Piano Train Trips

In memory of my father

Note to teachers

Piano Train Trips is a collection of 18 piano etudes, plus a series of supplementary exercises. The etudes (stations) are designed to practice one specific musical aspect in each piece and are composed in styles that are appealing to all students.

Focusing on a single musical or technical feature will enable the student to master each concept by listening, memorizing, reading, and practicing a single skill. For example, in the etudes based on intervals, the student will learn to identify the intervals clearly in the score, perceive them aurally, and relate them technically to the piano in a given key. The etudes focus on scales, intervals, pentascales, chords in inversion, and other standard pianistic patterns.

In the exercises, the student plays the technical pattern emphasized in the corresponding etude with a teacher accompaniment. This provides further rhythmic and technical reinforcement for mastering each concept. Furthermore, many of the etudes and exercises were designed to be easily transposable to other keys.

This book is a perfect complement to any piano method or curriculum of standard repertoire. It is important to provide the student with a varied repertoire of many pieces to learn throughout the school year. Using this book will enable the student to experience pieces in various styles and to improve reading, technique, memory, and analysis skills.

The pieces in *Piano Train Trips* have been used successfully in both individual and group lessons and are appealing to children and adults alike at the late elementary or early intermediate levels of study.

Design and Illustrations: Elisa Lara Campos

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Contents

STATIONS

STATION 1 – Broken Minor Chords
STATION 2 – Thirds
STATION 3 – Root Position Arpeggios
STATION 4 – Major Scale
STATION 5 – Minor Arpeggios
STATION 6 – Perfect Fourths
STATION 7 – Legato Phrasing Between Hands
STATION 8 – Chromatic Scale
STATION 9 – Major Five Finger Pattern
STATION 10 – Minor Five Finger Pattern
STATION 11 – Second Inversion Chords
STATION 12 – Perfect Fifths
STATION 13 – Whole Tone Scale
STATION 14 – Root Position and Inverted Broken Chords
STATION 15 – Crossing the Thumb
STATION 16 – Root Position and Inverted Broken Chords
STATION 17 – Perfect Fifths
STATION 18 – Root Position and Inverted Triads

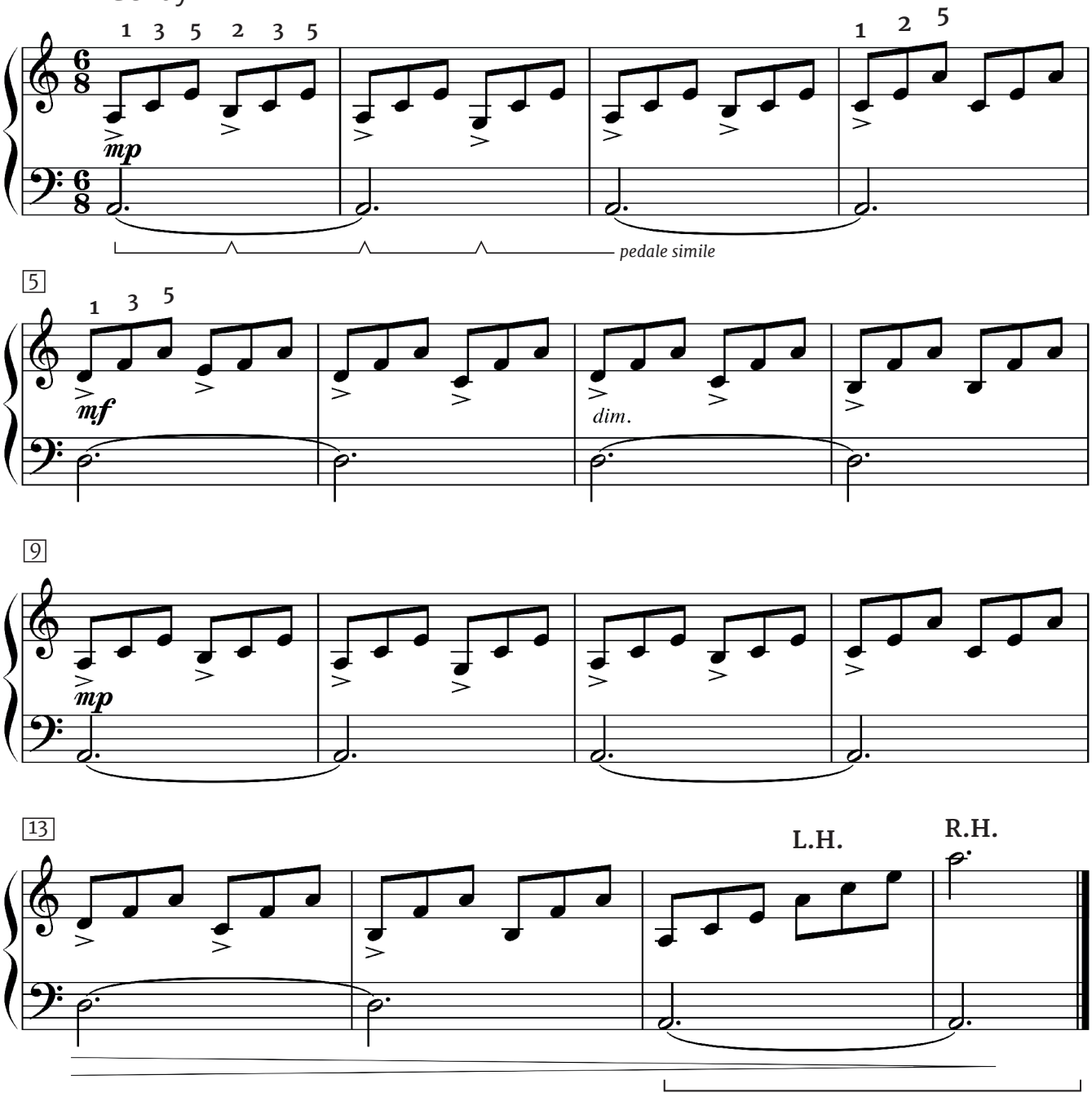
EXERCISES

EXERCISE 1 – Major Five Finger Pattern
EXERCISE 2 – Major Five Finger Pattern
EXERCISE 3 – Major Scale
EXERCISE 4 – Minor Scale
EXERCISE 5 – Chromatic Scale
EXERCISE 6 – Root Position and Inverted Chords
EXERCISE 7 – Root Position and Inverted Chords
EXERCISE 8 – Root Position and Inverted Chords
EXERCISE 9 – Root Position and Inverted Chords

Stations

station 1

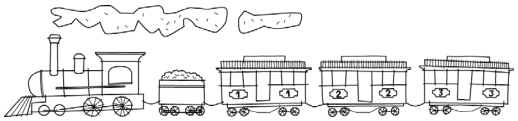
Gently



*See also exercise 7

*Can you transpose this station to E min and D min?

station 2



Calmly

ped. simile

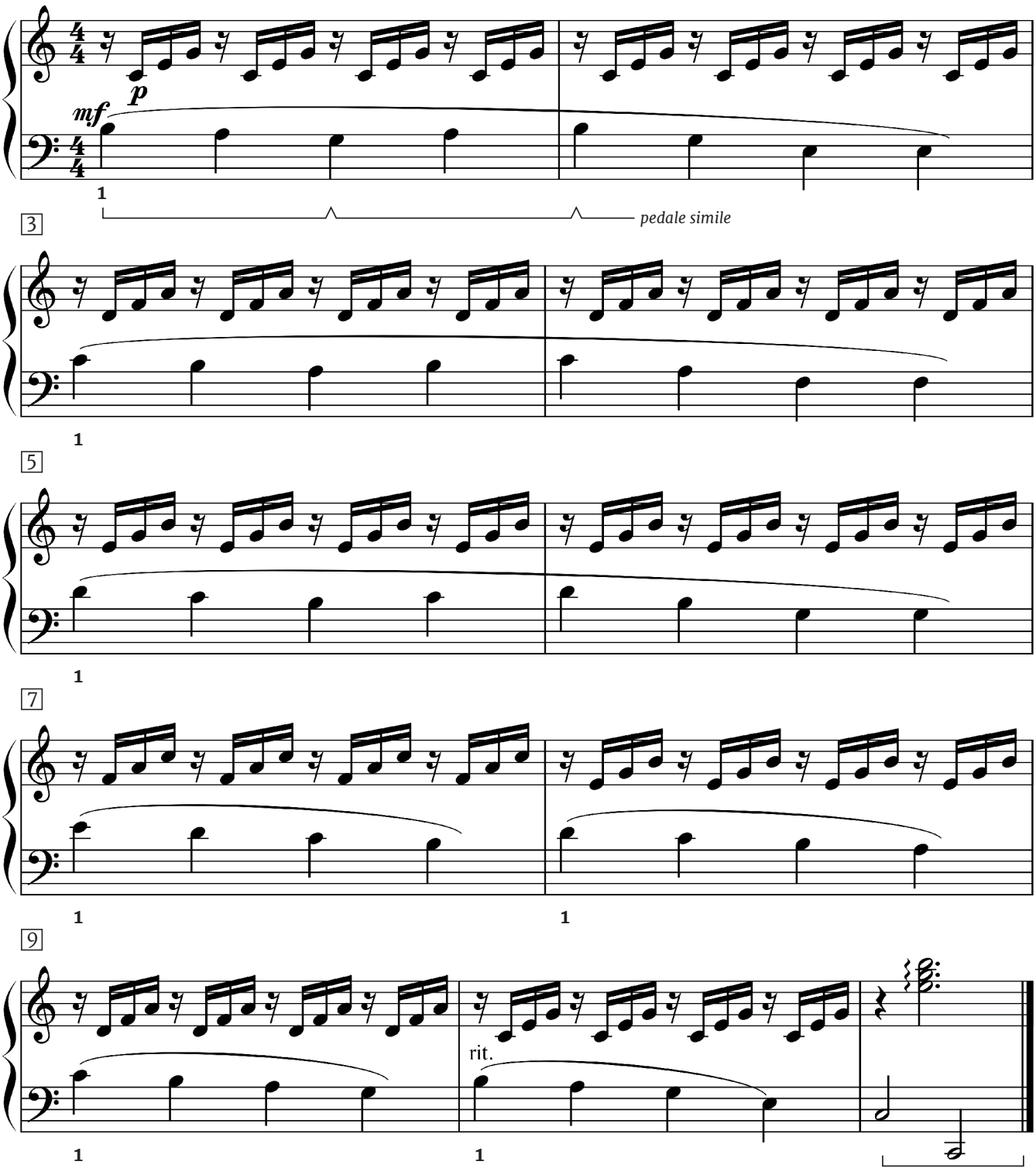
4

7

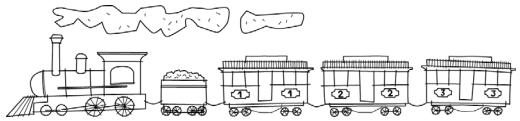
10

station 3

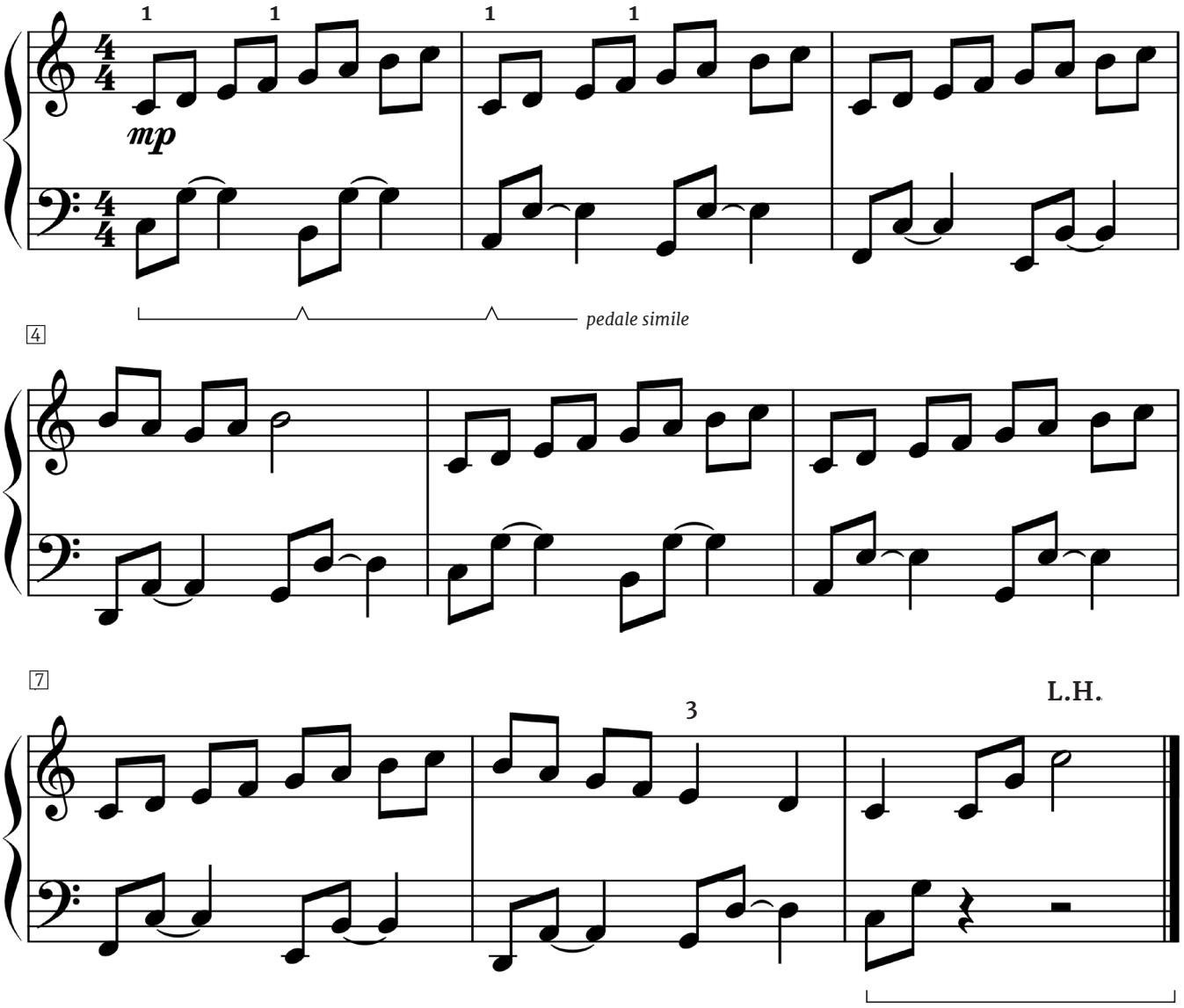
Moderately



station 4



Allegro
Not too fast



*See also exercise 3

*Can you transpose this station to G Maj and F Maj?

station 5

With motion

R.H.

L.H.

8va

f

5

p

9

f

13

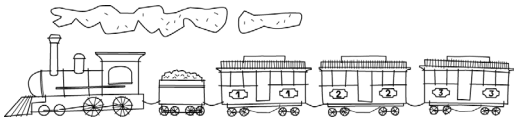
p

17

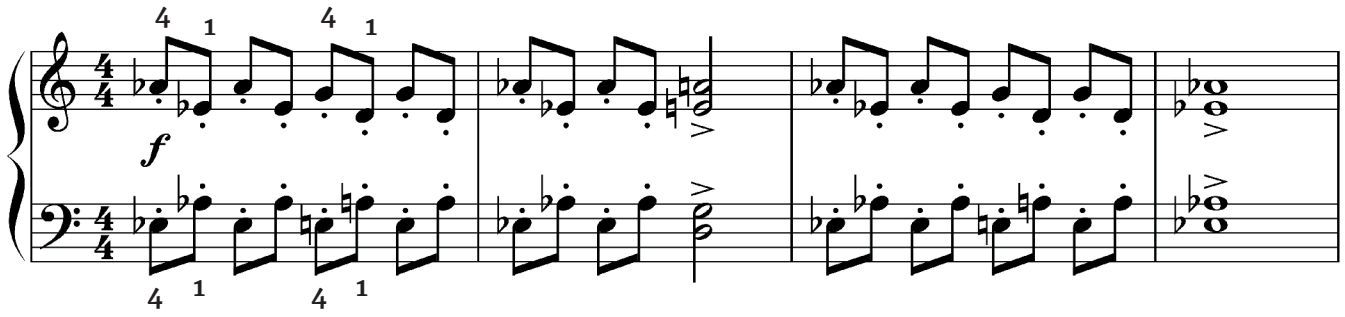
f

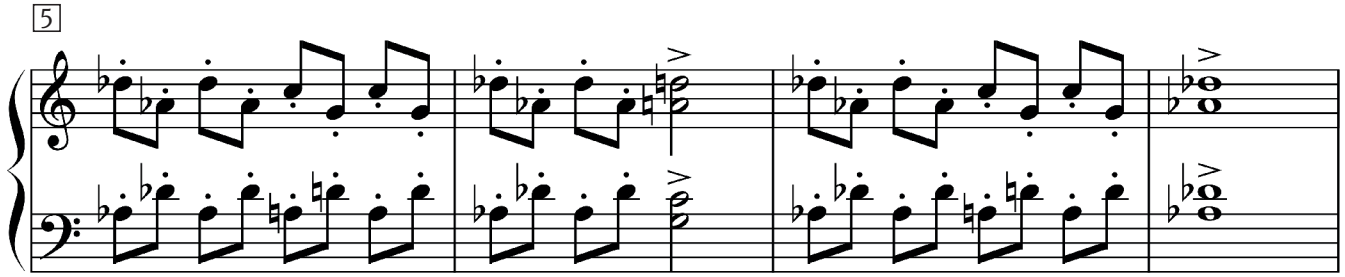
p

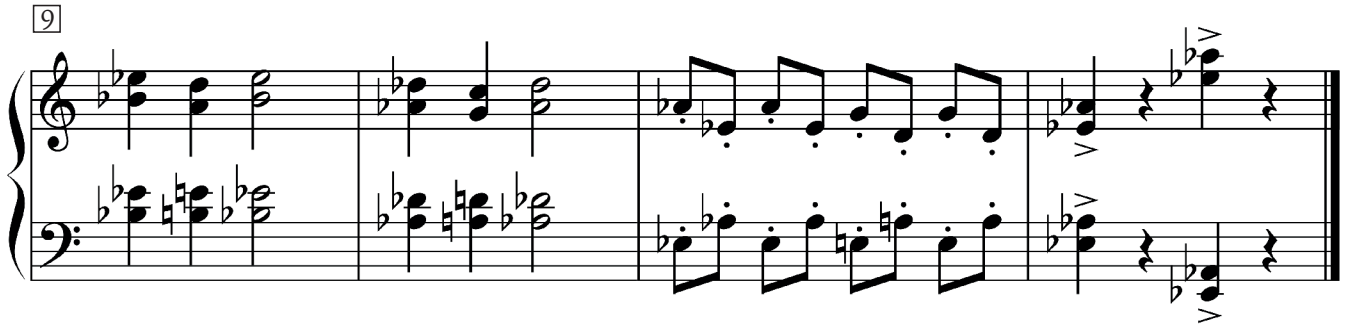
station 6



With energy

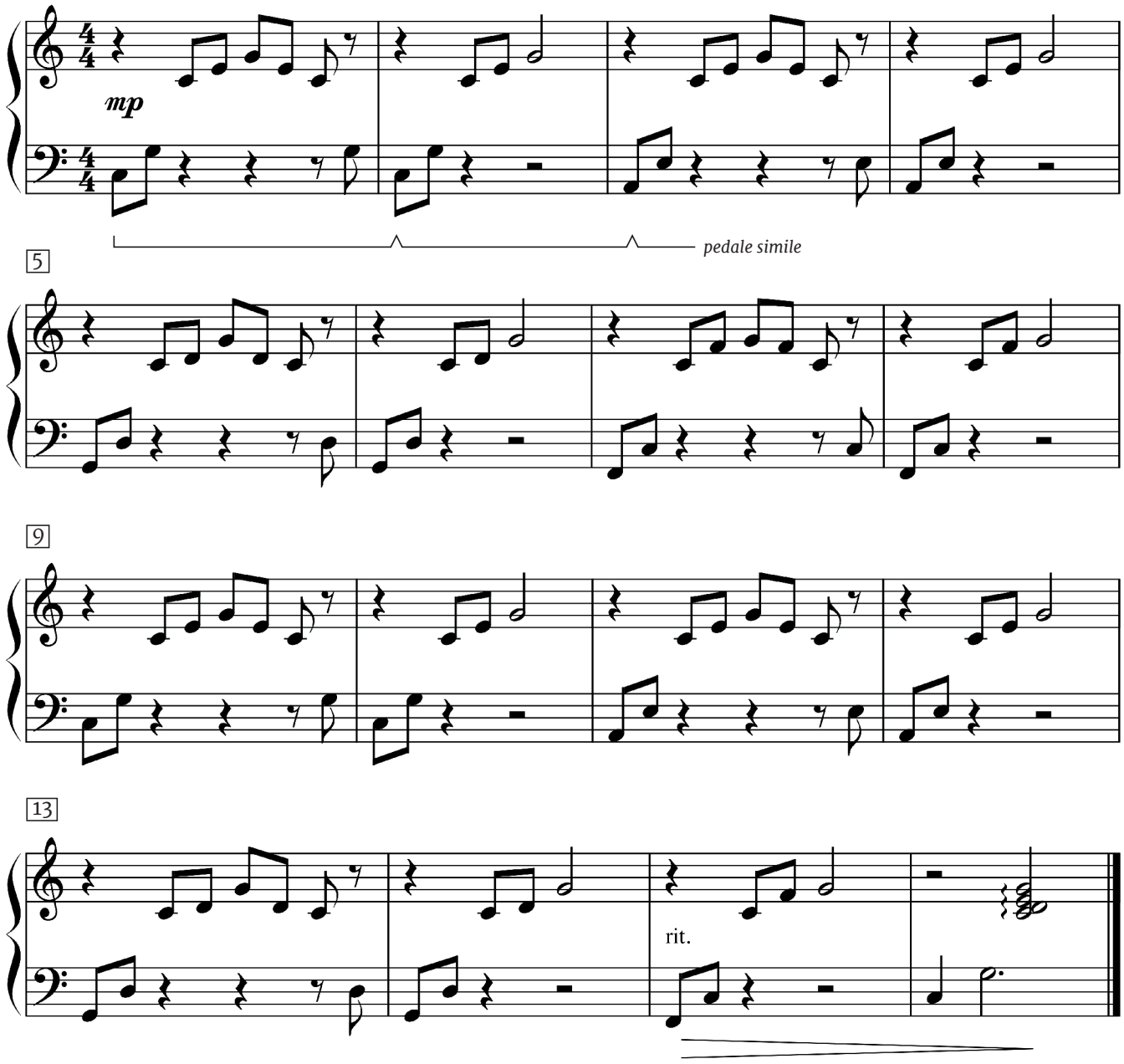






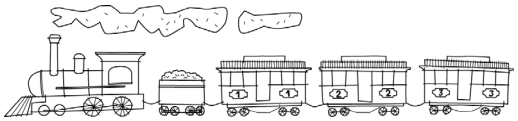
station 7

Not fast

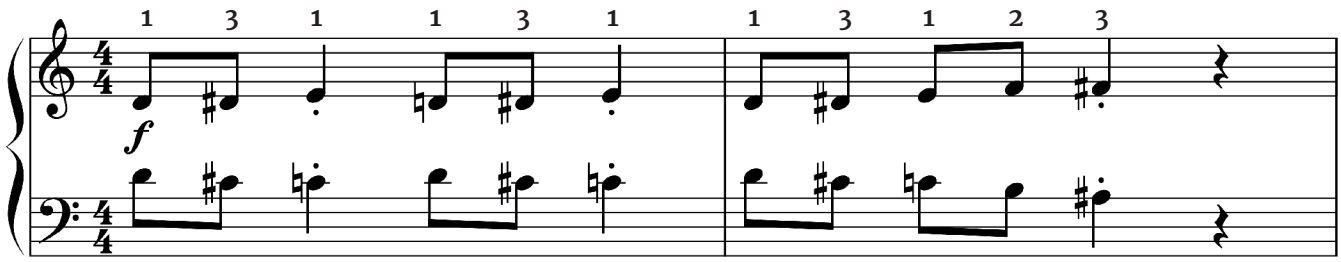


*Can you transpose this station to G Maj and F Maj?

station 8



Lively



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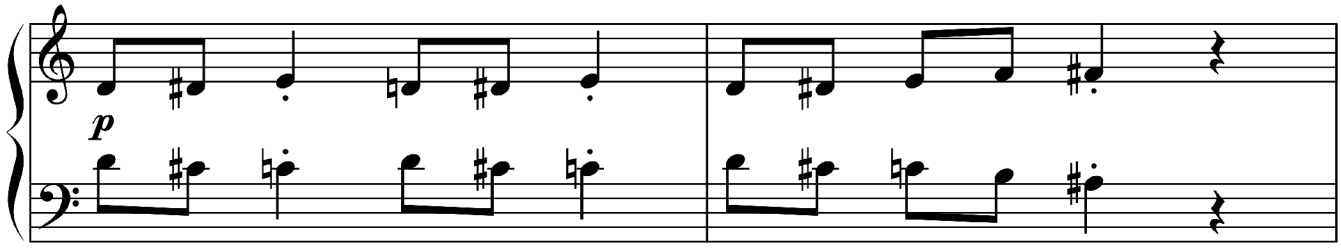

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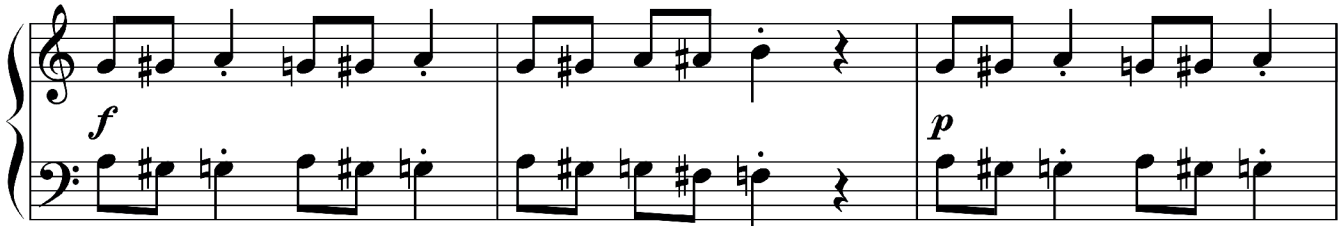

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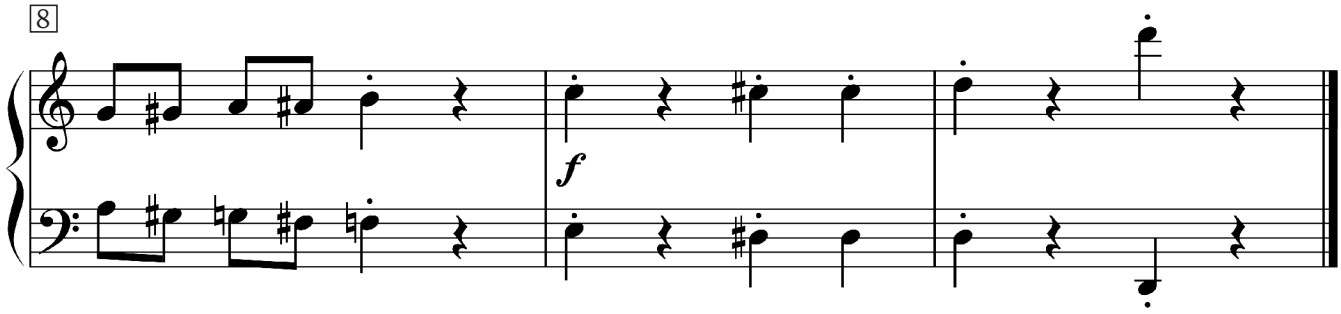


*See also exercise 5

station 9

Allegro

1 2 3 4 5 1

8va

3

8va

5

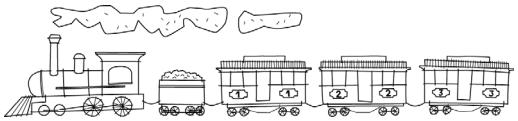
8va

7

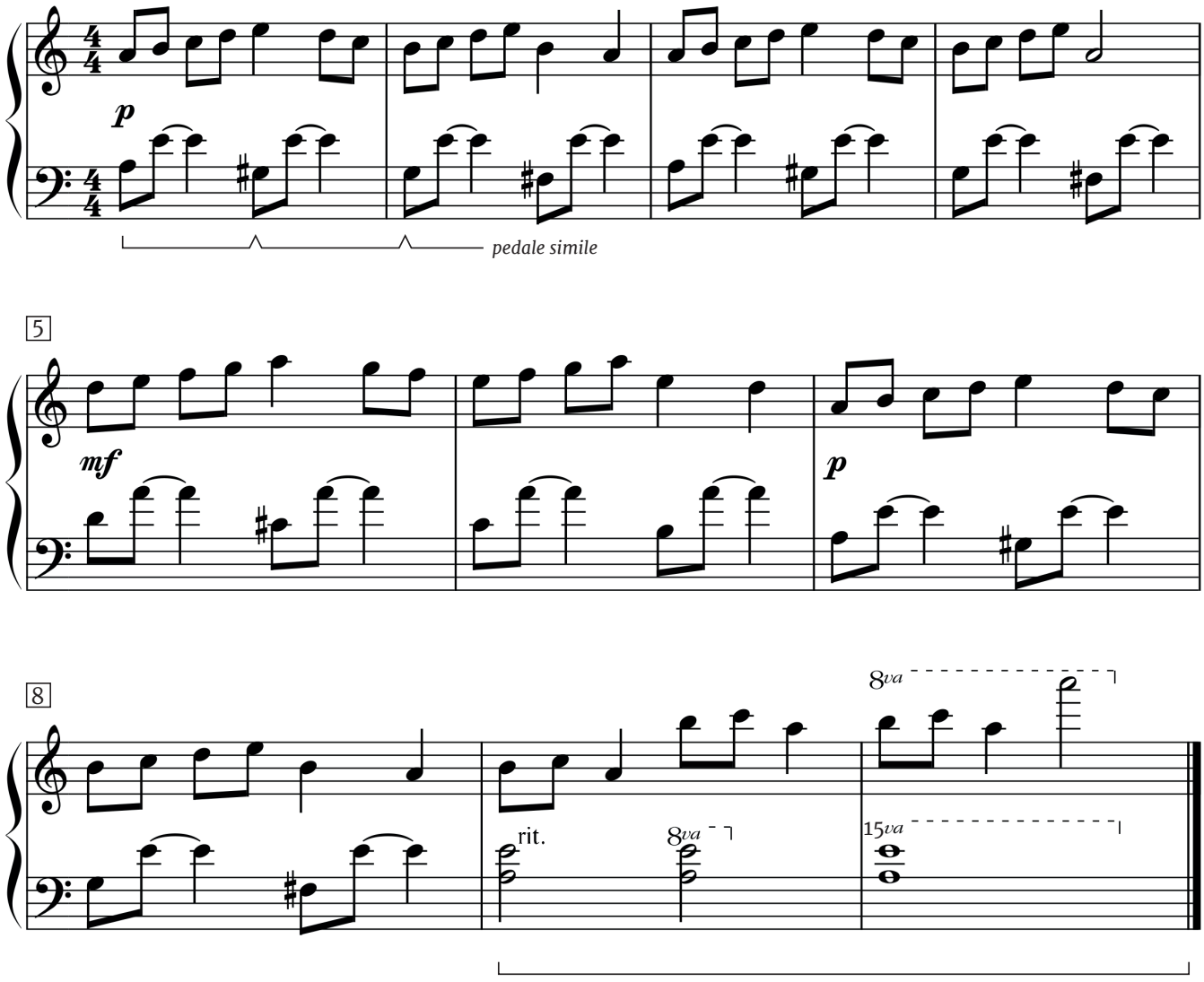
8va

*See also exercise 1

station 10



Calmly



*See also exercise 2

*Can you transpose this station to E min and D min?

station 11

With motion
Swing

f poco stacc.

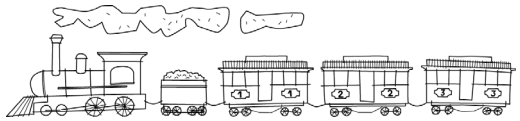
8vb

5

9

13

*See also exercise 8



Quietly

p

pedale simile

4

7

9

rit.

station 13

Mysteriously

p

pedale simile

6

mf

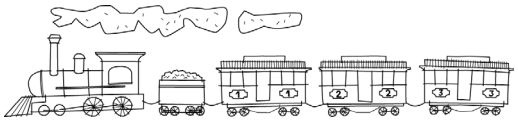
12

p

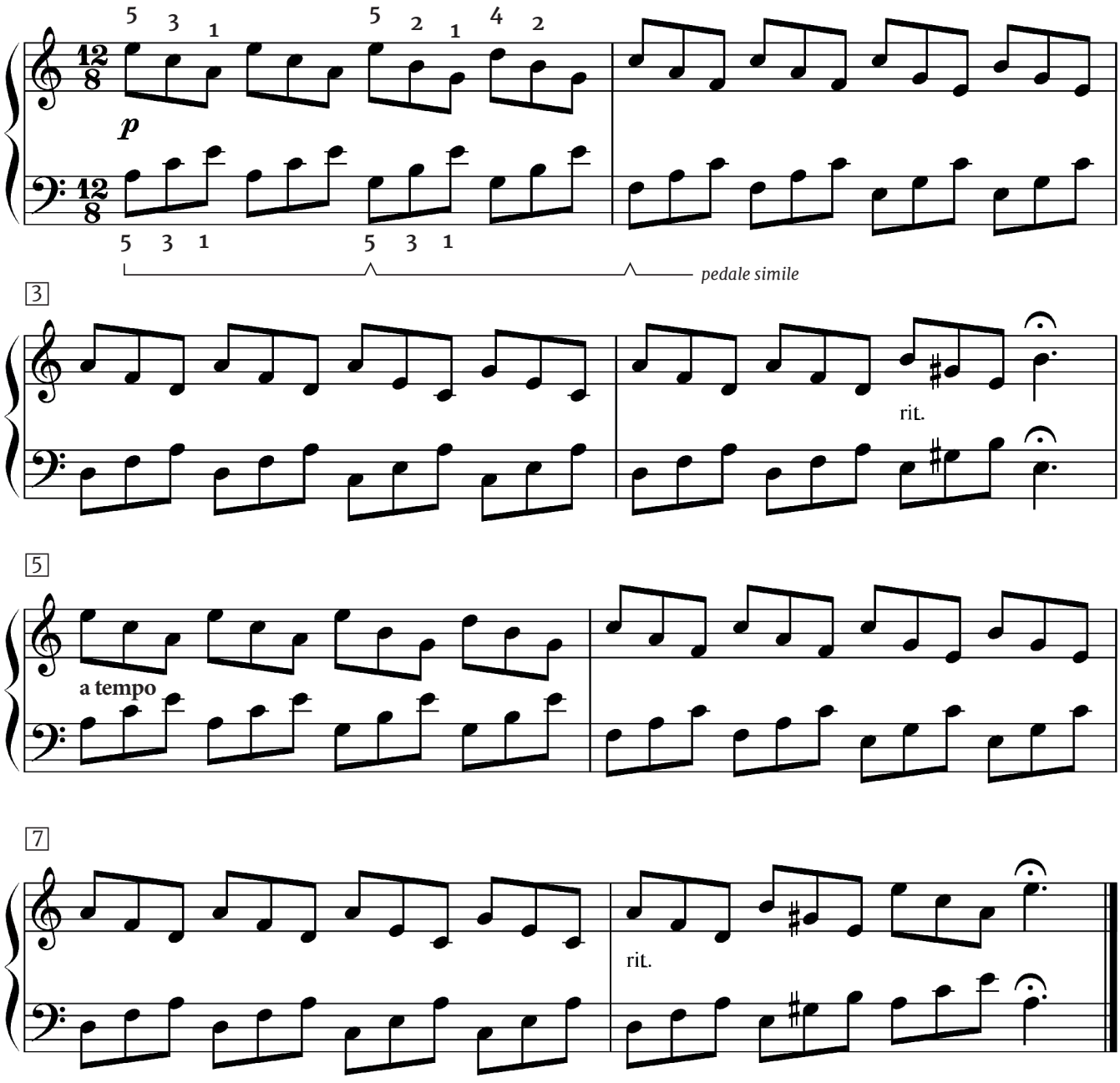
18

22

station 14



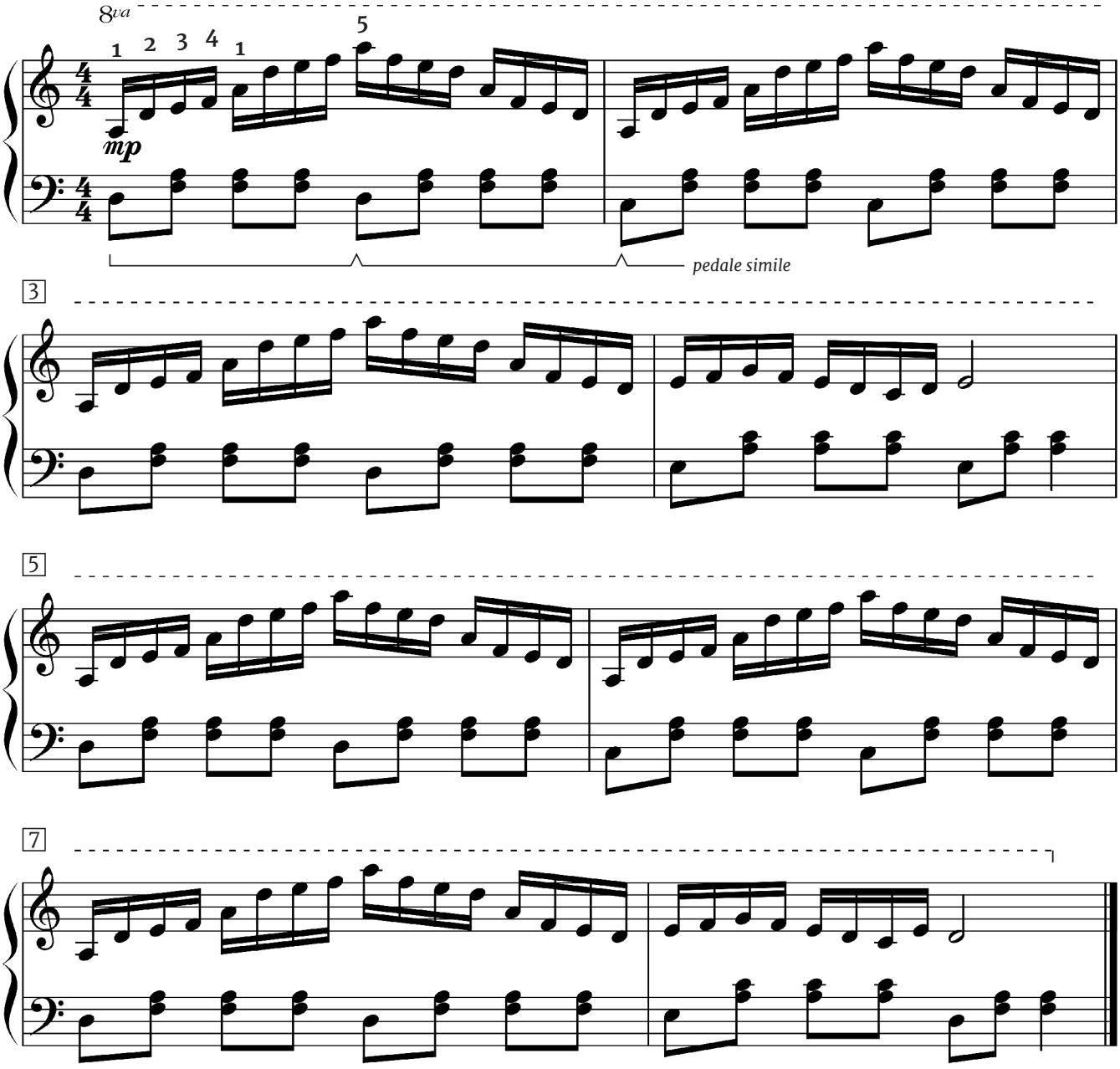
Gently



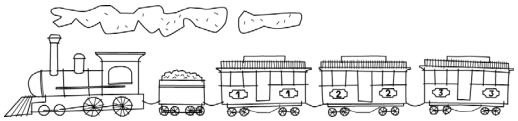
*See also exercise 9

station 15

Allegro



station 16



Smoothly

L.H

L.H.

L.H.

p

pedale simile

4

L.H.

L.H.

rit.

7

L.H.

L.H.

L.H.

a tempo

pedale simile

10

L.H.

rit.

station 17

Playfully

f poco stacc.

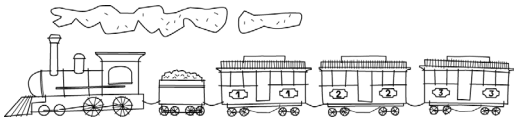
mp

f

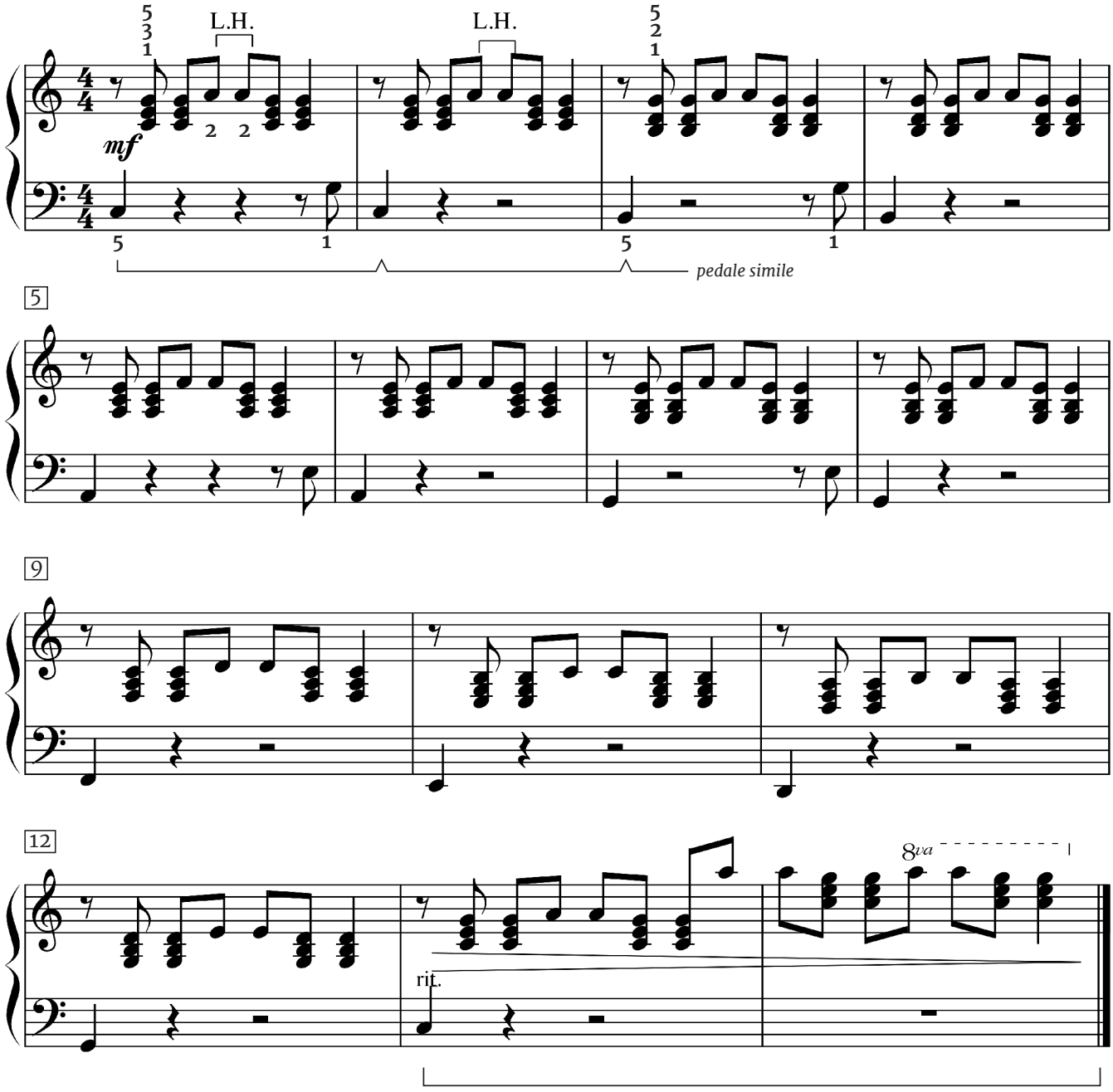
8va

8va

station 18

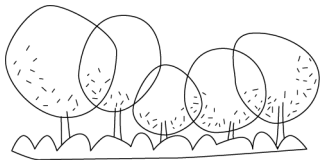


Fluently



*See also exercise 9

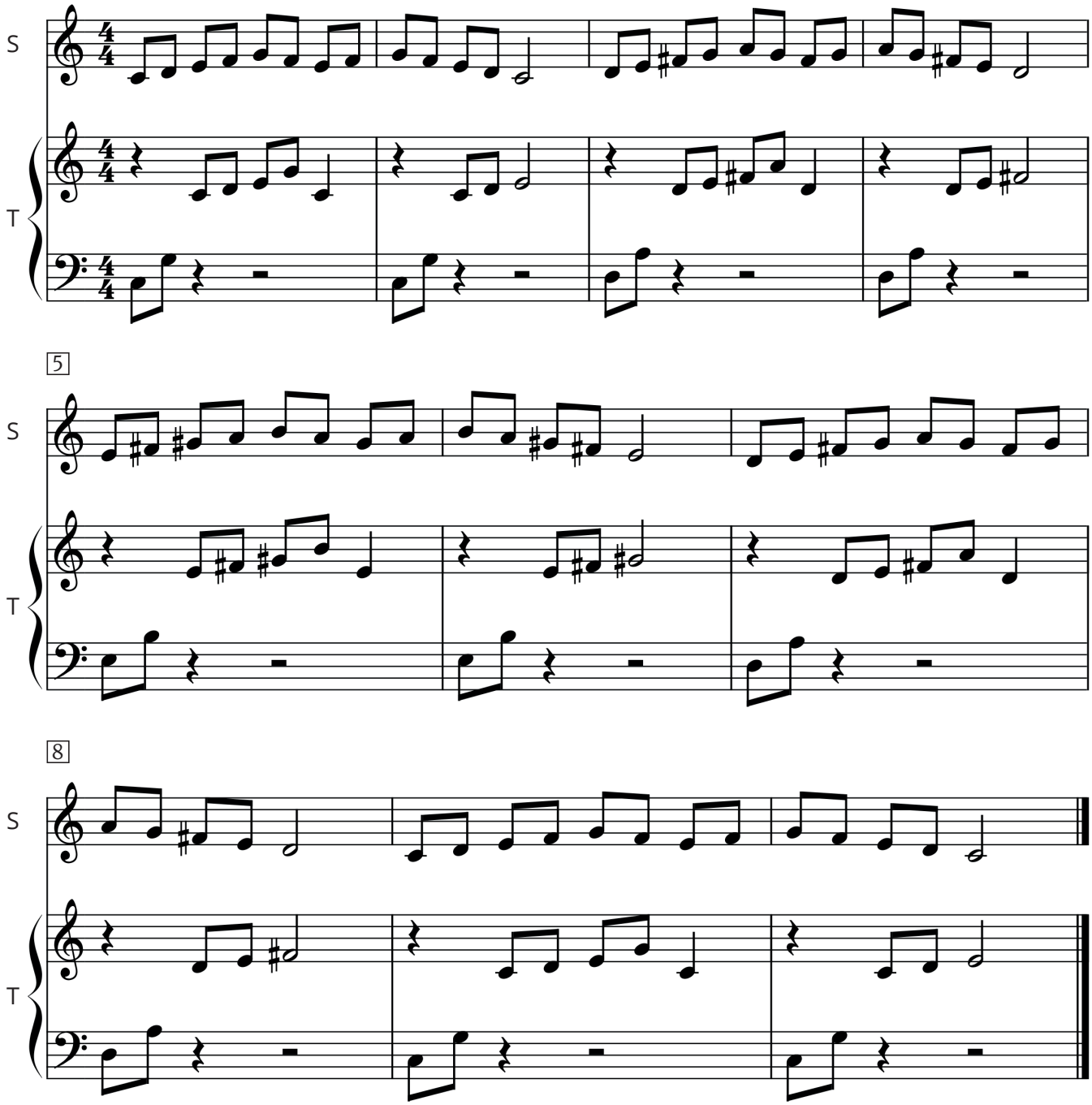
*Can you transpose this station to G Maj and F Maj?



Exercises

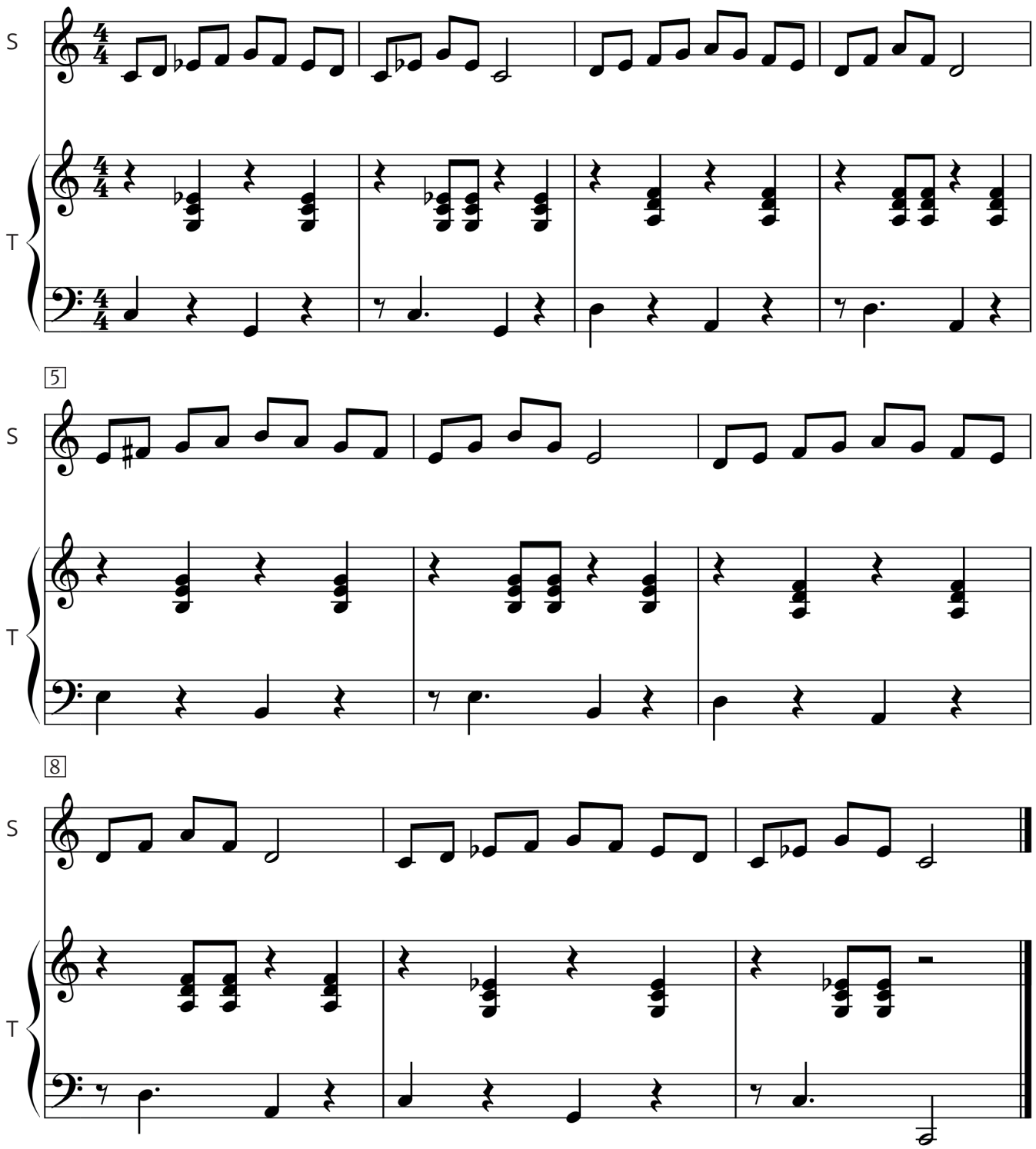
exercise 1

*Student plays an octave higher than written



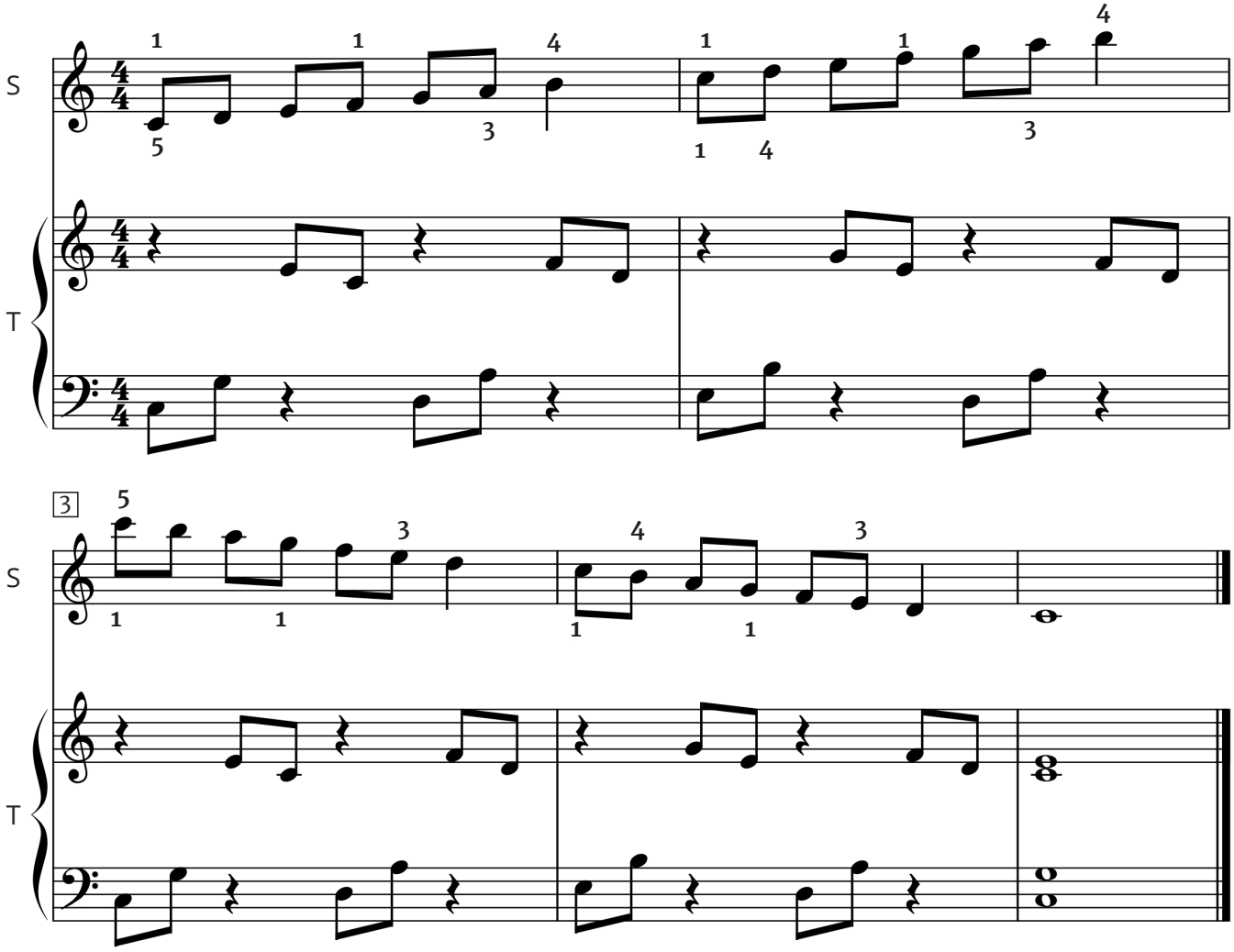
exercise 2

*Student plays an octave higher than written



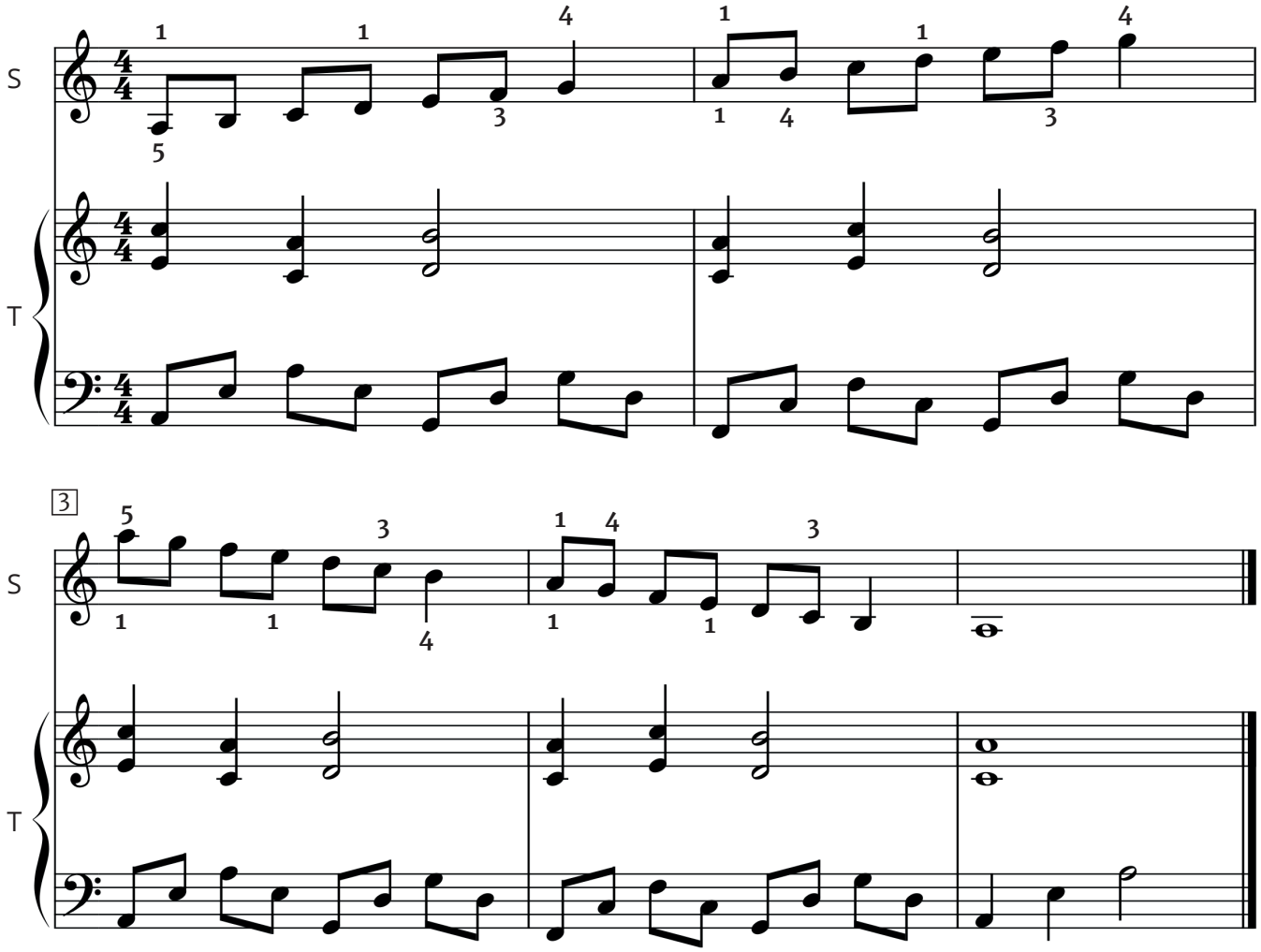
exercise 3

*Teacher plays an octave lower than written



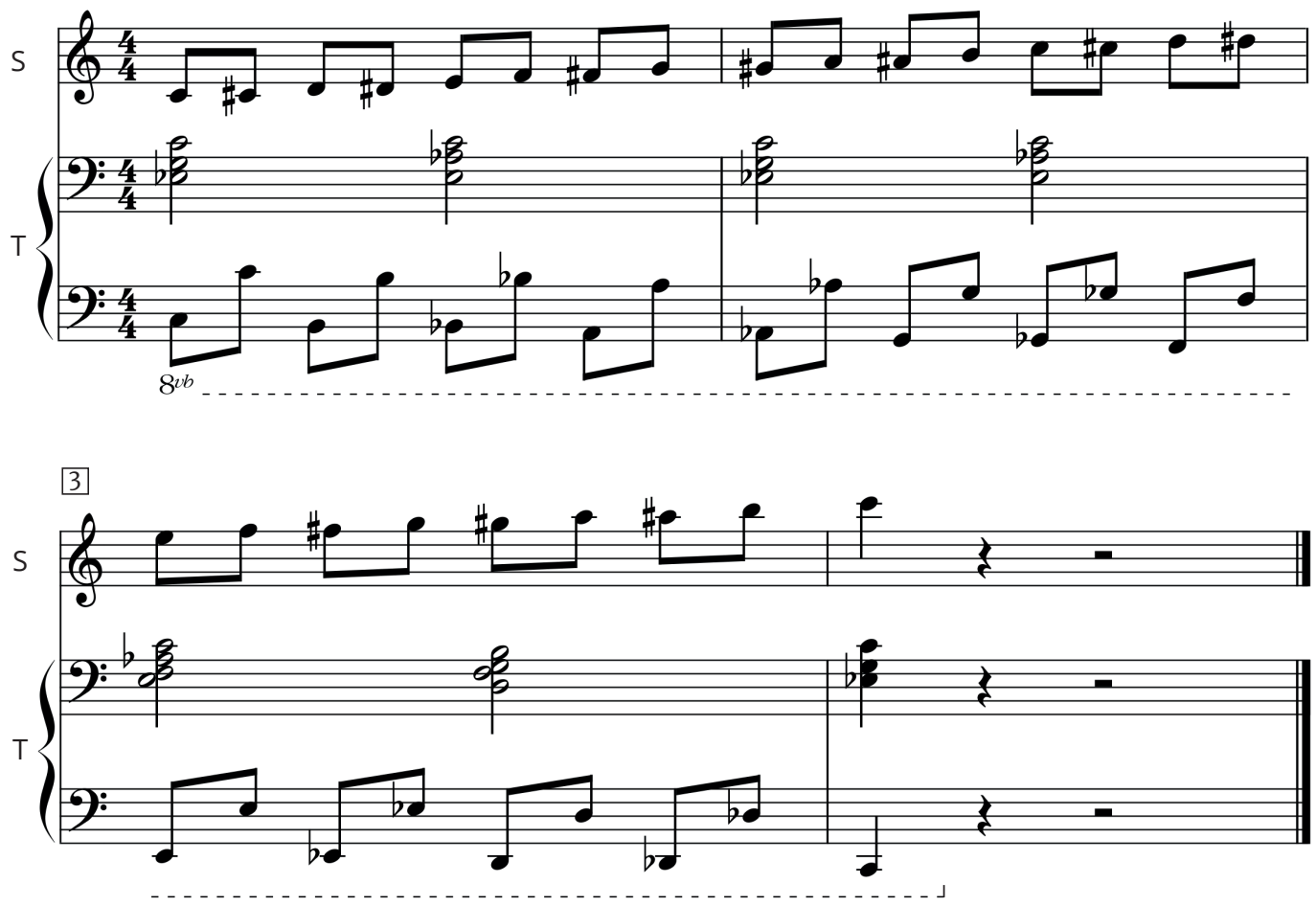
exercise 4

*Student plays two octaves higher than written



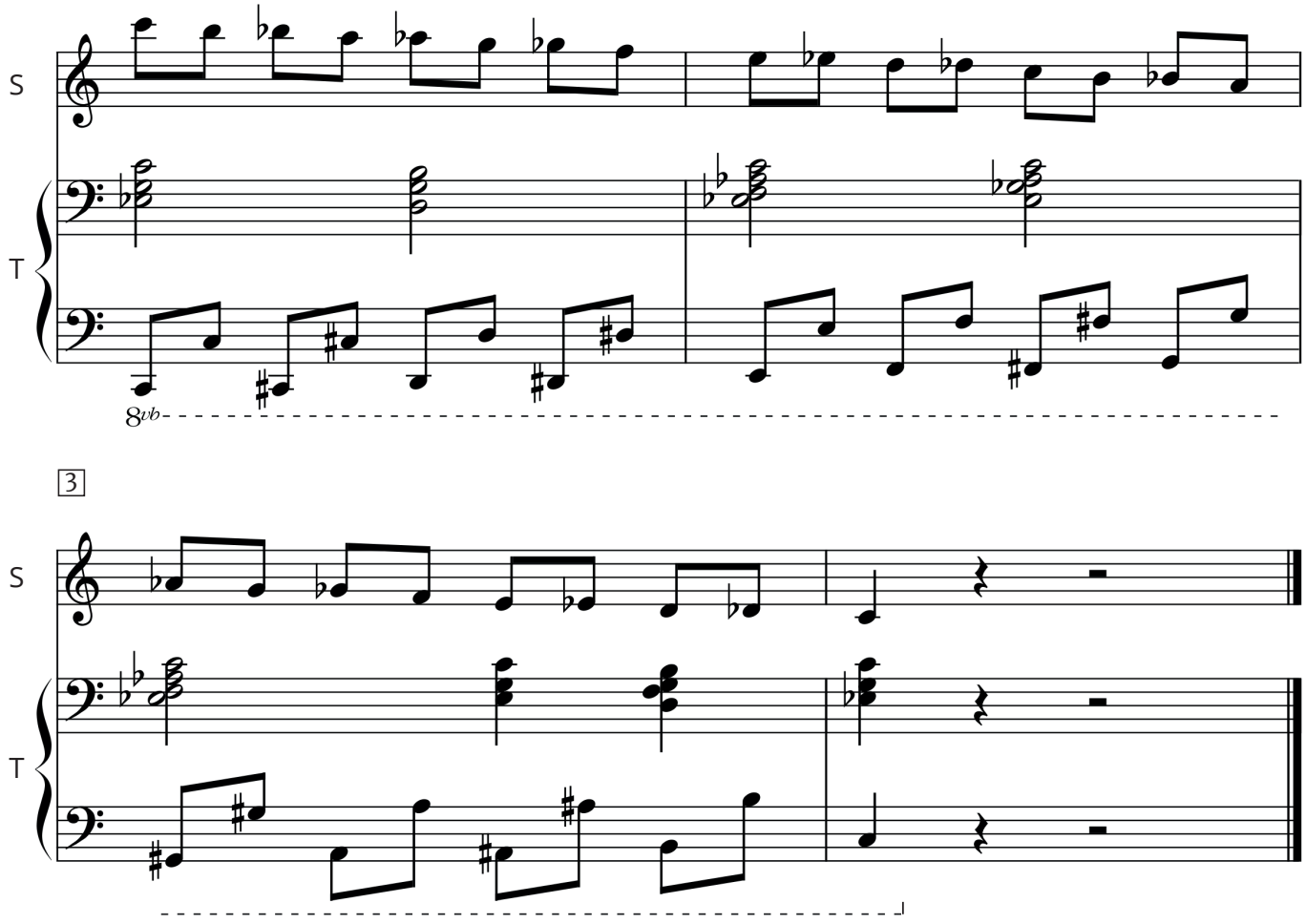
exercise 5a

*Student plays an octave higher than written

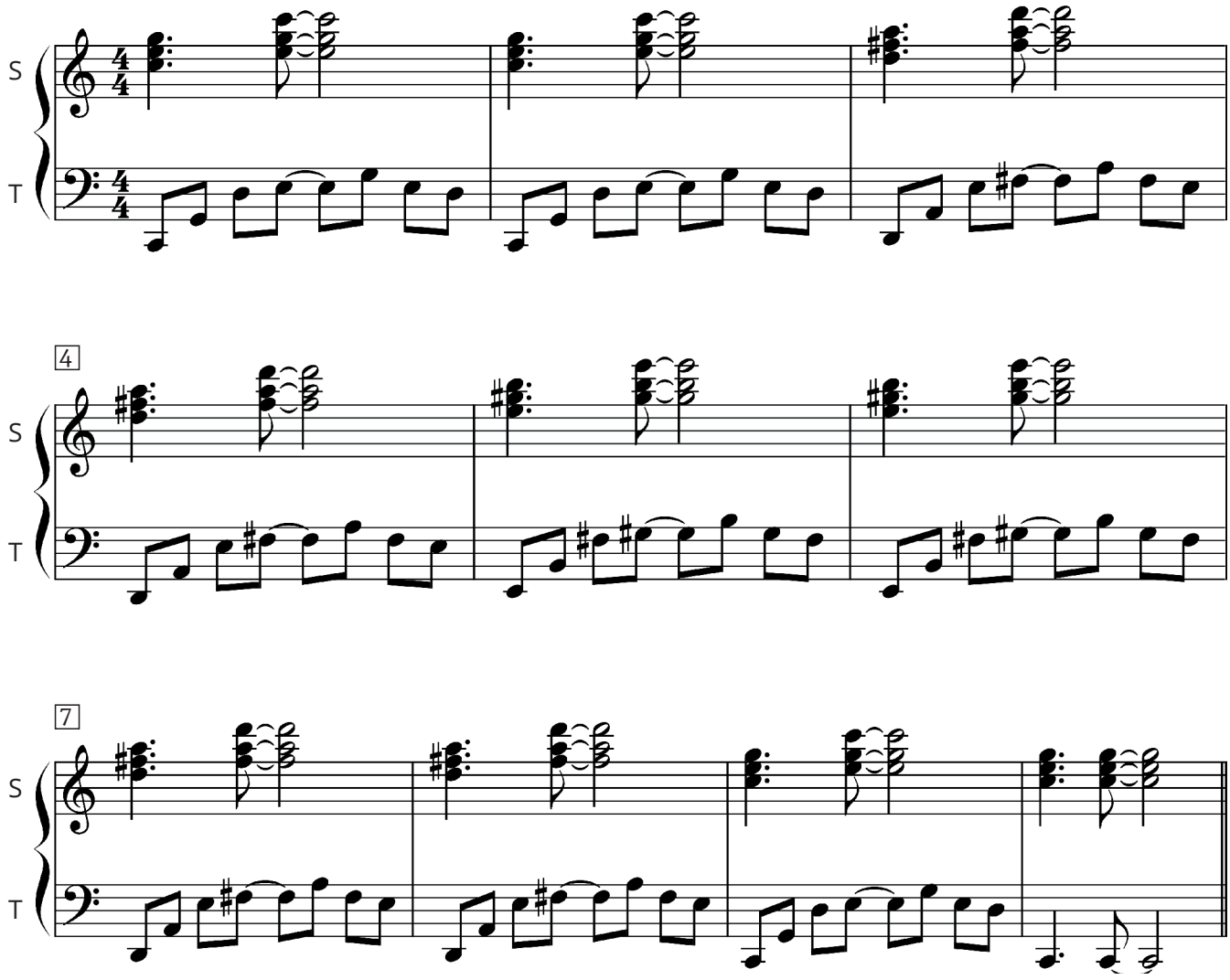


exercise 5b

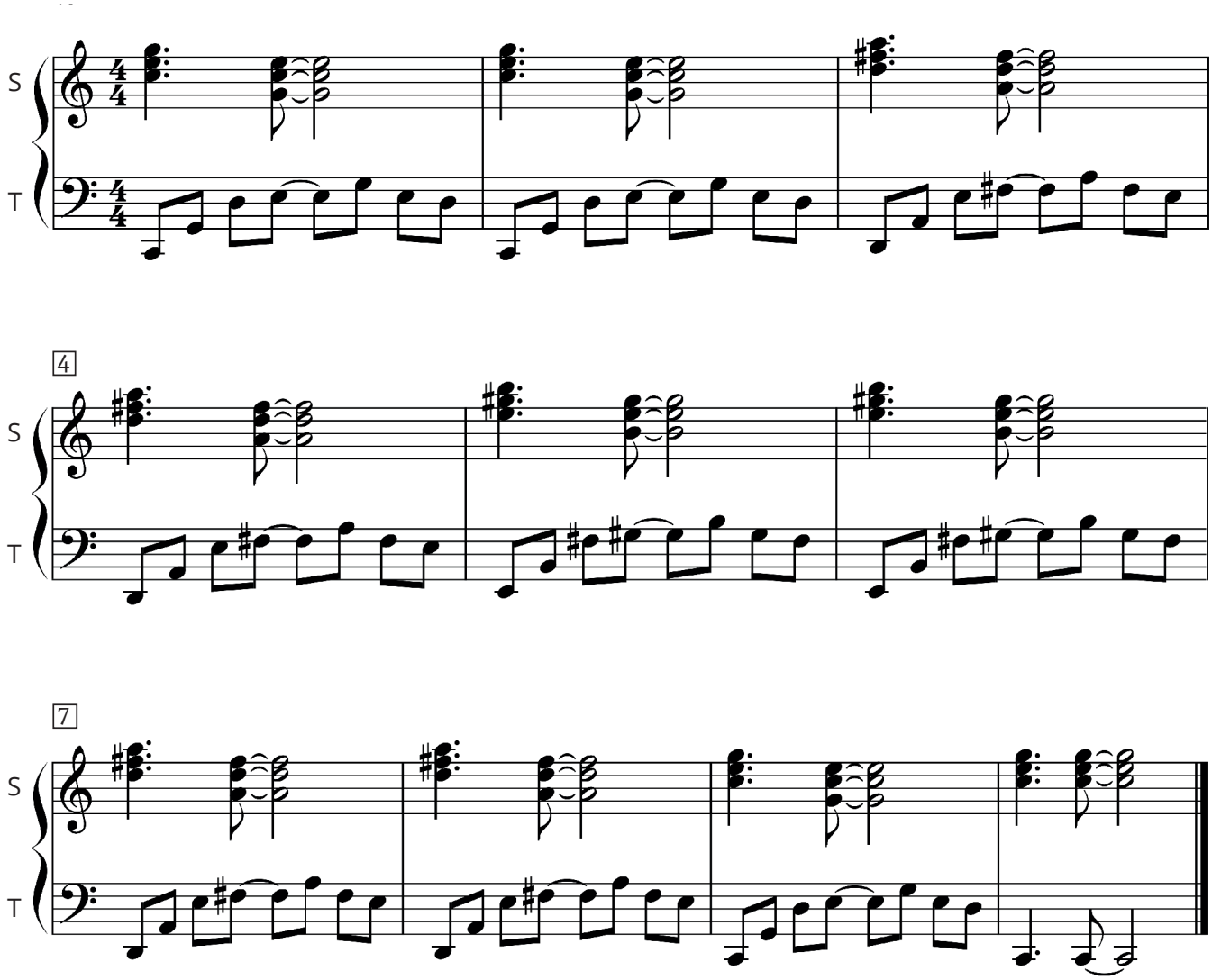
*Student plays an octave higher than written



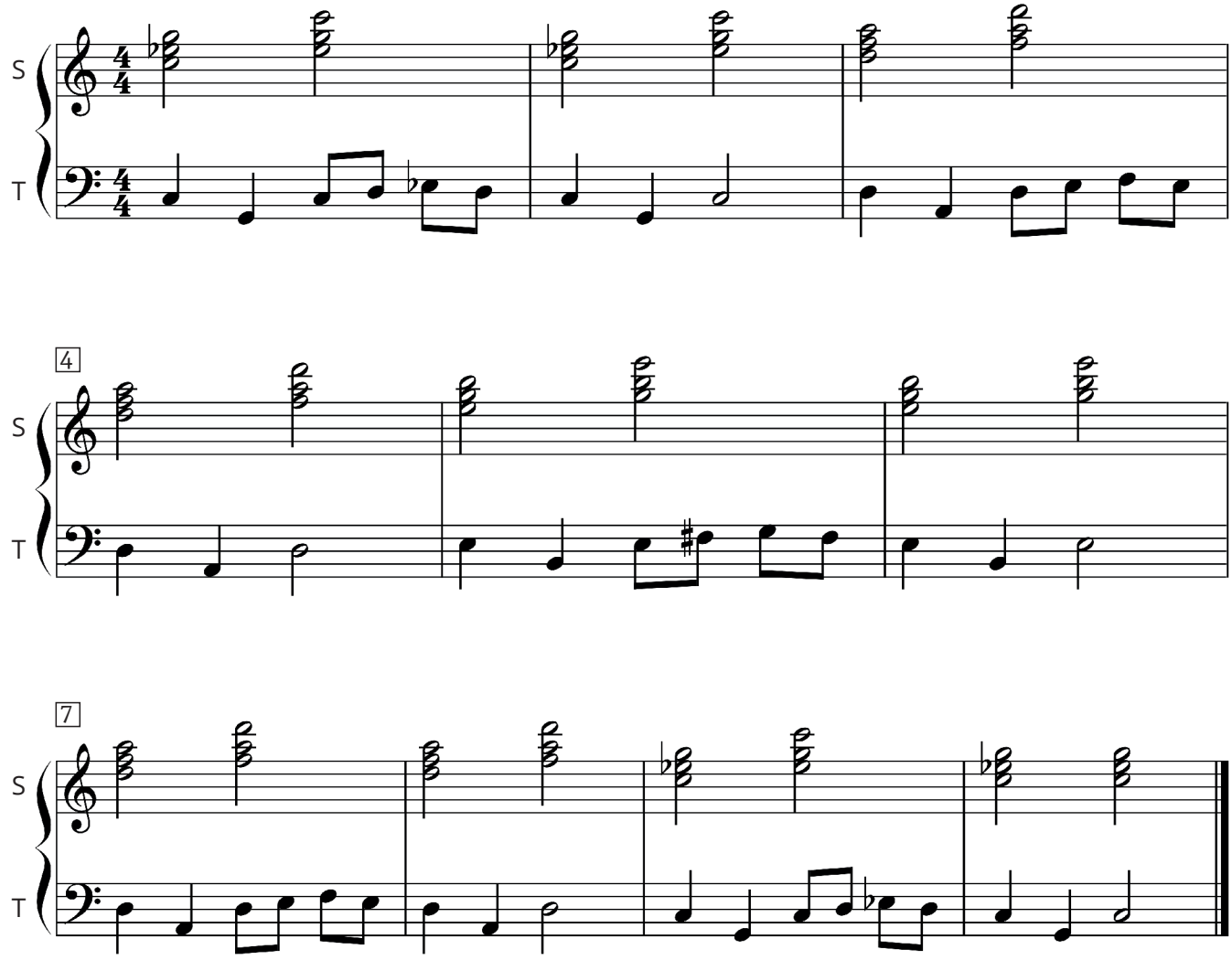
exercise 6a



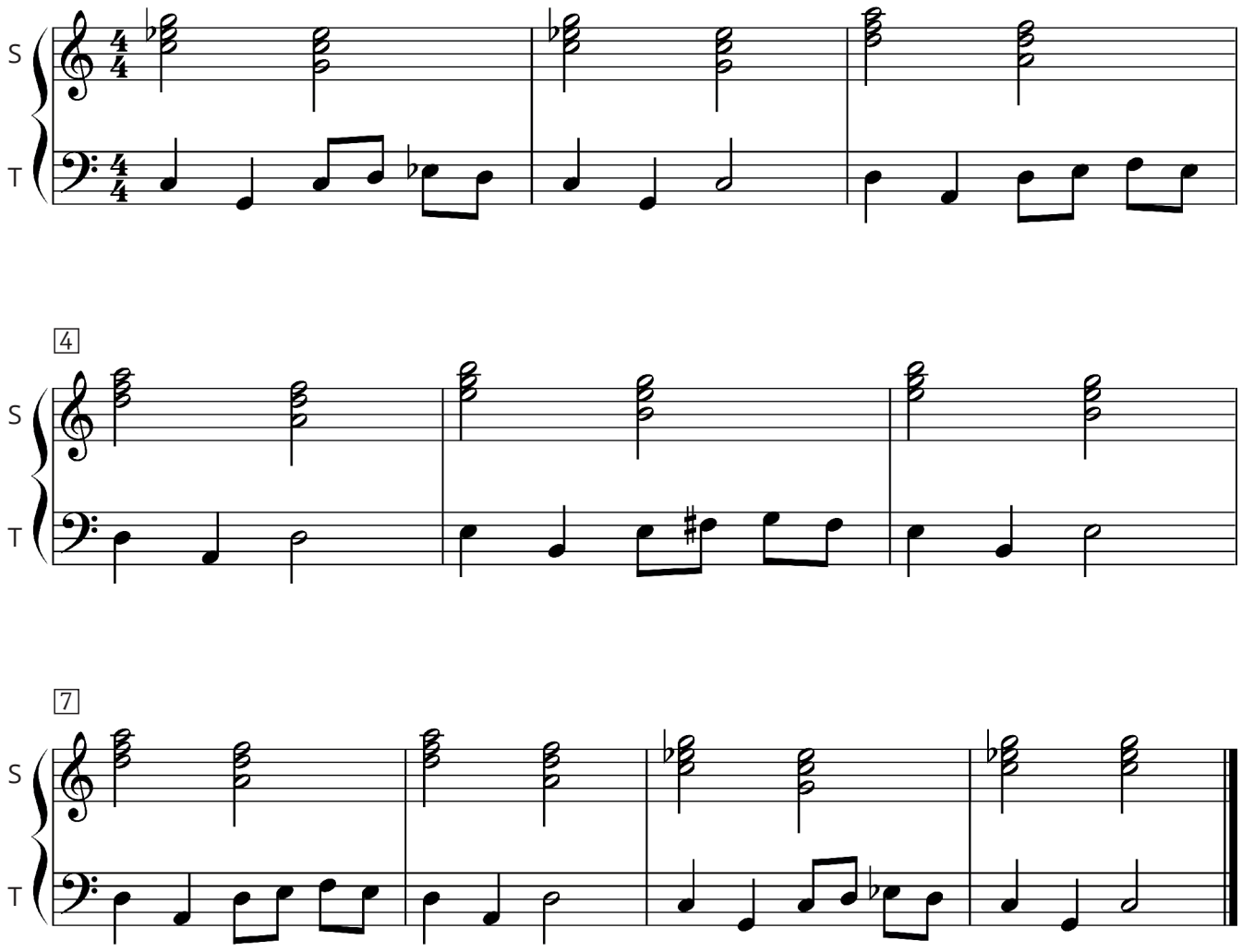
exercise 6b



exercise 7a

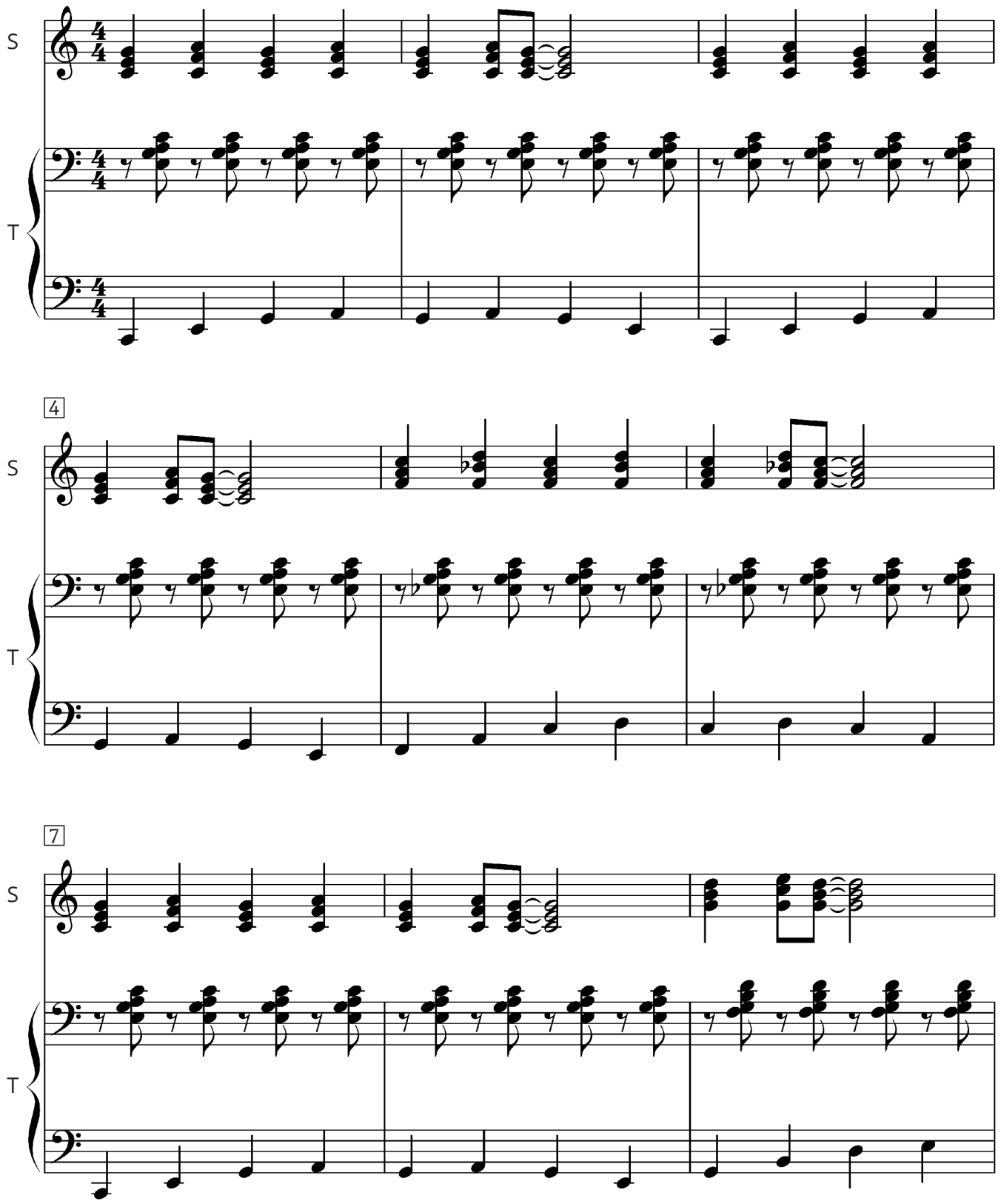


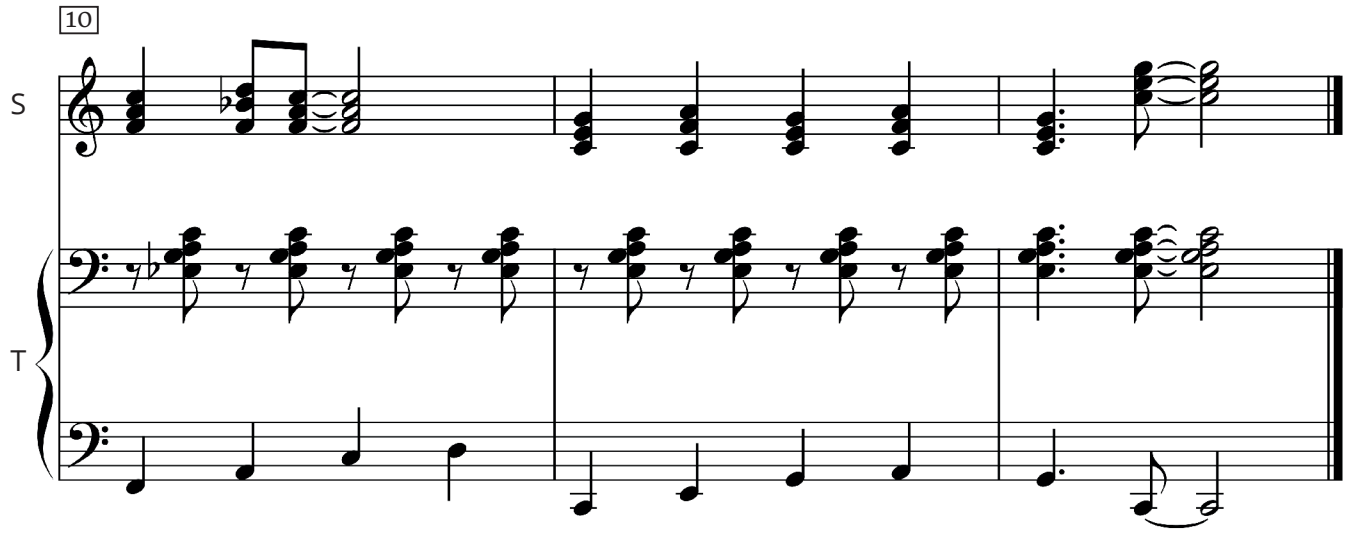
exercise 7b



exercise 8

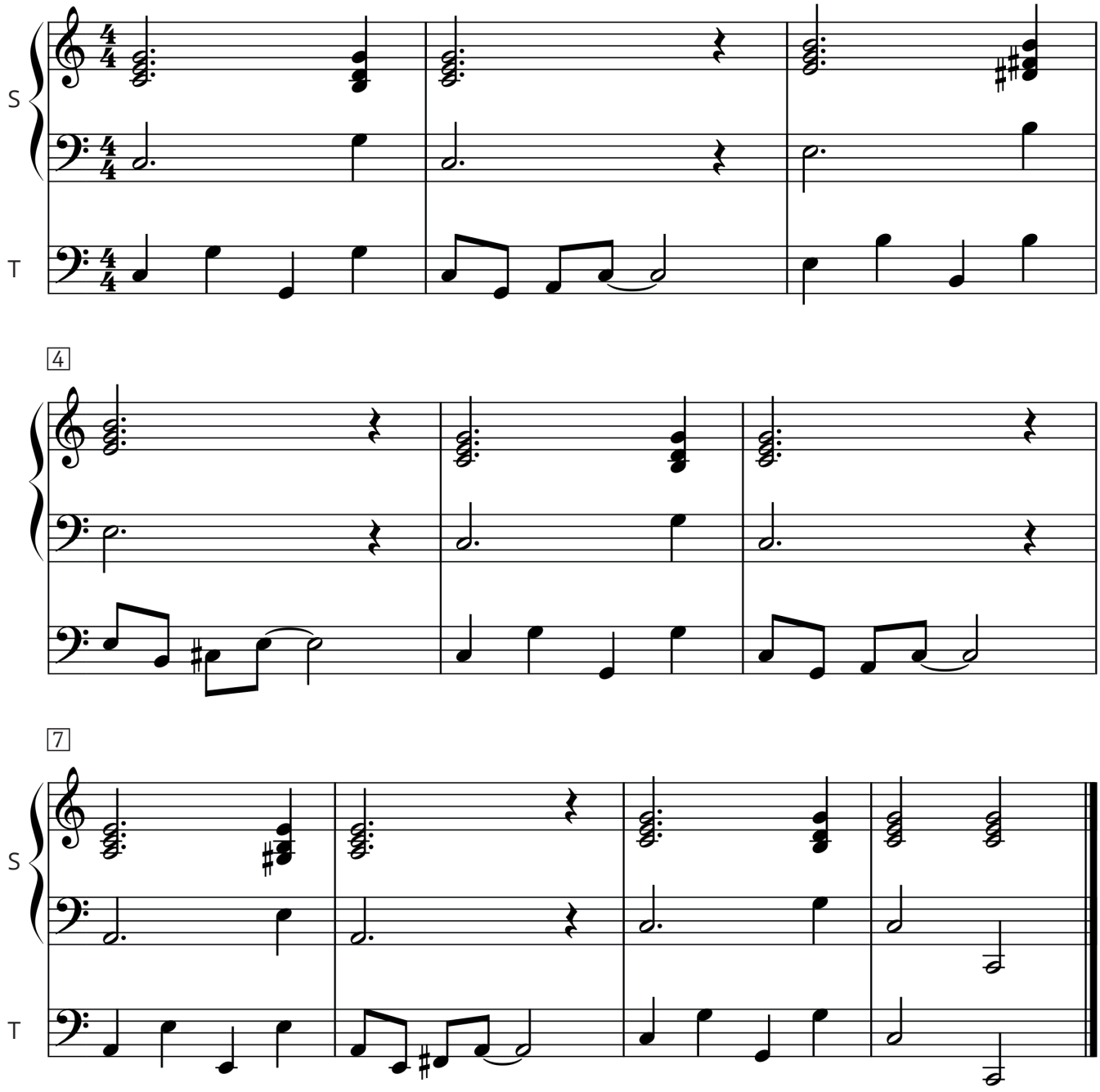
*Student plays an octave higher than written




10
S
T

exercise 9

*Teacher plays an octave lower than written



About the author

Born in Madrid, Spain in 1976, Juan Cabeza began studying piano performance at the Katarina Gurska School of Music at the age of nine. He went on to complete a degree in Piano Performance at the Salamanca Conservatory. His instructors include Uta Weyand, Claudio Martínez-Mehner, and Tony Heimer.

Mr. Cabeza has worked as an accompanist for several choirs, most notably the Coro de Niños y Jóvenes de la Comunidad de Madrid, Coro de Jóvenes de Madrid, and Coro Maravillas.

Currently, Mr. Cabeza teaches private and group piano students at the Katarina Gurska School of Music, where he specializes in students in the early stages of study.

As a result of his research in piano pedagogy, Mr. Cabeza created a blog, megustaelpiano.com. Here the author expresses his ideas about teaching and learning piano, provides teaching resources, and suggests interesting piano repertoire.

Piano Train Trips was developed as a result of Mr Cabeza's extensive piano teaching experience and pedagogical research. These pieces were inspired in part by the patterned rote pieces found in the Piano Safari Method.