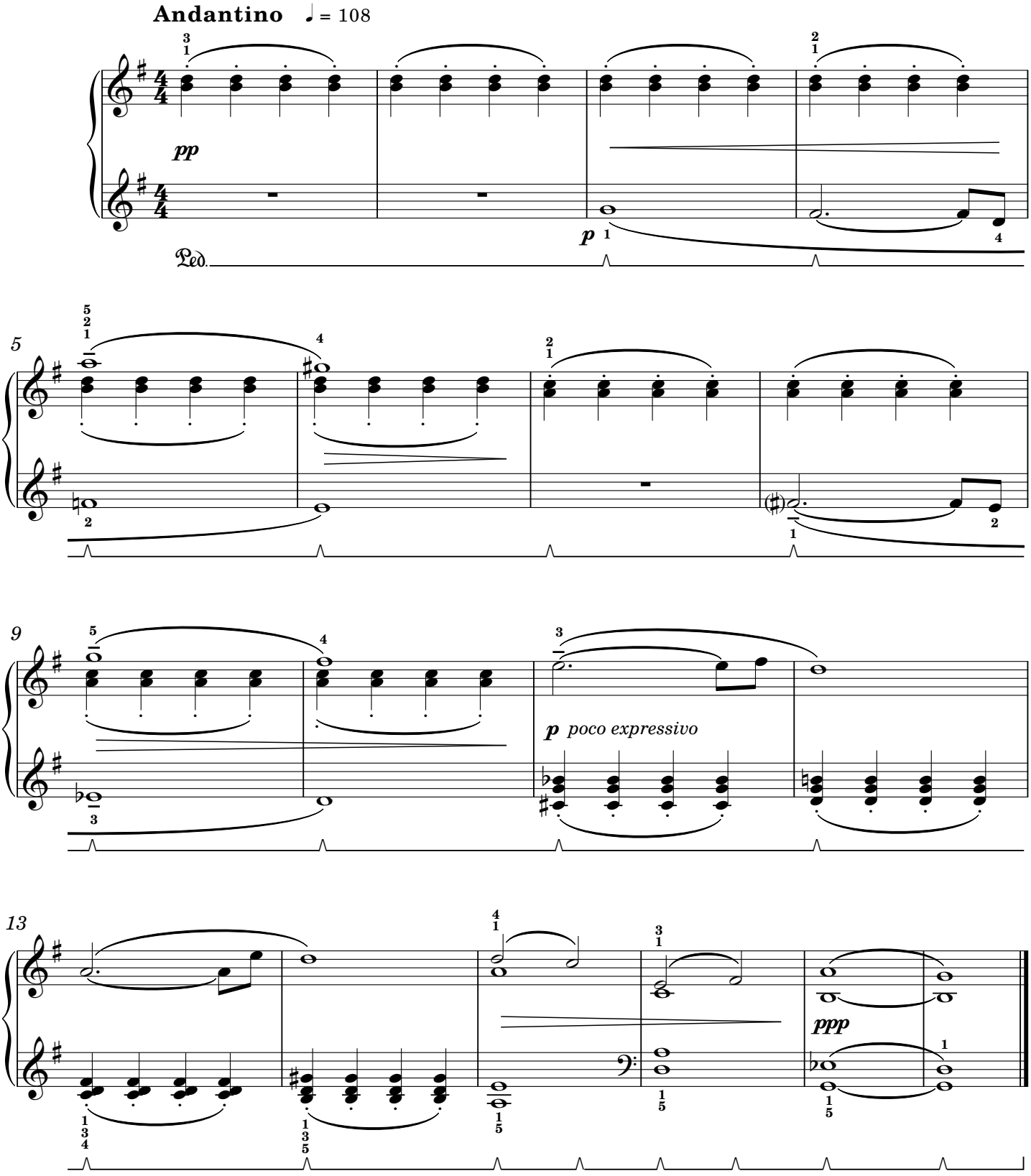
Samuil MAYKAPAR (1867-1938)

Pedal Prelude No 11

BEGINNER/
INTERMEDIATE

Raised in Taganrog, the Russian city that features in Chekhov's stories, Maykapar studied piano with Theodor Leschetizky and became a professor at the St Petersburg Conservatory. This poignant little piece comes from his 20 Pedal Preludes op 38.

Playing tips: Both hands have the chance to play the melody line in this short piece. At the start, the two-note RH chords, which should sound static and totally even, are played *pianissimo*. Then the LH enters with the melody in bar 3, to be played slightly louder at *piano*! Make sure to phrase the melody (notice the crescendos and diminuendos). The role is reversed at bar 11 where the RH takes over the melody, to be played *poco espressivo*. The final chord should be played as softly as possible – not an easy thing to do.

Pedal tips: As this is an exercise for pedalling, focus on the right foot is of great importance! You need to make a very quick release/depress motion on the first beat of the bar. It continues as such all the way through apart from bars 15 and 16, where there are two changes per bar.