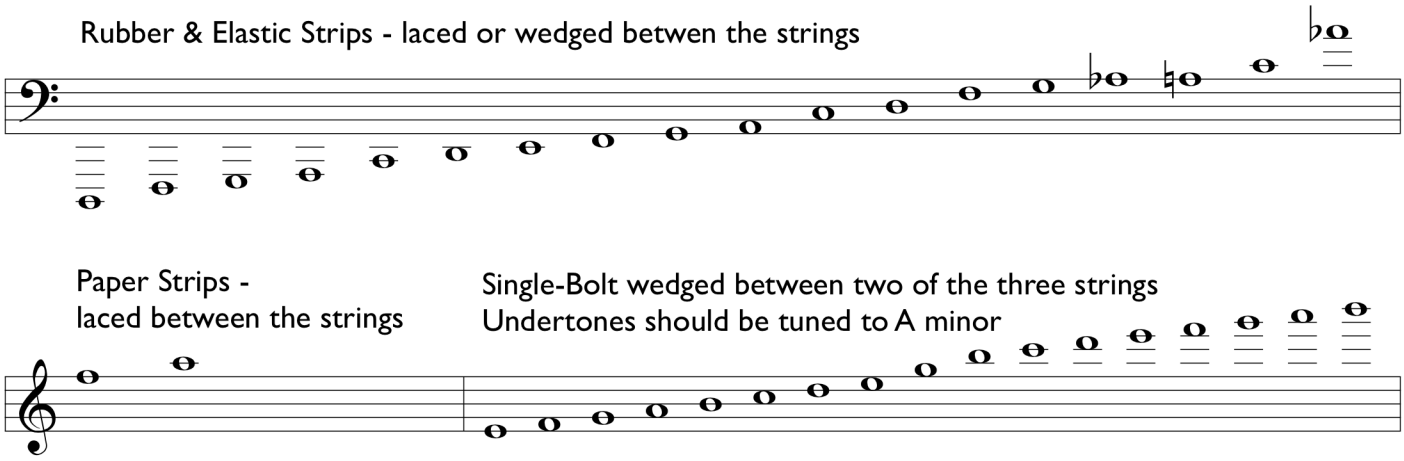
Three Latin Rhythms (2002)

for prepared piano

Erik Griswold

Piano Preparations for "Three Latin Rhythms"



Materials:

Rubber & Elastic Strips

In the bass register, for single and double strings, I use short pieces of soft rubber (almost foam rubber) about 2 cm wide and 3 mm thick. For triple strings, I use flat rubber elastic strips about 2.5 cm wide and 1 mm thick.

These should be 1) laced under single strings, 2) wedged in between pairs of double strings, or 3) laced under the middle of the triple strings **near the bridge** to produce a muting of upper harmonics and percussive attack.

Paper Strips

Ordinary copy paper works fine, or you can try business cards or various types of bus tickets. Whatever the exact type of paper, it should be cut into strips about 2 x 6 cm and laced under the middle of the triple strings **at the middle point or 1st harmonic**.

Bolts

Machine Bolts coated with electrical tape. The bolts should fit as precisely as possible between the triple strings (3 or 4 mm are common sizes that work well). Various lengths can be used, but I generally use 1 inch / 2.4 cm.

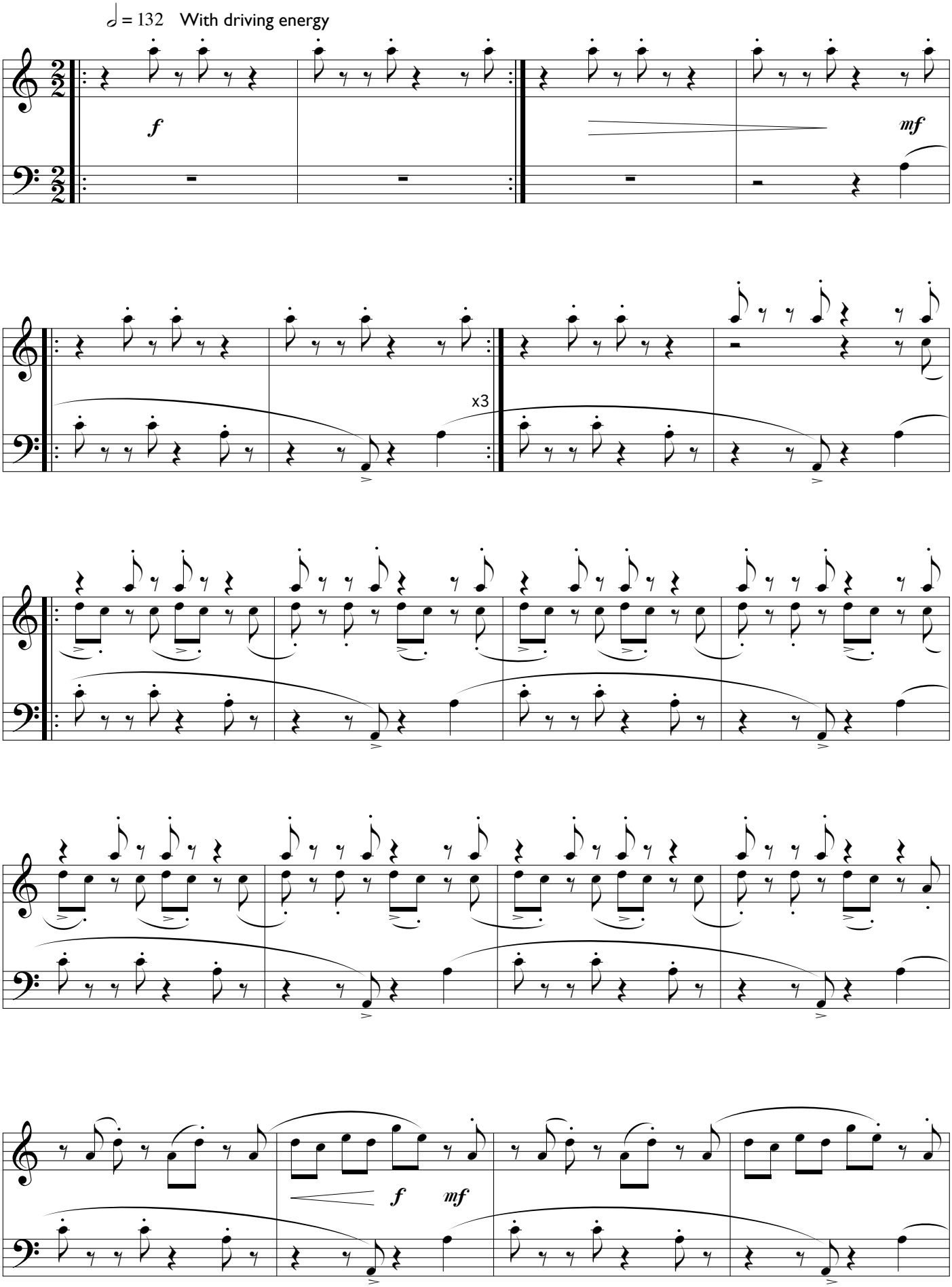
To apply them position a standard screwdriver between the strings, **gently twist the strings apart and place the bol**t. Then, testing the pitch on the keyboard, **carefully slide the bolt to tune** the undertone to the key of A minor.

Program Note

1. Guaguanco / 2. Maracatu / 3. Batucada

The Cuban Guaguanco and Brazilian Batucada percussion styles were introduced to me by my teacher Will Parsons, while I was a teenager. Particularly influential was the music of Carlos Embale, whose melody is referenced in the first piece. Later, I had the chance to become more familiar with Brazilian styles, including Maracatu, when I played with Antonio Cuhna (master of the Choro) and Pat O'Keefe (eclectic student of numerous Brazilian styles). These pieces are very personal interpretations of the three great musical traditions, wrapped up with my memories of the songs and people.

I. Guaguanco



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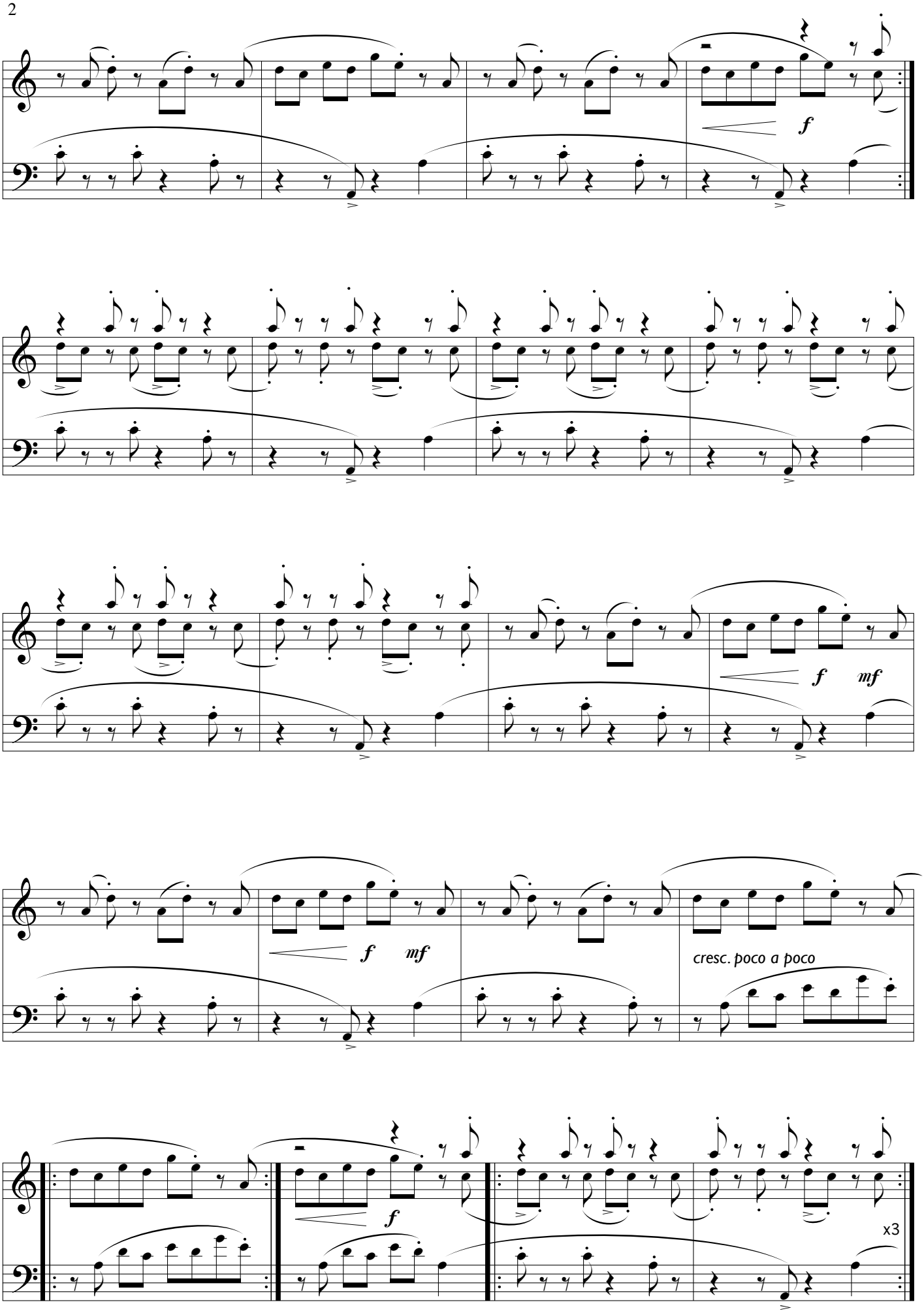
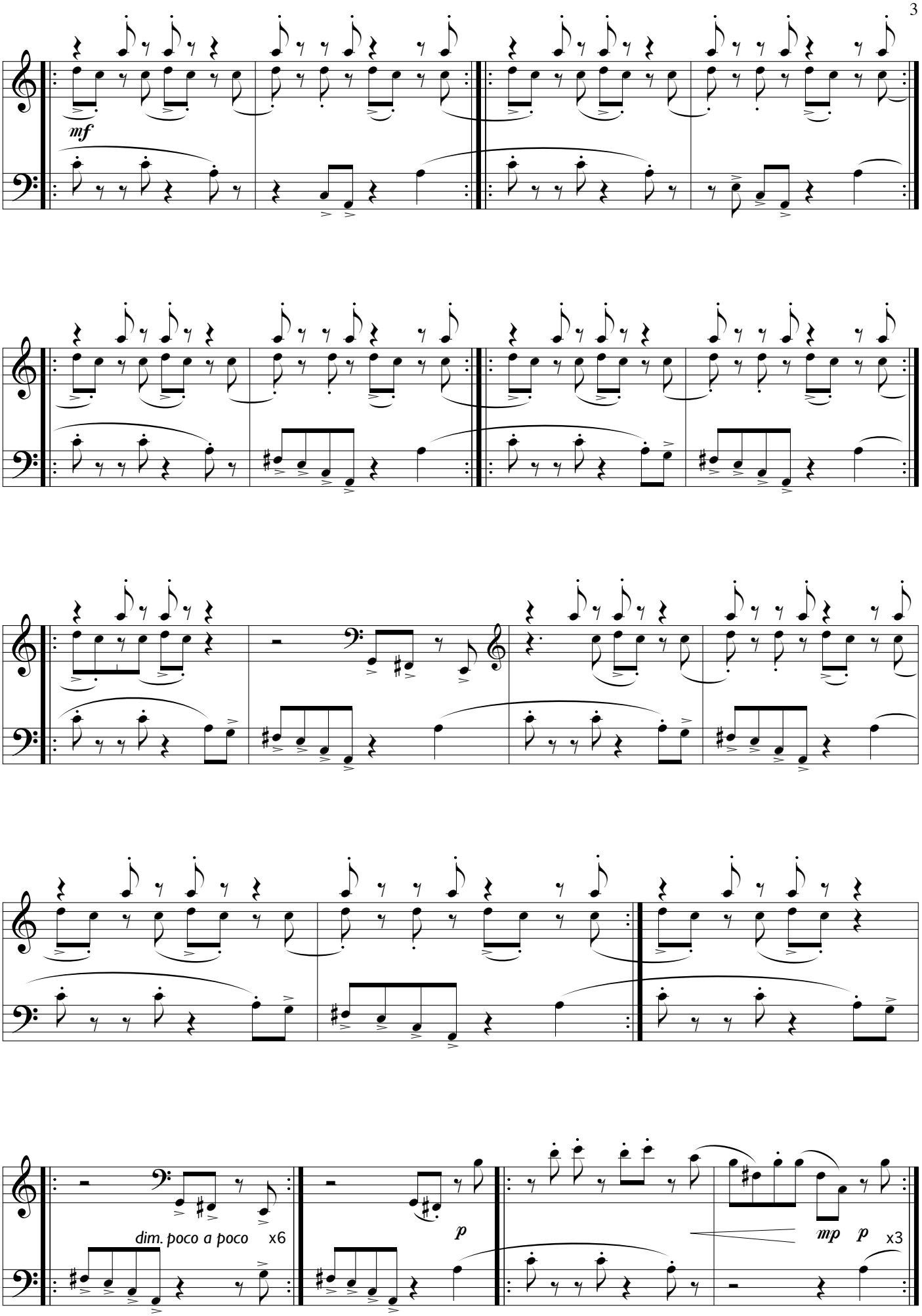
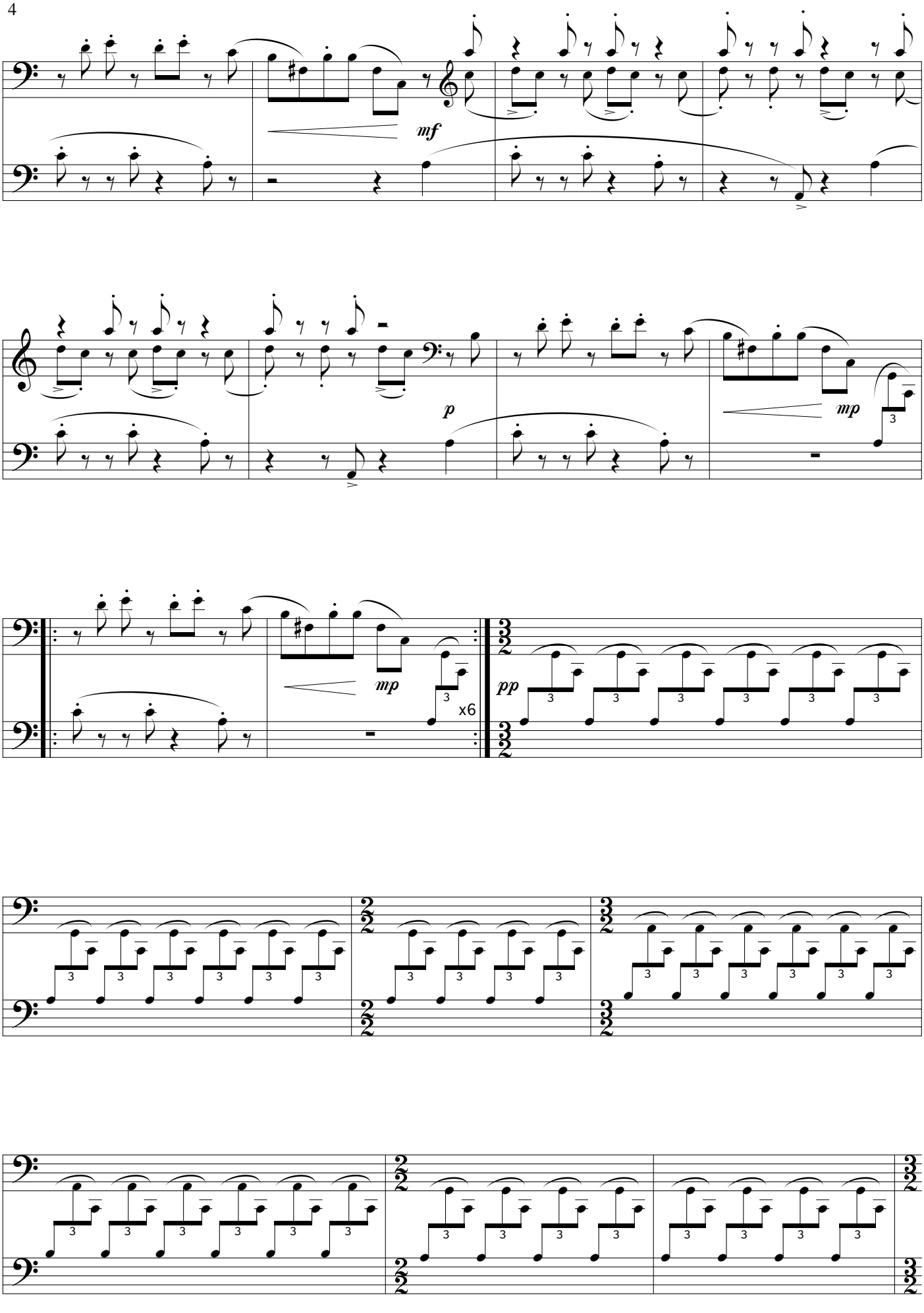

f
f mf
f mf
cresc. poco a poco
f
x3


mf
dim. poco a poco x6
p
mp p x3


mf
p
mp
mp
x6
pp