# Paganini Reverie

fantasy for piano

Karim Al-Zand

(2013)

PROGRAM NOTE:

"Another piece based on Paganini's 24th caprice?" That was my thinking when pianist Chris Janwong McKiggan approached me to write a short work for his project, a recording of new compositions inspired by the virtusos violinist's most famous work. After writing *Paganini Reverie*, I can see why composers have been so drawn to this simple theme: it provides the perfect balance of stricture and scope, limitation and latitude. My piece is a loose fantasy on the theme, the immediate inspiration for which comes from an evocative chapter in Heinrich Heine's *Florentine Nights*. The passage describes a Paganini performance in vivid detail, the protagonist recounting a waking dream prompted by the virtuoso's playing, each musical change of mood triggering a fantastical new scene.

Dani Al-Zand. August 2013

DURATION:

ca. 6'

He was the man-planet, around whom the universe moved, sounding with measured solemnity and in blessed rhythm....sounds that the ear never hears, but rather only the heart can dream of, when it rests during the night on the heart of its beloved.

—Heinrich Heine on Paganini, from *Florentine Nights*

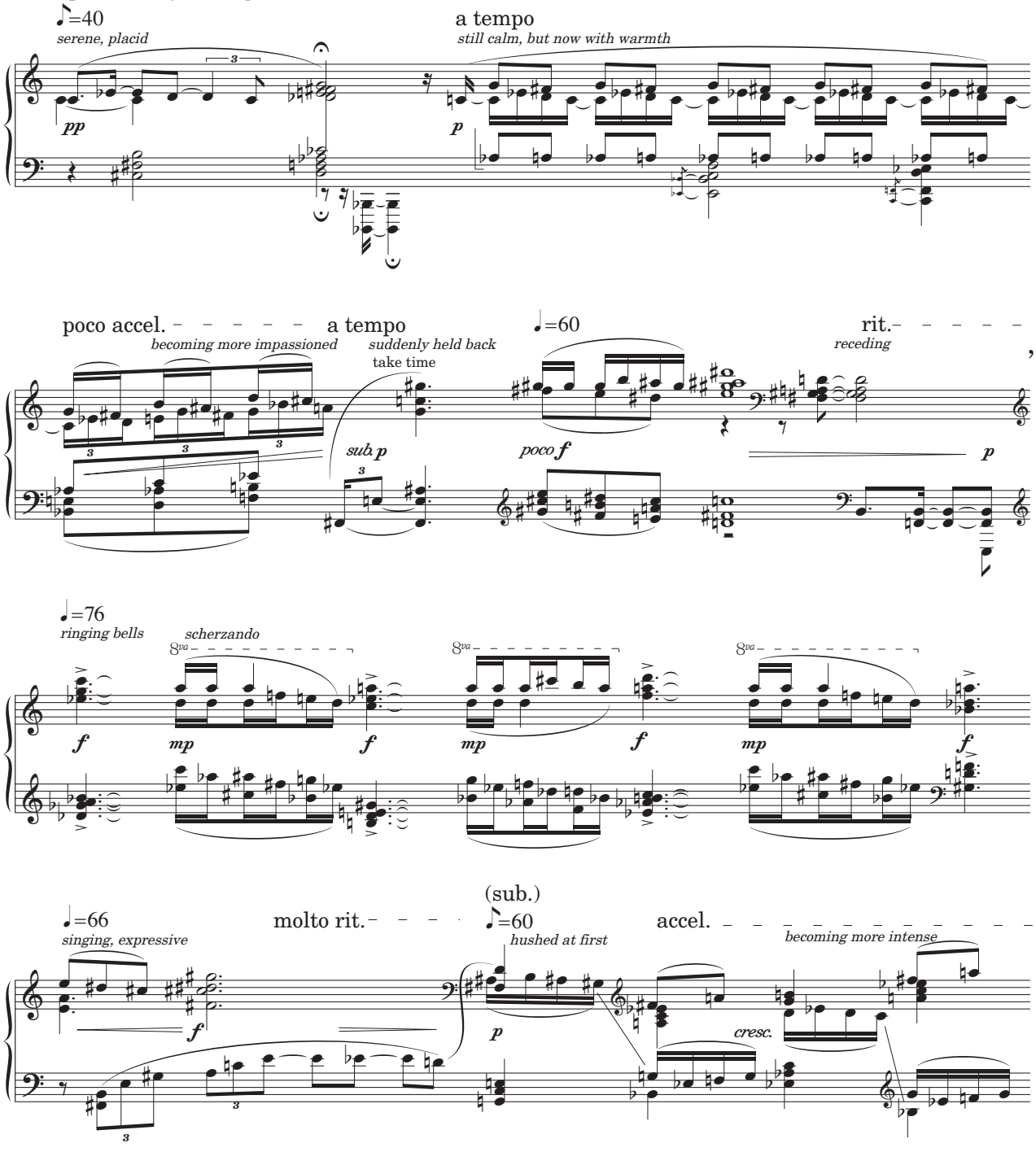
*for Christopher Janwong McKiggan*

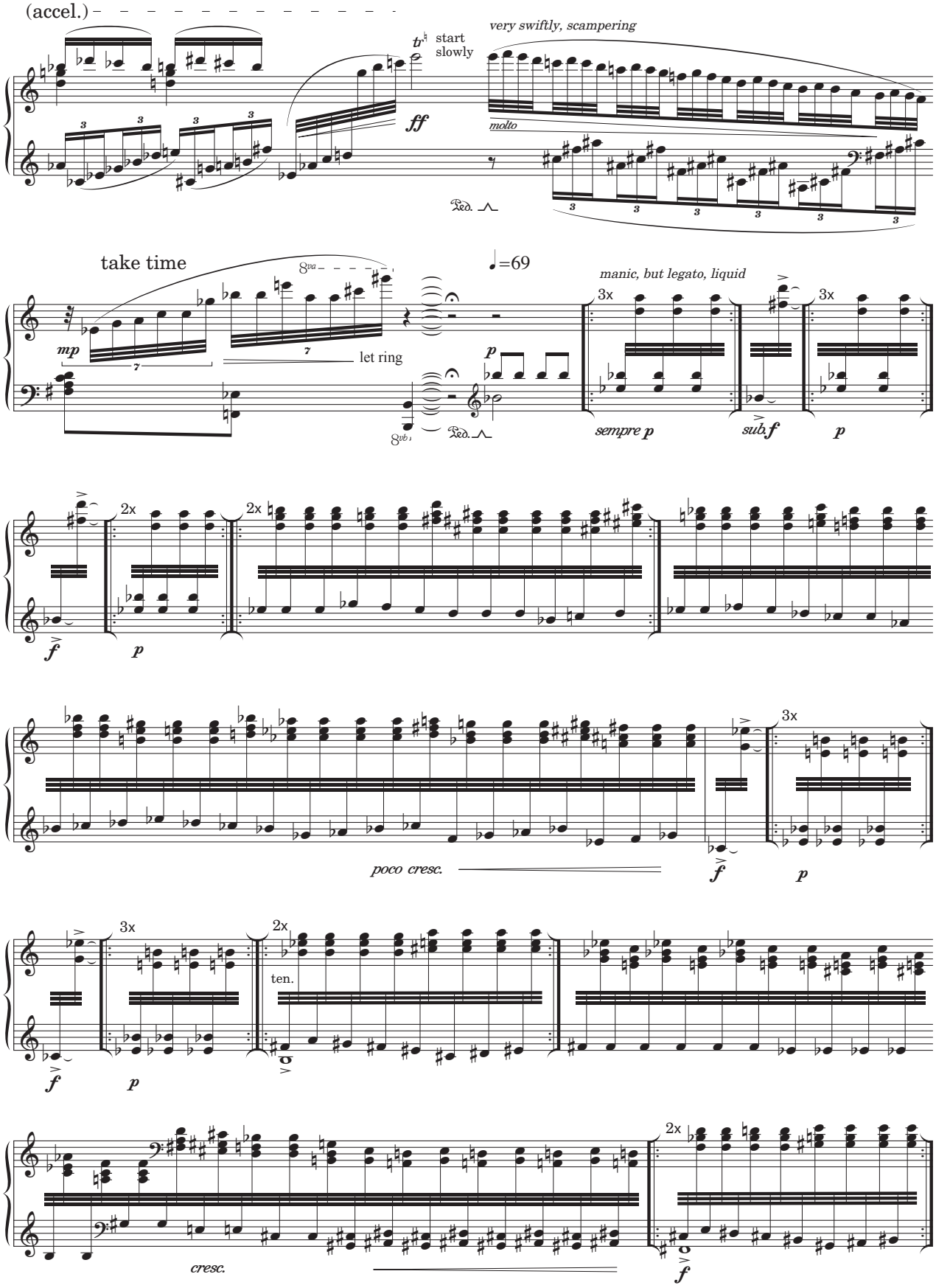
# Paganini Reverie

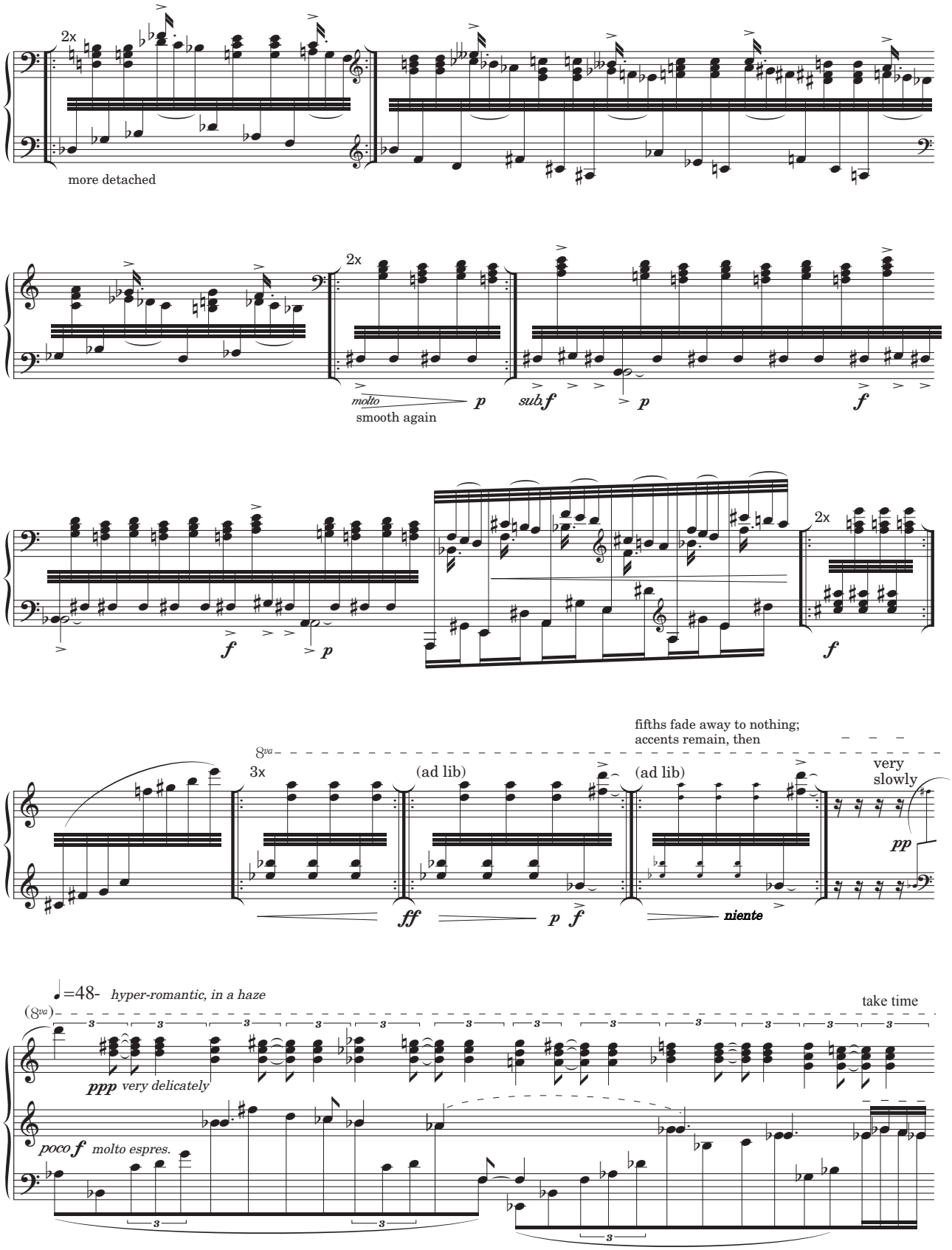
## fantasy for piano

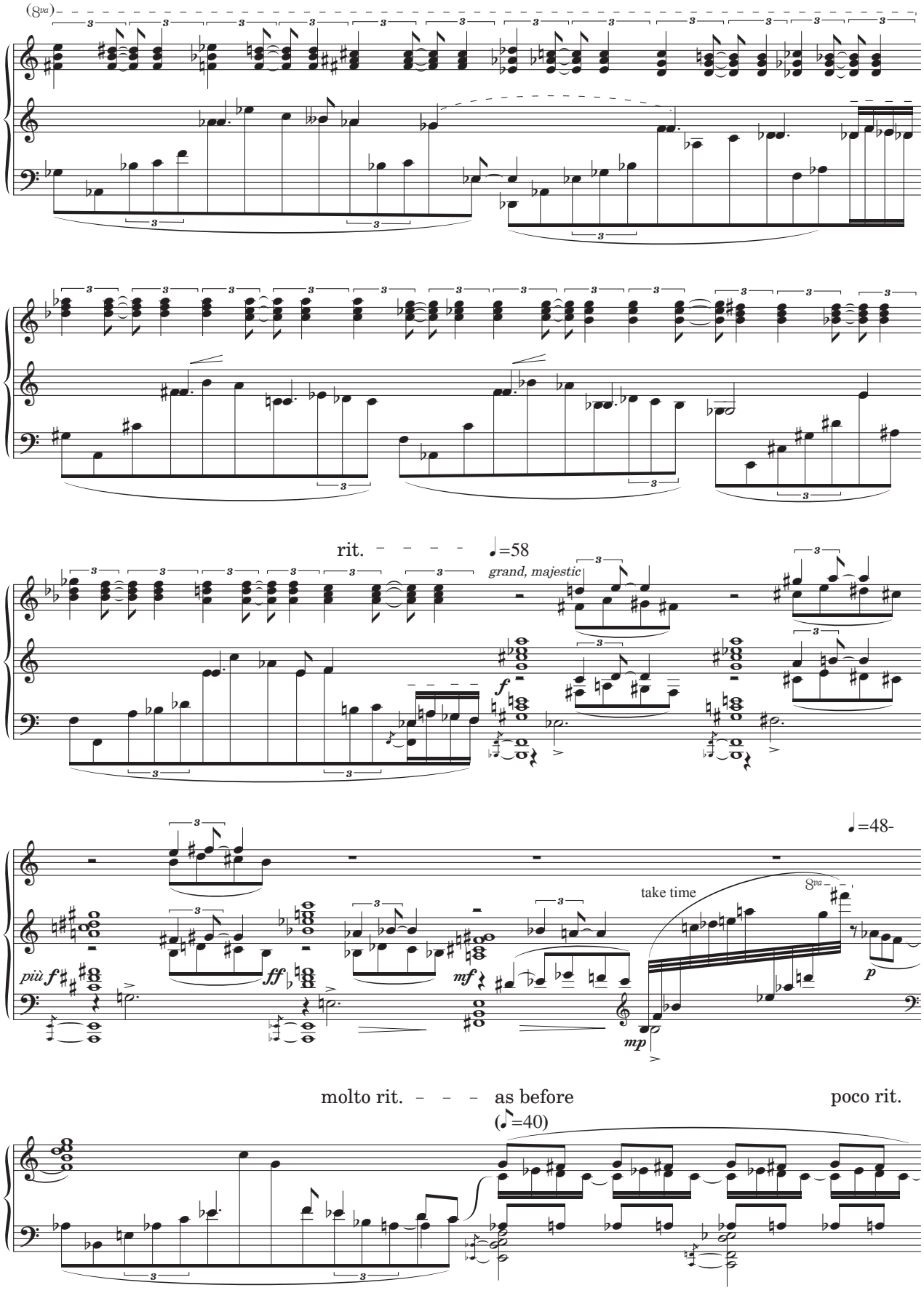
Karim Al-Zand
(2013)

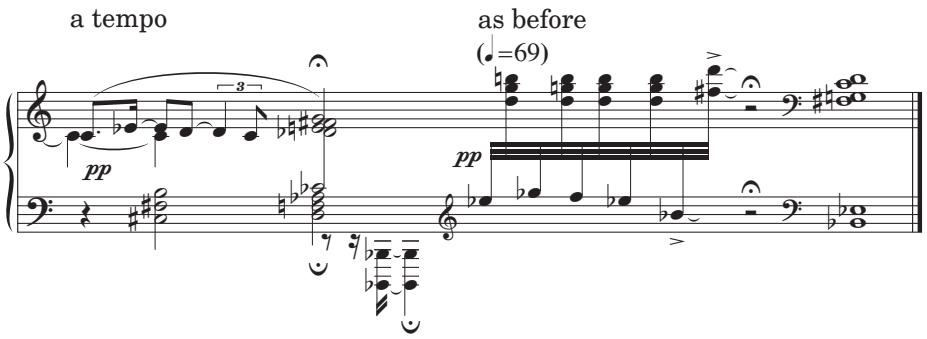
Improvisatory throughout; as if in a dream




(accel.)
start slowly
very swiftly, scampering
molto
ff
take time
mp
let ring
=69
manic, but legato, liquid
3x
sempre p
sub.f
p
2x
f
poco cresc.
ten.
cresc.


2x
more detached
2x
molto
smooth again
p
sub f
p
f
f
p
2x
f
8va
3x
(ad lib)
(ad lib)
fifths fade away to nothing;
accents remain, then
very
slowly
pp
ff
p f
niente
♩=48- hyper-romantic, in a haze
(8va)
take time
ppp very delicately
poco f molto espres.


(8va)
rit.
♩=58
grand, majestic
f
♩=48-
take time
8va
più f
ff
mf
mp
p
molto rit.
as before
(♪=40)
poco rit.


a tempo
as before
(♩=69)
pp
pp
3