Gareth Moorcraft

VIDA

for solo piano

2021

VIDA

for solo piano

Vida is one of a collection of 200 pieces commissioned to celebrate the bicentenary of the Royal Academy of Music in 2022. The premiere performance was given by George Fu on 4th February, 2022.

Vida is a fantasia-like work in three movements based on a selection of Medieval melodies composed by the Troubadours and Trobairitz. It was written alongside my suite *Alternative views from history* (the latter for a mixed ensemble of period and modern instruments). Both works are concerned with the practice of creative transcription and 'recomposition' of existing materials; as such, Vida felt something like a testing ground in which I set out to explore the different ways I might frame and engage with these ancient melodies in a new musical language.

A *vida* is a short biography for a troubadour or trobairitz, sometimes found in the chansonniers alongside the poetry and music. These biographies are considered to be very unreliable and often draw on literal readings of the poetry.

I - CANSO

(Interlude)

II - PLANH

(Interlude)

III - EPILOGUE

Duration: ca. 11 mins

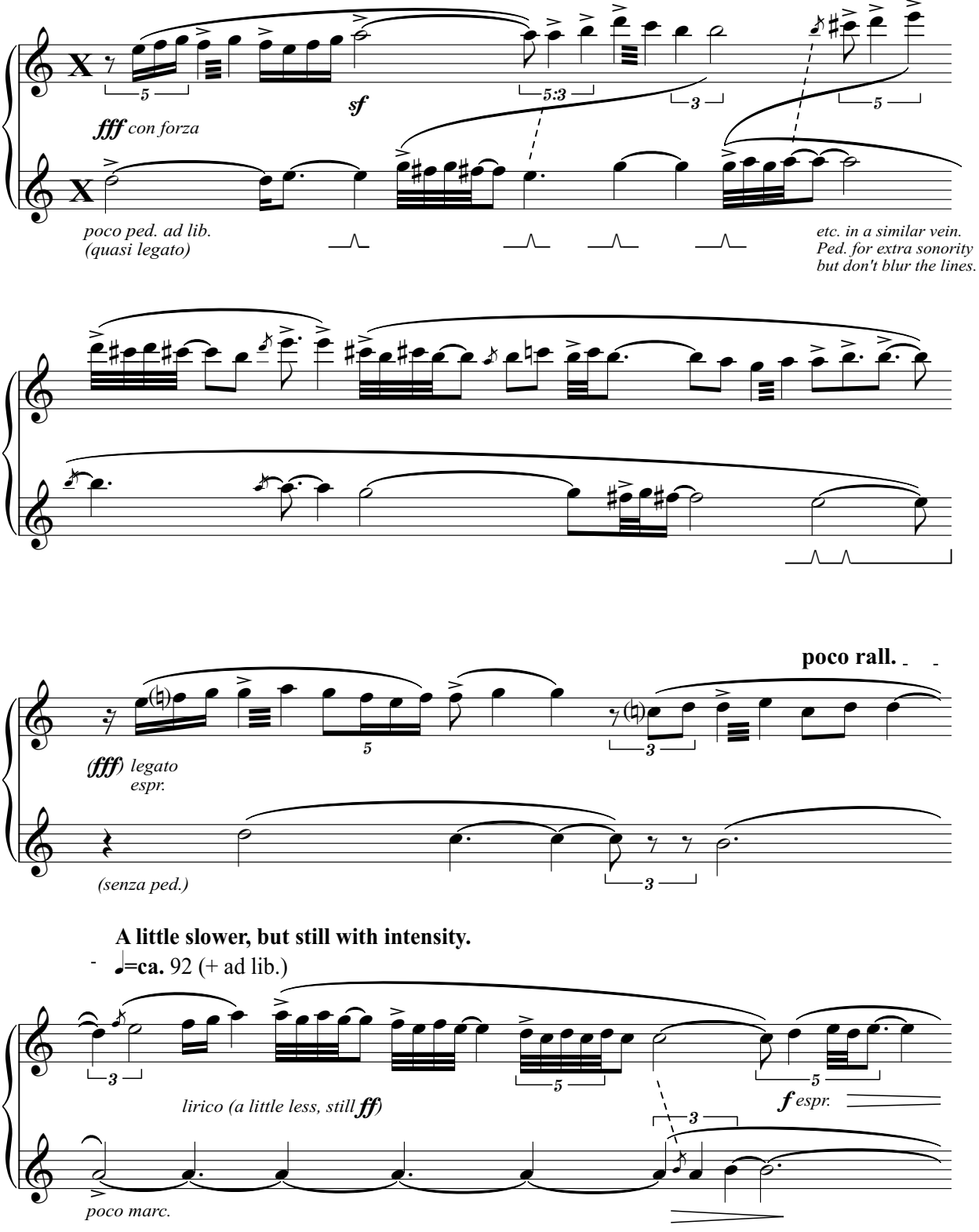
VIDA

for solo piano

I - CANSO

Gareth Moorcraft (2021)

Bright, breathless, always pushing forwards ♩=112-120



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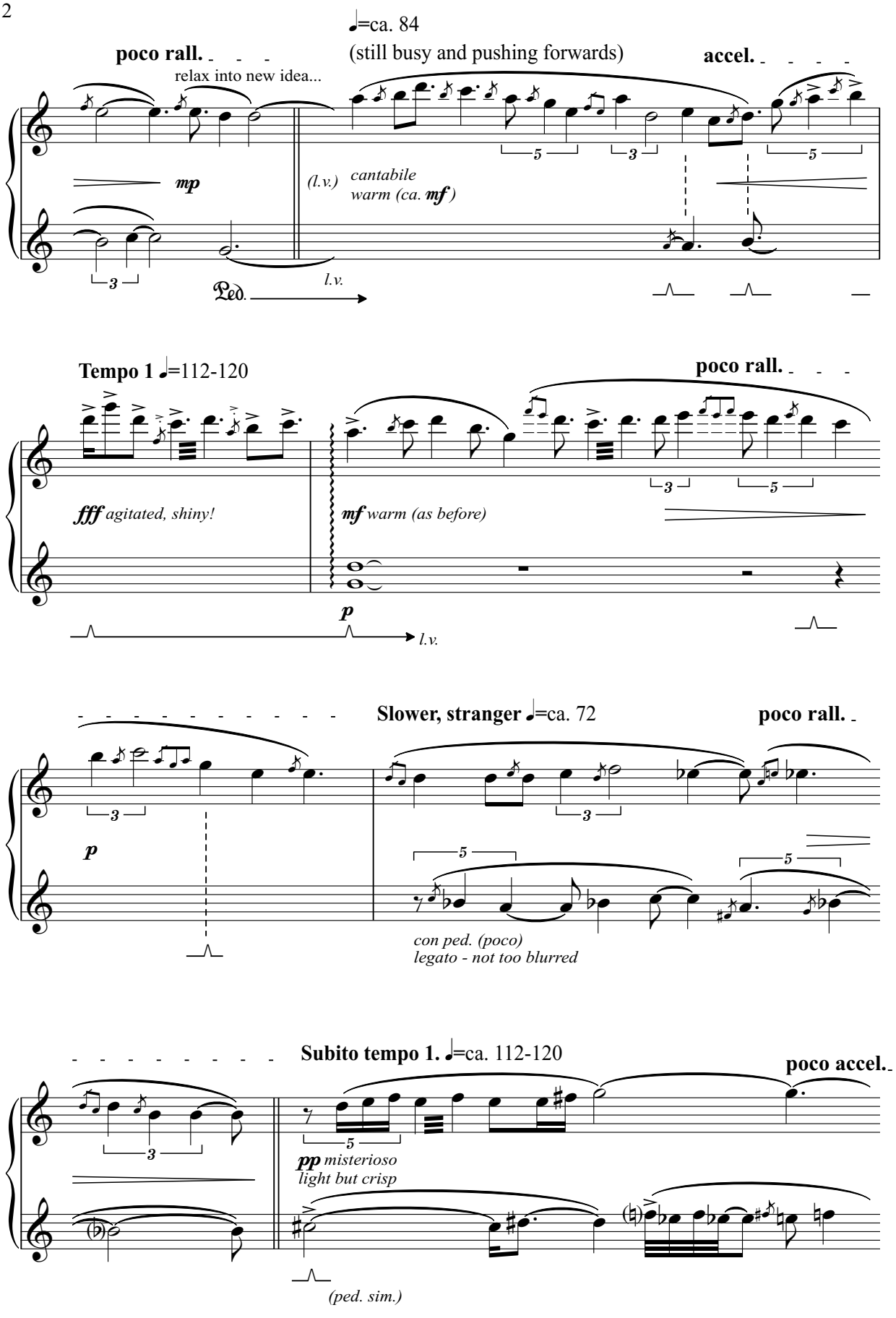
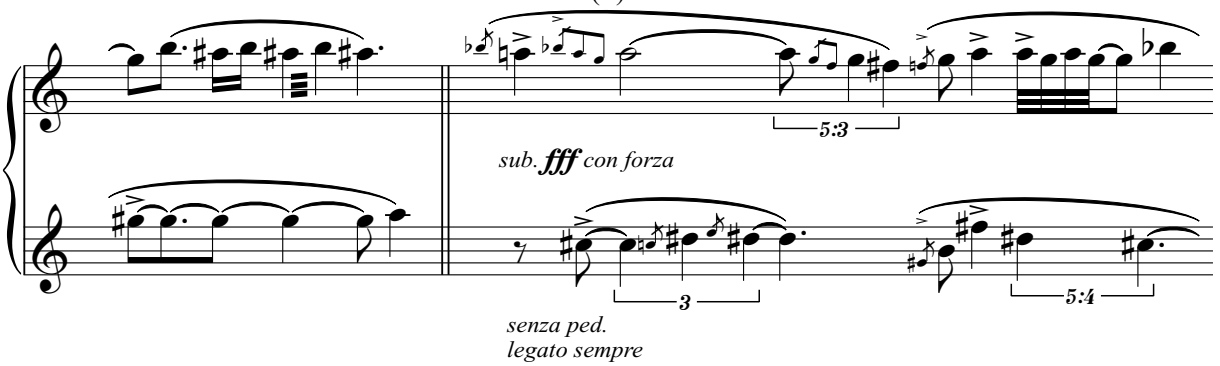
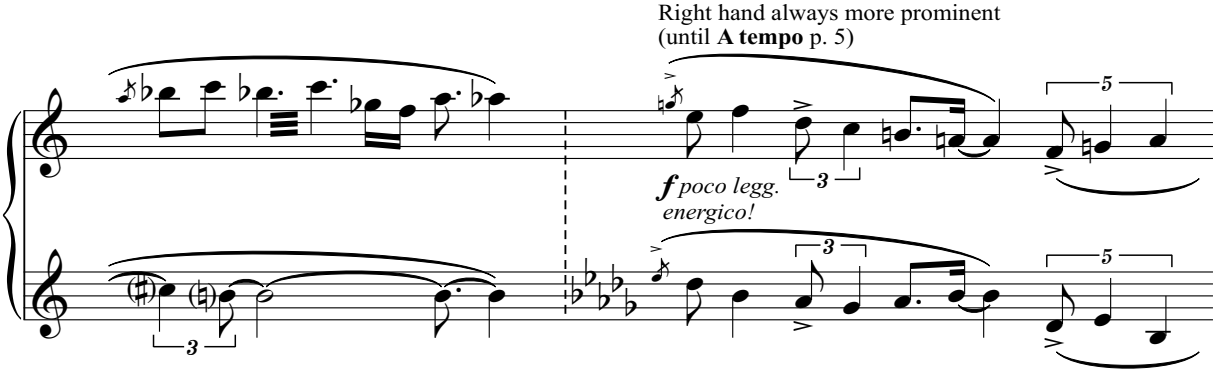
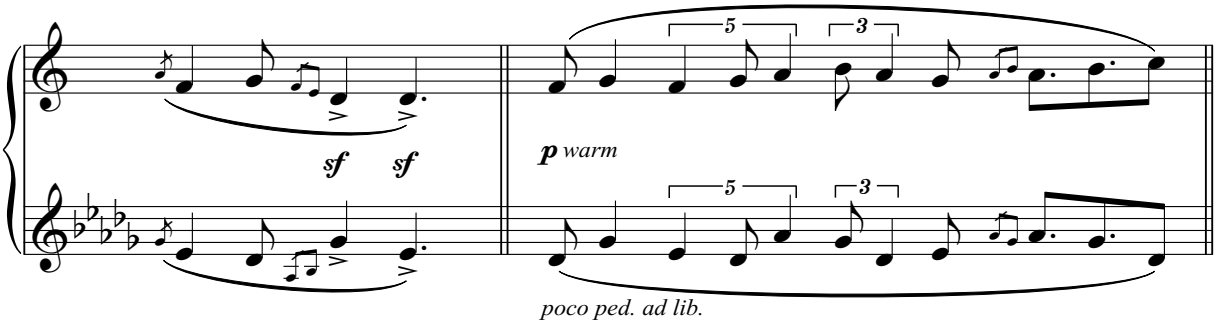

♩=ca. 84
(still busy and pushing forwards)
poco rall.
relax into new idea...
accel.
mp
(l.v.) cantabile
warm (ca. mf)
Ped.
l.v.
Tempo 1 ♩=112-120
poco rall.
fff agitated, shiny!
mf warm (as before)
p
l.v.
Slower, stranger ♩=ca. 72
poco rall.
p
con ped. (poco)
legato - not too blurred
Subito tempo 1. ♩=ca. 112-120
poco accel.
pp misterioso
light but crisp
(ped. sim.)

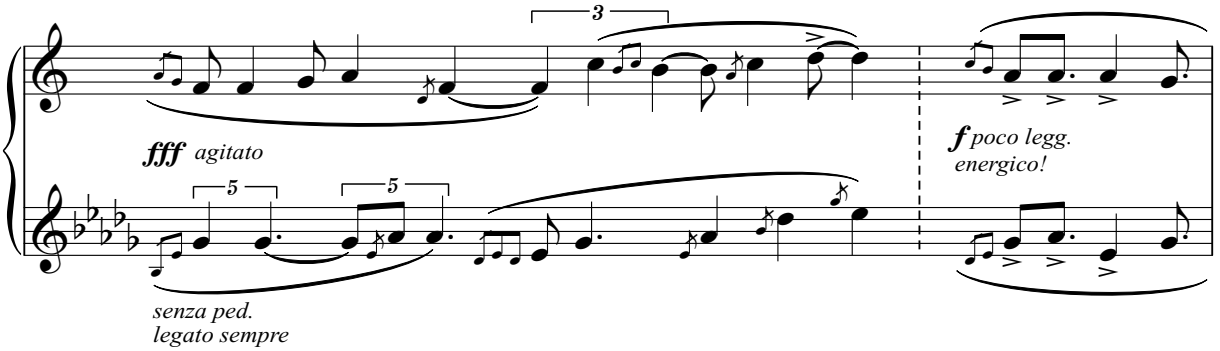
Quicker. Agitated.

♩=ca. 128 (+)





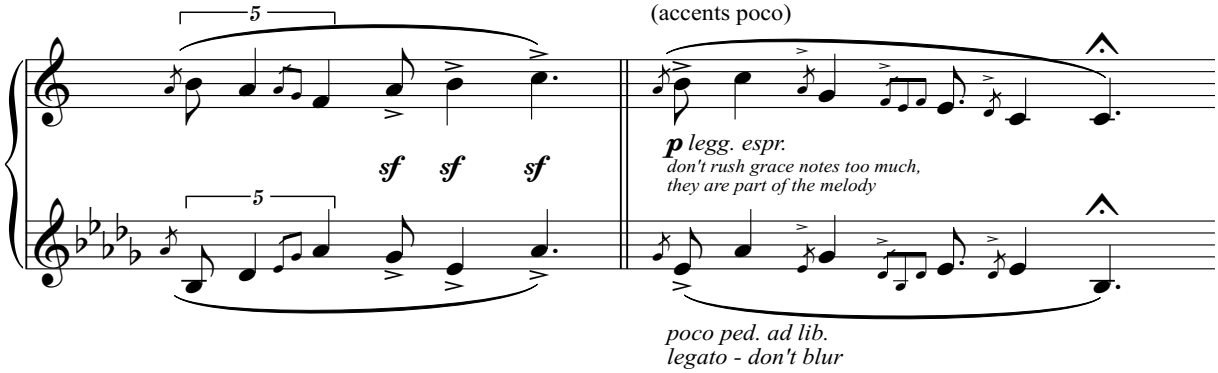




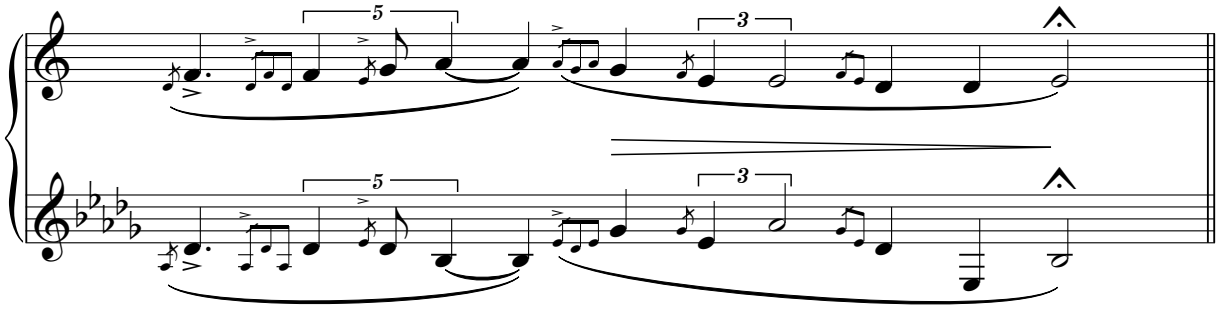
Light, playful (a little slower, but still energetic)

♩=ca. 92

(accents poco)

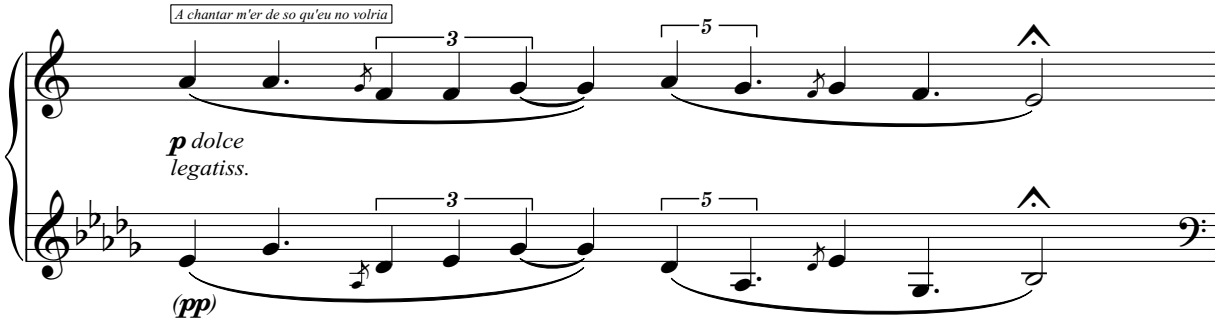


rall.

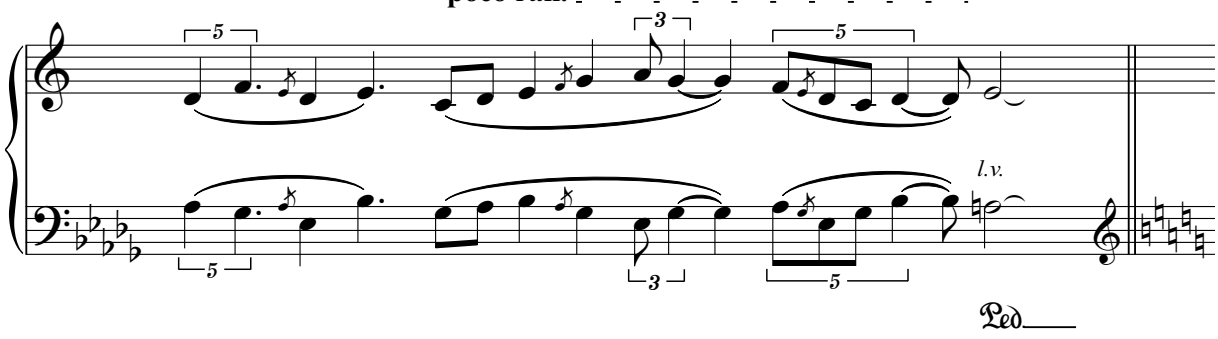


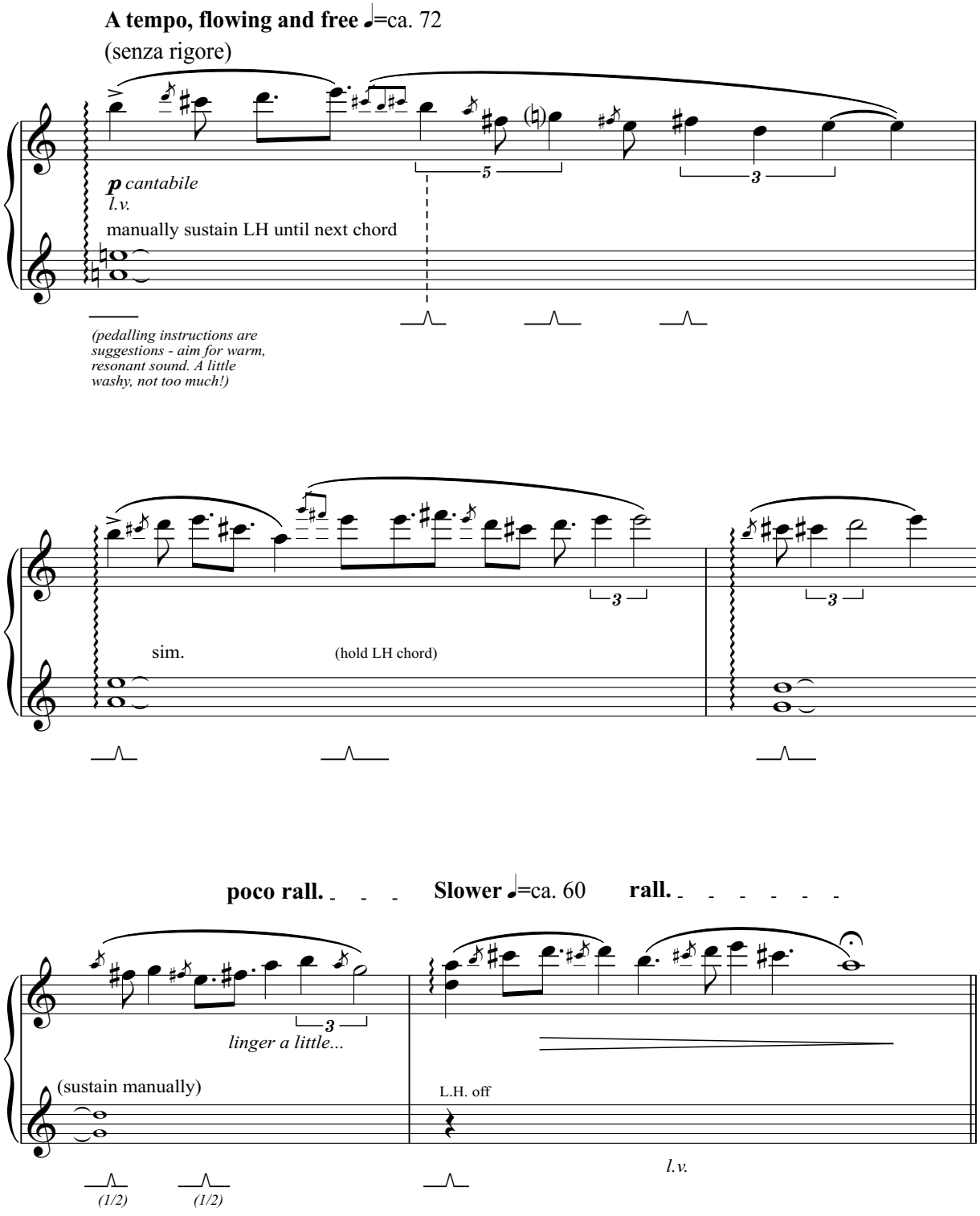
Misterioso ♩=66-72

A chantar m'er de so qu'eu no volria



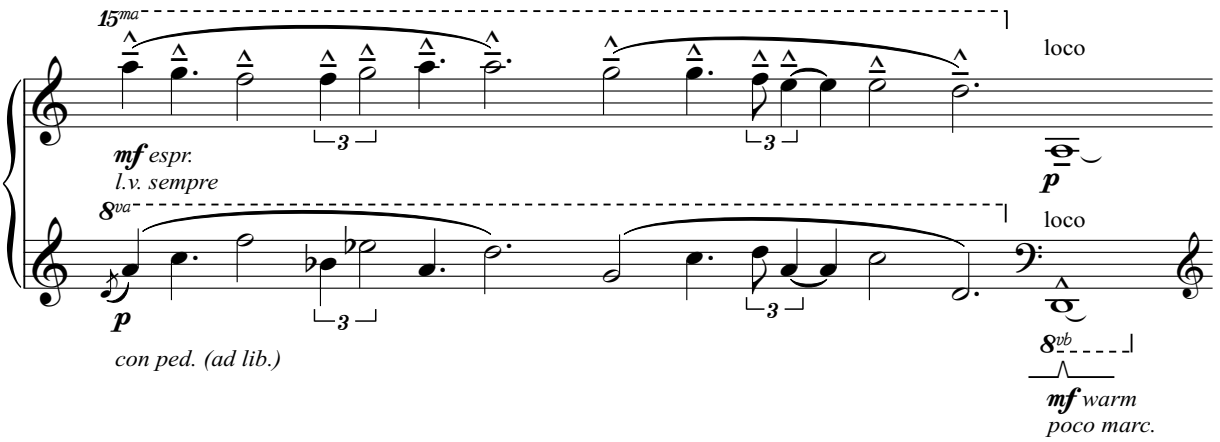
poco rall.

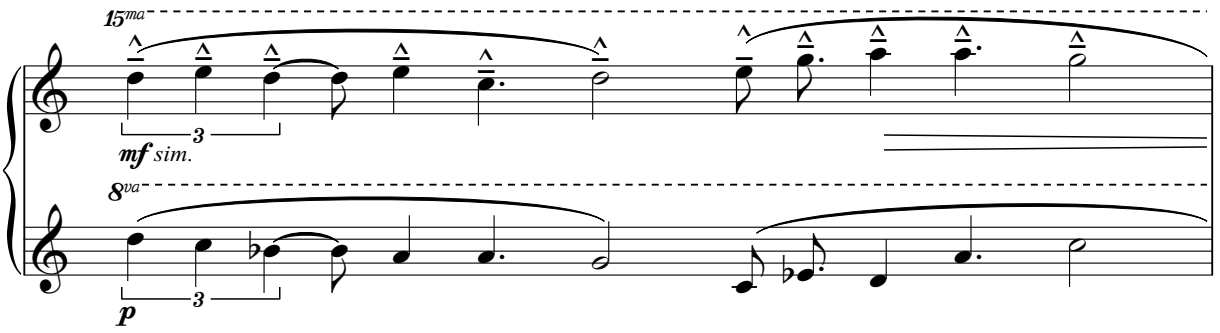


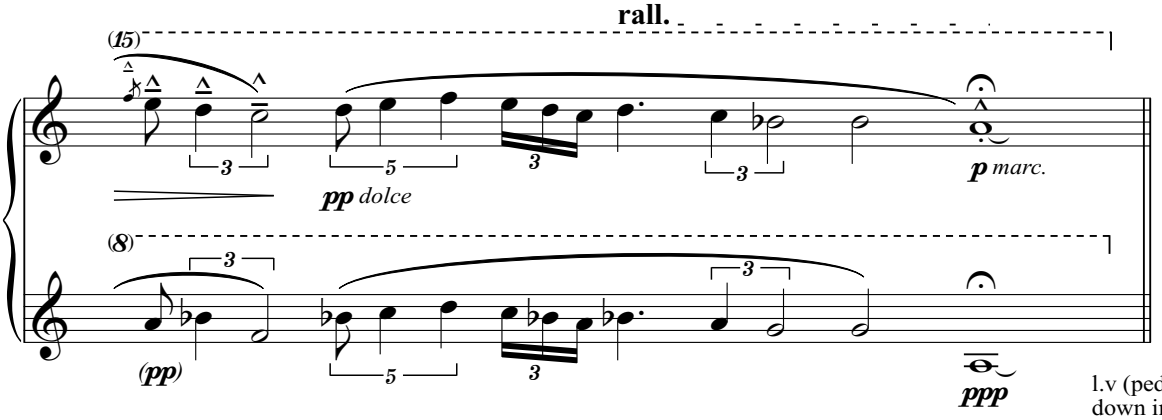

A tempo, flowing and free ♩=ca. 72
(senza rigore)
p cantabile
l.v.
manually sustain LH until next chord
(pedalling instructions are suggestions - aim for warm, resonant sound. A little washy, not too much!)
sim.
(hold LH chord)
poco rall.
Slower ♩=ca. 60
rall.
linger a little...
(sustain manually)
L.H. off
l.v.
(1/2)
(1/2)

Interlude

Like bells. Spacious ♩=ca. 52





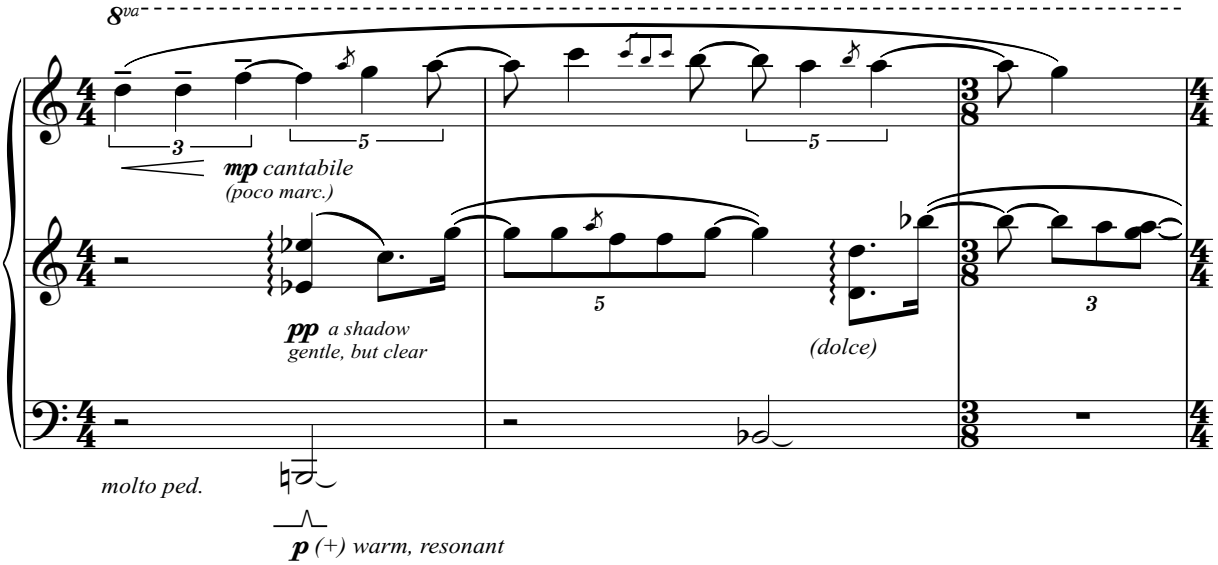
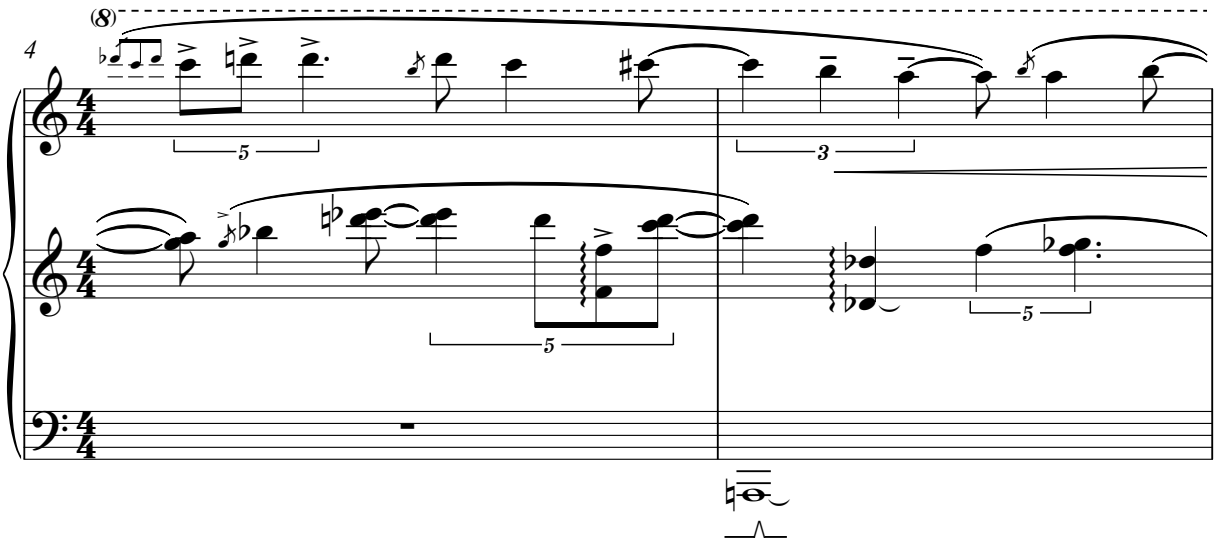


l.v (ped. stays down into mov. 2)

ATTACCA
mov. 2

II - PLANH

Lyrical, warm ♩=48

Nb. Accidentals apply to whole bars (standard practice)

Quar nueg e jorn trist soi et esbahit (Anon. ca. 1270)