R E B E C C A F A R M E R

De Gasparis' Psyche

for Psyche Inspired

2024

APPROX. DURATION - 3:30

PROGRAM NOTES

De Gasparis' Psyche is a contemporary classical piano duet inspired by the discovery of the asteroid Psyche by Annibale de Gasparis in 1852. This piece reflects the journey of exploration and the celestial beauty of the cosmos through three distinct musical sections.

The composition opens with a flowing introduction in the primo part, characterized by delicate, twinkling motifs that mimic the sound of orbiting celestial bodies. This ethereal soundscape sets the stage for the listener, evoking a sense of wonder and the vastness of space. The origins of Psyche are still theory, so the origin of the melody is fragmented and hidden reflecting these unclear origins.

As the piece progresses, the second section shifts to a staccato and playful exchange between the primo and secondo parts. This lively interaction represents the dynamic and sometimes chaotic nature of cosmic collisions, capturing the excitement and unpredictability of discovery.

The third section revisits the initial flowing theme but with added complexity. Here, shimmering sixteenth-note runs in both parts create a sense of momentum, while the primo part presents a melodic line accompanied by a rich countermelody in the secondo. The melody emerges completely just as Psyche was discovered. This section conveys a glittering and victorious atmosphere, celebrating De Gasparis's triumphant discovery of Psyche and the beauty that lies within our universe.

De Gasparis' Psyche is a journey through sound, inviting listeners to experience the wonder of astronomical discovery while honoring the legacy of Annibale de Gasparis.

PERFORMANCE

The opening section should be played softly and expressively, creating a shimmering, ethereal atmosphere. Pay attention to the nuances in dynamics to enhance the flowing quality. Also, use a gentle, unhurried tempo. Allow the phrases to breathe, highlighting the sense of orbiting and movement.

In the staccato section, emphasize the playful interactions between the primo and secondo parts. Use clear articulation to bring out the rhythmic contrast and create a sense of lightness and excitement. Maintain a lively tempo. The playful nature of the exchanges should feel brisk and joyful, with a clear sense of dialogue between the parts.

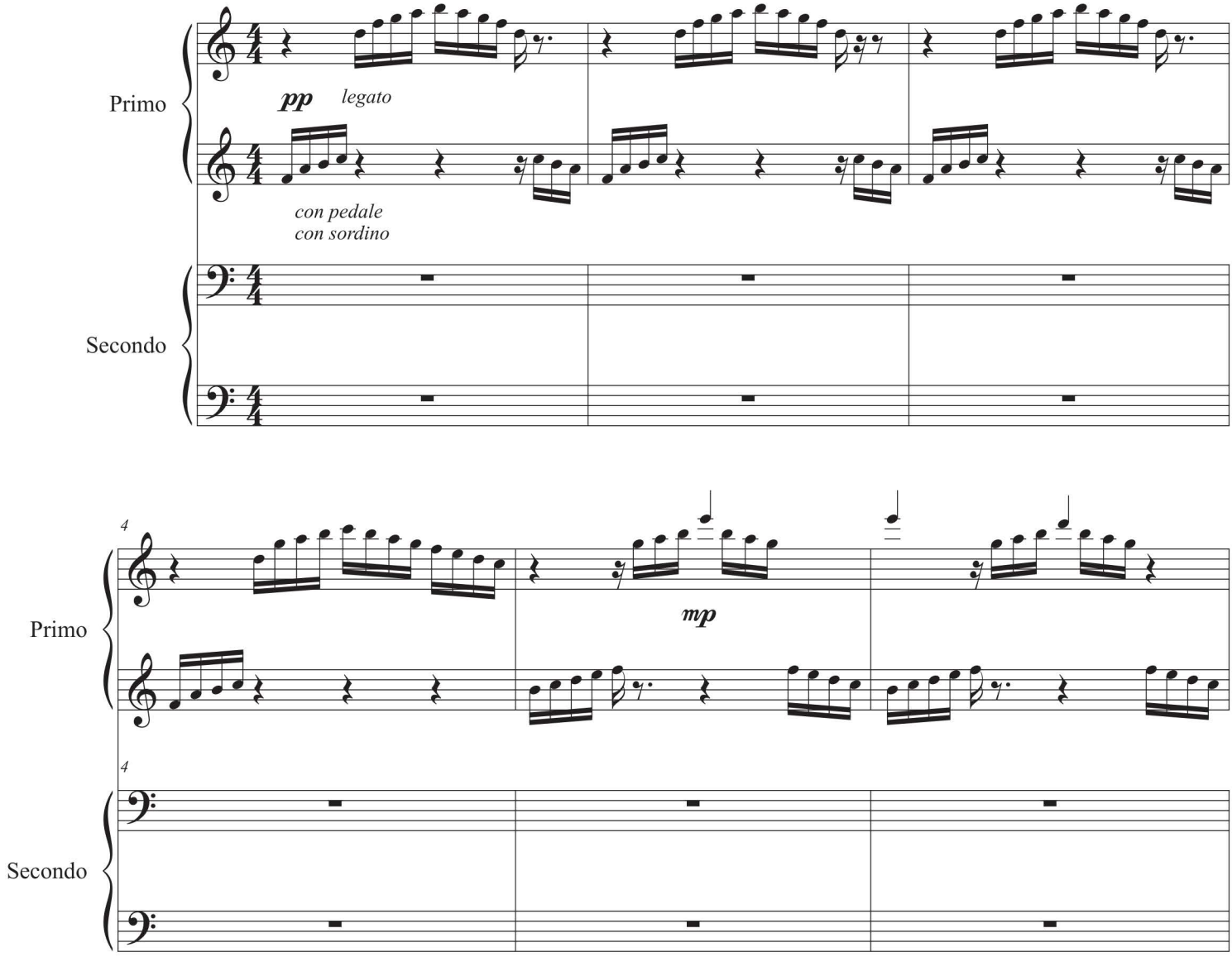
In the third section, where the primo has the melody and the secondo provides the countermelody, ensure that the melody is prominent. The countermelody should support the main line without overpowering it.

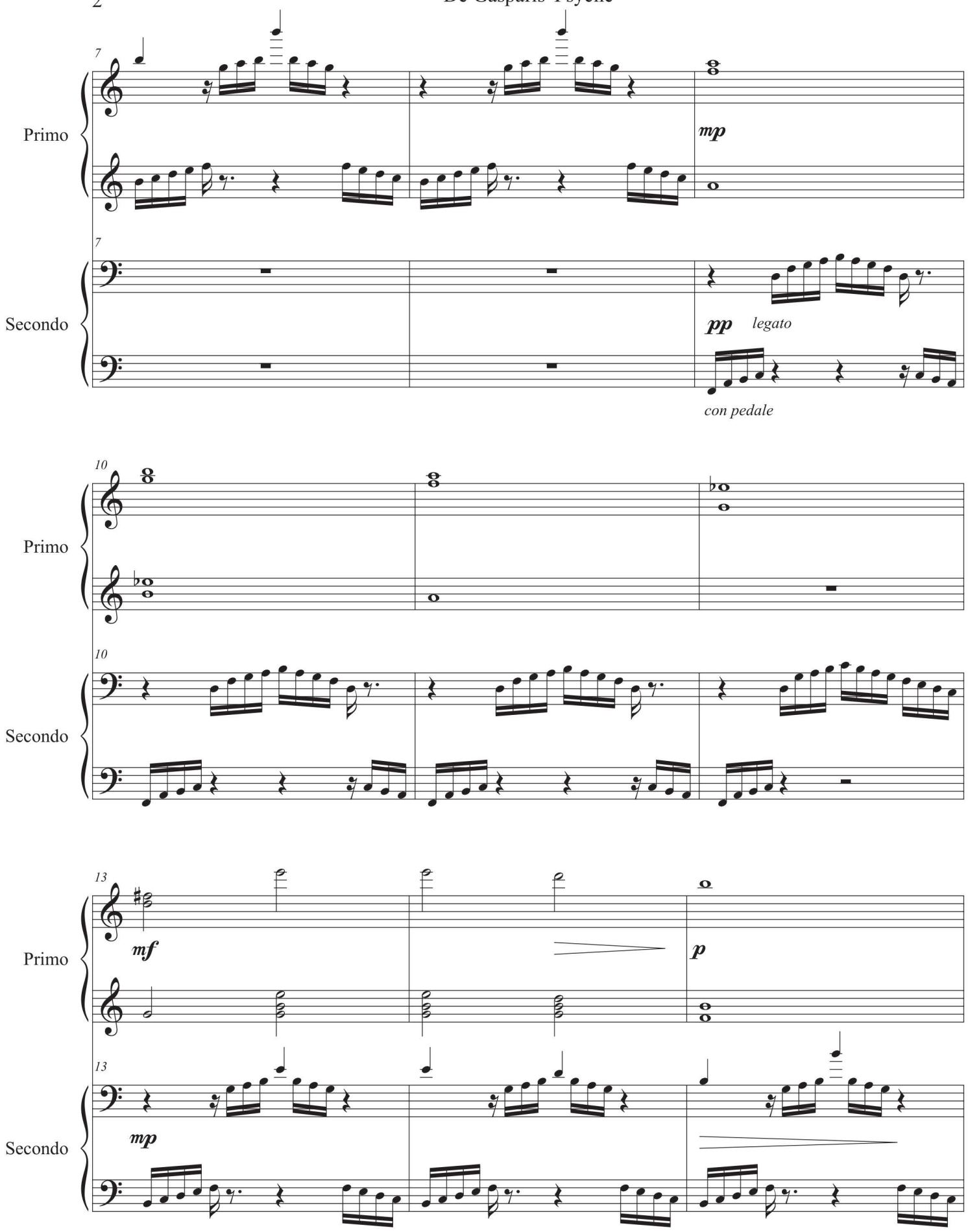
De Gasparis' Psyche

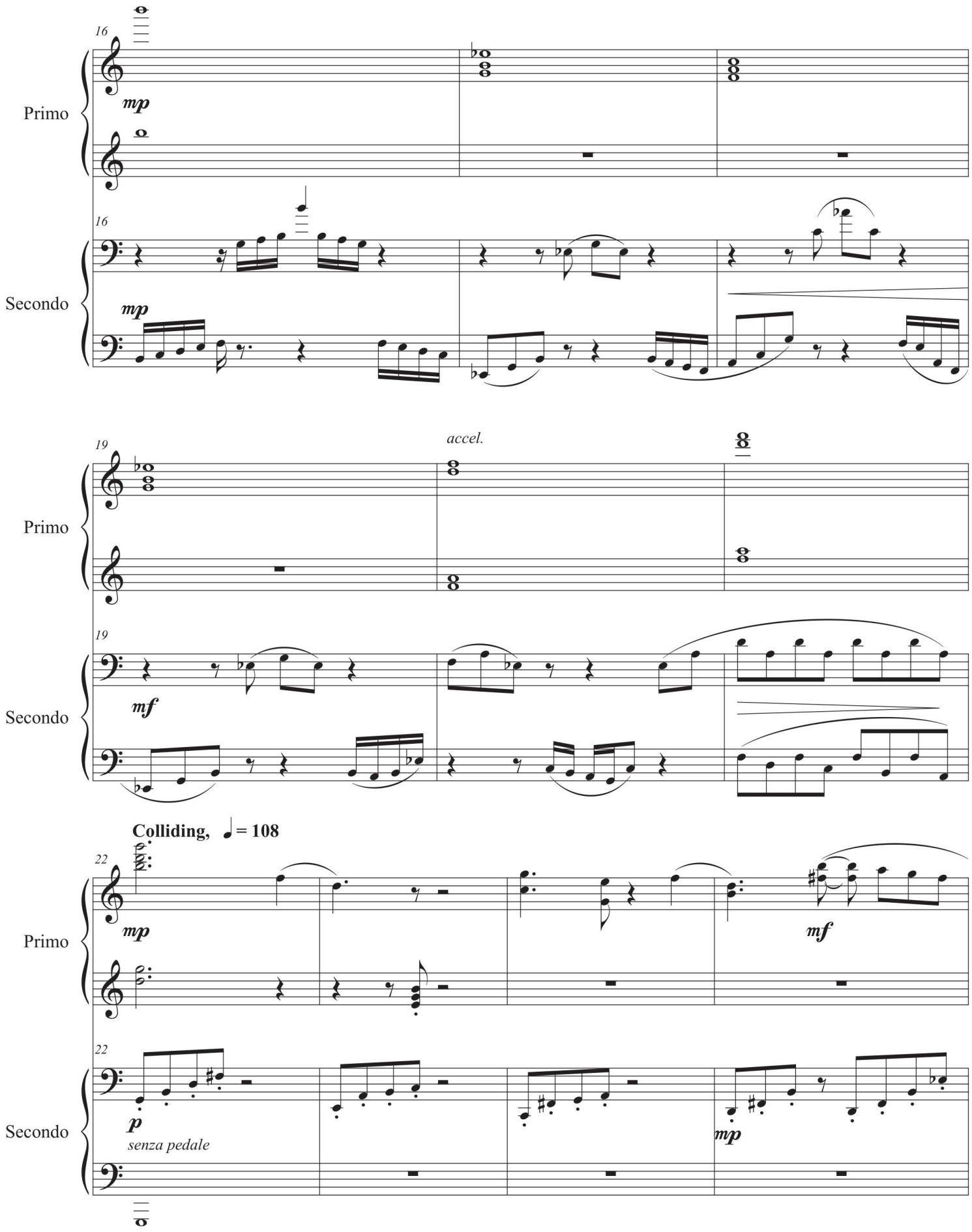
for Psyche Inspired

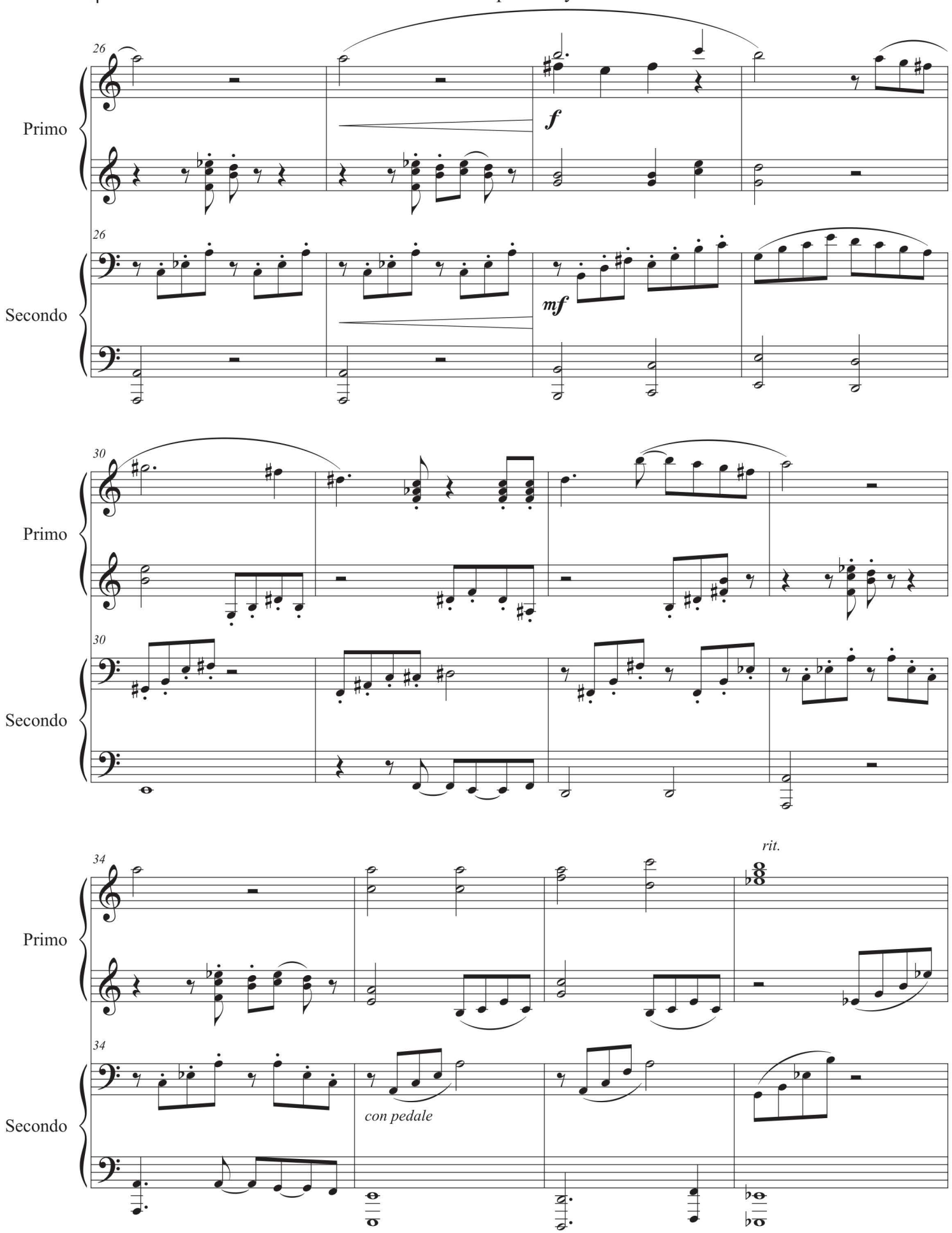
Rebecca Farmer
(ASCAP)

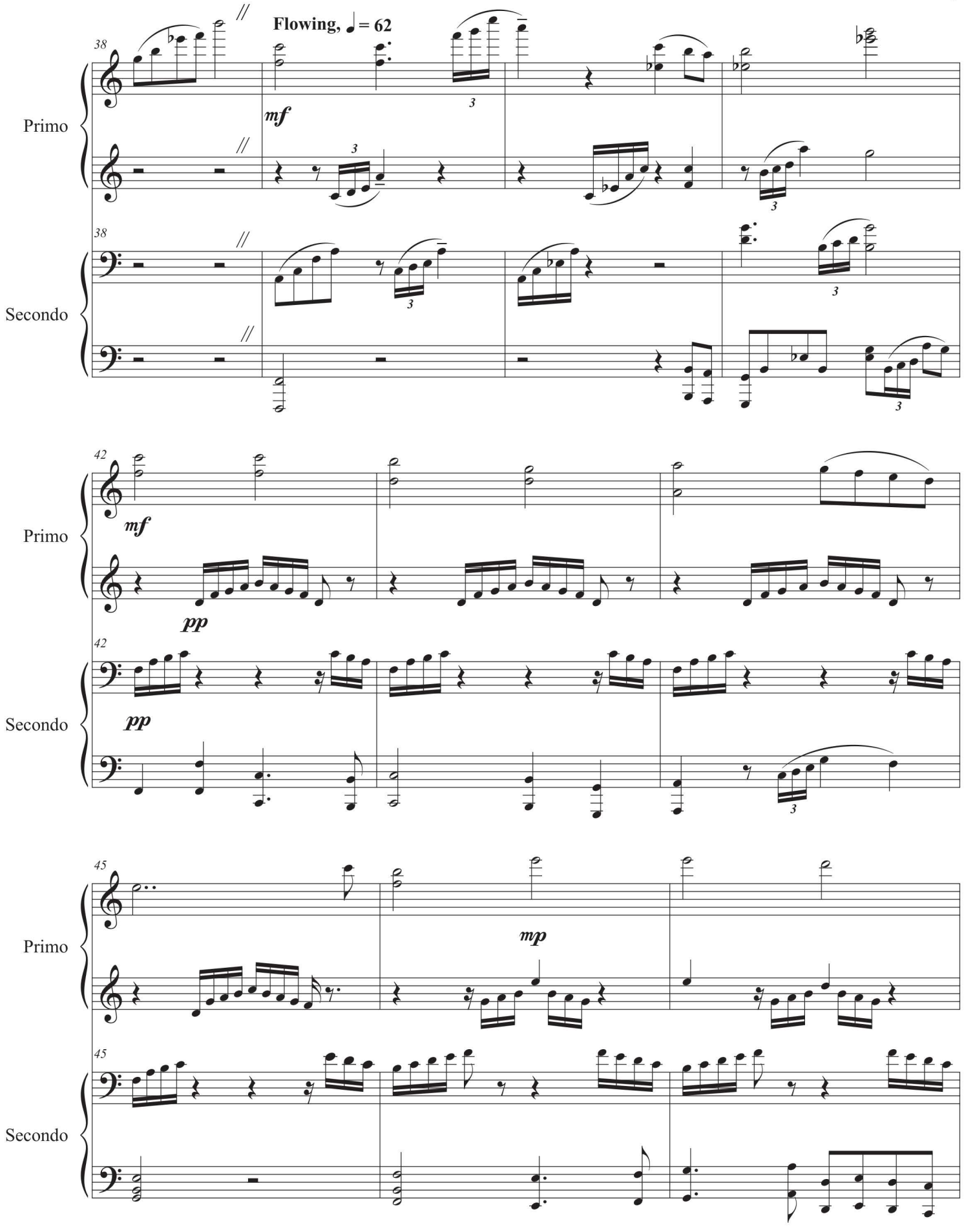
Flowing, ♩ = 62

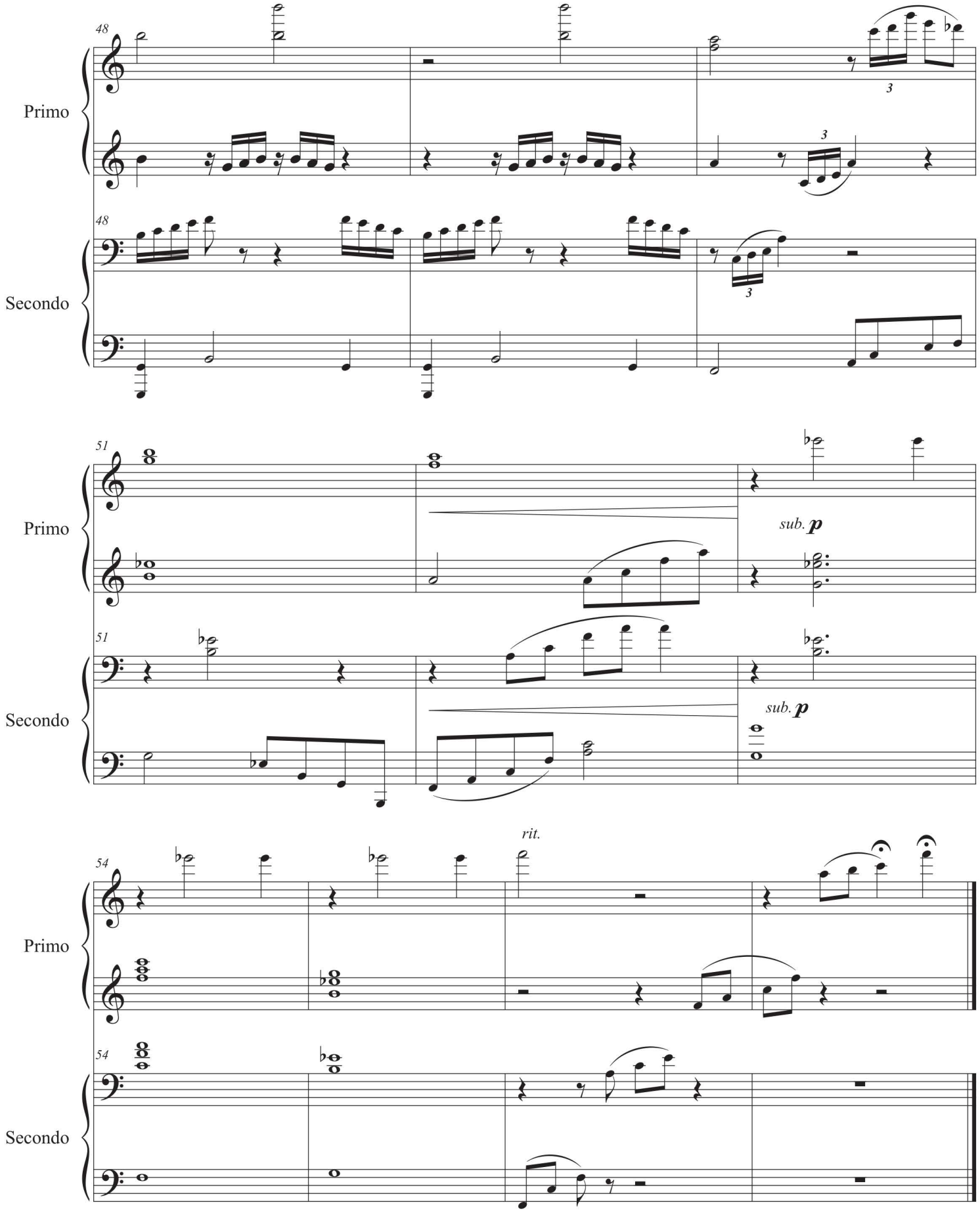



7
Primo
mp
7
Secondo
pp
legato
con pedale
10
Primo
10
Secondo
13
Primo
mf
p
13
Secondo
mp


16
Primo
mp
16
Secondo
mp
19
accel.
Primo
19
Secondo
mf
Colliding, ♩ = 108
22
Primo
mp
mf
22
Secondo
p
senza pedale
mp


26
Primo
f
26
Secondo
mf
30
Primo
30
Secondo
34
rit.
Primo
34
Secondo
con pedale


Flowing, ♩ = 62
38
mf
Primo
Secondo
42
pp
45
mp


48
Primo
48
Secondo
3
3
3
51
Primo
51
Secondo
sub. p
sub. p
rit.
54
Primo
54
Secondo