To my dear friends Rebeca Ordóñez and Esteban Barquero

JUAN GUERRA GONZÁLEZ

SENTIDOS

(Senses)

for Piano Solo

Iridiscencia

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SENTIDOS

(Senses)

I
Petricor

II
Cromestesia

III
Picante

IV
Repeluzno

V
Iridiscencia

El estreno mundial de esta obra fue interpretado por Rebeca Ordóñez Rodríguez el día 22 de Agosto, 2023 en la Sala María Clara Cullell de la Universidad de Costa Rica, Costa Rica.

The world premiere of "Sentidos" was performed by Rebeca Ordóñez Rodríguez on August 22nd, 2023 in the Sala María Clara Culell at the University of Costa Rica, Costa Rica, Central America.

Duración aproximada / Estimate playing time: **17'30"**

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Notas al programa
Sentidos

La obra recopila 5 piezas pequeñas para piano solo. Este trabajo es fruto de una comisión de la Dra. *Rebeca Ordóñez Rodríguez* y está dedicada con mucho cariño a ella y a su esposo el Dr. *Esteban Barquero*.

Nuestros sentidos nos ayudan a percibir la música de una forma única e individual. Los títulos de las piezas fueron tomados de palabras que se relacionan de alguna forma con uno (o más) de los cinco sentidos.

La obra pretende ser una invitación a escuchar música activamente, participando de conciertos en vivo y apoyando a sus artistas favoritos promoviendo su material y su trabajo.

I. ***Petricor***

Se define como el olor de la lluvia en suelos secos. La palabra en Español proviene de la adaptación del Inglés "Petrichor" y según la RAE su incorporación al diccionario académico está aún en estudio.

Este fenómeno es especialmente perceptible cuando llueve una cierta cantidad y la tierra ha estado seca; es sin duda un aroma penetrante que se graba en la memoria, especialmente en países tropicales en donde anuncia el fin de un periodo de sequía.

Cuando la Dra. Ordóñez me propuso usar este término para nombrar una de las partes quedé inmediatamente fascinado con la idea. El reto era representar la lluvia y el suelo seco a través de música, para ello, intenté recrear la atmósfera de la lluvia cayendo en distintas intensidades. Las armonías cerradas en combinación con el uso del pedal juegan un papel importante en la obra.

II. ***Cromestesia***

Se define como un tipo de sinestesia que hace percibir colores a quien escucha música.

El término "color" es también usado por músicos para referirse a un aspecto del timbre de un instrumento en particular.

En este movimiento predominan los acordes largos que van generando una sensación de intensidad y que permiten al oyente centrar su atención en el sonido que produce el piano y el movimiento de los acordes.

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Notas al programa
Sentidos

III. ***Picante***

De la gama de sabores que podemos percibir el picante ha sido siempre uno de los más intrigantes para mi. Su presencia se hace sentir sin ninguna duda estimulando nuestro paladar y enviando una sensación de calor al organismo (probablemente para alertarnos que debemos tener cuidado con lo que estamos comiendo)

La música, en una forma de tocata, pretende explorar la sensación de comer picante en un vaivén de sensaciones.

IV. ***Repeluzno***

Se define como un "*escalofrío leve y pasajero*" (Diccionario RAE)

La idea musical fue crear una pieza con un patrón rítmico minimalista y en su mayoría en el registro alto del piano en la que la dinámica y algunos pasajes "*sorpresa*" sirvan como elementos de interés.

V. ***Iridiscencia***

La Iridiscencia se define como un "*brillo radiante mostrado por la materia que produce un cambio de color dependiendo del ángulo de visión y de la iluminación.*"

La inspiración para esta pieza fue precisamente ver el reverso de un disco compacto desde varios ángulos, la música va moviéndose en círculos y transformándose sutilmente usando una o dos alteraciones diferentes explorando al mismo tiempo varias escalas diferentes.

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Program Note
Sentidos (Senses)

"Sentidos" (Senses) is a suite for piano solo in five movements. Each movement represents one (or more) of our senses. The piece was kindly commissioned by Dr. Rebeca Ordóñez and pretend to explore the way music is perceived by our senses and an invitation to actively listen to music and support your favorite musicians by promoting their work. The titles of the 5 movements were taken from words that relate to at least one of the senses.

I. Petricor (Petrichor)

Defined as the smell of the rain in dry soils. The word in Spanish comes from the adaptation of the word "Petrichor". According to the RAE (Real Academia de la lengua Española) it's incorporation to the [spanish] dictionary is currently being studied. The phenomenon is especially present when it rains after a period of dryness. This "aroma" is very penetrating and you can experience it mostly in tropical countries.

When Rebeca proposed this title for one of the movements I became fascinated with the idea. In the music, you will be able to hear the rain as it falls over dry soil at different intensities. The use of the pedal is vital for that purpose.

II. Cromestesia (Chromesthesia)

It is a type of synesthesia that makes you perceive colors while listening to music. In music, the term "color" is also used to talk about the timbre of a particular instrument.

In this movement, large chords pretend to create a sensation of intensity that will allow the listener to focus their attention on the sound from the chords and the harmonics they produce.

III. Picante (Spicy)

Spicy flavor is for sure one of the most interesting ones for me. The presence of chilies in foods is always noticeable. Chilies stimulate our taste buds sending a heat sensation to our entire body. The music, in the form of a Toccata, tries to explore the experience of eating different types of chilies.

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Program Note
Sentidos (Senses)

IV. Repeluzno (Nervous shiver*)

It is defined as a quick "chill" according to the RAE. The musical idea was to write a piece over a minimalistic pattern using the high register of the piano. Dynamics and "surprise" elements will serve to create interest and contrast.

V. Iridiscencia (Iridescence)

It is defined as a "radiant and bright shine from surfaces that could change depending on the angle of vision". The inspiration from this piece came from watching the reverse of a compact disc from multiple angles. The music moves in circles and will be subtly transformed using one or two alterations at a time.

Juan Guerra González

** Not an actual translation, free interpretation.*

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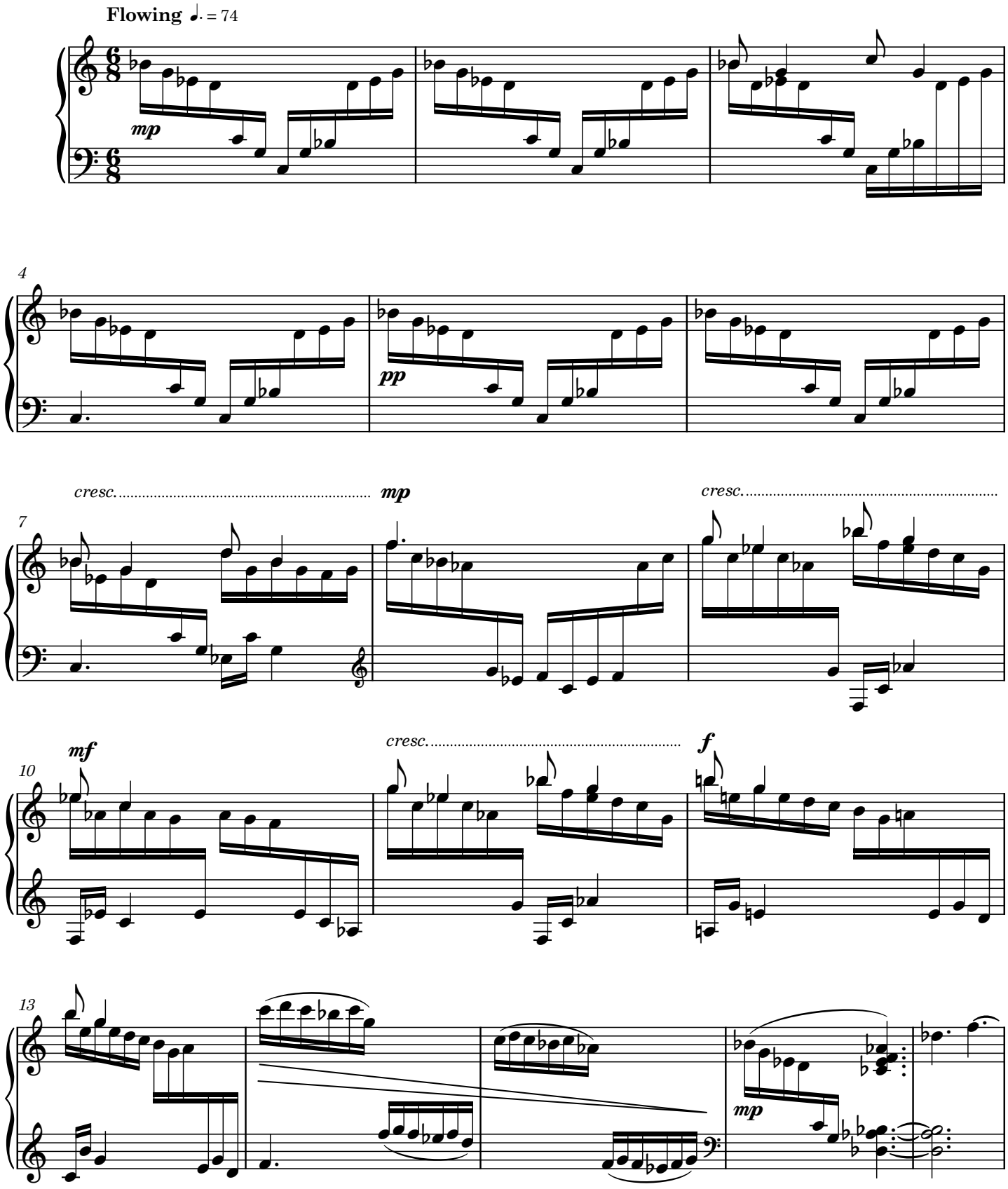
V. Iridiscencia



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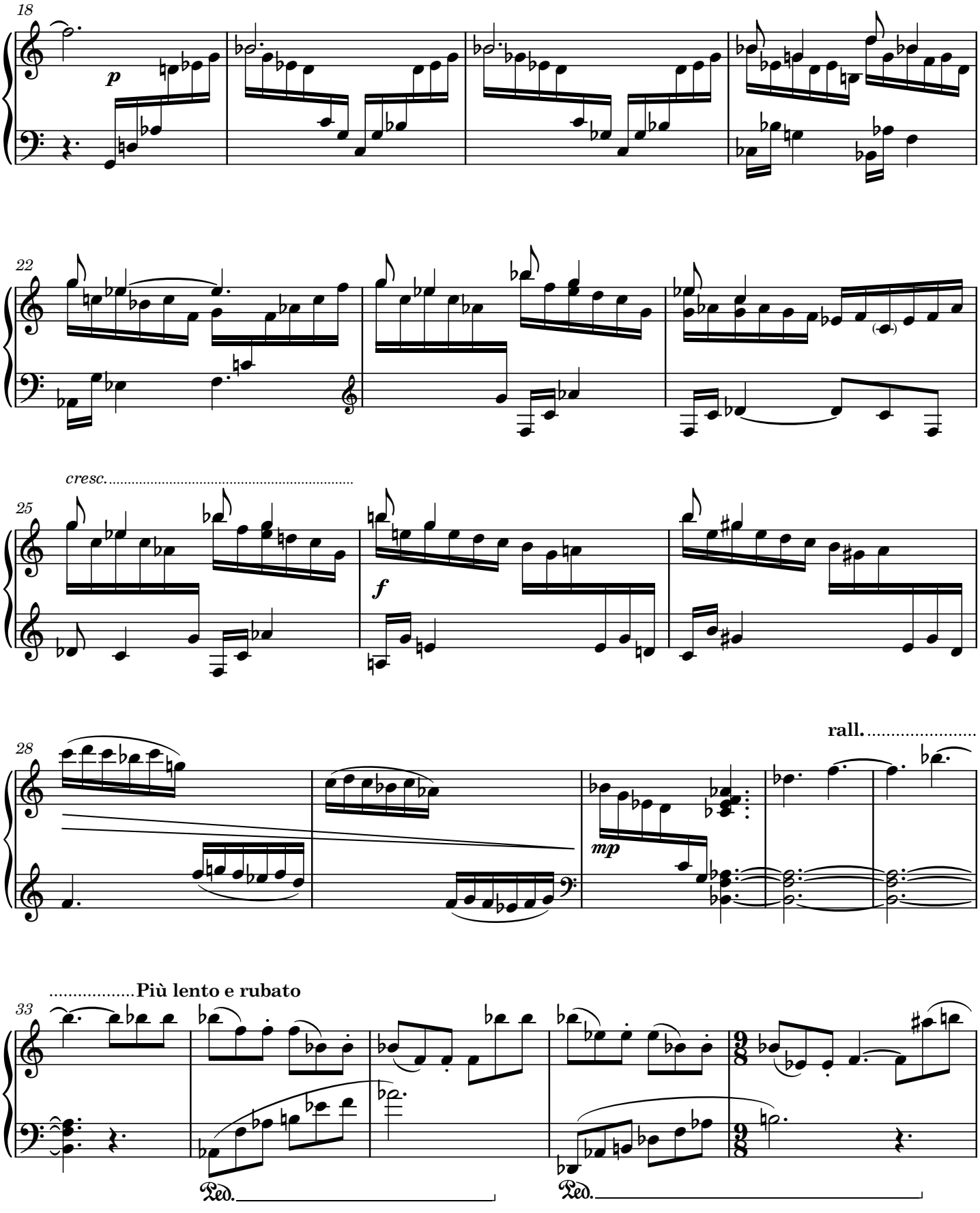

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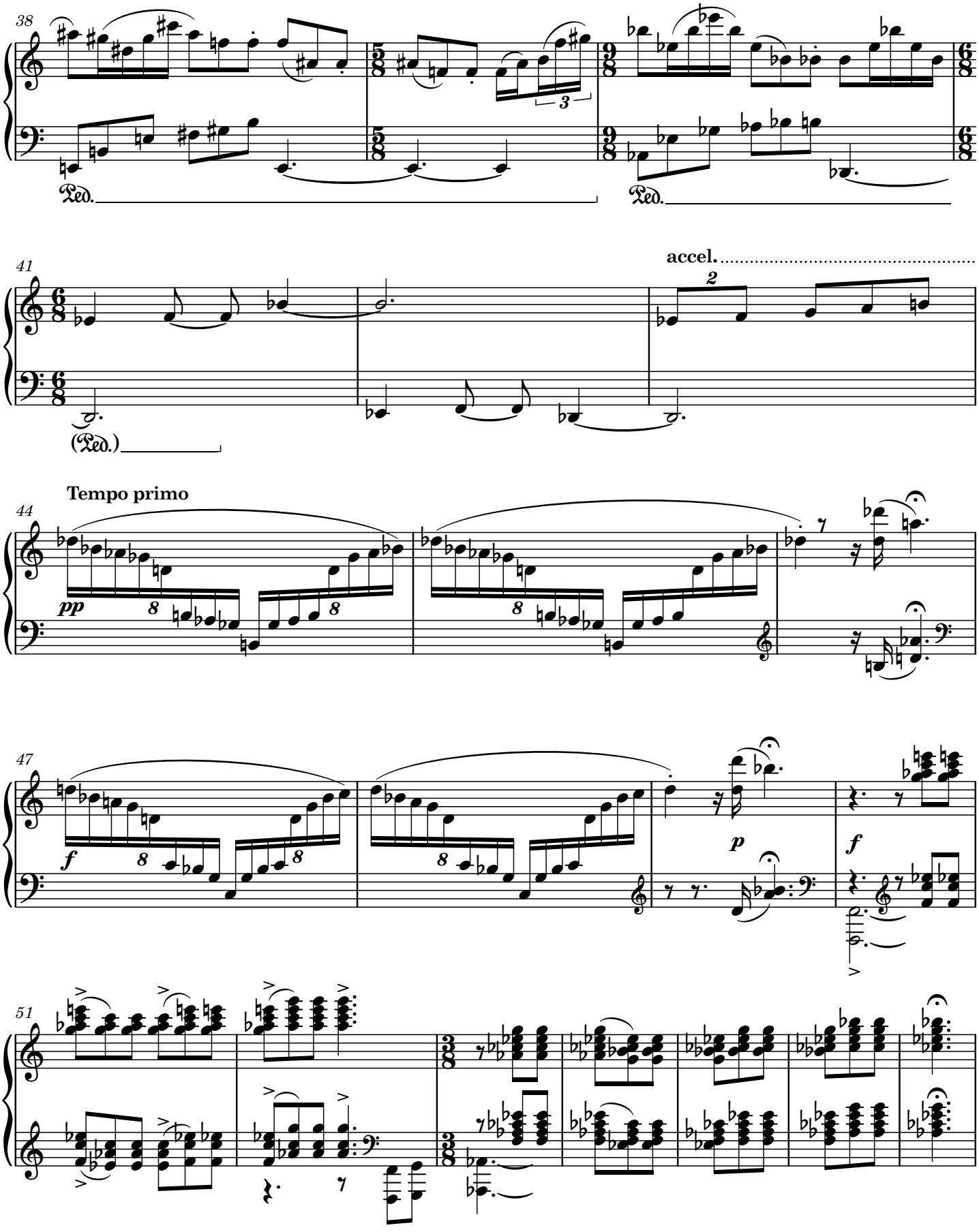

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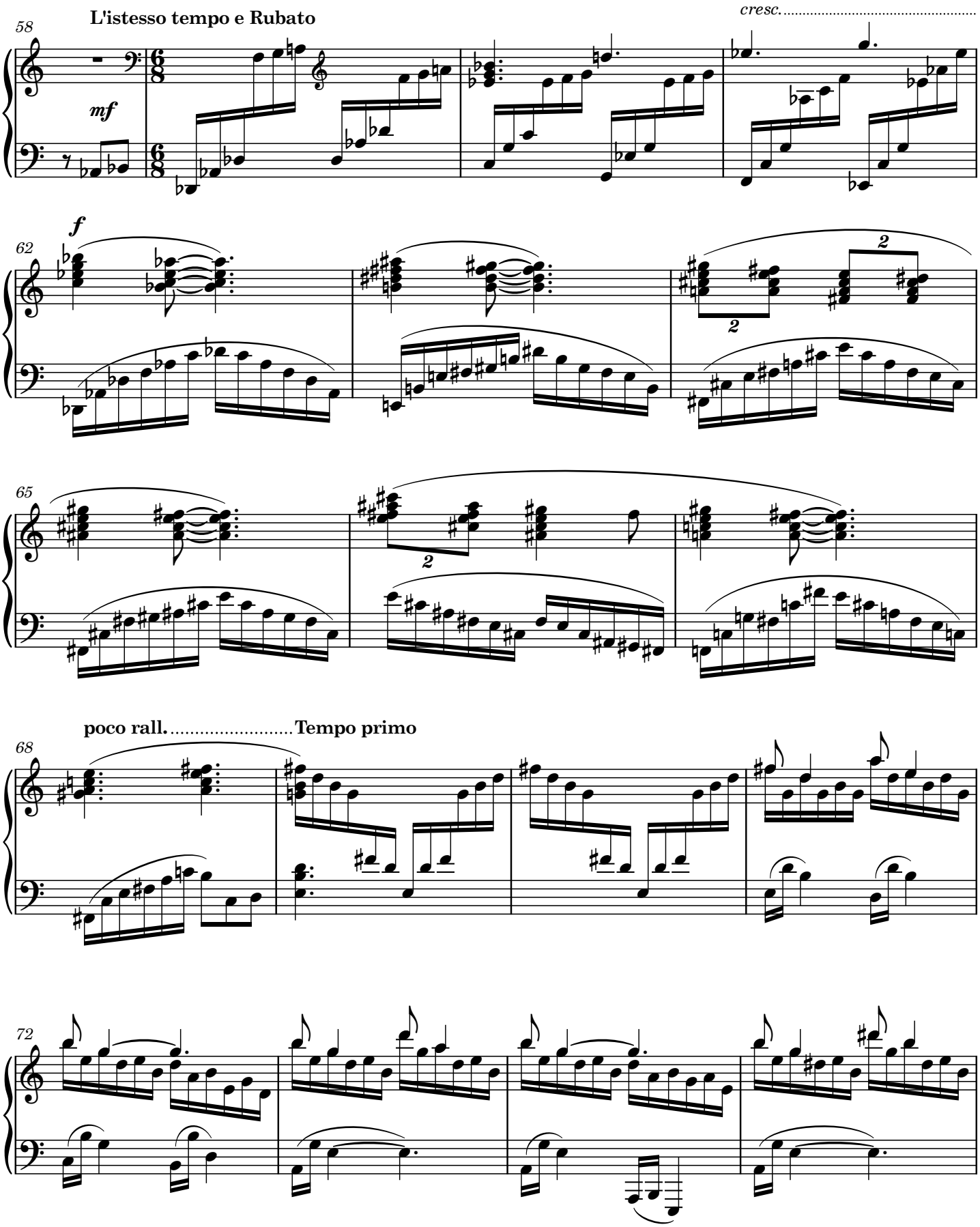

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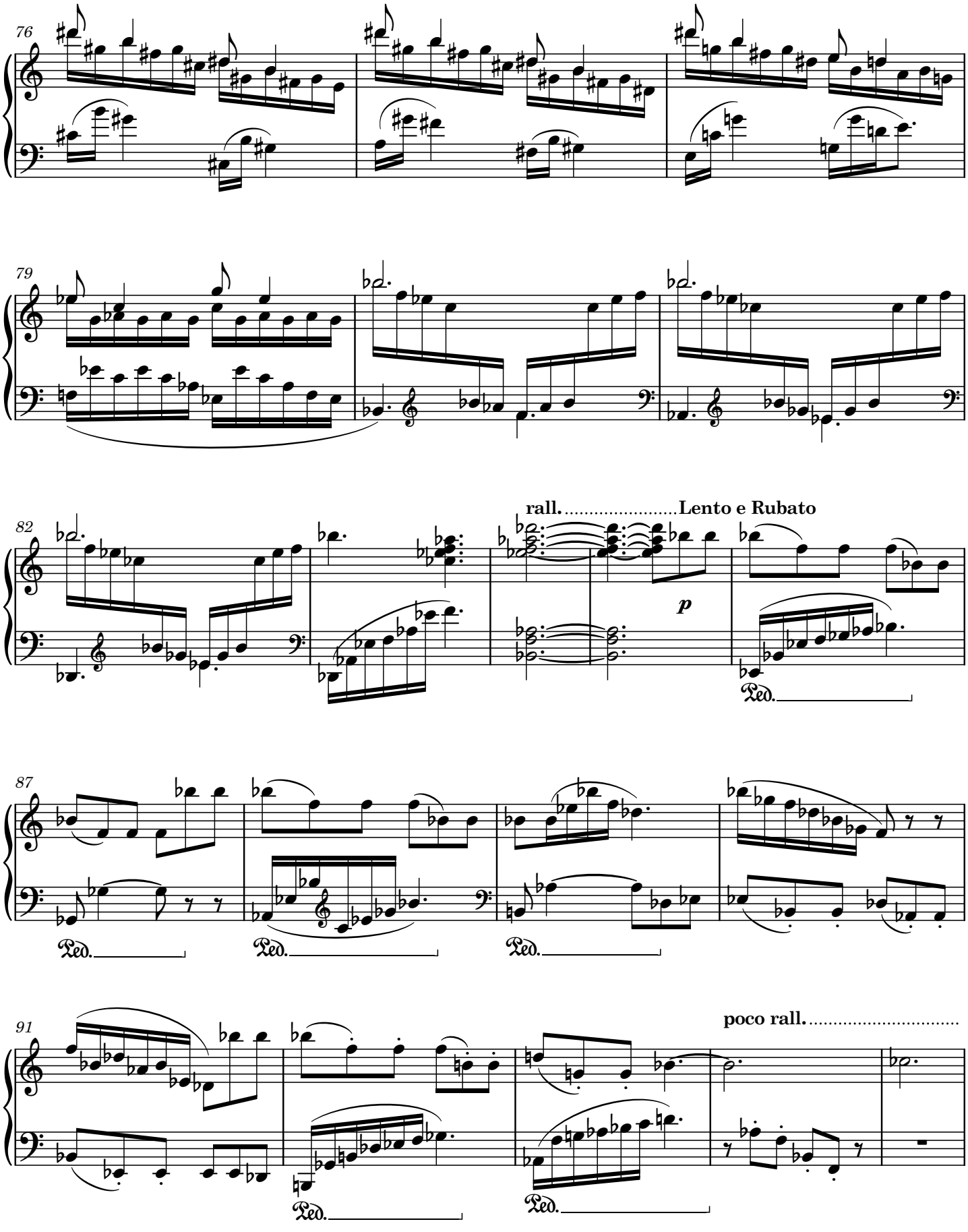

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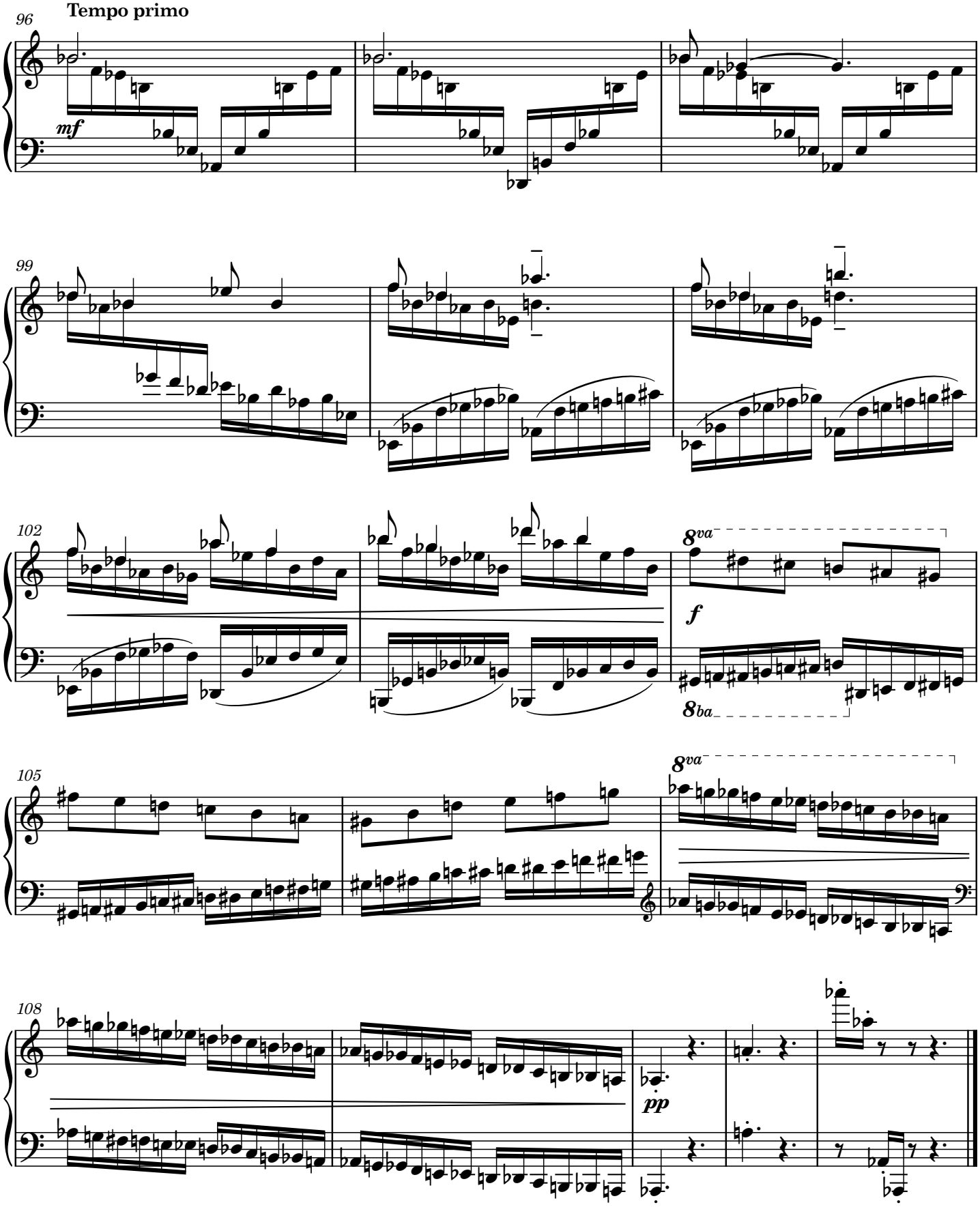

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Juan Guerra González

Bio

Juan Guerra González is a Salvadoran Composer, Coductor, and Pianist.

.Juan started his musical journey with his mother at age 4. He eventually studied piano and conducting with Dr. Joseph Karl Doetsch and composition with Dr. Ivette Herryman Rodríguez.

He worked as Conductor of the EJE-EPRE Choir (1998-2009), Assistant Conductor and Pianist of the National Choir of El Salvador (2002-2009), Conductor of the IPSFA Choir (2004-2009), Assistant Conductor and Pianist of the Choir of Dr. José Matías Delgado University (2005-2009). He also worked as accompanist for the most prominent opera singers in his native El Salvador.

Juan's growing catalog includes pieces for solo instruments, chamber, orchestral works, song cycles, choir, and wind symphony bands.

Recognition in competitions includes second place in the piano competition at Colegio Salesiano Santa Cecilia (1997), 2nd Place in the Composition Competition organized by the Pan American Symphony Orchestra, Washington, D.C. ("Munamiktia," 2019), and First Place in the Composition Competition "Sonidos de la Diáspora" ("Migrando…," 2022) organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador.

The album "Healing - The music of Juan Guerra González," recorded by pianist Rebeca Ordóñez and violinist Johan Chapellín can be streamed on all major platforms. Also, his work "Ritual" for chamber ensemble has been included in the album "Sonidos Imaginados" performed by the Banda de Conciertos de San José under Eddie Mora Bermúdez.

Juan is passionate about sound's effect on emotions and continues to work toward creating pieces that generate a positive experience for listeners.

Juan is also a member of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP)

For more information, please visit www.juancarlosguerra.com

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