VALSE

Joshua Chandra
josh.chandra@gmail.com

The Valse in C-sharp Minor is its composer's first completed work, with its roots being casually sketched in March 2010. It was later left mainly dormant for several months, until the composer accidentally found himself stranded in Italy in August 2010 for more than twice as long a stay as he intended. It was during this extended tour that he finished the work in Rome, away from any available pianos, and continuously retouched it after his return until October 2010.

The piece, inspired by Chopin's own numerous waltzes, continually cycles through three parts; its form is roughly ABCABC-A, with each repeat adding variations. (The composer lightly suggests additional, preplanned improvisation for any performer willing and able to do so tastefully.) The A section darkly explores many juxtaposed harmonies, while the contrastingly joyous B section is an elegant alternation between E & G Major, bearing an unexpected, sharp ending.

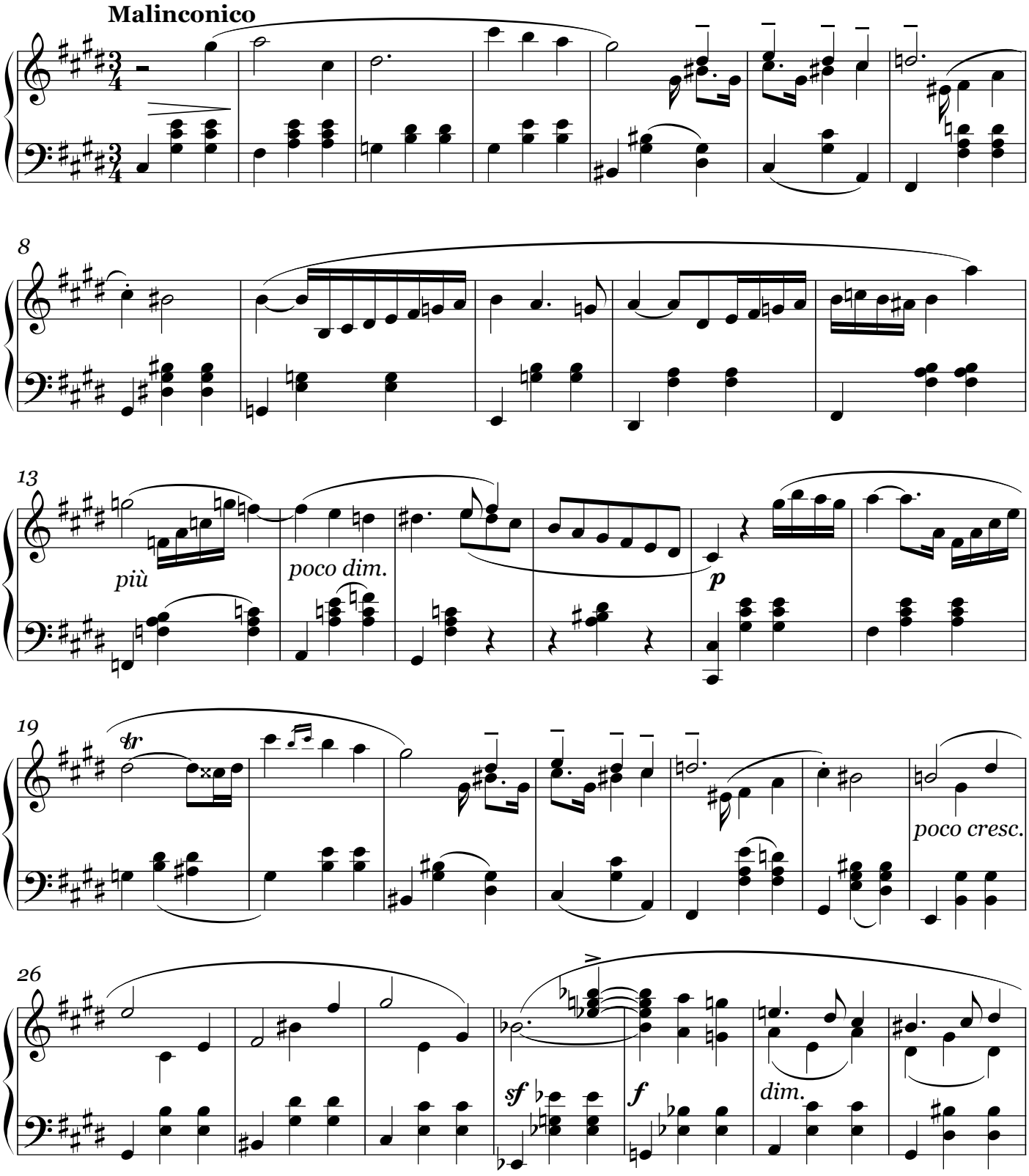
It abruptly rolls into the C theme, everything from then on of which was composed in Rome. C's supremely longing *dolce* (It.: "sweet") returns to the dark A; in its recurrence, the hyphen in the form illustrated above marks a queer, simultaneous merge of the C and A sections. One can hear the two parts conflict harmonically, as the infinitely melancholy A section struggles with (and eventually overpowers) C, due to its dominating passion to end the four-and-a-half-minute work in the darkness from which it emerged.

Debuted on: March 16, 2011, at:
California State University, Fullerton.
Performed by: The composer at the piano.

Valse

(Composed March - October 2010)

Joshua Chandra



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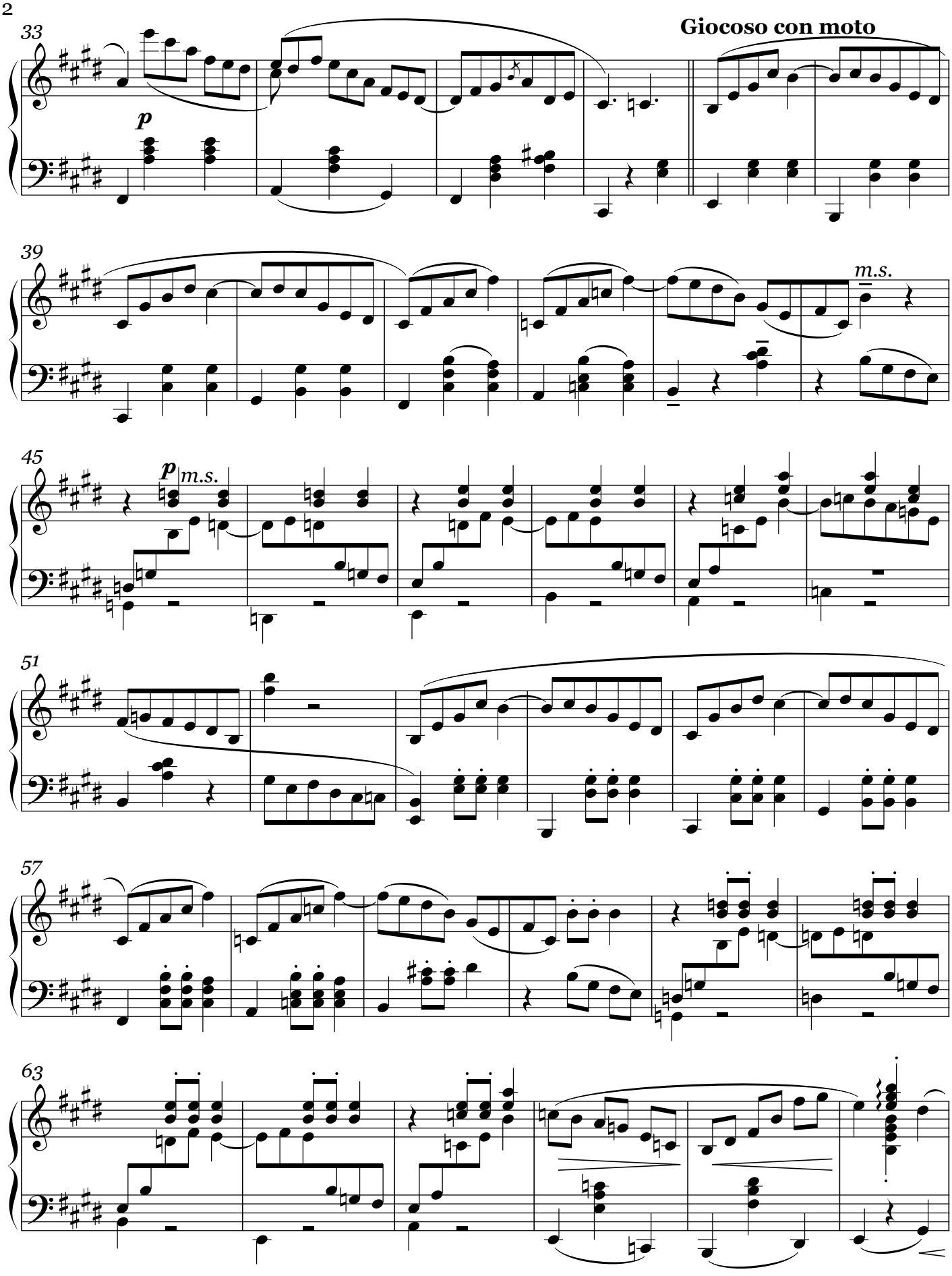
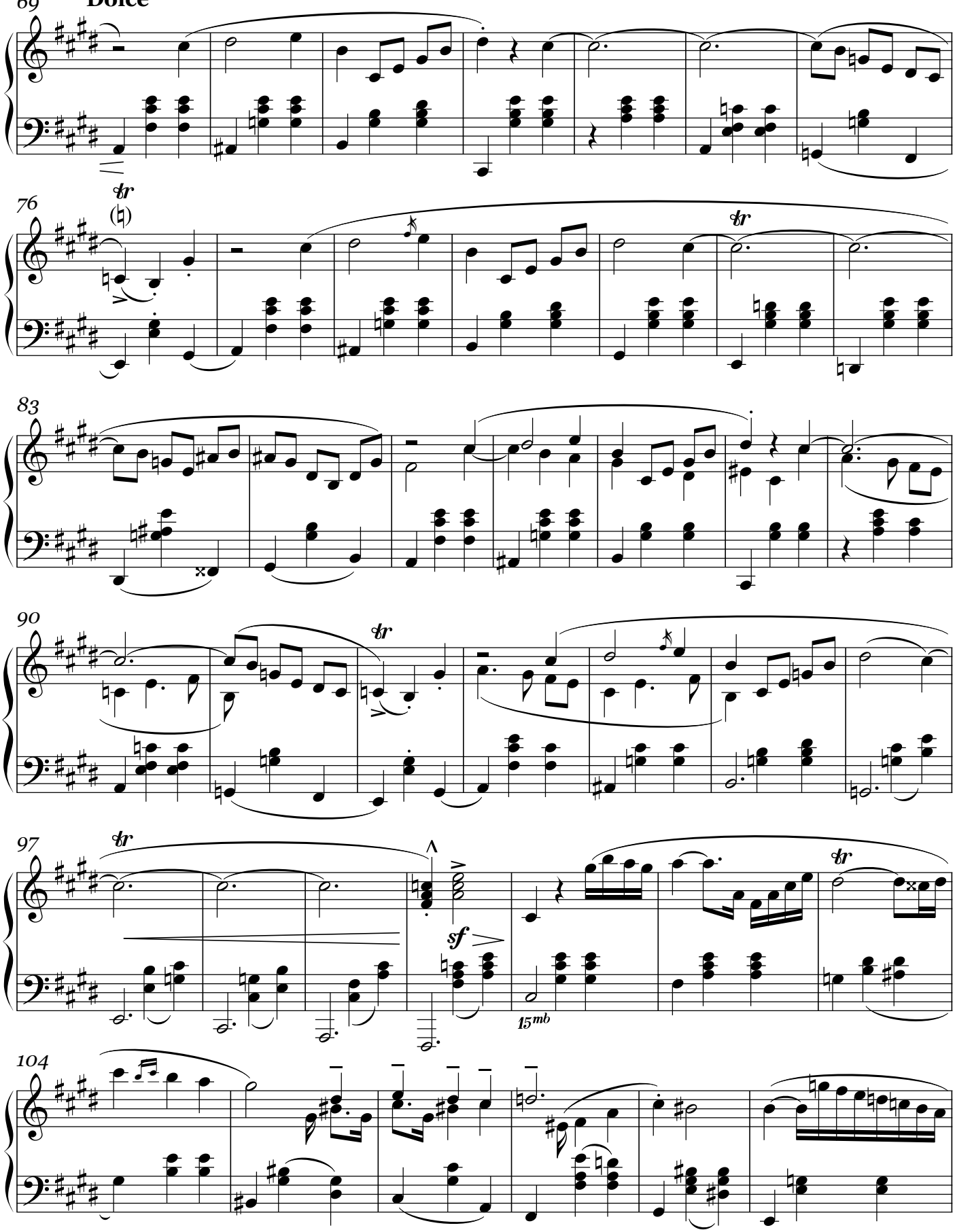

33
Giocoso con moto
p
39
m.s.
45
p
m.s.
51
57
63


69
Dolce
76
83
90
97
sf
15mb
104

110

più

poco dim.

116

p

tr

121

poco cresc.

128

sf

f

poco dim.

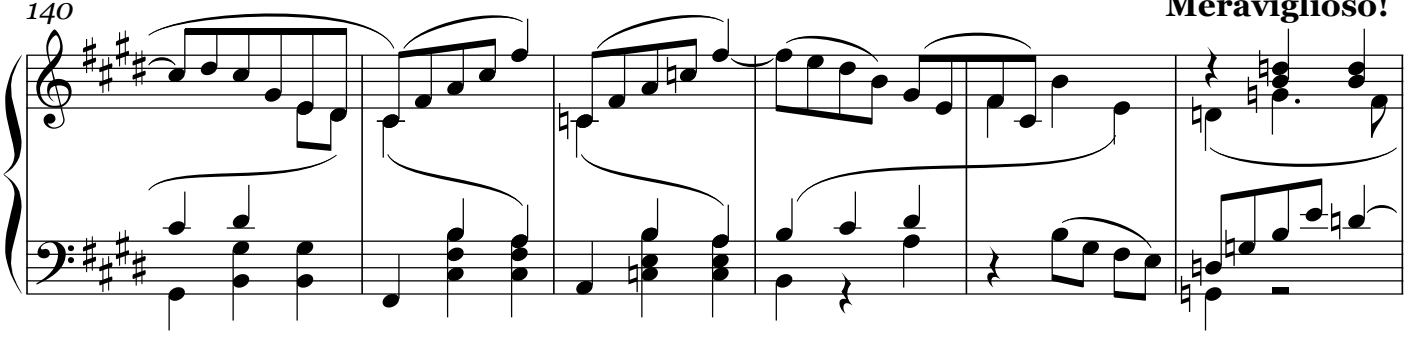
p

134

That light shines in the darkness,

140

Meraviglioso!



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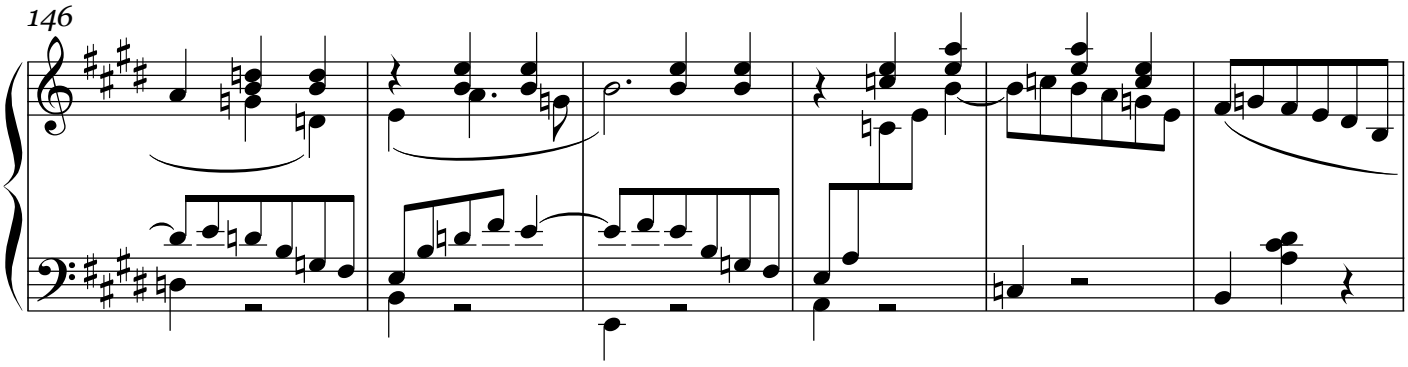

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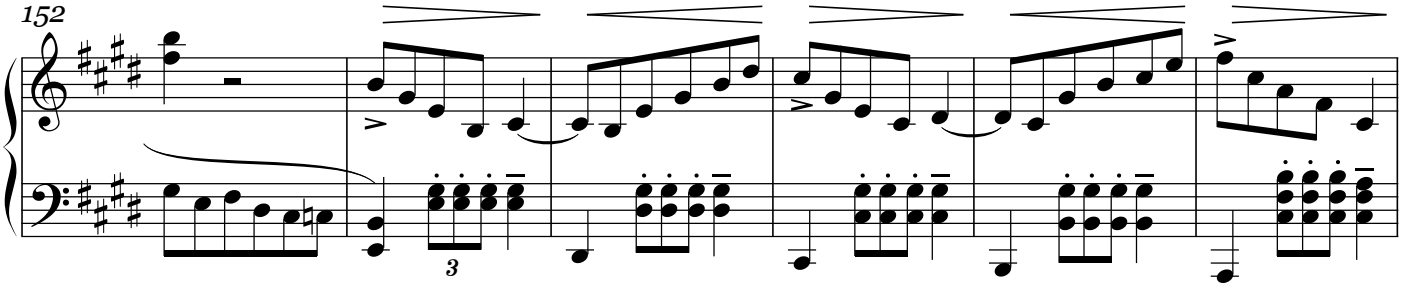

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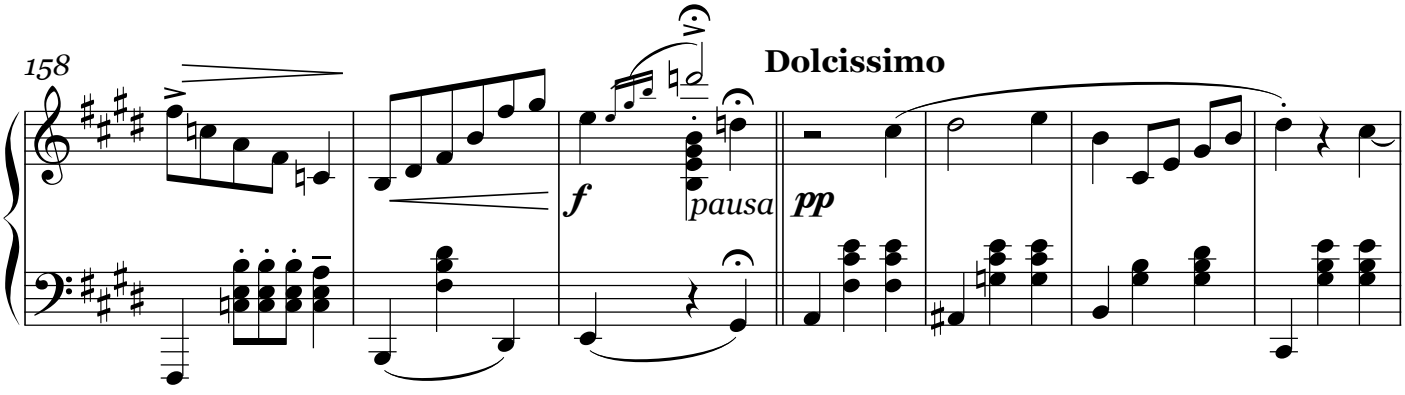
Dolcissimo



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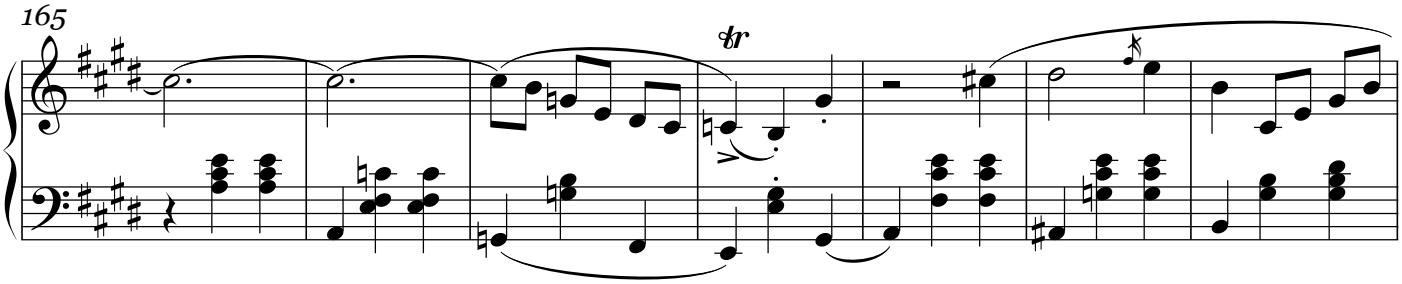
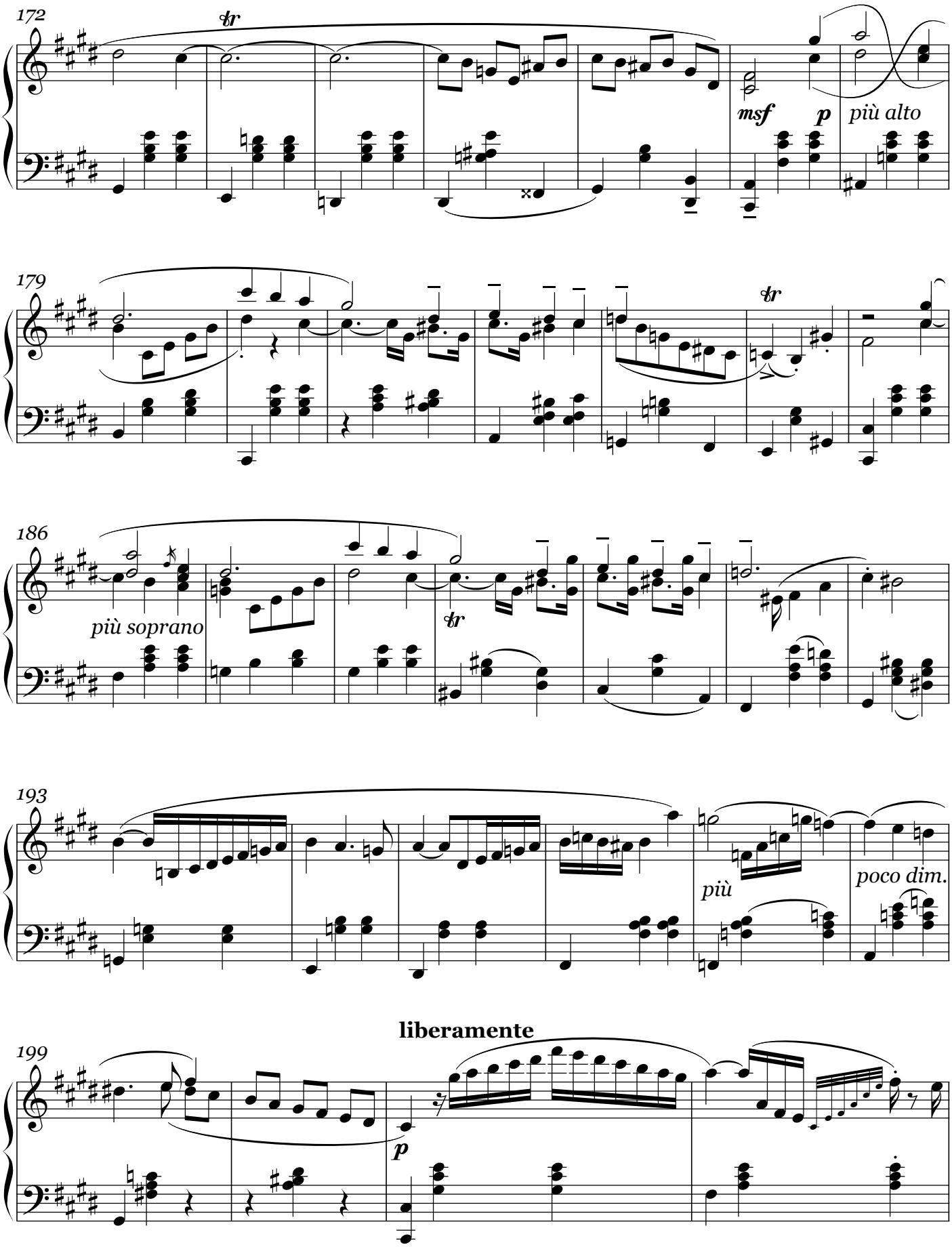
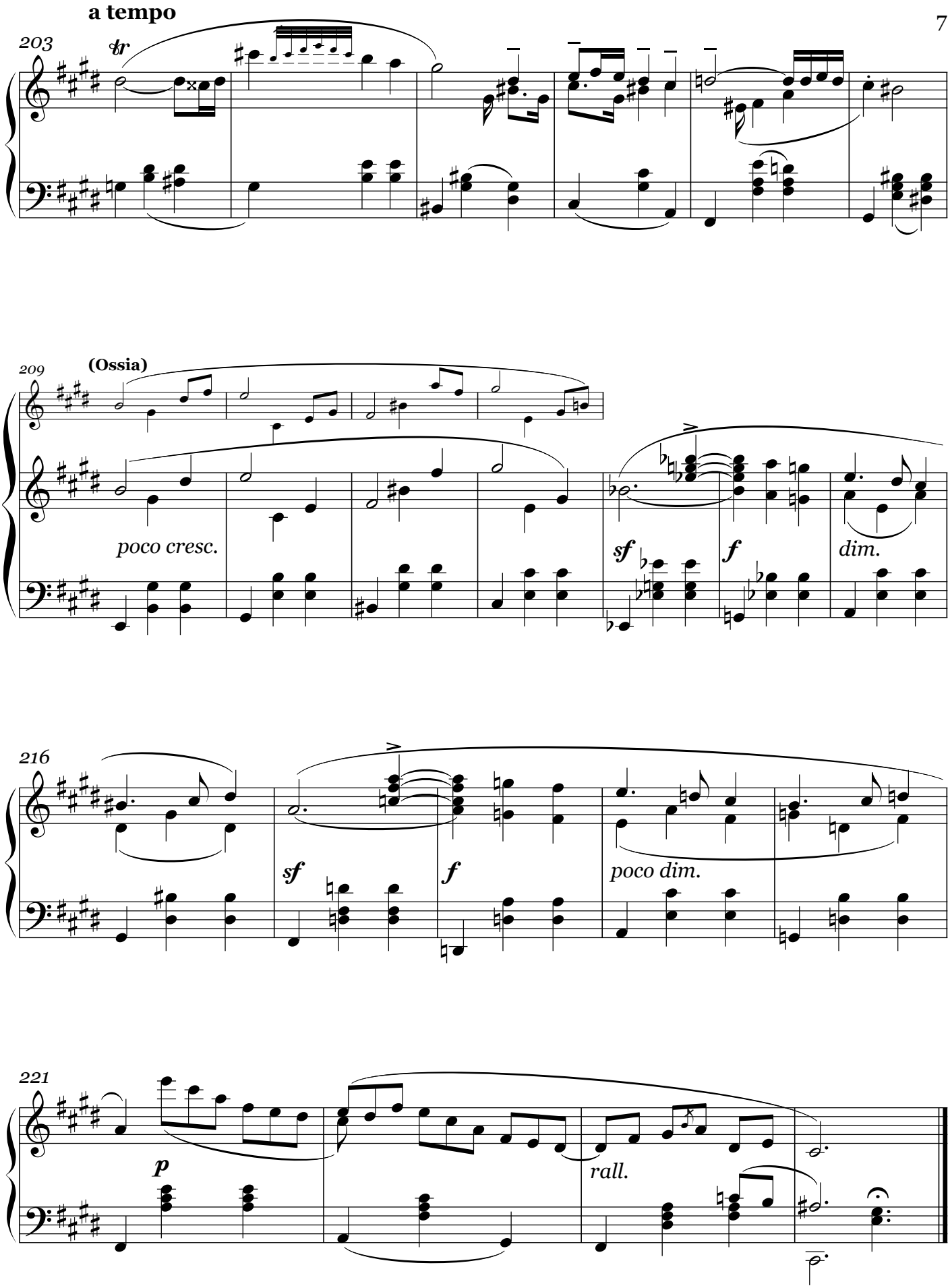
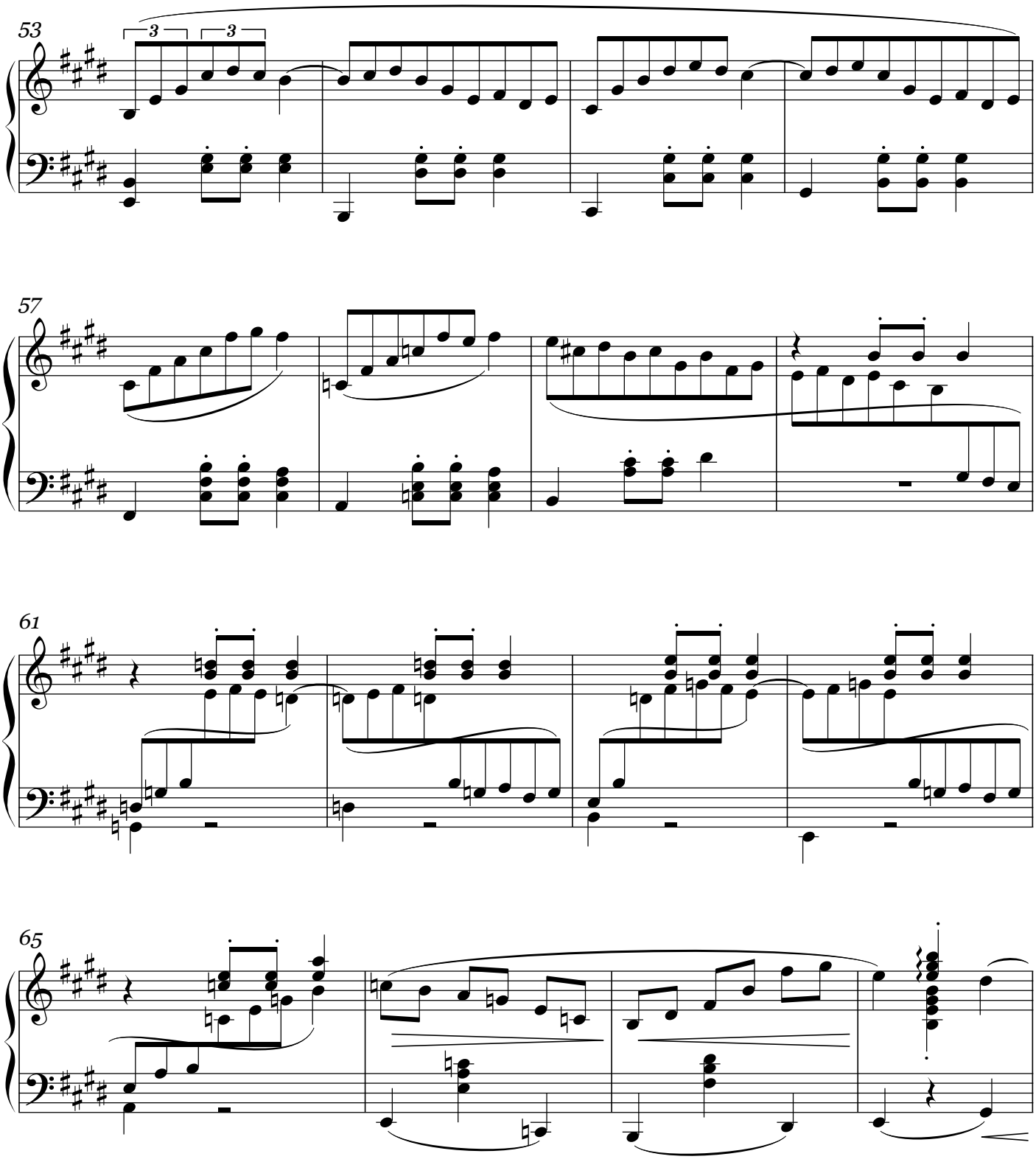



172
tr
msf
p
più alto
179
tr
186
più soprano
tr
193
più
poco dim.
liberamente
199
p



yet the darkness did not comprehend it.

Ossia: first recurrence inside B