A layout omitting ossia staves and in which the page turns are easy can be found at page eight.

Gelassenheit (Serenity)

oder

Was die alte Strassenlaterne weiss

(What the old street light knows)

für Orgel

Anthony Skilbeck

Programme note

Translated into English, the title is *Serenity*. It incorporates juvenilia musical material from 1962, 63 and 65, inspired by the distant twinkling of street lights seen across a moor from a room in the composer's childhood Bournemouth home. The subtitle *Was die alte Strassenlaterne weiss (What the old street light knows)* tells of the work's genesis - a visit to Dresden (a city figuring significantly in musical history) during which the composer saw quaint, sagacious-looking street lights which had possibly survived WWII bombing and "witnessed" aspects of life during the G.D.R. times. One can imagine such a lantern pictured on the dustcover of a political thriller.

Performing notes

The piece is for manuals only - even just one manual.

The Cymbelstern and (either one or both) of the drone parts are optional.

A layout omitting ossia staves and in which the page turns are easy can be found at page eight.

Drones

Fix with felt-covered lead weights (or use an assistant). The drones must be very quiet indeed.

Cymbelstern

This should be set to revolve at a medium tempo. As an alternative, wind chimes (perhaps played by an assistant) may be used, but the the notes must be compatible with E, Db and Eb majors. A further alternative is for an assistant to simulate the sound of a Cymbelstern by playing carefully-chosen notes on a high-pitched flue stop. (From M. von Einsiedel).

Historical notes

The piece was first performed by Marianne von Einsiedel in St. Markus Kirche, Dresden (5th July 1998), then in the Kreuzkirche, Dresden (25th September, 1998).

The first English performance was given by the composer in Tewkesbury Abbey, Gloucestershire, on September 3rd, 2002

The melody and basic harmony in bars 1 - 17 are from an unfinished piece of December 1965 (age 18)

The right hand melody in bars 42 - 49 is from December 1962 (age 15)

The left hand melody in bars 42 - 51 is based on one from May 1963 (age 16)

For Marianne von Einsiedel

Gelassenheit (Serenity)

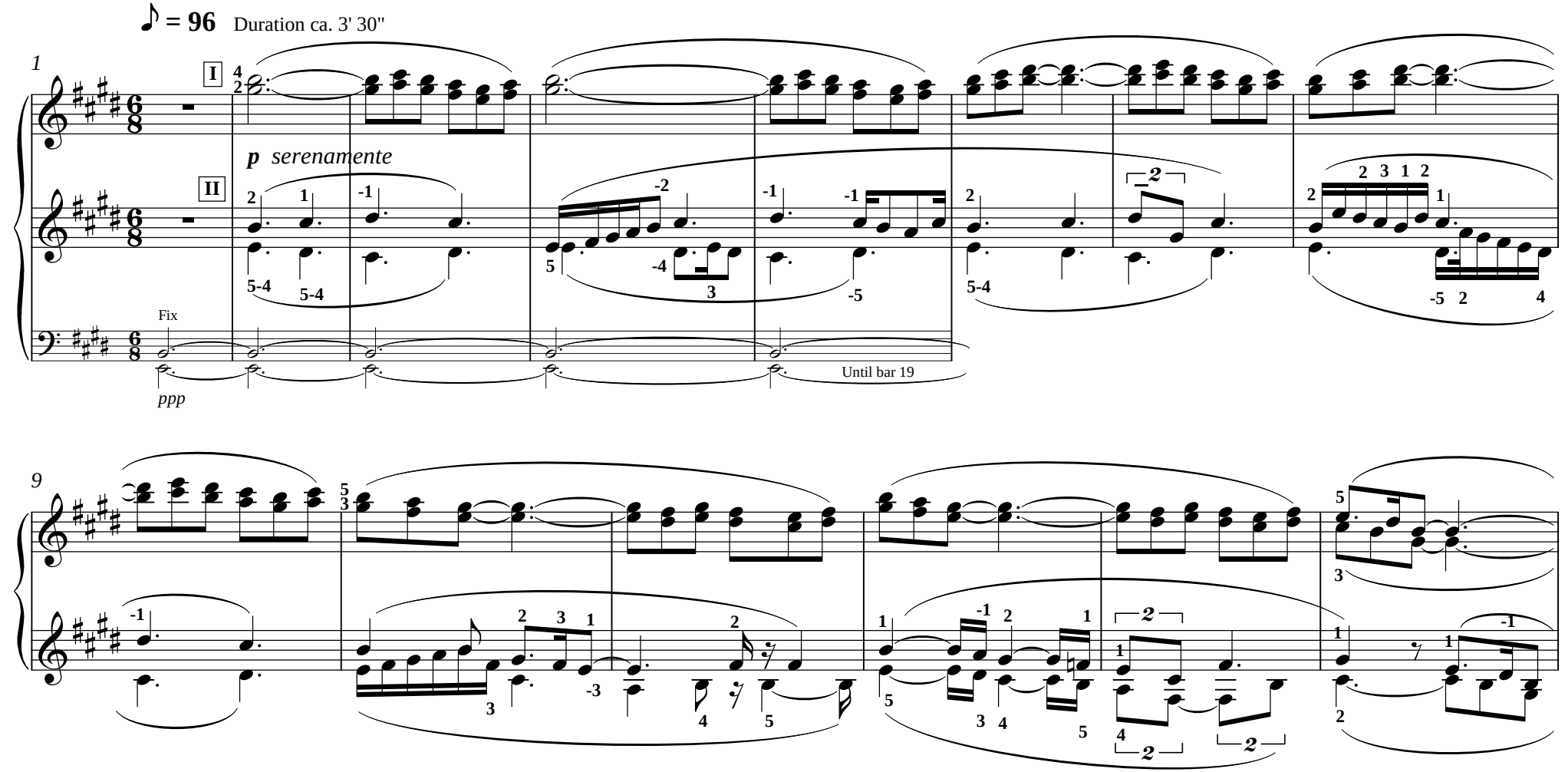
oder

Was die alte Strassenlaterne weiss (What the old street light knows)

Anthony Skilbeck

I Quiet 8' metal rank **II** Quiet 8' wooden rank **Ped.** Very quiet 8'

From bar 42, there is a possibility for the l.h. to play on a Tierce or Cromorne (or a combination including a Quintadena)



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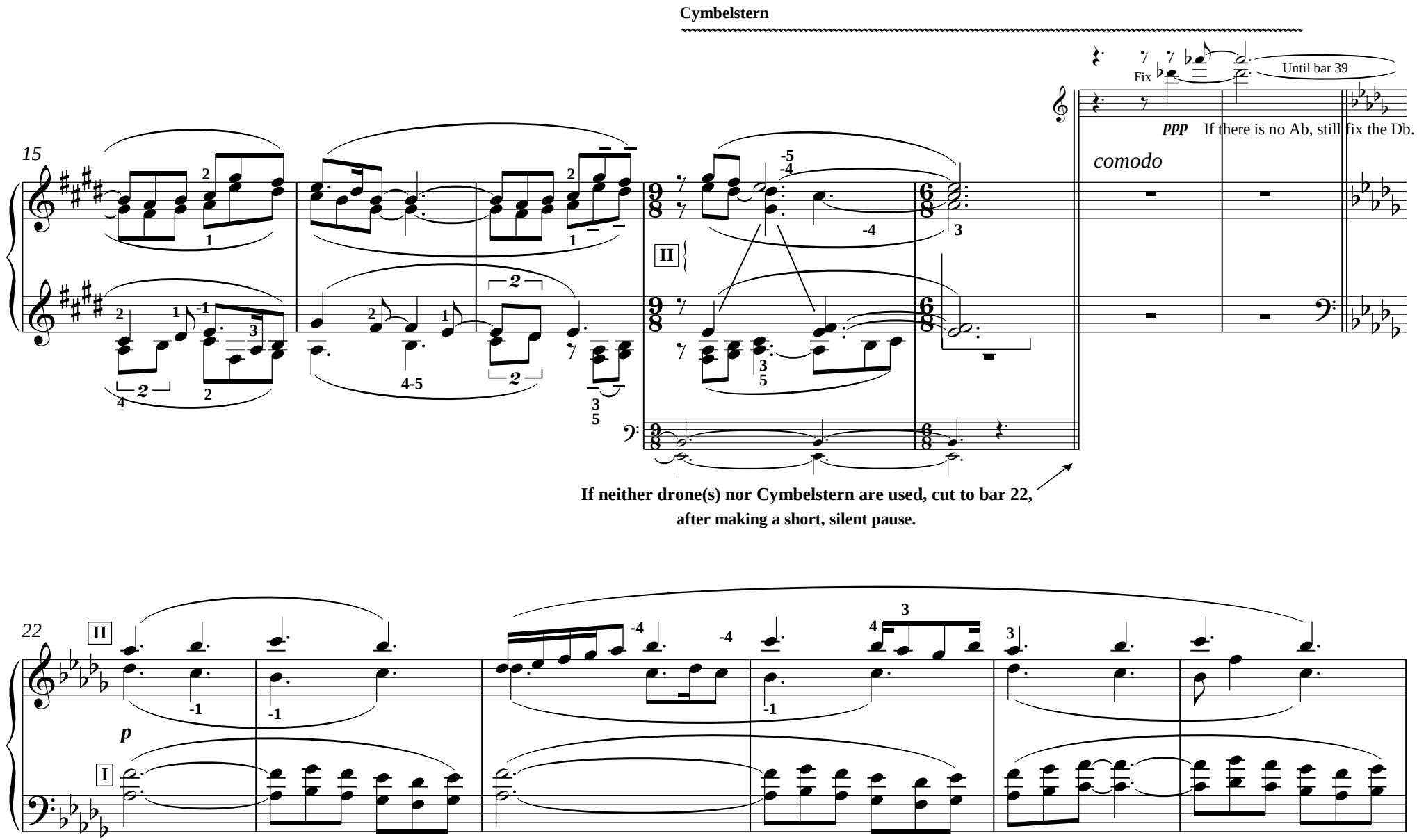
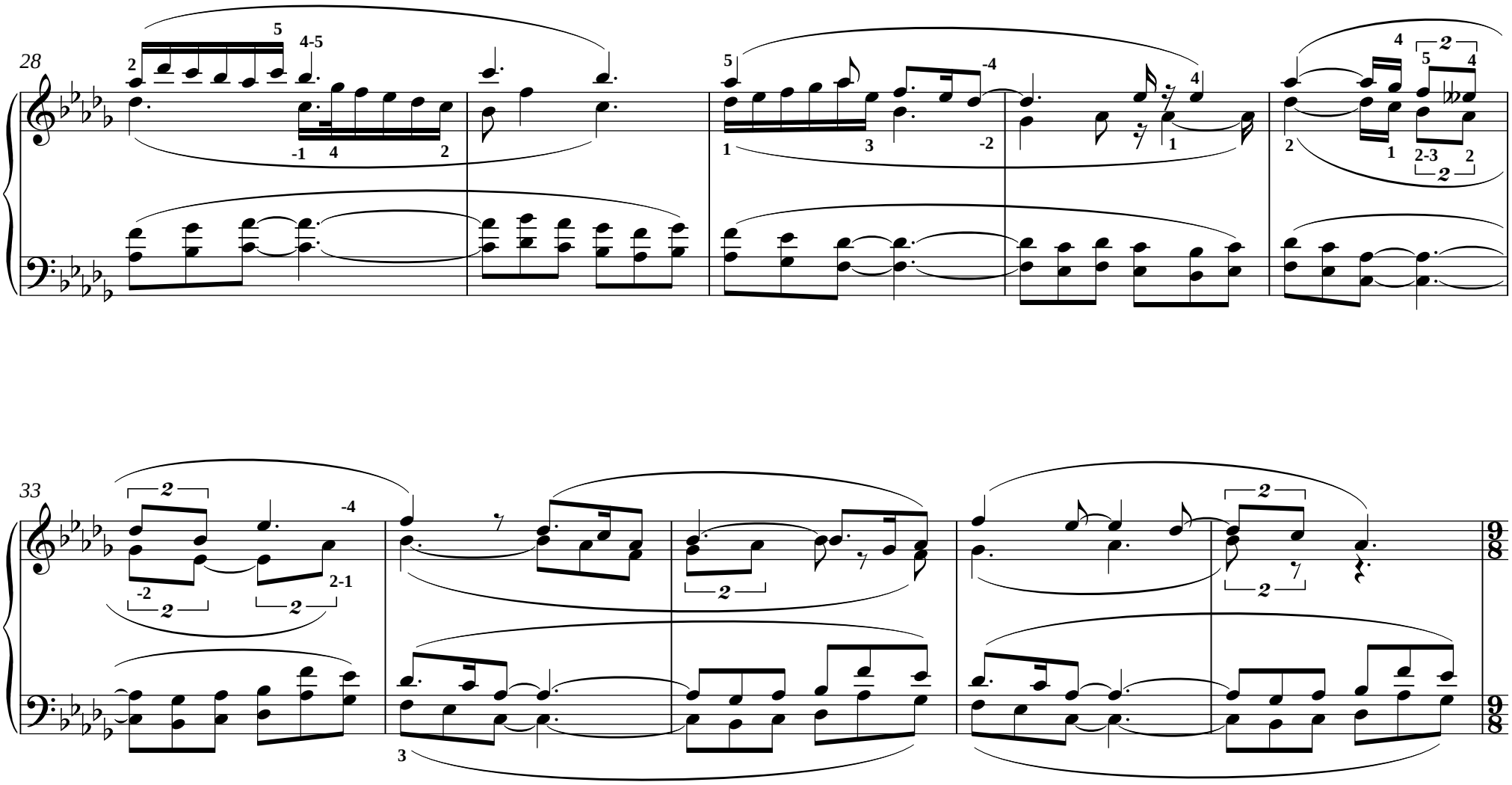

Cymbelstern
Fix
Until bar 39
ppp
If there is no Ab, still fix the Db.
15
comodo
II
If neither drone(s) nor Cymbelstern are used, cut to bar 22,
after making a short, silent pause.
22
II
p
I


28
33

38

II

If neither drone nor Cymbelstern are used, cut to bar 42,
after making a short, silent pause.

comodo

Fix

ppp

Until bars 52/53

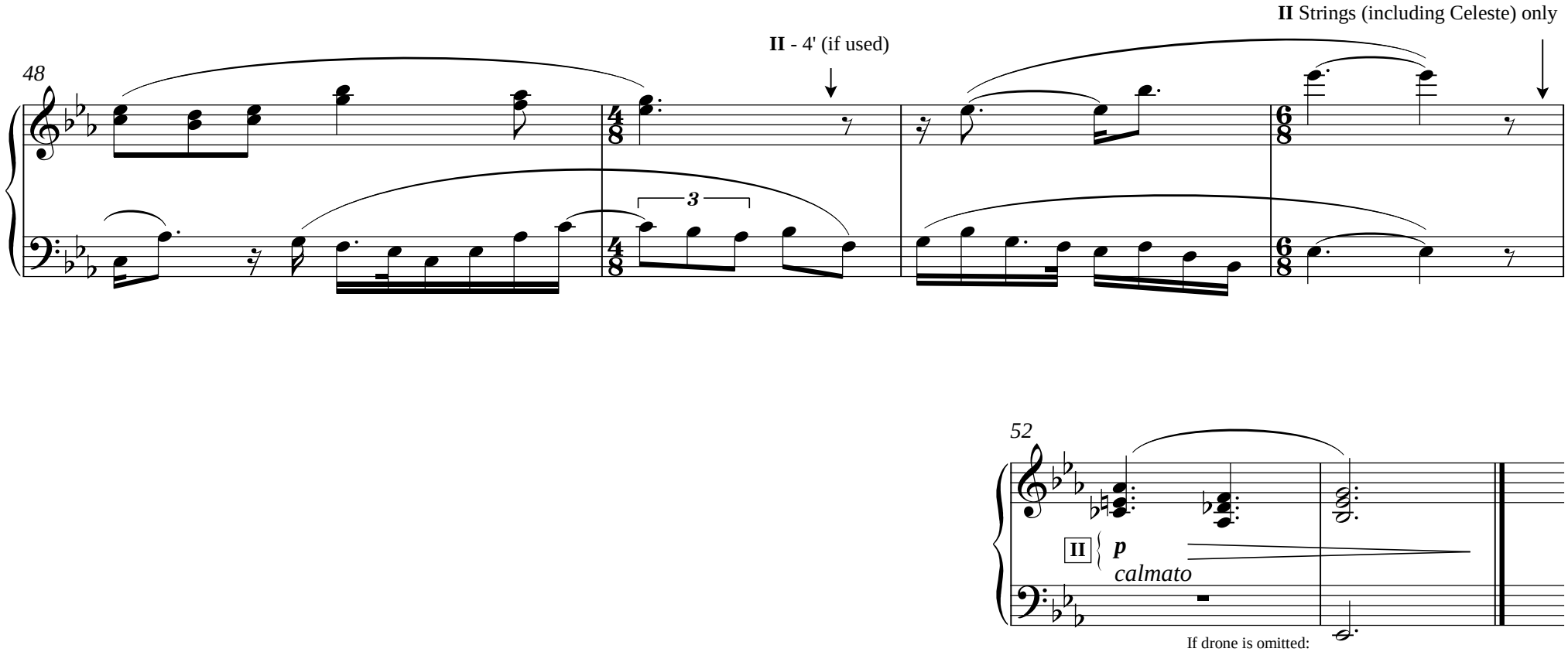
42

I

p

II

45



If drone is omitted:

June 1998

For Marianne von Einsiedel

Gelassenheit (Serenity)

oder

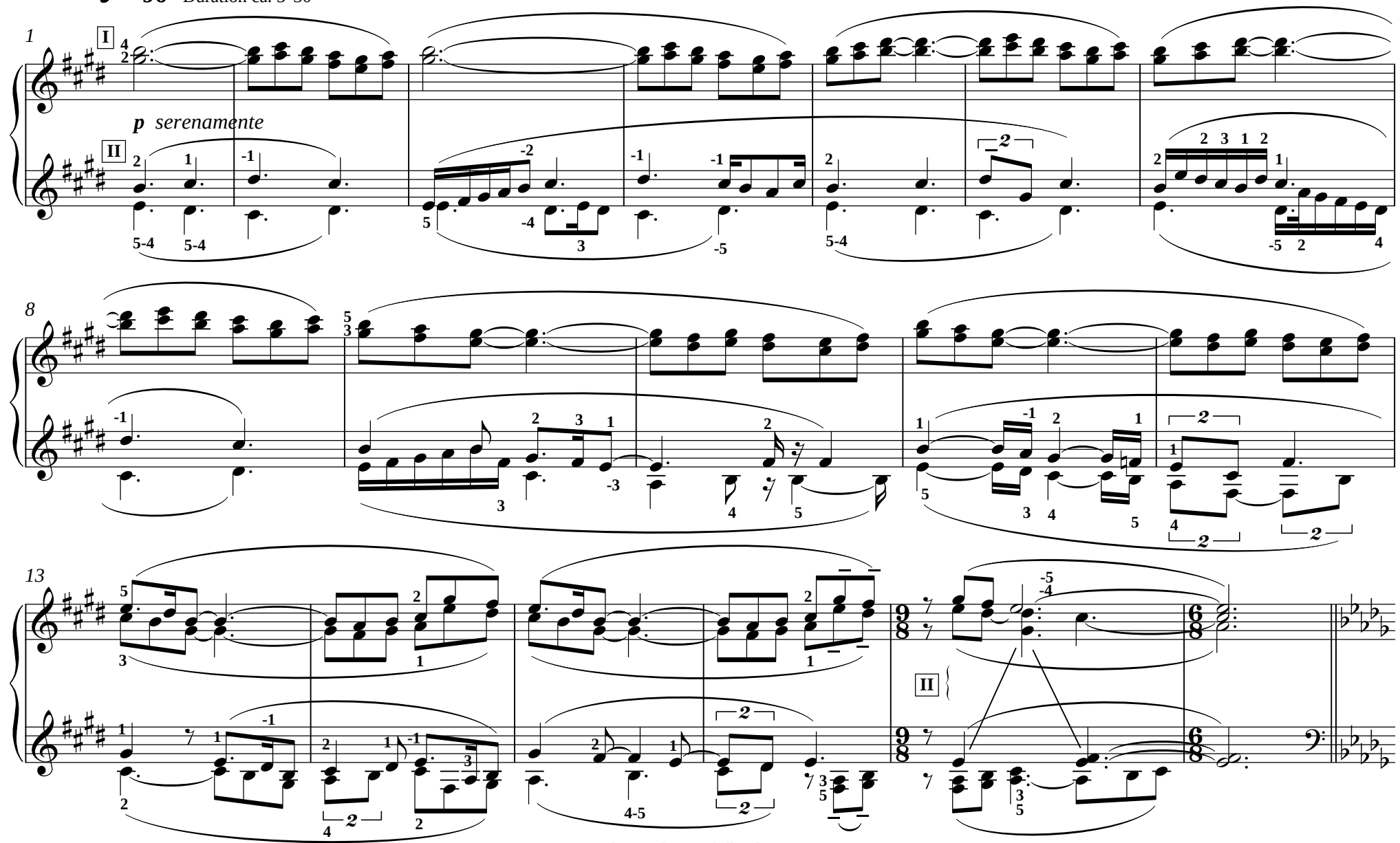
Was die alte Strassenlaterne weiss (What the old street light knows)

Anthony Skilbeck

I Quiet 8' metal rank **II** Quiet 8' wooden rank

From bar 37, there is a possibility for the l.h. to play on a Tierce or Cromorne (or a combination including a Quintadena)

♪ = **96** Duration ca. 3' 30"



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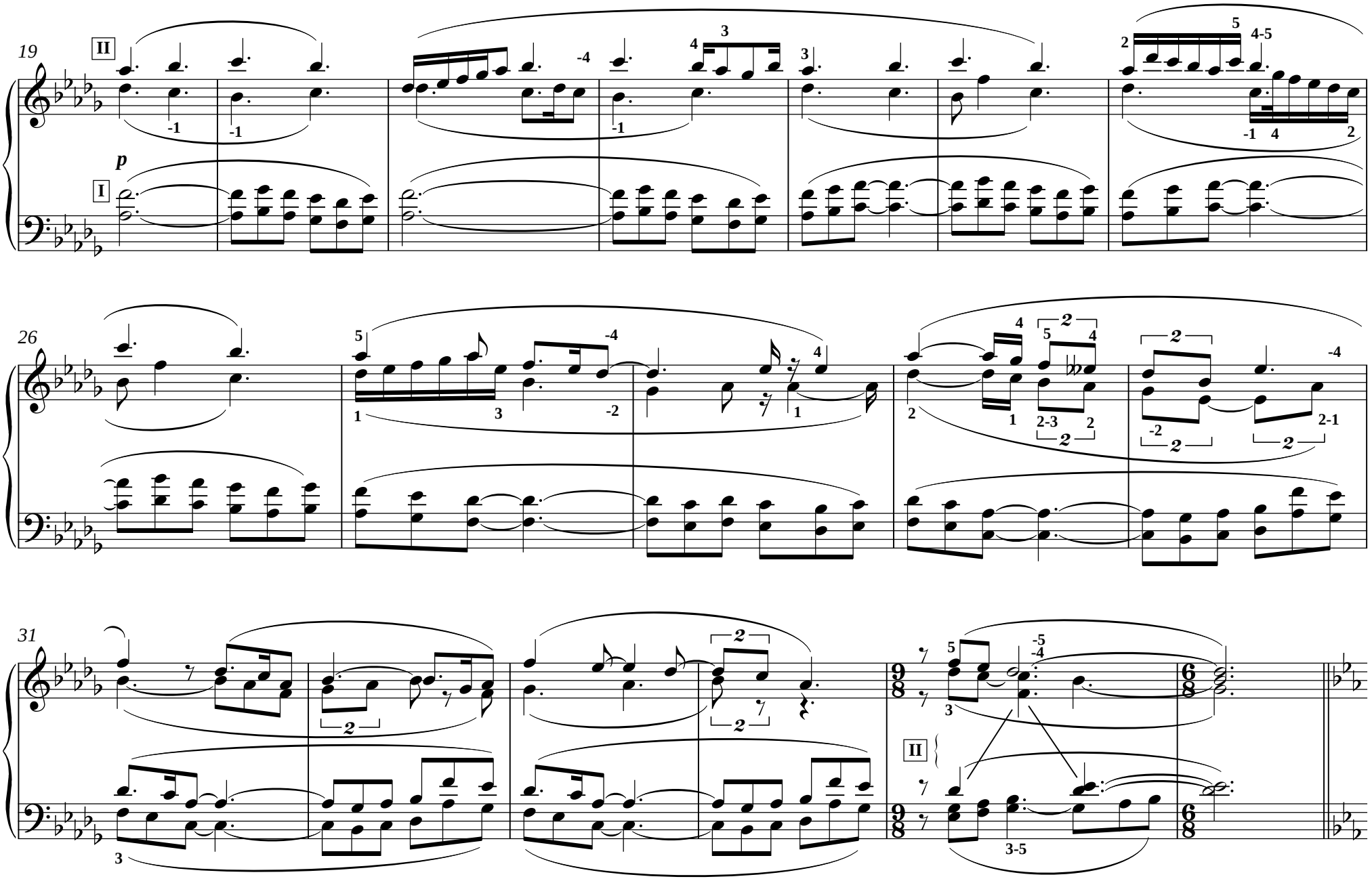
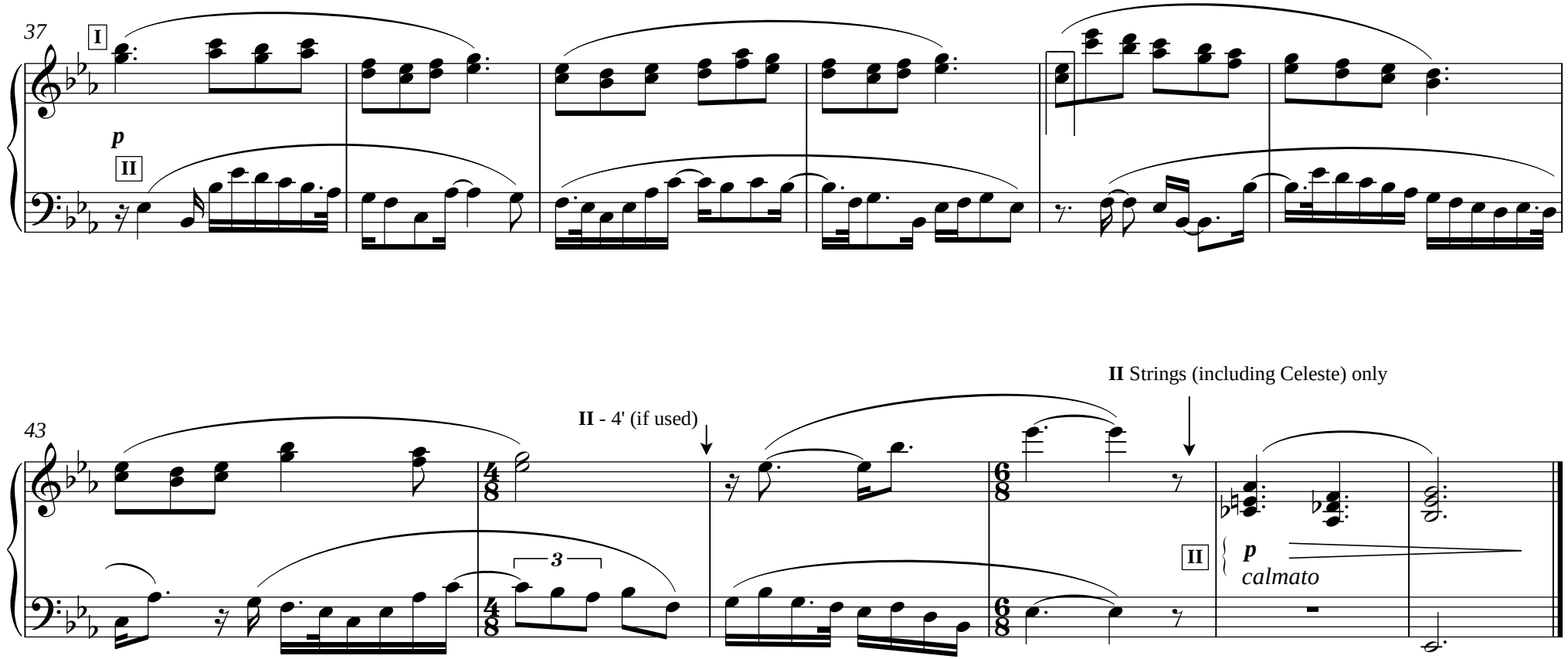

19
II
p
I
26
31
II


37
I
p
II
43
II - 4' (if used)
II Strings (including Celeste) only
3
II
p
calmato

June 1998