Den Totentanz hat Liszt 1839 in Pisa skizziert, 1849 bearbeitet und instrumentiert, 1859 revidiert. 1859 entstand auch die vorliegende Bearbeitung für 2 Klaviere. Veröffentlicht wurde das Werk erst 1865.

Nach Lina Ramann gab den Anstoß zu dieser Komposition nicht Holbeins Werk, wie viele annehmen, sondern das in den Hallen des Campo Santo zu Pisa befindliche Wandgemälde „Der Triumph des Todes“ von dem Florentiner Andrea Orcagna.

Nach Liszt's Ausspruch sind ihm beim Anblick dieses Bildes in Pisa 1838 das altkirchliche Dies irae-Thema, welches auch Berlioz im Hexensabbat seiner Phantastischen Symphonie verwendet, sowie einige Variationen sofort eingefallen.

Liszt a esquissé en 1839 à Pise la „Danse des Morts“; en 1849 il l'a élaborée et orchestrée; en 1859 il l'a revisée. En 1859 fut composé l'arrangement pour deux pianos que nous offrons ici; mais l'œuvre ne fut publiée qu'en 1865.

D'après Lina Ramann, ce ne fut pas, comme beaucoup le supposent, l'œuvre de Holbein qui inspira cette composition, mais ce fut la peinture murale „Le triomphe de la mort“ du florentin André Orcagna, qui se trouve dans les salles du Campo Santo à Pise.

D'après les paroles mêmes de Liszt, à la vue de cette peinture à Pise en 1838, l'antique thème du chant ecclésiastique, le Dies irae_, (auquel pareillement Berlioz a emprunté l'inspiration de sa symphonie fantastique dans sa ronde du sabbat),_ lui est aussitôt venu à l'esprit ainsi que quelques variations.

In the year 1839 Liszt sketched the music to "The Dance of Death", in 1849 he worked it out and instrumented it; in 1859 he revised it. In 1859 he also arranged it in its present form for 2 pianos. The work was not published till 1865.

According to Lina Ramann, it was not Holbein's work that inspired this composition, though many assume it was, but the mural painting in the halls of the Campo Santo in Pisa: The Triumph of Death, by the Florentine Master Andrea Orcagna.

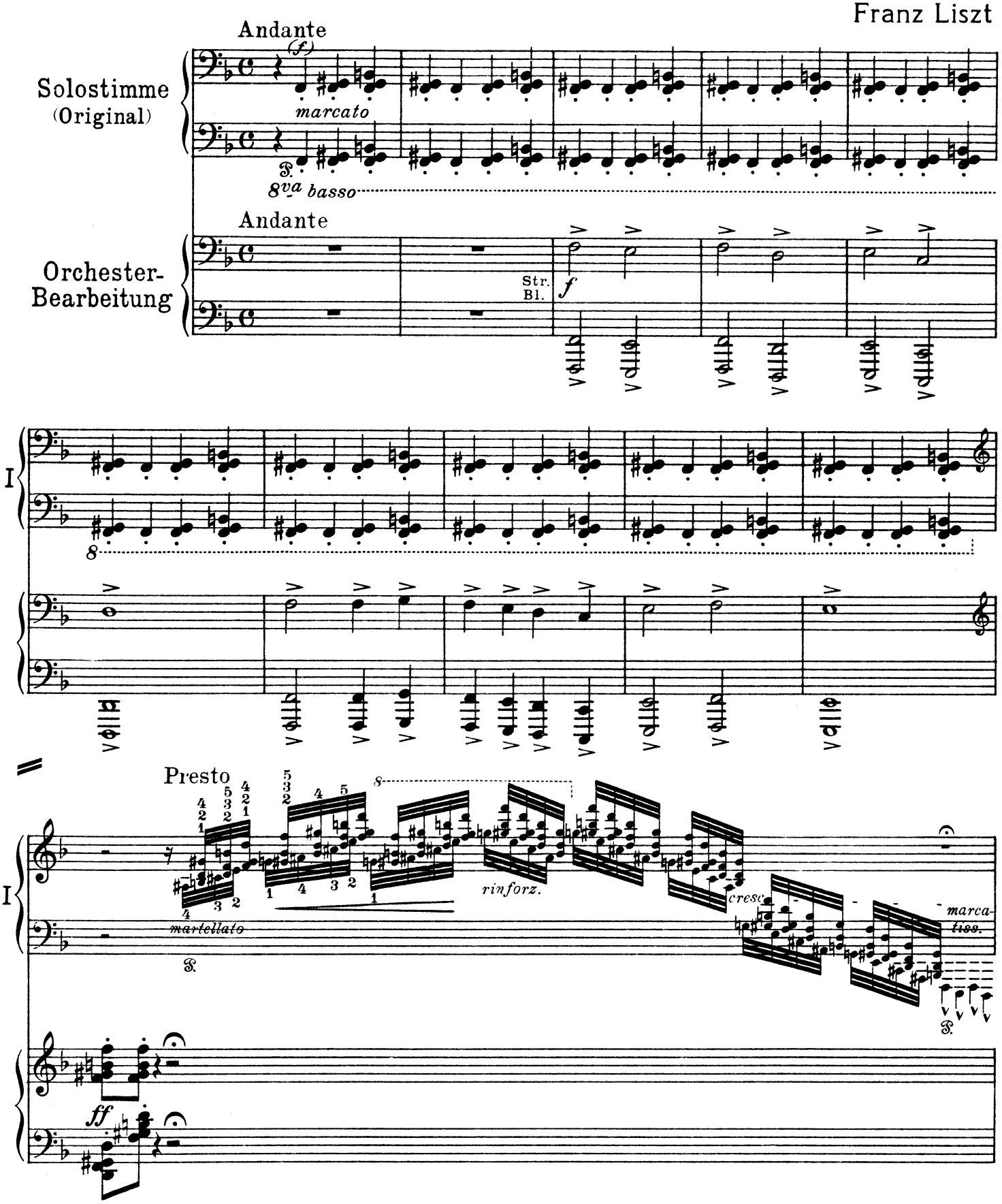
Liszt states that on beholding that picture at Pisa in 1838, the "Dies iræ" theme of the ancient Chant (introduced also by Berlioz in the "Witches Sabbath" of his Fantastic Symphony) with a few variations, at once came into his mind.

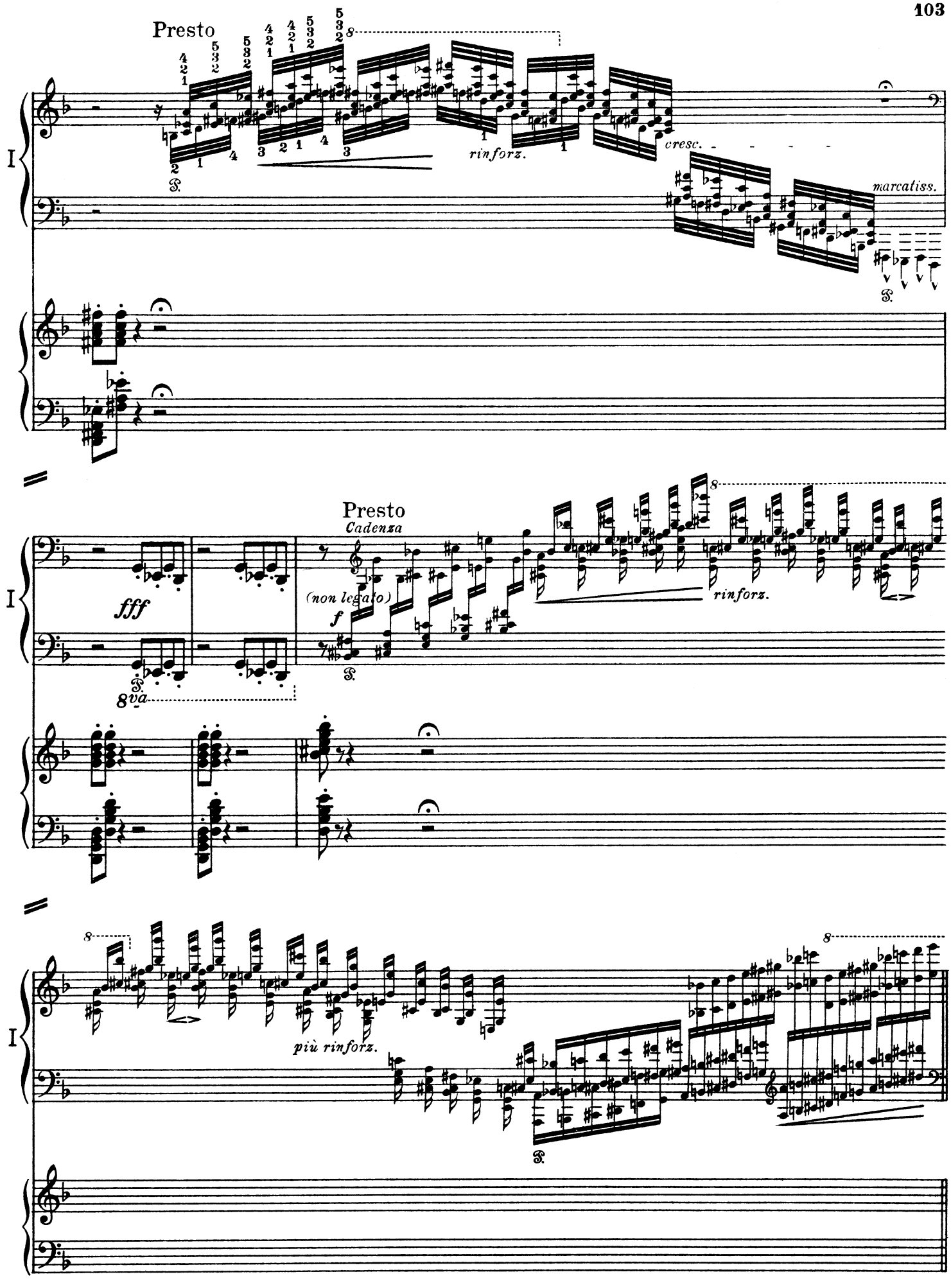
Hans von Bülow gewidmet

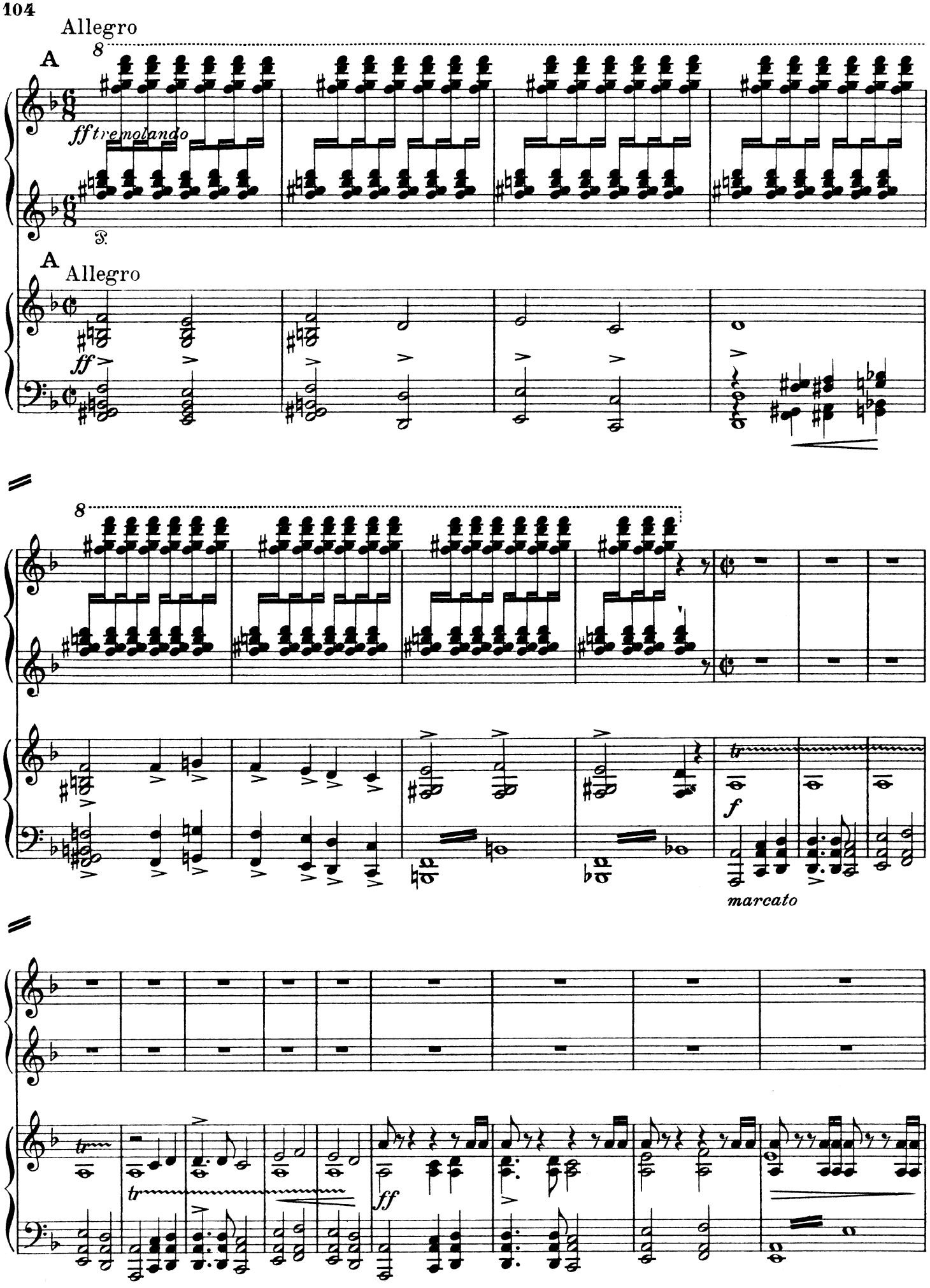
Danse macabre
(Totentanz)

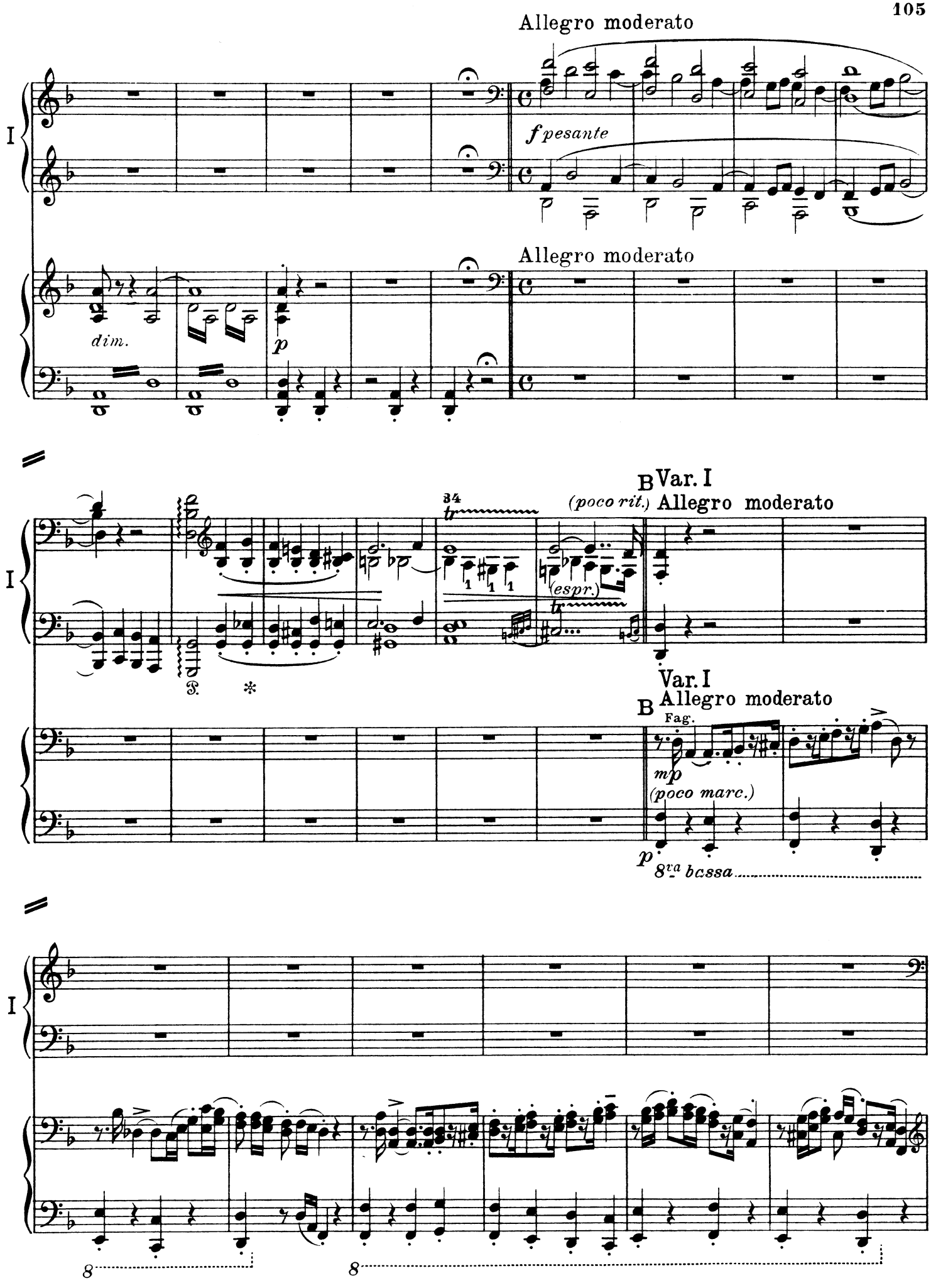
Komponiert 1849-50 — Erschienen 1865

Franz Liszt




Presto
rinforz.
cresc.
marcatiss.
Presto
Cadenza
fff
(non legato)
f
rinforz.
8va
più rinforz.


Allegro
A
8
ff tremolando
I
S.
A
Allegro
ff
8
I
f
marcato
I
tr
tr
ff


Allegro moderato
I
f pesante
dim.
p
Allegro moderato
B Var. I
(poco rit.) Allegro moderato
34
(espr.)
Var. I
B Allegro moderato
Fag.
mp
(poco marc.)
p
8va bassa
I
8
8

capriccioso

mf marcato

I

pizz.

sf *mf* Kl.

Fag.

sf *mf*

Var. II

C

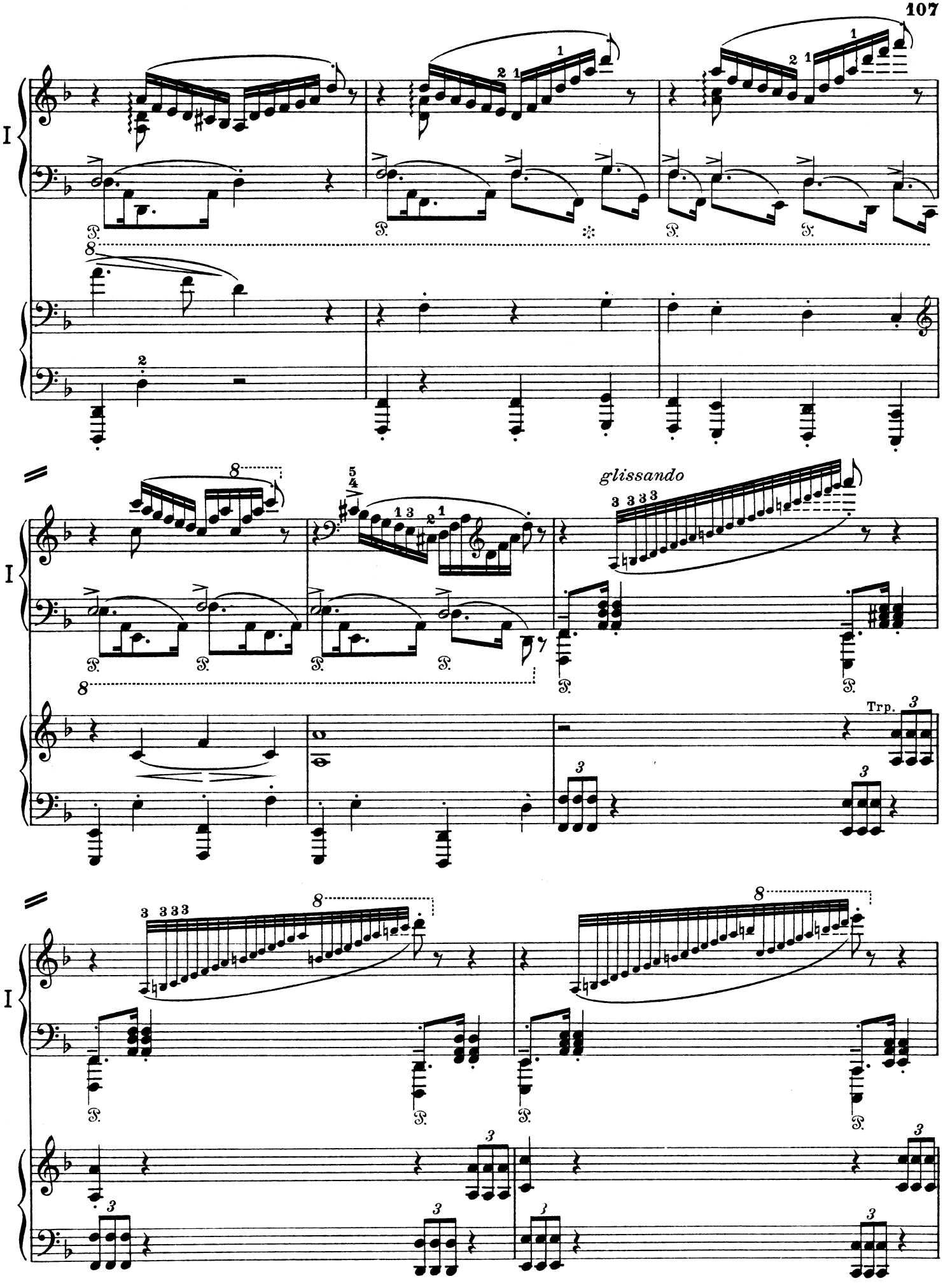
marcato il basso

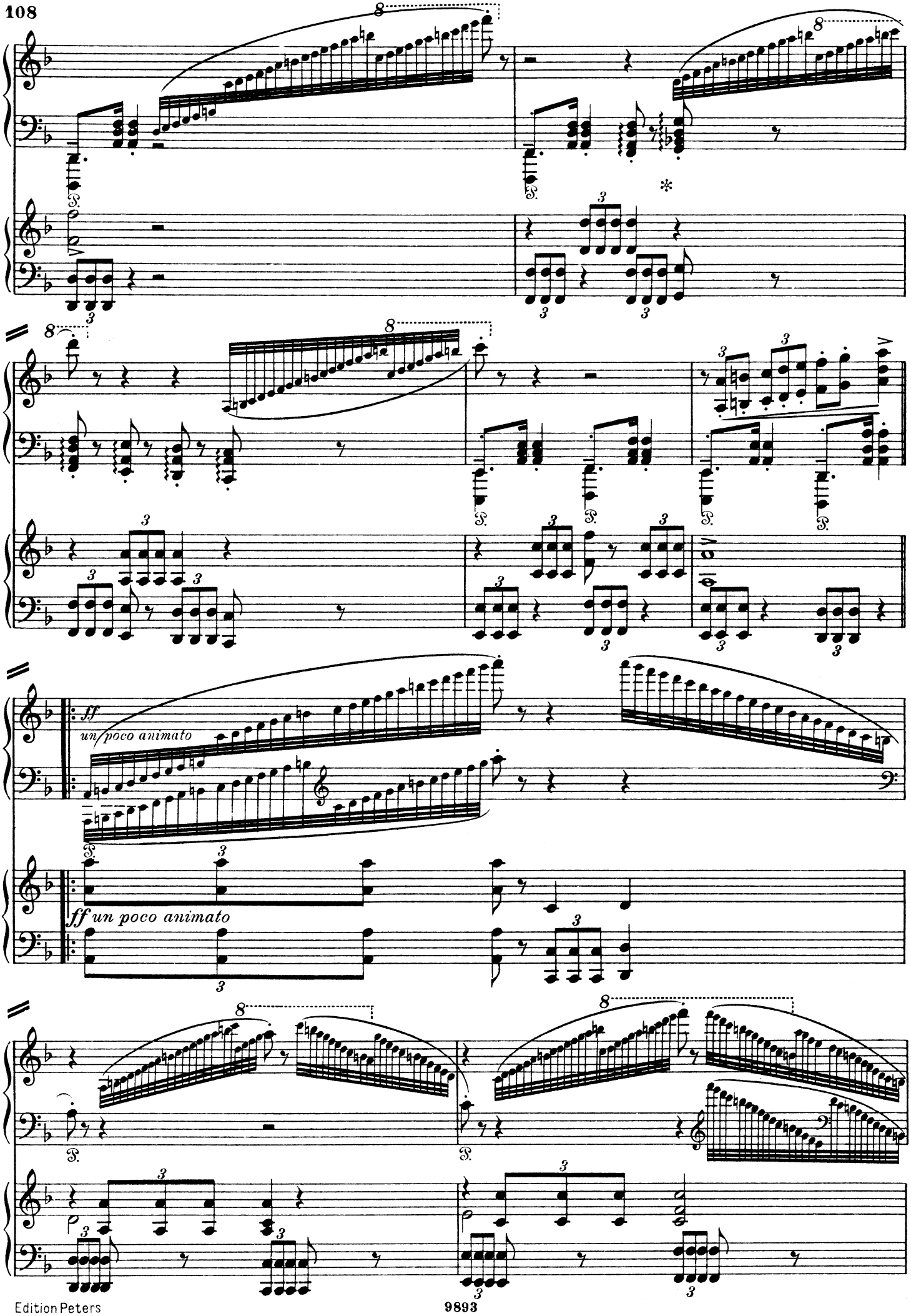
8va basso

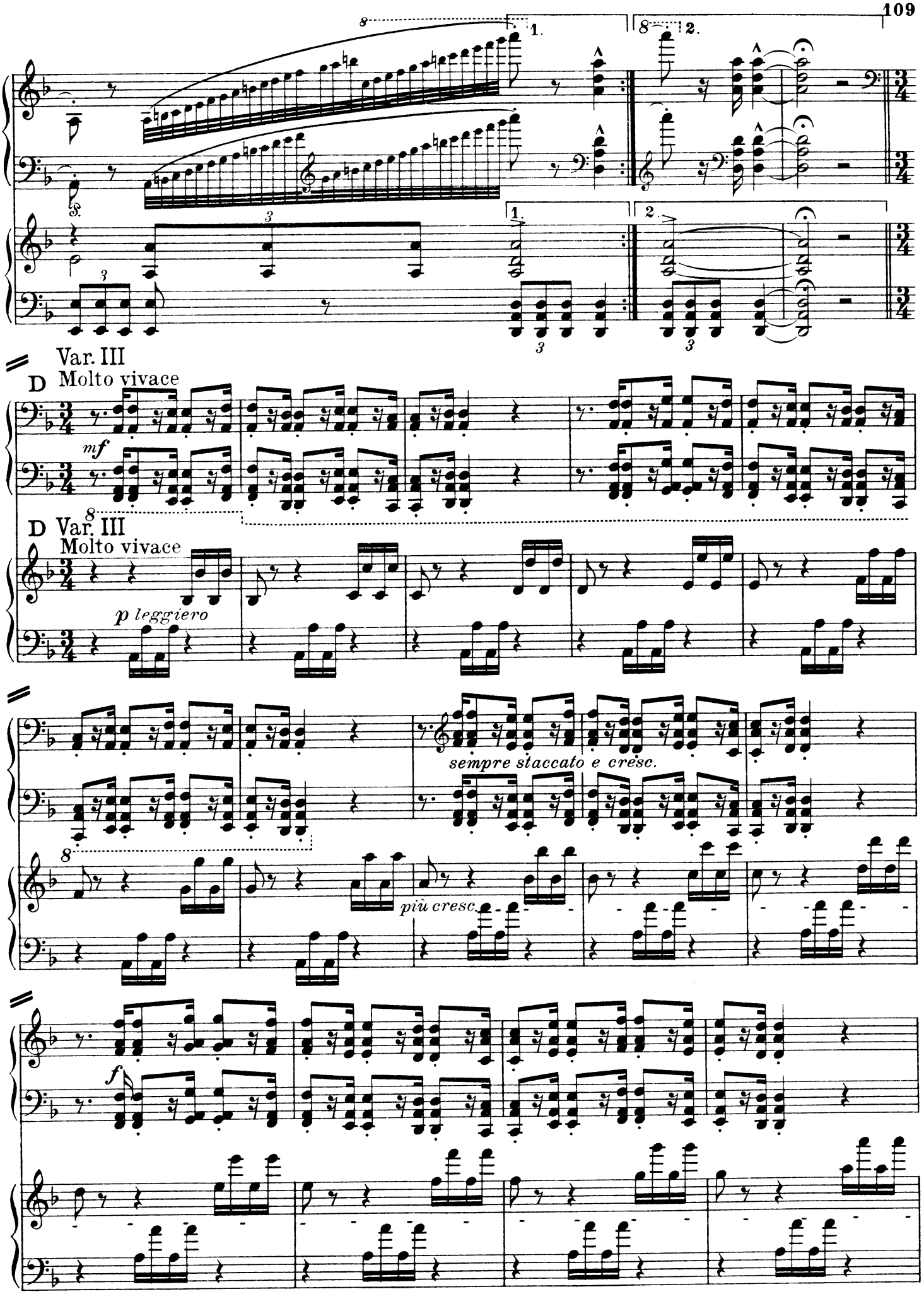
C Var. II

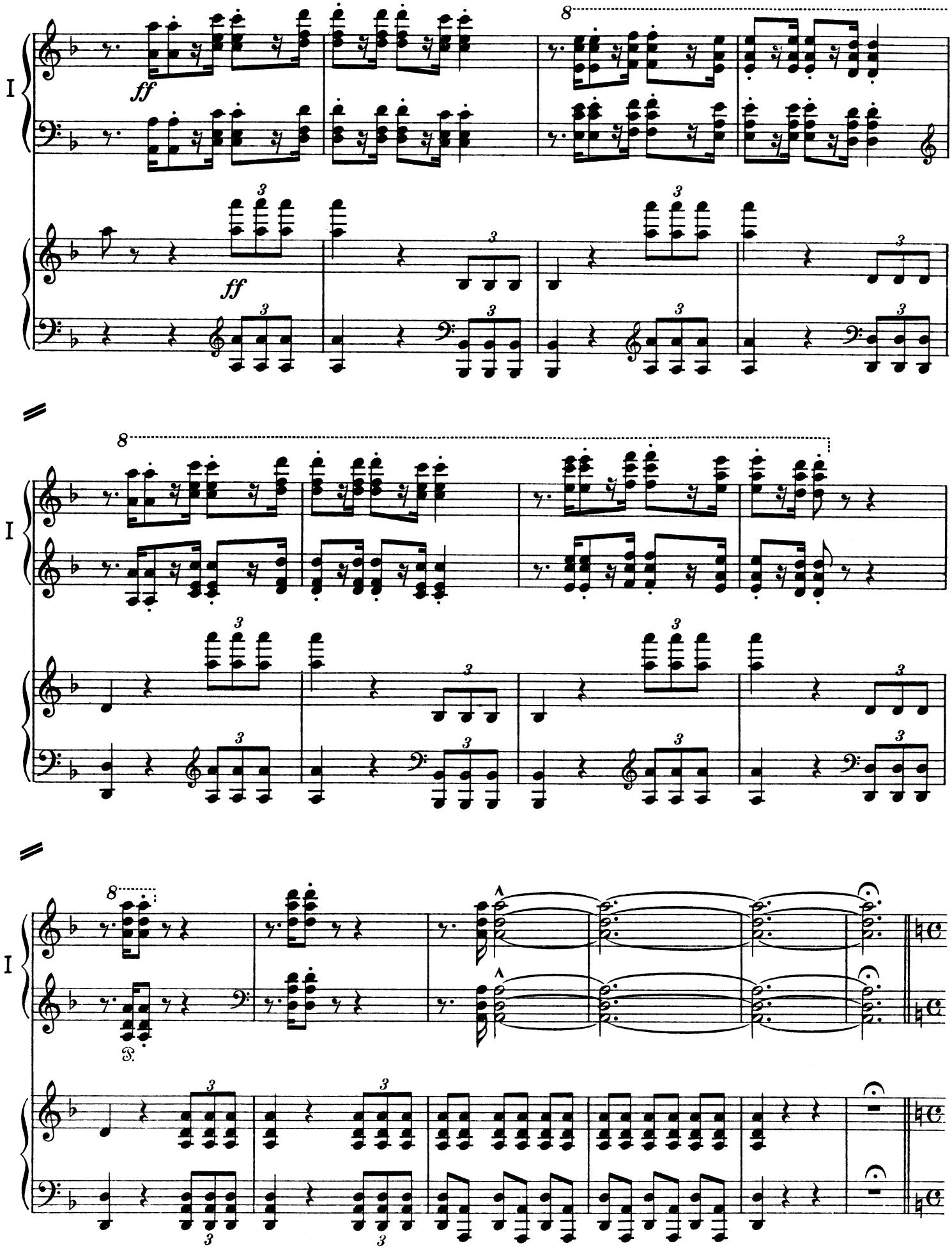
pizz.

Hr.


I
glissando
Trp.
I


I
8
3
ff
un poco animato
ff un poco animato

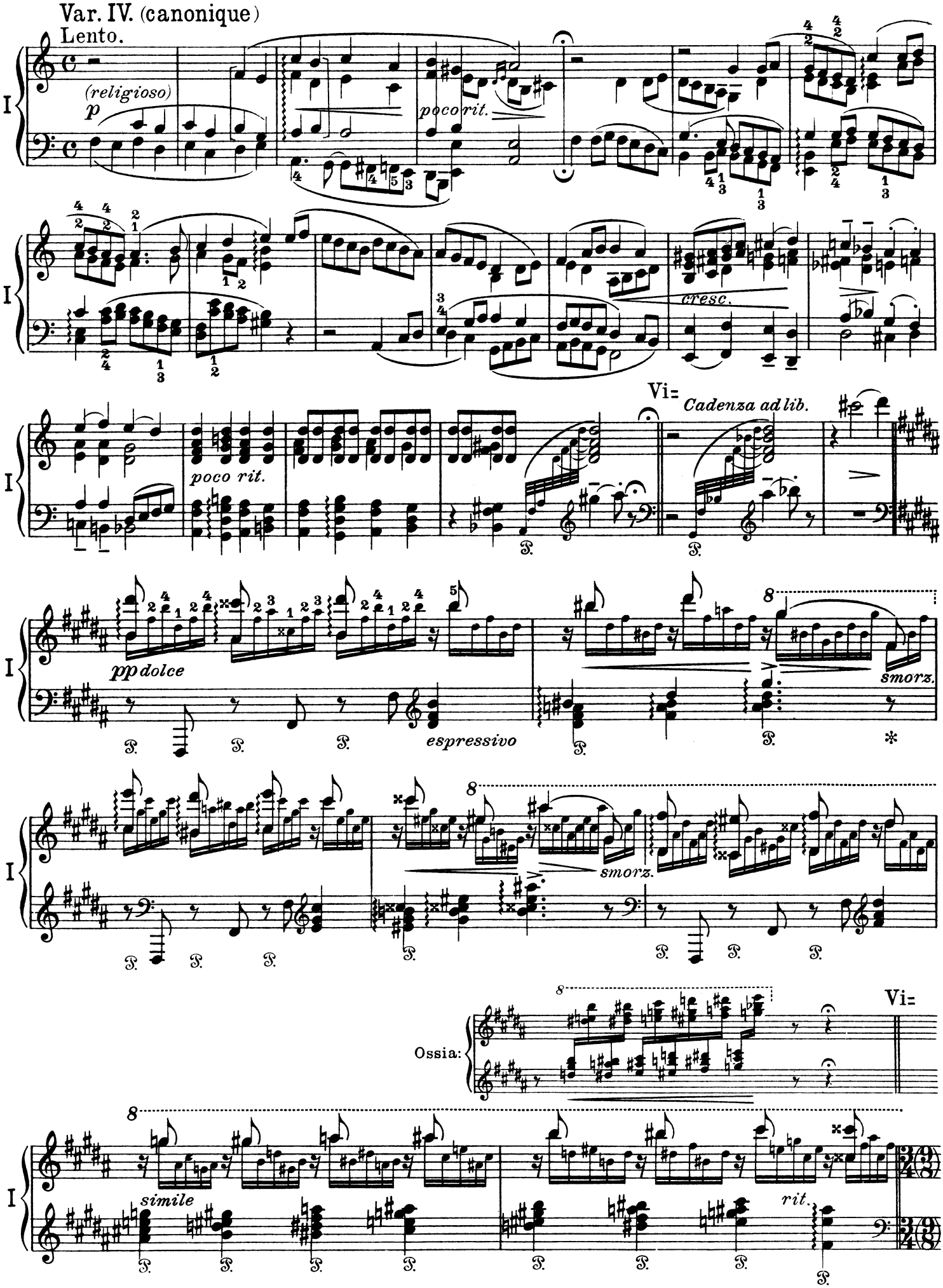

1.
2.
Var. III
D Molto vivace
mf
D Var. III
Molto vivace
p leggiero
sempre staccato e cresc.
più cresc.
f

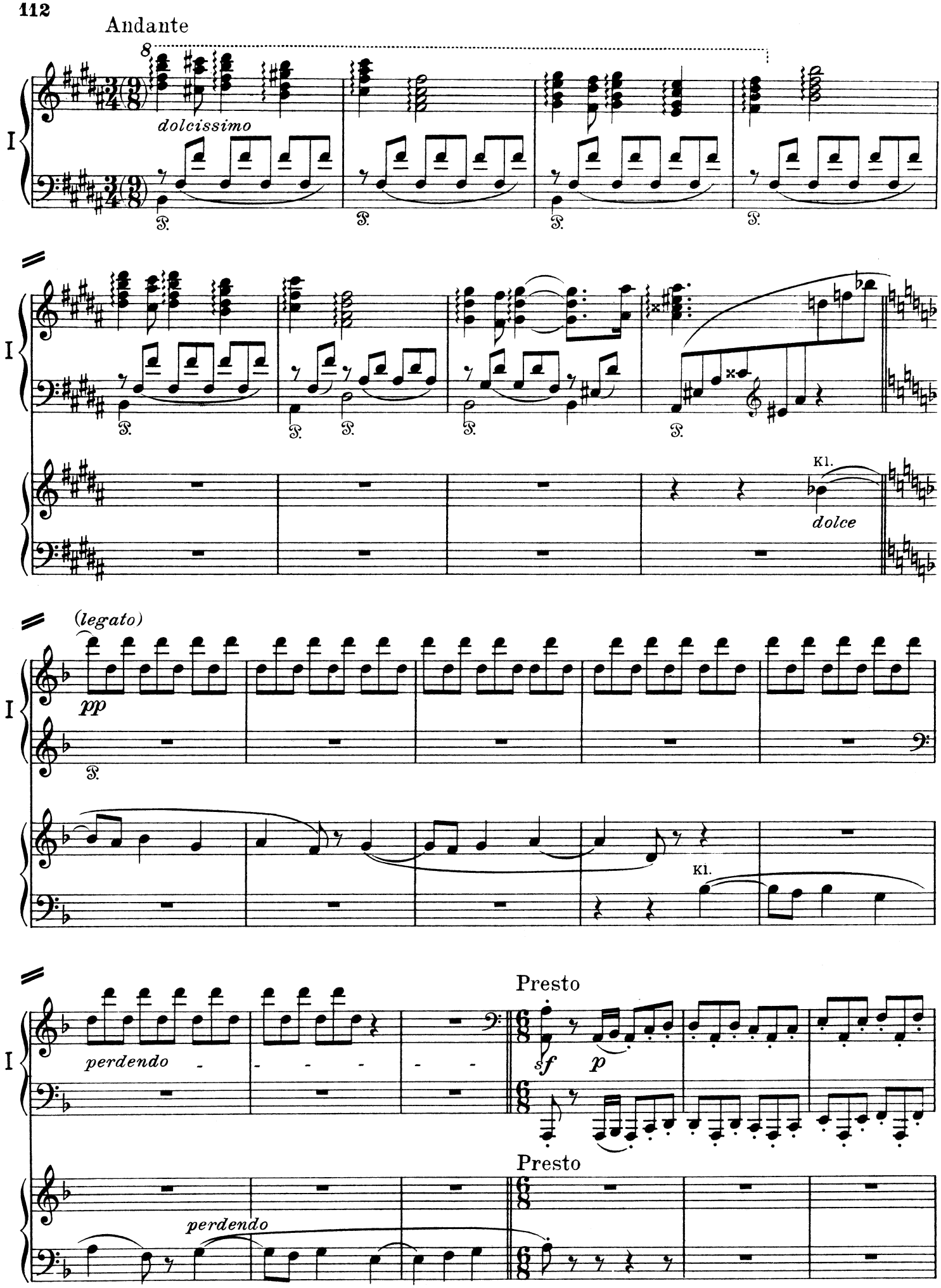

I
ff
ff
I
I

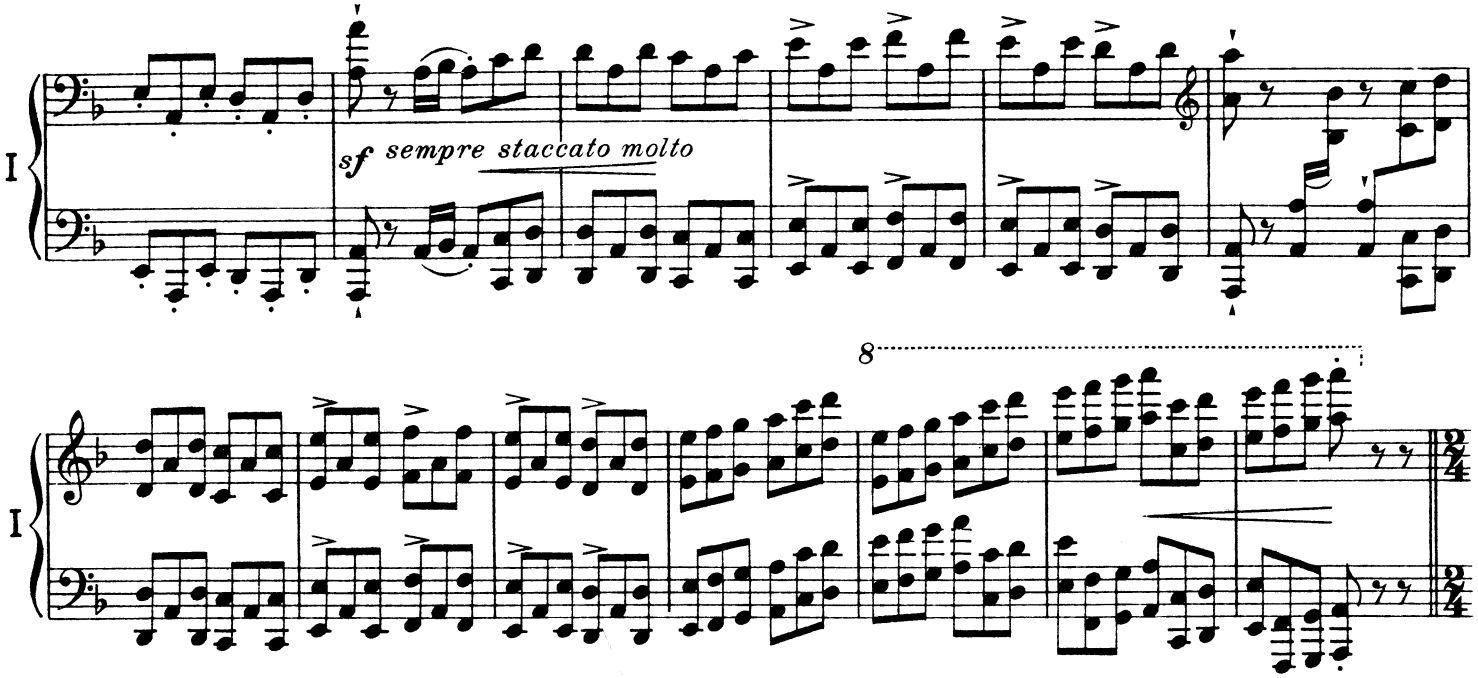
Solo

Var. IV. (canonique)

Lento.

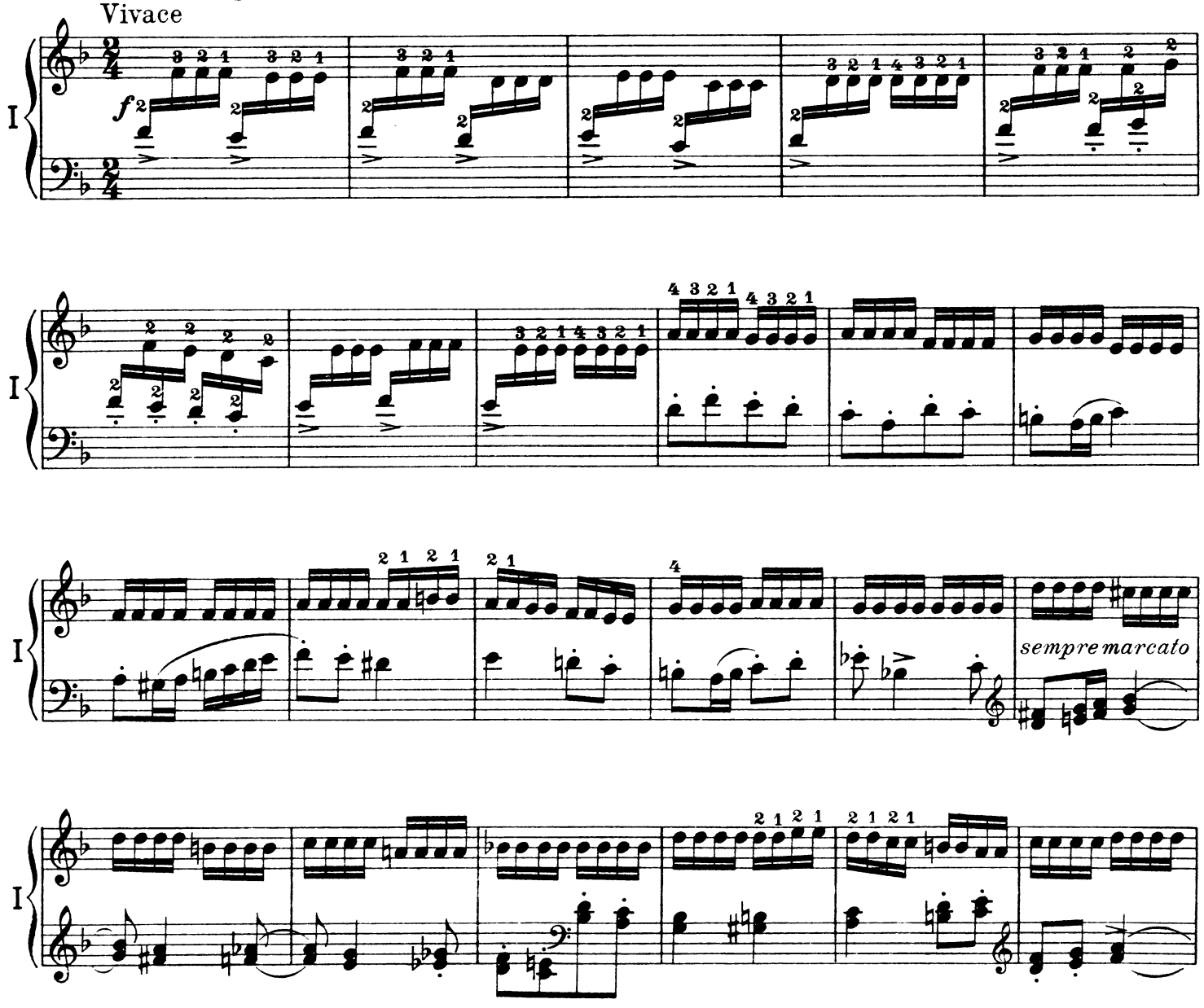


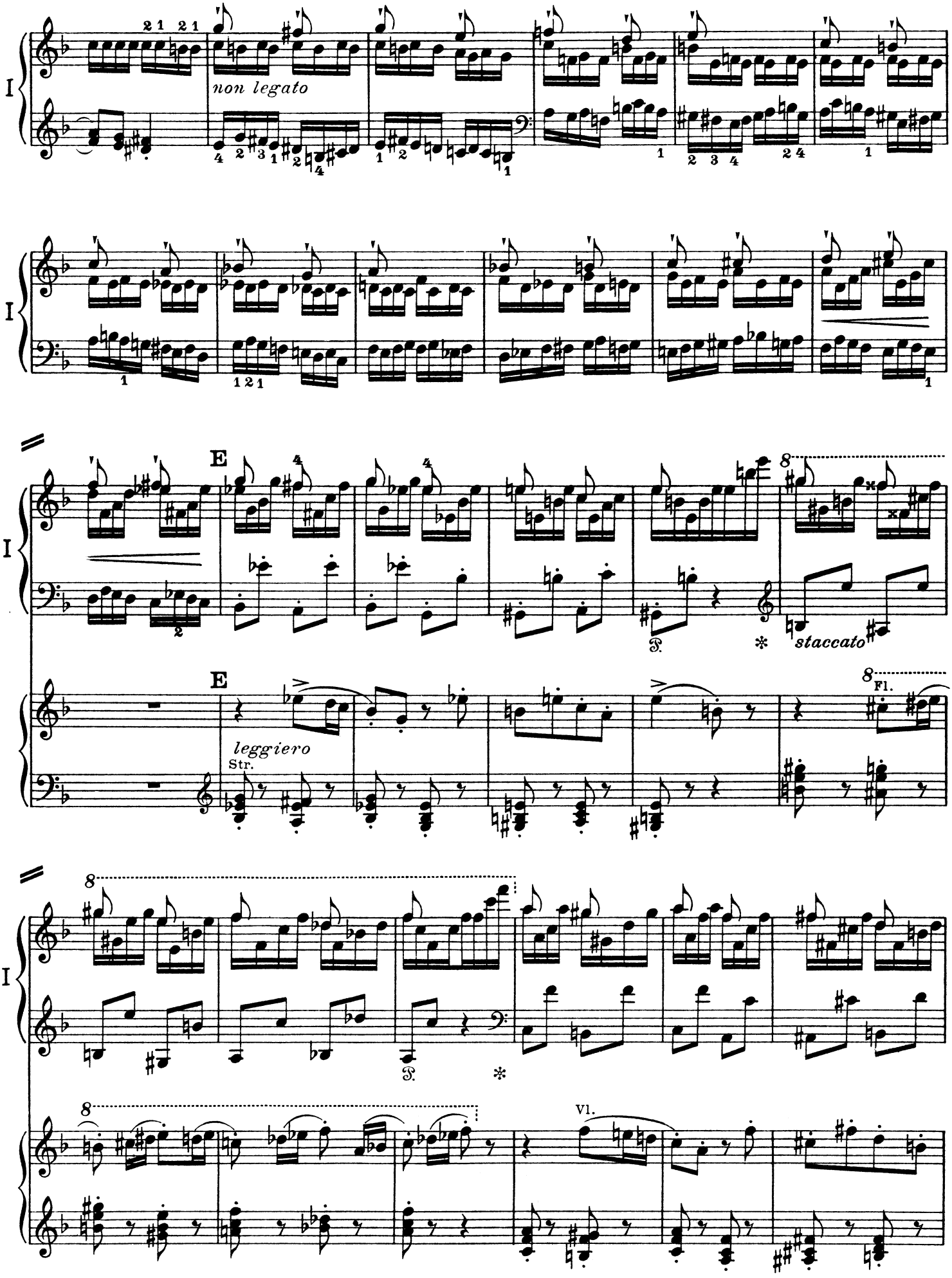

Andante
dolcissimo
Kl.
dolce
(legato)
pp
Kl.
perdendo
Presto
sf
p
Presto
perdendo

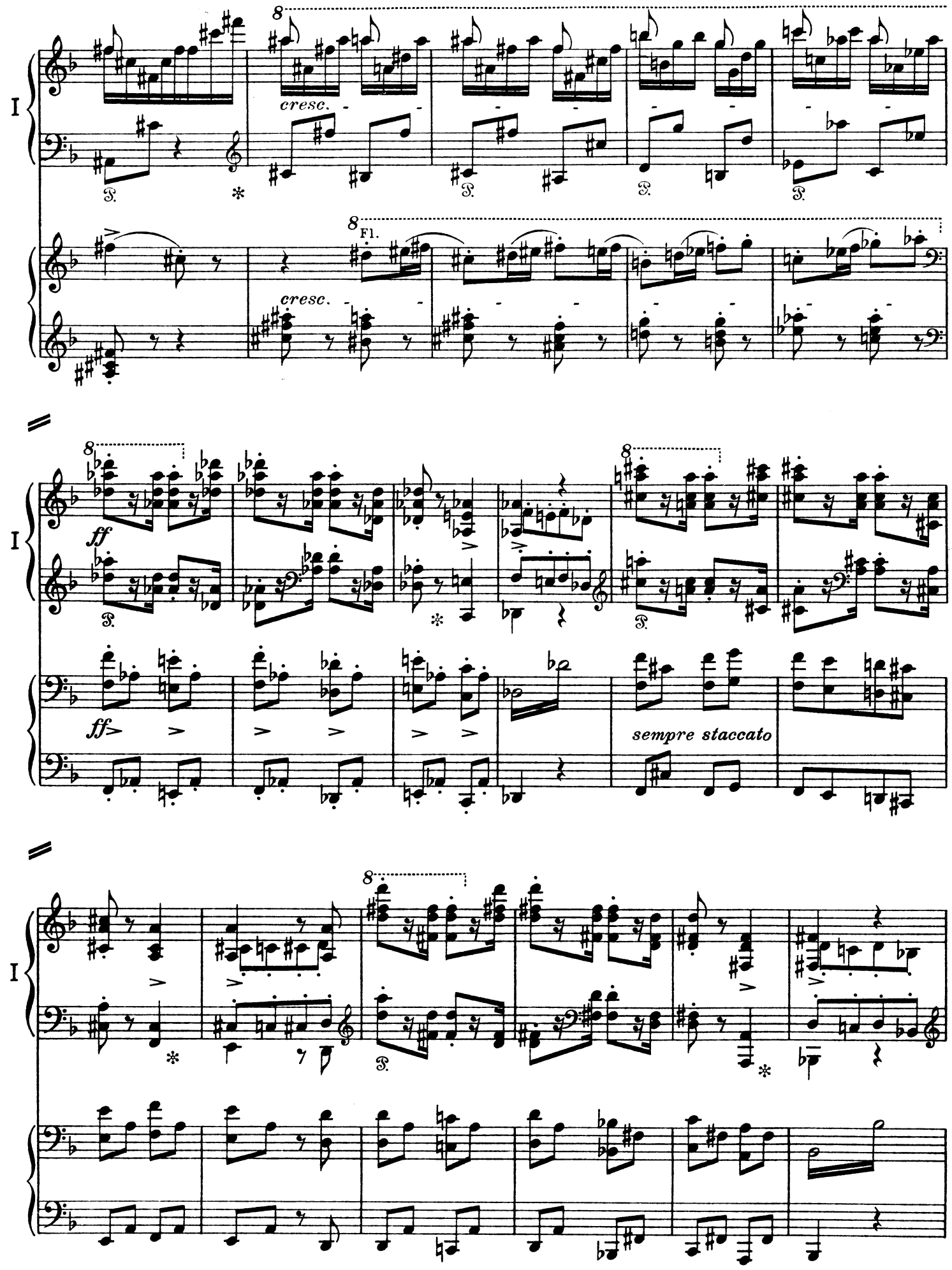


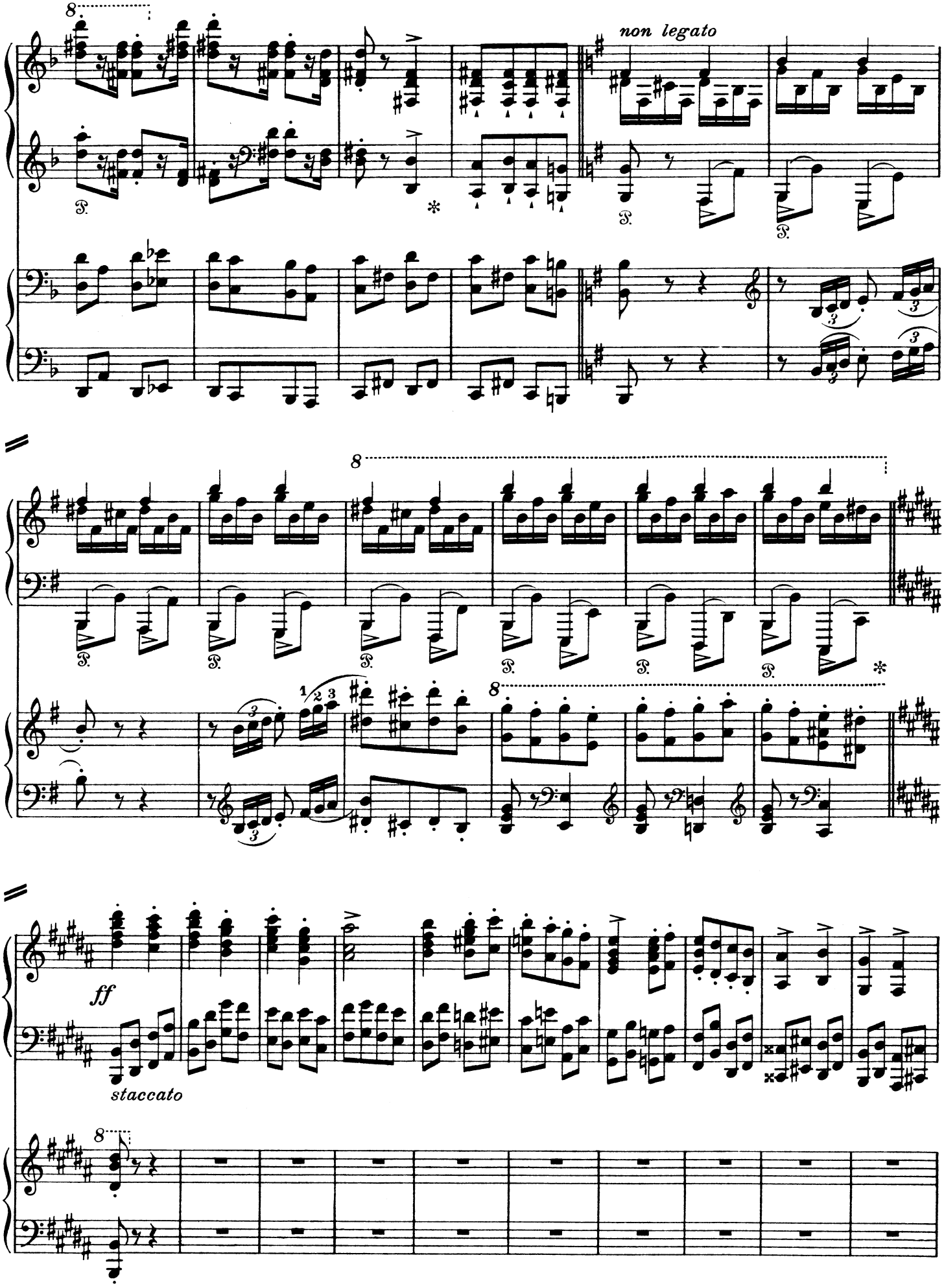
=de Var. V. Fugato

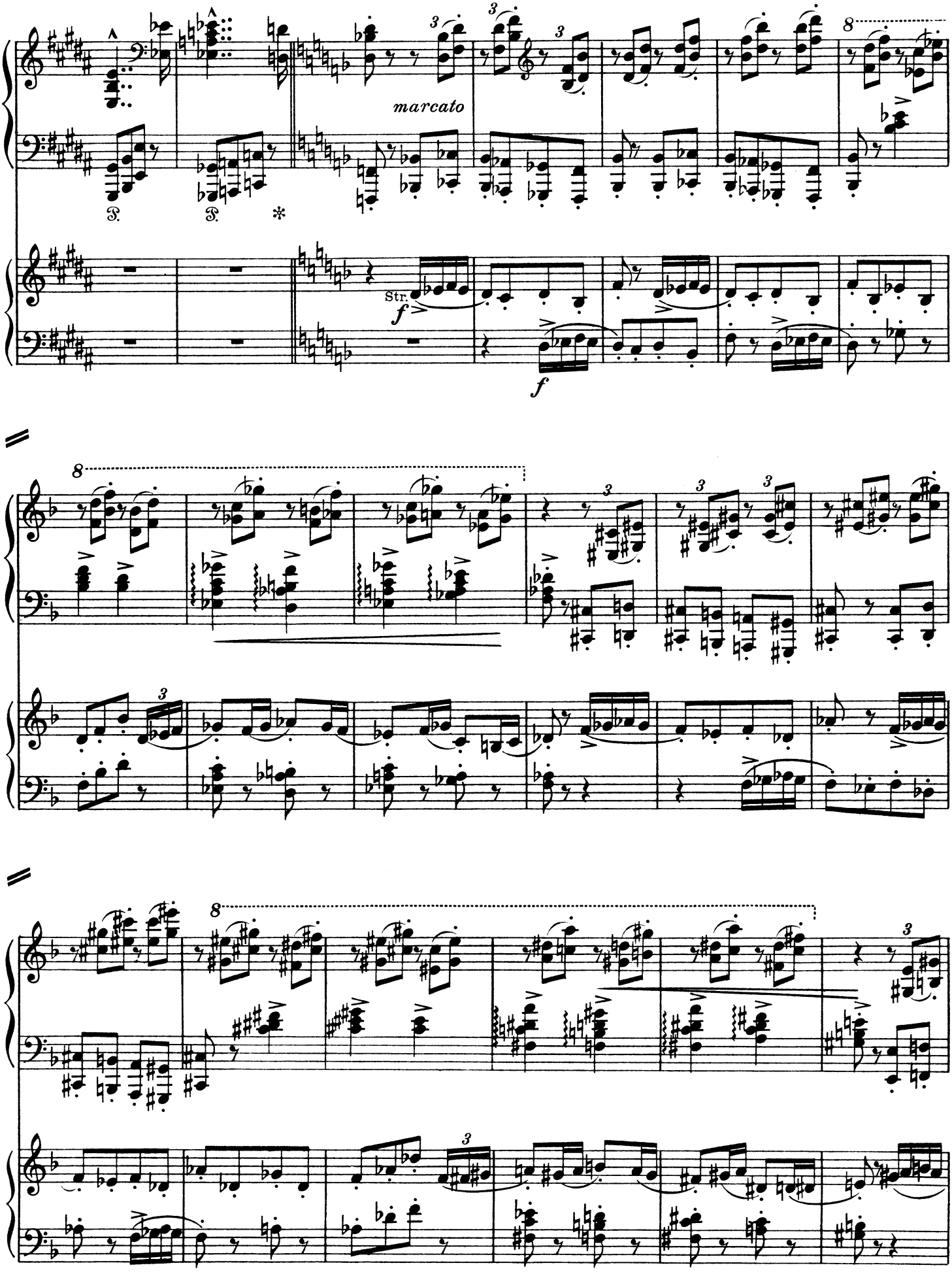
Vivace

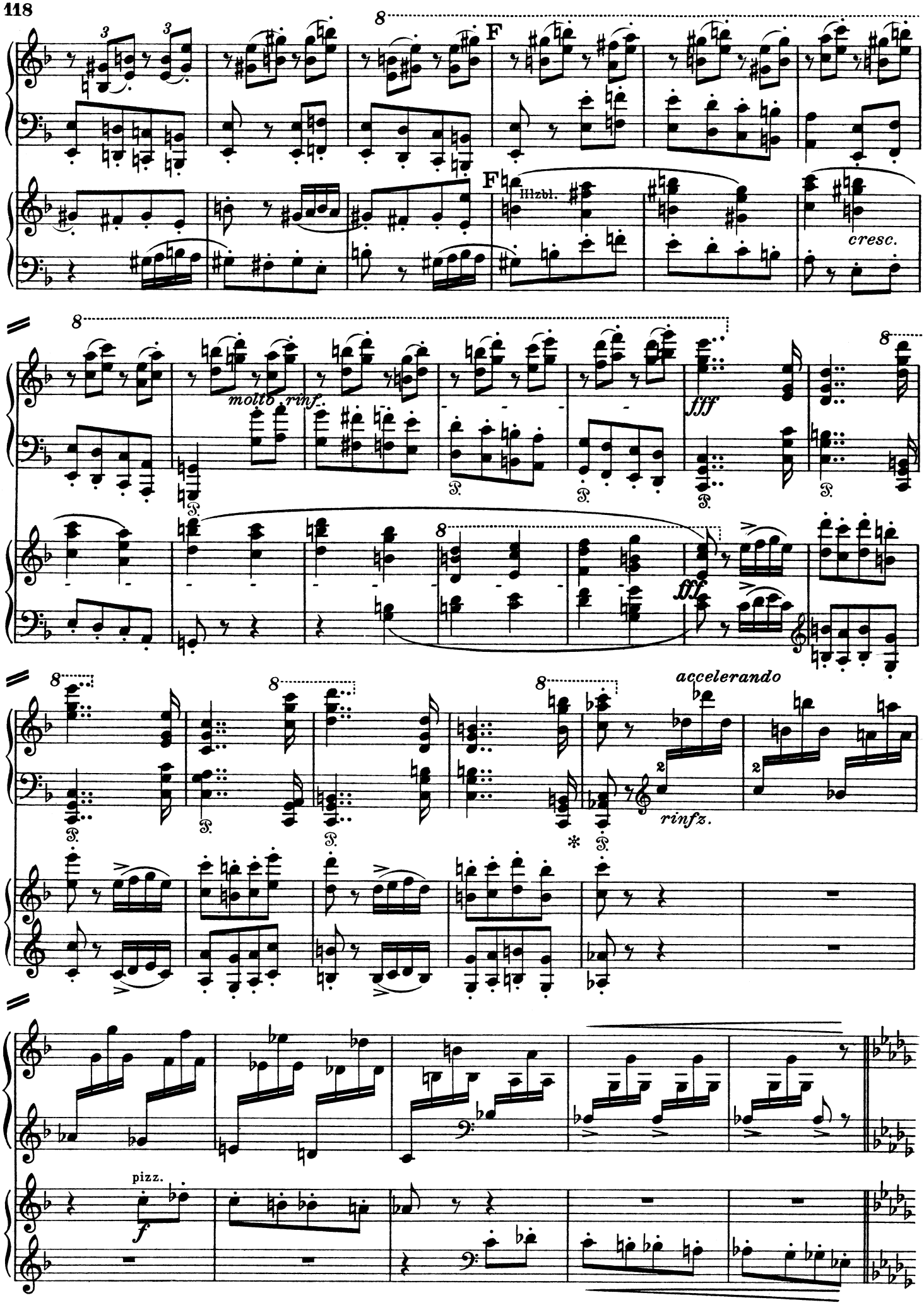


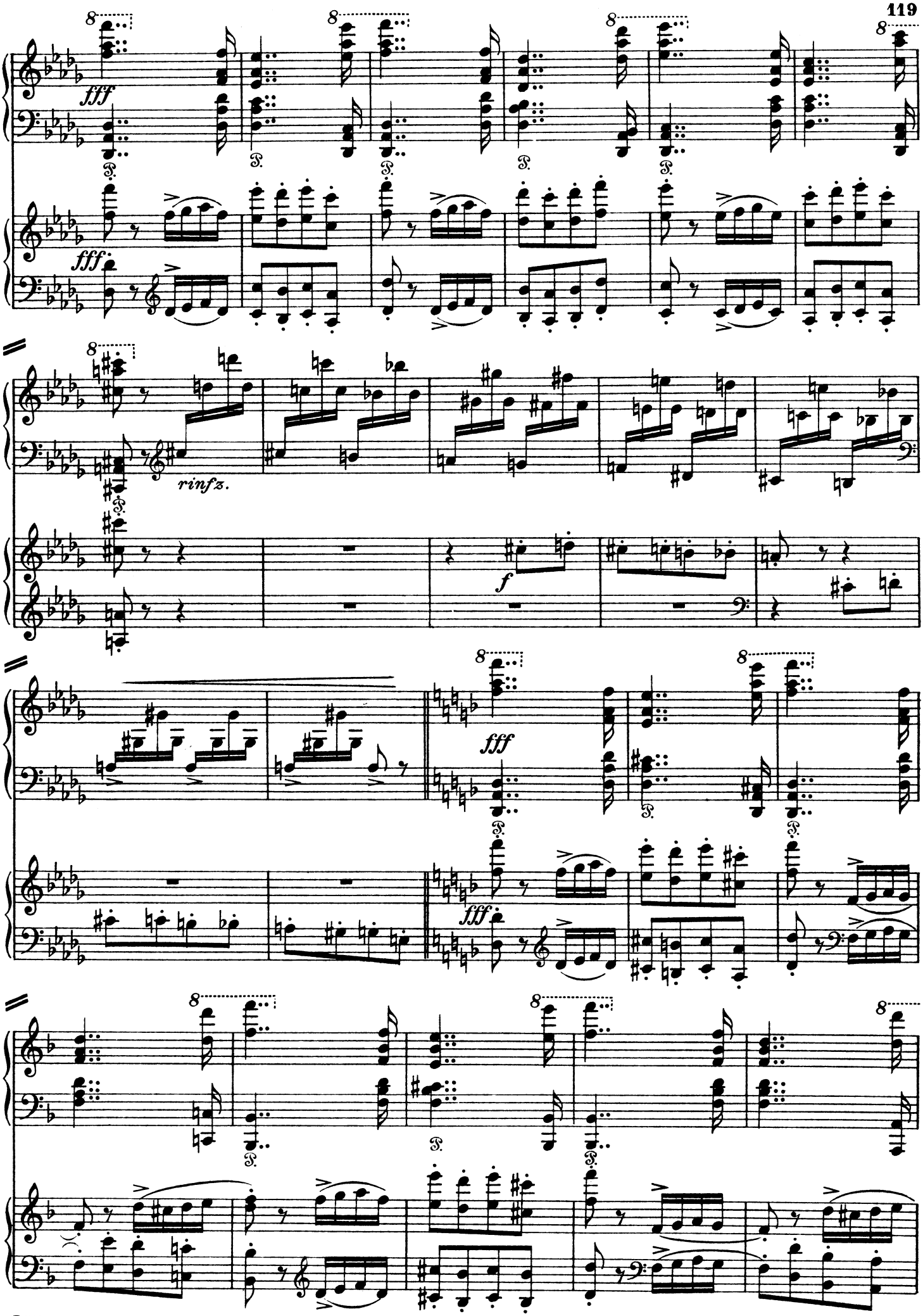

I
non legato
E
staccato
leggiero
Str.
Fl.
Vl.

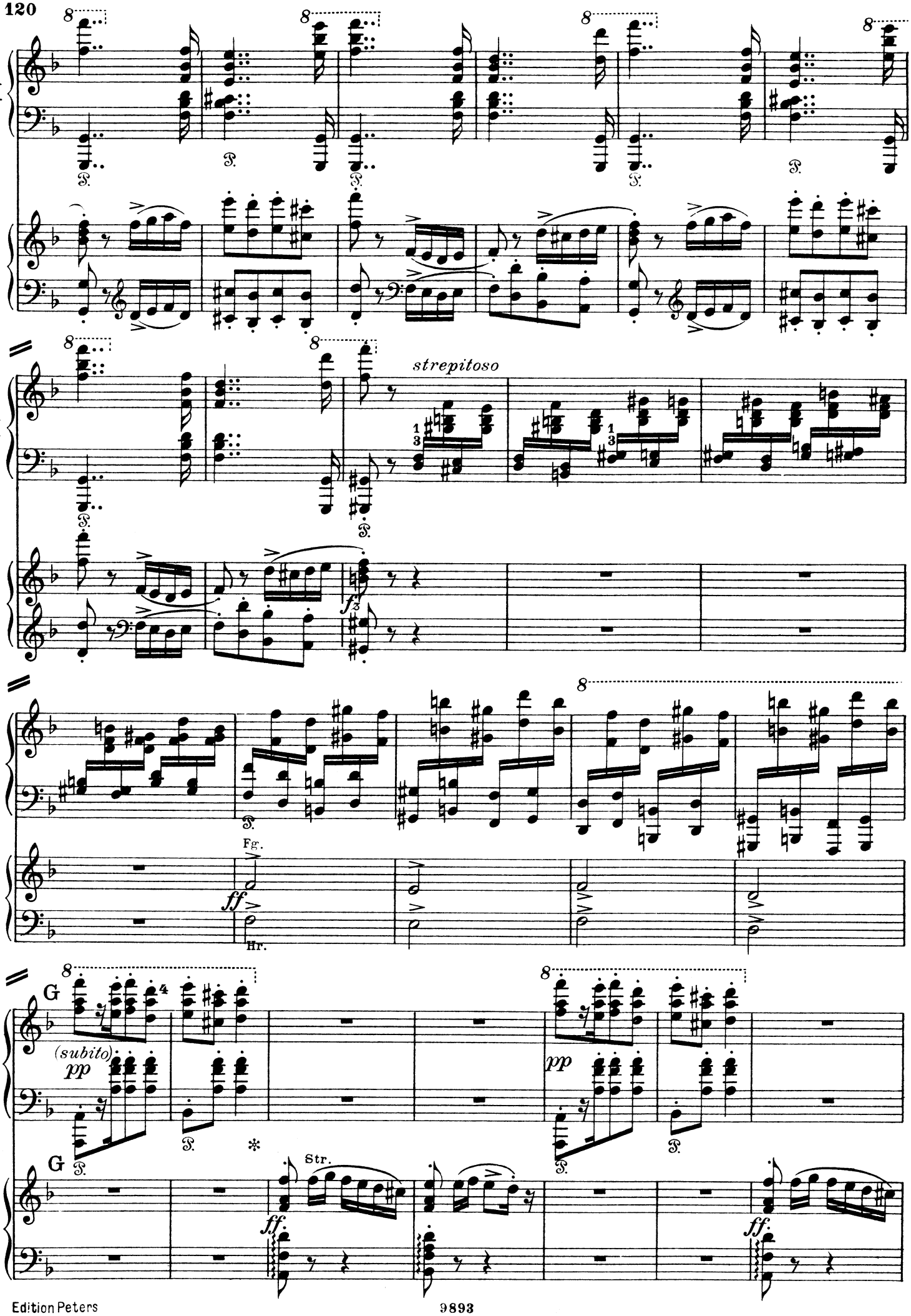

I
8
cresc.
Fl.
ff
sempre staccato

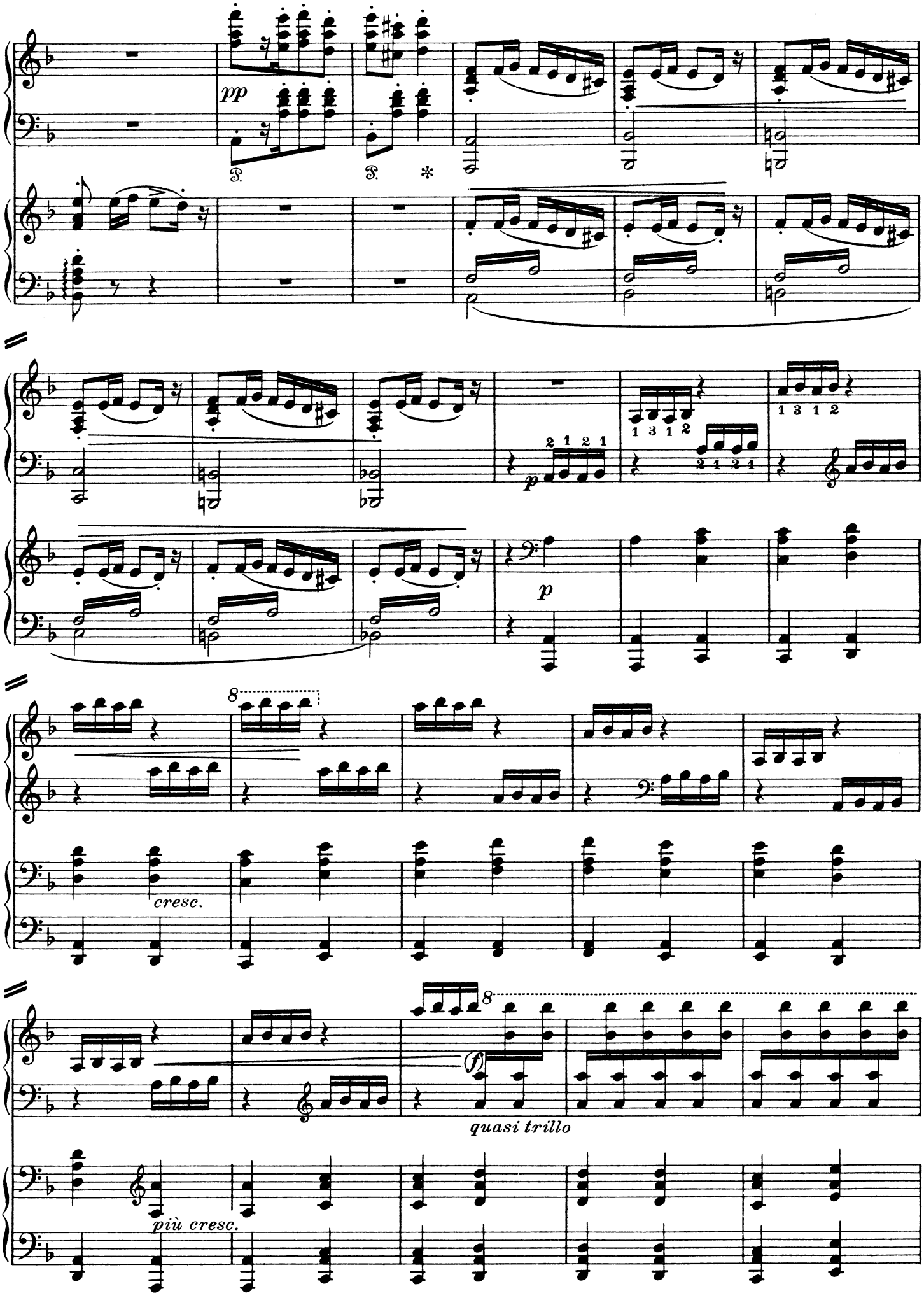

non legato
ff
staccato

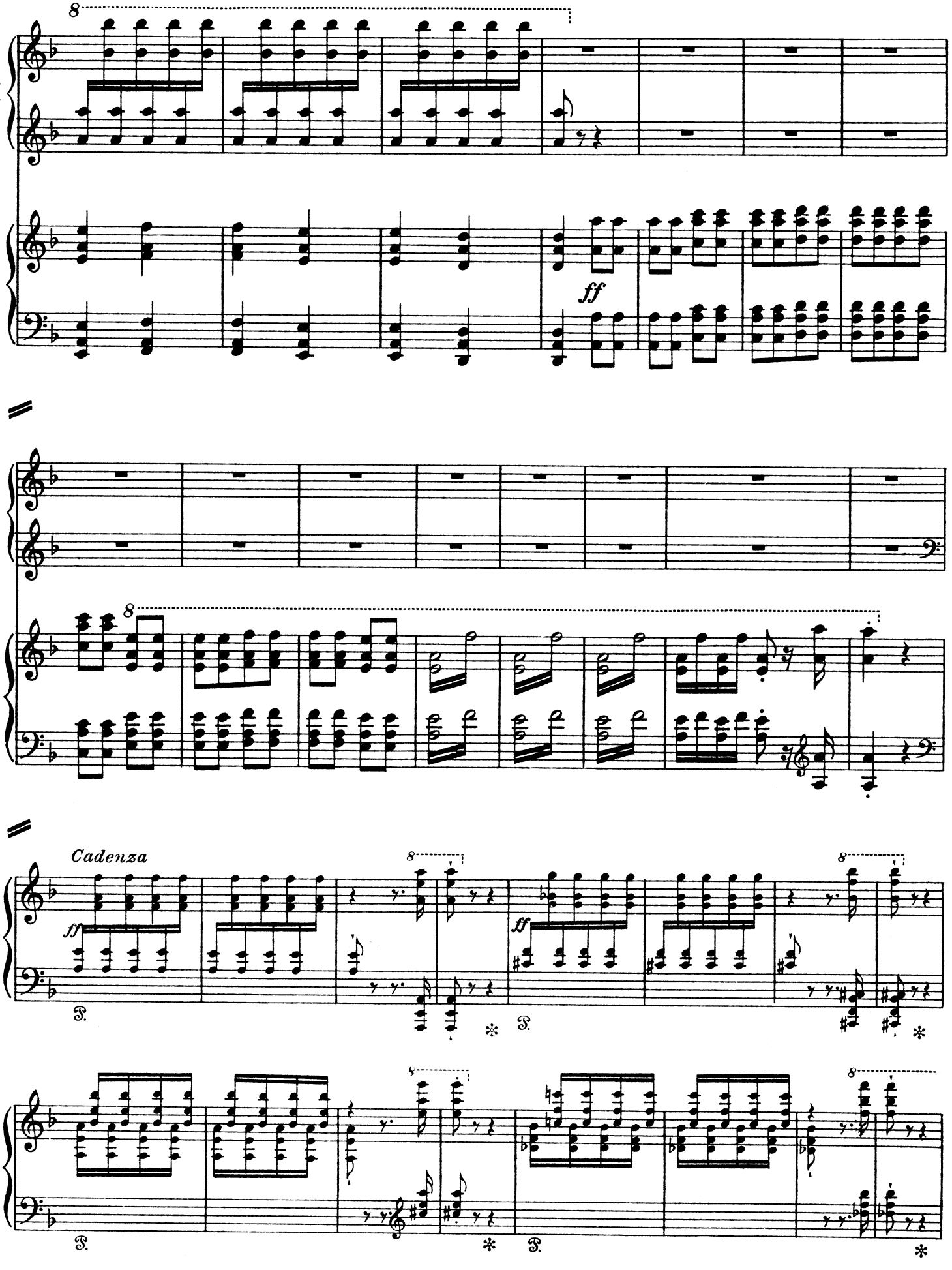

I
marcato
Str.
f
f
I
I


I
F
Illzbl.
cresc.
molto rinf.
fff
accelerando
rinfz.
pizz.
f


I
fff
fff
rinfz.
f
I
fff
fff
I
I


I
strepitoso
Fg.
Hr.
Str.
(subito)
pp
ff
G


I
pp
p
cresc.
quasi trillo
più cresc.


I
ff
I
Cadenza
ff
ff

Presto.

marcatissimo

Vi= (Pag.131)

Ossia:

crescendo

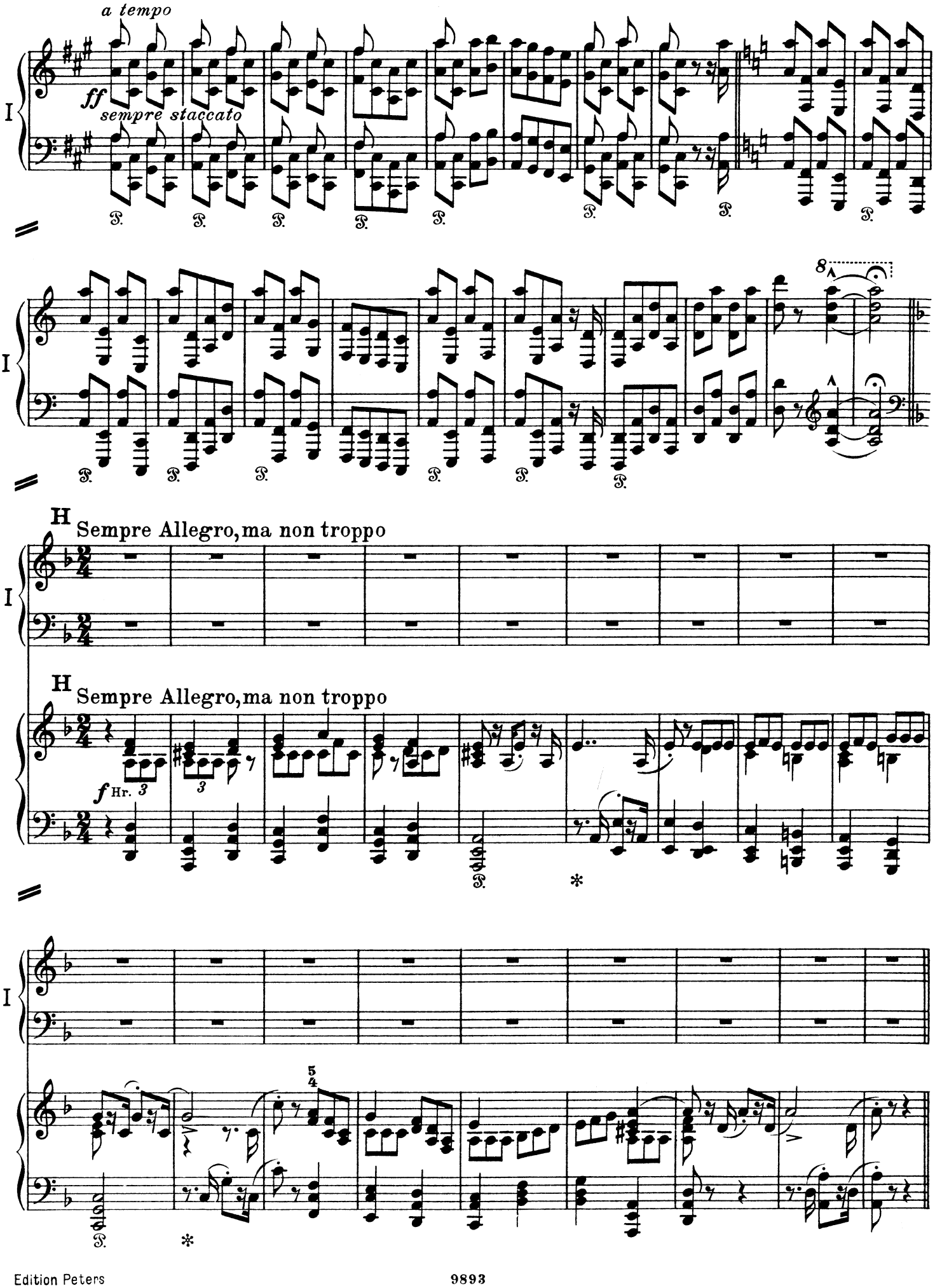
rinforzando

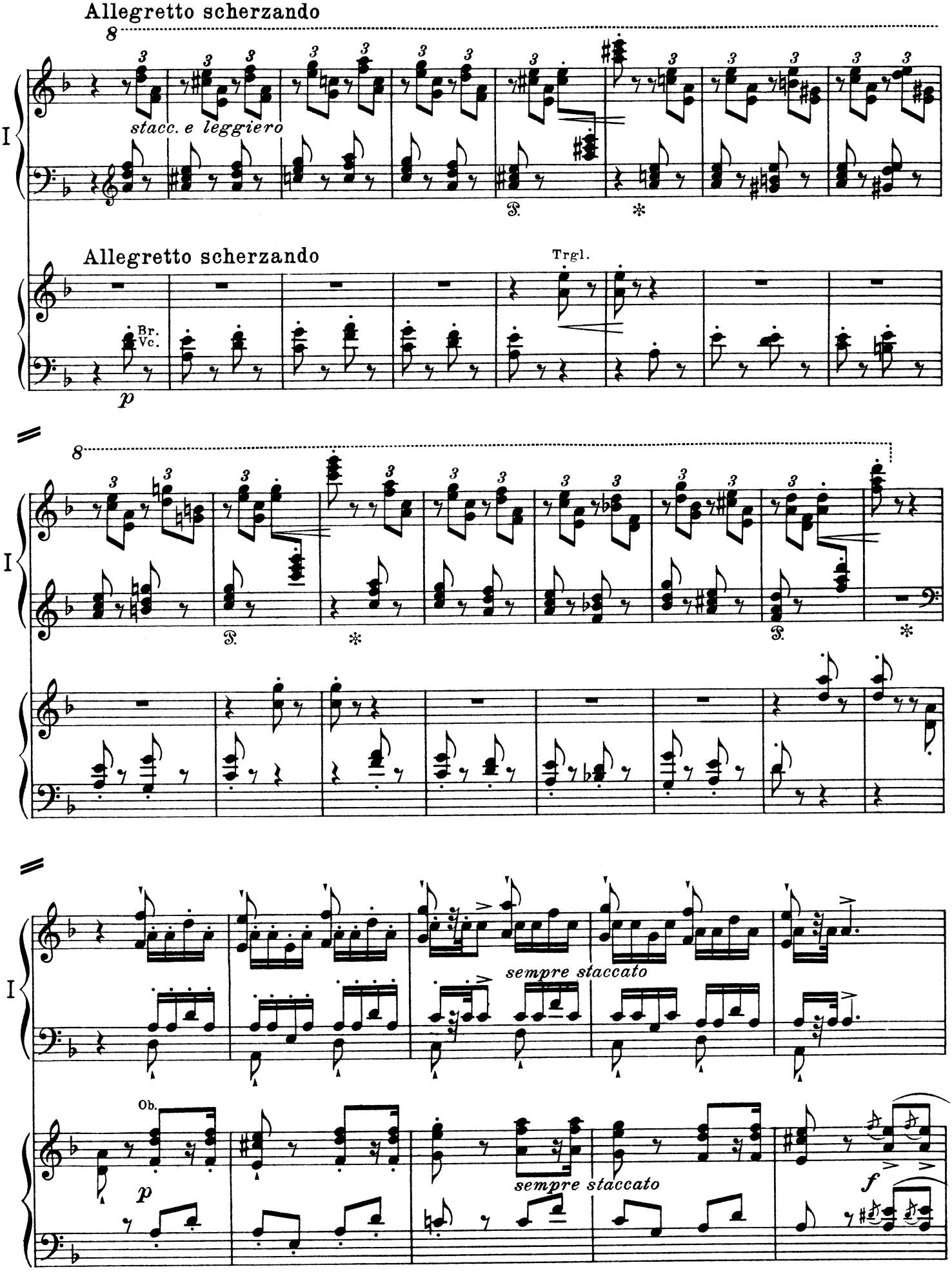
Animato, quasi Corni di caccia

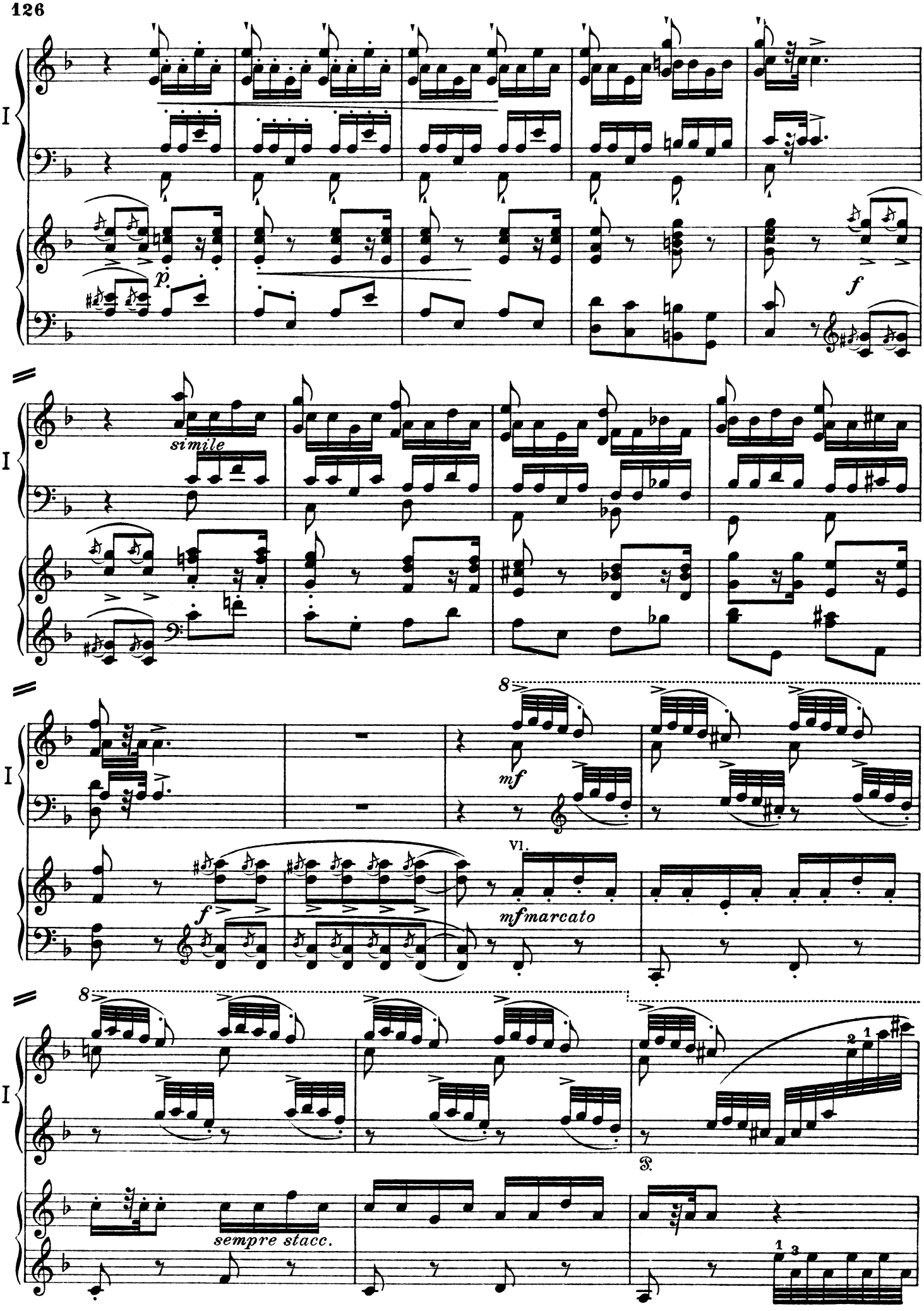
staccato

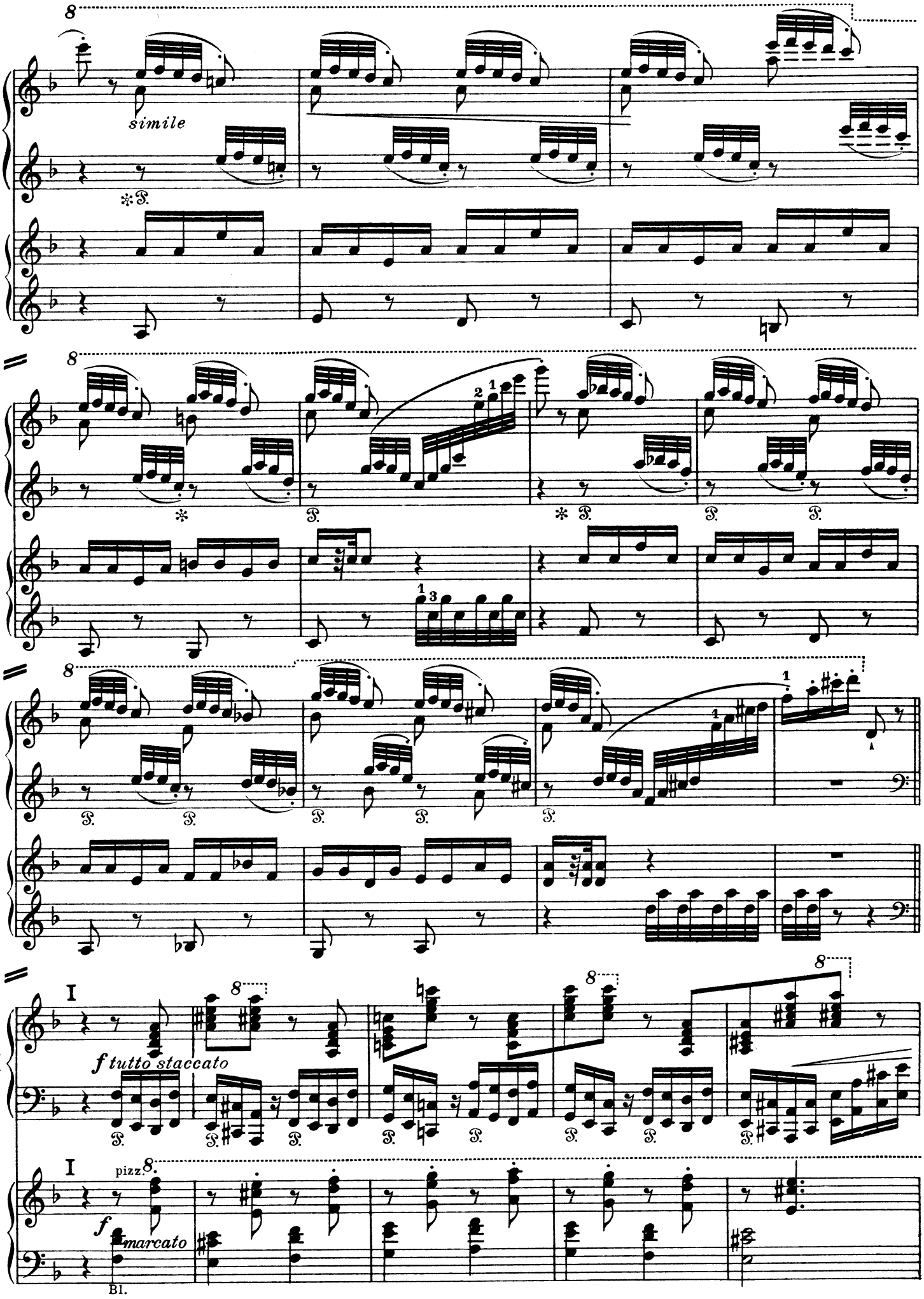
Vi=

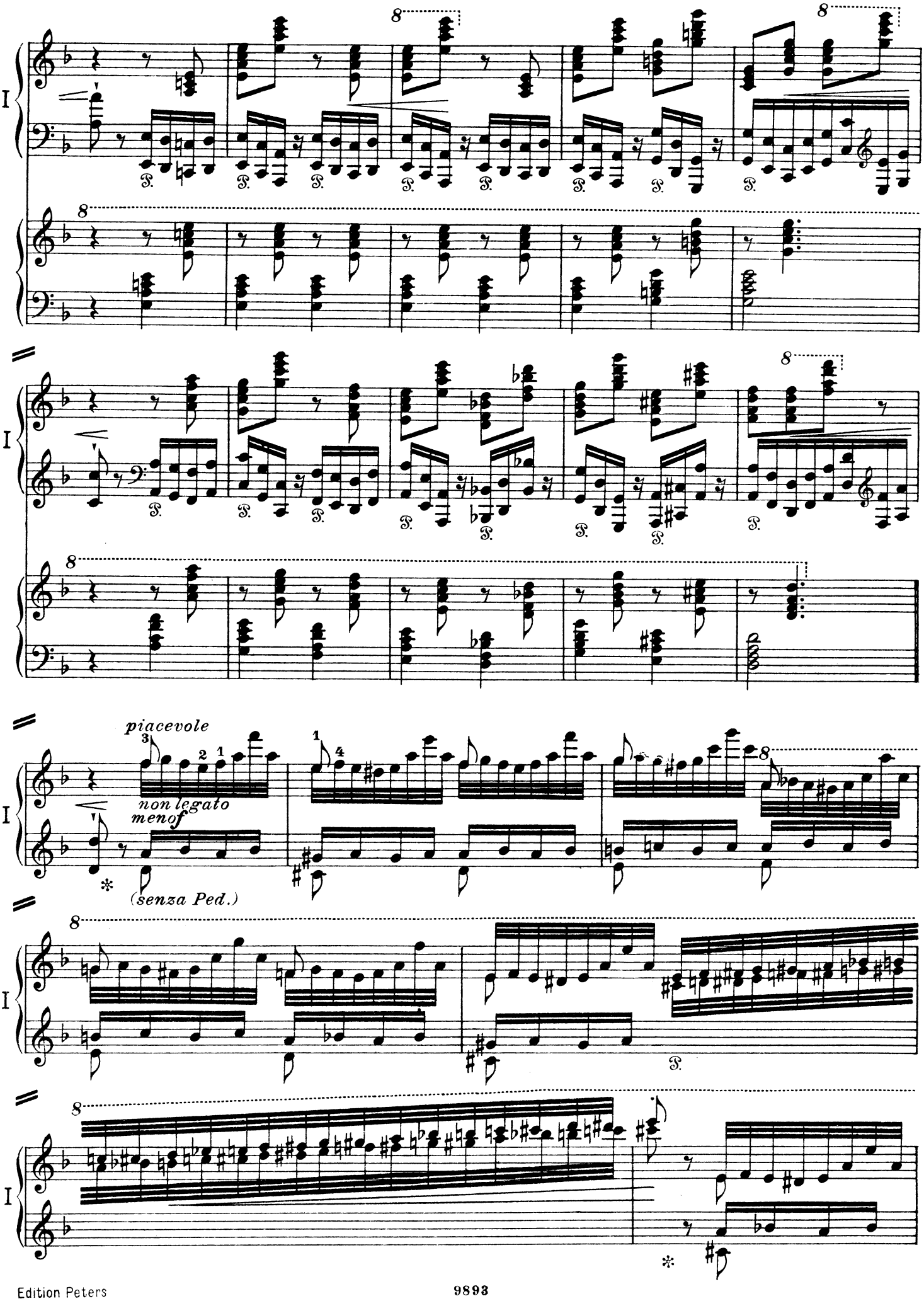
Ossia: (Pag.131)

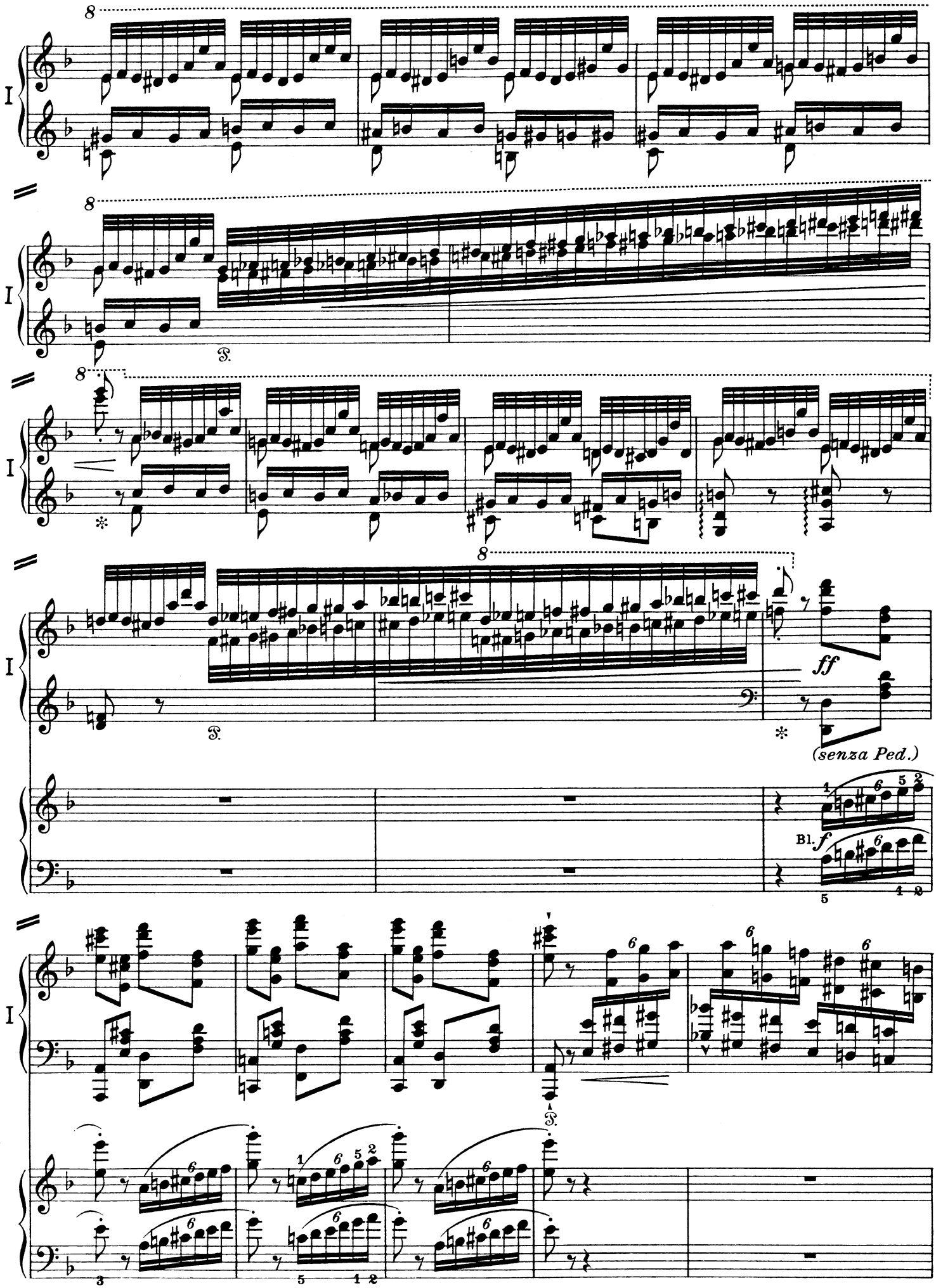

a tempo
ff
sempre staccato
I
8
H
Sempre Allegro, ma non troppo
f Hr.
3
5
4

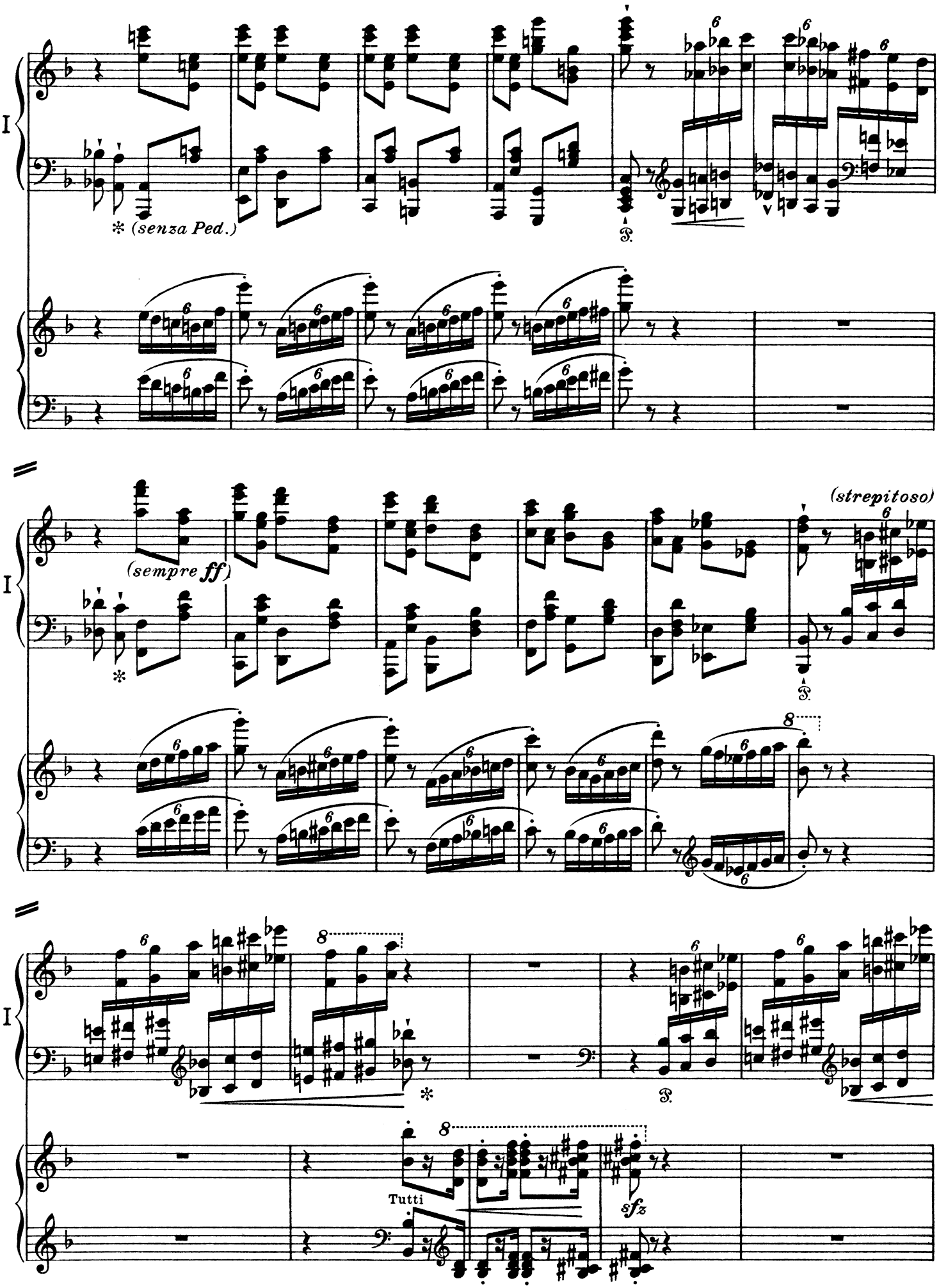

Allegretto scherzando
8
stacc. e leggiero
I
Allegretto scherzando
Trgl.
Br.
Vc.
p
8
I
I
sempre staccato
Ob.
p
sempre staccato
f


I
p
f
simile
I
I
8
mf
Vl.
f
mfmarcato
I
8
sempre stacc.
S.


simile
f tutto staccato
pizz.
f marcato
Bl.


I
piacevole
non legato
meno f
(senza Ped.)


I
8
Ped.
ff
(senza Ped.)
Bl.
f


I
* (senza Ped.)
(sempre ff)
(strepitoso)
Tutti
sfz

= de

Cadenza

fff

sempre arpeggiato

sfz

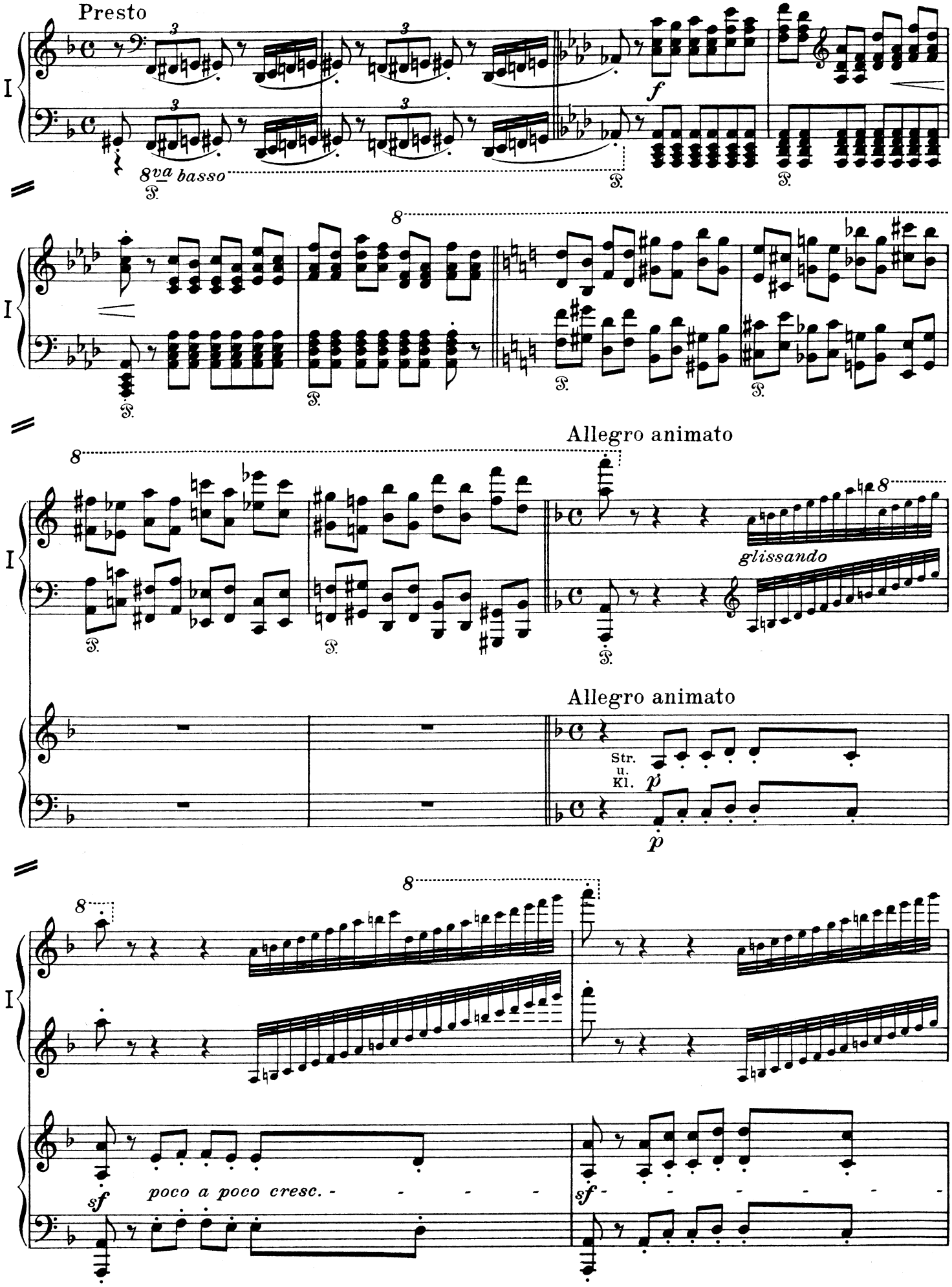
(tacet.)

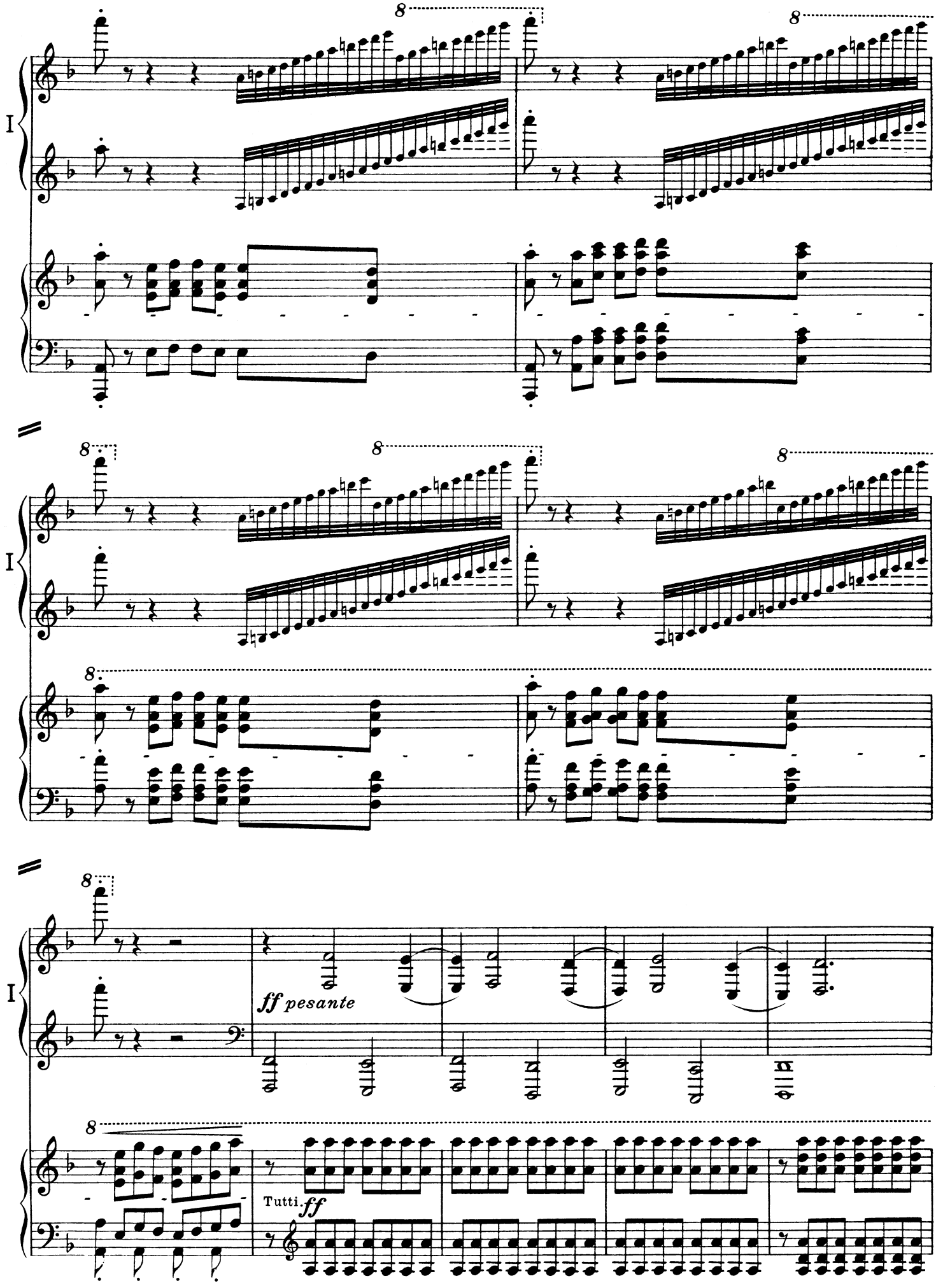
= de

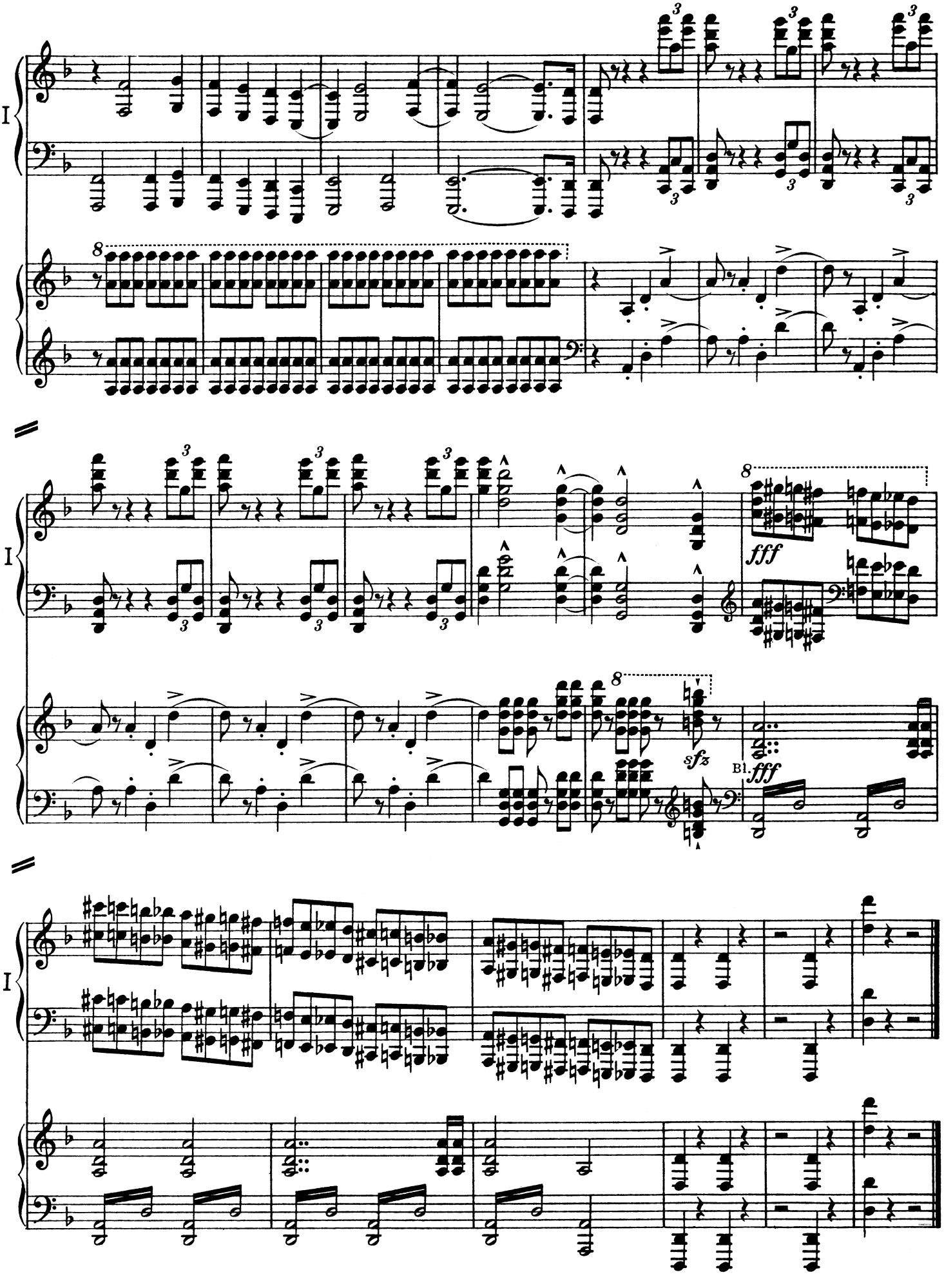
fff

sempre marcato

(sempre marcatiss.)


Presto
I
8va basso
f
Allegro animato
glissando
Allegro animato
Str.
u.
Kl.
p
sf
poco a poco cresc.
sf


I
8
I
8
I
8
ff pesante
Tutti.
ff


I
8
3
fff
sfz
Bl.
fff