Preface

This collection of eight lyrical piano solos was inspired by nature and outdoor activities associated with the four seasons. The pieces explore a wide range of moods and technical challenges.

I hope you enjoy them!

Teresa Richert

Cover Art by Myles Mathis

Myles Mathis is a self-taught artist who lives in Mission, B.C. He is a member of the Fraser Valley Watercolour Society in Abbotsford and has been involved with the Mission Arts Council, the Mission Arts Society and the Arts Alive Tours. His works, which have been exhibited in numerous art shows throughout the lower mainland, feature a wide scope of subject material including seascapes, animals, and human interest. He has received several awards for his art including B.C. Wildlife Artist of the Year for 2009.

Many thanks to Myles for painting the cover art for this collection.

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Notes on Seasons

No. 1 Spring Blossoms

The *leggiero* section (spring showers) requires careful coordination between the hands to keep the sixteenth notes even. Each of the hands carries its own melody in the *dolce* section (blooming flowers). The LH part in measures 27 to 34 is tricky so practice it alone first.

No. 2 Beyond the Clouds

What lies beyond the clouds? Sunshine, twinkling stars or a bright moon? Try rolling your wrists (over and inward and then under and outward) for each group of six sixteenths. Project the notes marked *tenuto*. In the middle section, bring out the top notes in the RH.

No. 3 Moonlit Summer Night

This piece is a jazzy waltz. In the first section (romance), make the RH sing and keep the offbeat chords in the LH accompaniment very quiet. Practice playing the cross-rhythms in the middle section (passion) slowly first.

No. 4 Song of the Sunflowers

Project the RH melody while keeping the LH sixteenths light and even. (Slow practice may be needed here.) In the middle section (growing tall), listen carefully to keep your LH and RH synchronized.

No. 5 The Wind

The melody (played by the RH) is written in the top staff and the accompaniment (shared by both hands) is written in the lower two staves. Make the melody sing out over the moving accompaniment.

No. 6 The Storm

This short introduction (the calm before the storm) is followed by a peaceful but increasingly haunting section (a light breeze becomes a strong wind) which continues to build until the climax (a wild storm). At measure 40, the storm begins to subside and it is calm again.

No. 7 Snow Drifts

A light snow begins to fall and gradually builds. At measure 33, it's no longer snowing but there is plenty of snow on the mountain and you're skiing or snowboarding down. As you reach the bottom, the snow begins to fall again. Measures 33 – 36 are tricky so practice the LH alone first.

No. 8 The Ice Dancers

The piece begins with a melody in the middle register (solo by the male ice dancer) followed by a melody in a higher register (solo by the female ice dancer). At measure 17, the melodies play simultaneously (they dance together). Project the melodies in the RH throughout.

Seasons No. 1

Spring Blossoms

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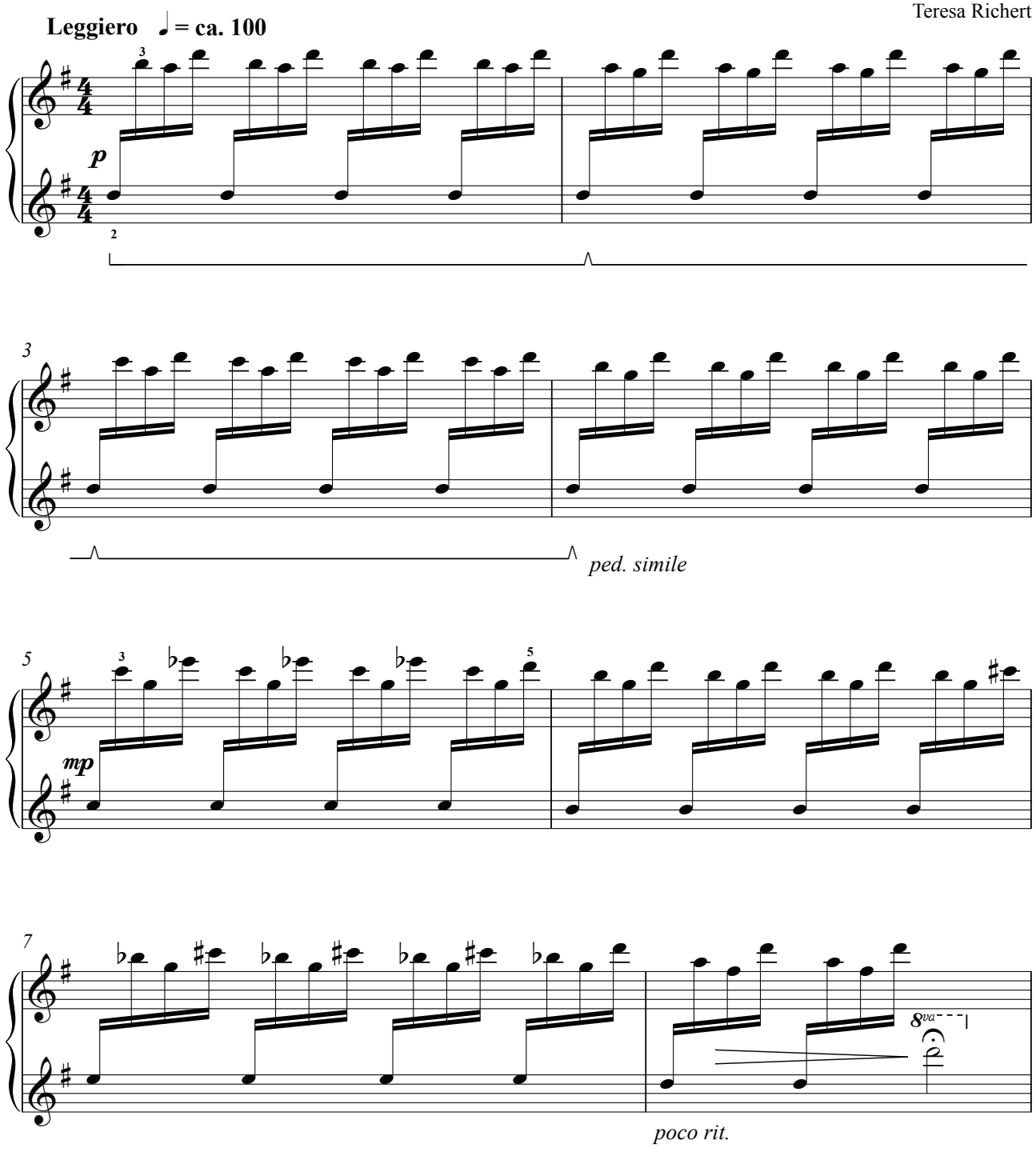

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Seasons No. 2

Beyond the Clouds

Con moto ♩. = **60 - 76**

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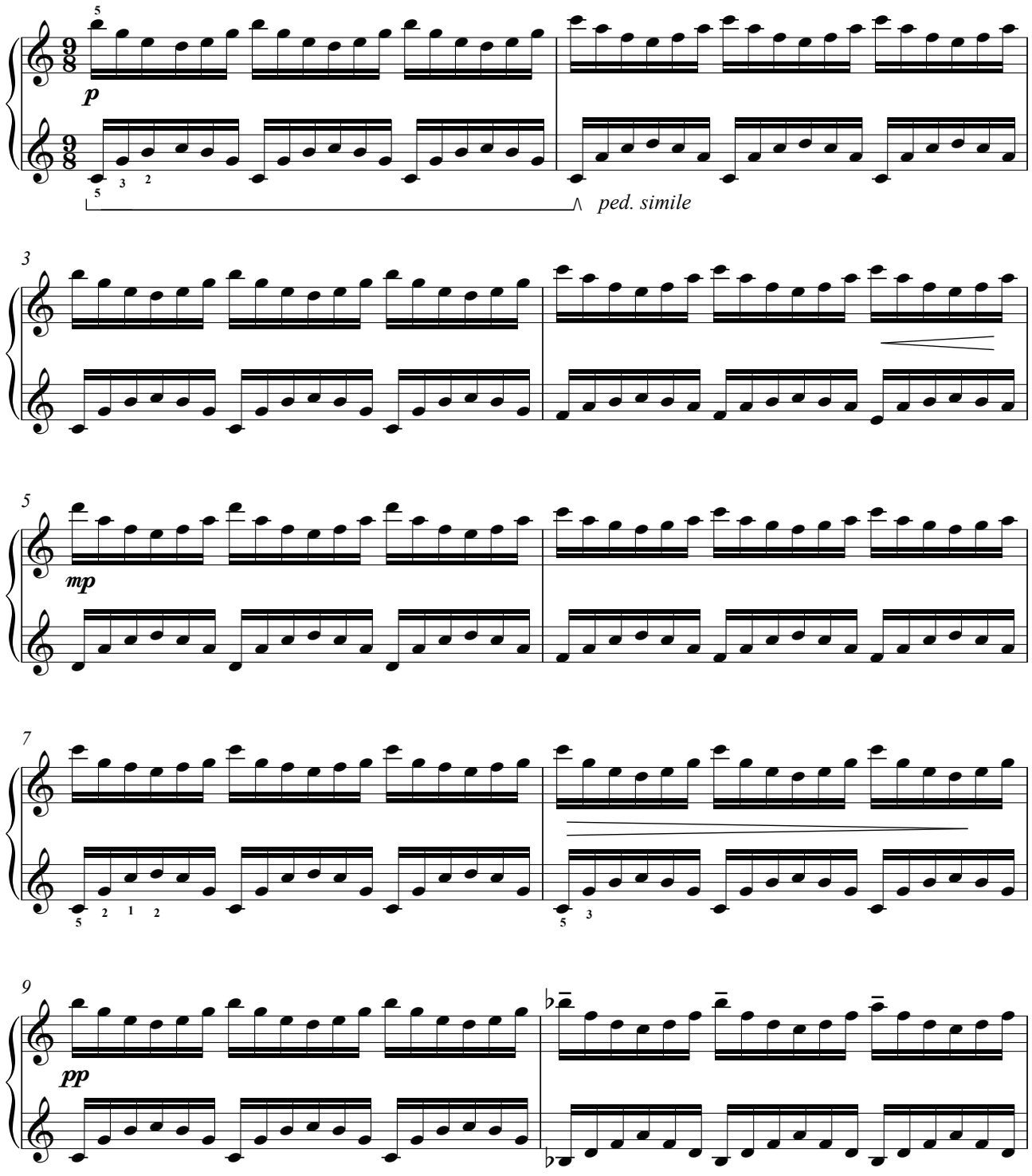

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Seasons No. 3

Moonlit Summer Night

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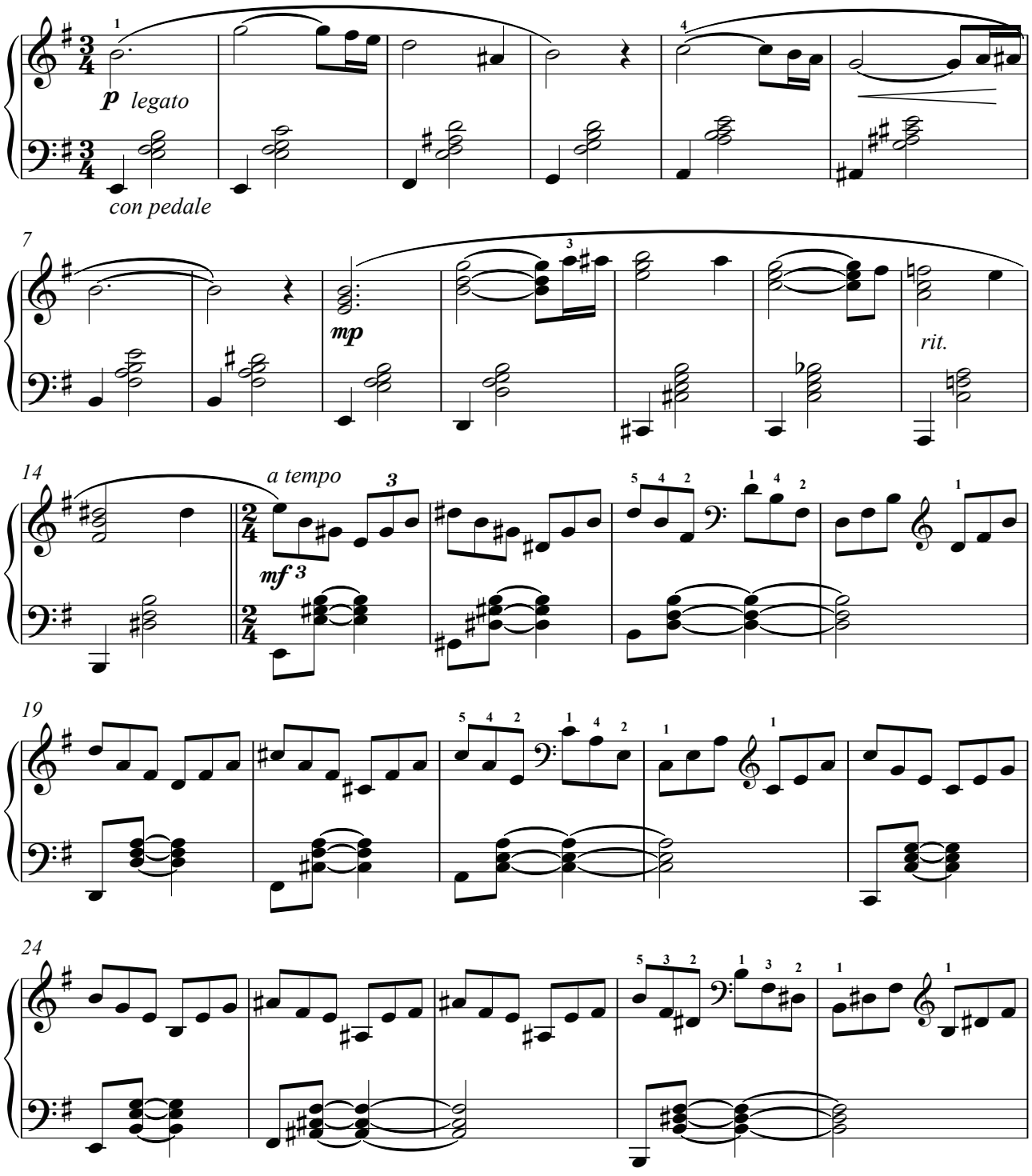
Comodo ♩ = ca. 100



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Seasons No. 4

Song of the Sunflowers

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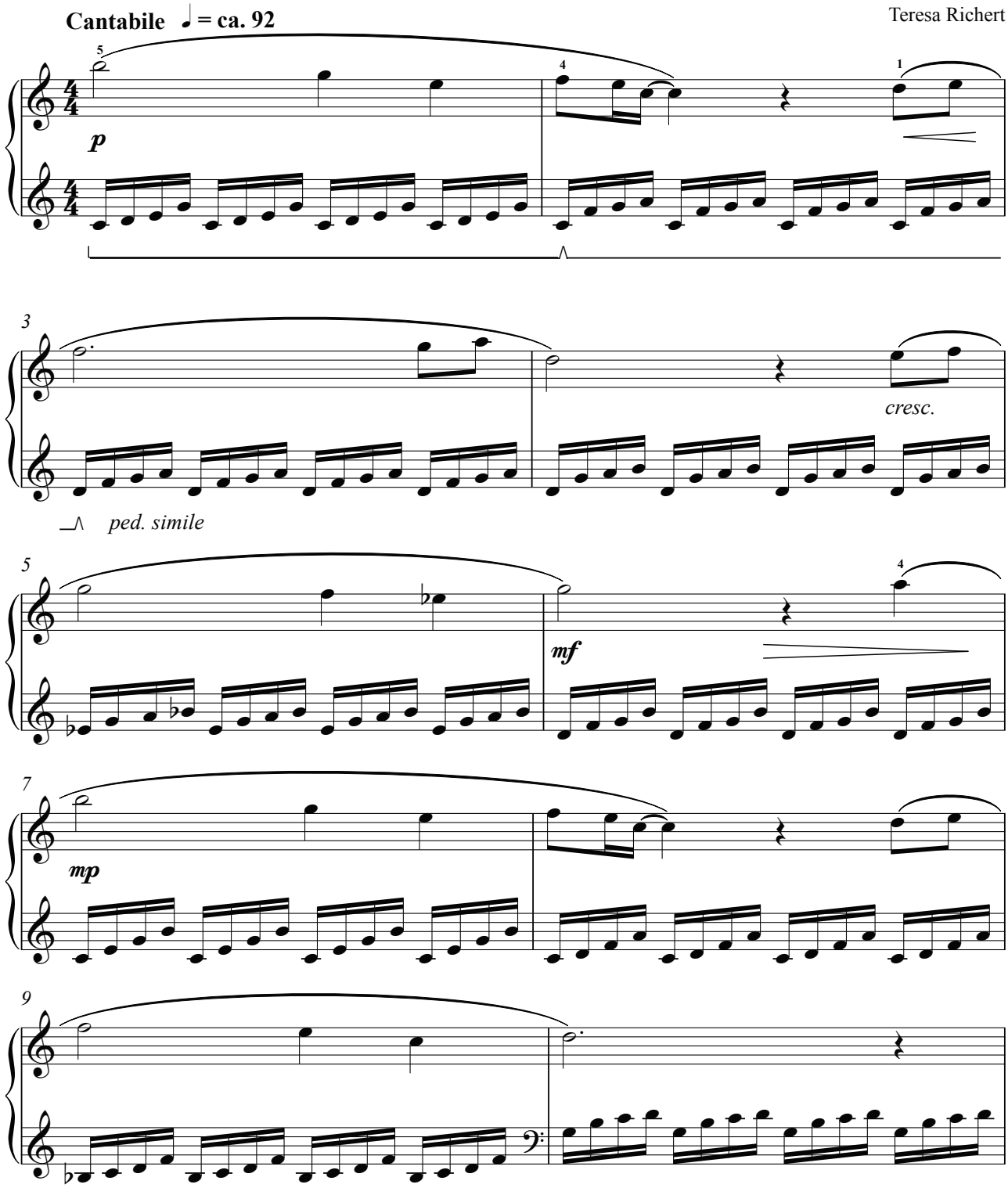

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Seasons No. 5

The Wind

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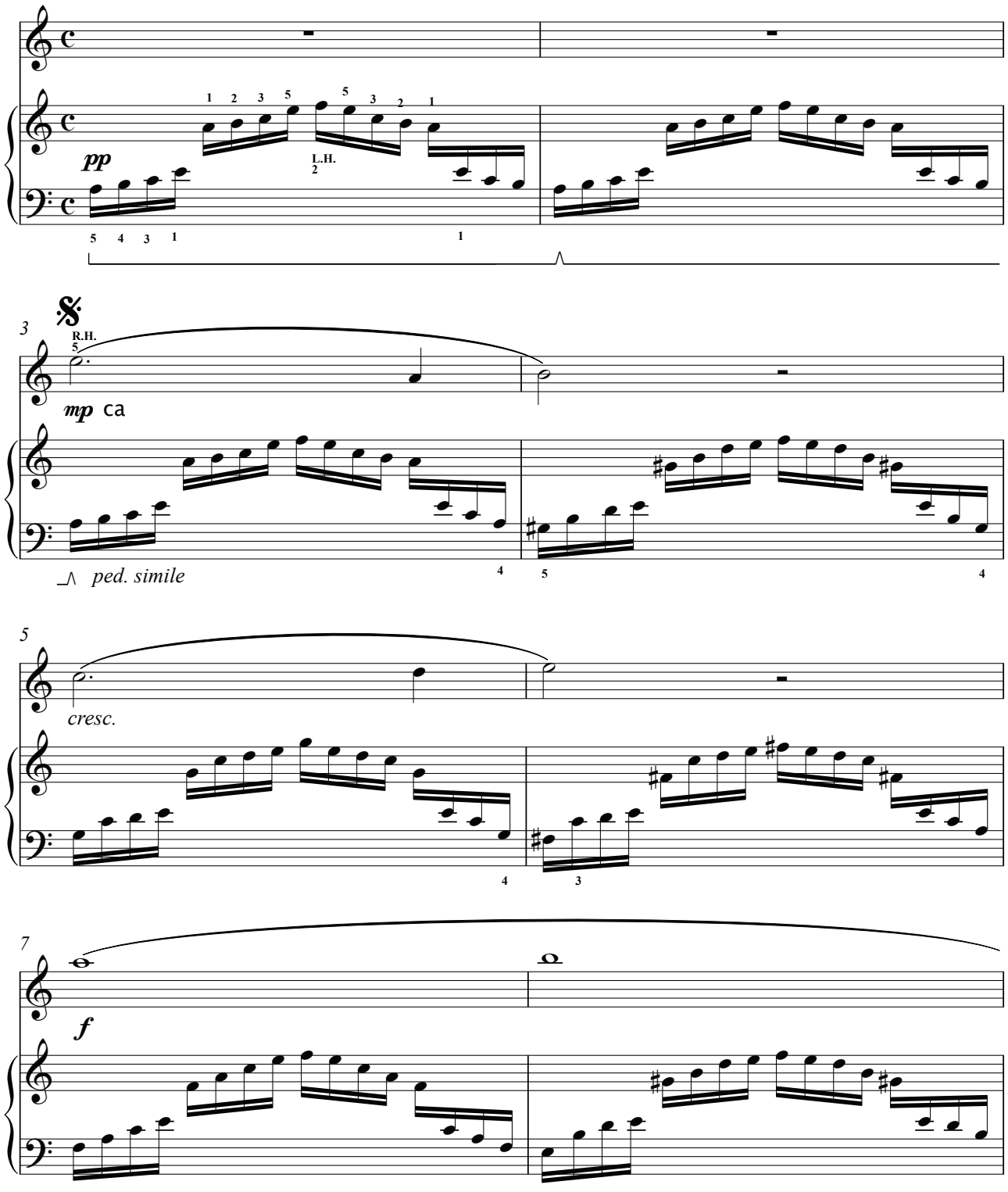
Con Moto ♩ = ca. 88



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Seasons No. 6

The Storm

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Rubato ♩ = ca. 100

p

con pedale

poco rit.

6 **Tranquillo ♩ = ca. 66**

pp

R.H.

una corda

8

10

p

12

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Seasons No. 7

Snow Drifts

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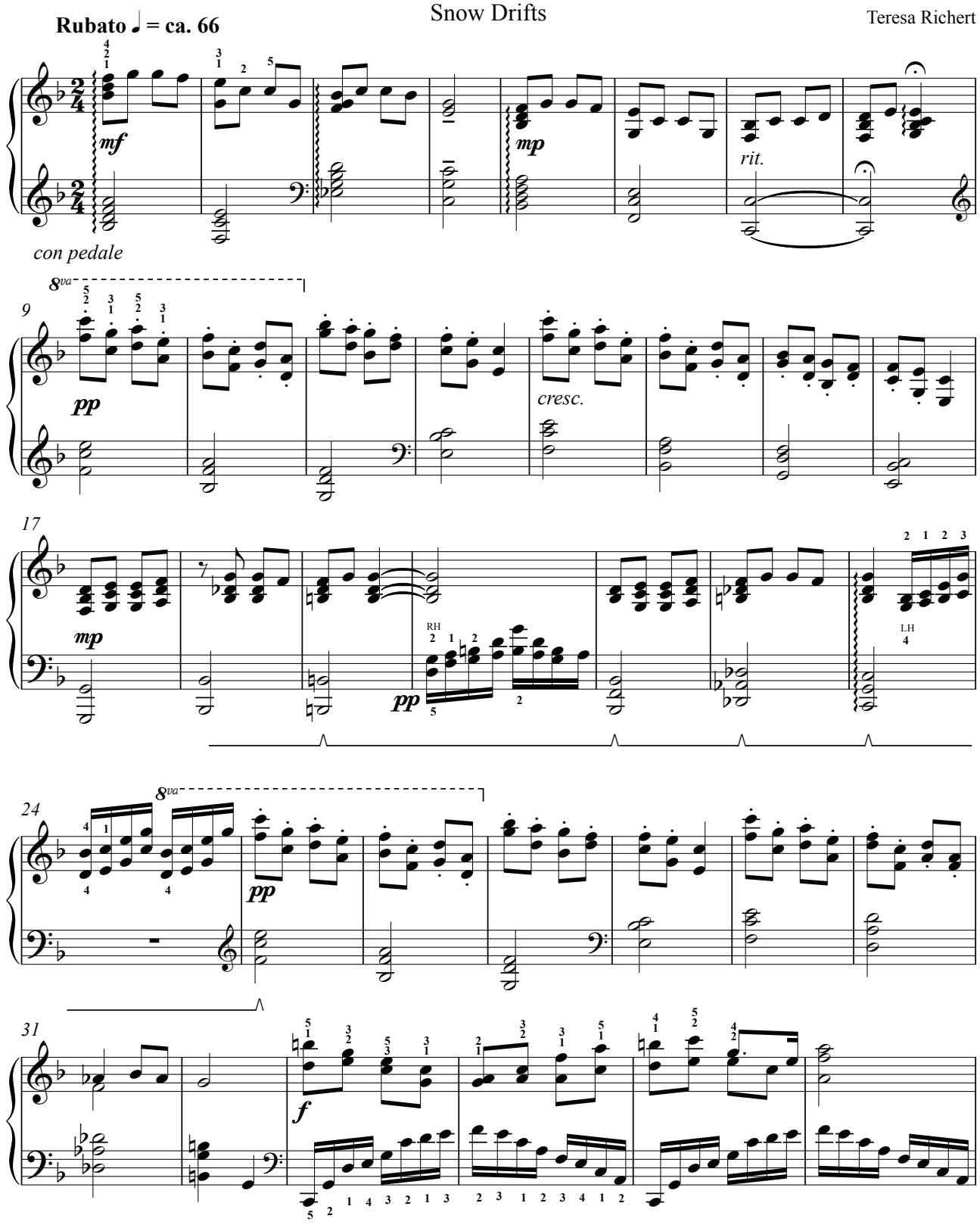

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Seasons No. 8

The Ice Dancers

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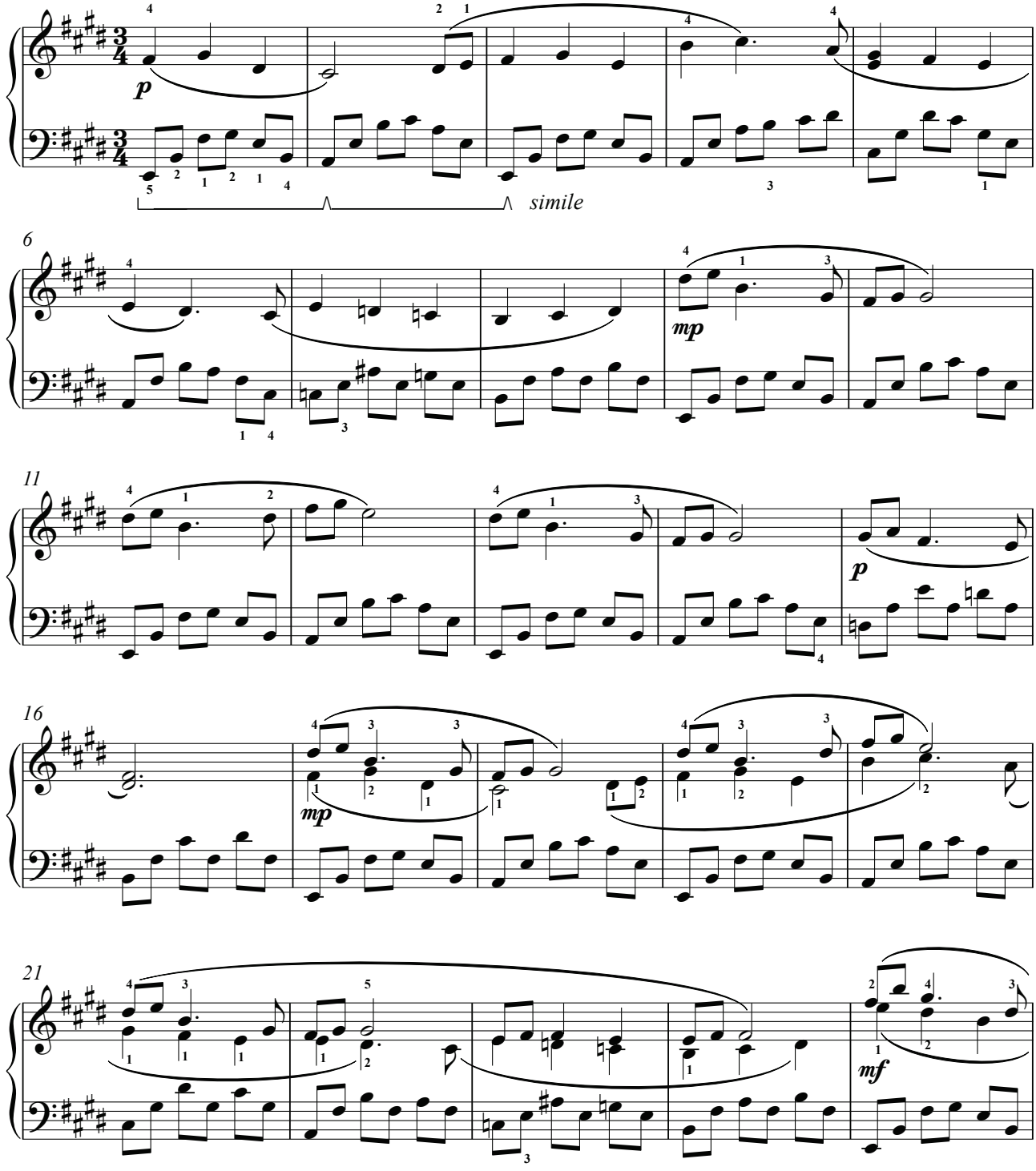
Espressivo ♩ = ca. 108



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