ARTHUR BIRD

ARTHUR BIRD was born July 23, 1856, at Mount Auburn, Cambridge, Mass. His father, Horace Bird, was a well-known musician in the neighborhood of Boston, where his singing schools were very popular.

Bird received his education at the public schools, graduating at the high school in Watertown when seventeen years of age. During his childhood and youth he displayed a great fondness for music, and early became a proficient player on the piano and organ, and incidentally upon the violin. He first appeared in public as church organist, when at fifteen years of age he played at several churches in the vicinity of Boston. As a youth, his talent showed itself not so much in his ability as a performer, as in his marked talent for improvisation.

After studying two years, 1875 and 1876, in Berlin with Ed. Rohde, Prof. Haupt, and Prof. Loeschhorn, he returned to Boston and accepted the position of organist and choir master at the Kirk, Halifax, N. S. At the same time he was appointed head instructor of the piano in the Young Ladies' Seminary at Mount St. Vincent in the latter city.

In the summer of 1881, returning again to Berlin, he studied four years with Prof. Haupt, organ, Prof. Loeschhorn, piano, and Prof. Urban, composition and orchestration.

The summers of 1885 and 1886 he spent professionally and socially with Franz Liszt in Weimar, not only at the class lessons but also at the very exclusive rubber at whist, which invariably followed each lesson. Liszt was particularly interested in his compositions, and had them often played at the private *soirées* given at his house during the summer months.

In 1886, Bird gave a public concert of his compositions, symphony, overture and suite, in Berlin with the Philharmonic Orchestra. The Berlin critics were unanimous in their praise, and the artistic success of an American composer was especially interesting, for until then Germany, with Berlin as its musical centre, had not considered young America capable of producing much of anything beyond very clever business men.

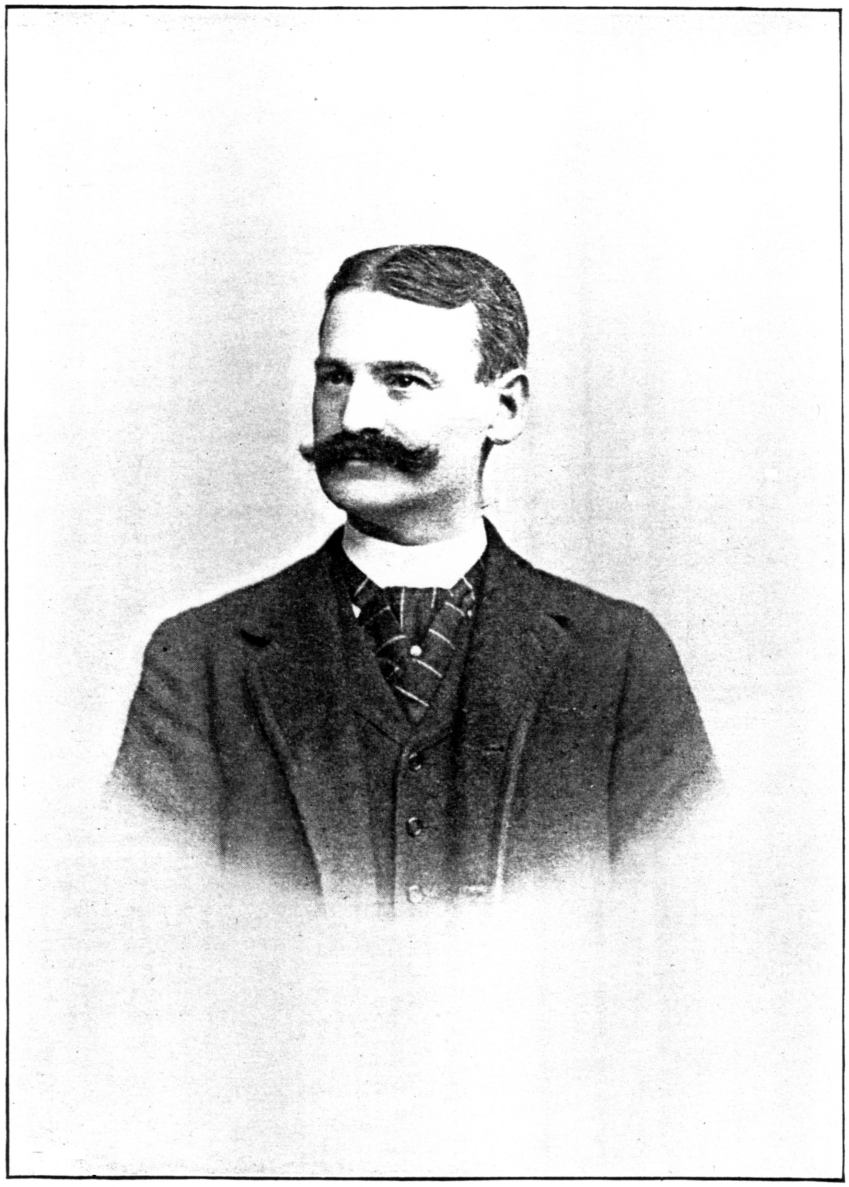
In the summer of 1886 his *Carnival Scene* for orchestra was played at the Allegemeine Deutsche musical festival in Sondershausen, of which Franz Liszt was president, and met with spontaneous success. Liszt was especially delighted with the work, and not only publicly congratulated the composer at the concert, but wrote him immediately afterward concerning a four and eight hand arrangement.

In July of the same year Bird conducted, by invitation of the directors of the North American Sängerbund in Milwaukee, his second orchestra suite. Bird is at present living in Berlin, Germany.

His principal published works are : —

Symphony in A major; three suites for grand orchestra; two suites for strings; *Serenade* for ten wind instruments; *Carnival Scene* for grand orchestra; two Episodes for grand orchestra; *Introduction and Fugue* for orchestra; two Oriental scenes for flute and orchestra; grand romantic and fantastic ballet, *Rübezahl.*

In addition to the above he has written a great number of larger and smaller piano works for two and four hands.



Arthur Bird

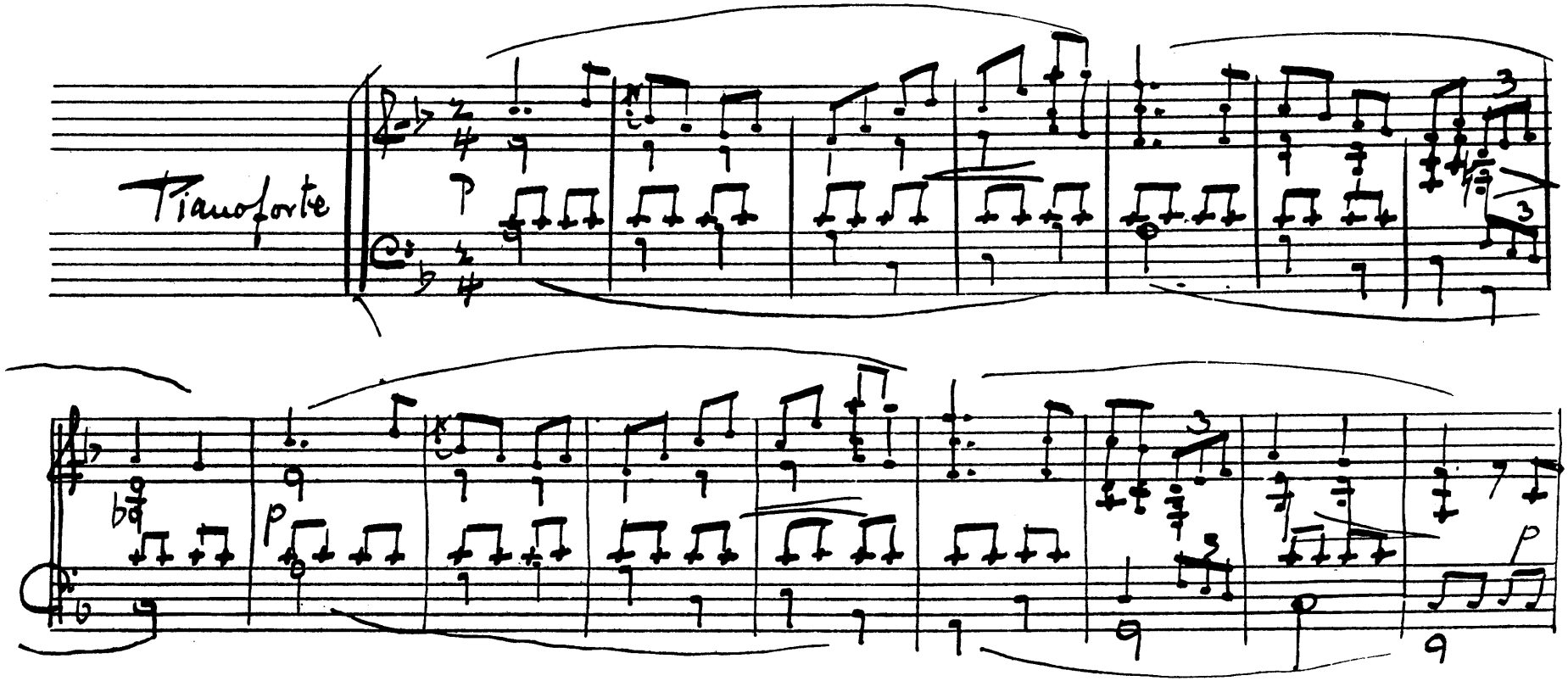
No 1.

Albumblatt.

Arthur Bird

Op. 35. No. 1.

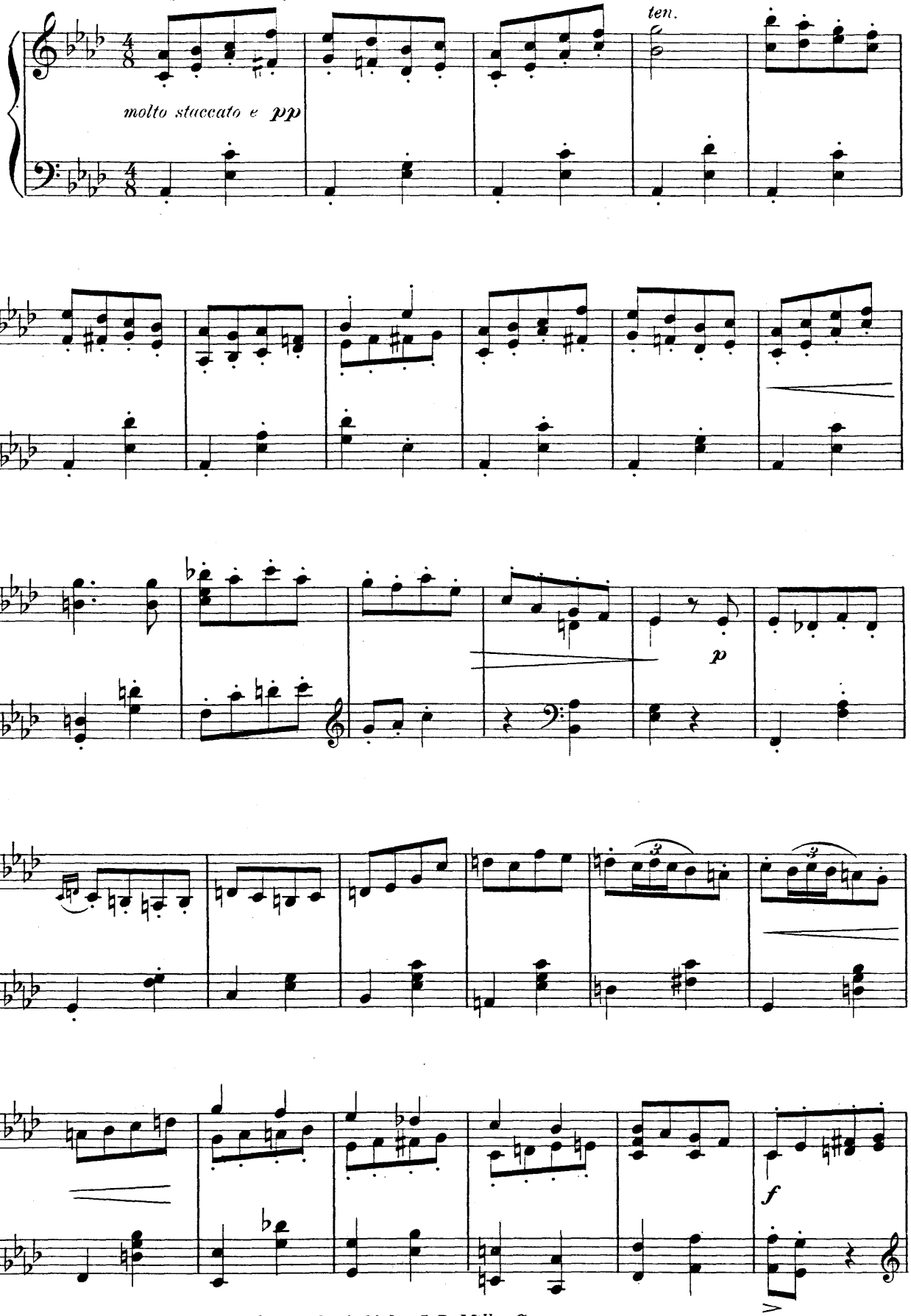
Andante cantabile.



Scherzando.

ARTHUR BIRD,
Op. 35. No 2.

Allegro con agilità.



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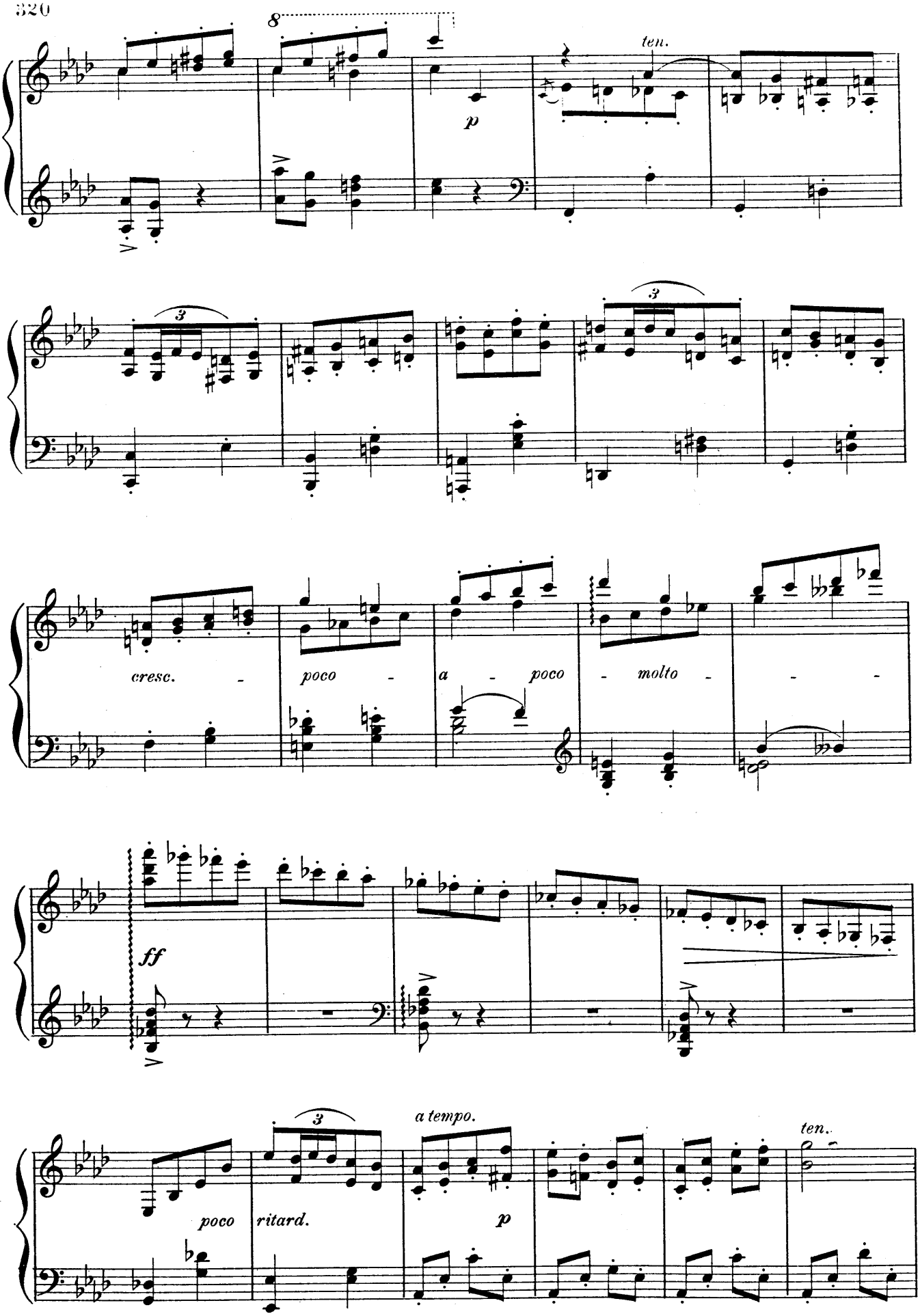
8
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3
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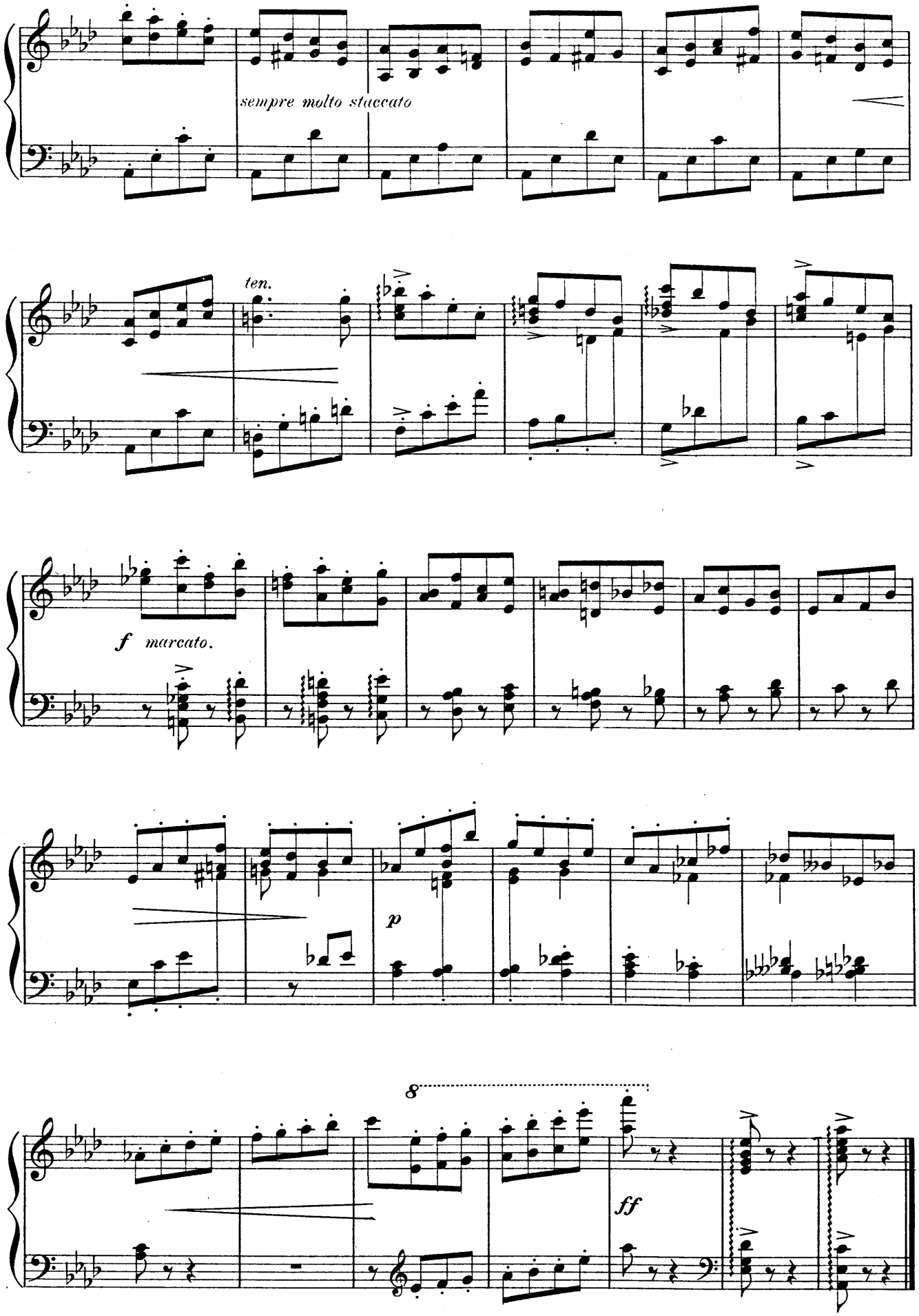
sempre molto staccato
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f marcato.
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8
ff