Sidney Bechet (1928): Negro Rapsodie No 1

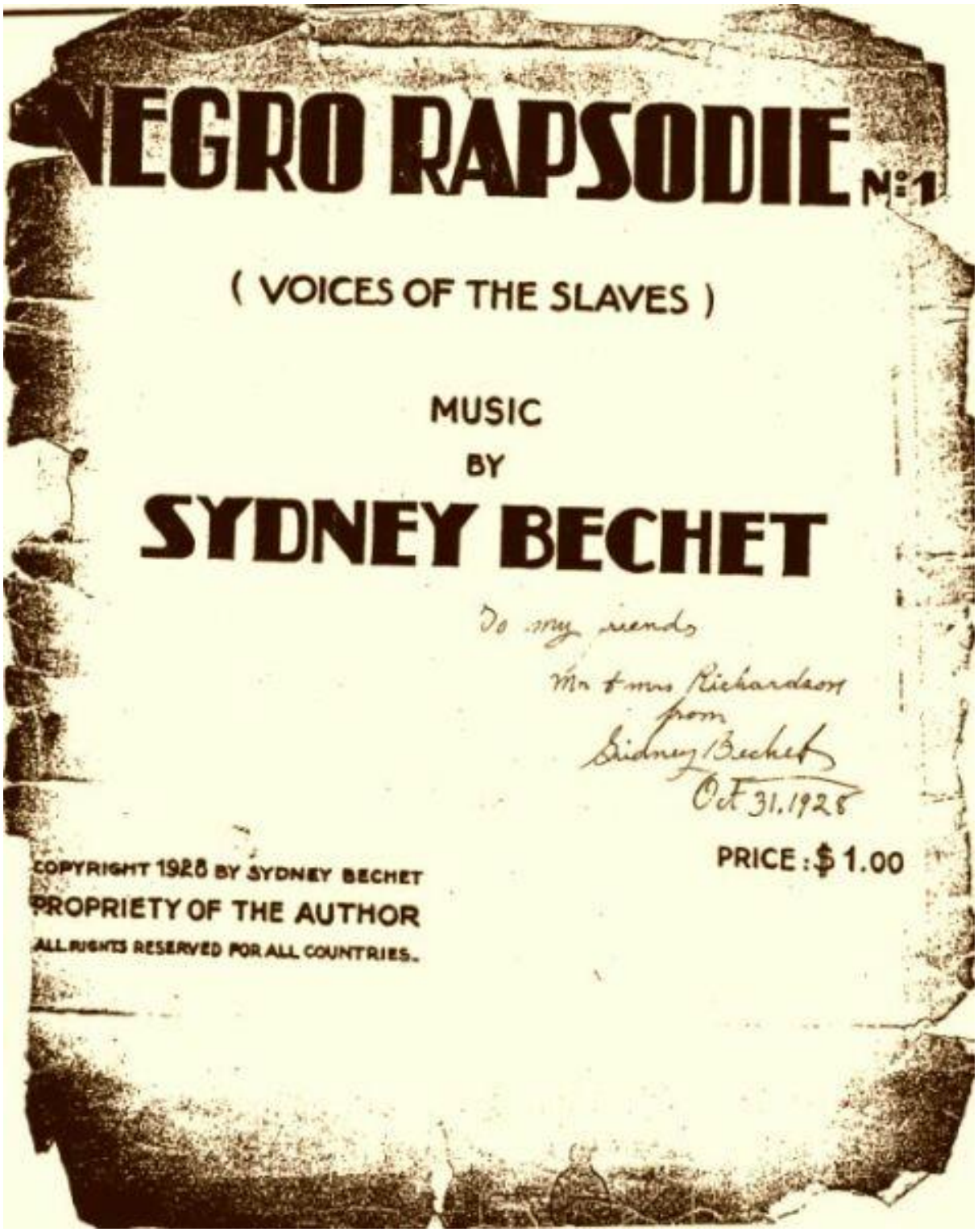


Foto Klaus Pehl 1992

Band-Arrangement Klaus Pehl 1993, re-editiert 2026

Sidney Bechet (1928): Negro Rapsodie No 1 – Band Arrangement Klaus Pehl 1993, re-editiert 2026. © Klaus Pehl 2026

Die Originalvorlage für das Band-Arrangement ist eine 1928 in einem Frankfurter Musikverlag erschienene Druckausgabe für Violine und Klavierbegleitung. Das Band-Arrangement sieht Stimmen für Klarinette in Bb, Kornett in Bb, Posaune, 1. und 2. Geige, Violoncello, Bass, Piano und Schlagzeug vor. Das entspricht einer Besetzung, die im Amerikanischen mit „Band" oder „Small Orchestra" bezeichnet wird. Dem entspricht das deutsche „Salon Orchester".

Für das Arrangement sind die Tonart, alle Dynamik- und Artikulationsbezeichnungen sowie alle Ausführungsanweisungen (auf Italienisch) des Originals übernommen. Die Piano-Begleitstimme (Piano acc.) ist in Begleitpassagen im Vergleich zu dem Piano-Original leicht reduziert. In Solo-Passagen ist das Original beibehalten.

Für die Überführung in eine elektronische Fassung wurde das Programm (für PC) Emagic Logic Gold Version 5.5.1 verwendet, und zwar für die Erstfassung 1993 sowie die Re-Edition 2026.

Vorgeschichte

Da er wusste, dass ich in Frankfurt am Main wohnte, gab der Jazzforscher und Geiger des „*New Orleans Ragtime Society*" Bill Russel Ende der 1980er Jahre dem Schlagzeuger Trevor Richards, der häufig die Jazzszene in New Orleans Anfang besuchte (und bereicherte), einen kleinen handgeschriebenen Zettel für mich mit den Daten der Komposition und dem Vermerk „Look for this". Außerdem war eine Frankfurter Adresse „Eiserne Hand 42" angegeben. Man kann annehmen, dass Elisabeth Ziegler dort gewohnt hatte, die Sidney Bechet in Frankfurt am Main kennengelernt hatte und 1947 in Antibes heiratete. Heute befindet sich an der Adresse ein Nachkriegswohnhaus und eine Autowerkstatt. Ich war in Frankfurt mit Recherchen nicht erfolgreich.

Bei einem Besuch 1992 in New York besuchte ich auch die Dependance der „New York Public Library" in Harlem, das „Schomburg Center". Mein Hauptanliegen war, dort alte Noten aus der Ragtime Ära oder Arrangements für Big Band aus den 1940er Jahren zu finden. Sozusagen als „Beifang" fand eine Bibliothekarin im Nachlass von Don Redman, Saxophonist und Arrangeur und 1922 Gründungsmitglied von Fletcher Hendersons Orchester, Bechets Komposition „*Negro Rapsodie*", ein Glücksfund. Die damaligen Bestimmungen ließen eine Kopie nicht zu, sodass mir nichts Anderes übrigblieb, als am nächsten Tag mit Notenpapier, Bleistift und Radiergummi wiederzukommen und die umfangreiche Komposition für Geige und Klavier abzuschreiben. Das war dann 1993 die Vorlage Bechets alte Komposition mit einem PC-Programm zu erfassen und gleich ein Band-Arrangement zu wagen.

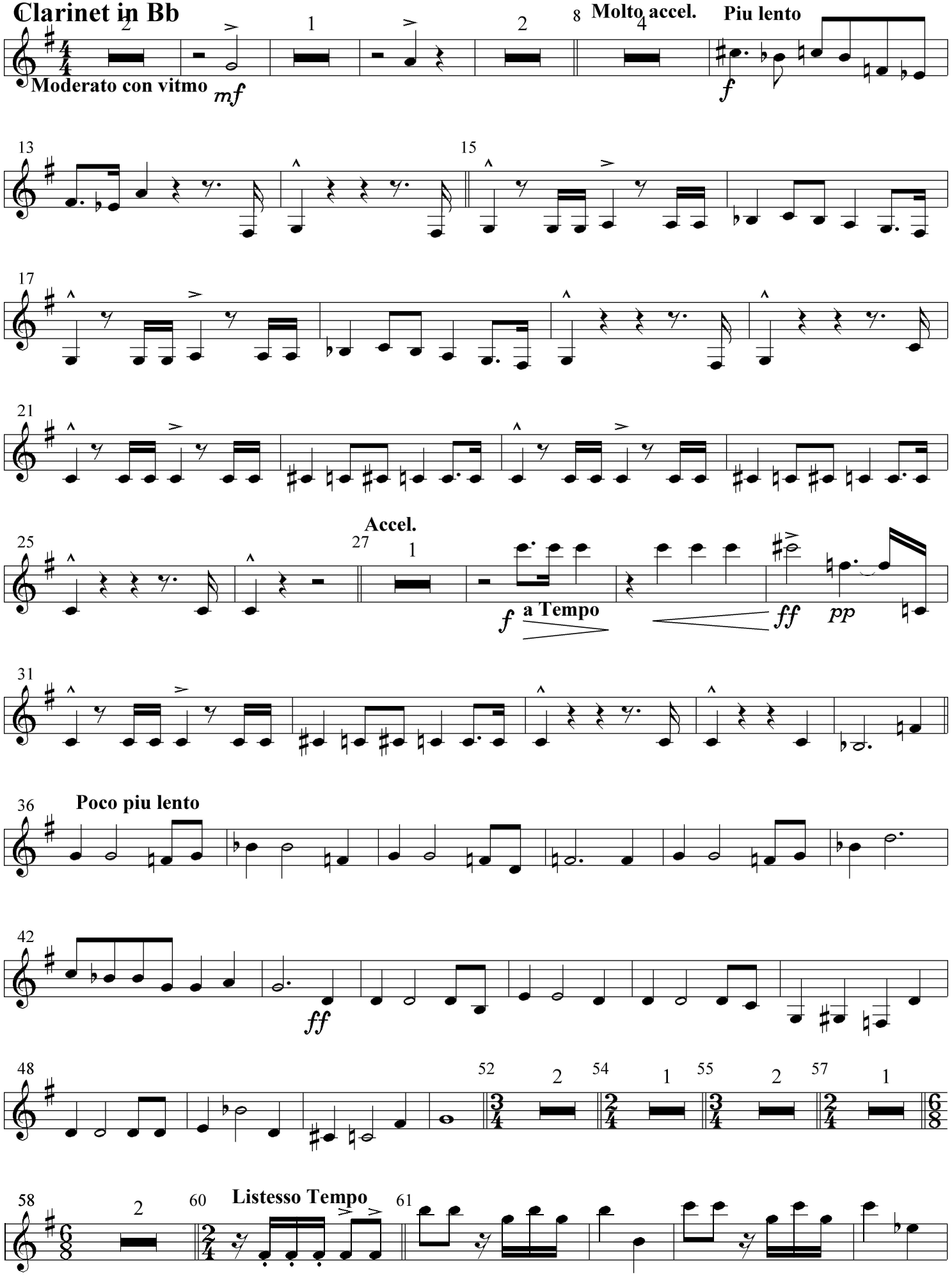
2026 fand ich die alten Dateien, so dass ich über meine Webseiten www.klauspehl.de und www.ragtime-society.de das Arrangement allgemein zugänglich machen kann.

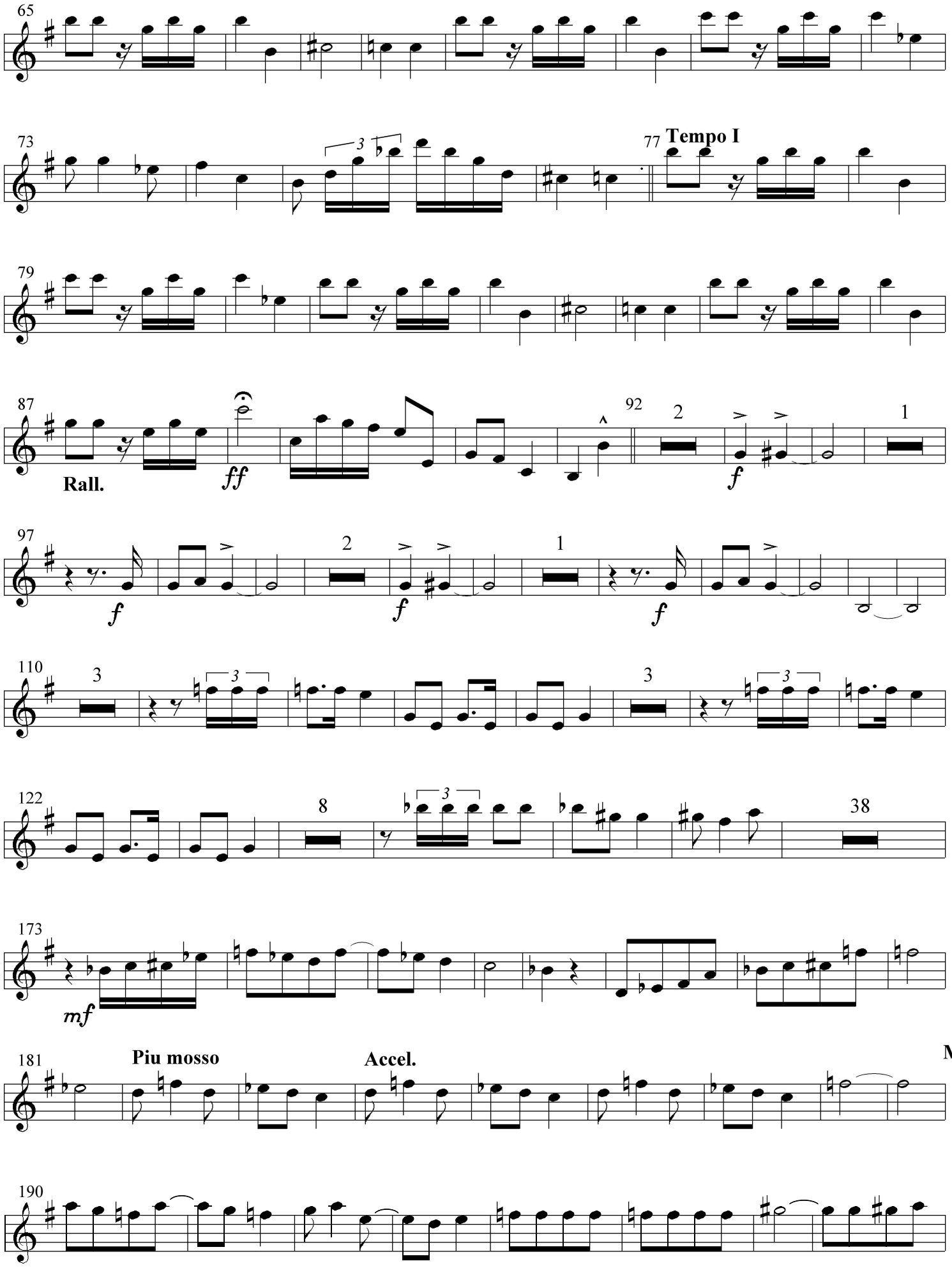
Negro Rapsodie No 1

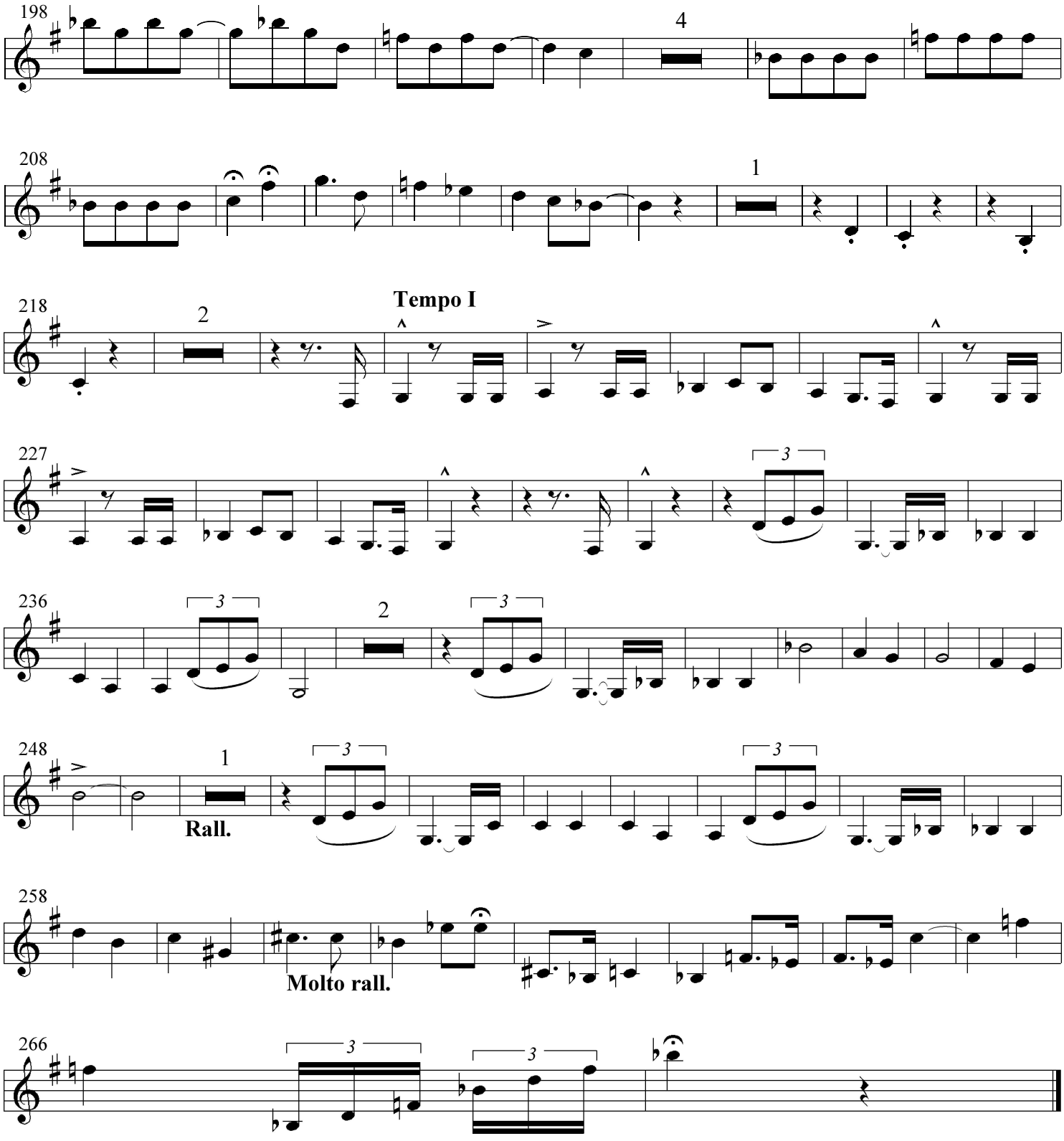
Sydney Bechet 1927

arr. Klaus Pehl 1993

Clarinet in Bb




65
73
77
Tempo I
79
87
Rall.
ff
92
2
f
1
97
f
2
f
1
f
110
3
3
3
3
122
8
3
38
173
mf
181
Piu mosso
Accel.
Me
190

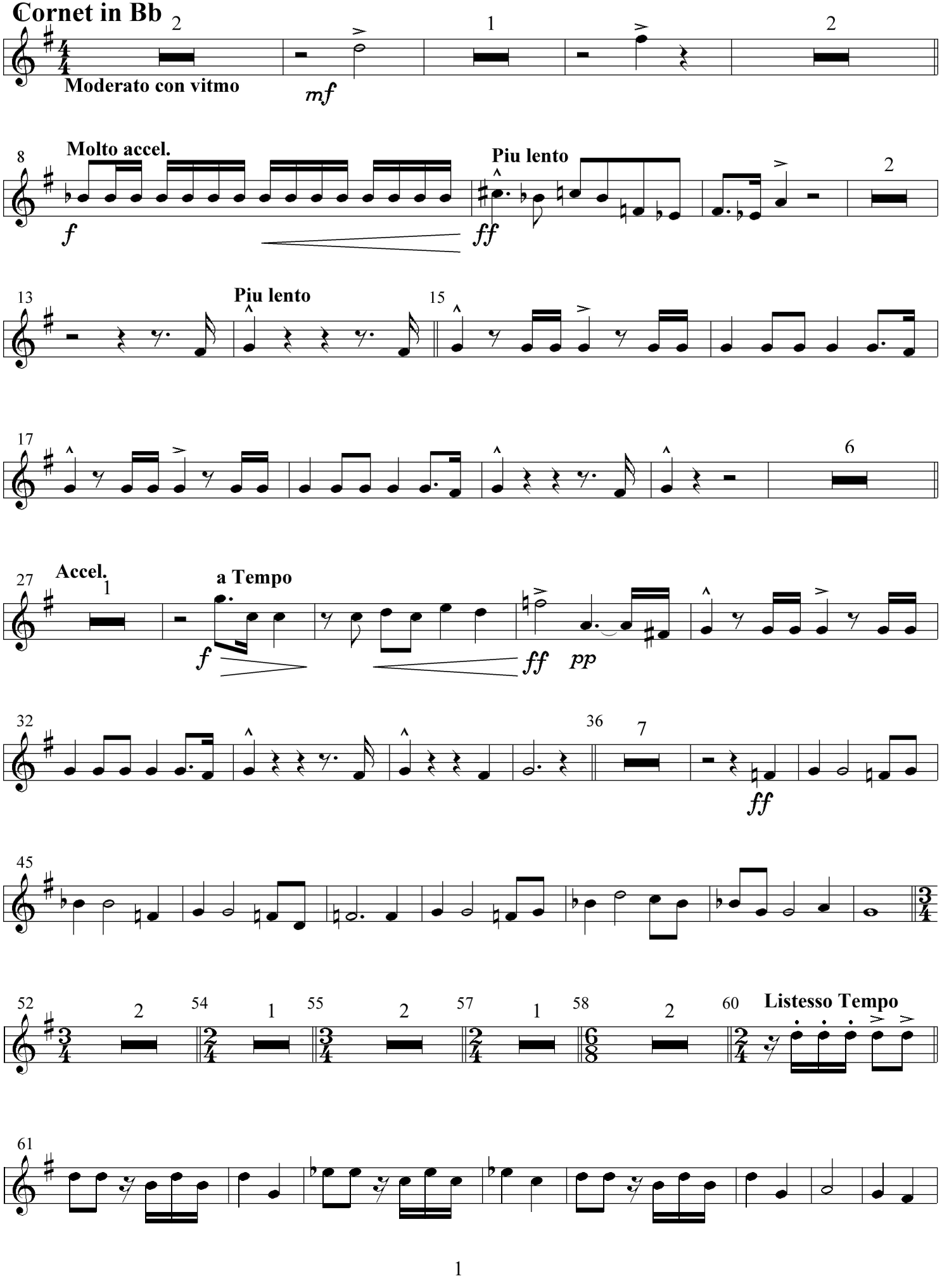

198
4
208
1
218
2
Tempo I
227
3
236
3
2
3
248
1
3
3
Rall.
258
Molto rall.
266
3
3

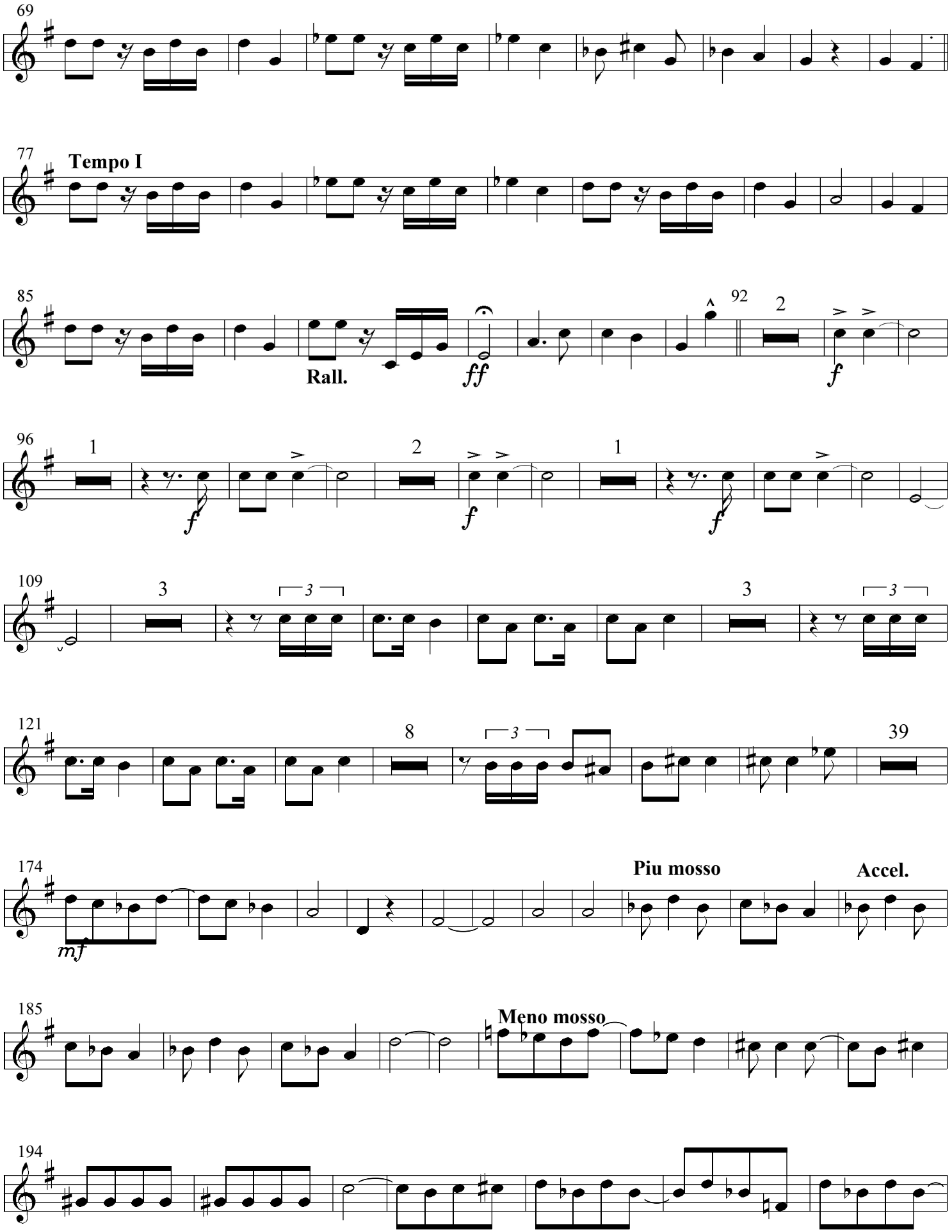
Negro Rapsodie No 1

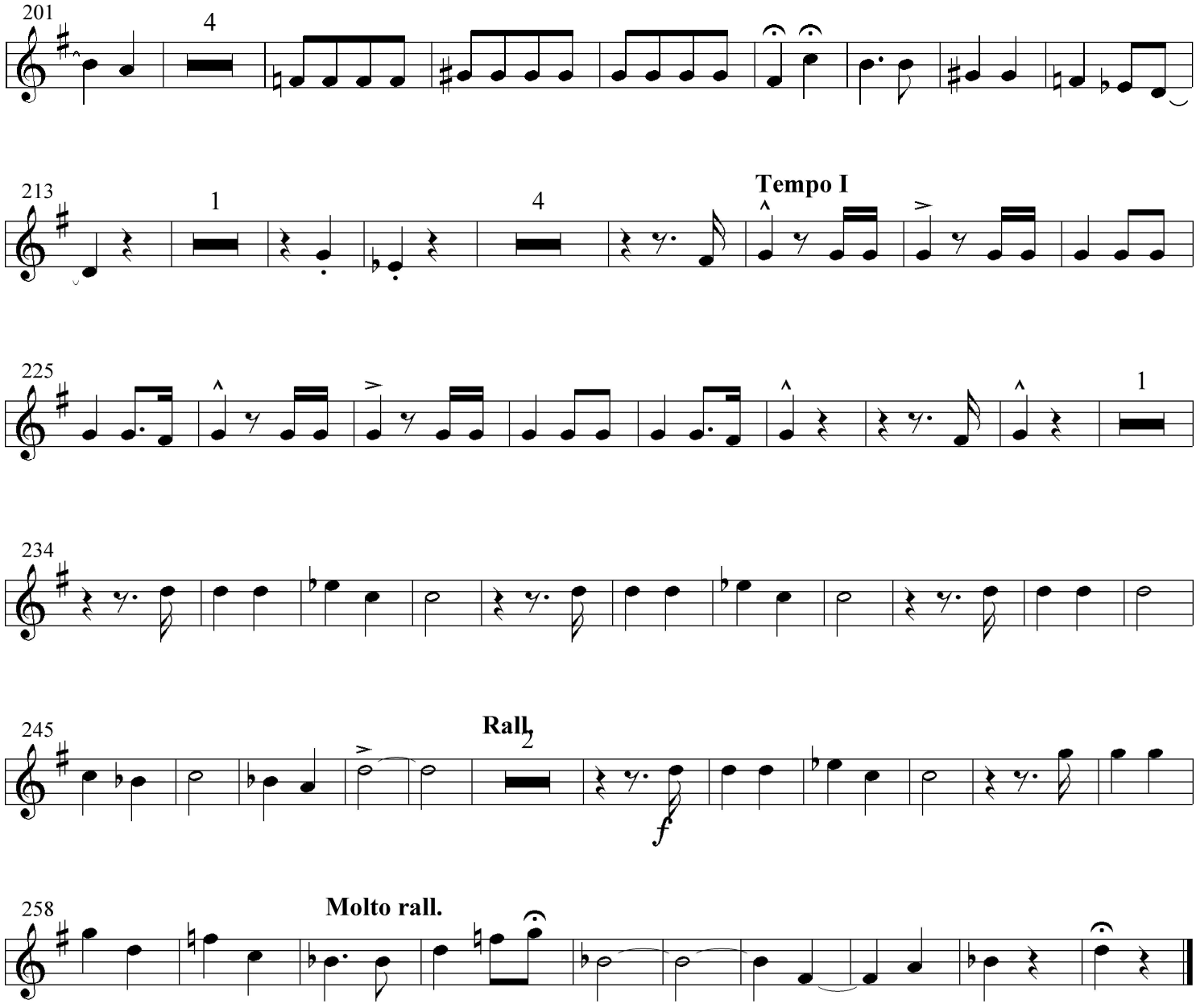
Sydney Bechet 1927

arr. Klaus Pehl 1993

Cornet in Bb




69
77
Tempo I
85
Rall.
ff
92
2
f
96
1
2
1
109
3
3
3
121
8
39
174
mf
Piu mosso
Accel.
185
Meno mosso
194

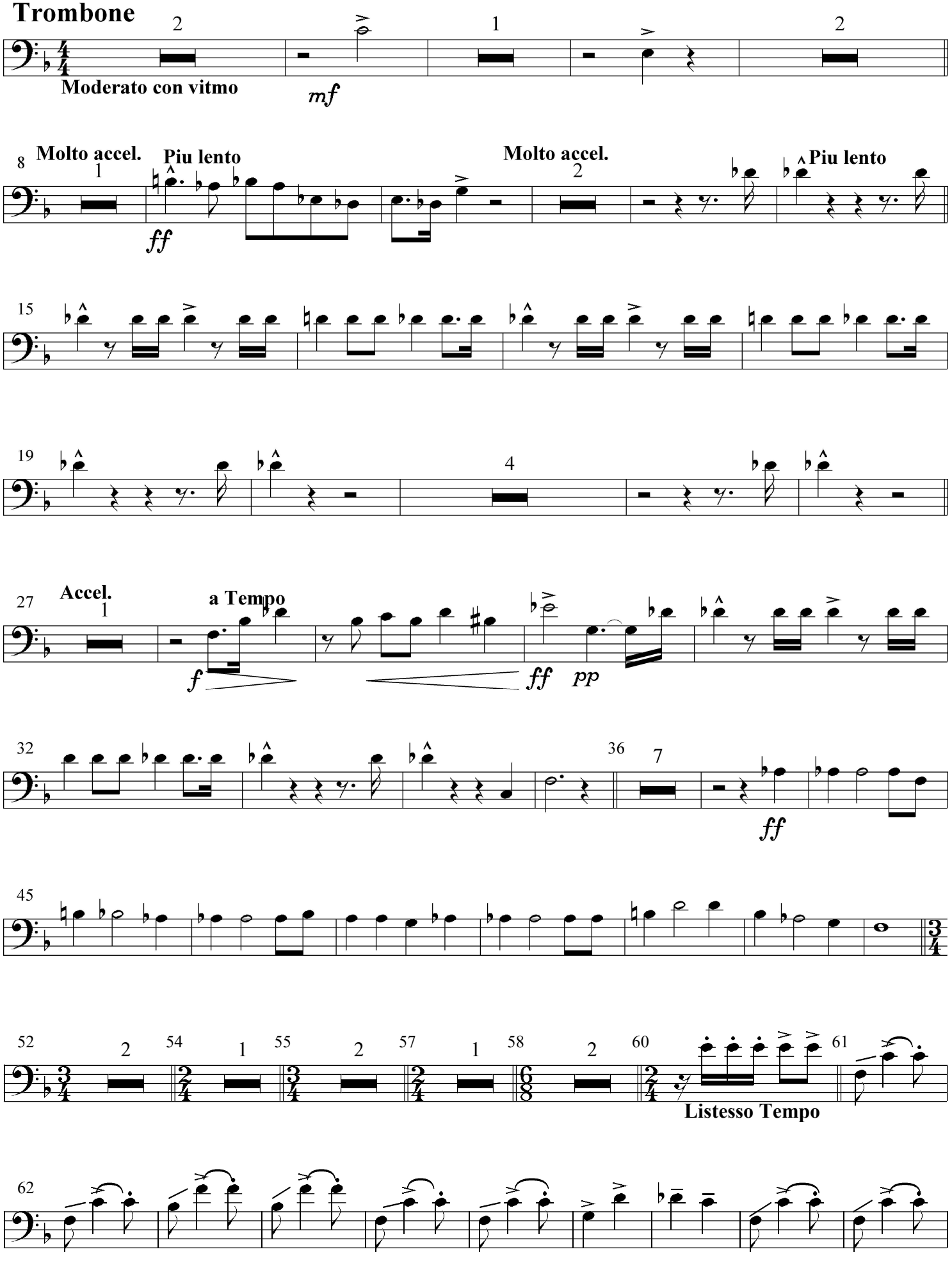

201
4
213
1
4
Tempo I
225
1
234
245
Rall.
2
f
258
Molto rall.

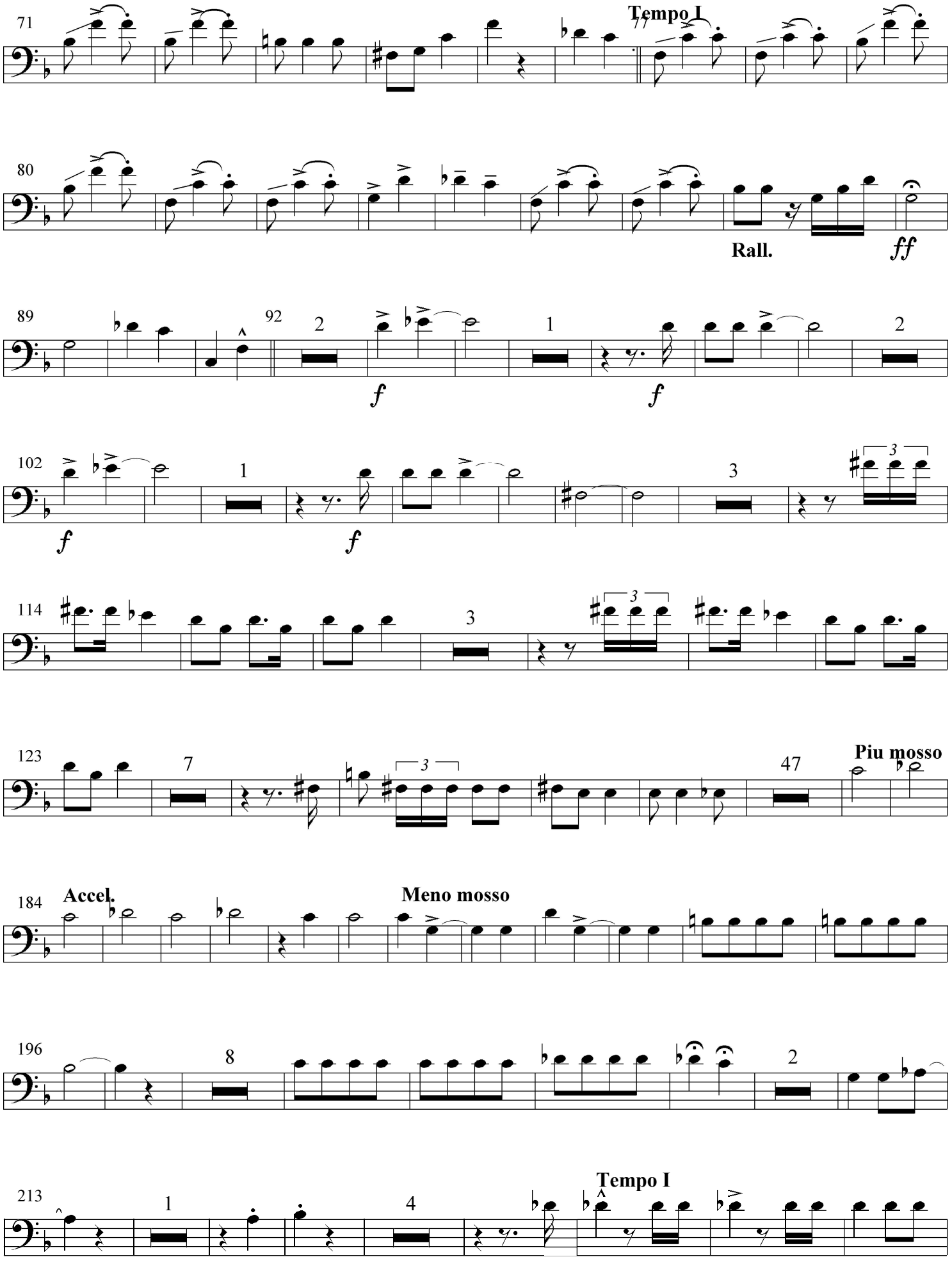
Negro Rapsodie No 1

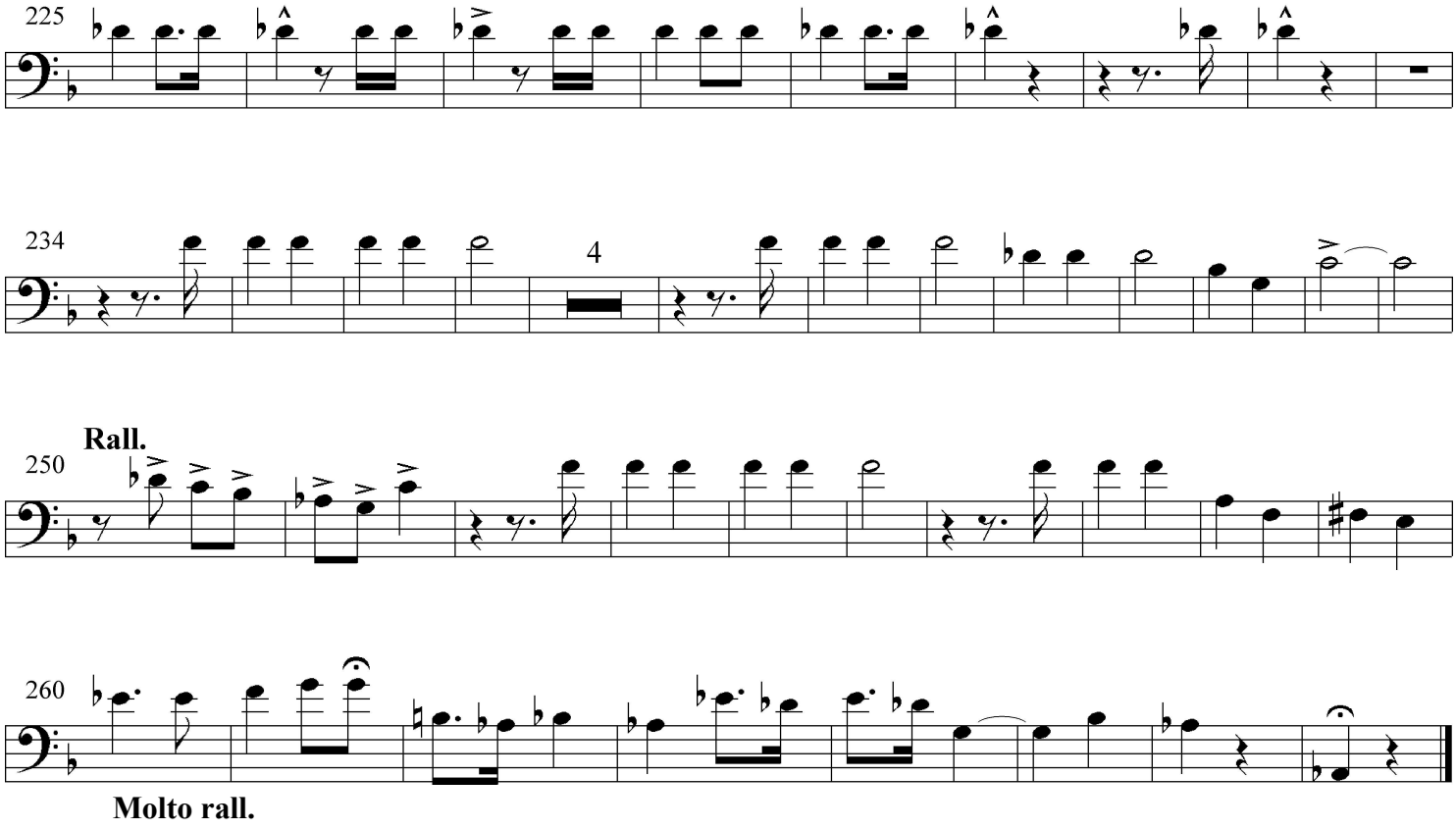
Sydney Bechet 1927

arr. Klaus Pehl 1993

Trombone



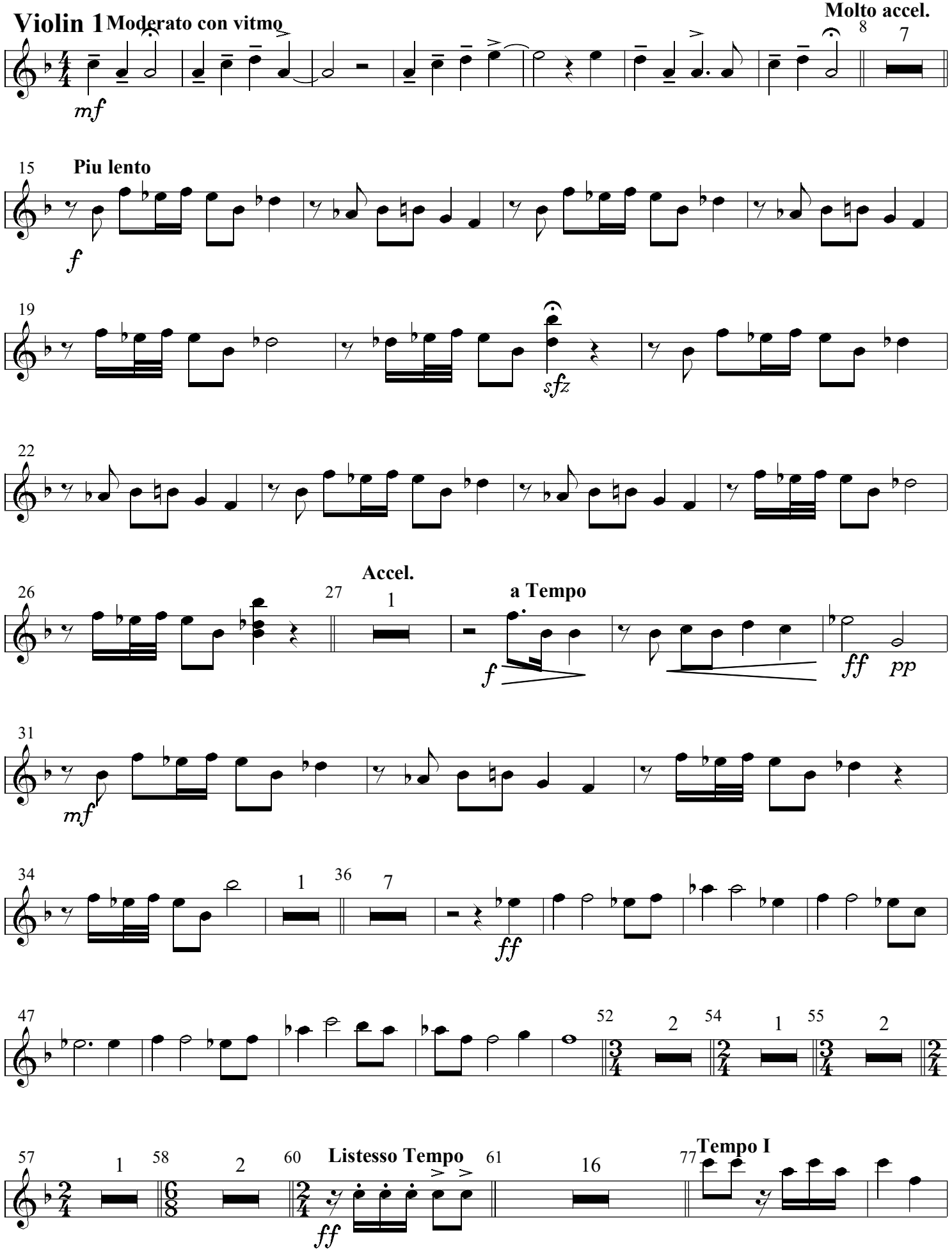

71
Tempo I
80
Rall.
ff
89
92
2
f
1
f
2
102
f
1
f
3
3
114
3
3
123
7
3
47
Piu mosso
184
Accel.
Meno mosso
196
8
2
213
1
4
Tempo I

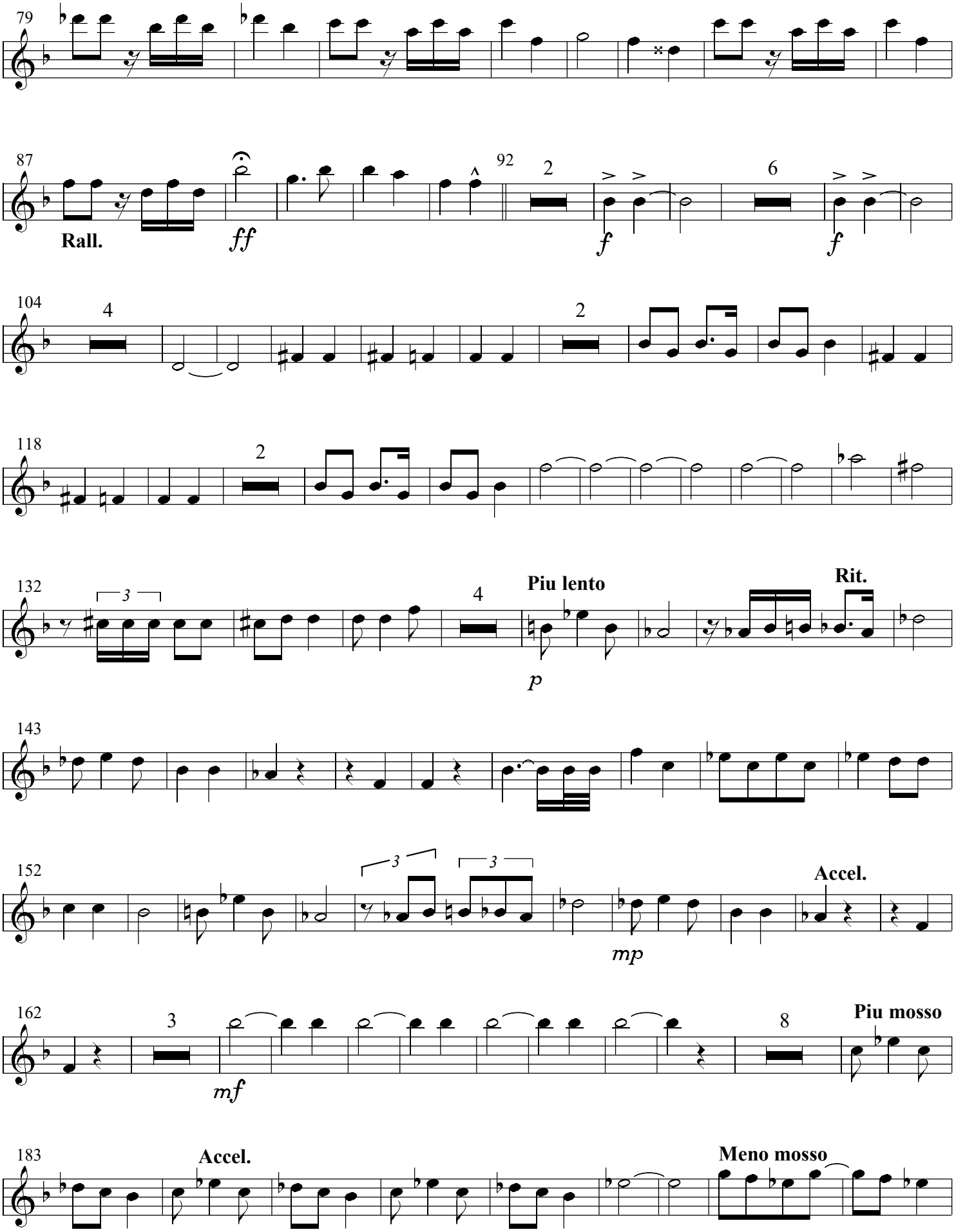

225
234
4
Rall.
250
260
Molto rall.

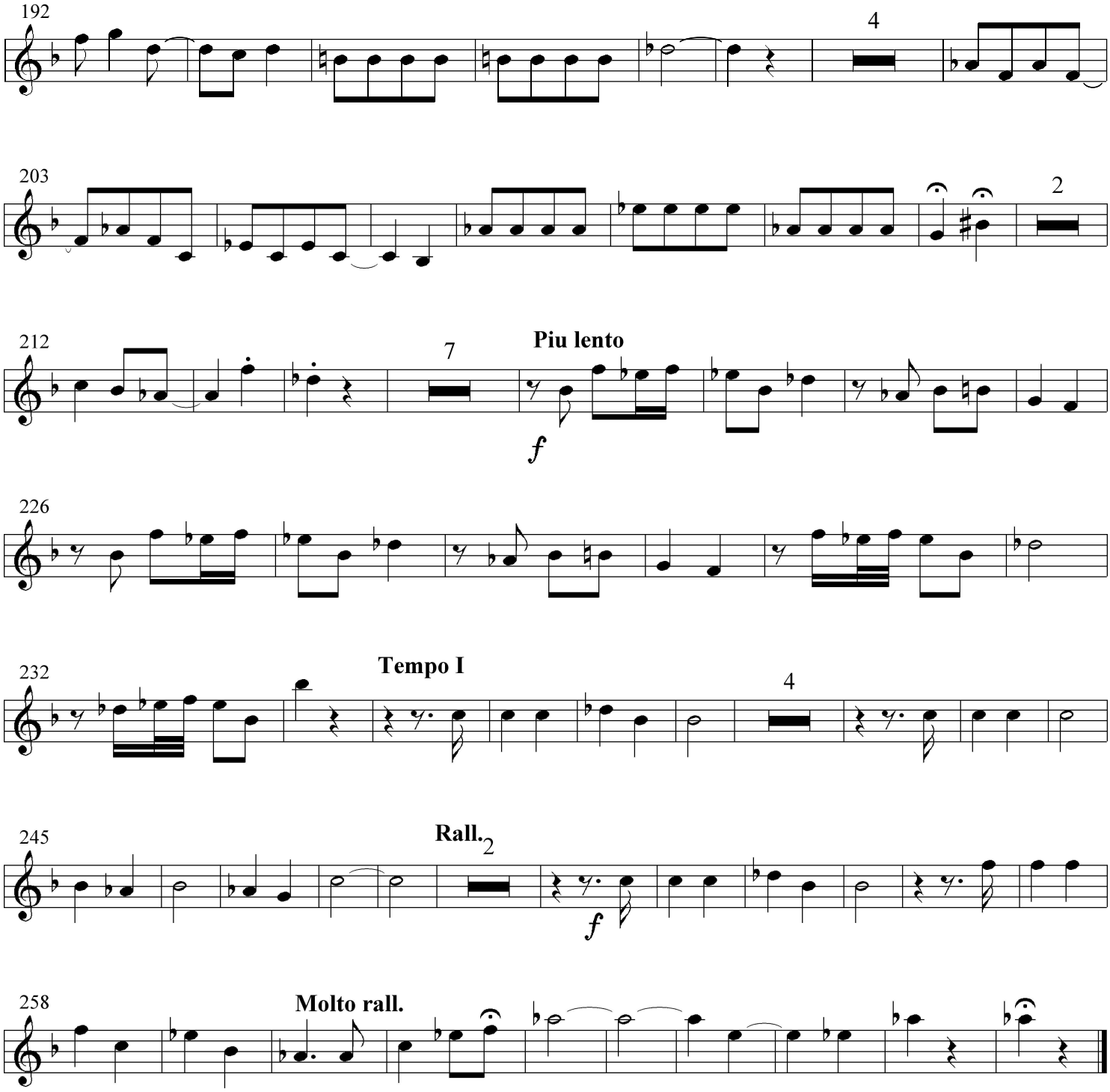
Negro Rapsodie No 1

Sydney Bechet 1927 — **arr. Klaus Pehl 1993**

Violin 1




79
87
Rall.
ff
92
2
f
6
f
104
4
2
118
2
132
3
4
Piu lento
p
Rit.
143
152
3
3
Accel.
mp
162
3
mf
8
Piu mosso
183
Accel.
Meno mosso

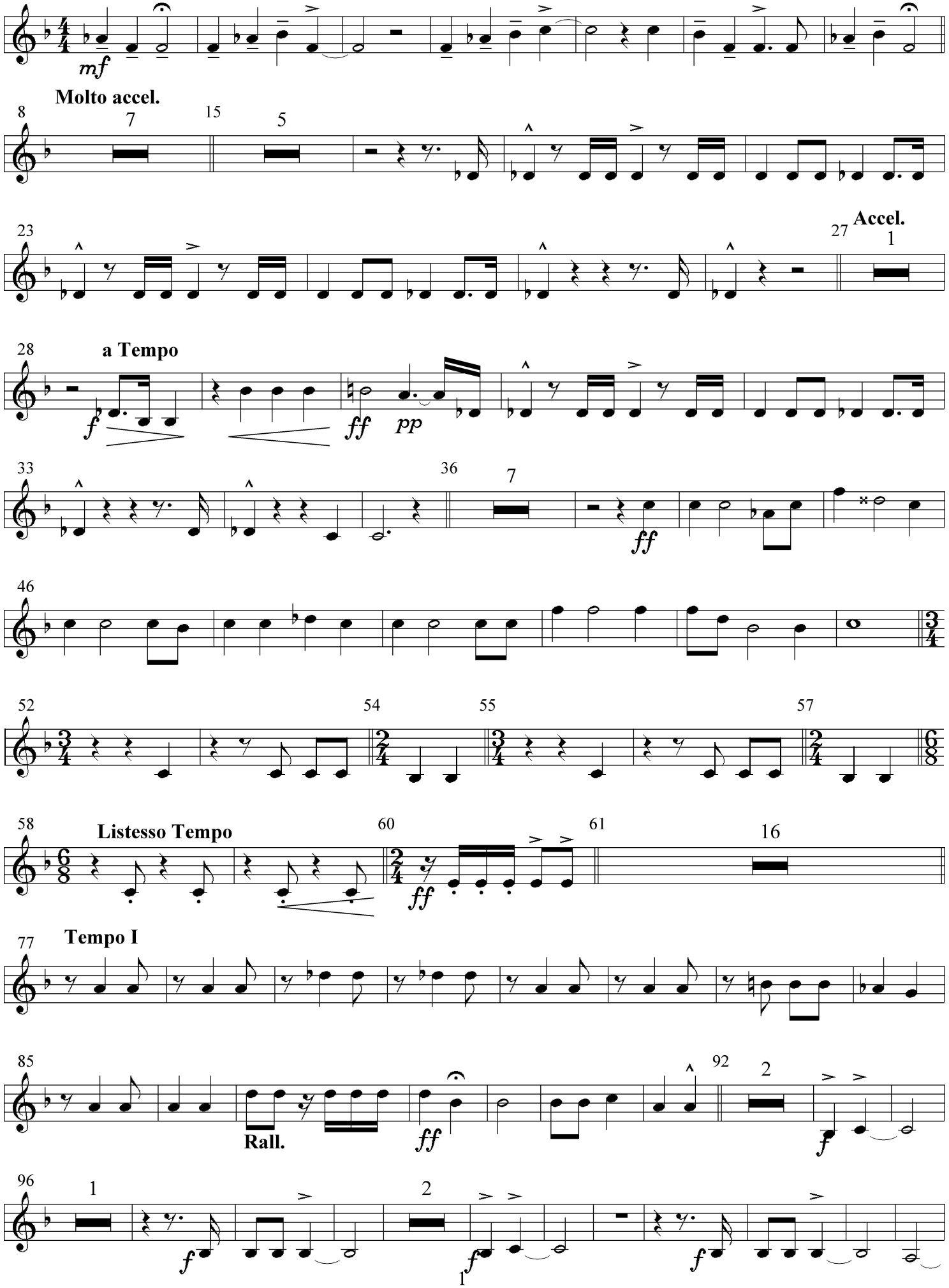

192
4
203
2
212
7
Piu lento
f
226
232
Tempo I
4
245
Rall.
2
f
258
Molto rall.

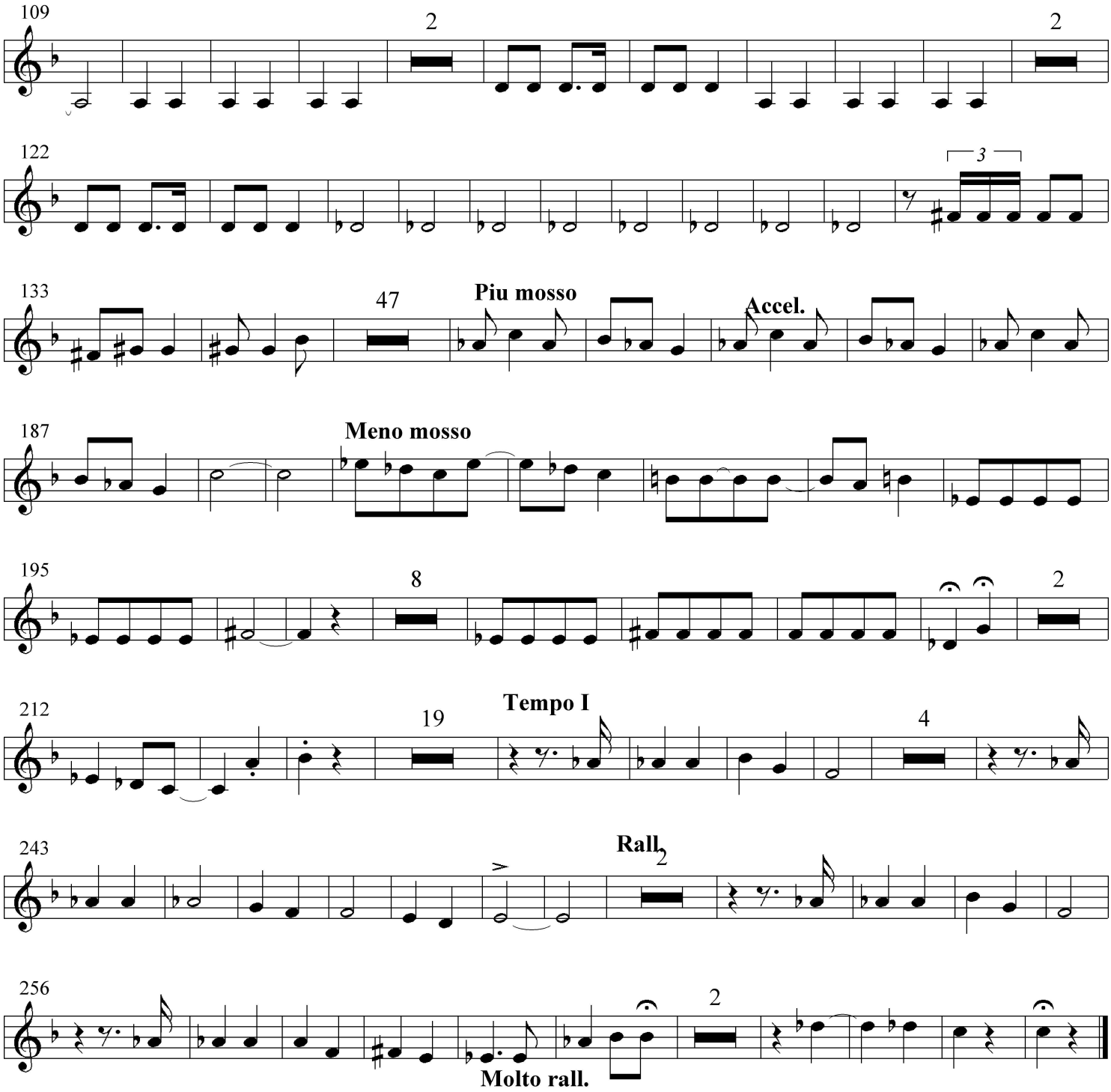
Negro Rapsodie No 1

Sydney Bechet 1927

arr. Klaus Pehl 1993

Violine 2 Moderato con vitmo

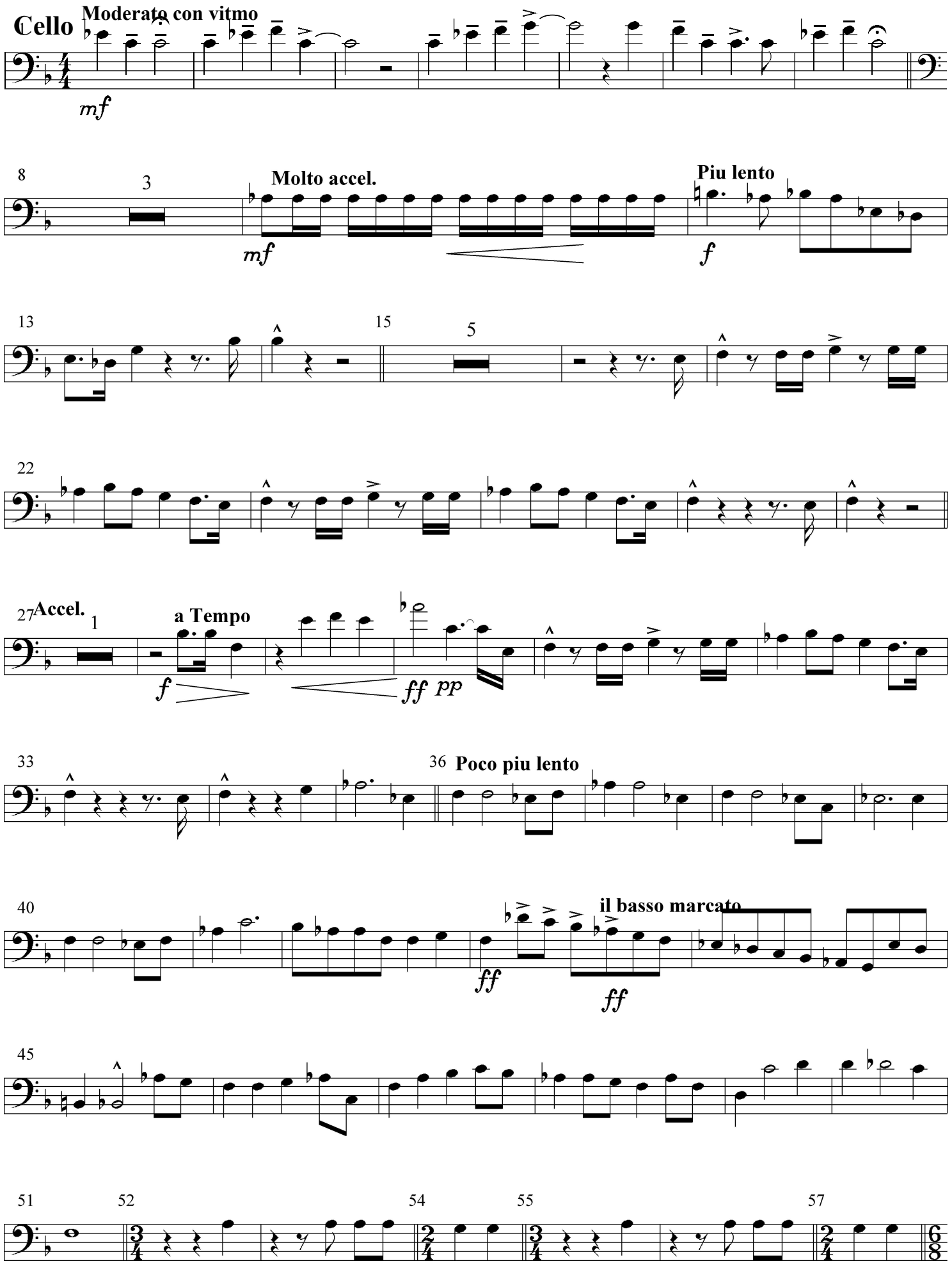


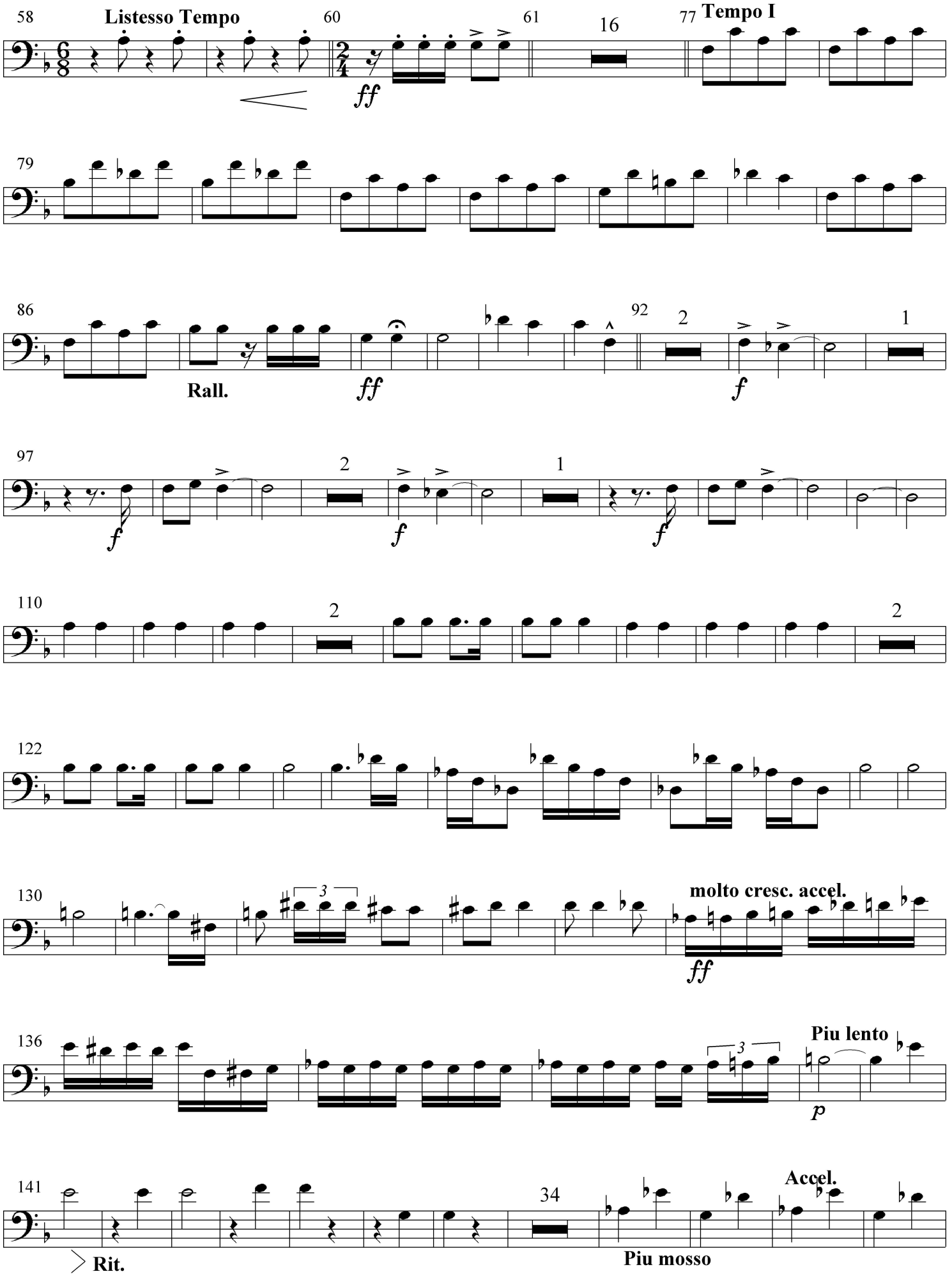

109
2
2
122
3
133
47
Piu mosso
Accel.
187
Meno mosso
195
8
2
212
19
Tempo I
4
243
Rall.
2
256
2
Molto rall.

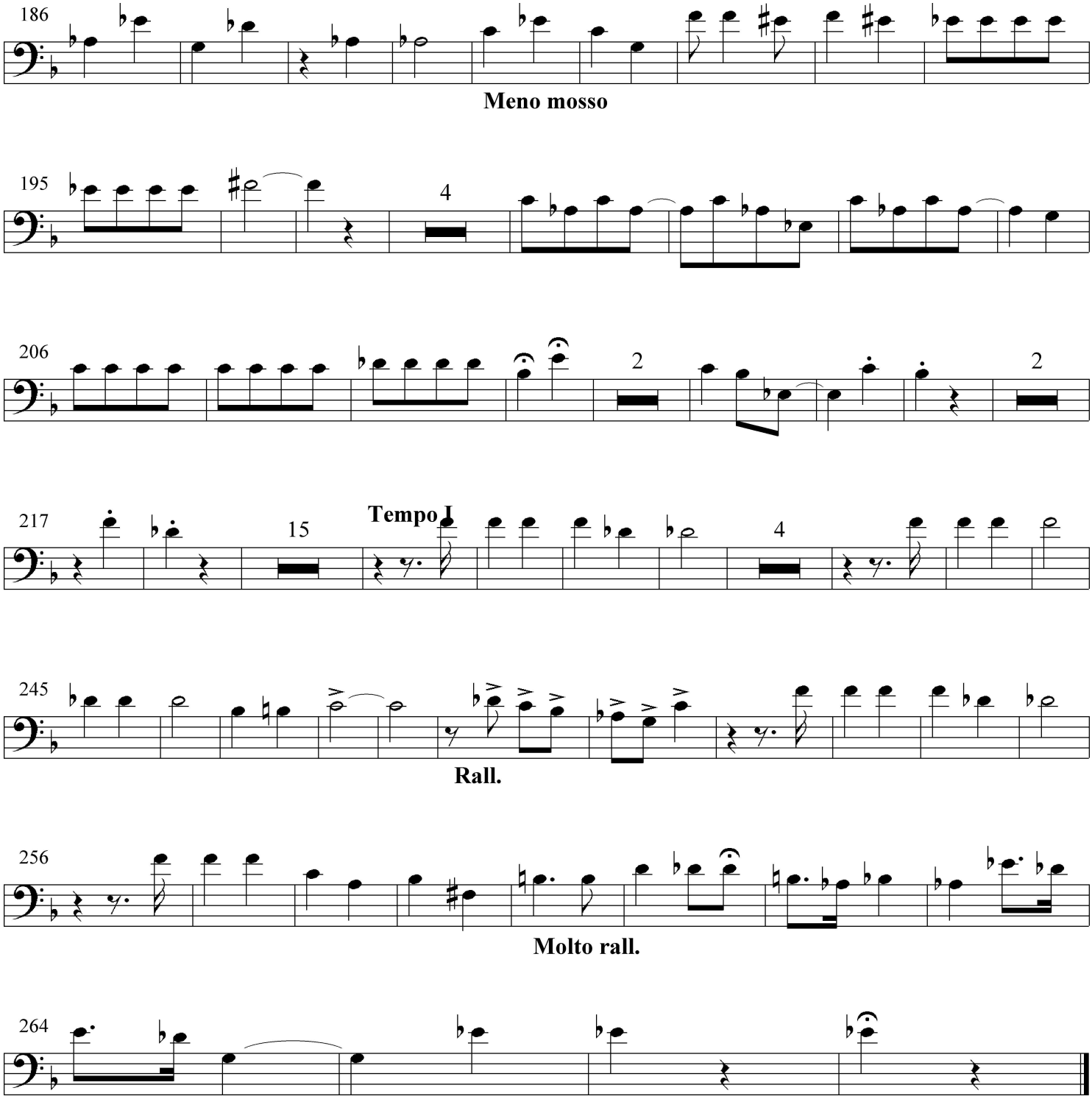
Negro Rapsodie No 1

Sydney Bechet 1927

arr. Klaus Pehl 1993




58
Listesso Tempo
60
61
16
77
Tempo I
79
86
92
2
1
Rall.
97
110
122
130
molto cresc. accel.
136
Piu lento
141
34
Accel.
Rit.
Piu mosso

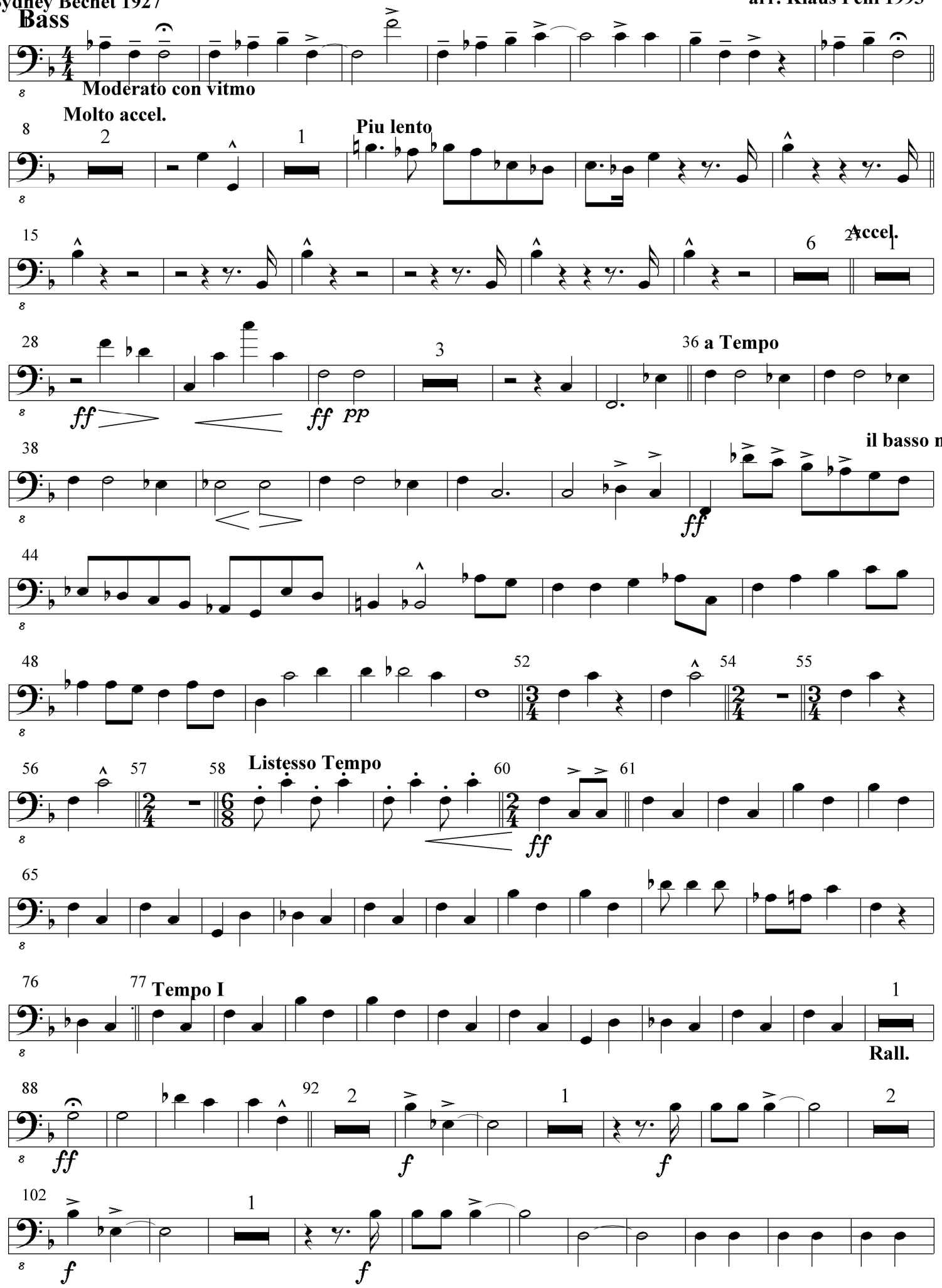

186
Meno mosso
195
4
206
2
2
217
15
Tempo I
4
245
Rall.
256
Molto rall.
264

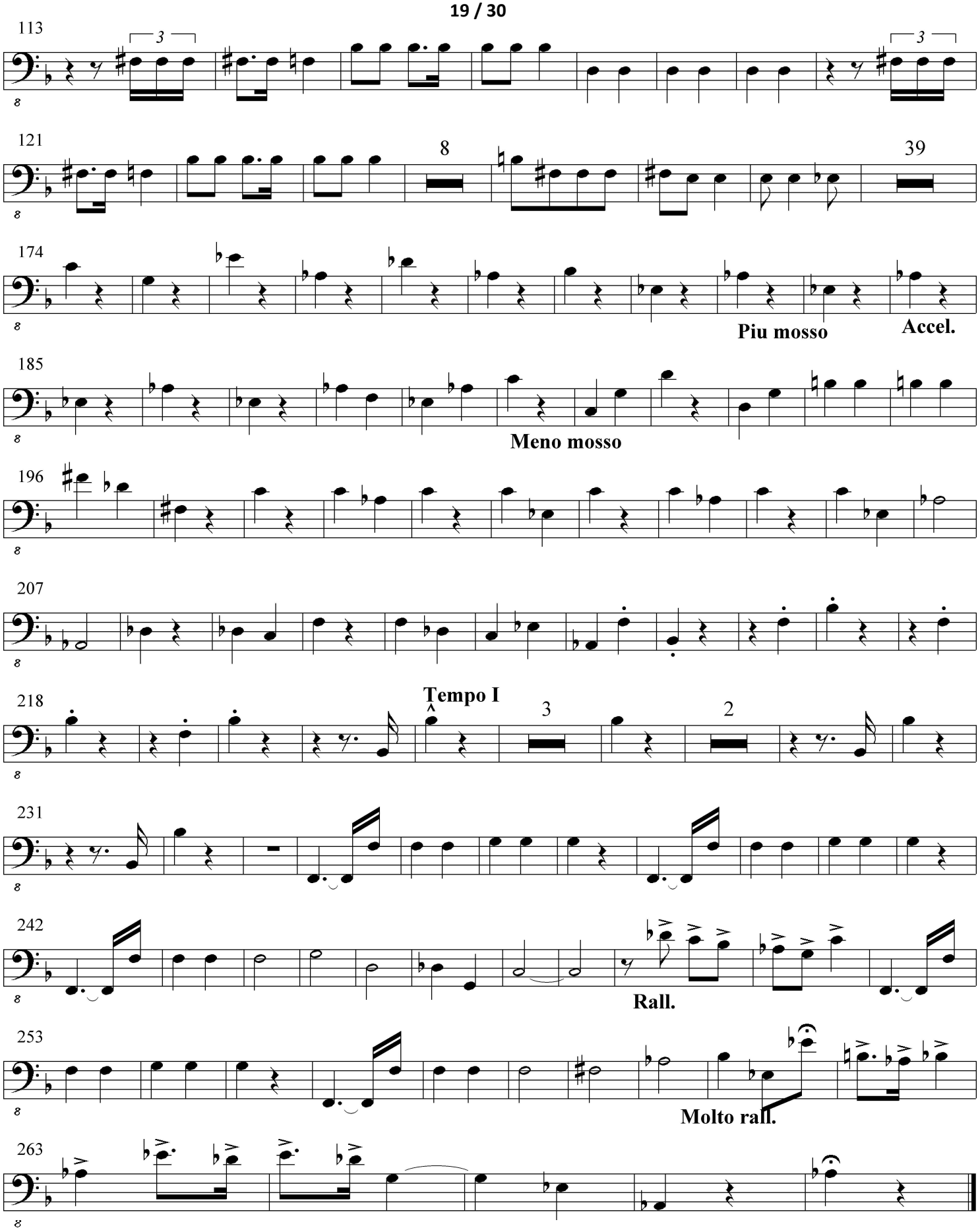
Negro Rapsodie No 1

Sydney Bechet 1927

arr. Klaus Pehl 1993

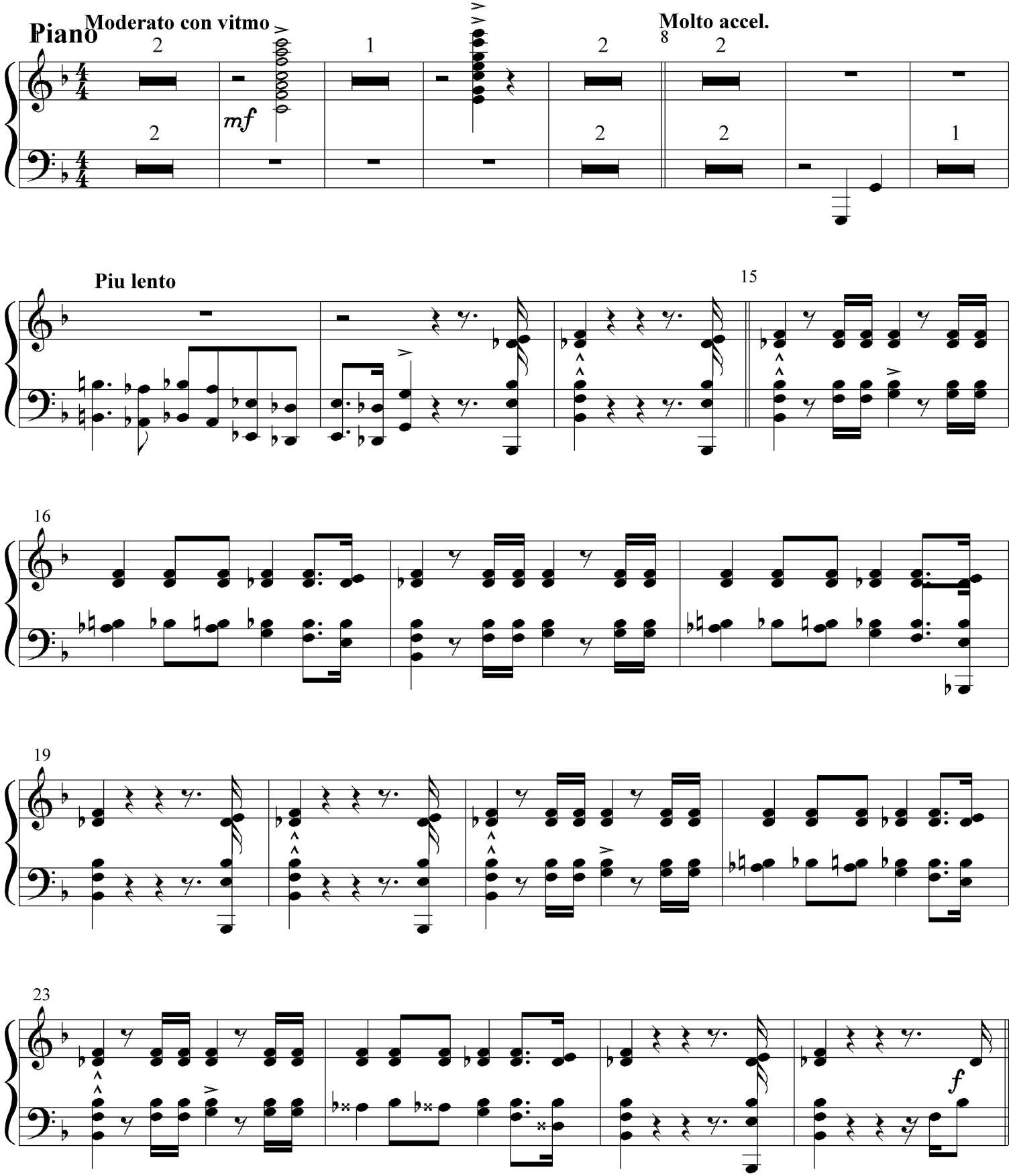
Bass

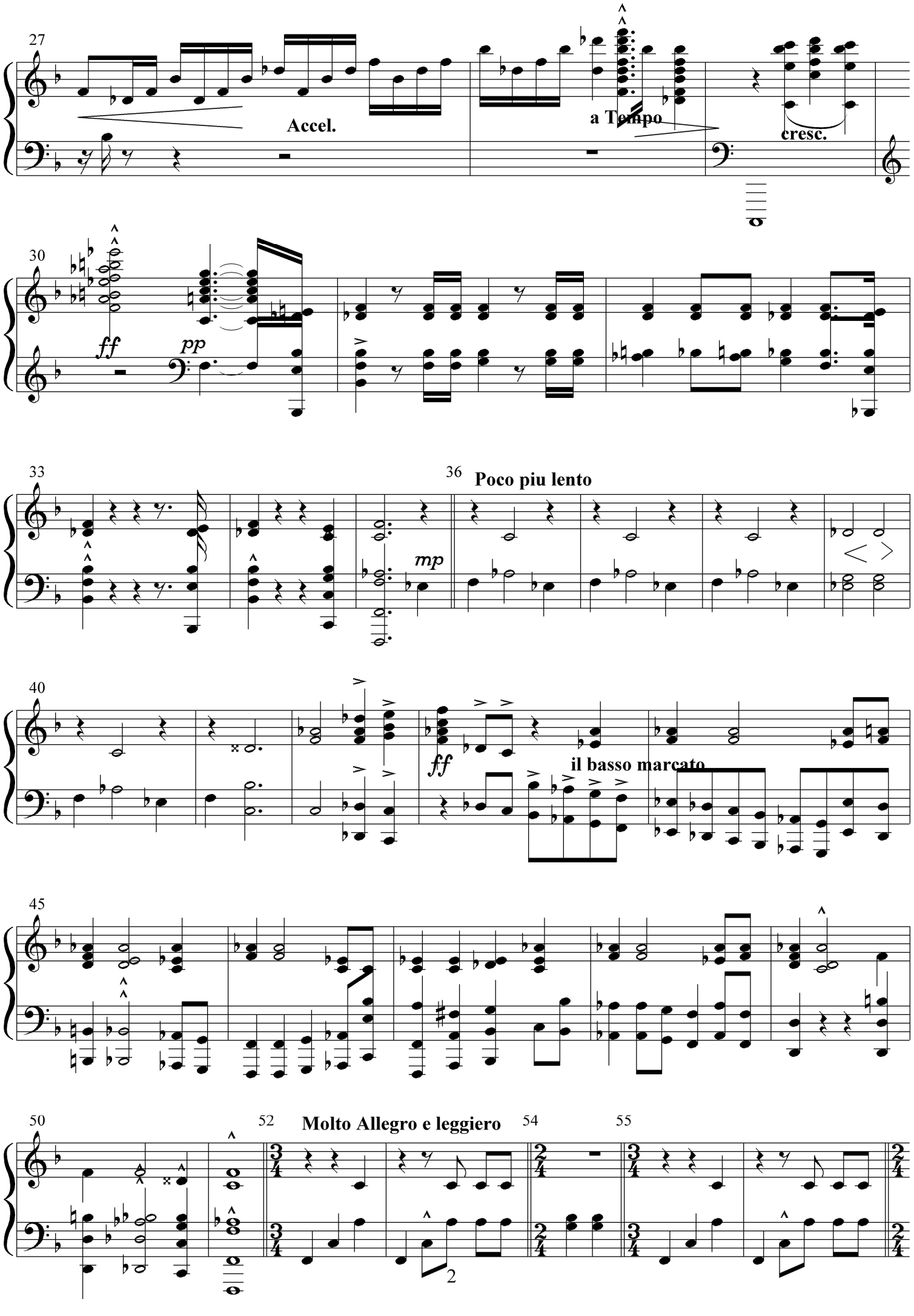


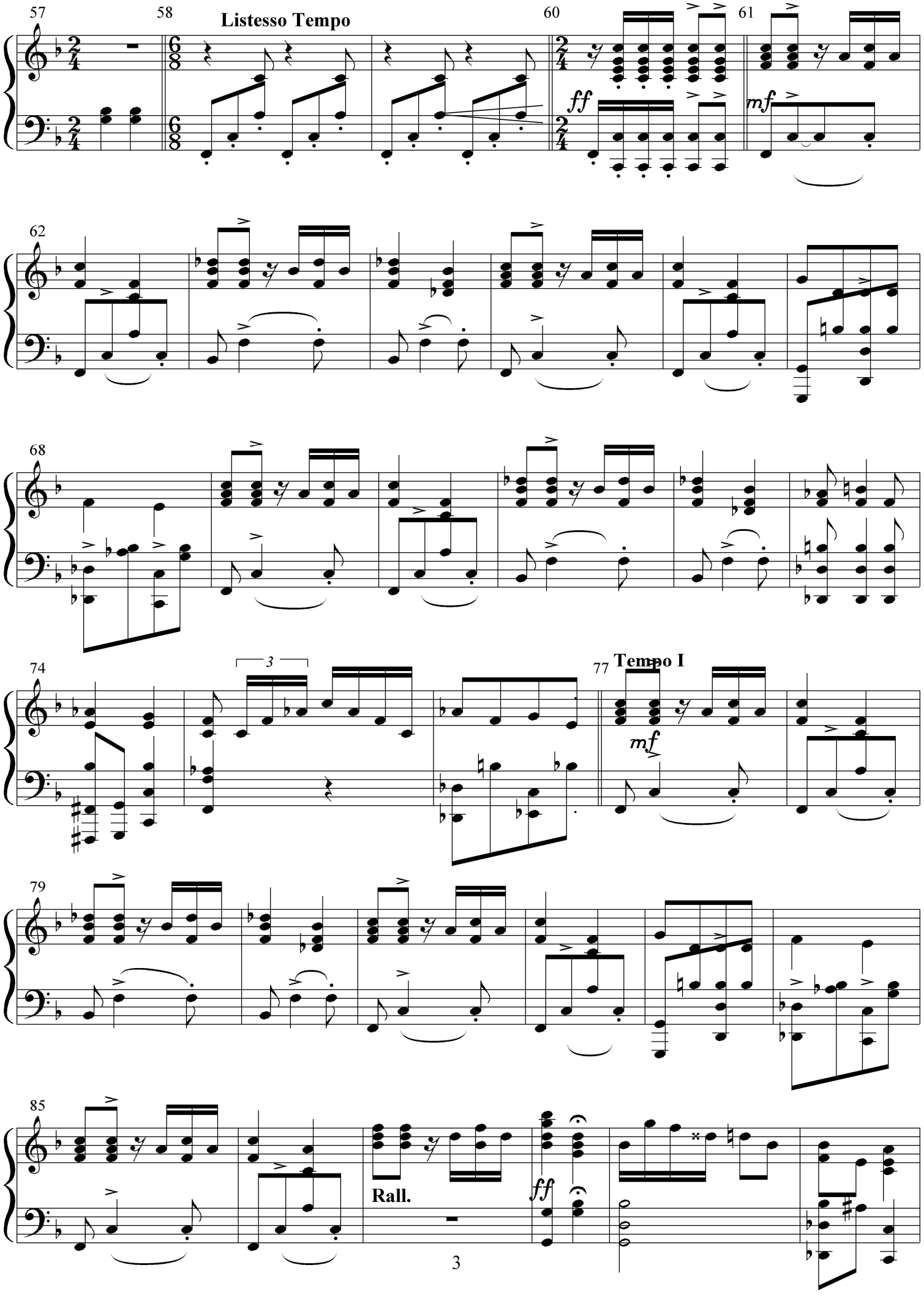

113
3
3
121
8
39
174
Piu mosso
Accel.
185
Meno mosso
196
207
218
Tempo I
3
2
231
242
Rall.
253
Molto rall.
263

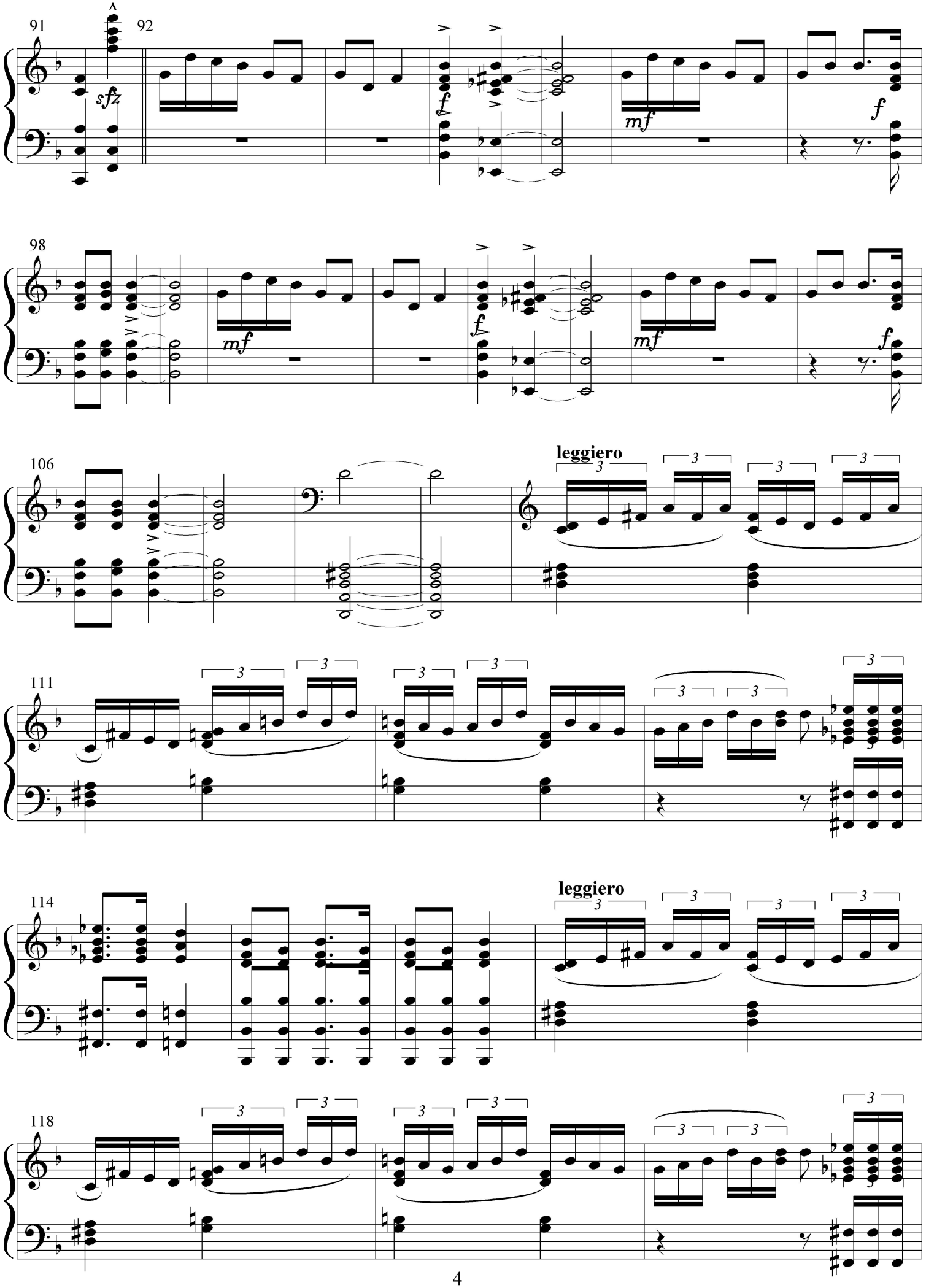
Negro Rapsodie No 1

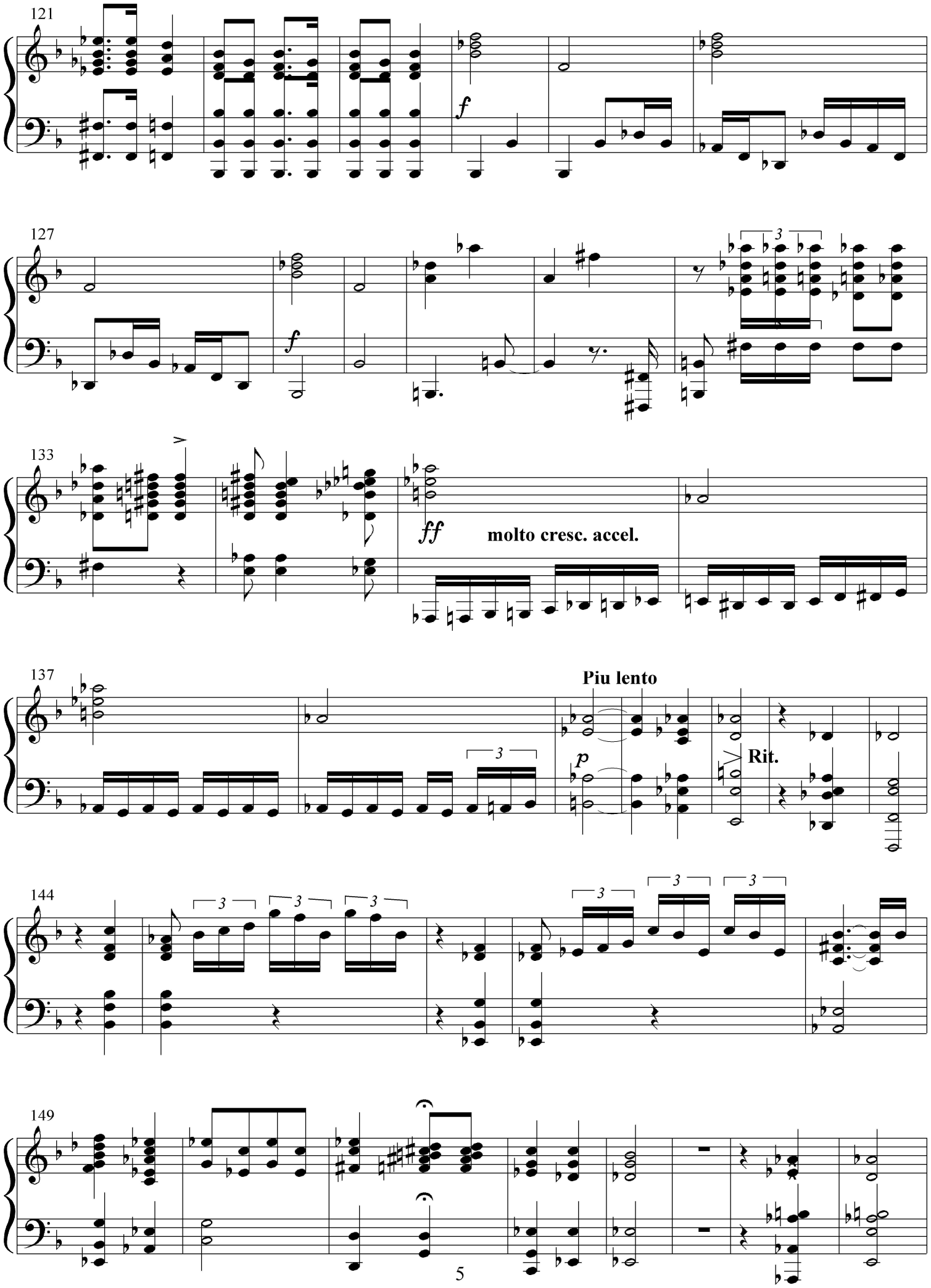
Sydney Bechet 1927 **arr. Klaus Pehl 1993**

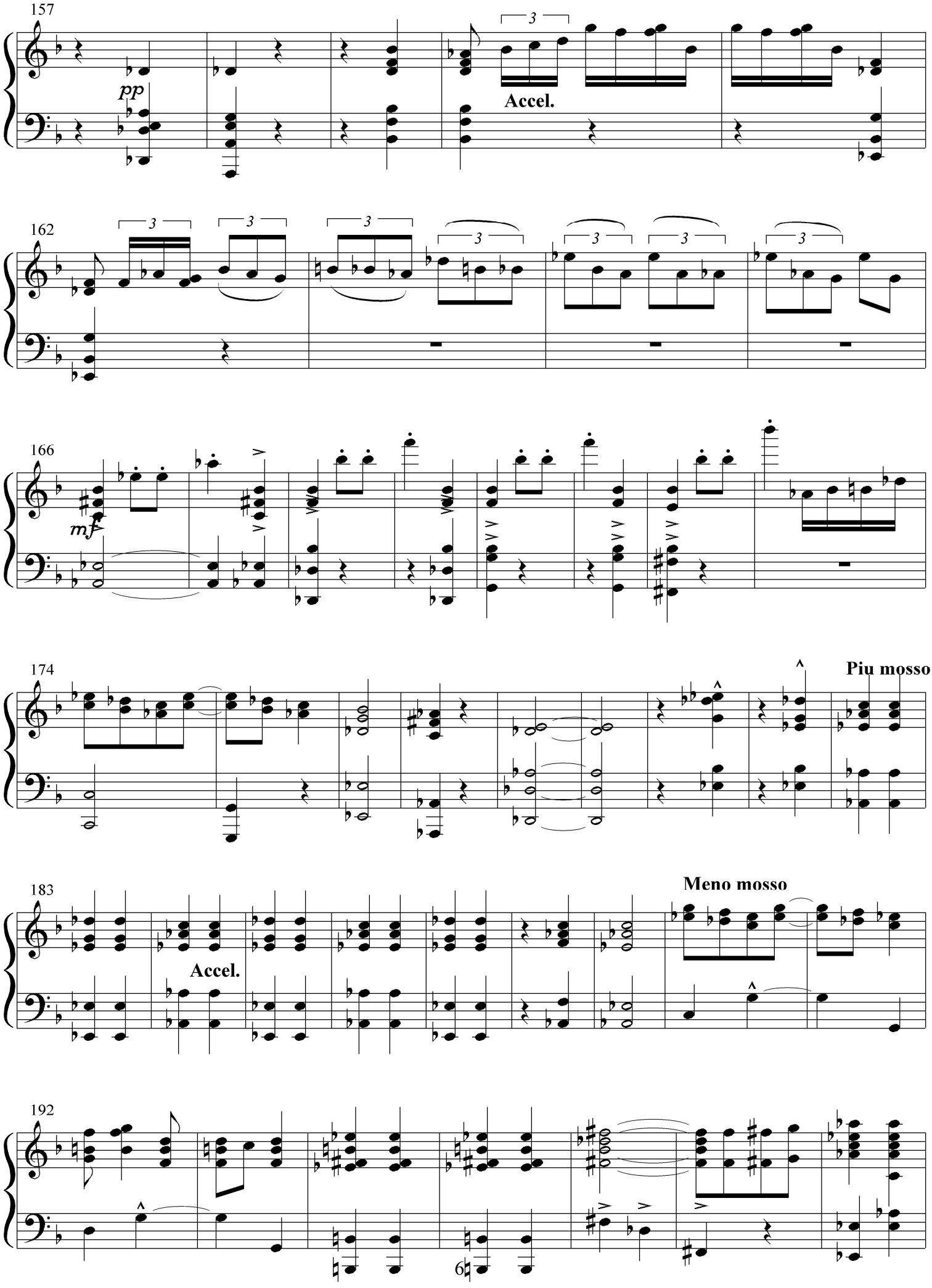


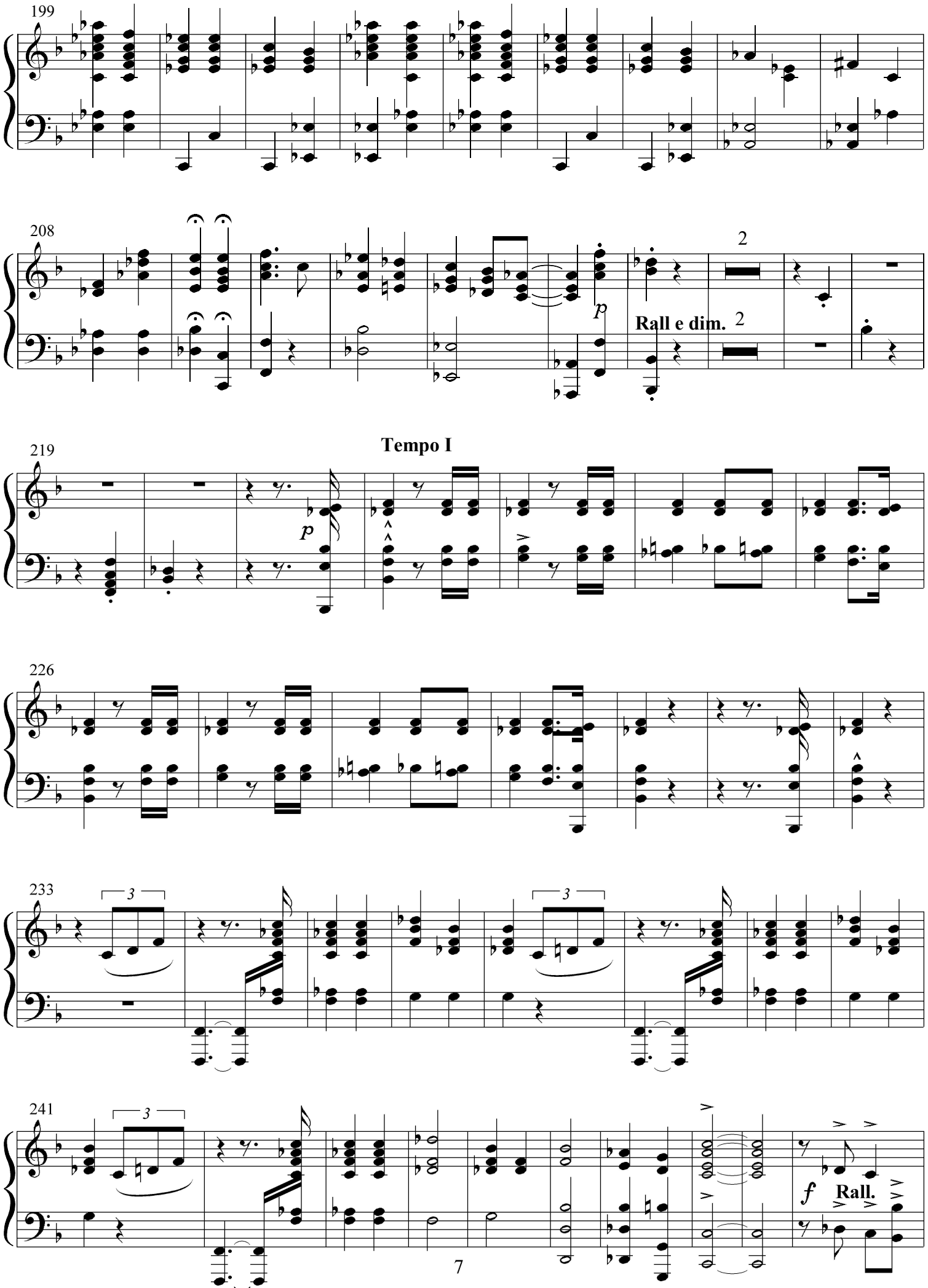

27
Accel.
a Tempo
cresc.
30
ff
pp
33
36
Poco piu lento
mp
40
ff
il basso marcato
45
50
52
Molto Allegro e leggiero
54
55
2

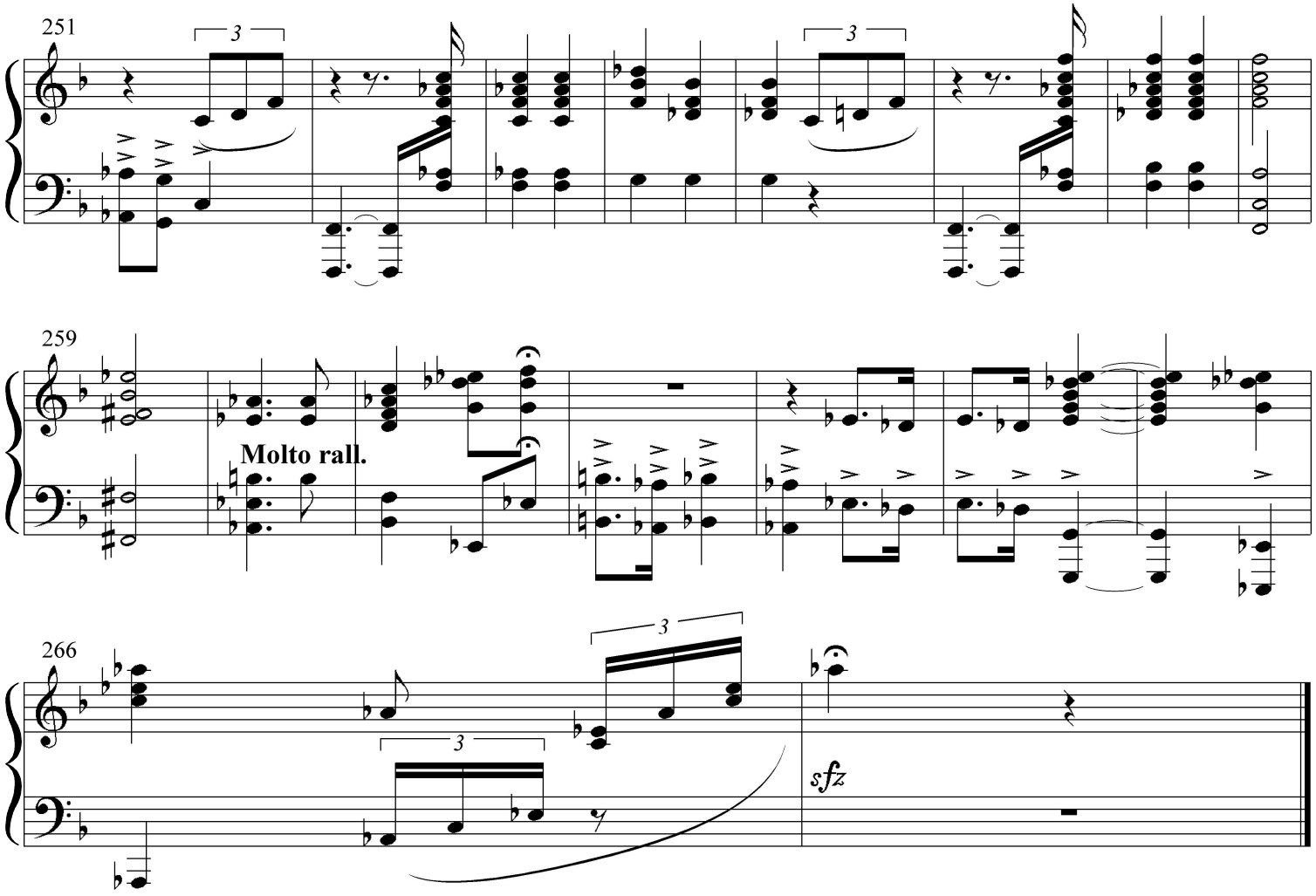

57
58
Listesso Tempo
60
61
ff
mf
62
68
74
3
77
Tempo I
mf
79
85
Rall.
ff


91
92
sfz
f
mf
f
98
mf
f
mf
f
106
leggiero
3
111
3
114
leggiero
3
118
3


121
f
127
f
133
ff
molto cresc. accel.
137
Piu lento
p
Rit.
144
149


157
pp
Accel.
162
166
mf
174
Piu mosso
183
Accel.
Meno mosso
192

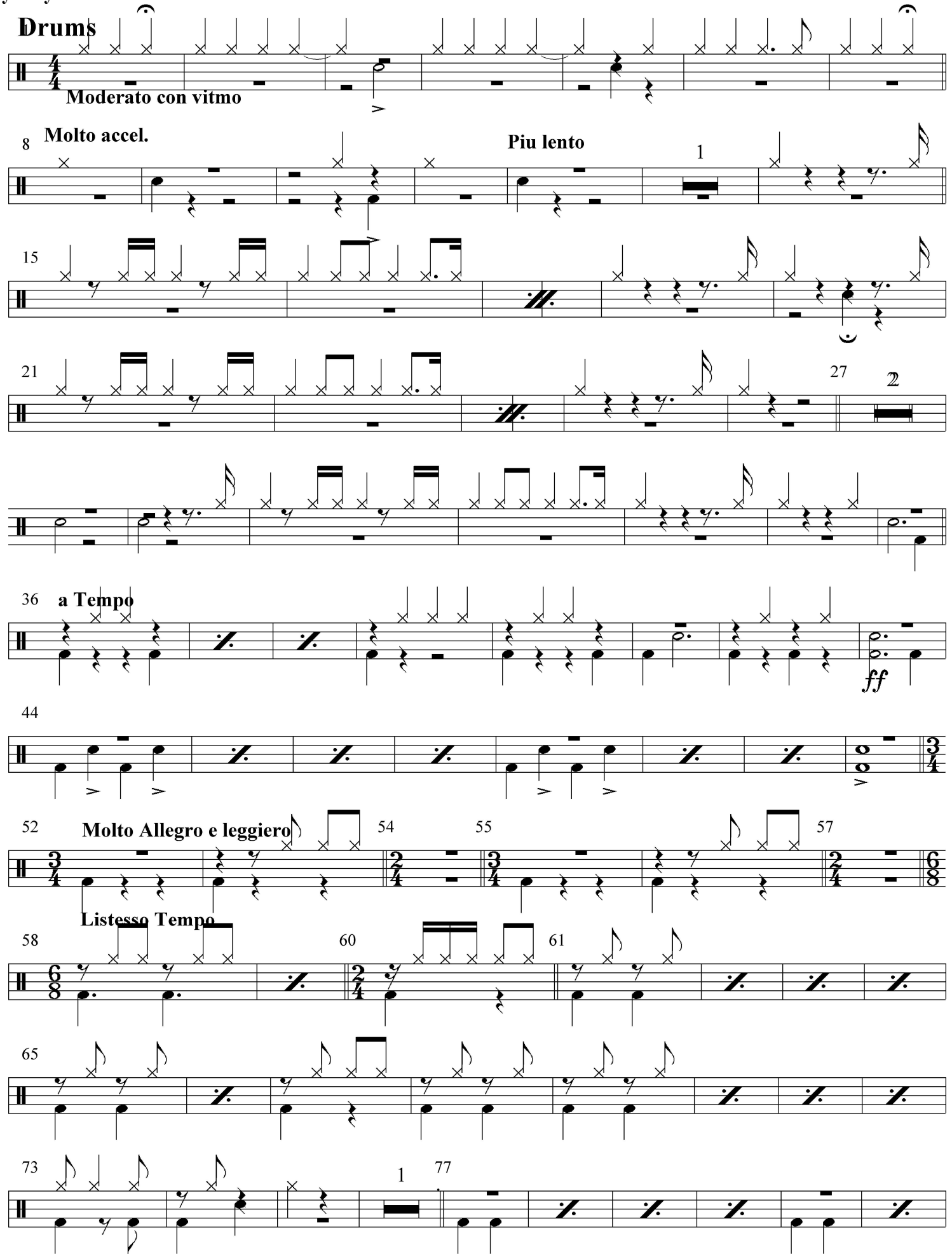

199
208
2
p
Rall e dim.
2
Tempo I
219
p
226
233
3
3
241
3
f
Rall.

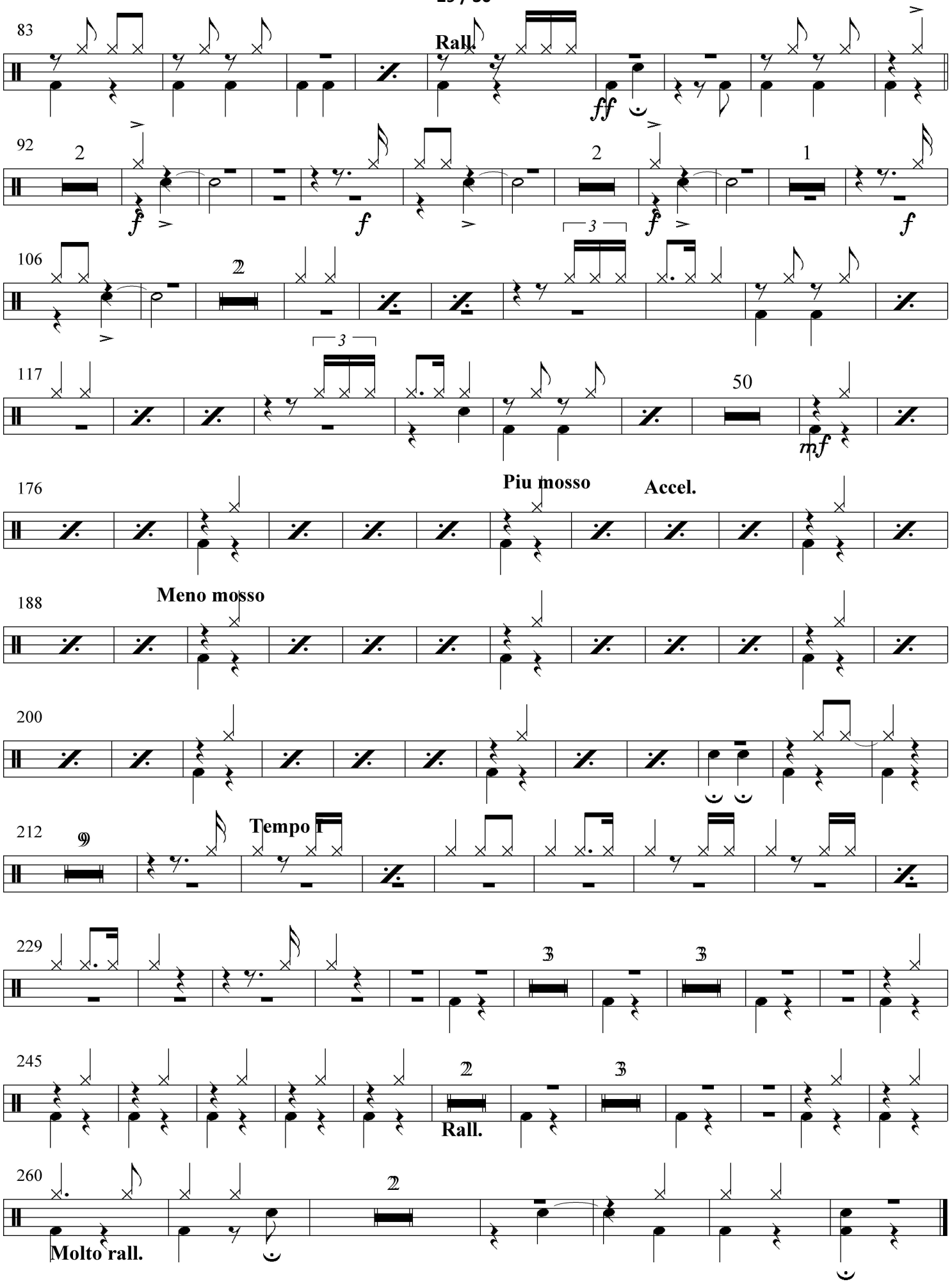

251
3
3
259
Molto rall.
266
3
3
sfz

Negro Rapsodie No 1

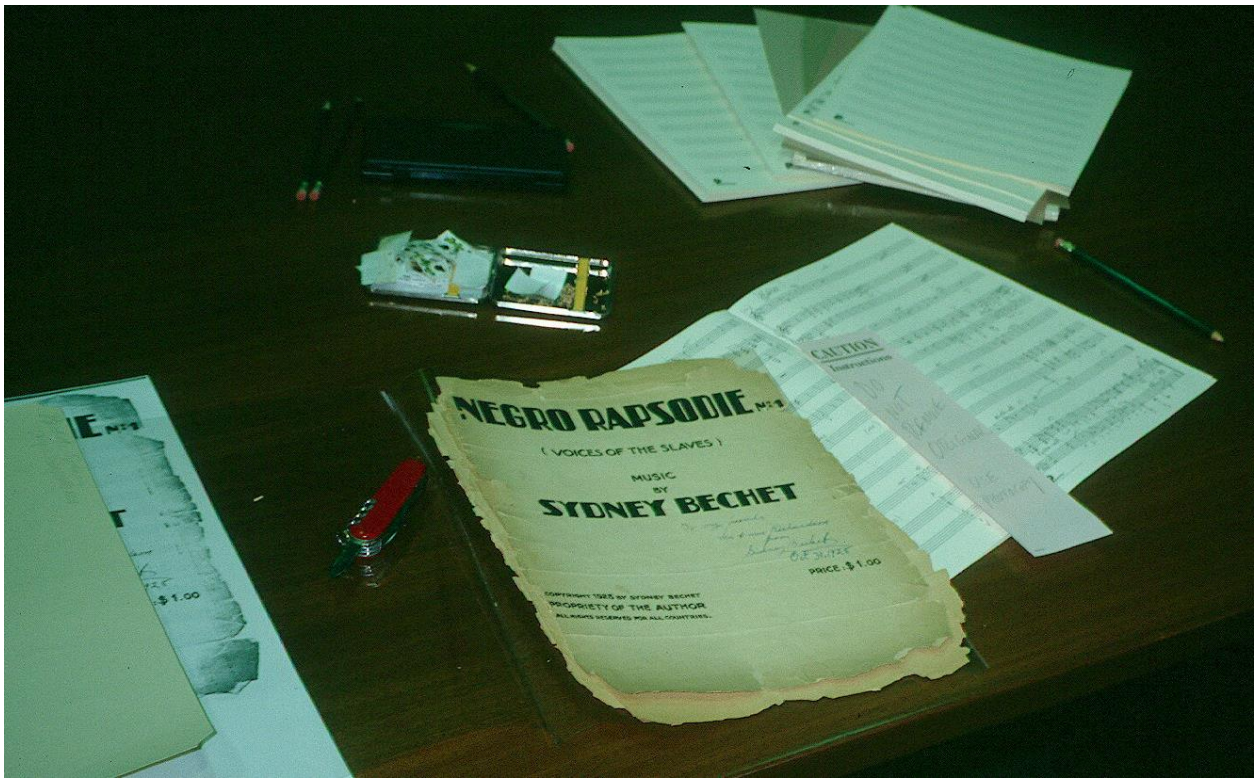
Sydney Bechet 1927

arr. Klaus Pehl 1993




83
Rall.
ff
92
2
f
2
f
1
f
106
2
3
f
117
3
50
mf
176
Piu mosso
Accel.
188
Meno mosso
200
212
9
Tempo I
229
3
3
245
2
3
Rall.
260
2
Molto rall.

Sidney Bechet (1928): Negro Rapsodie No 1



1 Mein Arbeitsplatz/My workplace 1992 Schomburg Center, New York

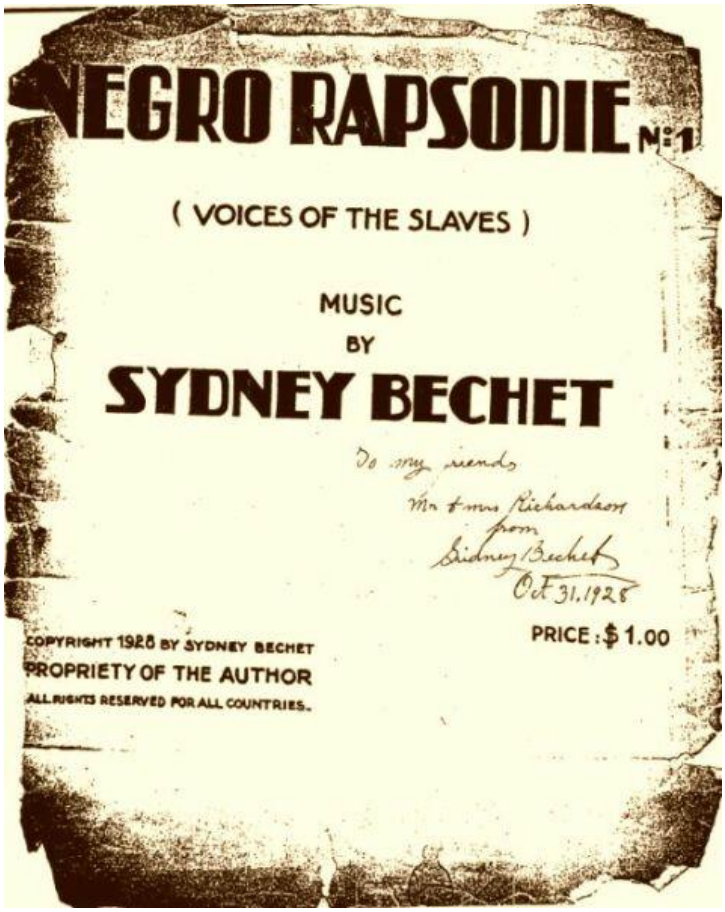
Sidney Bechet (1928): Negro Rapsodie No. 1 – Band Arrangement Klaus Pehl 1993, re-edited 2026. © Klaus Pehl 2026

The original score for this band arrangement is a 1928 printed edition for violin and piano accompaniment published by a Frankfurt music publisher. The band arrangement calls for parts for Bb clarinet, Bb cornet, trombone, first and second violins, cello, bass, piano, and percussion. This corresponds to an ensemble known in American English as a "band" or "small orchestra." The German equivalent is a "salon orchestra." The arrangement retains the key signature, all dynamic and articulation markings, and all performance instructions (in Italian) from the original. The piano accompaniment (piano acc.) is slightly reduced in accompaniment passages compared to the original piano part. The original part is retained in solo passages.
The program Emagic Logic Gold version 5.5.1 (for PC) was used for the conversion to an electronic version, both for the initial version in 1993 and the re-edition in 2026.

Background

Knowing that I lived in Frankfurt am Main, jazz researcher and violinist Bill Russell of the New Orleans Ragtime Society gave drummer Trevor Richards, who frequently visited (and enriched) the jazz scene in New Orleans in the early 1980s, a small handwritten note for me with the composition's details and the note "Look for this." It also included a Frankfurt address, "Eiserne Hand 42." It can be assumed that Elisabeth Ziegler lived there, who had met Sidney Bechet in Frankfurt am Main and married him in Antibes in 1947. Today, a post-war apartment building and a car repair shop stand at the address. My research in Frankfurt was unsuccessful.
During a visit to New York in 1992, I also visited the Harlem branch of the New York Public Library, the Schomburg Center. My main goal was to find old sheet music from the ragtime era or big band arrangements from the 1940s. As a sort of "bycatch," a librarian in the estate of Don Redman, saxophonist and arranger, and a founding member of Fletcher Henderson's orchestra in 1922, discovered Bechet's composition "Negro Rapsodie"—a lucky find. The regulations at the time didn't allow for photocopying, so I had no choice but to return the next day with music paper, pencil, and eraser and transcribe the extensive composition for violin and piano. This then served as the basis in 1993 for capturing Bechet's old composition with a computer program and immediately attempting a band arrangement.
In 2026 I found the old files, so I can make the arrangement generally accessible via my websites www.klauspehl.de and www.ragtime-society.de .

Sidney Bechet (1928): Negro Rapsodie No 1



Band-Arrangement Klaus Pehl 1993, re-editiert 2026

Umfasst Stimmen für

Clarinet in Bb (p. 1 - 3 p.)

Cornet in Bb (p. 4 - 3 p.)

Trombone (p. 7 - 3 p.)

1st Violin (p. 10 - 3 p.)

2nd Violin (p. 13 - 2 p.)

Violoncello (p. 15 - 3 p.)

Bass (p. 18 - 2 p.)

Piano acc. (p. 20 - 8 p.)

Drums (p. 28 - 2 p.)