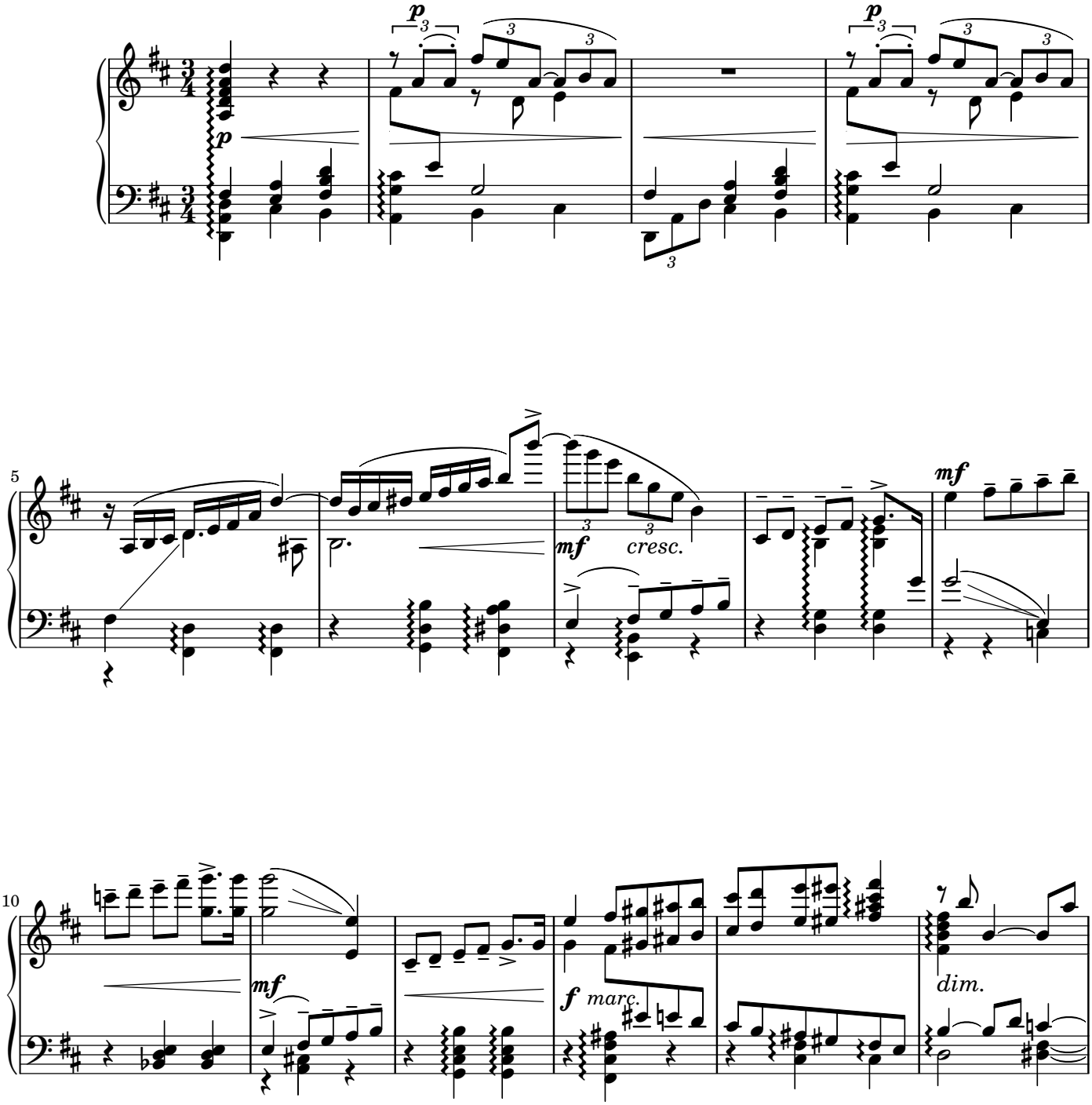
Cadenza

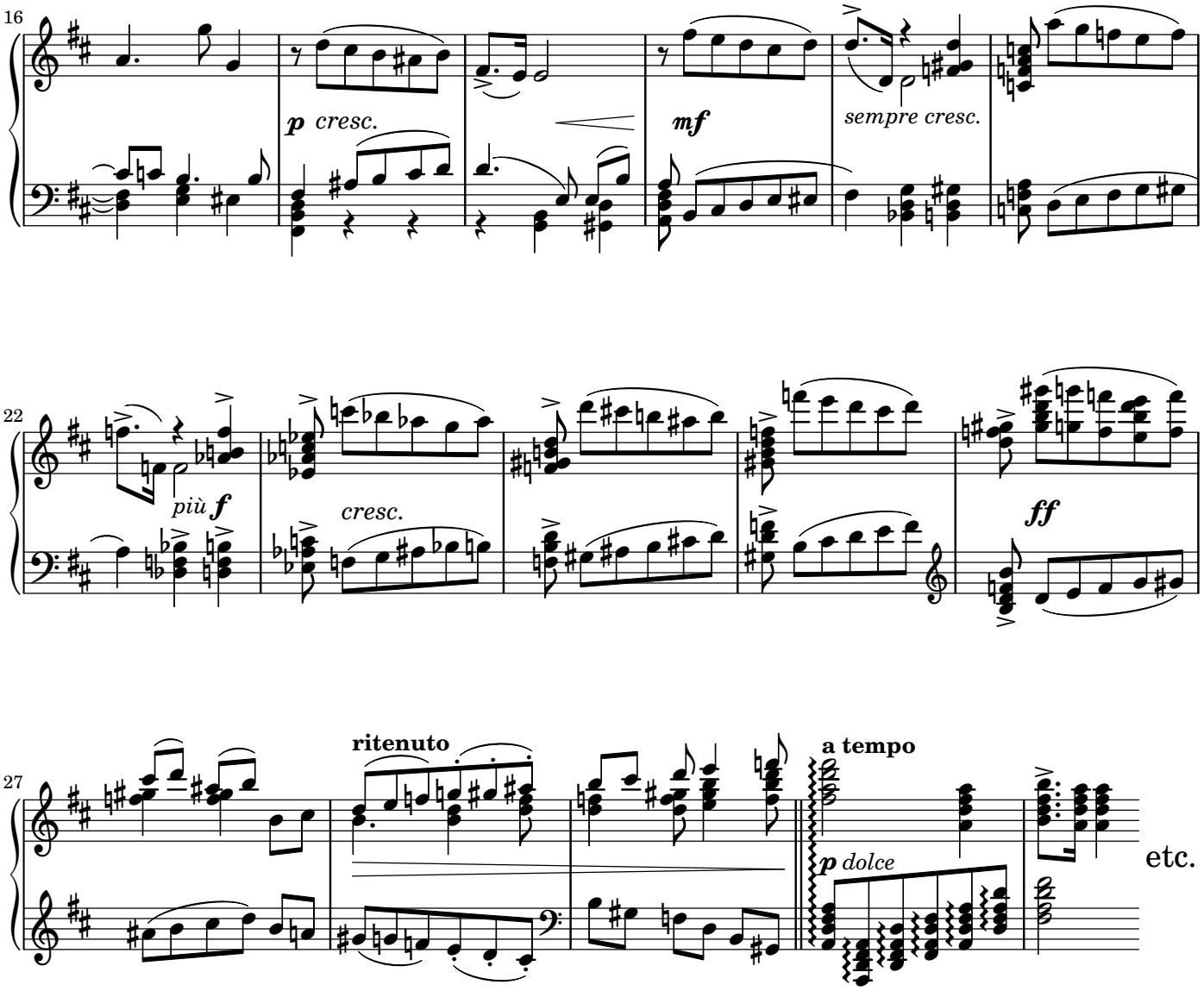
Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No. 2 in G major, Op. 44

2nd movement

Edward Neeman



© 2017 Neeman Piano Duo • www.neemanpianoduo.com



Author's Note: Despite its gorgeous melodies and heavenly length, the second movement of Tchaikovsky's second piano concerto is an acquired taste for many pianists. The long orchestral interludes leave little room for the pianist to shine. While it is a pleasure to play the original version with a superb orchestra after many rehearsals, practical considerations may make it desirable to alter the balance between piano and orchestra in certain circumstances.

In his definitive recording of the complete Tchaikovsky concerti on the Hyperion label, Steven Hough offers an interesting solution: the pianist can join the orchestra for one of its interludes, taking over the solo violin and cello lines. In the liner notes, Hough writes that he feels his solution gives "a symmetry to the whole movement, lending a psychological cohesion." I completely agree.

I have taken Hough's idea just a little farther—I have transcribed the entire orchestral part into the soloist's, allowing the pianist an extended cadenza without orchestra near the end of the movement.

Music engraving by LilyPond 2.18.2—www.lilypond.org