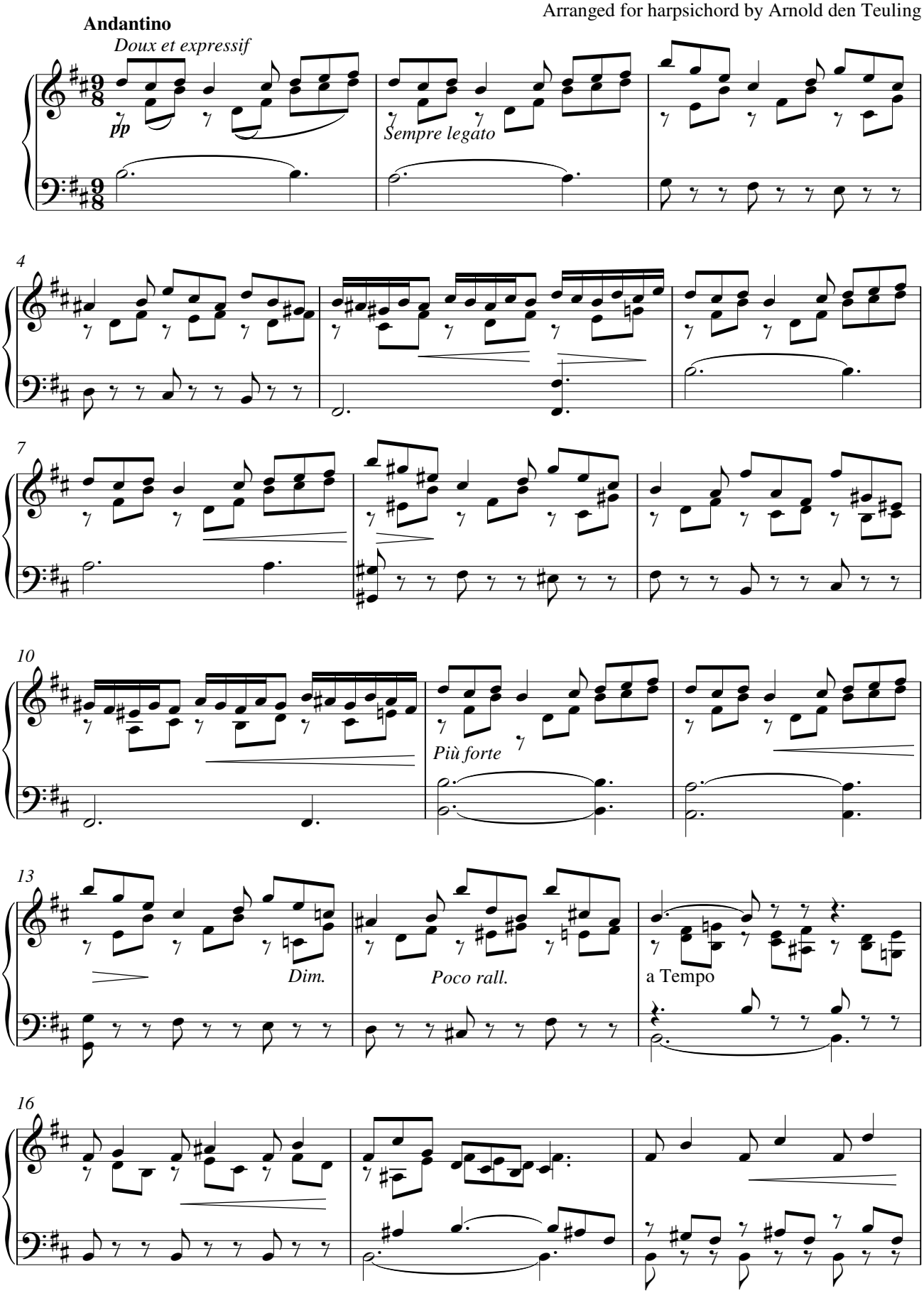
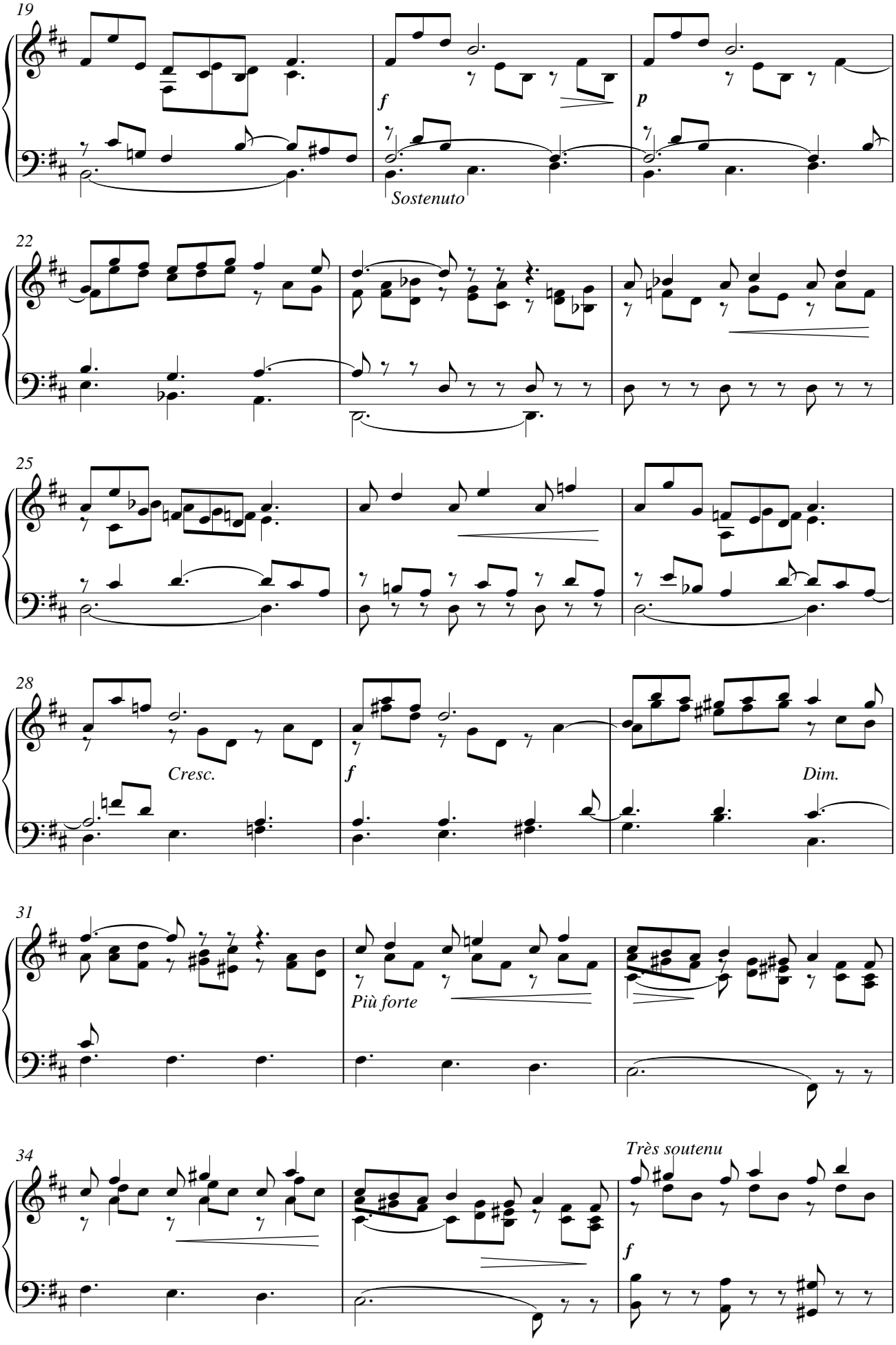
Prélude, Fugue et Variation pour orgue Op. 18

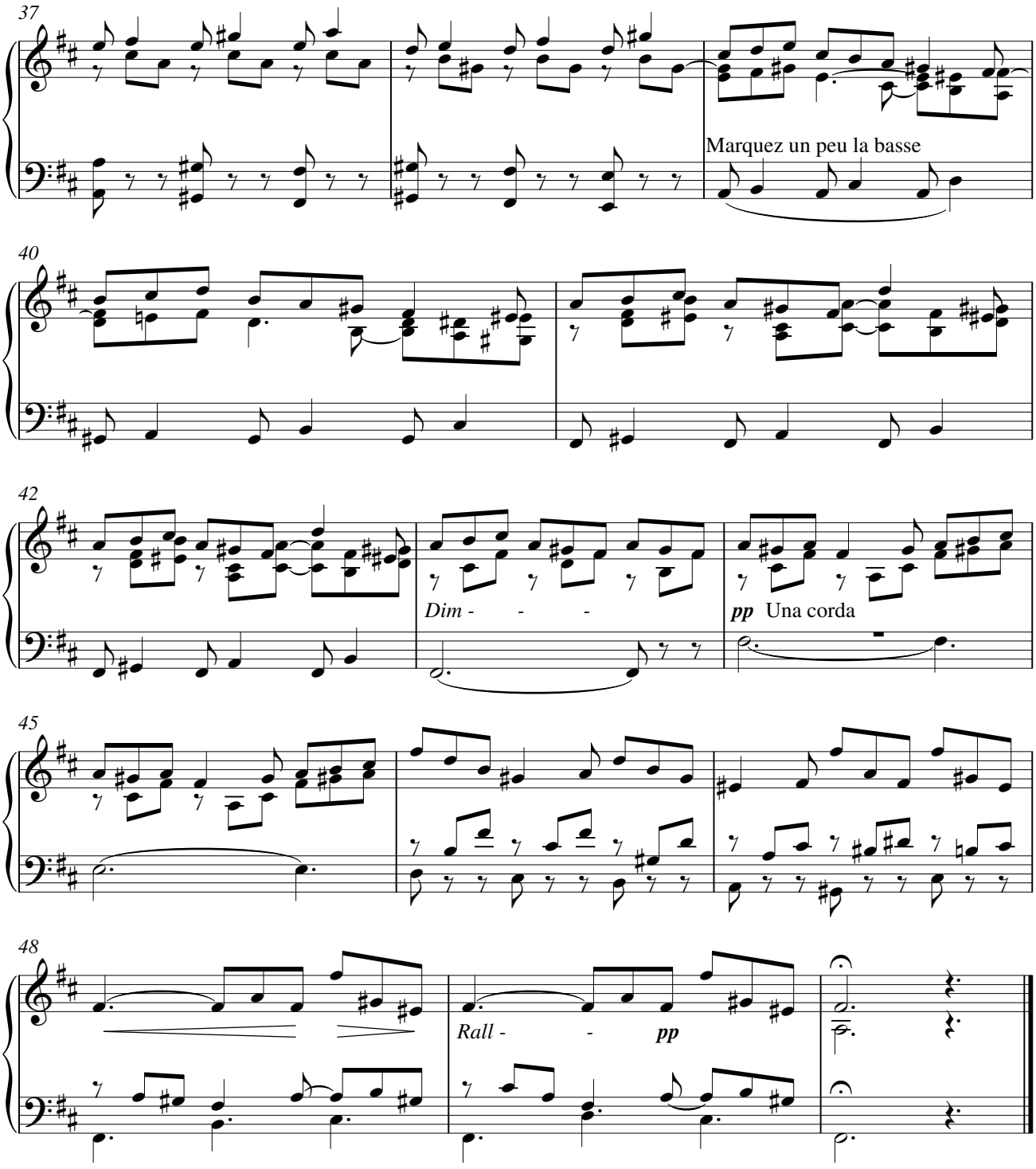
FWV 30 (1862)

Prélude

César Franck (1822-1890)
Arranged for harpsichord by Arnold den Teuling




19
f
p
Sostenuto
22
25
28
Cresc.
f
Dim.
31
Più forte
34
Très soutenu
f



I used the edition by P. Gouin in the ISMLP/Icking collection and adapted it for harpsichord using César Franck's own arrangement for organ or harmonium and piano, in IMSLP as well. Franck prescribed a 16 ft stop in the original organ part, and so he added octaves in the arrangement in the bass part of the piano, except in bars 15, 23 and 31. He added chords in the harmonium part of bars 32-35.
César Franck seems to be inspired by J.S. Bach's Prelude in E flat major BWV 876 in Das Wohltemperierte Clavier II. This part of Op.18 ends on the fifth, the piece is in B minor.
I copied all dynamics, leaving it to the performer to use one or two 8 ft or 4 ft stops or other means usual for the instrument. In the forte passages I doubled or repeated the bass notes in places, where the fingerings do not pose too many problems and the acoustic properties of the instrument are favourable. In the piano passages I left the octave notes out. In bars 15, 22, 29-31 and 41-42 I made some octave transpositions in the discant.
I did not double the bass notes of bars 39 - 42, because of the compass of my harpsichord, stopping at G.
It might be preferable to choose the lower octaves in this particular passage, if your instrument has got the FF sharp.