William Kleinsasser

now a time without

four pieces of expanding duration for piano

I. *a moment without memory* (ca. 5 min)

II. *a day without reflection* (ca. 15 min)

III. *a life without question* (ca. 30 min)

IV. *a generation without genius* (ca. 60 min)

(2011)

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Instrumentation

piano

piece IV, *a generation without genius*, can be optionally presented using a midi-controlled acoustic grand piano such as a Yamaha Disklavier

Notation Details

Accidentals apply to all notes of that pitch class regardless of octave and are cancelled at the end of each system line.

Rhythm in this score is notated using proportional notation[1] in which complex rhythmic events are notated across a graphic measure without traditional symblic durational notation. This notation is intended to give a degree of rhythmic freedom to the performer in order to support a simpler representation of irregular and complex event timing. These events are to be played while maintaining relative but somewhat flexible timing for each notated system. No strict tempo should be felt or projected in performance.

[1] In order to simplify the production of this form of notation, the composer commissioned Tobias Giesen to create a Finale software Plug-in that converted complex rhythmic patterns into simplified, proportional, beamed notation. This plug-in is now part of the TG Tools plug-ins for Finale software available from Tobias Giesen (www.tgtools.de).

ABOUT THE MUSIC

About this piece the composer writes: while a young student of composition in 1981 in Oregon, I was given the opportunity to meet and talk with Morton Feldman. He had been invited to judge applicants for scholarships in composition at the university of Oregon, where I was a student and my father was a professor of architecture. I was asked to pick up Mr. Feldman from his hotel and drive him to the first interview, which was to be with me. Upon meeting him at the restaurant, he invited me to sit with him while he finished breakfast. We spoke briefly before getting into my VW bus and driving the short distance to the School of Music. As we drove, he asked me about the place and we talked about my having grown up there. I told him about my family coming to Oregon in 1965 when my father, who was born in 1929, was invited to join the architecture faculty. Mr. Feldman's response, in the voice that all who heard it will easily recall, has settled deeply into my aural and idea memory. What he said was enigmatic: "...the generation without genius..." I still do not know if he was making a reference unknown to me but the phrase stuck as a lingering question. This set of pieces recalls that moment and the way it has been with me for decades.

Interrelated pieces

The four pieces that make up this set can be seen as variations of one another. They can be performed individually, in sets, all together, in any order, or extractions assembled and performed at the liberty of the performer. They do not represent a linear development but rather establish a coninuity of moments that suspend any sense of urgent motivated progress.

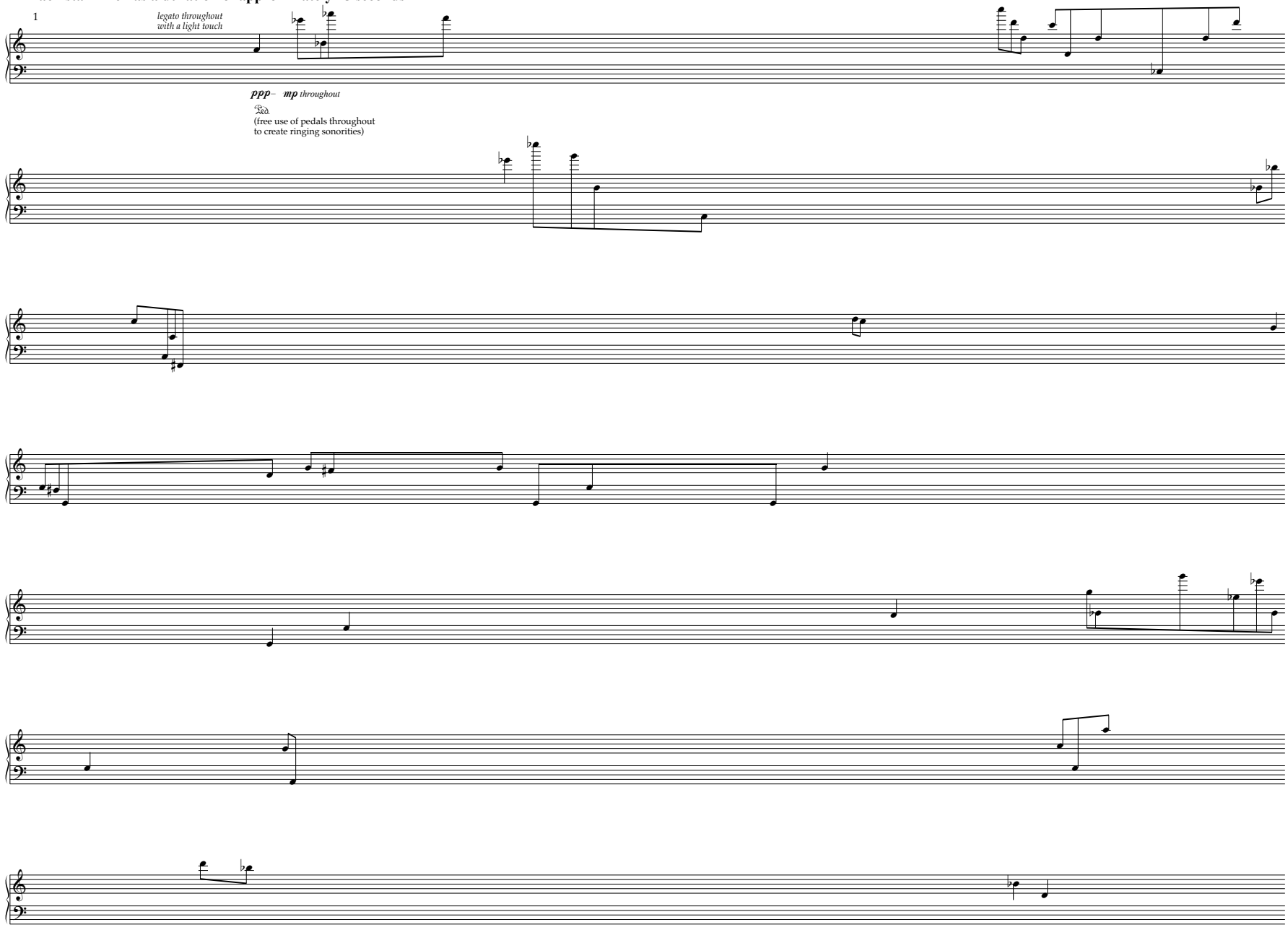
A Moment without Memory

William Kleinsasser
(2011)

Piano

Duration: ca. 5 minutes

Each staff line has a duration of approximately 15 seconds



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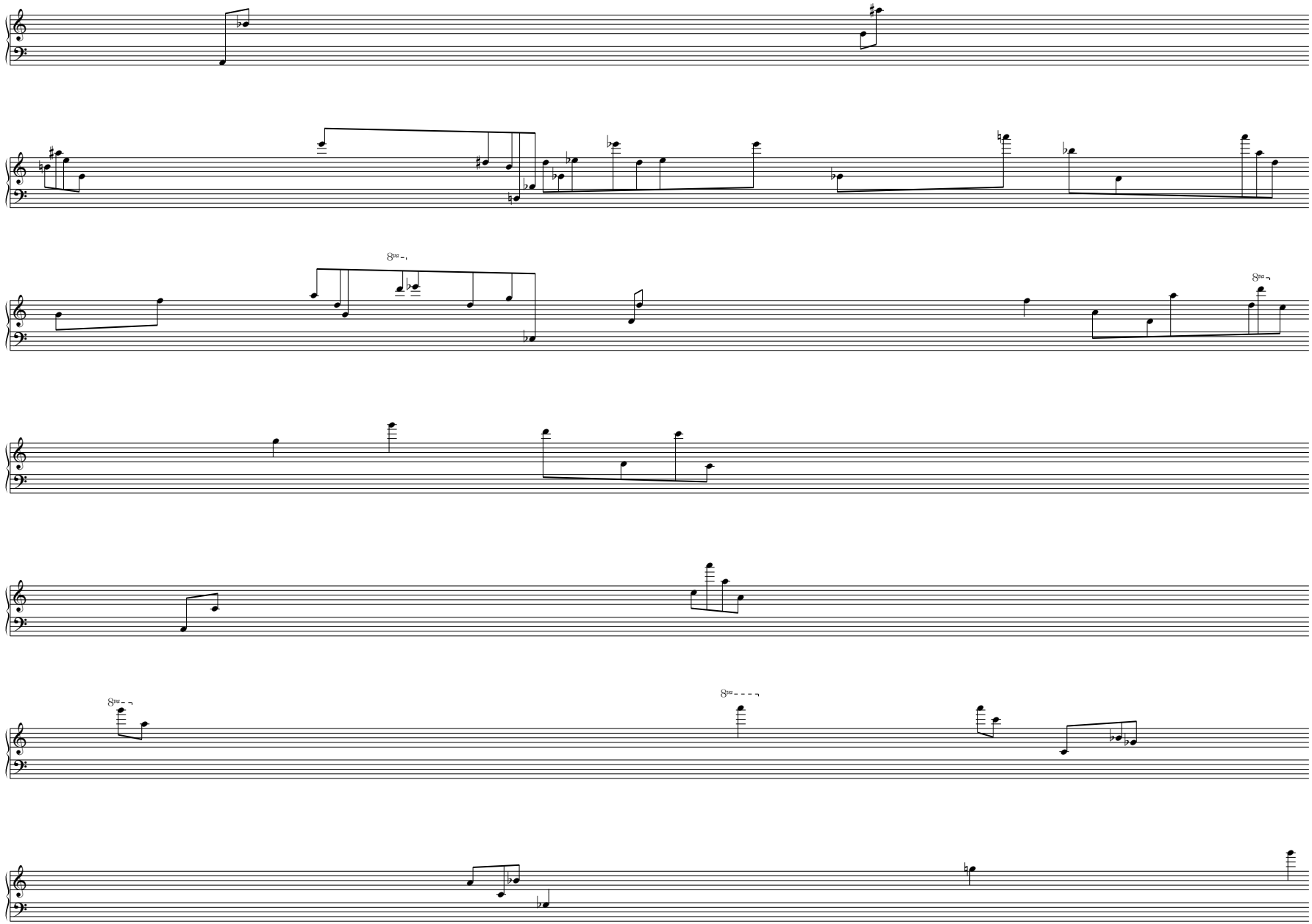
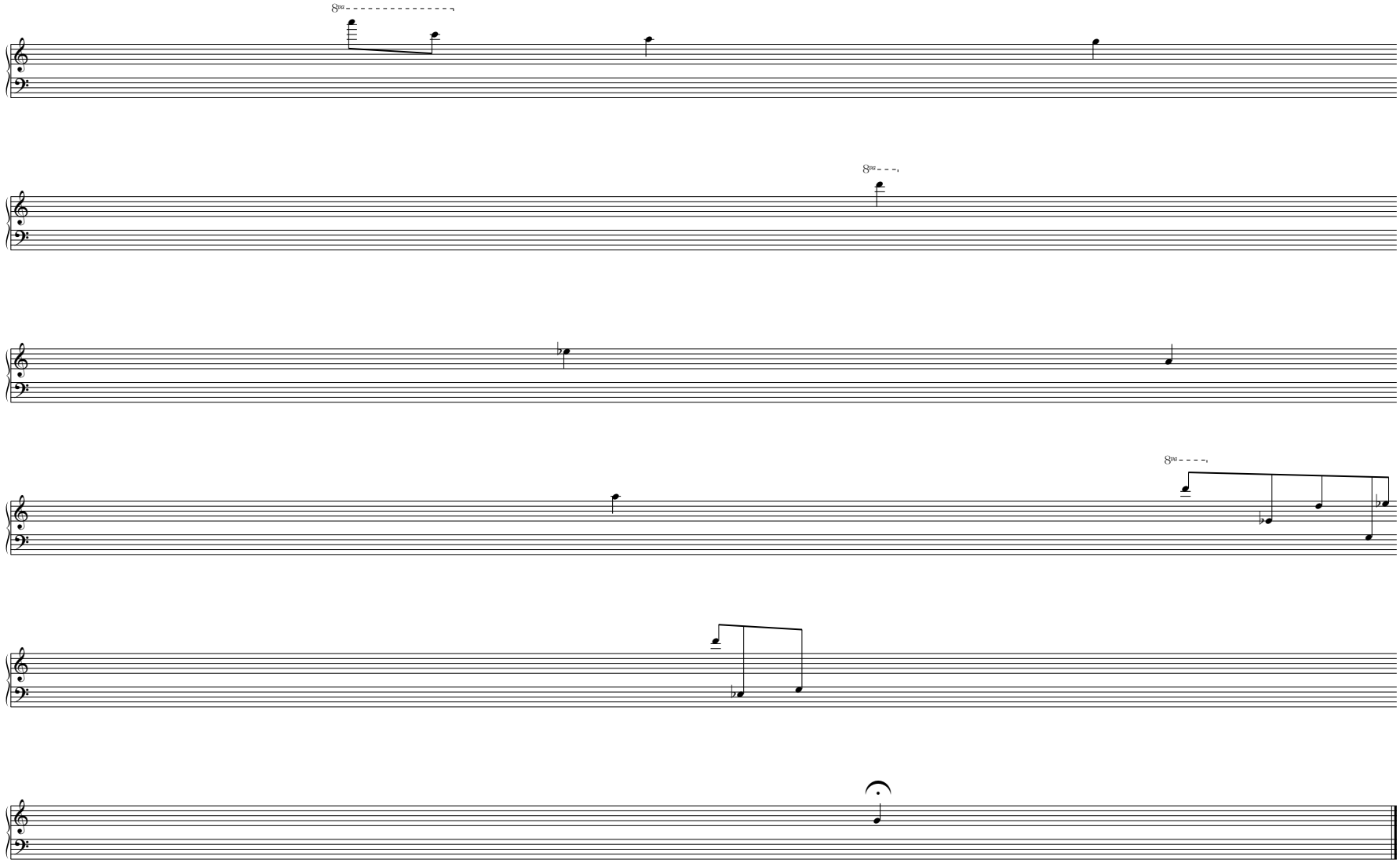




A Day without Reflection

William Kleinsasser
(2011)

Piano

Duration: ca. 15 minutes

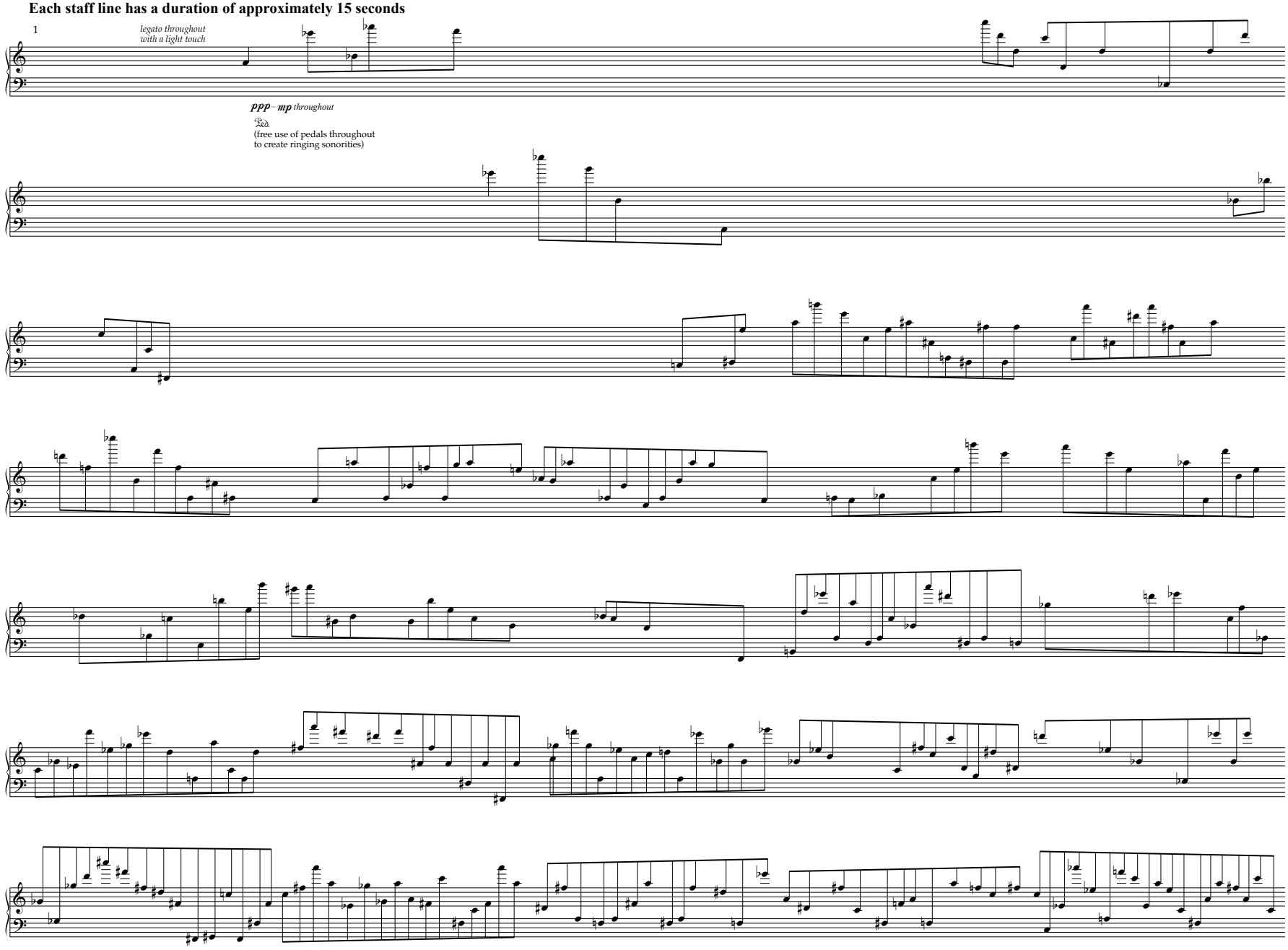
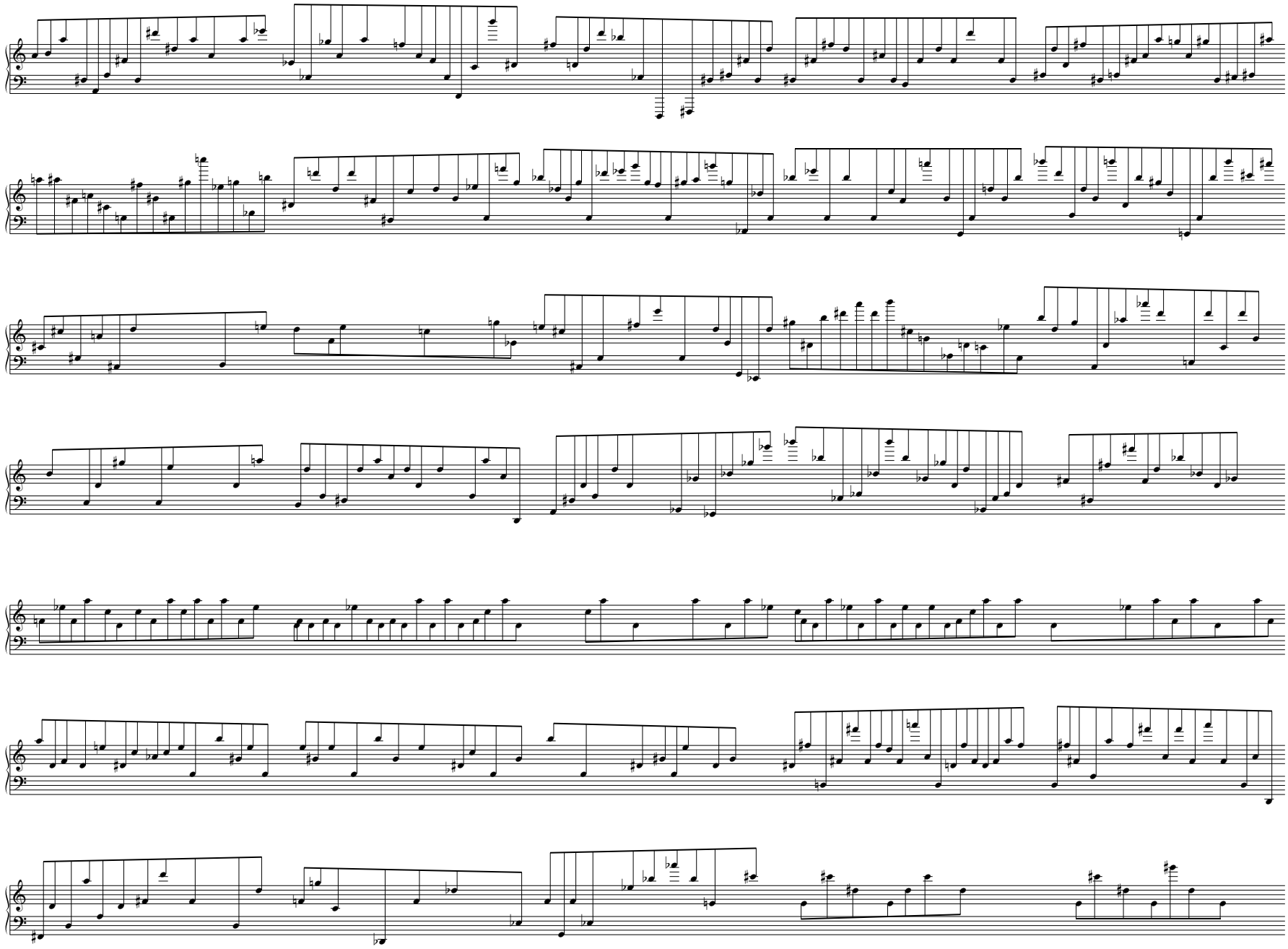
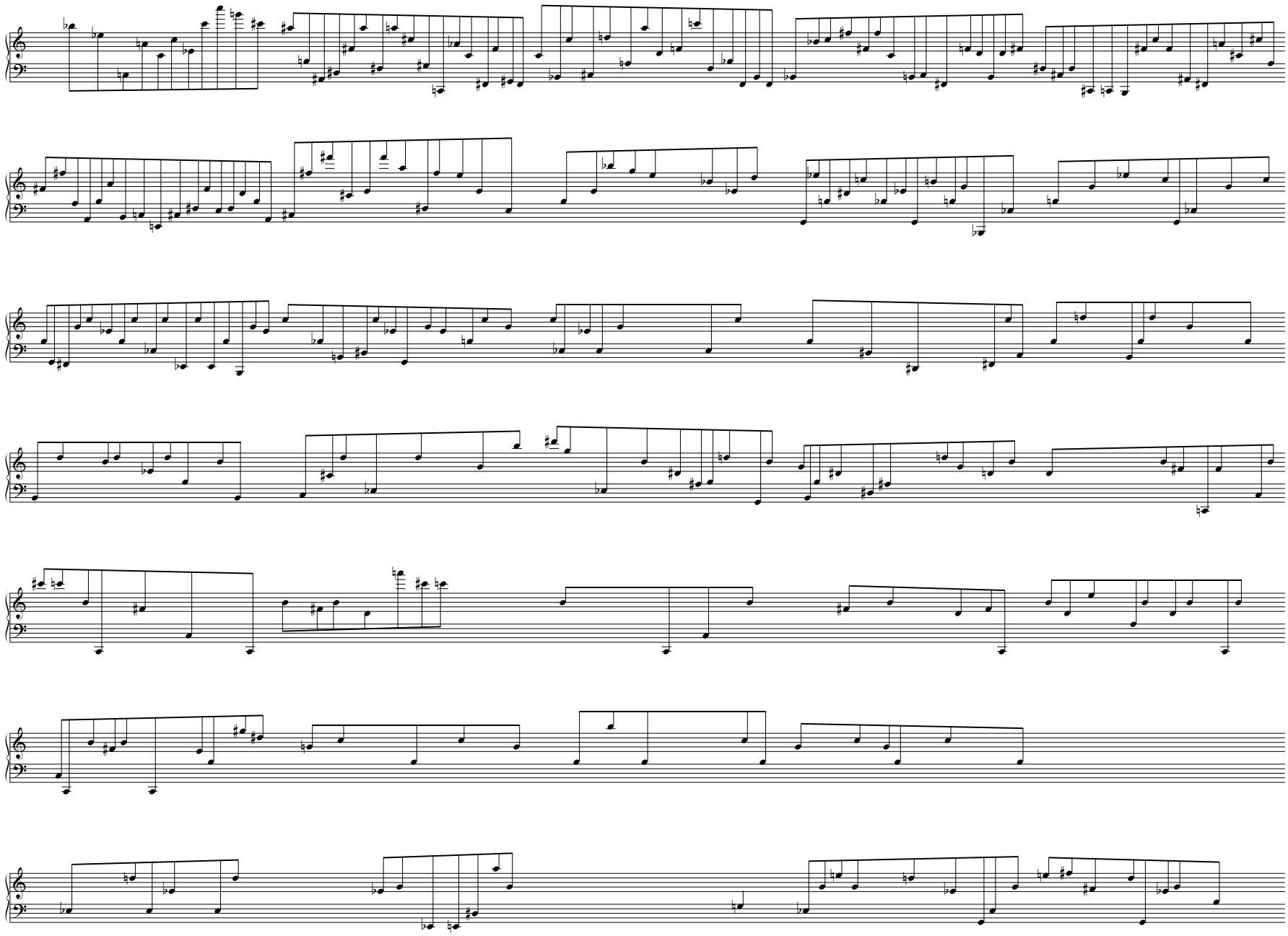
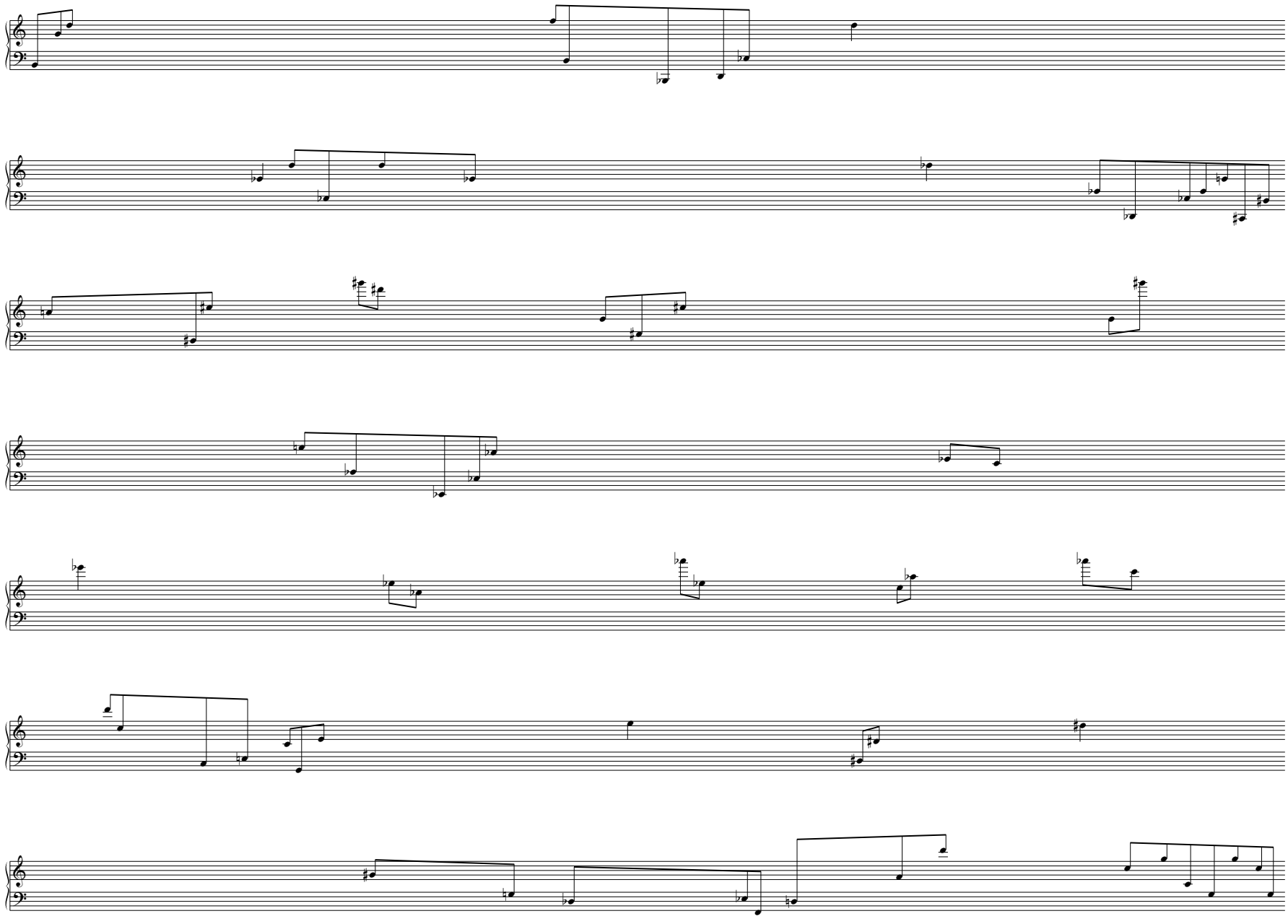
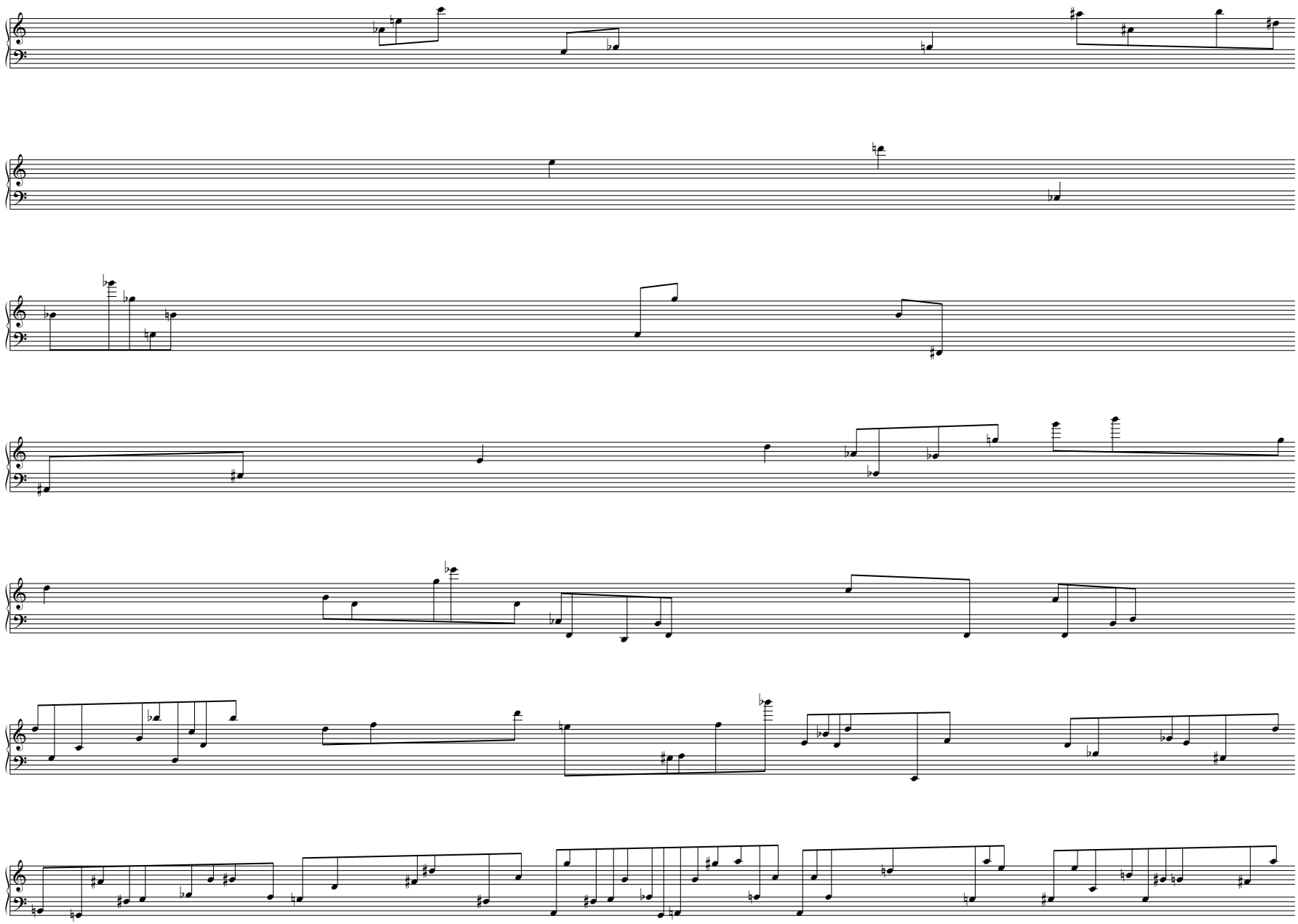
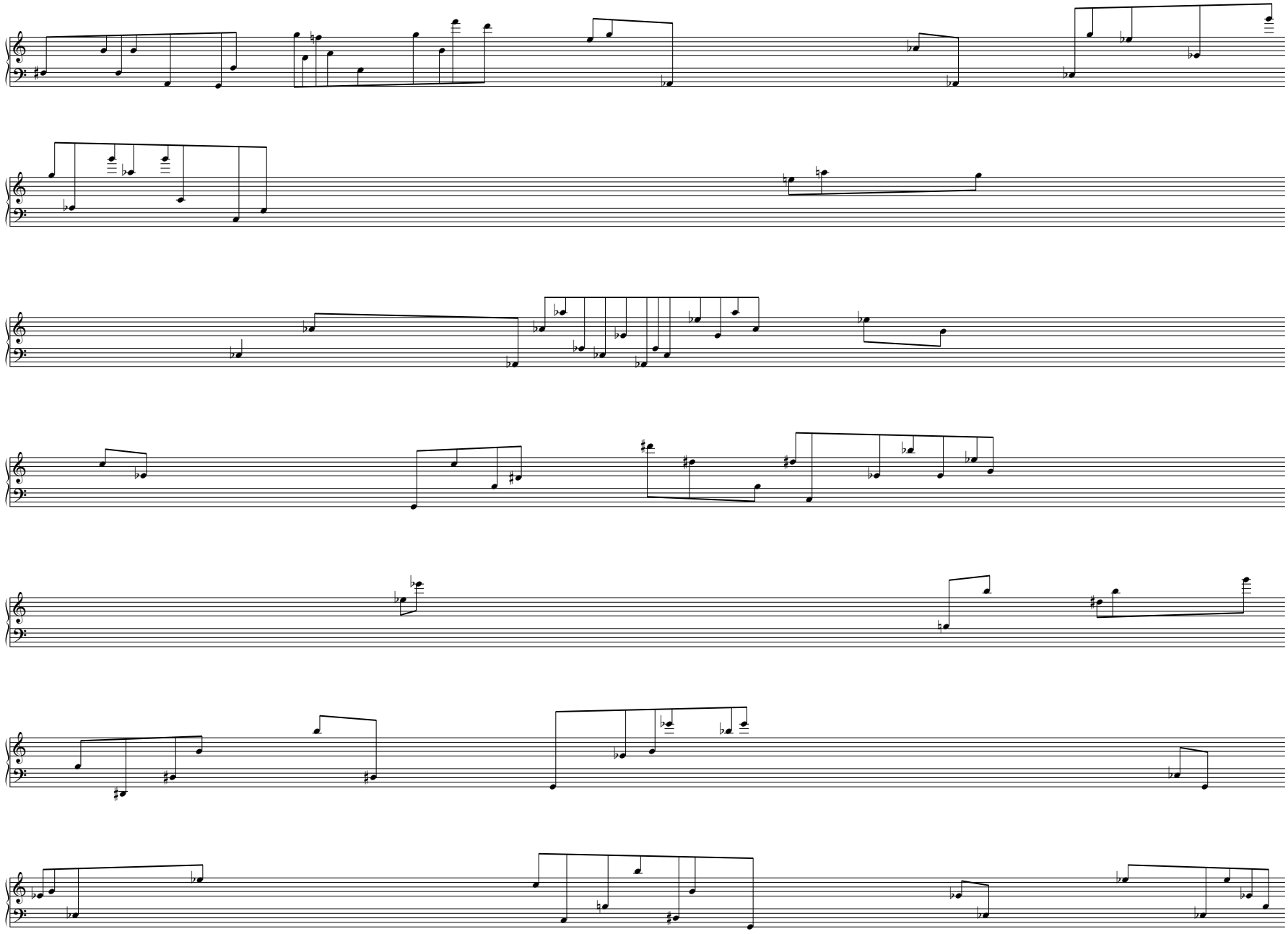
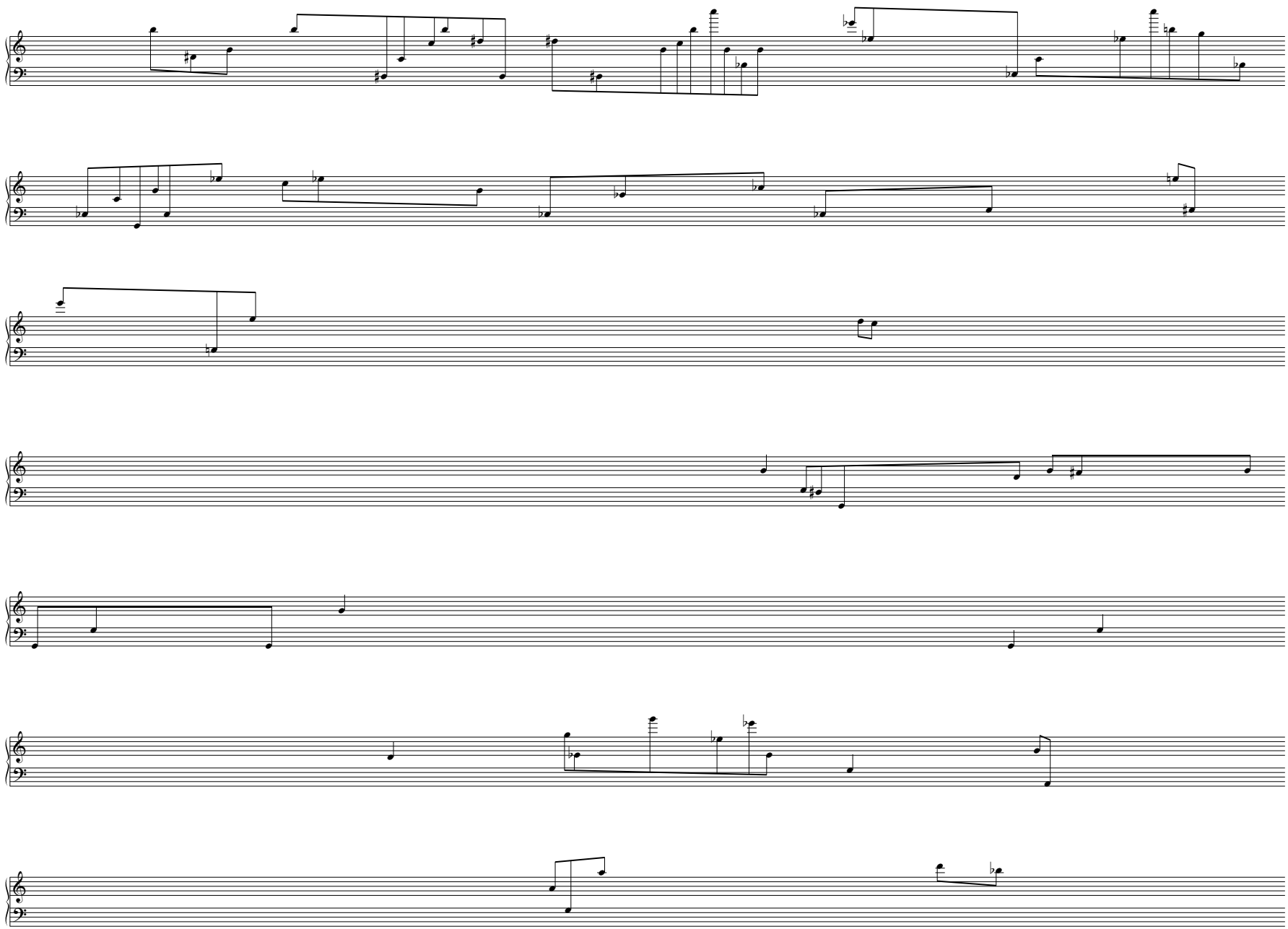
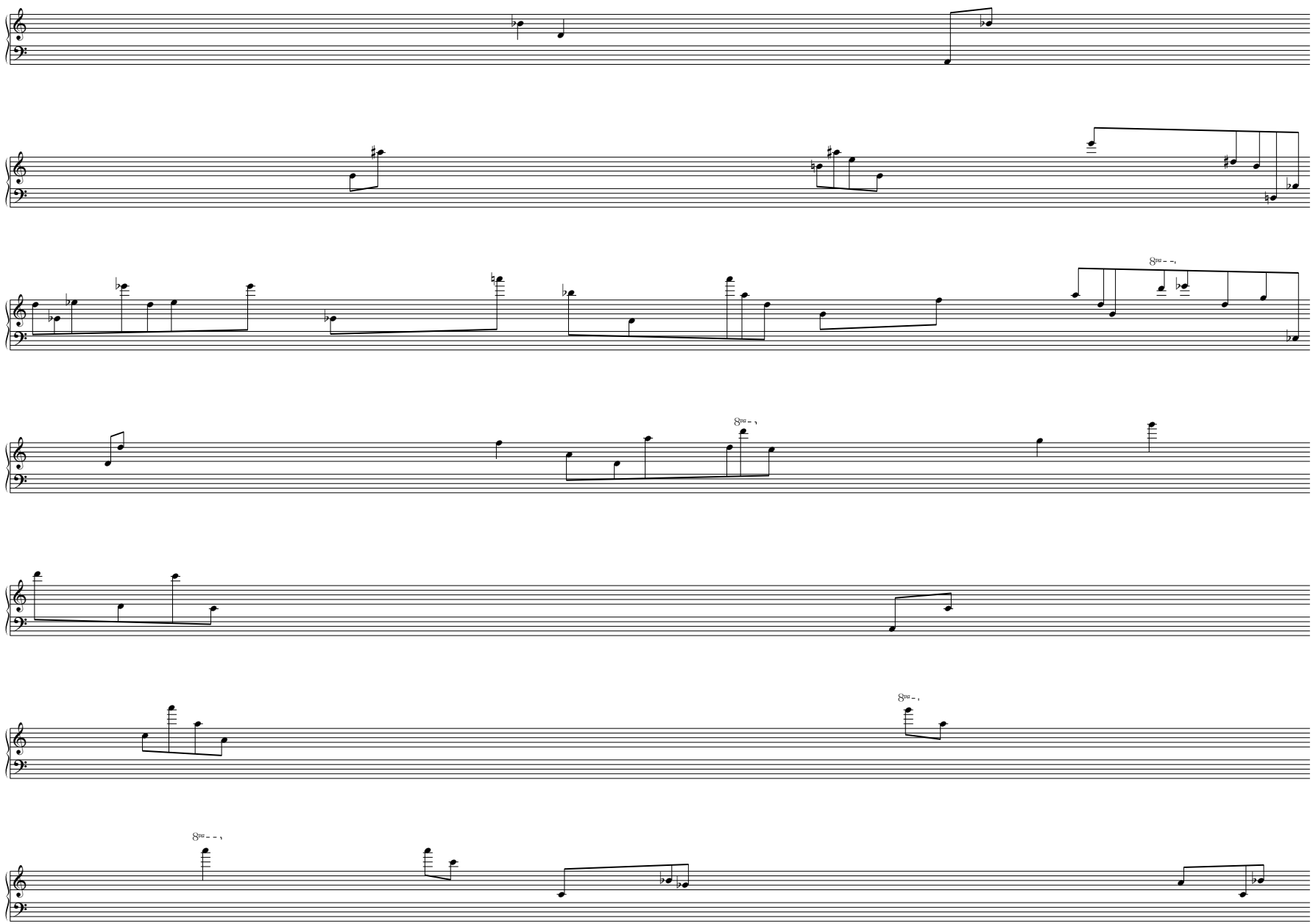
Each staff line has a duration of approximately 15 seconds

1

legato throughout
with a light touch

ppp – ***mp*** *throughout*

(free use of pedals throughout
to create ringing sonorities)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