OLD ENGLISH VIOLIN MUSIC

EDITED BY ALFRED MOFFAT.

No. 13.

SONATA IN D MINOR

COMPOSED BY

John Humphries.

PRICE
TWO SHILLINGS
NET.

LONDON
Novello & Co., Ltd.

PREFATORY NOTE.

ALTHOUGH considerable attention has been given to the resuscitation of Church Music, Glees and Madrigals, Organ and even Harpsichord Music by the older English composers, very little has been done to make known the large mass of music for the Violin written by English musicians from the time of Purcell to the close of the eighteenth century. These works for the most part consist of Suites or Sonatas written for a solo violin with a figured bass, or for two violins and violoncello with a figured bass for the harpsichord or organ; another favourite form was the *Concerto grosso.*

It is with the object of making known to the public a selection of the best of these compositions that the present series has been undertaken.

ALFRED MOFFAT.

JOHN HUMPHRIES.

From some prefatory remarks attached to his first work we see that Humphries was born in 1707. The title of the work is:—

Six Solos for a Violin & Base wth a through Base for the Harpsichord compos'd by John Humphries Publish'd for the Author. price 3^s 1726. Engrav'd on Copper by T. Cross near ye Red Lyon Tavern Clarkenwell Green. Folio, pp. 24.

The preface makes such quaint reading that it is worth re-printing in extenso:—

> "These Compositions are the first fruits of a young Gentleman now not above 19: and as no man, tho' of much longer study need be asham'd to own them, 'tis hoped the ingenious Author will meet with Incouragement suitable to his merit; and at length prove, in his profession, a credit to the English nation.
>
> "Though Nature may give a Man an uncommon Genius, yet it is the Patronage of ye Good & ye Great wch must still advance & improve it. To All such therefore let this Work recommend the Author; y^t as ye Morning of his life opens wth Brightness, his Meridian may appear with Lustre.
>
> "As for the Ingraving, 'tis presumed y^t this Set of Solos is a proof that Mr. Cross, in his way, is outdone by None."

The hope expressed that the young composer would live to prove a credit to his nation does not seem to have been realised as, according to Hawkins, Humphries died in 1730, when he could not have been more than twenty-three years of age. Another edition of these Solos, or Sonatas, was issued from the same plates but with the additional imprint, "London. Printed and Sold by John Young at ye Dolphin and Crown, the West end of St. Paul's Church-yard."

Humphries also wrote:—

XII. Concertos in Seven parts, for two Violins & Violoncello Obligato. With two Violins more a Tenor & Thorough Bass For Repieno parts which may be doubled at pleasure....Opera Seconda....Engrav'd & Corrected from ye Original Score. London Printed for & Sold by B. Cooke at ye Golden Harp in New Street Cov^t Garden. Folio, 7 parts.

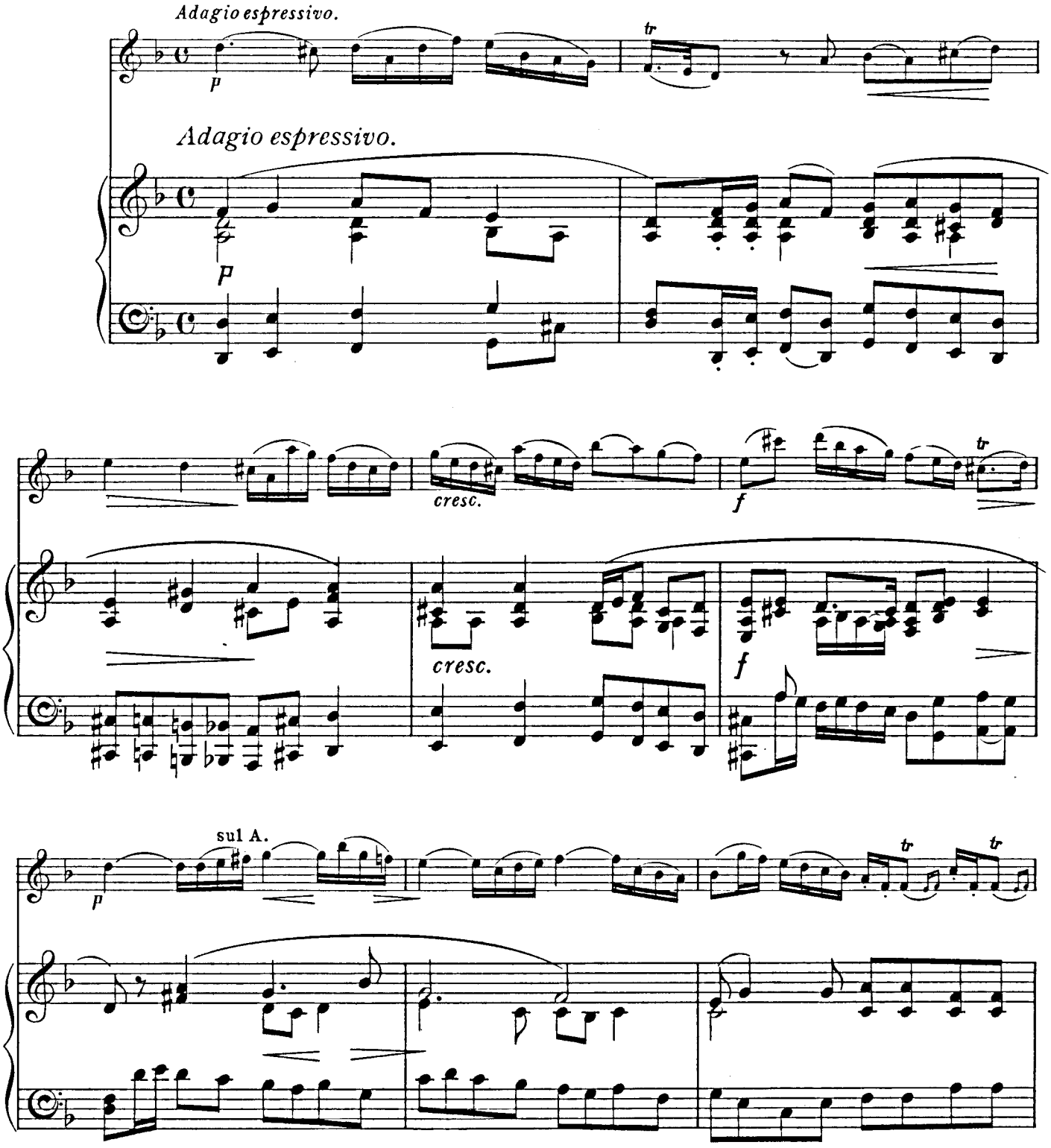
Another set of twelve concertos was issued by the same publisher as opus III. Some ten or fifteen years later both sets were re-published by John Johnson "at the Harp and Crown in Cheapside." Cooke's notice, "engraved and corrected from the original score," seems to indicate that they were posthumous works. These concertos remained in the favour of the musical public for more than half a century, and we find Robert Bremner, a large London music publisher, advertising them for sale in a catalogue of vocal and instrumental music dated March, 1782.

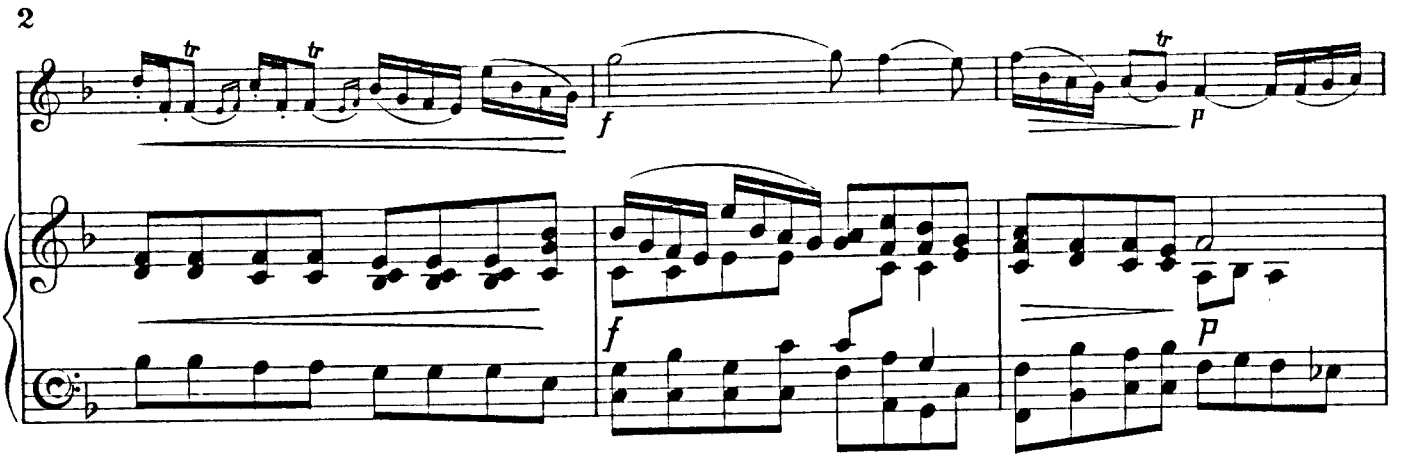
Hawkins (*General History of Music*, 1776) refers to Humphries as "a young man of promising parts and a good performer on the violin." He goes on to say that by reason of the success of his *Six Solos* Humphries "was encouraged to further attempts, and in the year 1728 he published by subscription twelve sonatas for two violins and bass of a very original cast." In this latter statement, however, Sir John Hawkins errs egregiously, for the compositions to which he alludes constitute the opus I. of J. S. Humphries, an entirely different musician. These trios were issued by Thomas Cobb about 1734, and again, a few years later, by Walsh.

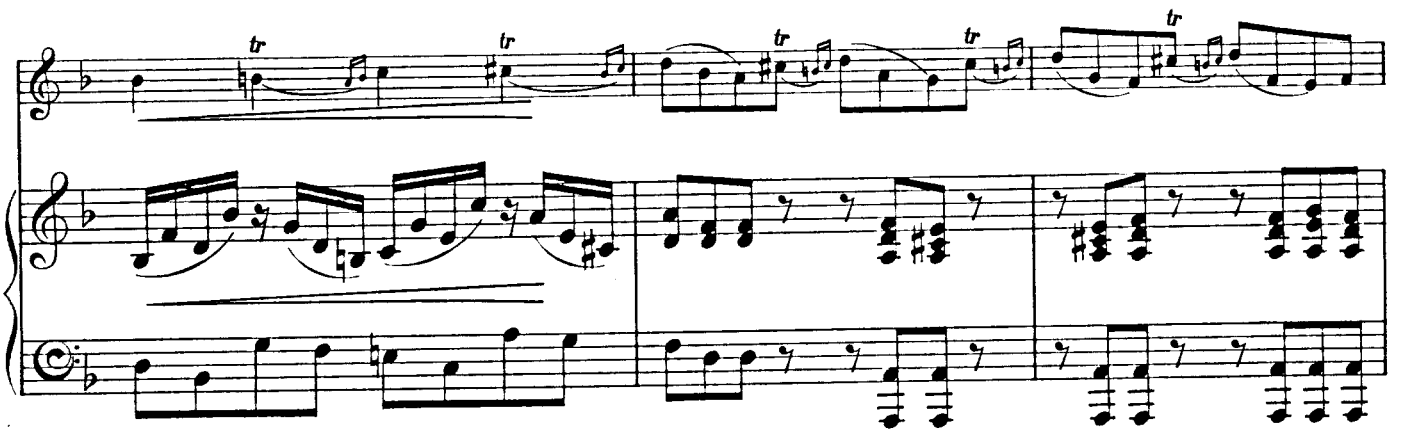
SONATA in D minor.

Edited by
Alfred Moffat.

John Humphries.
1707—1730.




tr
f
p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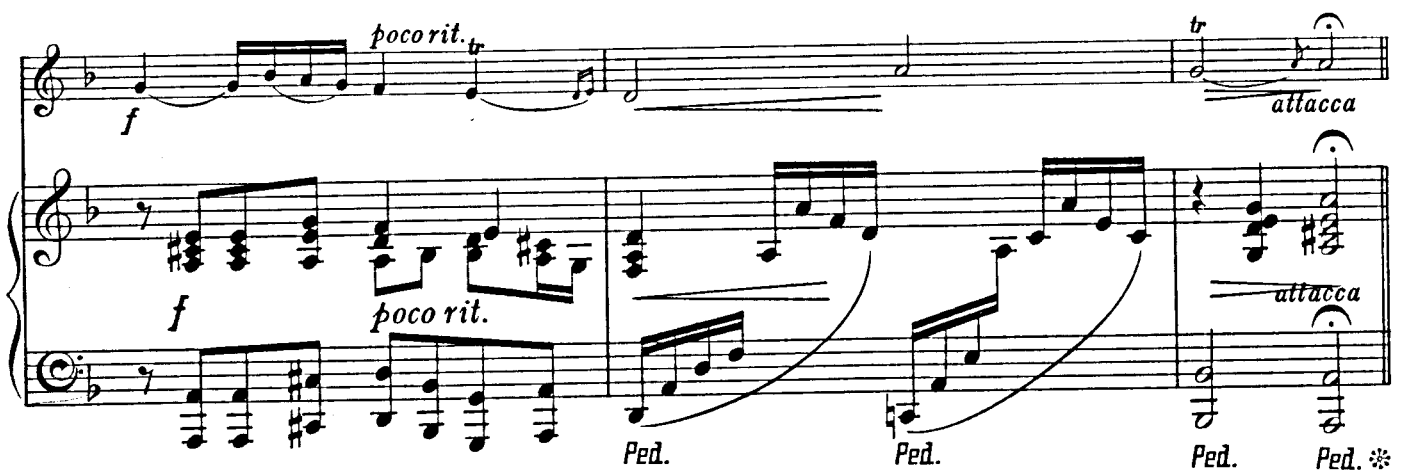
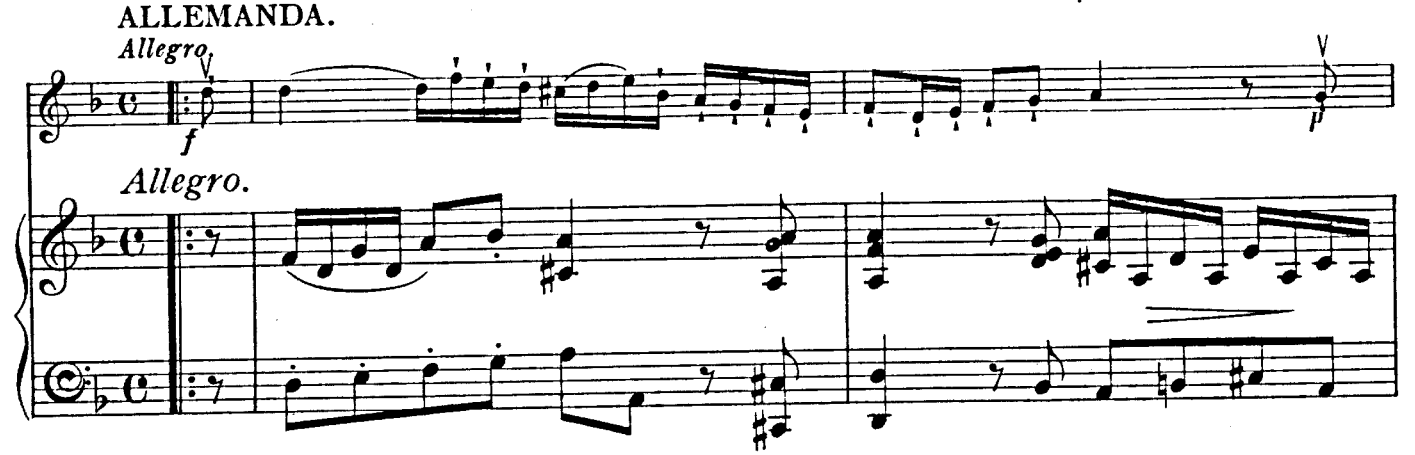
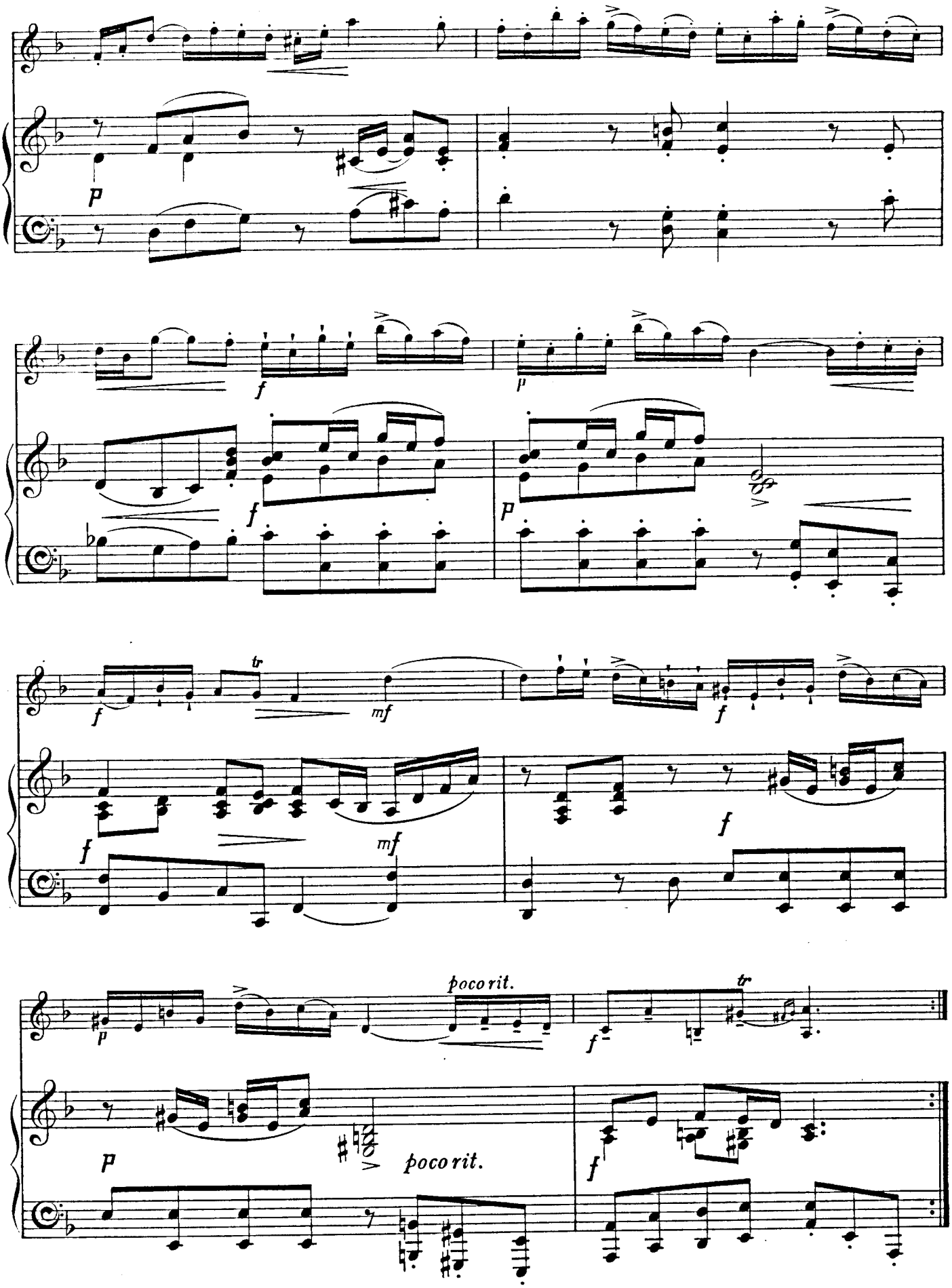
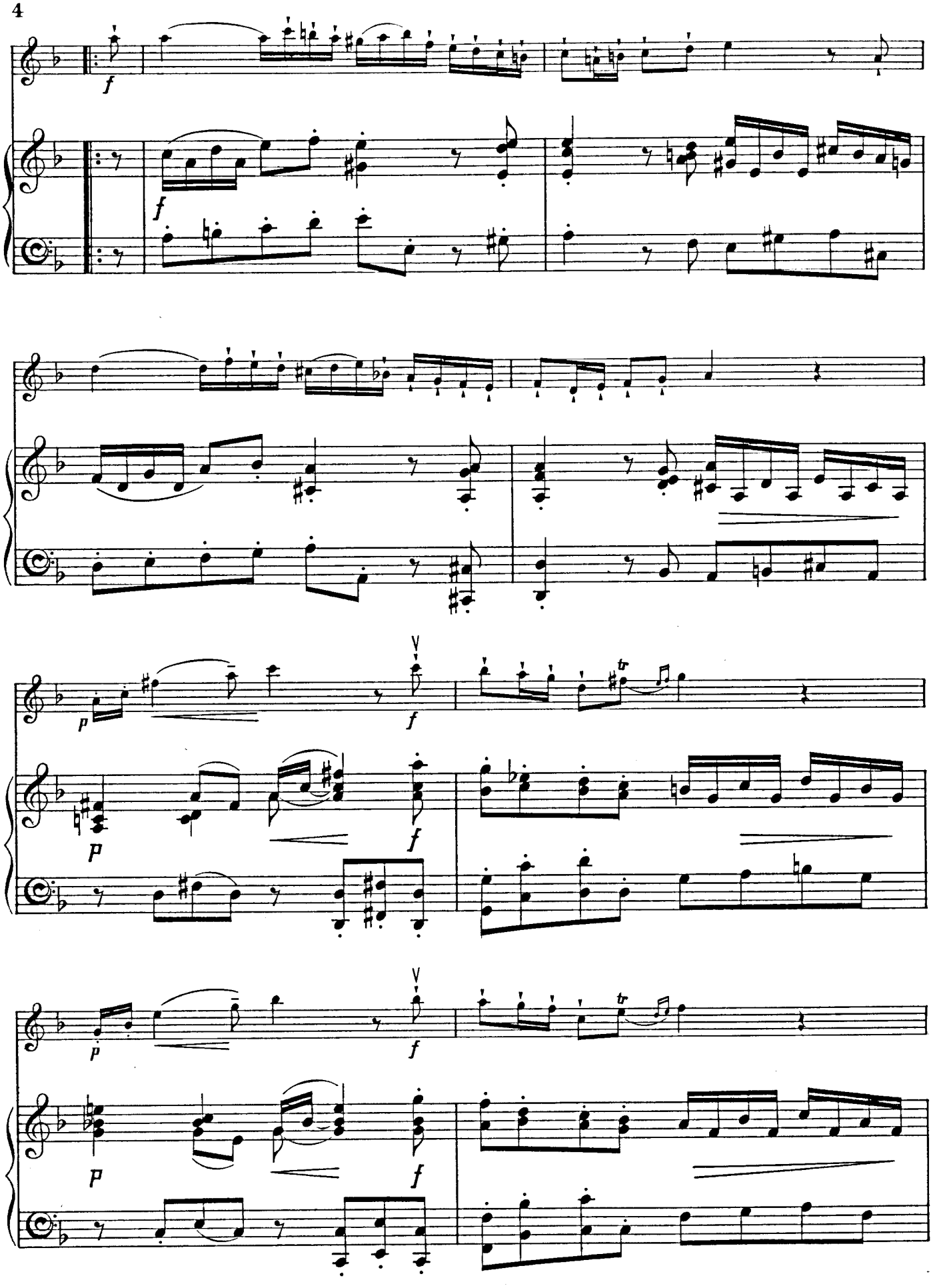
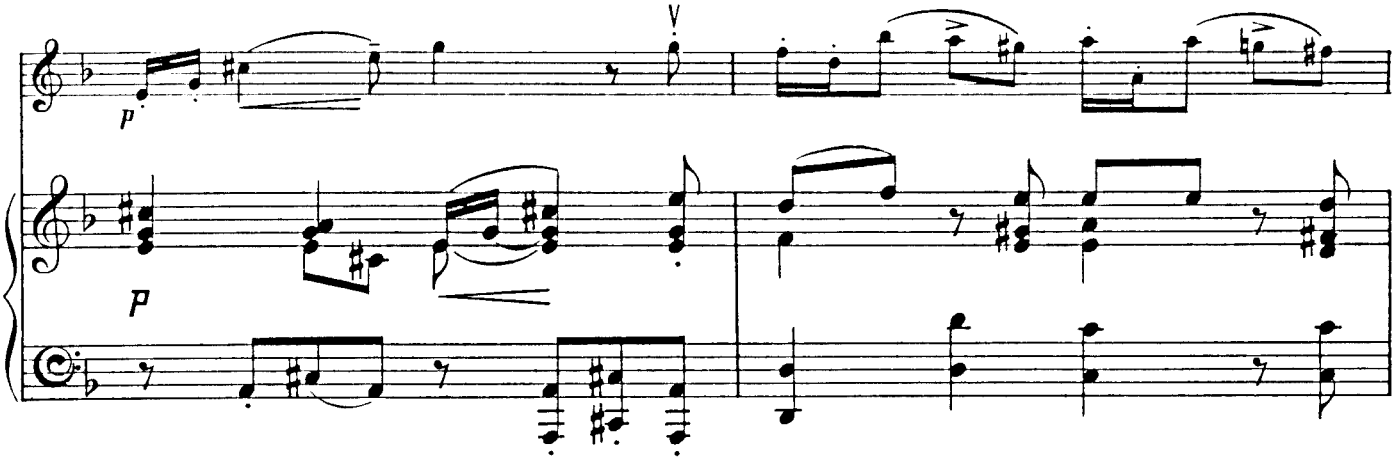

f
poco rit.
tr
attacca
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.

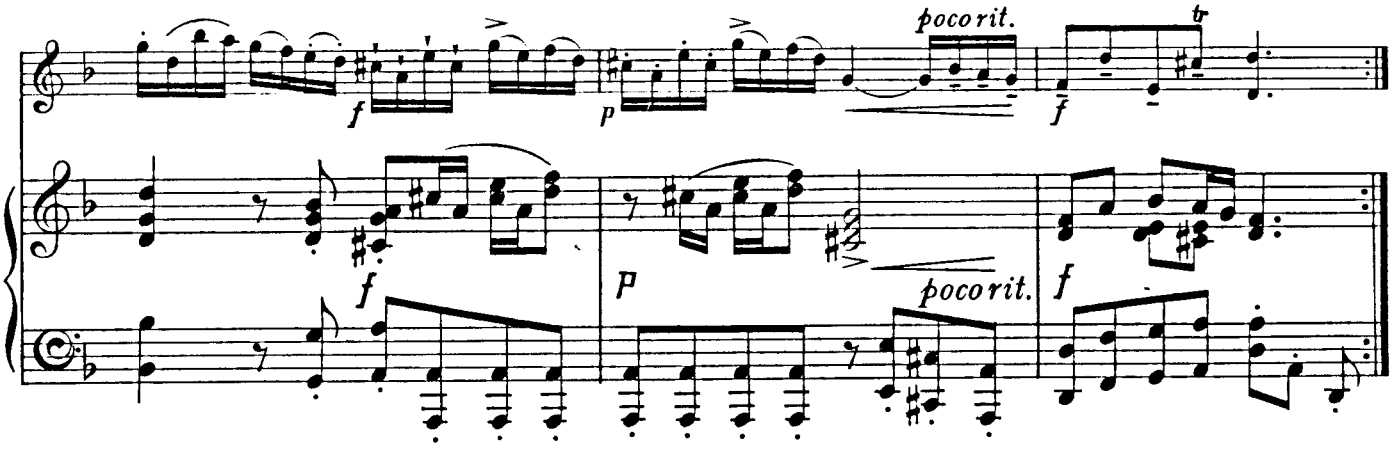
ALLEMANDA.


Allegro.
f
p
Allegro.

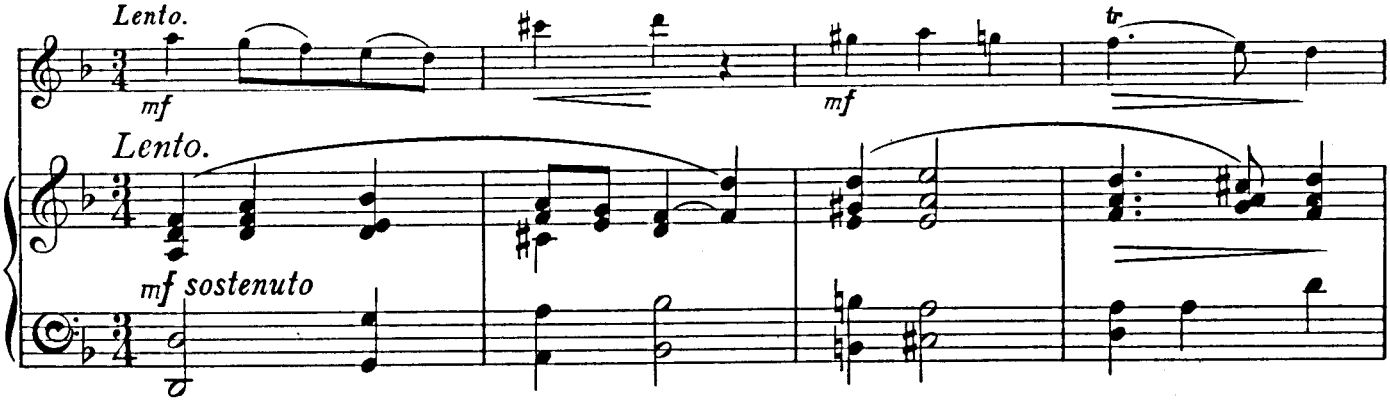

p
f
p
f
p
f
tr
mf
f
f
mf
f
p
poco rit.
f
tr
p
poco rit.
f

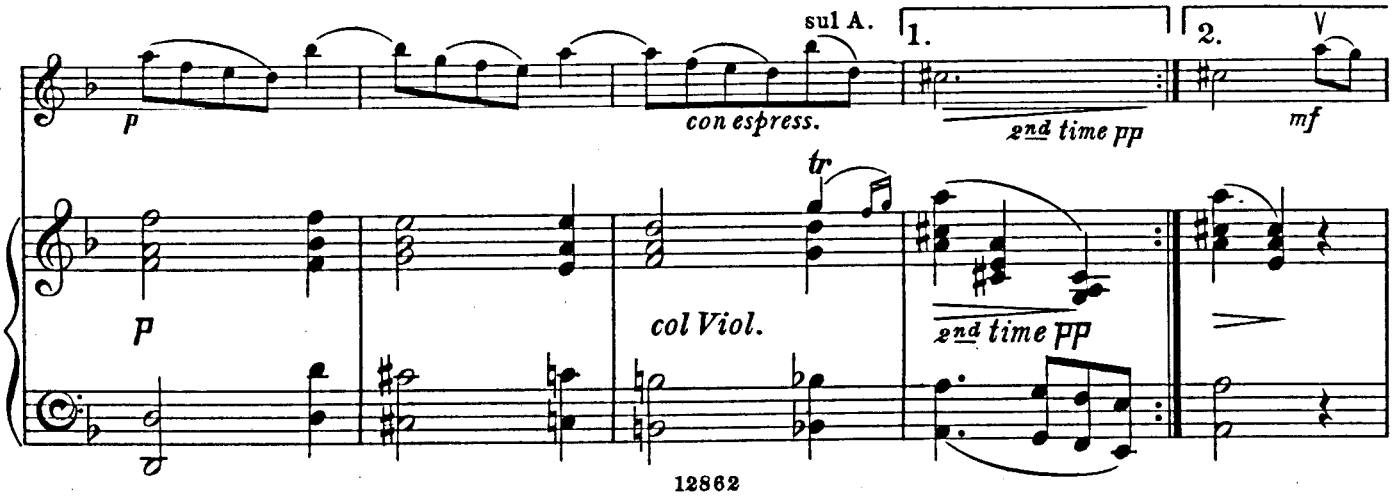

f
f
p
f
p
f
p
f


p
p


poco rit.
tr
f
p
f
f
p
poco rit.
f

SARABANDA.


Lento.
mf
mf
tr
Lento.
mf sostenuto


sul A.
1.
2.
p
con espress.
2nd time pp
mf
tr
p
col Viol.
2nd time pp

sul A. sul D. sul A.

cresc.

mf

tr

1. 2.

2nd time pp

poco rit.

GIGA.

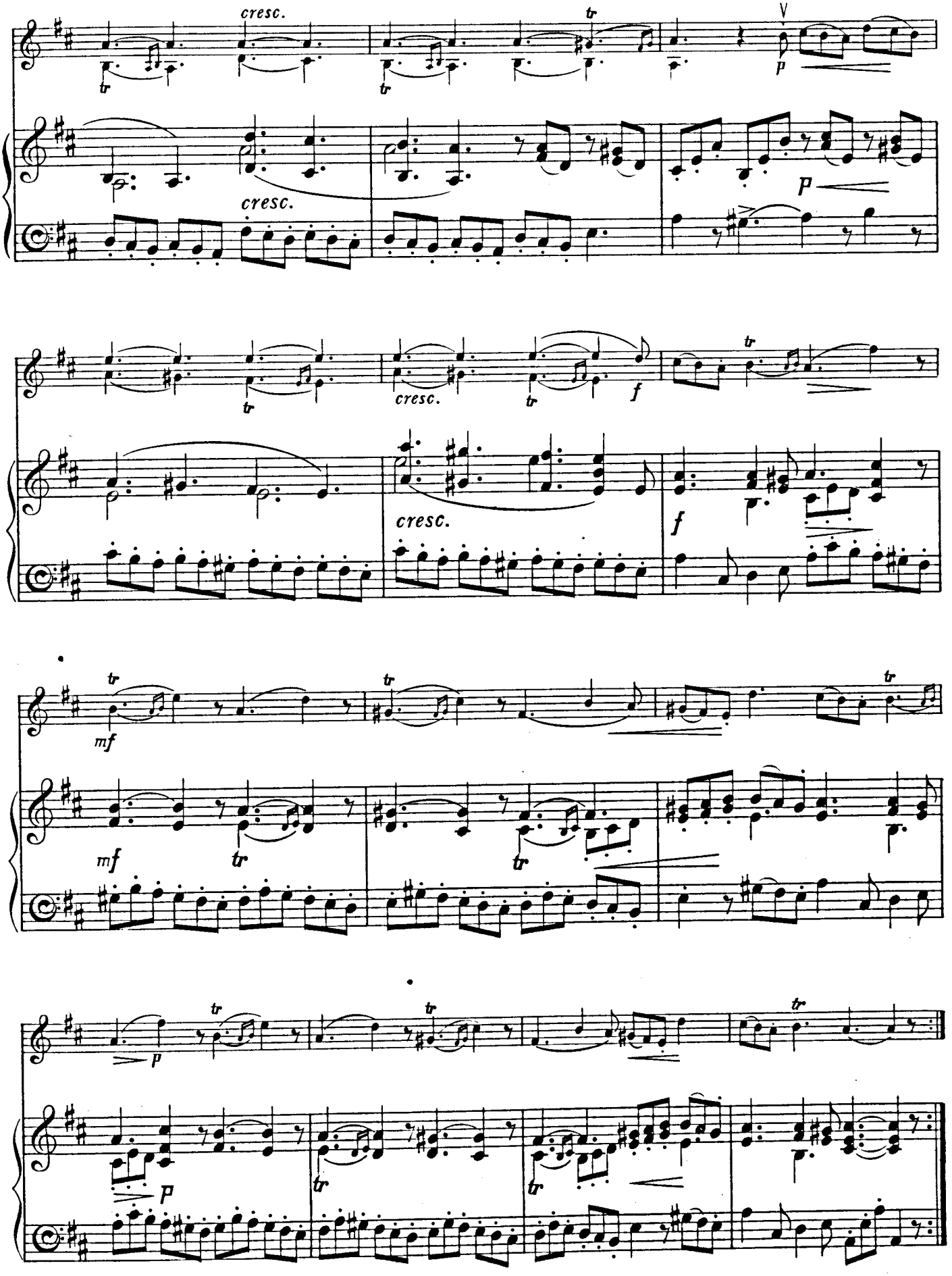
Allegro.

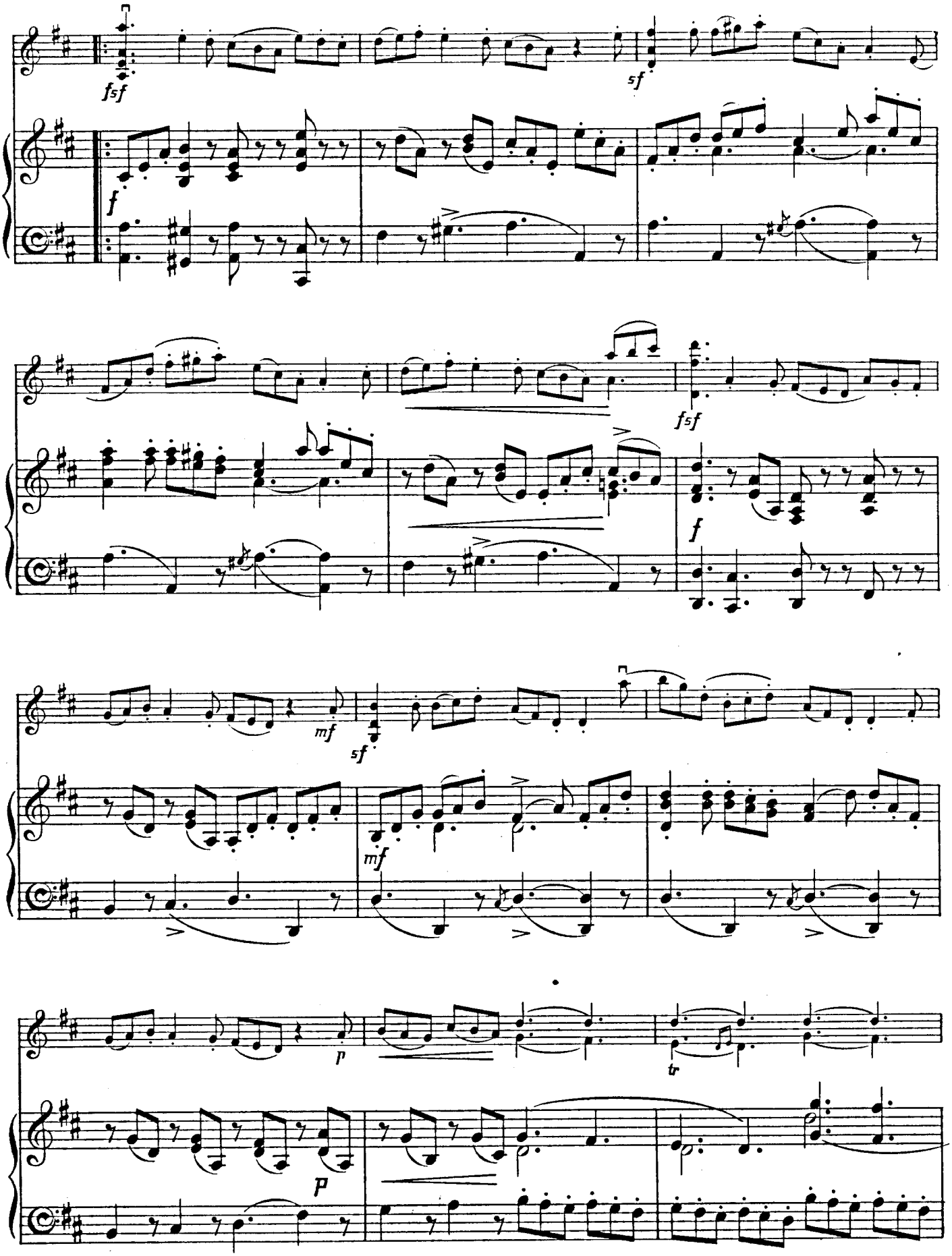
f sf mf sf

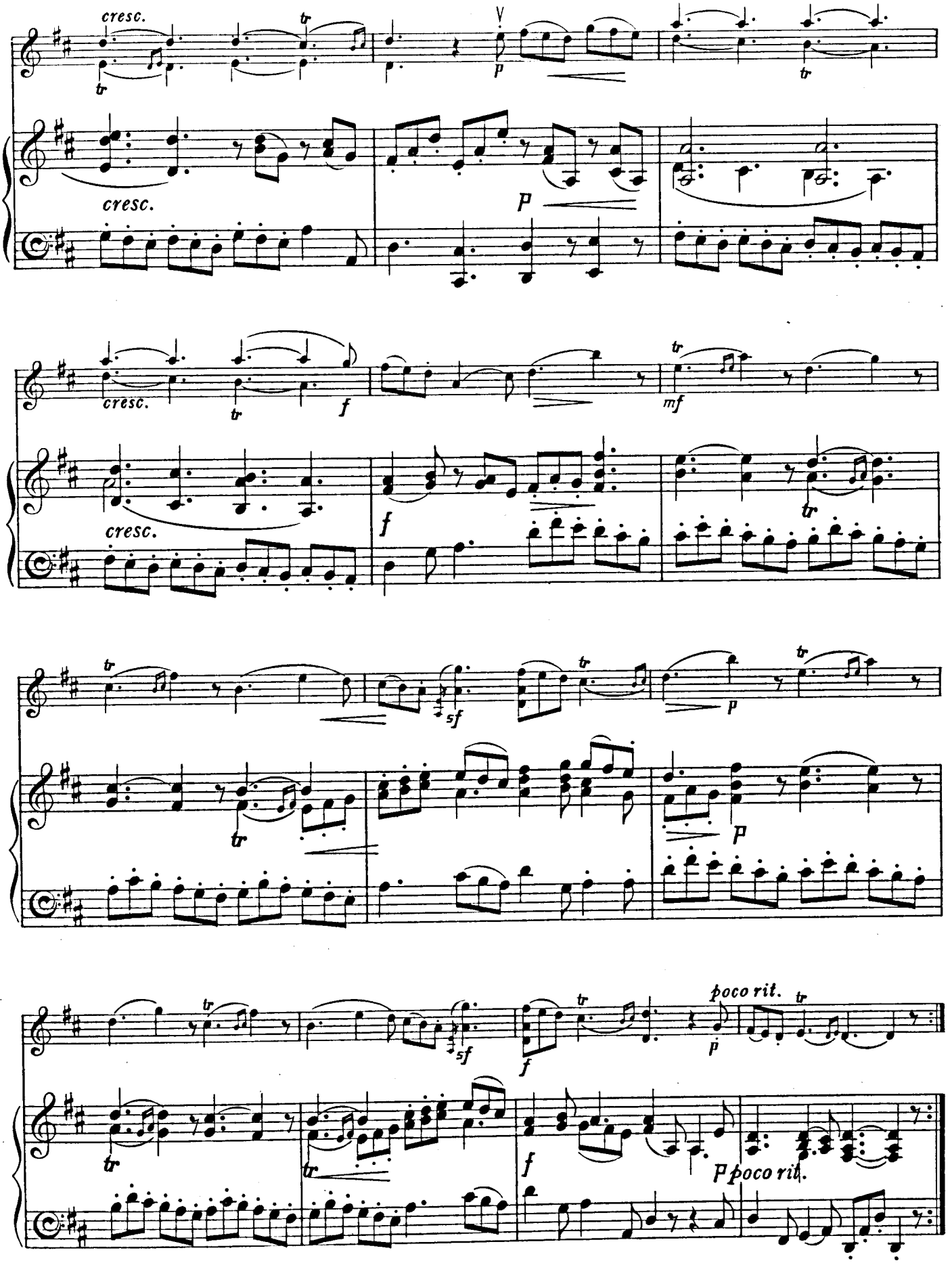
Allegro.

f mf

p


cresc.
tr
p
cresc.
f
mf


fsf
sf
f
fsf
f
mf
sf
mf
p
tr
p



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London: NOVELLO AND COMPANY, Limited.

SONATA in D minor.

Edited by
Alfred Moffat.

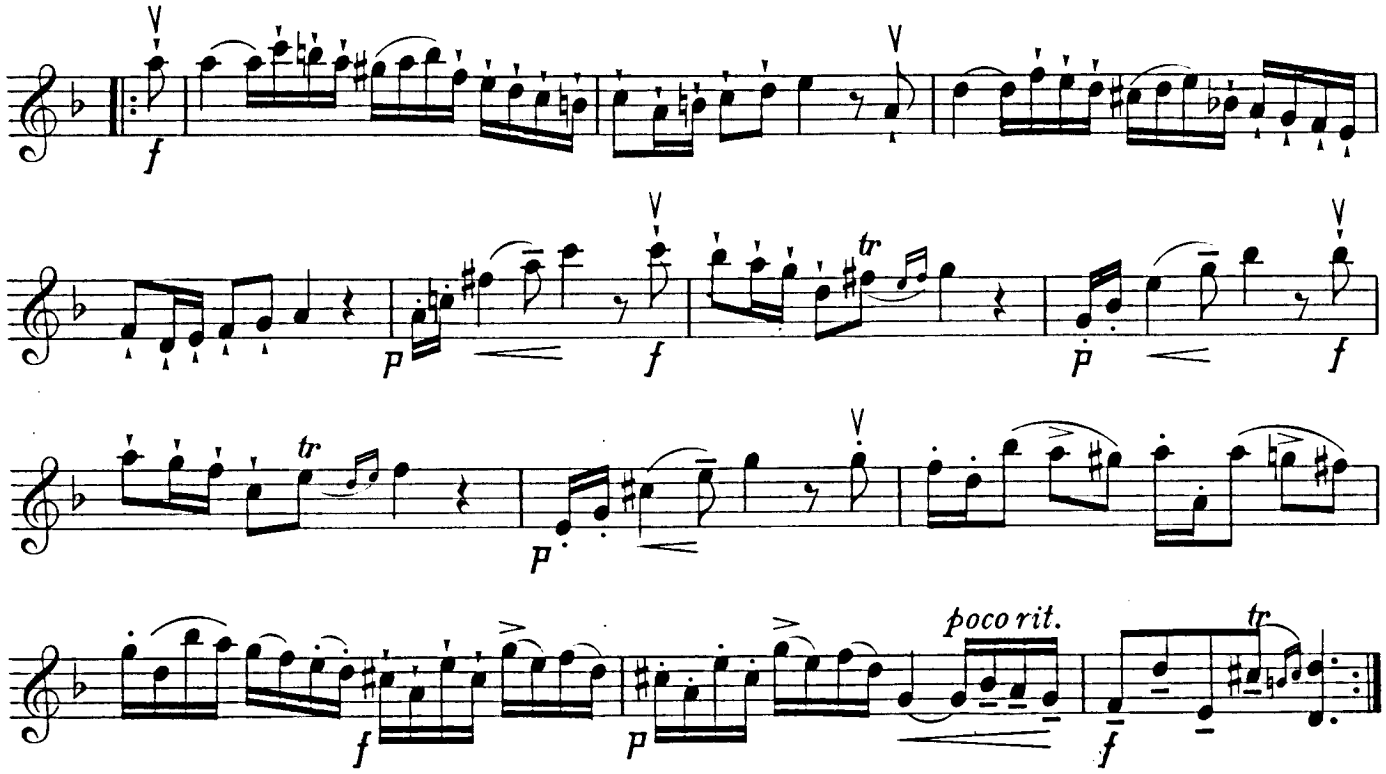
John Humphries.
1707—1730.

Adagio espressivo.

p *cresc.* *f* *p* sul A. *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *poco rit.* *f* *attacca*

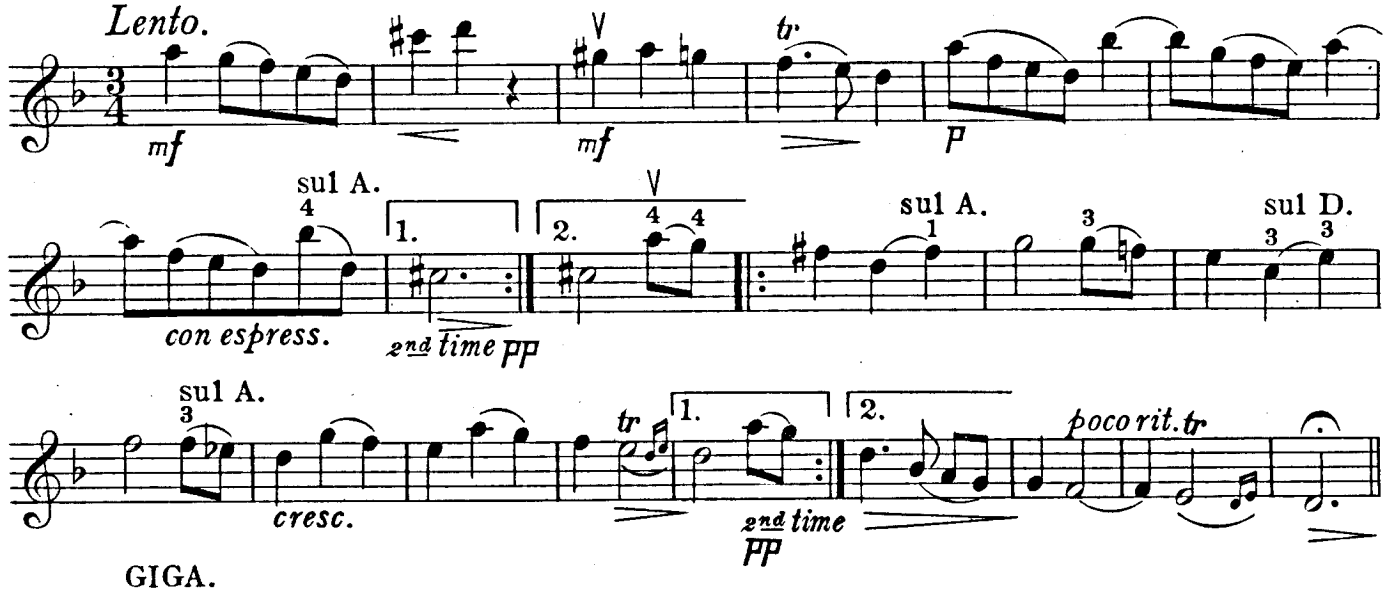
ALLEMANDA.
Allegro.

f *p* *f* *p* *f* *mf* *f* *p* *poco rit.* *f*



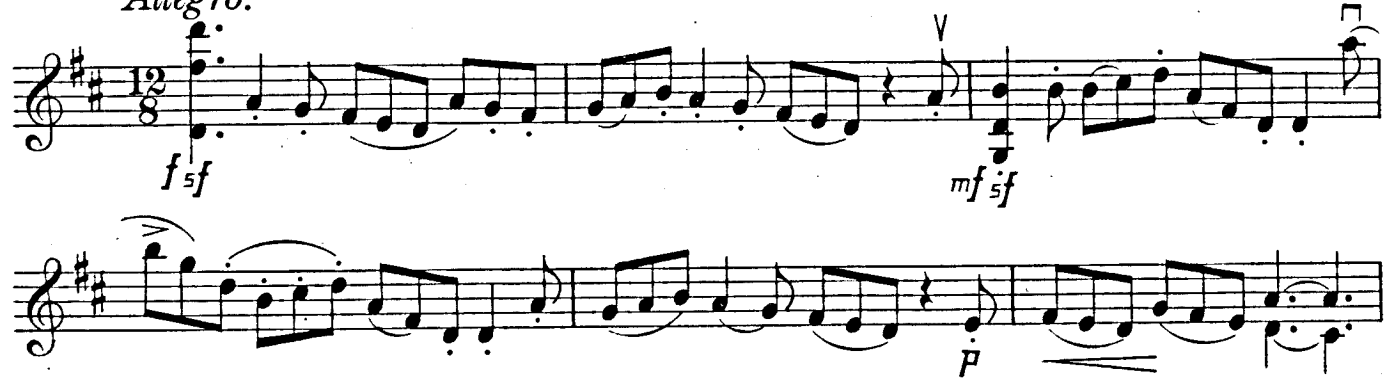
SARABANDA.

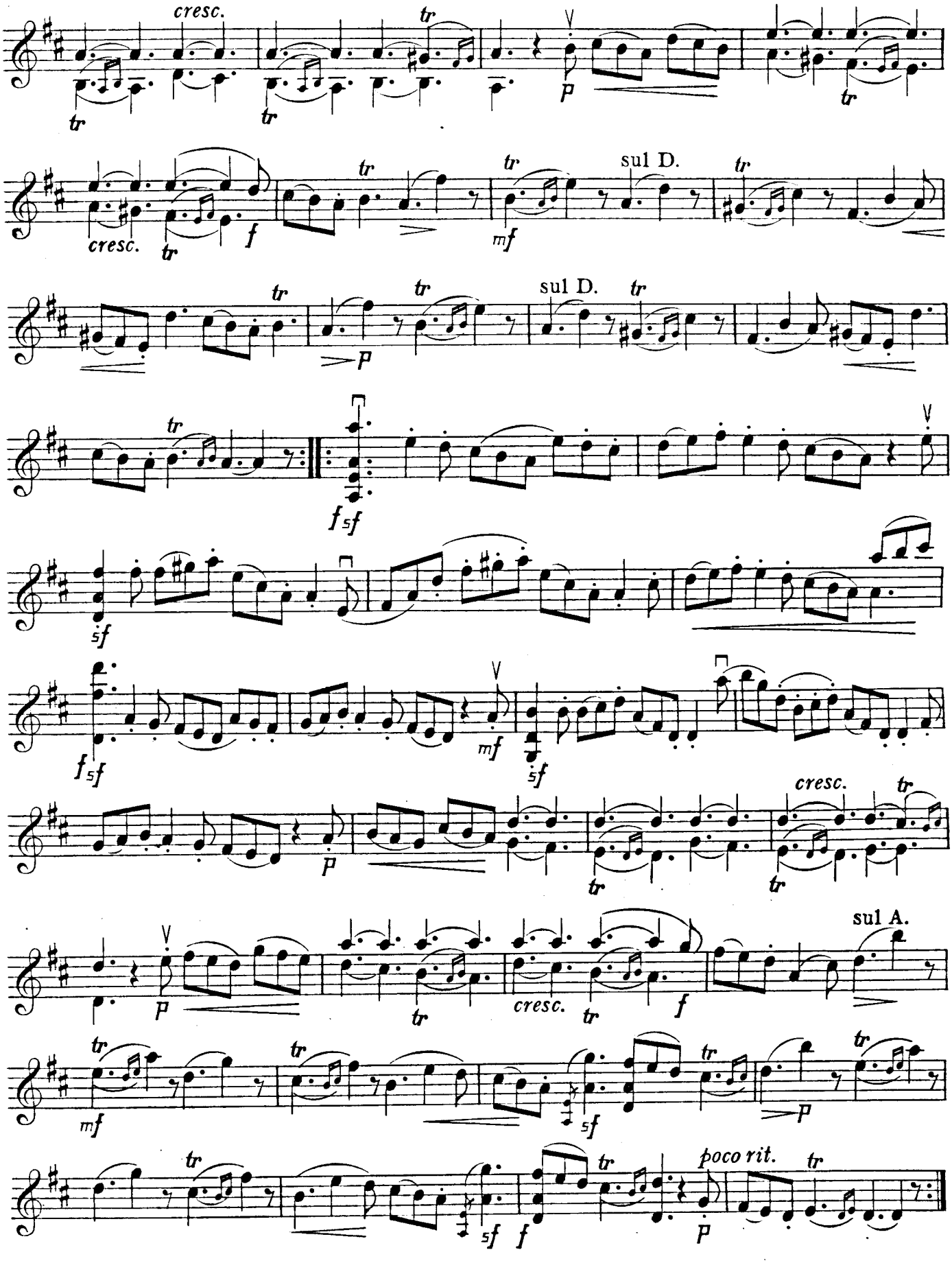
Lento.



GIGA.

Allegro.




cresc.
tr
p
f
mf
sul D.
sul D.
fsf
sf
fsf
mf
sf
p
cresc.
tr
sul A.
mf
sf
p
sf
f
p
poco rit.