Mikhail Alperin

15 piano pieces

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Norges musikkhøgskole
Norwegian Academy
of Music

Mikhail Alperin

15 piano pieces

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Introduction

This book contains a collection of compositions for the piano written by Mikhail Alperin. Alperin was an outstanding musician, a professor of music at the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo, a unique jazz pianist, the recipient of the prestigious Edvard Grieg prize, and a prolific recording artist on the ECM label. He was one of the only Soviet-born jazz musicians who enjoyed a truly successful international career.

Unfortunately, this music is being published at a time when Mikhail (Misha) is no longer with us. He had always dreamed of seeing his music in print, since his fellow colleagues and students often expressed a desire to play his music. Misha never put his compositions “on paper” as complete pieces. Instead, he made some brief sketches which outline the main ideas, thereby reserving the right to play this or that piece in a different way each time. As such, we faced a very challenging task of transcribing his compositions using audio and video recordings, trying to make the transcriptions as accurate as possible.

Throughout his career, Misha worked to eliminate the boundaries between different musical genres - classical, jazz, folk, and improvised music - and created his own musical language - unique and inimitable. Simplicity and clarity of musical intention and presentation were crucial for Misha, as was his constant openness to new ideas. We hope this publication will encourage many musicians to delve more deeply into the world of their own musical imagery and serve as a good example of the search for one’s own individuality and uniqueness.

Evelina Petrova

Этот альбом - компиляция композиций для рояля выдающегося музыканта, пианиста, композитора, профессора Норвежской Академии Музыки в Осло, Михаила Альперина. Лауреат премии Эдварда Грига, артист музыкального лейбла ECM - он один из немногих музыкантов, выходцев из бывшего СССР, которому удалось сделать успешную карьеру как на европейской, так и на мировой сцене.

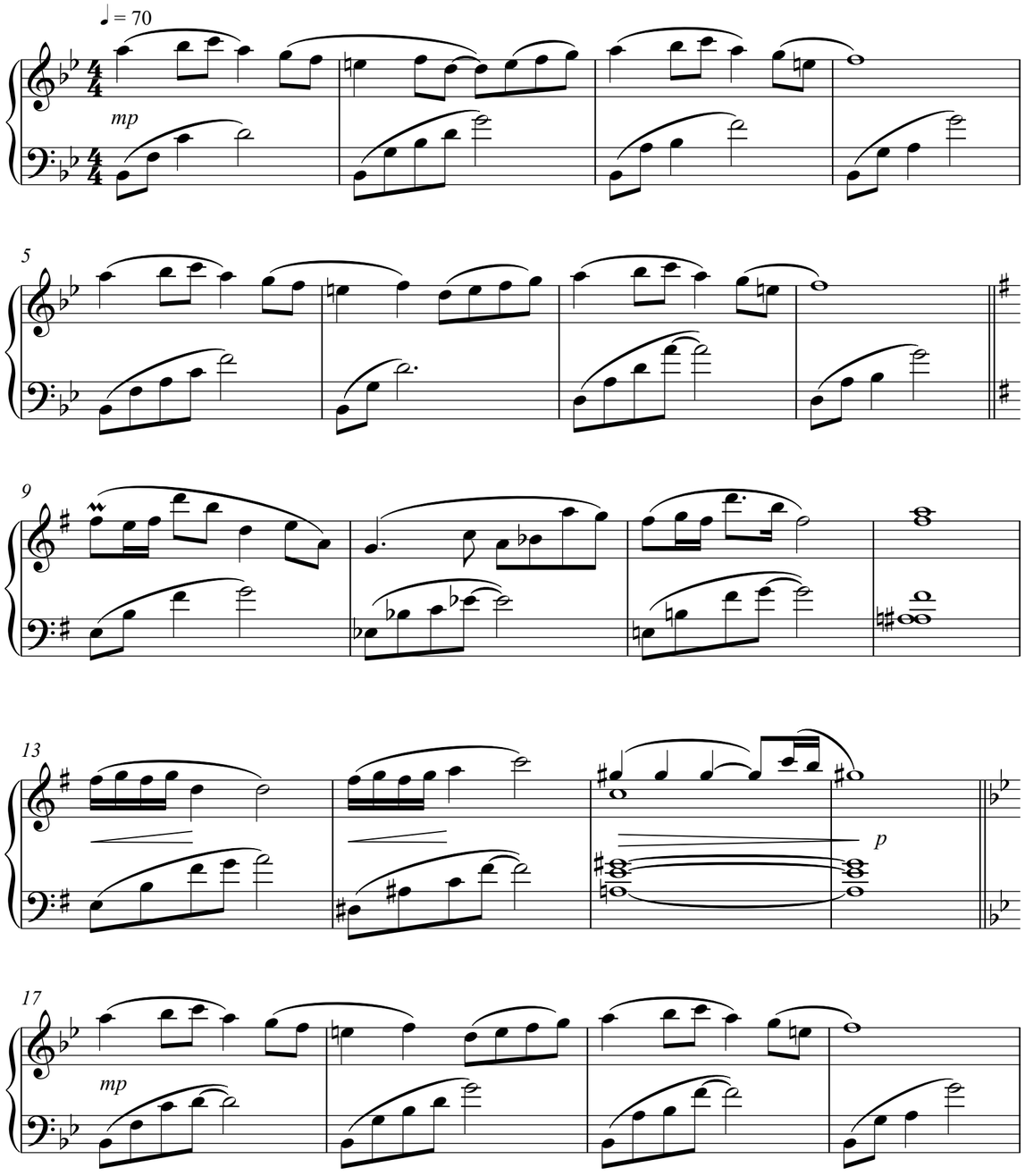
К сожалению, этот альбом выходит после его ухода из этого мира. Михаил (Миша) всегда мечтал о сборнике своих пьес, так как нередко слышал от коллег-музыкантов и студентов о желании играть его музыку. Миша никогда не записывал свои композиции на ноты, за исключением небольших коротких заметок. Он предпочитал не втискивать музыку в рамки нот, но как бы творить её каждый раз заново. Поэтому предстояла большая работа по транскрипции его произведений с аудио и видео носителей.

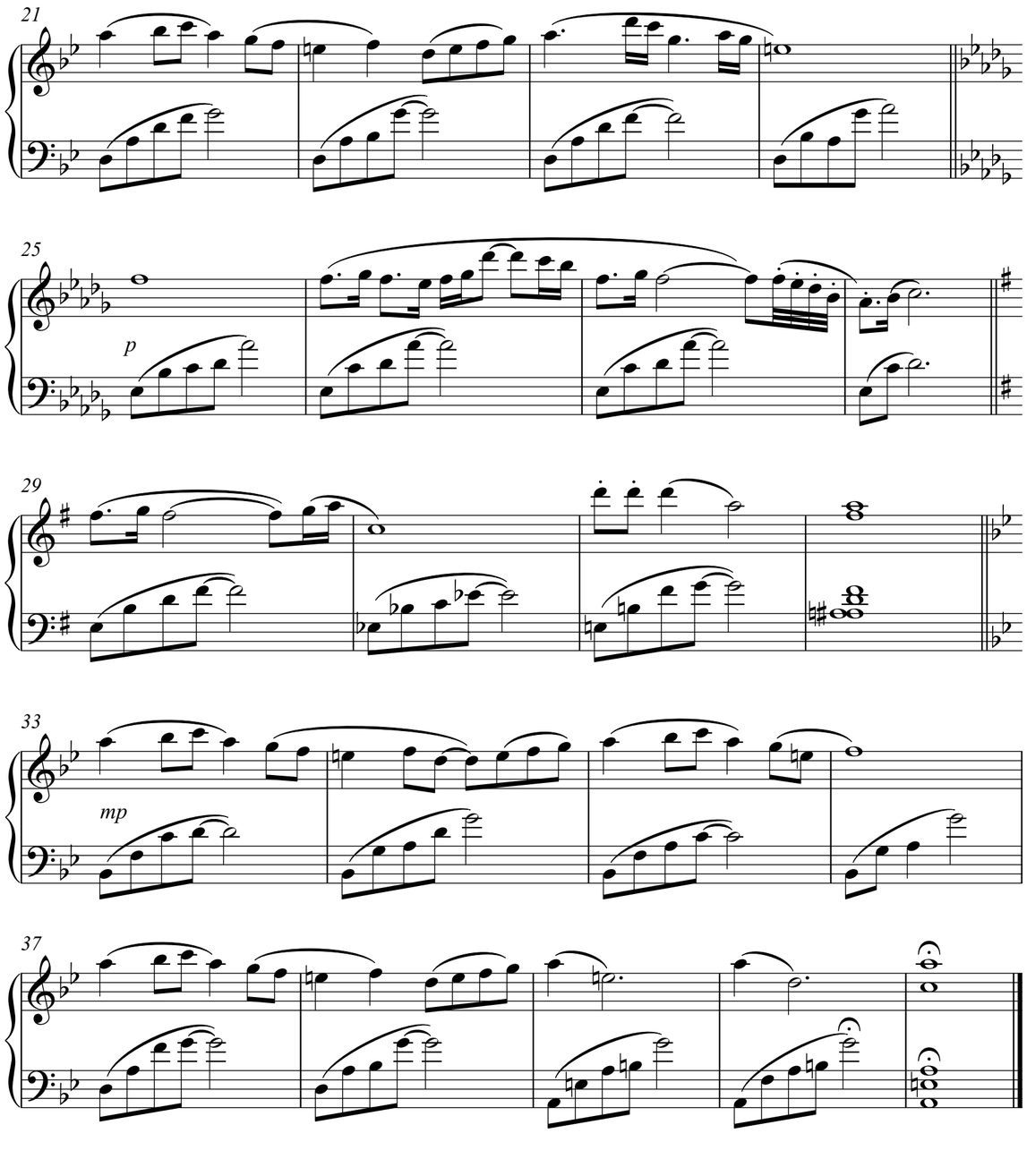
Всю свою творческую жизнь Миша стремился стереть границы между жанрами, между академической музыкой и фольклором, между импровизацией и камерной музыкой. Заставить все звучать как новый язык, не имеющий границ. Простота изложения была главной его особенностью. Он свободно относился к музыкальному материалу и был всегда открыт новым идеям. Надеемся, этот сборник будет не только поводом для многих музыкантов углубиться в свой внутренний источник фантазий и воображения, но и послужит примером поиска своей собственной индивидуальности и уникальности.

Эвелина Петрова

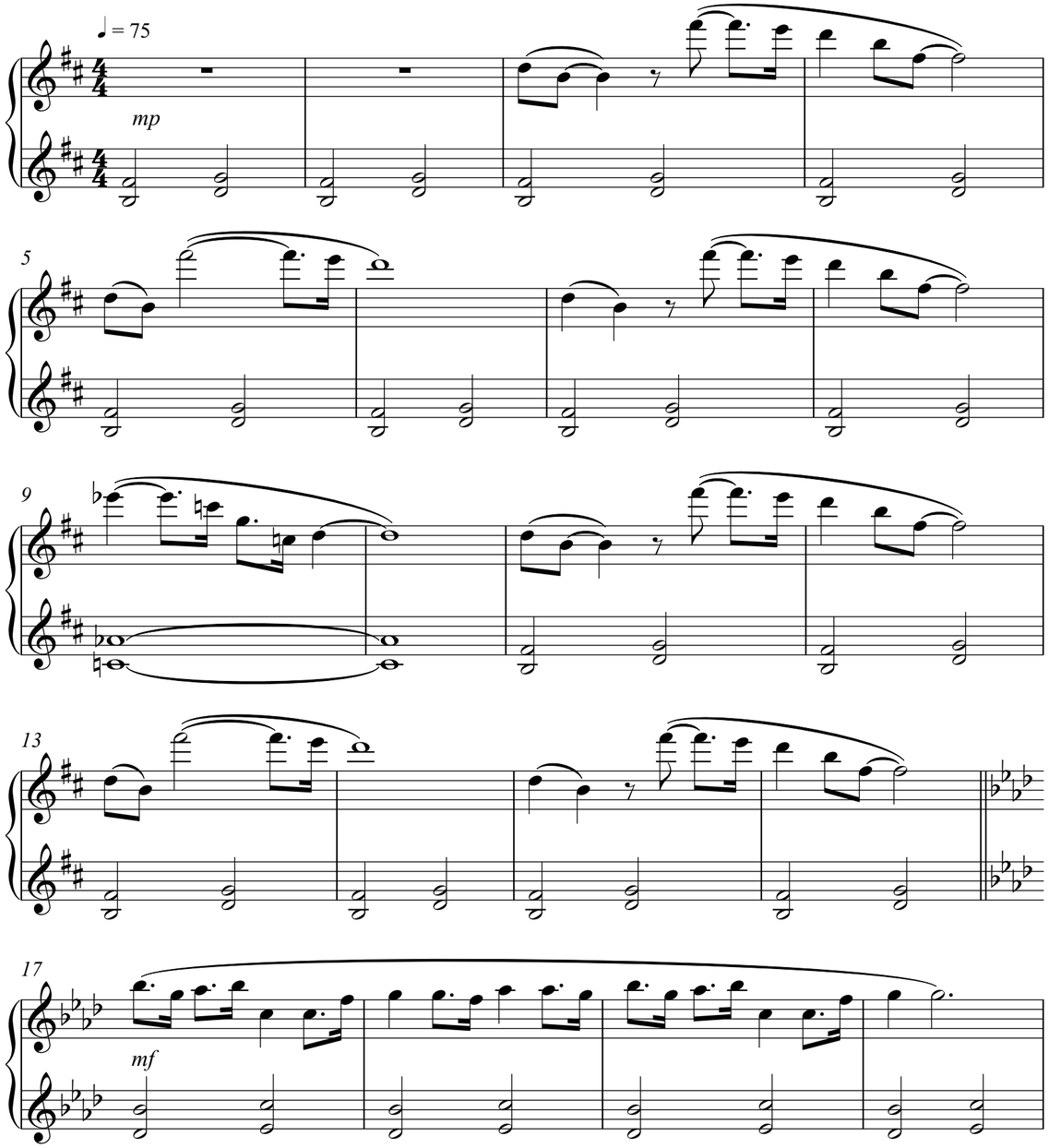
Music

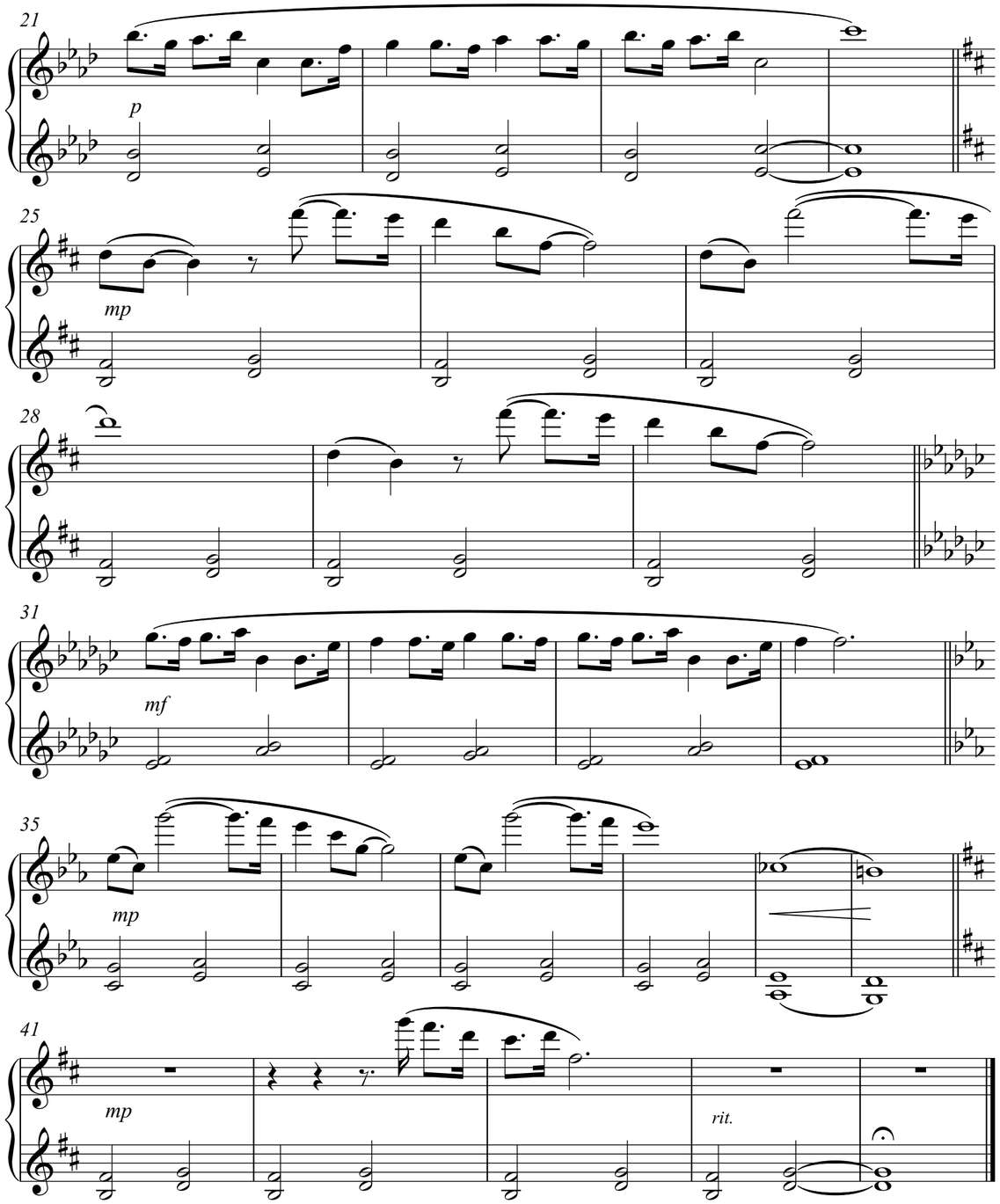
At home





April in February





Jeg er norsk i dag

♩ = 82

metronome

5 *play together with metronome*

mf

whistle in the unison with melody 8 bars

8va

9

13

(8)

16

(8)

20

f

23

mf

26

whistle in the unison with melody 8 bars

8va

30

(8)

34

stop the metronome

36

39

41

43

45

f

47

mf

49

51

53

54

56

58

60

62

64

Her first dance

♩ = 60

mp

5

9

13

p

16

19

mp

p

23

mp

p

28

31

34

39

p

44

mp

47

49

mf

53

mp

mf

57

mp

60

mf

p

rit.

Giardino di Boboli

♩ = 108

mp

9

17 *rubato*

21

25

28 *mf*

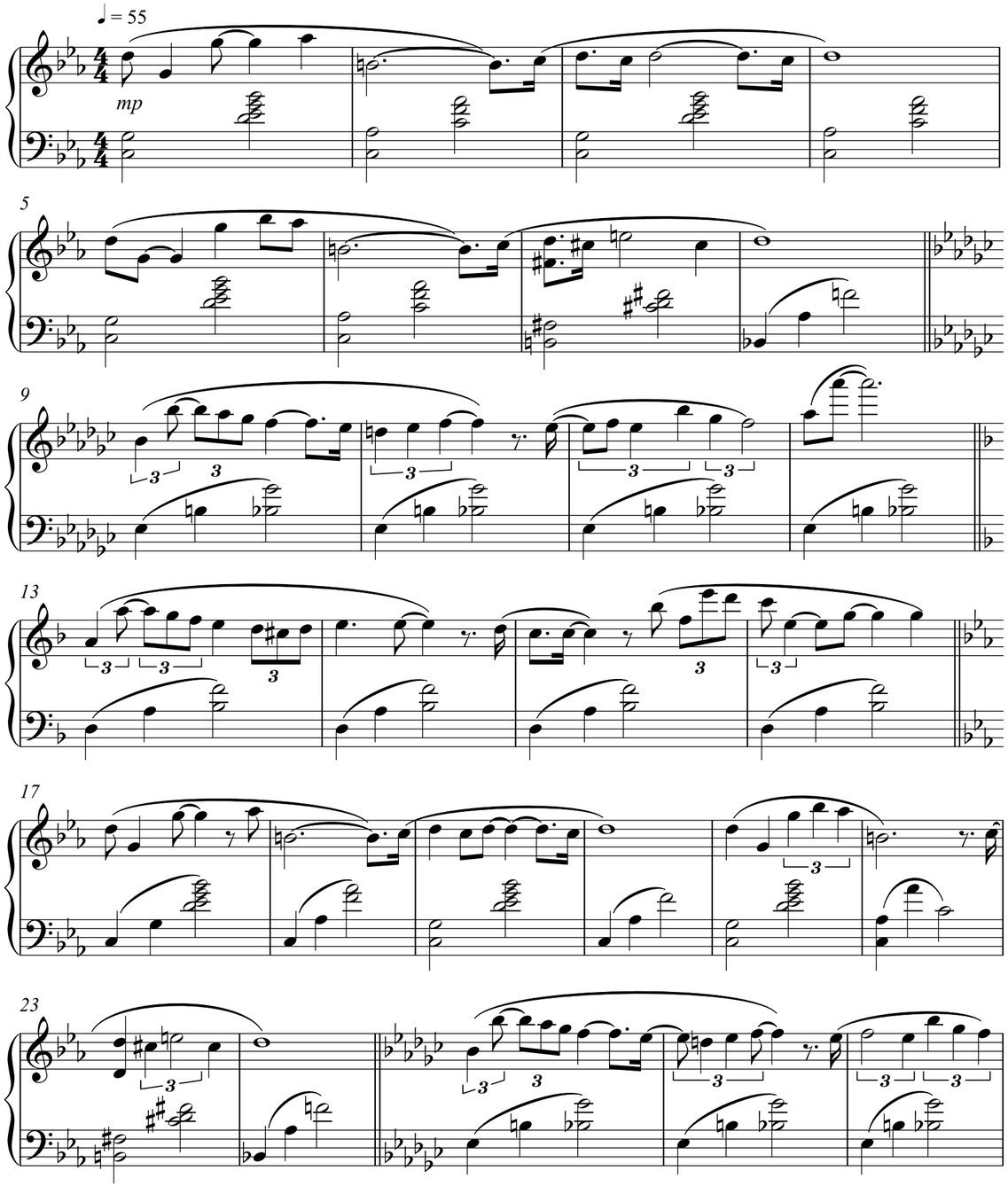
32 *a tempo* *mf*

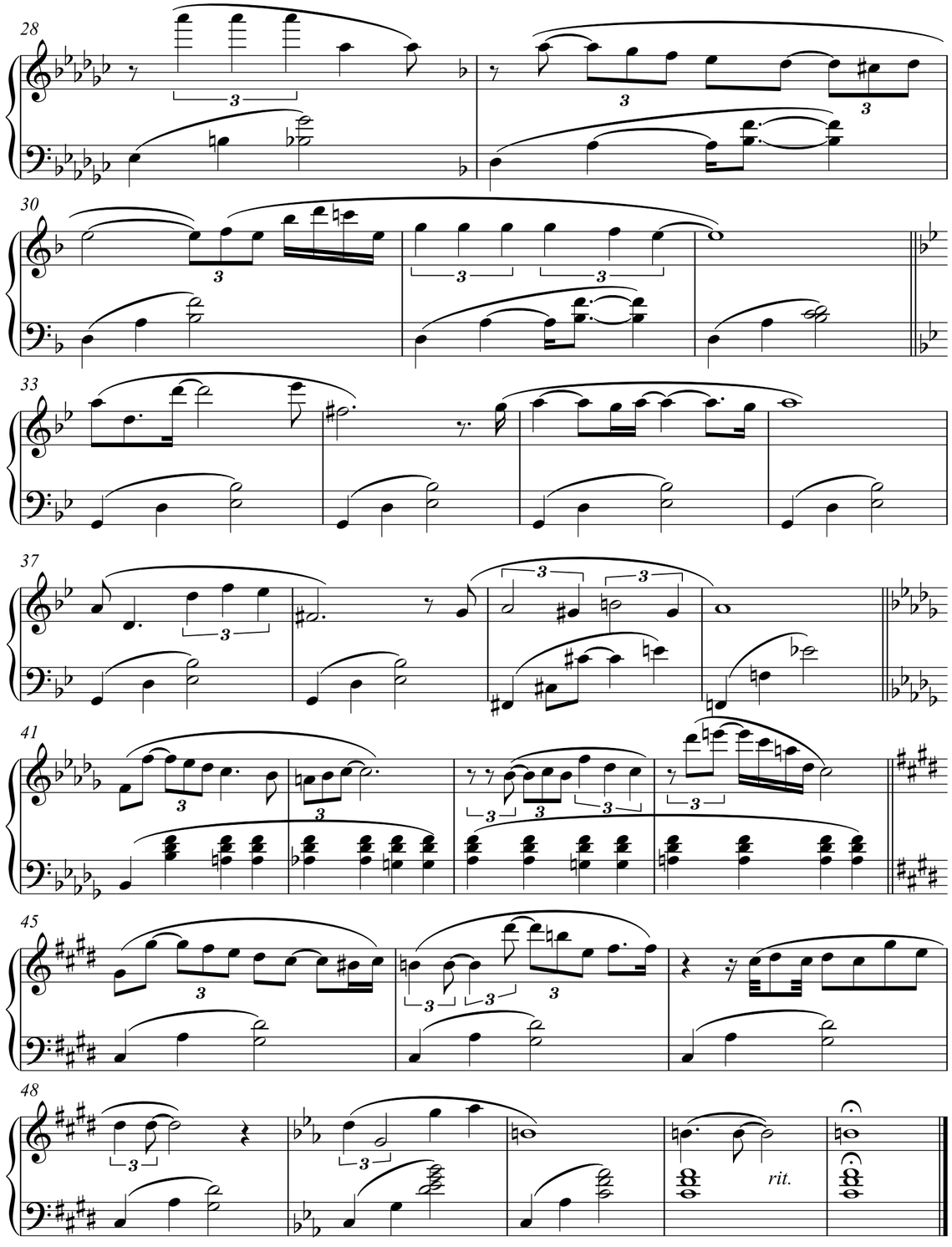
37

41 *dim.*

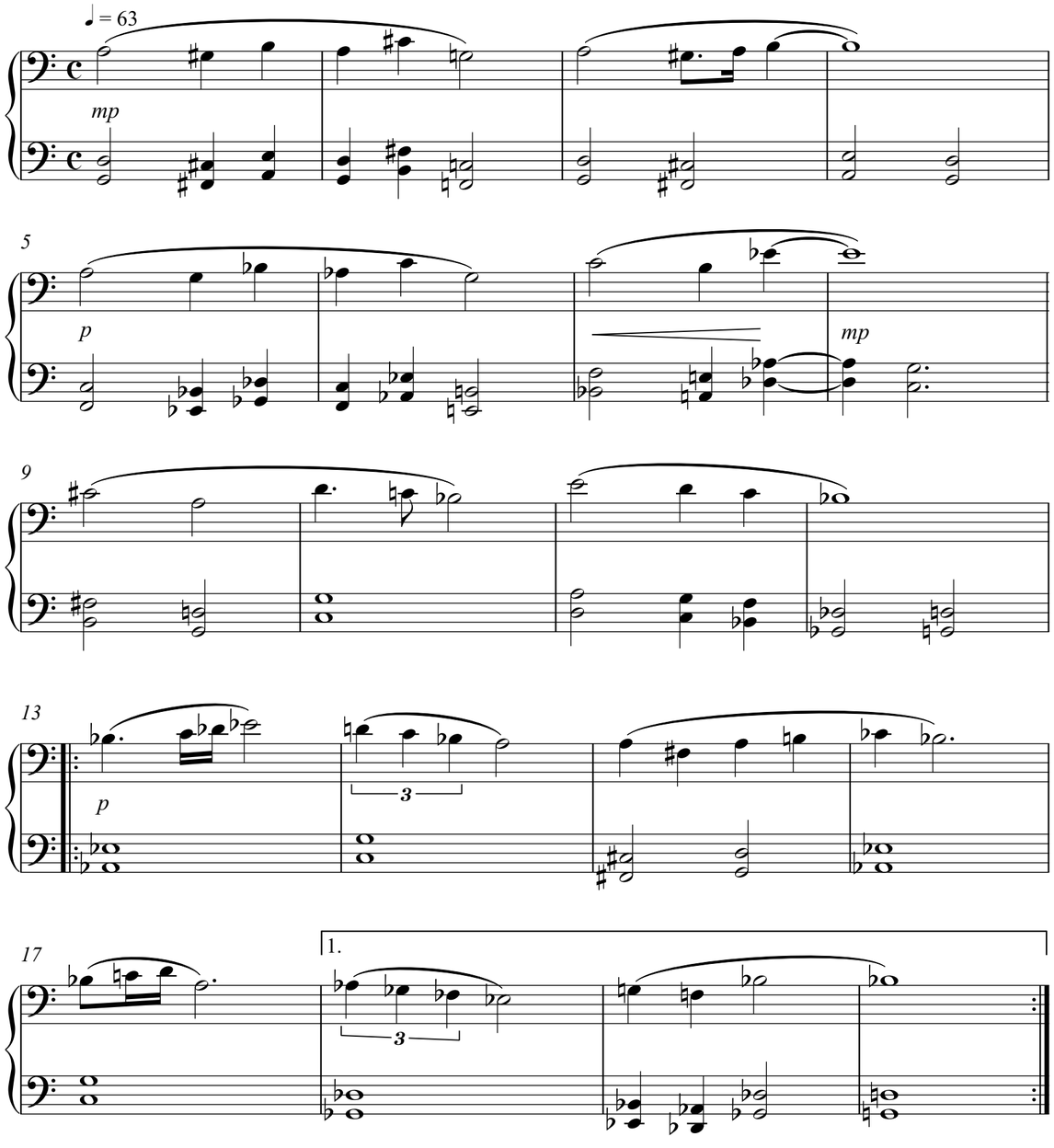
45 *p* *pp*

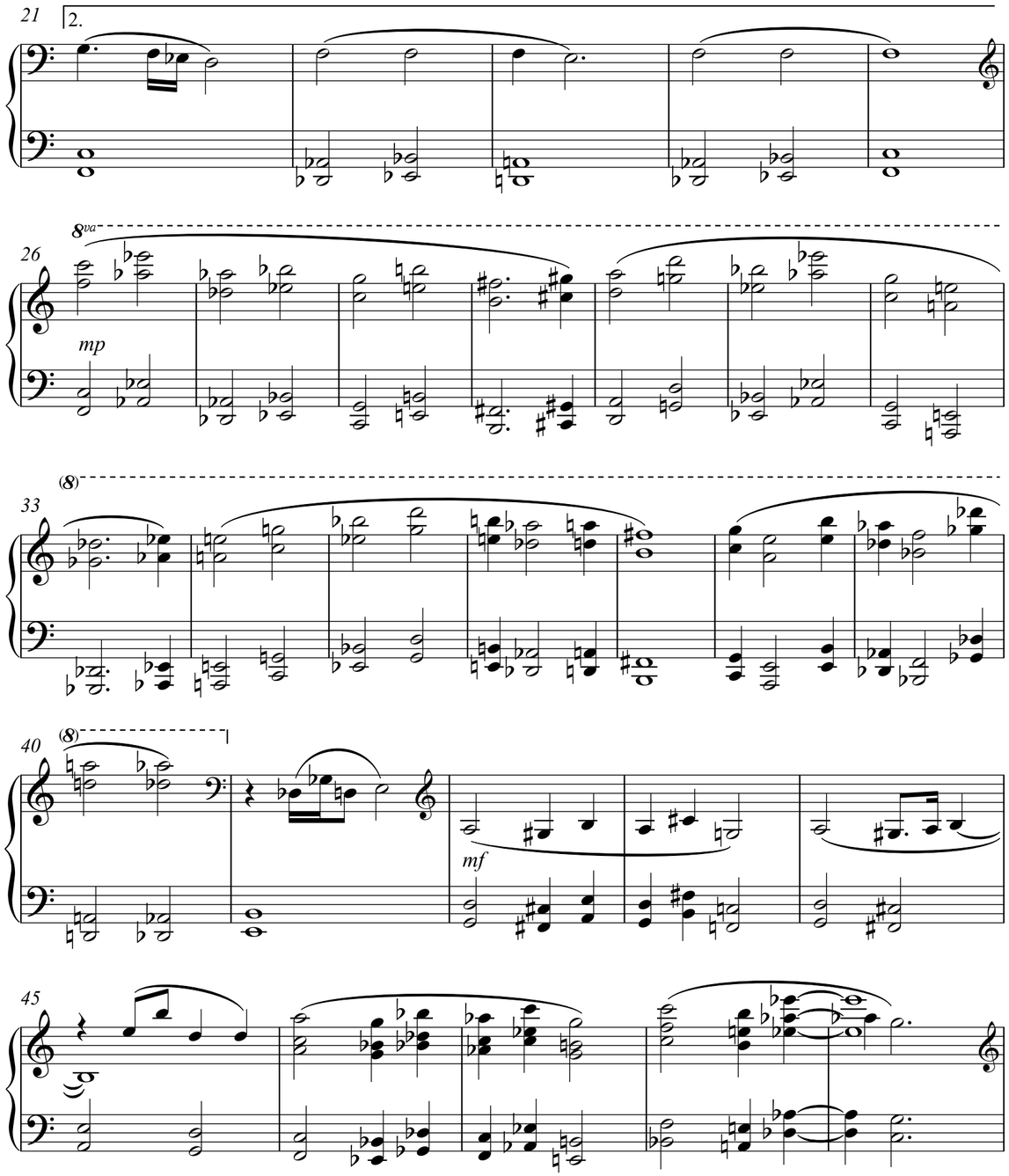
To F. Chopin





Tiflis





50

mp

55

60

p

66

70

mp

pp

76

ppp

Rain

♩. = 40

p

5

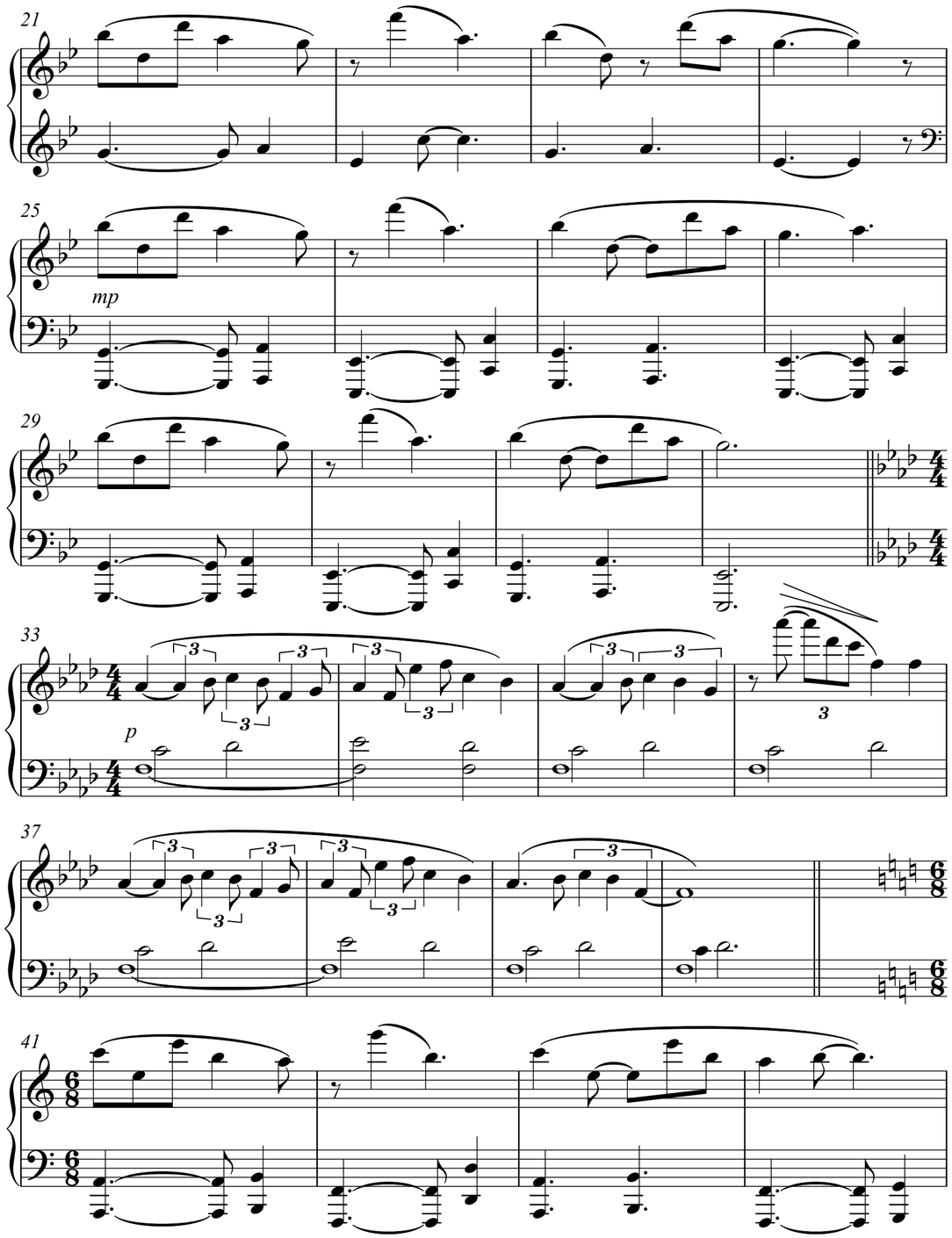
9

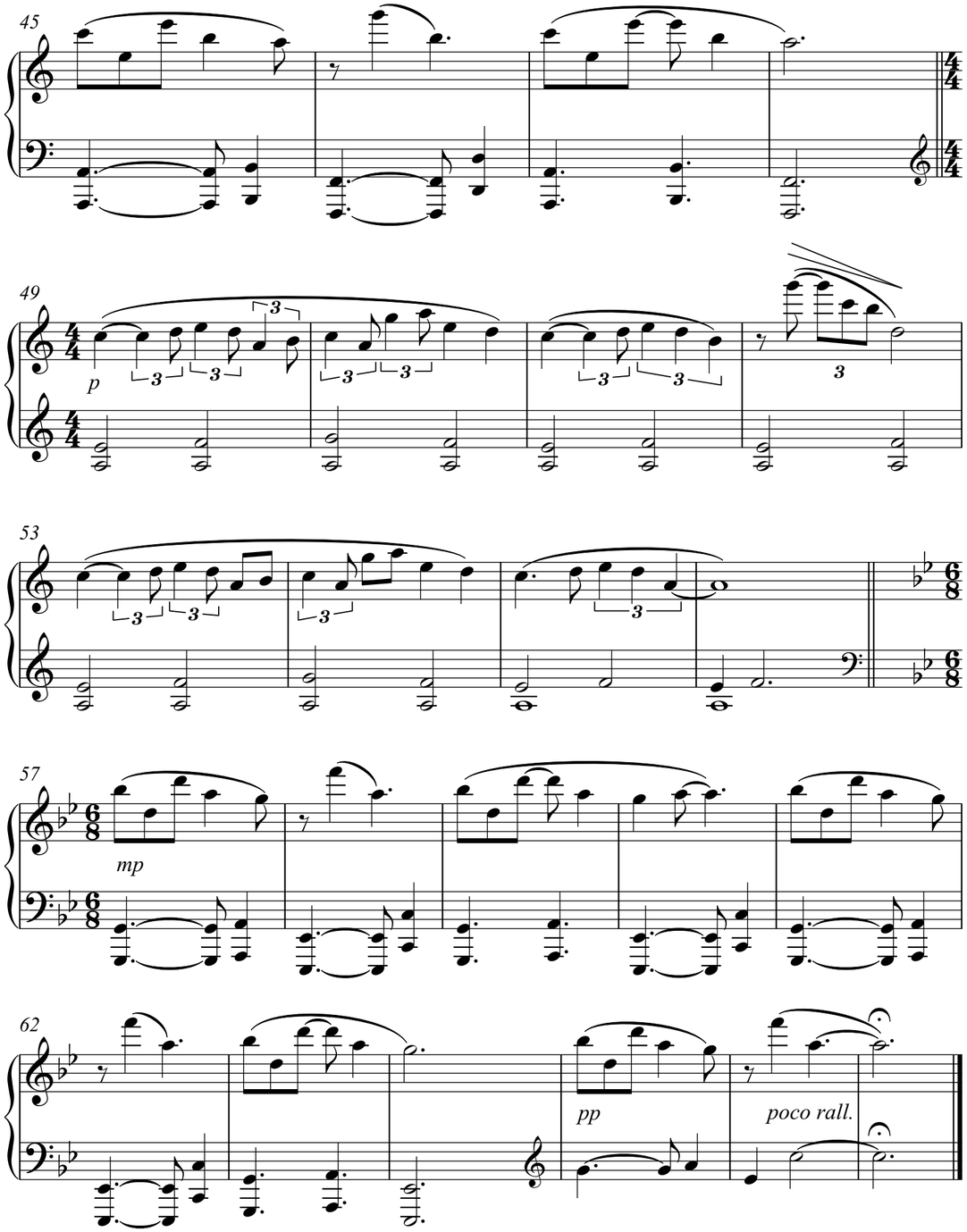
mp

13

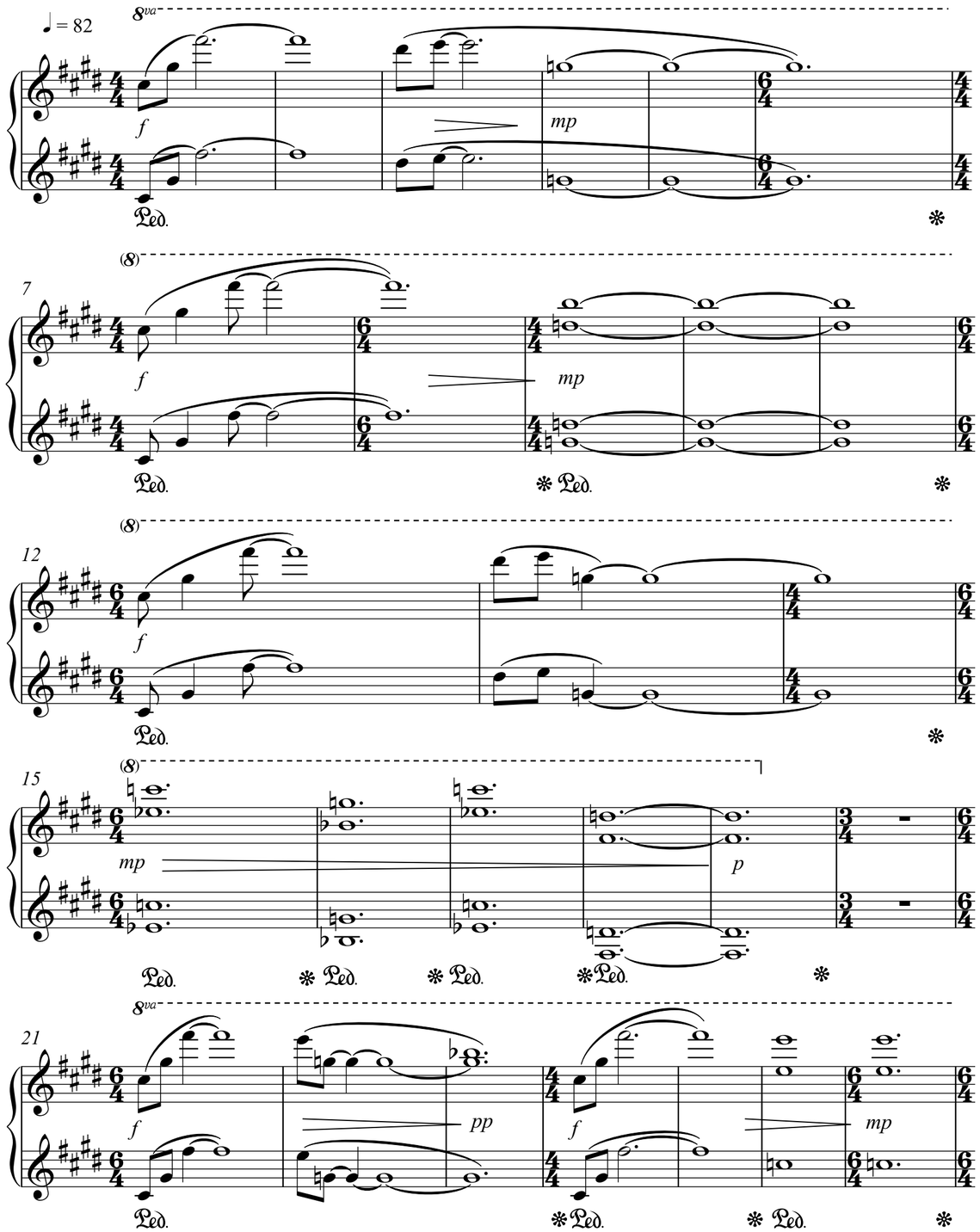
17

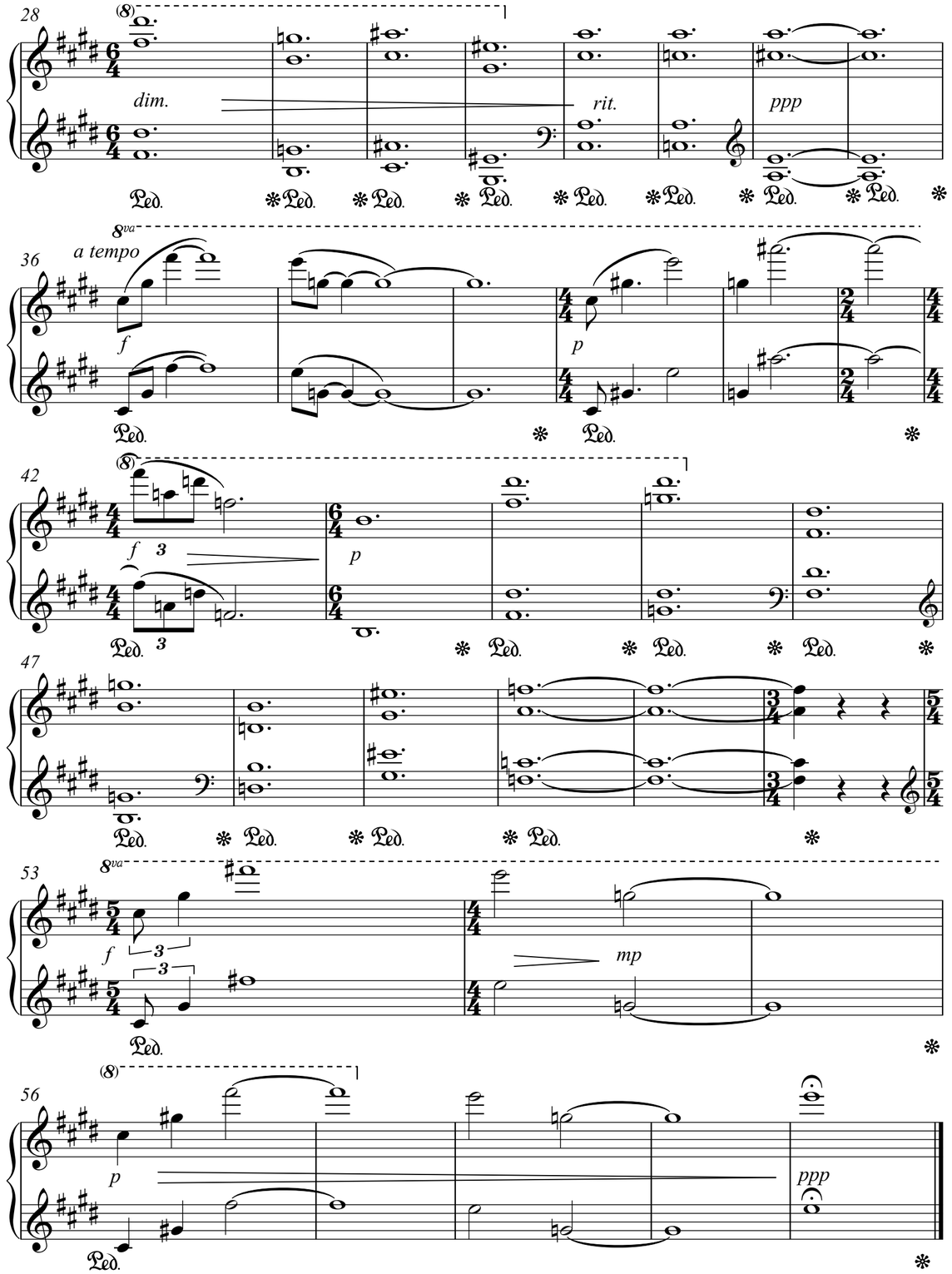
p


21
25
mp
29
33
p
37
41


45
49
p
53
57
mp
62
pp
poco rall.

Shadows


♩ = 82
8va
f
mp
Ped.
7
12
15
p
21
pp


28
dim.
rit.
ppp
36
a tempo
f
p
42
47
53
mp
56
ppp
Ped.

Nostalgia

♩. = 52

mp

6

rit.

a tempo

13

rit.

20

a tempo

25

rit.

a tempo

32

rit.

38

a tempo

45

rit.

a tempo

51

mf

57

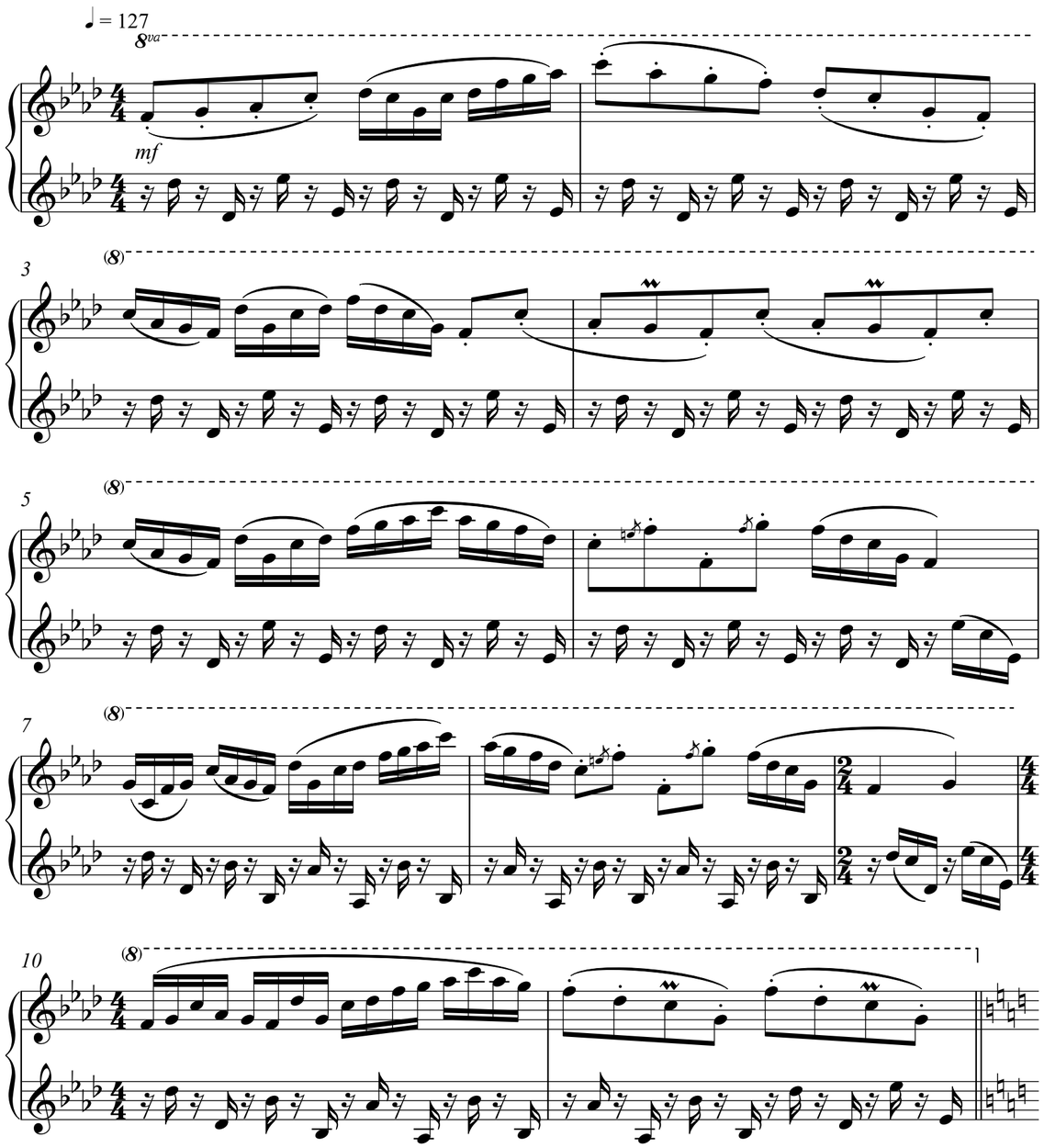
63

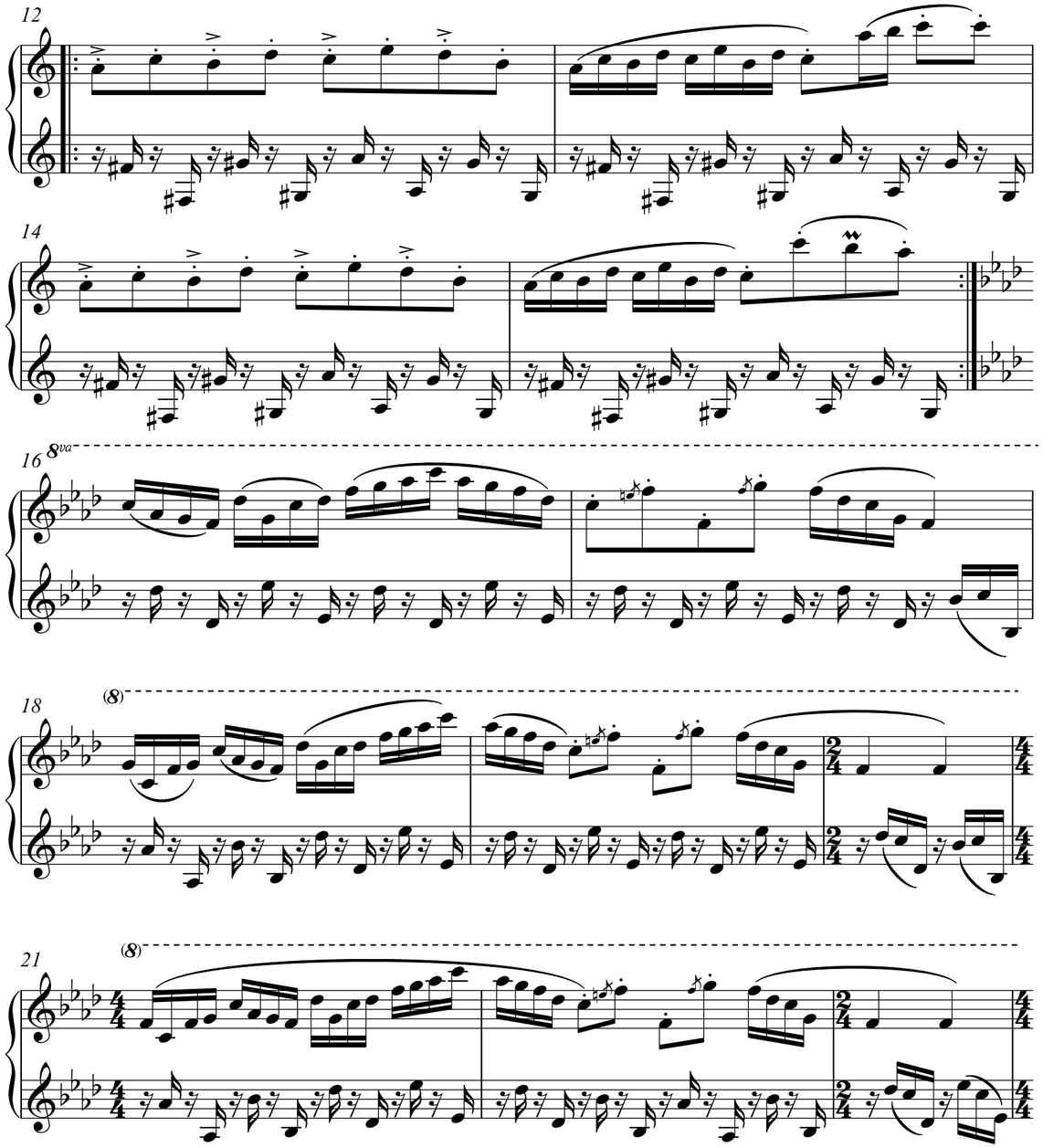
dim.

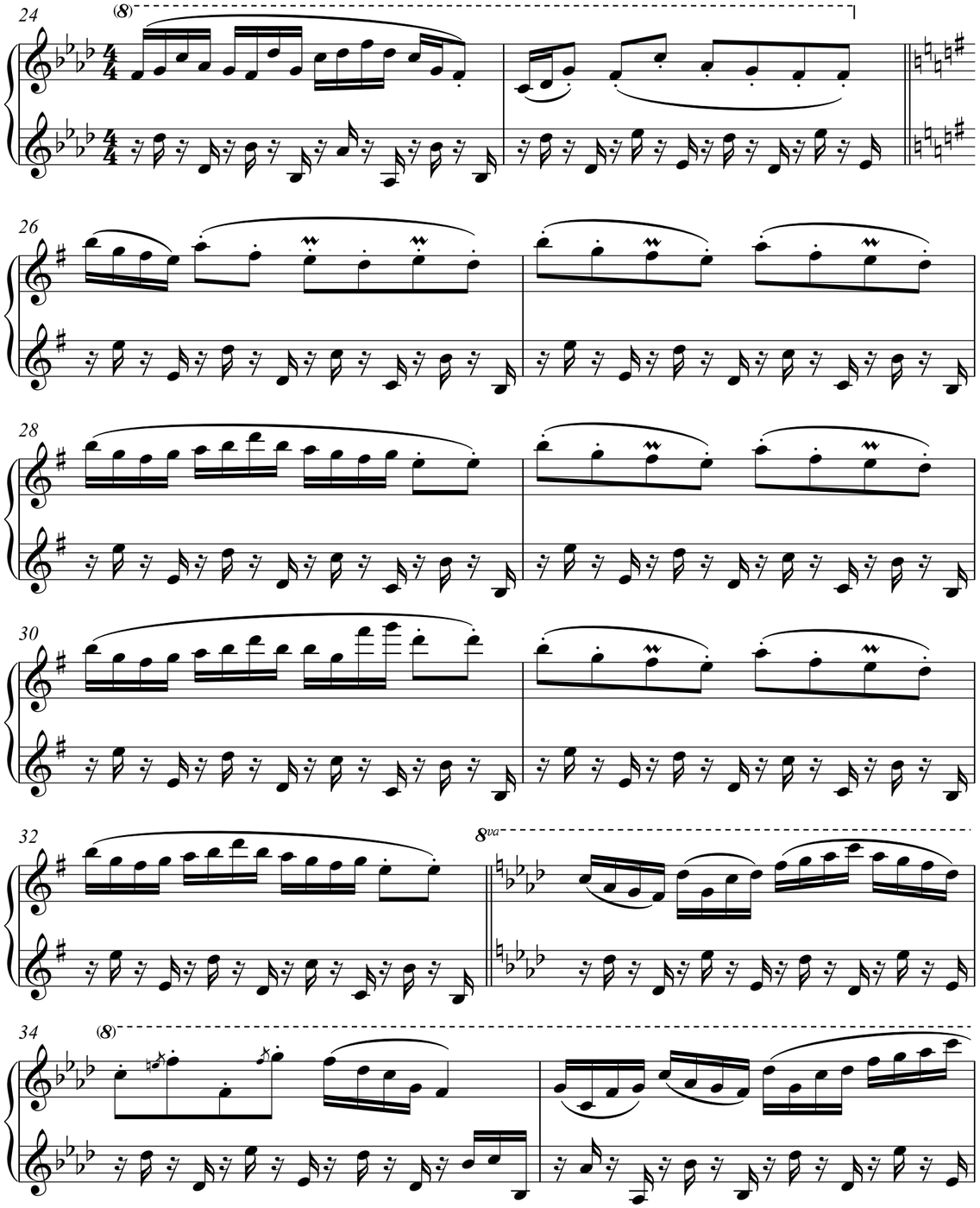
rit.

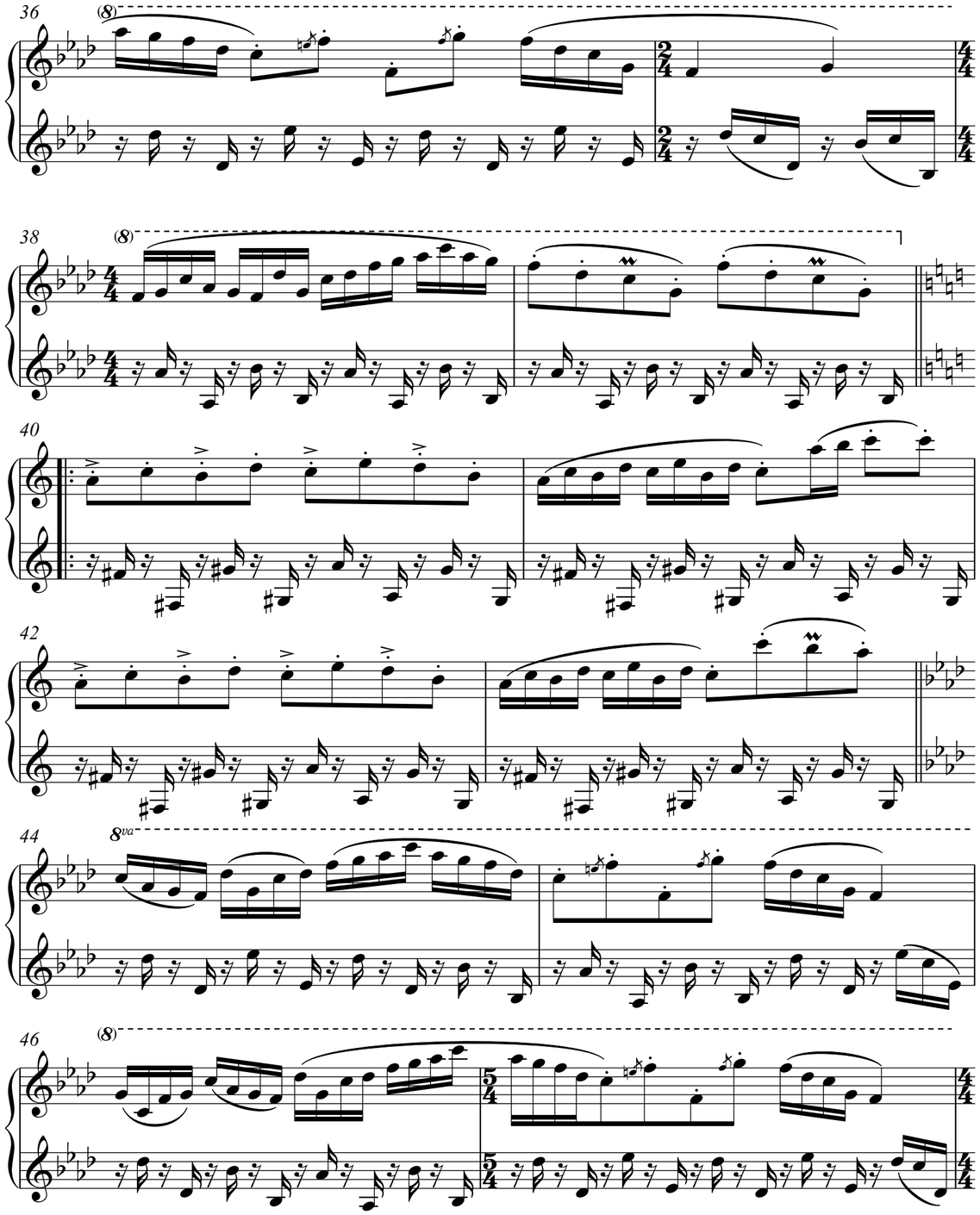
p

Jump






24
(8)
26
28
30
32
8va
34
(8)


36
(8)
38
(8)
40
42
44
8va
46
(8)

48

(8)

50

(8)

52

54

56

58

60

62

64

8va

66

(8)

69

(8)

71

(8)

73

(8)

Ped.

75

(8)

rit.

77

79

♩ = 65

f

dim.

82

8va

rit.

p

Lullaby

♩. = 51

mp

8

14

20

27

34

39

Ped.

43

p

47

3

49

51

mp

57

63

67

Ped.

71

76

81

Jewish Boy

♩. = 33

mp

9

15

20

26

32

39

45

51

59

67

mf

74

81

88

93

99

106

115

123

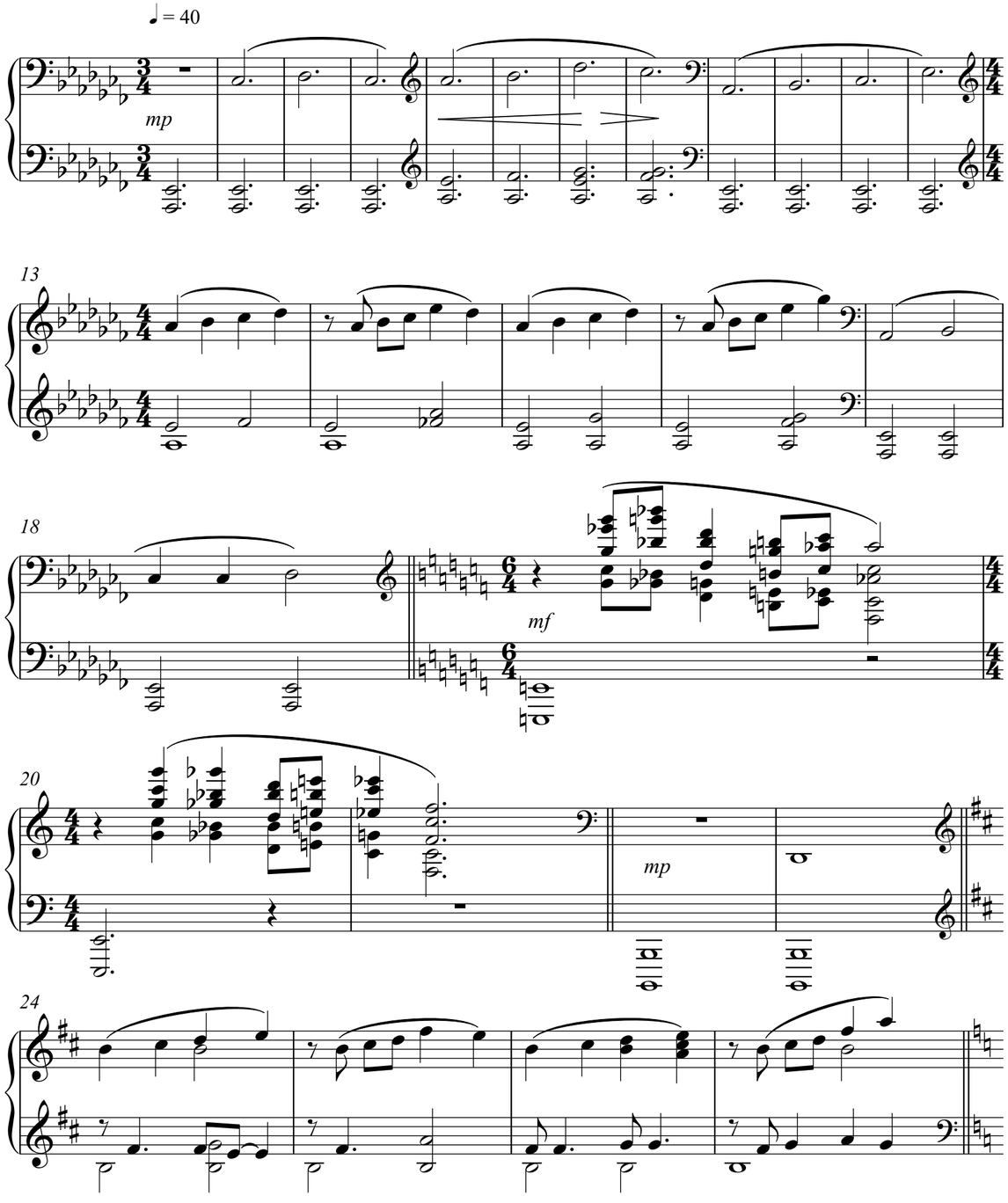
130

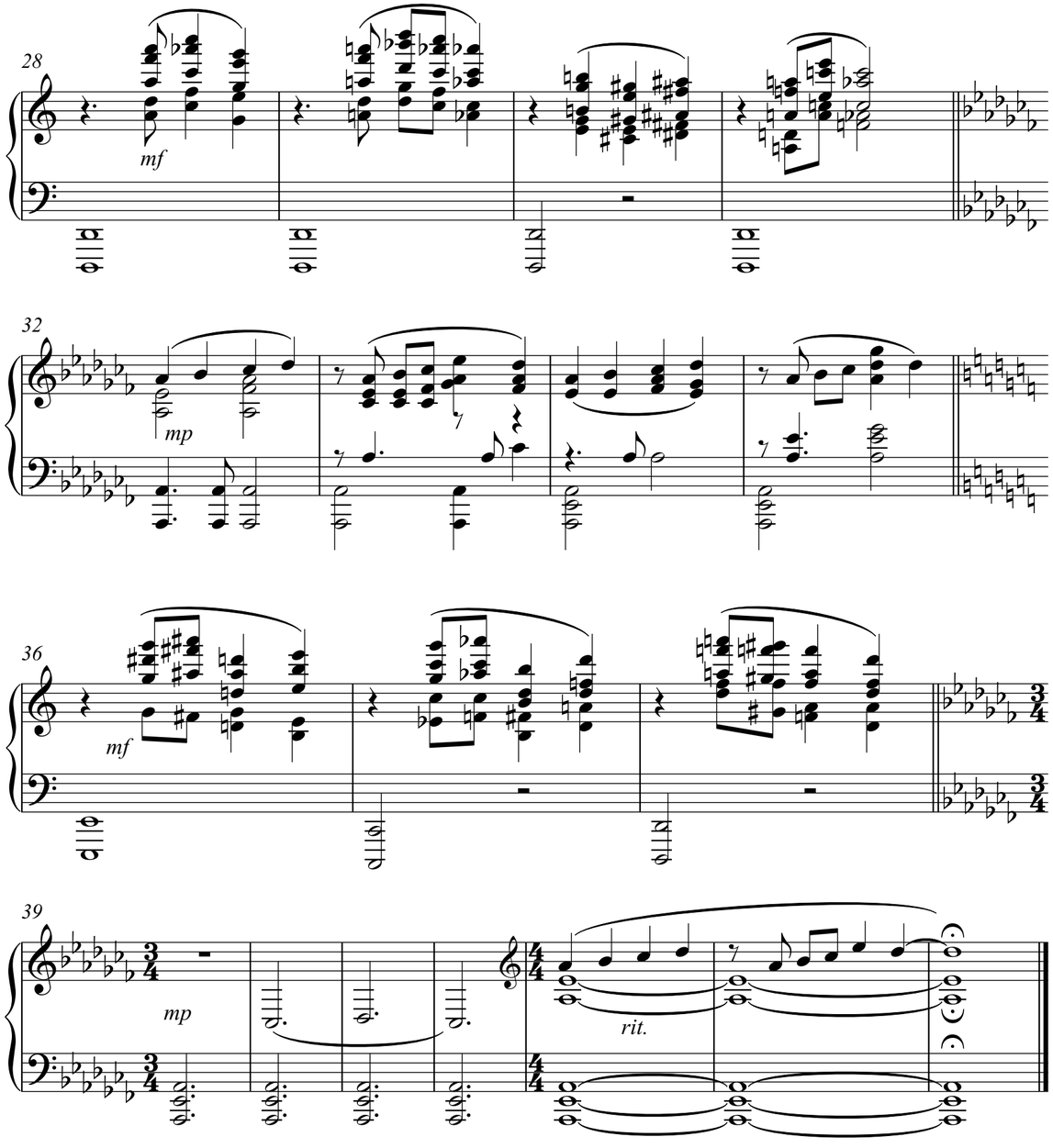
139

145

150

Nightfall





Hit

♩ = 112

f

4

7

3 3 3

3 3 3

10

3

3

13

16

19

22

24

26

28

31

34

37

40

42

44

46

49

52

55

57

Transcription sources and details on the music

The sources for the transcriptions in this publication are two CDs, Soundcloud streaming files and other recordings.

CDs

At home, ECM 1768, 2001

Pieces from *At home:* At home, Shadows, Nostalgia, Nightfall

Her first dance, ECM 1995, 2008

Pieces from *Her first dance:* April in February, Her first dance, Tiflis, Jump

Music, JARO 4214-2, 1998

Piece from *Music*: Jeg er norsk i dag

Soundcloud streaming files

Pieces from Soundcloud album *Alone in the hall* accessed at https://soundcloud.com/mikhail-alperin/ Giardini di Boboli, To F. Chopin, Rain, Lullaby, Jewish boy

Other recordings

The piece *Jeg er norsk i dag* is also transcribed from a recording done at a solo concert in Parma, 2006.

Some details on the music

The pieces in this publication are all for piano solo, but for some there are other original scores:

Jeg er norsk i dag, originally for piano, percussion and clarinet trio

Her first dance, originally for piano and flugelhorn duet

Tiflis, originally for piano, cello and french horn trio

Hit, originally for project ensemble. Alperin himself adjusted the piece for solo piano from the project for ensemble (2014).

This book contains a collection of compositions for the piano written by Mikhail Alperin (1956–2018). An outstanding musician and a unique jazz pianist, Alperin was teaching at the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo from 1995, as professor in improvised music/jazz piano from 2007.

He was the recipient of the prestigious Edvard Grieg prize, and a prolific recording artist on the ECM label. Alperin was one of the only Soviet-born jazz musicians who enjoyed a truly successful international career.

In this collection, his wife Evelina Petrova and Misha's student pianist Roksana Smirnova transcribed the pieces from CDs and a streaming album on Soundcloud. Petrova also wrote an introductory text.

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