FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN

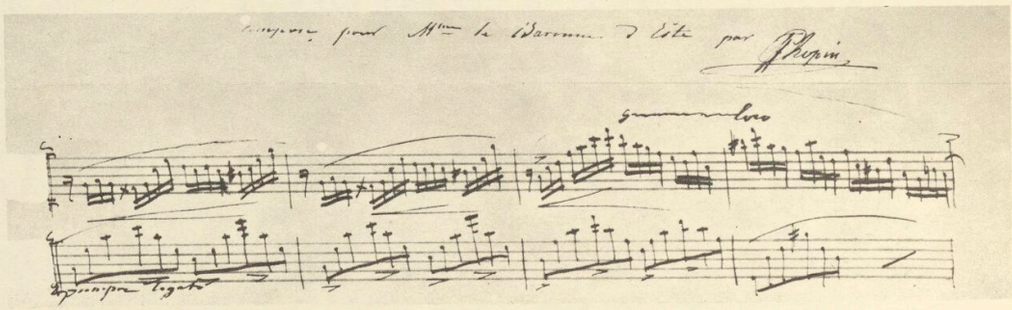
FANTAISIE-IMPROMPTU

Manuscript Edition from the Collection of
ARTUR RUBINSTEIN

75 cents

BIBLIOTEKA 3389

G. SCHIRMER, INC., / *New York* 1962



Un coup de chance fit tomber entre mes mains à Paris, au mois de Mai 1960, l'Album de la Baronne d'Este contenant le manuscrit original (1835) en version définitive, de la célèbre *Fantaisie-Impromptu* de Chopin. Cette pièce ayant passé en vente publique à l'Hôtel Drouot, son authenticité, garantie par les experts français, ne saurait faire aucun doute.

Après la mort de Chopin en 1849, ses héritiers avaient fait éditer cette oeuvre d'après un brouillon daté 1834. Le compositeur n'ayant, semblait-il, pas eu l'intention de la mettre en circulation, elle fut publiée comme oeuvre posthume, Opus 66 du catalogue général.

En revanche la version de l'Album est particulièrement soignée dans tous les détails: le maître y a apporté de nombreuses et heureuses modifications de style et d'harmonie et de plus, elle porte, en français, l'inscription suivante: "Composé pour la Baronne d'Este par Frédéric Chopin." Nous nous trouvons donc, de toute évidence, en présence de l'édition définitive.

Certains se demanderont peut-être pourquoi Chopin de son vivant n'avait pas livré au public sa *"Fantaisie-Impromptu"*. Ma réponse personnelle à cette question est qu'il aurait bel et bien vendu cette oeuvre à Madame d'Este. En effet, la phrase citée plus haut: "Composé pour la Baronne . . . ." semble se rapporter à une oeuvre commandée plutôt que dédiée et il se peut aussi que la grande dame, fière d'être devenue propriétaire d'un chef-d'oeuvre original de Frédéric Chopin, n'ait pas tenu, par la suite, à partager son trésor avec tout le monde.

A présent que me voici, à mon tour, possesseur en titre de ce manuscrit sans prix, je considère comme un privilège de pouvoir faire publier cette oeuvre magnifique, dans sa version authentique et définitive, pour le plus grand bonheur des millions d'admirateurs du Maître polonais.

A.R.

The Album of the Baroness d'Este containing the final version of Chopin's famous *Fantaisie-Impromptu* in his own handwriting (1835), came into my possession by a stroke of good fortune in Paris, May 1960. Having been sold by public auction at the Hotel Drouot, its authenticity, guaranteed by the French authorities, is beyond doubt.

This well-known piece was printed from an early draft, dated 1834, after Chopin's death (1849) by his heirs as a posthumous Opus 66. It was not intended for publication by the composer. The Album version, however, showing a delicate care for detail, and carrying many improvements in harmony and style, bears the inscription in French: "Composed for the Baroness d'Este by Frédéric Chopin." This is absolute proof that we have here the finished work.

Many might ask why did Chopin conceal the *Fantaisie-Impromptu* from the public during his life? The answer, in my opinion, is that he actually sold it to Mme. d'Este; the phrase "Composed for the Baroness" suggests a paid commission rather than a dedication. The Baroness, on the other hand, becoming the proud owner of an original masterpiece by Chopin, would have had no intention of sharing it with the world at large.

As the present owner of this invaluable manuscript, I consider it a privilege to be able to publish this beautiful work in its authentic version, for the pleasure of the millions of admirers of the Polish master.

A.R.

Fantaisie-Impromptu

Frédéric Chopin
(1810 - 1849)

Allegretto agitato ♩ = 84

Piano

a) *f*

b) *fzp*

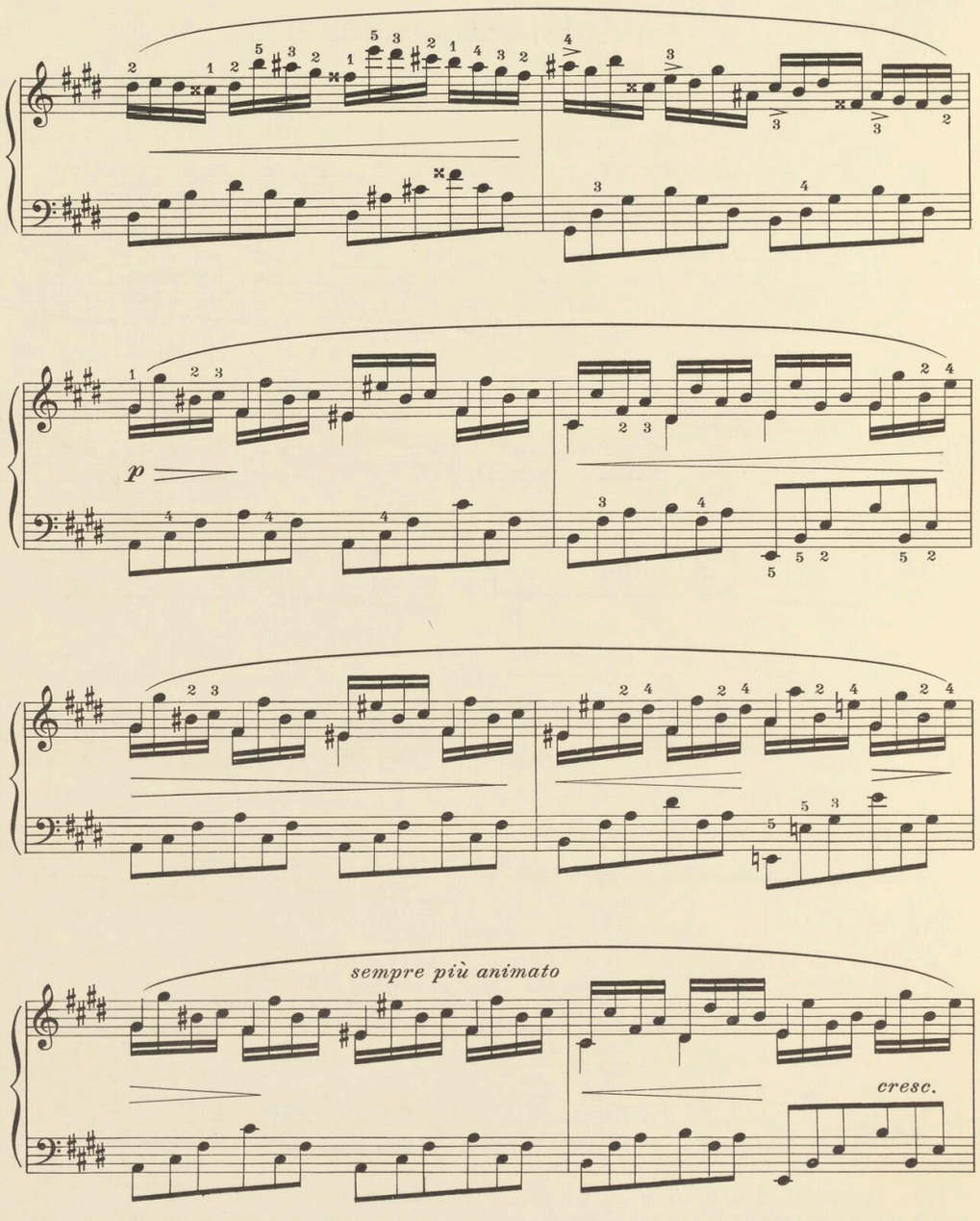
sempre legato

a) The pedal should be used sparingly until the *Più lento*, for the benefit of articulation.

b) It is advisable to start this bar slower, with an *accelerando* until the right hand comes in with the indicated tempo.

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45078c


p
sempre più animato
cresc.
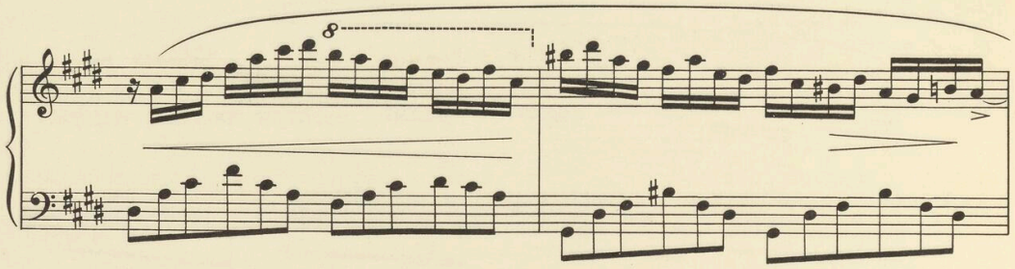
f
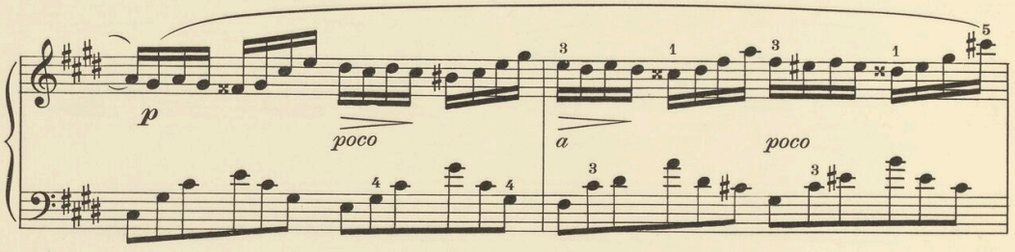
poco ritenuto
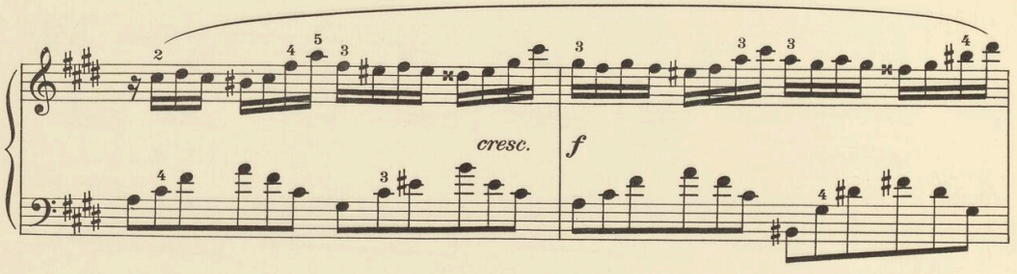
dim.
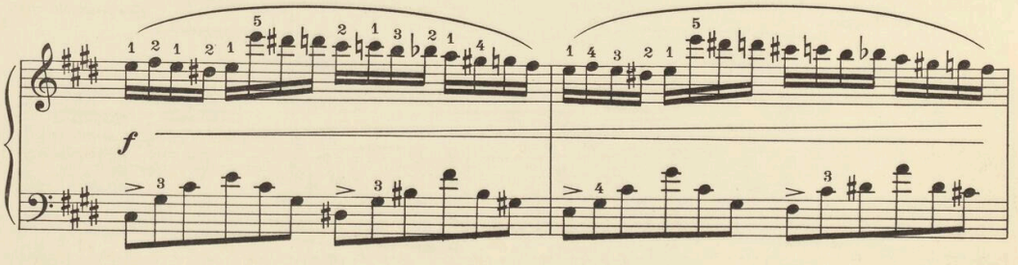
a tempo
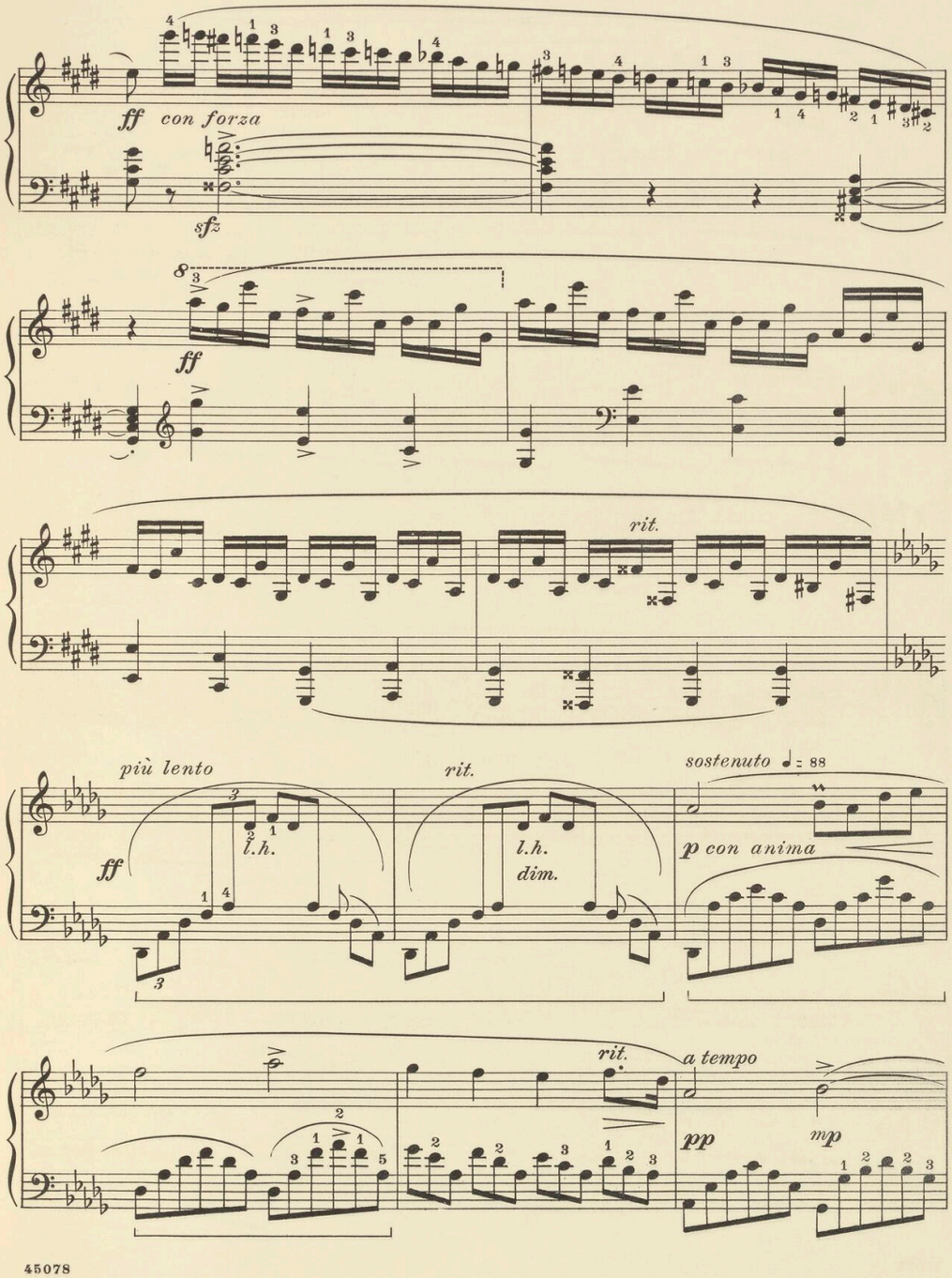
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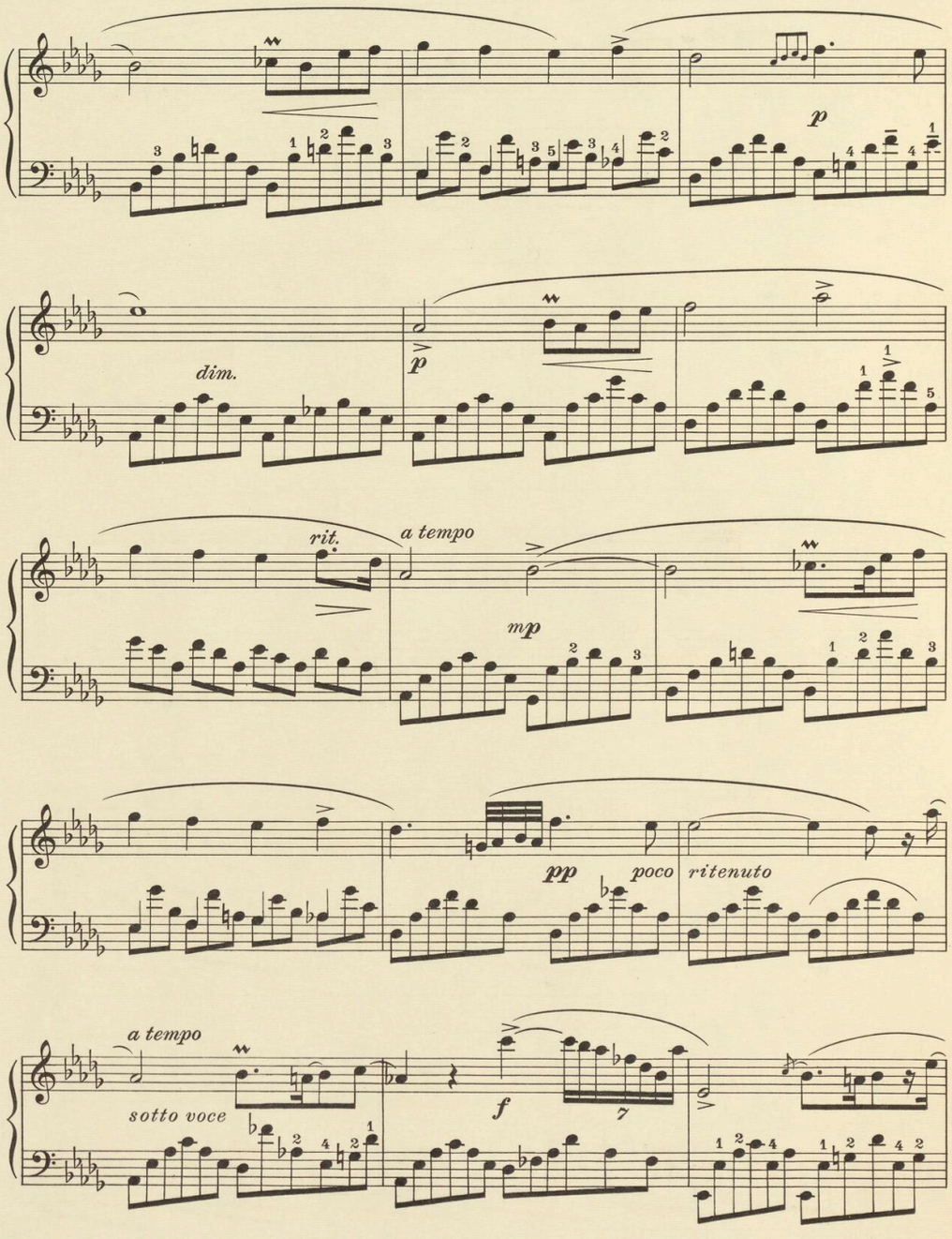

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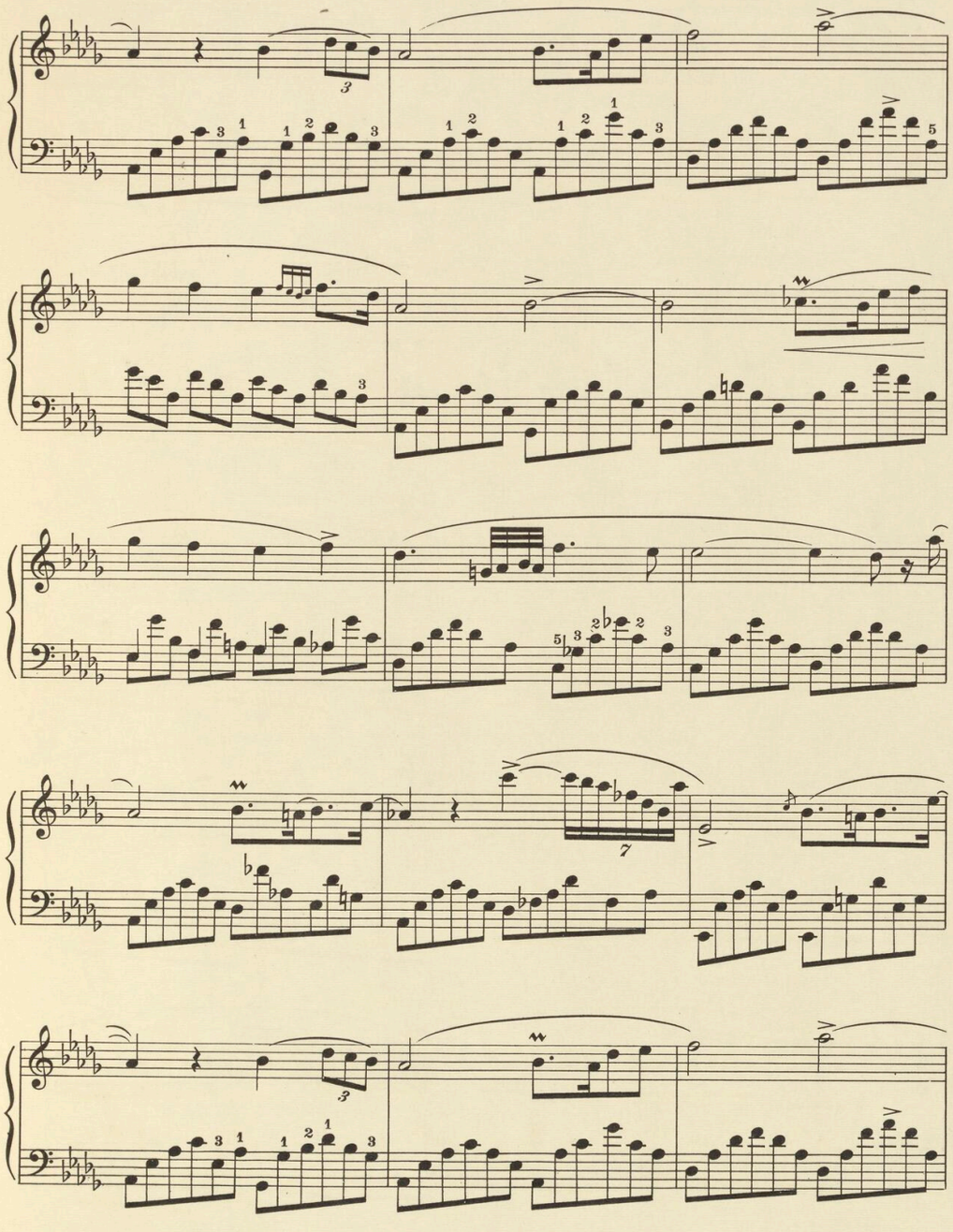

p
poco
a
poco
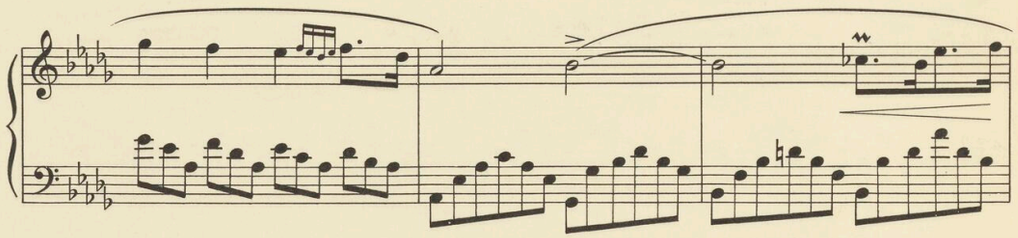

cresc.
f
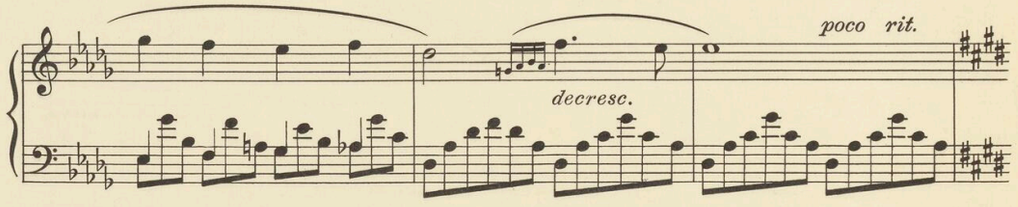

f


ff con forza
sfz
ff
rit.
più lento
ff
l.h.
rit.
l.h.
dim.
sostenuto ♩= 88
p con anima
rit.
a tempo
pp
mp
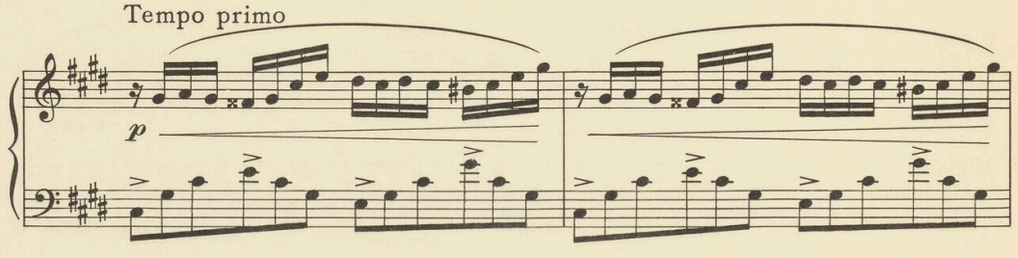

p
dim.
p
rit.
a tempo
mp
pp
poco
ritenuto
a tempo
sotto voce
f
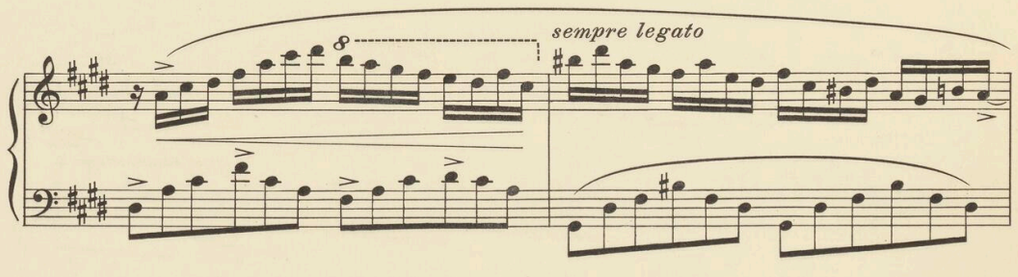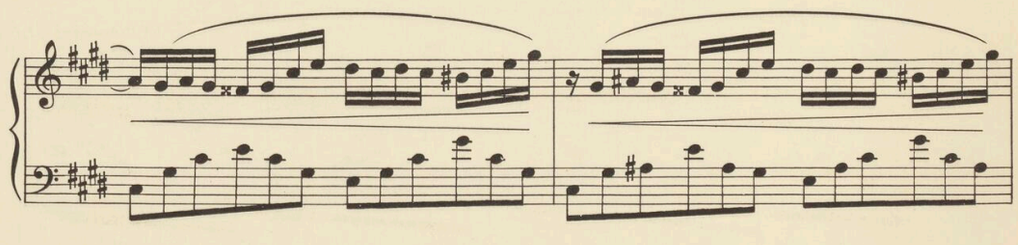





poco rit.
decresc.
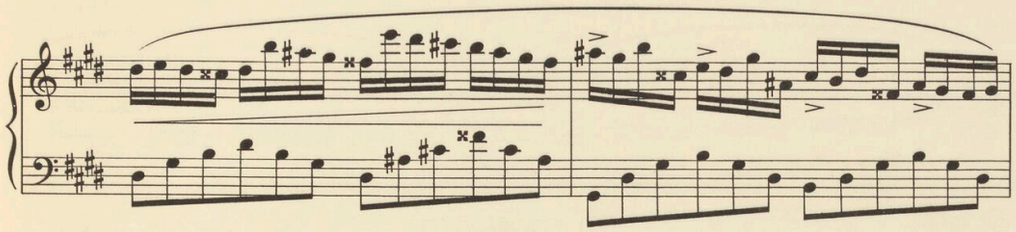
Tempo primo
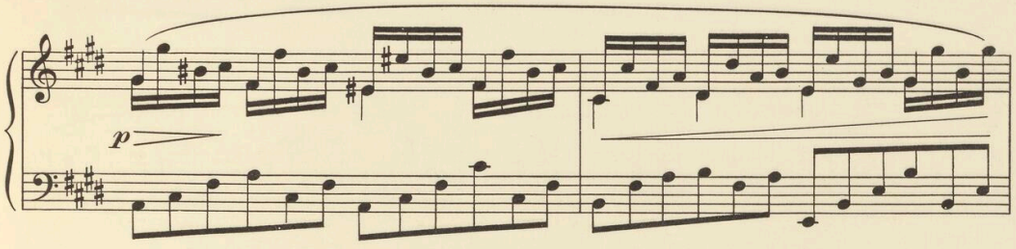

p
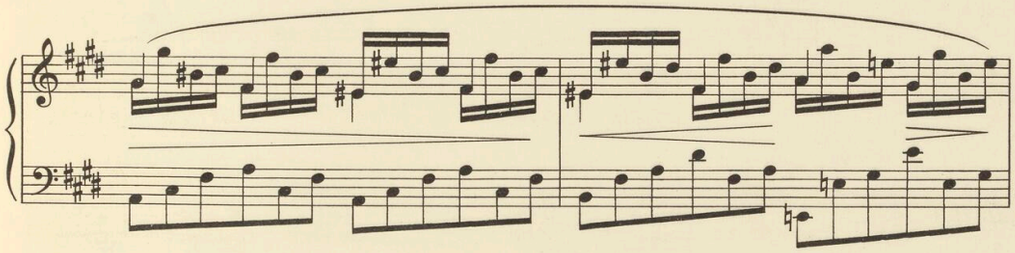

sempre legato
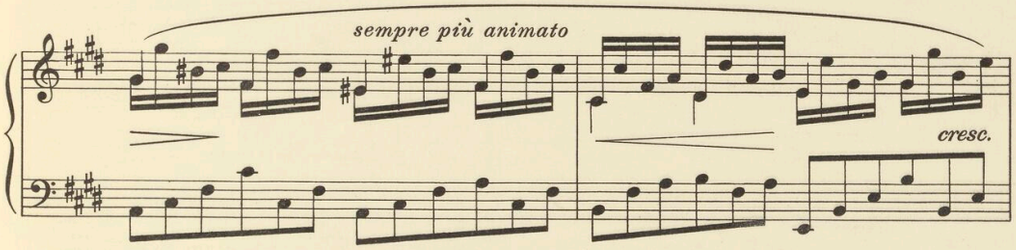


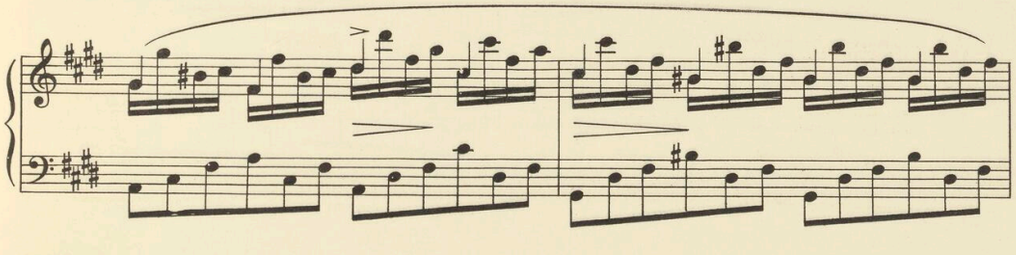

colorchecker CLASSIC
x-rite



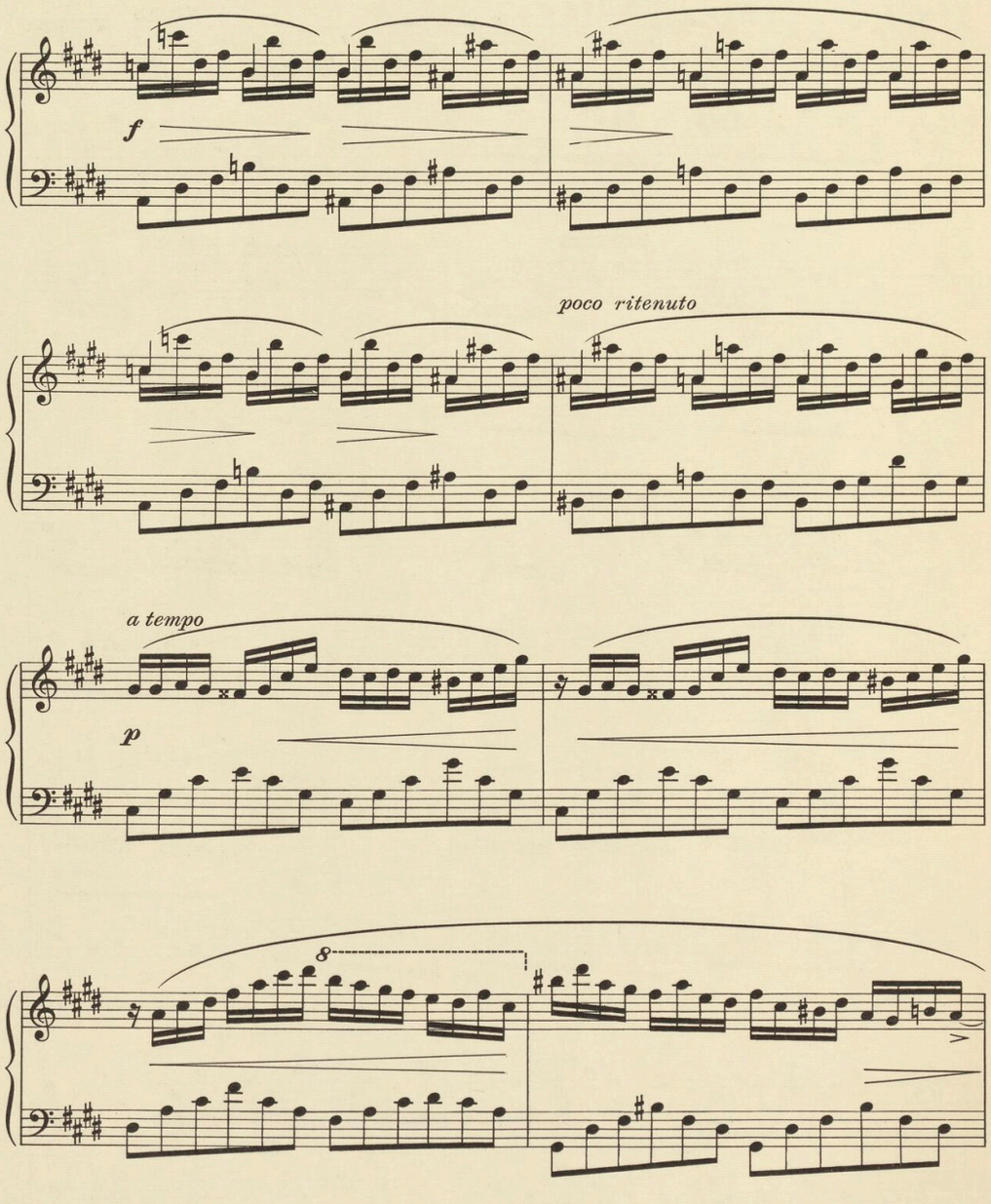

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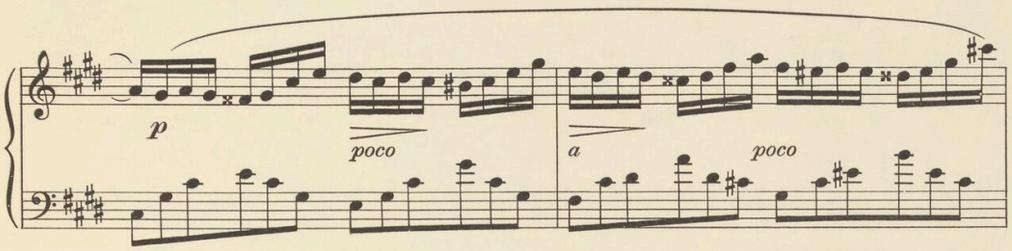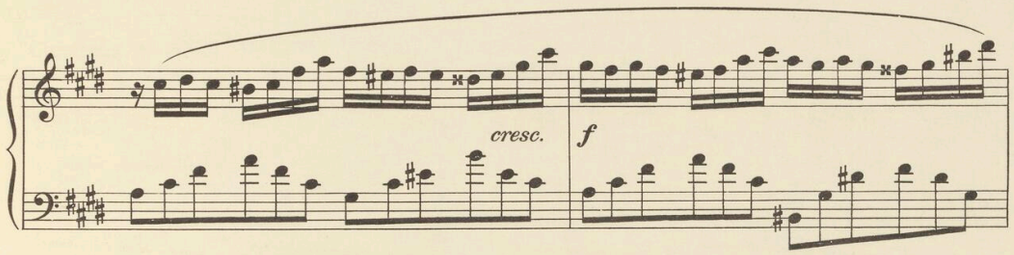



sempre più animato
cresc.
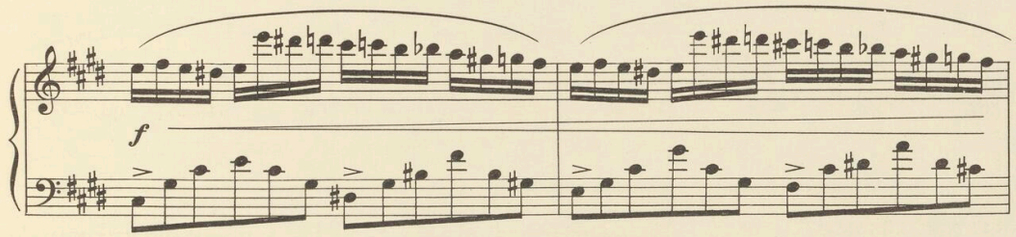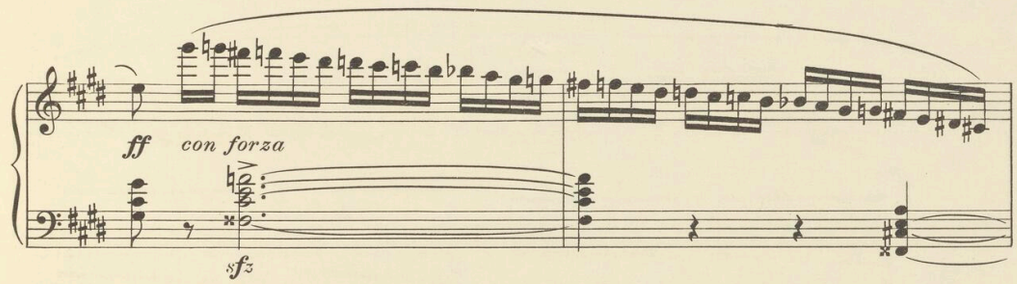



x-rite
colorchecker CLASSIC
mm

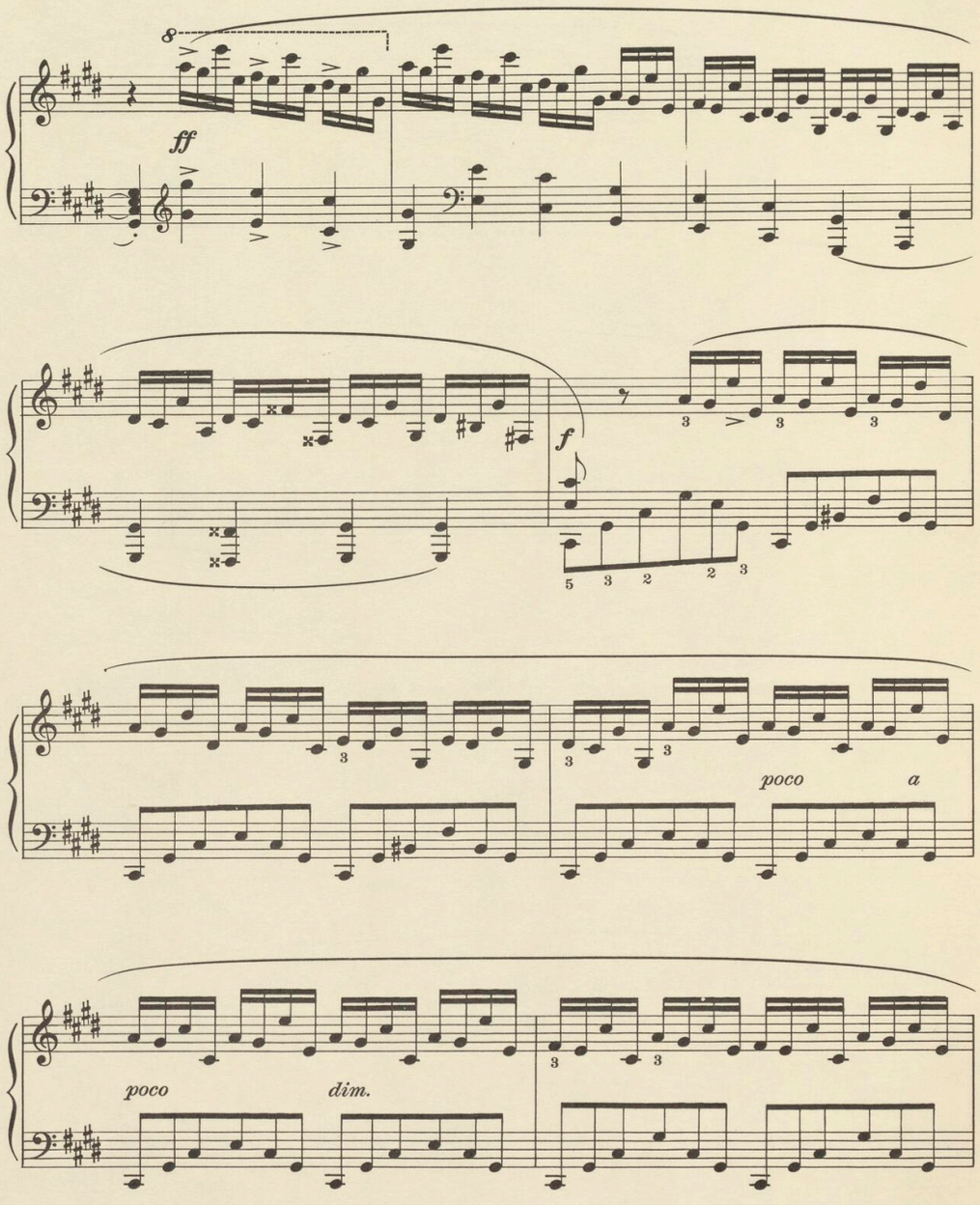

f
poco ritenuto
a tempo
p
8


p
poco
a
poco
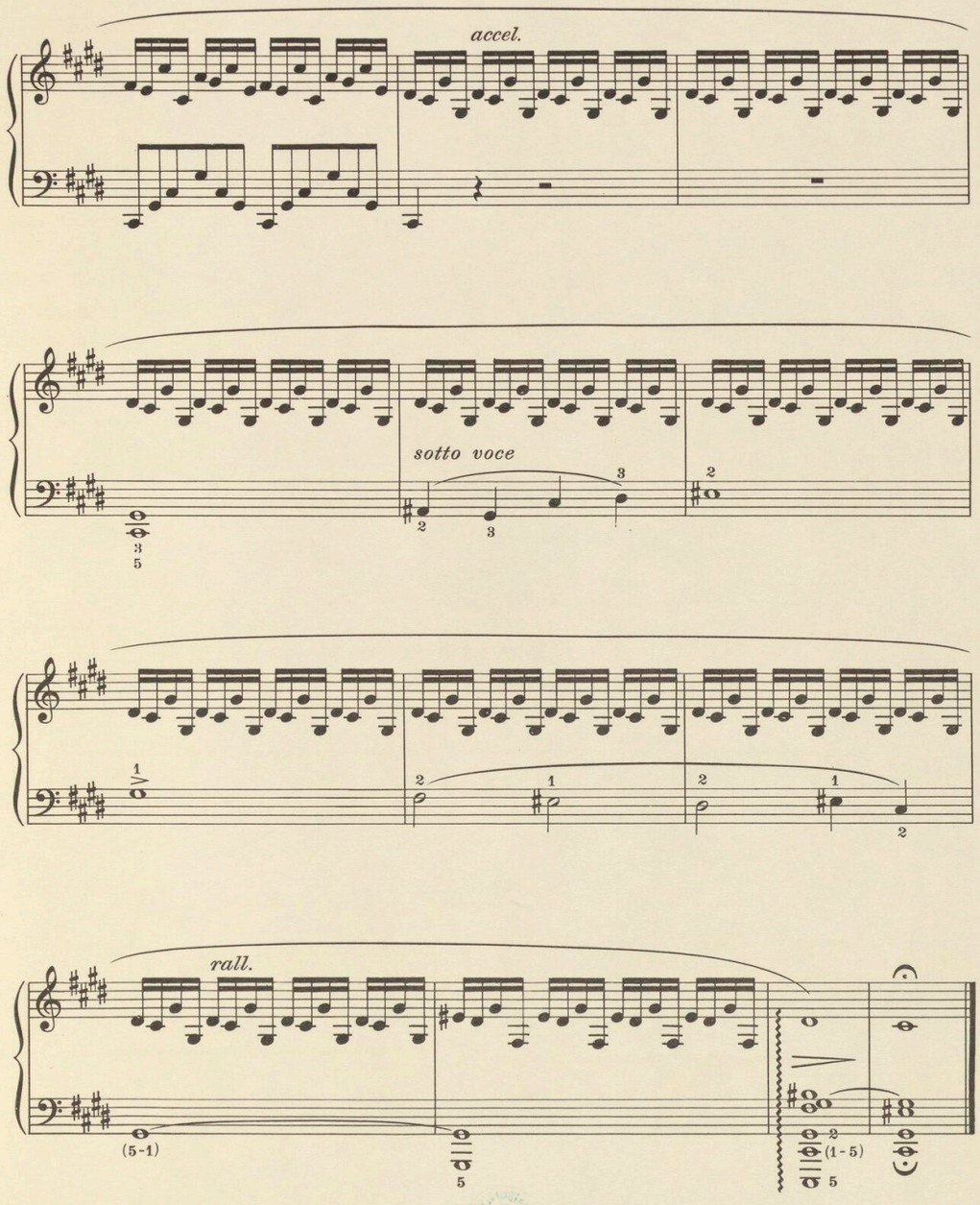

cresc.
f


f


ff
con forza
sfz



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