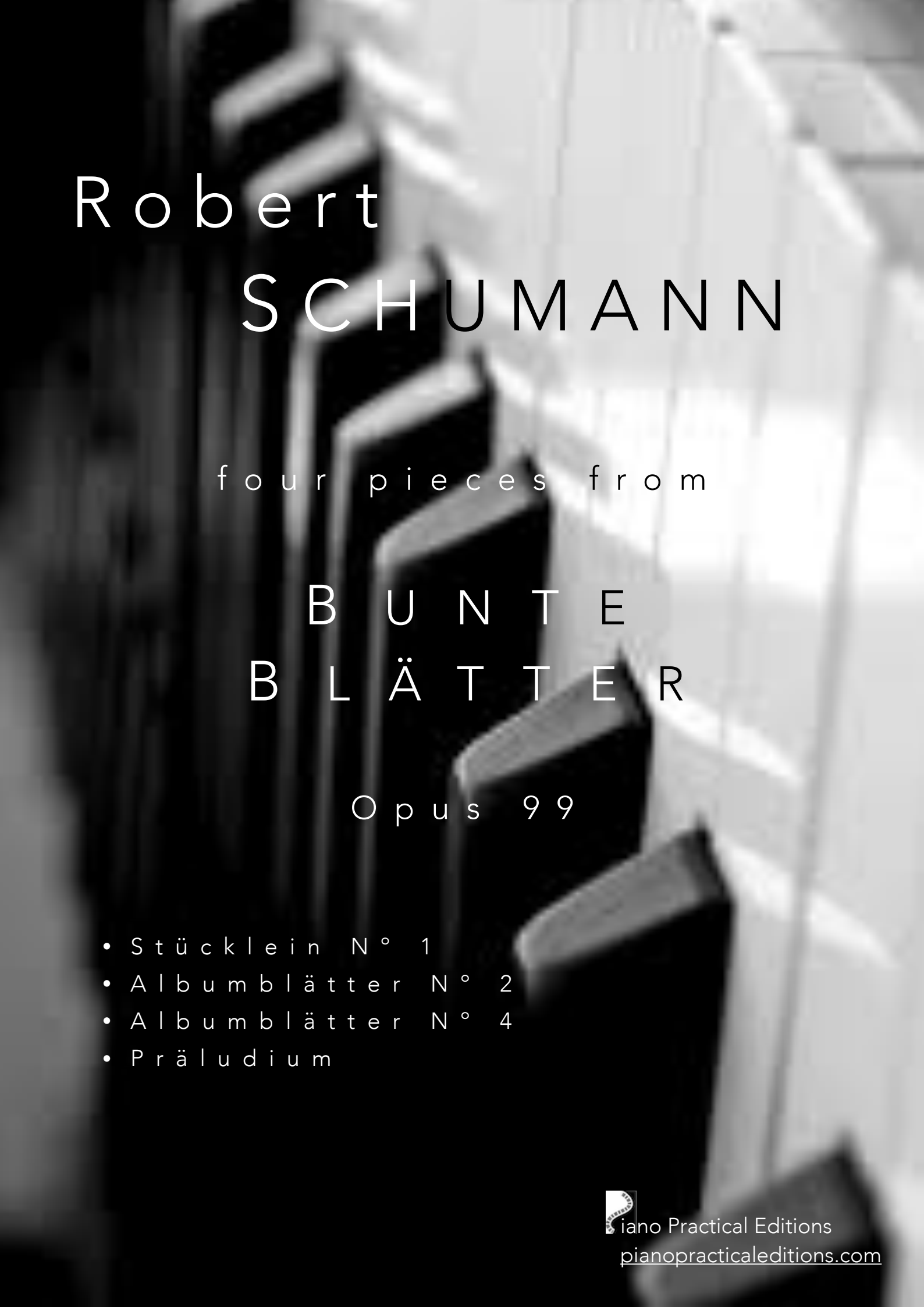

Robert SCHUMANN

four pieces from

BUNTE BLÄTTER

Opus 99

- Stücklein N° 1
- Albumblätter N° 2
- Albumblätter N° 4
- Präludium

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Musical Health Warning : please be aware that these editions are definitely not urtext and should be consulted together with a traditional version. They have been devised purely to help solve musical and technical problems at the piano.

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Robert SCHUMANN 1810 - 1856

four pieces from

BUNTE BLÄTTER Opus 99

Schumann's "Colourful Pages" were assembled from earlier unconnected, unpublished and unusually untitled pieces between 1838 and 1849. The opus number is misleading as the four extracts in this edition predate the somewhat similar *Album für die Jugend* Op 68 of 1848. The collection was dedicated to an American pianist, Mary Perkins *née* Potts.

Be aware that some of the dynamics and accentuation may be editorial and there are also a few minor modifications marked with an asterisk.

Stücklein *Little Piece* **N° 1** page **2**

One of three, a Christmas gift for Clara Wieck: *Wunsch. An meine geliebte Braut zum heilgen Abend 1838* — Wish. To my beloved bride on Christmas Eve 1838. She replied on 26 December: "Thank you so very much, dear Robert, for your lovely, heartfelt gift – it was the most wonderful gift you could ever find for me, as it came from your heart."

An interesting exercise in hand-swapping to solve problems in maintaining the melodic line above a flowing but deceptively awkward accompaniment.

Albumblätter *Album-leaf* **II** page **4**

Albumblätter *Album-leaf* **IV** page **7**

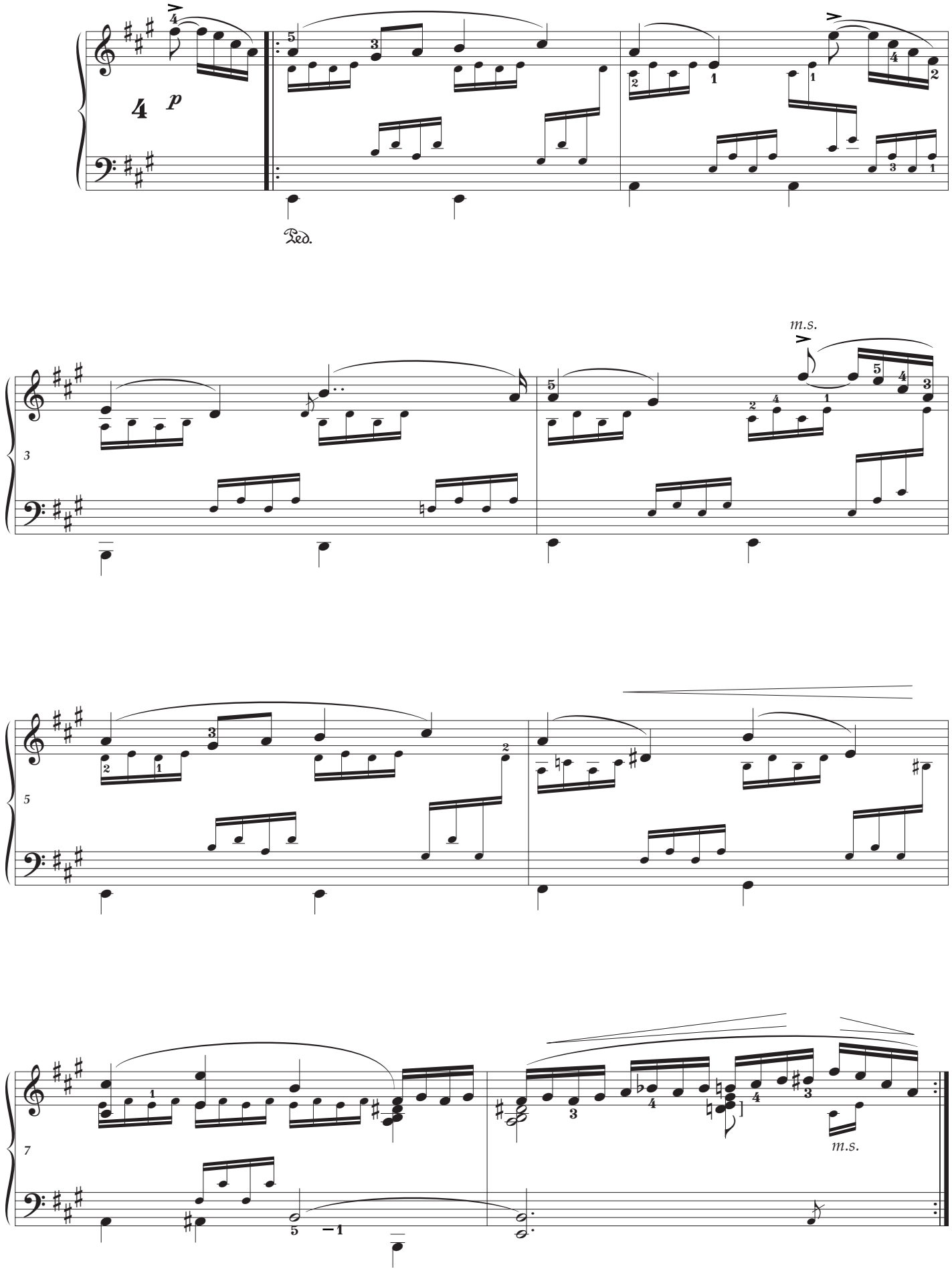
Two very dissimilar pieces, the first a short study sub-titled *Fata Morgana* (mirage); Brahms borrowed the idea for his Variations Op 9 (N° 9), the theme of which is also from Bunte Blätter (N° 4). The second is tragic and melancholic, with an apt earlier title — **Jugendschmerz** *Anguish of Youth*.

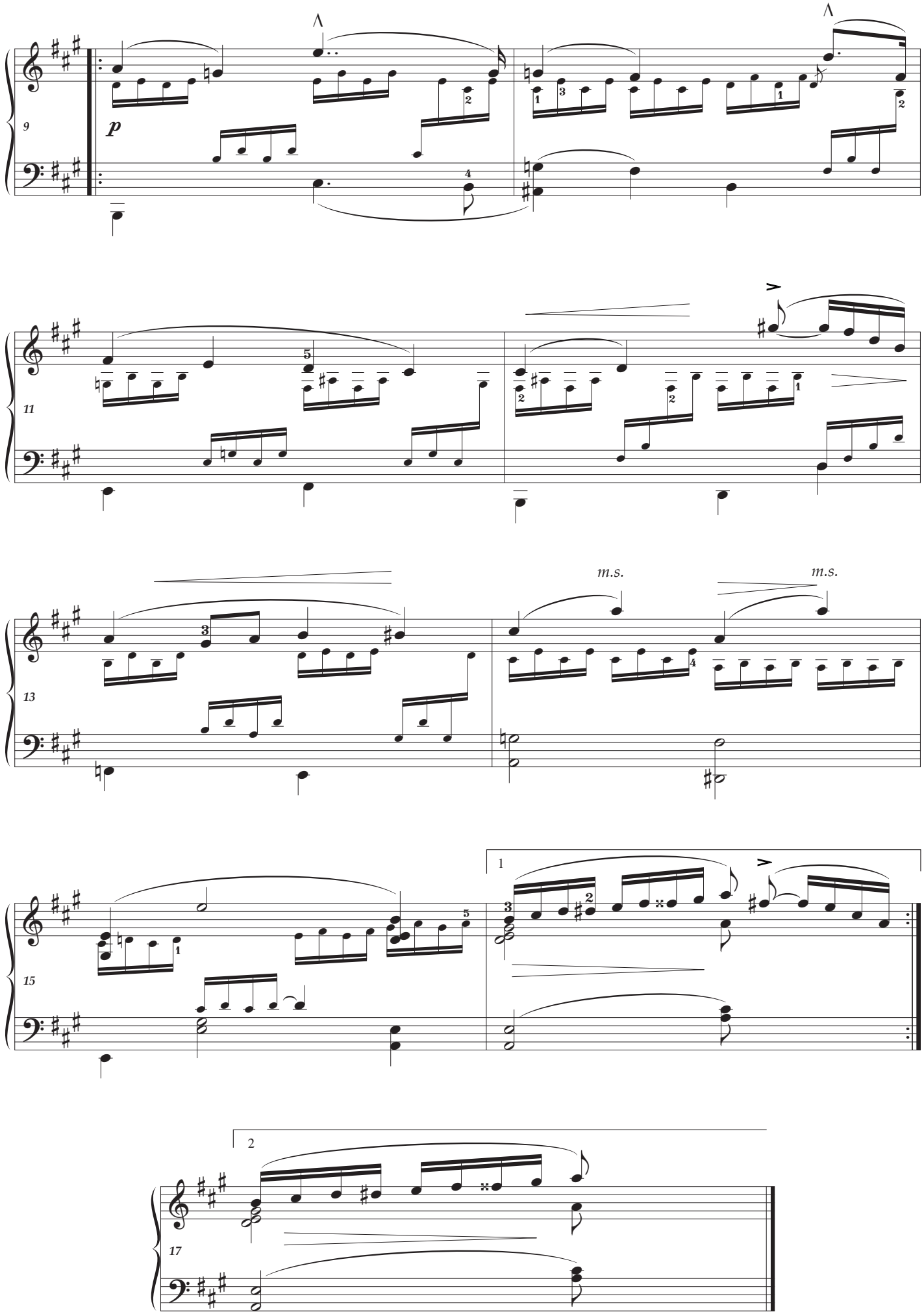
Präludium *Prelude* page **9**

My personal favourite from this volume, typically Schumannesque, deep and dramatic, posing considerable problems of dynamic balance and control.

Stücklein 1

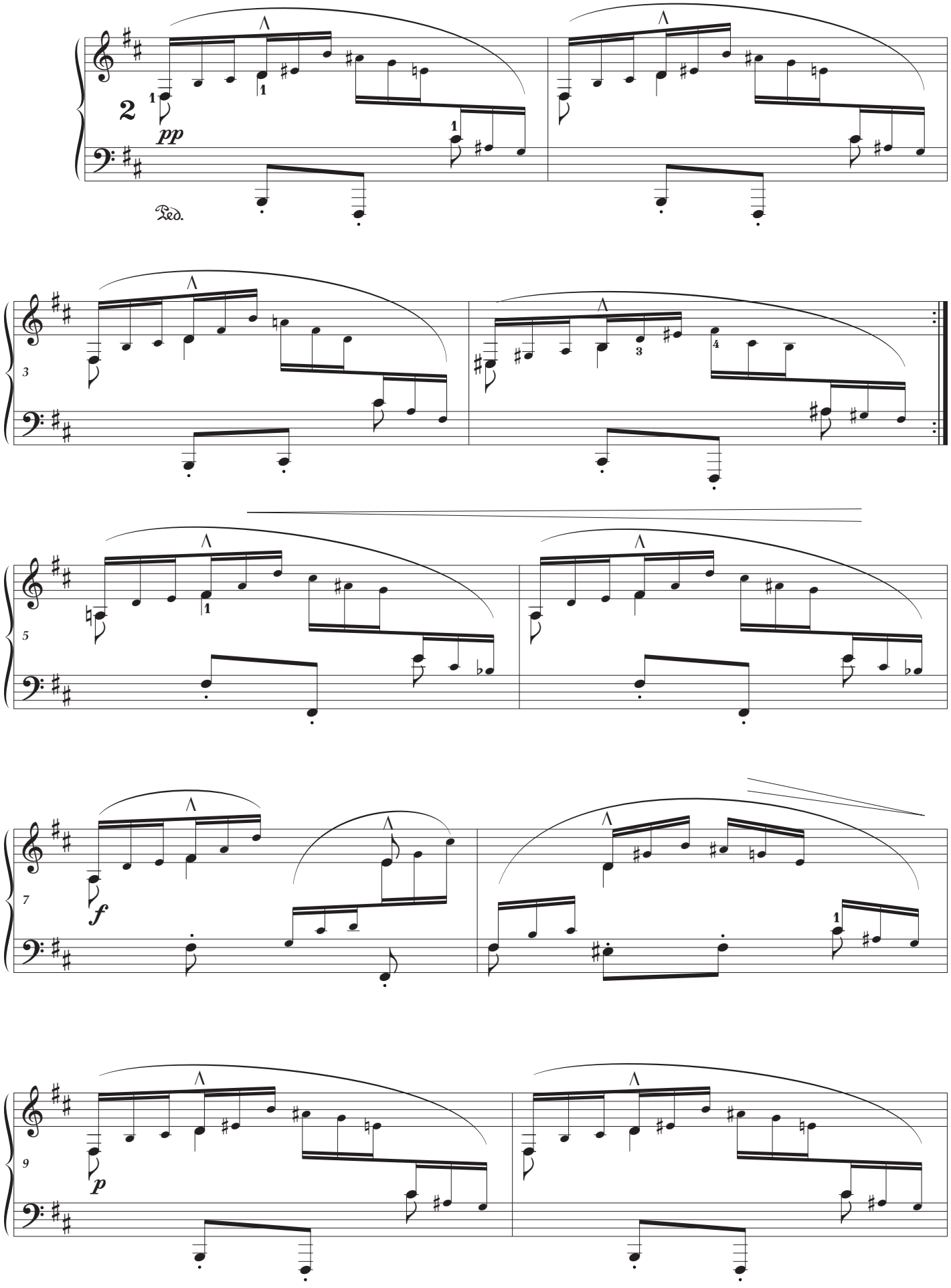
Nicht schnell, mit Innigkeit *not fast, with intimacy of feeling*

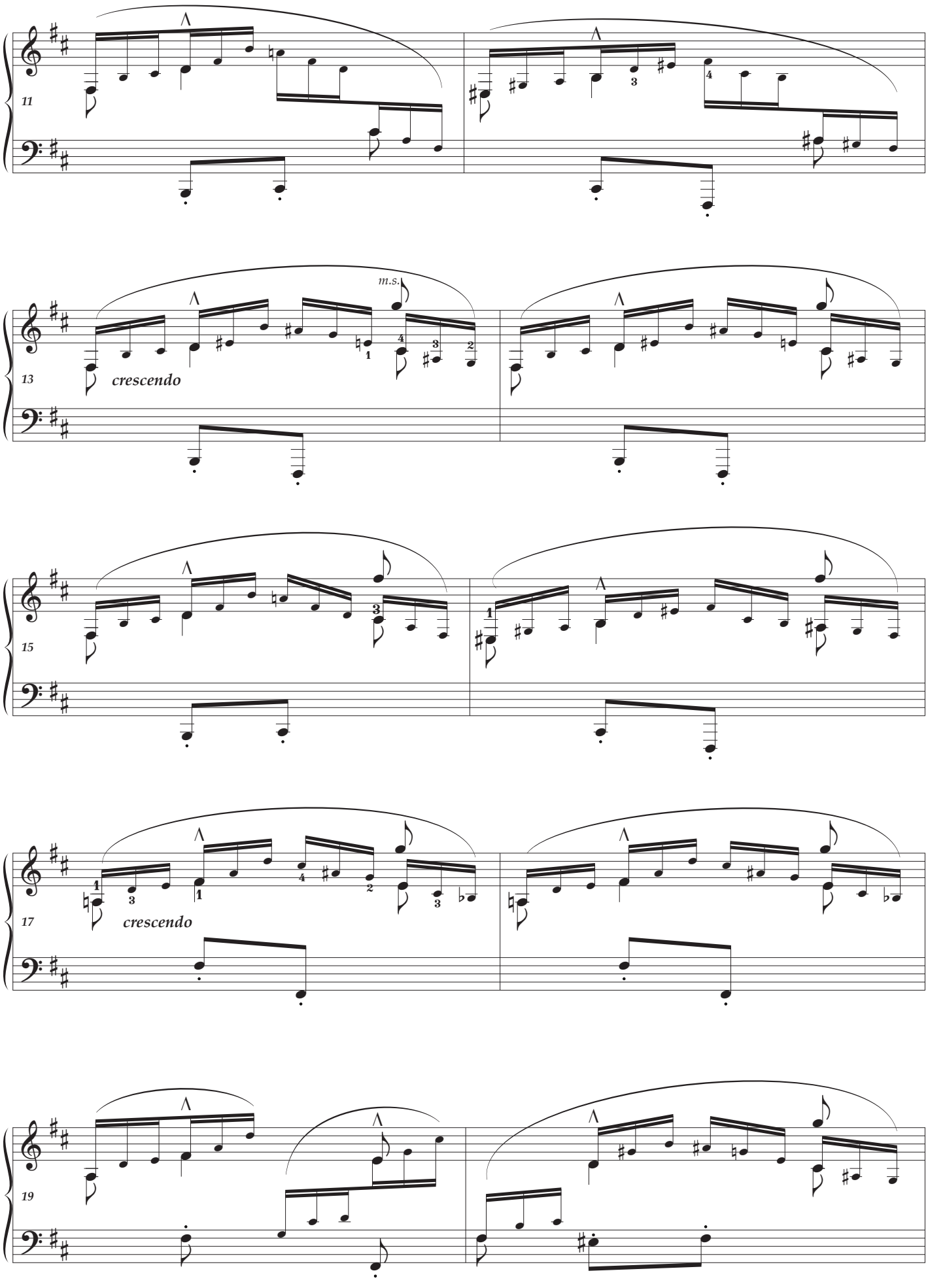


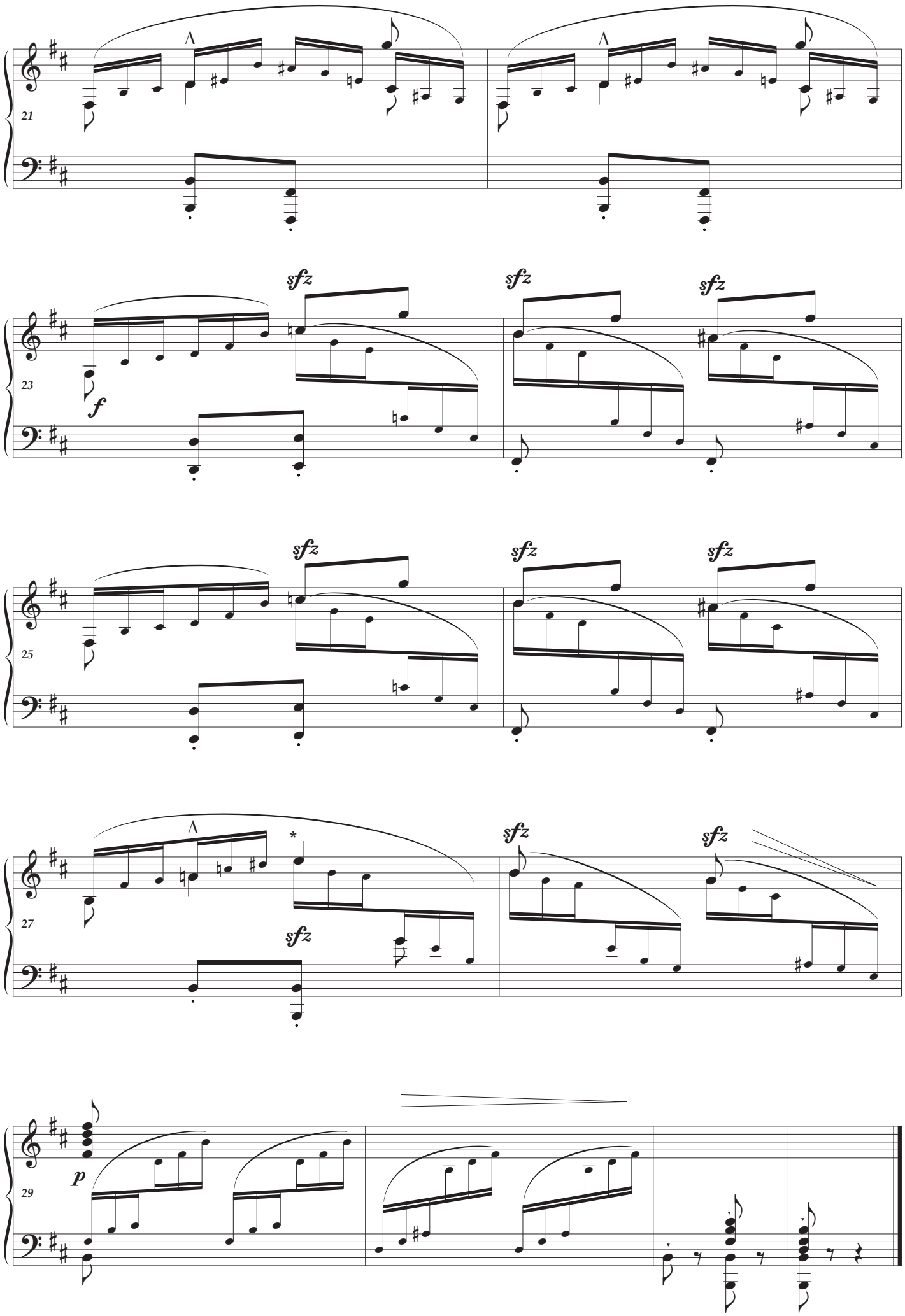

9
p
11
13
m.s.
m.s.
15
1
2
17

Albumblätter II

Schnell *fast*

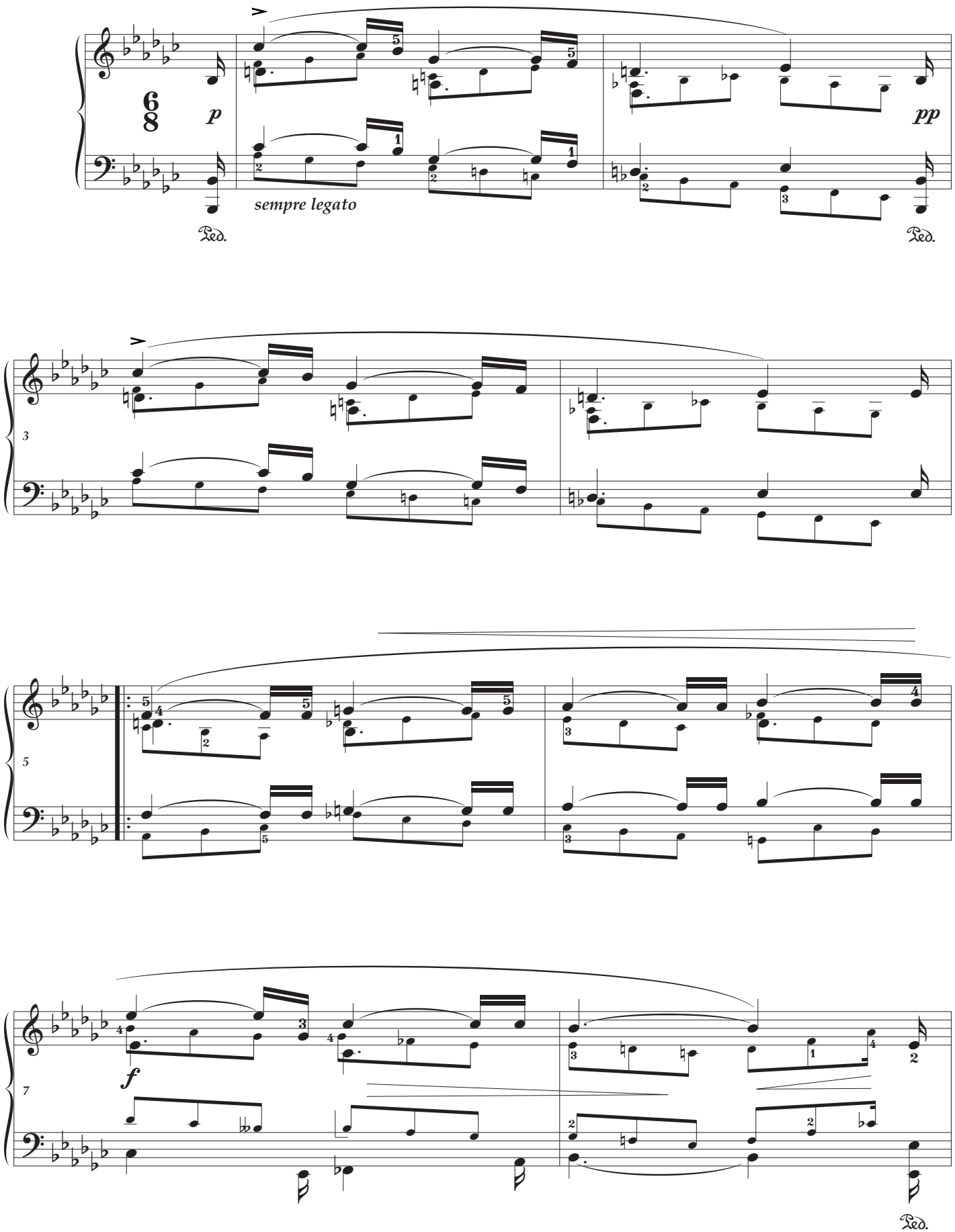


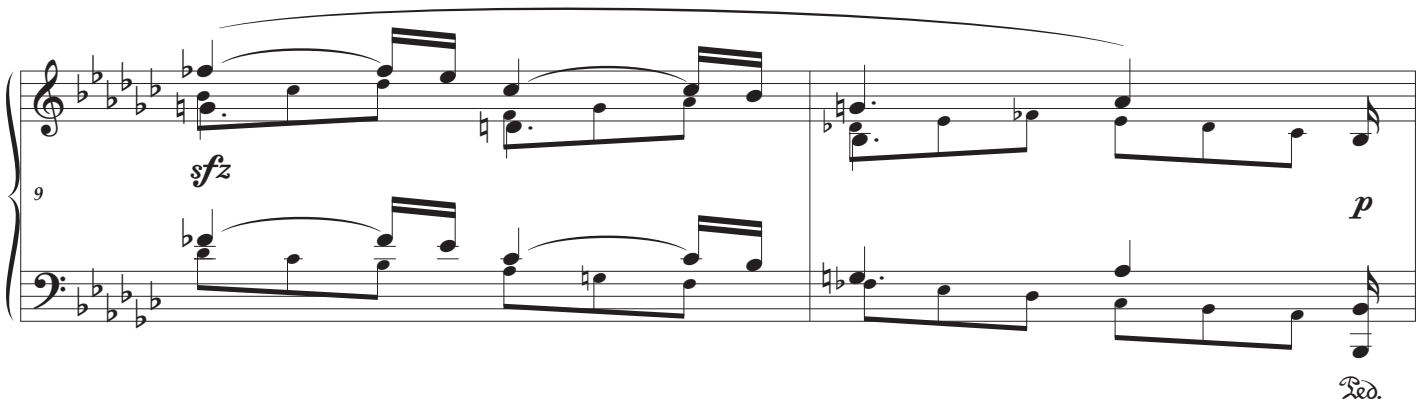

11
13
crescendo
m.s.
15
17
crescendo
19


21
23
25
27
29
sfz
f
p
*

Albumblätter IV

Sehr langsam *very slow*

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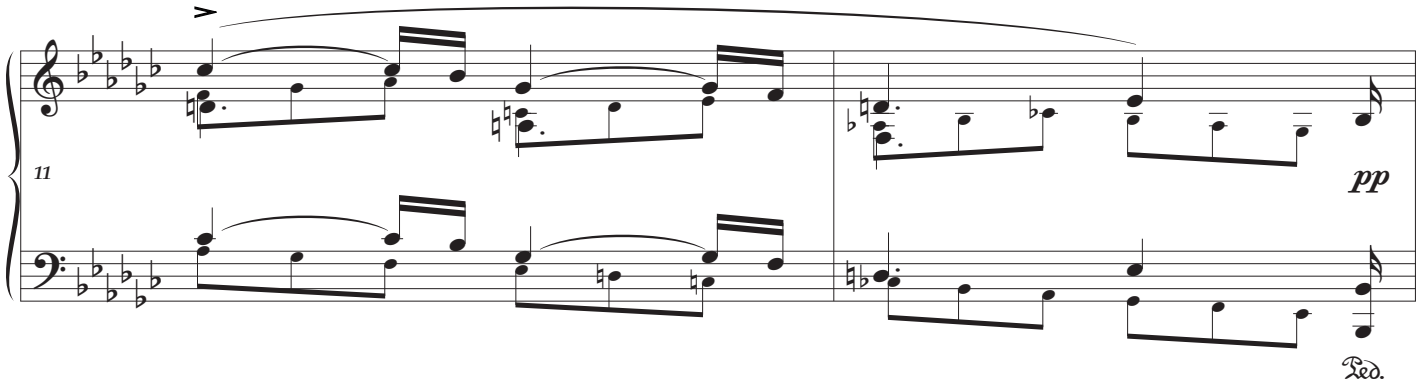
sfz
p
Ped.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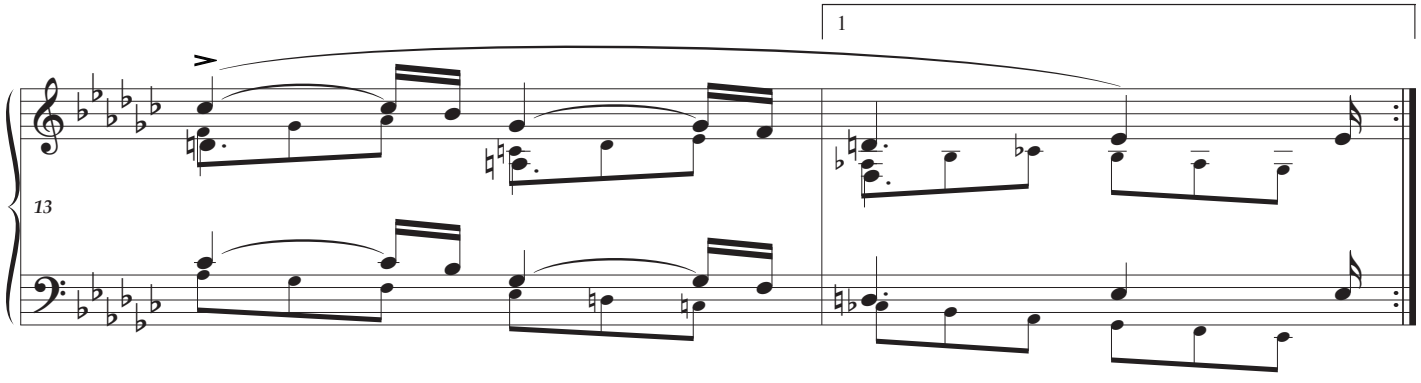
pp
Ped.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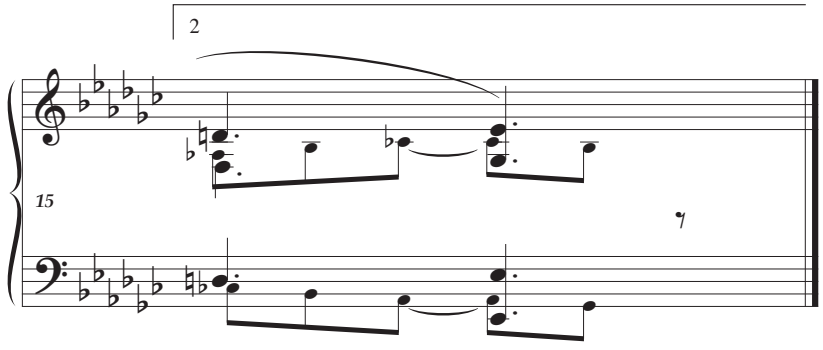
2
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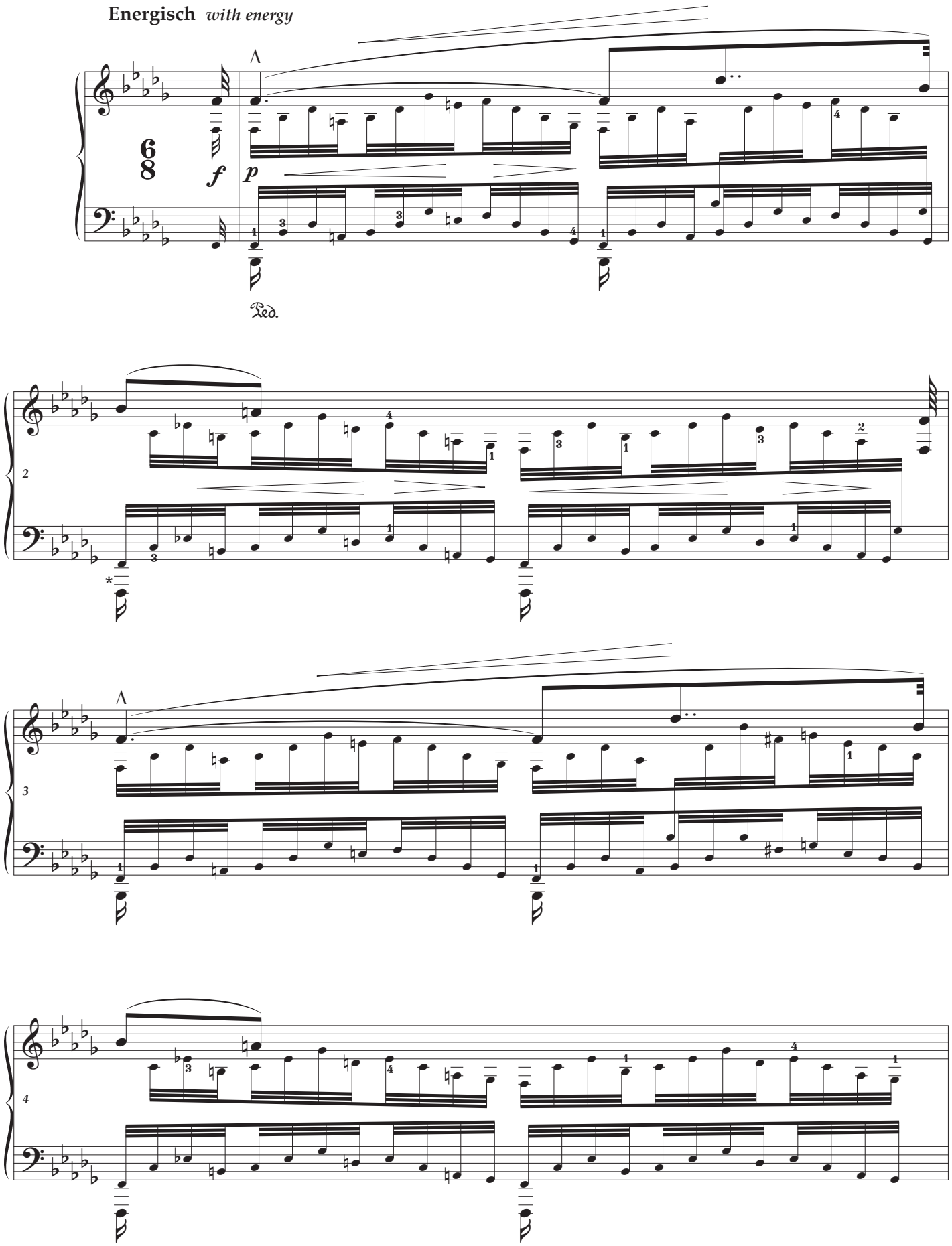
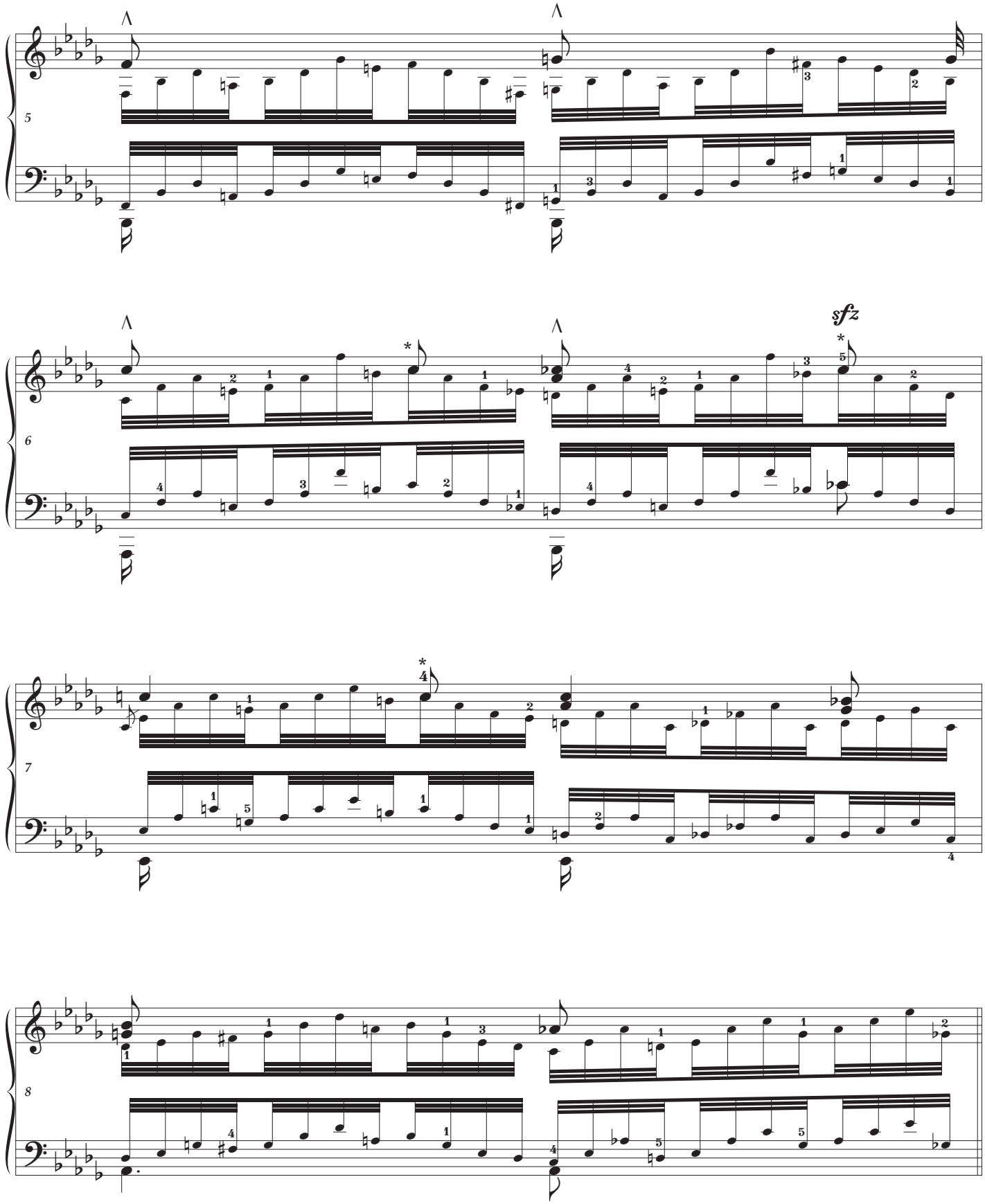
Präludium

Energisch *with energy*

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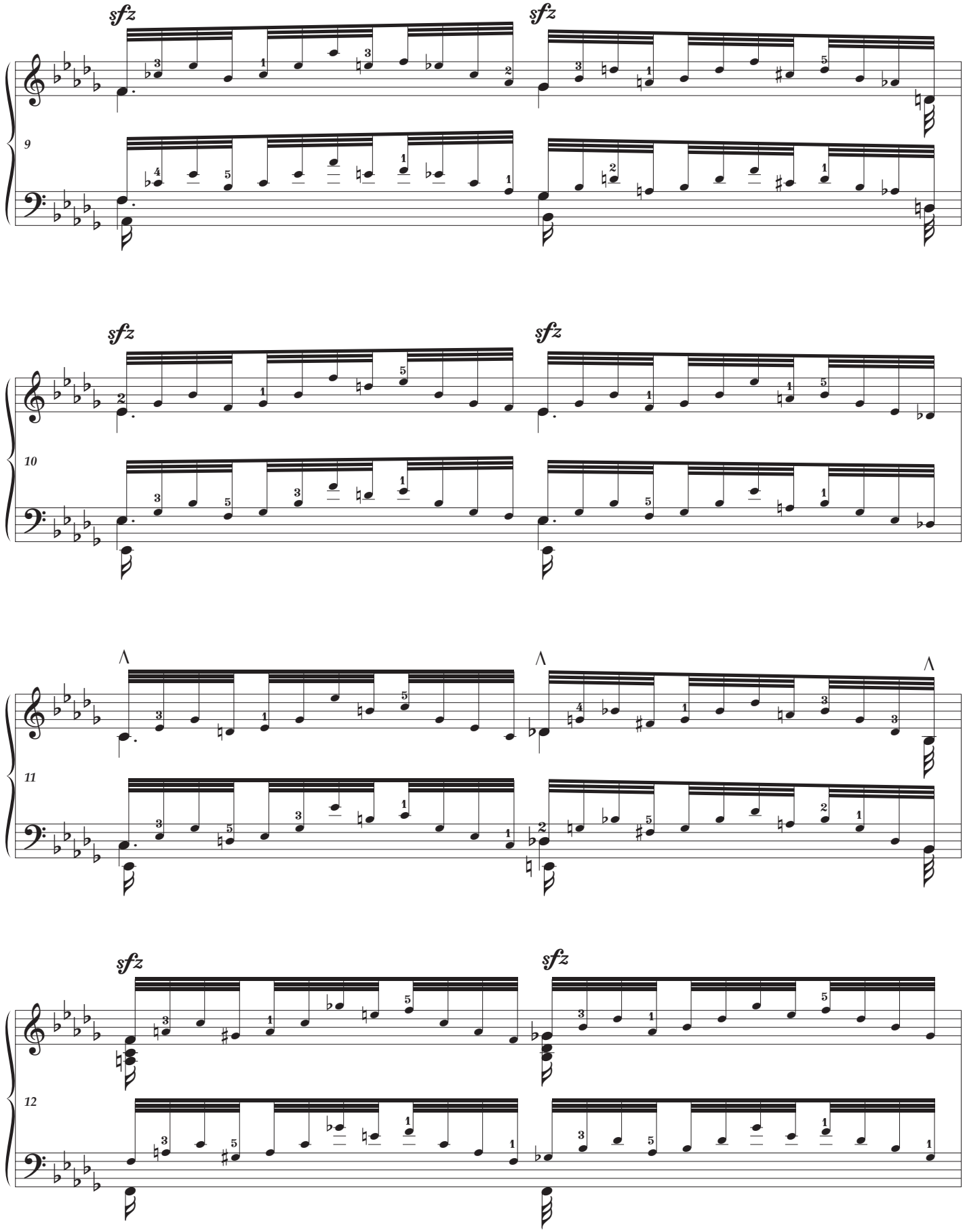
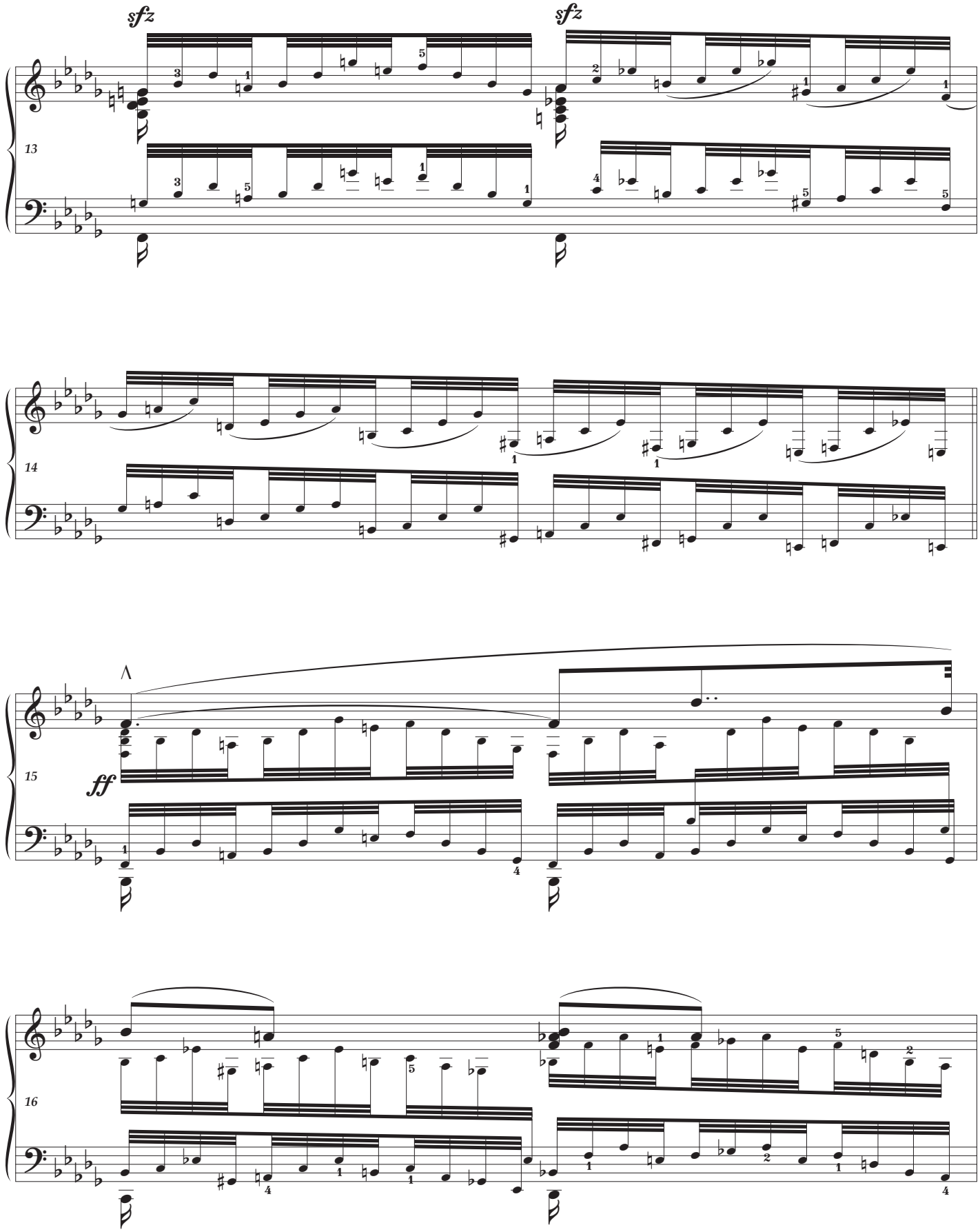
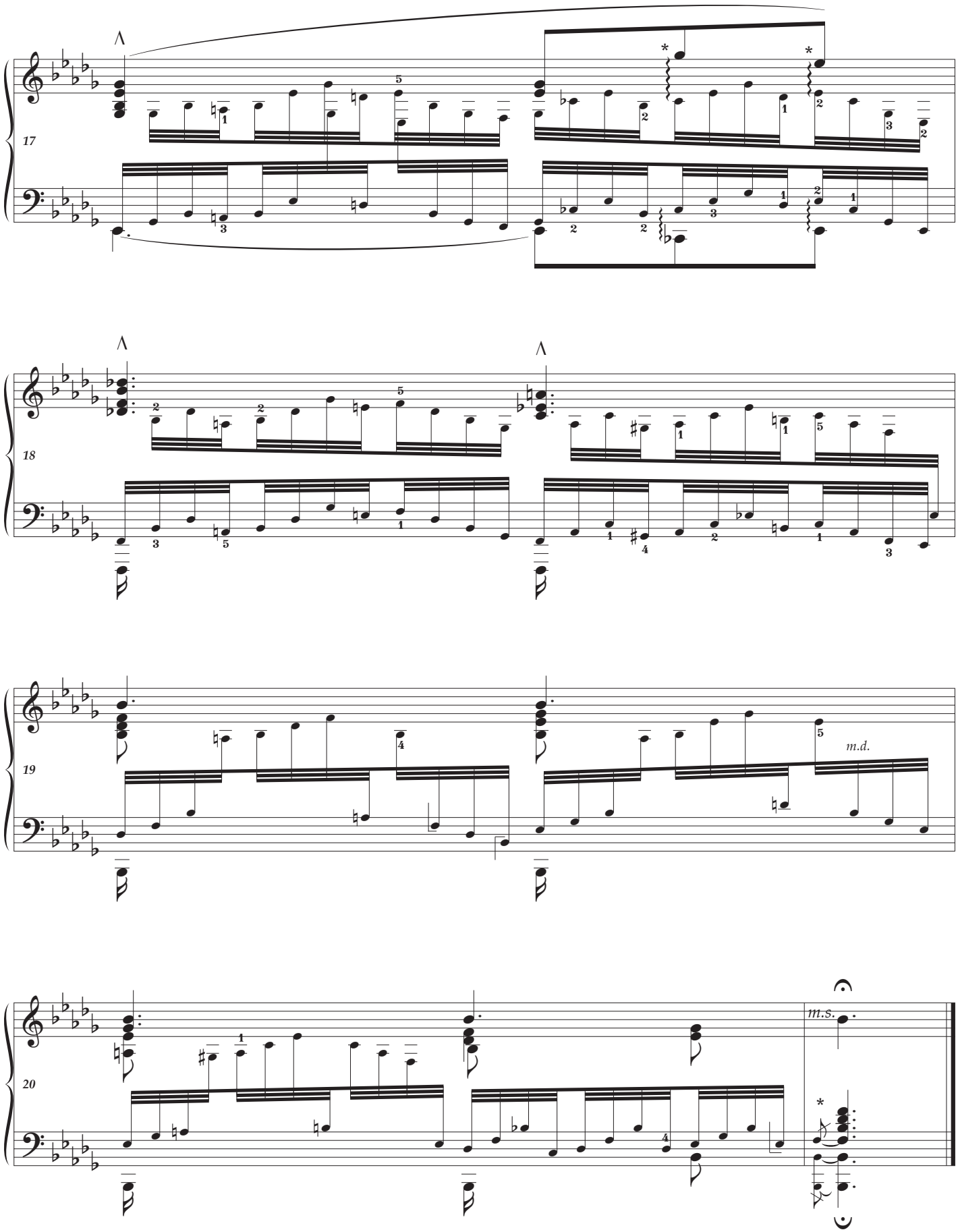
6
sfz
7
8


sfz
sfz
9
sfz
sfz
10
11
sfz
sfz
12


sfz
sfz
13
14
15
ff
16


17
18
19
m.d.
20
m.s.

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