Canção de uma Terra Seca

for piano duet

DENIS NASSAR

CANÇÃO DE UMA TERRA SECA
SONG OF A DRY LAND

DENIS R. NASSAR BAPTISTA

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Cover design: Clicia Louzada

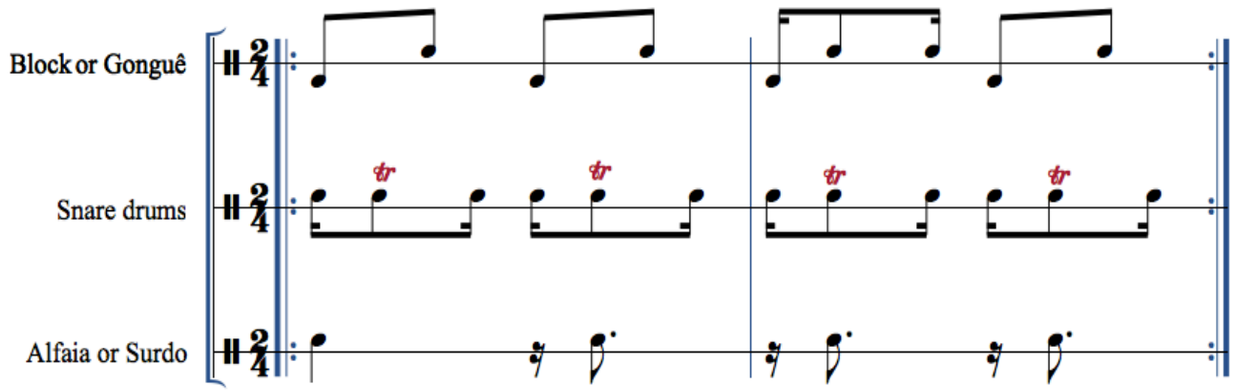
CANÇÃO DE UMA TERRA SECA

The title of this song in English means “Song of a Dry Land”. It’s about the joy and strength of the people that lives in the northeast of Brazil. That region is known as a really dry area of Brazil and people suffers because of the water scarcity. But the people of Northeast are also known for the joy expressed through their music and for the strength showed by facing those challenges everyday.
The subtitle is a quote from a song by Ito Moreno, a Brazilian musician, which says, “The Song of my people never dries, even the drought that dries this land.”
Based on that cultural background and willing to express this feeling, for this song I decided to use elements from two famous rhythms of the northeast, *Maracatu* and *Baião*.

Maracatu and Baião

As those two styles are rhythmically rich and percussive by nature it’s a good opportunity to use your rhythmic skills and to have some fun playing these energetic Brazilian rhythms.
As they have many variations, right below are two ***s*implified** and concise versions of the rhythmic structure of *Maracatu* and *Baião*. They are written for the traditional percussion instruments and not for piano so you can have some fun trying to identify these rhythms through the song and find out how they were applied on the piano.

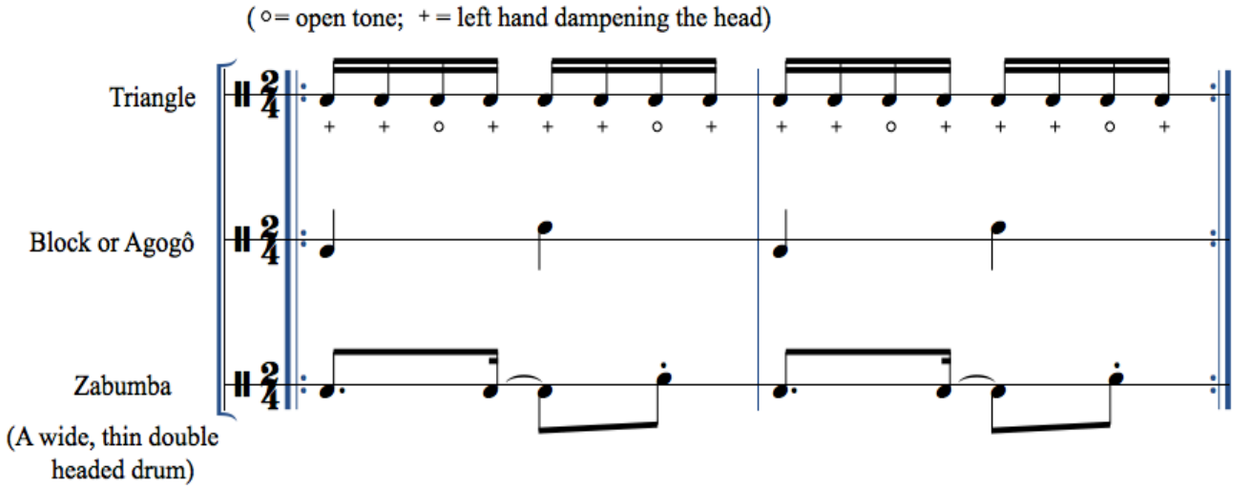
Maracatu



Exercise 1

It's really helpful to tap the rhythm above before you start playing the song.
Tap the "Alfaia" with your left hand and the "Gonguê" with your right hand. After that you can tap the "Alfaia" with your left hand and the "Snare" with your right hand ignoring the Trill. You need first to be able to do this coordination exercise before going to the song.

Baião



Exercise 2

The same as exercise number one. Tap the "Zabumba" with your left hand and the "Agogô" with your right hand. Before you go to the "Triangle" you can tap the "Zabumba" with your left hand and eight notes with your right hand, which is another variation for the Agogô. After that you tap Tap the "Zabumba" with your left hand and the "Triangle" with your right hand. You if you want you can make an accent where there is an "open tone" or just tap the rhythm ignoring those articulations.

Exercise 3

Another good experience is for both pianists to play together the patterns above using some percussion instruments. You don't need to have those specific traditional instruments; you can try it using different ones or even just taping on tables and cans. The important thing is to feel those patterns rhythmically before adding the harmony and the melody.

Canção de uma Terra Seca

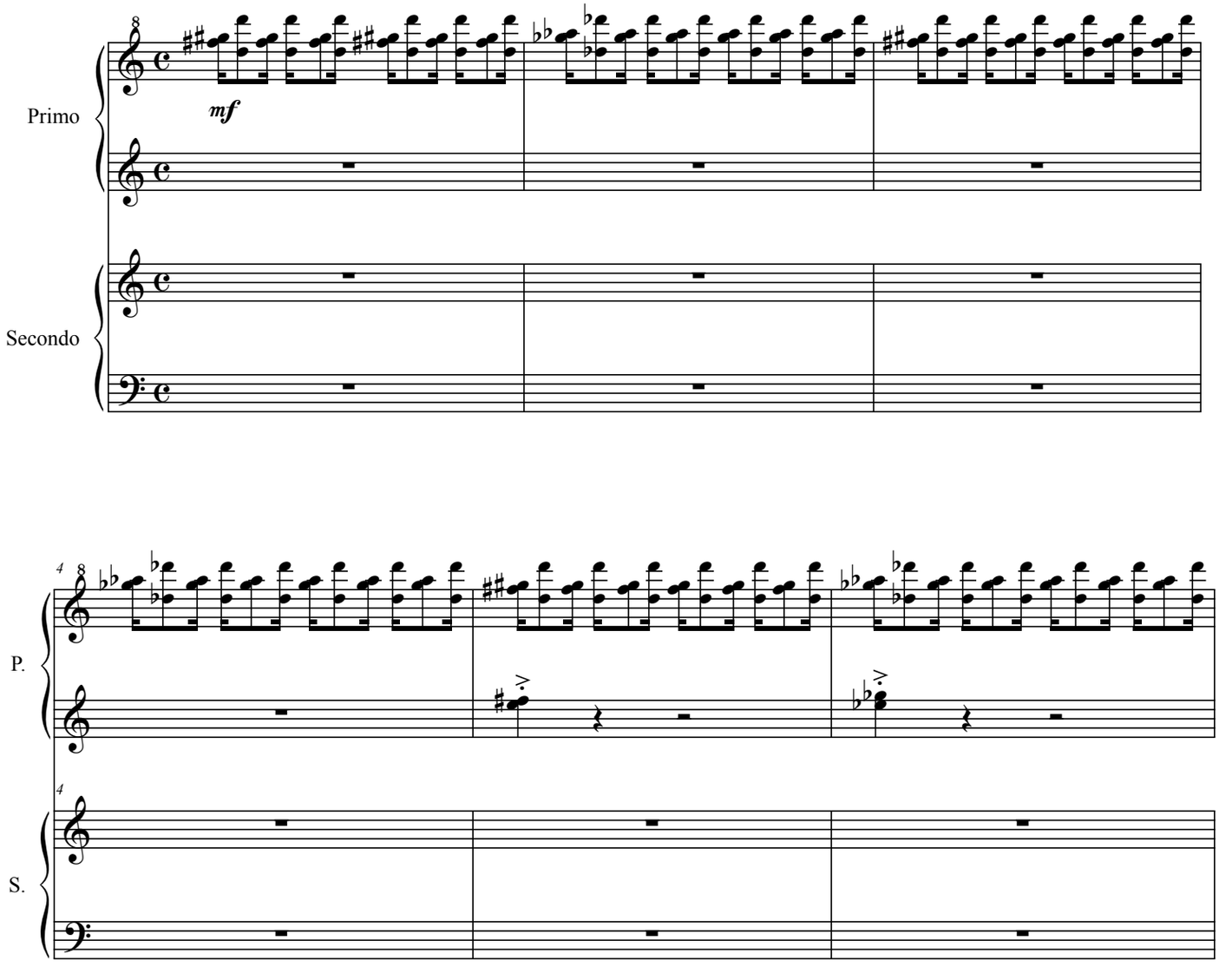
Song of a Dry Land

Denis R. Nassar Baptista
(b.1986)

"Nunca seca o canto do meu povo
Nem a seca que seca esse chão" *
Ito Moreno

Animated and Triumphant ♩= 94-100

percussive



* The song of my people never dries,
neither the drought that dries this land

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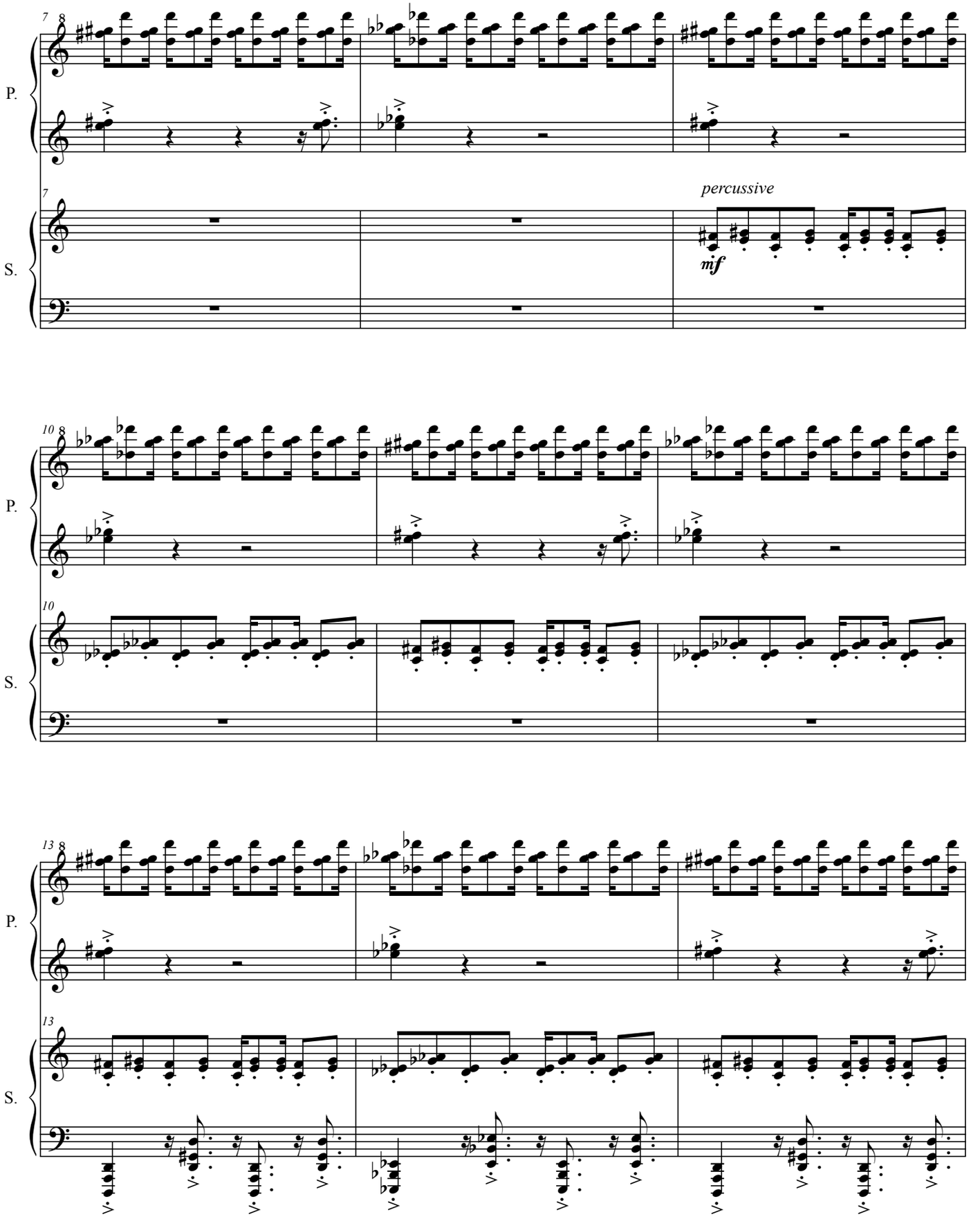
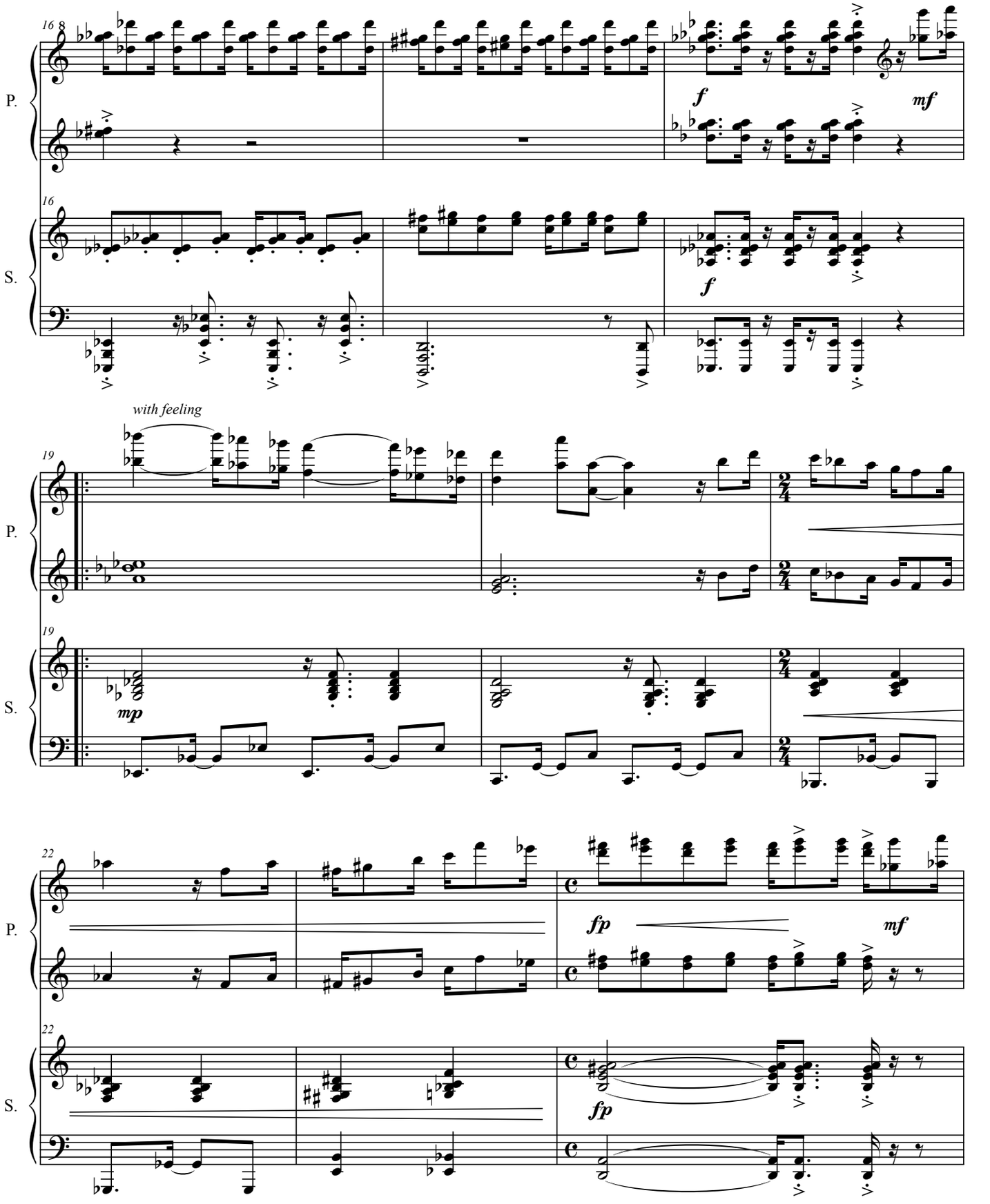
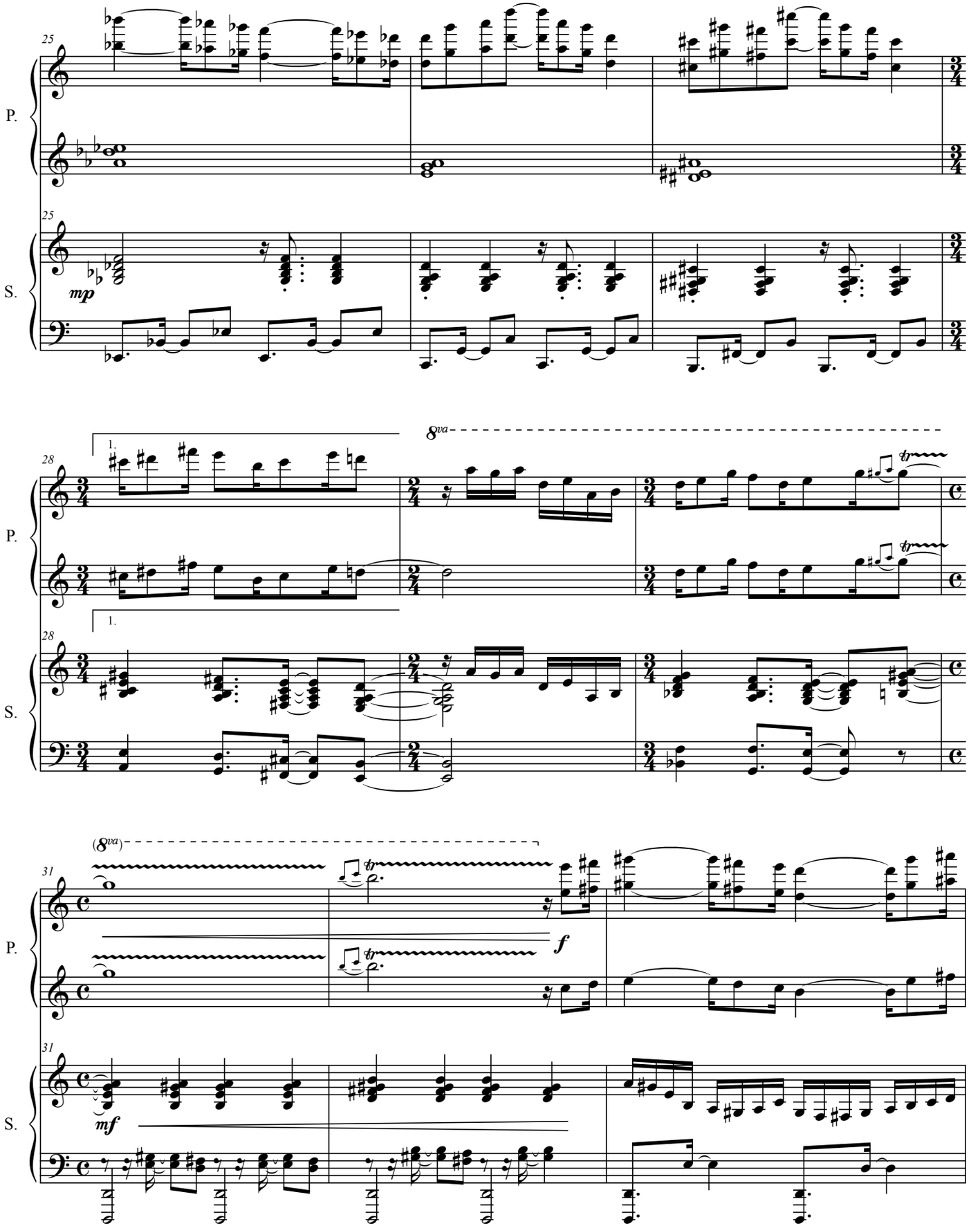
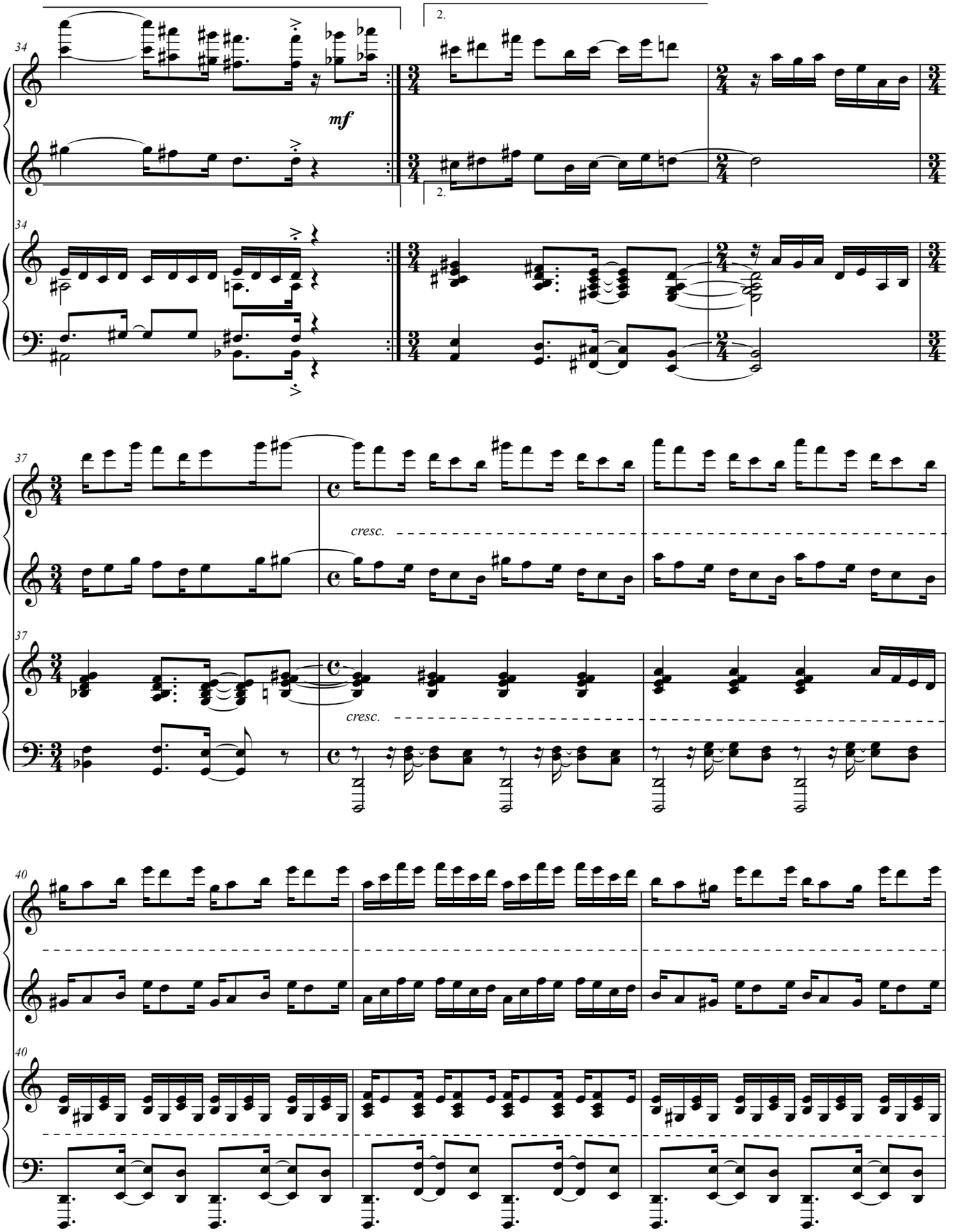
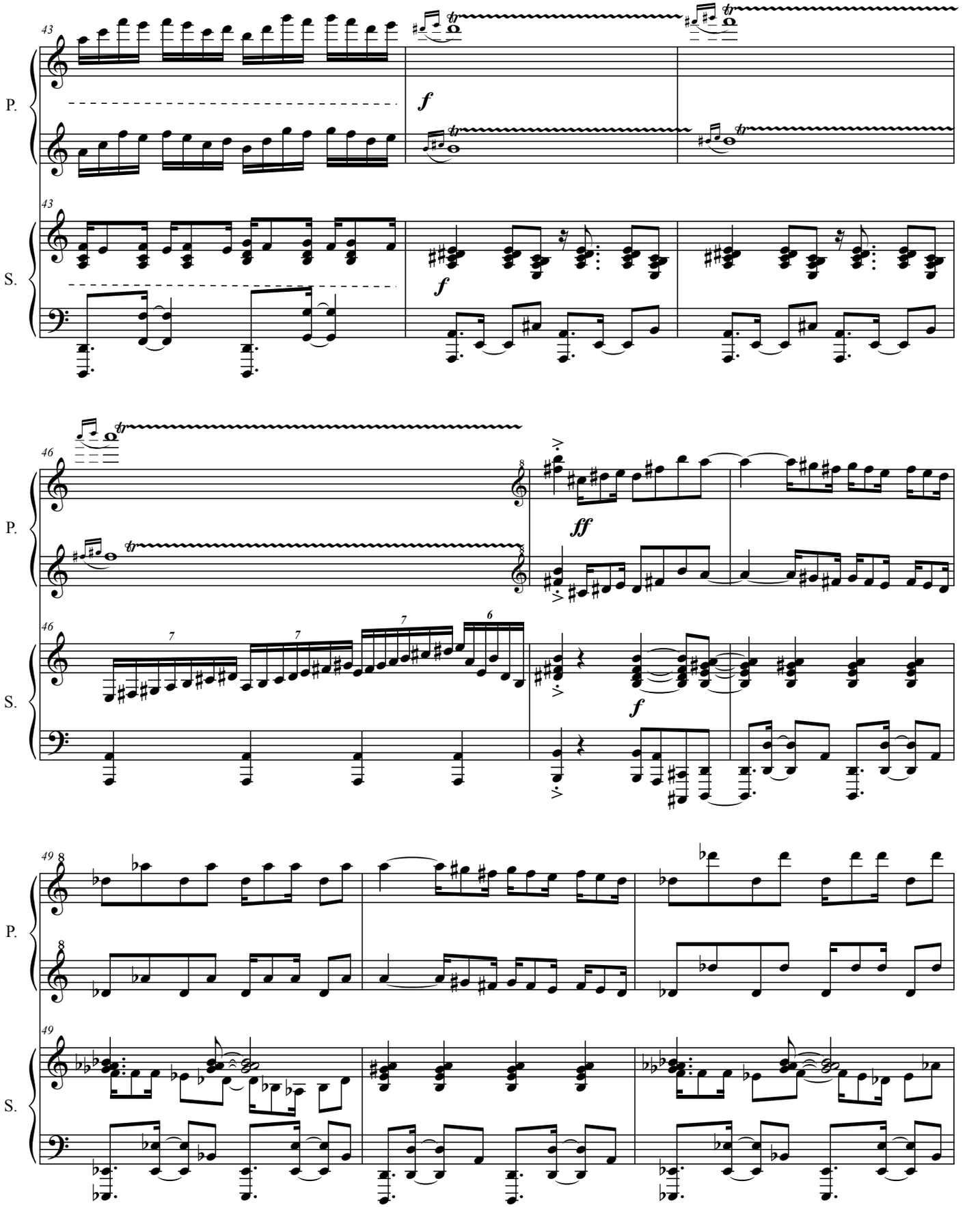
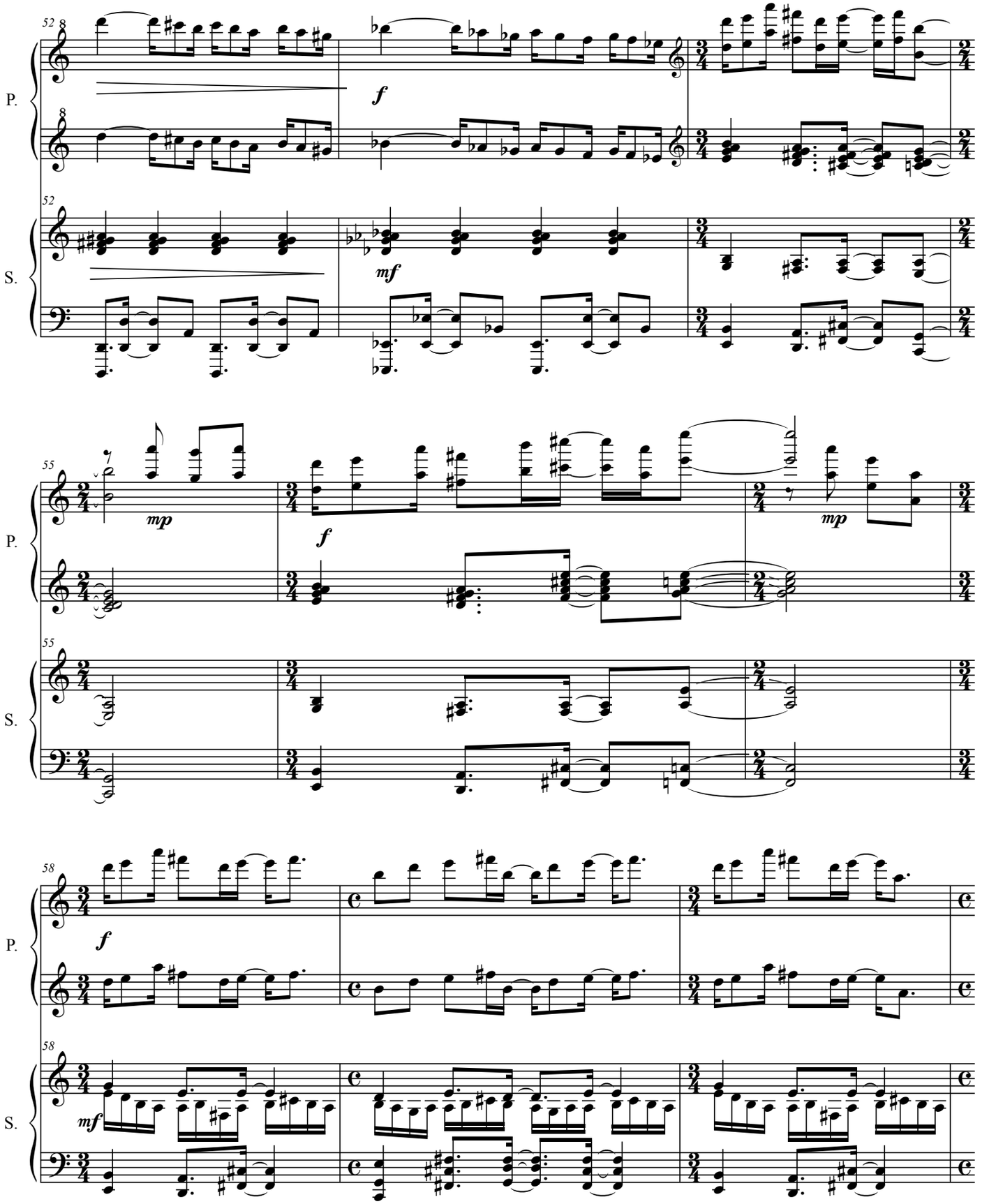

P.
S.
percussive
mf

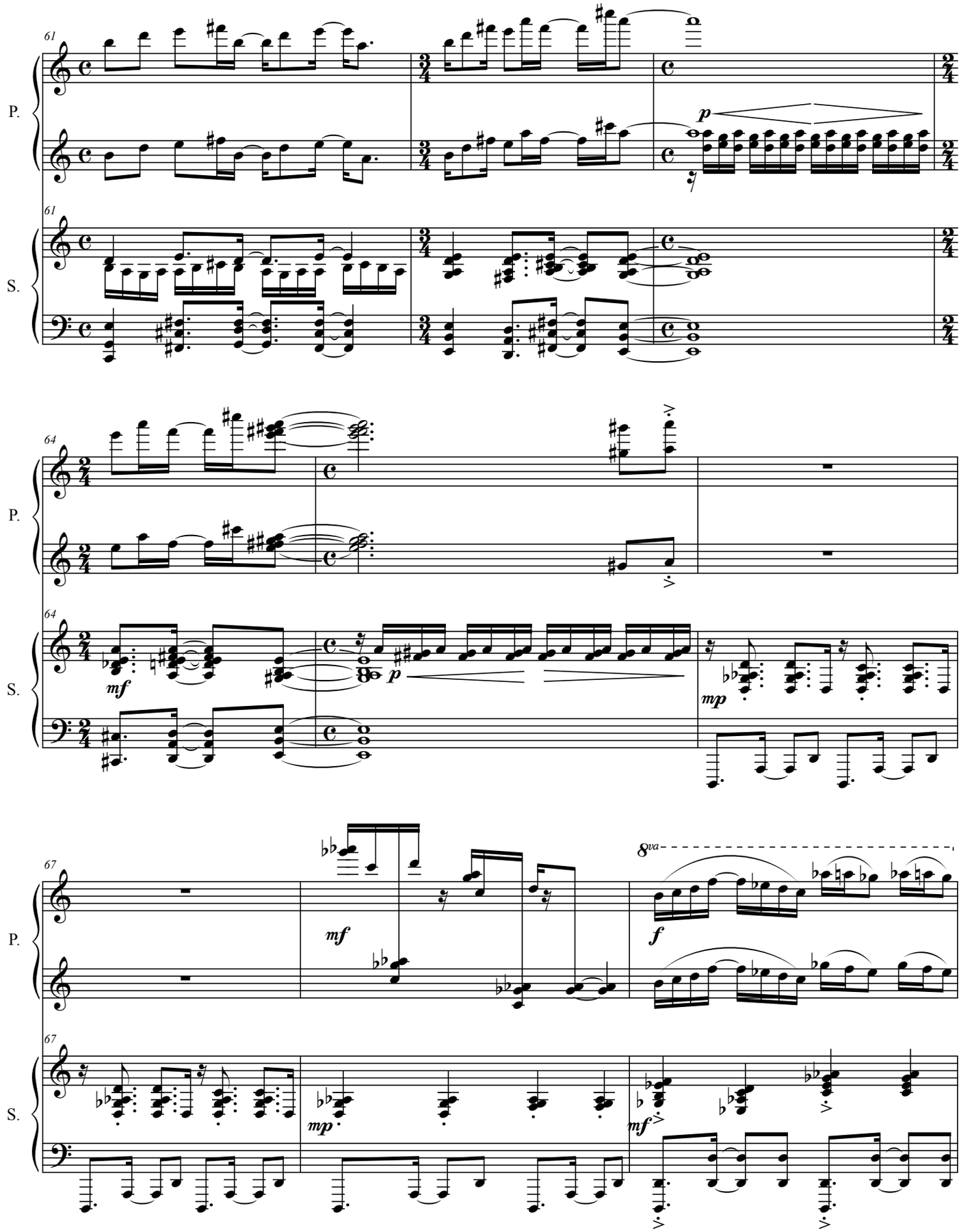

16
P.
S.
f
mf
with feeling
19
mp
22
fp


25
P.
S.
mp
28
1.
8va
tr
31
(8va)
f
mf

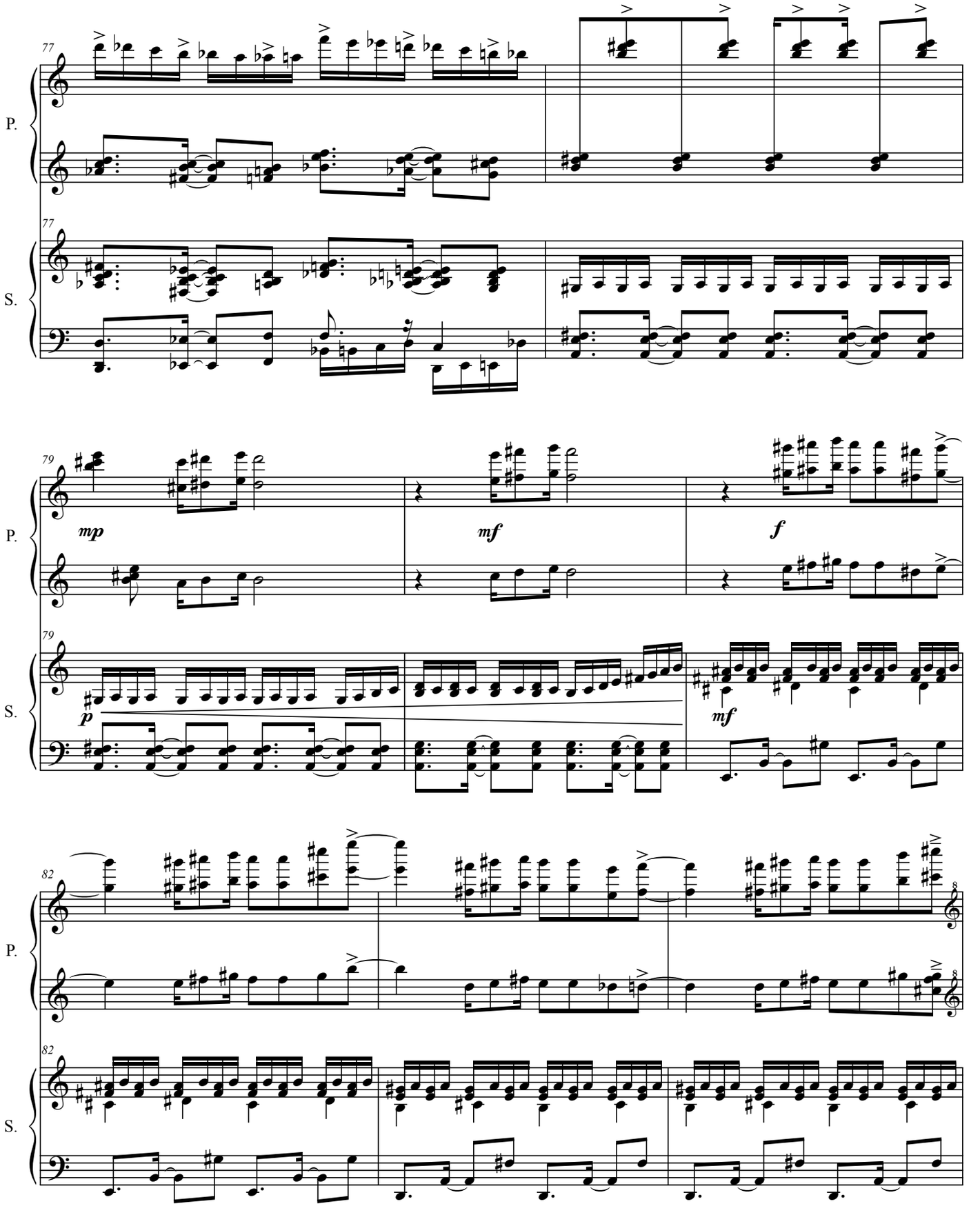

34
P.
S.
mf
2.
37
cresc.
40

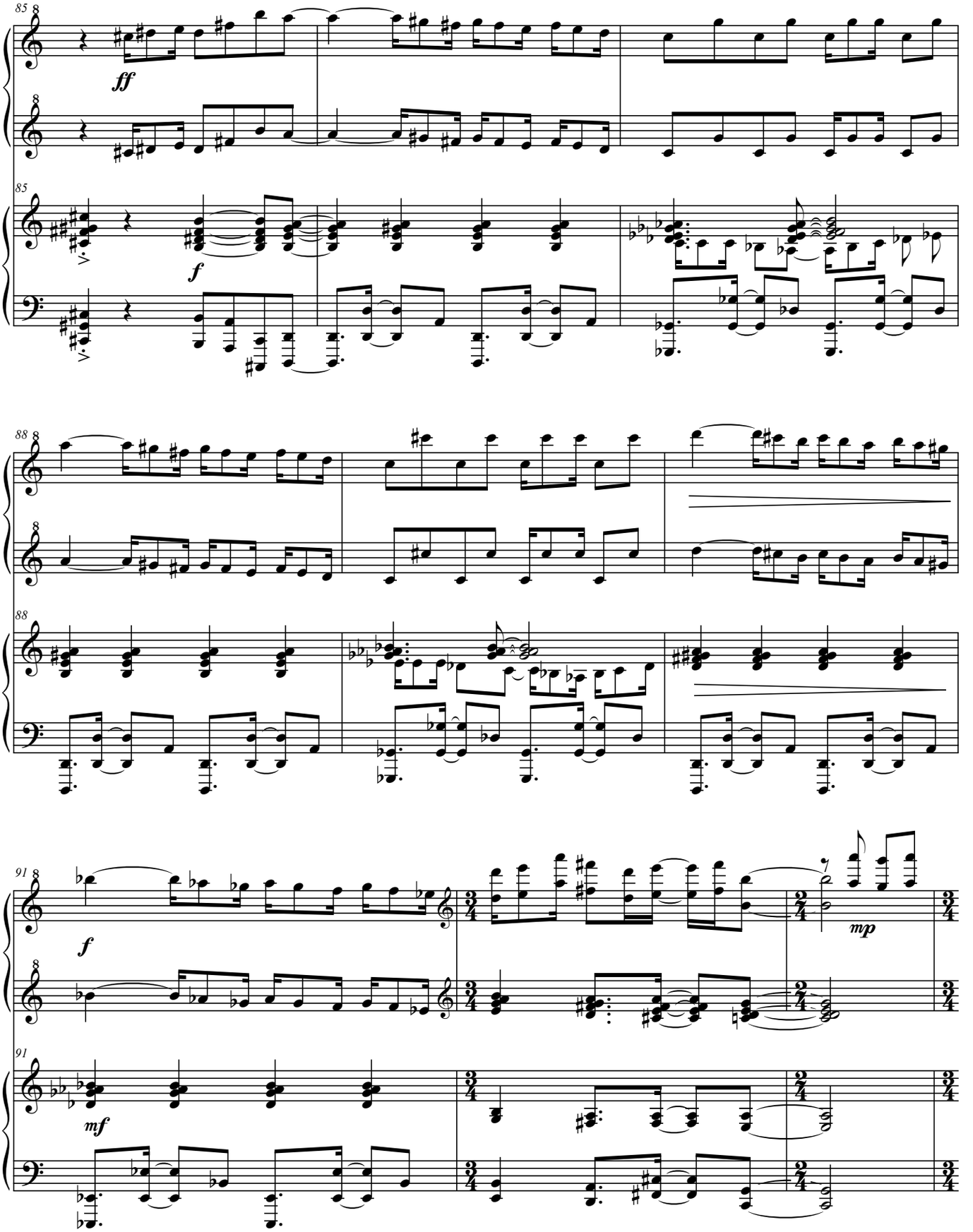

P.
S.
43
f
46
ff
7
6
49
8

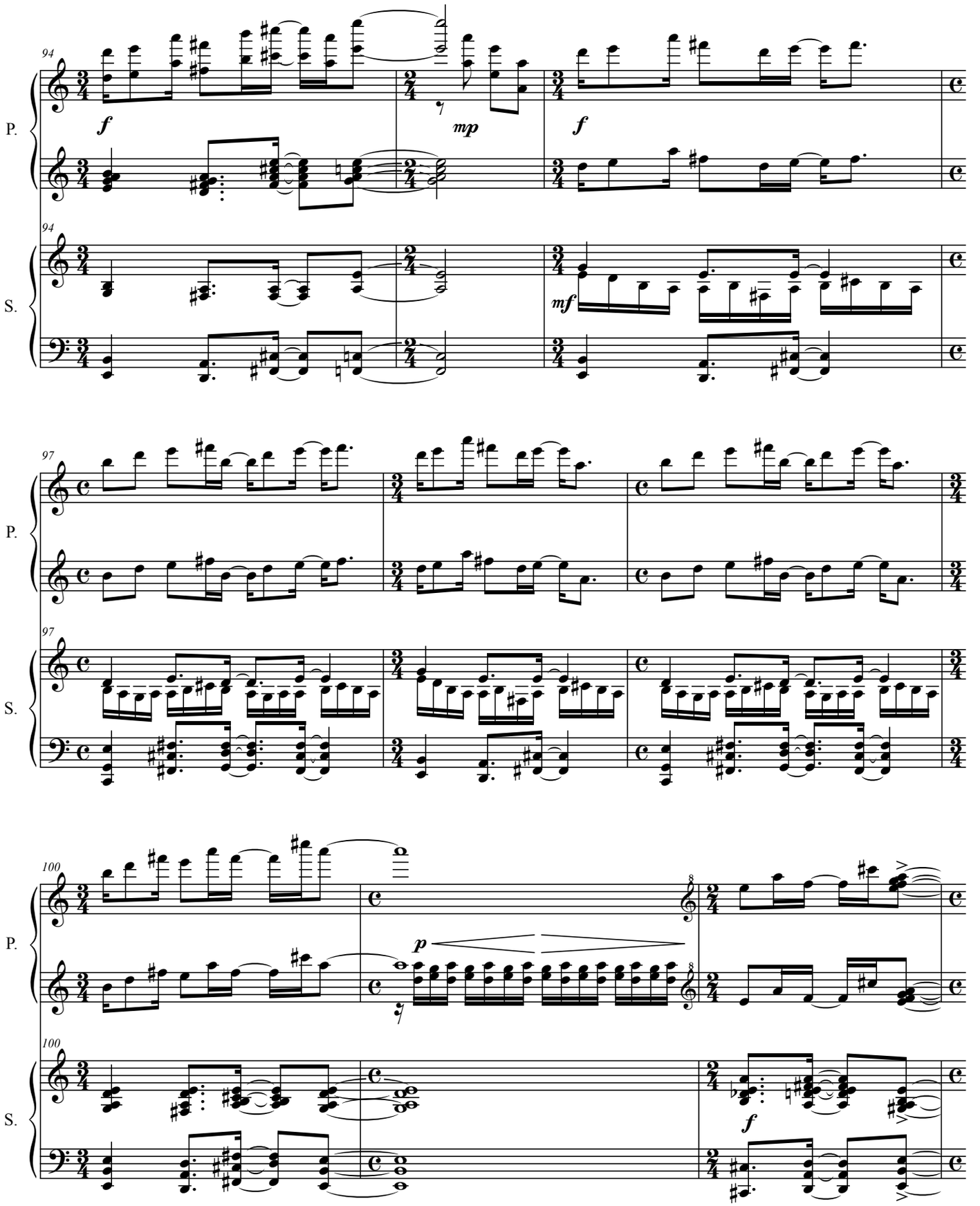

52
P.
S.
f
mf
55
mp
f
mp
58
f
mf

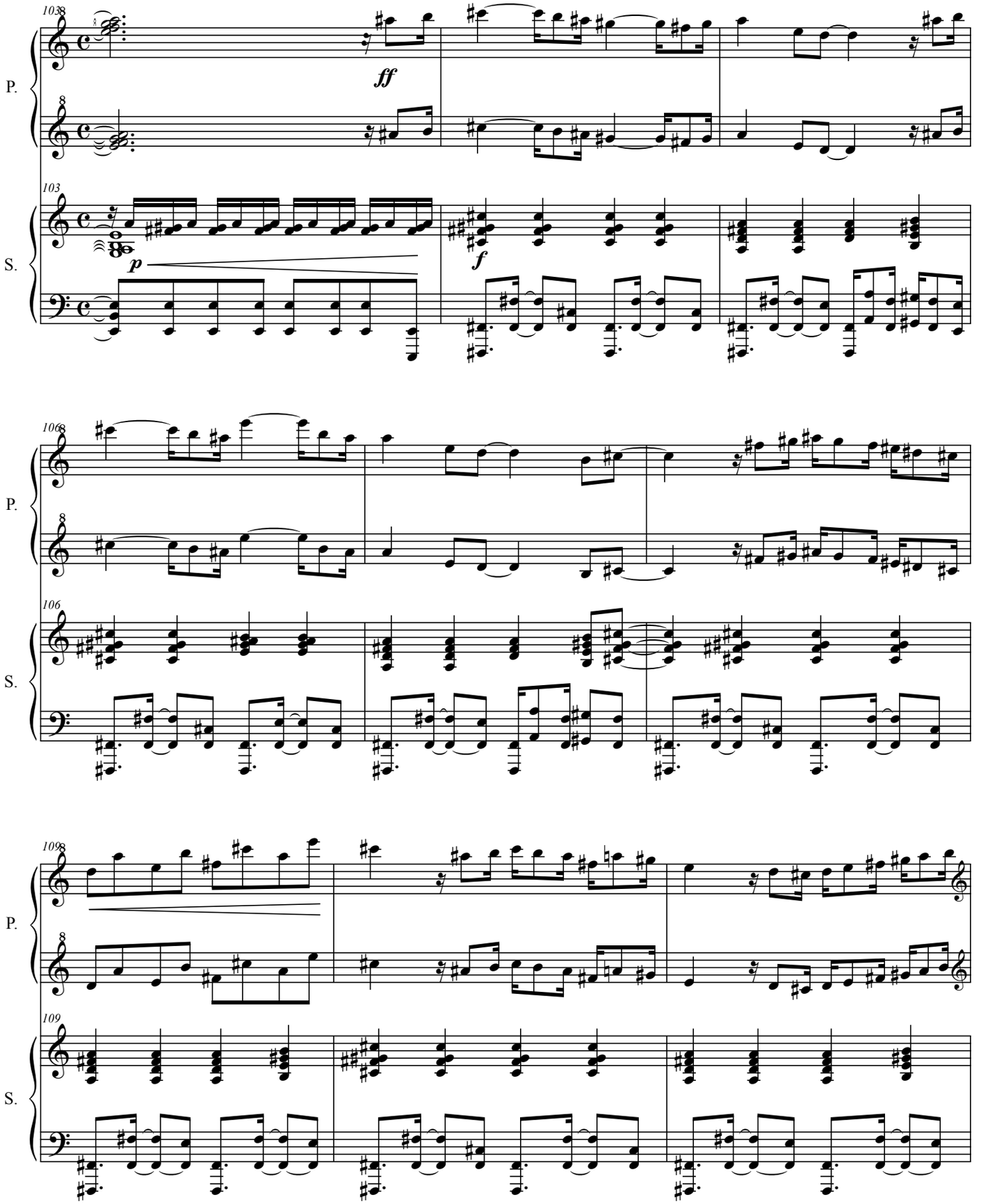

61
P.
S.
p
64
mf
p
mp
67
mf
8va
f
mp
mf

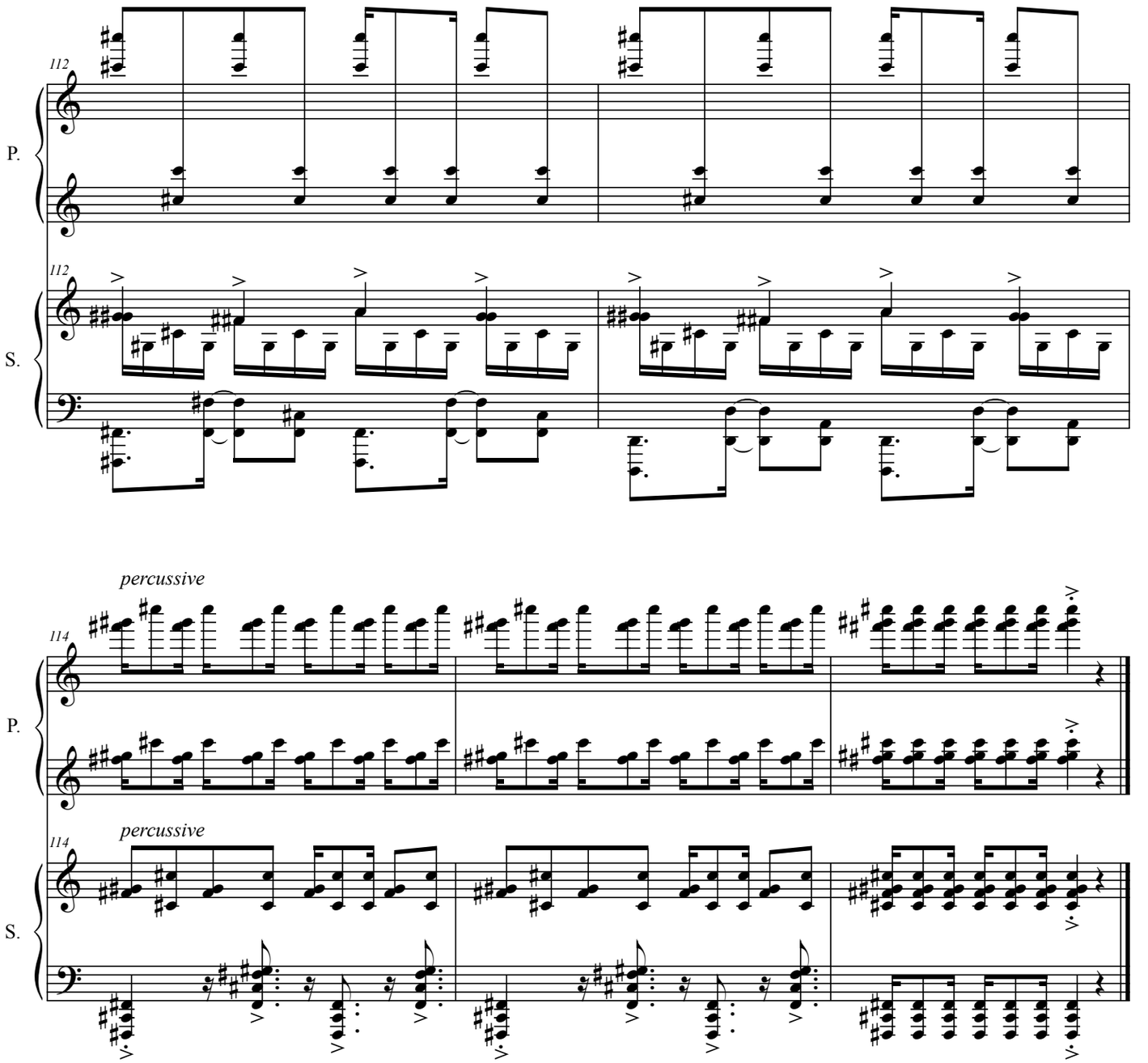
70
8va
mf
f
mf
P.
70
S.
mp
mf
mp
73
8va
f
mf
P.
73
S.
mf
mp
75
f
P.
75
S.
mf


77
P.
77
S.
79
mp
mf
f
P.
79
p
mf
S.
82
P.
82
S.


85
P.
S.
ff
f
88
91
mf
mp


94
P.
S.
f
mp
f
mf
97
100
p
8
f


103
P.
S.
ff
p
f
106
109


112
P.
112
S.
percussive
114
P.
percussive
114
S.