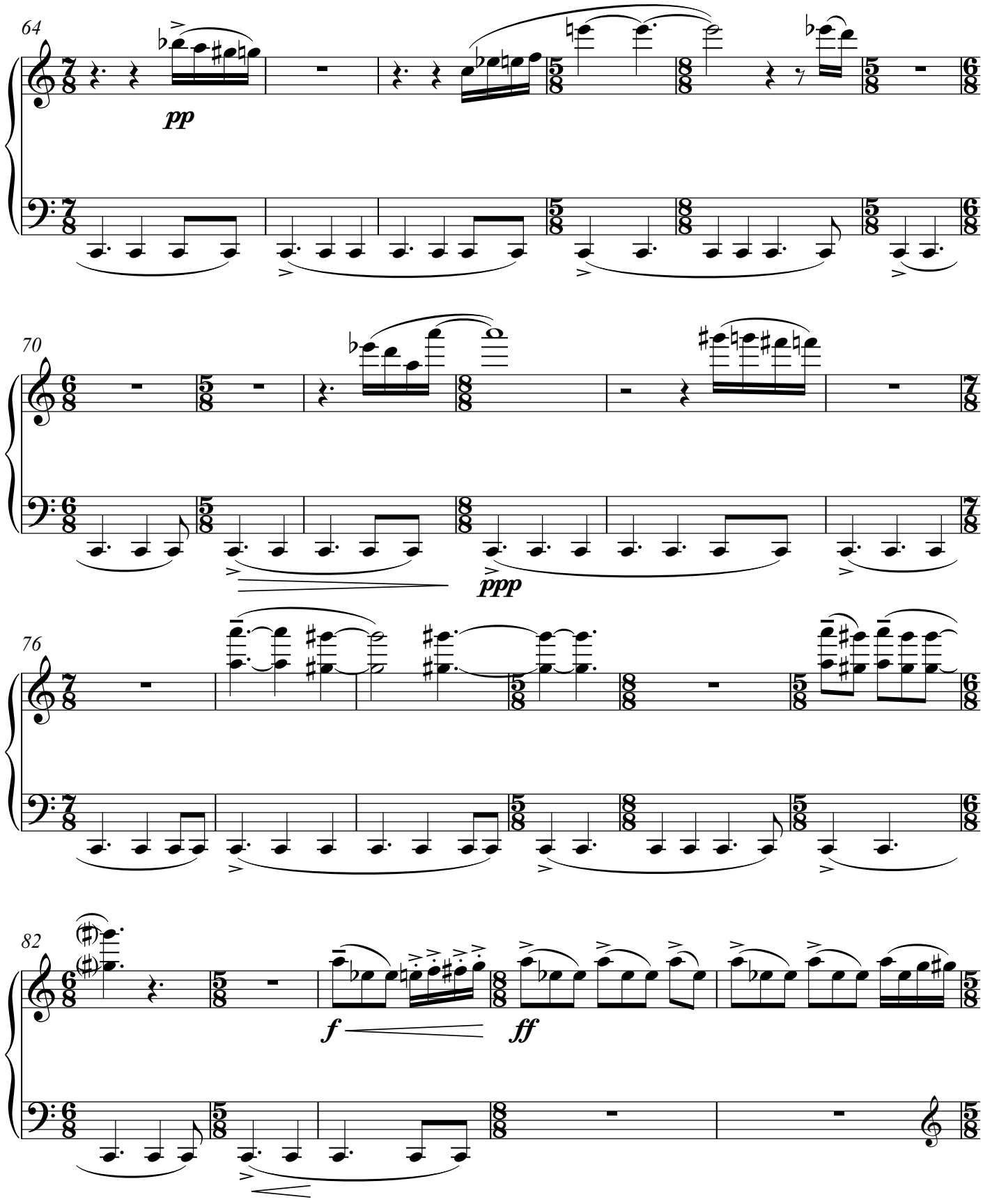
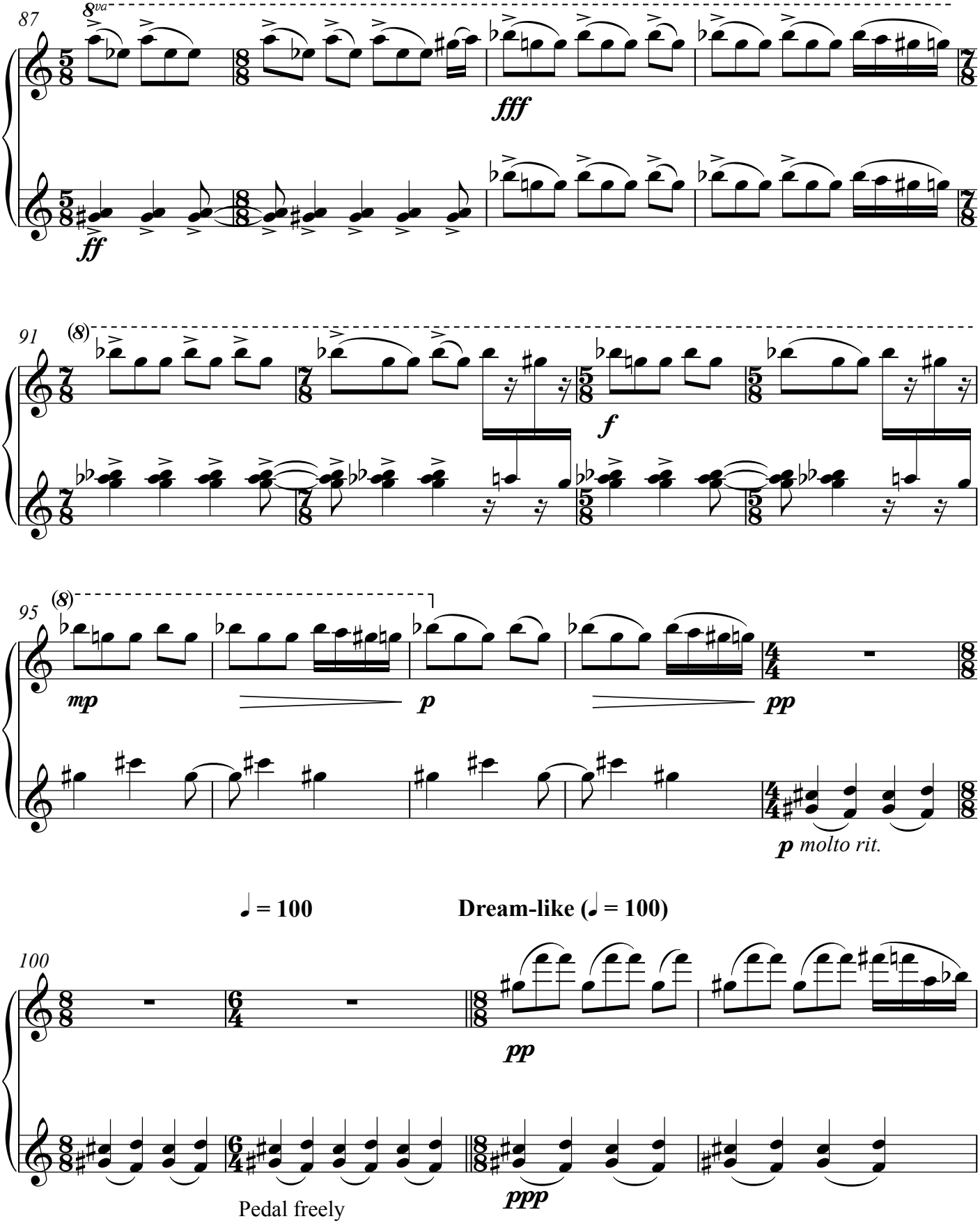
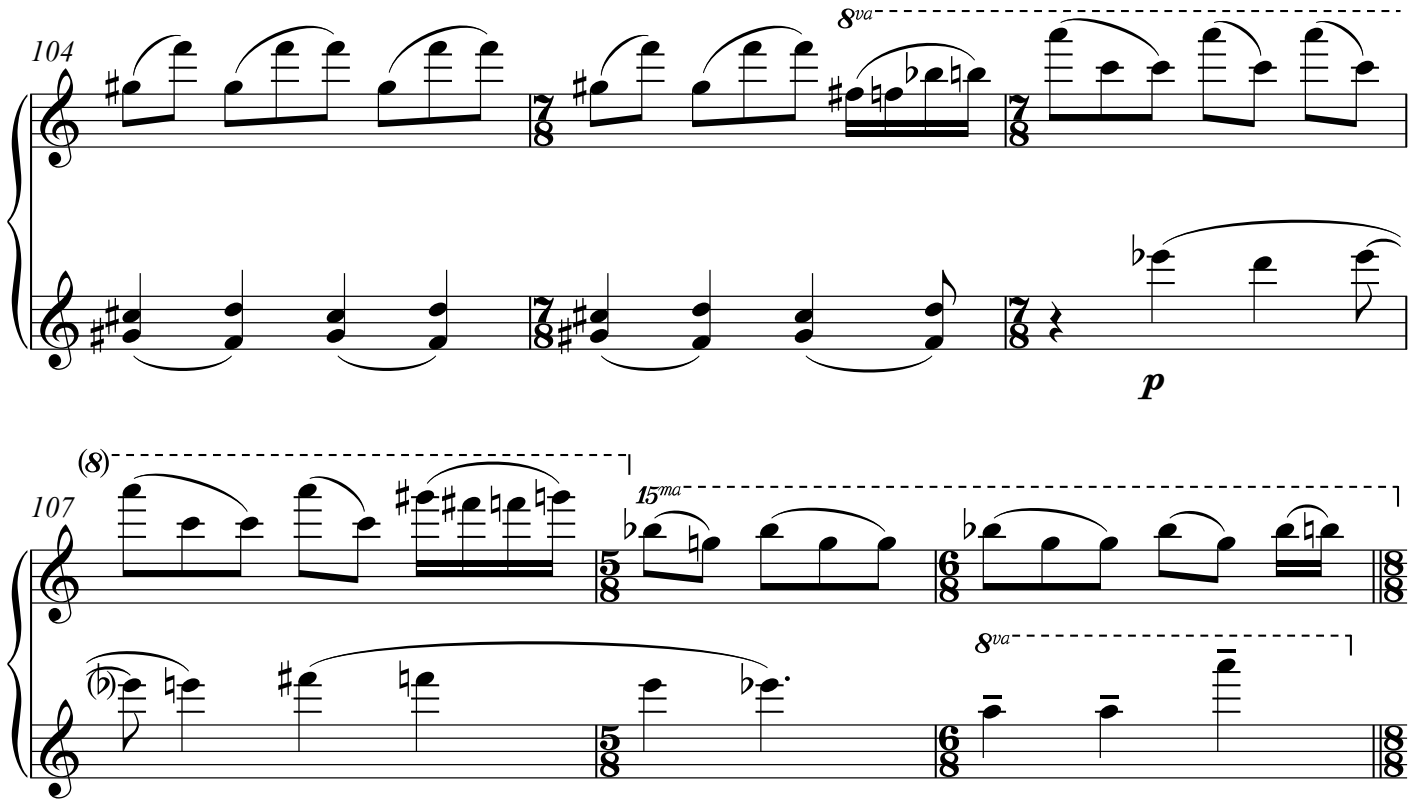

13
f
f
16
3/4
19
3/4
mp
f
f
22
fff
7/8
pp
26
Dream-like ♩ = 100
pp
8/8
pp
f
pp
4/4
Pedal freely
pp

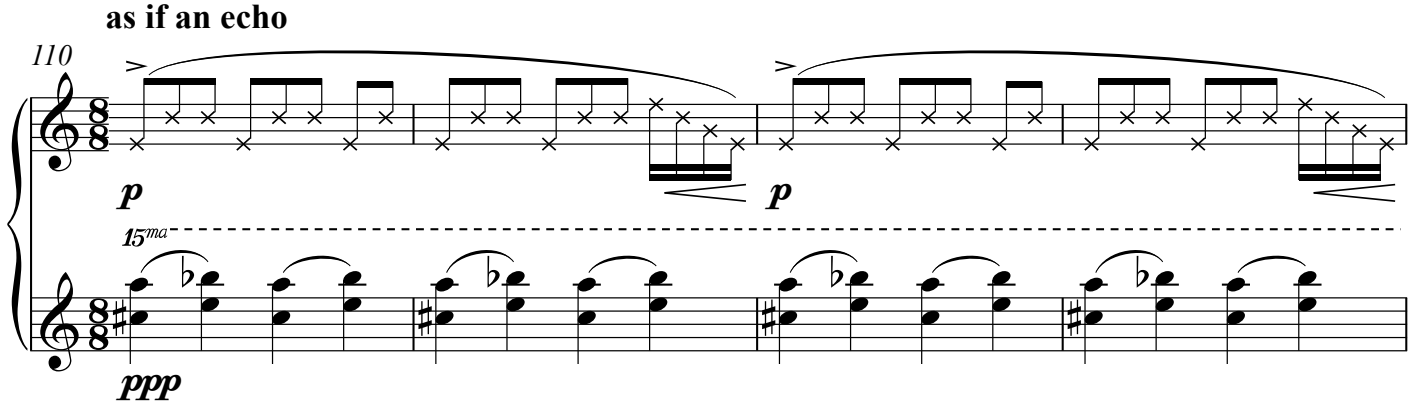

32
pp
36
40
Picking up speed ♩ = 160
45
f
f
49
mf
p


Energetic and
freeing ♩ = 180
51
f
53
ff
Dry and without pedal
56
subito p
ff
subito p
ff
59
subito p
ff
subito p
ff
subito p

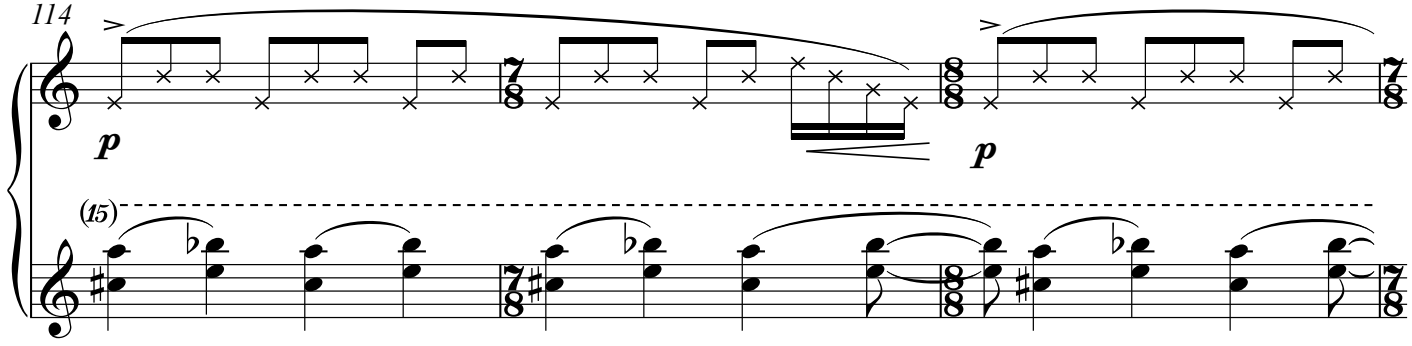

64
pp
70
ppp
76
82
f
ff

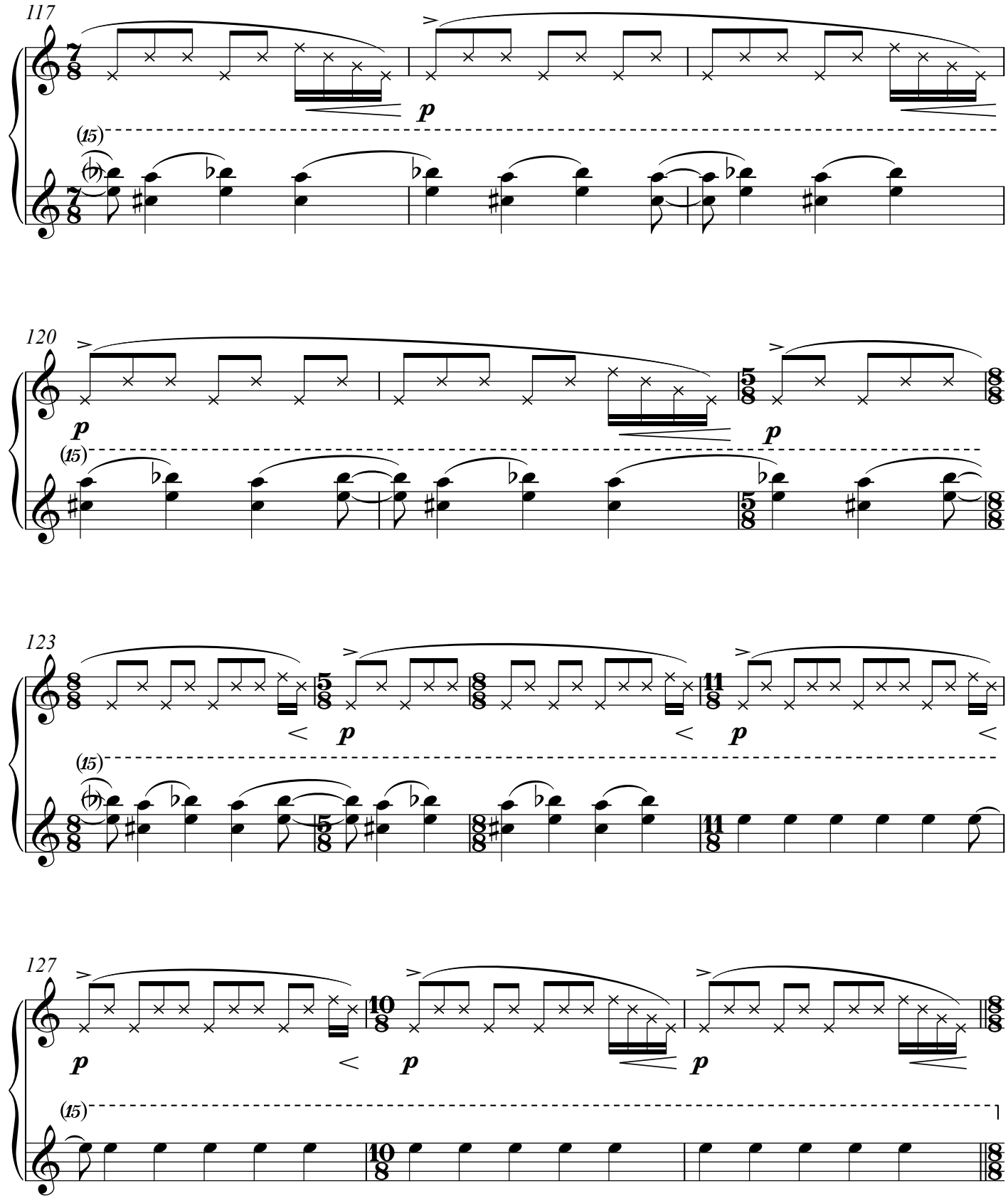
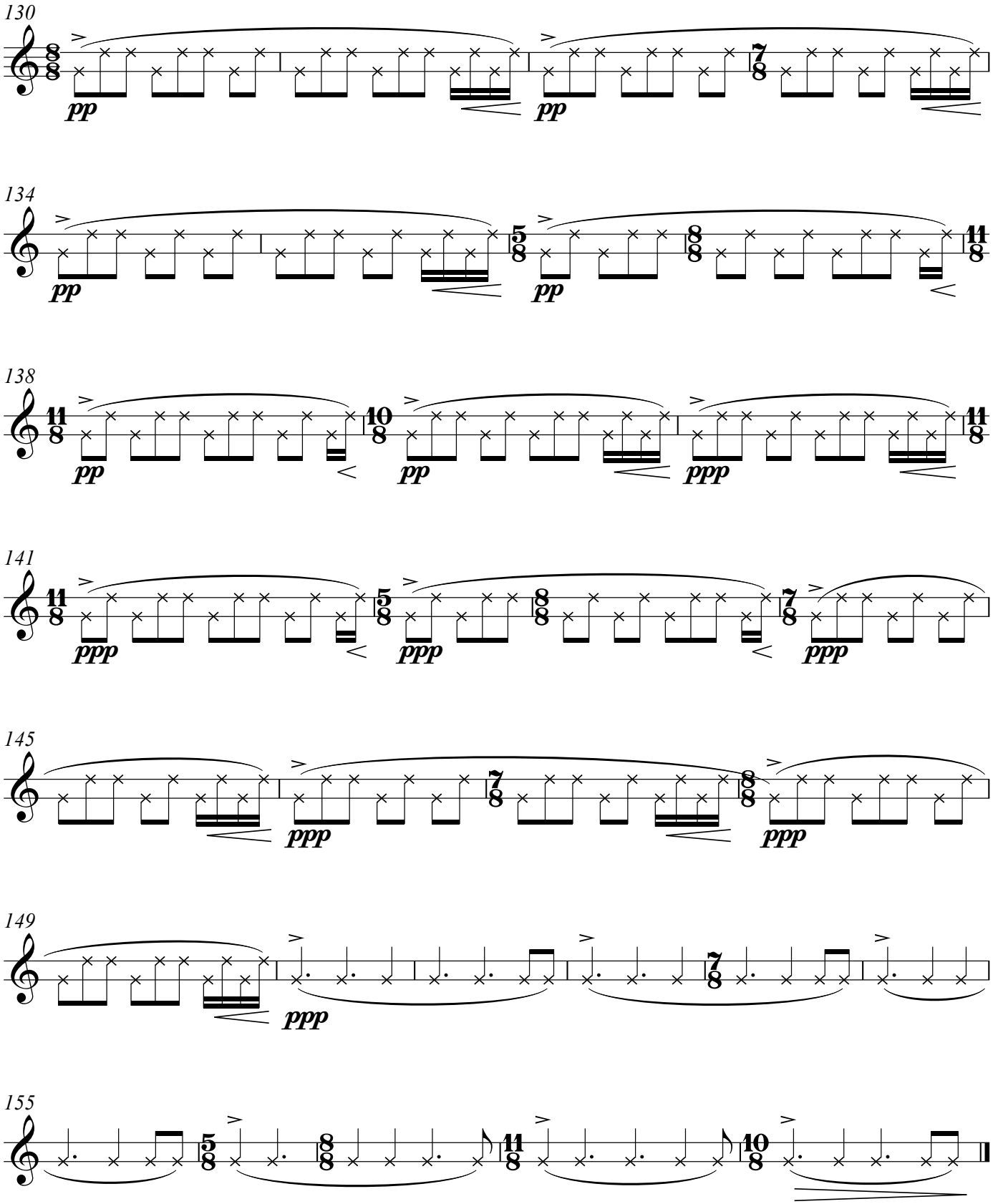

87
8va
fff
ff
91
(8)
f
95
(8)
mp
p
pp
p molto rit.
♩ = 100
Dream-like (♩ = 100)
100
pp
ppp
Pedal freely





Hold pedal throughout




117
120
123
127
p
(15)

Faster but not at all anxious ♩ = 180