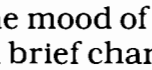
A lenda do caboclo

The word *caboclo* (kah-BO-kloo) in Portuguese has several meanings, the most common being "a man of mixed Indian and Portuguese ancestry." The way of life of *Caboclos* in northern Brazil with the intense tropical heat is portrayed by Villa-Lobos by a slow-moving tempo marked *Moderato e muito dolente* (moderato and very melancholy). In such a climate, haste is to be avoided at all costs and unnecessary activities are to be postponed.

The two principal elements in the piece are the slow-moving rhythmic pattern beginning with the dotted quarter note () and a lyrical melody of great beauty expressing the mood of resignation and melancholy. At measure 27 the tempo picks up and there is a brief change (six measures) from simple to compound duple meter. The opening theme returns in measure 57. The most important elements in performance are a good choice of tempo and balancing the sounds of the melody and accompaniment.

Recommended practice procedure:

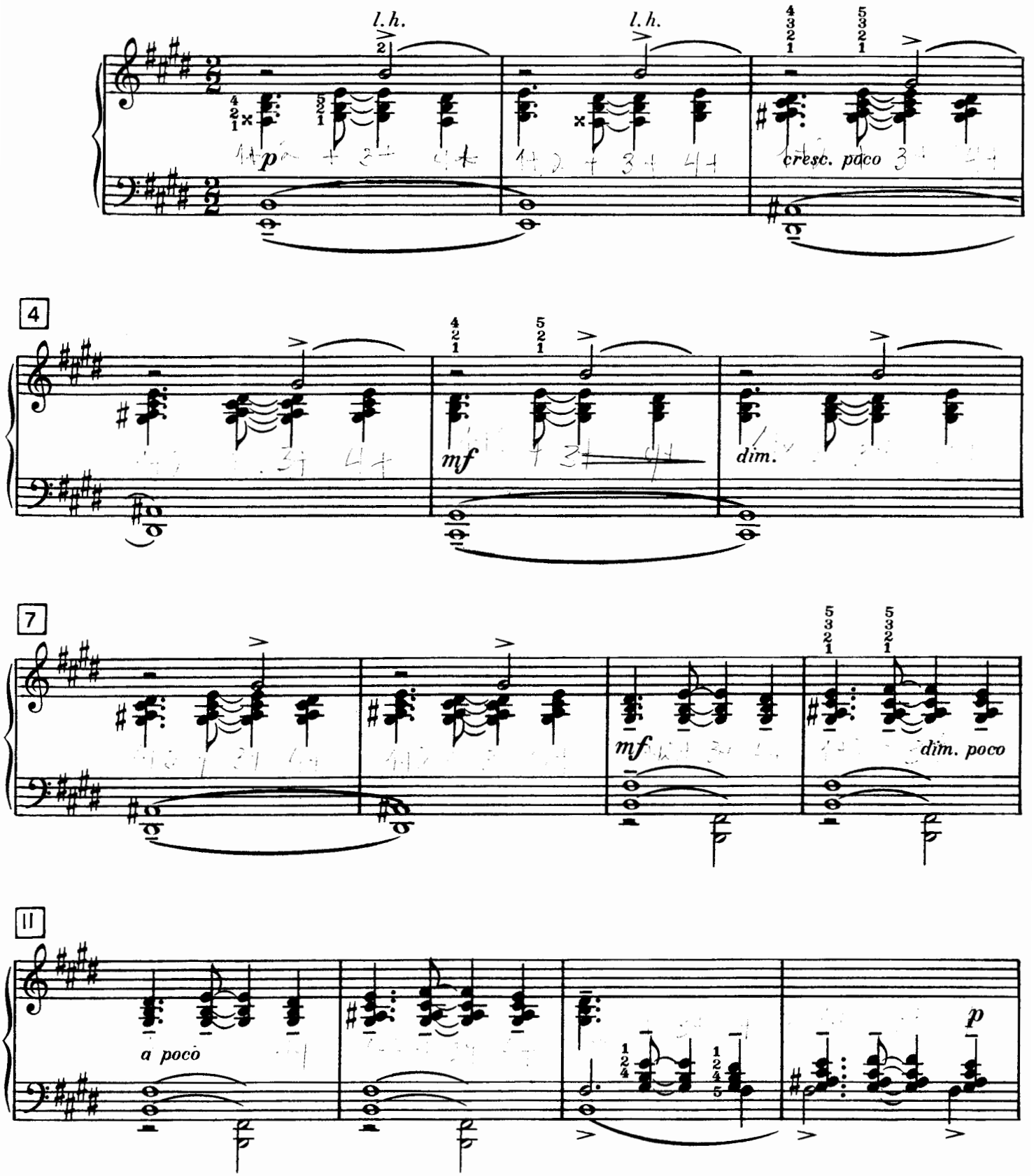
1. Practice measures 1–4, omitting the soprano voice on the third beat in each measure. Chord changes must be made quietly and very softly in order to maintain a gently rocking motion in duple meter. By omitting the third beat in the soprano, the initial practice can be done with very little pedal. Once the soprano is added, also add the pedal in order to sustain the bass notes.
2. From measure 11 to the second beat of measure 17, specifically practice the chord change from right to left hand until the ear cannot distinguish the change from one hand to the other. Once this is done, bring in the melody (measure 15) in the right hand with a rich, lyrical sound.
3. Practice measures 15–17 observing the three distinctive moods of the bass, middle voice, and soprano melody. The soprano melody is stressed, but must sound relaxed and flowing. The middle voice continues the ostinato while the accented bass has a different rhythmic pattern. Rhythmic layers of sound are a familiar element to the Villa-Lobos enthusiast.

to Arthur Ibere Lemos

A lenda do caboclo

Heitor Villa-Lobos

Moderato e muito (molto) dolente



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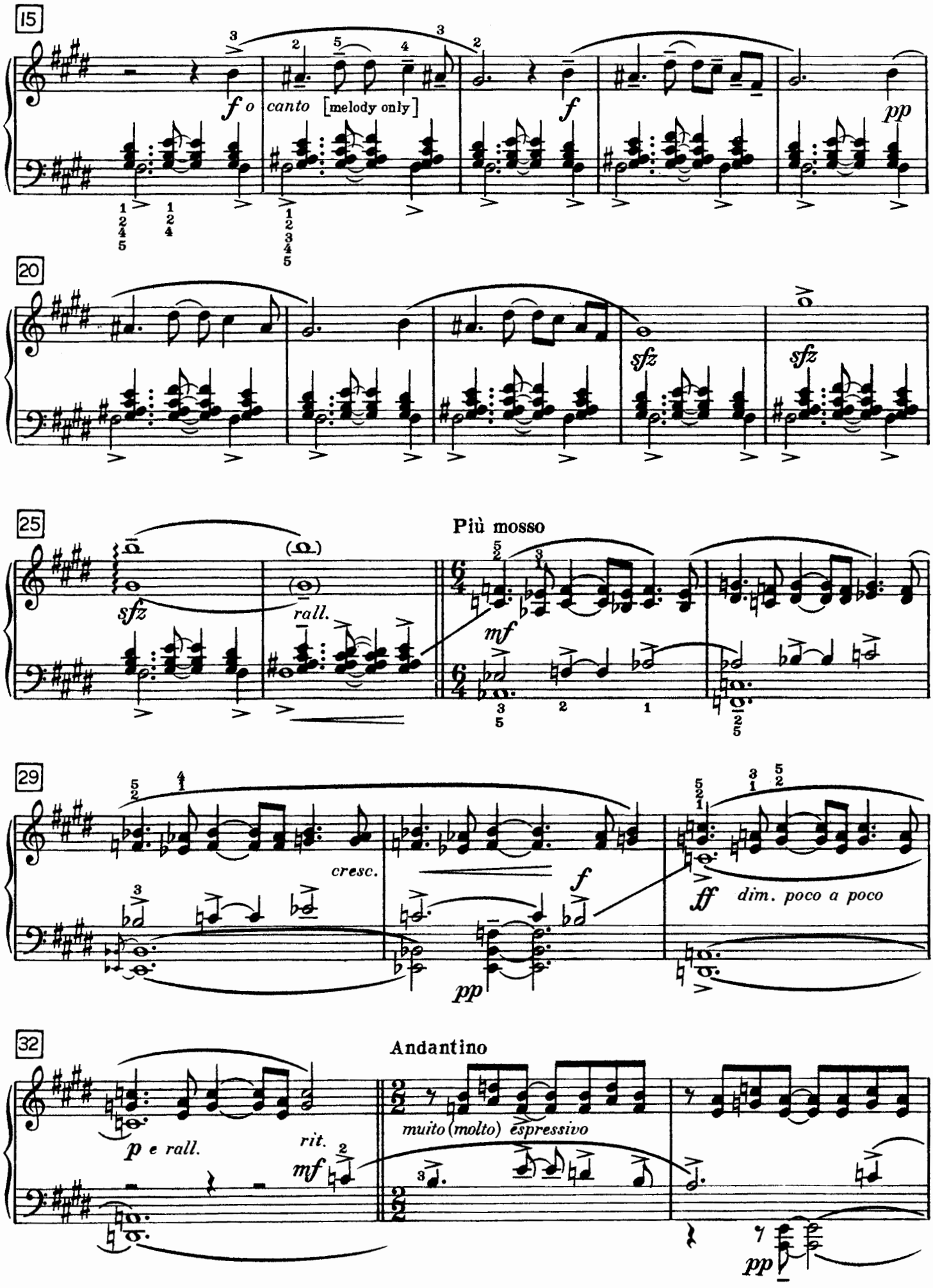
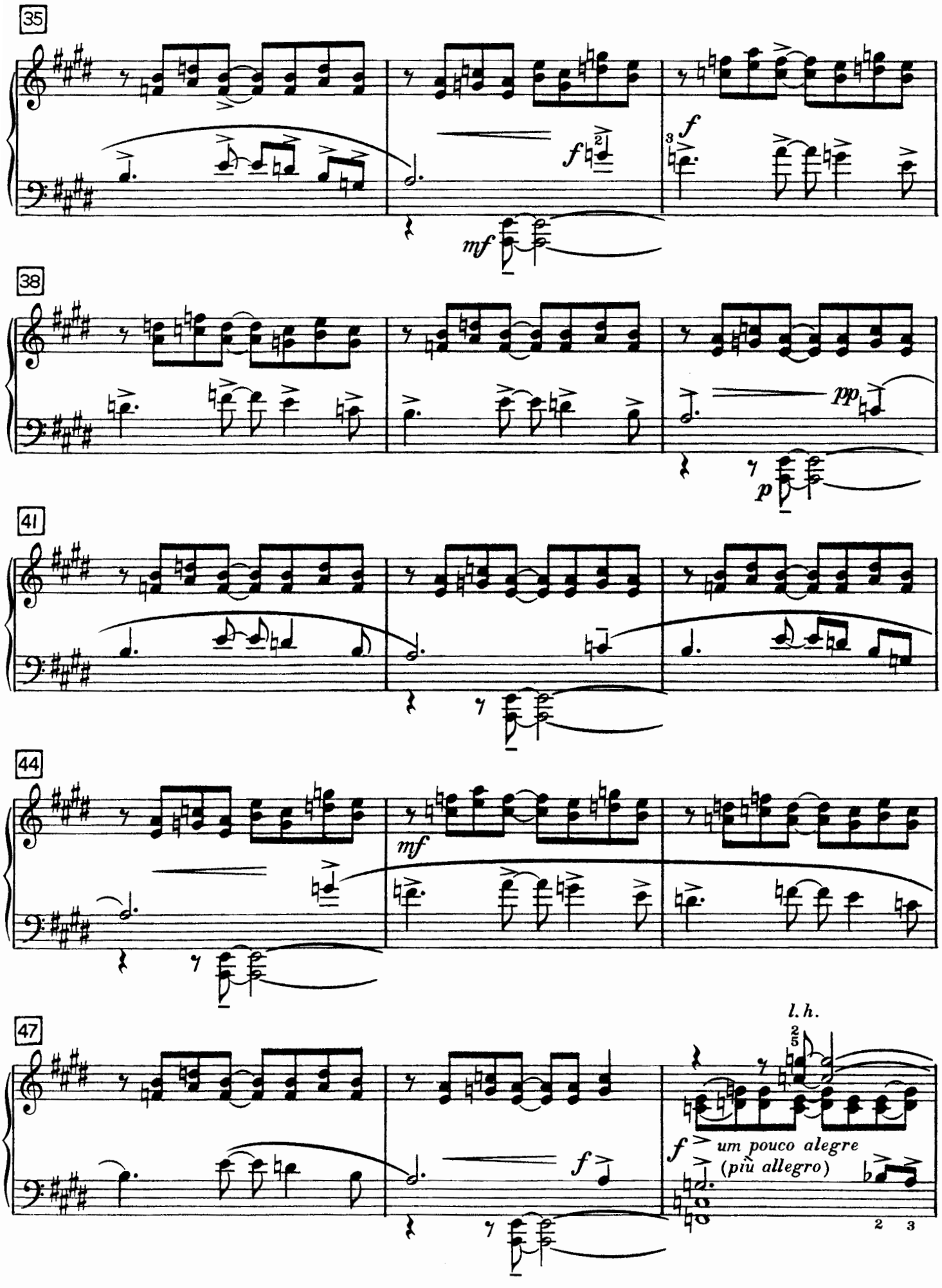
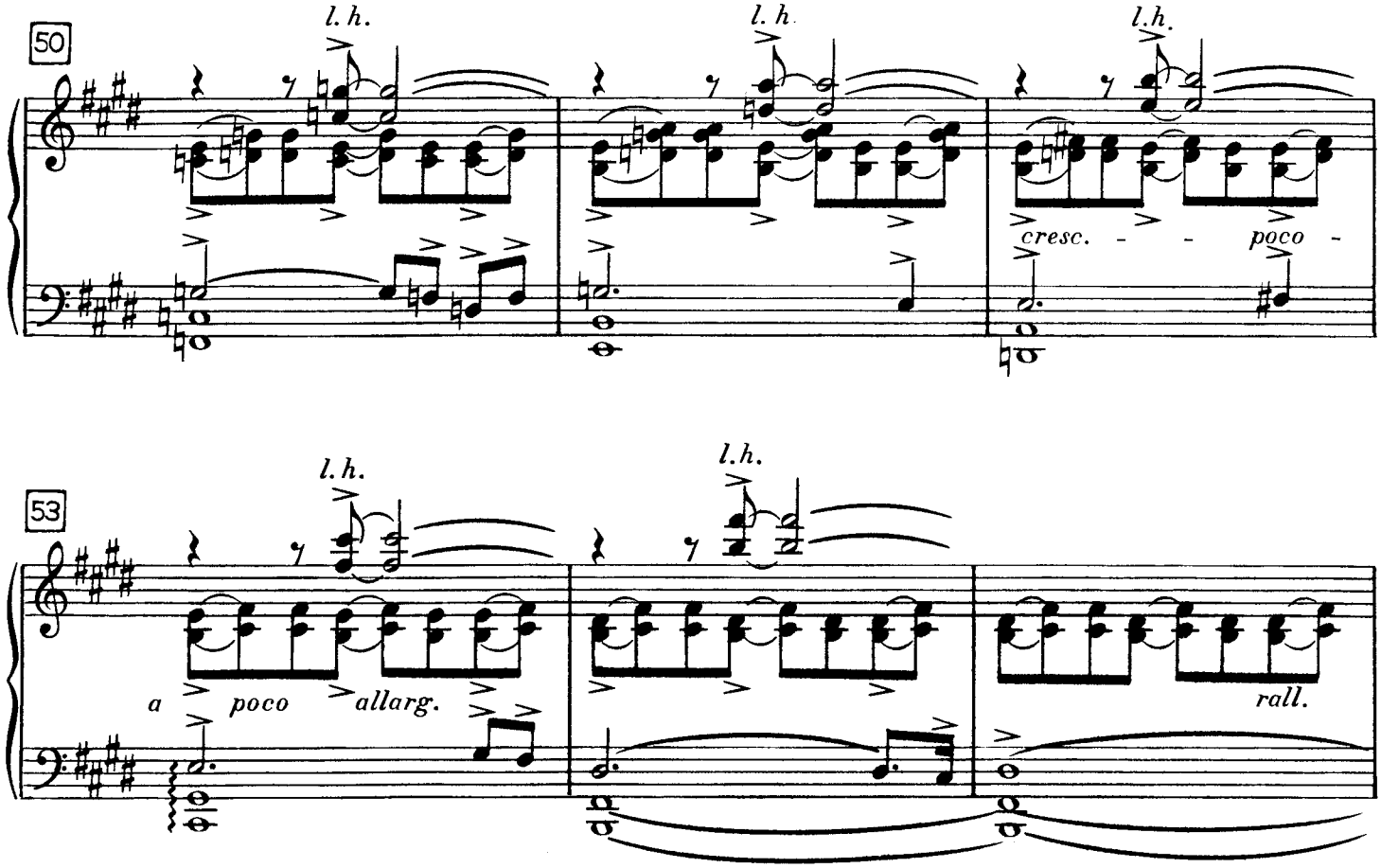
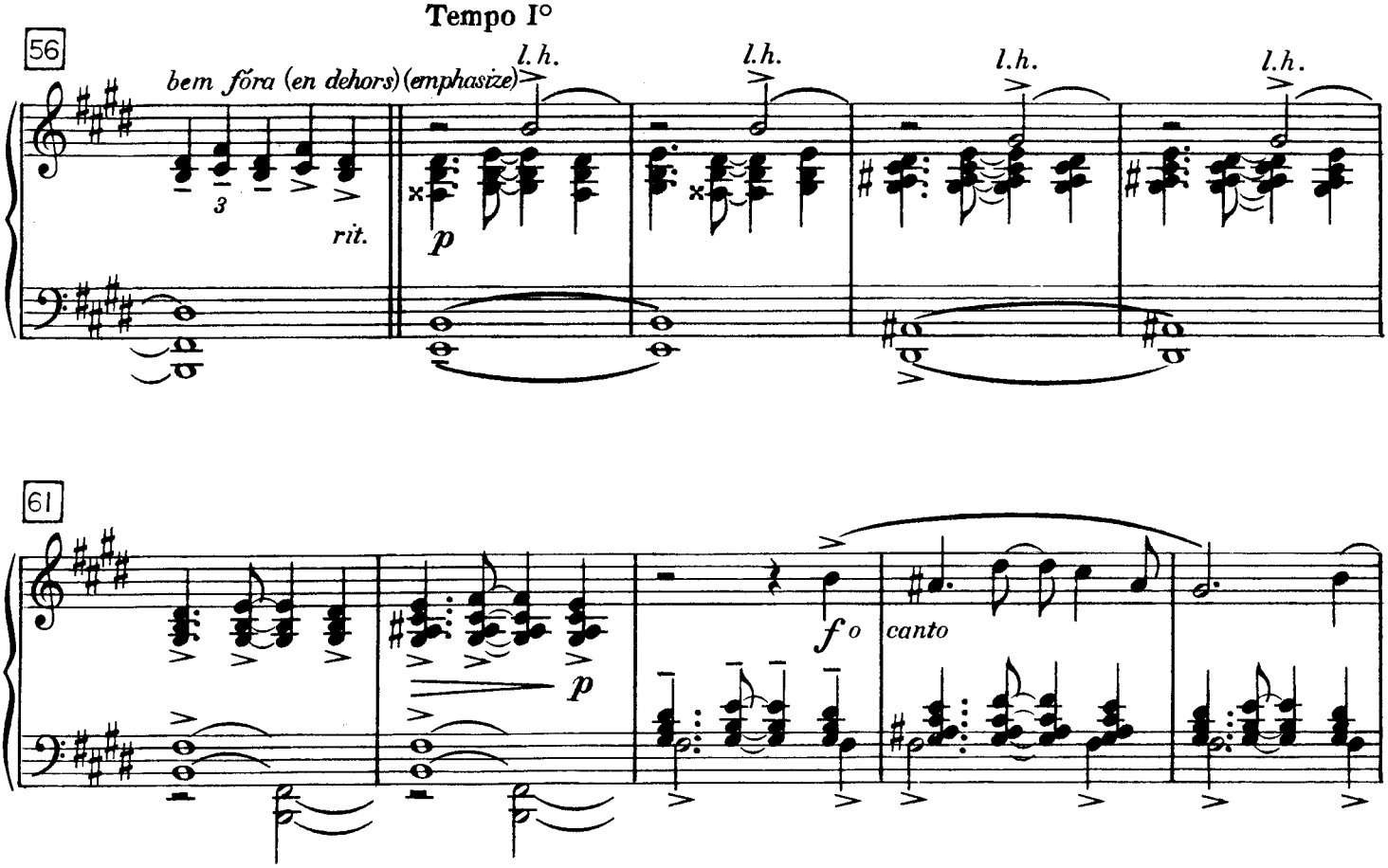
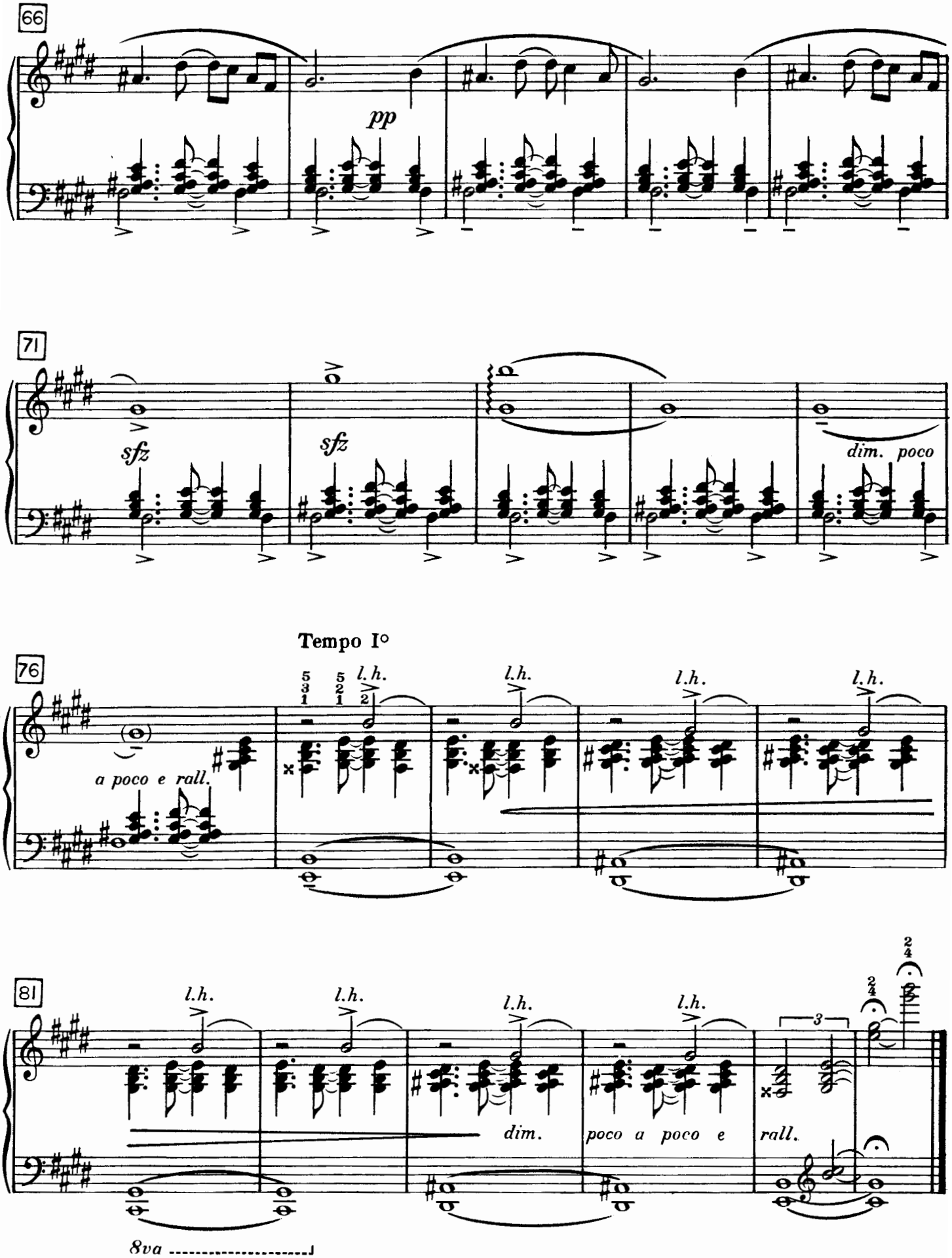

15
f o canto [melody only]
f
pp
20
sfz
sfz
25
sfz
(o.)
rall.
Più mosso
mf
29
cresc.
f
pp
ff dim. poco a poco
32
Andantino
p e rall.
rit.
mf
muito (molto) espressivo
pp


35
f
mf
38
pp
p
41
44
mf
47
f
l.h.
f um pouco alegre
(più allegro)


50
l. h.
l. h.
l. h.
cresc. - - poco -
53
l. h.
l. h.
a poco allarg.
rall.


Tempo I°
56
bem fóra (en dehors) (emphasize)
l. h.
l. h.
l. h.
l. h.
3
rit.
p
61
p
f o
canto


66
pp
71
sfz
sfz
dim. poco
Tempo I°
76
a poco e rall.
l.h.
l.h.
l.h.
l.h.
81
l.h.
l.h.
l.h.
l.h.
dim.
poco a poco e
rall.
8va