2026-27 Audition Guidelines: HARP

Auditions for the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (GTCYS, pronounced git-seez) are opportunities to play your instrument and submit a short, recorded video so we can place you with one of our 11 incredible school-year orchestras! Because of GTCYS' multi-level orchestra structure, almost every student is accepted!

WHAT TO PREPARE

The next pages of this packet list the required scales and excerpts for each playing level. Once you decide which level best fits your abilities, prepare:

1. All the **scales** listed for your audition level. Minor scales can be performed in any form (natural, harmonic, or melodic), unless otherwise stated.
2. **Solo**: Prepare a piece of music (solo, etude, school ensemble music, or similar) that demonstrates your best playing abilities, that's no longer than 3 minutes. Record without piano accompaniment. Select a shorter section to fit the time limit if needed.
3. All the **excerpts** (short selections of music) listed for your audition level.

AUDITION STEPS

1. **Register for your audition** at snapaudition.com: Click "Find an Audition" and search for Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies.
2. **Pick one level** based on your abilities and experience. To learn more about each orchestra, visit gtcys.org/orchestras.

Skill Level	Typical Strings Orchestra Placement	Typical Winds, Brass, Percussion, and Harp Orchestra Placement
Beginning	Philharmonia	Sinfonia
Developing	Sinfonia Concertino	Concertino
Intermediate	Camerata Concert Orchestra	Camerata Concert Orchestra
Advanced	Philharmonic Symphony	Philharmonic Symphony

3. **Practice**, practice, practice!
4. **Record your audition video.** Harp and percussion players may record in separate takes but must submit one single video.
5. Complete your registration in snapaudition.com and **upload your audition video** by **Tuesday, December 1, 2026 at 11:59pm**.
6. **Audition results will be emailed in December.**

MORE INFO

Find detailed instructions, tips, frequently asked questions, and tuition assistance information at gtcys.org/auditions. Contact us at mail@gtcys.org or call 651.602.6800 with questions.

HARP - Sinfonia East & West

Musicians should have playing experience through two sharps and flats. Music in these orchestras sometimes includes dedicated harp parts; adapted piano or string parts will be provided for pieces that do not include harp. Prepare and record the following requirements if they accurately represent your current skill level. Your chosen audition level doesn't guarantee or limit your orchestra placement.

SCALES

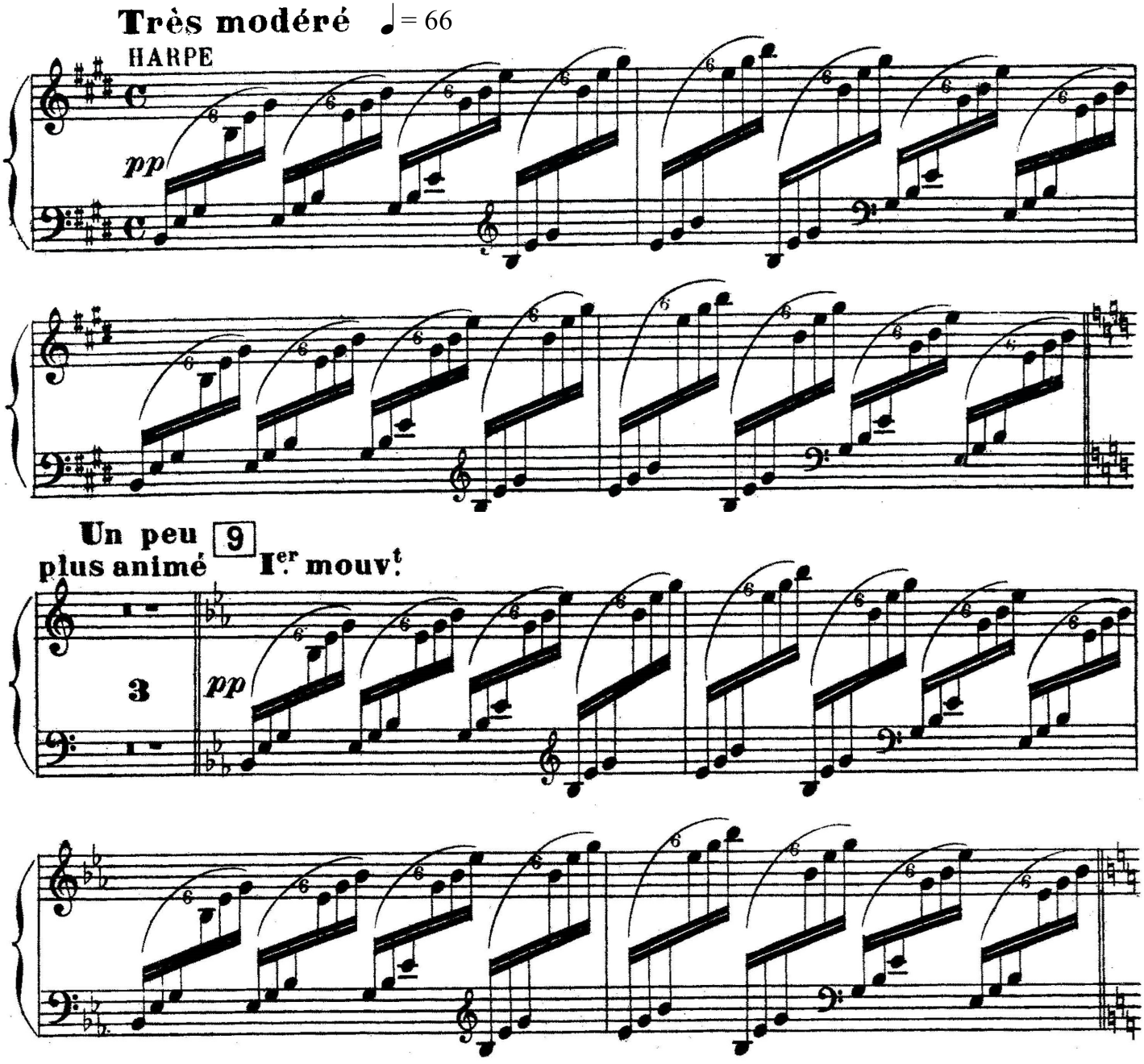
- G major - 2 octaves (hands separate) in quarter notes (quarter note = 80)
- G minor - 2 octaves (hands separate) in quarter notes (quarter note = 80)

SOLO

- Your choice - 3 minutes or less, unaccompanied

EXCERPT

Debussy - *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*, Reh 8 - 4 mm. after Reh 9



HARP - Concertino East & West

Musicians should have playing experience through three sharps and flats. Music in these orchestras sometimes includes dedicated harp parts; adapted piano or string parts will be provided for pieces that do not include harp. Prepare and record the following requirements if they accurately represent your current skill level. Your chosen audition level doesn't guarantee or limit your orchestra placement.

SCALES

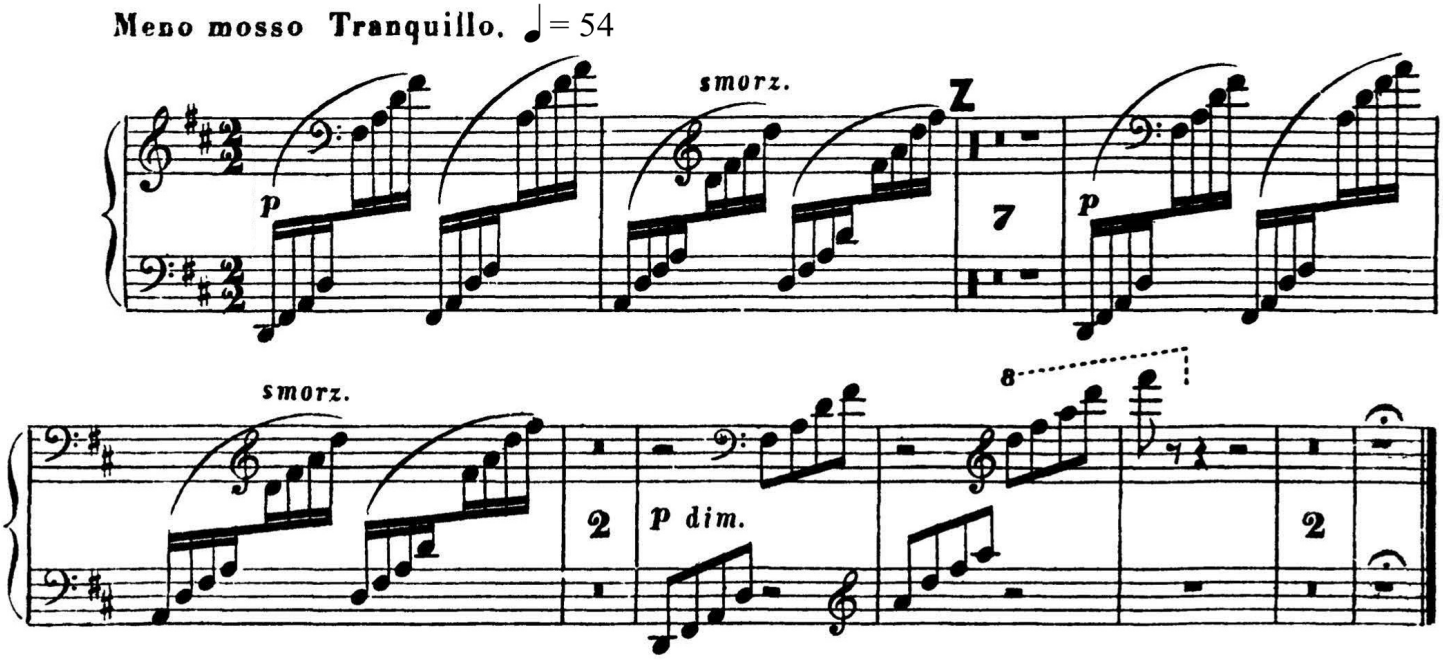
- G major - 2 octaves (hands together) in quarter notes (quarter note = 80)
- G minor - 2 octaves (hands together) in quarter notes (quarter note = 80)

SOLO

- Your choice - 3 minutes or less, unaccompanied
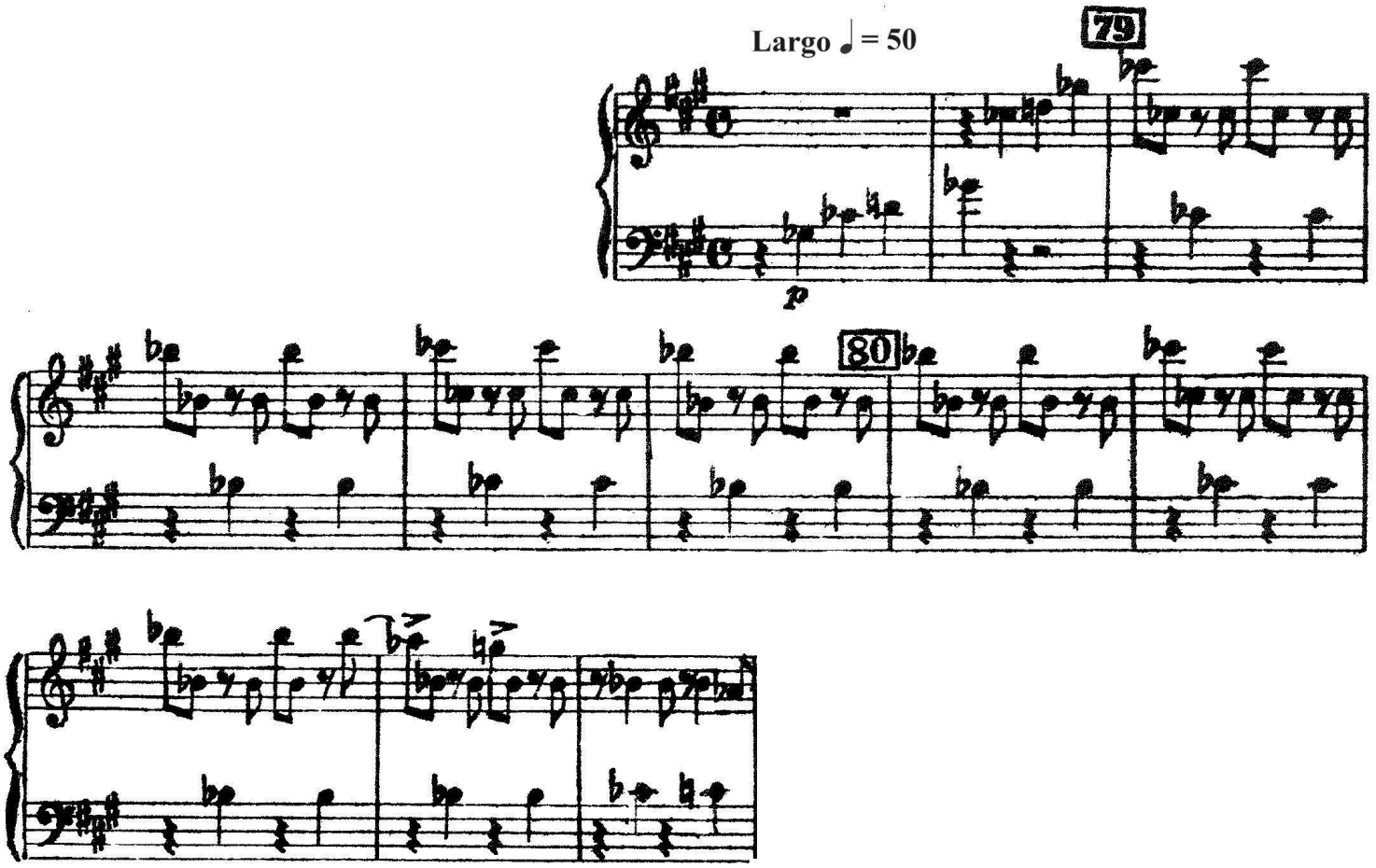
EXCERPTS

Mussorgsky, ed. Rimsky-Korsakov - *Night on Bald Mountain*, Reh Y - end



EXCERPTS CONTINUE ON FOLLOWING PAGE

Shostakovich - *Symphony No. 5, Mvt. 3*, 2 mm. before Reh. 79 - Reh. 81



HARP - Camerata orchestras and Concert Orchestra

Musicians should be comfortable in advanced key signatures. Music in these orchestras sometimes includes dedicated harp parts; adapted piano or string parts will be provided for pieces that do not include harp. Prepare and record the following requirements if they accurately represent your current skill level. Your chosen audition level doesn't guarantee or limit your orchestra placement.

SCALES
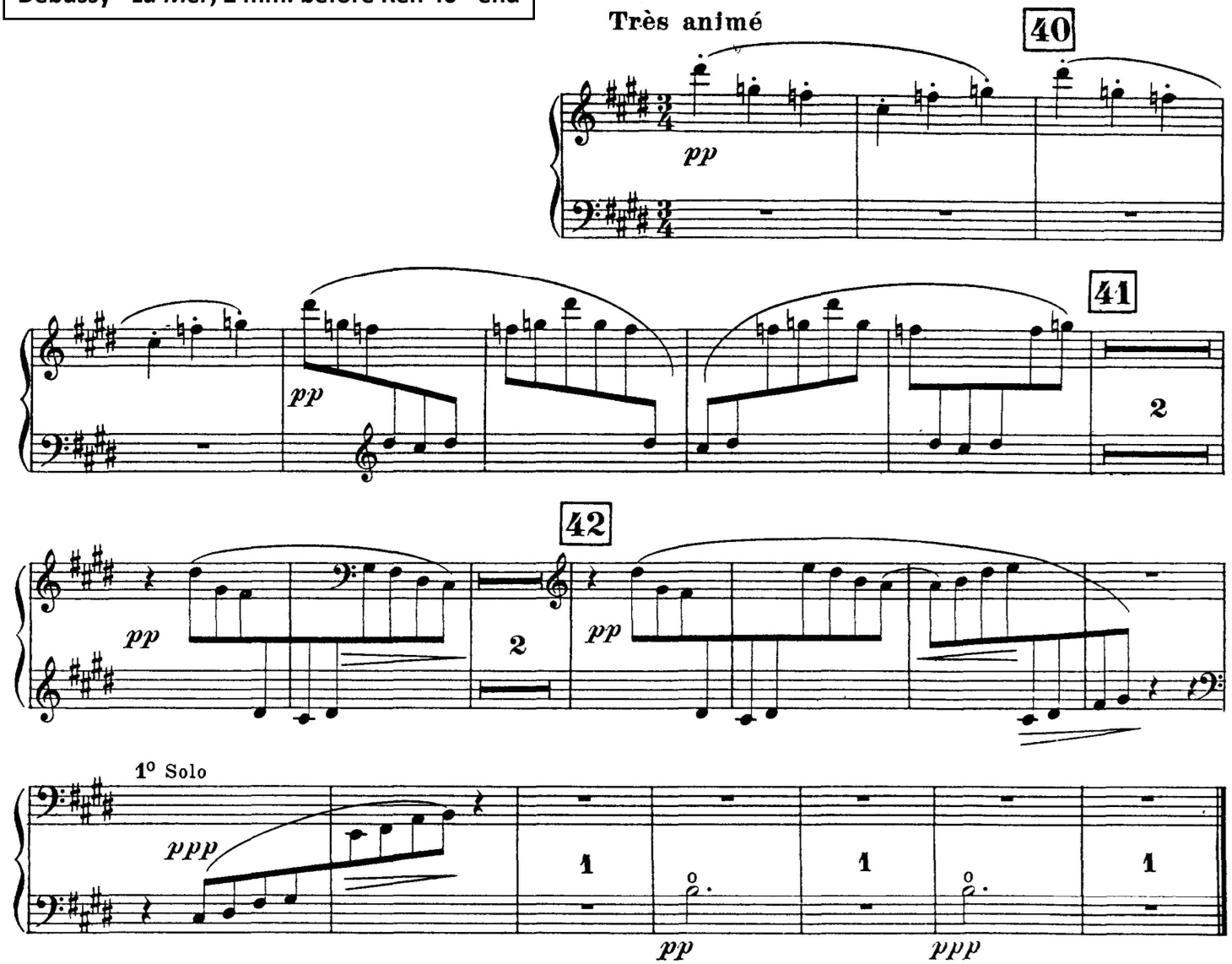
- D major - 3 octaves (hands together) in quarter notes (quarter note = 100)
- B-flat minor - 3 octaves (hands together) in quarter notes (quarter note = 100)

SOLO

- Your choice - 3 minutes or less, unaccompanied

EXCERPTS

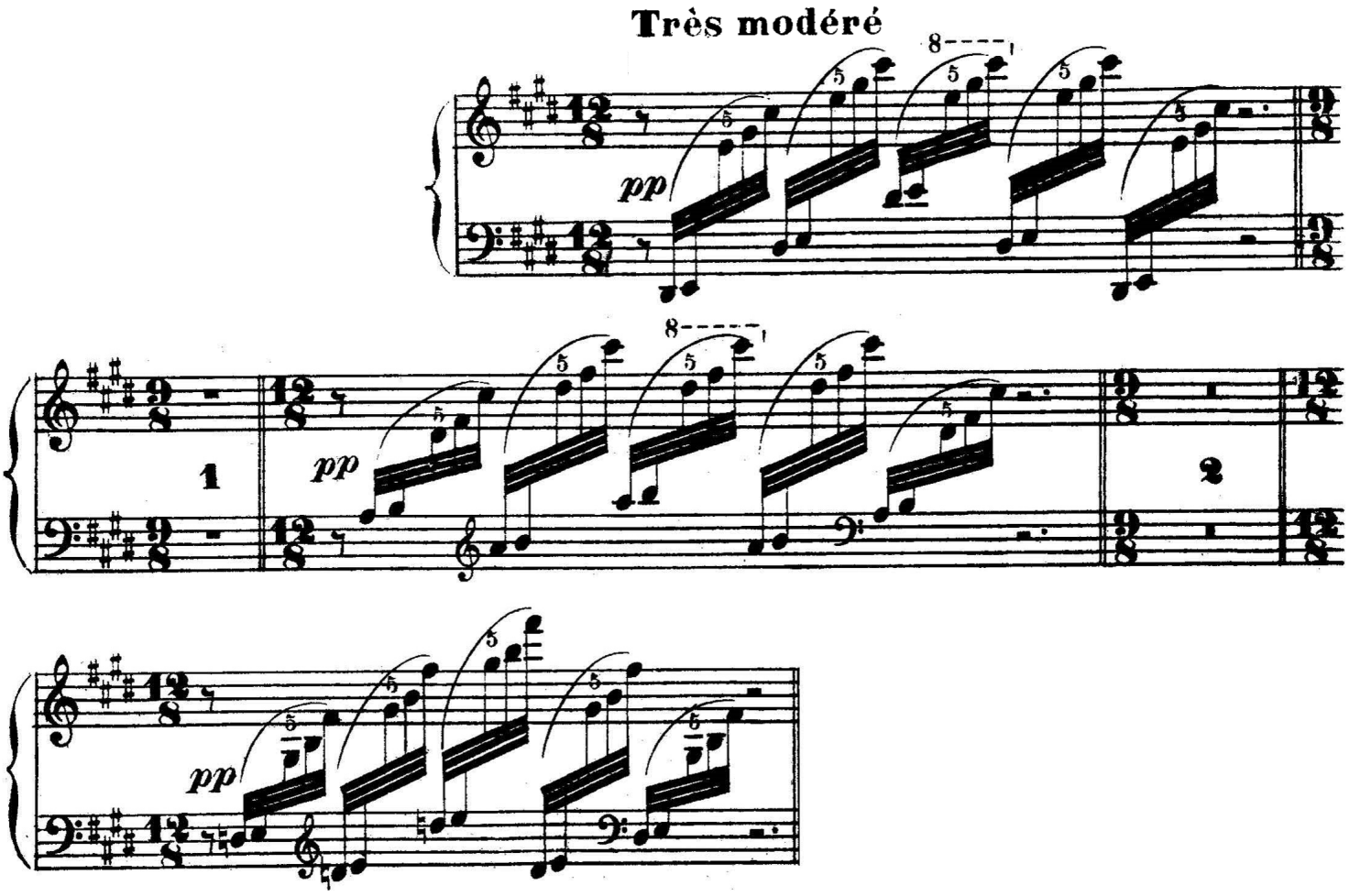
Debussy - *La Mer*, 2 mm. before Reh 40 - end



EXCERPTS CONTINUE ON FOLLOWING PAGE

HARP - Camerata orchestras and Concert Orchestra (continued)

Debussy - *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*, first 6 mm. of Reh 2



HARP - Philharmonic & Symphony

Musicians should be skilled in all major and minor keys and display advanced musicality. Prepare and record the following requirements if they accurately represent your current skill level. Your chosen audition level doesn't guarantee or limit your orchestra placement.

SCALES

- G-flat major - 3 octaves (hands together) in eighth notes (quarter note = 60)
- F melodic minor - 3 octaves (hands together) in eighth notes (quarter note = 60)

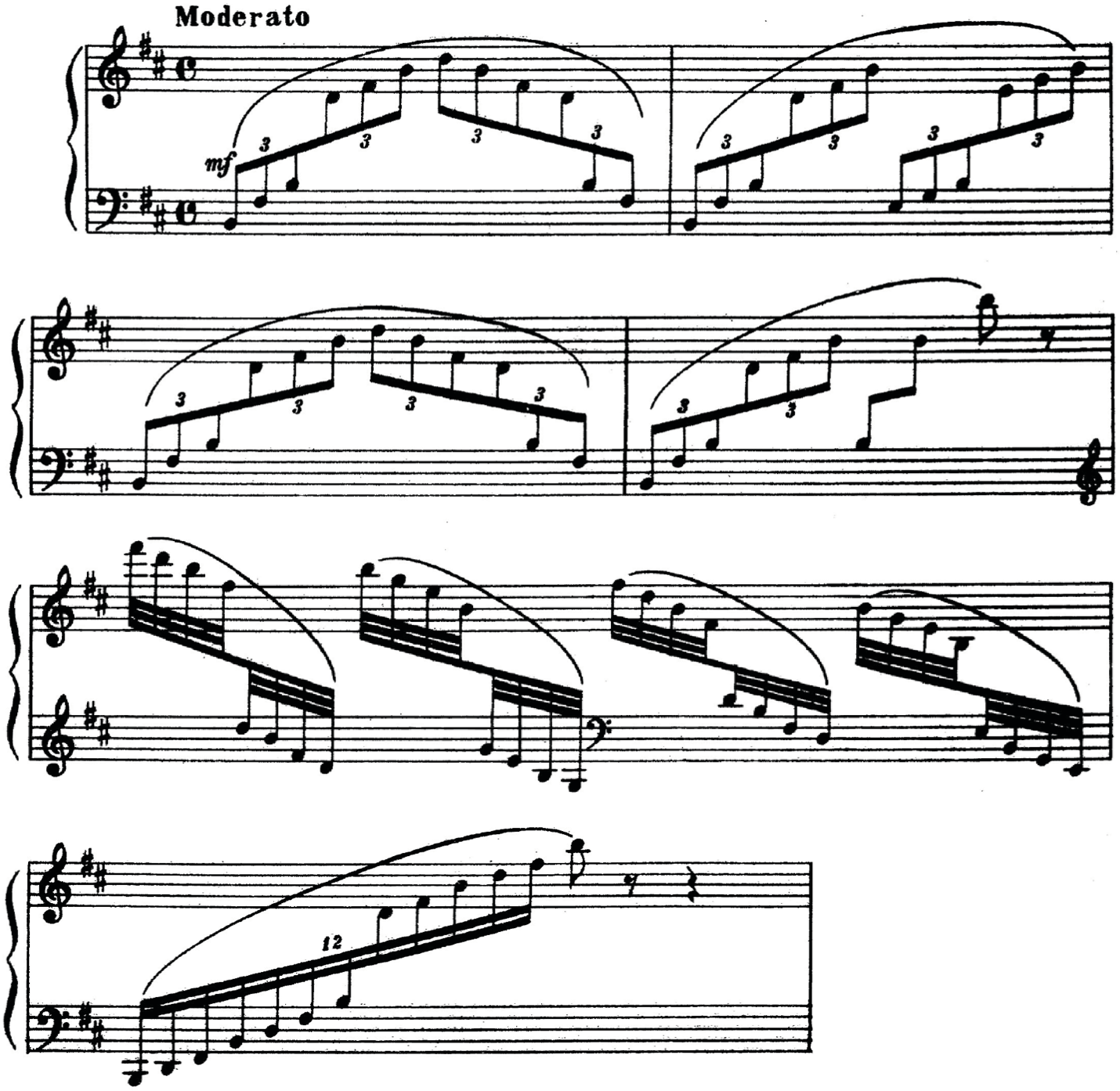
SOLO

- Your choice - 3 minutes or less, unaccompanied

EXCERPTS
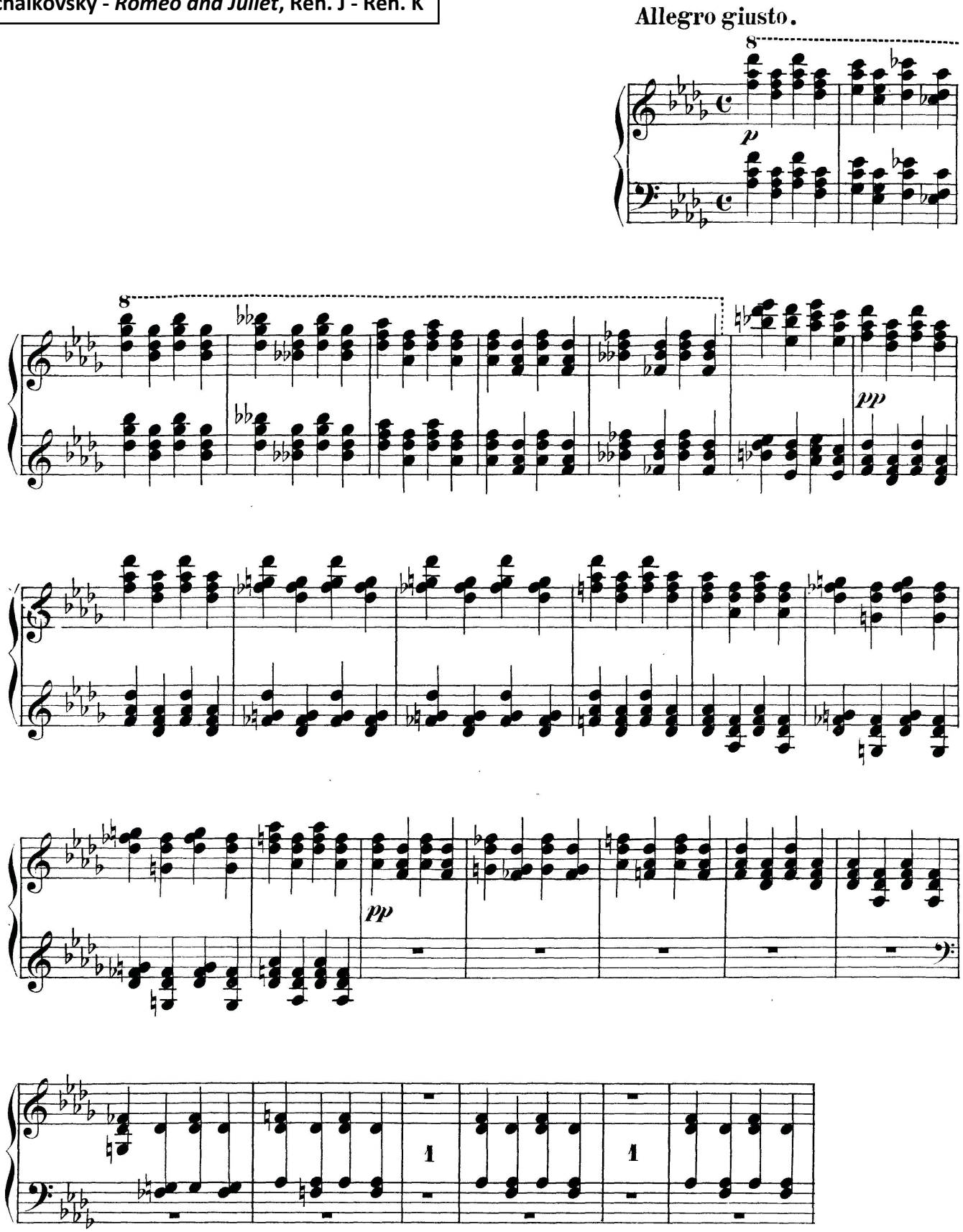
Tchaikovsky - *Swan Lake, Scene 1*, mm. 1-6

Updated 5/4/2026



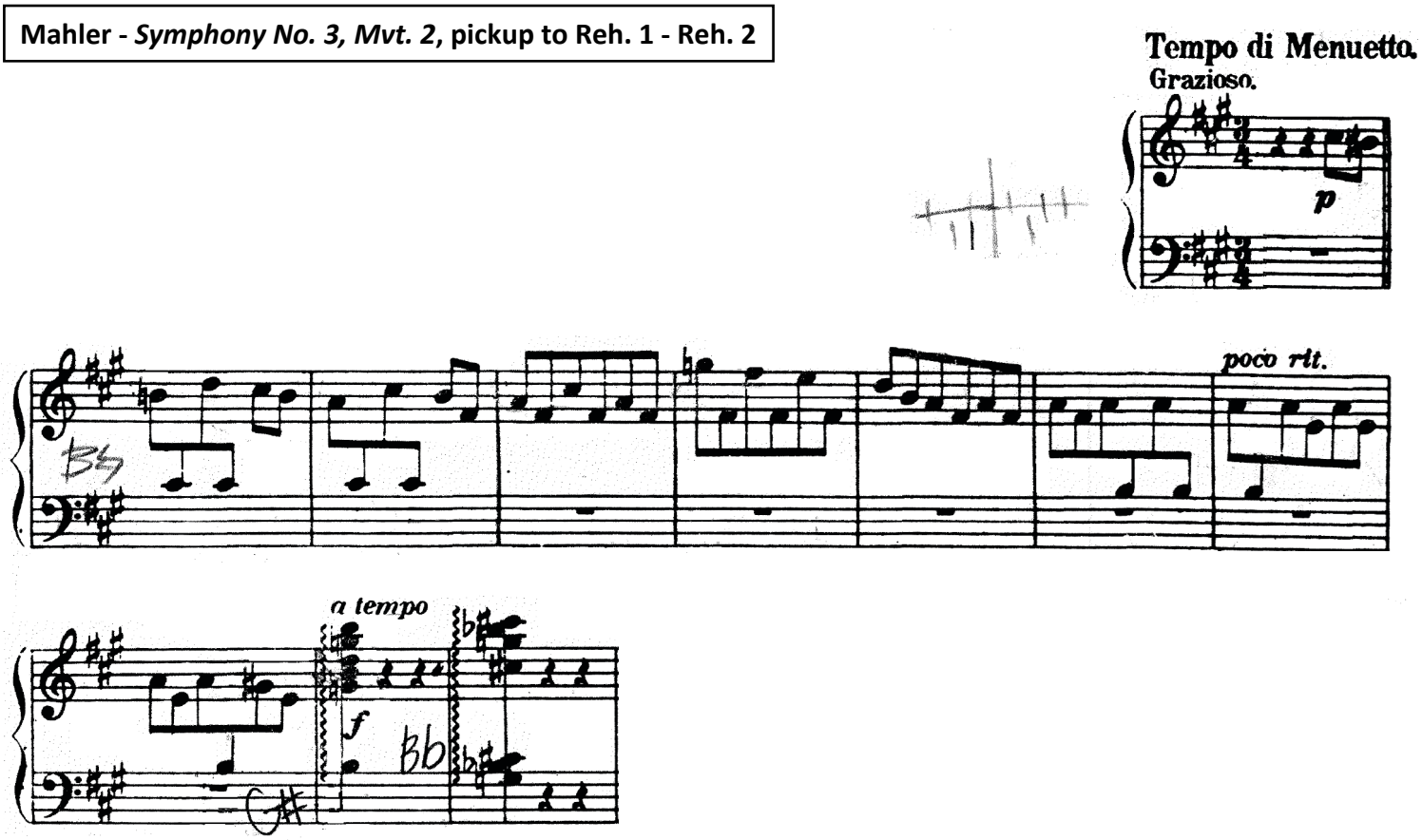
EXCERPTS CONTINUE ON FOLLOWING PAGE

Tchaikovsky - *Romeo and Juliet*, Reh. J - Reh. K



EXCERPTS CONTINUE ON FOLLOWING PAGE

Mahler - *Symphony No. 3, Mvt. 2*, pickup to Reh. 1 - Reh. 2


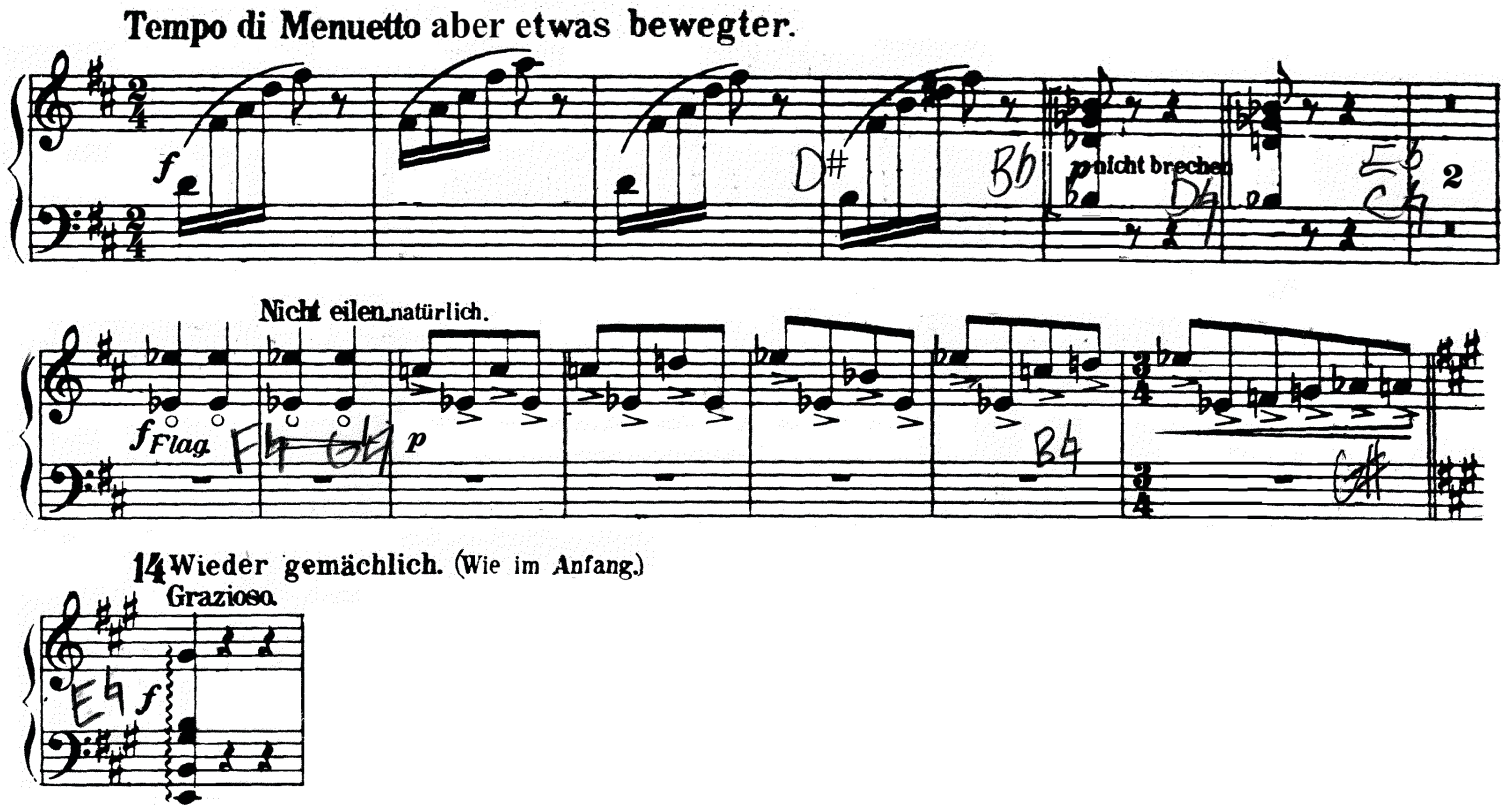
Mahler - *Symphony No. 3, Mvt. 2*, Reh. 13 - Reh. 14

