Errata

for solo piano

Ryan Carter

(2010)

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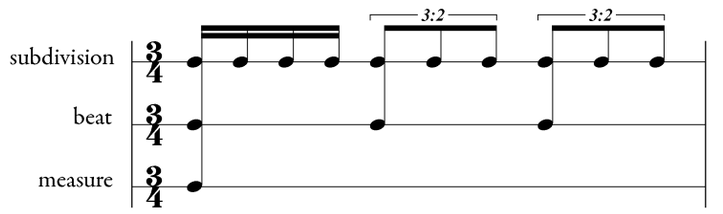
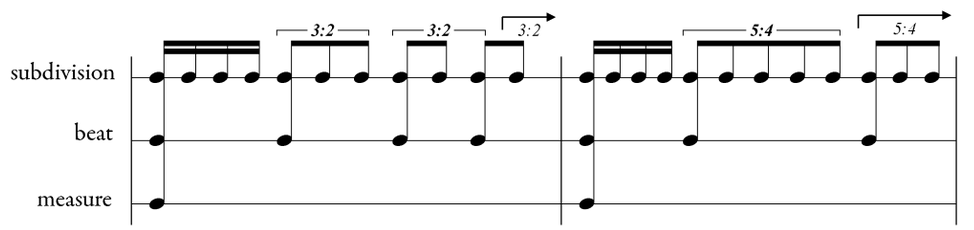
A note on meter:

Traditional meter is organized hierarchically, typically with three levels of rhythmic emphasis within a measure:



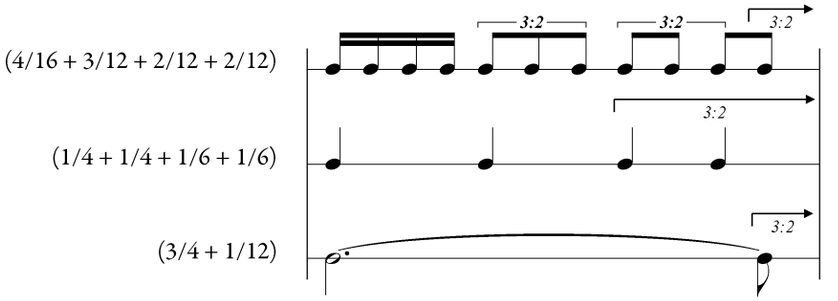
The traditional time signature 3/4 implies that the downbeat is accented, beats 2 and 3 carry weaker accents, and the remaining subdivisions are unaccented.

Meter in *Errata* (up to m. 127) operates in the same manner, but with irregularities at all three levels, for example:



The downbeat of every measure carries an implicit strong accent. Each beam group implies a weaker accent. For this reason, triplets are beamed variably in groups of two or three. Additionally, tuplets are often truncated (normally at the end of a measure), as indicated by an arrow pointing to the right.

A number of notational solutions exist for the so-called "irrational meters" that result. The measures above could be notated as 3/4 + 1/12 and 3/4 + 3/10 (reflecting the total duration of each measure), but this ignores the internal organization of each meter. More accurate time signatures may be expressed as 1/4 + 1/4 + 1/6 + 1/6 and 1/4 + 1/2 + 3/10 (reflecting the beat structure of the measure), or 4/16 + 3/12 + 2/12 + 2/12 and 4/16 + 5/10 + 3/10 (representing every subdivision), but such notation is cumbersome, visually disruptive, and entirely redundant.



Errata does not contain any time signatures because all pertinent metrical information can be gleaned from the music itself.

Performance notes:

No pedal should be used except where indicated.

Ped. ——————⌋ = depress and hold damper pedal for duration indicated

sost. - - - - - - - - ⌋ = depress and hold sostenuto pedal for duration indicated

Ped. ——————→ = depress and continuing holding damper pedal

sost. - - - - - - - → = depress and continuing sostenuto damper pedal

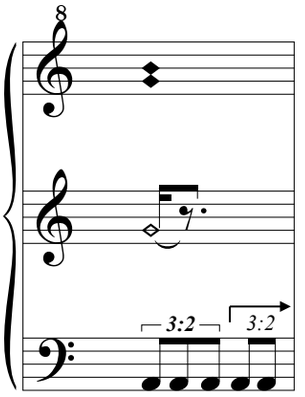
(Ped.) = reminder to not use damper pedal

(Ped.) ——————→ = reminder to continue holding damper pedal

(sost.) - - - - - - → = reminder to continue holding sostenuto pedal

(Ped.) . . . . . ⌋ = slowly release damper pedal

(sost.) . . . . . ⌋ = slowly release sostenuto pedal



= filled diamond noteheads with no stems indicate to silently depress keys and hold with sostenuto pedal

= open diamond noteheads indicate notes held by sostenuto pedal, which will resonate after being released. The tie is sometimes omitted to avoid clutter or confusion.

= truncated tuplet

Until the last page, every staff system contains three staves: the top is always played one octave higher.

Accidentals carry through the end of the measure until m. 127; after m. 127, accidentals affect only the notes they precede.

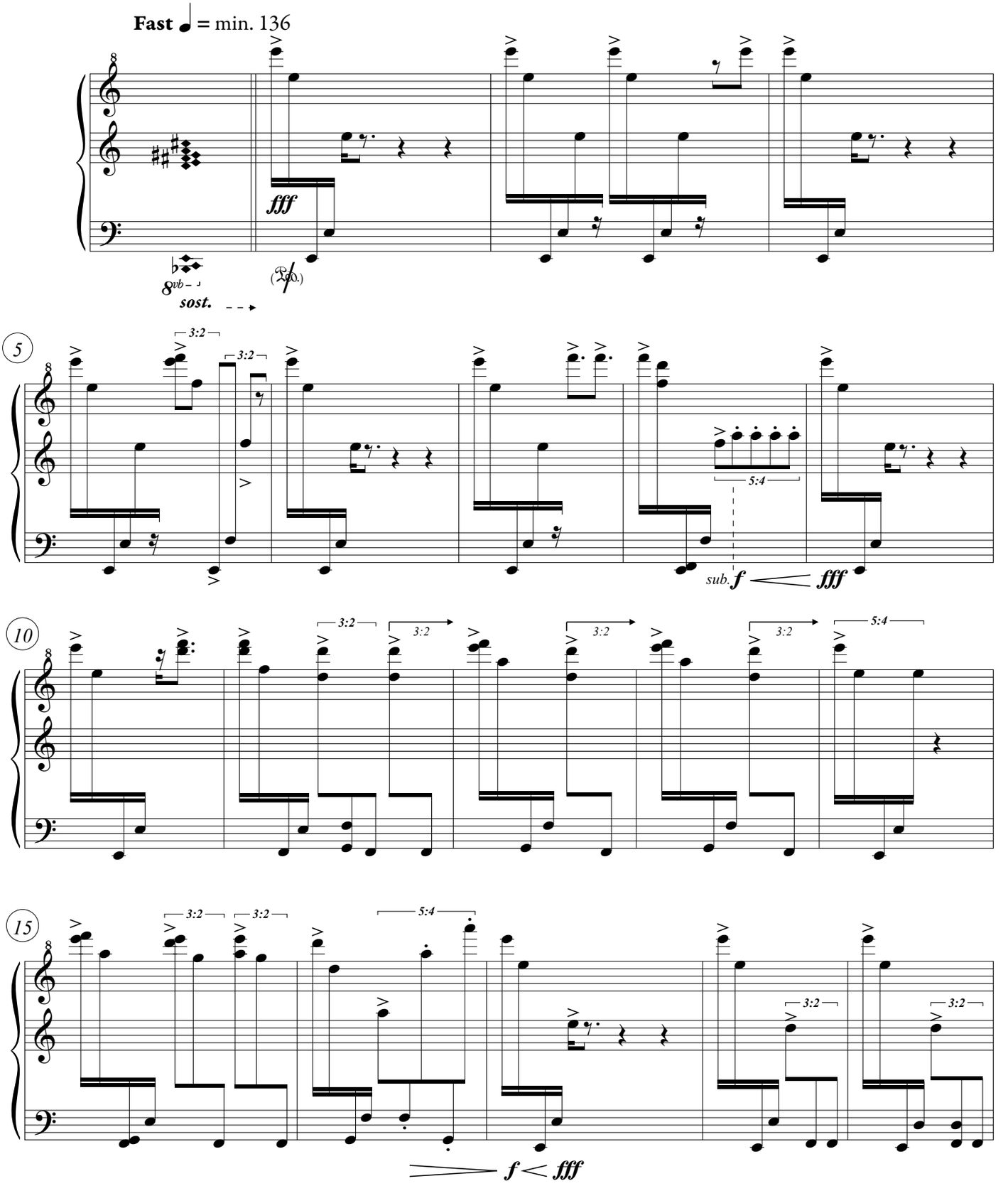
Notes on the piece:

I can't play this piece. My primary instrument is piano, but primarily I compose. These days, I play for myself, by myself, for the sheer joy of playing (and I make a lot of mistakes). *Errata* is an attempt to publicly correct these mistakes. Musical material is transformed by my own inability to play it, then reorganized into a (hopefully) more musically compelling result.

Errata

for Emanuele Torquati

Ryan Carter



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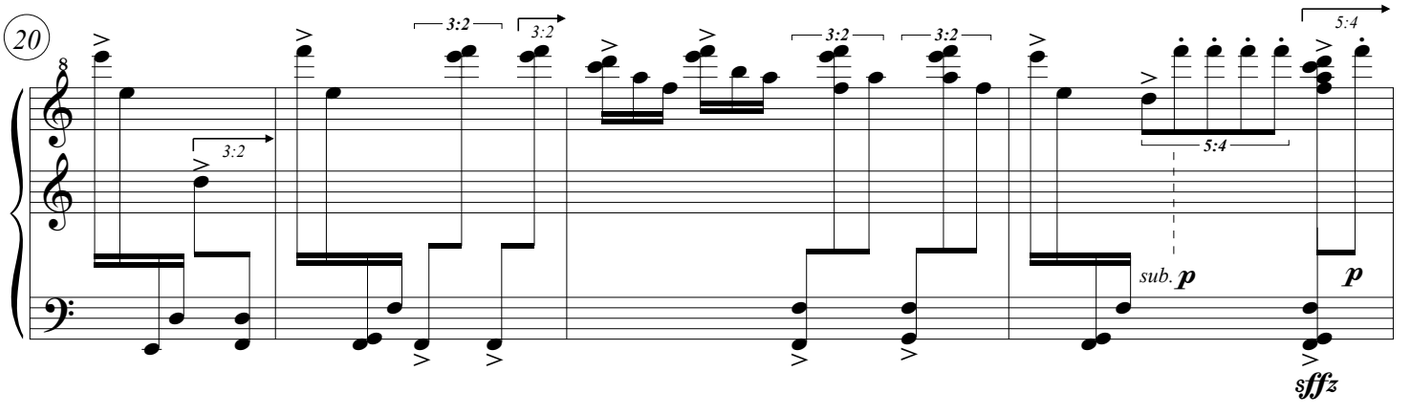
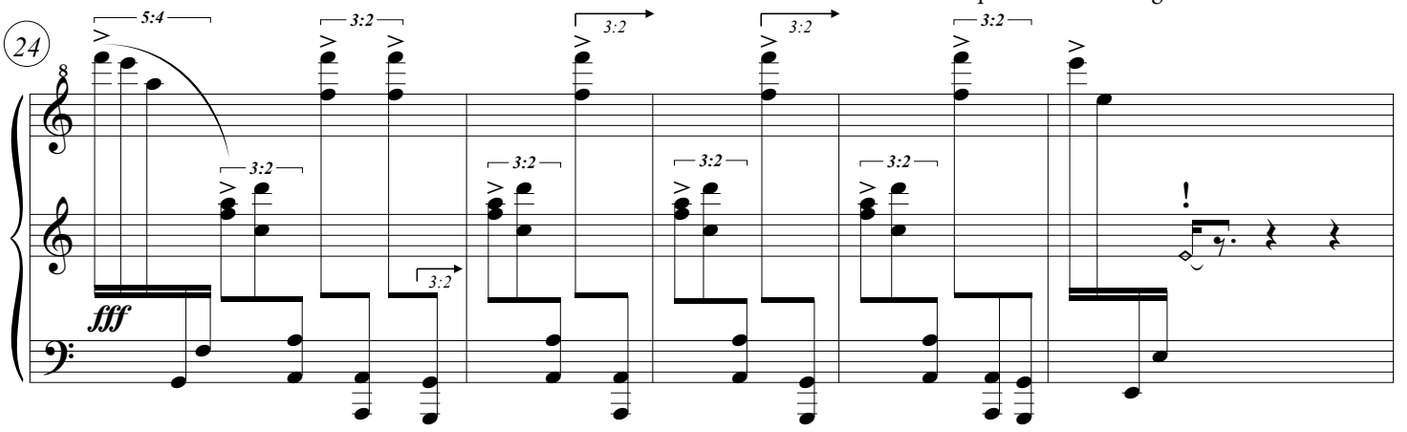
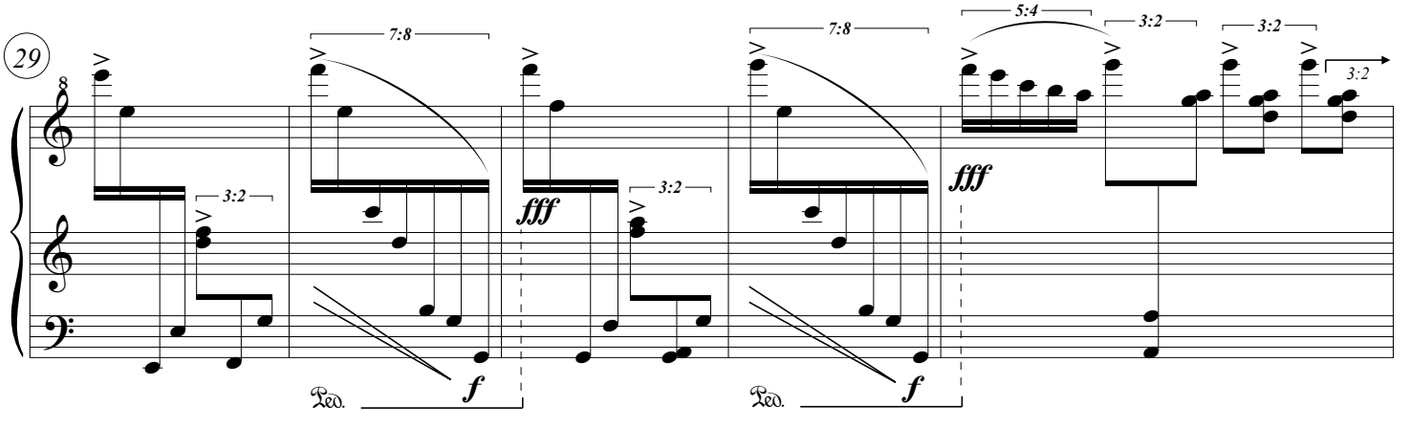
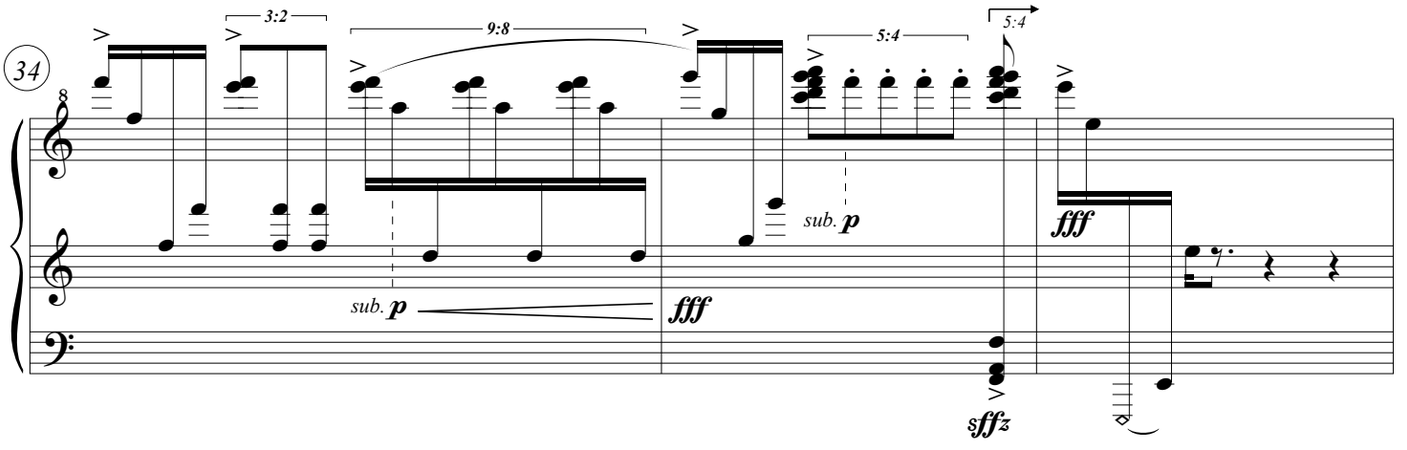
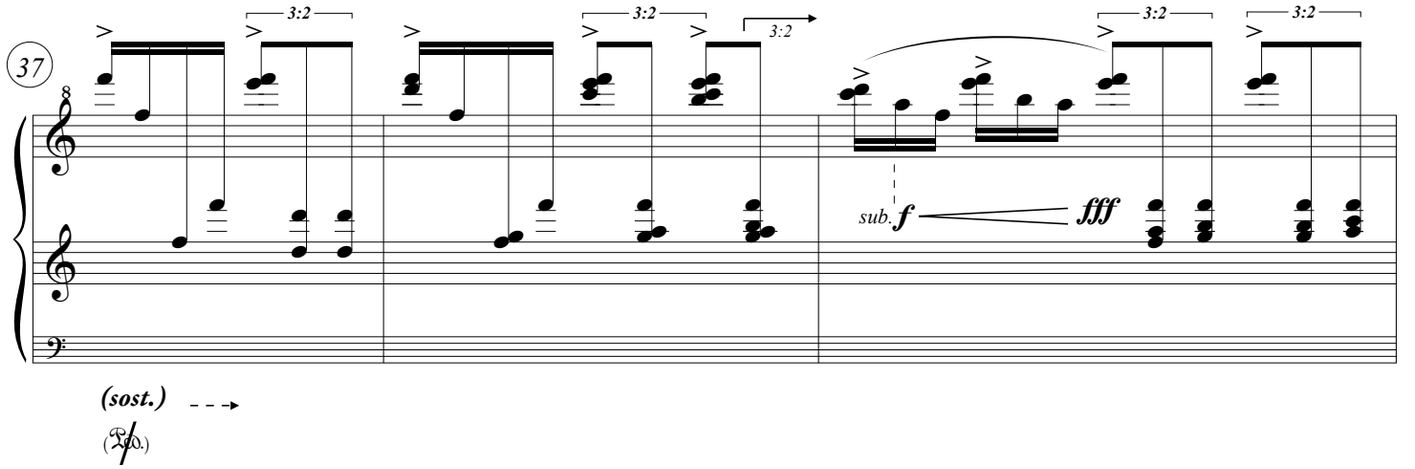


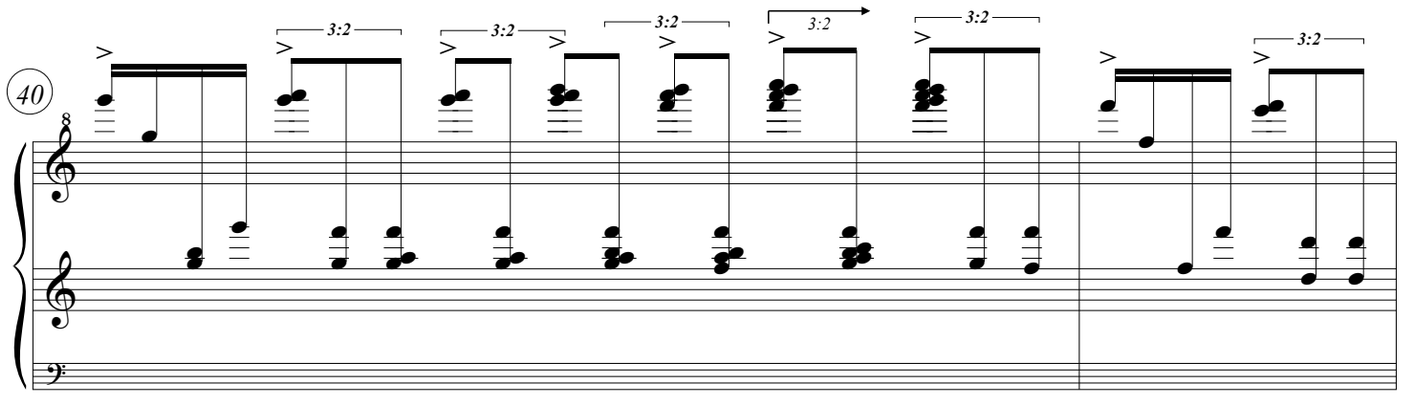
! = While ideally every note will be correct, a wrong note here would have more serious consequences than wrong notes elsewhere.

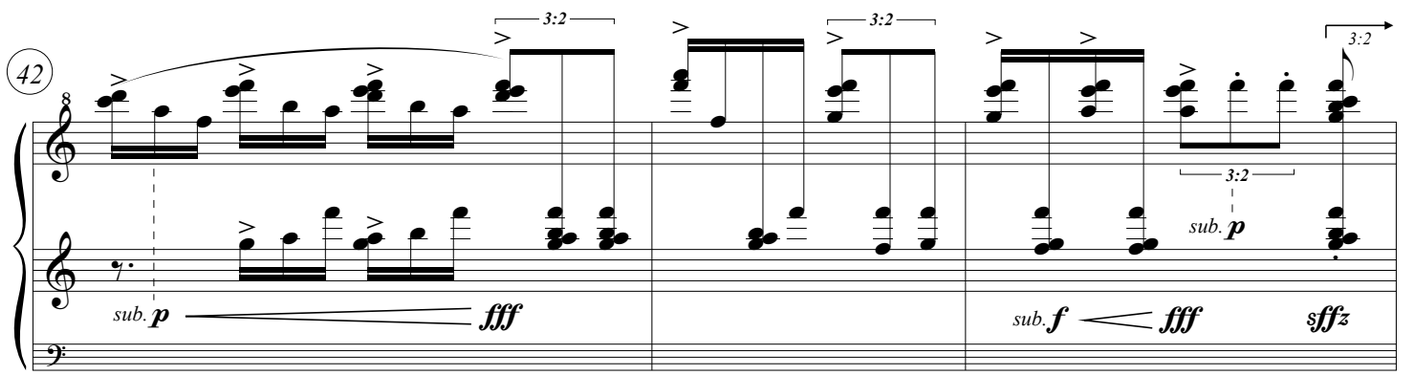


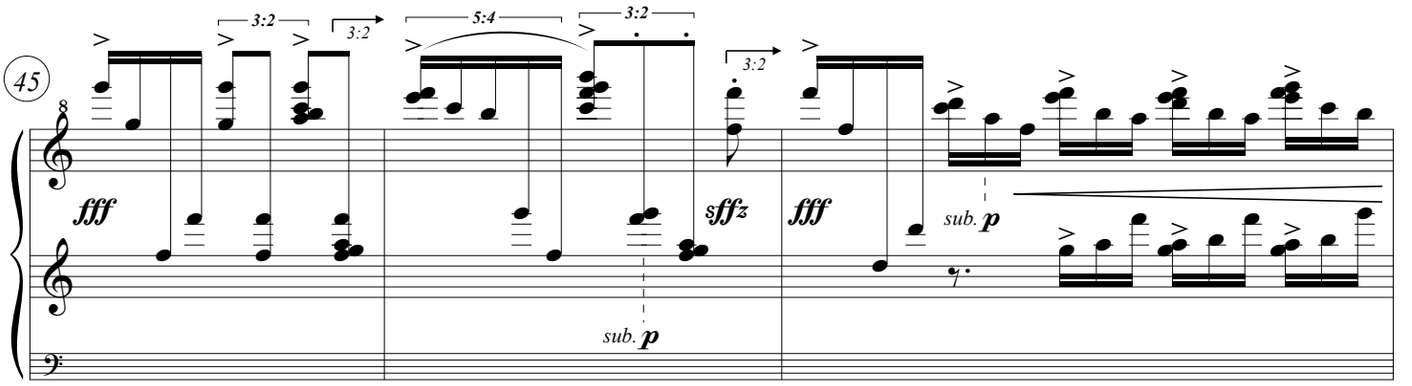


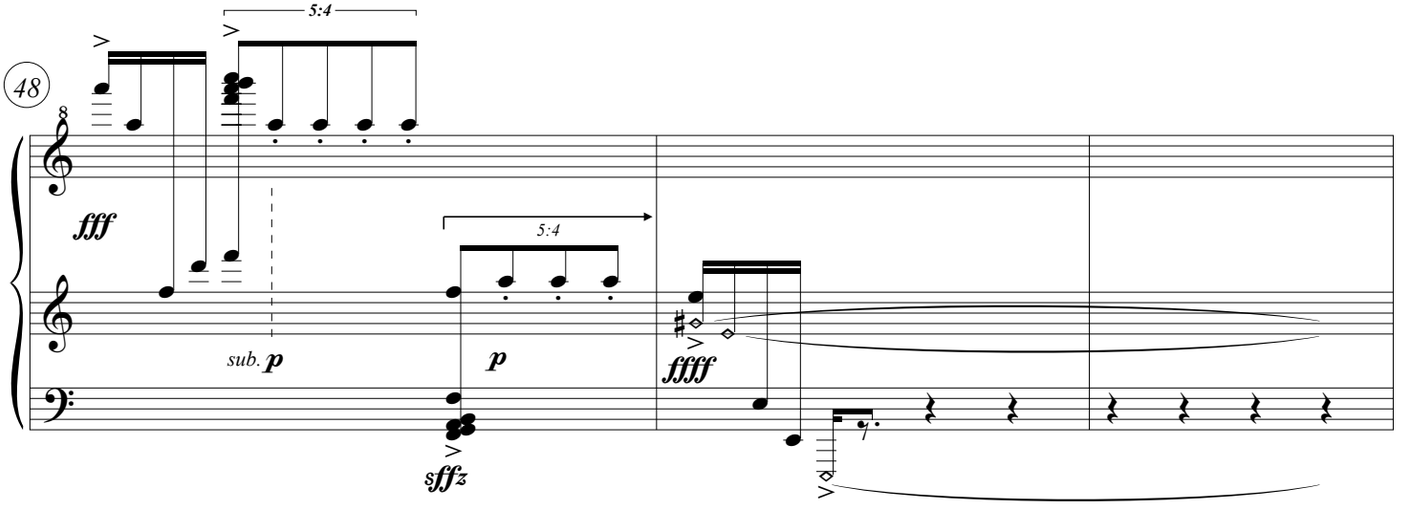


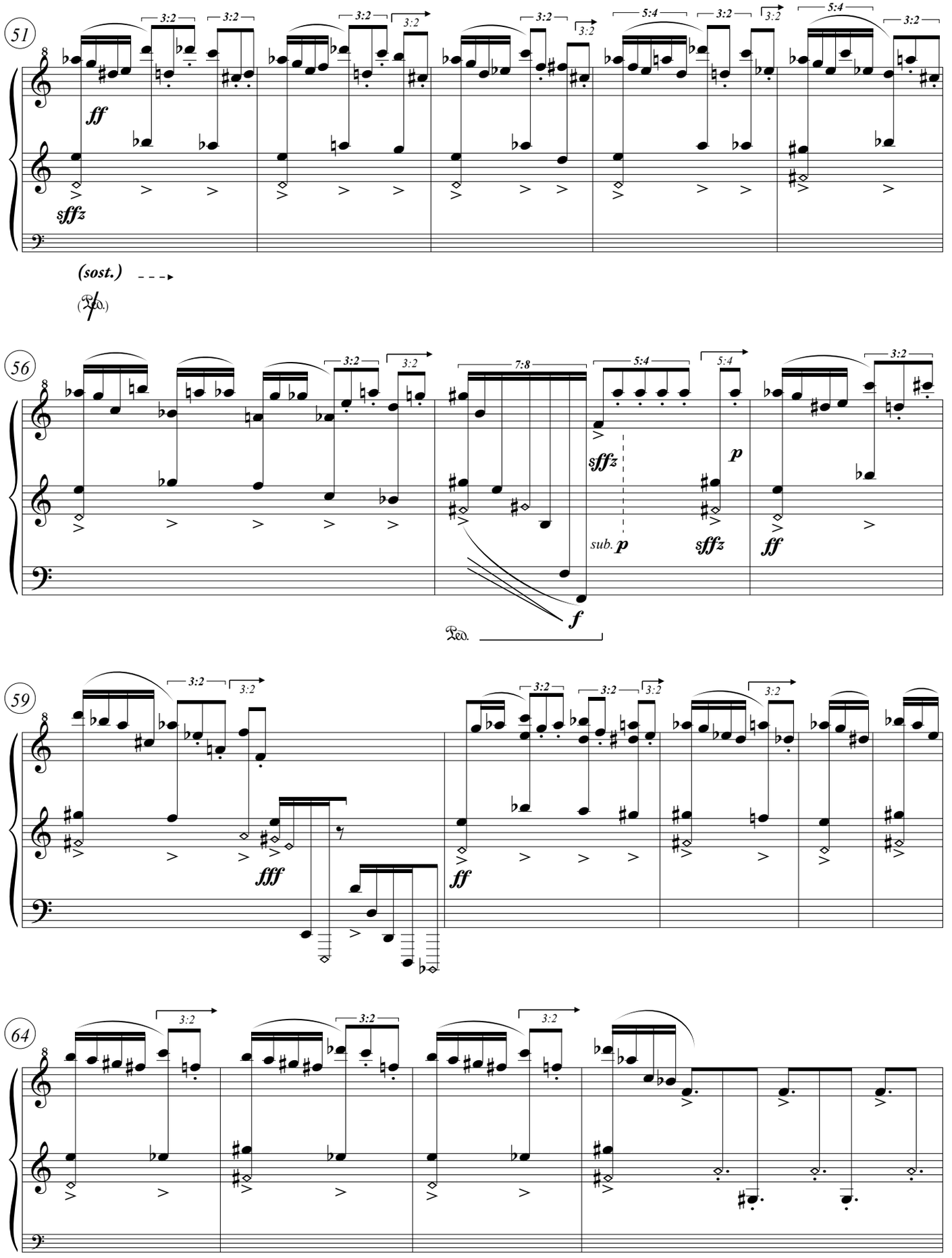

37
3:2
sub. f
fff
(sost.)
(Ped.)

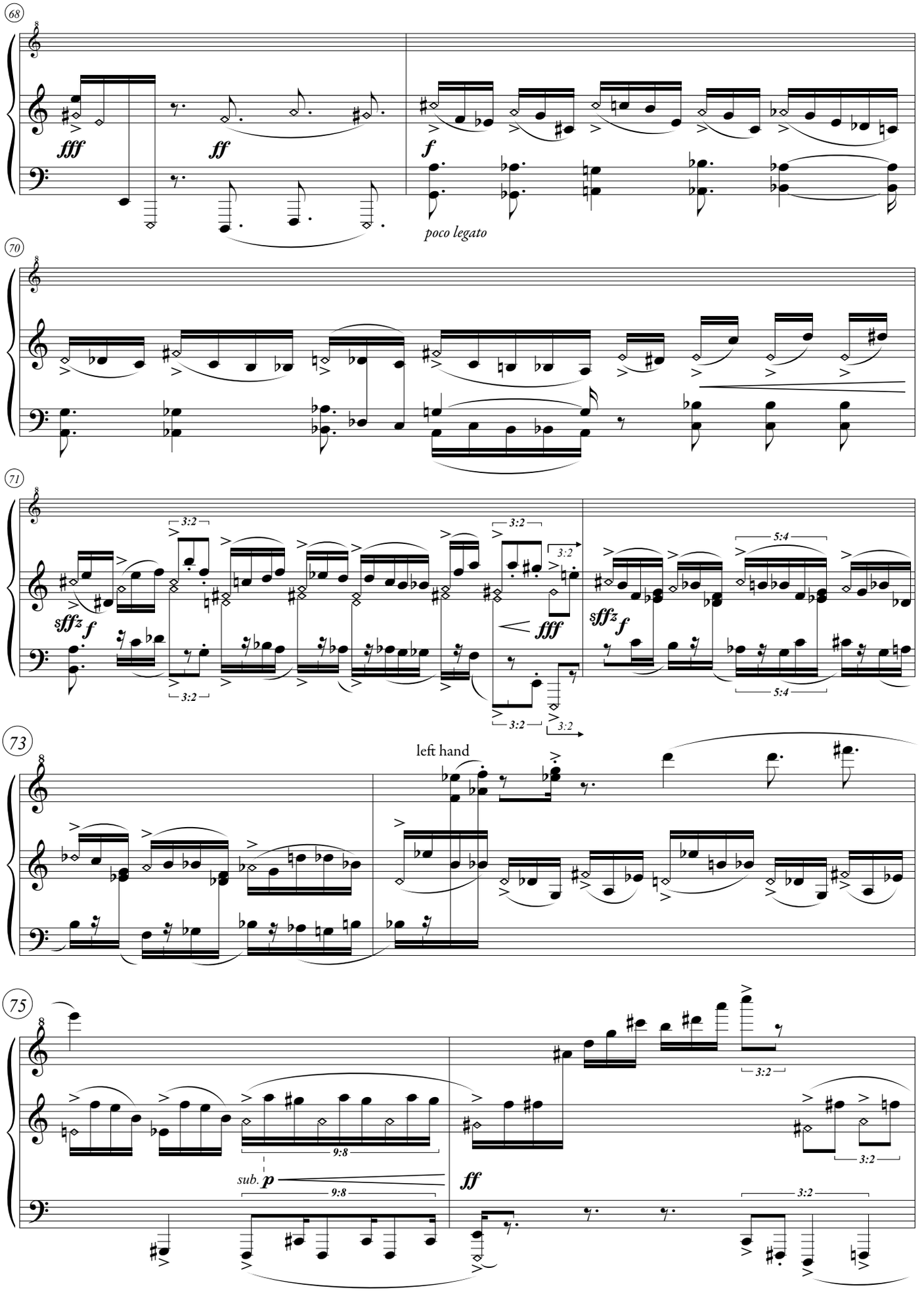

40
3:2


42
3:2
sub. p
fff
sub. f
fff
sffz
sub. p


45
fff
3:2
3:2
5:4
3:2
3:2
sffz
fff
sub. p
sub. p


48
fff
5:4
sub. p
5:4
p
sffz
ffff


51
3:2
5:4
ff
sffz
(sost.)
(Ped.)
56
7:8
sffz
p
sub. p
sffz
ff
f
Ped.
59
fff
ff
64


68
fff
ff
f
poco legato
70
71
3:2
sffz
f
fff
5:4
73
left hand
75
9:8
sub. p
ff
3:2