Raffaele De Giacometti

Saudade

for Piano

2014

Saudade

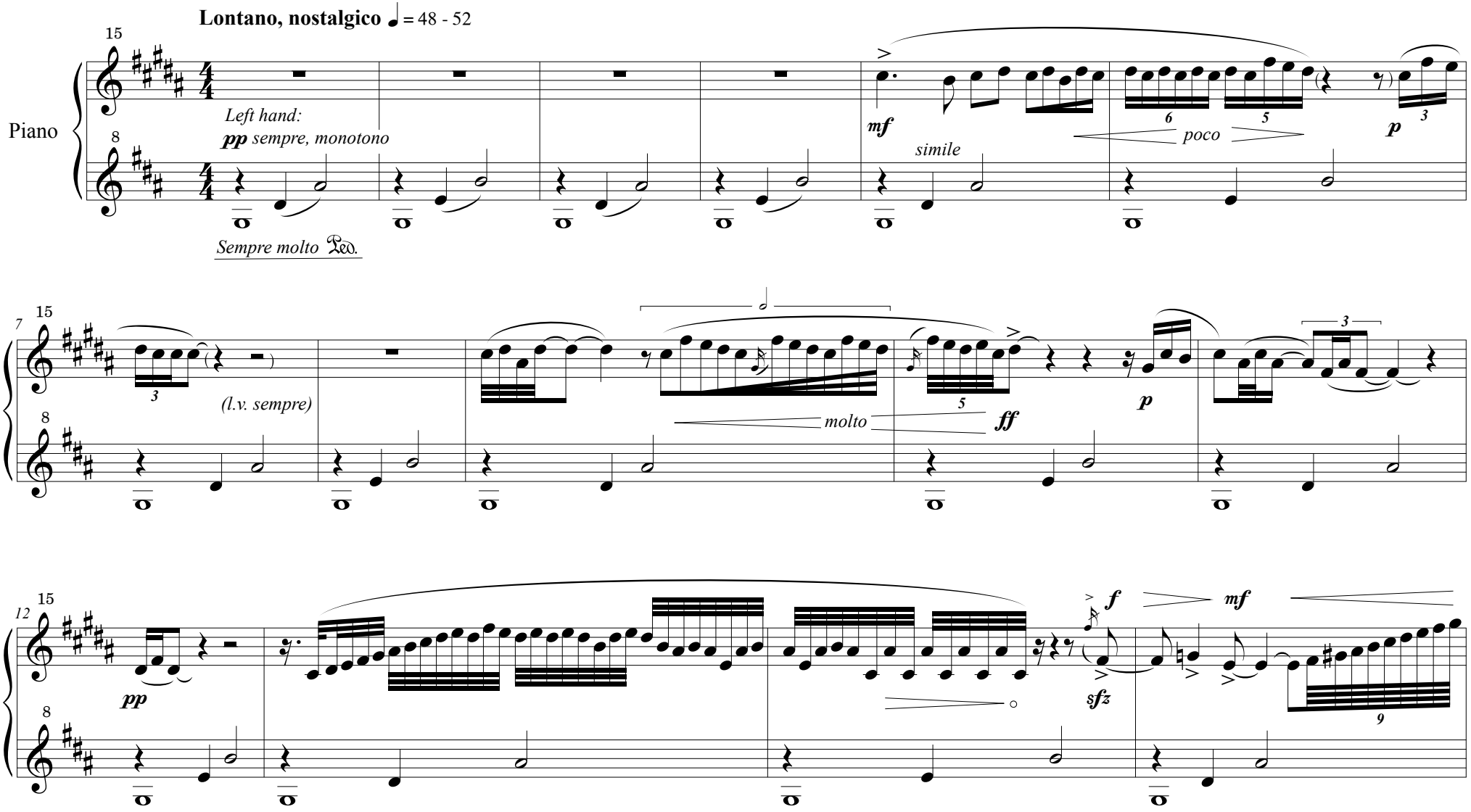
The composition of Saudade was inspired by the sentence “It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye” from *Le Petit Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. Focusing on the concept of *Essence*, I found a way of combining lightness and spontaneity of musical gesture with both technical and structural complexities.

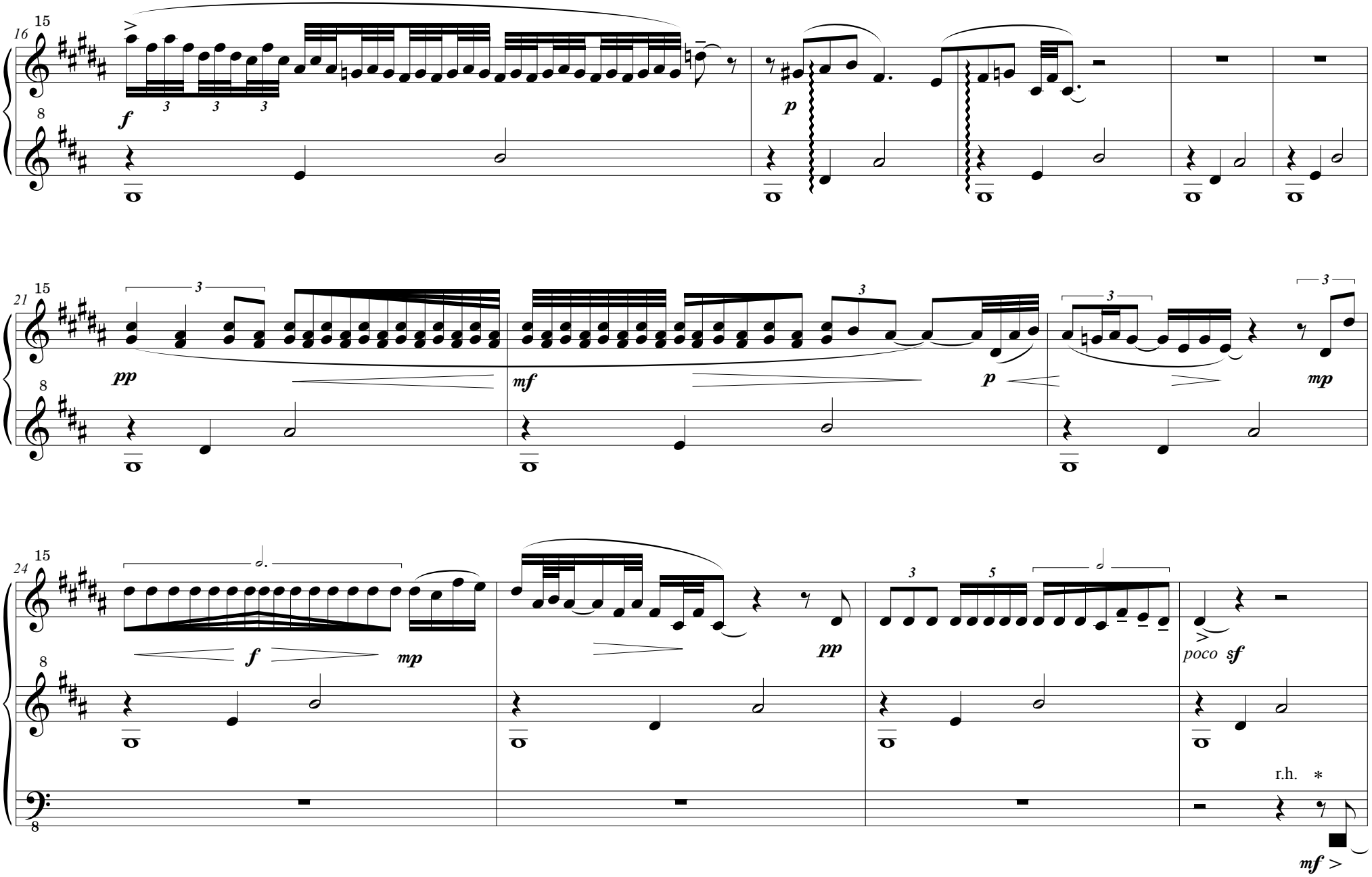
The form of the piece is entirely based on the principles of the Golden Ratio, while the ethereal timbre I wanted to get throughout - by always using the highest register of the piano - represents the nostalgia of the “missing essence”, or rather, the true essence! Indeed, the player must sit decentred on the right side of the piano, as if another “ghost pianist” was imaginarily there playing a likewise imaginary lower part.

While the left hand plays a simple ostinato, the right gives shape to melodic arabesques, which are just occasionally broken by aggressive gestures that mark the form of the piece. Live performance of Saudade requires an ambience with high reverberation in order to get the spectral sound desired. That can also be achieved electronically.

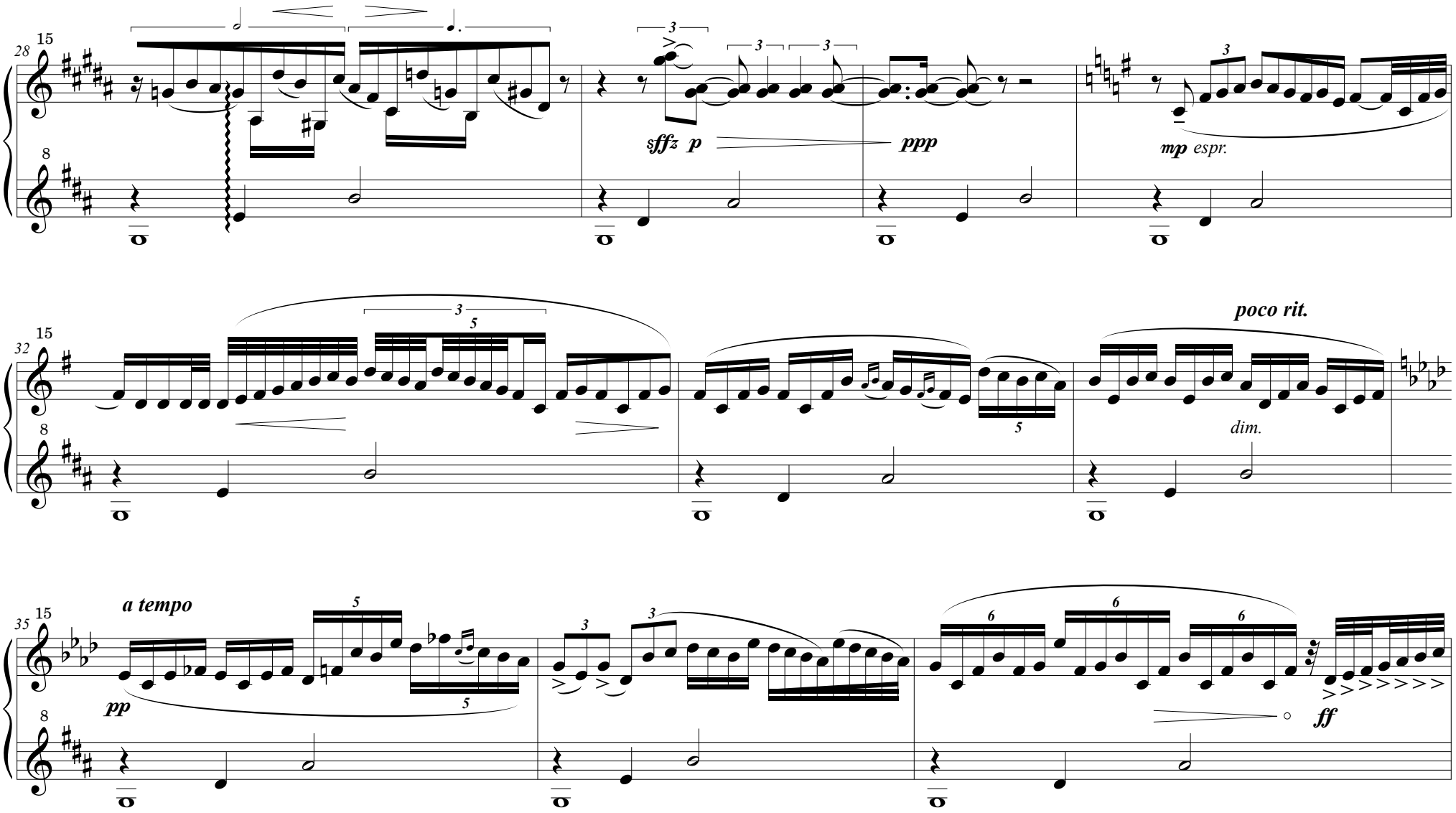
Saudade

Raffaele De Giacometti





* Hit the strings (cluster) with the palm of the hand


28
15
8
sffz p
ppp
mp espr.
32
15
8
poco rit.
dim.
35
15
8
a tempo
pp
ff