canberra symphony orchestra

CSO Tutti Musician Audition Pack

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2. Position Description

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About the CSO

Jessica Cottis, Chief Conductor and Artistic Director

One of the most outstanding Australian conductors working today, 2026 marks Cottis' sixth season as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra. Under her leadership, the orchestra has already developed a number of important new initiatives, including significant commissions and championing of Australian works. Recognised for her engaging, wide-ranging and thought-provoking programming, Cottis' domain is music of the nineteenth to twenty-first centuries.
http://www.jessicacottis.com

Concert season

Llewellyn Series

The CSO's four flagship concerts, performed on Wednesday and Thursday evenings at Llewellyn Hall, pair iconic symphonic masterworks with compelling Australian compositions and features a range of guest artists.

Australian Series

These nationally unique, Thursday evening concerts exclusively feature Australian chamber works, with a commissioning focus.

Chamber Classics

Introduced in 2021, this series celebrates well-loved chamber repertoire at Gandel Hall at the National Gallery of Australia. There will be four Chamber Classics concerts in 2026, held on Sunday afternoons.

Community engagement

With the support of the ACT Government and Community Partners, CSO community engagement delivers positive outcomes for the region in health and wellbeing, education, innovation and social cohesion. The CSO is also committed to generating pathways for emerging artists through the Future Pathways Program, made possible by the generous support of the orchestra's philanthropic community.

Musical services

The CSO reaches thousands each year through musical services provided to a range of popular, family-friendly events across the region, including Queanbeyan's award-winning *Music by the River*, and *Symphony in the Park* at Stage 88. The CSO has also supported a range of other arts organisations to deliver rich, thought-provoking cultural experiences, such as large-scale productions with The Australian Ballet, National Opera, and Flowers of Peace.

Position Description

Key functions and responsibilities

CSO Tutti musicians fulfil the following duties, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the CSO's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement 2019–2021:

- Prepare musically as required prior to the first rehearsal.
- Arrive at rehearsals and concerts in time to tune with the orchestra.
- Comply with the orchestra's tuning process.
- Follow directions from the conductor, Concertmaster, section leader and / or section Principal, marking music in accordance with directions where appropriate.
- Contribute to a professional and harmonious work environment.
- Dress appropriately for performances in keeping with the ensemble nature of CSO activity.
- Uphold professional standards and act in the best interests of the orchestra as a whole, at all times.

Etiquette

- CSO musicians are expected to arrive 15 minutes prior to a call to ensure tuning takes place on time.
- To ensure rehearsals run efficiently to time, verbal communication should be restricted to questions and comments essential for concert preparation.
- Musicians should follow the Conductor's/Concert Master's/Section Leader's/Principal's instructions and when appropriate mark their music in accordance therewith.

Rostering

CSO Principals roster sections based on player strengths and preferences, in consultation with the Concertmaster. The majority of contracts are issued to players **based in the Canberra region**, which reflects the CSO commitment to supporting the growing pool of high calibre, local players and developing emerging talent, while maintaining key interstate connections. This is important for the sustainability of the CSO into the future.

Audition Requirements

Candidates will be required to present:

- First movement (**exposition only**) of one of the concertos set for their instrument (see list below), without cadenza.
- Orchestral excerpts selected for their instrument from the provided list on page 6.

Auditions will consist of two rounds: a recorded round and an in-person round.

For the initial recorded round, applicants will submit a single take recording of their requested concerto and orchestral excerpts to be judged anonymously by a panel of CSO musicians. From this submission, the panel have the option to pass the applicant, fail the applicant, or request the applicant move forward to the second round of in person auditions. Please do not speak or identify yourself on this recording.

The second round will consist of a screened in-person audition with the jury panel where the applicant will perform a selection of the excerpts and concertos.

Please note that auditions are only available for applicants located within the Australian Capital Territory and surrounding areas.

To apply, candidates must complete the online application form and submit a CV and recorded audition by clicking here.

Concertos

Violin
MOZART Violin Concerto No. 3 in G major *or*
MOZART Violin Concerto No. 4 in D major *or*
MOZART Violin Concerto No. 5 in A major

Viola
STAMITZ Viola Concerto in D major *or*
HOFFMEISTER Viola Concerto in D major

Cello
HAYDN Cello Concerto No. 1 in C major *or*
HAYDN Cello Concerto No. 2 in D major

Double Bass
VANHAL Double Bass Concerto in E-flat major *or*
DITTERSDORF Double Bass Concerto in D major

Flute
MOZART Flute Concerto No. 1 in G major

Oboe
MOZART Oboe Concerto in C major

Clarinet
MOZART Clarinet Concerto in A major

Bassoon
MOZART Bassoon Concerto in B-flat major

High Horn
MOZART Horn Concerto No. 2 in E-flat major *or*
MOZART Horn Concerto No. 4 in E-flat major

Low Horn
MOZART Horn Concerto No. 3 in E-flat major

Trumpet
HAYDN Trumpet Concerto in E-flat major

Trombone
WEBER Romance *or*
DAVID Trombone Concertino

Bass Trombone
LEBEDEV Concerto in One Movement

Tuba
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS Concerto in F minor for Bass Tuba

Percussion
BACH Cello Suites for four mallets, any 1 movement

Harp
HANDEL Concerto in B-flat major

Excerpts

Required excerpts are included from page 6 of this document onwards.

Key Dates and Contact Information

29 May	Applications open
5 July	Applications close
6 July – 21 July	Round one application review underway
22 July – 24 July	Applicants notified of round one results. Round two auditions scheduled.
11 August – 13 August	In Person Auditions
25 August	Applicants notified of round two audition results

In person auditions will take place on the following dates:

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 11 August 2026	19:00 – 22:00	Australian National University
Wednesday 12 August 2026	19:00 – 22:00	Australian National University
Thursday 13 August 2026	19:00 – 22:00	Australian National University

Auditions will be held in 15-minute increments and applicants must be available for their full allotted time. Applicants will be notified of their audition time by the 24th of July. Early applications are appreciated.

Applicants will be notified of audition results by Tuesday 25 August 2026.

Contact

Ben Howle
Orchestral Operations Coordinator
Canberra Symphony Orchestra
orchestramanager@cso.org.au
0421 213 301

canberra symphony orchestra

Tutti Audition Repertoire

Piano

Orchestral Excerpts:

1. Prokofiev: Symphony No. 5 – 2nd Movement

2. Shostakovich: Symphony No. 5

a. 1st Movement

b. 4th Movement

3. Stravinsky: Petrushka

Solo Work: 1st Mvt. Exposition of: (Not included in this pack)

1. Mozart: Piano Sonata No. 18 in D Major K576 or

2. Mozart: Piano Sonata No 14 in C Minor K457 or

3. Mozart: Piano Sonata No. 15 in F Major K533/494

Celeste

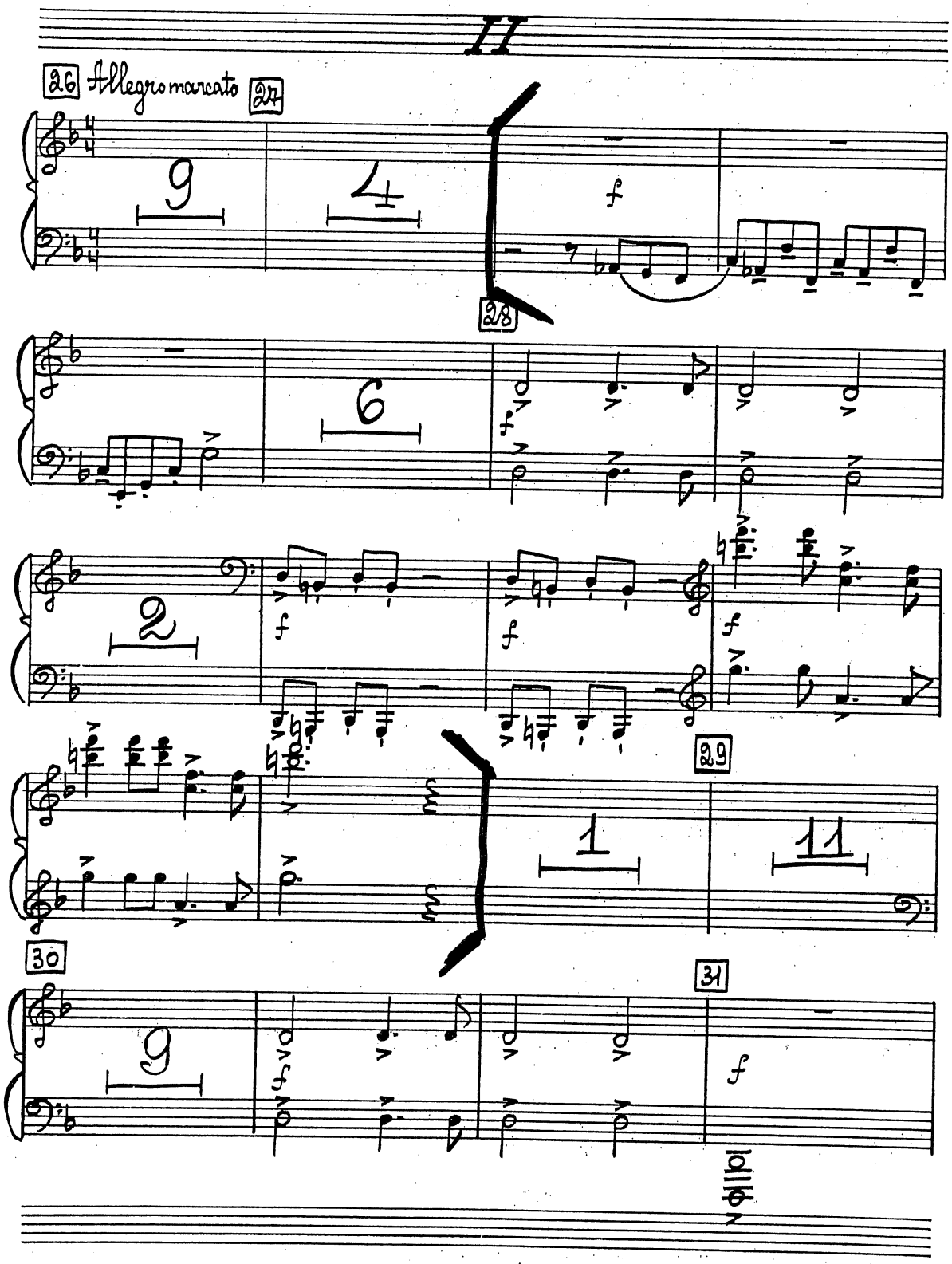
Orchestral Excerpts

1. Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker – Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy

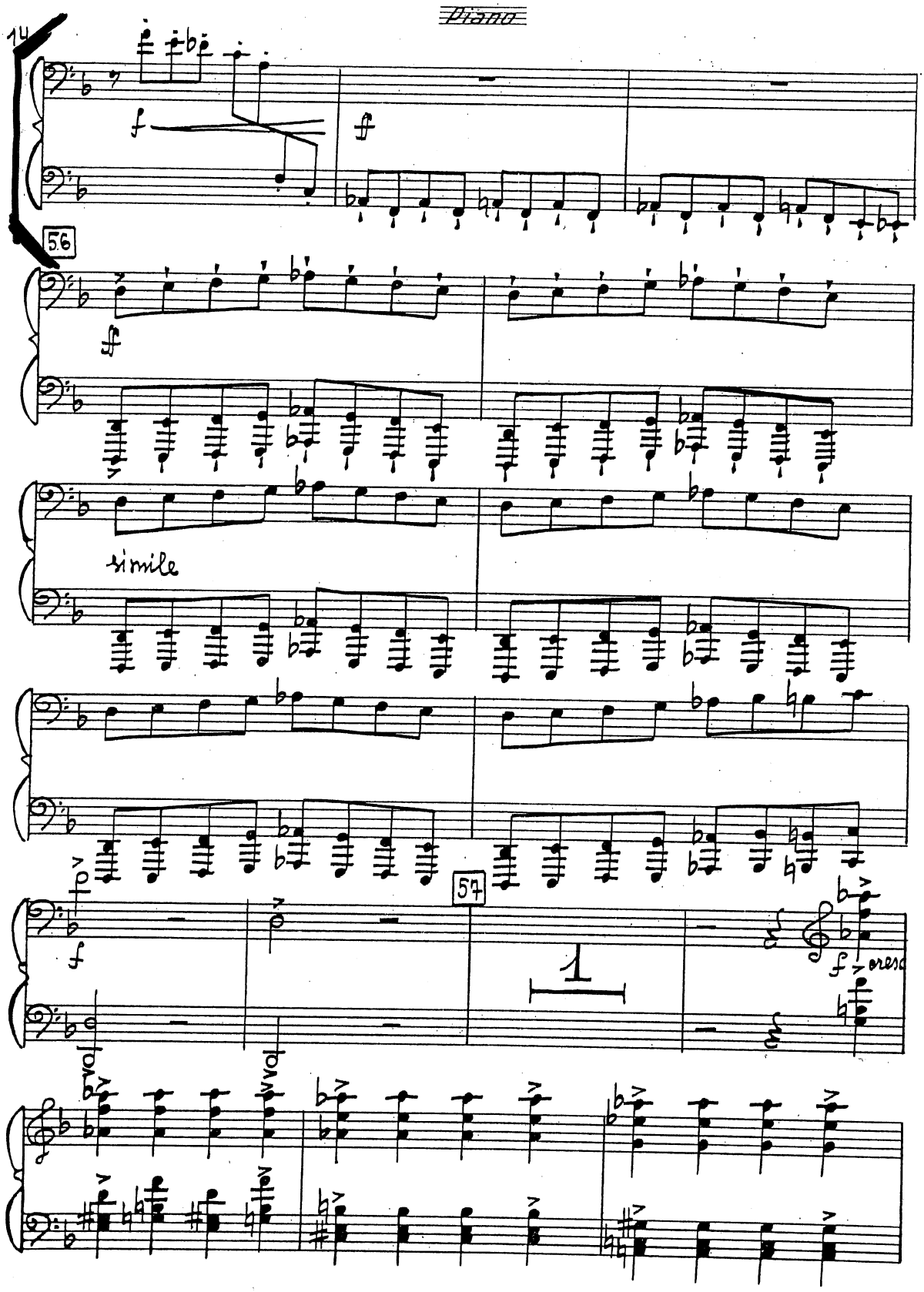
2. Holst: The Planets

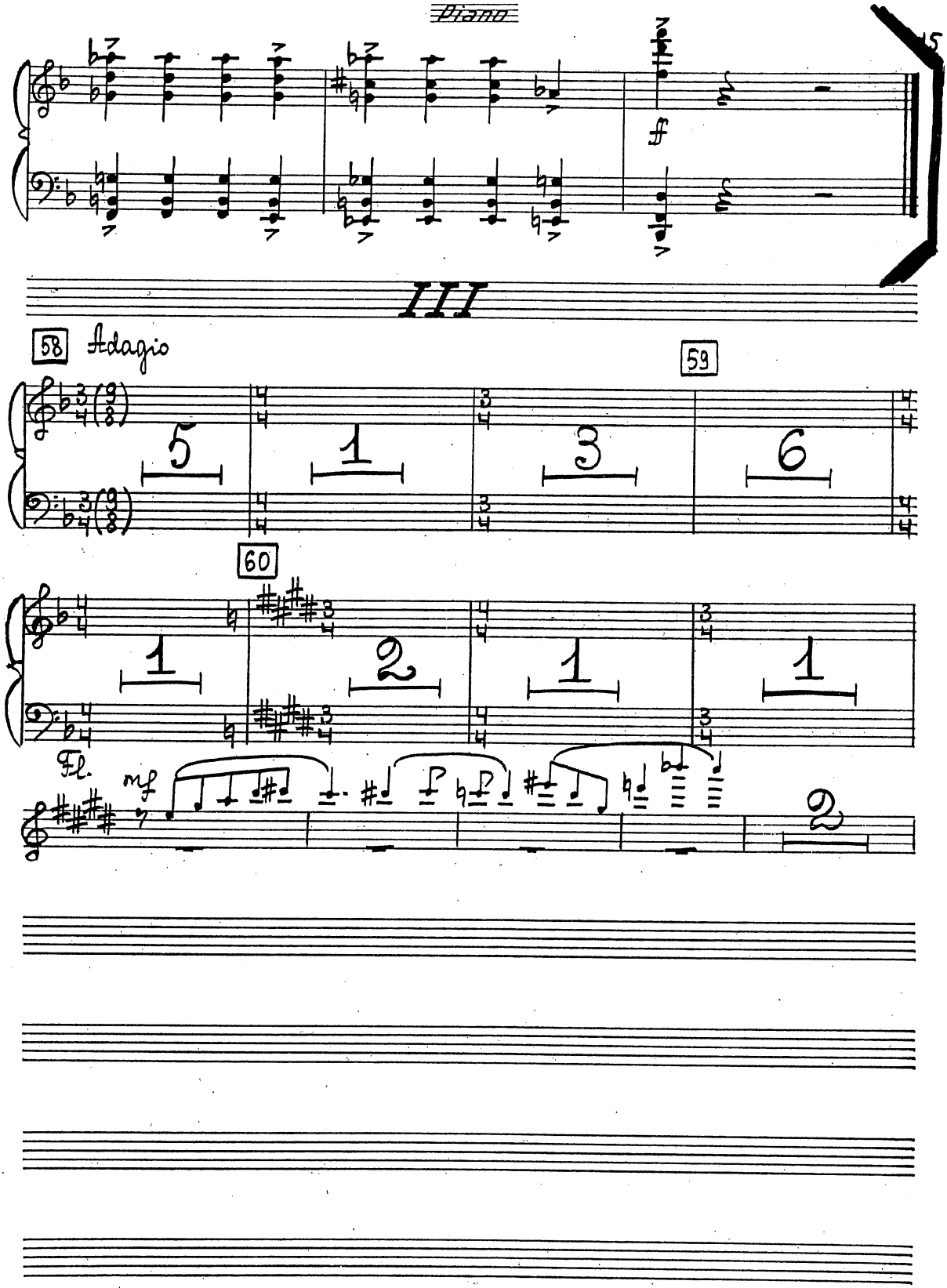
a. 3rd Movement - Mercury

b. 7th Movement - Neptune


II
26
Allegro marcato
27
9
4
f
28
6
2
29
1
11
30
31
9
f

Piano




Piano
15
ff
III
58
Adagio
59
60
Fl.
mf

(28)

Sinfóníuhljómsveit Íslands

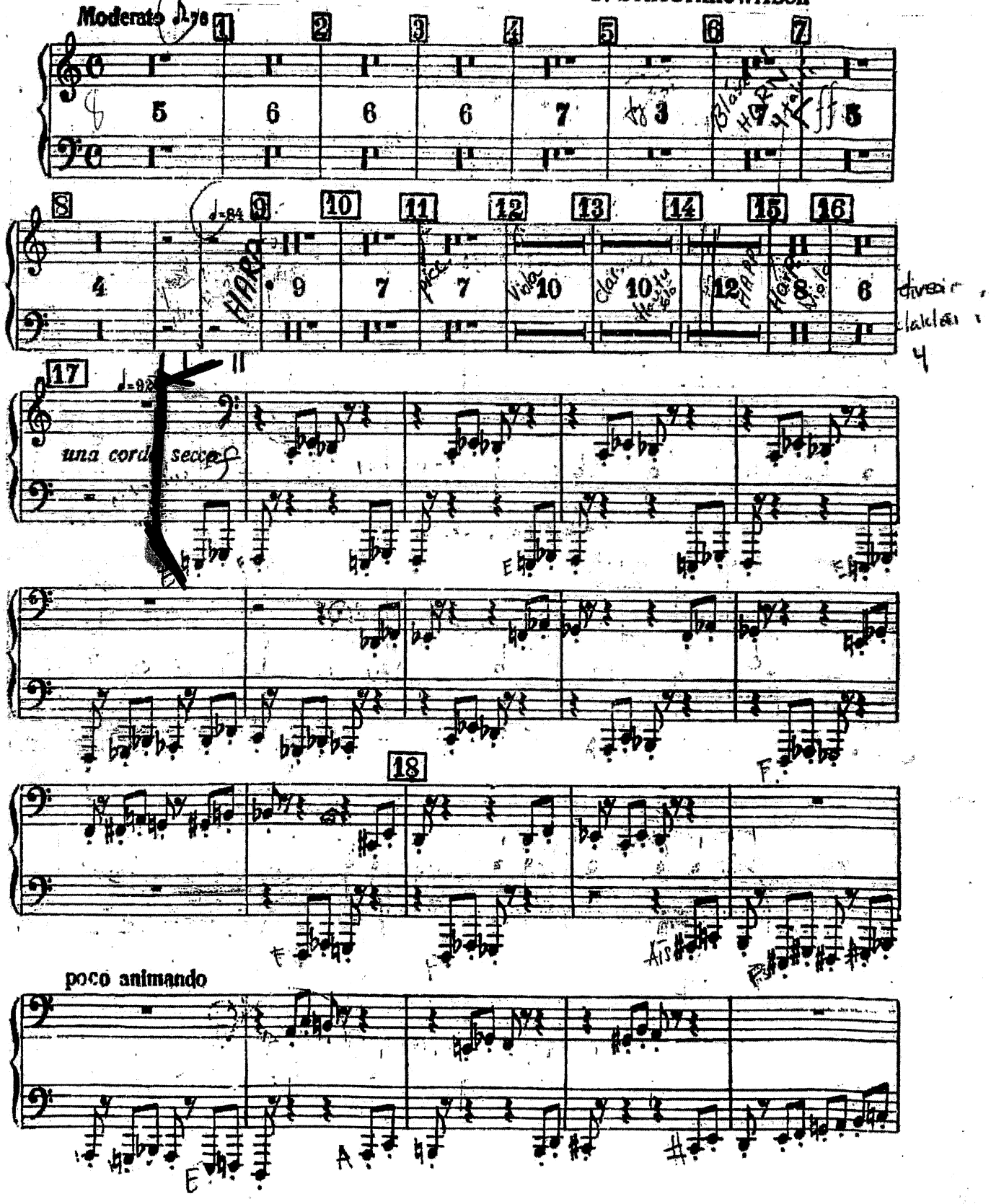
Симфония № 5 Symphonie

Piano e Celesta

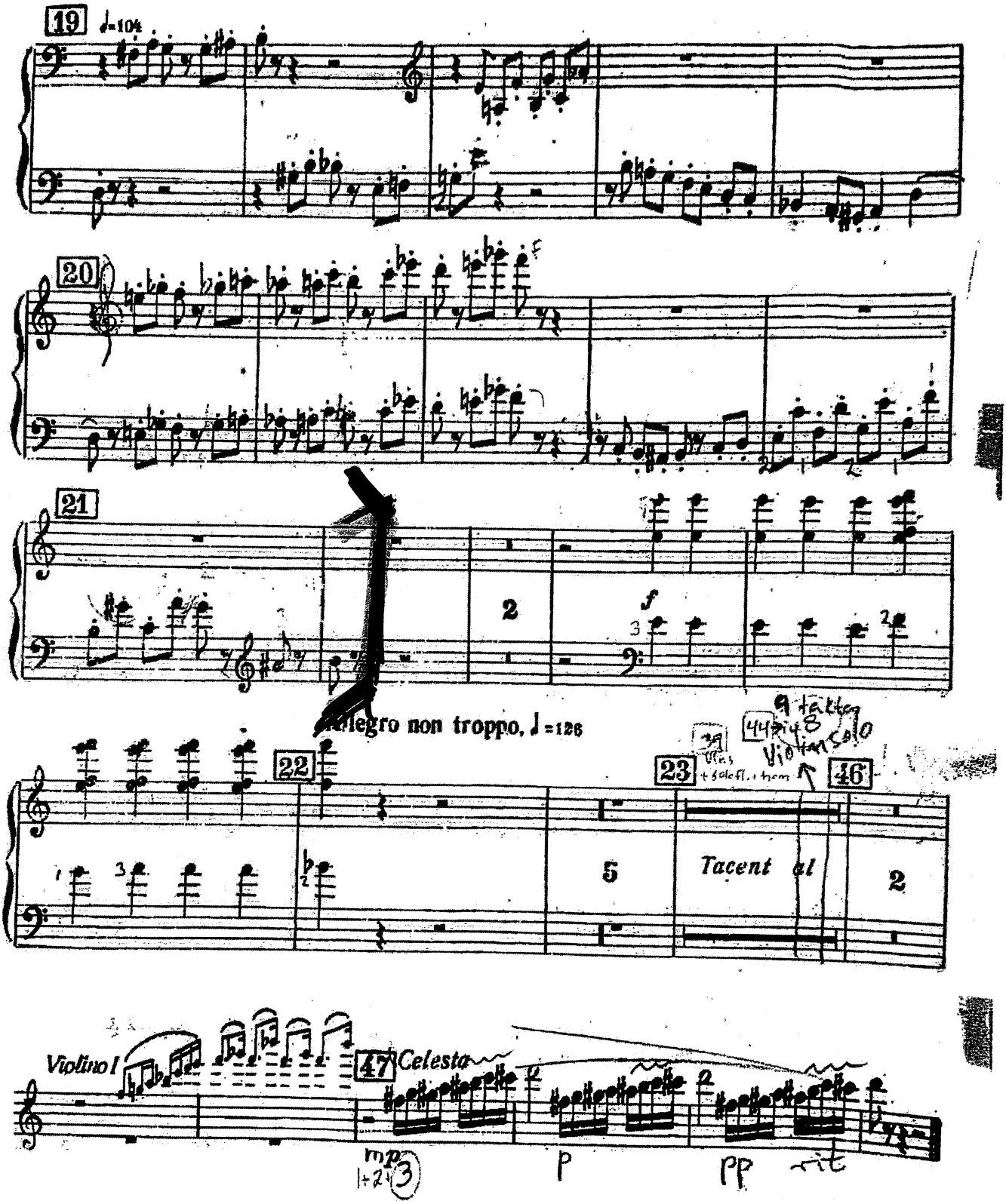
I

Д. ШОСТАКОВИЧ
D. SCHOSTAKOWITSCH

Op. 47



Piano e Celesta



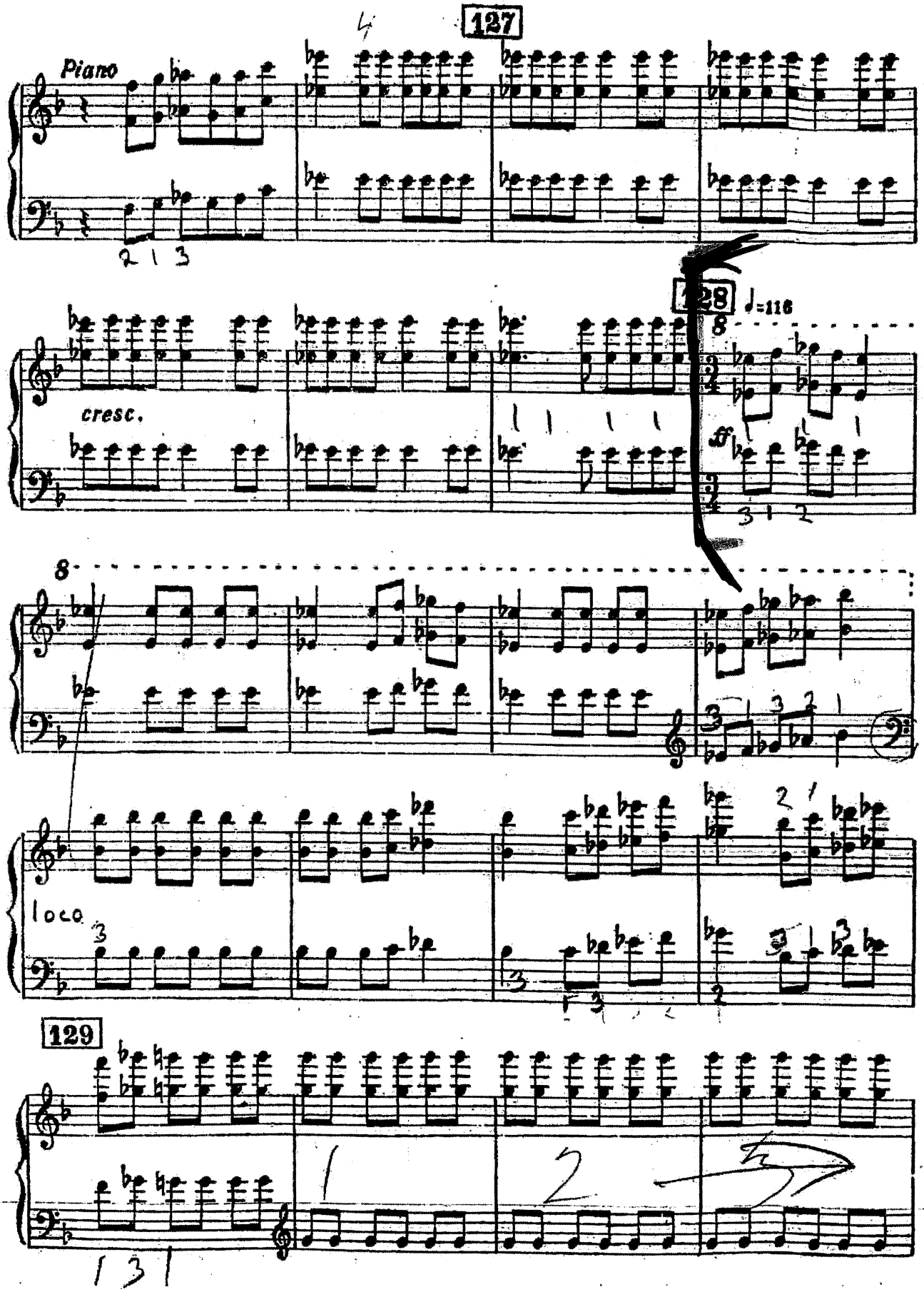
II

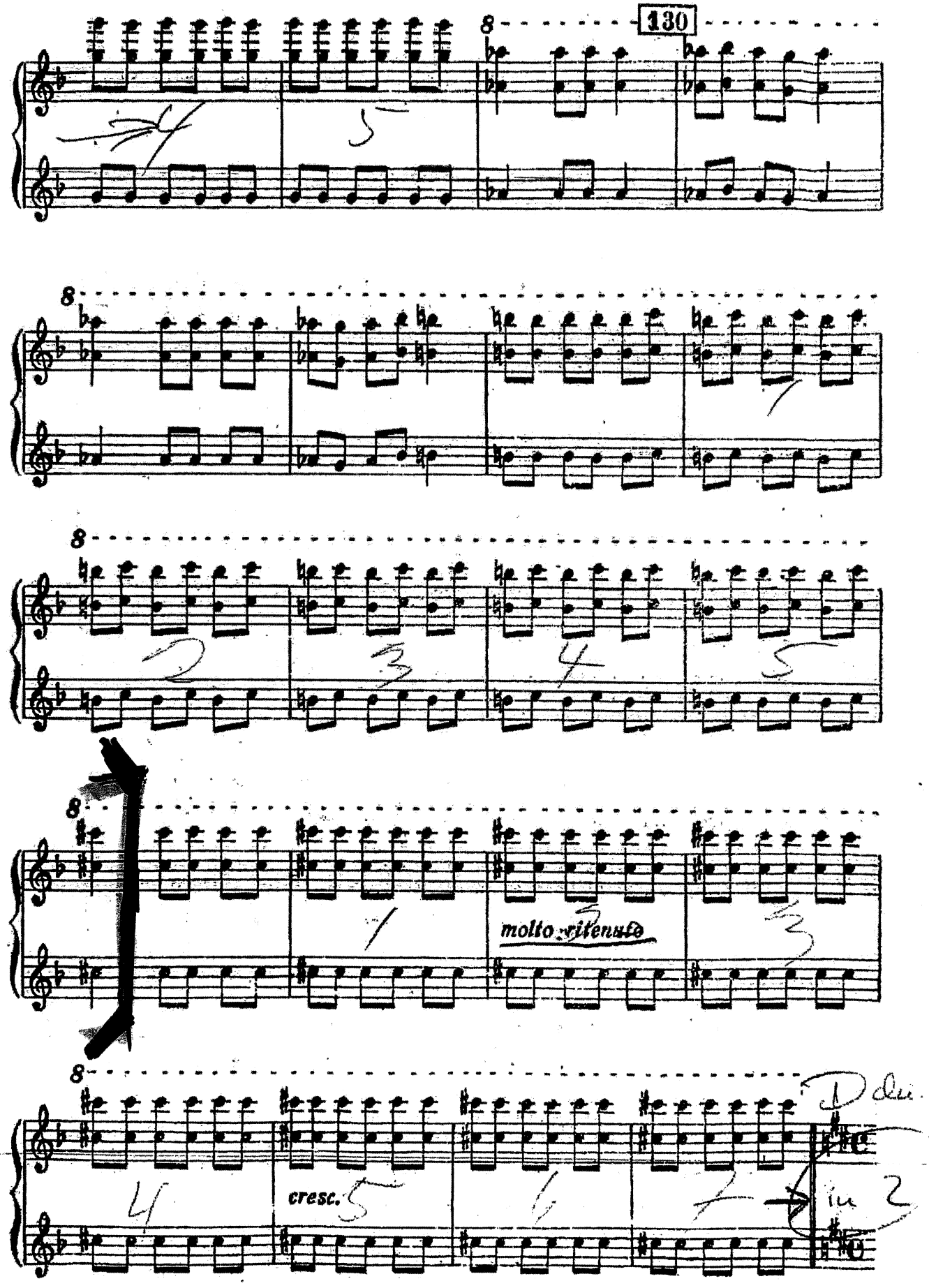
48 Allegretto 74

Tacent

Stilla . Harpa

Piano e Celesta

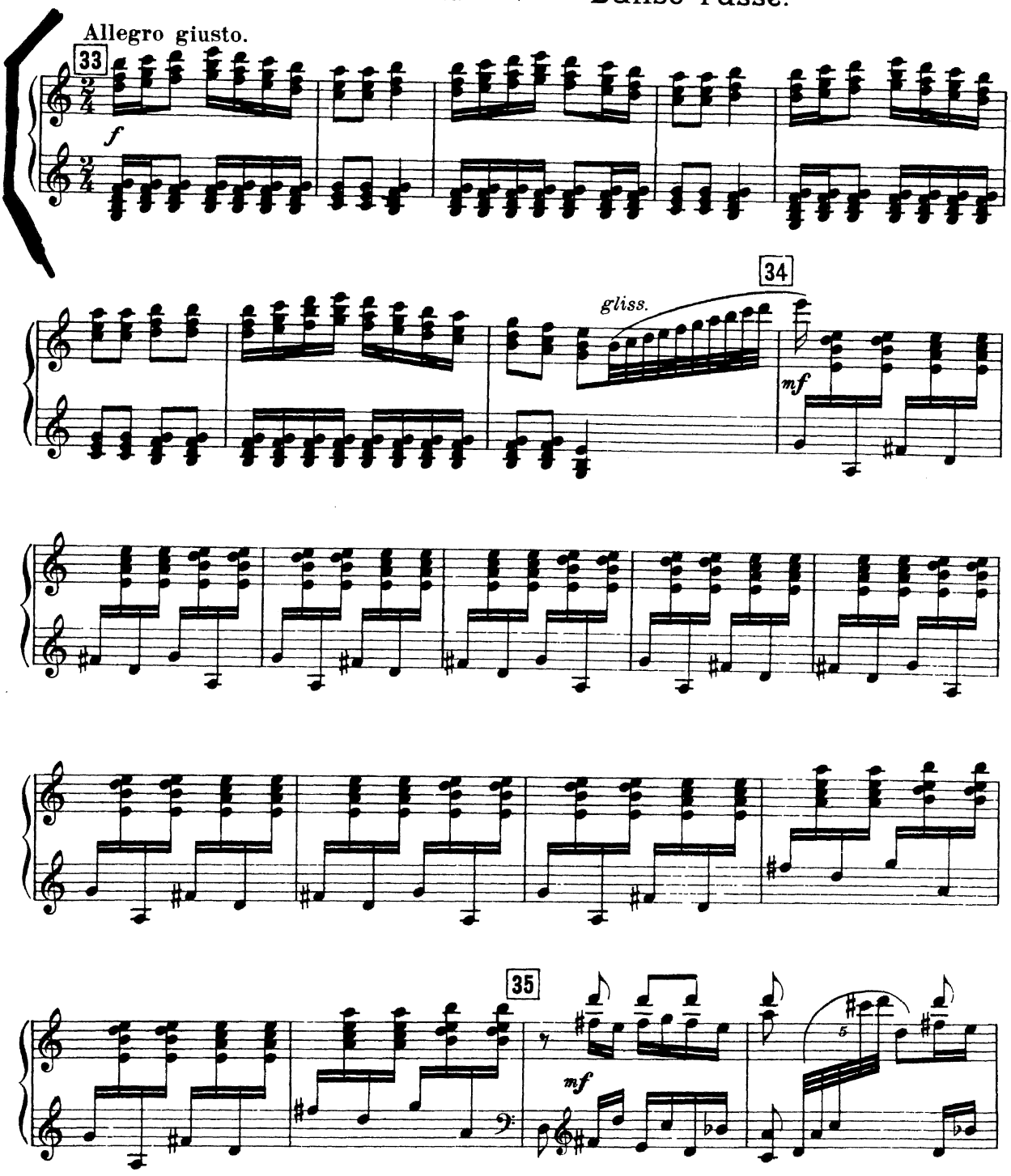



130
molto ritenuto
cresc.

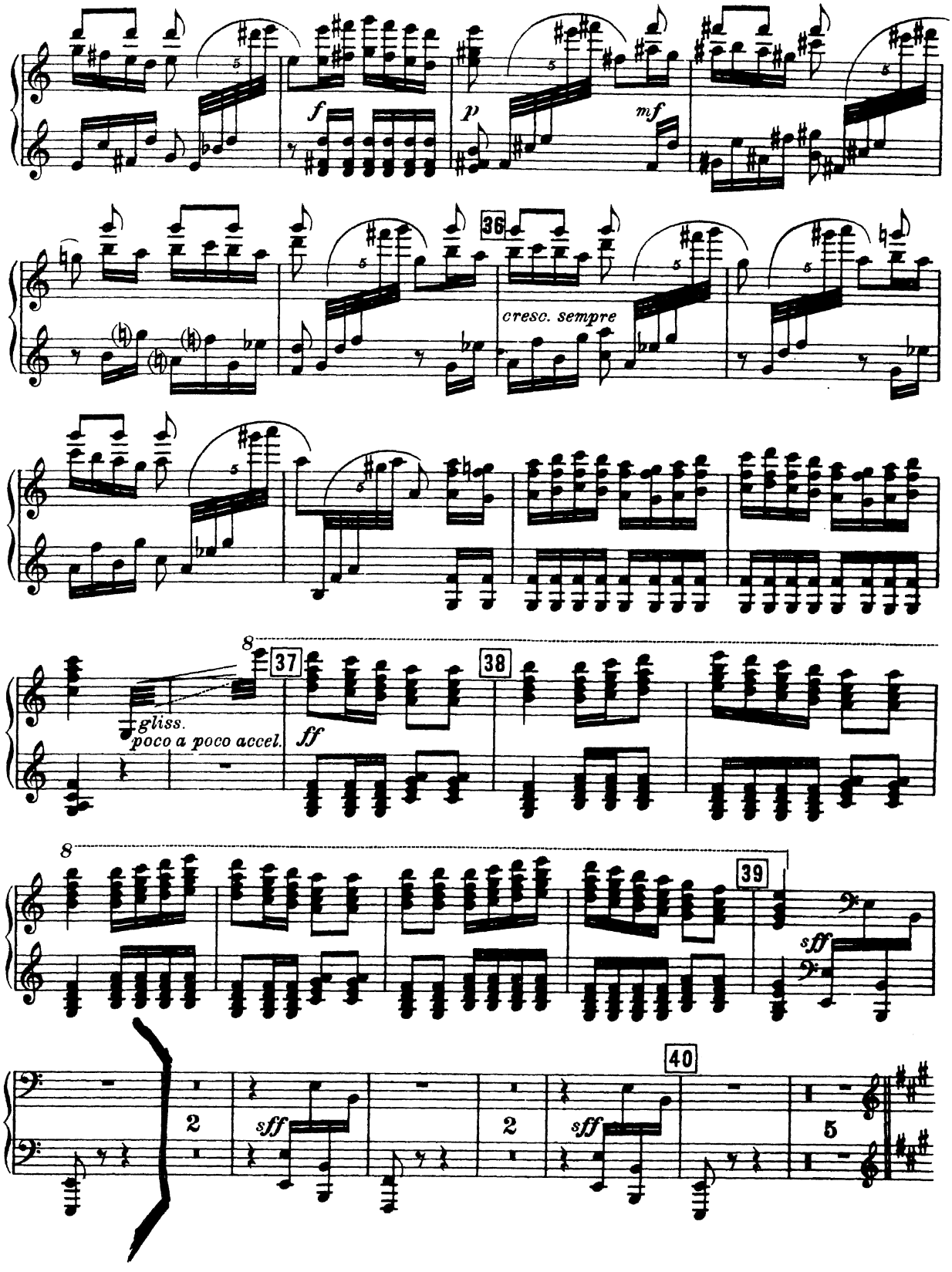
Piano.

РУССКАЯ.

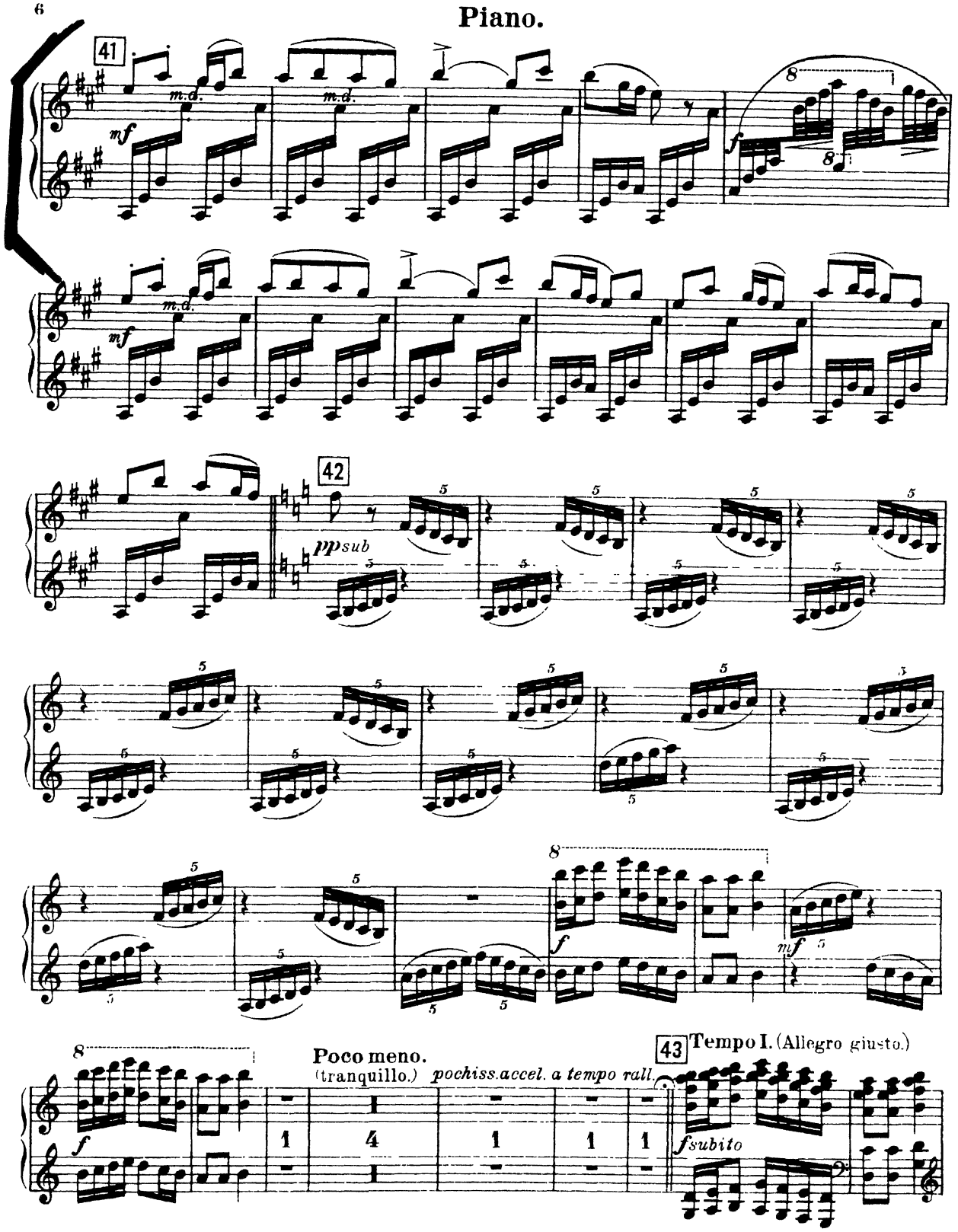
Russischer Tanz. | Danse russe.



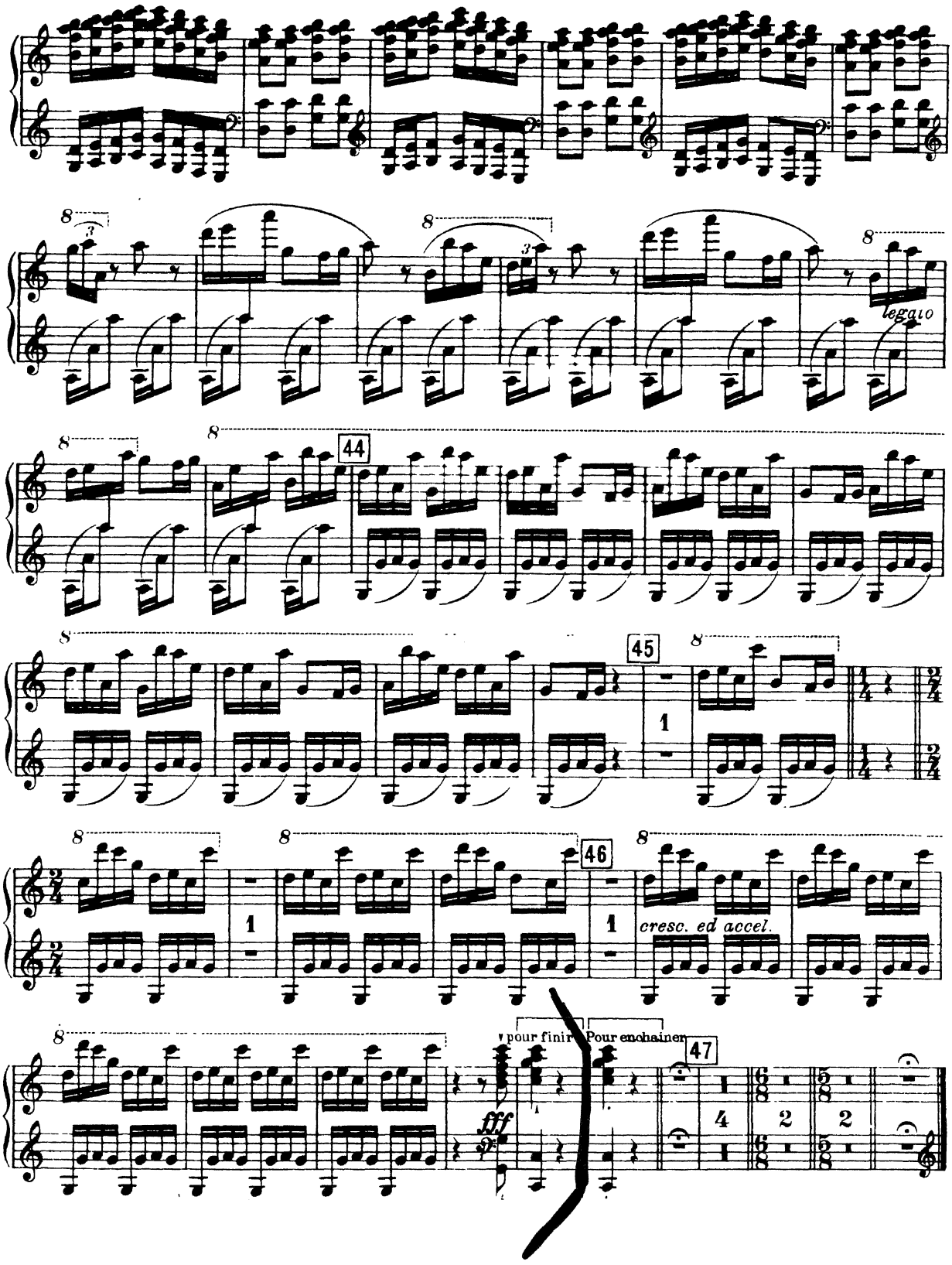
Piano.


f
p
mf
36
cresc. sempre
8
37
gliss.
poco a poco accel.
ff
38
8
39
sff
40
2
sff
2
sff
5

Piano.


41
m.d.
mf
8
f
42
pp sub
Poco meno.
(tranquillo.)
pochiss. accel. a tempo rall.
43
Tempo I. (Allegro giusto.)
fsubito

Piano.


legato
44
45
46
cresc. ed accel.
pour finir
Pour enchainer
47
fff

Suite

aus dem Ballett

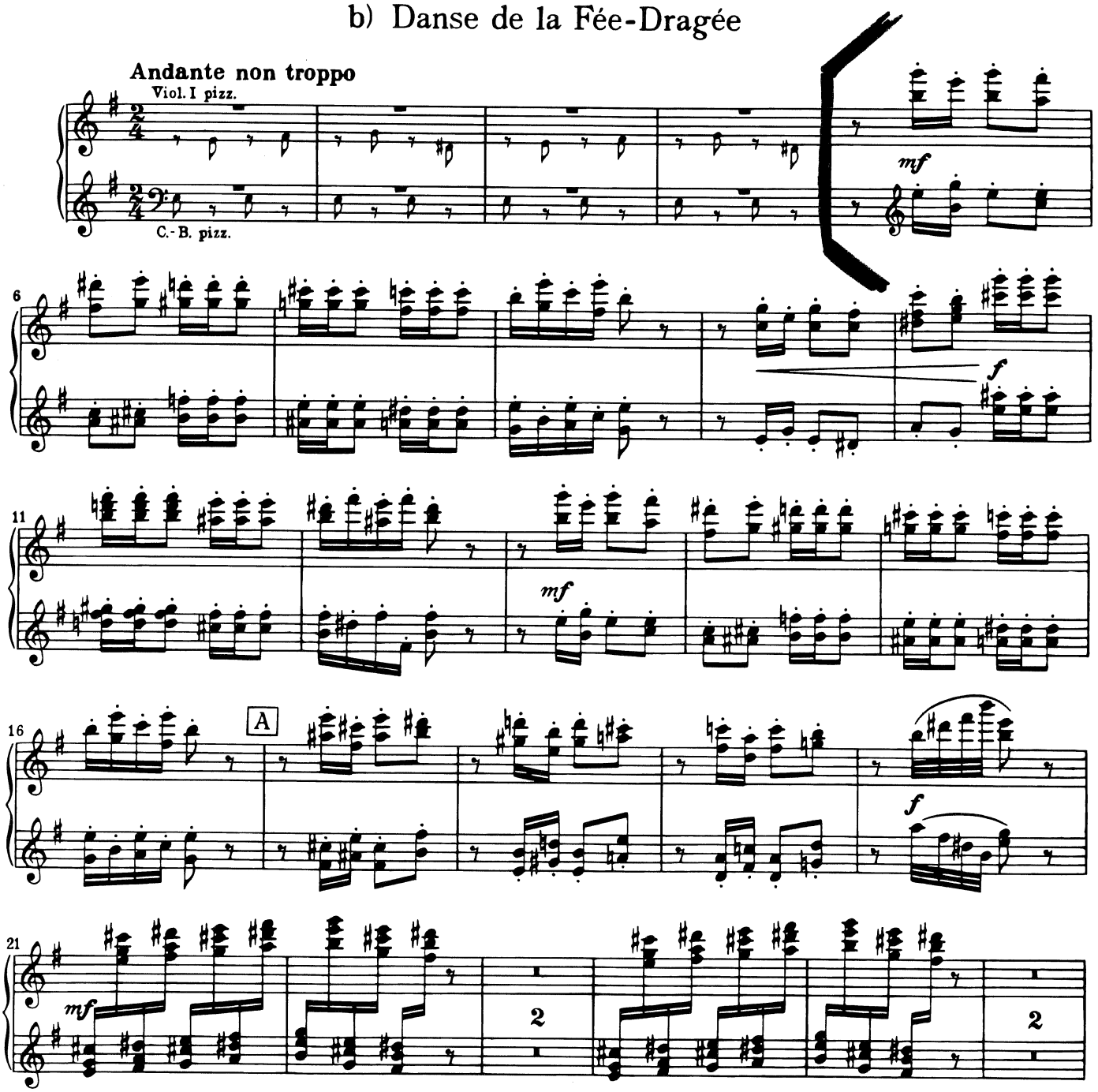
Der Nussknacker

I. Ouverture miniature tacet

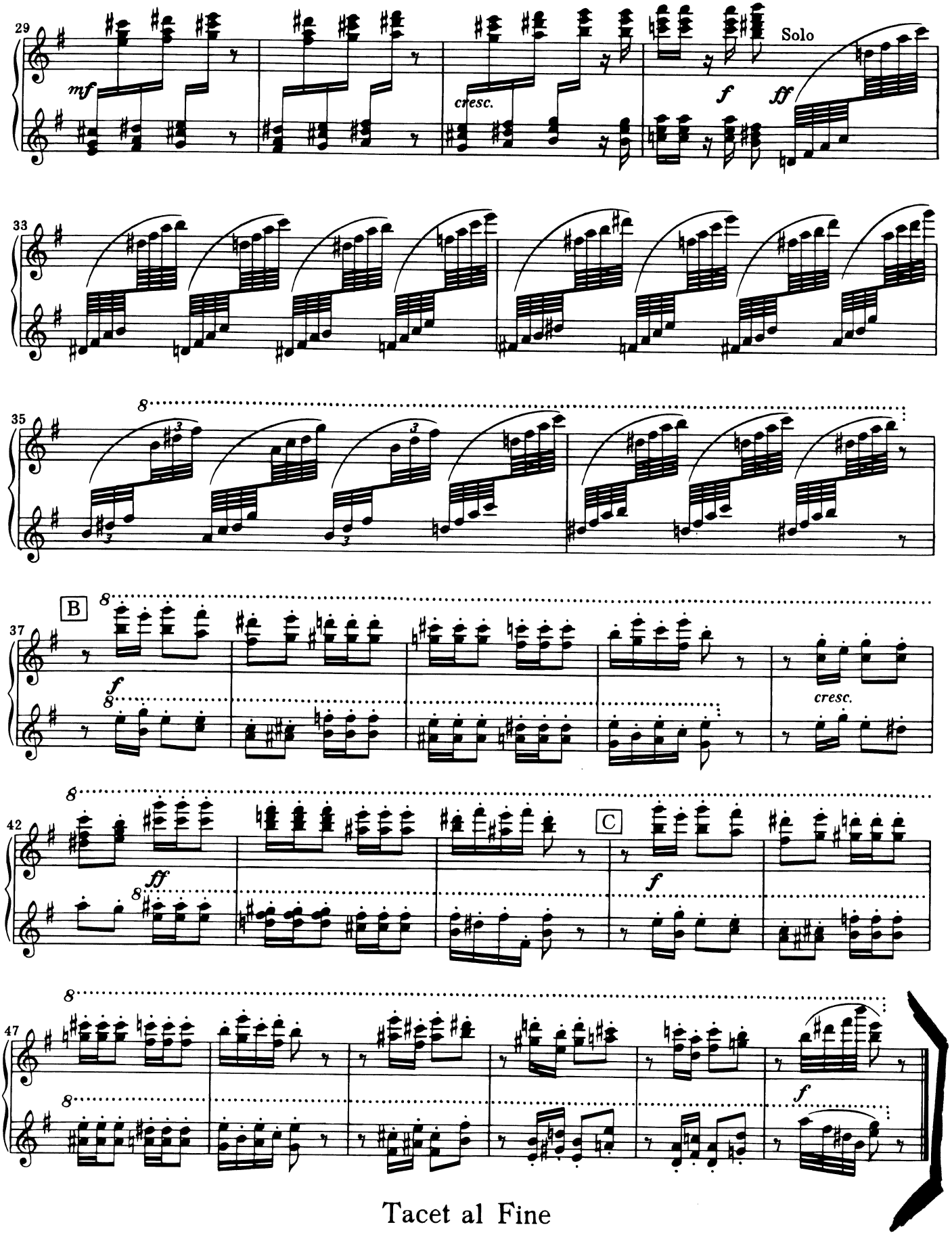
II. Danses Caractéristiques

a) Marche tacet

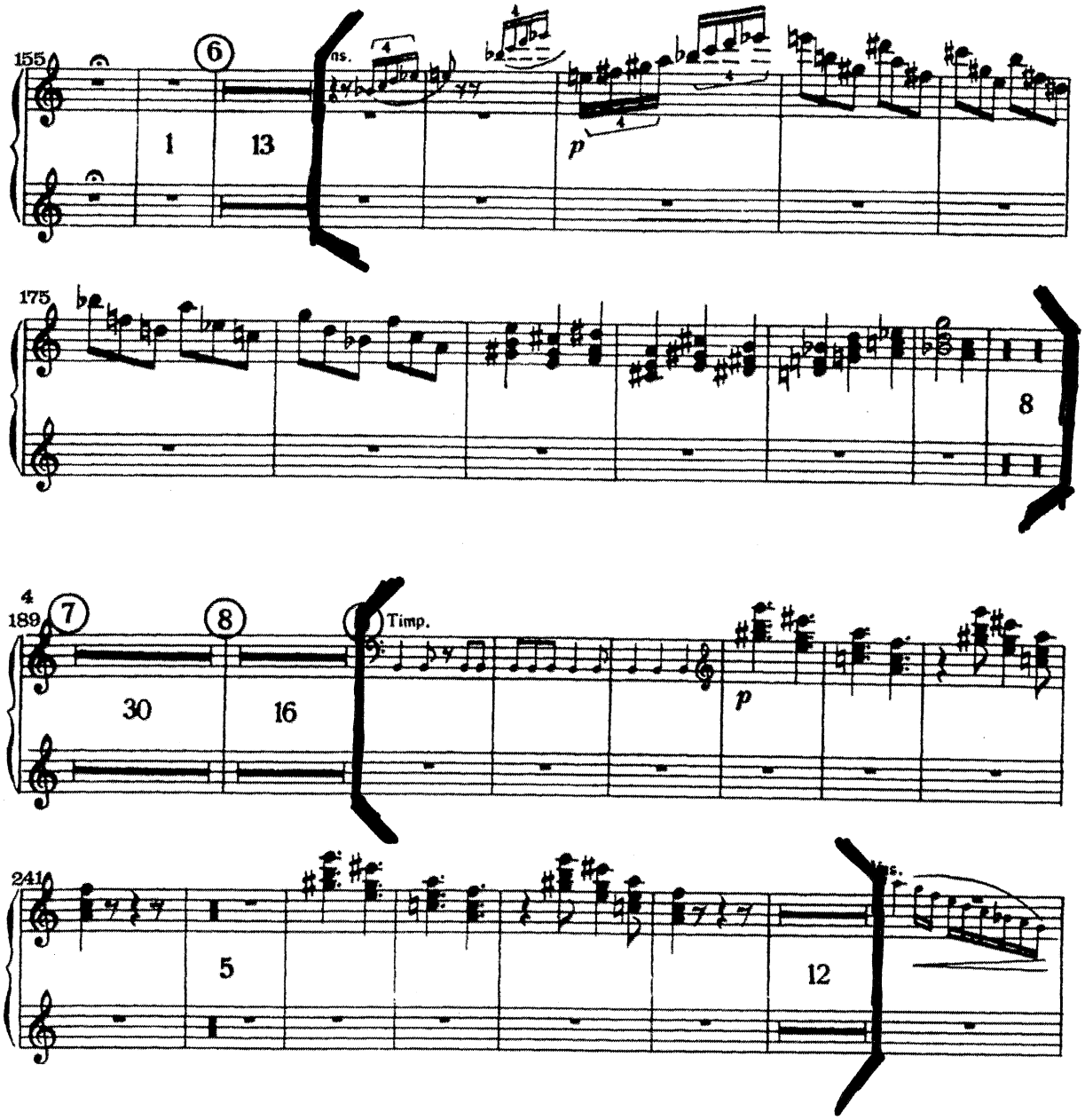
b) Danse de la Fée-Dragée



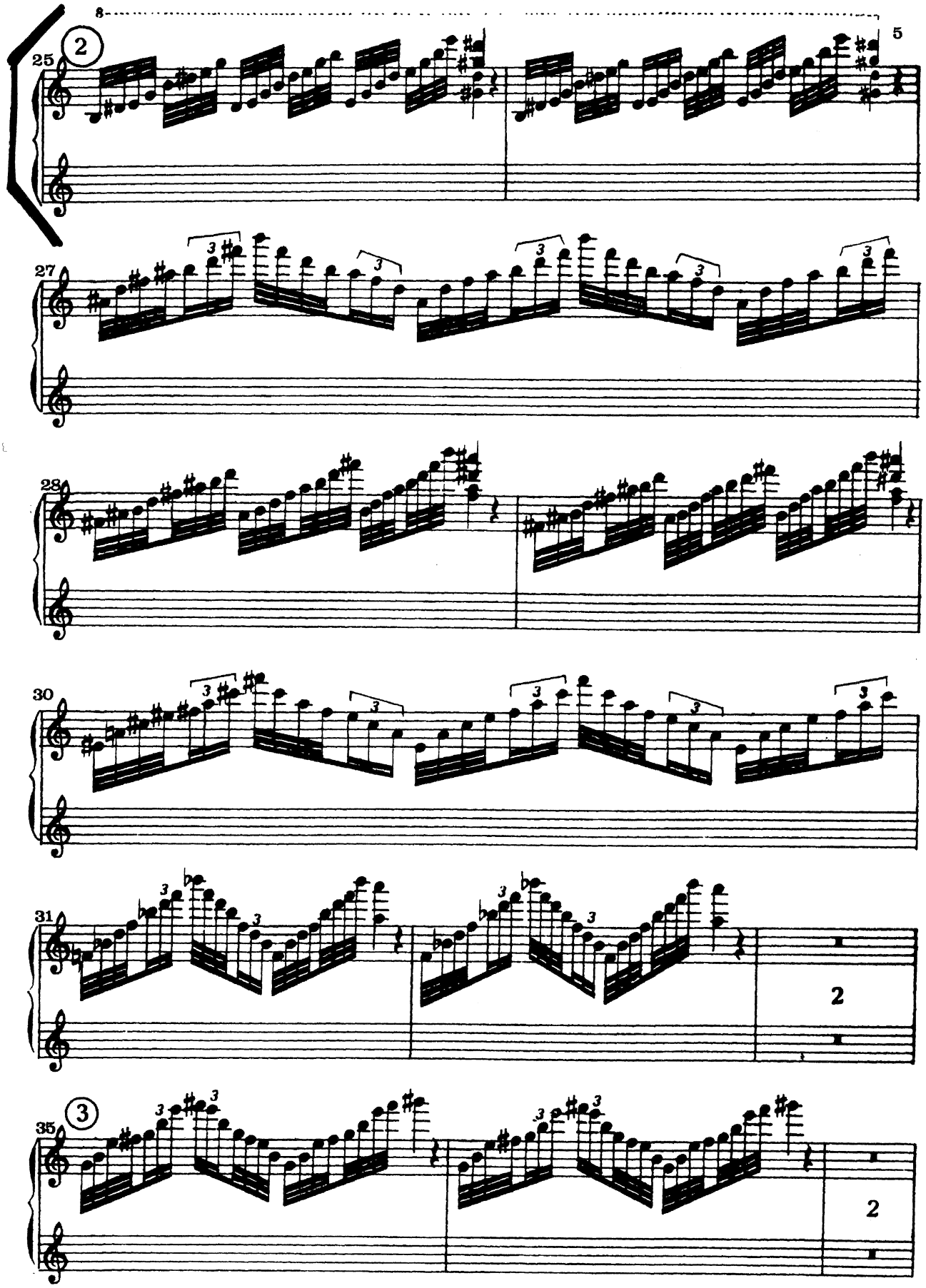
Celesta



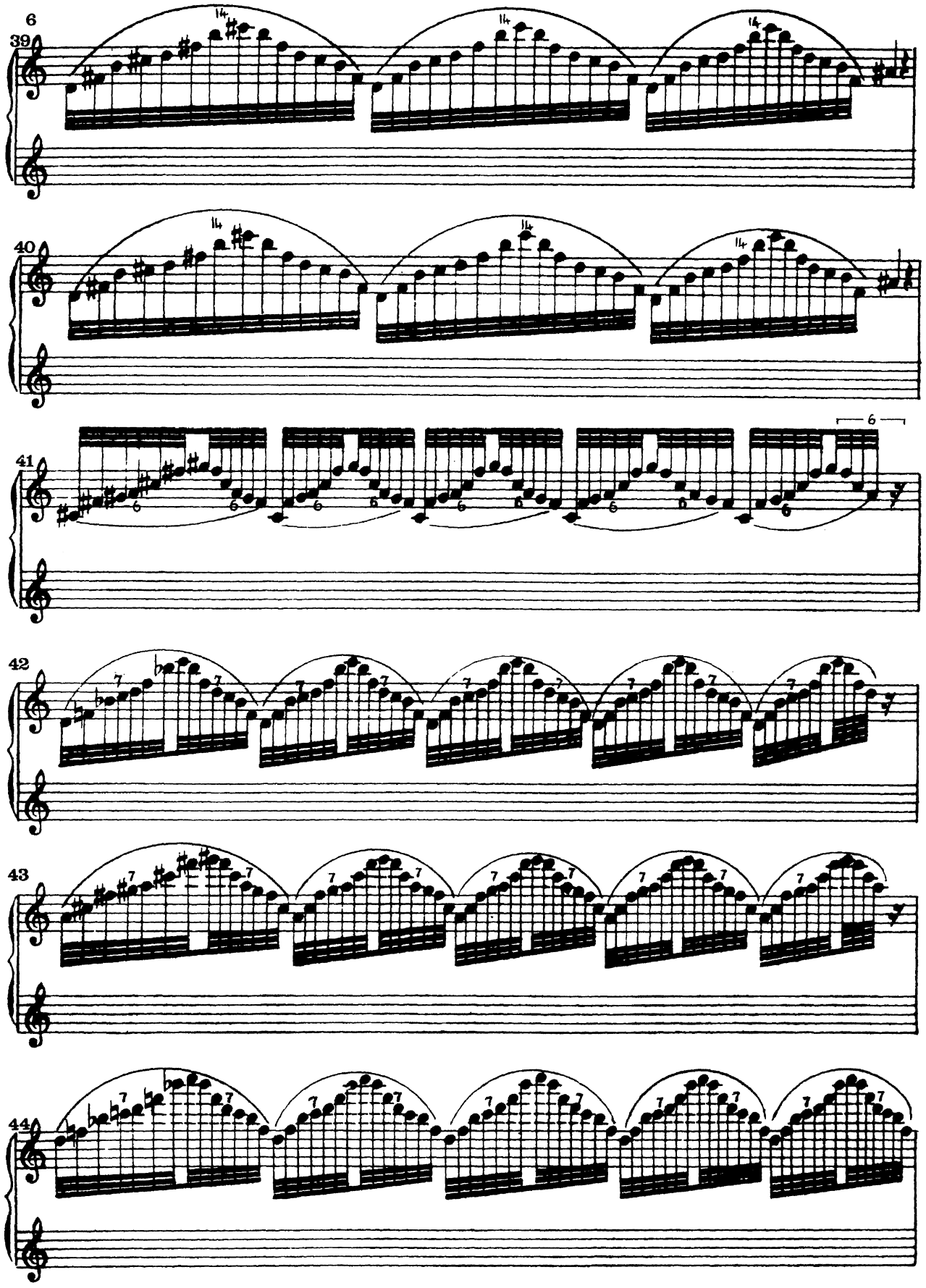
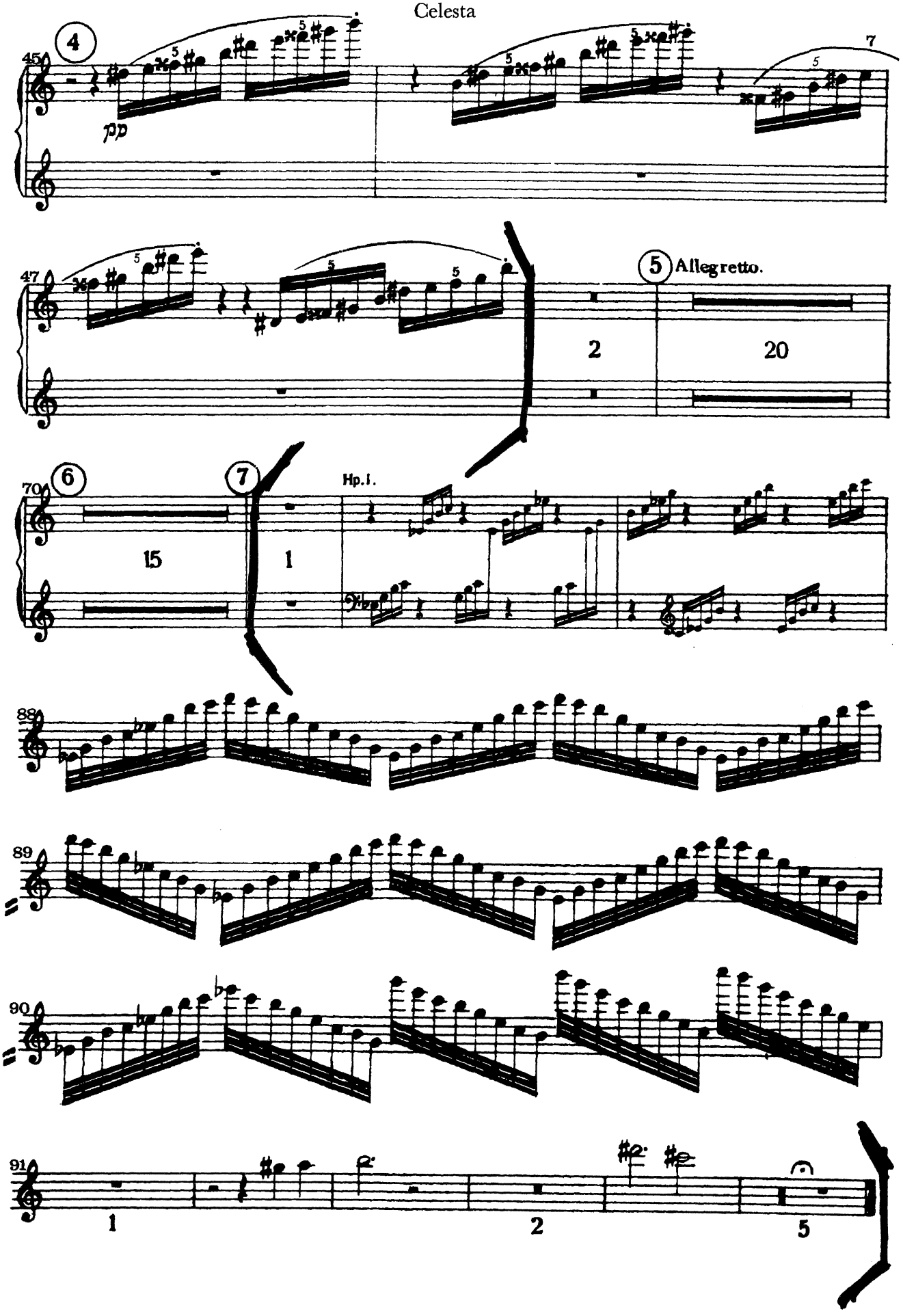
Holst: The Planets - Mercury



Celesta



Celesta



Celesta