WILLIAM BLEZARD

TWO CONTRASTED PIECES

Oboe d'amore (Oboe) & Piano

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A SI 007

William Blezard

(1921-2003)

William Blezard studied at the Royal College of Music, London (Arthur Benjamin and Frank Merrick [piano], Herbert Howells [composition], Gordon Jacob [orchestration]). After being awarded the Cobbett and Hecht prizes for composition, he embarked upon his richly varied career at J. Arthur Rank's Denham Film Studios (England), working frequently with the ubiquitous Muir Matheson.

Here, he composed music for films and documentaries and arranged, orchestrated and developed Noël Coward's music for the feature film *The Astonished Heart* (1949).

William Blezard first met the pianist Donald Swann (of Flanders and Swann) through his wife, the conductor and teacher Joan Kemp Potter. His encounter with Joyce Grenfell, one of Swann's circle, led to the collaboration in her show *Joyce Grenfell Requests The Pleasure* (from 1954). He remained Grenfell's accompanist throughout her career. Together, they gave several BBC broadcasts and four world tours. Her last performance at Windsor Castle was for the Royal Family (June 1973). With much gusto, Blezard added *The Battle March Of Delhi* (a Victorian song) to the evening's proceedings.

In 1965, he took over from Burt Bacharach as Marlene Dietrich's accompanist and Musical Director. They gave three world-tours together ending in 1975 when Dietrich broke her leg during the show in Sydney (Australia), which was to be her final stage performance.

Blezard worked upon two Royal Shakespeare Company productions with Peter Brook (1957), *Titus Andronicus* and *The Tempest*. That same year he became Musical Director of John Osborne's *The Entertainer* with Laurence Olivier. He did the same for the Max Wall revival (1974), which led to his involvement in the solo show, *Aspects Of Max Wall*.

Blezard was Musical Director for *Noël And Gertie*; Sheridan Morley's show about Coward and Gertrude Lawrence. He also worked with Joanna Lumley, Ian Ogilvy, Patricia Hodge and Maria Aitken. In the 1980s, he started a long-running partnership with Honor Blackman in her show, *Yvette and Dishonourable Ladies*. In 1990, he played for the first of many performances of Tim Heath's *Not Yet The Dodo*, which was based upon Coward's poem.

William Blezard's remarkable powers of improvisation were featured in BBC children's television for many years. He was the first pianist for *Play School* and was frequently called upon to provide what presenter Johnny Ball termed 'onomatopoeic music' – music to imitate running water or puddle splashing etc.

He died in Barnes in 2003 aged 81, having given his final performance the night before his death.

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Two Contrasted Pieces

Oboe d'amore (Oboe) & Piano

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Soliloquy started life as a piece for solo left hand and reflects the persistent disquiet of a troubled mind. Its melody seems to suggest a contrasting voice, distant from the accompanying pattern. The character and range of the beautifully expressive oboe d'amore (oboe) seemed to me to capture this mood perfectly.

Quirky Waltz is a light-hearted antidote to chase away any lingering intensity. The mood is deliberately flippant with a return to wistfulness at the close.

This work was written for Jennifer Paull and completed in this final version in 1994.

William Blezard
1997

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Two Contrasted Pieces

is recorded by

Jennifer Paull, Oboe d'amore
Read Gainsford, Piano

The Oboe d'amore Collection Volume II

(A SC VII)

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Also by WilliamBlezard published by ***Amoris International***

Scherzo furioso (A SI 007) Double Reed Instrument & Piano

www.amoris.com

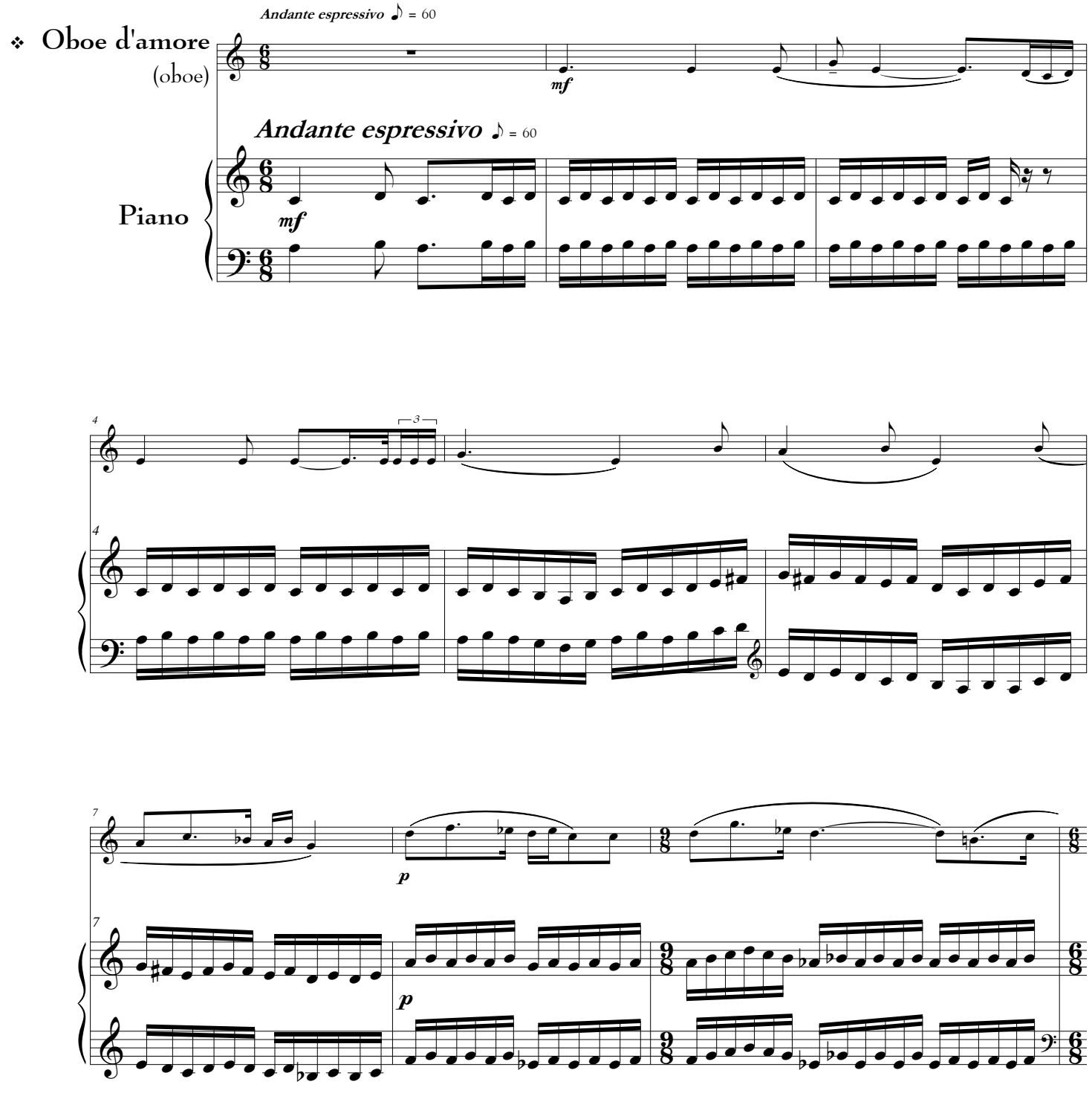
for Jennifer Paull

TWO CONTRASTED PIECES

William Blezard
(1921 - 2003)

I

Soliloquy



❖ *In Concert Pitch*

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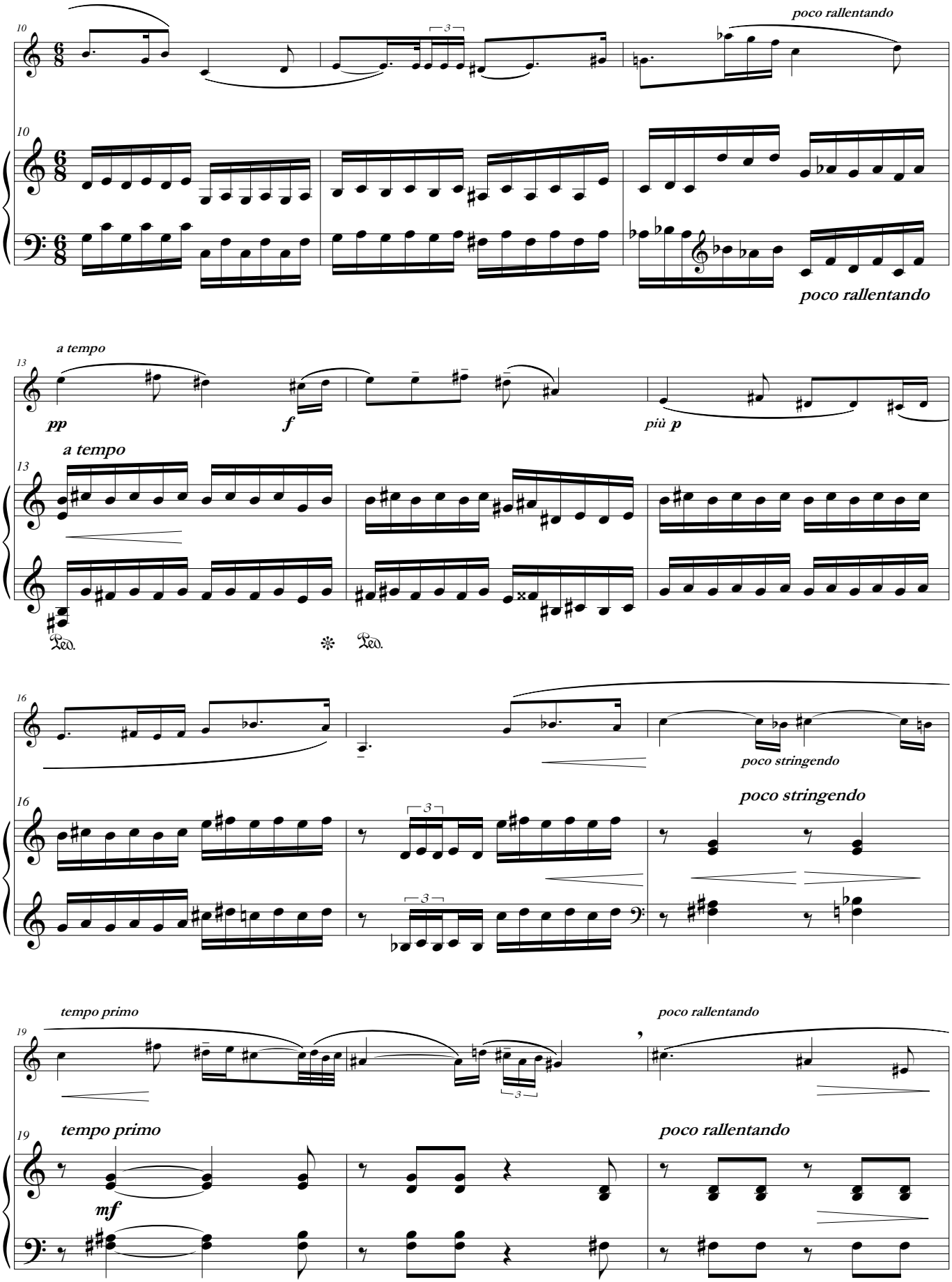
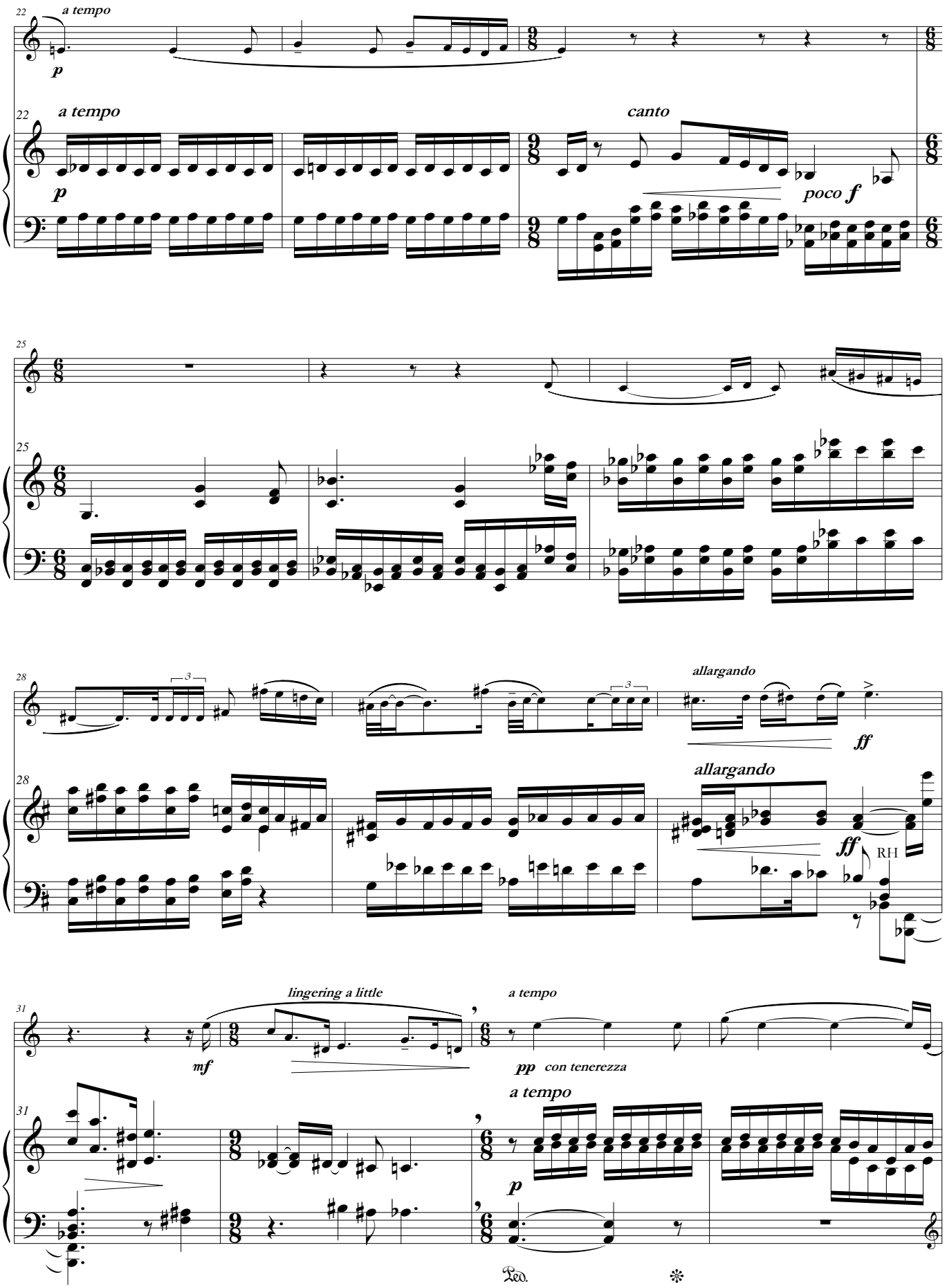
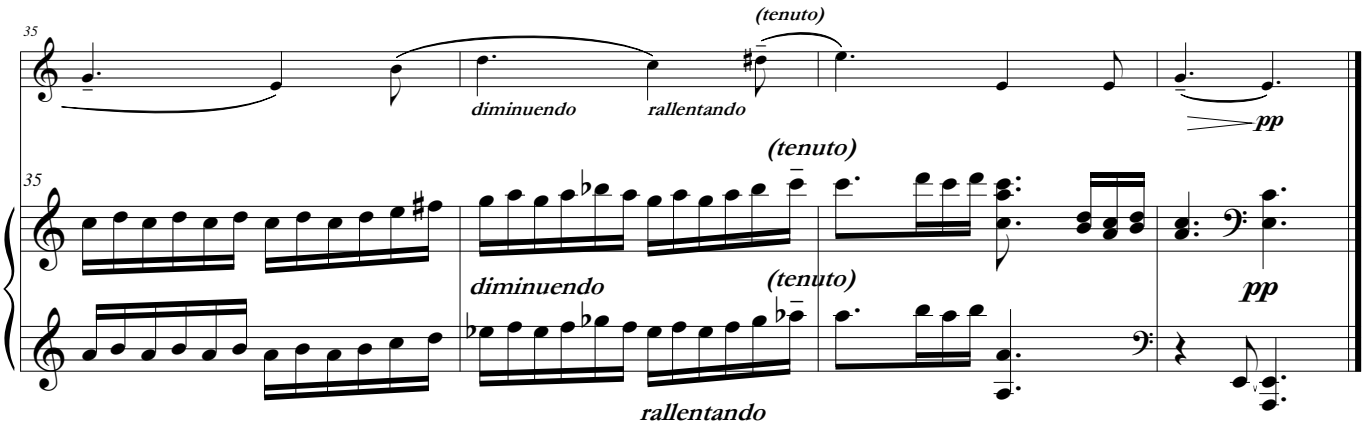
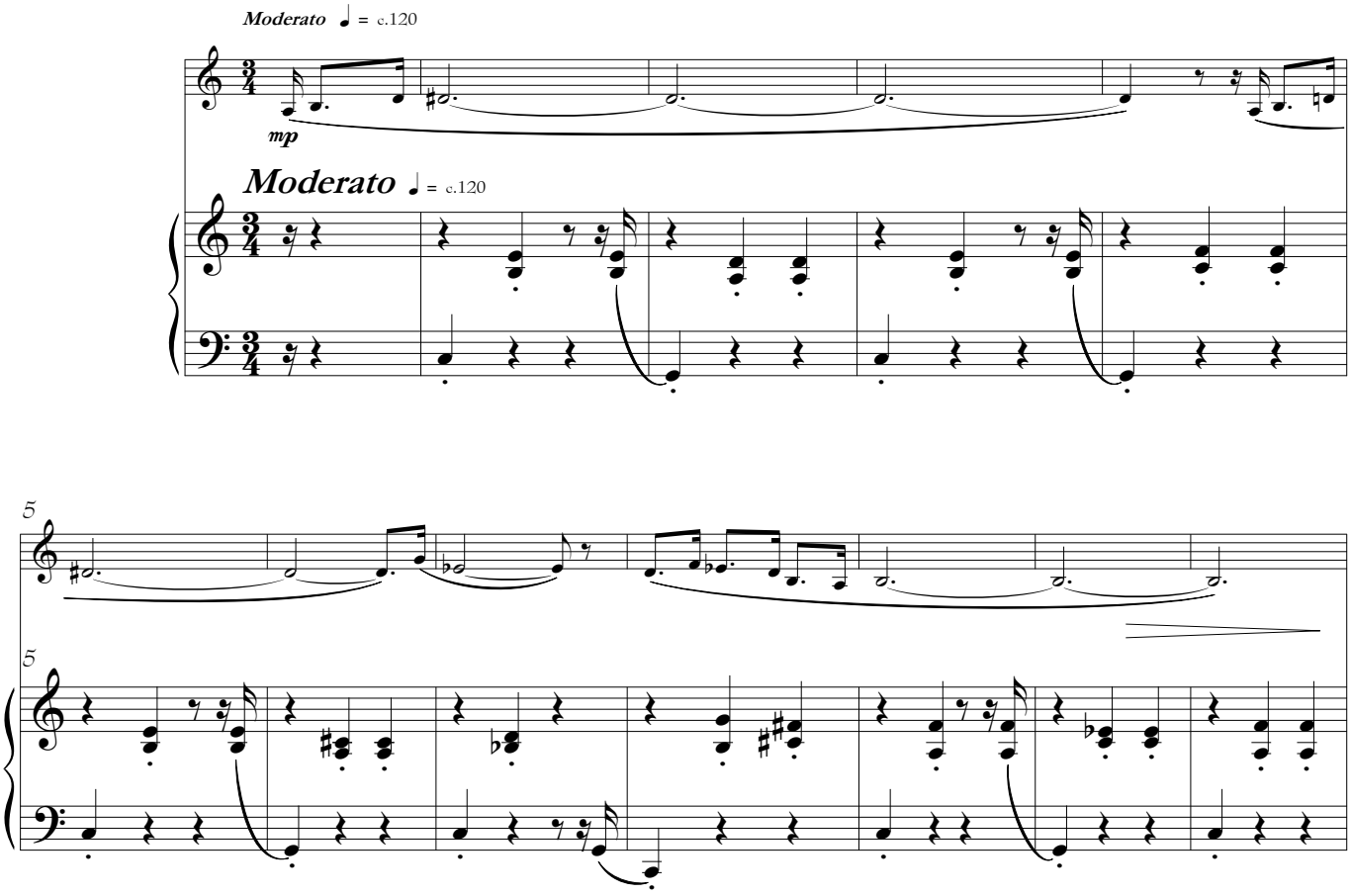
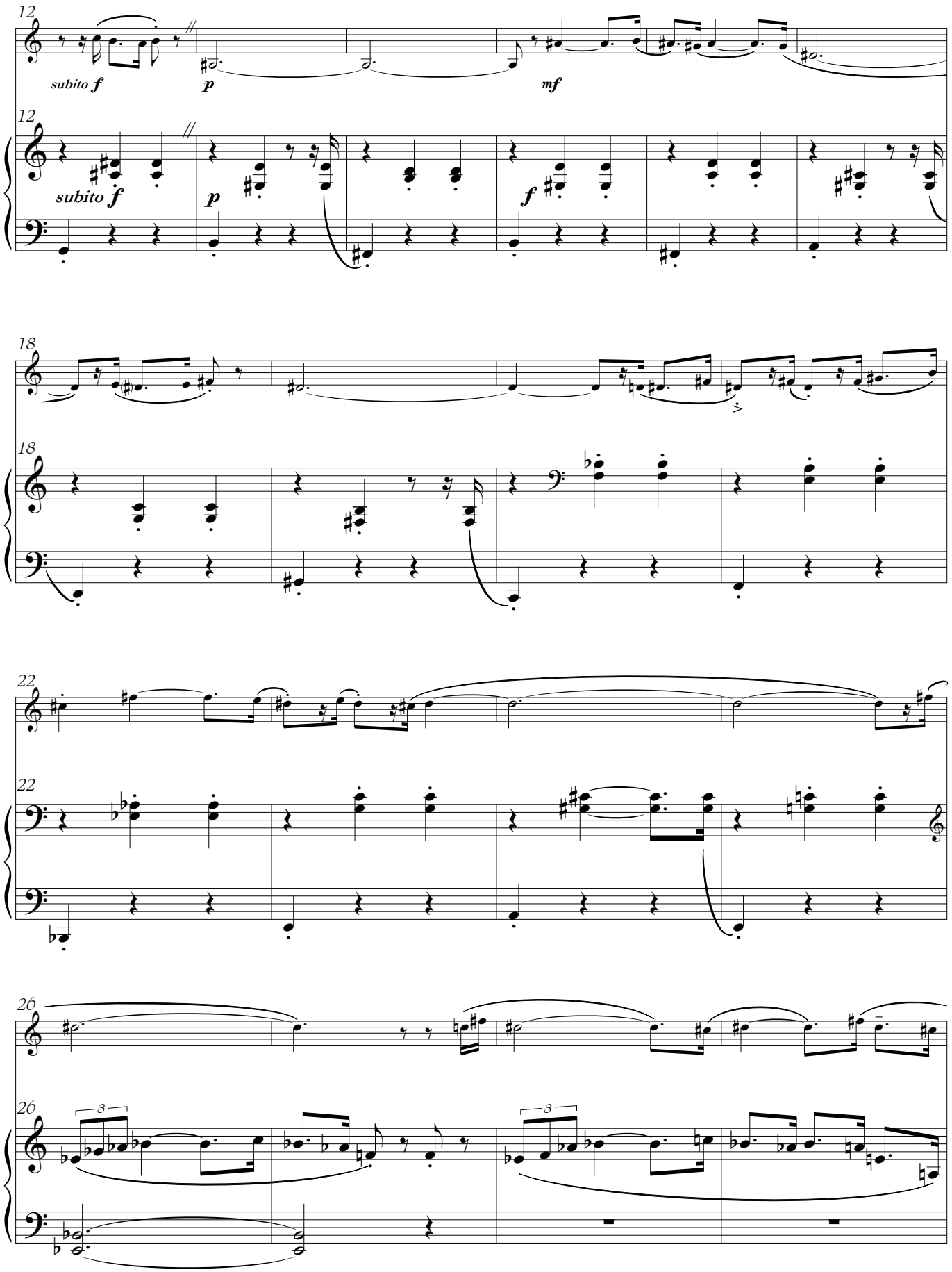

poco rallentando
poco rallentando
a tempo
pp
f
più p
a tempo
poco stringendo
poco stringendo
tempo primo
poco rallentando
tempo primo
poco rallentando
mf

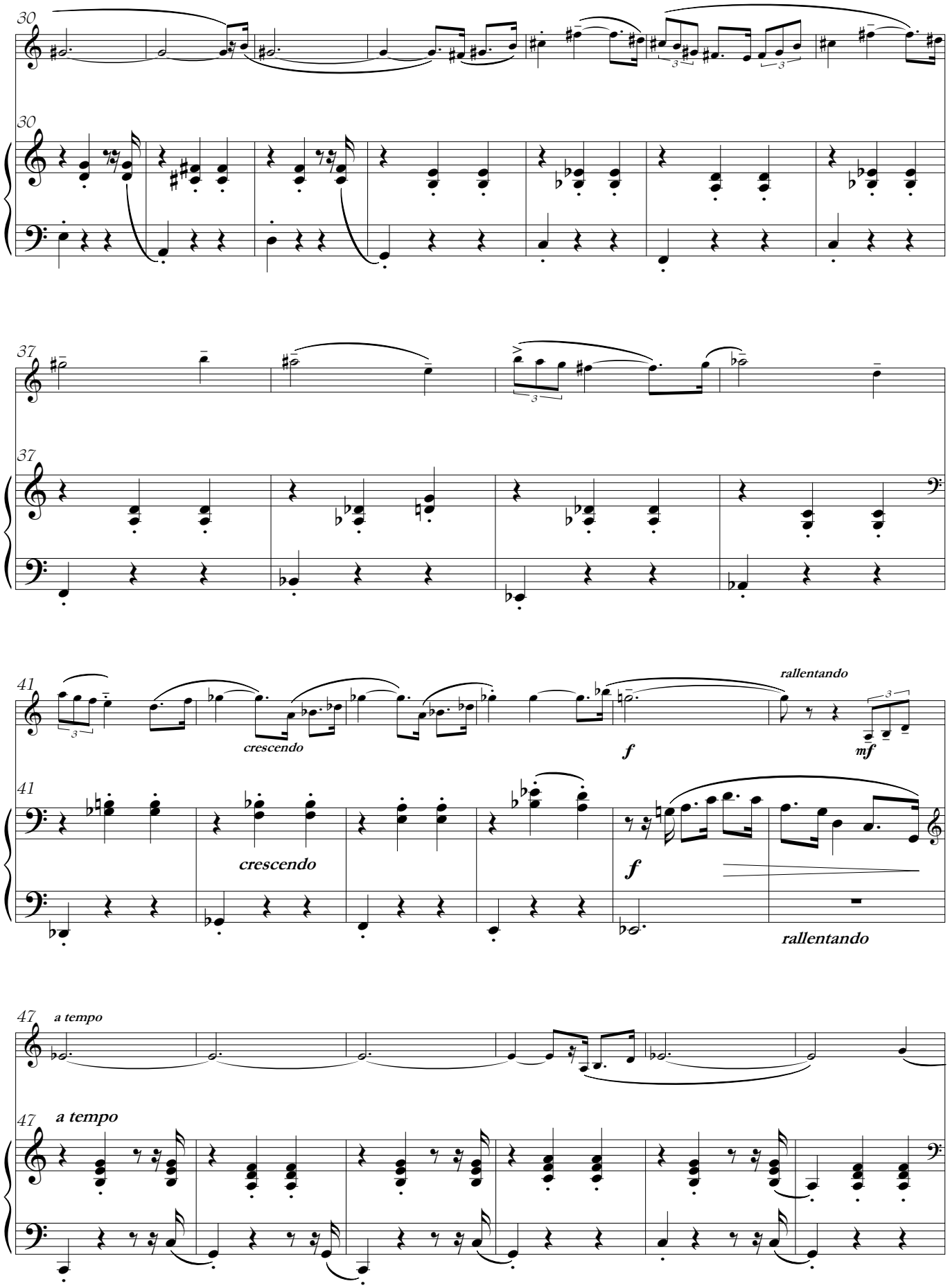

22
a tempo
p
22
a tempo
p
canto
poco f
25
25
28
3
3
allargando
ff
28
allargando
ff
RH
31
lingering a little
mf
a tempo
pp con tenerezza
31
a tempo
p
Ped.

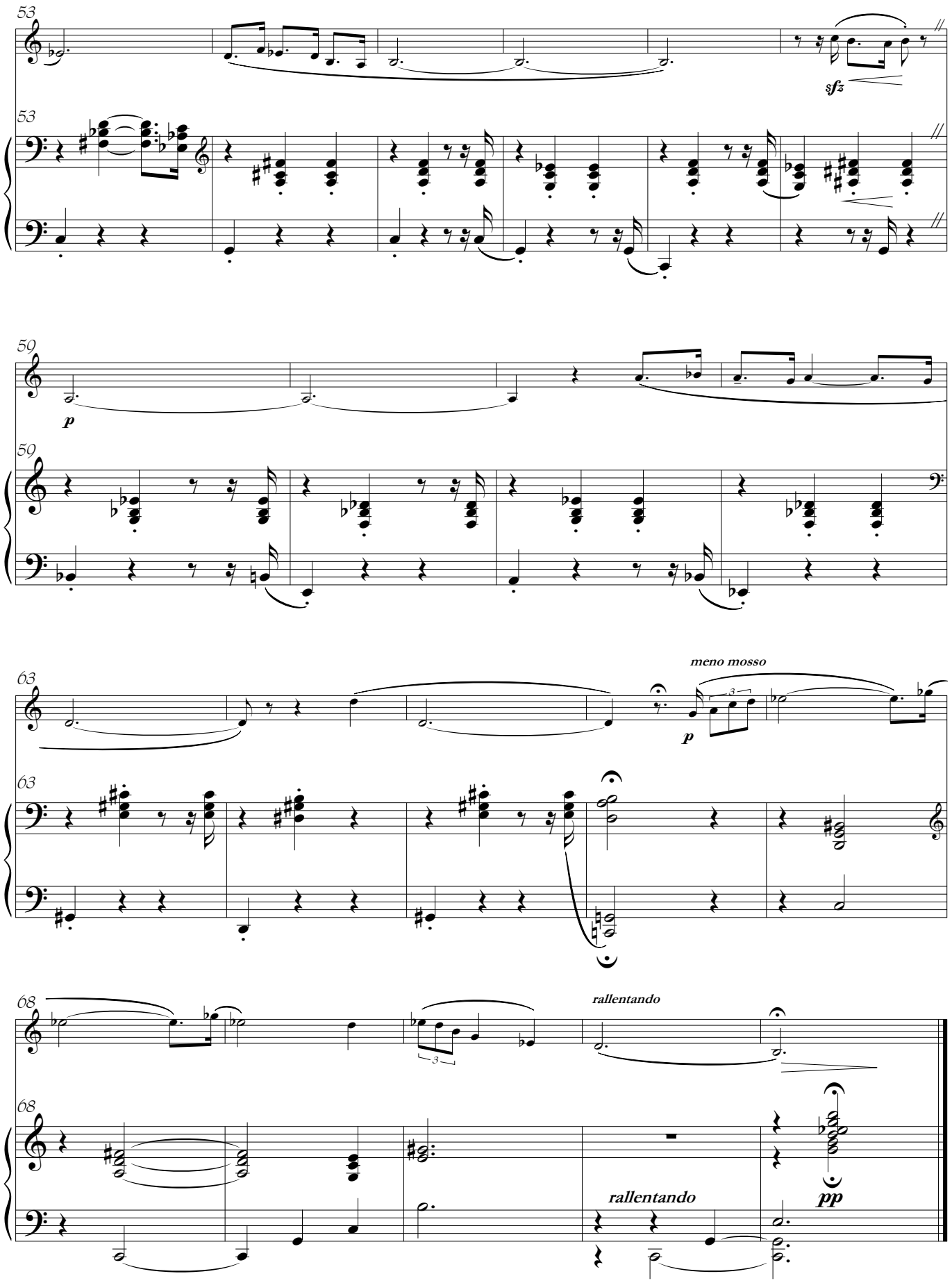


II
Quirky Waltz




12
subito f
p
mf
12
subito f
p
f
18
18
22
22
26
26
3
3


30
30
37
37
41
41
crescendo
f
rallentando
mf
crescendo
f
rallentando
47
a tempo
47
a tempo


53
sfz
53
50
p
50
63
meno mosso
p
63
68
rallentando
68
rallentando
pp

for Jennifer Paull

TWO CONTRASTED PIECES

Oboe d'amore

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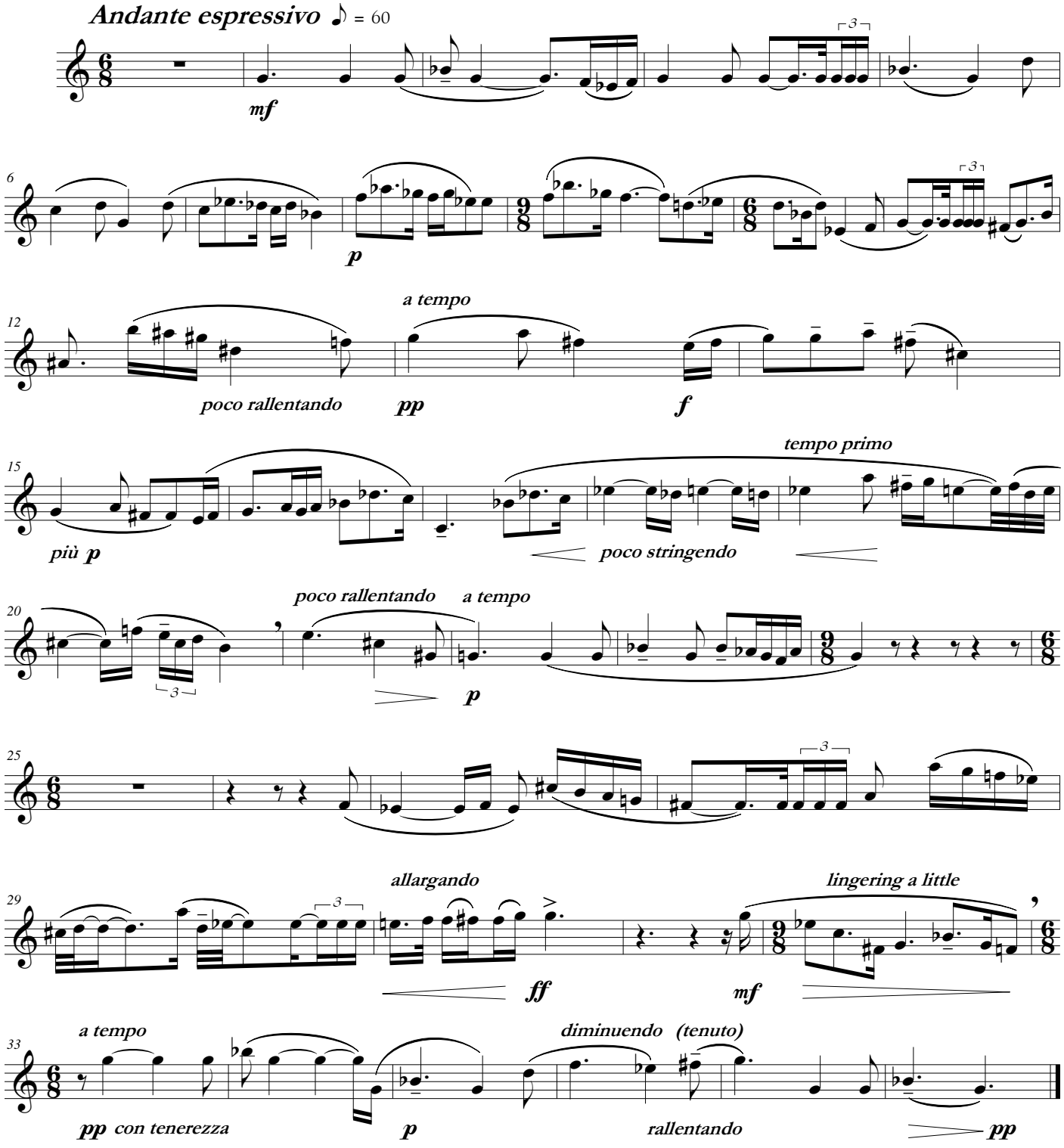
(1921 - 2003)

I

Soliloquy



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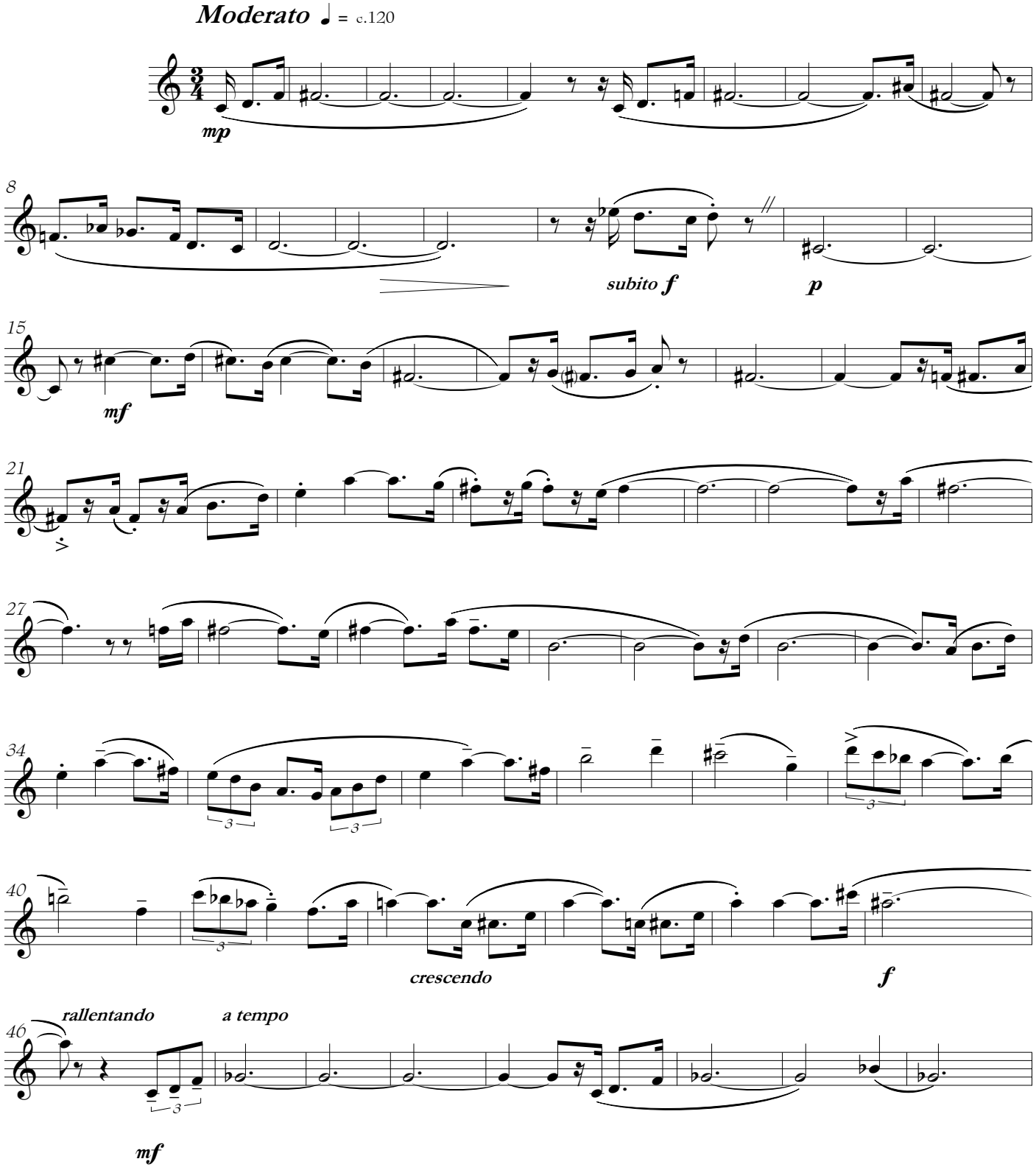
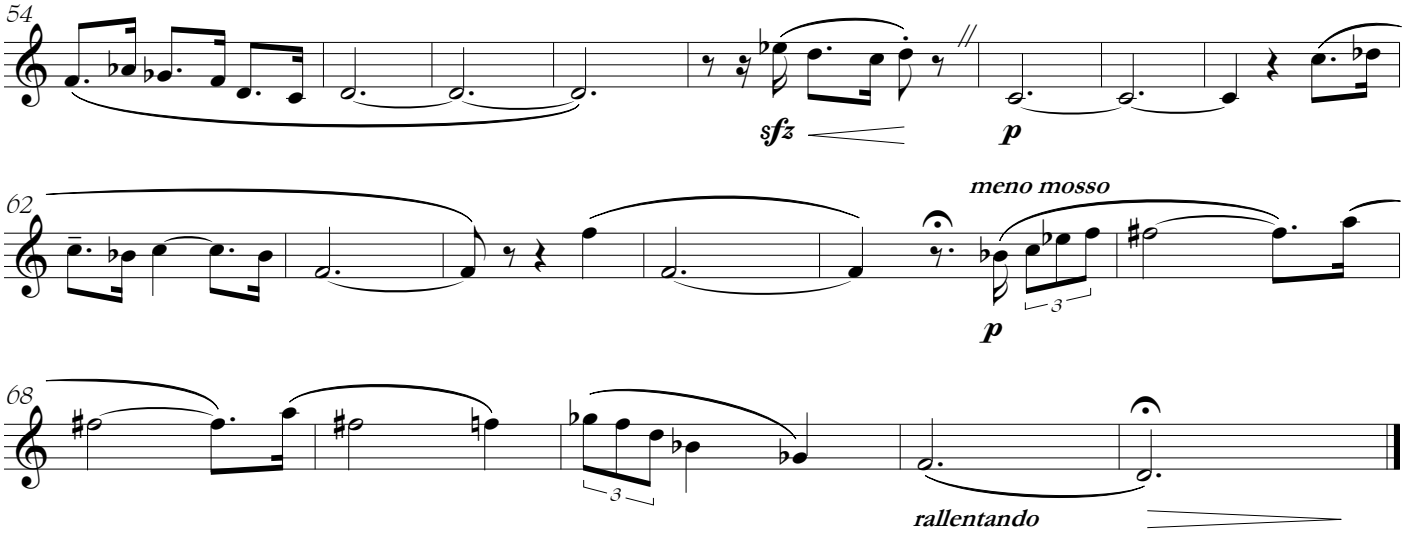
II

Quirky Waltz




54
sfz
p
62
meno mosso
p
3
68
3
rallentando

for Jennifer Paull

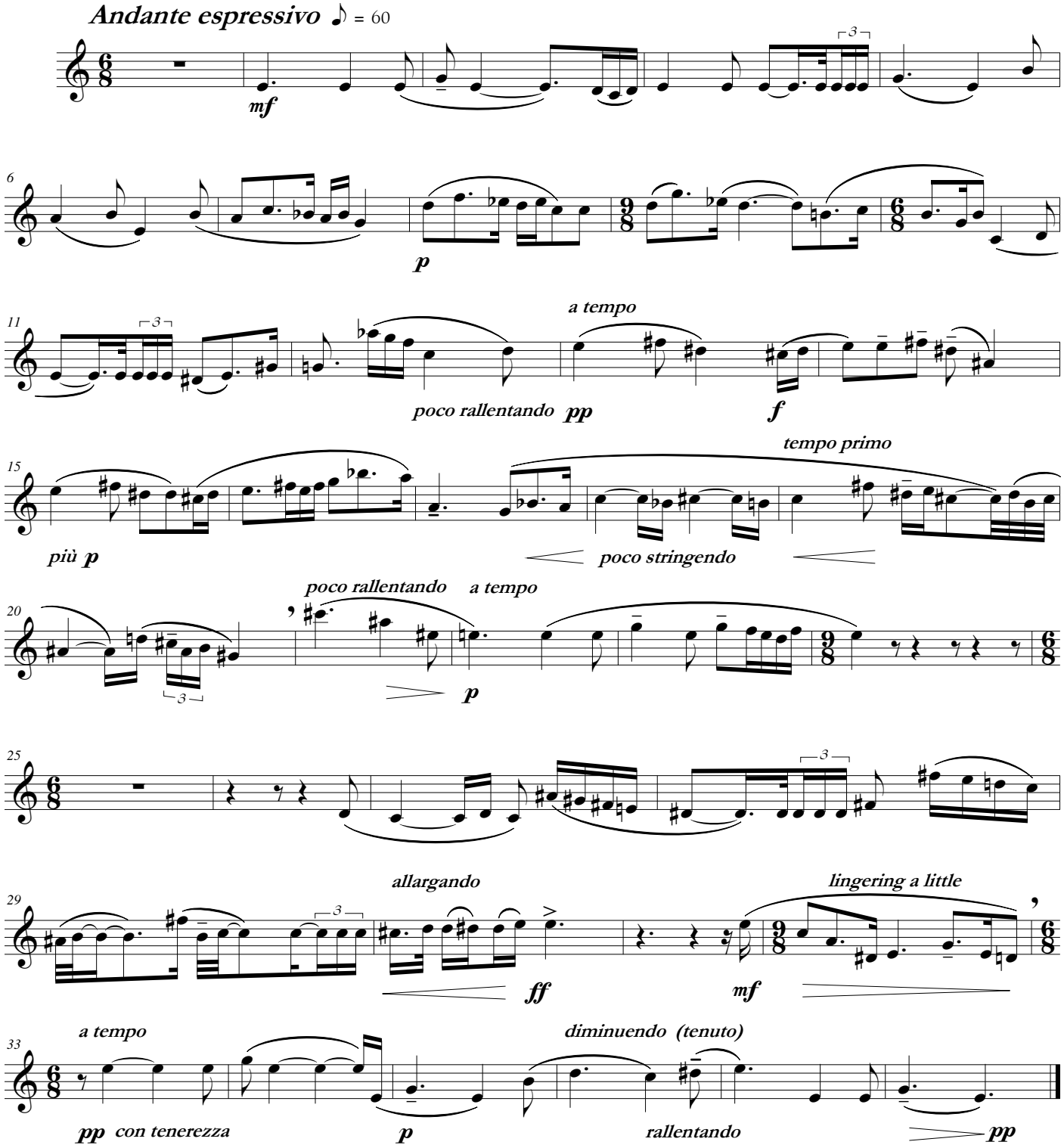
TWO CONTRASTED PIECES

Oboe

William Blezard
(1921 - 2003)

I

Soliloquy



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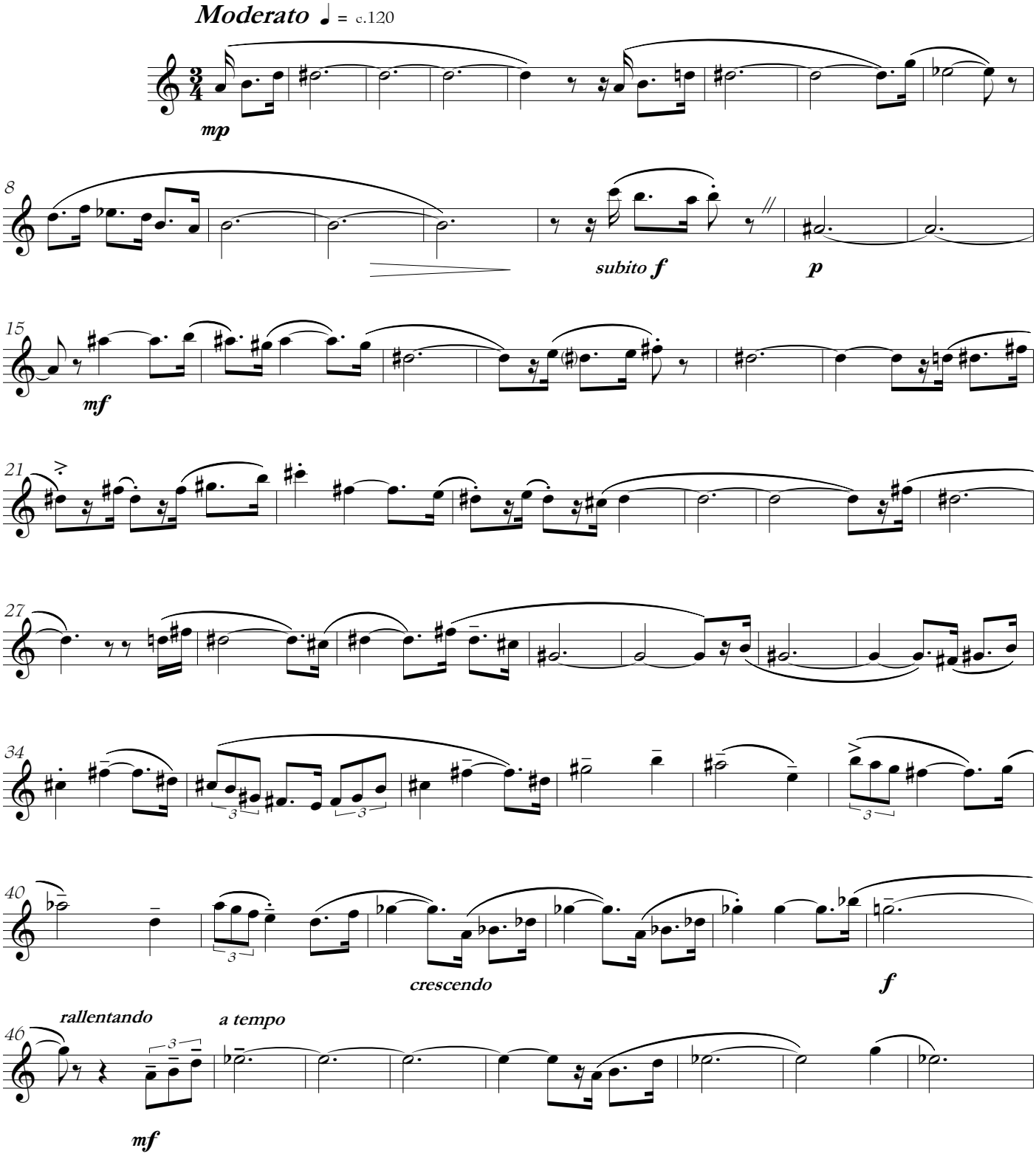
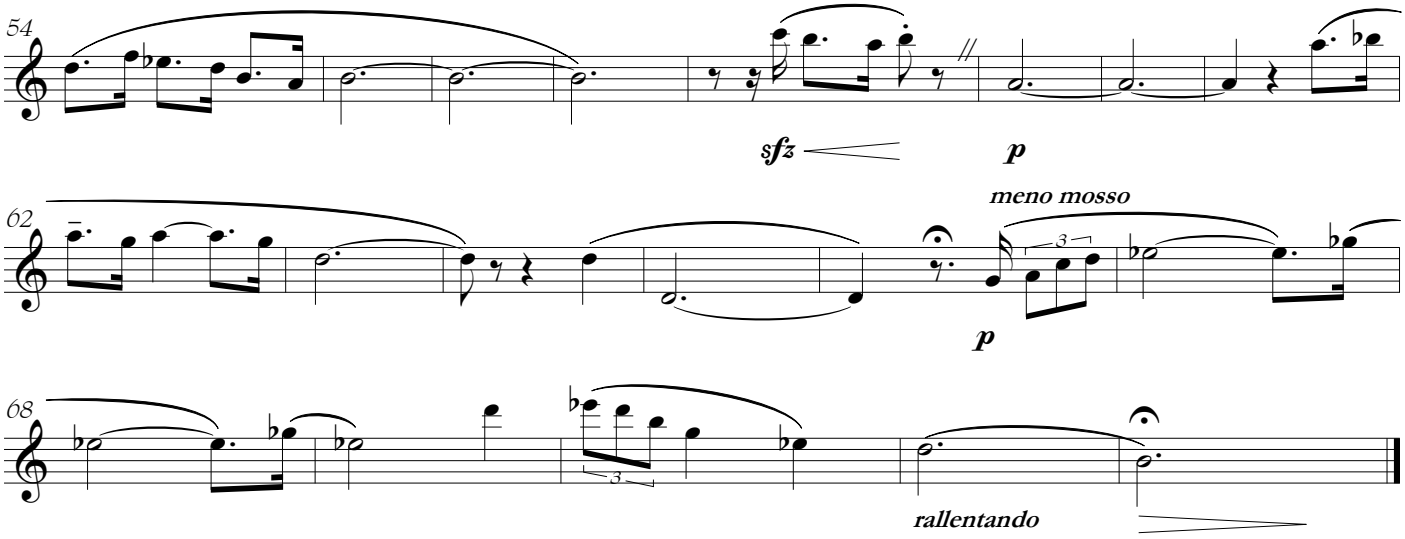
II

Quirky Waltz




54
sfz
p
62
meno mosso
3
p
68
3
rallentando