

# György Ligeti

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# Musica ricercata

per pianoforte  
(1951–1953)

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# Musica ricercata

per pianoforte

(1951 - 53)

I

György Ligeti  
\* 1923

Sostenuto ♩ = 66

ff ff sf ff ff

ped. ped. ped.

\*)

Misurato ♩ = 106

pp

misurato, poco pesante

pp

\*) Tasten stumm niederdrücken / depress keys without sounding.

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*stringendo poco a poco sin al Prestissimo*

The sheet music consists of five staves of musical notation for piano. The top staff is treble clef, and the bottom staff is bass clef. The music is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. The notation includes various note values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'ff' (fortissimo) and 'v.' (volume). The first measure starts with a dynamic of 'cresc. poco a poco (sin al ff)'. The subsequent measures show a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes with varying dynamics and rests. The final measure on each staff concludes with a dynamic of 'v.'. The music is set against a background of horizontal black bars, likely indicating a sustained sound or a specific performance technique.

Musical score for piano, two staves. Treble clef, common time. Measures 1-2 show eighth-note patterns in both hands.

Musical score for piano, two staves. Treble clef, common time. Measures 3-4 show eighth-note patterns in both hands.

Musical score for piano, two staves. Treble clef, common time. Measures 5-6 show eighth-note patterns in both hands. Dynamic ff is indicated in measure 6.

Musical score for piano, two staves. Treble clef, common time. Measures 7-8 show eighth-note patterns in both hands.

Musical score for piano, two staves. Treble clef, common time. Measures 9-10 show eighth-note patterns in both hands. Dynamic fff is indicated in measure 10. The tempo marking Prestissimo is written above the staff.

\*) mit beiden Fingern zugleich anschlagen / play note with both fingers at once.

6

8  
8b... *tutta la forza*

8  
8b... *ferocissimo*

8  
8b... *Sostenuto*

ca. 2'

*\*) Tasten stumm niederdrücken / depress keys without sounding.*  
*\*\*) Mit beiden Fingern anschlagen, dann mit einem Finger halten. / Play note with both fingers then hold with one.*

*\*) Tasten stumm niederdrücken / depress keys without sounding.*

*\*\*) Mit beiden Fingern anschlagen, dann mit einem Finger halten. / Play note with both fingers then hold with one.*

## II

Mesto, rigido e ceremoniale  $\text{♩} = 56$

*f*      *non legato*      *sim.*  
*senza ped.*

*pp una corda*  
*con ped. \*)*

*f* *tre corde*  
*senza ped.*      *non leg.*

*sf*  
*quasi parlando*

\*) Pedalwechsel bei jedem Ton / change pedal on each note.

8

*pp una corda  
rigido e ceremoniale*

*con ped.*

8

**Più mosso, pesante**  $\text{♩} = 126$

*ff* <sup>2] \*)</sup> <sub>1)</sub> *tutta la forza  
tre corde*

*Ped. bei jedem Ton  
pedal on each note*

*molto pesante, minaccioso*

*cresc. molto*

*Senza tempo, rapido*

*ssfff* <sup>\*\*\*)</sup> *lunga*

*perdendosi*

*ff* *con ped.*

*ssfff*

*ssfff ssfff ssfff*

**Intenso, agitato**  $\text{♩} = 76$

*ff*

*ssfff*

*(pp)*

*(m.s.) ff*

*(sempre ff)*

\*) Mit beiden Fingern zugleich anschlagen / play note with both fingers at once.

\*\*) Tonrepetition so dicht wie möglich / repetition of tones as dense as possible.

*ffpp*      *ffpp*      *ffpp*      *ffpp fpp mfpp*

(m.s.) ***ff***      *perdendosi*

**Tempo I**  $\text{♩} = 56$

8

***pp*** *una corda,  
rigido e ceremoniale*

8

**Senza tempo**

8

***ffffp***      ***mpffff*** \*)

*perdendosi*

Pedal allmählich aufheben / 2'30"-3'  
*lift pedal gradually*

\*) allmählich langsamer werden / gradually become slower.

## III

**Allegro con spirito** ♩ = 176

**f** tre corde

senza ped.

**pp**  
una corda

8b  
*staccatissimo, leggiero*

8b

**f**

tre corde

**f**

**sf p sub.** **mp**  
una corda

**sf**

**pp molto leggiero**

*p leggiero e giocoso*

(sempre *pp*)

*ff* sub.  
tre corde

*sf*

(sempre *f*)

*p*

(sempre *ff*)      *pp sub., molto leggiero*

*pp*      *ff*      *string.*

*pp cresc. molto*

*pp*

(string.)

*sub. a tempo*

(cresc.)

*ff*

*ff*

*pp*

*f pp sub.*

*f pp*

*f pp*

*pp*

*ff*

*8*

*pp*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*sim.*

*(sempre ff)*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*sim.*

*ca. 1'*

*secco*

## IV

**Tempo di Valse (poco vivace - „à l'orgue de Barbarie“)  $\text{d.} = 96^*)$**

The musical score consists of five staves of piano music. The first staff starts with a dynamic of  $p$ . The second staff begins with  $p$  and includes the instruction "grazioso". The third staff starts with "pochiss. rit." and "a tempo". The fourth staff starts with "cresc.". The fifth staff ends with a dynamic of  $f$ .

Detailed description: The score is for piano, featuring two hands. Staff 1: Treble clef, 3/4 time, key signature of one sharp. Staff 2: Treble clef, 3/4 time, key signature of one sharp. Staff 3: Treble clef, 2/4 time, key signature of one sharp. Staff 4: Treble clef, 2/4 time, key signature of one sharp. Staff 5: Treble clef, 2/4 time, key signature of one sharp.

\* ) Die Metronomangabe bezieht sich auf die maximale Geschwindigkeit; das Stück kann frei interpretiert werden - zuweilen langsamer - mit rubati, ritenuti, accelerandi, wie der Leierkastenspieler sein Instrument kurbelt.

\* ) The metronome value refers to the maximum tempo, the piece may be interpreted freely - as well as being slower - with rubati, ritenuti, accelerandi, just as an organ grinder would play his barrel organ.

*poco rall.* - - - - -

**a tempo**

**poco rall.** - - - - -      **più rall.** - - - - -

**(rall.)** - - - - -      **Tempo I**

**8b**.....

*p*                   *grazioso*                   *cresc. poco*

*pochiss. rit.*      *a tempo*                   *dim. poco*

*pochiss. rit.*      *a tempo*

*cresc.*                   *P*

*f*

*poco rall.*

*pp*

*ped.*                   *pp*                   1'30" - 1'40"

## V

**Rubato. Lamentoso** (♩ ca. 40) \*)

*f pesante*

*con ped.*

*molto pesante*

*pochiss. allarg.* - - - - - *più allarg.* - - - - -

*più f*

*m.d.*

*meno f*

*p*

**Più mosso, non rubato** (♩ ca. 69)

*p*

*cresc. poco a poco* - - - - -

*senza ped.*

*allargando poco a poco sin al 8* - - - - -

*(cresc.)* - - - - - *più cresc.* - - - - - *f sempre cresc.* - - - - -

*con ped.*

\*) Sehr frei vortragen / play very freely.

(allarg. *al*)**Tempo I** ( $\text{d}$  ca. 40)

8

*ff*  
*in rilievo, grandioso*

*ff molto pesante*

*agitato, string. molto**fff*

8

*cresc. molto*

*(sempre string.)**non string.*

8

*fff*   *fff*   *fff*   *fff*   *fff*

*a tempo, calmo*

**8**

**pp una corda**

**senza ped.**

**ff tre corde**

**pp una corda**

**con ped.**

**senza ped.**

*poco rall. - - - - a tempo*

**f tre corde**

**pp una corda**

**mp tre corde**

**p**

**pp**

**con ped.**

**senza ped.**

**con ped.**

**ped.**

**ped. al fine**

*string, poco a poco - - - - non string.*

**pesante, cresc.**

**cresc. molto**

**fff**

**lunga**

**lunga**

**senza ped.**

**ca. 3'**

\*) Die Tasten stumm niederdrücken und ganz ausklingen lassen / depress keys silently and allow sound to die away.

## VI

**Allegro molto capriccioso**  $\text{d}=108$

*f*

*cresc.*

*senza ped.*

*pì f*

*ff martellato, poco pesante*

*f*

*8*

*sempre ff*

*mf*

*ff leggiero*

*ff*

*p*

*sf*

*pp una corda*

*ff tre corde*

*ff*

*8b*

musical score page 21. The score consists of six staves of piano music. Staff 1: Treble clef, key signature of two sharps, 2/4 time. Dynamics: **p**, **una corda pp sub.**, **tre corde sempre pp**, **poco**. Measure 8b. Staff 2: Bass clef, key signature of two sharps, 2/4 time. Dynamics: **mp**, **ff martellato**, **con ped. \***, **ff sempre**, **ff**, **p sub.**, **senza ped.**. Measure 8. Staff 3: Treble clef, key signature of two sharps, 2/4 time. Dynamics: **poco rall.**, **a tempo**, **p**, **f**, **senza ped.**, **con ped.**. Measure 9. Staff 4: Treble clef, key signature of two sharps, 2/4 time. Dynamics: **poco rall.**, **a tempo**, **p**, **pp**, **ff p**, **30" - 40"**, **ped. senza ped.**. Measure 10.

**\*)** Pedal bei jedem Anschlag wechseln / change pedal with each note.

## VII

**Cantabile, molto legato**  
 $\overline{|||||} = \text{ca. 88 } **)$        $\overline{\cdot} = \text{ca. 116 } ***)$

\*) Die Figuration der linken Hand wird gleichmäßig, akzentlos und unabhängig vom Rhythmus der rechten Hand gespielt.

\*) *The figuration in the left hand is to be played very evenly, without any accent and independently of the right hand's rhythm.*

\*\*) Nur für die linke Hand (für eine  $\overline{|||||}$  Gruppe) / only for the left hand (for one  $\overline{|||||}$  group).

\*\*\*) Nur für die rechte Hand / only for the right hand.

Musical score for piano, five staves, treble clef, bass clef, key signature of two flats, common time.

1st staff: Melodic line with eighth-note patterns, dynamic *p*.

2nd staff: Melodic line with eighth-note patterns, dynamic *p*.

3rd staff: Melodic line with eighth-note patterns, dynamic *p*.

4th staff: Melodic line with eighth-note patterns, dynamic *p*.

5th staff: Melodic line with eighth-note patterns, dynamic *mp*. Measures end with "2 1 2".

(m.s.: *sempre pp*)

Musical score for piano, two staves. Treble clef, B-flat key signature. Measures 1-4 show a melodic line in the treble staff with various note heads and stems, some with slurs. The bass staff is mostly blank.

Musical score for piano, two staves. Treble clef, B-flat key signature. Measures 5-8 continue the melodic line in the treble staff, featuring eighth-note patterns and slurs. The bass staff remains mostly blank.

Musical score for piano, two staves. Treble clef, B-flat key signature. Measures 9-12 continue the melodic line in the treble staff, with eighth-note patterns and slurs. The bass staff remains mostly blank.

Musical score for piano, two staves. Treble clef, B-flat key signature. Measures 13-16 begin with a dynamic of (m) **f**. The instruction "tre corde" is written below the staff. The bass staff shows sustained notes with slurs. The instruction "(m.s.: sempre **pp**)" is written below the staff.

Musical score for piano, two staves. Treble clef, B-flat key signature. Measures 17-20 continue the melodic line in the treble staff, featuring eighth-note patterns and slurs. The bass staff shows sustained notes with slurs.

8

una corda al fine

(m.s.: non rall., sempre  
in tempo sin al fine)

ped.

lunga

poco string.

perdendosi

ca. 2'40"  
attacca

ped.

## VIII

Vivace. Energico  $\text{♩} \cdot \text{♩} \cdot \text{♩} = 72$ *sempre non legato, tenuto**sempre sim.*

*ff*  
*tre corde*

*f ruvido sf*   *sf*   *sf* \*   *sf*   *sf*   *sf*

*con ped. (stets wechseln / frequent ped. changes)*

\*) Das ganze Stück soll sehr tänzerisch und im Tempo sehr rigoros gespielt werden. Die drei *sf* sollen durchgehend stark betont werden (auch im piano - in relativer Lautstärke).

\*) *The whole piece should be very dance-like and played rigorously in tempo. The three sforzandi should be strongly accented throughout (and relatively accented in dynamics of piano).*

*sempre sim.*

*p sub.*

*sempre sim.*

*f sub. sf sf*

*pp sub. (sempre non legato, tenuto)*  
*una corda*

*senza ped.*

*mp*  
*capriccioso*

*(pp)*

*tre corde*  
*f sub.*

*una corda*

*mp*

*f sub. sf sf*

*tre corde*

*con ped.*

*sim.*

*pp sub.*  
*senza ped.*

*sim.*

*p*  
*capriccioso*

*ff sub. ff ff ff ff ff*

*con ped.*

*ca. 1'*

*(pp)*

## IX

(Béla Bartók in memoriam)

**Adagio. Mesto** ♩ = 58

**wie tiefe Glocken / like low-sounding bells**

**pp una corda**

8b  
Haltepedal / sustaining ped.

**Allegro maestoso** ♩ = 104*stringendo* —

8

**ff sub.**  
**tre corde**

**sim.**

**(ff)**

**(ff)**

**con ped.**

**fff**

**fff**

*(string.)* —**Più mosso, agitato**

8

**(ff)**

**fff**

**fff**

**ff**

**ff**

**pp sub.**  
**una corda**

**senza ped.** (b)

\*) An beiden Stellen sofort weiterspielen, ohne Zäsur / On both occasions play on without a caesura.

**stringendo** (wie in Panik / *as if panicking*)

Two staves of musical notation. The top staff is in 2/4 time, the bottom in 3/4. Dynamics include *cresc.*, *molto poco a poco tre corde*, *ff*, *ff tutta la forza*, and *ff*. Articulation marks like '>' and '*con ped.*' are present.

**Tempo I (Adagio) Maestoso** ♩ = 58

**Più mosso, stringendo molto**  
(wie in Panik / *as if panicking*)

Three staves of musical notation. Dynamics include *ff*, *fff*, *(m.d.)*, *ff*, *non string.*, *fff*, *ff*, *fff*, *fff*, *ped.*, and a fermata. Articulation marks like '>' and '*ped.*' are used.

**Tempo I. Mesto** ♩ = 58

Four staves of musical notation. Dynamics include *fff*, *pp una corda*, *6*, *6*, *fff senza ped.*, *con ped.*, *p pp*, *dim.*, *6*, *3*, *(pp)*, *dim. molto*, *pp*, *3*, *(m.d.)*, *6*, *3*, *ppp*, and a fermata. Articulation marks like '*dim.*', '*ped.*', and '*ca. 2'30"*' are present.

*ped. allmählich aufheben / lift pedal gradually*

## X

Vivace. Capriccioso  $\text{♩} = 200$

*tre corde, secco*

*p grazioso*

*f*

*pp*

*f*

*pp*

*f*

*pp*

*f*

*(sempre pp)*

1

2 (h)

*mp*

*f*

*pp*

*risoluto, martellato*

*f*

*sf*

*sempr f*

(m. d.)

*sf*

(m. s.)

*feroce*

*sf*

*sf*

*sf*

*ff*

*pp*

*leggiero*

*pochiss. rit.*

*a tempo, capriccioso e burlesco*

*poco sf*

*pp*

*molto*

*mp*

*(pp)*

*\*)*

\*) Ohne Zäsur sofort weiter / continue without a caesura.

*sf*  
*sf*  
*f martellato*  
*pp sempre, leggiero*

*(m.s.) (m.d.) molto capriccioso*  
*sff*  
*rit.*  
*pp*  
*mf sf legato*  
*sf*

*ff*  
*sf*

*sf*  
*sf*  
*sf*

*sf cresc.*  
*sf*  
*sf*

(cresc.) *sf* - - - - - - - - *sf* - - - - - - - - *sf* - - - - - - - - *sf* - - - - - - - -

(cresc.) *sf* - - - - - - - - *sf* - - - - *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

- - - - *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

insistierend, trotzig / *insistent, spiteful*

wie verrückt / *as if mad*

*ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff*

*cresc.*

(oft wiederholen / *repeat often*)

**meno mosso, calmo**  $\text{♩} = 176$  *poco rall.* - - - - -

*ffff* *pp dim.* - - - - - - - - *pp* *pp*

(b)

ca. 1'15"

## XI

(Omaggio a Girolamo Frescobaldi)

Andante misurato e tranquillo  $\text{♩} = 76$ 

*sempre p, sempre legato (sehr gleichmäßig / very evenly)*

Musical score page 35, featuring four staves of music. The top two staves are in treble clef, and the bottom two are in bass clef. The key signature changes frequently throughout the page. Various dynamics are indicated, including *p*, *pp*, and *cresc. poco a poco*. The score consists of four systems of music, each starting with a measure number 8.

Measure 8:

- Top Treble staff: Measures 8-10. Dynamics: *p*, *pp*.
- Bottom Treble staff: Measure 8. Dynamics: *p*.
- Bottom Bass staff: Measures 8-10. Dynamics: *p*.

Measure 9:

- Top Treble staff: Measures 9-10. Dynamics: *p*.
- Bottom Treble staff: Measures 9-10. Dynamics: *p*.
- Bottom Bass staff: Measures 9-10. Dynamics: *p*.

Measure 10:

- Top Treble staff: Measures 10-11. Dynamics: *p*.
- Bottom Treble staff: Measures 10-11. Dynamics: *p*.
- Bottom Bass staff: Measures 10-11. Dynamics: *p*.

Measure 11:

- Top Treble staff: Measures 11-12. Dynamics: *mp*.
- Bottom Treble staff: Measures 11-12. Dynamics: *p*.
- Bottom Bass staff: Measures 11-12. Dynamics: *p*.

(cresc.) - - - - -

*p*

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*mf*

*(mp)*

non  
arpegg.!

Pesante e grandioso

8

non  
arpegg.!

(1)

*f*

*cresc.* - - - - -

*f*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff* (m.d.)

Haltepedal / sustaining pedal

8

*dim.*

*f*

*dim.* *f*

**Poco meno mosso**

*rall.*

8

*p*

*pp*

*mp*

*dim.*

*p*

*pp*

*dim.*

*mp*

*p*

*pp*

*mf*

*dim.*

*pp*

**Più tranquillo**

8

*pp*

*dim. poco a poco*

*ppp*

*8b*

ca. 3'50"