Foreword

Having a last name that sounds like a weather condition has often been a source of amusement in my life. I've been showered with streams of bad jokes over the years, and deluged with silly puns. It was composer and colleague Larry Shackley who suggested I should capitalize on my name and write a collection of hymn arrangements with titles having something to do with water. I'm delighted to have finally followed through on his suggestion with this collection of ***Hymns for a Raney Sunday.***

I came up with eleven familiar titles, and ten of them found their way into this book. These include some older gospel songs like *The Unclouded Day* and *There Shall Be Showers of Blessing*. They include some classics like *Shall We Gather at the River* and some spirituals like *Deep River* and *Wade in the Water*. I'll admit that it was great fun arranging these old chestnuts.

I approached this project with the idea of including a wide variety of styles. There are some lighthearted, jazzy arrangements as well as more traditional, classically styled settings. I tried to make them mildly challenging, yet easily attainable for the intermediate pianist. Most of these are an acceptable length for preludes, offertories, and postludes.

I hope you enjoy this collection and find it useful. I poured my heart into it!

– Joel Raney

About the Arranger

Joel Raney's life as a working composer and musician has been shaped by many influences. Growing up in a rural Baptist church in Alabama fostered his love for the old hymns and the gospel style. As a performer and music director for theater productions, he gained insight into Broadway, popular, and jazz music.

From early "playing by ear" explorations to earning a Masters in Piano Performance from The Juilliard School, Joel's keyboard prowess led to work as an accompanist, in the theater, as a composer of TV commercials, and as a church organist. His vocal direction skills were first developed while getting his undergraduate degree in Choral Conducting at the University of North Alabama. Since 2011, he has been conducting his own choir in the First Baptist Church of Oak Park, Illinois.

Today, Joel applies this lifetime of musical experiences to the creation of sacred music. He has hundreds of titles in print with numerous publishers which include choral anthems and instrumental music for every church occasion. His work includes Christmas and Lenten/Easter musicals, solo piano books, organ and piano duet collections, music for handbells, and many instrumental works.

Joel resides in the Chicago area with his wife, Susie. They have three grown sons who live and work nearby.

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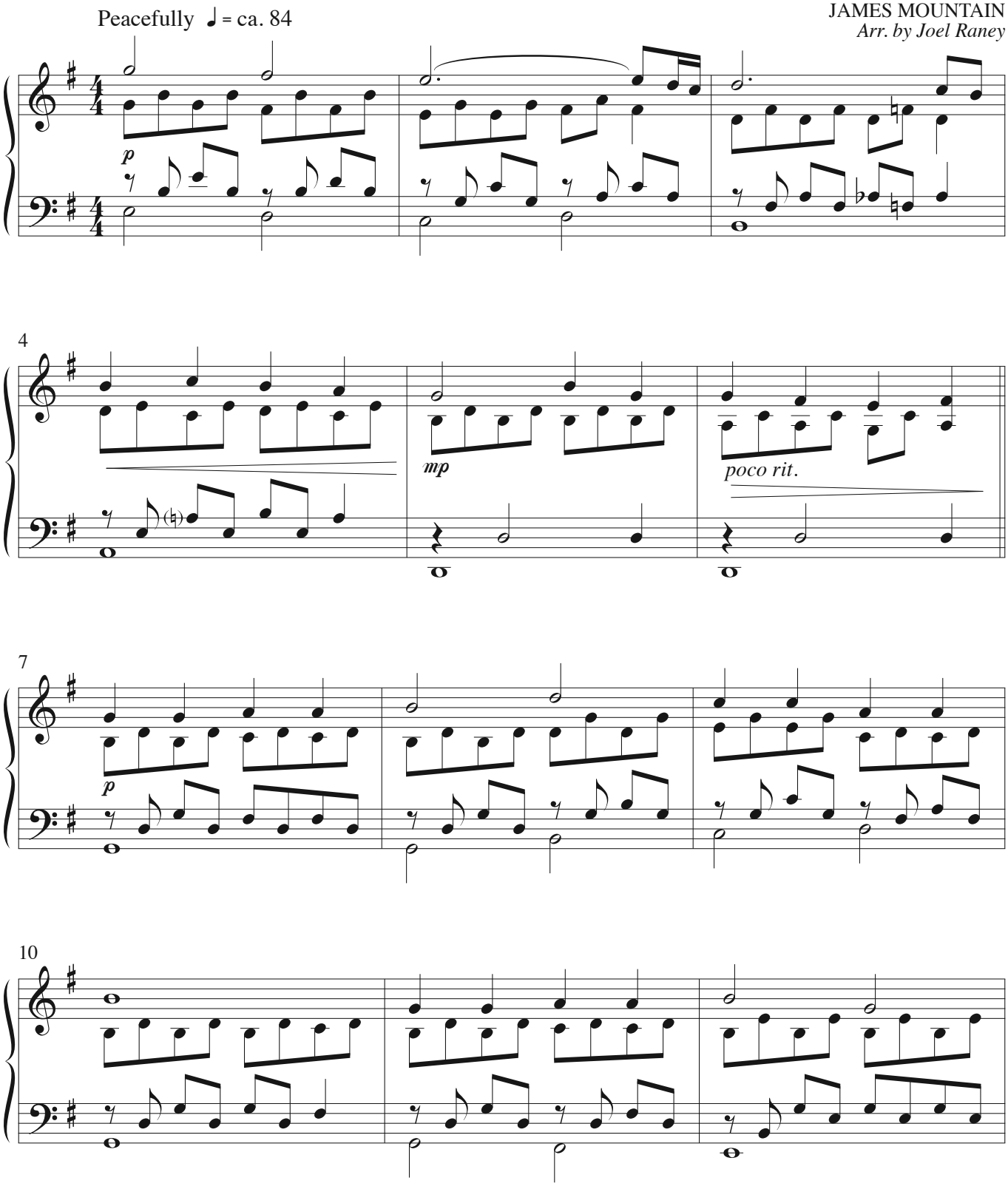
Like a River Glorious

JAMES MOUNTAIN
Arr. by Joel Raney



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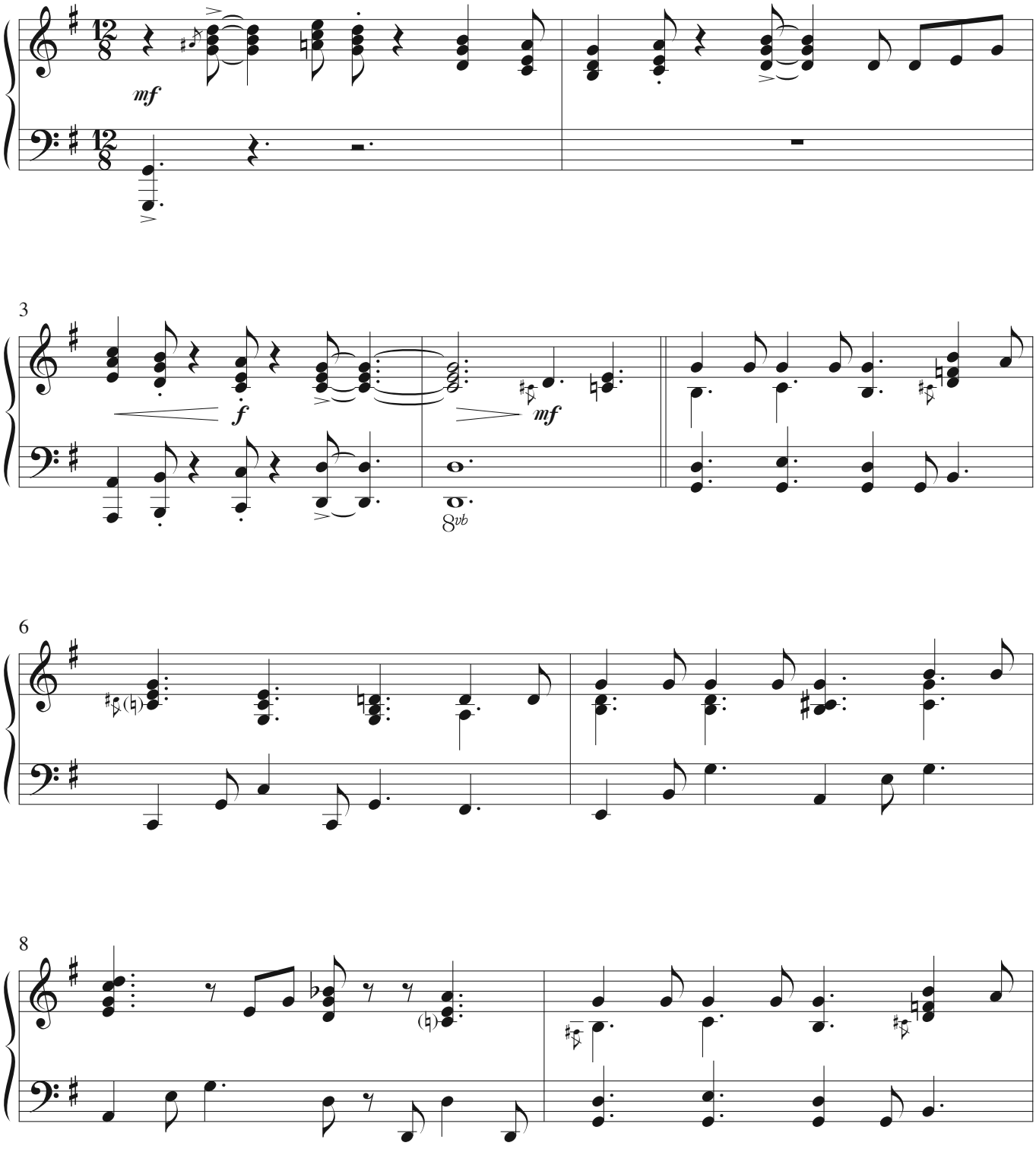
13
mp
16
19
poco rit.
22
p
mp
a tempo
25

The Unclouded Day

JOSIAH KELLEY ALWOOD
Arr. by Joel Raney

Heavy gospel groove ♩. = ca. 104



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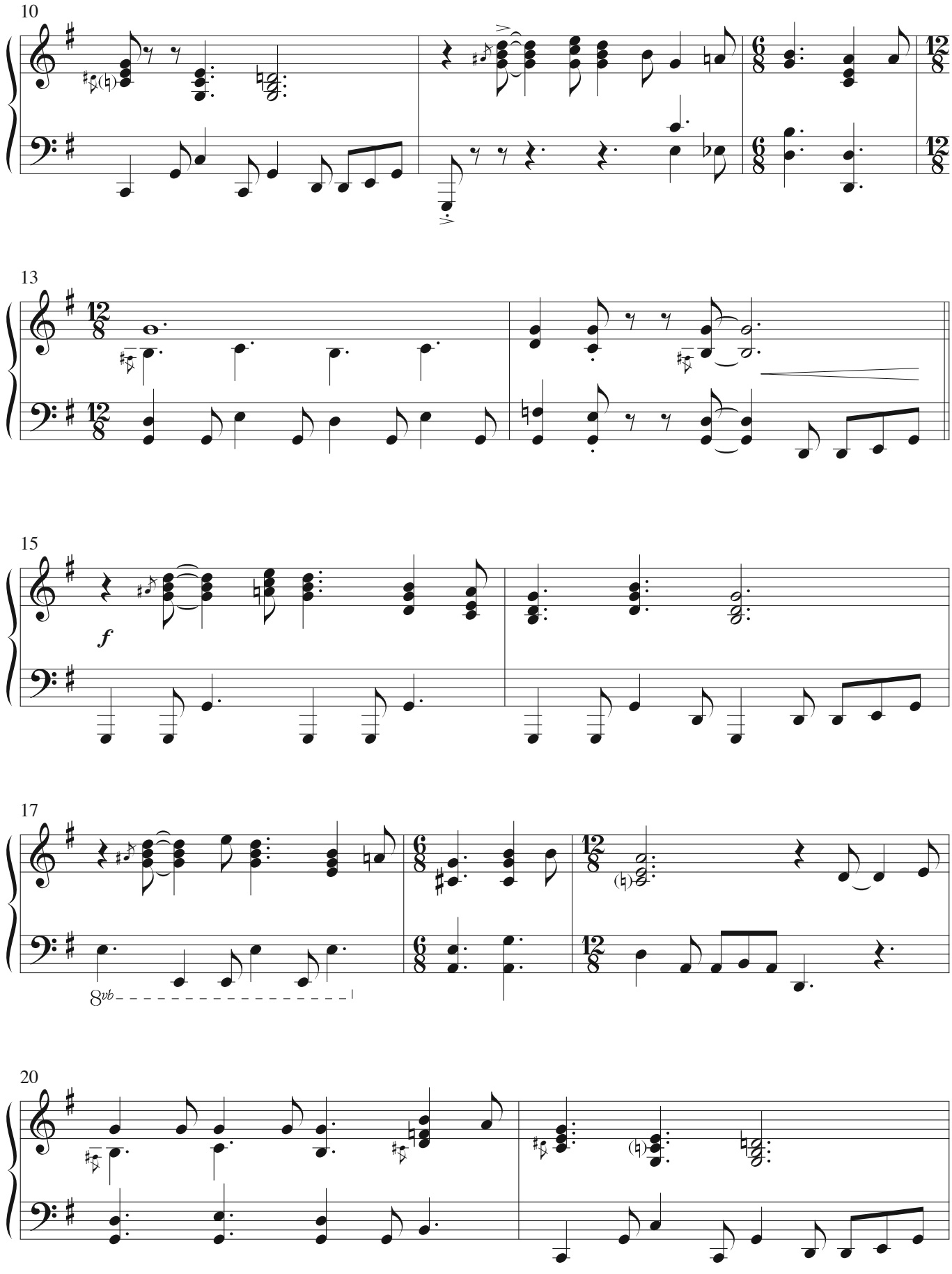
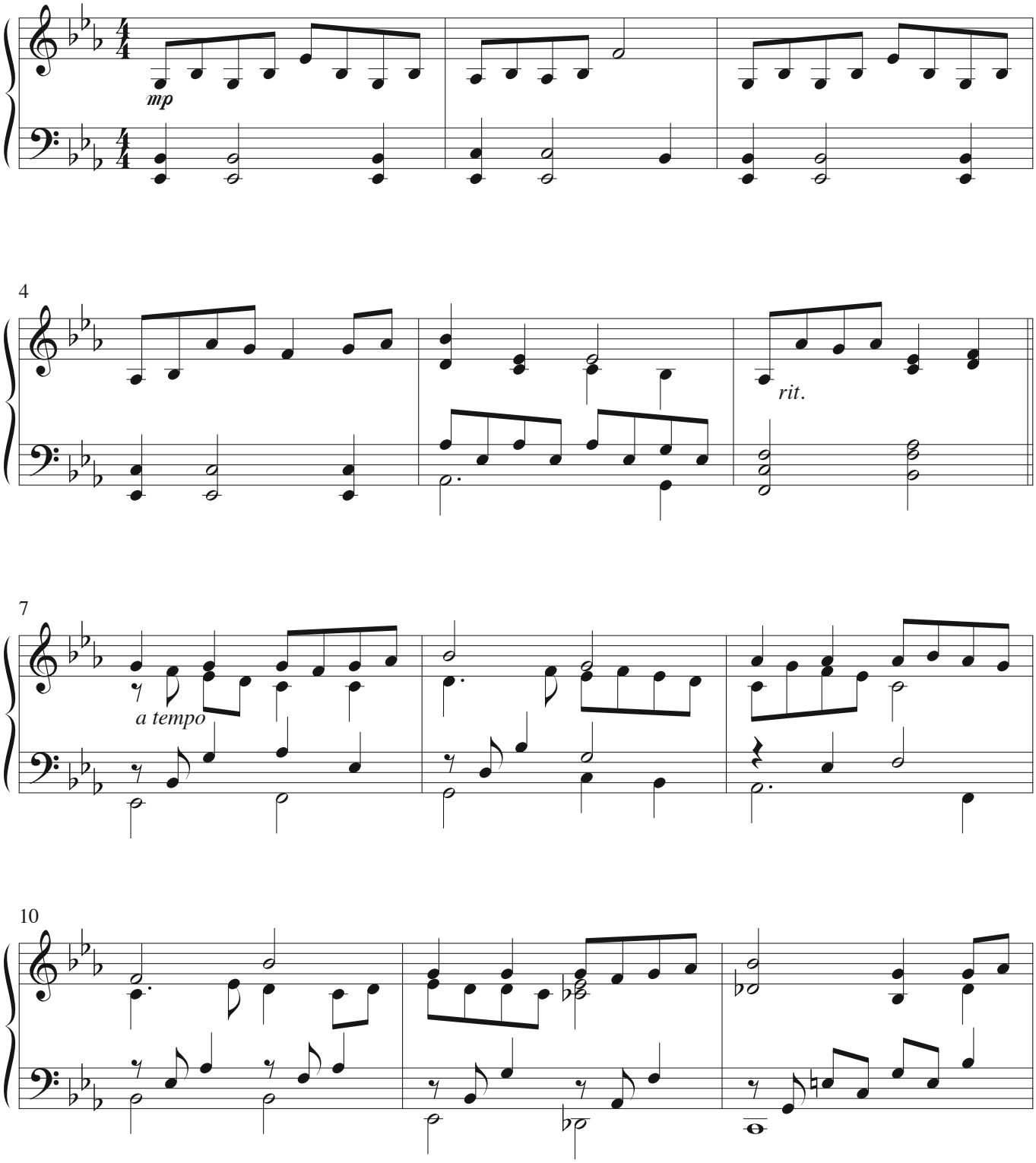

10
13
15
f
17
8vb
20

Shall We Gather at the River

ROBERT LOWRY
Arr. by Joel Raney

Reflectively, freely ♩ = ca. 84



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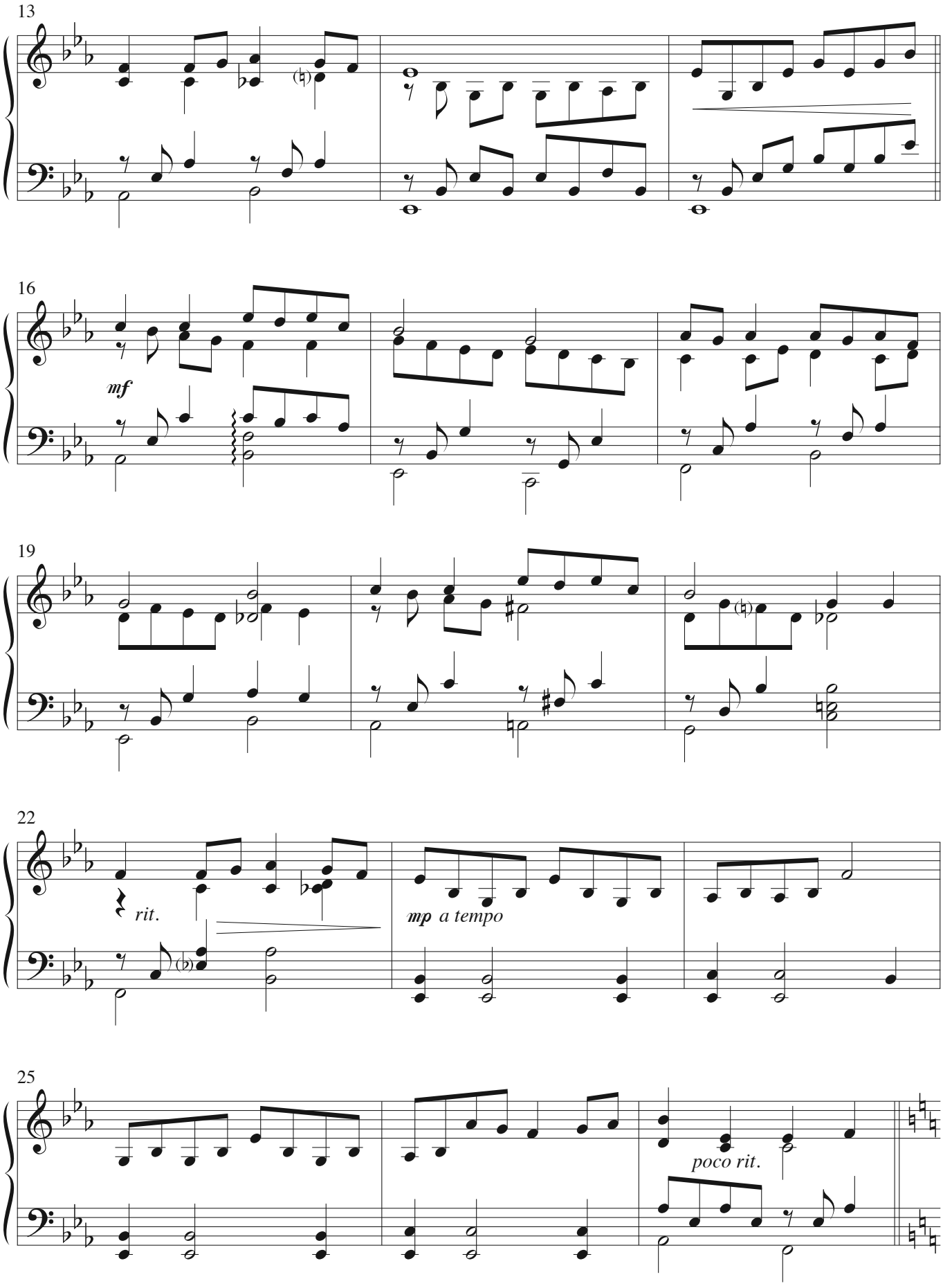
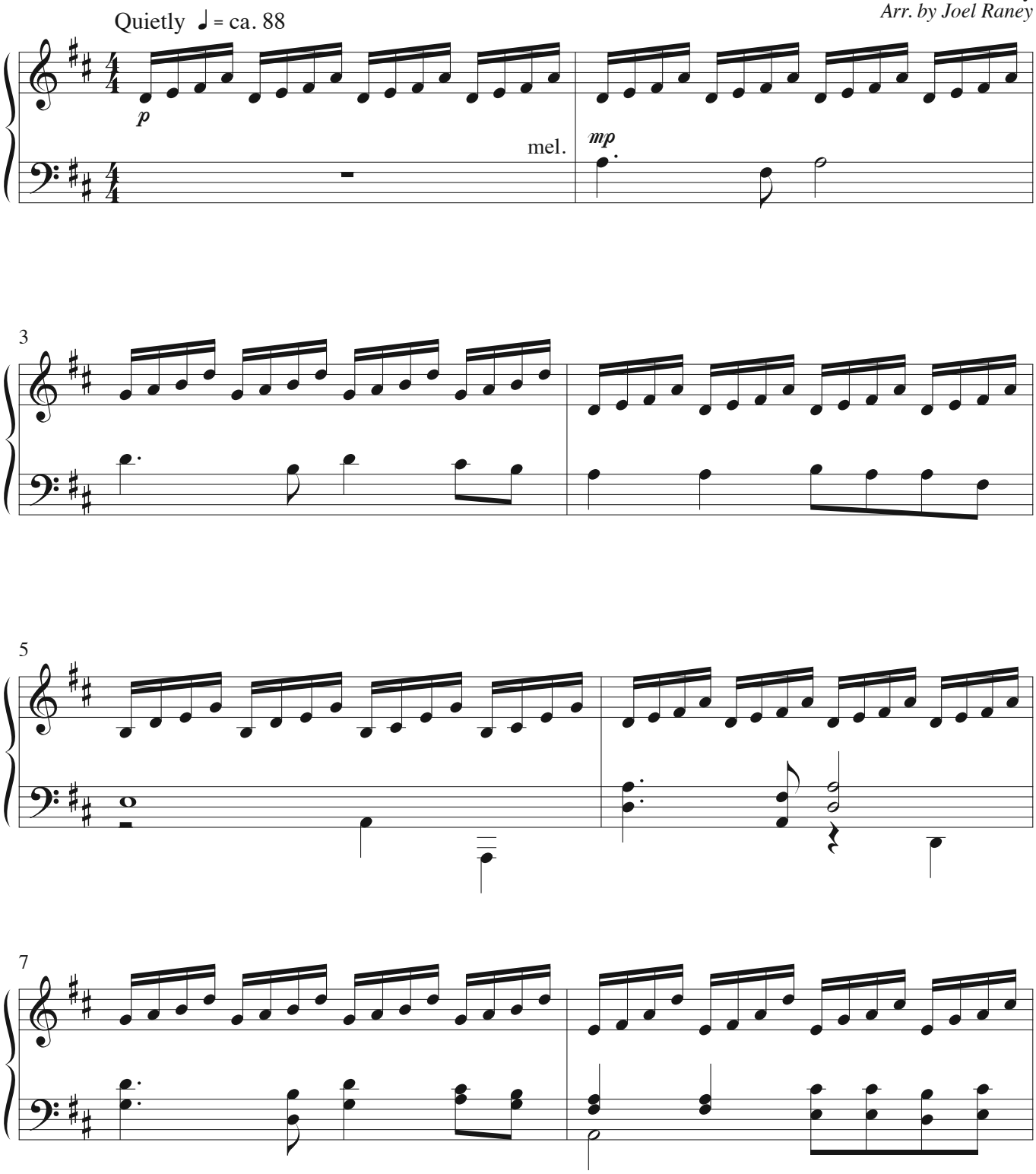

13
16
mf
19
22
rit.
mp a tempo
25
poco rit.

Deep and Wide

with

There Is a Fountain

Traditional Melody
Arr. by Joel Raney



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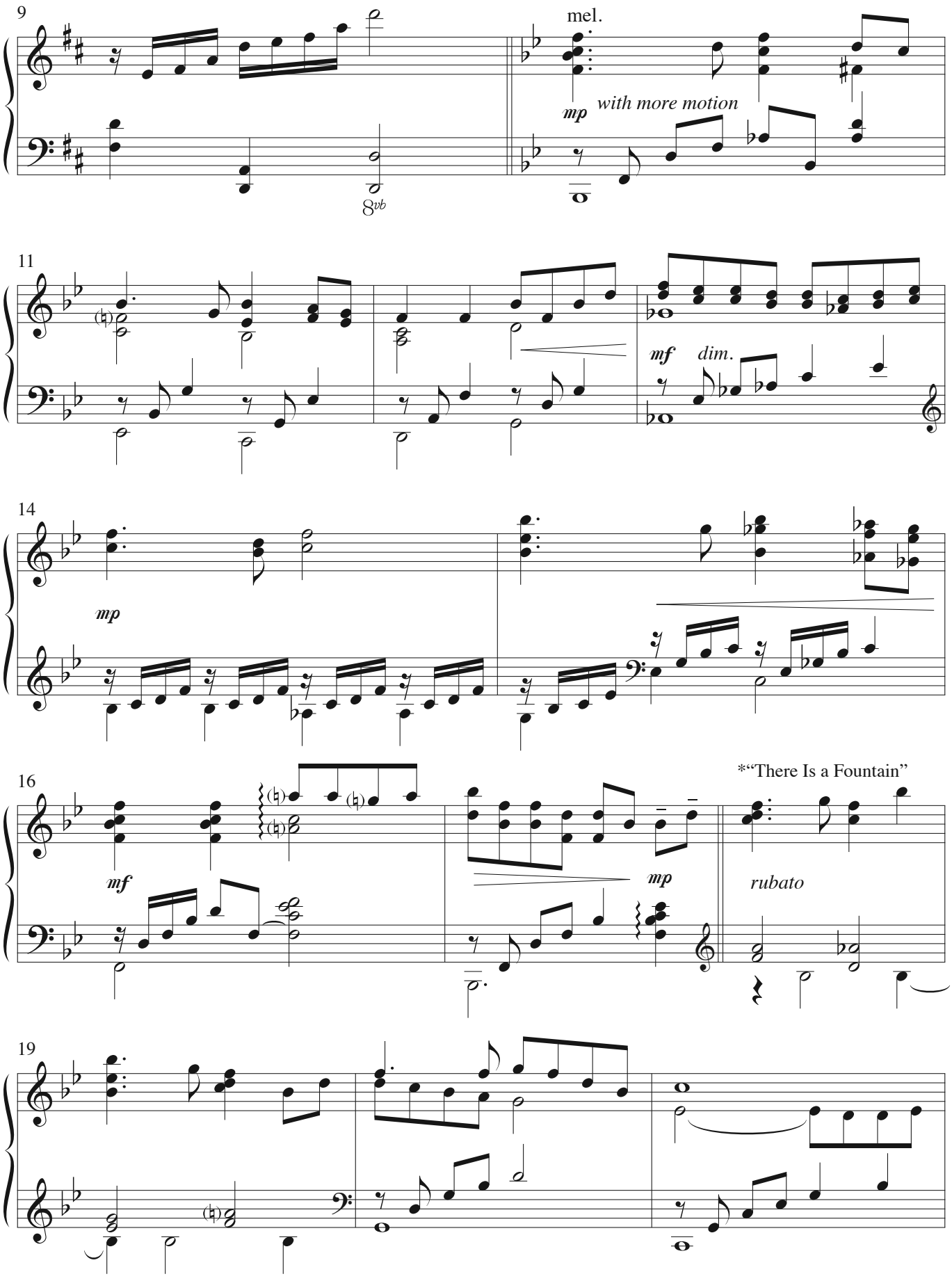
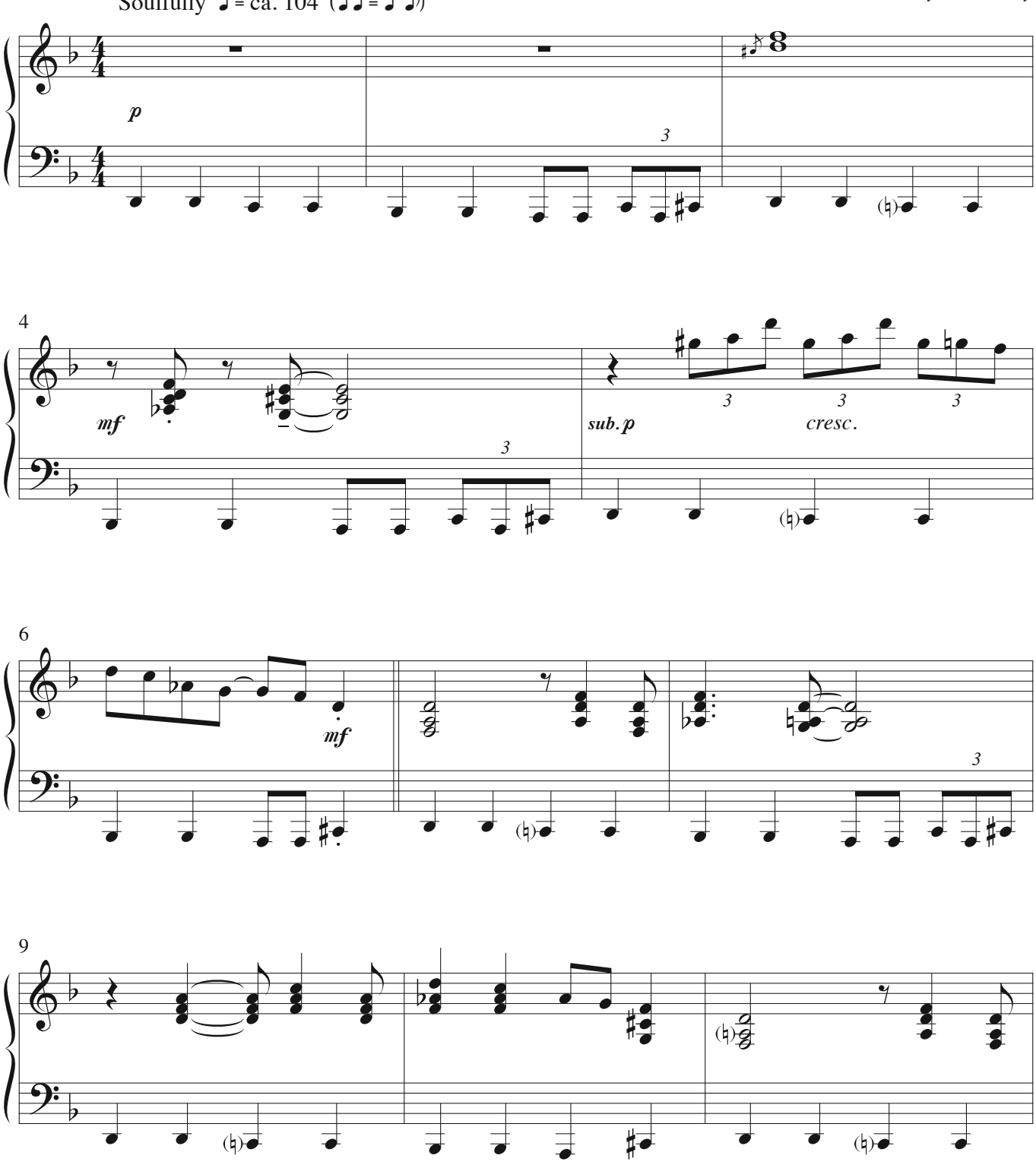


*Music: Traditional American Melody

Wade in the Water

African American Spiritual
Arr. by Joel Raney



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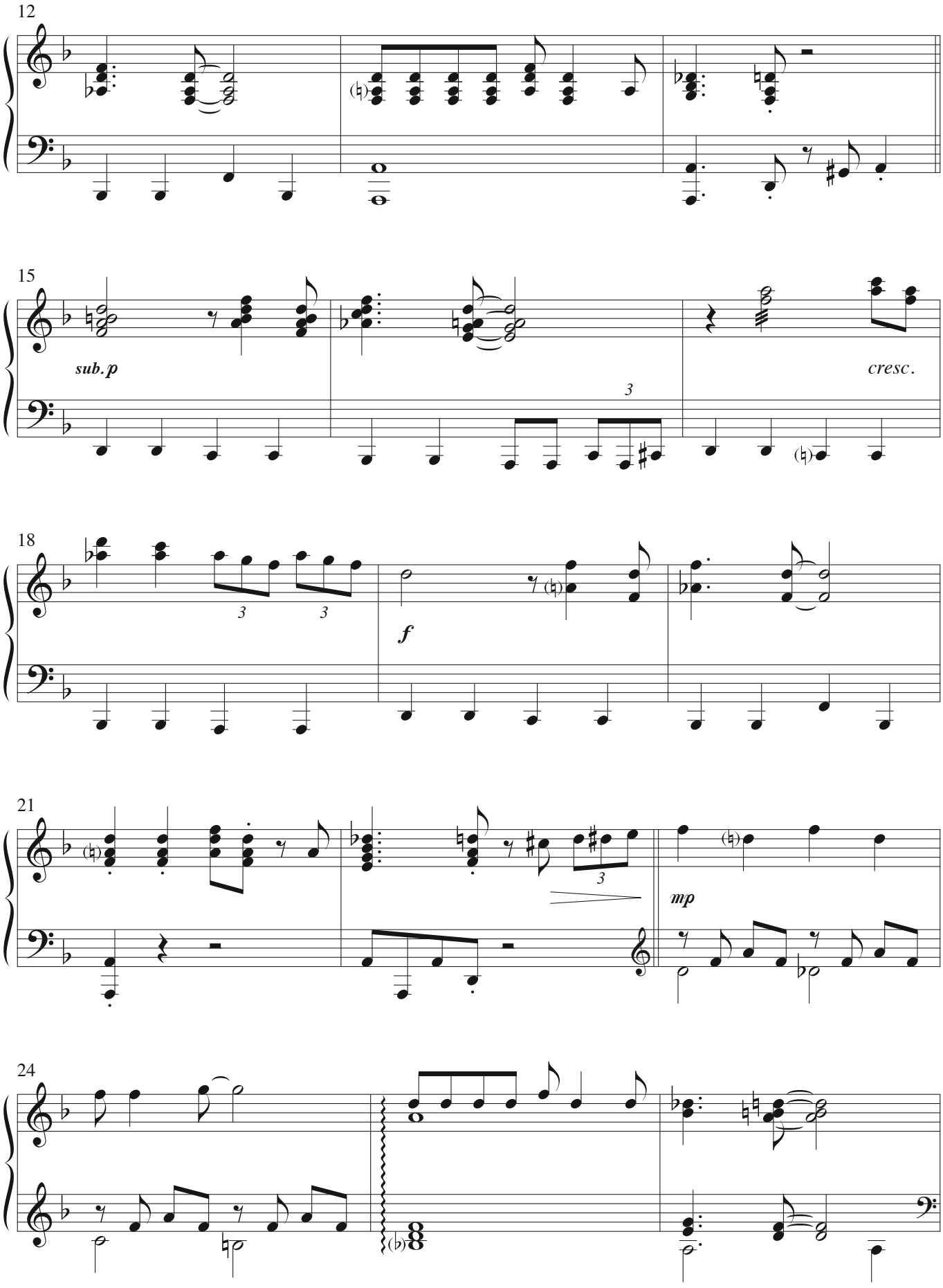
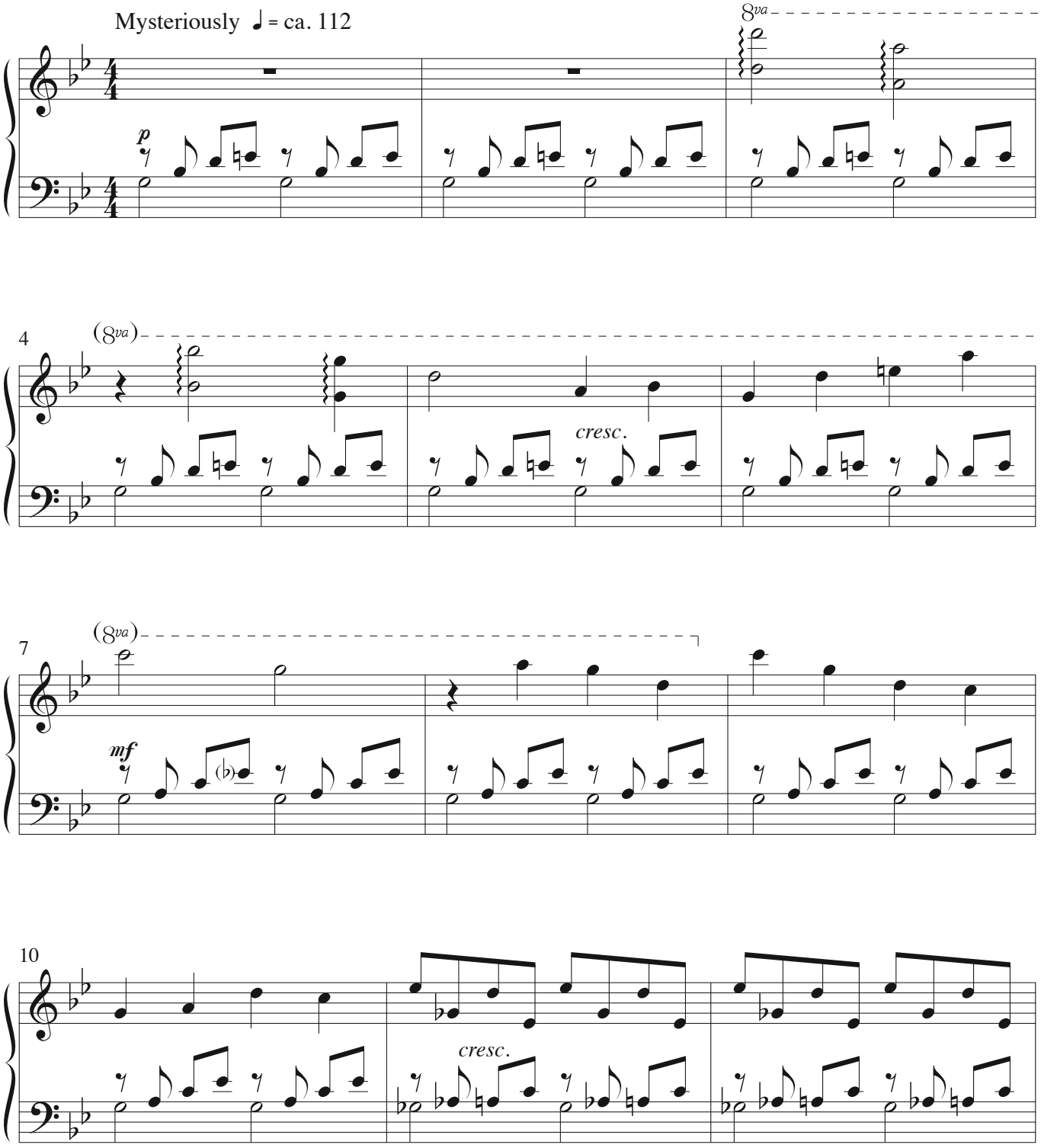

12
15
sub. p
cresc.
18
f
21
mp
24

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

Traditional American Melody
Arr. by Joel Raney



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Do Not
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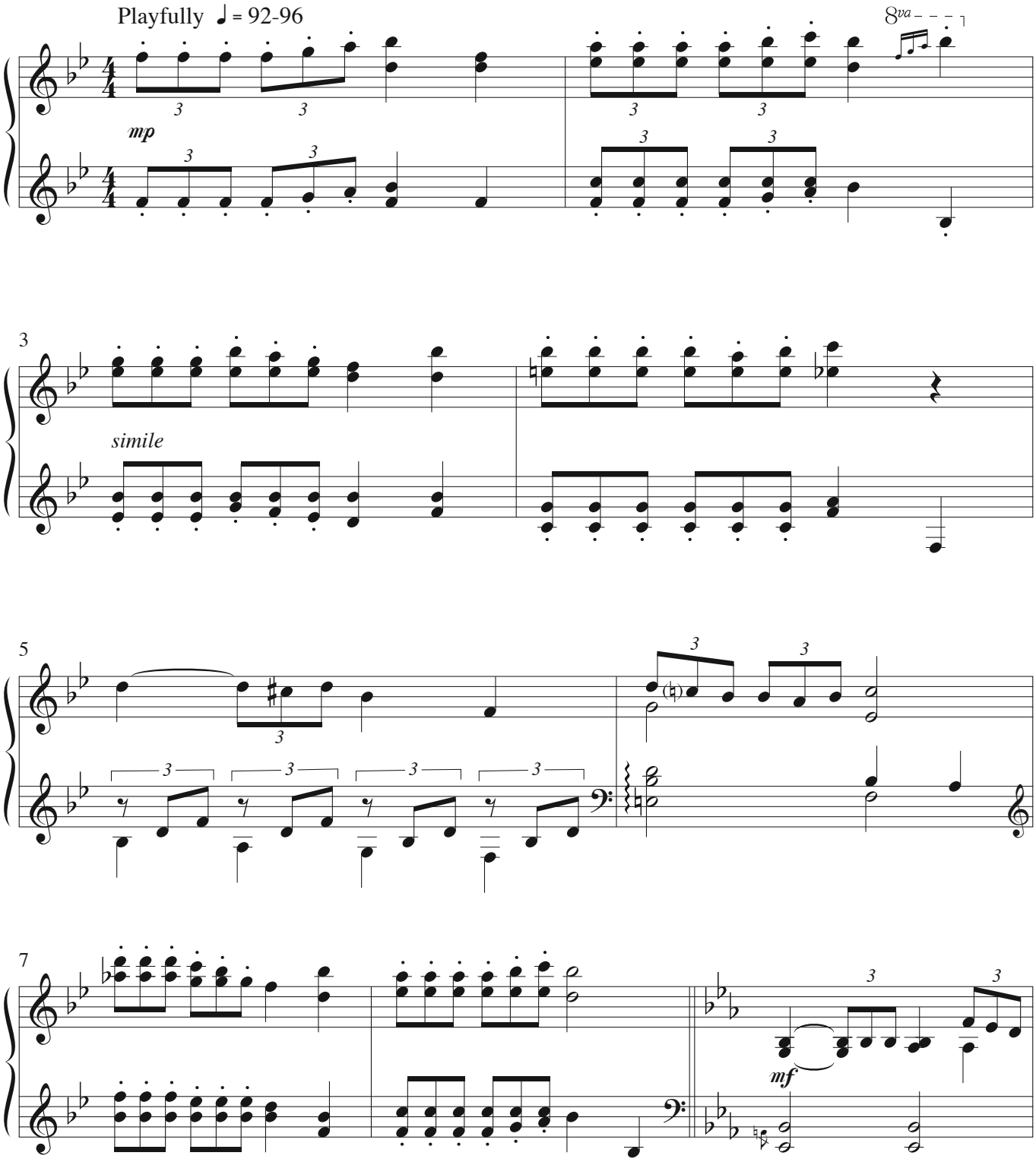
13
ff
rit.
a tempo dim.
8va
16
mp
19
22
25

There Shall Be Showers of Blessing

JAMES McGRANAHAN
Arr. by Joel Raney



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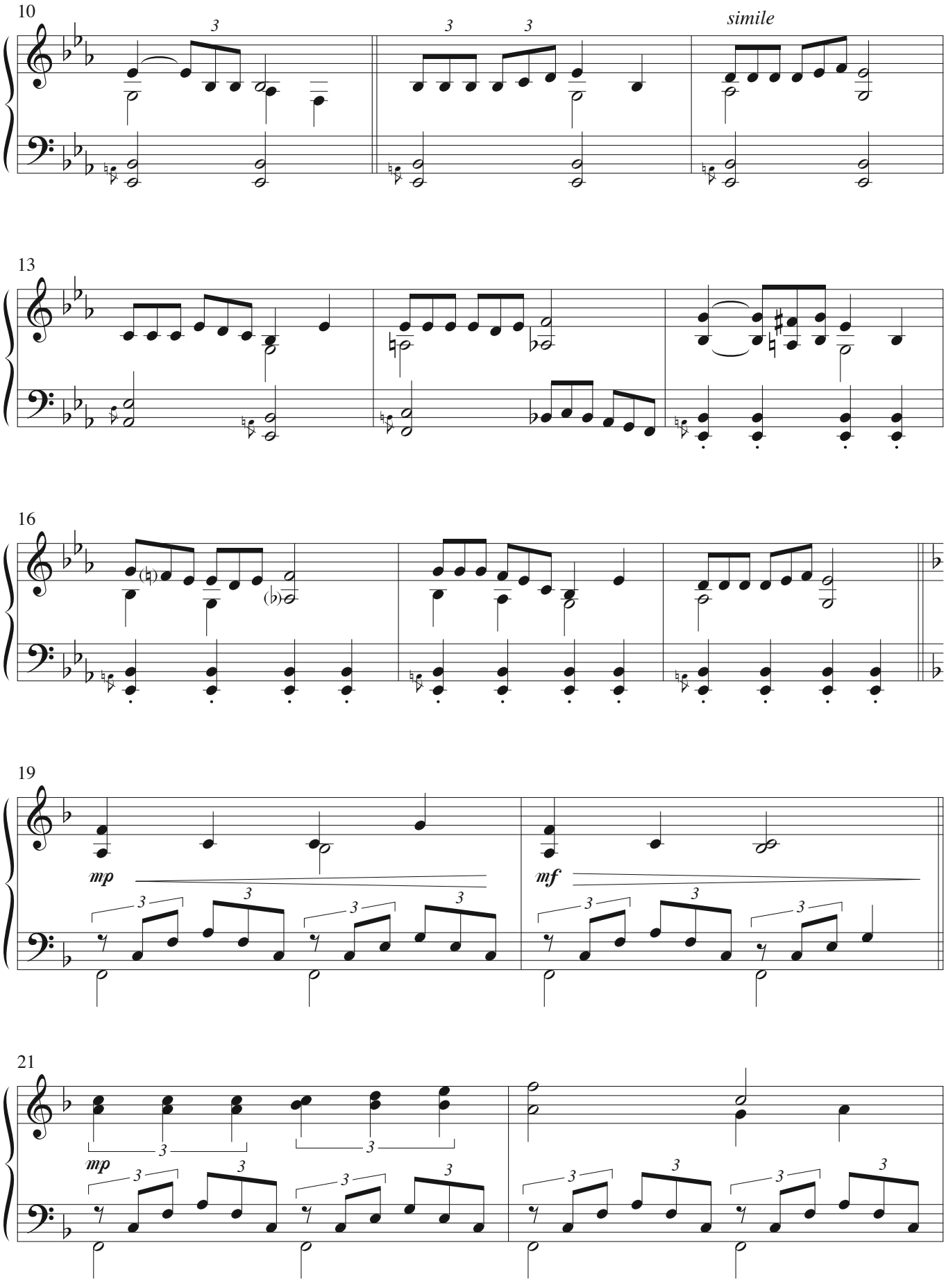
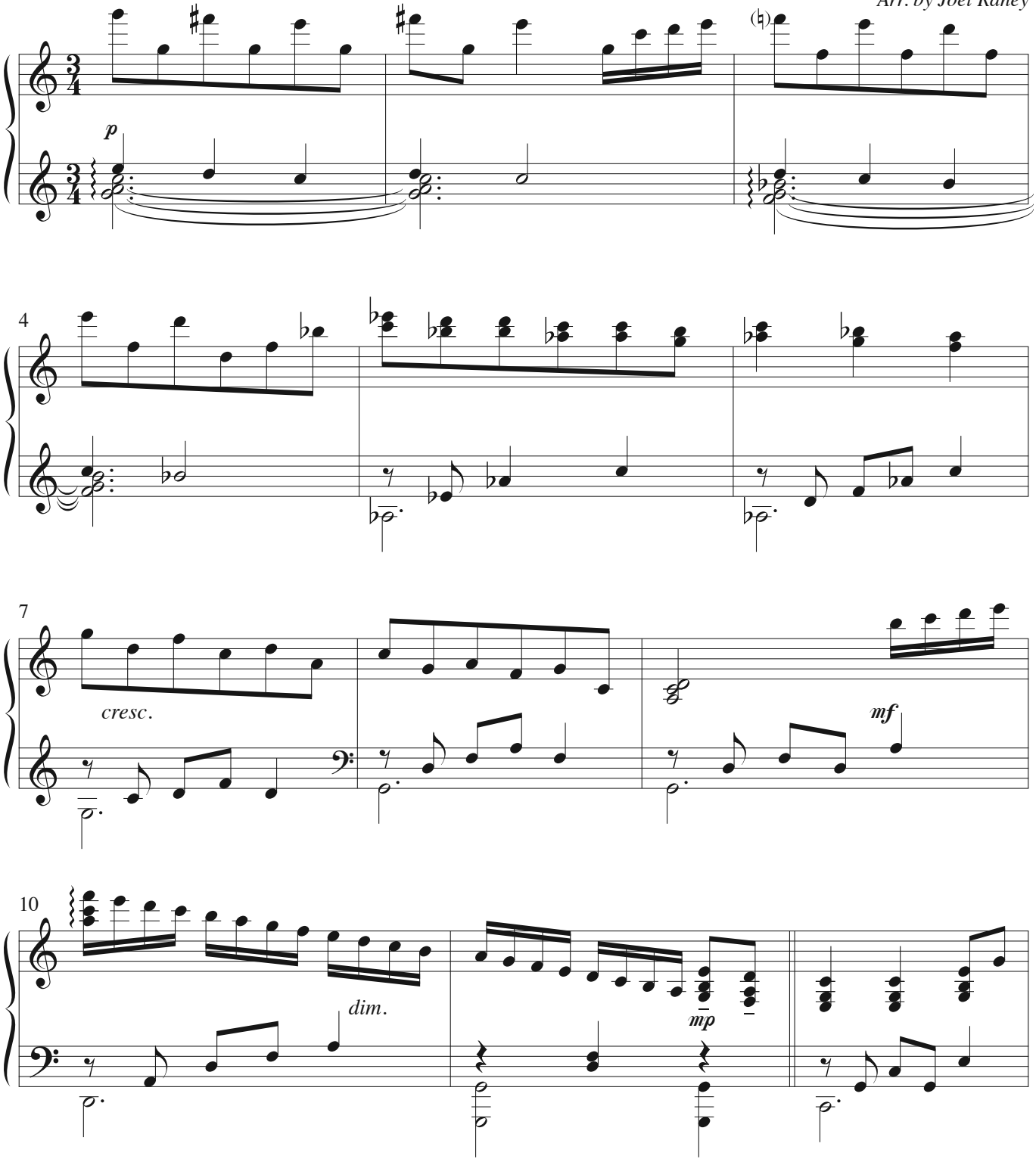

10
simile
13
16
19
mp
mf
21
mp

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Traditional American Melody
From John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music,* 1813
Arr. by Joel Raney

Gently, with motion ♩ = ca. 104



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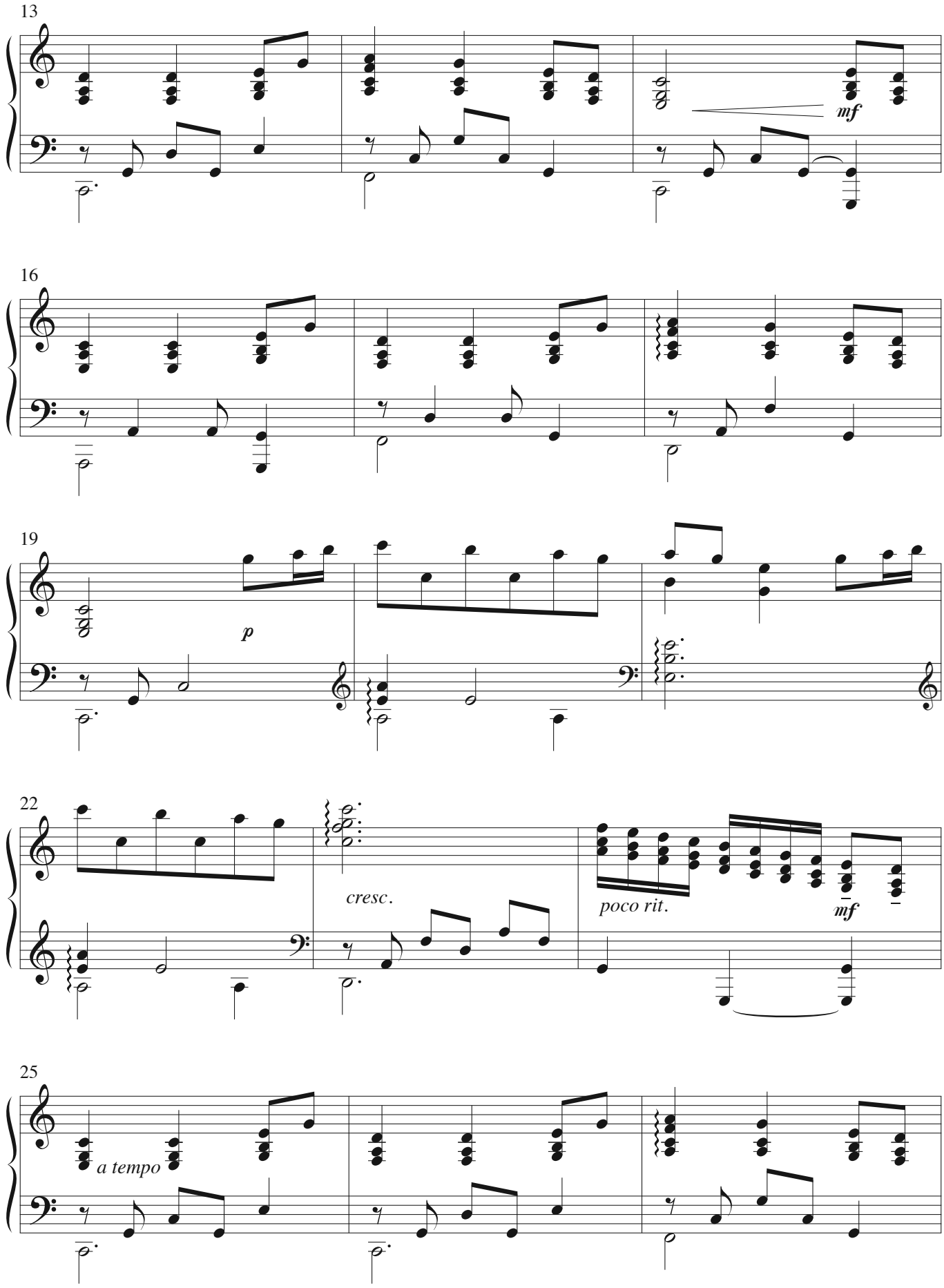
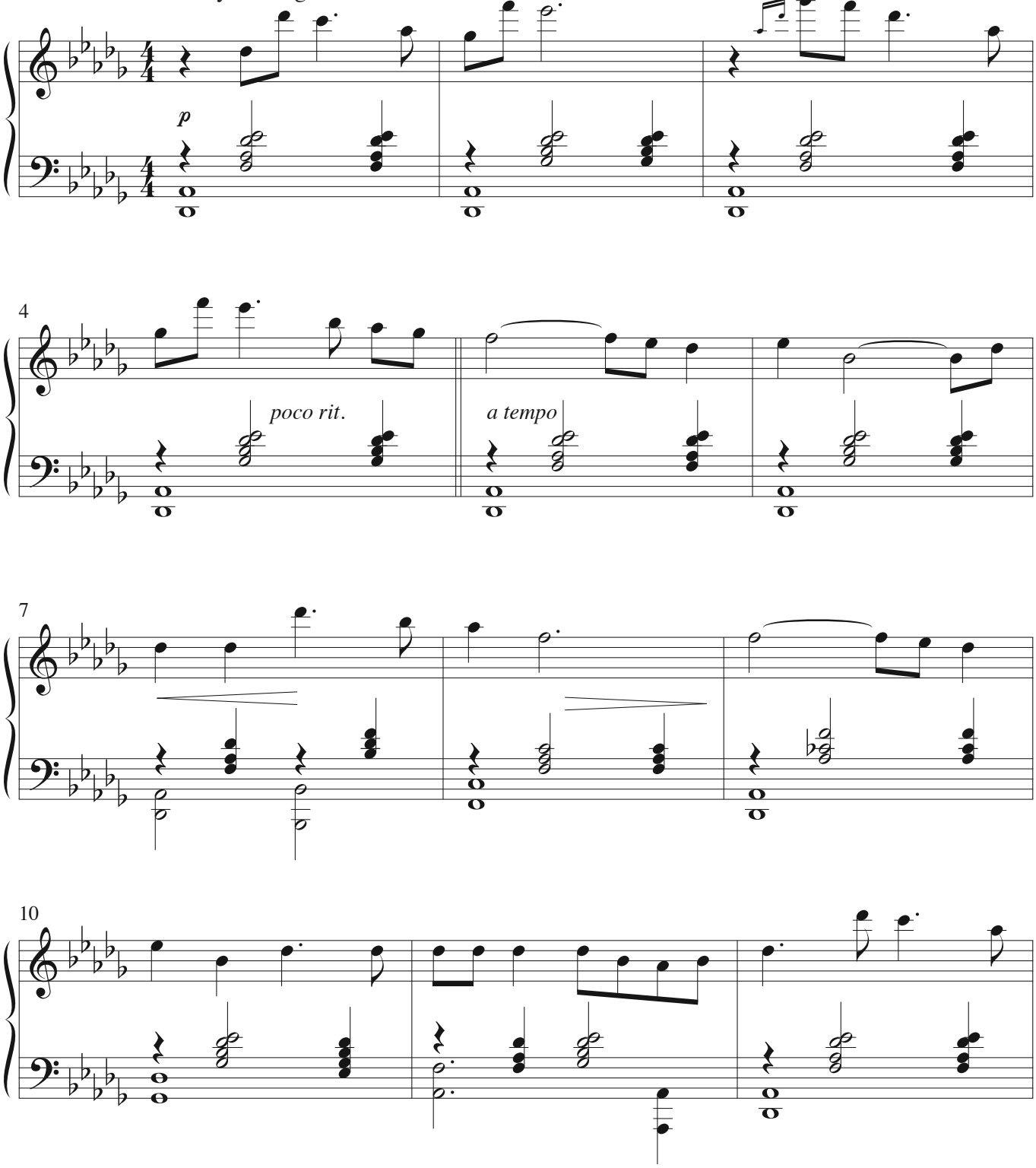

13
mf
16
19
p
22
cresc.
poco rit.
mf
25
a tempo

Deep River

African American Spiritual
Arr. by Joel Raney

Gently flowing ♩ = ca. 72



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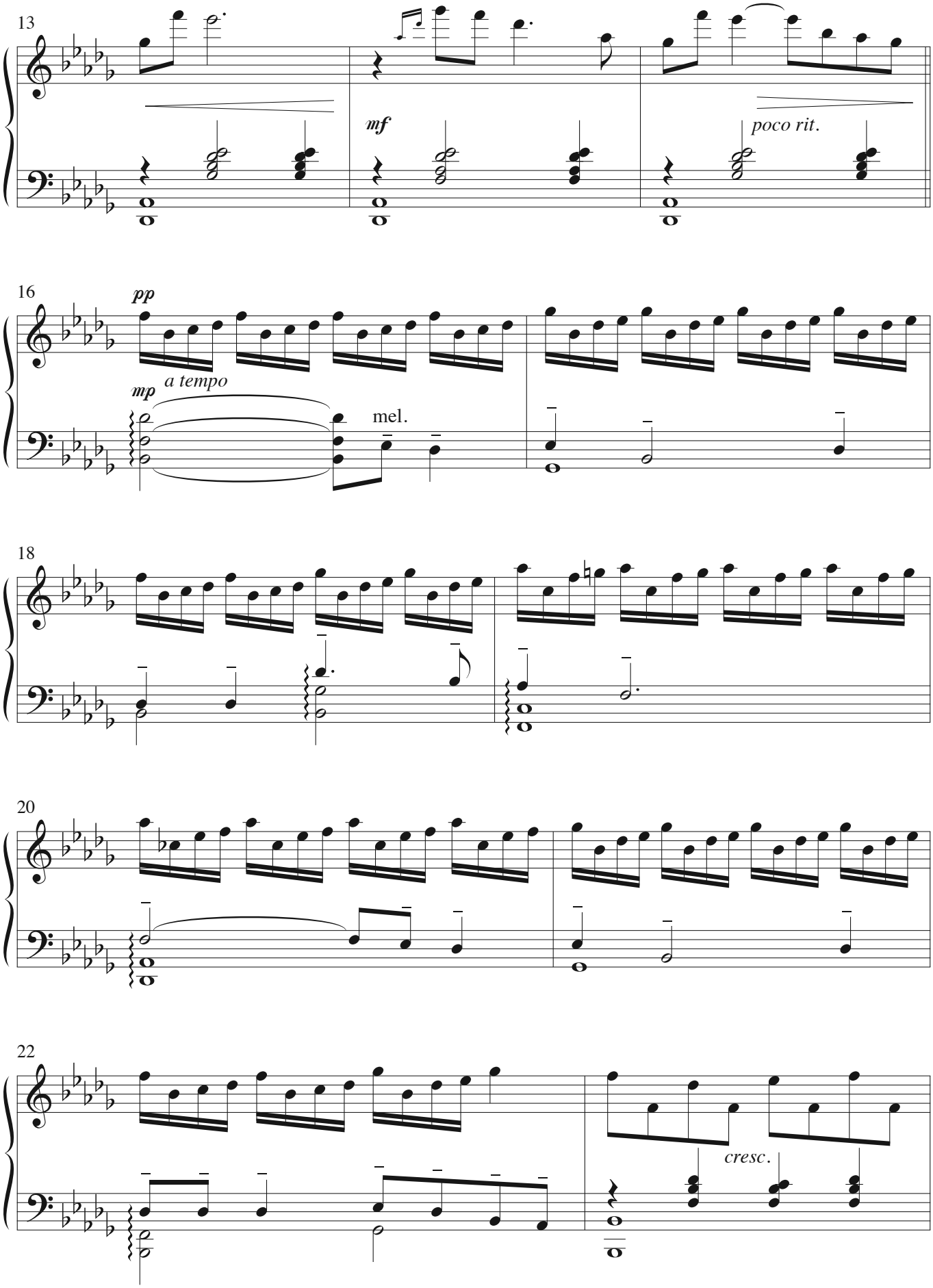
13
mf
poco rit.
16
pp
mp
a tempo
mel.
18
20
22
cresc.