Diffusion

for piano solo

Op. 3

Lance Mok

London: January 2018

ca. 7 mins

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A direct result of entropic increase – or decay – through time, diffusion is the universal process of order degenerating into disorder. The piece is a musical sketch of the purity of the ideal reconciling with the corrupt reality. The stark contrast between the two is like blood dissolving into water. The first encounter was painful and took time to digest. Through repeated exposures and attempts of reconciliation, however, such process of absorbing the cruelty of the world inevitably becomes more of a painless routine over time.

The piece alternates between slow unmeasured and *allegro risoluto* sections, both derived from the same set of motivic materials. The latter – built around the Fibonacci sequence, which relates to the pattern of growth of many things in nature – dissolves itself again and again after coming in as a catastrophic horror almost obsessively. On another level, dissolution and diffusion play key roles in determining the piece's structure especially in the slow sections, where their progression is dependent on the decay of tones and their diffusion into the soundscape. Despite the apparent resilient calmness any dramatic outbursts dissolve into, the overall timbre of the piece is transformed. By the last time the *allegro* returns, it ceases to be a surprise.

Instrumentation: piano solo

Performance directions:

The duration of the note and its relevant passage is determined by its decay.

Repeat boxed segment up to the end of the beam.

Repeat boxed segment and pause repetition at double forward-slash end. Resume repetition at the next .

pizz. Pluck strings inside the piano.

Harmonics: play key with the diamond notehead while lightly touching the required node on the respective string(s) to produce the sounding pitch given in brackets.

Knock on metal frame inside the piano with fist.

Score

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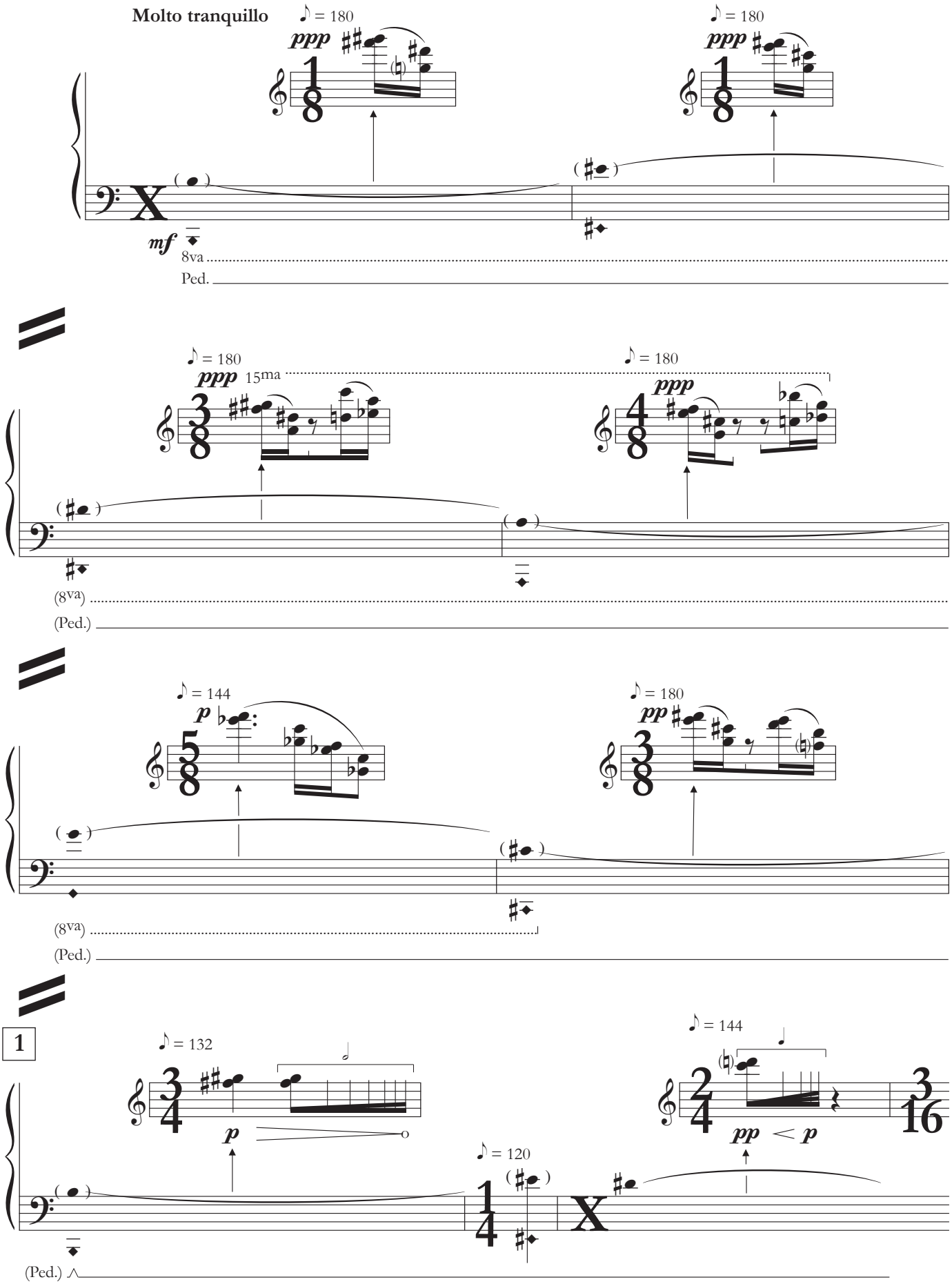

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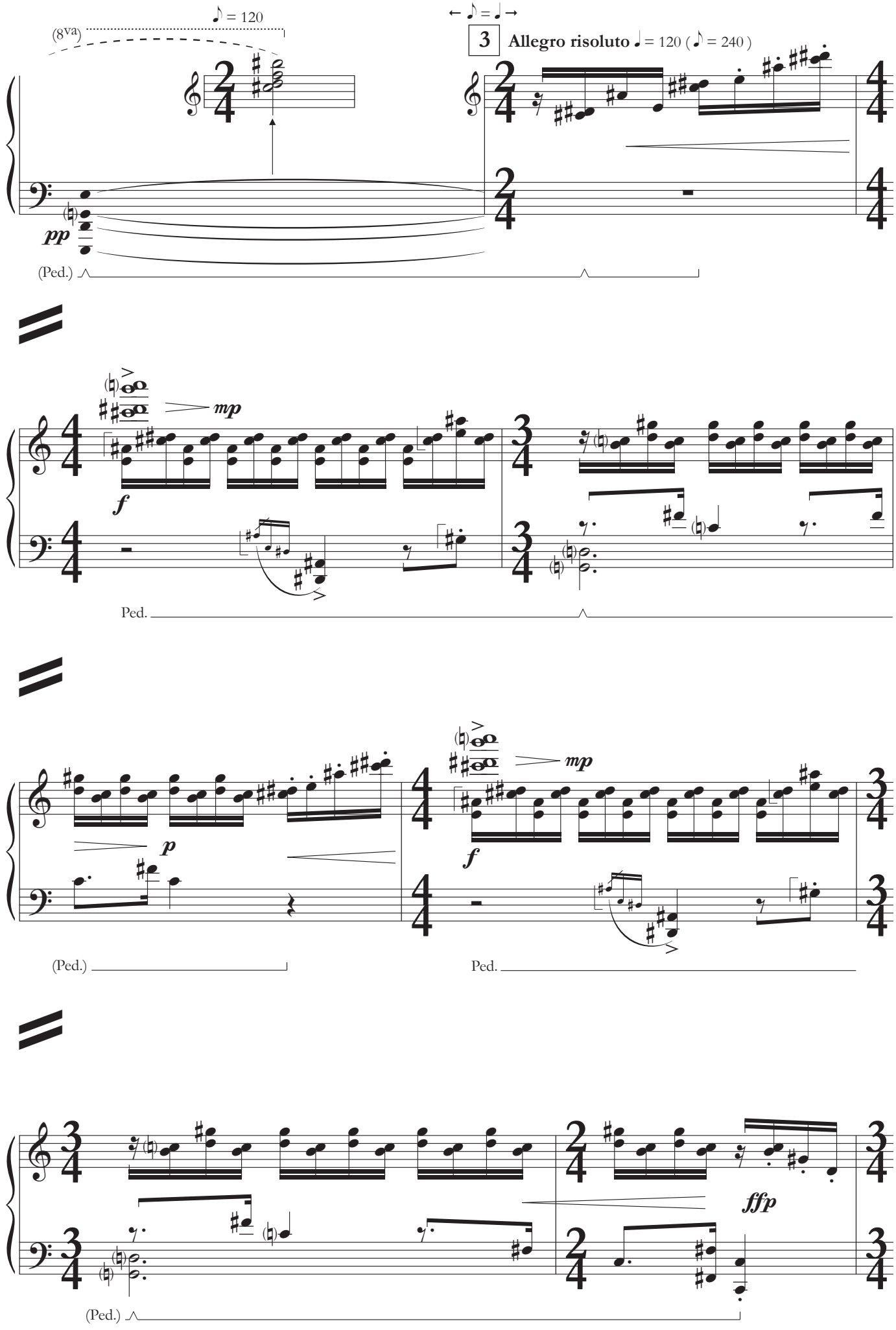
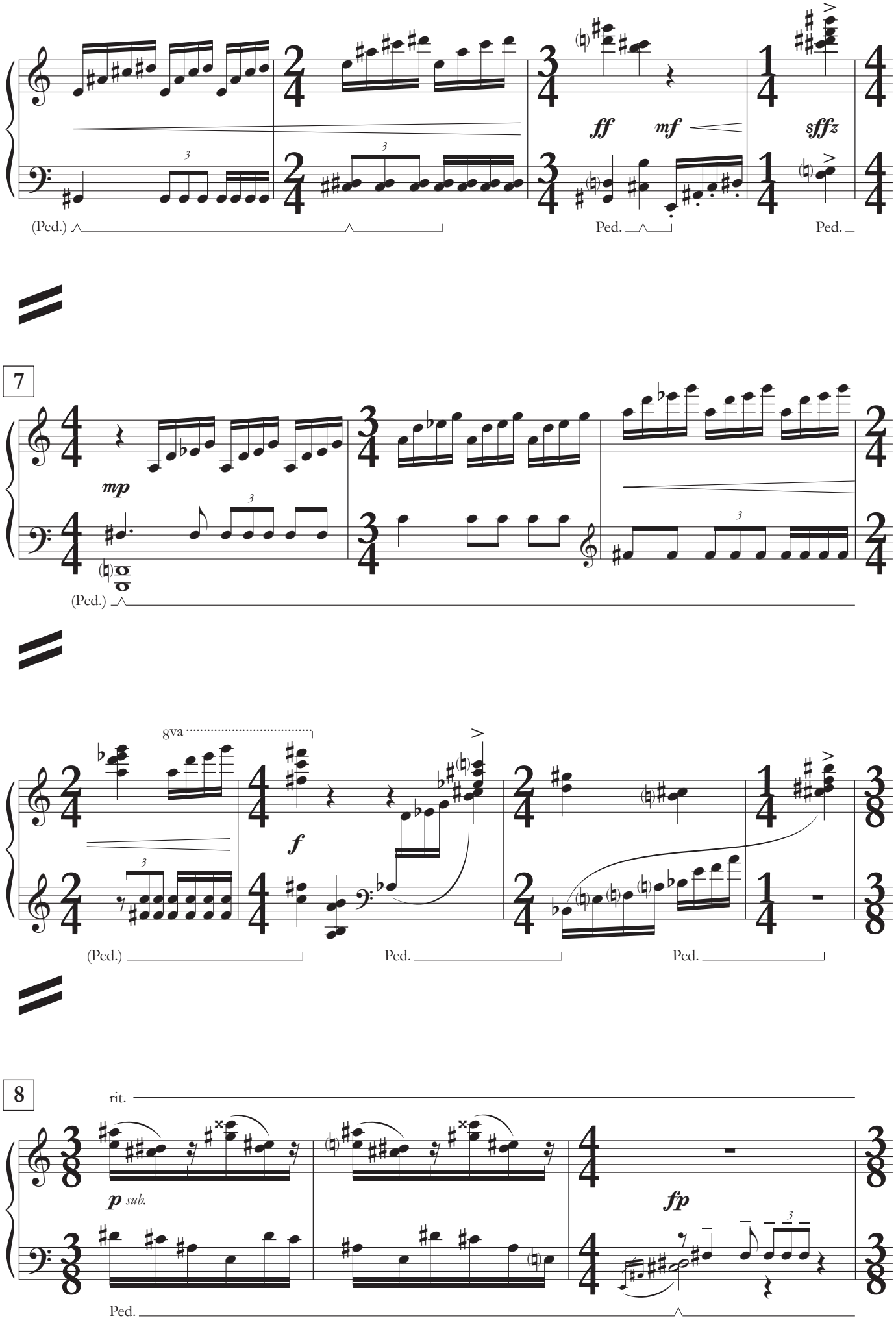
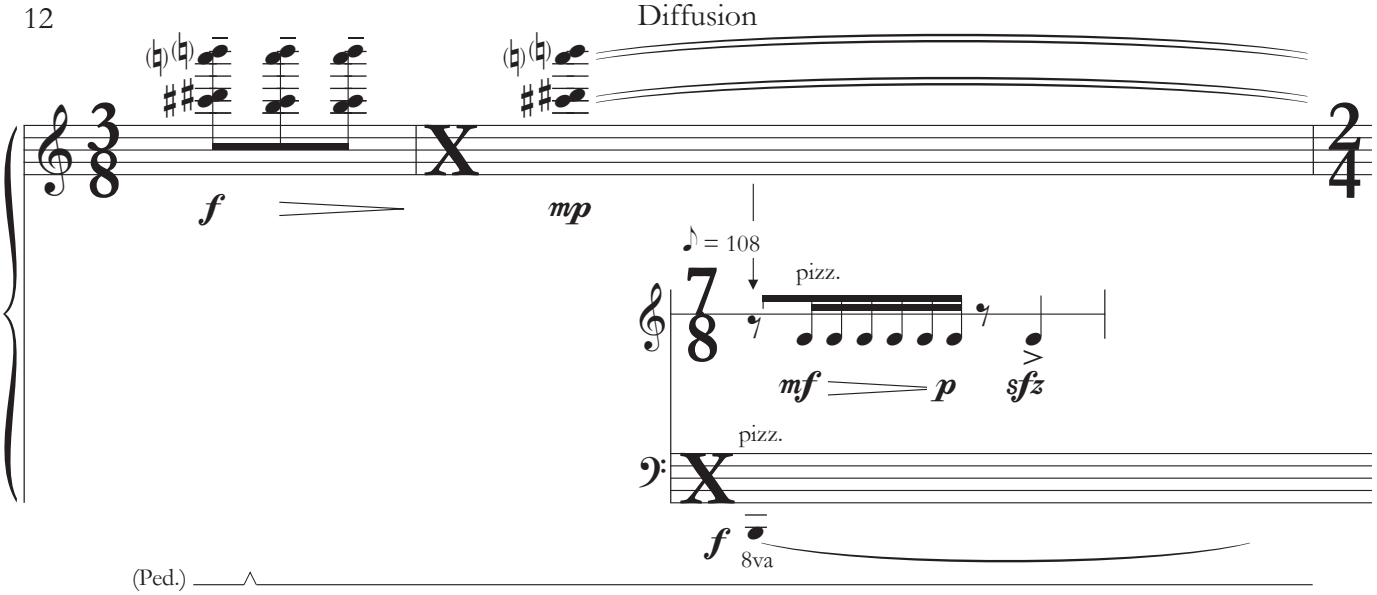
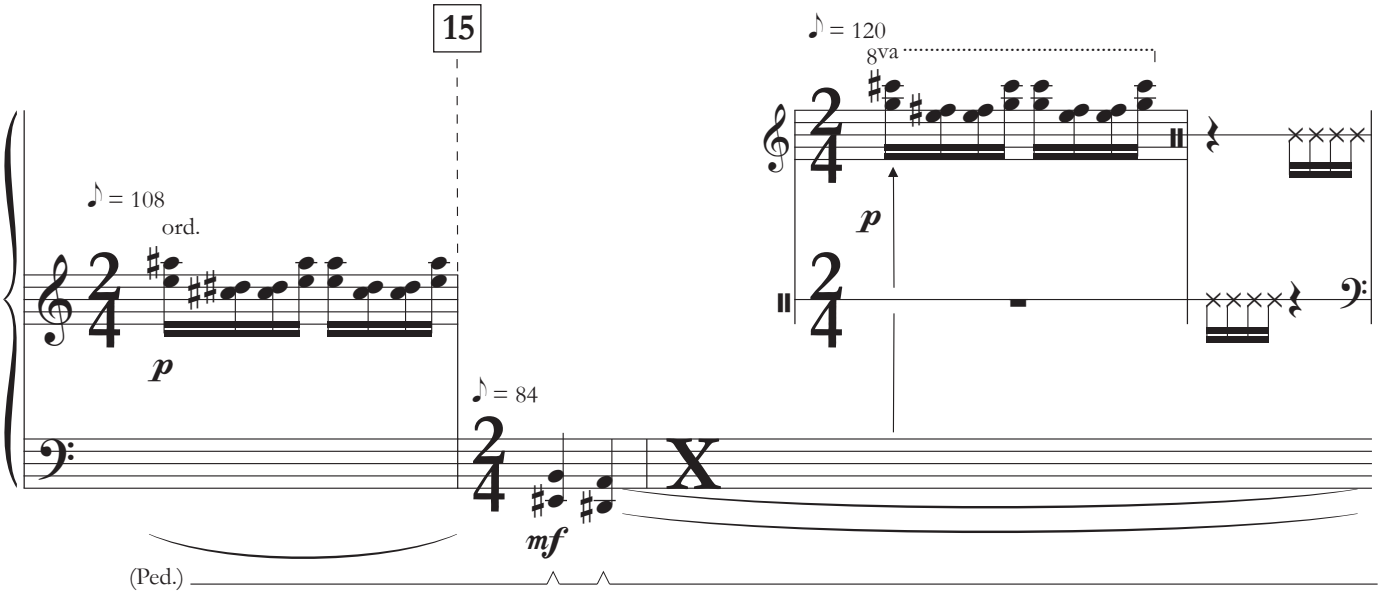
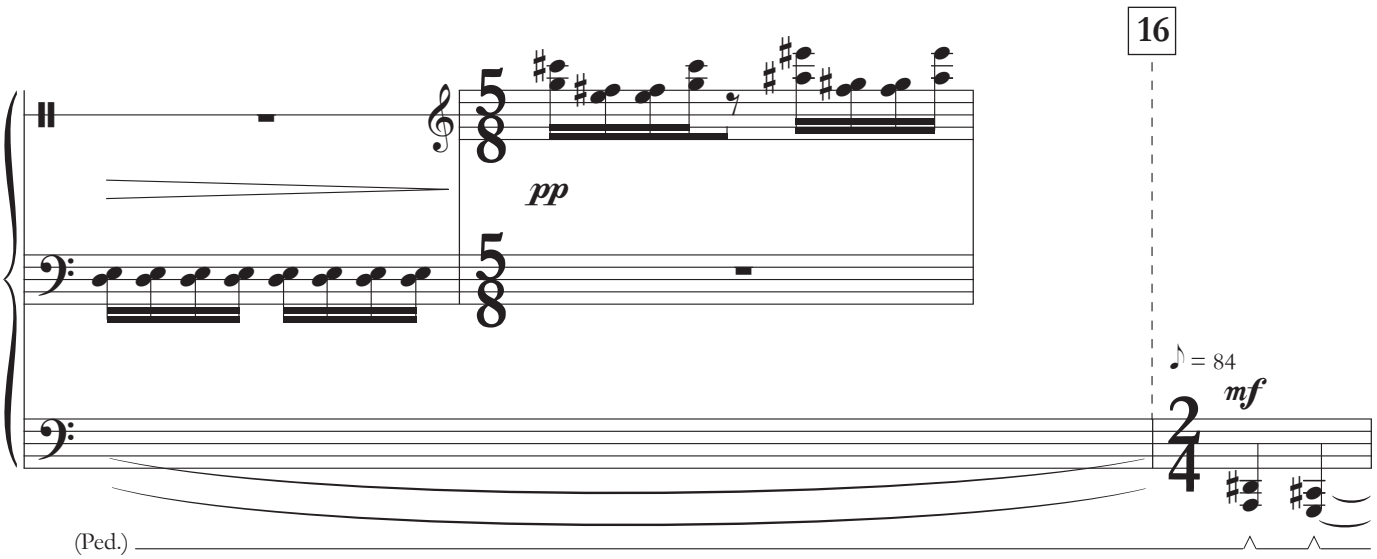
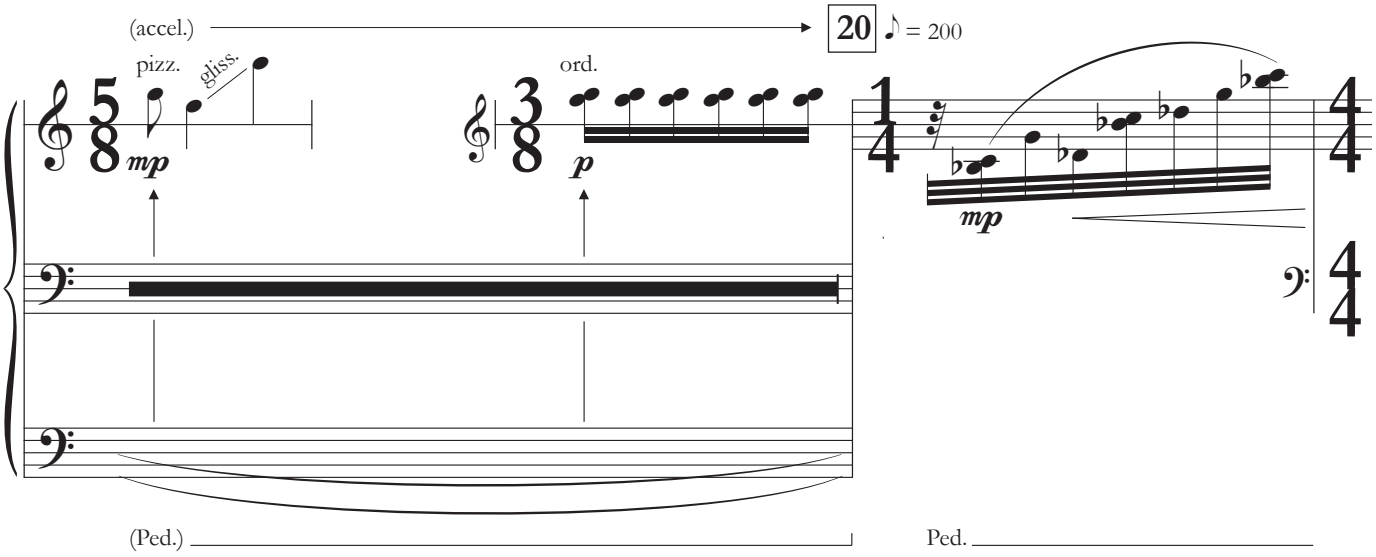

♪ = 120
(8va)
3
Allegro risoluto ♩ = 120 (♪ = 240)
pp
(Ped.)
mp
f
Ped.
p
f
mp
(Ped.)
Ped.
fffp
(Ped.)

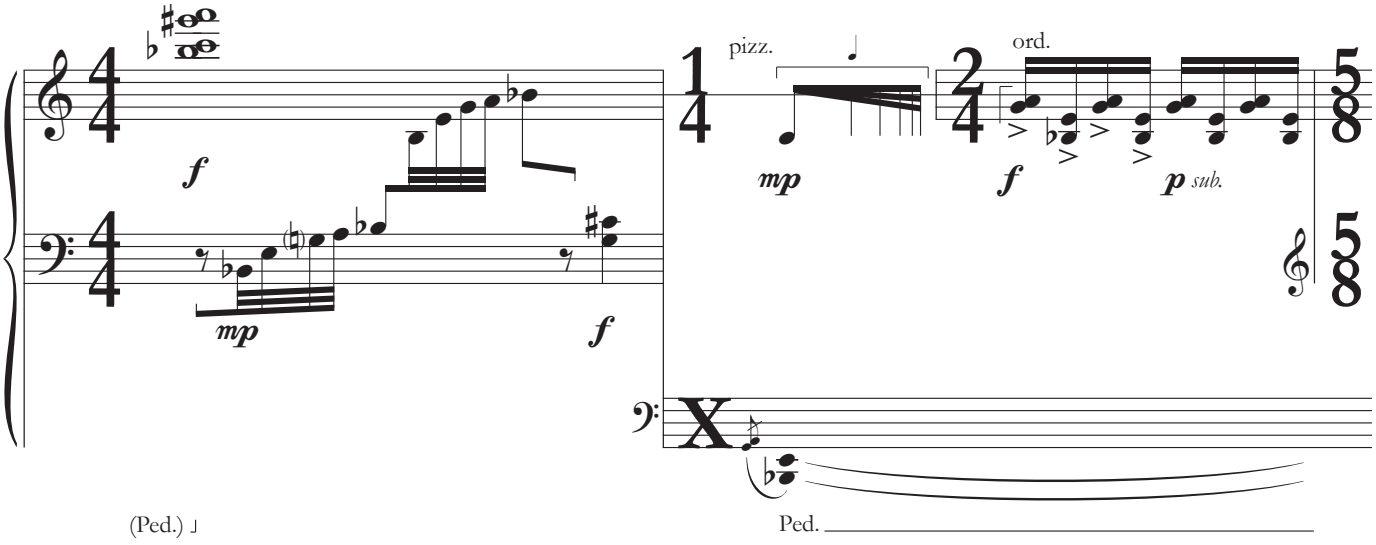

ff
mf
sffz
(Ped.)
Ped.
Ped.
7
mp
(Ped.)
8va
f
(Ped.)
Ped.
Ped.
8
rit.
p sub.
fp
Ped.

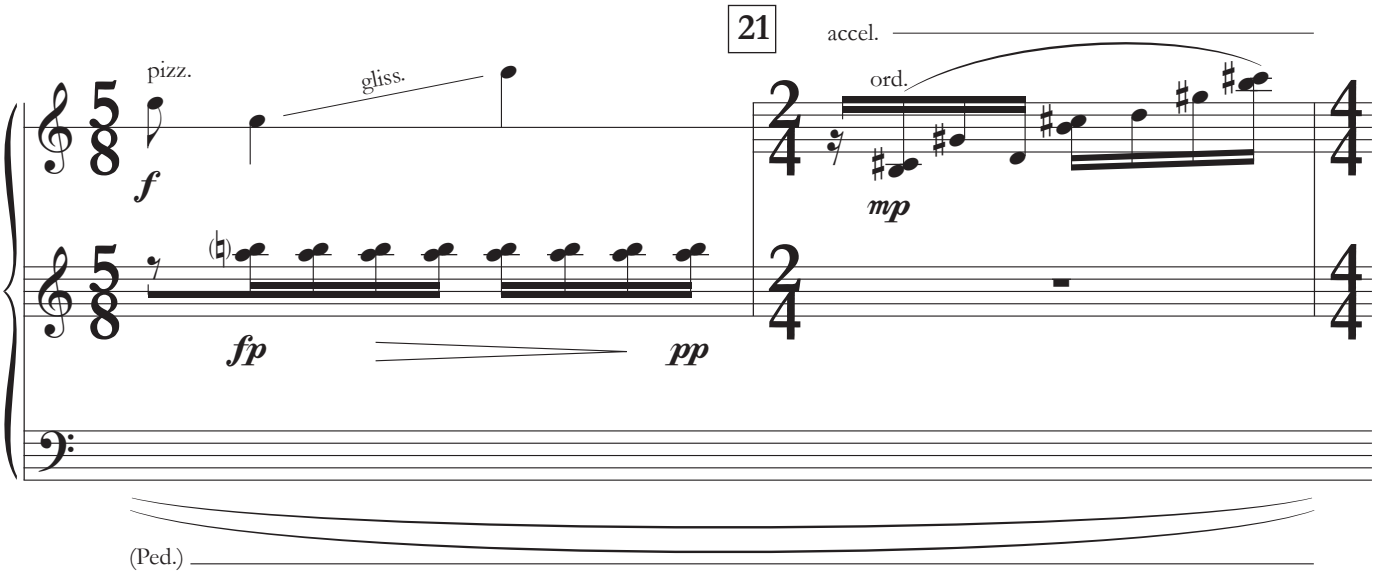

f
mp
♪ = 108
pizz.
mf
p
sfz
pizz.
f
8va
(Ped.)

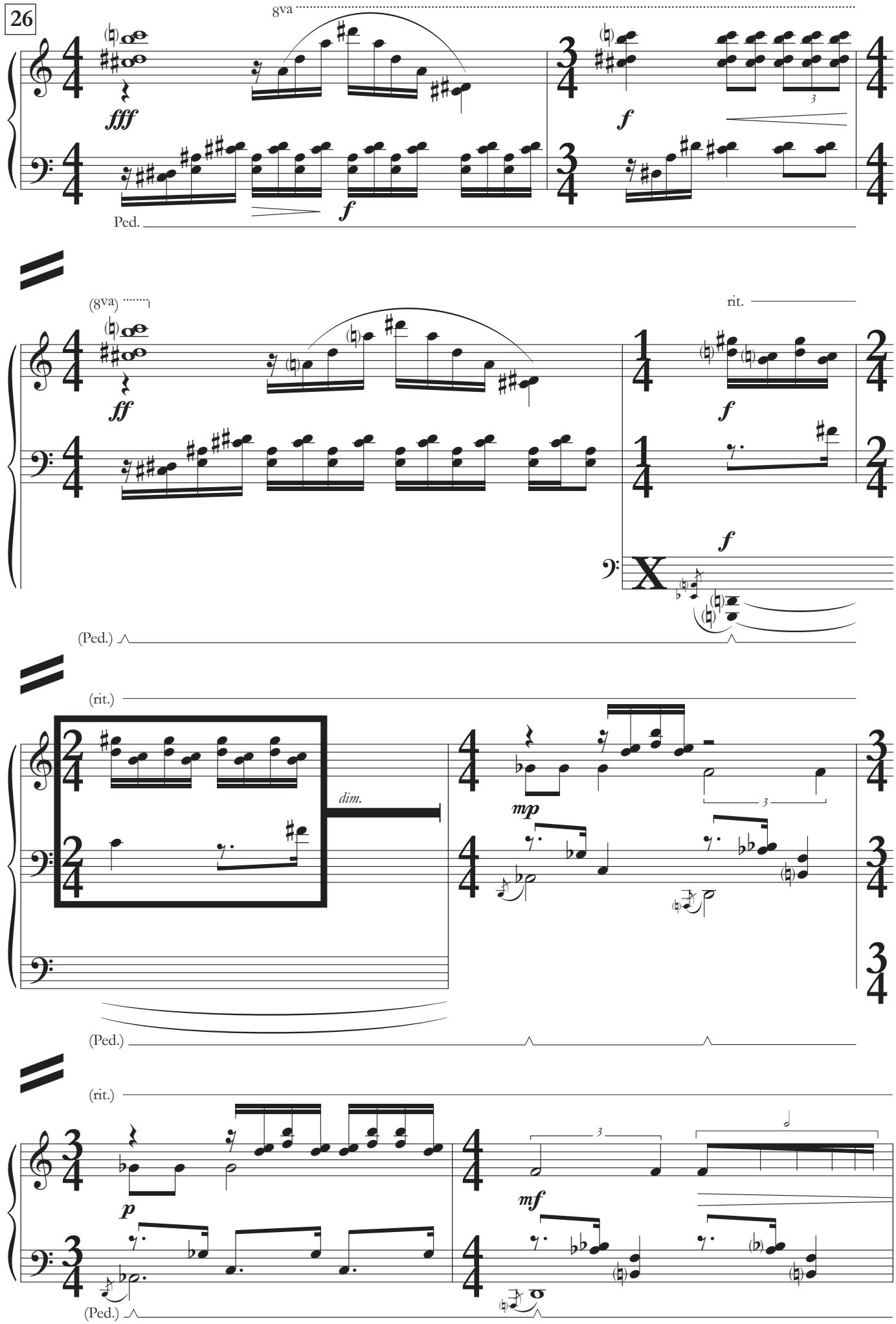

15
♪ = 120
8va
♪ = 108
ord.
p
p
♪ = 84
mf
(Ped.)


16
pp
♪ = 84
mf
(Ped.)


(accel.)
20
♪ = 200
pizz.
gliss.
mp
ord.
p
mp
(Ped.)
Ped.


f
mp
f
pizz.
mp
ord.
f
p sub.
(Ped.)
Ped.


21
accel.
pizz.
gliss.
f
ord.
mp
fp
pp
(Ped.)


26
8va
fff
f
Ped.
(8va)
ff
rit.
f
X
(Ped.)
(rit.)
dim.
mp
(Ped.)
(rit.)
p
mf
(Ped.)