University of Melbourne Symphonic Ensembles 2026 Auditions: Piano

Please prepare excerpts as instructed. Note you may not be asked to perform all excerpts.

Auditions are open to any MCM keyboard students from second year onwards (including Honours, MMPT, MMus and PhD students) who obtained a mark of 70 or above on their last performance exam.

Rostering of piano parts in the ensembles of the Symphonic Ensembles subject will be dependent on repertoire. Some ensembles may also include celesta (this is not required for the audition).

Need help preparing for your audition? Here are some suggestions:

- *Listen to the pieces in their entirety with full scores (recordings of some of these excerpts are available online). Listen to the orchestras that you've heard of (Berlin, Chicago, New York, Vienna etc). Scores are available in the music library, or through web resources such as:*
  - *http://imslp.org/*
  - *http://archives.nyphil.org/*
- *Do detailed work first – ensure that all tempos, notes, intervals and rhythms are correct.*
- *Once you've got the tempo, notes, intervals, rhythms sorted, record yourself playing ONE phrase of an excerpt. Listen to the professional version, and then listen back to your version. Name something specific that is better about the professional recording. Learn to do that specific thing. Repeat process until they are the same.*
- *Once you have the excerpts suitably prepared, record three of them in a row and then listen. Write down several things that you know need to improve and then spend time working on them.*
- *Take several excerpts (random order) and perform as a pretend audition. Always record these mock auditions. Sometimes play them in front of your parents, or sibling, or even your dog! No comments needed, just an audience.*
- *Repeat every day (after a nice warm- up). Use the recording to decide what basics you'll work on tonight or tomorrow morning before your next mock audition.*

EXCERPT OVERVIEW

Prepare one (1) solo piano work of your choice up to 5 minutes. This must be written after 1900

**Please provide a copy of your solo work (printed or digital) to audition staff prior to your audition.*

AND please prepare the following excerpts

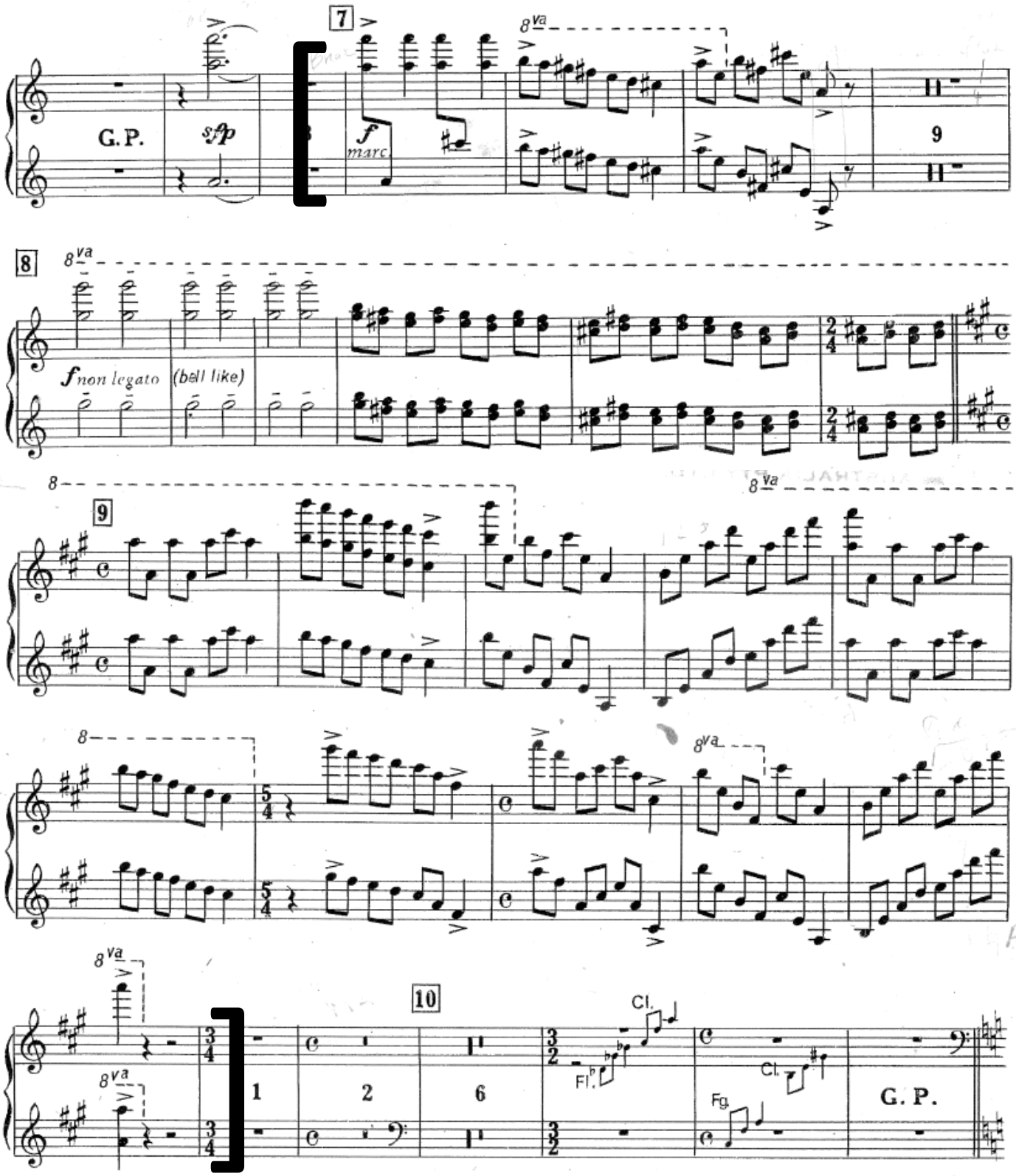
COPLAND Appalachian Spring
Fig 7 - Fig. 10

STRAVINSKY Firebird Suite
Mvt I, Fig. 72 – End

STRAVINSKY Petrushka
"Danse Russe", Fig. 64 – Fig. 73

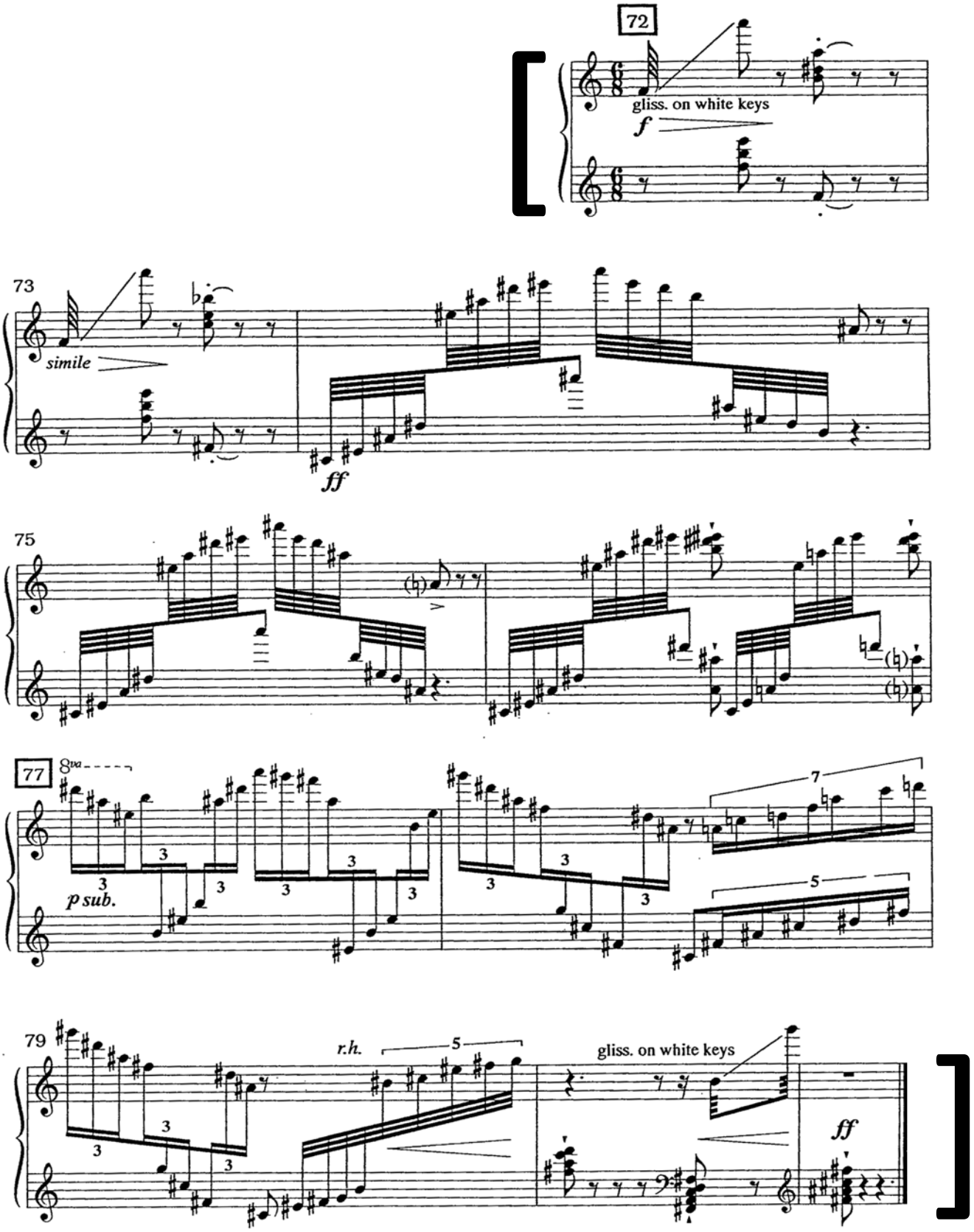
COPLAND Appalachian Spring

Fig 7 - Fig. 10



STRAVINKSY Firebird Suite

Mvt I, Fig. 72 - End



THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK

DANSE RUSSE

64 Allegro giusto, ♩=116

f

65

gliss.

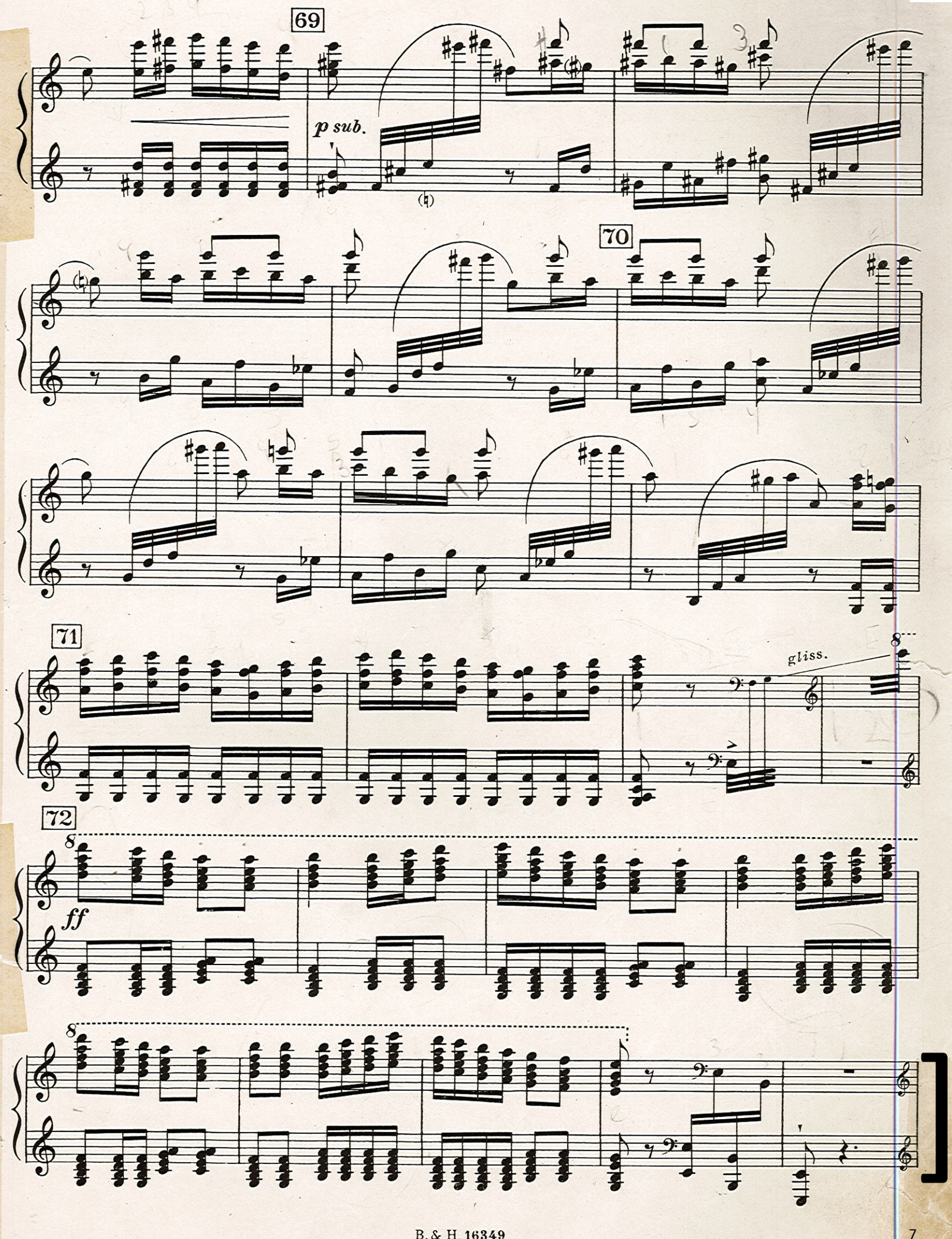
66

67

p sub.

68

p


69
p sub.
70
71
gliss.
8
72
8
ff
8