Leoš Janáček TARAS BULBA

Rhapsodie

pour grande orchestre

T

Piano à 4 ms

(Břet. Bakala)

PRAHA 1925

HUDEBNÍ MATICE UMĚLECKÉ BESEDY

Paris : Max Eschig & Cie ~ London : J. & W. Chester Ltd.

Leipzig: Breitkopf & Härtel

(329)

Taras Bulba (rhapsody)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Taras Bulba is a rhapsody for orchestra by the Czech composer Leoš Janácek. It was composed in 1918 and despite Janacek's age at the time it is in fact one of his first compositions in his mature style. It is based on the novel by Gogol.

Janácek described the piece as a "rhapsody" and chose three episodes from Gogol's story to portray in this picturesque programmatic work. He makes particularly effective use in this piece of a large orchestra, with tripled woodwinds, a large percussion battery, and organ.

Programme

The events of Gogol's story are clearly reflected in Janácek's music.

The first movement, The Death of Andrij, focuses on the Cossack Taras Bulba's younger son, who falls in love with the daughter of a Polish general. The opening is a passionate episode between the lovers with solos by English horn, violin, and oboe. Throughout there are occasional hints of darkness, and eventually the music grows more turbulent, showing a battle between the two armies: angry trombone barks, tolling bells, and triumphant trumpet calls. Andrij fights on the side of the Poles, but when his father nears him in the battle, he realizes his treachery, and lowers his head to be killed by Taras Bulba himself. In the end, there is a brief reminiscence of the love music.

The second movement, The Death of Ostap, focuses on Taras Bulba's older son, who is overcome with grief by Andrij's death and is captured by the Poles. Ostap is captured by the Poles during the battle, and is hauled off to Warsaw for torture and execution. Taras Bulba sneaks into Warsaw in disguise, and at the moment of Ostap's death, he forgets where he is and calls out to his son. Much of the music is taken up with a kind of inexorable, limping march. In the end there is a wild Mazurka as the Poles dance in triumph. Taras Bulba is personified by dark trombone statements, and Ostap's last anguished cry is played by high clarinet. (There are clear parallels to two earlier orchestral execution scenes: in Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique and Richard Strauss's Till Eulenspeigel.)

In the final movement, The Prophecy and Death of Taras Bulba, the Cossacks fight madly throughout Poland to avenge Ostap. Taras Bulba is eventually captured in a battle on the Dnieper River, but before he is burned to death by the Polish army, he issues a defiant prophecy: "Do you think that there is anything in the world that a Cossack fears? Wait; the time will come when you shall learn what the orthodox Russian faith is! Already the people sense it far and near. A czar shall arise from Russian soil, and there shall not be a power in the world which shall not submit to him!" The opening music is filled with battle music and war-cries by Taras Bulba--the trombones again--until a quiet passage that depicts his capture. The prophecy itself is a stirring passage for brass and organ, culminating in the ringing of bells and a triumphant epilogue.

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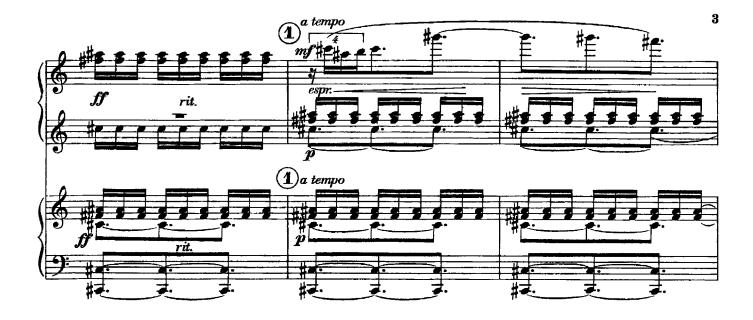
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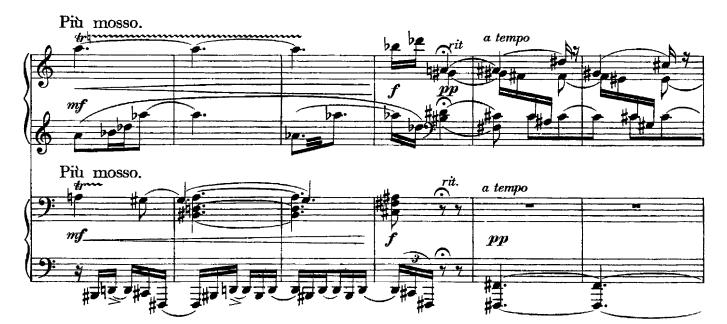




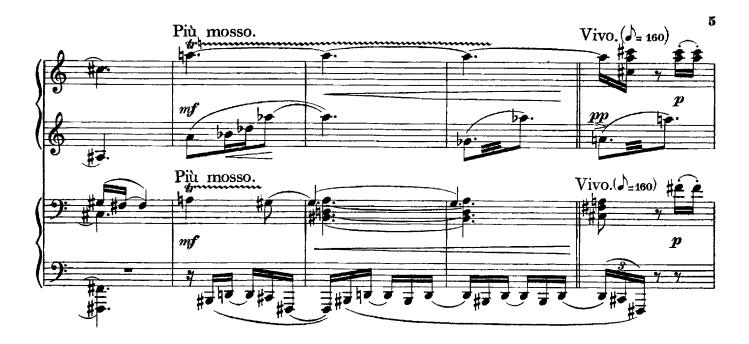










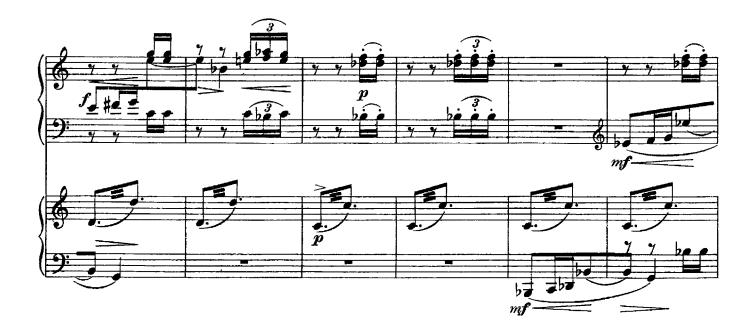










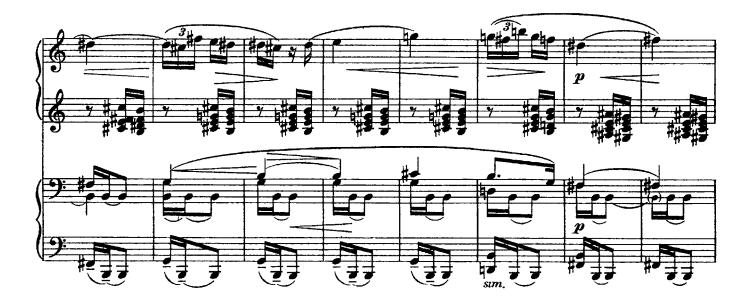




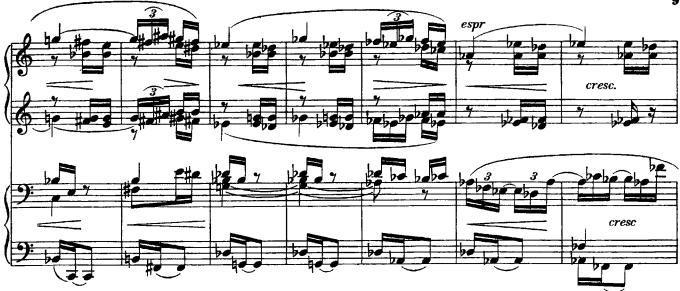






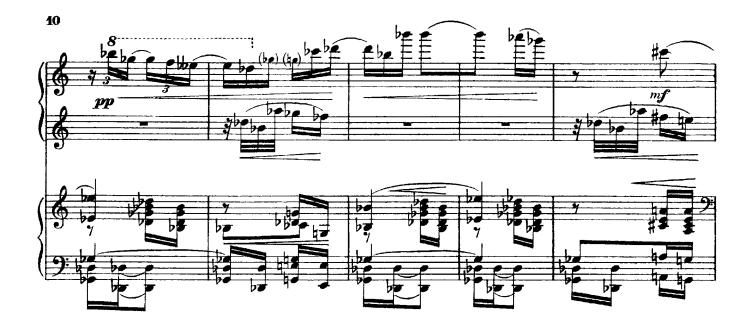






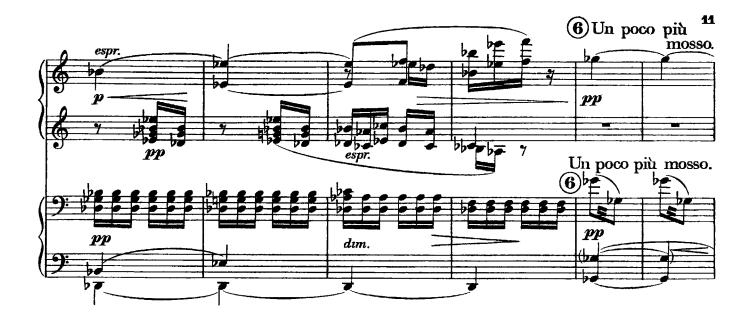


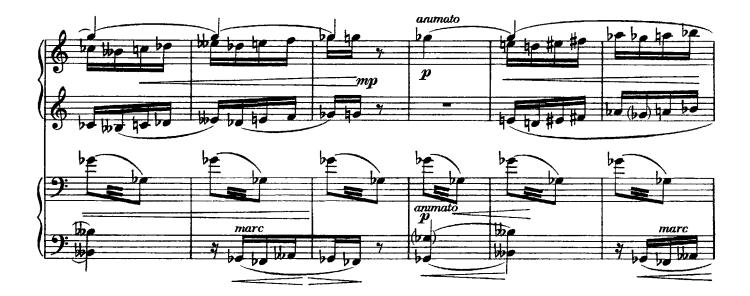


























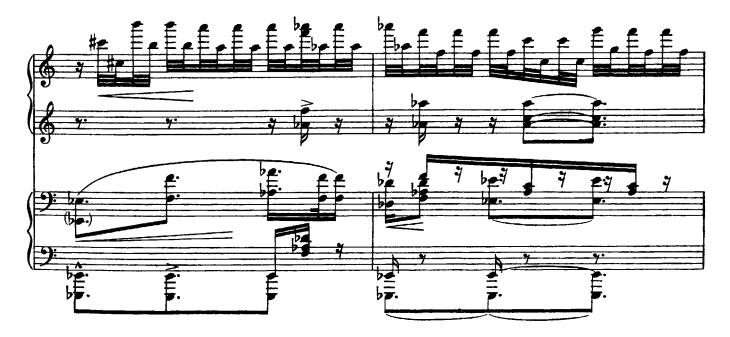










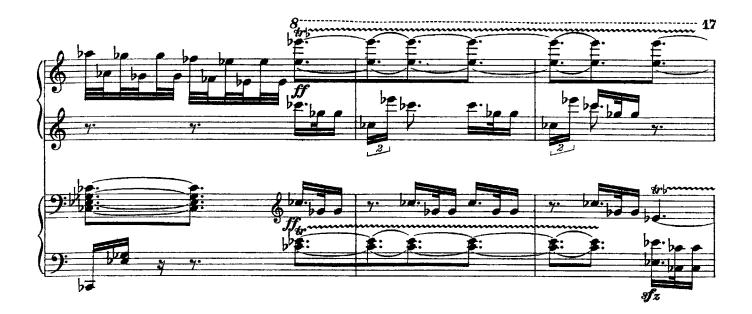






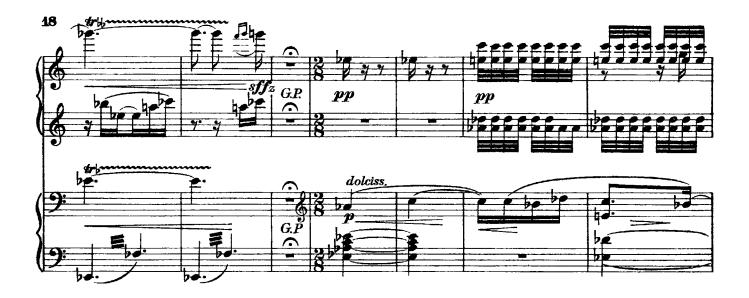


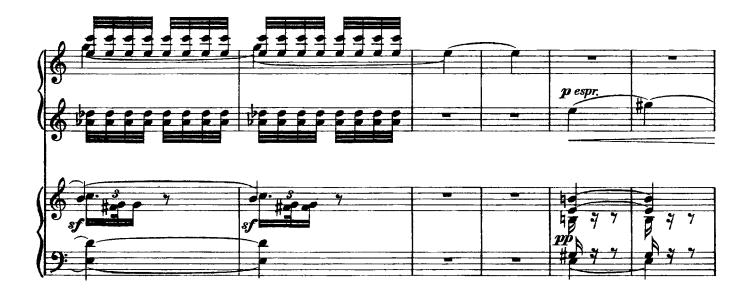






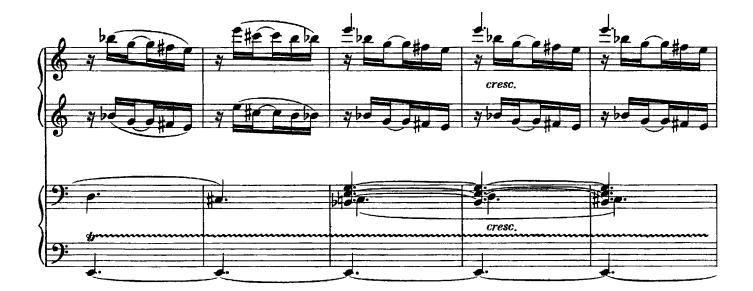


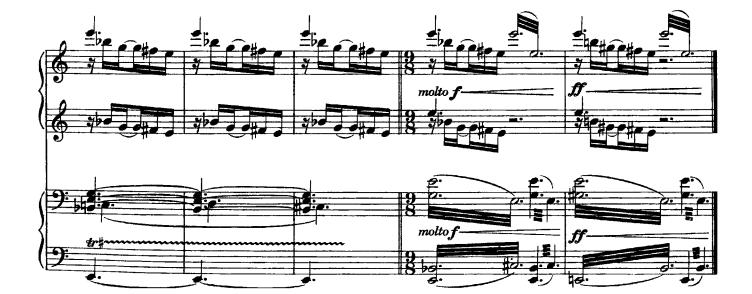


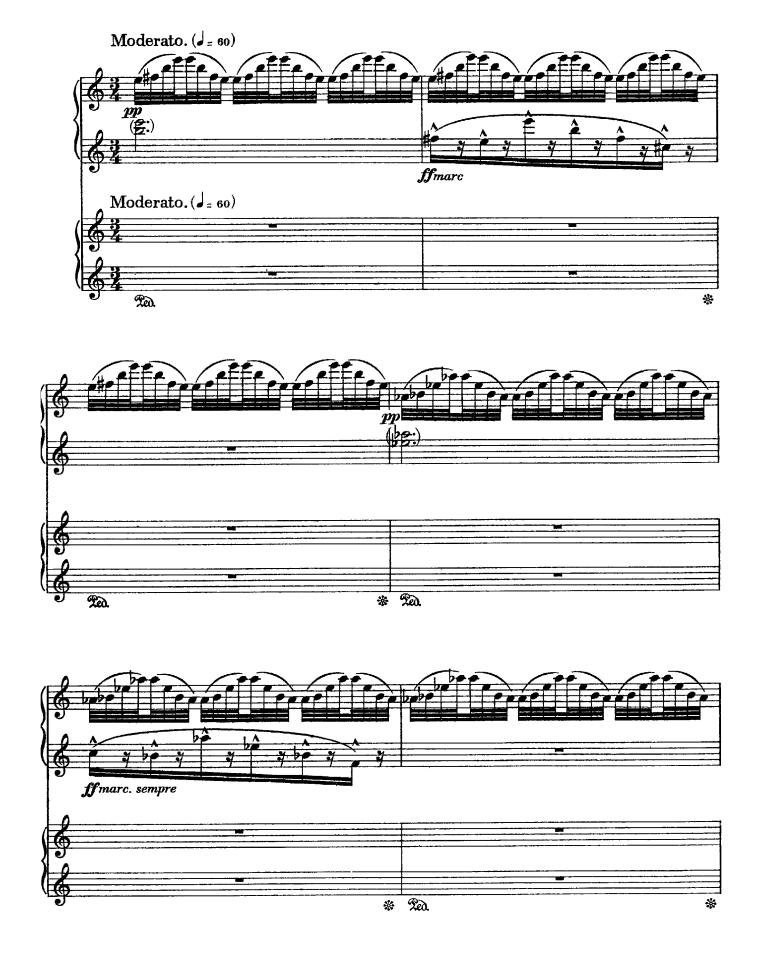


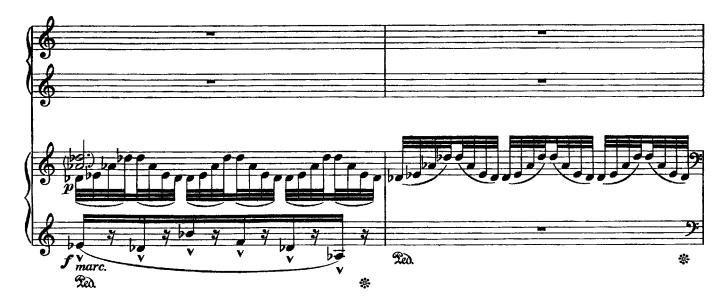


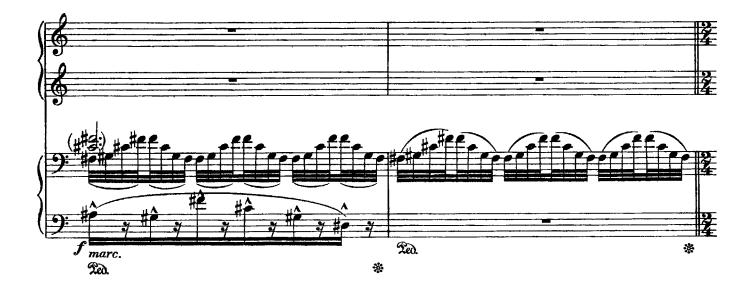




















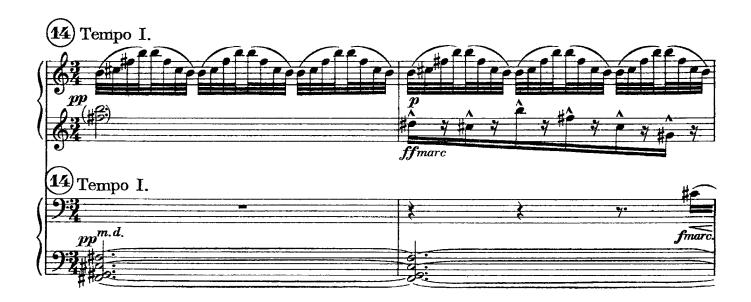




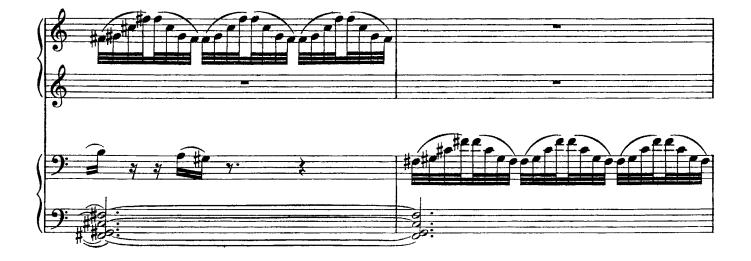
















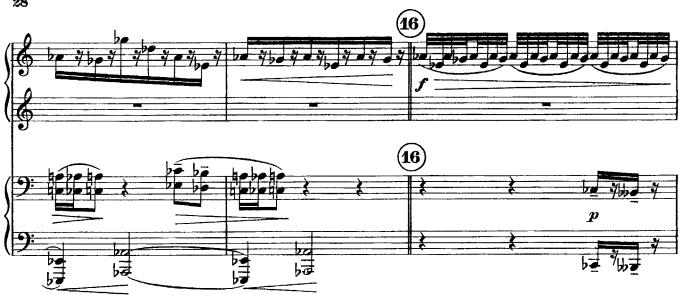






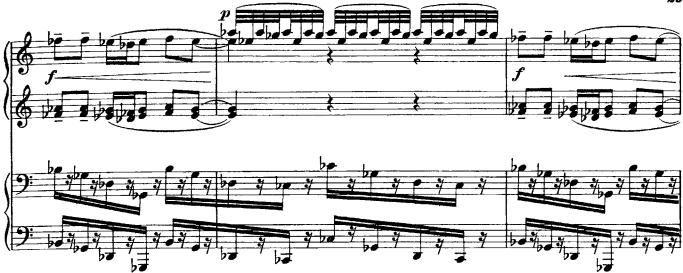


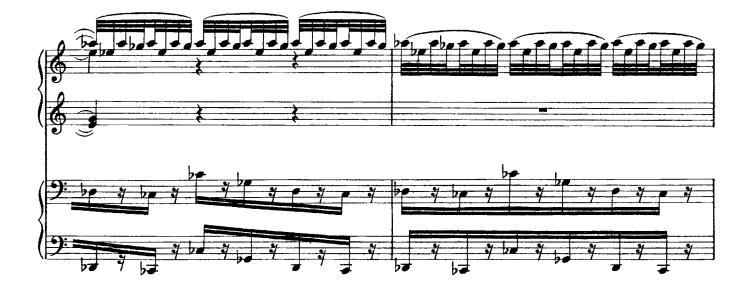






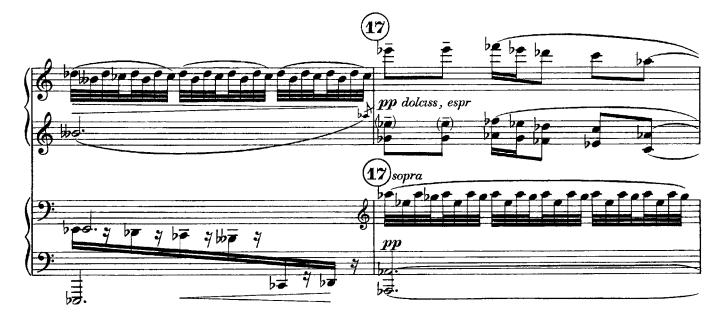


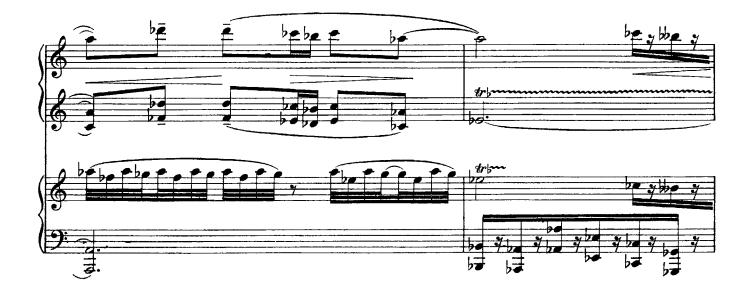




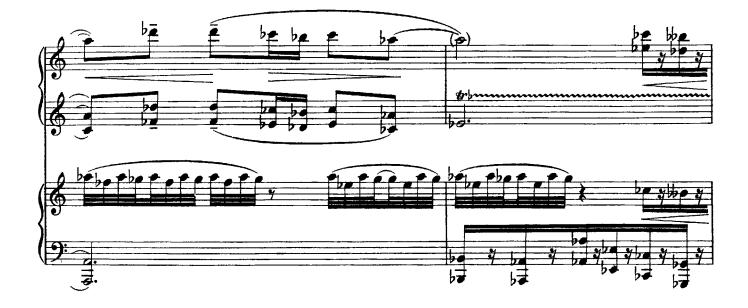








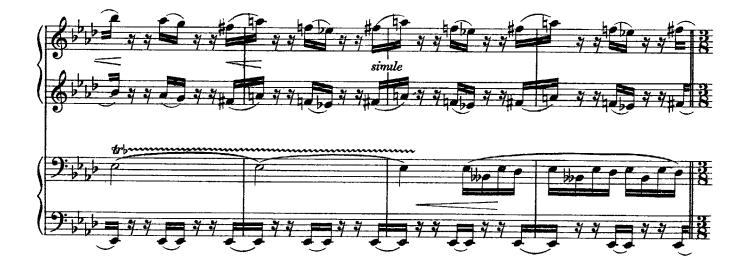








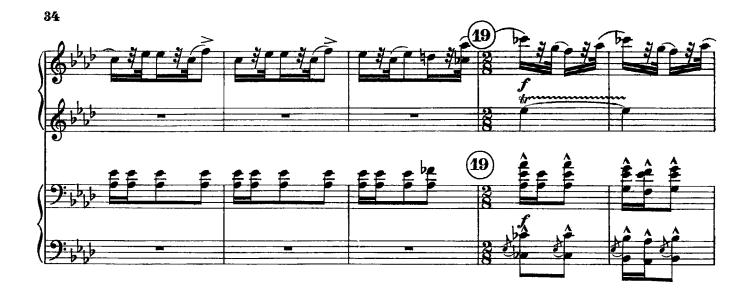


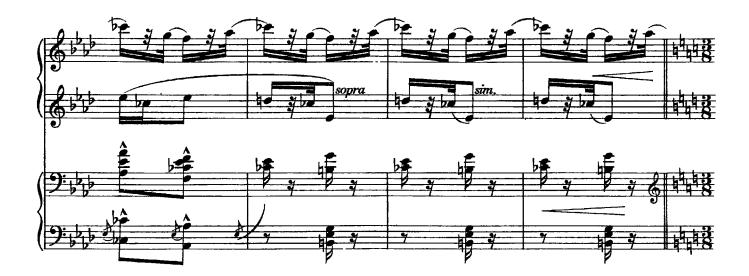




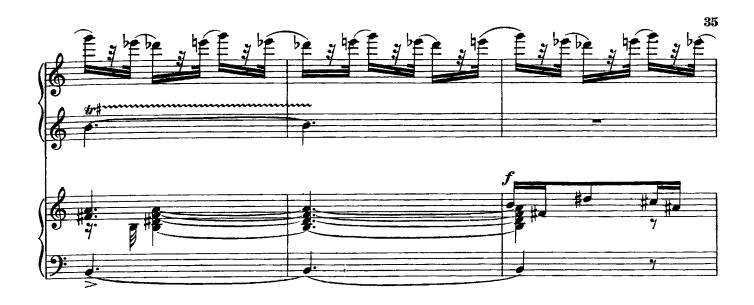


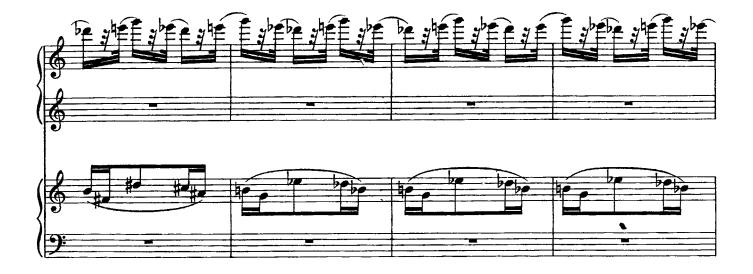


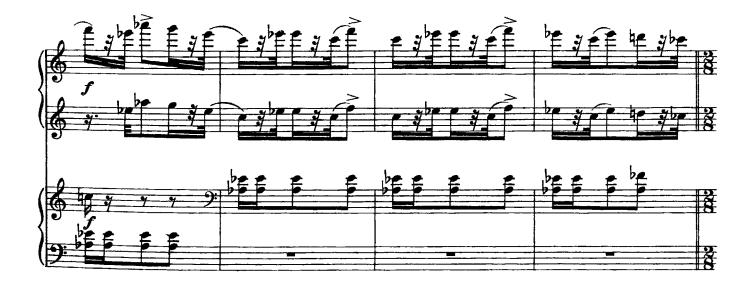


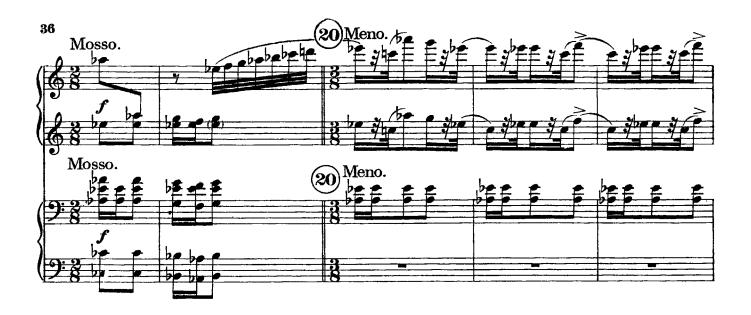










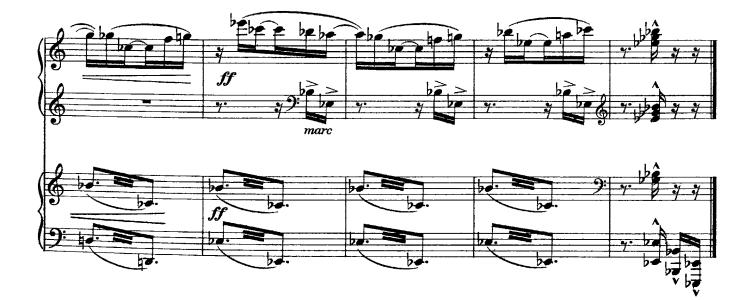






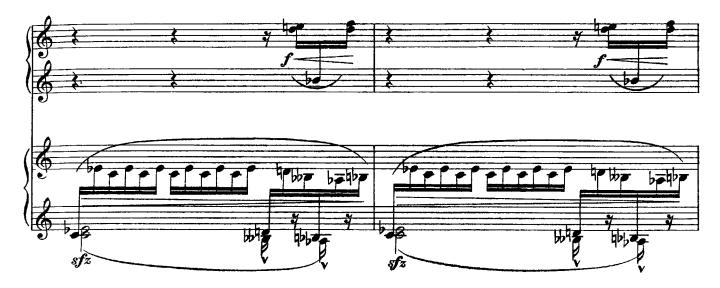


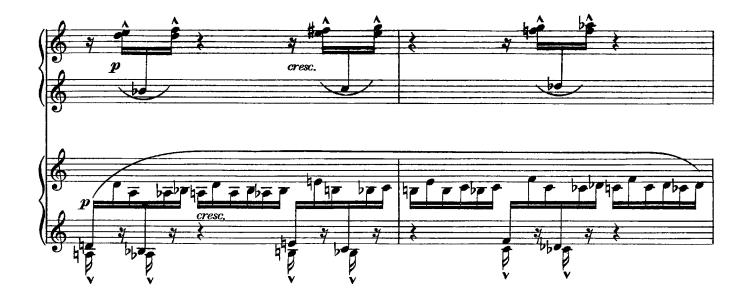




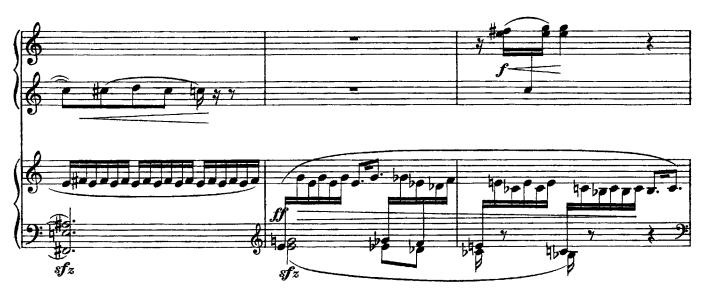




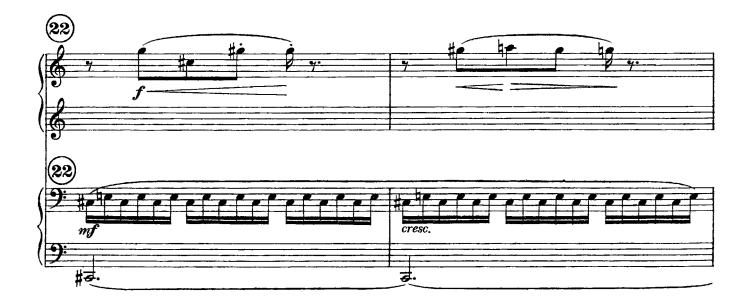


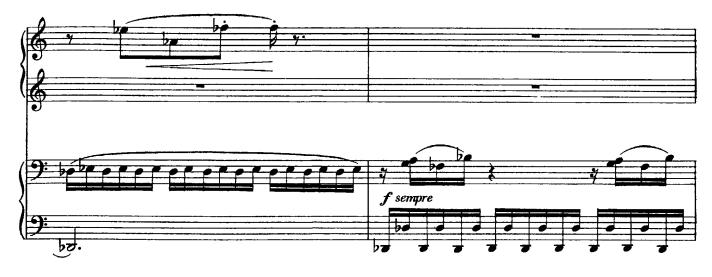


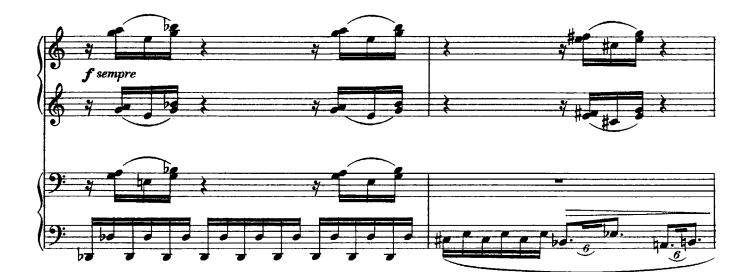




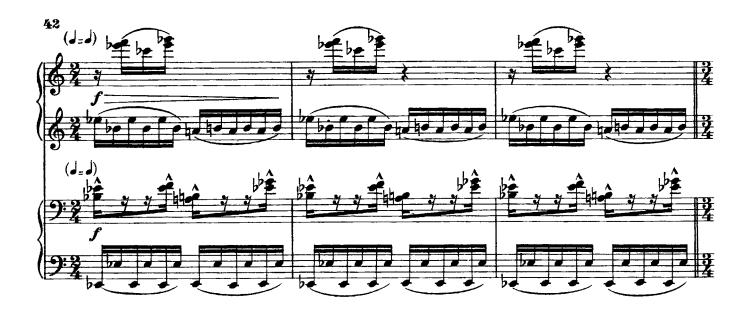






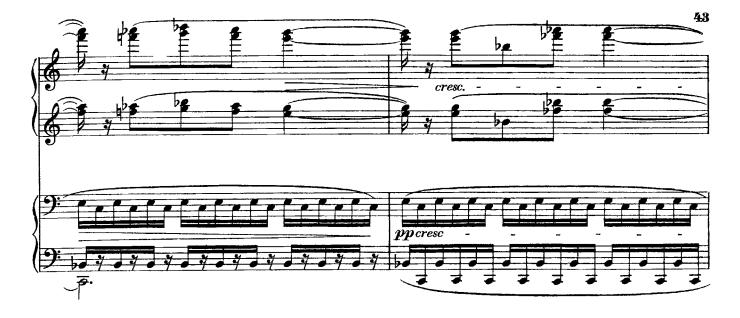














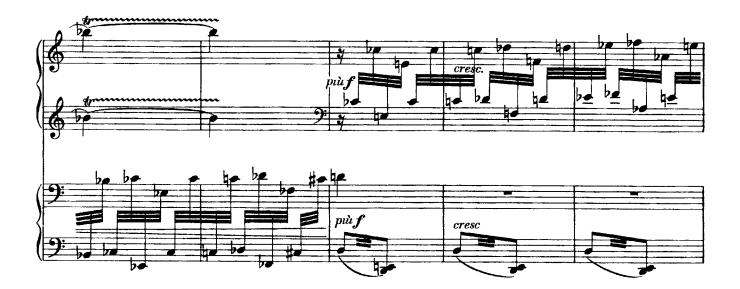




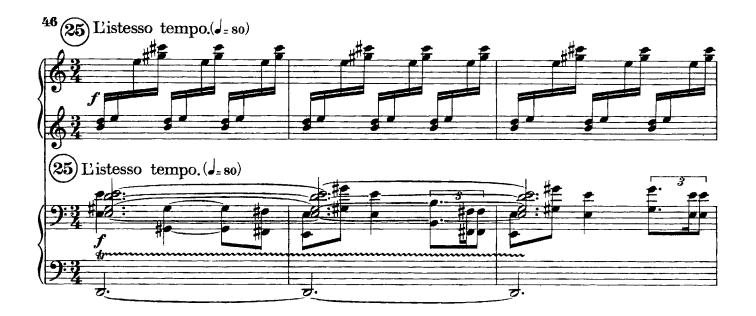












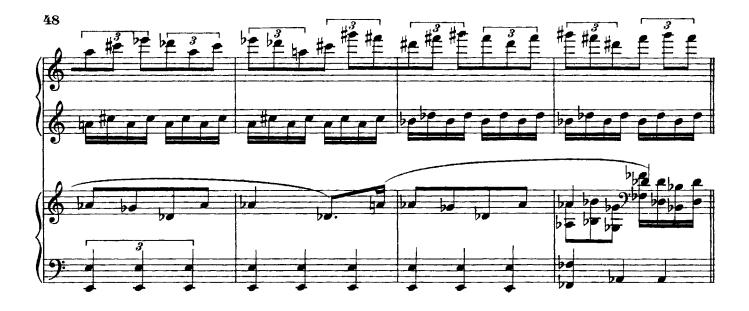


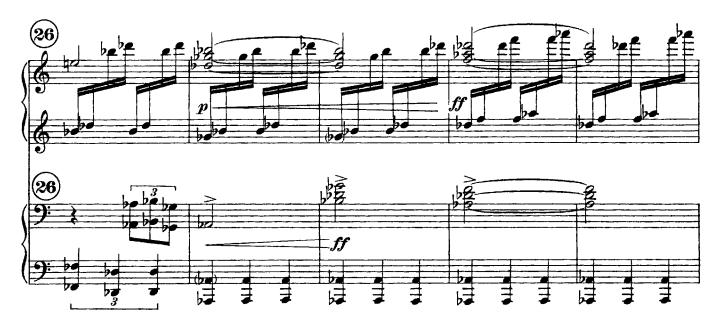




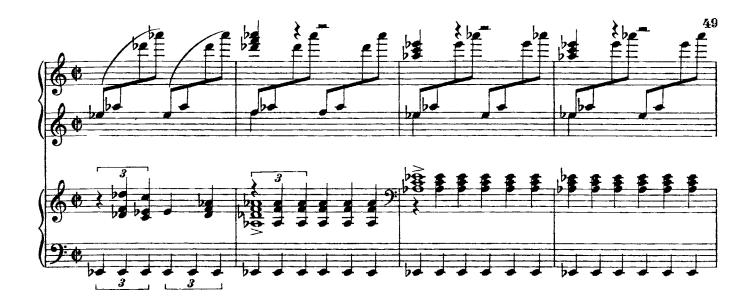


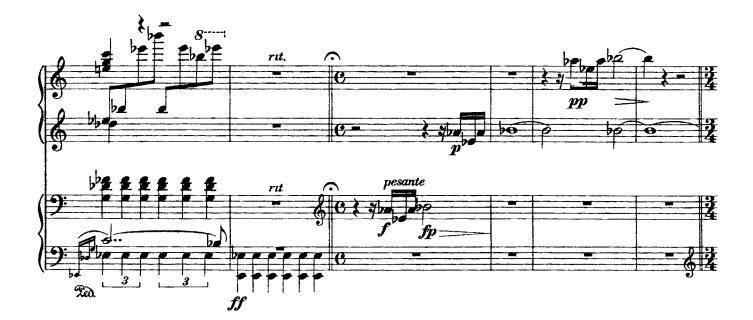


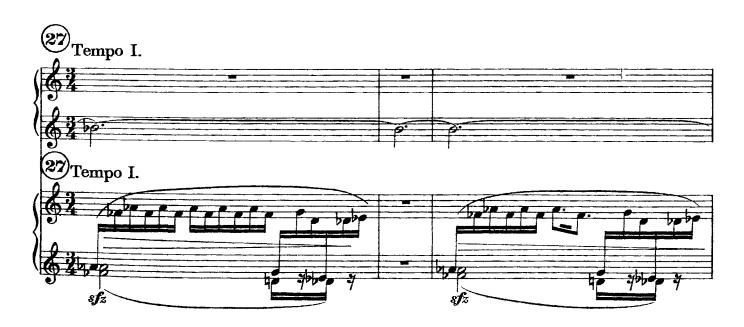
















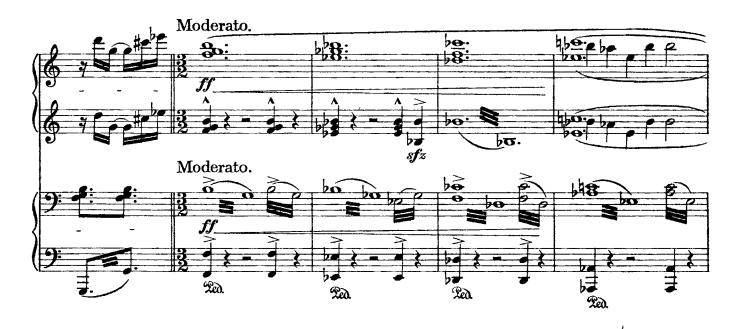








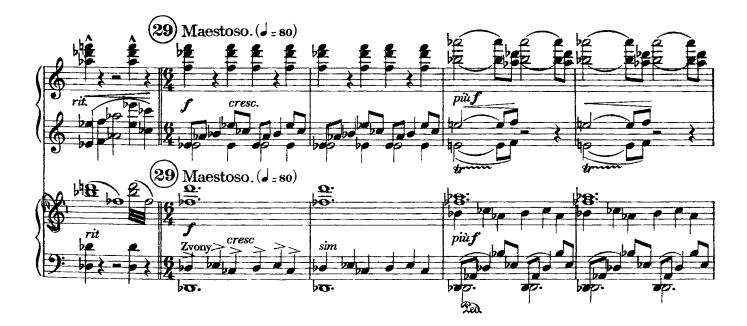




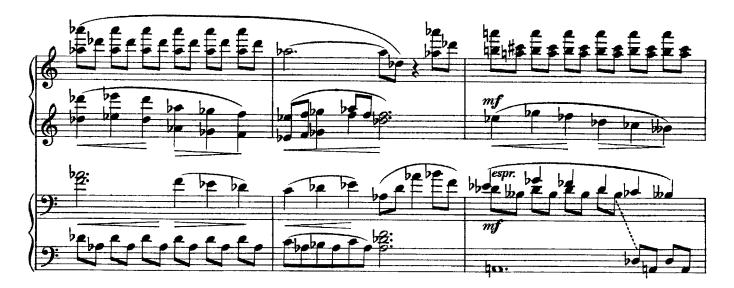






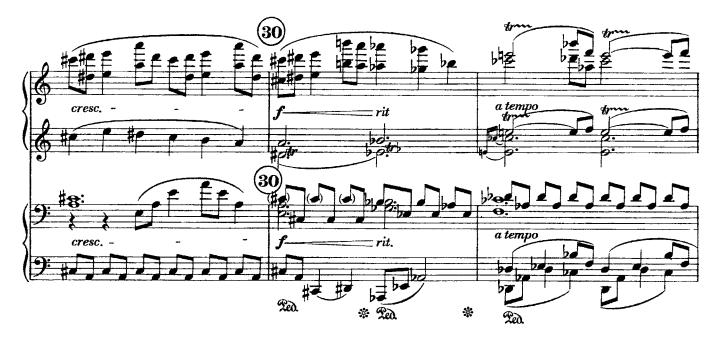






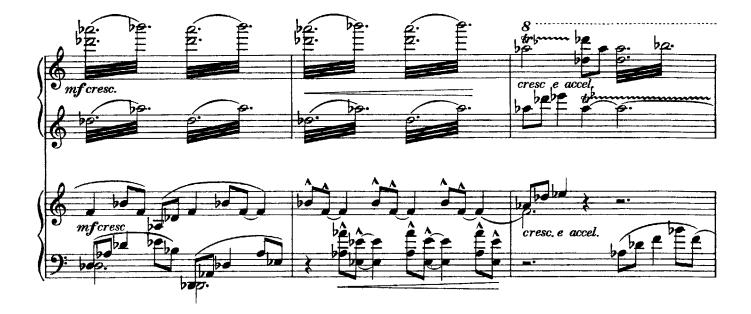


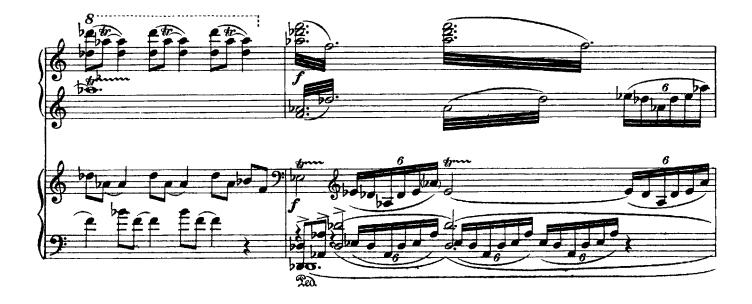


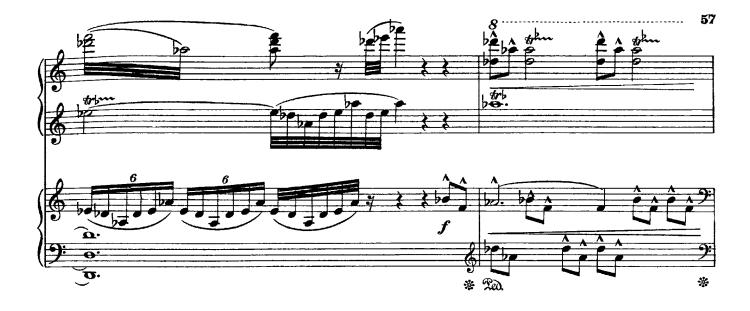


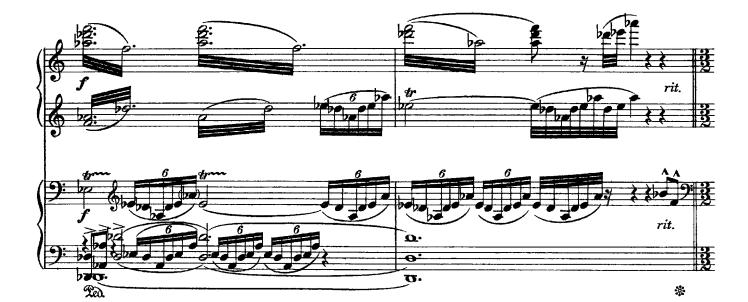














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Ryla a tiskla Průmyslova tiskarna v Praze