Robert Beaser

Shenandoah

Solo Guitar

EA 805

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Interpretive Notes

Shenandoah is based on the popular American folk tune of the same name. The original work chant, in the age-old tradition of the *sea song*, evokes the power of the mighty Missouri River. As is the case with my *Mountain Songs*, a popular folk tune is interleaved with original melodies, harmonies and counterpoint to form an entirely new hybrid. Still, for the player, the spirit and power of the traditional tune should guide interpretation of the music. Eliot Fisk's edited version contains suggested fingerings but offers by no means the only acceptable solutions (see *ossia* list on page #8, for example). The performer is encouraged to look carefully at the reasons for fingerings and markings, and decide whether they are suitable for his or her given technique. In the section marked **Broadly, with great power** the player can either play the chords literally as written, or explore a variety of strumming effects from various folk traditions (e.g. Flamenco rasguado, American finger style, or even plectrum techniques).

I am particularly interested in the overall flow and shape of the piece: it should move inexorably, restlessly, without too many starts and stops, building in force through to the ***fff*** cadence at measure #87. Then, it should gradually unwind itself, with similar force, until its ultimate, quiet resolution. Elasticity of line, expressive rubato is likewise encouraged, as long as it does not interfere with the forward momentum of the piece.

R.B.

To Rodrigo Riera and Jonathan Coles

SHENANDOAH

Edited by
Eliot Fisk

Robert Beaser
(1995)

Tempo I
Flessibile ♩ = 60 ±

Solo Guitar
⑥ = D

pp *mp* *p*

un poco piu mosso (♩ = 72)

animando

pp *p*

holding back

mp *mf* *dim.*

rallentando **A tempo** (♩ = 60)

p *pp*

Tempo II (♩ = 72 ±)

sim.

p

sim.

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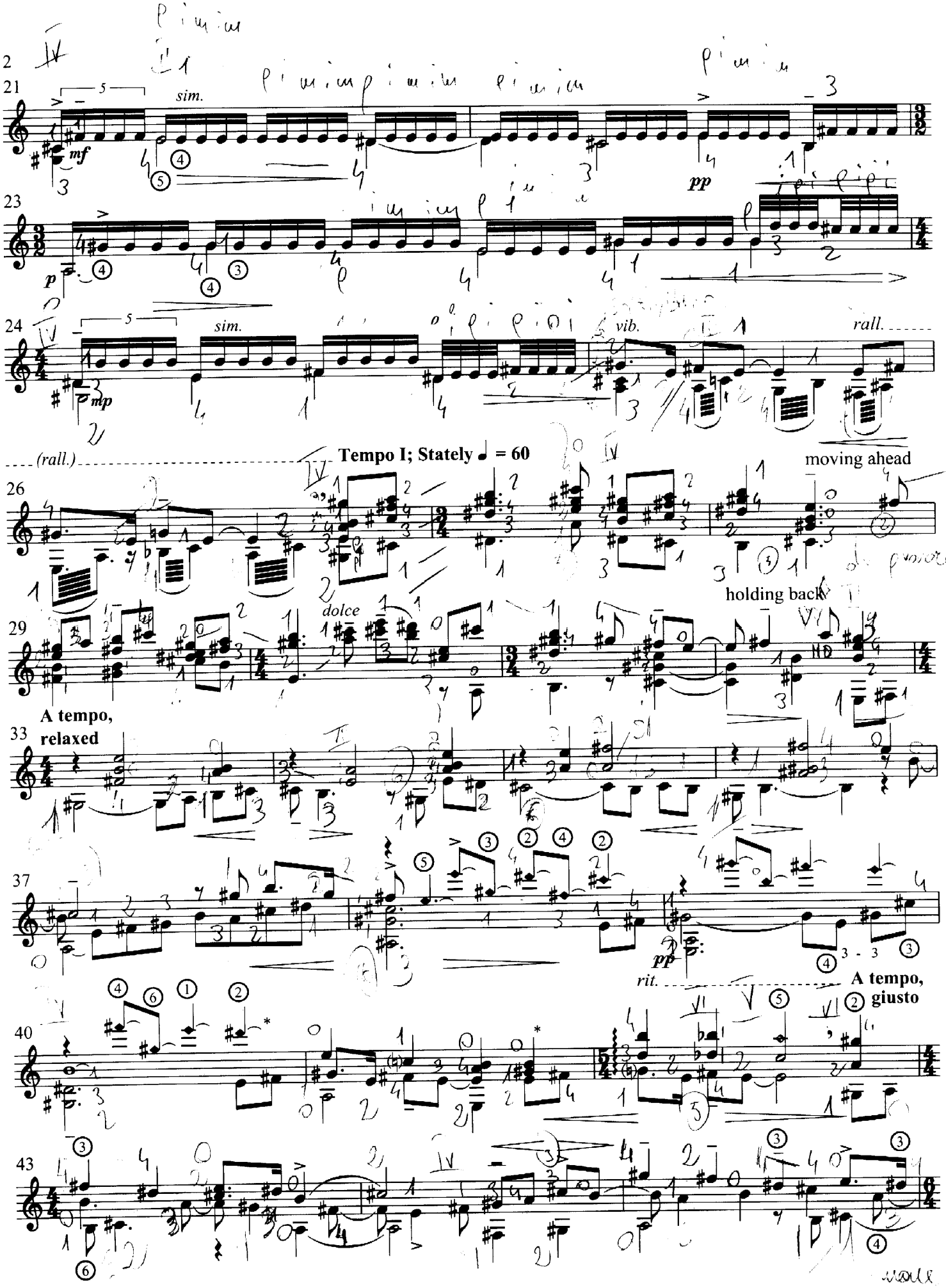
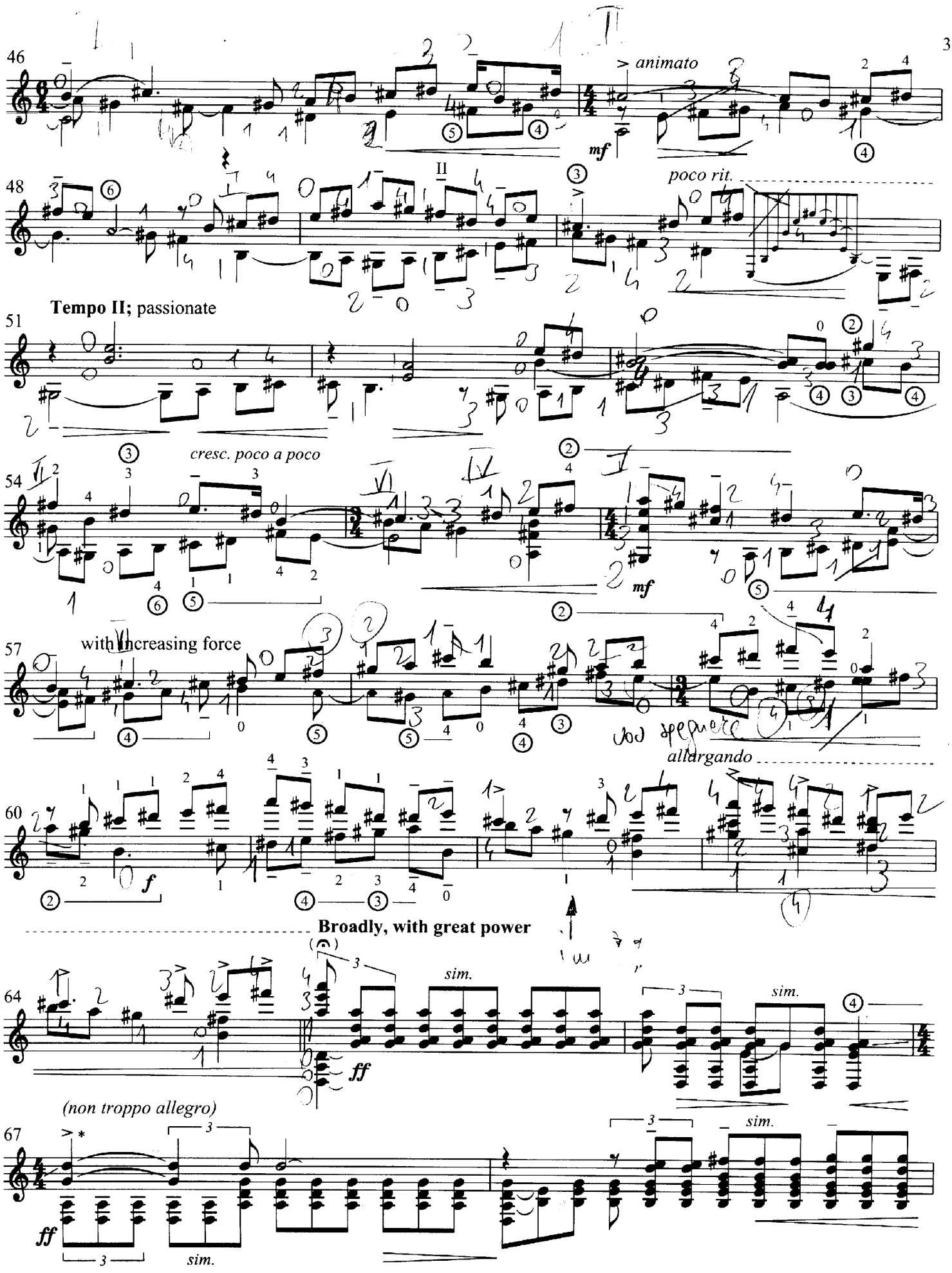
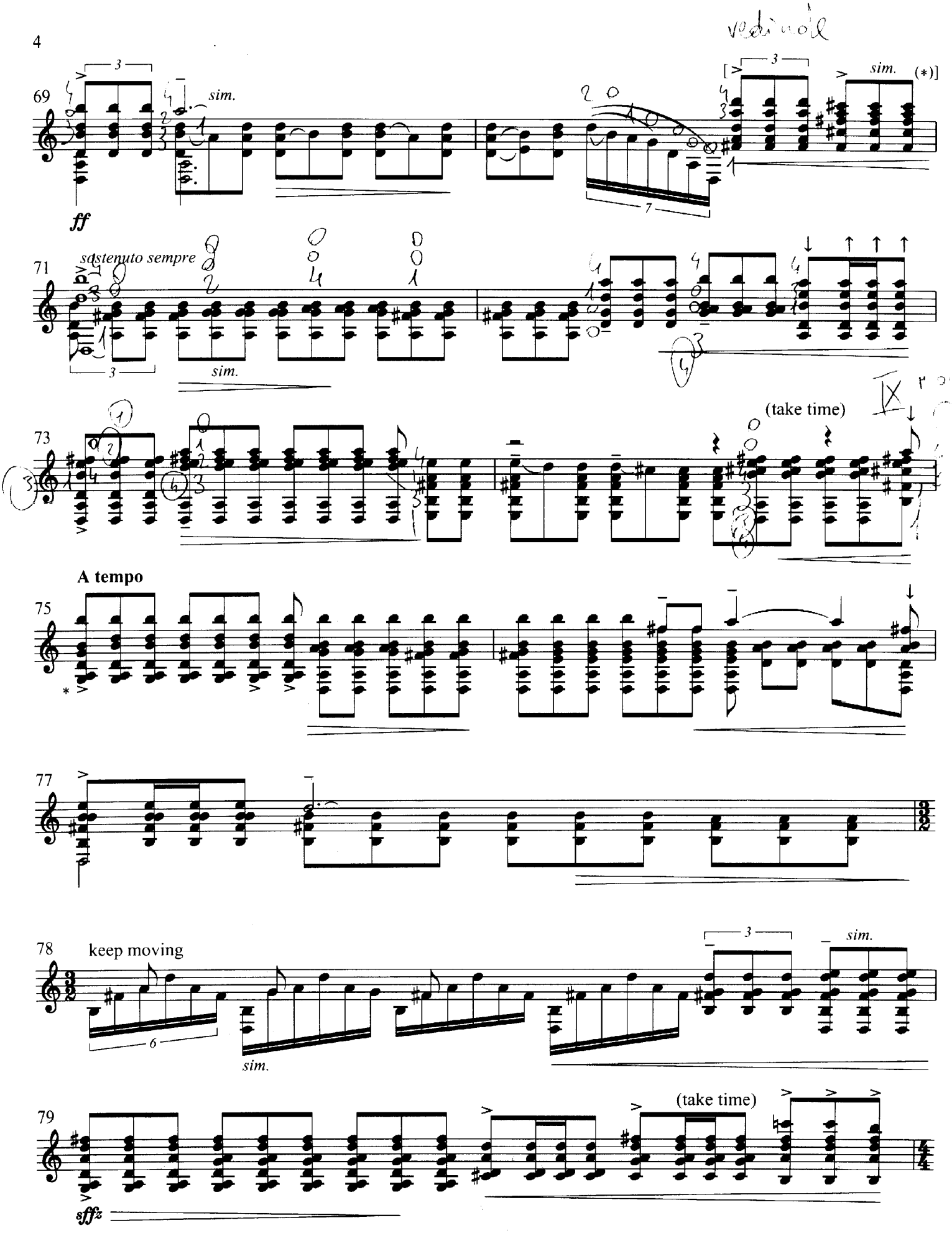
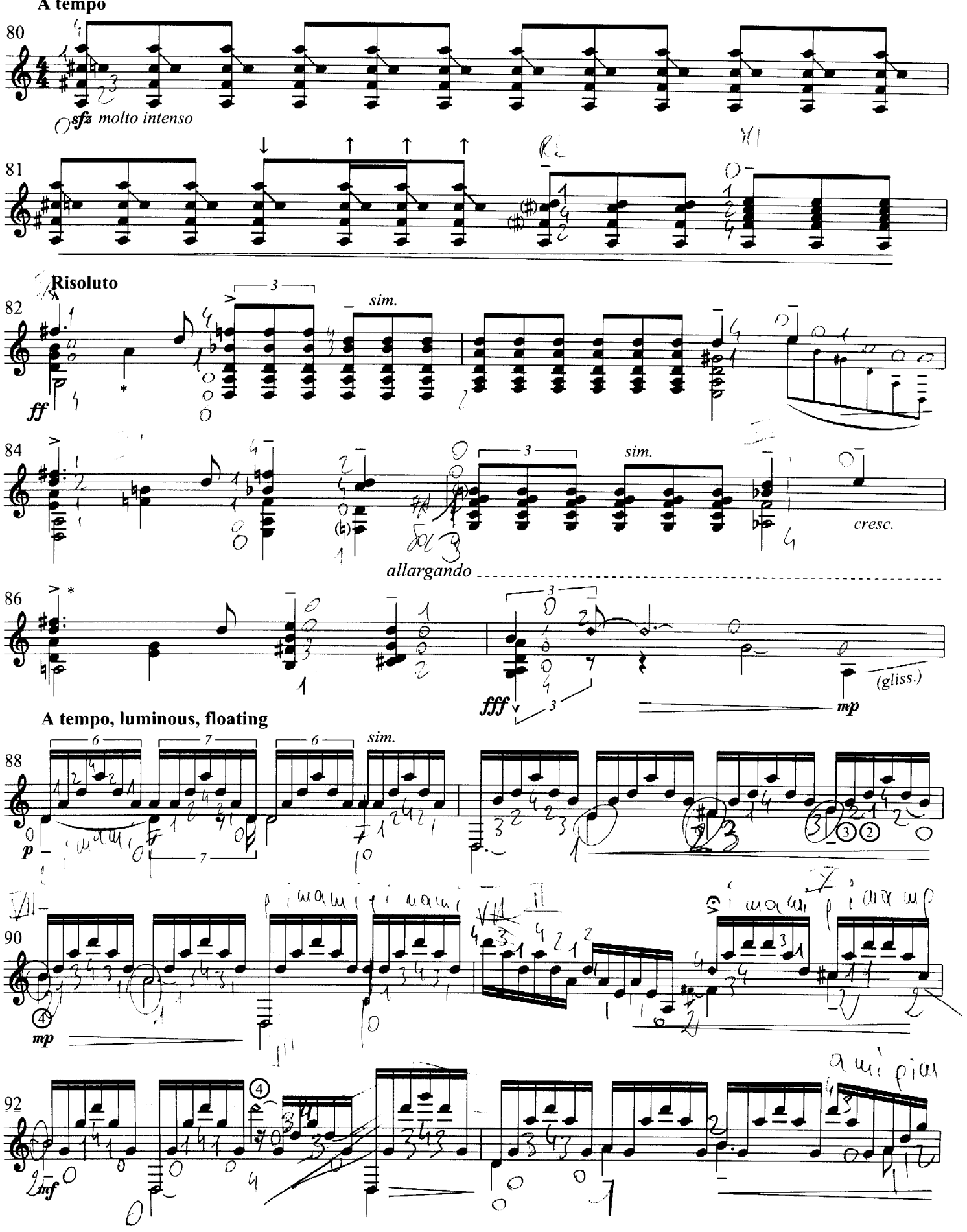
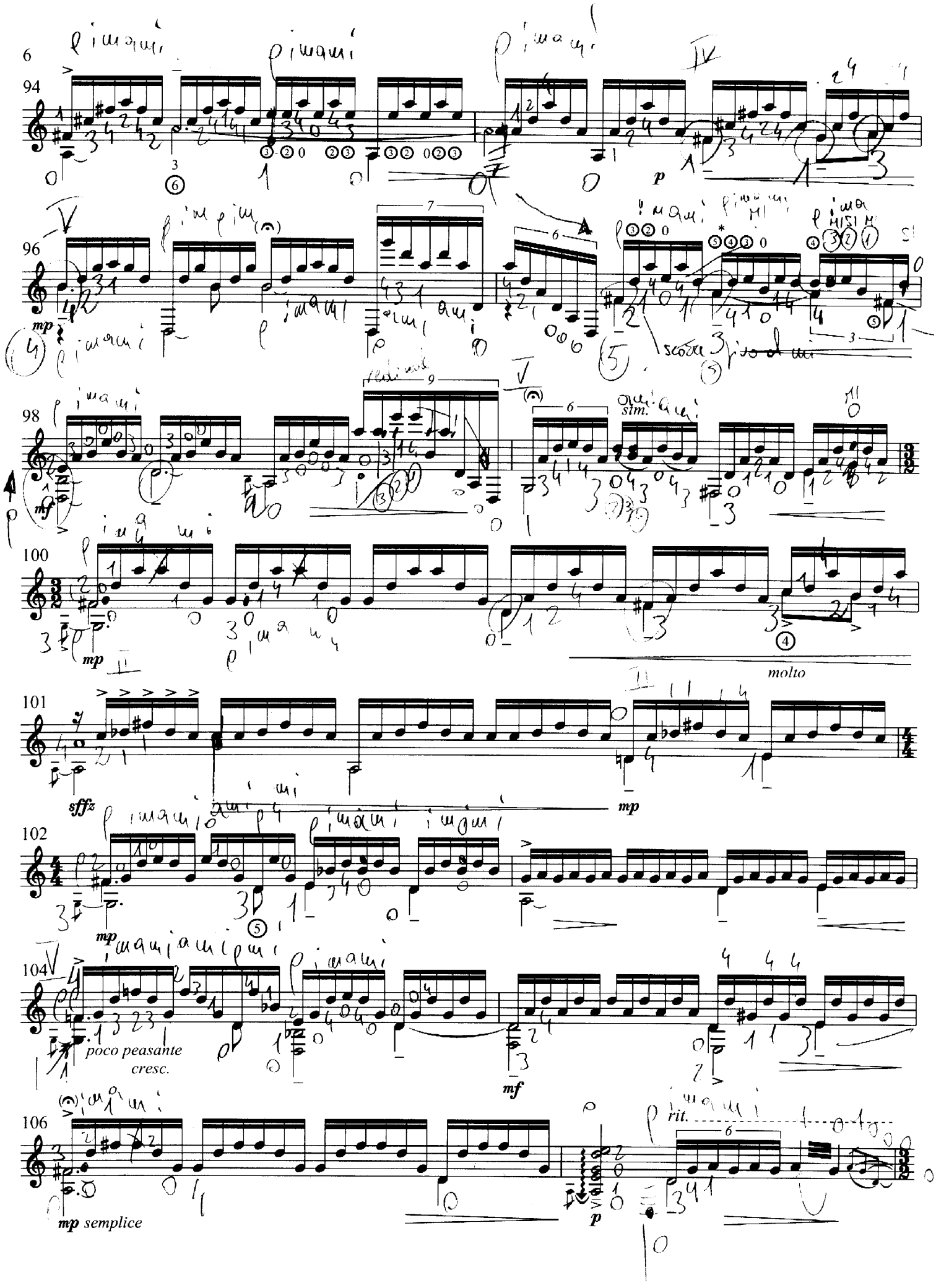
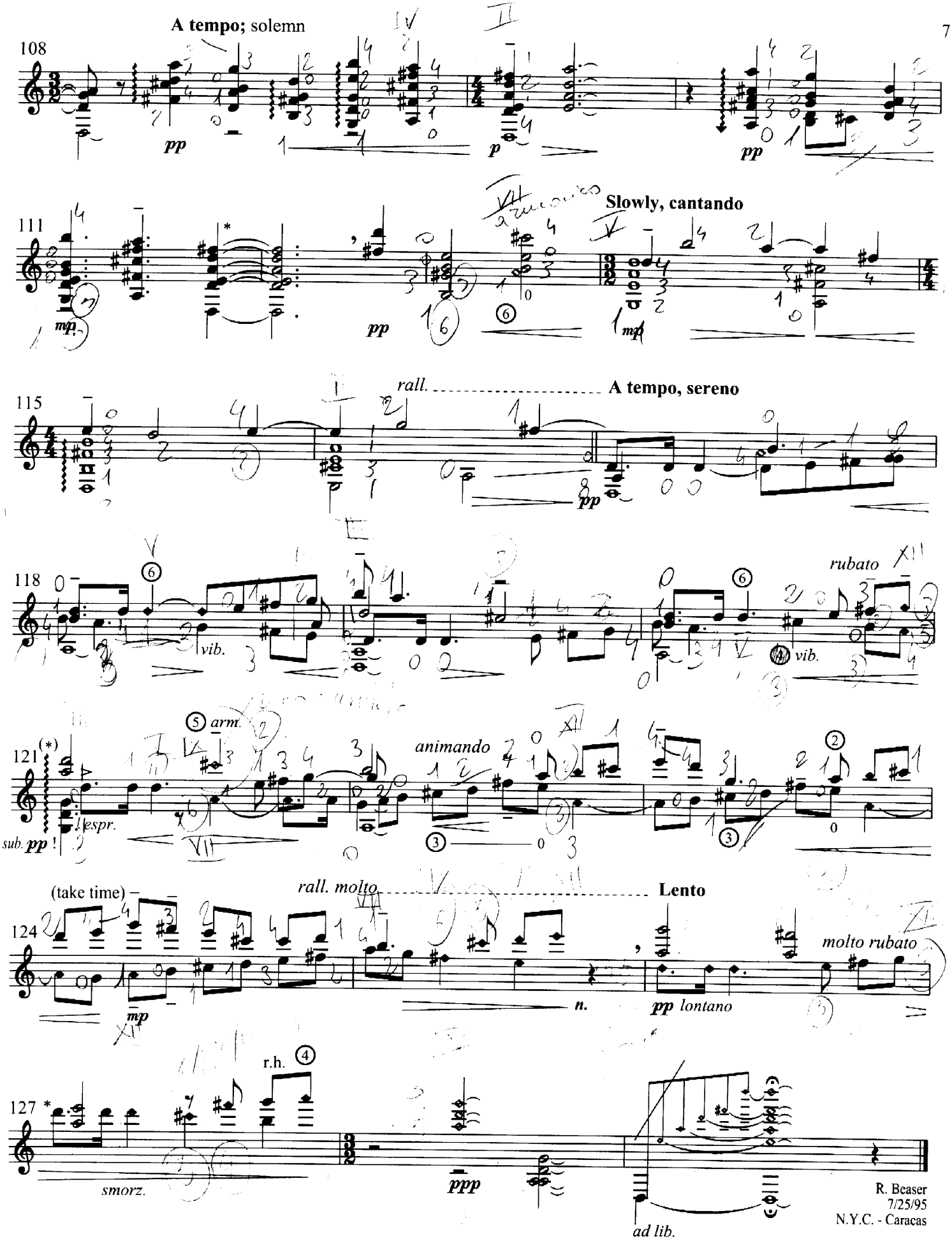

2
21
sim.
mf
pp
23
p
24
sim.
mp
vib.
rall.
(rall.)
Tempo I; Stately ♩ = 60
26
moving ahead
holding back
29
dolce
A tempo,
relaxed
33
37
pp
rit.
A tempo,
giusto
40
43


46
animato
mf
48
poco rit.
Tempo II; passionate
51
cresc. poco a poco
54
mf
with increasing force
57
allargando
60
f
Broadly, with great power
64
sim.
ff
(non troppo allegro)
67
ff
sim.


69
sim.
ff
sim.
(*)
71
sostenuto sempre
sim.
73
(take time)
A tempo
75
77
78
keep moving
sim.
sim.
79
(take time)
sffz


A tempo
80
sfz molto intenso
81
Risoluto
82
sim.
ff
84
sim.
cresc.
allargando
86
fff
(gliss.)
mp
A tempo, luminous, floating
88
sim.
p
90
mp
92
mf

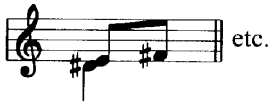

94
96
98
100
101
102
104
106
p
mp
mf
sffz
molto
poco peasante
cresc.
mp semplice
rit.



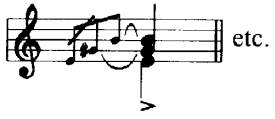
R. Beaser
7/25/95
N.Y.C. - Caracas

List of *ossia* for Robert Beaser's "SHENANDOAH"

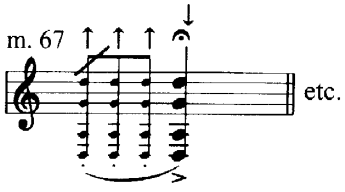
m. 40, 4th beat



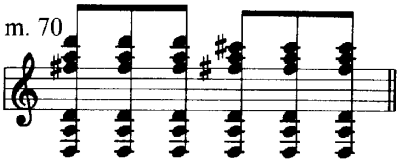
m. 41, 4th beat



m. 67



m. 70



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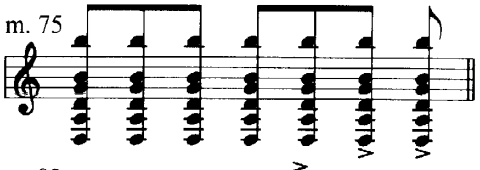
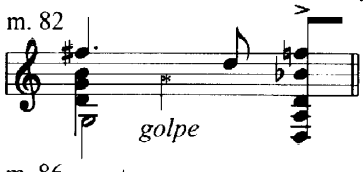
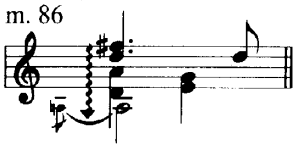


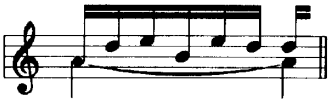
m. 82



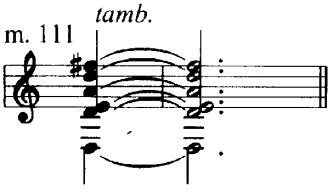
m. 86



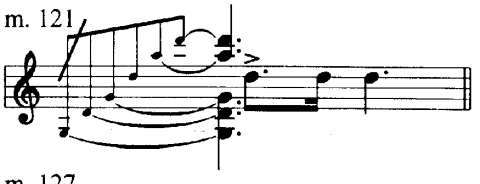
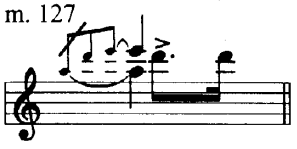
m. 97, 3rd beat



m. 111



m. 121



m. 127