Practice Pointers for Perplexing Passages

Fred Karpoff
Virginia Music Teachers Association
November 6, 2021

Problem spots requested by teachers:

1. Bach, Sinfonia 15 in B minor, BWV 801, mm. 27-28: hands colliding in m. 28 since they are in close proximity. Any ideas on redistribution of notes to make this easier for students?

2. Mozart, Concerto in A Major, K. 488, mvt 1, cadenza, mm. 26-28: RH trill over LH running notes

3. Chopin, Prelude No 18, m. 16: tips and drills for how to play confidently and accurately

4. Barber, Excursion No. IV: 1) m. 3 whether to play the chords in the lower treble clef with LH only or both hands, and 2) mm. 36-40 fingering suggestions and tips for drills

5. Joplin, Maple Leaf Rag: how to memorize the last few measures of the C section

6. Chopin, Mazurka, Op 68, No 3: 1) pedaling, and 2) legato fingering for smaller hands

7. Beethoven, Concerto No. 1, mvt 1, cadenza: the double trills

8. Beethoven, Concerto No. 3, mvt 1, mm. 334-335: 4-against-3

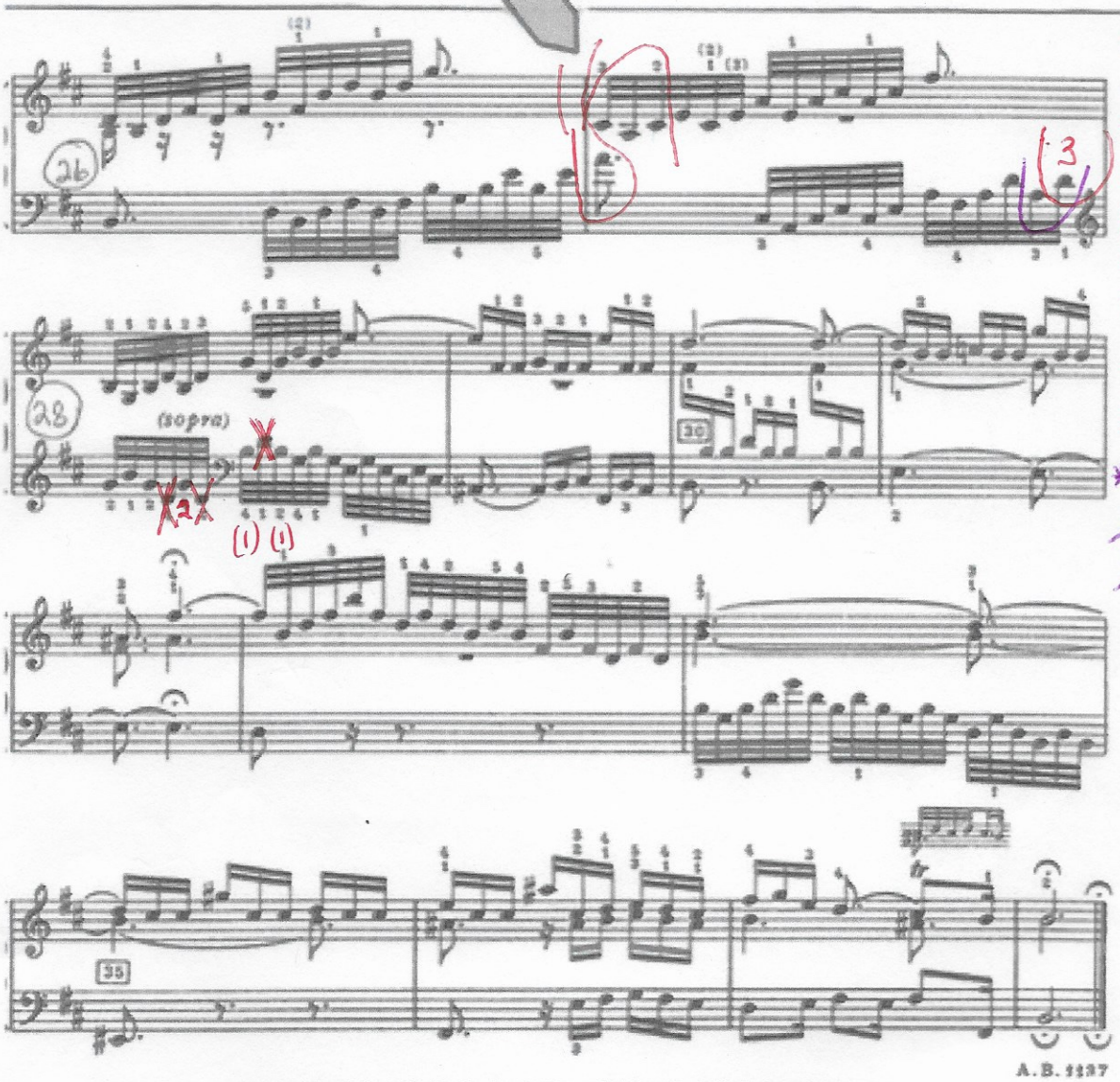
Winner of the Frances Clark Keyboard Pedagogy Award presented by MTNA, Steinway Artist, and Professor of Piano at Syracuse University, **Fred Karpoff** is highly sought-after for workshops throughout the world. After recovering from a career-threatening injury, his life's work is realized through guiding teachers and pianists toward more efficient, healthful and expressive playing as the Artistic Producer of Entrada Piano. Training with Yoheved Kaplinsky, Leon Fleisher, and Ann Schein, and work with Tai chi, the Alexander Technique and the Feldenkrais Method® have contributed to his multi-dimensional approach to piano teaching and playing. Learn more at entradapiano.com.

Fred Karpoff

Bach, Sinfonia #15, BWV 801

m. 27

① as written, RH over
② Take A with RH; C#-A-C# with LH



Then:
Take last D with RH and play RH as written from here; LH omits D's that are doubled.

* or:
take last two notes, A + D, with RH

A. B. 2237

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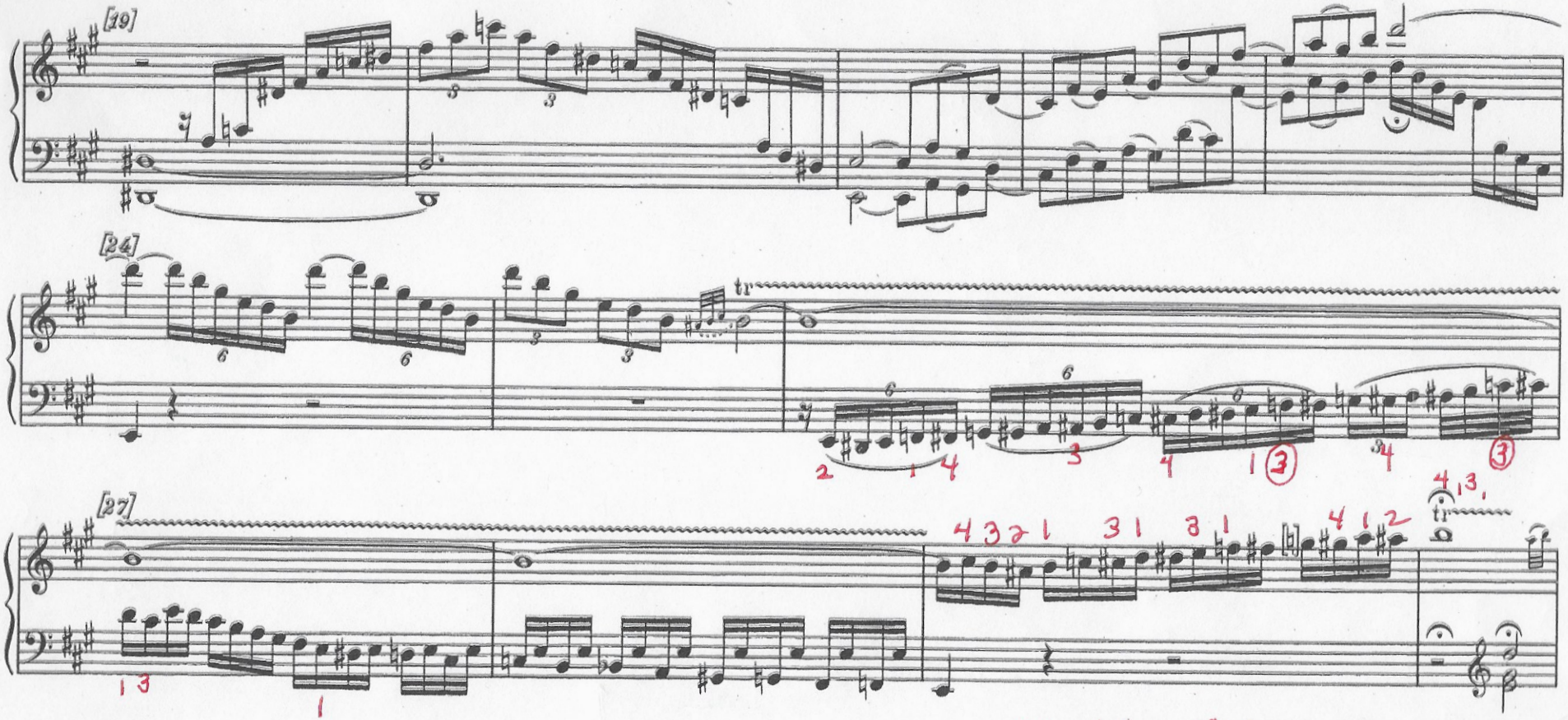
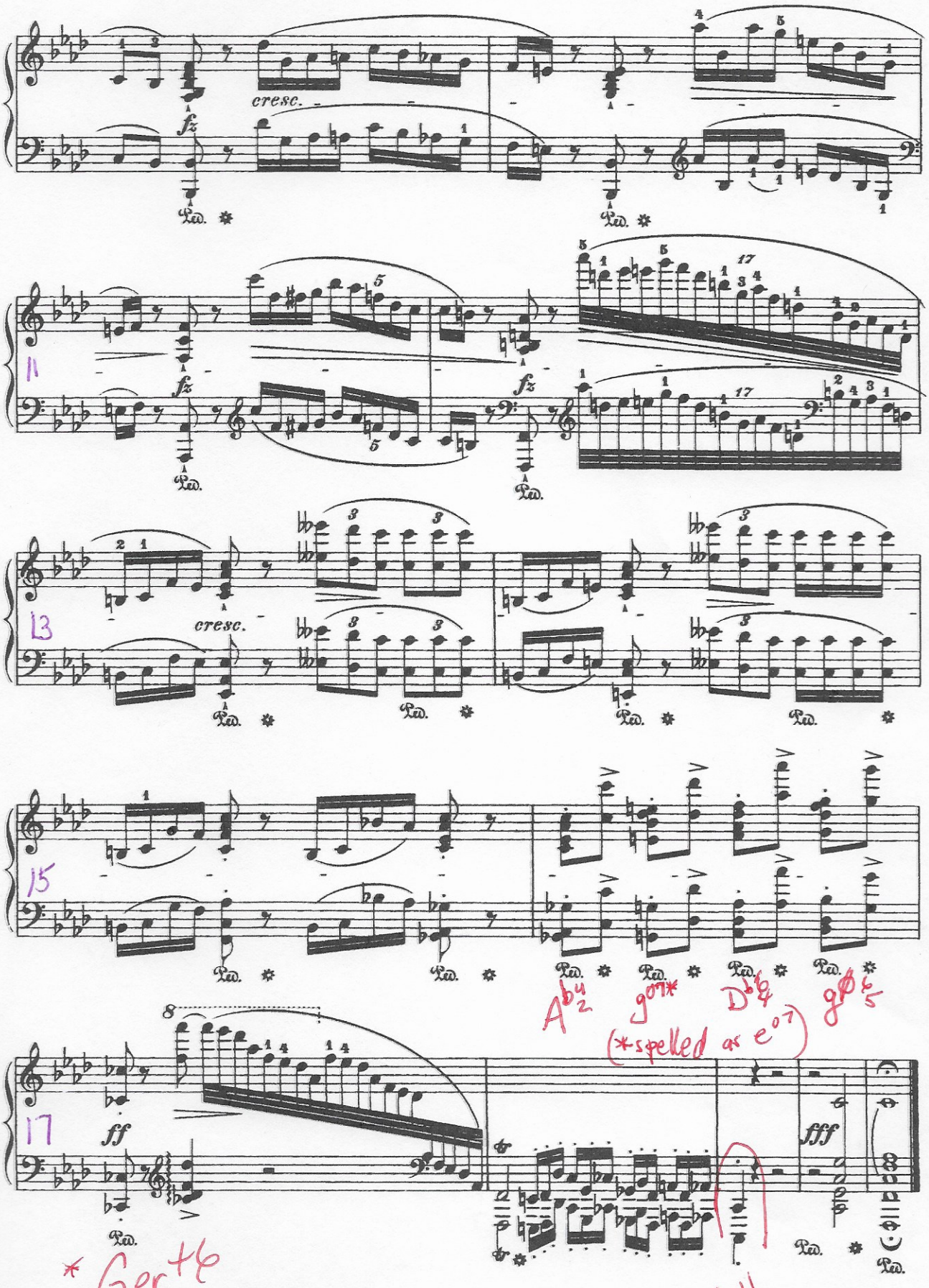


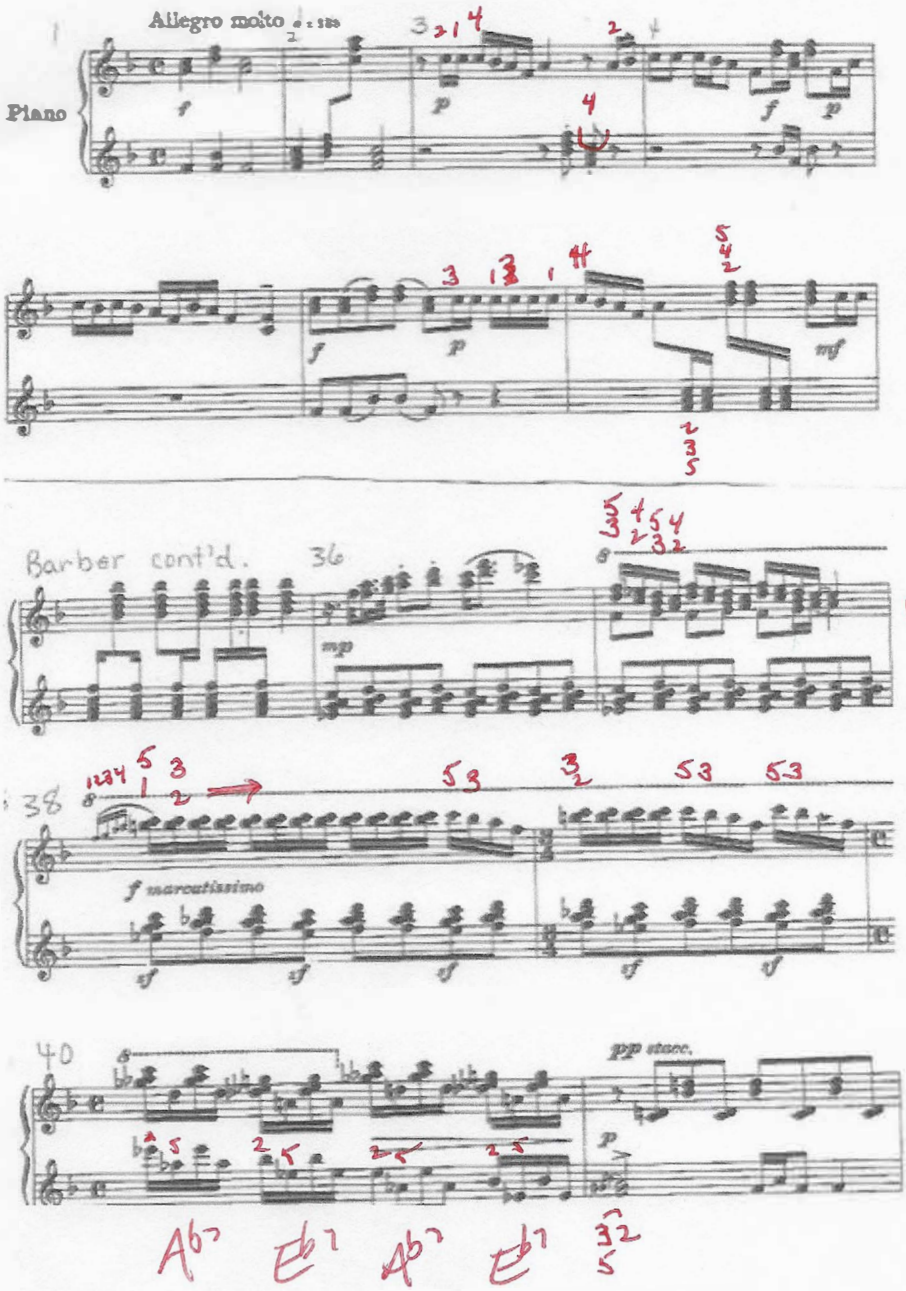
① use "traditional" fingering, or
② use "fast" chromatic scale fingering & start on auxiliary note (C#) for more brilliant trill.



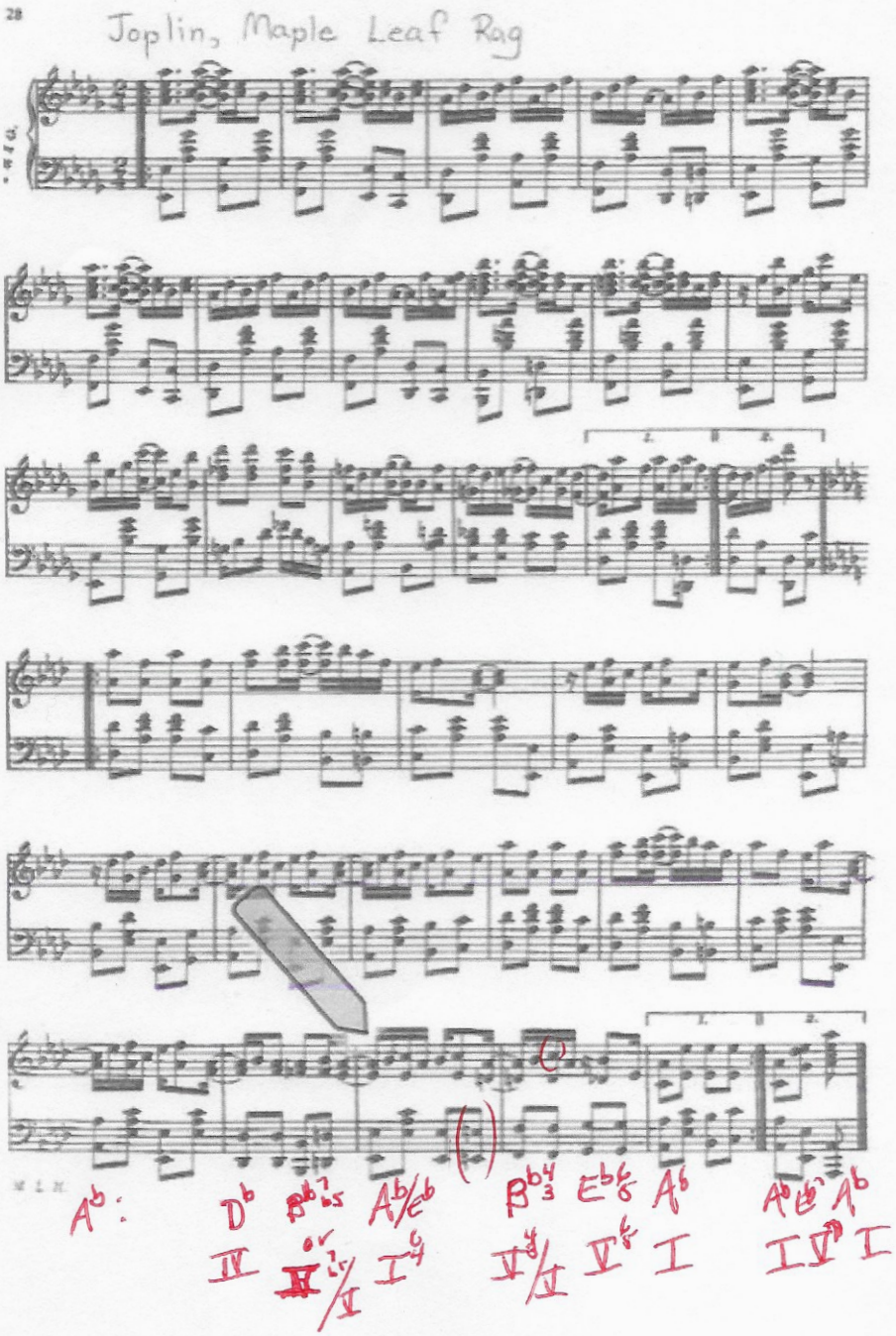
* Ger+6

* misspelled as C♭, but resolves as Ger+6 to C

Barber, Excursion No. IV



release thumbs notes immediately

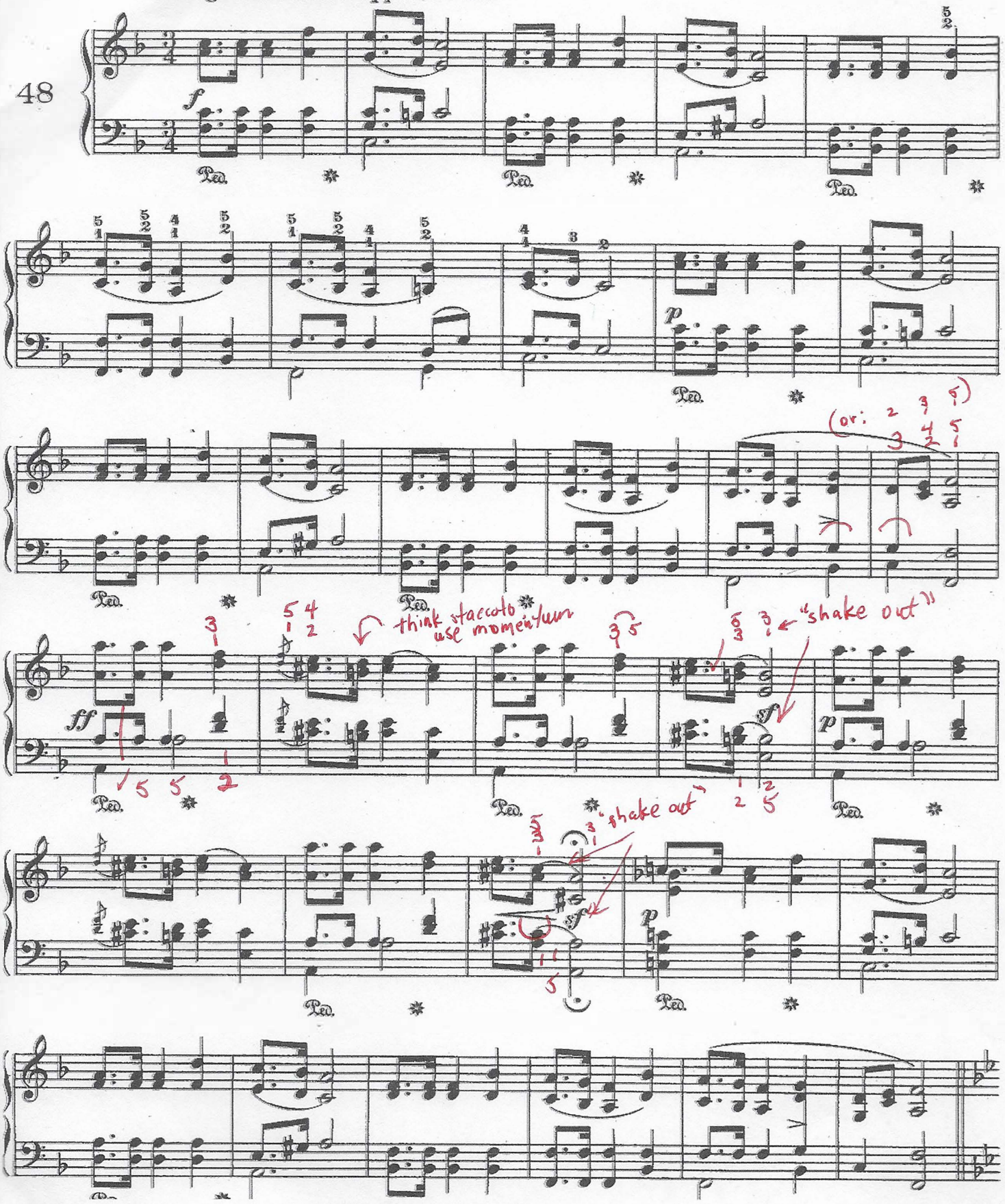

28
Joplin, Maple Leaf Rag
M. L. H.
A♭: D♭ B♭7 b5 A♭/E♭ B♭4 3 E♭6 5 A♭ A♭ E♭7 A♭
IV or IV 7 b5/V I 6 4 V 4 3/V V 6 5 I I V D I

Mazurka.

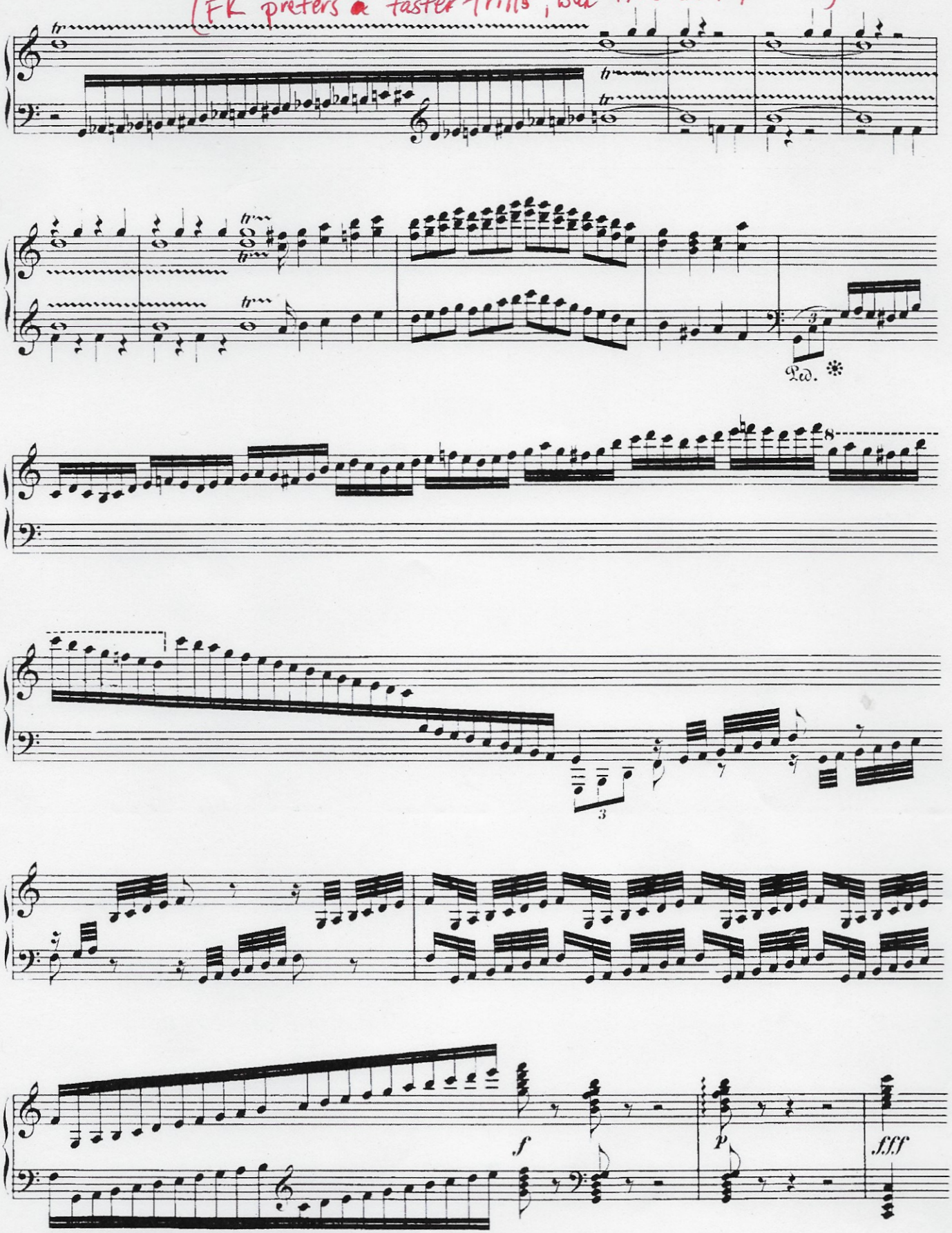
(Posthumous.)

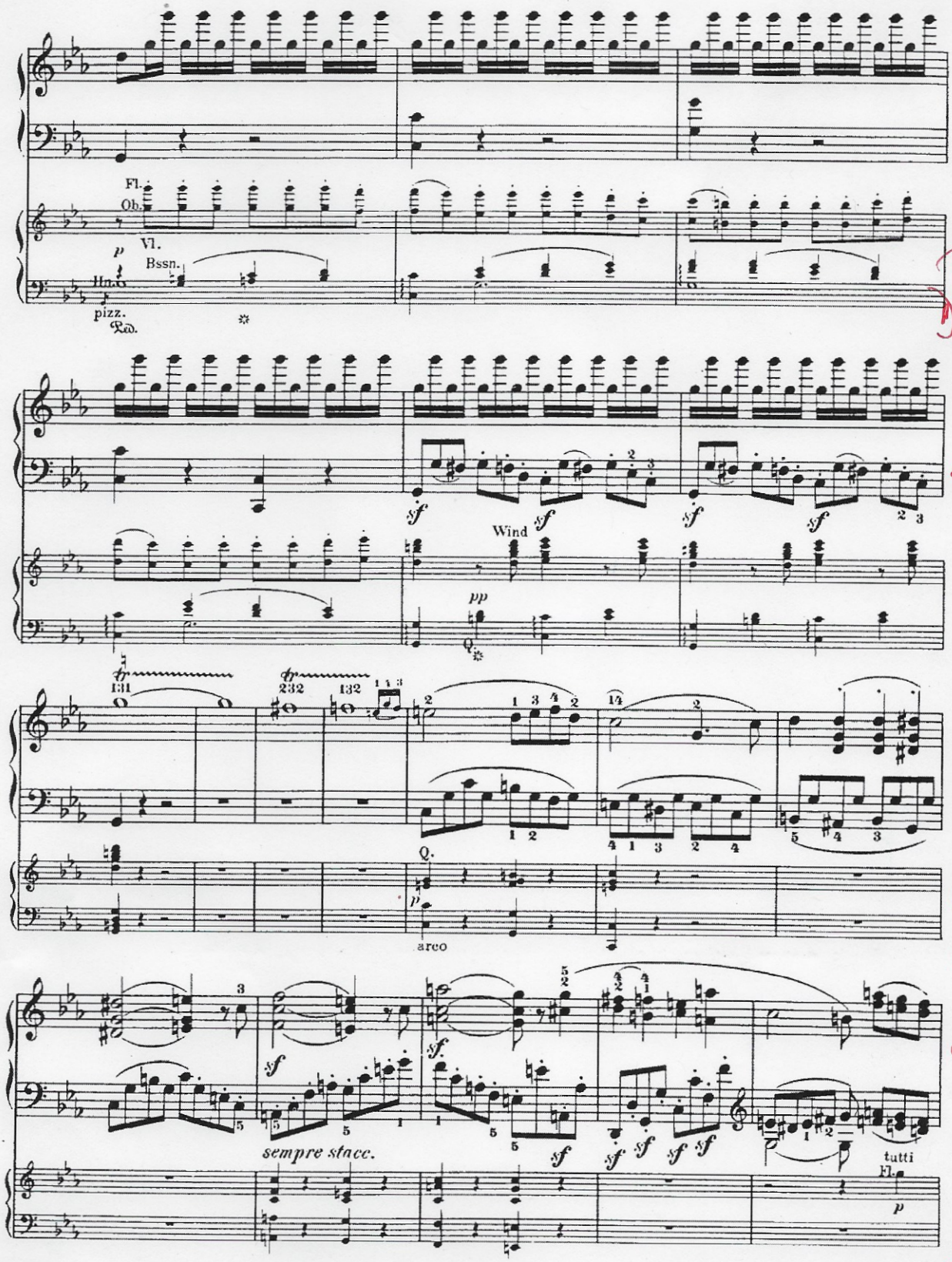
F. CHOPIN. Op. 68, № 3.
(1830)

Allegro, ma non troppo. (♩ = 132)



Andrzejewski plays double trills as (only) 16ths!
(FK prefers a faster trills, but PA's work, too...)





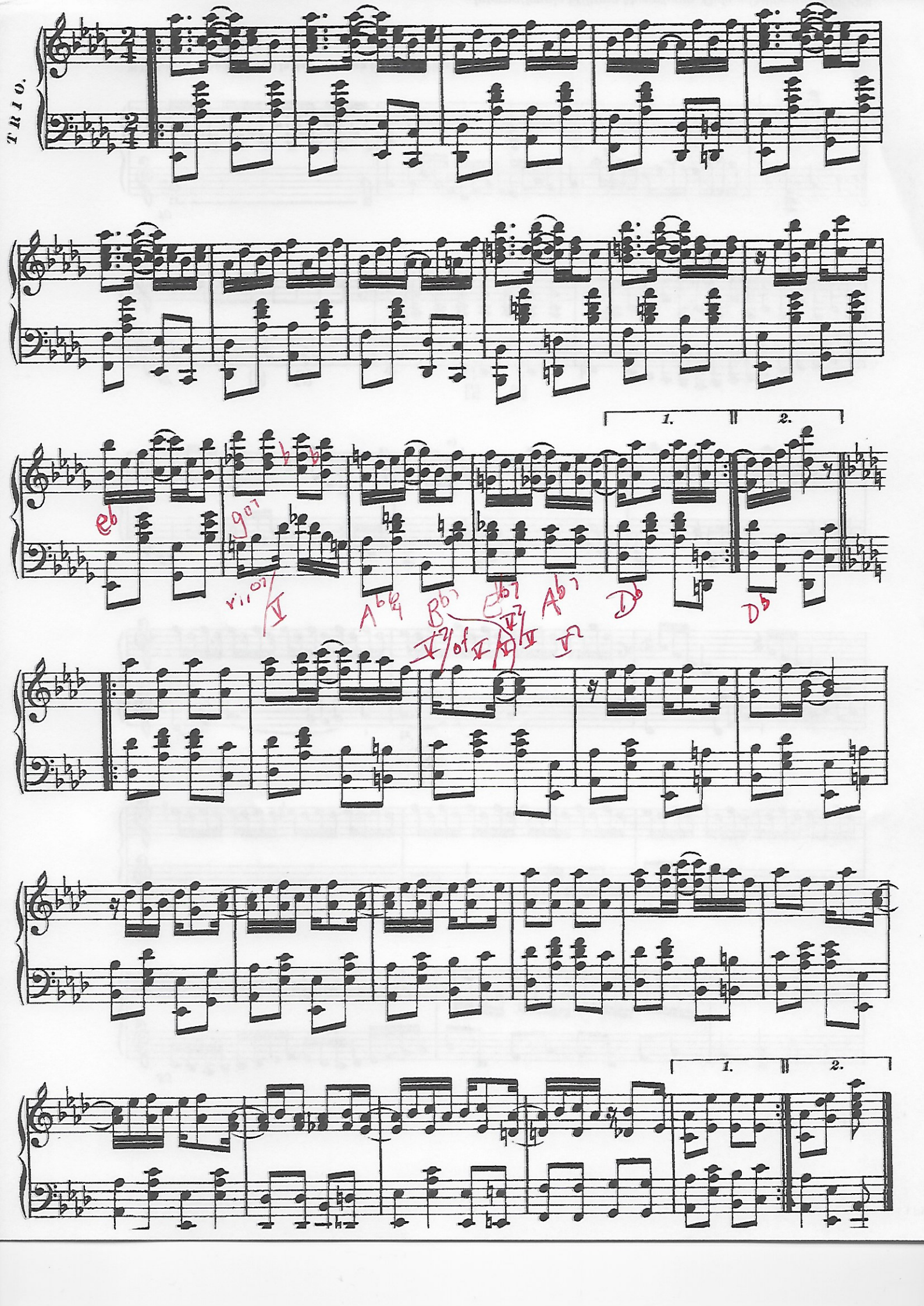
1) Practice Hands sep with excellent articulation. LH

2) LH with only RH thumbs on beats (♩'s)

3) LH with only RH thumbs (2 vs. 3)

4) LH with RH alternating between 1 beat as written and 1 beat as a quarter — or 2 eighths.

5) as written


TRIO.
1.
2.
1.
2.