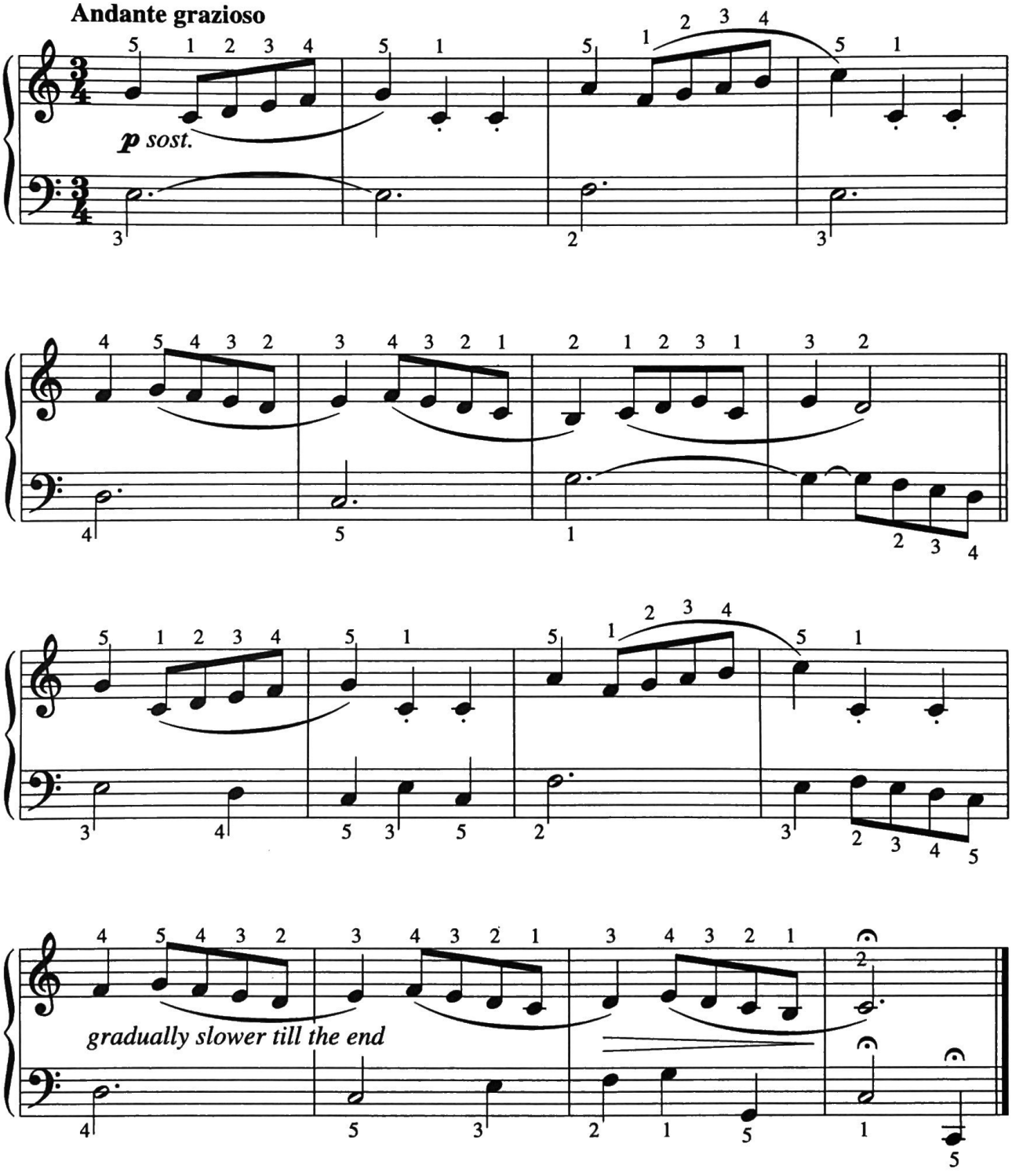
Johann Sebastian Bach

(Germany, 1685–1750)

MINUET

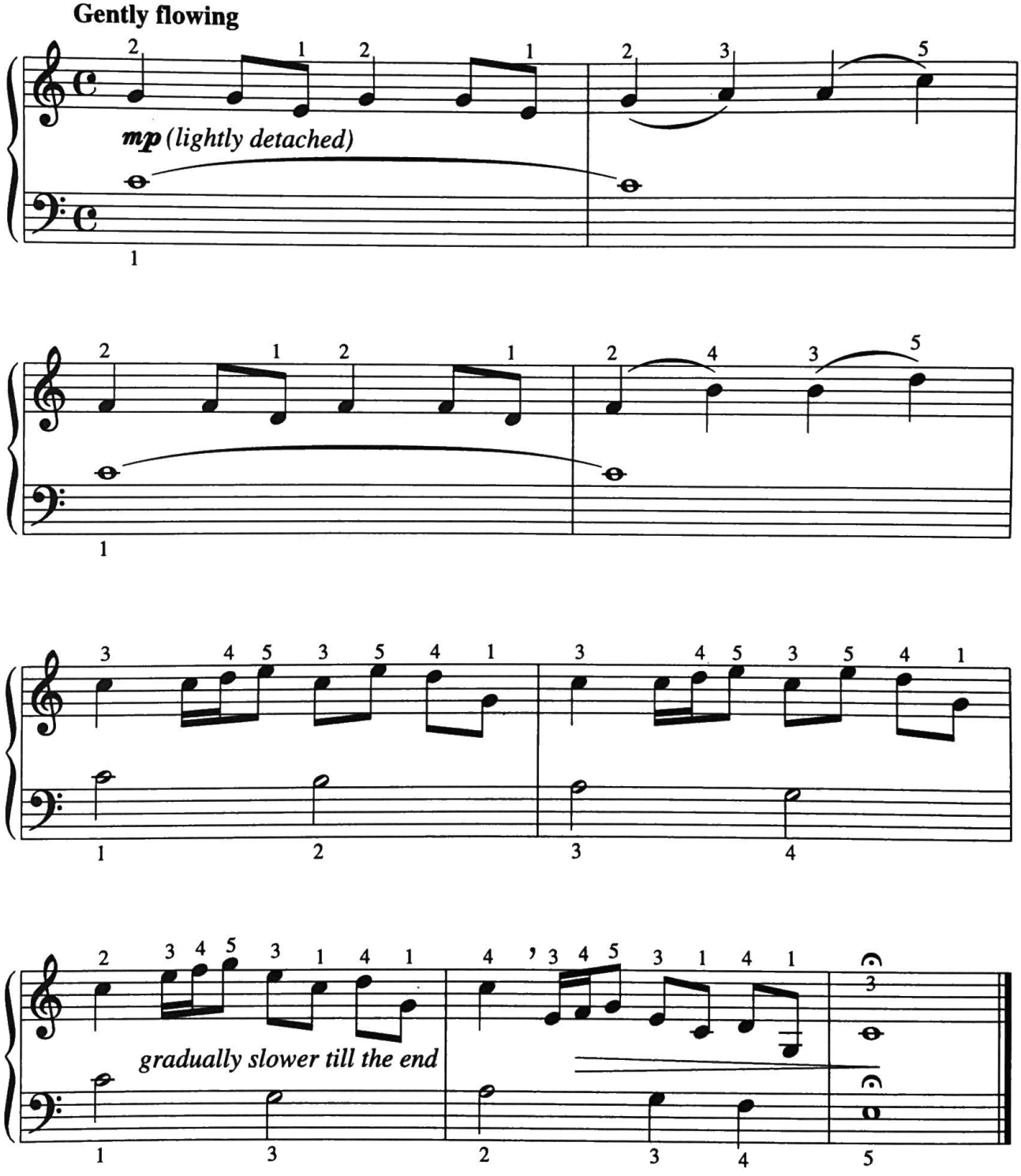
Bach's young wife, Anna Magdalena, brought great happiness to his household. Together they kept little notebooks that were full of the most miscellaneous matters, including the manuscript of this graceful minuet that he composed for her in 1722, when he was 37 years old. Such court dances were extremely popular among the nobility of Europe.



Johann Sebastian Bach

SHEEP MAY SAFELY GRAZE

Five years before his marriage to Anna, Bach wrote special music for the birthday of Duke Christian, celebrated in the form of a great hunting festival. The singers played roles from ancient mythology, including Pales (pronounced *Pah-less*) the goddess of flocks and herds. This is her lovely, serene aria, singing about the free, open-air life of shepherds and their flocks.



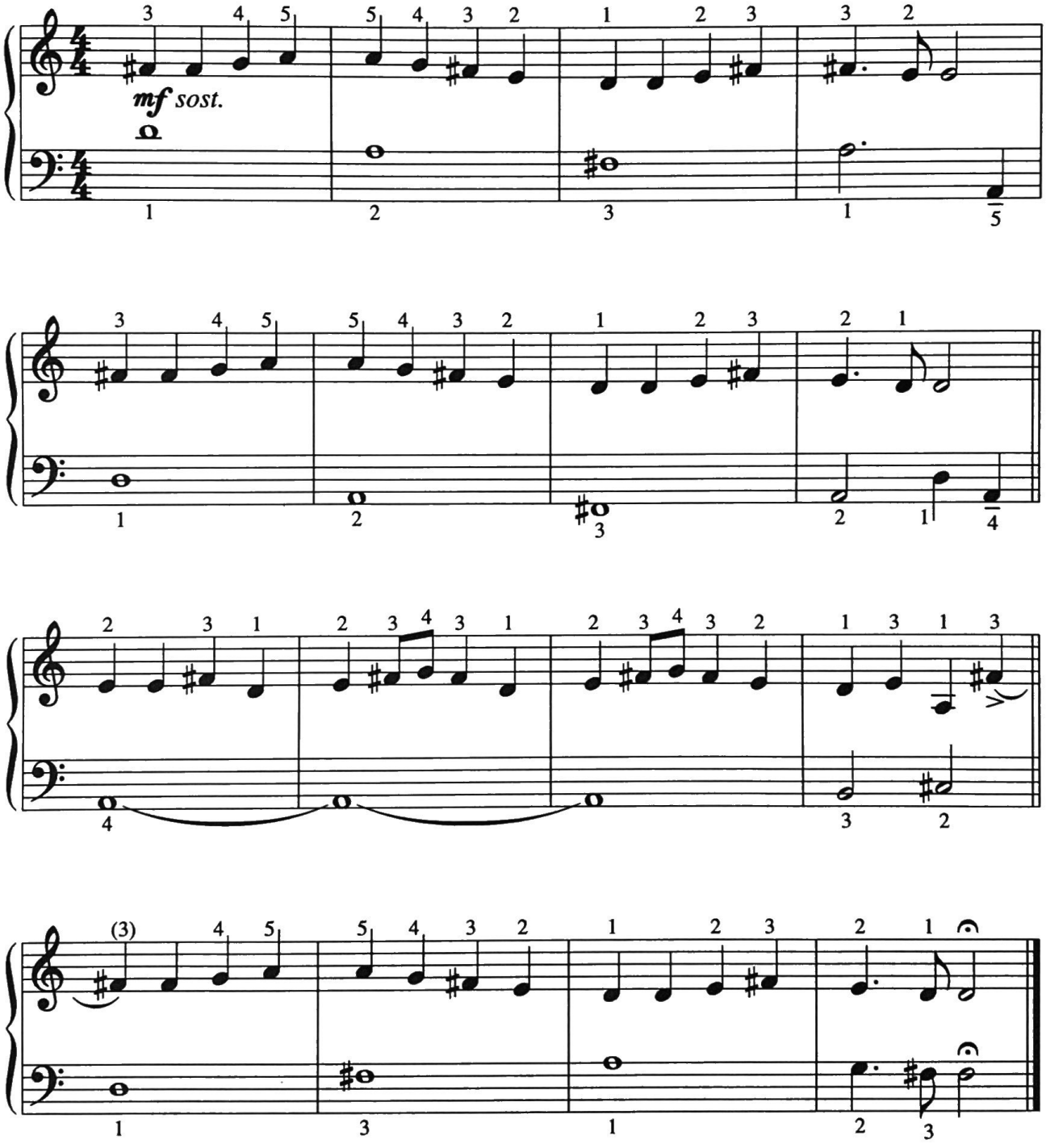
Ludwig van Beethoven

(Germany, 1770–1827)

Ode to Joy

In the year 1822—exactly 100 years after Bach composed his gentle minuet for Anna (see p. 5)—Beethoven solved the troublesome problem of how to end his colossal Symphony No. 9. It would be a musical setting for full chorus of "Ode to Joy," a poem by Friedrich Schiller: *"Joy, we are under your divine spell. All men become brothers wherever joy is found . . ."*

In a steady march-like rhythm

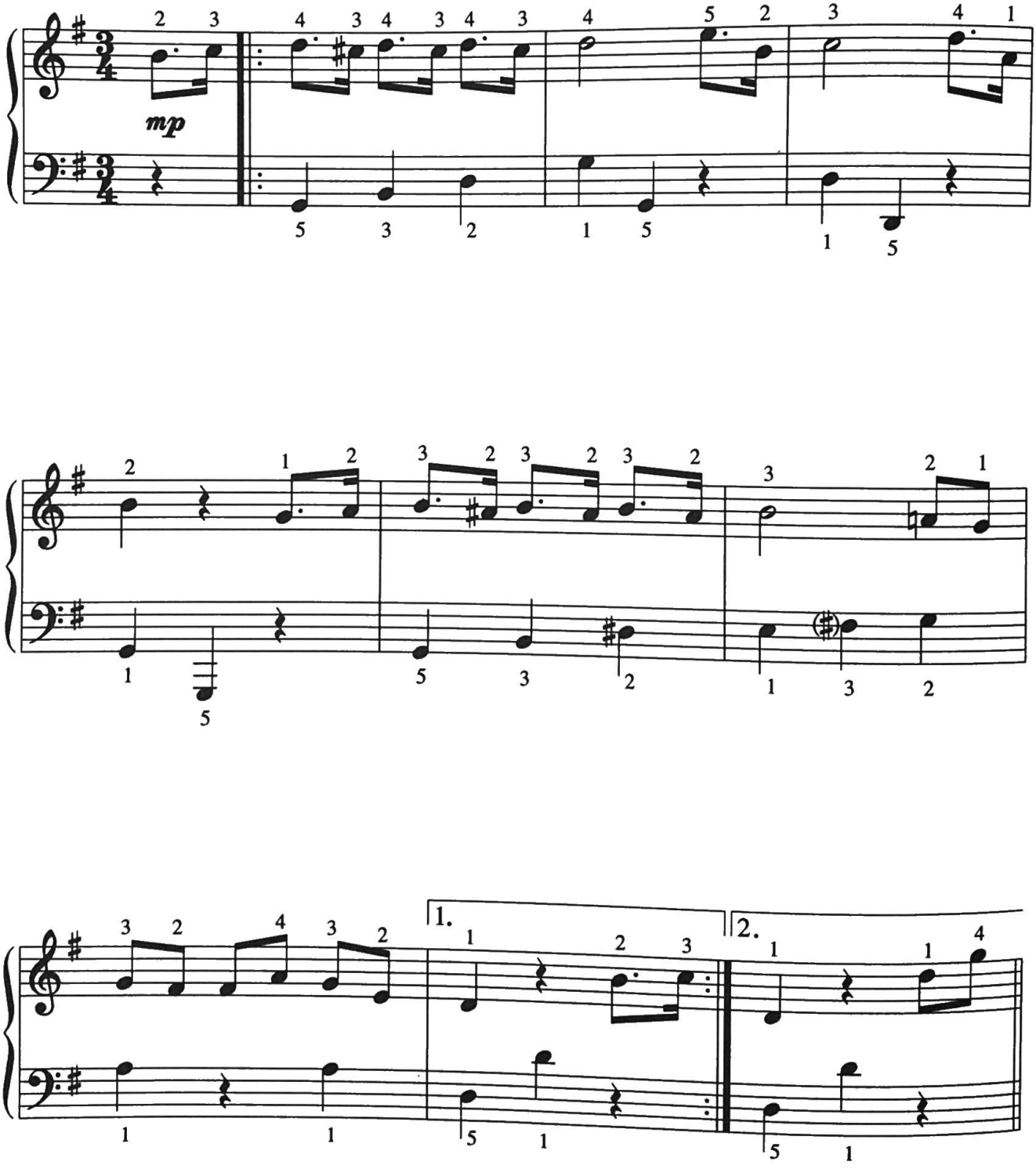


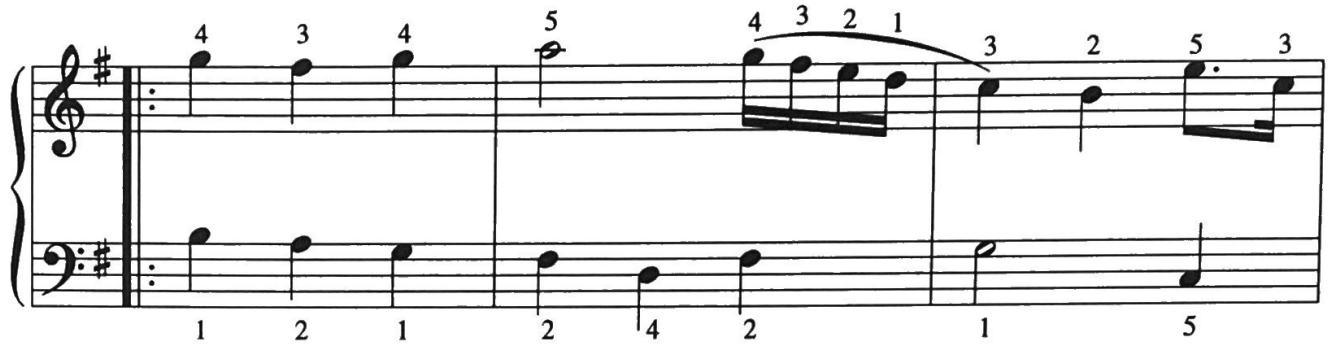
Ludwig van Beethoven

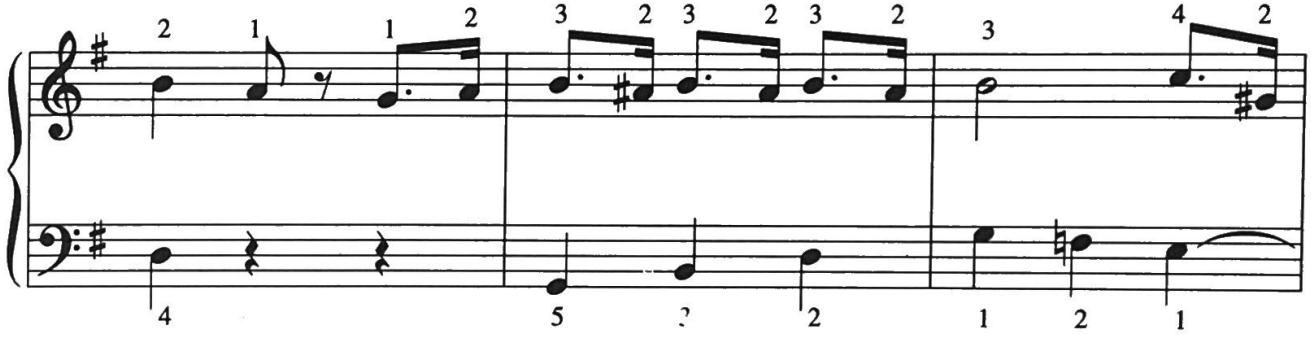
MINUET IN G

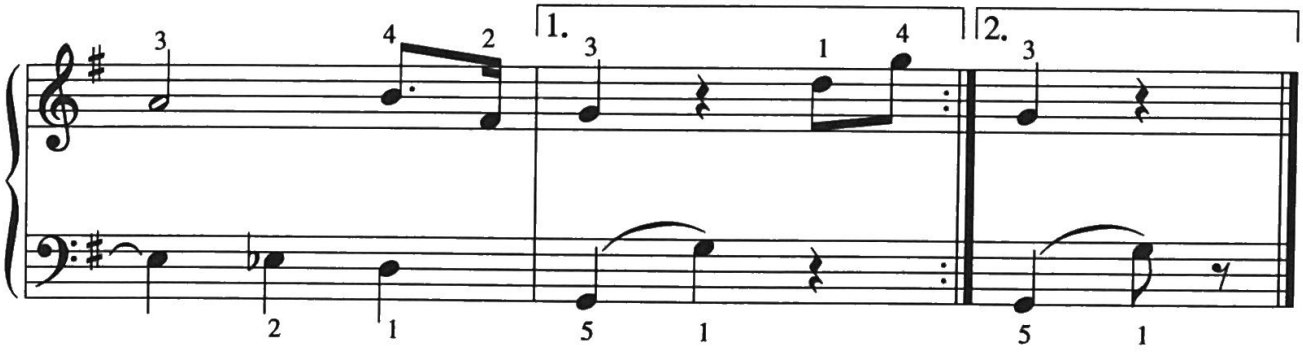
This charming court dance is one of Beethoven's most famous pieces. Despite his reputation for lengthy, dramatic compositions, the composer was also fond of writing such short dance music as *éccossaises* (in Scottish style), *allemandes* (in German style), and country dances called *Ländler* and *contredanses*. He composed the Minuet in G about 1795, when he was 25 years old.

Andantino







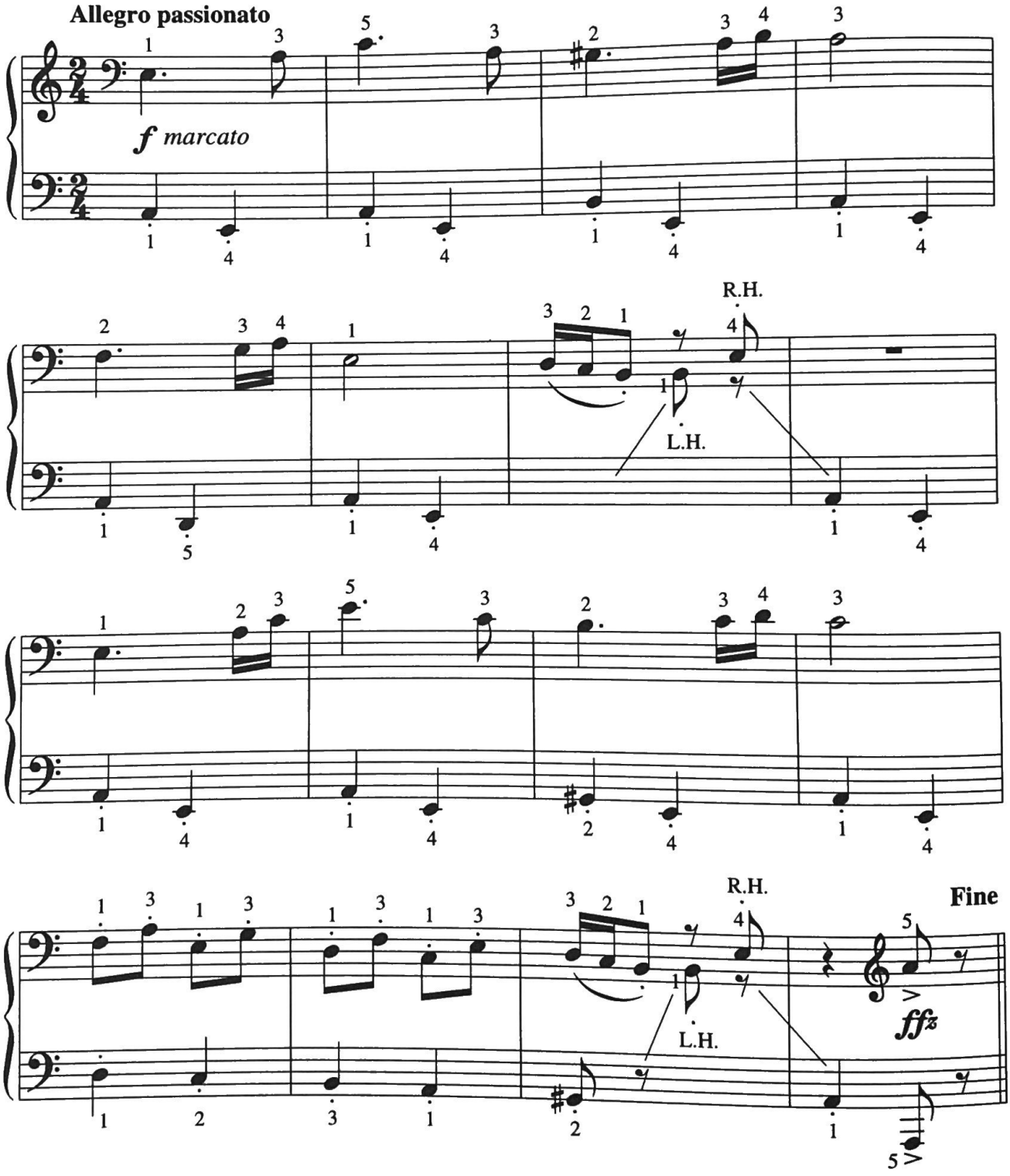

1.
2.

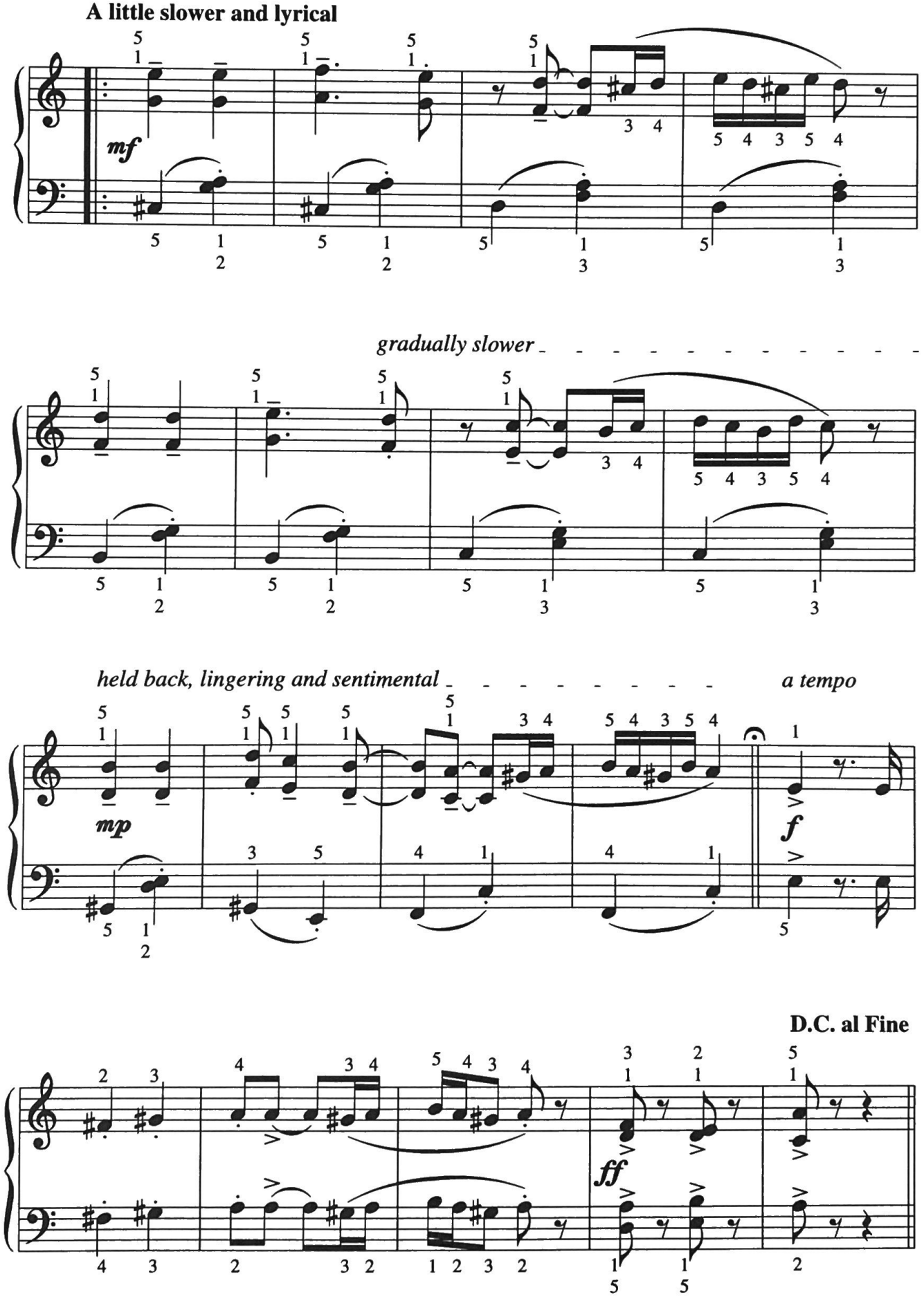
Johannes Brahms

(Germany, 1833–1897)

Hungarian Dance No. 5

In 1848, when he was 15, a stream of Hungarian rebels passed through Brahms's hometown of Hamburg on their way to America. Some stayed on, bringing their music with them, starting a national craze for the wild, passionate music of the Hungarian Gypsies. Four years later, Brahms began to compose 21 Hungarian Dances, recalling those wonderful tunes and rhythms.




A little slower and lyrical
mf
gradually slower
held back, lingering and sentimental
a tempo
mp
f
D.C. al Fine
ff

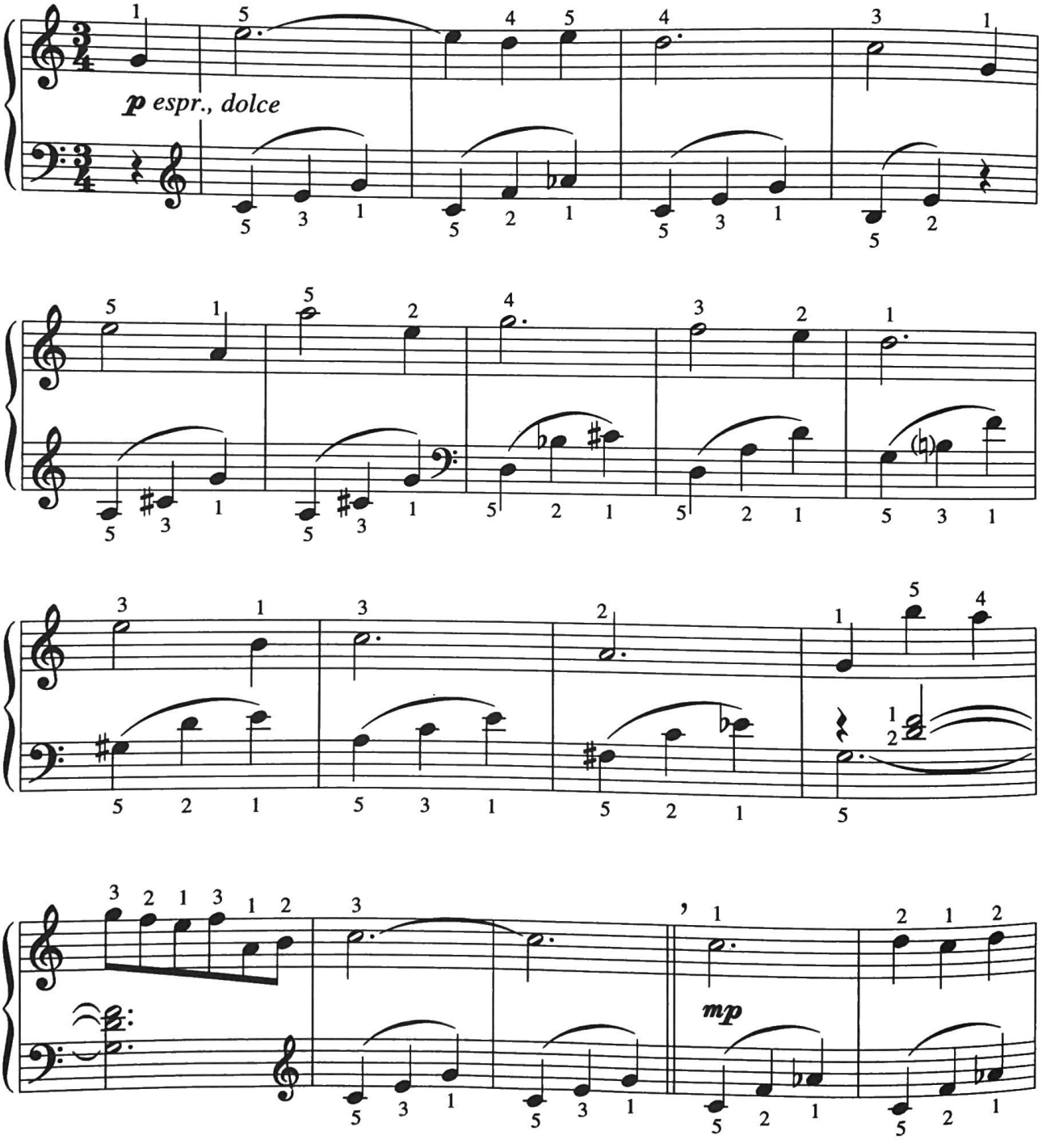
Frédéric Chopin

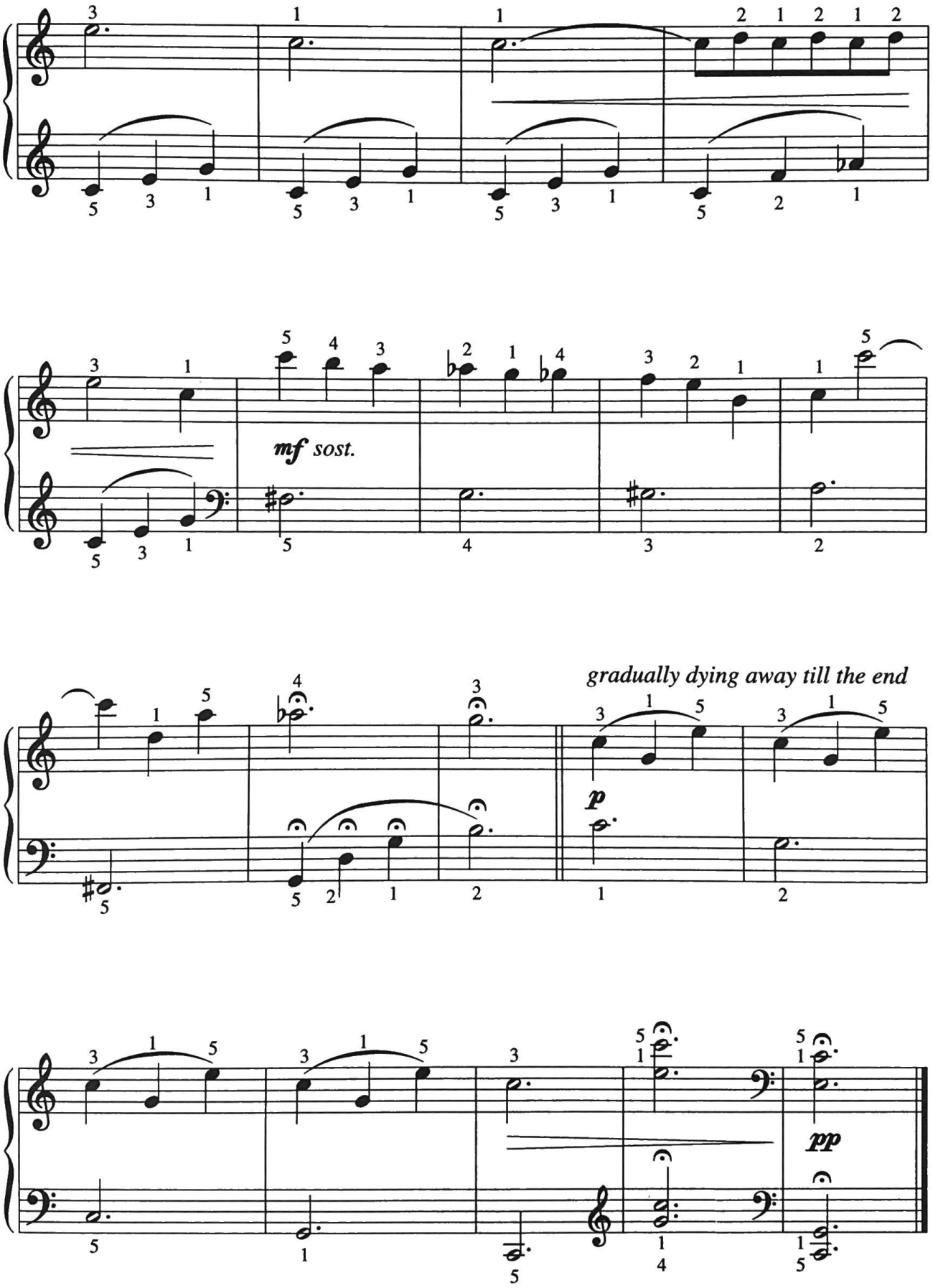
(Poland and France, 1810–1849)

NOCTURNE

Piano composers in the 19th century were fond of giving fanciful, often meaningless, names to their pieces—such as "rhapsody," "impromptu," "album leaf," "intermezzo," "fantasy" and so on. Chopin liked the French word "nocturne" (night piece) for 21 piano pieces composed in a dreamy mood. This one (Opus 9, No. 2) is his most famous nocturne, full of beautiful melody.

Andante




mf sost.
gradually dying away till the end
p
pp

Muzio Clementi

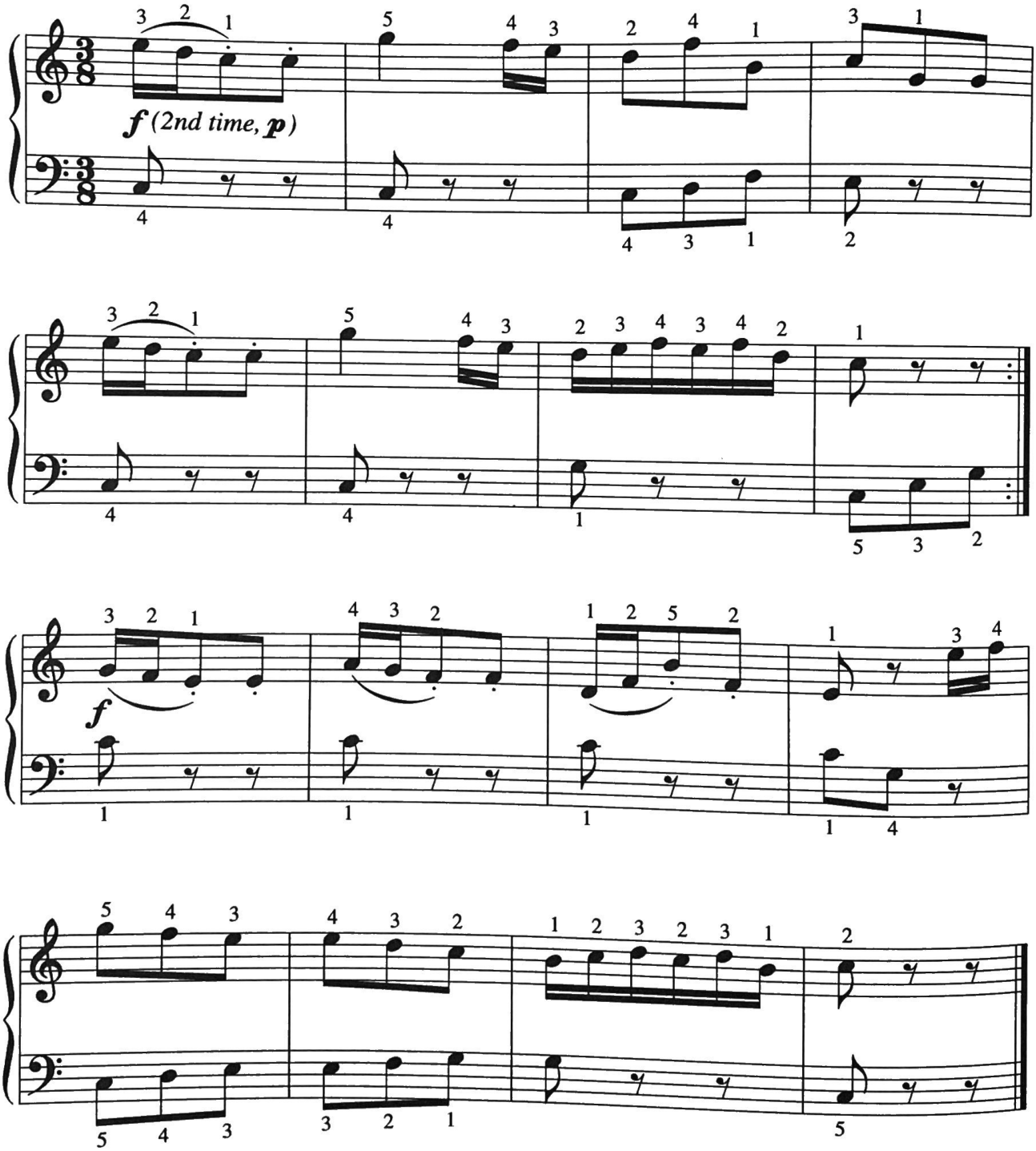
(Italy, 1752–1832)

RONDO IN C

(From Sonata in C, Op. 36, No. 1)

It's hard to imagine Clementi's sensational career: keyboard virtuoso, teacher, conductor, composer, publisher (he had a contract with Beethoven), and piano manufacturer trading as Clementi & Company, London. Travelling all over Europe and Russia, he even performed in a piano contest before European royalty. (His opponent, believe it or not, was *Mozart* himself.)

Lightly



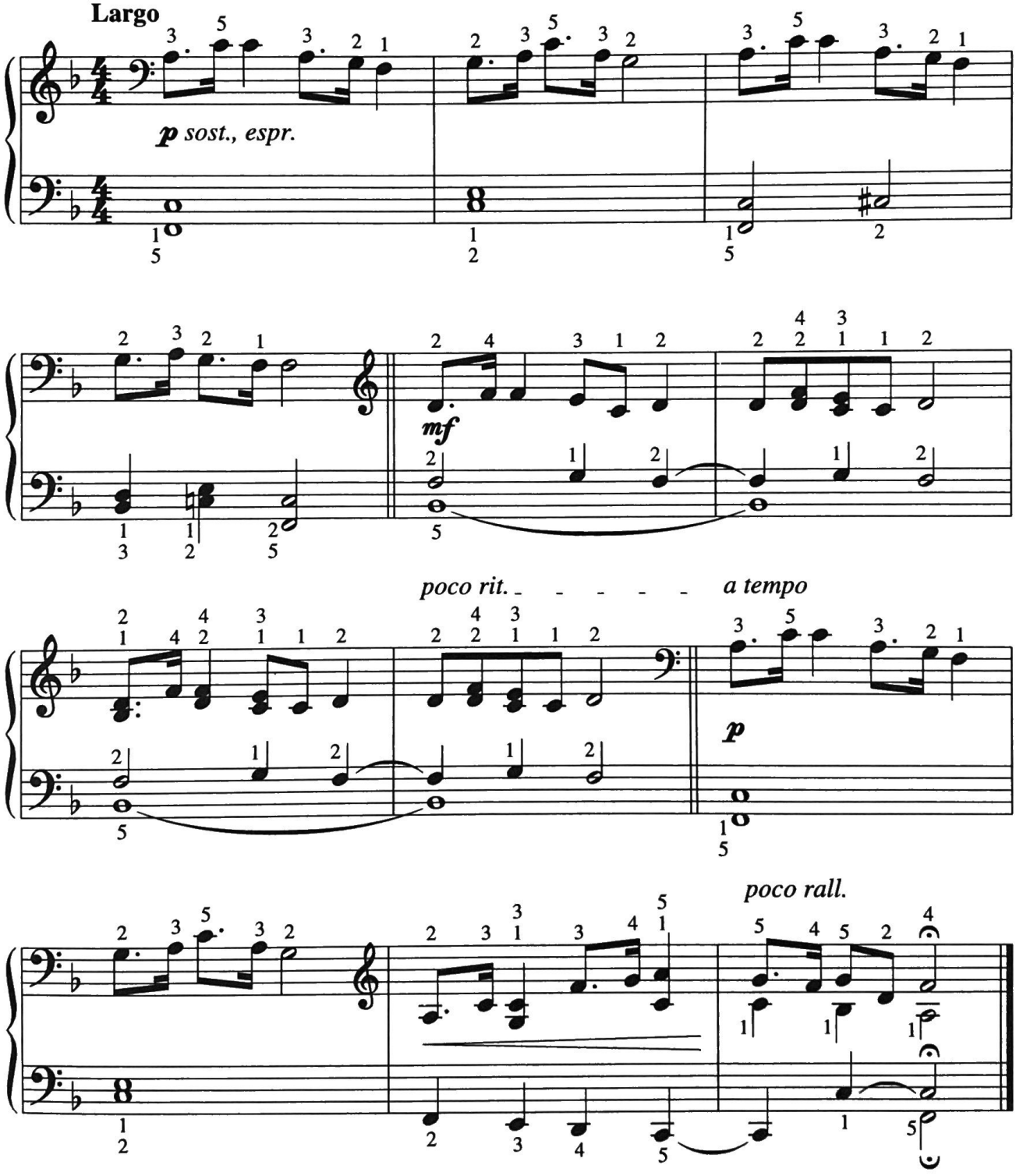
Antonín Dvořák

(Czechoslovakia, 1841–1904)

From the New World

(Slow theme from the second movement of Symphony No. 9, Op. 95)

Dvořák was 51 when he was invited to America as director of a New York music conservatory. He arrived with his family for a three-year stay, spending their summers in a Czech community in Iowa. There, in 1893, he completed his Symphony "From the New World." The song "Goin' Home," with words by William Arms Fisher (1922), was based on Dvořák's original slow theme for the second movement. It was not a Negro spiritual, as some people believed.



Stephen C. Foster

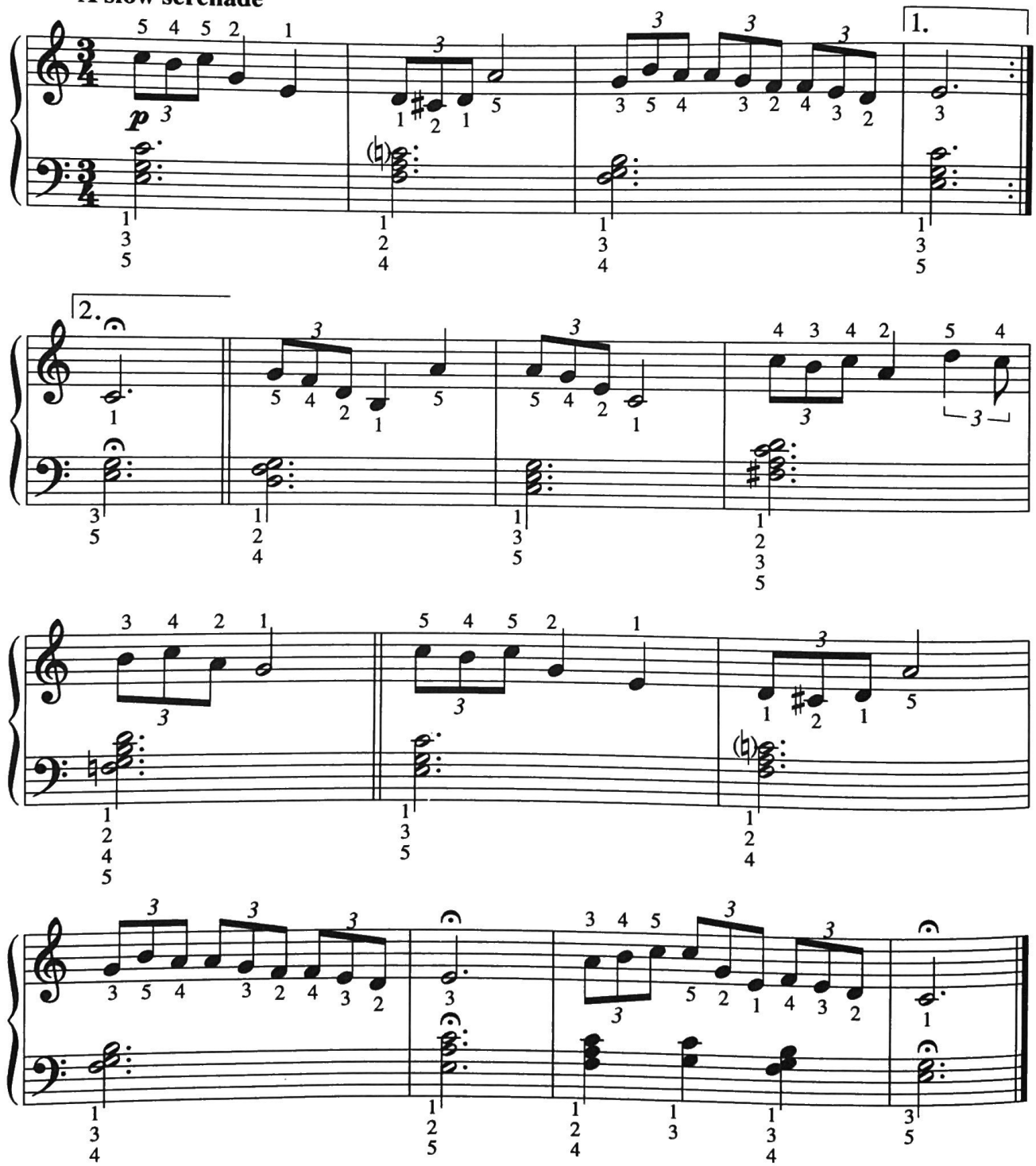
(United States, 1826–1864)

Beautiful Dreamer

(His 'last song ever written' / 1864)

In a life cut tragically short (he died in poverty at age 38), Stephen Collins Foster wrote about 200 songs. Many are so well-known, and have been around for such a long time, that we think of them as genuine folk songs. His famous "My Old Kentucky Home" became the offical state song of Kentucky, and his beloved "Old Folks at Home" was chosen as Florida's state song.

A slow serenade

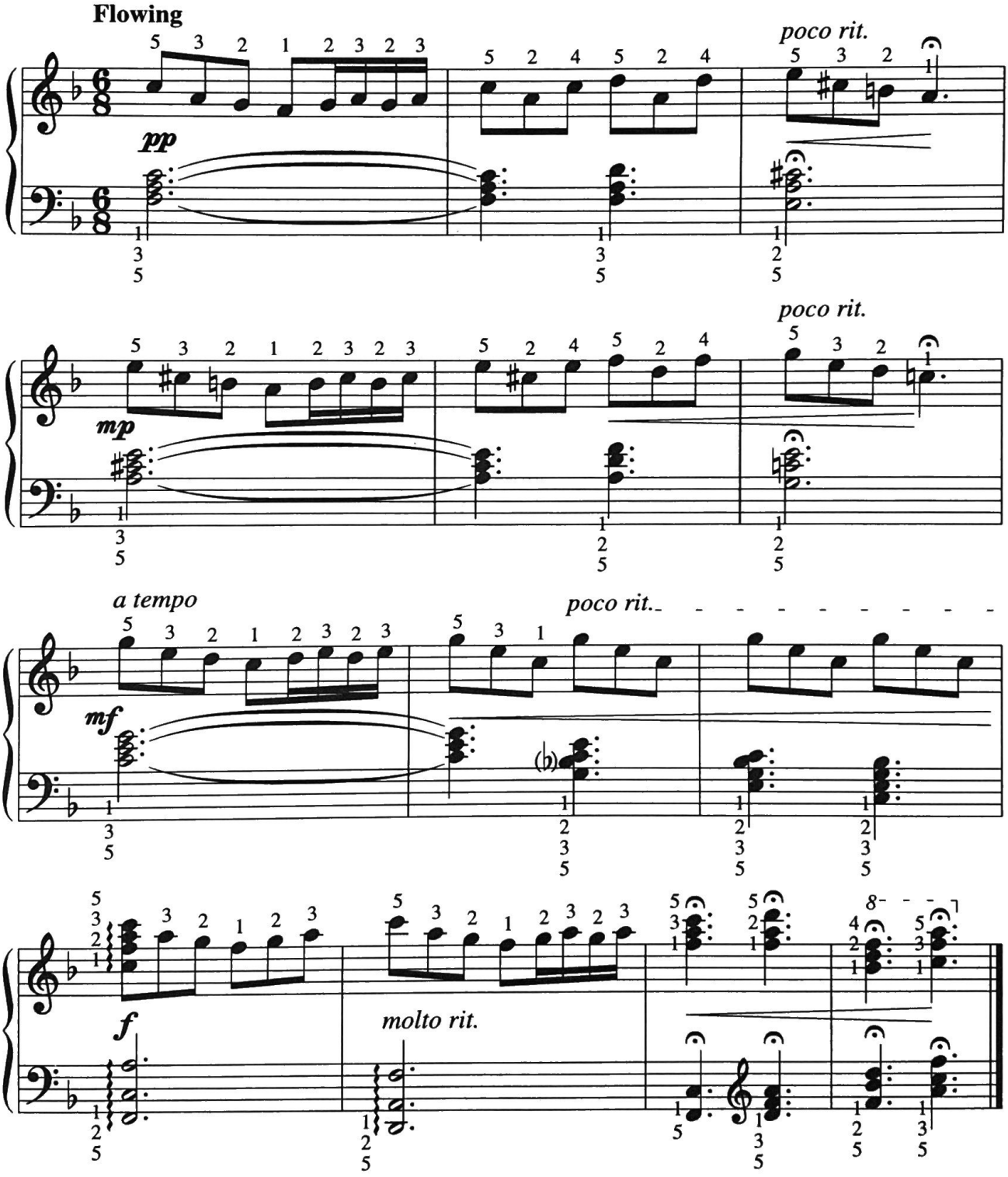


Edvard Grieg

(Norway, 1843–1907)

MORNING MOOD

Grieg loved his native Norway, pouring the sounds and feelings of its folk songs and dances into his music. At the age of 31, Grieg was invited by the famous Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen to write "incidental" music to accompany his play *Peer Gynt*. "Morning Mood," "Anitra's Dance" and "In the Hall of the Mountain King" are three world-famous selections from that fine music.

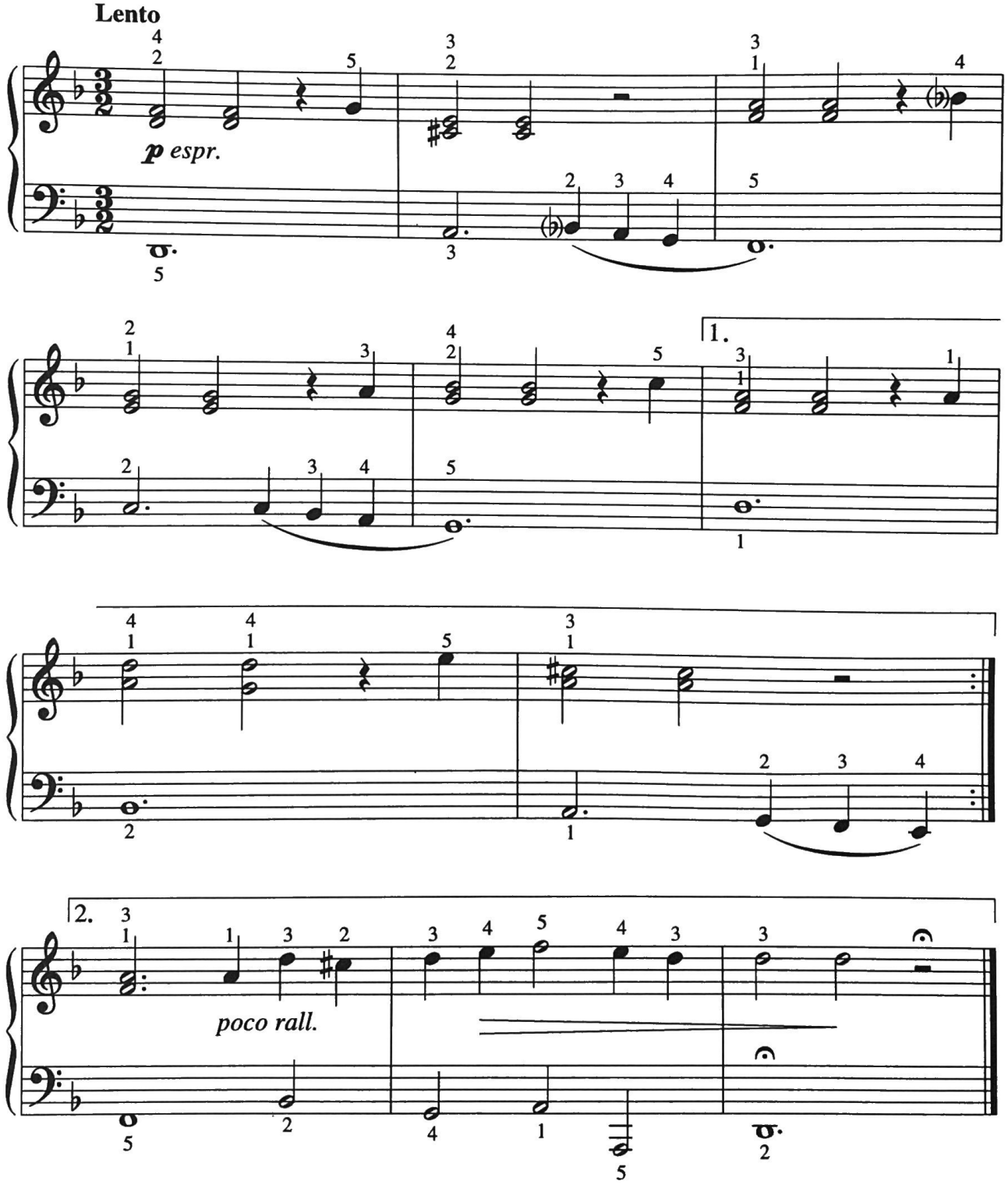


George Frideric Handel

(Germany & England, 1685–1759)

SARABANDE

Did you know that Johann Sebastian Bach, Domenico Scarlatti and Handel were all born in the same year (1685)? All three were not only great composers, but phenomenal keyboard virtuosos as well. They wrote and performed some of the greatest, most popular harpsichord music ever composed. This stately court dance is from Handel's Suite in D minor for harpsichord, published in 1720.



Joseph Haydn

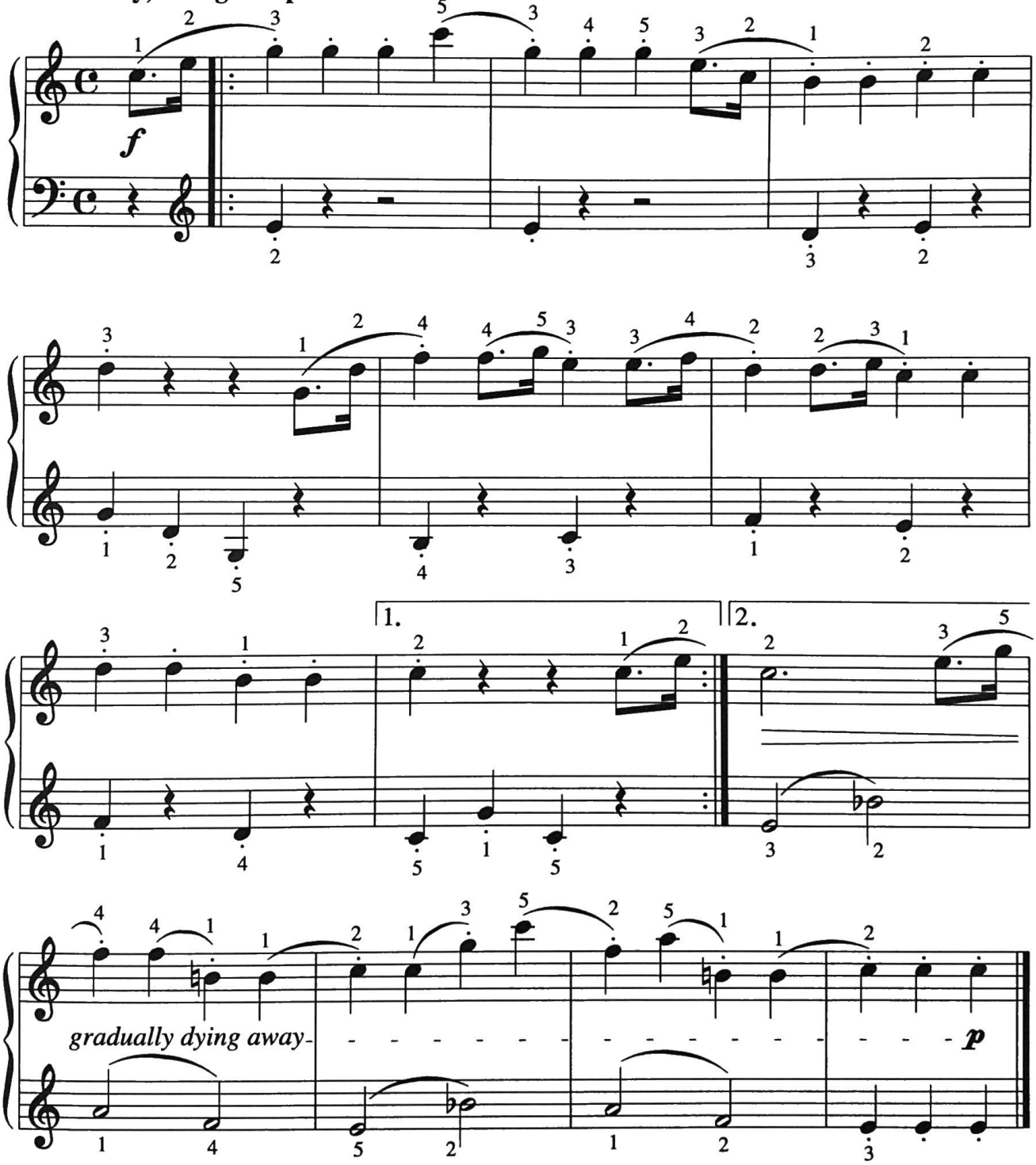
(Austria, 1732–1809)

SONATA IN C

(First movement of Sonata No. 35 / 1780)

History says that young Haydn was a lively boy who loved practical jokes. As a young man, however, he had a hard time supporting himself, teaching a bit, performing a lot, and composing continually to make a living. Today, he is honored as "father" of the classical sonata and the symphony (he wrote 104 of them) . . . and his list of works fills over 40 pages of the music encyclopedia!

Lively, with good spirit

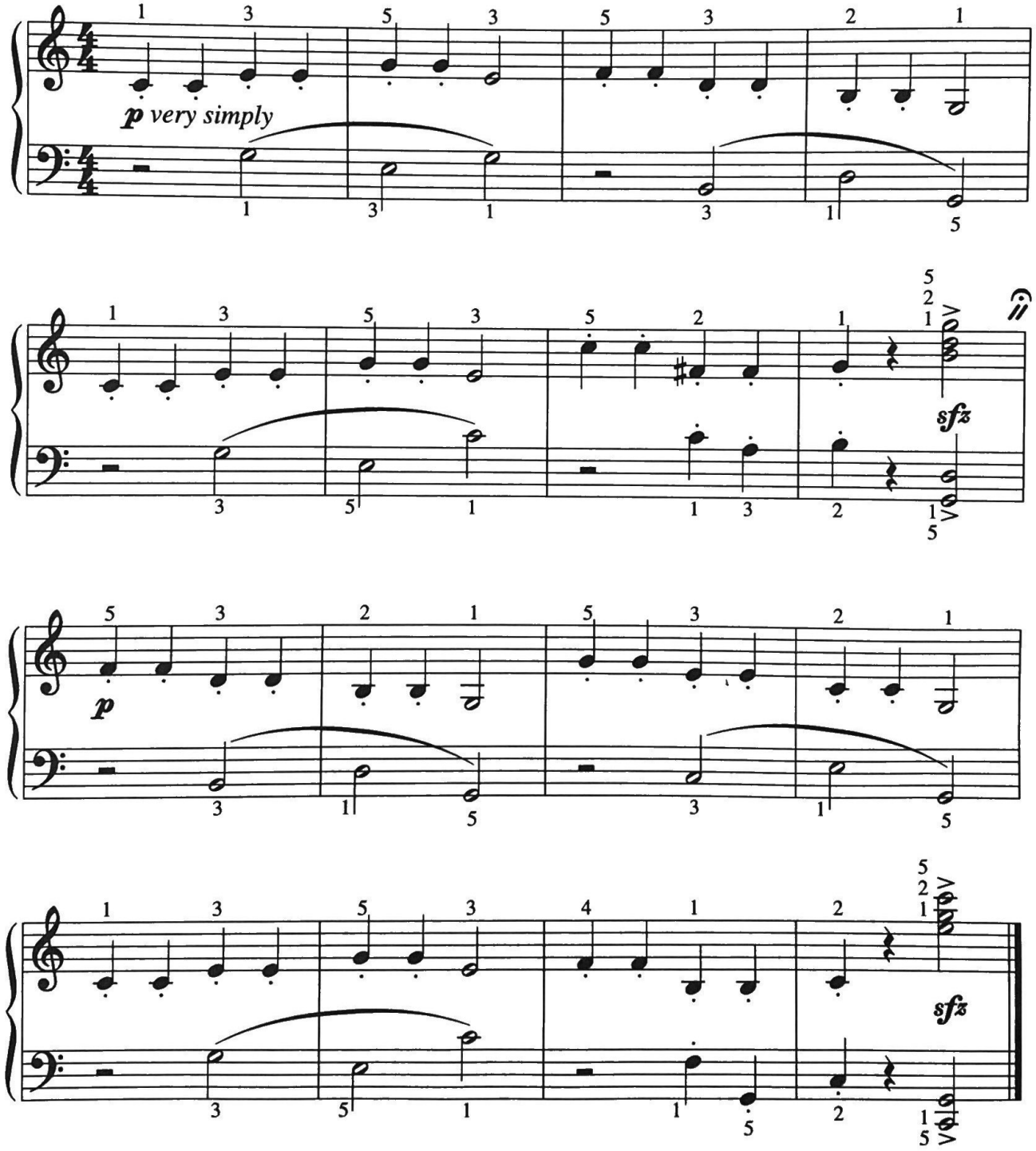


Joseph Haydn

"Surprise" Symphony

The popular story goes that Haydn wanted "to wake up the ladies" by shocking his audience with an unexpected drum stroke played *forte*. This "surprise" occurs in the otherwise peaceful slow movement of his Symphony No. 94. This tuneful work is one of the composer's so-called "London" symphonies—twelve works written for concerts he gave in London, from 1791 to 1795.

Allegretto

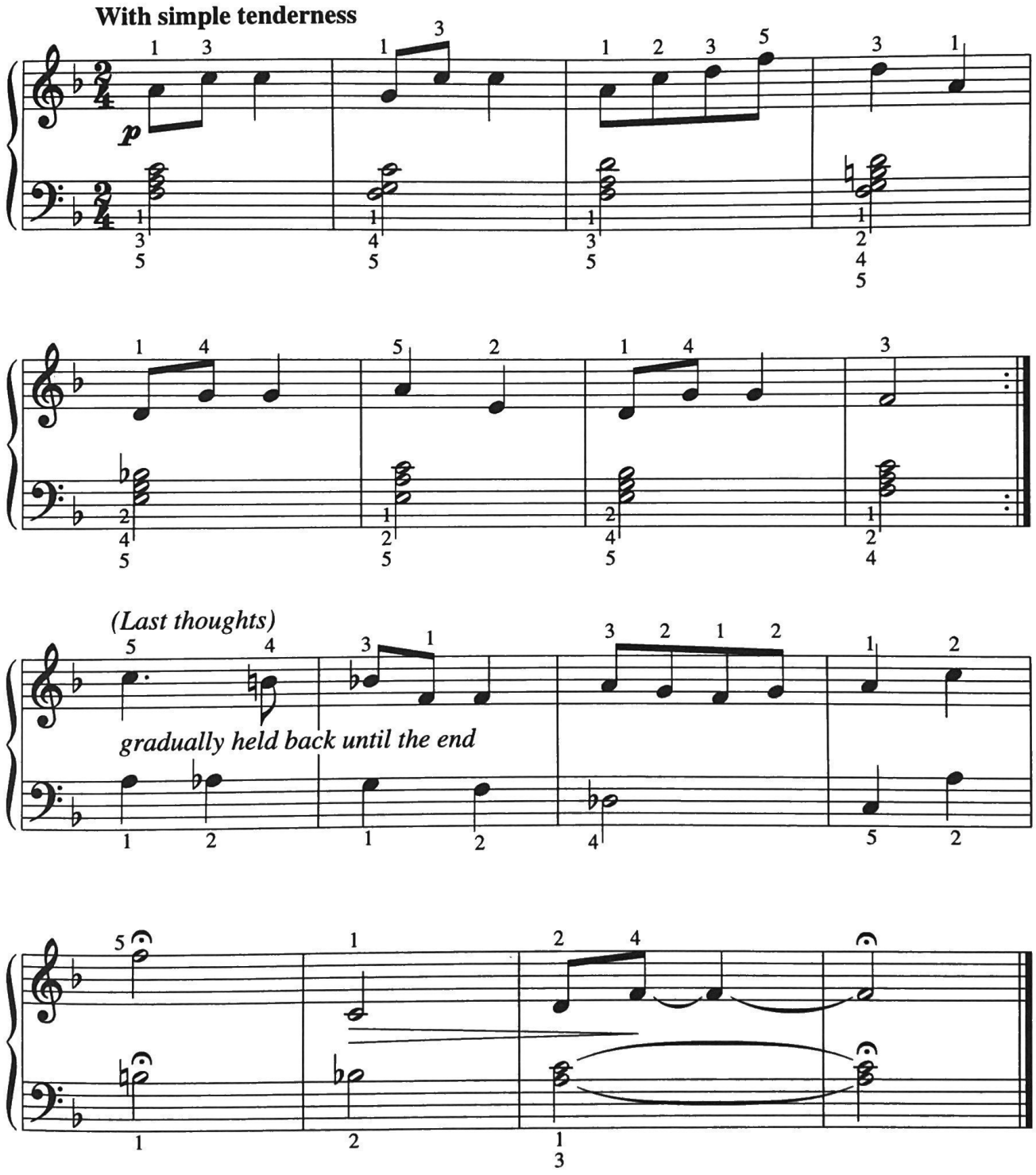


Edward MacDowell

(United States, 1860–1908)

To a Wild Rose

The American Edward MacDowell was a lot like the Norwegian Edvard Grieg. They lived at the same time, they were both fine pianists, and both were at their best writing miniature pieces about nature and homeland. MacDowell's gentle "To a Wild Rose," composed in 1896, is from his *Woodland Sketches.* Three other popular suites are called *Fireside Tales, New England Idylls,* and *Sea Pieces.*

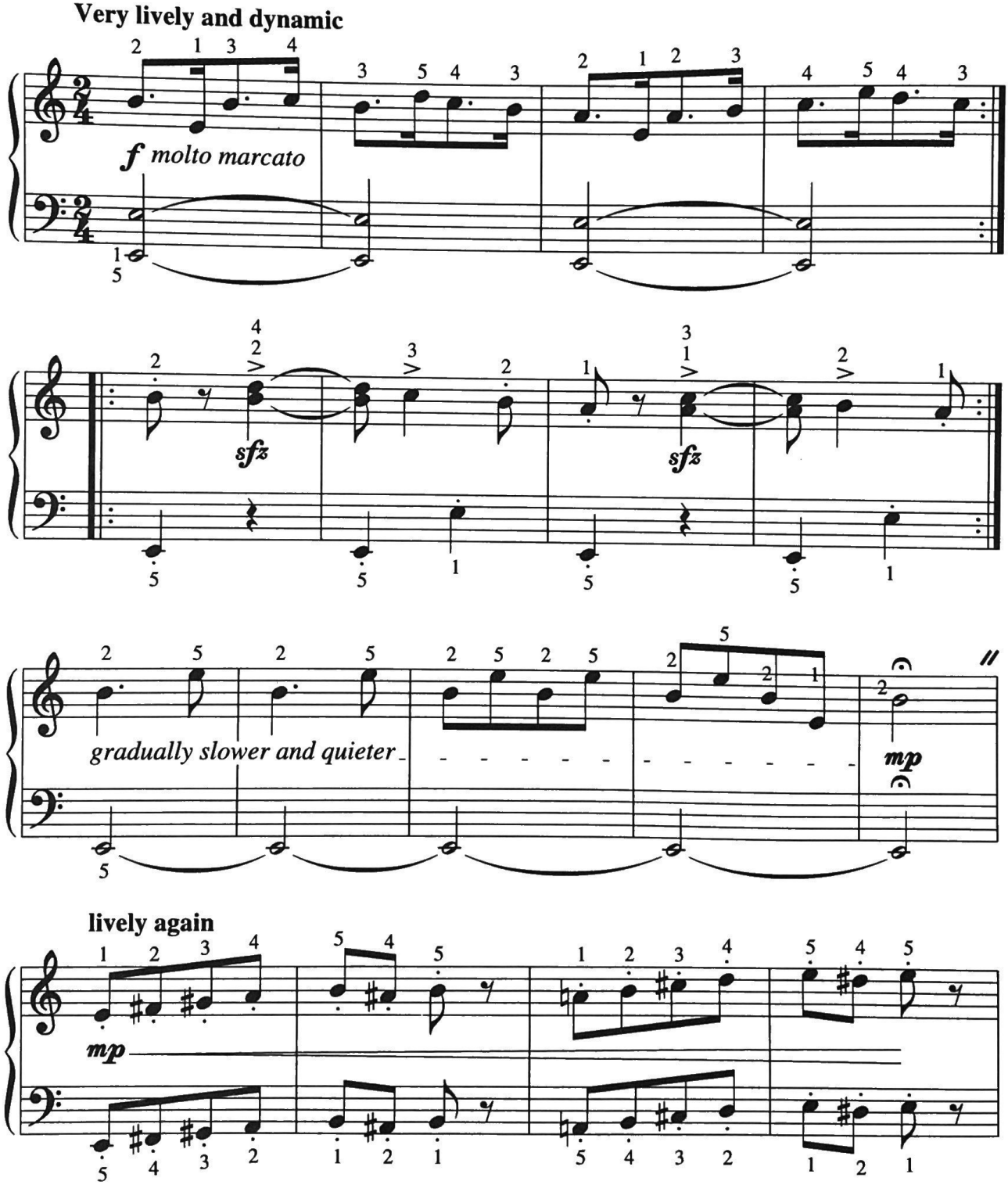


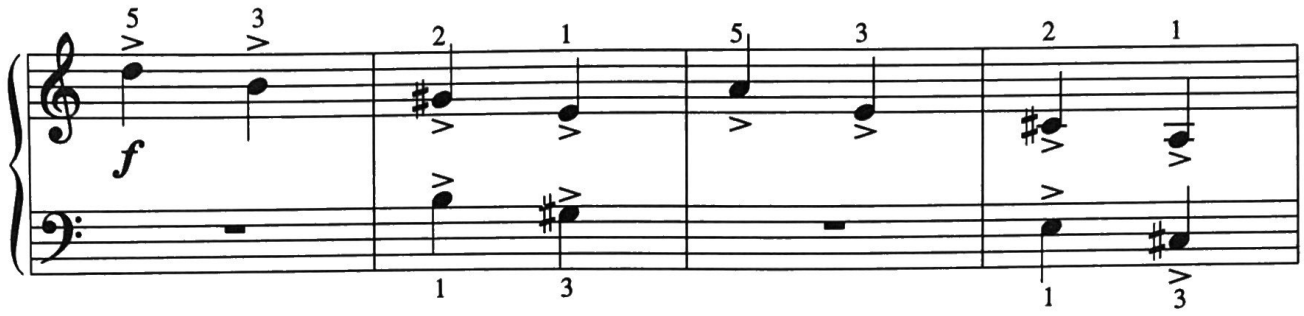
Franz Liszt

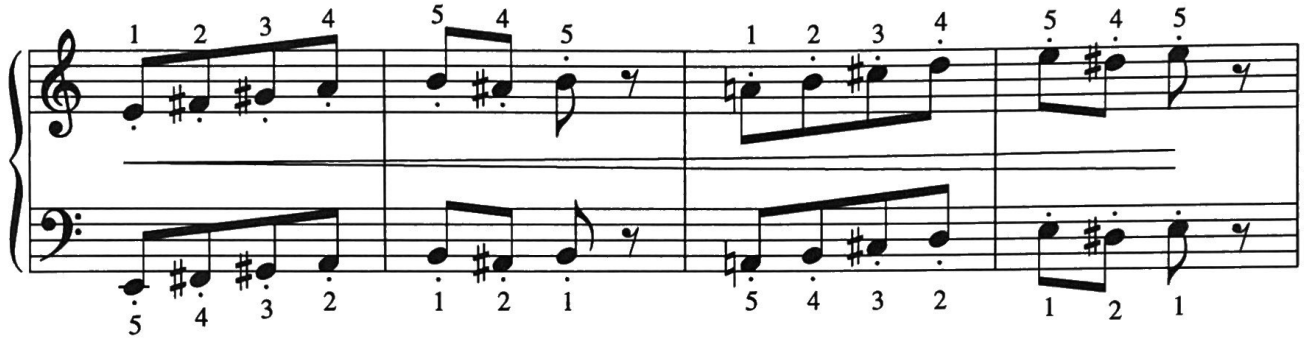
(Hungary & Germany, 1811–1886)

Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2

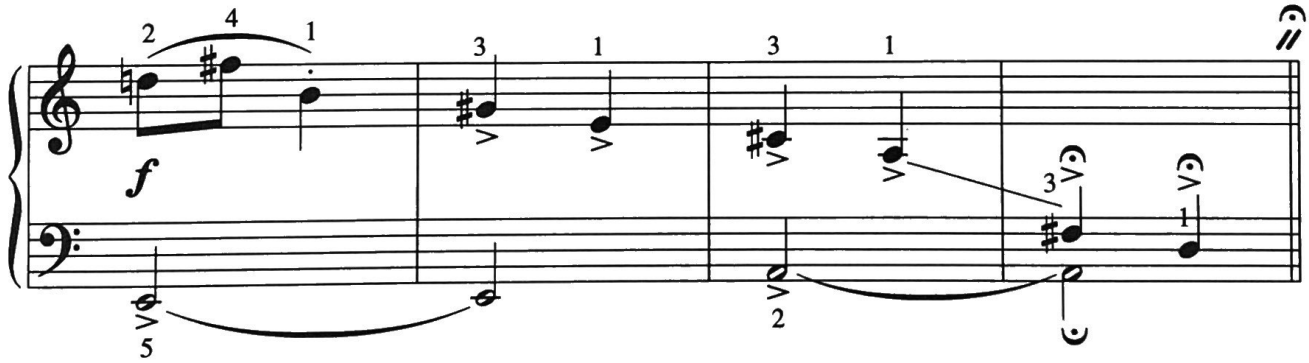
Liszt was the great superstar of the 19th century. Considered by some to be the best pianist who ever lived, he was honored by kings and adored by the public who flocked to his sold-out concerts throughout Europe and Russia. They especially loved to hear Liszt play his own pieces based on the sad tunes and wild dances of the gypsy bands that traveled throughout his native Hungary.

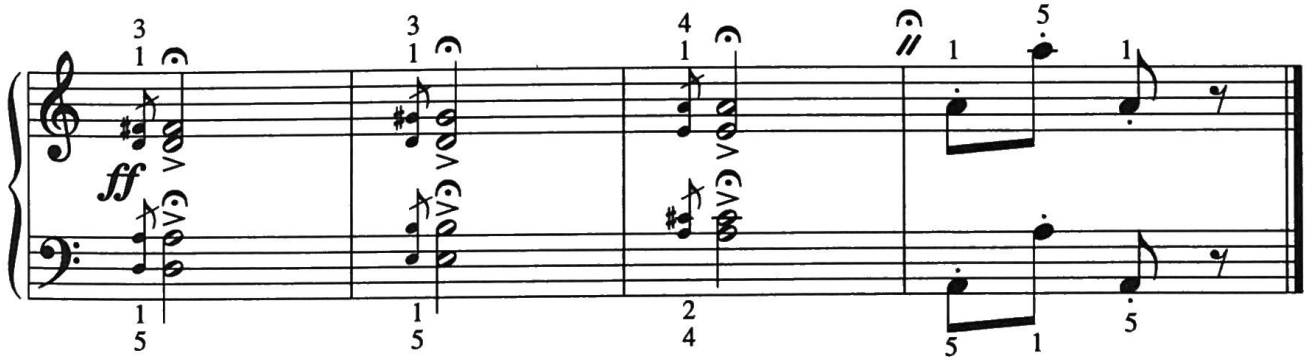






gradually pulling back, bigger and broader



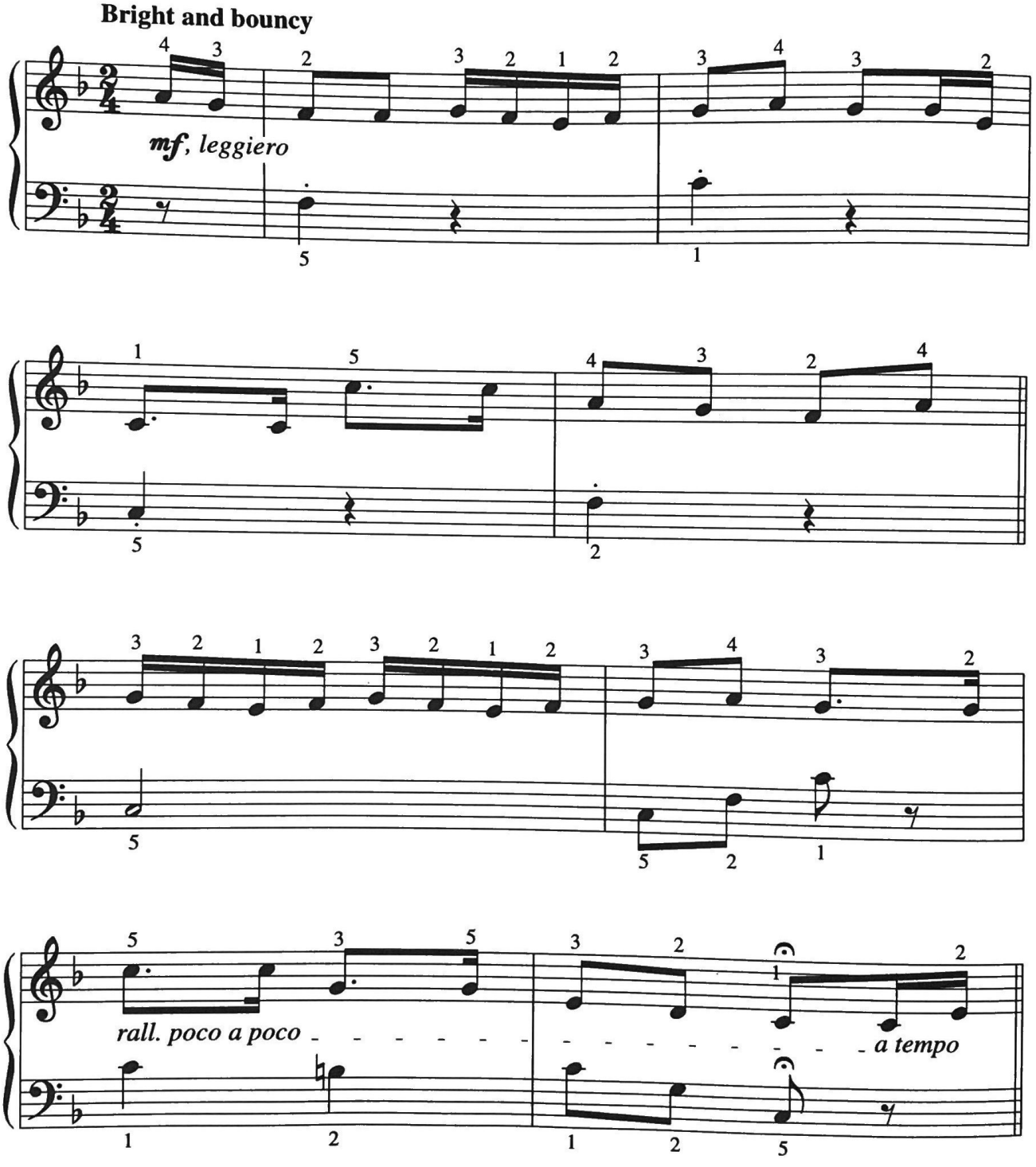


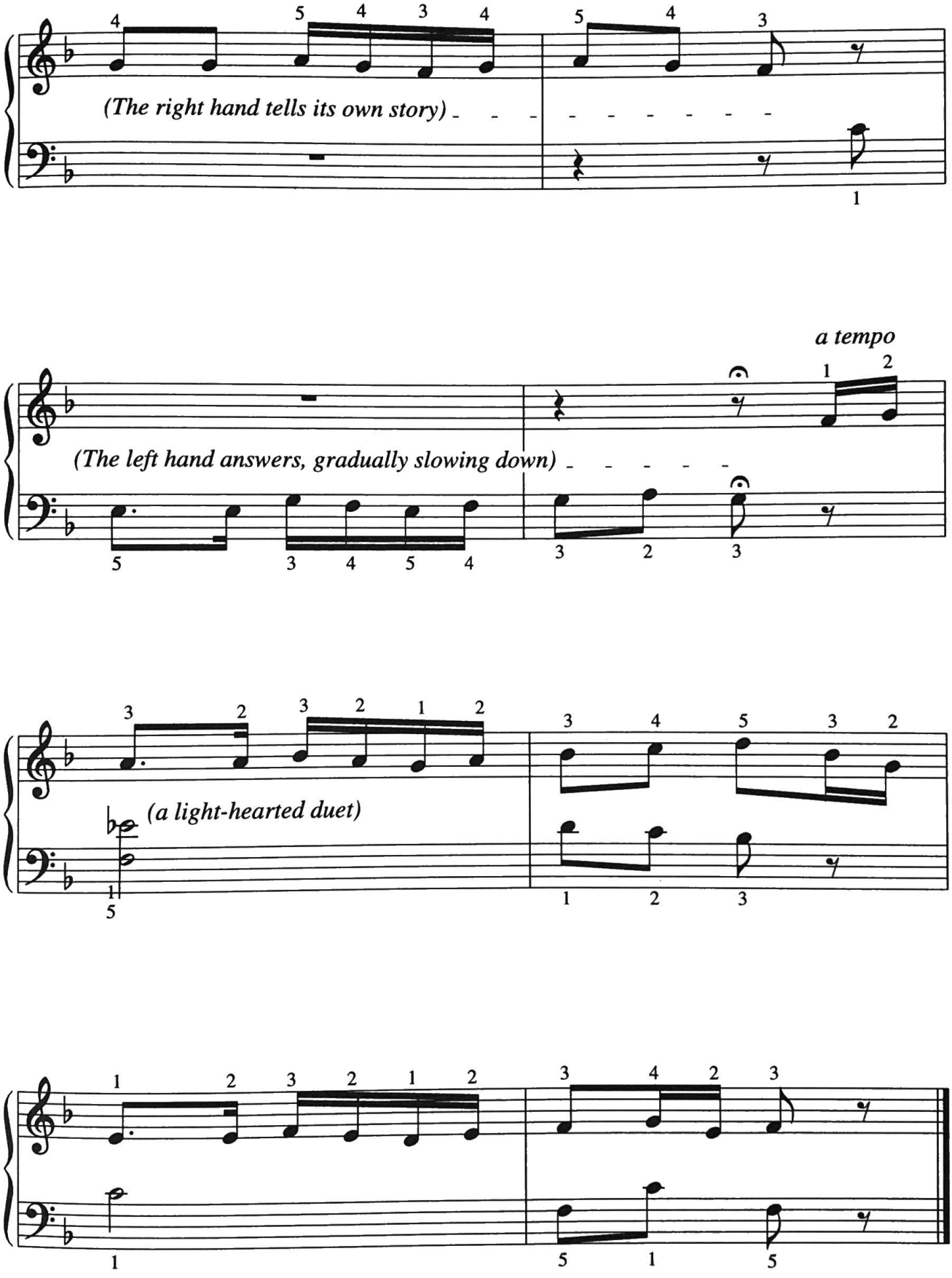
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(Austria, 1756–1791)

PAPAGENO'S SONG

You may think opera is stuffy—but then you haven't heard Mozart's fairy-tale "singing play" called *The Magic Flute*! It has a prince, a girl he has to rescue, a wizard, a magic flute, and a comical bird-catcher called Papageno. "Yes, I am the birdcatcher," he sings, "always cheerful, well-known everywhere! If only I could catch a sweet young girl so that she'd be all mine! I'd feed her on sugar!"

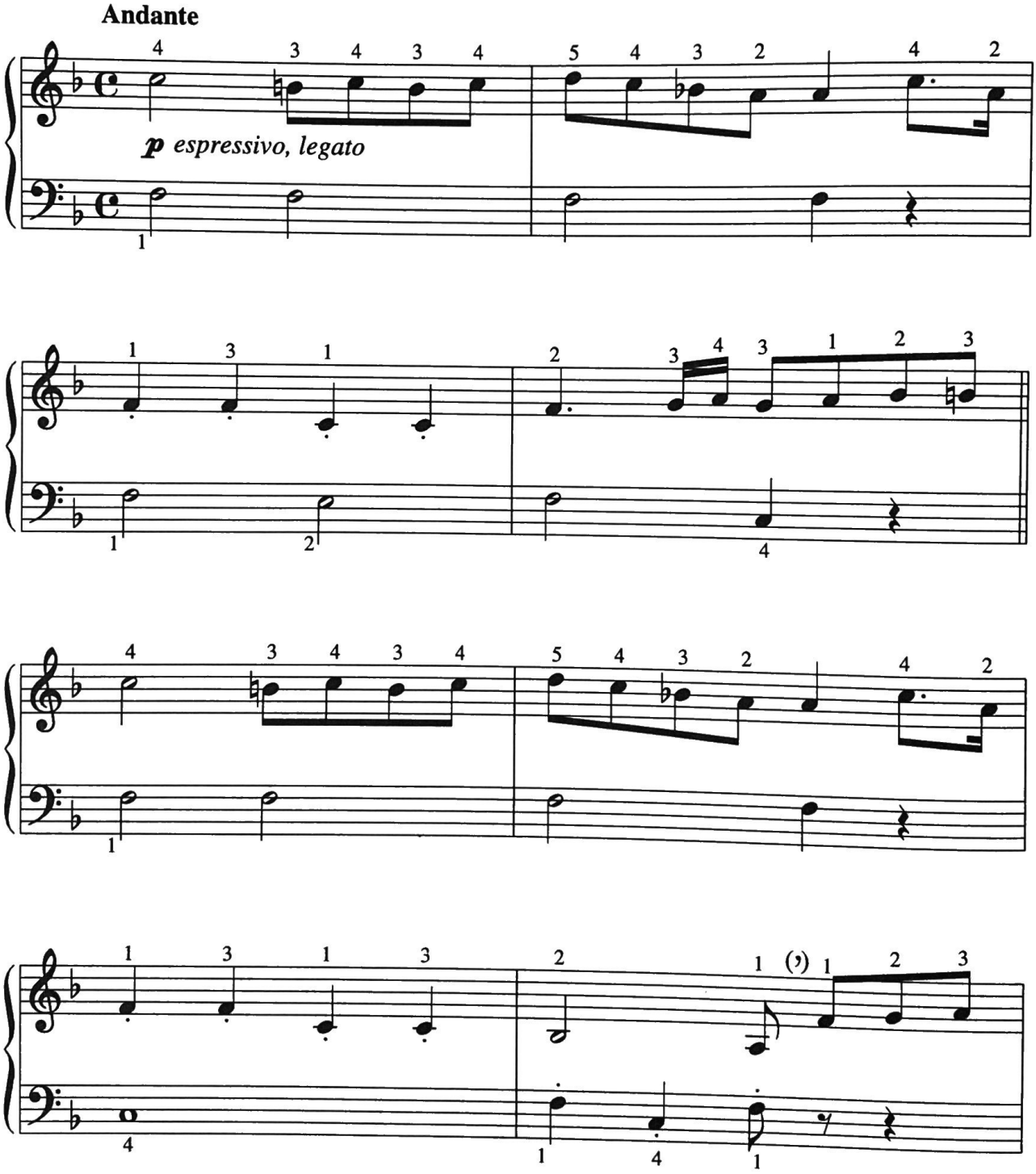


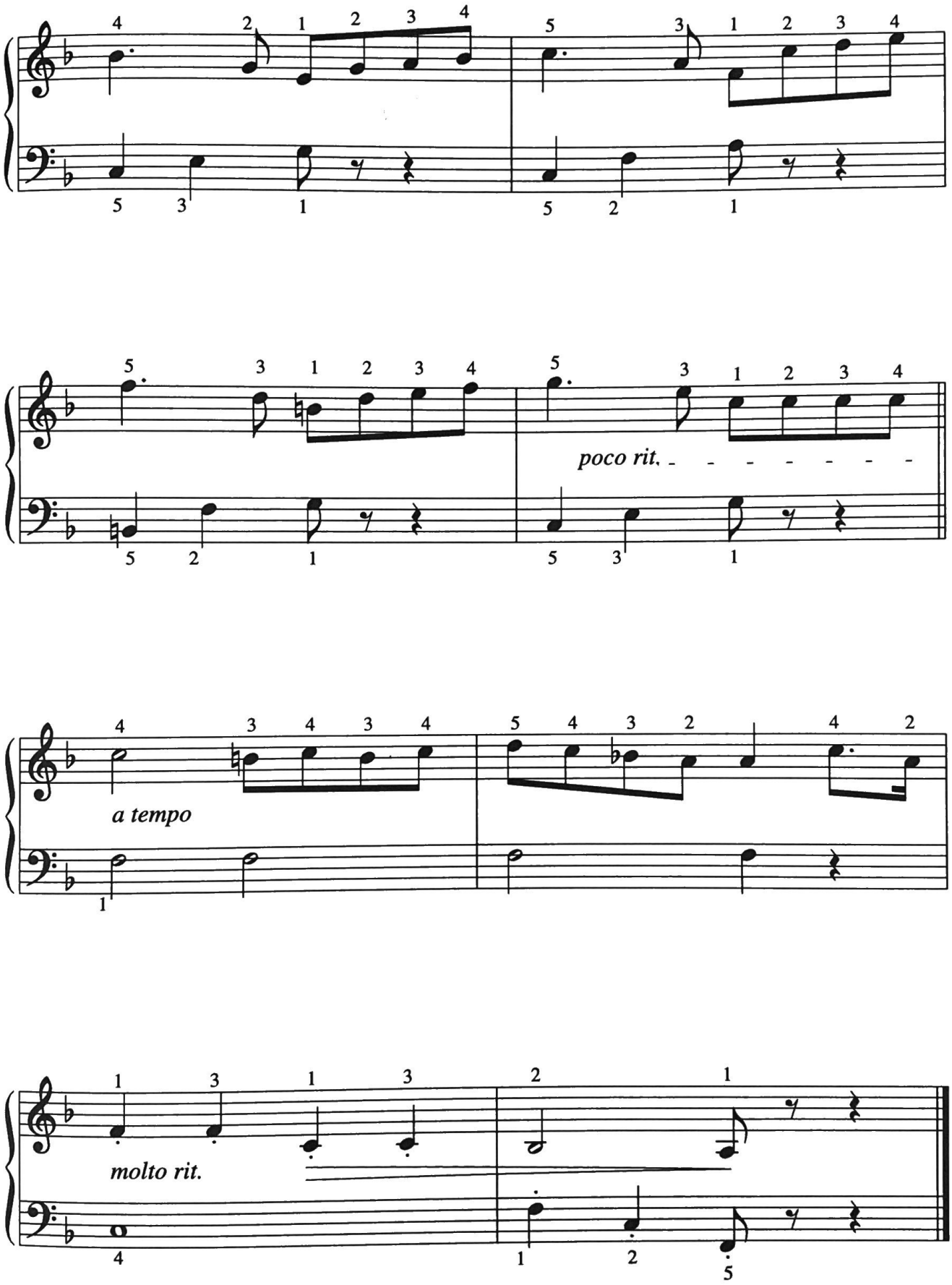

(The right hand tells its own story)
a tempo
(The left hand answers, gradually slowing down)
(a light-hearted duet)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

ROMANZE

"Romanze" is the German spelling of *romance*—in music, the name for a gentle and lyrical piece that is very melodious, with a tender character. This *Romanze* is the slow movement of Mozart's popular Piano Concerto No. 20. Did you know that this great composer (who lived over 200 years ago) was also a wonderful pianist? He first performed in public at the age of 5—and could even play blindfolded!



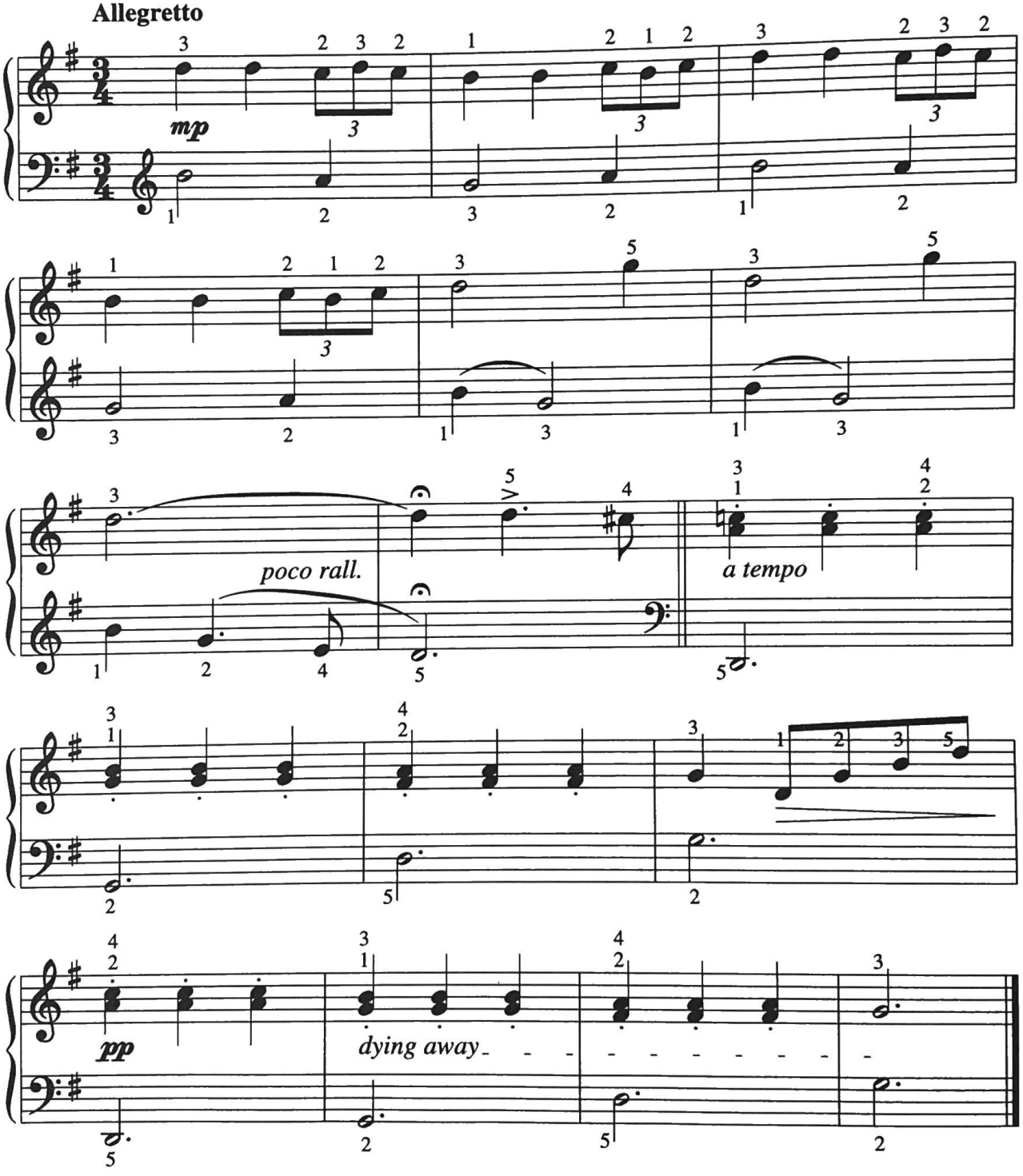

poco rit.
a tempo
molto rit.

Ignacy Jan Paderewski

(Poland, 1860–1941)

Minuet in Olden Style

Can you imagine a superstar music celebrity becoming *head* of the country? Strange as it seems, that's what happened to pianist-composer Ignacy Paderewski at the age of 59. Using his worldwide reputation as a great performer, he raised money for Polish victims of World War I and for Polish liberation. In 1919, he became Poland's Prime Minister and helped sign the Treaty of Versailles that ended the war. Paderewski played this extremely popular, very charming Minuet all over the world.

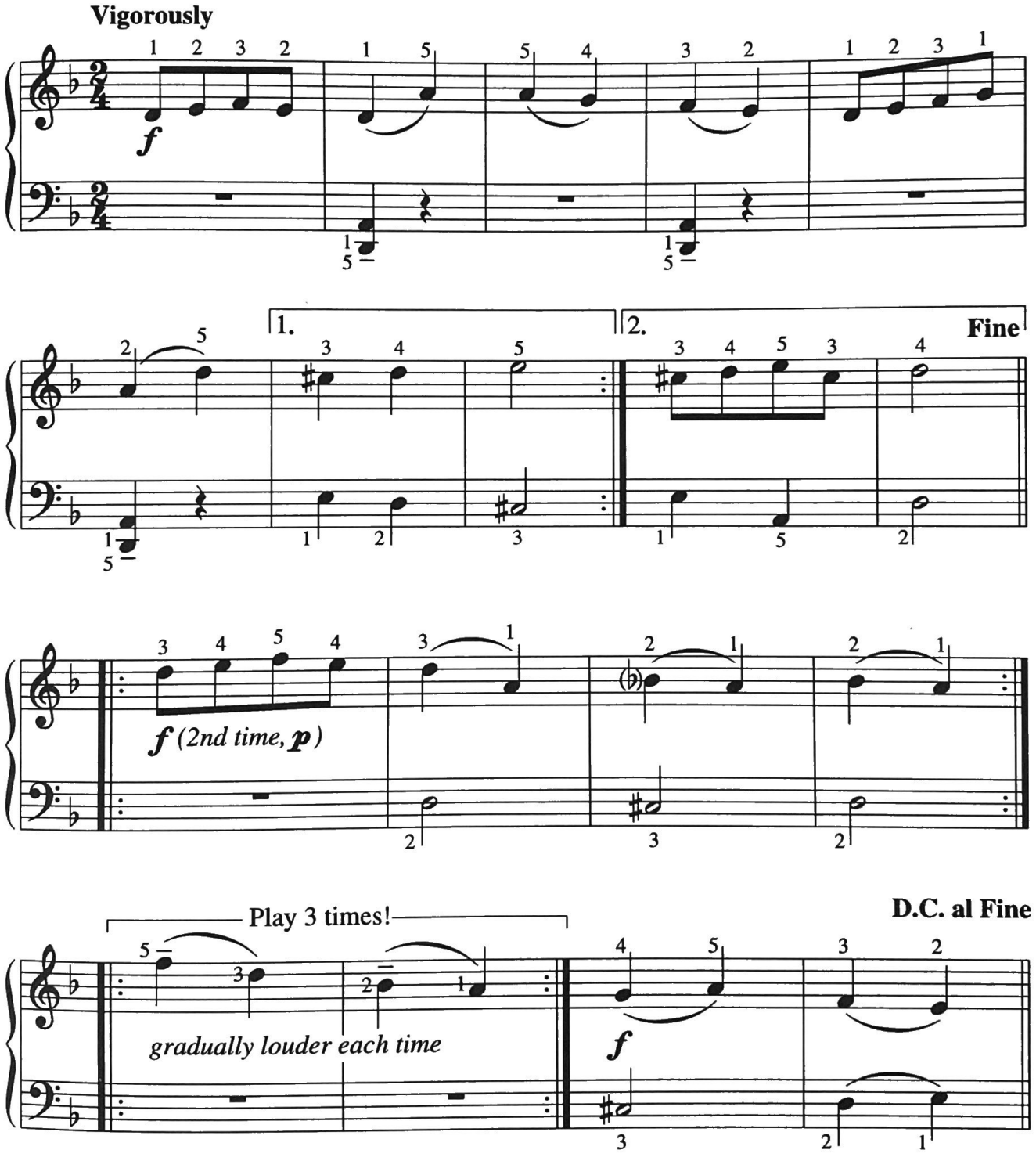


Jean-Philippe Rameau

(France, 1683–1764)

TAMBOURIN

Rameau was composing in France when America was still a group of colonies governed by the King of England. Although he wrote 33 little operas and ballets, and many miniatures for harpsichord (the "grandfather" of the modern piano), he was proudest of his many books on music theory. The *tambourin* of this lively piece was a long, narrow drum from southern France, near Spain. It is *not* a tambourine!

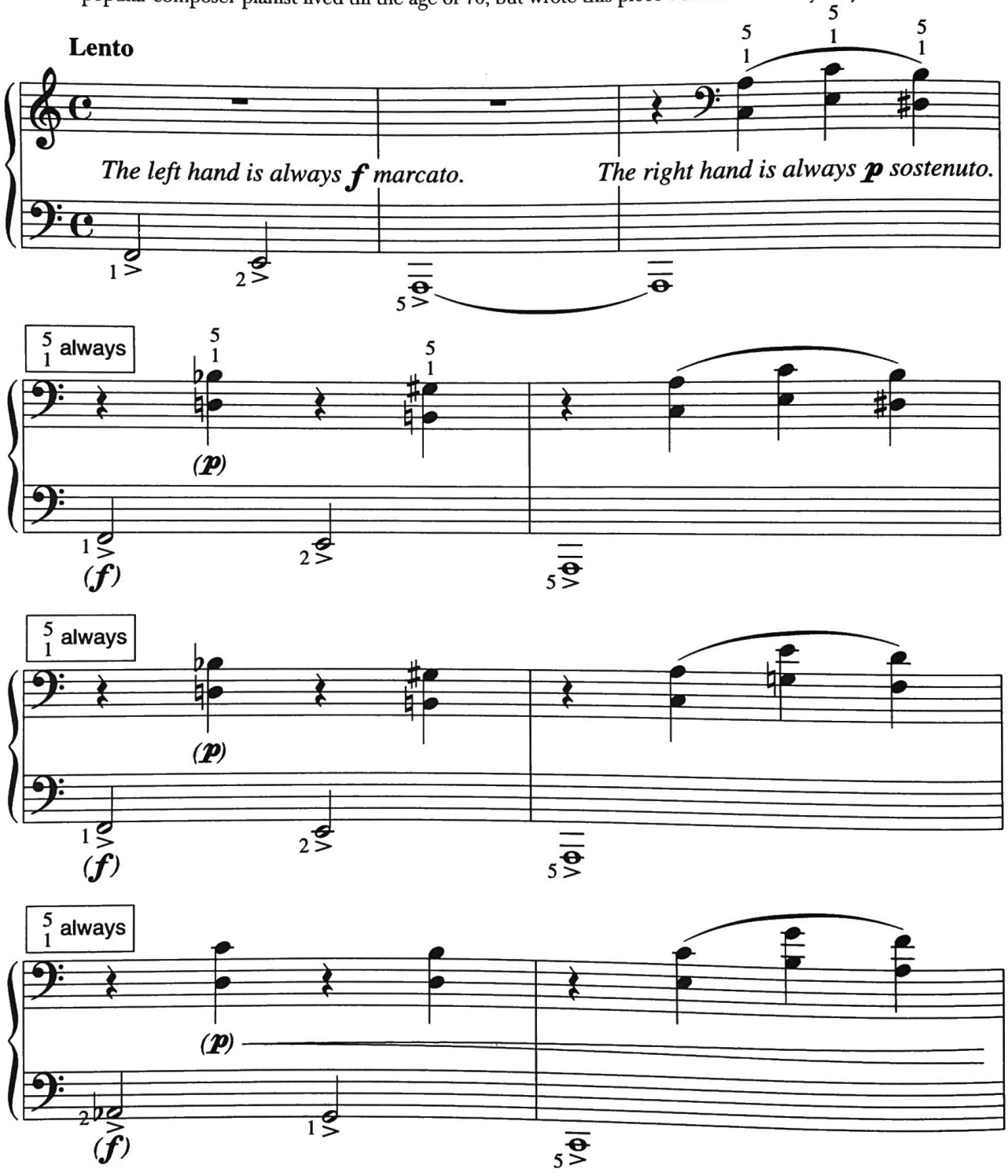


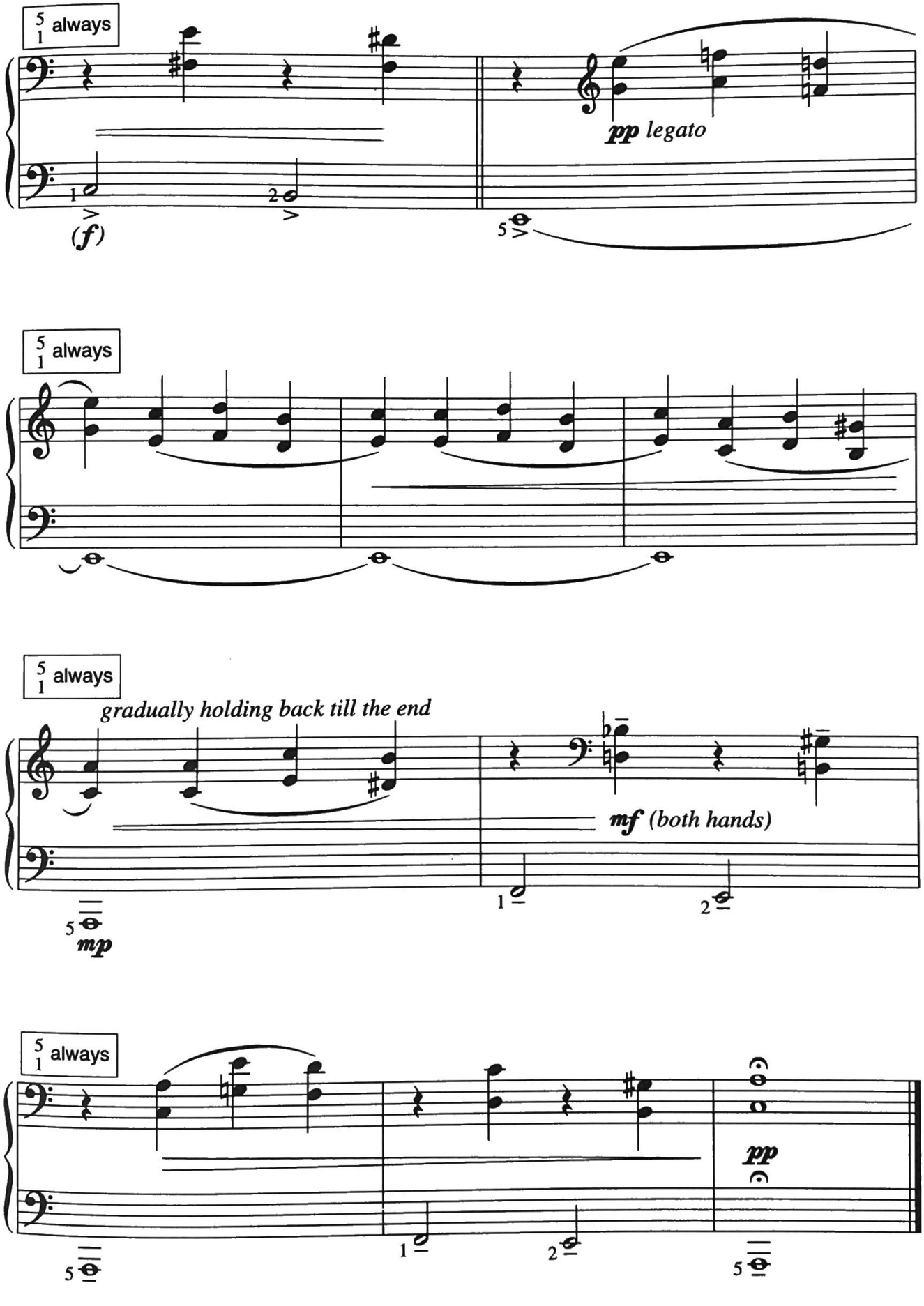
Serge Rachmaninoff

(Russia & United States, 1873–1943)

PRELUDE

Some call this mighty Prelude by the name "The Bells of Moscow." Those powerful left-hand tones—long and accented—do suggest the tolling of large church bells. But notice that the right-hand "echos" are always subdued and plaintive, like a quiet afterthought. Although Rachmaninoff wrote 24 Preludes, this is the one his worldwide audiences demanded at every piano recital he played. This popular composer-pianist lived till the age of 70, but wrote this piece when he was only 20 years old.



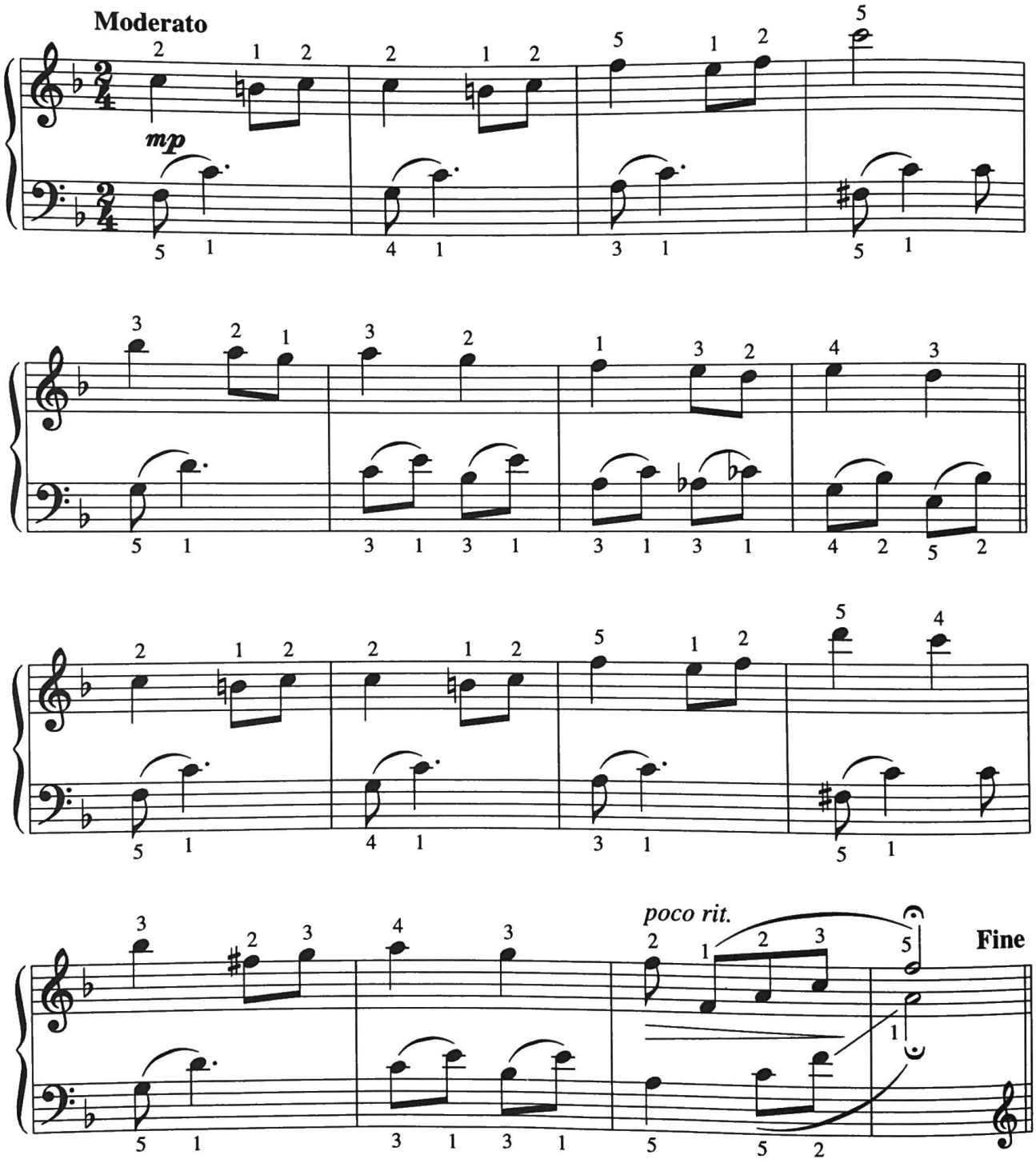

5 1 always
(f)
pp legato
5 1 always
5 1 always
gradually holding back till the end
mf (both hands)
mp
5 1 always
pp

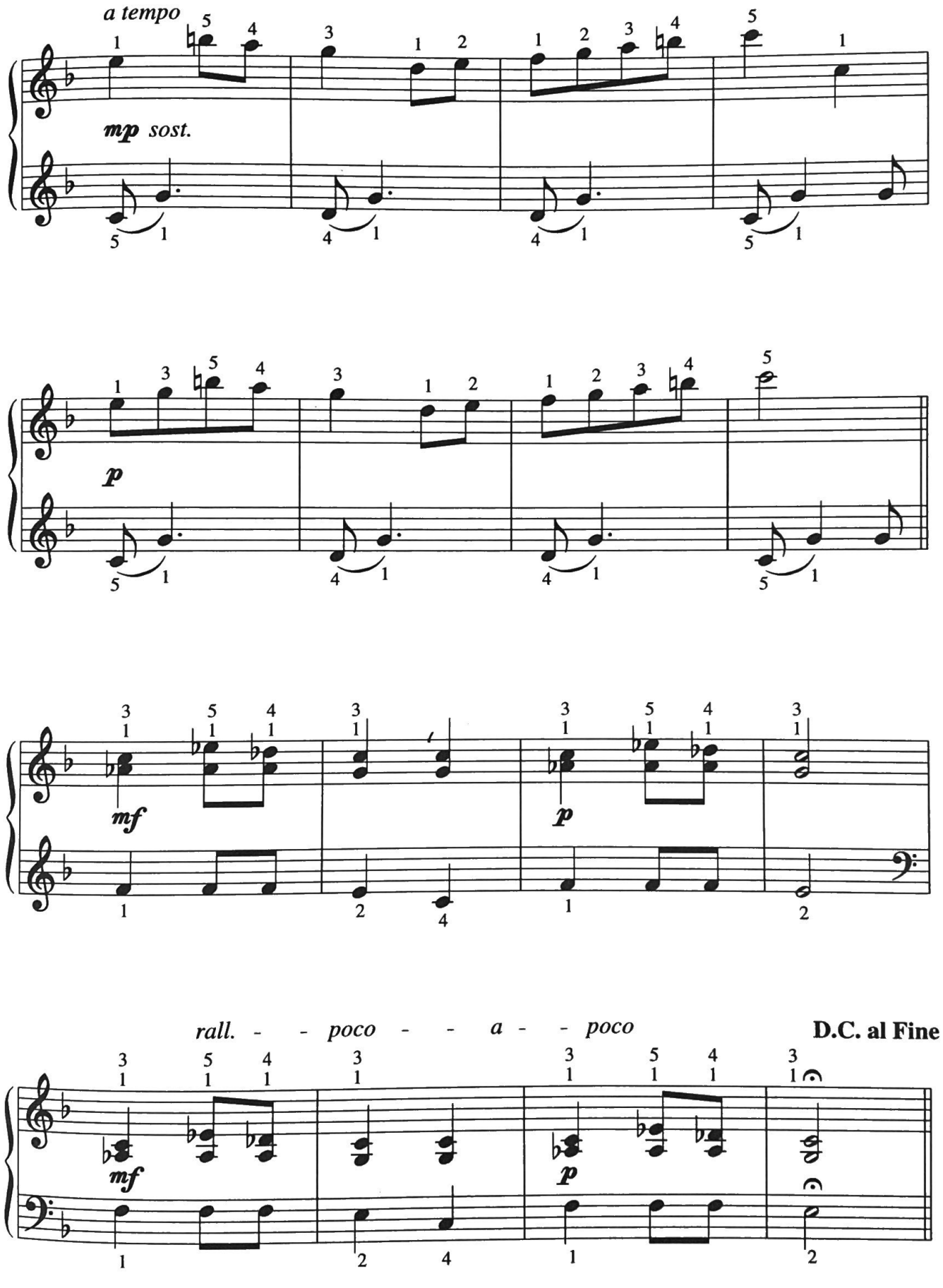
Anton Rubinstein

(Russia, 1829–1894)

MELODY IN F

Some say that Rubinstein looked like a lion, but played like an angel. He lived at the same time as the great Franz Liszt, and was considered *almost* as great a pianist as that Hungarian virtuoso. Although Rubinstein composed many piano pieces and five mighty piano concertos, he is remembered almost exclusively for this simple *Melody in F*. Some know the tune as the song "Welcome, Sweet Springtime."




a tempo
mp sost.
p
mf
p
rall. - - poco - - a - - poco
D.C. al Fine

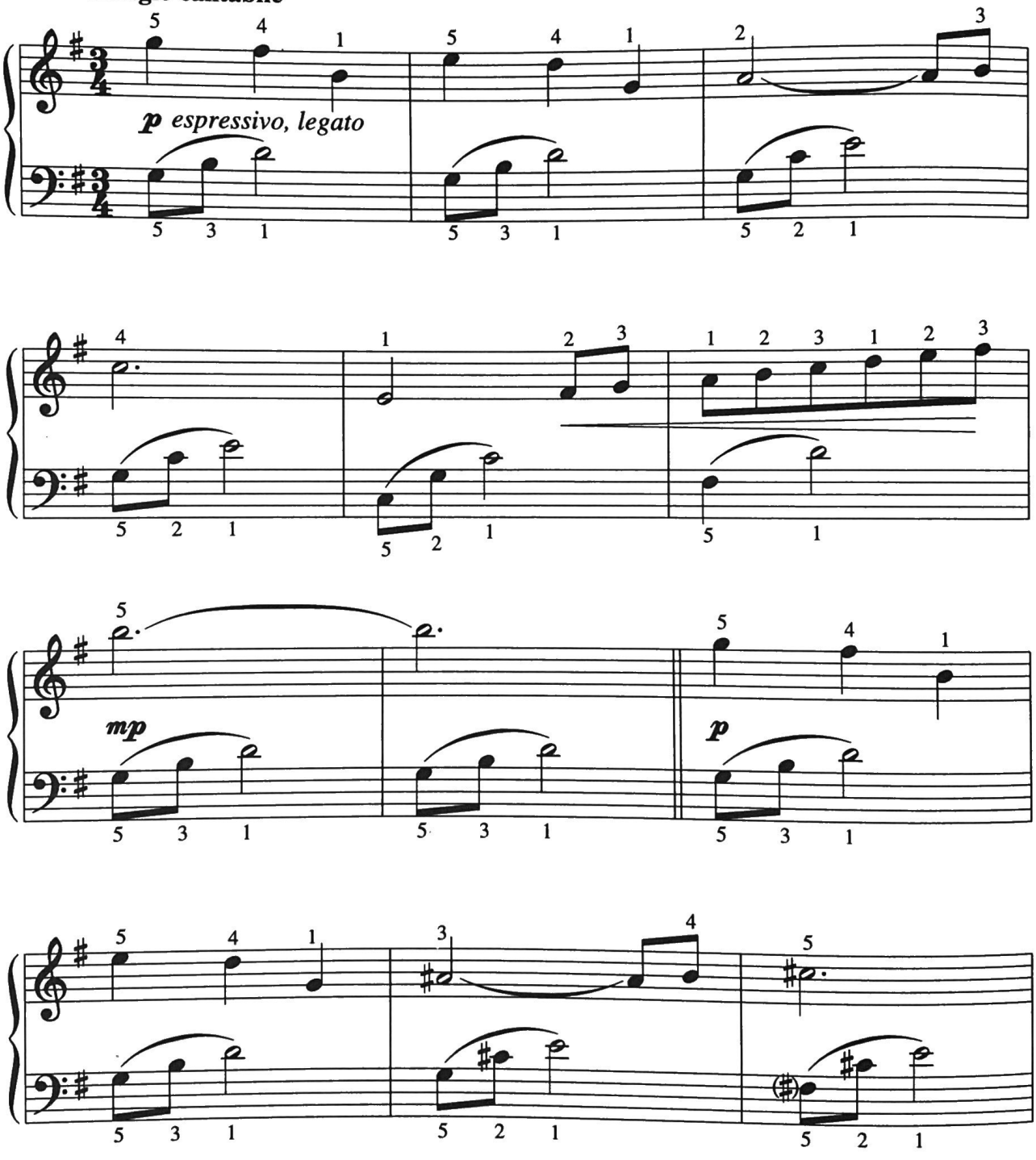
Camille Saint-Saëns

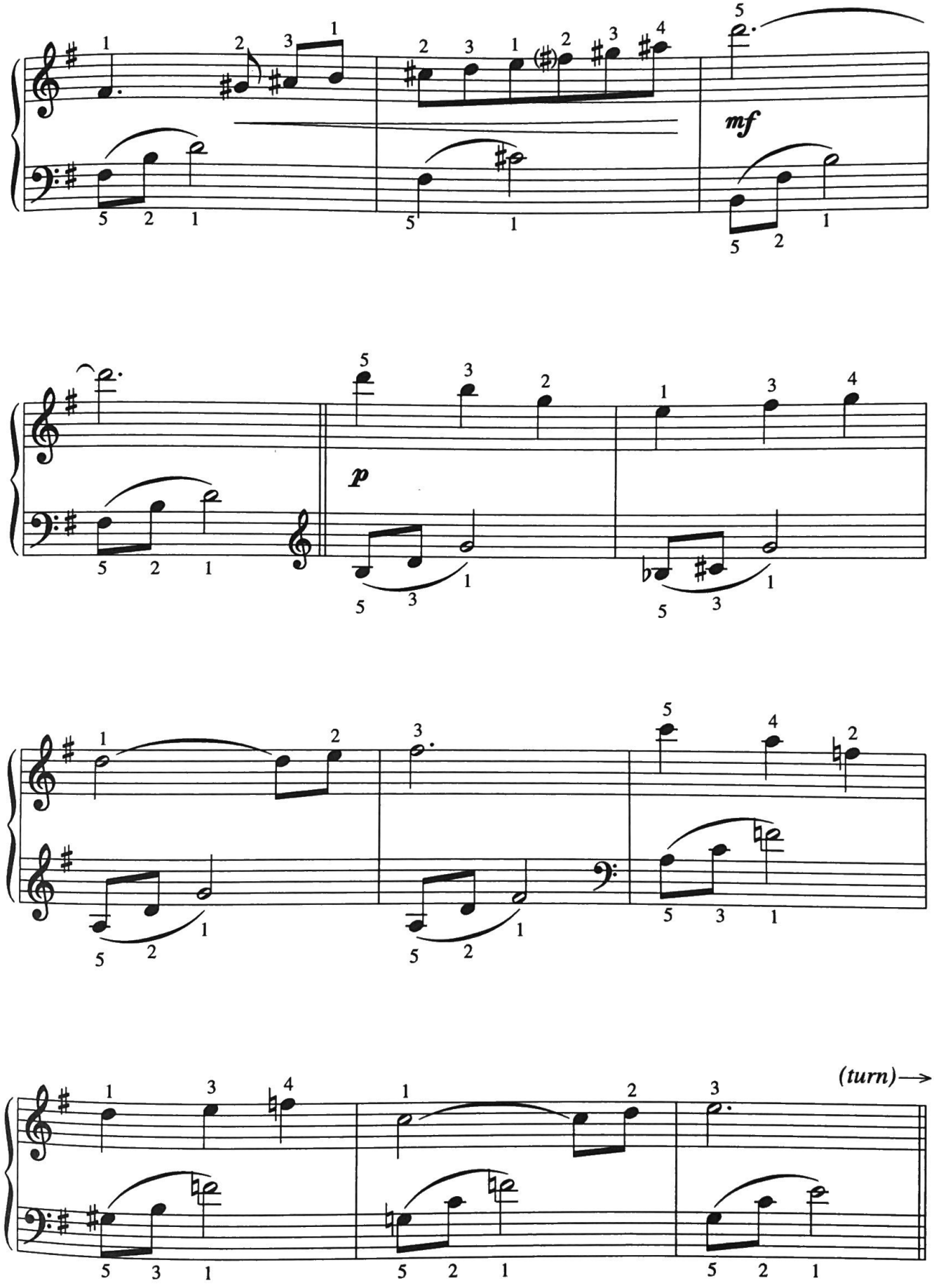
(France, 1835–1921)

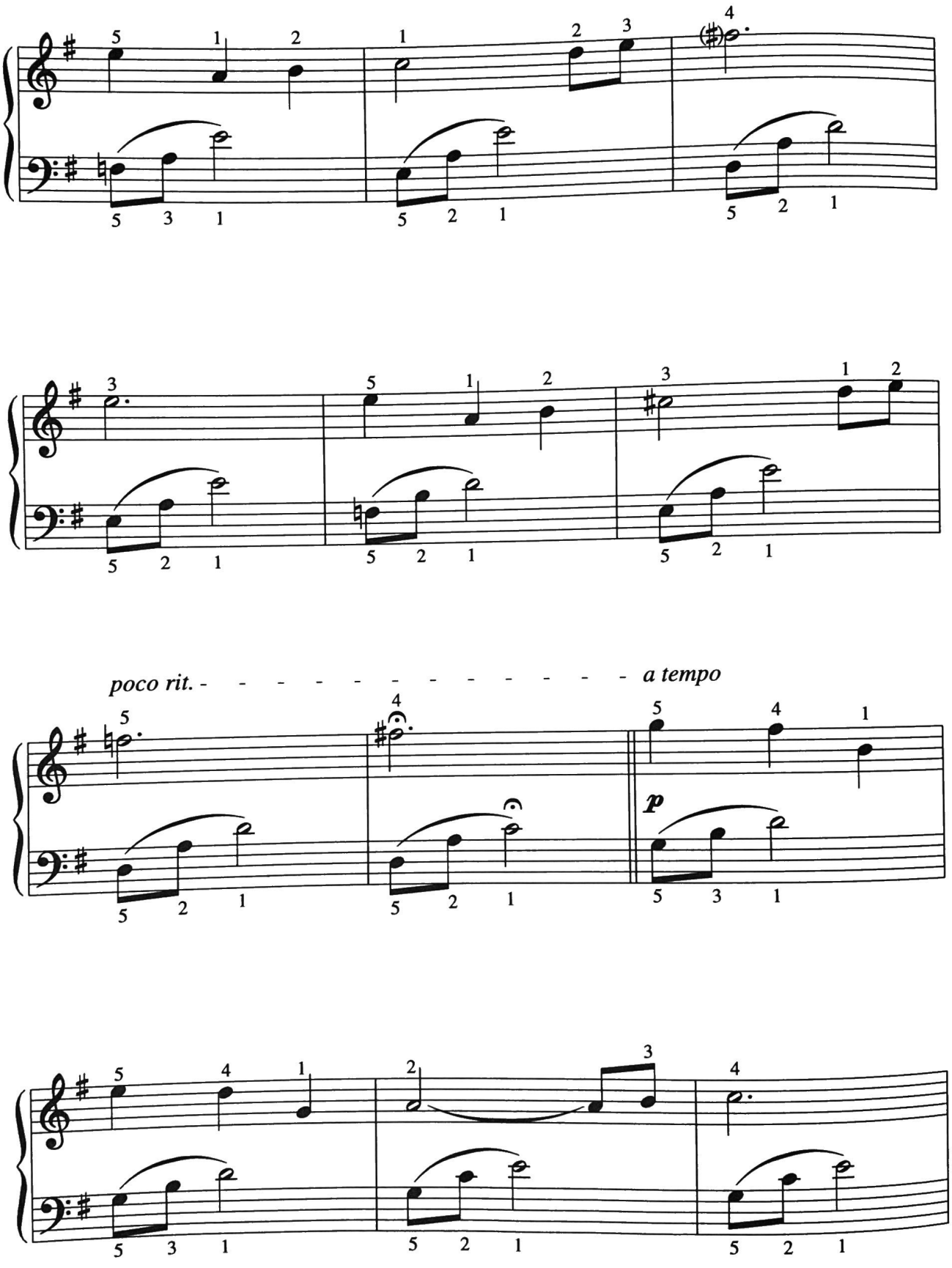
THE SWAN

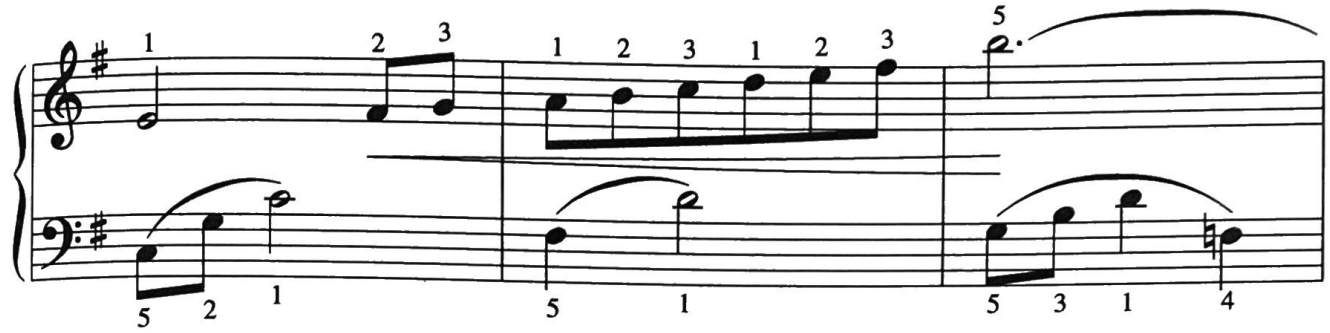
Intended as a musical joke, Saint-Saëns' *The Carnival of the Animals* was dashed off in a few days while the composer was on vacation in February 1886. "The Swan" was always a highlight of the 14 pieces he called his "grand zoological fantasy." Notice how it perfectly captures the feeling of an elegant swan floating on a still lake. (Pronounce this French composer's name *ka-mee san-sawn.*)

Adagio cantabile

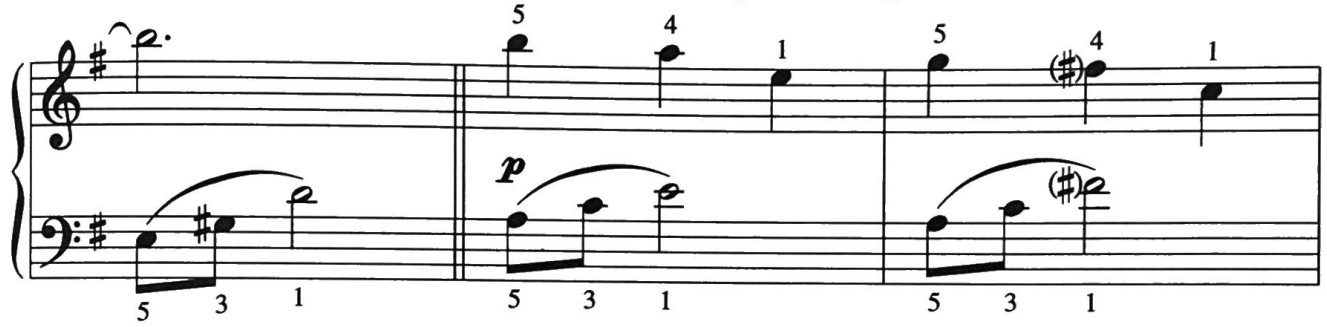


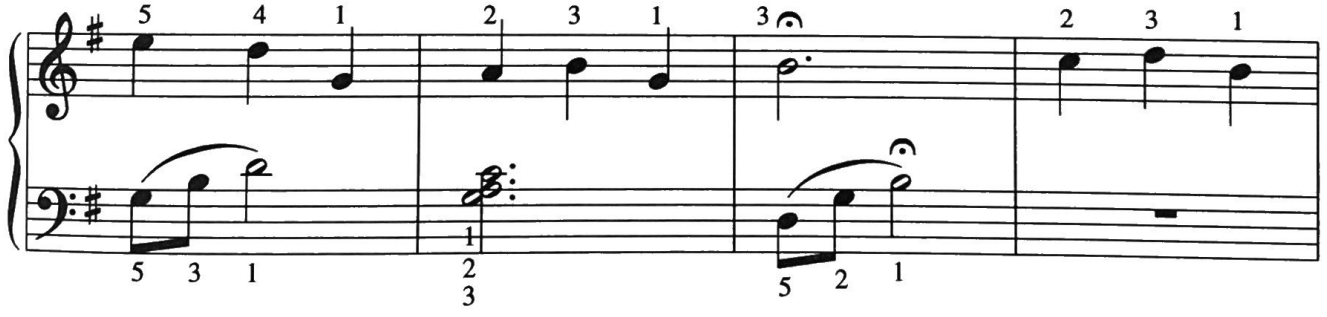

mf
p
(turn)

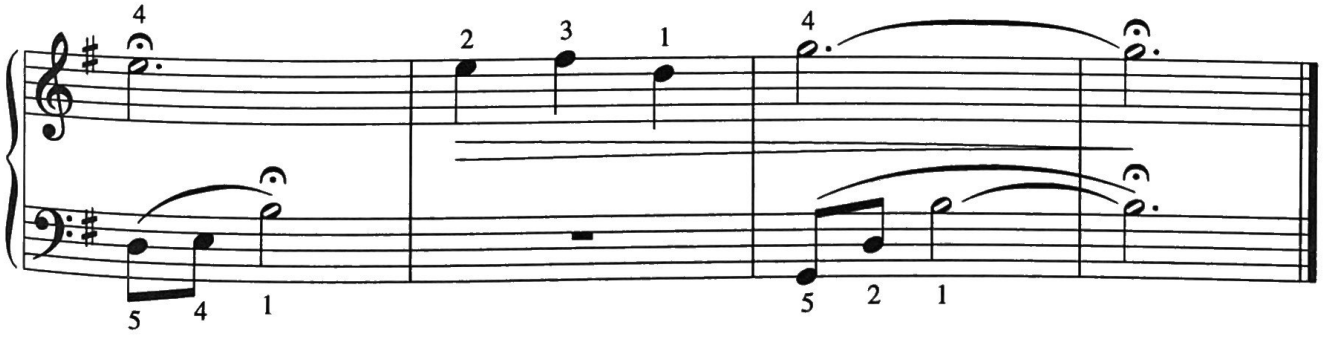

poco rit. - - - - - - - - - - - - - - a tempo
p



gradually relaxing until the quiet end





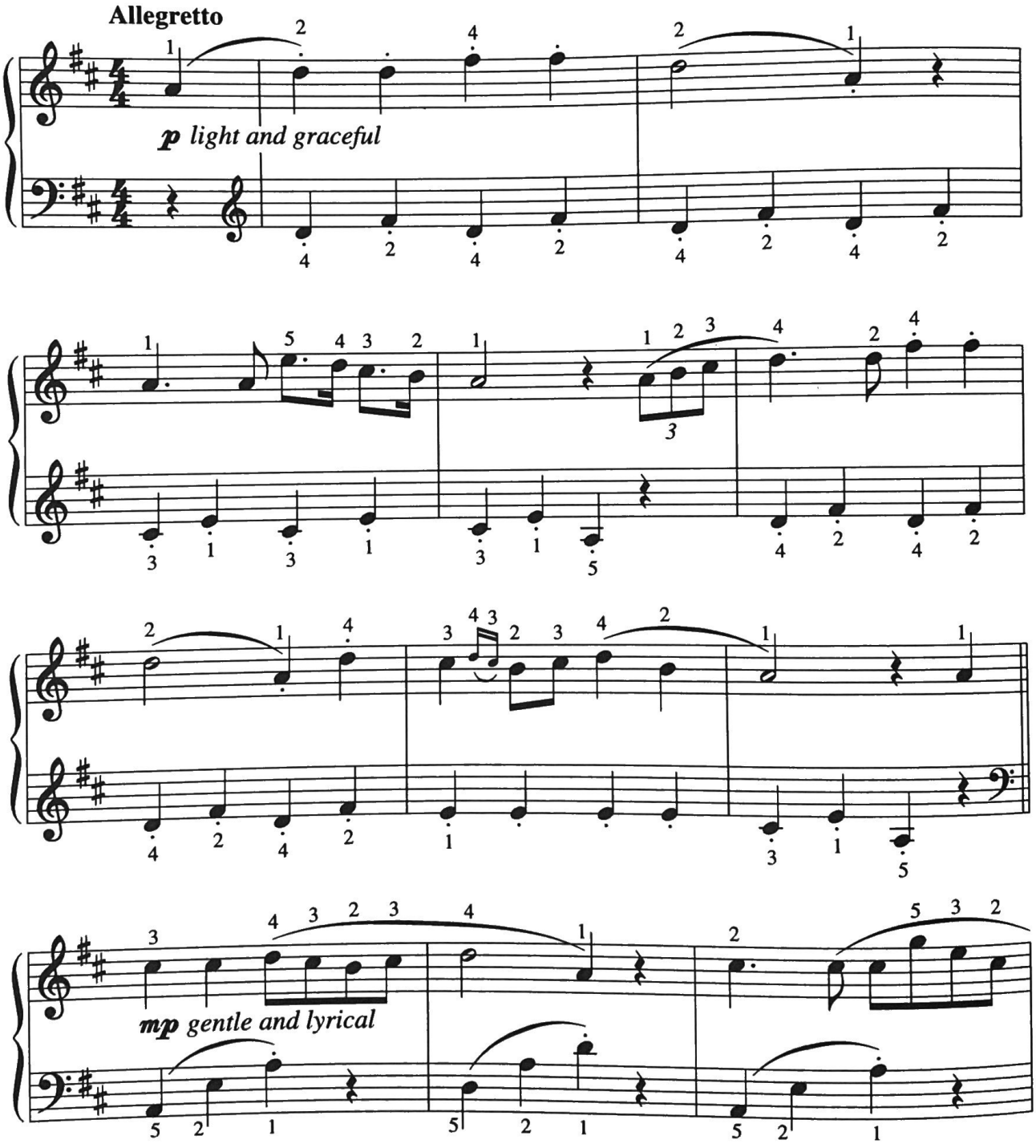


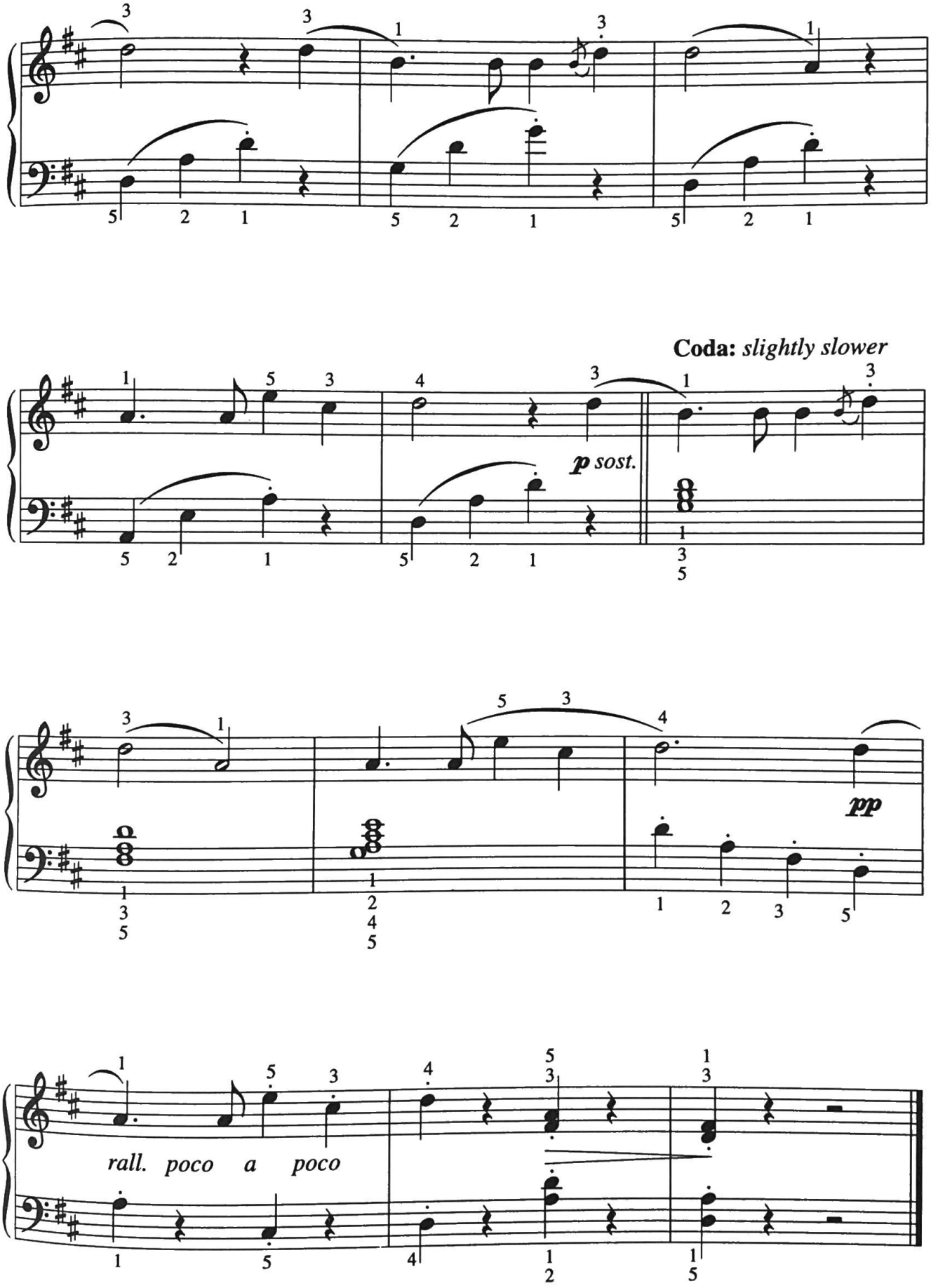
Franz Schubert

(Austria, 1797–1828)

THE TROUT

"The Trout" was originally a short poem about a hasty fish about to be hooked by a patient fisherman. Schubert loved this verse so much that he first set it to music as a song for voice and piano. Two years later, at age 22, he borrowed his own melody for a "theme-and-variations" movement composed for piano, violin, viola, cello and string bass. Naturally, this famous piece is called the "Trout" Quintet.




Coda: slightly slower
p sost.
pp
rall. poco a poco

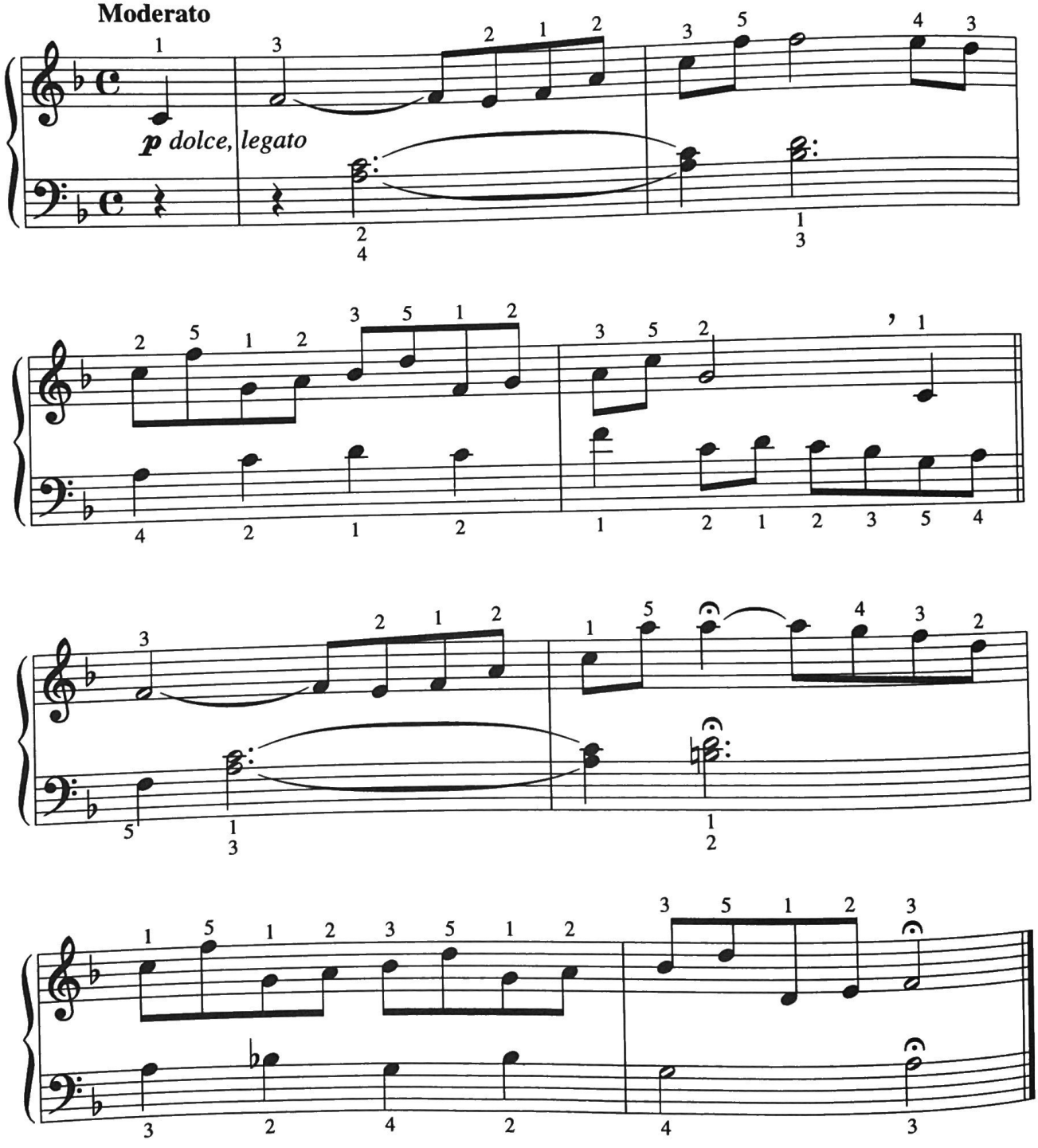
Robert Schumann

(Germany, 1810–1856)

TRÄUMEREI

(From *Scenes from Childhood,* Op. 15 / 1838)

The fact that Clara and Robert Schumann had *eight* children may have something to do with Robert's devotion to children's music—a rarity among 19th-century composers. He composed his *Album for the Young* for beginning players, and *Scenes from Childhood* for *all* pianists. "Träumerei" means "revery," describing a dreamy moment in a child's life. Play it gently *(dolce)*, but without dragging the tempo.

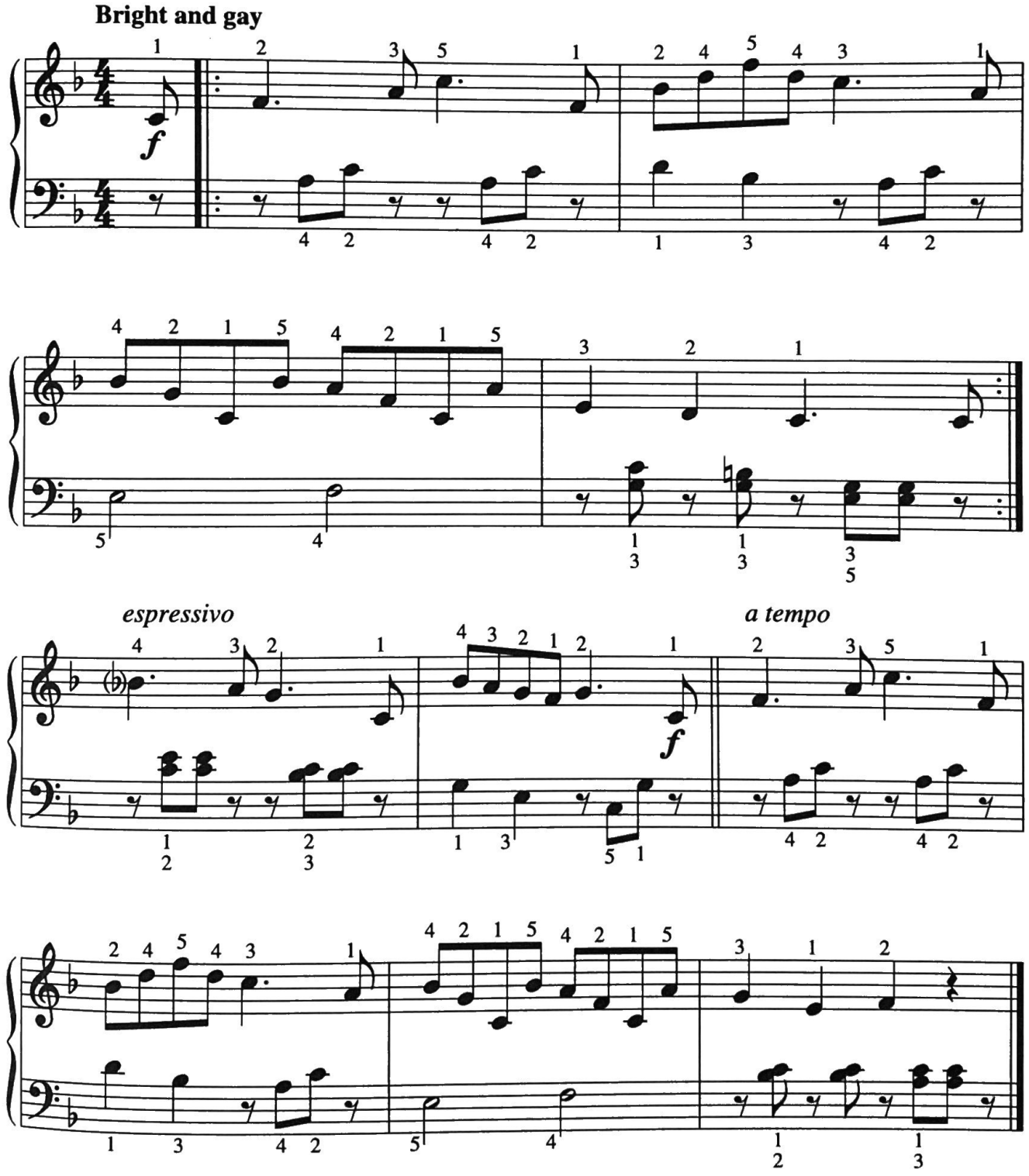


Robert Schumann

THE HAPPY FARMER

(From *Album for the Young,* Op. 68 / 1848)

Here's a delightful piece from the suite that Schumann composed for beginning pianists. He finished all 43 miniatures in only two weeks, and gave the first seven pieces to his daughter Marie as a gift for her seventh birthday. The full title of this piece is "The Happy Farmer Returning from Work"—a good clue for playing it. Like the farmer coming home again, it should be full of joy.



Johann Strauss, Jr.

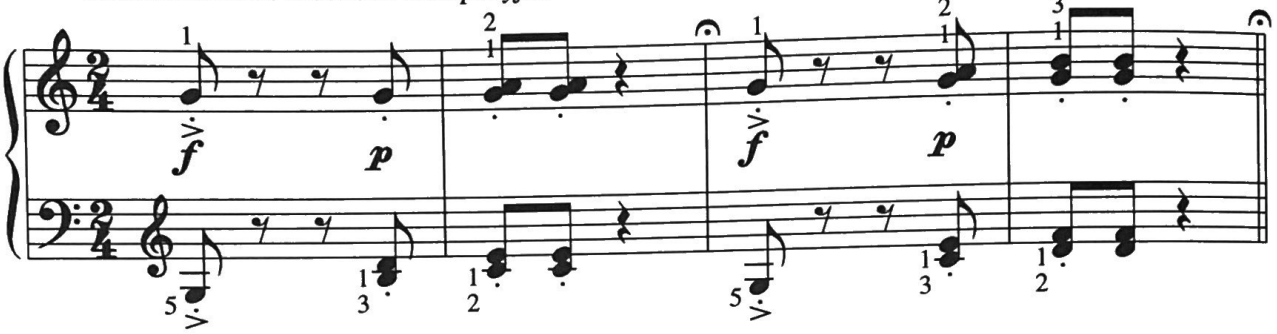
(Austria, 1825–1899)

Pizzicato Polka

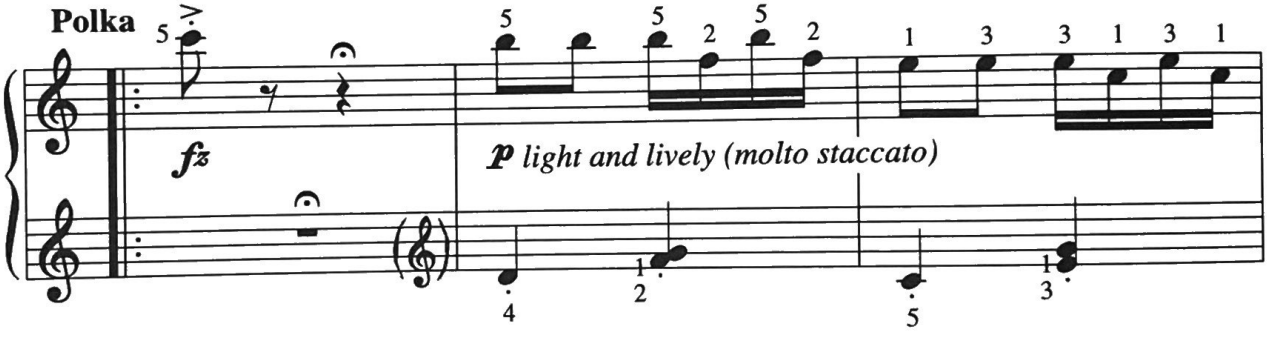
(Written with his brother Josef / 1870)

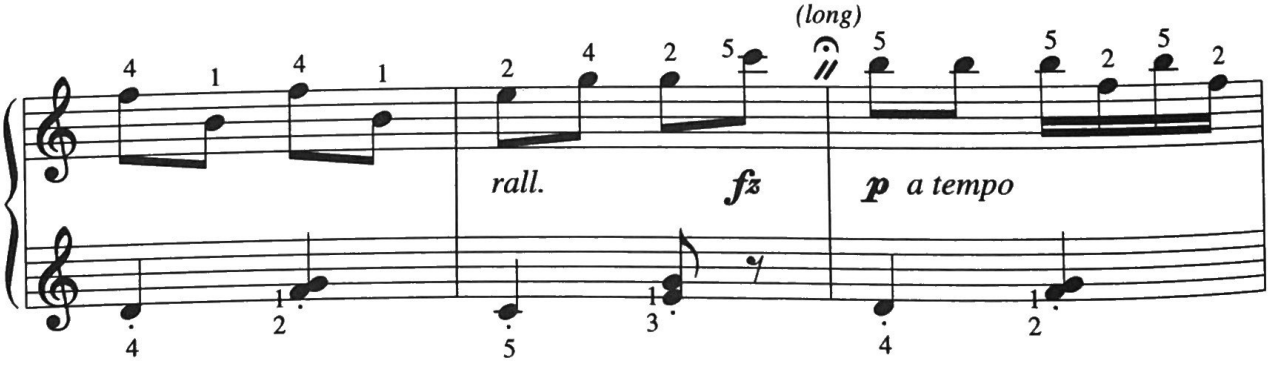
You cannot imagine how popular Johann and his dance orchestra was! His adoring public filled every ballroom he played in, sought tickets to every sold-out concert he gave throughout Europe and Russia, and bought copies of every dance piece he composed. No wonder he was called "King of the Waltz"! "Pizzicato" means "plucked string"—a good guide for playing all those short, light *staccato* notes.

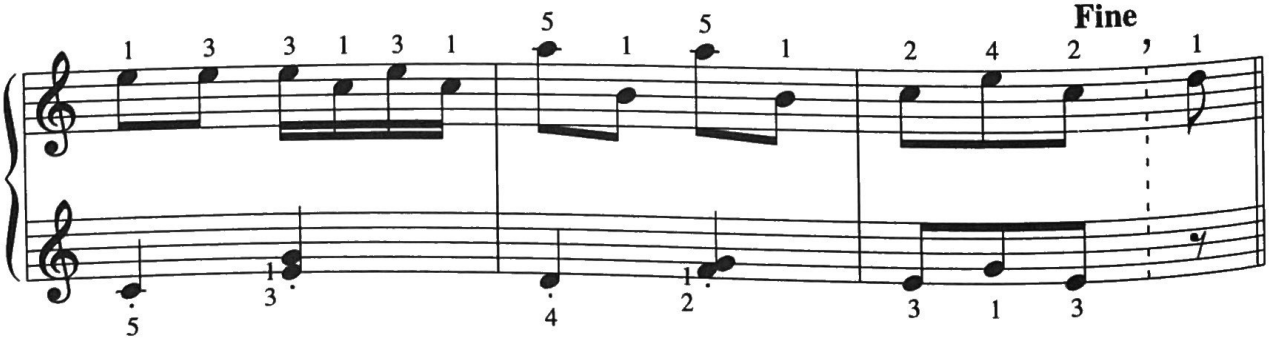
Introduction: *Hesitant and playful*

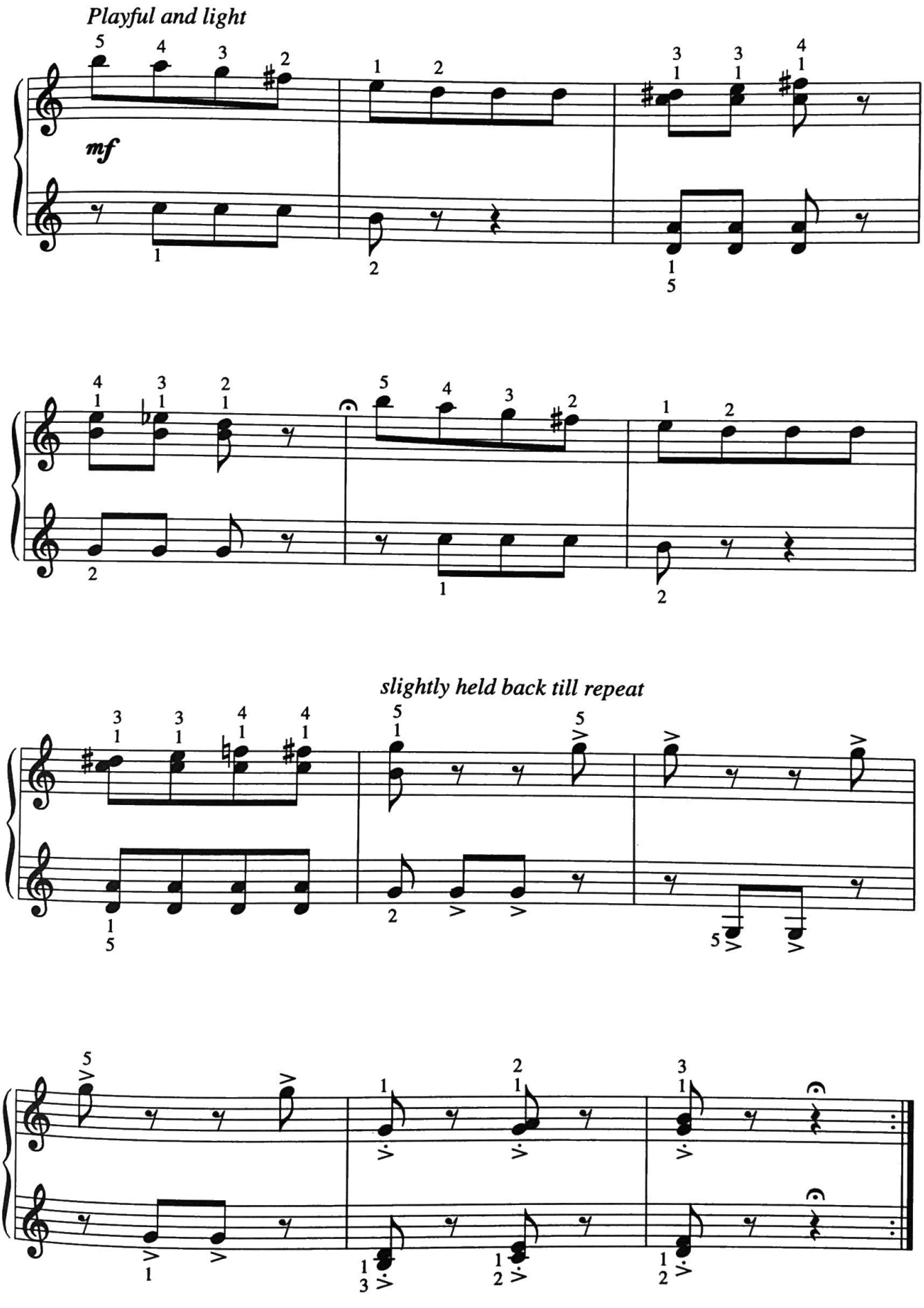


Polka








Playful and light
mf
slightly held back till repeat

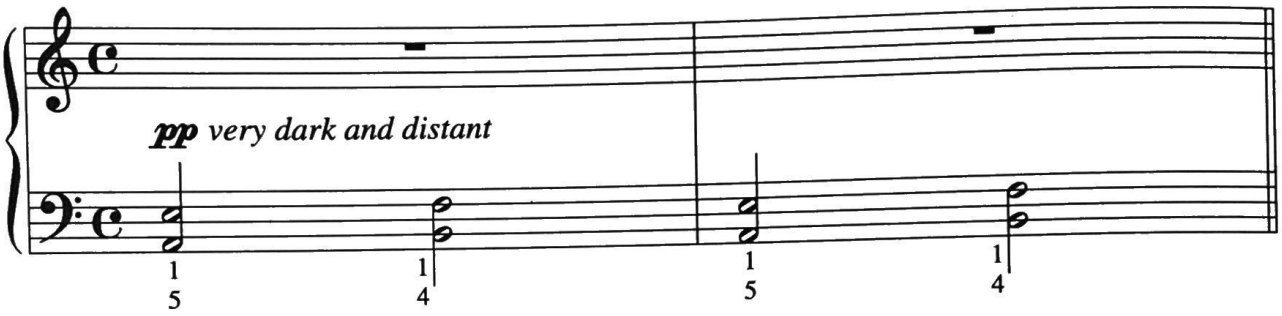
Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky

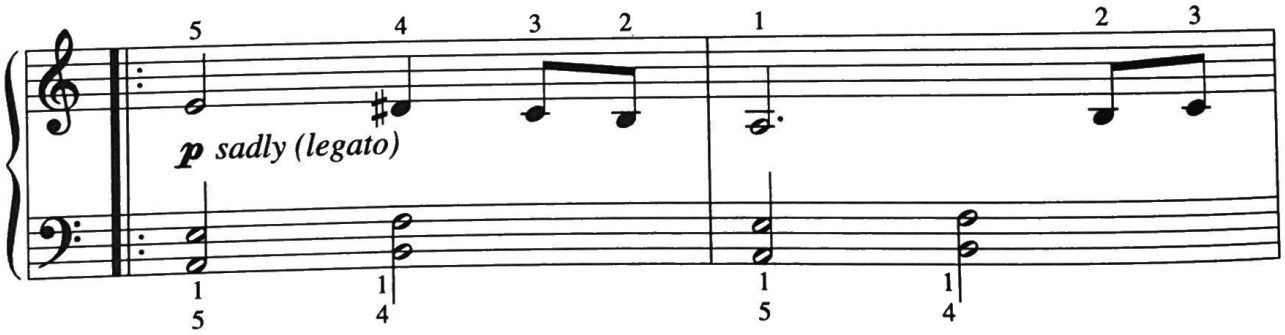
(Russia, 1840–1893)

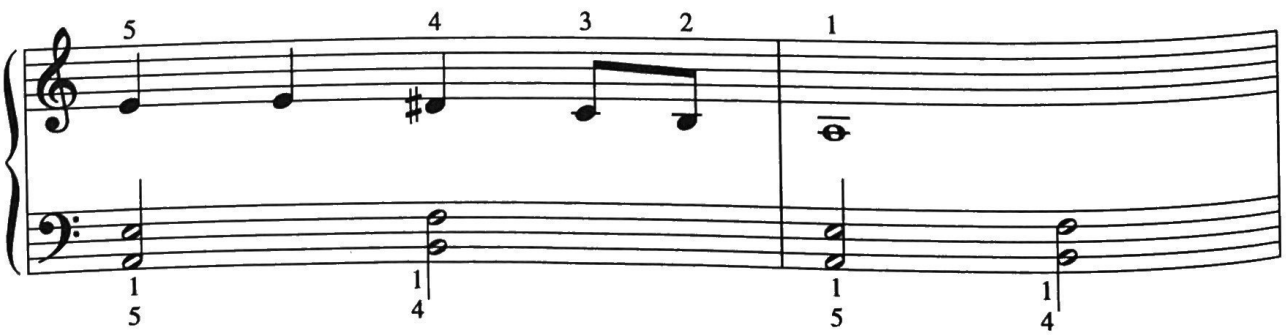
MARCHE SLAVE

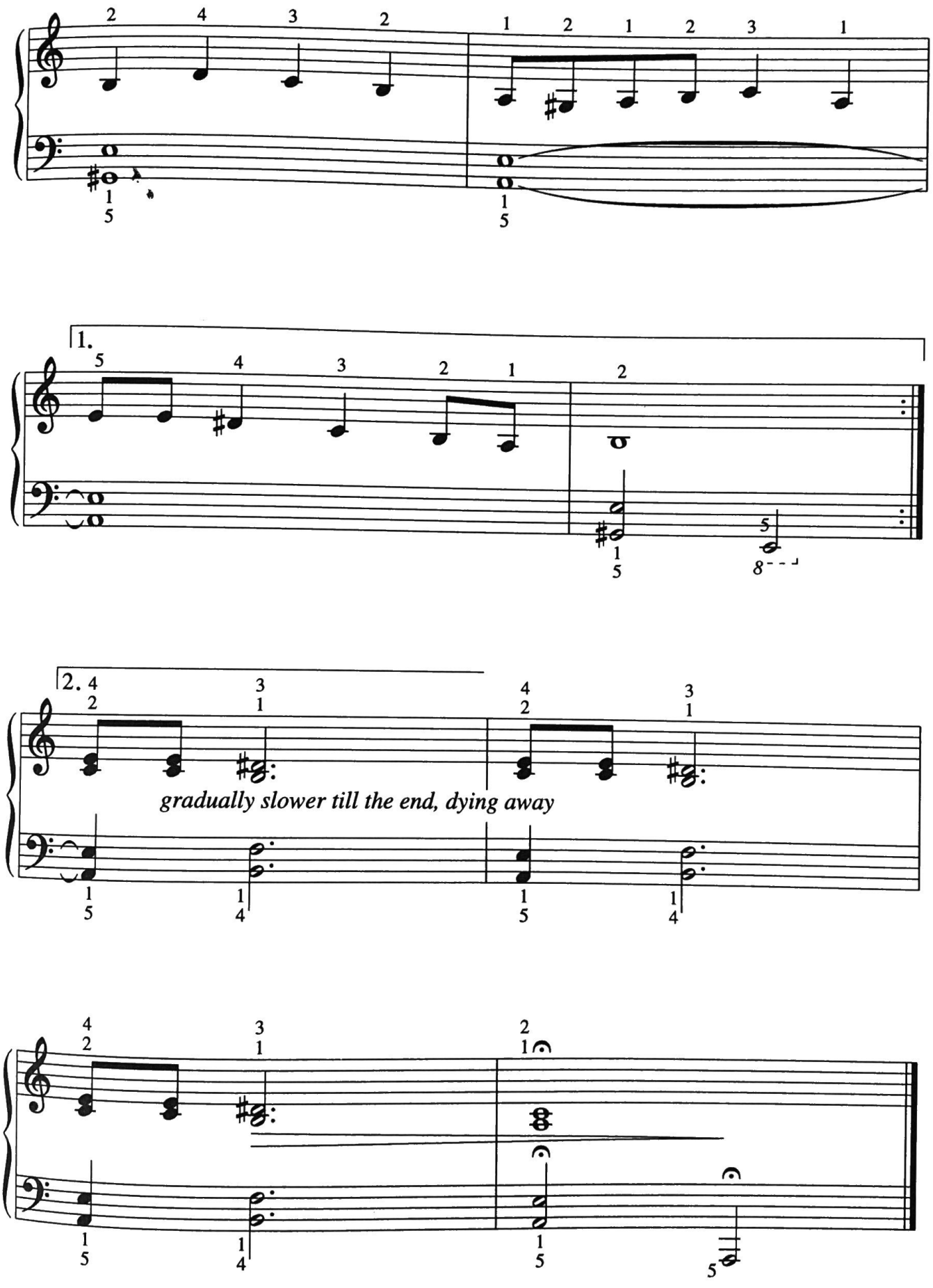
Tchaikovsky loved the music of the many peoples that lived in and near the vast boundaries of his native Russia. The Slavs were the most numerous of these groups, coming from Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Serbia and other neighboring countries. This *Marche Slave* ('slave' is pronounced *slahv*) means "Slavonic March" and is based on a Serbian folksong.

Slow march








1.
2.
gradually slower till the end, dying away

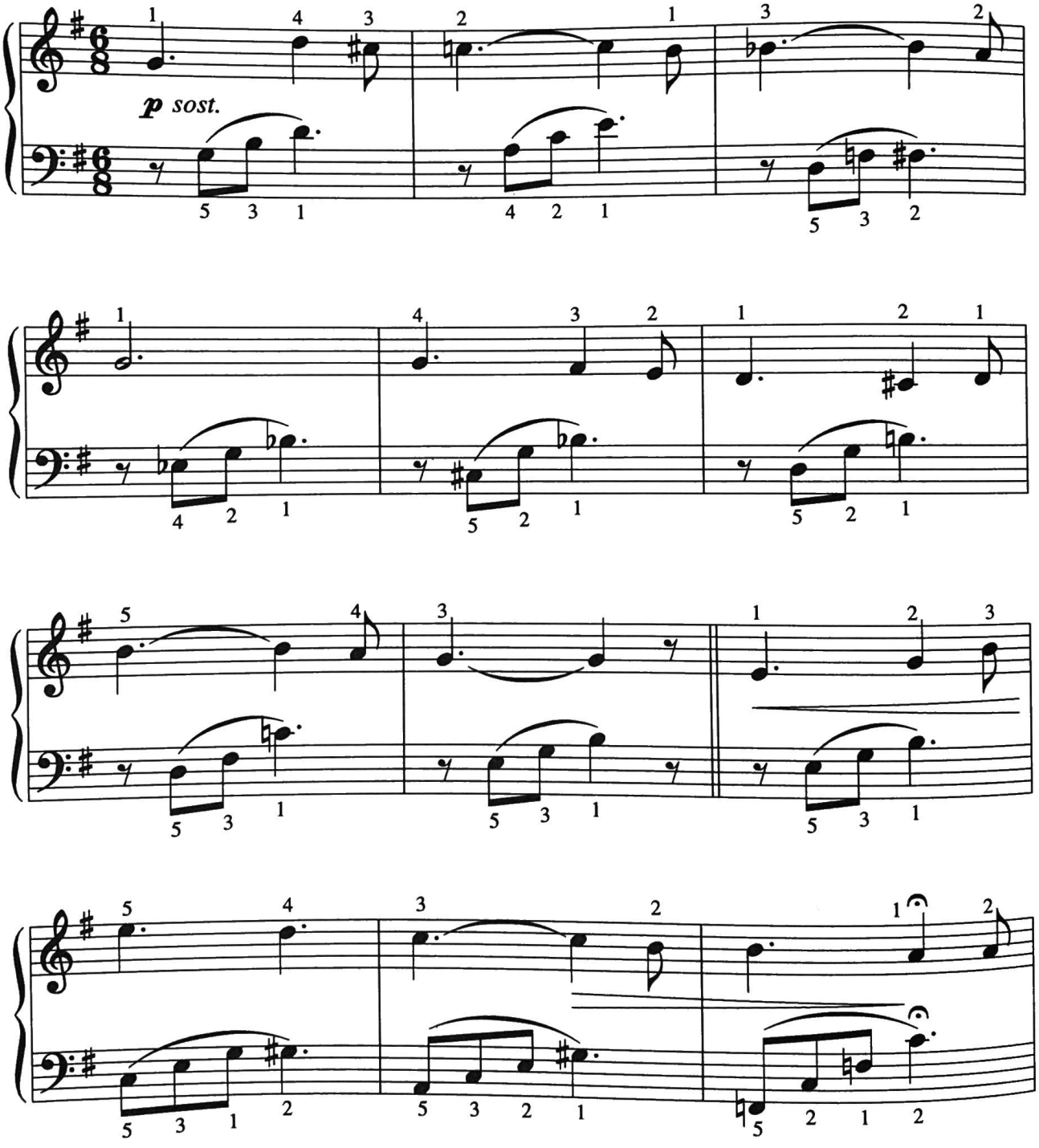
Richard Wagner

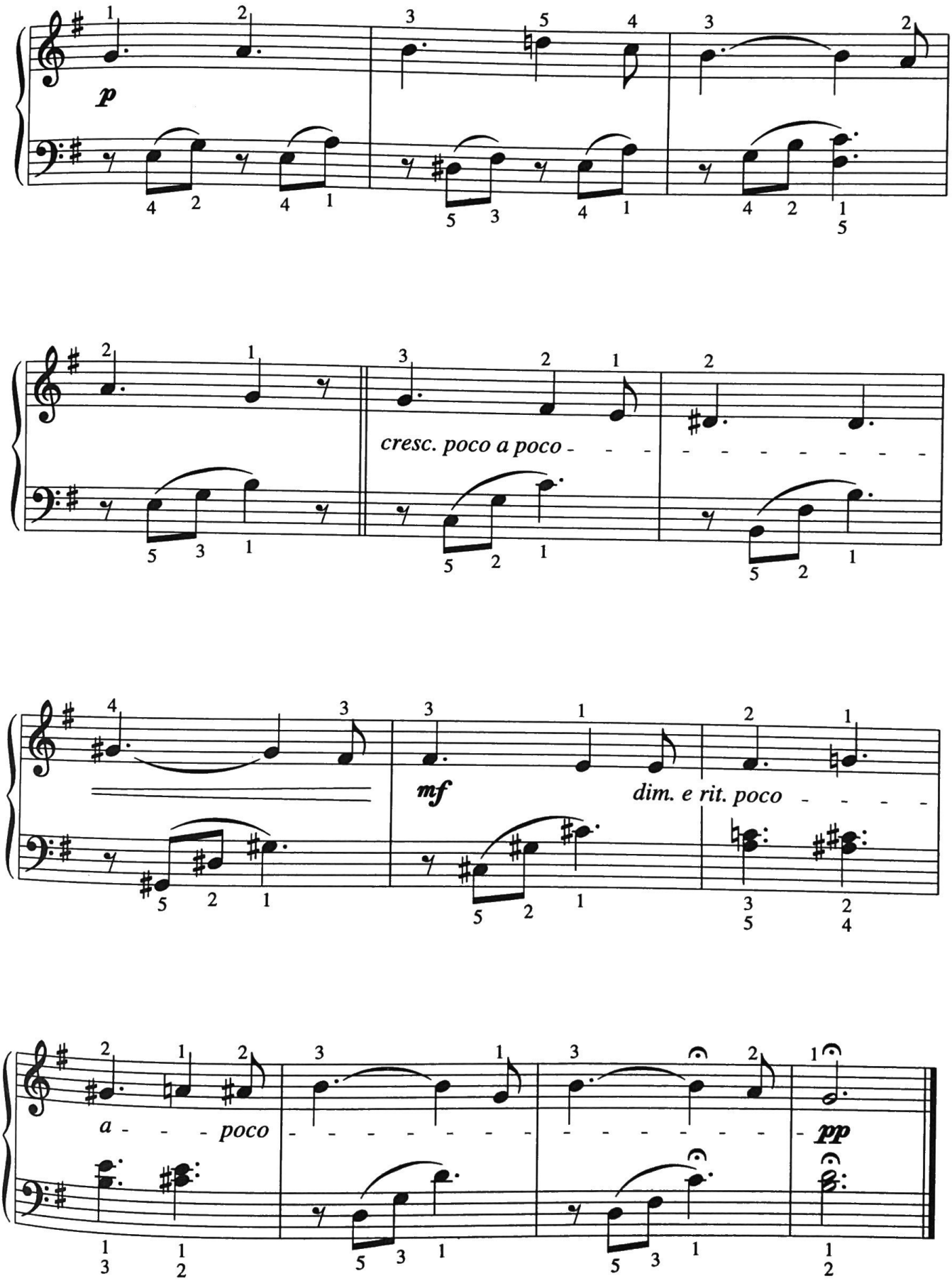
(Germany, 1813–1883)

Song to the Evening Star

Tannhäuser is a medieval knight whose feelings are torn between pleasure and prayer, not knowing which way to turn. Wagner composed an opera named after him (pronounced *tahn-hoy-zer*) which is still performed throughout the world. This lovely song to the evening star is sung by Tannhäuser's friend as he waits patiently for the lost, confused knight.

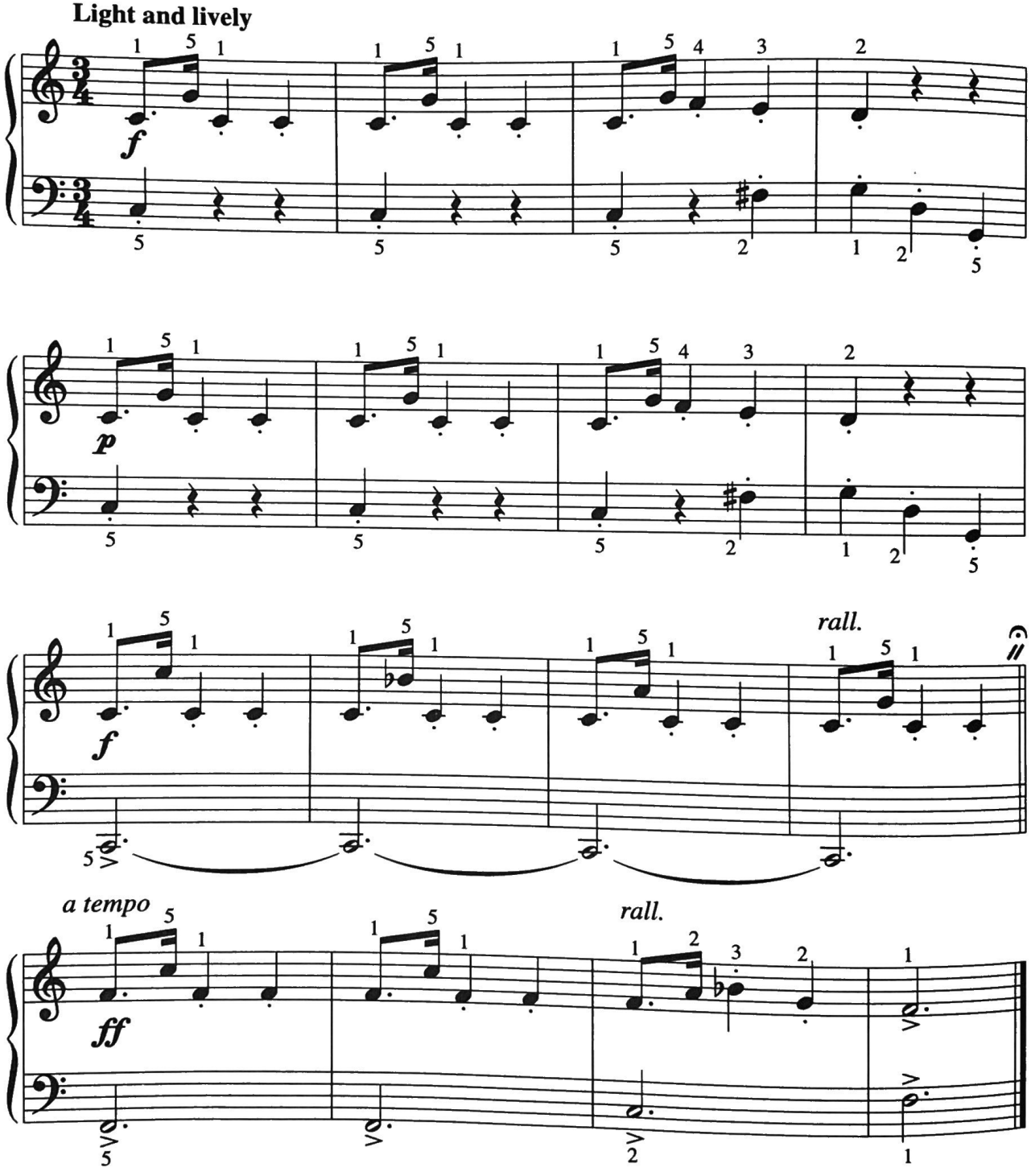
Lento espressivo




p
cresc. poco a poco
mf
dim. e rit. poco
a poco
pp

Antonio Vivaldi

(Italy, 1678–1741)

The Autumn Hunt

Almost 300 years ago, in Italy, Antonio Vivaldi composed a collection of "sound-pictures" that magically brought seasonal sights and sounds to the ear. Naming his music *The Four Seasons*, he used violins to imitate bird calls for "Spring," swarms of wasps for "Summer," and icy winds for "Winter." In our piece, he delights us with trotting horses and hunters' horns for "The Autumn Hunt."