Test Pieces for Piano

Book One: Numbers 1 through 16

Ronald Keith Parks

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http://ronparksmusic.com

Test Pieces for Piano, Book One

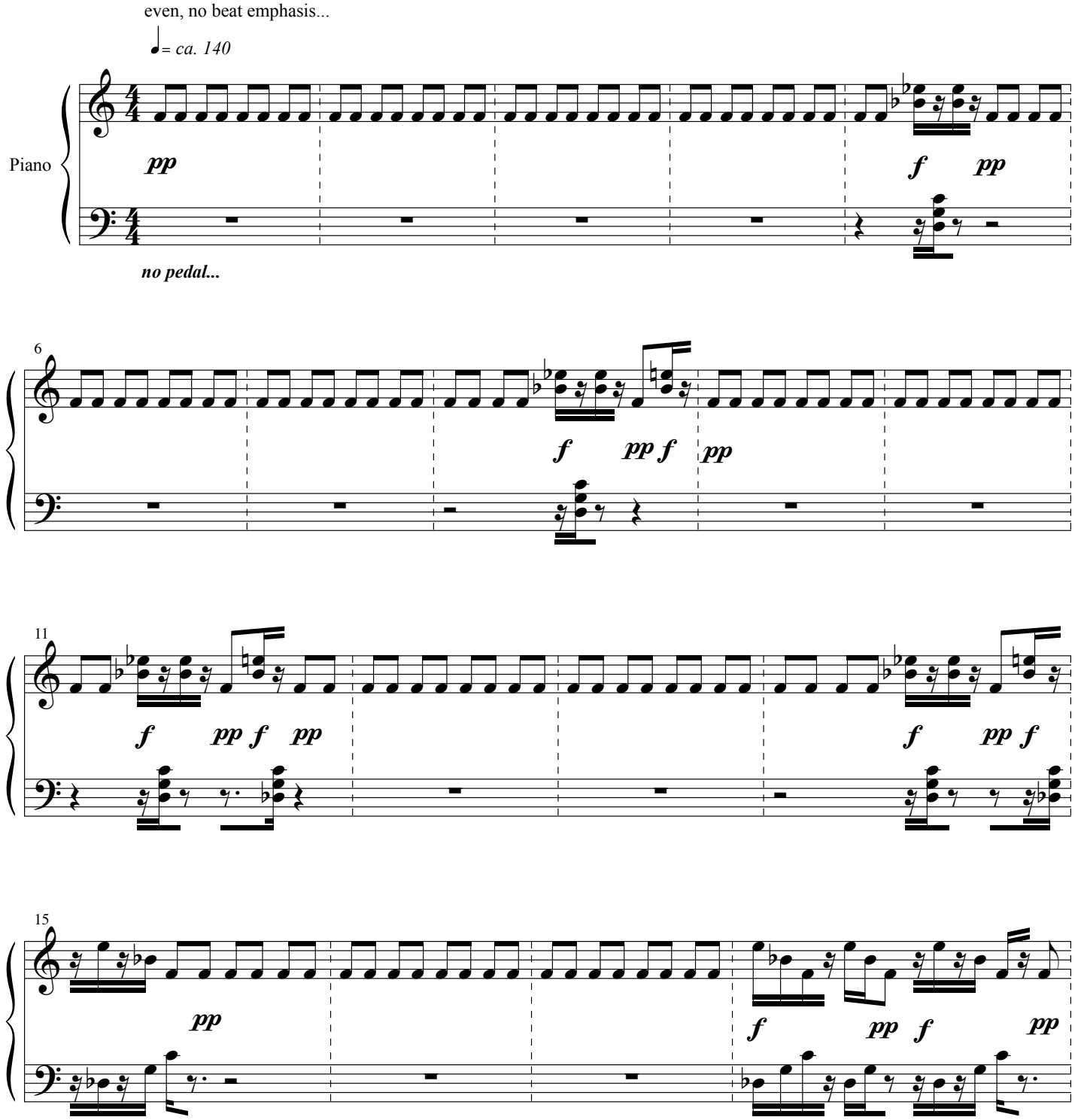
Richard Zakin is a ceramics artist who lives in Oswego, a small town in upstate New York. His work is remarkable. He is constantly searching for new ways to create ceramic art. I owe the idea for *Test Pieces* for Piano to Richard. His workspace is literally overflowing with ceramic art works. The majority of the pieces are small and contain only one or two prominent features. His larger works incorporate design elements, colors, textures, etc. from the small pieces. When I asked about this he explained that he works toward larger works by first making a lot of test pieces. He likes to test ideas in small works before integrating them into larger pieces. I was impressed with his high level of craft and attention to detail in the test pieces. Even the simplest piece testing clay or glaze color, texture, etc. was approached with great precision, care, and love for the art. I was immediately struck with the idea to write a series of short works that 'test' one or two compositional ideas, with the intent to eventually incorporate some elements of the test pieces into larger works. Book one contains sixteen test pieces for piano. Ideas from Test pieces 1 through 7 were incorporated into a larger work for piano and wind ensemble titled *Instances.* Test Pieces 8 through 11 were combined and expanded into a larger work for two pianos titled *Fantasy for Two Pianos*.

It was my intent that these test pieces can be performed as stand-alone solo works, or that the entire book can be performed in order (or re-ordered), or that any subset of Book One can be re-ordered as the performer sees fit. Performers should feel free to select subsets and combine them in any order that seems musical.

TEST PIECE 1

for piano

Ronald Keith Parks



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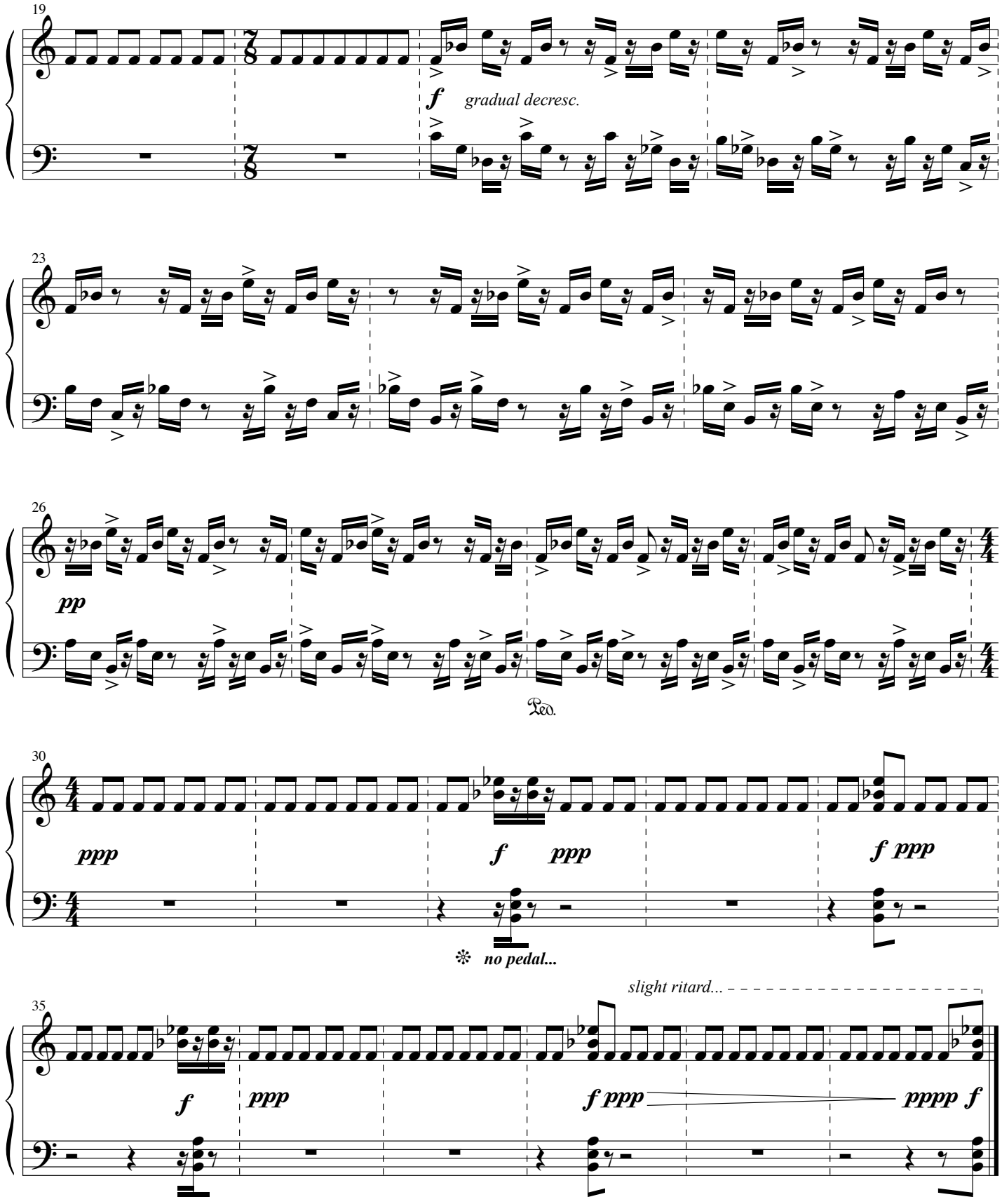
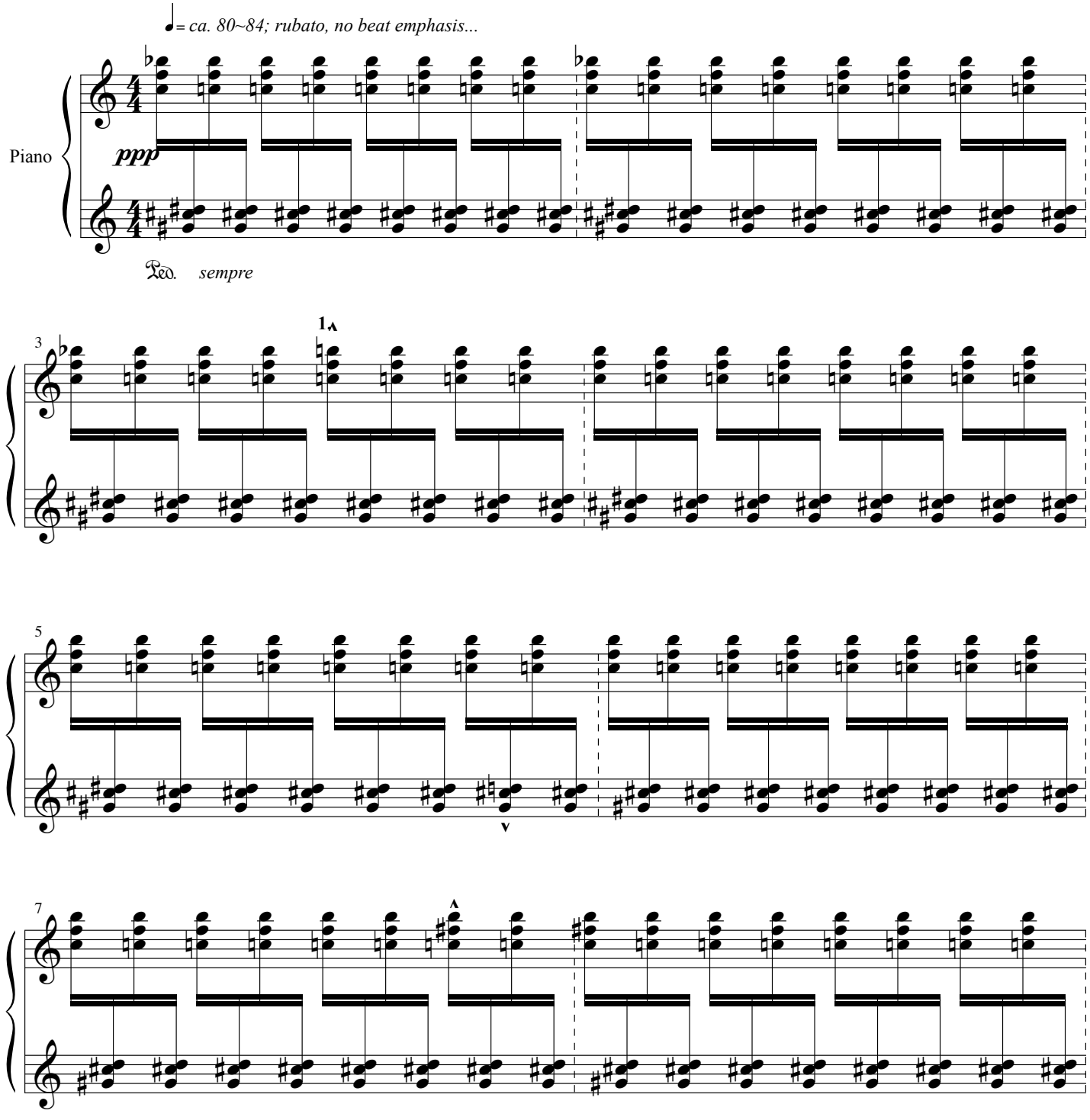


June 19, 2002
Rock Hill, SC

TEST PIECE 2

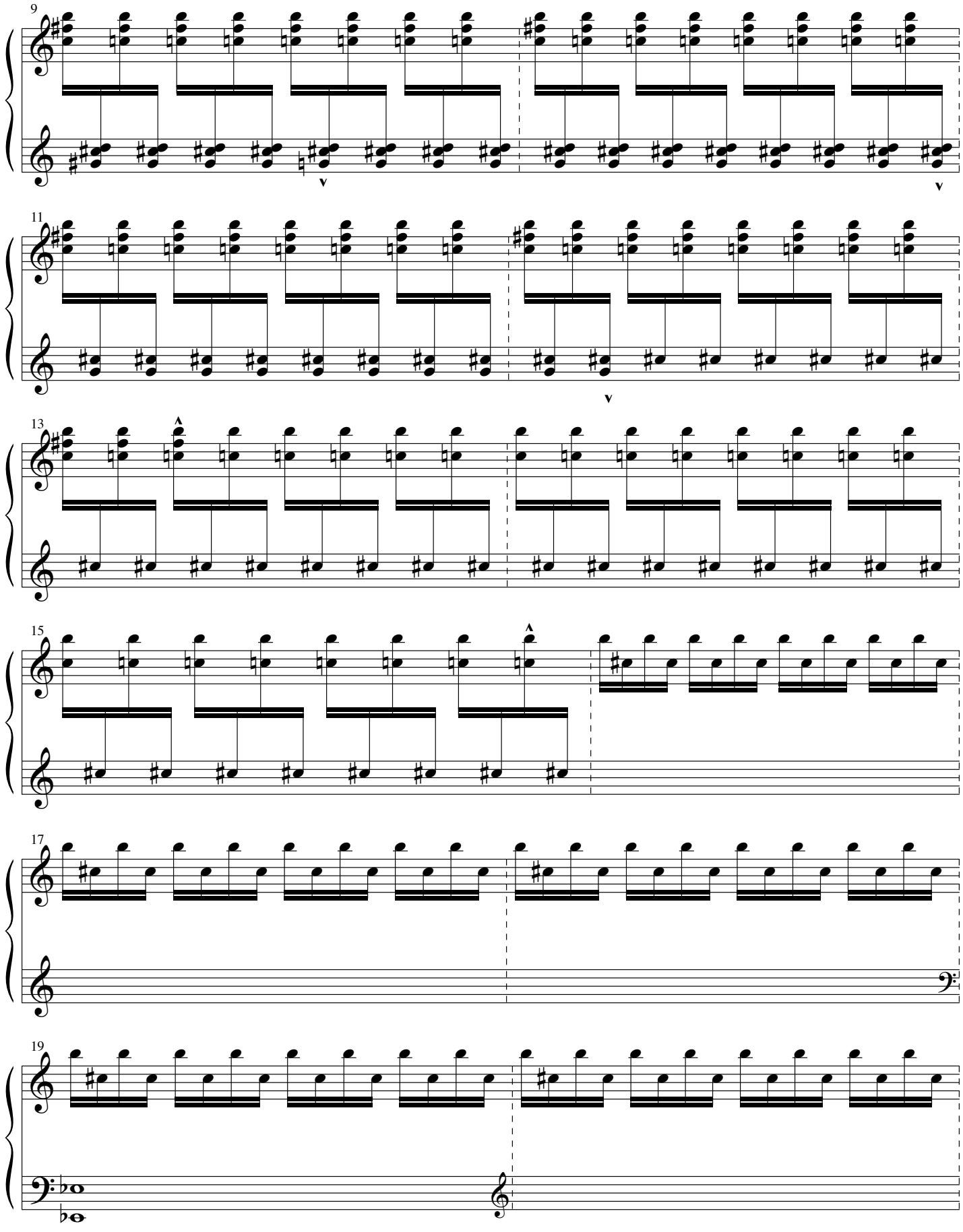
for piano

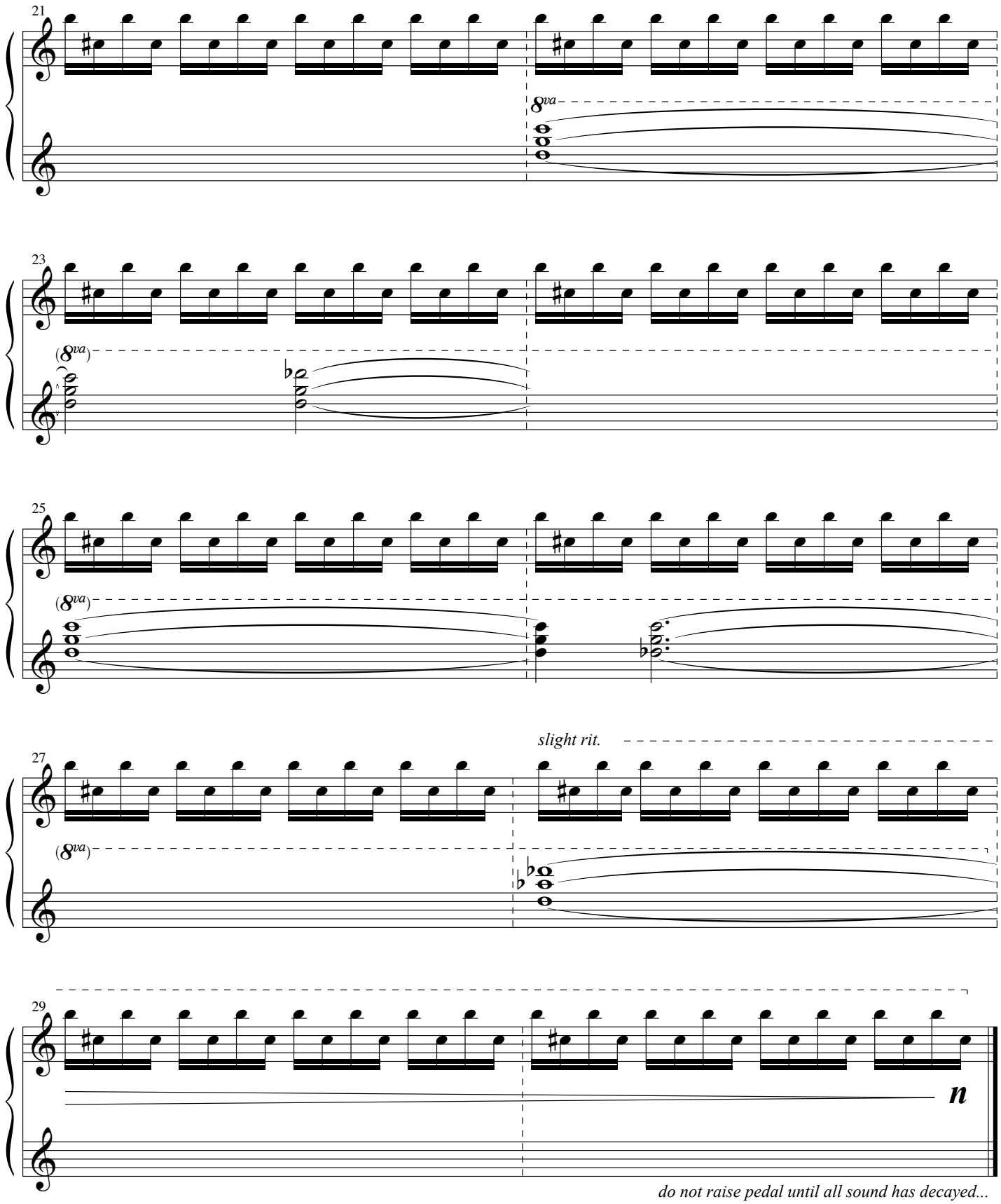
Ronald Keith Parks



1. Accented chords (i.e. ^) are to be performed forte or louder and be allowed to decay naturally.

Ronald Keith Parks: ©2002


9
11
13
15
17
19
8vb



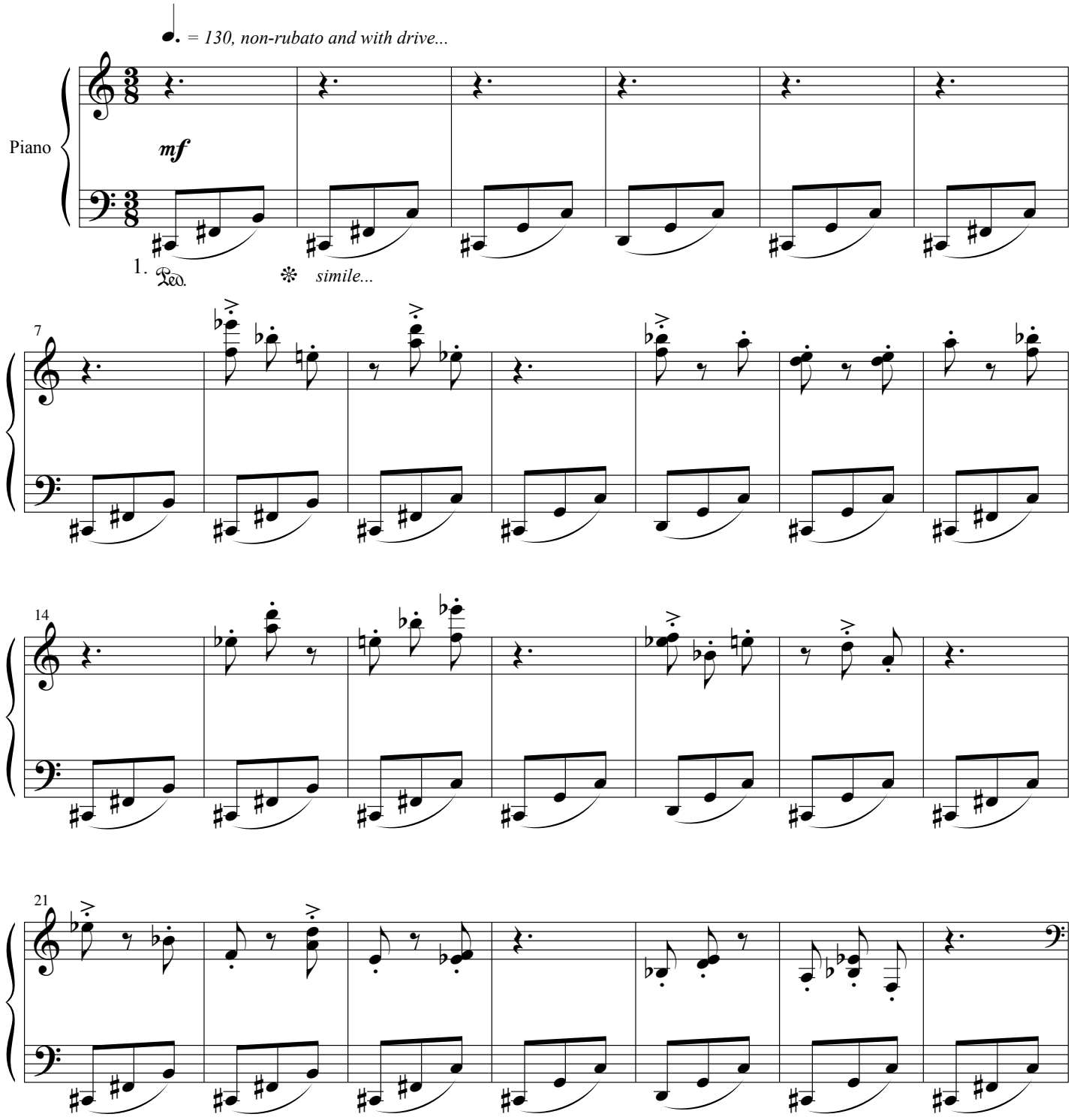
do not raise pedal until all sound has decayed...

June 24, 2002
Rock Hill, SC

TEST PIECE 3

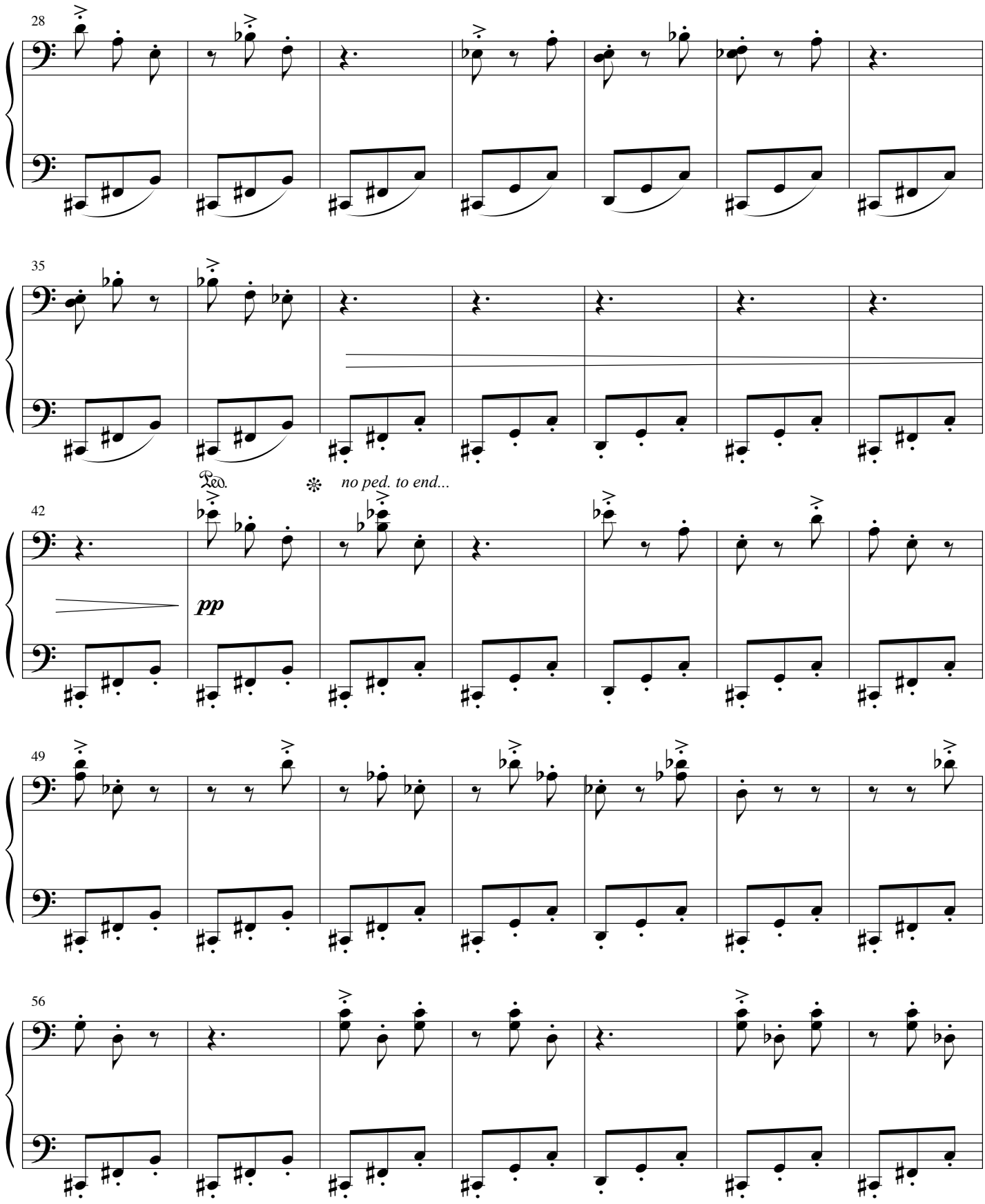
for piano

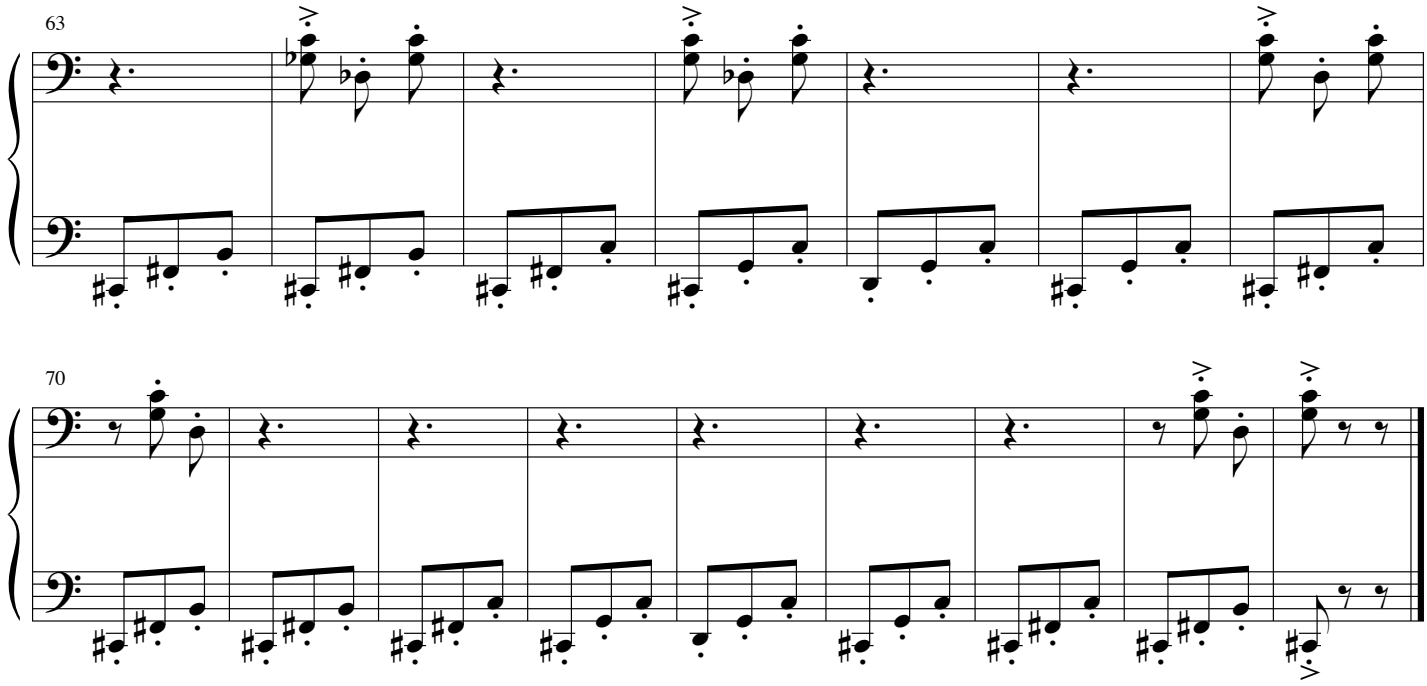
Ronald Keith Parks



1. Pedal as necessary to maintain maximum clarity of line in the right hand, while preserving the slurred groupings in the left hand.

Ronald Keith Parks ©2002


28
35
Ped.
no ped. to end...
42
pp
49
56

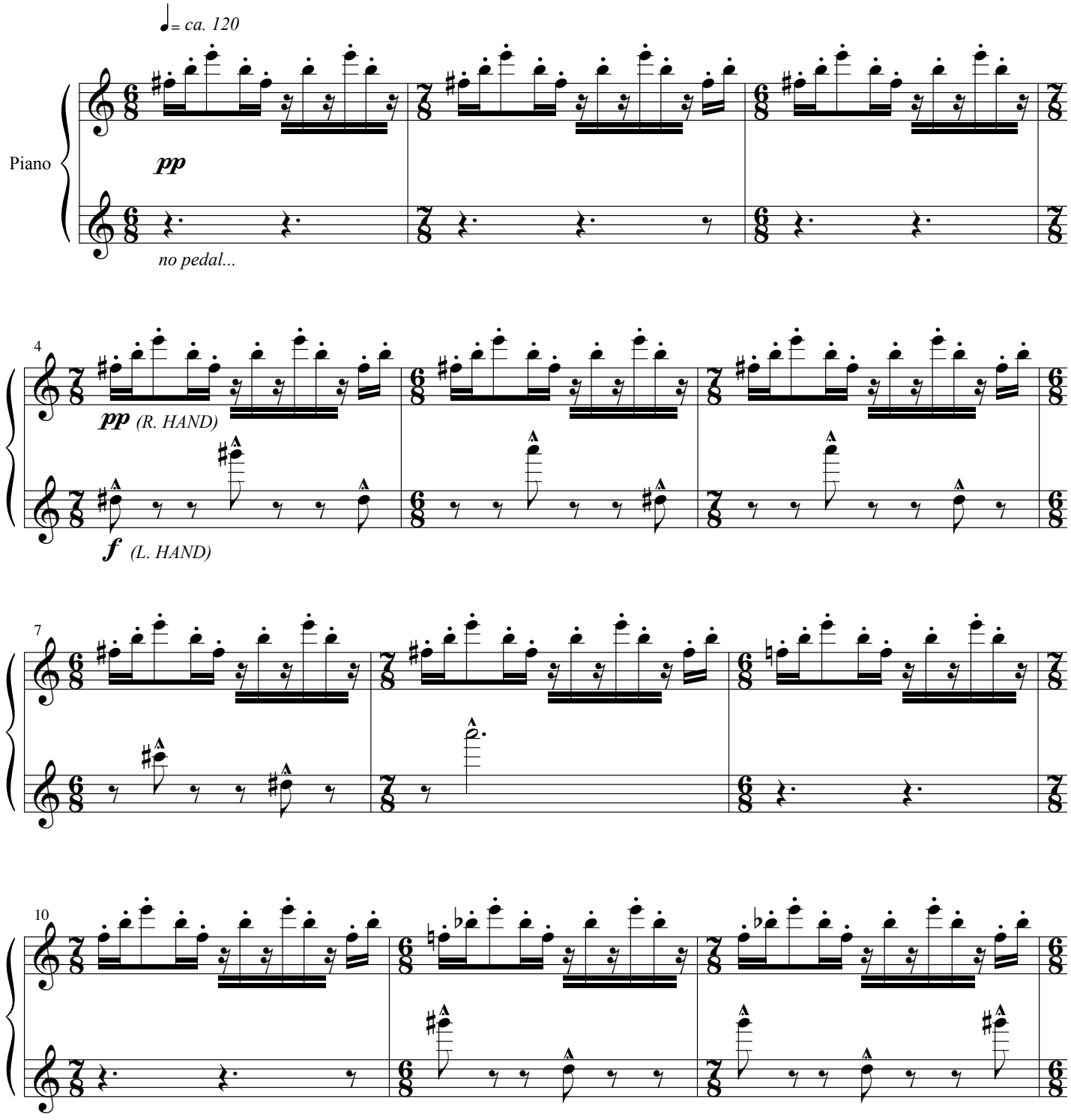


June 24, 2002
Rock Hill, SC

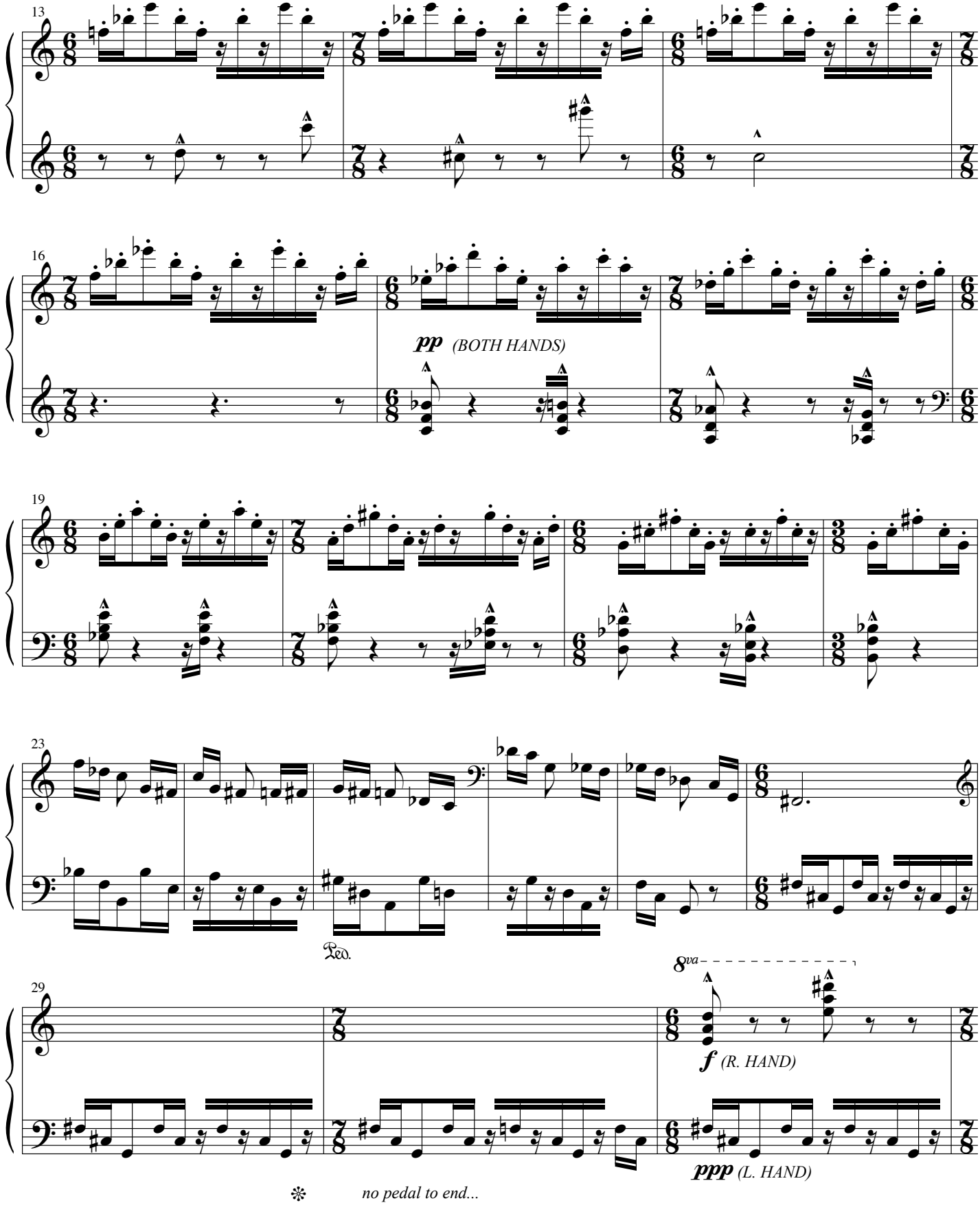
TEST PIECE 4

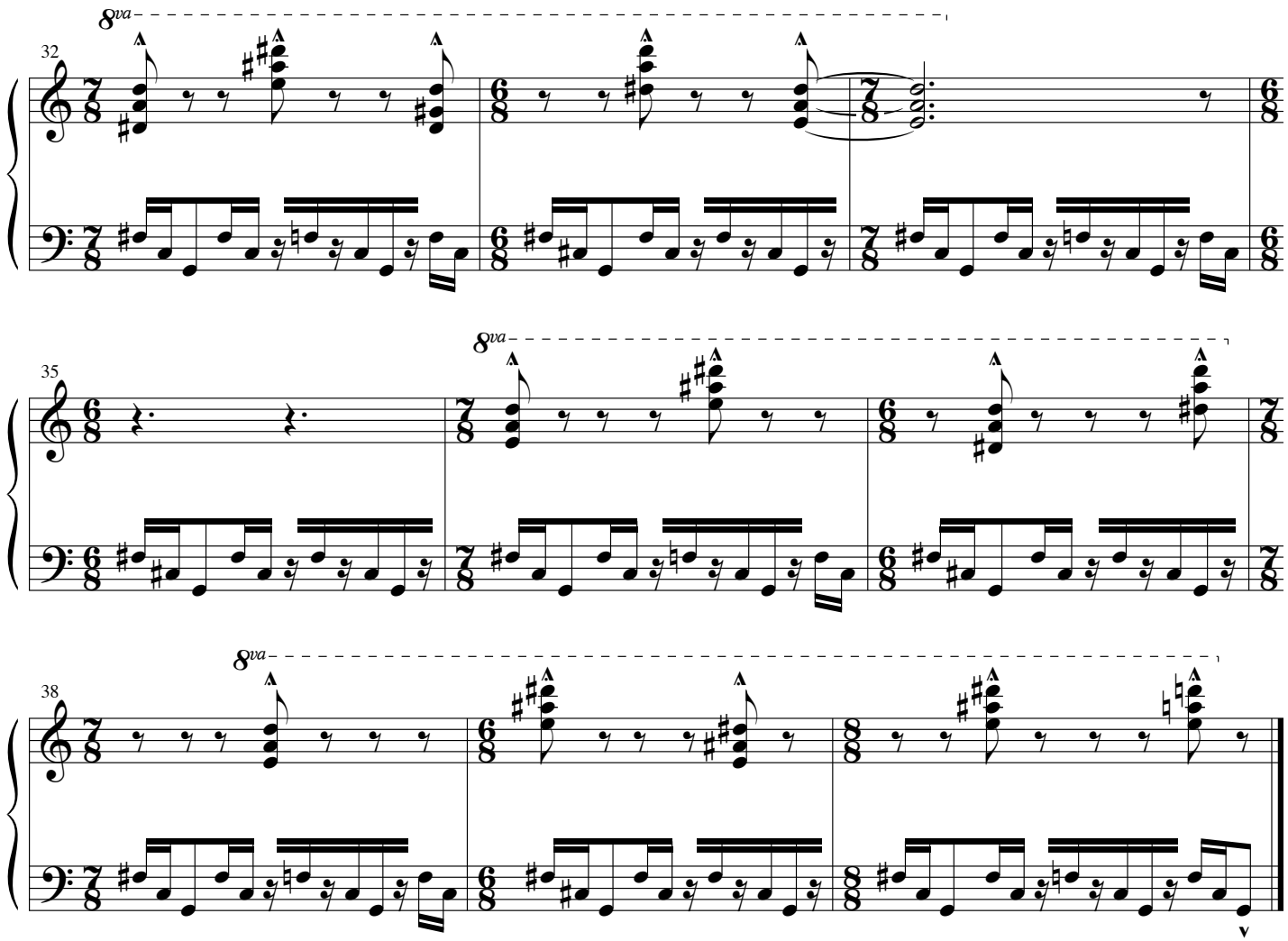
for piano

Ronald Keith Parks



Ronald Keith Parks: ©2002


13
16
pp (BOTH HANDS)
19
23
Ped.
29
8va
f (R. HAND)
ppp (L. HAND)
no pedal to end...

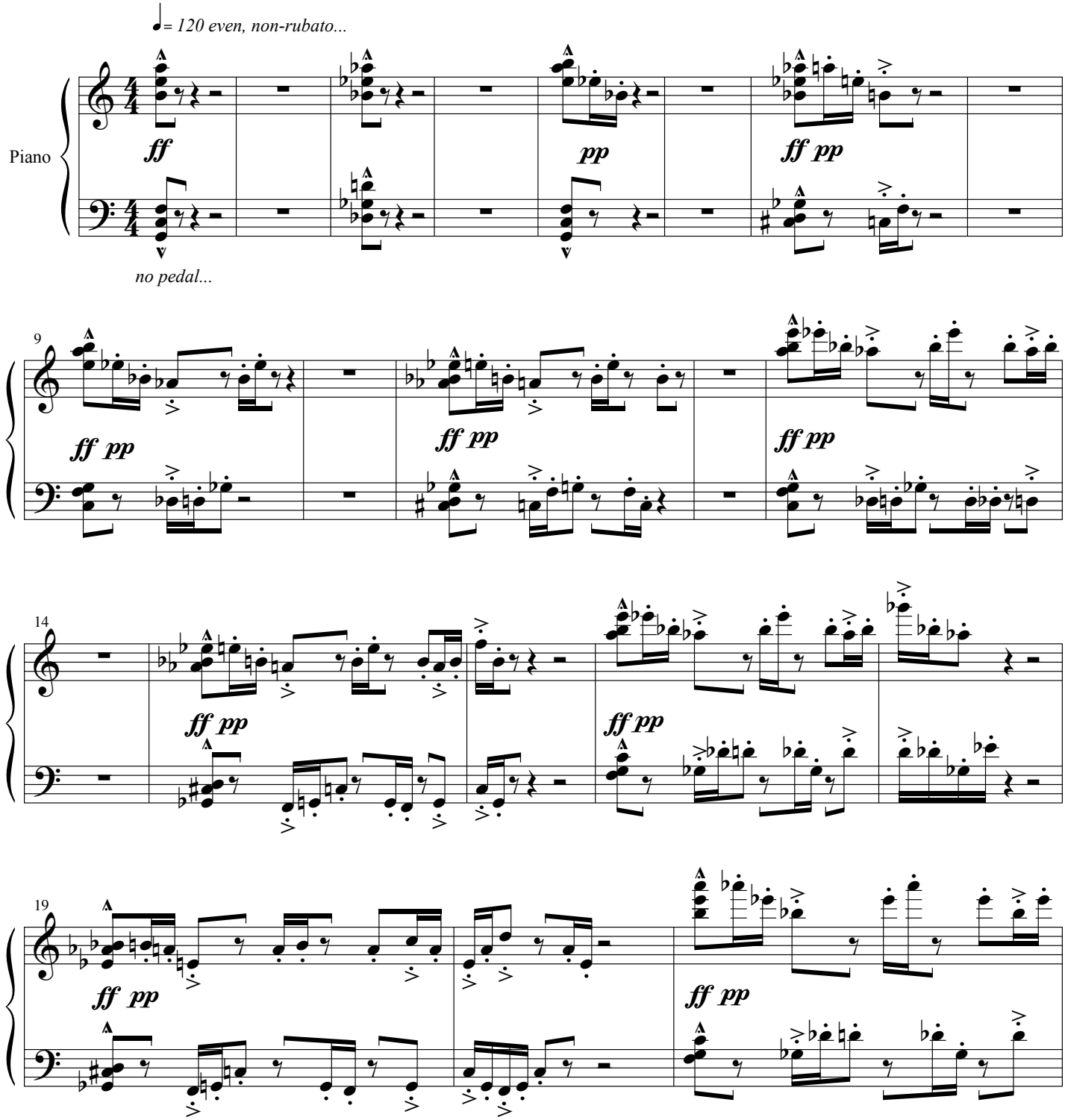


June 27, 2002
Rock Hill, SC

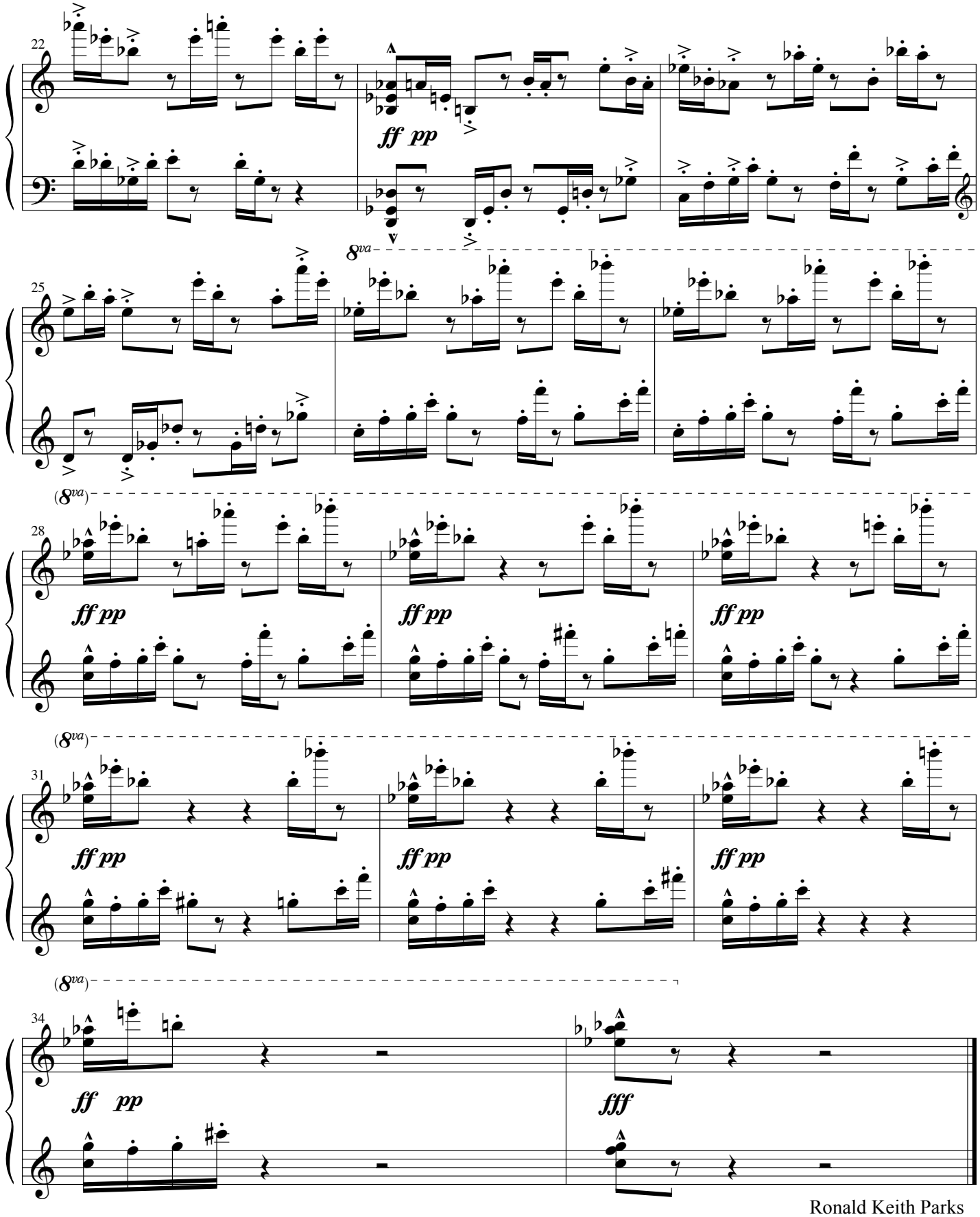
TEST PIECE 5

for piano

Ronald Keith Parks



Ronald Keith Parks: ©2002

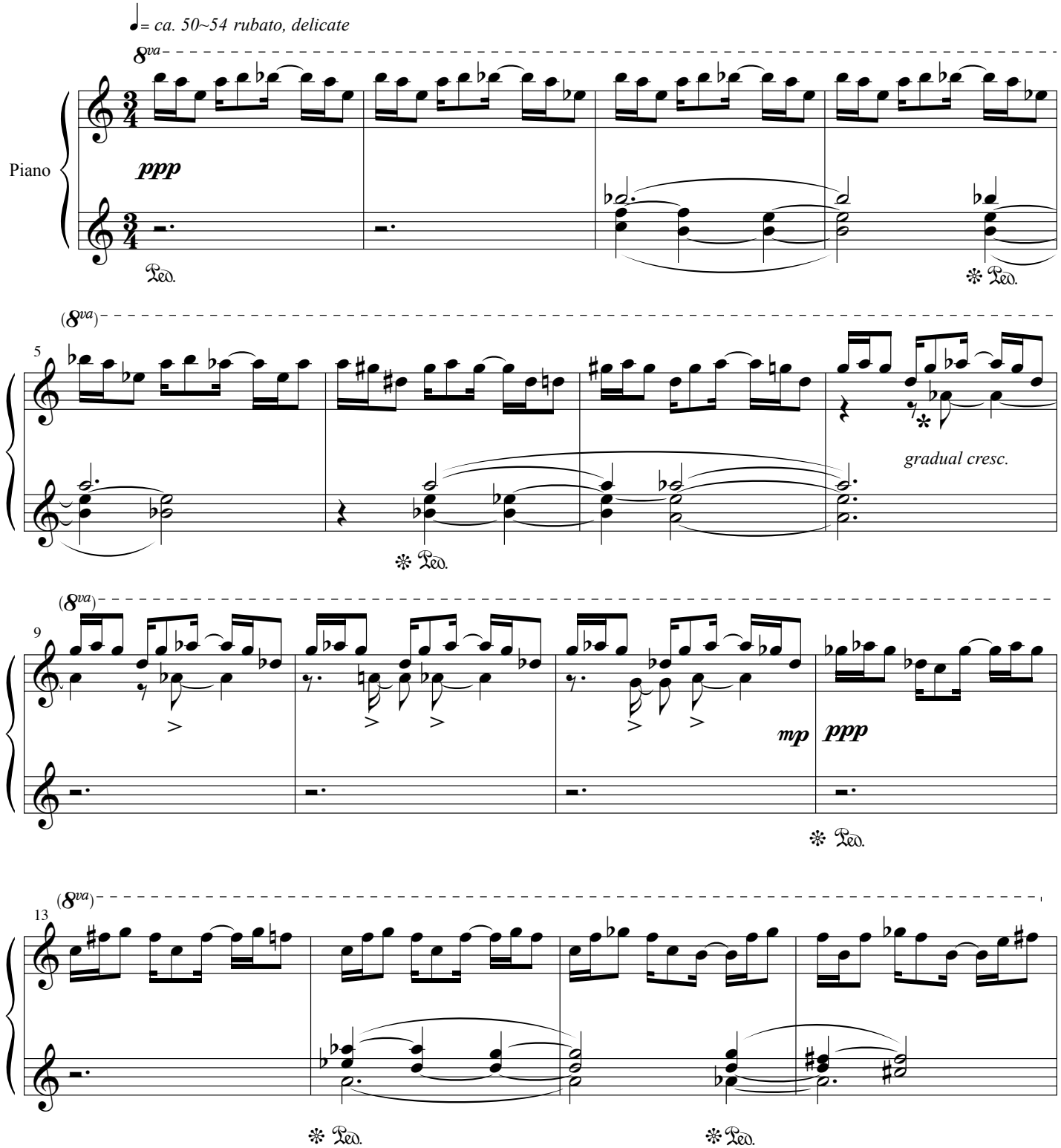


Ronald Keith Parks
July 22, 2002
Rock Hill, SC

TEST PIECE 6

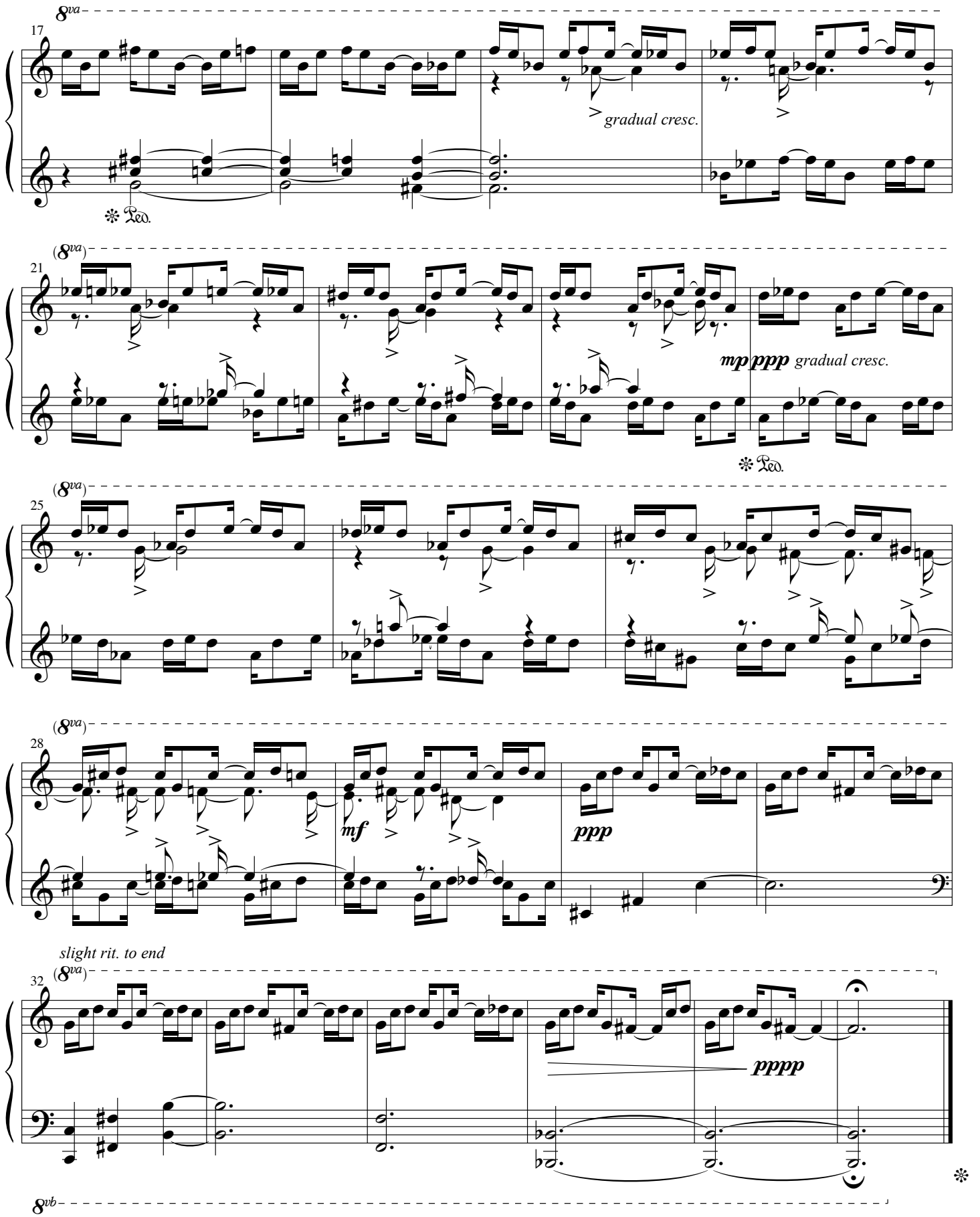
for piano

Ronald Keith Parks



* Notes with accents should be heard as the primary line.

Ronald Keith Parks: ©2003



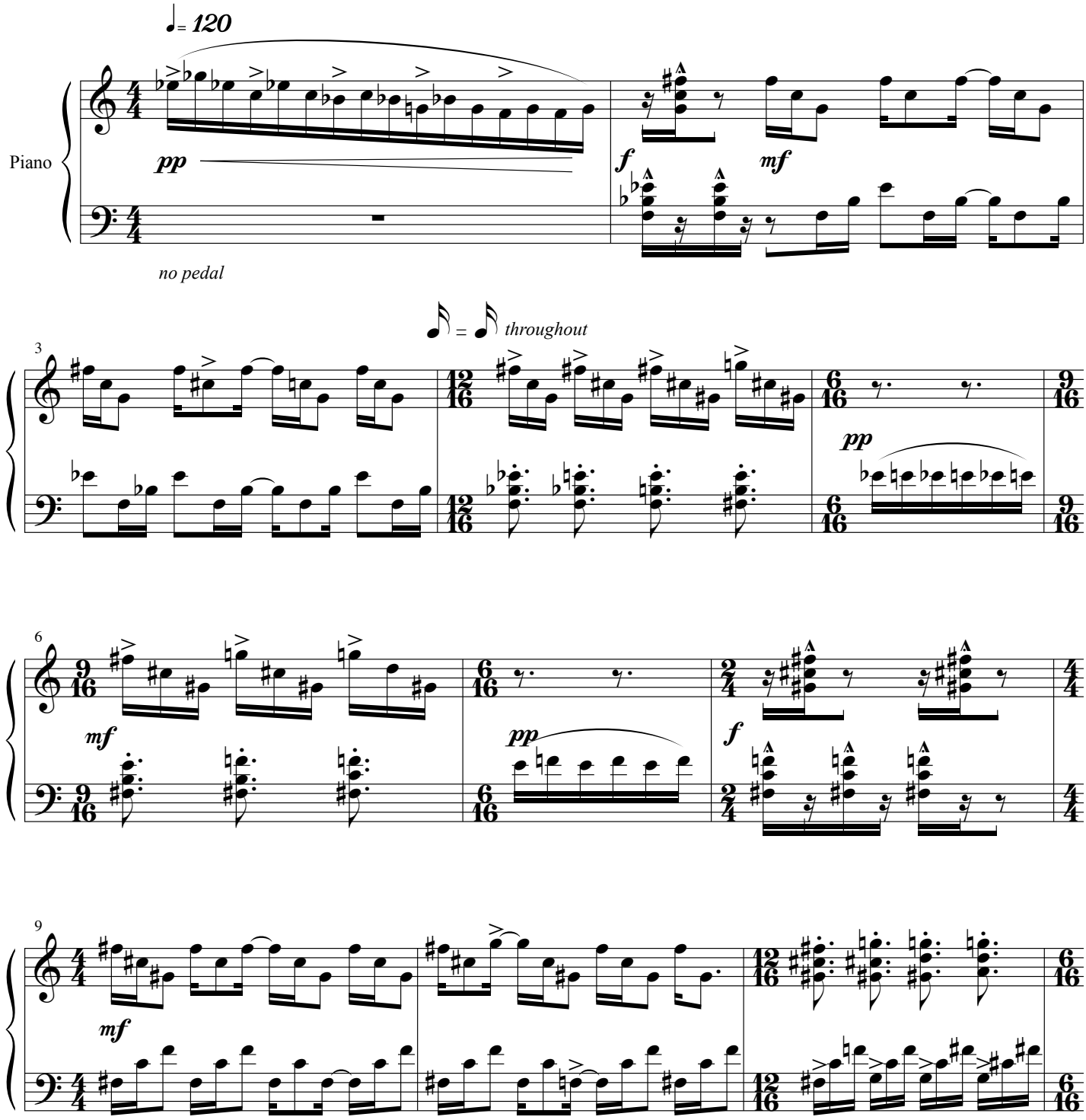
* As before, notes with accents should be heard as the primary line. The inner voice is exchanged from hand to hand, however, it should be heard as a single melodic line.

Ronald Keith Parks
May 17, 2003
Rock Hill, SC

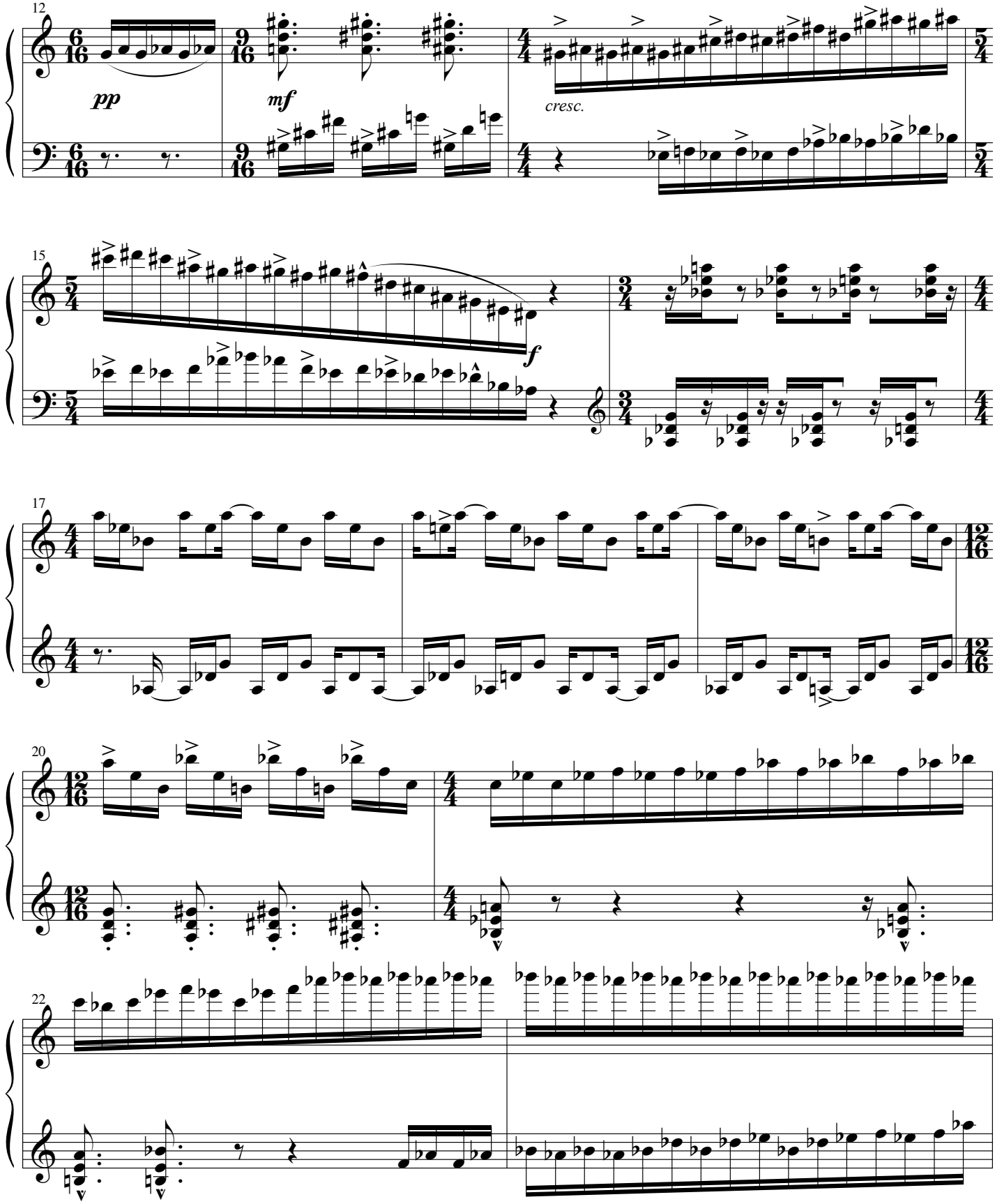
TEST PIECE 7

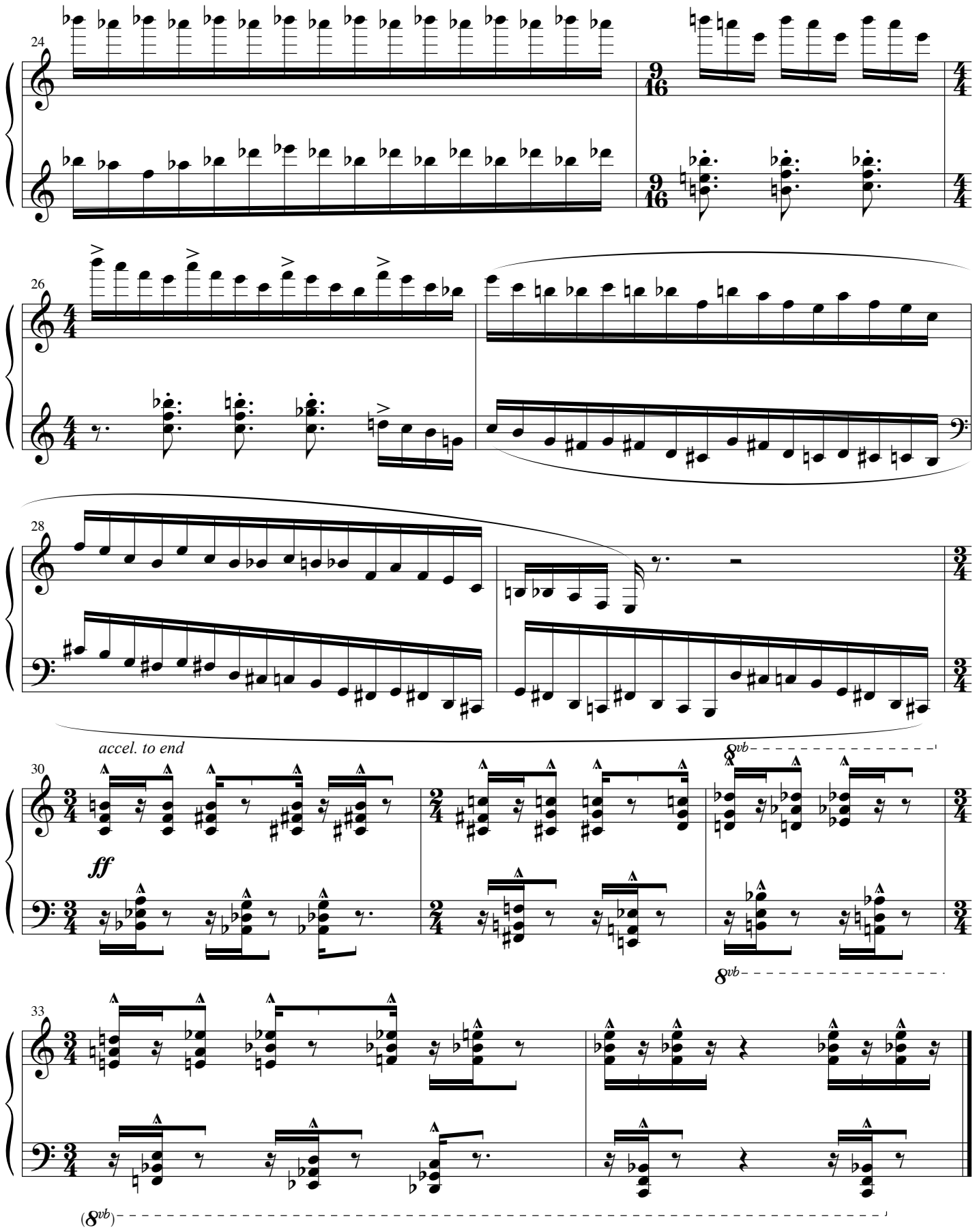
for piano

Ronald Keith Parks



Ronald Keith Parks: ©2003


12
pp
mf
cresc.
15
f
17
20
22

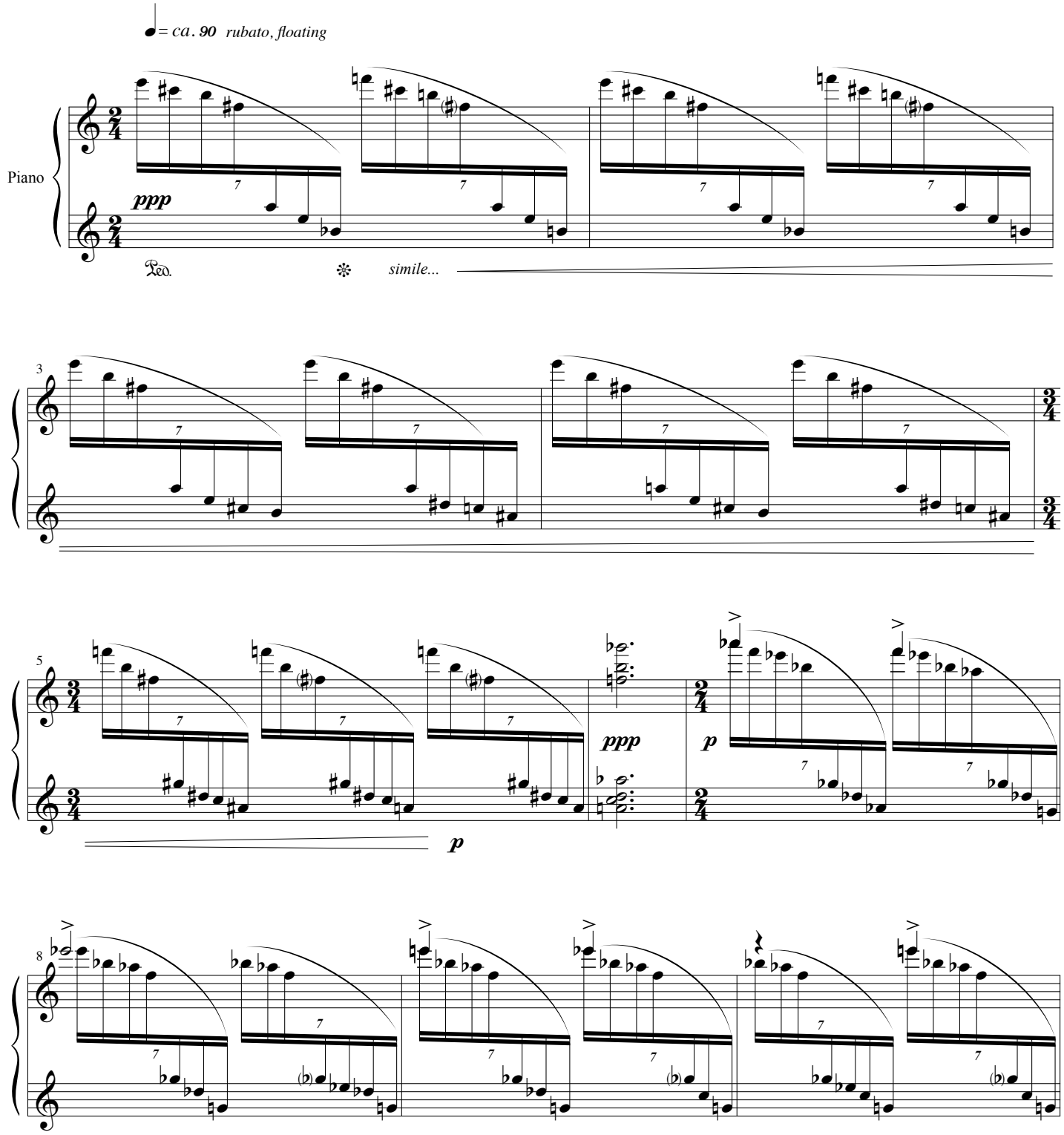


Ronald Keith Parks
May 28, 2003
Rock Hill, SC

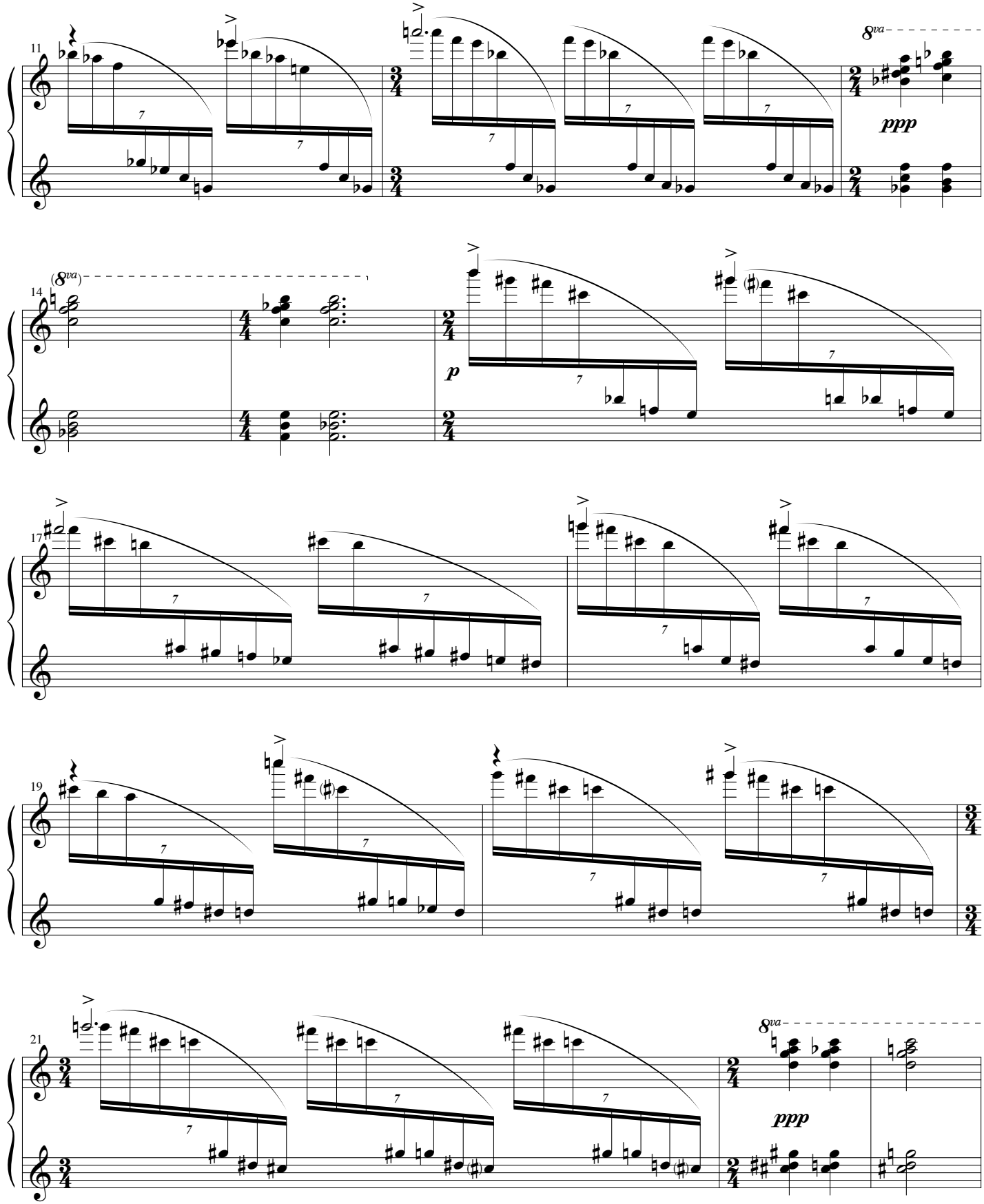
TEST PIECE 8

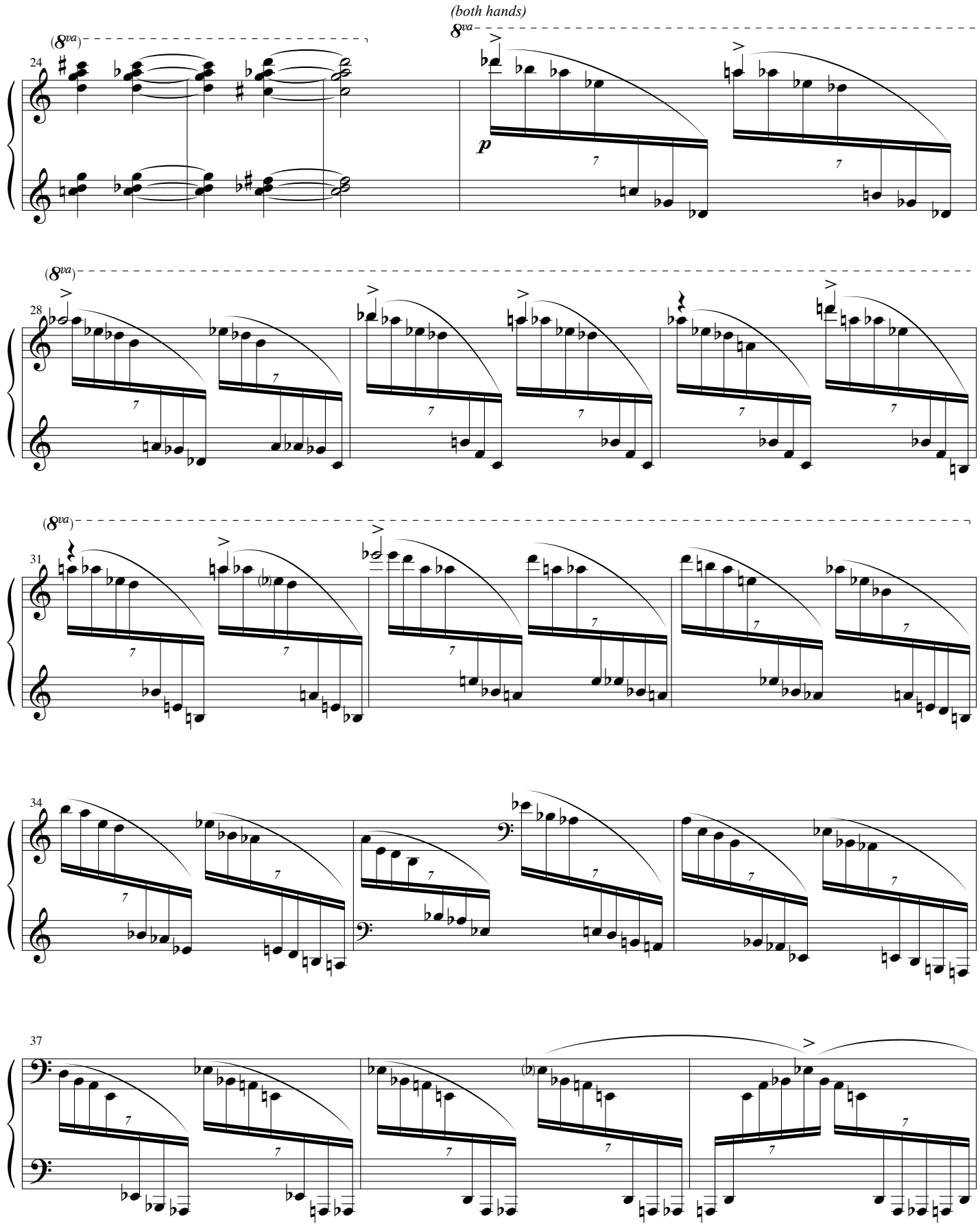
for piano

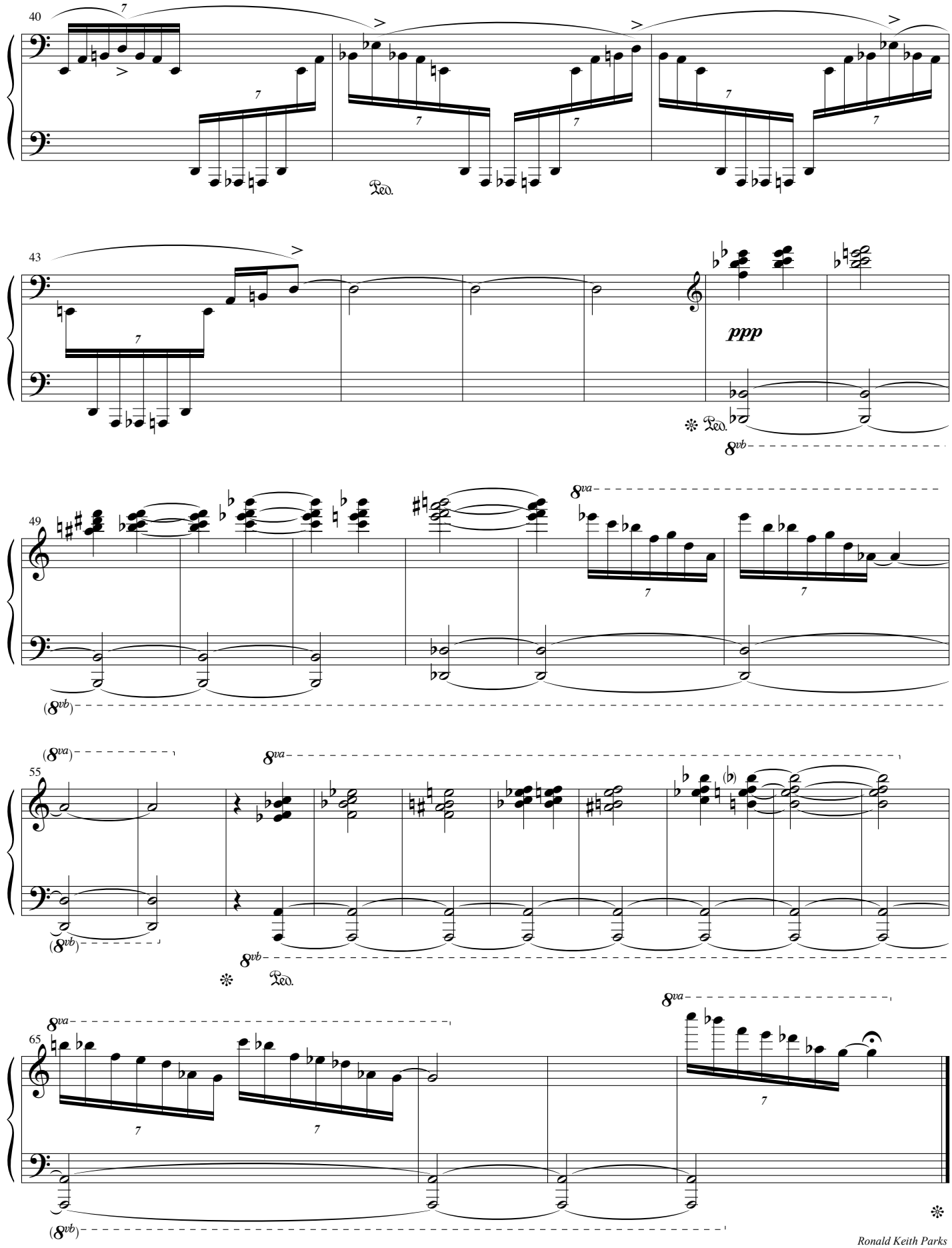
Ronald Keith Parks



Ronald Keith Parks: ©2005


11
8va
ppp
(8va)
14
p
17
19
21
8va
ppp


(both hands)
(8va)
8va
24
p
28
31
34
37



Ronald Keith Parks
June 30, 2005
Rock Hill, SC

TEST PIECE 9

for piano

Ronald Keith Parks

molto rubato ♪ = *ca.* 60

Piano

ppp

Ped. *as necessary...*

4

pp *ppp*

6

p *ppp*

8va

9

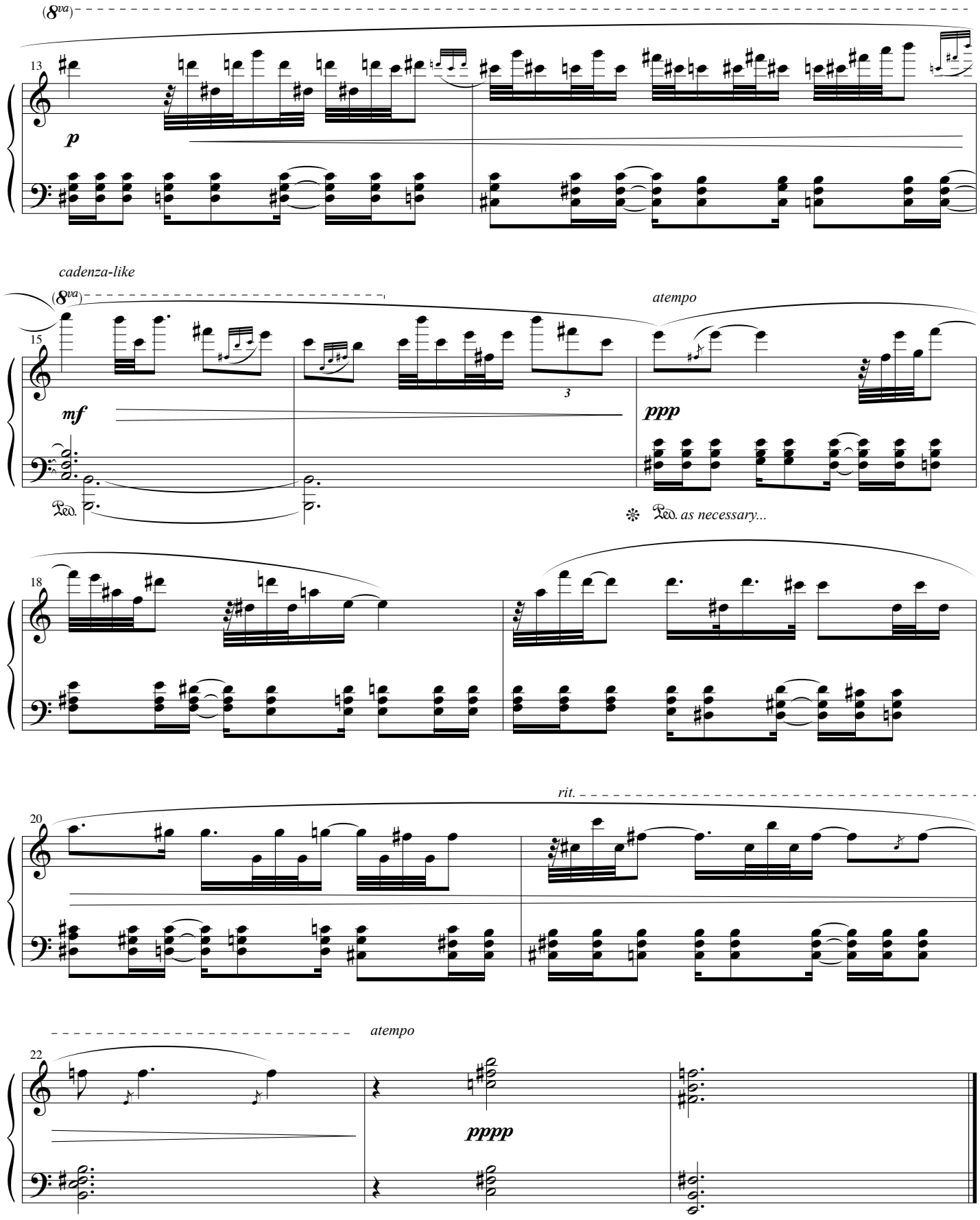
pp *p*

(8va)

11

mp

Ronald Keith Parks: © 2005



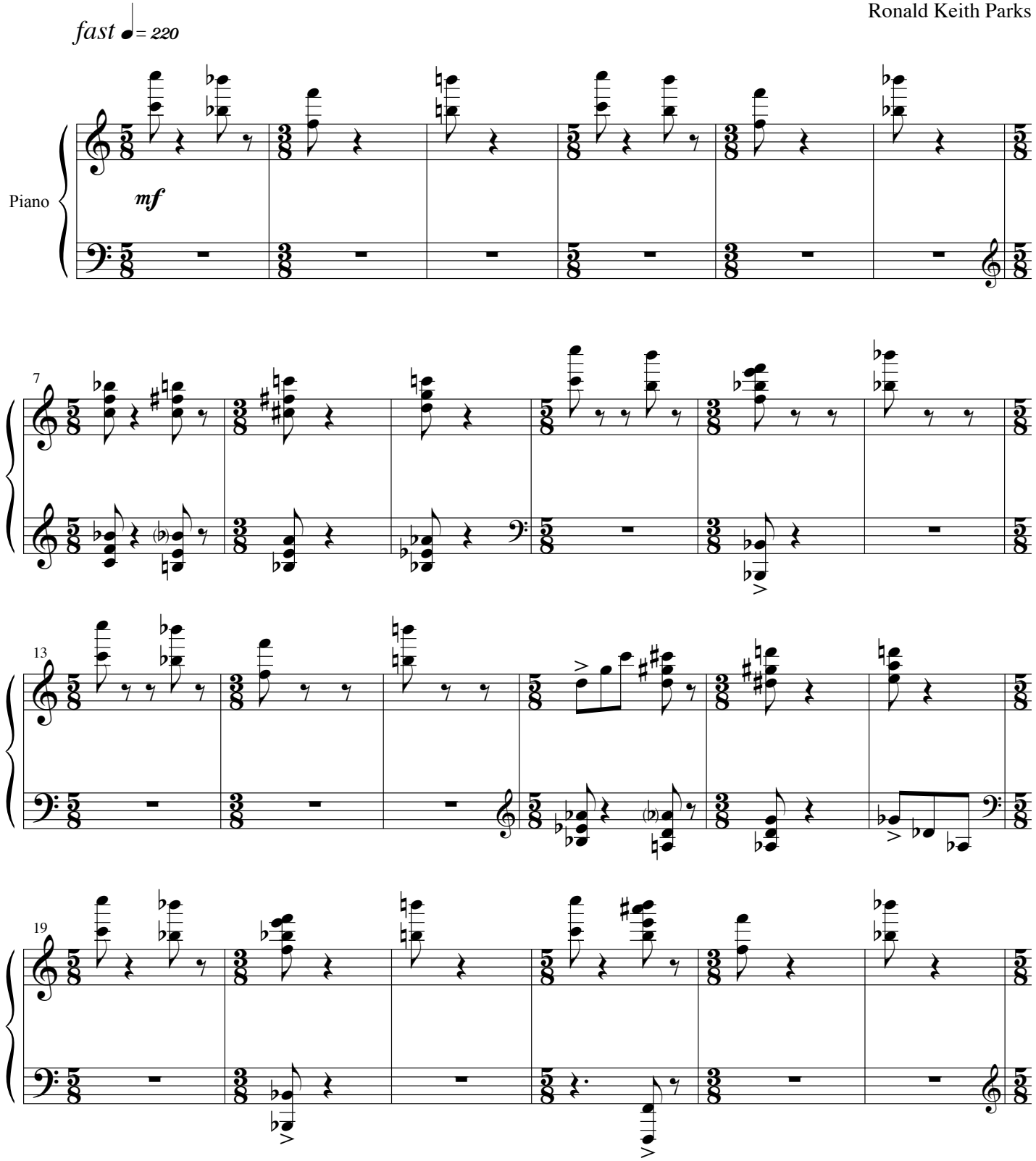
Ronald Keith Parks
July 3, 2005
Rock Hill, SC

TEST PIECE 10

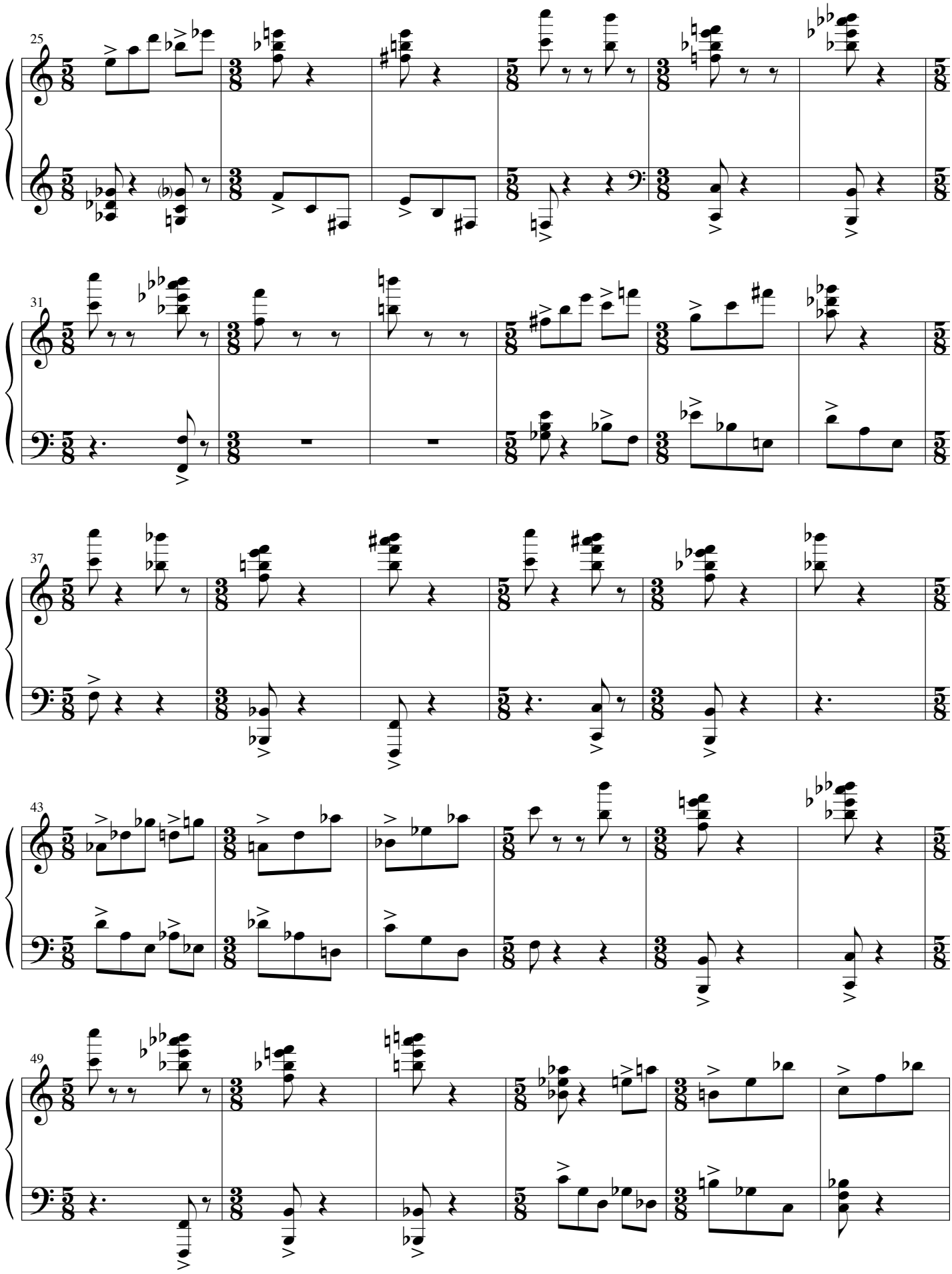
for piano

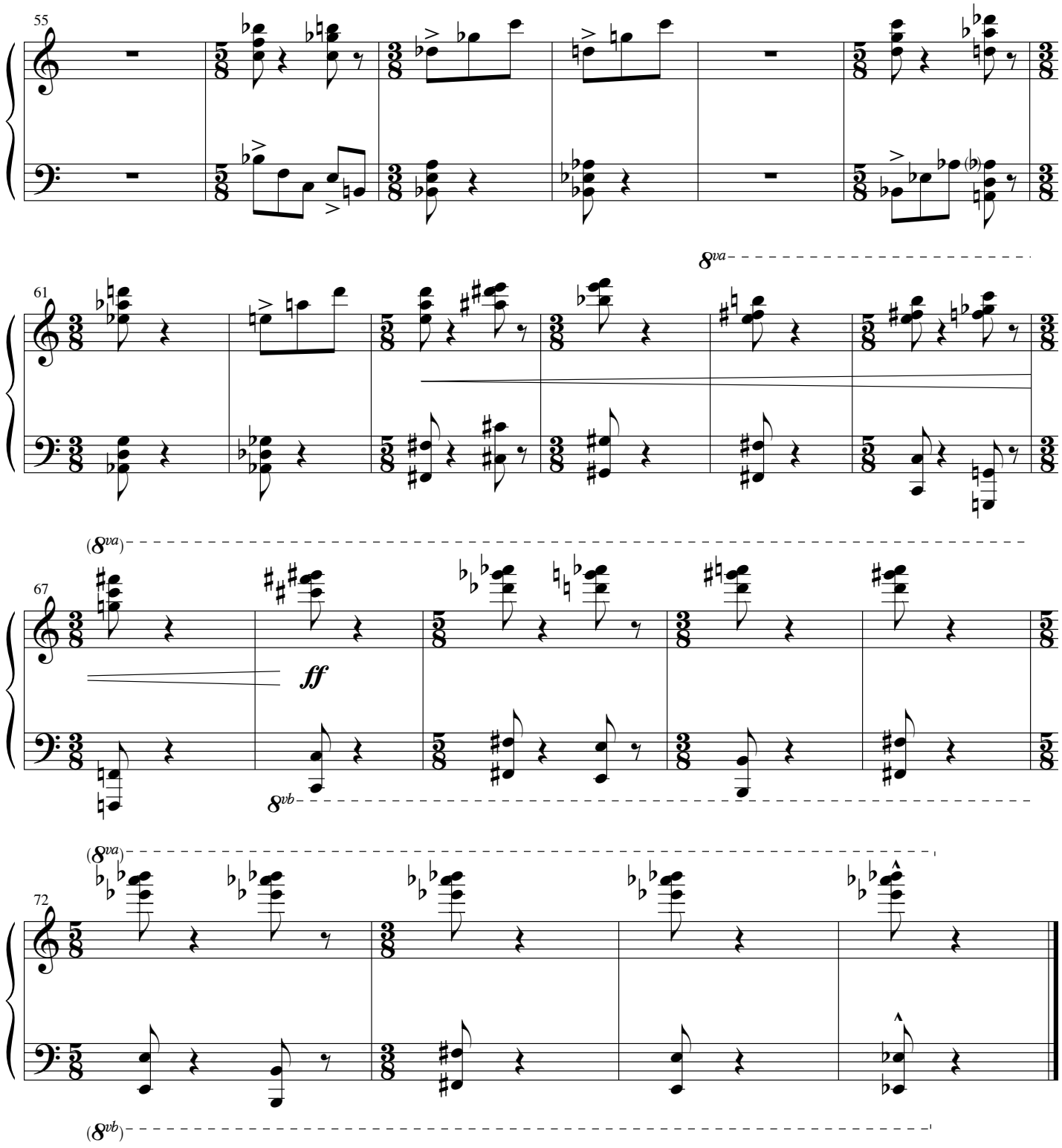
This work was composed while in residence at Copland House,
Courtlandt Manor, New York, as a recipient of the Aaron Copland Award.

Ronald Keith Parks



Ronald Keith Parks: © 2005


25
31
37
43
49



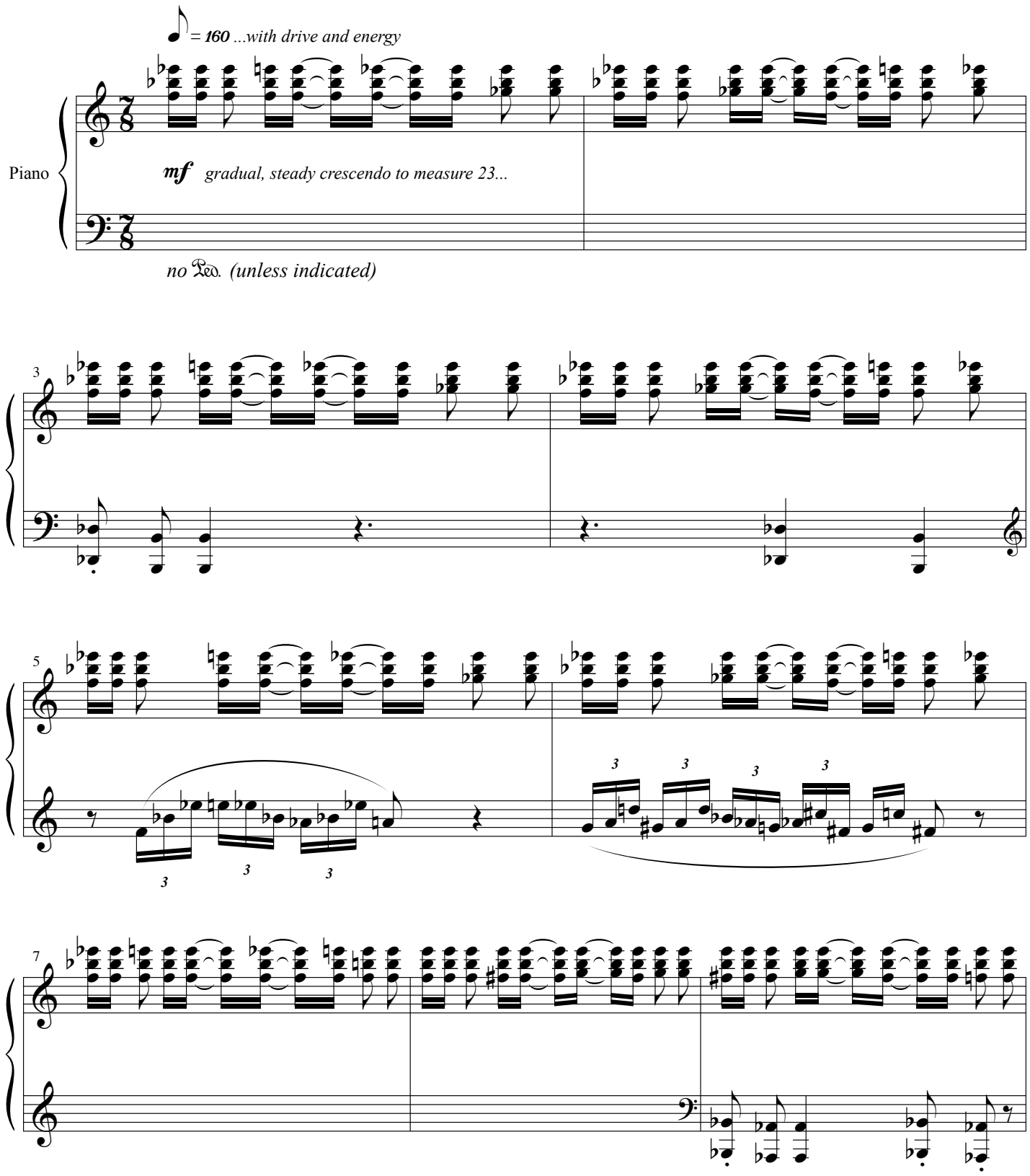
Ronald Keith Parks
August 3, 2005
Aaron Copland House
Cortlandt Manor, NY

TEST PIECE 11

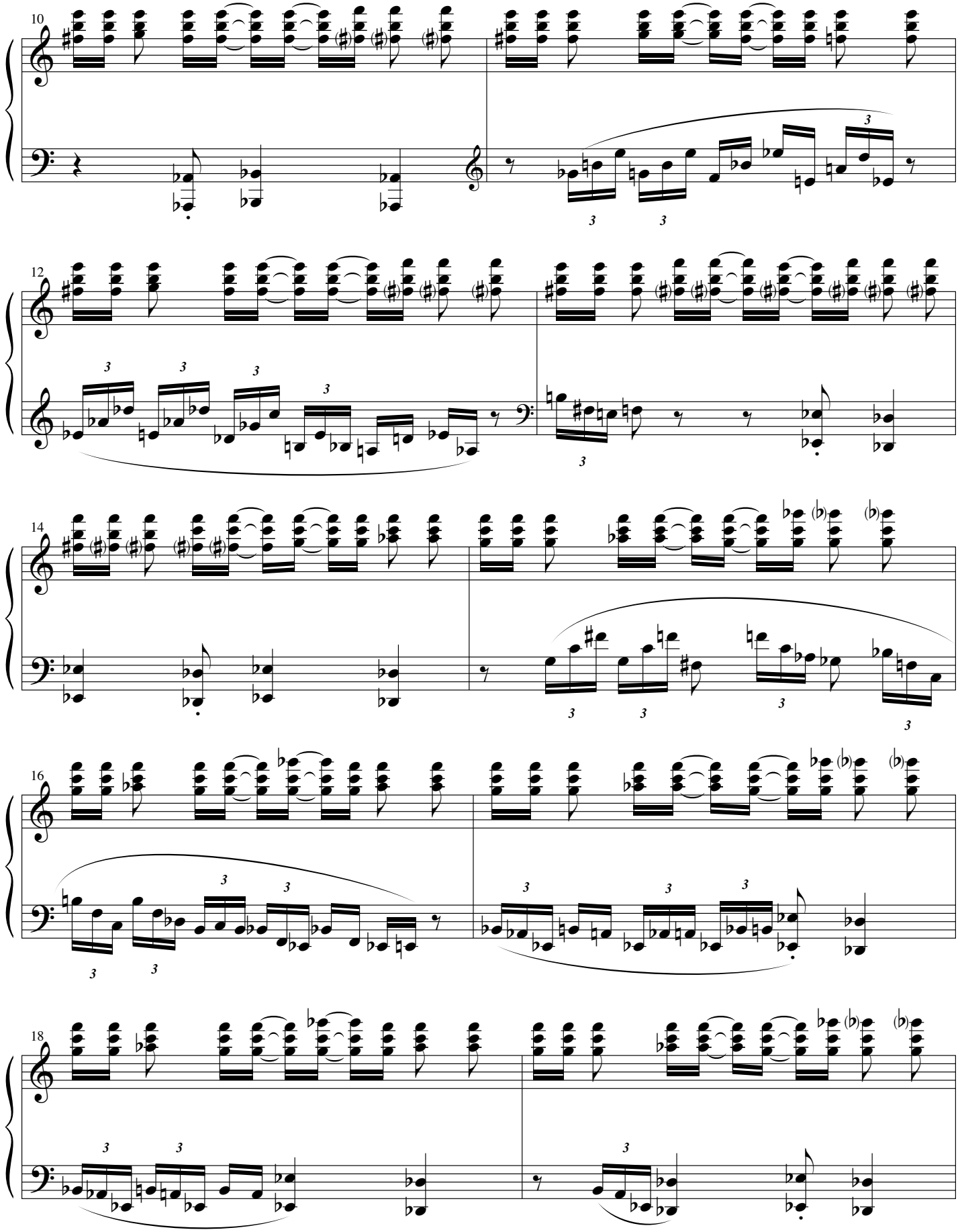
for piano

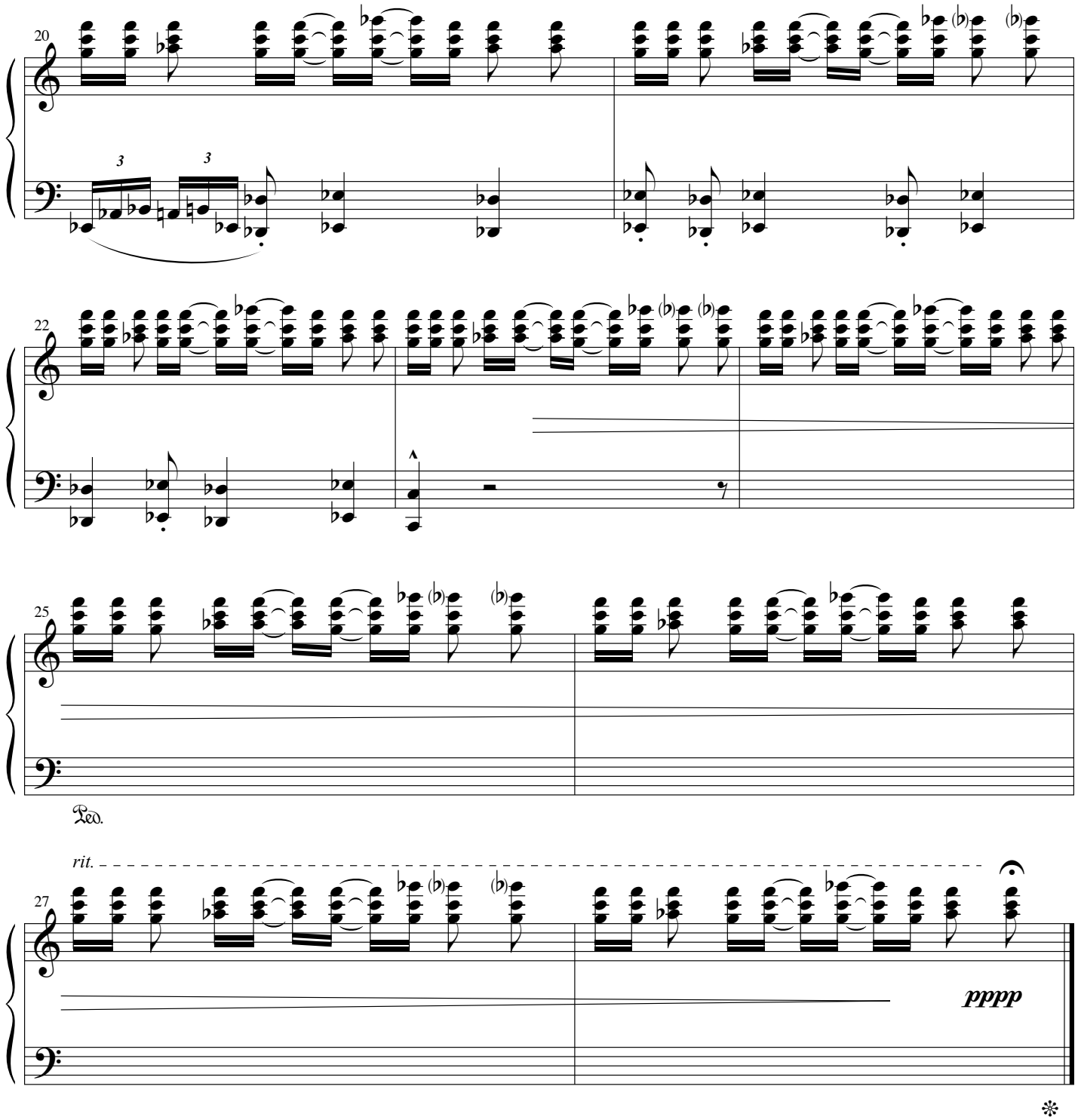
This work was composed while in residence at Copland House,
Courtlandt Manor, New York, as a recipient of the Aaron Copland Award.

Ronald Keith Parks



Ronald Keith Parks: © 2005


10
12
14
16
18



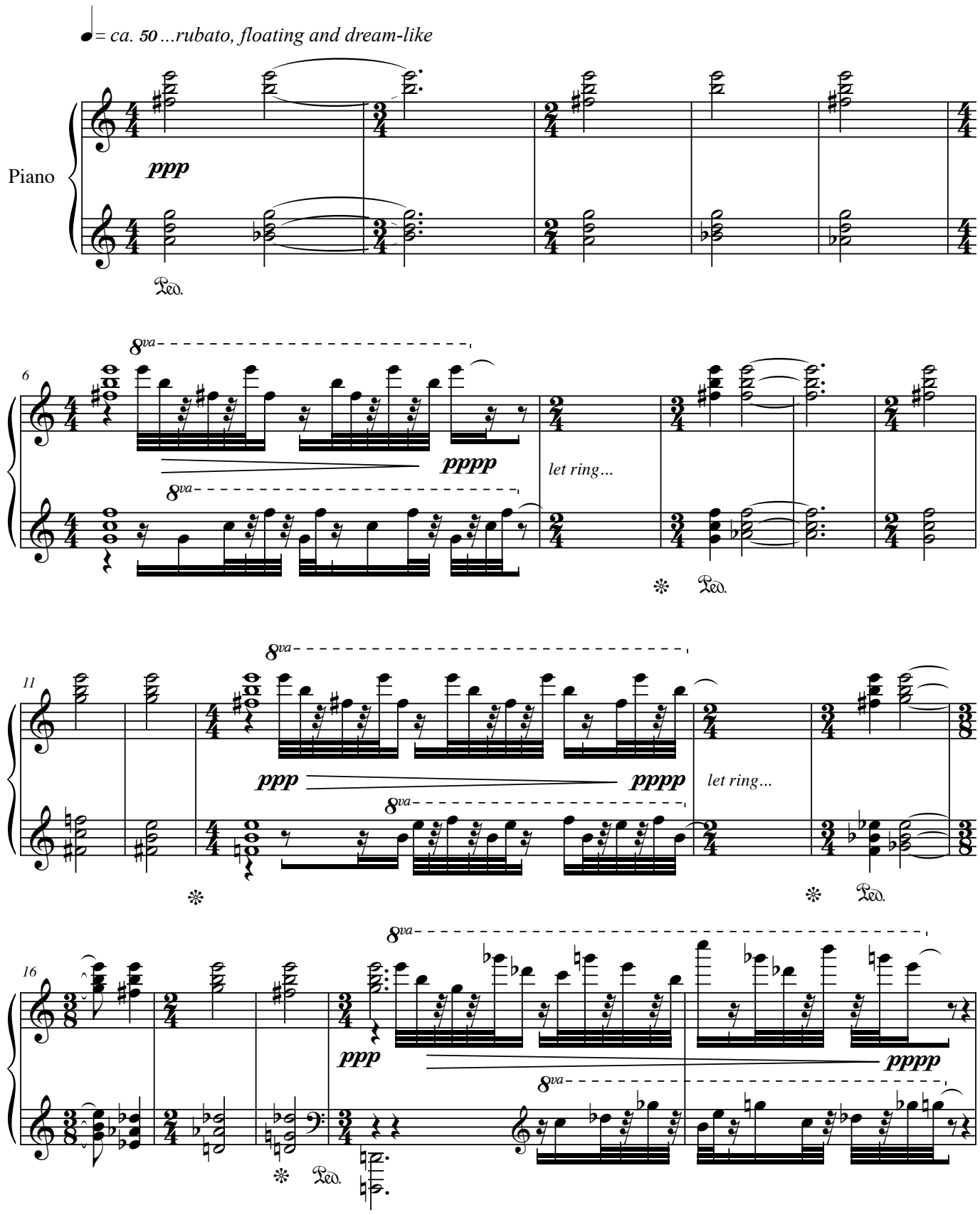
Ronald Keith Parks
August 4, 2005
Aaron Copland House
Cortlandt Manor, NY

TEST PIECE 12

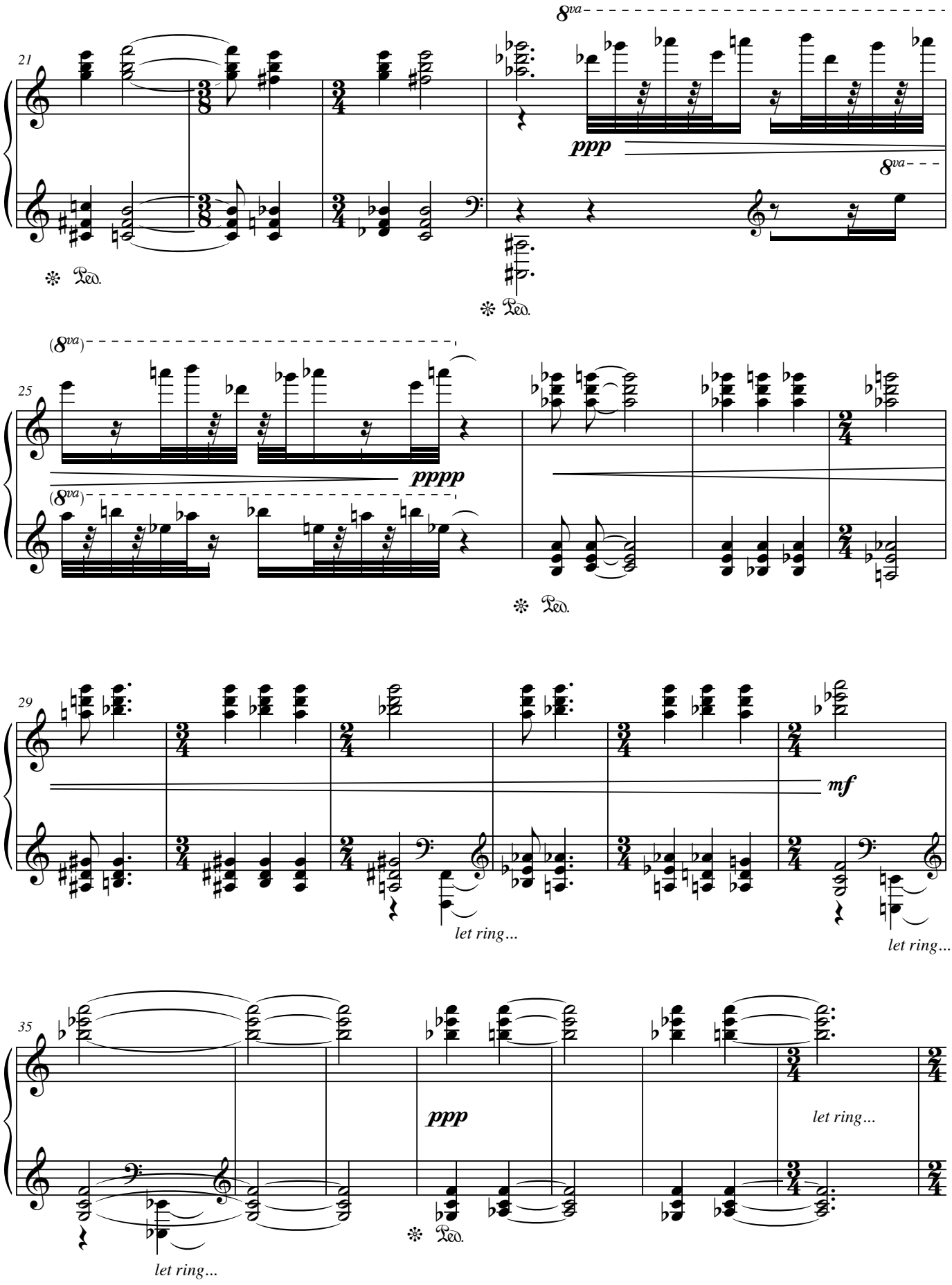
for piano

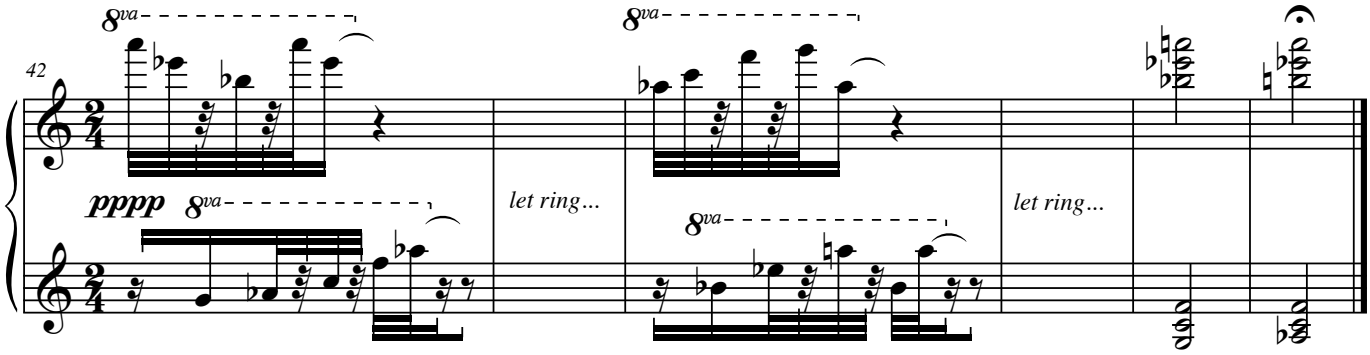
This work was composed while in residence at Copland House, Courtlandt Manor, New York, as a recipient of the Aaron Copland Award.

Ronald Keith Parks



Ronald Keith Parks: © 2005


8va
21
ppp
8va
Ped.
Ped.
(8va)
25
pppp
(8va)
Ped.
29
mf
let ring...
let ring...
35
ppp
let ring...
Ped.
let ring...



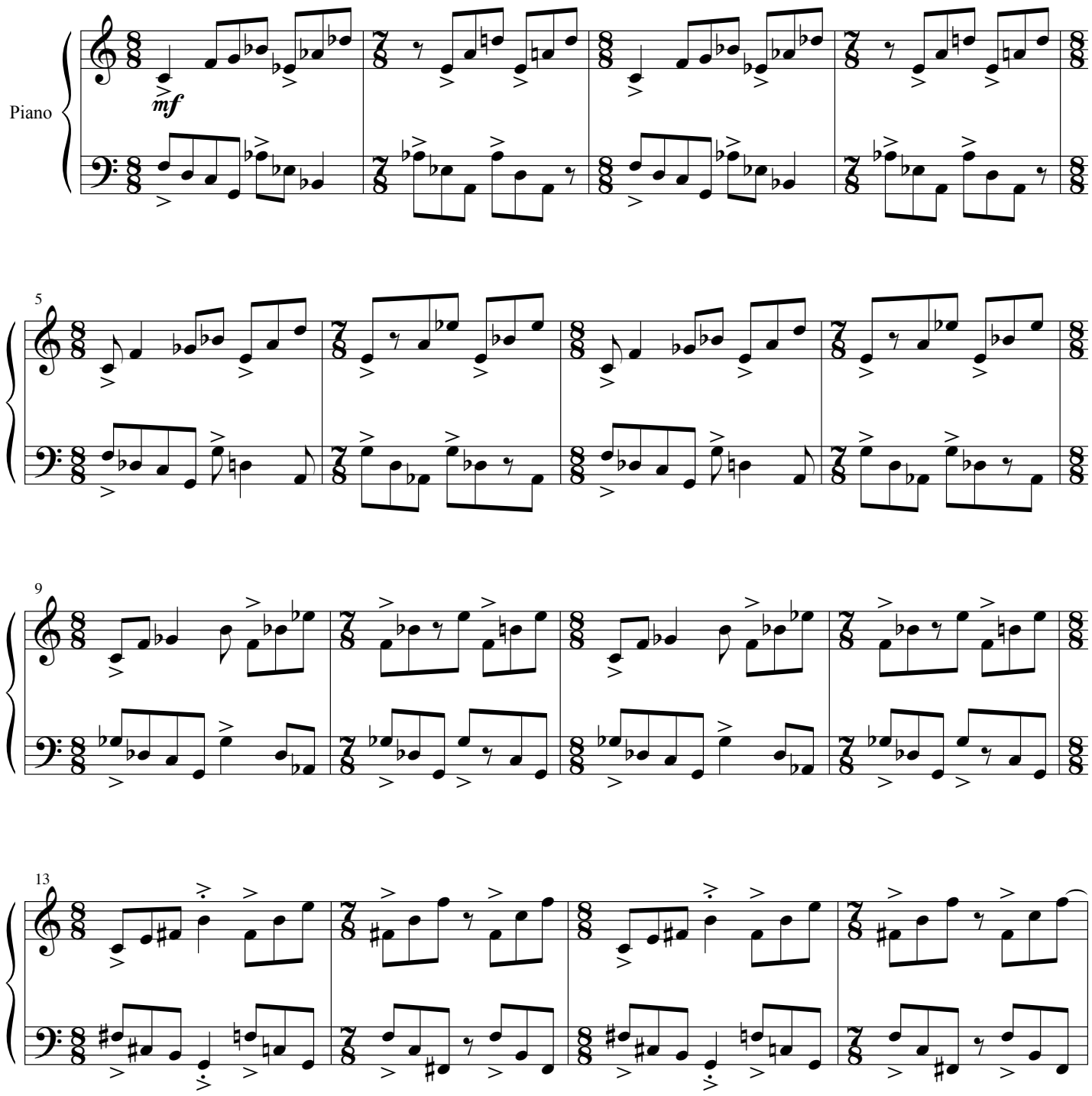
Ronald Keith Parks
August 8, 2005
Aaron Copland House
Cortlandt Manor, NY

TEST PIECE 13

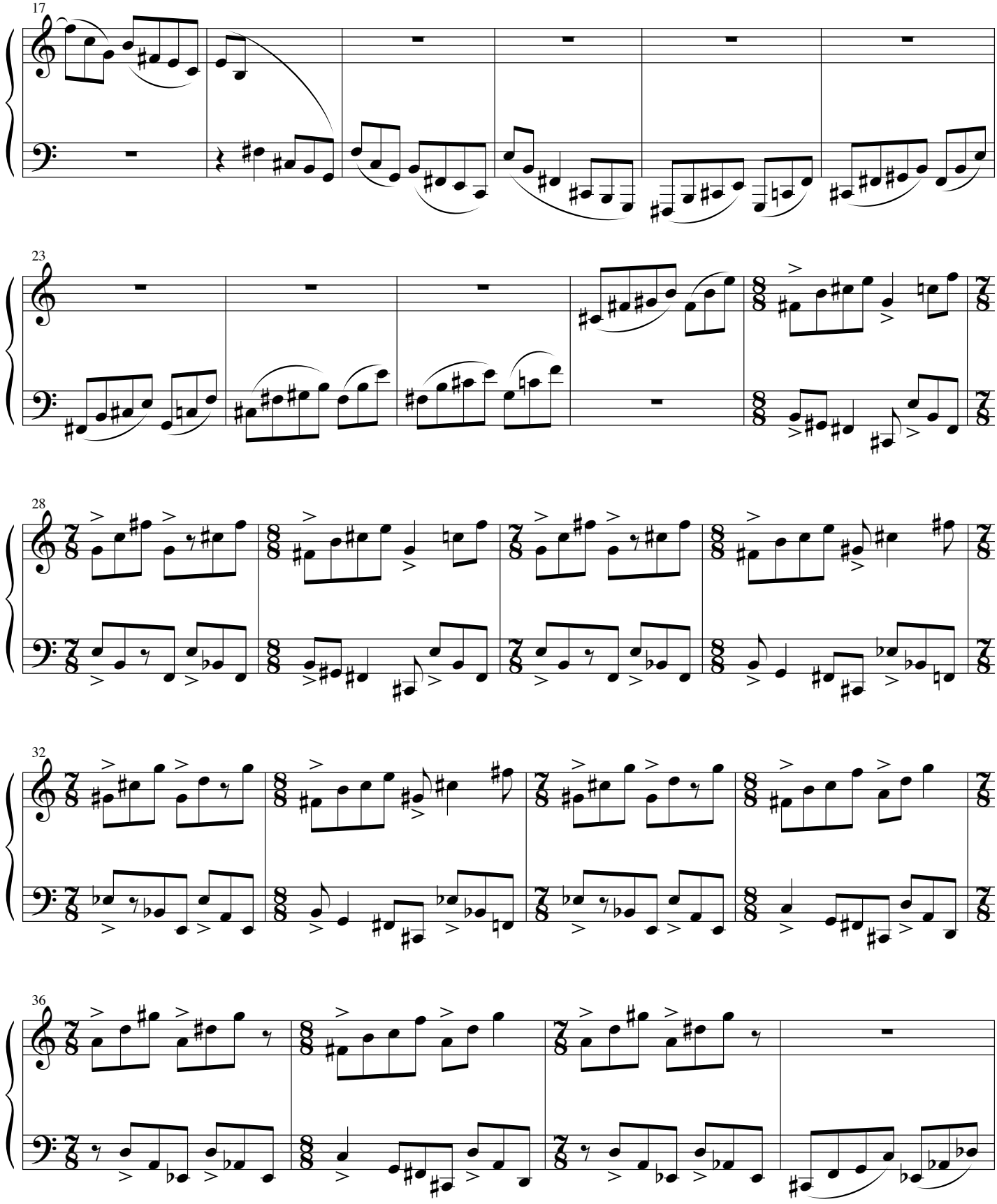
for piano

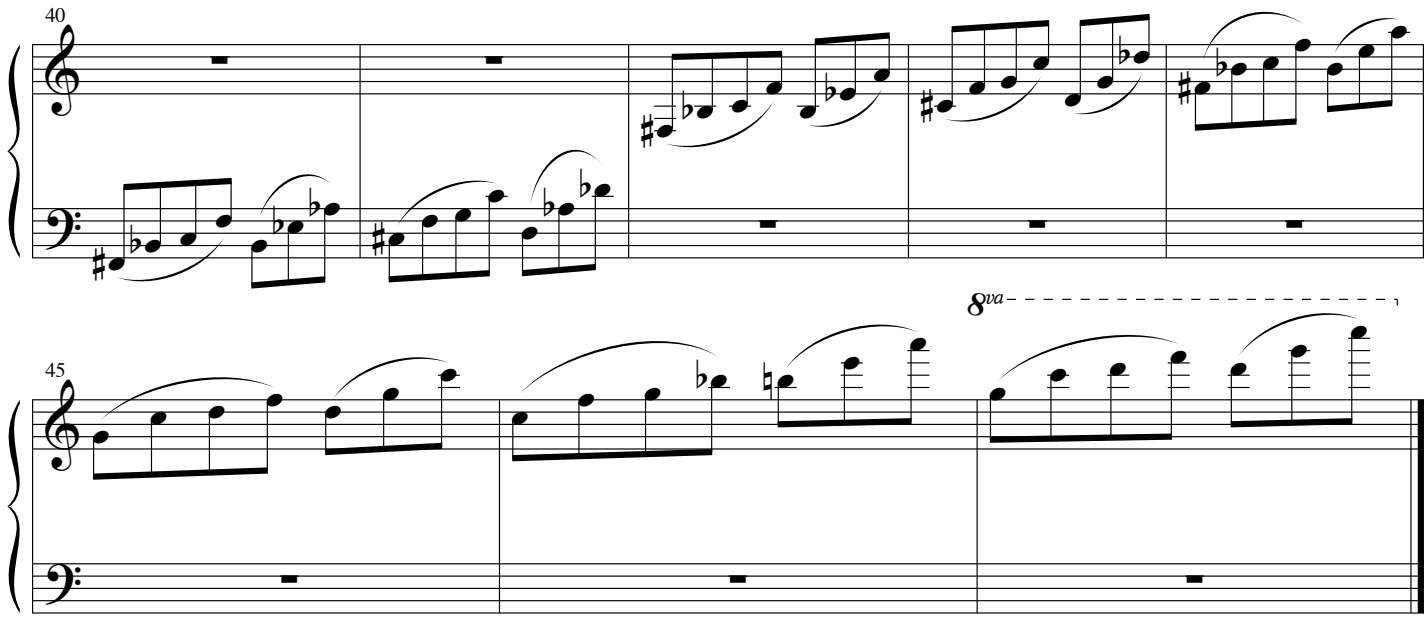
Ronald Keith Parks

♩ = 220 *machine-like, but musical*



Ronald Keith Parks: © 2006


17
23
28
32
36



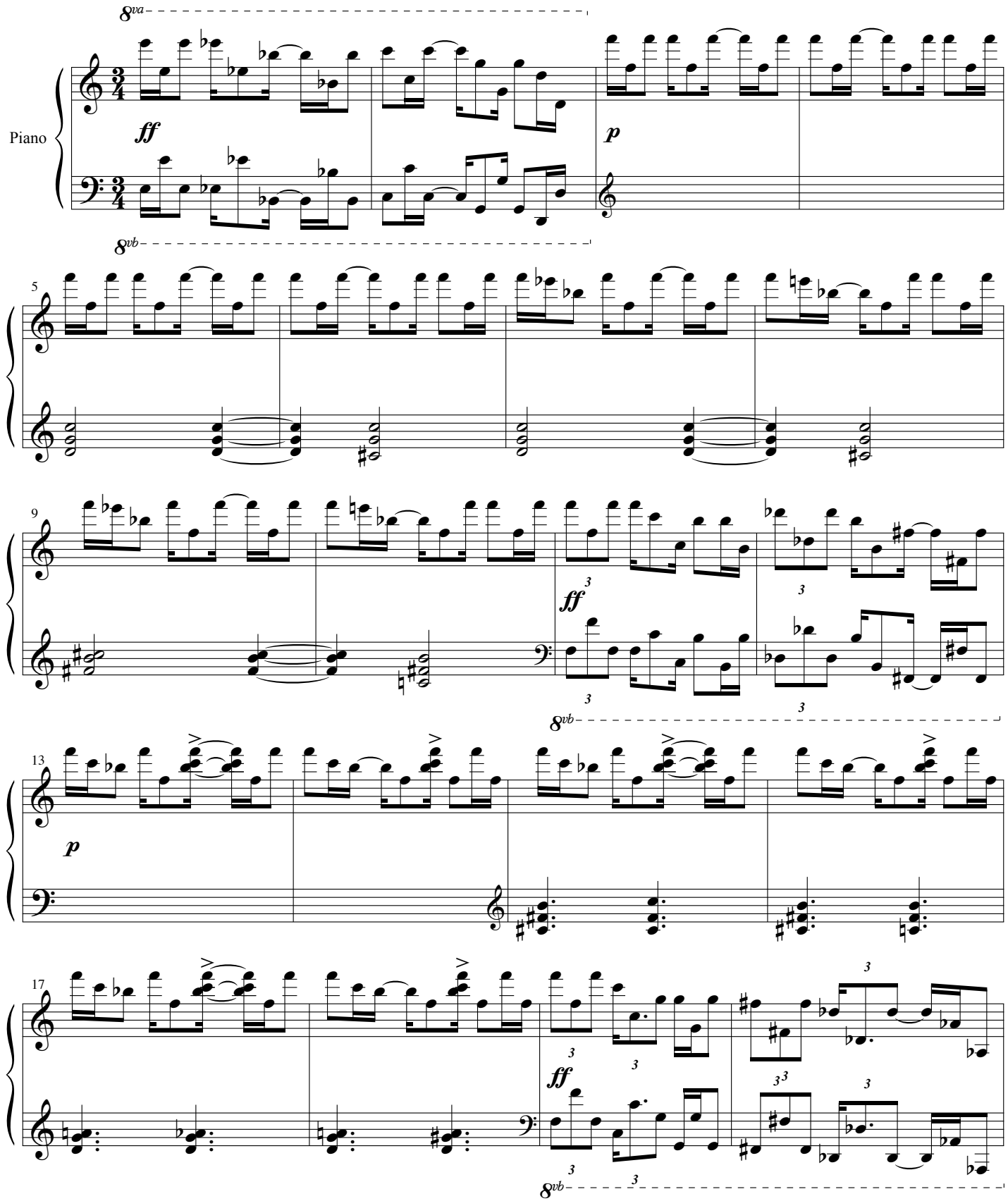
Ronald Keith Parks
January 7, 2006
On an airplane at 36,000 feet
somewhere over the western
United States

TEST PIECE 14

for piano

Ronald Keith Parks

non-rubato, even ***♩ = ca. 90***



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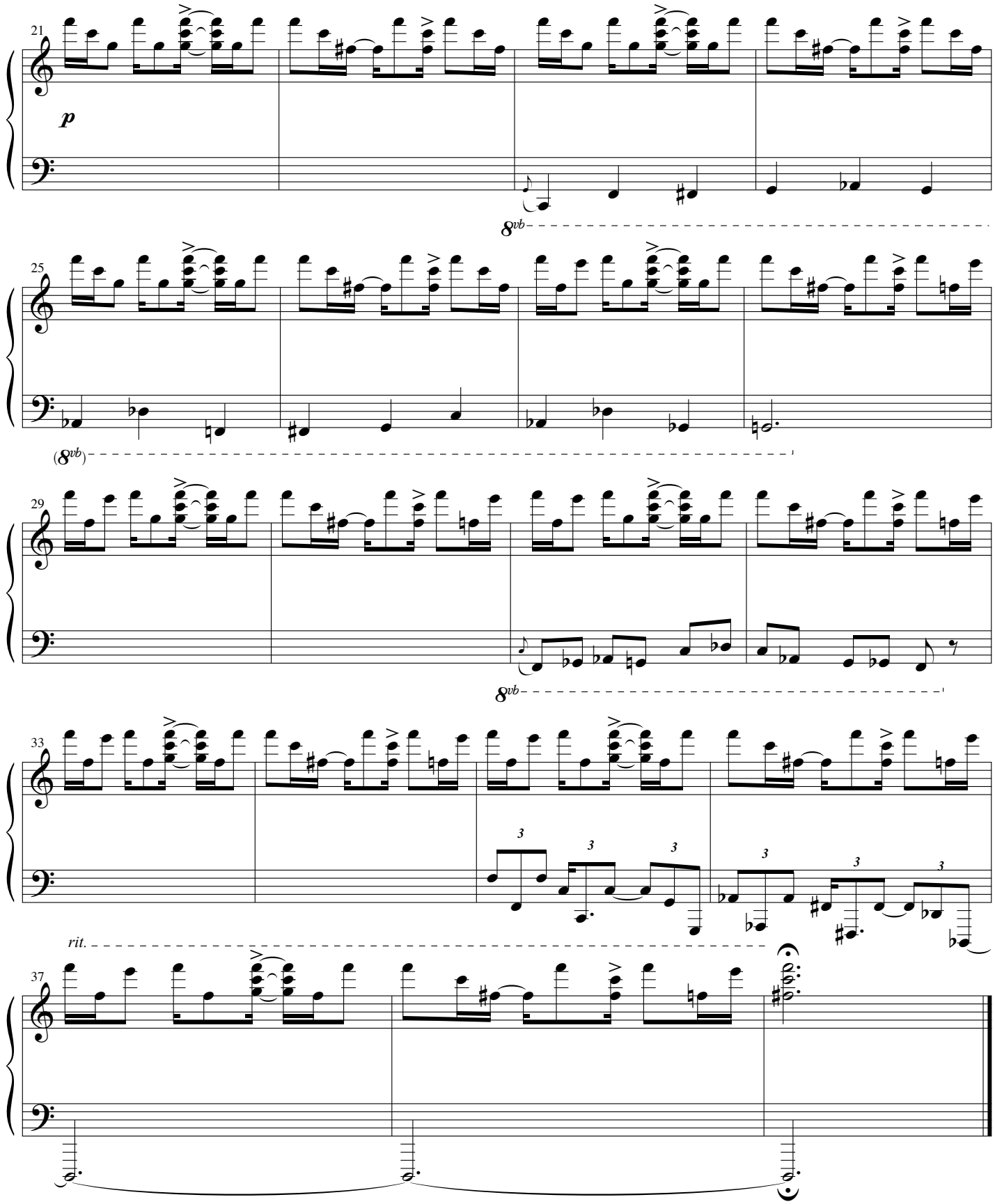


Ronald Keith Parks
June 28, 2007
Rock Hill, SC

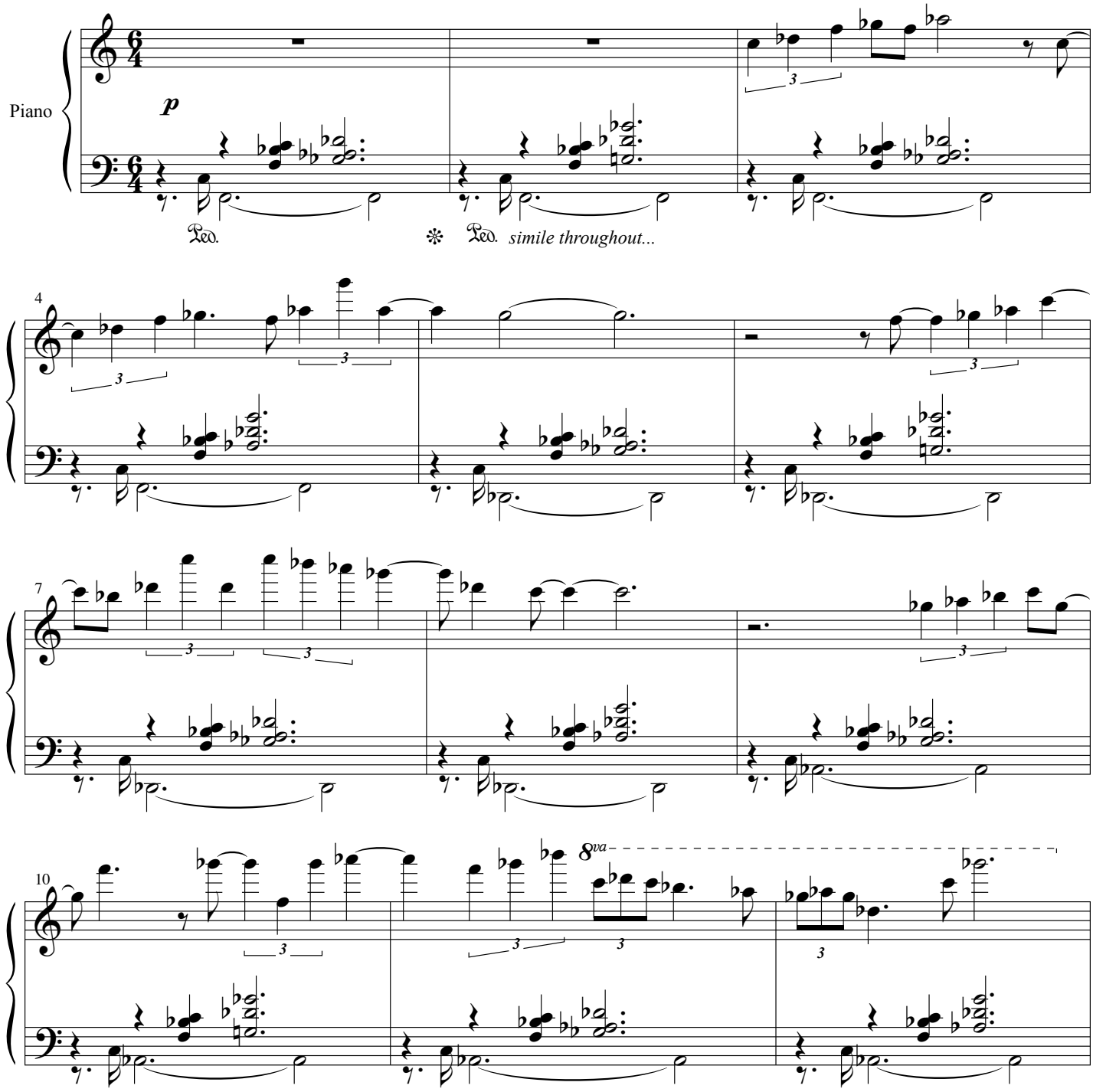
TEST PIECE 15

for piano

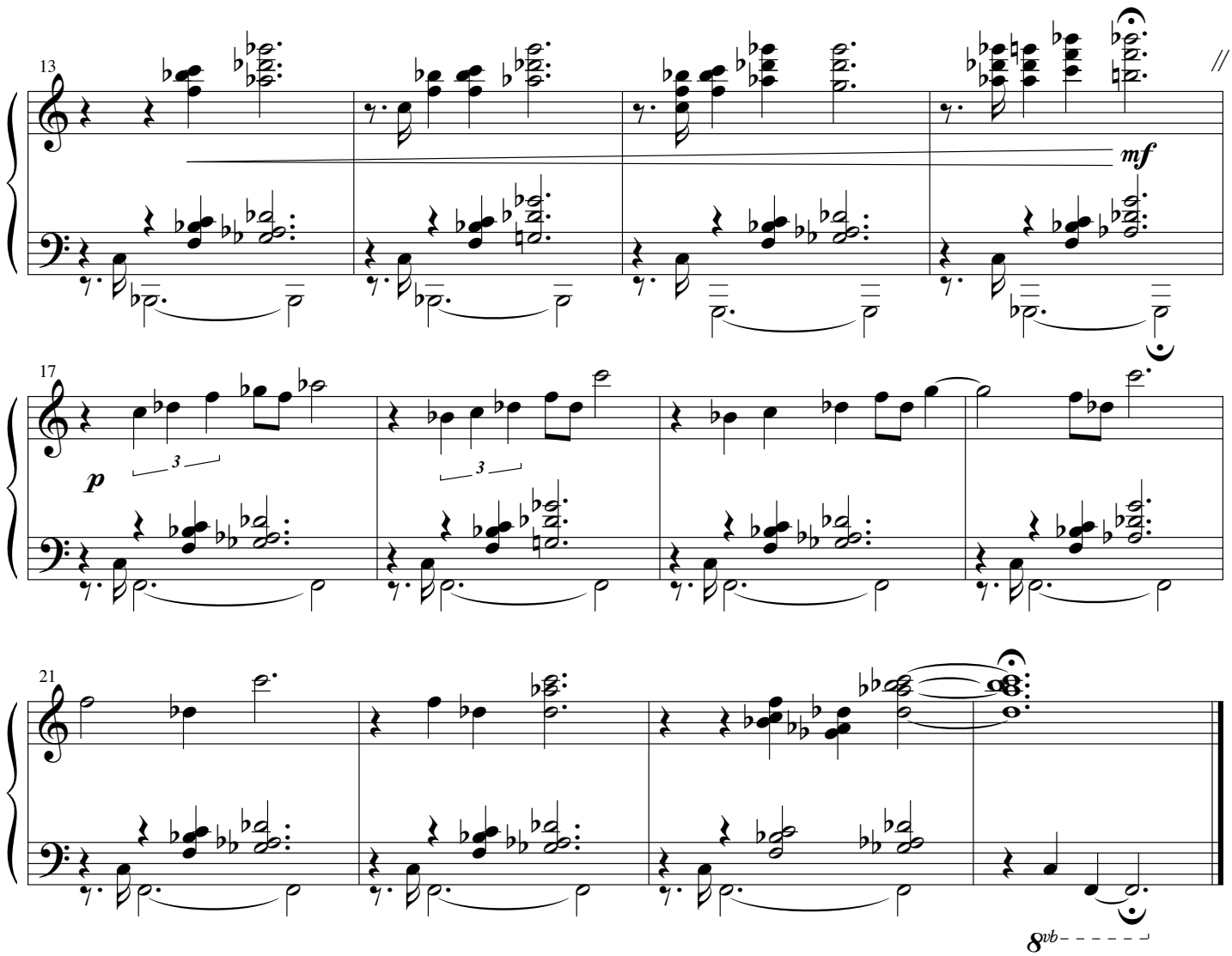
written for Tomoko Deguchi

Ronald Keith Parks

rubato - expressive ♩= ***ca. 50***



Ronald Keith Parks: © 2007

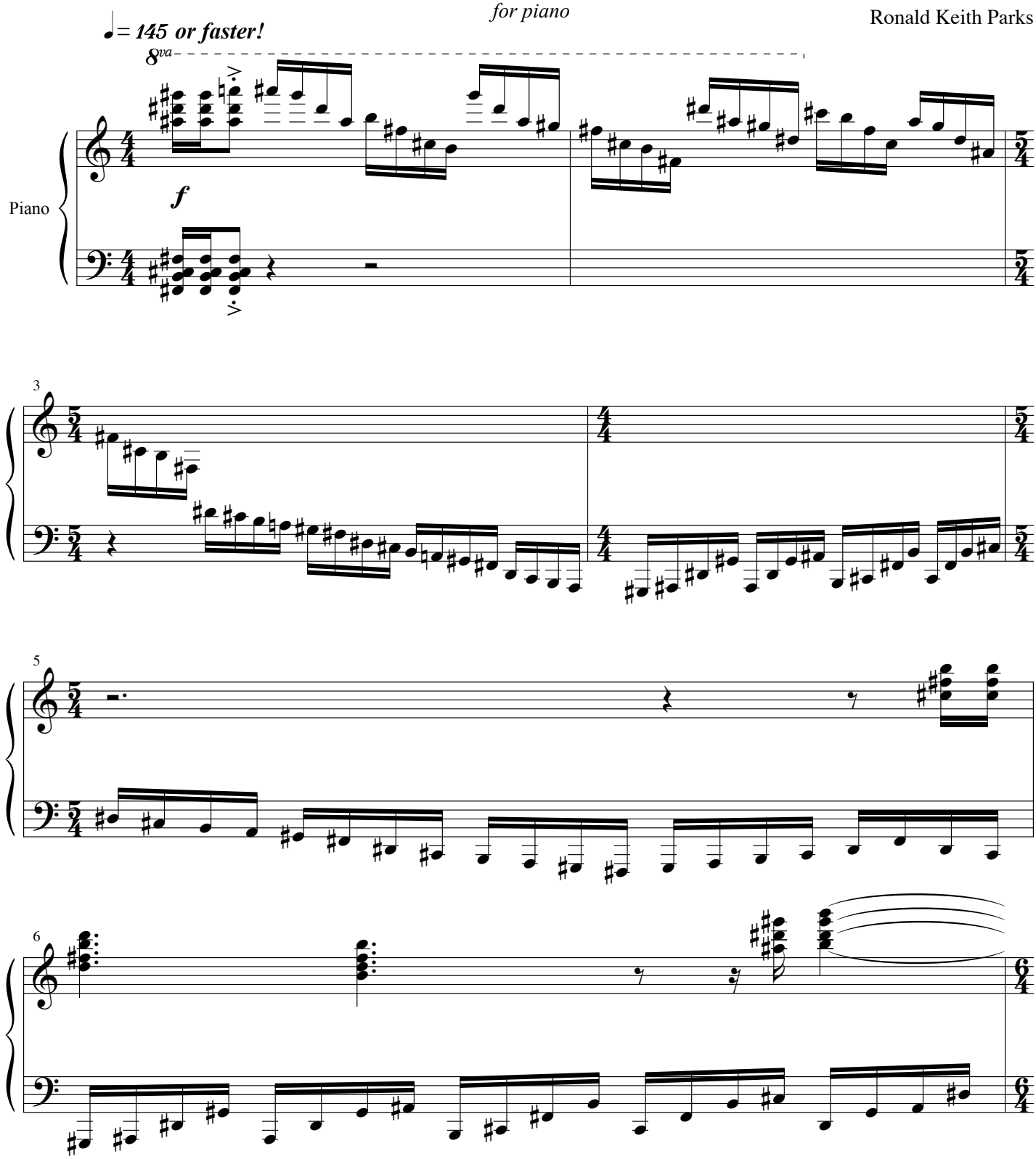


Ronald Keith Parks
June 30, 2007
Rock Hill, SC

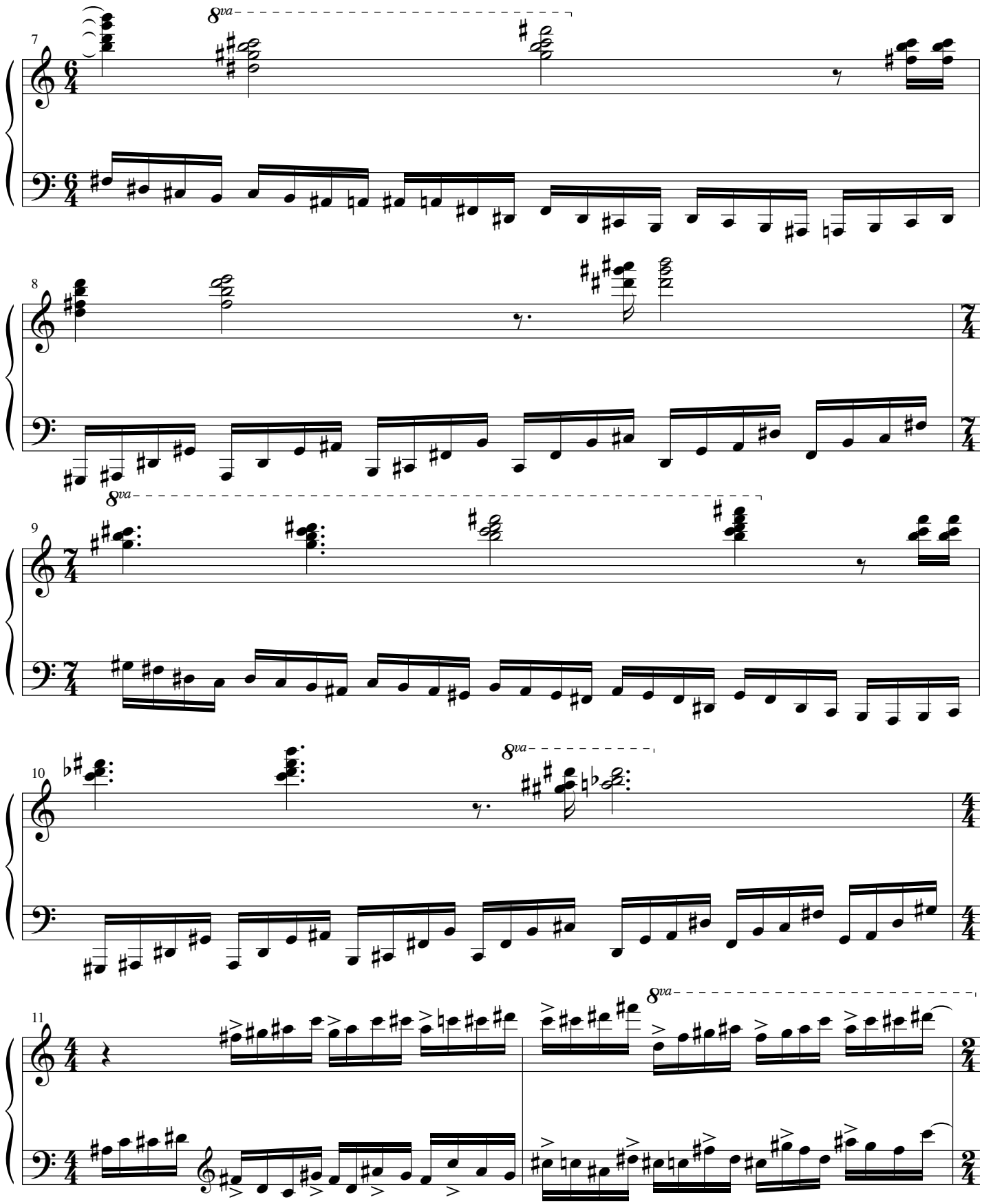
TEST PIECE 16

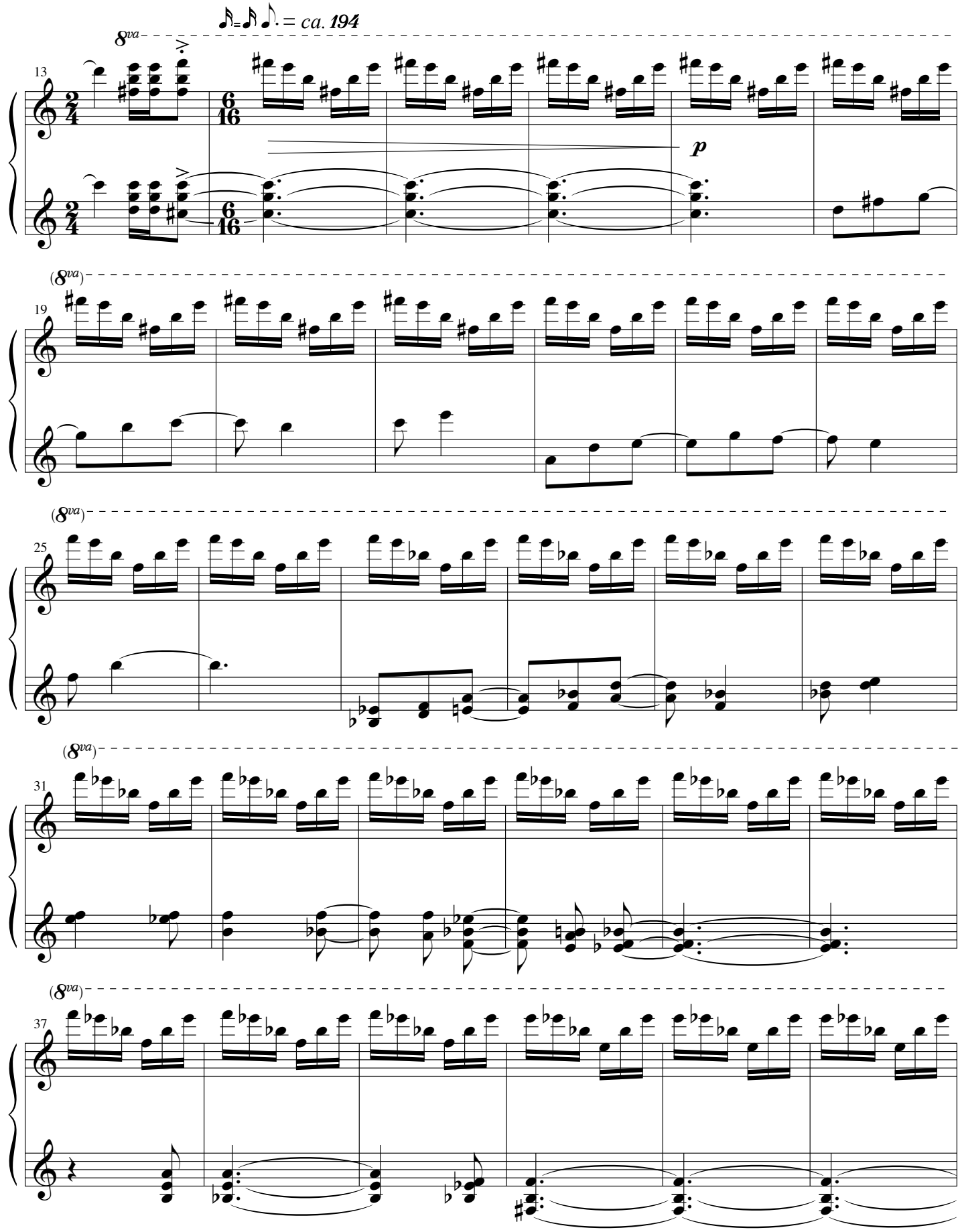
for piano

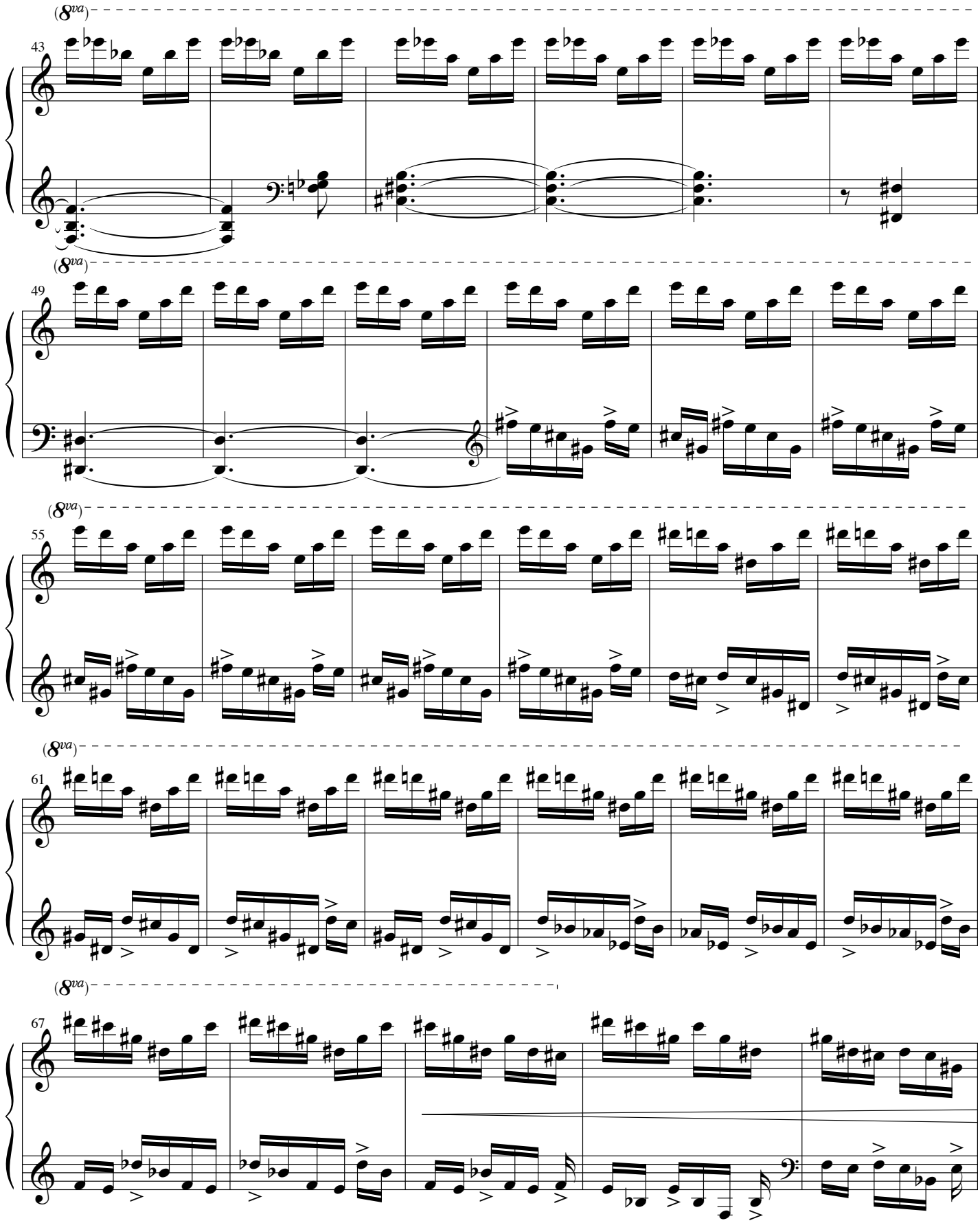
Ronald Keith Parks

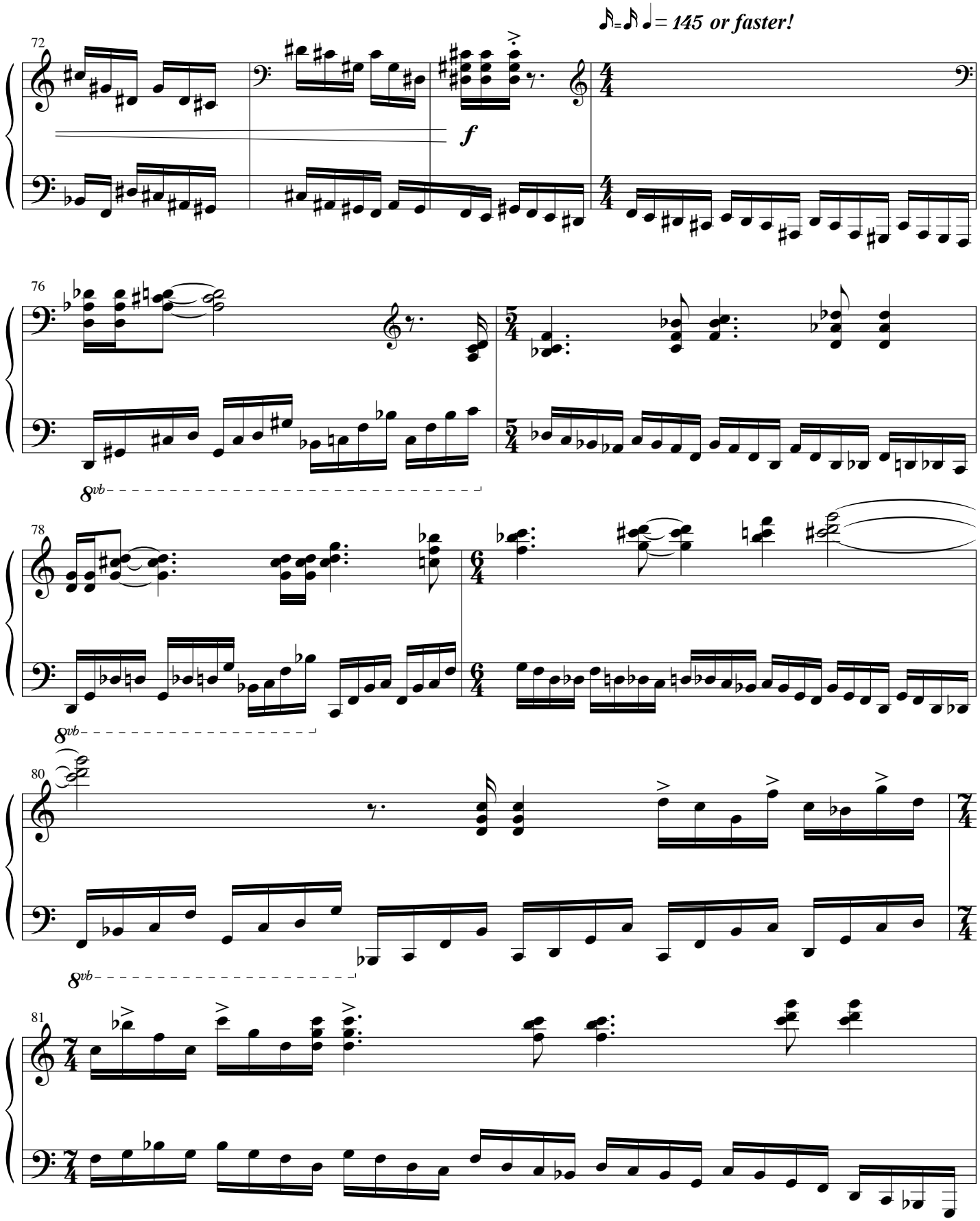


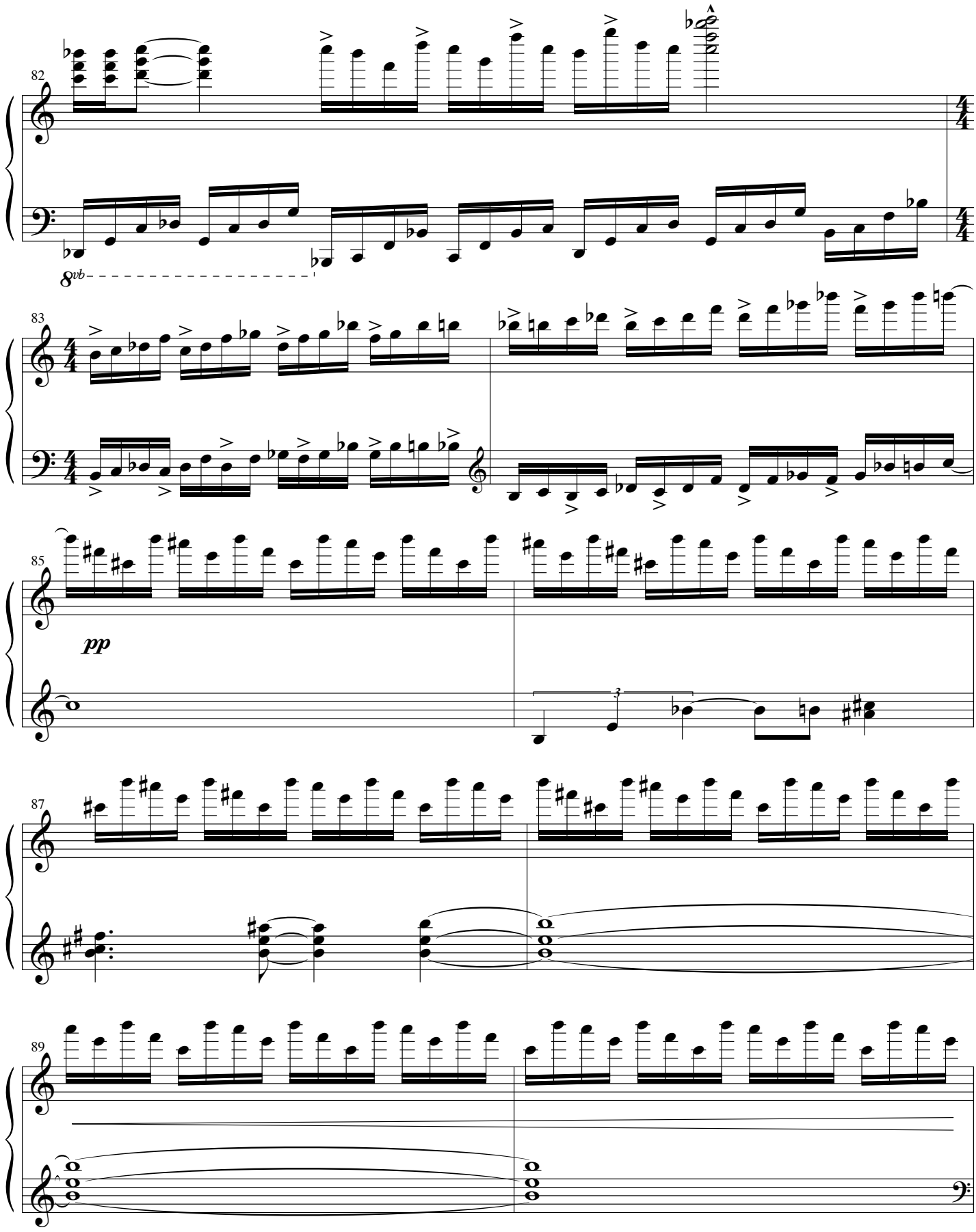
Ronald Keith Parks: © 2007


7
8va
8
8va
9
8va
10
8va
11
8va


ca. 194
8va
13
2/4
6/16
p
(8va)
19
(8va)
25
(8va)
31
(8va)
37


(8va)
43
(8va)
49
(8va)
55
(8va)
61
(8va)
67


𝅘𝅥𝅯𝅘𝅥𝅯 = 145 or faster!
72
f
76
8vb
78
8vb
80
8vb
81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83
85
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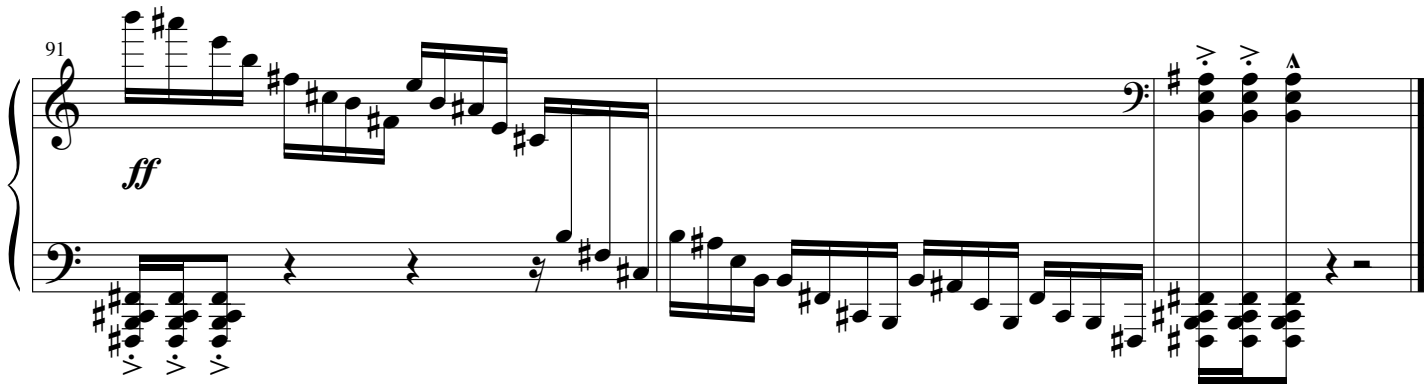
3
87
89



Ronald Kieth Parks
September 25, 2007
Rock Hill, SC USA