Malcolm Arnold

Neil Brand

Matthew Taylor

Timothy Bowers

Robert Tucker

Theme and Variations
for organ

September 2021

PROGRAMME NOTE

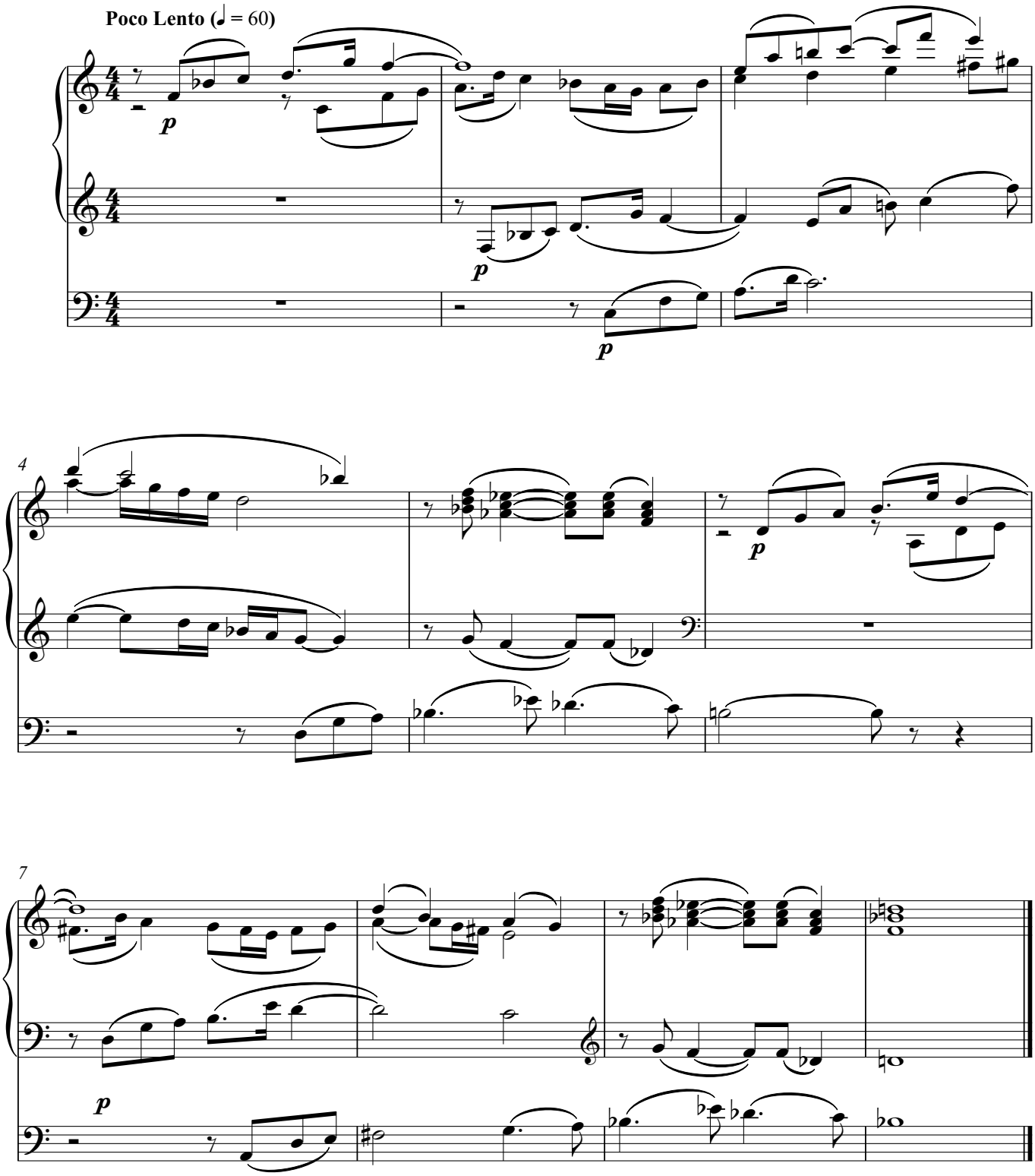
	Composers
Theme:	Malcolm Arnold
Variation I:	Neil Brand
Variation II:	Matthew Taylor
Variation III:	Timothy Bowers
Variation IV:	Robert Tucker

Permission to reproduce the score granted by the composers.

The original theme tune by Malcolm Arnold was broadcast on Christmas Day, 1957, part of a programme called Crown and Commonwealth; the organ piece was a signature tune for a segment called 'Christmas round the world', played by the Australian organist William McKie. The four variations based on the tune were commissioned for the 2021 Malcolm Arnold Festival: 'Malcolm's 100th' as a collaborative project. The first three variations are by Neil Brand, Matthew Taylor and Tim Bowers respectively. I followed with the fourth variation. This observes the imitative nature of Arnold's theme, capturing Arnold's style: his bravado rhythmic writing; the characteristic, witty piccolo writing (commenting here in dialogue with the quasi-Bach chorale), and an imposing pedal solo based on the theme to reflect the composer's eccentricity. The first performance was recorded by Alex Berry in Bradford Cathedral for the online part of the Arnold festival, which he followed a month later with the second performance, in St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

Theme

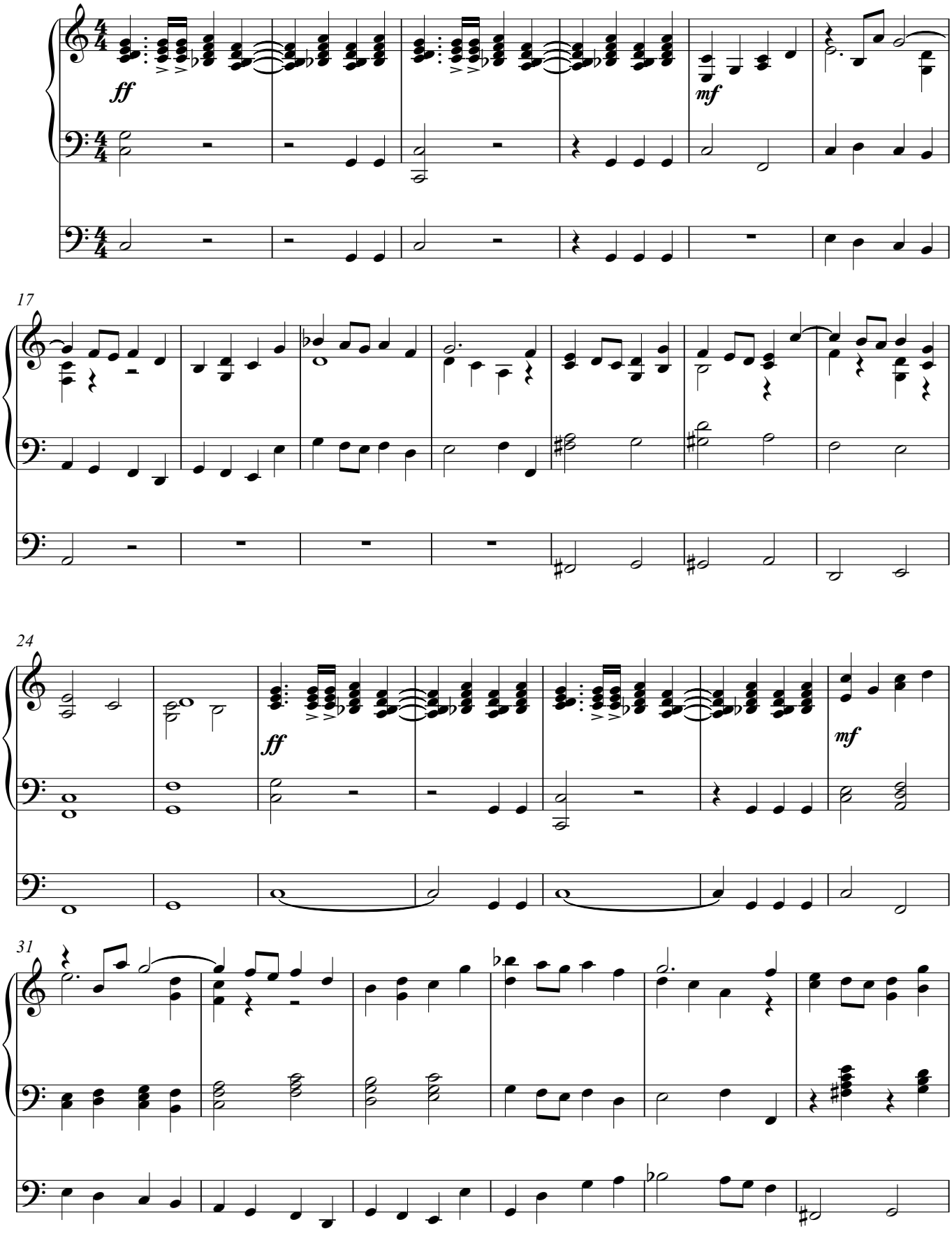
Malcolm Arnold
(1957)

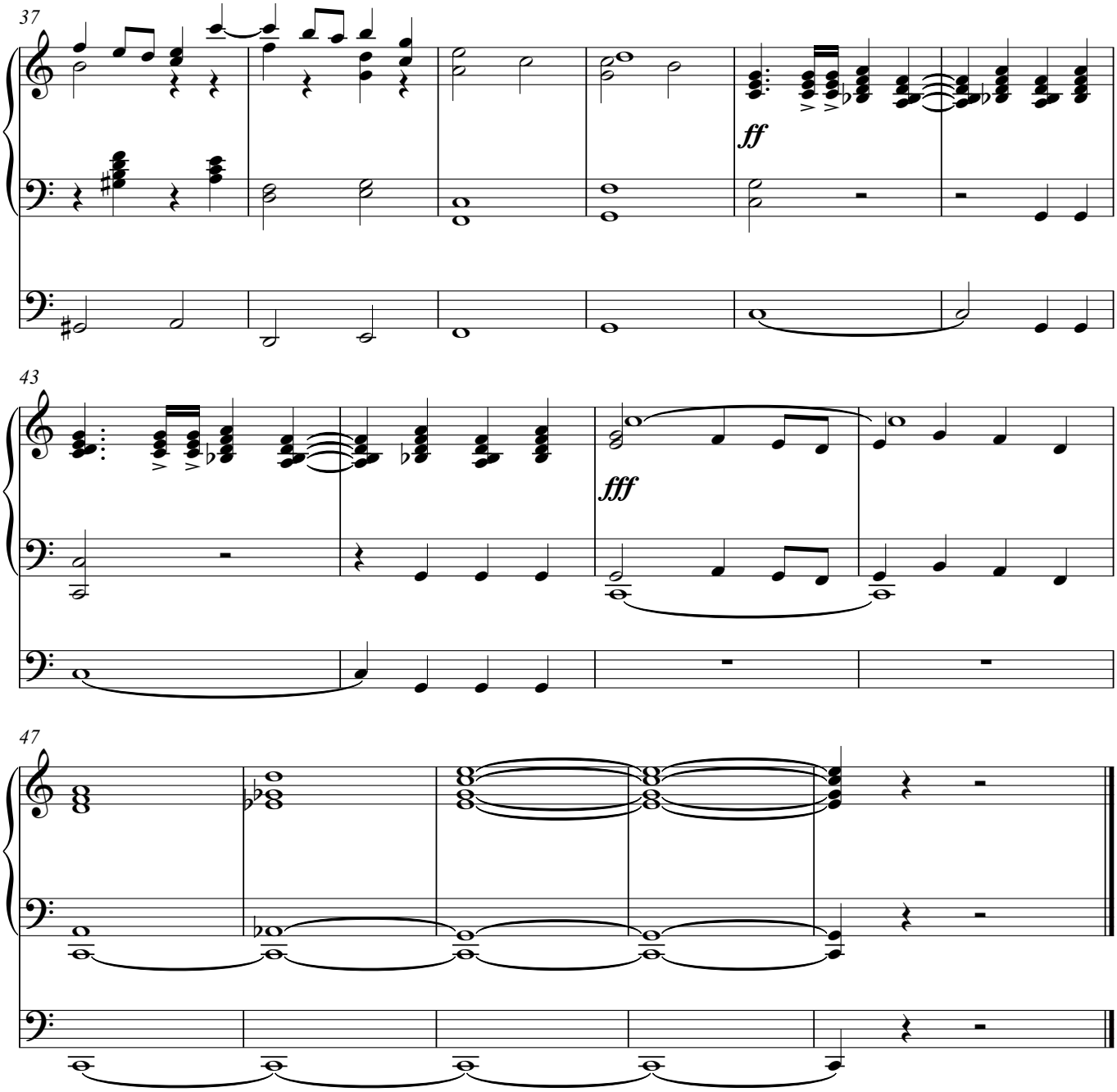


Variation No. 1

Neil Brand

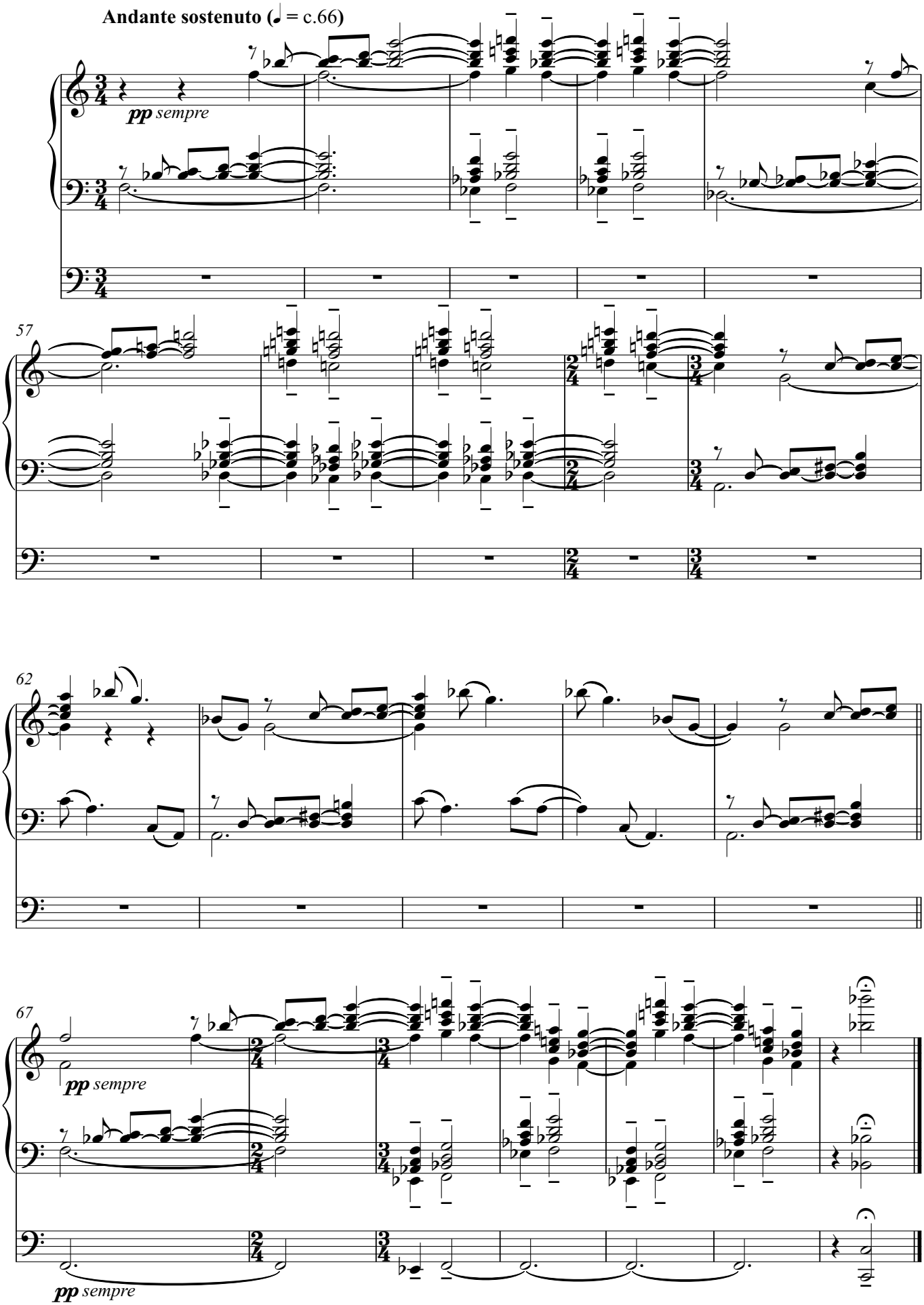
Triumphant (♩ = 138)

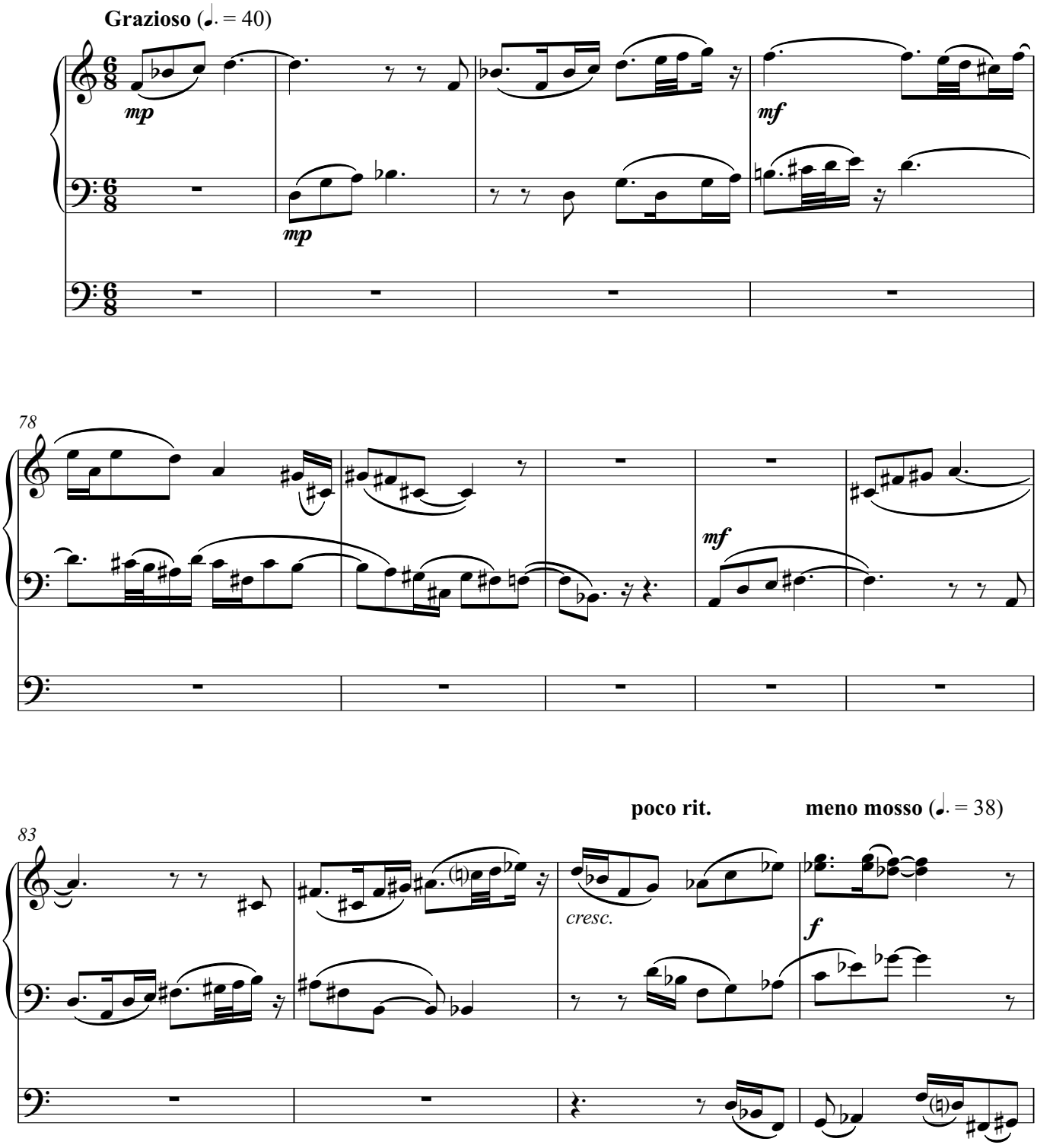


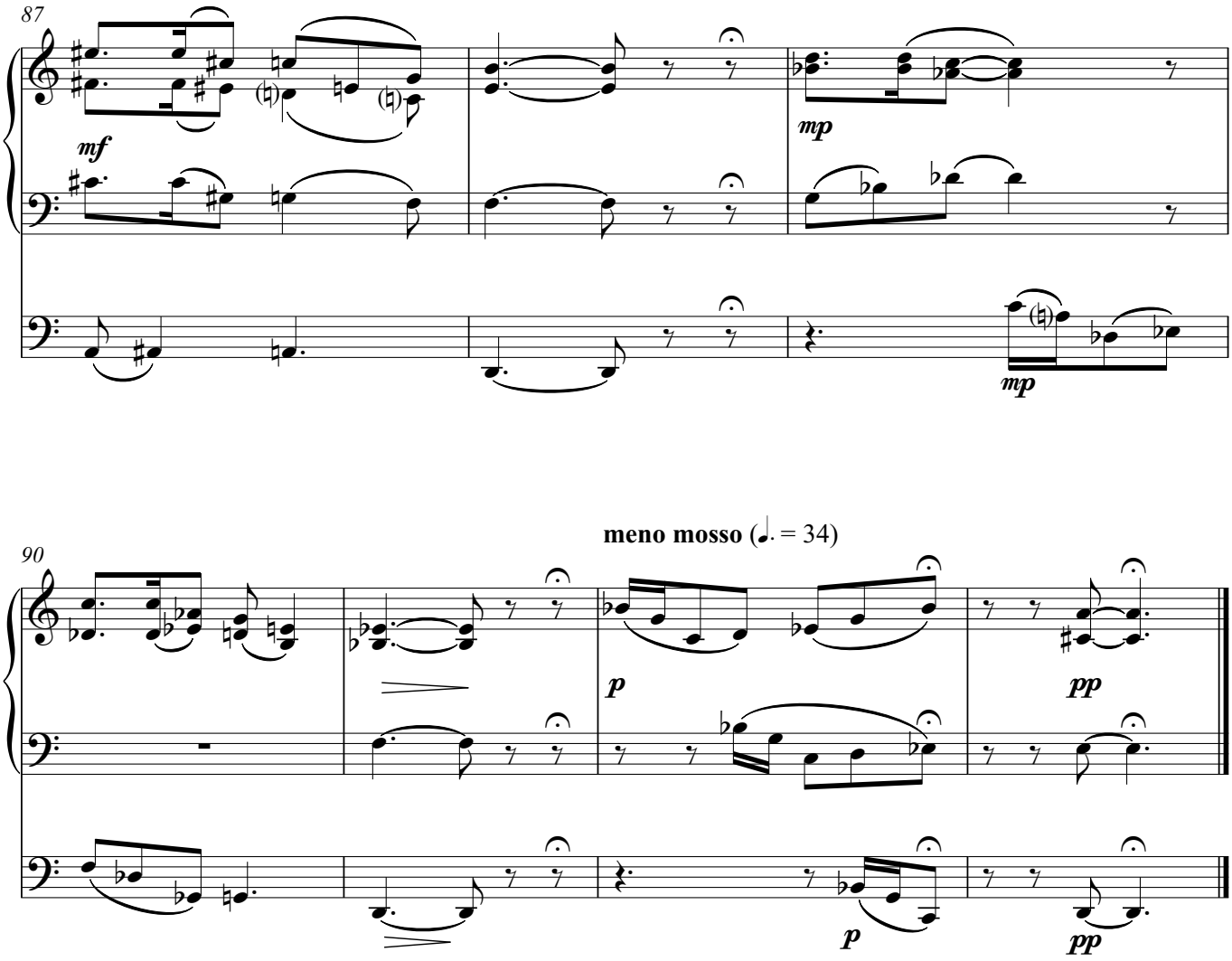

37
ff
43
fff
47

Variation No.2 - Intrada

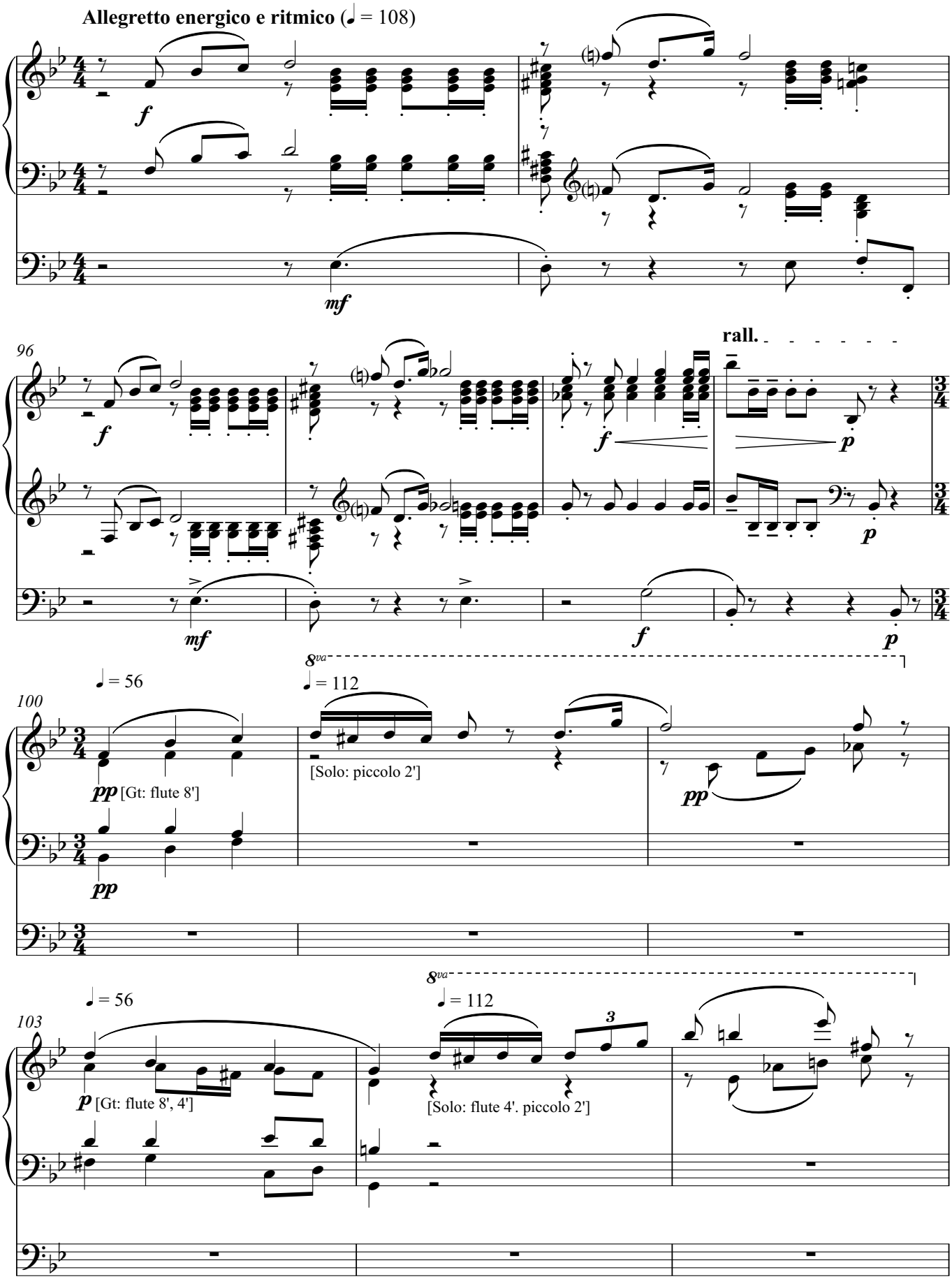
Matthew Taylor




Grazioso (♩. = 40)
mp
mp
mf
78
mf
83
poco rit.
meno mosso (♩. = 38)
cresc.
f


87
mf
mp
mp
90
meno mosso (♩. = 34)
p
pp
p
pp

Robert Tucker



[Gt: flute 8', 4']

[♩ = 112]

106

8va

p

[Solo: flute 4'. piccolo 2']

mf

108

mf [Sw; & Gt: Diapasons 8', 4', 2', Couplers]

110

[+Swell reeds]

rit.

♩ = 86

f

Solo Tuba 8'

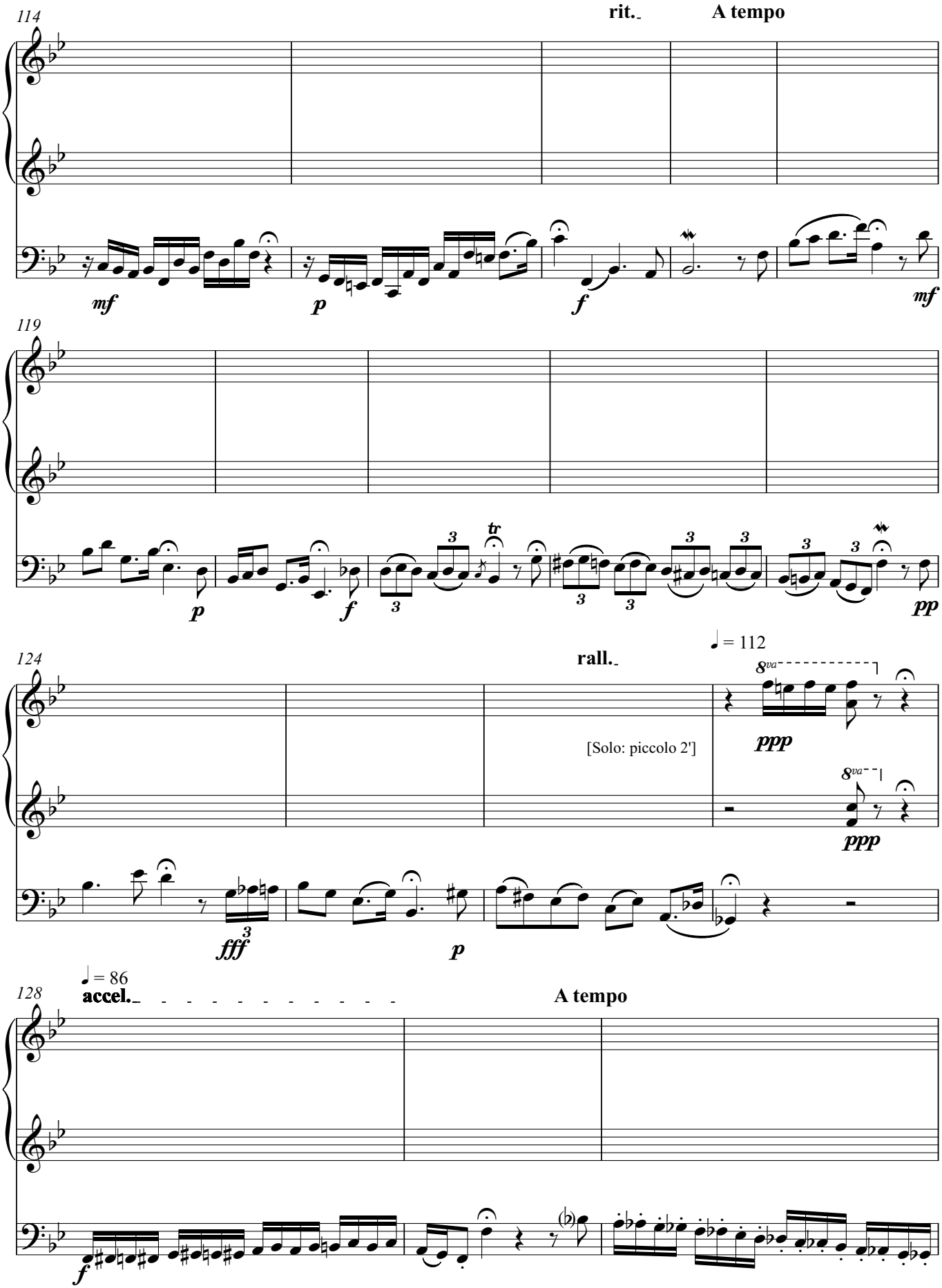
[+Gt. to Ped.]

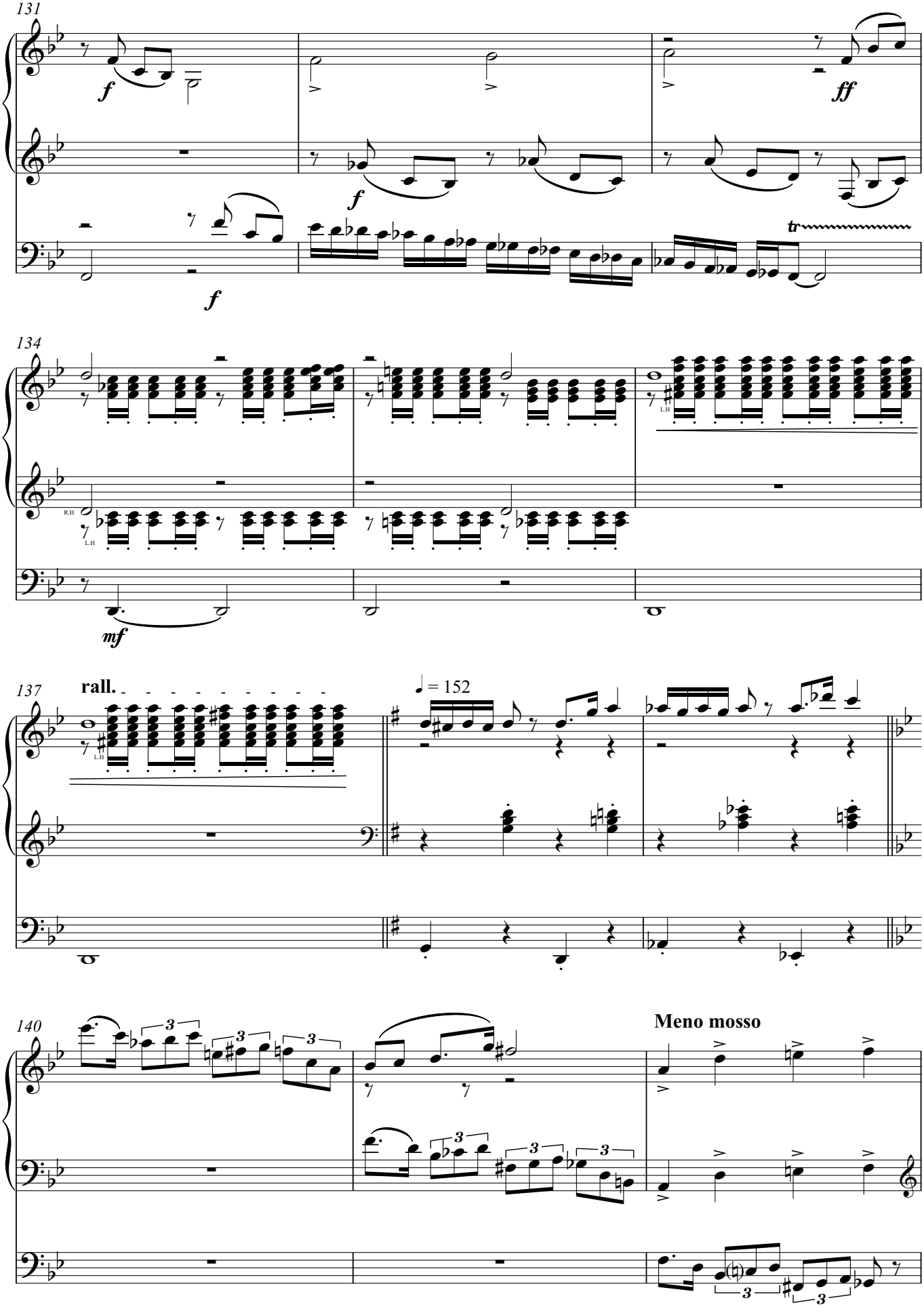
112

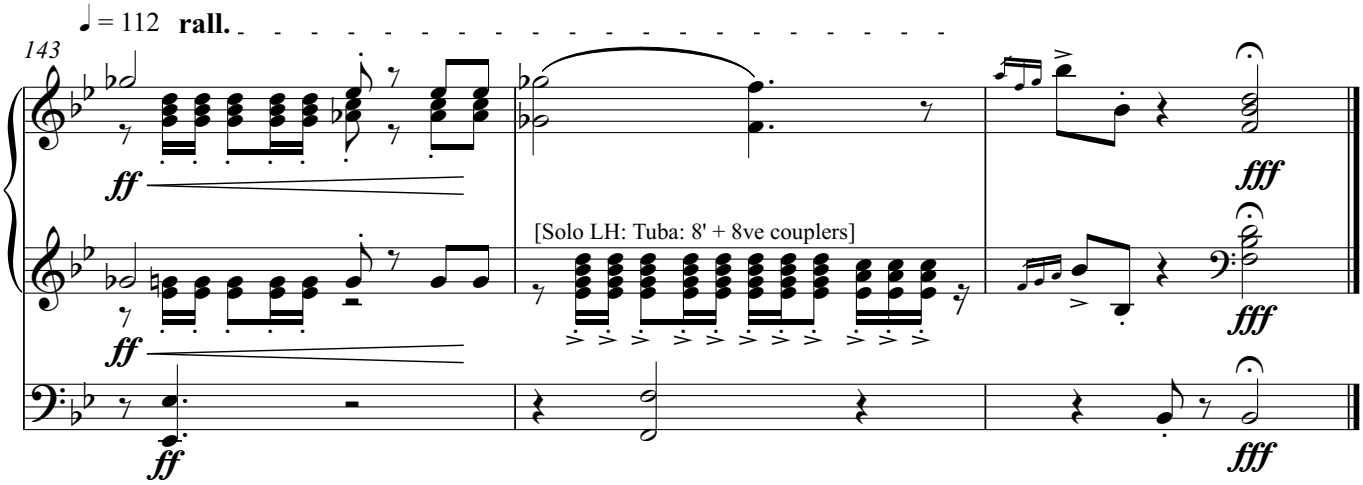
[Gt.]

[+Full Peds.]

fff


114
rit.
A tempo
mf
p
f
mf
119
p
f
pp
124
rall.
♩ = 112
8va
ppp
[Solo: piccolo 2']
8va
ppp
fff
p
128
♩ = 86
accel.
A tempo
f


131
f
f
f
ff
tr
134
R.H
L.H
mf
137
rall.
♩ = 152
L.H
140
Meno mosso


♩ = 112
rall.
143
ff
[Solo LH: Tuba: 8' + 8ve couplers]
fff