CONCERTS OF HYMNS

Hymn Settings for
Solo Piano

VOLUME I

A C O N C E R T O F H Y M N S

F O R

A D V E N T, C H R I S T M A S,

A N D E P I P H A N Y

Richard Hudson

PREFACE

This volume presents nine piano pieces based on hymns for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. At the end are indexes for first lines and tunes.

The pieces may be played in the home, in a piano recital, in Sunday School, or church. As part of a worship service they may be used separately or in groups of two, three, or more, as a prelude before the service, a postlude at the end, or as music for the Offertory or Communion. They may precede the singing of the hymn or alternate with its verses. In addition, the volume has been designed so that the entire collection can be performed as a concert for piano alone or a concert for piano and one or more readers. The collection is unified by repeating some musical material from the first two pieces in the final one. When readers are included, the quotations preceding each piece could be read by a single person or divided among several, so that one person could read the narration, another the words of Isaiah in Nos. 1 and 2, and perhaps still another the words of the angel in Nos. 3 and 5. The congregation, the choir, or all the readers together might read the words of the multitude of angels in No. 6, the wise men in No. 7, or the psalm in No. 9.

If singing is incorporated into the performance, each of the three sections could conclude with the choir or congregation singing the hymn on which the preceding setting is based (thus following Nos. 3, 6, and 9), with the concert ending perhaps with a repetition of the last 9 bars or more of No. 9.

The indications for the sustaining damper pedal should be followed very carefully. When marked "$^1/_2$," the pedal is to be released only halfway, in order to allow some of the previous vibrations to continue. Tempos should generally be flexible and expressive. Rhythm should be flowing and intensely alive. Moods range from breathless awe and mystery to the exuberant joy of Christmas.

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HYMNS FOR ADVENT

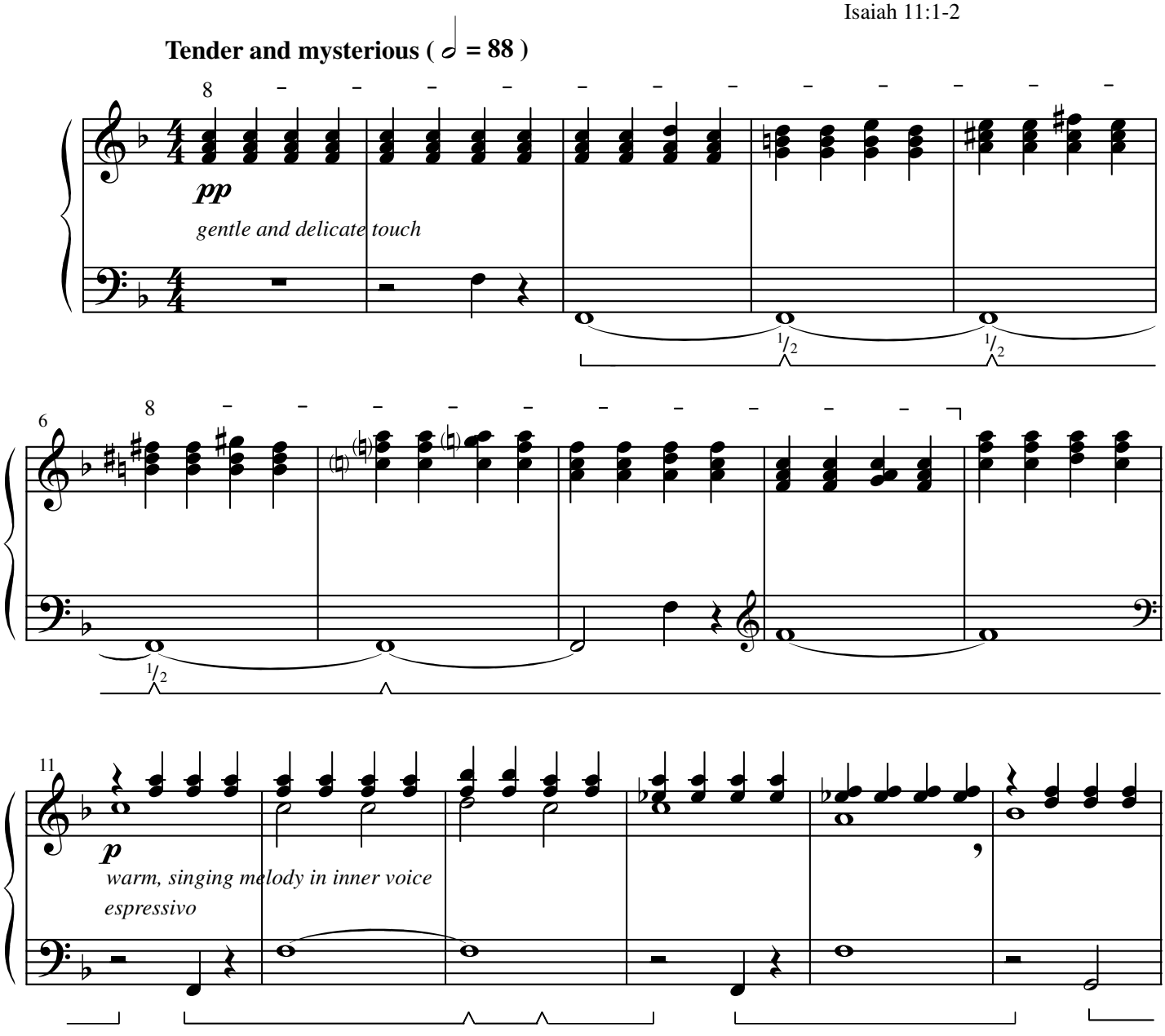
1. Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

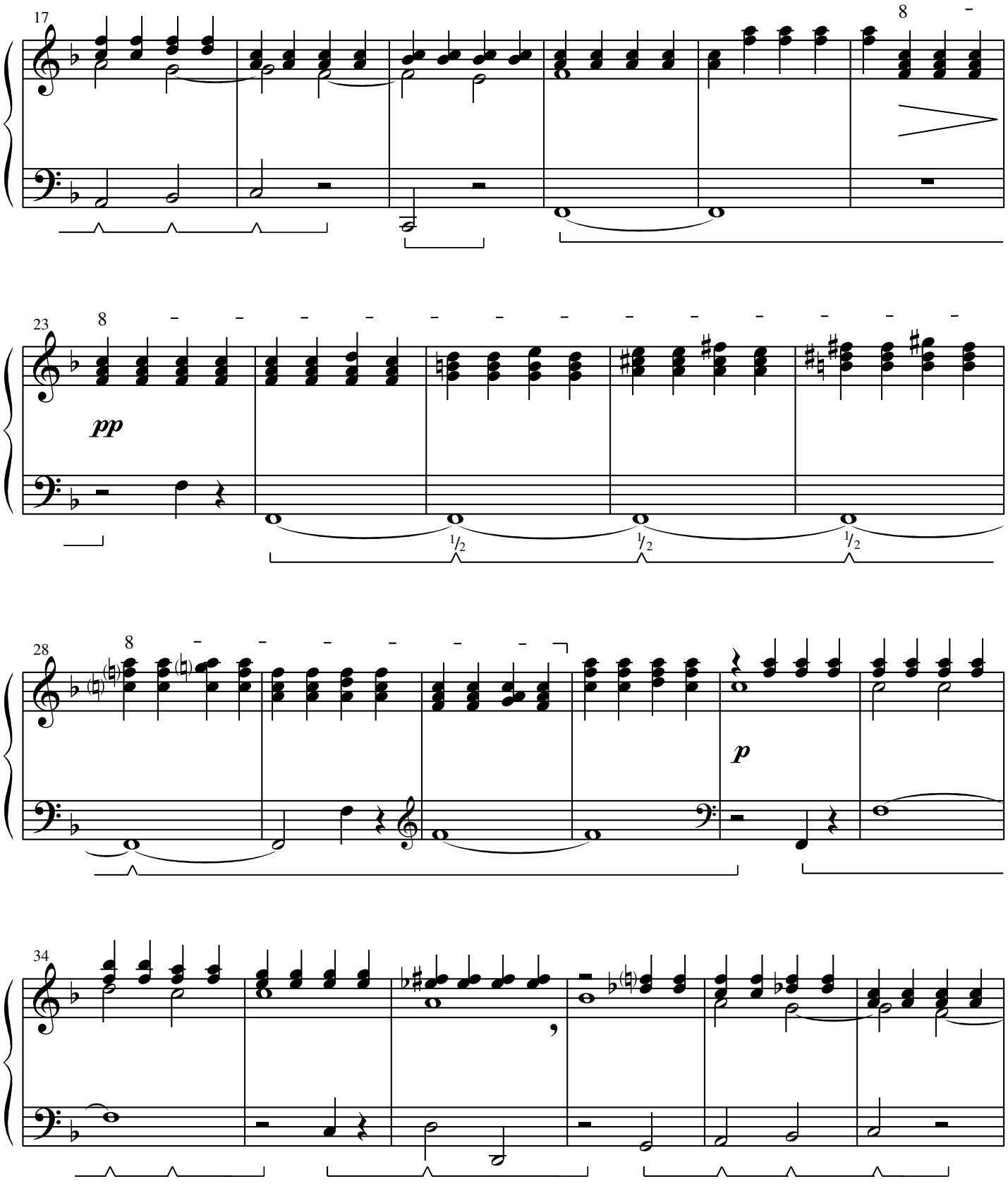
(Es ist ein Ros)

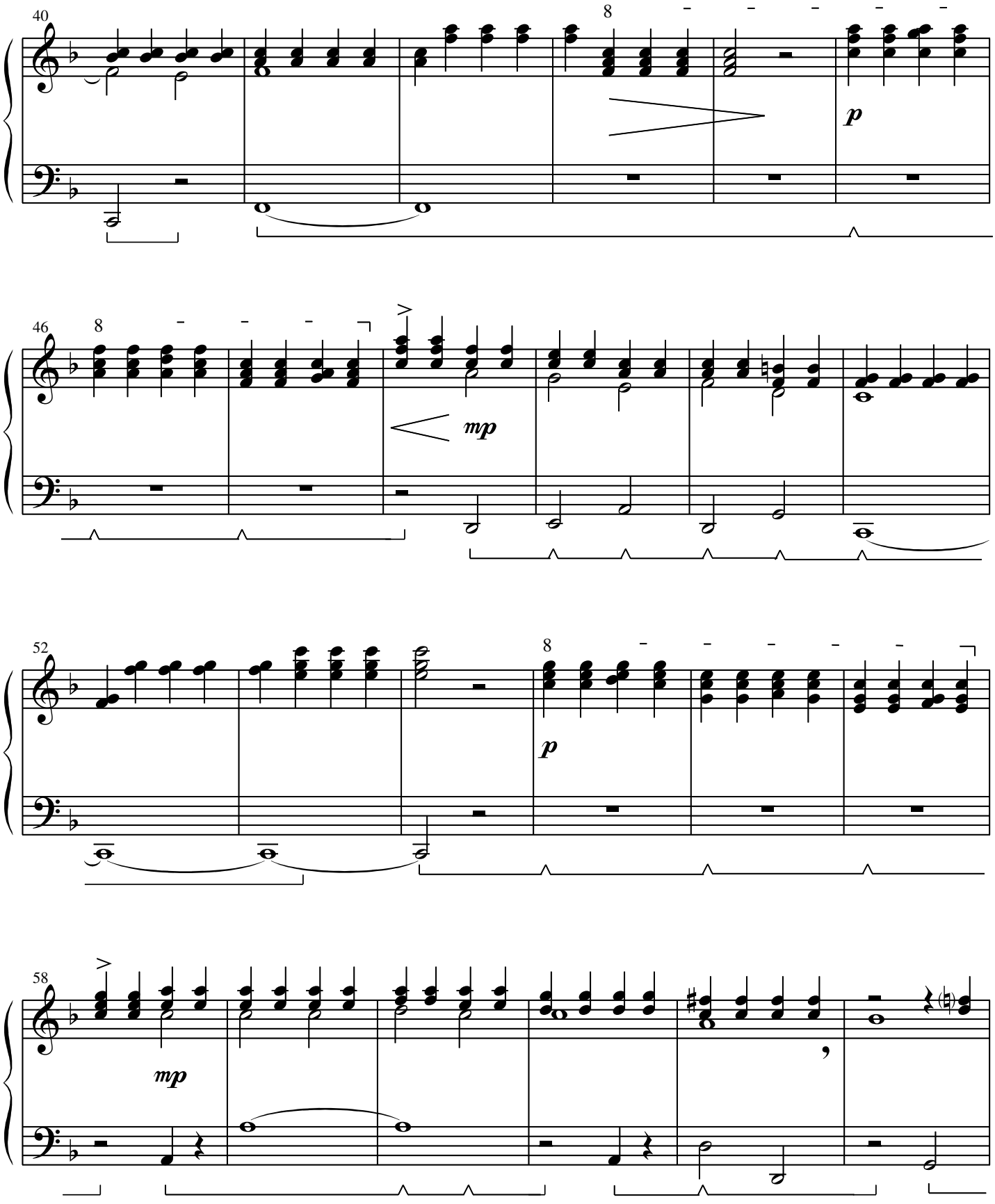
Richard Hudson

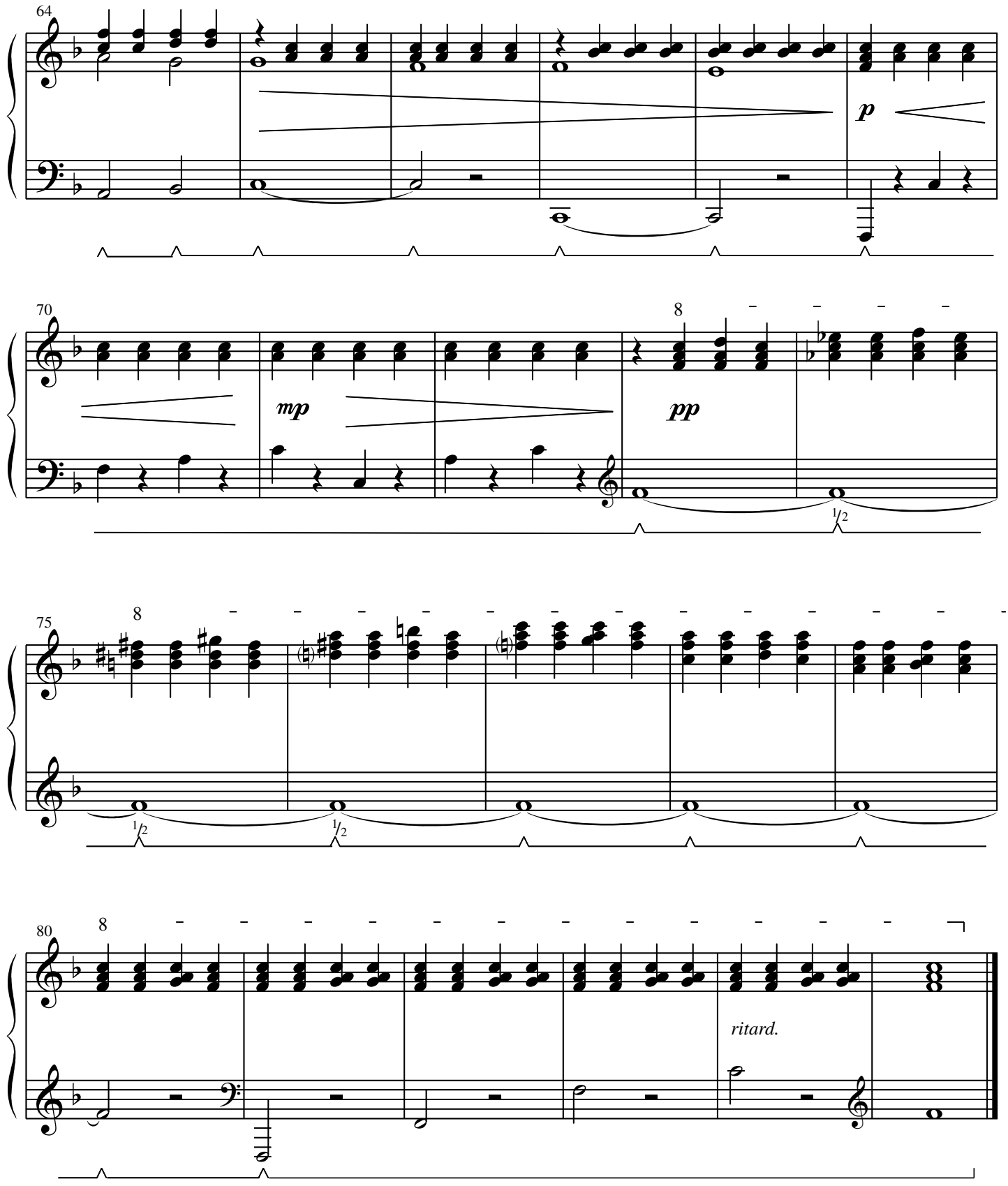
And there shall come forth a shoot out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots shall bear fruit. And the spirit of God shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of God.

Isaiah 11:1-2




17
8
23
8
pp
1/2
1/2
1/2
28
8
p
34


40
8
p
46
8
mp
52
8
p
58
mp

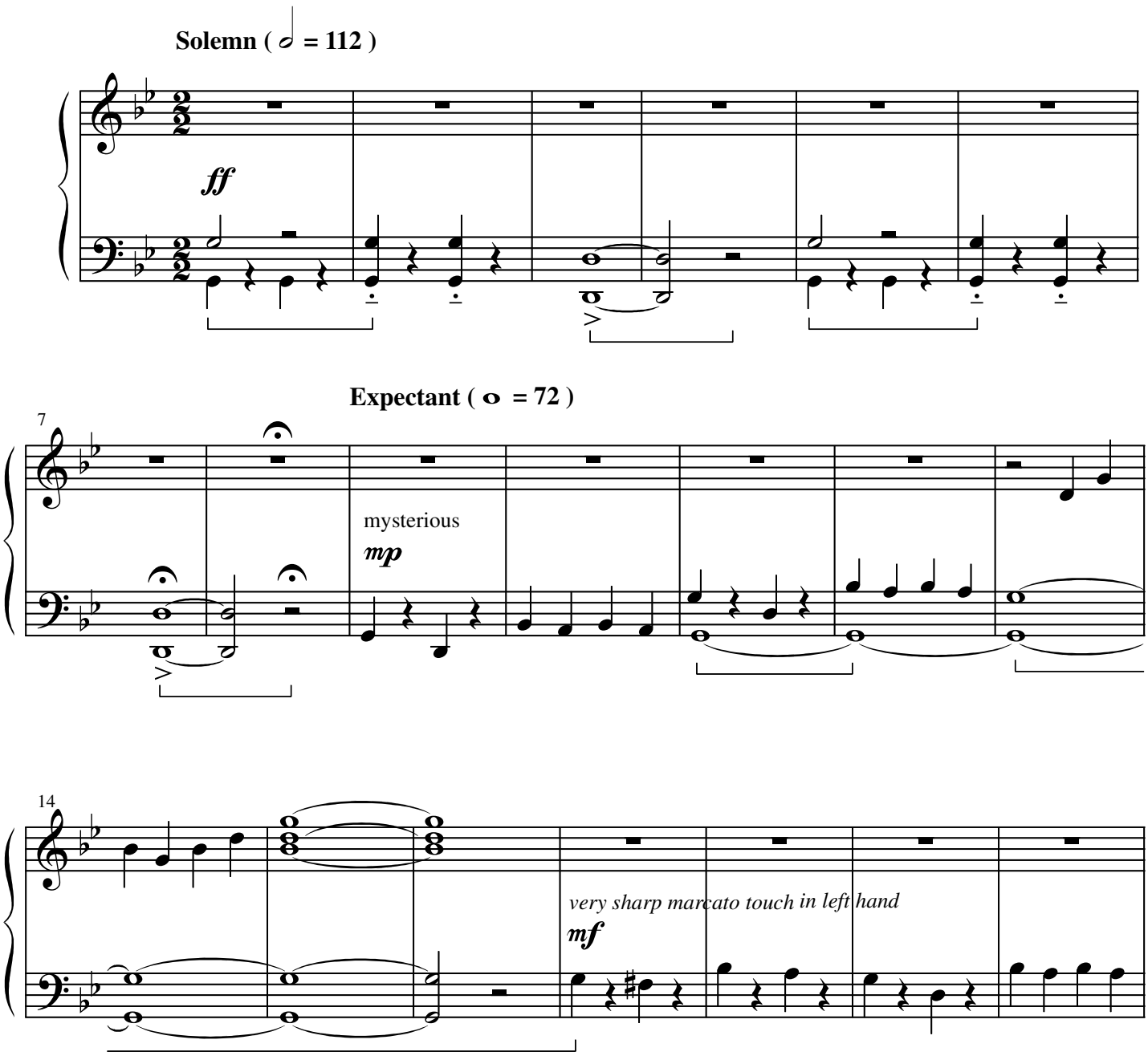

64
p
70
mp
8
pp
1/2
75
8
1/2
1/2
80
8
ritard.

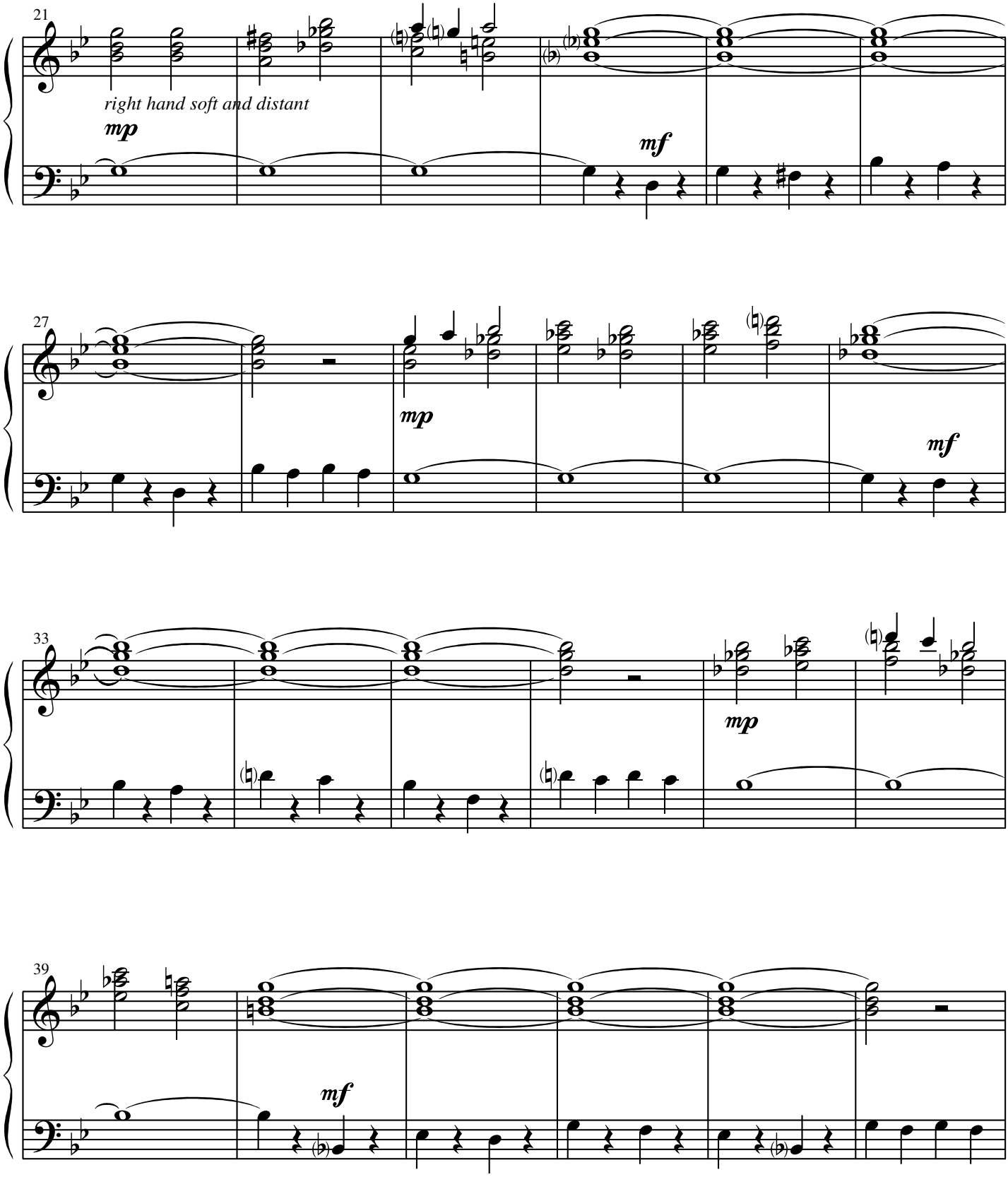
2. Savior of the Nations, Come
(Nun komm der Heiden Heiland)

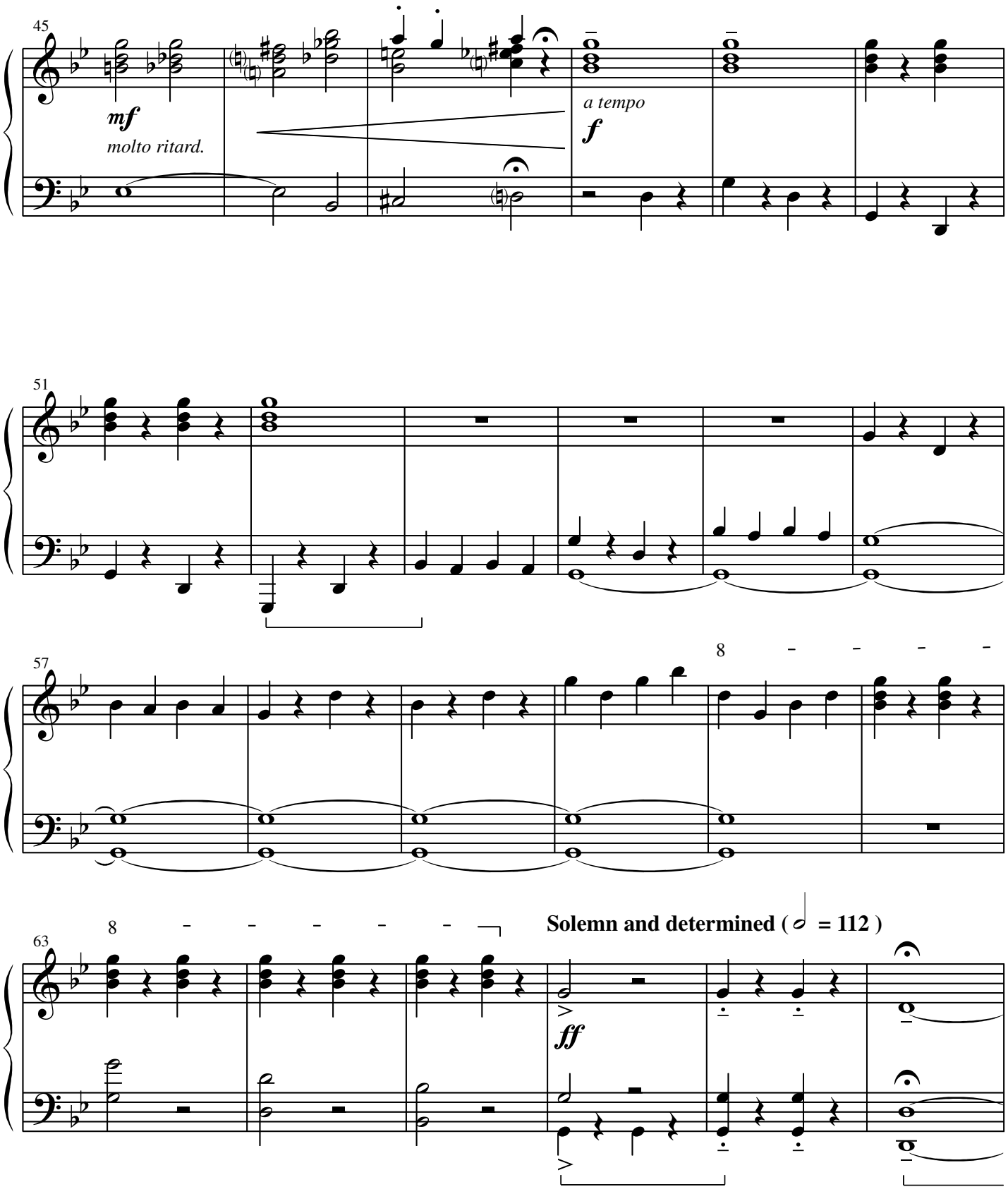
Richard Hudson

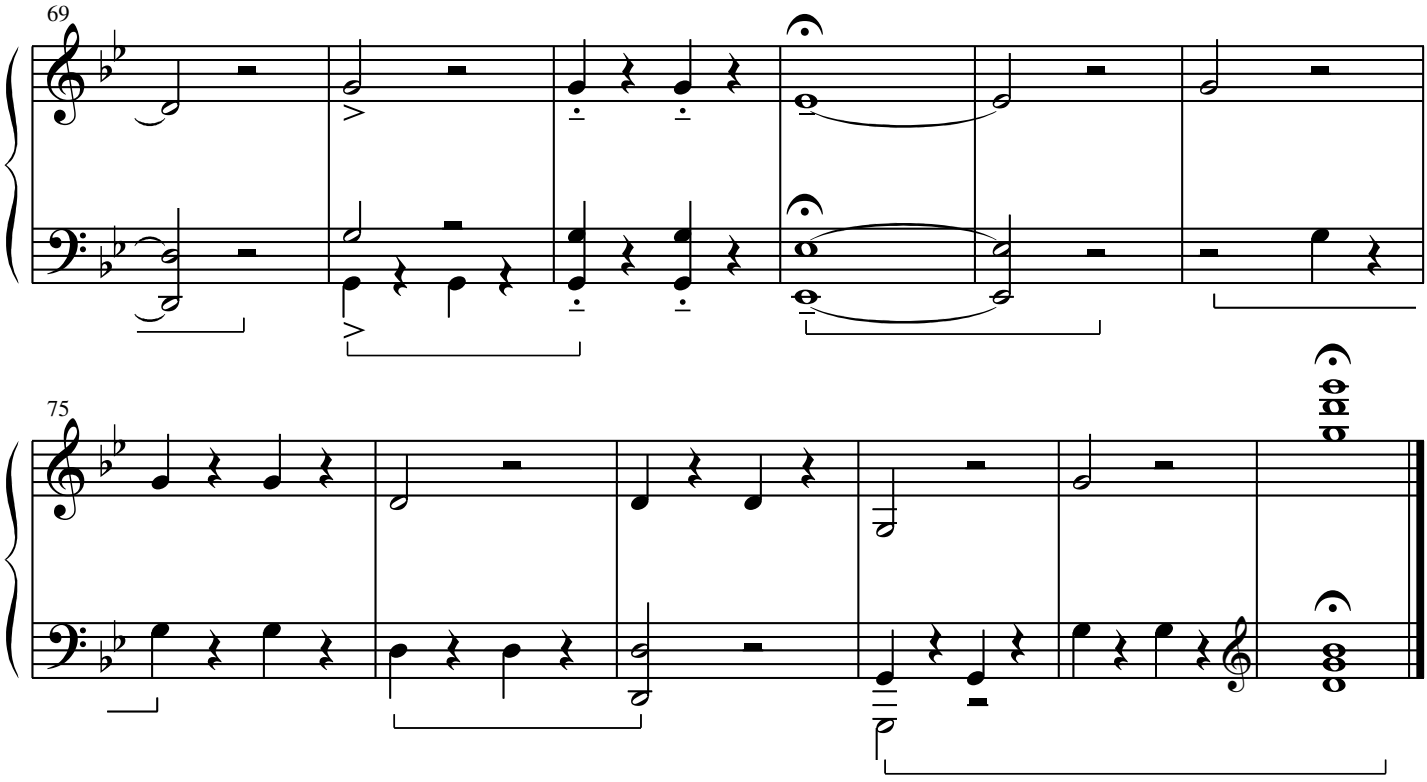
For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given:
and his name shall be called Wonderful,
Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6




21
right hand soft and distant
mp
mf
27
mp
mf
33
mp
39
mf


45
mf
molto ritard.
a tempo
f
51
57
8
63
8
Solemn and determined (= 112)
ff


69
75

3. My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord

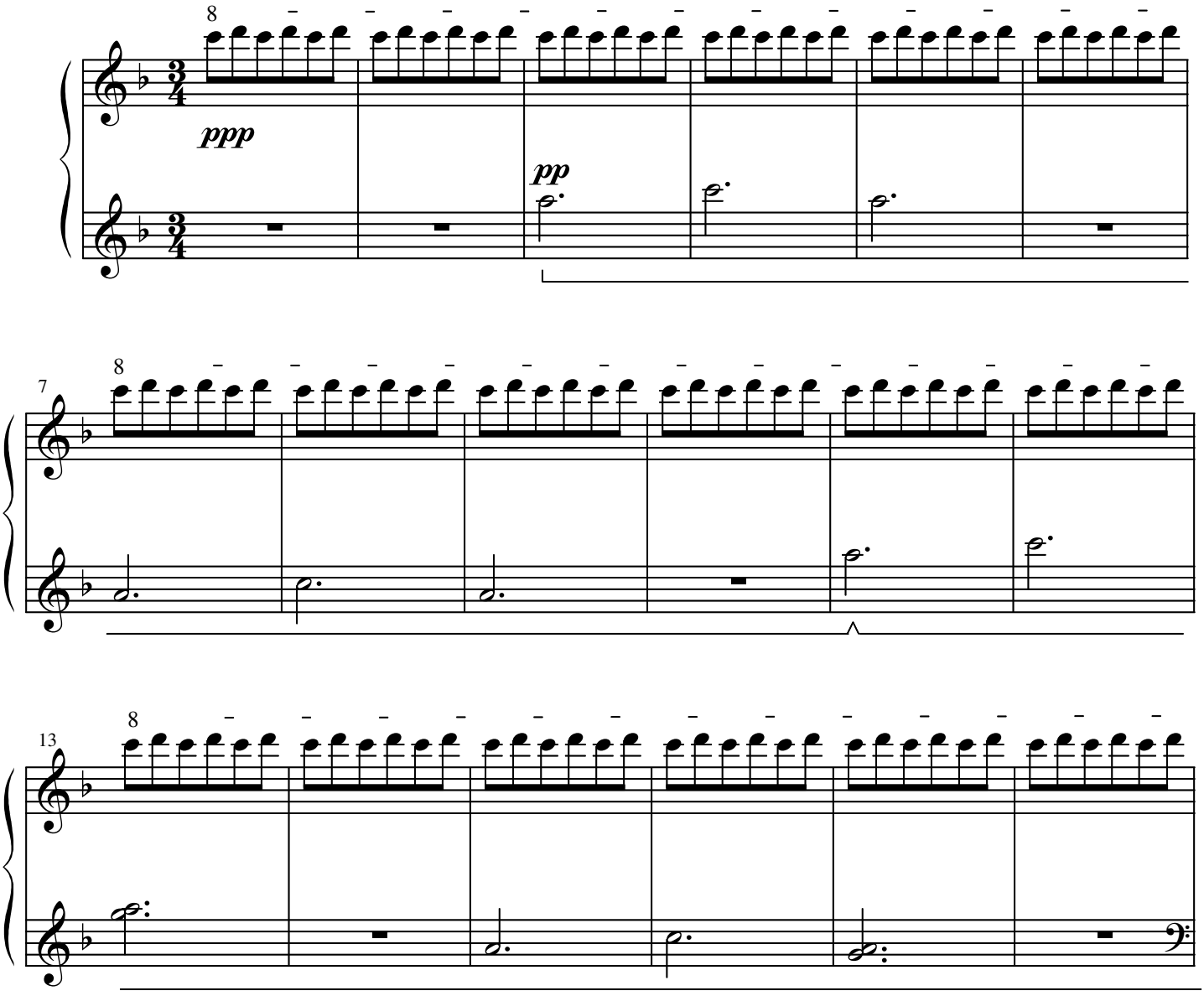
(Meine Seele erhebt den Herren)

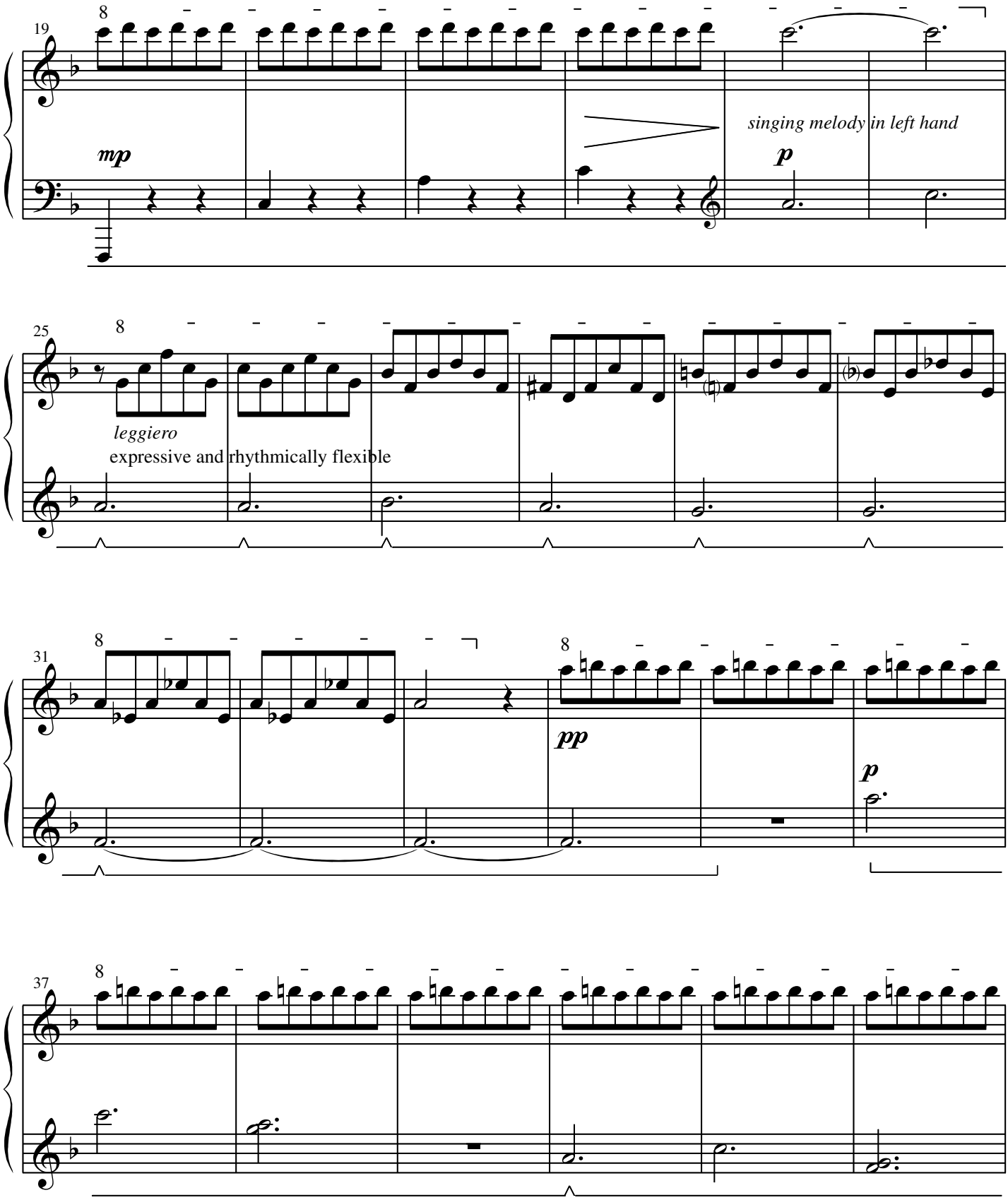
Richard Hudson

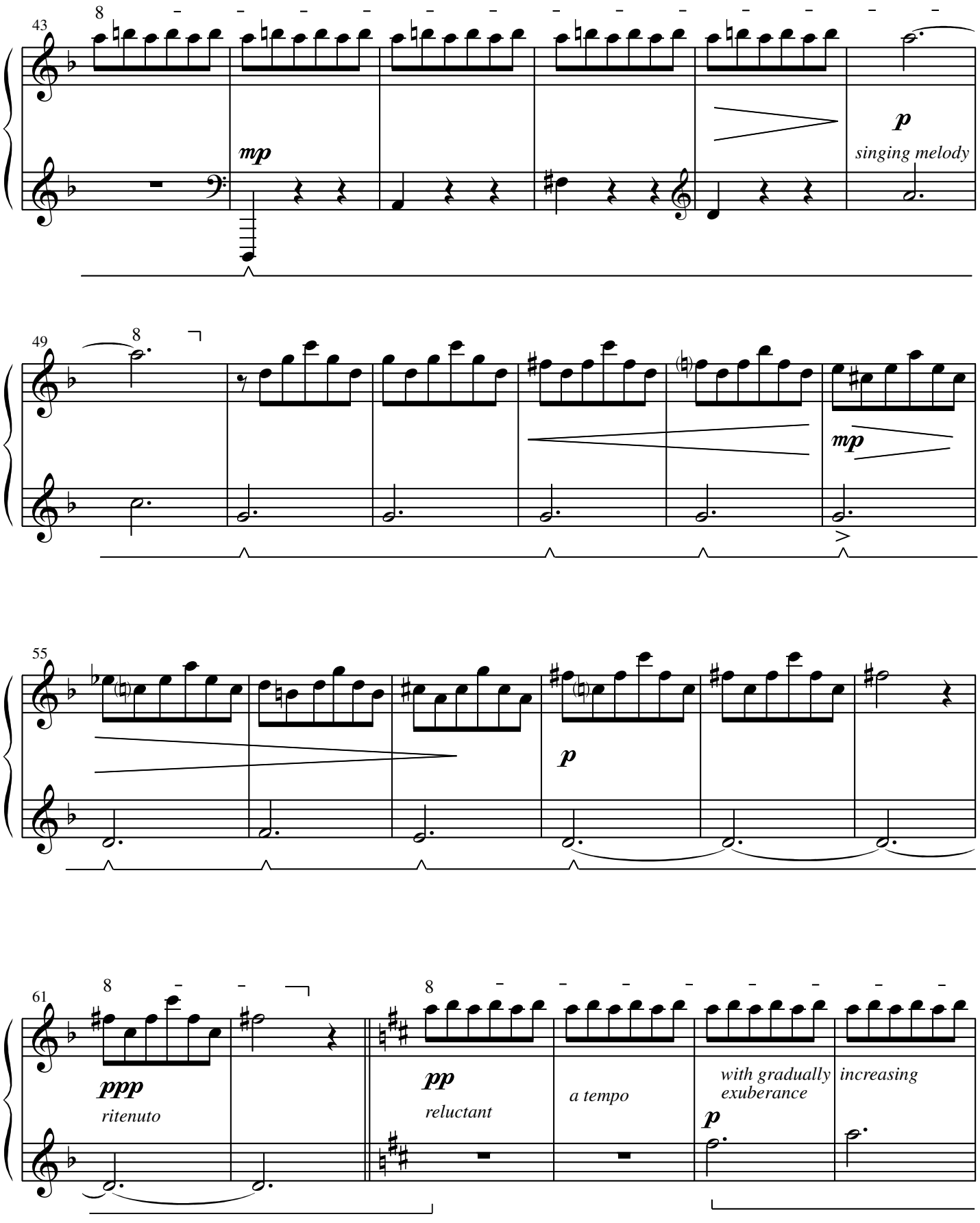
The angel Gabriel was sent from God
and said unto Mary: Fear not,
for thou hast found favor with God.
And behold, thou shalt bring forth a son,
and shalt call his name Jesus.

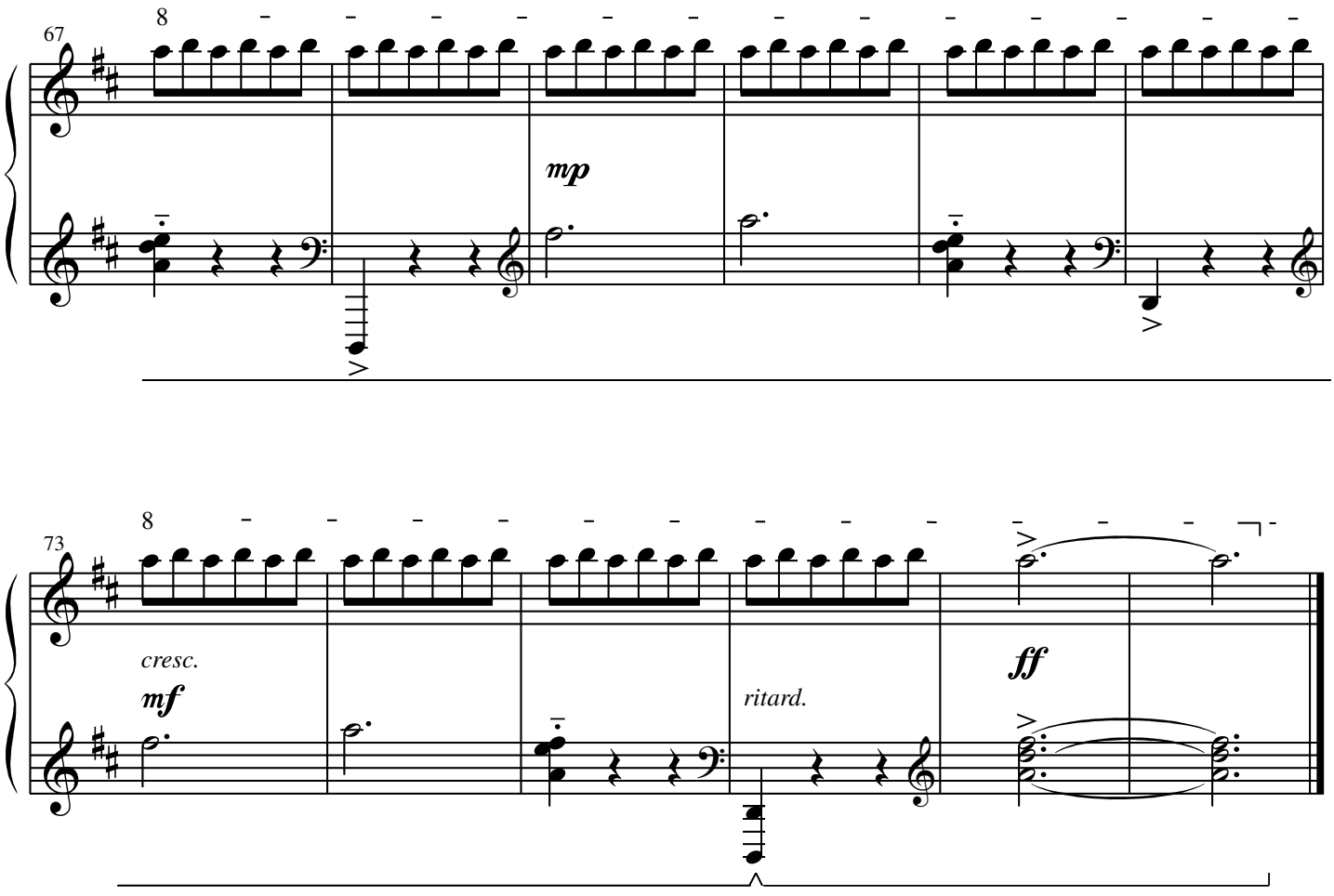
Luke 1:26-31

With mystical joy (𝅗𝅥. = 42)




19
mp
singing melody in left hand
p
25
leggiero
expressive and rhythmically flexible
31
pp
p
37


43
8
mp
p
singing melody
49
8
mp
55
p
61
8
ppp
ritenuto
8
pp
reluctant
a tempo
with gradually
exuberance
increasing
p


67
8
mp
73
8
cresc.
mf
ritard.
ff

HYMNS FOR CHRISTMAS

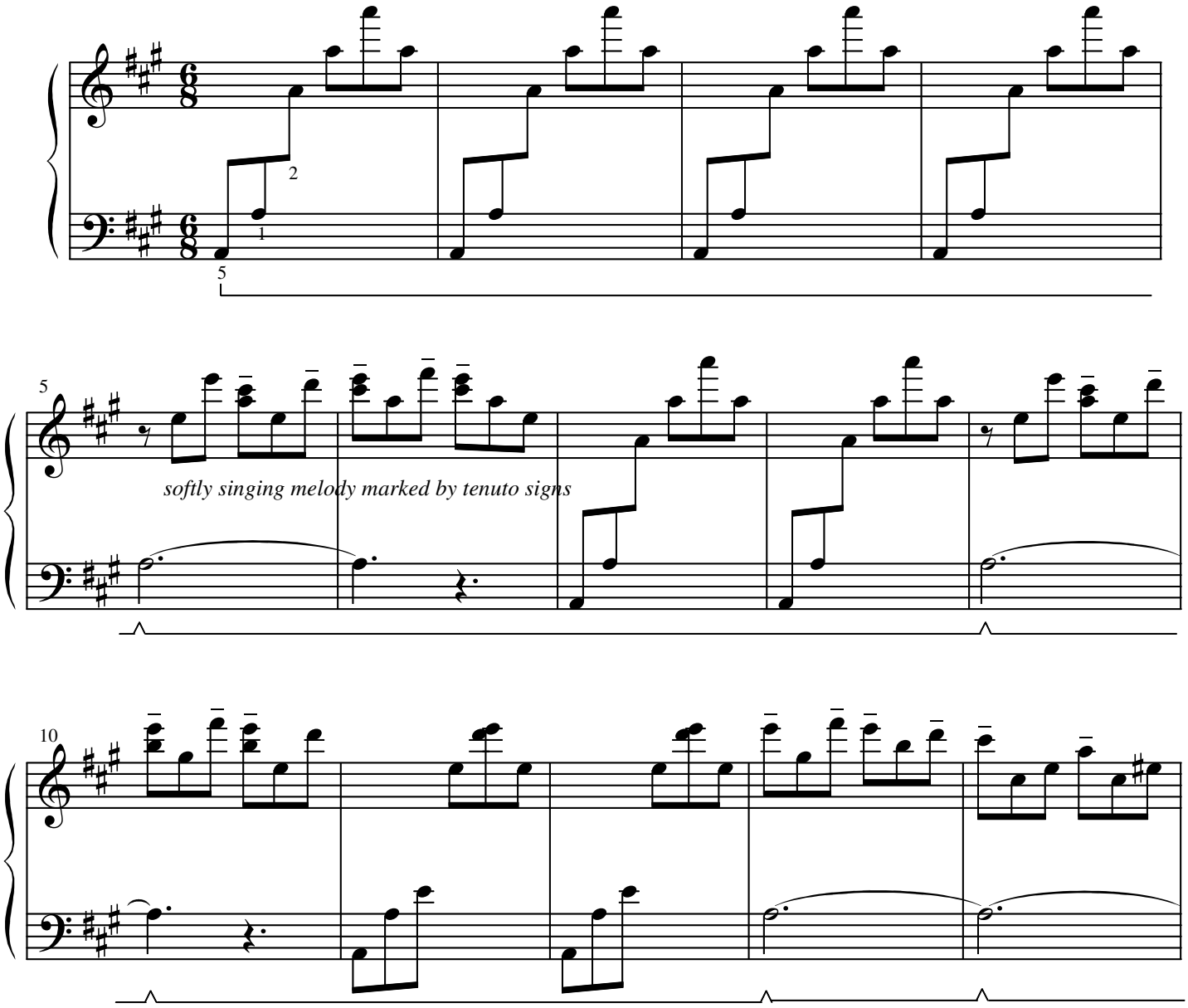
4. In Sweet Joy
(In dulci jubilo)

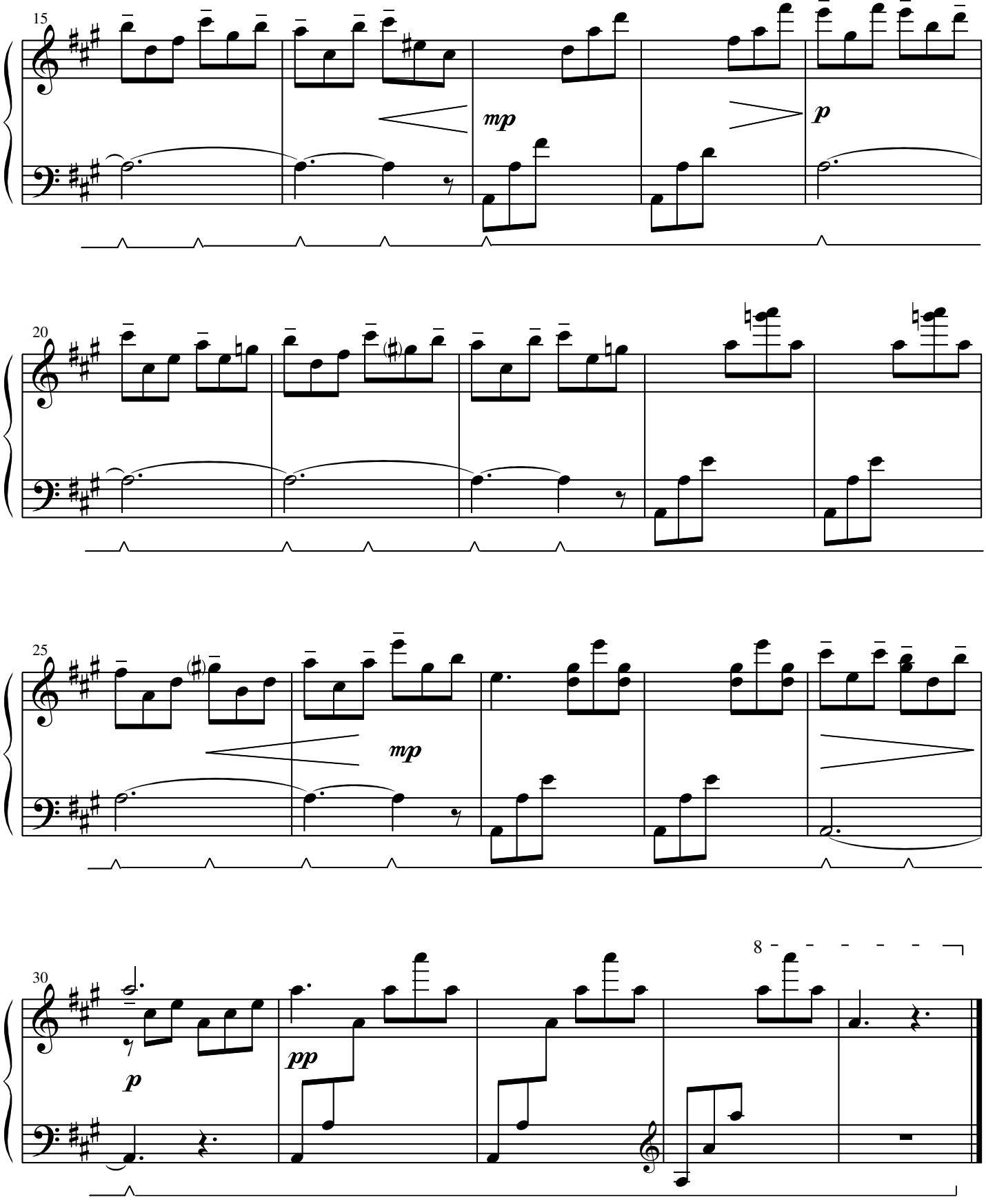
Richard Hudson

Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem,
and she brought forth her firstborn son.
She wrapped him in swaddling clothes,
and laid him in a manger.

Luke 2:4-7

With quiet awe and wonder (♩. = 63)




15
mp
p
20
25
mp
30
p
pp
8

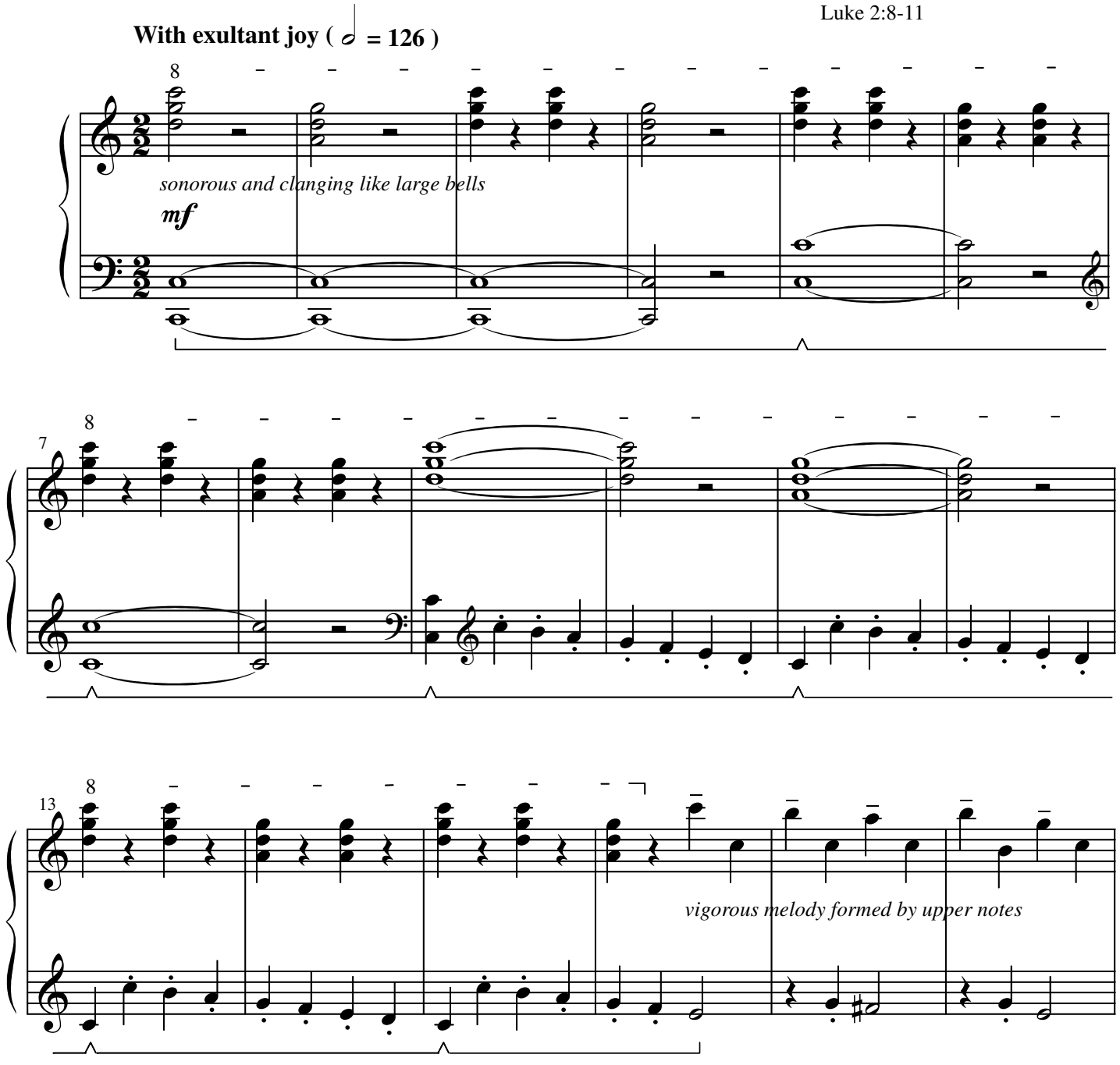
5. From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

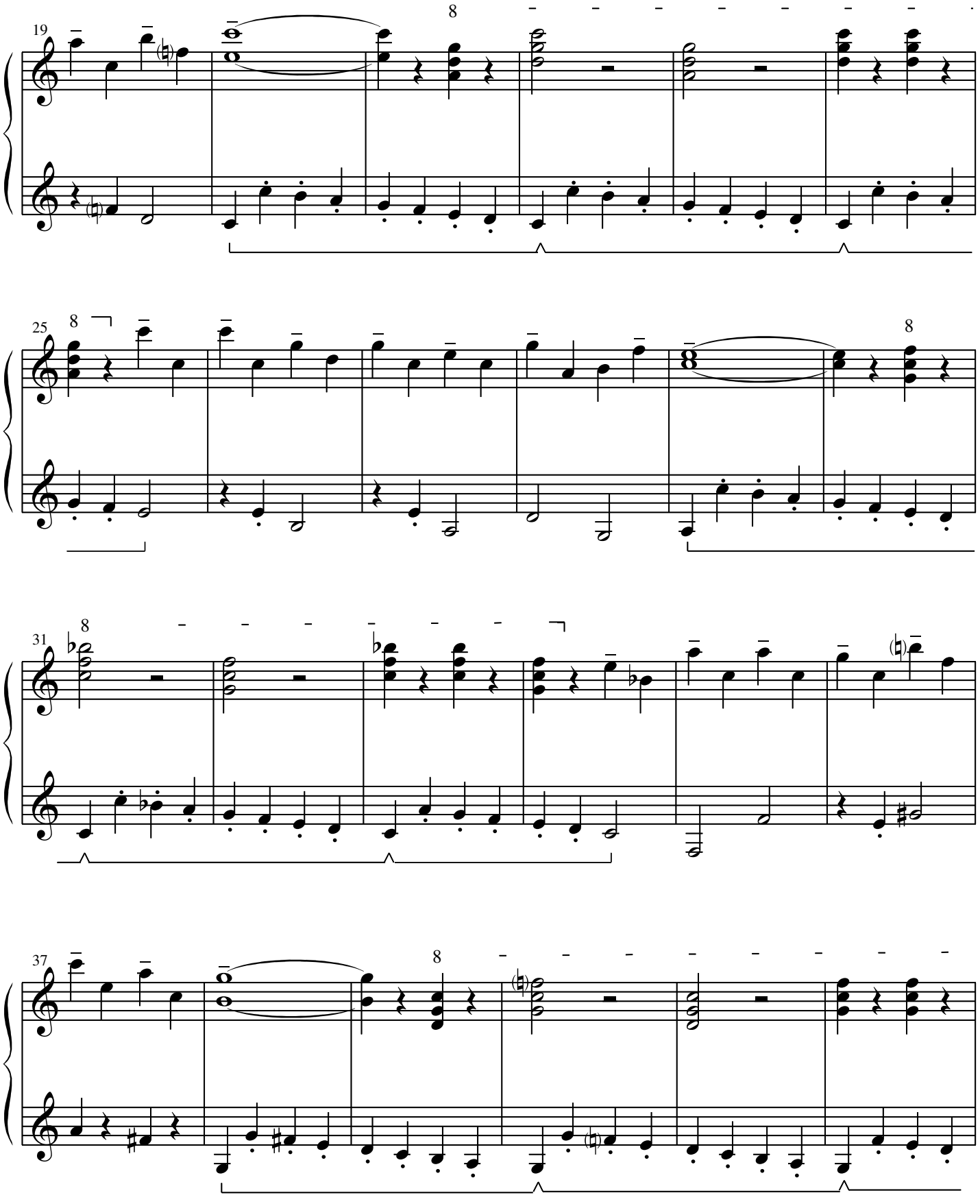
(Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her)

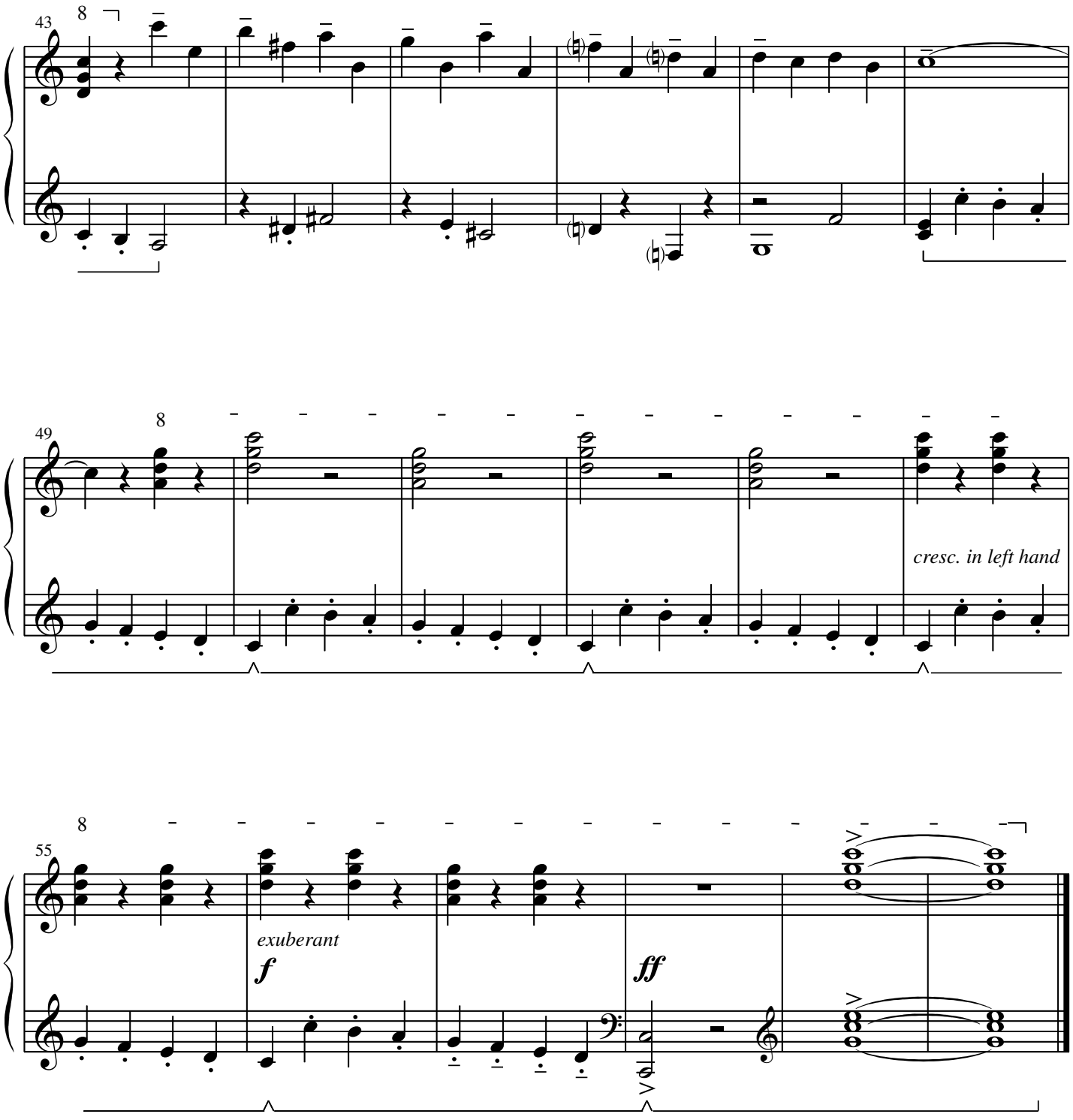
Richard Hudson

And there were shepherds in the same country
keeping watch by night over their flock.
And an angel of the Lord stood by them, saying,
I bring you good tidings of great joy:
for there is born to you this day a savior,
who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:8-11




19
8
25
8
8
31
8
37
8


43
8
49
8
cresc. in left hand
55
8
exuberant
f
ff

6. Glory to God in the Highest

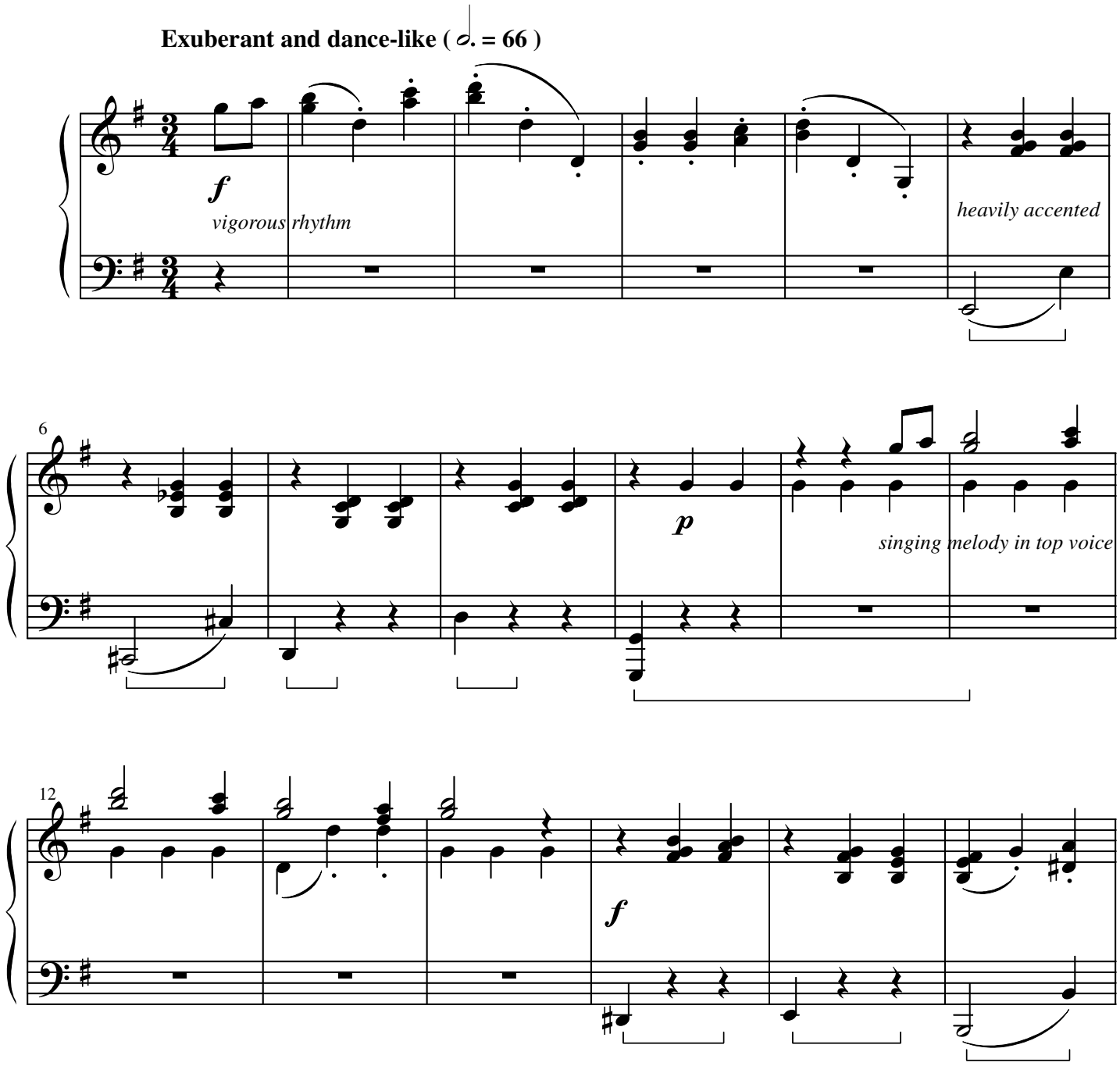
(Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr)

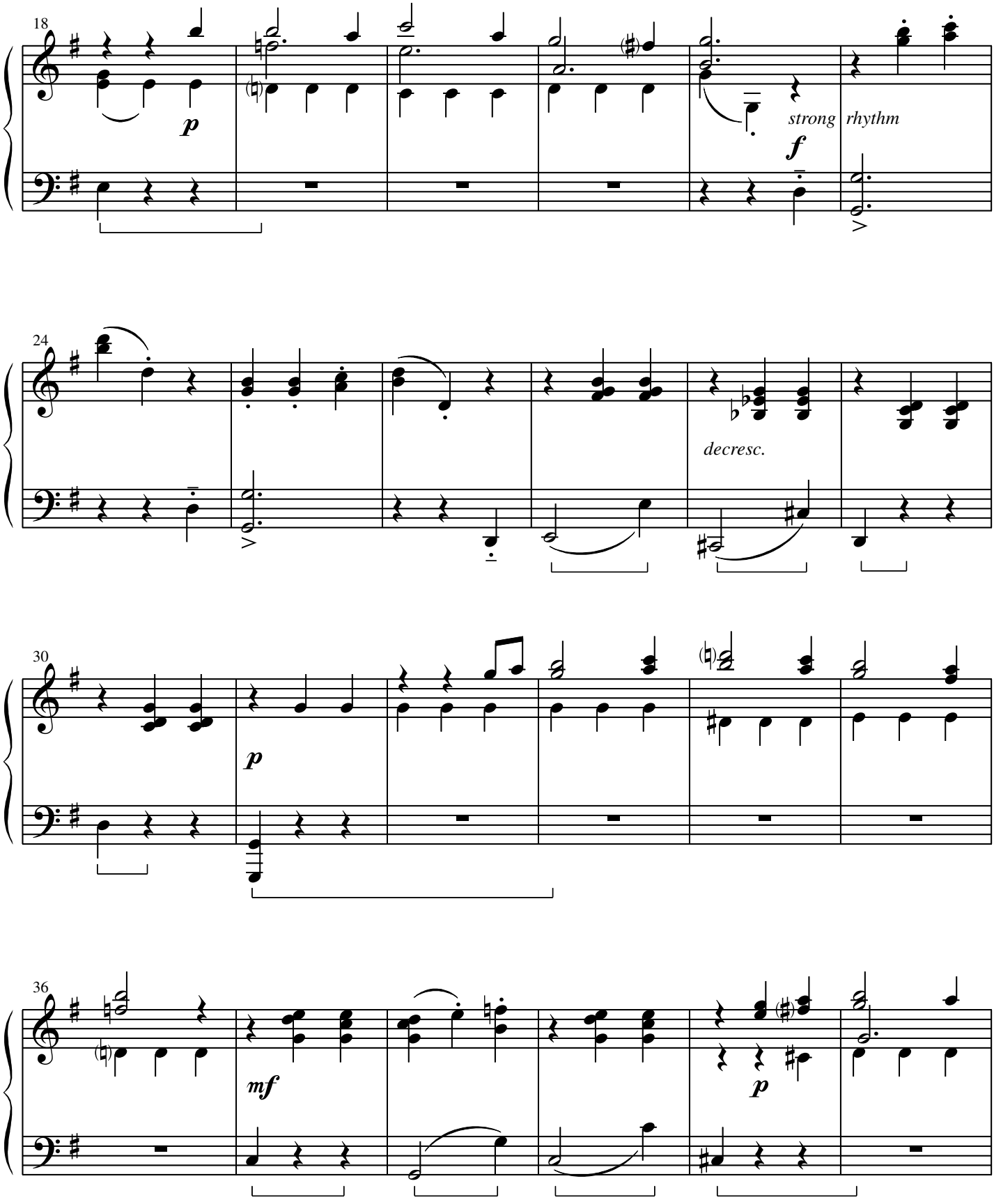
Richard Hudson

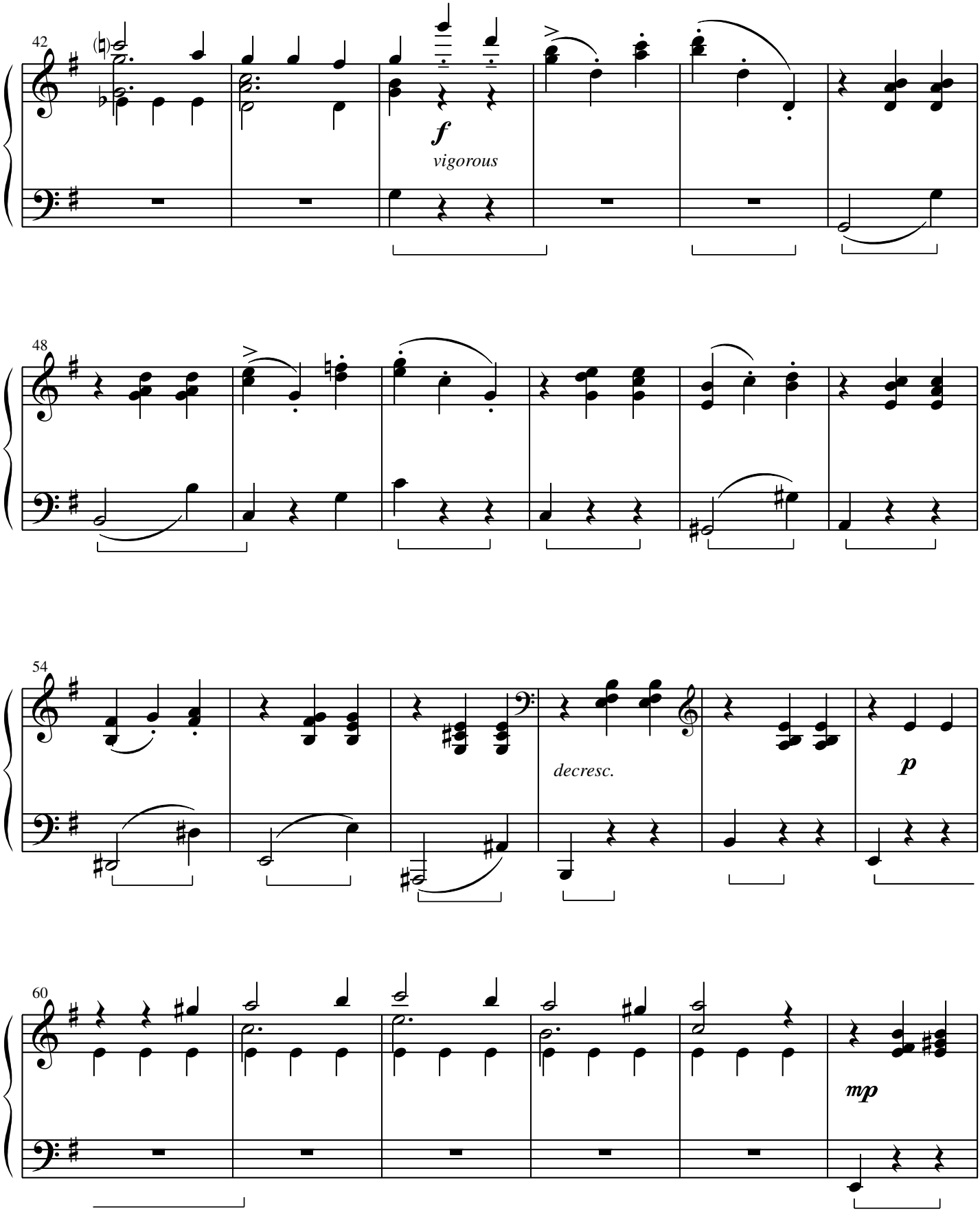
And suddenly there was with the angel
a multitude of the heavenly host
praising God, and saying,
Glory to God in the Highest
and on earth peace to men of good will.

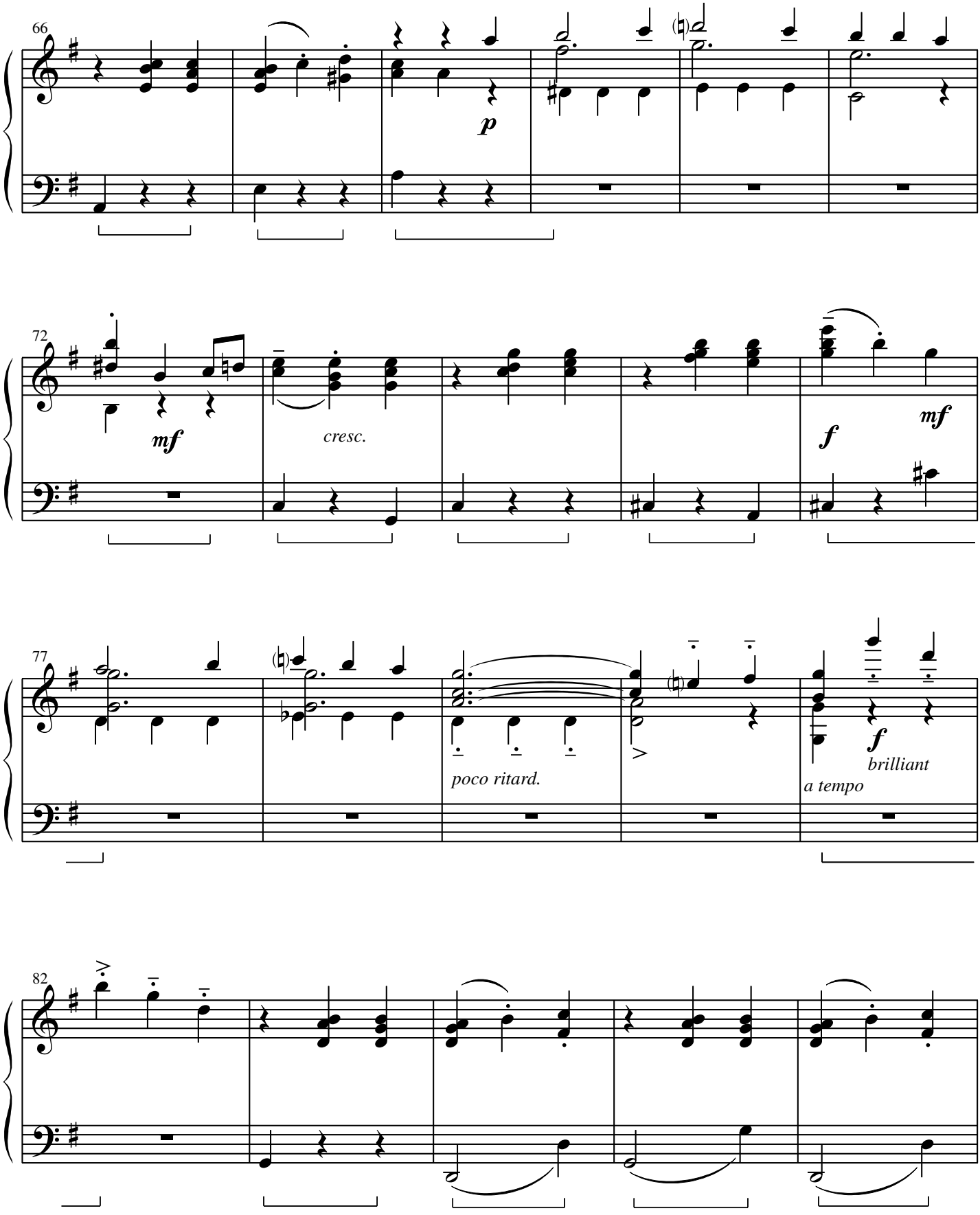
Luke 2:13-14

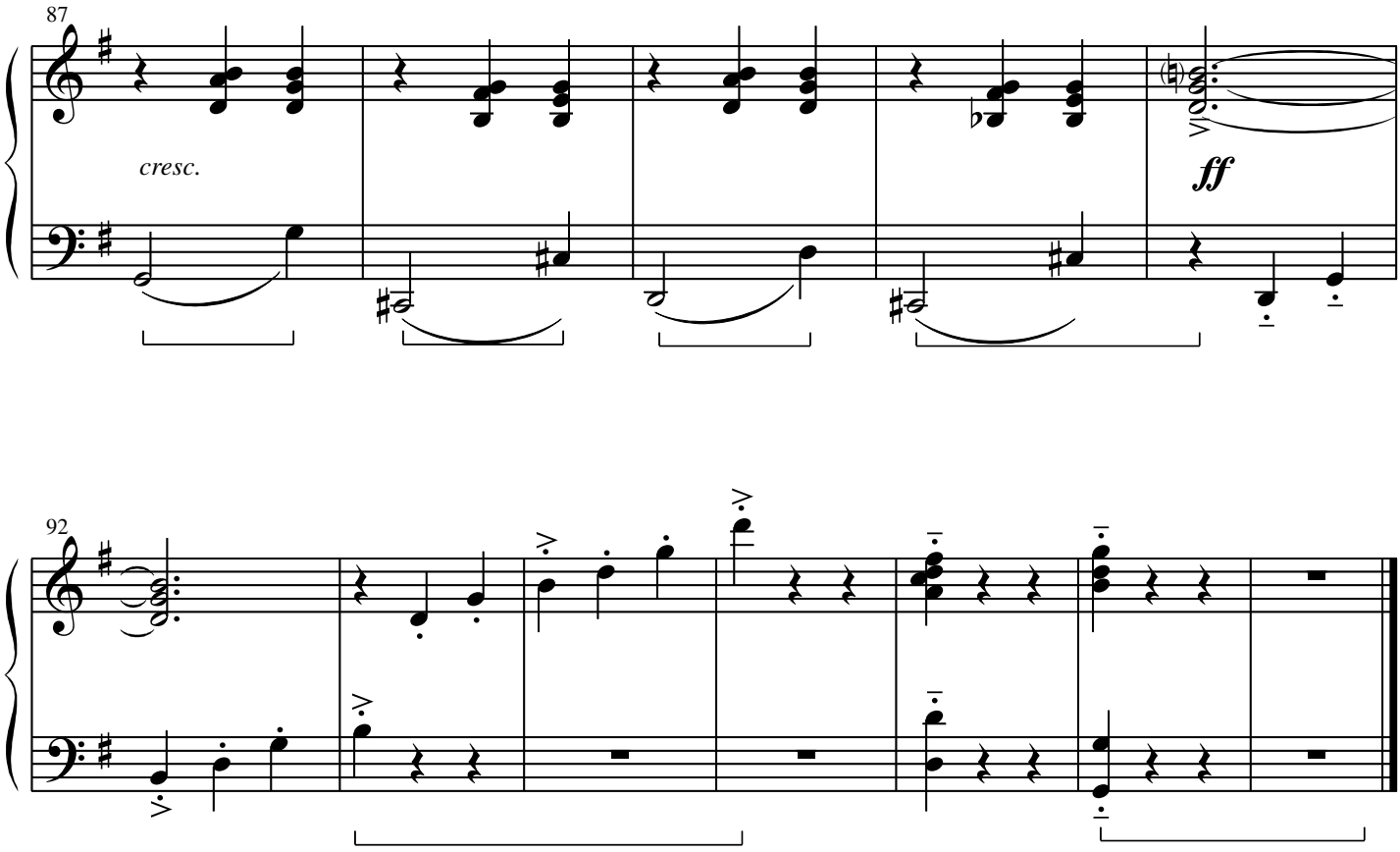
Exuberant and dance-like (𝅗𝅥. = 66)




18
p
strong rhythm
f
24
decresc.
30
p
36
mf
p


42
f
vigorous
48
54
decresc.
p
60
mp


66
p
72
mf
cresc.
f
mf
77
poco ritard.
a tempo
f
brilliant
82


87
cresc.
ff
92

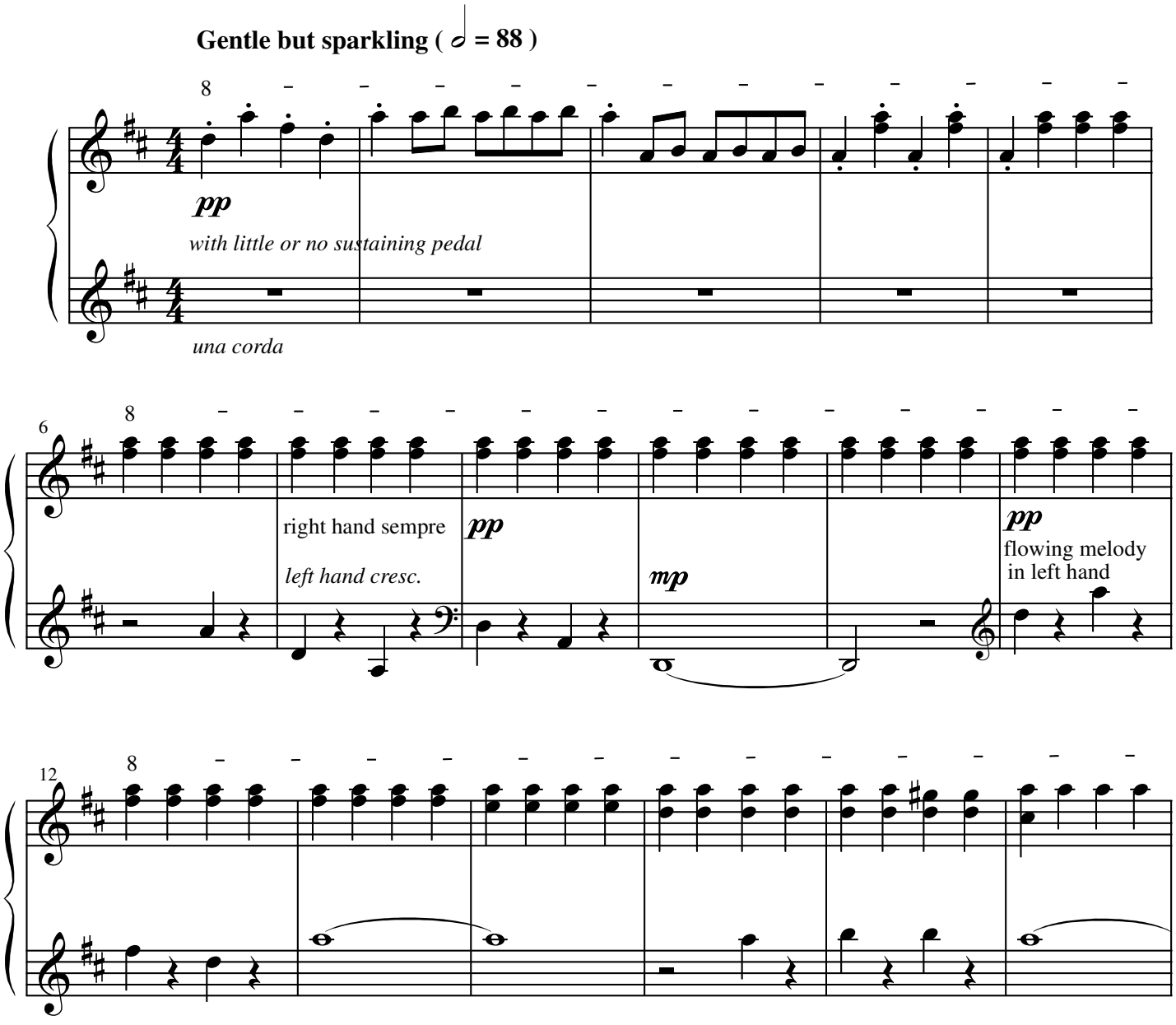
HYMNS FOR EPIPHANY

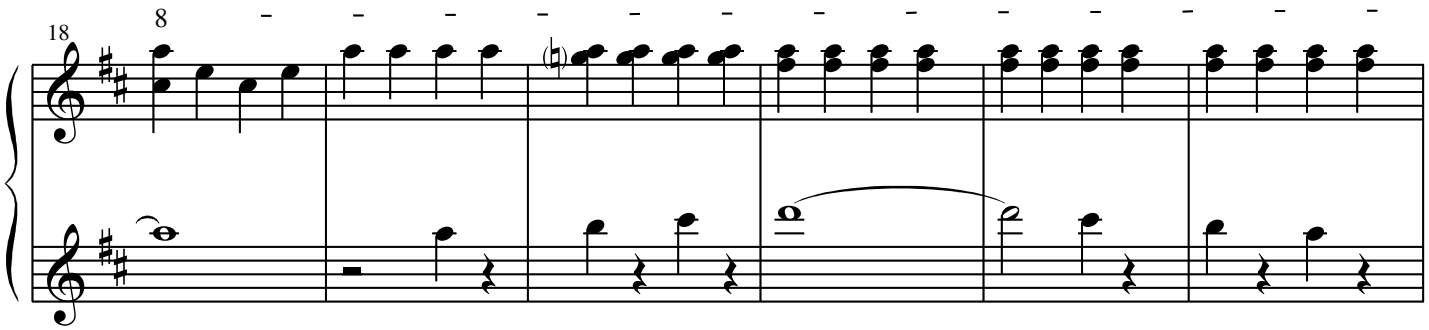
7. O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright

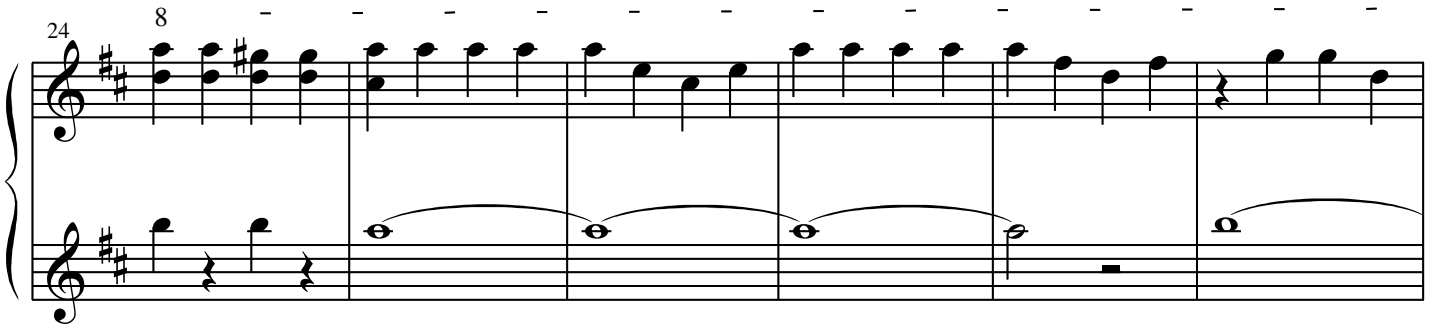
(Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern)

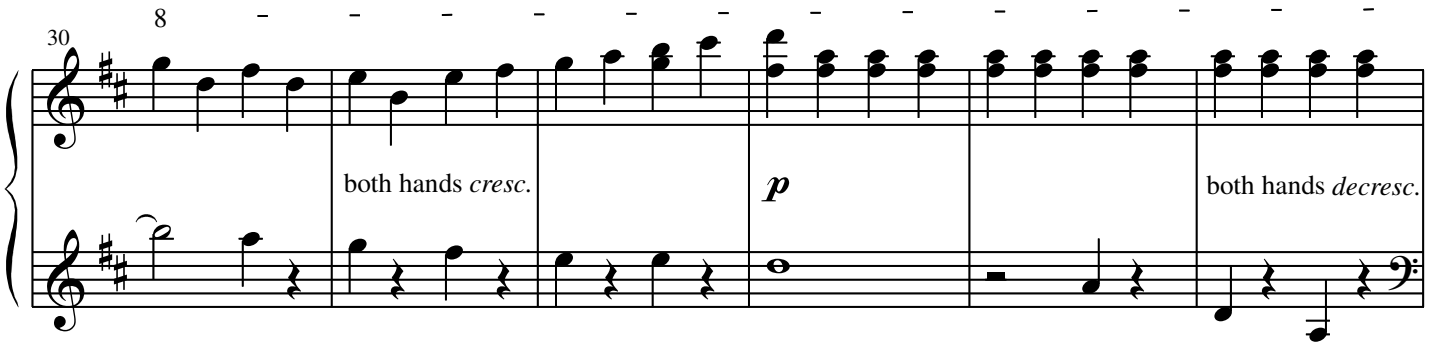
Richard Hudson

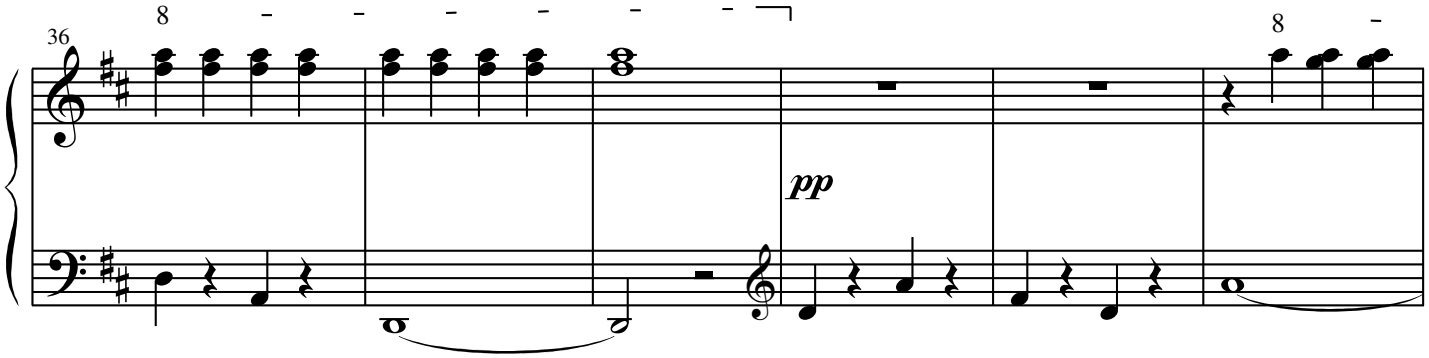
Wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying,
Where is he that is born King of the Jews?
for we saw his star in the east,
and are come to worship him.
And lo, the star went before them, till it came
and stood over where the young child was.

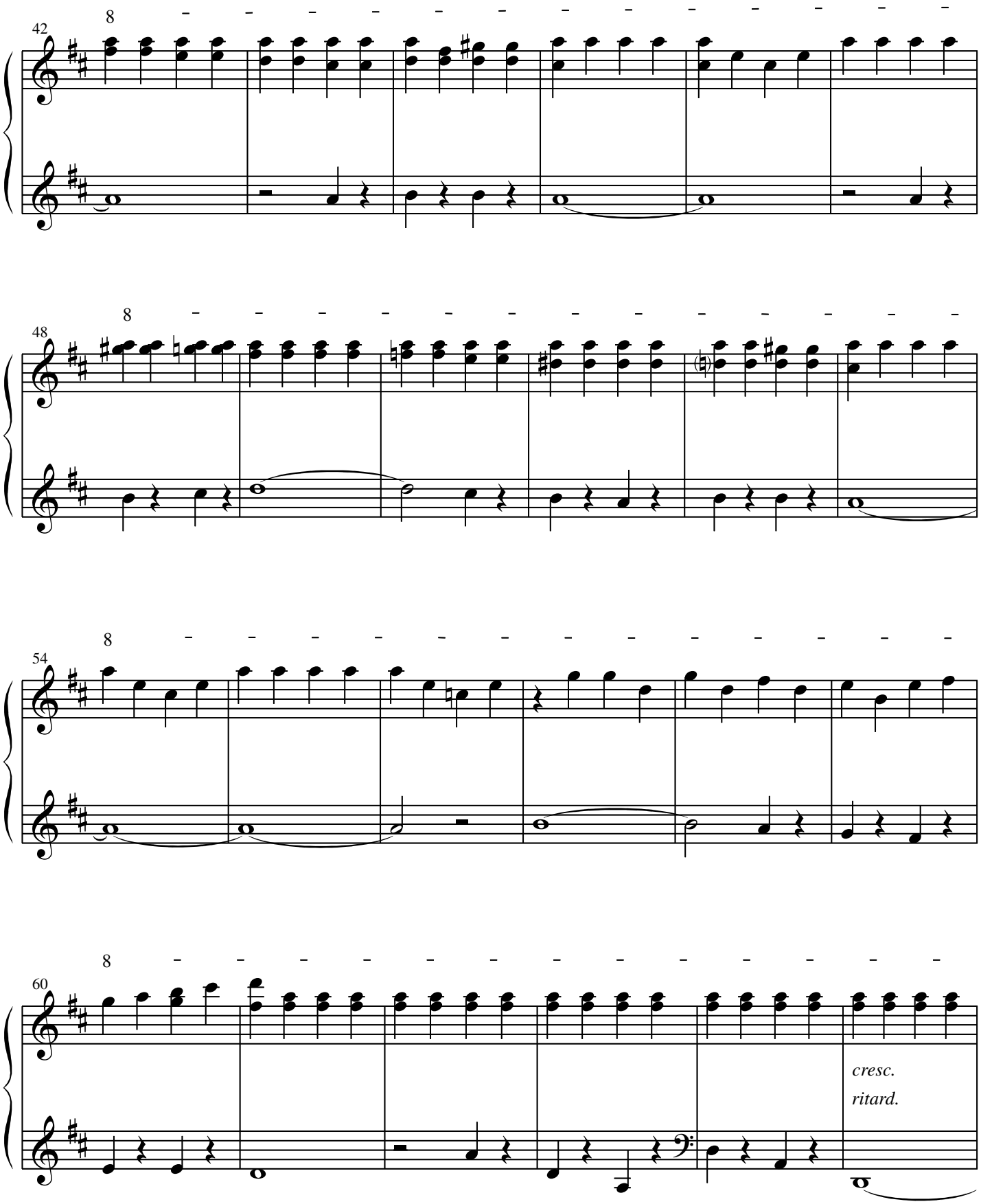


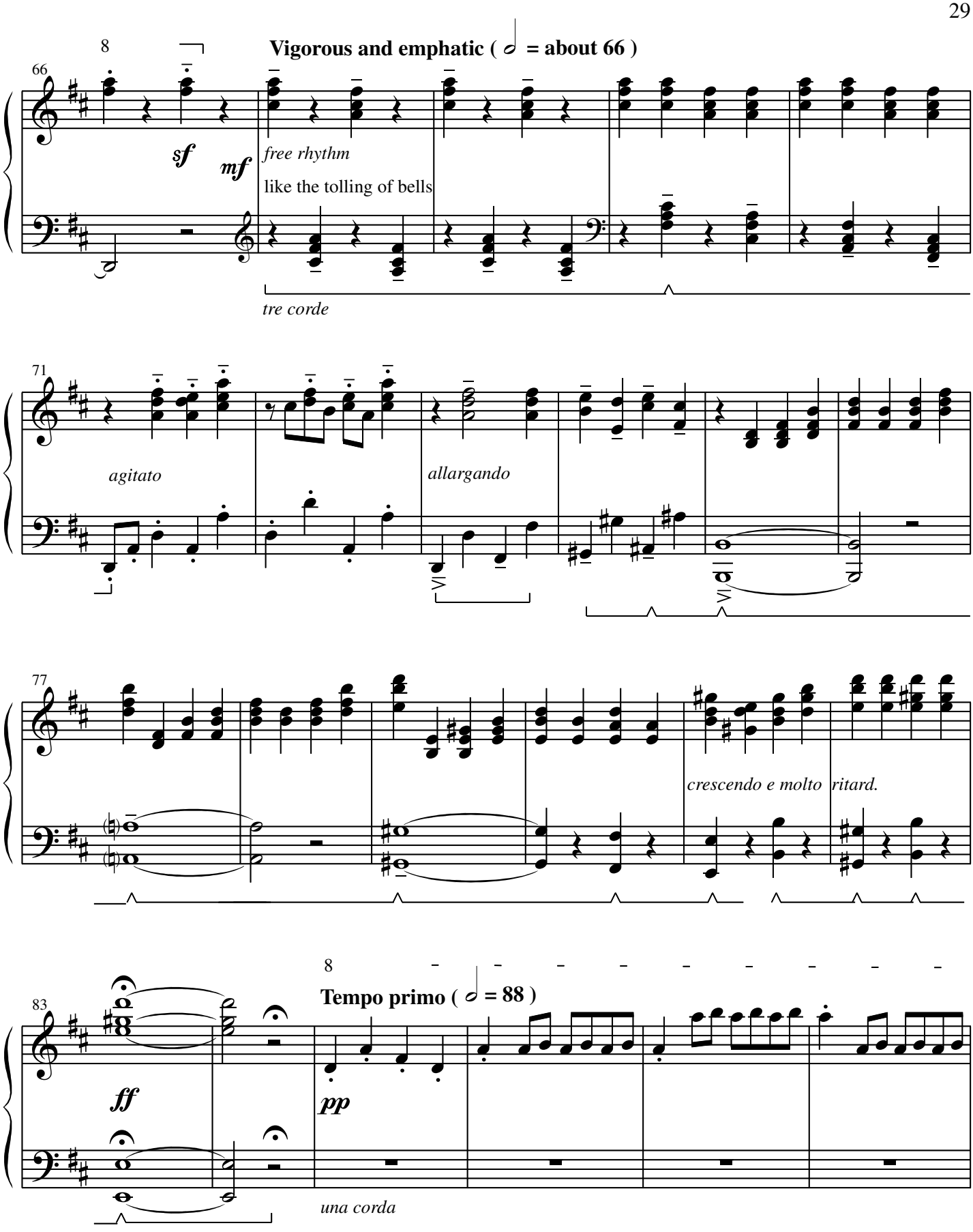

18
8

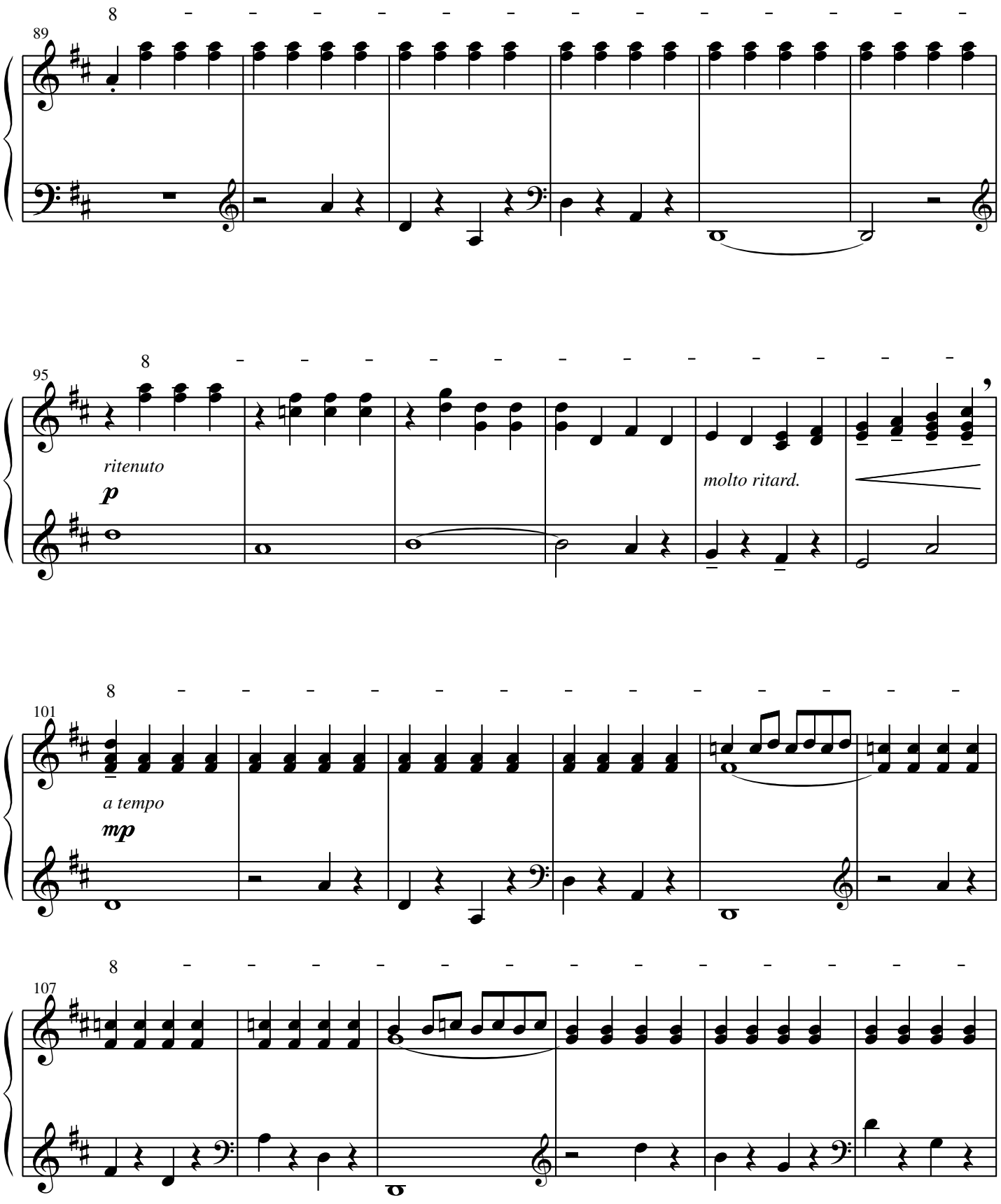

24
8

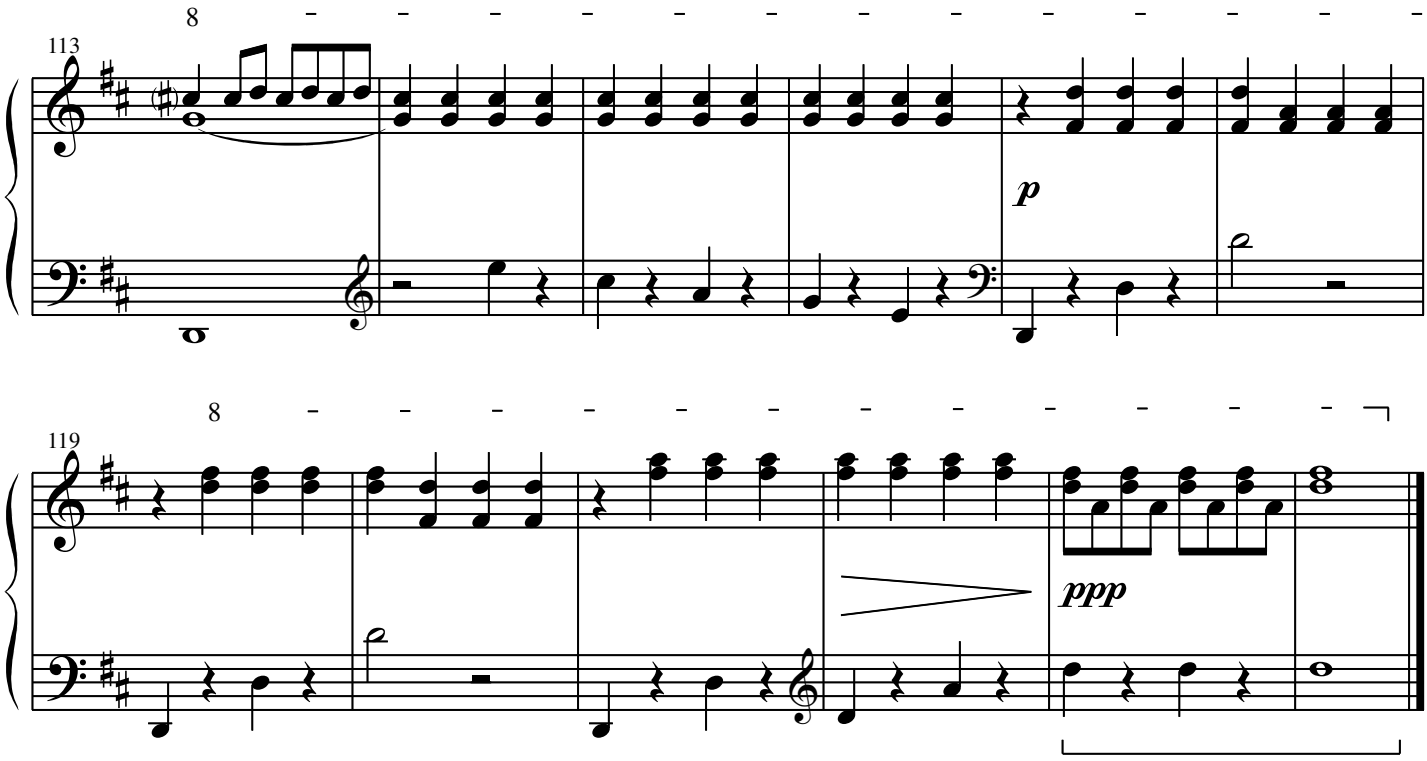

30
8
both hands cresc.
p
both hands decresc.


36
8
pp
8


42
8
48
8
54
8
60
8
cresc.
ritard.


8
Vigorous and emphatic (= about 66)
66
sf
mf
free rhythm
like the tolling of bells
tre corde
71
agitato
allargando
77
crescendo e molto
ritard.
8
Tempo primo (= 88)
83
ff
pp
una corda


89
95
ritenuto
p
molto ritard.
101
a tempo
mp
107


8
113
p
8
119
ppp

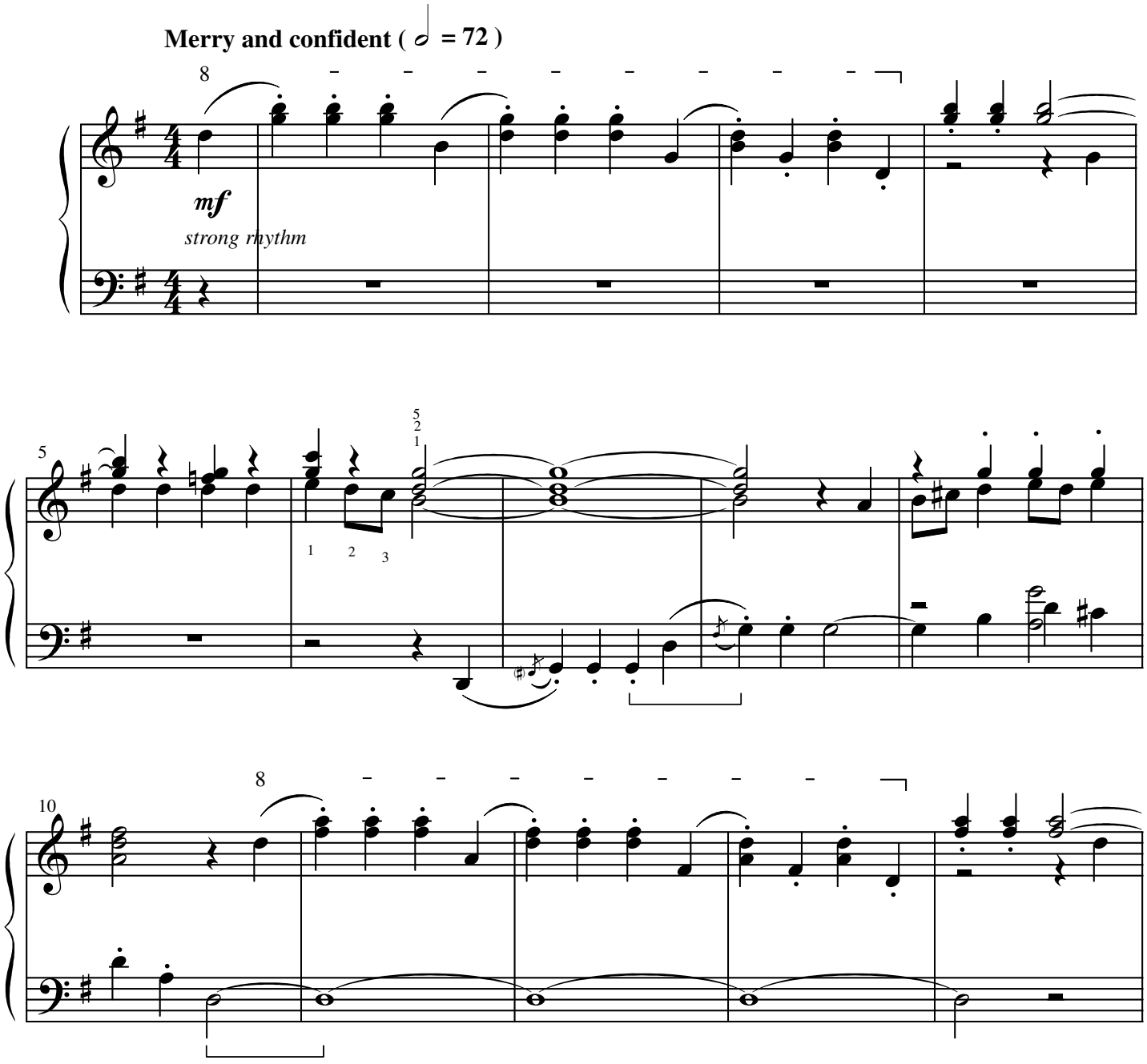
8. Let All Together Praise Our God

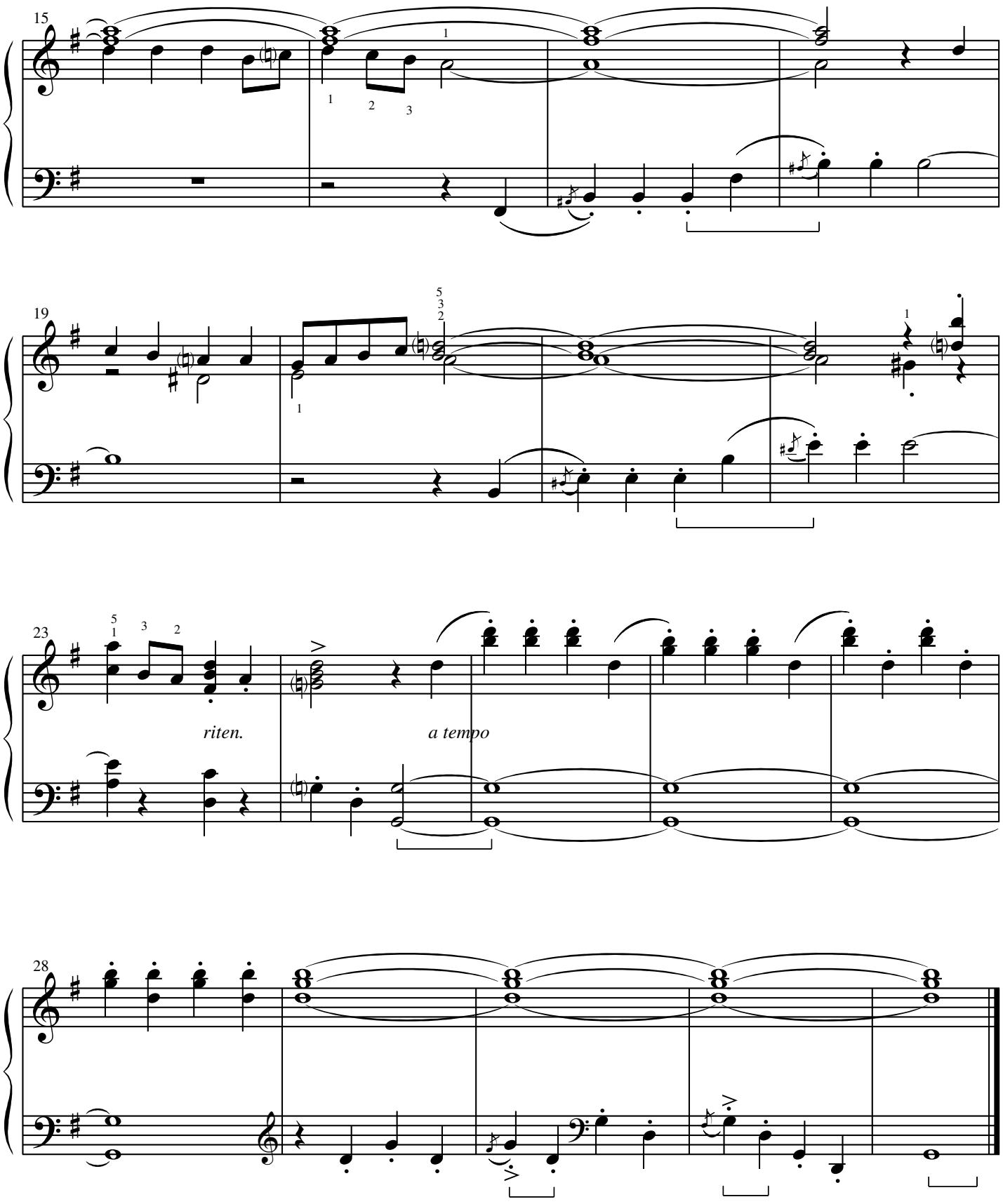
(Lobt Gott, ihr Christen allzugleich)

Richard Hudson

And when they saw the star,
they rejoiced with exceeding great joy
and offererd gifts of gold
and frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:10-11




15
19
23
riten.
a tempo
28

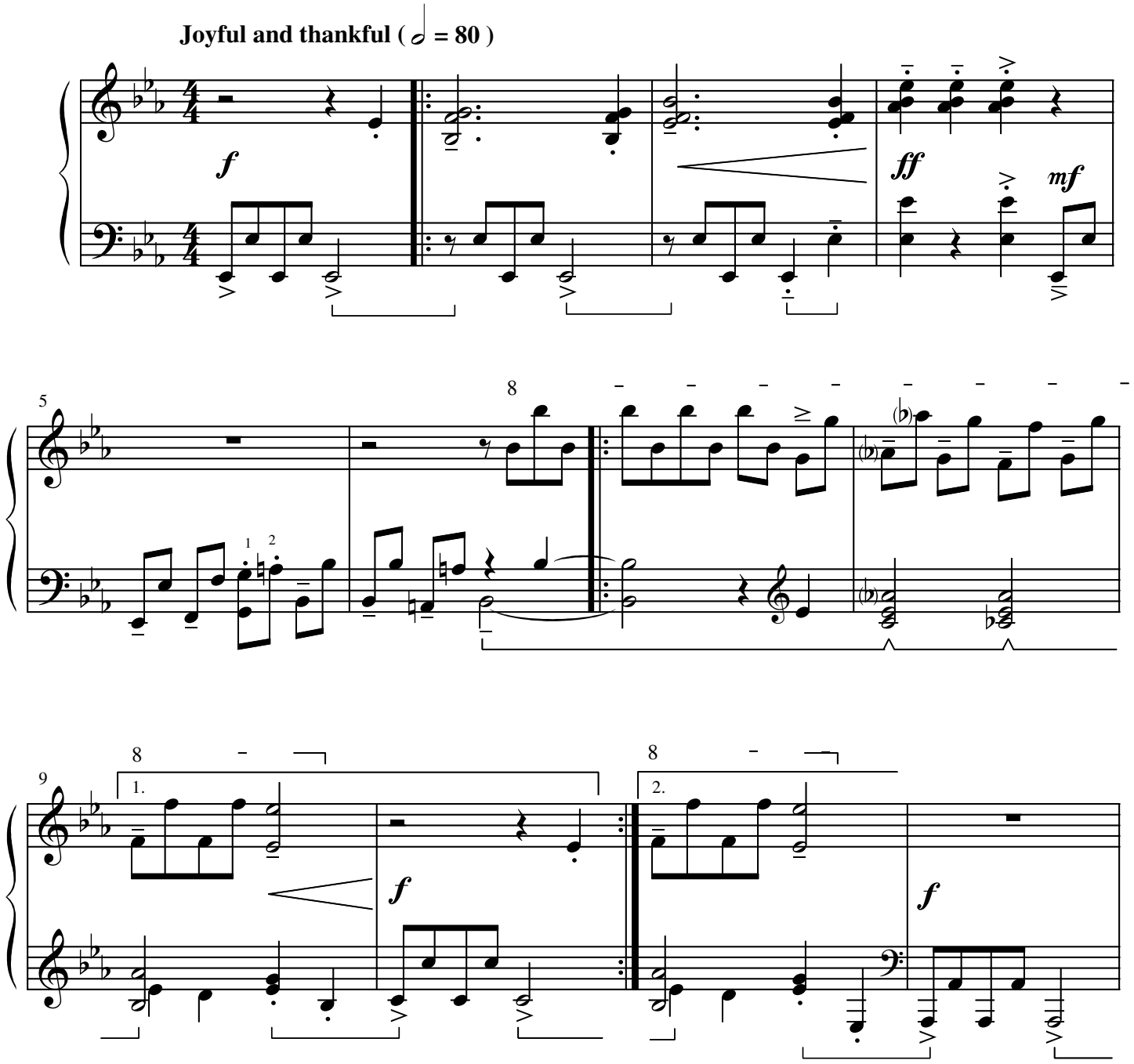
9. Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

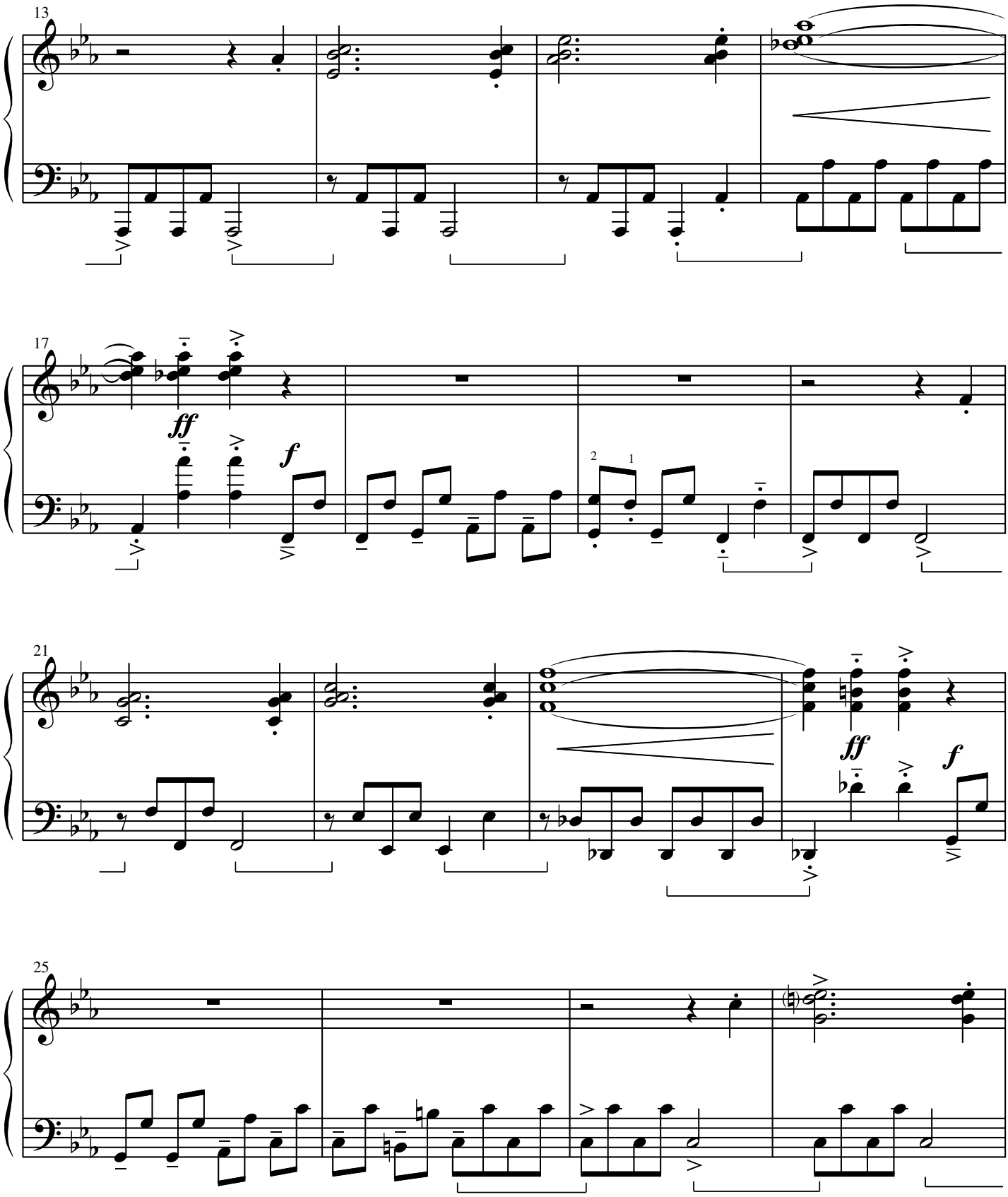
(Ermuntre dich)

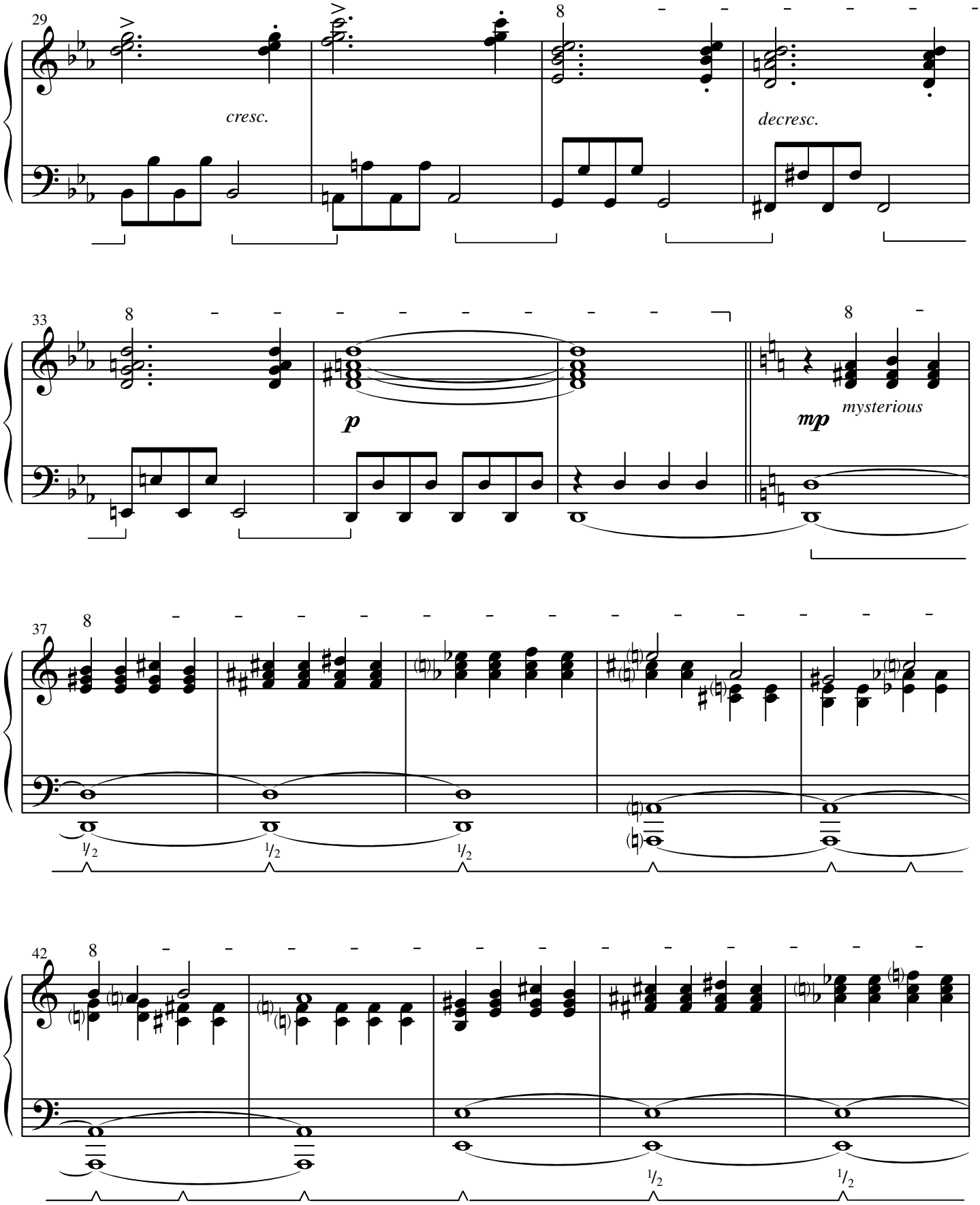
Richard Hudson

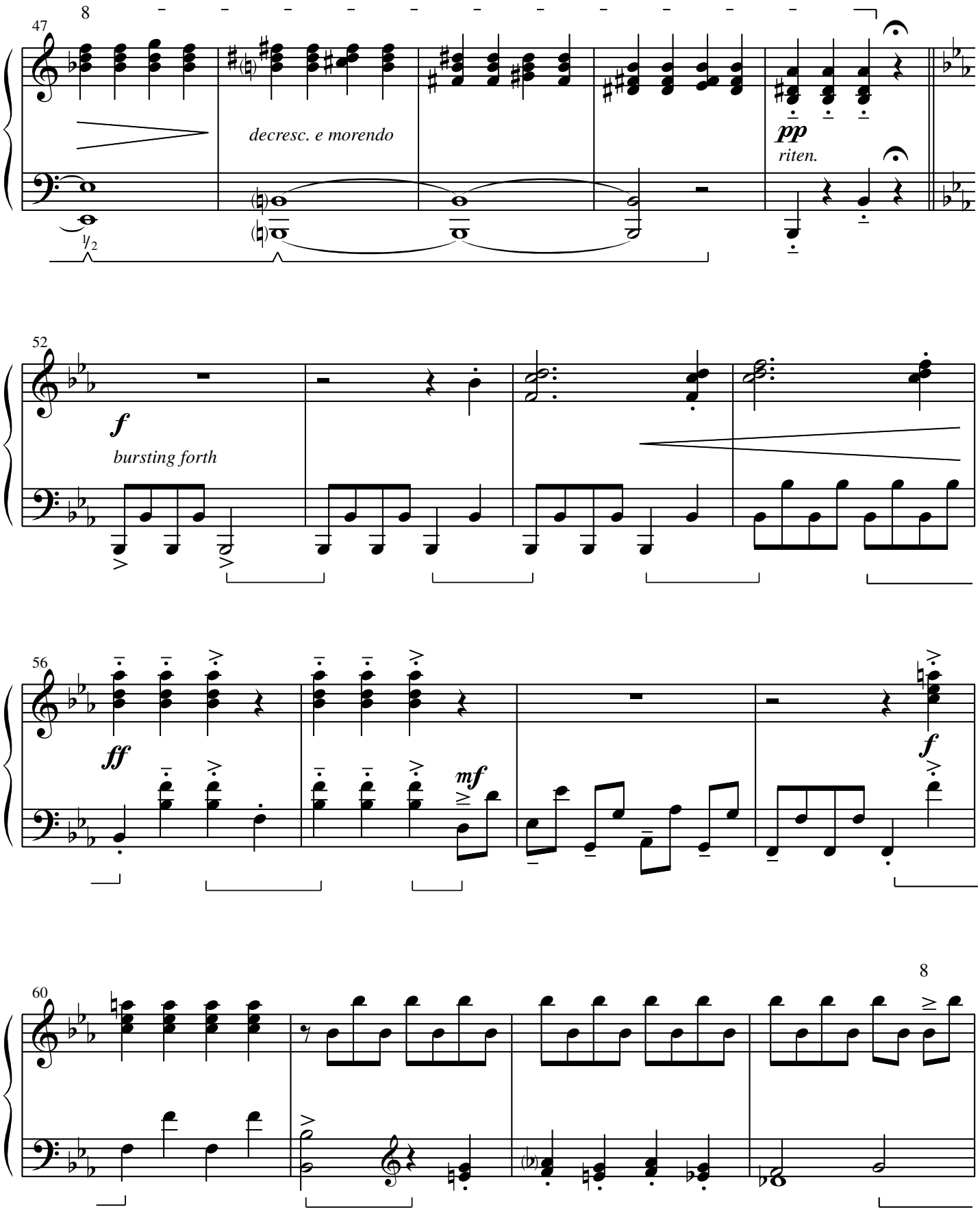
Praise ye the Lord from the heavens:
Praise him in the heights.
Praise ye him, all his angels:
Praise ye him, all his host.
Praise ye him, sun and moon:
Praise him, all ye stars of light.

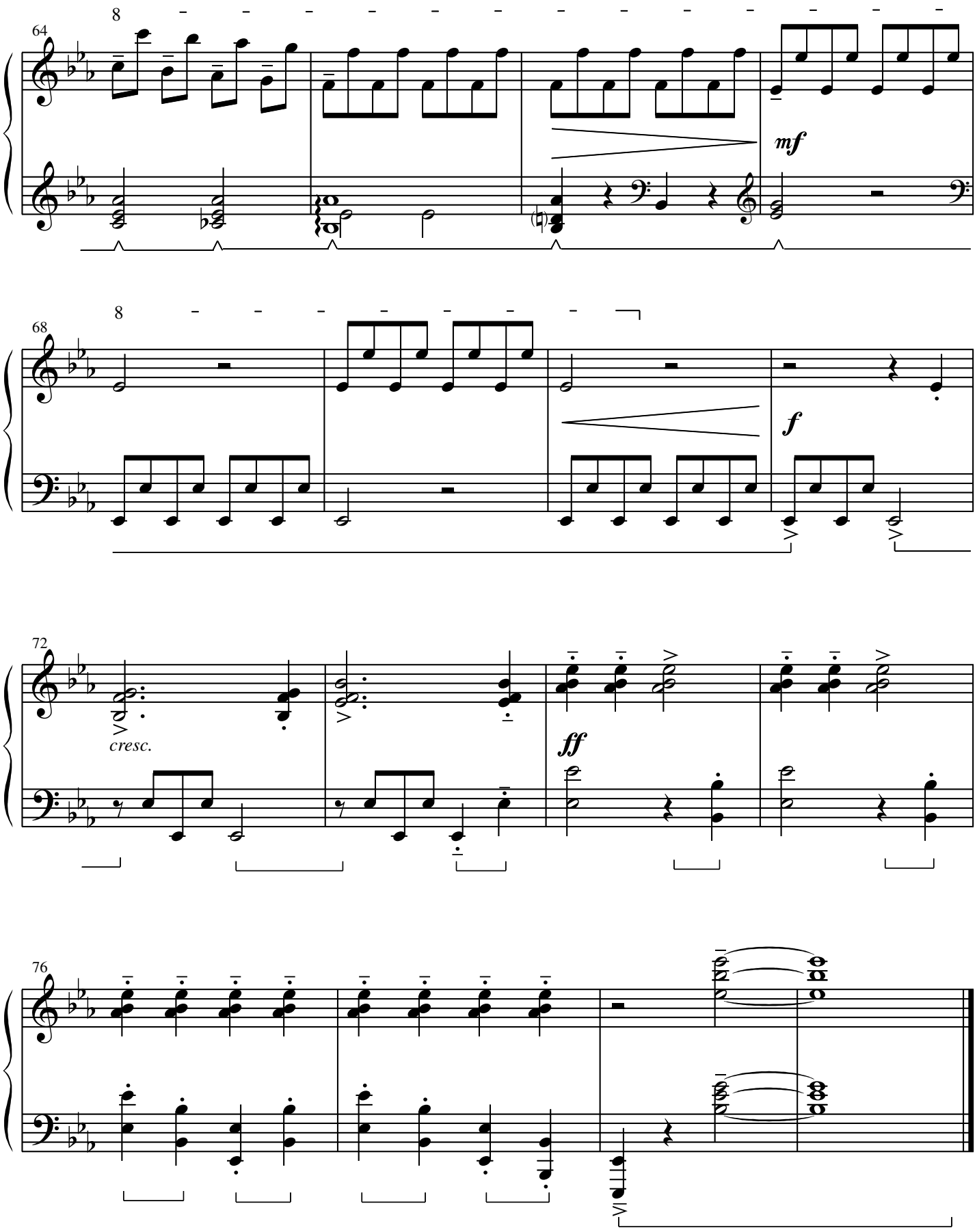
Psalm 148:1-3




13
17
ff
f
2
1
21
ff
f
25


29
cresc.
decresc.
33
p
mp
mysterious
37
42


47
8
decresc. e morendo
pp
riten.
52
f
bursting forth
56
ff
mf
f
60
8


64
8
mf
68
8
f
72
cresc.
ff
76

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5.	From heaven above to earth I come	18
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