Benjamin Britten

NOCTURNAL

after John Dowland

for Guitar

Op. 70

FABER MUSIC LIMITED
3 Queen Square London WC1N 3AU

EDITOR'S NOTE

In view of the intricate character of this piece, I have endeavoured to finger it as succinctly as is compatible with the composer's original phrase marks, which are of course of great importance for the interpretation of the work.

Those intimate with the technicalities – and indeed difficulties – of phrasing in a convincing way upon the guitar will find that the dotted line thus: ..... (L.H. legato or slur) will not only lend support to the musical interpretation, but will also facilitate playing.

The song upon which this work is based is No. 20 in *The First Book of Songs or Ayres of Four Parts* by John Dowland, published in 1597.

JULIAN BREAM

The first performance of *Nocturnal* was
given by Julian Bream at the Aldeburgh Festival
June 12th 1964

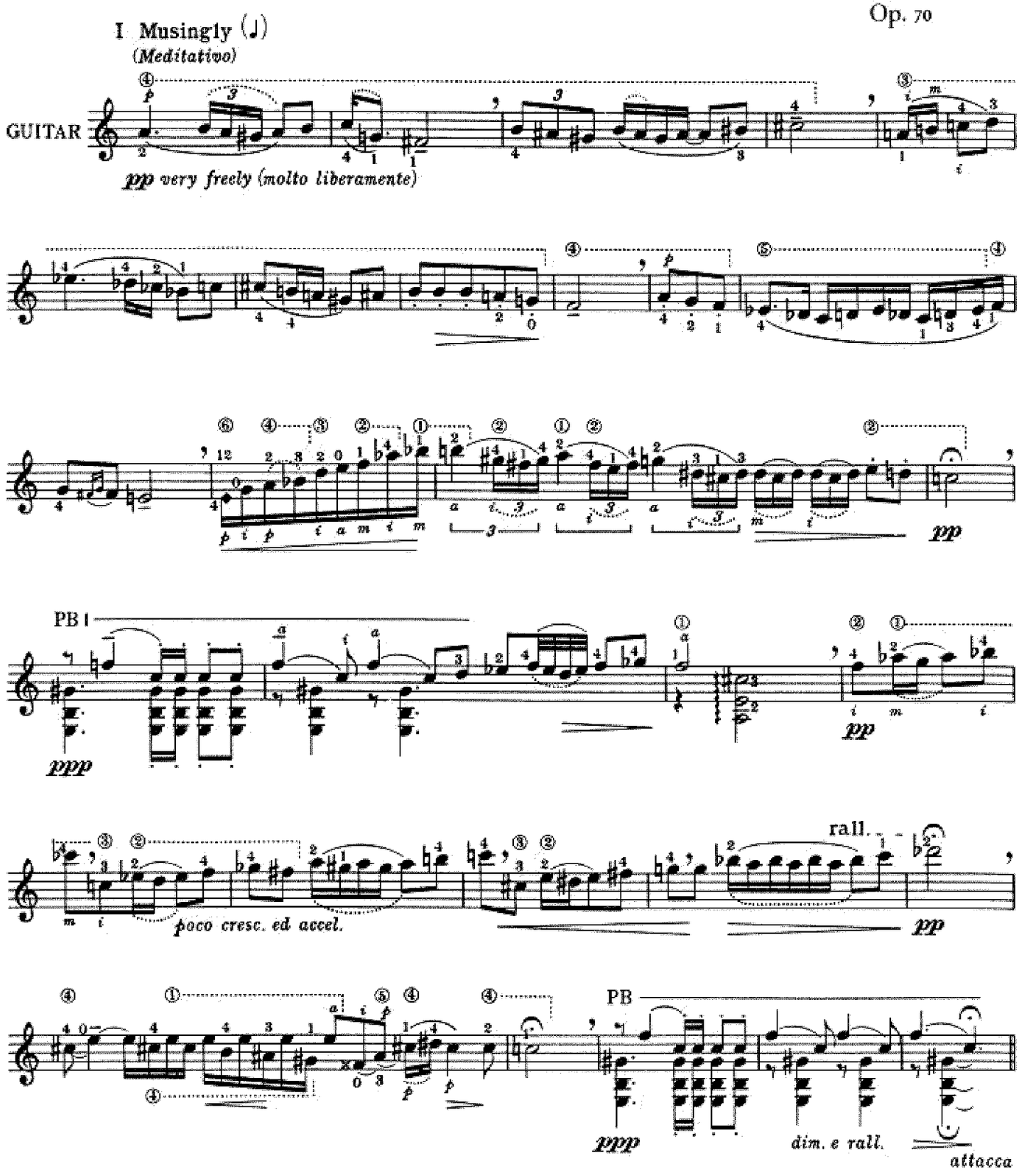
Duration: c.14 minutes

For Julian Bream

NOCTURNAL

Edited by Julian Bream

BENJAMIN BRITTEN
Op. 70



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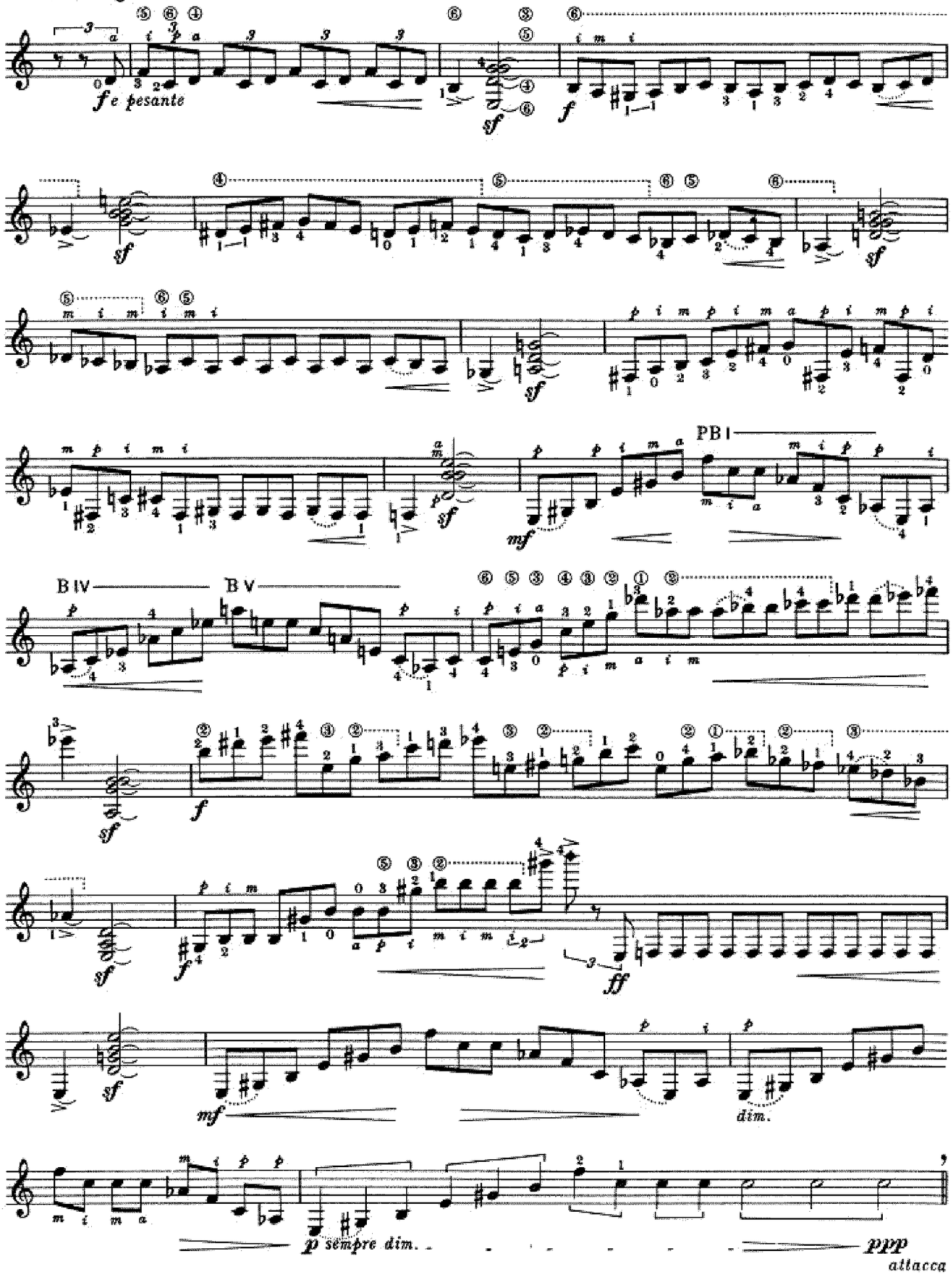
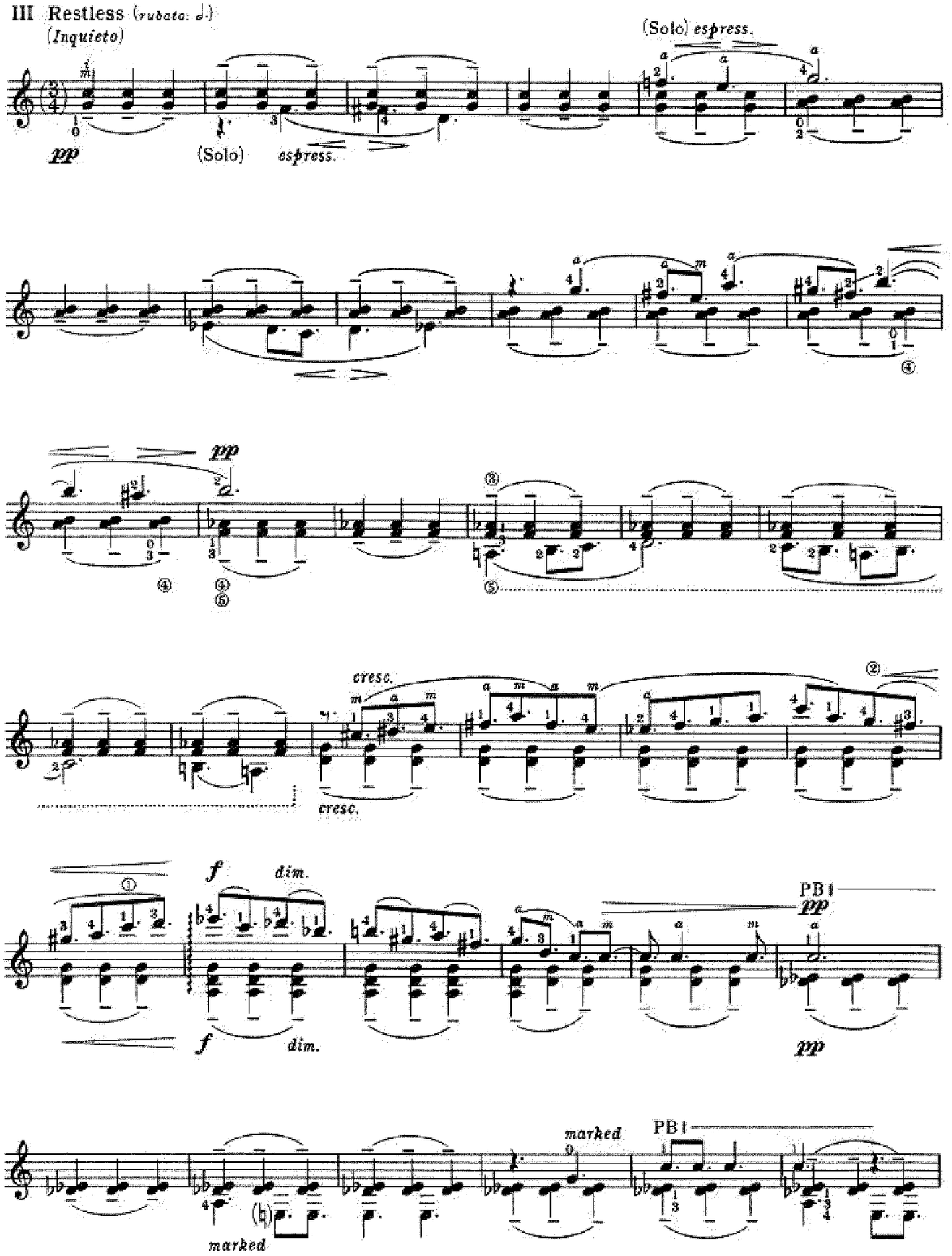
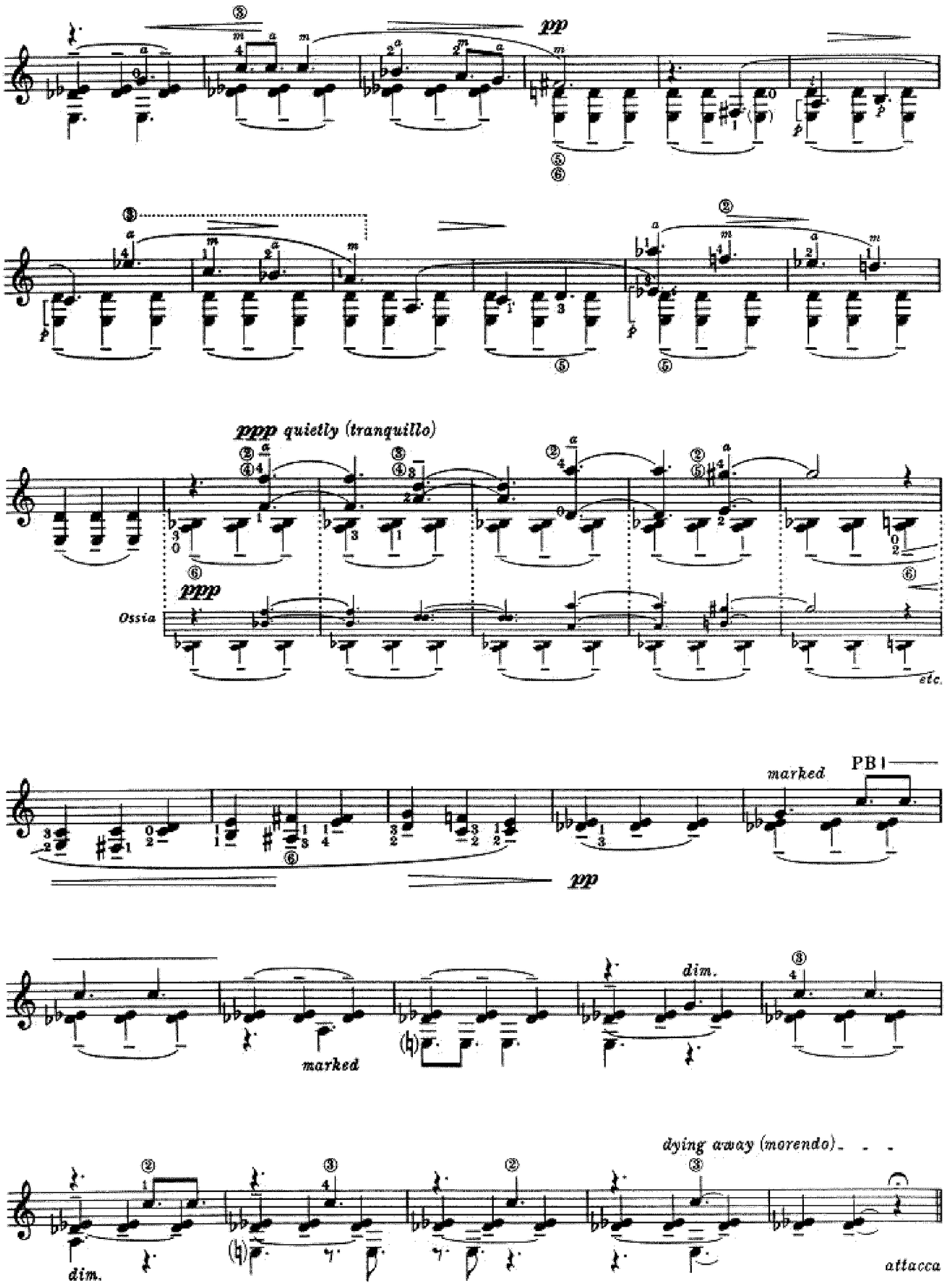
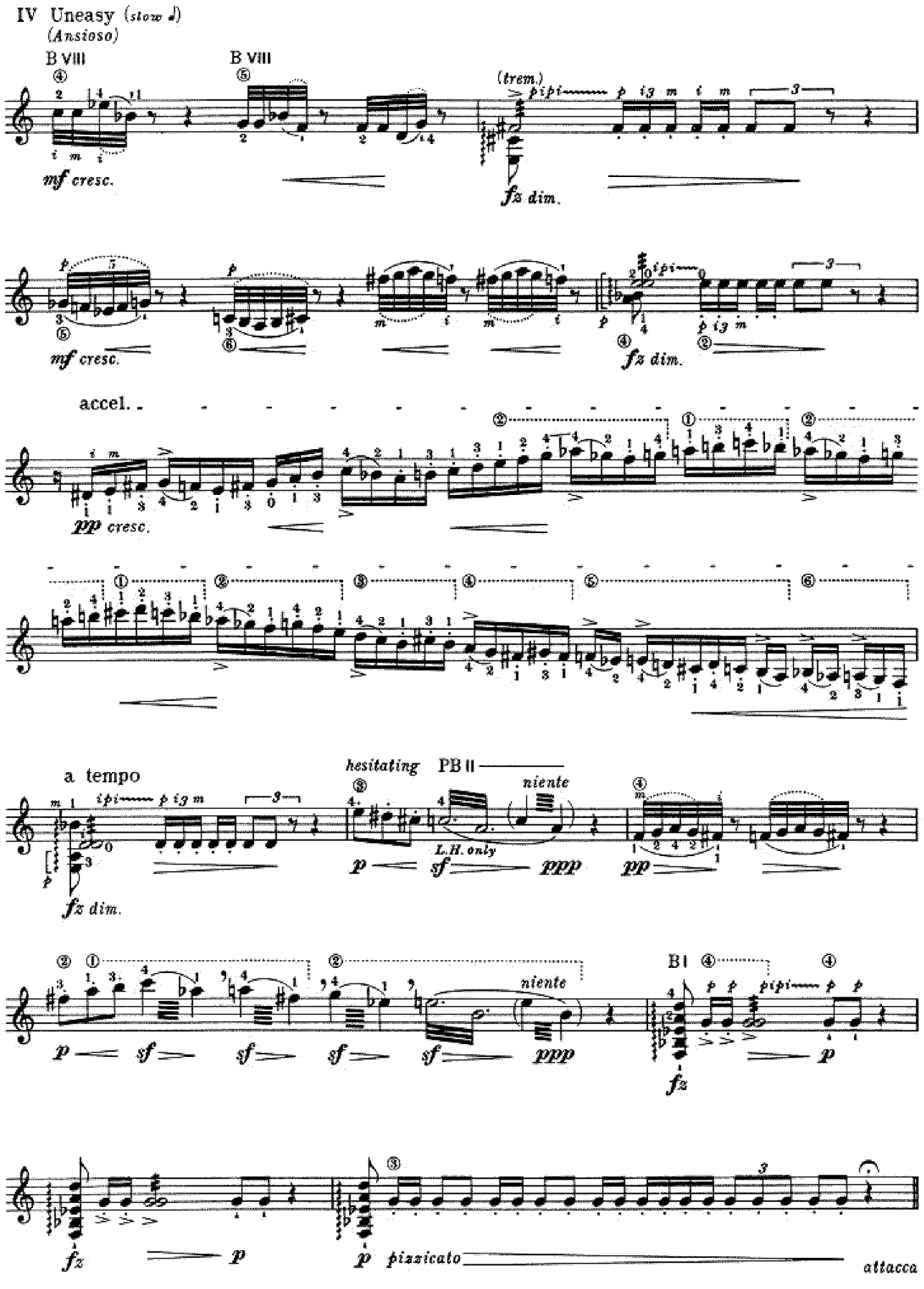
II Very agitated
(Molto agitato)




III Restless (rubato: ♩.)
(Inquieto)
(Solo) espress.
pp
(Solo) espress.
pp
cresc.
cresc.
f dim.
f dim.
PB I
pp
pp
marked
marked
PB I


pp
ppp quietly (tranquillo)
ppp
Ossia
etc.
marked
PB I
pp
dim.
marked
dying away (morendo)
dim.
attacca


IV Uneasy (slow ♩)
(Ansioso)
B VIII
B VIII
(trem.)
mf cresc.
fz dim.
mf cresc.
fz dim.
accel.
pp cresc.
a tempo
hesitating
PB II
niente
L.H. only
fz dim.
niente
BI
fz
fz
p
pizzicato
attacca

V March-like (♩)

(Quasi una Marcia)

singing (cantabile)

pp staccato e pesante

p

mf

dim.

dim.

(pp)

(short)

p

cresc.

cresc.

mf

BVI

BII

BIII BII BI

f

sf

f marked

dim.

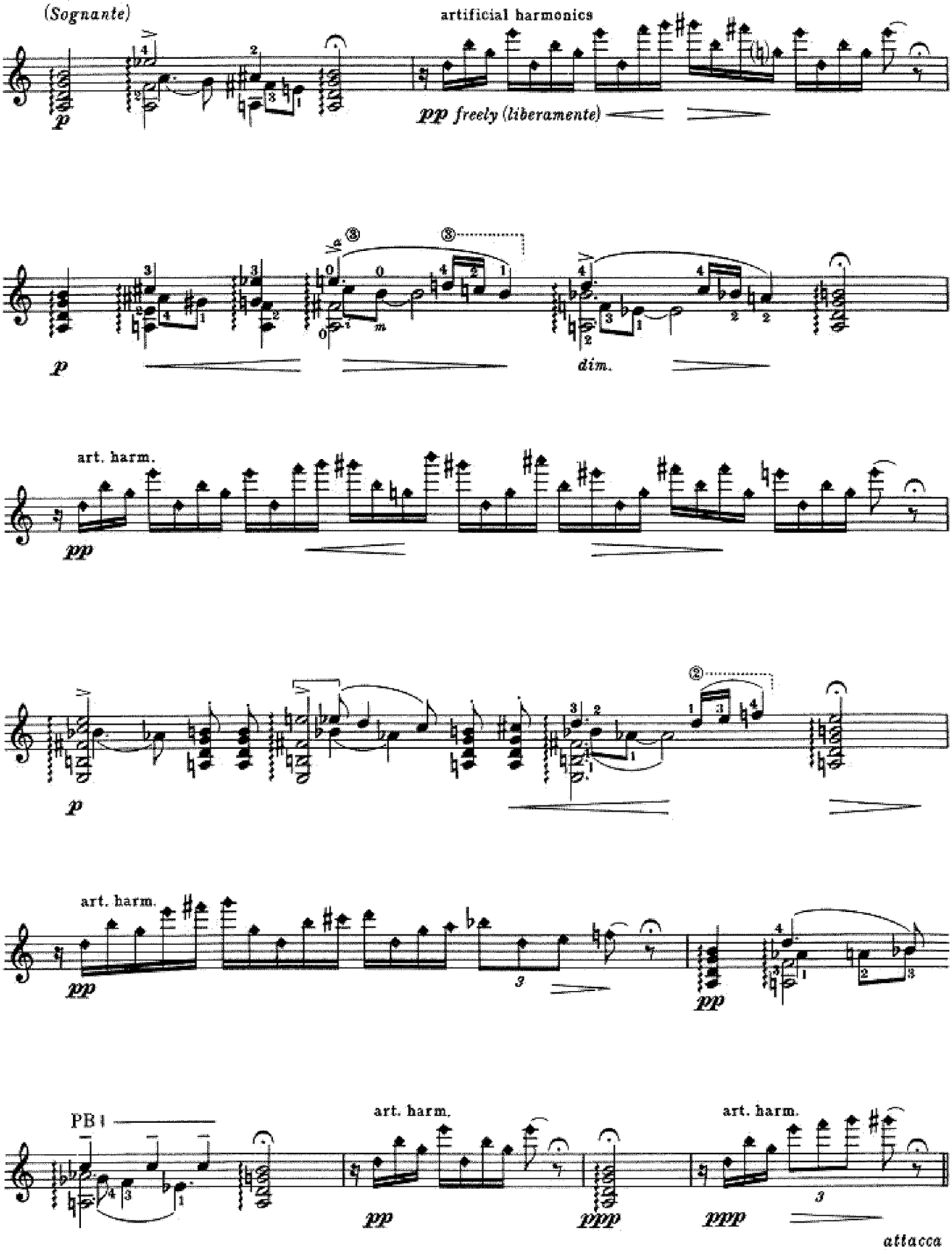
pp

ppp sul ponticello

attacca

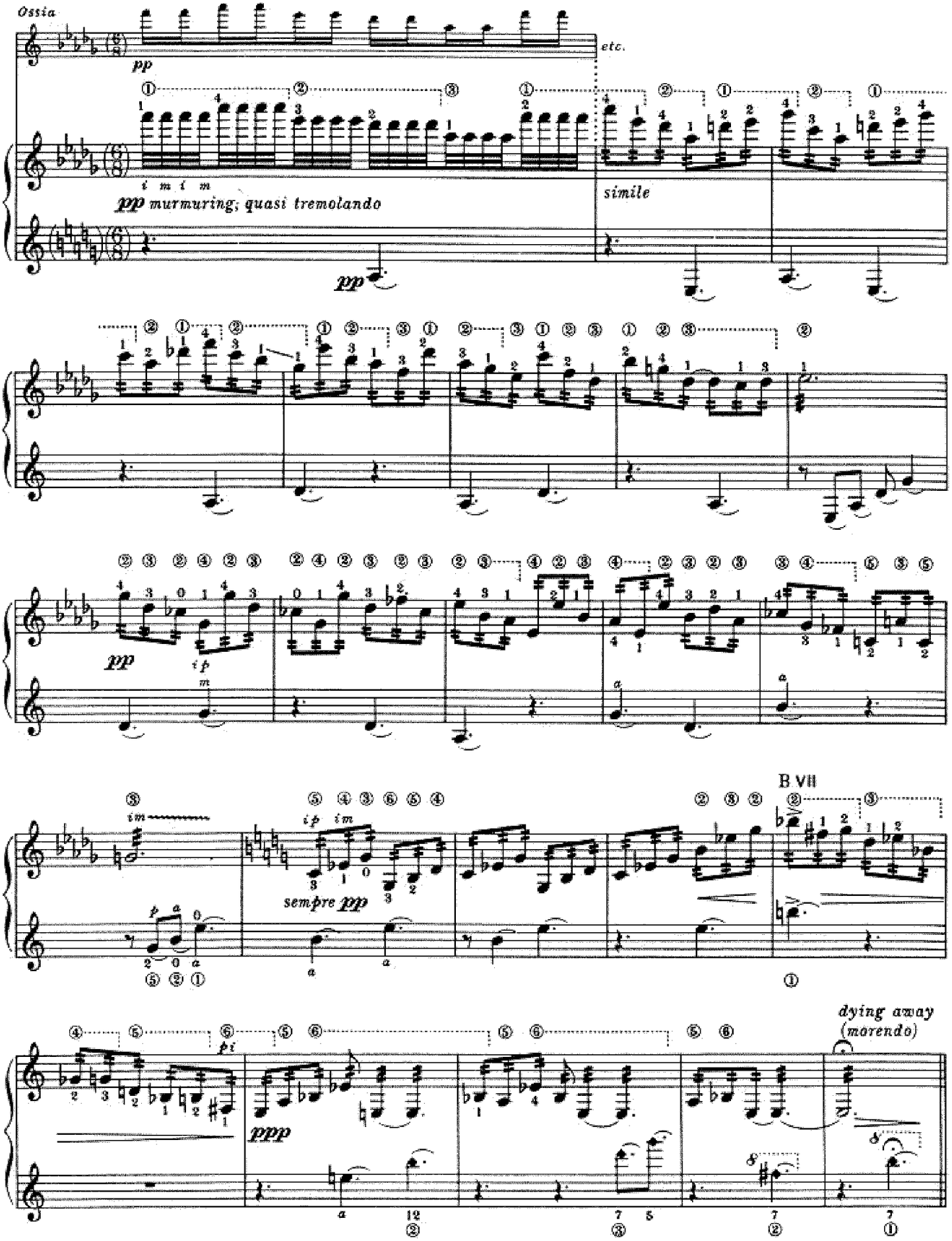
VI Dreaming (*slow* ♩)

(Sognante)

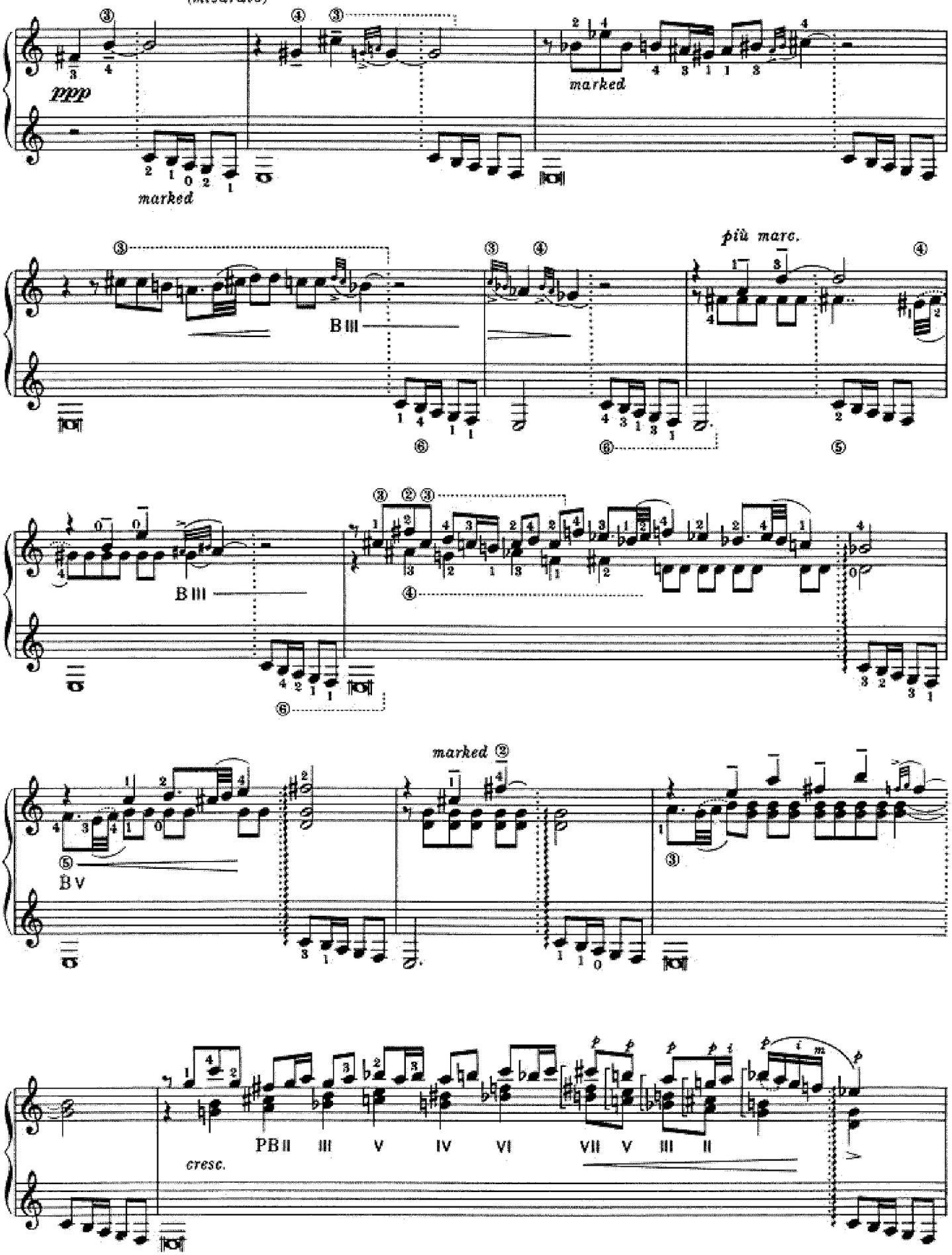


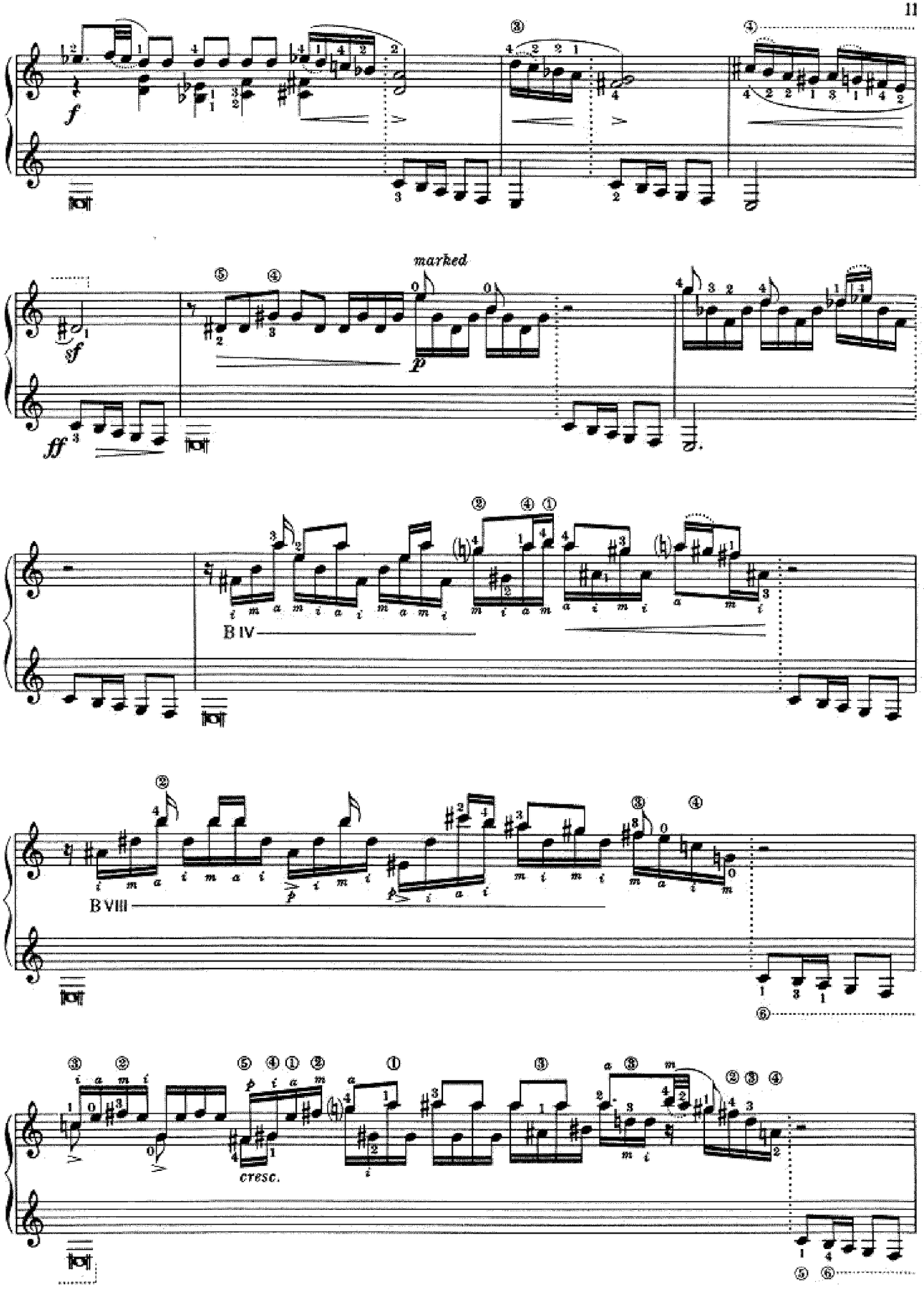
VII Gently rocking

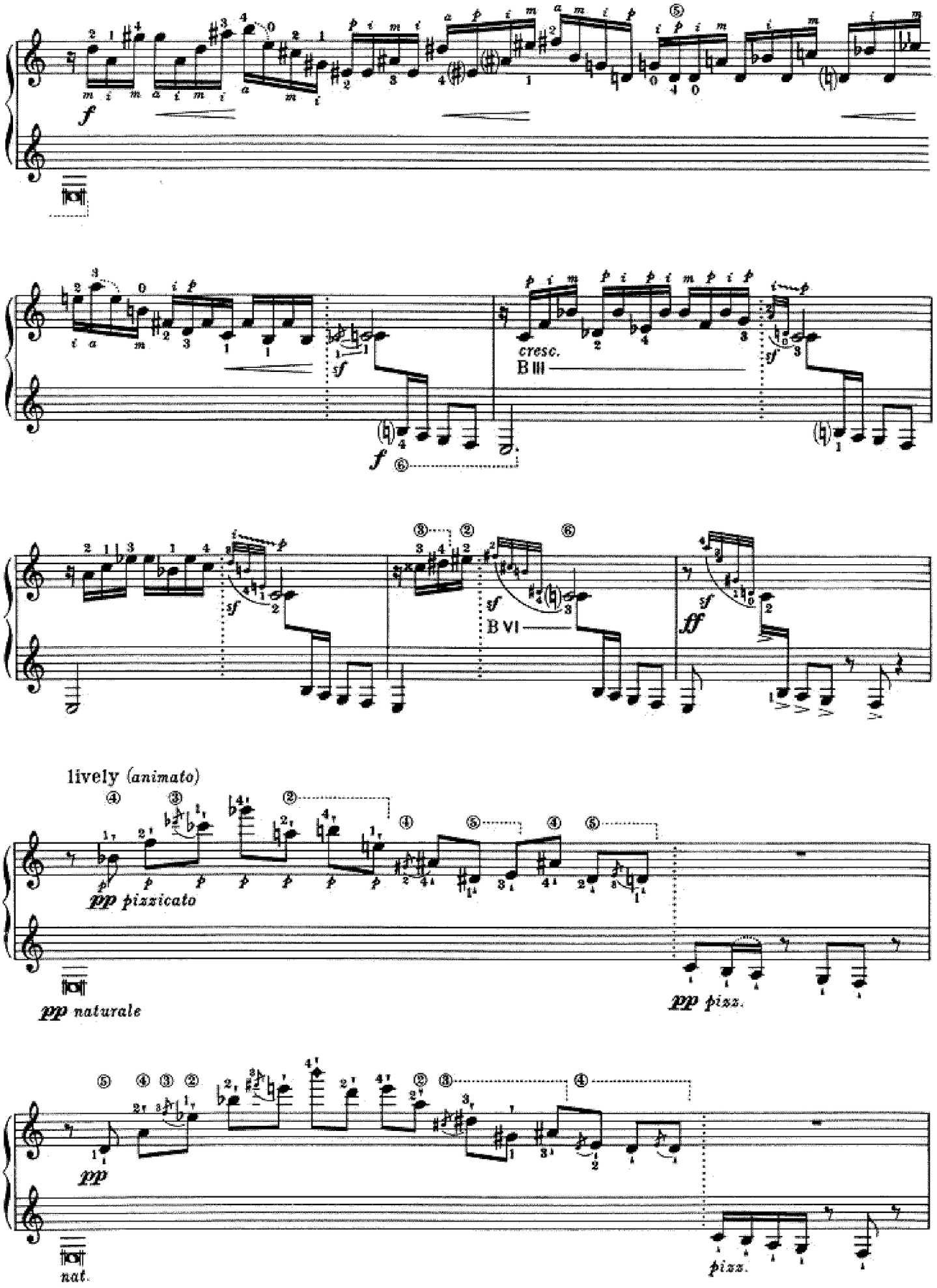
(Cullante)

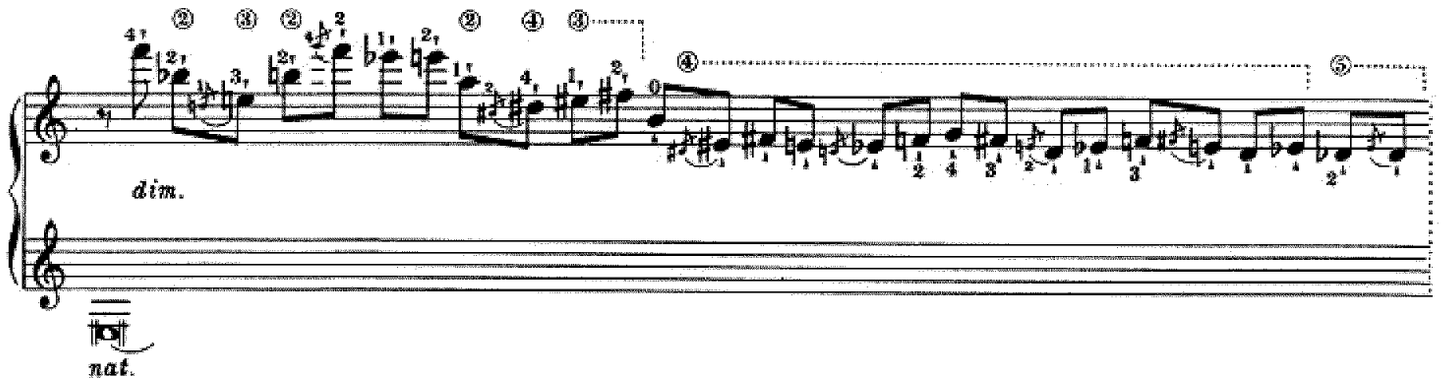


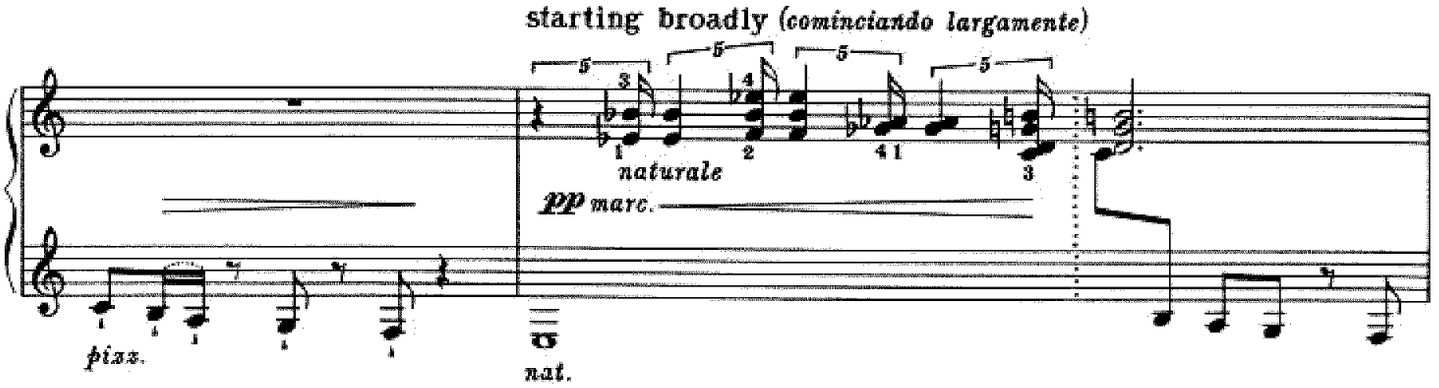
VIII Passacaglia *(measured)* *(misurato)*

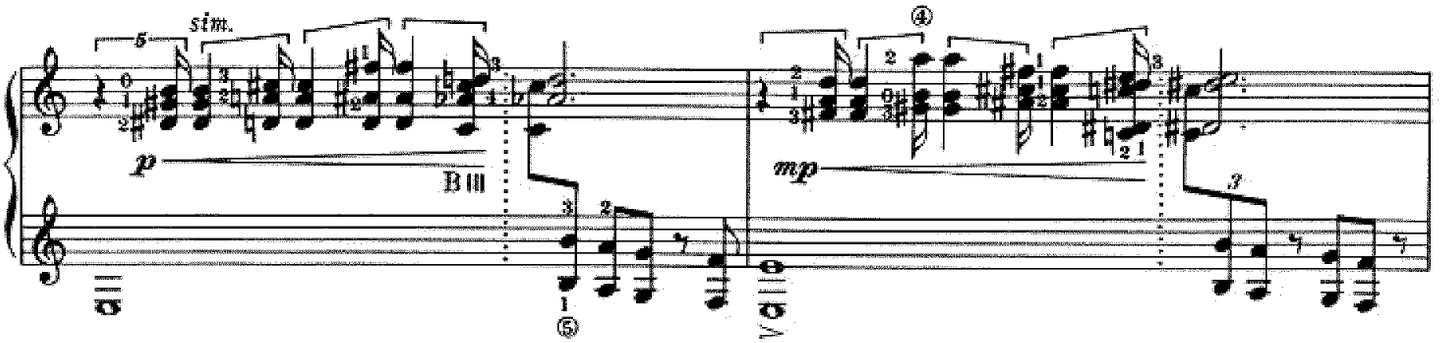


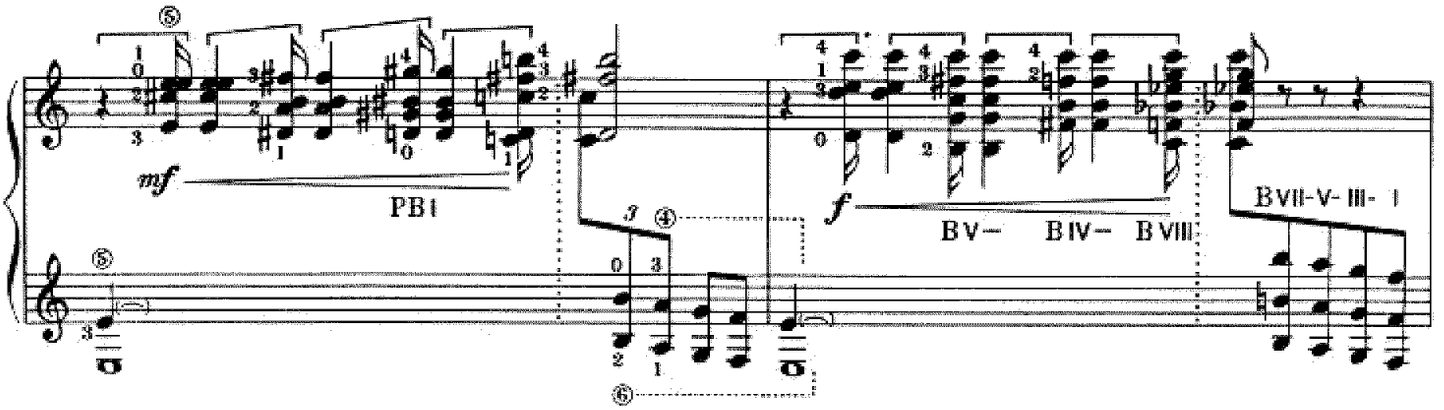

marked
B IV
B VIII
cresc.

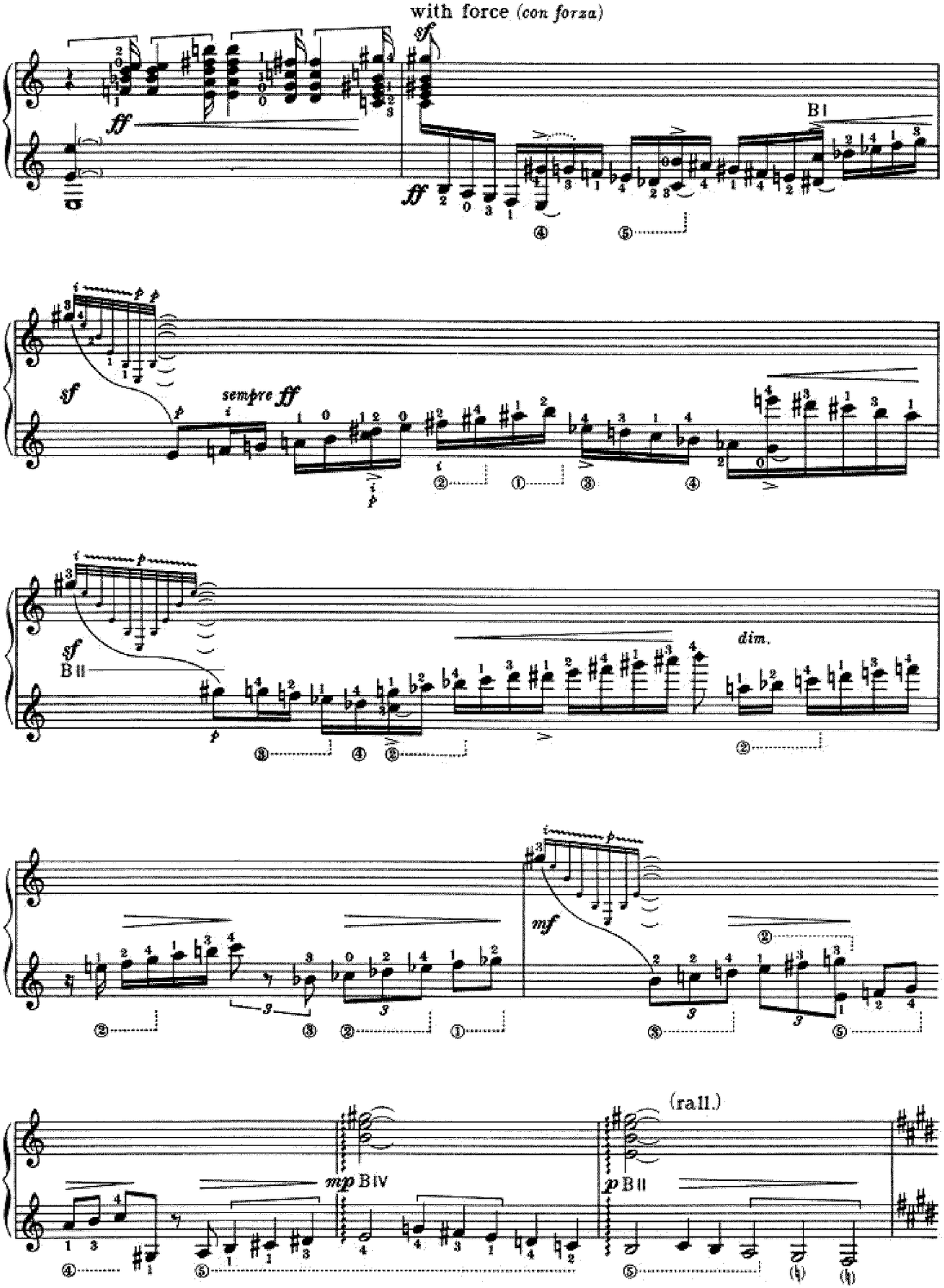

cresc.
B III
B VI
lively (animato)
pp pizzicato
pp naturale
pp pizz.
pp
nat.
pizz.

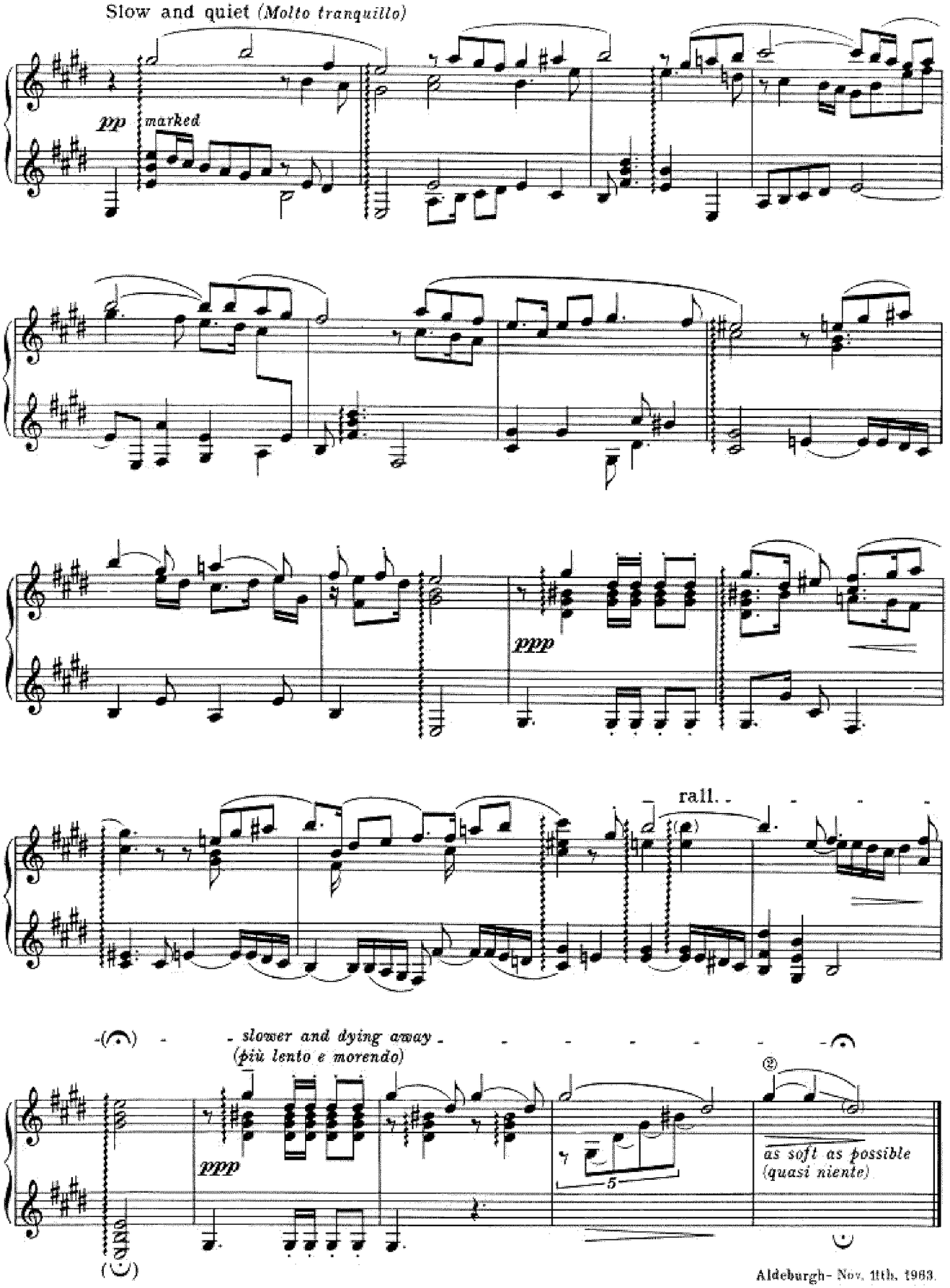

dim.
nat.


starting broadly (cominciando largamente)
naturale
pp marc.
piuz.
nat.


sim.
p
B III
mp


mf
PB I
f
B V–
B IV–
B VIII
B VII-V-III-I


with force (con forza)
sf
ff
B I
sempre ff
B II
dim.
mf
(rall.)
mp B IV
p B II



Aldeburgh- Nov. 11th. 1963.