Gwyneth Walker

Music for Cazenovia

for Piano Solo

I. Prelude
II. Birds In Flight
III. Around “C”
IV. Remembrance
V. Leaving “D”

This music was composed especially for the pianists in Cazenovia, NY, who presented the premiere on October 26, 2013.

Program Notes

These five short pieces for piano display a variety of styles, ranging from traditional to jazz and folk sonorities, and from programmatic to analytical. Often the unexpected occurs.

The opening *"Prelude"* starts in the very tonal language of Bach Preludes. Soon the style shifts to lyrical/romantic. And then the dancing "specks of light," in folk language, lead to accented jazz-oriented dissonances. The patterns "whisk away" at the end.

"Birds in Flight" focuses upon a simple, ascending melody in the key of E Minor. Counter melodies descend, marked "flowing." A middle section introduces short motives, perhaps suggestive of birds' wings in flight. The principal theme returns, with intensity. Final downward arpeggios may be heard as the bird flying away. There is sorrow in the dissonances.

"Around C" and its companion piece, *"Leaving D,"* are studies of pitches. In the "C" movement, pitches encircle middle C, rising, then falling away from the center, diatonically. A chromatic "episode" begins, creating dense chord clusters. Unexpectedly, a chromatic melody forms above the chords, leading to forceful octaves which eventually return to...middle C. The opening encircling of the tonic returns at the end, as an afterthought.

In the "D" movement, pitches move away from the center, rather than circling about. With each new note added to the chord, or with each new step of the scale examined, this music would seem to be quite "studious." Yet, the more dry and cerebral that this style might tend to be, the more the exploration of the notes starts to yield adventure, amusement and even humor. In short, the notes become characters. They "play" upon the keyboard, and often have the last laugh!

The fourth movement, before it was given a title, brought to mind the Edna St. Vincent Millay poem, "Mindful of you the earth in spring..." The theme, extremely tonal and simple, grew from the composer's childhood folk music language. This movement hearkened to the past, and thus it became entitled *"Remembrance."* Perhaps this is a testimony to youthful days of song, and to the friends who shared in the singing. The closing section of the music is marked "with strength and conviction." For the soul of youth survives... and the beauty of the human spirit endures.

Table of Contents

I. Prelude	1
II. Birds In Flight	5
III. Around "C"	10
IV. Remembrance	15
V. Leaving "D"	21

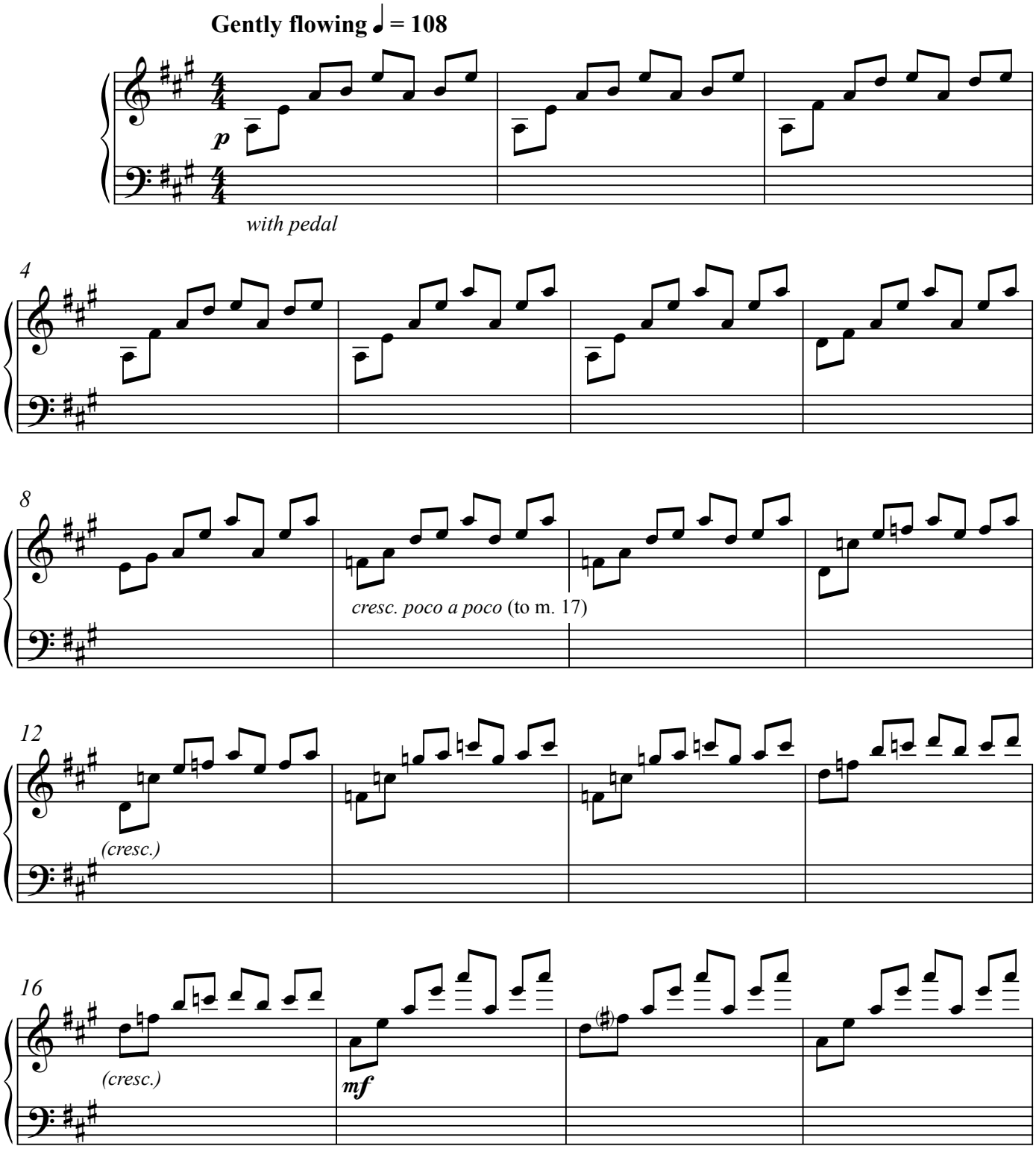
duration: 15'30"

Music for Cazenovia

for Piano Solo

Gwyneth Walker

I. Prelude



© Copyright 2013 by Gwyneth Walker
252 Park Street, New Canaan, CT 06840
www.gwynethwalker.com All rights reserved

20

rit.

Slightly faster ♩ = 116

p

23

mp

26

29

mf

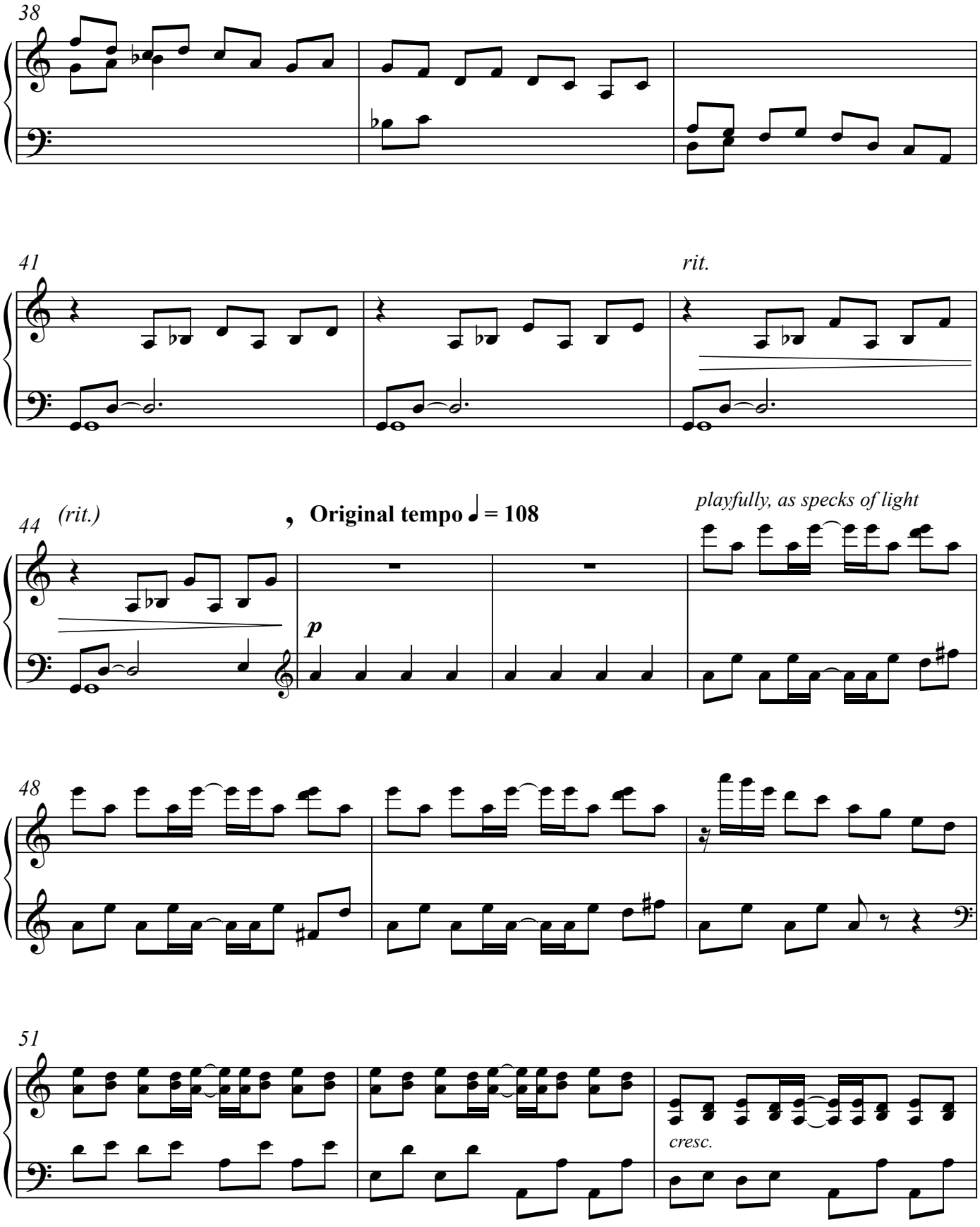
32

Slowly, freely, *with intensity*

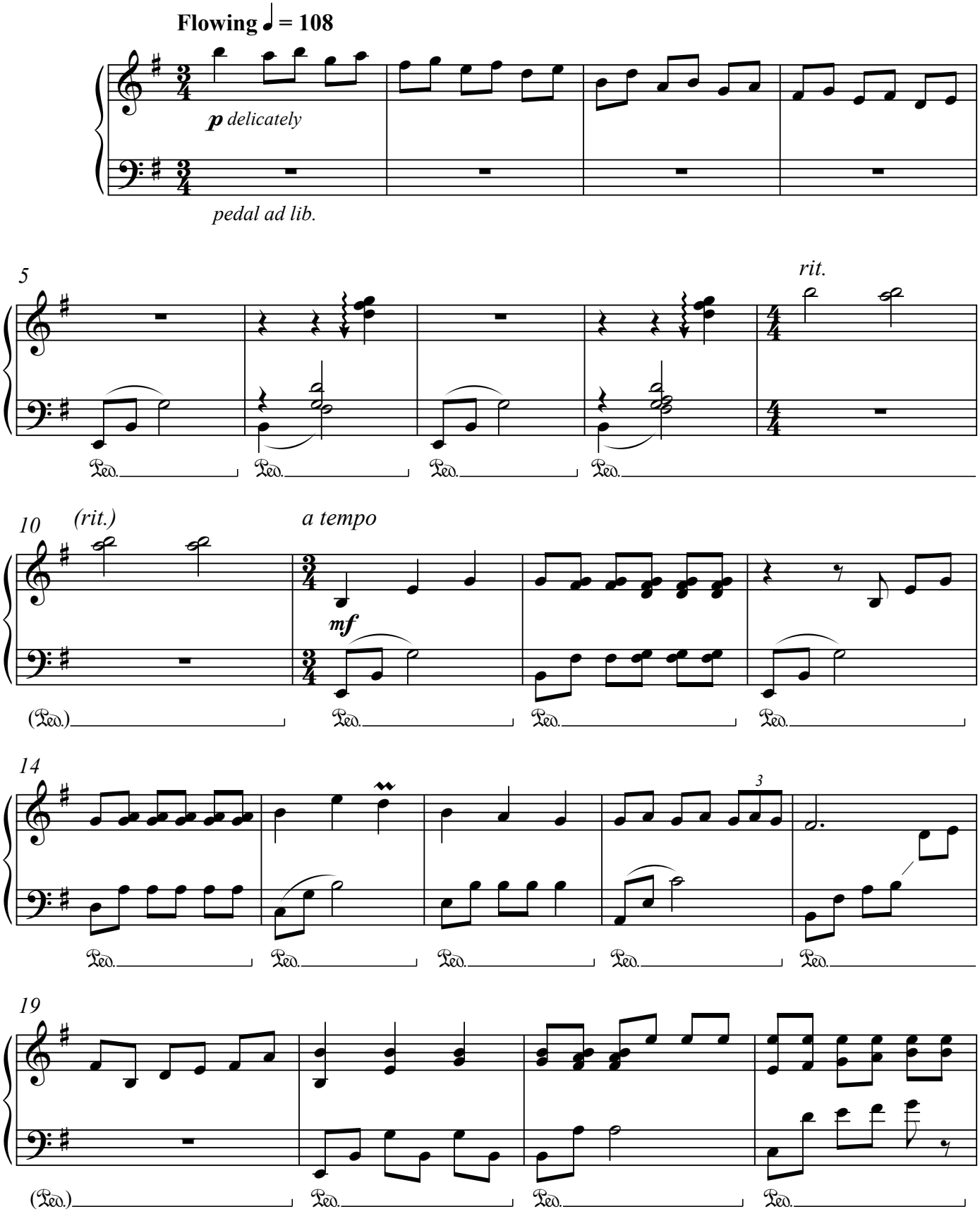
35

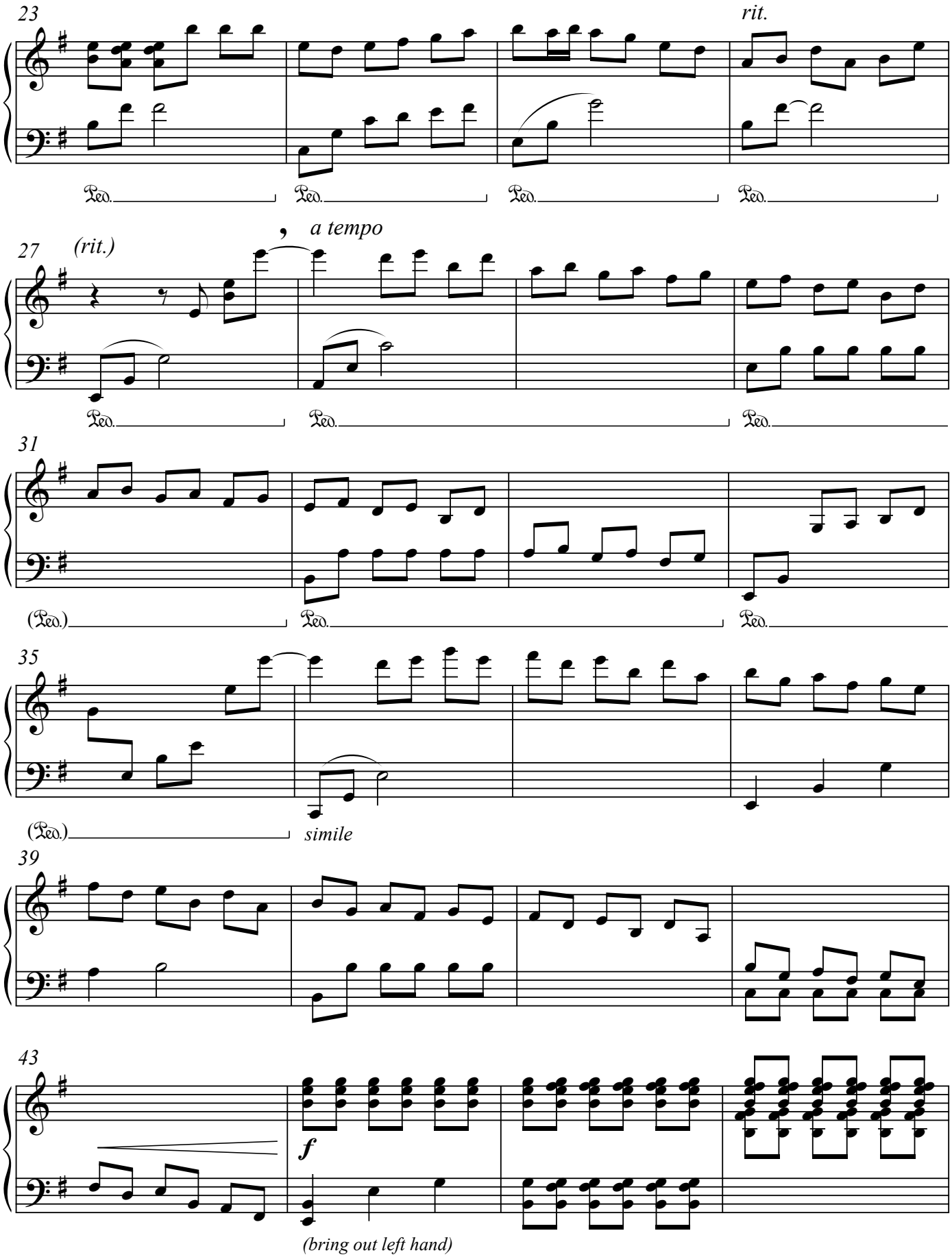
rit.

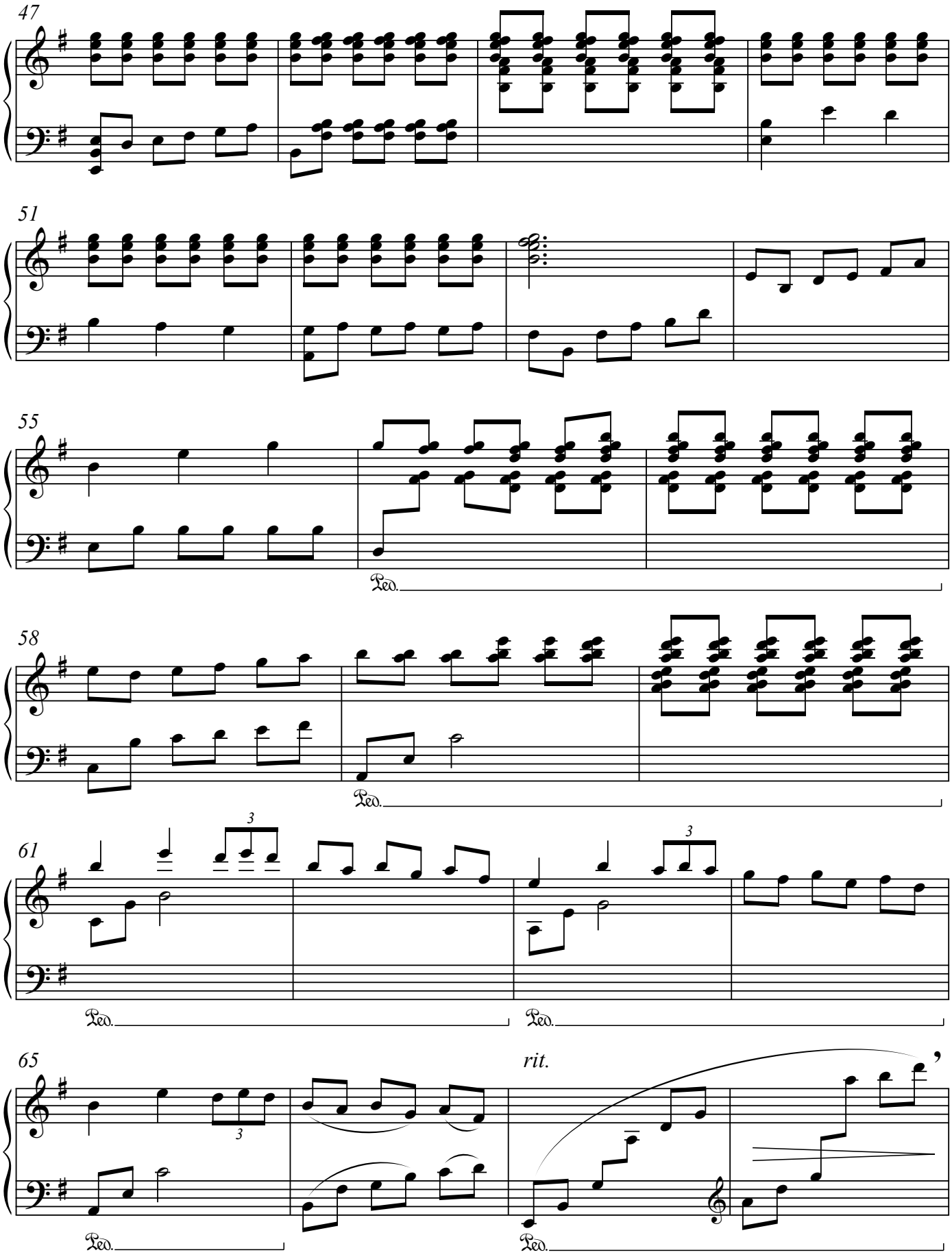
f


38
41
rit.
44
(rit.)
, Original tempo ♩ = 108
playfully, as specks of light
p
48
51
cresc.

II. Birds In Flight




23
rit.
Ped.
27
(rit.)
a tempo
31
(Ped.)
35
simile
39
43
f
(bring out left hand)


47
51
55
Ped.
58
Ped.
61
3
3
Ped.
Ped.
65
3
rit.
Ped.
Ped.

Start slowly

as birds

69

p

poco ped. ad lib.

72

accel. poco a poco (to m. 85)

75

cresc. poco a poco

78 *(accel.)*

(cresc.)

81 *(accel.)*

(cresc.)

Quickly ♩ **= 120,** *with intensity*

84 *(accel.)*

(cresc.)

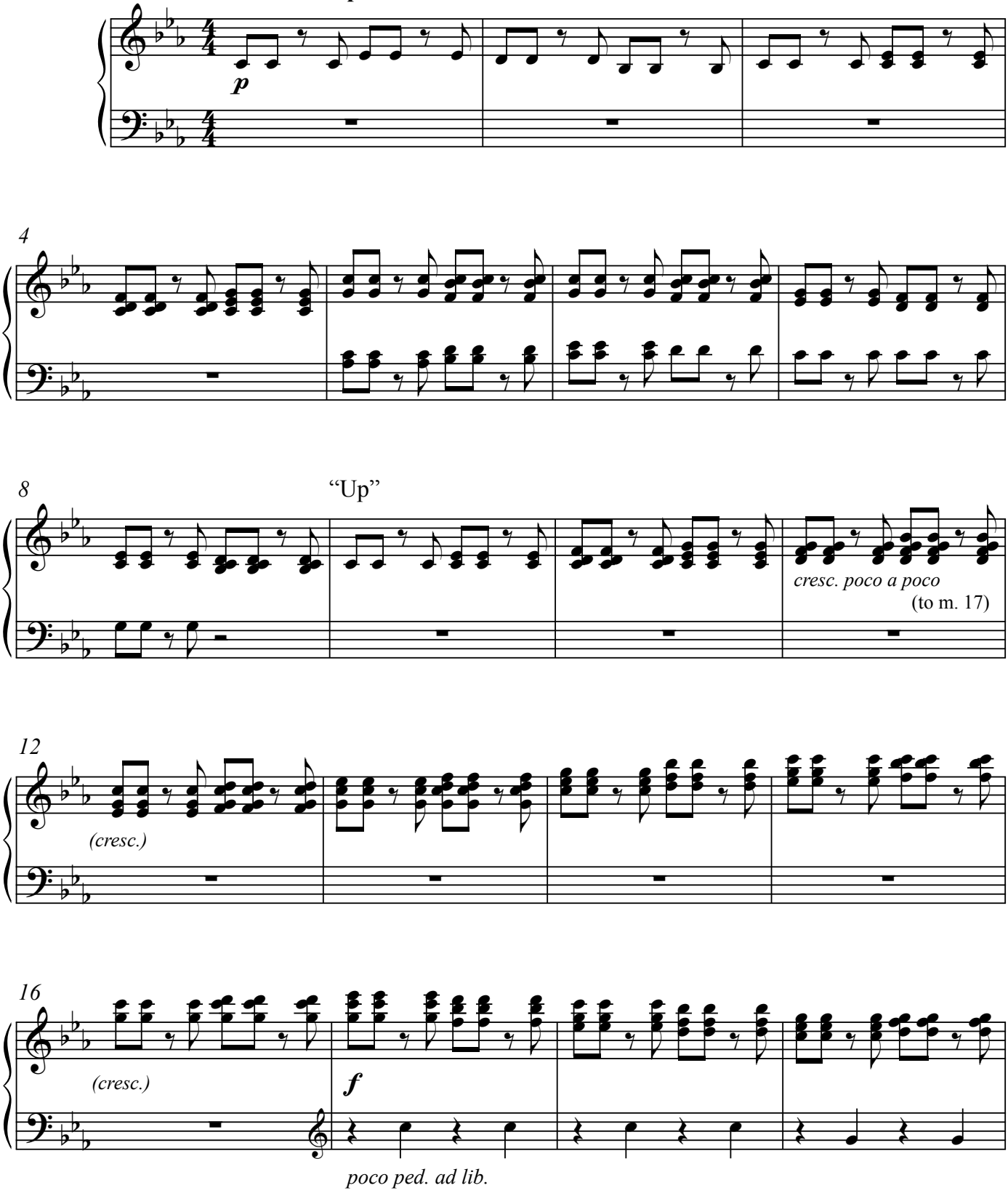
f

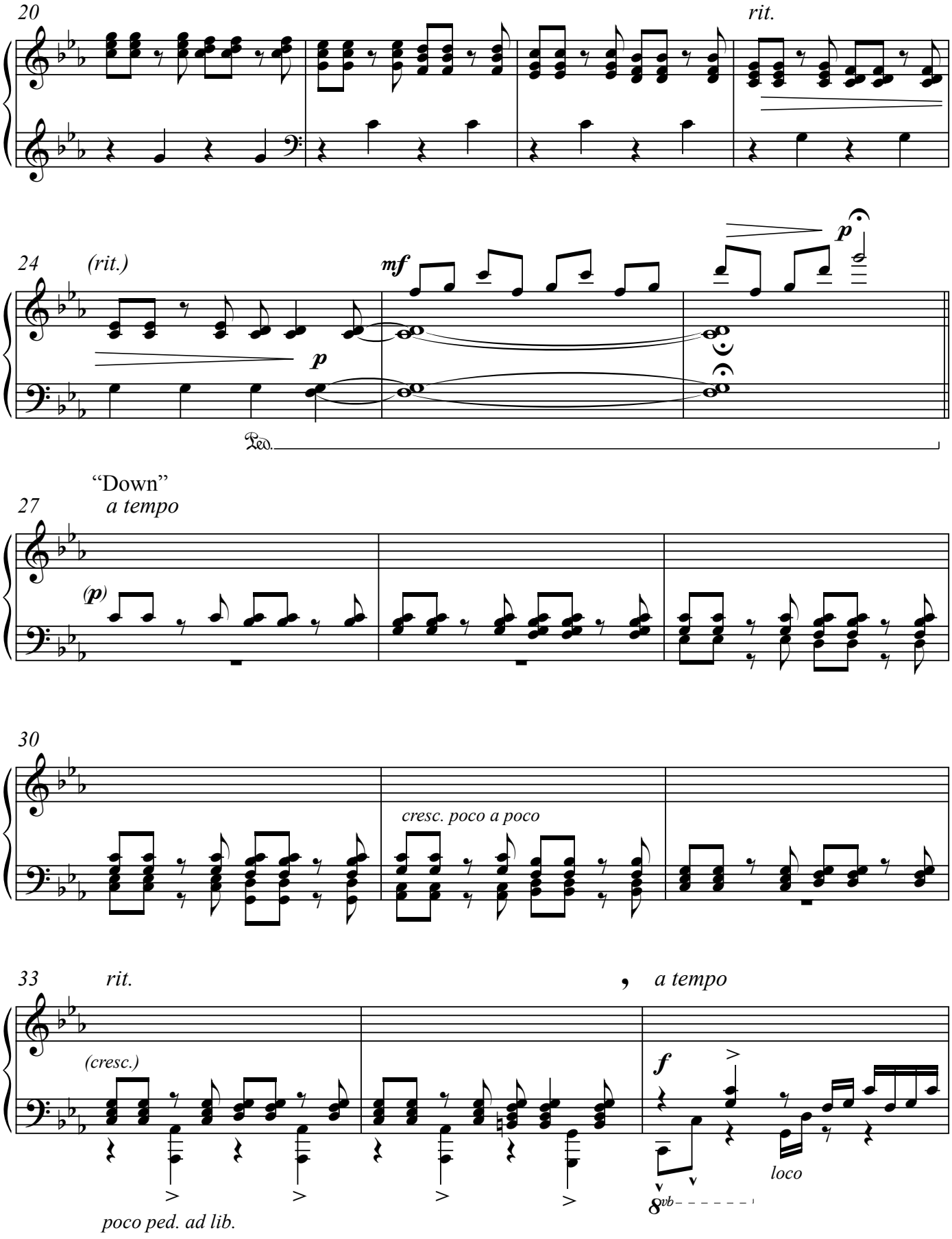
Ped. Ped. Ped.

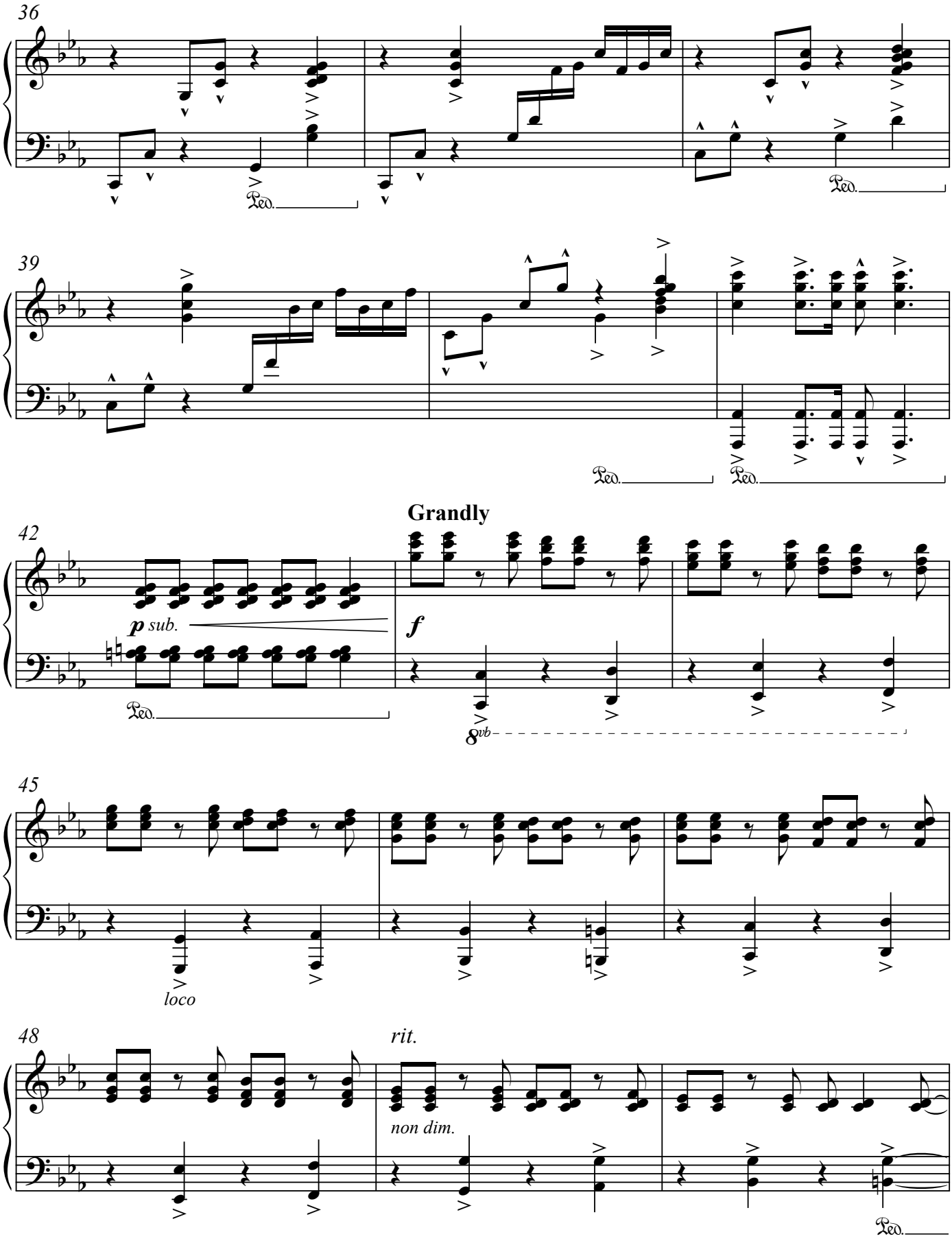
III. Around “C”

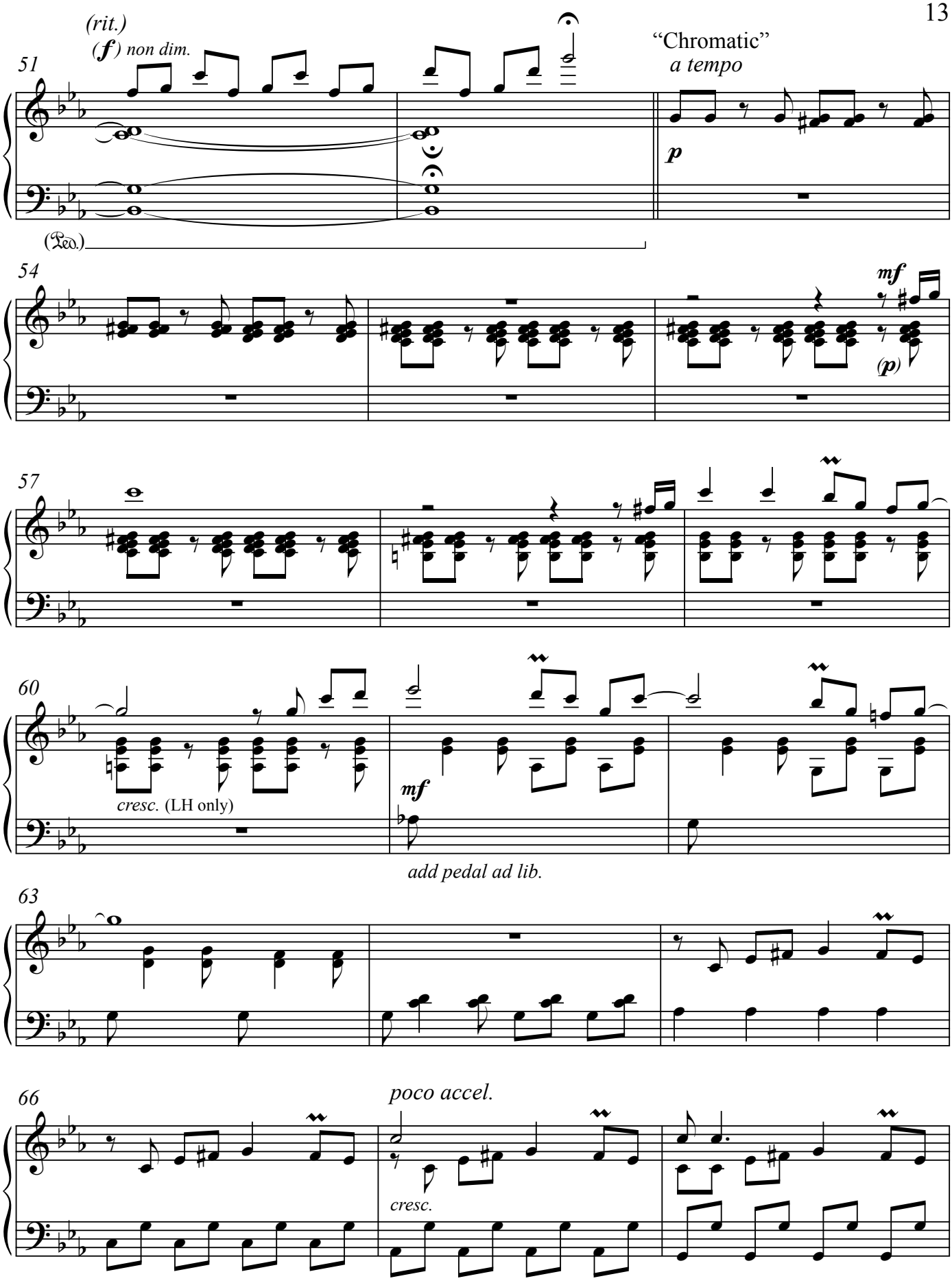
“Theme”

Moderate tempo ♩ = 108




20
rit.
24
(rit.)
mf
p
p
Ped.
"Down"
27
a tempo
(p)
30
cresc. poco a poco
33
rit.
a tempo
(cresc.)
f
loco
8vb
poco ped. ad lib.


36
Ped.
39
Ped.
Ped.
Grandly
42
p sub.
f
Ped.
8vb
45
loco
48
rit.
non dim.
Ped.

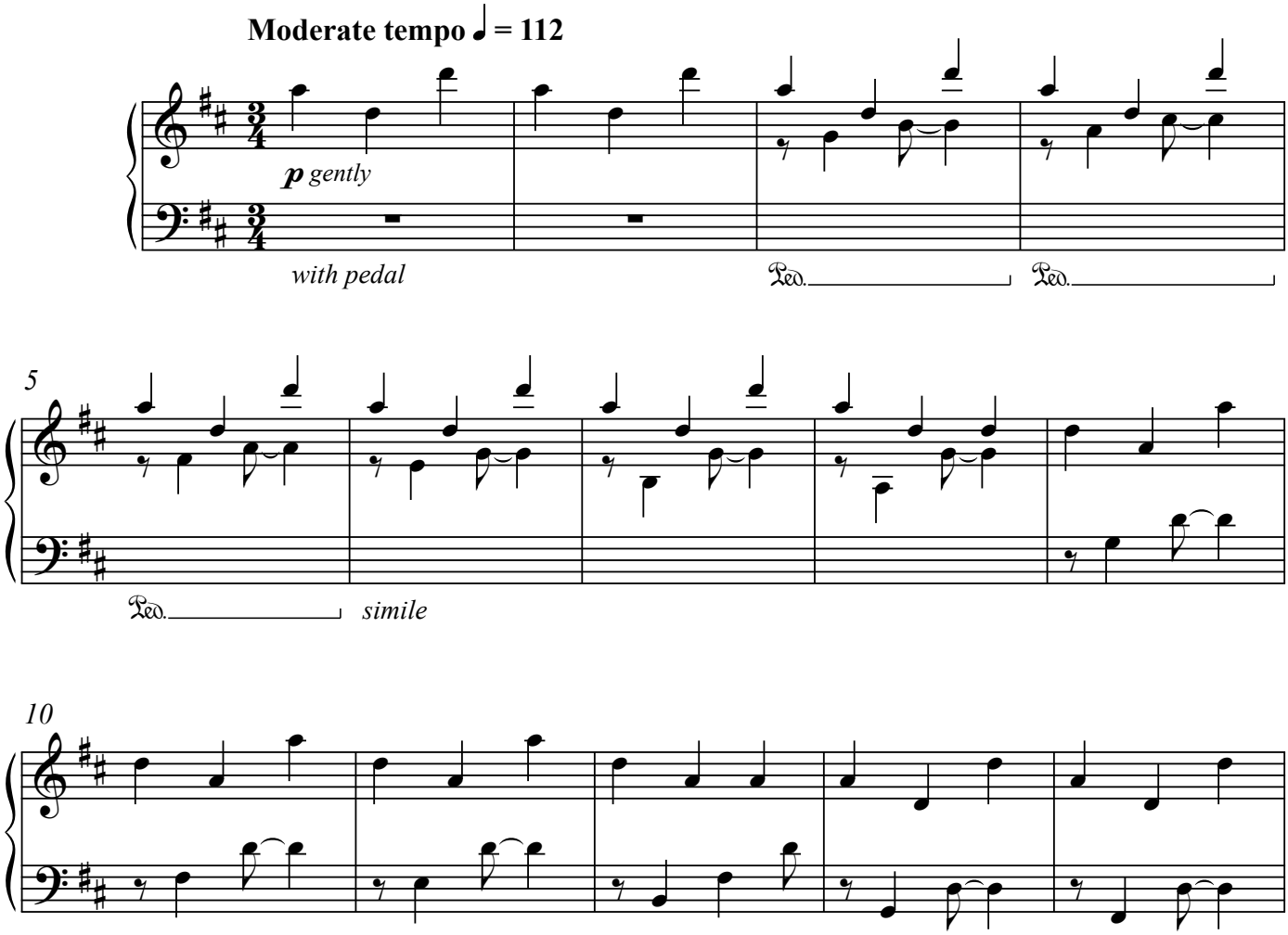

(rit.)
(f) non dim.
51
"Chromatic"
a tempo
p
(Ped.)
54
mf
(p)
57
60
mf
cresc. (LH only)
add pedal ad lib.
63
66
poco accel.
cresc.

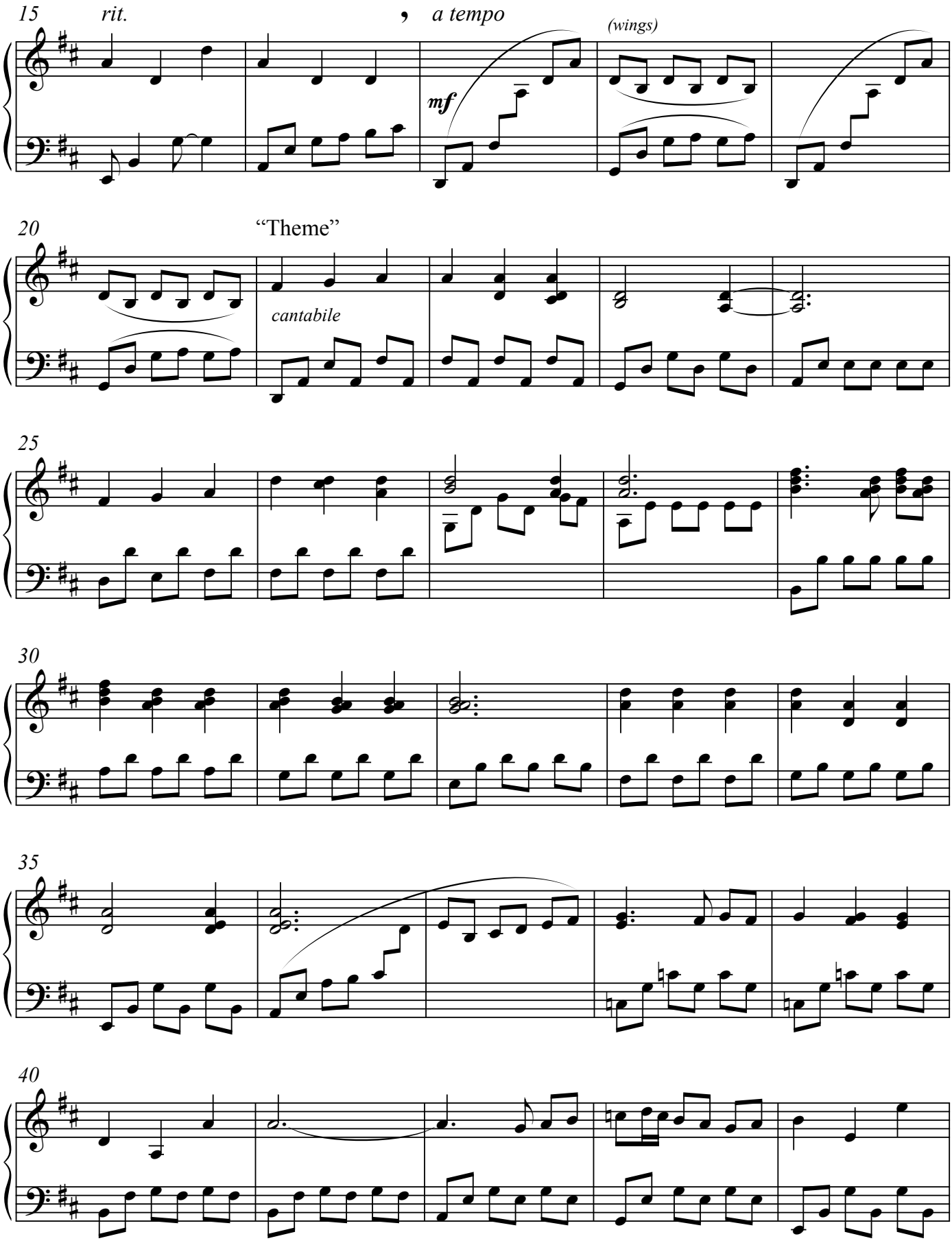
IV. “Remembrance”

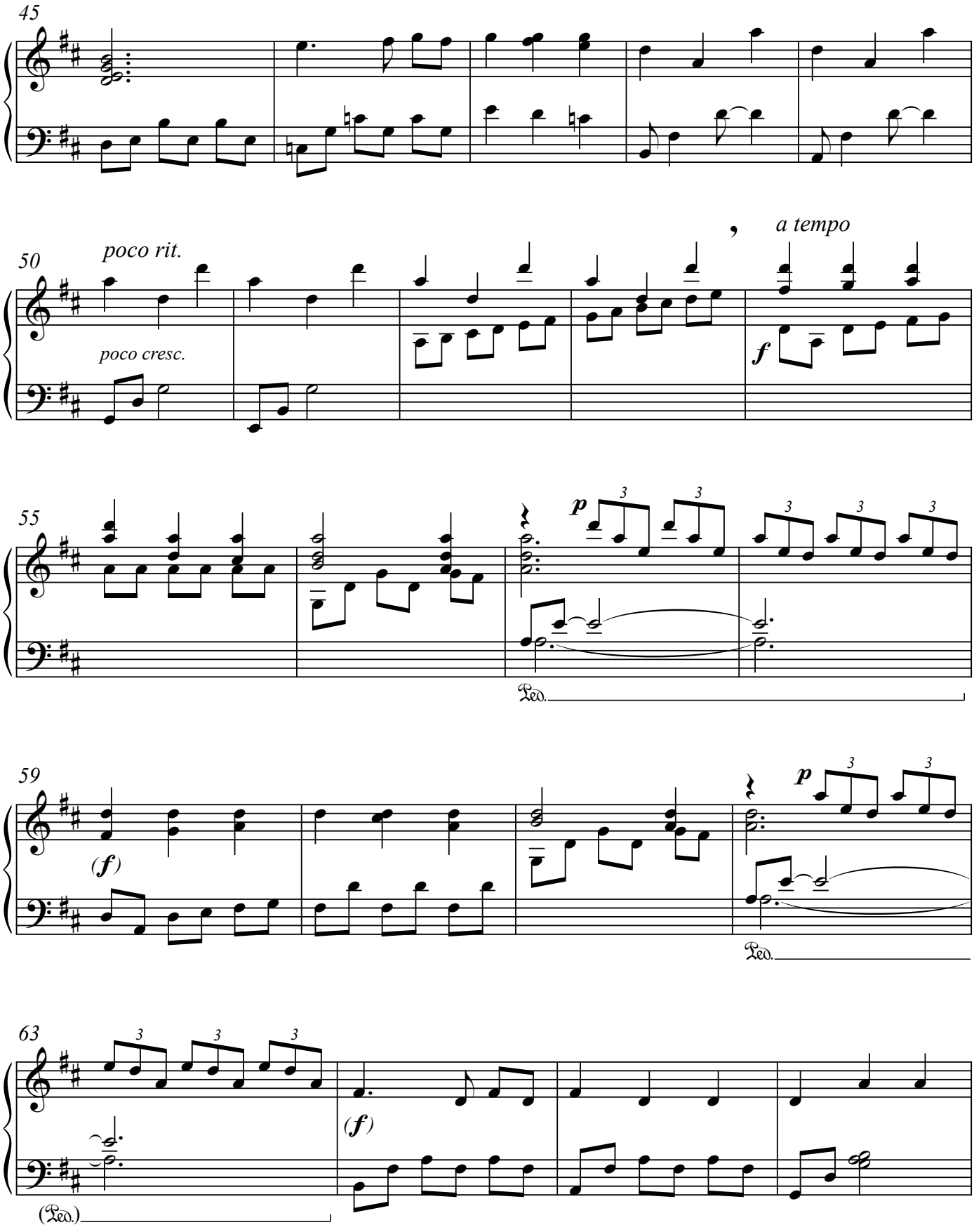
This music was inspired by the Edna St. Vincent Millay poem “Mindful of you the earth in spring”

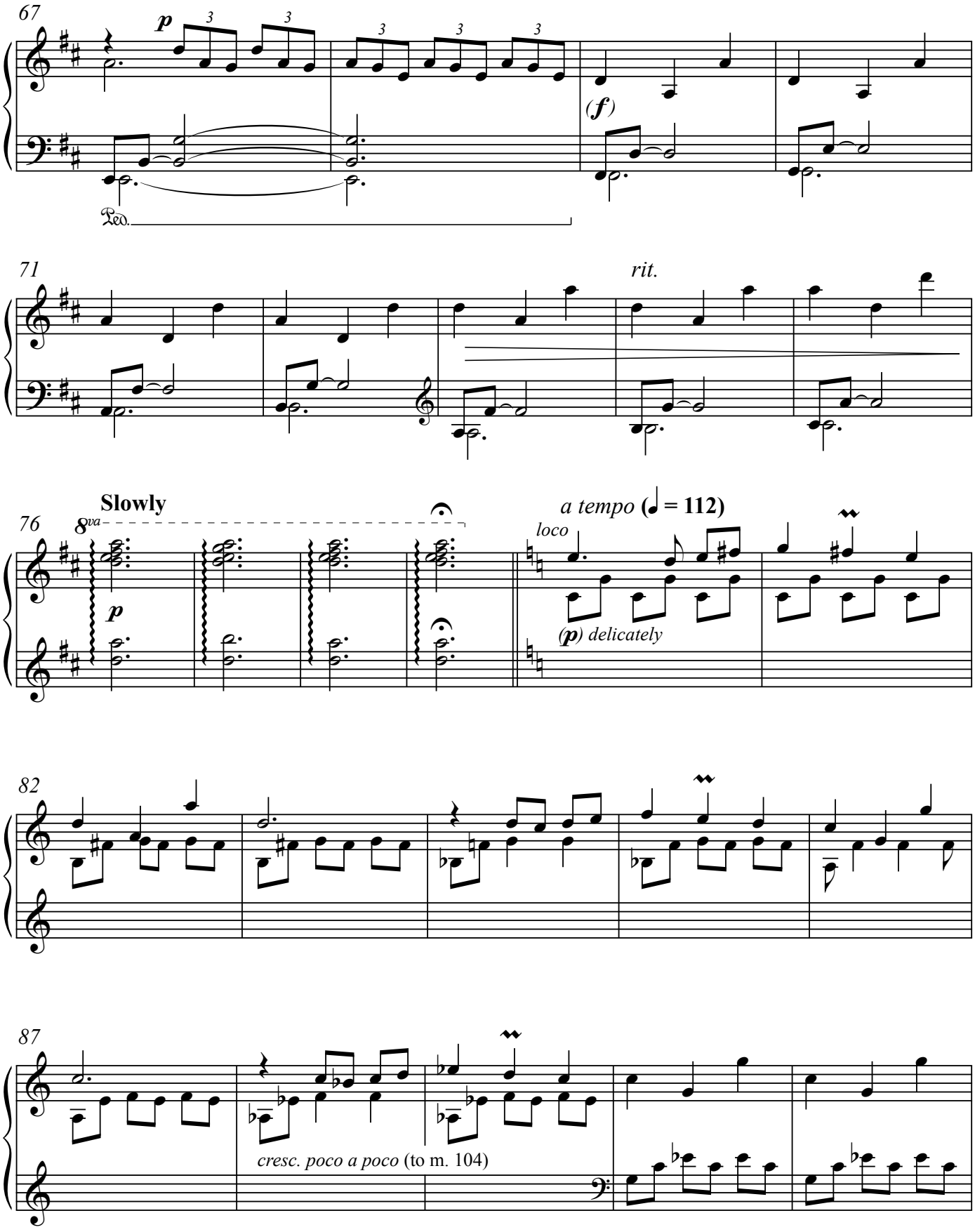
Mindful of you the sodden earth in spring,
  And all the flowers that in the springtime grow,
  And dusty roads, and thistles, and the slow
Rising of the round moon, all the throats that sing
The summer through, and each departing wing,
  And all the nests that the bared branches show,
  And all winds that in any weather blow,
And all the storms that the four seasons bring.

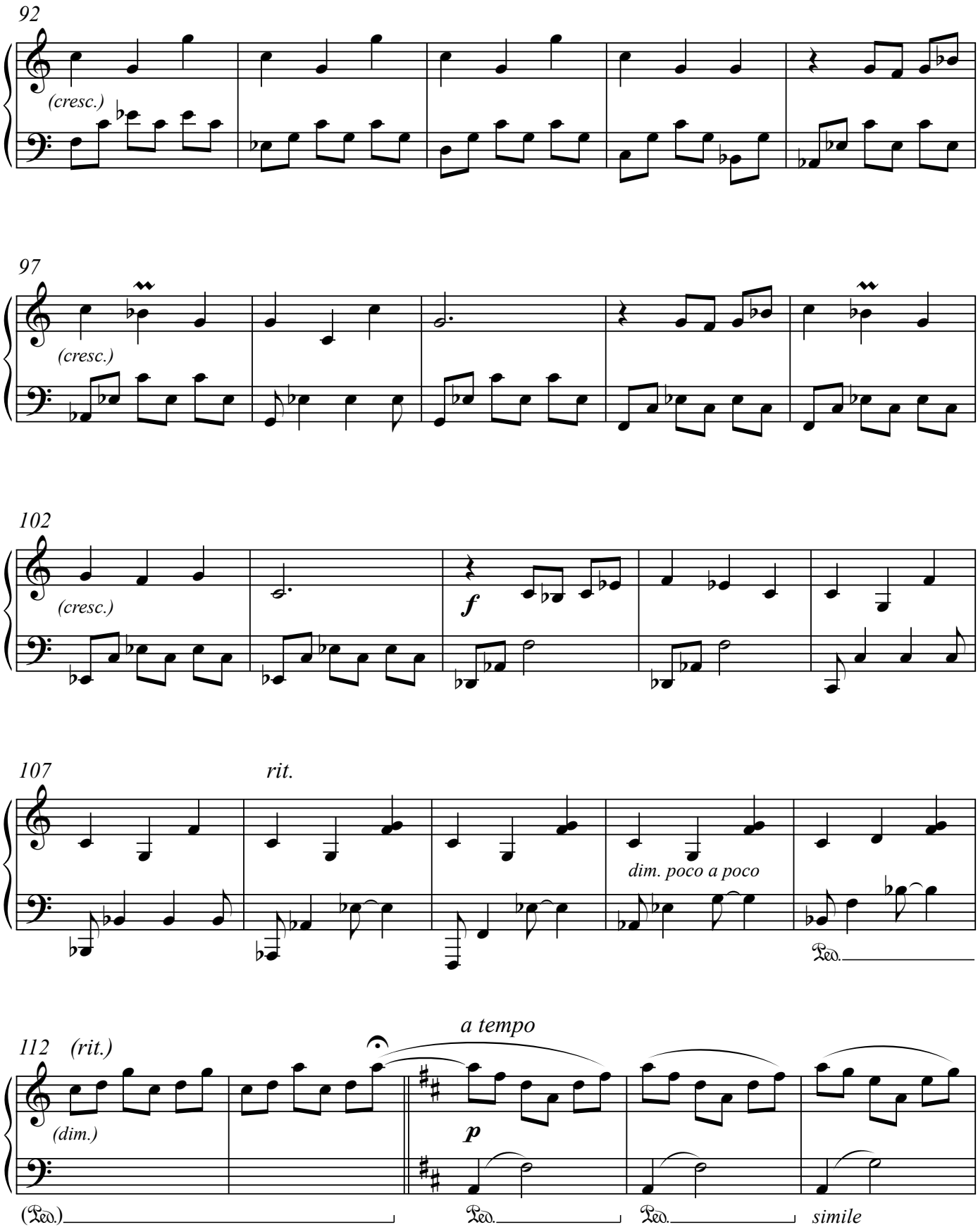
You go no more on your exultant feet
  Up paths that only mist and morning knew,
Or watch the wind, or listen to the beat
  Of a bird’s wings too high in air to view,–
But you were something more than young and sweet
  And fair,– and the long year remembers you.




15
rit.
a tempo
(wings)
mf
20
"Theme"
cantabile
25
30
35
40


45
50
poco rit.
poco cresc.
a tempo
f
55
p
3
Ped.
59
(f)
p
Ped.
63
(f)
(Ped.)

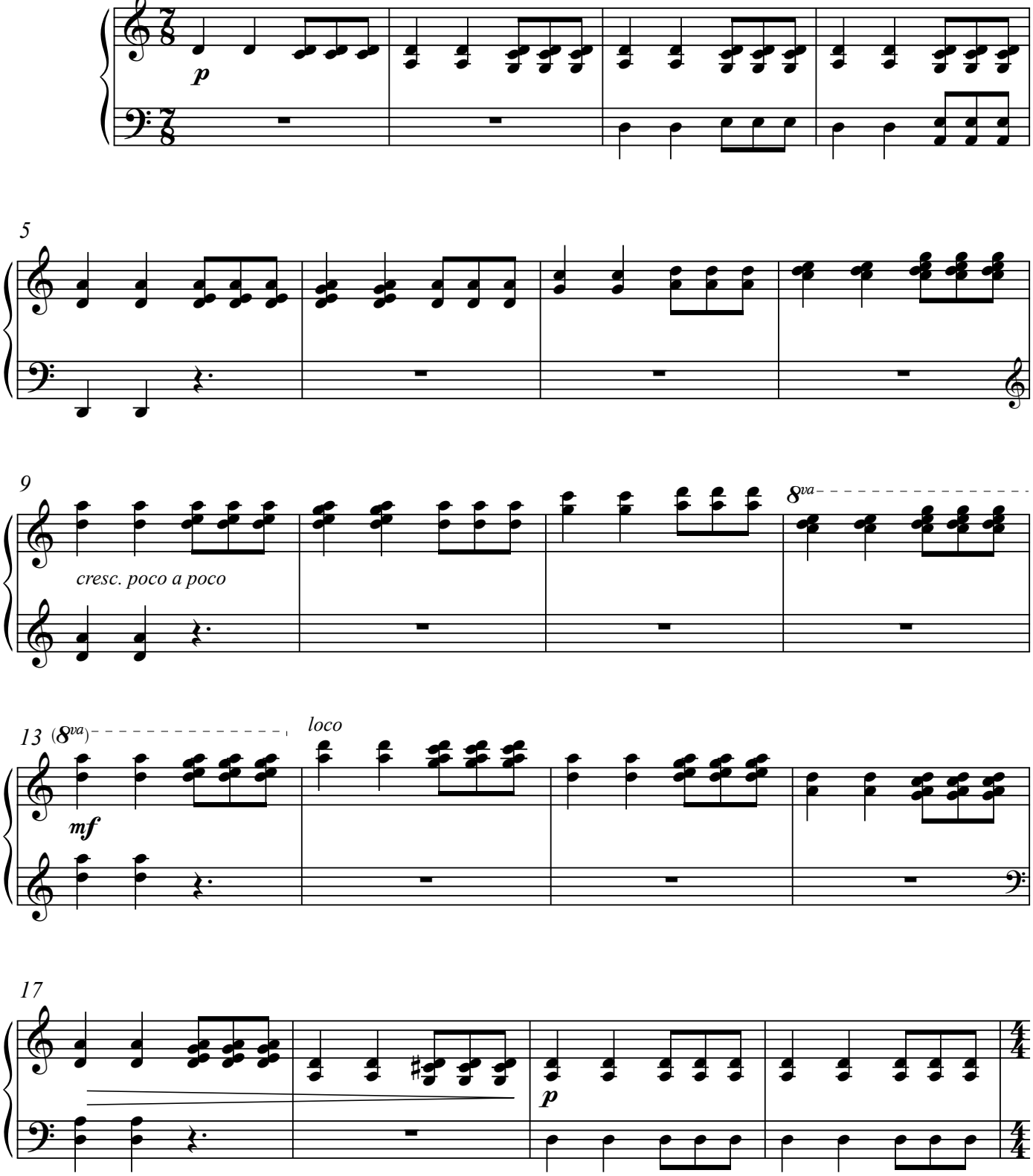

67
p
3
(f)
Ped.
71
rit.
76
Slowly
8va
p
a tempo (♩ = 112)
loco
(p) delicately
82
87
cresc. poco a poco (to m. 104)


92
(cresc.)
97
(cresc.)
102
(cresc.)
f
107
rit.
dim. poco a poco
Ped.
112
(rit.)
a tempo
(dim.)
p
(Ped.)
Ped.
Ped.
simile

V. Leaving “D”

Lively ♩ = 132

reflectively, as if studying the pitches on the keyboard



Same tempo ♩ = 132

21

(Melody I: *moving away from D*)

mf

poco ped. ad lib.

24

27

studying the pitches once again

cresc.

f

31

35

p

add pedal

(Same tempo)

(Melody II: *moving further away from D*)

40

mf

pedal ad lib.

44

48

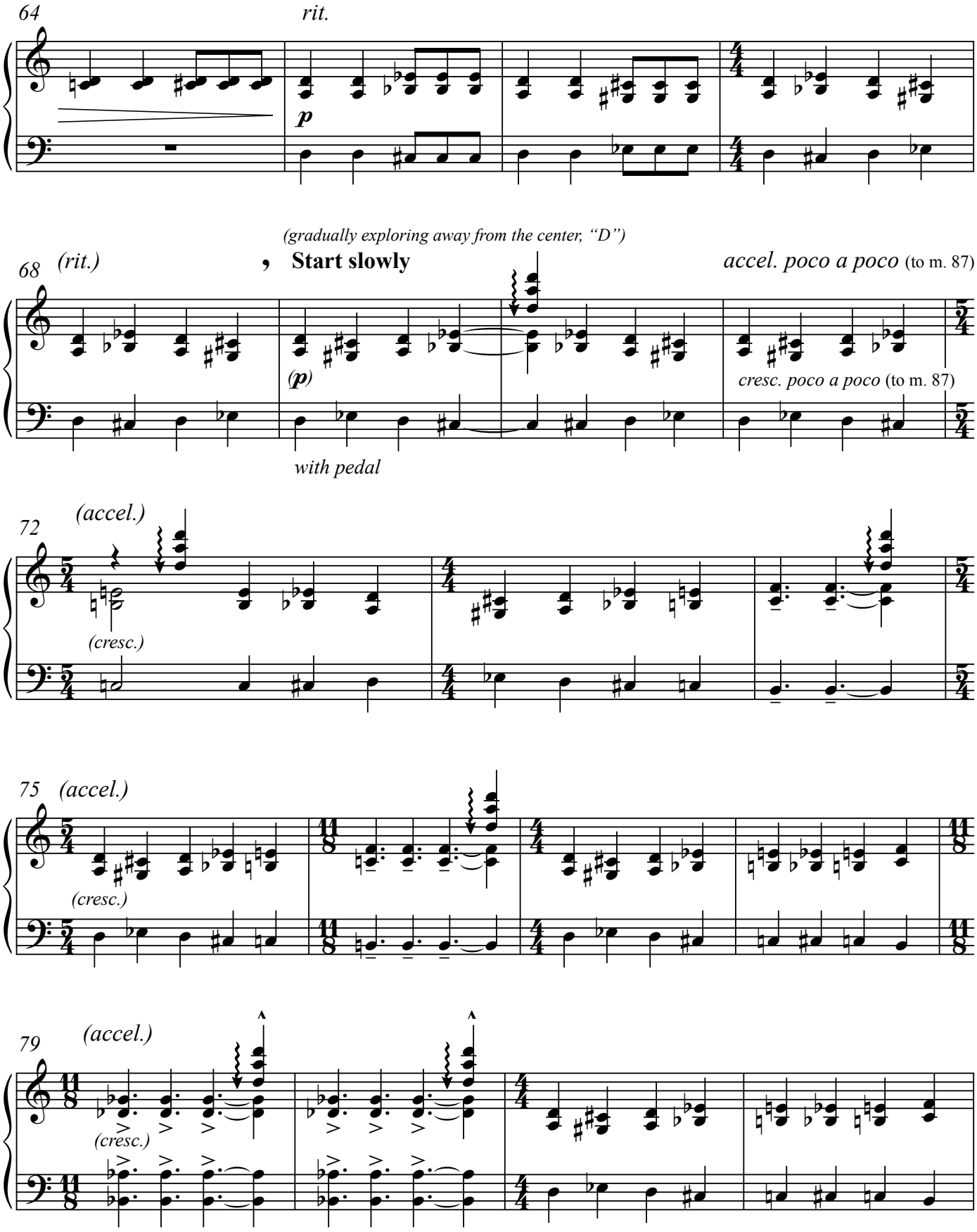
52

studying, once again

56

f

60


64
rit.
p
(gradually exploring away from the center, "D")
68
(rit.)
Start slowly
accel. poco a poco (to m. 87)
(p)
cresc. poco a poco (to m. 87)
with pedal
72
(accel.)
(cresc.)
75
(accel.)
(cresc.)
79
(accel.)
(cresc.)