Blue Jets Red Sprites

by Lois V Vierk

for piano-accordion

Commissioned by Guy Klucevsek

Blue Jets Red Sprites (1996) by Lois V Vierk

The myriad timbres and expressive dynamics of the accordion have always been a wonder to me. The instrument's deep and powerful sounds, its penetrating middle register with octave doublings, its high-pitched soft, fragile, colors are all full of interest and are gorgeous. Unlike a piano, where the struck notes die away, an accordion held-note can dramatically or gently crescendo and decrescendo. Many kinds of accents and dynamic shapes are possible. Dynamics make the music flow.

Blue jets and red sprites are two kinds lightning that flare at the outer limits of the earth's atmosphere. They flash high above a thunderstorm, appearing over the part of the storm that is producing the most powerful cloud-to-ground lightening. One theory of jets and sprites holds that after a strong lightening bolt there is an upward rush of electrons. As the electrons surge upward in a kind of upside down avalanche they eventually collide with nitrogen molecules. This makes them glow blue or, at higher altitudes, flash bloodred.

These descriptions of visual and aural events were my starting points in writing the music.

Blue Jets Red Sprites was commissioned by Guy Klucevsek.

BLUE JETS RED SPRITES

Lois V Vierk

11/98

♩ = 60 Accordion

(exact pitch notation)

white note cluster

black note clutser

tie C and F

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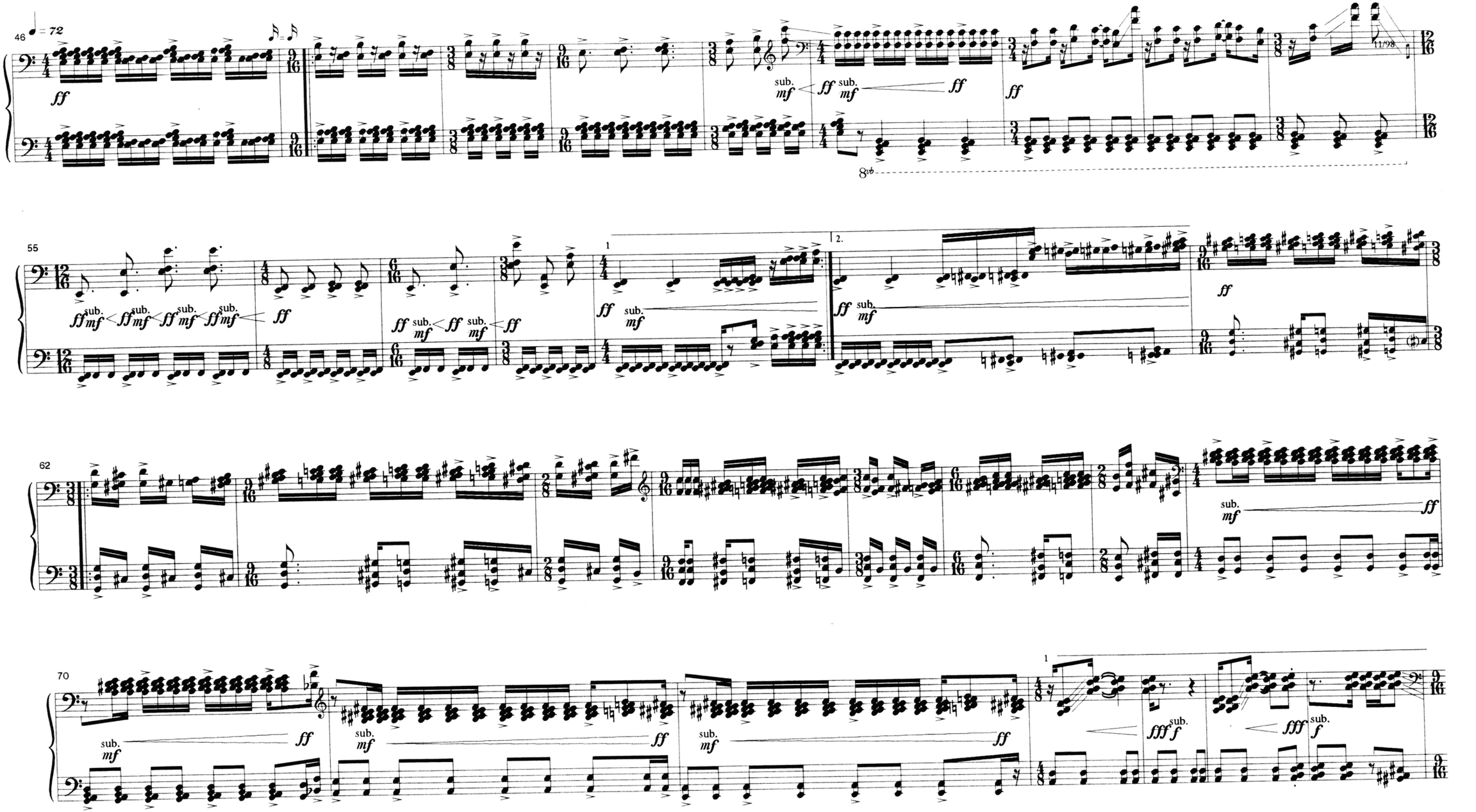
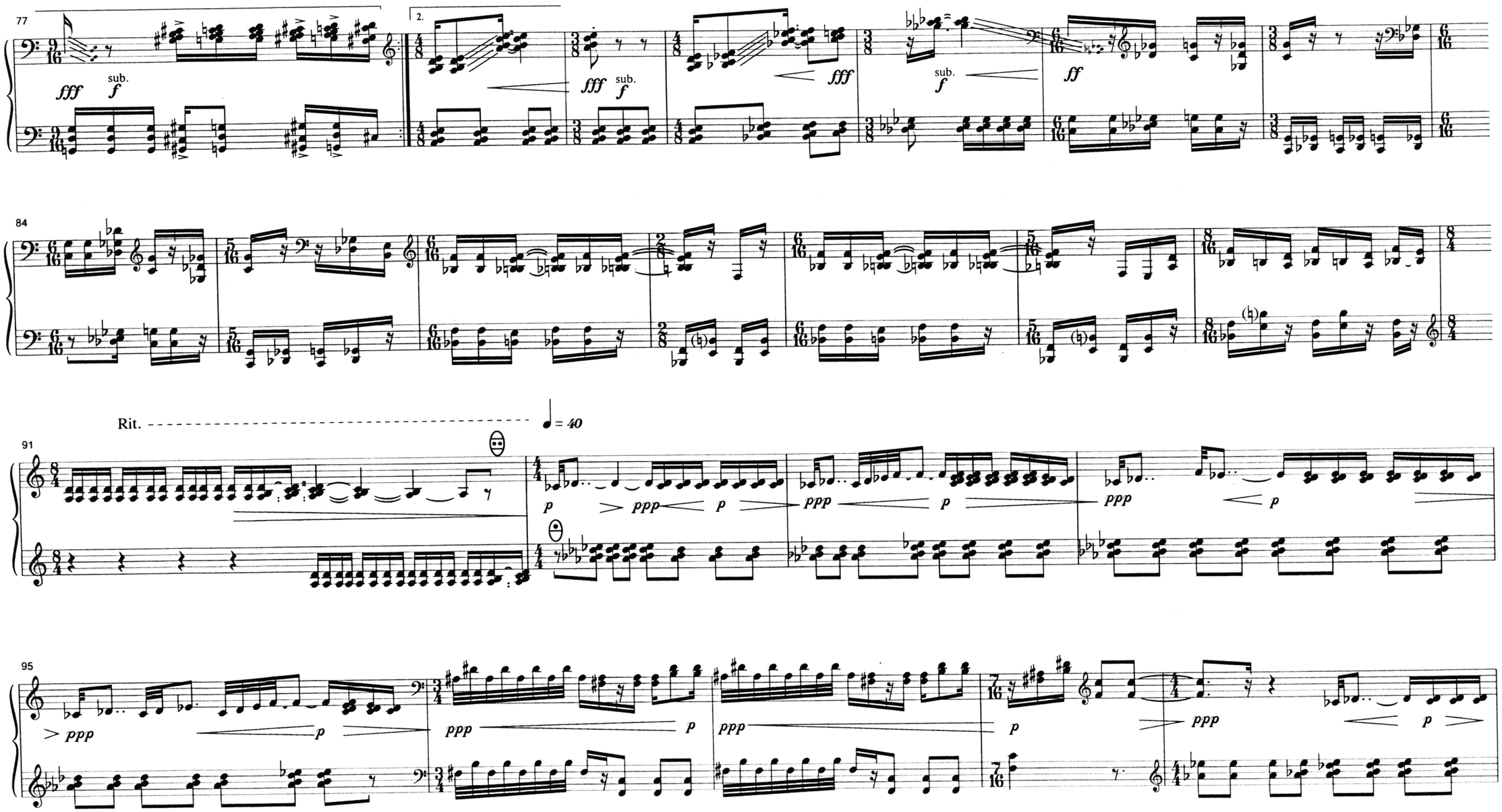
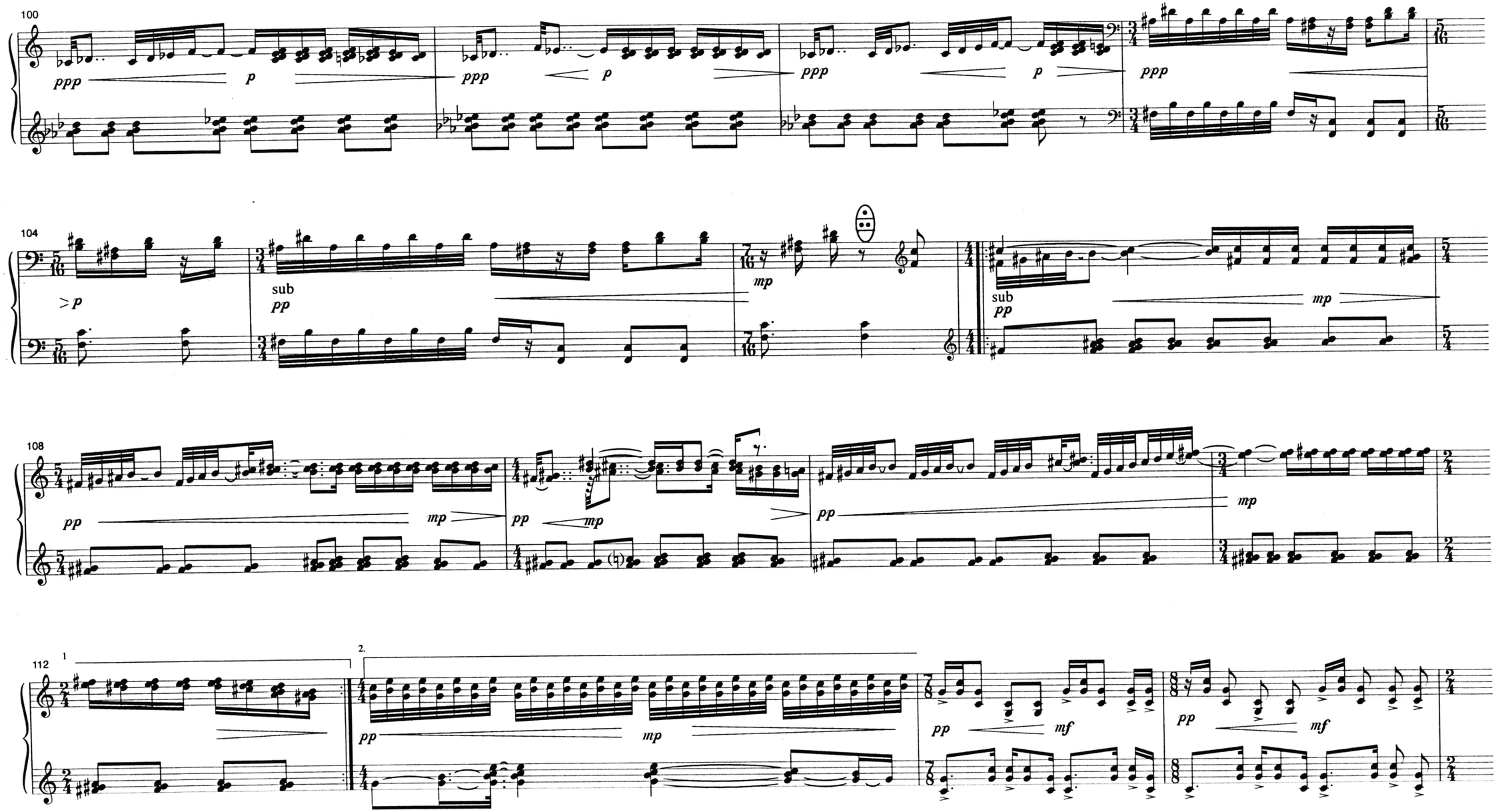
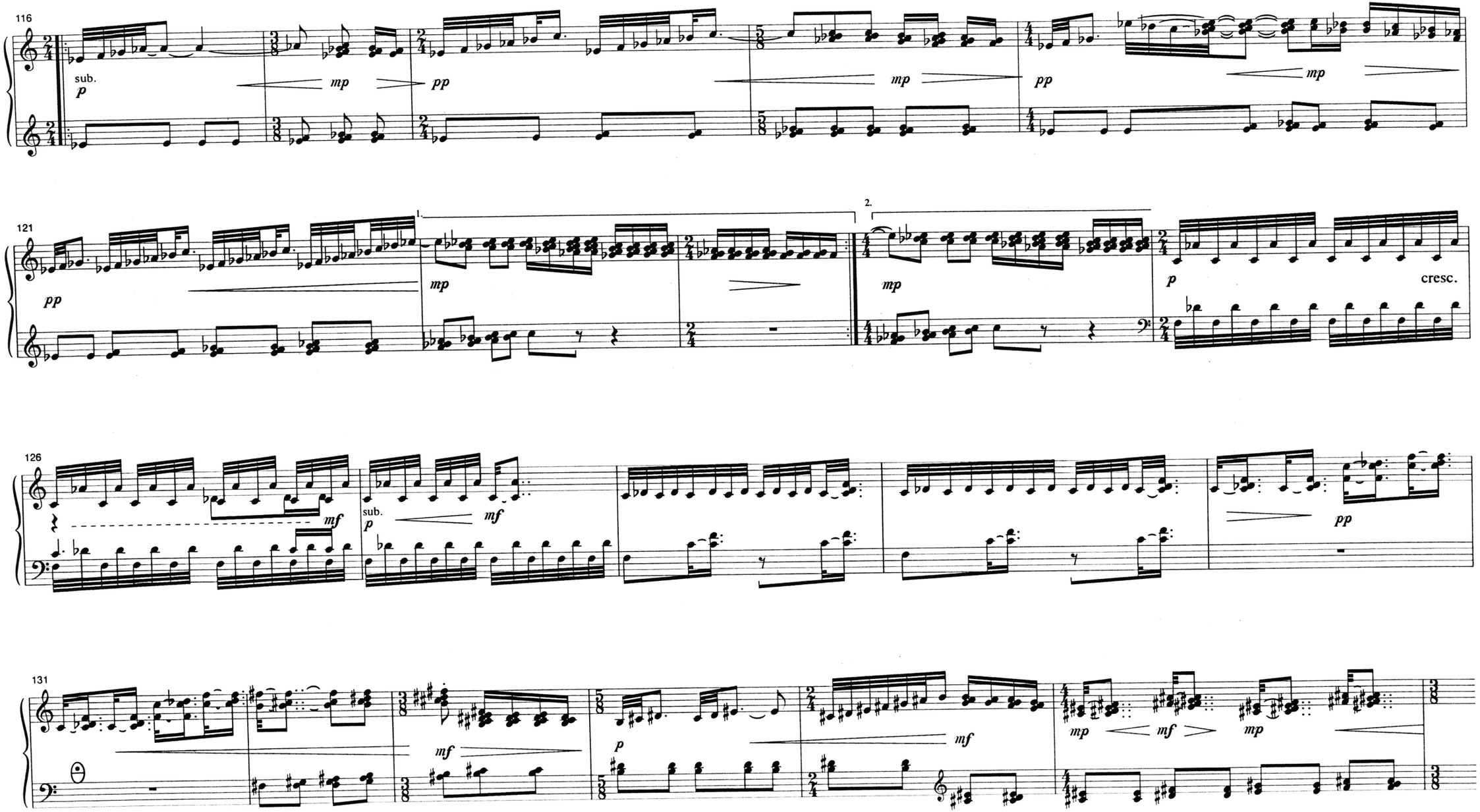
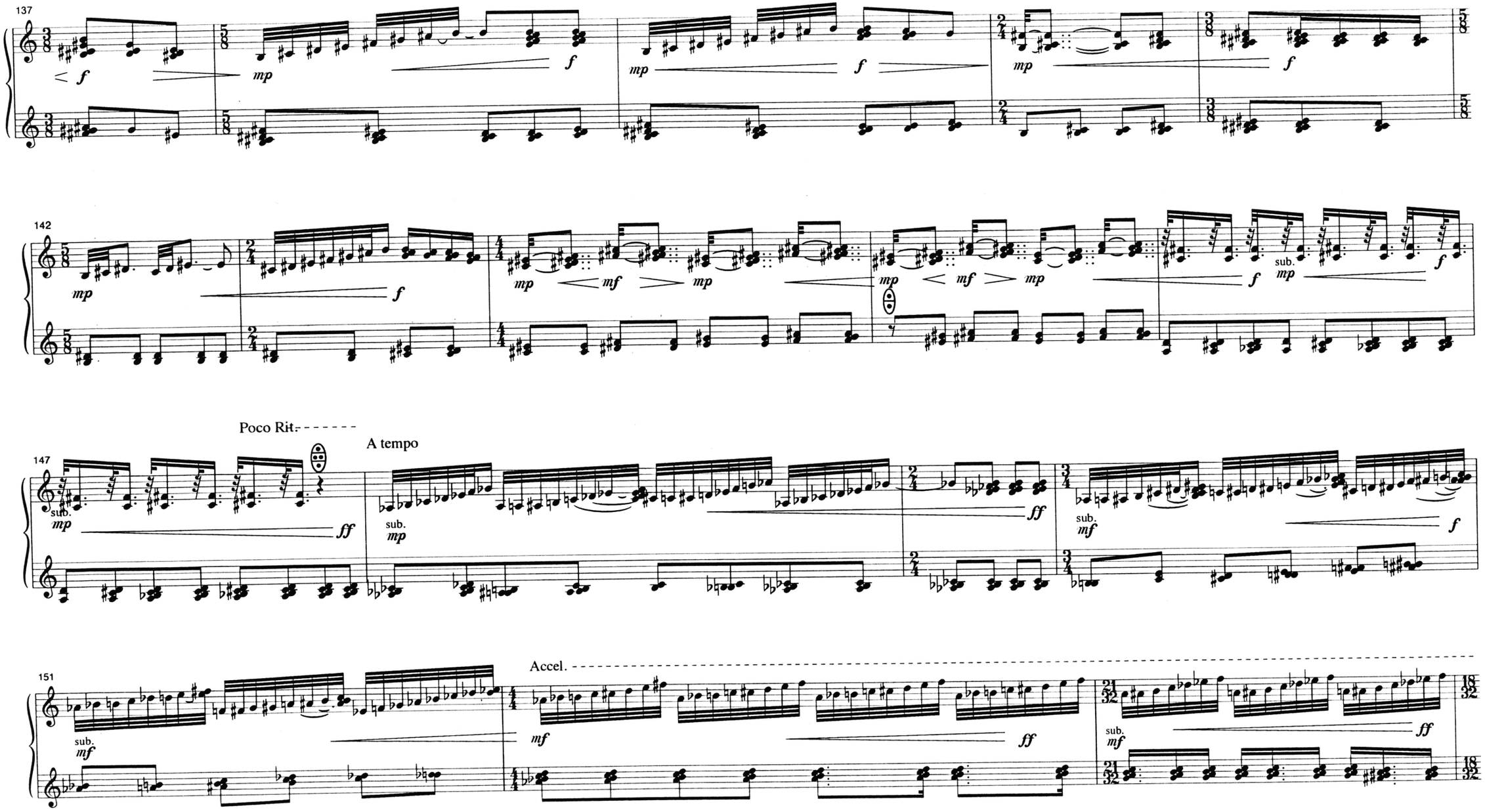
2011 Sept 3

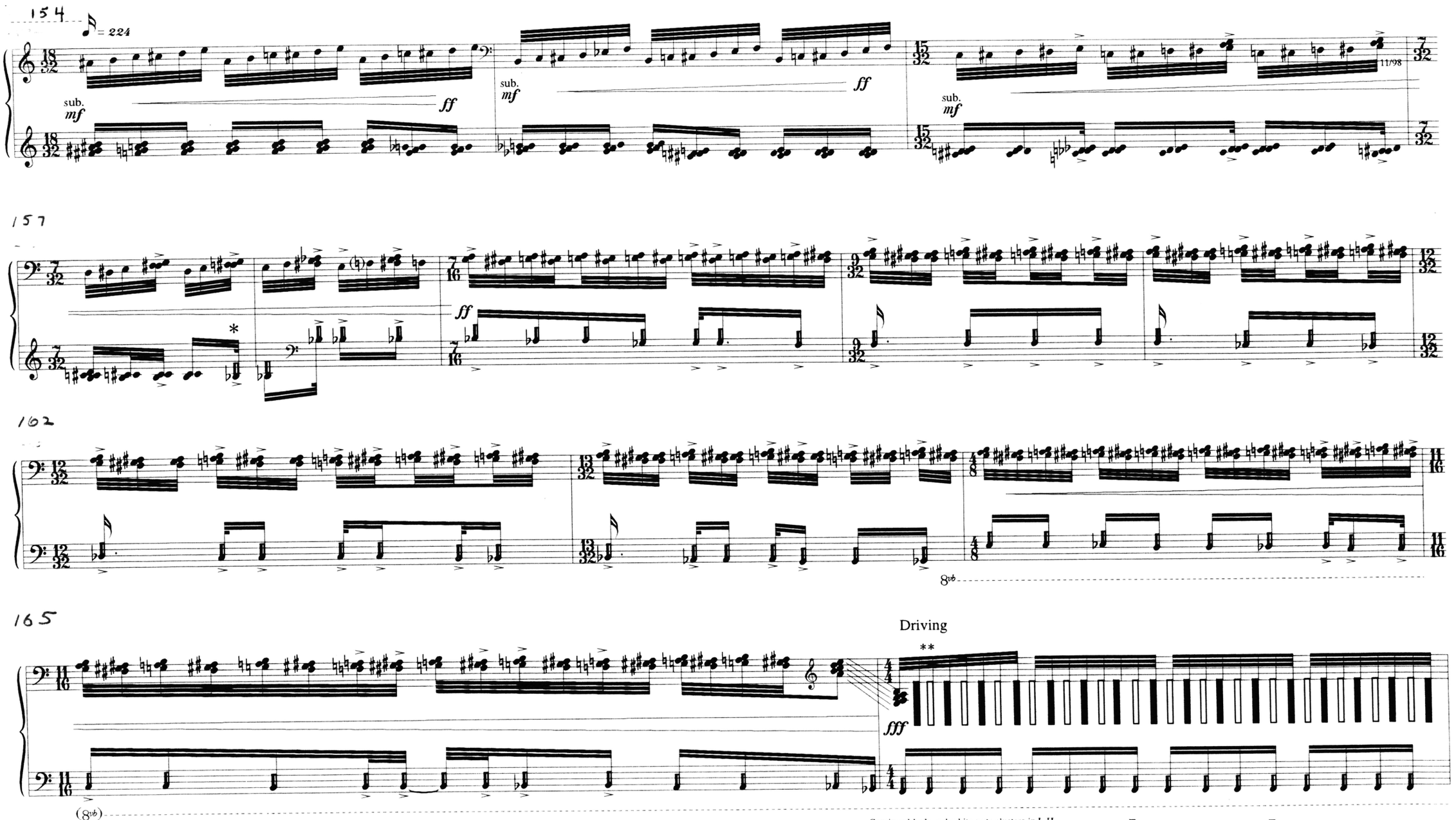

46
♩= 72
ff
sub.
mf
ff
8vb
11/98
55
1
2.
62
70
fff
f


77
2.
fff
sub.
f
fff
sub.
f
fff
sub.
f
ff
84
Rit.
♩ = 40
91
p
ppp
p
ppp
p
ppp
p
95
ppp
p
ppp
p
ppp
p
ppp
p


100
ppp
p
ppp
p
ppp
p
ppp
104
>p
sub
pp
mp
sub
pp
mp
108
pp
mp
pp
mp
pp
mp
112
1
2.
pp
mp
pp
mf
pp
mf


116
sub.
p
mp
pp
mp
pp
mp
121
pp
1.
mp
2.
mp
p
cresc.
126
mf
sub.
p
mf
pp
131
mf
p
mf
mp
mf
mp


137
142
147
Poco Rit.
A tempo
151
Accel.


154
♪ = 224
sub. mf
ff
sub. mf
ff
sub. mf
11/98
157
ff
162
8vb
165
Driving
**
fff
(8vb)
Continue black-and-white-note clusters in L.H.
* means cluster, ad lib, black and white, bass is the written pitch
** black-note cluster, ad lib and white-note cluster, ad lib

167

Poco accel

sub. *ff*

ffff

(8vb)

170

Rit. molto Very Slow

fff

ffff *f* *ffff* *f* *ffff*

sub. *f* *ffff*

(8vb)

For performance questions please contact the composer:

Lois V Vierk
P.O. Box 2652
Times Square Stn.
New York, NY 10108

LVVVV@aol.com

www.LoisVVierk.com