Foreword

From the time I was young I have always been drawn to spirituals. I remember playing the piano for music class in the fourth grade. Many of the songs were folk songs and spirituals. The teacher would leave me alone with the class and I was expected to do the rest. I had only started to learn to play the piano a few months earlier and the book we used only had the melody line. However, I knew the class would be bored if that is all I played so I added basic chords to the songs. As an entertainer emerged in me, I came up with all sorts of other embellishments. The spirituals were my favorite because I liked the melody lines. They were often in a minor key which drew me in and fired my imagination.

Slaves in America were not allowed freedom of expression and were forced to attend church, but their masters found that if they allowed the slaves to sing it would affect their work in a positive way. I doubt many listened to the words the slaves sang: words of despair and injustice born out of experience and words of hope and freedom that they picked up through hymns. I think about the strong emotions that filled these songs and how these songs and other folk songs affected all of our music from that point on, including New Orleans Jazz, which later moved up to Chicago and later on to New York, gospel, jazz, rock and other forms. This is why I love working with this music and it was pure joy to put this book together. Have fun and don't worry if you change a few things according to your own sense of whimsy! We are creators!

Teresa Wilhelmi

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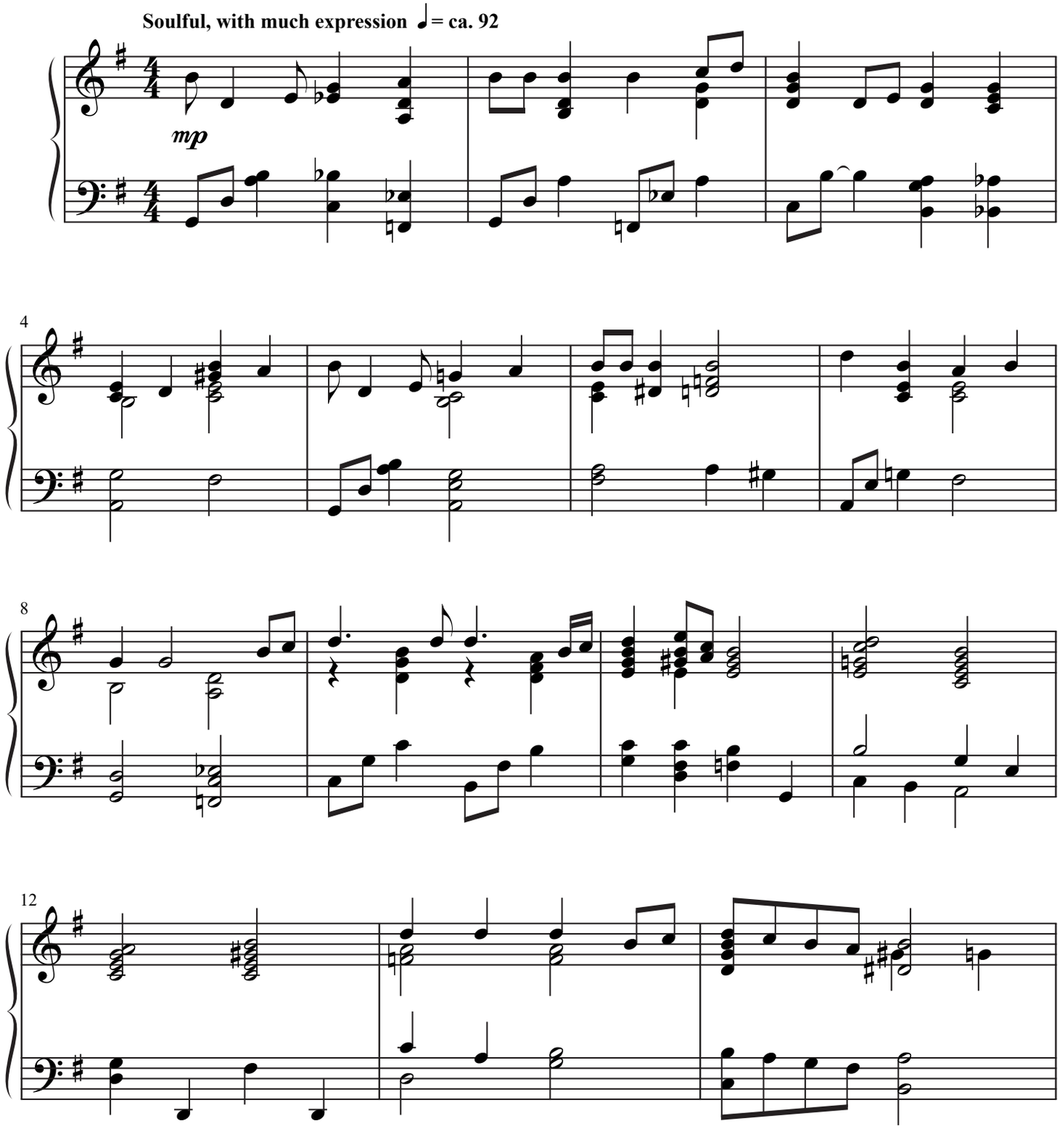
Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen

Teresa Wilhelmi
Traditional spiritual



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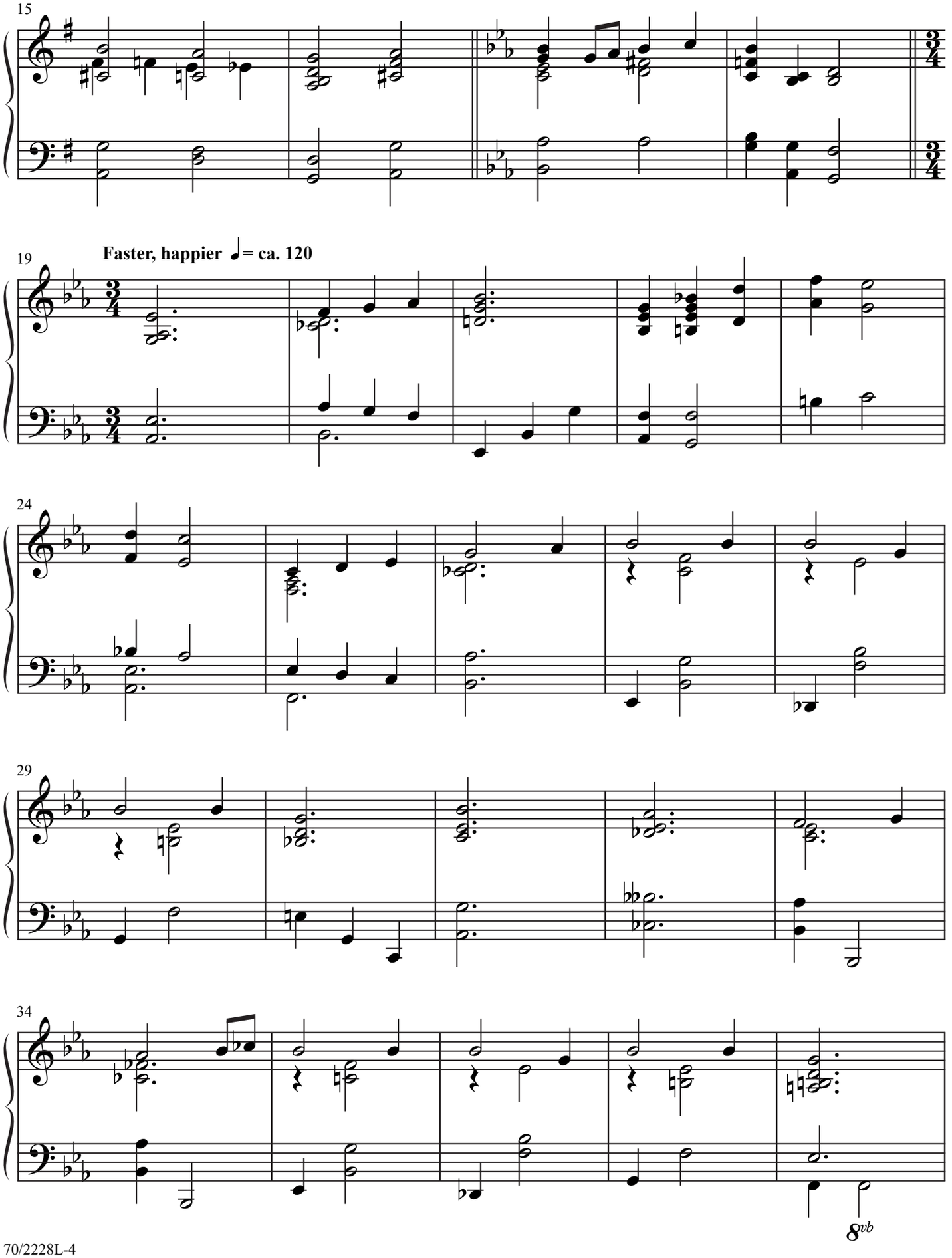
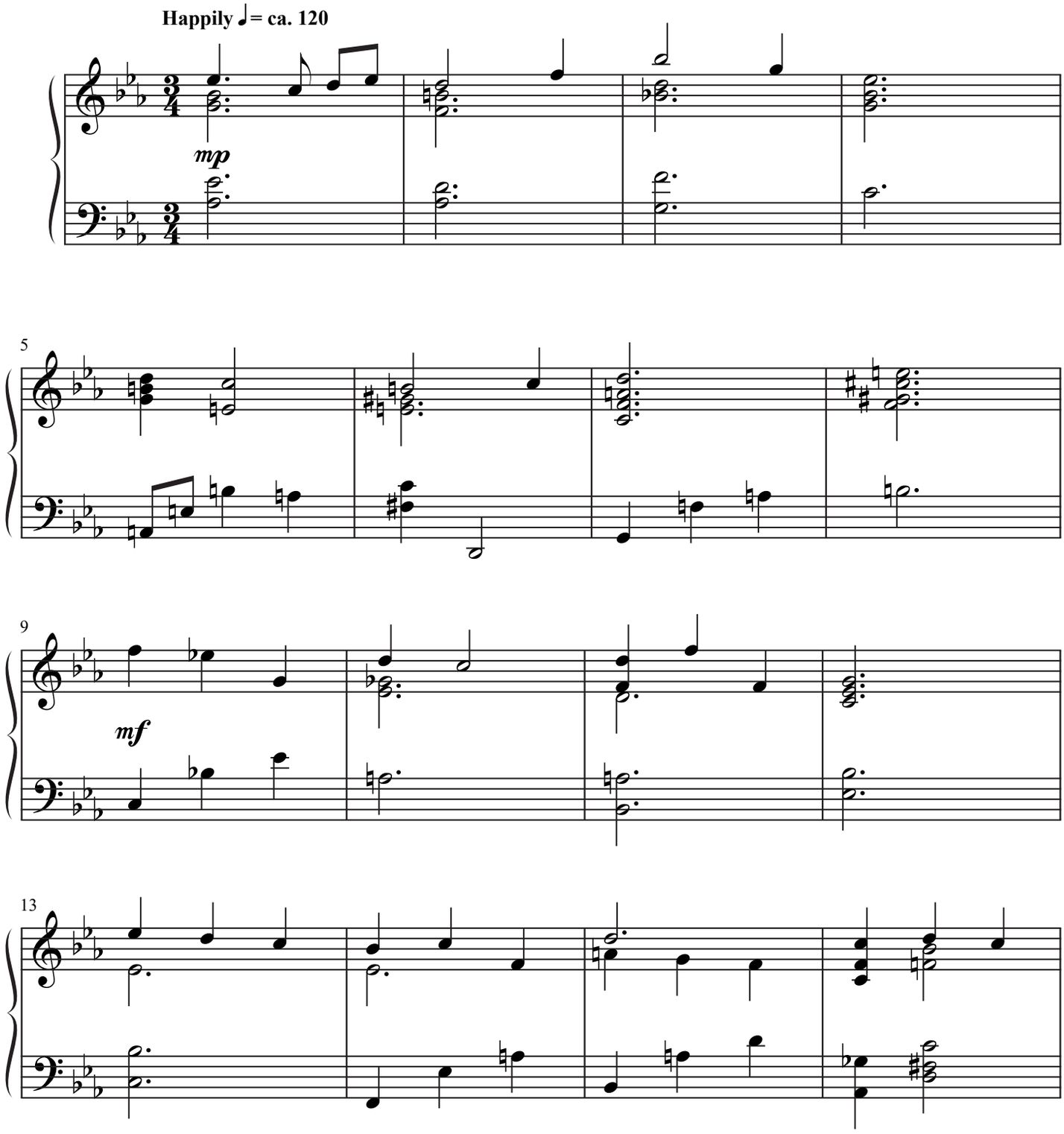

15
19
Faster, happier ♩= ca. 120
24
29
34
8vb

Improvisation in E♭

Teresa Wilhelmi



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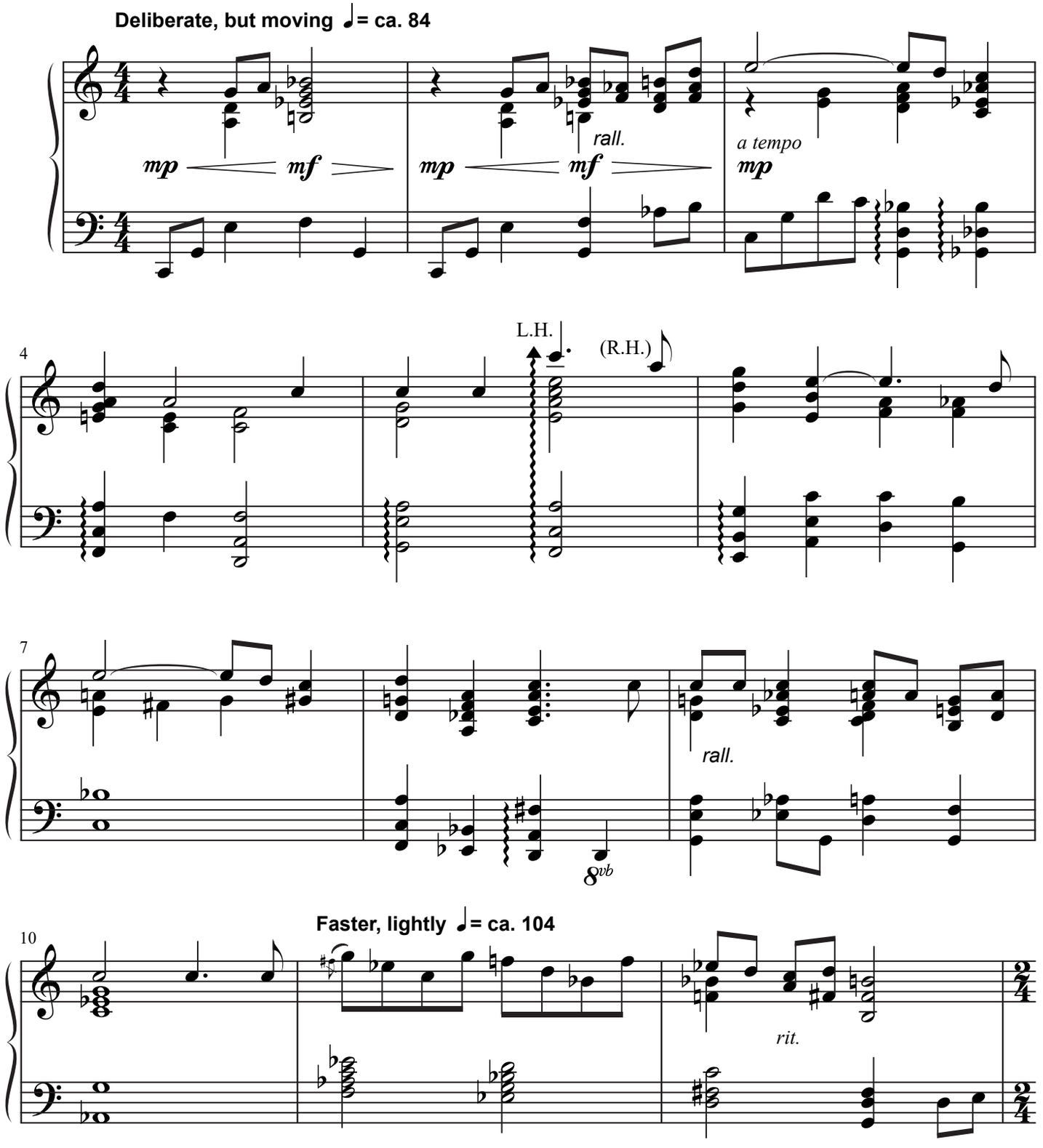
Deep River

Teresa Wilhelmi
Traditional spiritual



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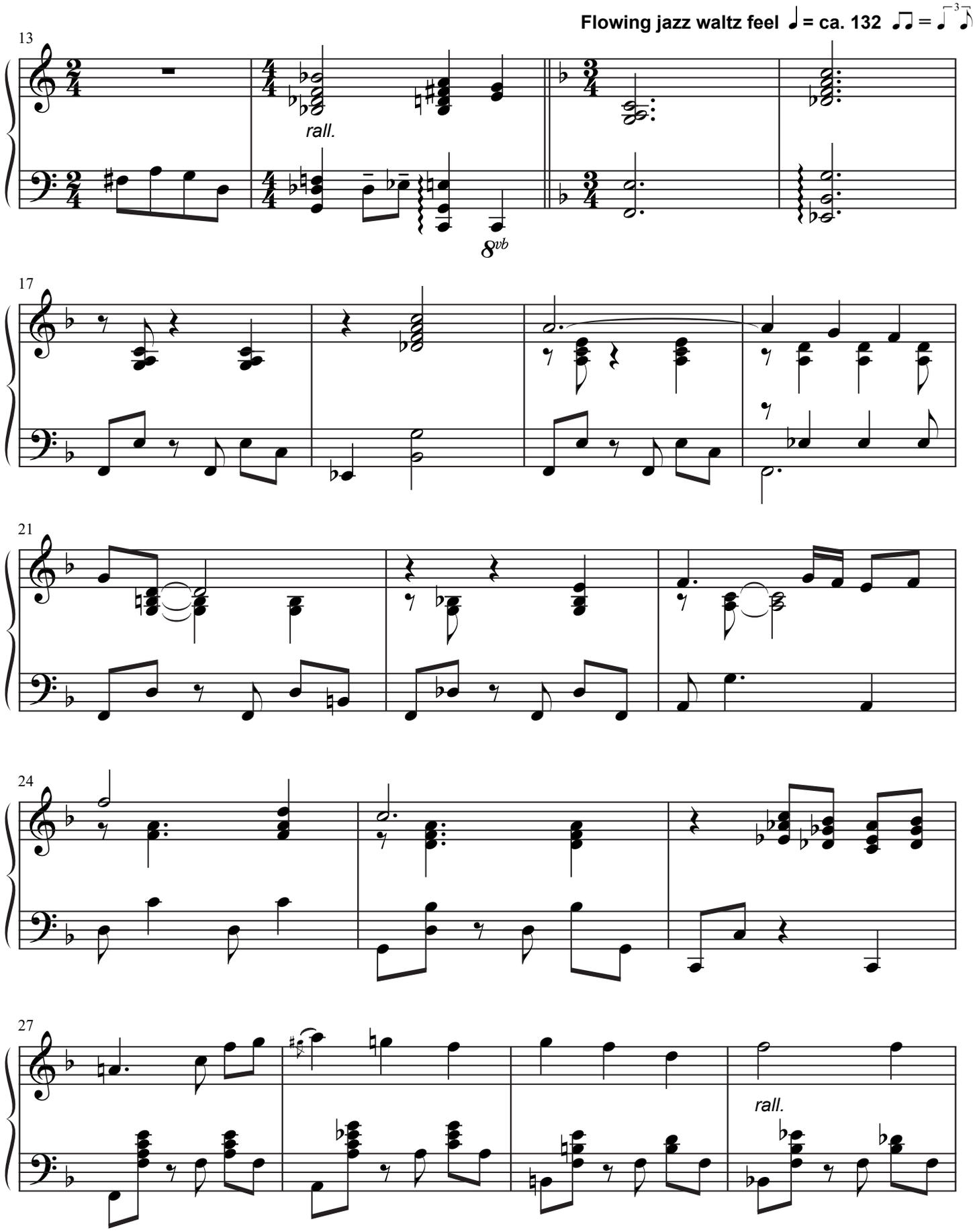
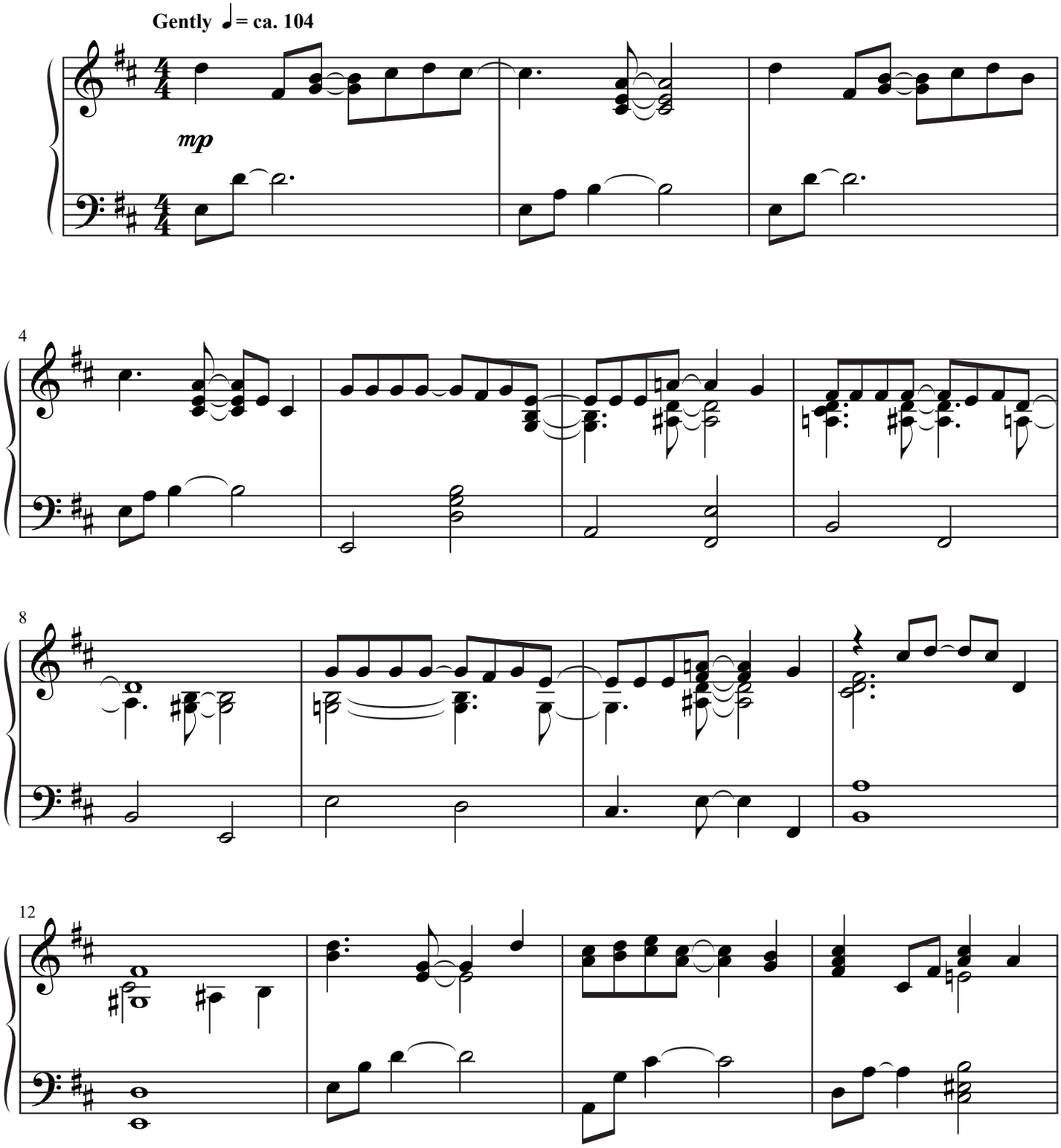

Flowing jazz waltz feel ♩ = ca. 132 ♫ = ♩³♪
13
rall.
8vb
17
21
24
27
rall.

Improvisation in D

Teresa Wilhelmi



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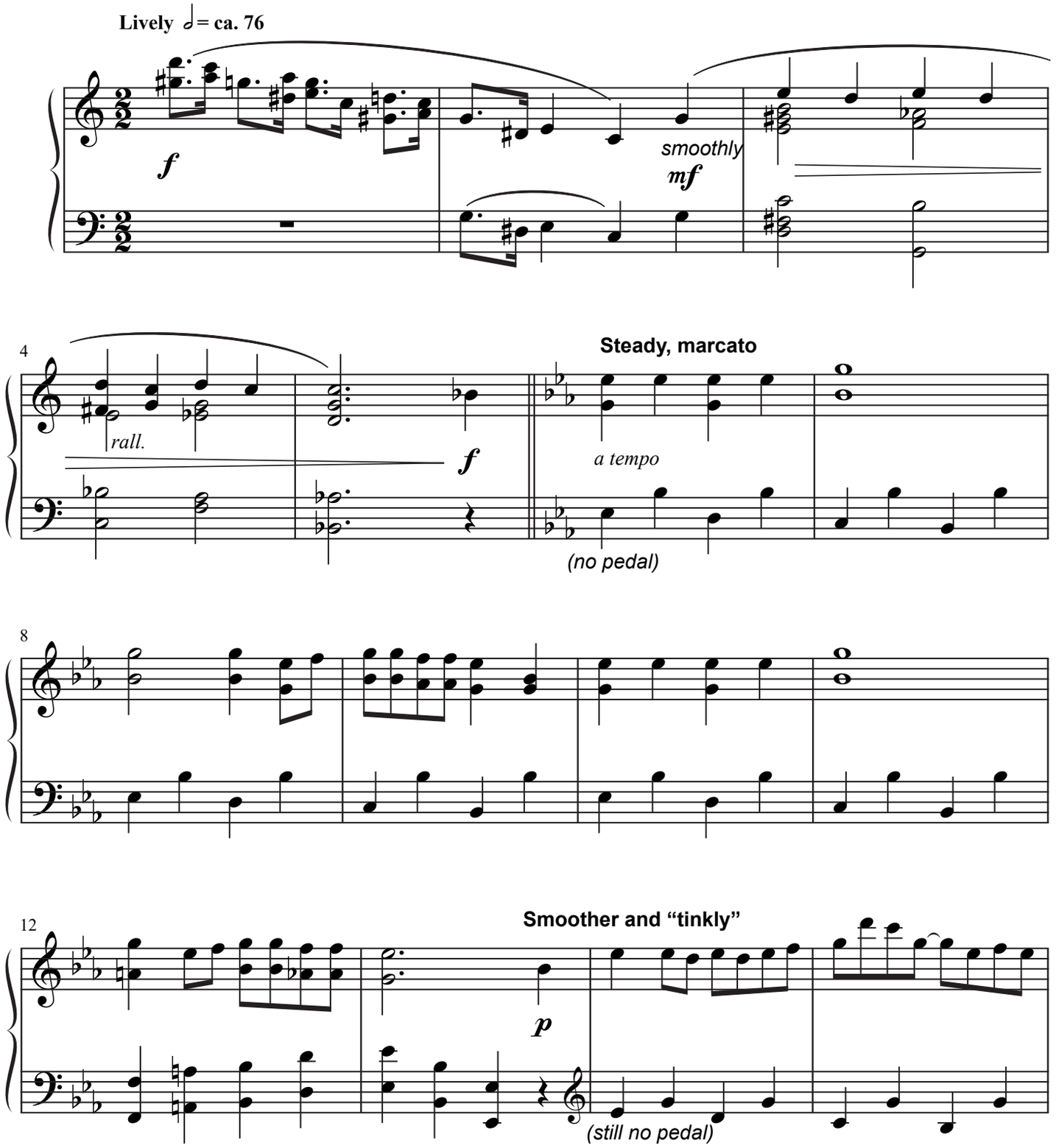
Ezekiel Saw the Wheel

Teresa Wilhelmi
Traditional spiritual



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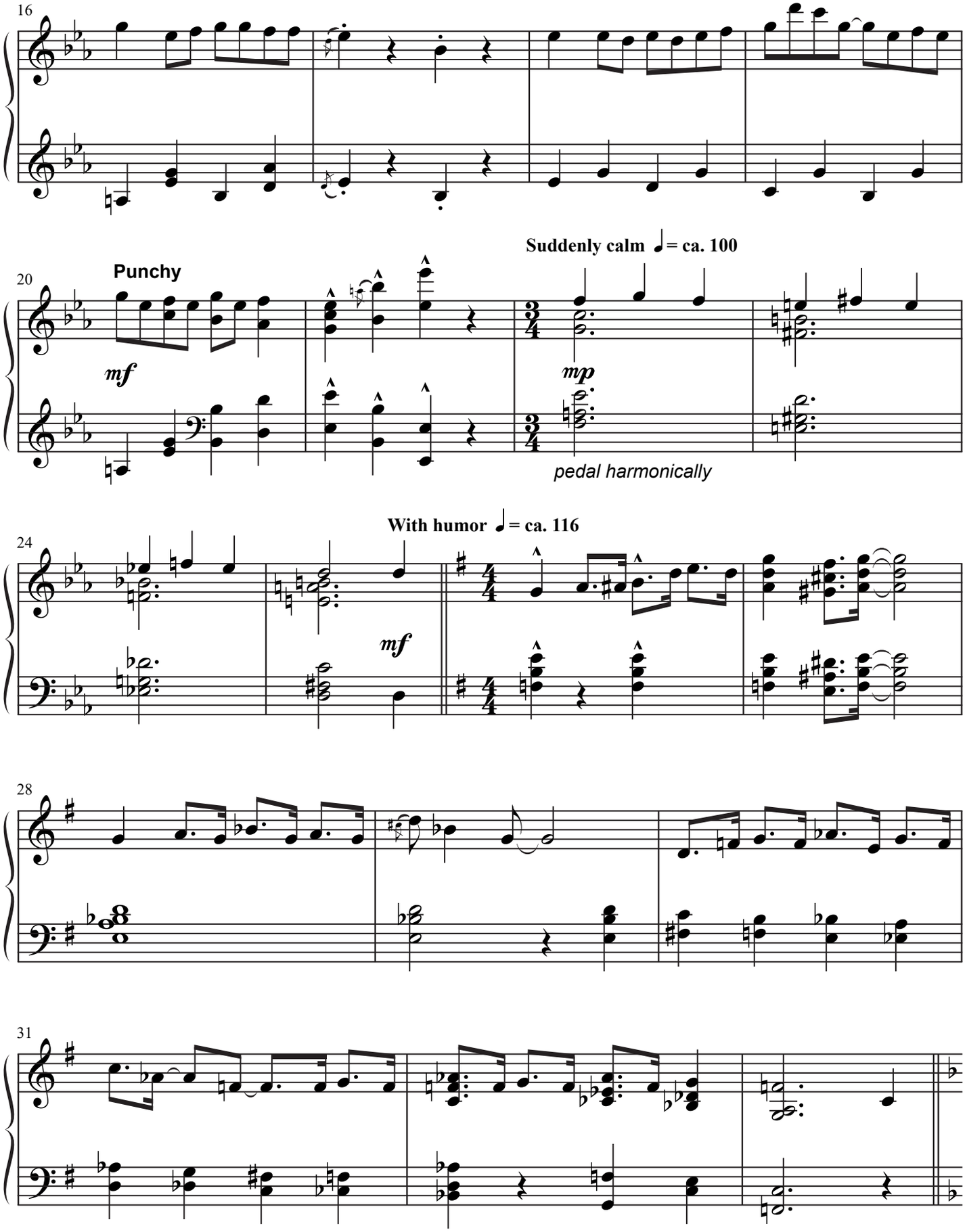
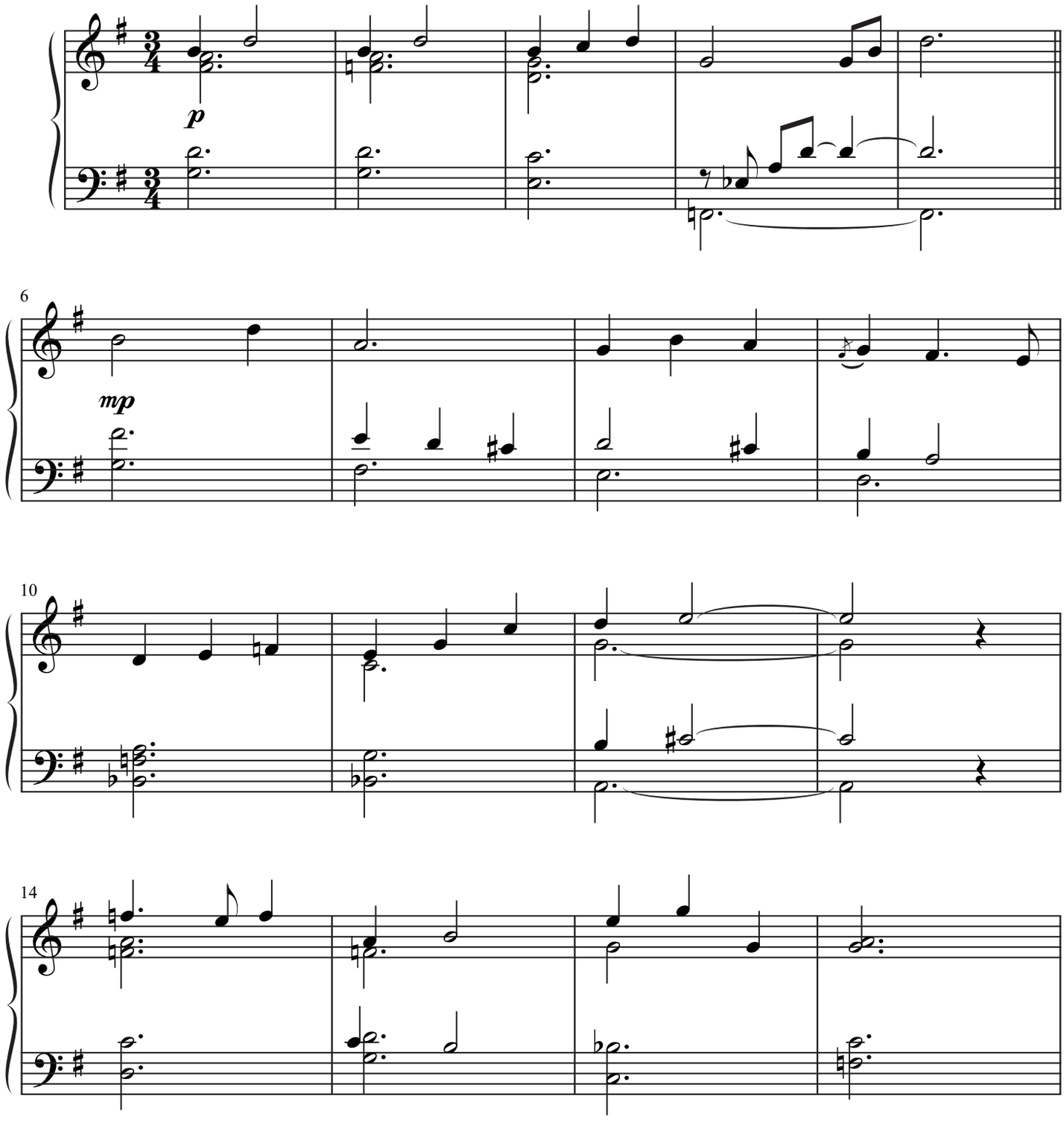

16
20
Punchy
mf
Suddenly calm ♩= ca. 100
mp
pedal harmonically
24
With humor ♩= ca. 116
mf
28
31

Peaceful Interlude

Teresa Wilhelmi

With great expression ♩= 120-126



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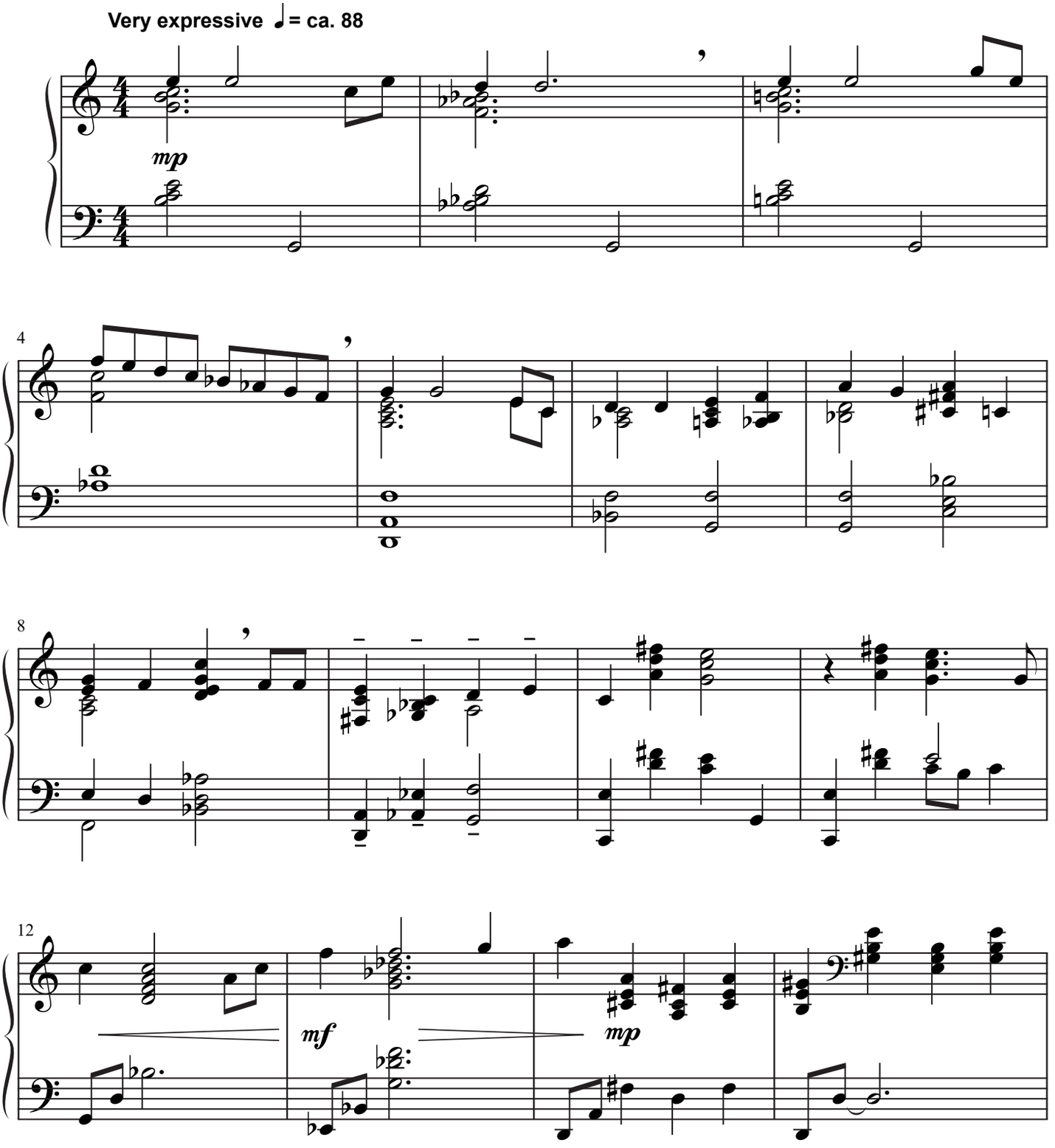
My Lord, What a Morning

Teresa Wilhelmi
Traditional spiritual



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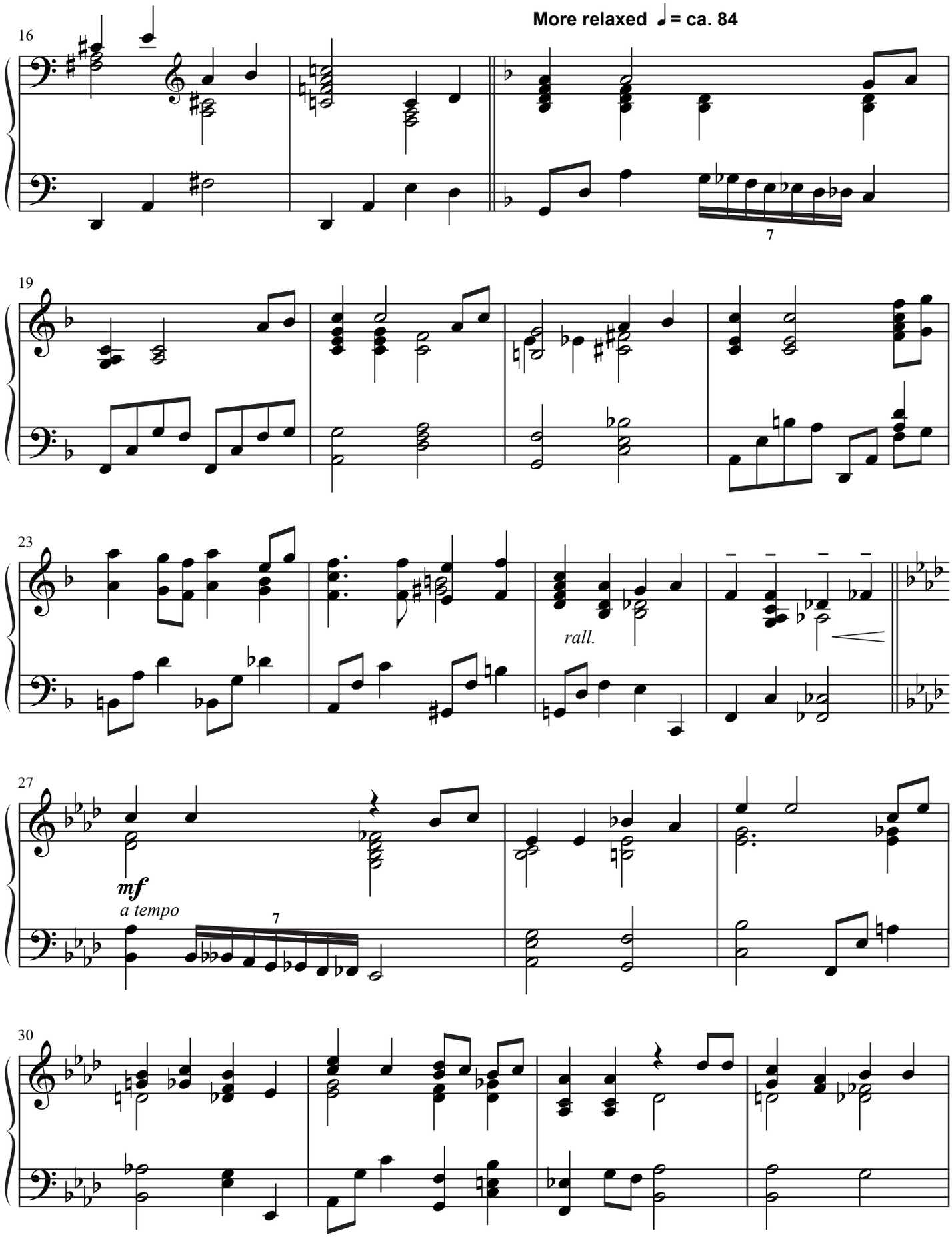
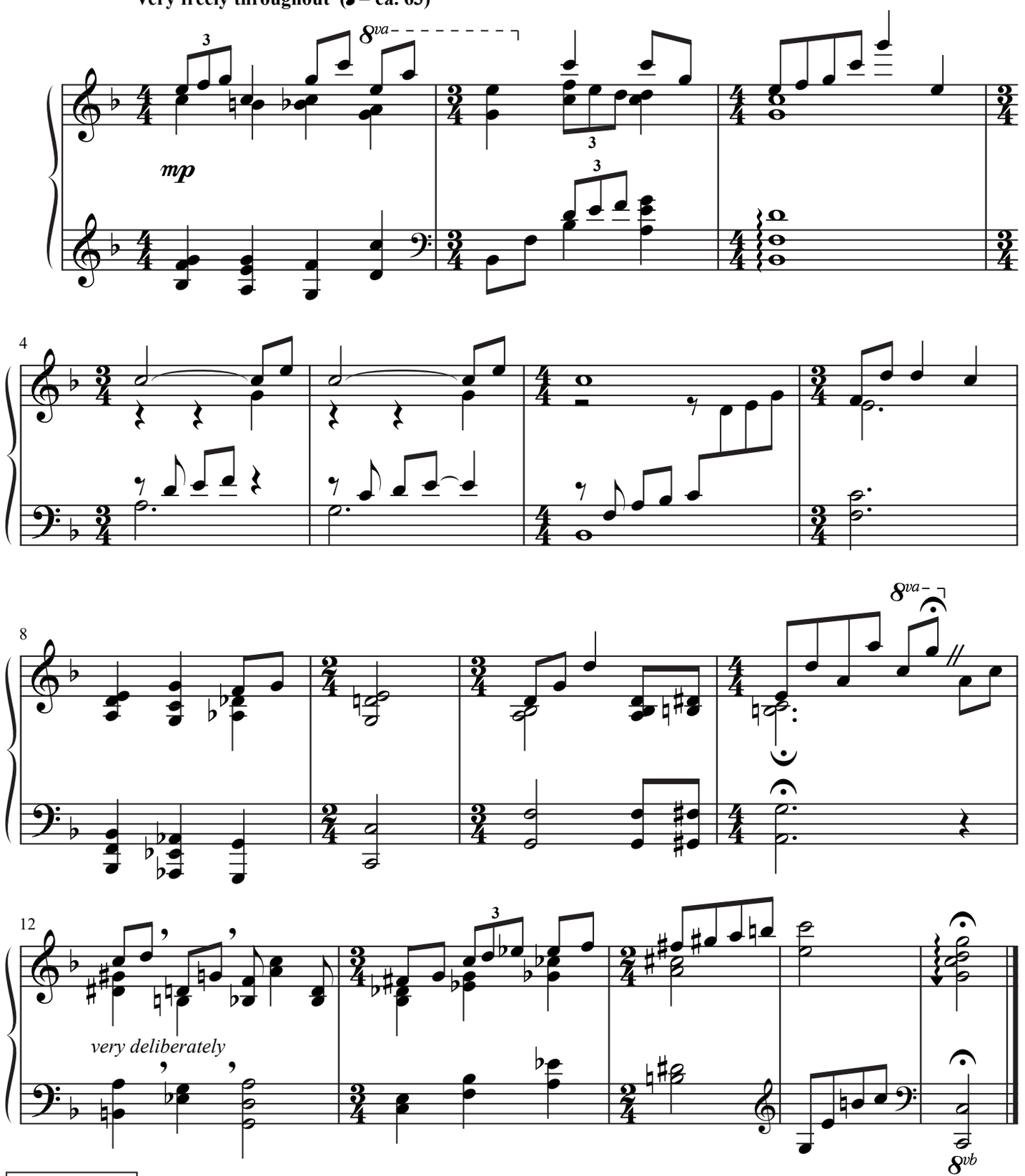

More relaxed ♩= ca. 84
16
19
23
rall.
27
mf
a tempo
30

Lament

Teresa Wilhelmi



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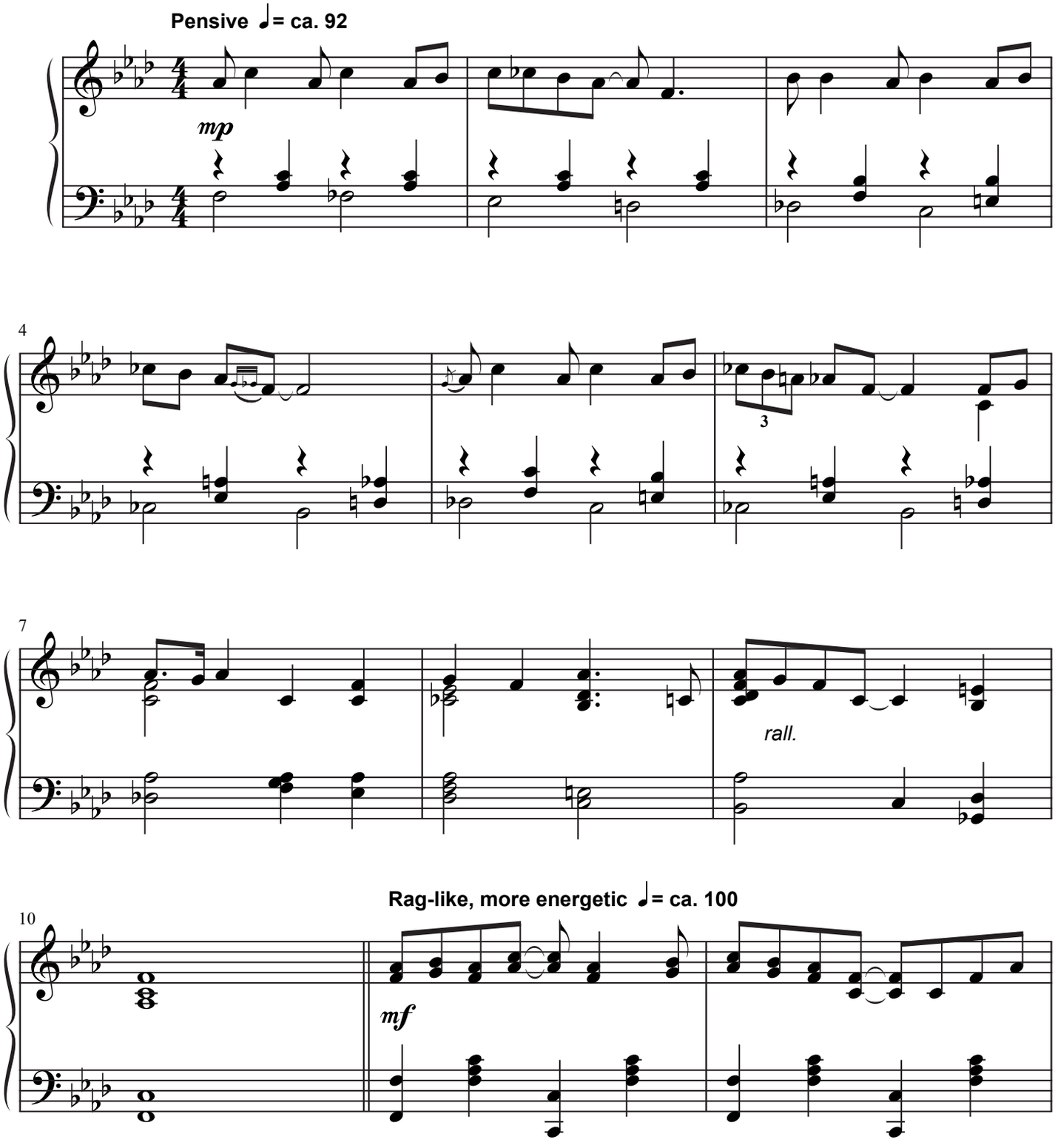
Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child

Teresa Wilhelmi
Traditional spiritual



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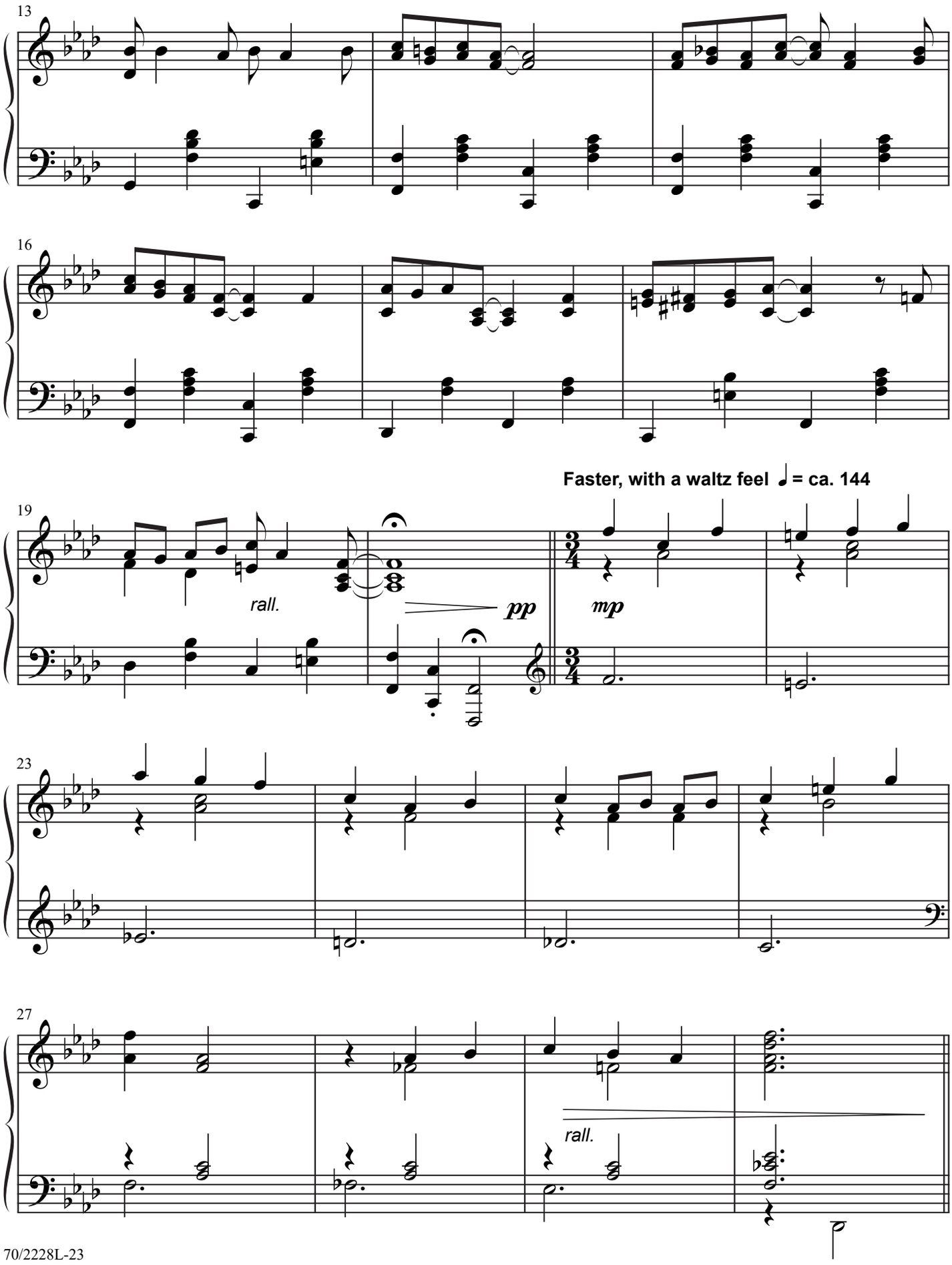
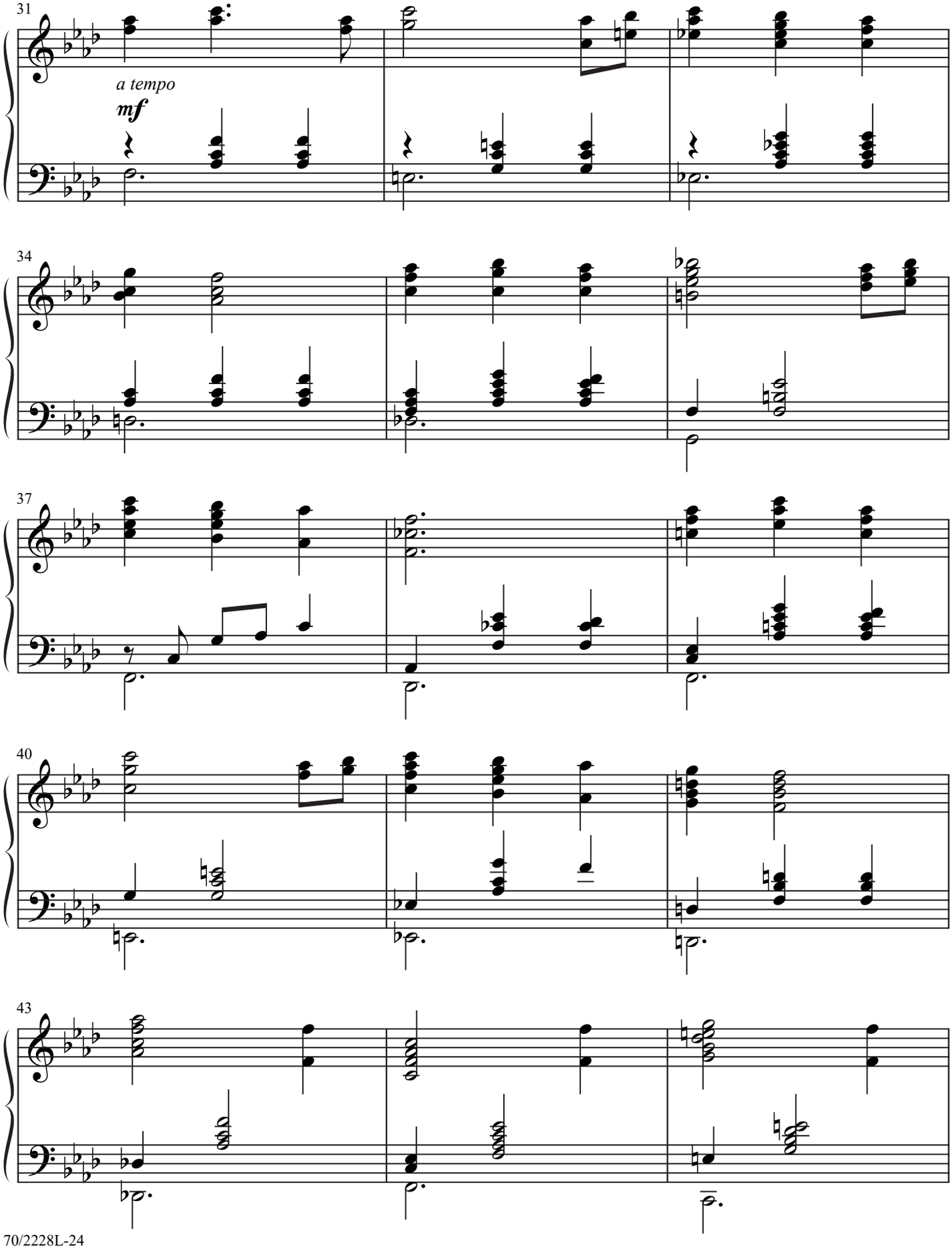
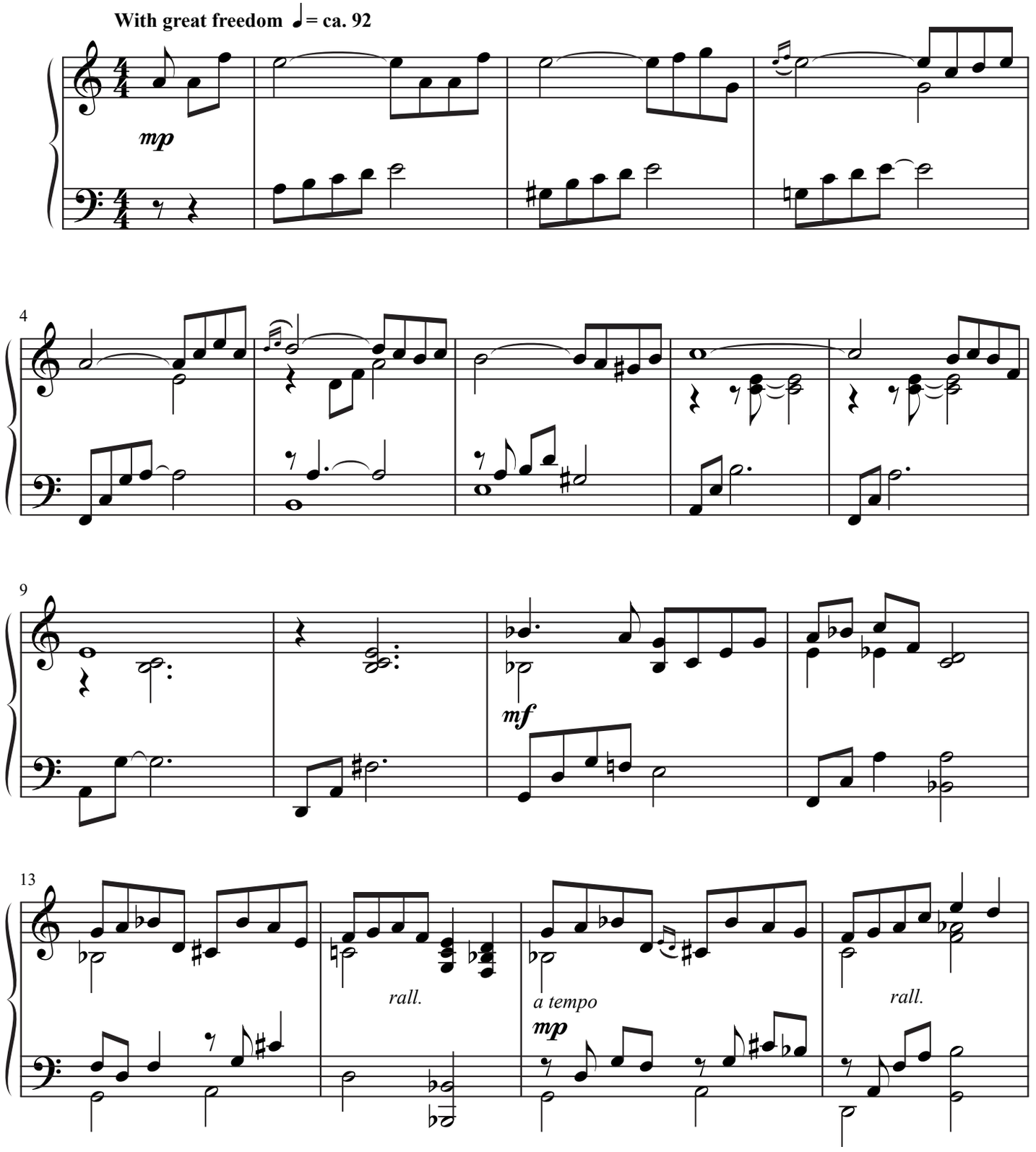

13
16
Faster, with a waltz feel ♩ = ca. 144
19
rall.
pp
mp
23
27
rall.


31
a tempo
mf
34
37
40
43

Pensive Interlude

Teresa Wilhelmi



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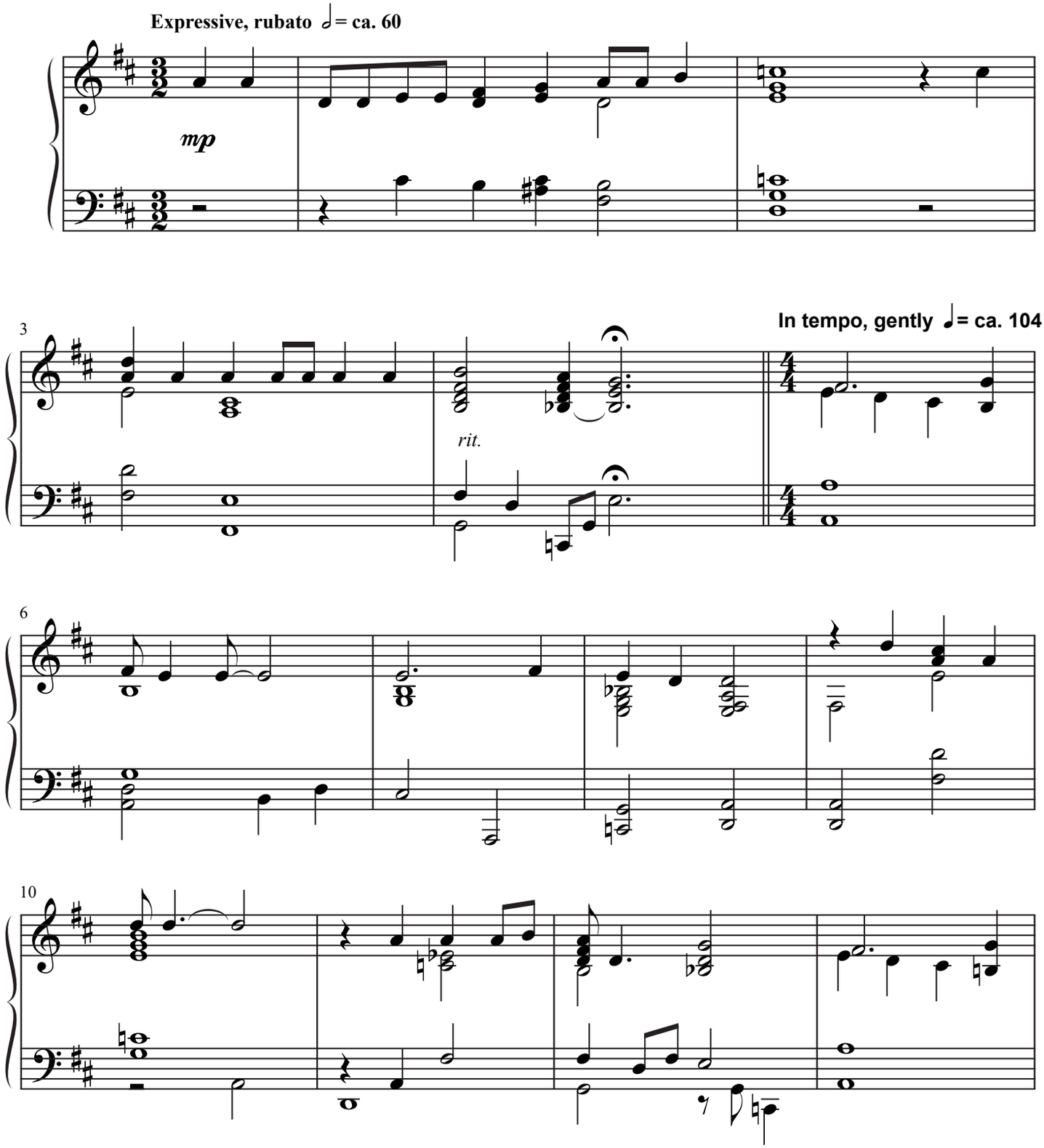
All My Trials

Teresa Wilhelmi
Traditional spiritual



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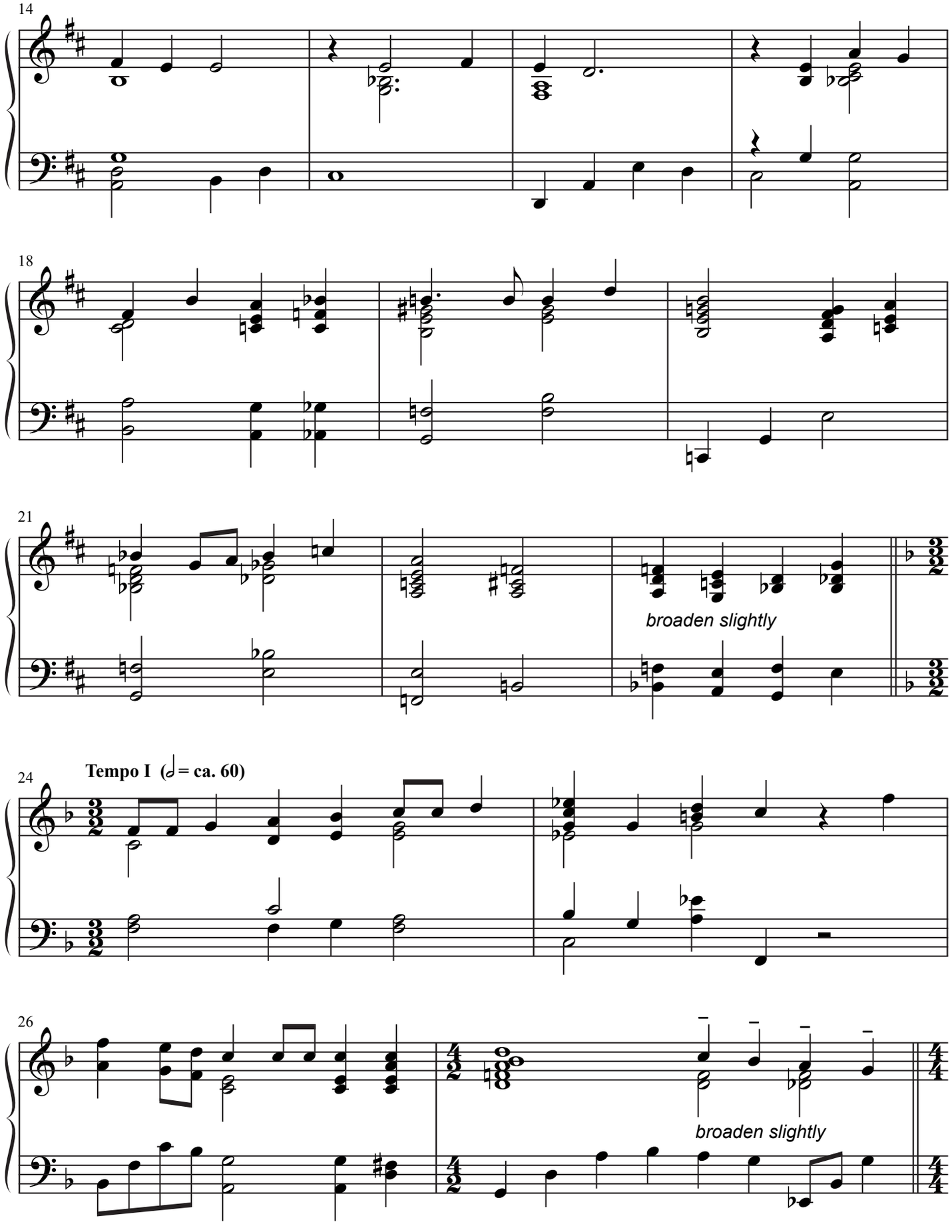
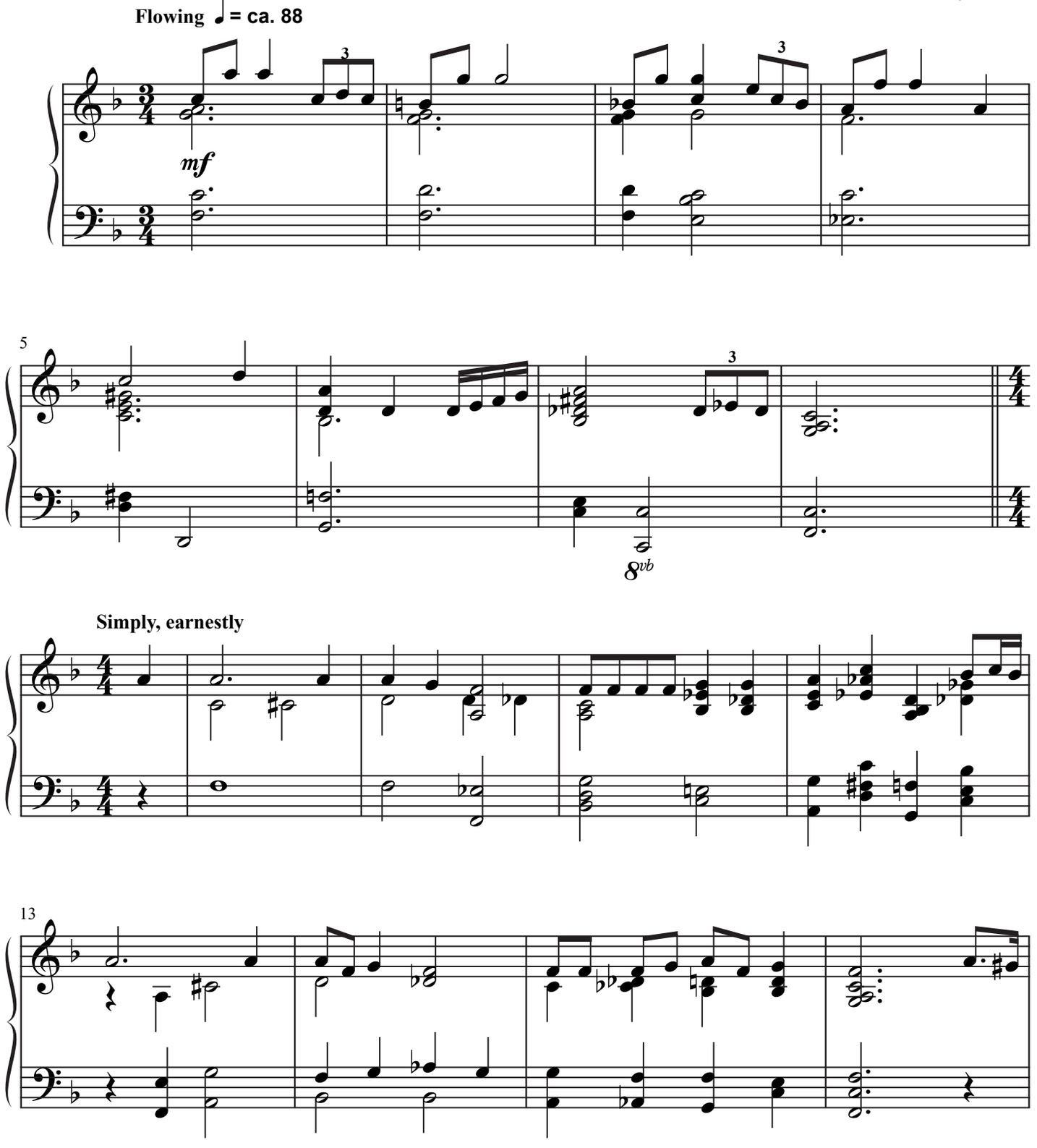

14
18
21
broaden slightly
24
Tempo I (𝅗𝅥 = ca. 60)
26
broaden slightly

Standin' in the Need of Prayer

with **He's Got the Whole World in His Hands**

Teresa Wilhelmi
Traditional spirituals



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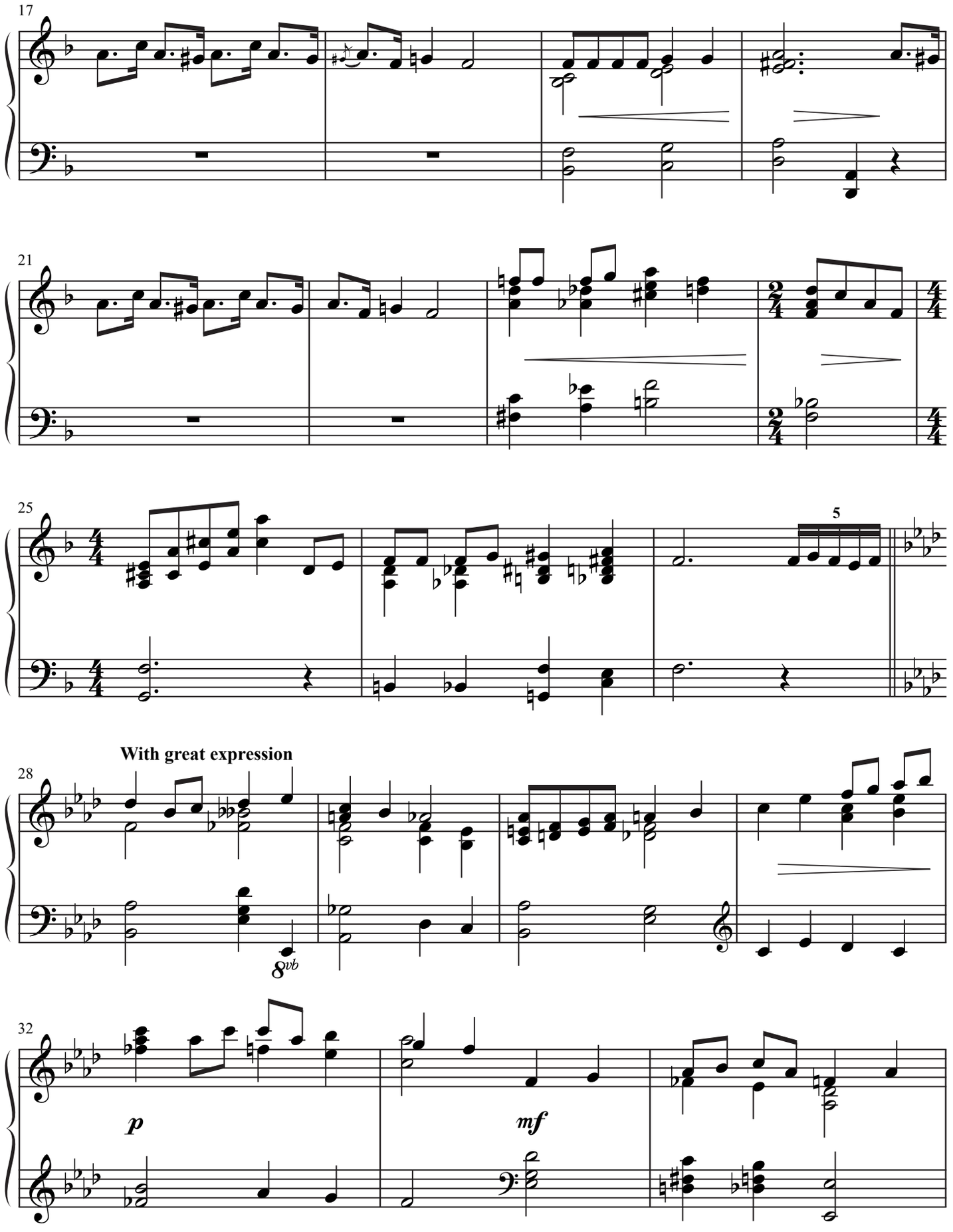
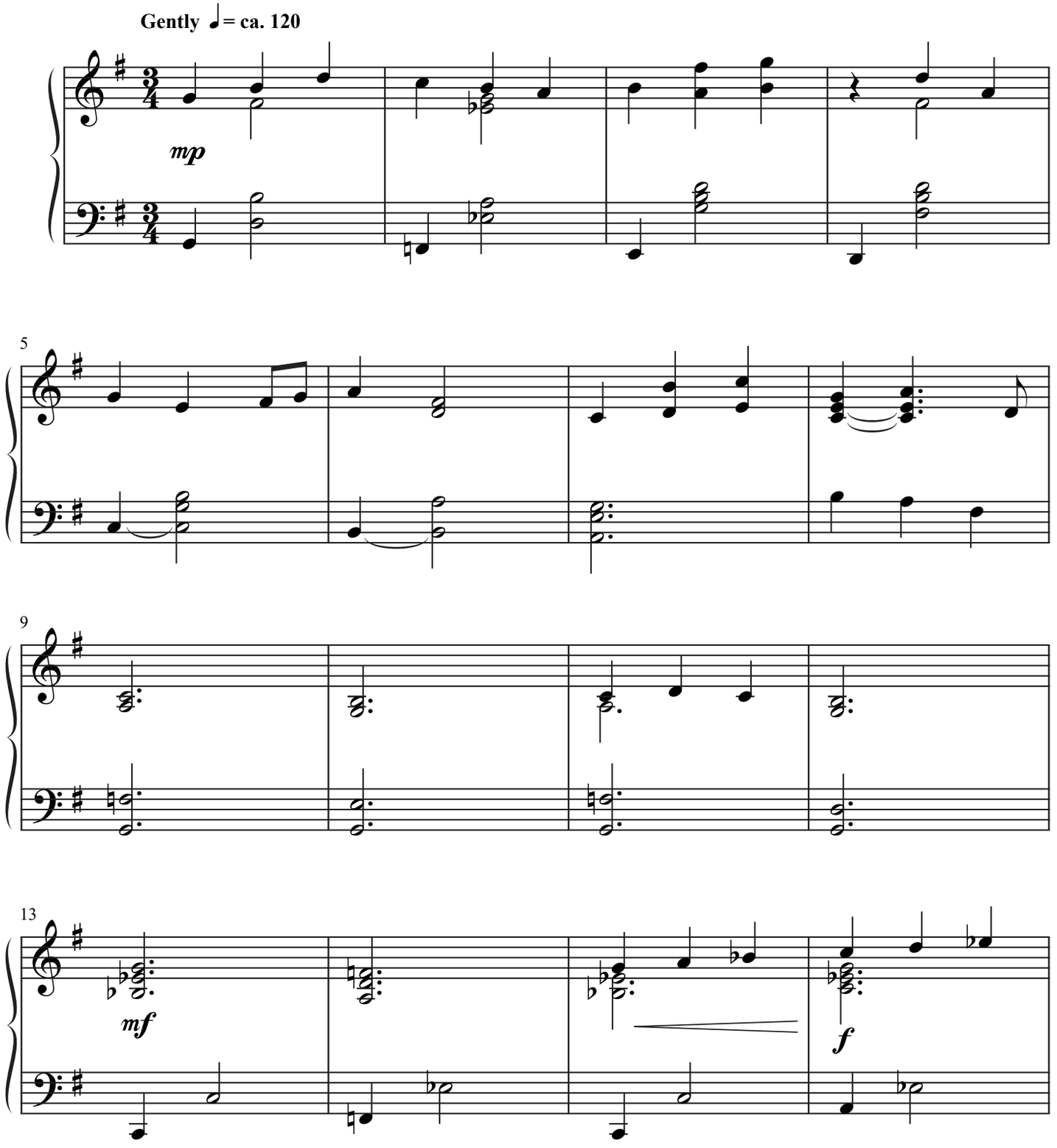

17
21
25
5
With great expression
28
8vb
32
p
mf

Improvisation in G

Teresa Wilhelmi



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