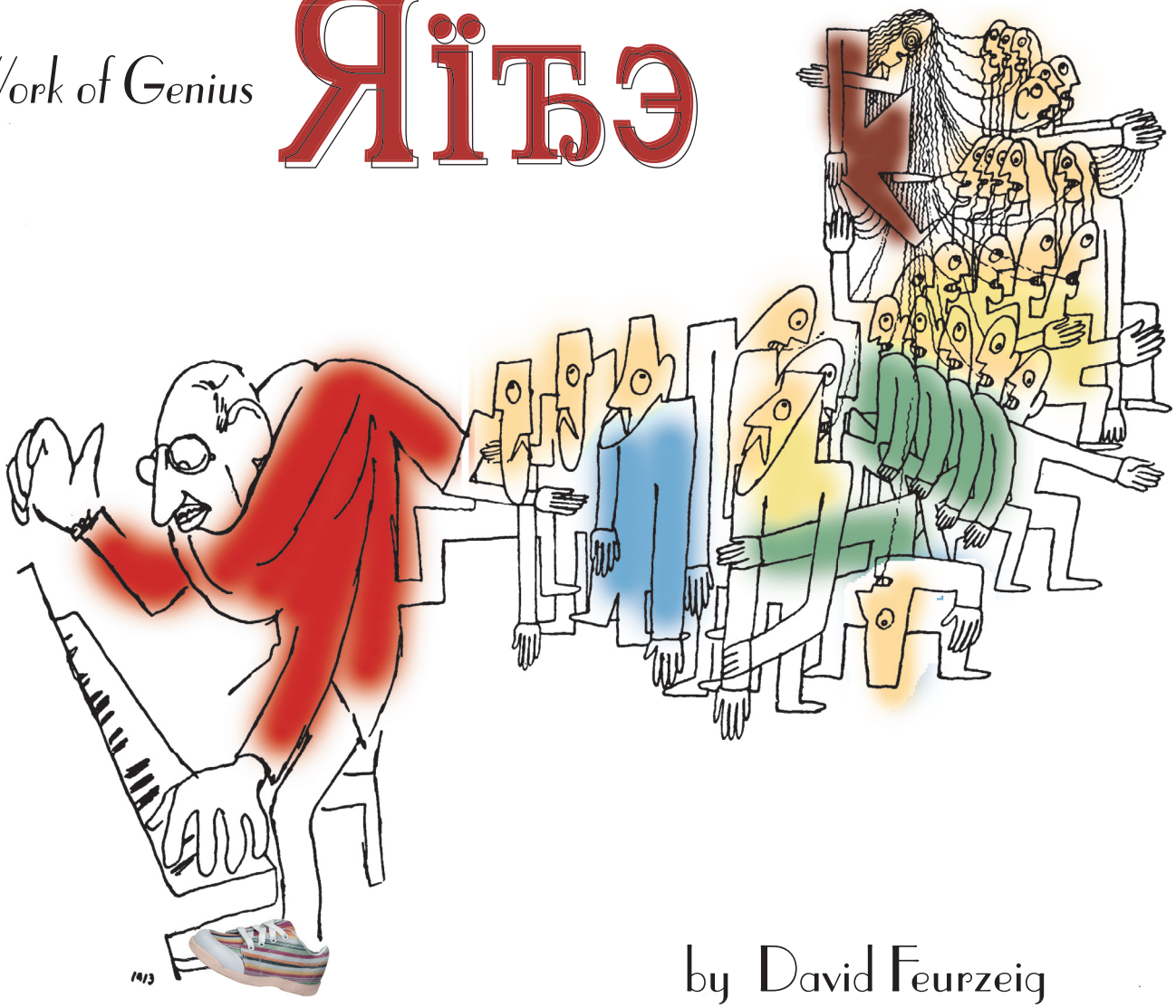
Stride Ragtime

A Work of Genius



by David Feurzeig

Best New Rag of 2003

Contest of the Old-Time Music Preservation Association

"Talent borrows; Genius steals."
— Igor Stravinsky

for solo piano

Stride Rite

notes by the plagiarist

Two great rhythmic shocks rocked European music at the turn of the twentieth century. From the West came the driving, extended syncopations of African-American music, as popularized by ragtime. From the East came the energetic and asymmetrical strains of Slavic folk music, intensified and mutated by the imaginative genius of Igor Stravinsky.

Stravinsky paid homage to ragtime in several pieces of the late 1910s: the Ragtime dance from ***The Soldier's Tale***, ***Ragtime*** for eleven instruments, and ***Piano-Rag-Music***. The world of ragtime, on the other hand, has not seen fit to return the favor—that is, until now. ***Stride Rite*** is a humble attempt to correct the historic ingratitude of the jazz realm *vis-à-vis* classical music's most innovative rhythmicist.

Purists will complain that Stravinsky would take little pleasure in the present composition…that he might hardly recognize his own work therein…that it is less *Sacre* than Massacre…To such I say, Nuts!! I count upwards of half a dozen direct quotes in this rag, making it at least a sixfold work of genius, by Stravinsky's own criteria. Besides, have you ever listened to ***Piano-Rag-Music***? *

Stride Rite is dedicated to… *(TBA, pending discussion w/ the Stride Rite Foundation)*

* Astute musicologists have pointed out that Stravinsky had yet heard little or no American jazz. His understanding of the style was gleaned from published sheet music. **

** Possibly also a "How To Play Ragtime" correspondence course known to have advertised on his favorite brand of matches.

Cover art: "Stravinsky rehearsing the Rite of Spring" by Jean Cocteau. Layout by Thomas Tudek.
Back art: "Le Sacre du Printemps" (drawing by Emmanuel Barcet of the original Nijinsky–Roerich production).
"Baby Sparky" canvas sneaker by Stride Rite Corp.

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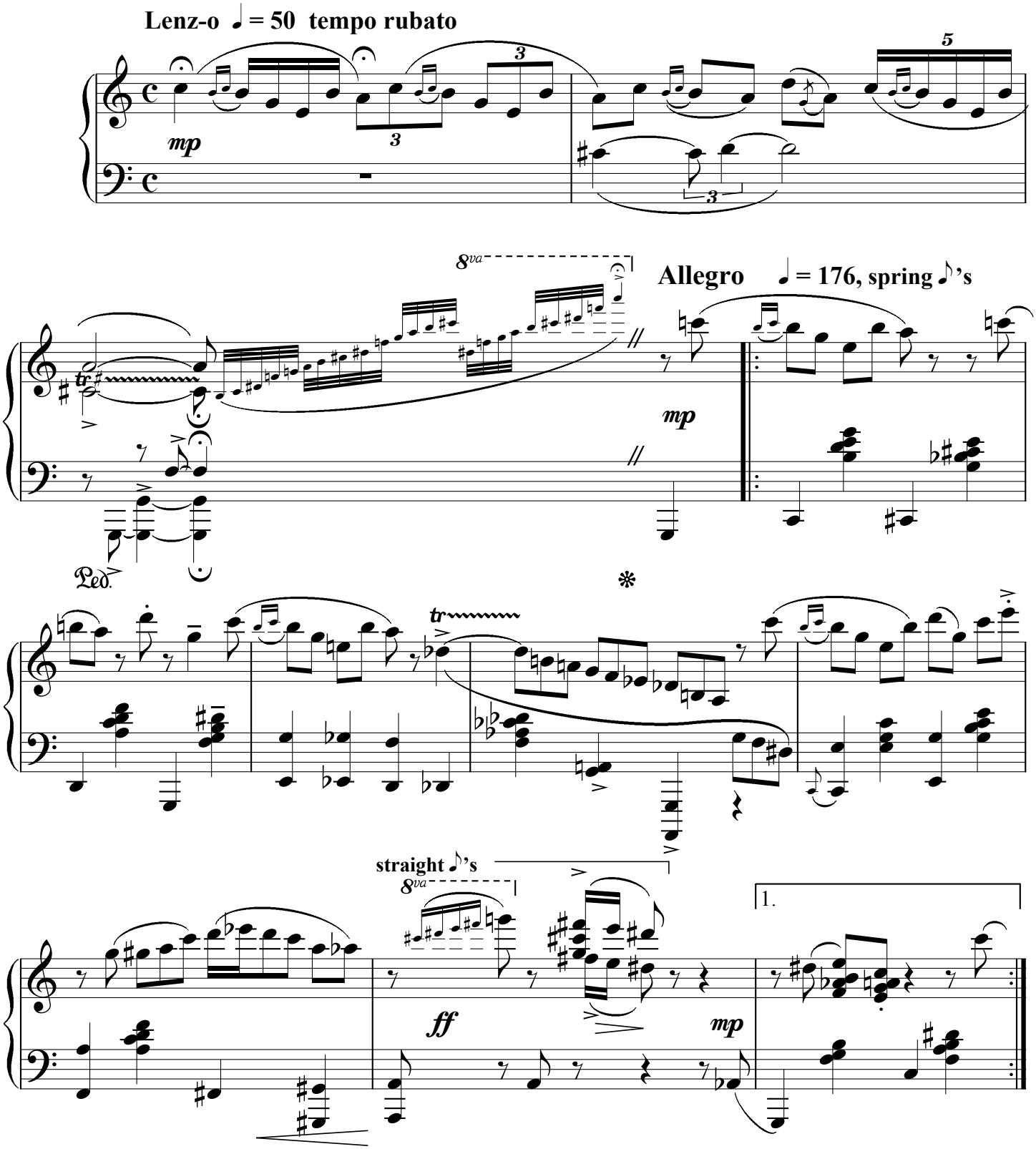
Stride Rite

A Work Of Genius

"Talent borrows; Genius steals." —Igor Stravinsky

DAVID FEURZEIG

set to paper May 29, 2003



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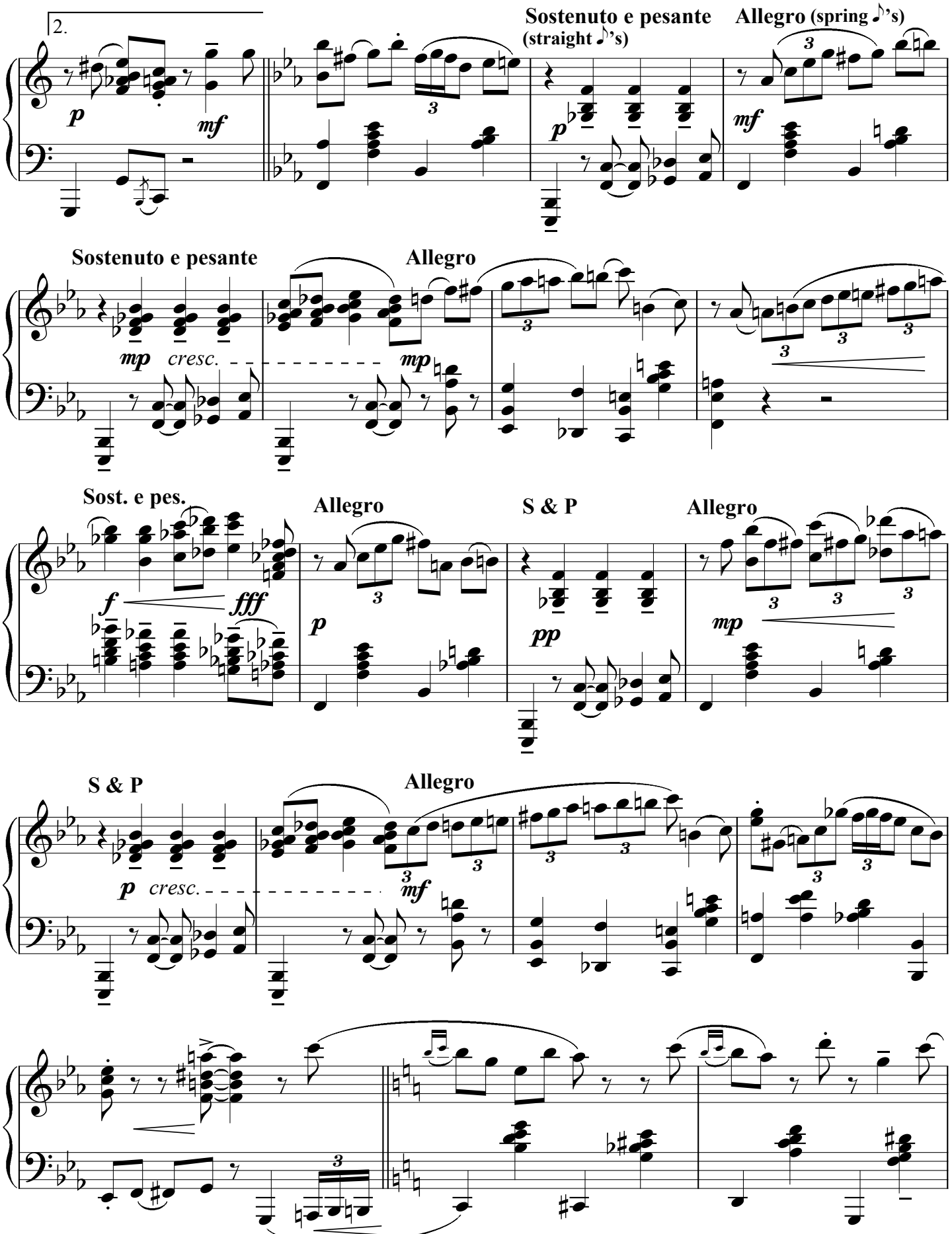
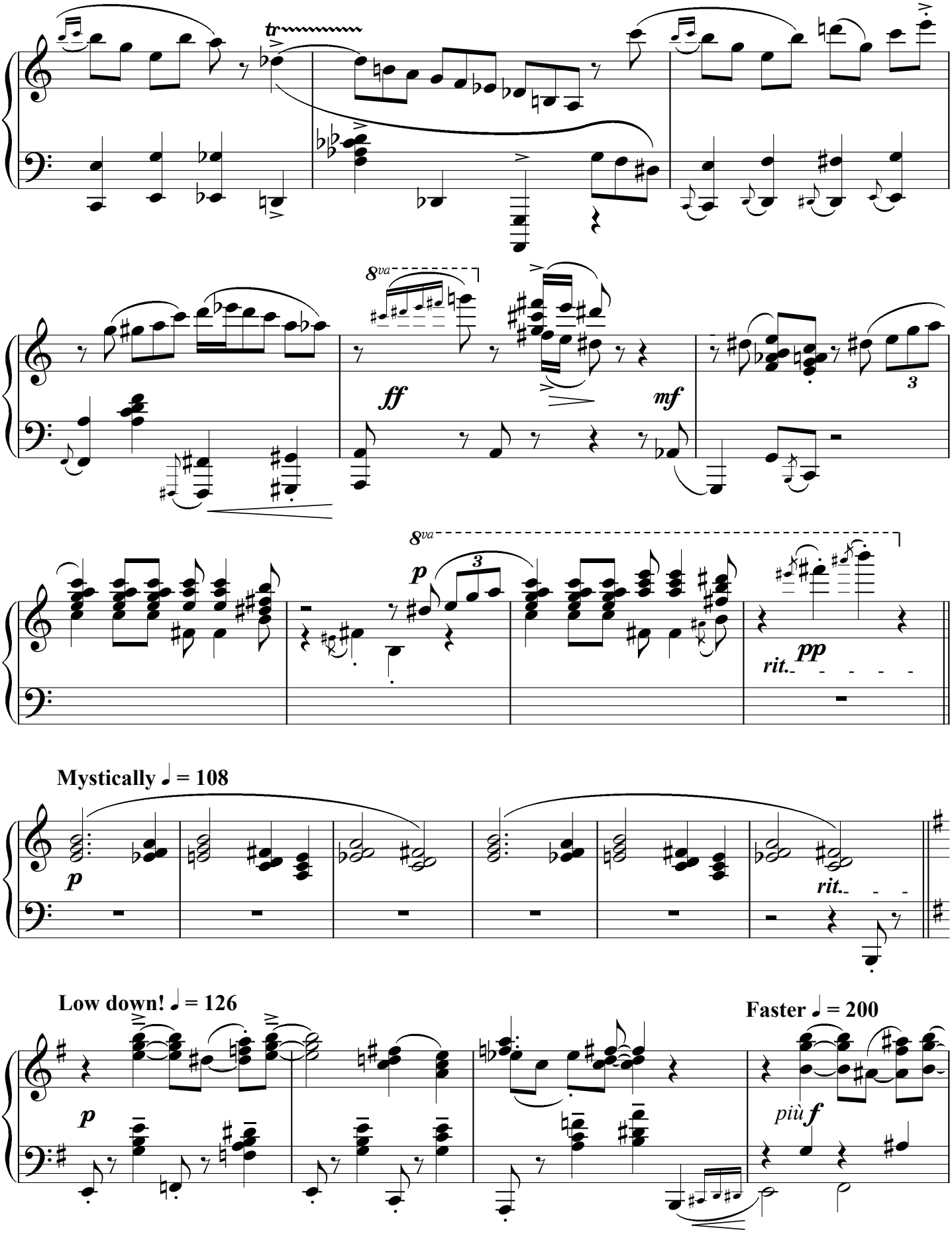
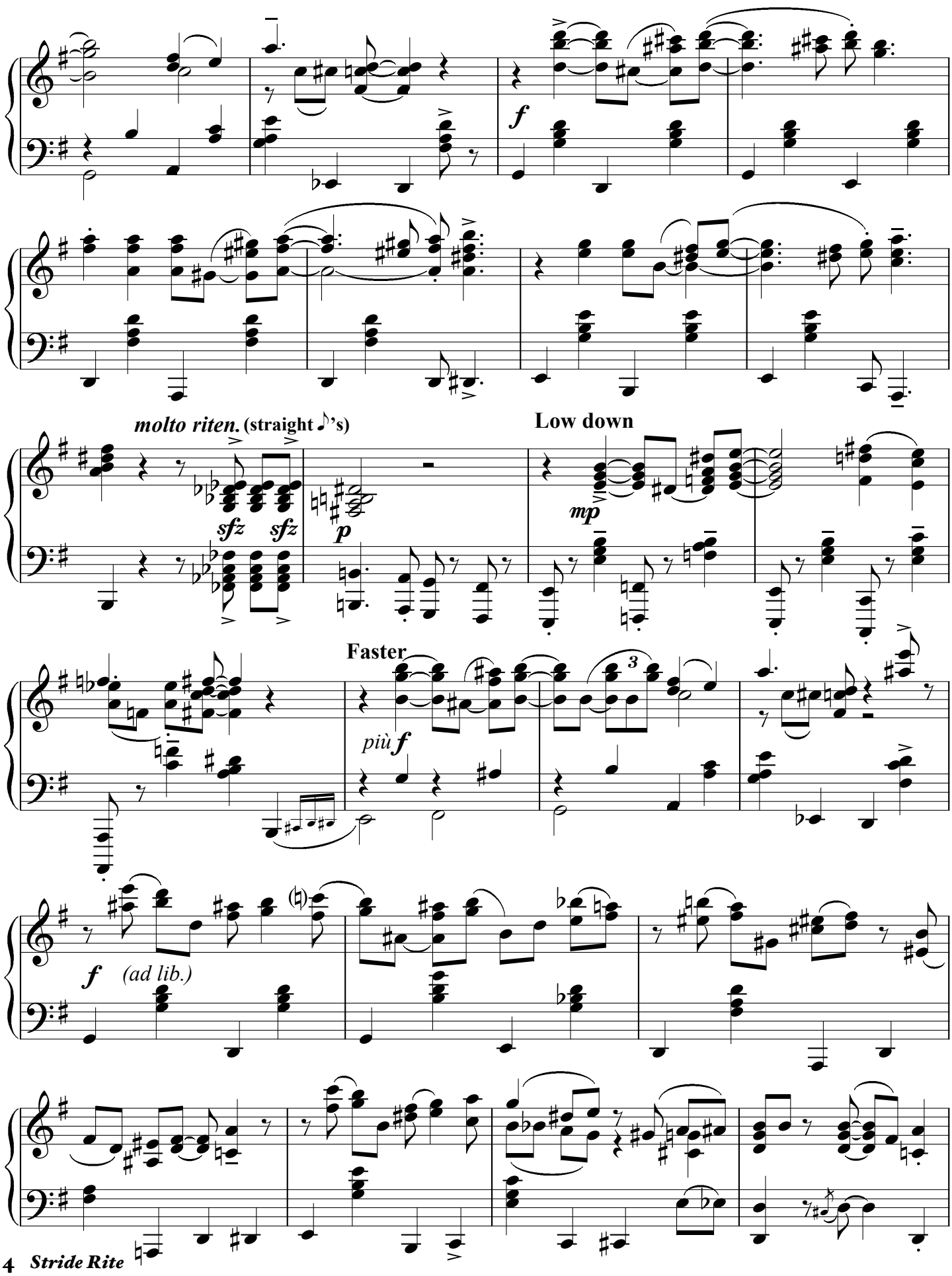
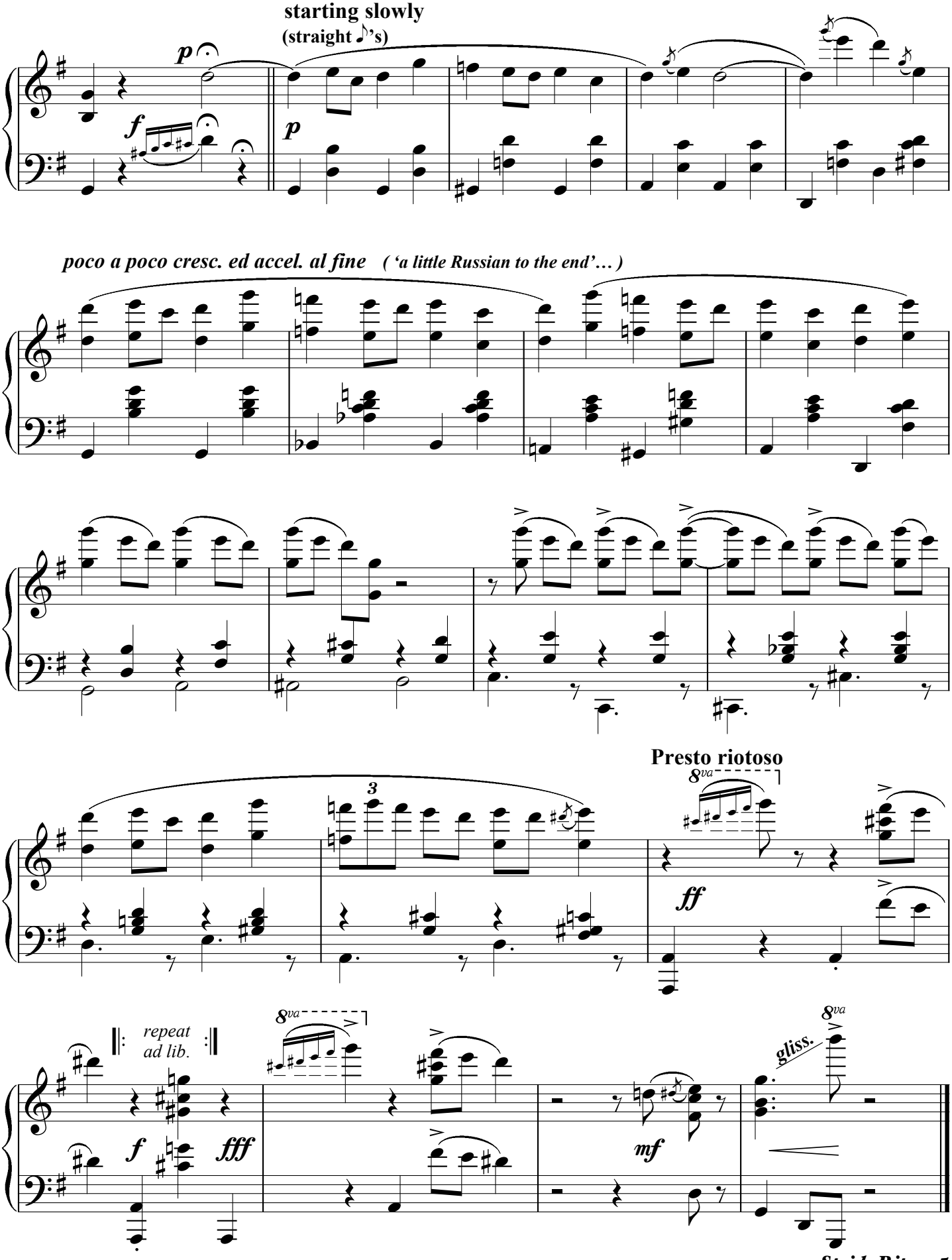

2.
Sostenuto e pesante
(straight ♪'s)
Allegro (spring ♪'s)
Sostenuto e pesante
Allegro
Sost. e pes.
Allegro
S & P
Allegro
S & P
Allegro


tr
8va
ff
mf
3
8va
p
3
rit.
pp
Mystically ♩ = 108
p
rit.
Low down! ♩ = 126
p
Faster ♩ = 200
più f


f
molto riten. (straight ♪'s)
sfz
sfz
p
Low down
mp
Faster
più f
3
f
(ad lib.)


starting slowly
(straight ♪'s)
p
f
p
poco a poco cresc. ed accel. al fine ('a little Russian to the end'…)
3
Presto riotoso
8va
ff
repeat
ad lib.
f
fff
8va
mf
gliss.
8va