FALLEN SKIES

for solo piano and tape

Julio Zúñiga

2022

For the very dense passages, there is very little specification regarding dynamics in the score. In general, phrases should be interpreted lyrically as much as the register allows.
From pages 1 to 6, and then again from measures 78 to 81, pitches in the uppermost octave, from C7 to C8, should follow a sort of dynamics spectrum in which the higher the pitch, the louder the dynamic, all relative to the general marking of ***mp***. In other words, a C8 will usually be played ***f*** - ***ff***, while an F♯7 will fall right around the average ***mp***, a C♯7 will generally be ***pp*** - ***p***, and so on. All this while adjusting dynamic levels note by note to follow the internal shape of each phrase.

Place a vibration speaker inside the piano, on the part of the soundboard that resonates the most to lower frequencies. The speaker must be secured down using a suction cup to avoid movement of its body. Alternatively, in the absence of a suction cup, a weight of 3-4 kg is able to hold the speaker in place through the sections with the loudest bass.
A simple stereo wave file consisting of the sounds of frogs and a toad speaking the following text will be played through the transducer, turning the piano with open lid into the open mouth of a toad, or its whole resonant body into a supernatural swamp:

Wär nicht das Auge sonnenhaft,
Die Sonne könnt es nie erblicken;
Läg nicht in uns des Gottes eigne Kraft,
Wie könnt uns Göttliches entzücken? *

* Goethe, *Zahme Xenien*, III

written for Julia Den Boer
duration 11:11

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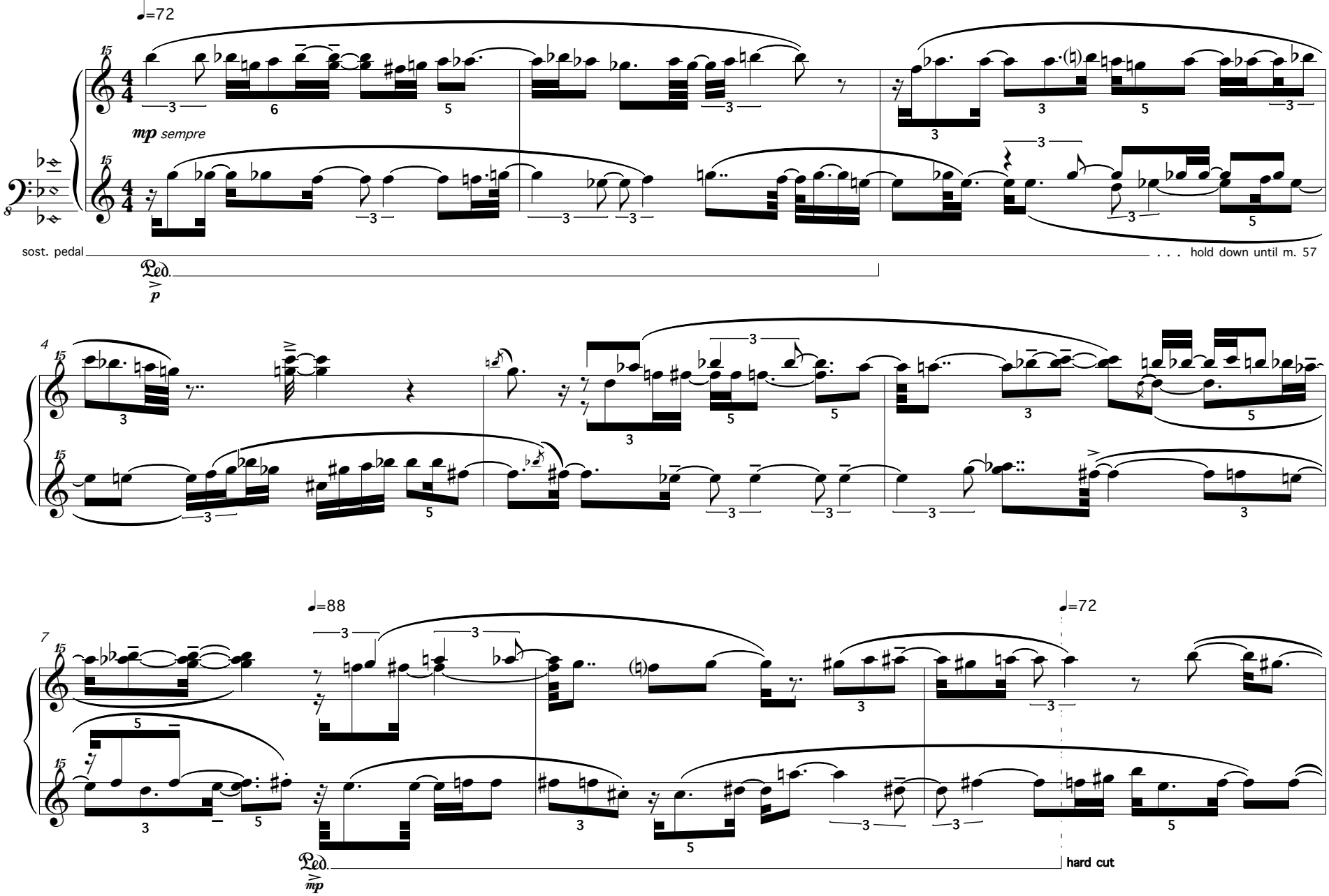
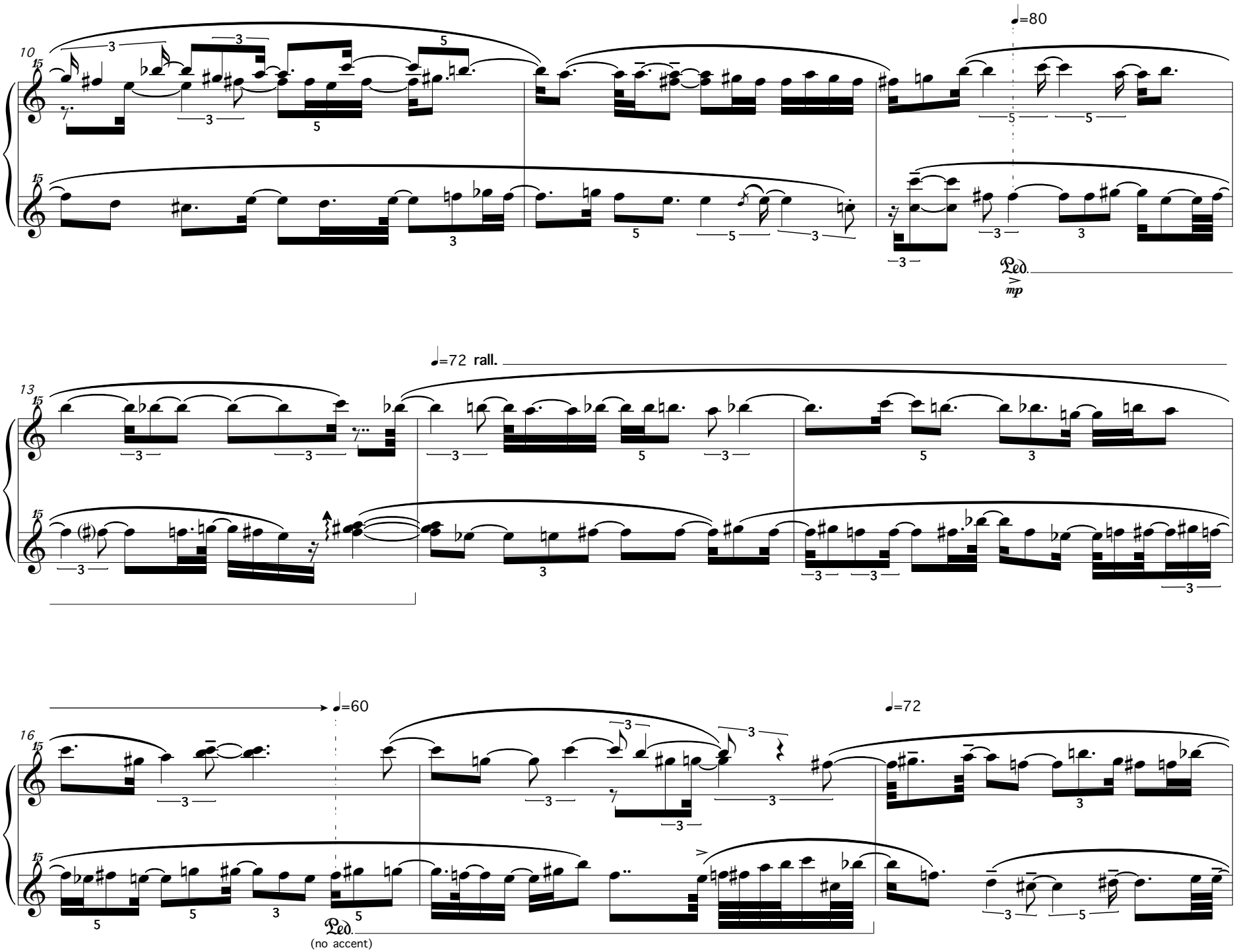
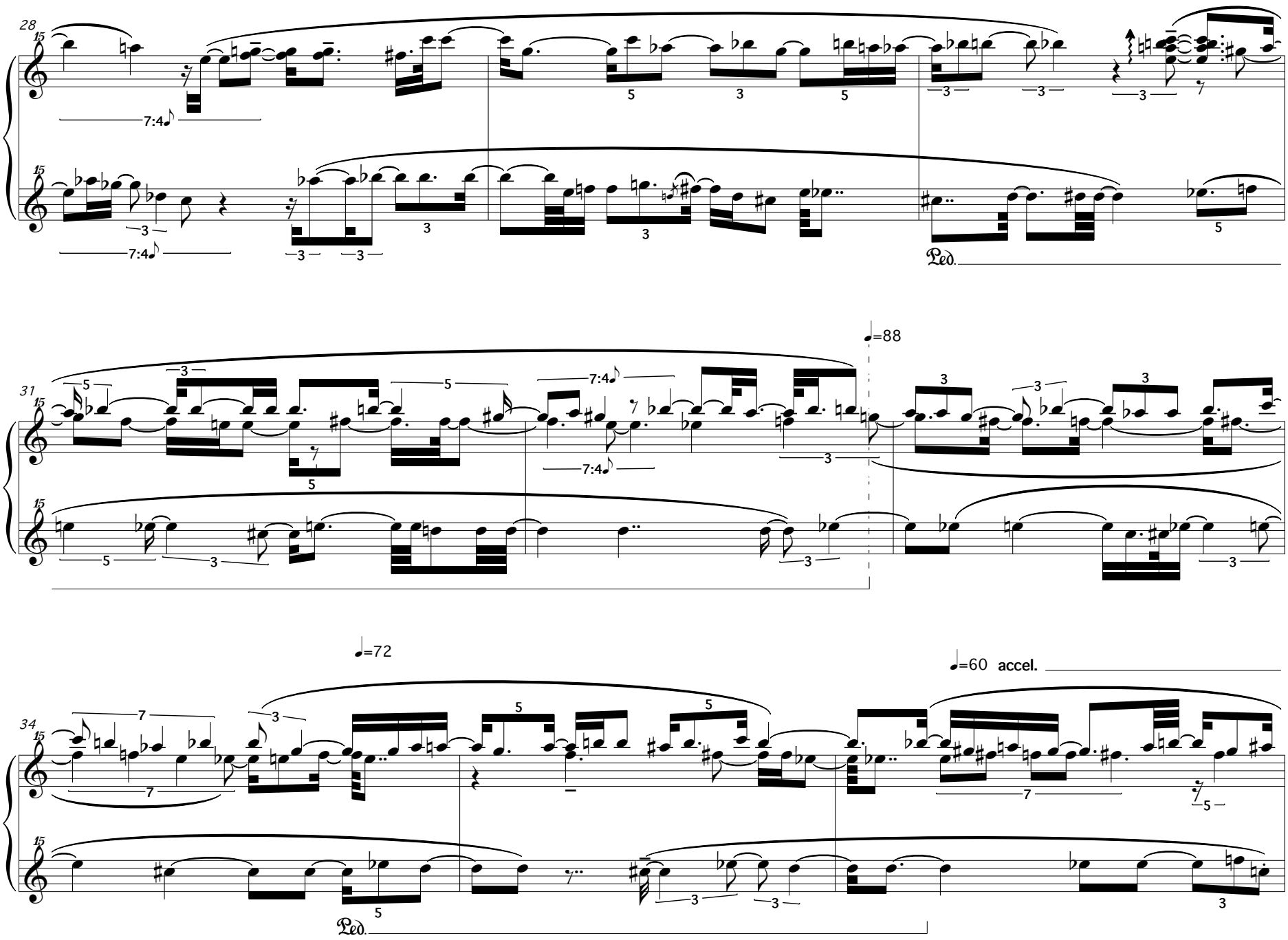
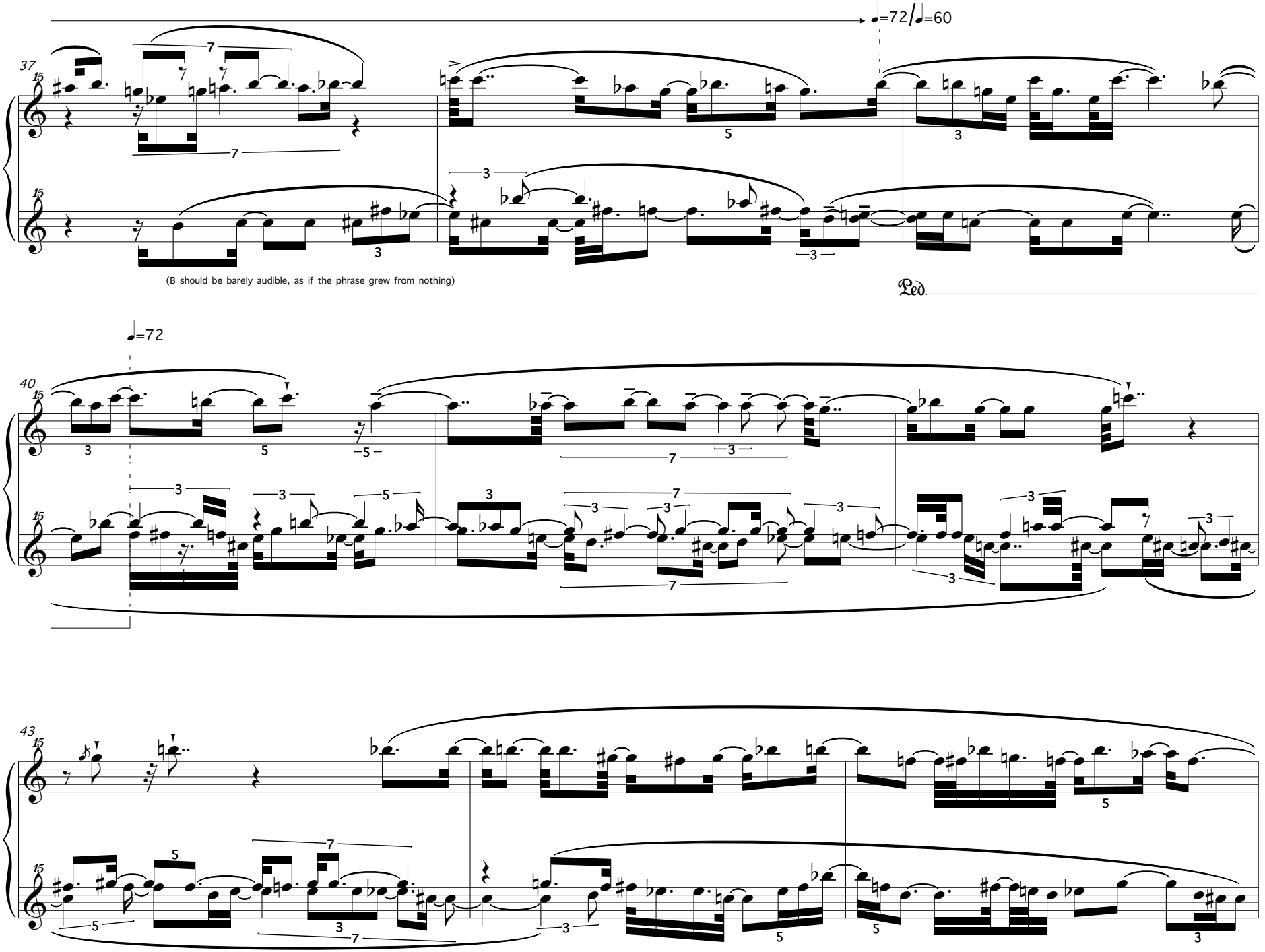
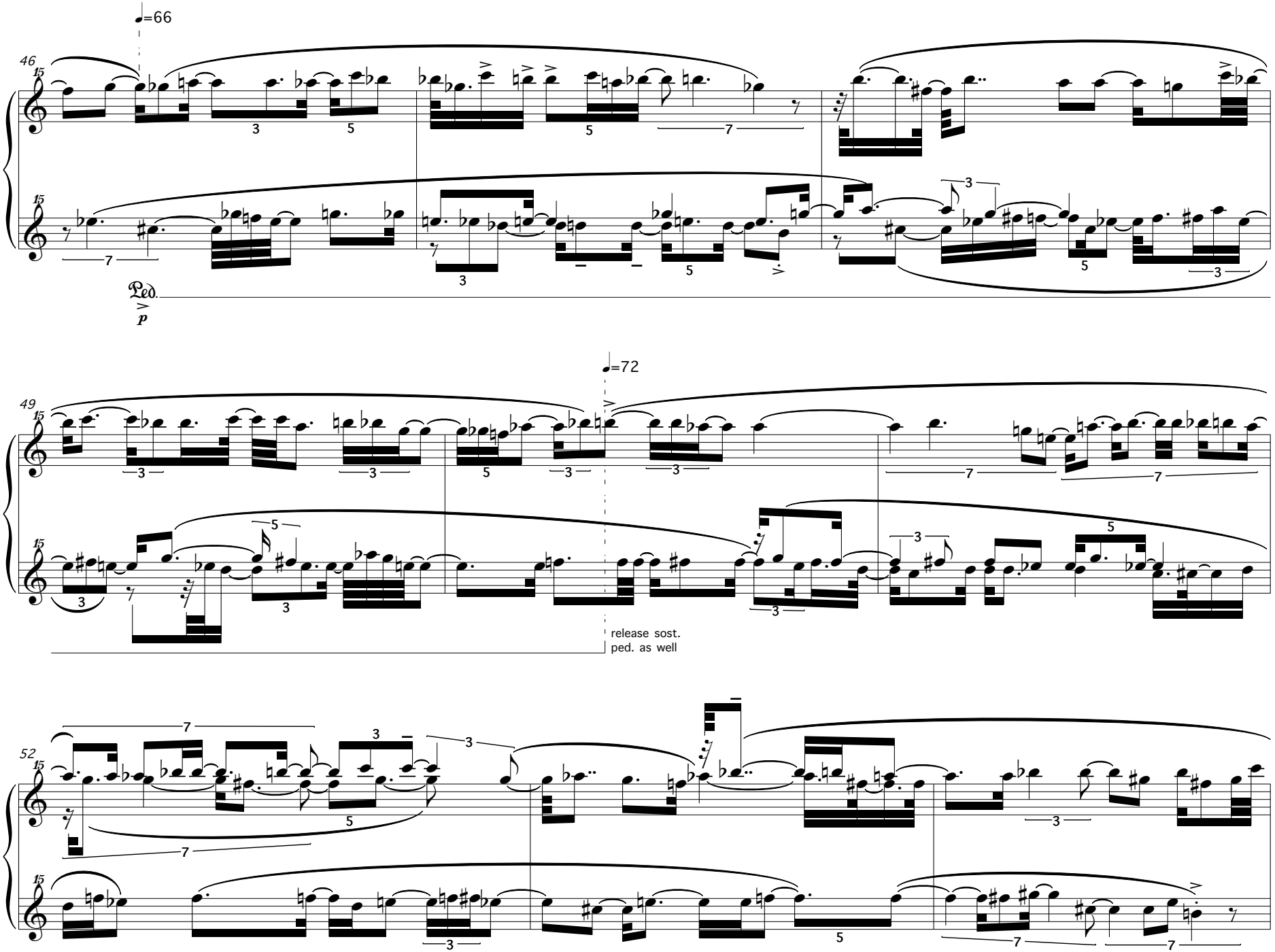


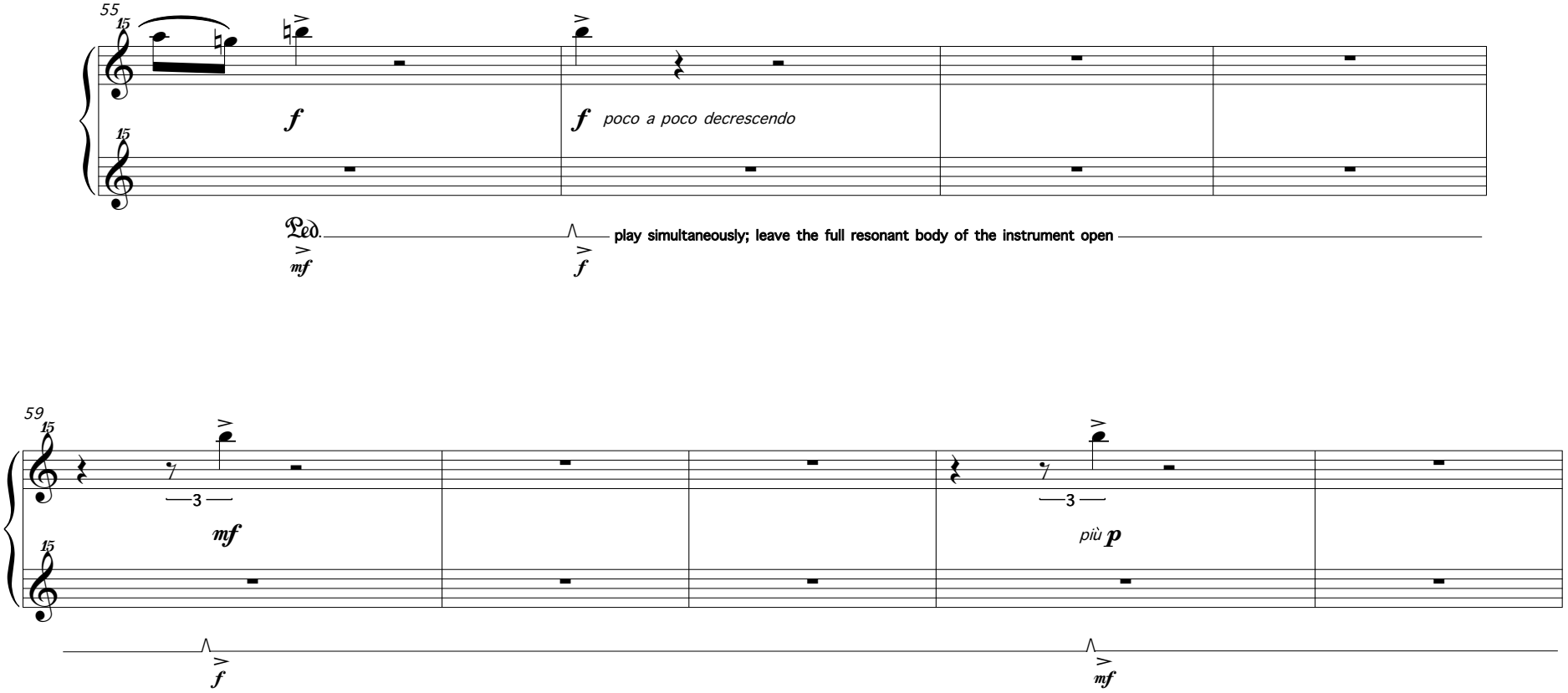

10
♩=80
Ped.
mp
13
♩=72 rall.
16
♩=60
Ped.
(no accent)
♩=72

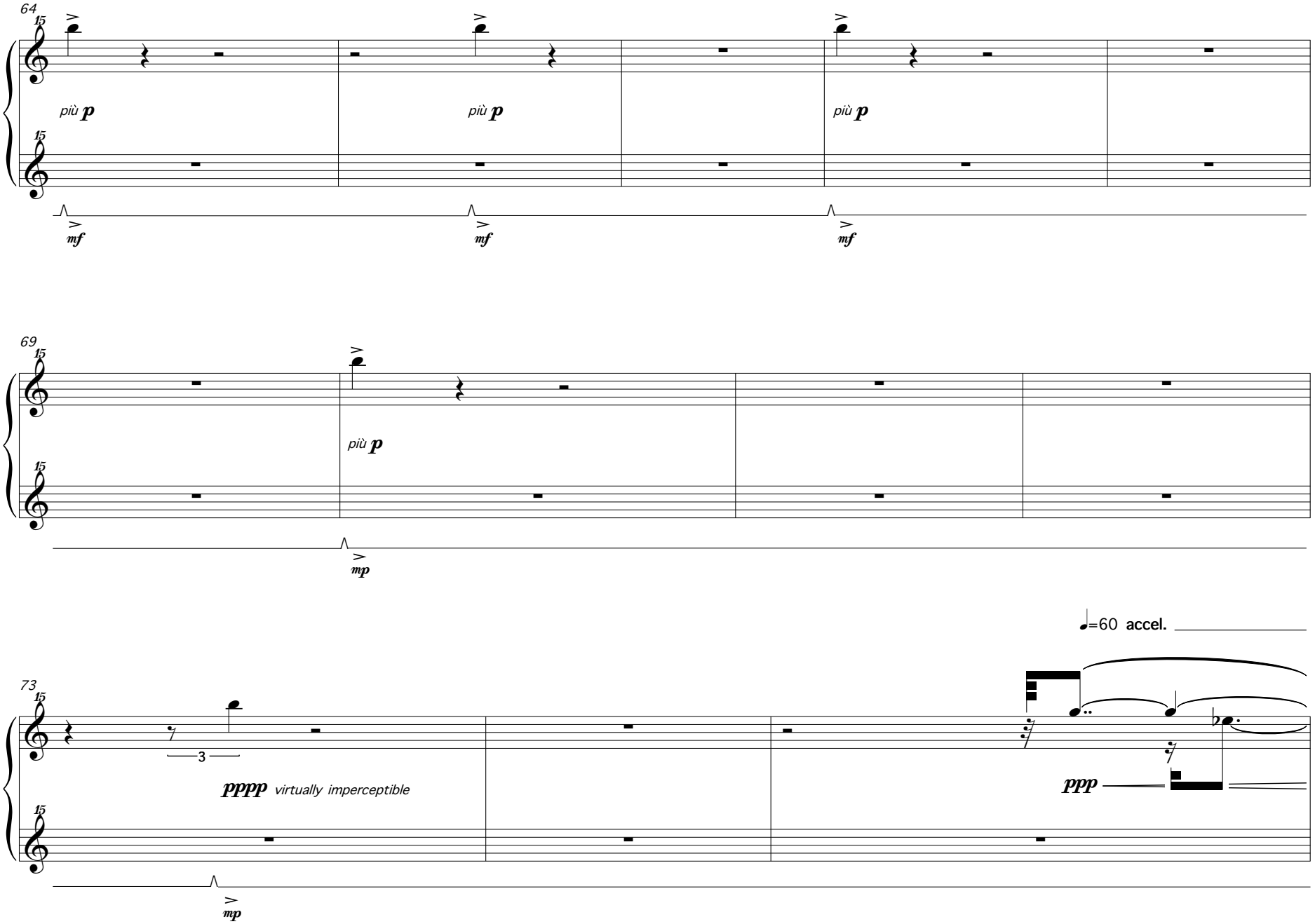
19
♩=60
Ped.
p
22
♩=84
25
♩=60
♩=72
7:4
Ped.

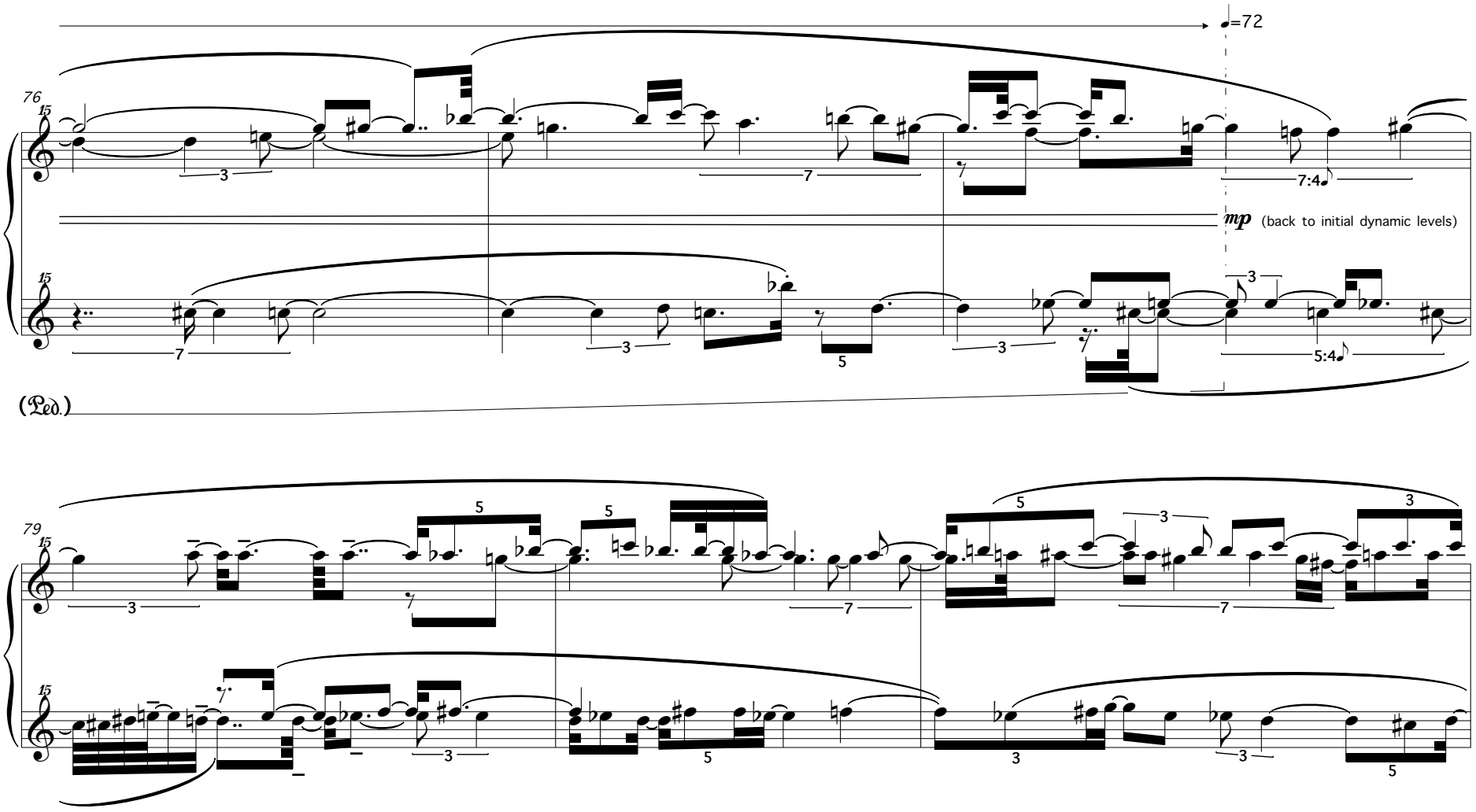

28
7:4
Ped.
31
♩=88
7:4
7:4
34
♩=72
7
Ped.
♩=60 accel.

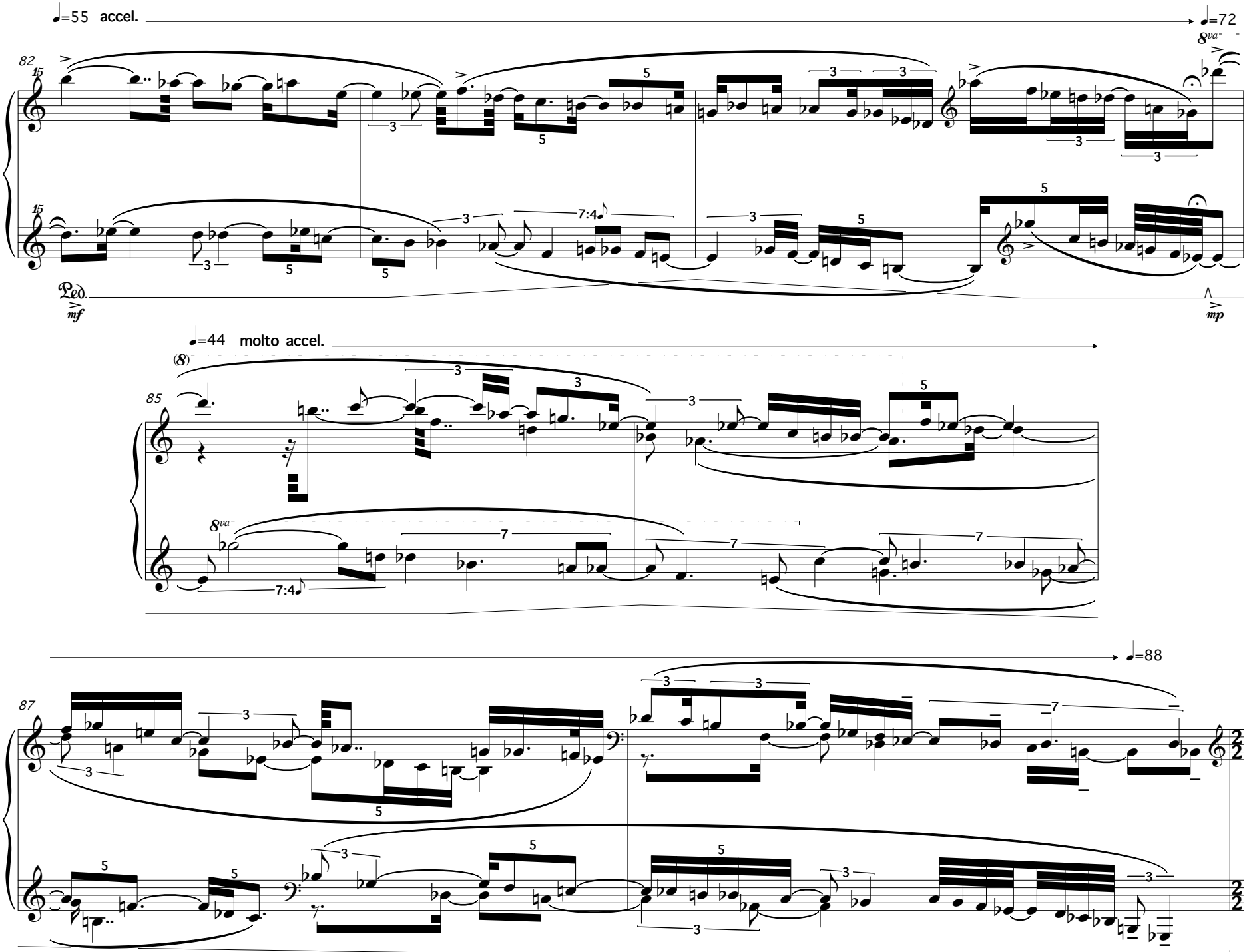

♩=72/♩=60
37
(B should be barely audible, as if the phrase grew from nothing)
Ped.
♩=72
40
43

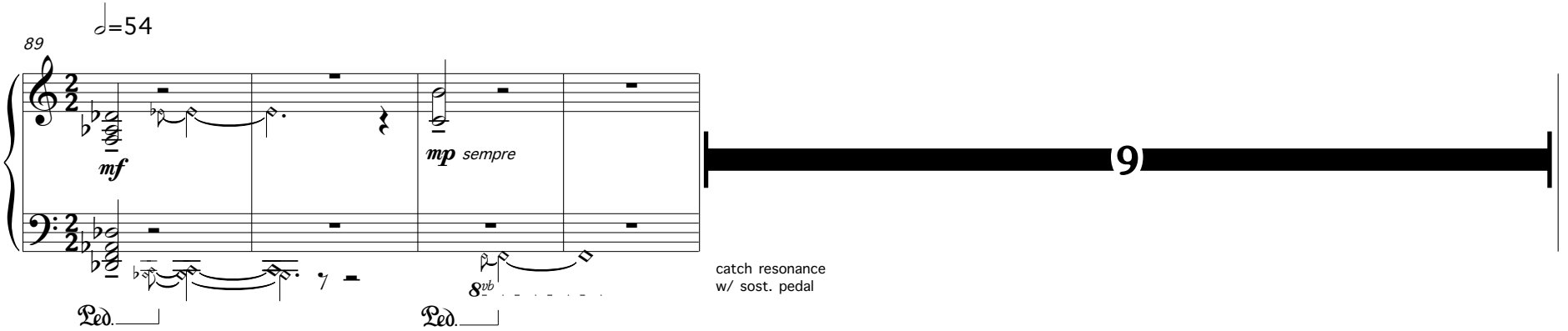

♩=66
46
Ped.
p
♩=72
49
release sost.
ped. as well
52

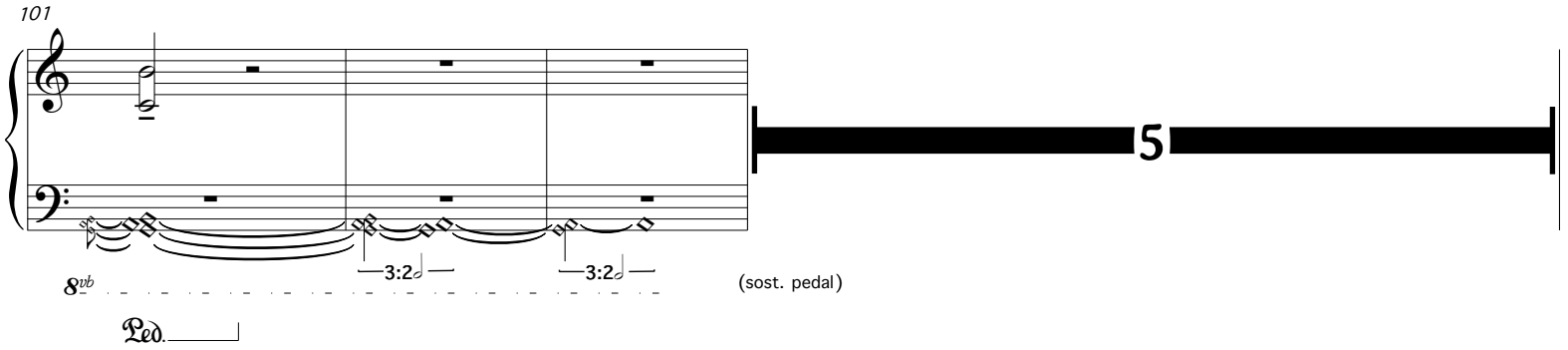

55
15
f
f poco a poco decrescendo
Ped.
play simultaneously; leave the full resonant body of the instrument open
mf
f
59
15
3
mf
più p
f
mf

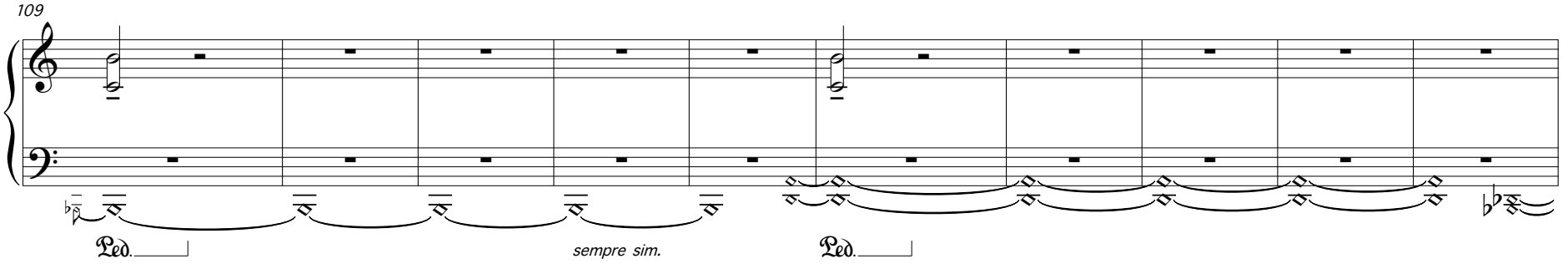

64
più p
più p
più p
mf
mf
mf
69
più p
mp
=60 accel.
73
3
pppp virtually imperceptible
ppp
mp

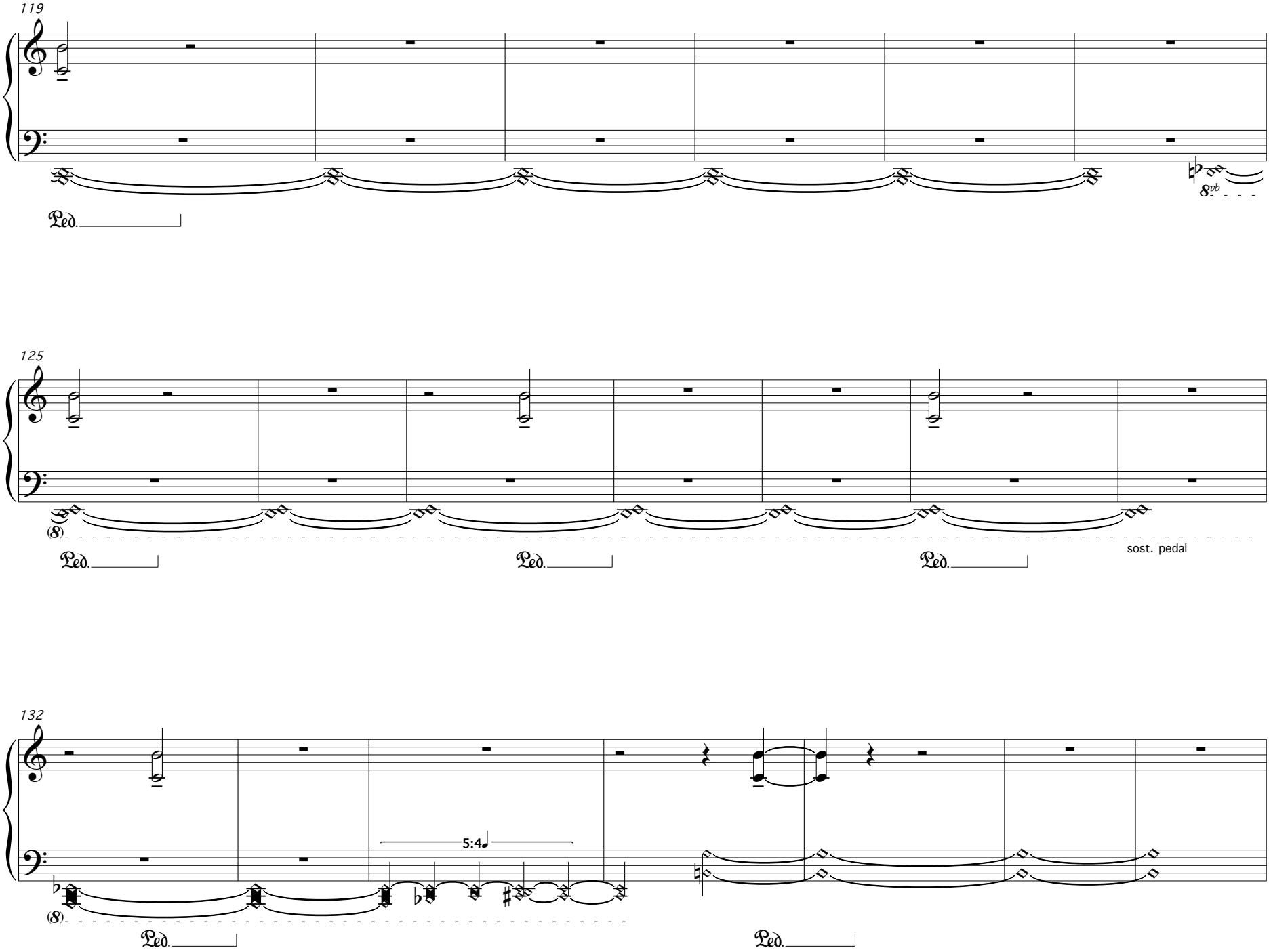

♩=72
76
15
7:4
mp (back to initial dynamic levels)
5:4
(Ped.)
79
15

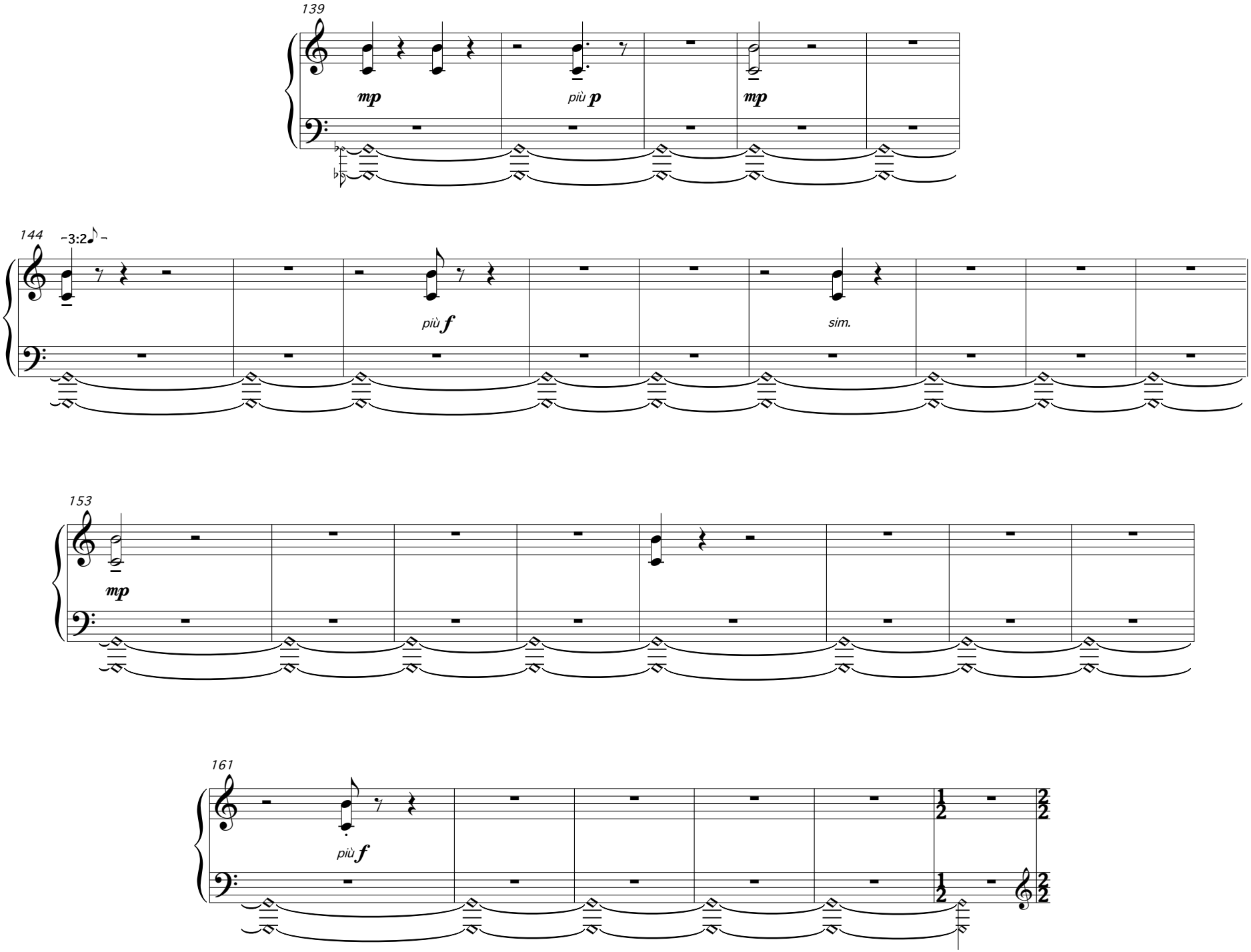

♩=55 accel.
♩=72
8va
82
15
Ped.
mf
mp
♩=44 molto accel.
(8)
85
8va
7:4
♩=88
87

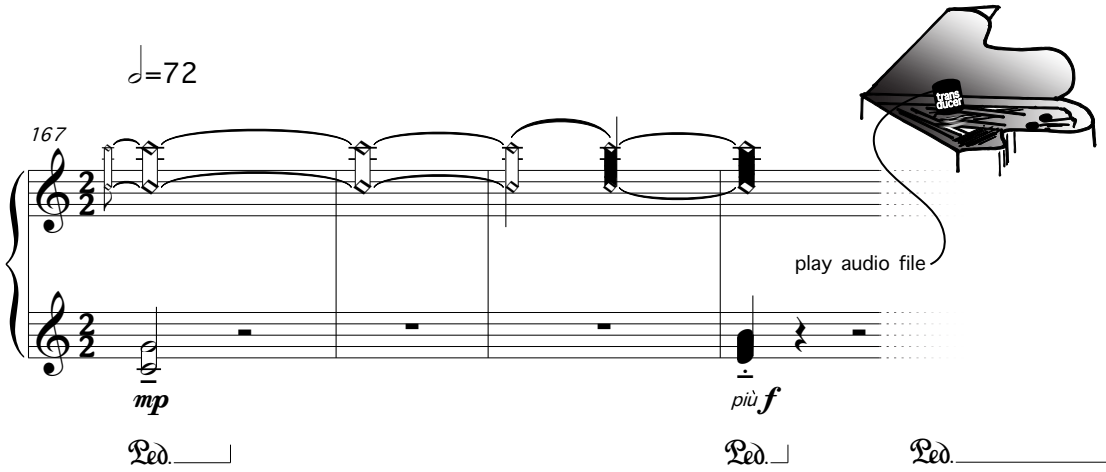

89
♩=54
mf
mp sempre
9
catch resonance
w/ sost. pedal
Ped.
Ped.


101
8vb
3:2
3:2
5
(sost. pedal)
Ped.


109
Ped.
sempre sim.
Ped.


119
8vb
Ped.
125
(8)
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
sost. pedal
132
5:4
(8)
Ped.
Ped.


139
mp
più p
mp
144
3:2
più f
sim.
153
mp
161
più f



Wise Toad says:

Wär nicht das Auge sonnenhaft,
Die Sonne könnt es nie erblicken;
Läg nicht in uns des Gottes eigne Kraft,
Wie könnt uns Göttliches entzücken?

Cambridge MA 07/2022

let resonate for 4'' once
sound file ends, then cut