Samuel J Maughan

Reliquary

for Solo Piano

(May 2023)

About

Reliquary is an exploration of register and texture: each movement contextualizes material in different ways, and can be thought of as individual character pieces, conveying contrasting textural and registral effects.

Performance Notes

Movement 1

- *Texture.* Movement 1 is centred on the middle sonority of the piano. Its focus is on presenting the material of the piece with **clarity and expression**, reminiscent of Jazz idioms.
- *Tempo.* The movement is to be played expressively with a modest amount of *rubato.*
- *Pedalling.* Pedal markings are to be followed throughout the piece. The commas represent short pauses in-between pedal retakes.
- *Dynamics.* The average dynamic throughout the piece should be *mezzo piano* (***mp***), but as indicated, an **expressive** performance is desired.

Movement 2

- *Texture.* Movement 2 is centred on the lowest sonorities of the piano. Its focus is on conveying the material of the piece with a **blurred**, texture.
- *Tempo.* The movement should be played in strict time, without rubato.
- *Pedalling.* Pedal markings are to be followed throughout the piece. They indicate a retake every time the right-hand chord changes.
- *Dynamics.* The average dynamic throughout the piece should be *very soft* (***pp***). However, the right-hand chords should clearly punctuate the blurred texture. This is indicated with accent markings. The overall effect of the piece should be one of **mystery**.

Movement 3

- *Texture.* Movement 3 is centred on the highest sonorities of the piano. Its focus is to convey the material of the piece in a **layered** polyphonic texture, which is vaguely reminiscent of a *Baroque Invention.*
- *Tempo.* The tempo should be constant and strict, conveying **perpetuity**.
- *Dynamics and articulation.* The specified dynamics and articulation should be followed throughout.
- *Pedaling.* This movement requires the use of a *sostenuto pedal.* Prior to bar 1, the sostenuto pedal should silently be set to the note clusters indicated. Because there are a total of twelve pitches, the performer will need to depress multiple notes with a single digit, in a manner most comfortable for them.

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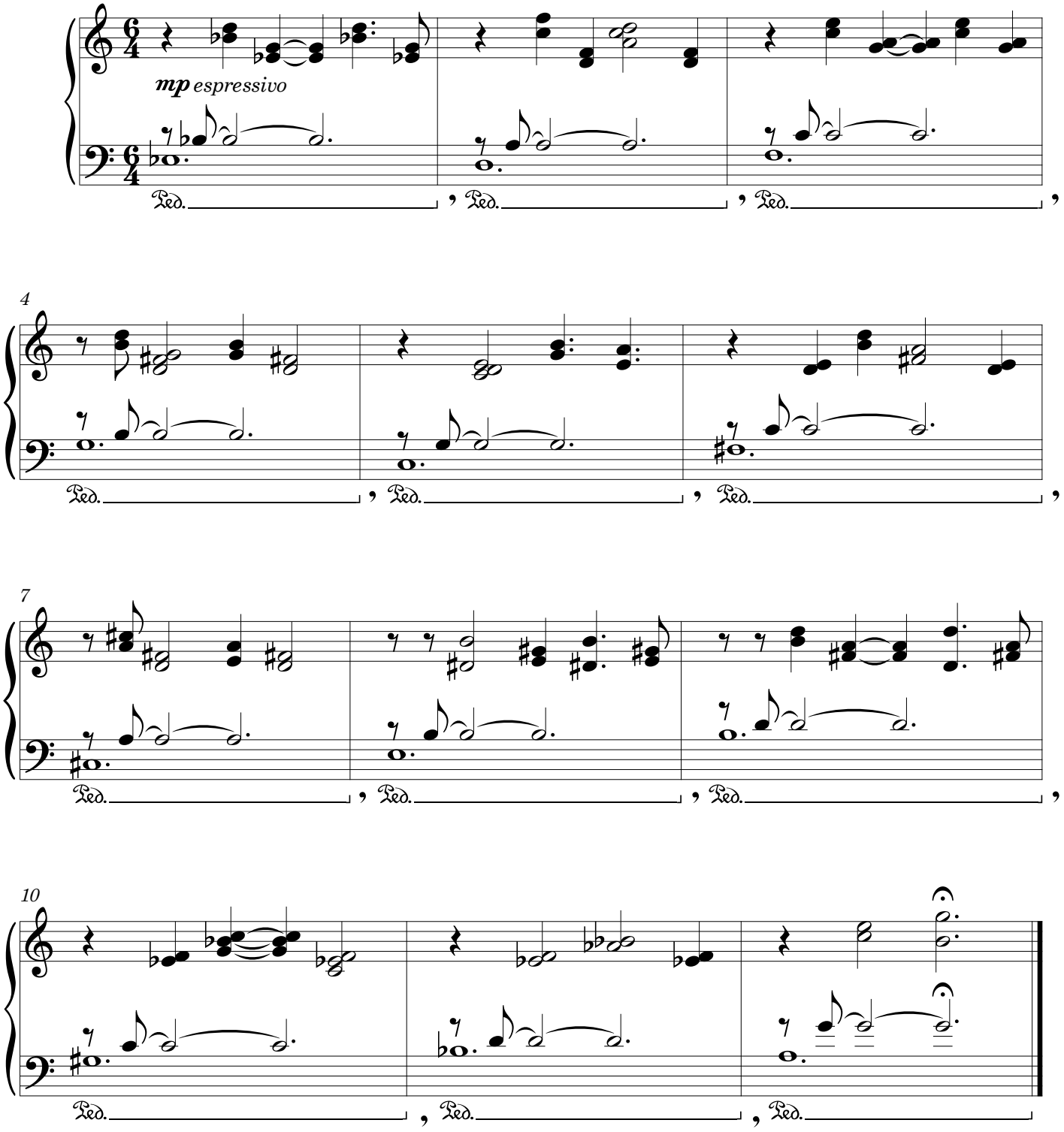
Movement 1

Tempo Rubato (♩ = 58)

Clear and Expressive



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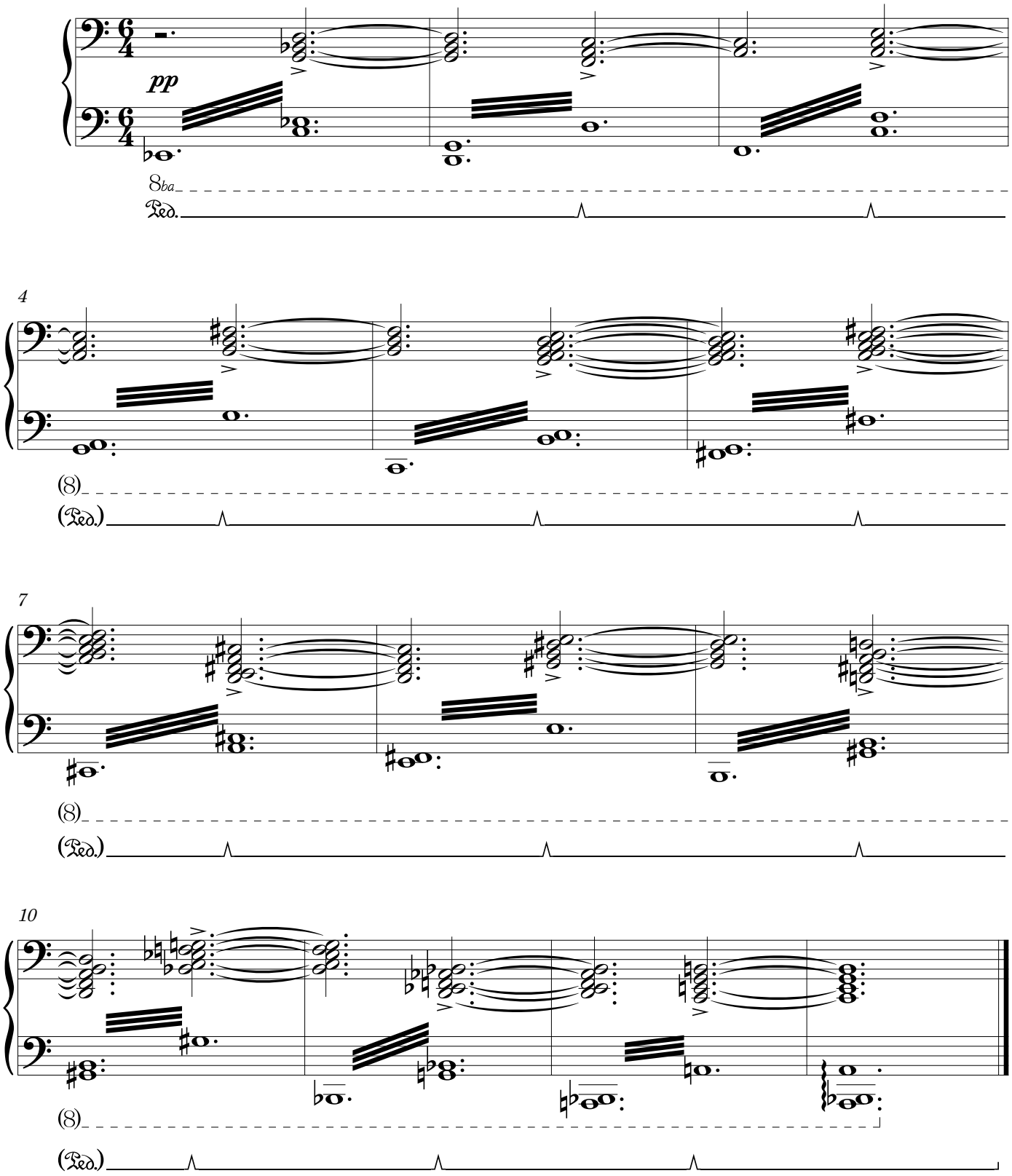
Movement 2

Senza Rubato (♩ = 58)
Mysterious



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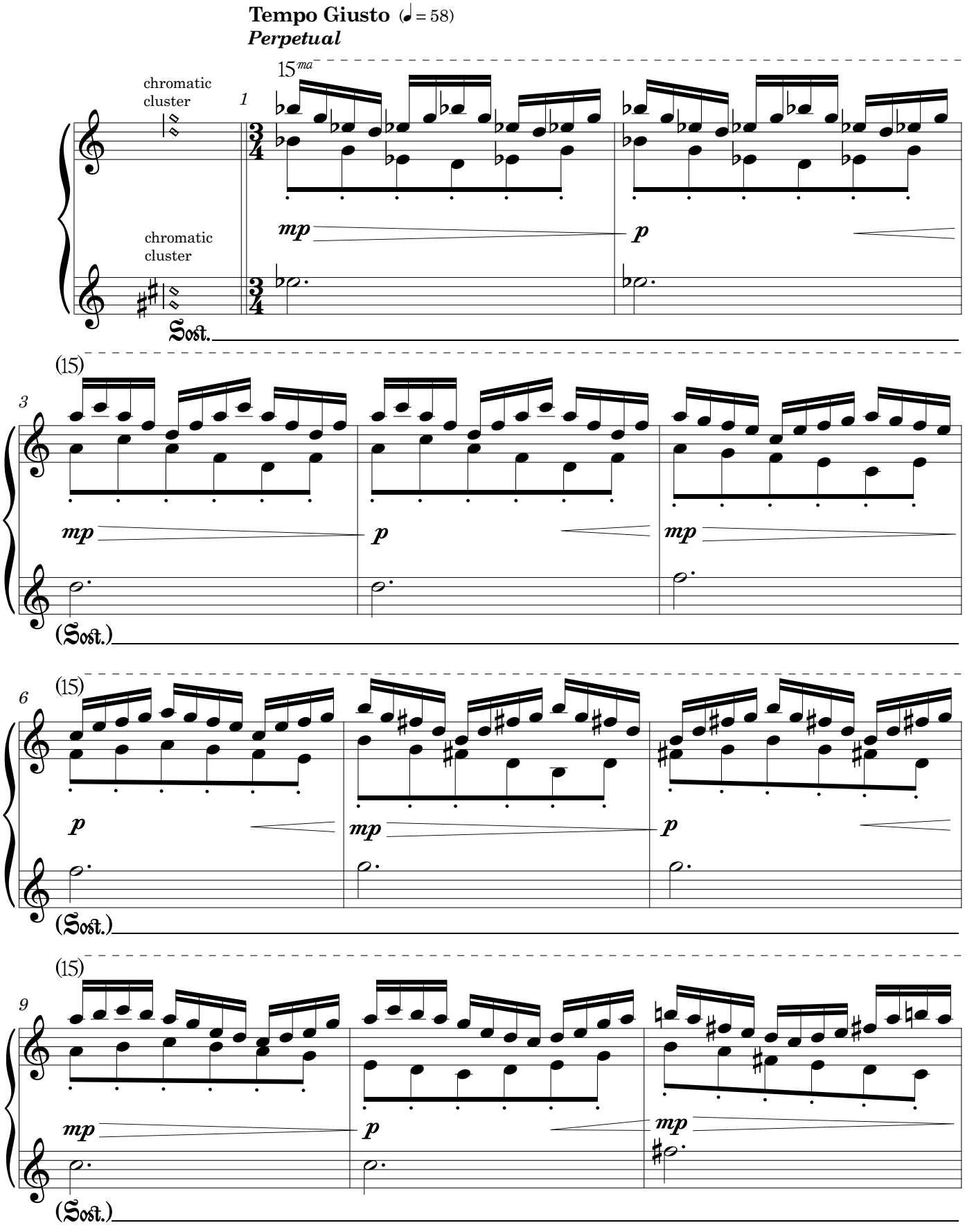
Movement 3



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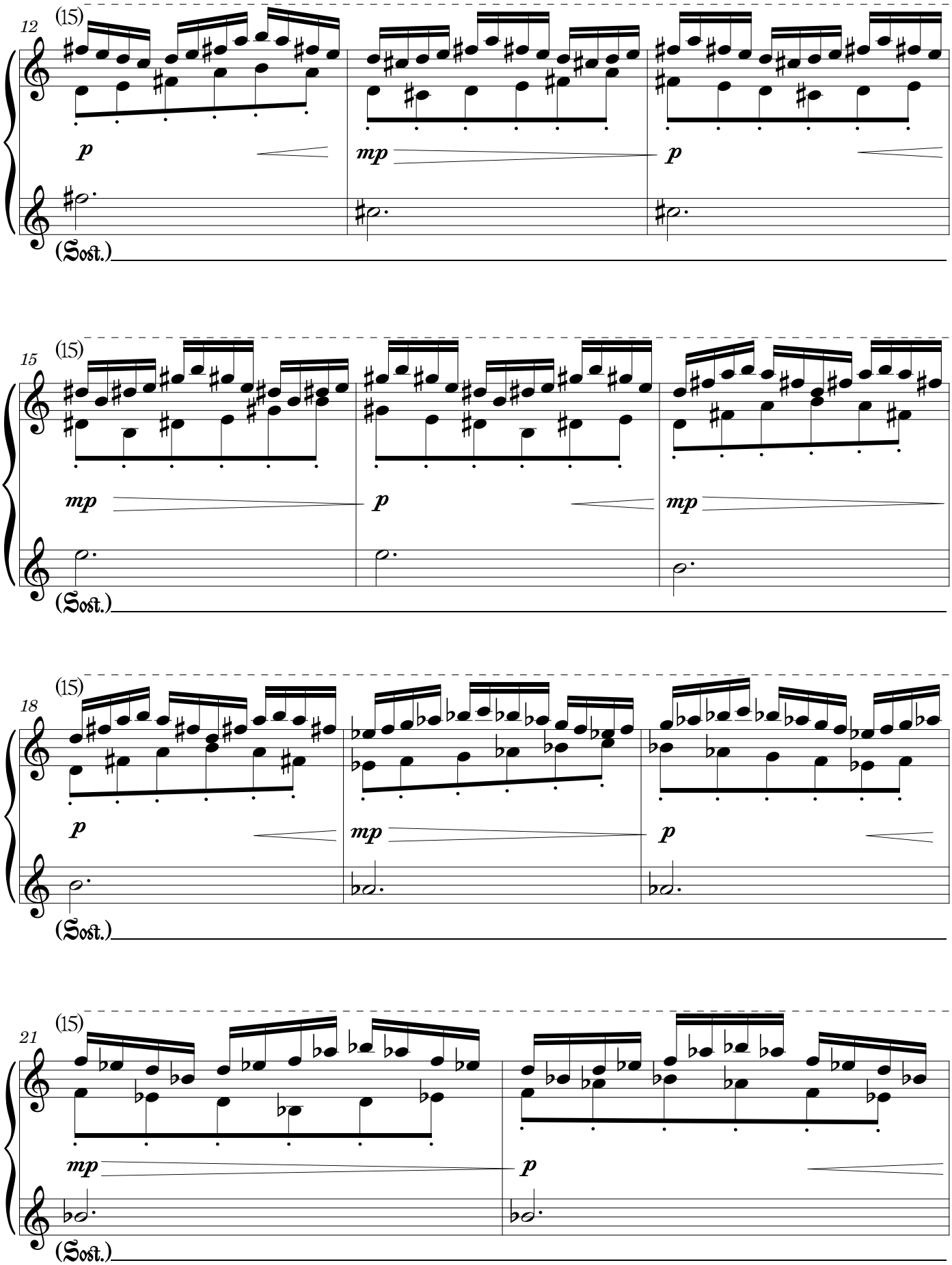

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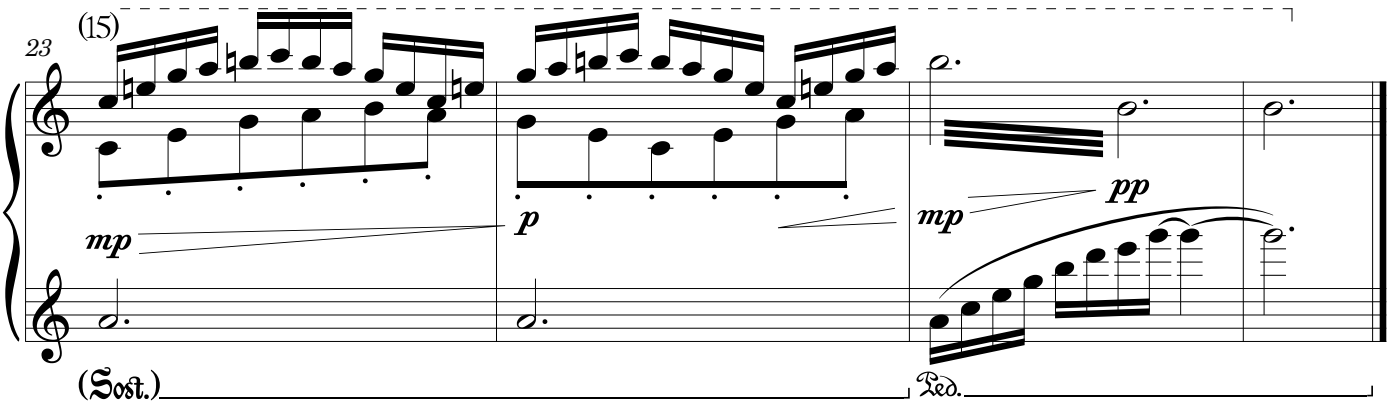

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