Foreword

Frances Jane Crosby (1820-1915) was one of the most gifted hymn-writers of the 19th Century, having penned more than 9,000 hymns, many of which are still among the most popular hymns in churches today. Perhaps most remarkable was that Fanny Crosby was blind, having been able to see for only the first six weeks of her life. A well-meaning preacher once said to her, *"I think it a great pity that the Master did not give you sight when He showered so many other gifts upon you."* Having heard such comments before, she replied, *"Do you know that, if at birth I had been able to make one petition, it would have been that I was born blind?"* She continued, *"Because, when I get to heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior."* Her notable faith is evident in the texts she wrote during her lifetime.

Selecting eight songs for this book, I could not help but notice a deep and abiding faith as she spoke of Jesus, her Redeemer, Savior, and Friend. These settings represent just a small fraction of her life's work but are great statements of faith, hope, and assurance. From the tender *He Hideth My Soul* to the grand *To God Be the Glory*, the styles vary but each arrangement embraces the hymn text with careful dynamic placements, effective modulations, and sensitive nuance. Take a few moments to reflect on the words provided beneath each title. If possible, have them printed in the church bulletin or on a screen as you play, to remind the listeners of the great love for the Lord that Fanny Crosby expressed so clearly. May we see through the eyes of one who only saw through her heart, and experience these incredible hymns of our faith with new depth and meaning to serve our Lord through song.

Mary McDonald

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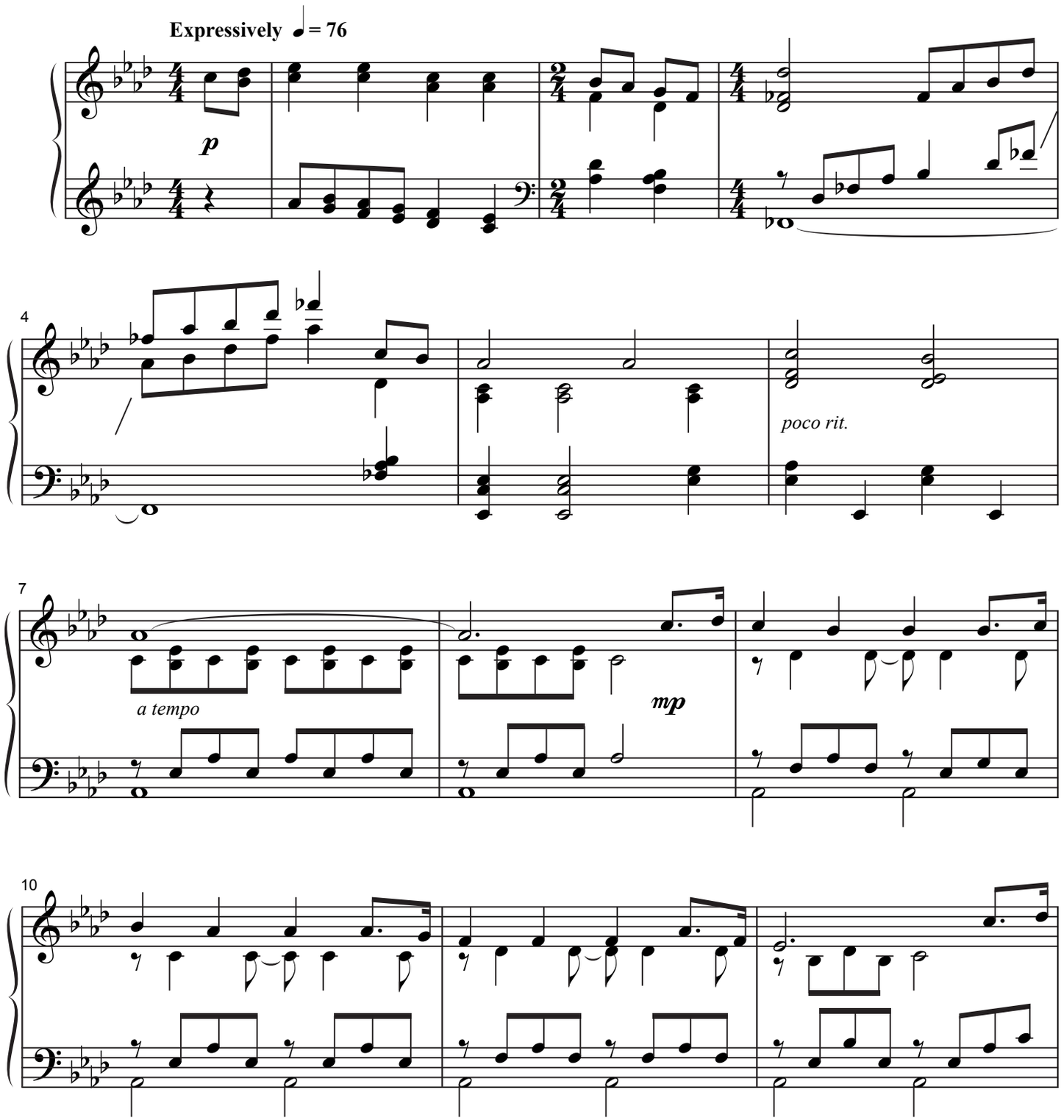
TO GOD BE THE GLORY

I Am Thine, O Lord

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice, and it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith, and be closer drawn to Thee.
Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where Thou hast died.
Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to Thy precious bleeding side.
– Fanny Crosby

Mary McDonald
Tune: **I AM THINE**
by **William H. Doane**, 1875



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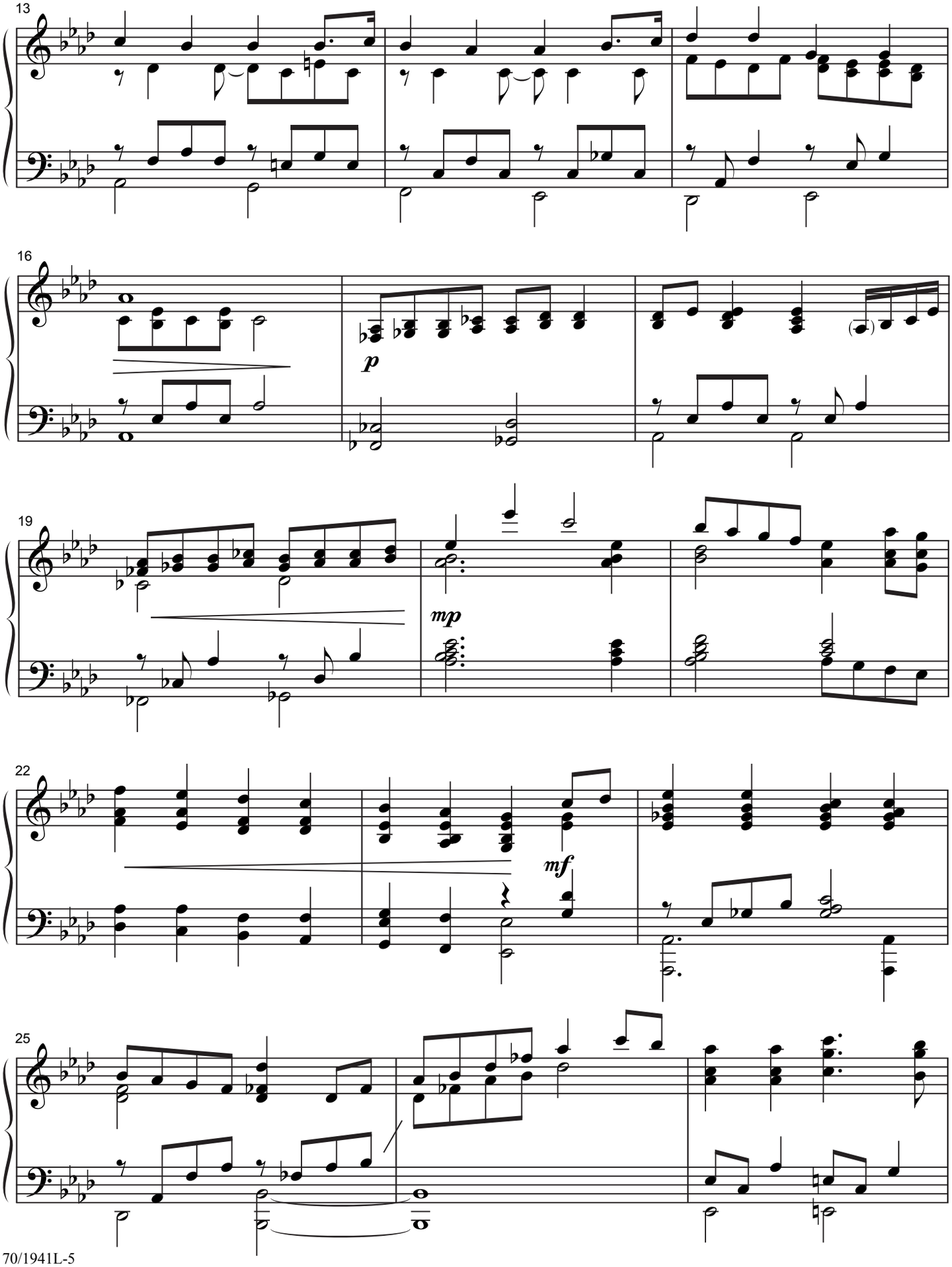
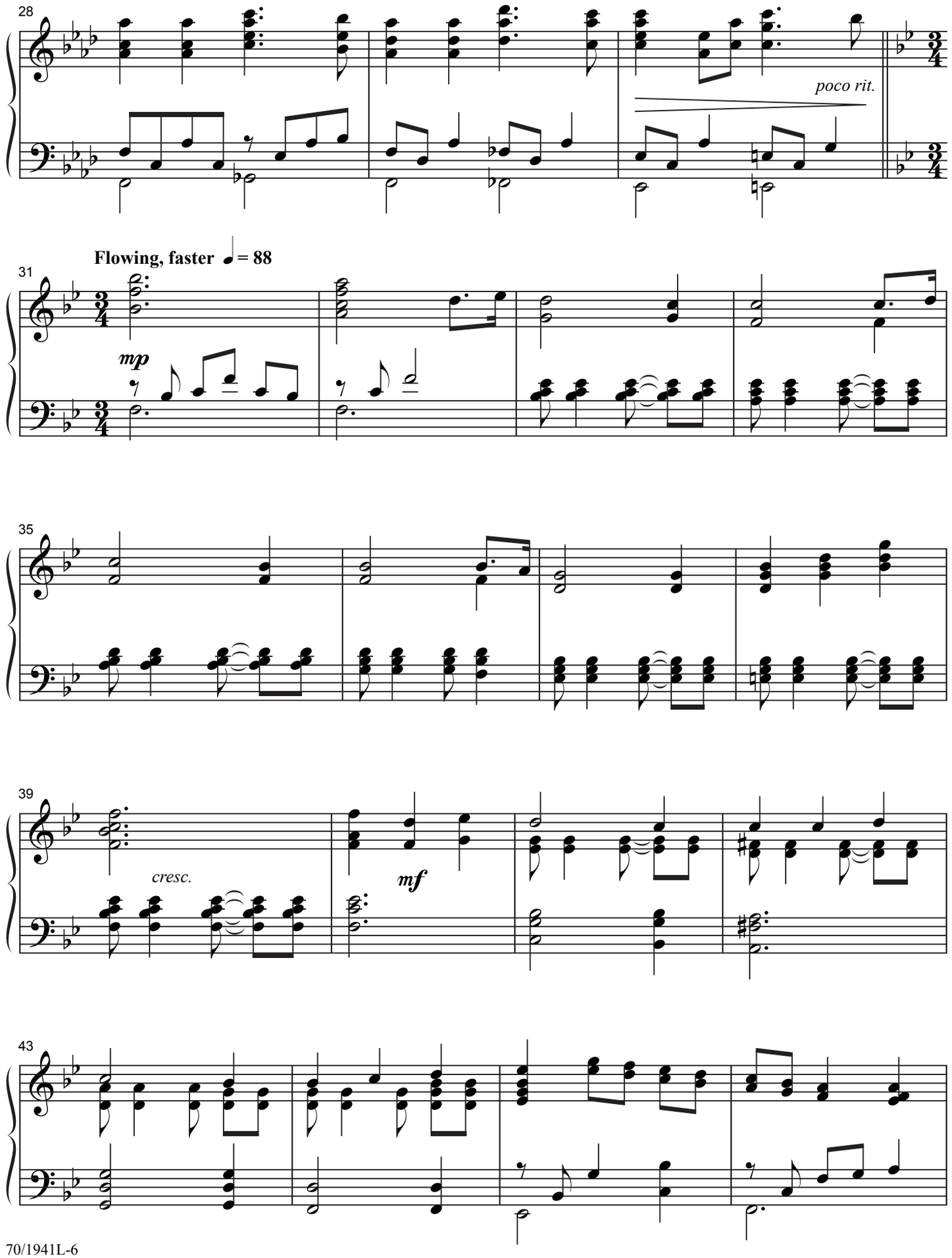
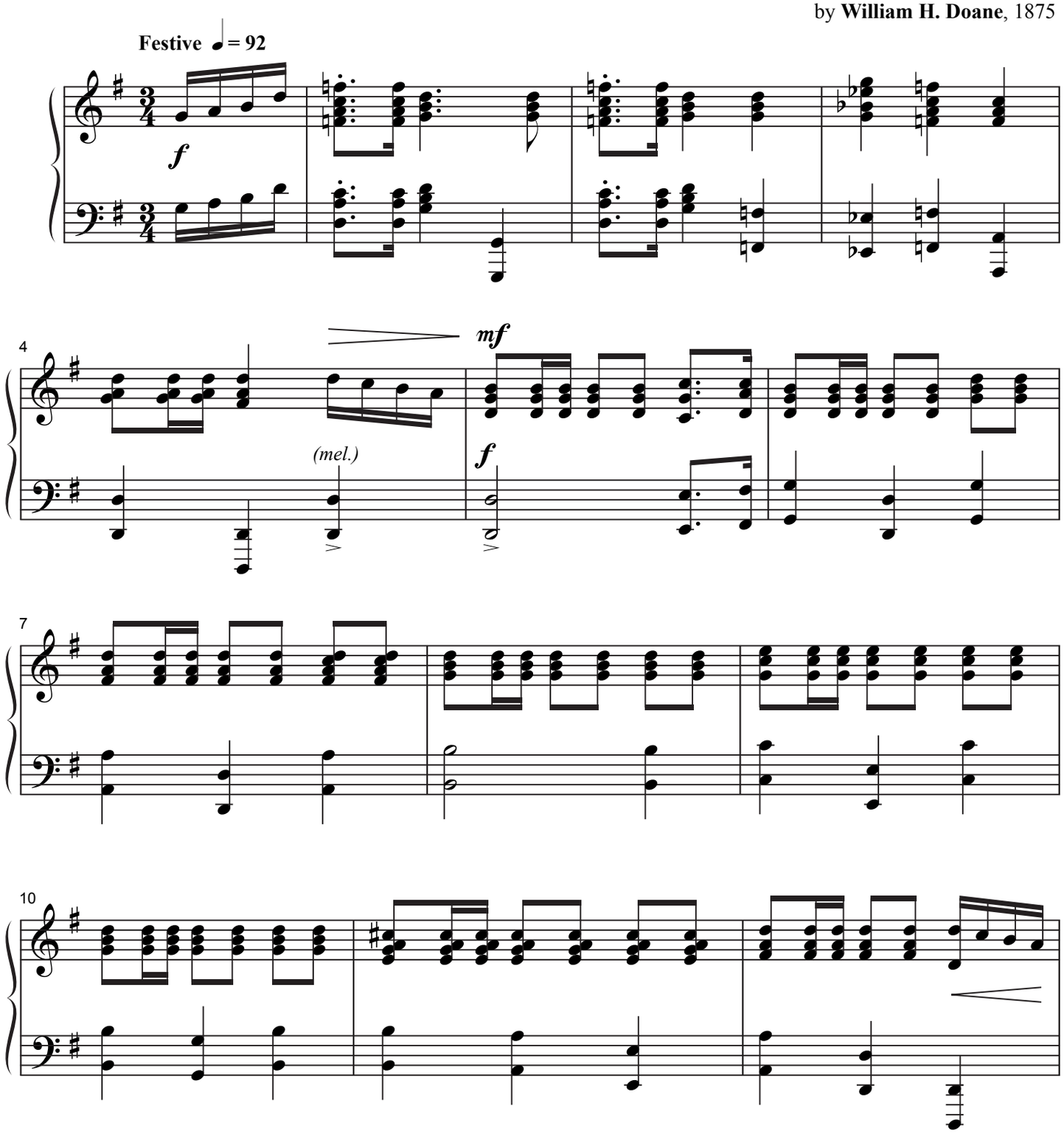

13
16
p
19
mp
22
mf
25


28
poco rit.
Flowing, faster ♩ = 88
31
mp
35
39
cresc.
mf
43

To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory, great things He hath done; So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that all may go in.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son, and give Him the glory, great things He hath done.
– Fanny Crosby

Mary McDonald
Tune: **TO GOD BE THE GLORY**
by **William H. Doane**, 1875



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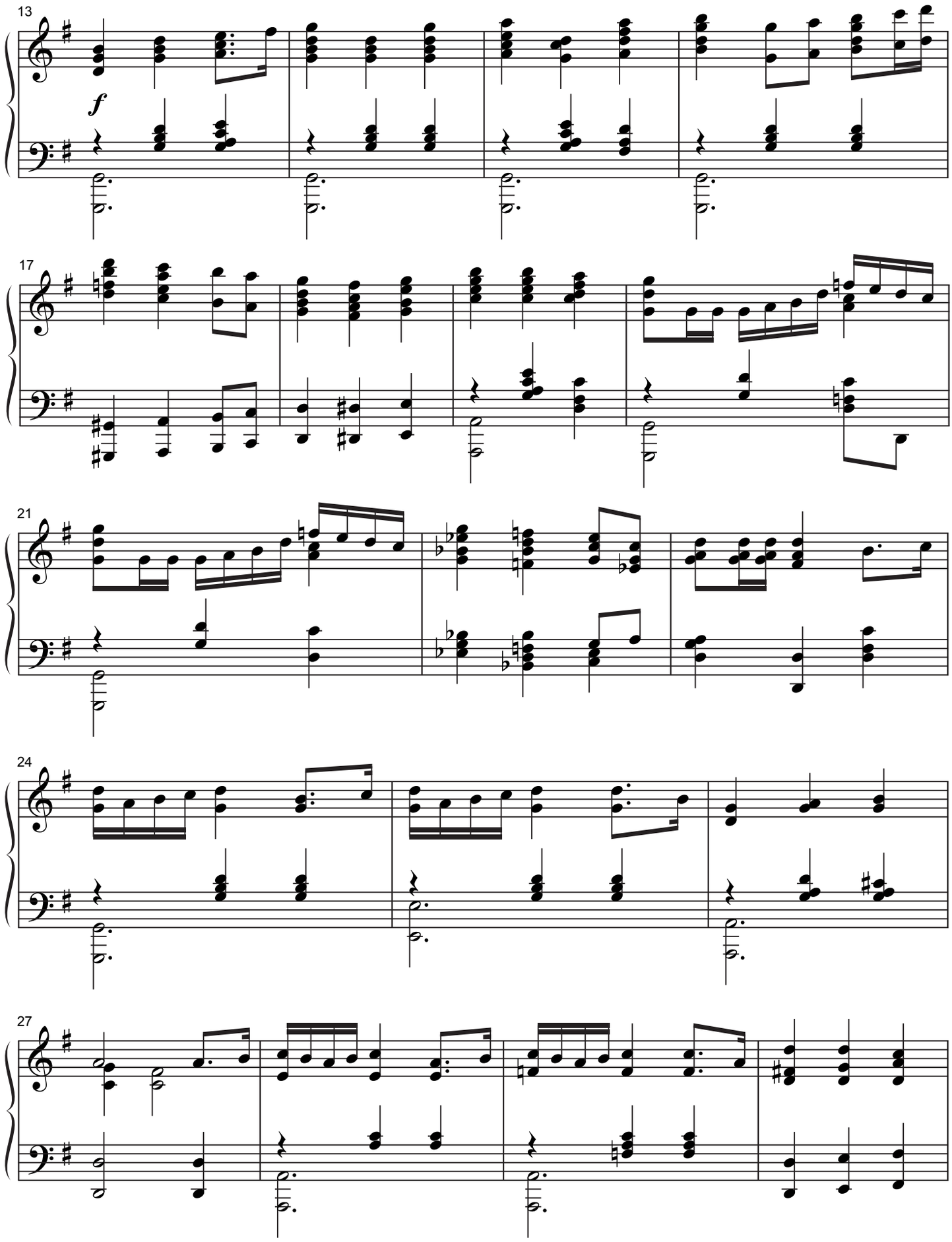
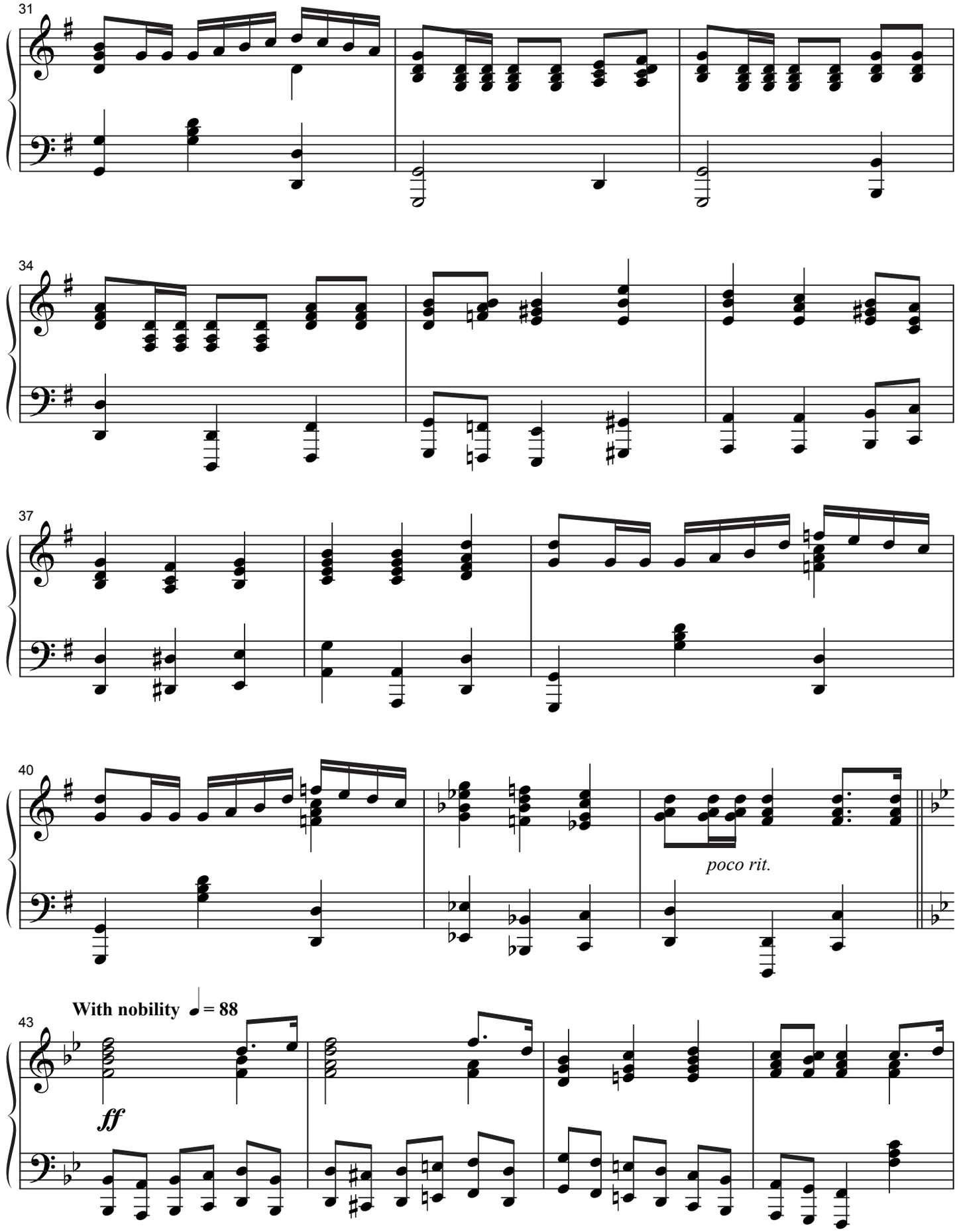
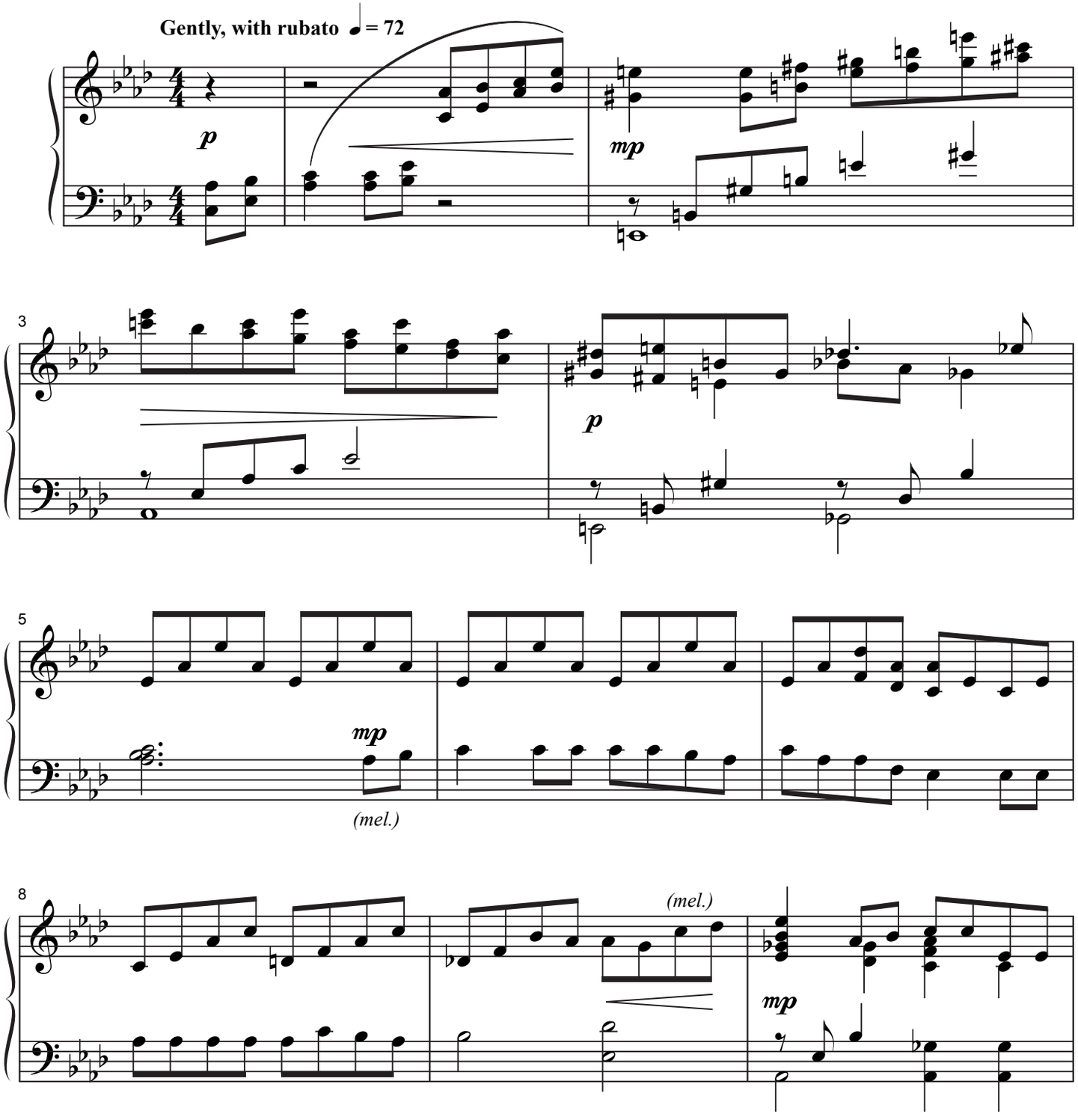

13
f
17
21
24
27


31
34
37
40
poco rit.
43
With nobility ♩ = 88
ff

My Savior First of All

When my life work is ended and I cross the swelling tide; when the bright and glorious morning I shall see,
I shall know my Redeemer when I reach the other side, and His smile will be the first to welcome me.
I shall know Him, I shall know Him, and redeemed by His side shall I stand.
I shall know Him, I shall know Him by the print of the nails in His hand.
– Fanny Crosby

Mary McDonald
Tune: **I SHALL KNOW HIM**
by **John R. Sweney**, 1891



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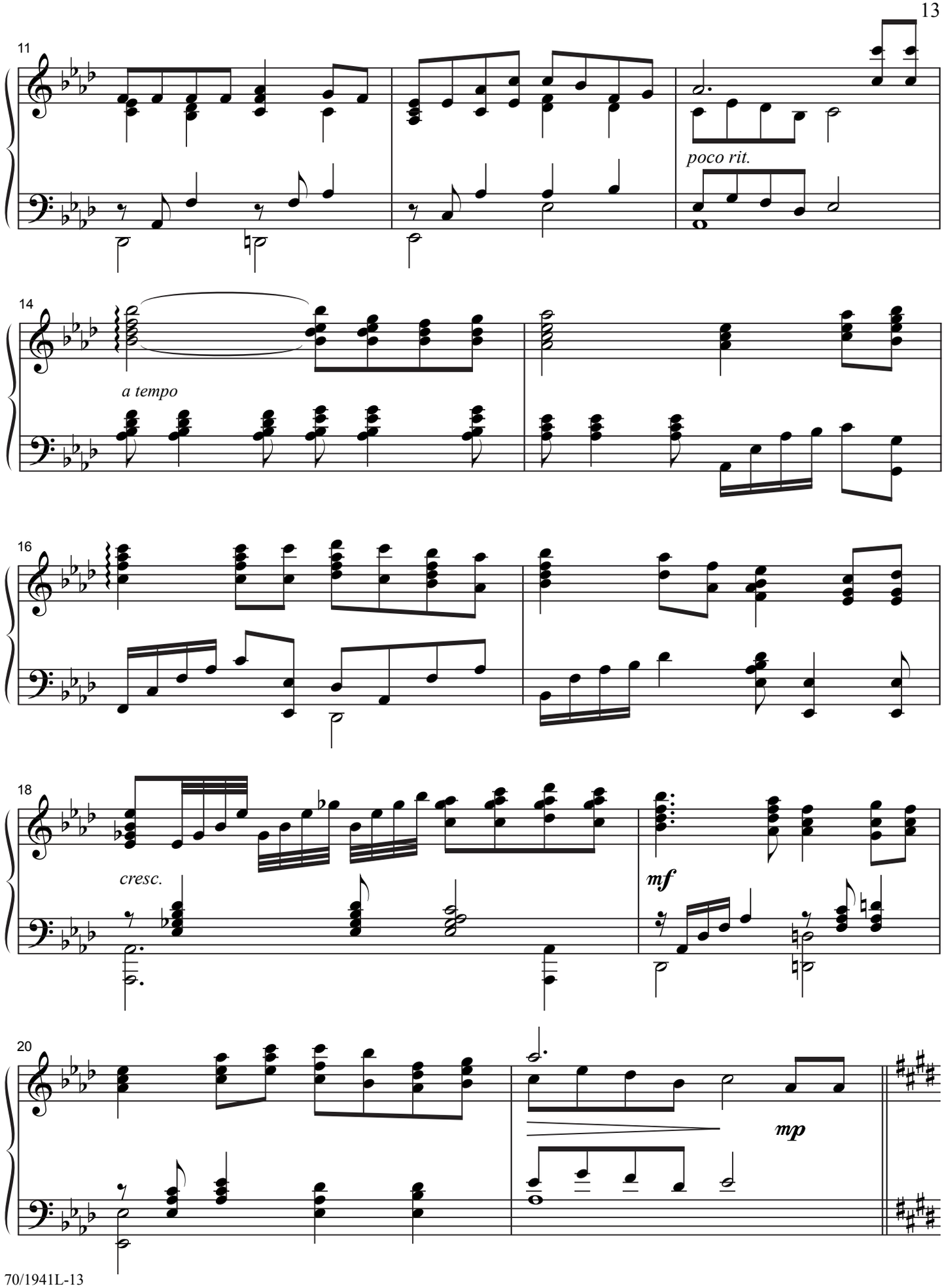
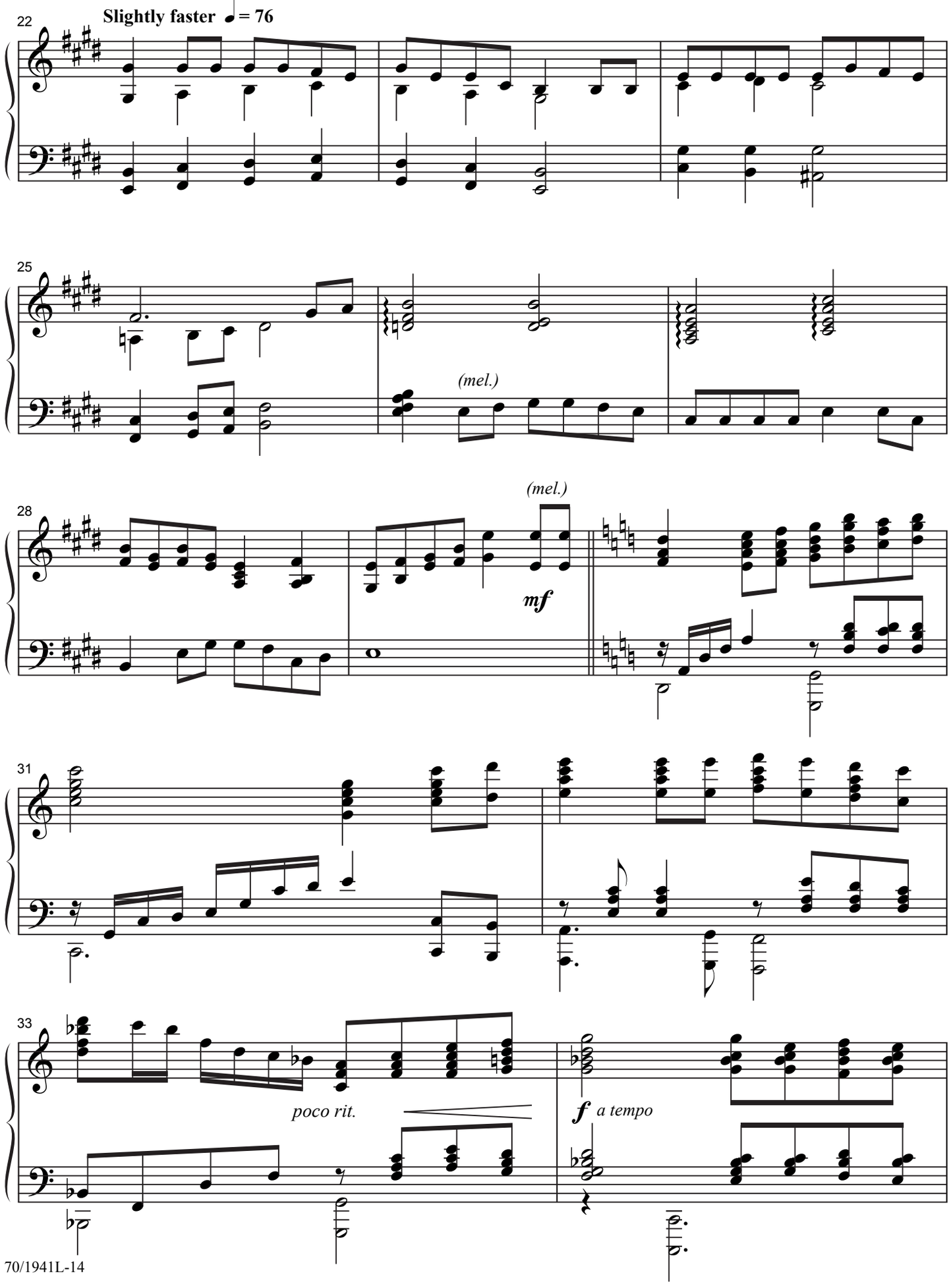
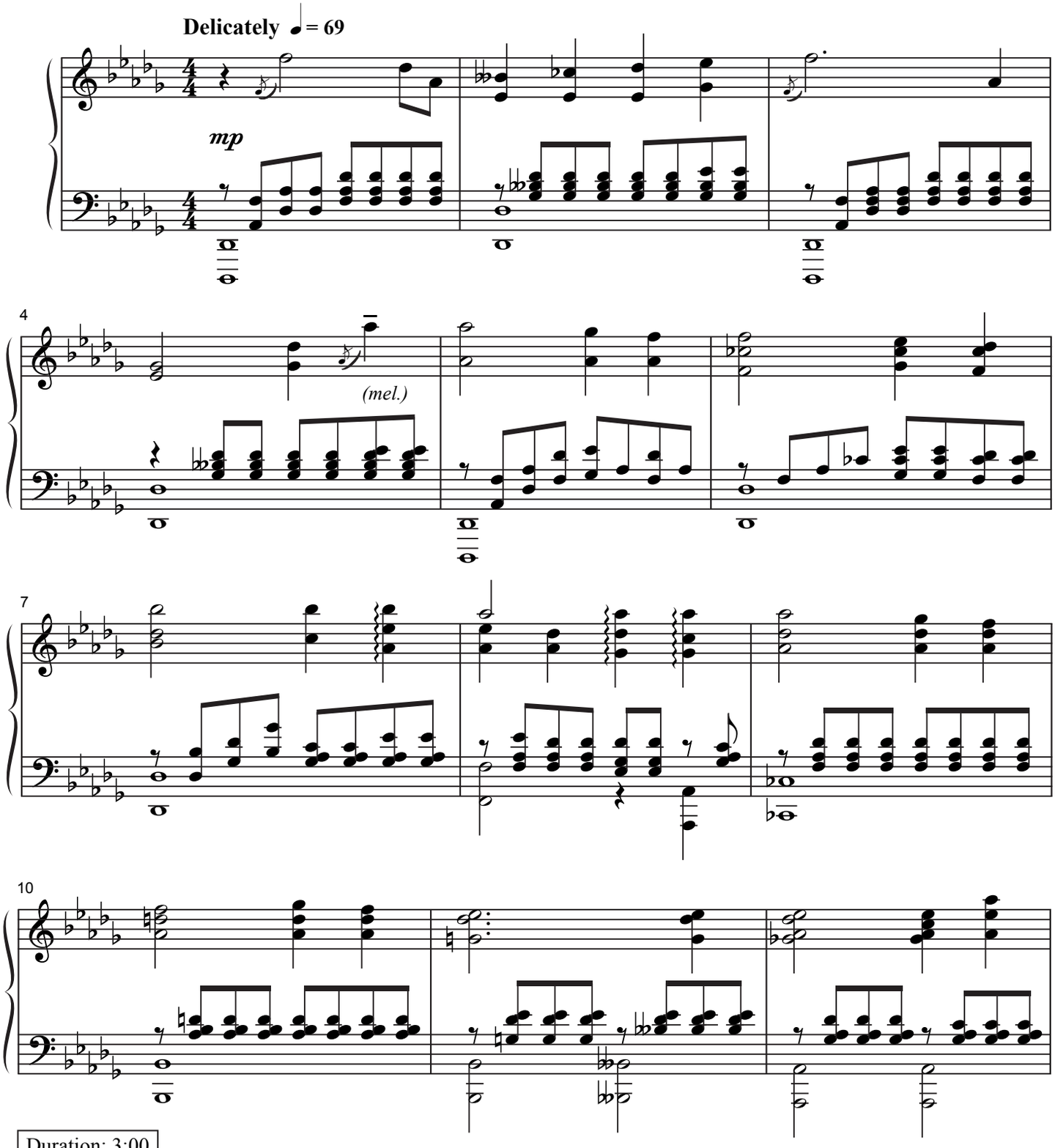

11
poco rit.
14
a tempo
16
18
cresc.
mf
20
mp


Slightly faster ♩= 76
22
25
(mel.)
28
(mel.)
mf
31
33
poco rit.
f a tempo

He Hideth My Soul

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord, A wonderful Savior to me;
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, where rivers of pleasure I see.
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock that shadows a dry, thirsty land.
He hideth my life in the depths of His love and covers me there with His hand.
– Fanny Crosby

Mary McDonald
Tune: **KIRKPATRICK**
by **William J. Kirkpatrick**, 1890



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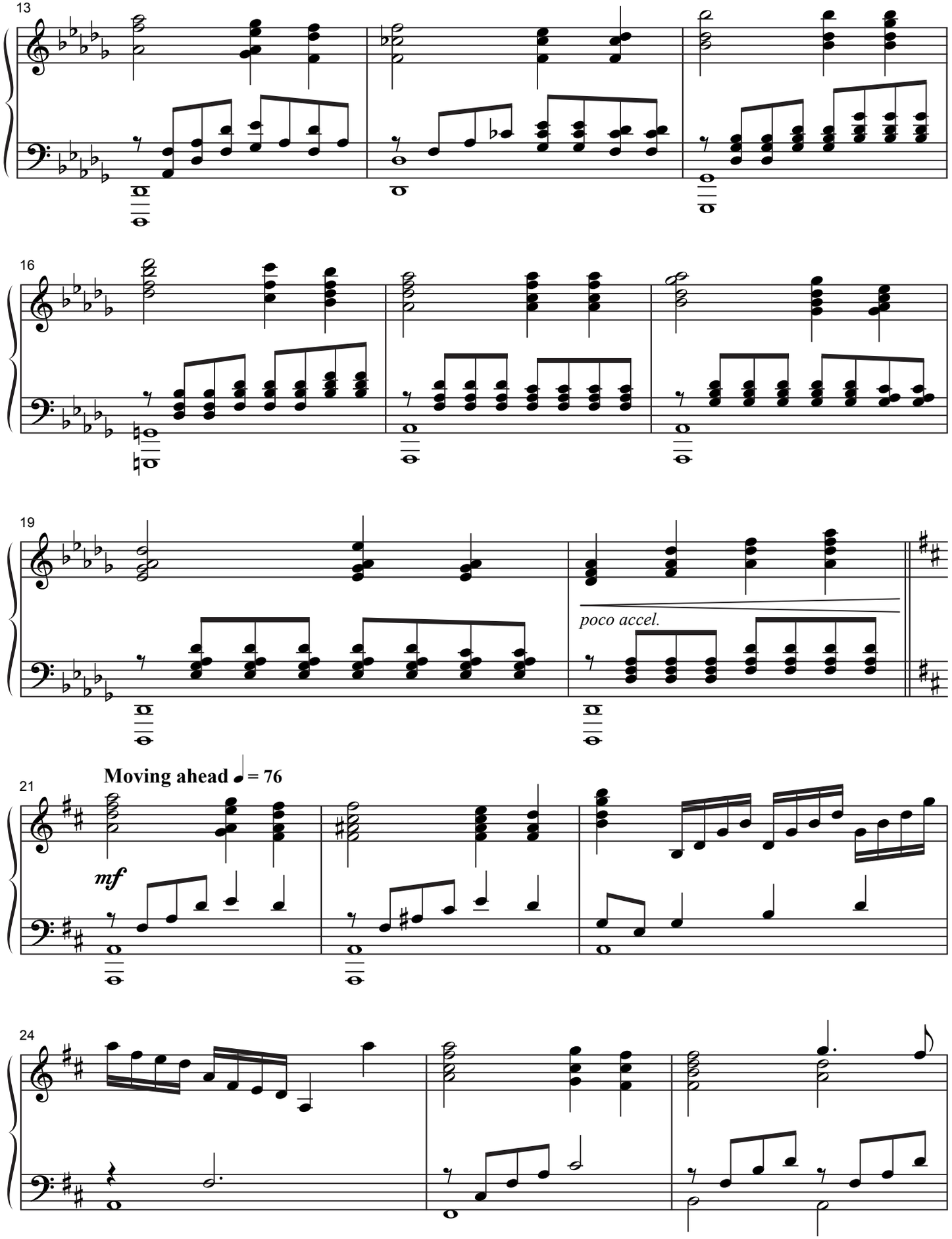
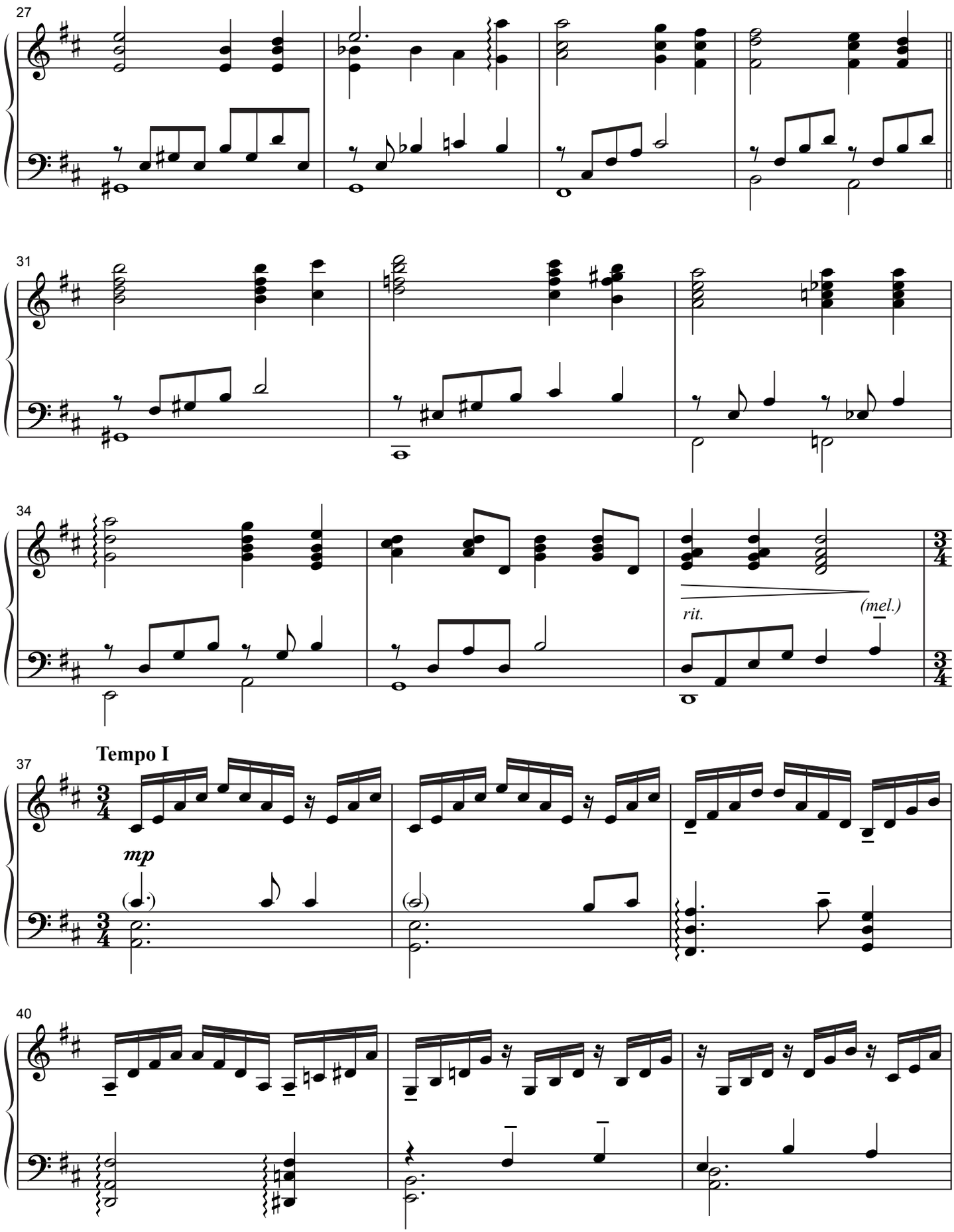
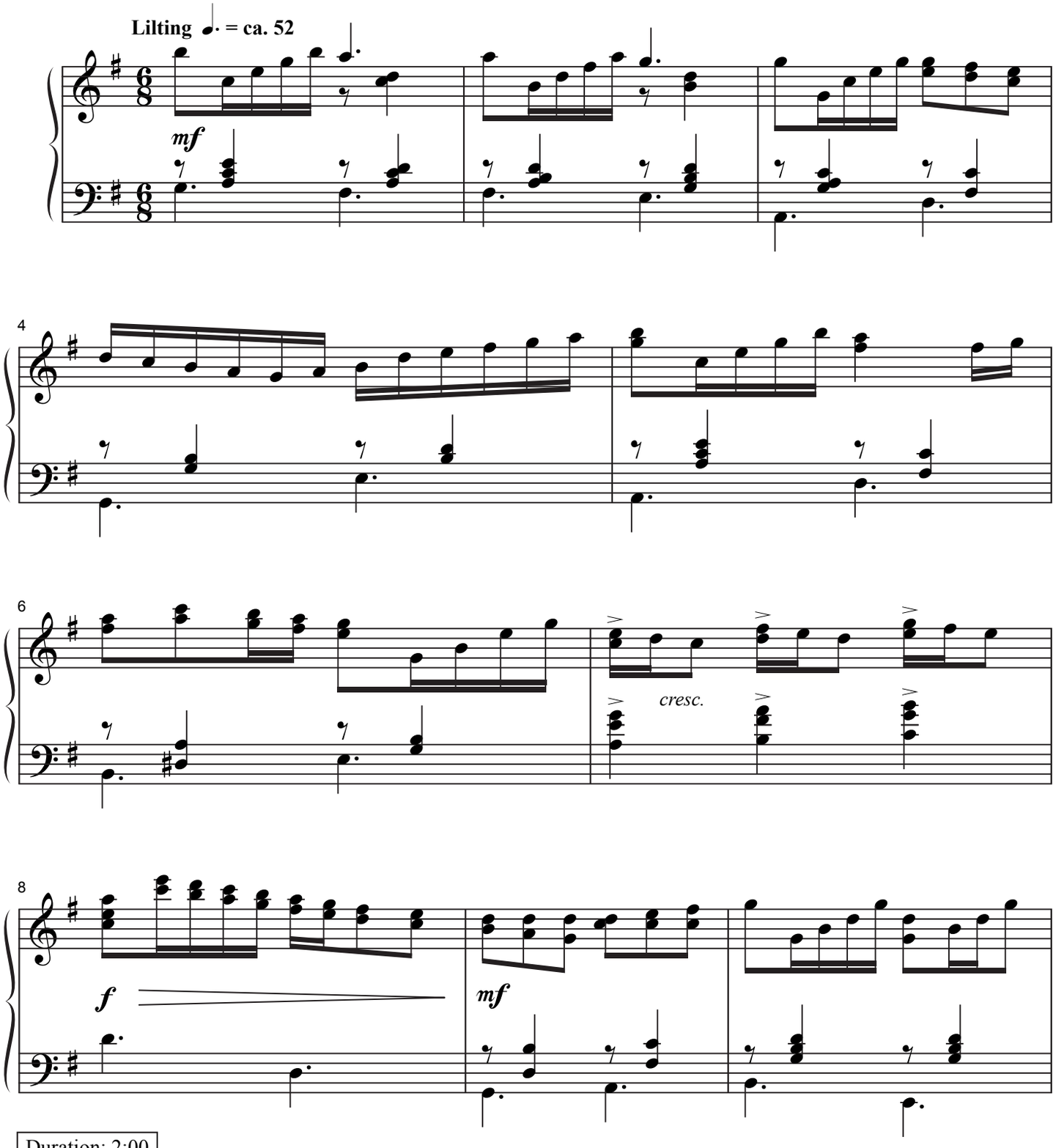

13
16
19
poco accel.
21
Moving ahead ♩ = 76
mf
24


27
31
34
rit.
(mel.)
Tempo I
37
mp
40

Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It

Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it! Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed through His infinite mercy, His child, and forever, I am.
Redeemed, redeemed, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed, redeemed, His child, and forever, I am!
– Fanny Crosby

Mary McDonald
Tune: **REDEEMED**
by **William J. Kirkpatrick**, 1882



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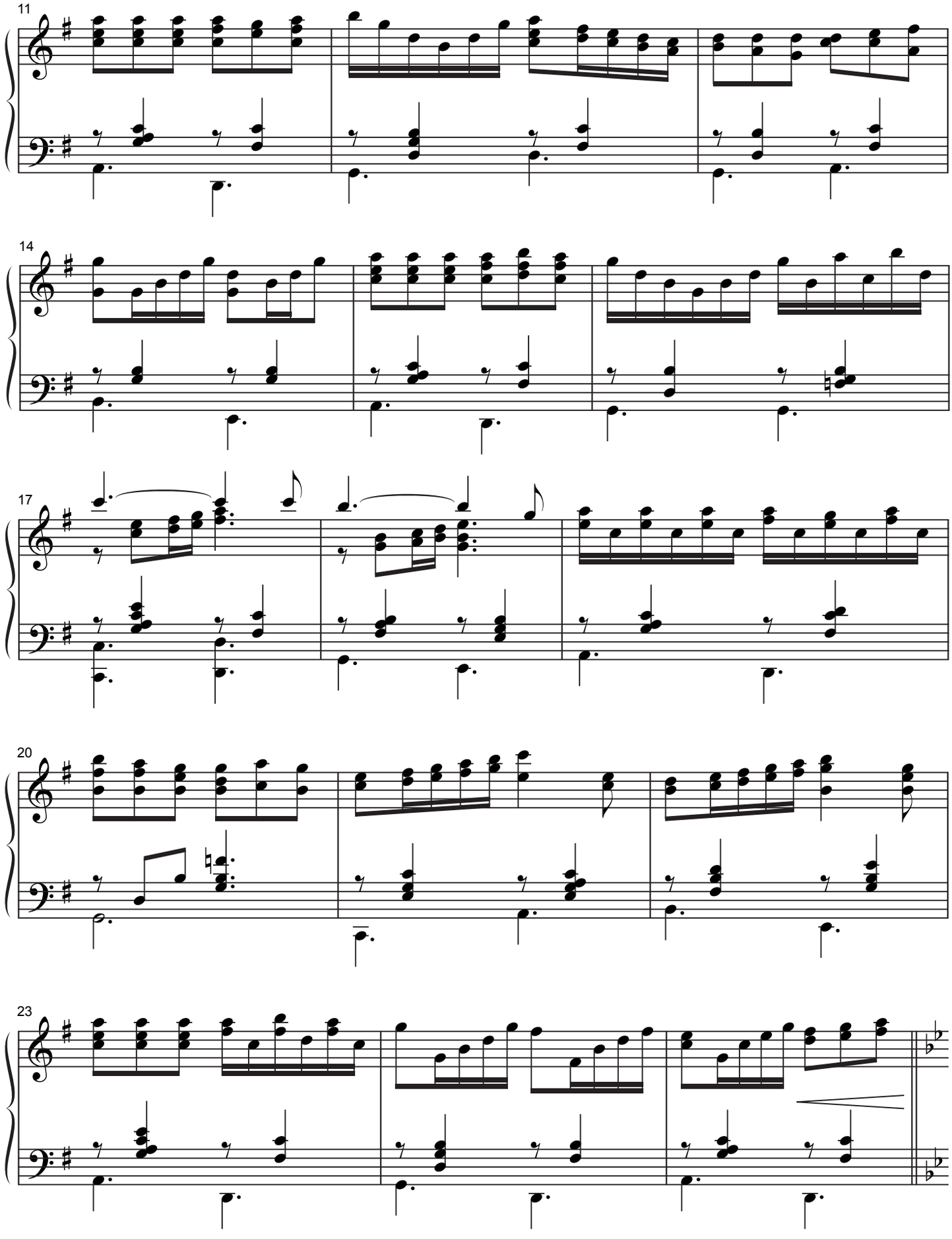
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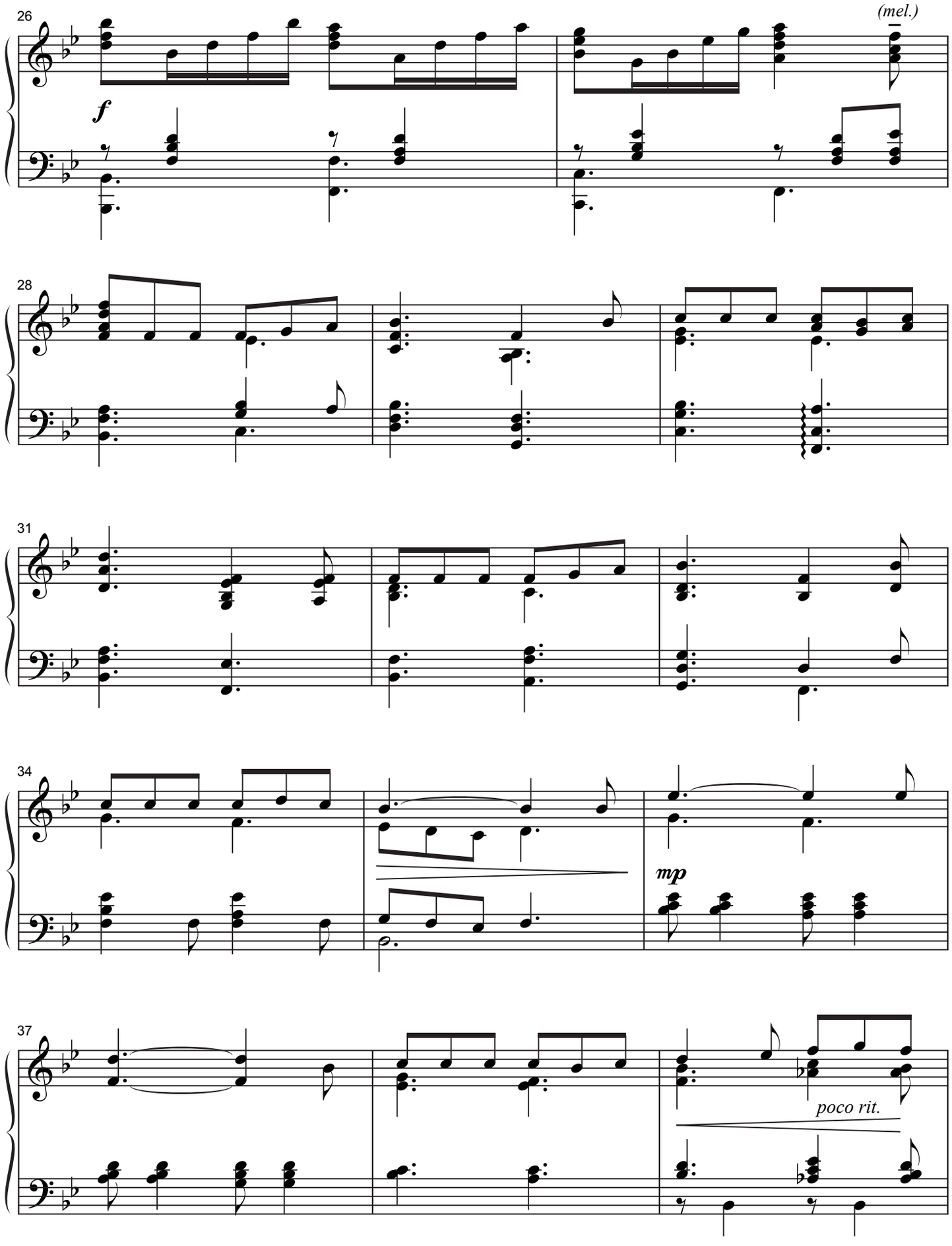
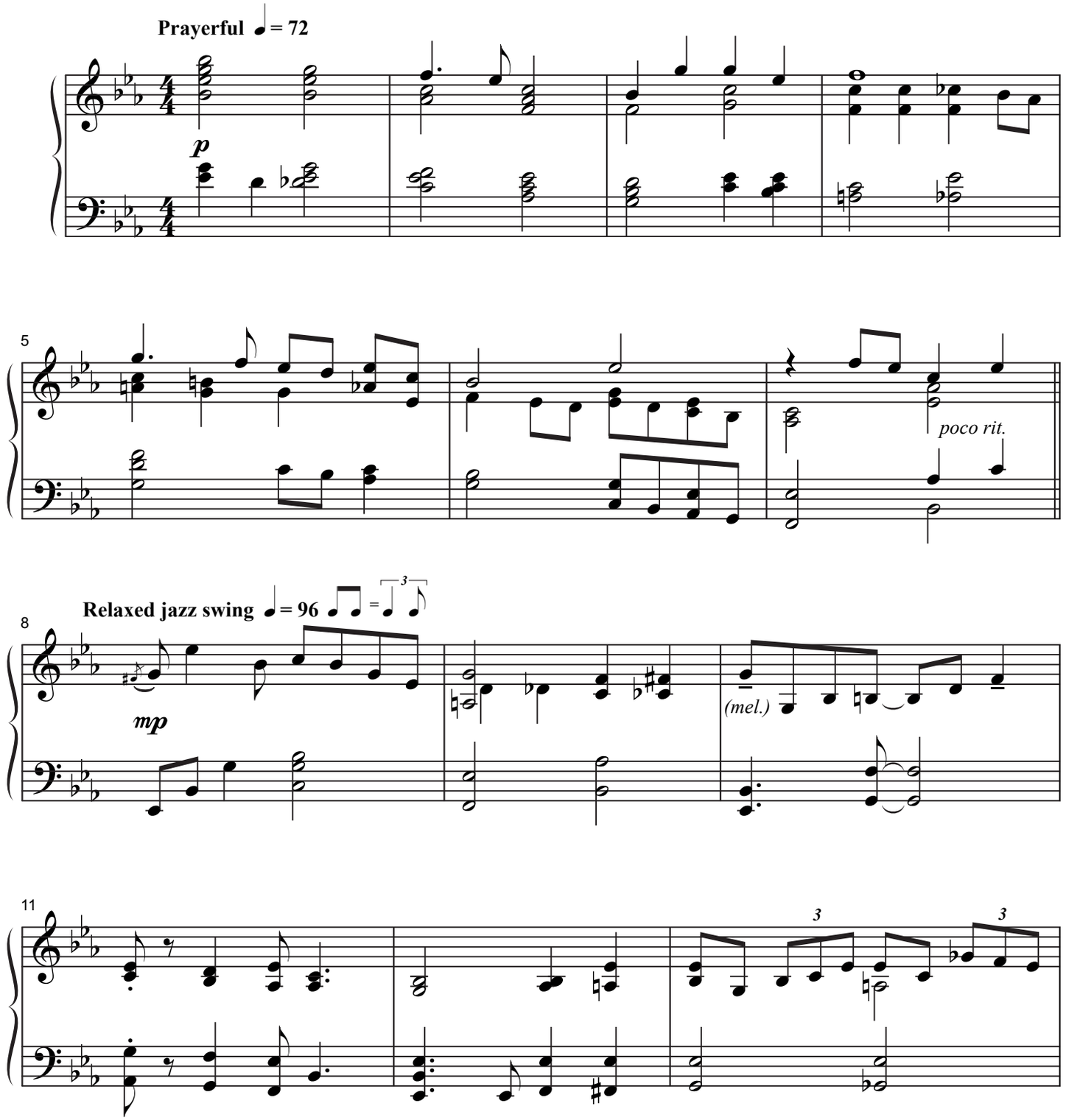
14
17
20
23


26
(mel.)
f
28
31
34
mp
37
poco rit.

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

Pass me not, O gentle Savior, Hear my humble cry;
While on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.
Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry;
While on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.
– Fanny Crosby

Mary McDonald
Tune: **PASS ME NOT**
by **William H. Doane**, 1868



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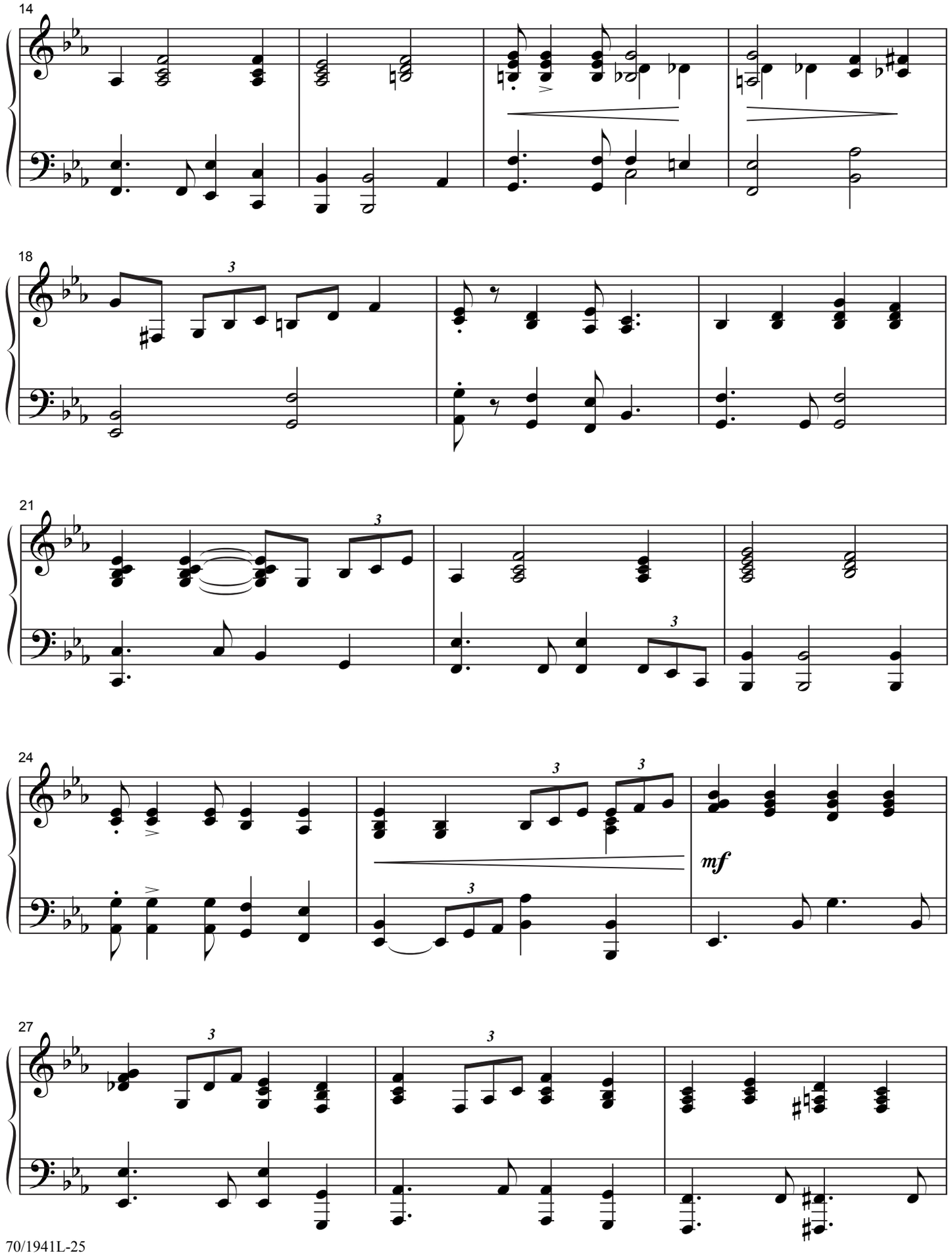
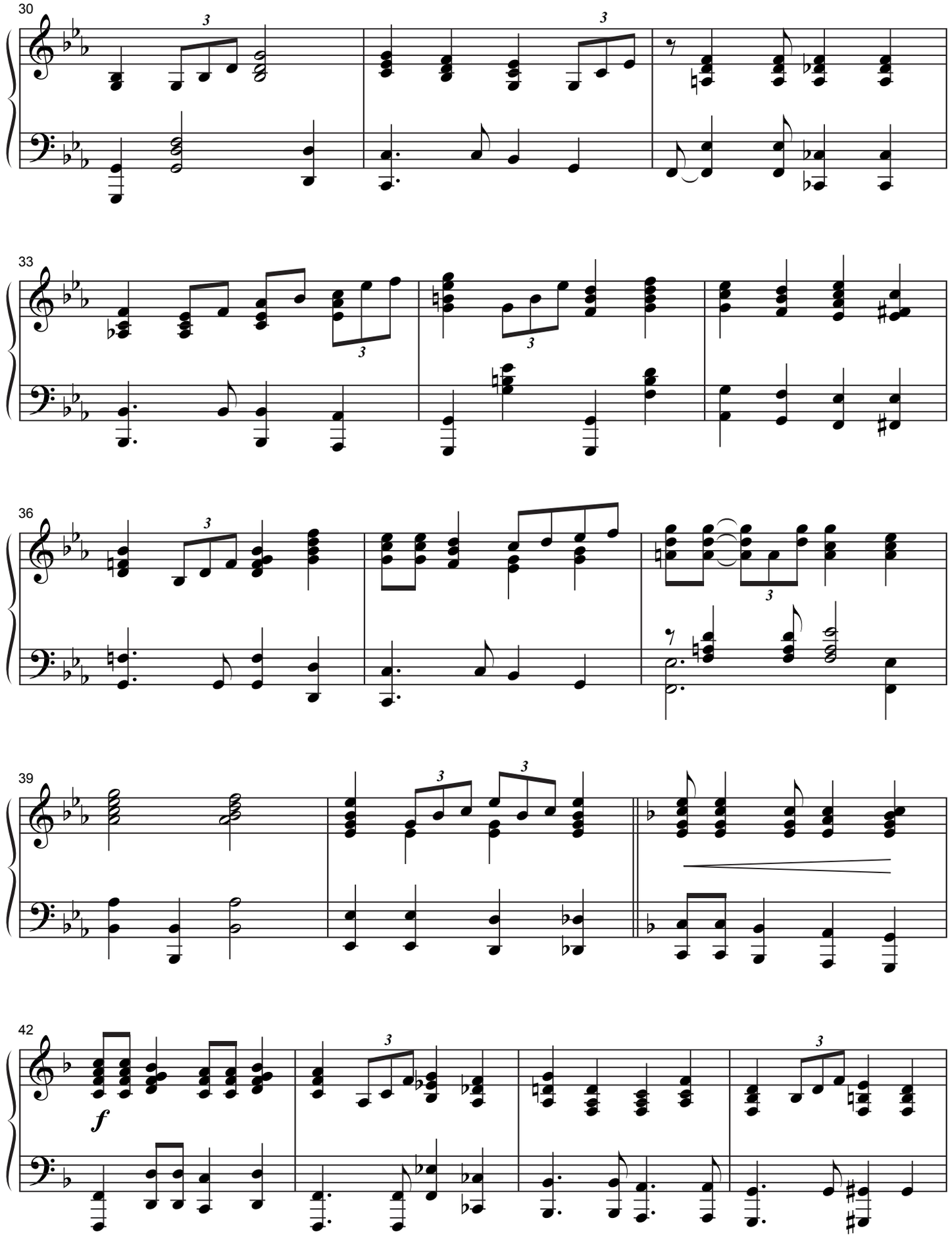
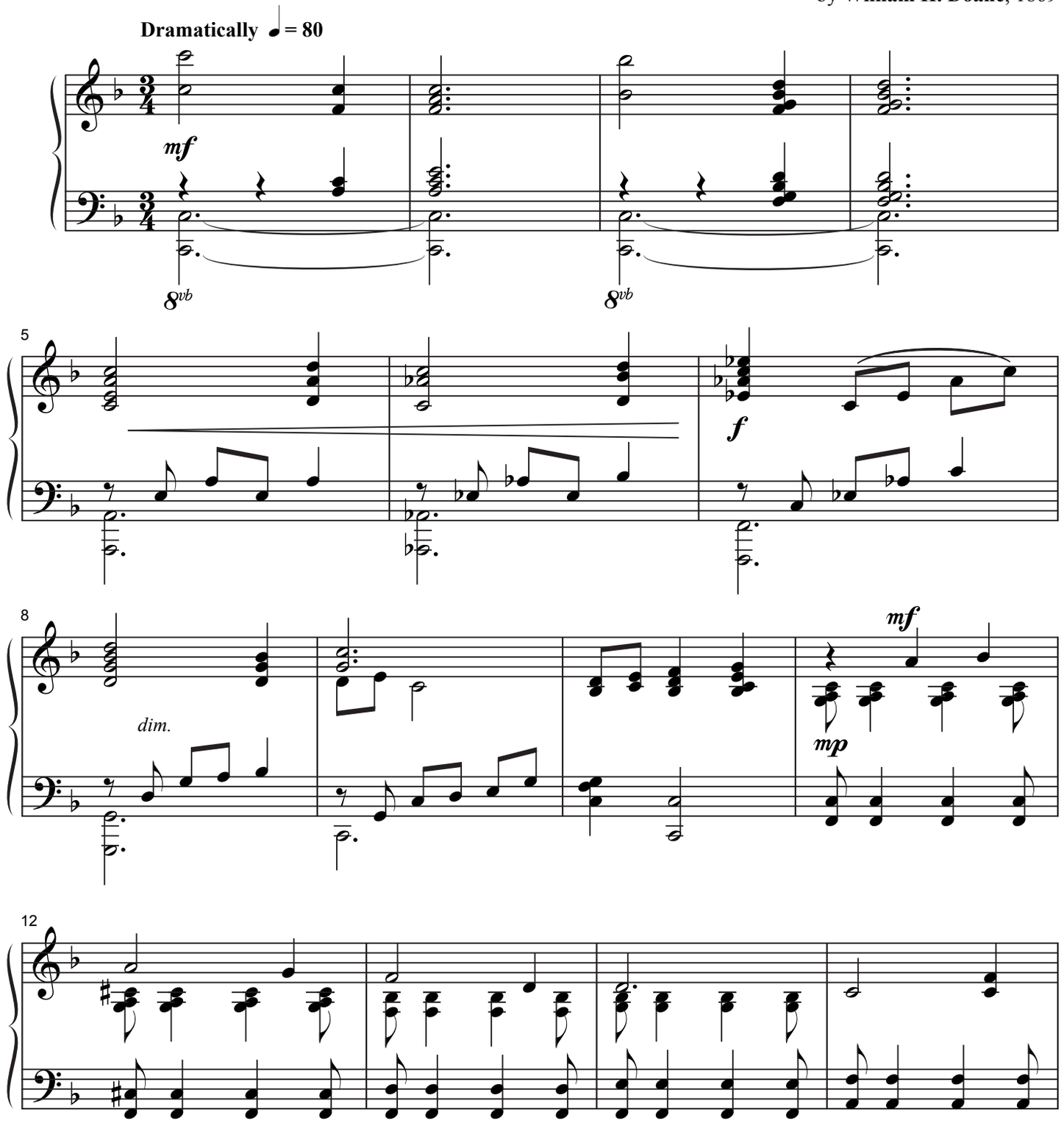

14
18
21
24
mf
27


30
33
36
39
42
f

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Jesus, keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain,
Free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calvary's mountain..
In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
Till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.
– Fanny Crosby

Mary McDonald
Tune: **NEAR THE CROSS**
by **William H. Doane**, 1869



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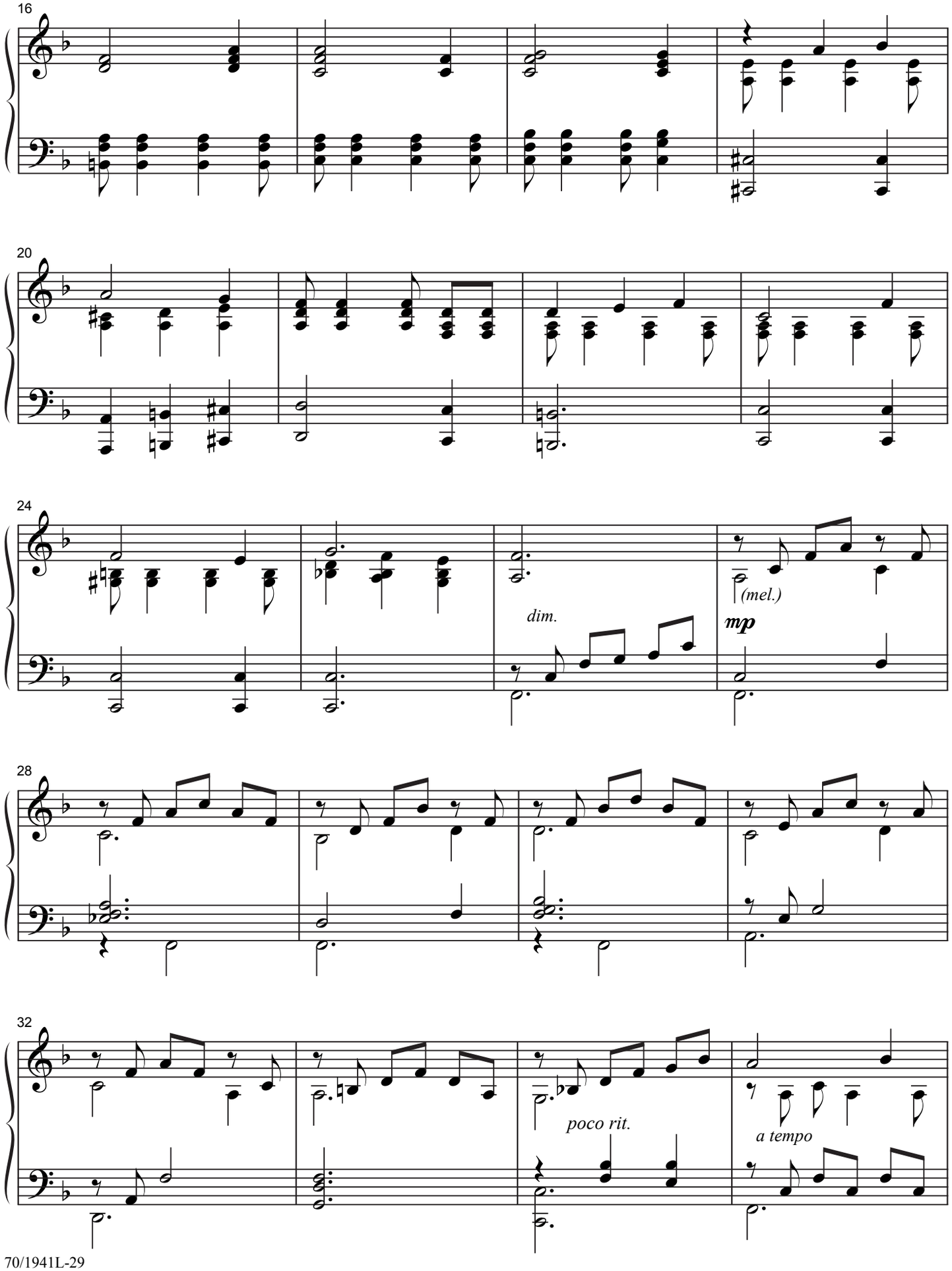
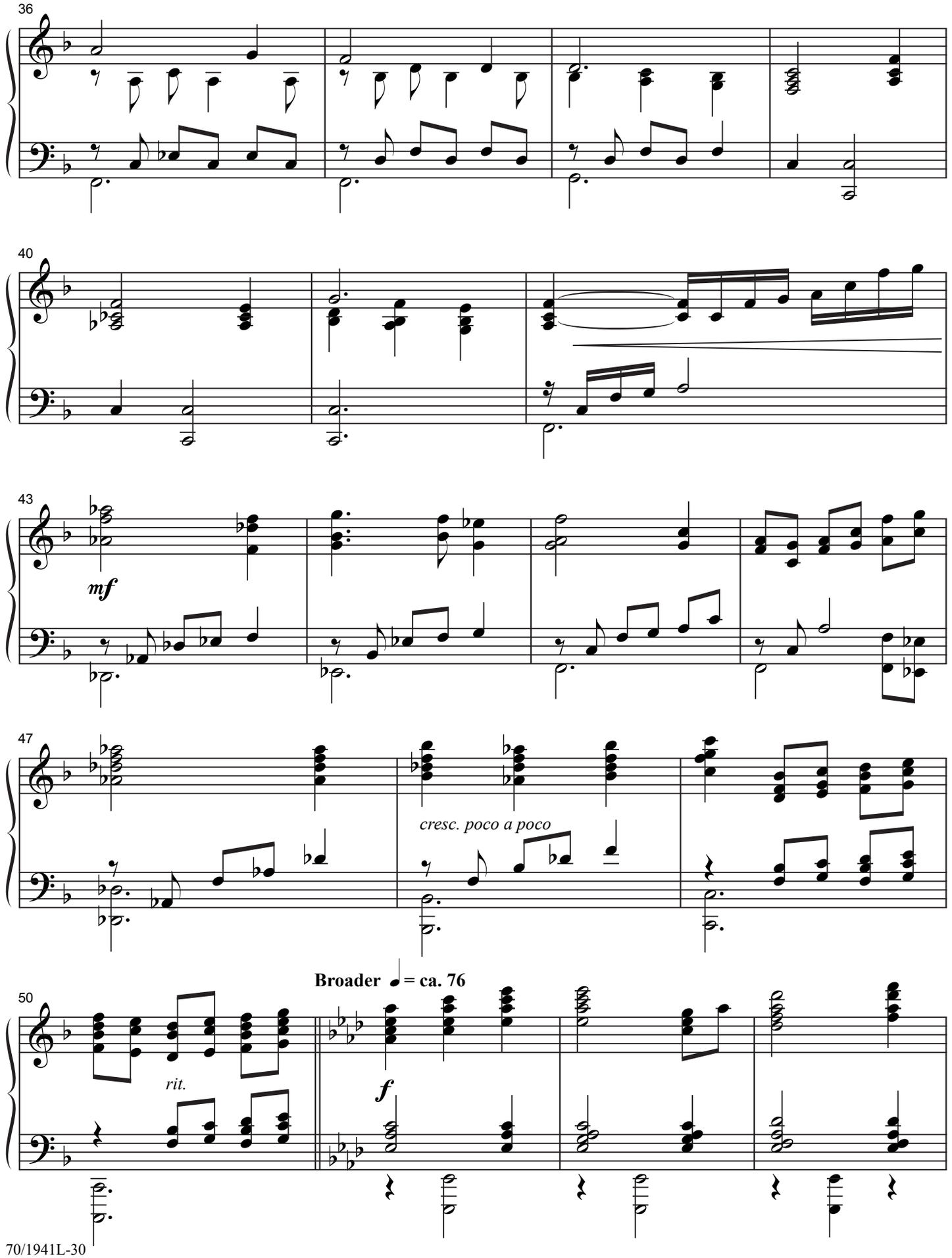
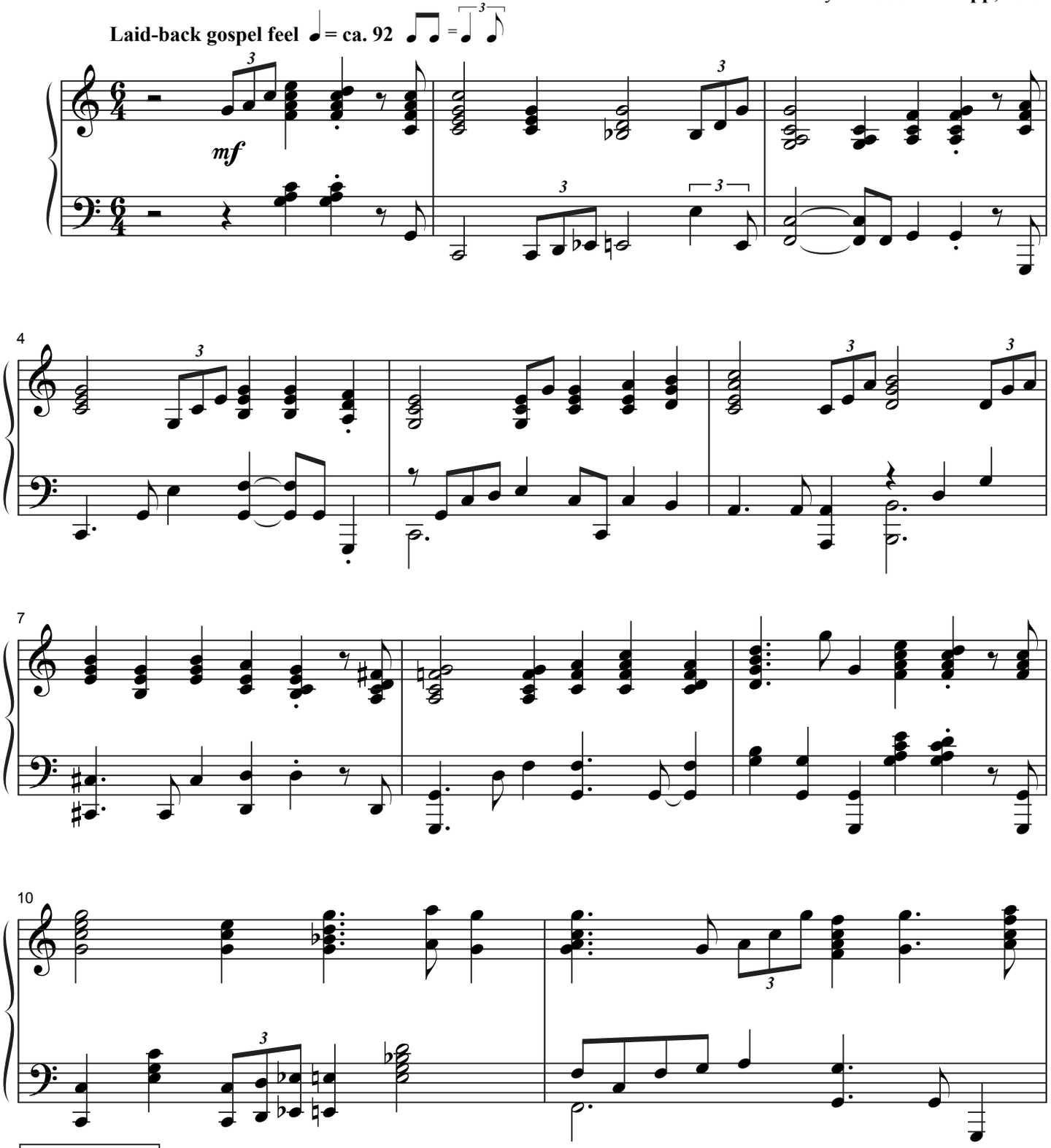

16
20
24
dim.
(mel.)
mp
28
32
poco rit.
a tempo


36
40
43
mf
47
cresc. poco a poco
Broader ♩ = ca. 76
50
rit.
f

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.
– Fanny Crosby

Mary McDonald
Tune: **ASSURANCE**
by **Phoebe P. Knapp**, 1873



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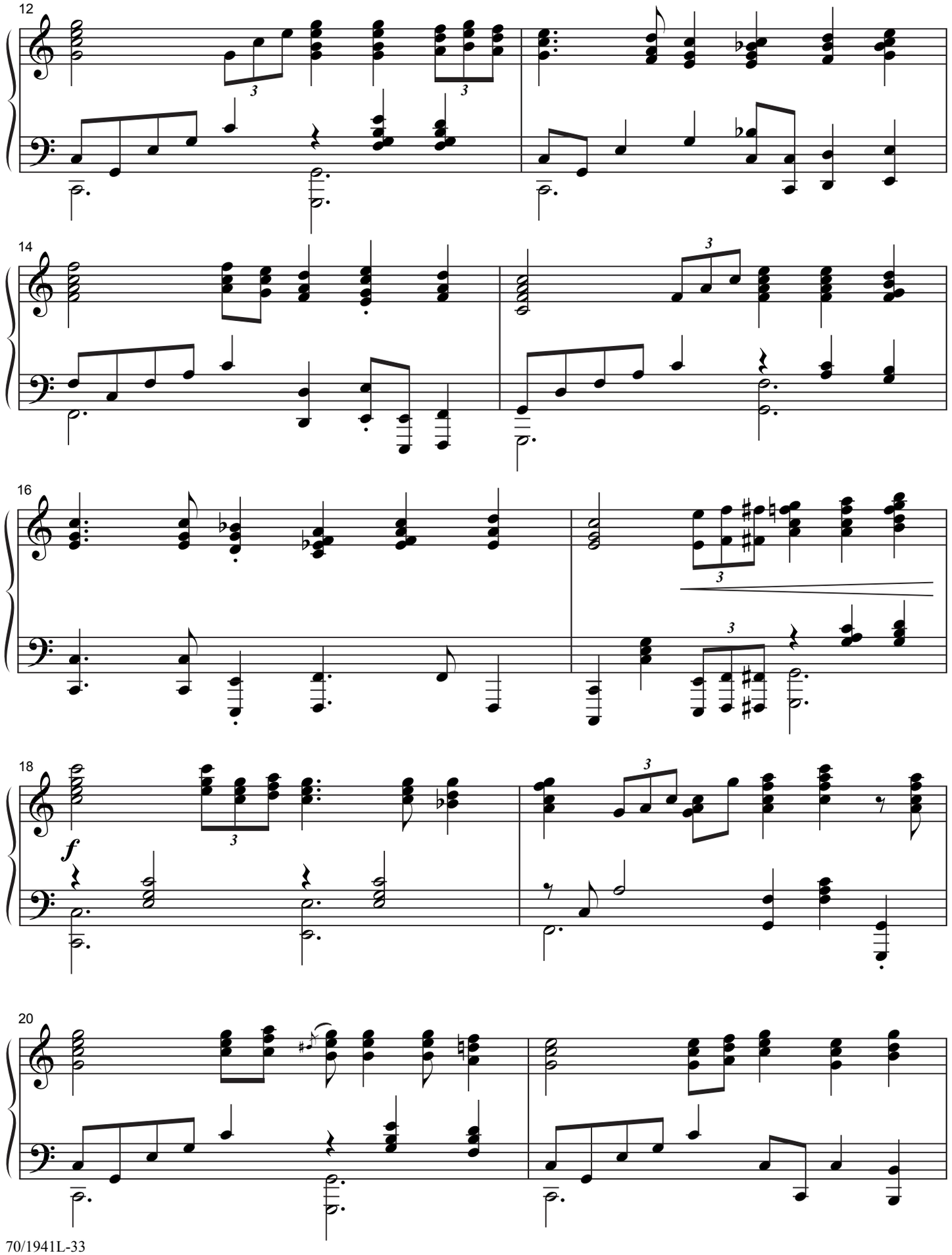
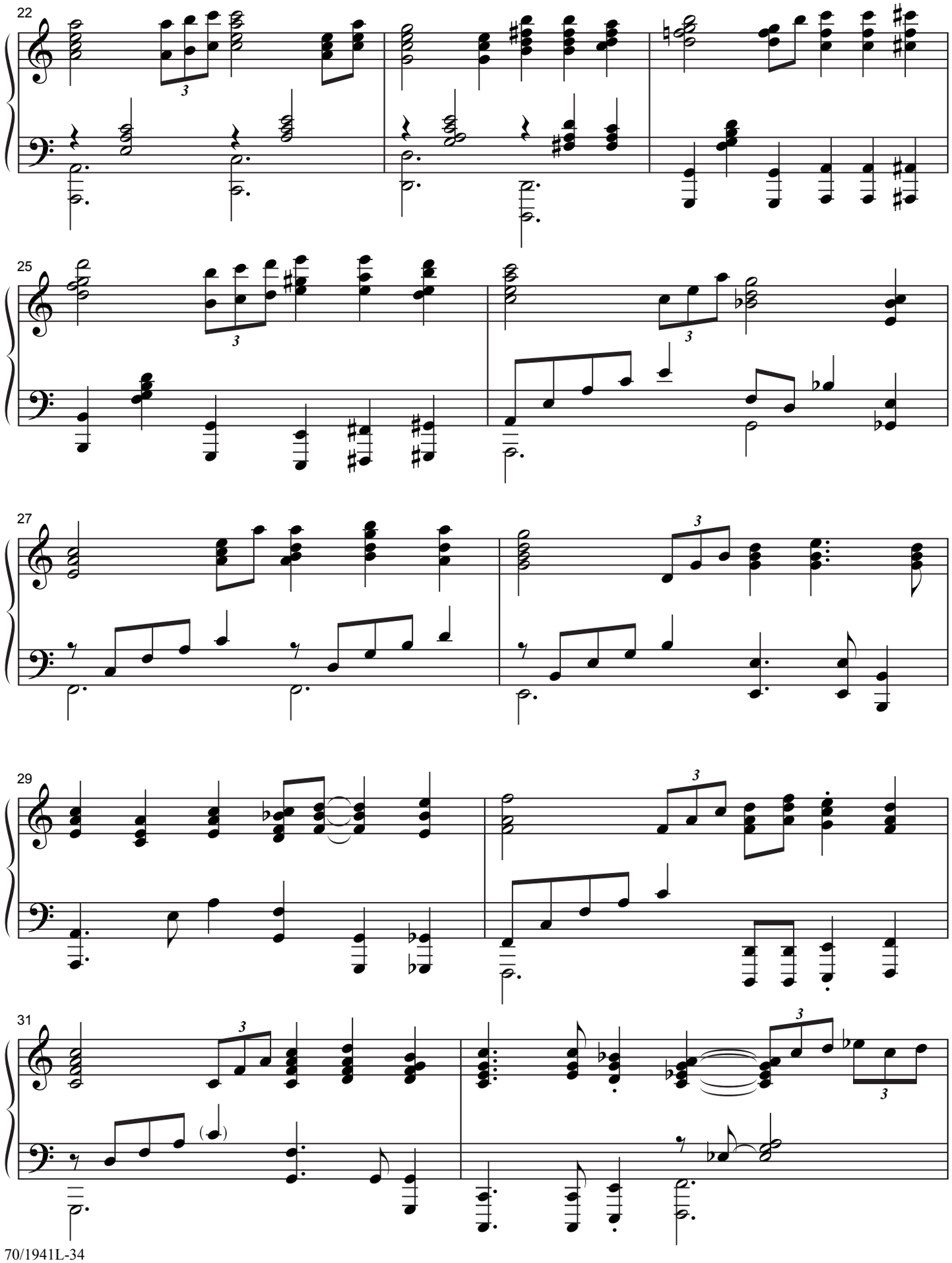

12
14
16
18
20
f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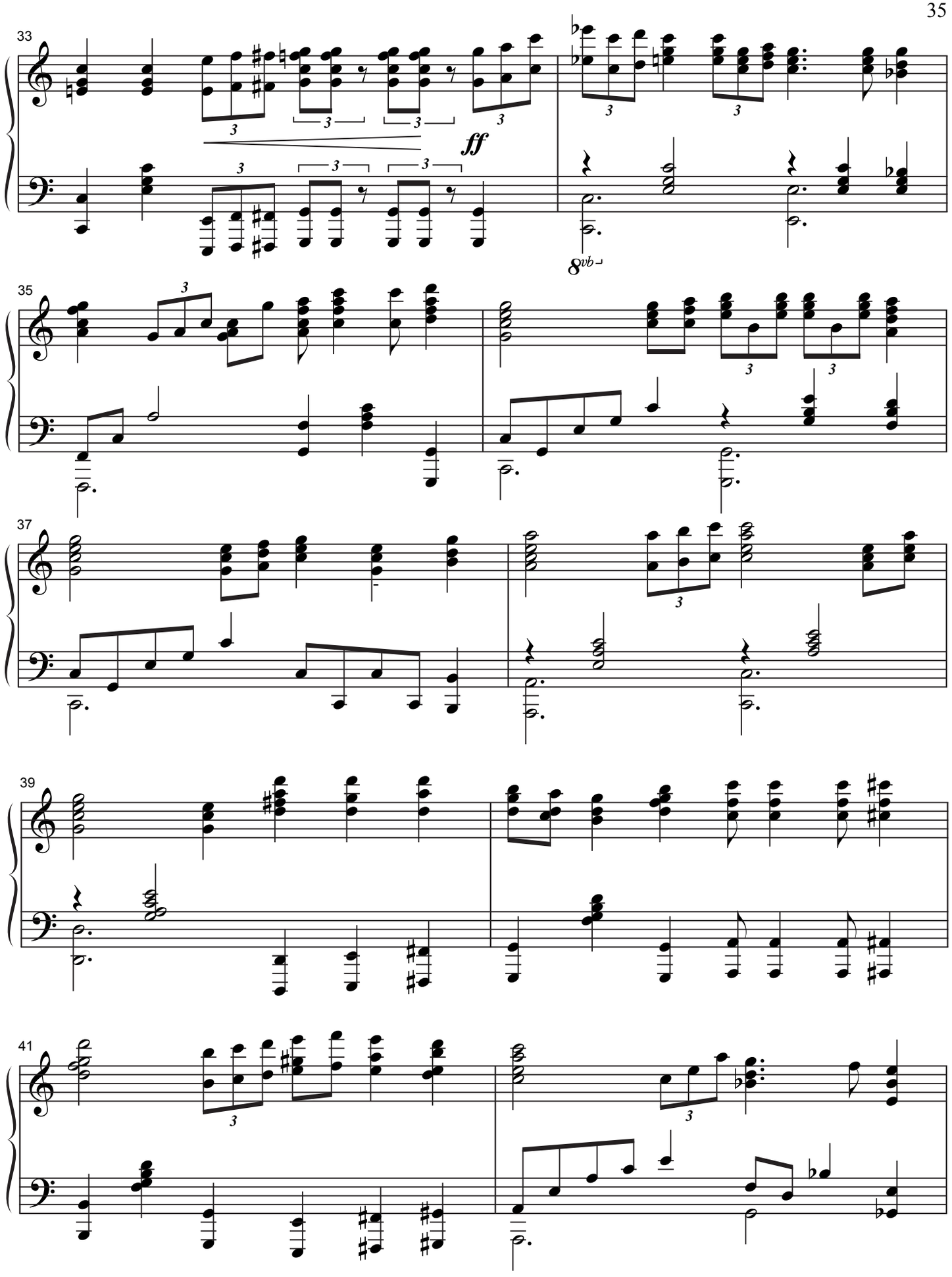
33
ff
8vb
35
37
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41