Three Psychodramas

for piano

2010

Austin Shadduck

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http://austinshadduck.com

Three Psychodramas

Premiered December 14, 2010 by Sunny Knable
LeFrak Concert Hall, Queens College, CUNY

Program Notes

Three Psychodramas is a set of piano miniatures that portrays increasingly aggressive musical scenes. Each movement alludes to a different personality disorder, and the pitch material is based on a twelve-tone row that becomes less and less recognizable as the composition progresses. The first movement systematically unfolds the row, obsessively hitting every pitch within multiple octaves. The second movement relates to paranoia and deals with dyads that look like thirds on paper, though many sound like major seconds. The final movement is faster and violent with a few moments of relief.

This piece is about slowly losing control and slipping into chaos and despair. It's also about giving up control, as one must often do in a large city, such as New York, where millions of people are trying to have it their way. And, of course, it's about personality disorders, which we've only begun to diagnose and treat in this modern world.

Recordings and performance materials are available from the composer.

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Three Psychodramas

I. Octave Compulsive

Austin Shadduck

Misterioso ♩= 69

depress keys for exact durations

Piano

p delicato

mp

mf agitato

f

p

rit.

Più mosso ♩= 72

f pesante

ff

p

f

sffz

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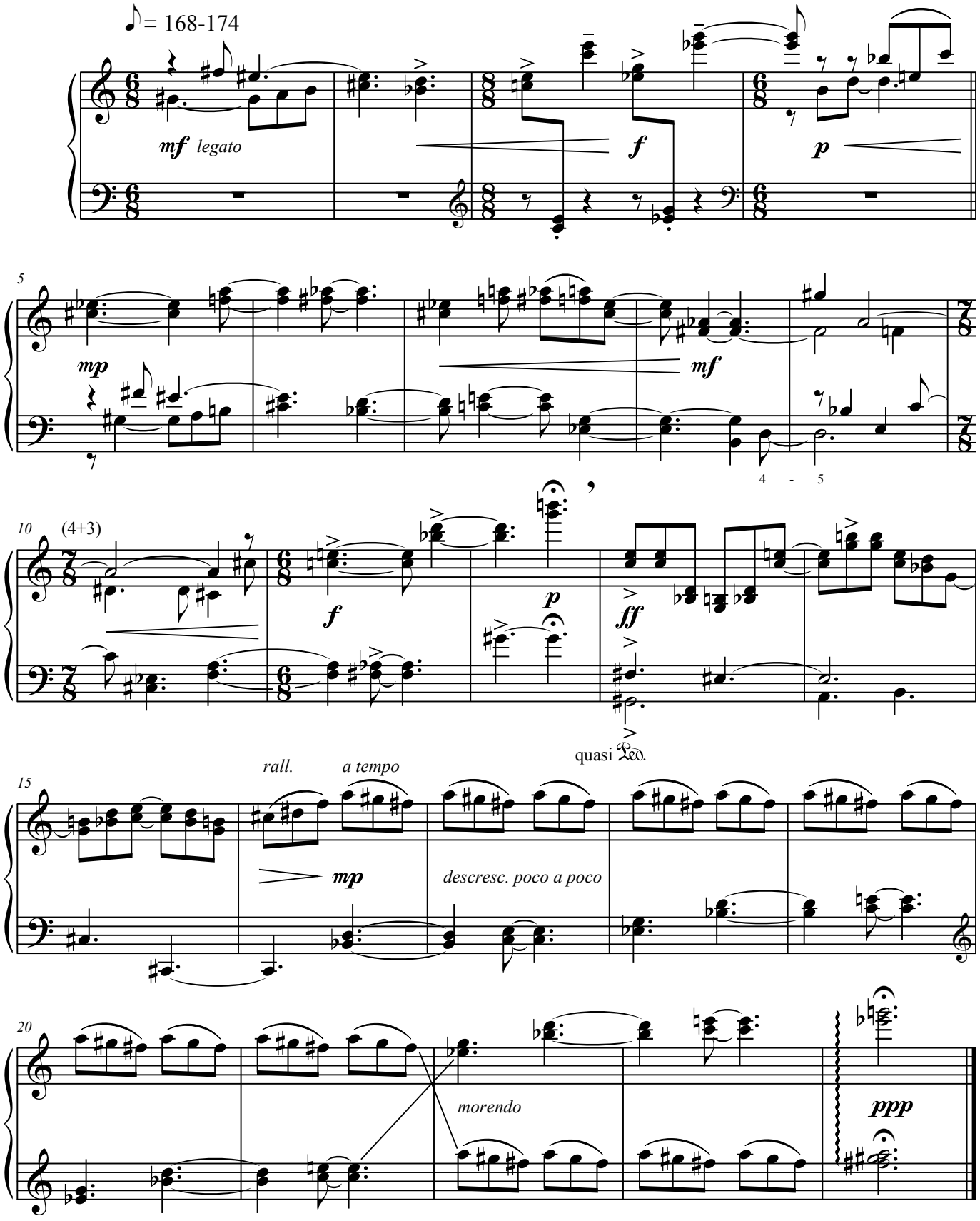
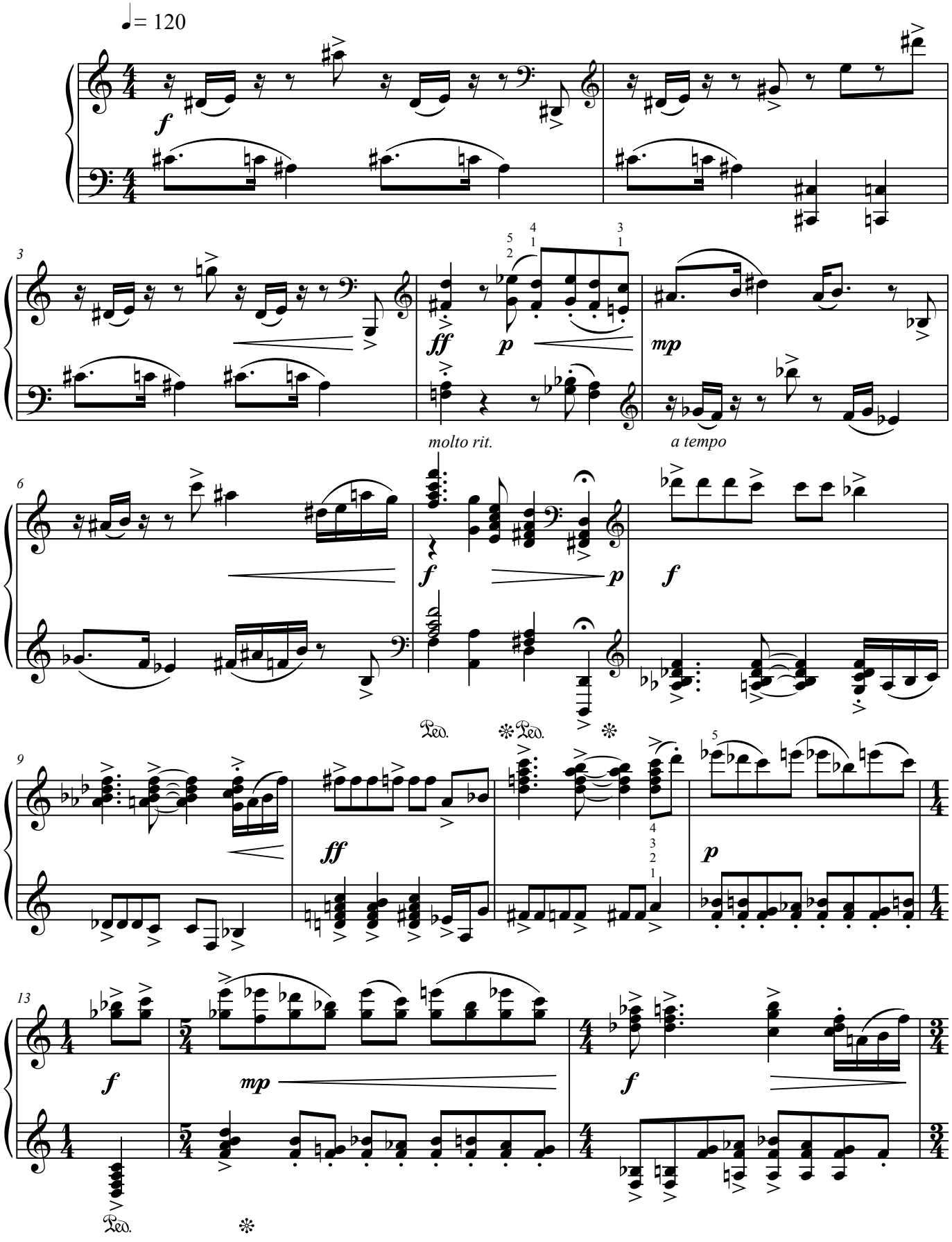
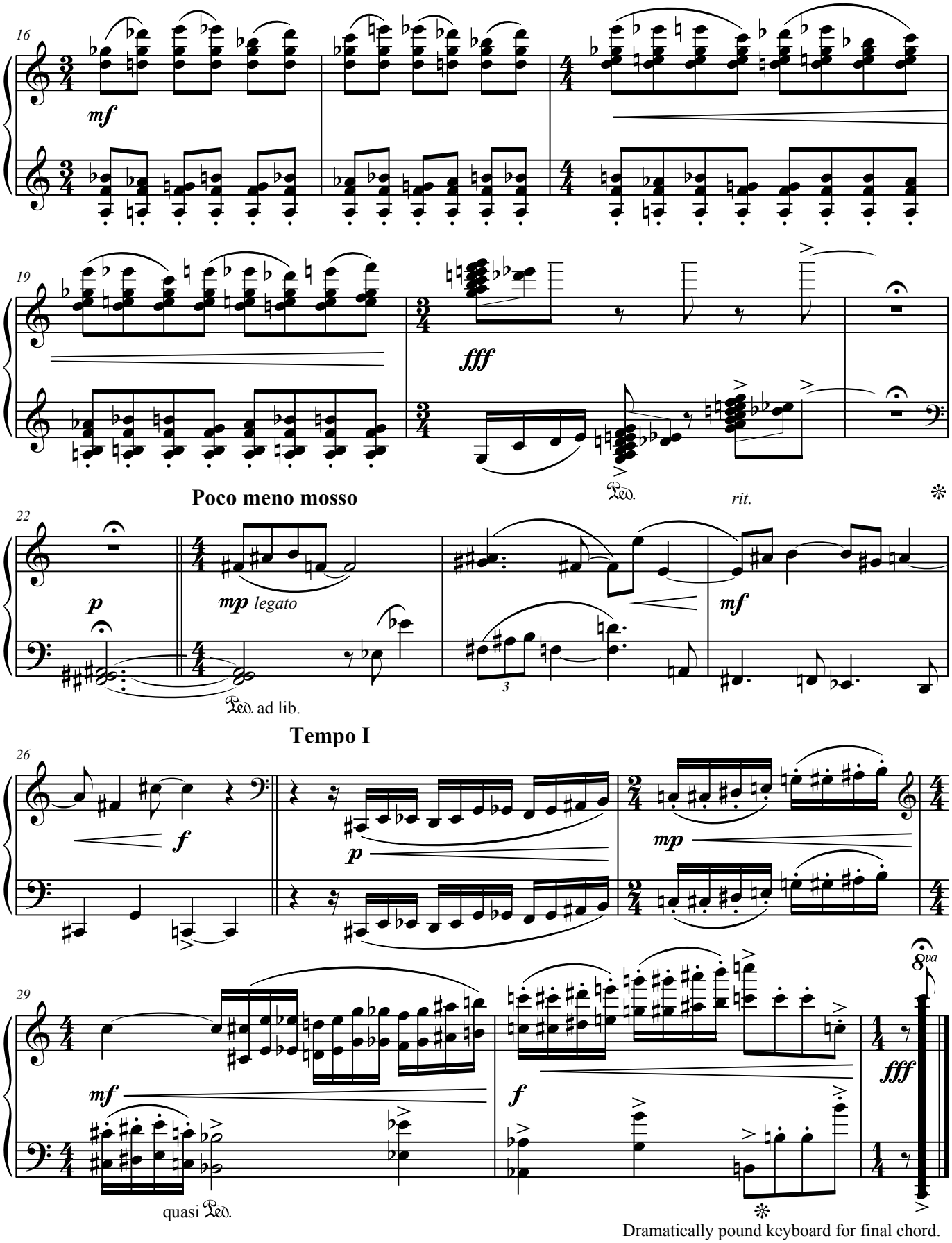
II. Suspicious Thirds



III. Scherzophrenia




16
mf
19
fff
Ped.
rit.
Poco meno mosso
22
p
mp legato
mf
3
Ped. ad lib.
Tempo I
26
f
p
mp
29
mf
f
fff
8va
quasi Ped.
Dramatically pound keyboard for final chord.
Cover as many notes as possible.
Hold until notes fade.