Four Etudes

for piano solo

by

Alan Belkin

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for Daniel Barkley

These four small etudes for piano solo were written in January, 2008. They are intended to accompany my essay, *Principles of Piano Technique*, available on the WWW at:

http://www.musique.umontreal.ca/personnel/Belkin/Piano/PianoTechnique.html

Each etude concentrates on one or two basic technical issues, and each etude may be played in two ways, as outlined below.

#1a – this etude focuses on aligning the arm behind the fingers in such a way that the right hand is never stretched out uncomfortably. It should be played quietly and with a dreamy atmosphere.

#1b – a (free) inversion of #1a.

#2 – a study in double notes (mainly thirds), to be played with a slight shaking motion of the wrist and arm. This etude can be played with the playful articulation as written, or else legato all through, with greater use of the pedal.

#3 – like the first two etudes, this one focuses on free arm shifting, so that the player's hand never feels stretched. The main difference is the quicker speed, and the free mirror writing in the left hand. It can also be played very softly throughout.

#4 – a study in impulse rebounds. It can be done as written, or else with an extra rebound per chord (i.e. double rebounds). In the second case, the final chord should be played with a triple rebound.

Etude #1a

by Alan Belkin

Poco adagio ♩ **= 65**

pp

with pedal

6

11

15

19

rit.

24

ppp

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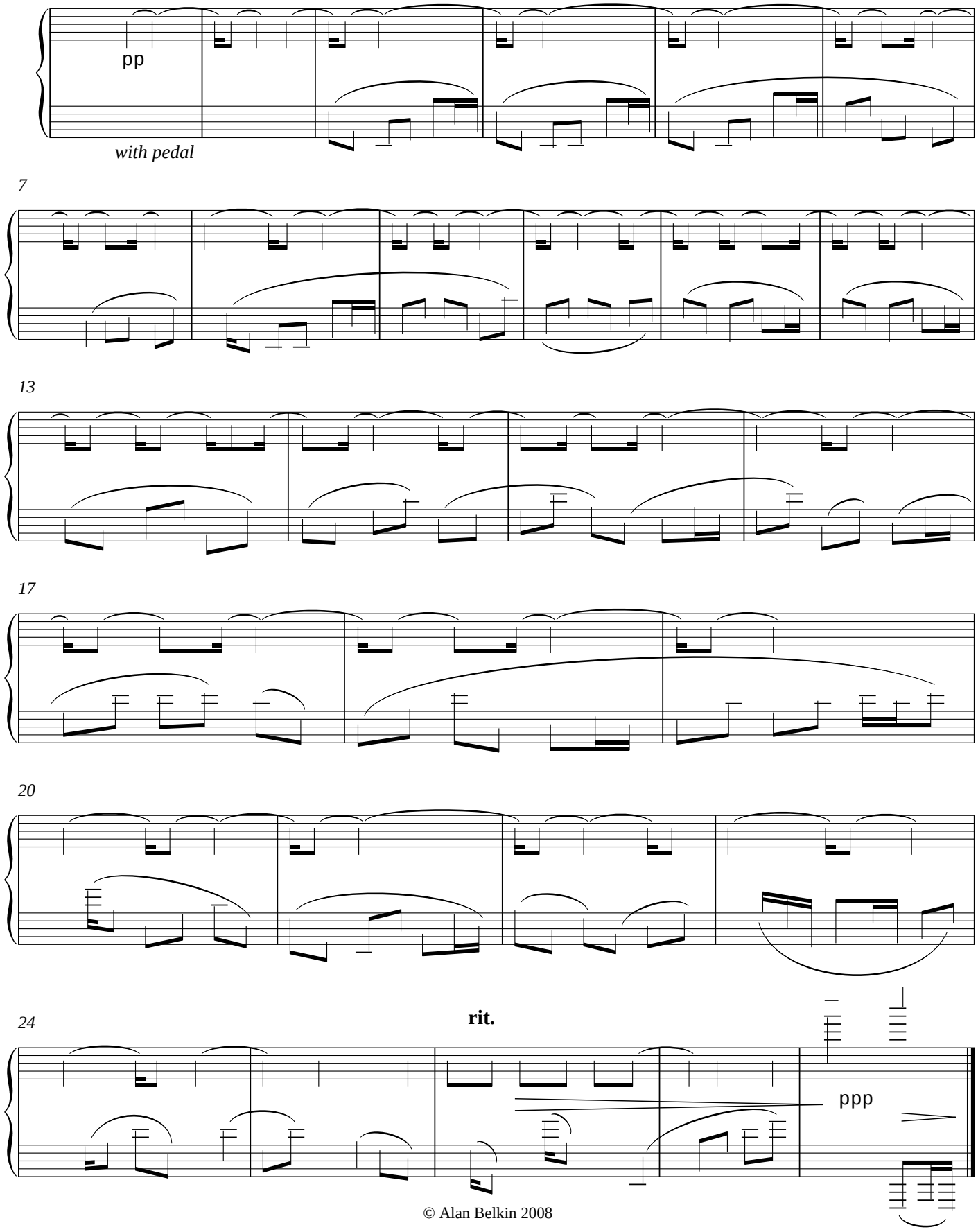
Etude #1b

Poco adagio ♩ **= 65**

Alan Belkin



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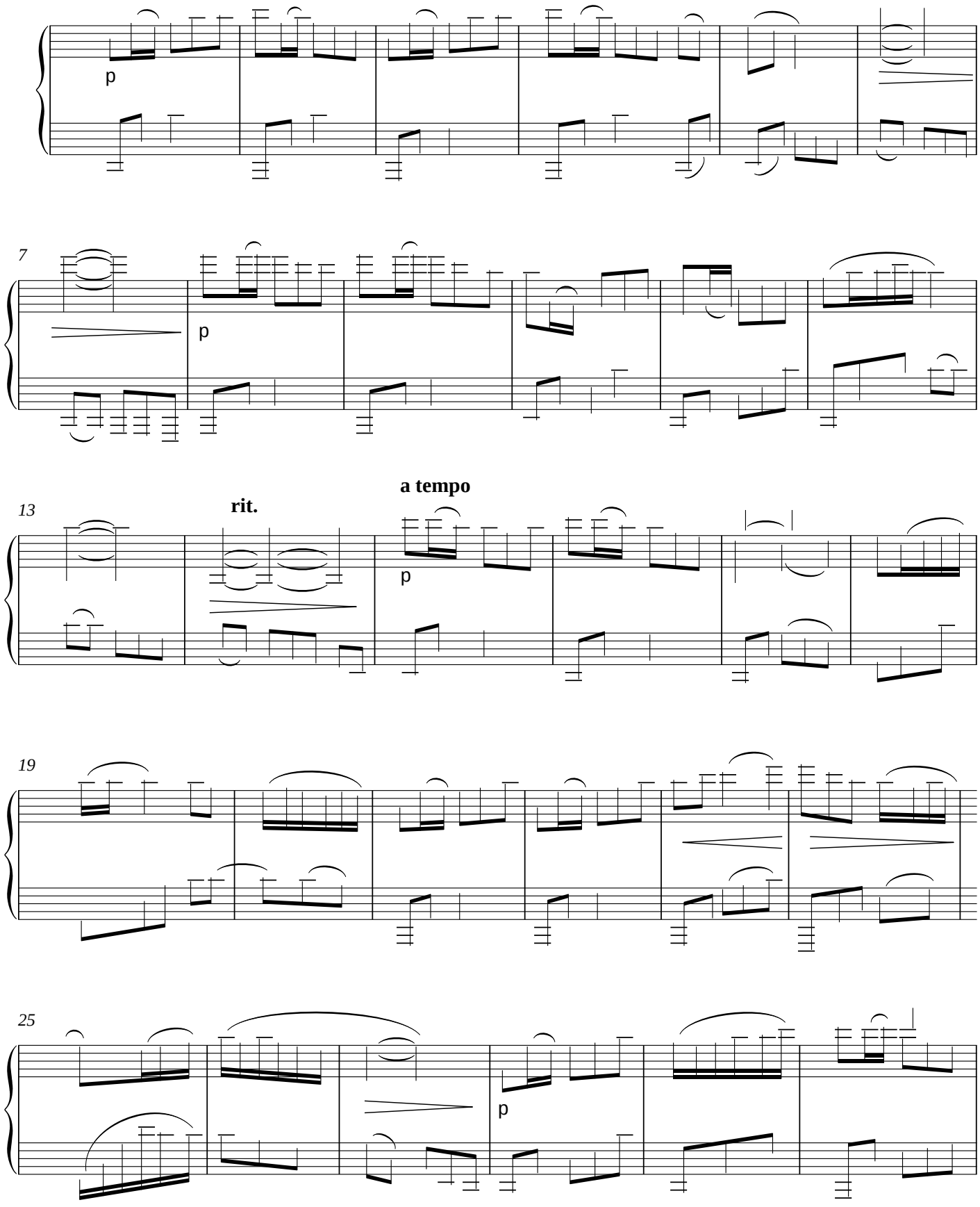
Etude #2

Scherzando ♩ = 110

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