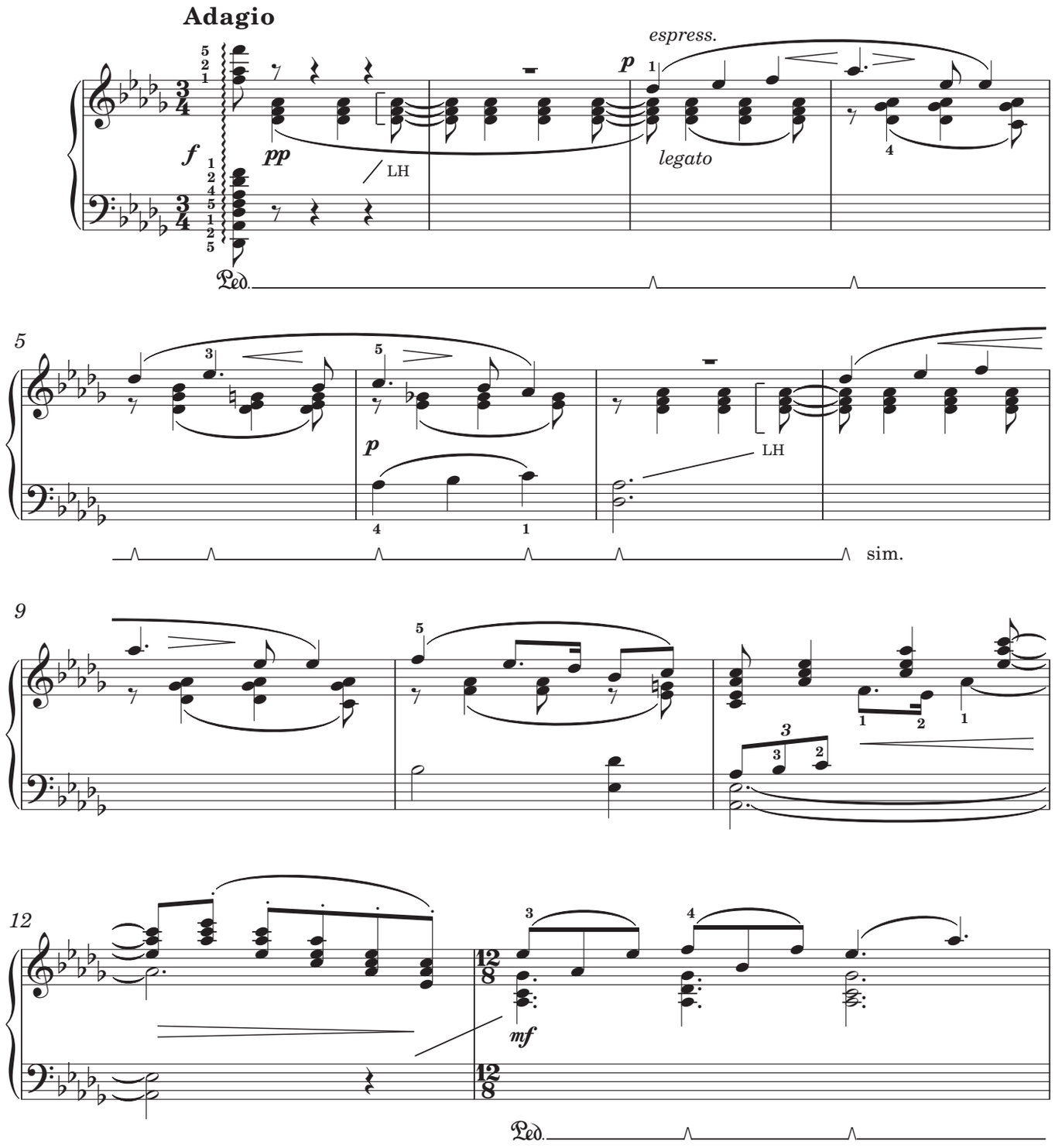
Géza ZICHY (1849-1924)
Idyll

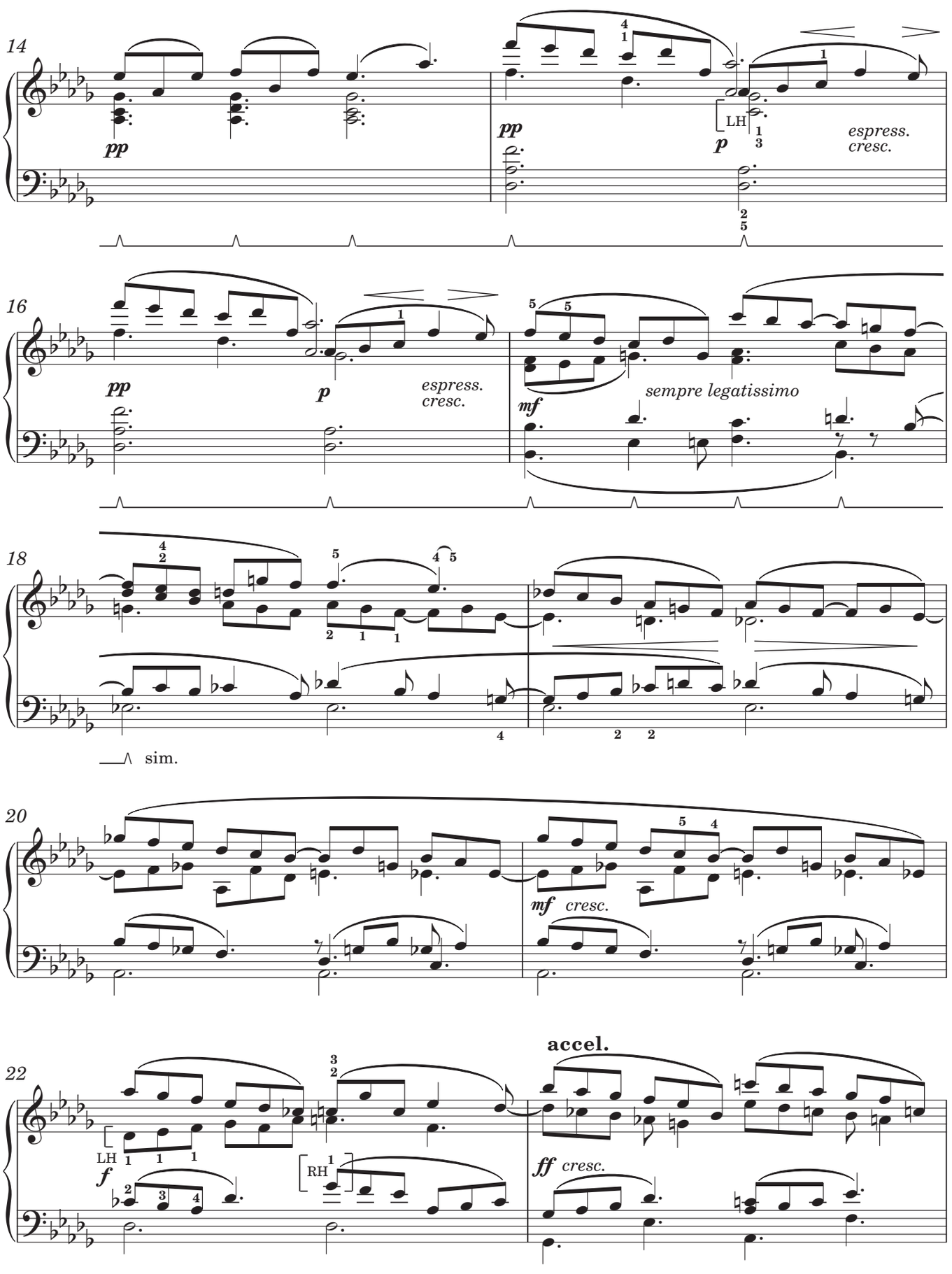
INTERMEDIATE/
ADVANCED

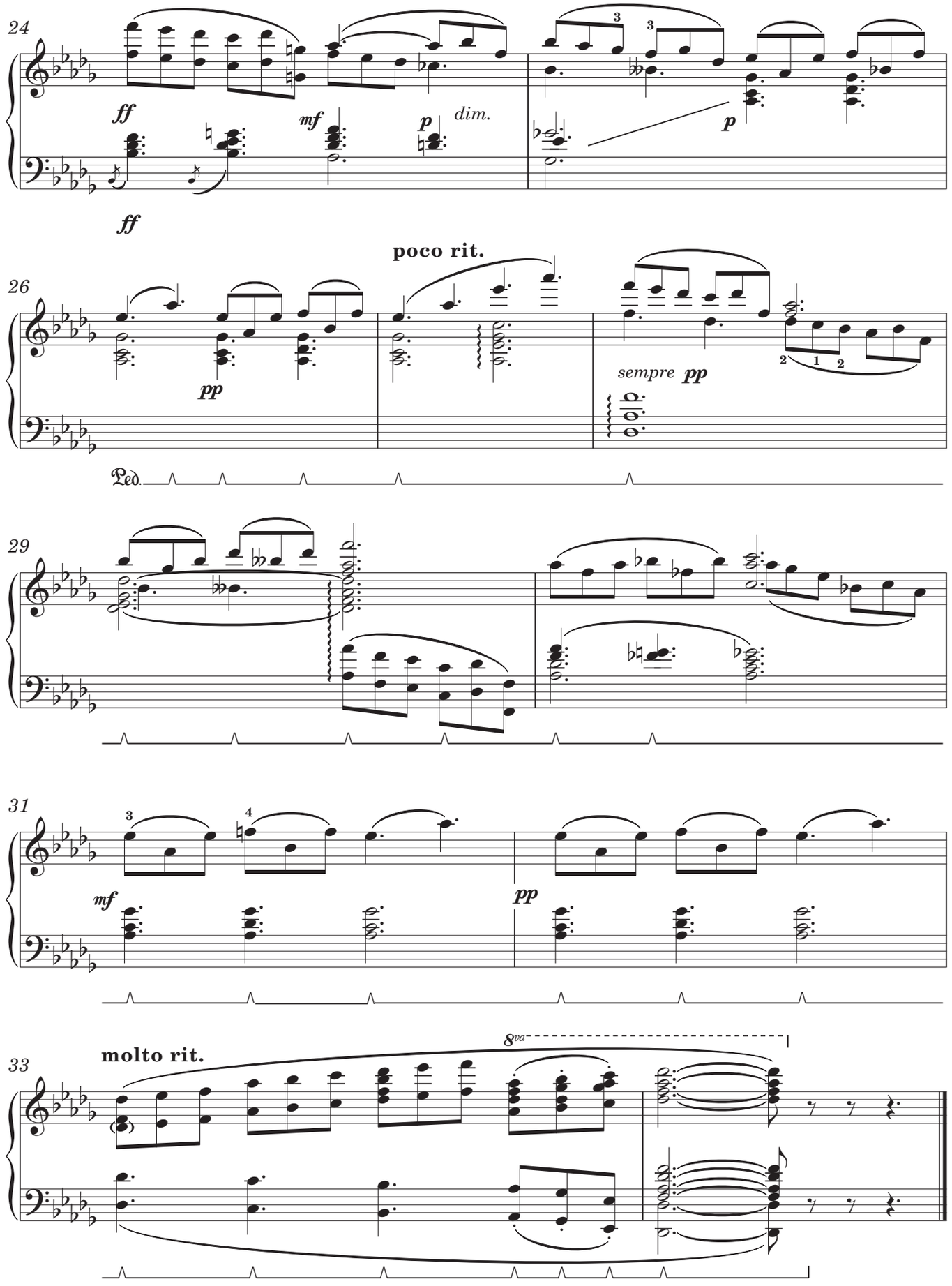
The extraordinary life of this one-armed Hungarian aristocratic virtuoso was retold by Warwick Thompson in *Pianist* 104, our 'left hand' issue. Perhaps Zichy conceived it originally for LH alone – the opening has the characteristic texture of such pieces – and then arranged it for both hands, in which form it first appeared in 1910 within a collection of contemporary Hungarian piano music.

Playing tips: The first gesture in this *Idyll* is a 10-note broken arpeggio, and it proves to be the principal challenge (even with two hands!). Ripple through the notes of the LH and RH at the same time, so that the whole arpeggio takes less time to execute. Take your time, though, and direct your playing towards the first appearance of the poignant RH melody at bar 3, underscored by a syncopated crotchet/quaver LH accompaniment. The tempo shifts to 12/8 for the B section beginning at bar 13, and the harmonies gain a chromatic, Wagnerian flavour, reaching a climax at bar 24 before beginning to die away with the *poco rit.* marking in bar 27. With dynamics ranging from *pp* to *ff*, lengthy tied notes, static chords and soft staccato articulation, this piece tests your touch and tone.

Pedal tips: See markings on the score.




14
pp
pp
LH
p
espress.
cresc.
16
pp
p
espress.
cresc.
mf
sempre legatissimo
18
sim.
20
mf cresc.
22
accel.
LH
f
RH
ff cresc.


24
ff
mf
p
dim.
p
ff
poco rit.
26
pp
sempre pp
Ped.
29
31
mf
pp
molto rit.
33
8va