Table of Contents

Were You There? (Natalie Sleeth) 1
I Saw Three Ships. 5
Christmas Medley 13
(What Child is This, Carol of the Bells, We Three Kings)
Bring a Torch Jeanette, Isabella 22
Star Carol (Alfred Burt). 32
Susser de Glocken. 35
Stars Were Gleaming 42
(Infant Holy, Infant Lowly)
Christmas Morning 47
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear. . . 55
Lo, How a Rose Ere Blooming. 58
Christmas Hymn. 59
Jon Schmidt Catalog. 61

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PRODUCTIONS

Side Notes:

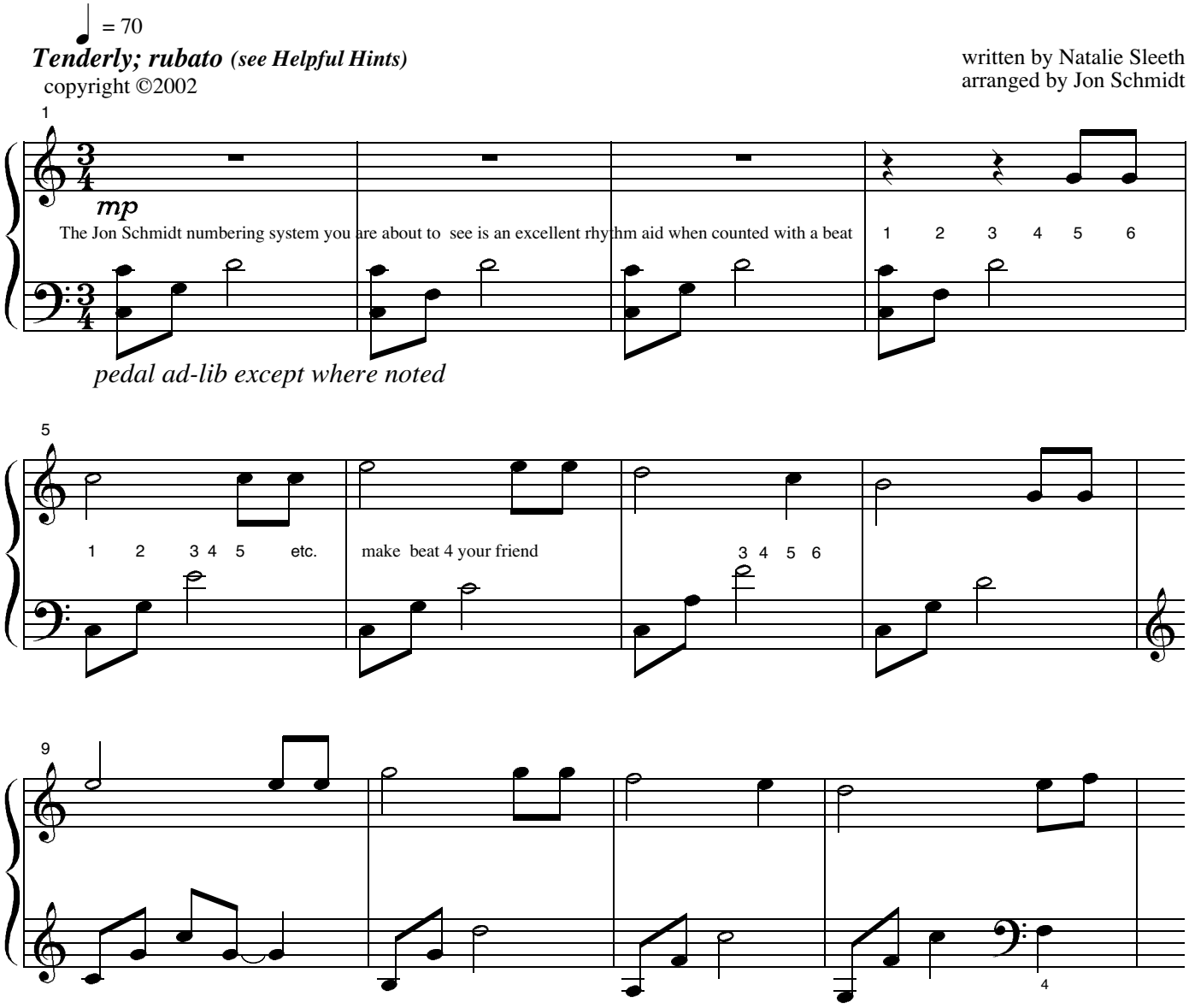
- *It would be pretty hard to beat my high school choir experience. Some of my best memories are of when we would perform all over the city during the holidays. This great song by Natalie Sleeth was one of my favorites.*

Helpful Hints:

- *Rubato means that you use dynamics and/or tempo to create a subtle rise and fall effect whenever you feel so inclined.*
- *Here is a handy rhythm guide to which you can refer to for all of the songs, except "Stars were Gleaming":*

  = 1 beat (also equals 1 beat)
  = 2 beats (also equals 2 beats)
  = 3 beats (. also equals 3 beats)
  = 4 beats (also equals 4 beats)
  Two of these: = 1 beat

Were You There?



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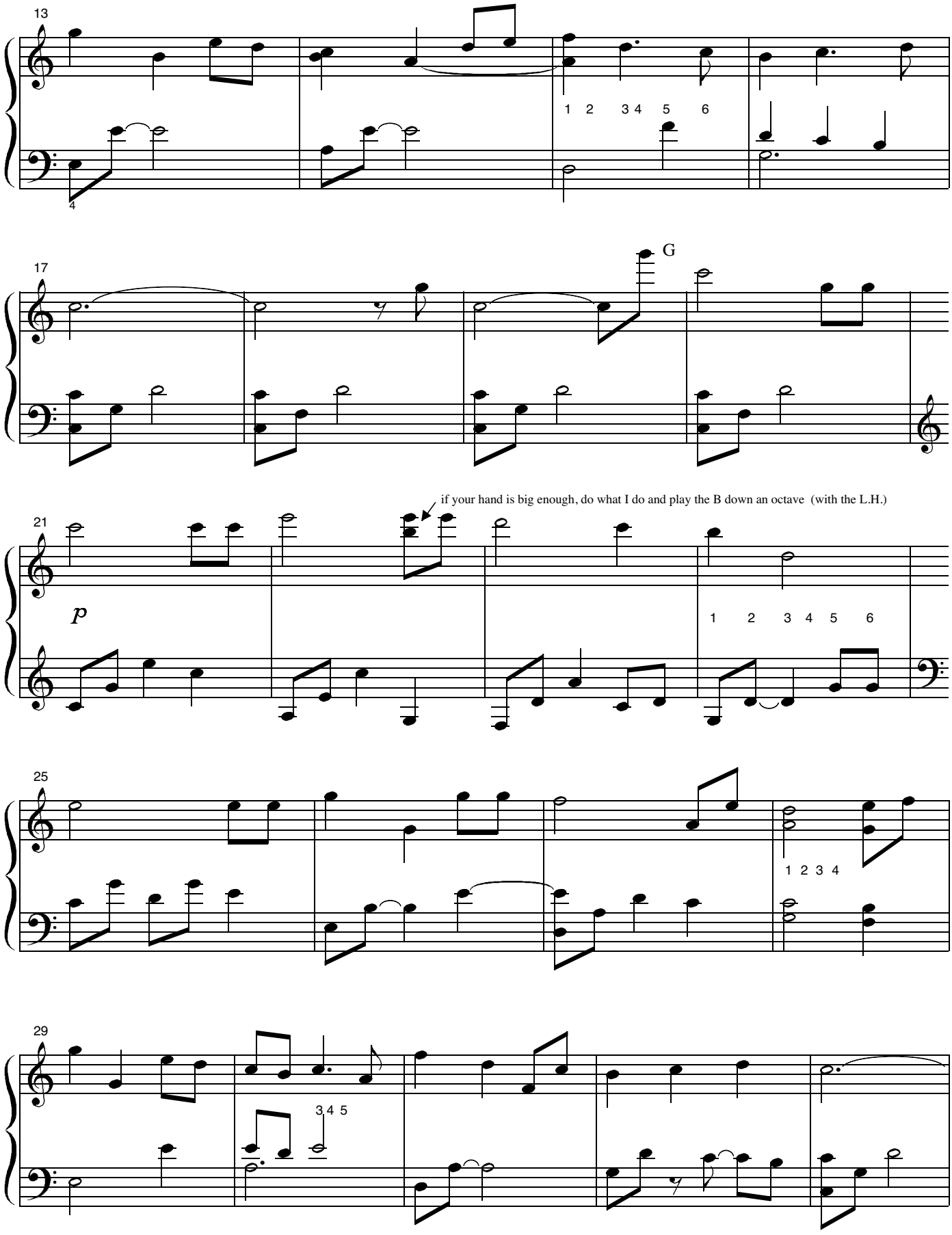
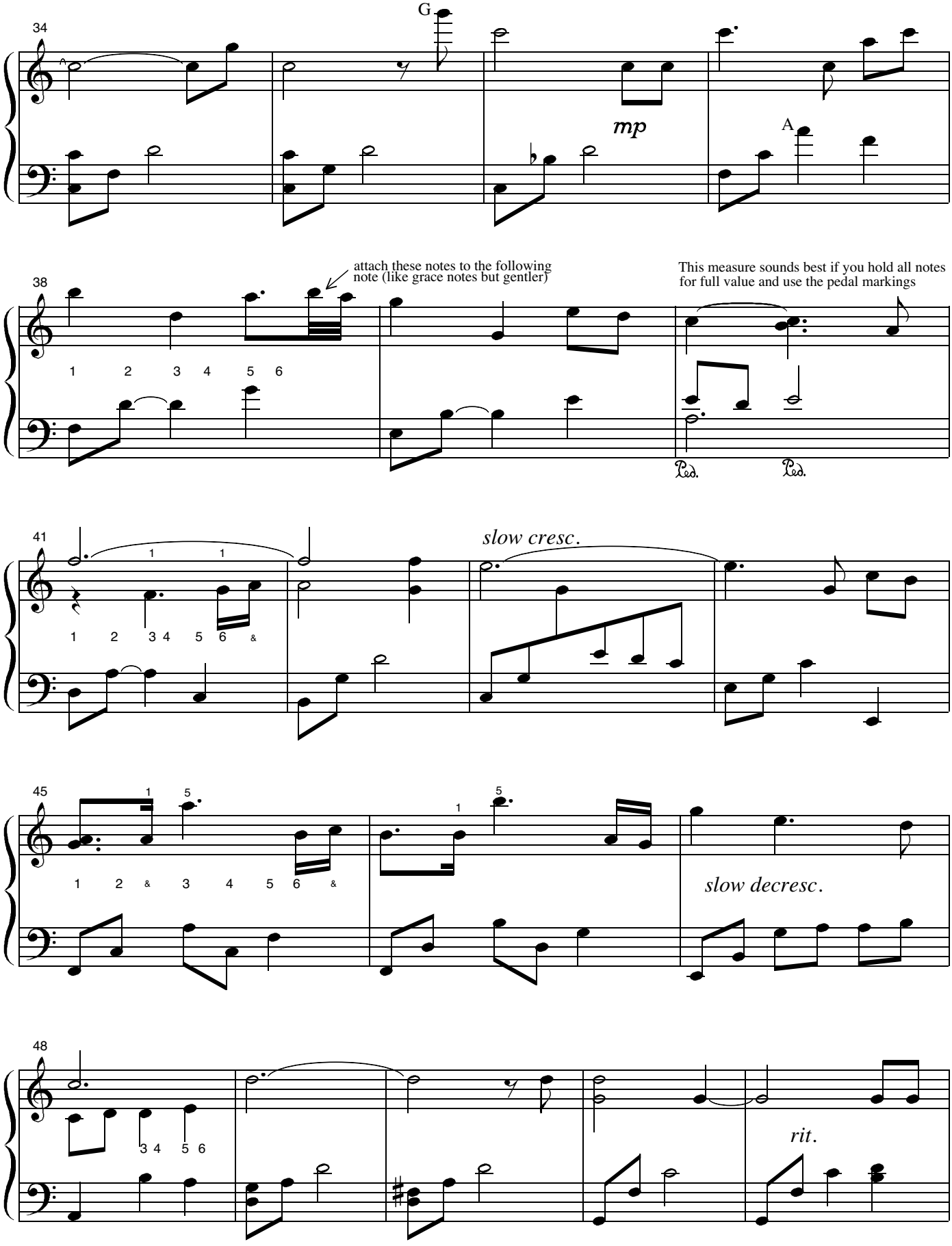
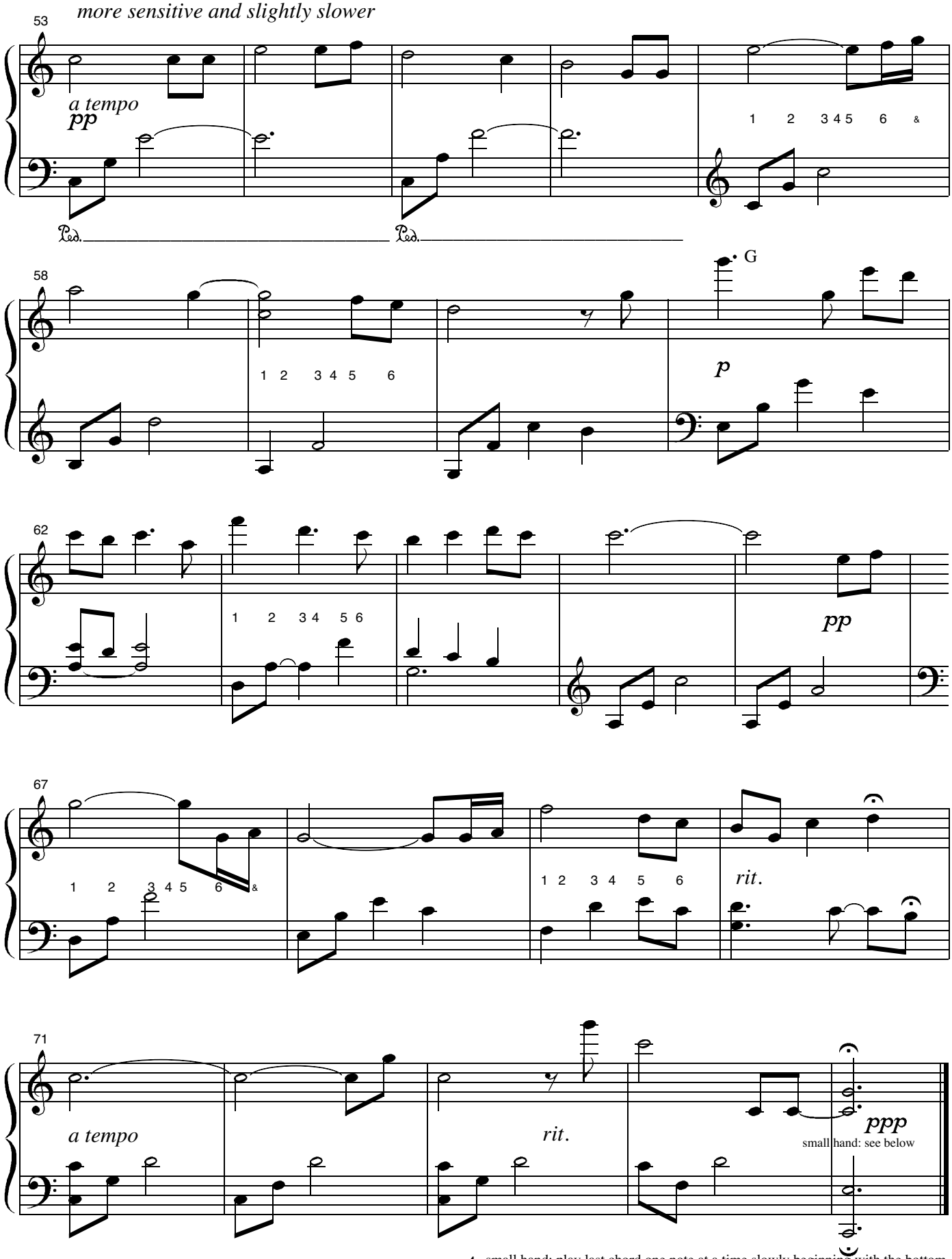
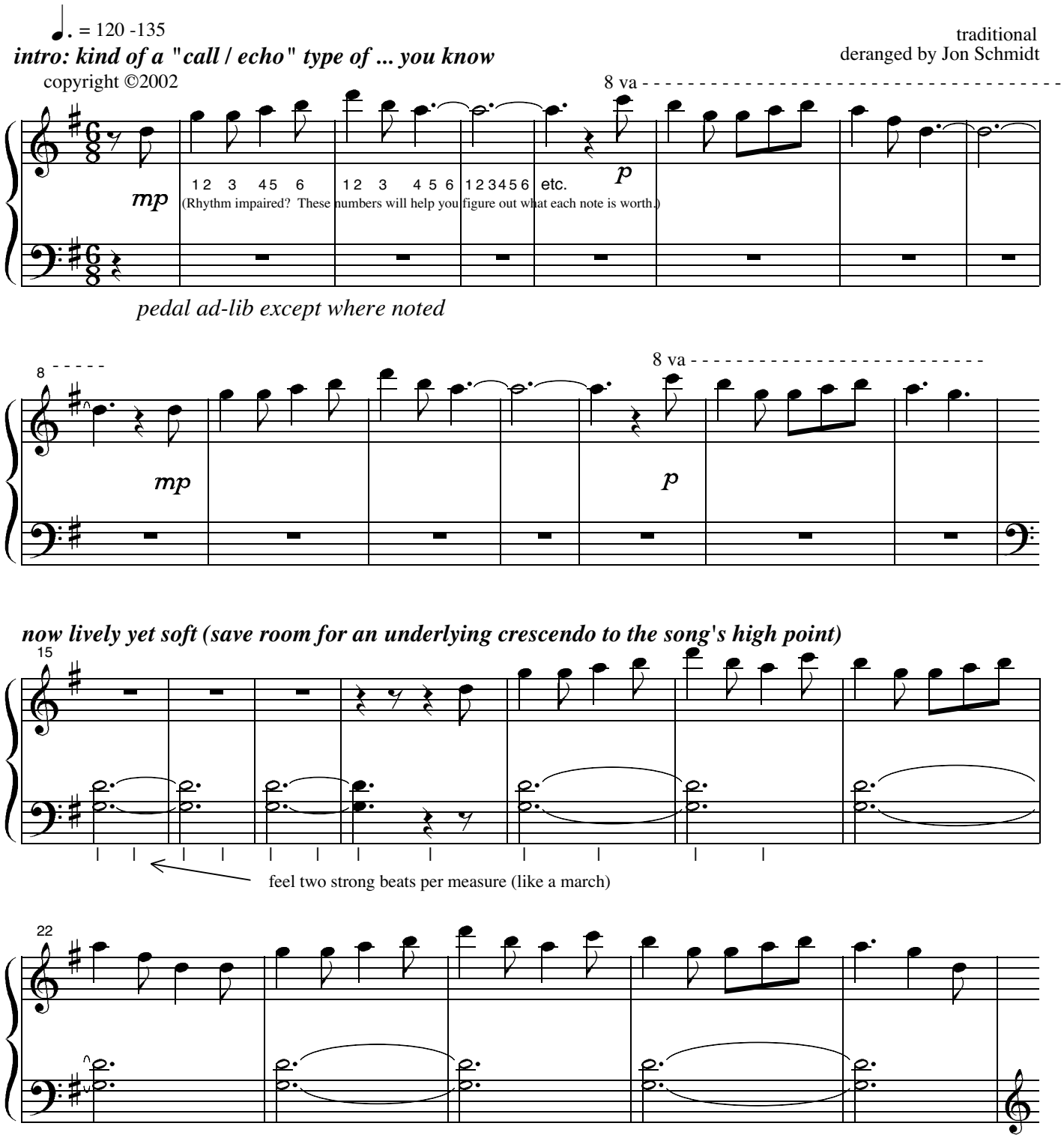

13
1 2 3 4 5 6
17
G
21
if your hand is big enough, do what I do and play the B down an octave (with the L.H.)
p
1 2 3 4 5 6
25
1 2 3 4
29
3 4 5

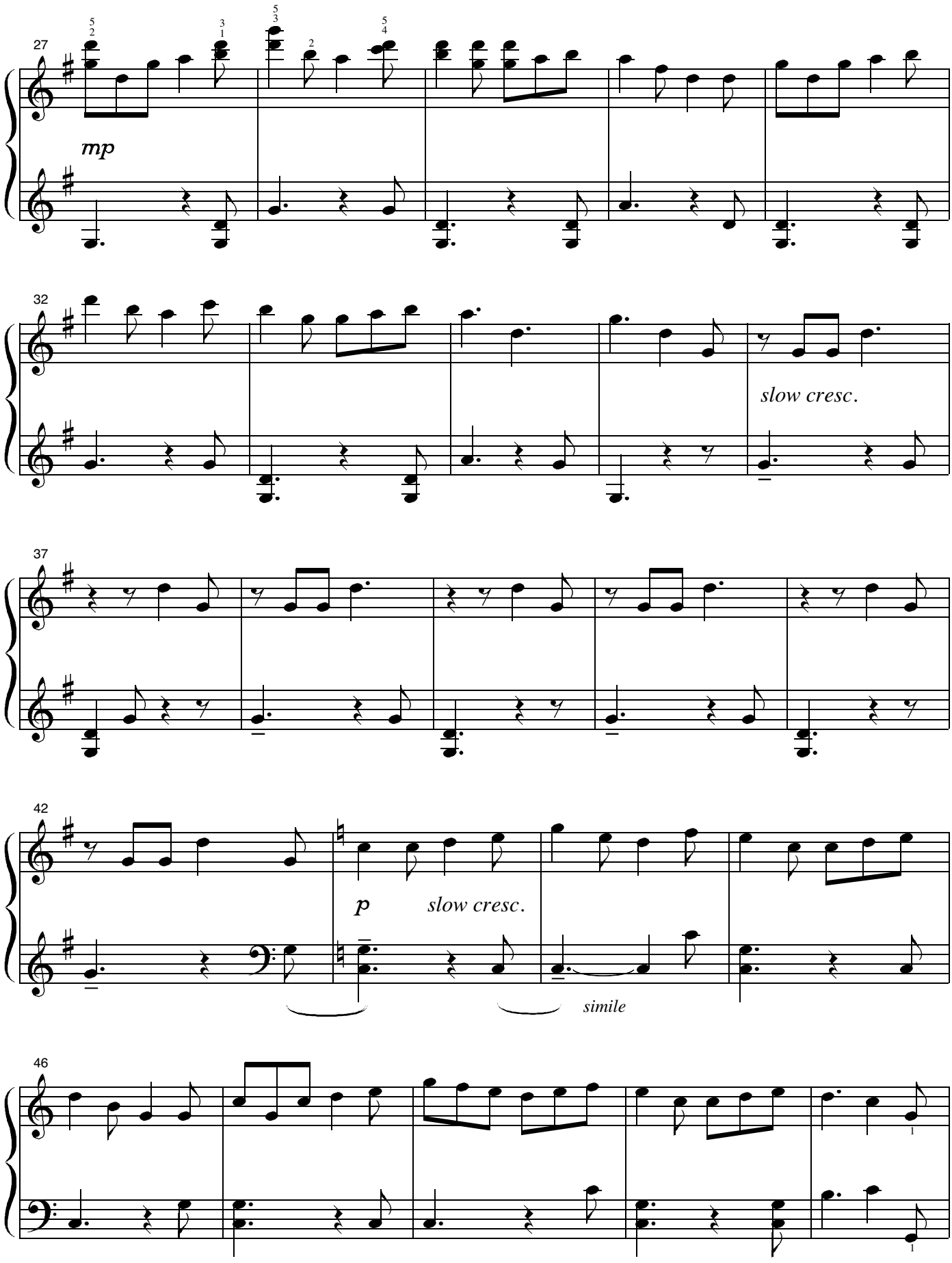

34
G
mp
A
38
attach these notes to the following note (like grace notes but gentler)
This measure sounds best if you hold all notes for full value and use the pedal markings
Ped.
Ped.
41
slow cresc.
45
slow decresc.
48
rit.

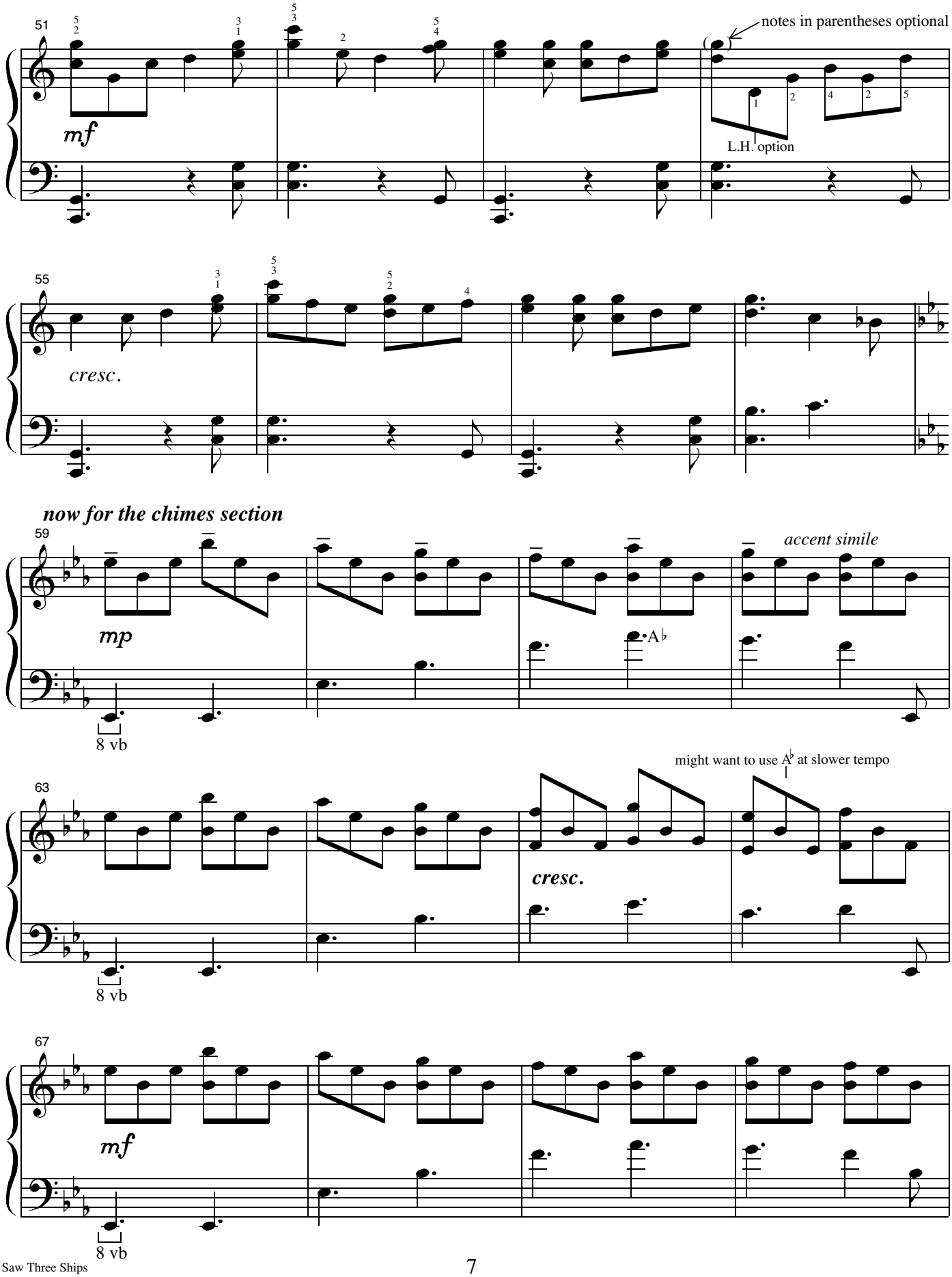


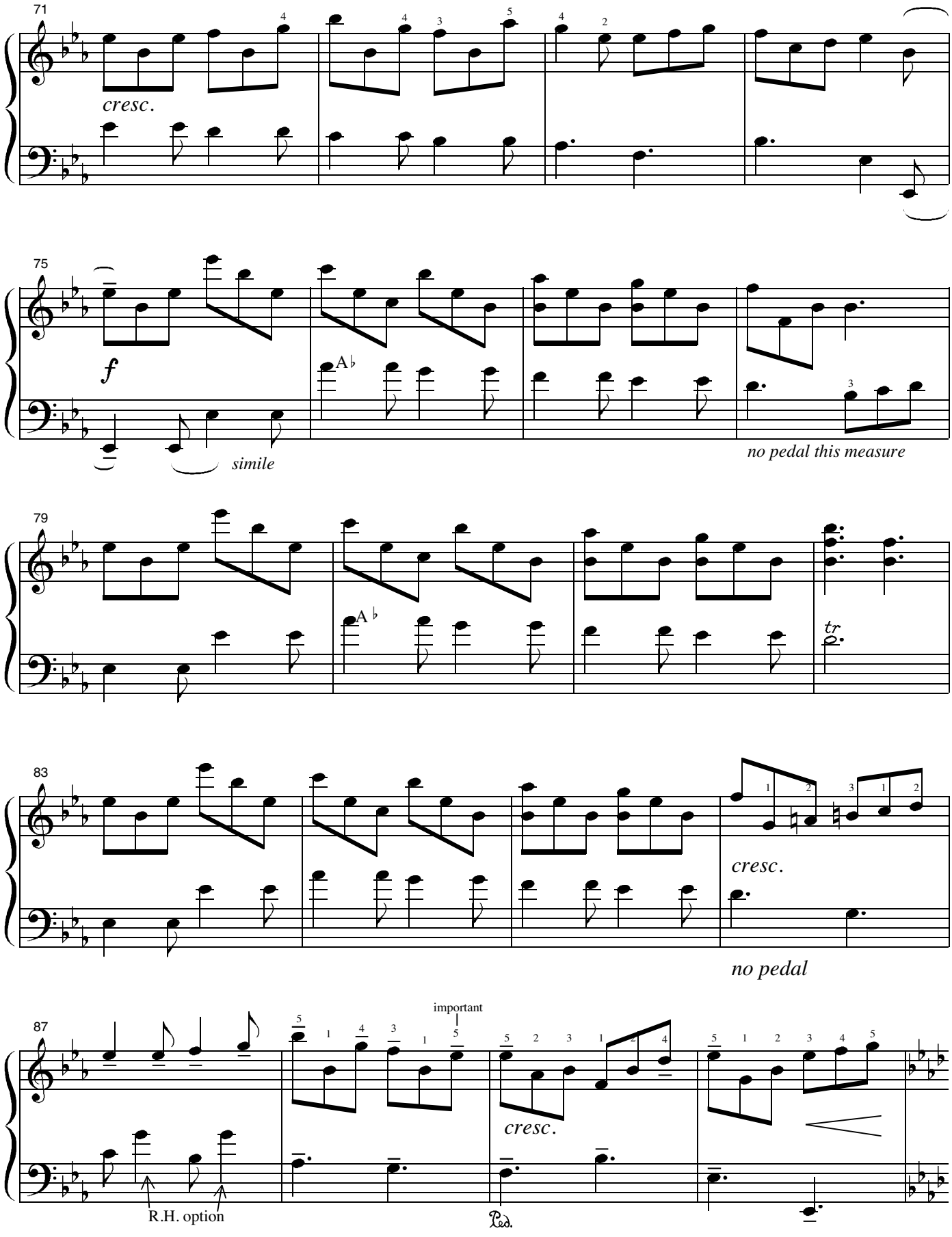
small hand: play last chord one note at a time slowly beginning with the bottom

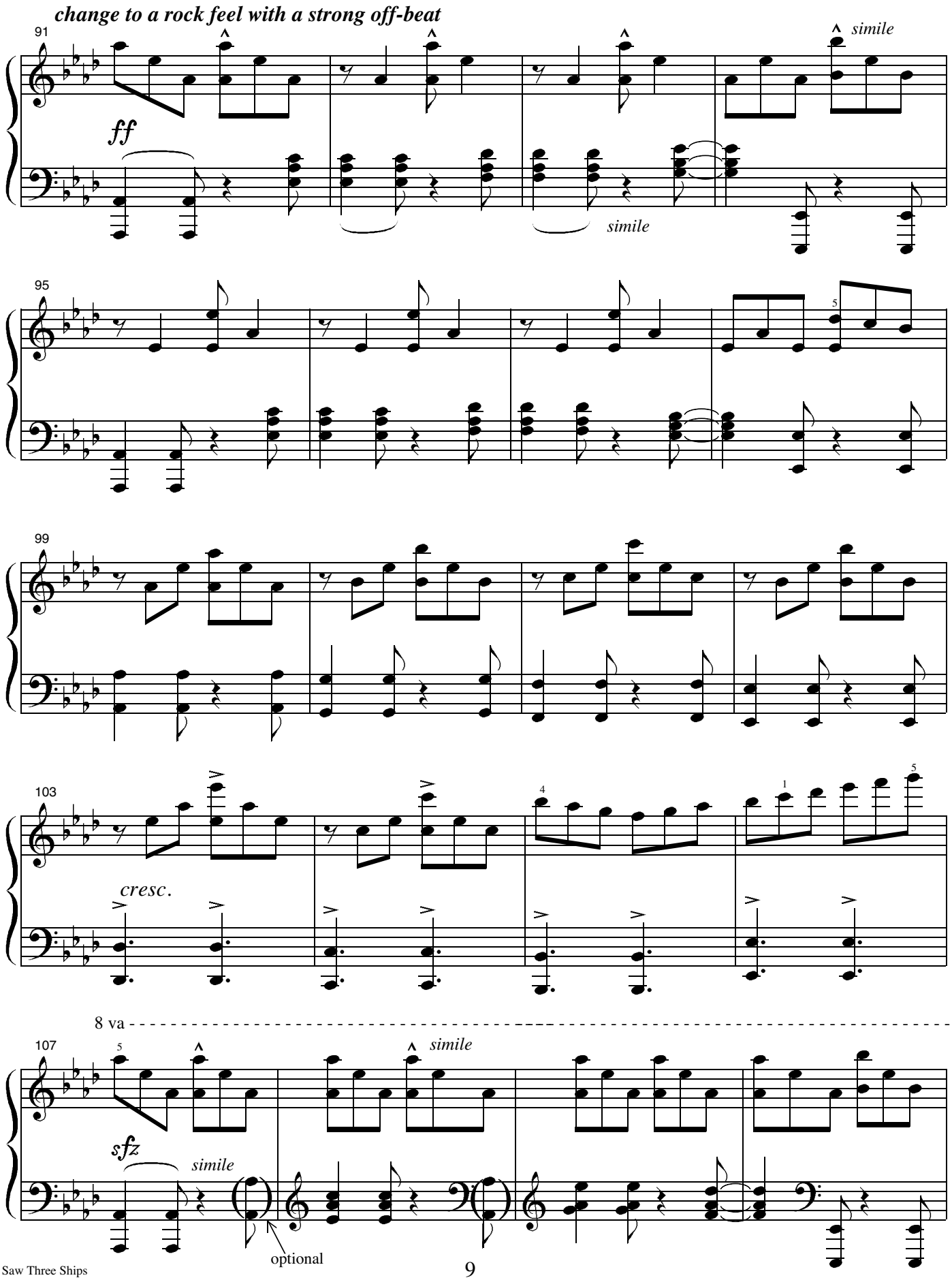
I Saw Three Ships

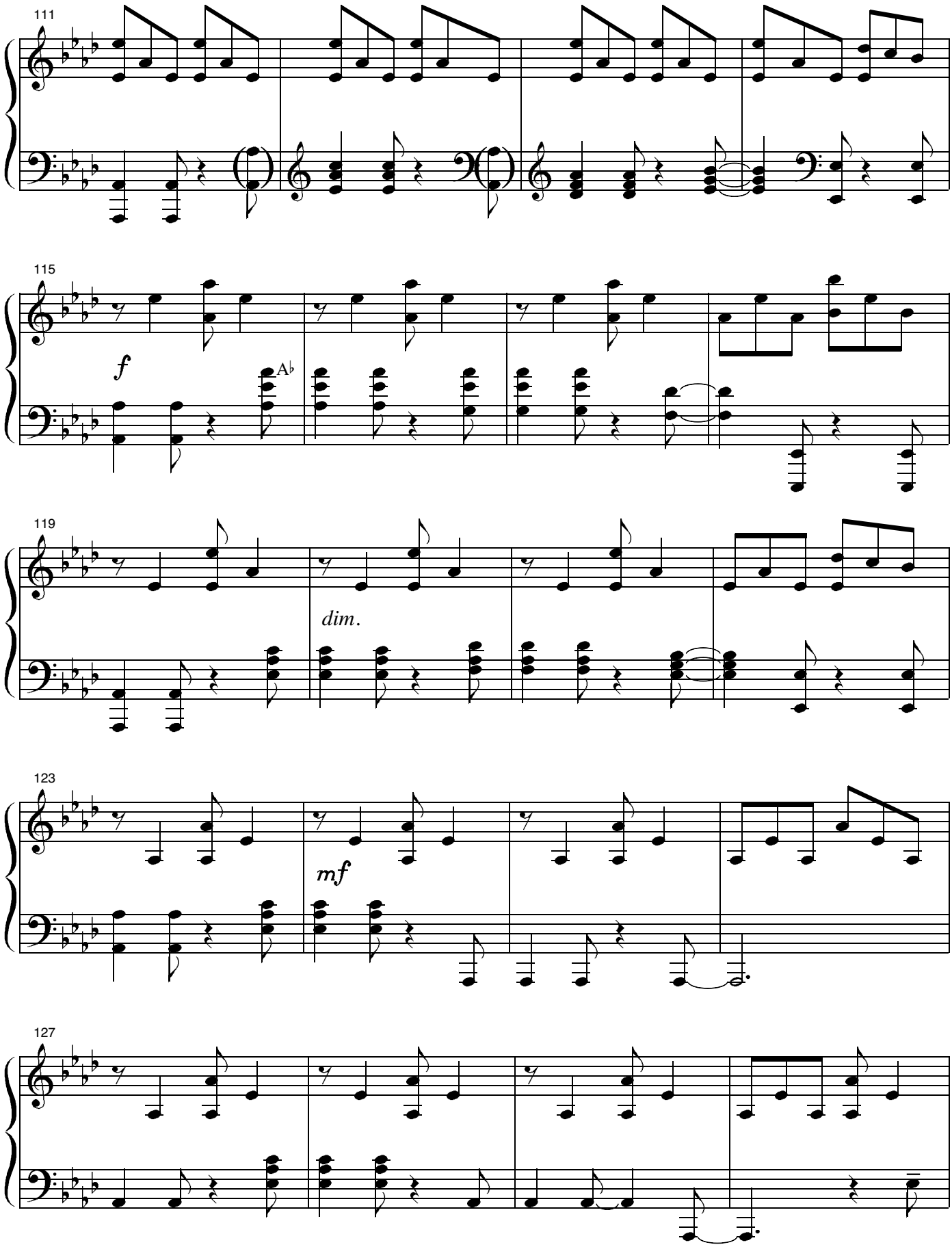


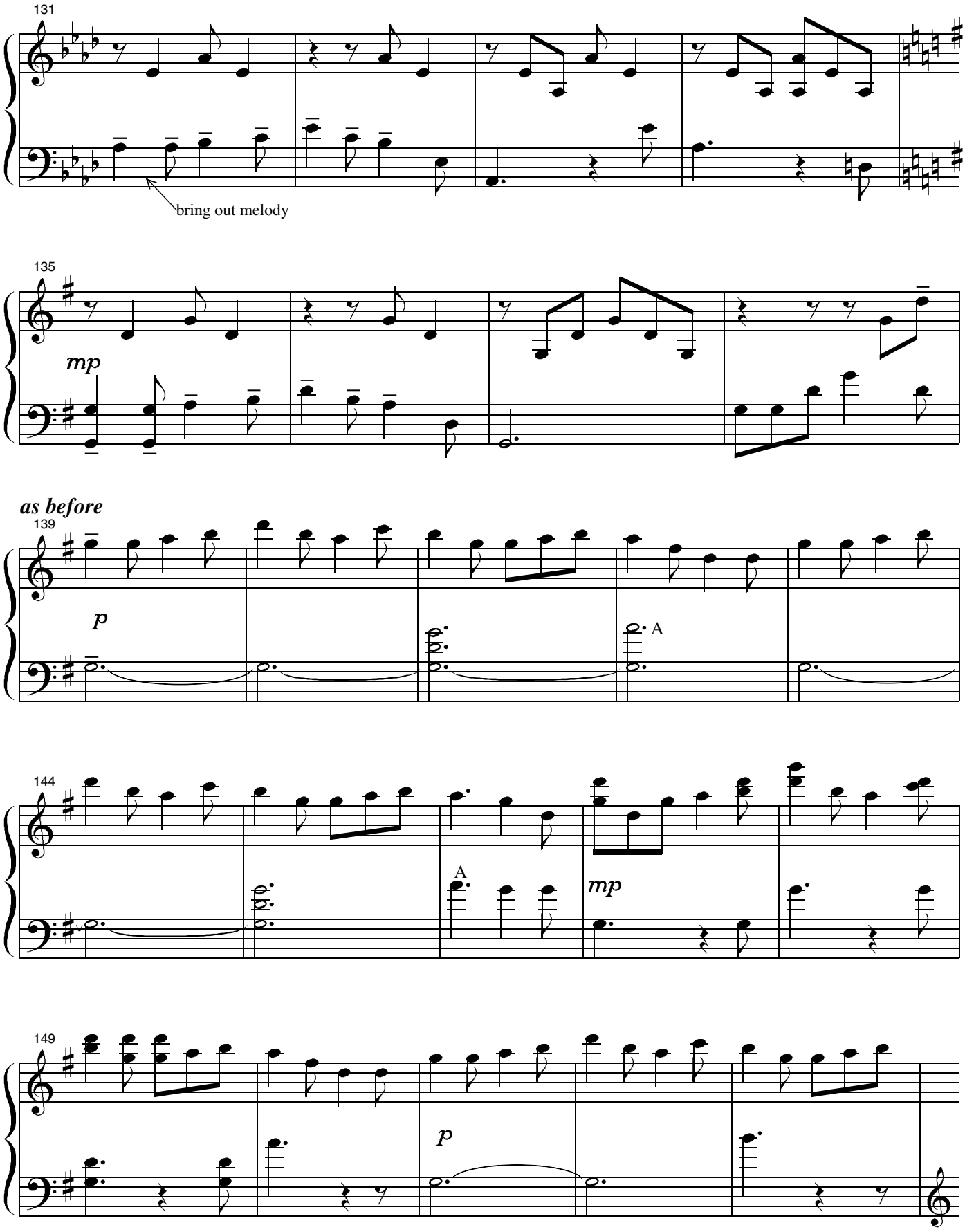

27
mp
32
slow cresc.
37
42
p
slow cresc.
simile
46

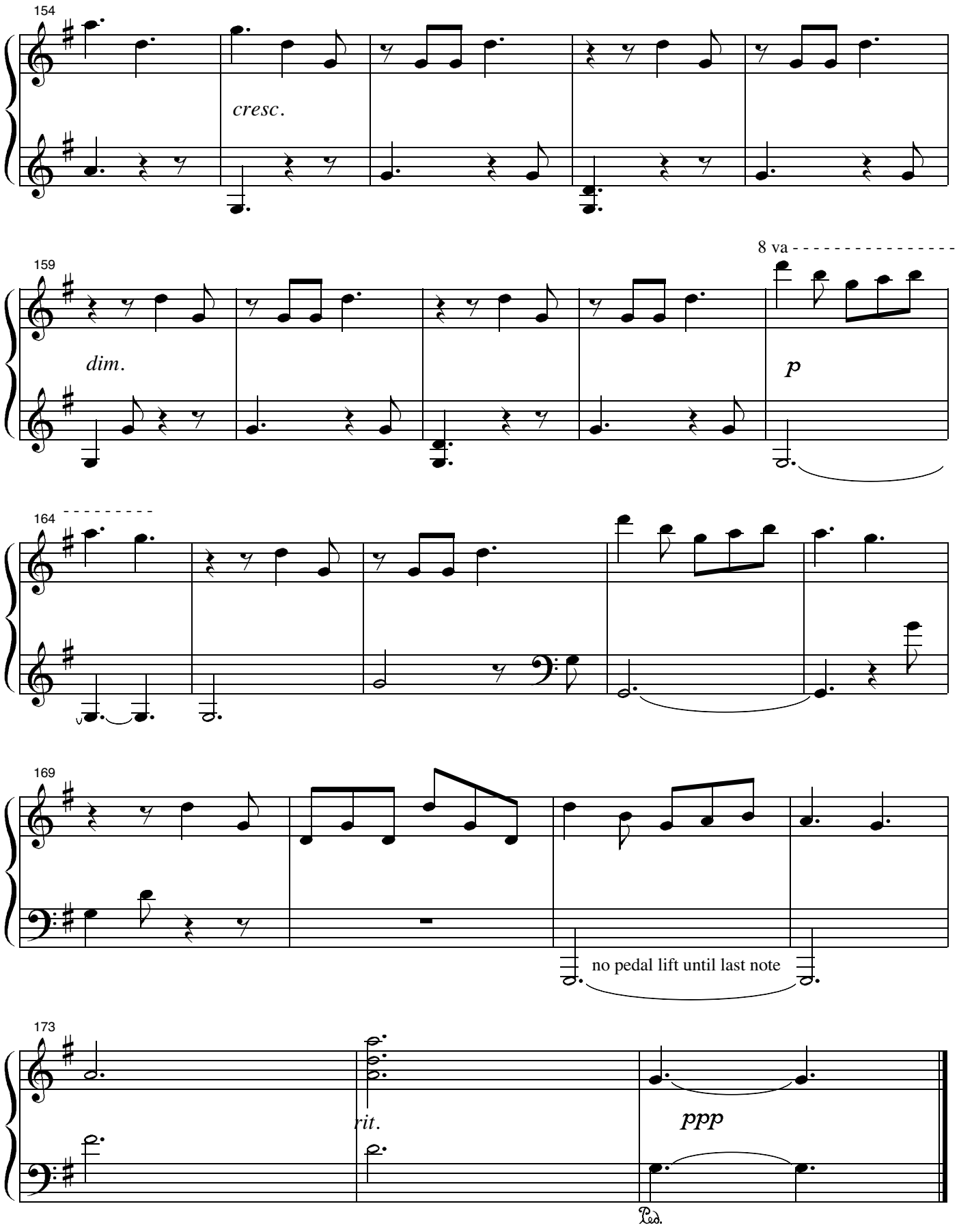

51
notes in parentheses optional
mf
L.H. option
55
cresc.
now for the chimes section
59
accent simile
mp
A♭
8 vb
63
might want to use A♭ at slower tempo
cresc.
8 vb
67
mf
8 vb


71
cresc.
75
f
simile
no pedal this measure
79
tr
83
cresc.
no pedal
87
important
cresc.
R.H. option
Ped.


change to a rock feel with a strong off-beat
91
ff
simile
simile
95
99
103
cresc.
8 va
107
sfz
simile
simile
optional


111
115
f
A♭
119
dim.
123
mf
127


131
bring out melody
135
mp
as before
139
p
A
144
A
mp
149
p


154
cresc.
159
dim.
8 va
p
164
169
no pedal lift until last note
173
rit.
ppp
Ped.

Side Notes:

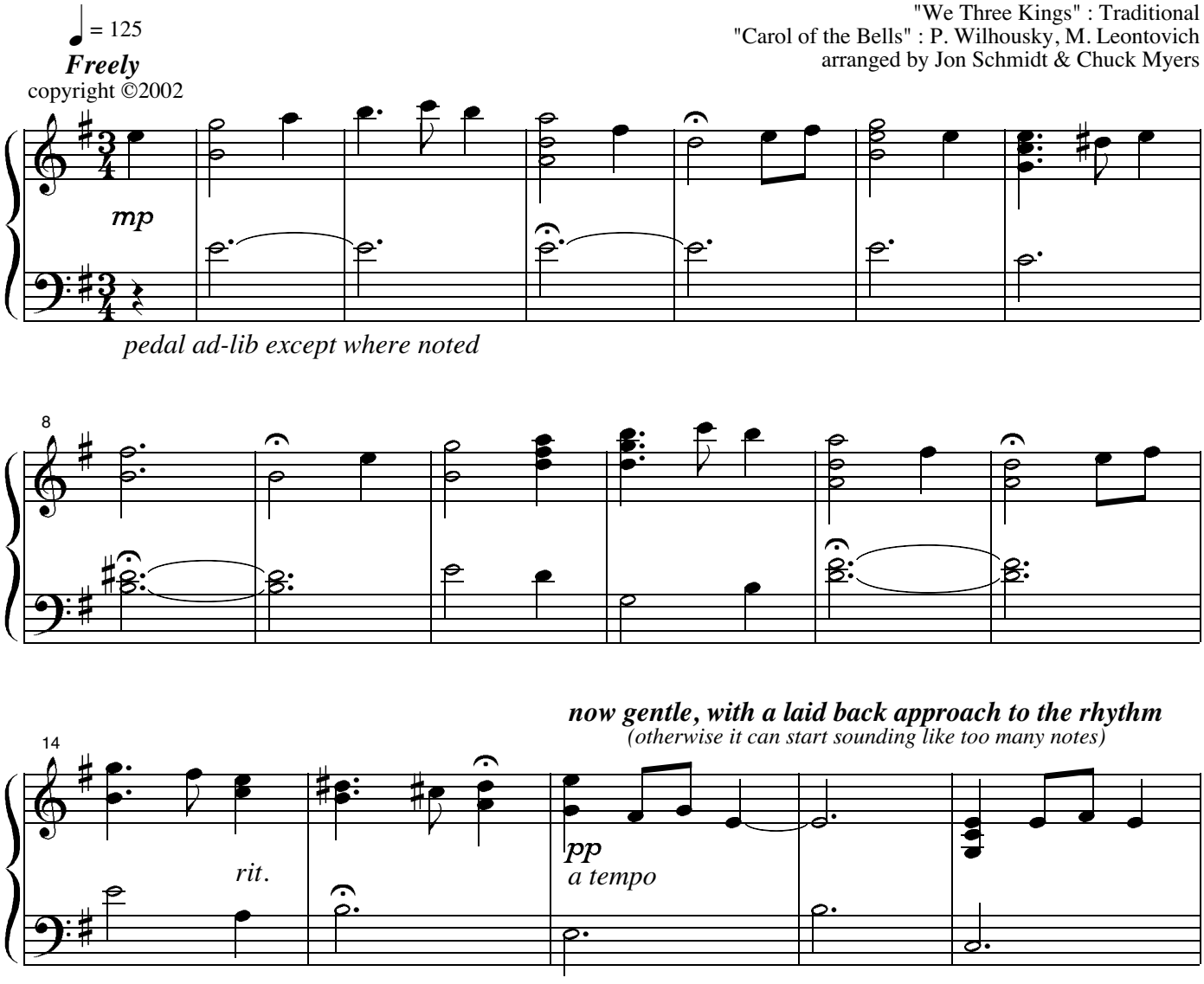
- *I had Simon & Garfunkle's famous tune: "Are you going to Scarborough Fair" in mind when I did this arrangement (for optimal performance, keep the feel of that song in mind).*

Helpful Hints:

- *Don't rush, period (the only possible exception might be on 3rd and long…but be careful of the screen or the quarterback draw).*

Christmas Medley

"What Child Is This" : Traditional
"We Three Kings" : Traditional
"Carol of the Bells" : P. Wilhousky, M. Leontovich
arranged by Jon Schmidt & Chuck Myers



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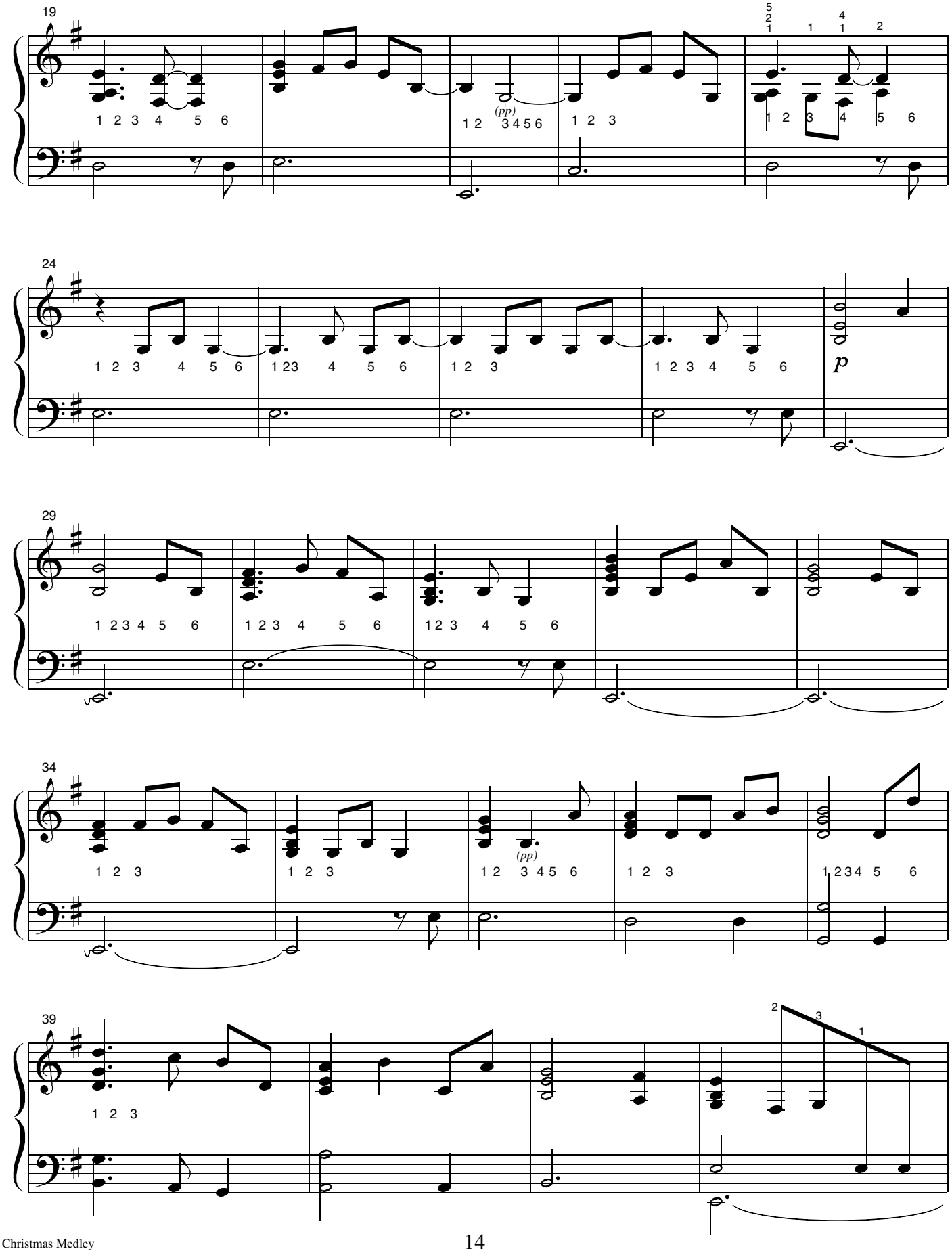
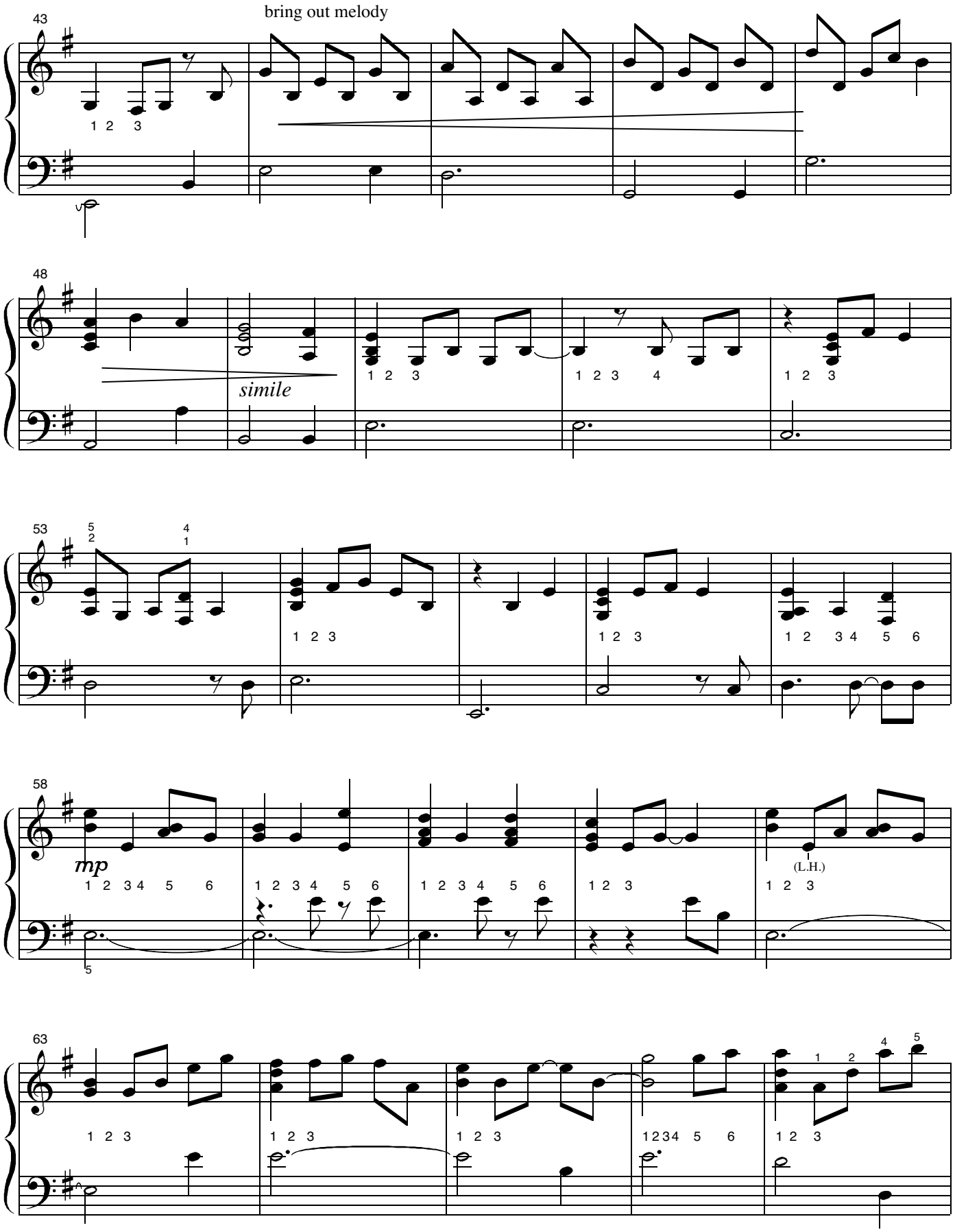
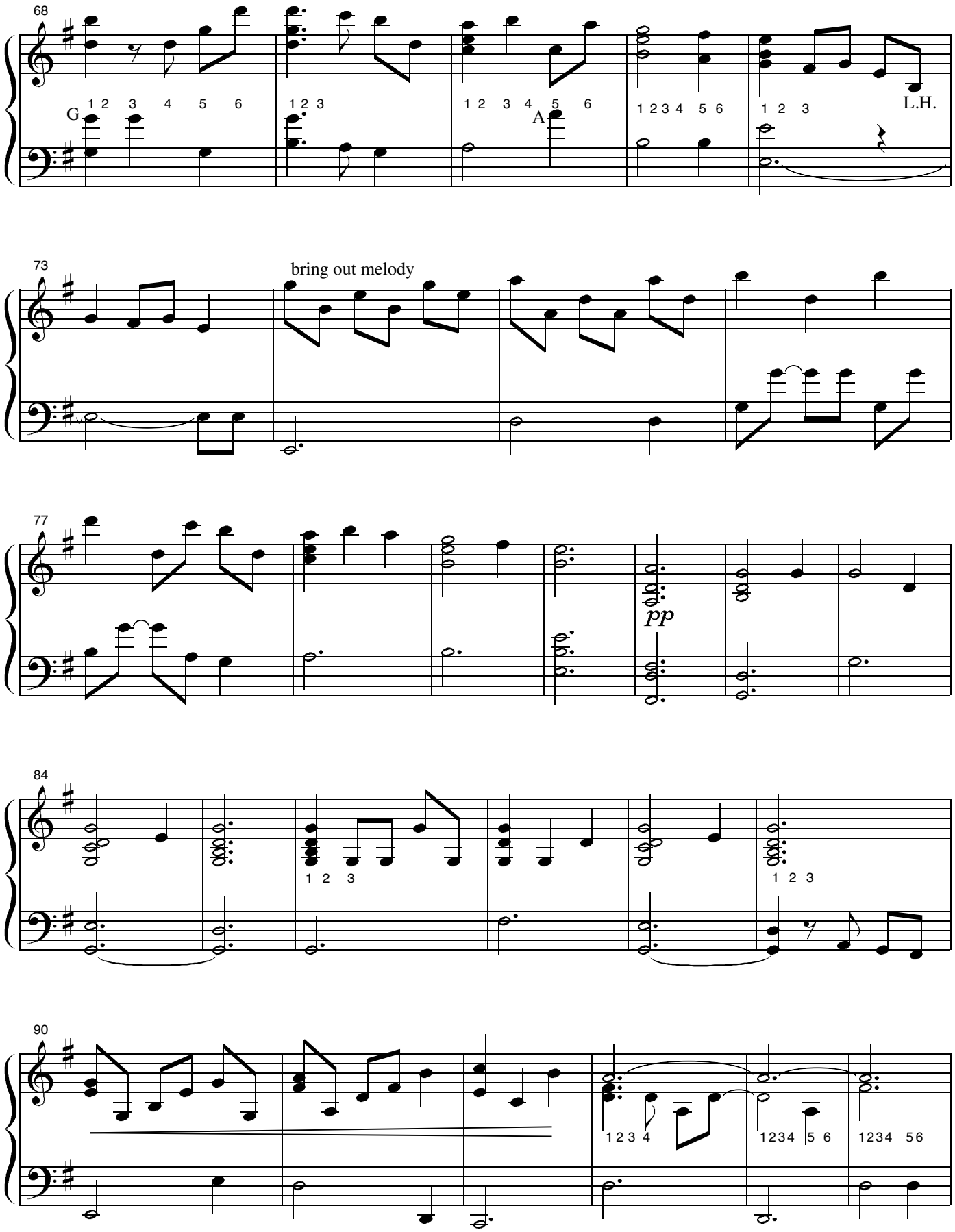
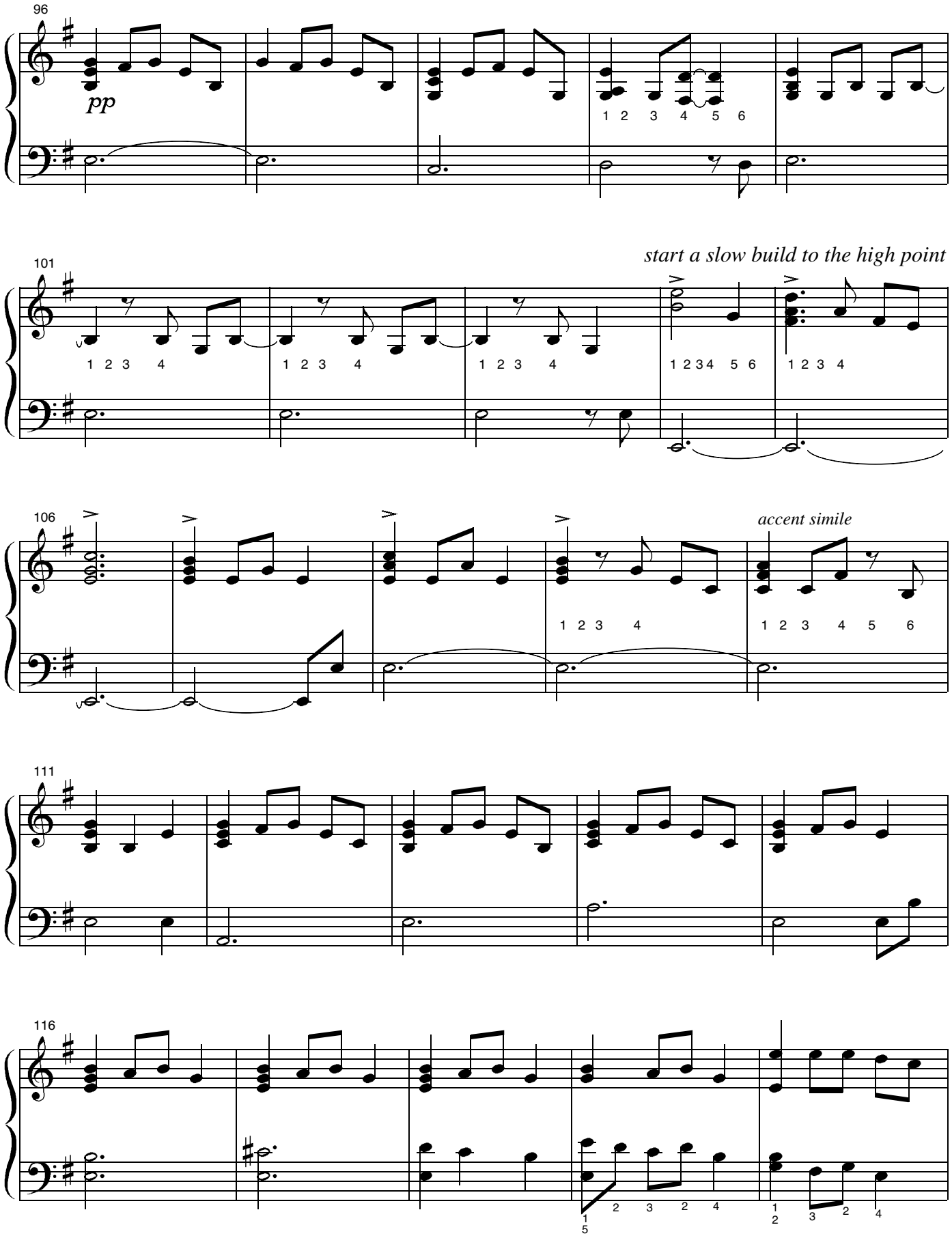
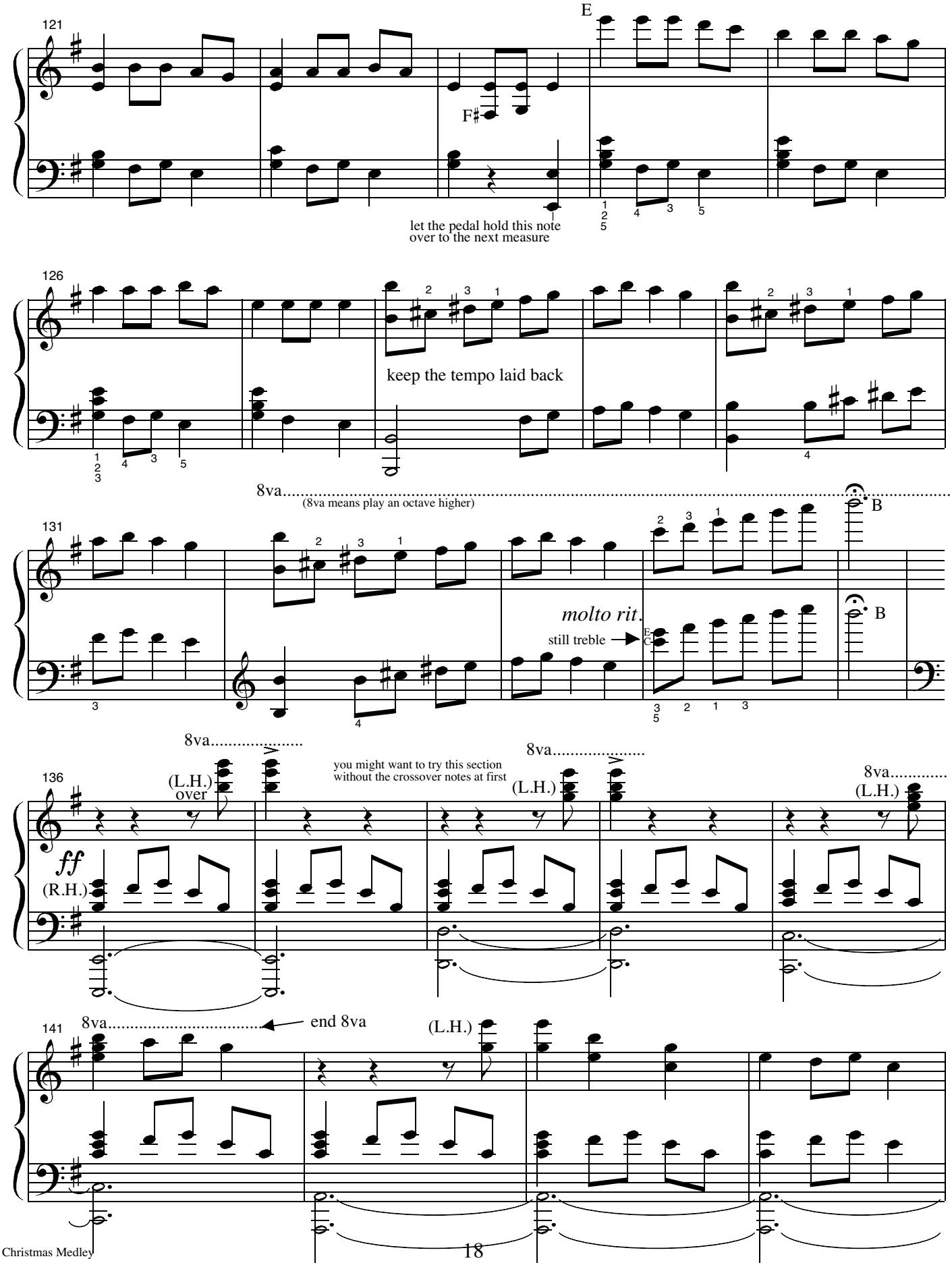
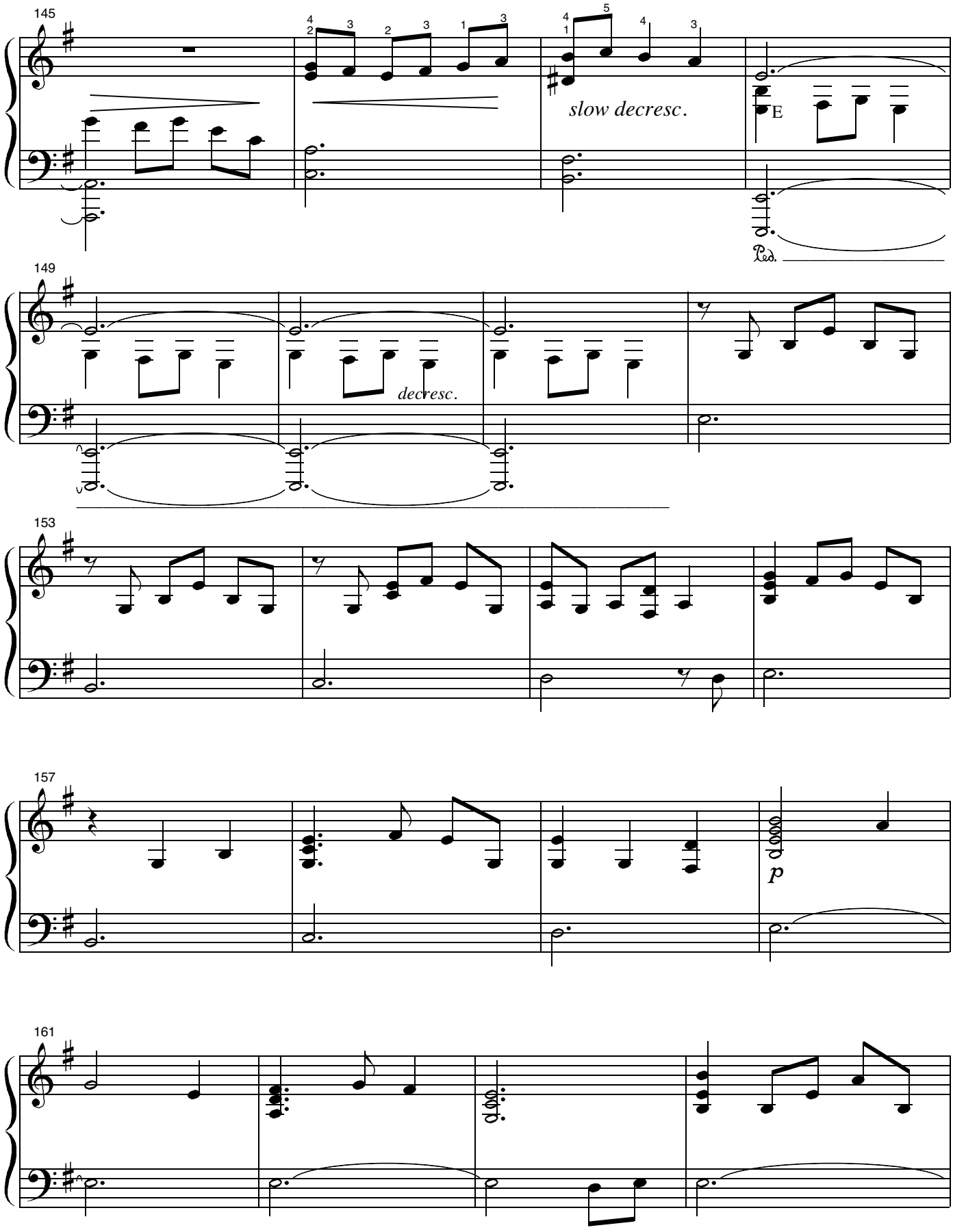

19
1 2 3 4 5 6
(pp)
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3
5 2 1
1 4 1 2
1 2 3 4 5 6
24
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 23 4 5 6
1 2 3
1 2 3 4 5 6
p
29
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4 5 6
34
1 2 3
1 2 3
(pp)
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3
1 2 3 4 5 6
39
1 2 3
2 3 1

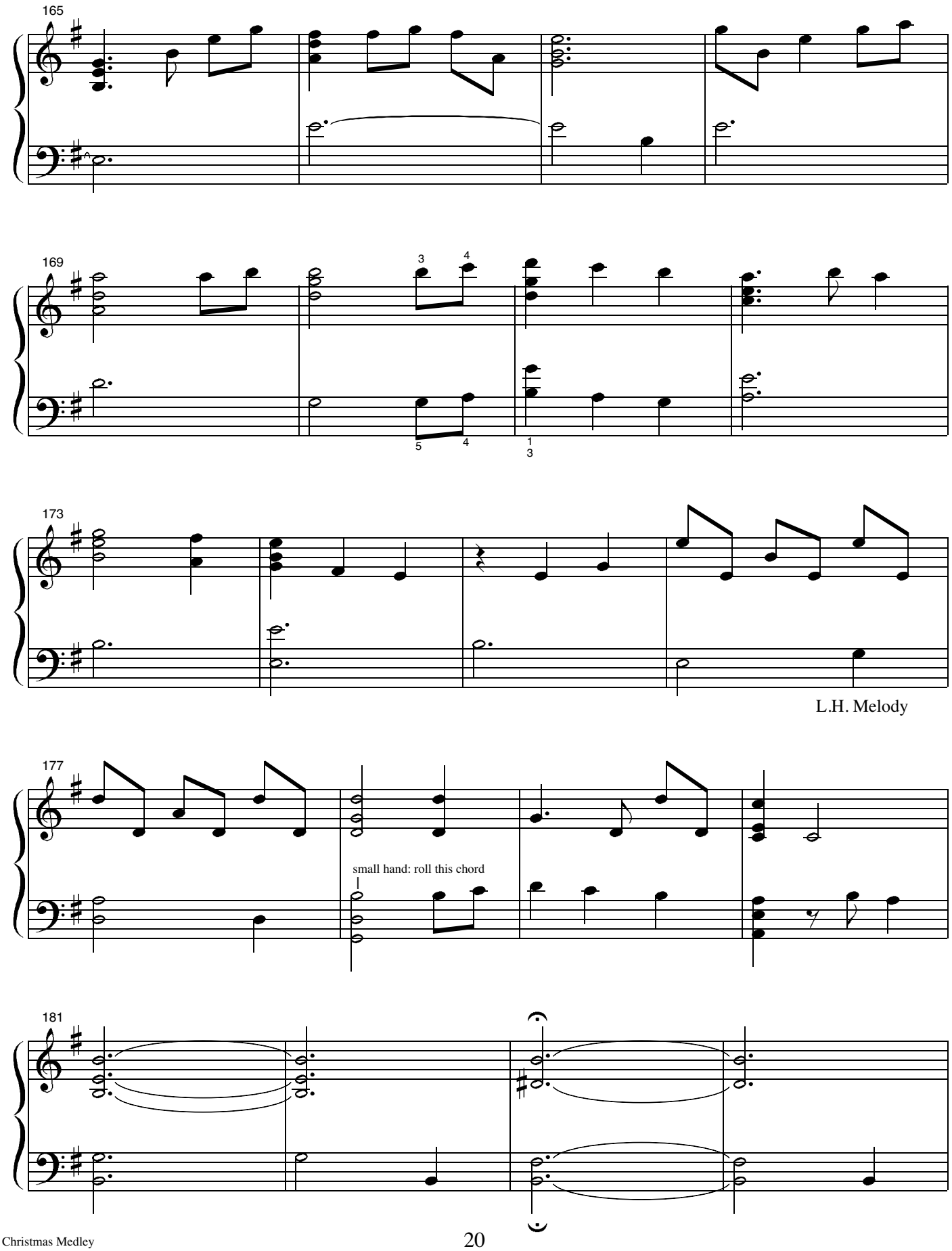

bring out melody
43
1 2 3
48
simile
1 2 3
1 2 3 4
1 2 3
53
1 2 3
1 2 3
1 2 3 4 5 6
58
mp
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3
(L.H.)
1 2 3
63
1 2 3
1 2 3
1 2 3
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3

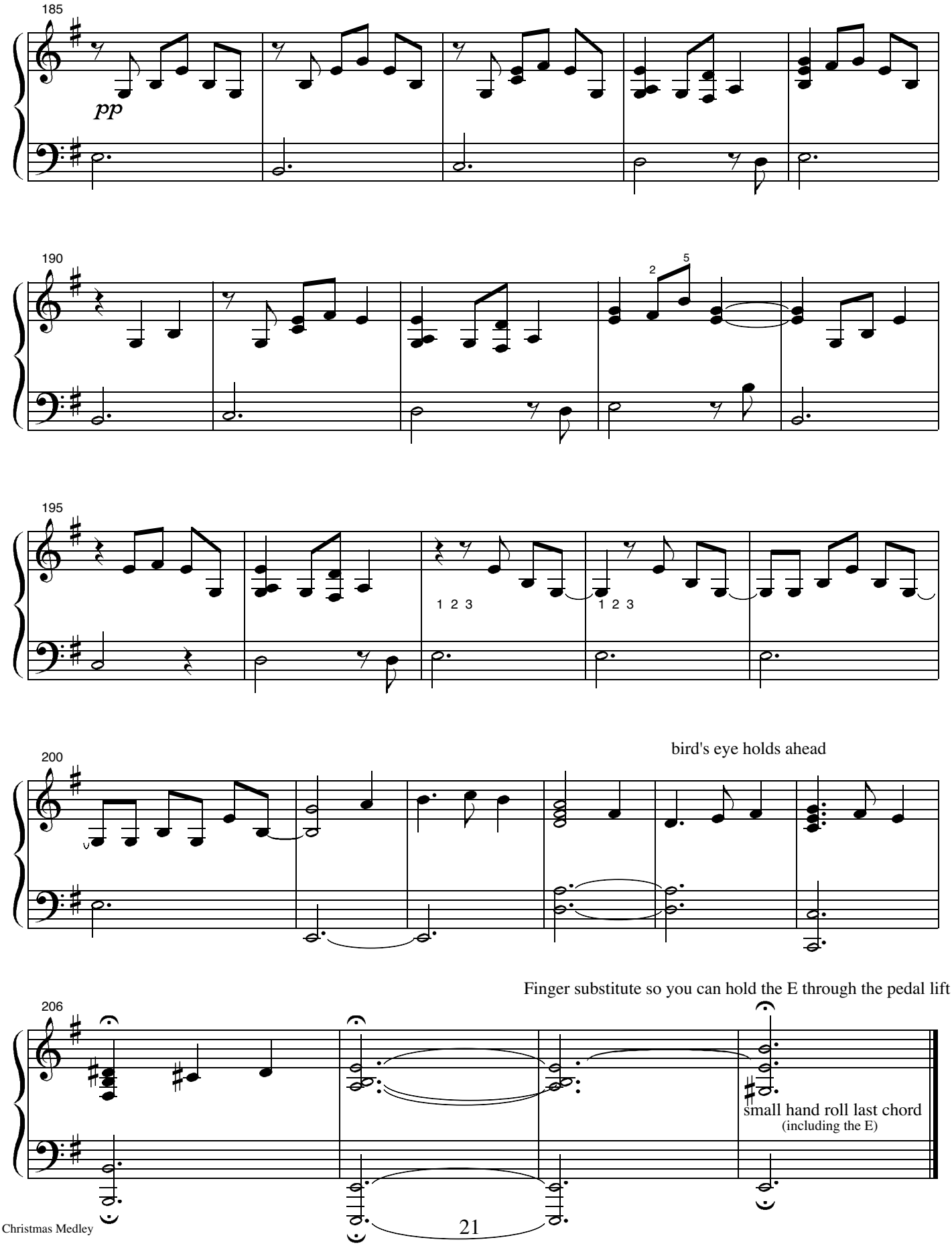

68
G
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3
1 2 3 4 5 6
A
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3
L.H.
73
bring out melody
77
pp
84
1 2 3
1 2 3
90
1 2 3 4
1234 5 6
1234 56


96
pp
1 2 3 4 5 6
start a slow build to the high point
101
1 2 3 4
1 2 3 4
1 2 3 4
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4
106
accent simile
1 2 3 4
1 2 3 4 5 6
111
116
1 2 3 2 4
1 2 3 2 4


121
E
F♯
let the pedal hold this note
over to the next measure
126
keep the tempo laid back
8va
(8va means play an octave higher)
131
B
molto rit.
still treble
B
8va
(L.H.)
over
you might want to try this section
without the crossover notes at first
8va
(L.H.)
8va
(L.H.)
136
ff
(R.H.)
141
8va
end 8va
(L.H.)


145
slow decresc.
E
Ped.
149
decresc.
153
157
p
161


165
169
3
4
5
4
1
3
173
L.H. Melody
177
small hand: roll this chord
181


185
pp
190
2
5
195
1 2 3
1 2 3
200
bird's eye holds ahead
206
Finger substitute so you can hold the E through the pedal lift
small hand roll last chord
(including the E)

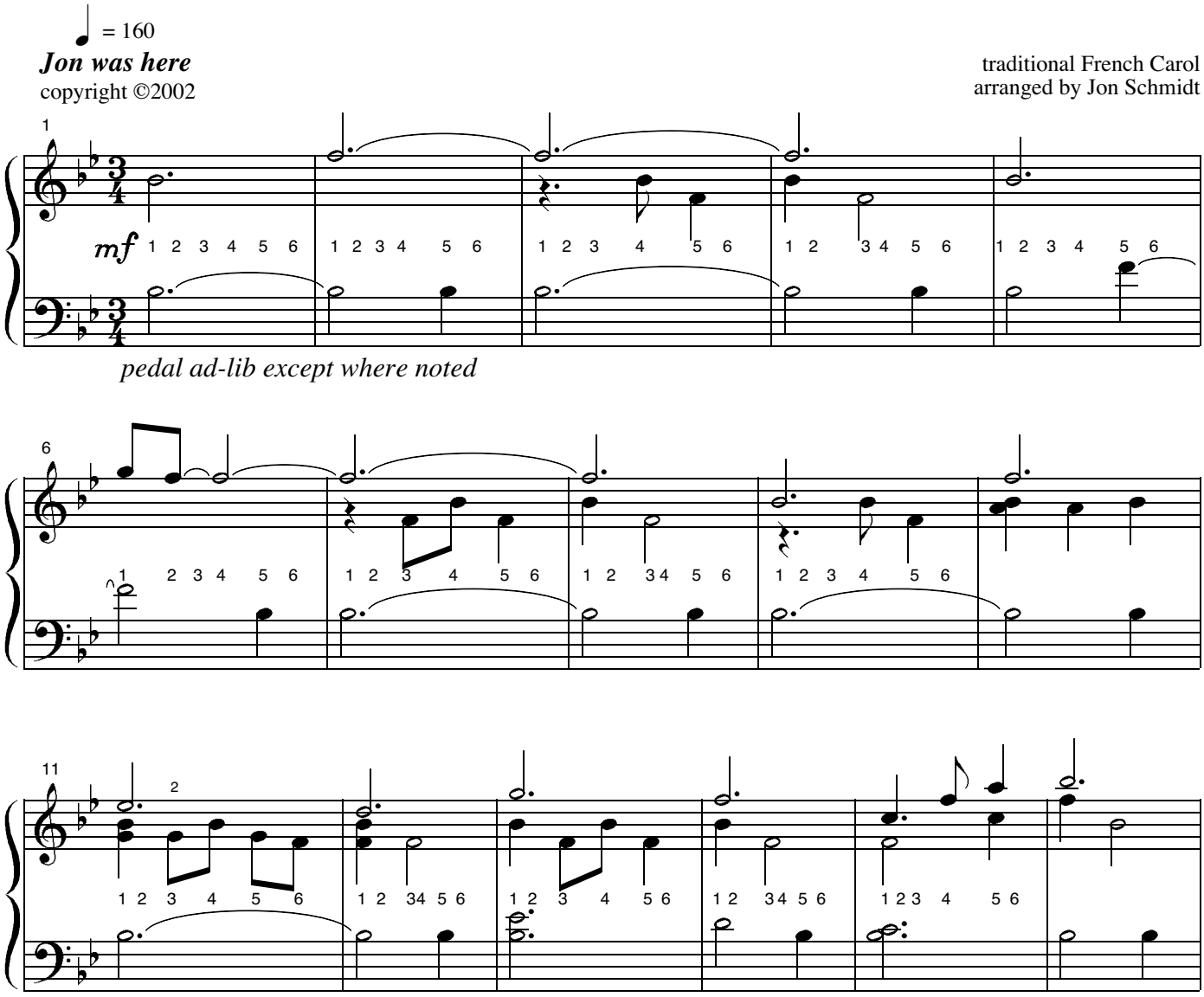
Side Notes:

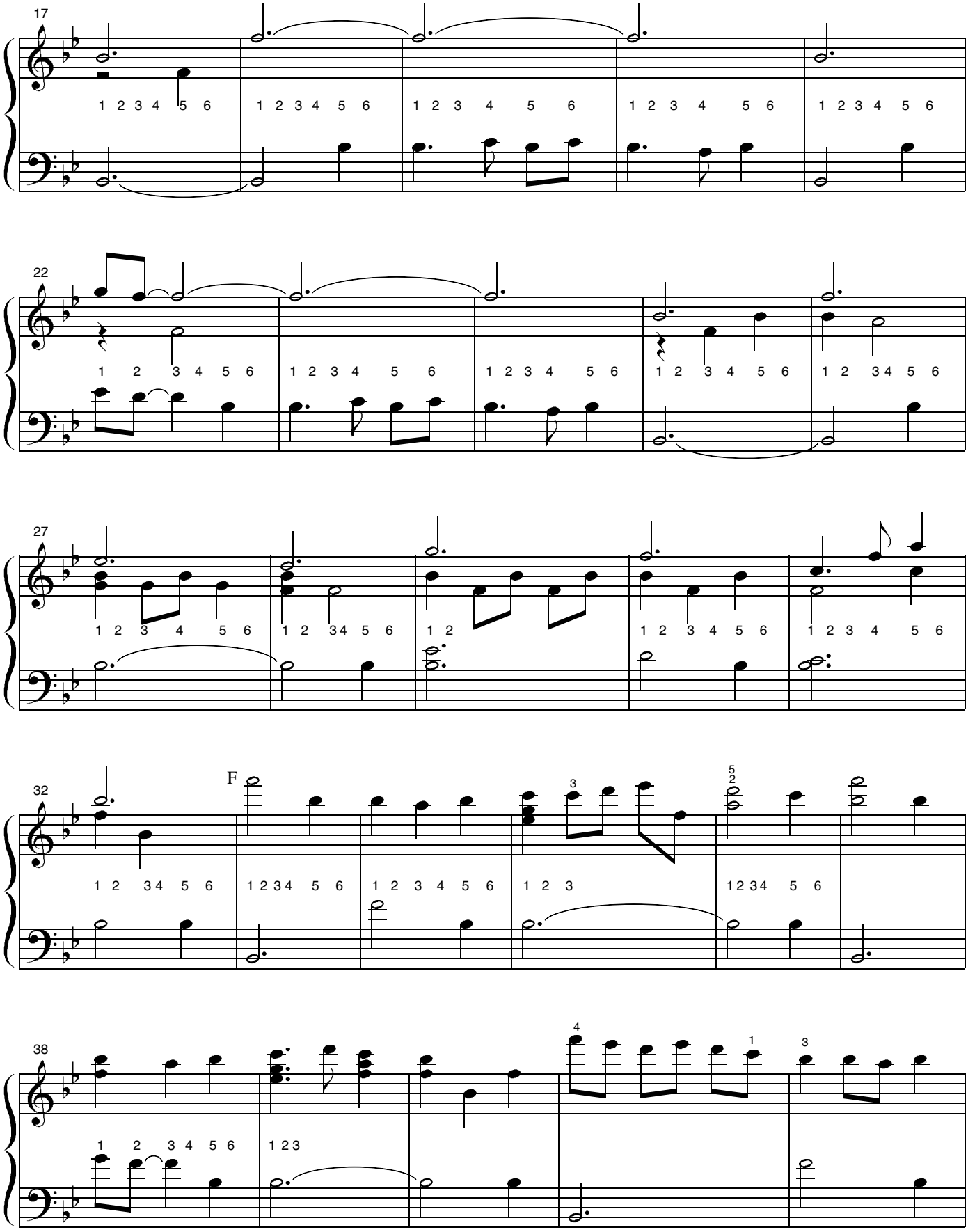
- *The orchestrated version of this arrangement as well as a free four hour collection of my music can be heard for free at mp3.com/jonschmidt. By listening to this collection you can actually push me higher in the daily mp3 charts for the whole world to see! (This message may be copied for home or incidental use.)*

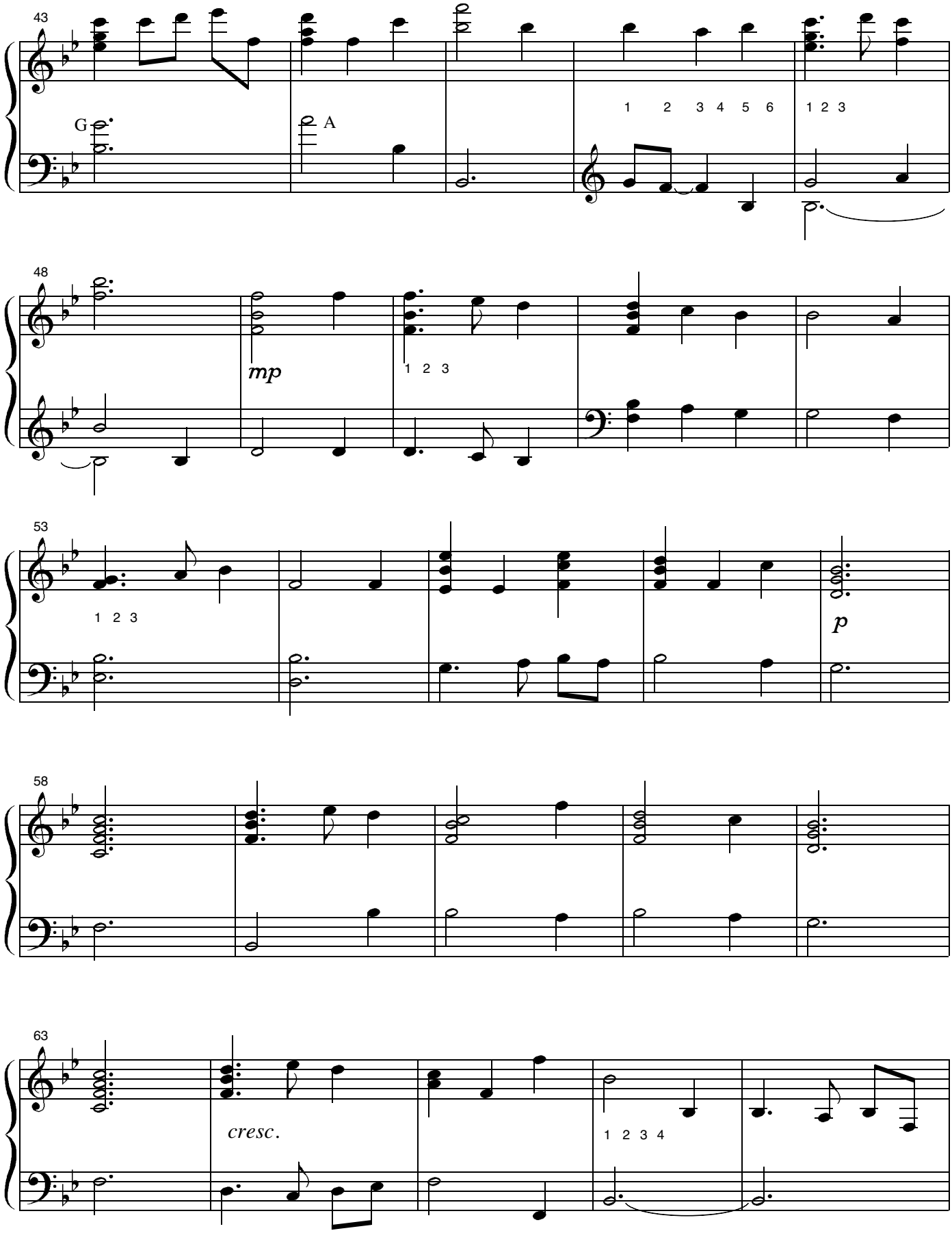
Helpful Hints:

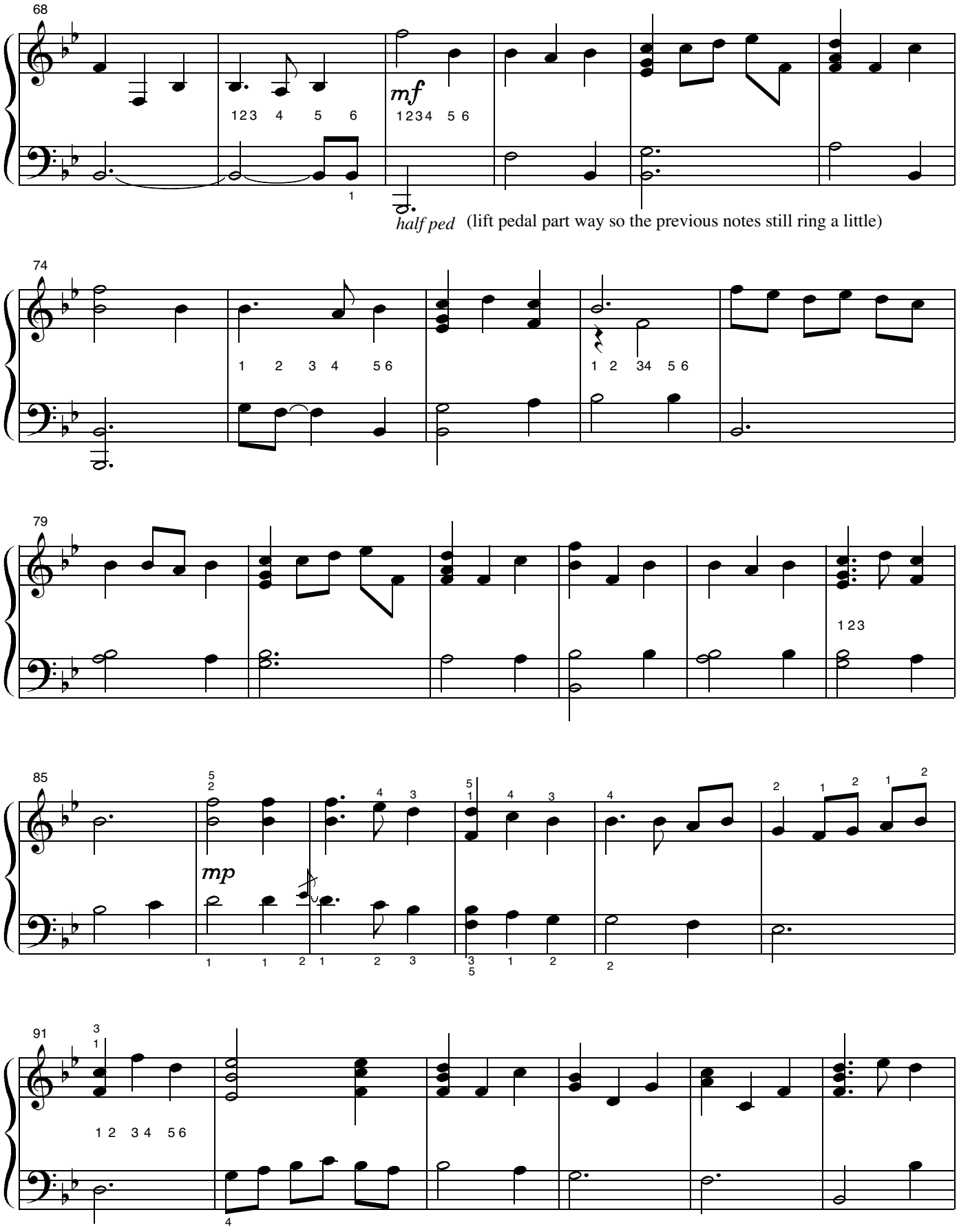
- *For a better first impression, start learning this song at measure 33. (Also avoid body piercing and wild hair dos.)*

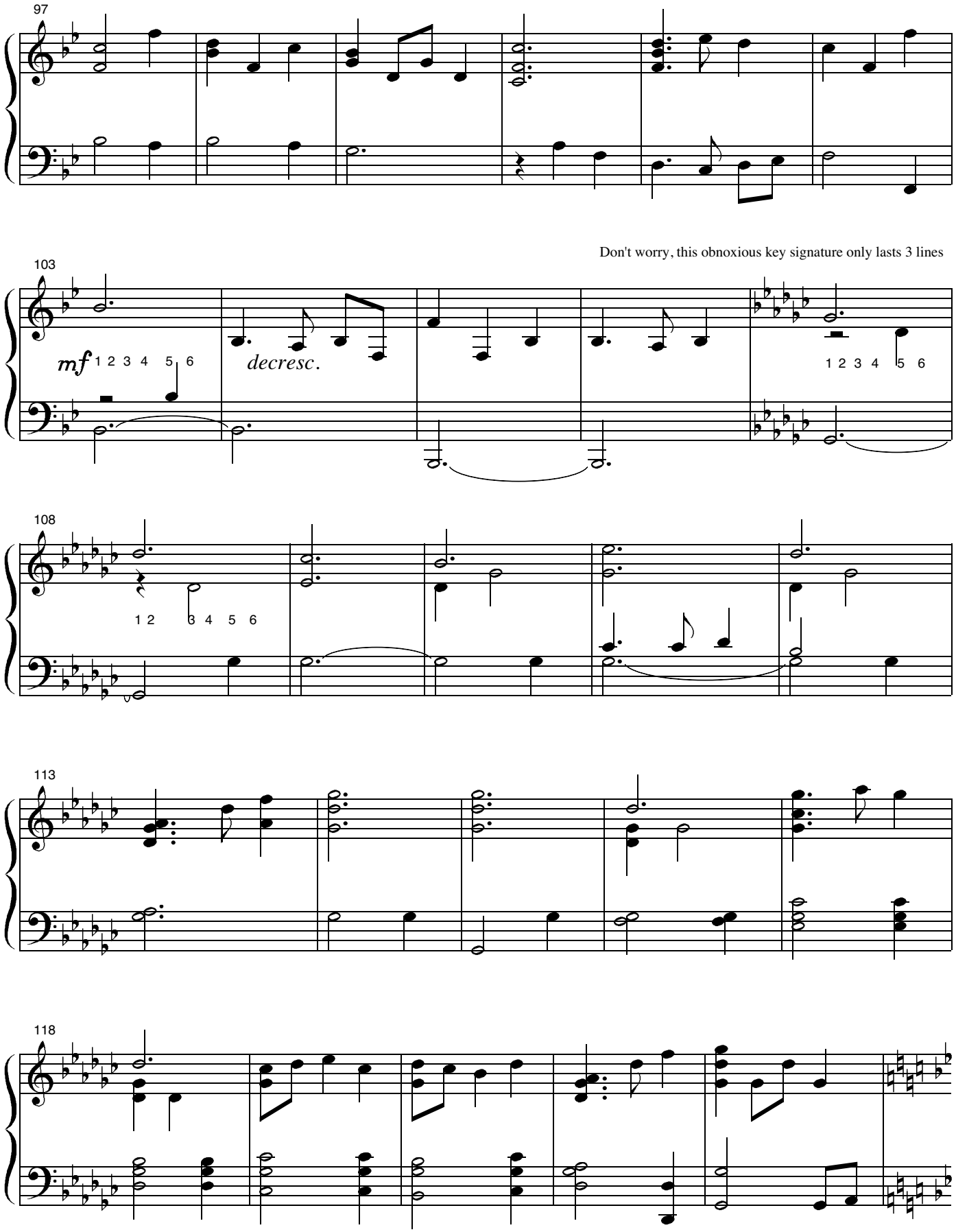
Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

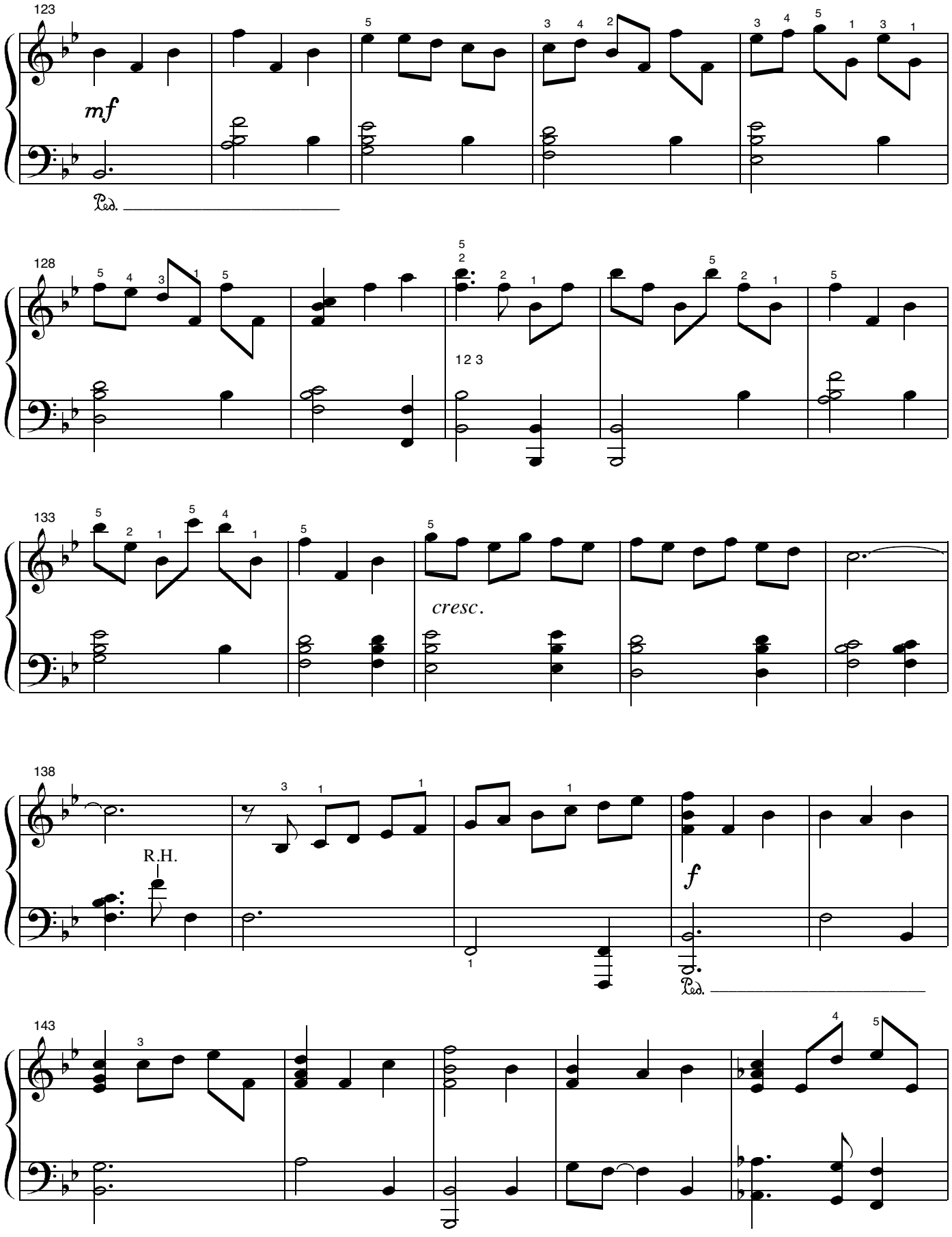


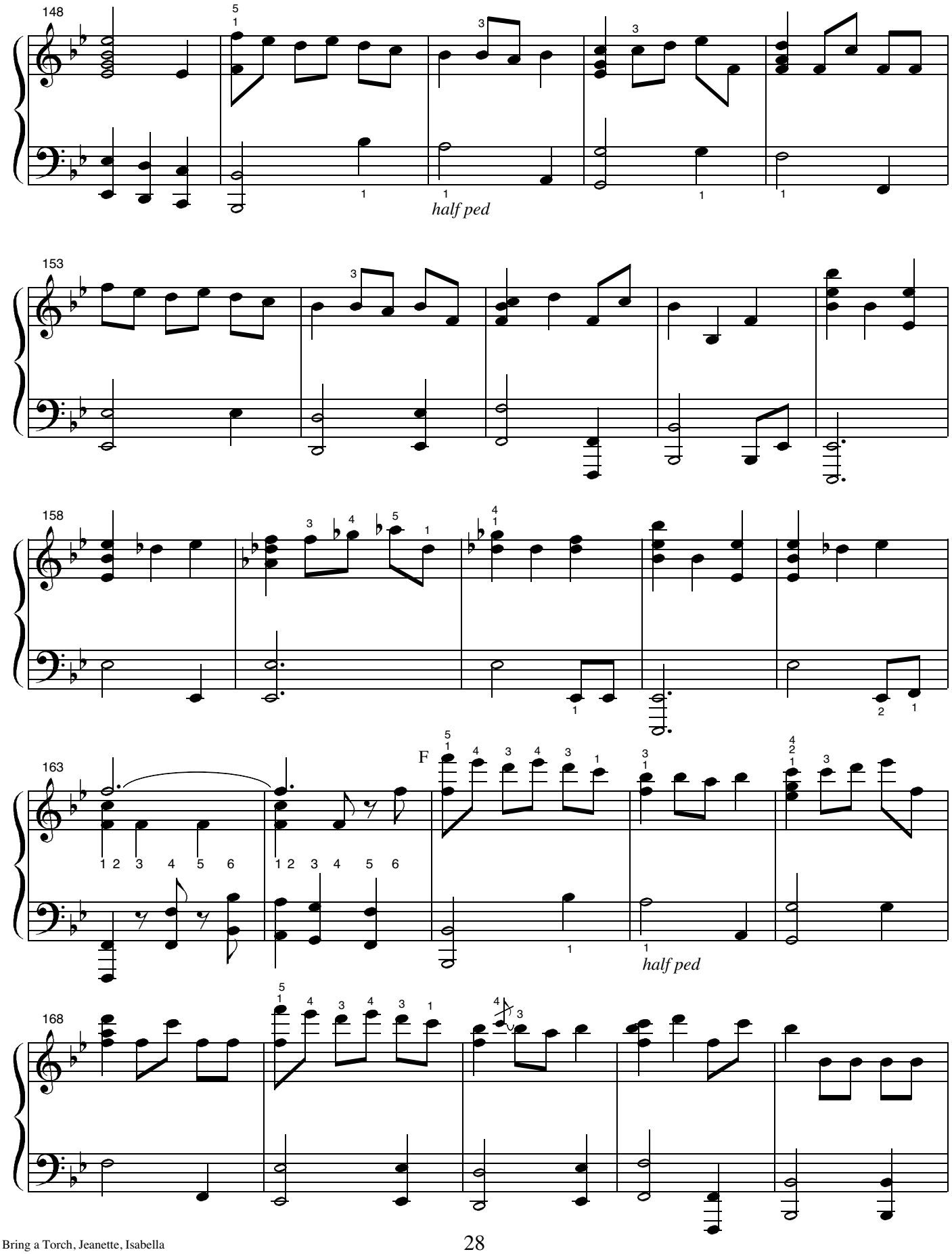

17
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4 5 6
22
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4 5 6
27
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4 5 6
32
F
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3
1 2 3 4 5 6
38
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3

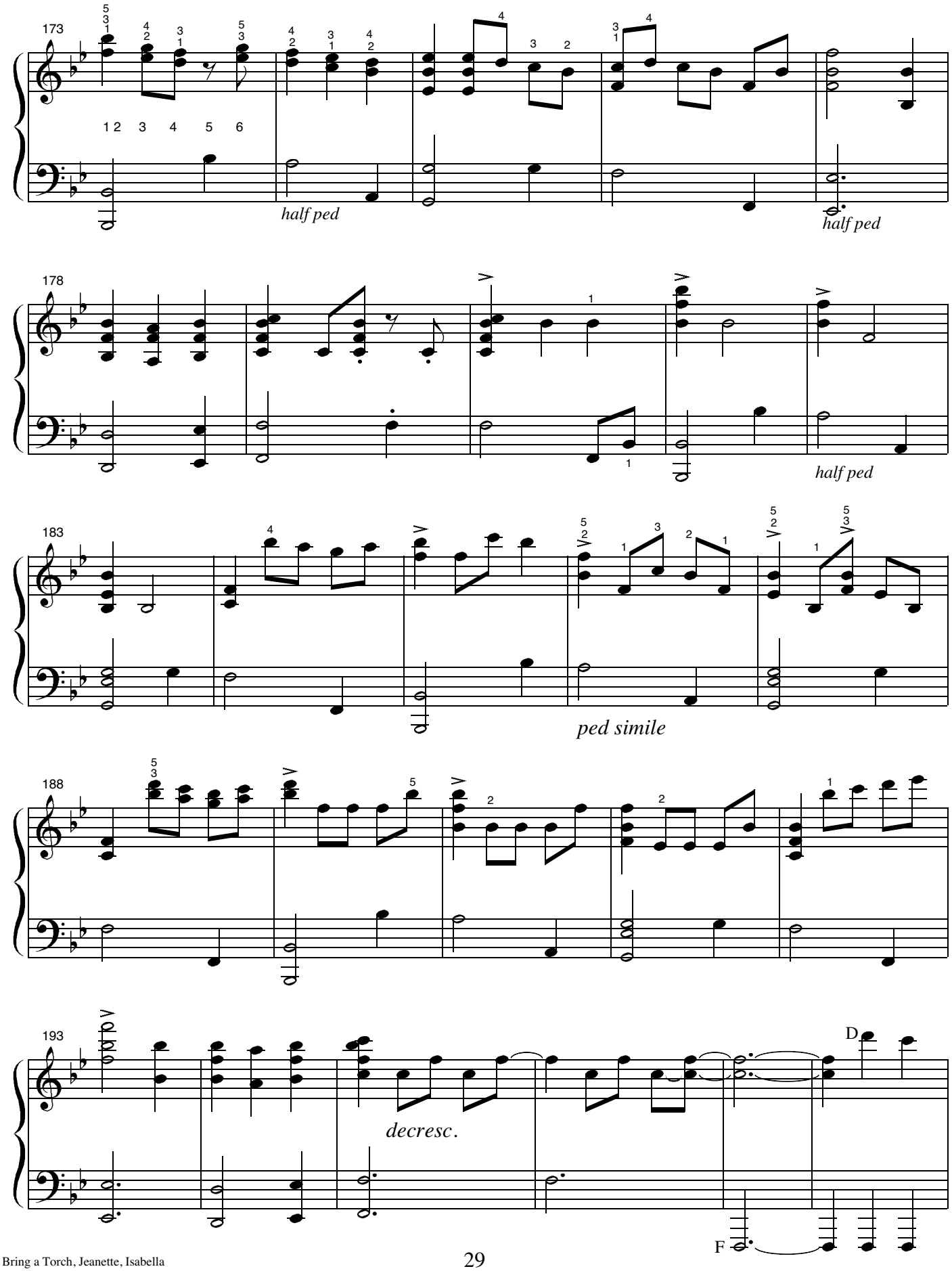

43
G
A
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3
48
mp
1 2 3
53
1 2 3
p
58
63
cresc.
1 2 3 4

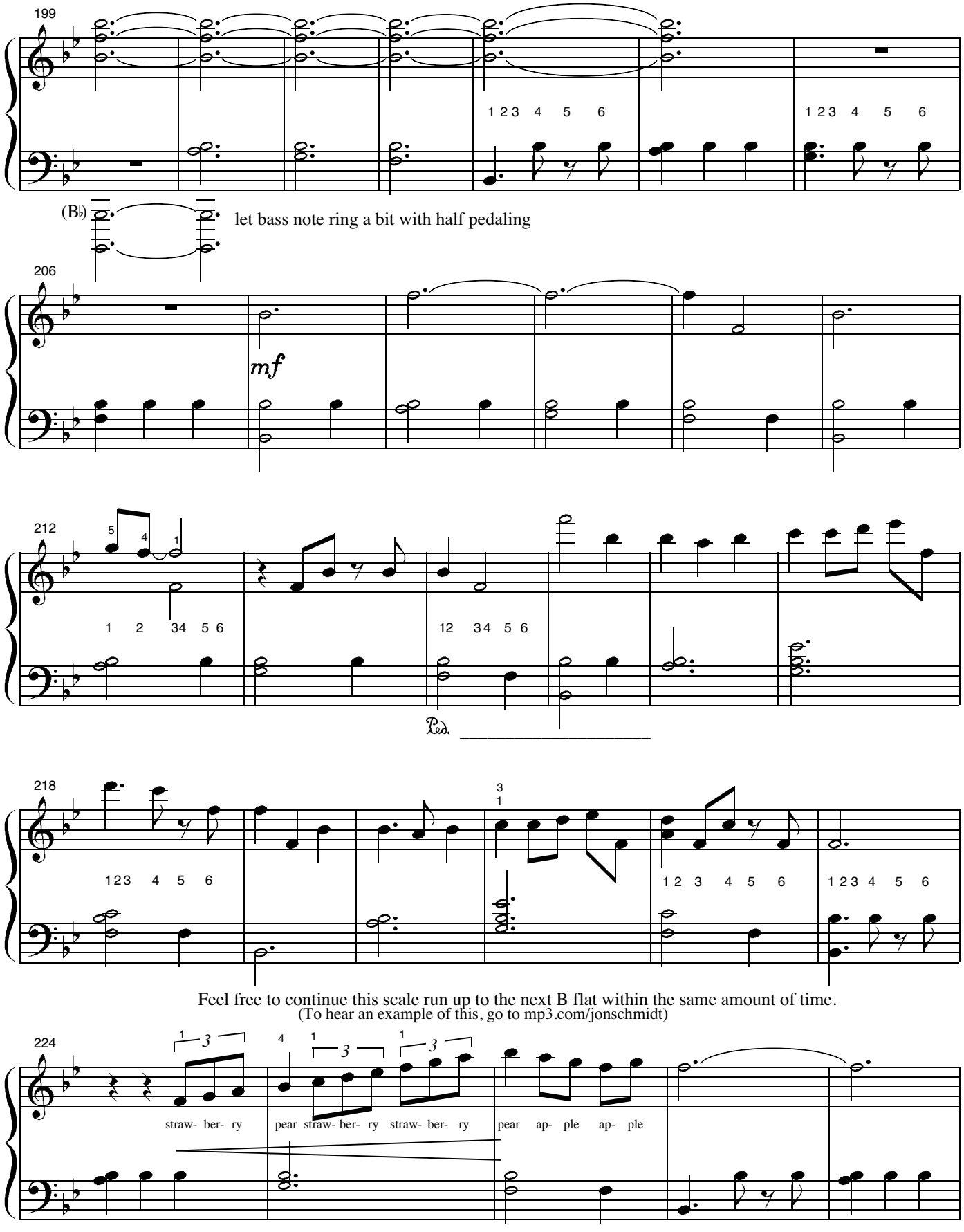

68
mf
half ped (lift pedal part way so the previous notes still ring a little)
74
79
85
mp
91

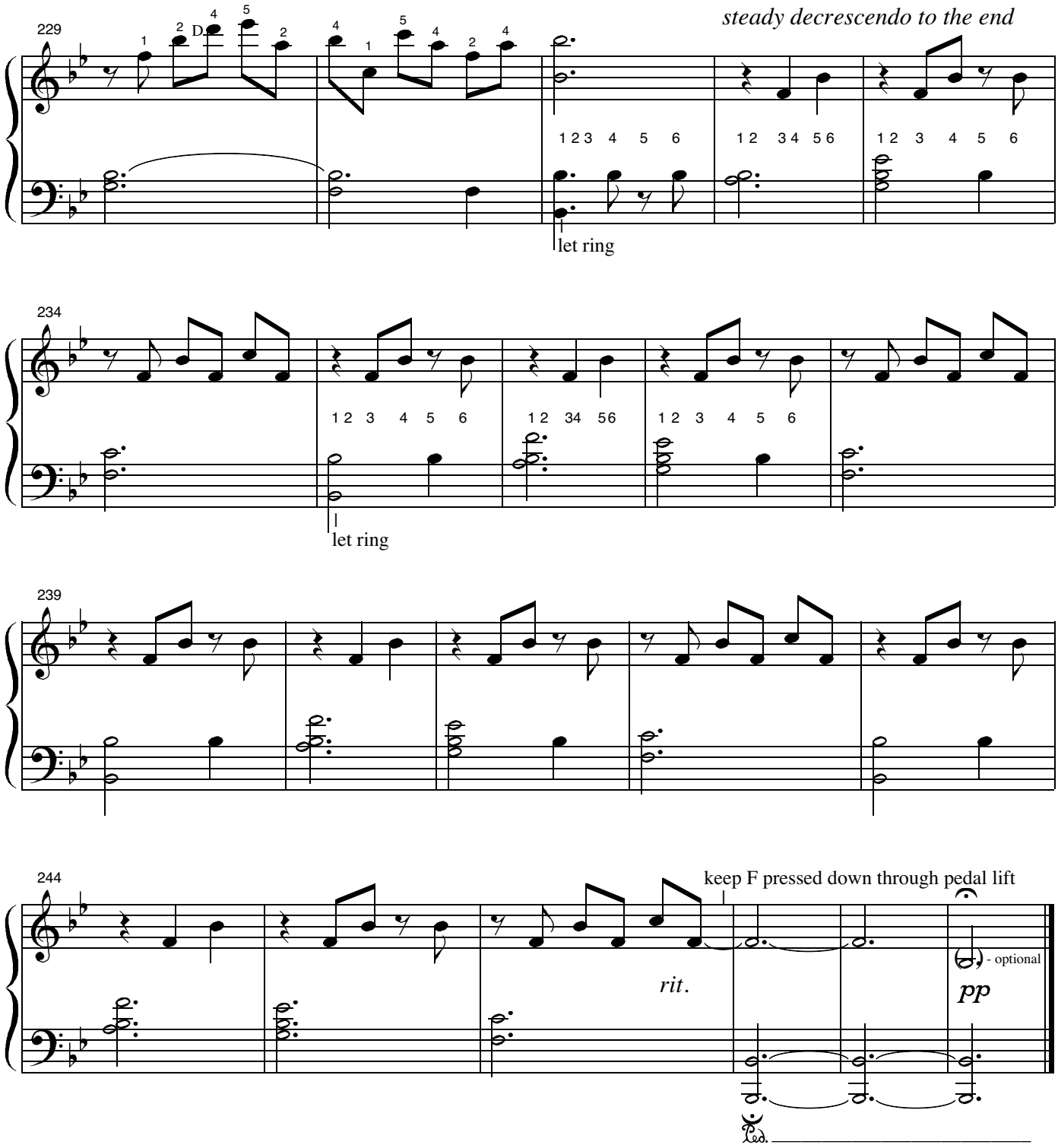

97
Don't worry, this obnoxious key signature only lasts 3 lines
103
mf 1 2 3 4 5 6
decresc.
1 2 3 4 5 6
108
1 2 3 4 5 6
113
118


123
mf
Ped.
128
1 2 3
133
cresc.
138
R.H.
f
Ped.
143


148
half ped
153
158
163
F
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4 5 6
half ped
168


173
1 2 3 4 5 6
half ped
half ped
178
half ped
183
ped simile
188
193
decresc.
D
F


199
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4 5 6
(B♭)
let bass note ring a bit with half pedaling
206
mf
212
5
4
1
1 2 34 5 6
12 34 5 6
Ped.
218
3
1
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4 5 6
1 2 3 4 5 6
Feel free to continue this scale run up to the next B flat within the same amount of time.
(To hear an example of this, go to mp3.com/jonschmidt)
224
straw- ber- ry
pear straw- ber- ry straw- ber- ry
pear ap- ple ap- ple


steady decrescendo to the end
229
let ring
234
let ring
239
244
keep F pressed down through pedal lift
rit.
- optional
pp

Side Notes:

- *This lesser-known choral piece is my favorite Christmas Carol of all. In my opinion, the harmonies and chord progressions Alfred Burt originally used are too brilliant to change. Thus, the first and third verse remain true to Burt's original score. Only the second verse and the ending have been altered.*
- *Performance options:*
  1: Have a solo instrument double the melody on the first verse, let the piano take a solo on the second verse, then let the solo instrument join back in playing the descant on the last verse.
  2: If you have a low enough alto voice, you could play the first 2 verses solo piano. Then, on the last verse, let your voice join in with a soft "ahh" or "ooo" on the descant part.
  3: If you can sing high and soft you could do the 2nd option singing the descant up an octave. (This is how it is on the album.)

Helpful Hints:

- *Be careful not to rush…it will take the beauty right out of the song.*

Star Carol

♩ = 65-75
very sensitively
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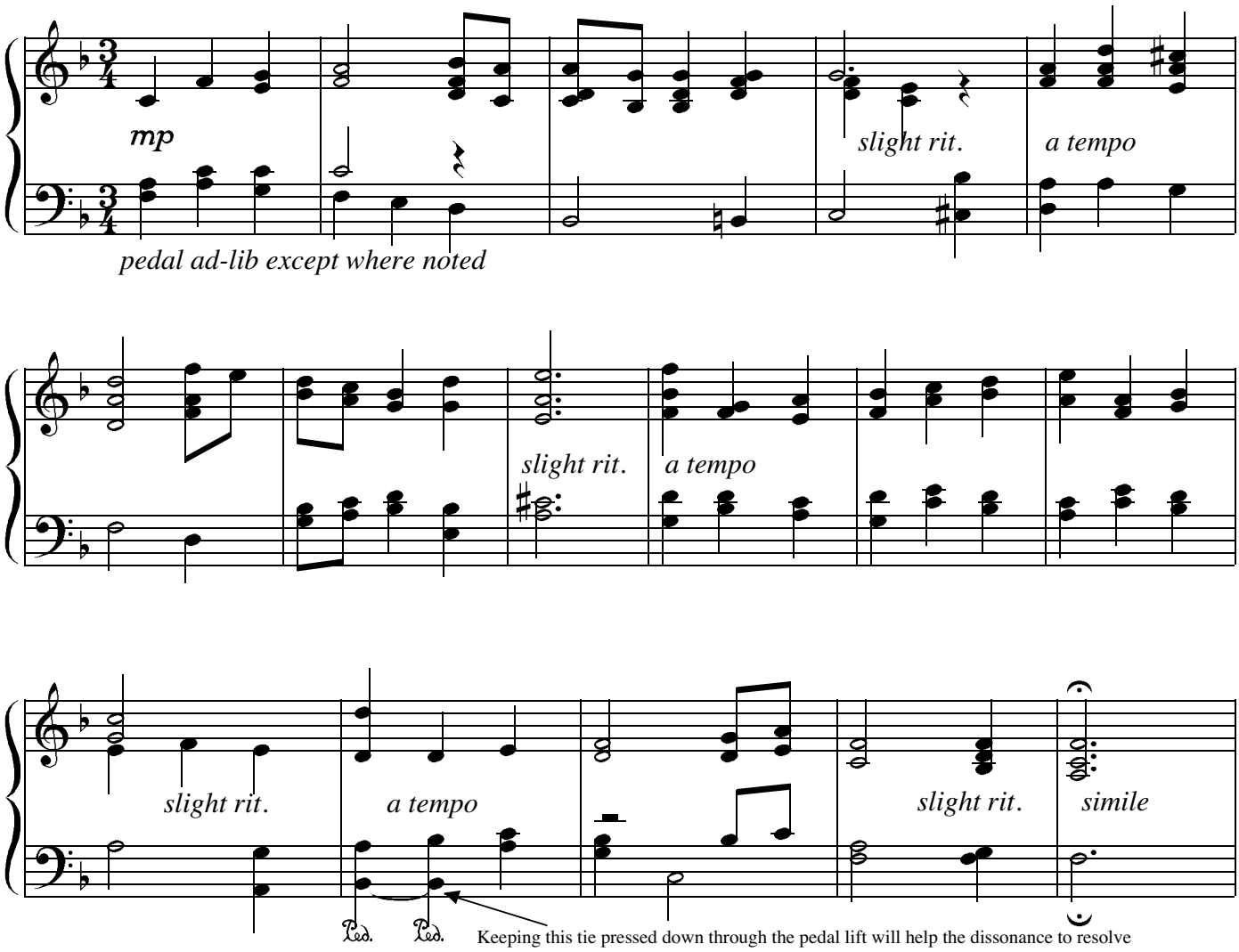
written by A. Burt
arranged by Jon Schmidt



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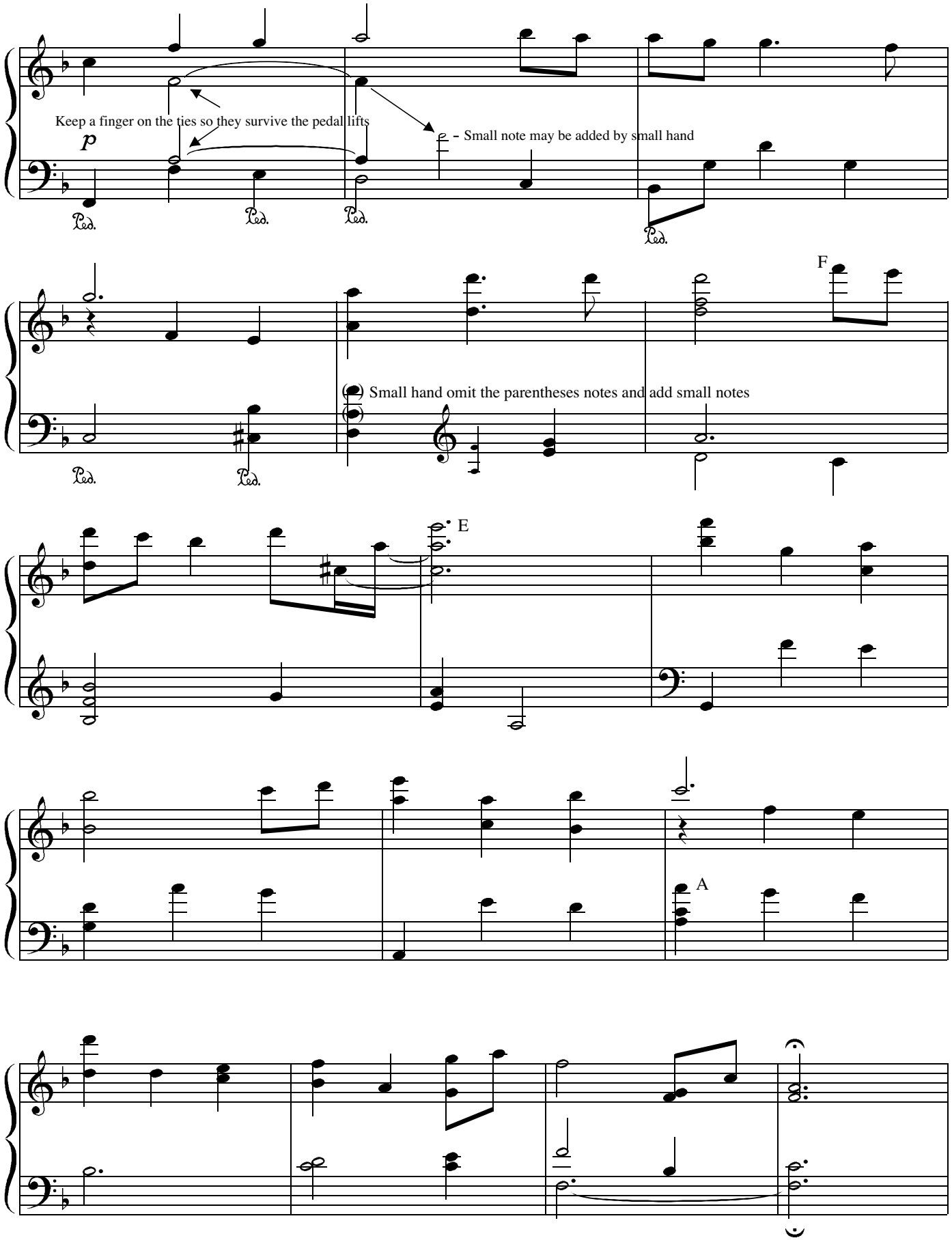
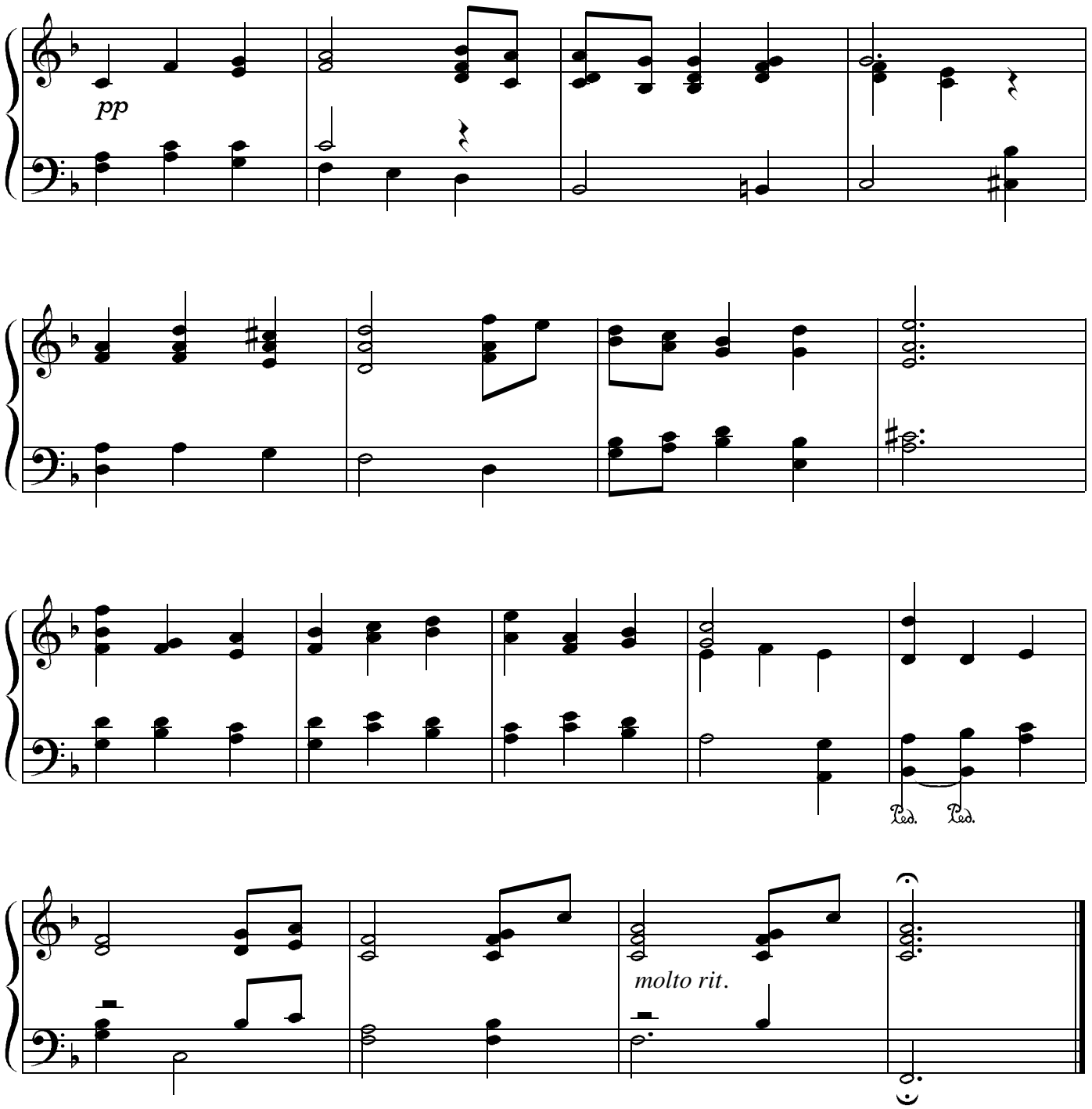
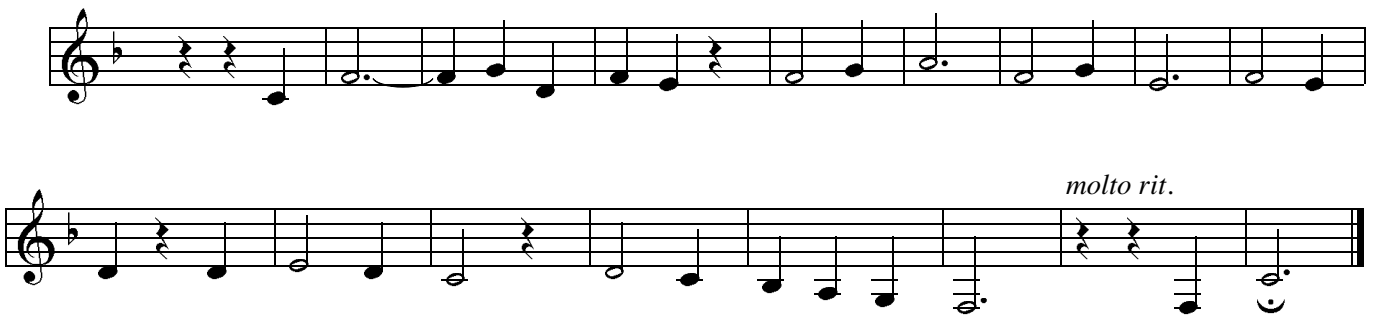

Keep a finger on the ties so they survive the pedal lifts
p
Small note may be added by small hand
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
F
Small hand omit the parentheses notes and add small notes
Ped.
Ped.
E
A

(See bottom for optional 3rd verse descant)



Optional 3rd verse descant part for solo instrument or voice (may be transposed up an octave if needed)



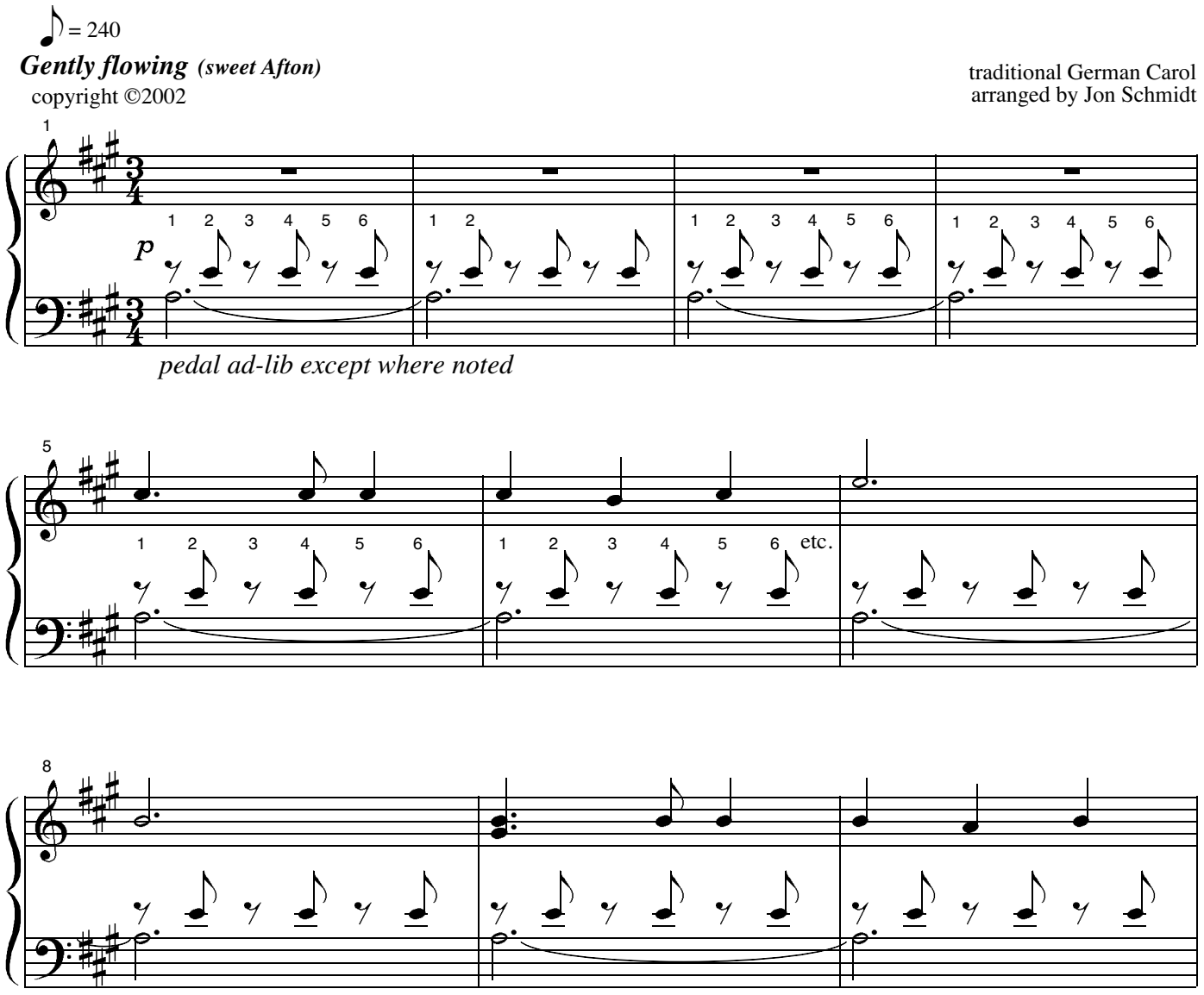
Side Notes:

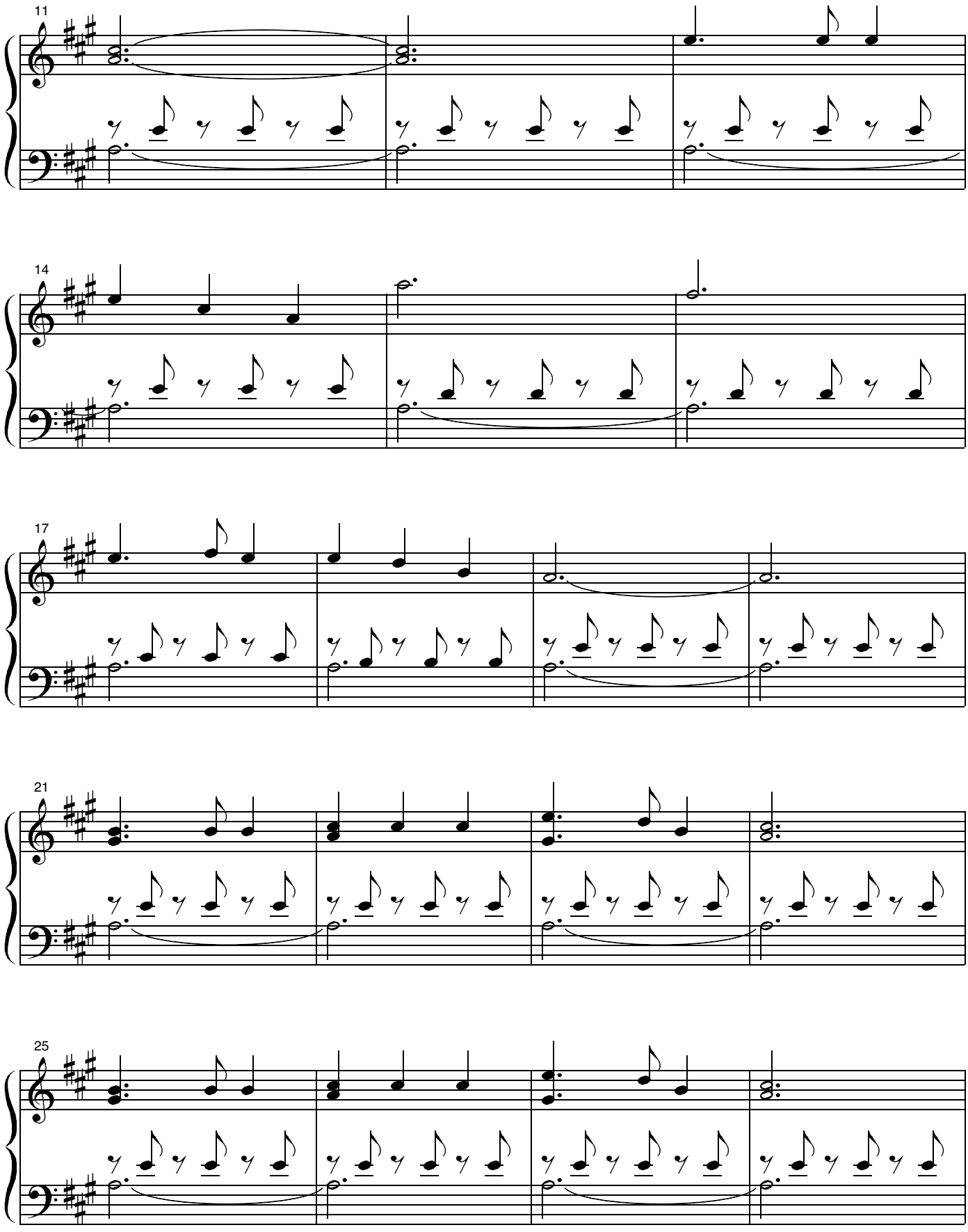
- *Having immigrant parents, I grew up with many of the beautiful German Christmas carols. This is one of my favorites.*
- *Performance option:*
  The left hand may be played in the key of 3 flats if desired (it may not sound very good though).

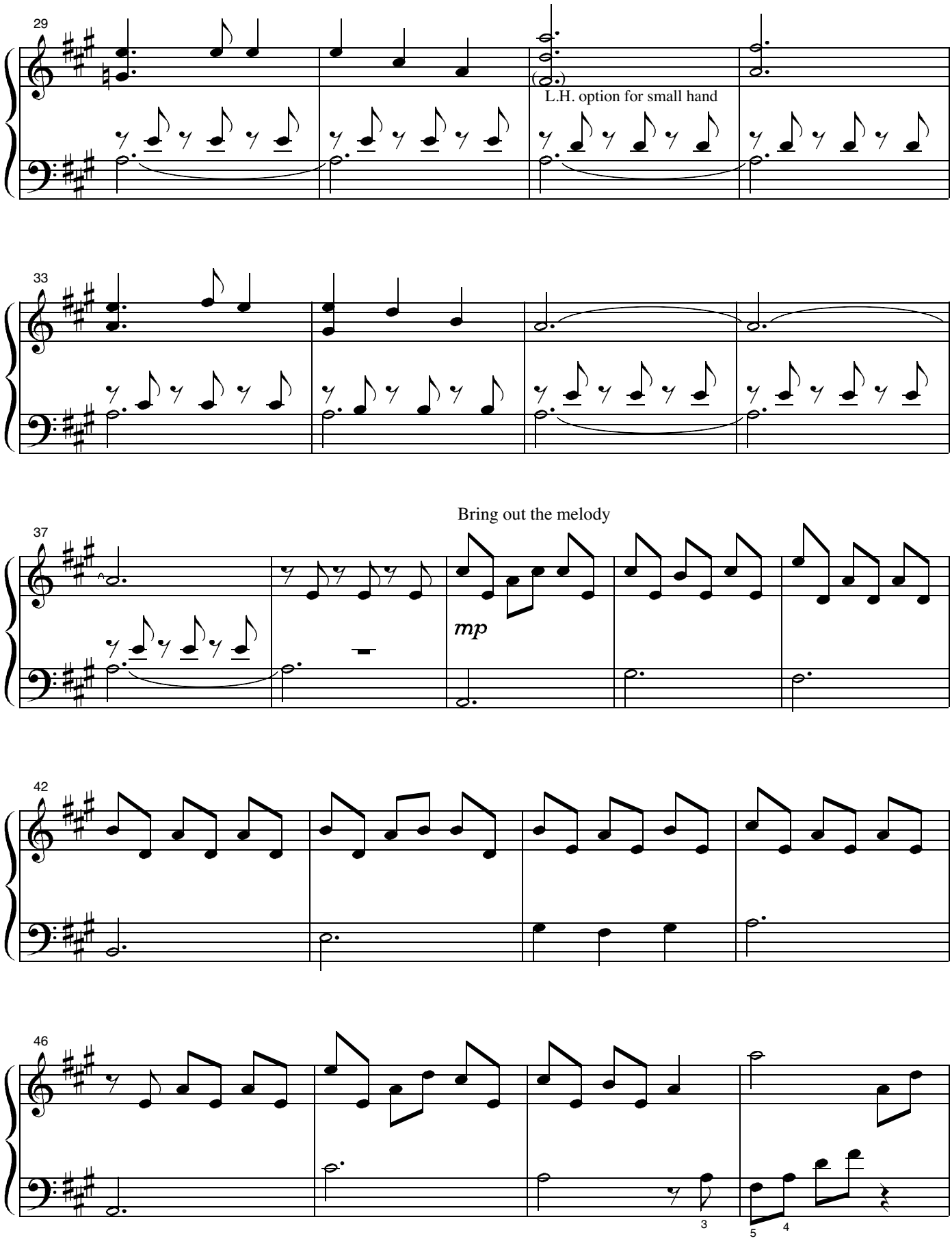
Helpful Hints:

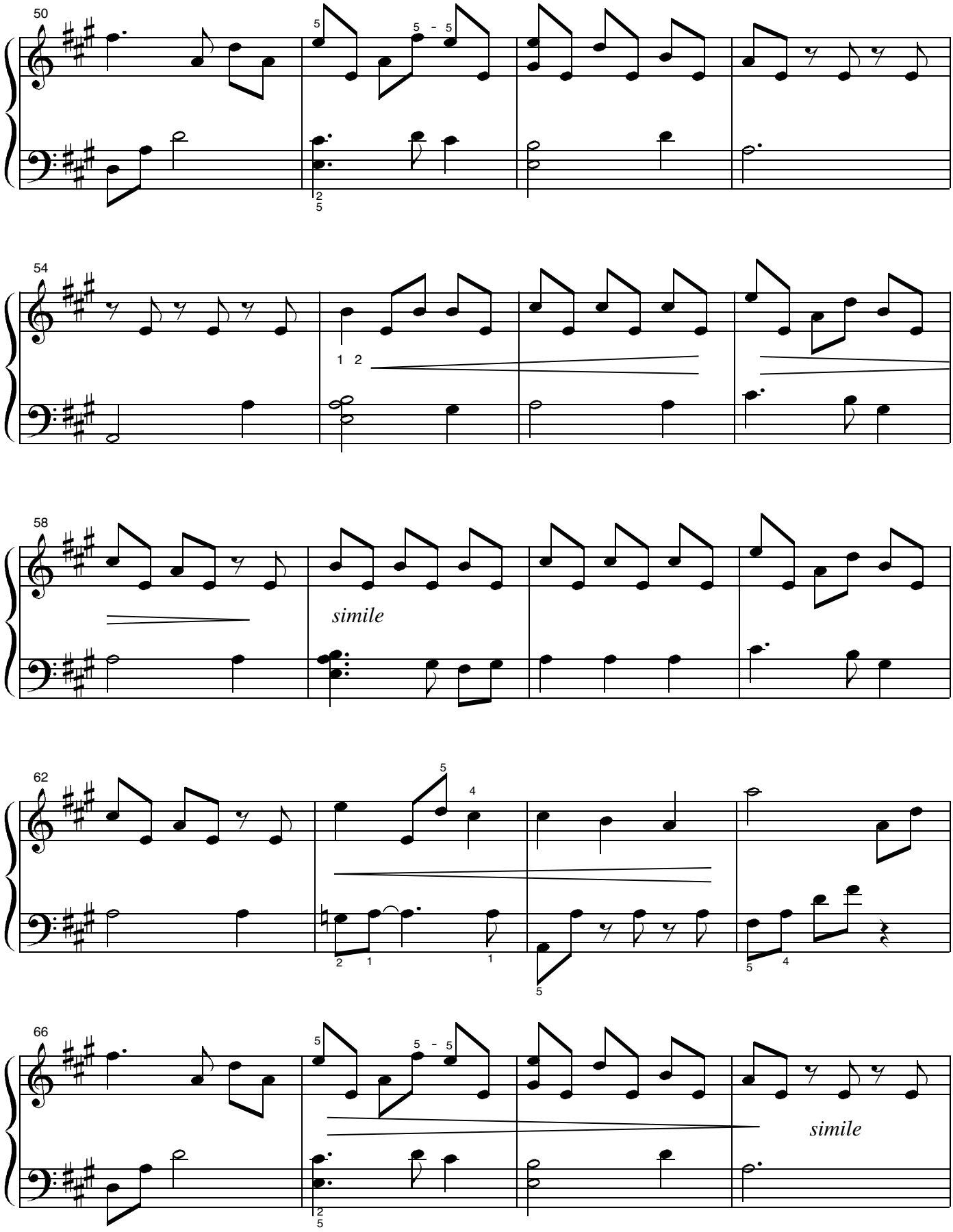
- *You might want to learn the hardest part of this song first: measures 73-79. (I would recommend learning the hard parts first with any song, actually.)*

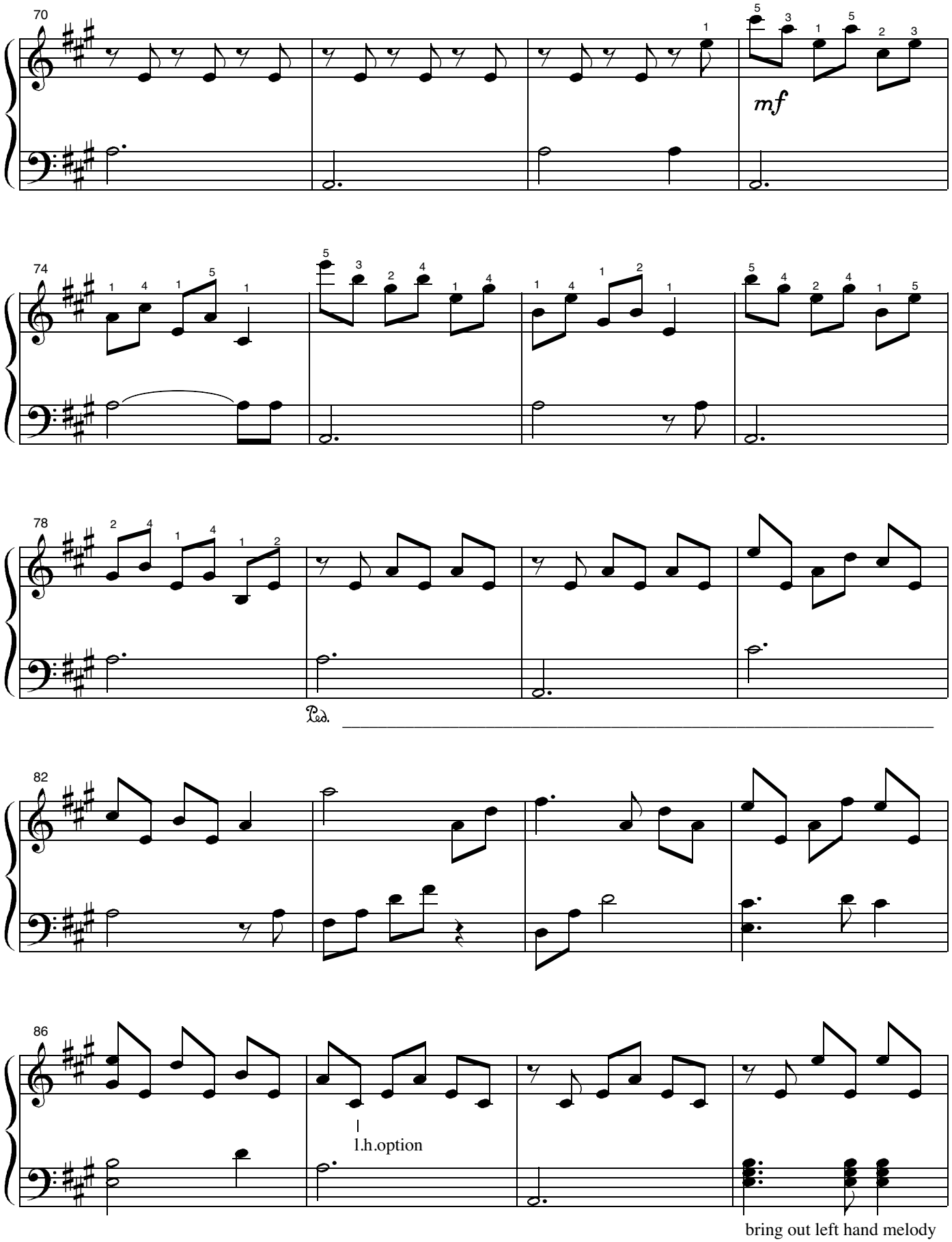
Süsser de Glocken

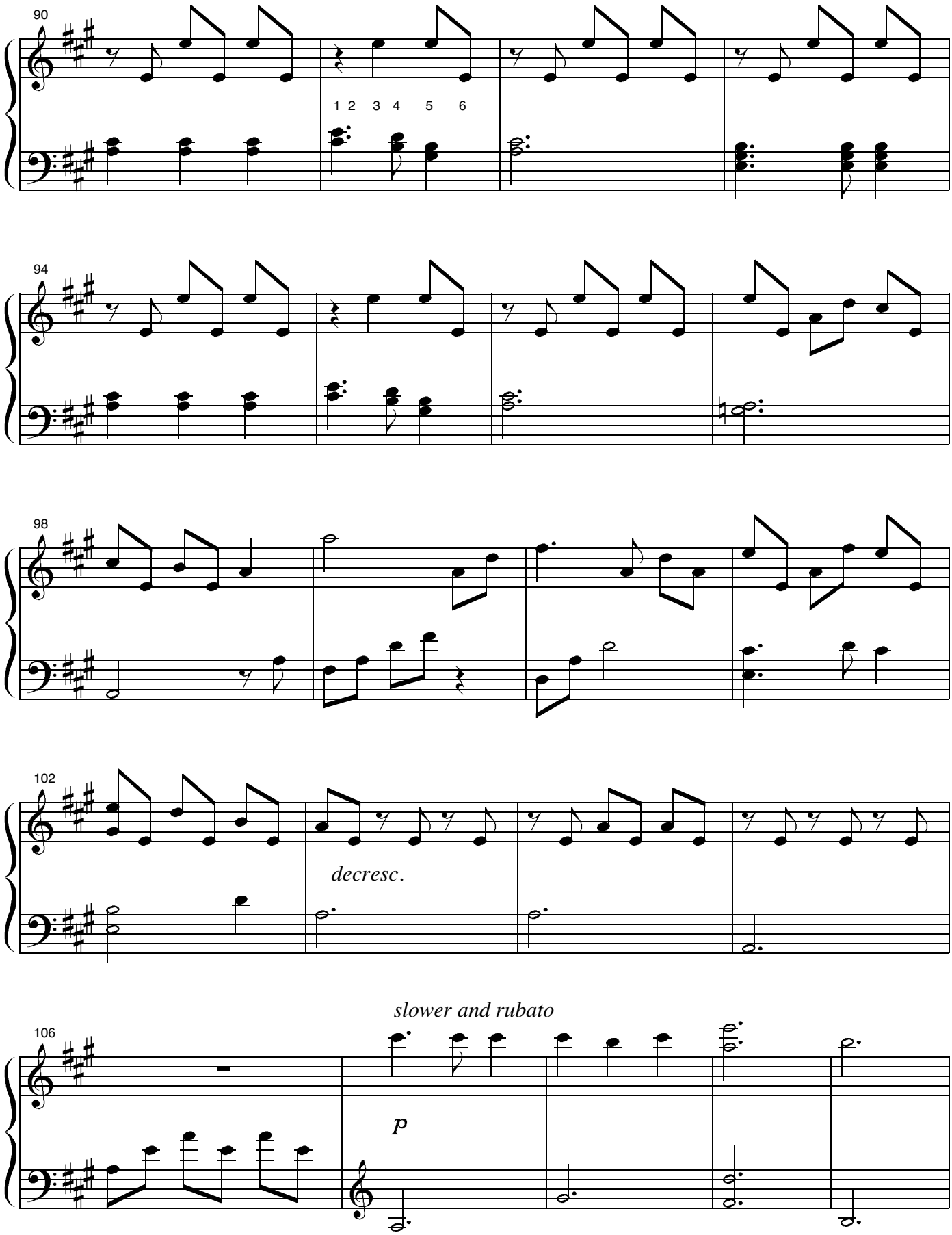


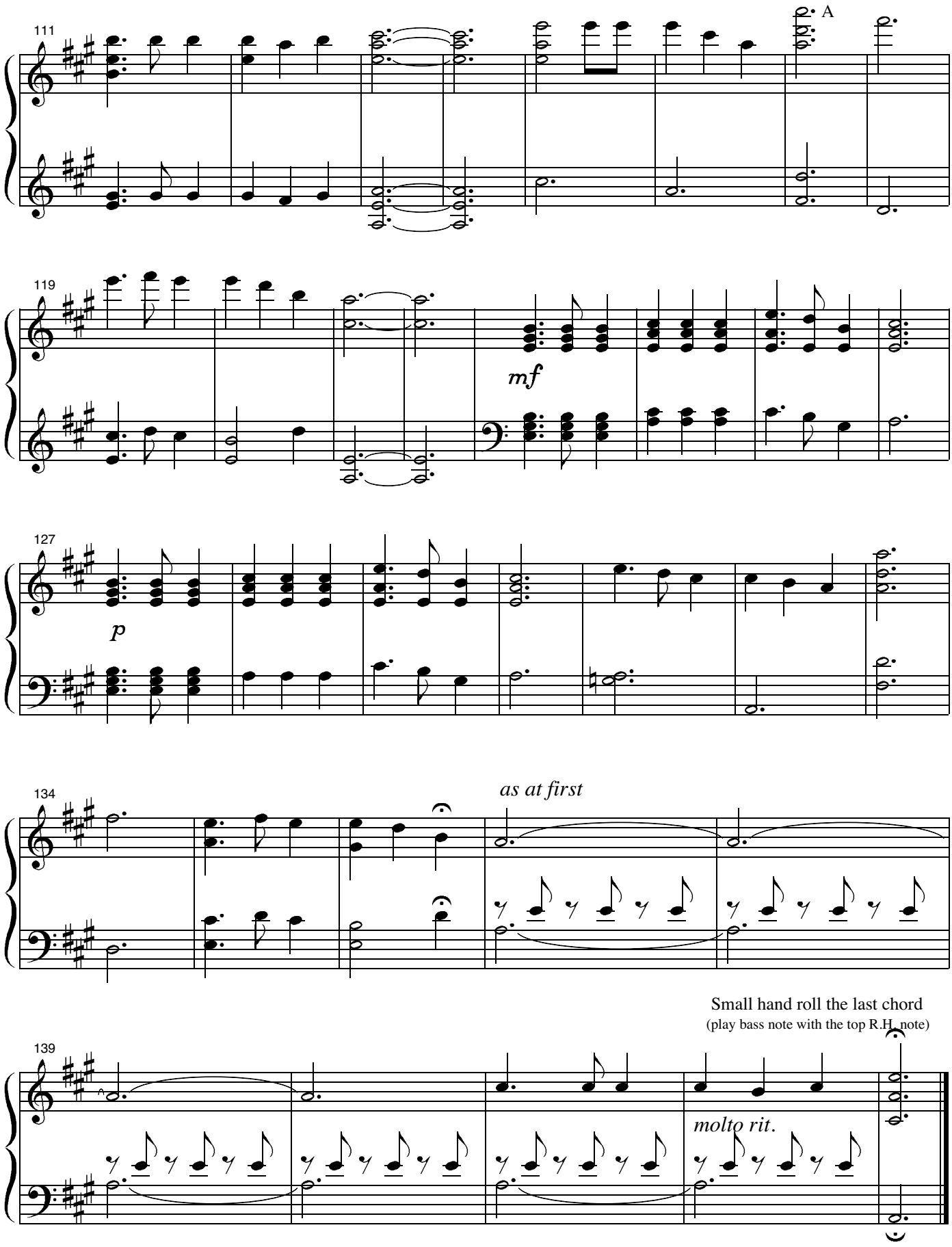

11
14
17
21
25


29
L.H. option for small hand
33
37
Bring out the melody
mp
42
46
3
5
4


50
54
58
simile
62
66
simile


70
mf
74
78
Ped.
82
86
l.h.option
bring out left hand melody


90
1 2 3 4 5 6
94
98
102
decresc.
slower and rubato
106
p


111
A
119
mf
127
p
134
as at first
Small hand roll the last chord
(play bass note with the top R.H. note)
139
molto rit.

Side Notes:

- *This little known Polish carol is an overly well-kept secret that I wanted to let people in on. If you're from America, you might recognize the last section as "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." If you are from Germany, it might remind you of, "Morgen Kommt der Weinachtsman (Tomorrow, Santa's Coming)."*
- *I generally like to avoid basing my transcriptions on the double flag, but believe it or not, what you see below is the simplest possible way to transcribe this song.*

Helpful Hints:

- *This song is a rhythm nightmare.*
- *Instead of counting the dreaded "1 - ee - and - a - 2 - ee - and - a…etc." just count to 4 over and over (it works a lot better). I have provided some rhythm #'s at the beginning of the song to help you get the idea.*
- *Here is a little rhythm "map key" of sorts that will enable those with a little determination to play not only this song, but any song riddled with double flags.*

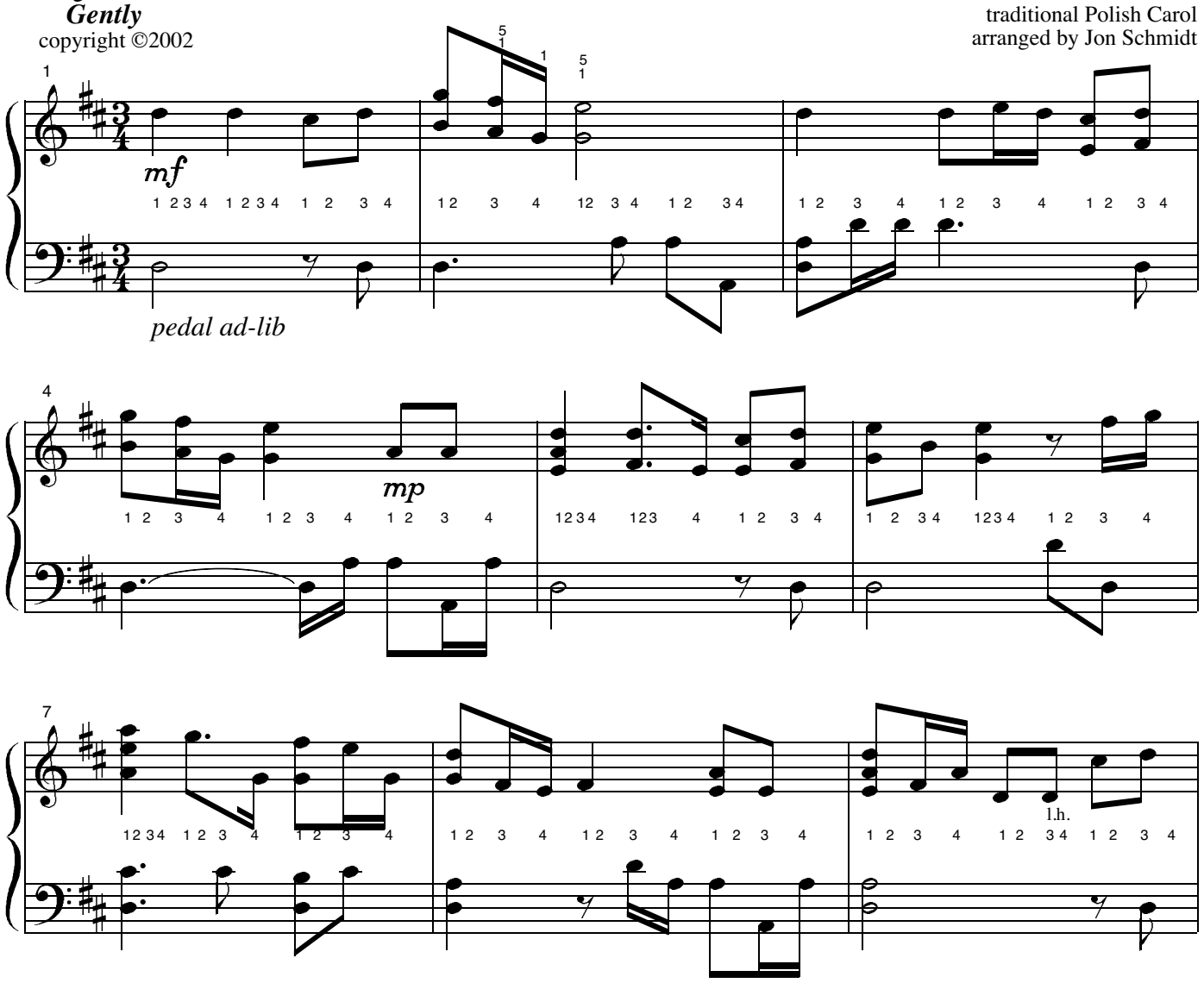
= 1 beat (also equals 1 beat)
= 2 beats (also equals 2 beats)
= 3 beats (also equals 3 beats)
= 4 beats (also equals 4 beats)
= 6 beats (also equals 6 beats)
Two of these: = 1 beat

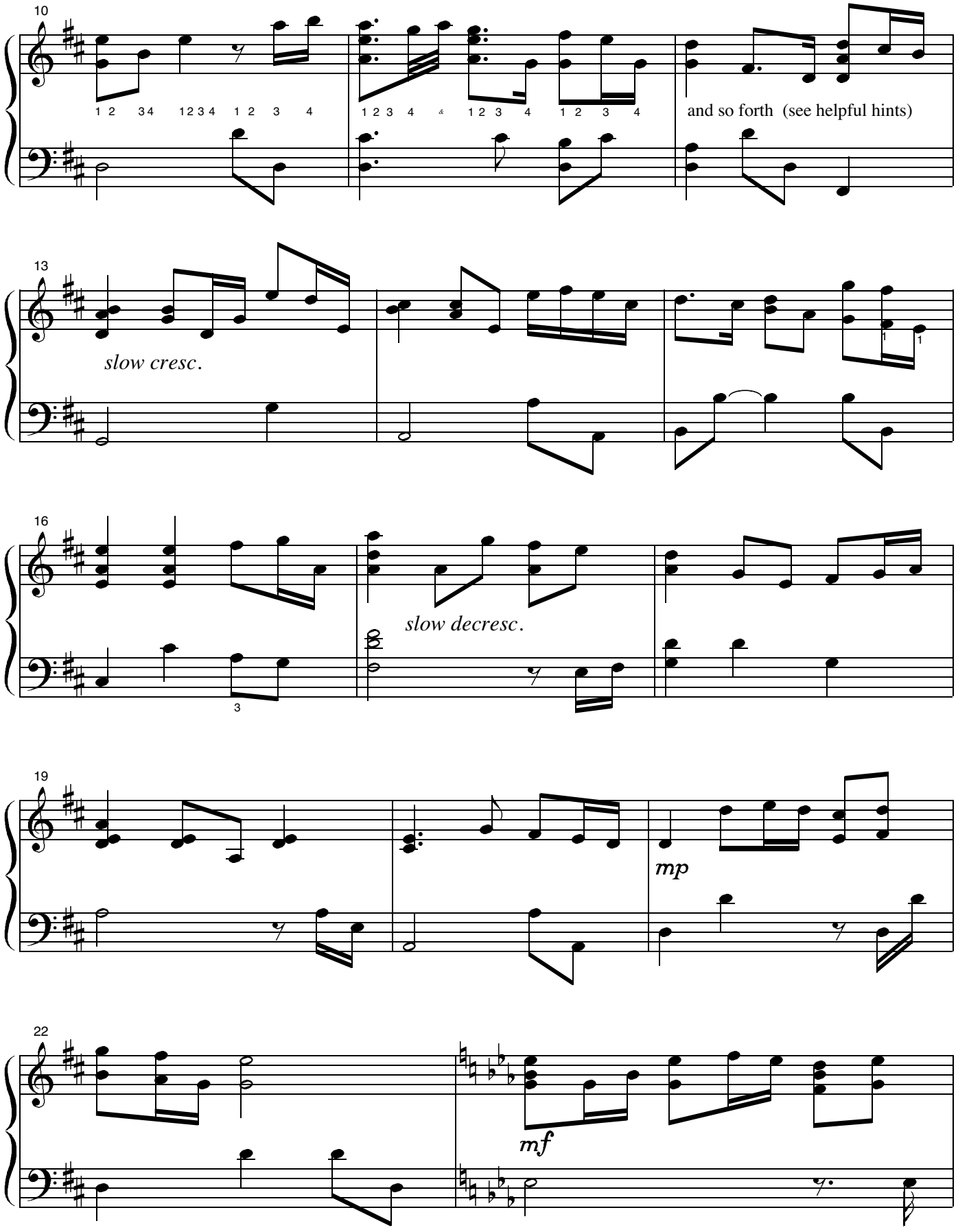
Stars Were Gleaming

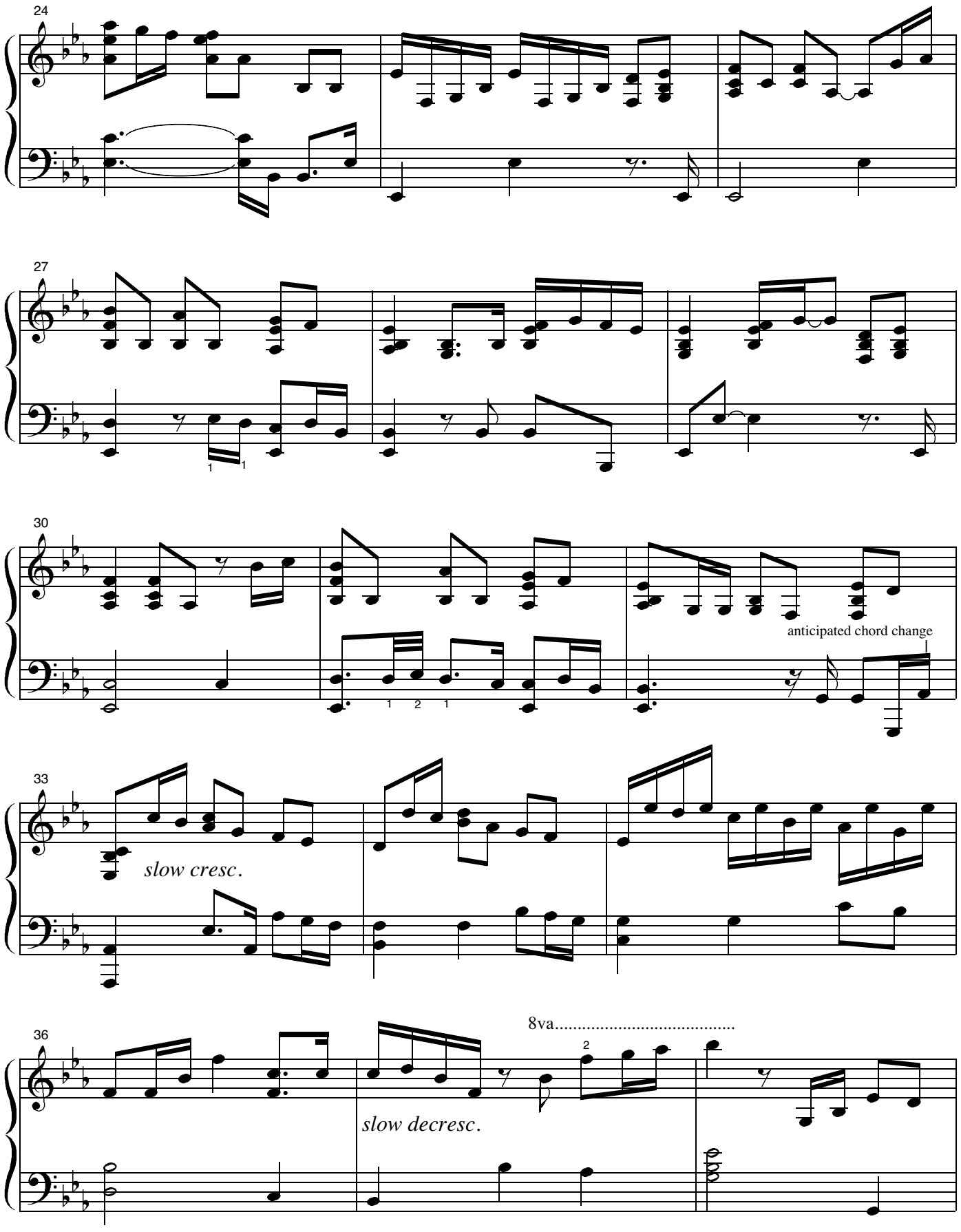
(Infant Holy, Infant Lowly)

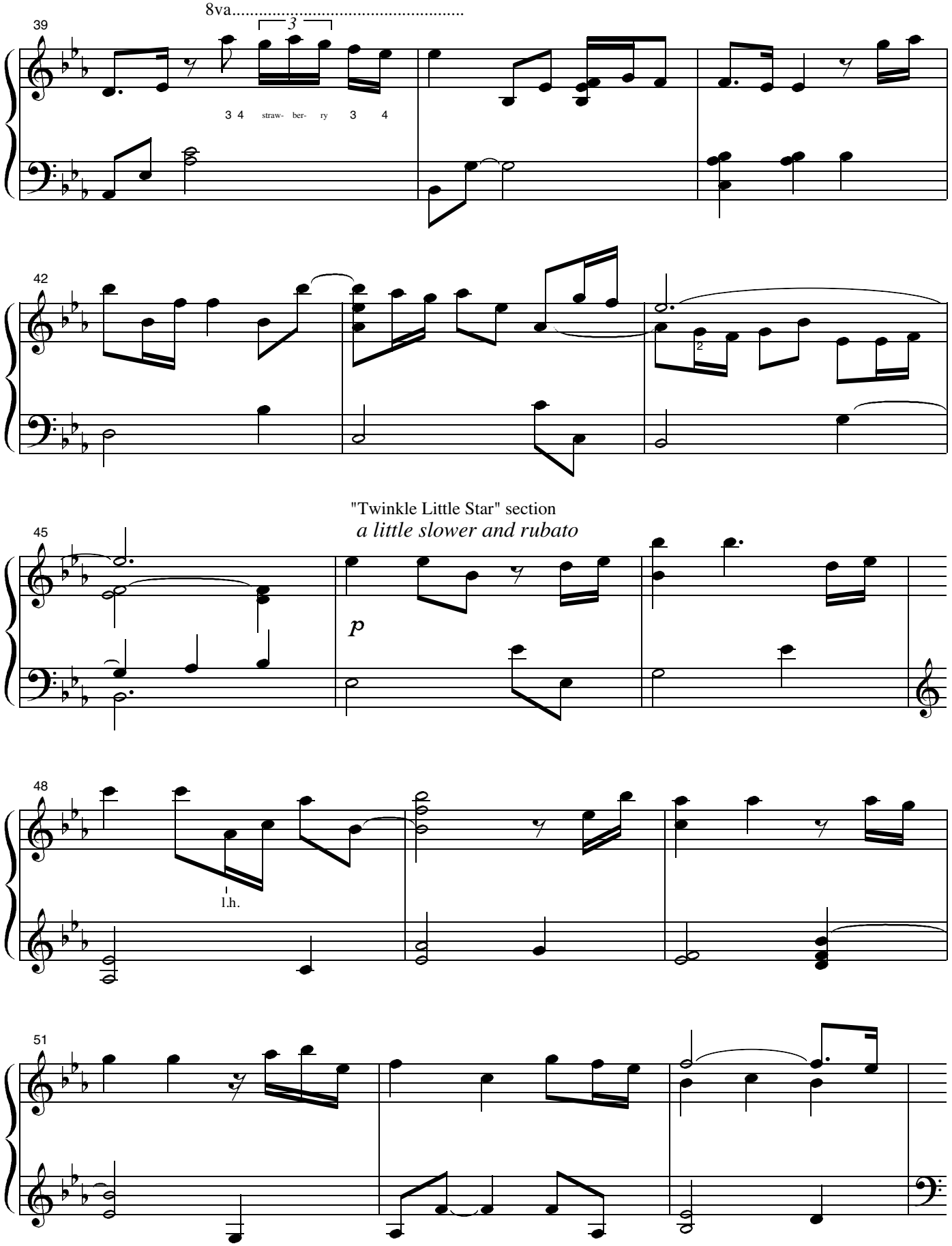
= 60
Gently
copyright ©2002

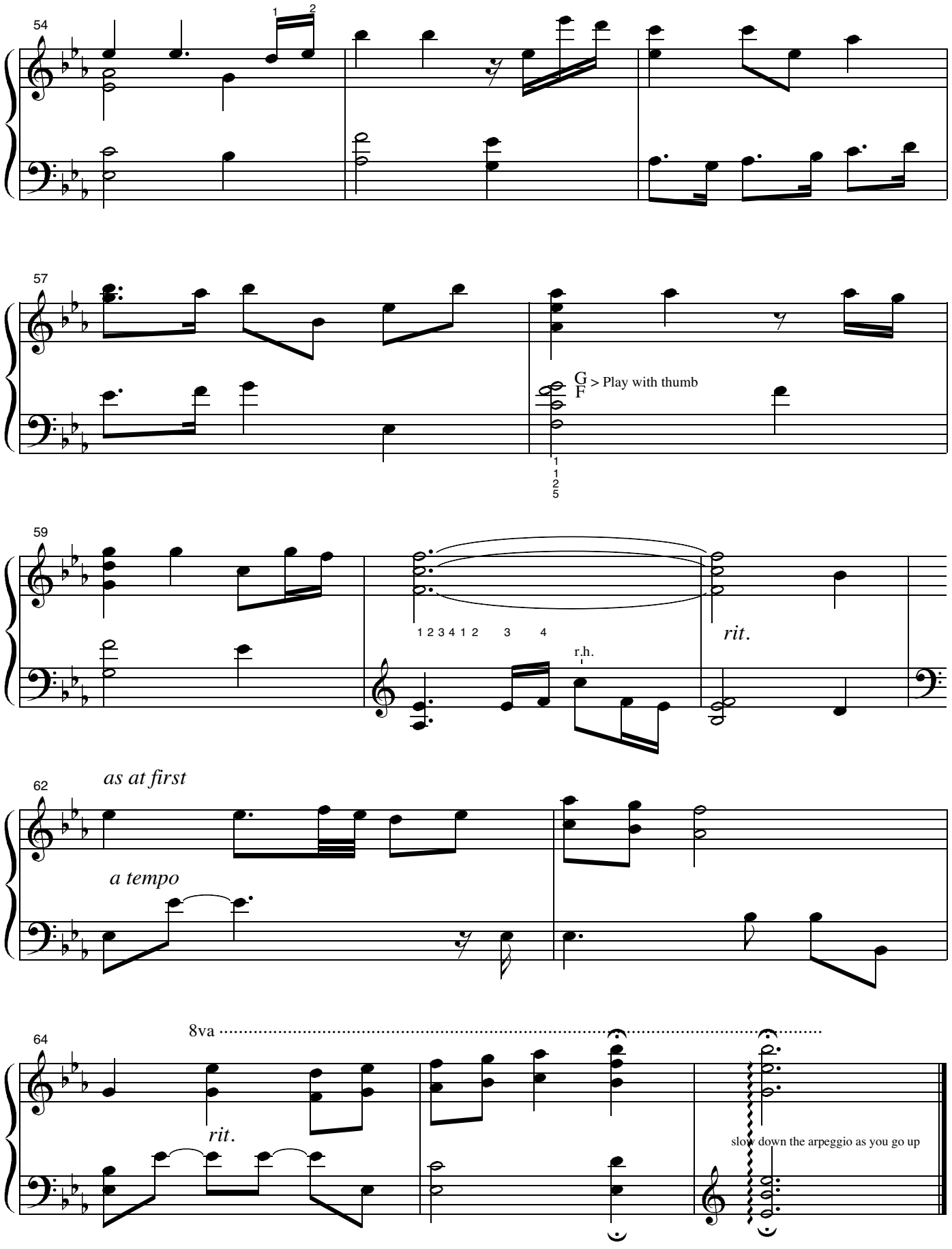
traditional Polish Carol
arranged by Jon Schmidt




10
1 2 34 1234 1 2 3 4
1 2 3 4 & 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4
and so forth (see helpful hints)
13
slow cresc.
16
slow decresc.
19
mp
22
mf


24
27
30
anticipated chord change
33
slow cresc.
36
8va.....
slow decresc.


8va.....
39
3
3 4 straw- ber- ry 3 4
42
2
"Twinkle Little Star" section
a little slower and rubato
45
p
48
l.h.
51


54
1
2
57
G
F
> Play with thumb
1
1
2
5
59
1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4
r.h.
rit.
62
as at first
a tempo
64
8va
rit.
slow down the arpeggio as you go up

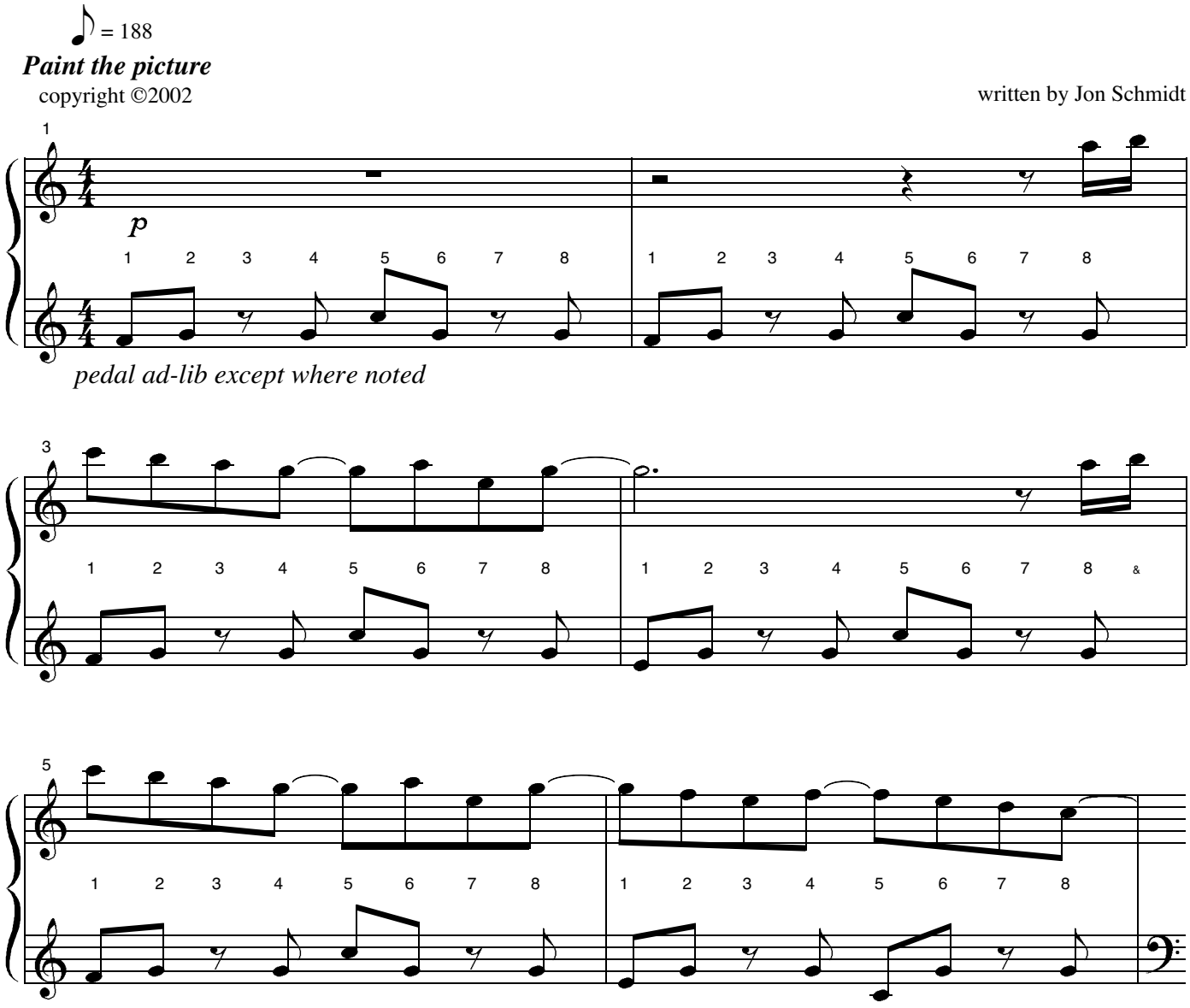
Side Notes:

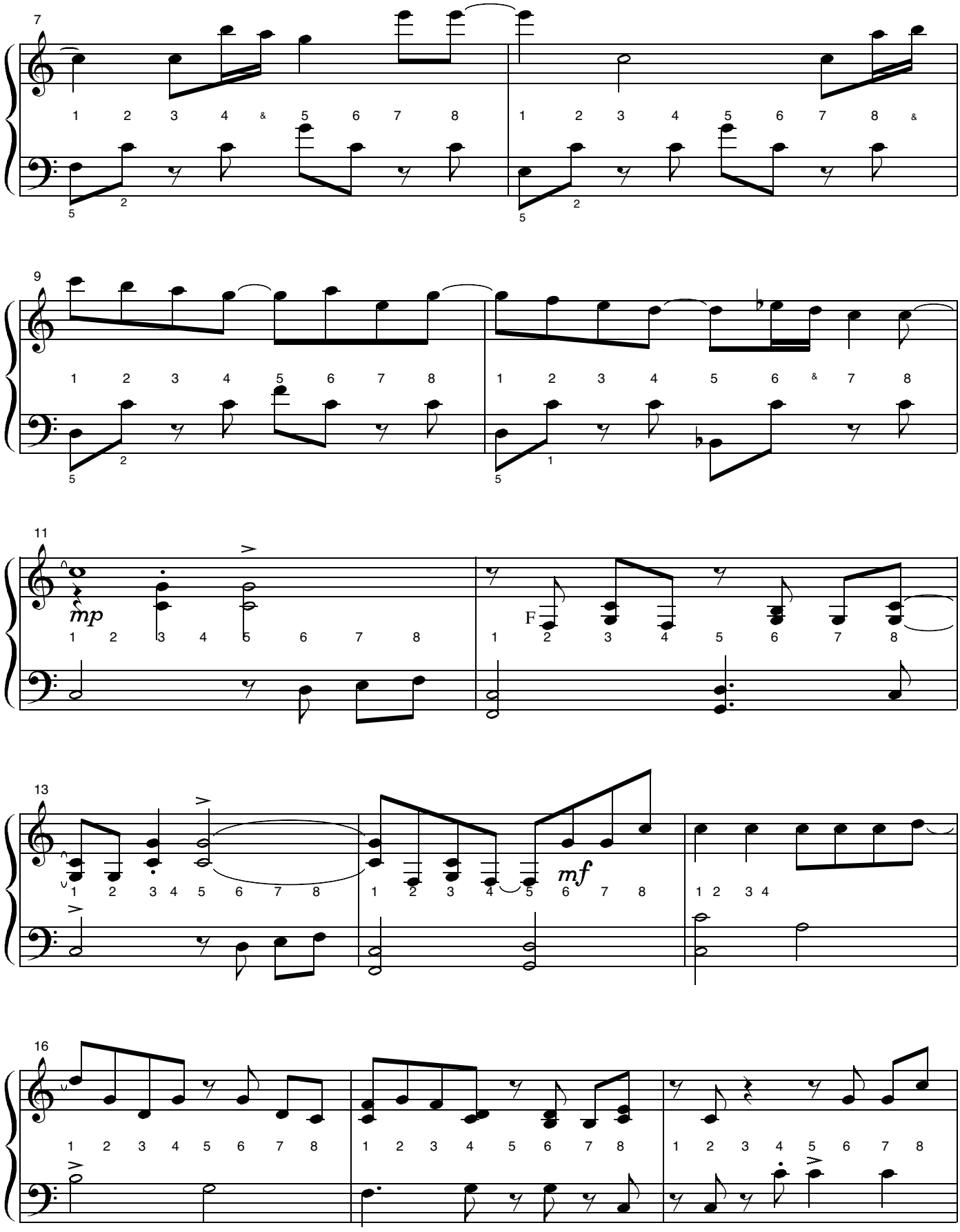
- *This tune is an original composition of mine. For a long while, I couldn't think of a title for it. I considered calling it "Santa's Workshop" or "The Train Song," but neither felt right. Then, one day I stumbled upon the title "Christmas Morning." As I played the piece with that image in mind, I began to remember a scene from a previous Christmas. Like a movie sound track, the song fit perfectly as the memory unfolded. I was suddenly experiencing Christmas morning 1996 through the eyes of my two-year-old Annie and four-year-old Spencer: the Christmas lights, a train running on a track around the tree, a new doll house, and a remote control car. That was a Christmas morning I'll never forget!*

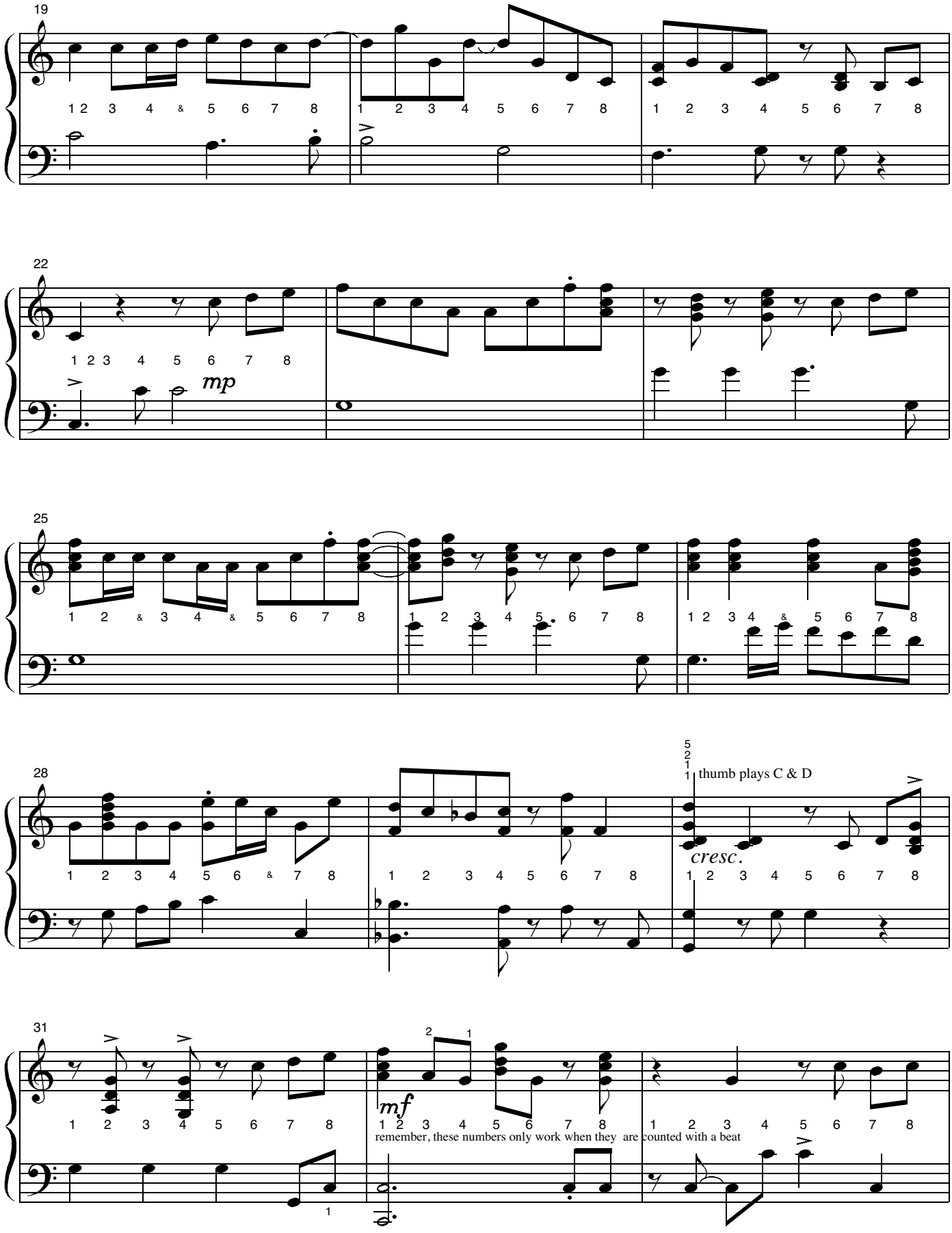
Helpful Hints:

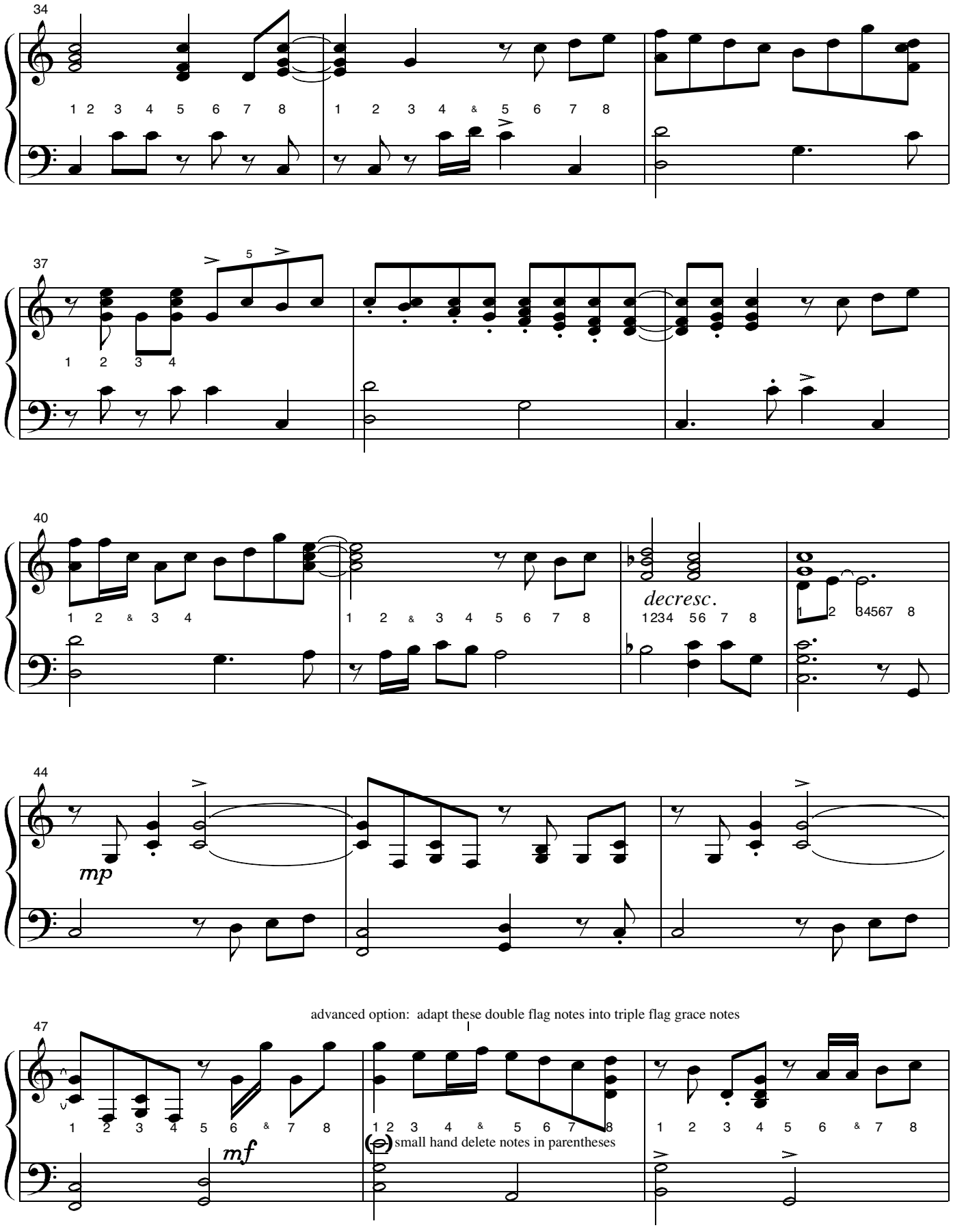
- *The rhythmic precision of a drummer is most helpful when playing this song.*

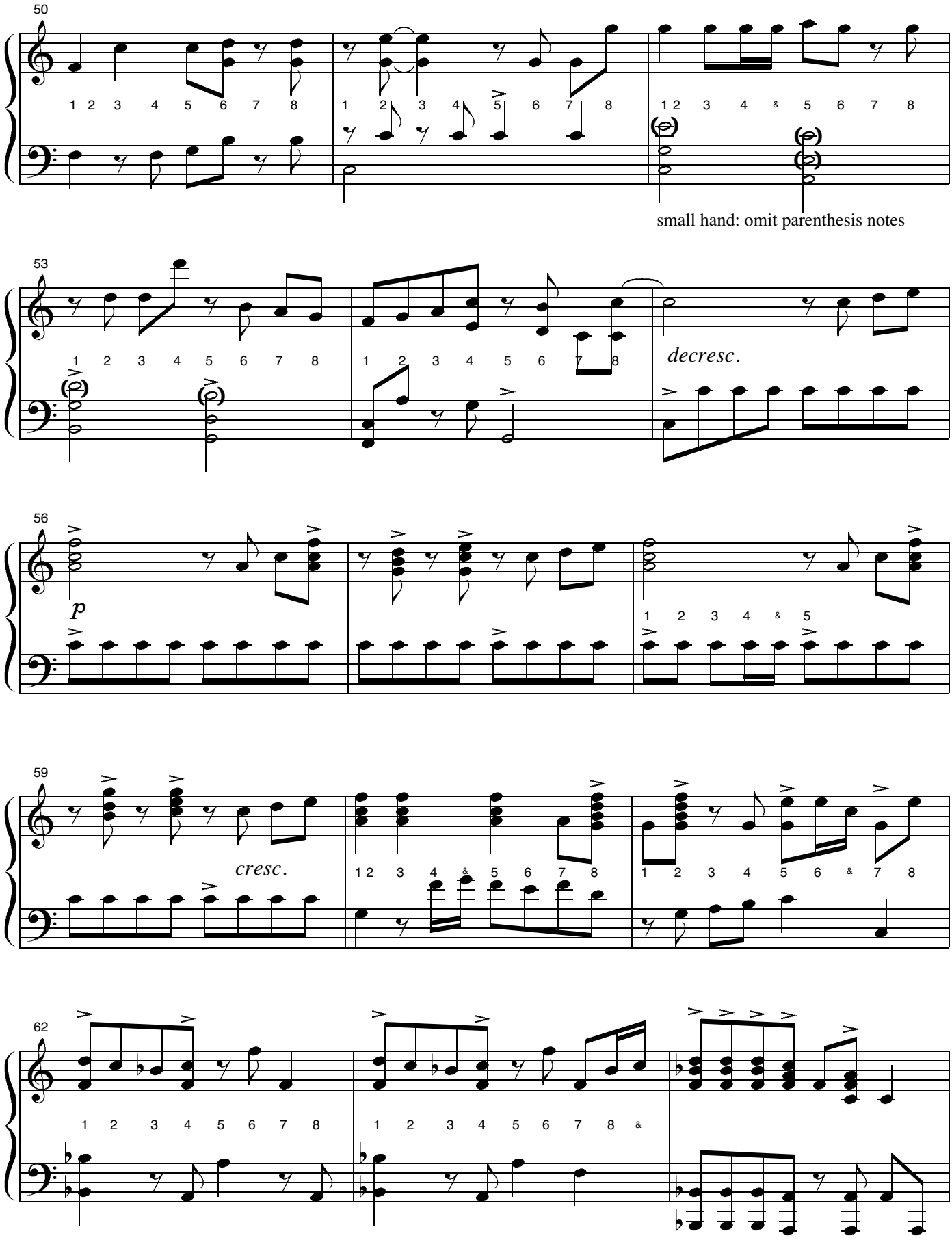
Christmas Morning

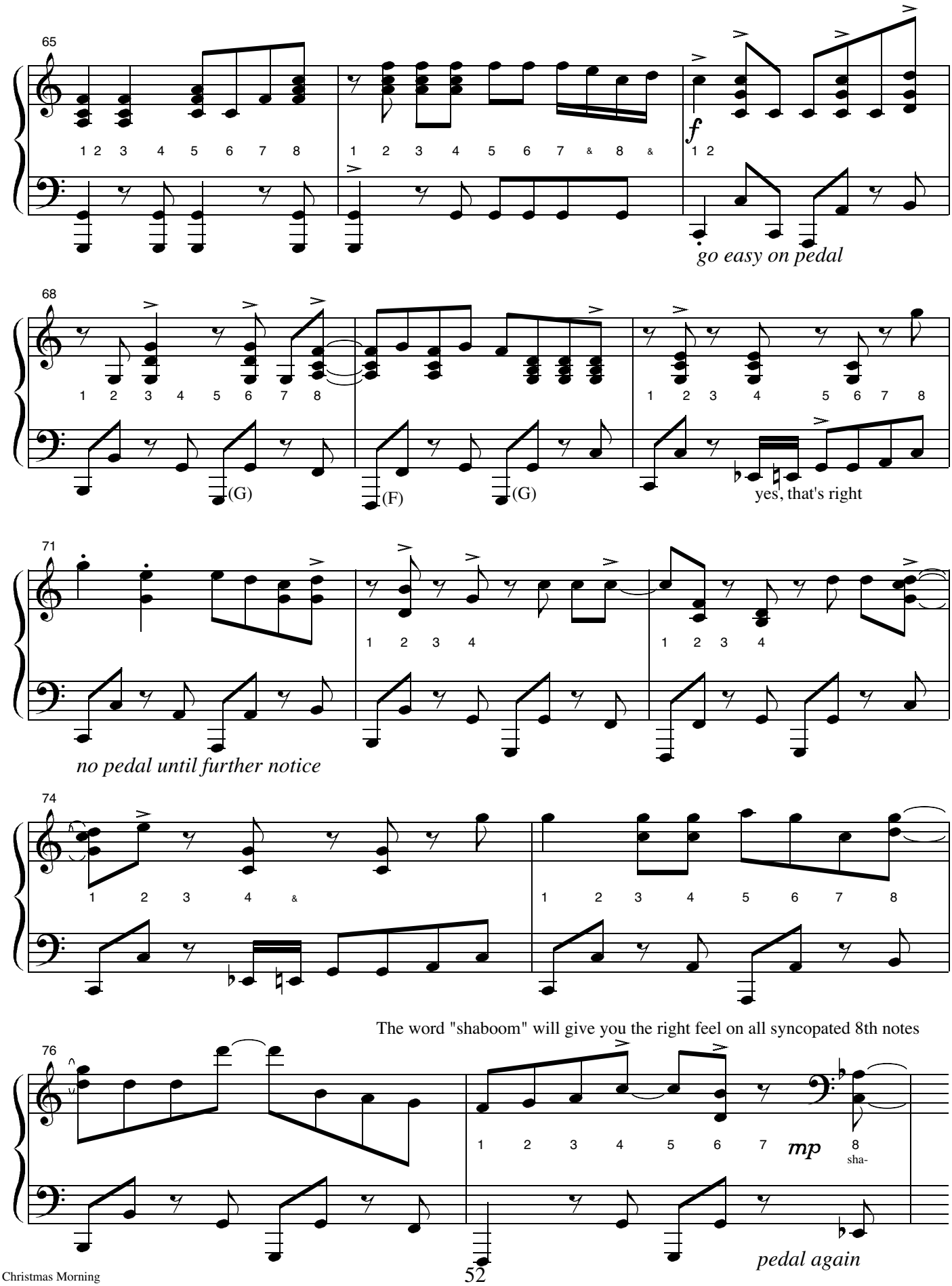



7
9
11
mp
F
13
mf
16


19
1 2 3 4 & 5 6 7 8
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
22
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
mp
25
1 2 & 3 4 & 5 6 7 8
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
1 2 3 4 & 5 6 7 8
28
1 2 3 4 5 6 & 7 8
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
5
2
1
1
thumb plays C & D
cresc.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
31
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
2
1
mf
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
remember, these numbers only work when they are counted with a beat
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
1

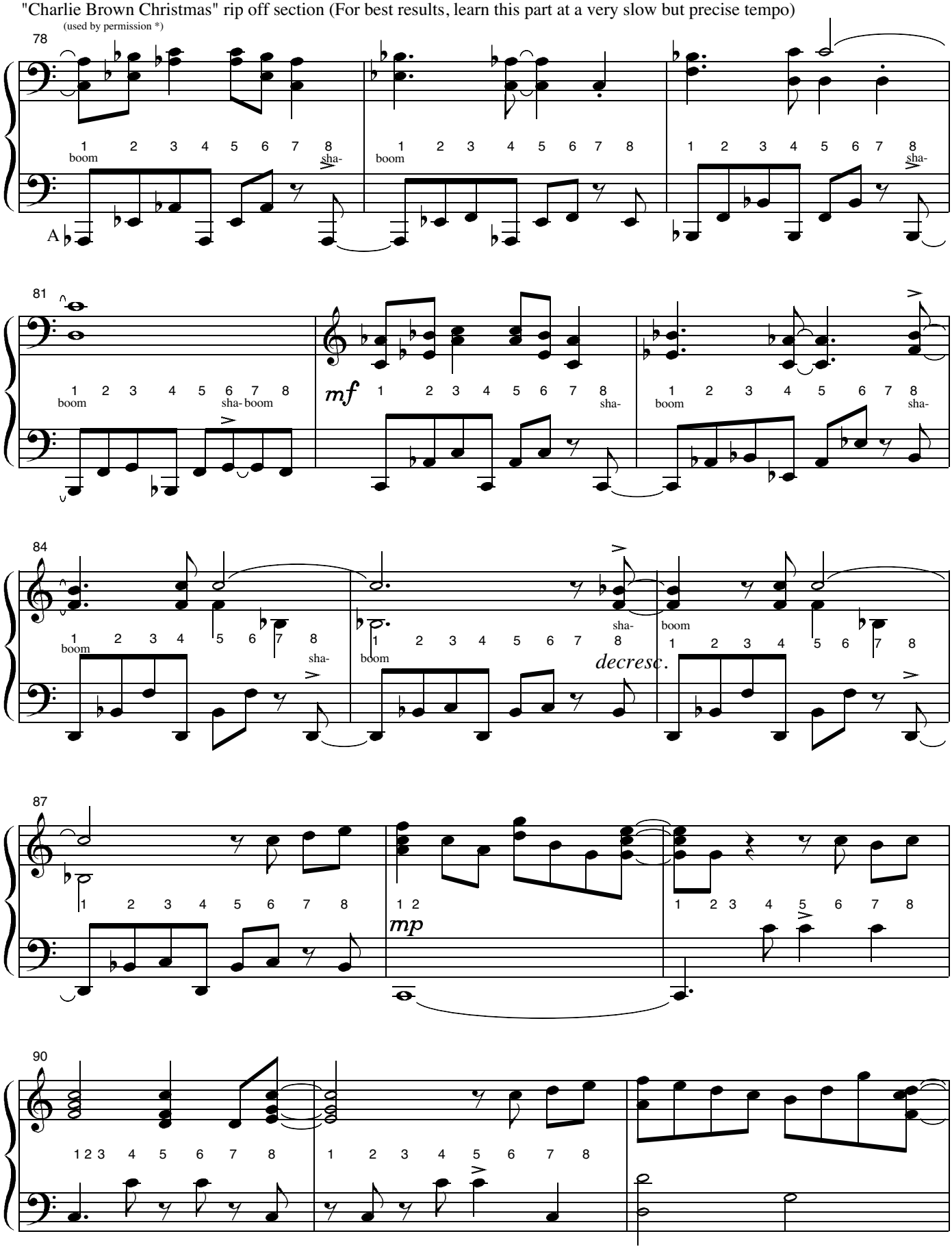

34
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
1 2 3 4 & 5 6 7 8
37
5
1 2 3 4
40
1 2 & 3 4
1 2 & 3 4 5 6 7 8
decresc.
1234 56 7 8
1 2 34567 8
44
mp
advanced option: adapt these double flag notes into triple flag grace notes
47
1 2 3 4 5 6 & 7 8
mf
1 2 3 4 & 5 6 7 8
small hand delete notes in parentheses
1 2 3 4 5 6 & 7 8


50
small hand: omit parenthesis notes
53
decresc.
56
p
59
cresc.
62


65
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 & 8 &
f
1 2
go easy on pedal
68
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
(G)
(F)
(G)
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
yes, that's right
71
1 2 3 4
1 2 3 4
no pedal until further notice
74
1 2 3 4 &
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
The word "shaboom" will give you the right feel on all syncopated 8th notes
76
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
mp
8
sha-
pedal again

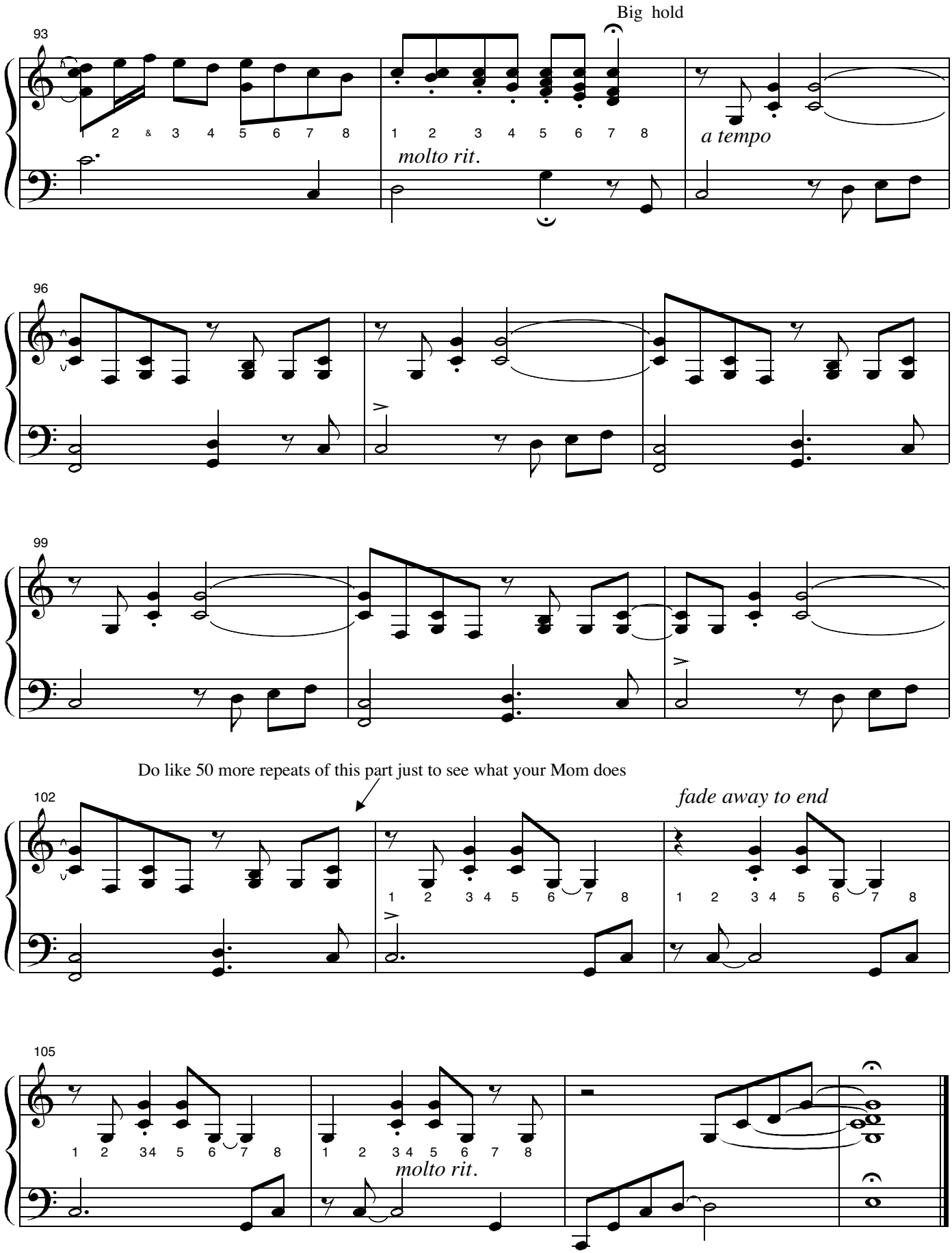
"Charlie Brown Christmas" rip off section (For best results, learn this part at a very slow but precise tempo)

(used by permission *)

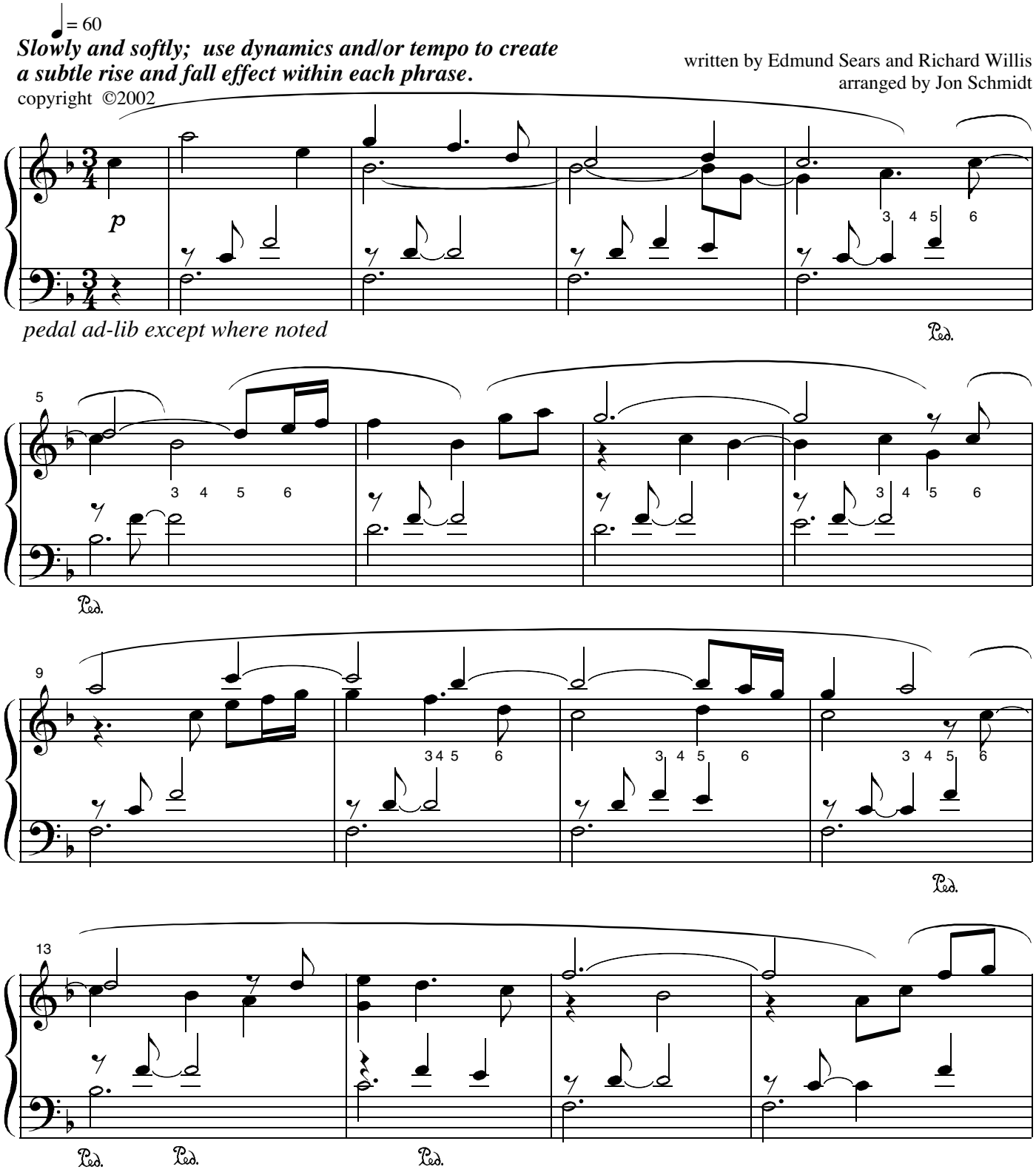


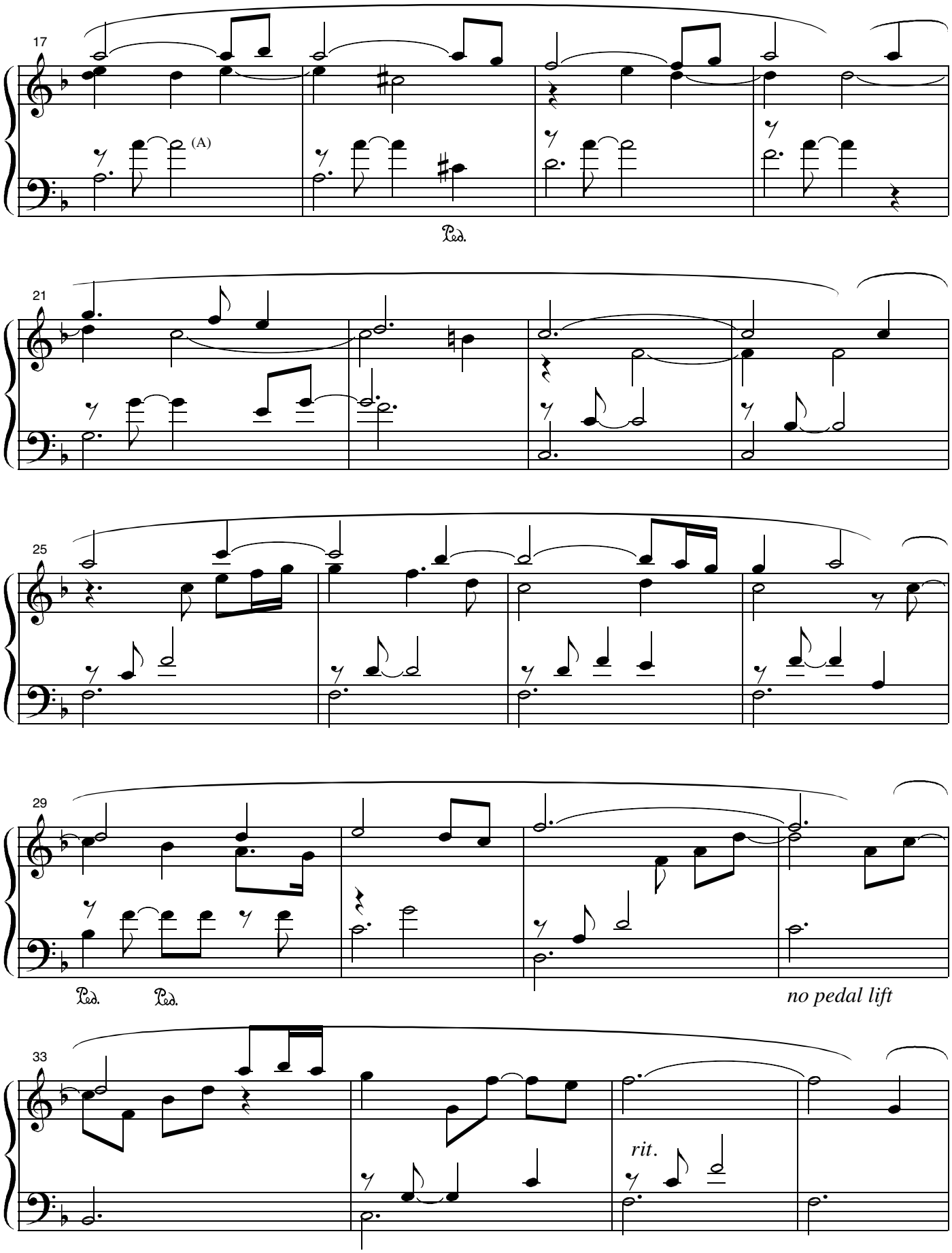
"Linus and Lucy" by Vince Guaraldi

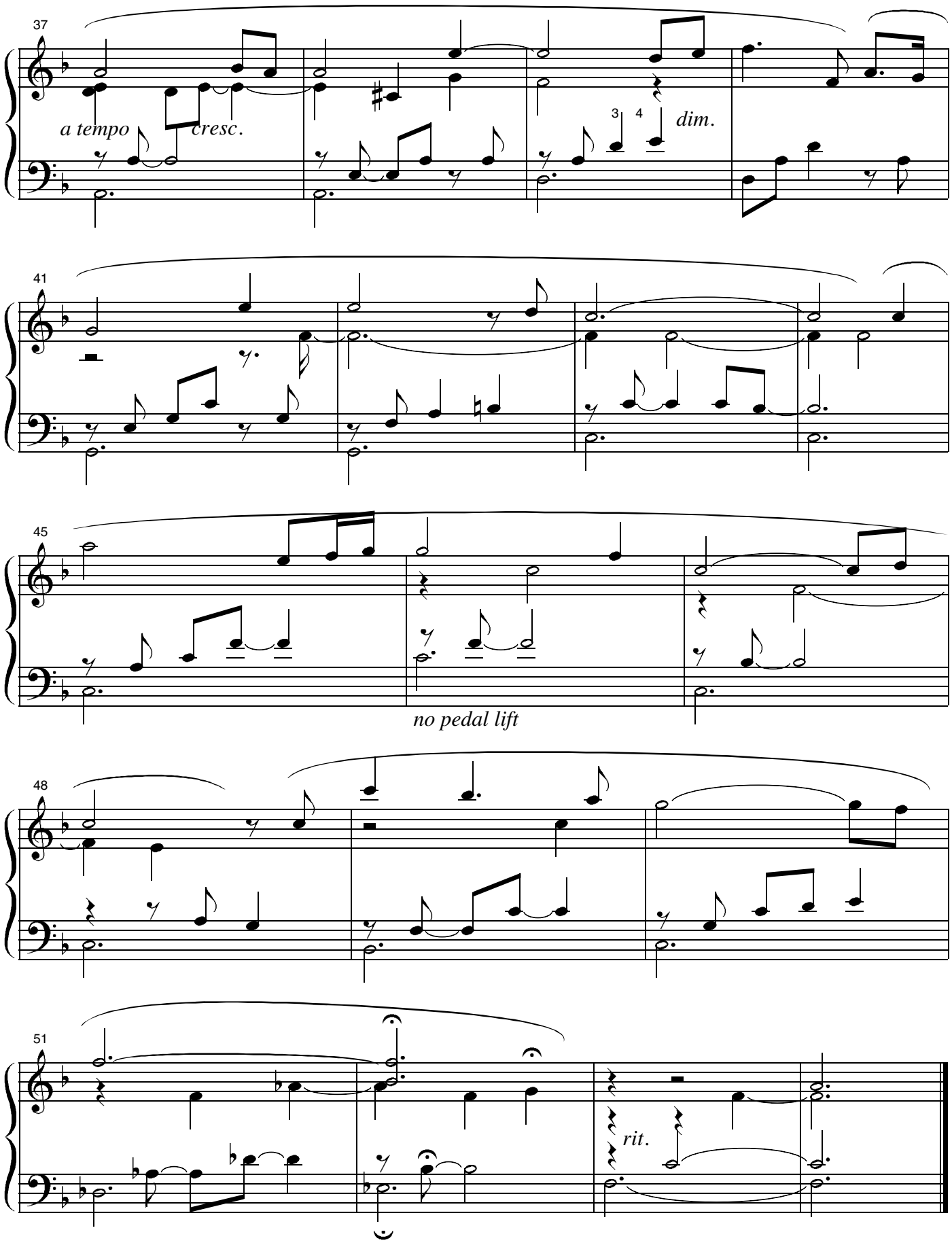
© 1965 Claimant: David Guaraldi & Dia Guaraldi used by permission


Big hold
93
1 2 & 3 4 5 6 7 8
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
molto rit.
a tempo
96
99
Do like 50 more repeats of this part just to see what your Mom does
102
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
fade away to end
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
105
1 2 34 5 6 7 8
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
molto rit.
Ped. hold pedal to the end

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



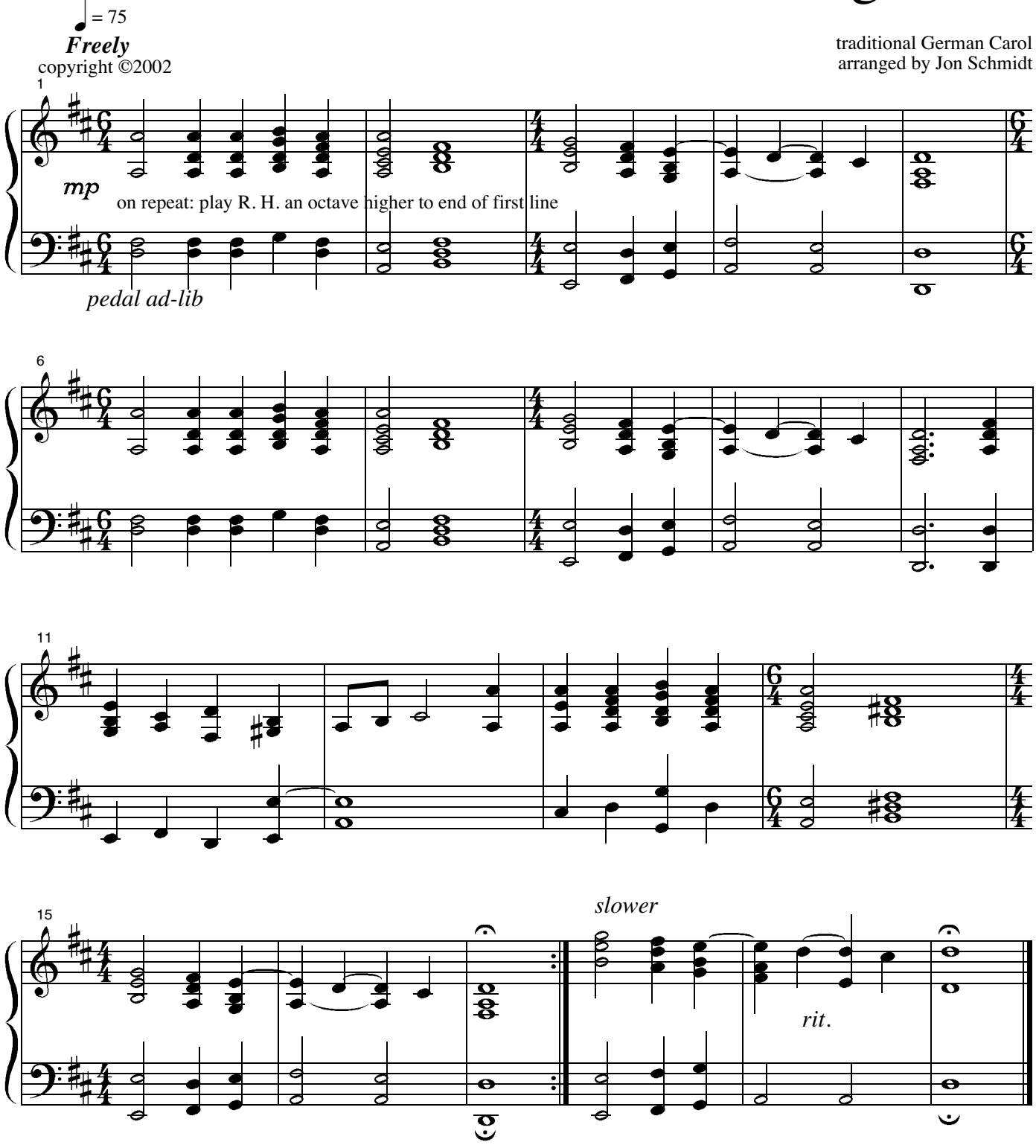

17
(A)
Ped.
21
25
29
Ped.
Ped.
no pedal lift
33
rit.


37
a tempo
cresc.
3 4
dim.
41
45
no pedal lift
48
51
rit.

Helpful Hints:

- *Don't pay any attention to the time signature changes. Just let your natural musical instincts tell you how it should be played.*

Lo, How a Rose Ere Blooming



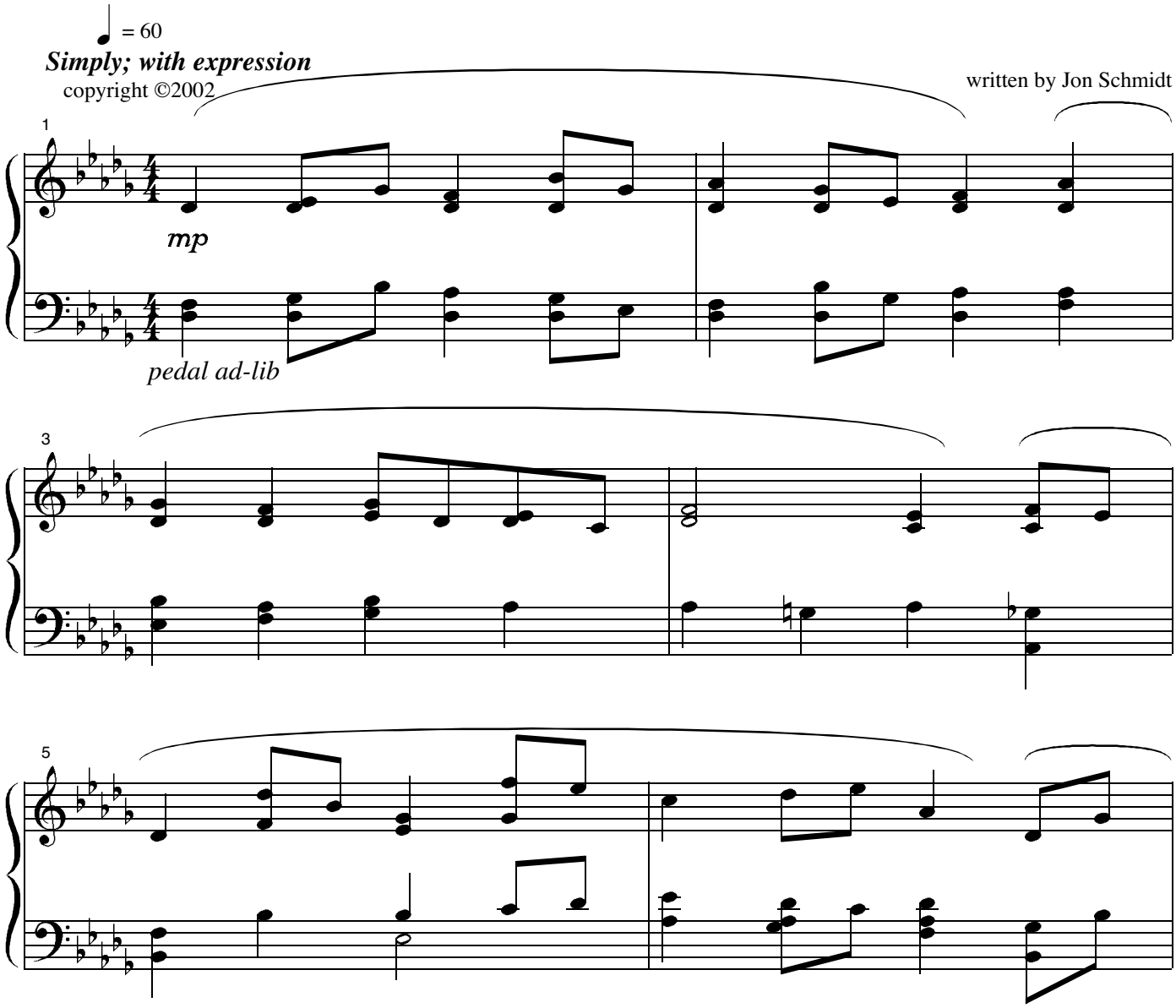
Side Notes:

- *Here's a little insider's secret: This song was actually a first year music theory assignment in college. (I think it got an A minus.)*

Helpful Hints:

- *Don't pay any attention to that man behind the curtain.*

Christmas Hymn



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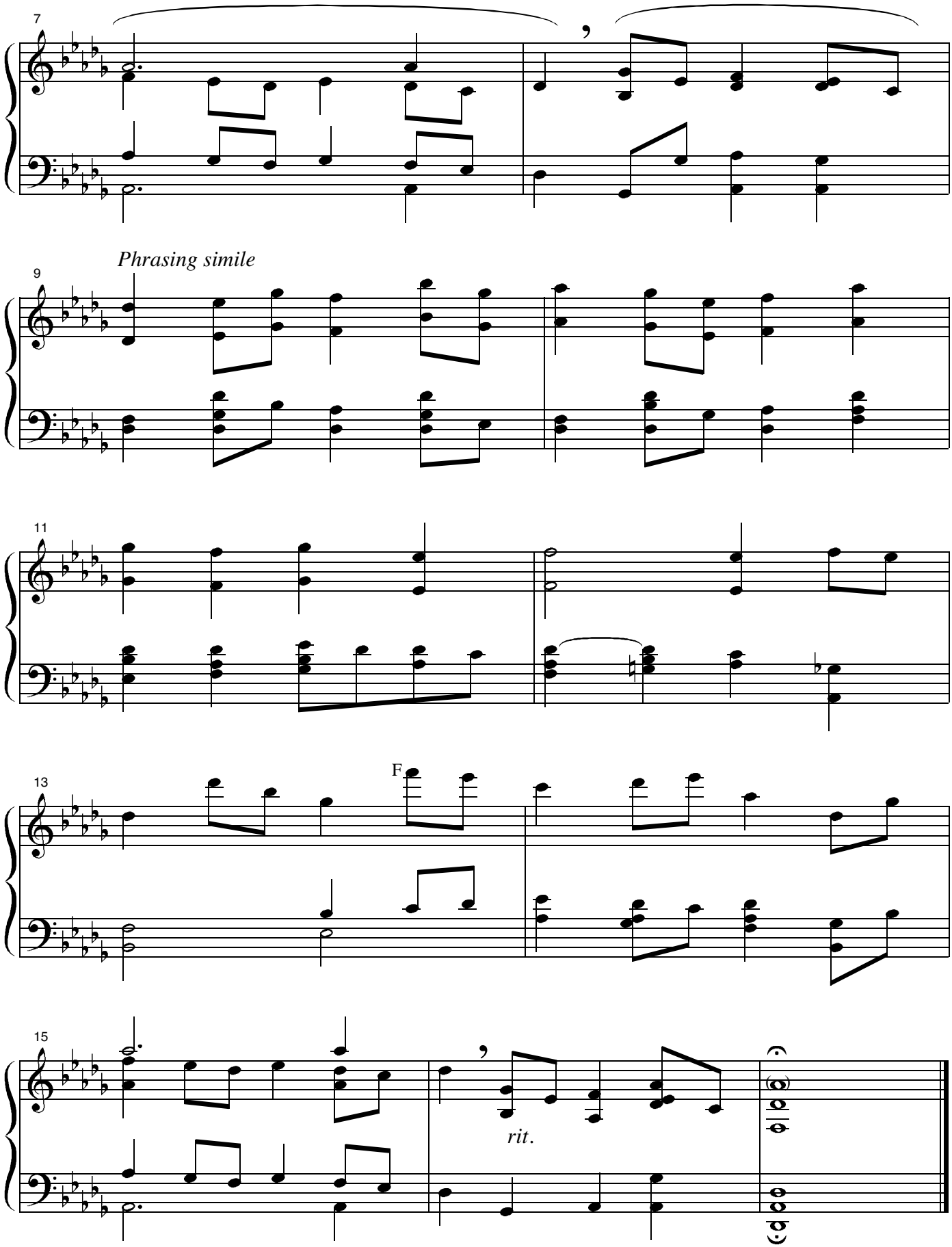
7
Phrasing simile
9
11
F
13
15
rit.