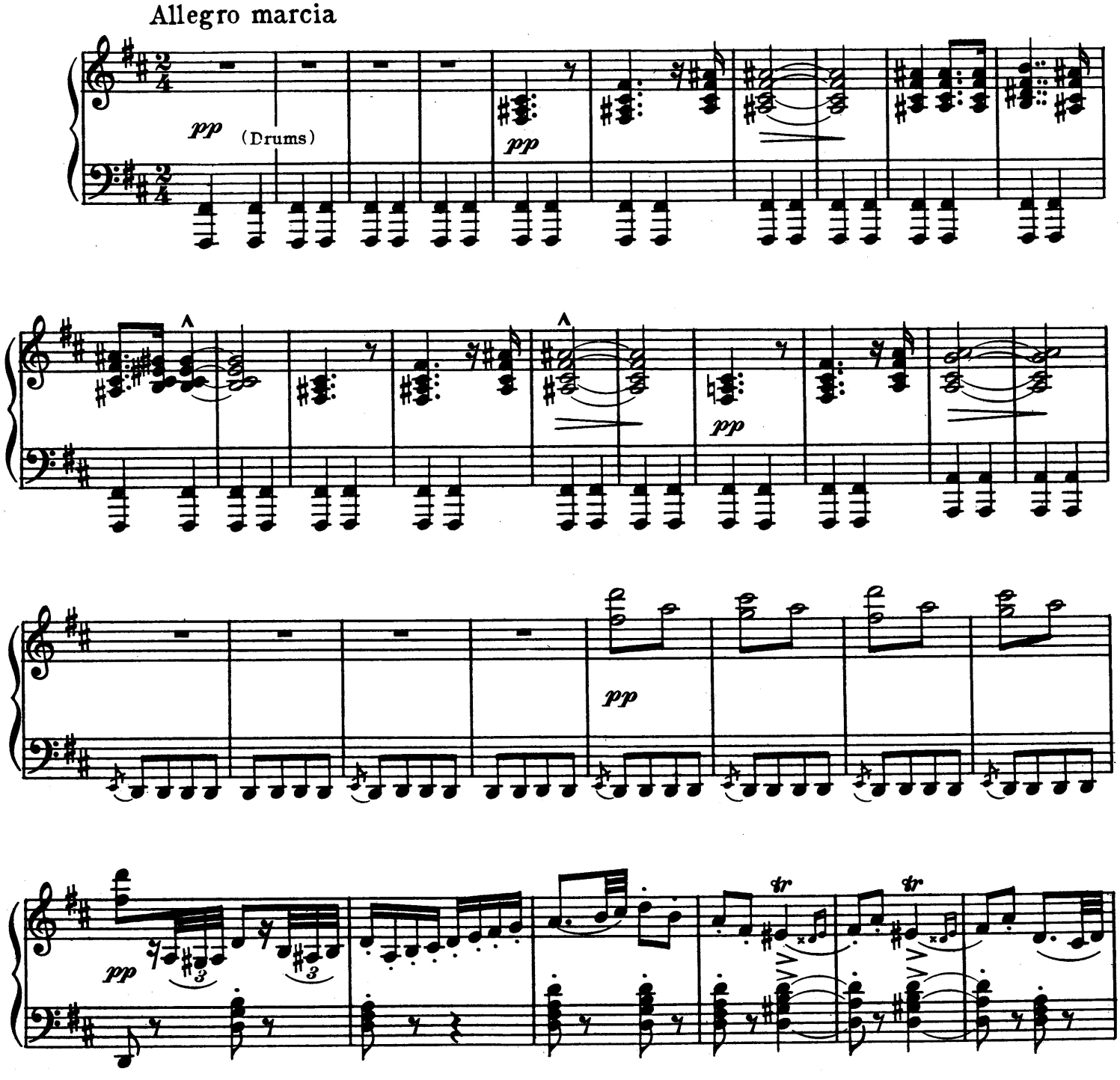
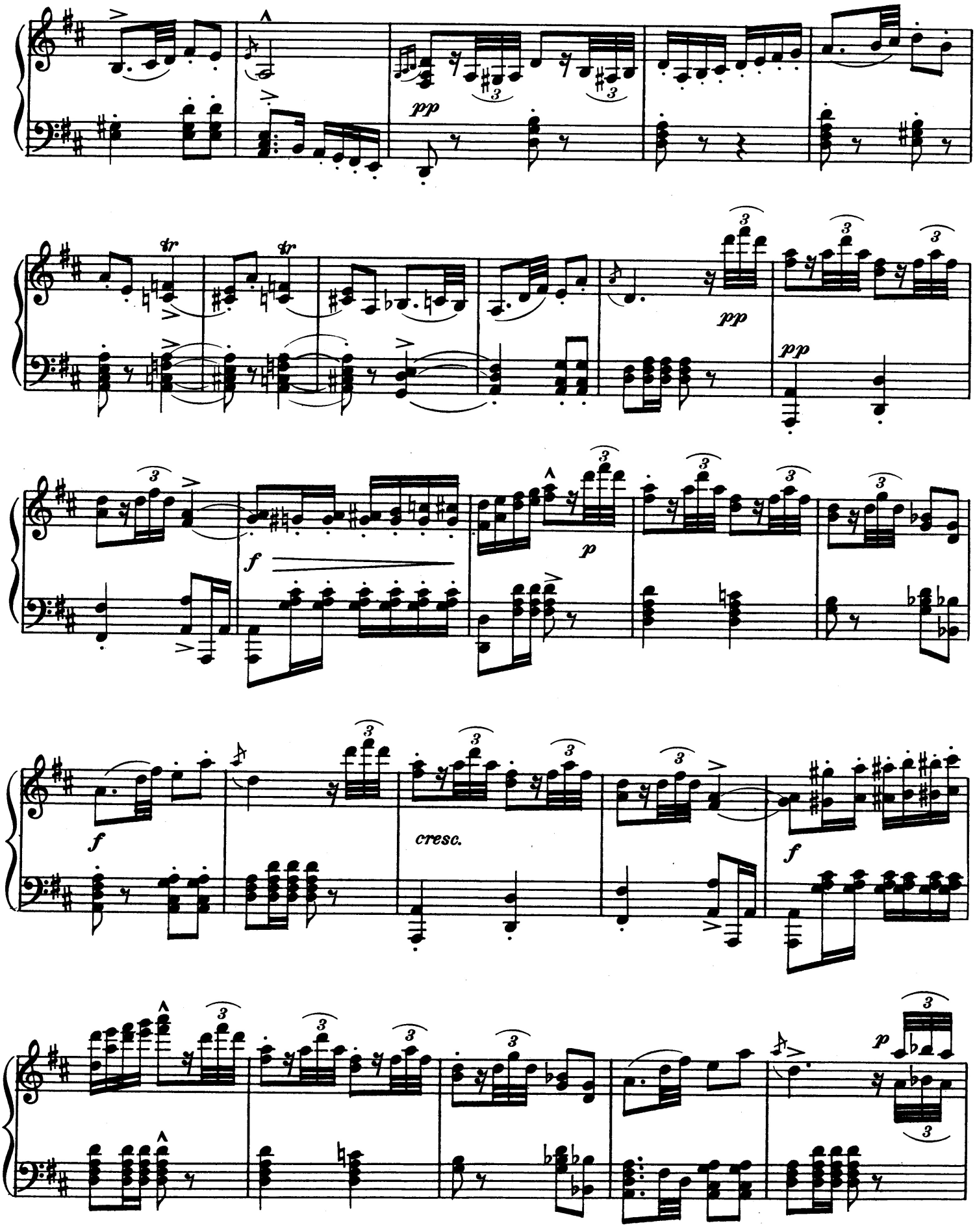
Marcha Al Torneo

Ruperto Chapi
1851-1909

The son of a barber in a small Spanish town, Ruperto Chapi revealed his talents for music at an early age; he had written a *Zarzuela* at seventeen. This extremely popular form of stage piece may be compared to a comic opera; it usually takes about an hour for performance, and three or four make up an evening's entertainment. He studied at the Conservatory of Madrid, and further at Rome. His first important works were operas, but, having discovered that his genius found more suitable expression in the lighter form, he wrote more than 150 *Zarzuelas*. The composition presented here is a movement from his "Moorish Fantasy"; the translation of the title is "Tournament March", describing the colorful scenes when medieval Moorish knights battled with each other before gatherings assembled from the ranks of royalty and fair ladies.

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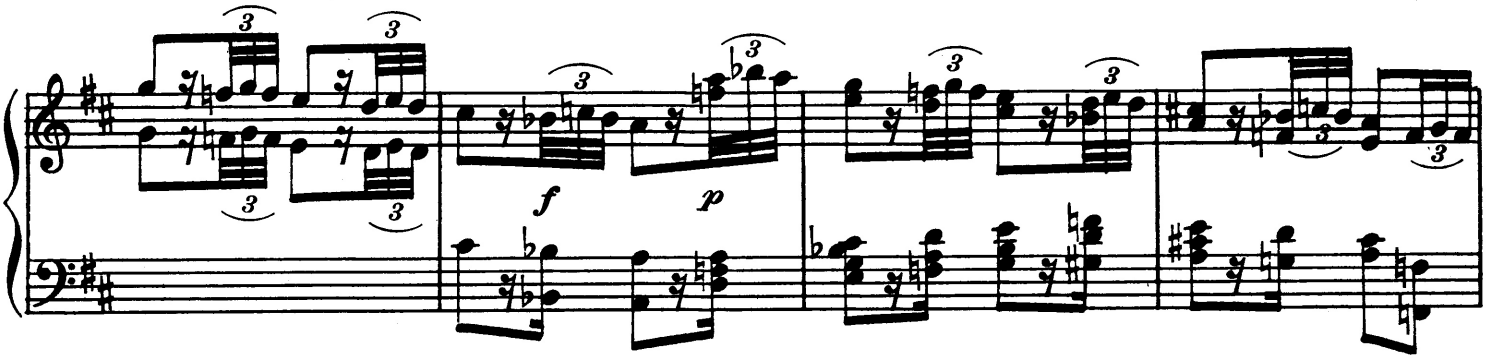
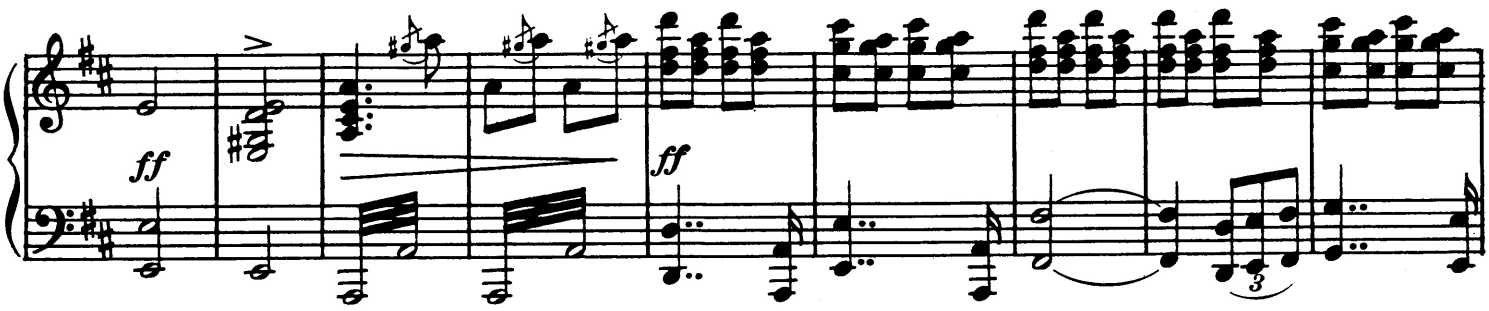
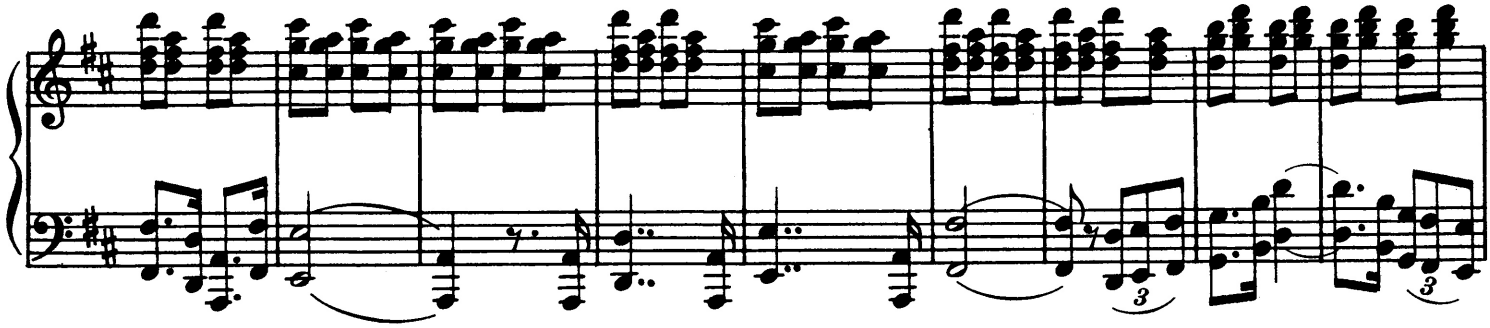
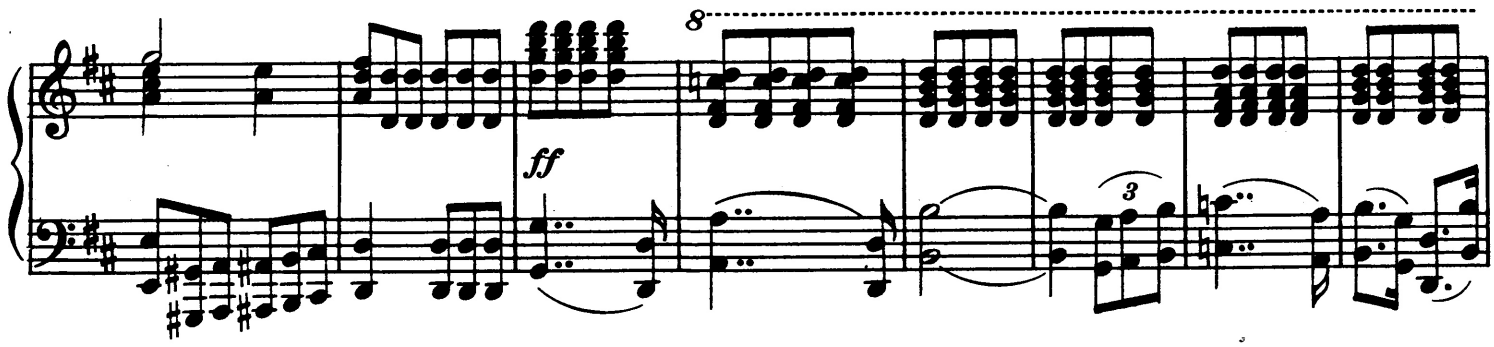
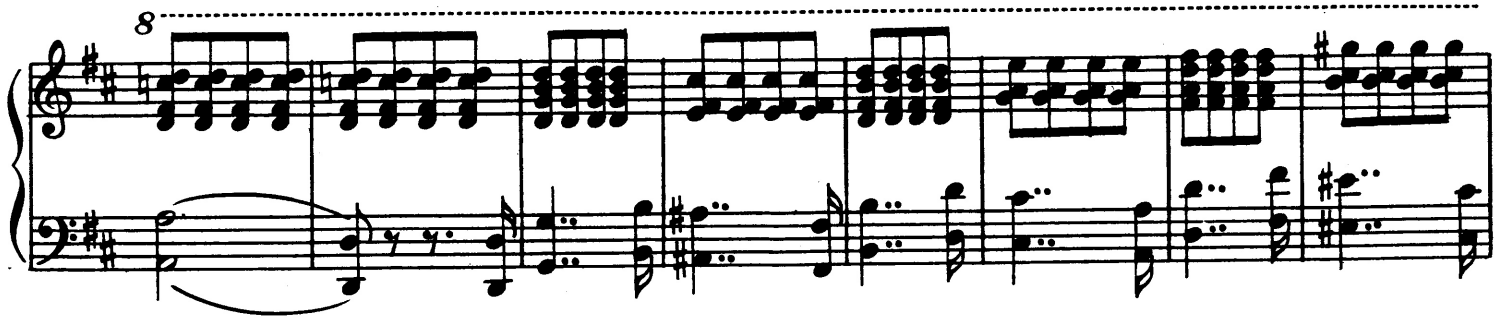


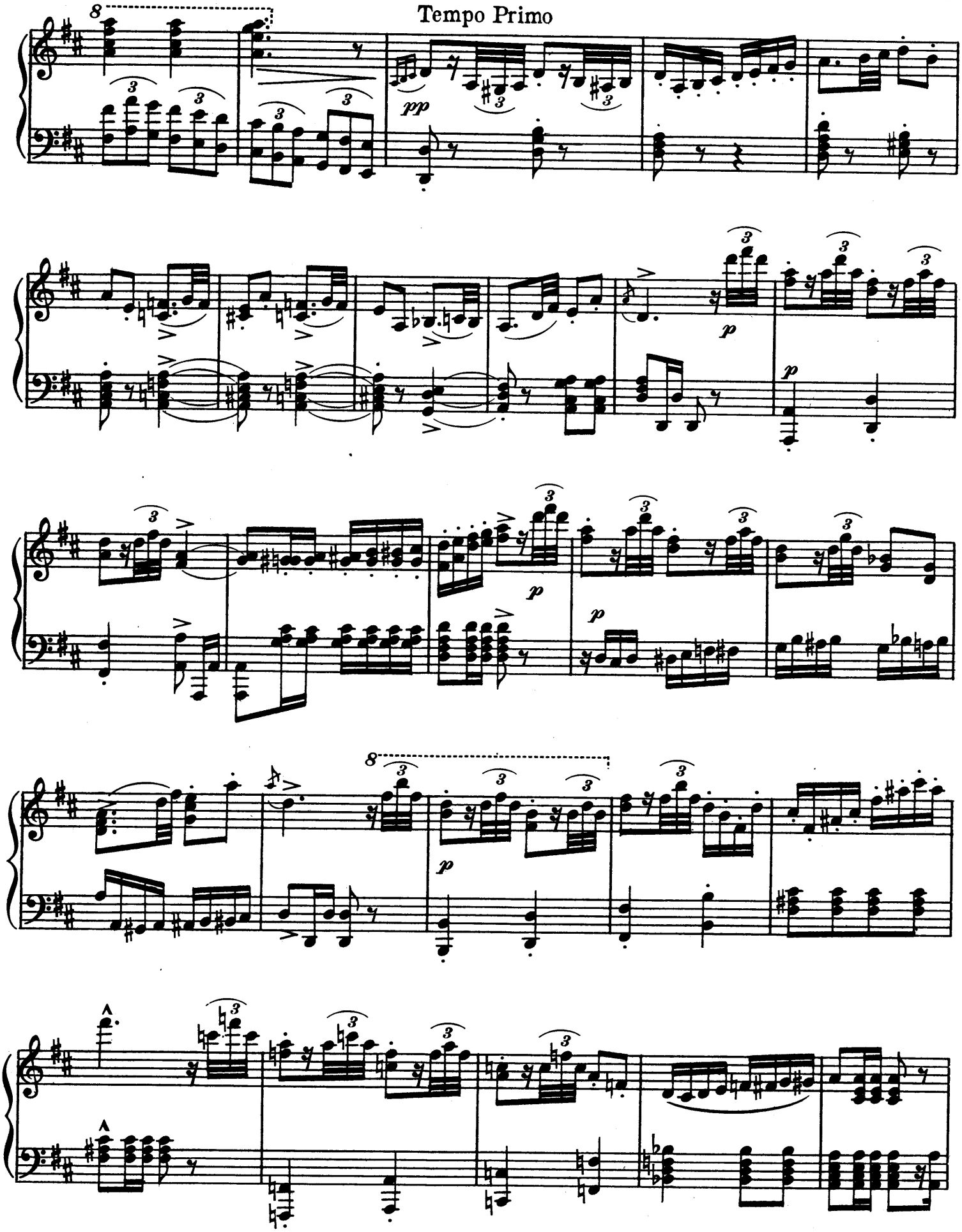
Poco Maestoso










Tempo Primo
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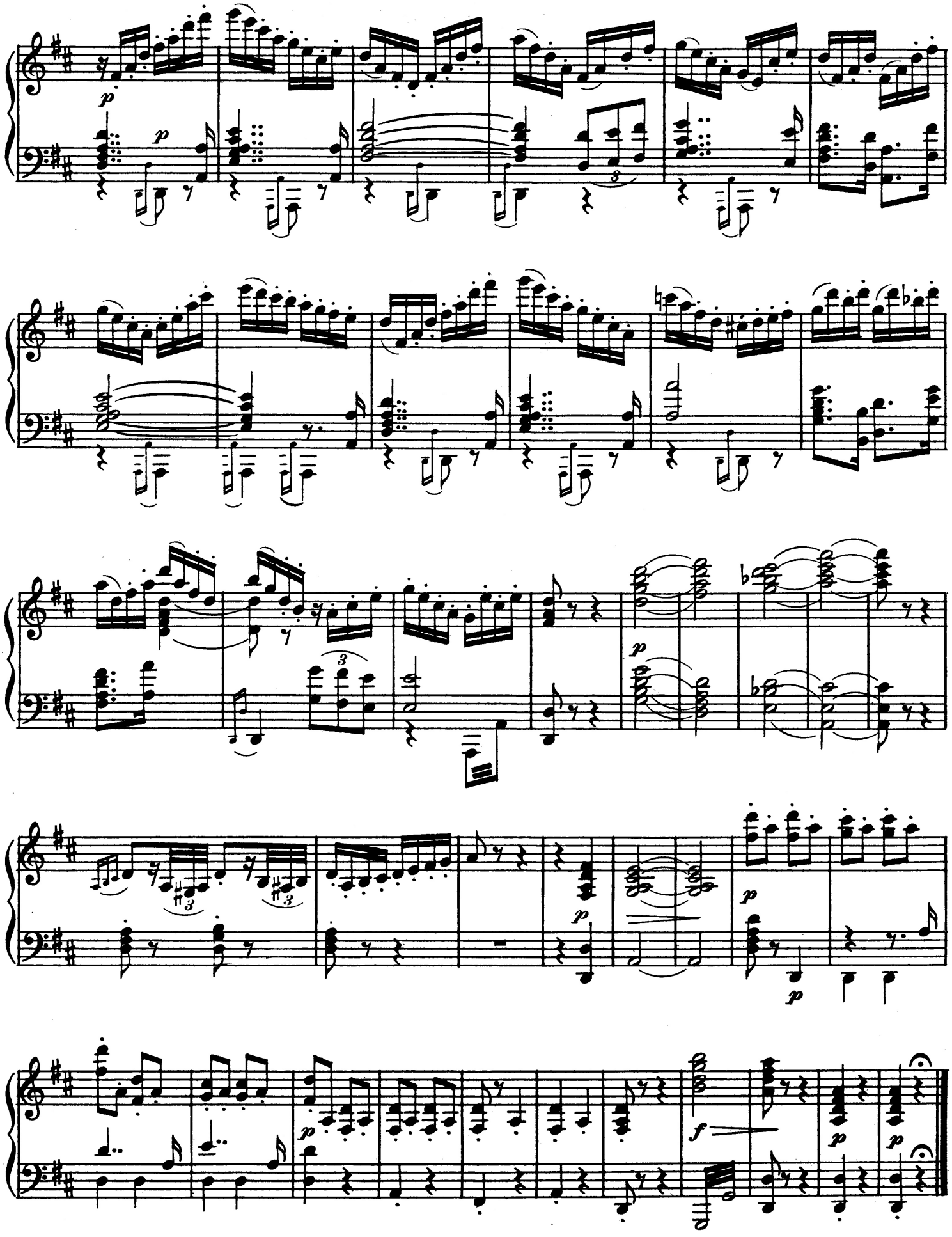
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