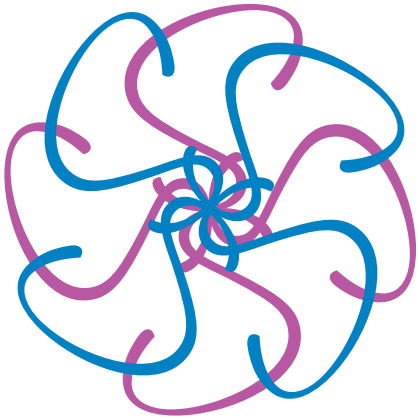
Spiritus Sanctus
(The Precipice)
L3+

Matthew Compton
3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 octaves handbells
with optional 3 octaves handchimes

CGB1167

choristersguild

Spiritus Sanctus



The Precipice

A Note from the Composer

Spiritus Sanctus is inspired by Hildegard von Bingen's poem of the same name. The Latin poem and translation read as follows:

Spiritus Sanctus vivificans vita,
movens omnia,
et radix est in omni creatura,
ac omnia de immunditia abluit,
tergens crimina,
ac ungit vulnera,
et sic est fulgens ac laudabilis vita,
suscitans et resuscitans omnia.

Holy Spirit,
Giving life to all life,
Moving all creatures,
Root of all things,
Washing them clean,
Wiping out their mistakes,
Healing their wounds,
You are our true life,
Luminous, wonderful,
Awakening the heart from its ancient sleep.

The ideas of life and movement are conveyed throughout most of the piece. The sudden grand pause (G.P.) represents the ancient sleep mentioned in the poem. The expansive middle section musically depicts the poem's phrases, "washing them clean" and "healing their wounds." The awakening of the heart is represented by the sudden burst of energy and unusual chord changes from measure 109 to the end.

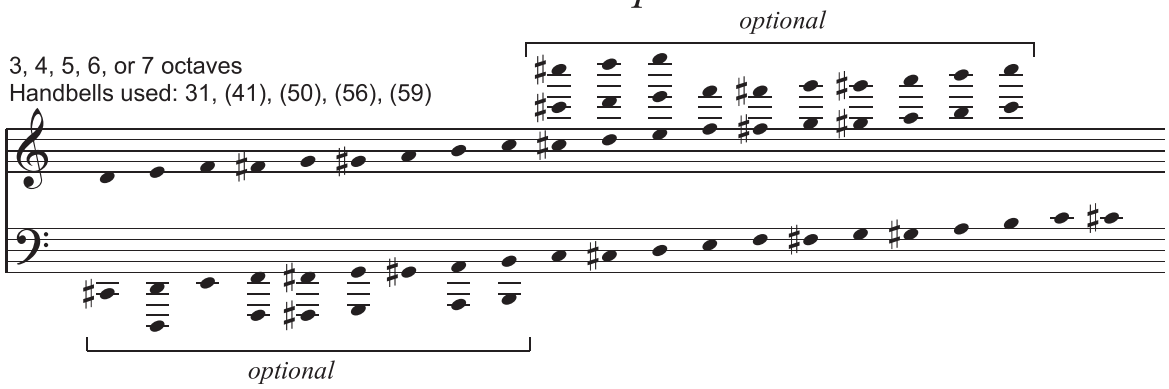
The subtitle *The Precipice* comes from the idea of an actual precipice – a large steep rock face. The piece conveys a sense of adventure – a sense of calling and of contemplating that call. The first section represents the anticipation and excitement of that adventure, and then the consideration of all that it might entail. As we reflectively contemplate and prepare for such an adventure, we come face to face with the precipice. The massive expansive movement at measure 73 conveys a powerful intensity and pull, followed by the thrill of diving off the edge and flying to the very end.

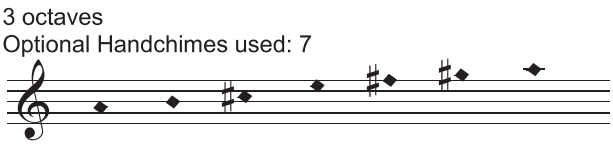
– Matthew Compton

Commissioned by the North Hills Handbell Association,
celebrating 45 years of music and friendship.

Spiritus Sanctus

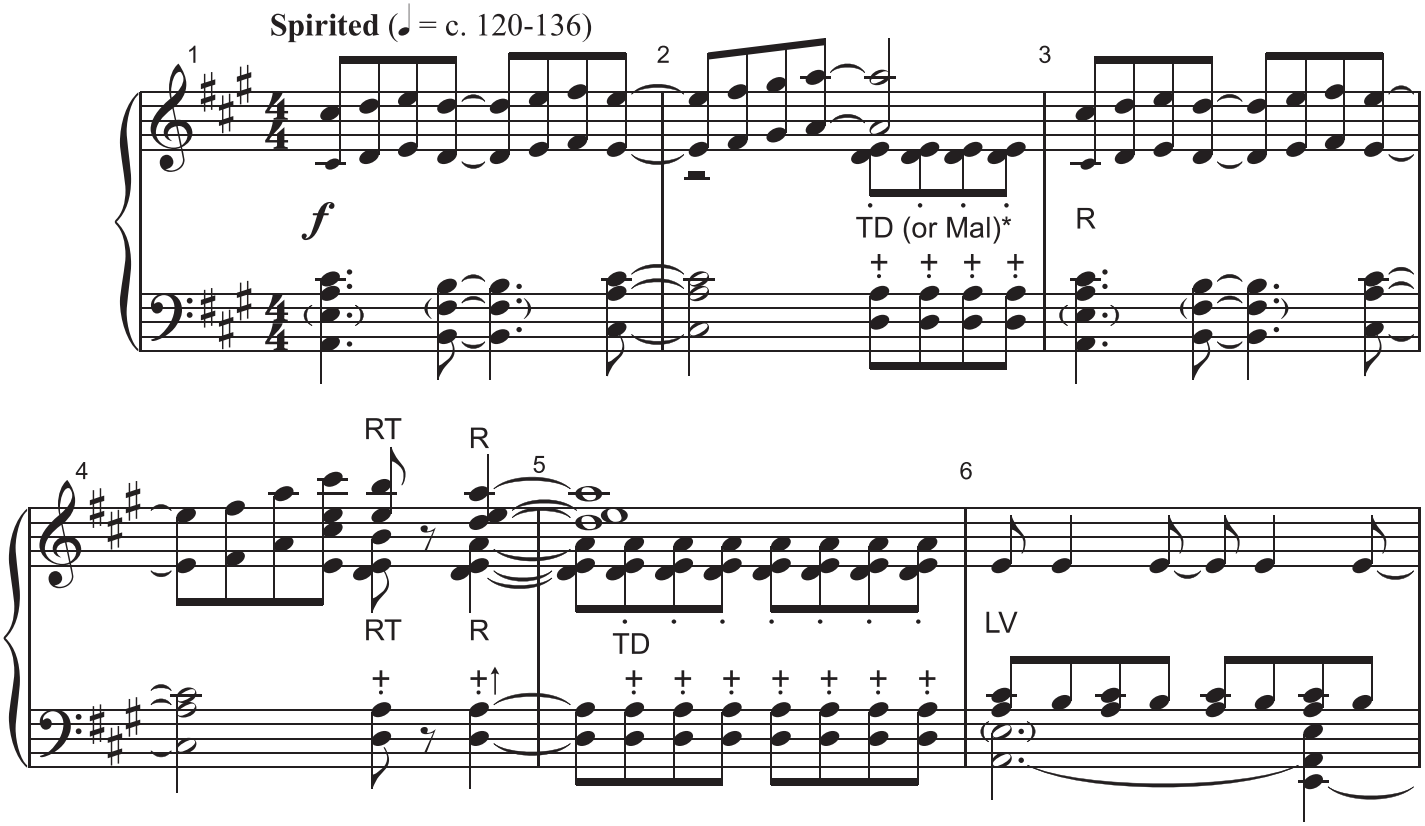
The Precipice





3 octave choirs omit notes in ( ).
4 octave choirs omit notes in [ ].
5 octave choirs omit notes in < >.

Matthew Compton



*Throughout the piece, mallets may substitute for TD in the downstemmed treble if and where desired.

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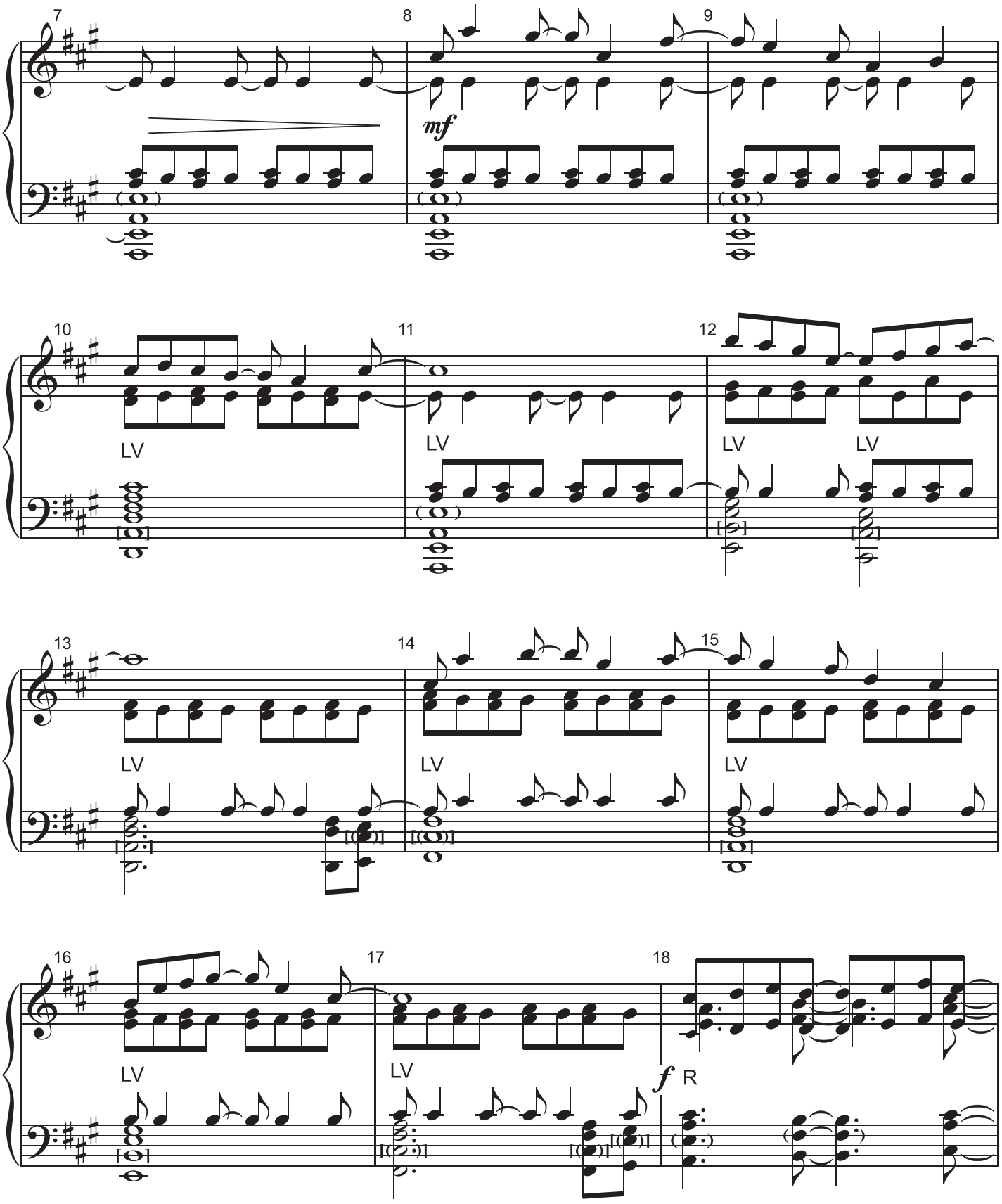
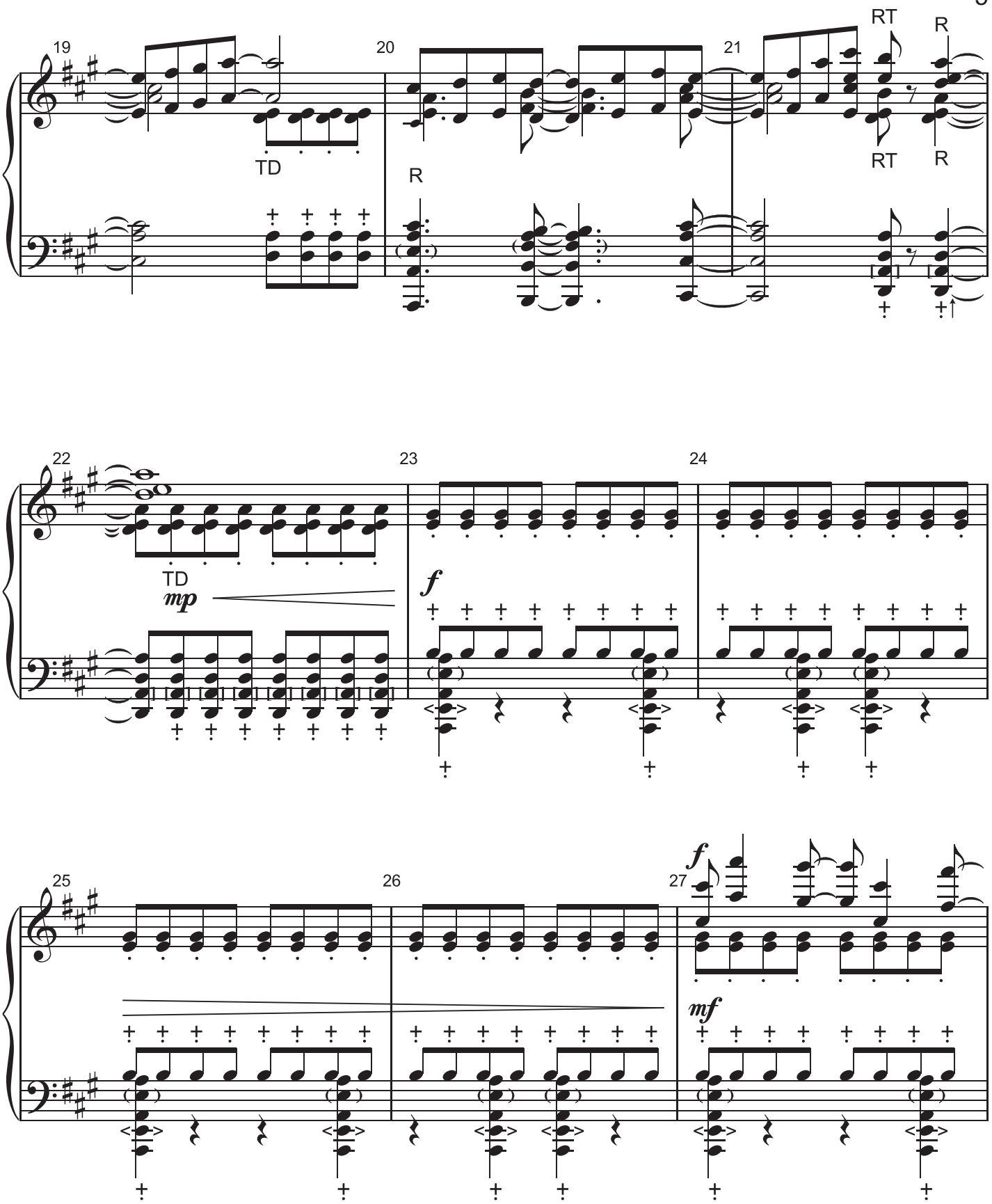
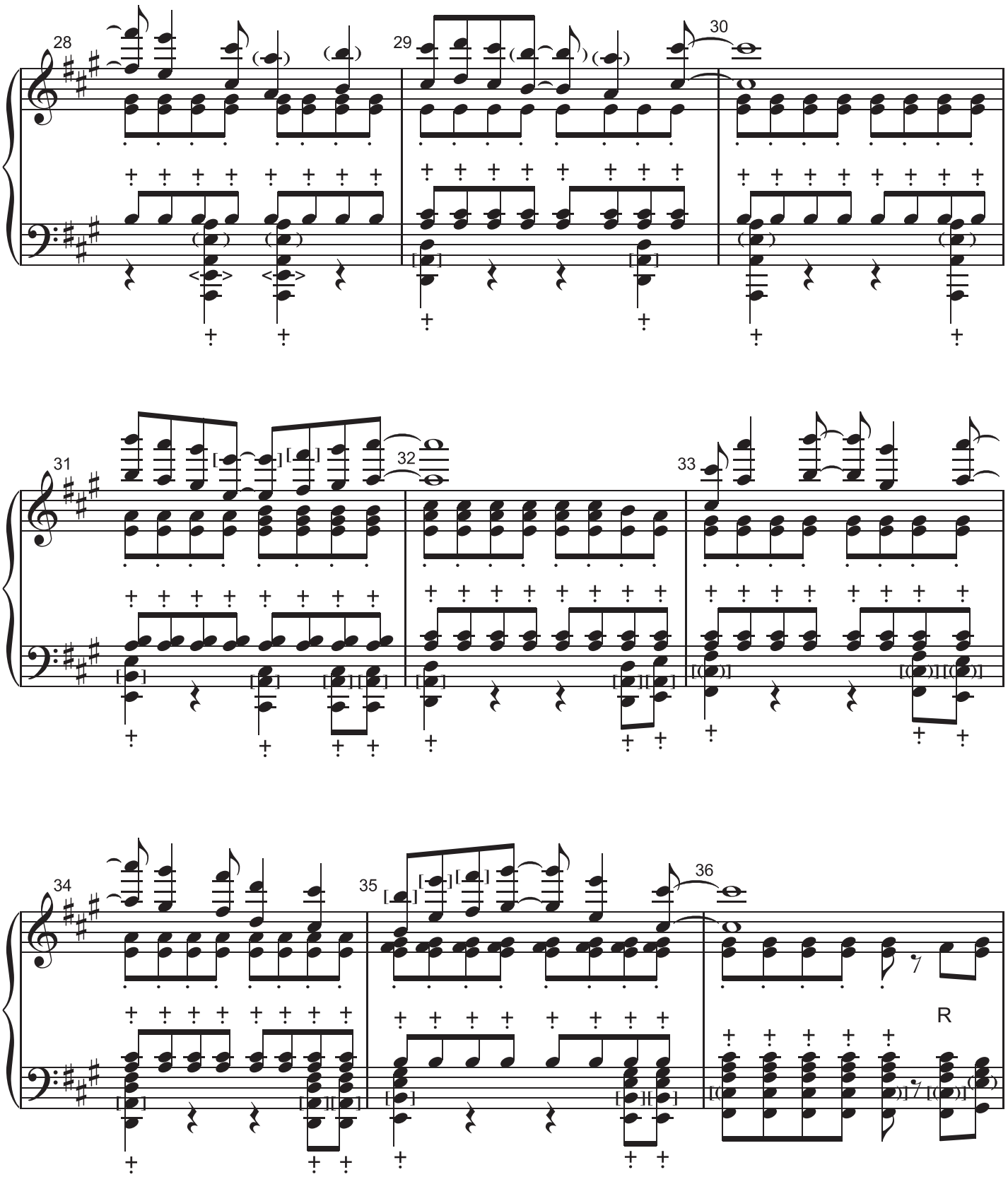
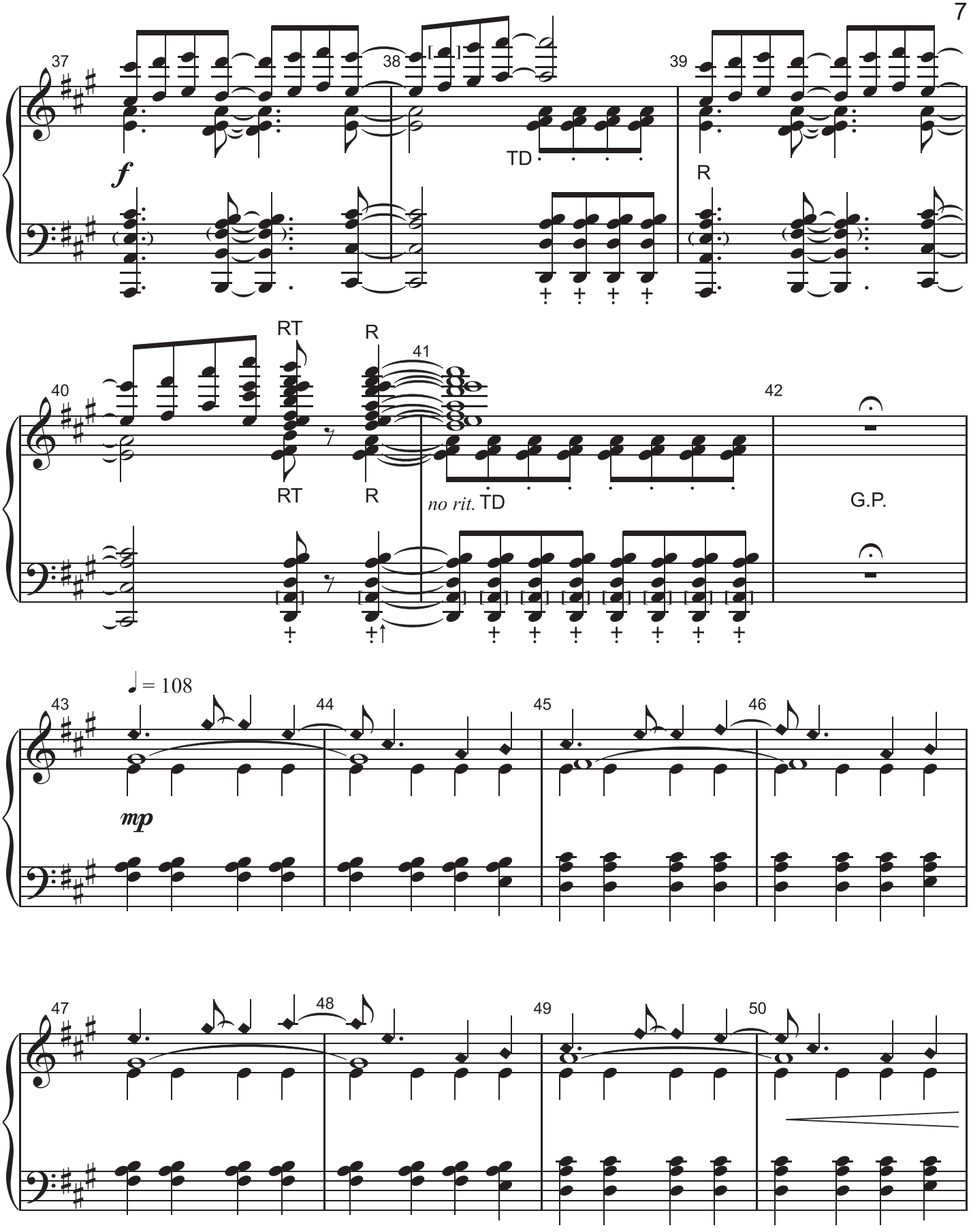
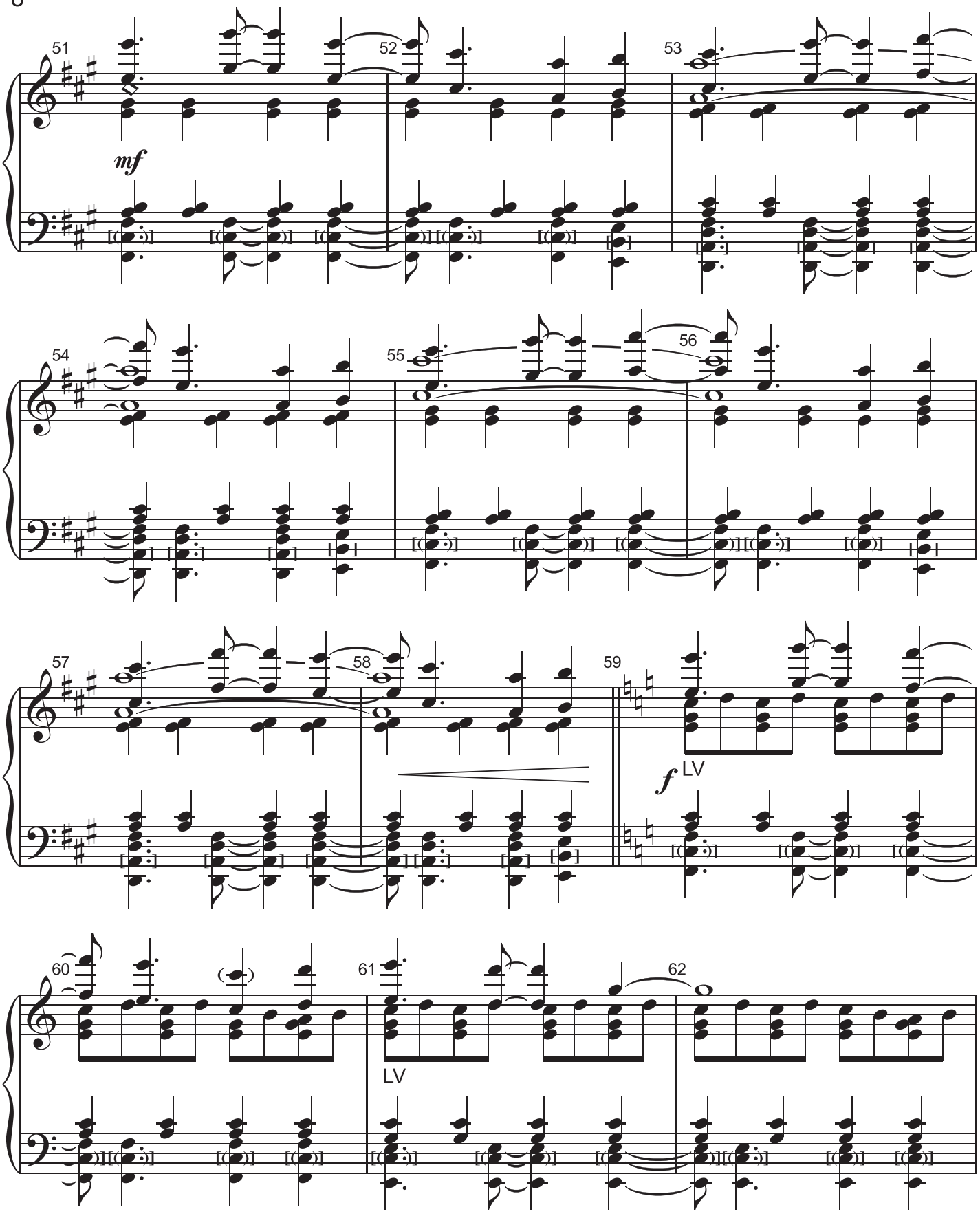
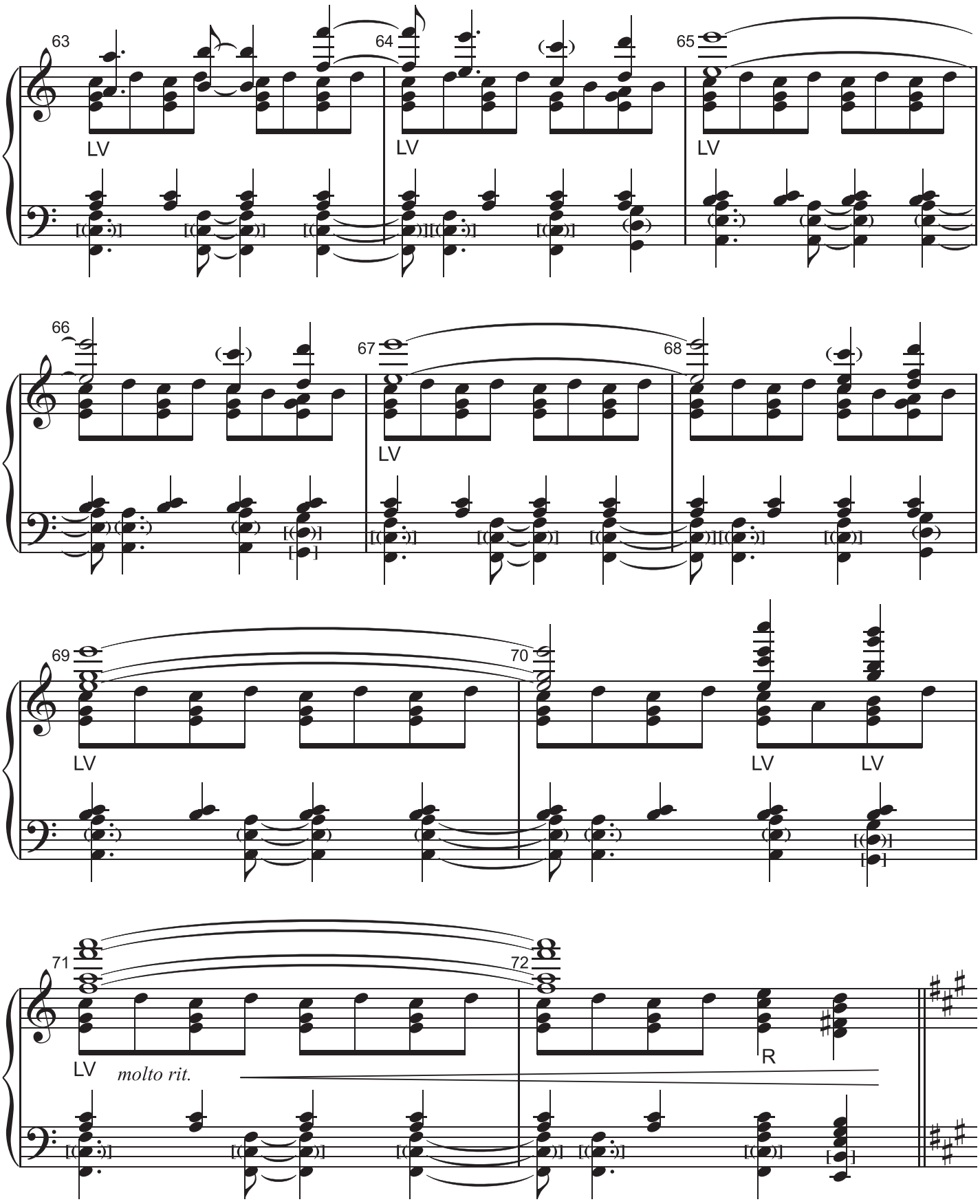

7
8
9
mf
10
11
12
LV
LV
LV
LV
13
14
15
LV
LV
LV
16
17
18
LV
LV
f
R

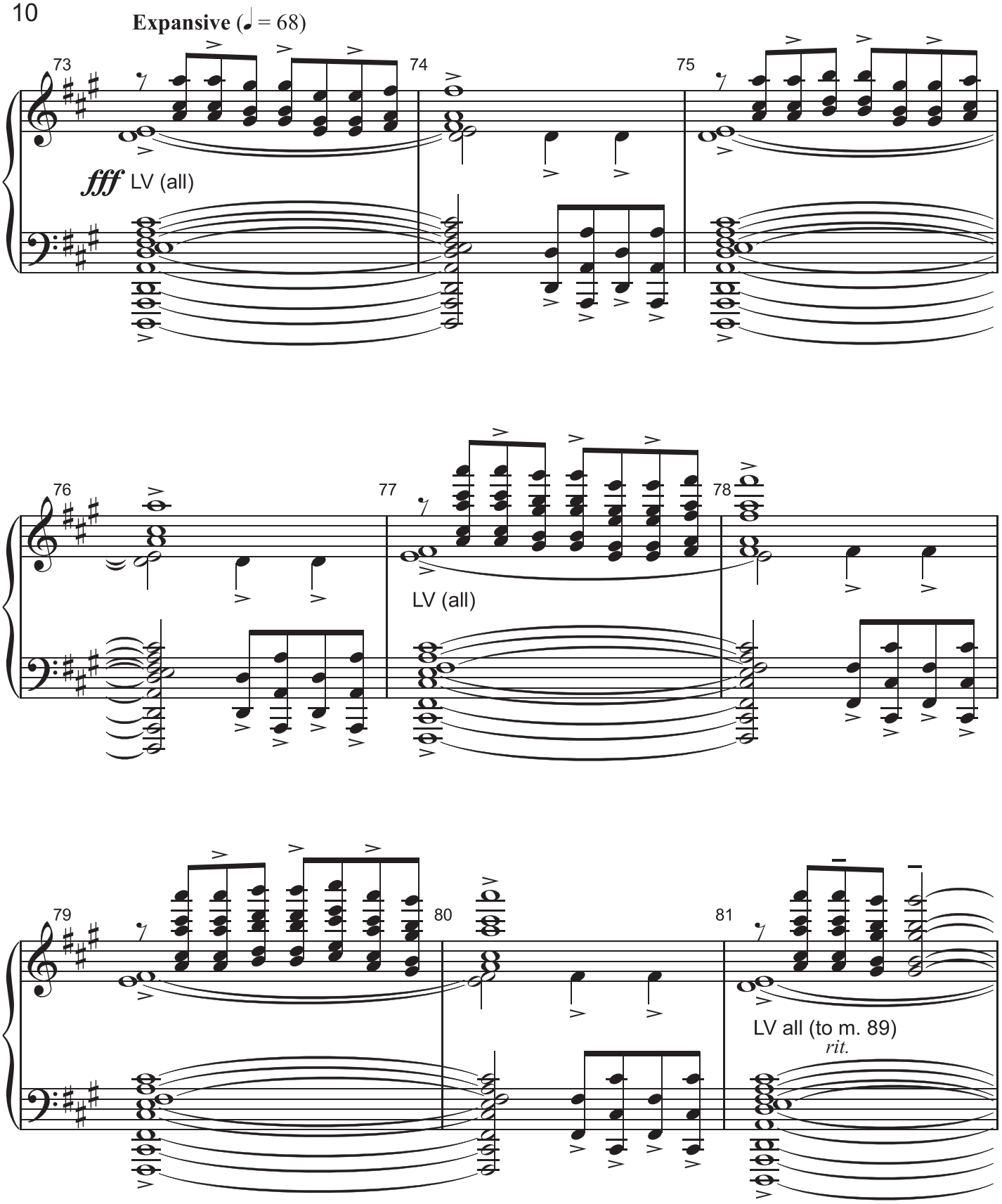

19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
TD
R
RT
TD
mp
f
f
mf

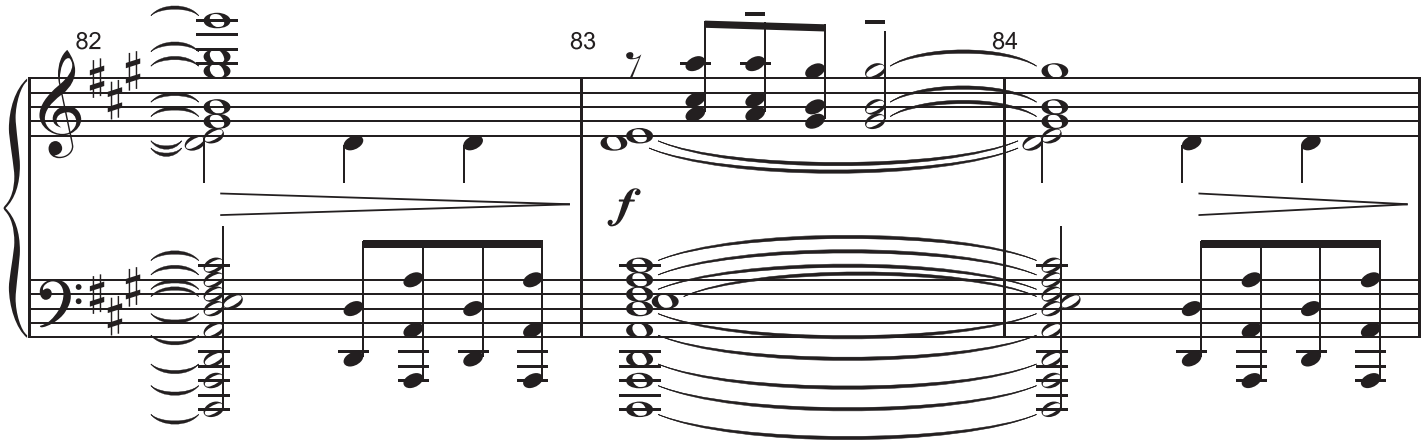

28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
R

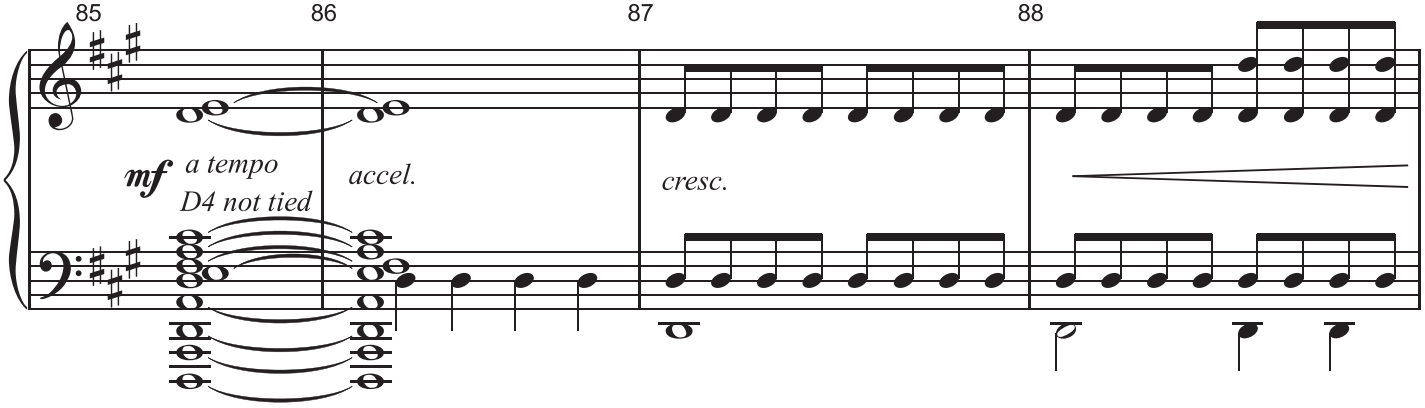

37
38
39
f
TD
R
40
41
42
RT
R
RT
R
no rit. TD
G.P.
♩ = 108
43
44
45
46
mp
47
48
49
50

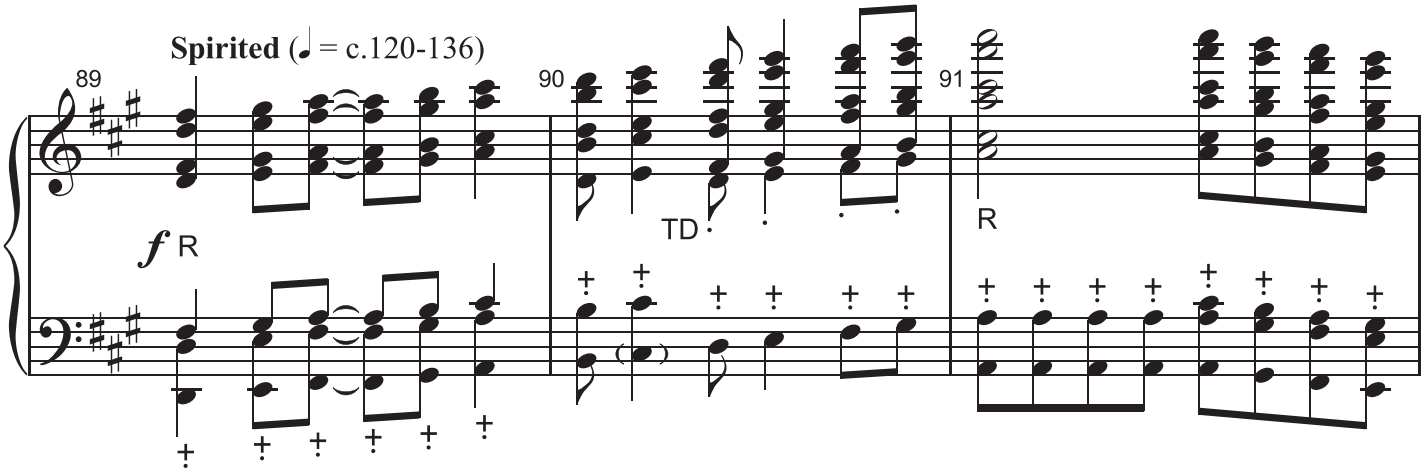

51
52
53
mf
54
55
56
57
58
59
f
LV
60
61
62
LV

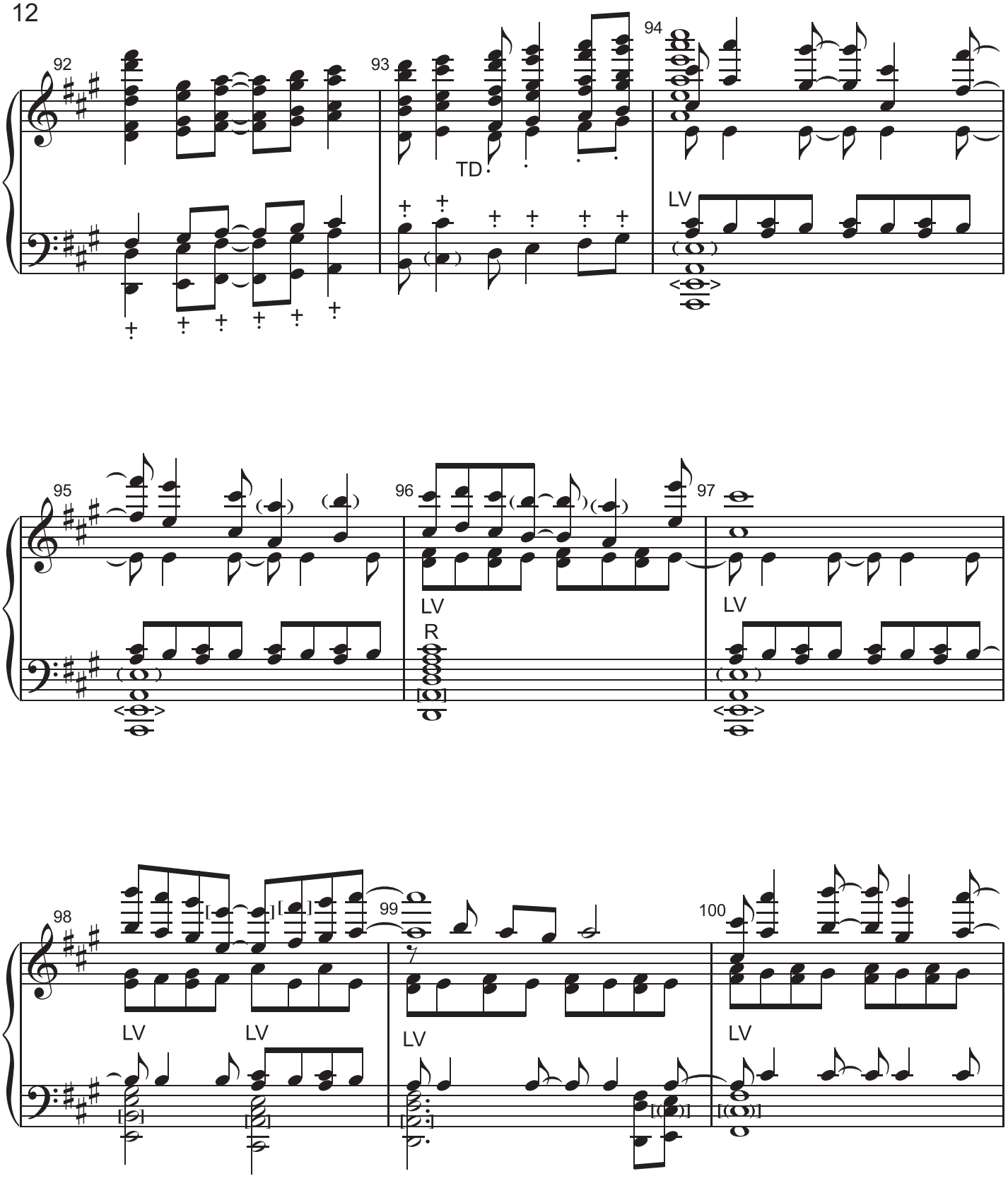

63
64
65
LV
LV
LV
66
67
68
LV
69
70
LV
LV
LV
71
72
LV
molto rit.
R

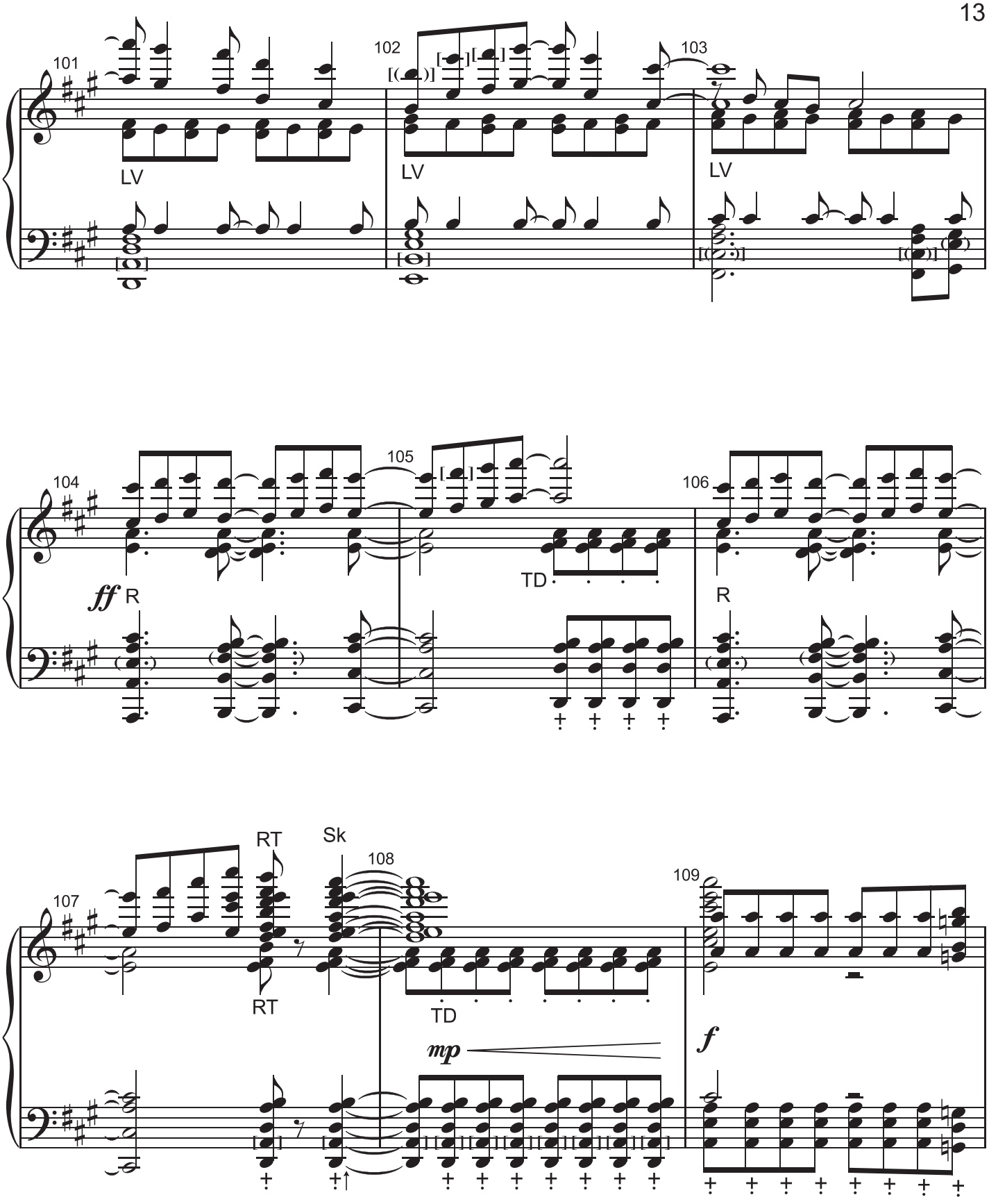

Expansive (♩ = 68)
73
74
75
fff LV (all)
76
77
78
LV (all)
79
80
81
LV all (to m. 89)
rit.

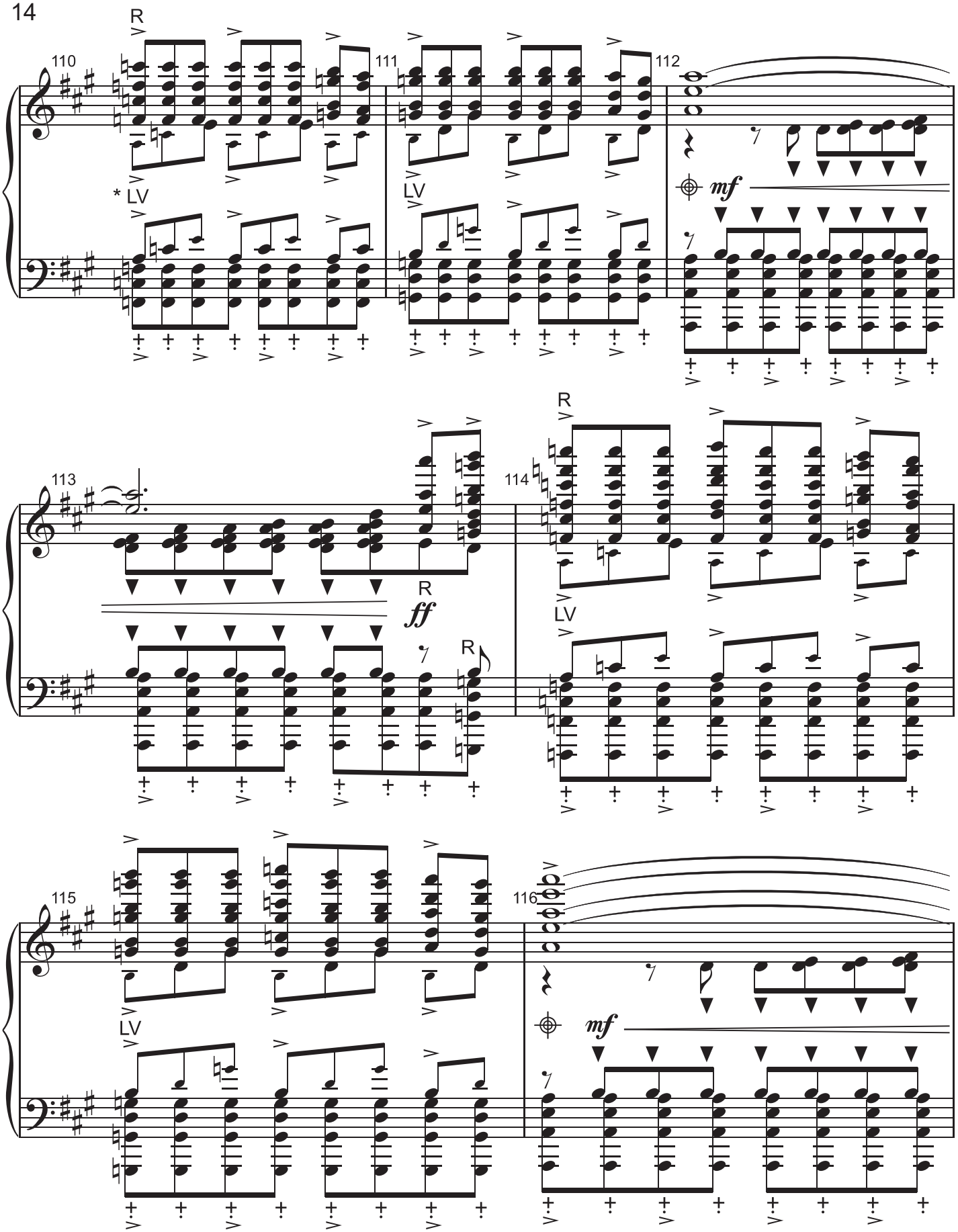

82
83
84
f


85
86
87
88
mf a tempo
D4 not tied
accel.
cresc.

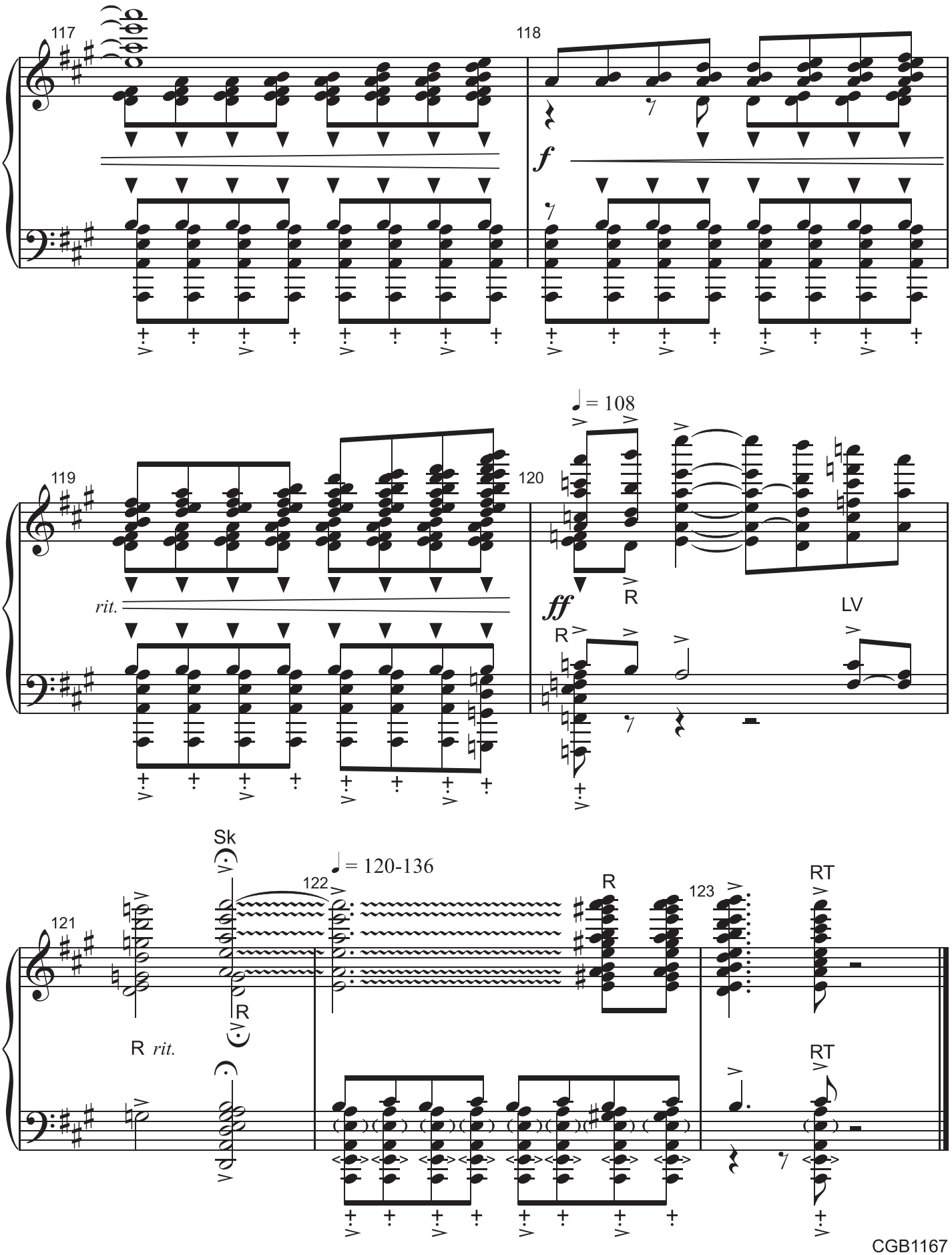

Spirited (♩ = c.120-136)
89
90
91
f R
TD
R


92
93
94
TD
LV
95
96
97
LV
R
LV
LV
98
99
100
LV
LV
LV
LV


101
LV
102
LV
103
LV
104
ff R
105
TD
106
R
107
RT
RT
Sk
108
TD
mp
109
f



* In mm. 110-116, the D5 and E5 handbells are printed in both clefs for clarity of rhythm.


117
118
f
119
120
♩= 108
rit.
ff
R
LV
121
Sk
122
♩= 120-136
123
RT
R rit.

CGB1167 HS4
7 49193 03162 9

Other original level 3 titles from Choristers Guild:

Bwana Asifiwe (Praise the Lord)
3, 4 or 5 octaves with African percussion
Cathy Moklebust
Level 3+ • CGB366 Full Score • CGB367 Handbell Score

Danza
3, 4 or 5 octaves handbells
J. Wayne Kerr
Level 3 • CGB340

Endless Delight
3, 4 or 5 octaves handbells
with optional 3, 4 or 5 octaves handchimes
Linda R. Lamb
Level 3 • CGB487

Giusto con Vivo
3, 4, 5 or 6 octaves handbells
with optional C2, D2 and 3 octaves handchimes
Michael J. Glasgow
Level 3 • CGB839

Ring, Zing, Swing!
3, 4, 5 or 6 octaves handbells
John A. Behnke
Level 3 • CGB904

The Storm Shall Pass (Introspection)
3, 4, 5 or 6 octaves handbells with optional 3, 5 or 7 octaves handchimes
Jacob Erdman and Matthew Compton
Level 3 • CGB1038

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3, 4 or 5 octaves handbells with two flutes
Cathy Moklebust
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