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Child's Play

for Two Pianos

(2013)

PROGRAM NOTE

Young children are able to interact in a coherent and complex manner long before they obtain the faculties to communicate in any "adult" sense. In the earlier stages of development, this interaction is guided largely by imagination, yet it retains such a high degree of synchronicity. *Child's Play* is a fantasy on this phenomenon; the relationship between the two pianos is precise and well coordinated, while the material wanders or fluctuates between sections. The piece is written as a series of vignettes in which much of the melodic and harmonic content presented in the introduction becomes re-contextualized in each vignette.

The first (and longest) of these vignettes, which begins after the introduction, imagines two children playing before bedtime. It begins with a simple melody, passed between the two pianos, which is cut short several times by sudden outbursts. After several iterations, the interaction between the pianos becomes more whimsical and eventually winds down. One interrupts the other several times, as if to keep it awake, but both eventually stop with a very brief return to the introduction.

The next vignette presents a dream-like scenario in which the two pianos are more disconnected at first. The theme is initially played by only one piano, and when both finally synchronize, it quickly dissolves into an ethereal sequence of rising scales. Again, this vignette ends with one piano trying to "wake the other up," and it ultimately returns once more to the introduction.

The final vignette also serves as a coda. It paints a chaotic scene in which the interaction between the pianos is rhythmically intense and the pitch material is more chromatic. Sudden changes in dynamics and register at the very end of the piece suggest that everything has gotten way out of hand....

The title in no way reflects the level of difficulty of this piece.

DURATION: ca. 11 minutes

Child's Play

Bright and mechanical, ♩. = 84

Piano I

pp

Bright and mechanical, ♩. = 84

Piano II

pp

3

I

f

II

f

5

I

pp *subito*

f

II

pp *subito*

f

7

I

II

pp subito

p subito

f

ff

8va

9

p subito

f

8va

pp subito

f

ff

11

pp subito

mf

8vb

9

13

8va

I

f

fff

pp subito

mf

sfffz

II

sfffz mf

mf

9

9

driving, aggressive

15

8va

I

f

mf

sfffz

8va

driving, aggressive

II

sfffz mf

(8)

17

I

f

II

ff

19

I

II

ff *f*

ff *f*

ff

21

I

II

1.

ff *f*

ff

1.

fff

8vb

23

I

II

p subito *pp*

ff

2.

ff *f*

ff

2.

ff *p subito*

ff *f* *cresc.*

ff

26

Poco meno, ♩. = 76
poco rit.

A tempo
poco rit.

A tempo

I

[ff]

[ff]

Poco meno, ♩. = 76
poco rit.

A tempo
poco rit.

A tempo

II

p

[ff]

[ff]

[p]

[p]

VIGNETTE I

gentle and carefree

32

8va

I

p

gentle and carefree

II

p

mp

p

mp

35

(8)

Loud and shocking, ♩. = 88

A tempo, ♩. = 76

I

ff

Loud and shocking, ♩. = 88

A tempo, ♩. = 76

II

ff

p

38

8va

I

II

p

mp

mf

mp

41

(8)

Loud and shocking, ♩. = 88

A tempo (but a little faster), ♩. = 80

ff

mp

Loud and shocking, ♩. = 88

A tempo (but a little faster), ♩. = 80

ff

p

44

47

I

II

A tempo (but a little faster), ♩. = 84

50

Loud and shocking, ♩. = 88

ff

p

I

Loud and shocking, ♩. = 88

A tempo (but a little faster), ♩. = 84

ff

p

II

53

♩ = 132 (♩. = 88)

ff

p

ff

8va

p

I

♩ = 132 (♩. = 88)

ff

p

ff

p

II

57

I

crisp, playful

f

II

crisp, playful

60

I

più ***p***

mp

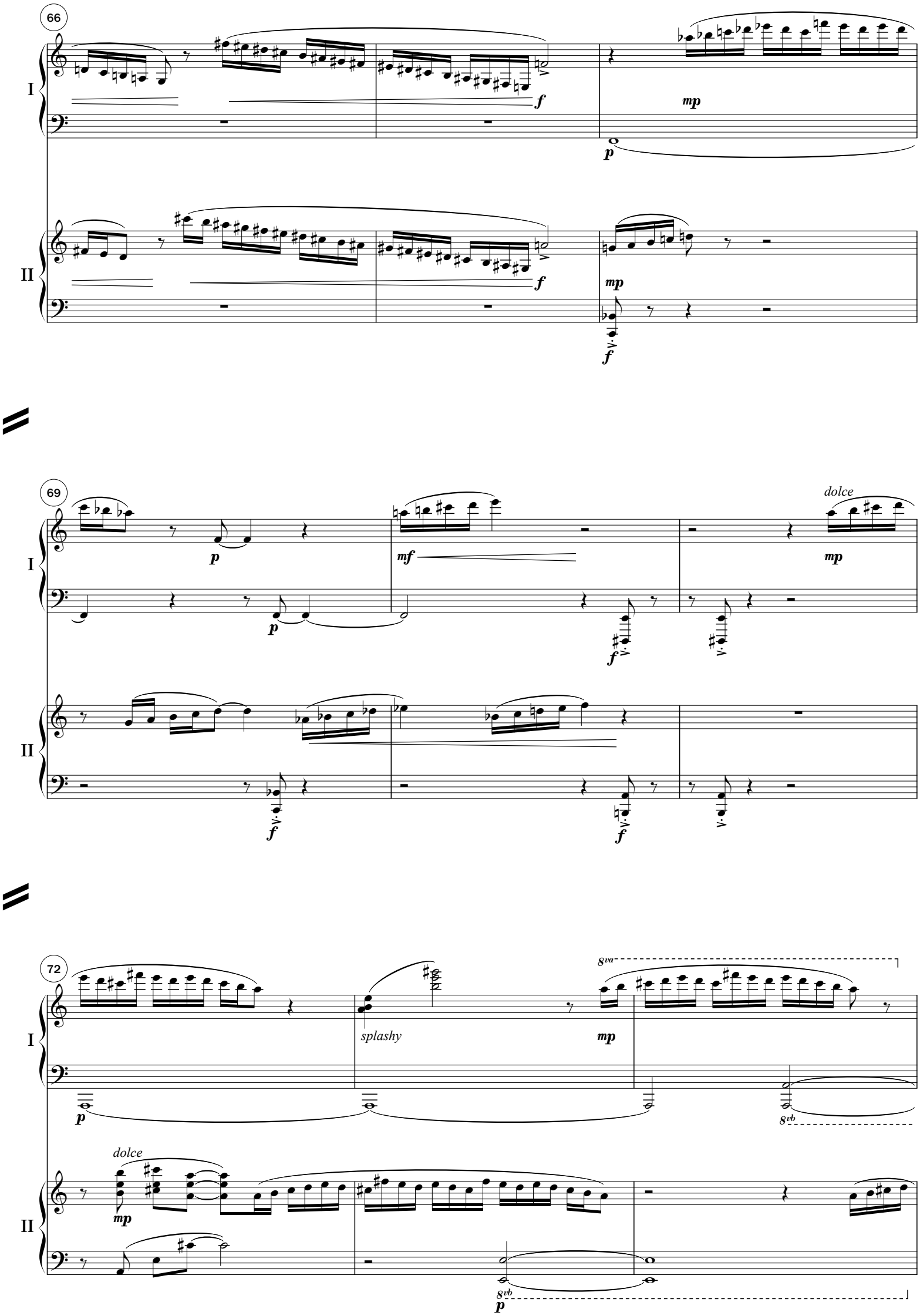
II

63

I

II

mp


66
I
II
f
mp
p
69
dolce
mf
72
splashy
8va
8vb

75
I
II
mf
mf
mf
(8)
8vb
78
8va
ff
mp
mp
ff
(8)
82
ff
ff

85

I

II

mf

ff

mf

8va

deliberate

sfz sfz

a piacere

90

A little slower; sleepy and lethargic

mp quasi rubato

p

8vb

97

poco rit.

Più mosso, ♩ = 88

pp

rubato

[pp]

103

I

poco rit.

♩ = 180

A tempo (but a little faster), ♩ = 92

p

II

poco rit.

♩ = 180

A tempo (but a little faster), ♩ = 92

f *secco*

pp

111

I

with movement

poco rit.

a tempo

mf

II

poco rit.

a tempo

p

f *insistent*

117

I

cresc.

II

122

♩ = 180 A tempo ♩ = 180 A tempo ♩ = 180

I

f *secco* *f* *secco* *p* *secco*

II

♩ = 180 A tempo ♩ = 180 A tempo ♩ = 180

mp *rubato* *rubato*

VIGNETTE II

128

Tempo I ♩ = 180 Lyrical, ♩ = 112

I

mp *f* *rit.* *a tempo*

p *cantabile*

Tempo I ♩ = 180 *rit.* *a tempo*

II

mp *f* *secco* *pp*

134

I

quasi cadenza *rit.*

dolce

138

I

a tempo *poco rit.*

dim. *pp*

A tempo (♩ = 112)

144

I

II

p *cresc.* *mf*

A tempo (♩ = 112)

p *cresc.*

147

I

II

rit. *f*

rit.

150

II

a tempo *mp cantabile* *poco rit.* *p* *cresc.* *mf* *[p]*

Più mosso

8va

159

I

mf *loud and splashy;*
a sudden busrt of energy

diminuendo

Più mosso

II

loud and splashy;
a sudden busrt of energy

diminuendo

(8)

163

I

(not too loud)

II

(8)

167

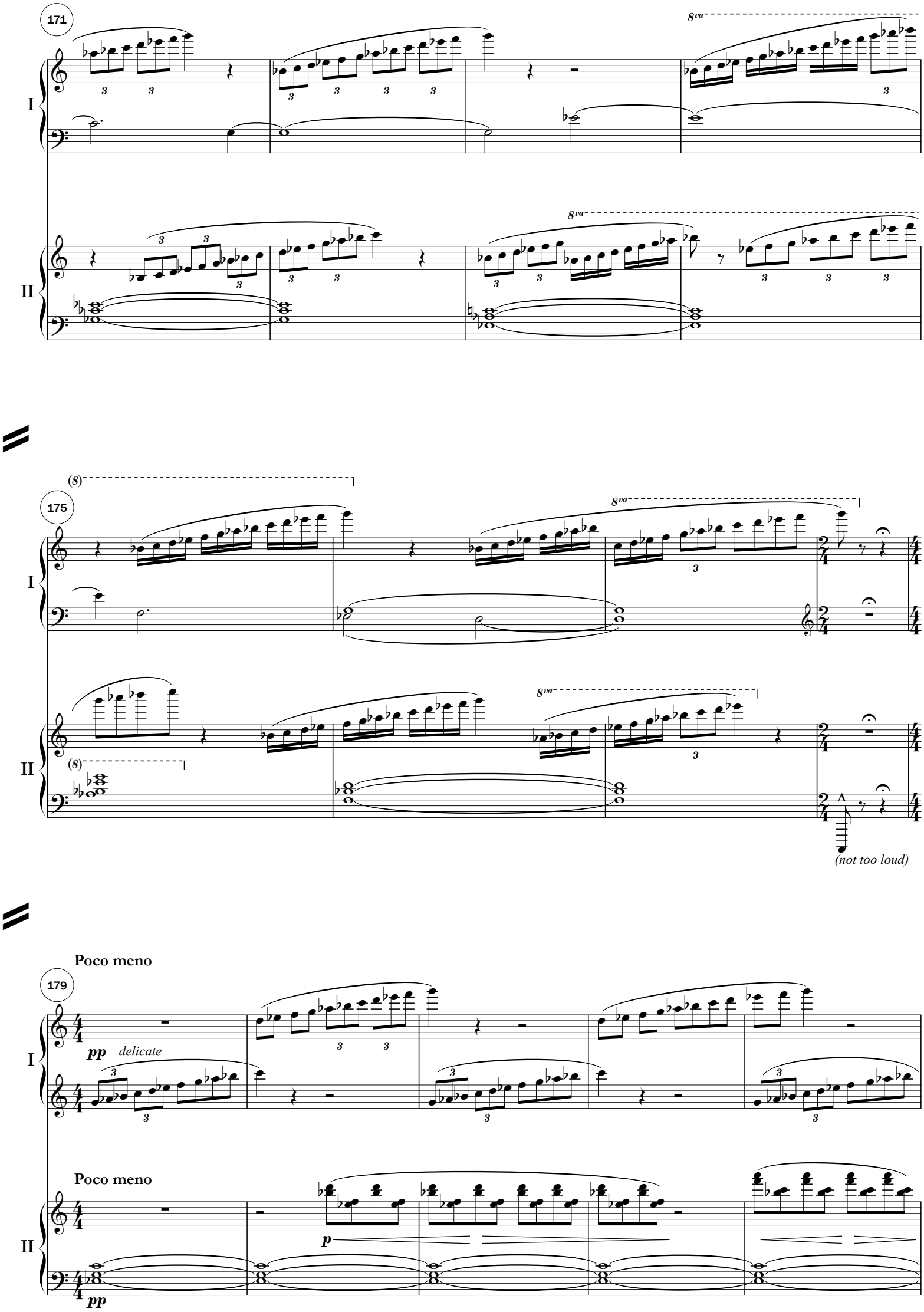
I

p

(not too loud)

II

p


171
I
II
8va
175
(8)
(not too loud)
179
Poco meno
pp
delicate
p

184

I

II

rit.

a tempo

rit.

a tempo

dolce e cantabile

p

p

190

I

II

♩ = 180

f *secco*

A tempo *rit.*

♩ = 180

A tempo *rit.*

194

I

II

a tempo

rit.

♩ = 180

8va

f *secco*

a tempo

with motion

rit.

♩ = 180

198

A tempo, but a little faster

♩ = 180

8va

I

f secco

mf

A tempo, but a little faster

♩ = 180

secco

II

with motion

f

202

(8)

♩ = 180

Tempo I (♩ = 126)

8va

I

mf

pp

secco

Tempo I (♩ = 126) ♩ = 180

II

ff

f

207

Tempo I

I

p

mf

Tempo I

II

p

mf cresc.

209

I

II

ff

fff

8va

211

I

II

8va

fff

213

I

II

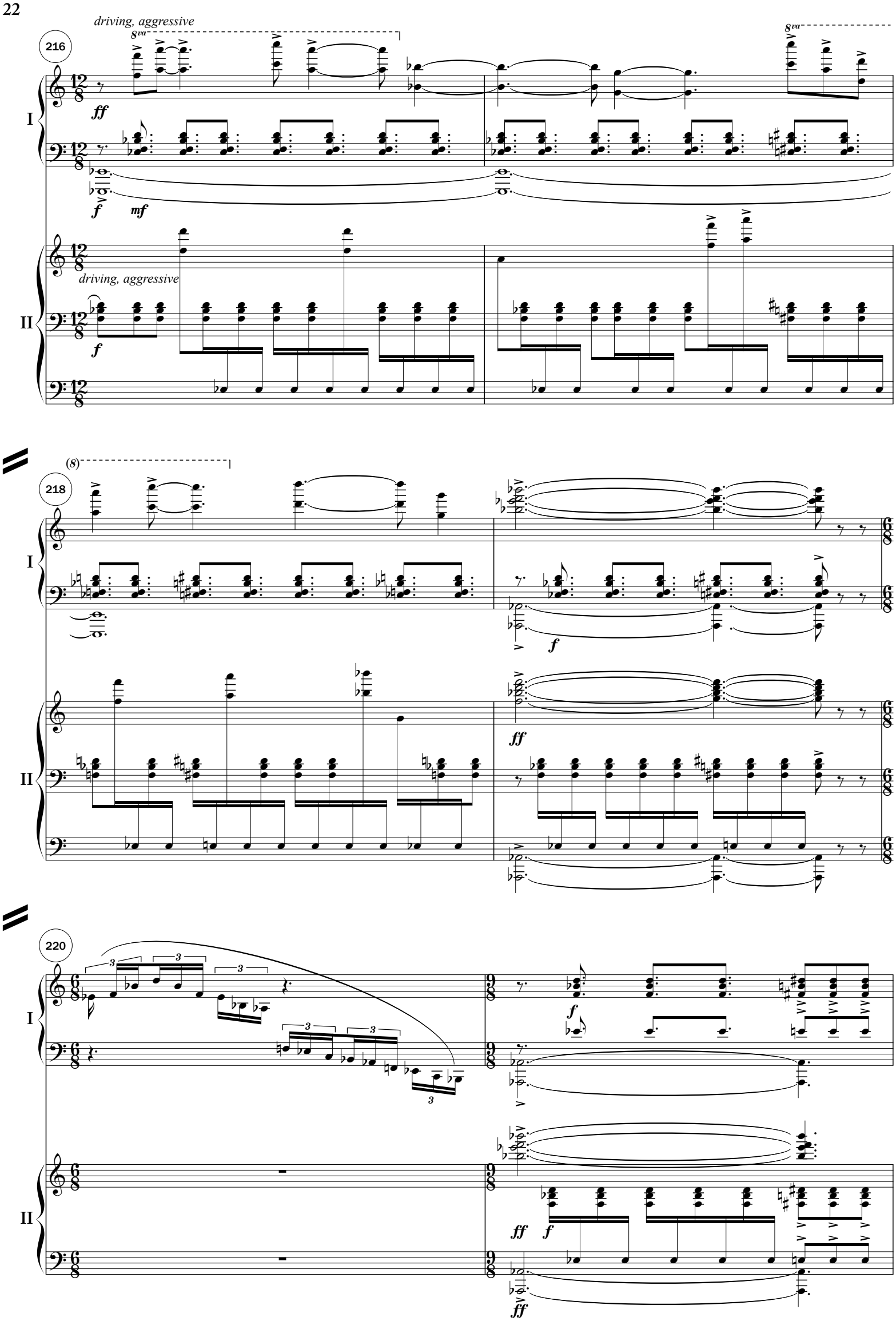
pp subito

f

mf

8vb

sfffz mf


216
driving, aggressive
8va
ff
f
mf
I
II
driving, aggressive
f
218
(8)
f
ff
220
f
ff
f
ff

222

I

II

ff

f

ff

f

8vb

225

poco accel.

I

II

poco accel.

p

ff

p

ff

8vb

230

poco rit.

a tempo

poco accel.

I

II

poco rit.

a tempo

poco accel.

p subito

ff

f

VIGNETTE III

Excited, ♩ = 136

234

scherzando

I

mp *cresc.*

f

p *cresc.*

Excited, ♩ = 136

scherzando

II

p *cresc.*

f

mp

238

I

f

II

f

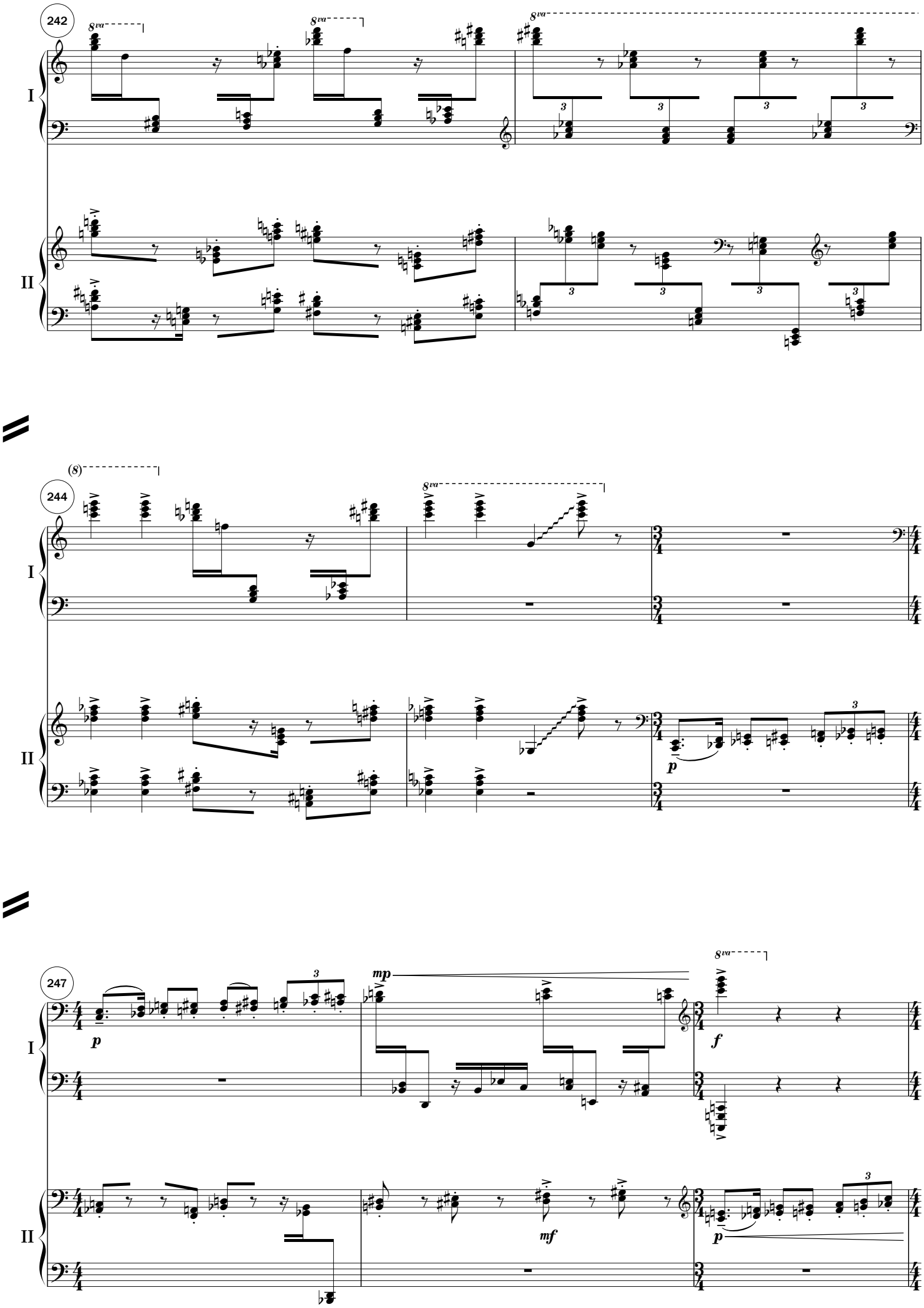
240

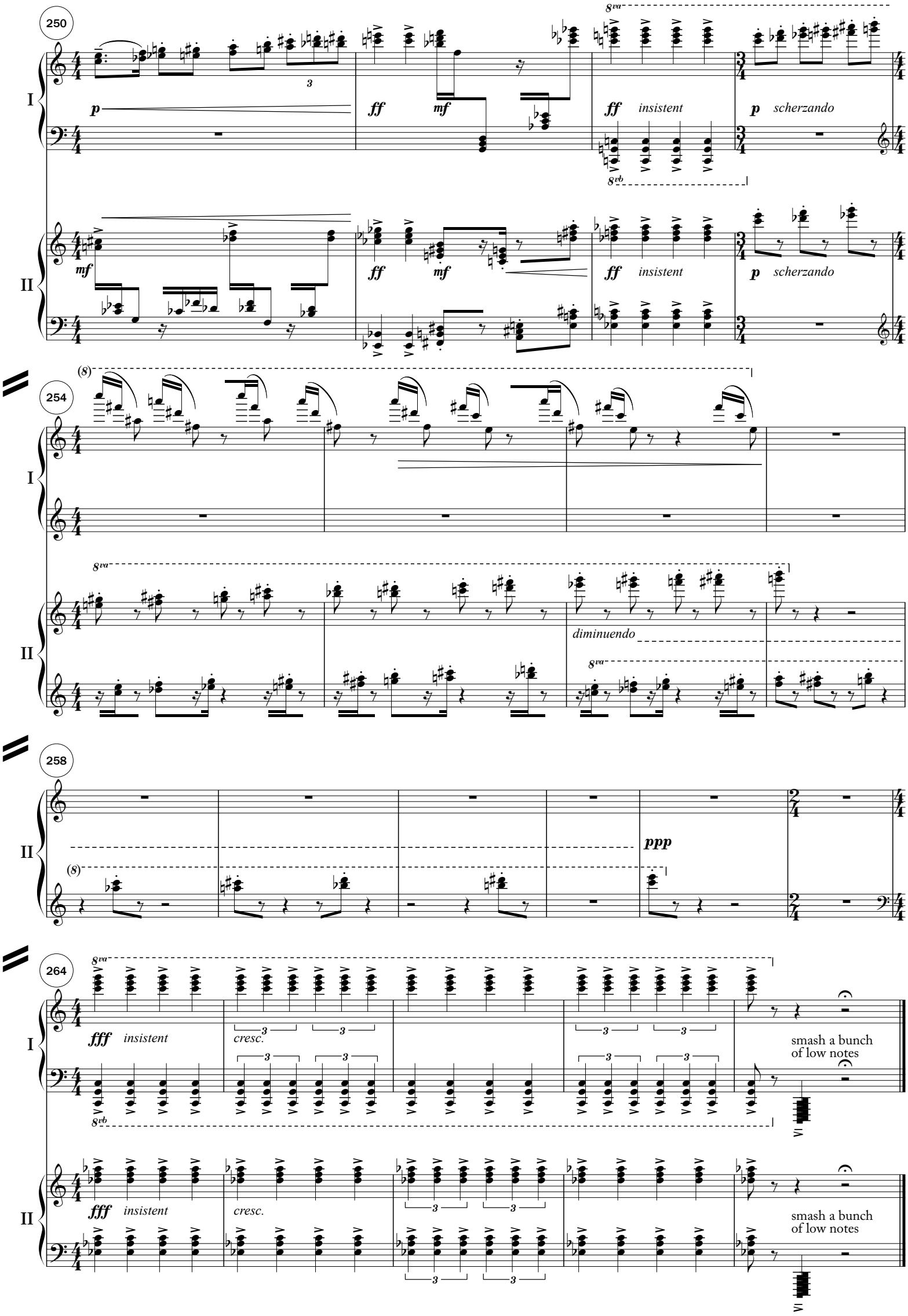
I

8va

II

p


242
8va
I
II
244
(8)
p
247
mp
f
mf


250
I
II
p
ff
mf
ff insistent
p scherzando
8va
8vb
254
(8)
diminuendo
258
ppp
264
fff insistent
cresc.
smash a bunch of low notes