The Rebuild of a Fallen State

for piano four-hands
Op. 23

Lance Mok

Hong Kong: September 2025

ca. 7 mins

In times of upheaval, history repeats itself: a state collapses, a people are silenced, and a 'rebuild' begins. Yet reconstruction is rarely neutral; it can restore, but it also erases, forcing new systems onto those who have lost their voice.

In *The Rebuild of a Fallen State,* the piano becomes that contested ground: the primo embodies the silenced, carrying fragments of a dignified march that longs to be heard, while the secondo assumes the role of the dominant force, violently interrupting and reshaping the music. The full theme appears only once following the collapse of the oppressed, reduced to an echo — the ashes and ghosts of what could have been. A forced reconstruction follows. The oppressed voice is made to succumb, absorbed into a new order that carries the weight of control but not the spirit of what came before: when a fallen state is rebuilt, whose voice survives — and at what cost?

The work was premiered by pianists Clíodna Shanahan and Simon Callaghan on 2 November 2025 at the Clements Prize Competition 2025 at Conway Hall, London, United Kingdom, and was awarded Third Prize.

Instrumentation: piano four-hands

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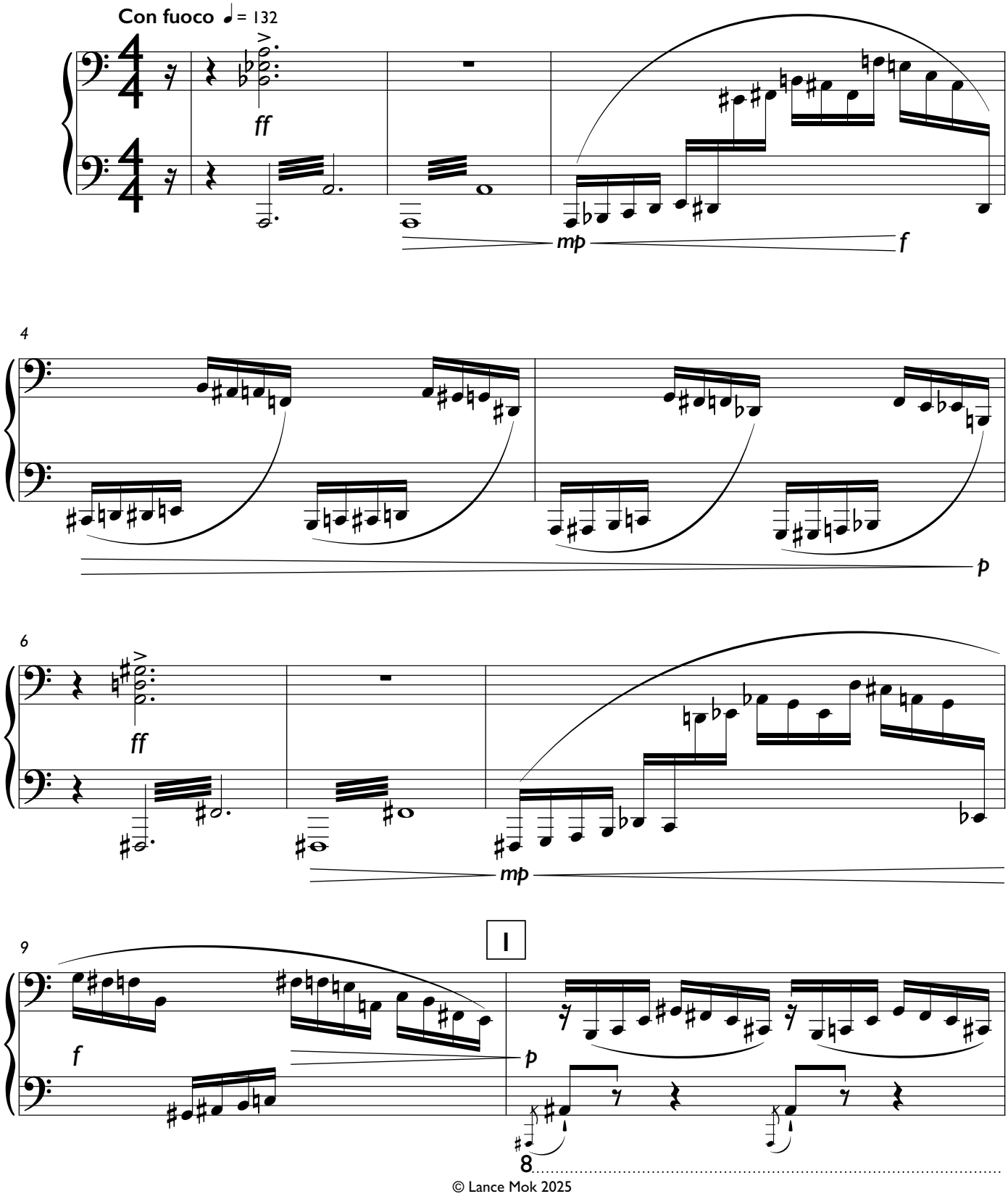
Secondo



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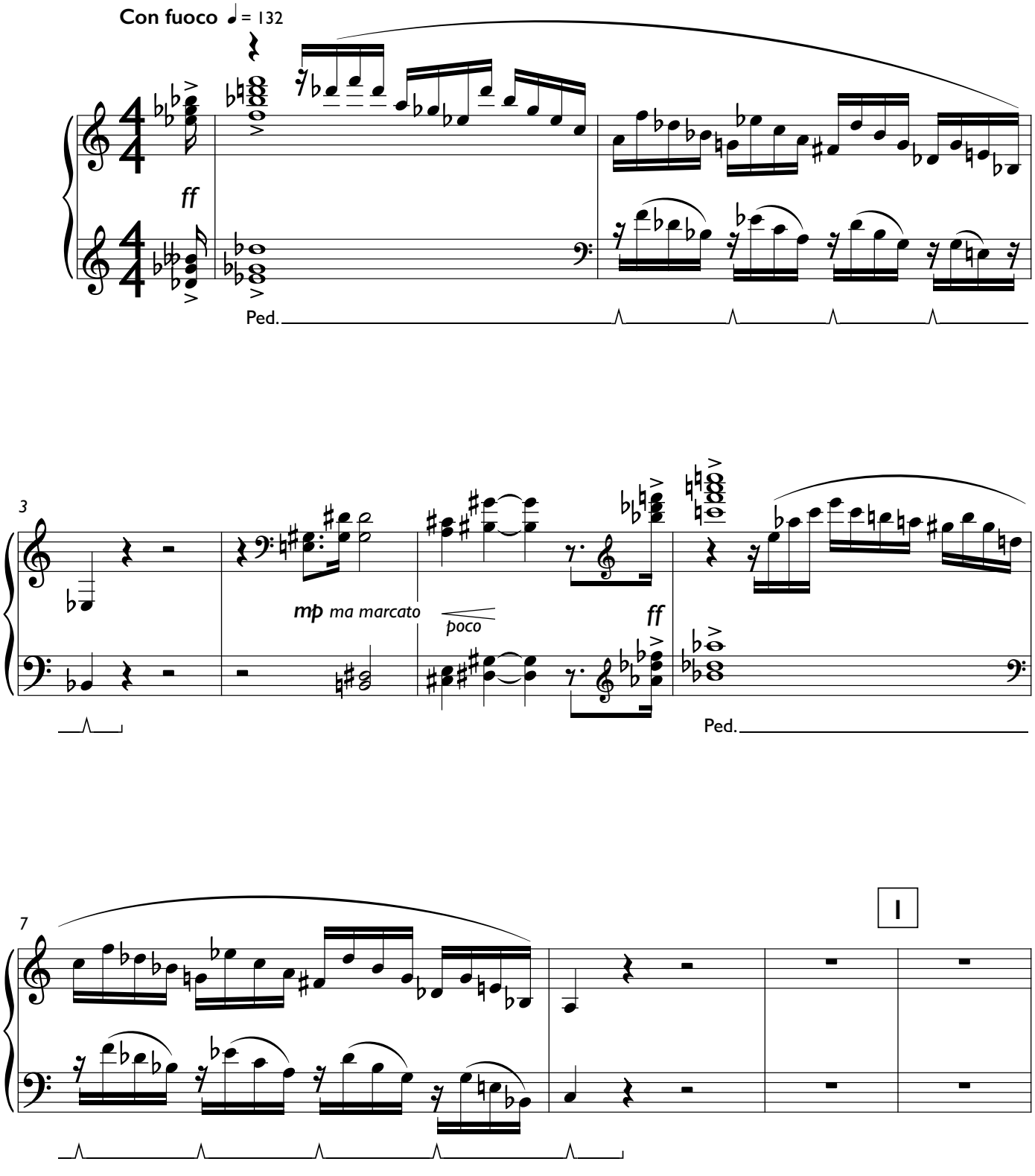
Primo



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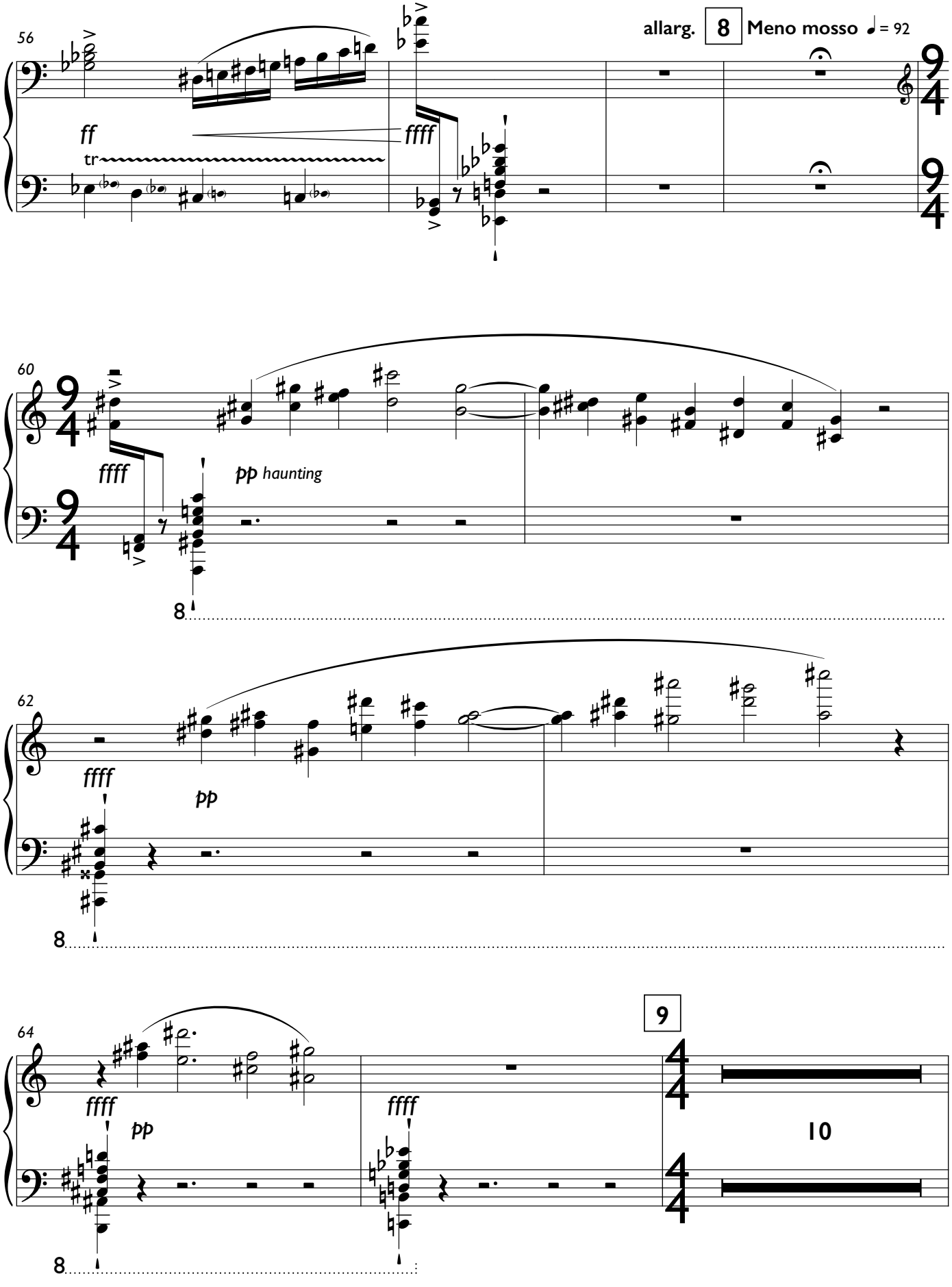
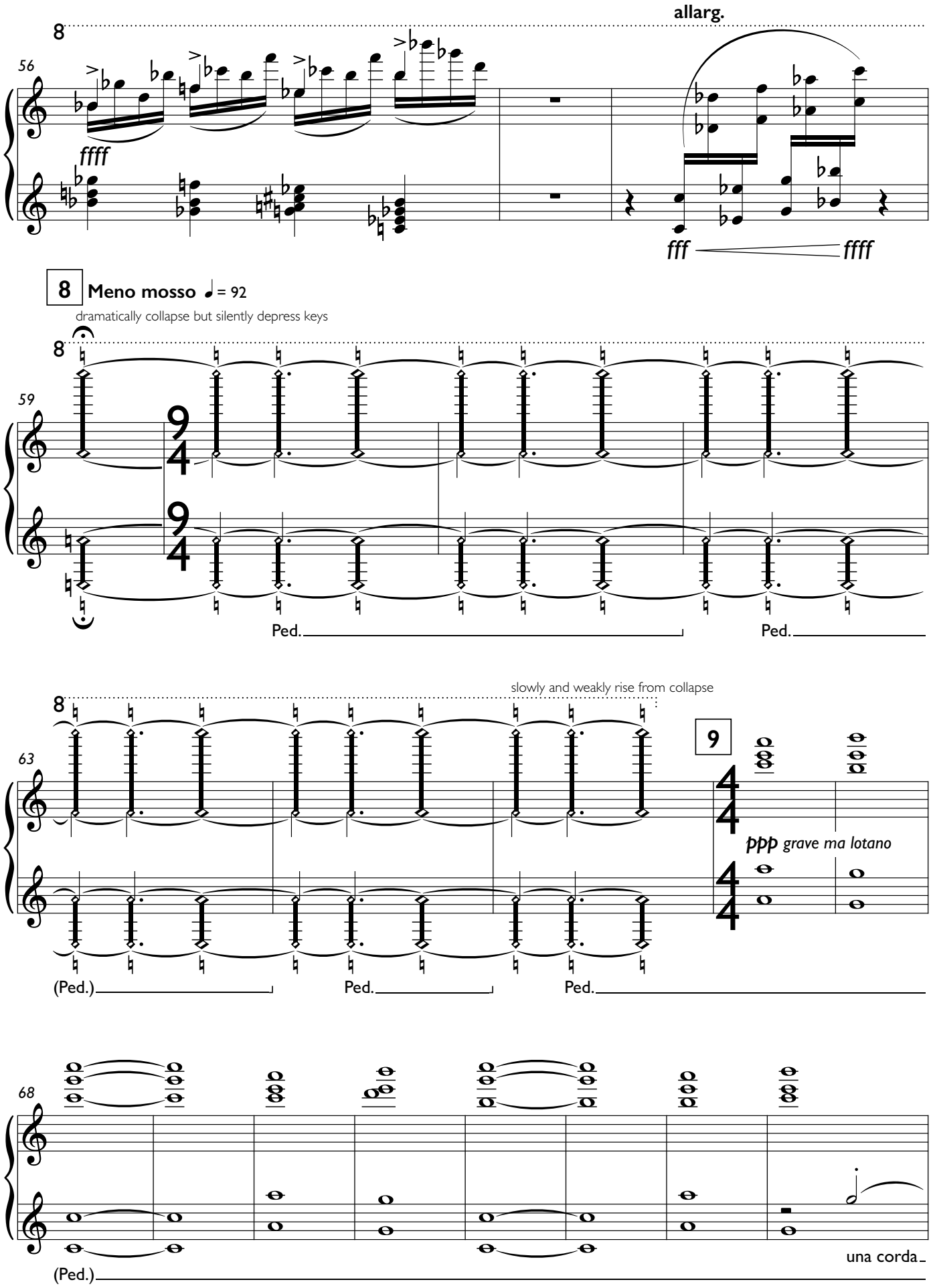
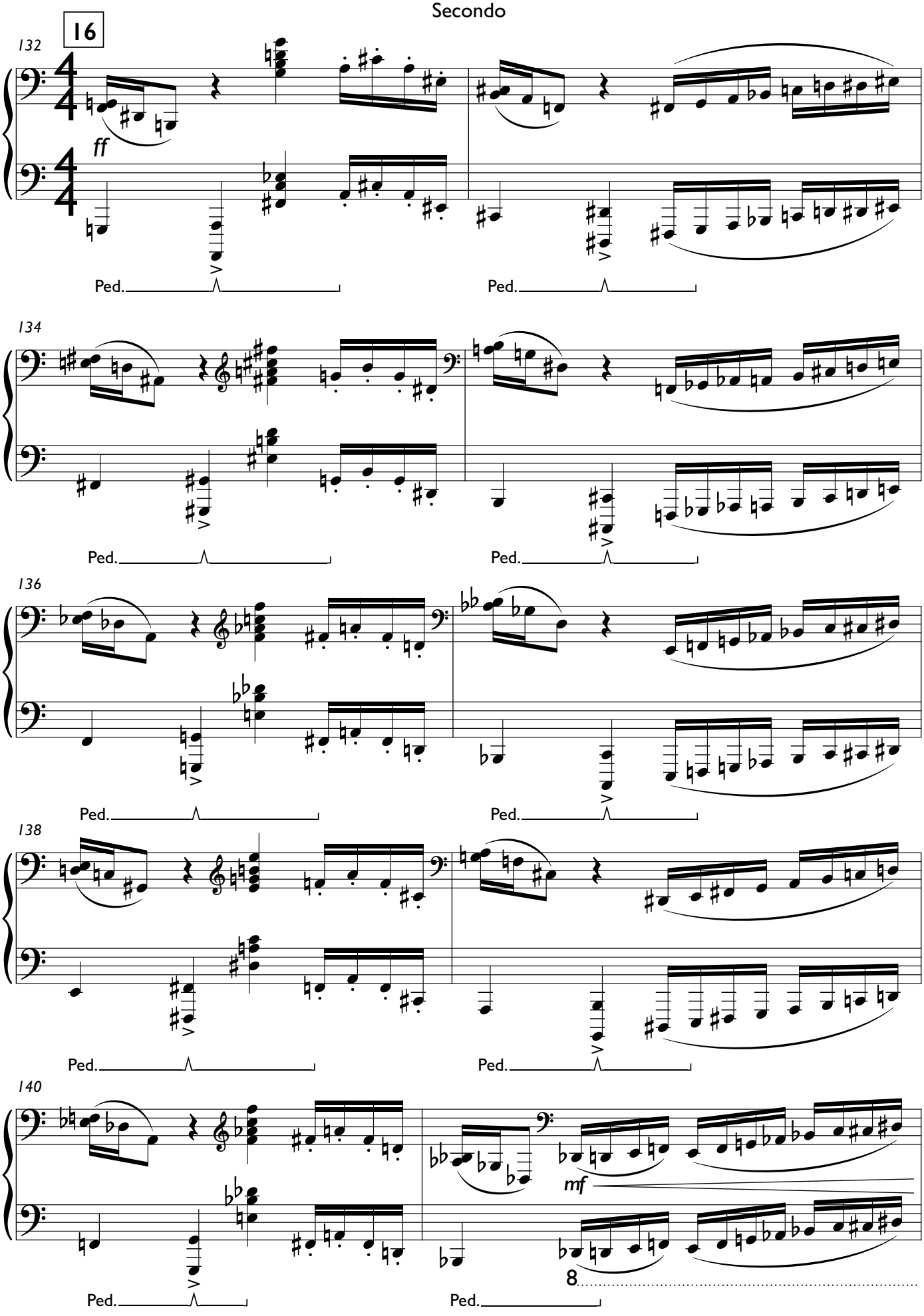
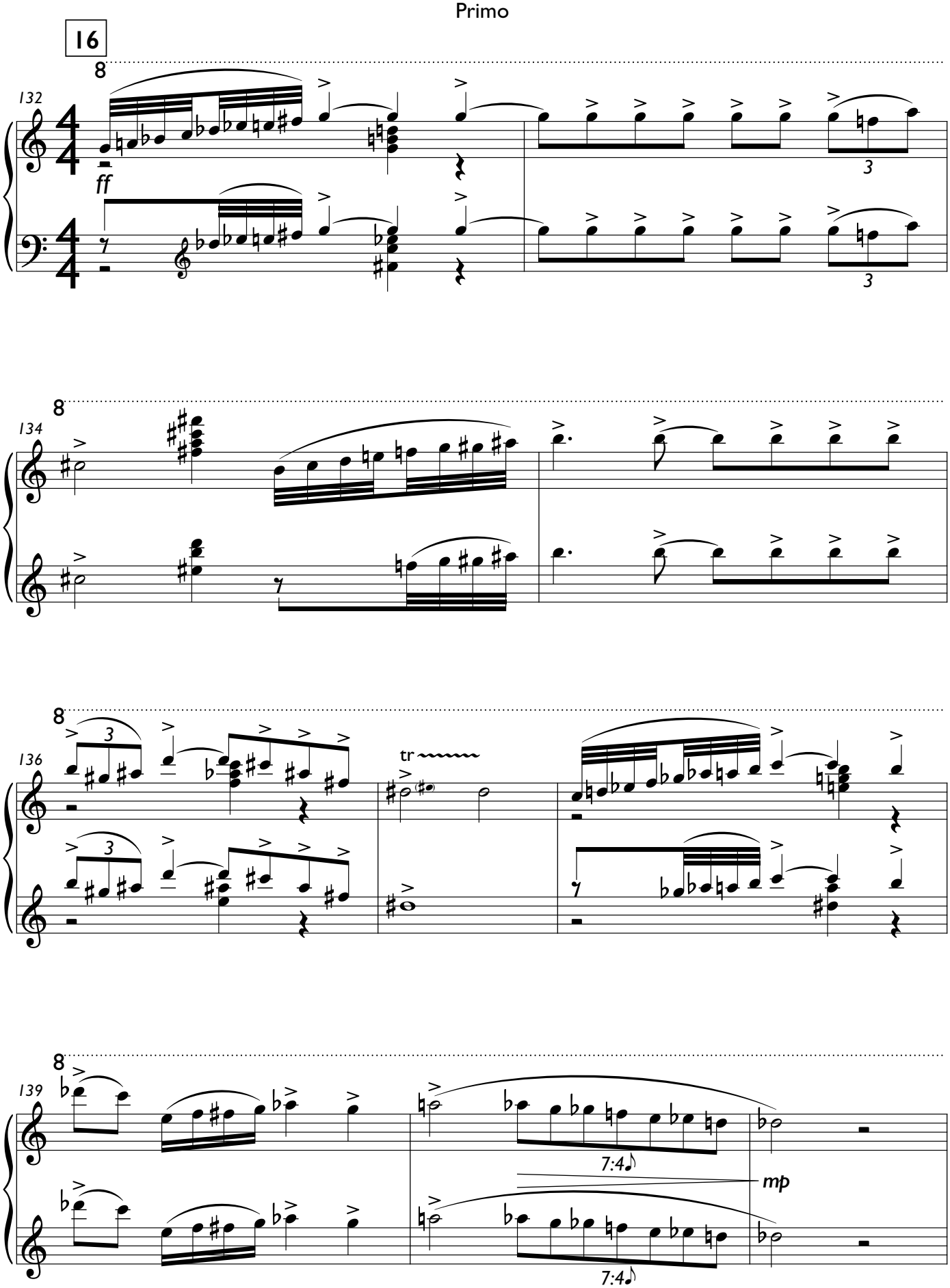
Secondo


56
ff
tr
ffff
allarg.
8
Meno mosso
= 92
60
ffff
pp haunting
8
62
ffff
pp
8
64
ffff
pp
ffff
9
10
8

Primo


allarg.
56
ffff
fff
ffff
8
Meno mosso ♩ = 92
dramatically collapse but silently depress keys
59
Ped.
Ped.
slowly and weakly rise from collapse
63
9
ppp grave ma lotano
(Ped.)
Ped.
Ped.
68
una corda
(Ped.)

Secondo


16
132
ff
Ped.
Ped.
134
Ped.
Ped.
136
Ped.
Ped.
138
Ped.
Ped.
140
mf
8
Ped.
Ped.

Primo