Actions & Resonances

solo piano

Alexander Elliott Miller

Actions & Resonances (2005)
Alexander Elliott Miller

5 minutes

PROGRAM NOTE
Actions & Resonances is a stand-alone fast movement for piano composed in 2005. The title is abstract, describing the visceral characteristics of the work's sound: sharp, crisp and percussive musical gestures that are occasionally interrupted by gentler, resonant chords, which almost seem like distant echoes. The piece even moves into jazzy territory in its middle section. At its conclusion, its energy dissipates, the forward rhythmic motion dies away and the percussive gestures disappear, replaced by fragments of earlier motives that dissolve into silence.

BIO
Alexander Elliott Miller is a composer, guitarist and educator whose music has been described as "wild....unearthly...lyrical...a voice worth listening to" (San Francisco Classical Voice) and "deceptively laid back...inventive....unconventional" (Mark Swed, LA Times).

He has collaborated with and been commissioned by Grammy-nominated musicians including Vicki Ray, Tony Arnold and Aron Kallay. His compositions have been performed by adventurous new music groups including Juventas New Music Ensemble, Earplay New Chamber Music, HOCKET, the Boston New Music Initiative, the Los Angeles Percussion Quartet and the What's Next? Ensemble, a group of which he was Co-Director. He has received honors including the Earplay Donald Aird Composers Award and a MacDowell Fellowship. In 2017, pianist Vincent Craig included one of his compositions in performance at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall.

With backgrounds in rock, classical and jazz guitar, Miller has performed extensively as a solo guitarist and as a member of the What's Next? Ensemble. He has been a frequent performer of his own compositions for guitar, especially his classical guitar solo *Flatiron,* and a new large suite, *TO....OBLIVION: Historic Landmarks Around Los Angeles*, a work for electric guitar, electronics and video that examines the constantly changing landscape of Los Angeles. He has performed as a guest guitarist with the Long Beach Opera, the Color Field Ensemble, and appeared as a lead guitarist for singer Mikey Ferrari at Hollywood's Whisky a Go Go.

Miller is on the faculty of California State University Long Beach and Chapman University, and holds degrees from USC, the Eastman School of Music and the University of Colorado at Boulder.

CONTACT
alexander.e.miller@gmail.com
www.alexanderemiller.com

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5 minutes

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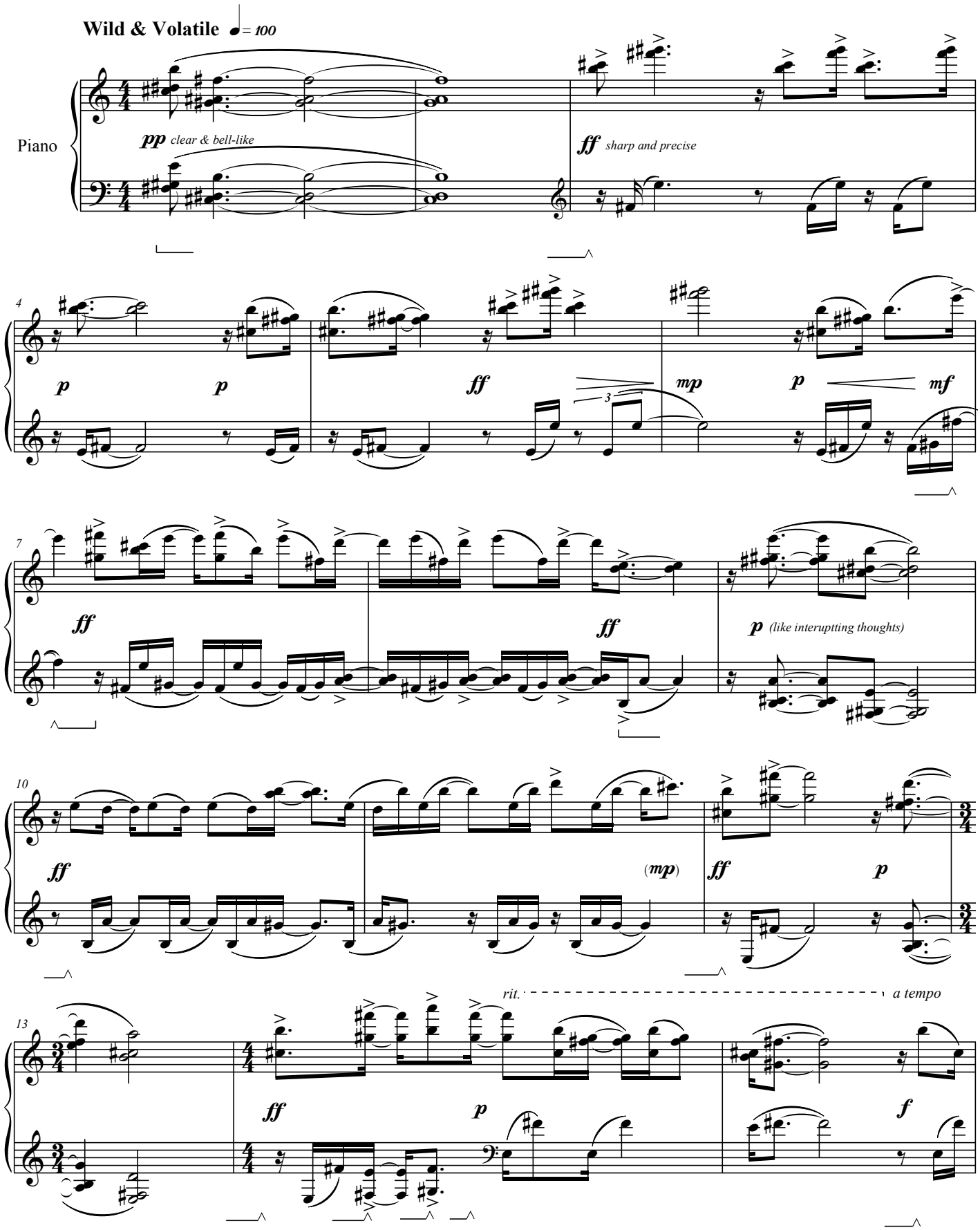
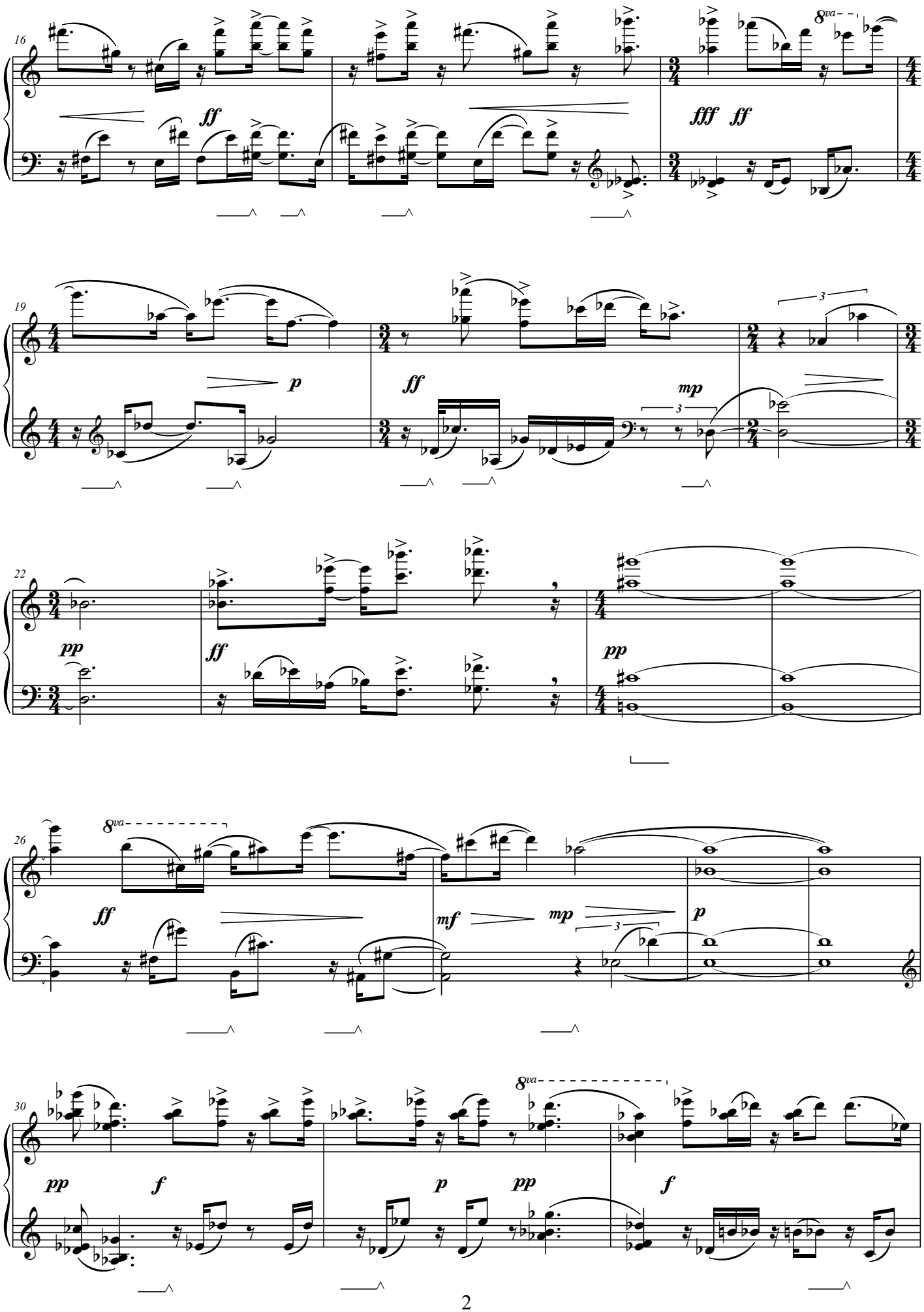
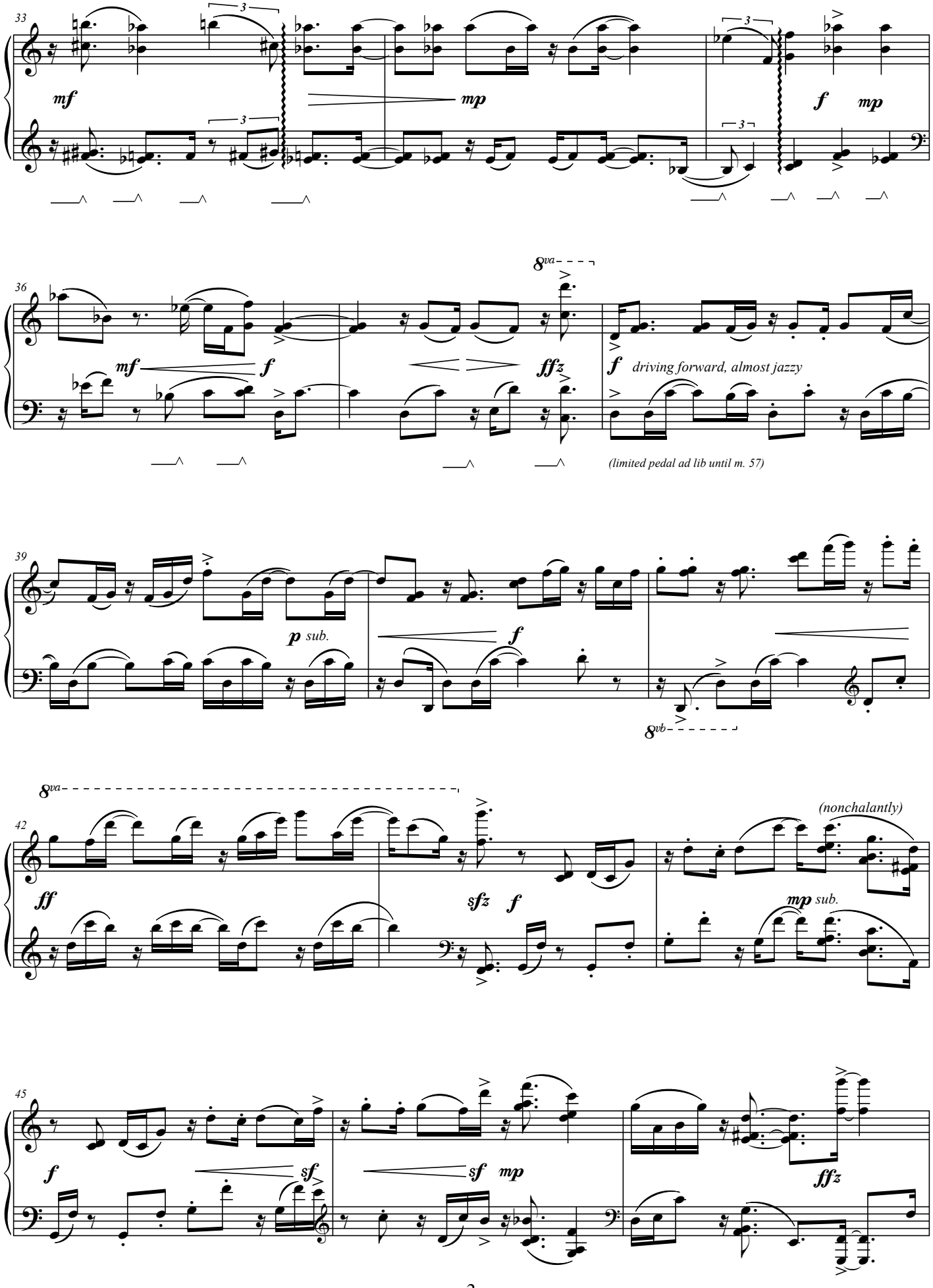
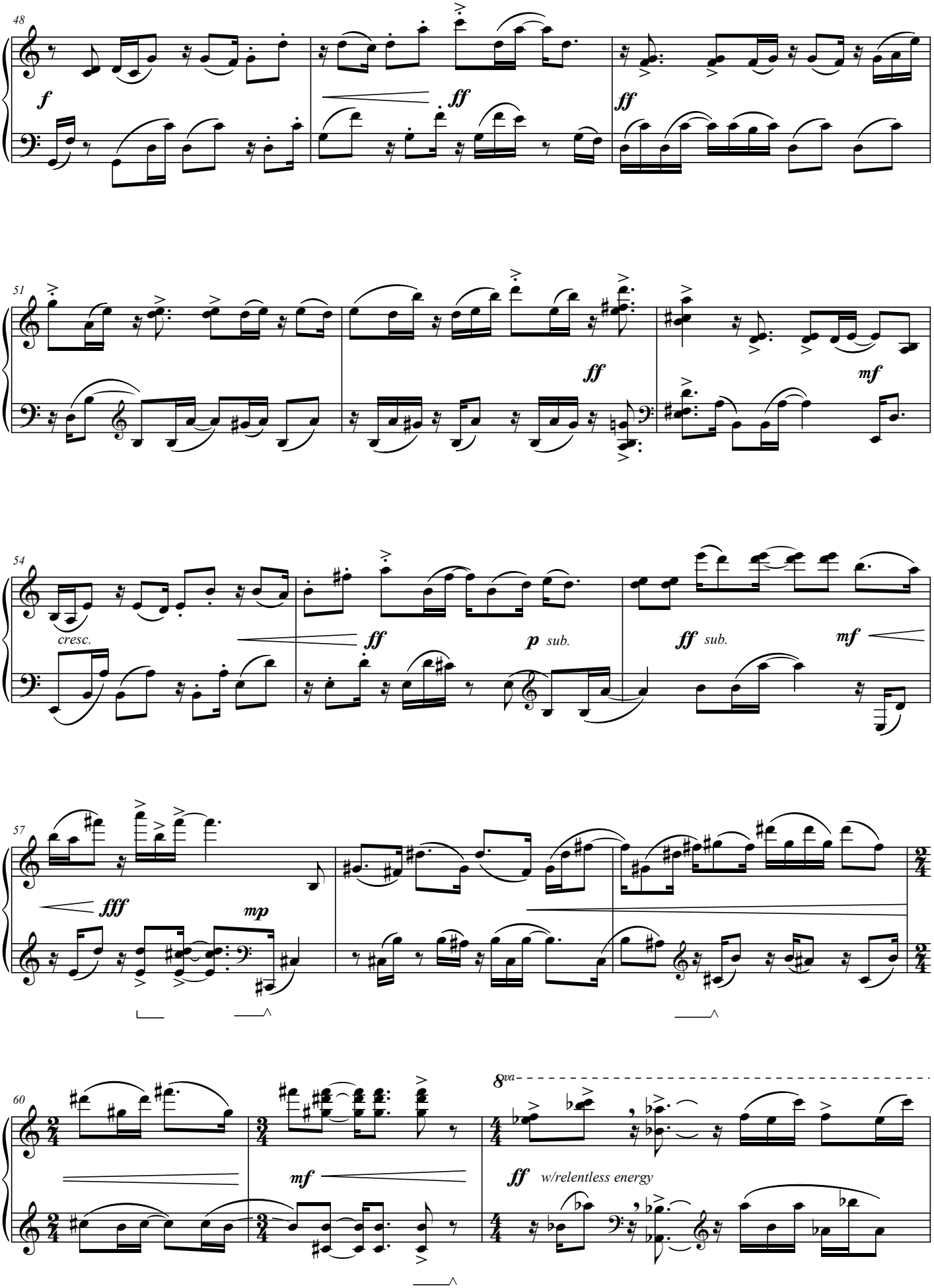
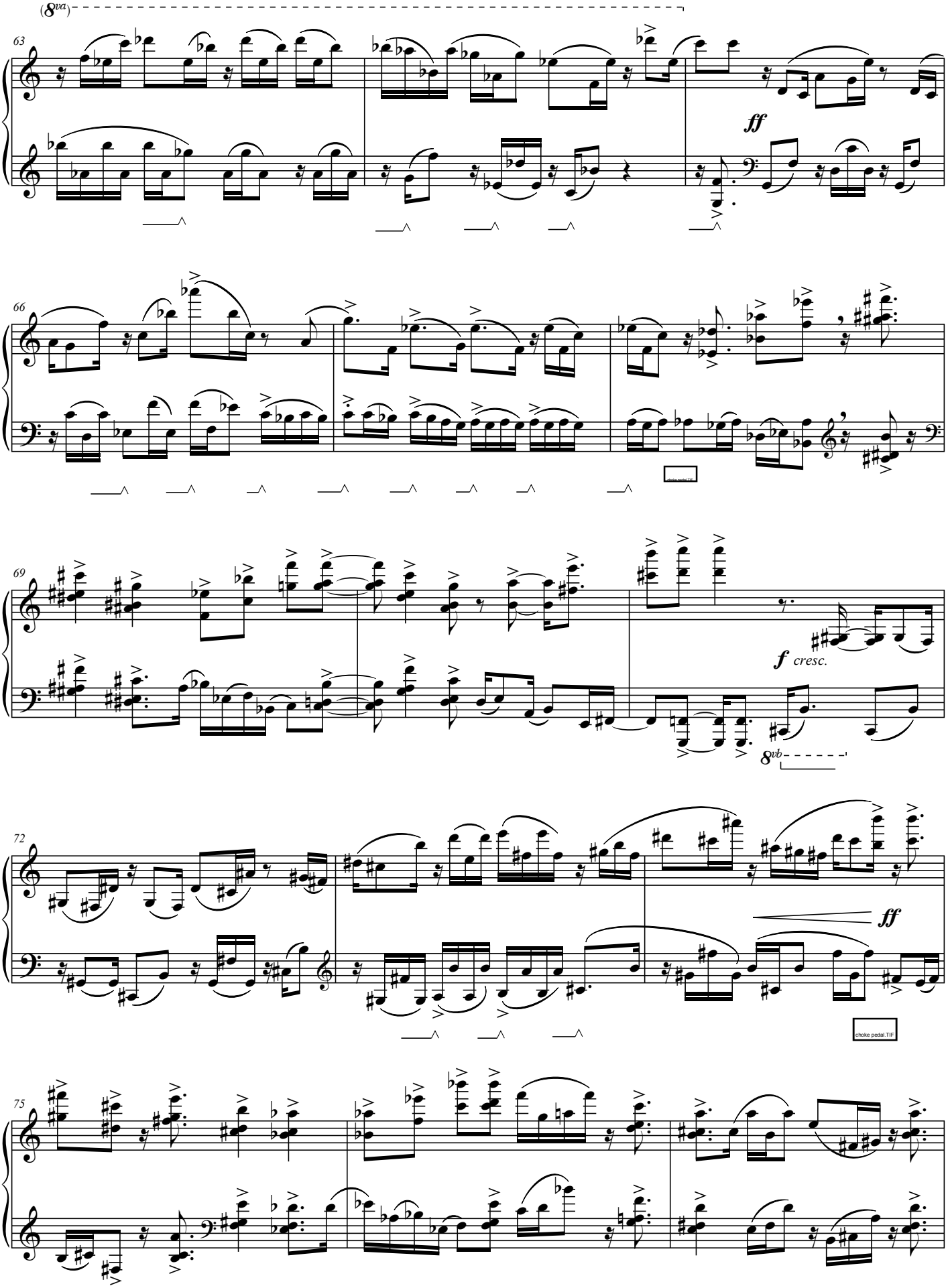
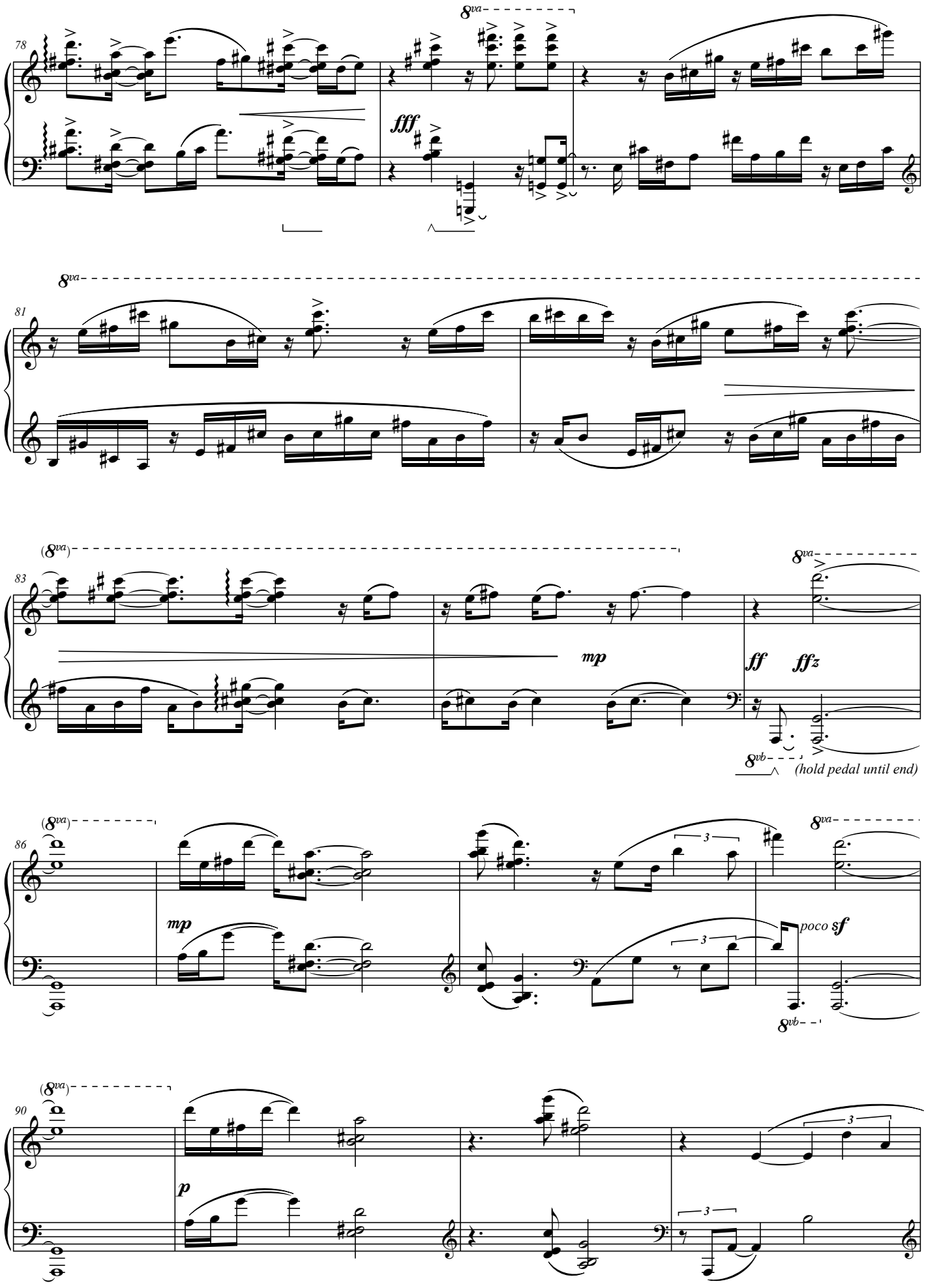


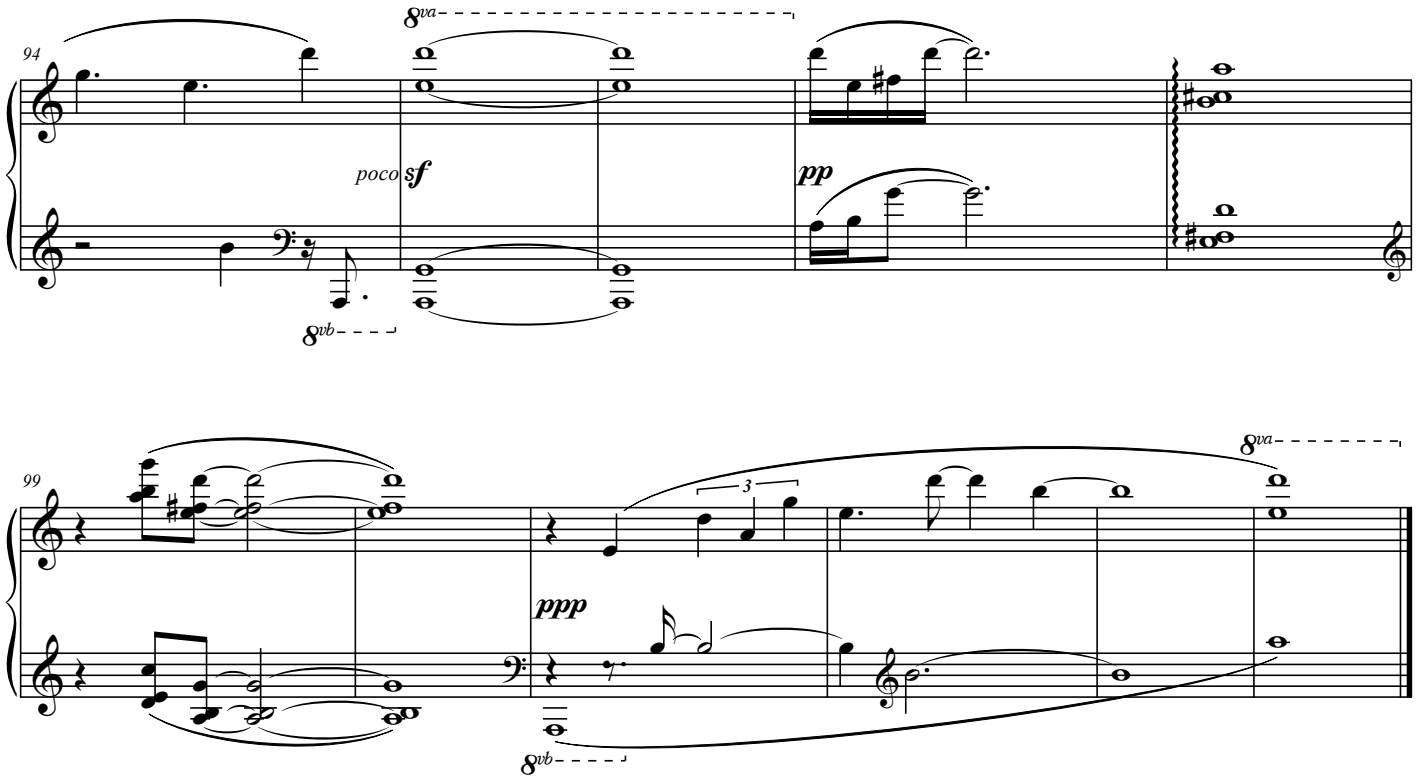

16
8va
ff
fff ff
19
p
ff
mp
3
22
pp
ff
pp
26
8va
ff
mf
mp
p
30
8va
pp
f
p
pp
f


33
mf
mp
f
mp
36
8va
mf
f
ffz
f
driving forward, almost jazzy
(limited pedal ad lib until m. 57)
39
p sub.
f
8vb
8va
42
ff
sfz
f
(nonchalantly)
mp sub.
45
f
sf
sf
mp
ffz


48
f
ff
ff
51
ff
mf
54
cresc.
ff
p sub.
ff sub.
mf
57
fff
mp
60
8va
mf
ff w/relentless energy


(8va)
63
ff
66
choke pedal.TIF
69
f cresc.
8vb
72
ff
choke pedal.TIF
75


78
8va
fff
81
8va
83
(8va)
8va
mp
ff
ffz
8vb
(hold pedal until end)
86
(8va)
8va
mp
poco sf
8vb
90
(8va)
p


94
8va
poco sf
pp
8vb

99
3
ppp
8va
8vb