for Hong Xu

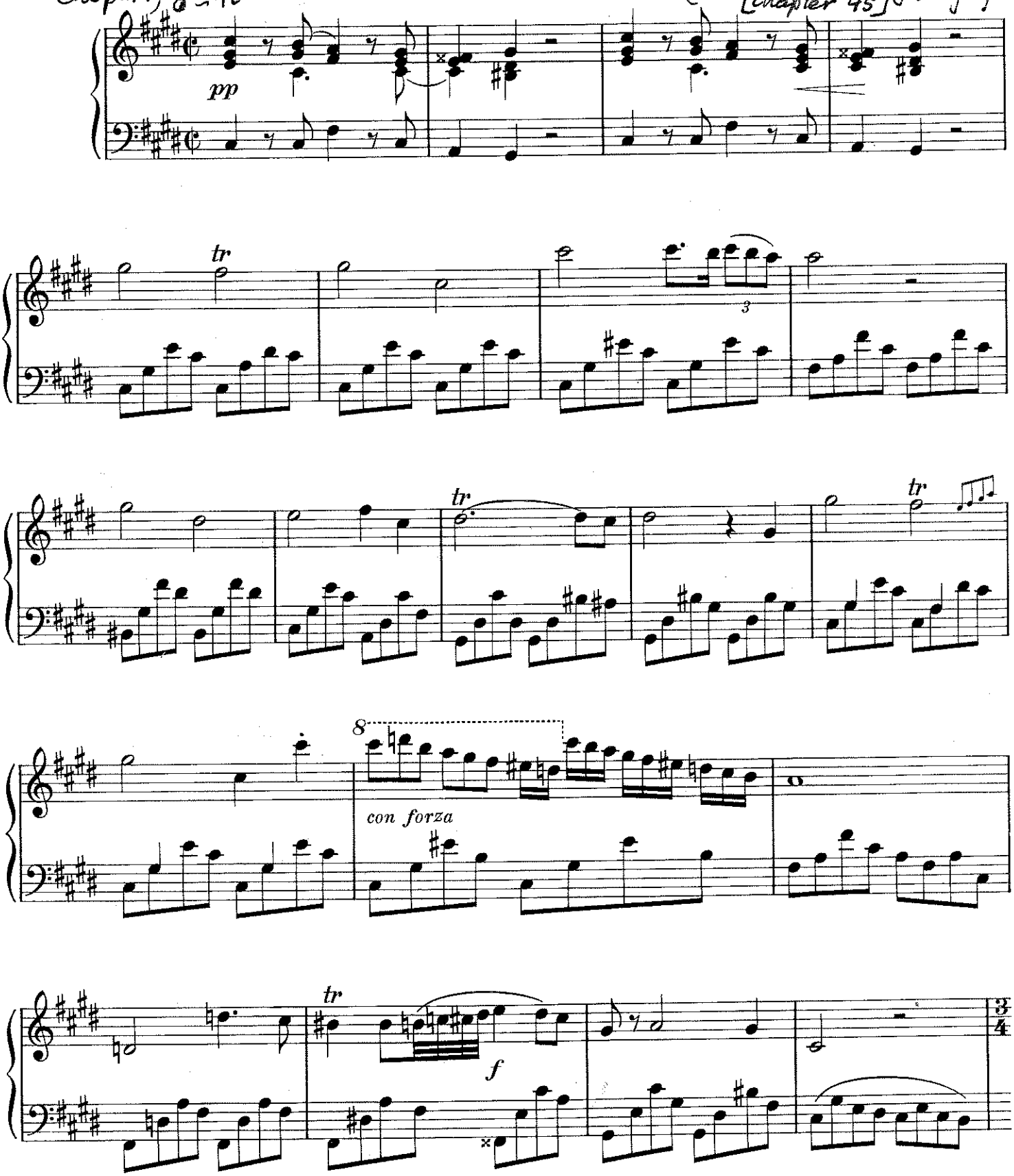
RUBINSTEIN IN BERLIN

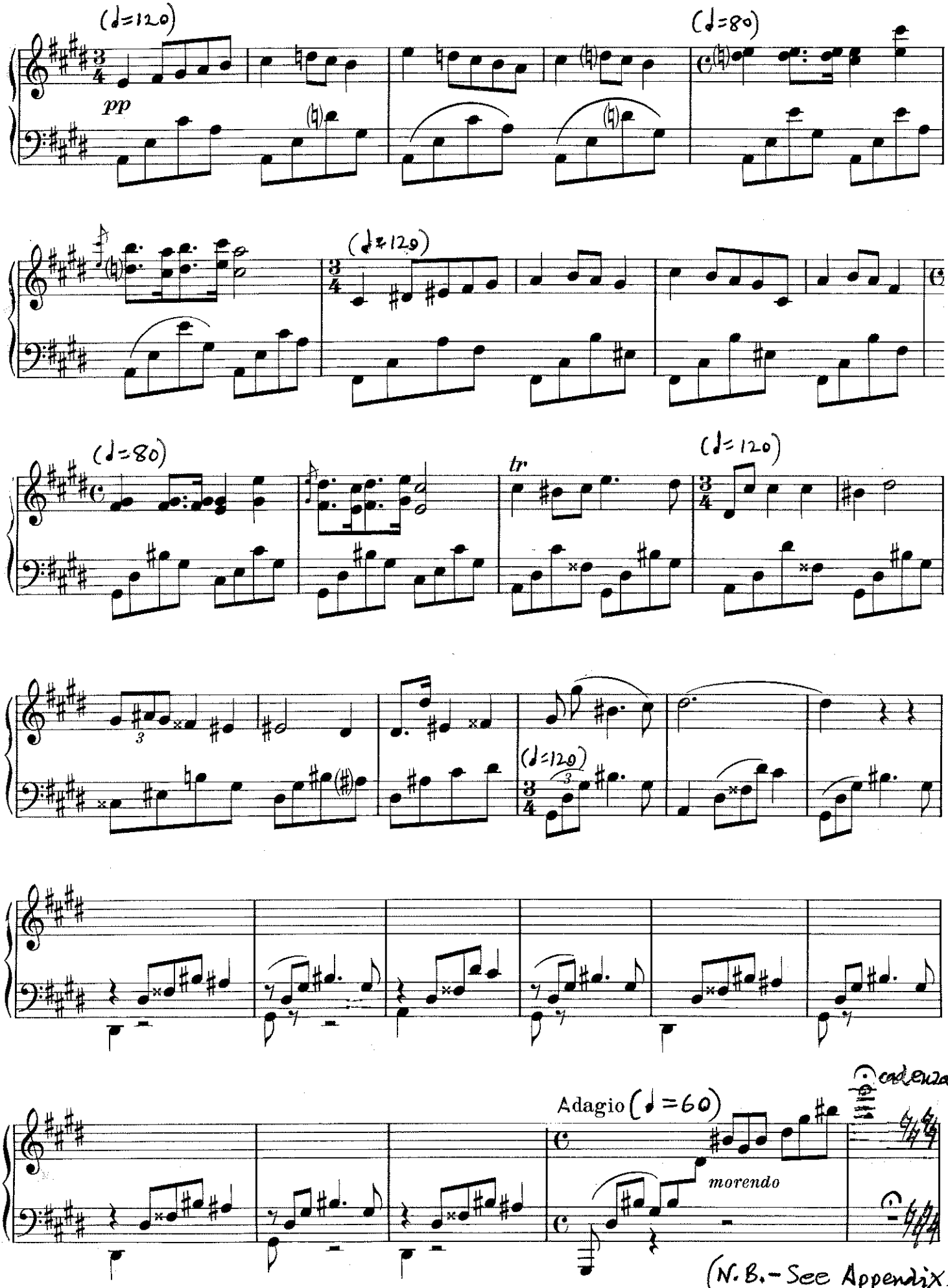
(for speaking pianist)

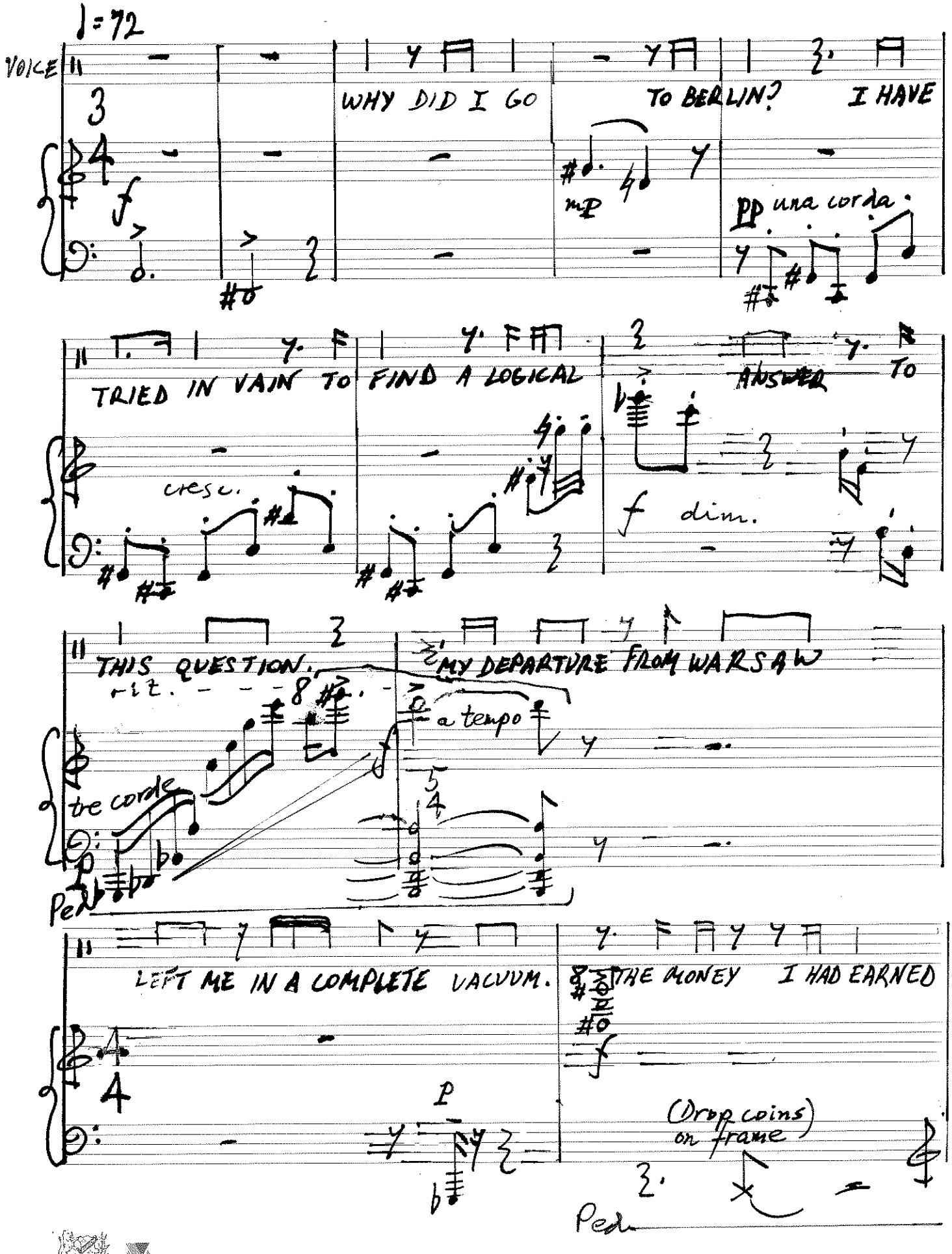
Frederic Rzewski
(2008)

(Nocturne BI 49, Chopin:)

(text adapted from "My Younger Years" [chapter 45])




(♩=120)
pp
(♩=80)
(♩=129)
(♩=80)
tr
(♩=120)
(♩=120)
Adagio (♩=60)
morendo
cadenza
(N.B.- See Appendix, p. 19)



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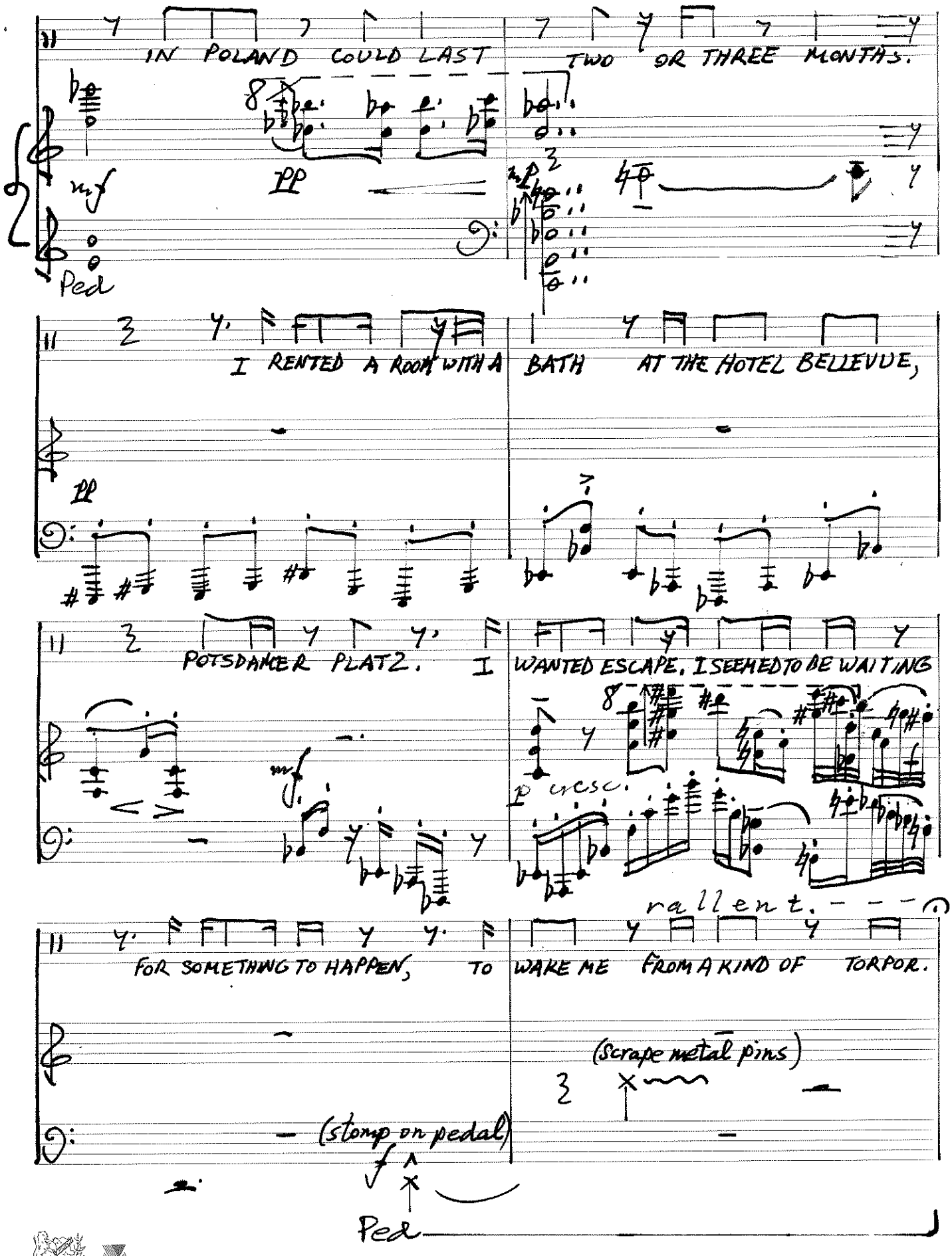

IN POLAND COULD LAST TWO OR THREE MONTHS.

mf

pp

Ped

I RENTED A ROOM WITH A BATH AT THE HOTEL BELLEVUE,

pp

POTSDAMER PLATZ. I WANTED ESCAPE. I SEEMED TO BE WAITING

mf

p cresc.

rallent.

FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN, TO WAKE ME FROM A KIND OF TORPOR.

(scrape metal pins)

(stomp on pedal)

Ped

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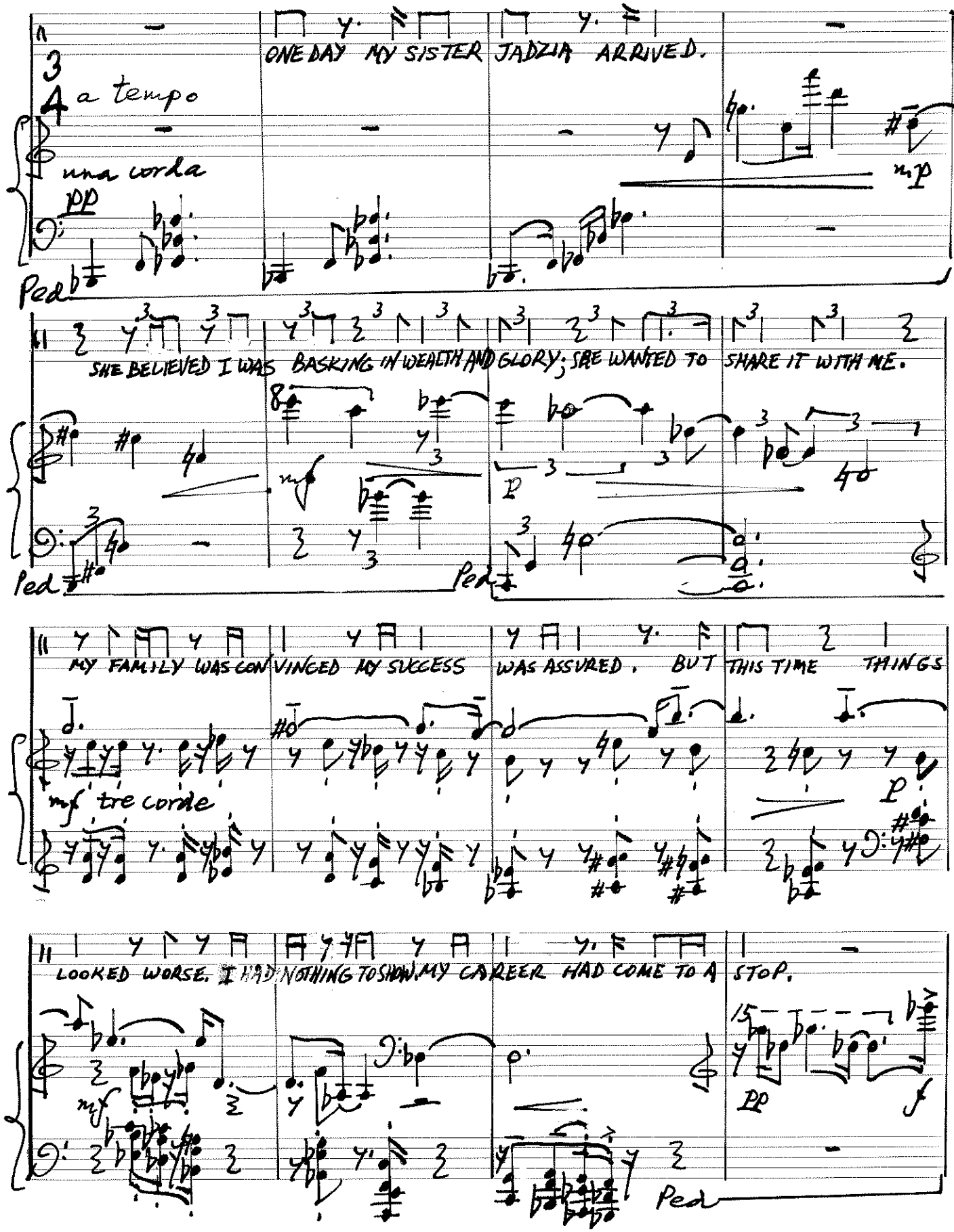

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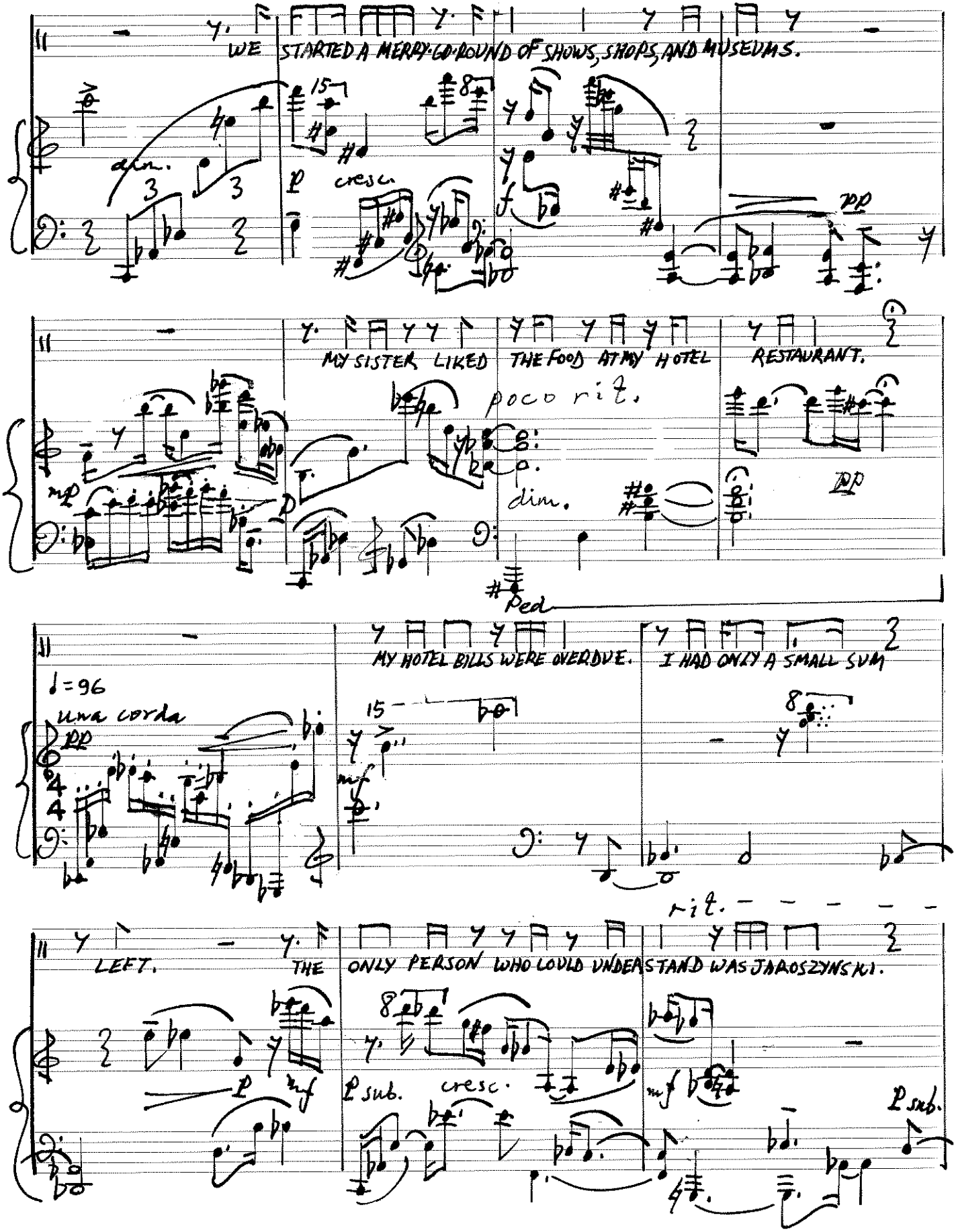
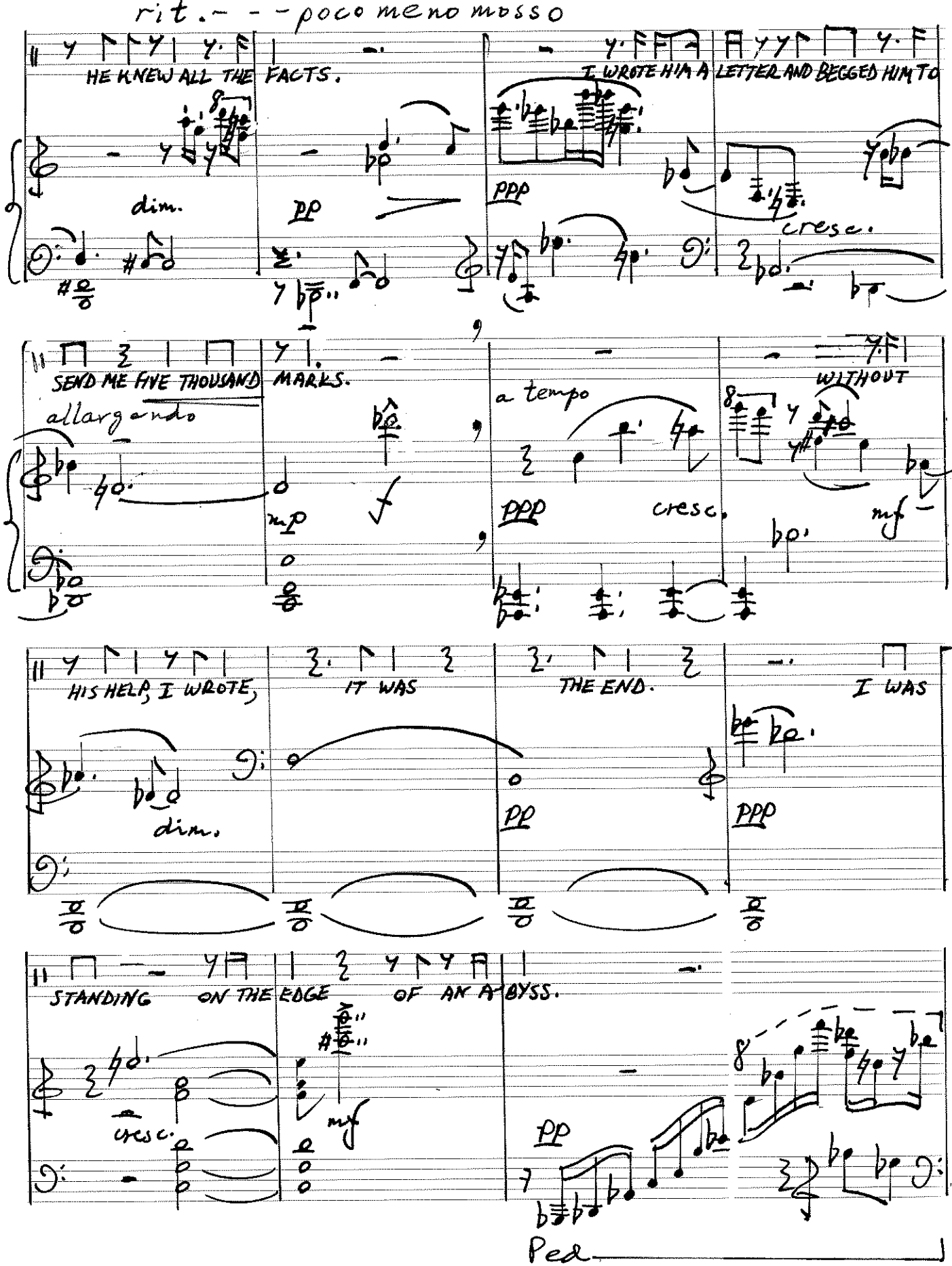

WE STARTED A MERRY-GO-ROUND OF SHOWS, SHOPS, AND MUSEUMS.
cresc.
MY SISTER LIKED THE FOOD AT MY HOTEL RESTAURANT.
poco rit.
dim.
Ped
MY HOTEL BILLS WERE OVERDUE.
I HAD ONLY A SMALL SUM
♩=96
una corda
rit.
LEFT.
THE ONLY PERSON WHO COULD UNDERSTAND WAS JARASZYNSKI.
cresc.



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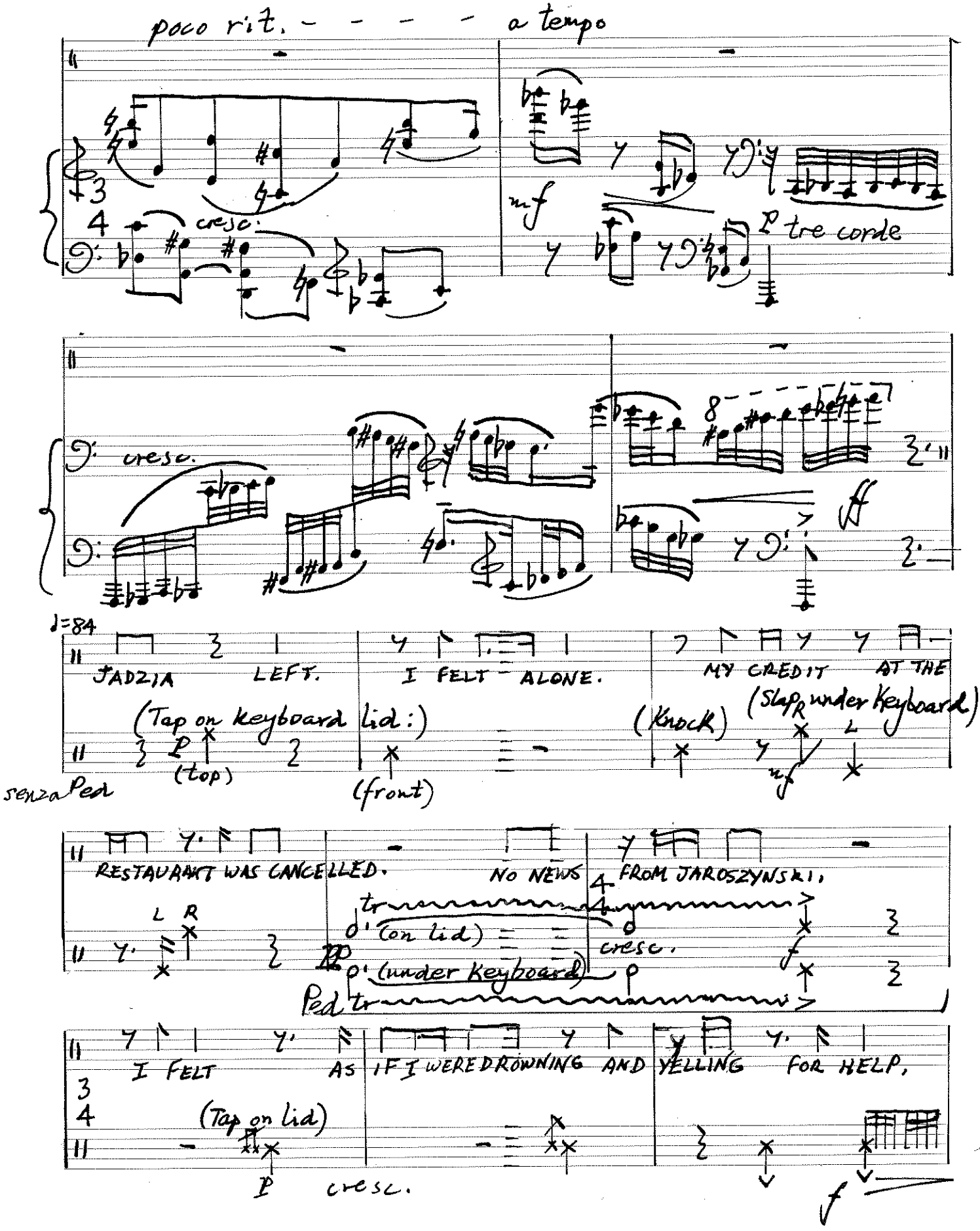

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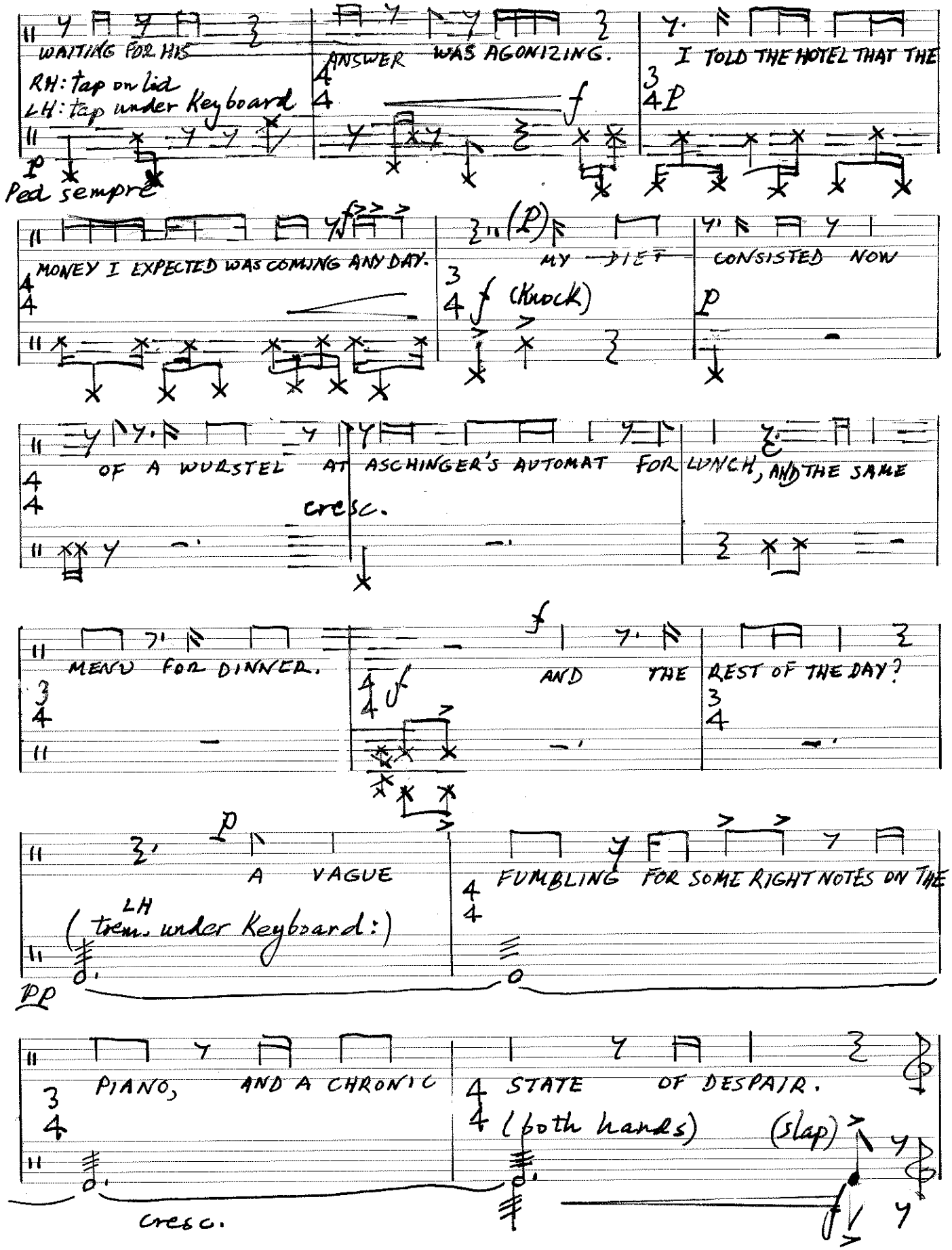

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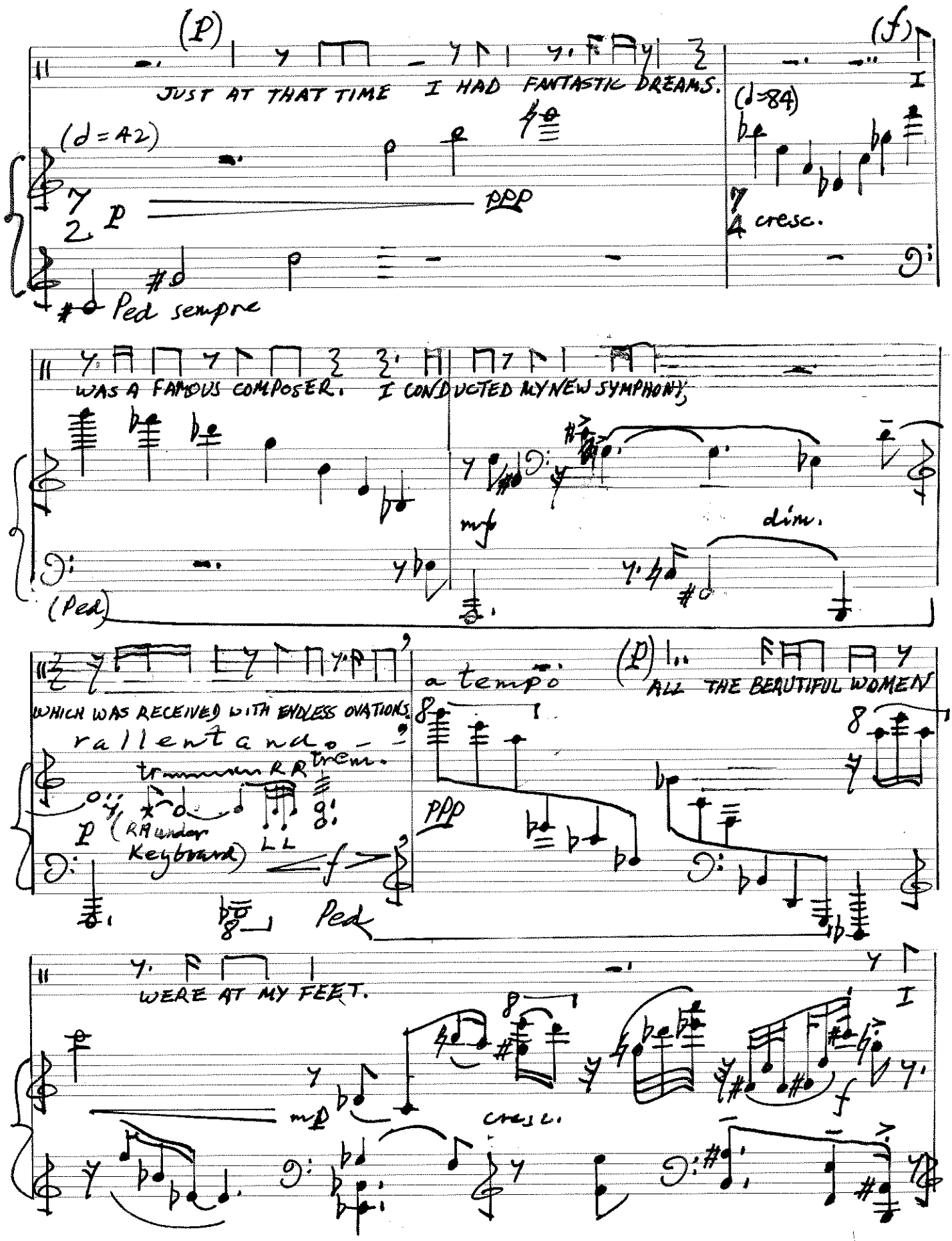

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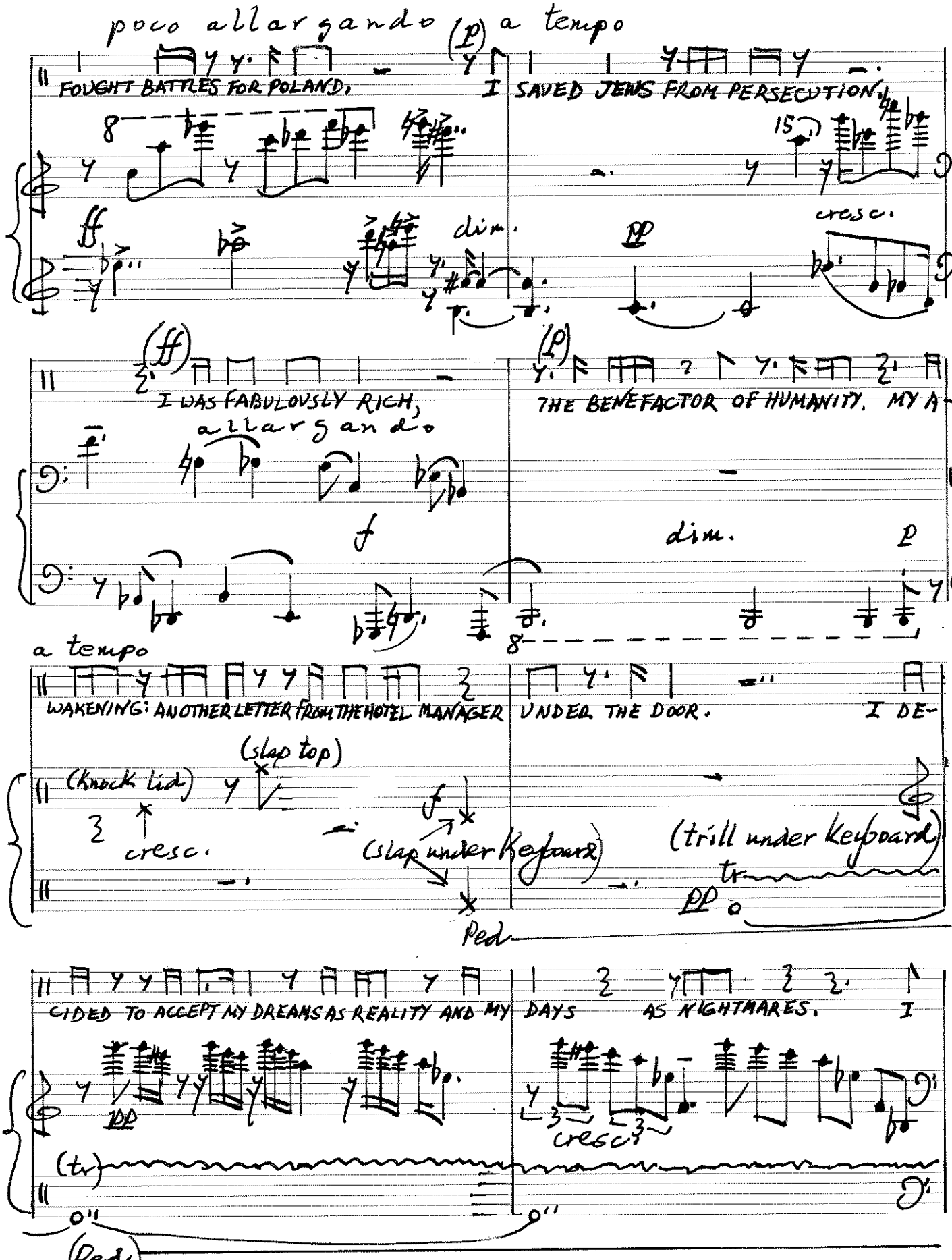
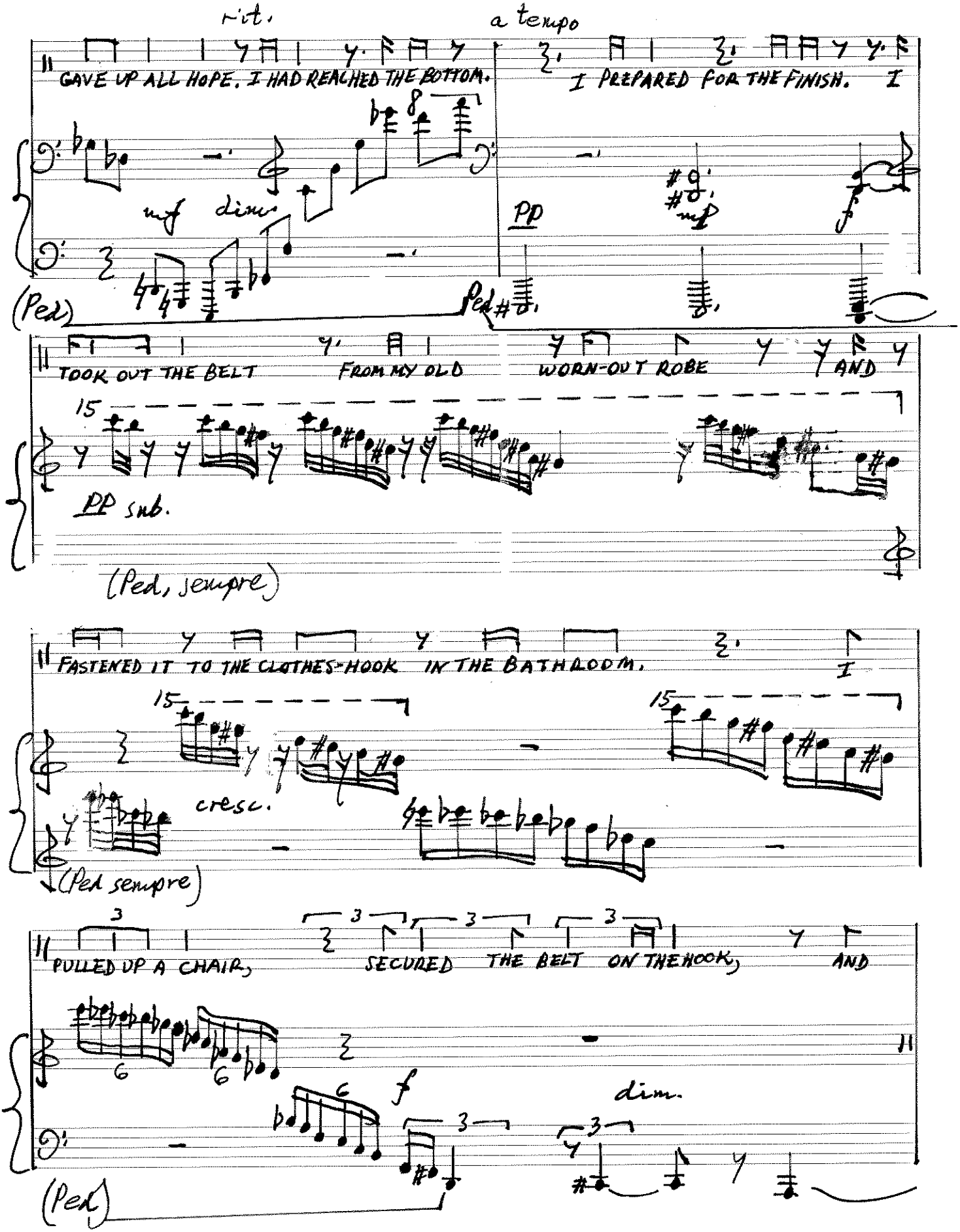

poco allargando
(p)
a tempo
FOUGHT BATTLES FOR POLAND,
I SAVED JEWS FROM PERSECUTION.
ff
dim.
pp
cresc.
(ff)
I WAS FABULOUSLY RICH,
allargando
f
(p)
THE BENEFACTOR OF HUMANITY. MY A-
dim.
p
a tempo
WAKENING: ANOTHER LETTER FROM THE HOTEL MANAGER
UNDER THE DOOR.
I DE-
(Knock lid)
(slap top)
cresc.
f
(slap under Keyboard)
(trill under Keyboard)
tr
pp
Ped
CIDED TO ACCEPT MY DREAMS AS REALITY AND MY
DAYS
AS NIGHTMARES.
I
pp
cresc.
(tr)
(Ped)



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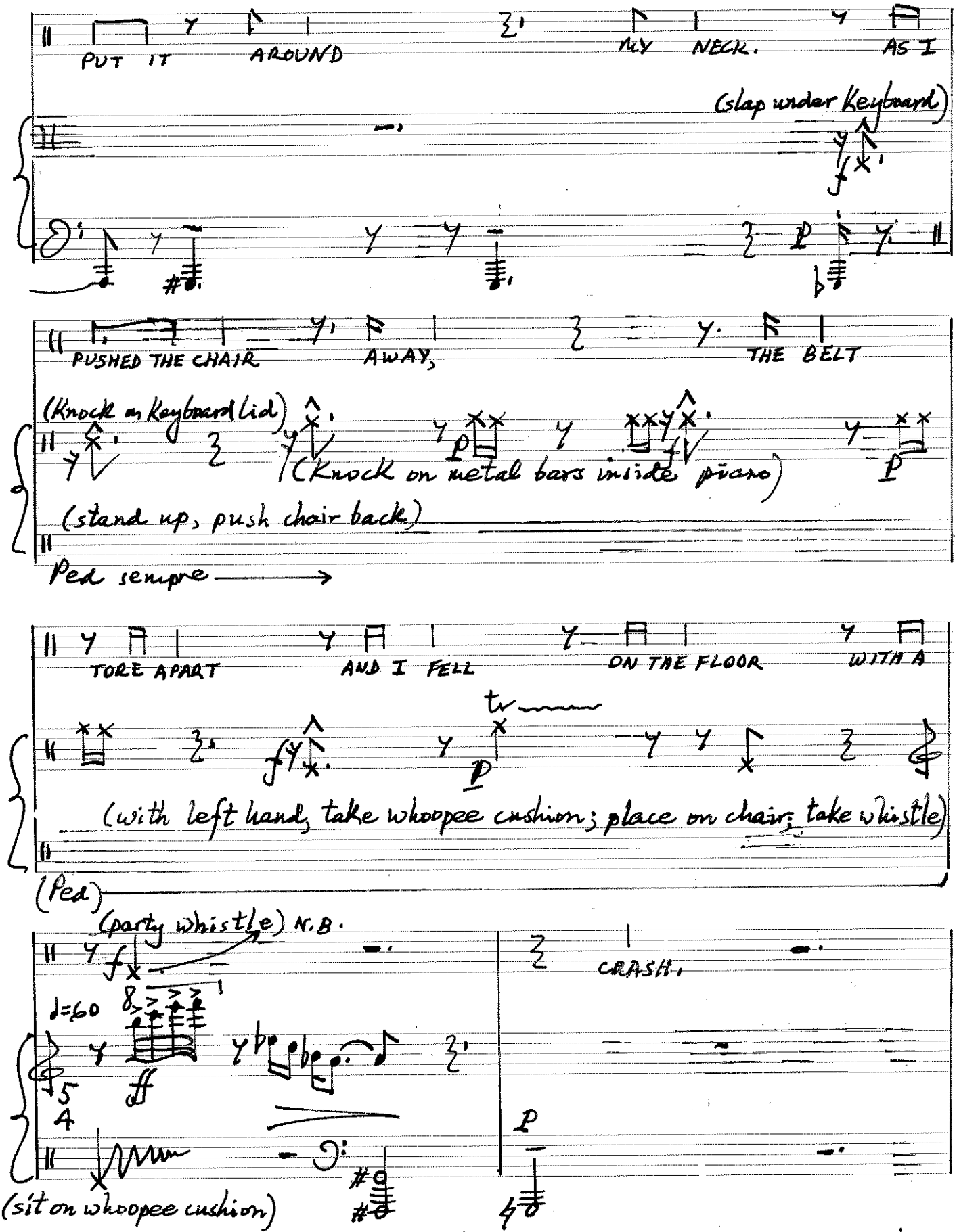

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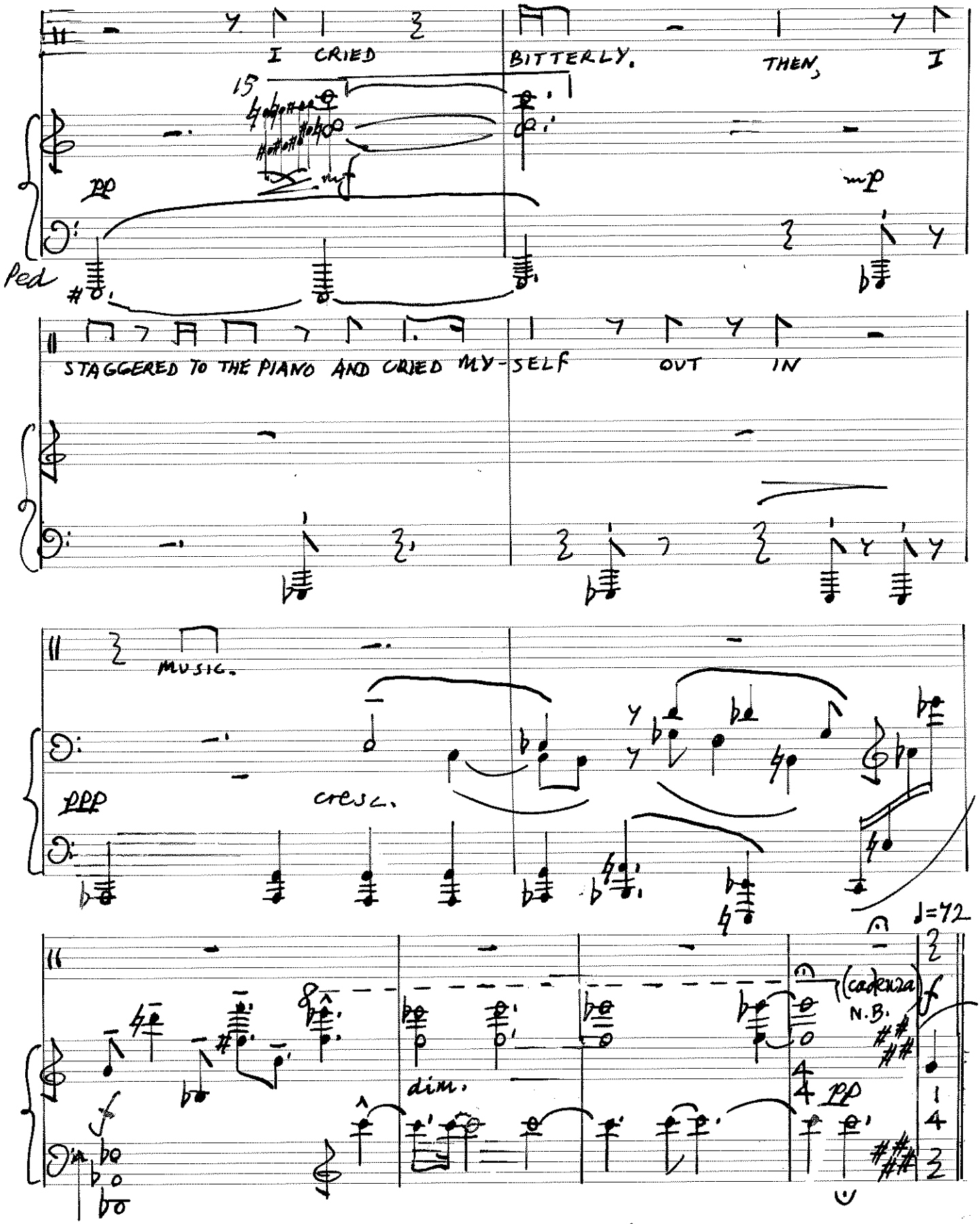

N.B.- Optional improvisation, short or long, as appropriate. See Appendix (p. 19).

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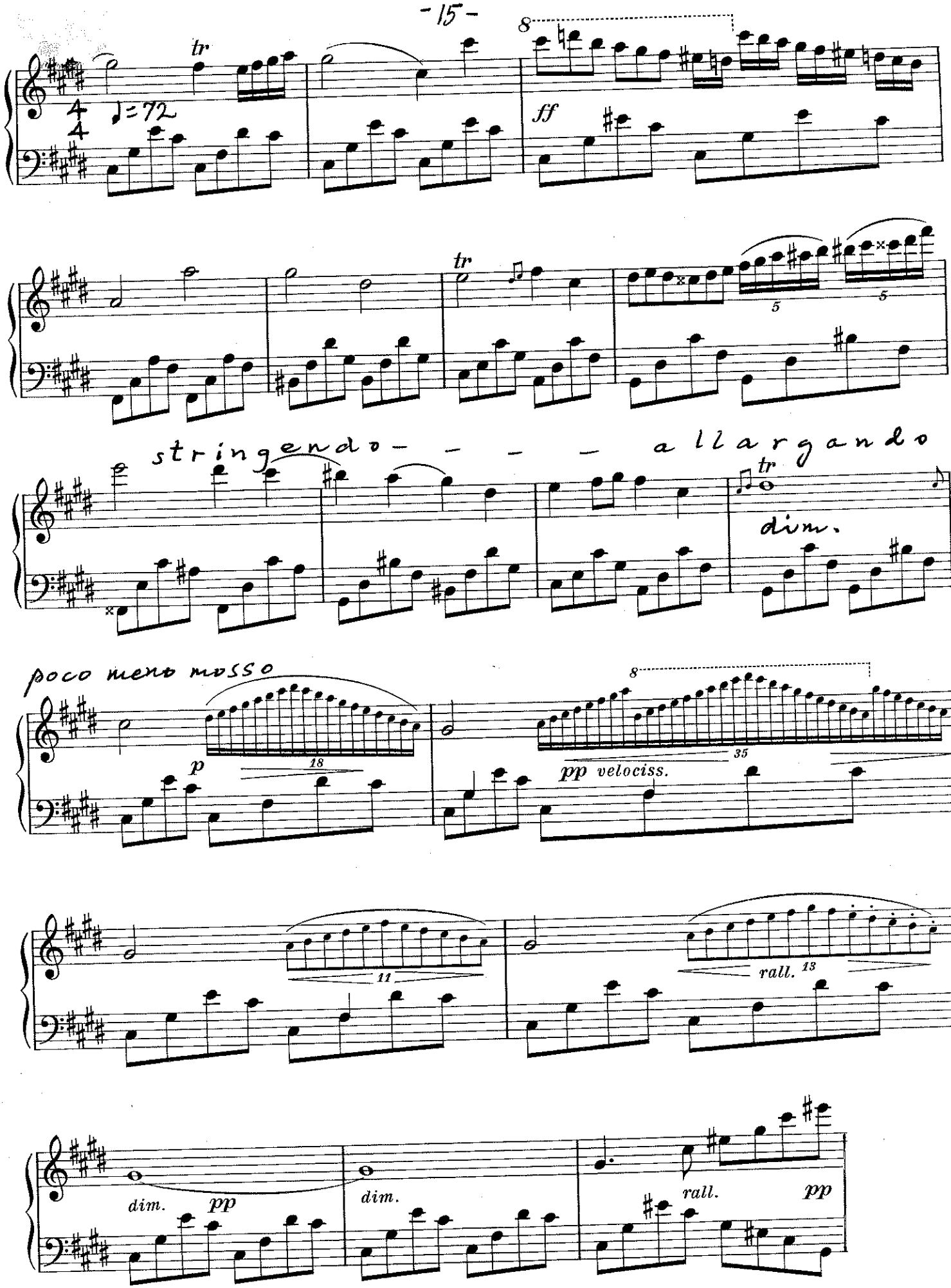
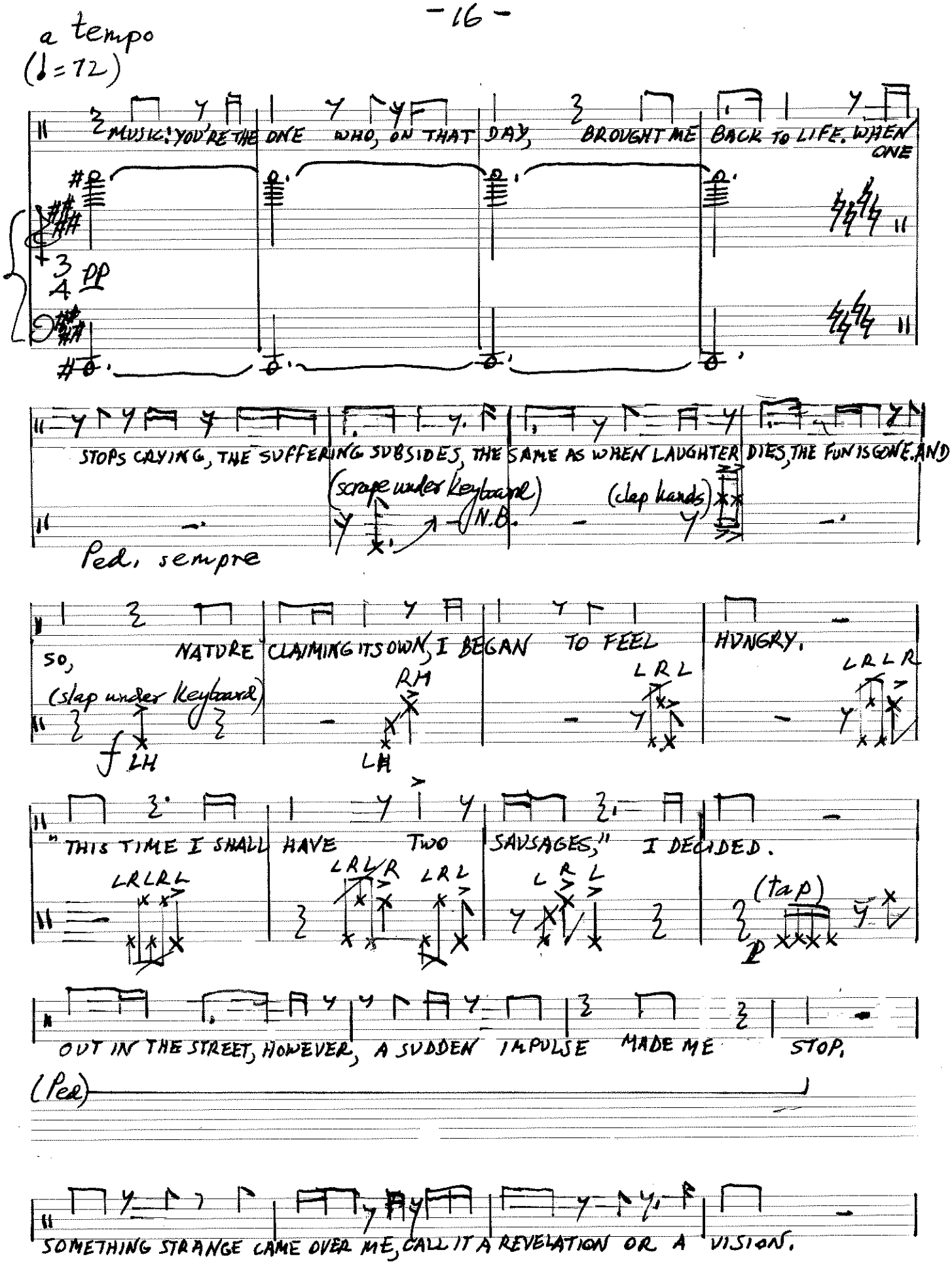

tr
♩=72
8
ff
tr
5
5
stringendo - - - - allargando
tr
dim.
poco meno mosso
p
18
8
35
pp velocissimo
11
rall. 13
dim.
pp
dim.
rall.
pp


a tempo

MUSIC: YOU'RE THE ONE WHO, ON THAT DAY, BROUGHT ME BACK TO LIFE. WHEN ONE

STOPS CRYING, THE SUFFERING SUBSIDES, THE SAME AS WHEN LAUGHTER DIES, THE FUN IS GONE. AND
(scrape under keyboard)
N.B.
(clap hands)
Ped. sempre
SO, NATURE CLAIMING ITS OWN, I BEGAN TO FEEL HUNGRY.
(slap under keyboard)

LH
RH
LH
LRL
LRLR
"THIS TIME I SHALL HAVE TWO SAUSAGES," I DECIDED.
LRLRL
LRLR
LRL
LRL
(tap)

OUT IN THE STREET, HOWEVER, A SUDDEN IMPULSE MADE ME STOP.
(Ped)
SOMETHING STRANGE CAME OVER ME, CALL IT A REVELATION OR A VISION.

(N.B.- Either fingernails or thin plastic)

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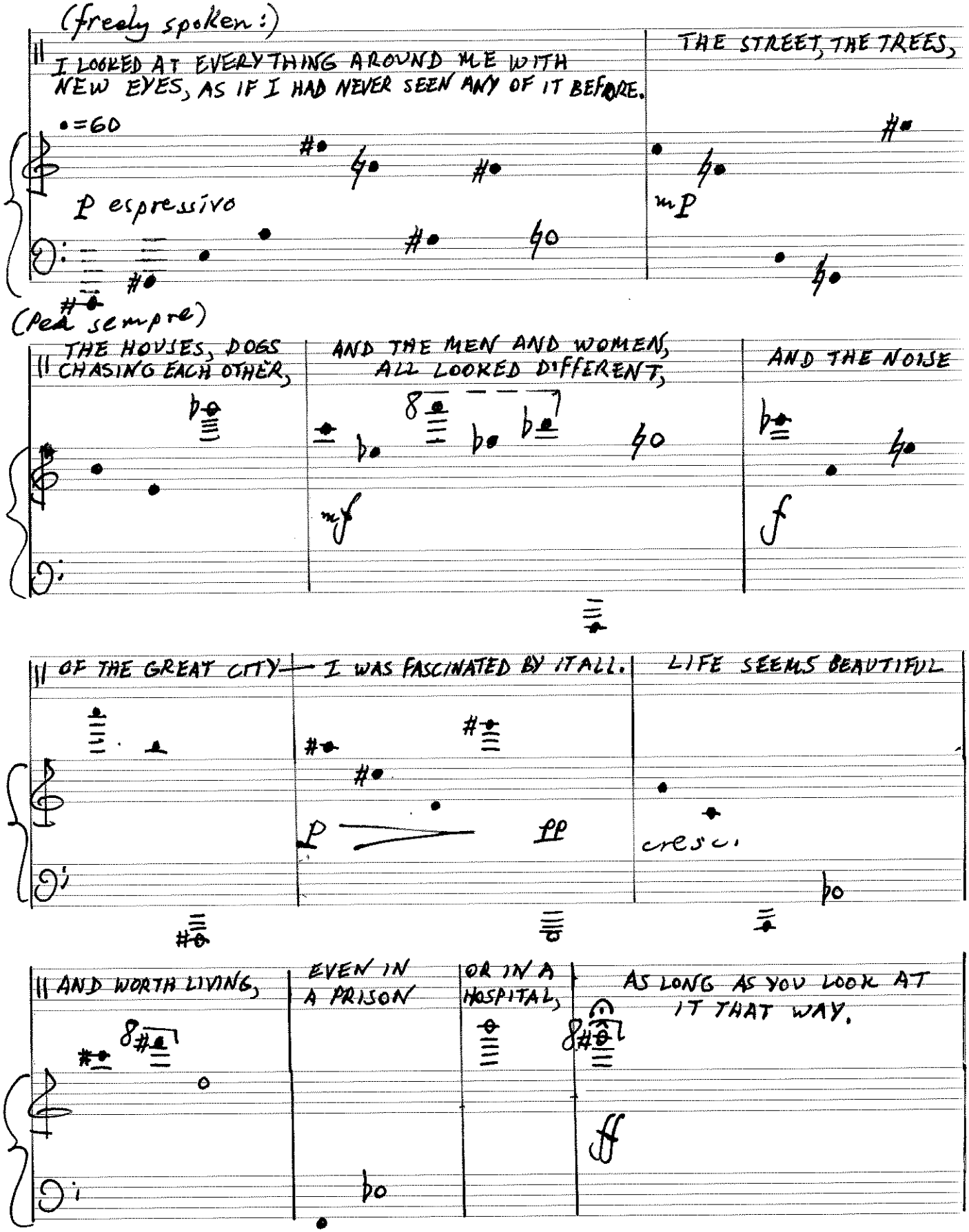

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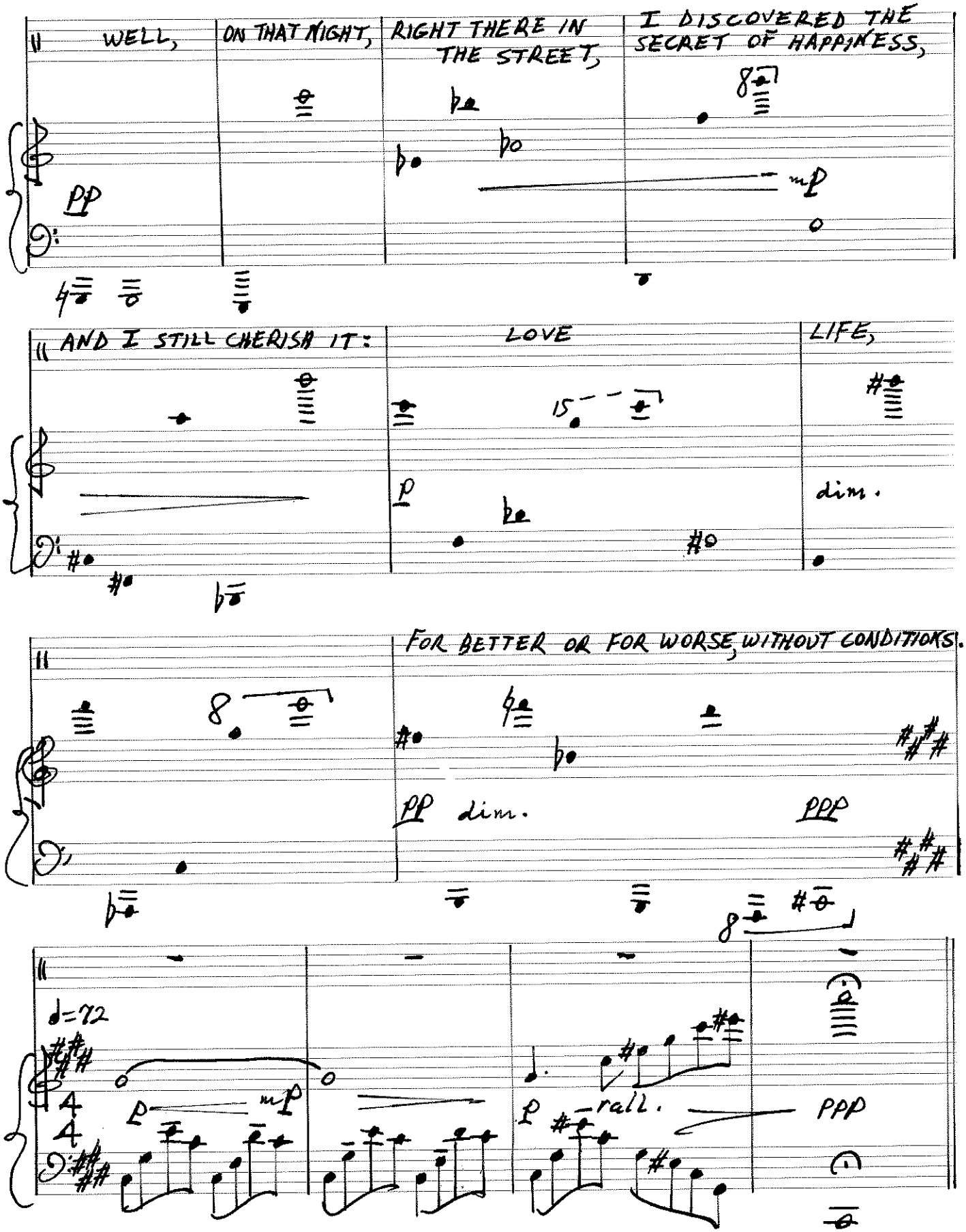

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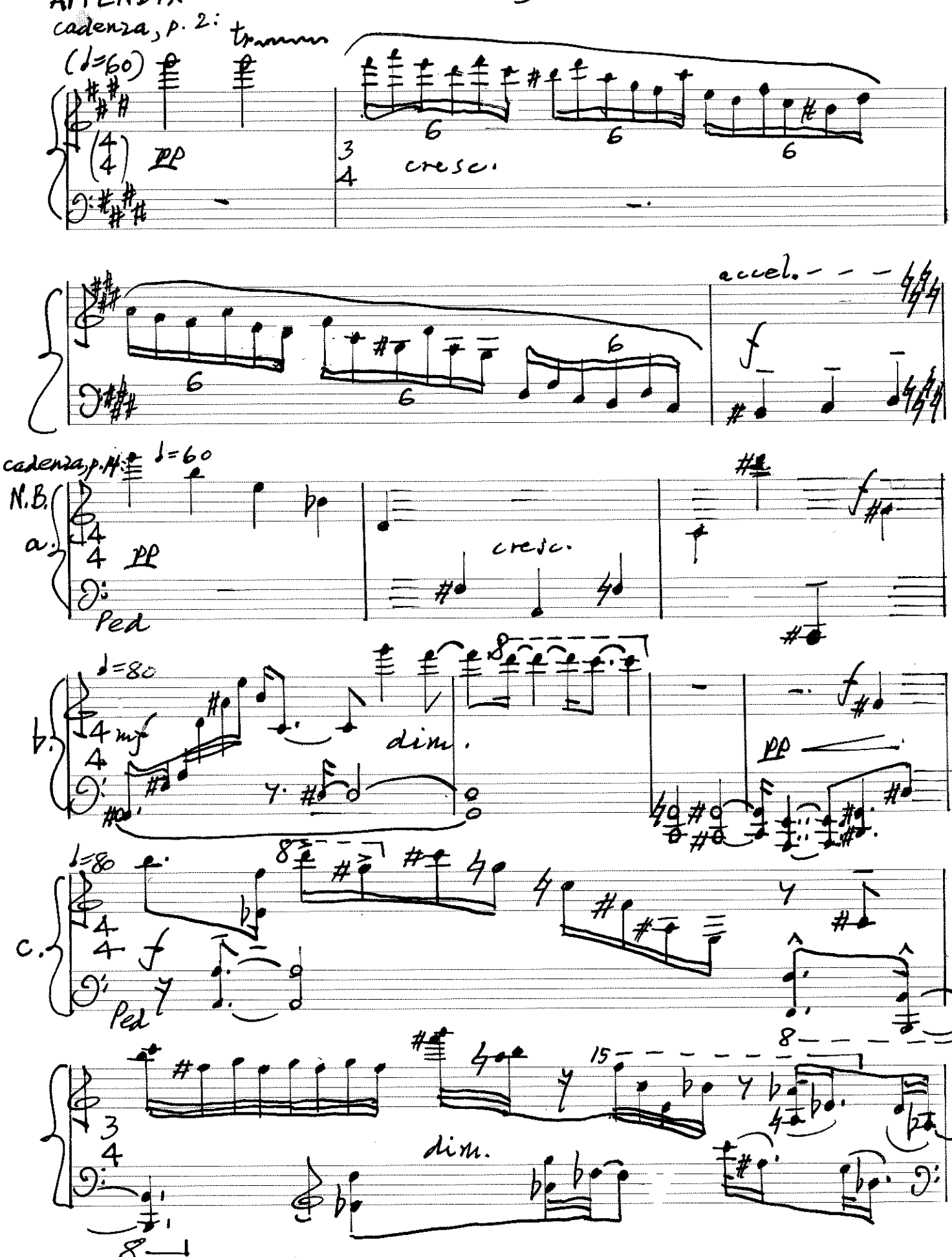
APPENDIX



N.B.- Of the 5 options (a) to (e), use any, all, or none.

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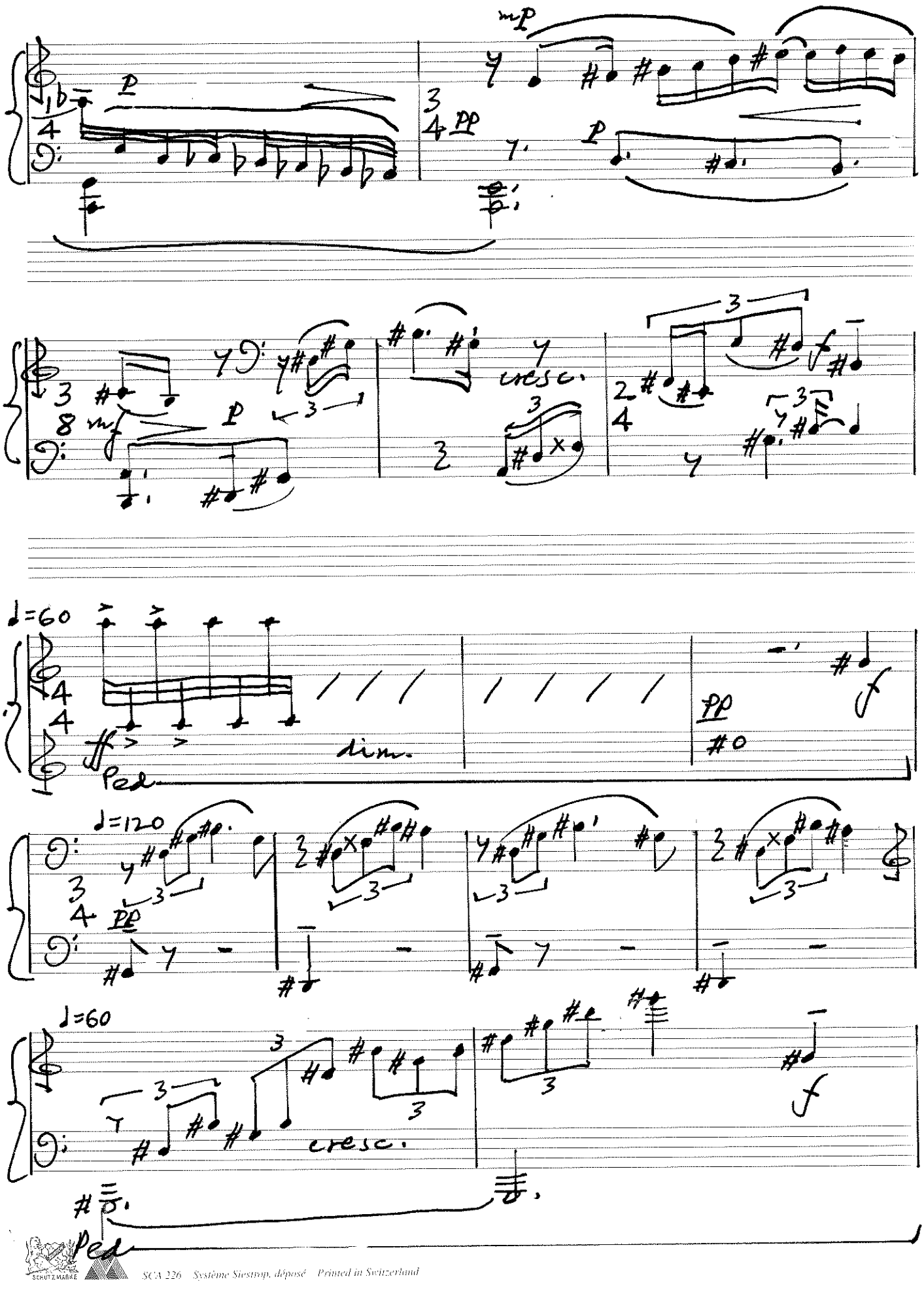

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