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Fabric.
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HENRY COWELL

FABRIC

For Piano

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Explanation of New Rythms and Notes

by Henry Cowell

In musical time a whole note (𝅝) is the unit by which all shorter time values are measured, for instance an eighth note (♪) is so called because it occupies one eighth the time of a whole note; a quarter note (♩) is so called because it occupies one quarter the time of a whole note, etc.

The only regular system of subdividing a whole note is by twos into halves, quarters, eighths, etc. If notes of other time values, for instance notes occupying one twelfth of a whole note are desired, they are called "eighth note triplets" and written as eighth notes, with a figure *3* over them, thus ♪³ Why not call them twelfth notes, as would seem natural?

It is here proposed that all these irregular time values be called by their correct names, according to the part of a whole note they occupy. Thus ♩ ♩ ♩ (3) are third notes instead of "half note triplets" since each occupies one third of the time of a whole note; ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩ (5) are fifth notes instead of "quarter note quintuplets, etc.

Although heretofore not suggested in notation, it will be seen that third, sixth, twelfth and twenty-fourth notes form a related series; fifth, tenth and twentieth notes another, and in fact, that a new series can be formed on each odd number and its divisions by two.

A new notation which brings out these relationships will be used as follows:-

Whole Note Series.
Oval-shaped notes

Whole note: 𝅝 half note: 𝅗𝅥 quarter note: ♩ 8th note: ♪ 16th note: 𝅘𝅥𝅯 32nd note: 𝅘𝅥𝅰

Third Note Series.
Triangular-shaped notes

2-3rds note: △ 3rd note: 𝅗𝅥 6th note: ♩ 12th note: ♪ 24th note: 𝅘𝅥𝅯 48th note: 𝅘𝅥𝅰

Fifth Note Series.
Square notes

4-5ths note: □ 2-5ths note: 𝅗𝅥 5th note: ♩ 10th note: ♪ 20th note: 𝅘𝅥𝅯 40th note: 𝅘𝅥𝅰

Seventh Note Series.
Diamond-shaped notes

4-7ths note: ◇ 2-7ths note: 𝅗𝅥 7th note: ♩ 14th note: ♪ 28th note: 𝅘𝅥𝅯 56th note: 𝅘𝅥𝅰

Ninth Note Series.
Oblong notes

8-9ths note: ▭ 4-9ths note: 𝅗𝅥 2-9ths note: ♩ 9th note: ♪ 18th note: 𝅘𝅥𝅯 36th note: 𝅘𝅥𝅰

Eleventh Note Series.
Oval notes with stroke

8-11ths note: 𝅝 4-11ths note: 𝅗𝅥 2-11ths note: ♩ 11th note: ♪ 22nd note: 𝅘𝅥𝅯 44th note: 𝅘𝅥𝅰

Thirteenth Note Series.
Triangular notes with stroke

8-13ths note: △ 4-13ths note: 𝅗𝅥 2-13ths note: ♩ 13th note: ♪ 26th note: 𝅘𝅥𝅯 52nd note: 𝅘𝅥𝅰

Fifteenth Note Series.
Square notes with stroke

8-15ths note: □ 4-15ths note: 𝅗𝅥 2-15ths note: ♩ 15th note: ♪ 30th note: 𝅘𝅥𝅯 60th note: 𝅘𝅥𝅰

Following is part of the second measure of "Fabric", in both old and new notation. It will be seen that the new notation saves the use of several tied tones, as well as figures and brackets.

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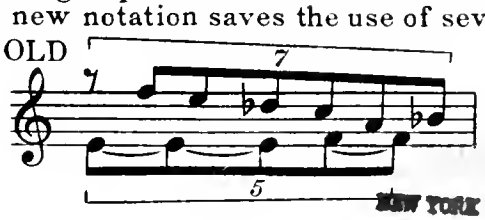

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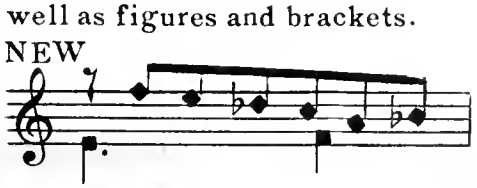

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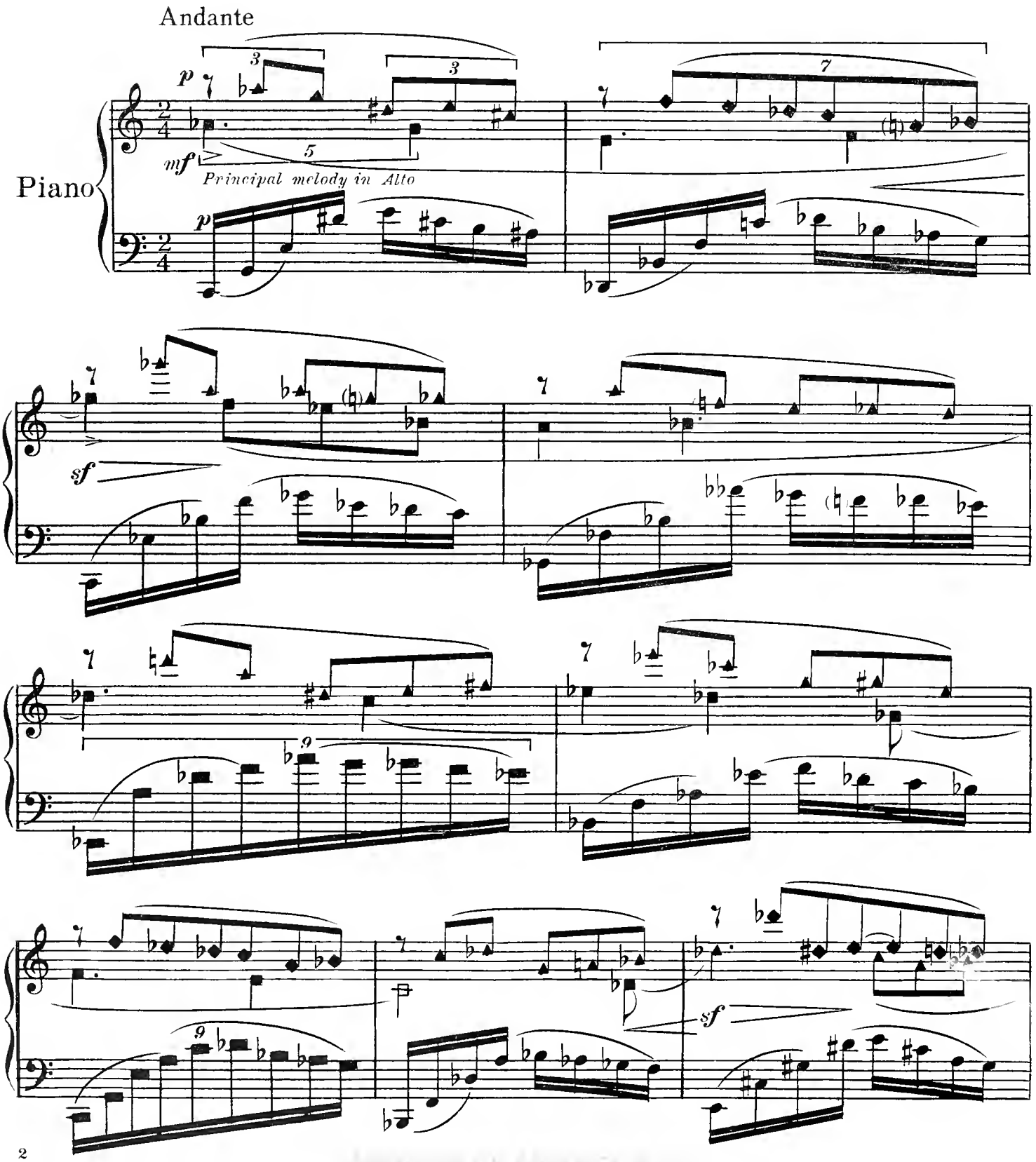

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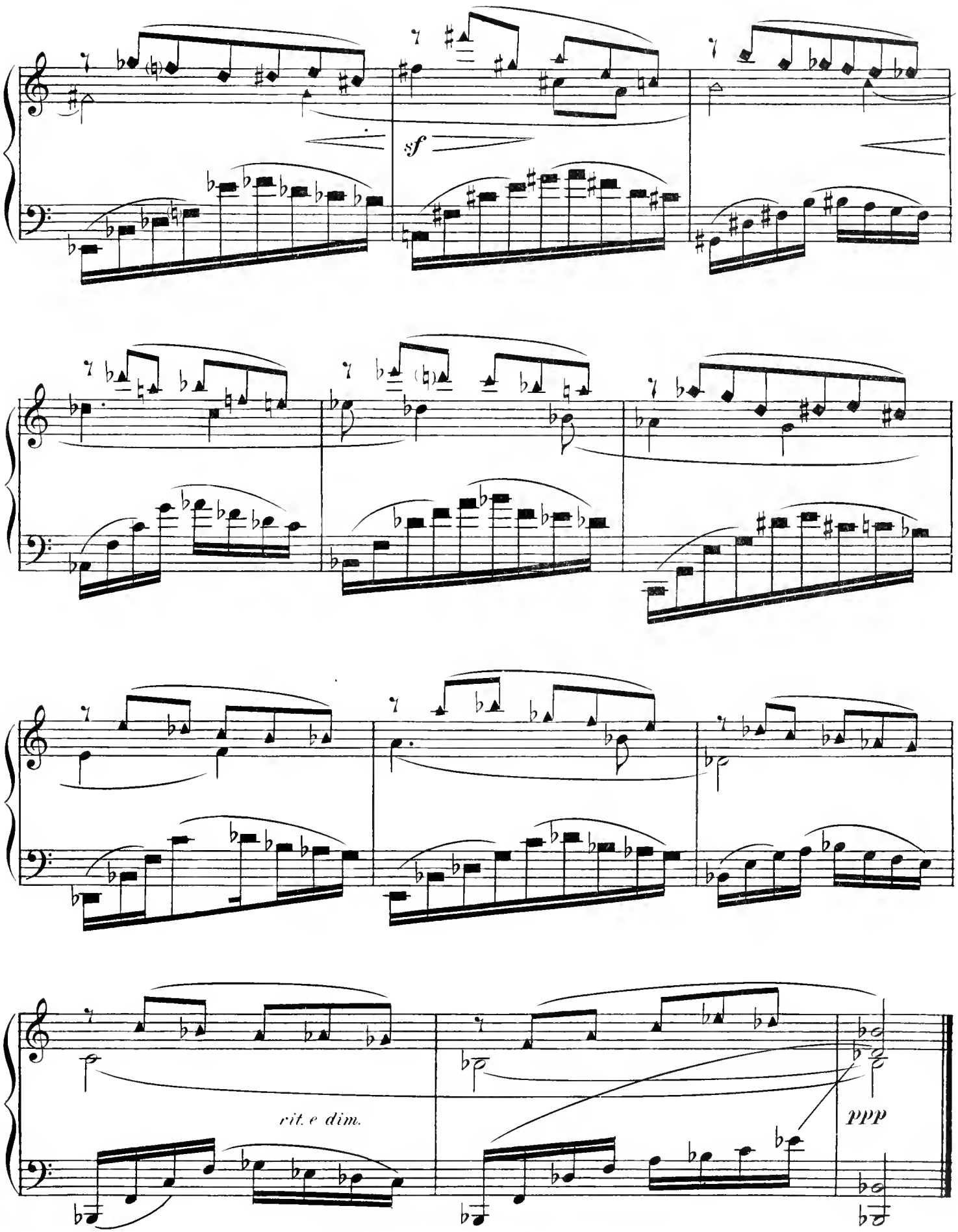
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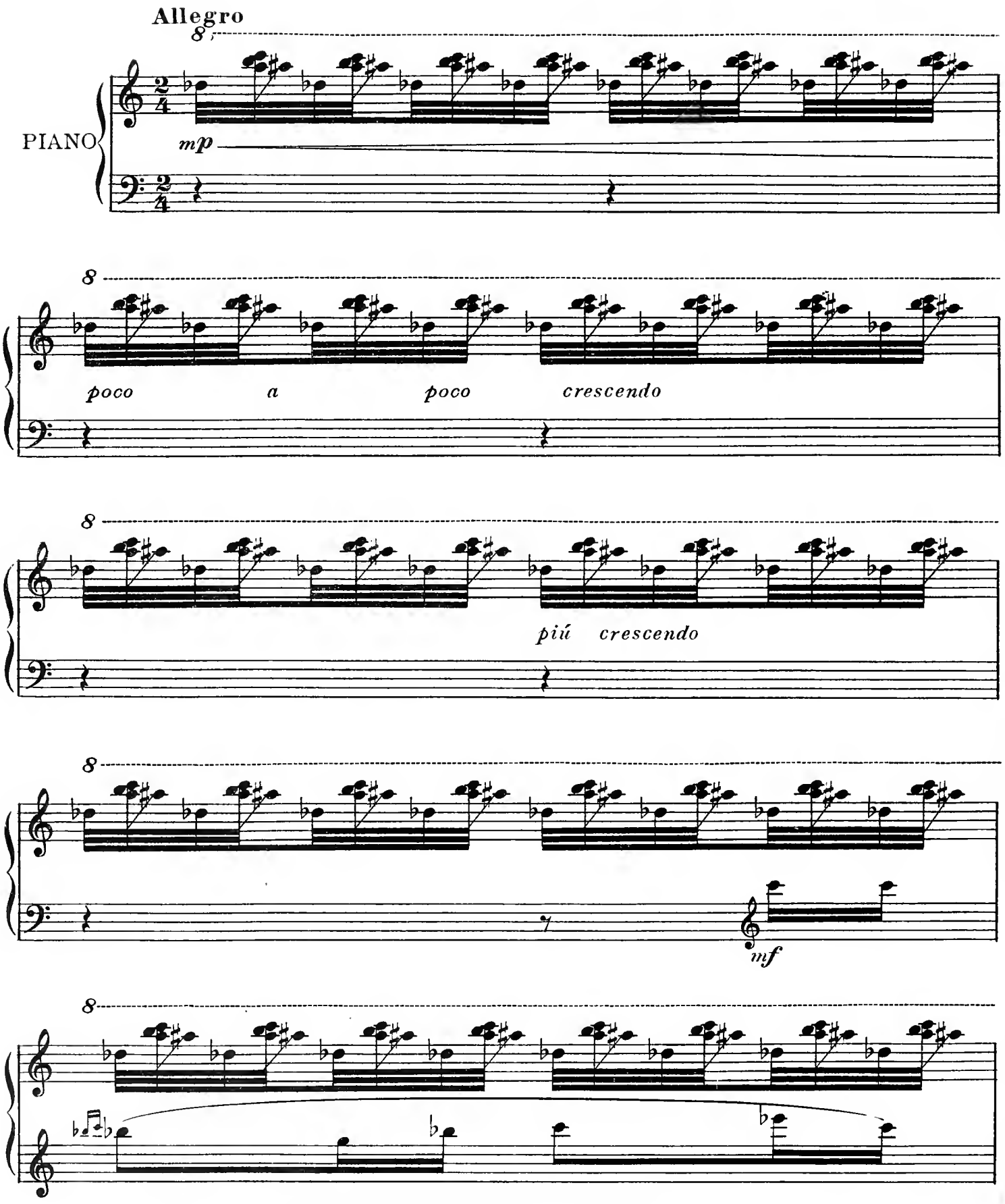
To Mr. Rudolf Ganz

A la Chinoise

LEO ORNSTEIN, Op. 39



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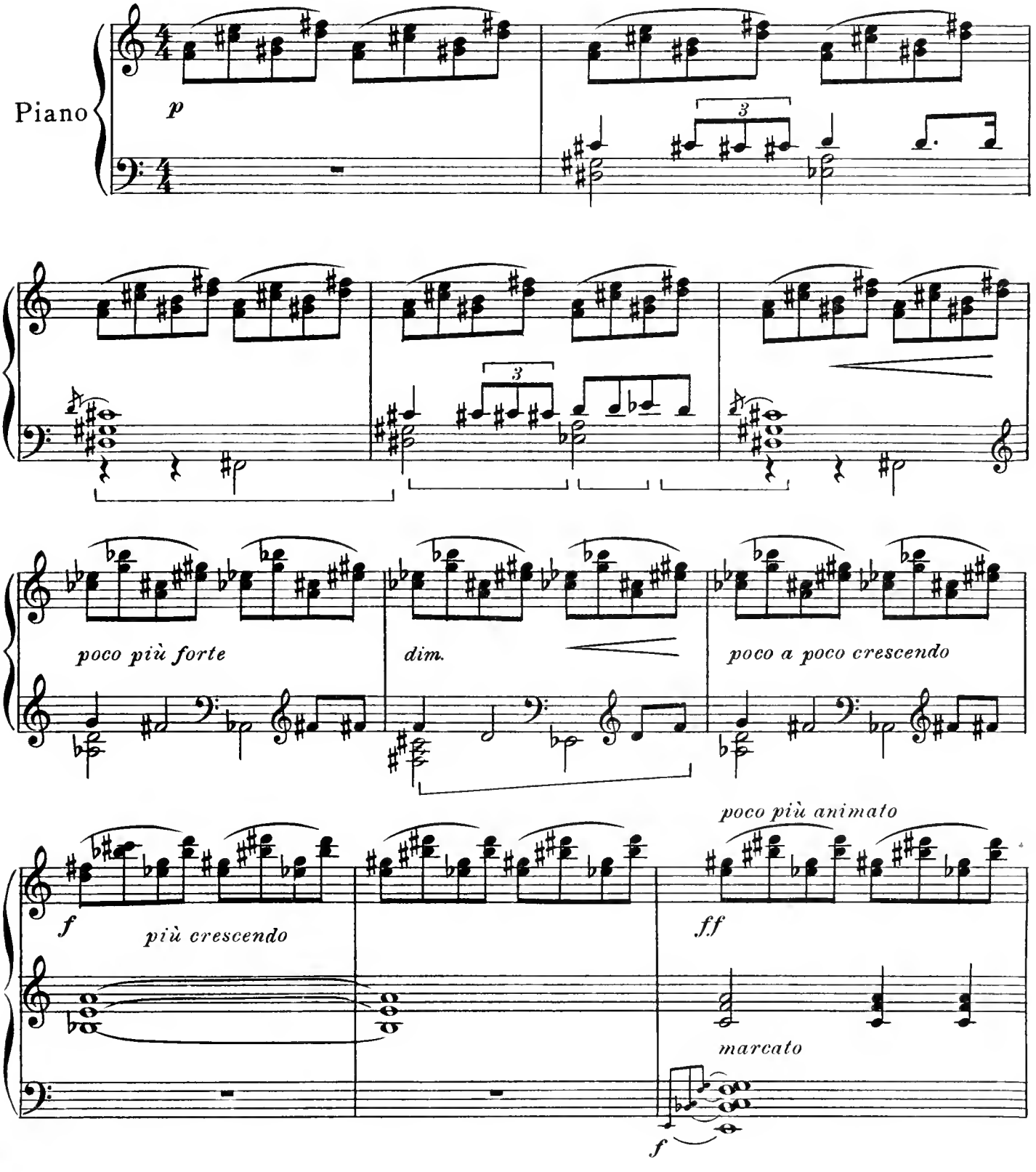
L'Isle d' Eléphantine — The Isle Of Elephants

(Arabesque №1)

In these compositions (Arabesques №1-9 inclusive) the accidentals affect only the individual notes before which they appear and natural signs have therefore been dispensed with entirely

Leo Ornstein
Op. 42, №1

Andante e sostenuto



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