The Joy of First Classics

Easy pieces by master composers in their original form.
Keyboard miniatures of three centuries for beginners and early-grade pianists.
Selected and edited by Denes Agay.

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Foreword

The Joy of First Classics presents a colorful repertory of easy pieces by master composers, both well-known and lesser-known. Indeed, the student and player will find here numerous names and works not encountered before; music which has been unduly neglected, but deserving – because of its intrinsic musical value – to be included in the teaching repertory of the early-grade student.

The word 'classics' in our title indicates not only the style of the Viennese masters, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and their contemporaries, but, in a broader sense, music which has shown itself worthy of general esteem for a considerable span of time. Certainly, works which have been known, played, and loved for a century (Liszt), or even considerably longer (Bach) qualify to be termed 'classic'.

The pieces are in their original forms. Expression marks, fingerings, were added and, in a very few cases, minor editorial adjustments made to clarify the note-picture and facilitate understanding. Keyboard miniatures of three centuries – musically rewarding and technically the most accessible – comprise the content of this volume; instructive and diverting fare for all beginning and early-grade pianists.

Denes Agay

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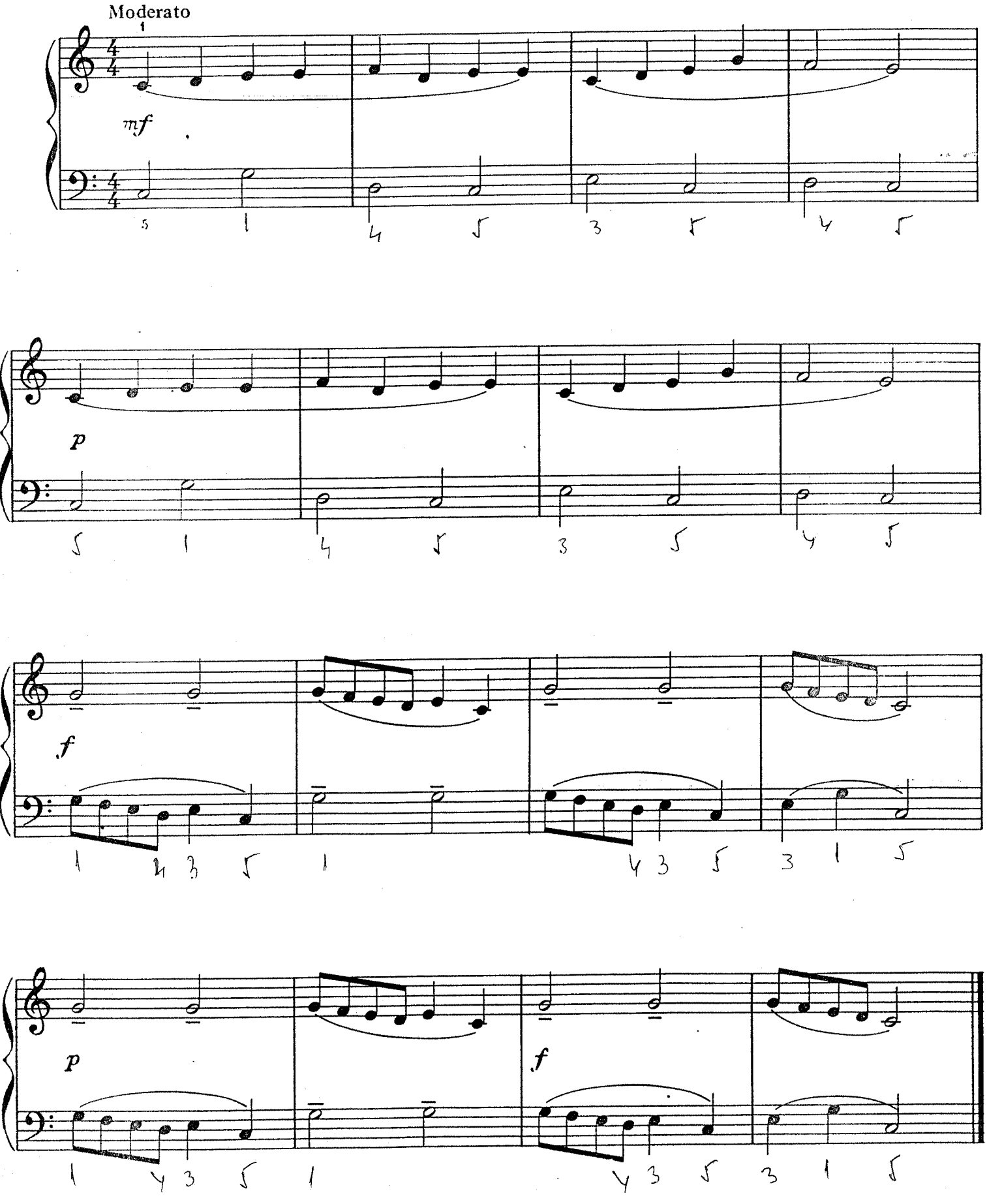
Old German Dance

Michael Praetorius
(1571 - 1621)

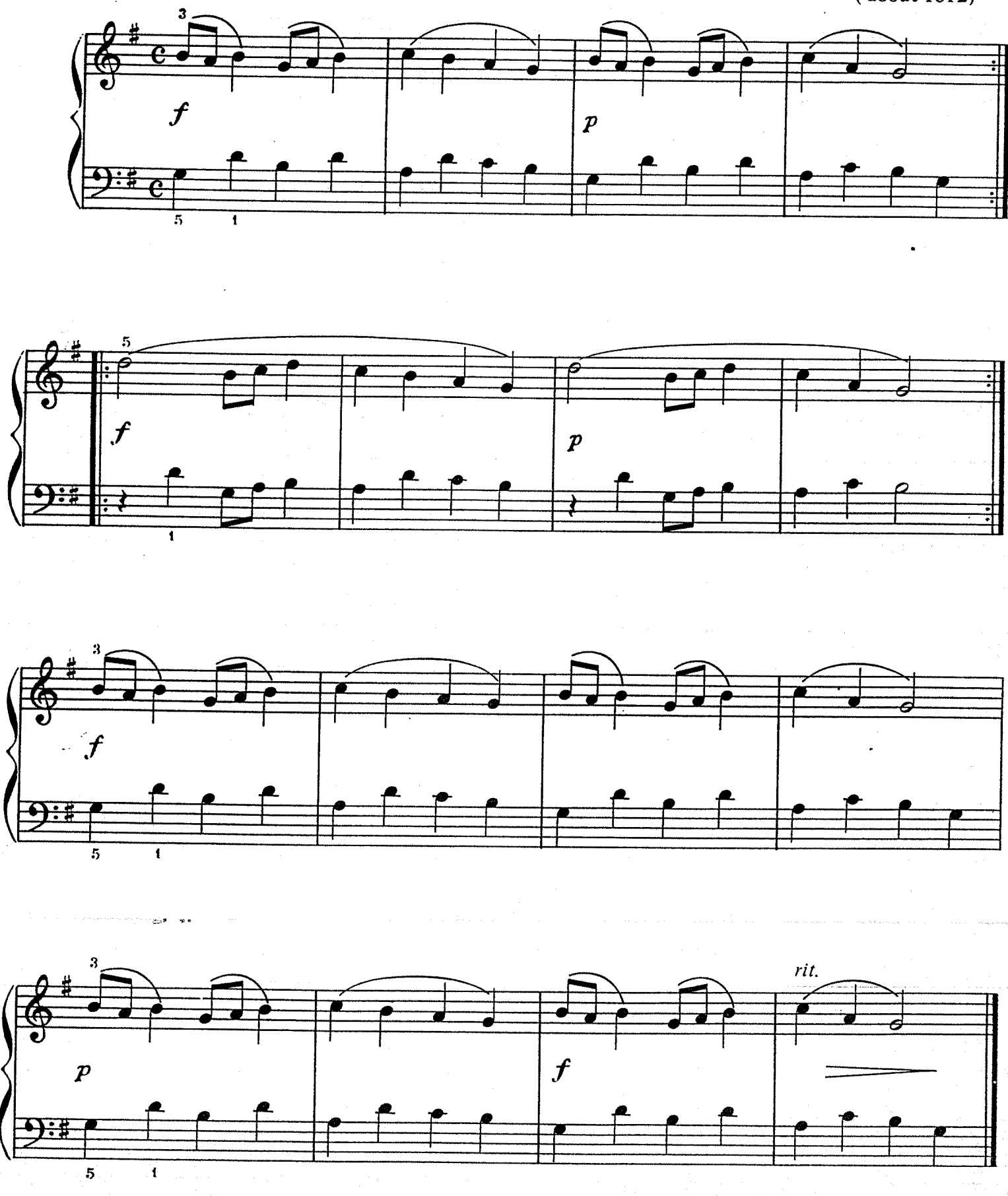


Canario

Old Dance

Moderato

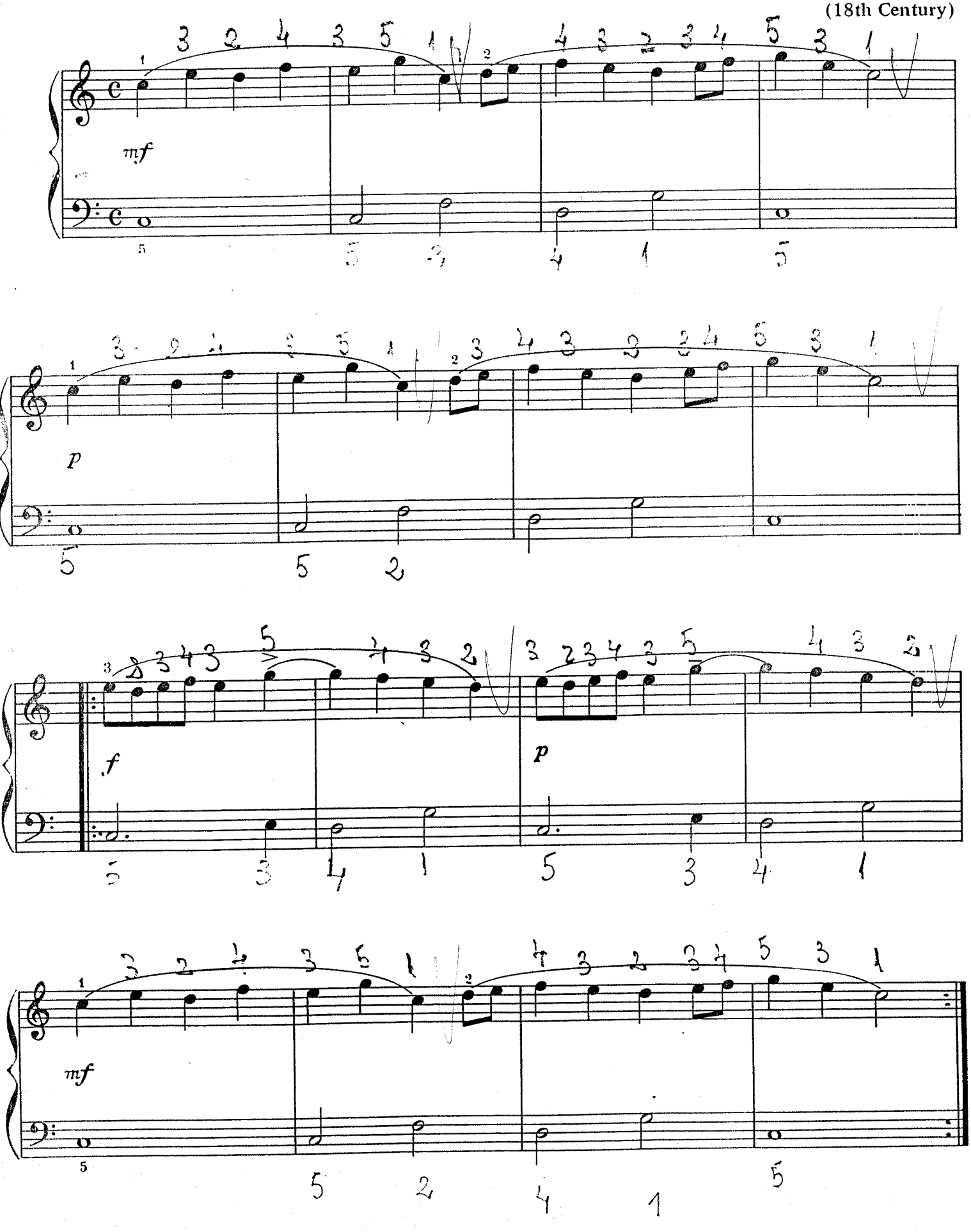
Joachim von der Hofe
(about 1612)



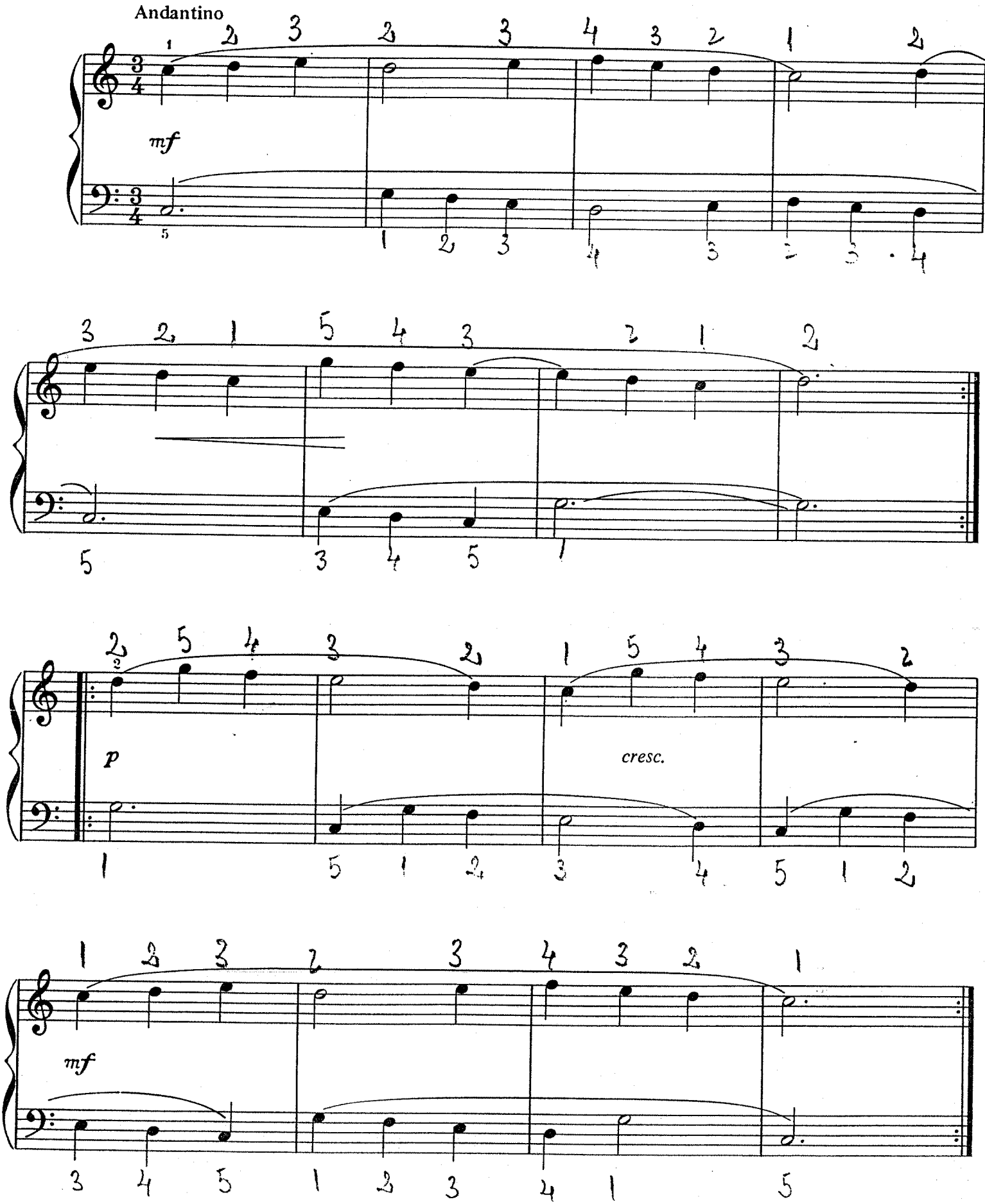
Little Sonata

1. Moderato

C. H. Wilton
(18th Century)

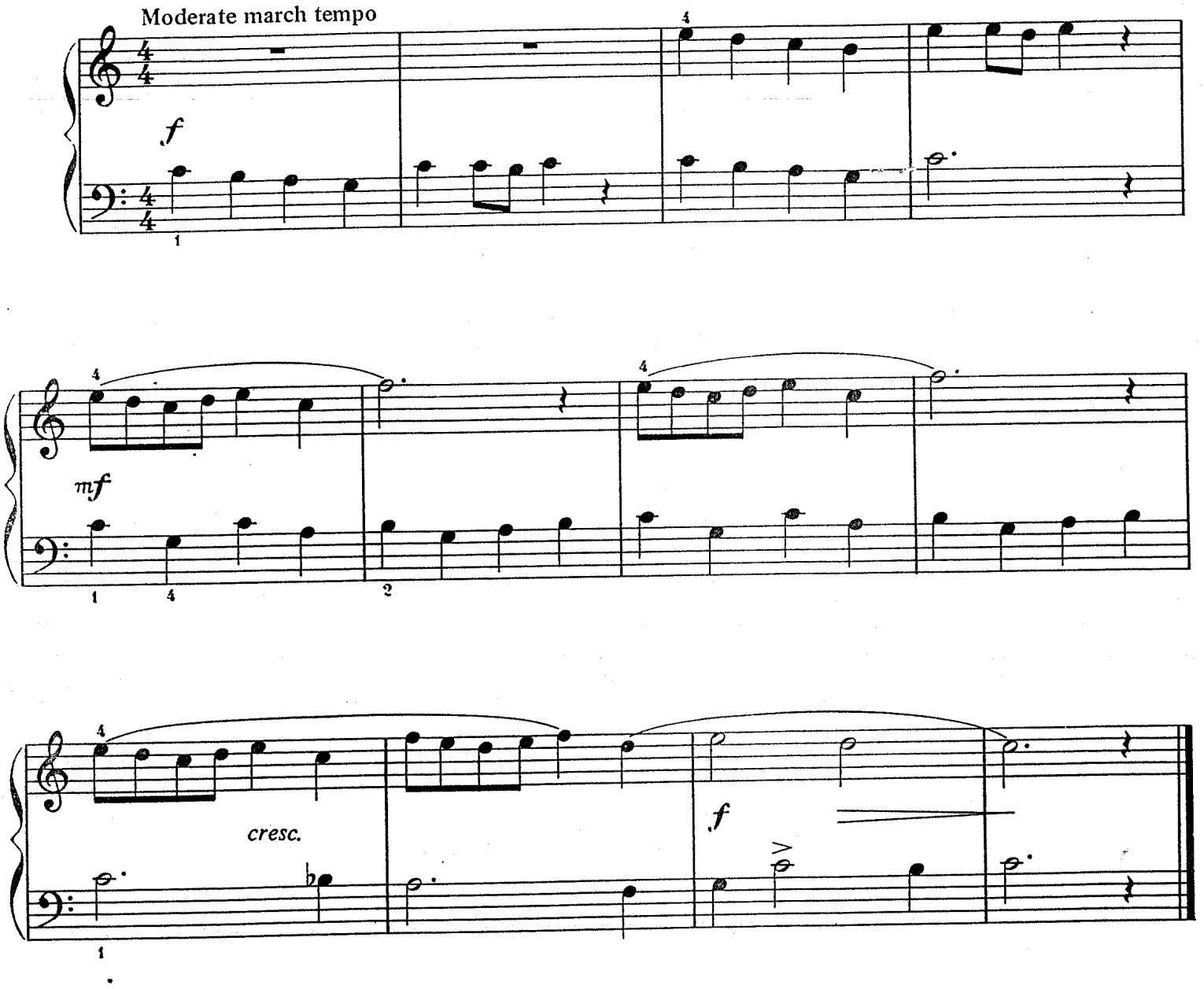


2. Minuetto



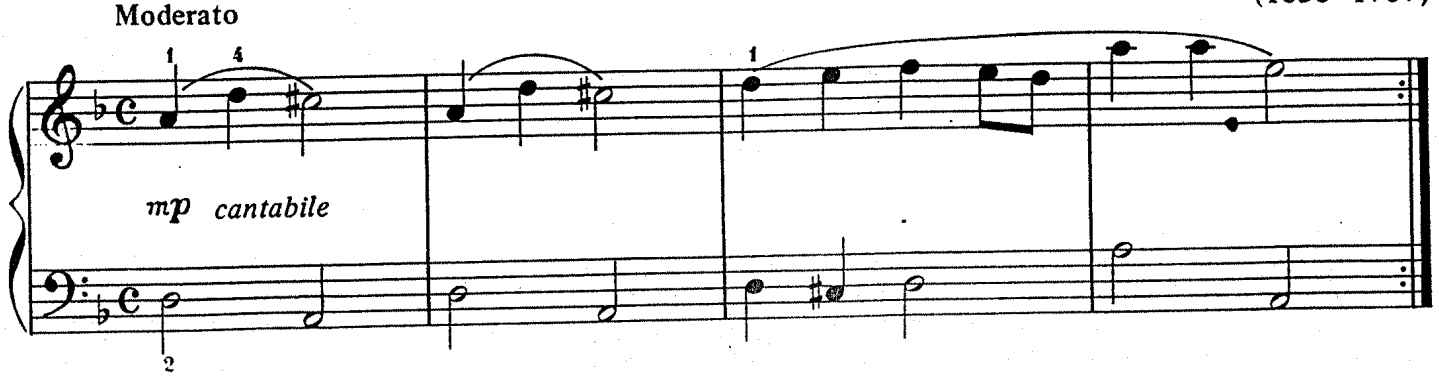
Brave Knight

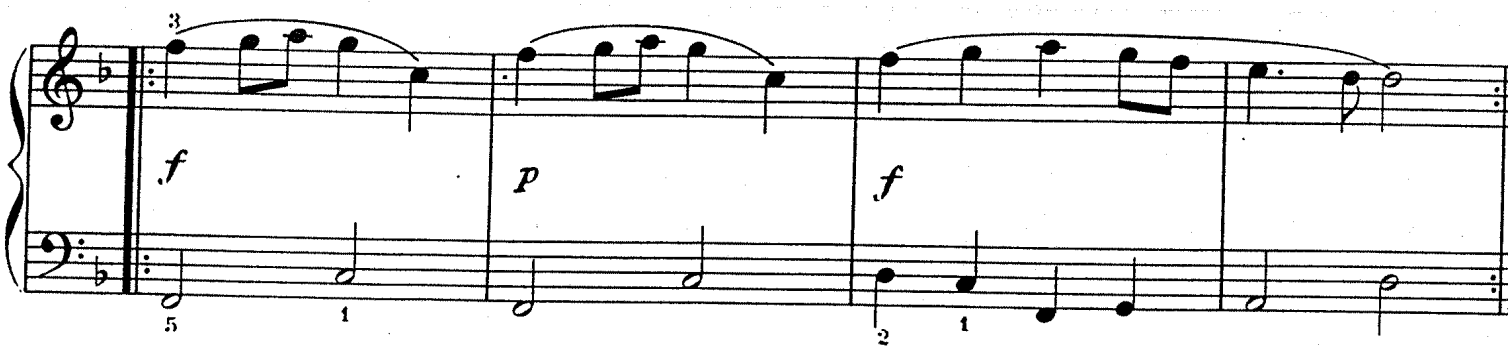
Moritz Vogel
(1846 - 1922)



Aria

Daniel Speer
(1636 - 1707)

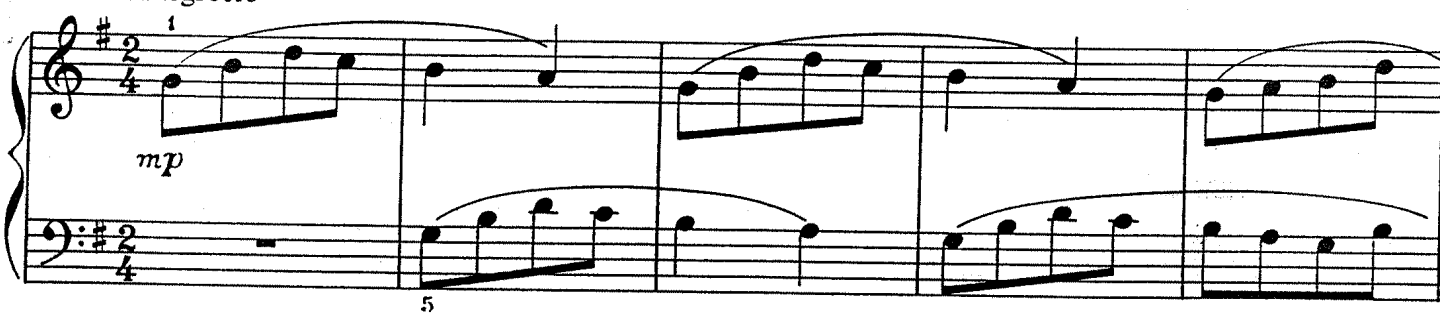


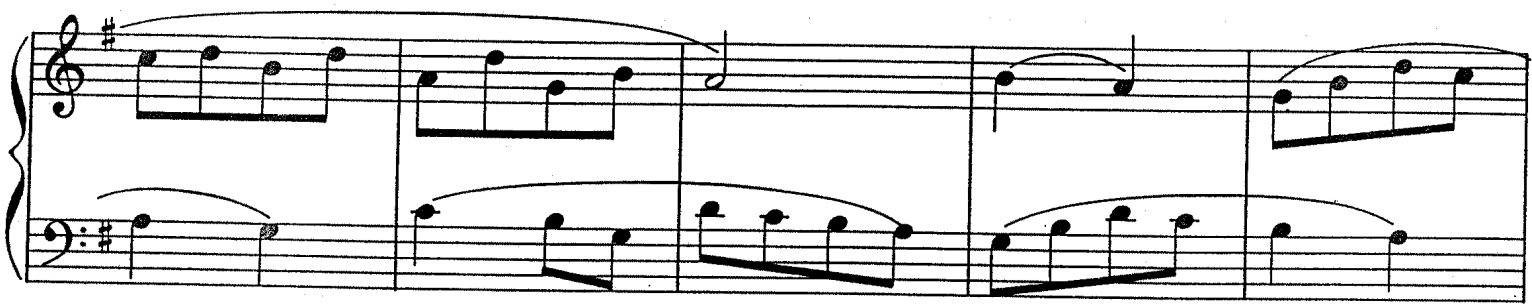


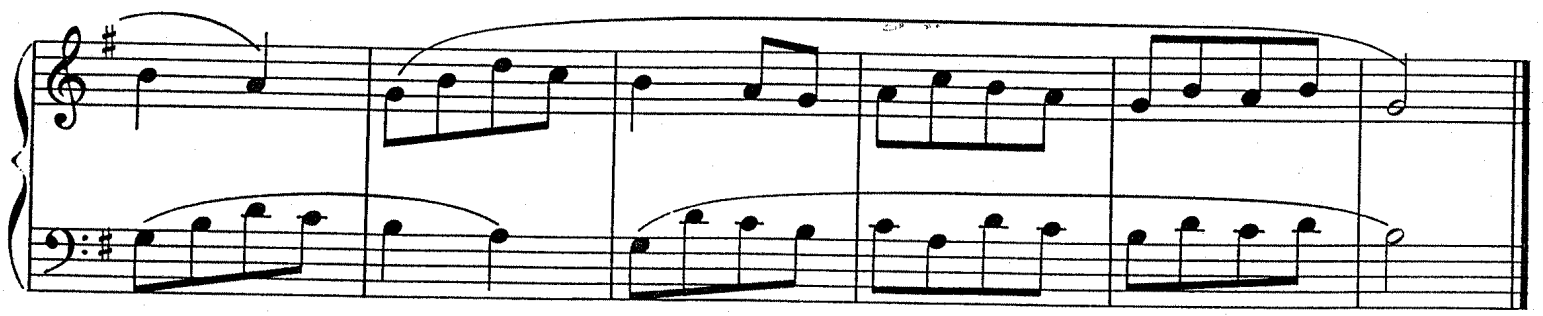
Follow Me!

Kálmán Chován*
(1852 - 1928)

Allegretto







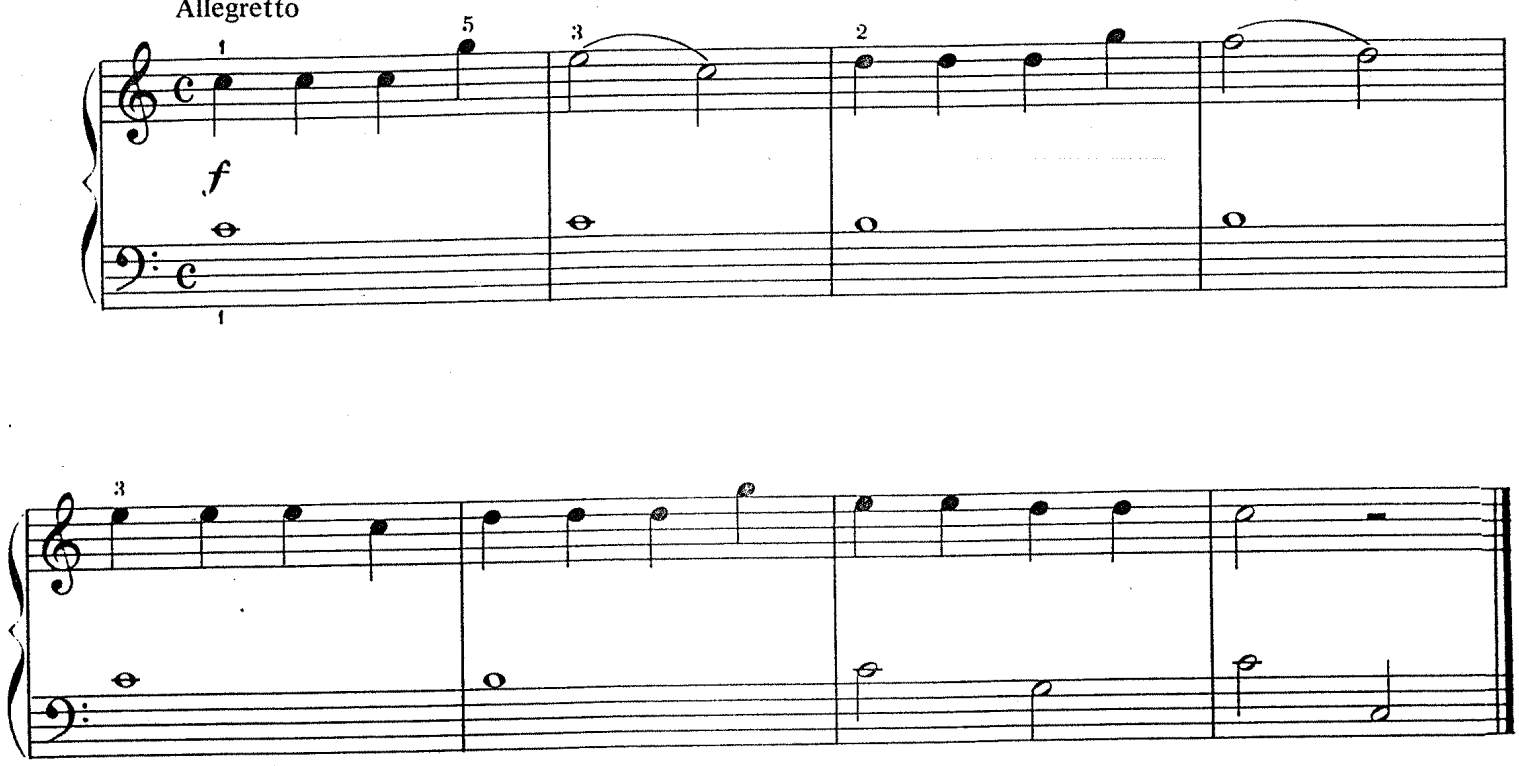
* Pronounced KHO-vahn. Hungarian composer and influential pedagogue.

Four Little Pieces

1. Entreé

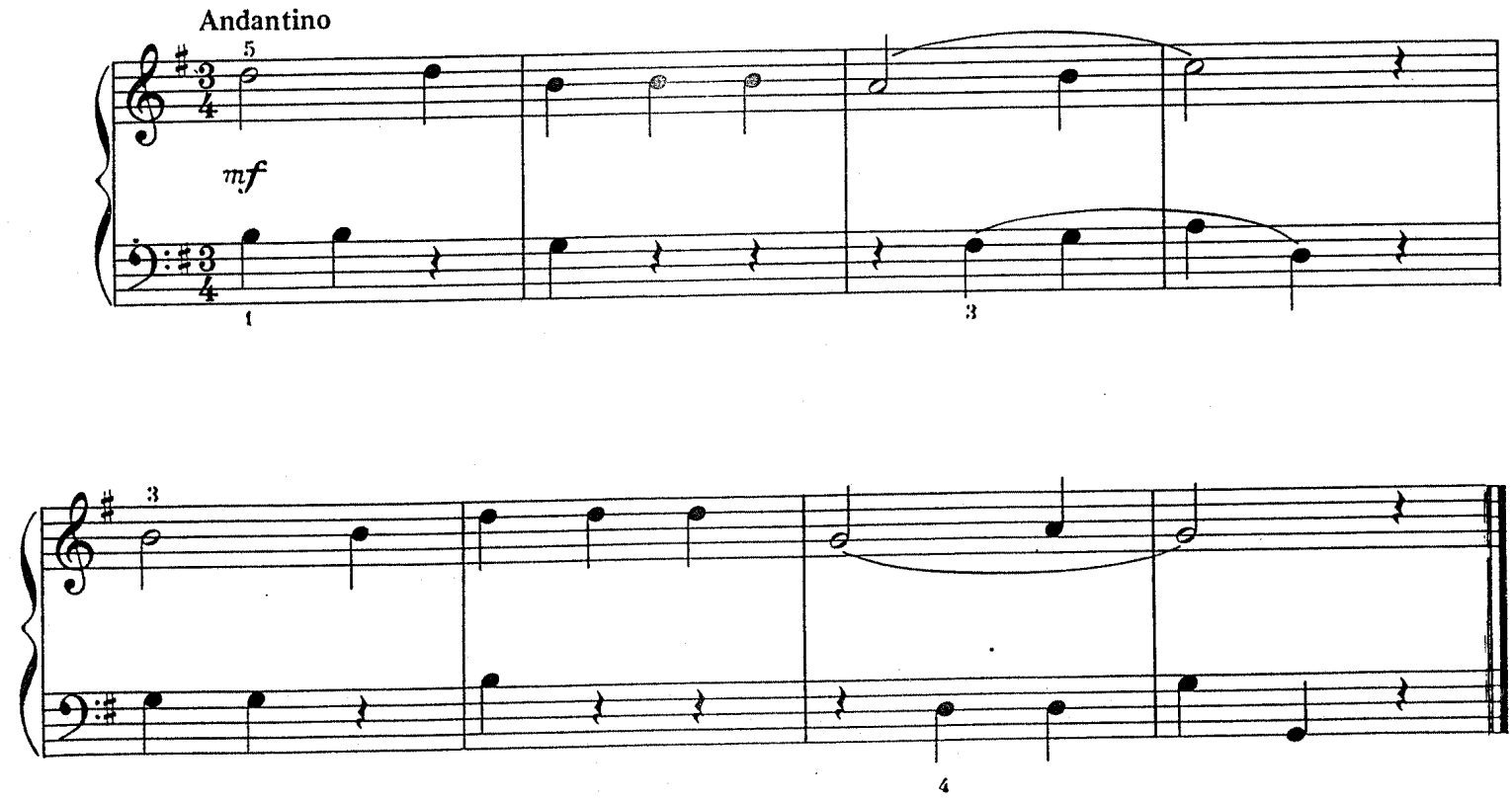
Daniel Gottlob Türk
(1756 - 1813)

Allegretto

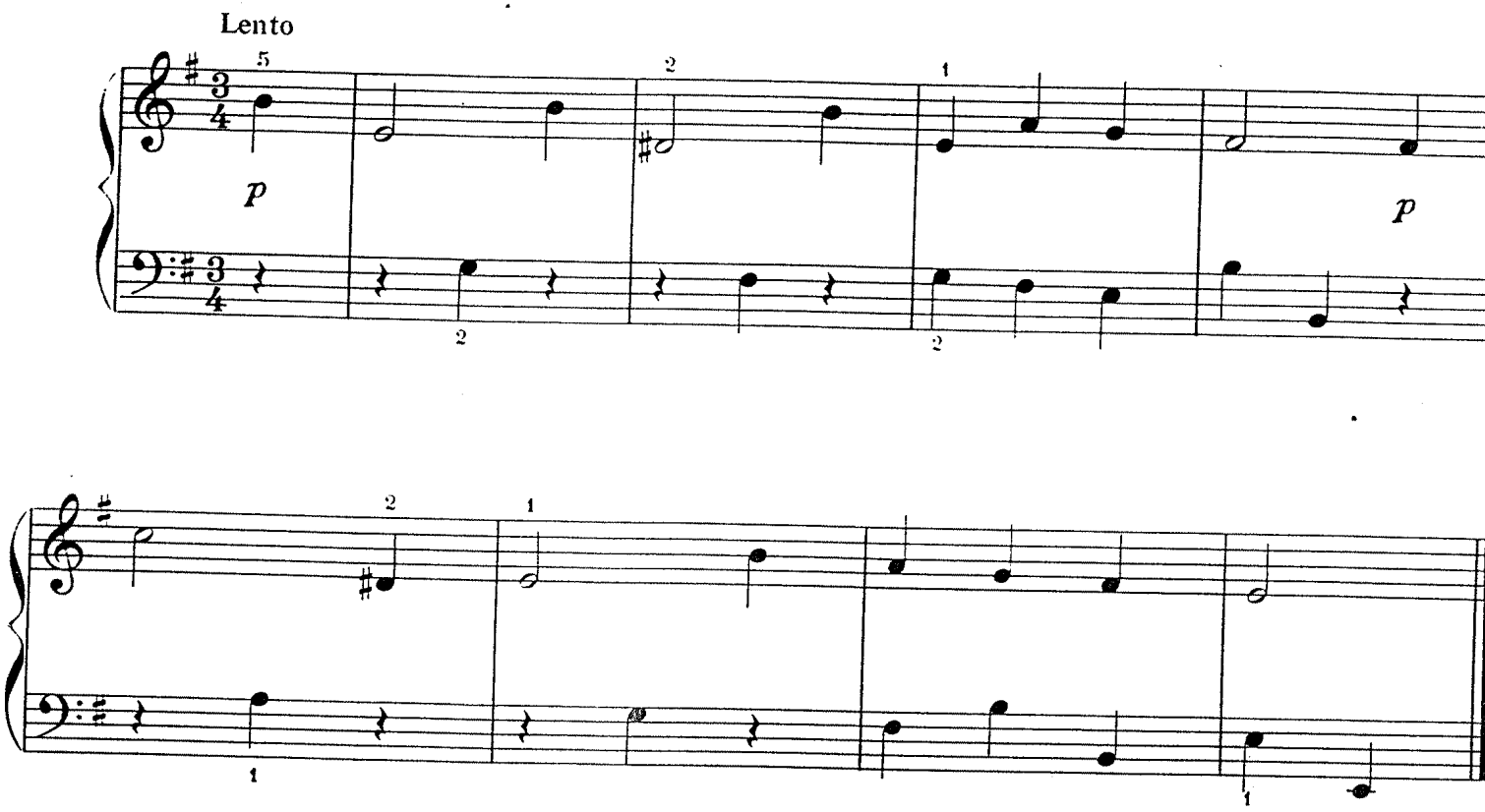


2. Minuetto

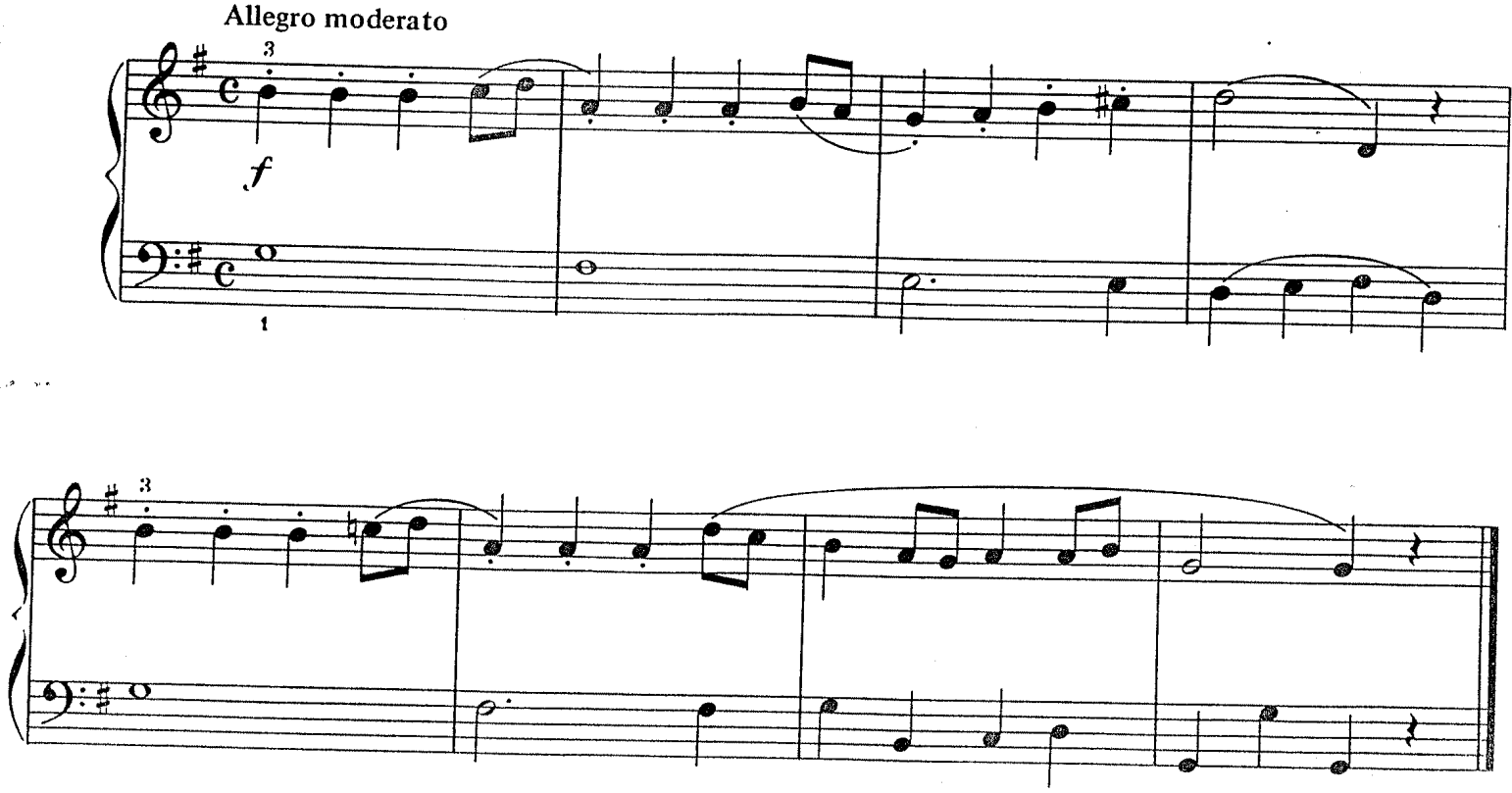
Andantino



3. Complaint

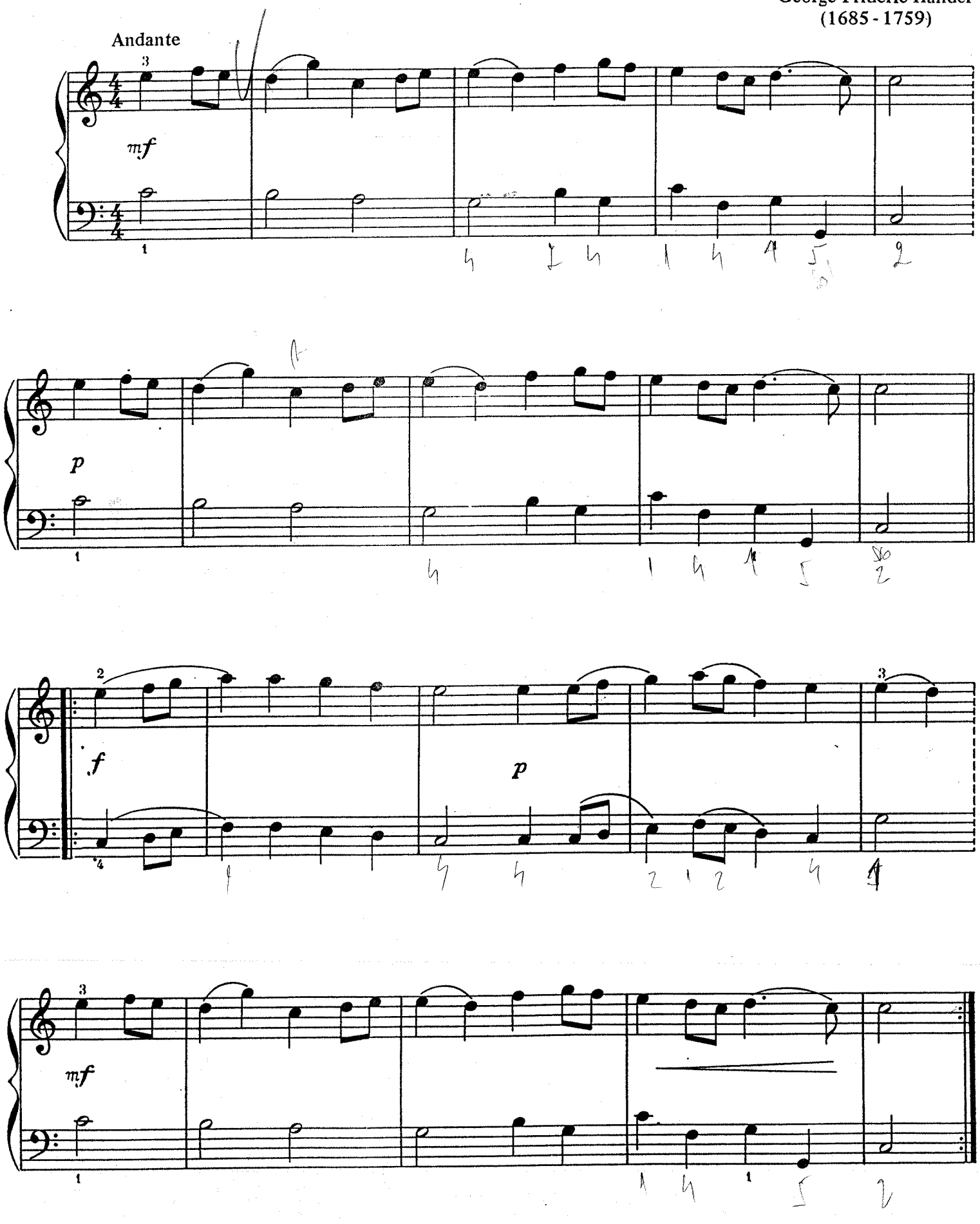


4. Carefree



Gavotte

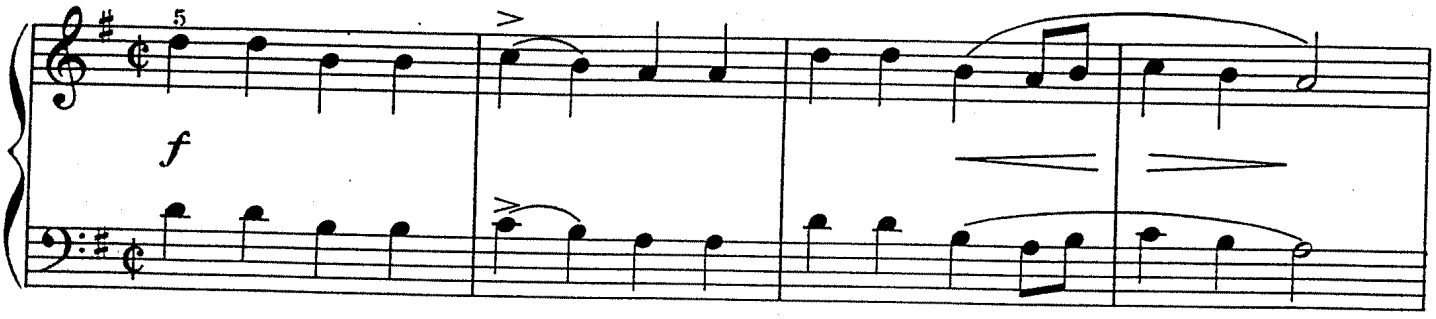
George Frideric Handel
(1685 - 1759)

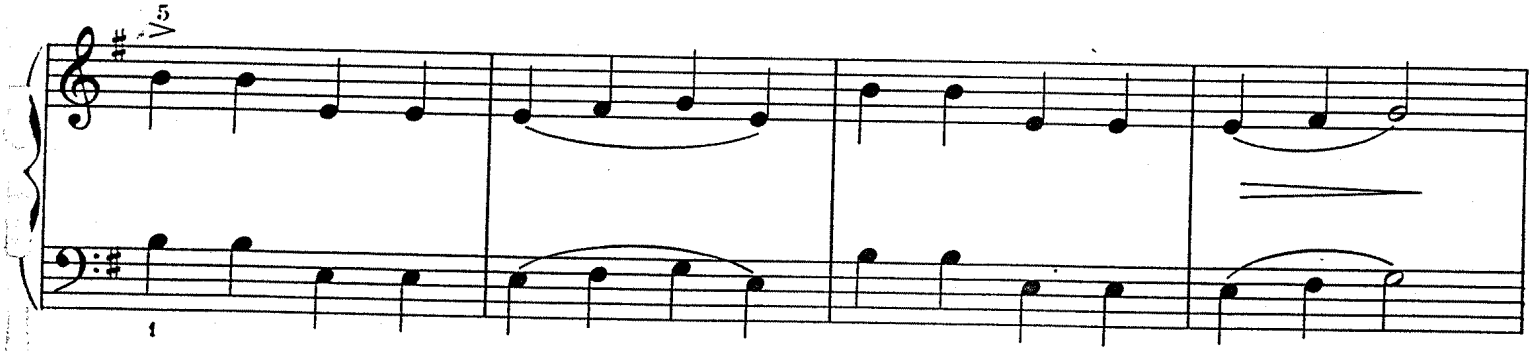


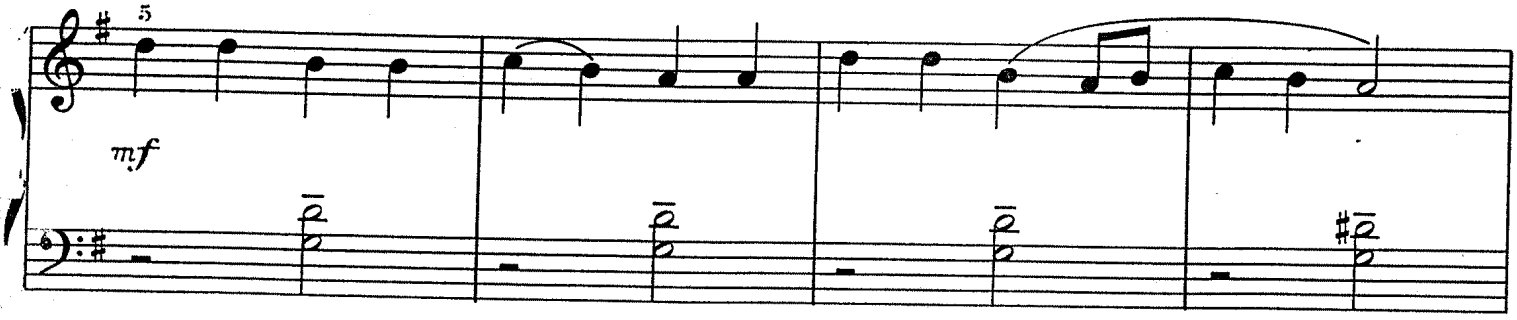
Russian Dance

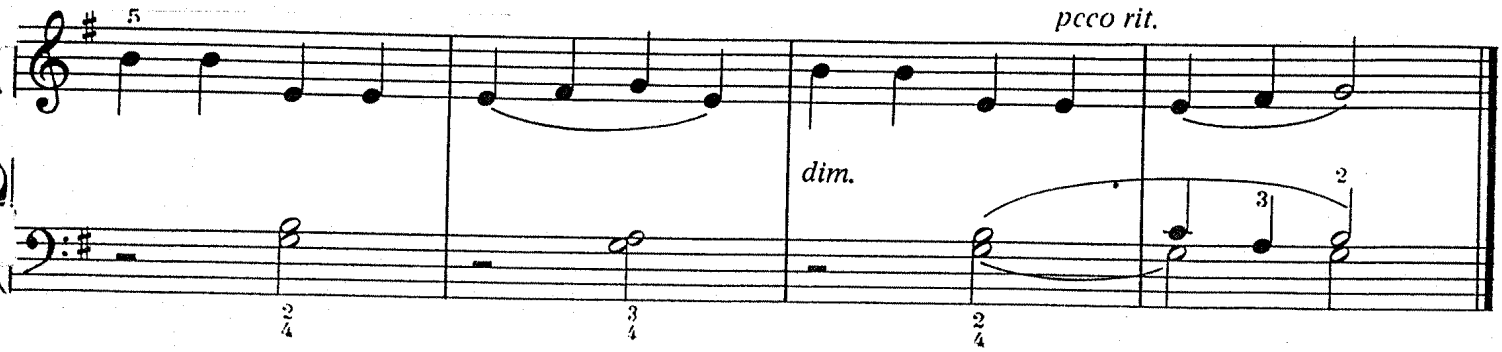
Allegro moderato

Alexander Goedicke
(1877 - 1957)







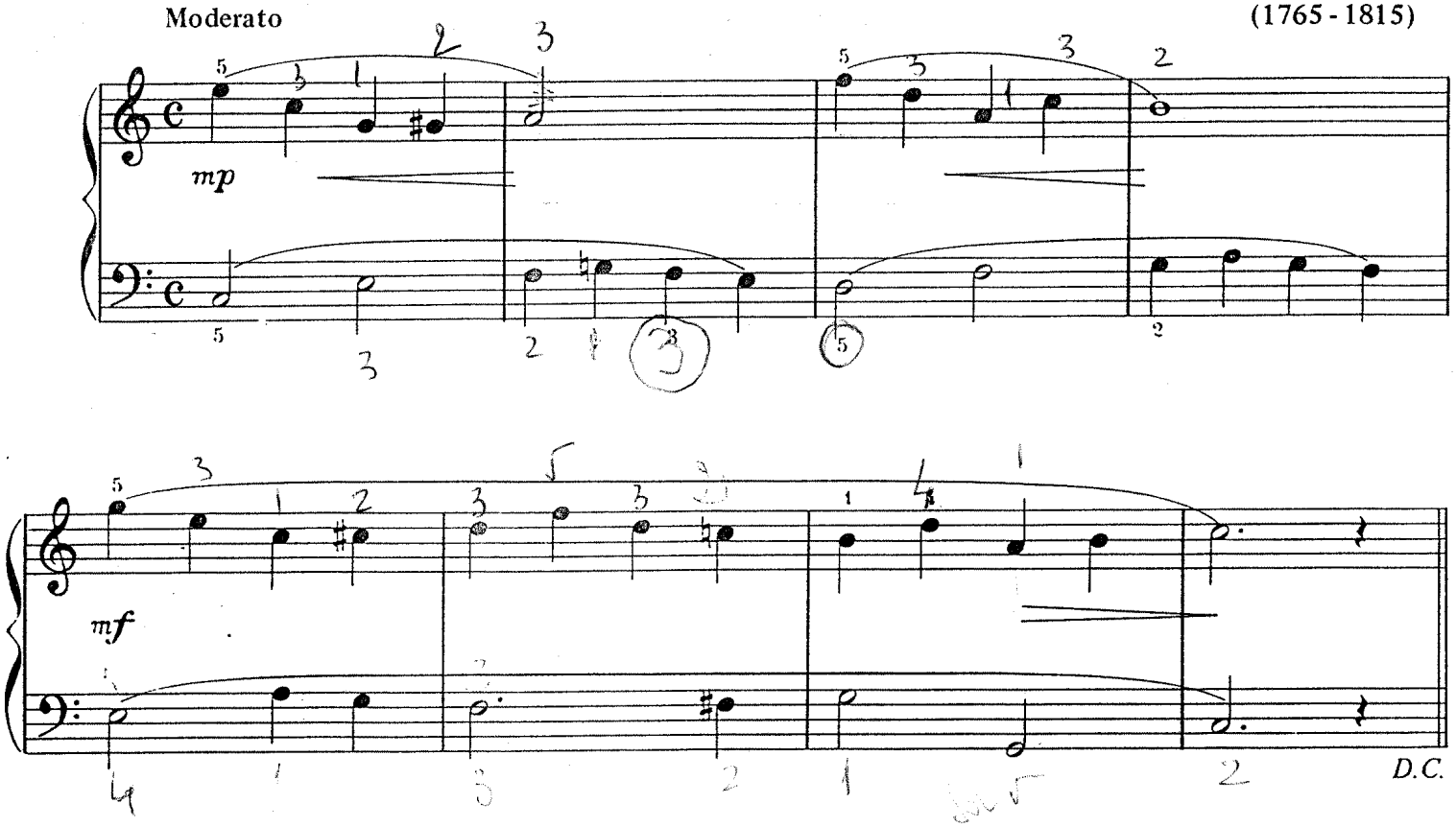


Two Little Inventions

1.

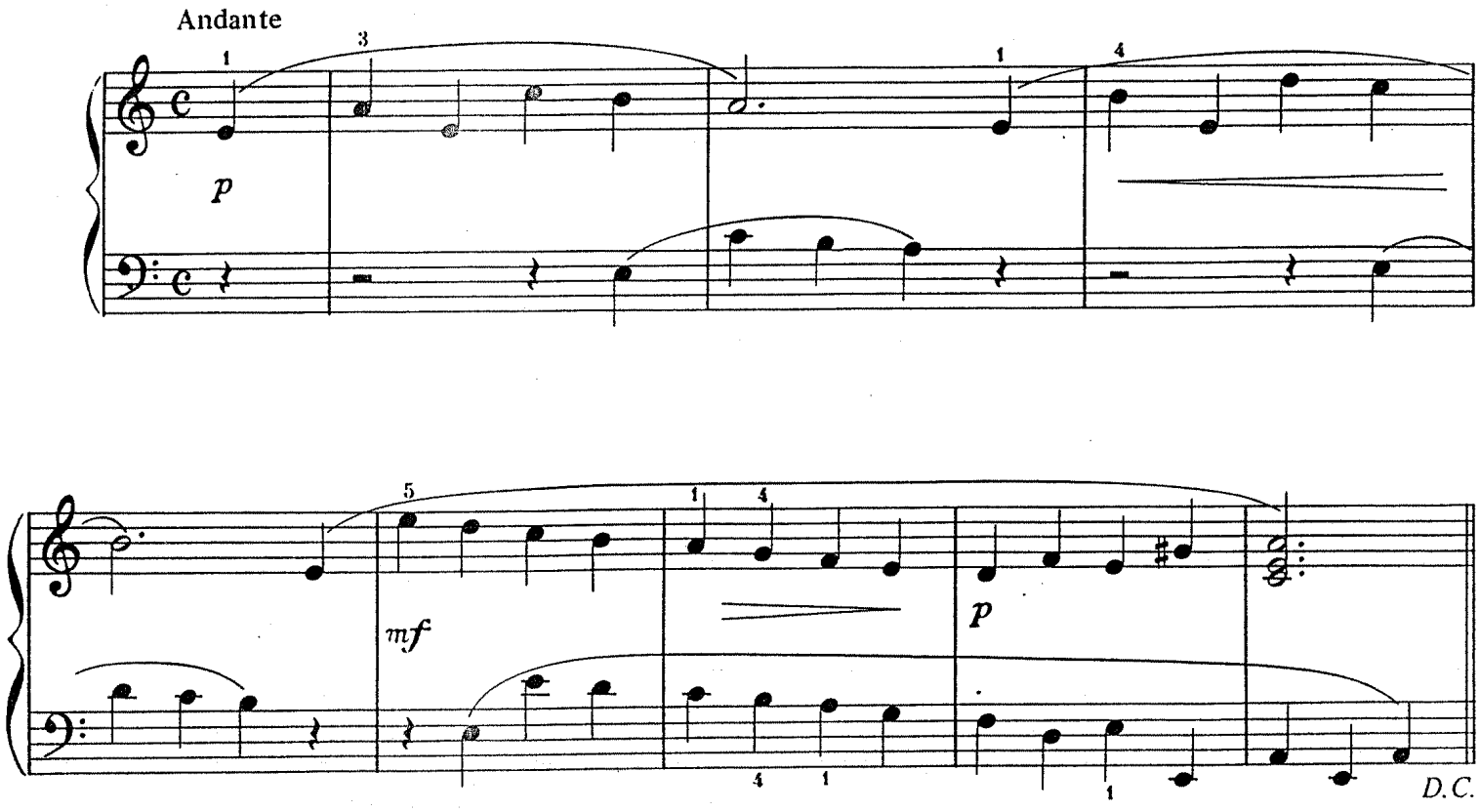
Jan Jakub Ryba*
(1765 - 1815)

Moderato



2.

Andante

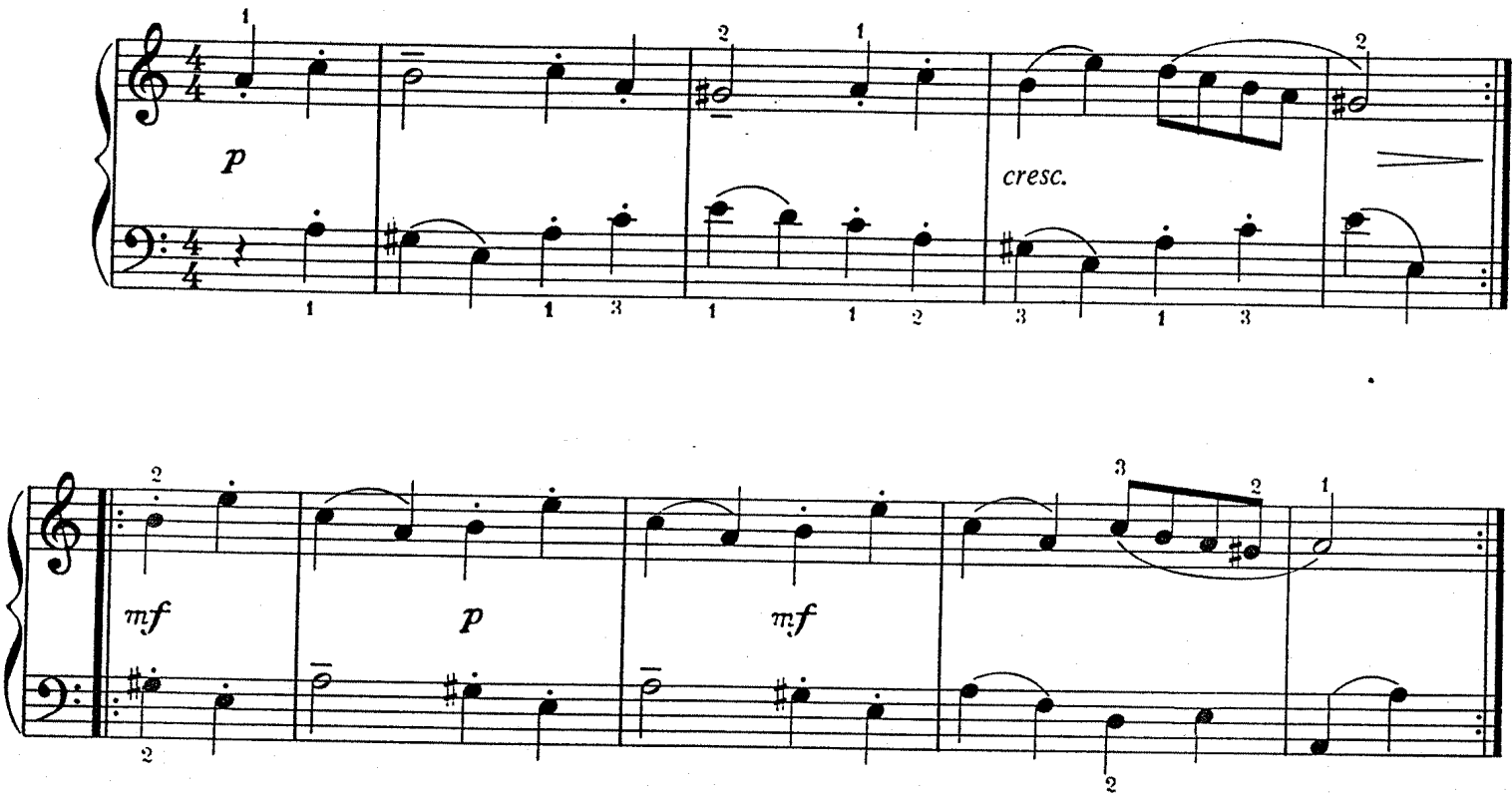


* Pronounced REE - bah. Czech composer of many works, mostly vocal.

Gavotte

Johann Georg Witthauer
(1750 - 1802)

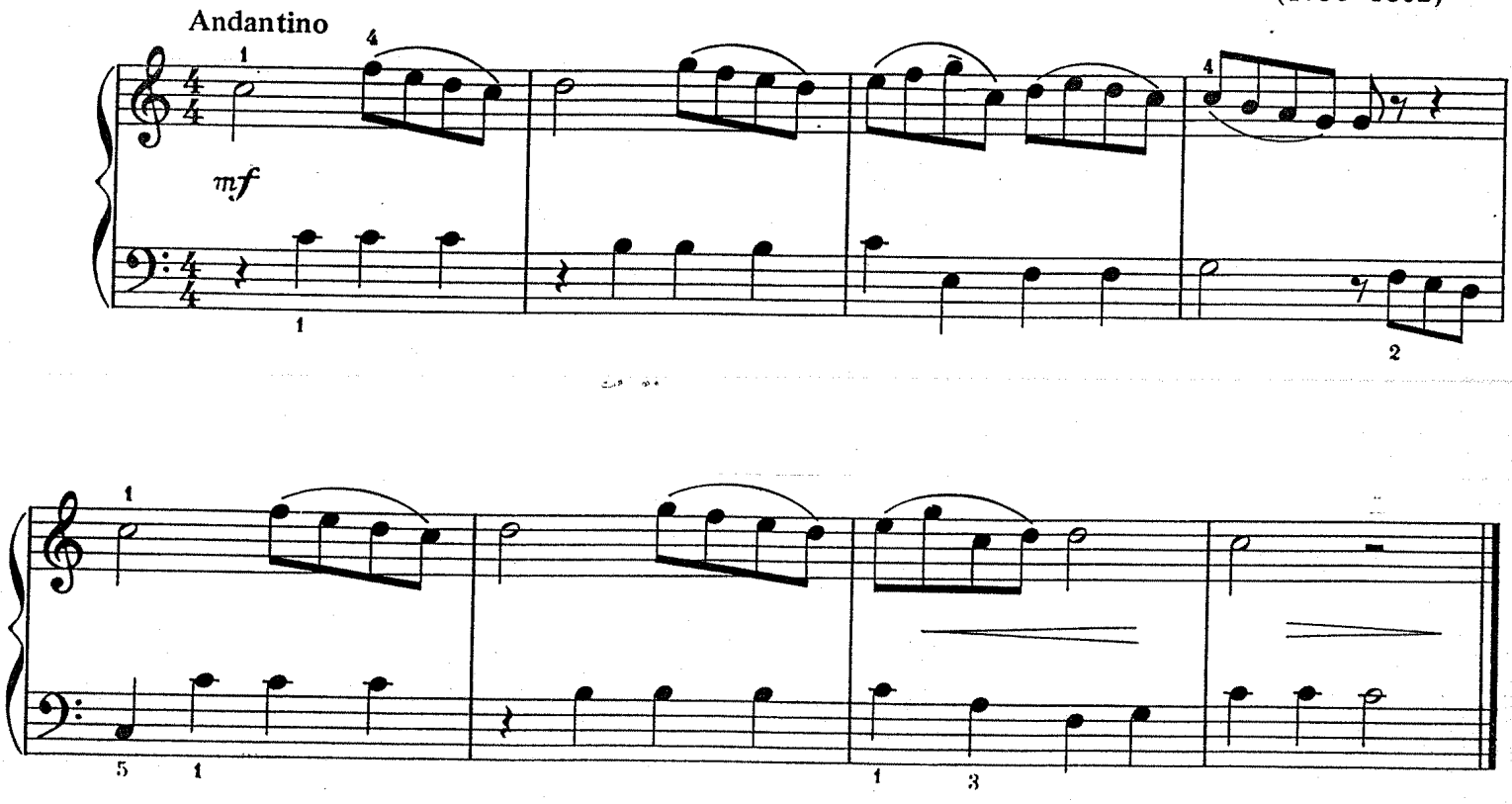
Andante



Danse Galante

Johann Georg Witthauer
(1750 - 1802)

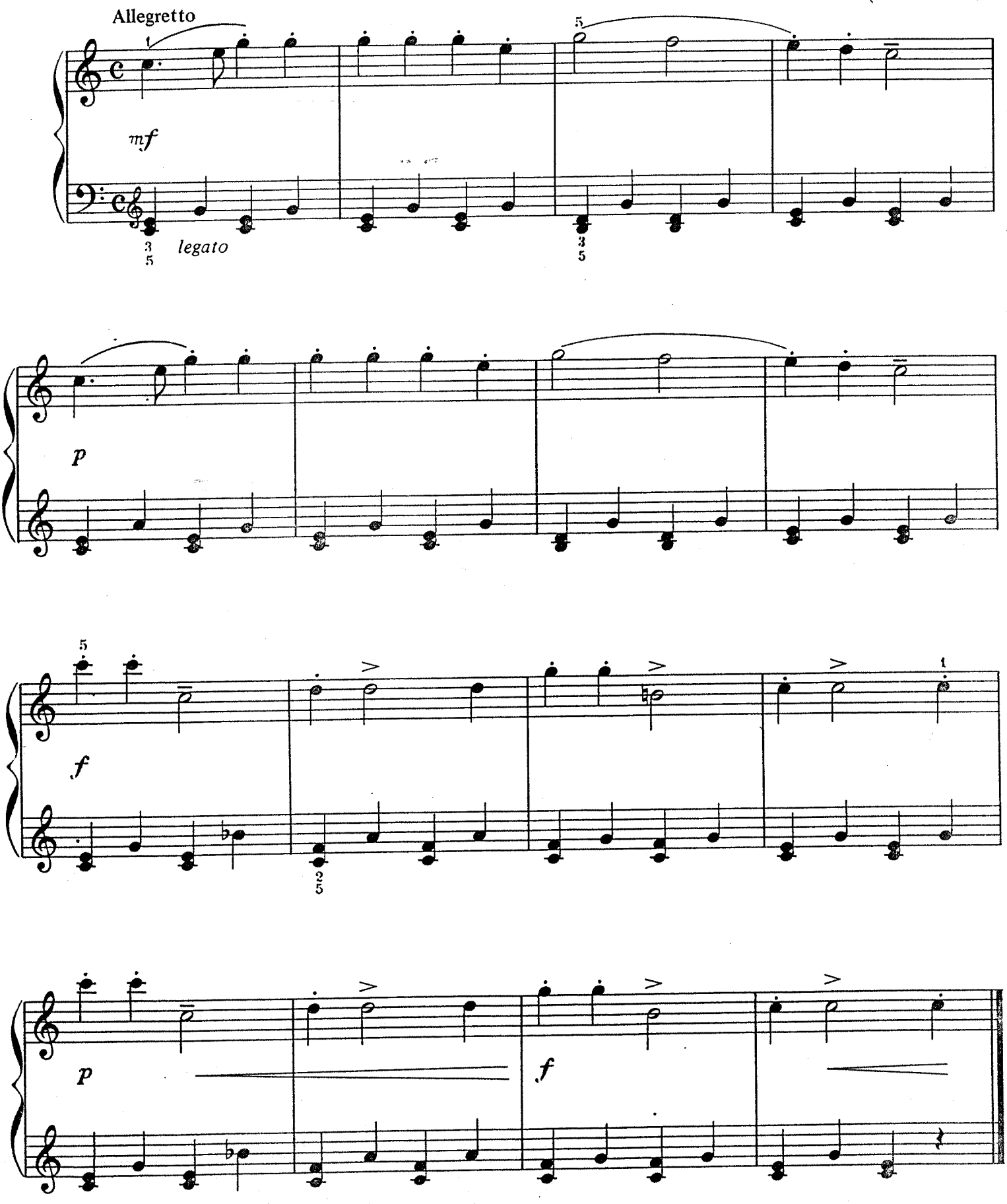
Andantino



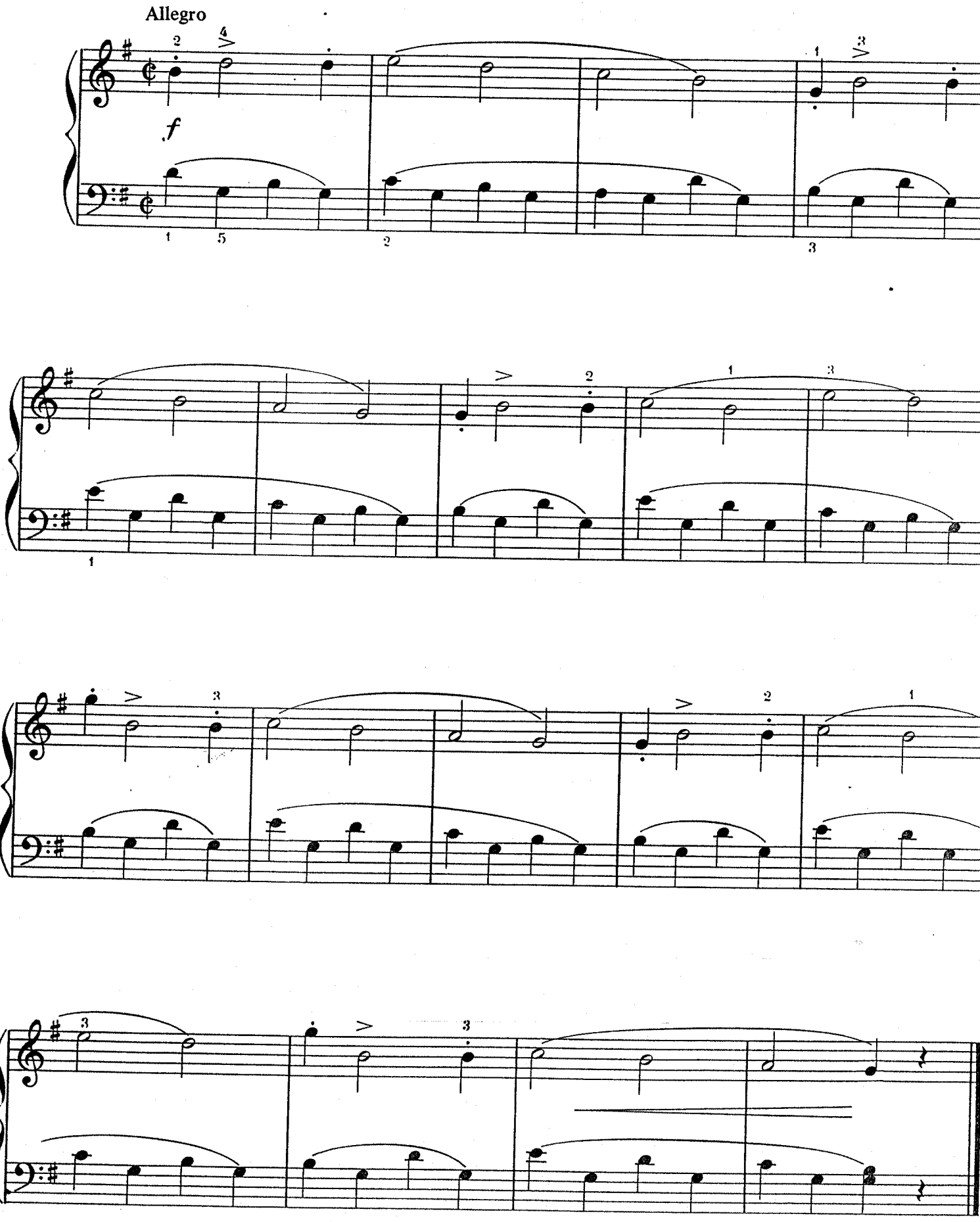
Two Hungarian Play Tunes

1.

István Bartálus
(1821 - 1899)



2.

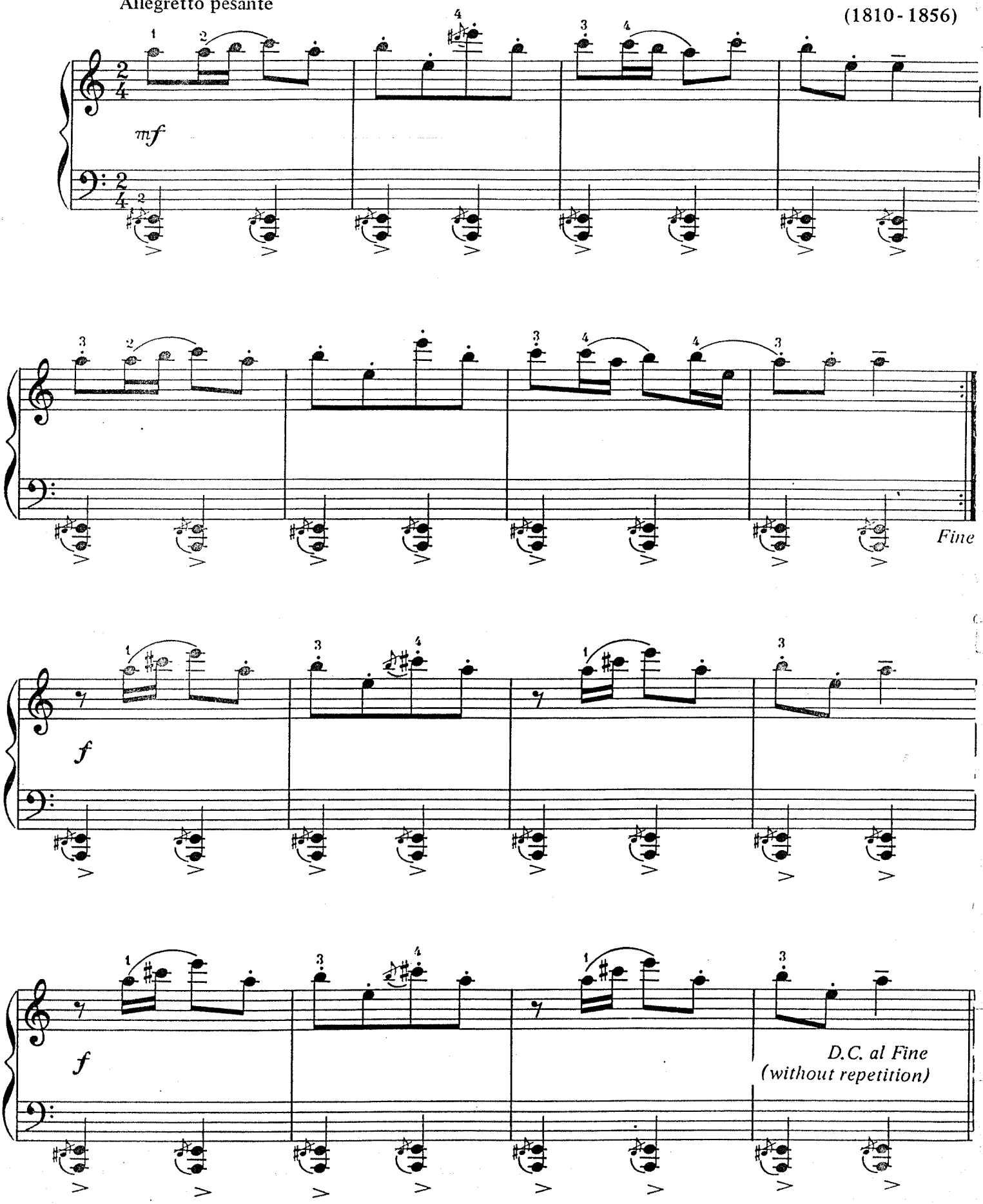


Bear Dance

from the sketch book for Album For The Young

Allegretto pesante

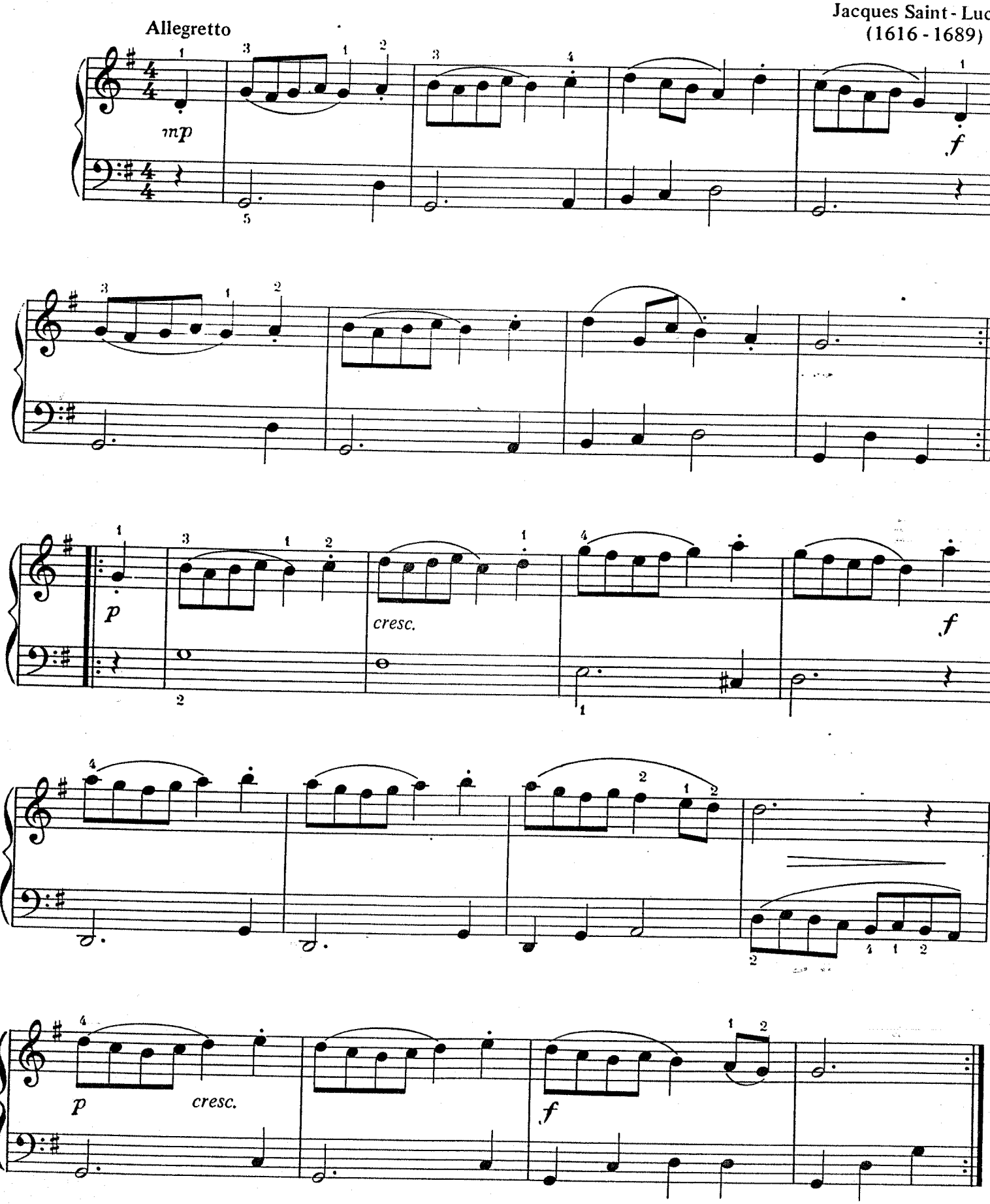
Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)



The Lute Player

Bourré

Jacques Saint - Luc
(1616 - 1689)

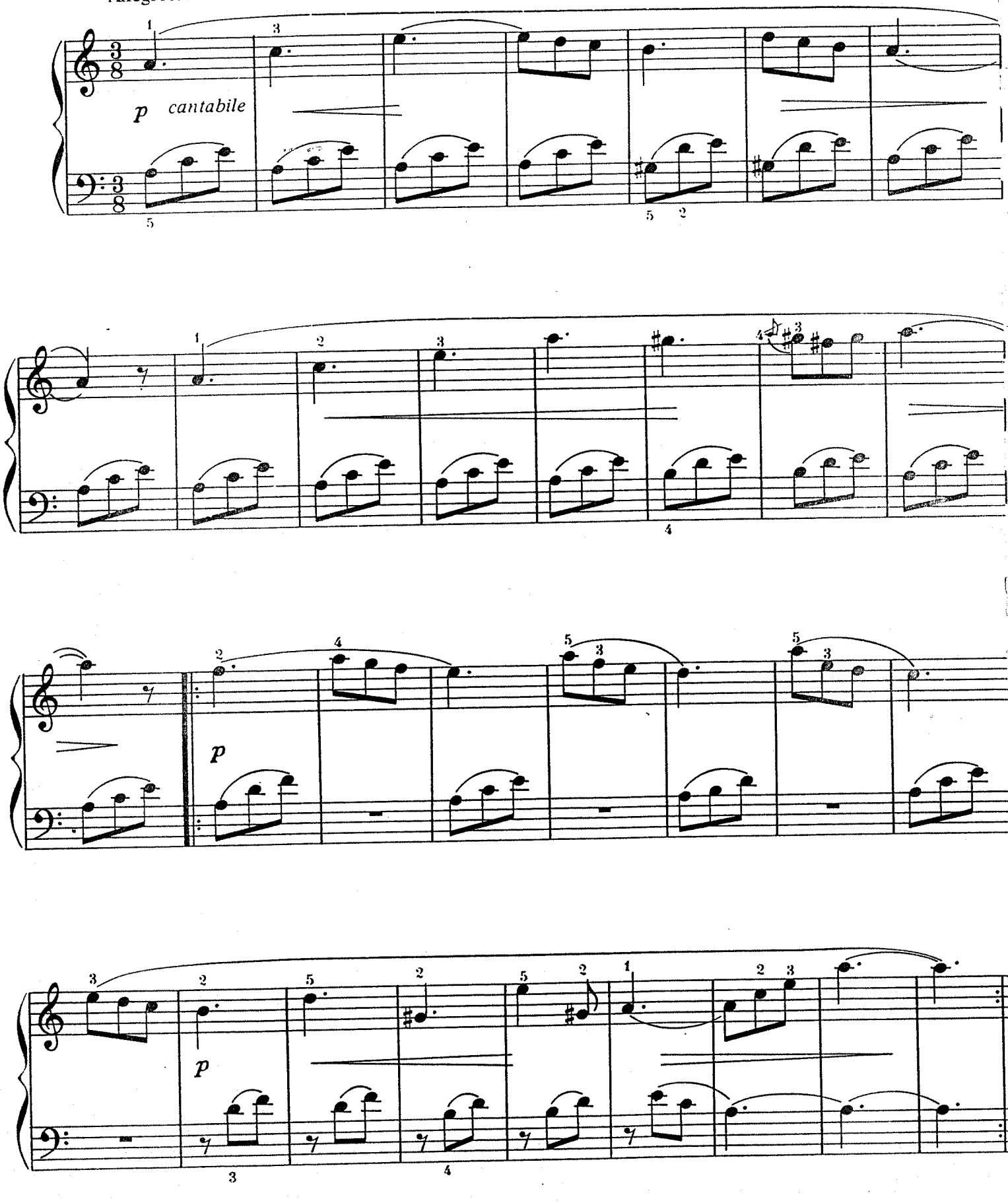


* Pronounced San - Lueck. Belgian composer and virtuoso on the lute.

Song Without Words

Fritz Spindler
(1817 - 1905)

Allegretto

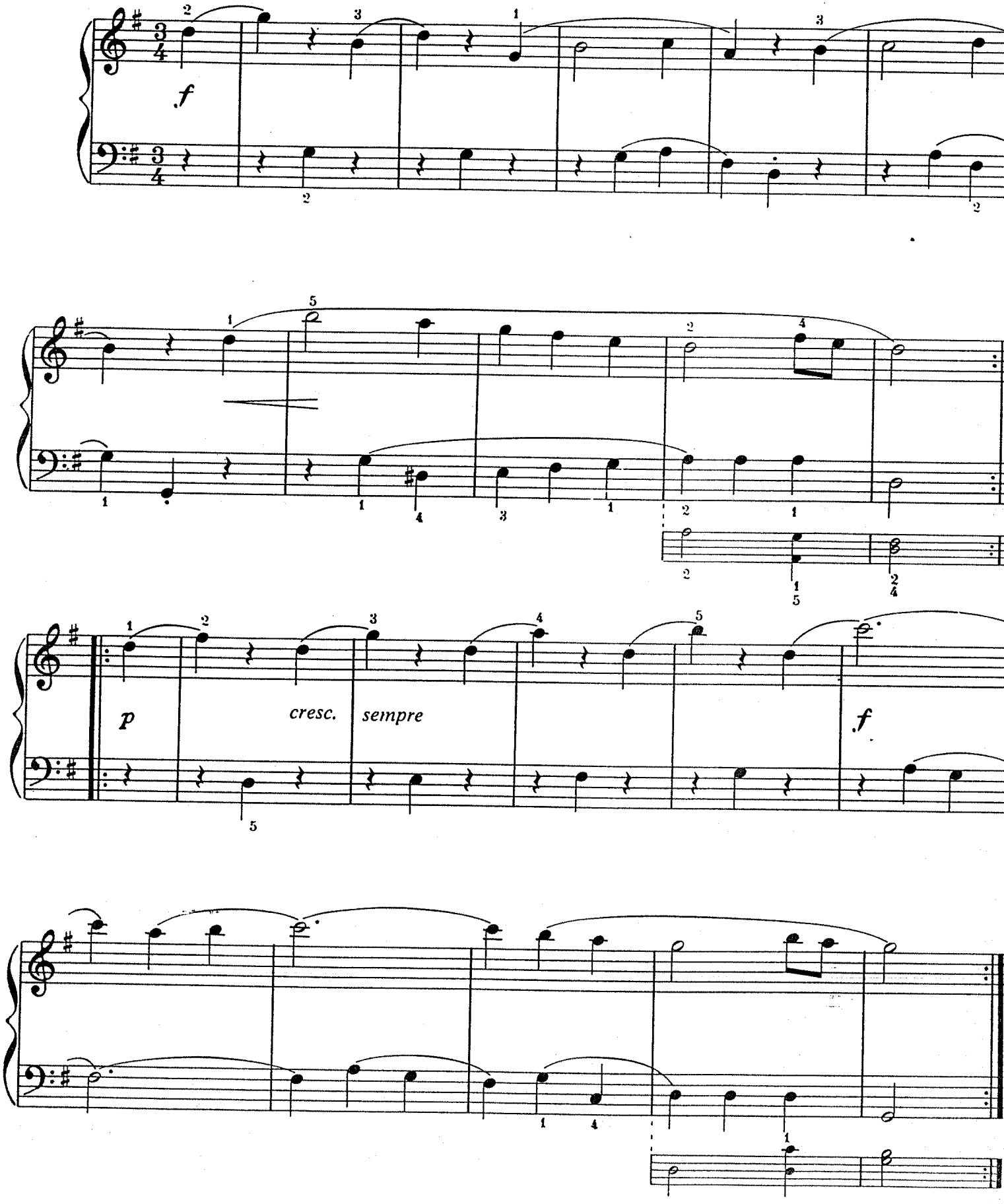


Exuberance

German Dance

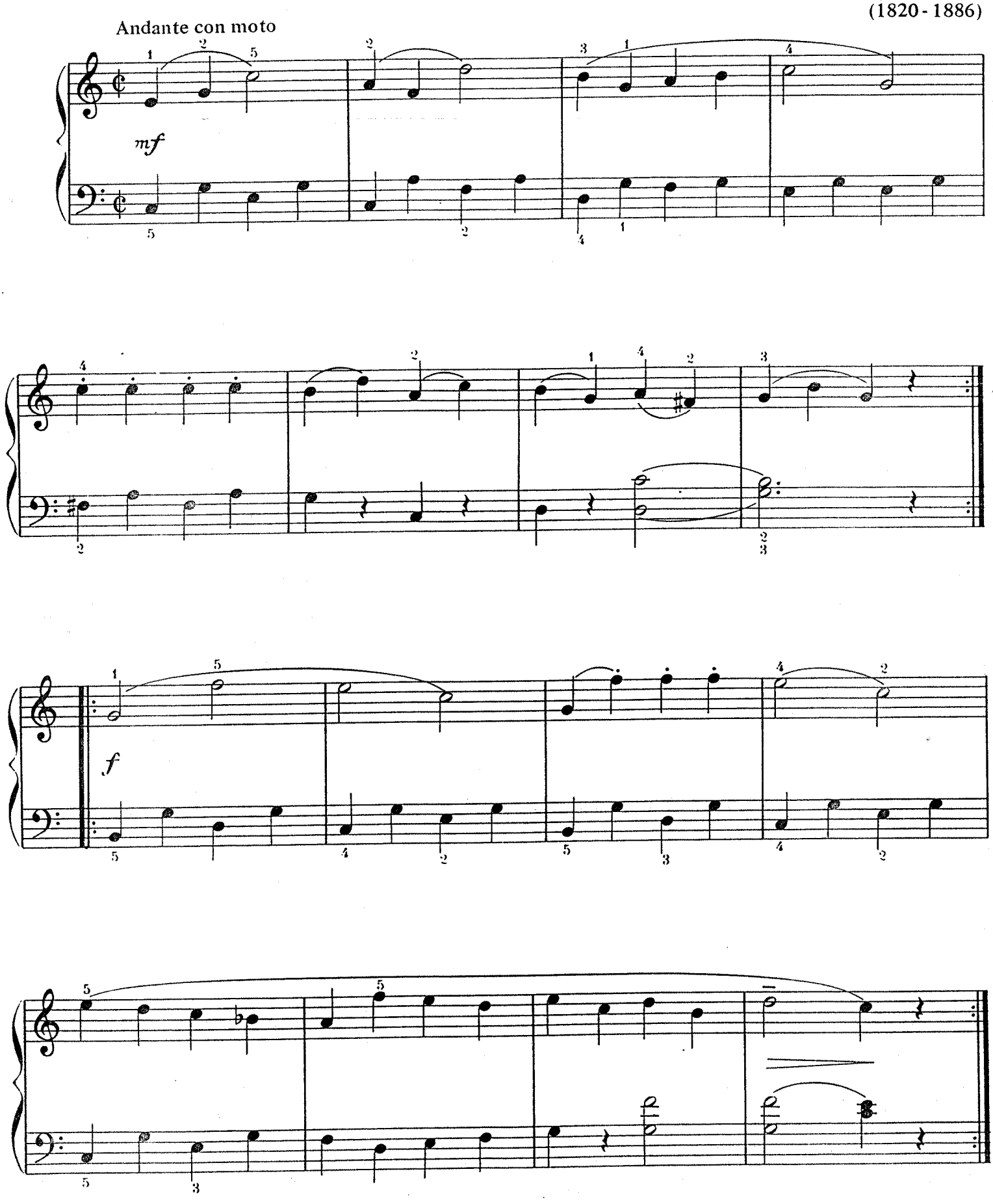
Nikolaus Joseph Hüllmand
(1751 - 1823)

Allegro



Carefree Stroll

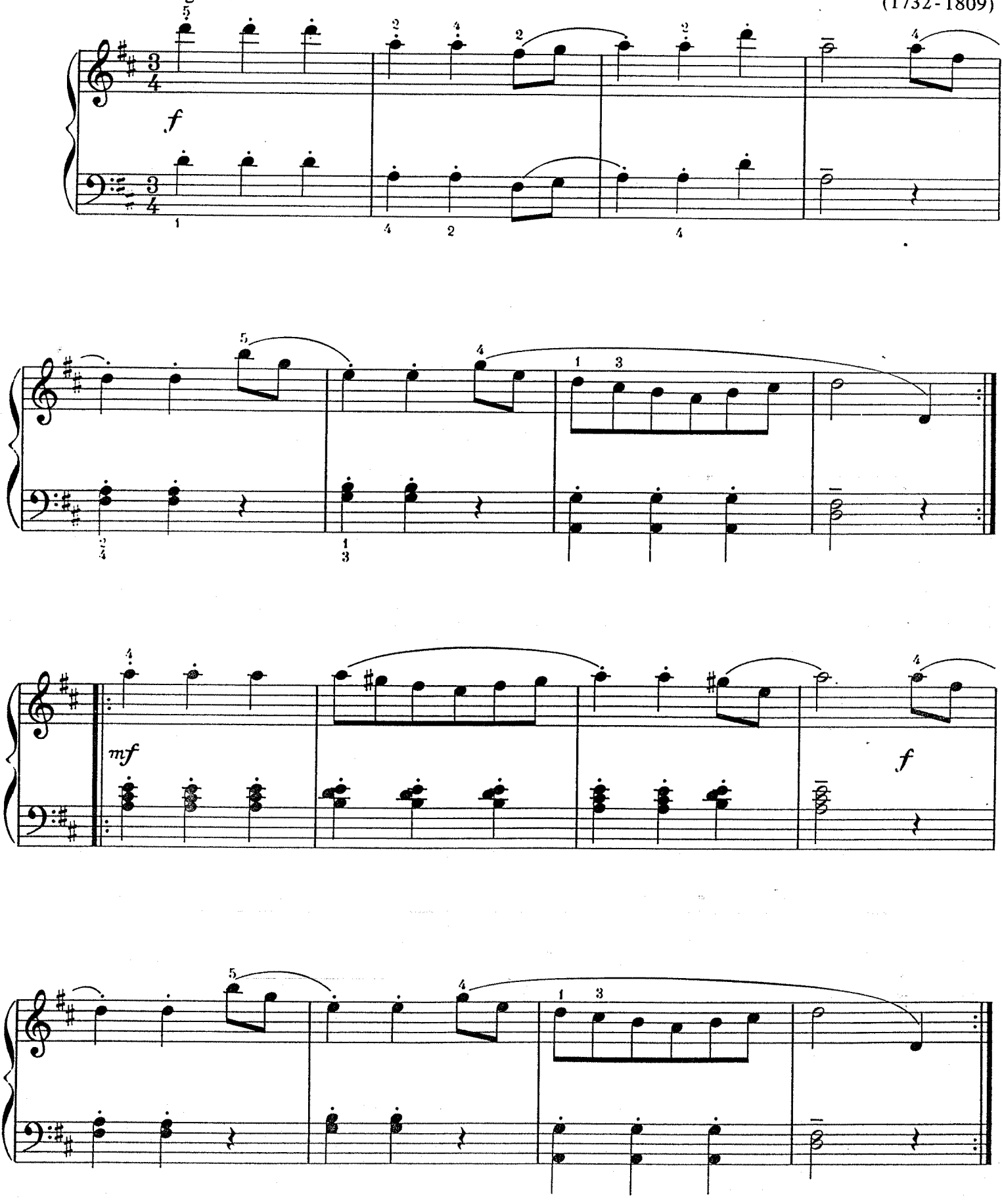
Louis Köhler
(1820 - 1886)



German Dance

Joseph Haydn
(1732 - 1809)

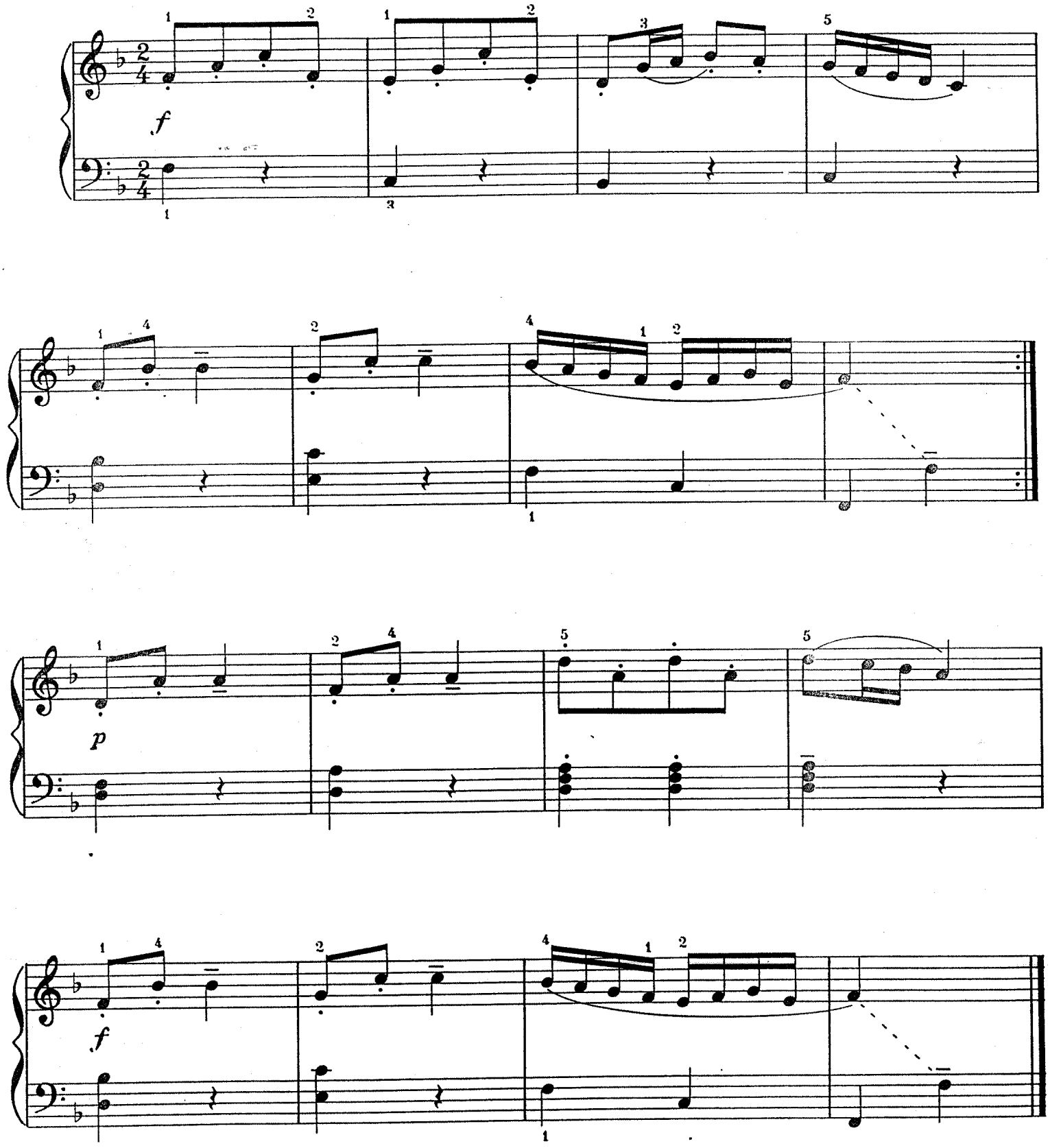
Allegretto



Dance Song

Sperontes (J. S. Scholze)* (1705 - 1750)

Andantino

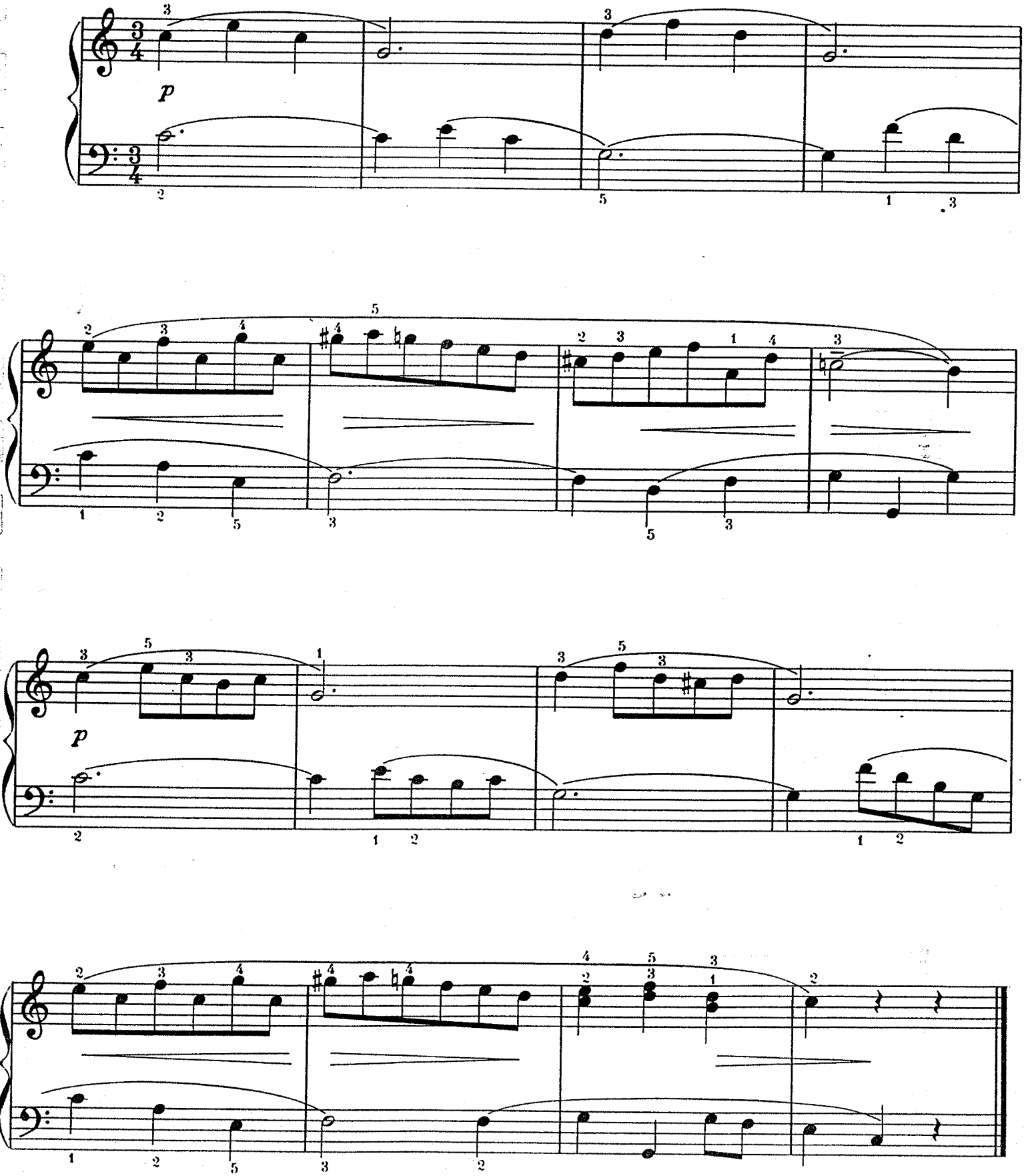


* German composer and poet. Famous lyricist and publisher of a collection of popular dance melodies.

Duettino

Johann Wilhelm Hässler
(1747 - 1822)

Andantino

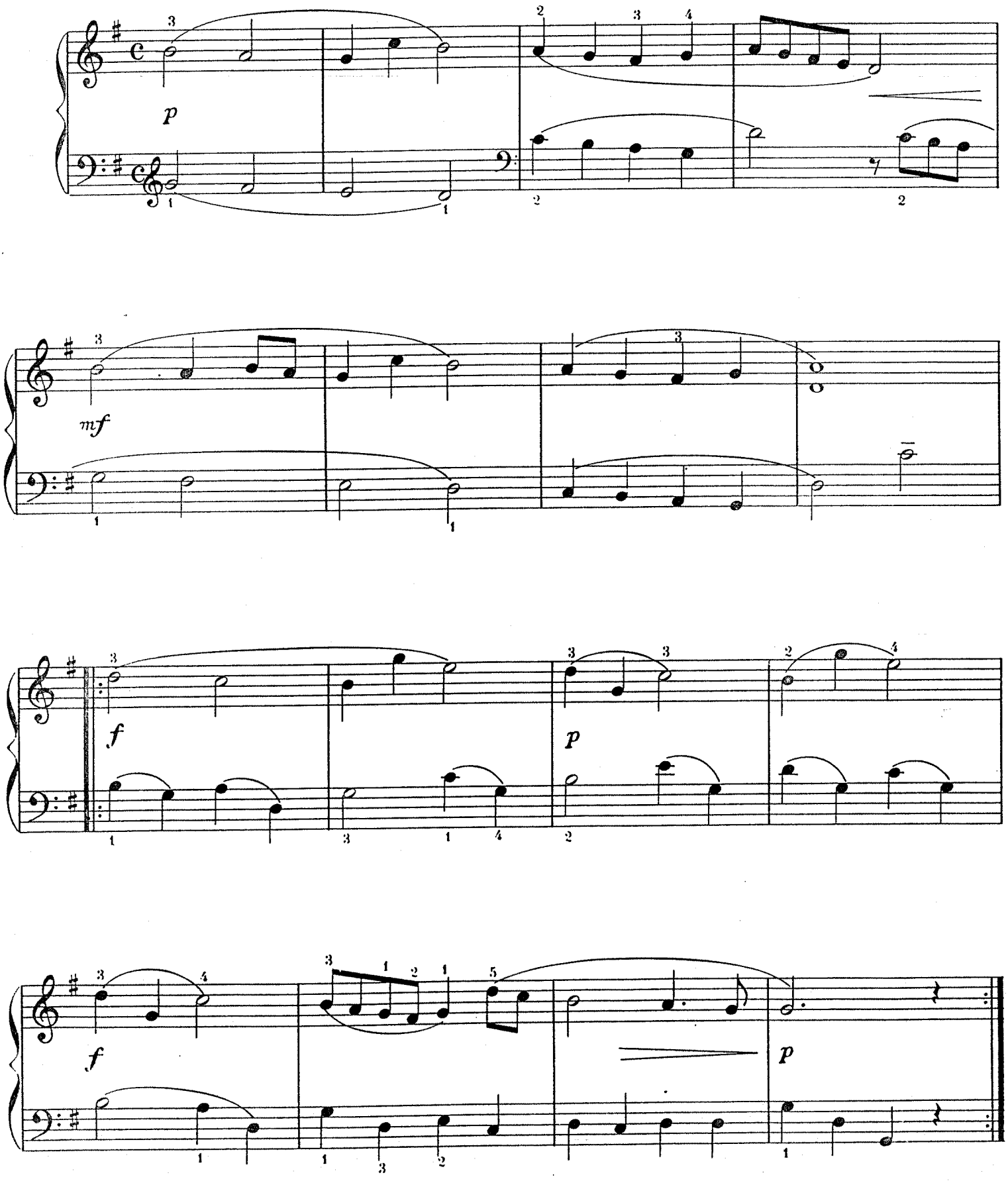


Old English Air

Felton's Gavotte

William Felton
(1713 - 1769)

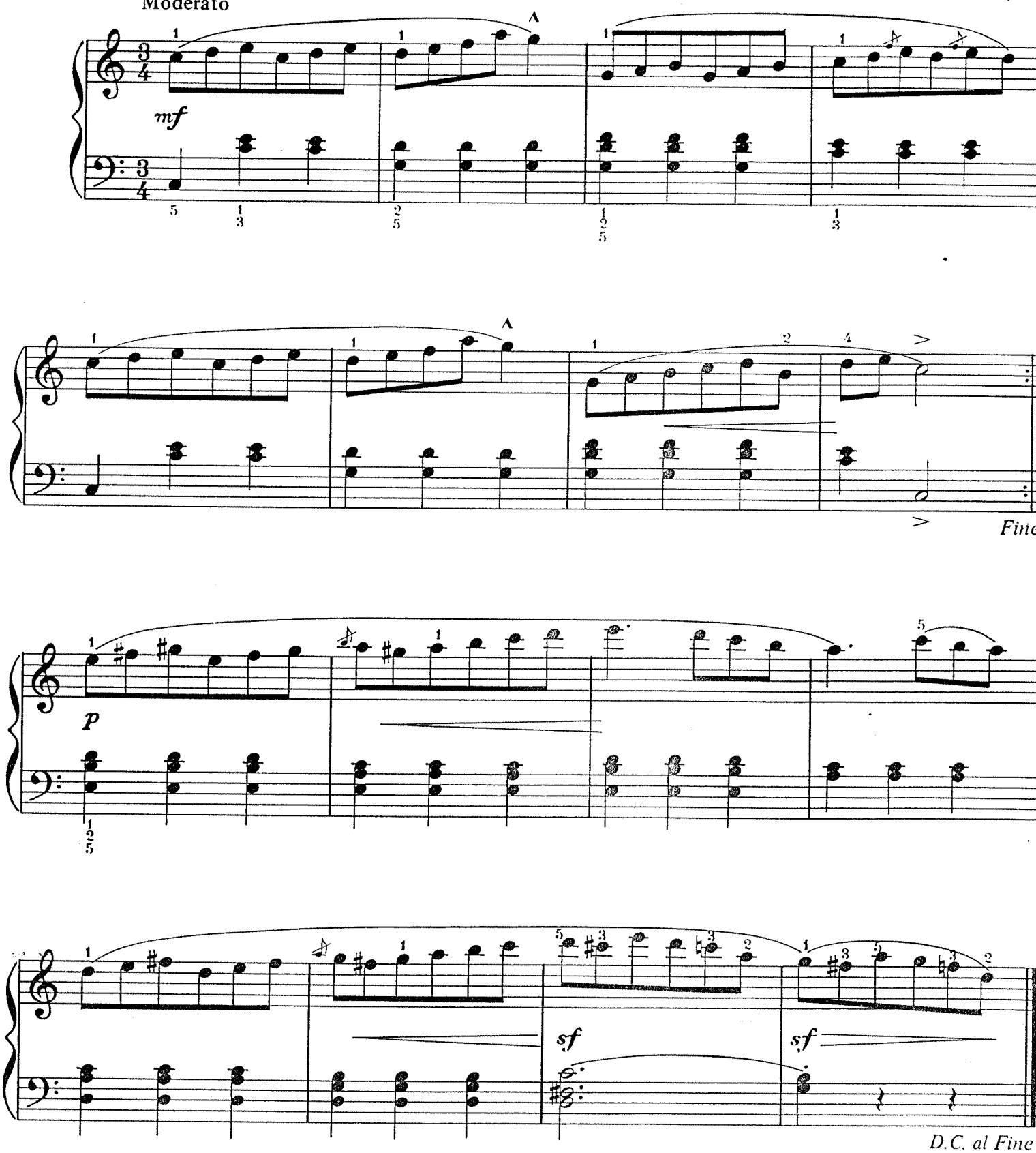
Andante grazioso



Mazurka

Maria Szymanowsk
(1790-1831)

Moderato

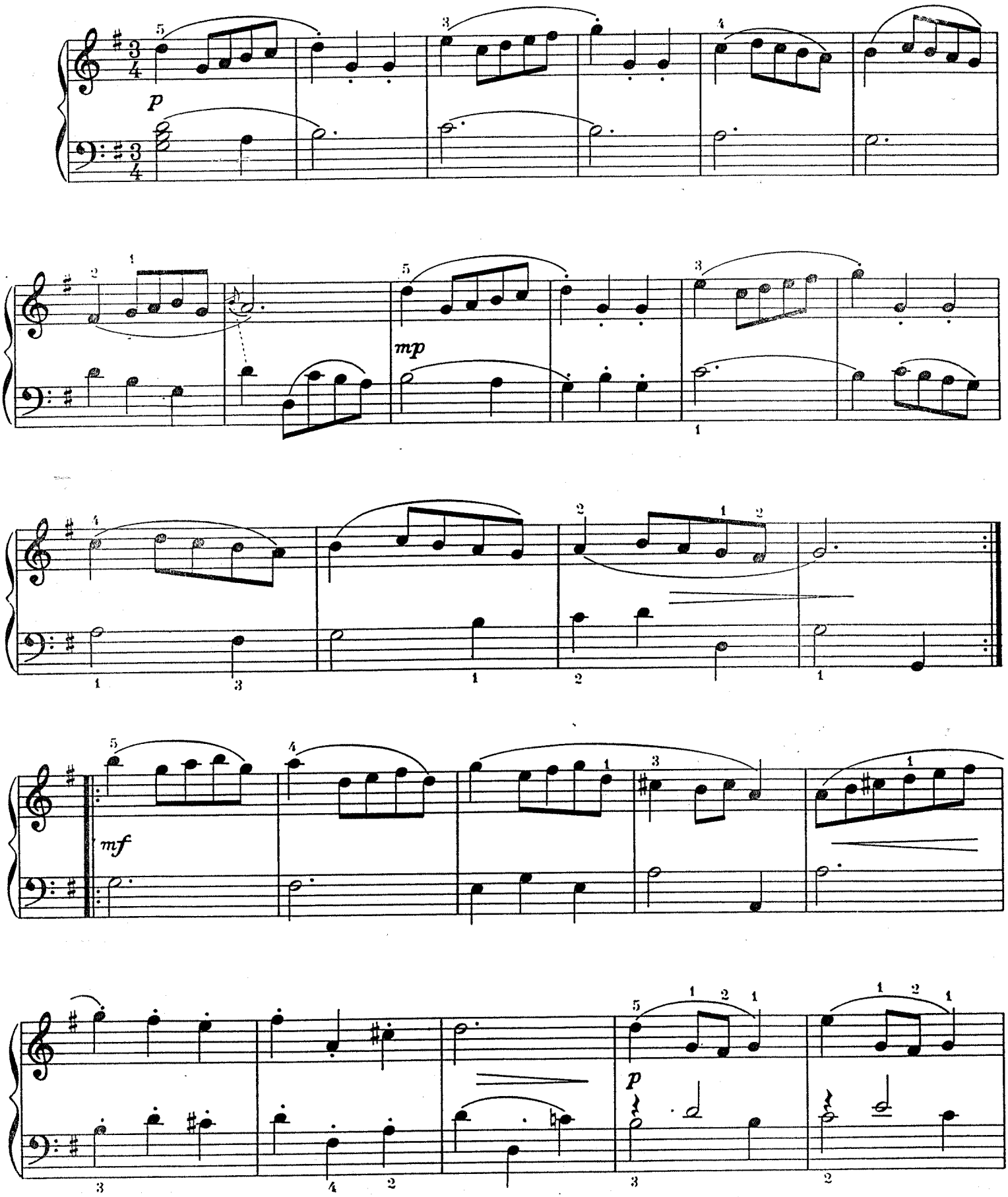


* Pronounced SHEE-ma-novska. Polish piano virtuoso and composer.
A pupil of John Field, admired by Robert Schumann.

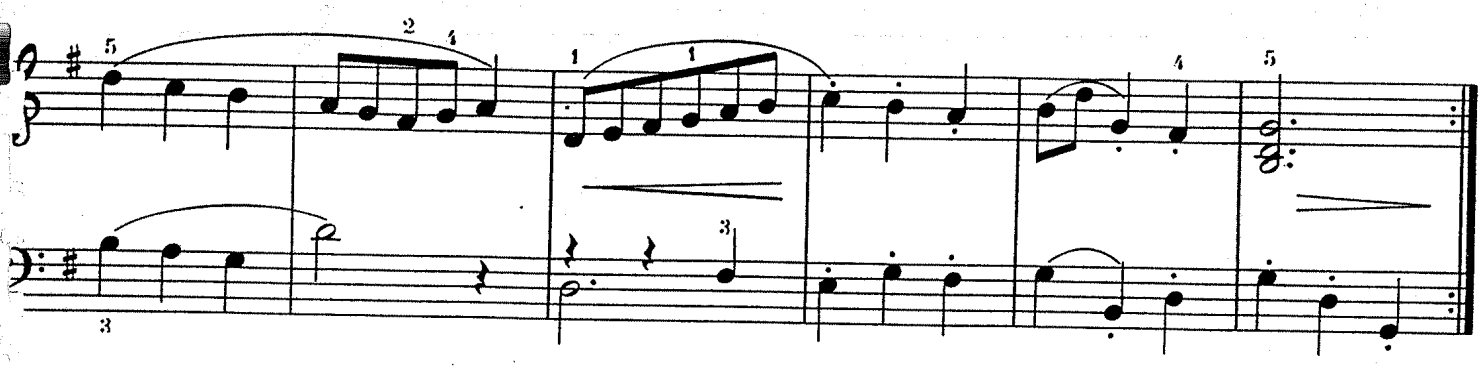
Minuet

From the Little Notebook for
Anna Magdalena Bach *
(1725)

Andante con moto



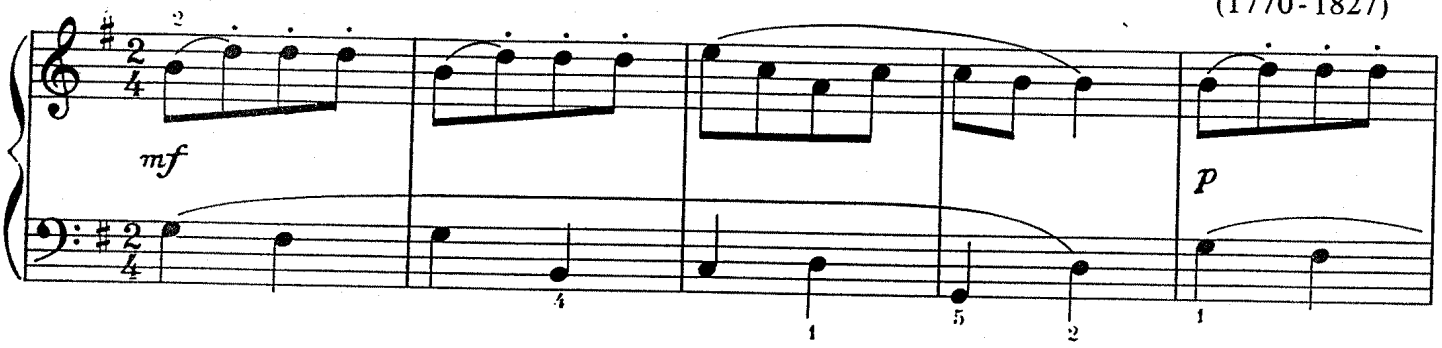
* Johann Sebastian Bach's second wife.

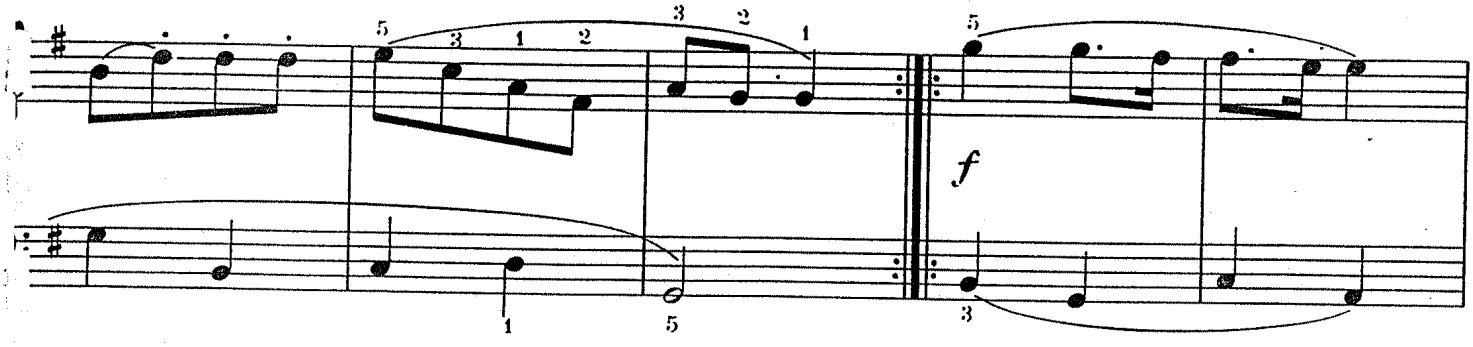


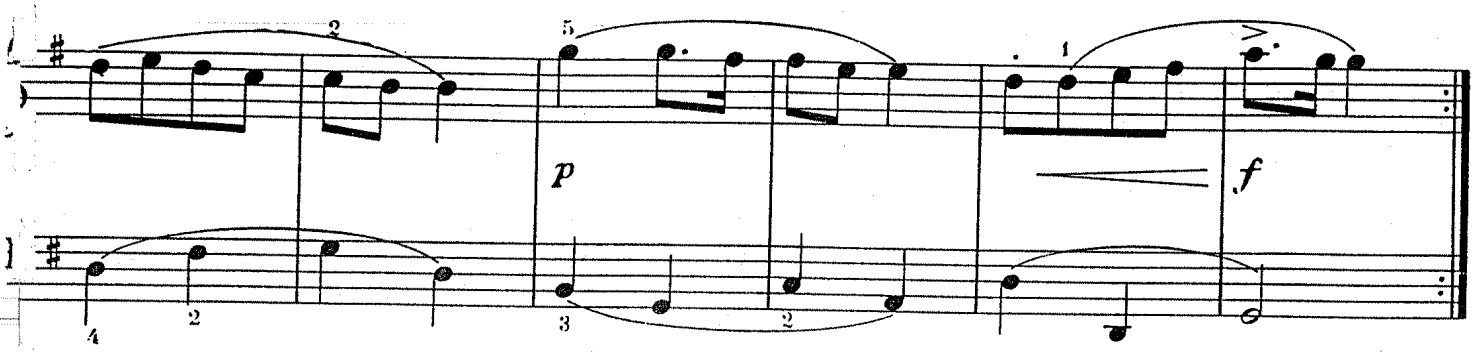
Russian Folk Song

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770 - 1827)

Vivace

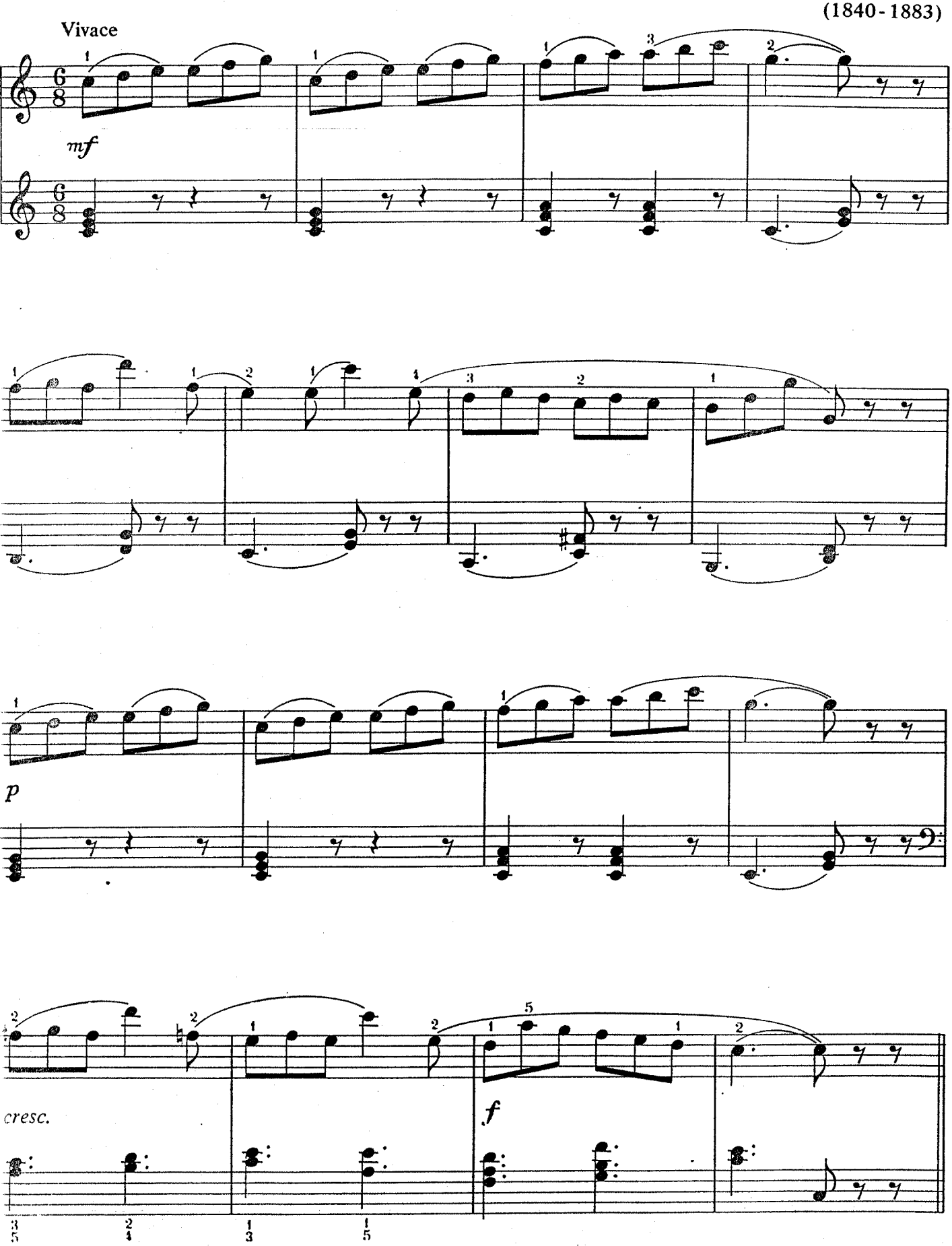






Tarantella

Scotson Clark
(1840-1883)

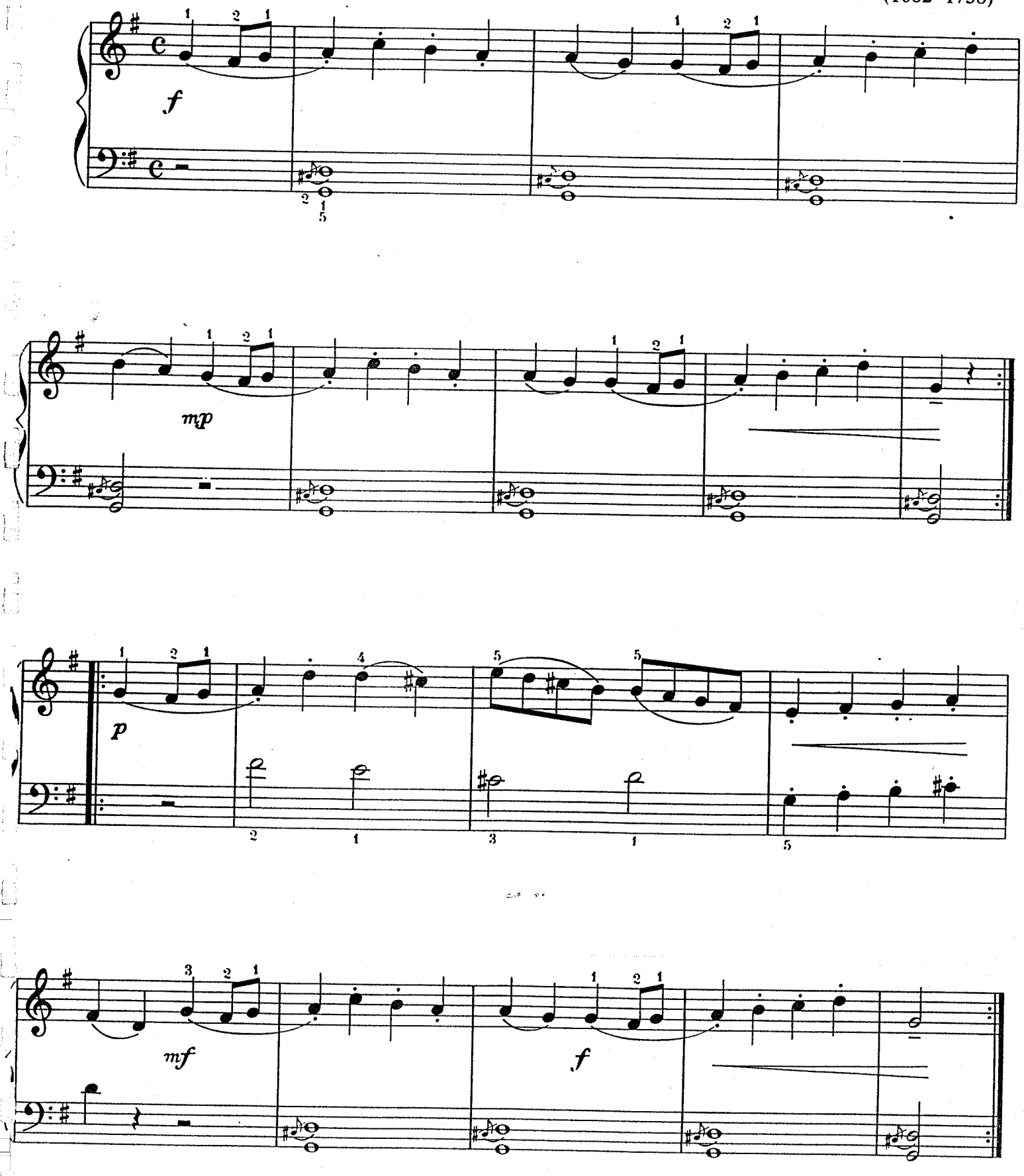


La Montagnarde

The Highland Girl

Jean Joseph Mouret
(1682 - 1738)

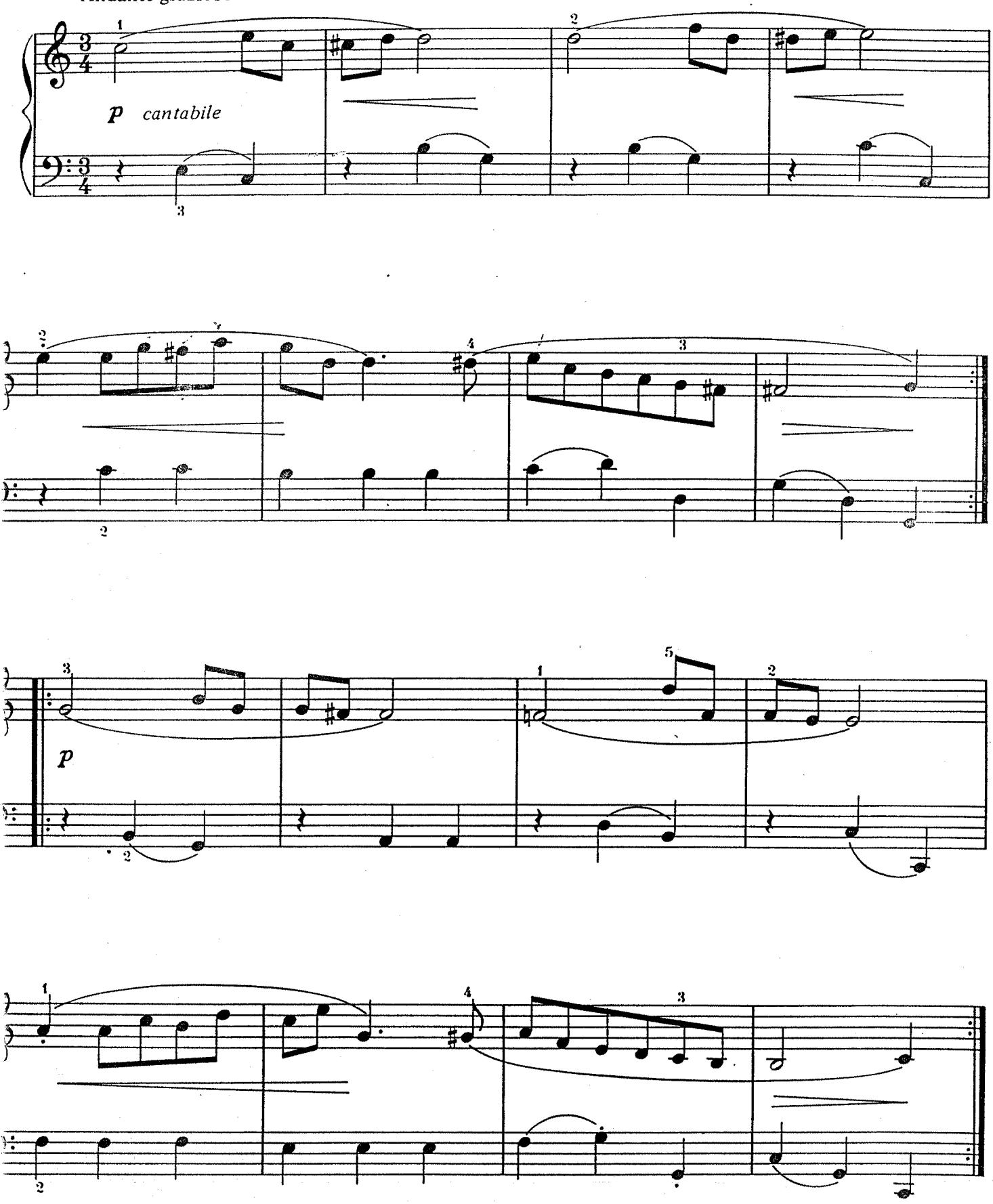
Allegretto



Minuet K.6

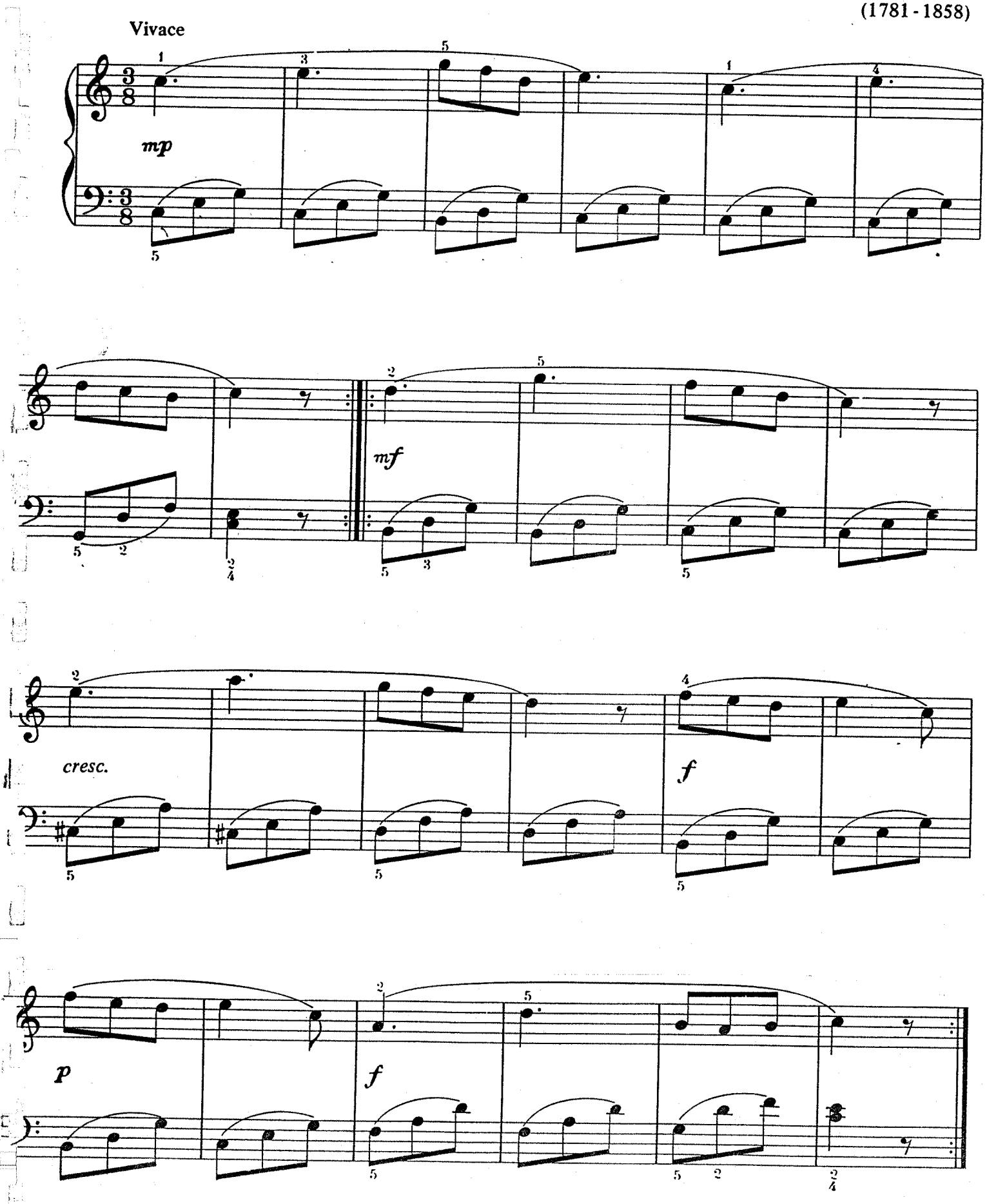
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756 - 1791)

Andante grazioso



Bagatelle

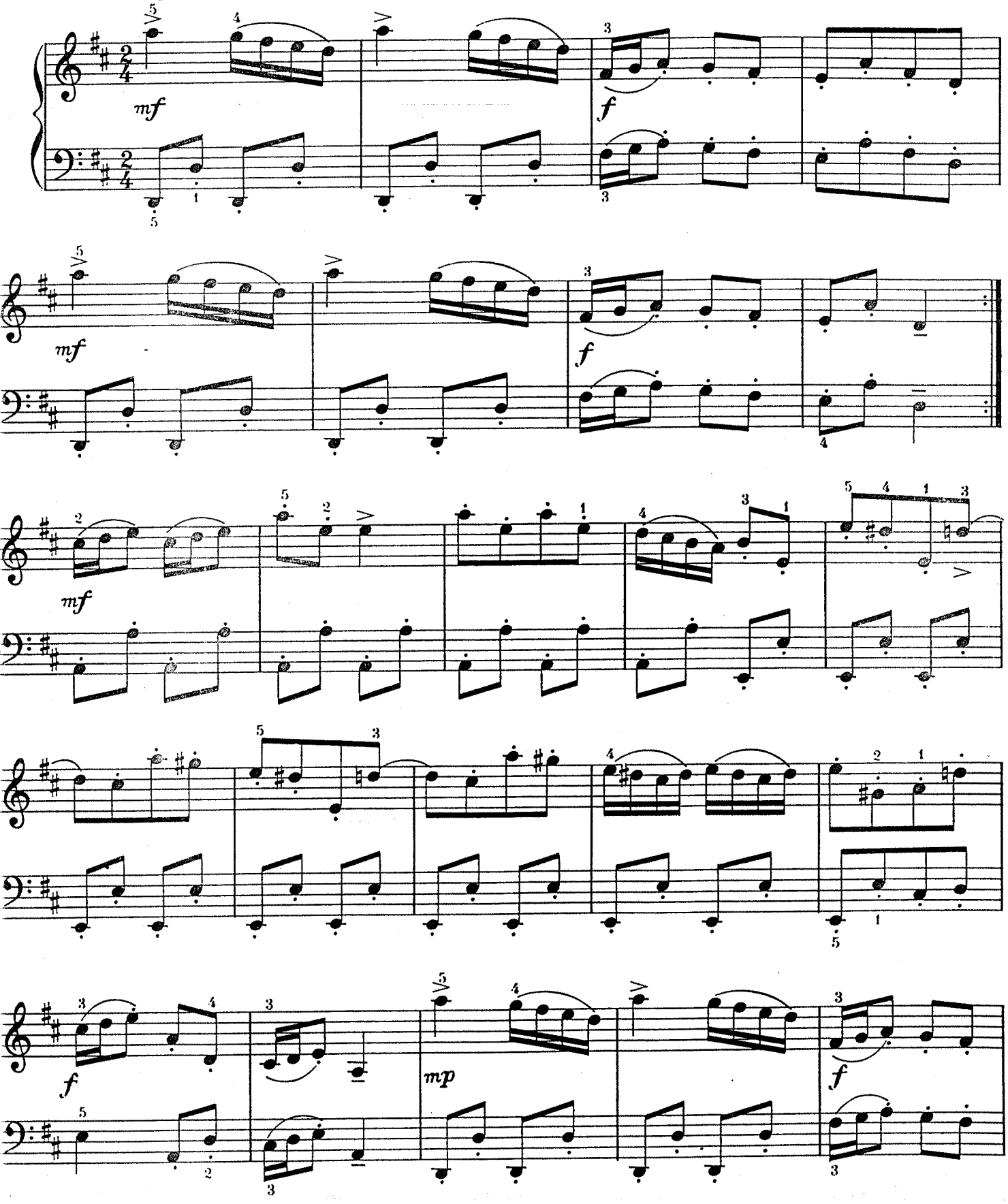
Antonio Diabelli
(1781 - 1858)

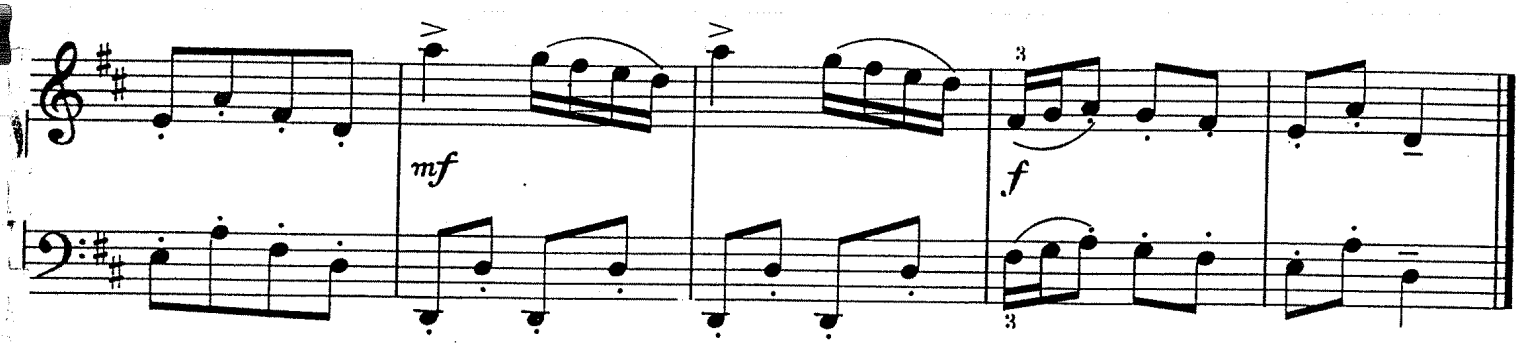


Musette

From the Little Notebook for
Anna Magdelena Bach
(1725)

Allegro moderato

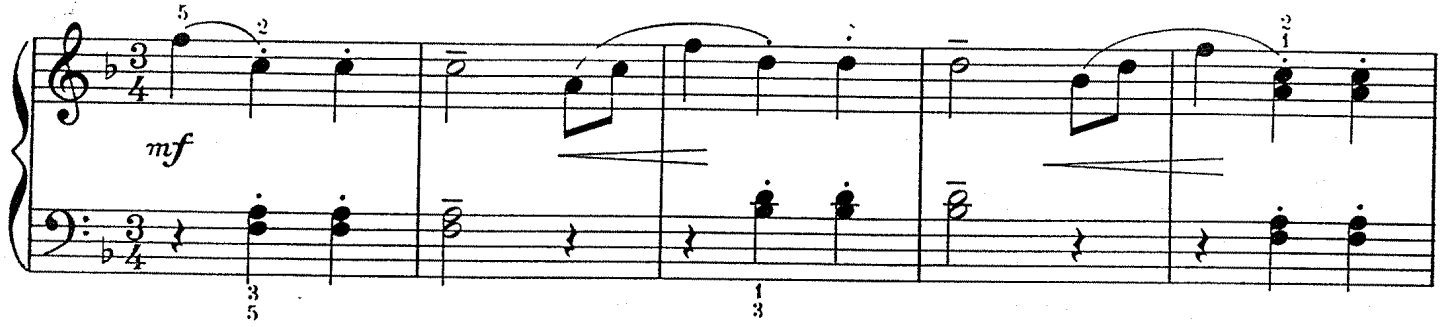


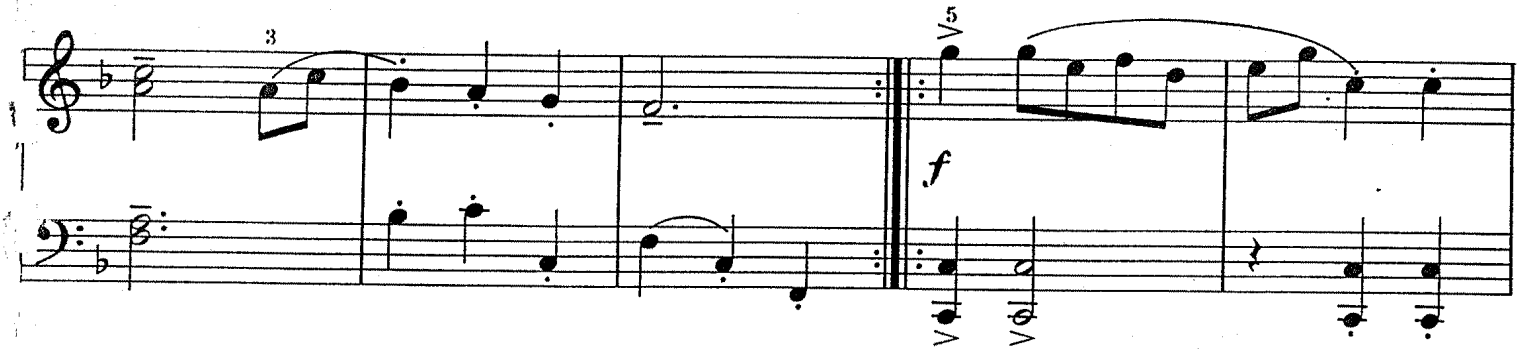


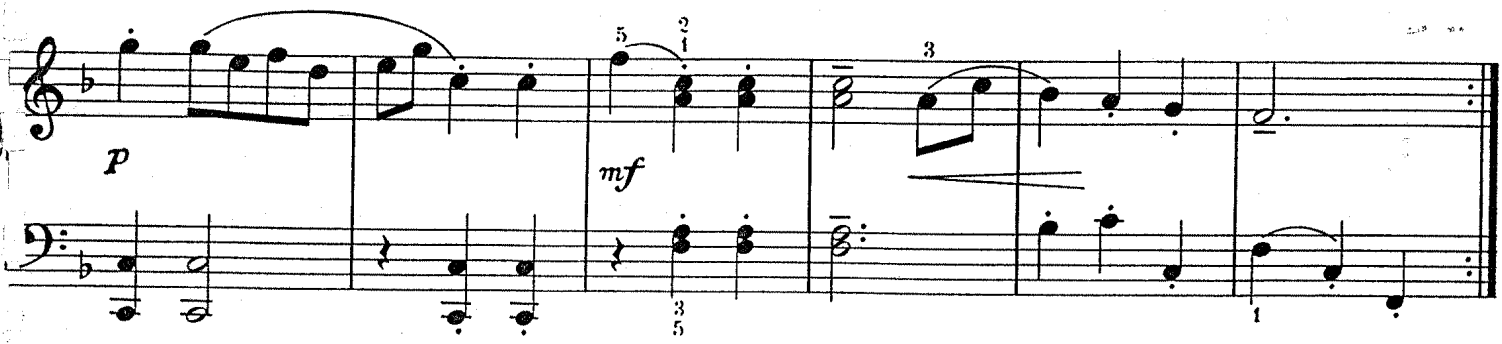
Minuet

From Leopold Mozart's *
Little Notebook for Nannerl

Andante grazioso





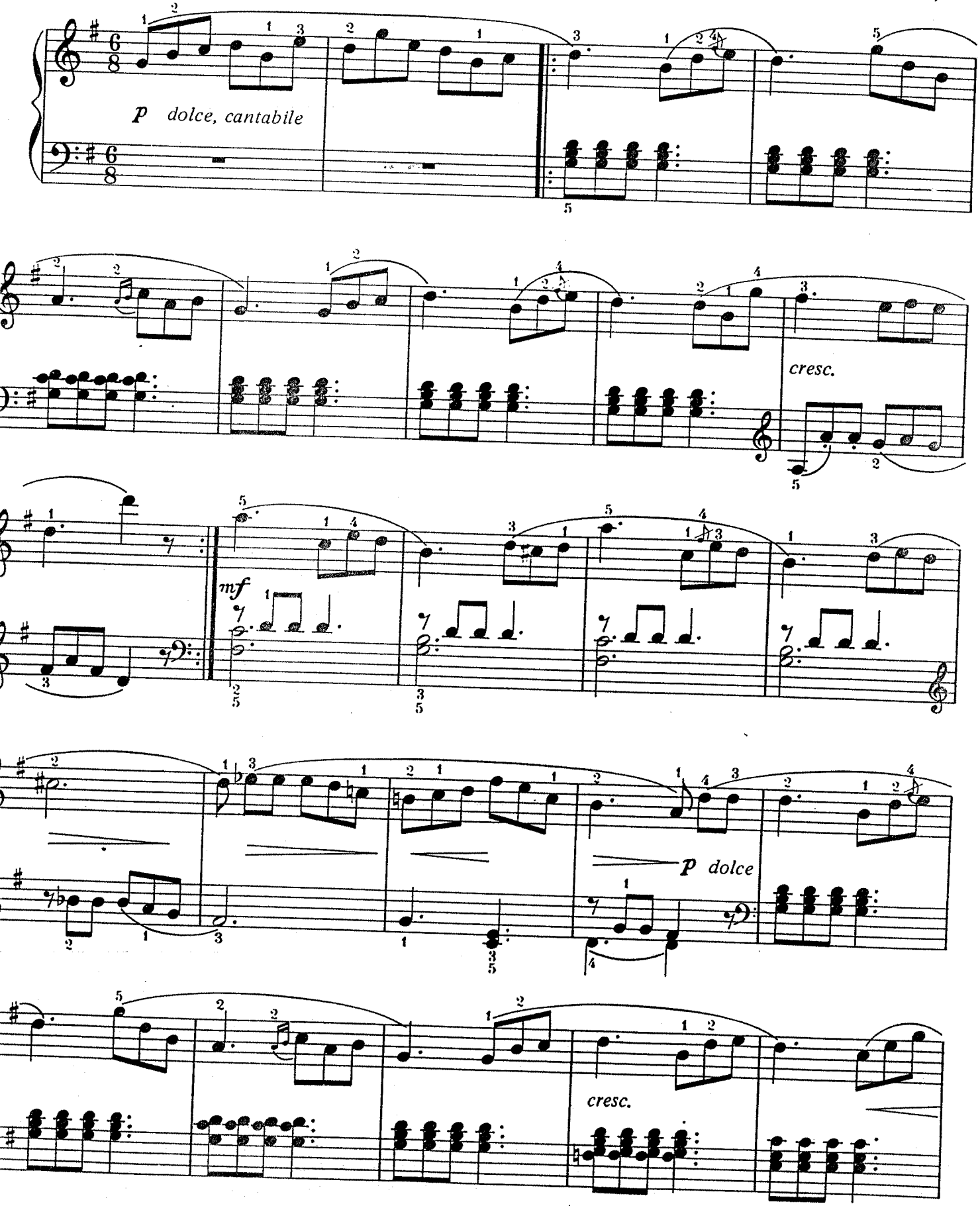


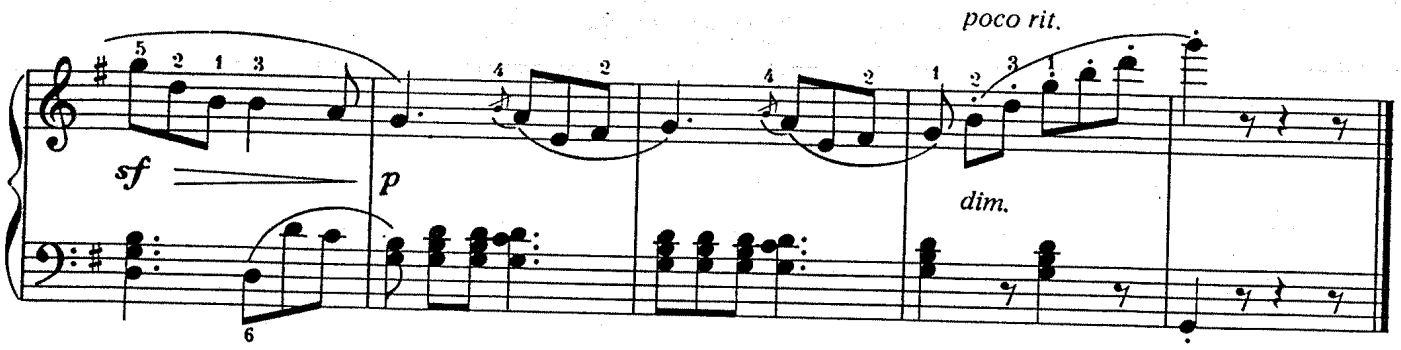
* *Compiled for his daughter Anna Maria, sister of Wolfgang Amadeus.*

Pastorale

Andantino

Friedrich Burgmüller
(1806 - 1874)

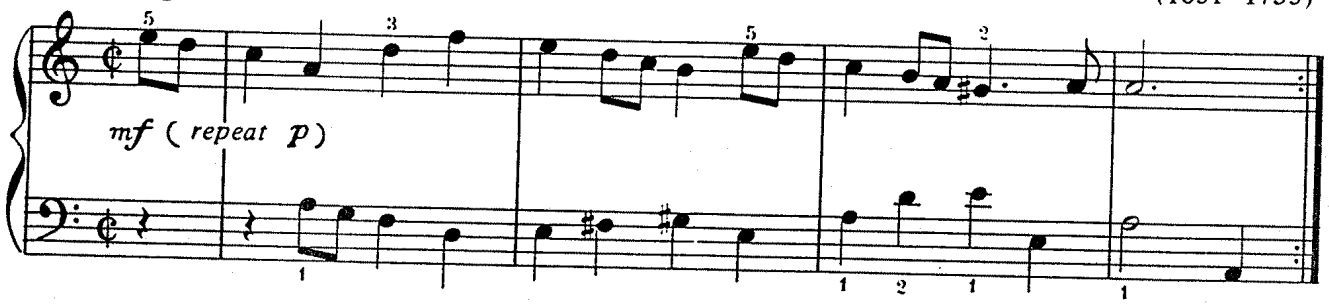


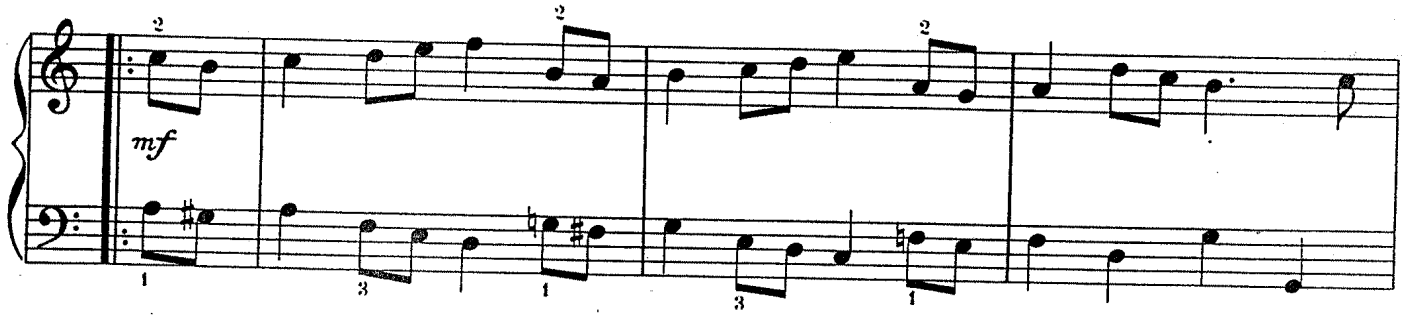


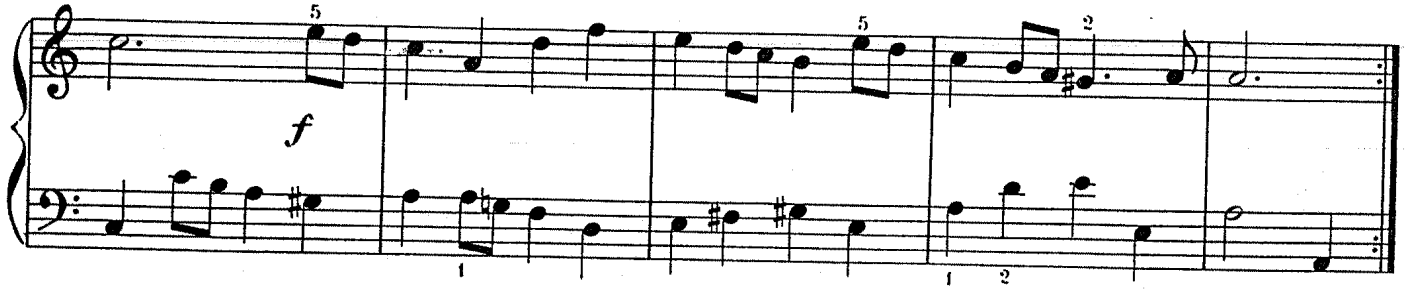
Bourrée

Johann Krieger
(1651 - 1735)

Allegretto



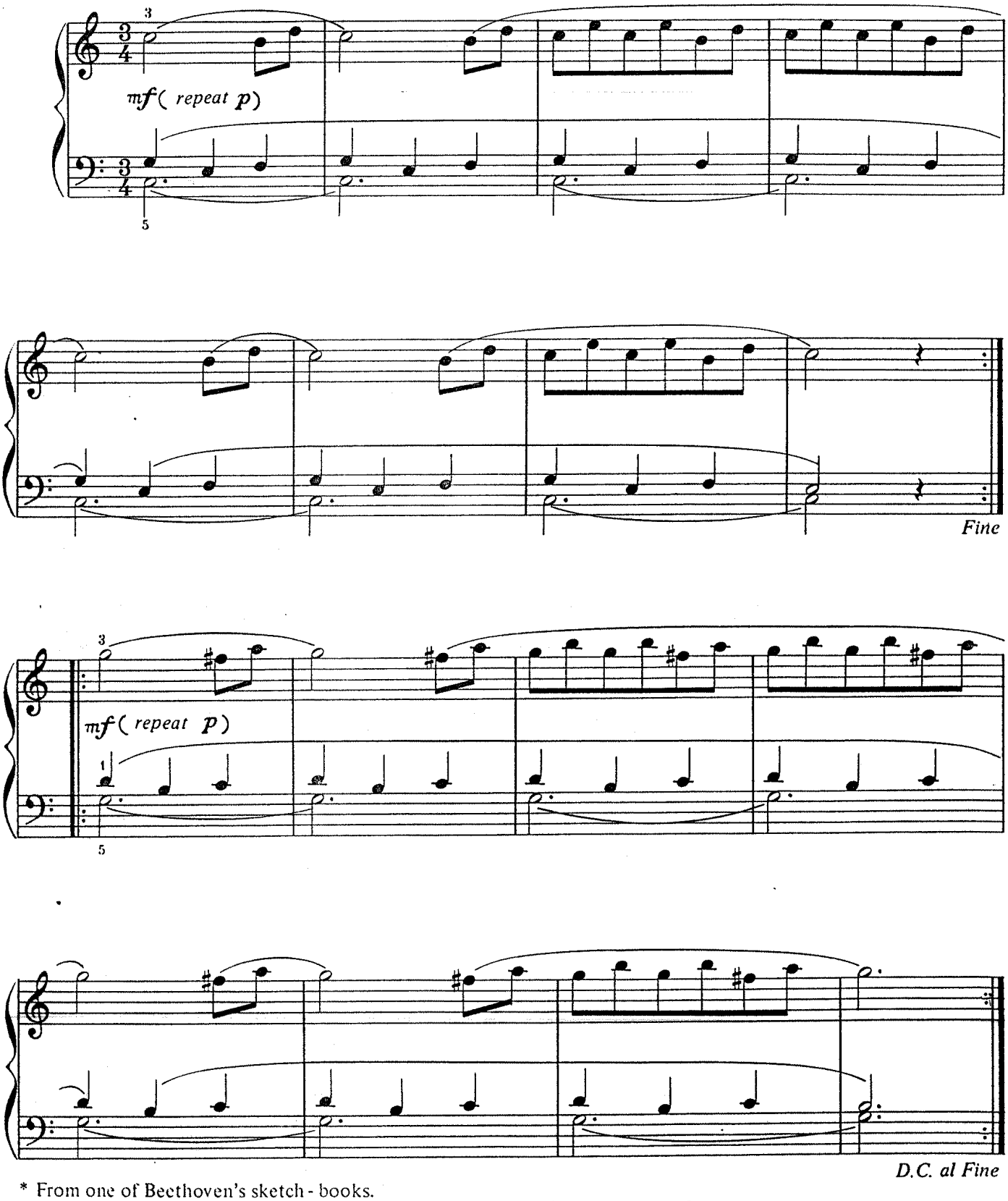




Village Dance*

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Allegretto

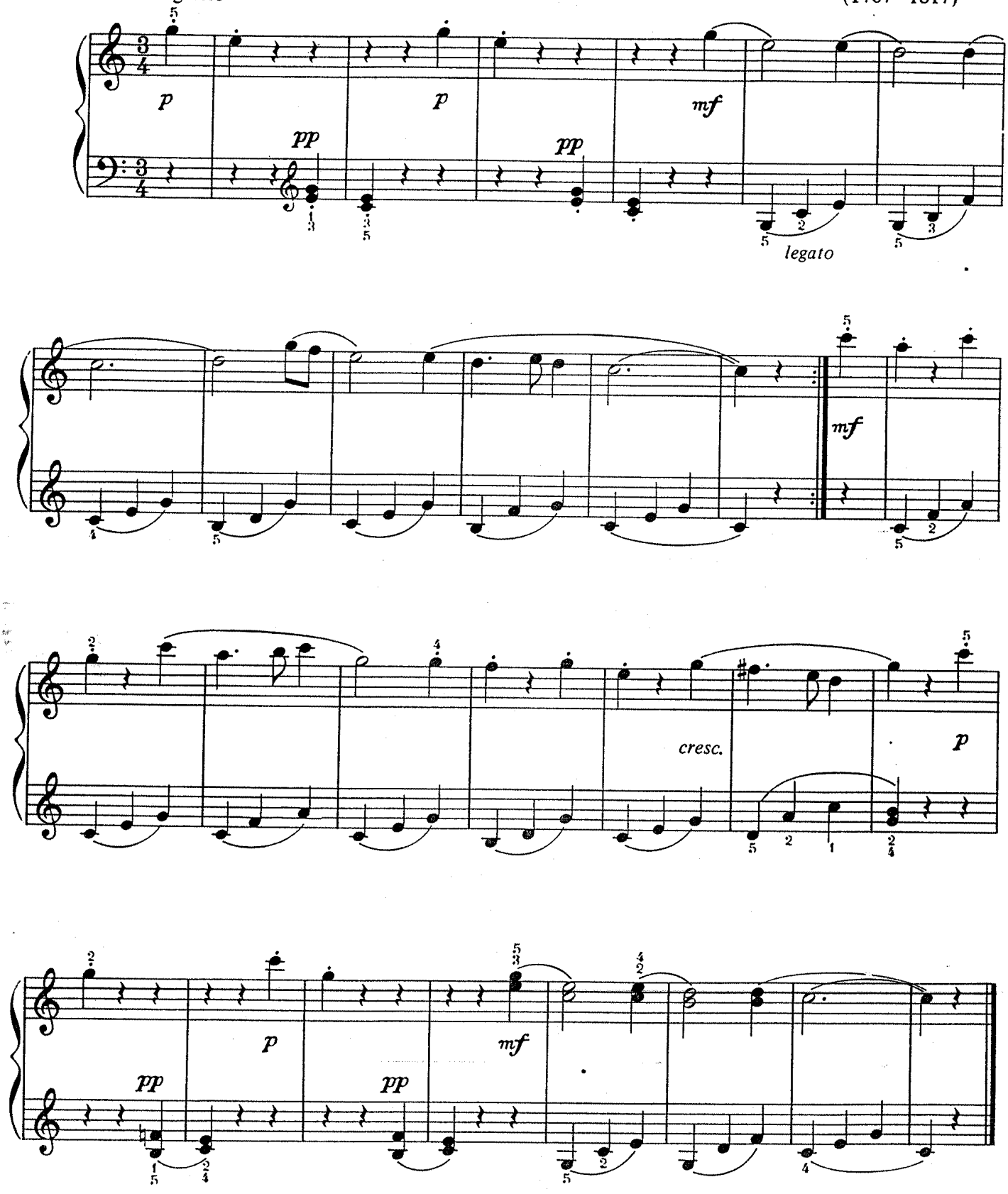


* From one of Beethoven's sketch-books.

The Cuckoo Waltz

August Eberhard Müller
(1767 - 1817)

Allegretto

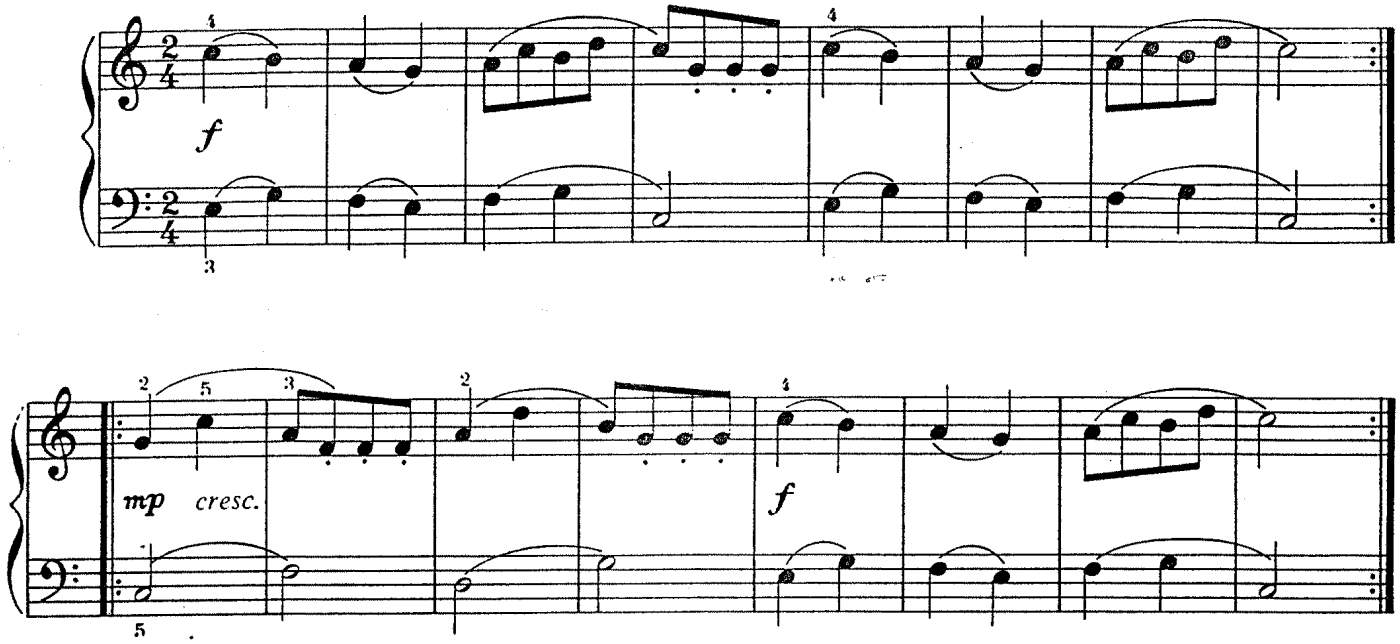


Mount Vernon Set

1. Intrada

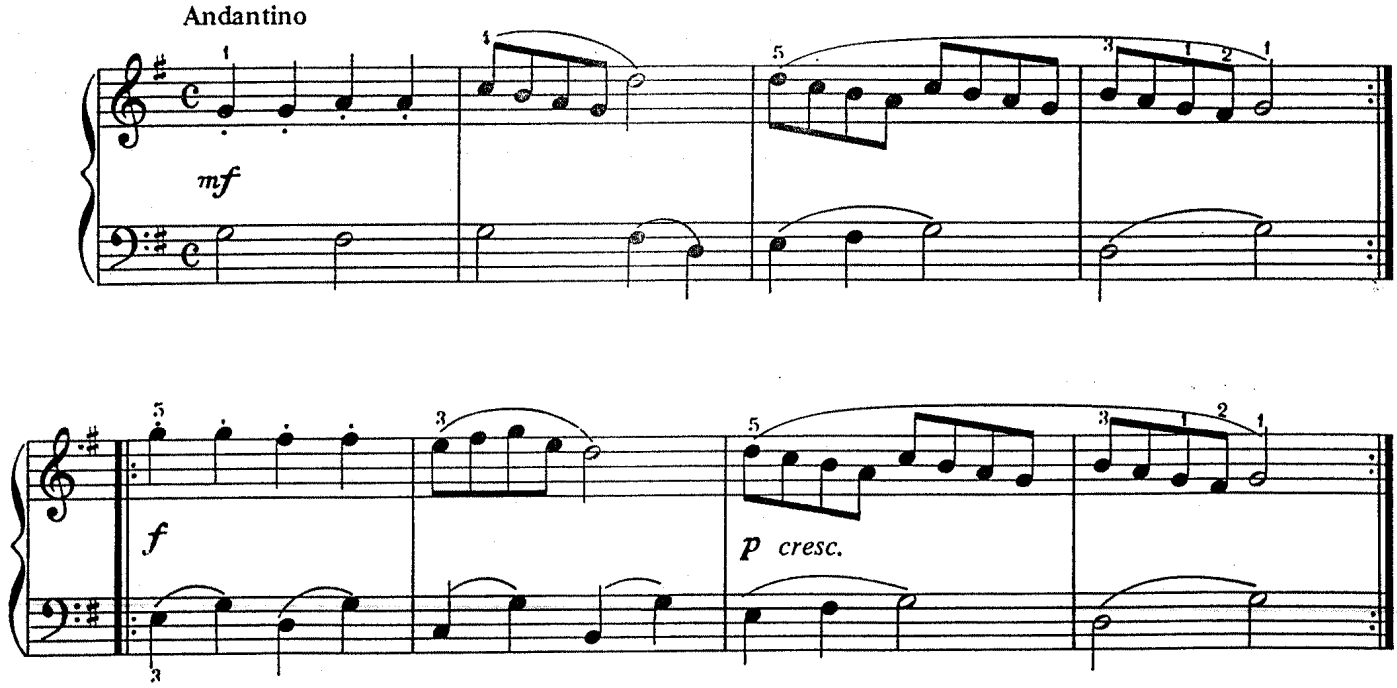
Alexander Reinagle*
(1756-1809)

Allegretto



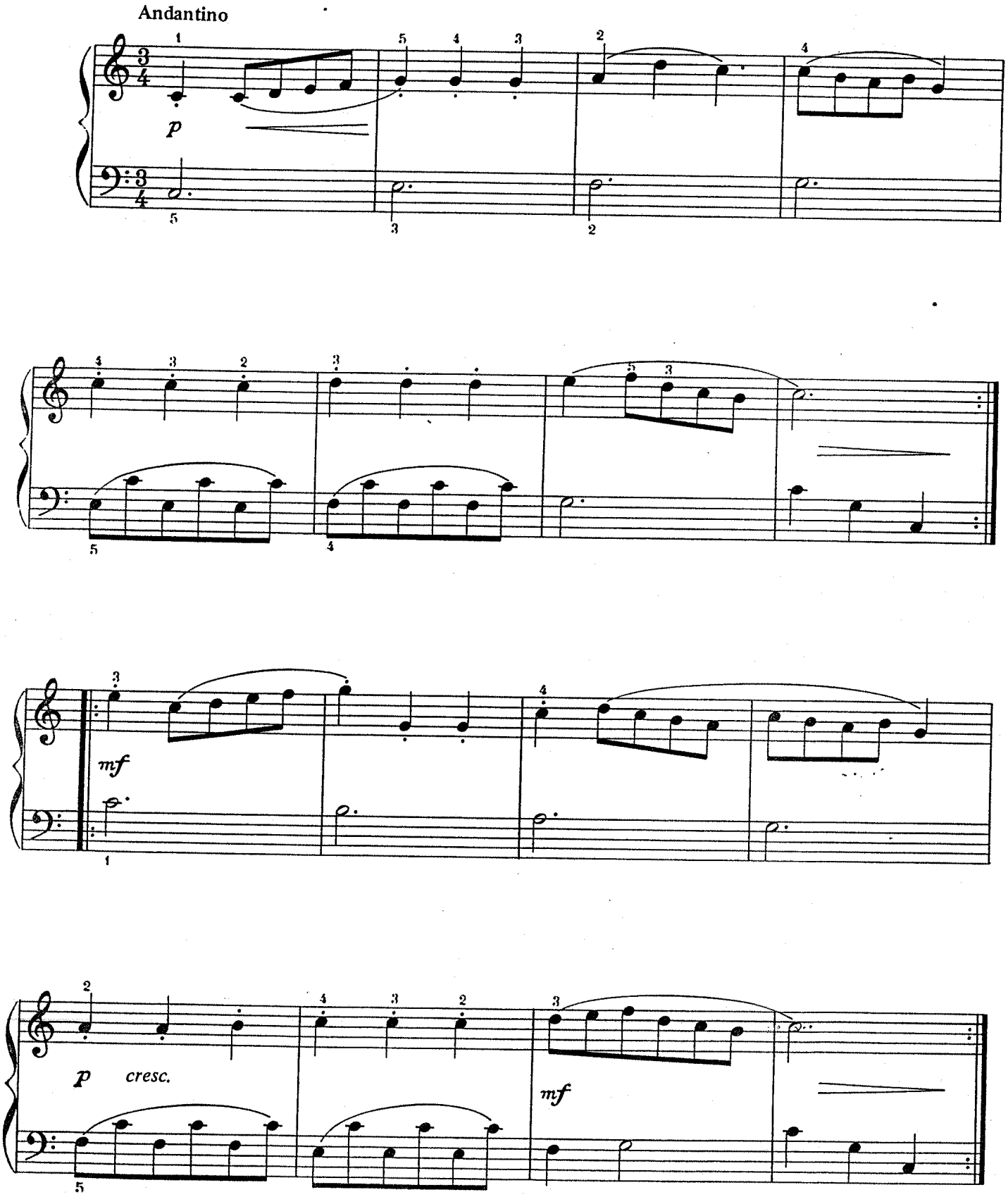
2. Promenade

Andantino

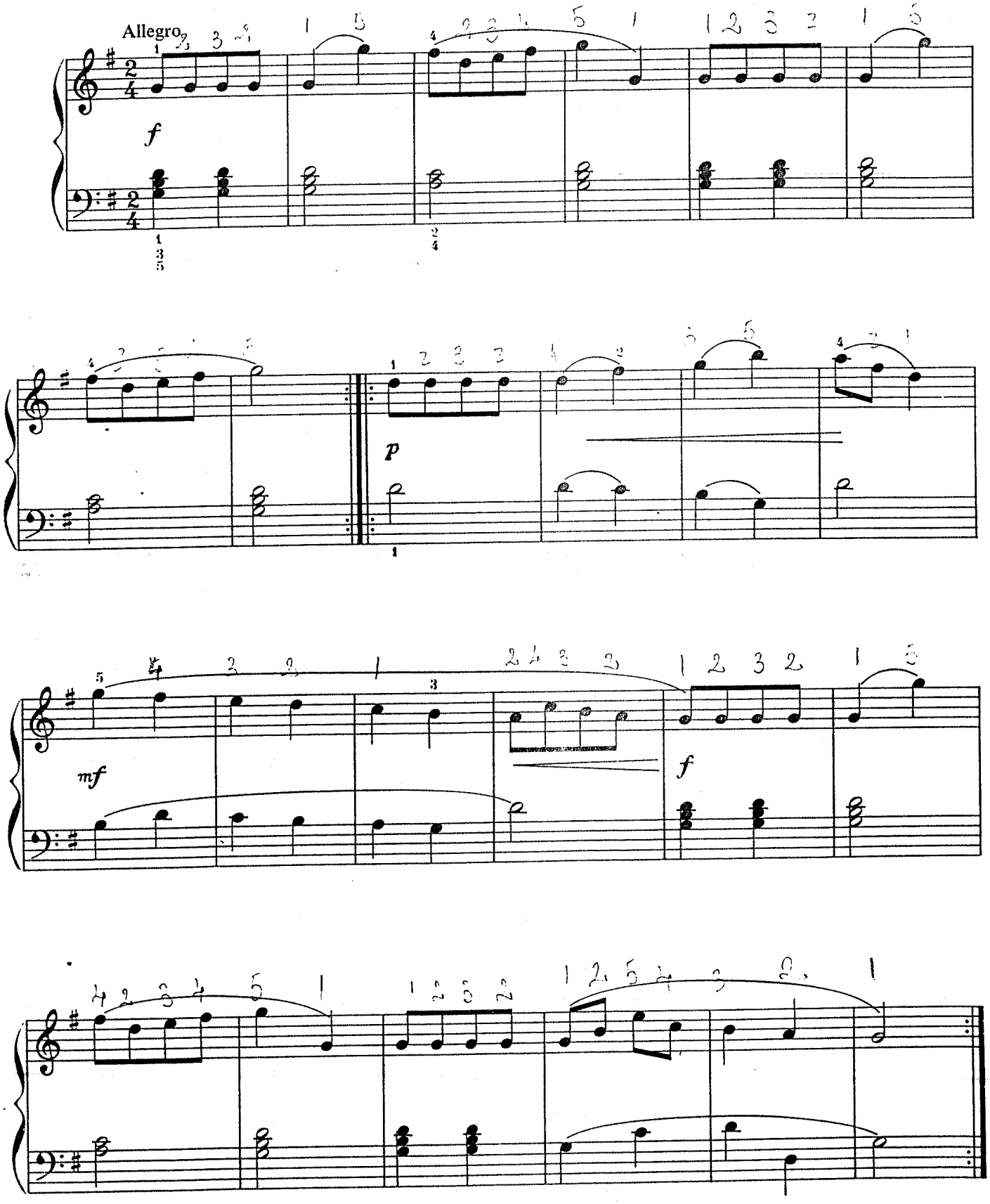


* English composer and teacher who came to America in 1786. Nellie Custis, George Washington's adopted daughter was one of his pupils.

3. Minuet



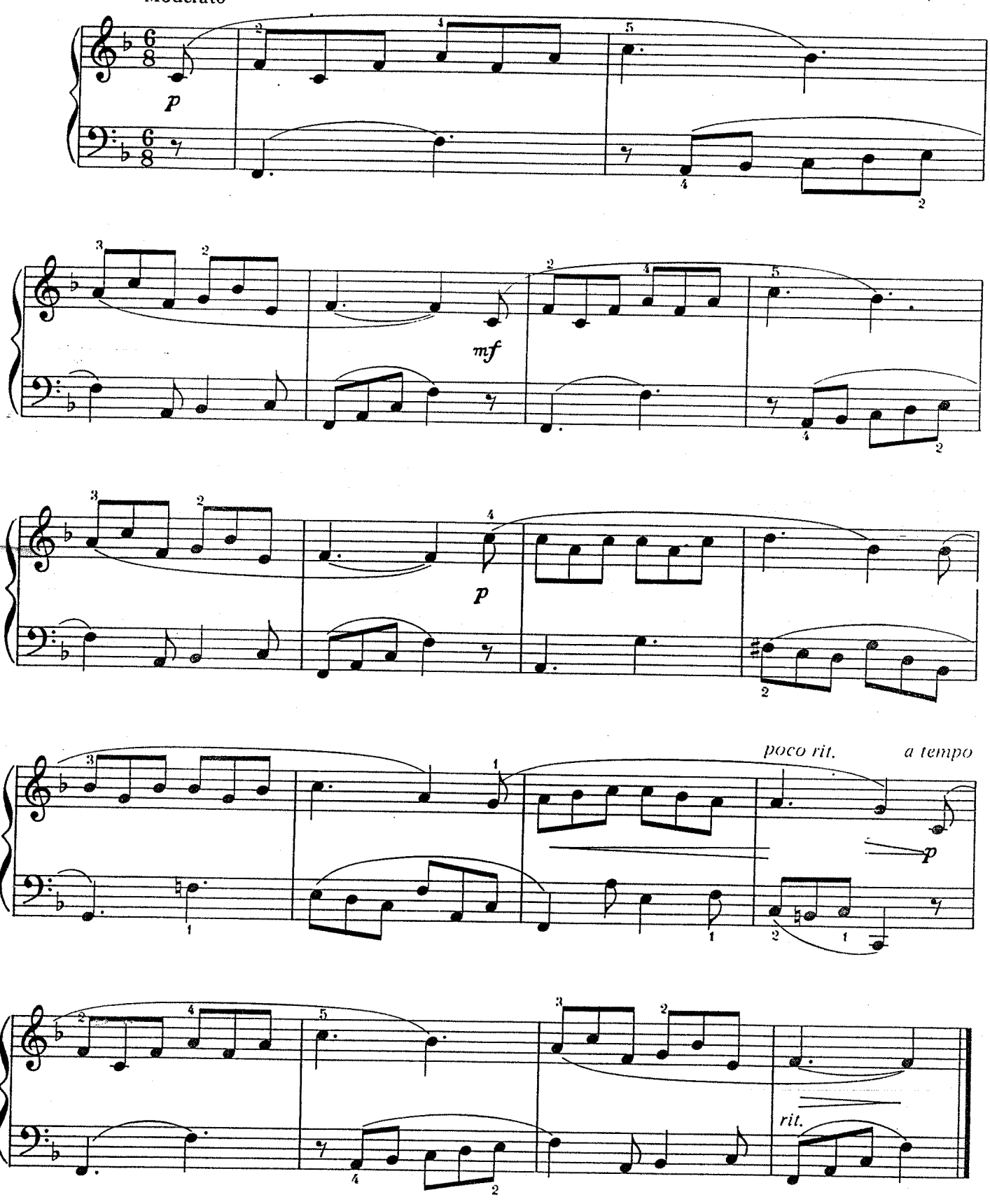
4. Quadrille



Cradle Song

Johann Philipp Kirnberger
(1721 - 1783)

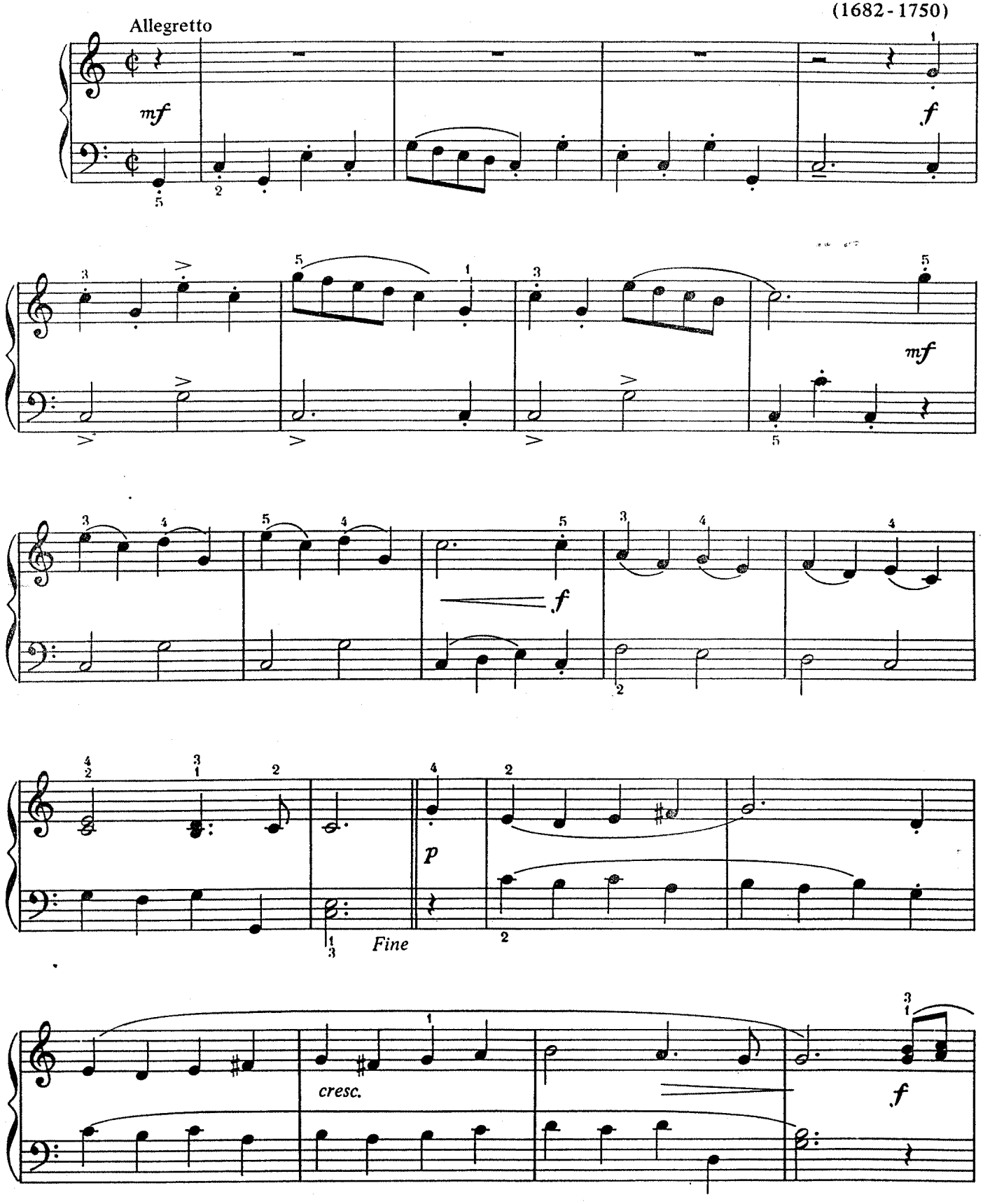
Moderato

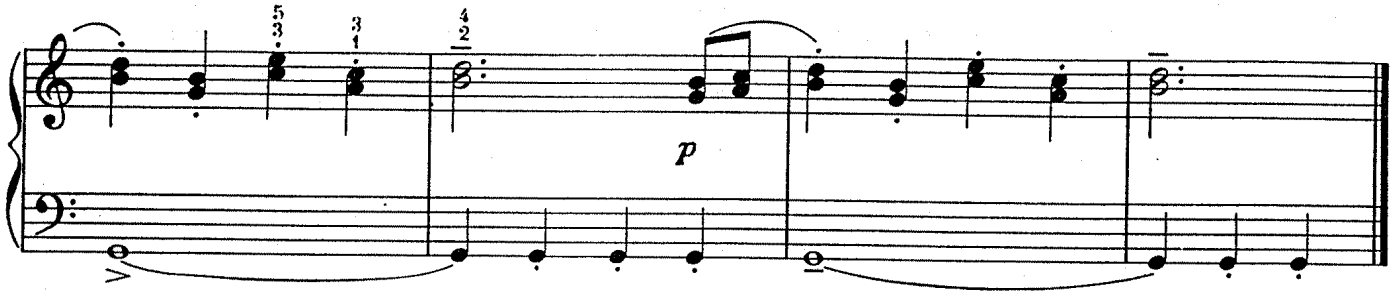


Christmas Pastorale

The Shepherd's Call from Bethlehem

Valentin Rathgeber
(1682-1750)



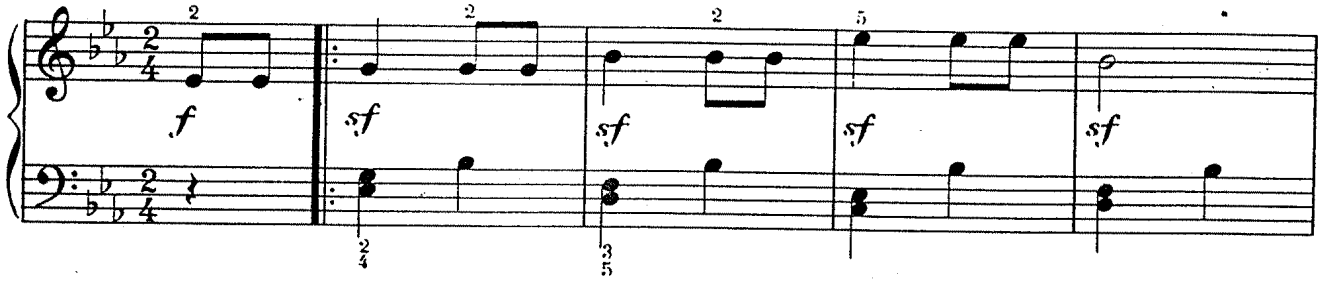


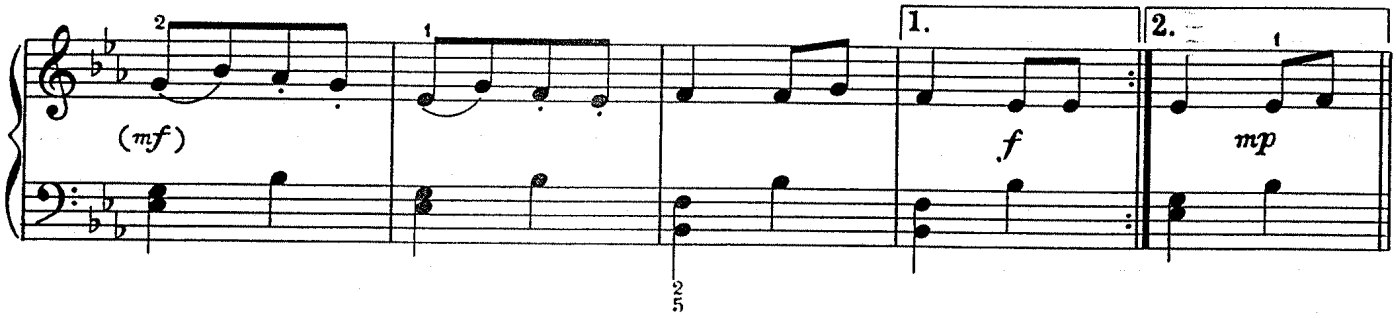
D.C. al Fine

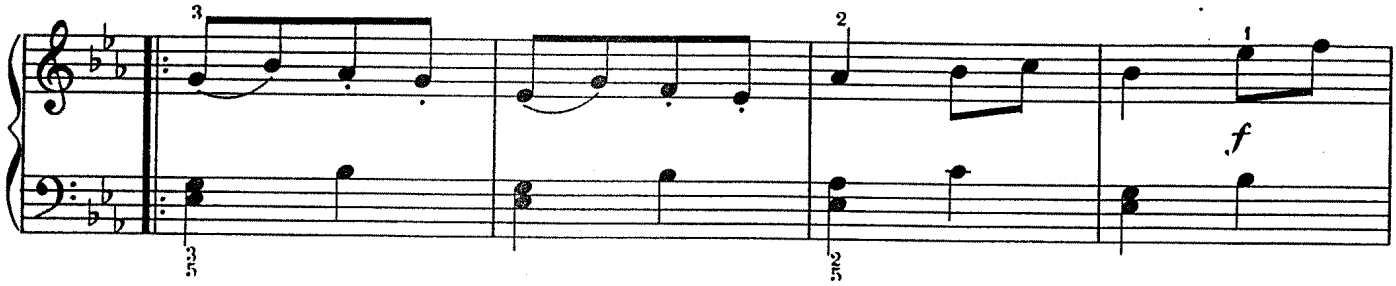
Ecossaise

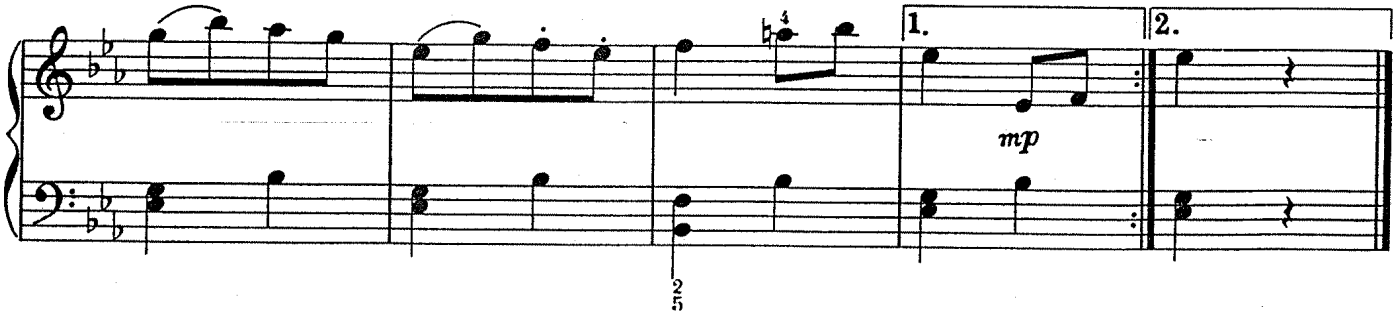
Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770 - 1827)

Allegro



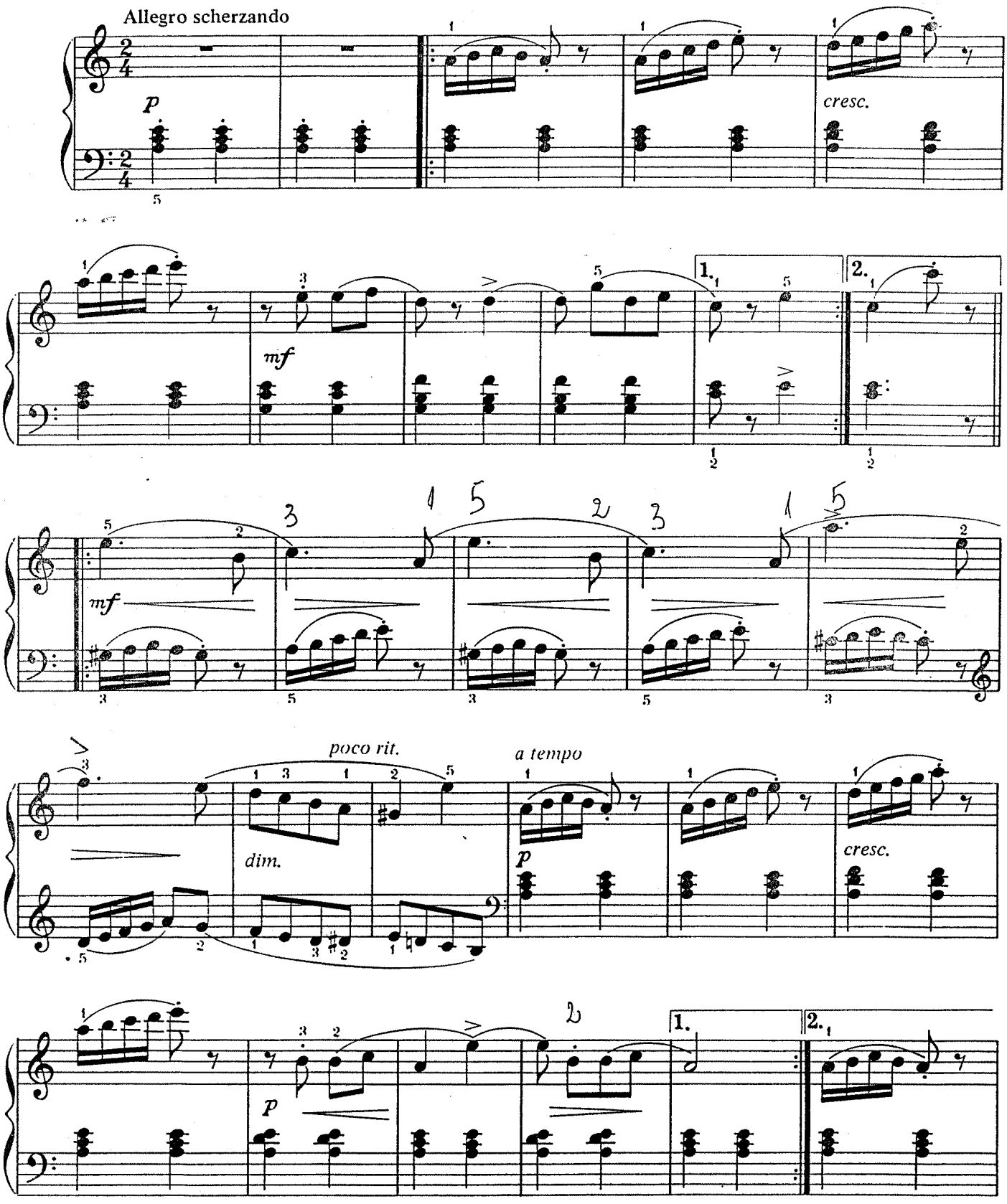


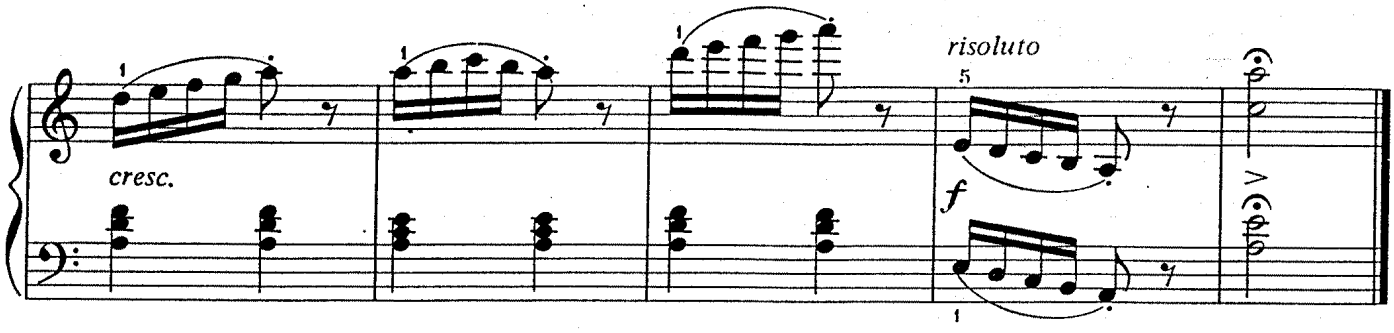




Arabesque

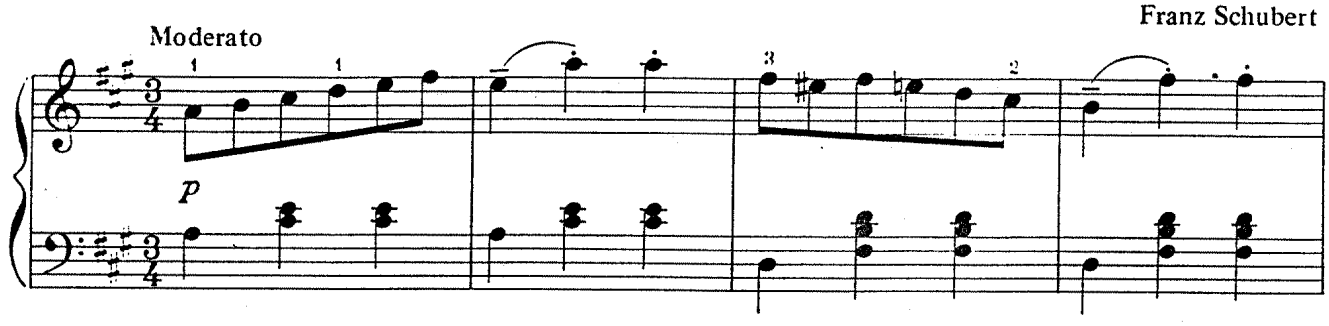
Friedrich Burgmüller

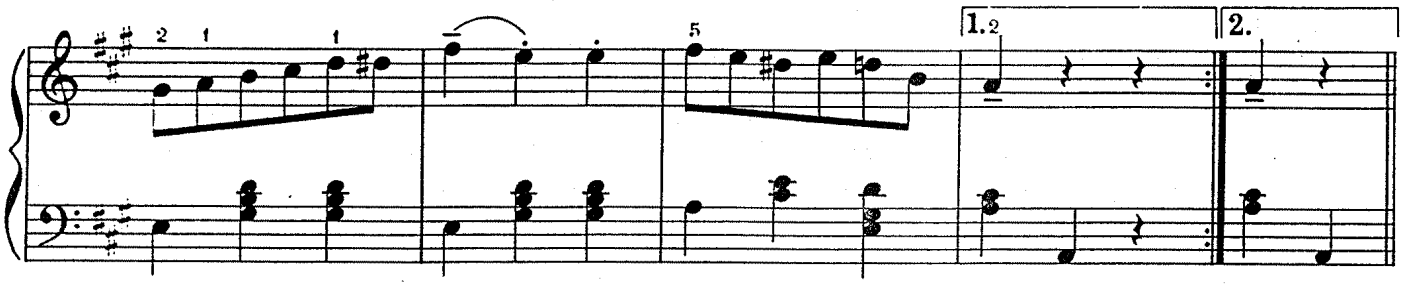


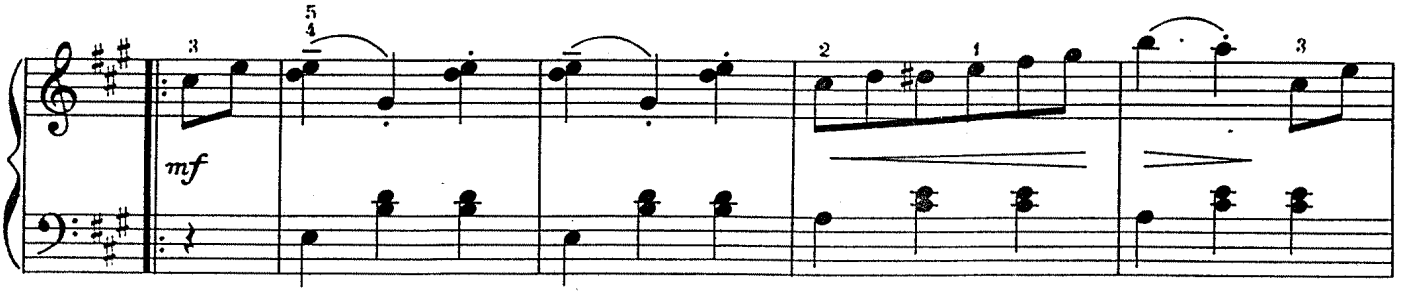


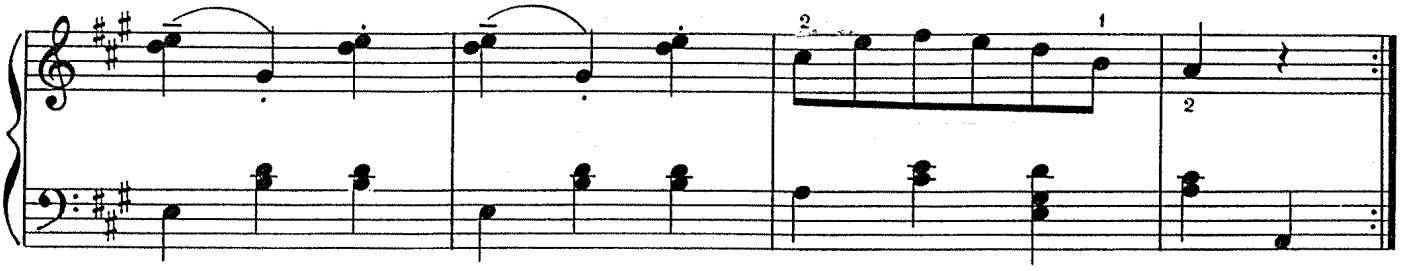
Waltz

Franz Schubert







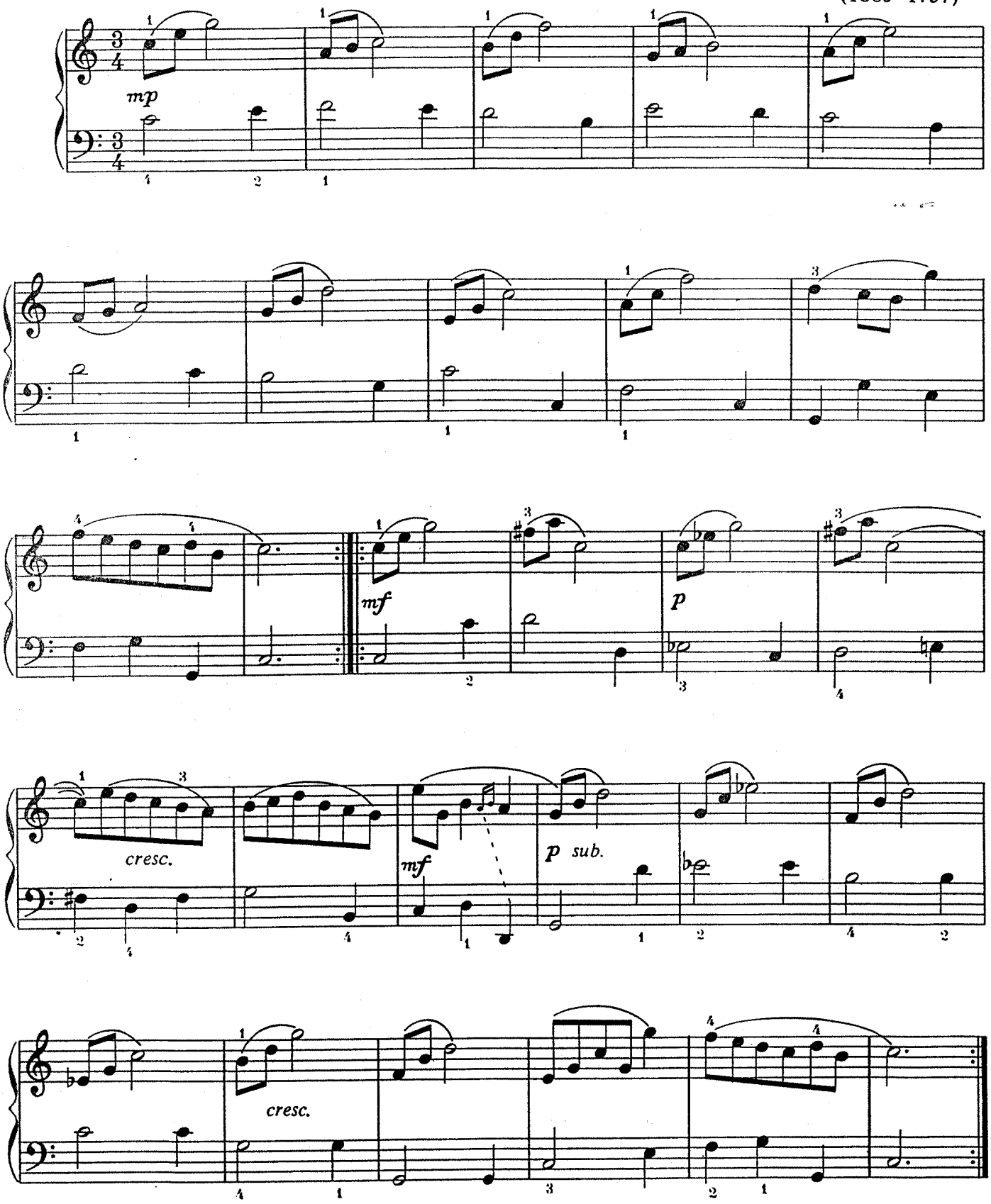


Sonata

Minuet

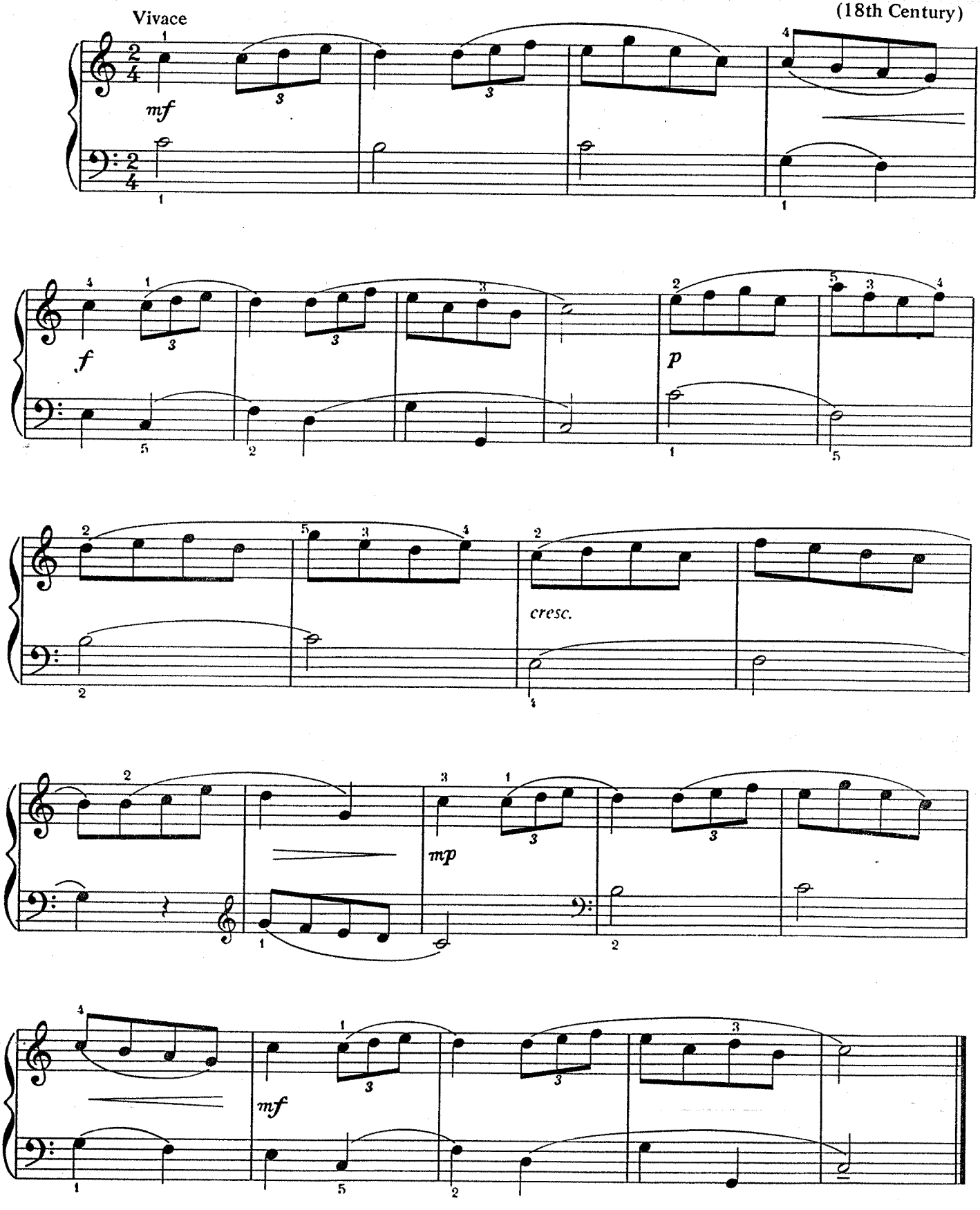
Andantino

Domenico Scarlatti
(1685 - 1757)



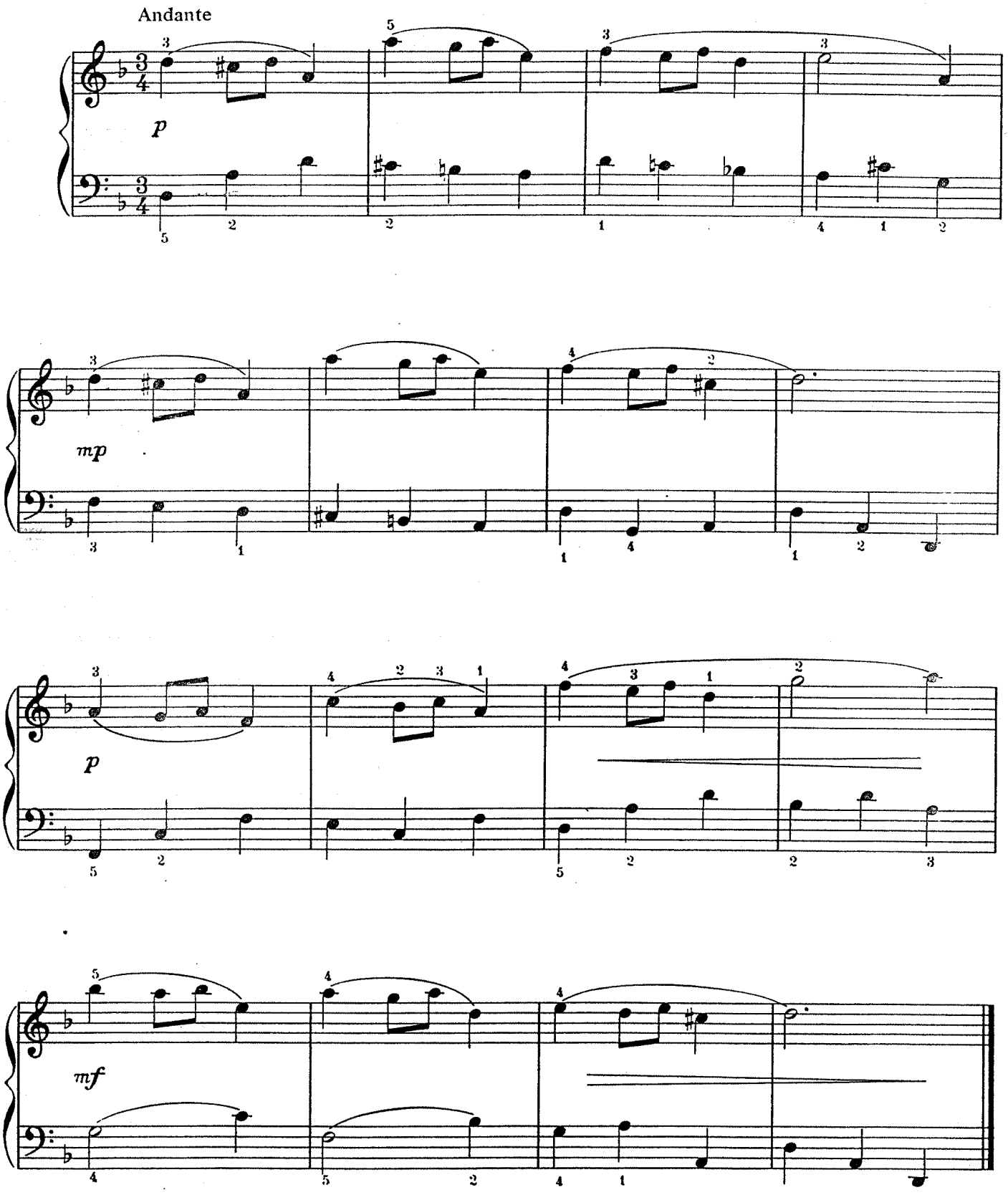
Early English Sonatina

William Duncombe
(18th Century)



Air

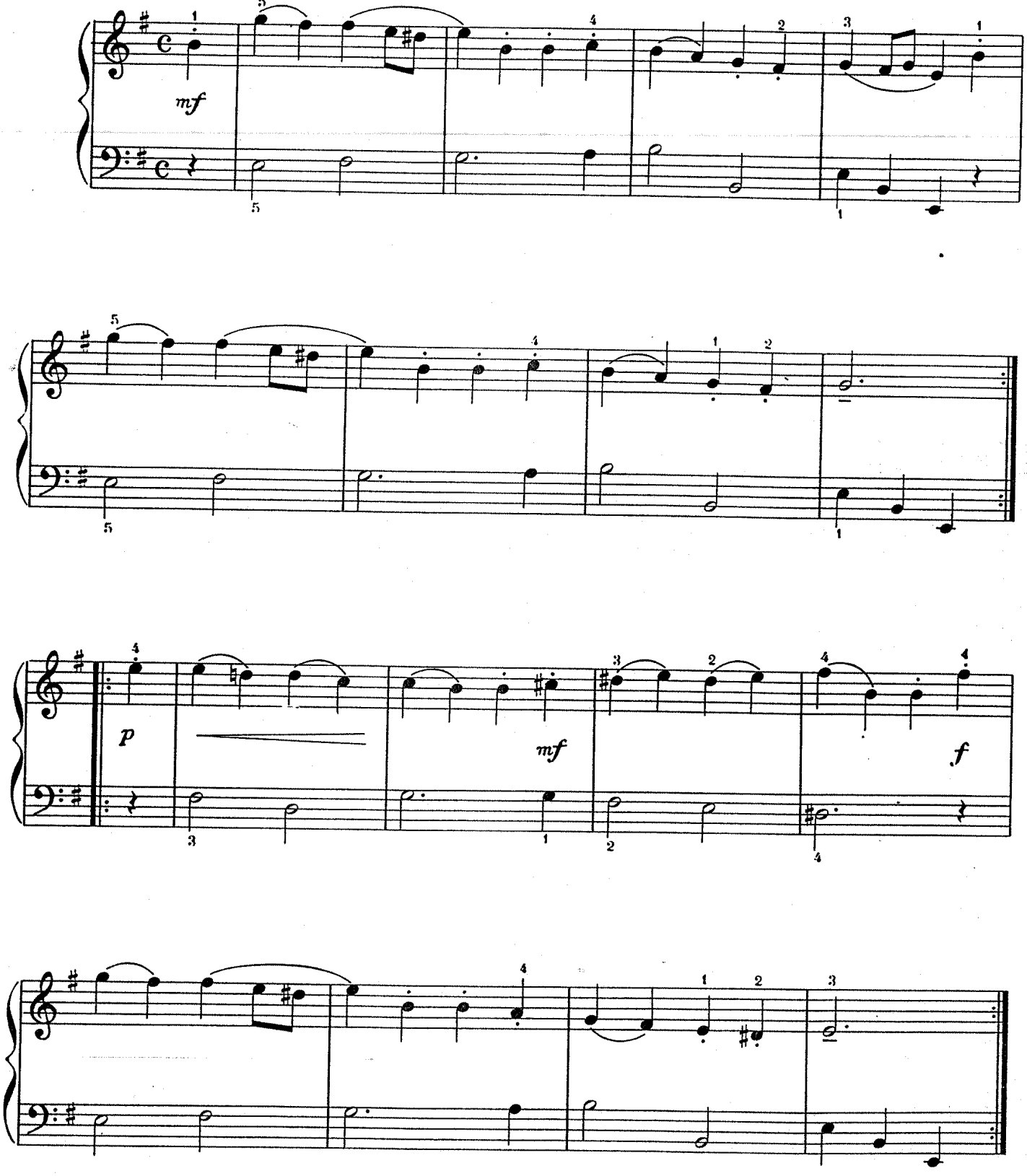
Henry Purcell
(1658-1695)



Bourrée

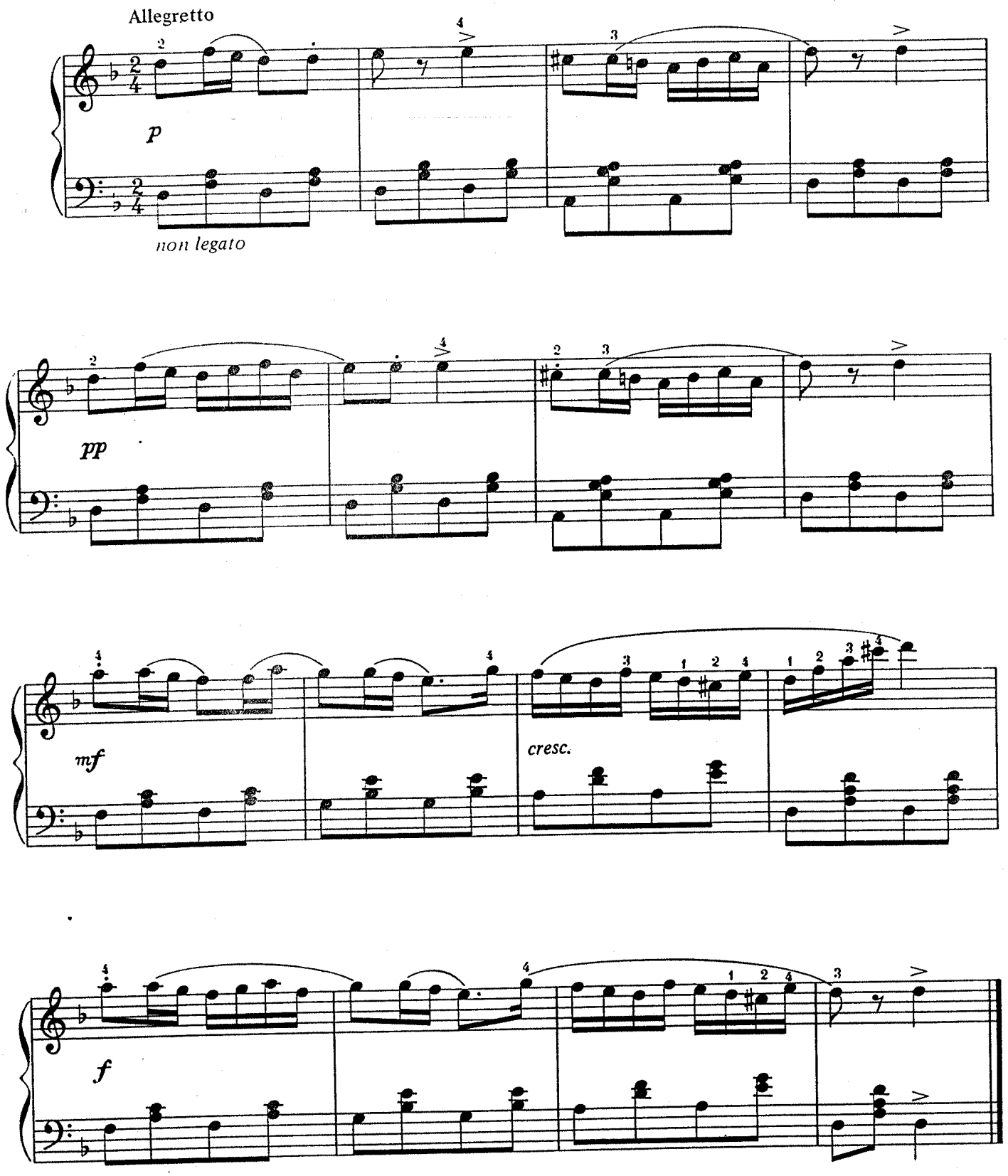
Christophe Graupner
(1683 - 1760)

Allegretto



Russian Polka

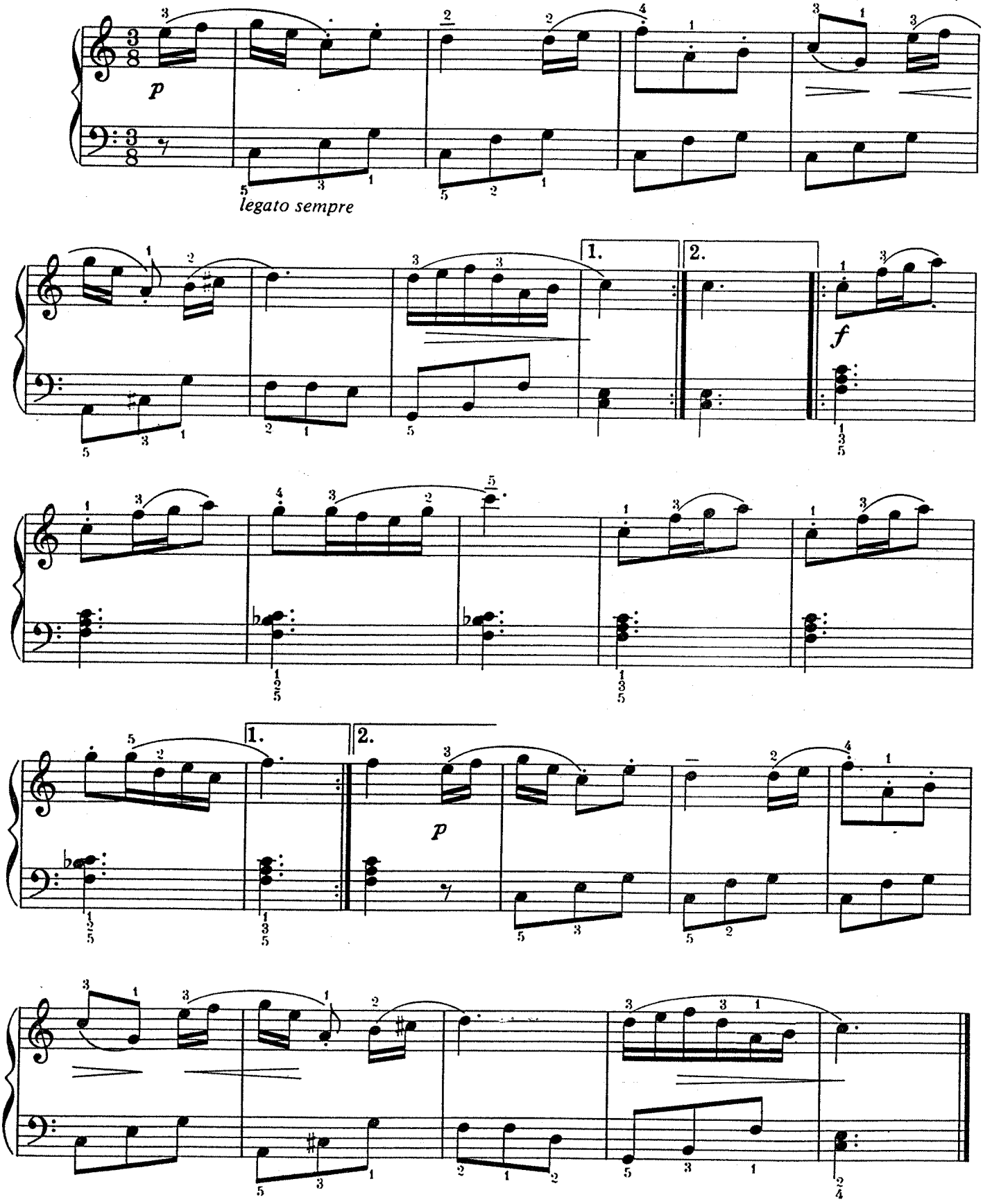
Mikhael Ivanovich Glinka
(1804 - 1857)



Circle Dance

Felix Le Couppey
(1811 - 1887)

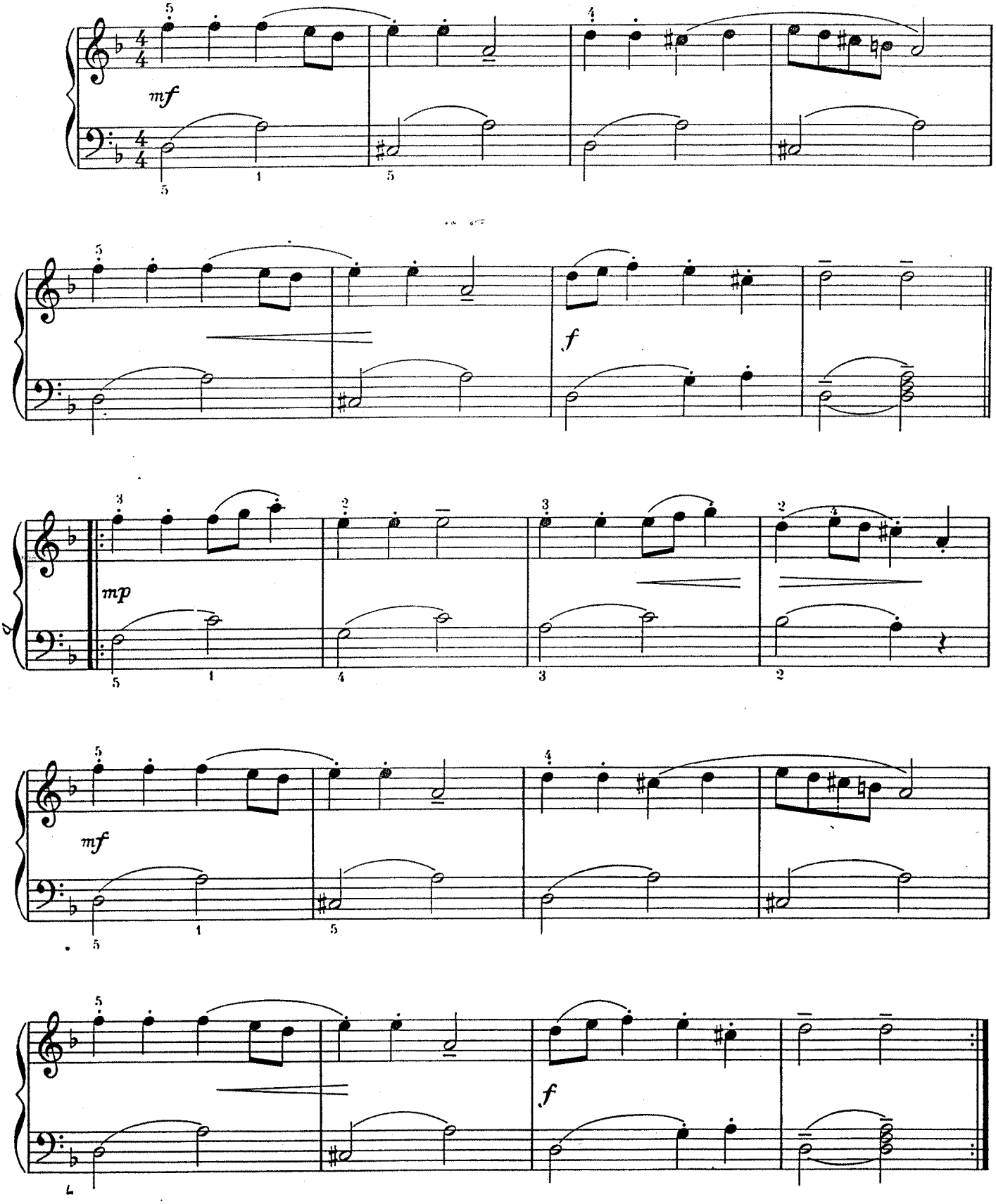
Allegro



Contredanse

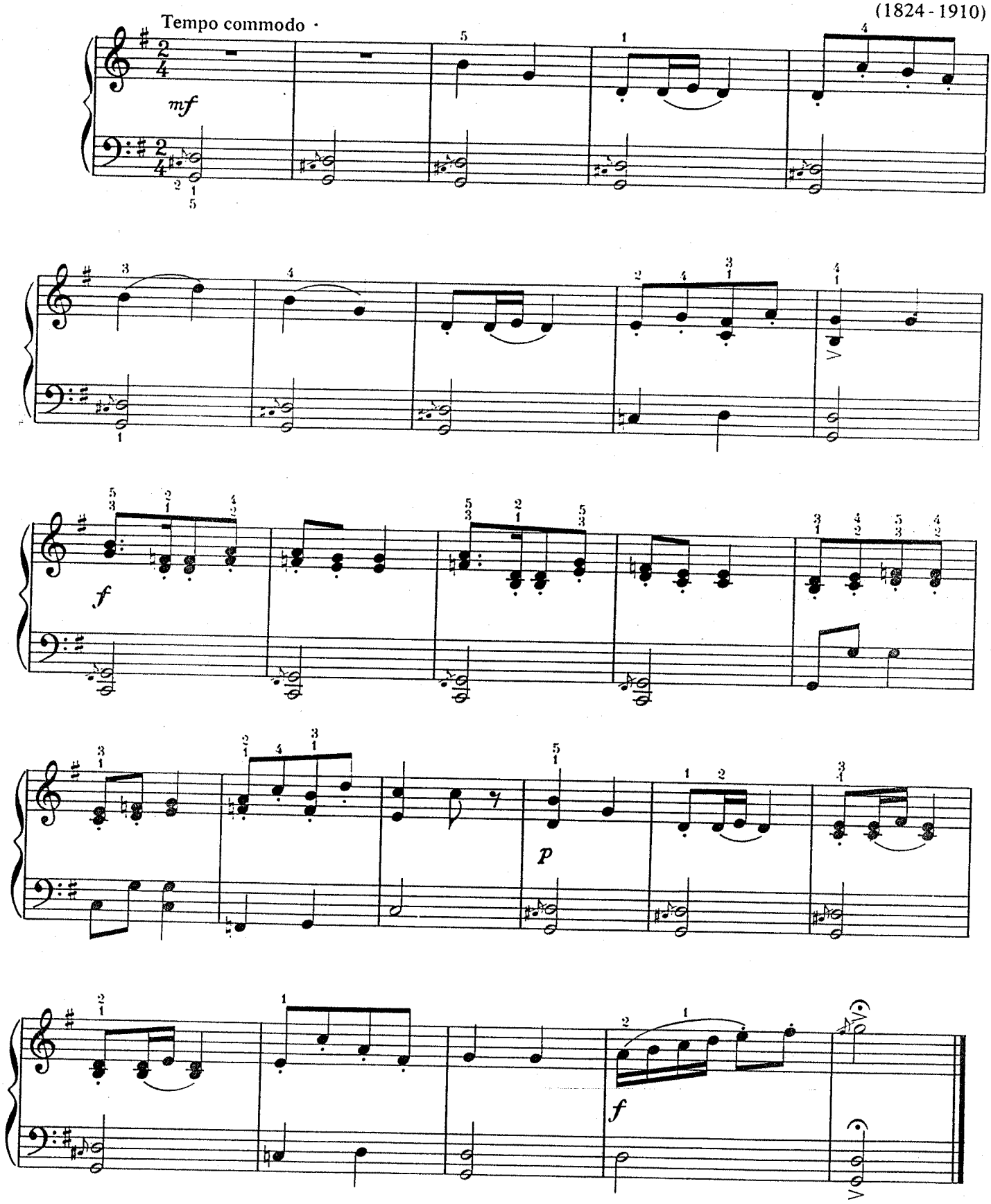
Unknown French Composer
(18th Century)

Moderate walking tempo



Rondino Pastorale

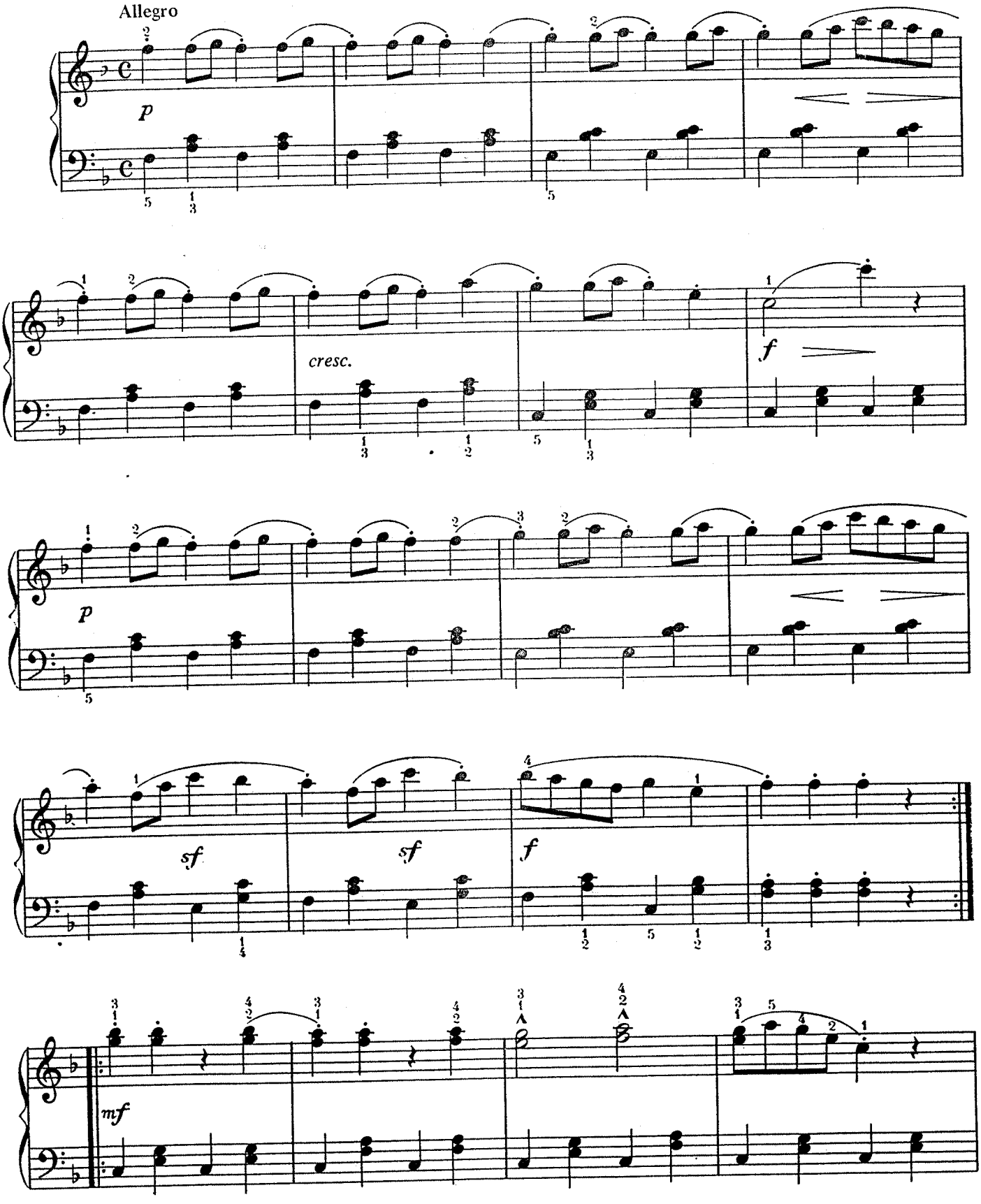
Carl Reinecke
(1824 - 1910)

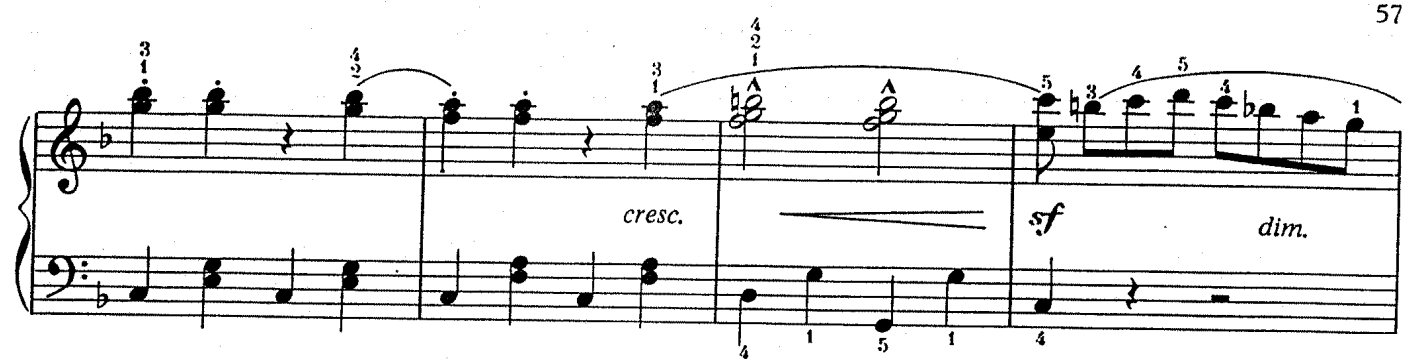


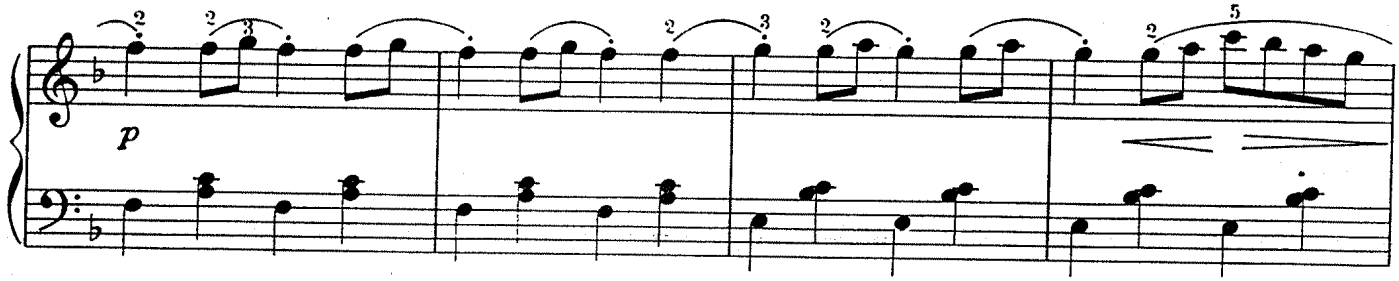
Alexander March

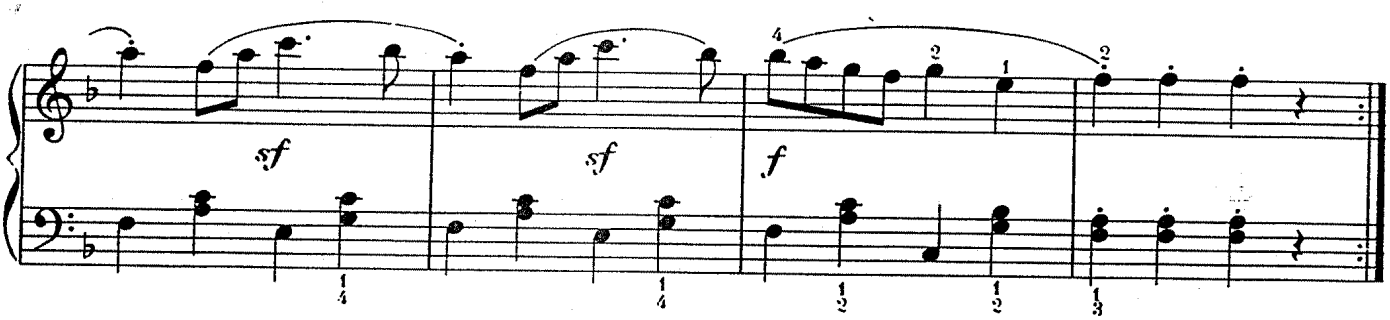
Piano version by
Carl Czerny

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770 - 1827)





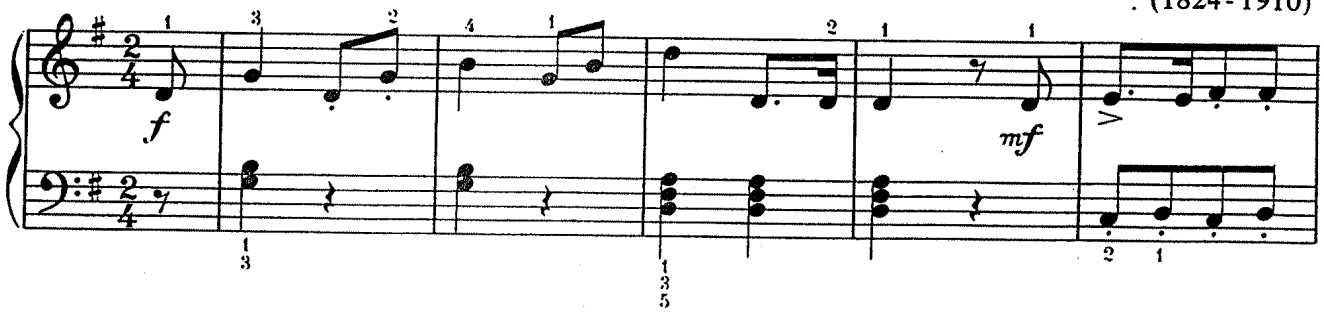


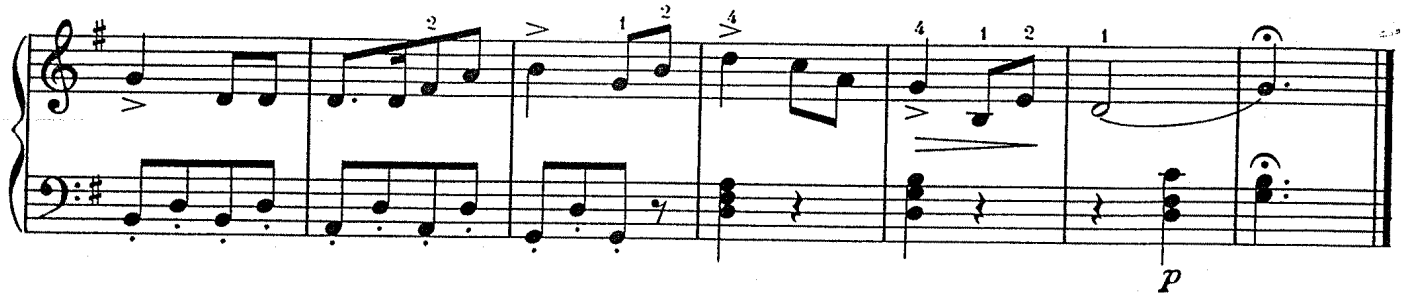


Scherzino

Allegretto marziale

Carl Reinecke
(1824-1910)

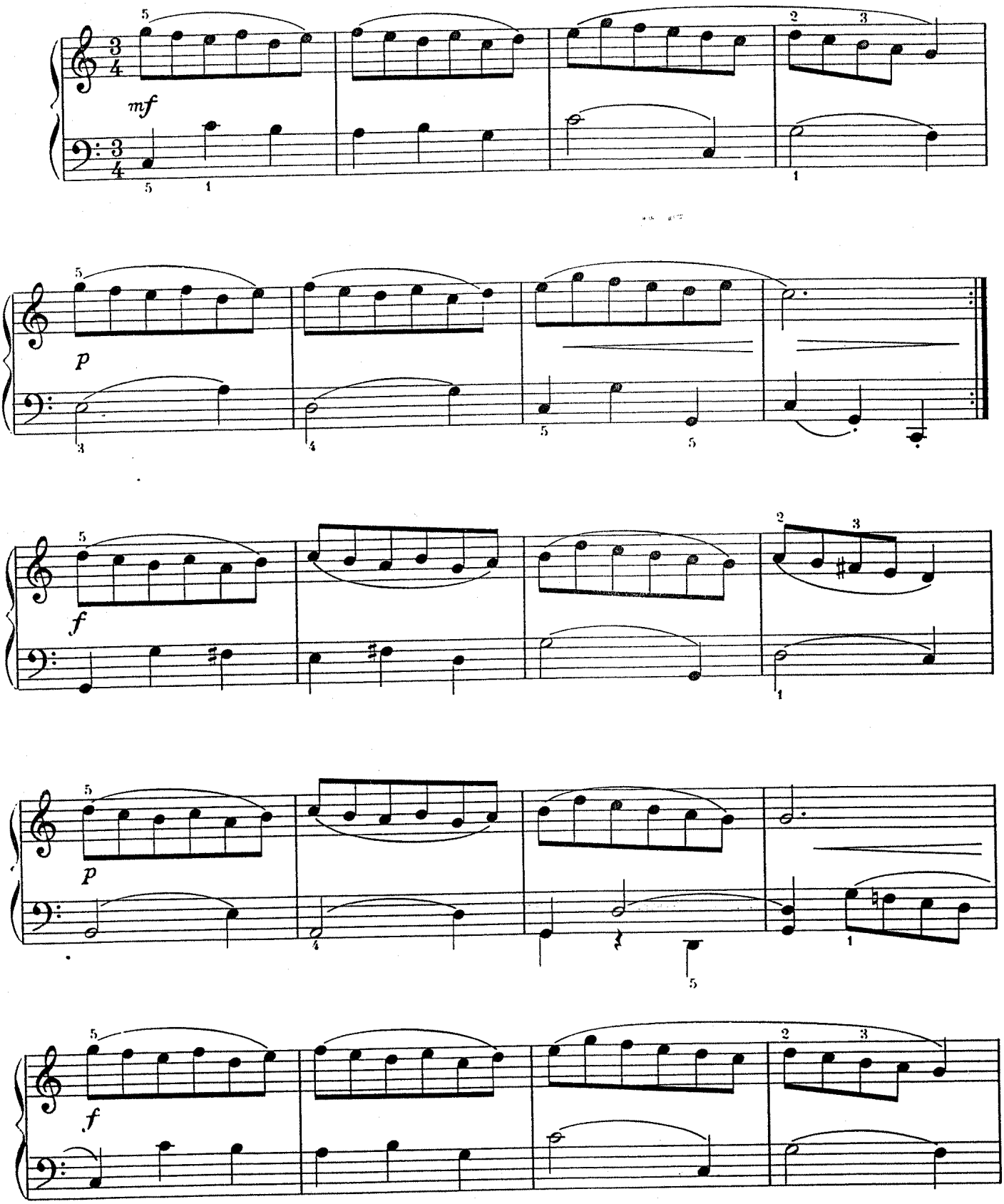


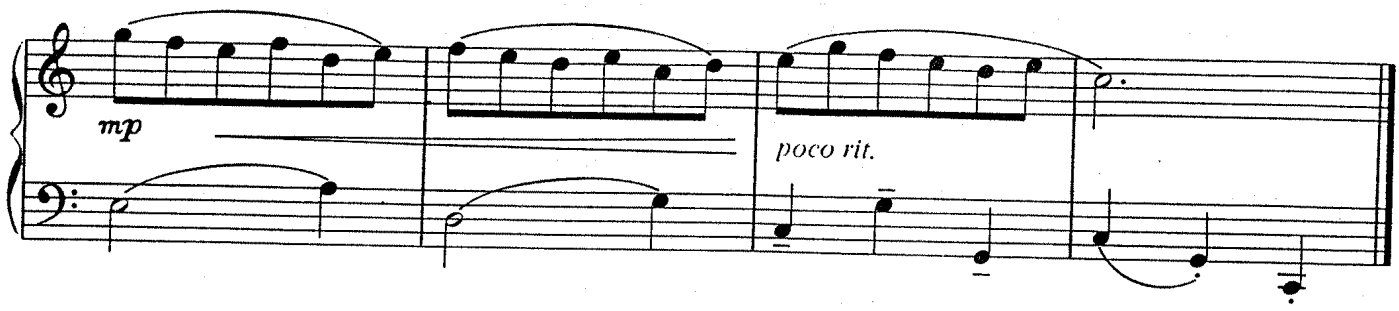


Rondino

Jean Philippe Rameau
(1683 - 1764)

Moderato

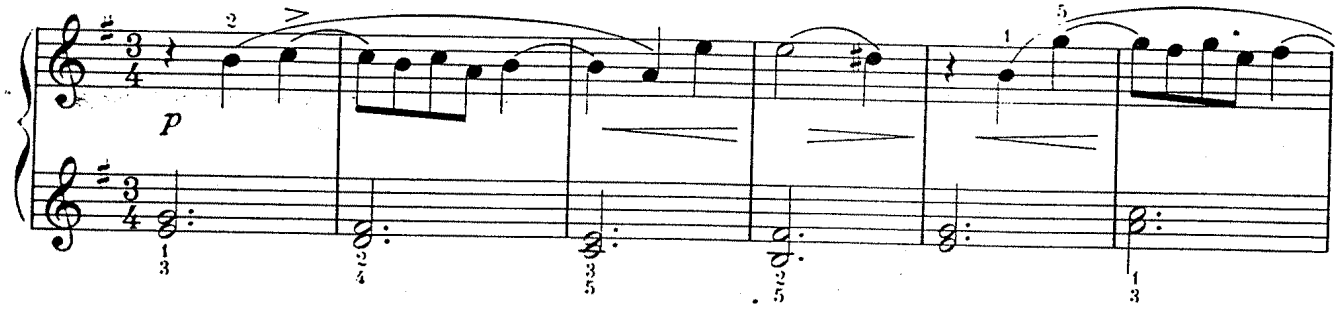


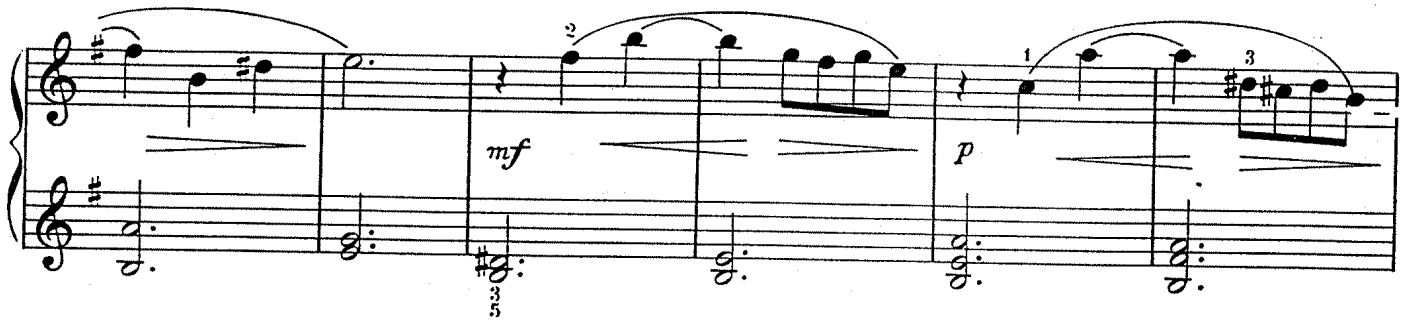


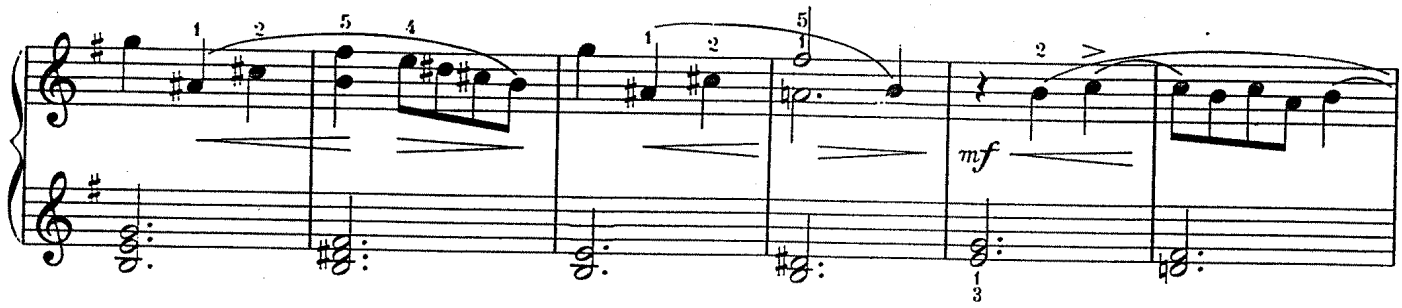
Elegy

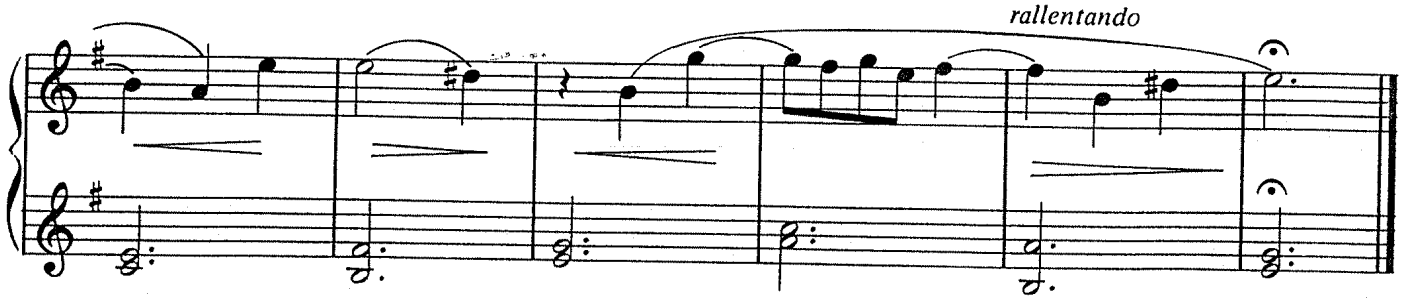
Carl Reinecke
(1824 - 1910)

Andante con moto



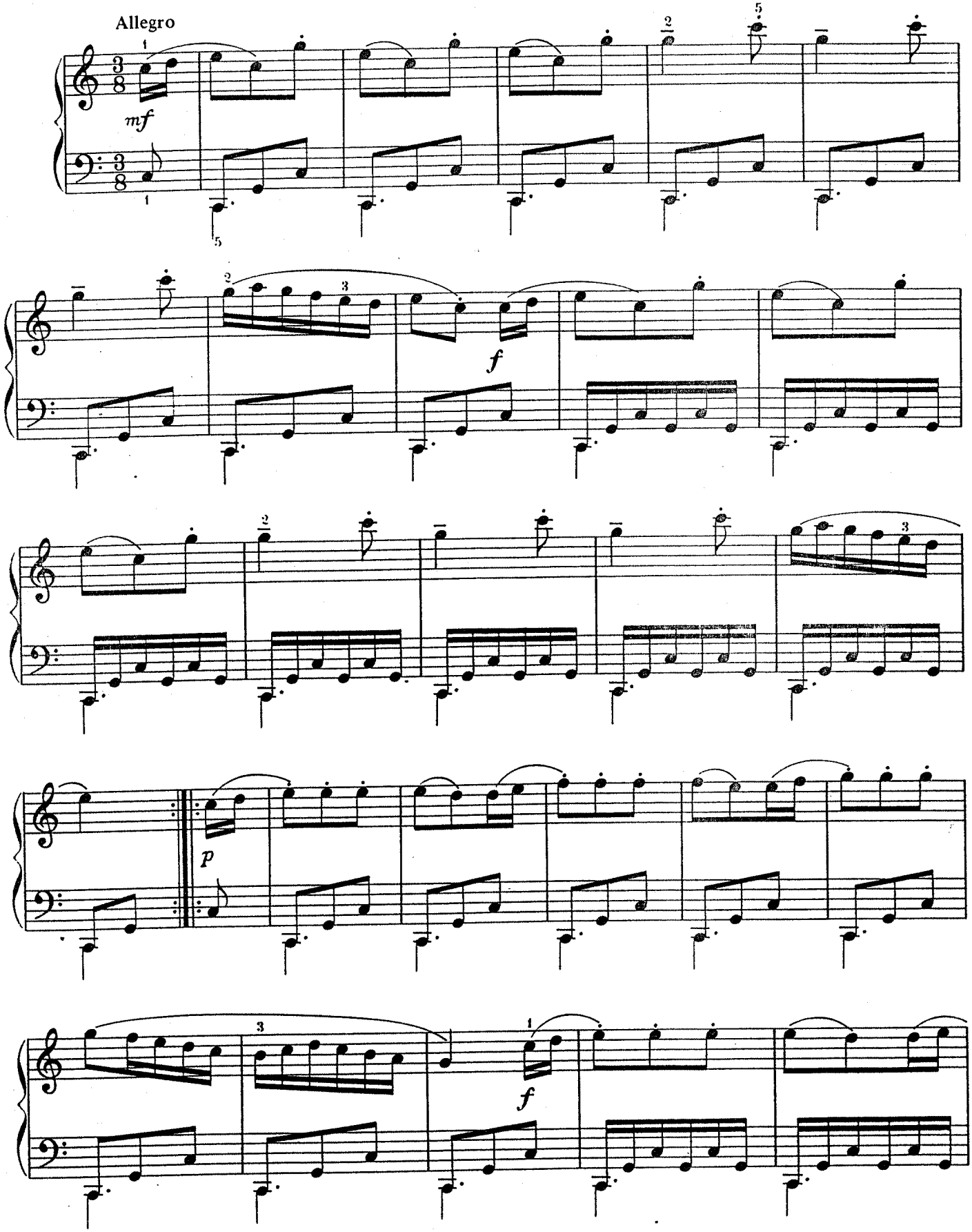


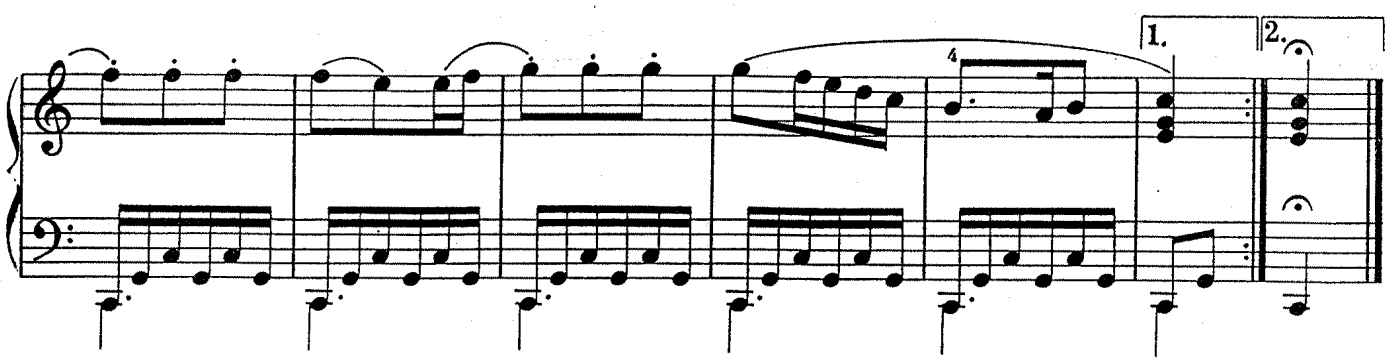




Carnival

François Couperin
(1668 - 1733)

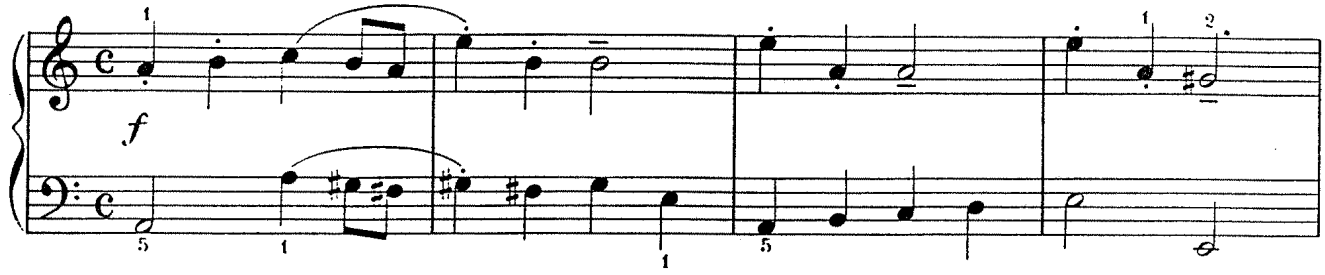


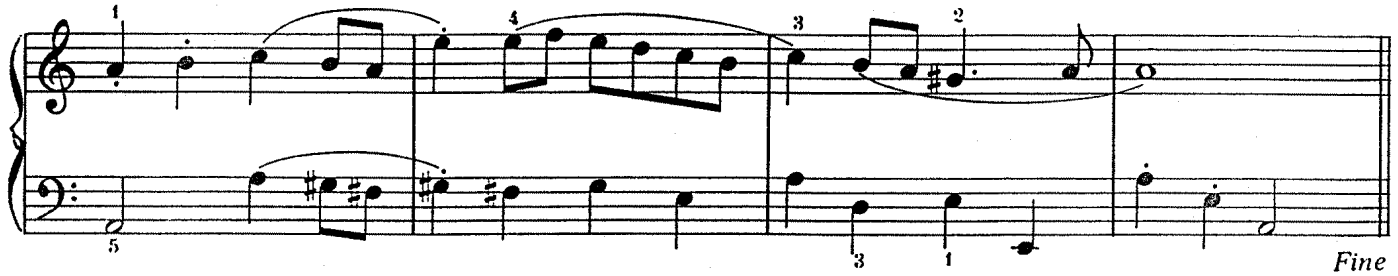


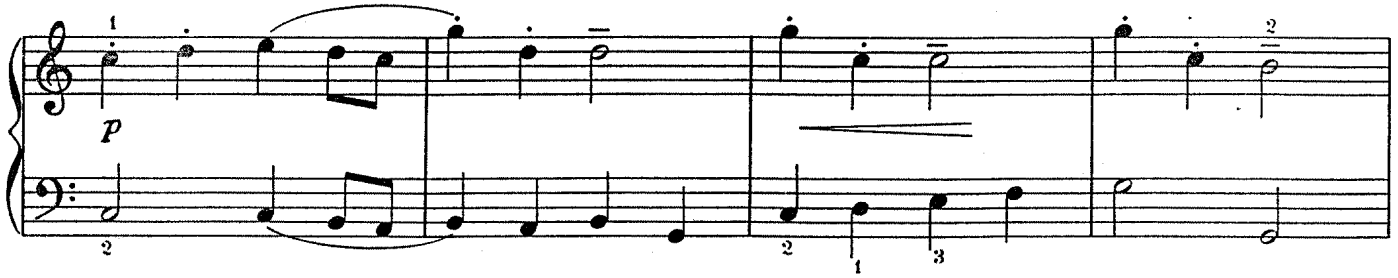
Rigaudon

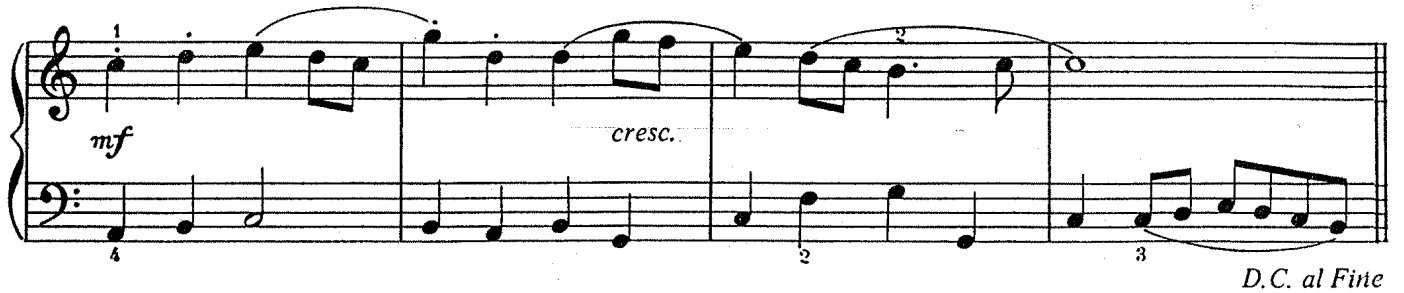
Allegretto

Georg Philip Telemann





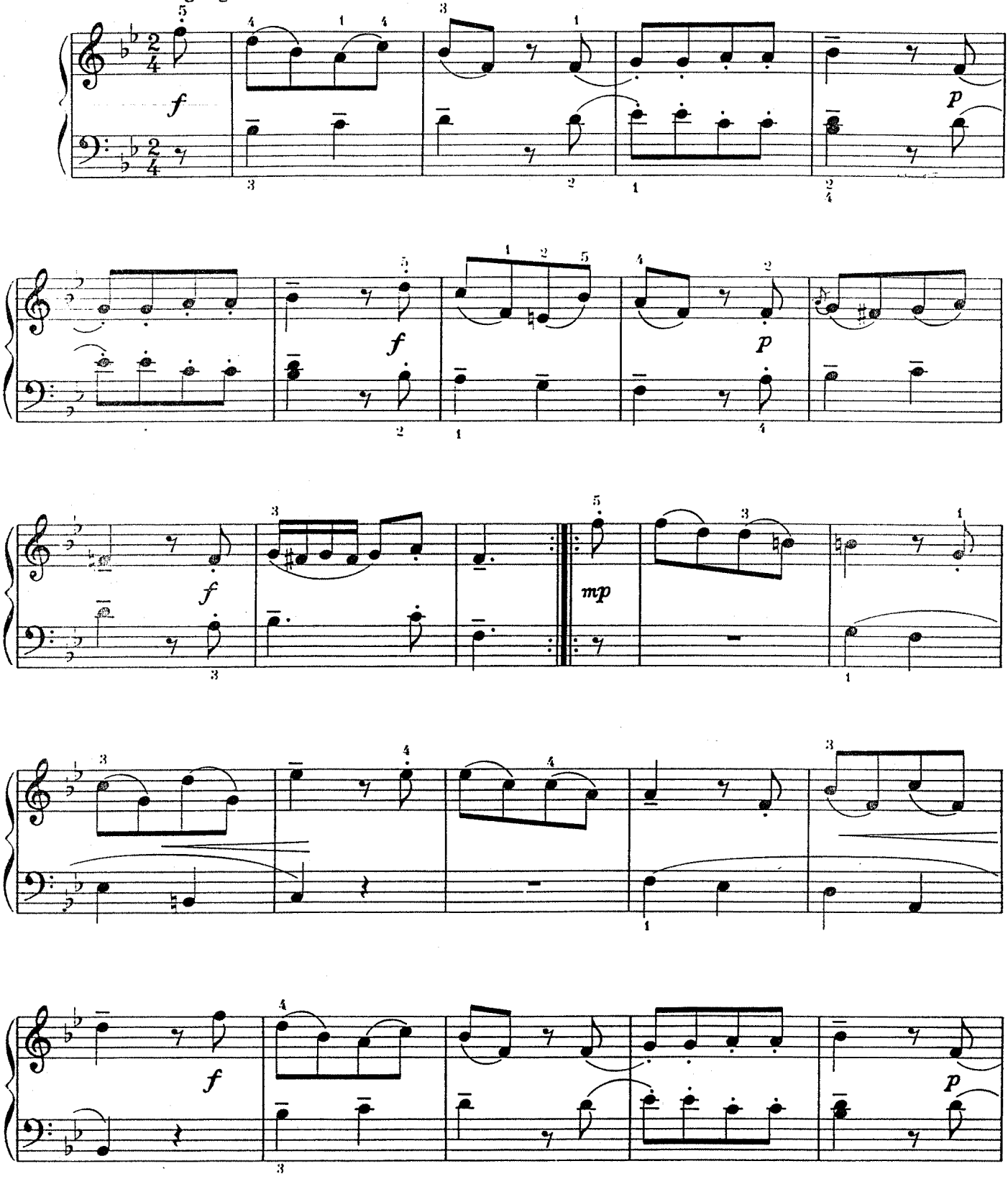


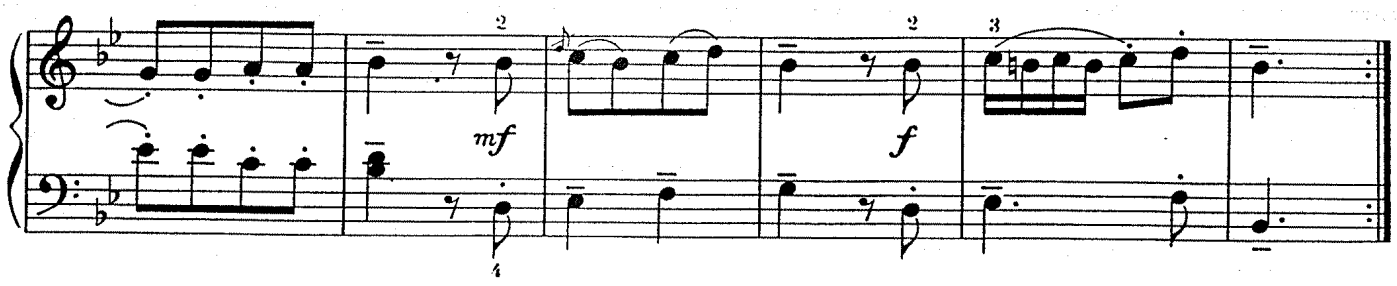


Allegro K.3

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756 - 1791)

Allegro giocoso

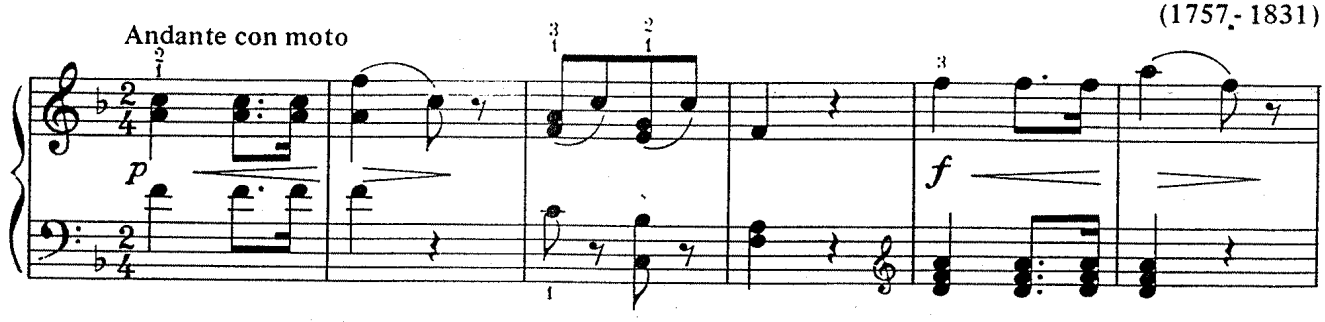


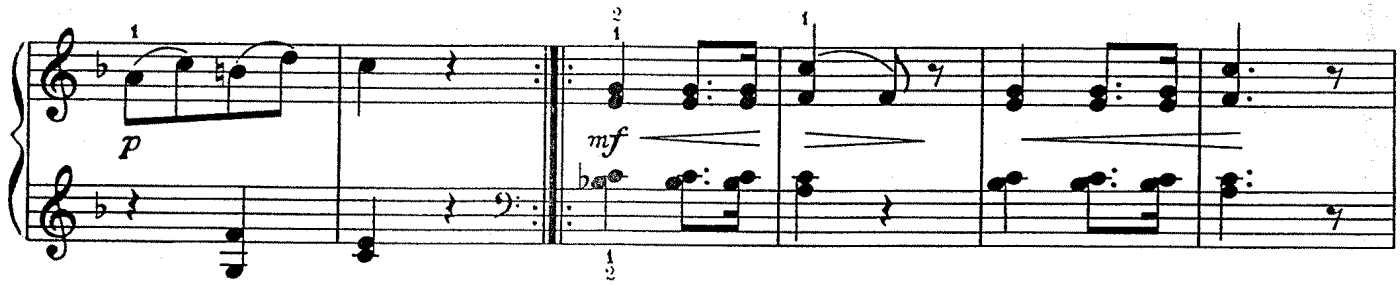


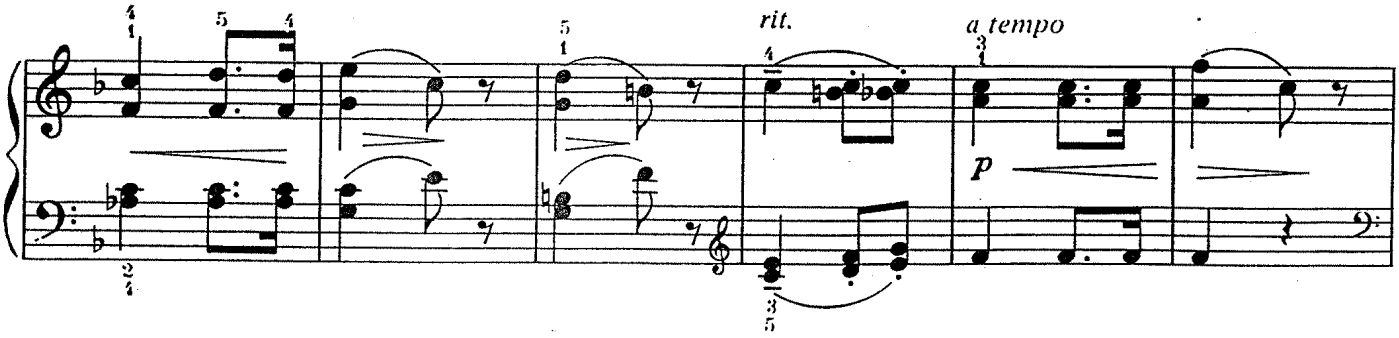
Solemn Procession

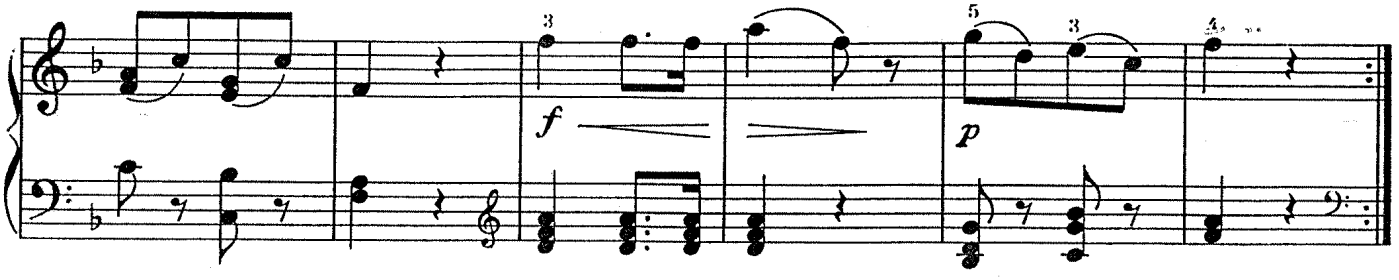
Ignaz Pleyel
(1757 - 1831)

Andante con moto



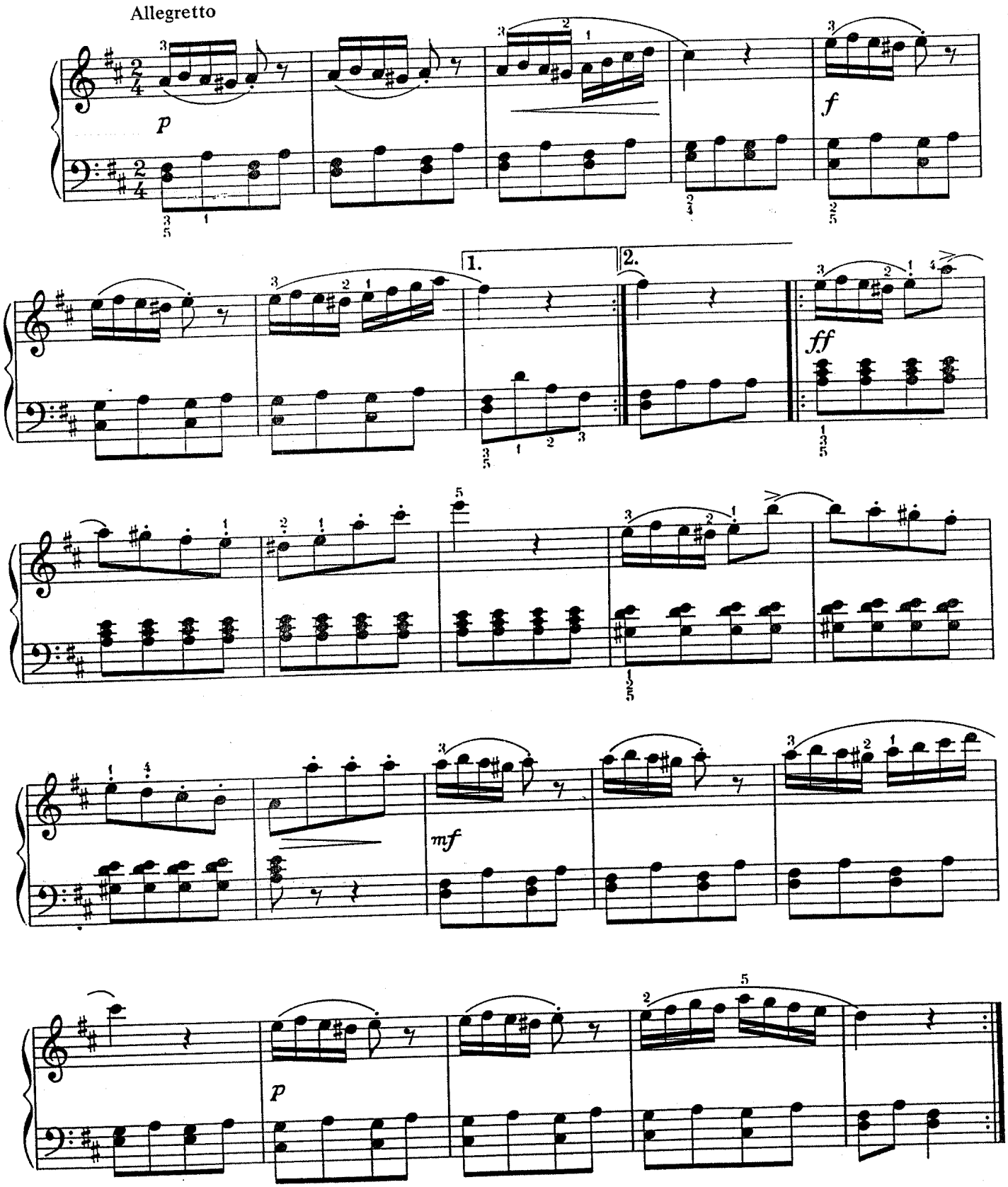






Rondoletto

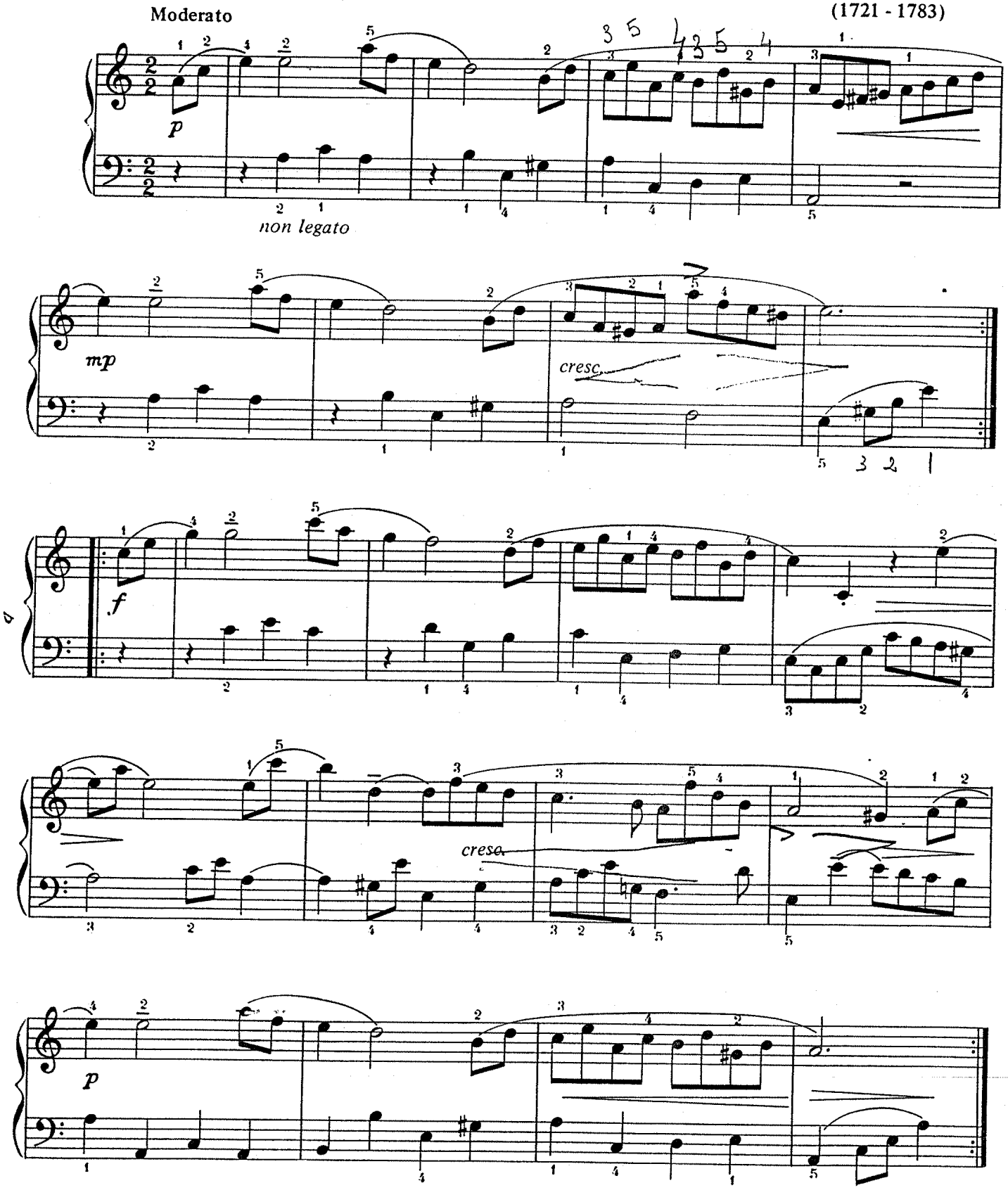
Christian Traugott Brunner
(1792 - 1874)



Carillons

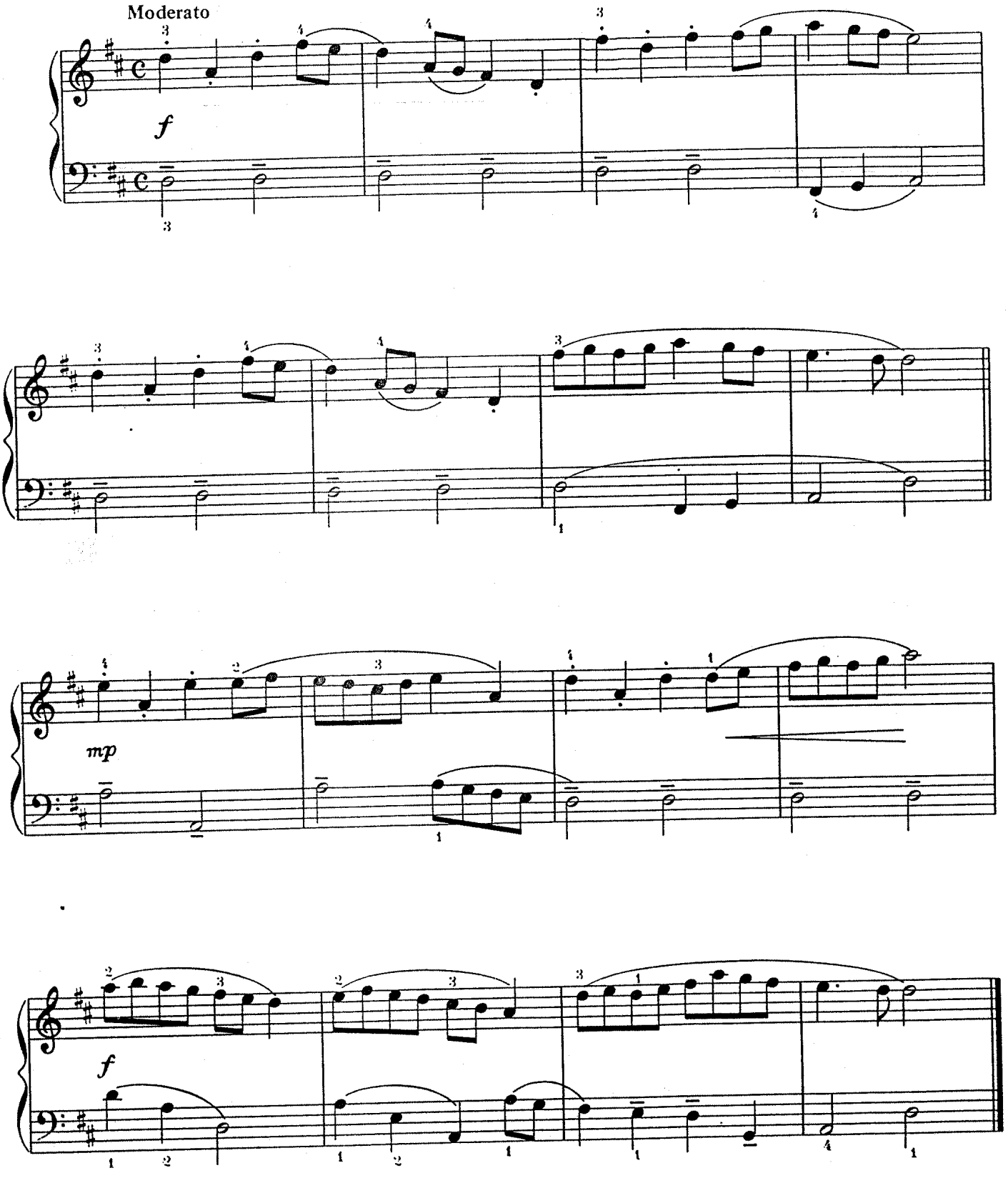
Johann Philipp Kirnberger
(1721 - 1783)

Moderato



King William's March

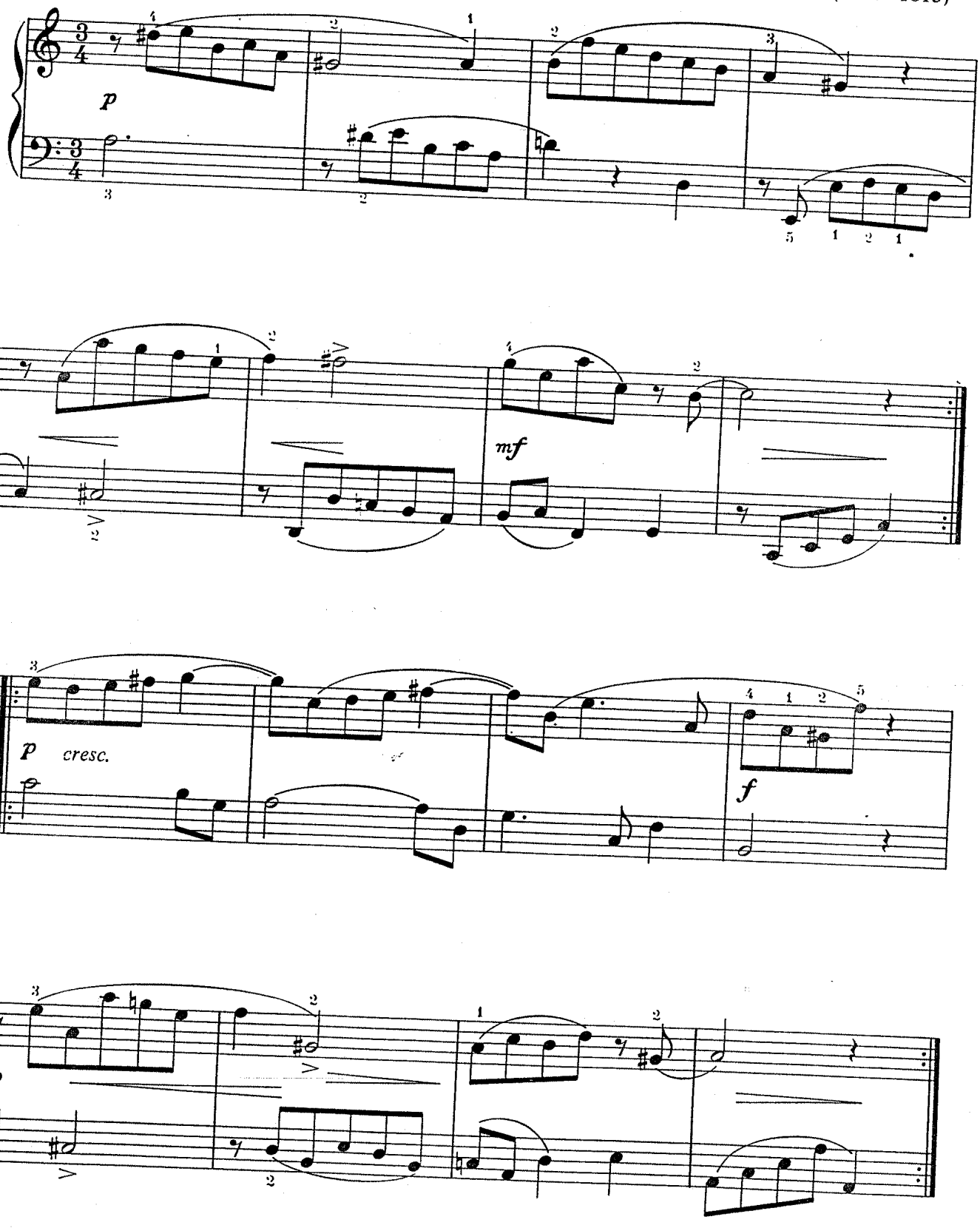
Jeremiah Clarke
(1659 - 1707)



Canzone

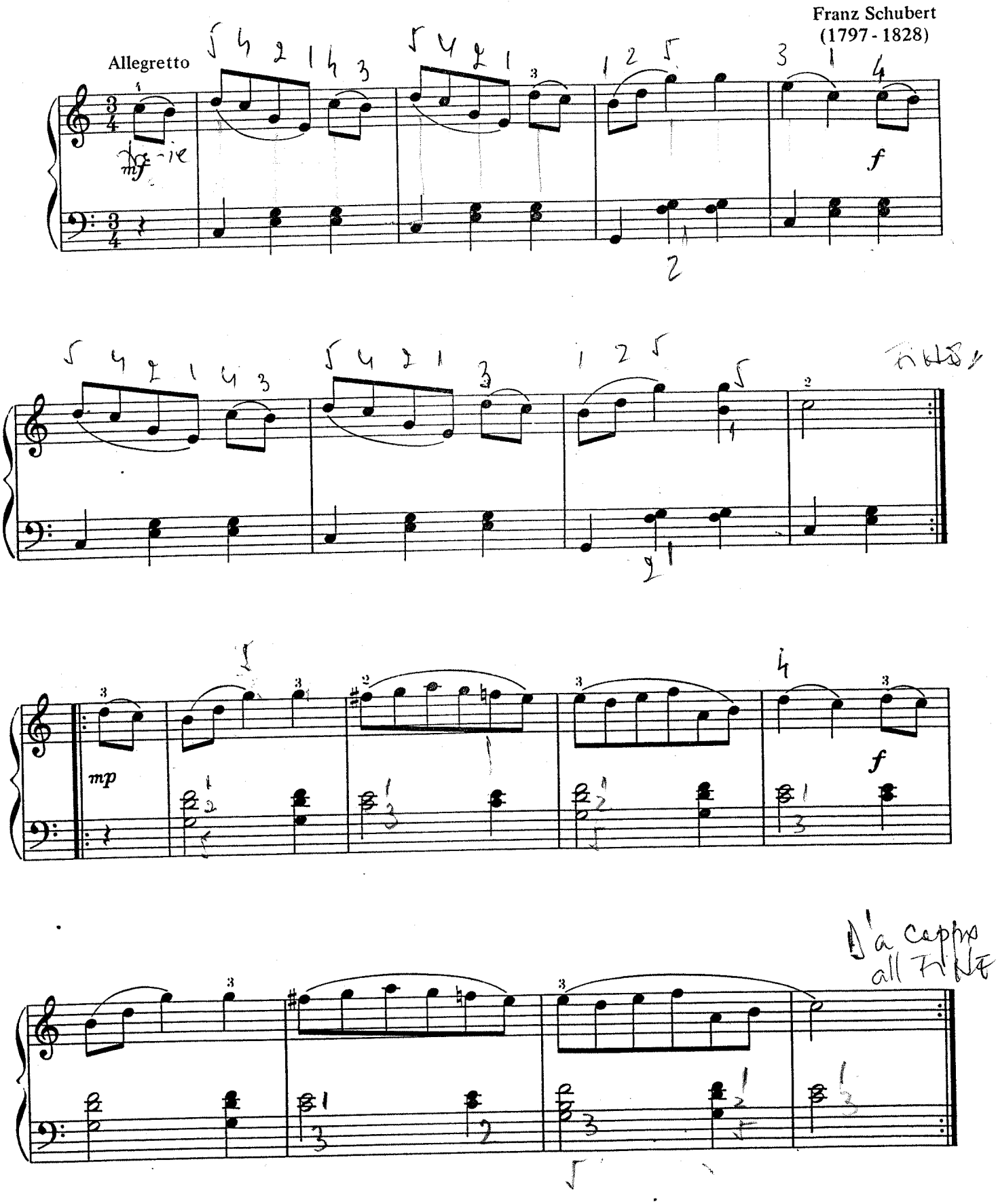
Andantino

Daniel Gottlob Türk
(1756 - 1813)



Ländler

Franz Schubert
(1797 - 1828)

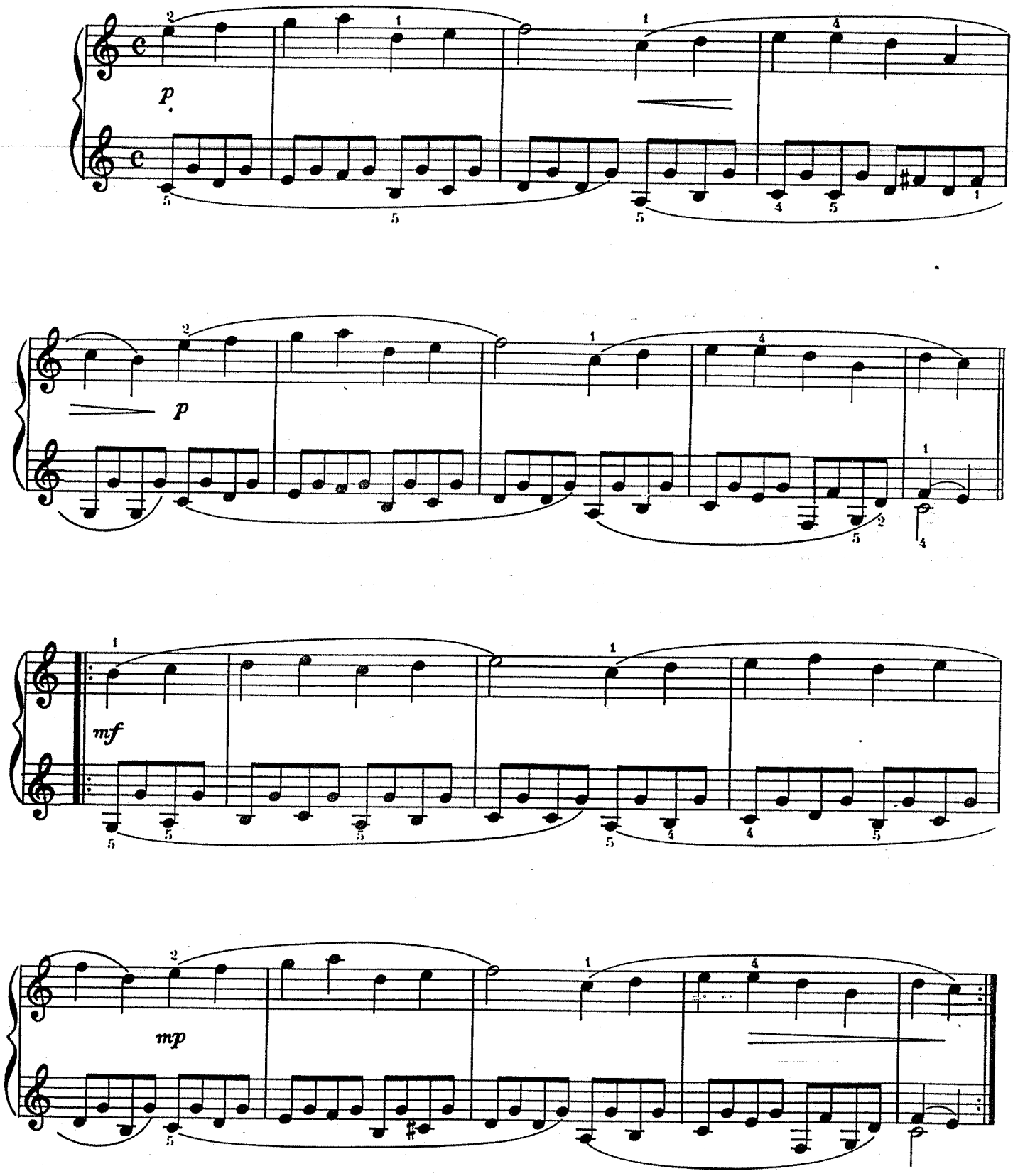


Little Piece

from Album For The Young

Robert Schumann
(1810 - 1856)

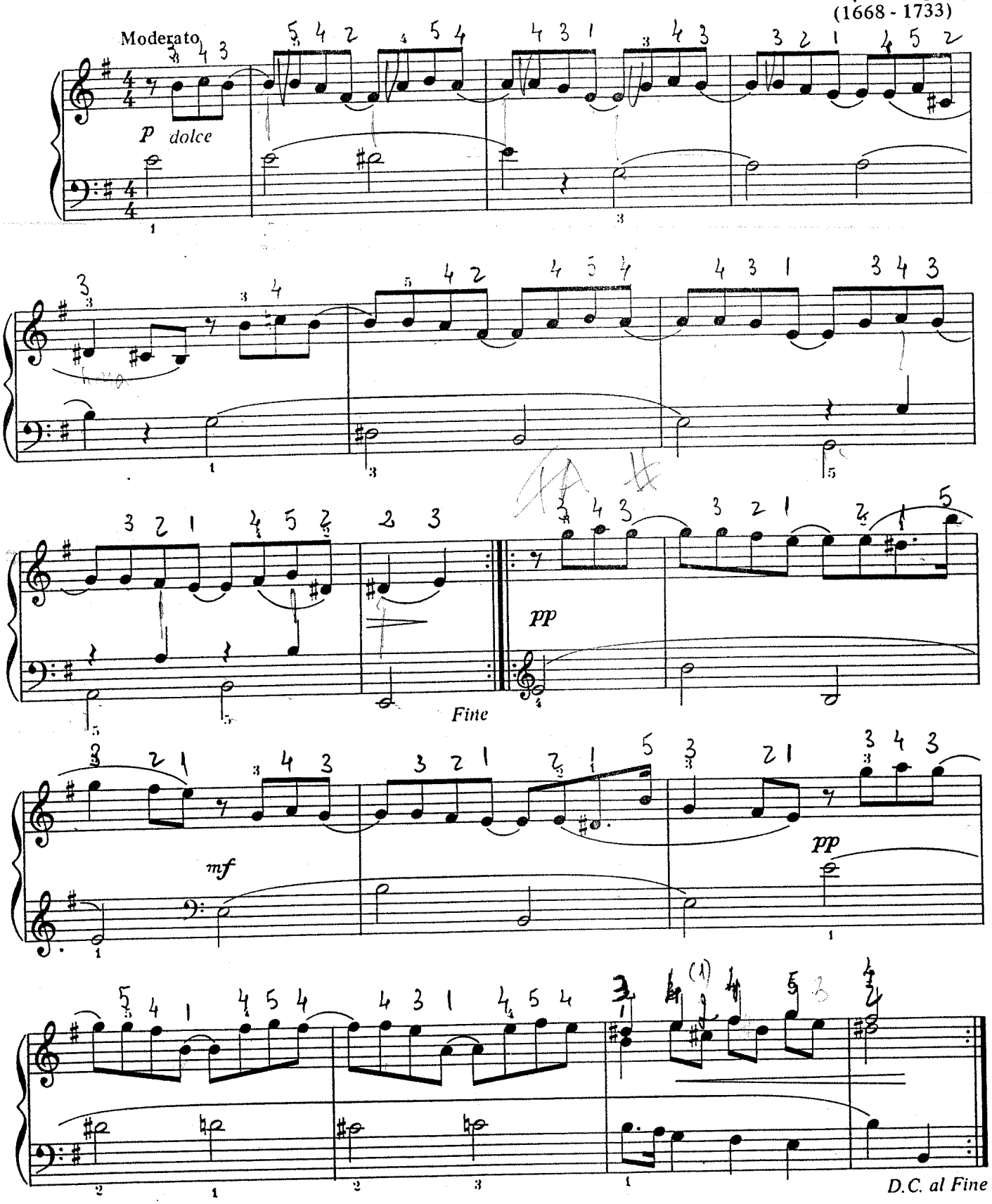
Moderato



L'épineuse*

The Thorny One

François Couperin
(1668 - 1733)

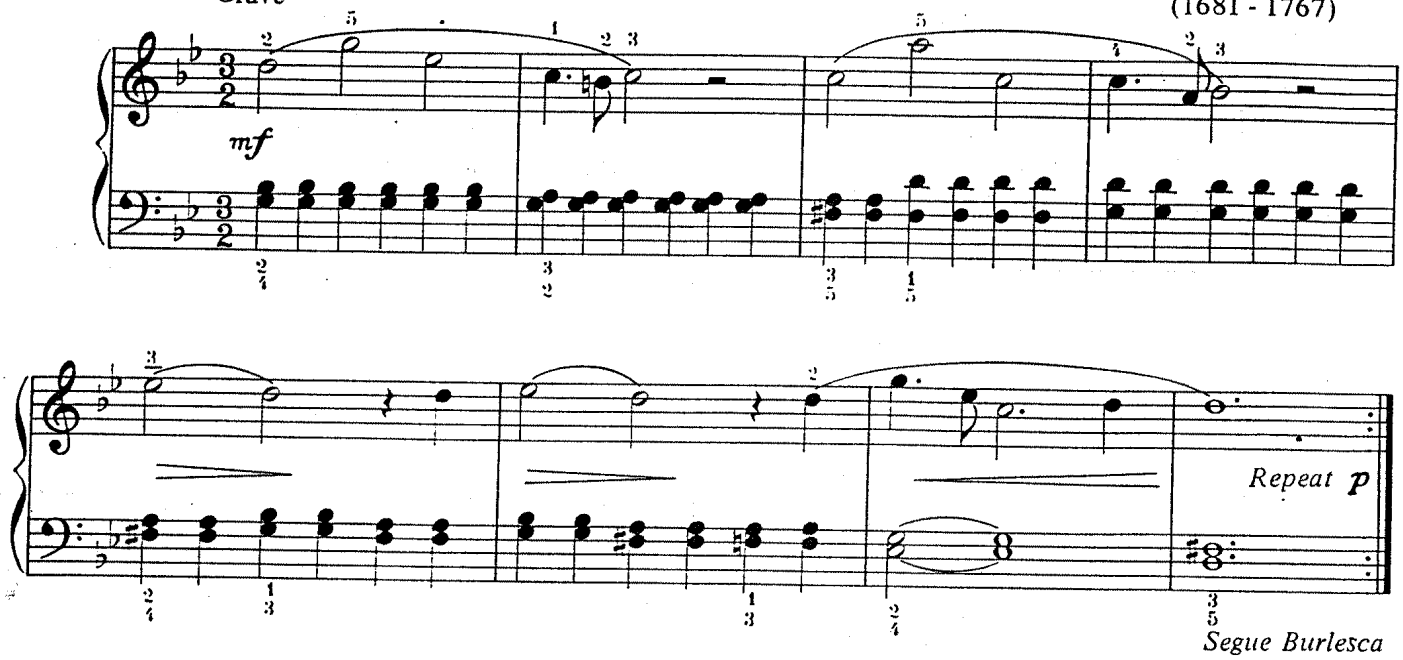


* *Theme and First Couplet*

Arioso

Georg Philipp Telemann
(1681 - 1767)

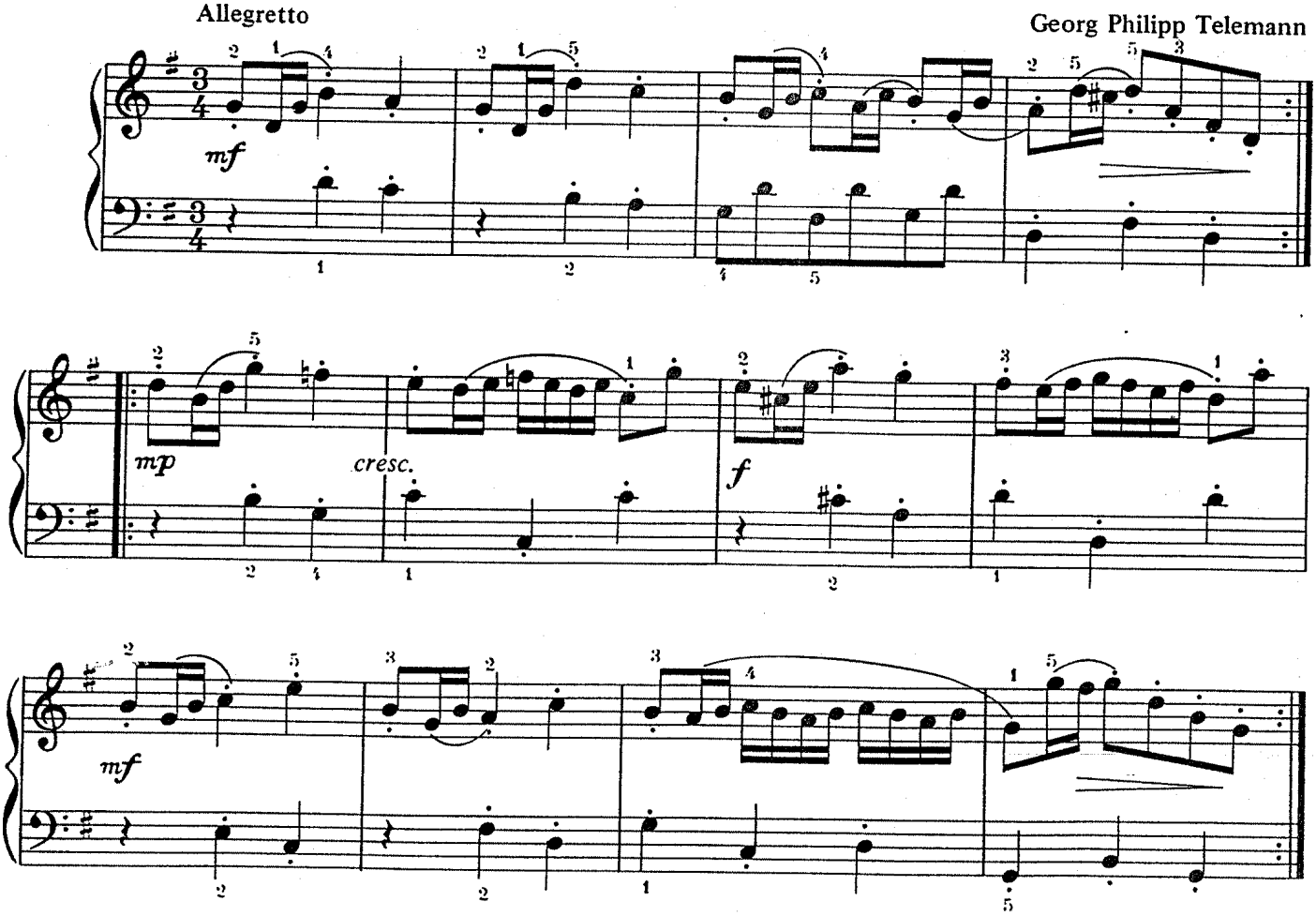
Grave



Burlesca

Allegretto

Georg Philipp Telemann

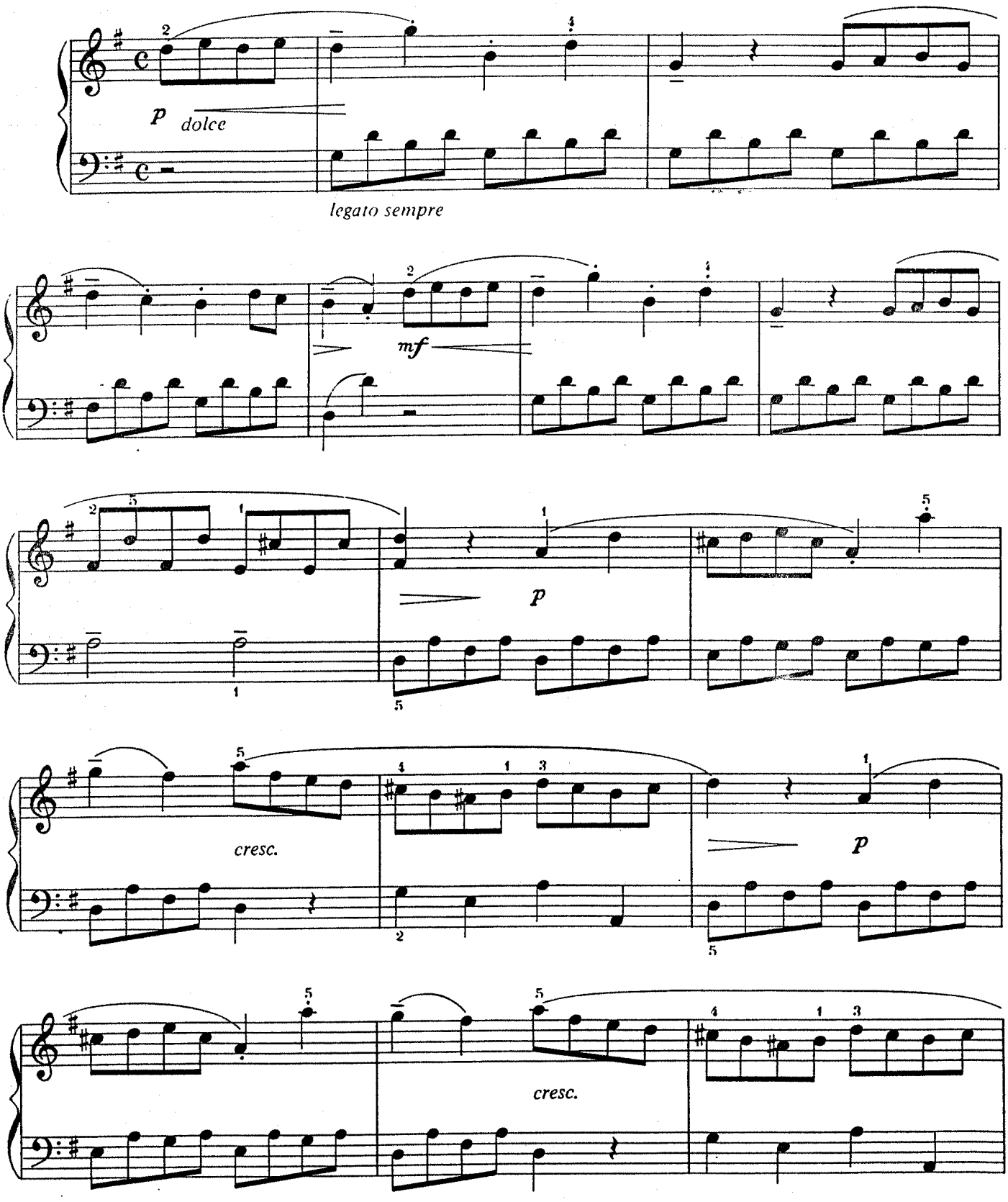


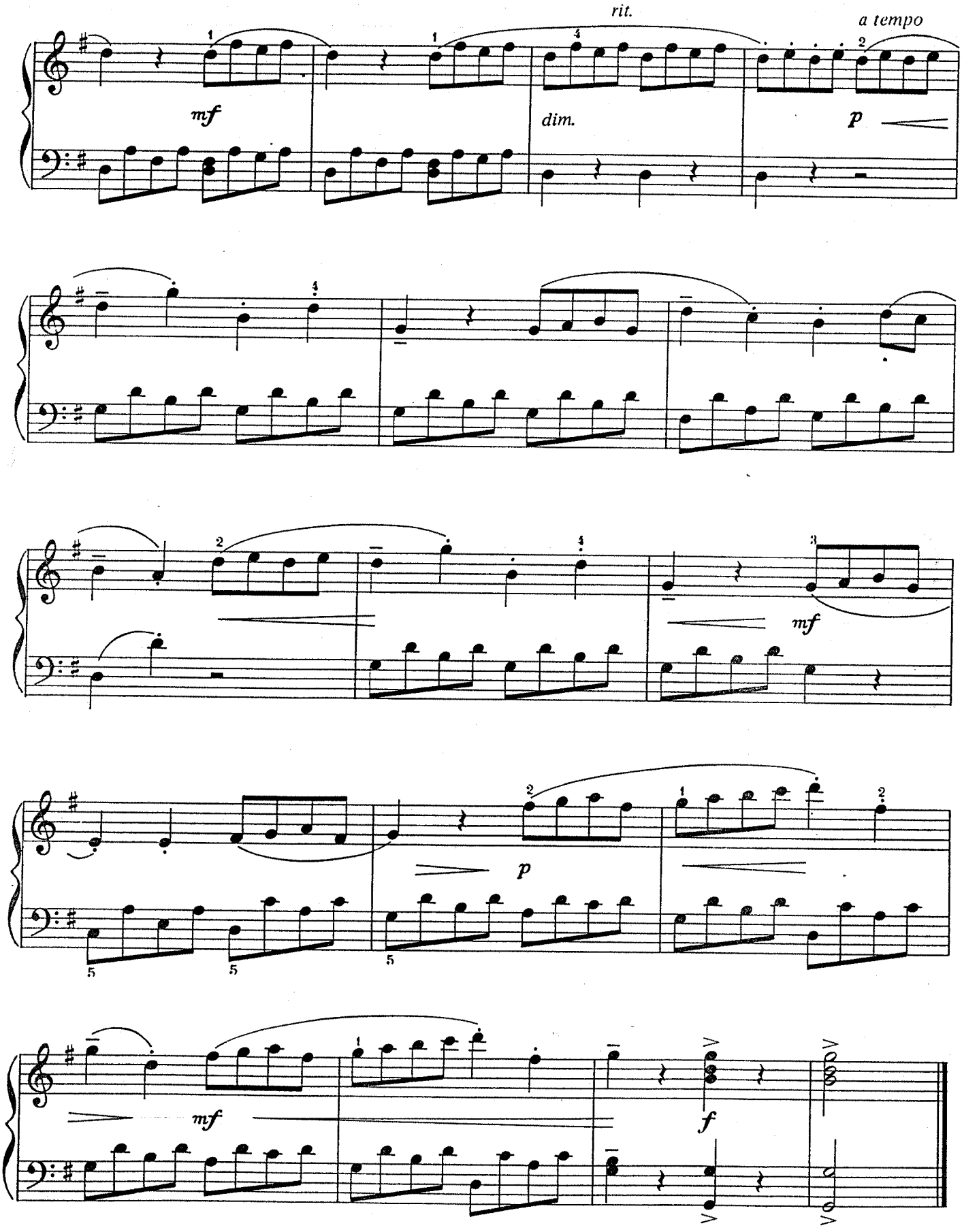
Sonatina No. 2

1st Movement

Jean (T.) Latour
(1766 - 1837)

Allegretto

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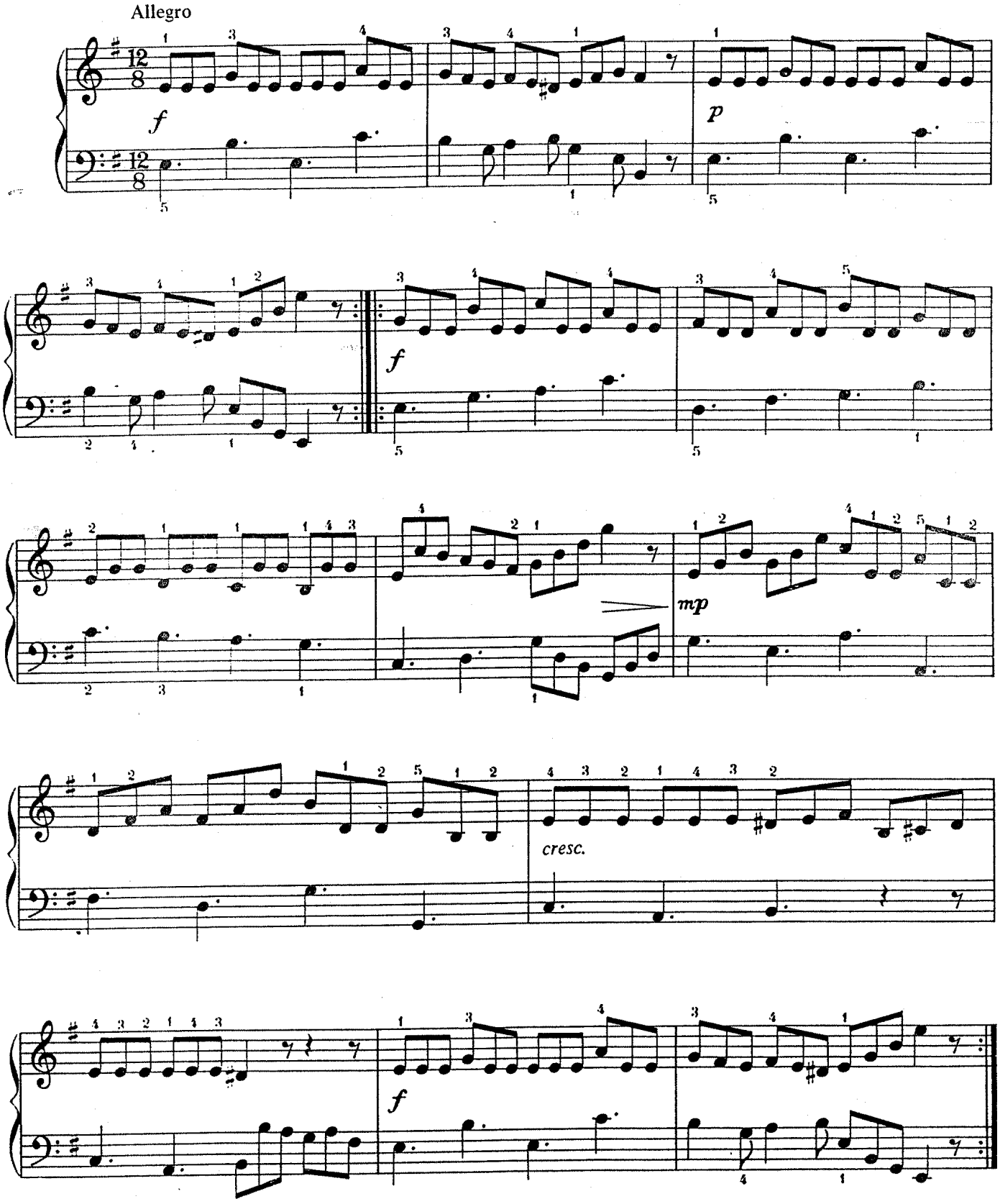
Gigue

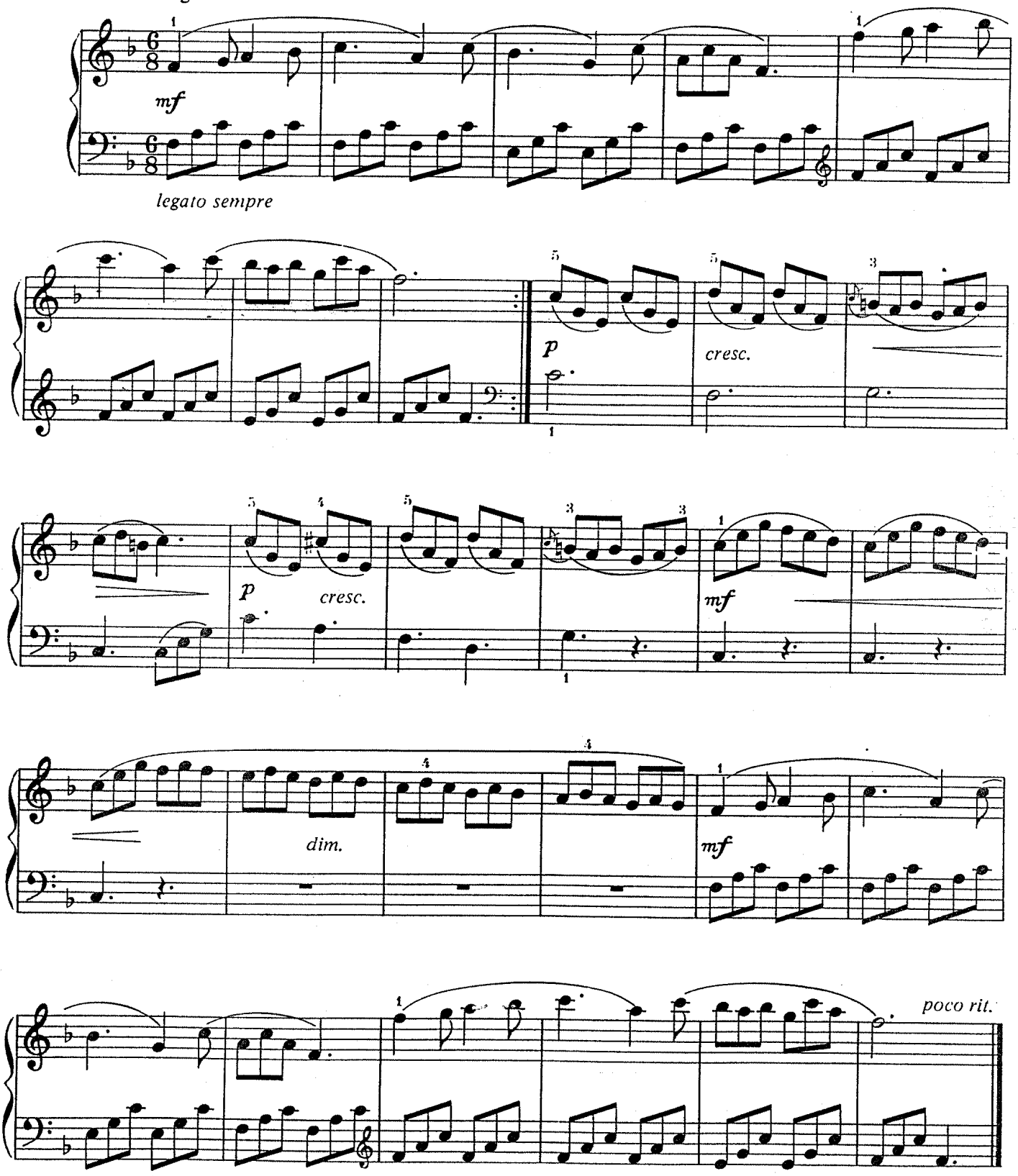
Johann Nikolaus Tischer
(1731 - 1767)



Dance Sonatina

Thomas Attwood
(1763 - 1838)

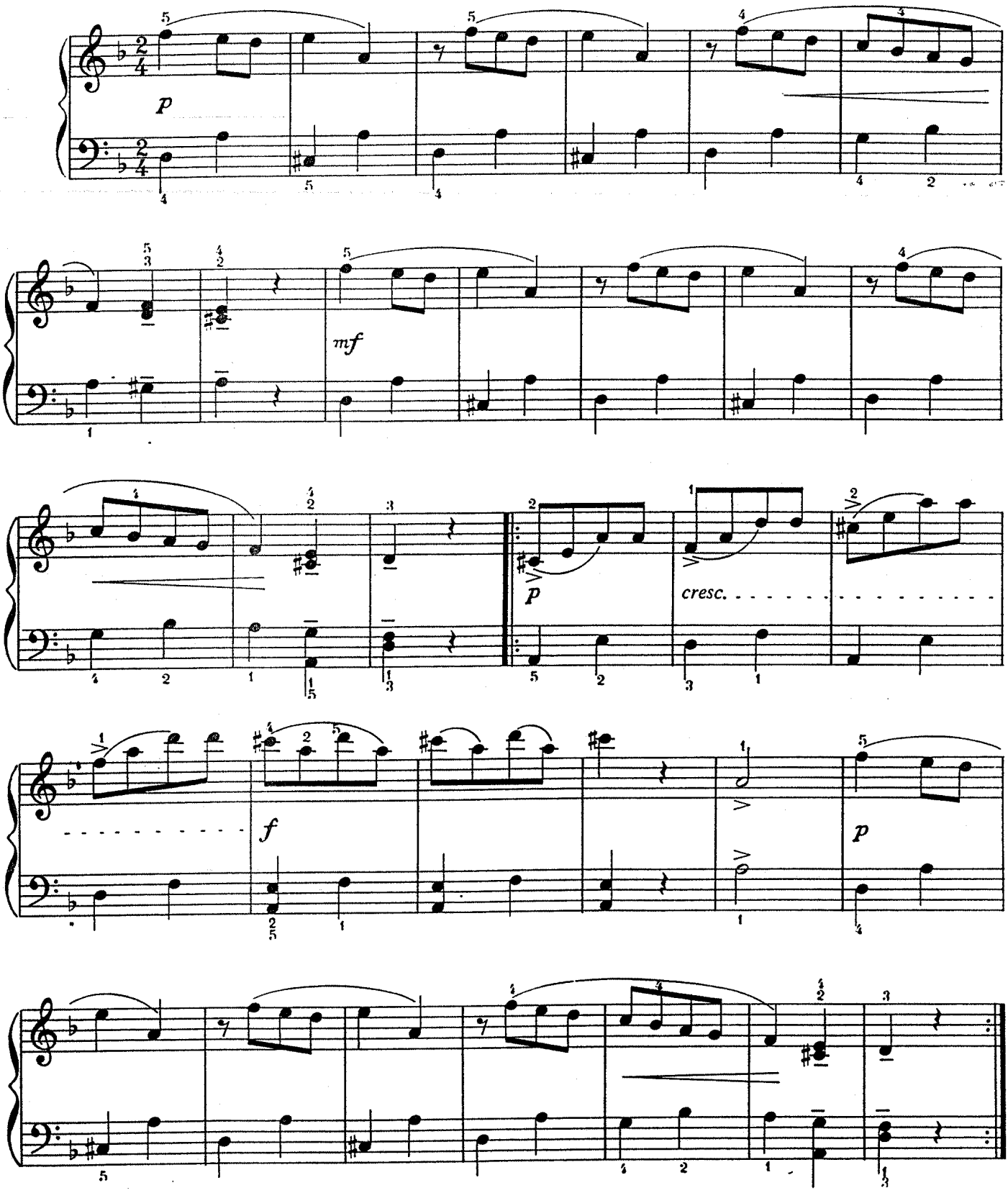
Allegretto



Romantic Story

Cornelius Gurlitt
(1820 - 1901)

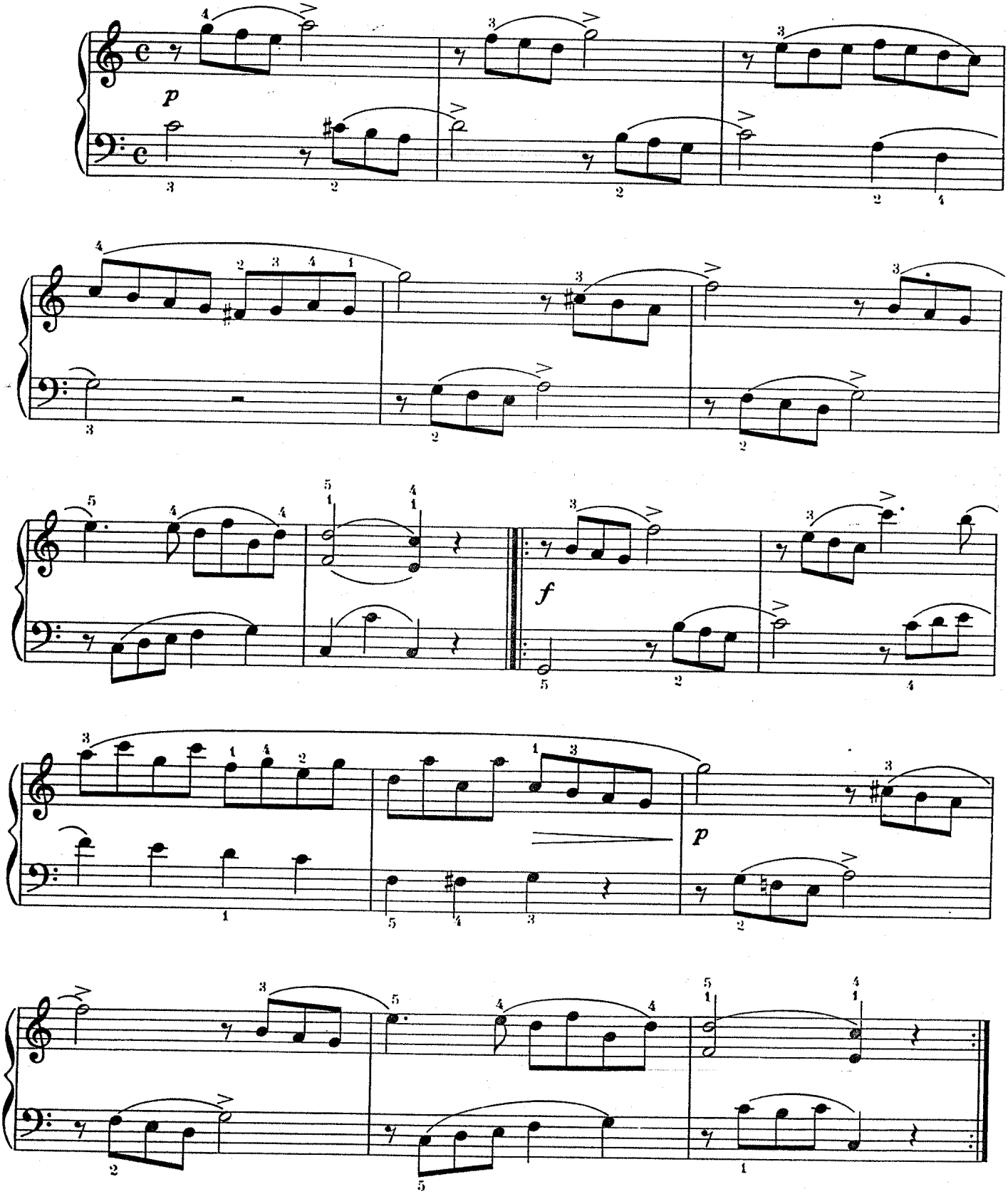
Andantino



Playful Dialogue

Johann Nepomuk Hummel
(1778 - 1837)

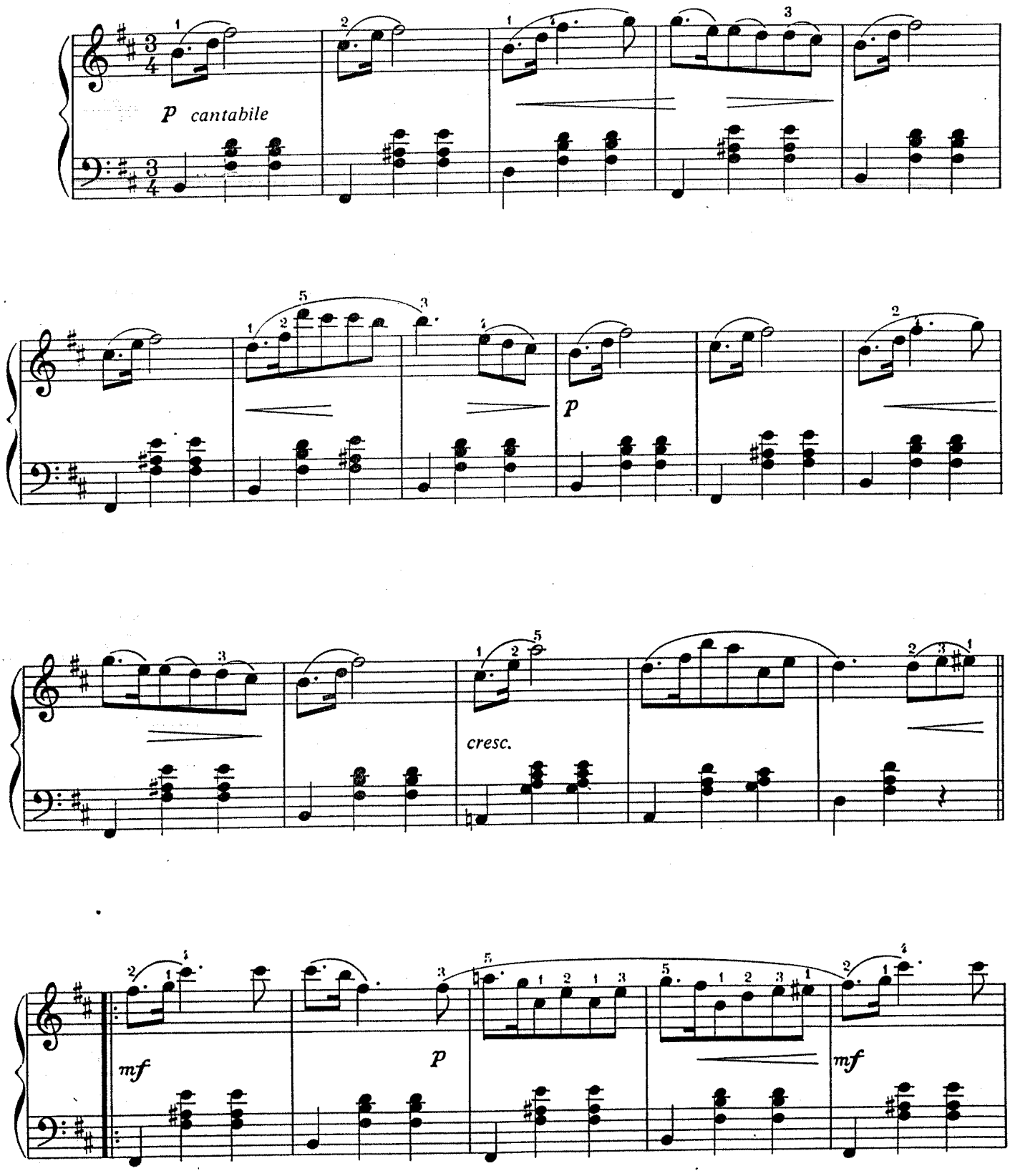
Moderato

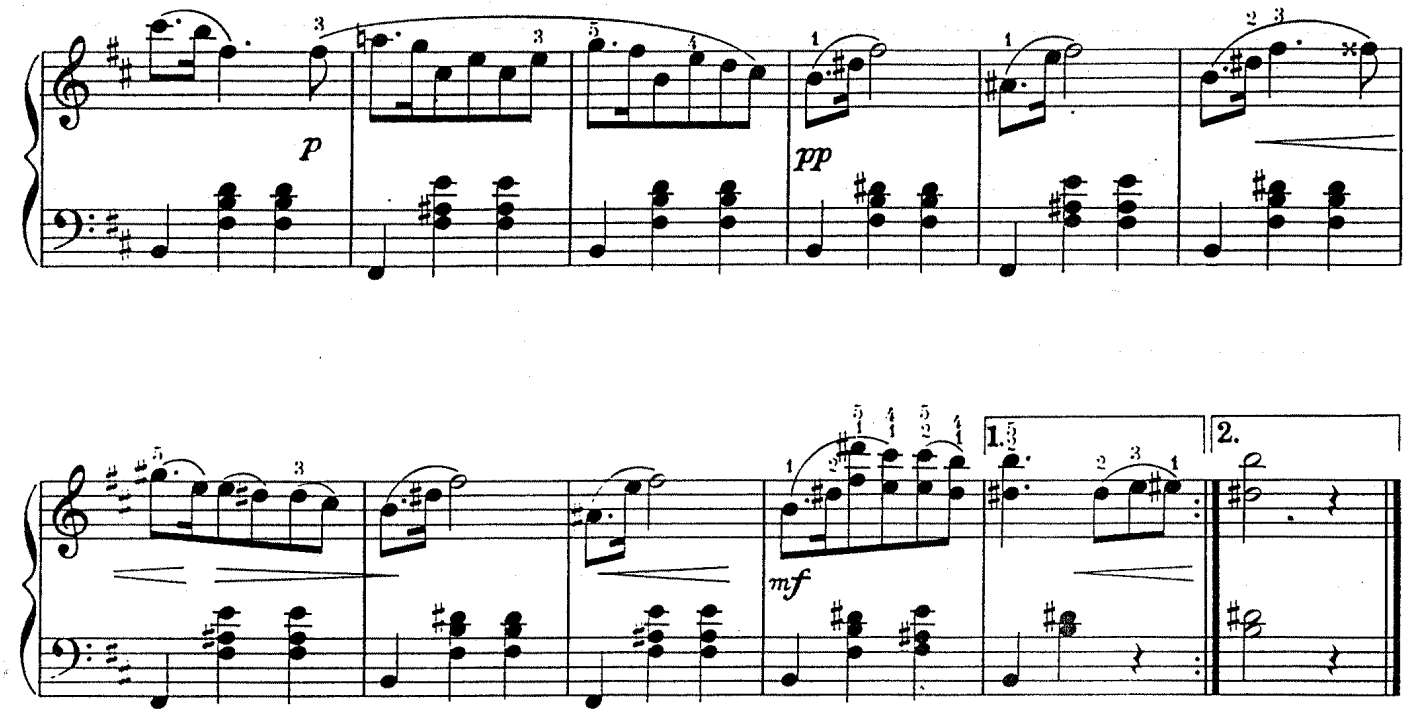


Waltz

Franz Schubert
(1797 - 1828)

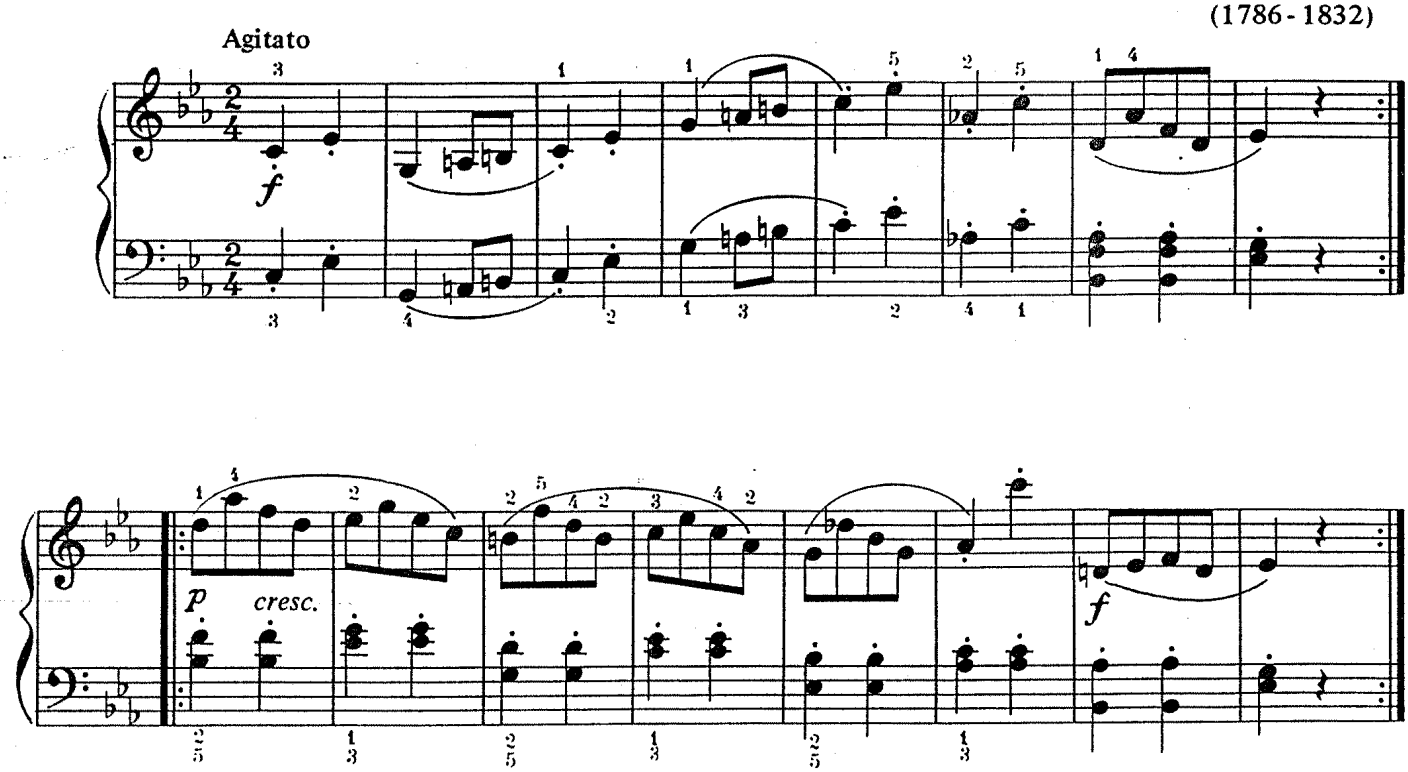
Moderato





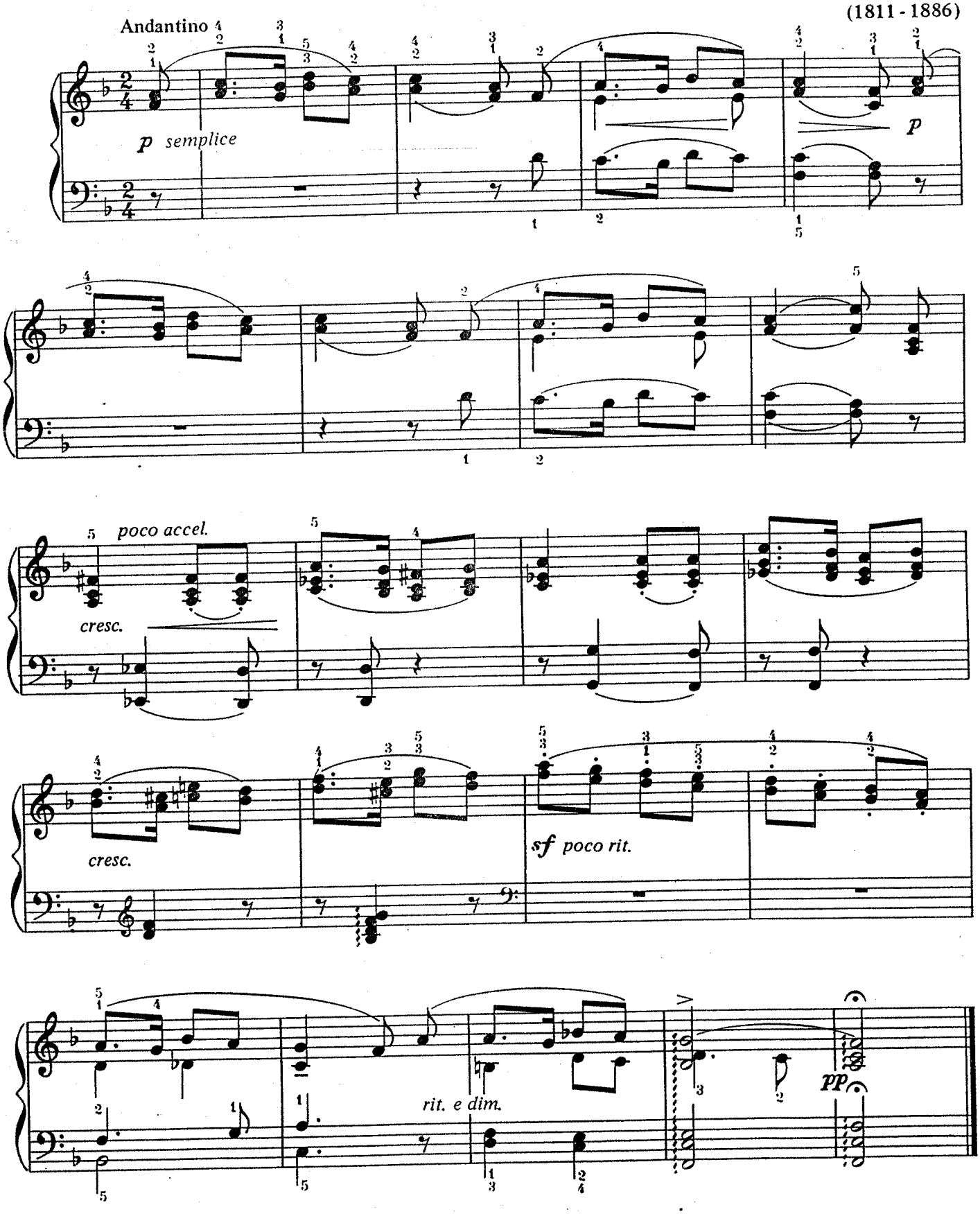
Ecossaise

Friedrich Kuhlau
(1786 - 1832)



Album Leaf

Franz Liszt
(1811 - 1886)



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