The American Viola Society

CHRISTMAS MUSIC
FOR TWO VIOLAS

A collection of popular
Christmas Carols and music
transcribed and edited by

Sven Helge Reher
(1911-1991)

AVS Publications 064

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This score corrects certain errors and ambiguities
that were present in the original published score.

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Procured and prepared by Tanya Solomon, Chair of the Scores Committee for the American Viola Society.

About the Composer

Sven Helge Reher (born 1911 in Hamburg, Germany) came to Los Angeles with his family in 1914. His father, Wilhelm Reher, was a violinist who had performed under Nikisch, Mahler and others in the Hamburg Philharmonic. In the period 1914 to 1918 he was a member of the Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra under Adolf Tandler. Frau Reher (née Callesen) was a pianist who had studied in Leipzig, Germany. After sundry continental and transoceanic peregrinations--during which Wilhelm reorganized the Houston Symphony and served among the first stands of the Cincinnati Symphony under Reiner--the Rehers settled permanently in Southern California.

Given his family's inclinations it was inevitable that Sven should become a musician; his first violin lessons were under the supervision of his father. Then, in the mid-nineteen twenties, both Sven and his younger brother Kurt studied at the prestigious Berliner Hochschule für Musik. Trading his violin for the heftier viola, Sven joined the ranks of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, then directed by Otto Klemperer, and served eight years (1934 to 1942).

After a stint in military intelligence in the European Theater, Reher returned to Los Angeles where he has ever since been an outstanding feature in the musical scene: as a member of the Hollywood String Quartet, as a regular performer on the Monday Evening Concerts, as a soloist with community orchestras, as a much-sought-after studio musician, and as an educator. He is the dedicatee of works by Walter Piston, Mario Castel-Nuovo-Tedesco, Ernst Kanitz and others; his recording of the Hindemith Sonata for Viola Unaccompanied was glowingly reviewed in the *New York Times*.

> Tom Bertonneau *Biographical Narrative, Finding Aid for the Sven Reher Papers, Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA*

A definitive autobiography of Mr. Reher can be found in a 1981 oral history completed for the *UCLA Center for Oral History Research* (link: *We Must Go Further Yet*). Additional physical materials pertaining to his life and career were donated posthumously to the *UCLA Library Department of Special Collections* (link: *Sven Reher Papers*)

Compositions

- *Twelve Studies for Viola* (1978)
- *Sonata for Solo Viola: Enigma* (1979)
- *Cuenca – Rapsodia Para Flauta Y Viola* (1982)
- *Essay for Solo Viola and String Orchestra* (1983)
- *Christmas Music for Two Violas* (1984)
- *Twelve Studies for Intermediate Viola* (1986)
- *Music for Viola (In the First Position) With Piano Acompaniment, transcribed, arranged and edited by Sven Reher* (1988)

Selected Discography

- *Paul Hindemith Anthology, Volumes 2-4* (GSC Recordings 1972-1975; LoC # 74750800)
- *Leon Levitch: Quartet for Flute, Viola, Cello, and Piano* (Orion Records; LoC # 72750191)
- *Leon Levitch: Sonata for Viola and Piano, Op. 11* (Orion Records 1970; LoC # 75751579)
- *Eric Zeisl: Sonata for Viola and Piano in A minor* (Society for Performing Artists; 1950)

In addition to the above recordings, Mr. Reher performed in numerous commercial sound recordings. A partial list of those can be found on the Discogs web site.

Tribute

I would like to dedicate the digital conversion of these Viola music compositions to my father the composer, Sven Helge Reher (deceased January 1991). My father was a source of support and musical mentorship from my earliest years. When I was trying to learn the recorder as a young girl, he would sit with me and patiently guide me though the playing of duets. As I grew in life and in music, Sven invited me to join as a flutist in his recreational string quartet (in which he enjoyed playing First Violin). My dad and I later played a number of small concerts together along with a larger one in Los Angeles in which we performed the North American premiere of his work *Cuenca, Rhapsody for Flute and Viola*.

Listening to my father play his beautiful viola, or overhearing him teach his students, was always a source of learning for me; he was a fine and sensitive musician, and very supportive of his students. Toward the end of his life when he was suffering from the effects of a debilitating stroke, I once again learned from dad as I ministered to him with my Music Therapist hat on. I learned about the Spirit within, resonant behind our physical facades, and the power of music.

Sven, I dedicate this electronic modernization of your compositions to you! May your Spirit and contributions live on long past my time, helping to support present and future violists.

Acknowledgments

Many hands have been involved in this project, from seed to fruition. Violist Bruce Irschick gave initial encouragement for the digitization idea, providing assistance and opinions when needed. The final product would not have been possible without the technical initiative and skill of John Chapman, who completed all the tasks required to digitize the original manuscripts. The project piqued his interest, and his patience and dedication to the goal never waned. We, the family, are the benefactors of his generous time and effort in accomplishing the considerable amount of work required to bring the project to fruition.

I, Mary Reher (Sven's daughter), undertook the proofing of the digitized manuscripts and audio files, communicating corrections and editorial queries to John. Vincent Reher (Sven's son) was a collaborative supporter of the project, providing guidance and technical assistance in several areas including licensing and compiling biographical material. As with everything I undertake, my husband Andy Nowak has patiently offered advice when asked, as well as consistently being a solid base of support behind my back.

After his death, the physical copies of our father's music were distributed to many universities in different countries by David Reher (Sven's son). The current digitization project now brings Sven Reher's music into the modern world, where hopefully its life will continue with the benefit of this new and widely-accessible format.

Mary Reher
Pender Island, B.C. Canada
March 2022

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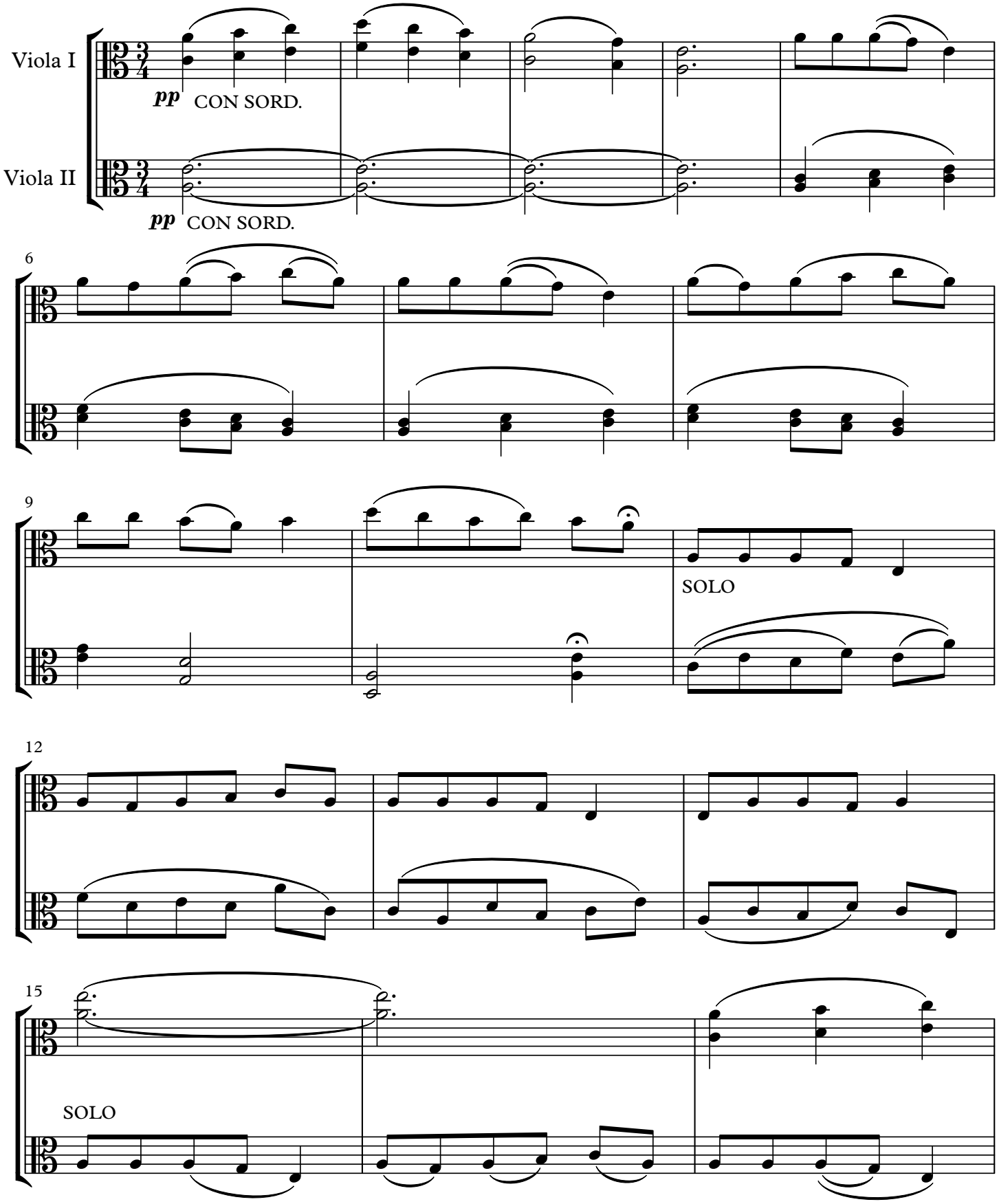
For Kay Marcum

CHRISTMAS EVE IS HERE

French



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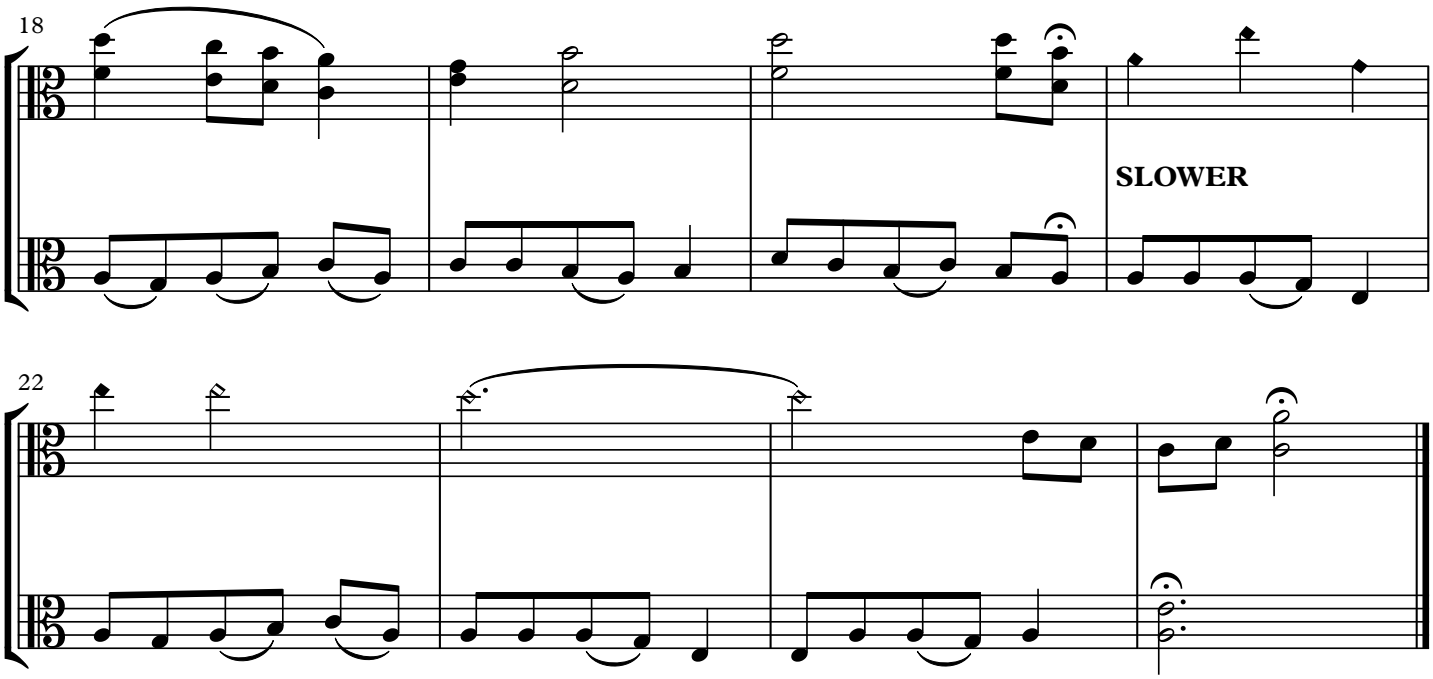
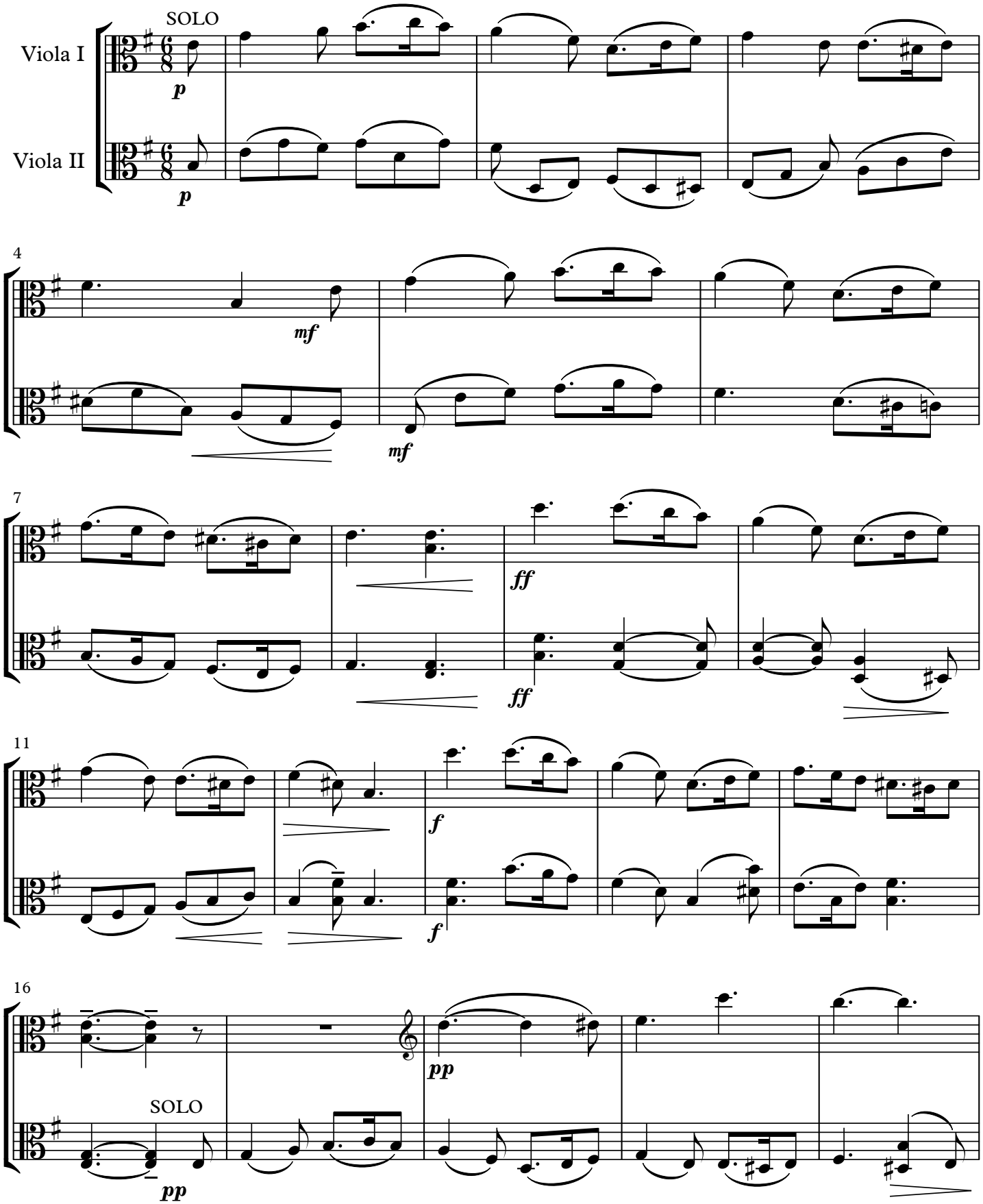

18
SLOWER
22

WHAT CHILD IS THIS ?

GREENSLEEVES



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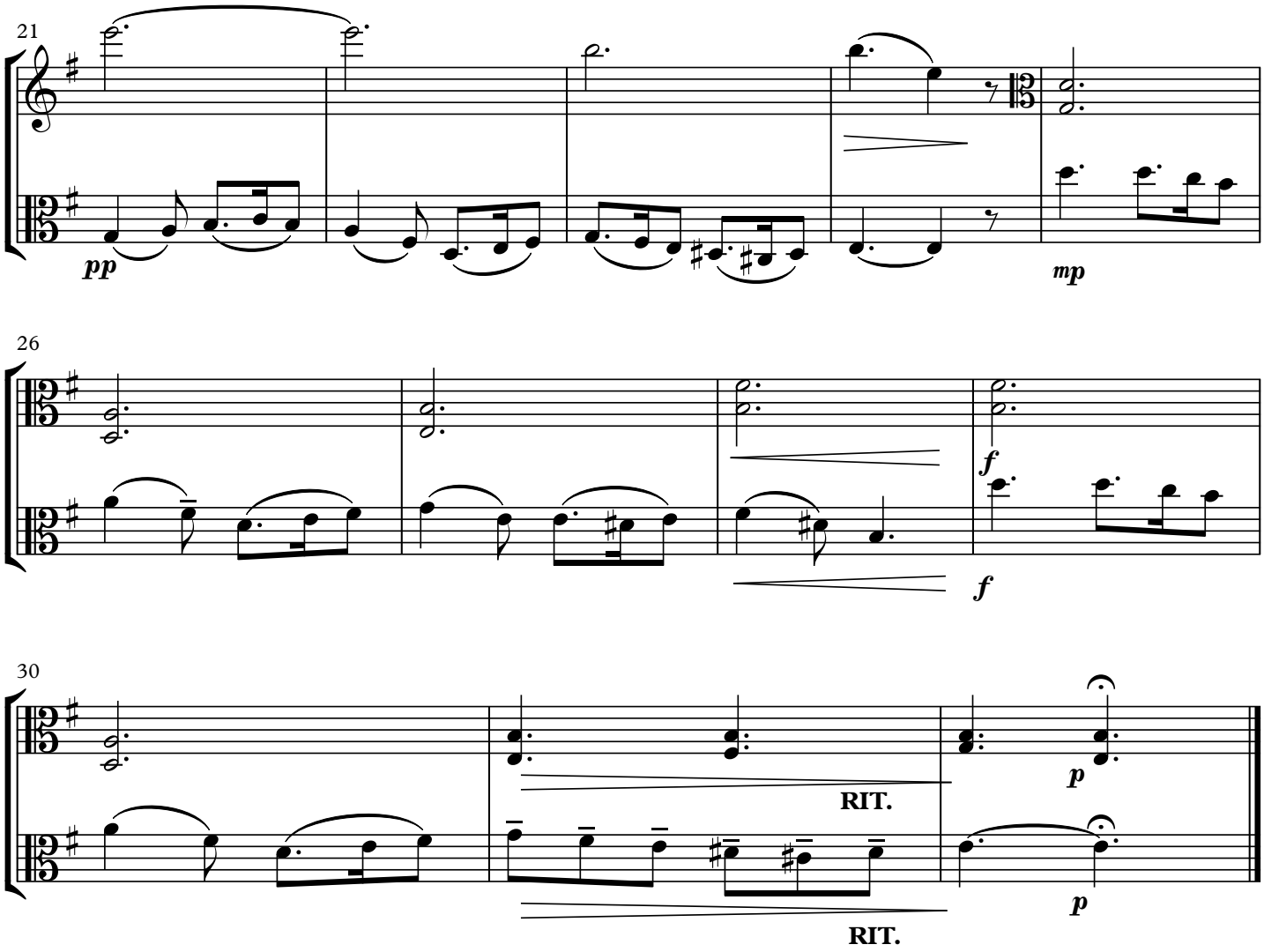
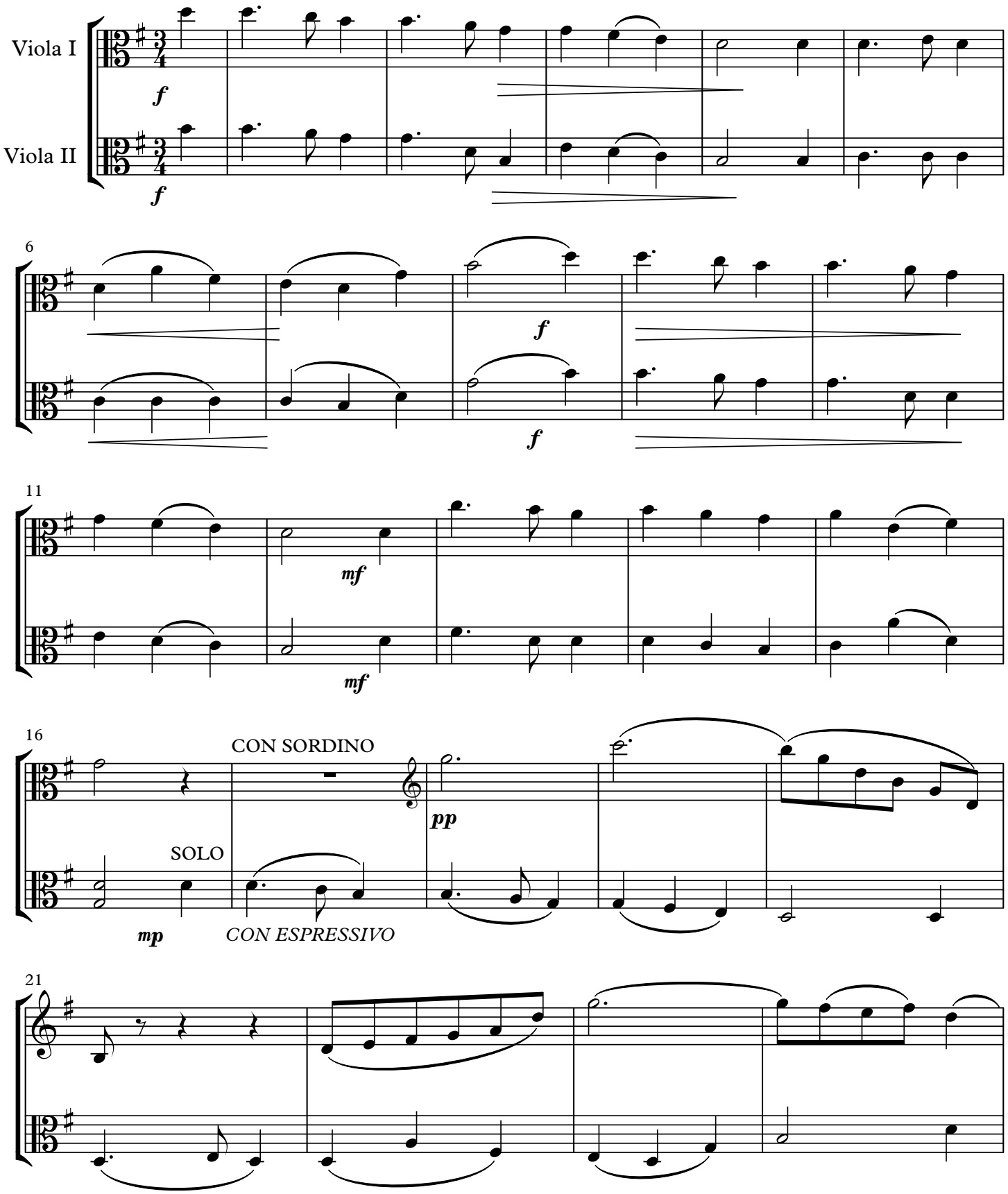

21
pp
mp
26
f
f
30
RIT.
p
RIT.
p

AWAY IN A MANGER

GERMAN

MARTIN LUTHER



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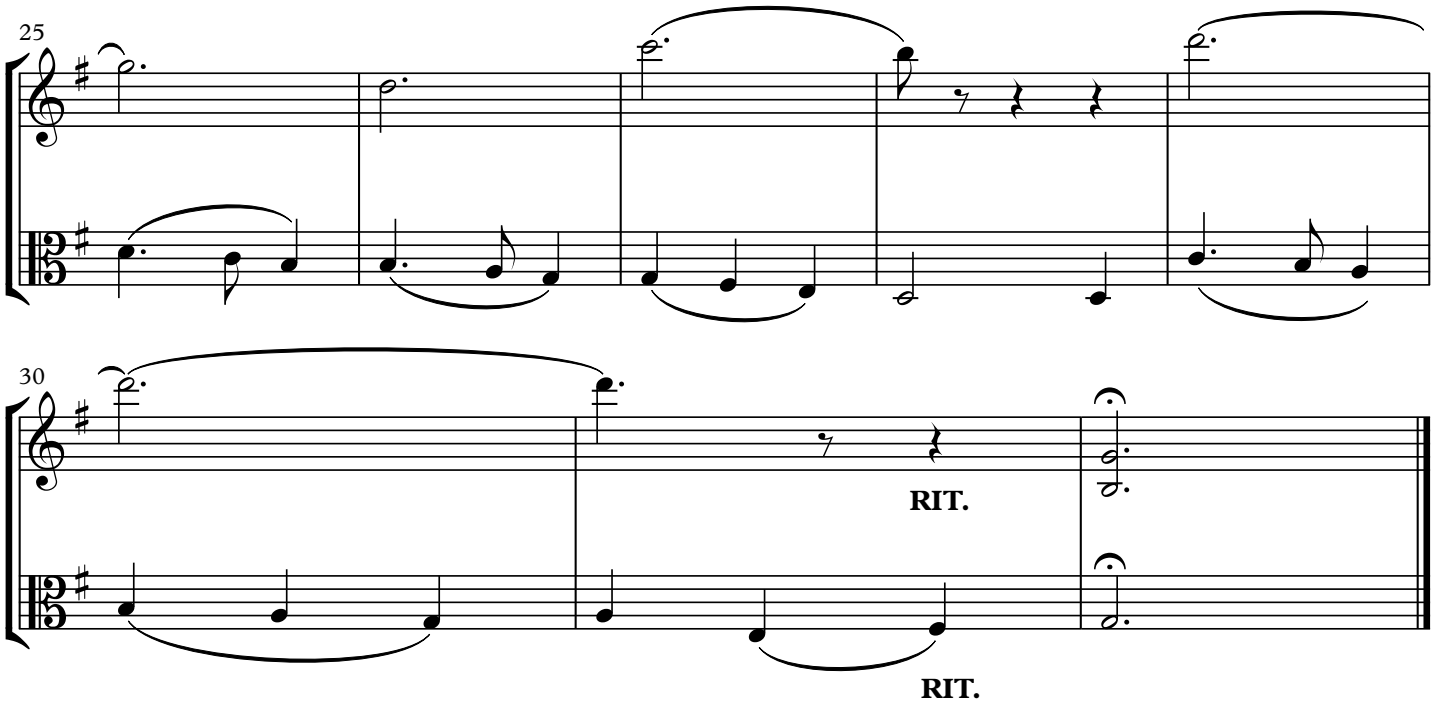
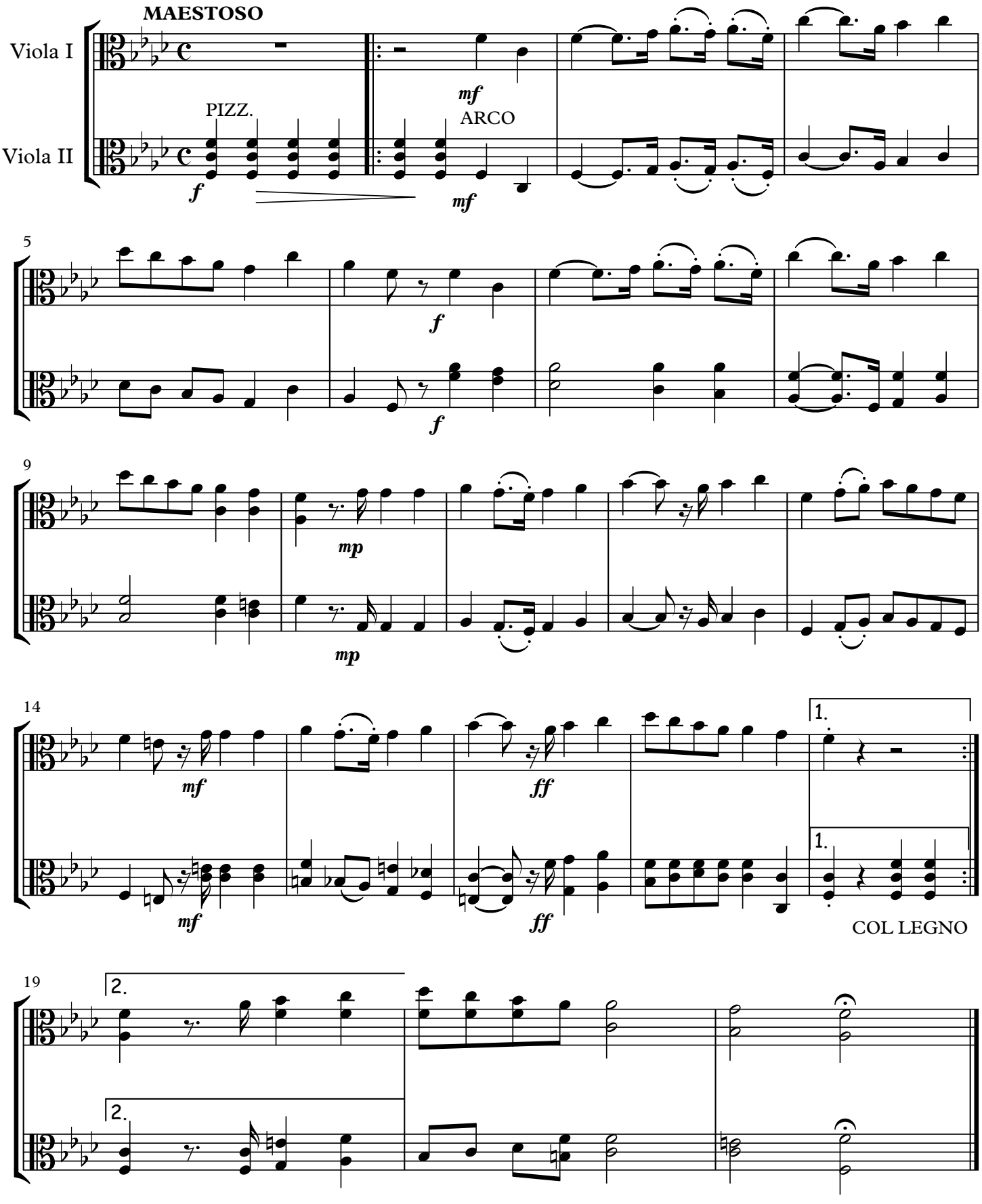

25
30
RIT.
RIT.

MARCH OF THE KINGS

French



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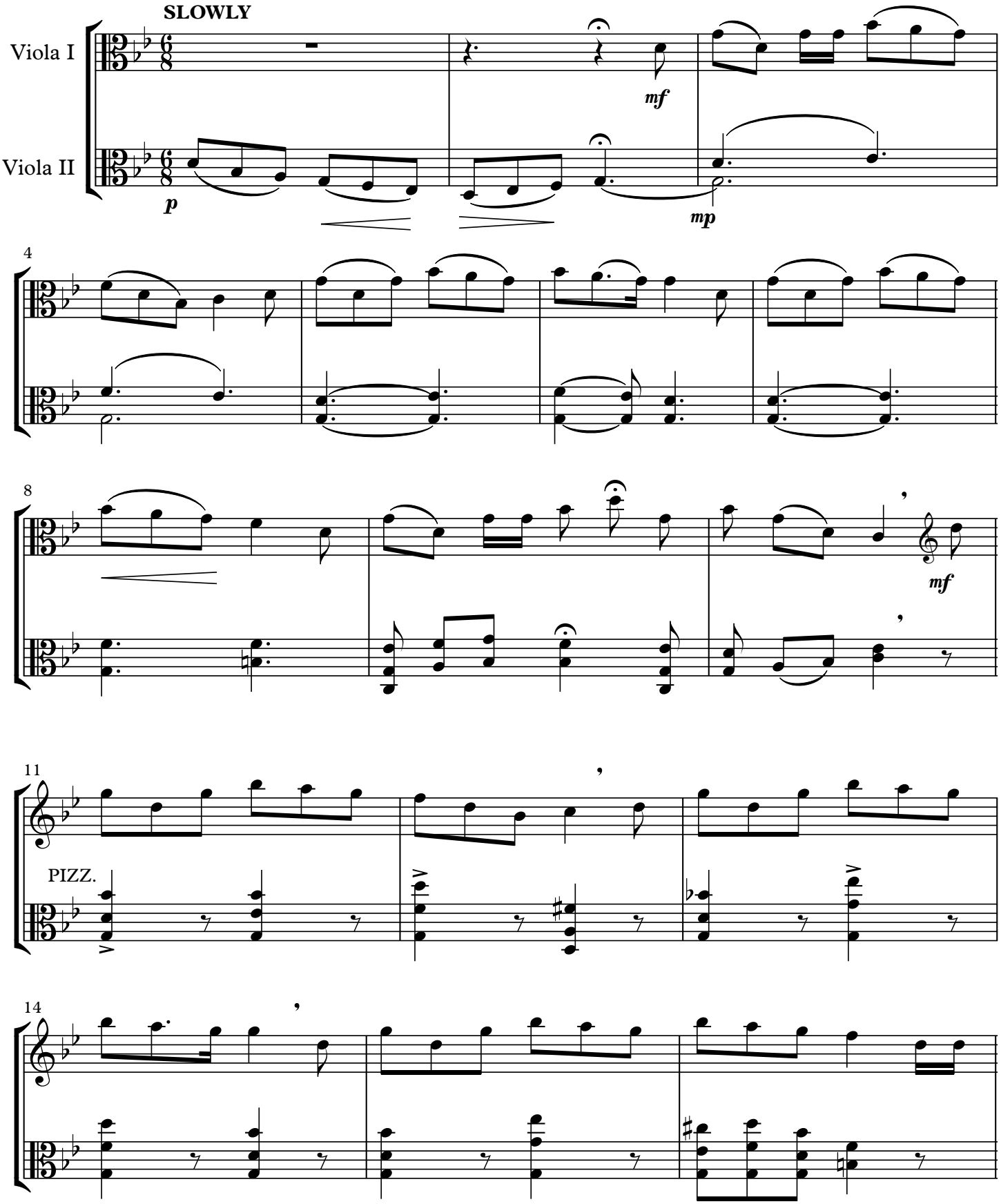
I WONDER AS I WANDER

APPALACHIAN CAROL



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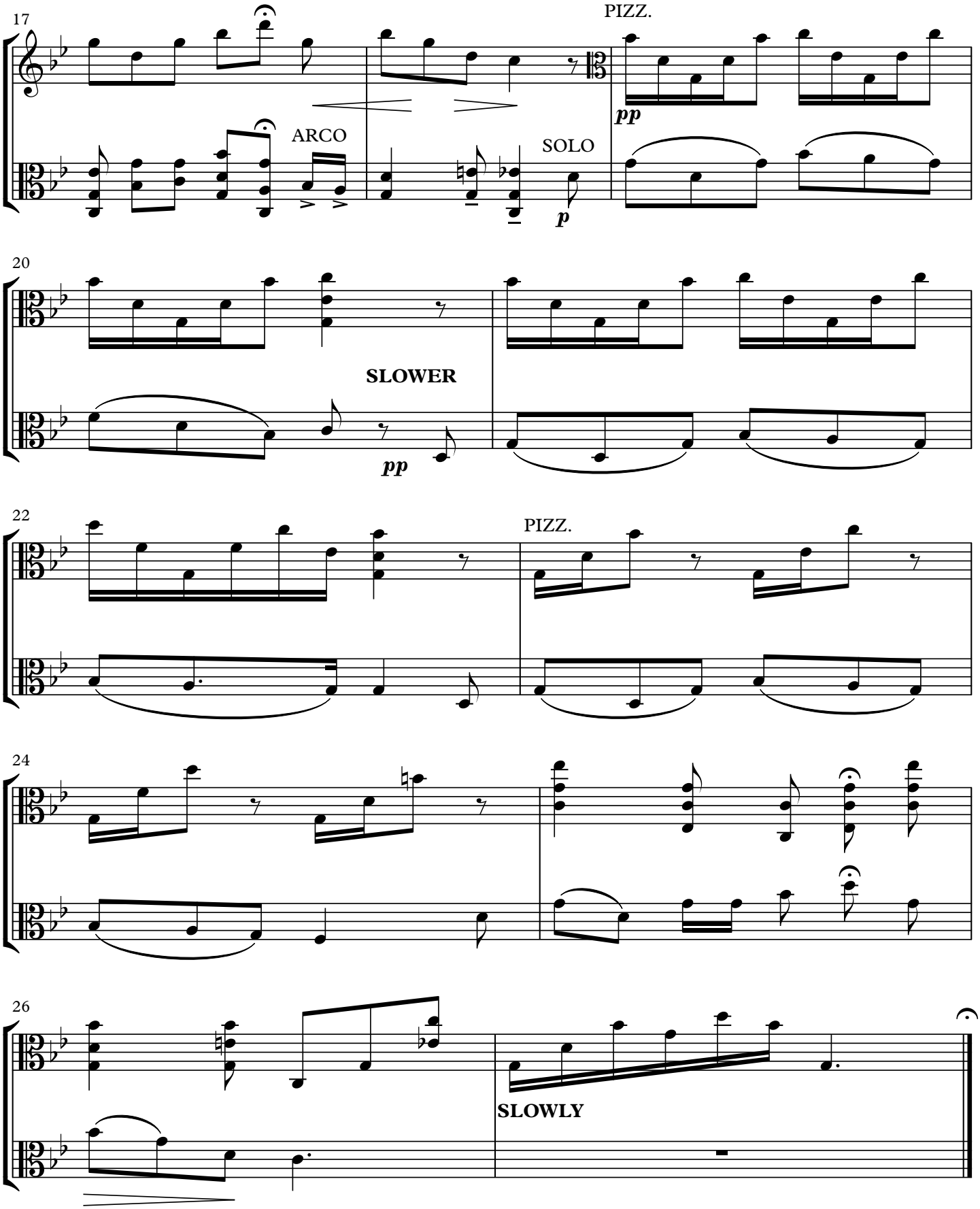
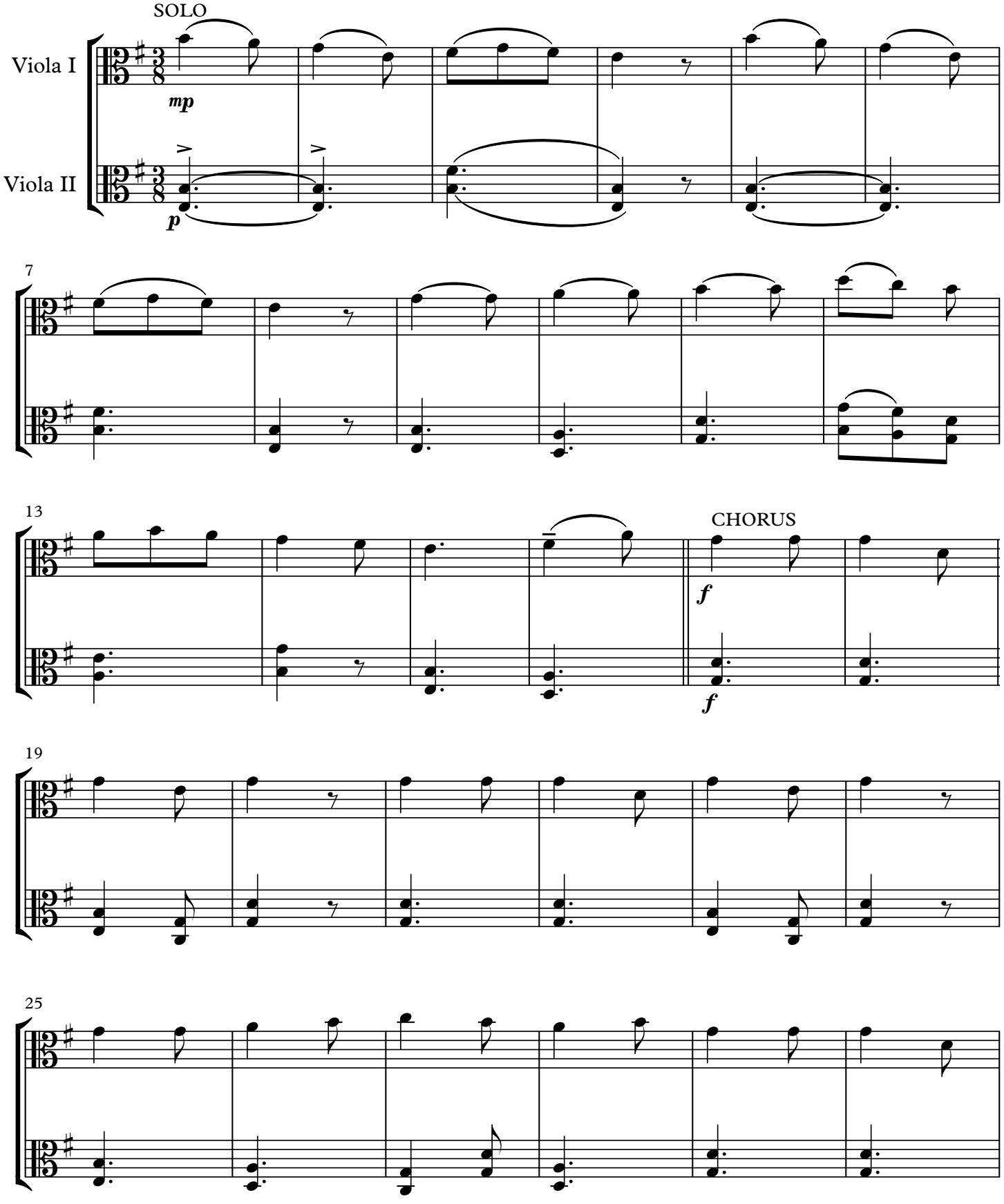

17
PIZZ.
pp
ARCO
SOLO
p
20
SLOWER
pp
22
PIZZ.
24
26
SLOWLY

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

JOHN H. HOPKINS



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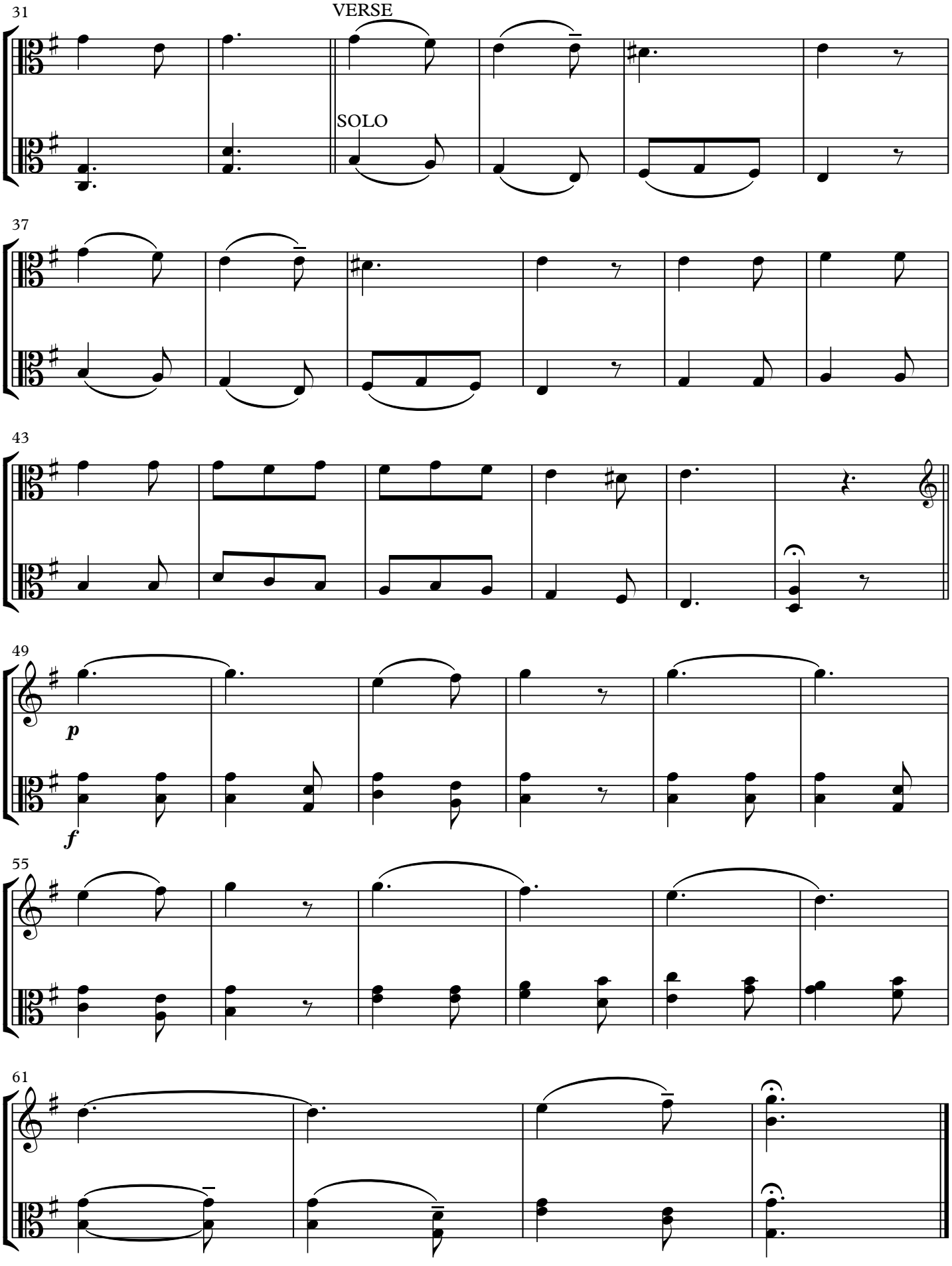
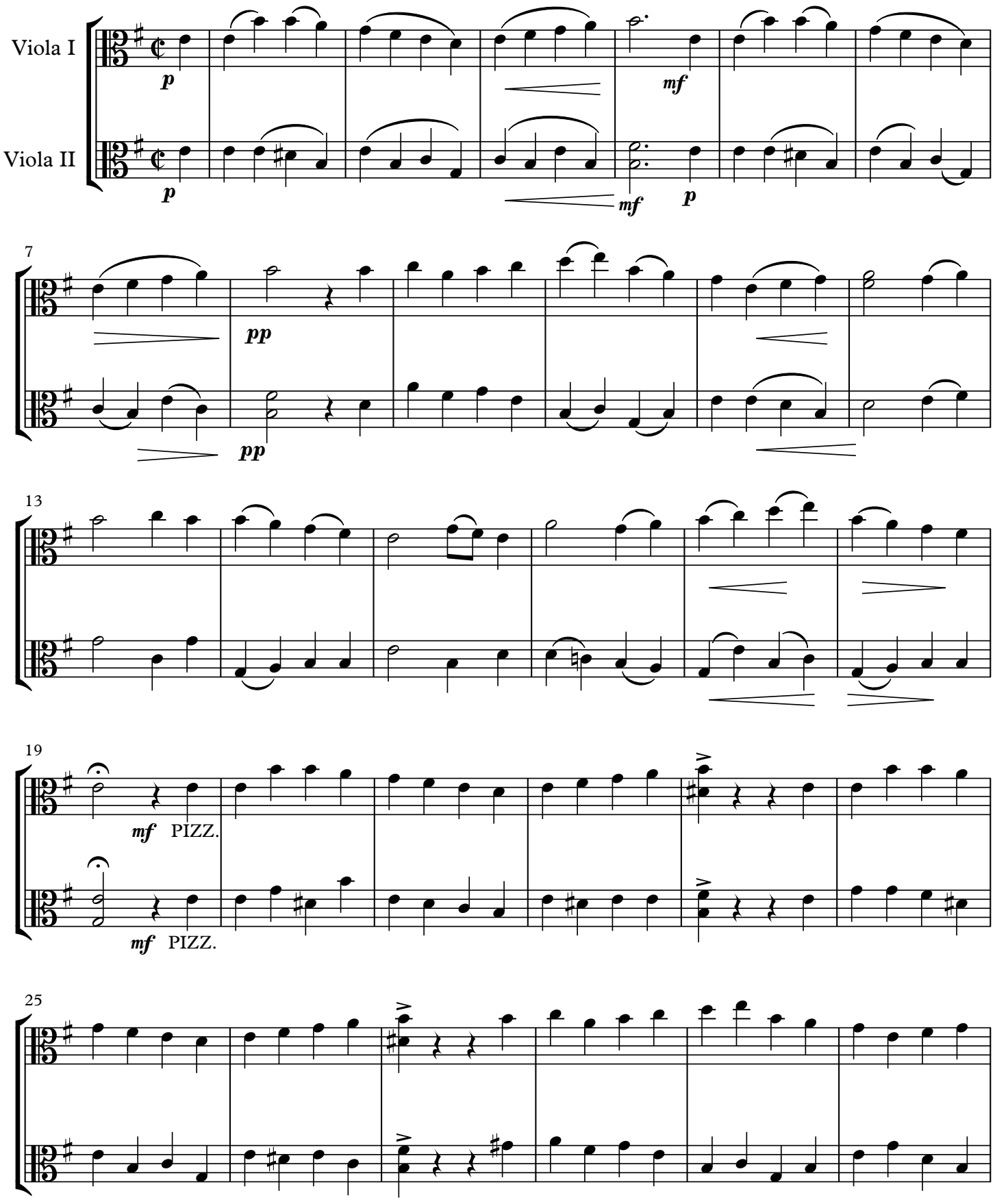

31
VERSE
SOLO
37
43
49
p
f
55
61

GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN



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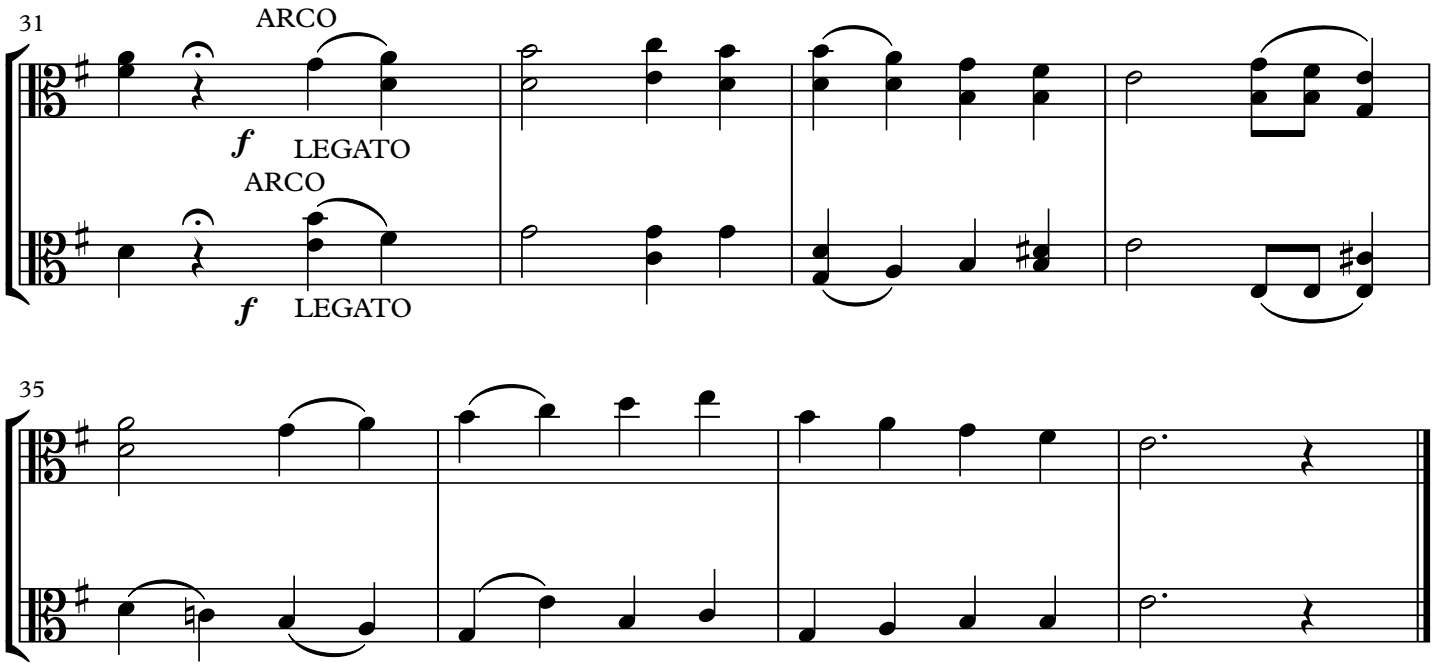
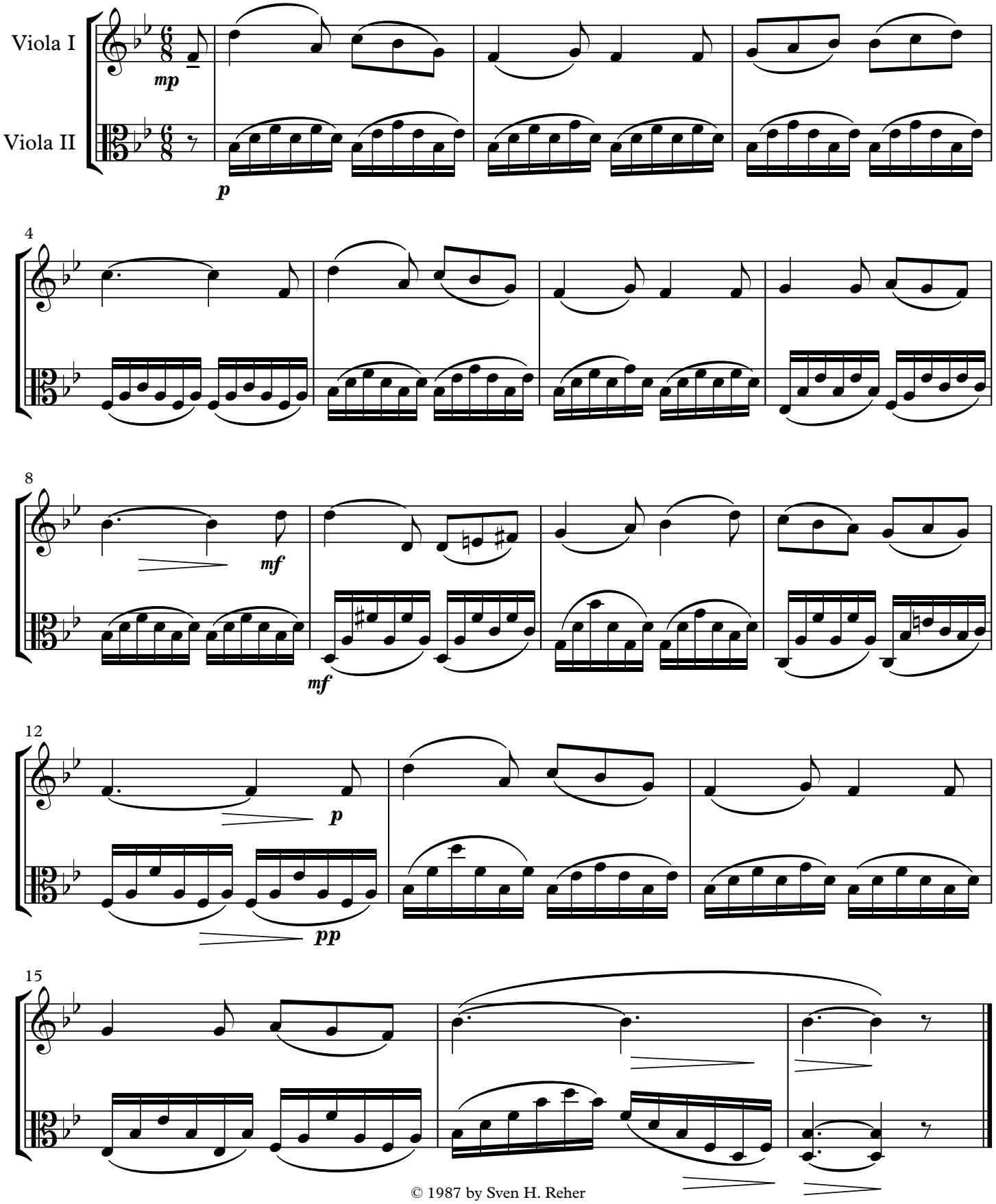

31
ARCO
f
LEGATO
ARCO
f
LEGATO

35

IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

1850

RICKARD S. WILLIS
EDMUND H. SEARS



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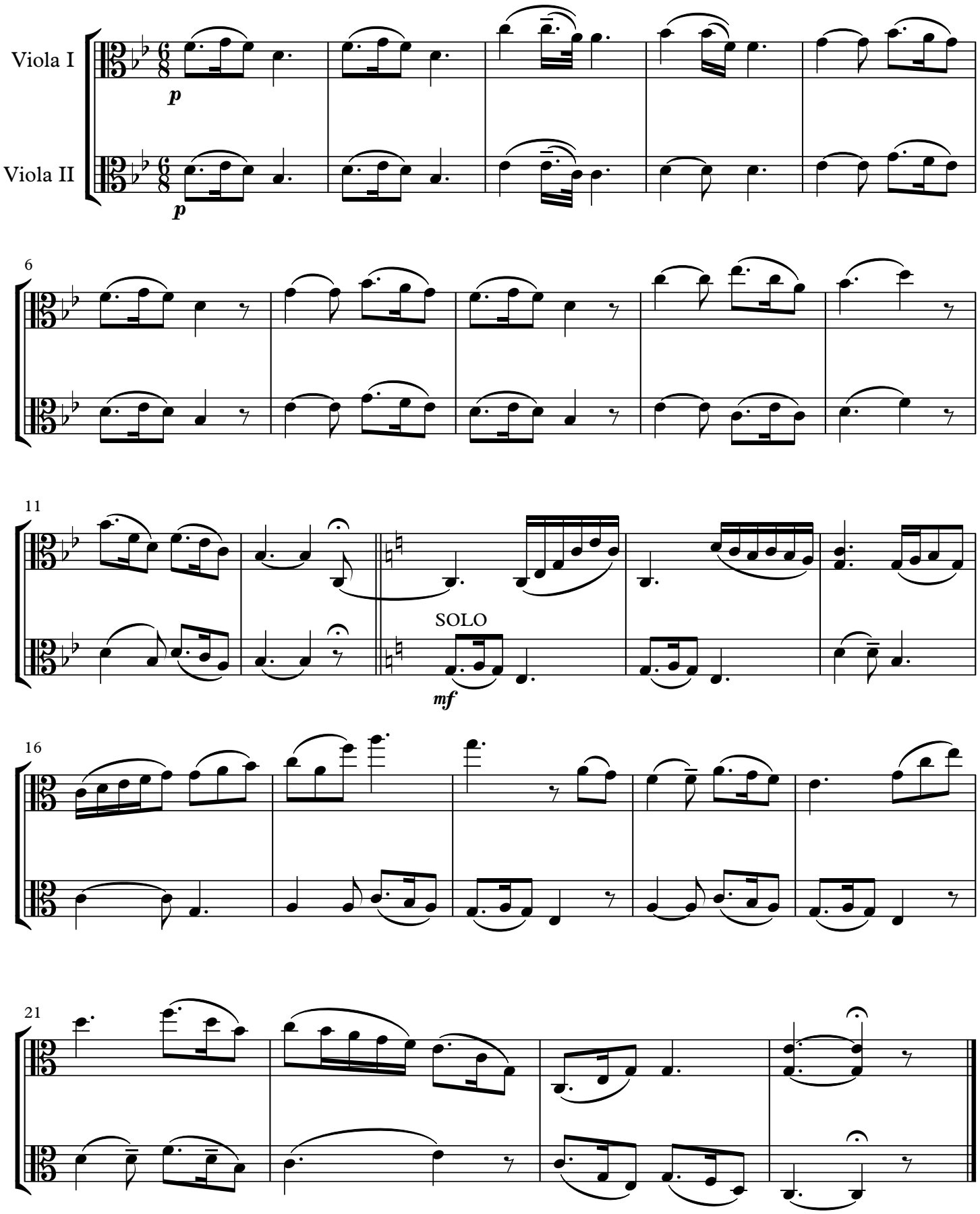
SILENT NIGHT

FRANZ GRUBER



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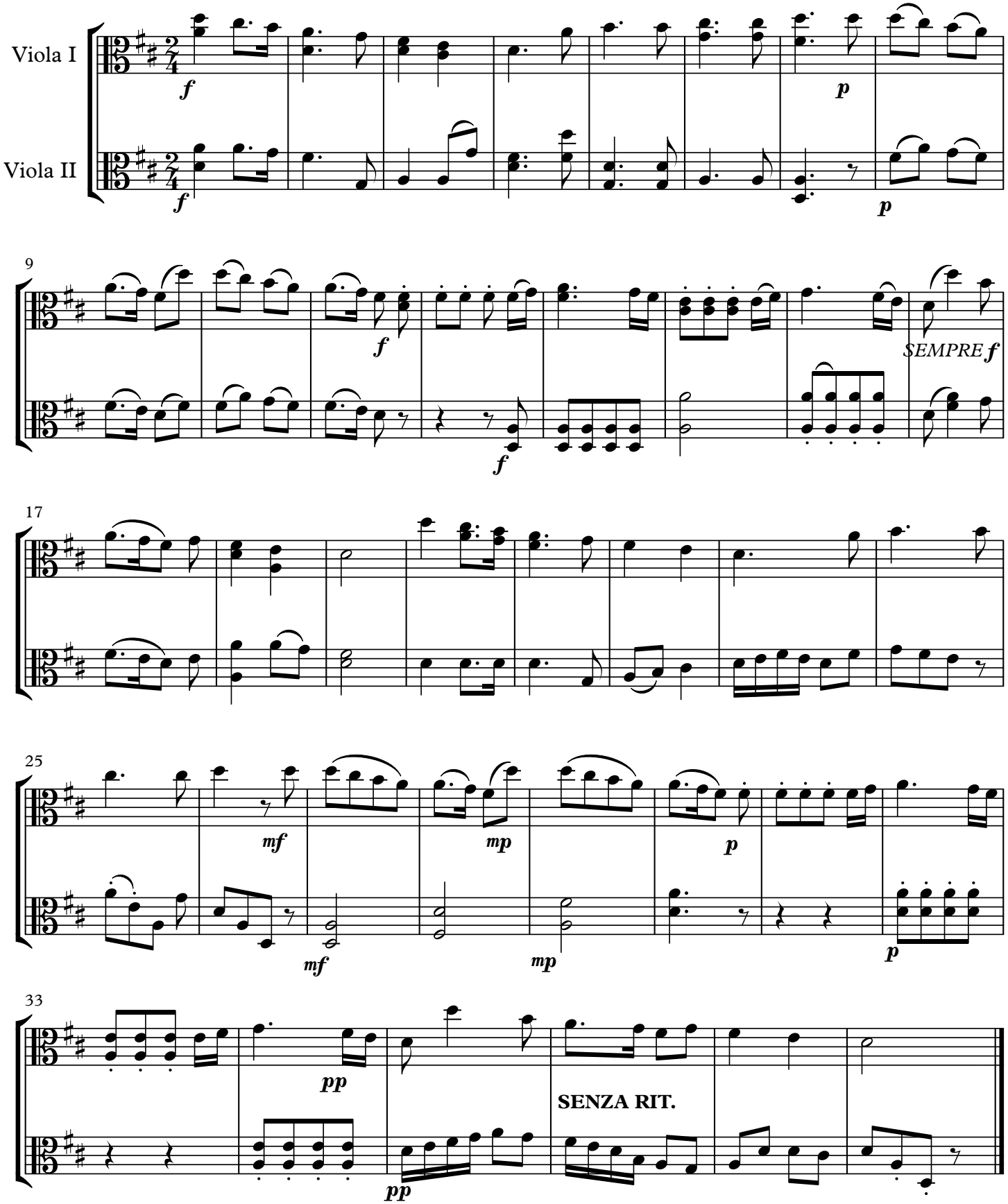
JOY TO THE WORLD

GEORGE F. HANDEL



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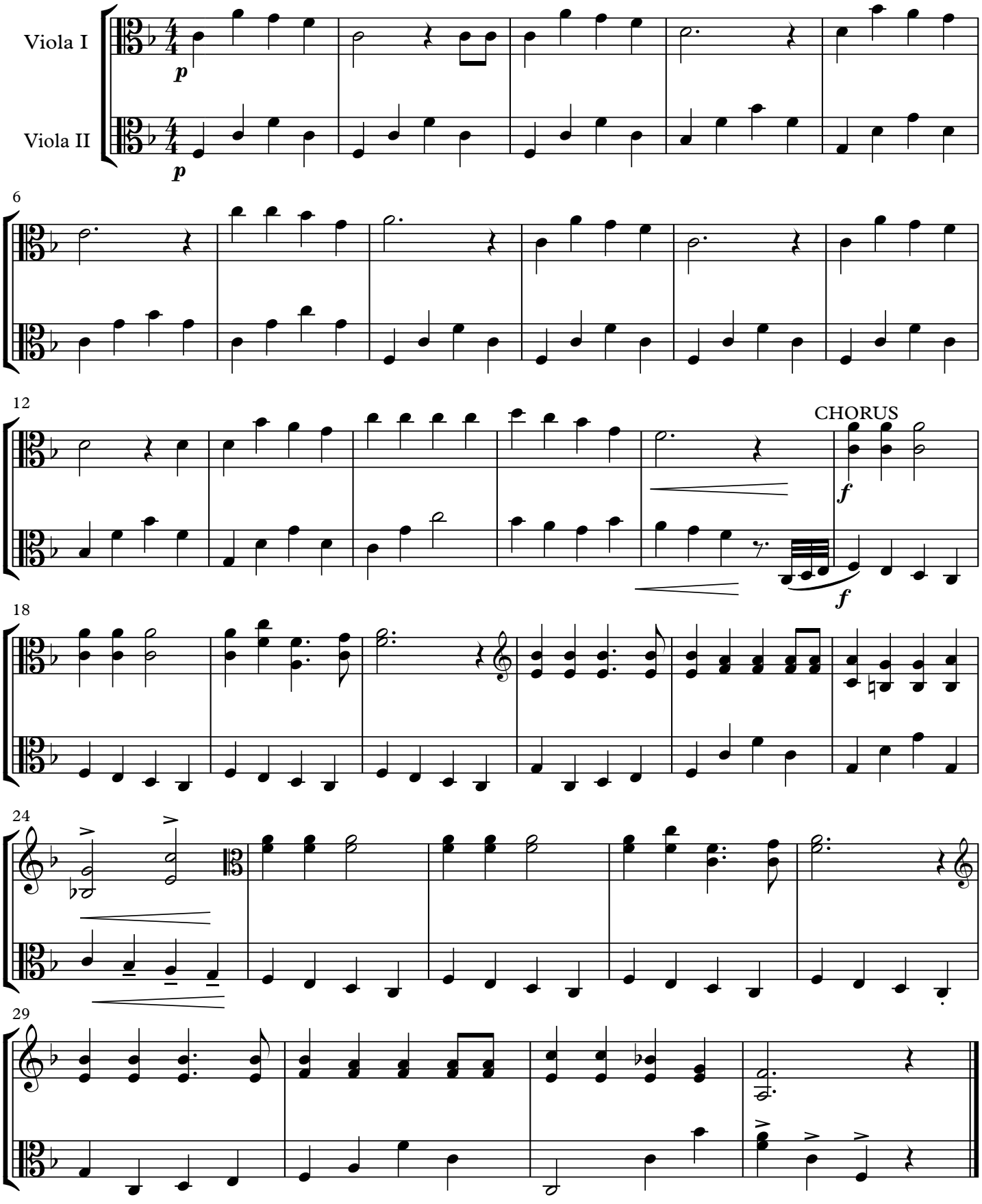
JINGLE BELLS

TUNE: JAMES PIERPONT



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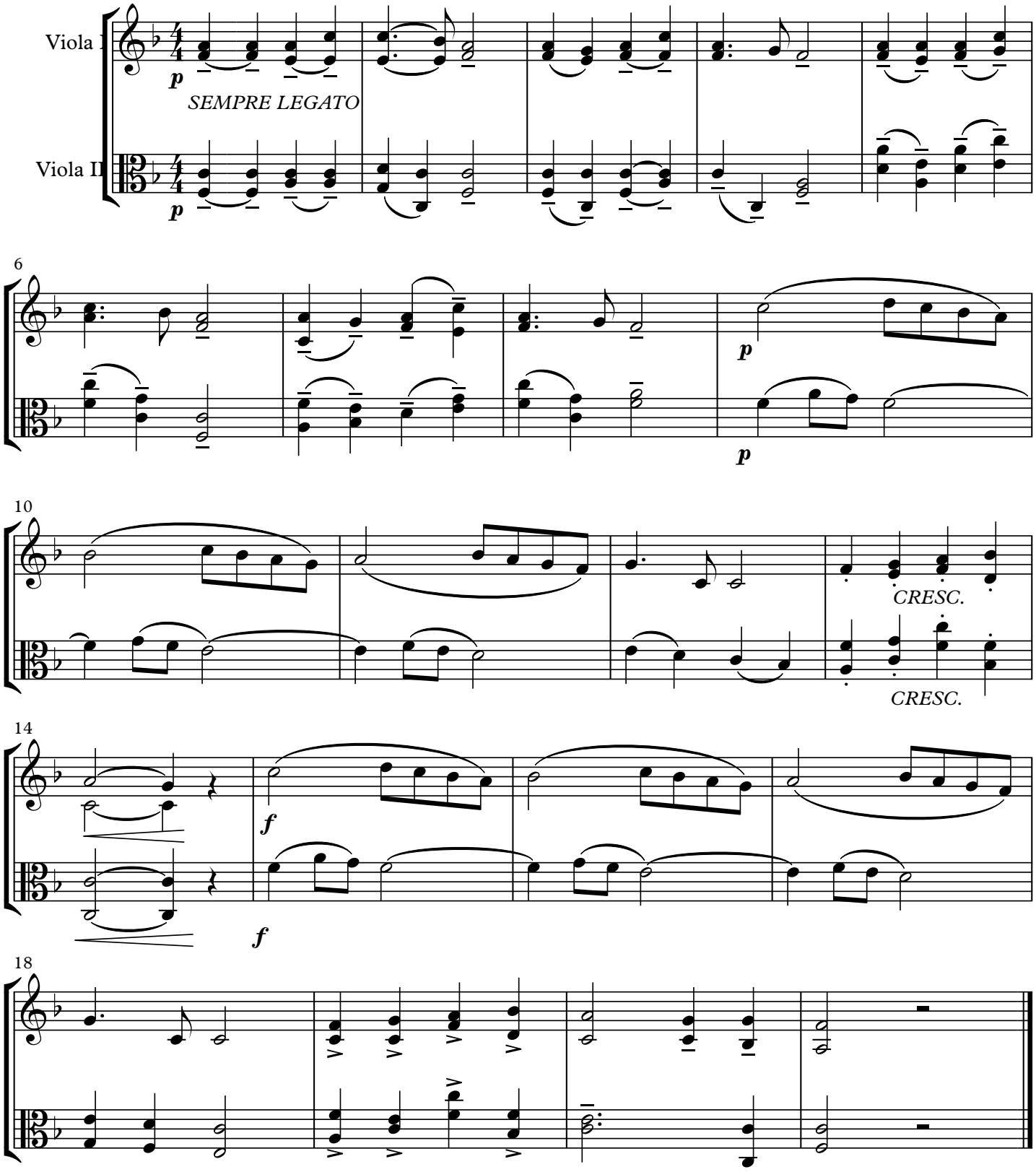
ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

French



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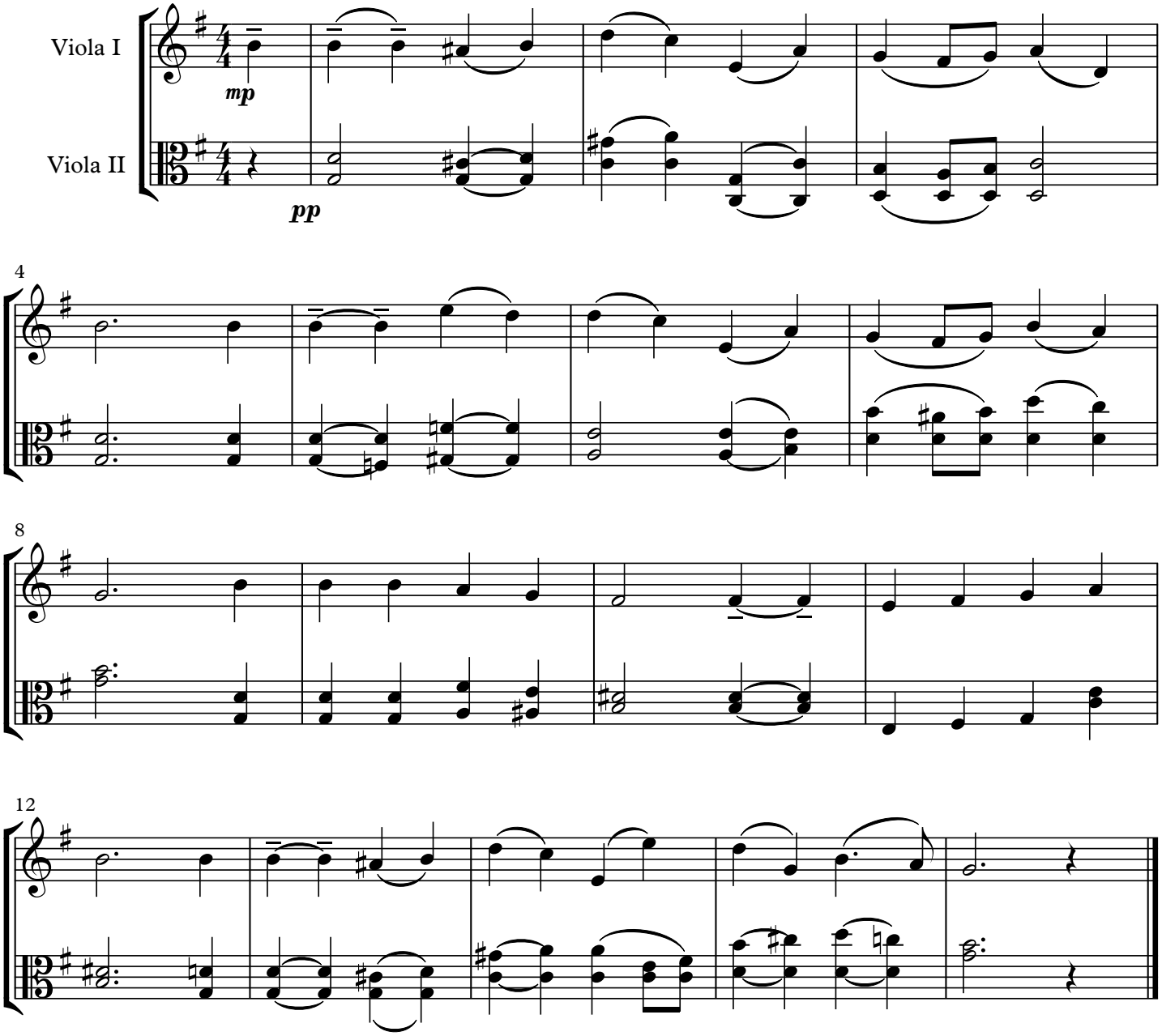
O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
1868

Lewis H. Redner



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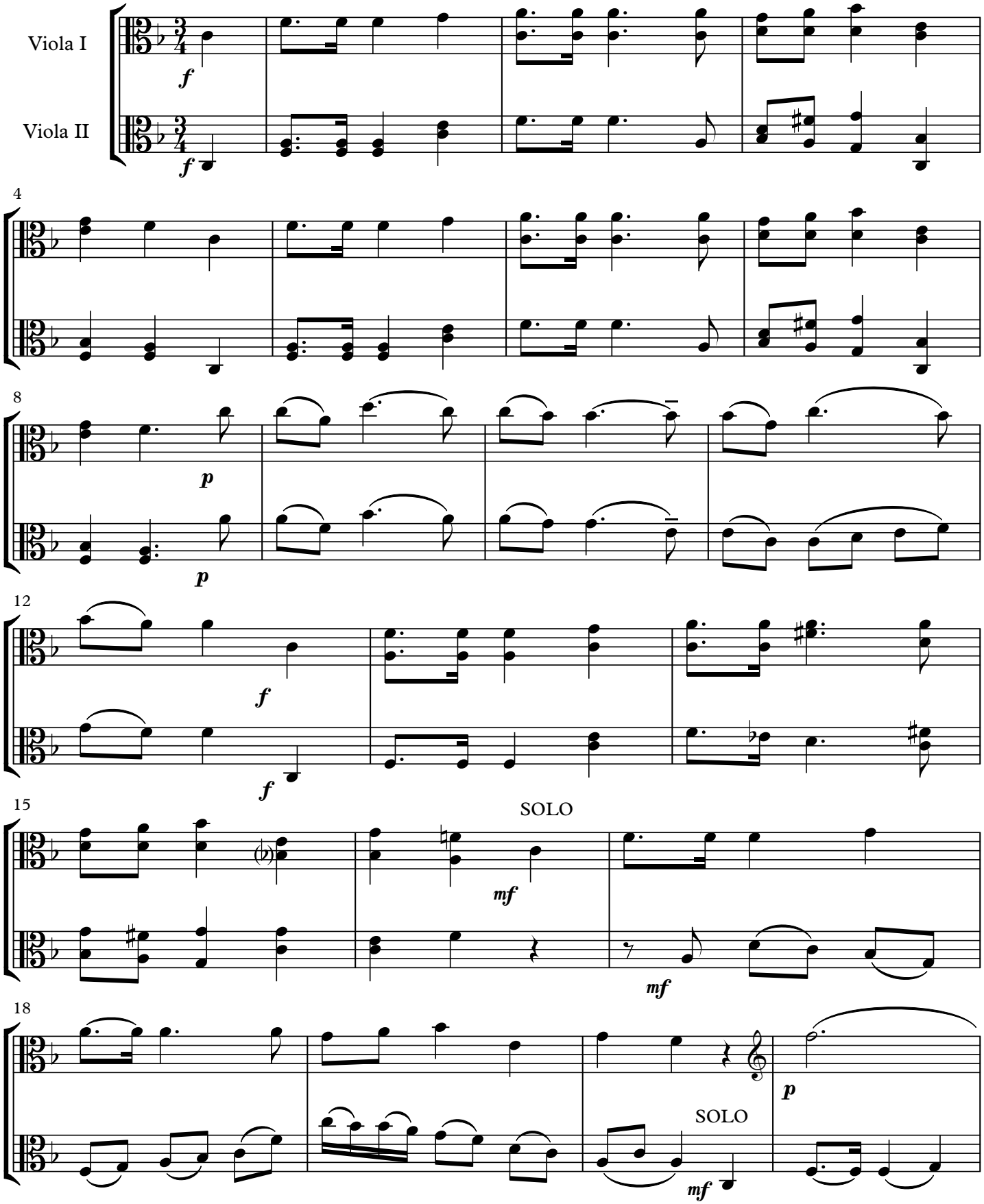
O TANNENBAUM

GERMAN



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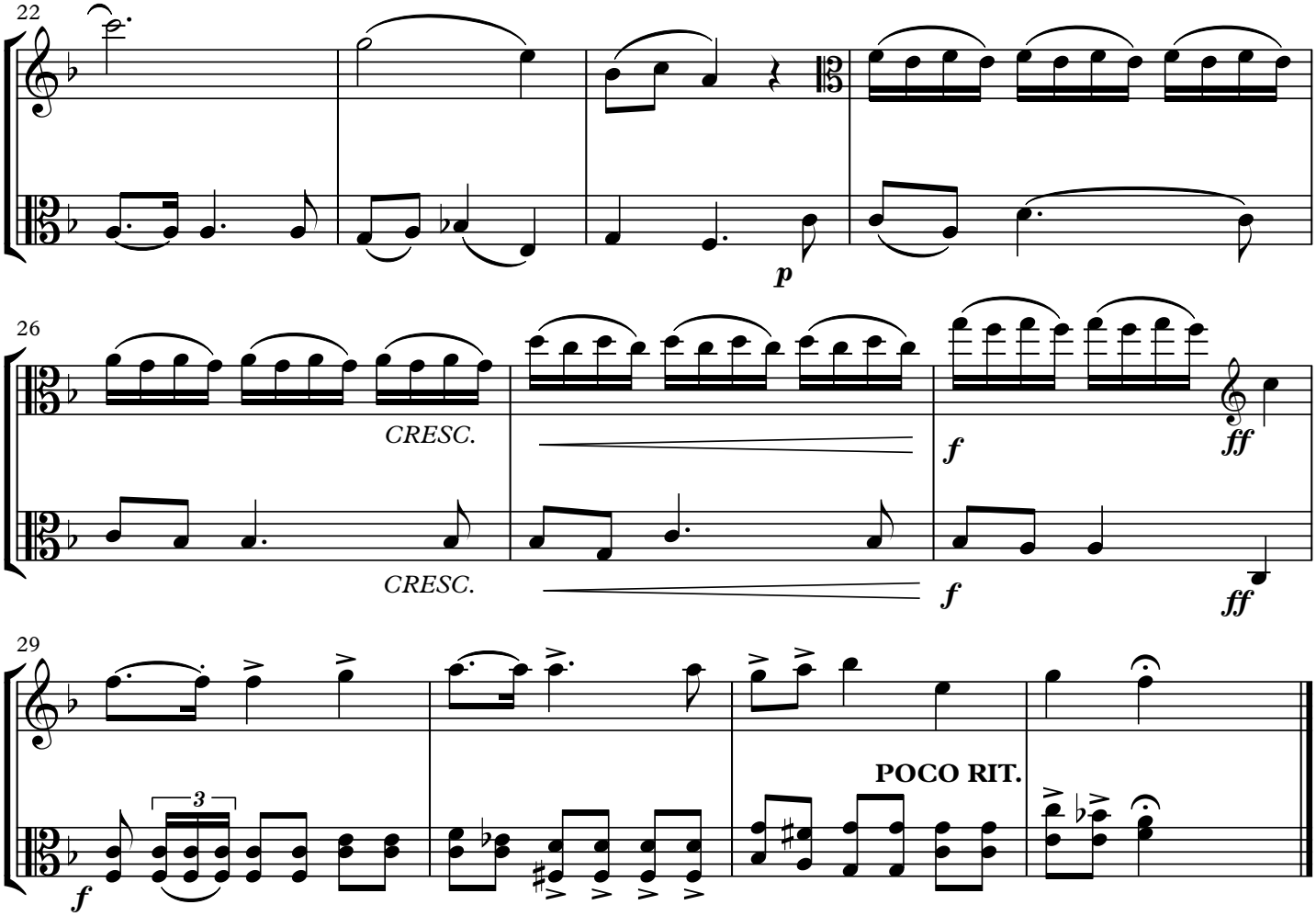
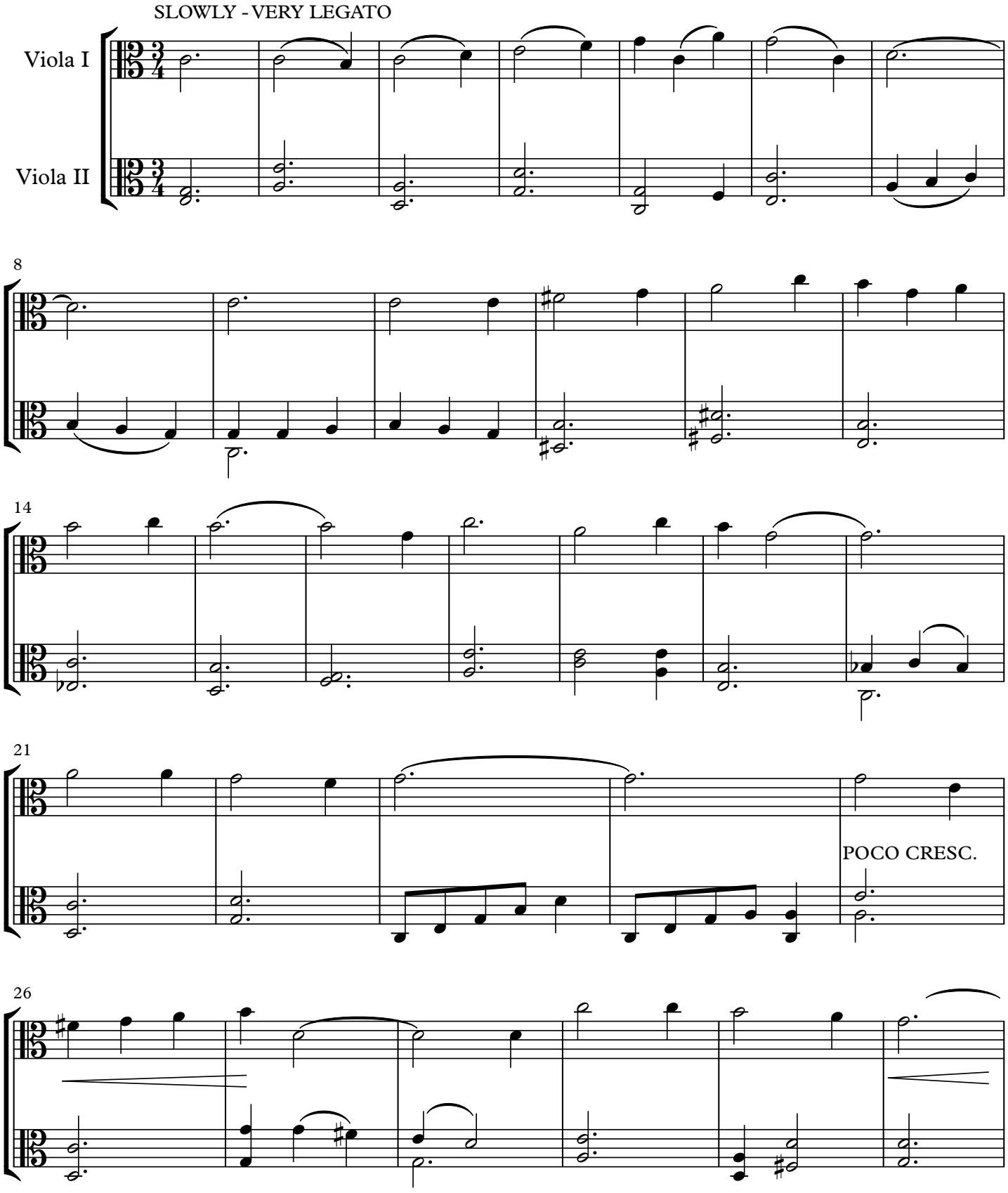

22
p
26
CRESC.
CRESC.
f
ff
f
ff
29
3
f
POCO RIT.

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH

SY MILLER & JILL JACKSON



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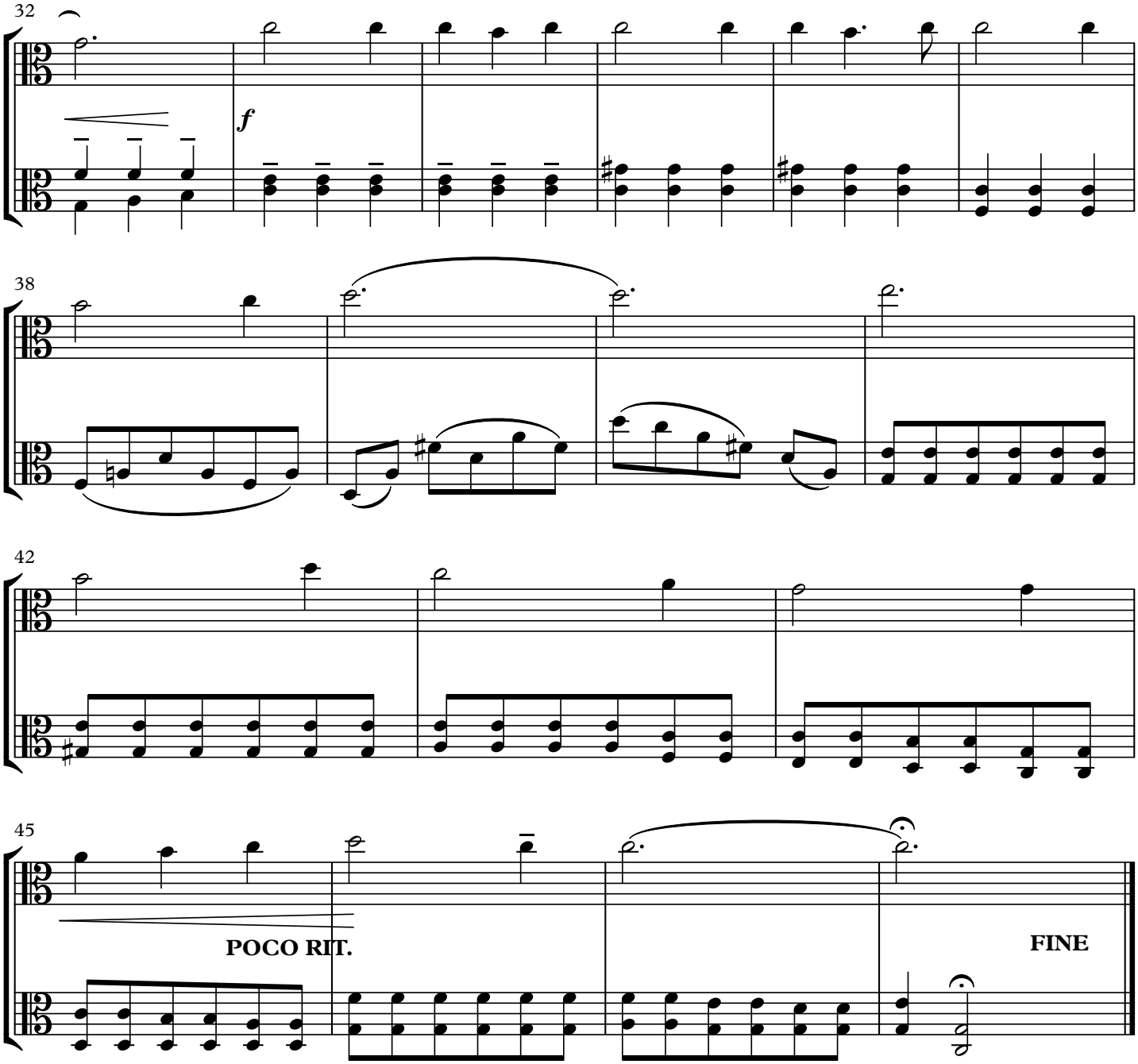
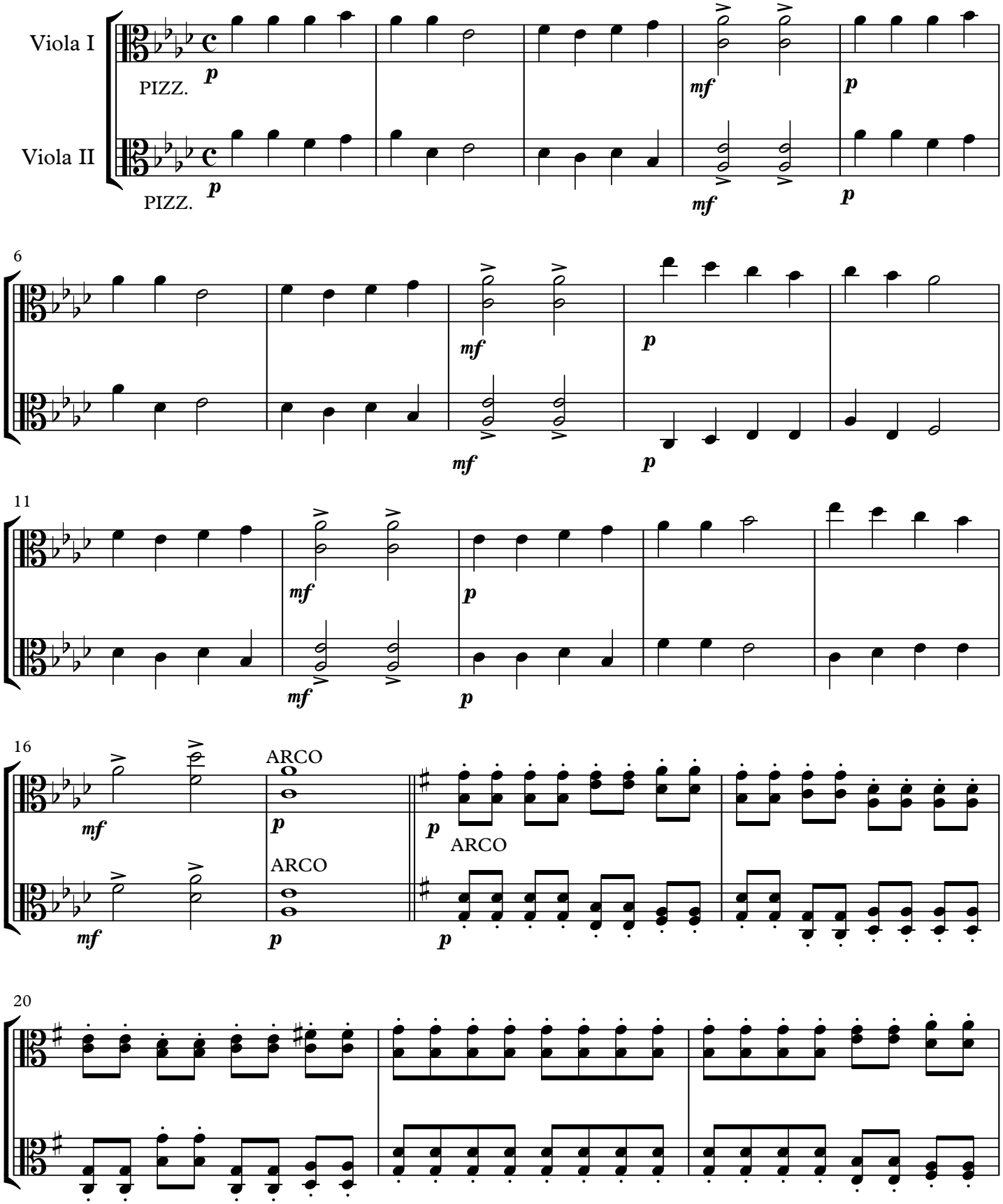

32
f
38
42
45
POCO RIT.
FINE

GOOD KING WENCELAUS

ENGLISH



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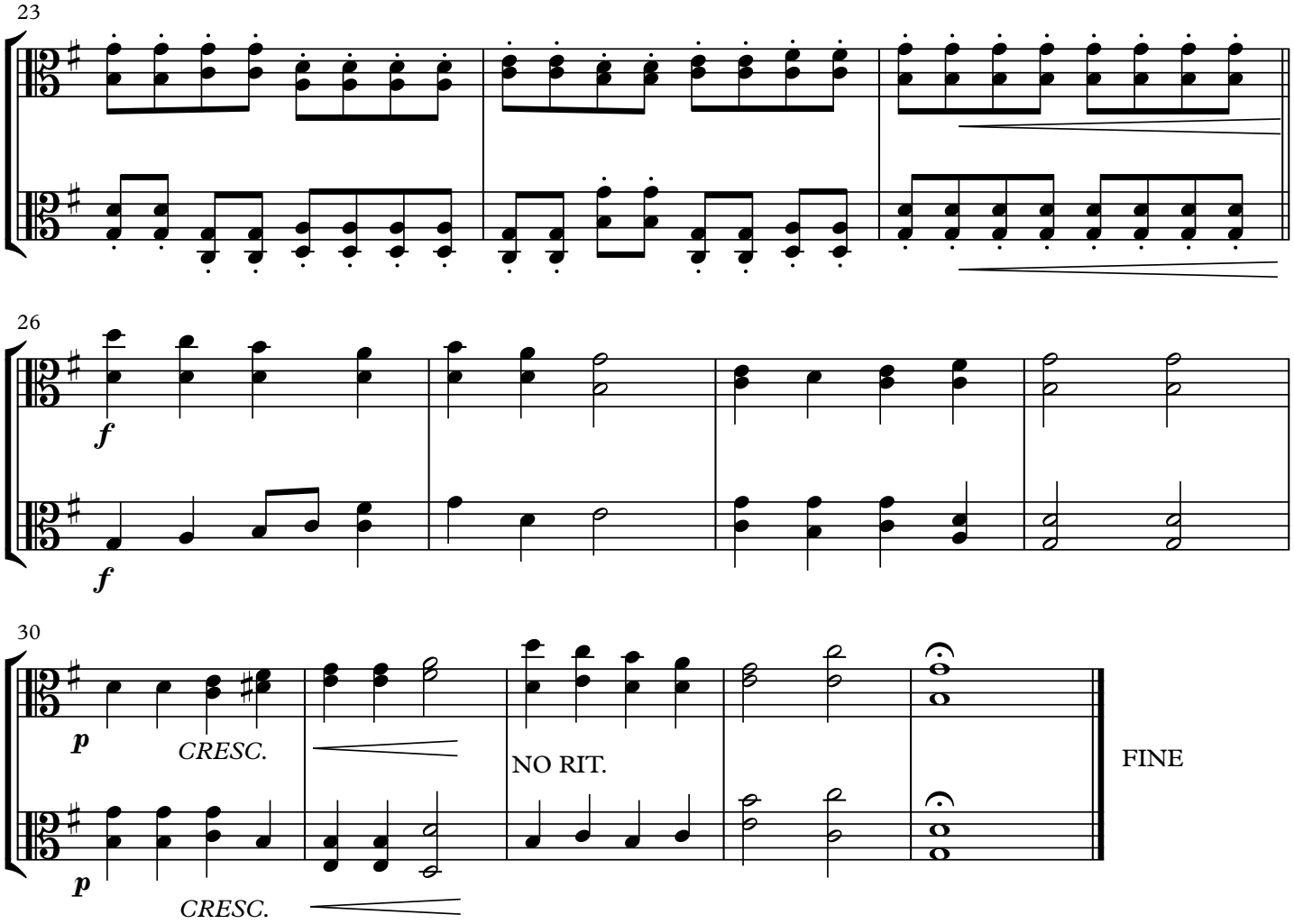
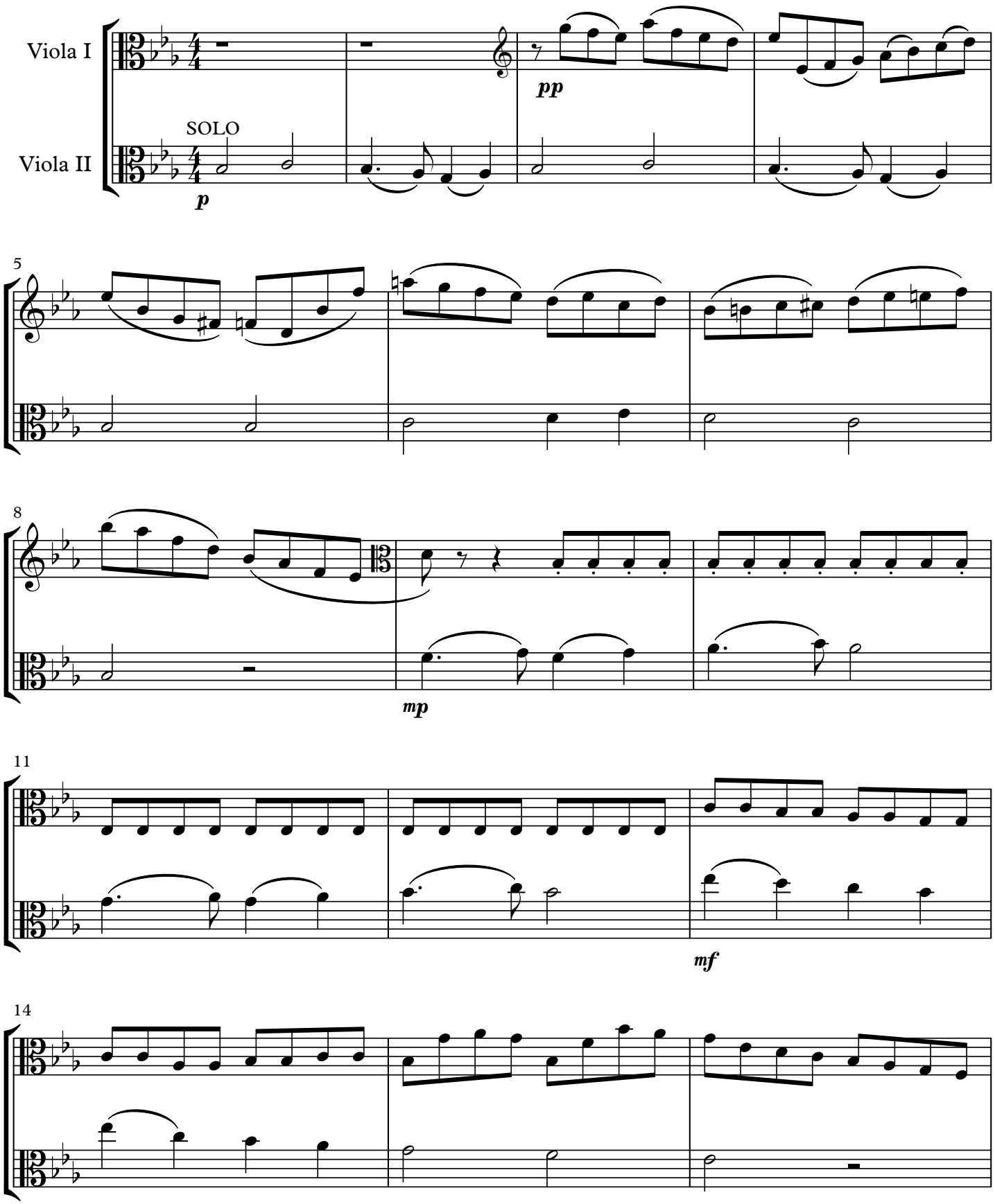

23
26
f
f
30
p
CRESC.
NO RIT.
FINE
p
CRESC.

OH THOU JOYFUL DAY

OH SANCTISSIMA

SICILIAN



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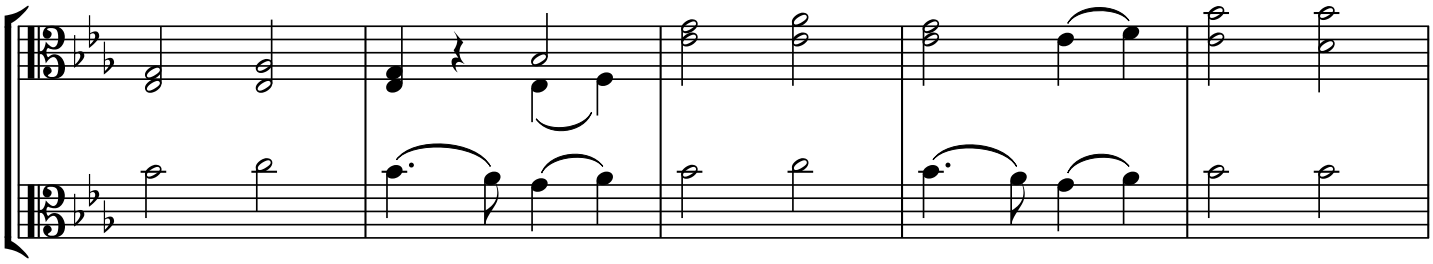

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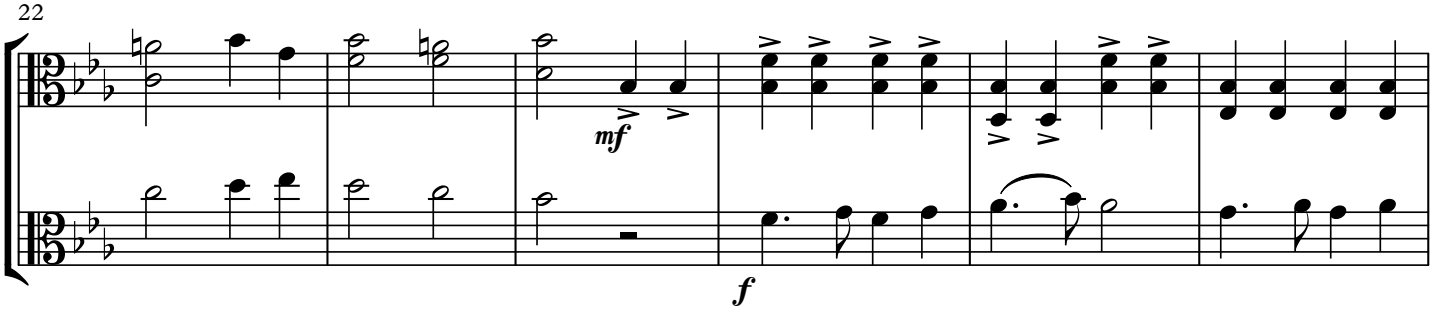

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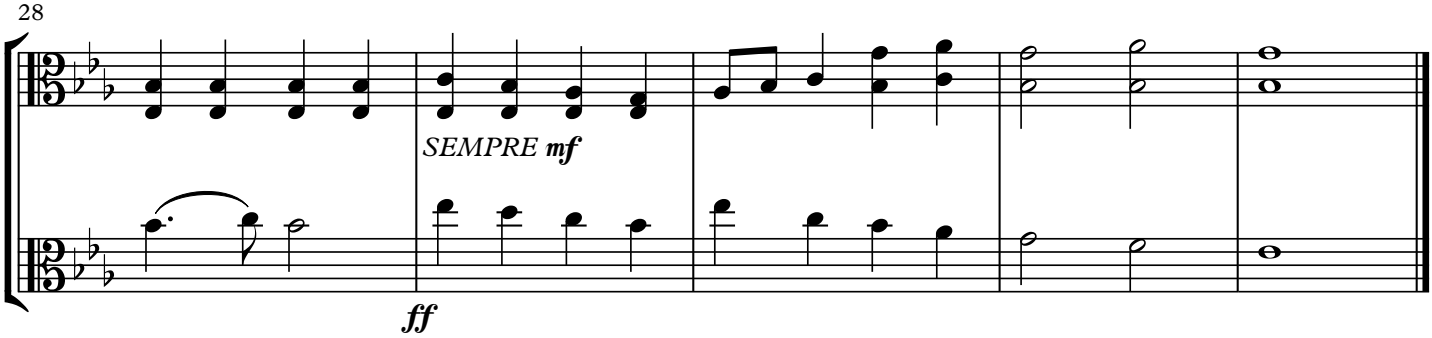
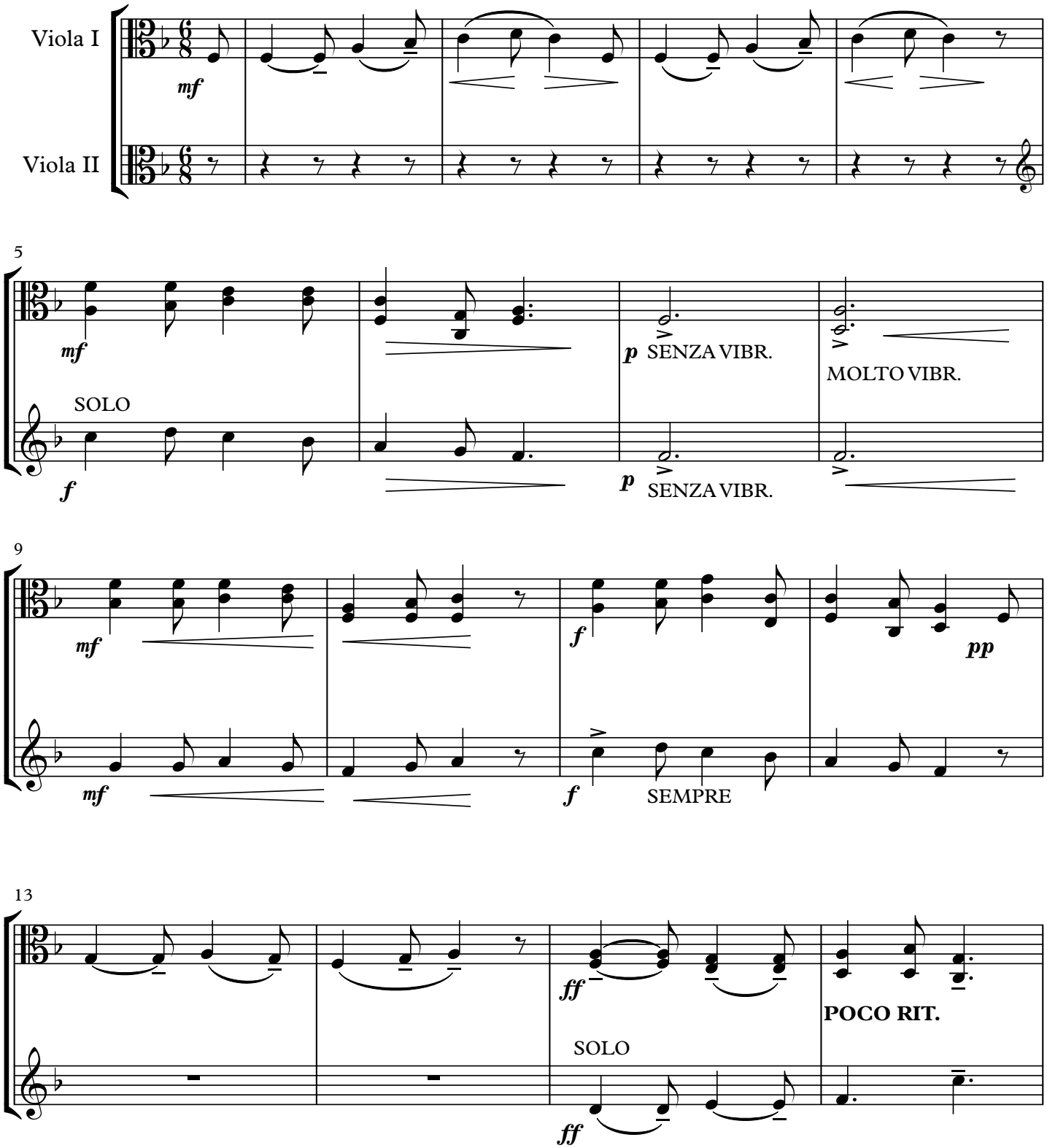


IN DULCI JUBILO

OLD GERMAN



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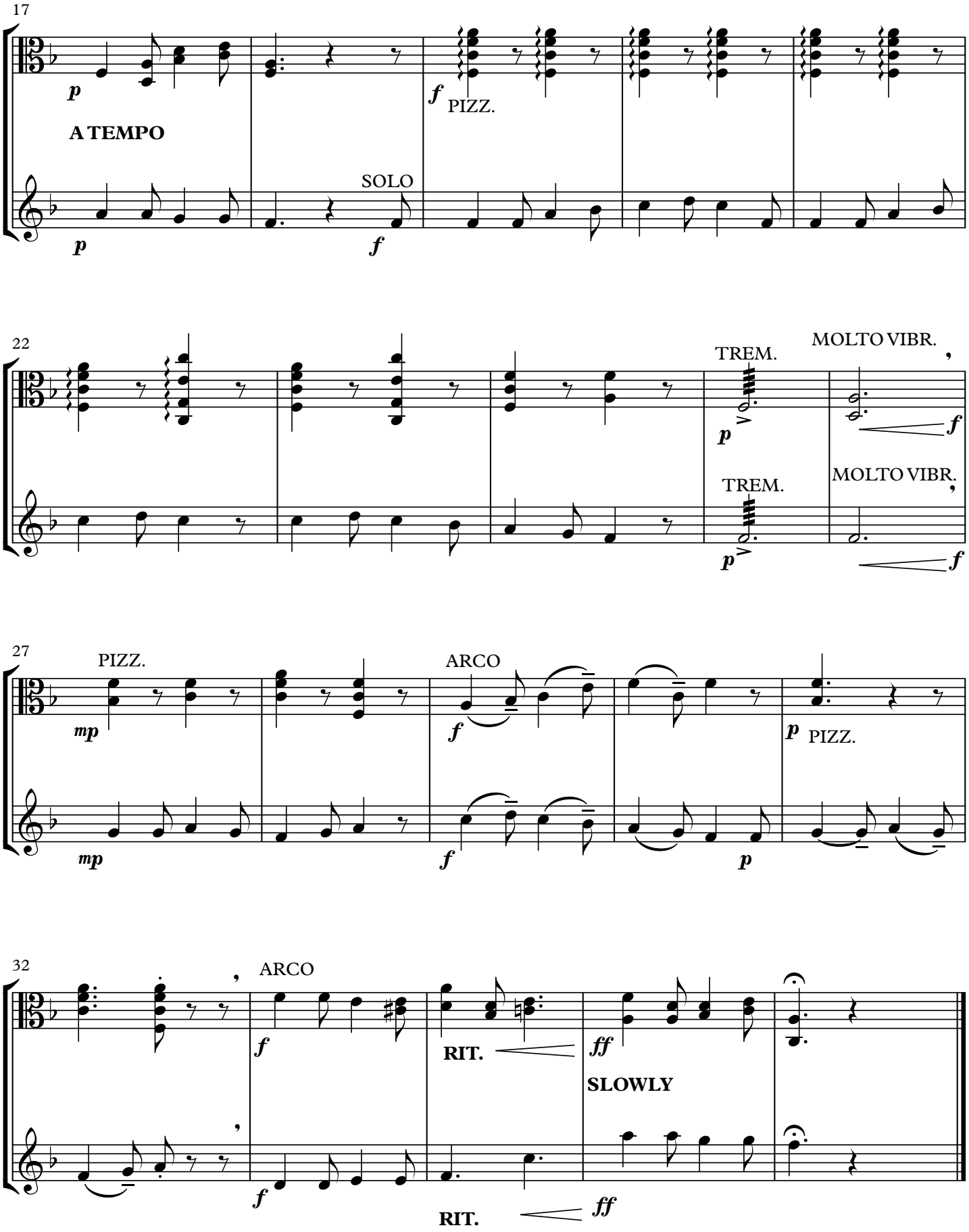
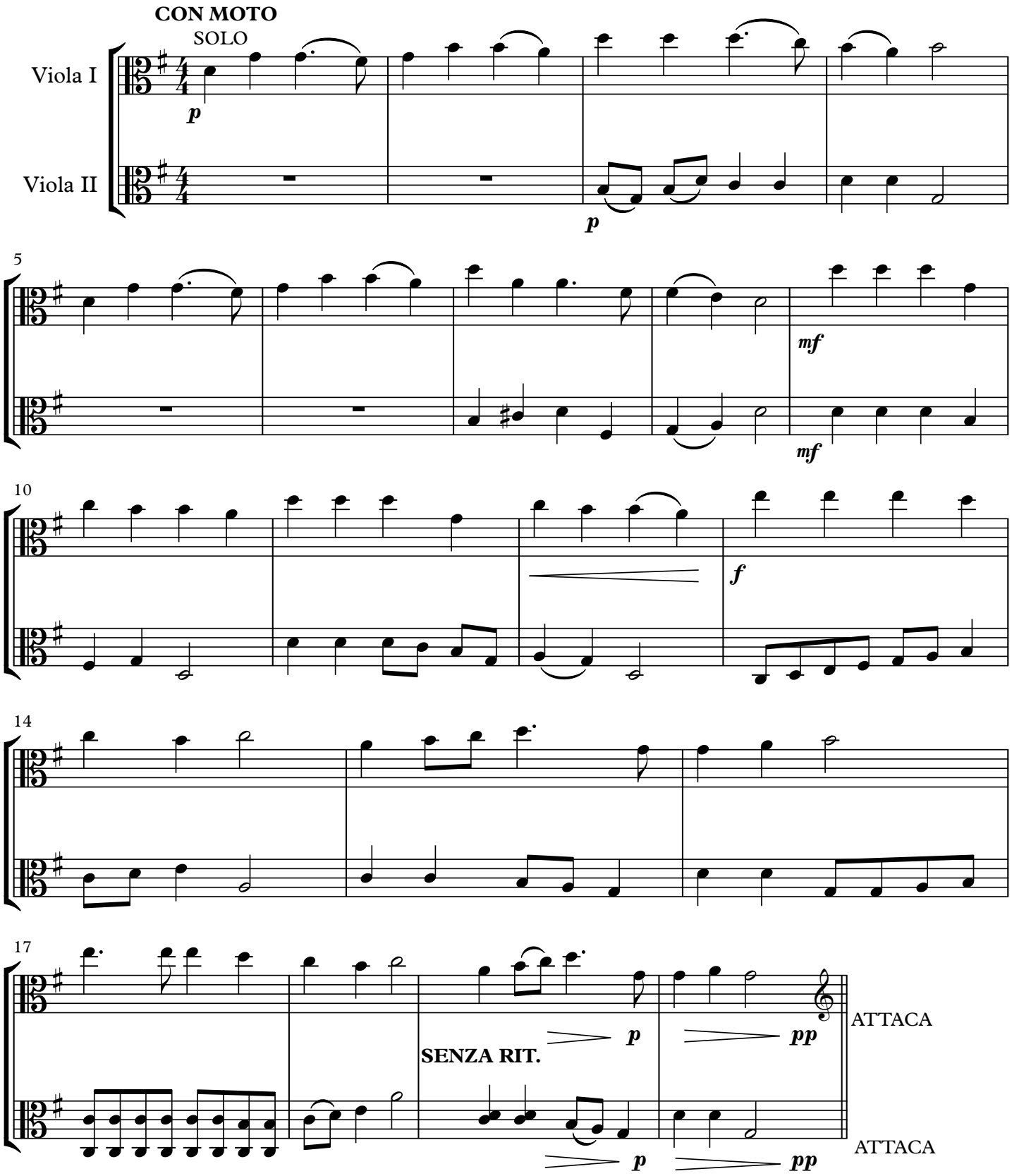

17
p
A TEMPO
f
PIZZ.
SOLO
p
f
22
TREM.
MOLTO VIBR.
p
f
TREM.
MOLTO VIBR.
p
f
27
PIZZ.
mp
mp
ARCO
f
f
p
PIZZ.
p
32
ARCO
f
f
RIT.
ff
SLOWLY
RIT.
ff

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

CHARLES WESLEY

MENDELSSOHN



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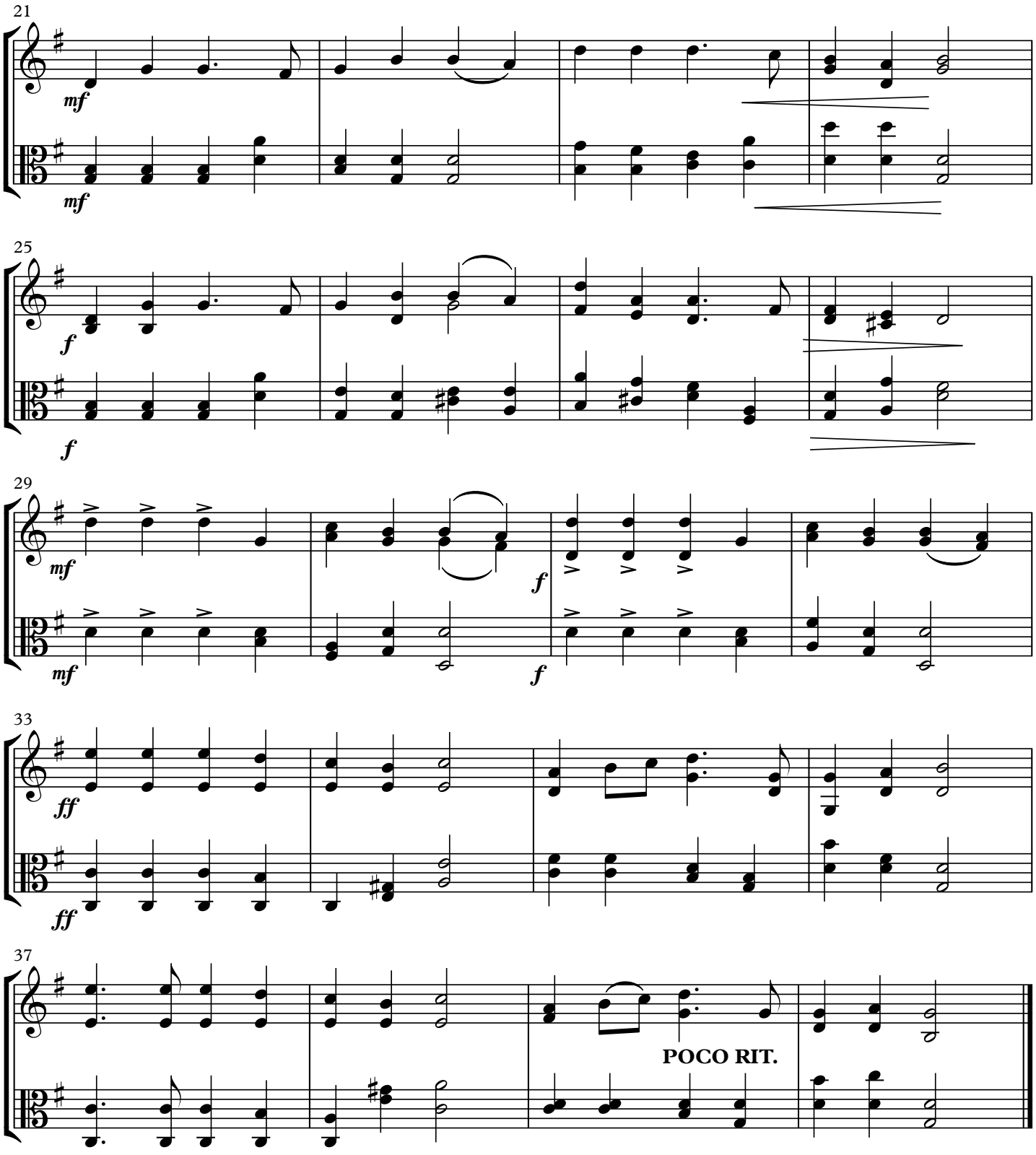
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mf
mf
25
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f
29
mf
mf
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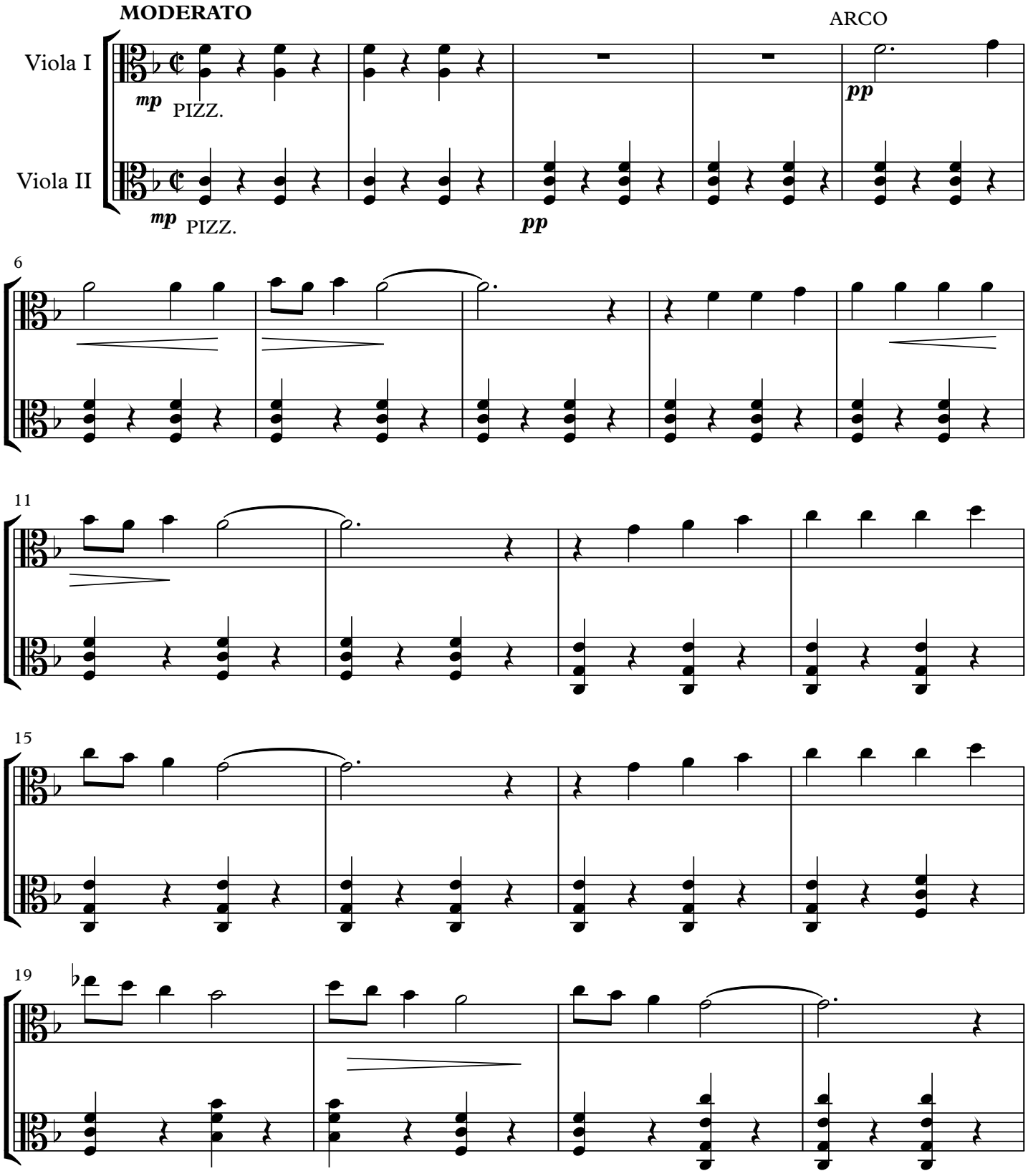
ff
ff
37
POCO RIT.

THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

KATHRINE DAVIS
HENRY ONORATI
HARRY SIMEONE



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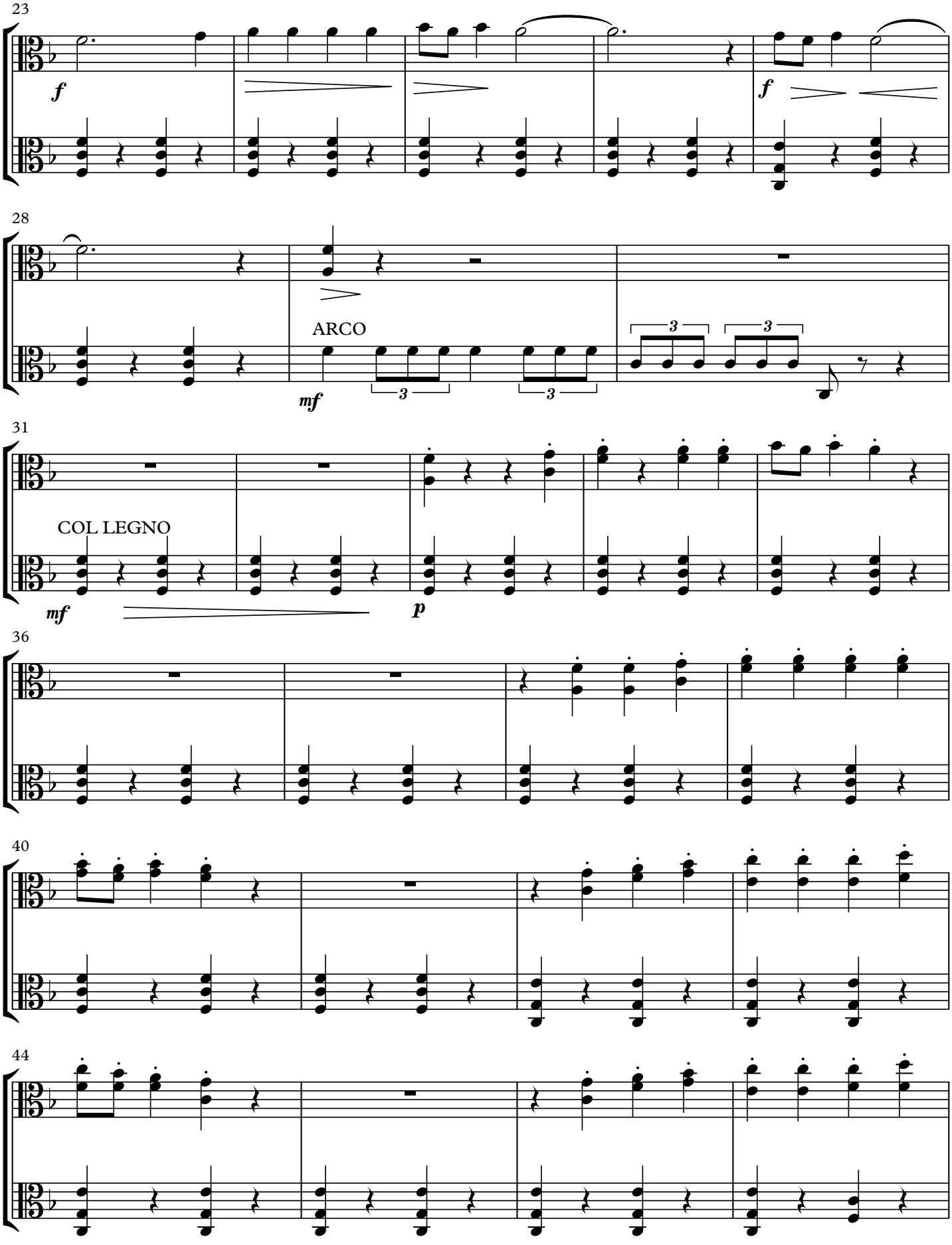
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mf
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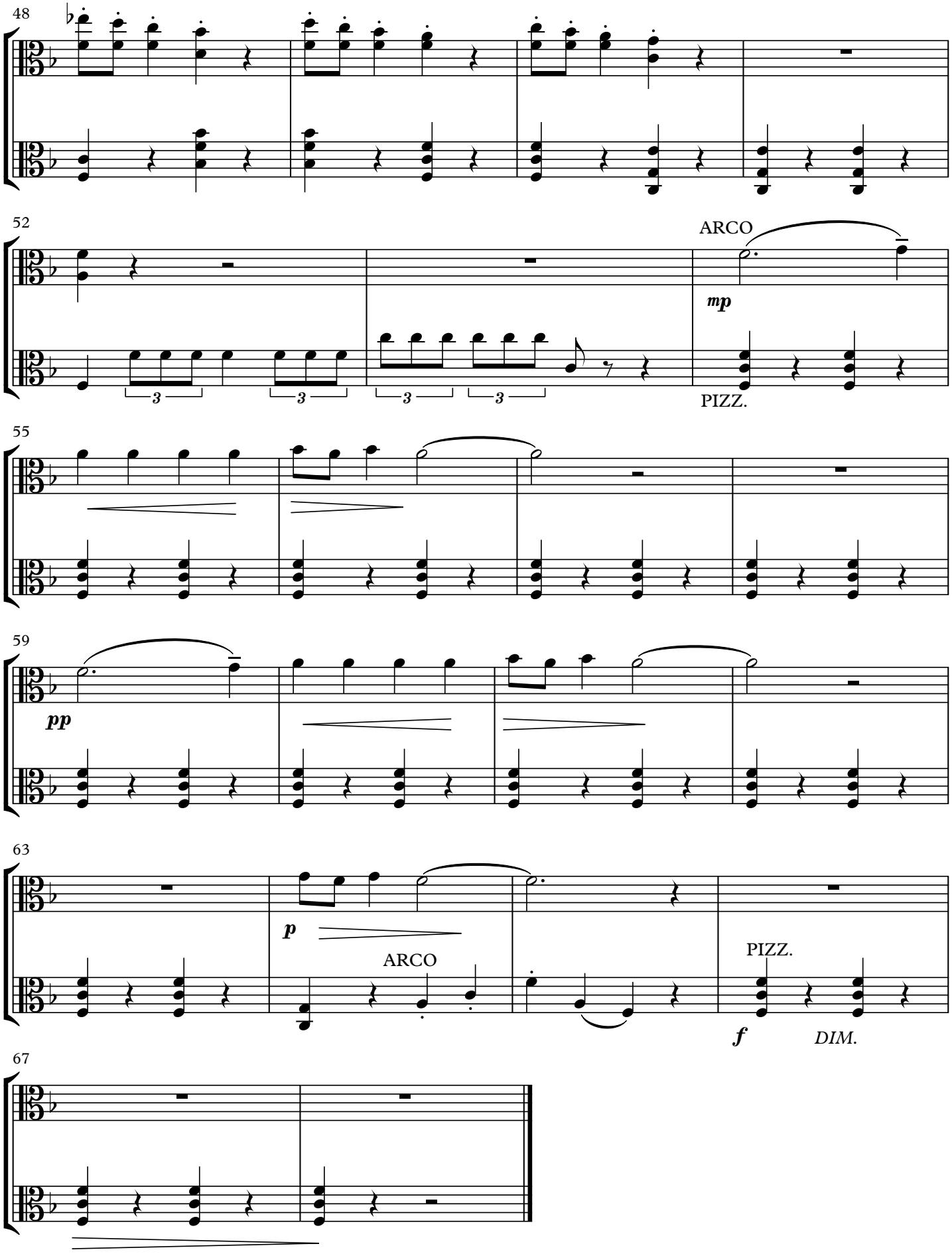
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pp
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PIZZ.
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DIM.
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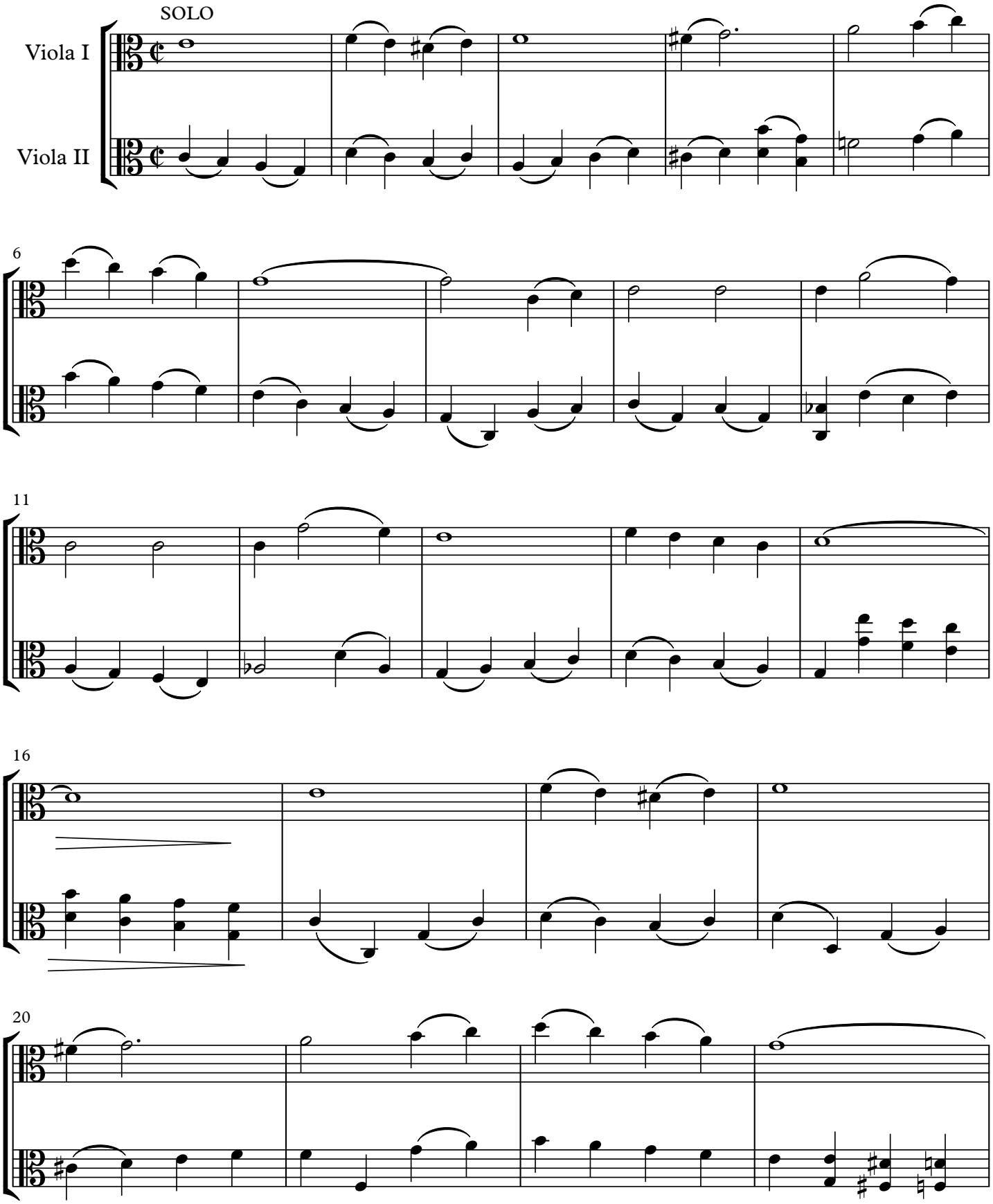
WHITE CHRISTMAS

IRVING BERLIN



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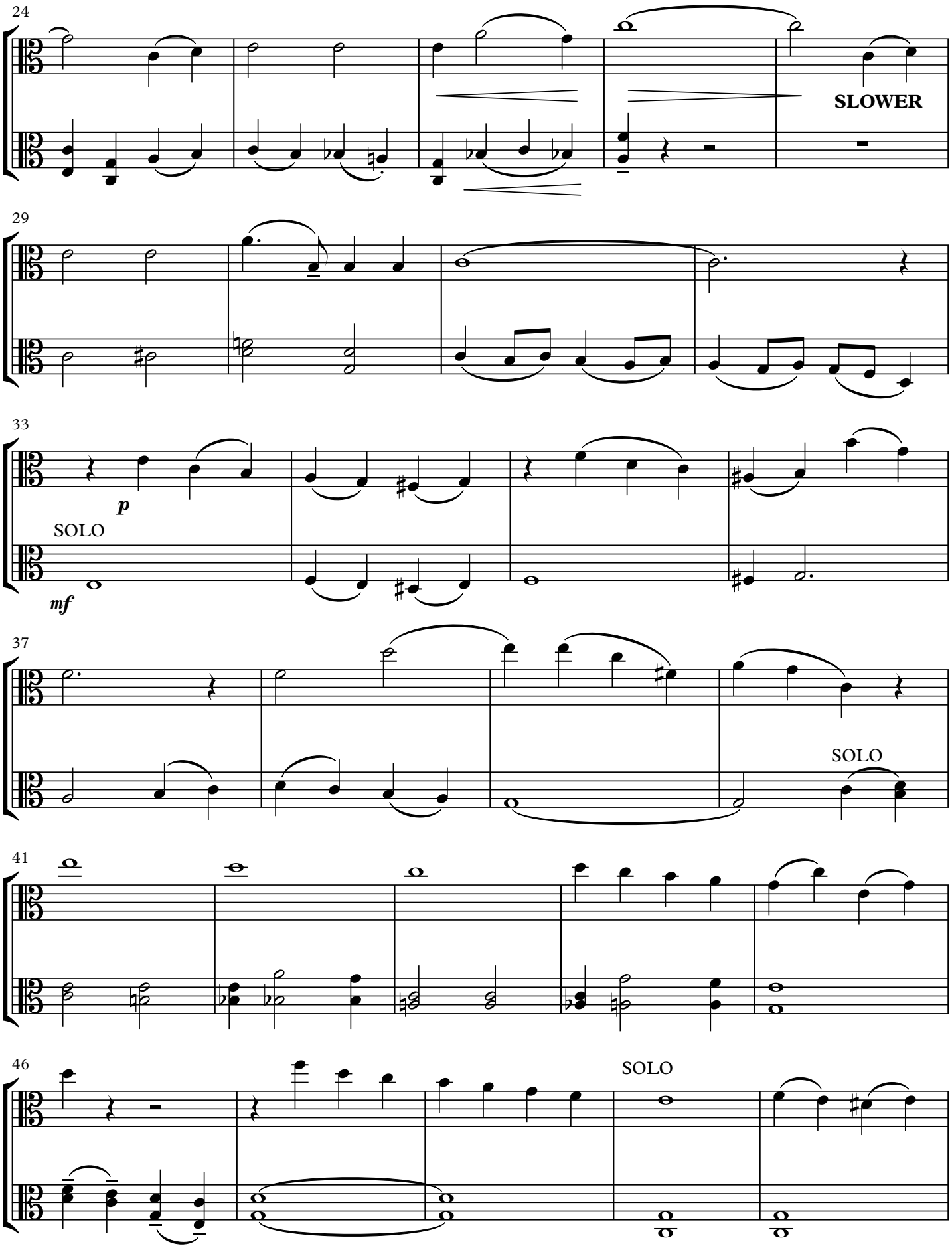
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SOLO
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SOLO
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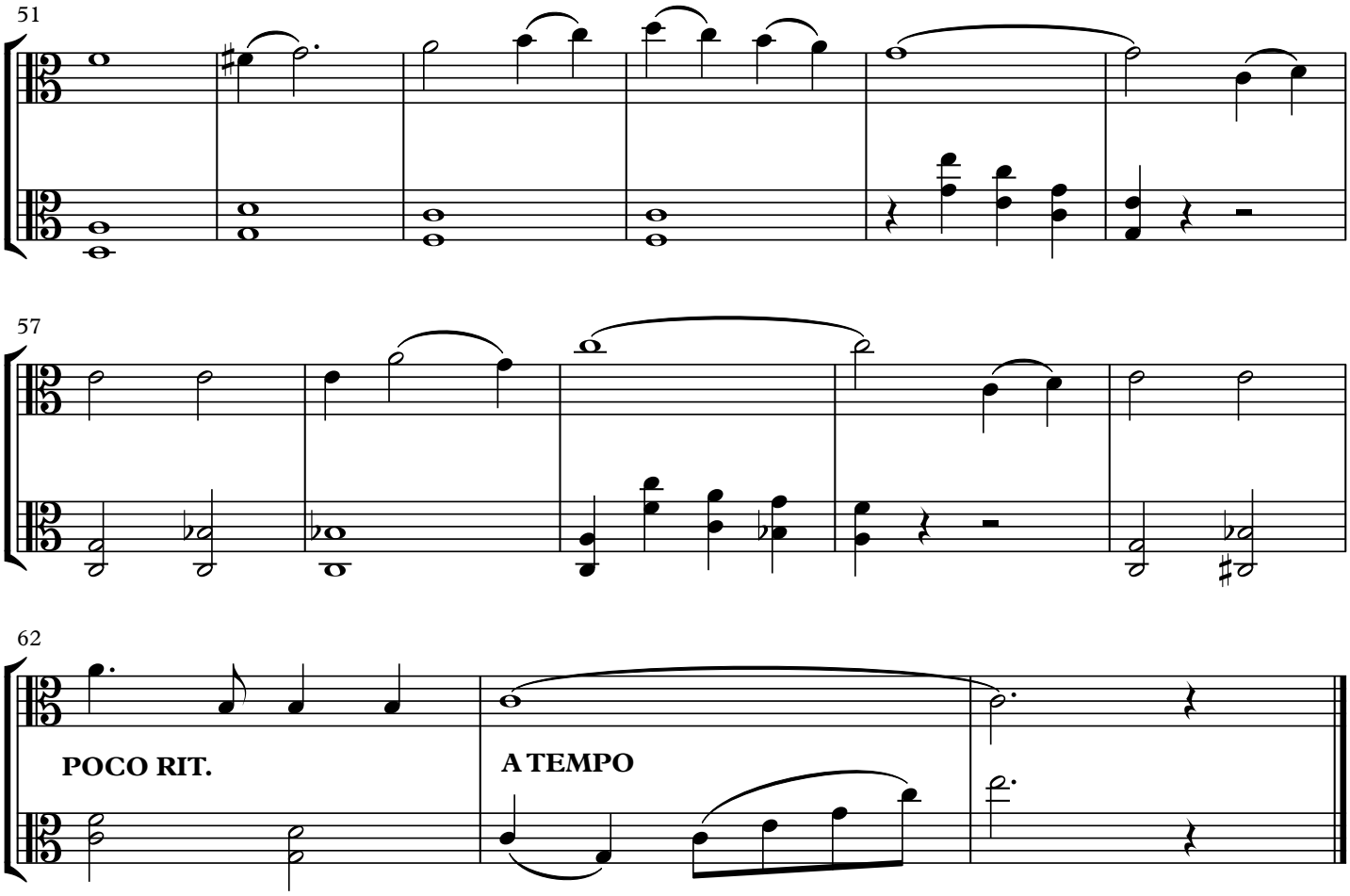
46
SOLO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62
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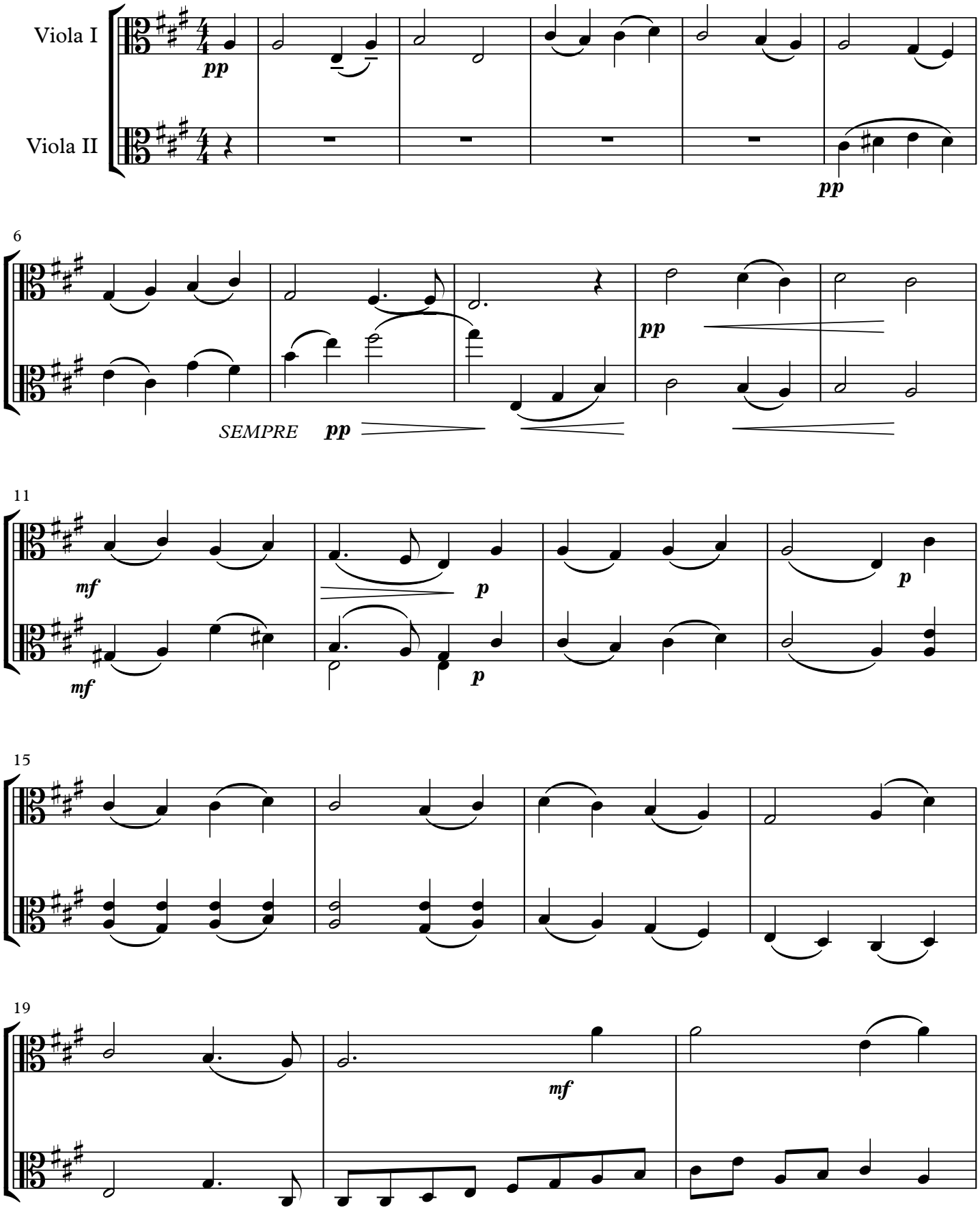
A TEMPO

ADESTE FIDELES



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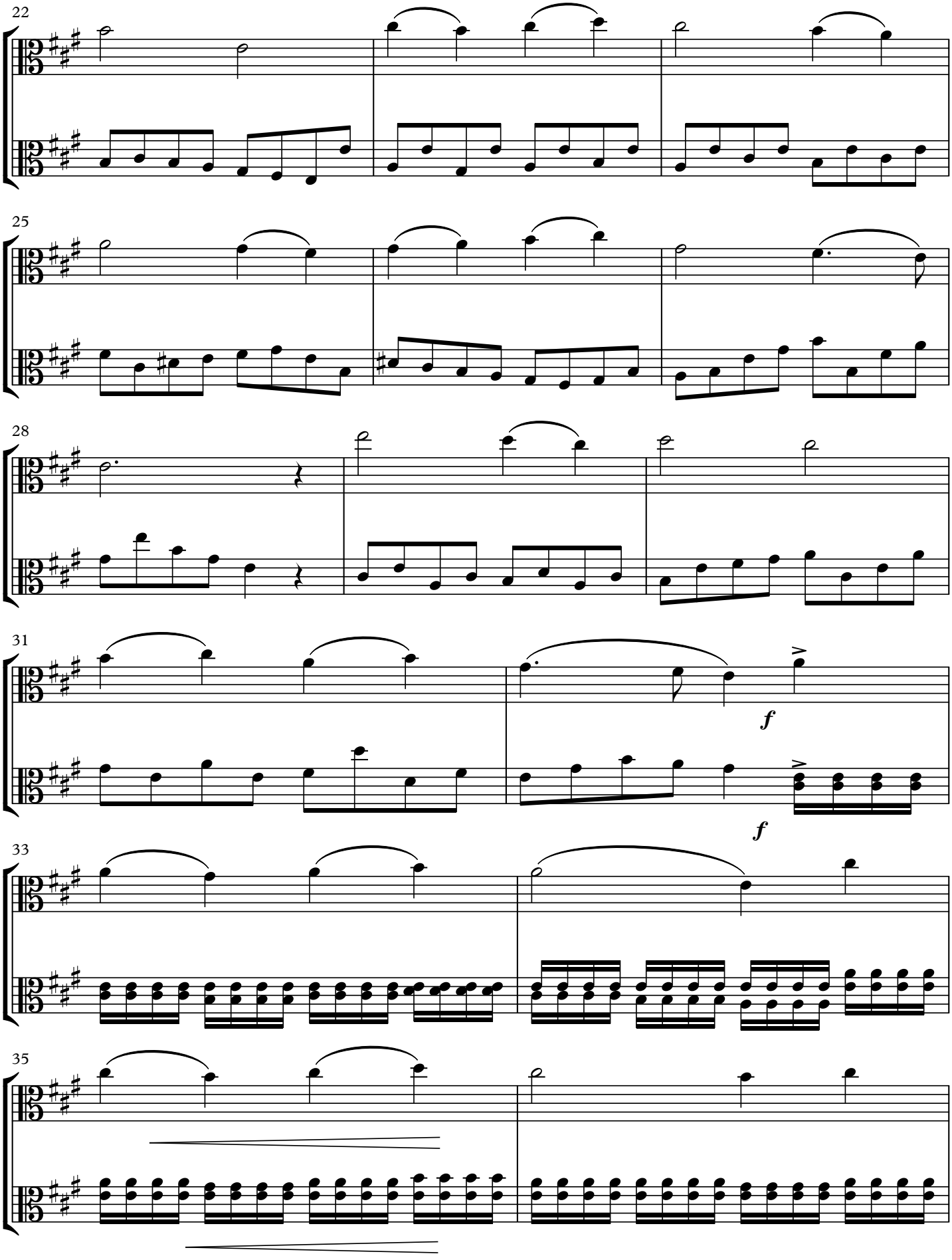
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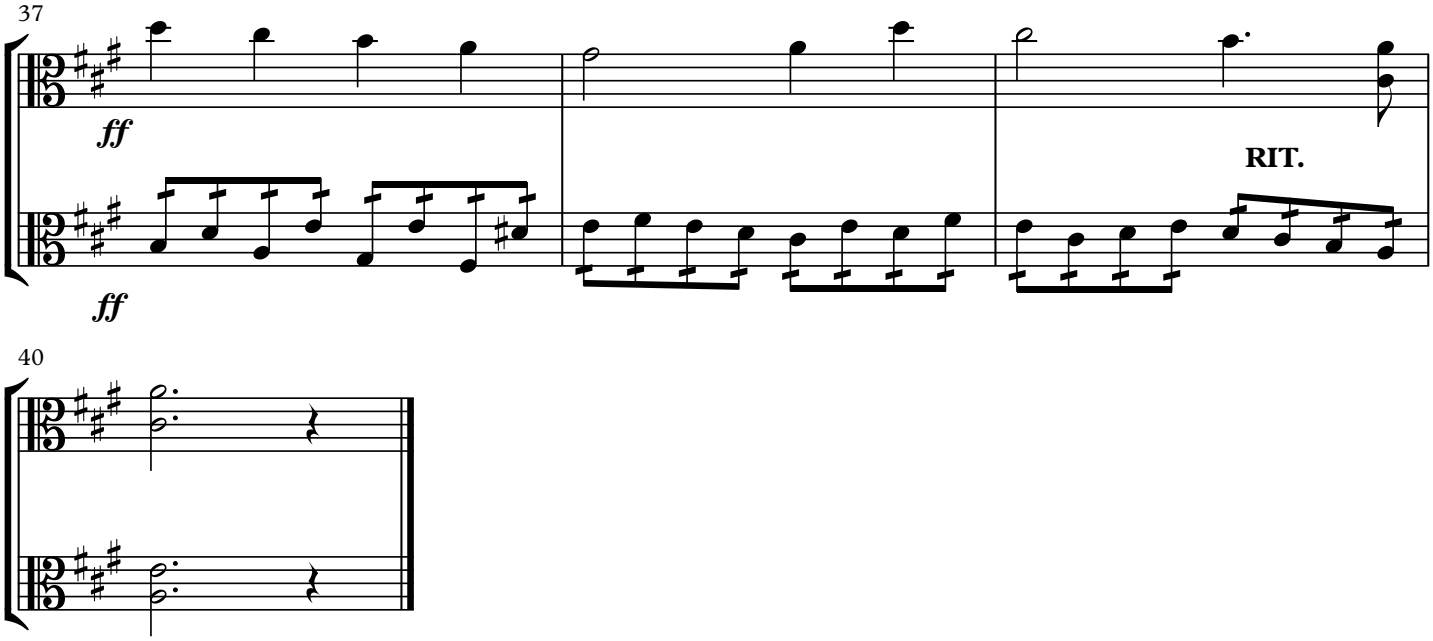
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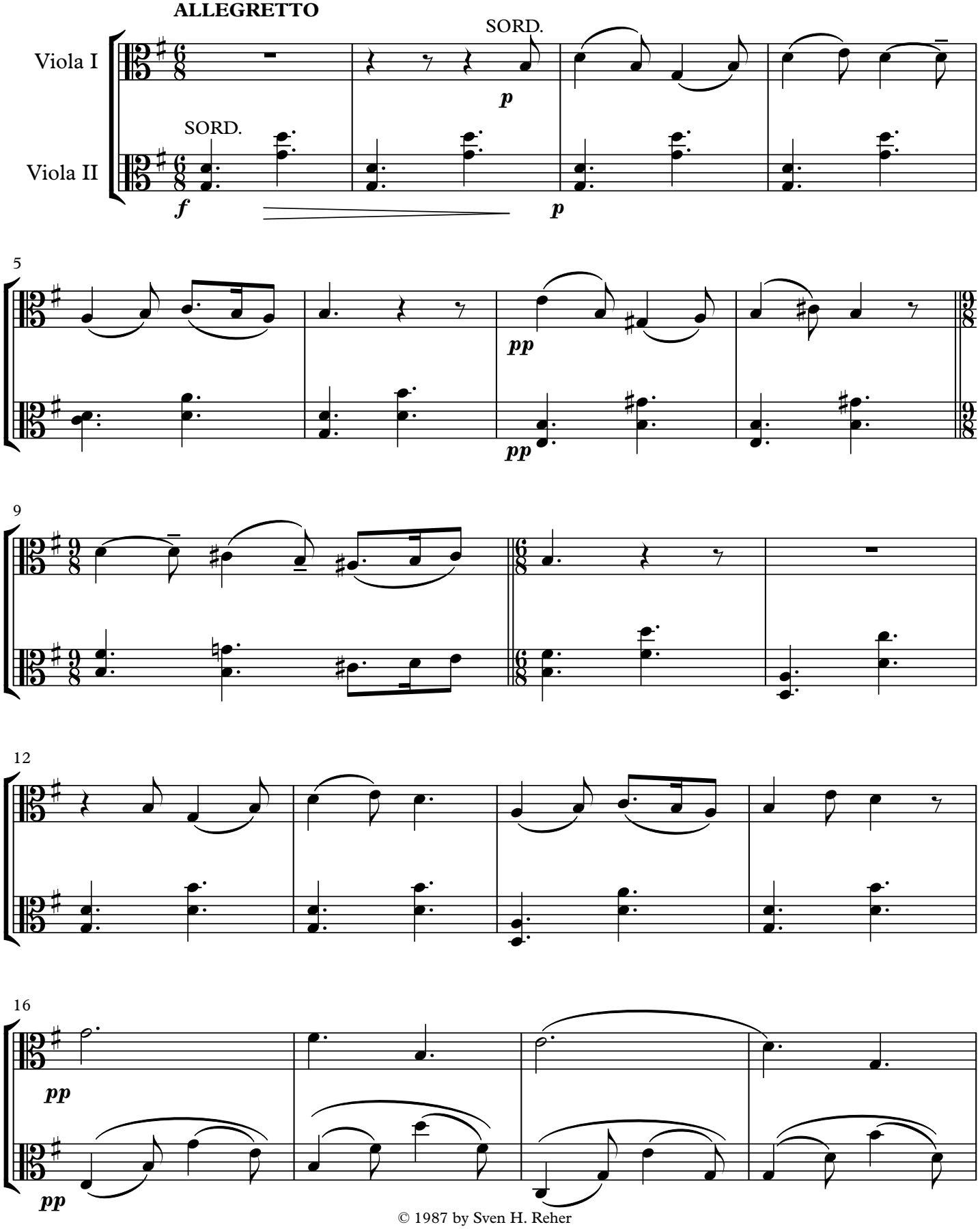
RIT.

40

VIRGIN'S SLUMBER SONG

MAX REGER



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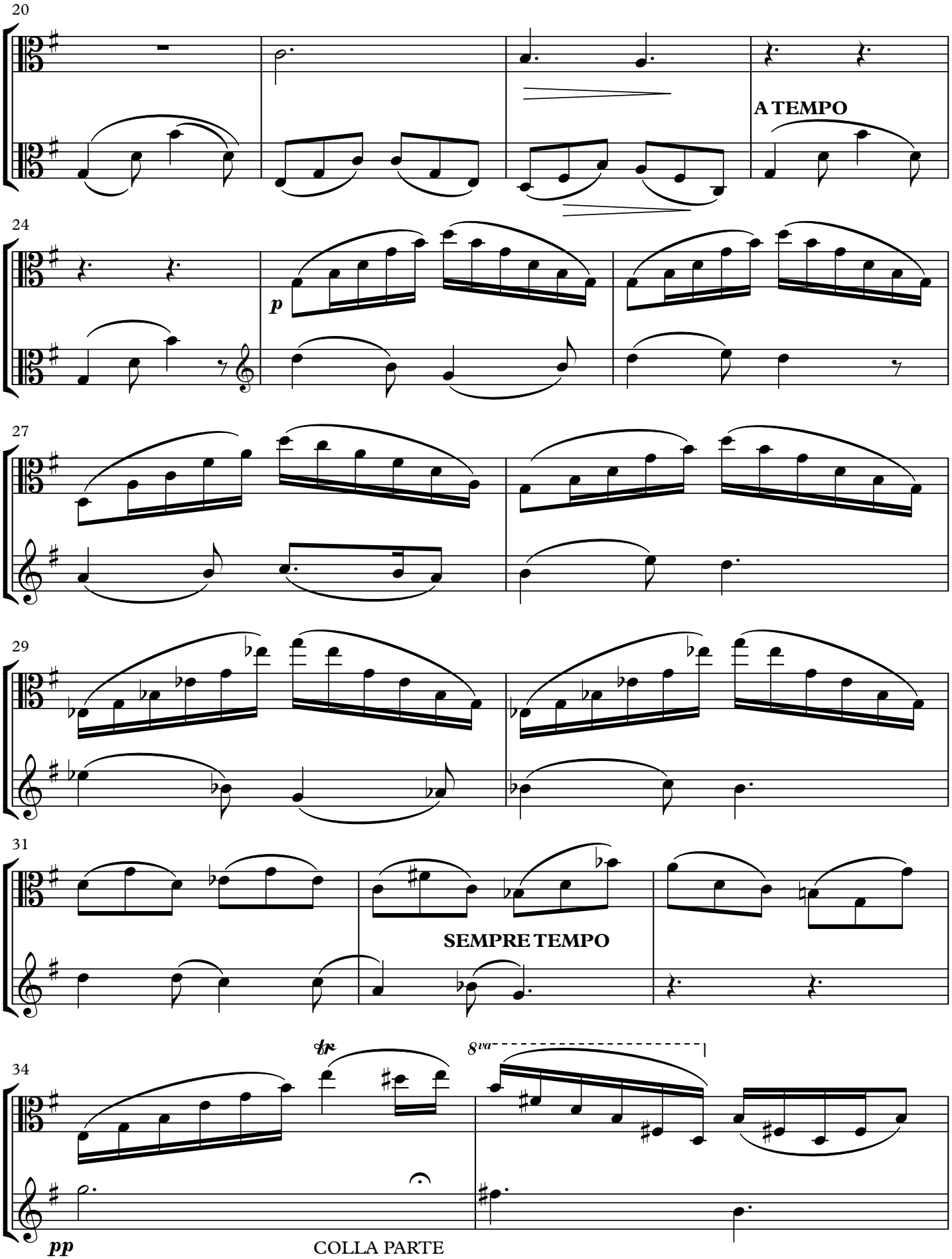
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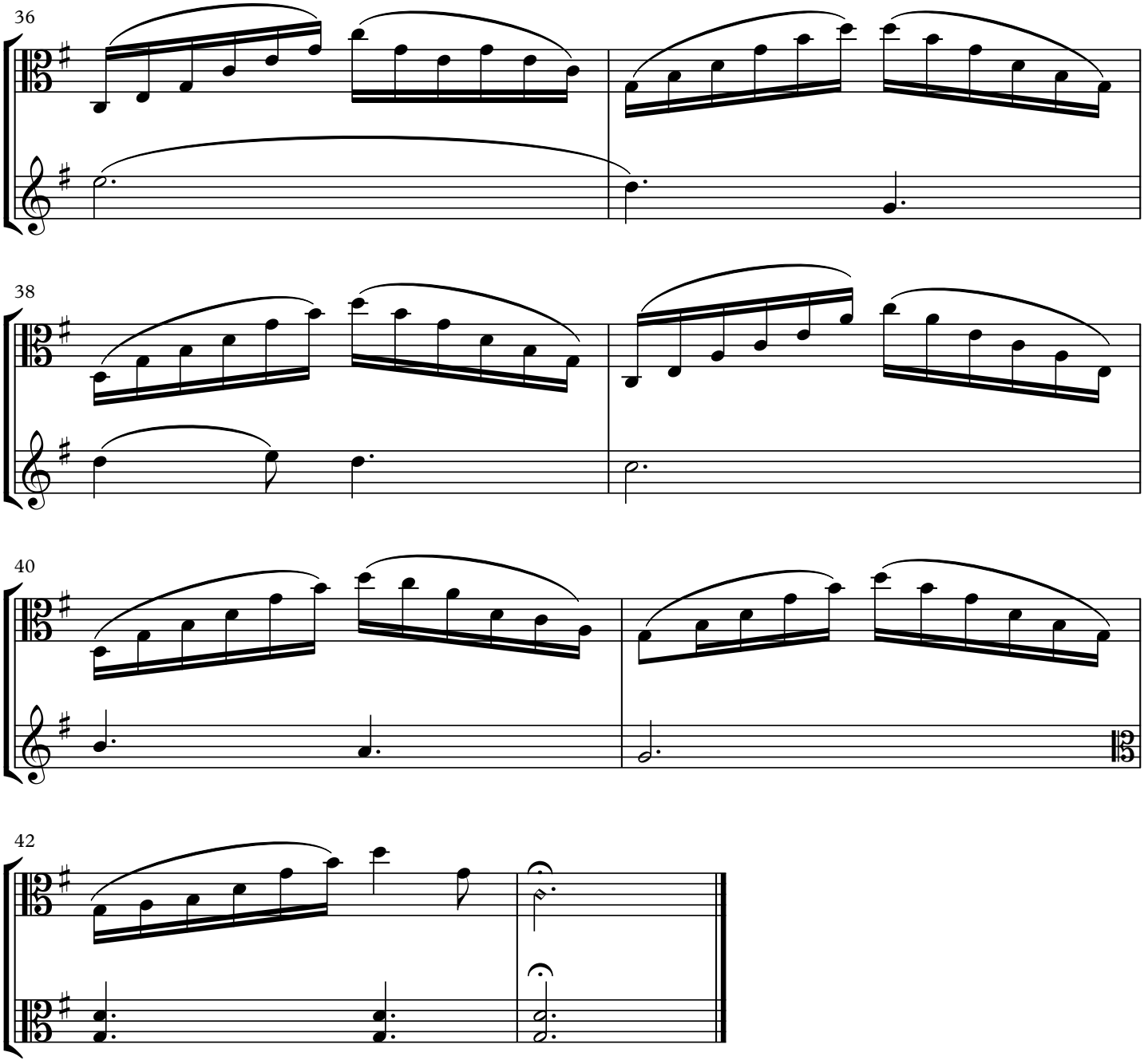
COLLA PARTE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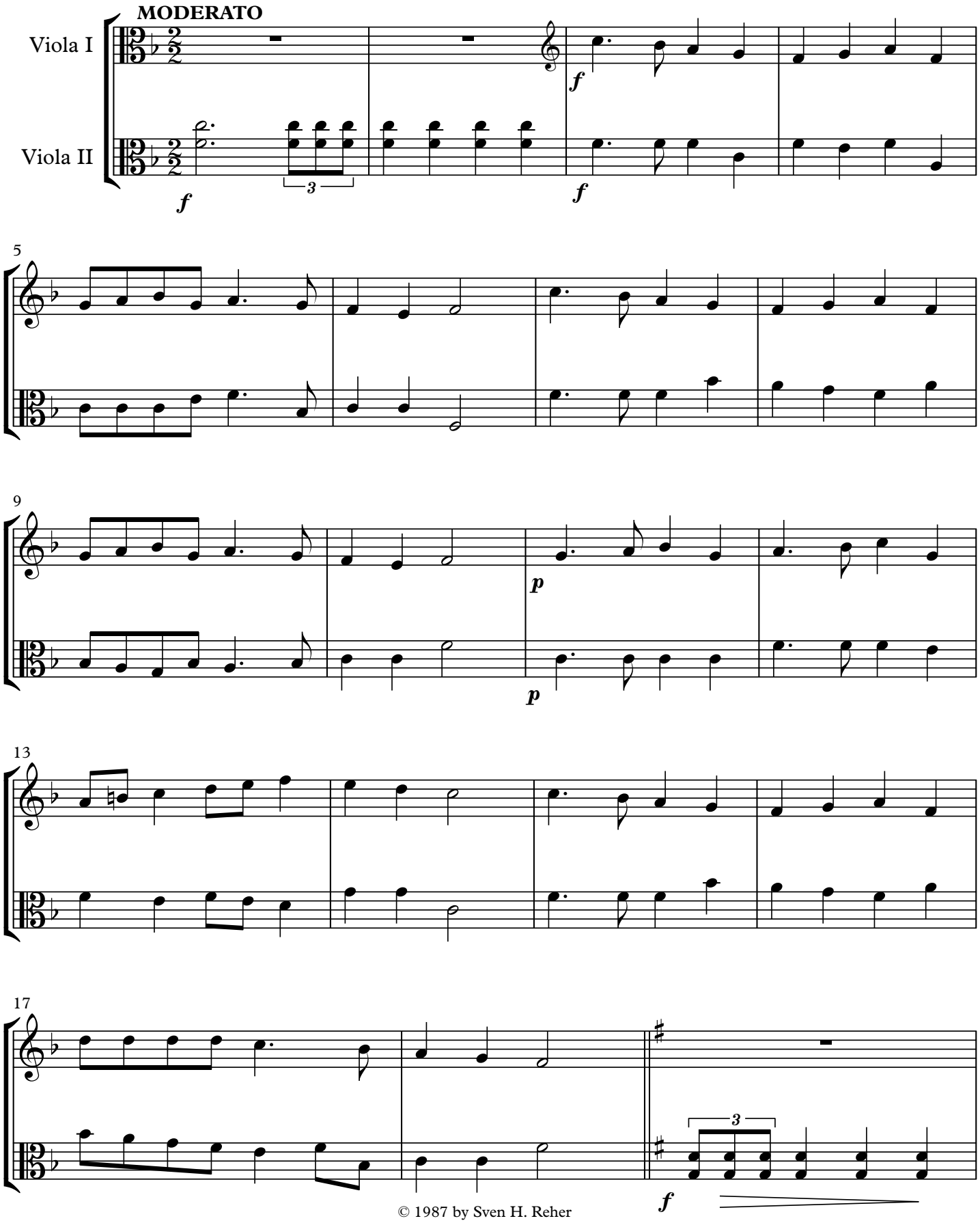
42

DECK THE HALLS

Welsh



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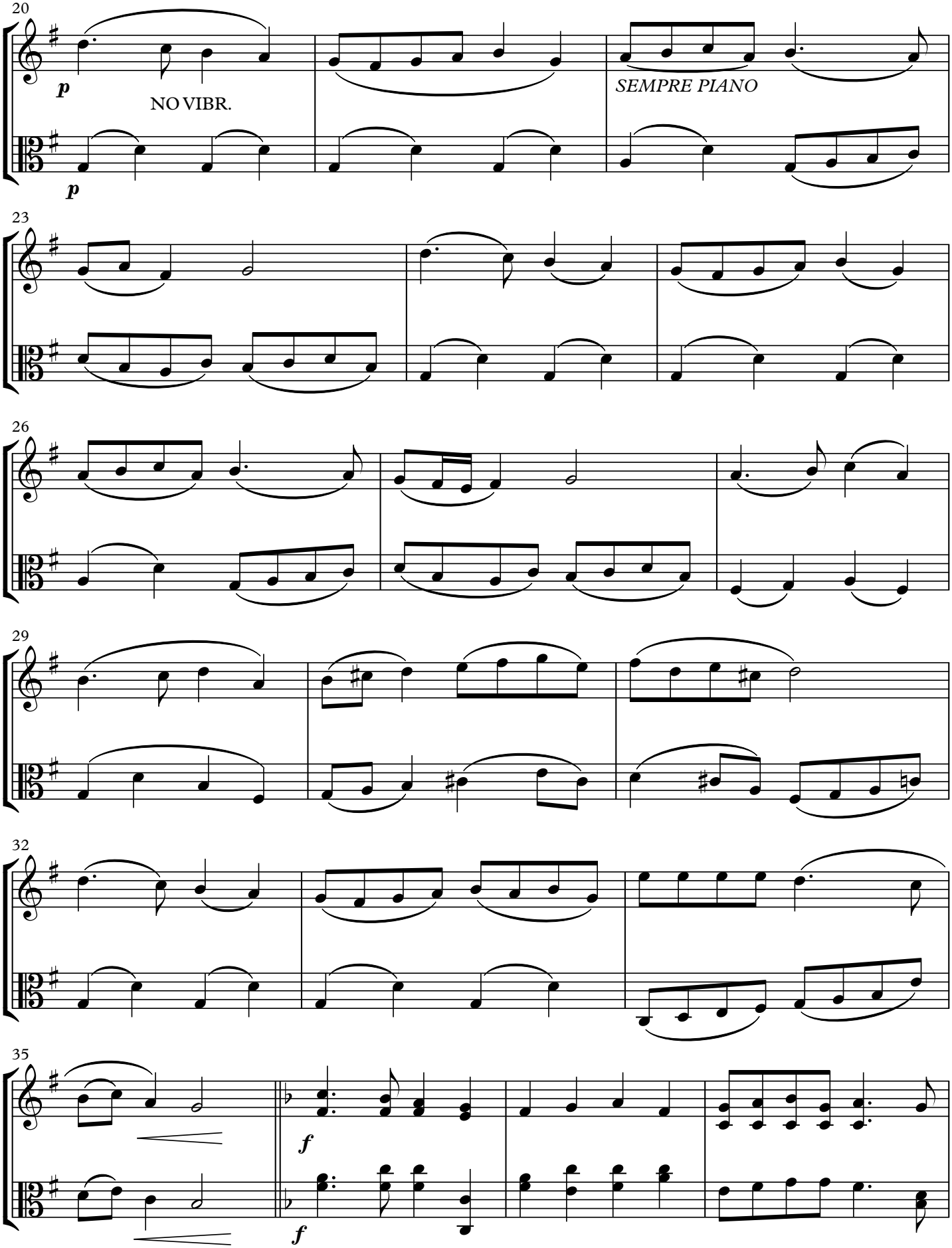
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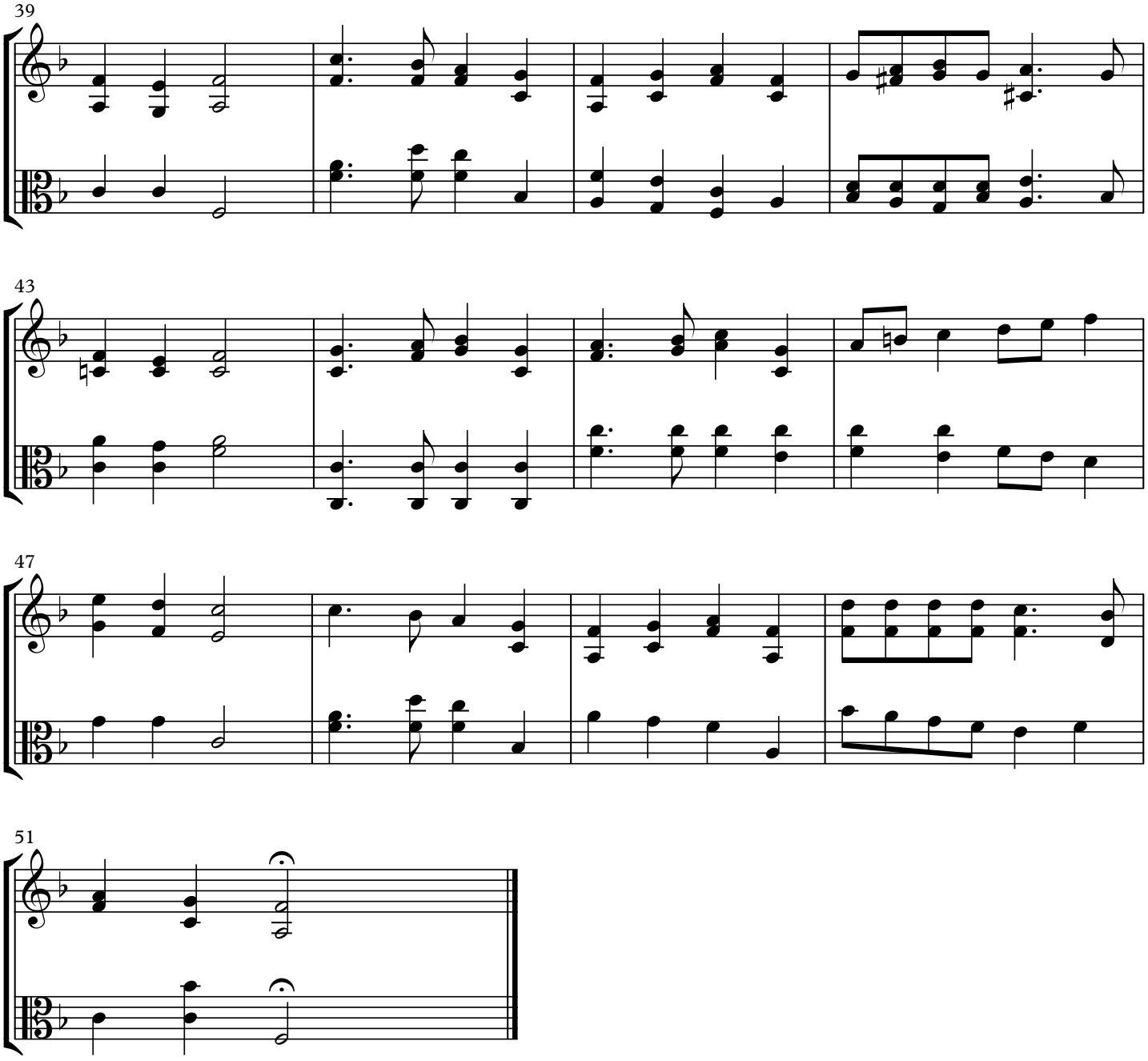
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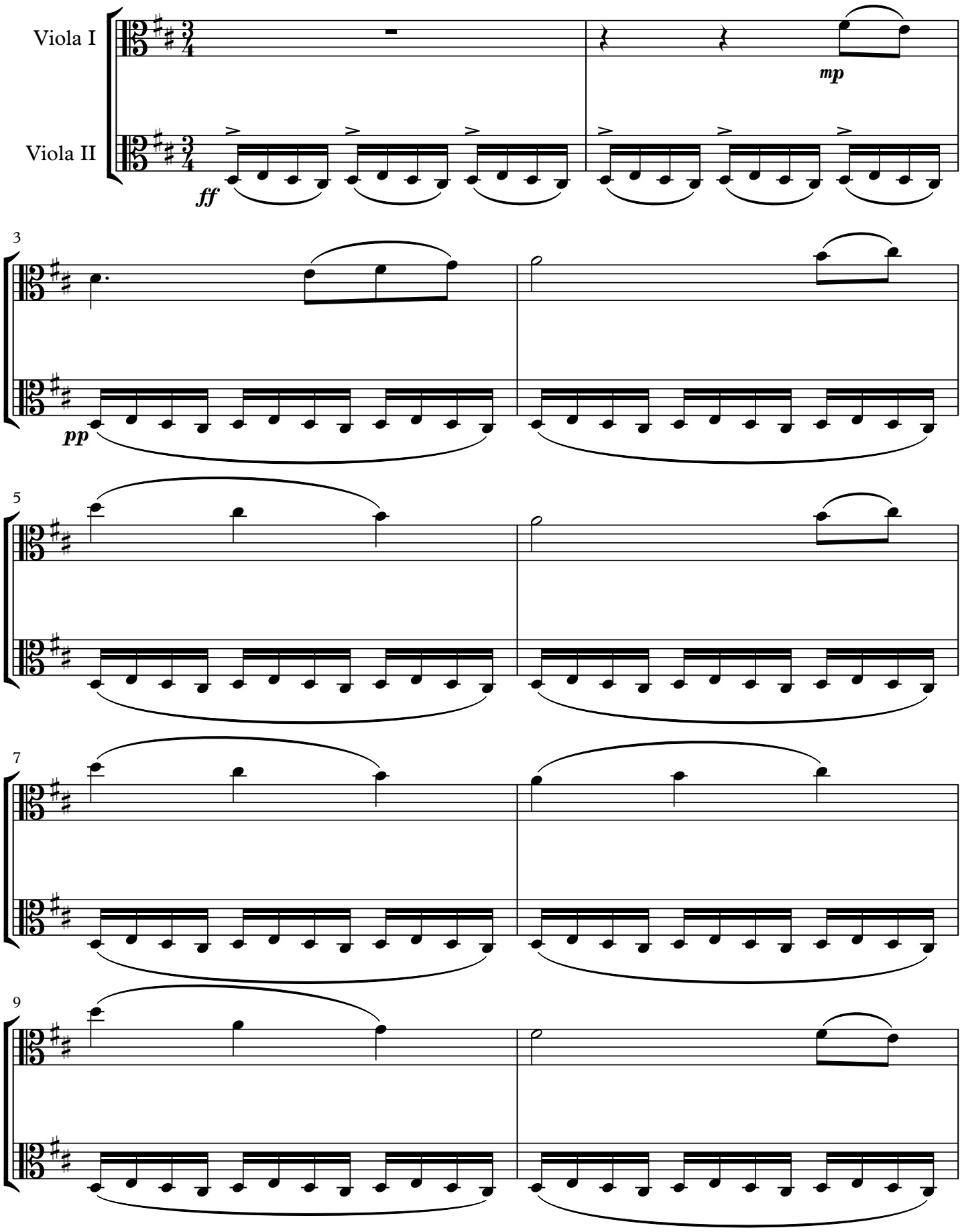
43
47
51

THE FIRST NOWELL

ENGLISH TUNE



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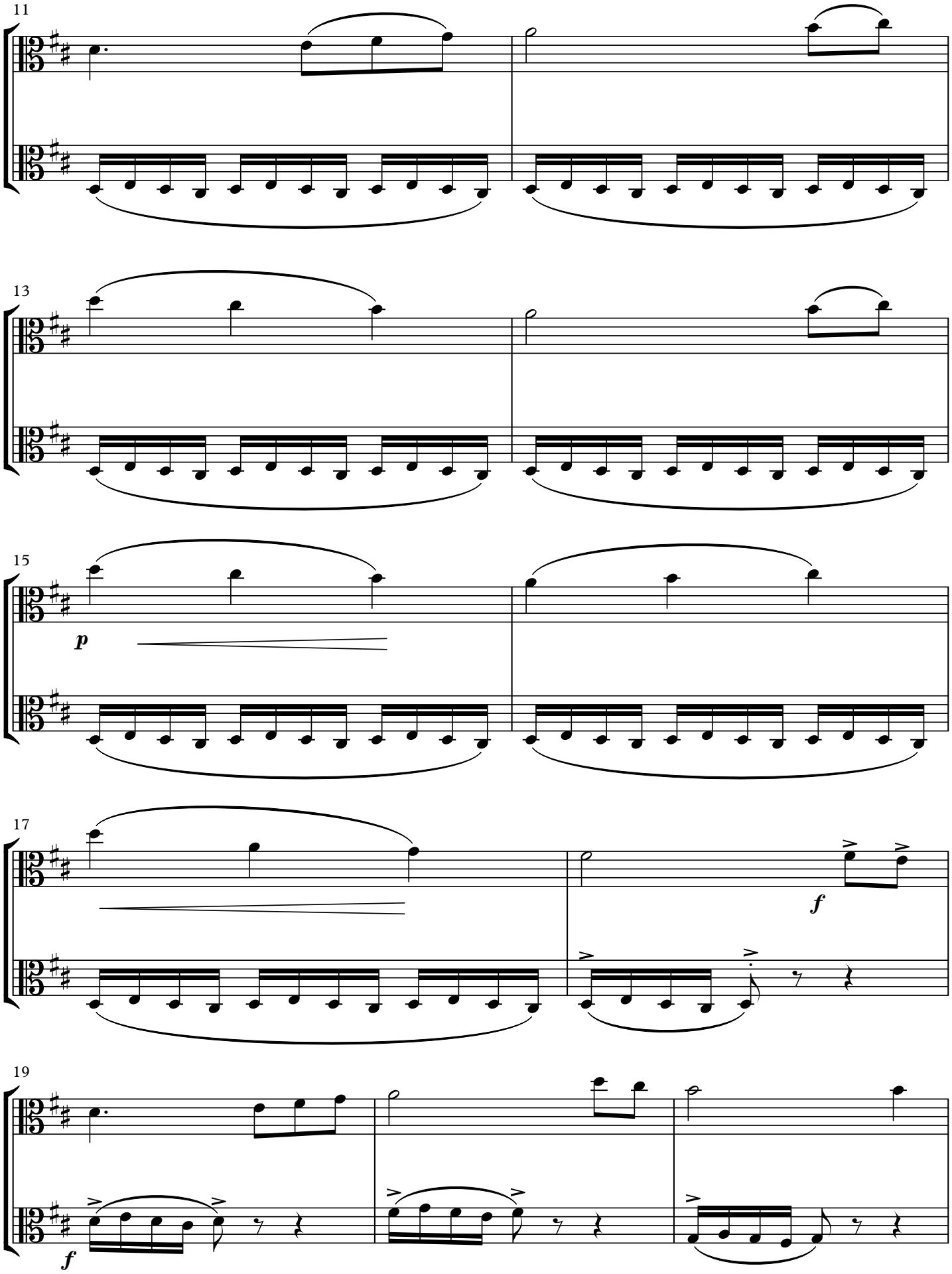
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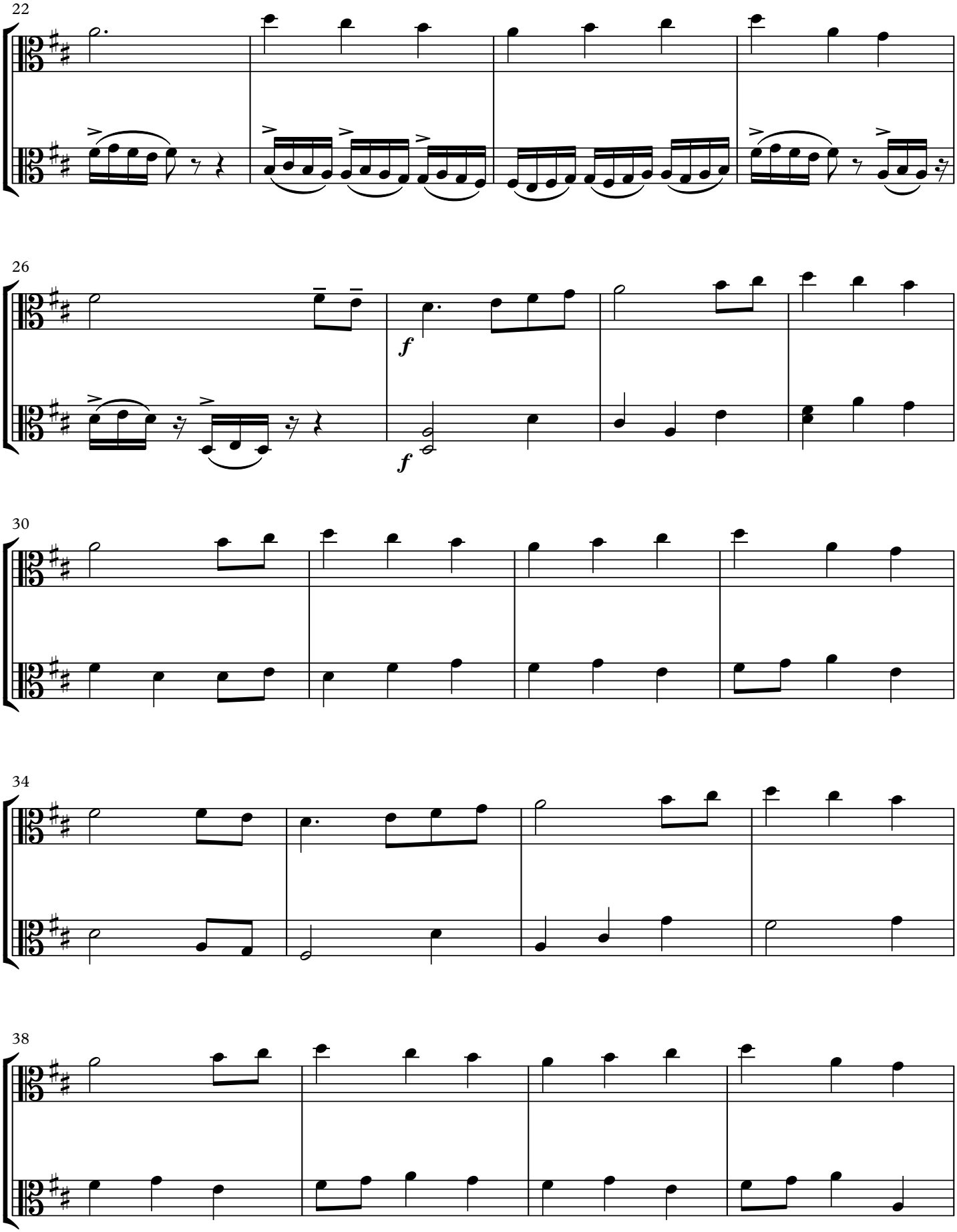
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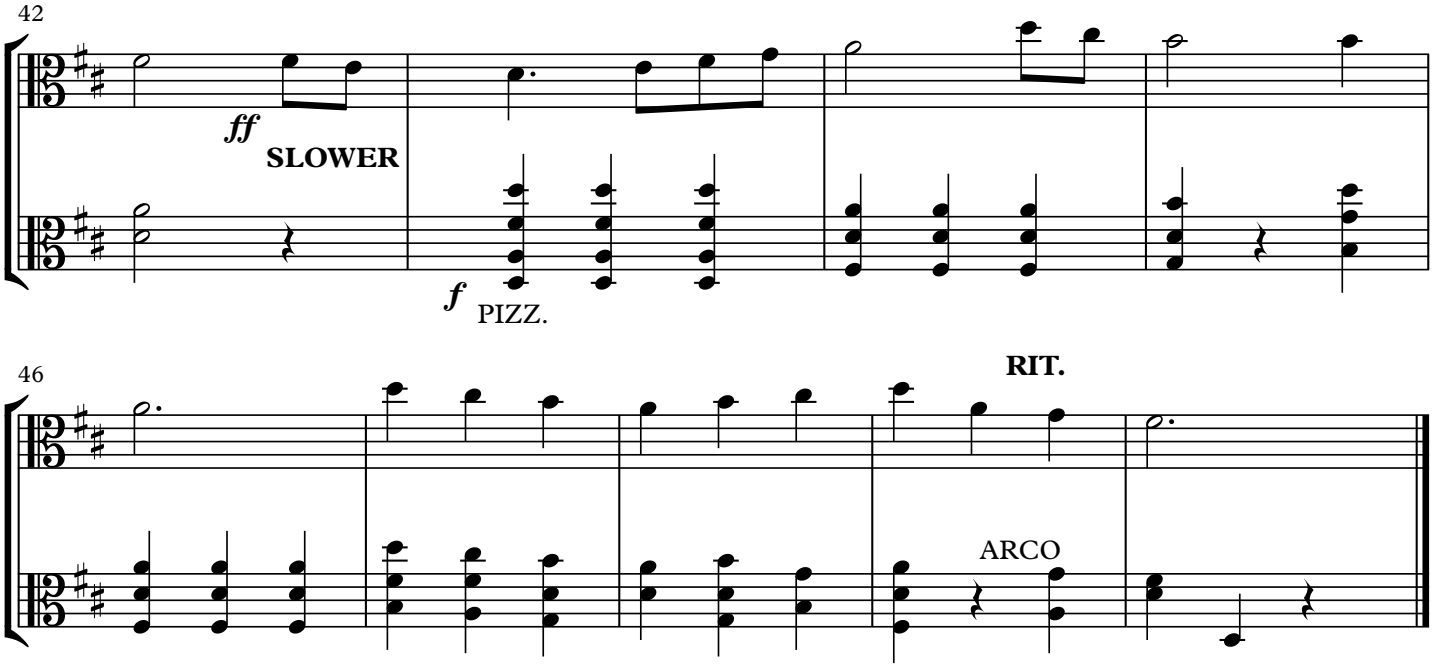
42
ff
SLOWER
f
PIZZ.
46
RIT.
ARCO

CANTIQUE DE NOEL

ADOLPHE ADAM

ANDANTE

Viola I

Viola II

mf

p

SOLO

mp

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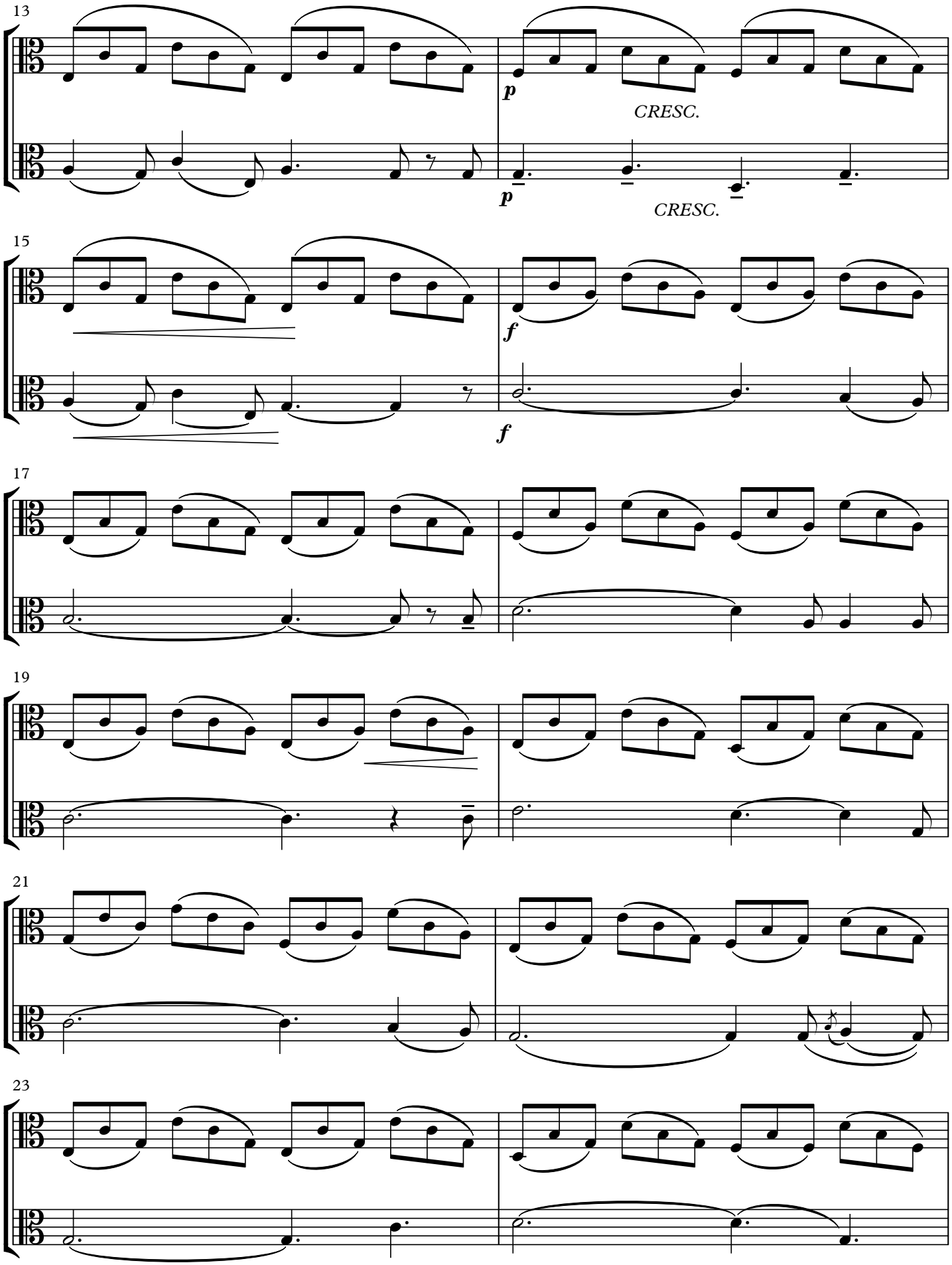
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CRESC.
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CRESC.
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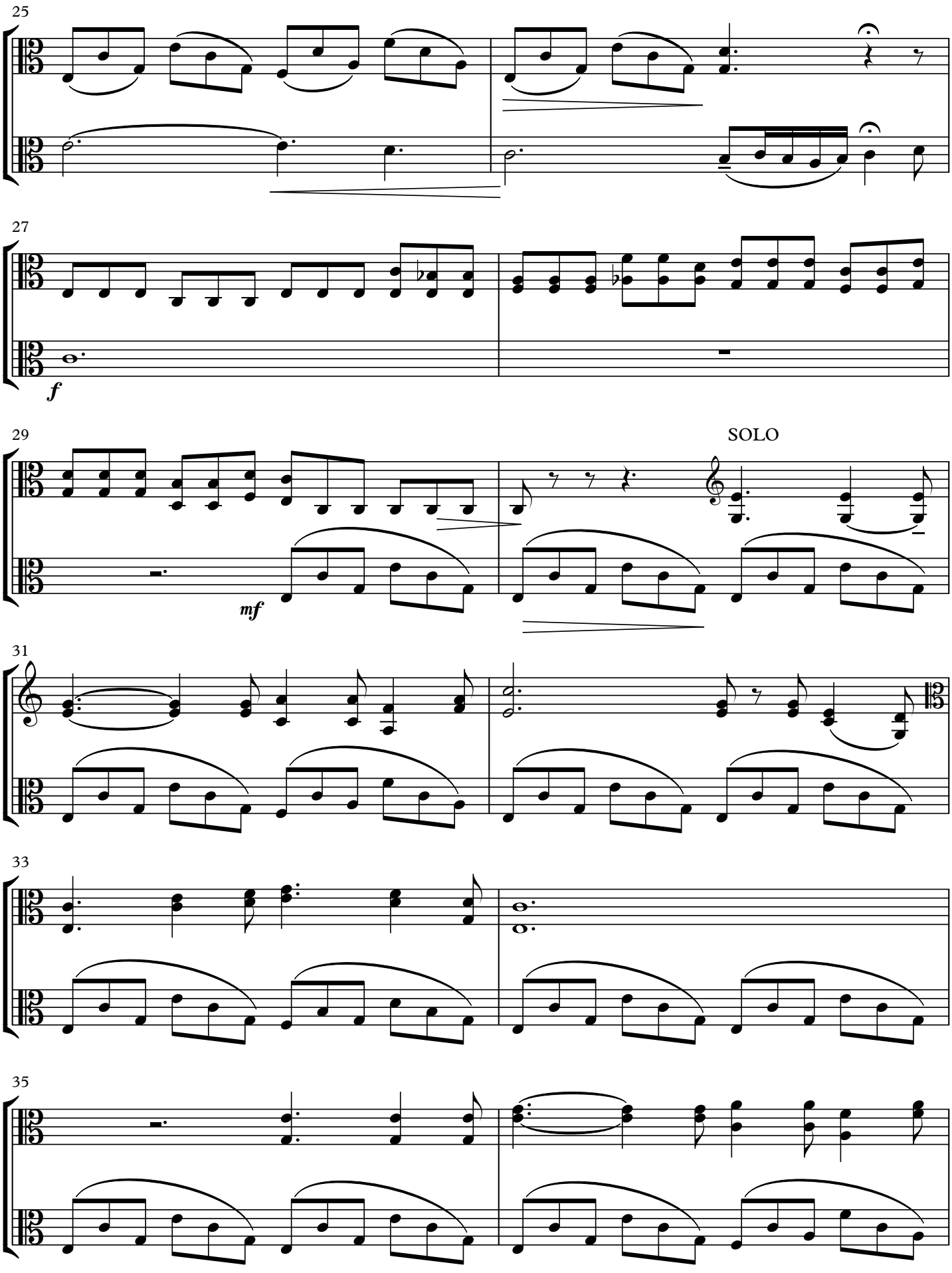
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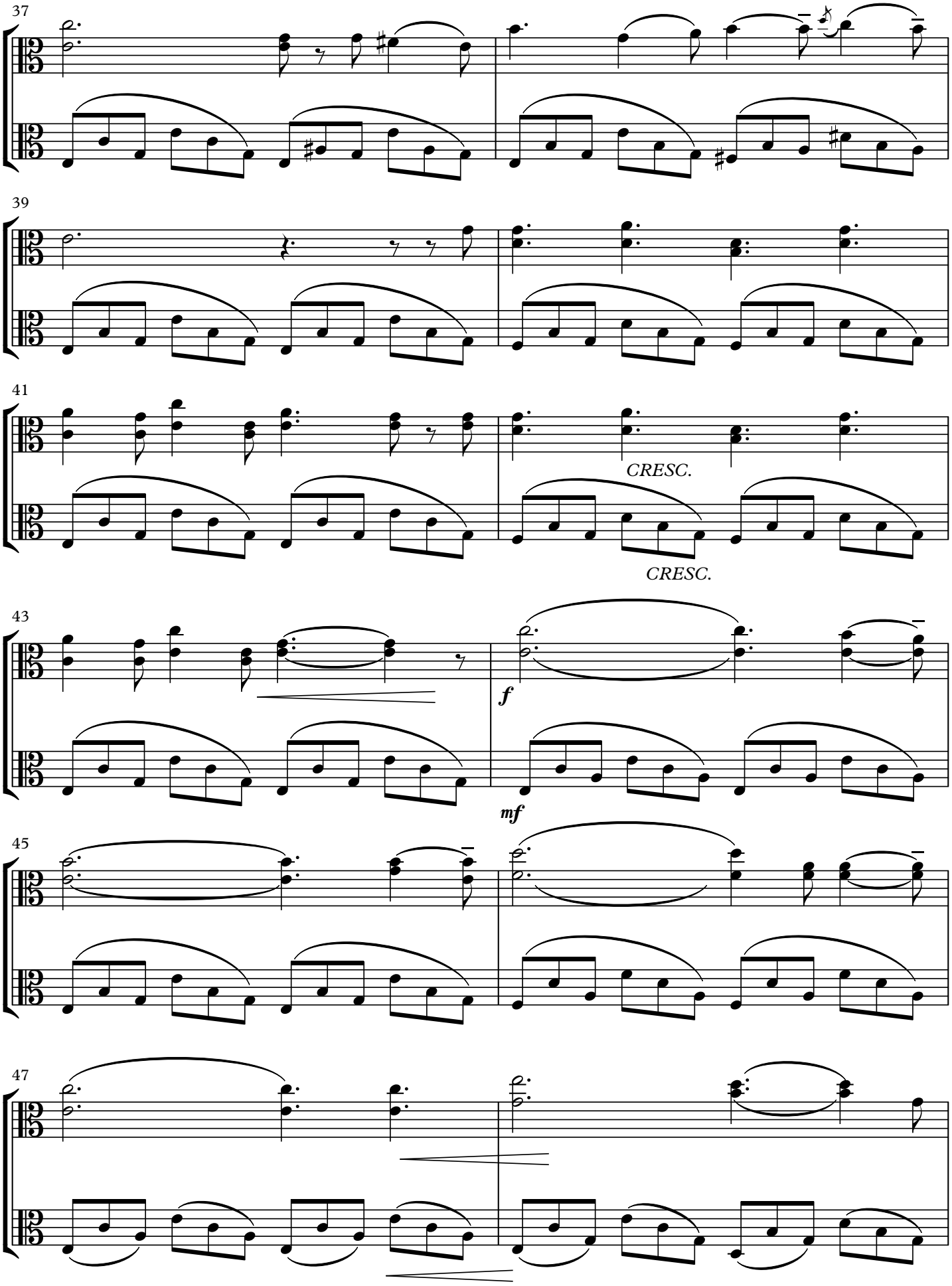
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CRESC.
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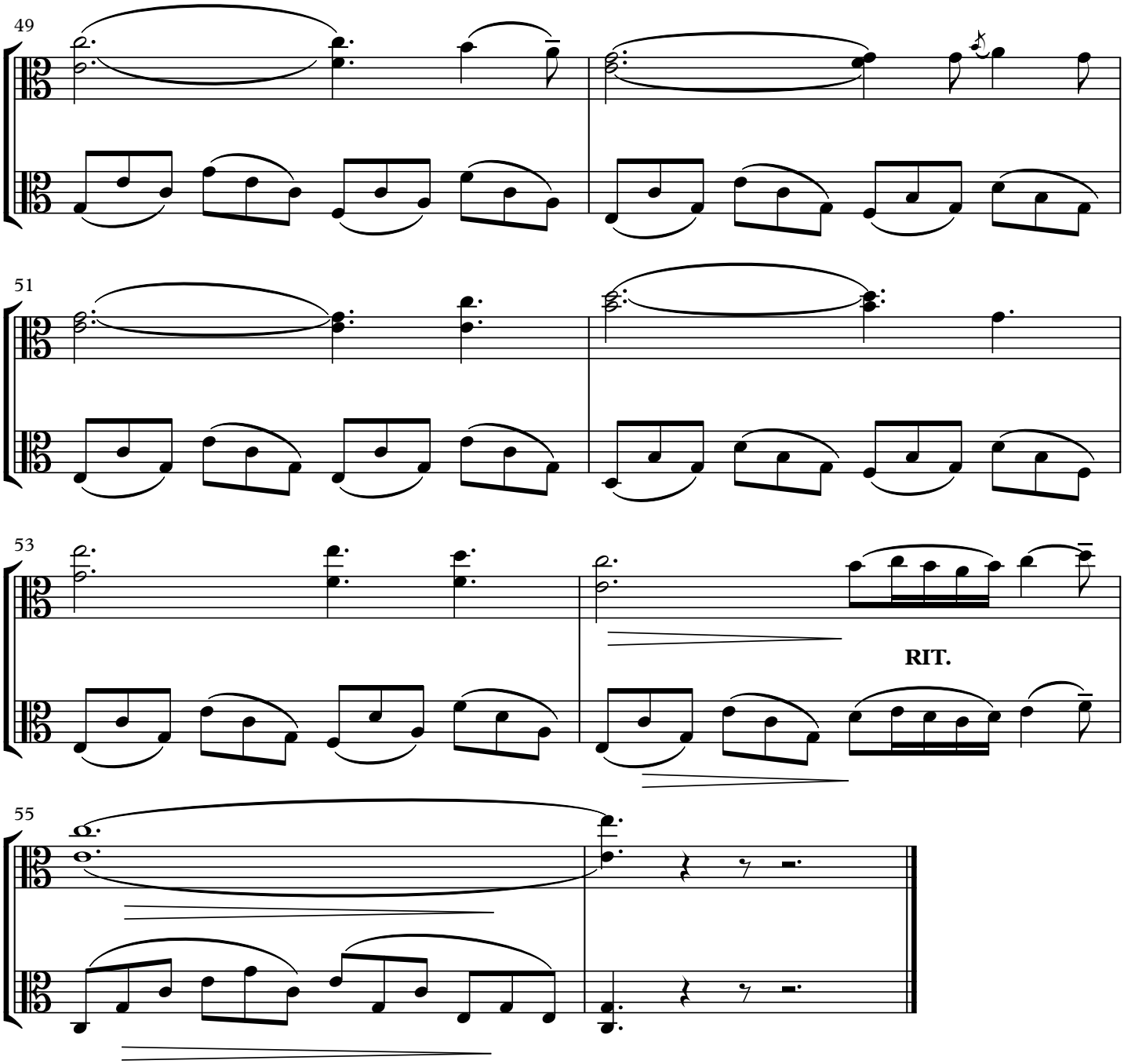
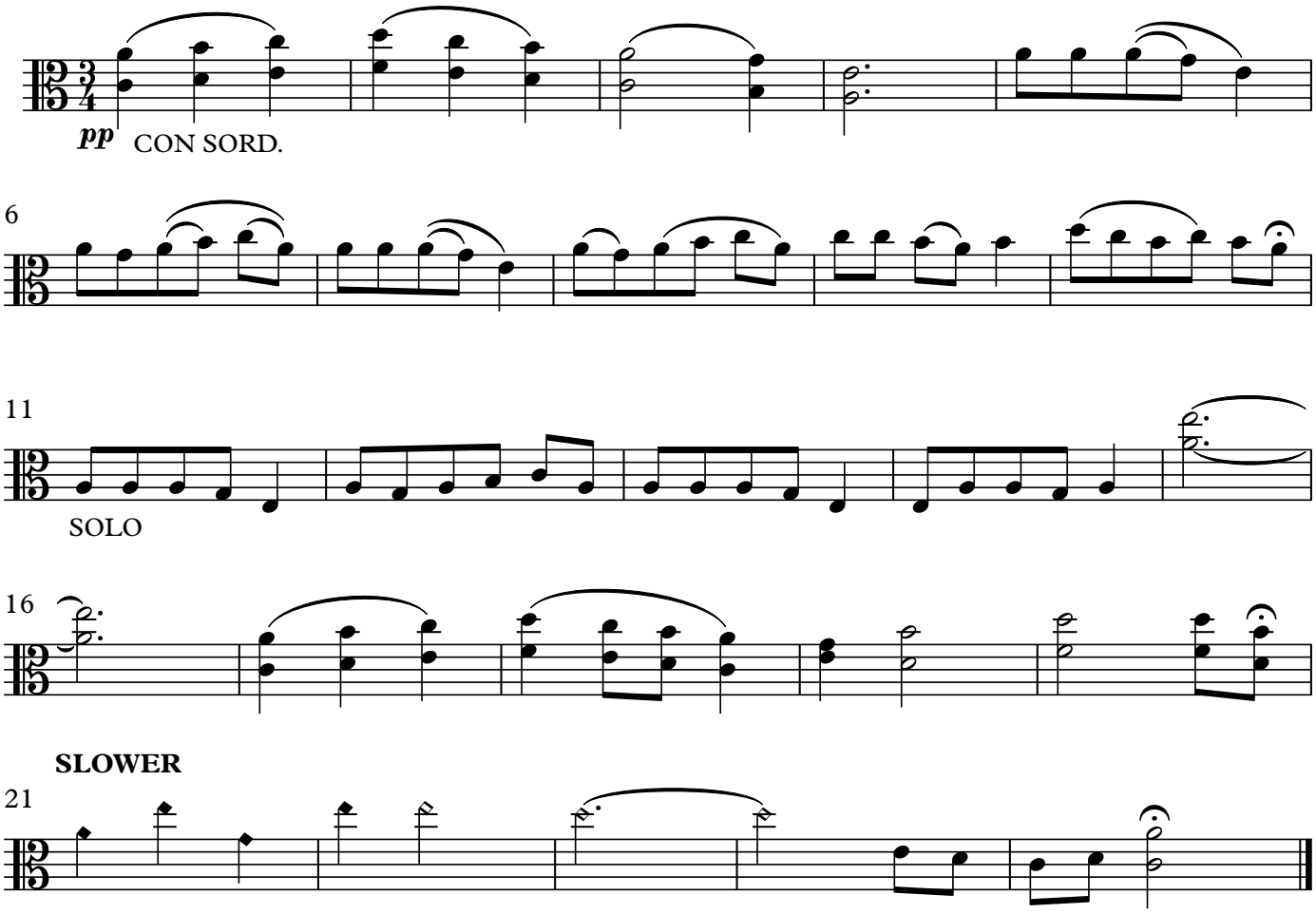

49
51
53
RIT.
55

CHRISTMAS EVE IS HERE

Viola I

French



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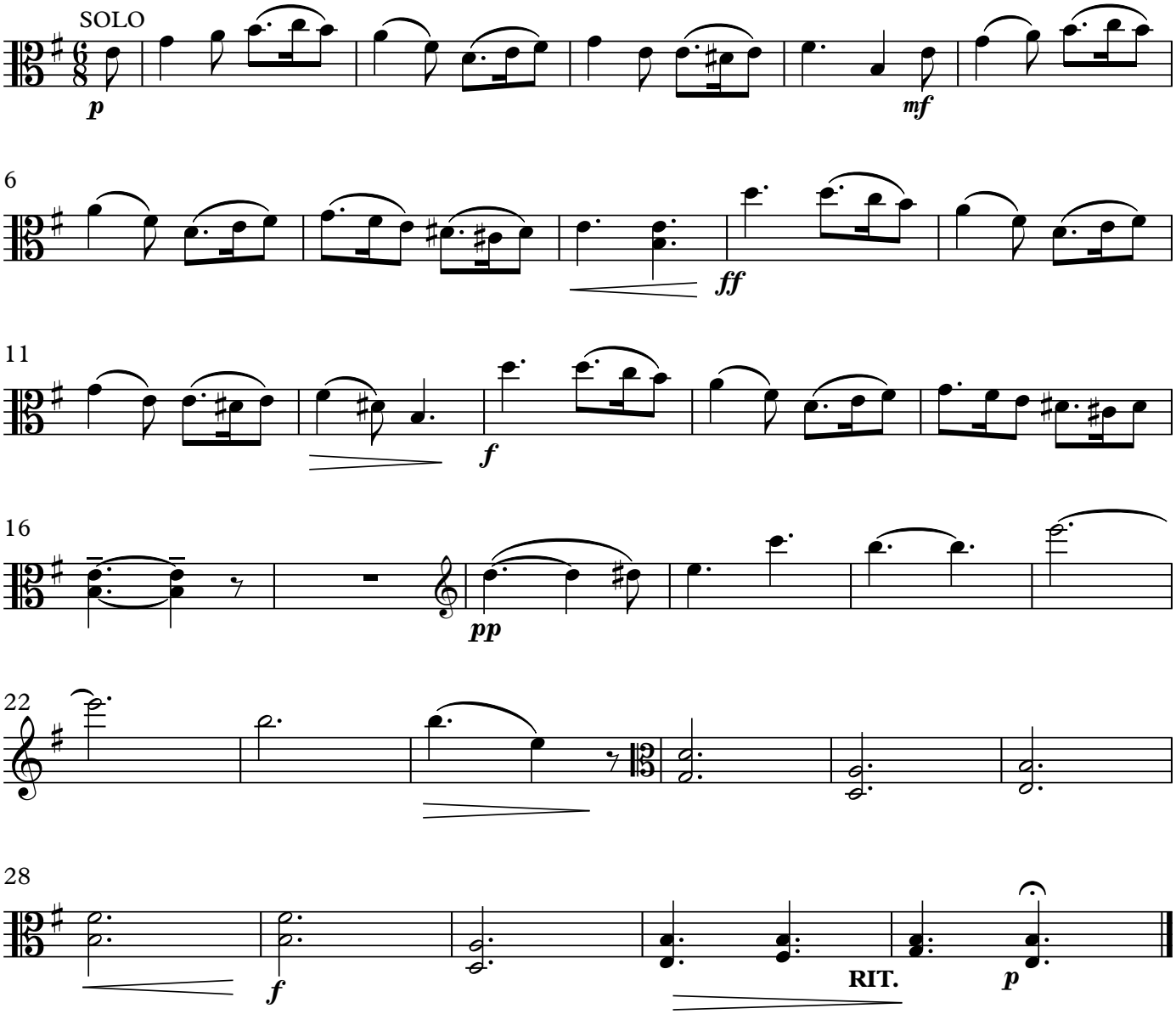
WHAT CHILD IS THIS ?

Viola I

GREENSLEEVES



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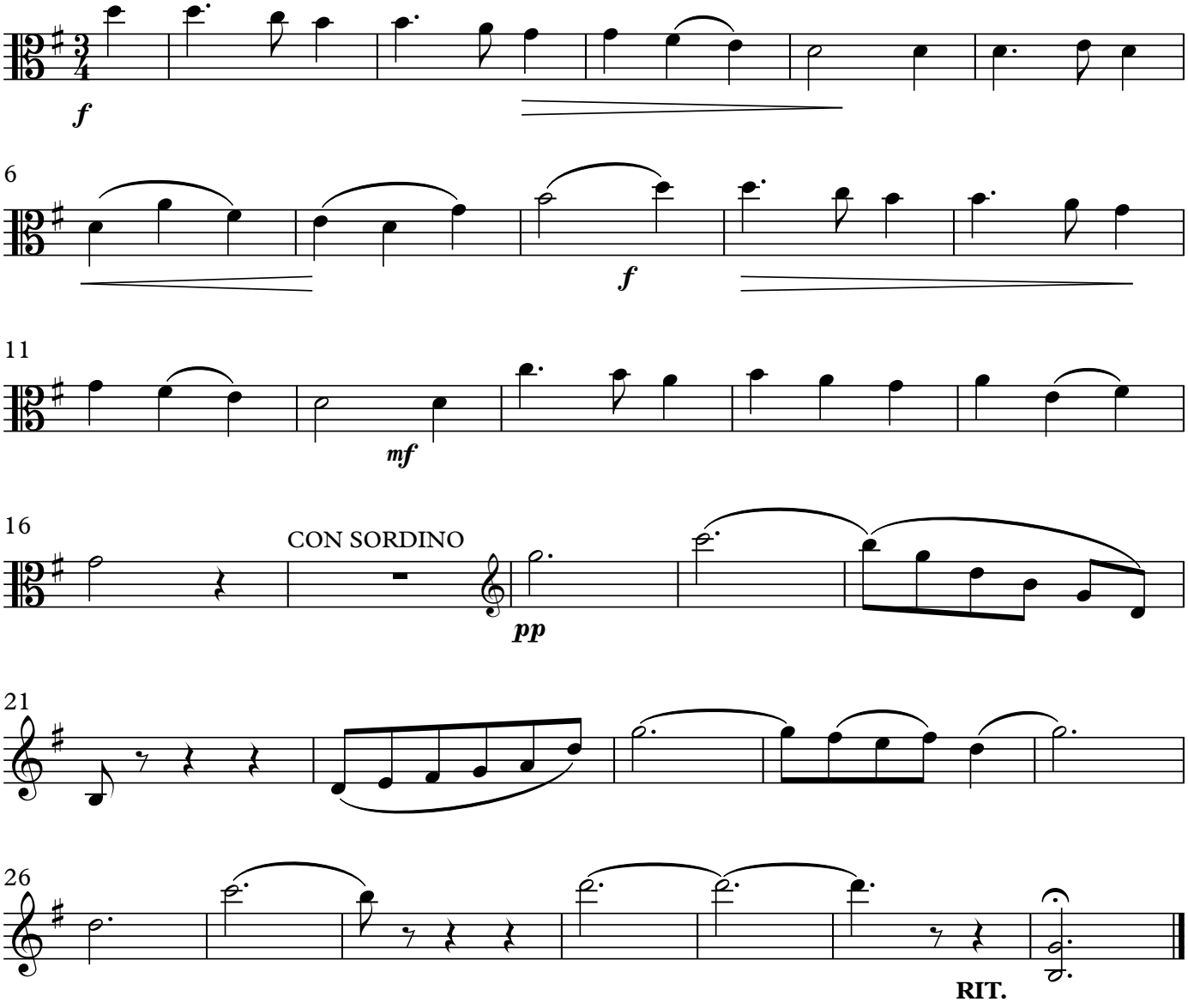
AWAY IN A MANGER

Viola I

MARTIN LUTHER

GERMAN



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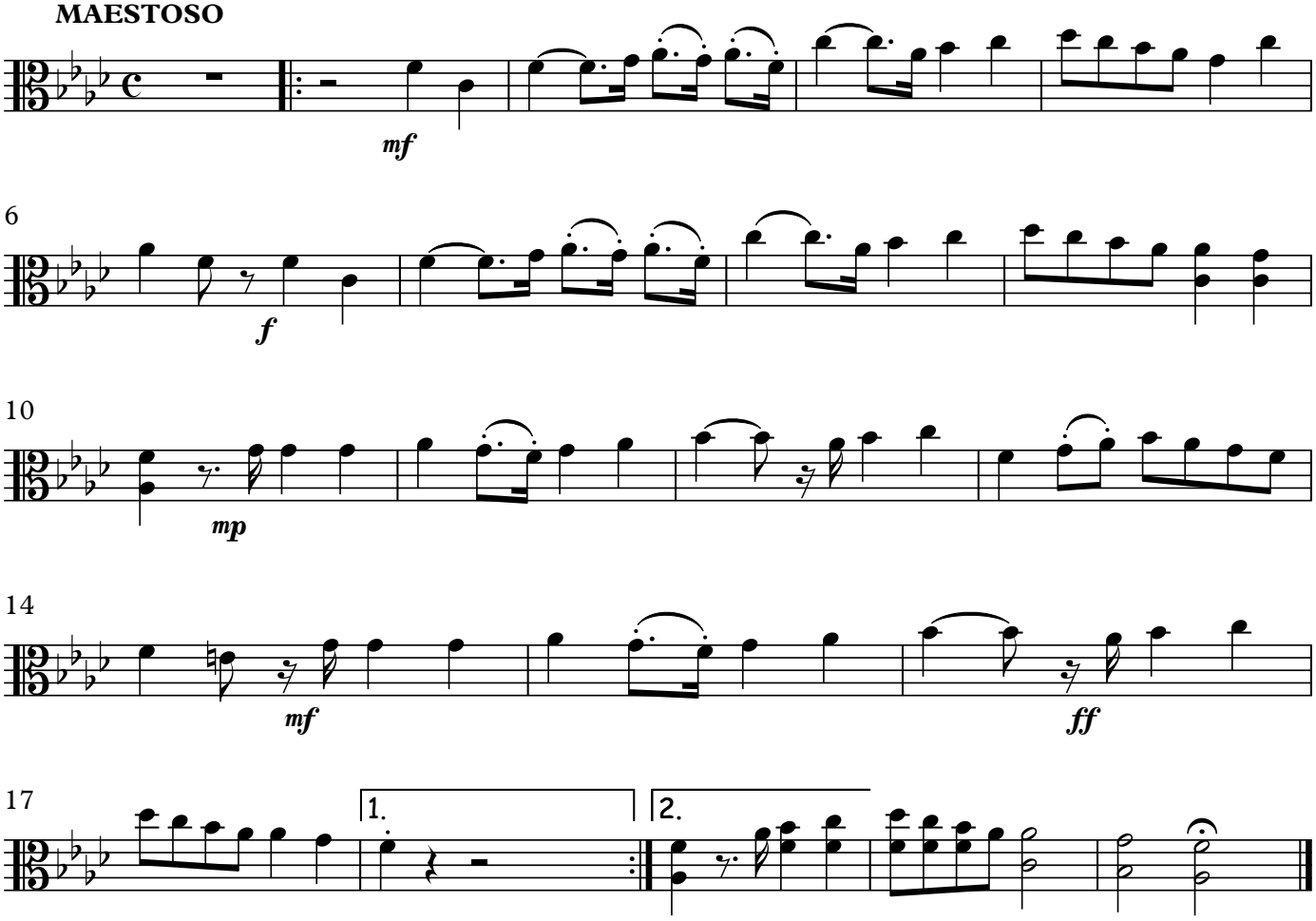
MARCH OF THE KINGS

Viola I

French

MAESTOSO



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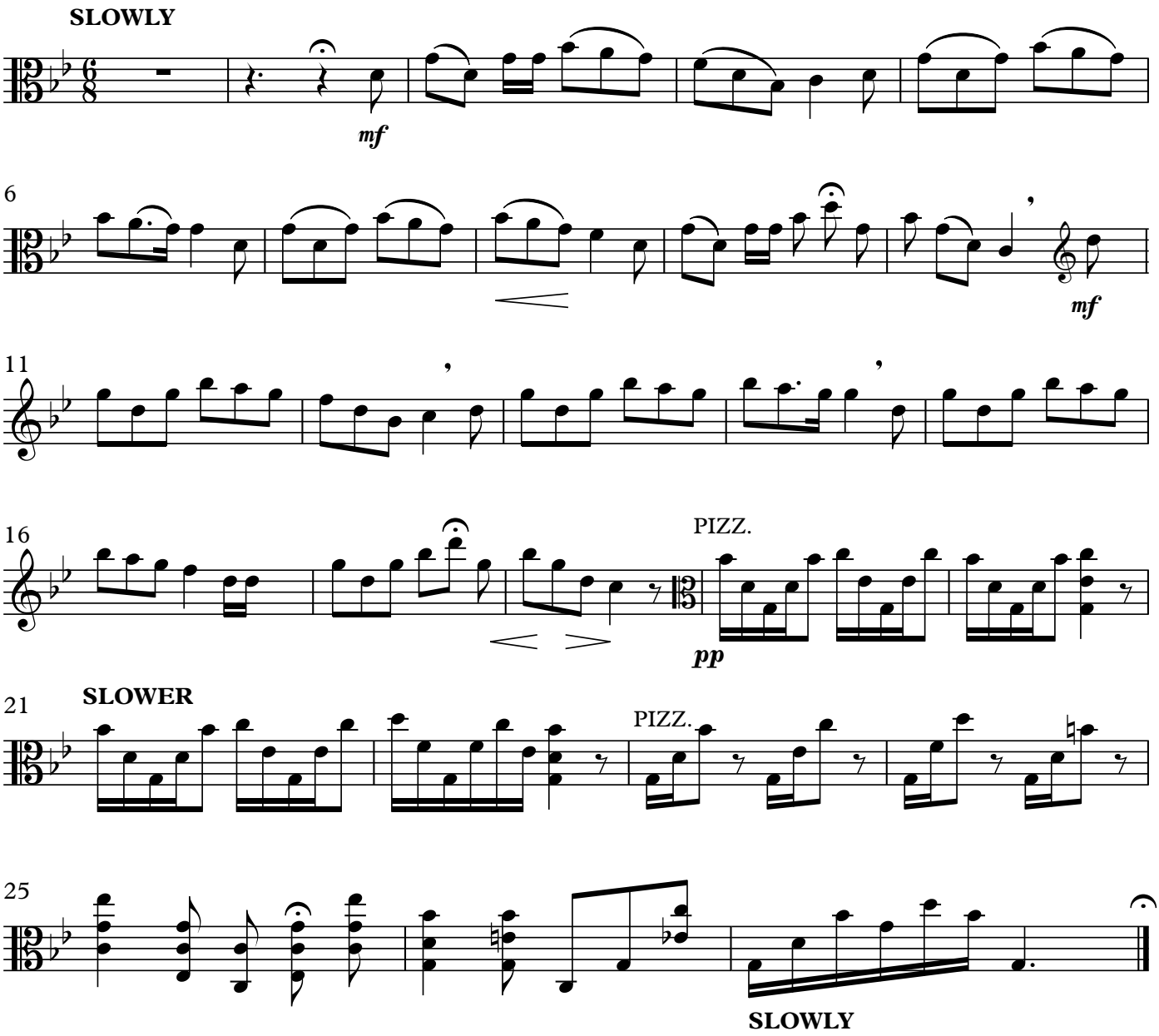
I WONDER AS I WANDER

Viola I

APPALACHIAN CAROL



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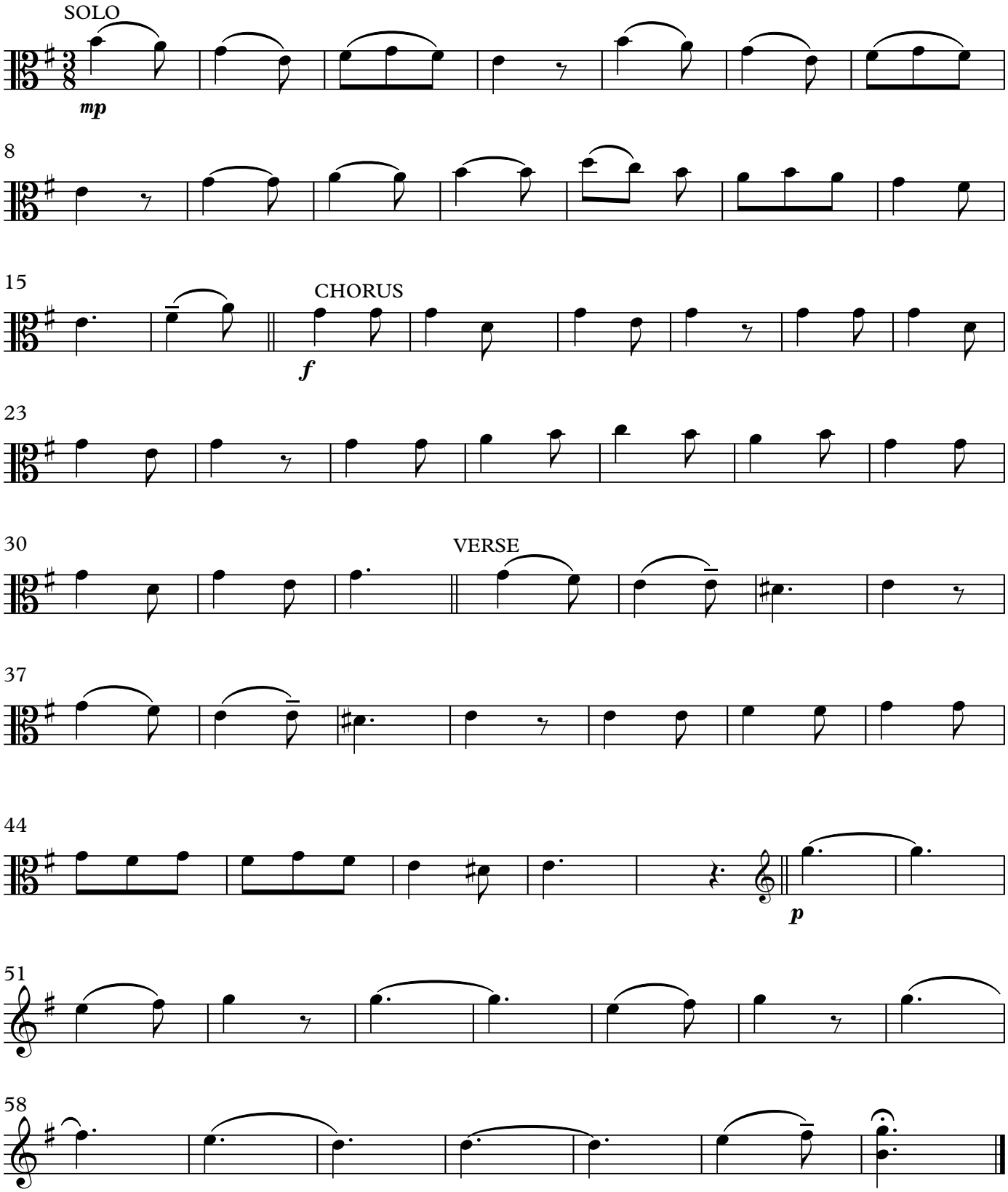
WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

Viola I

JOHN H. HOPKINS



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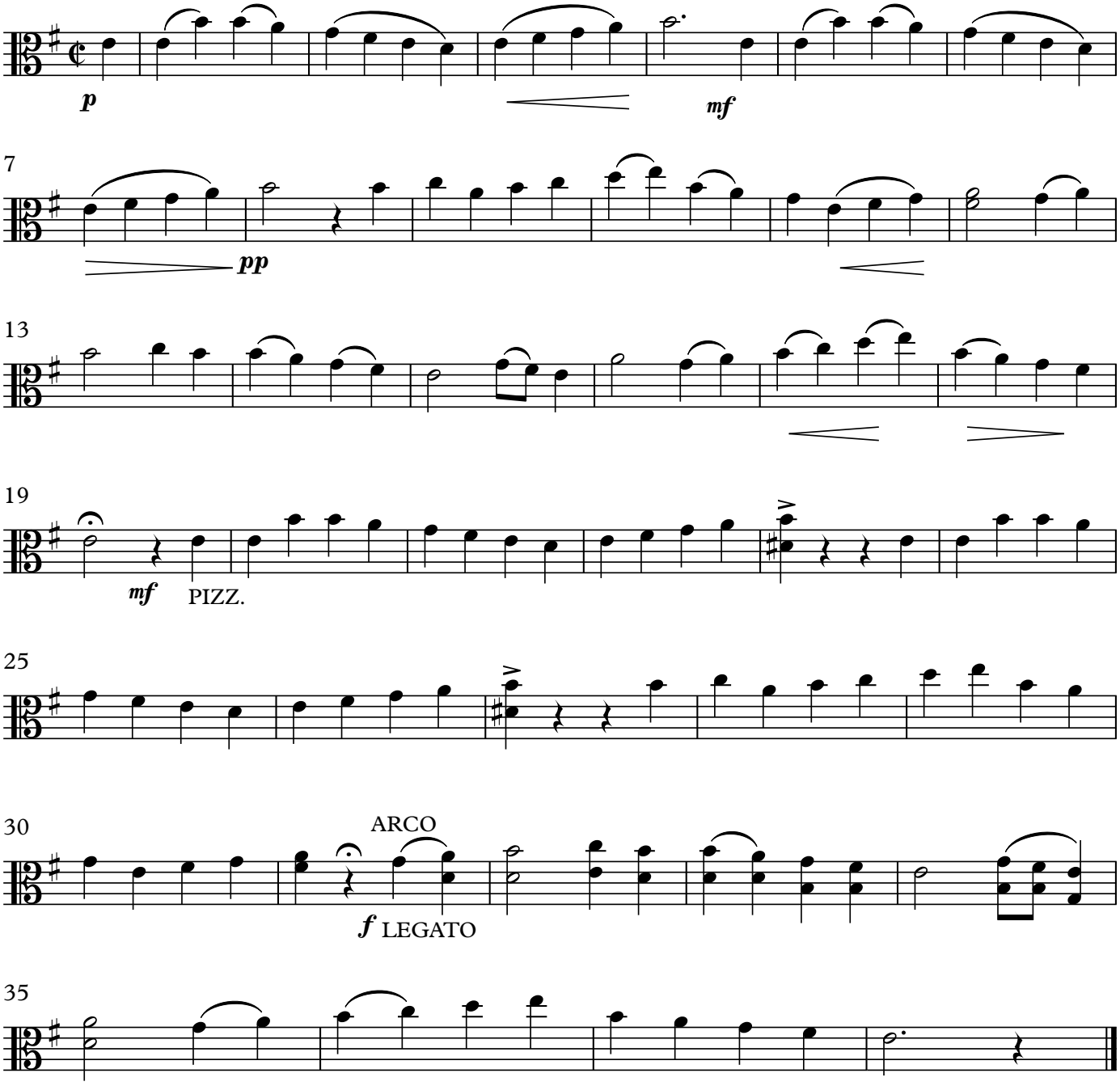
GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN

Viola I



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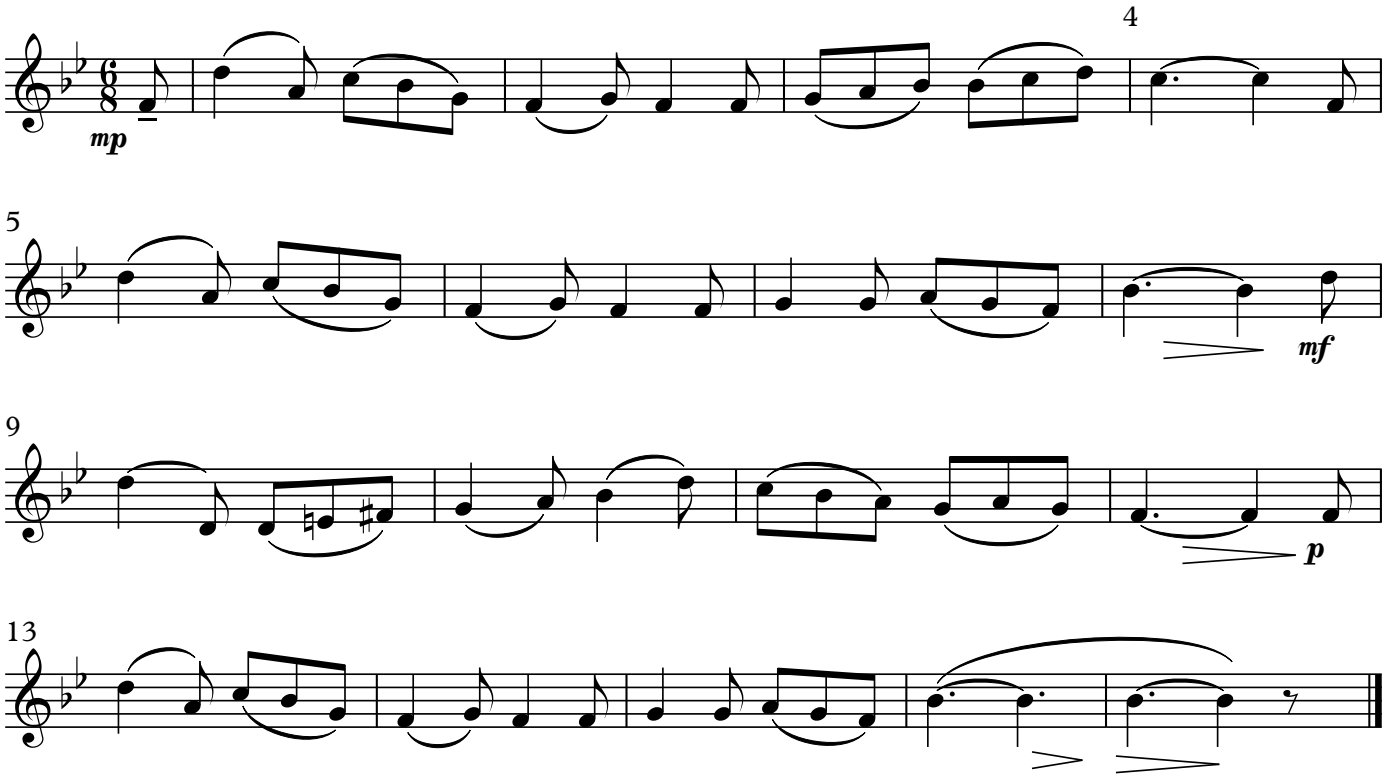
IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

Viola I

1850

RICKARD S. WILLIS
EDMUND H. SEARS



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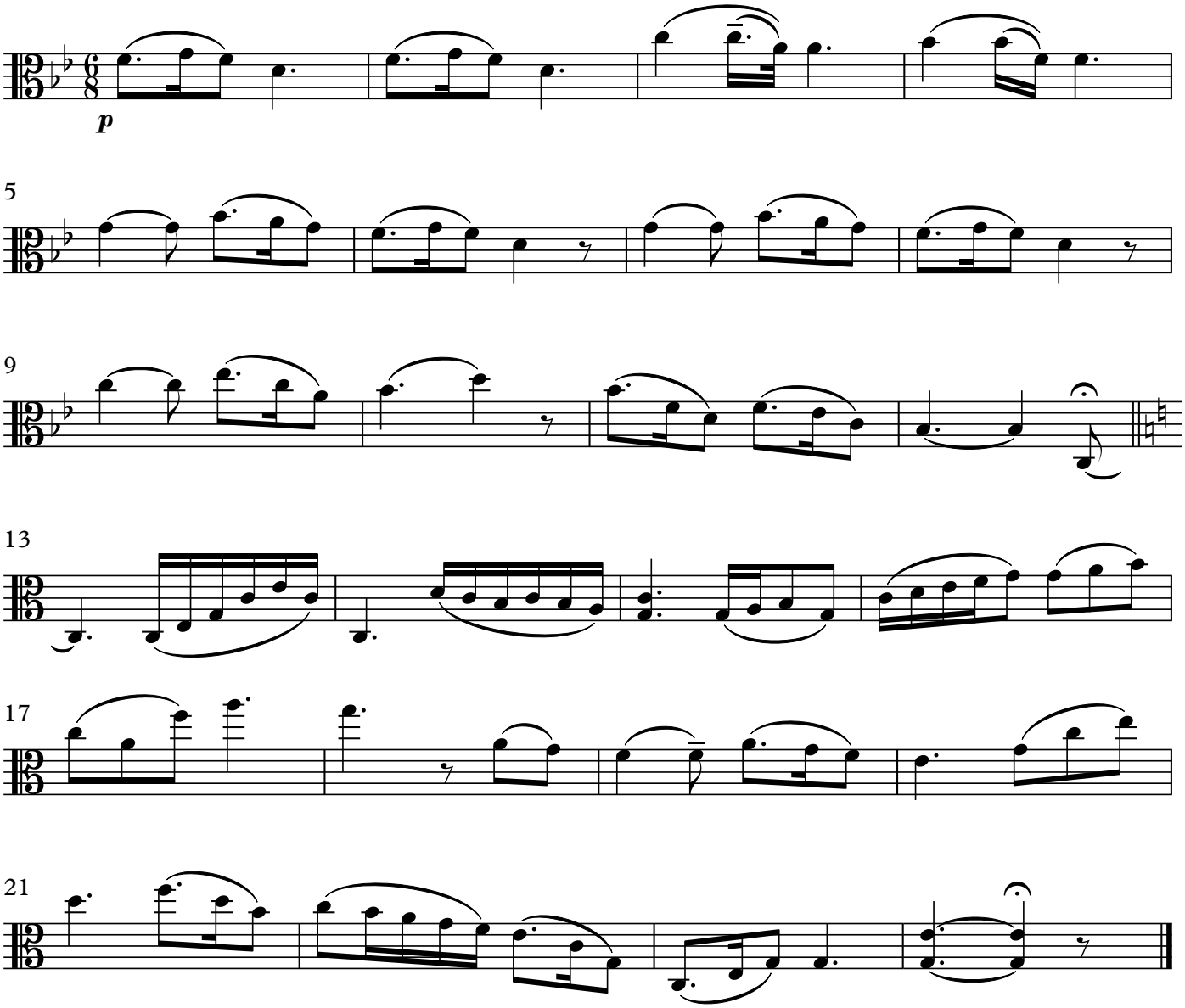
SILENT NIGHT

Viola I

FRANZ GRUBER



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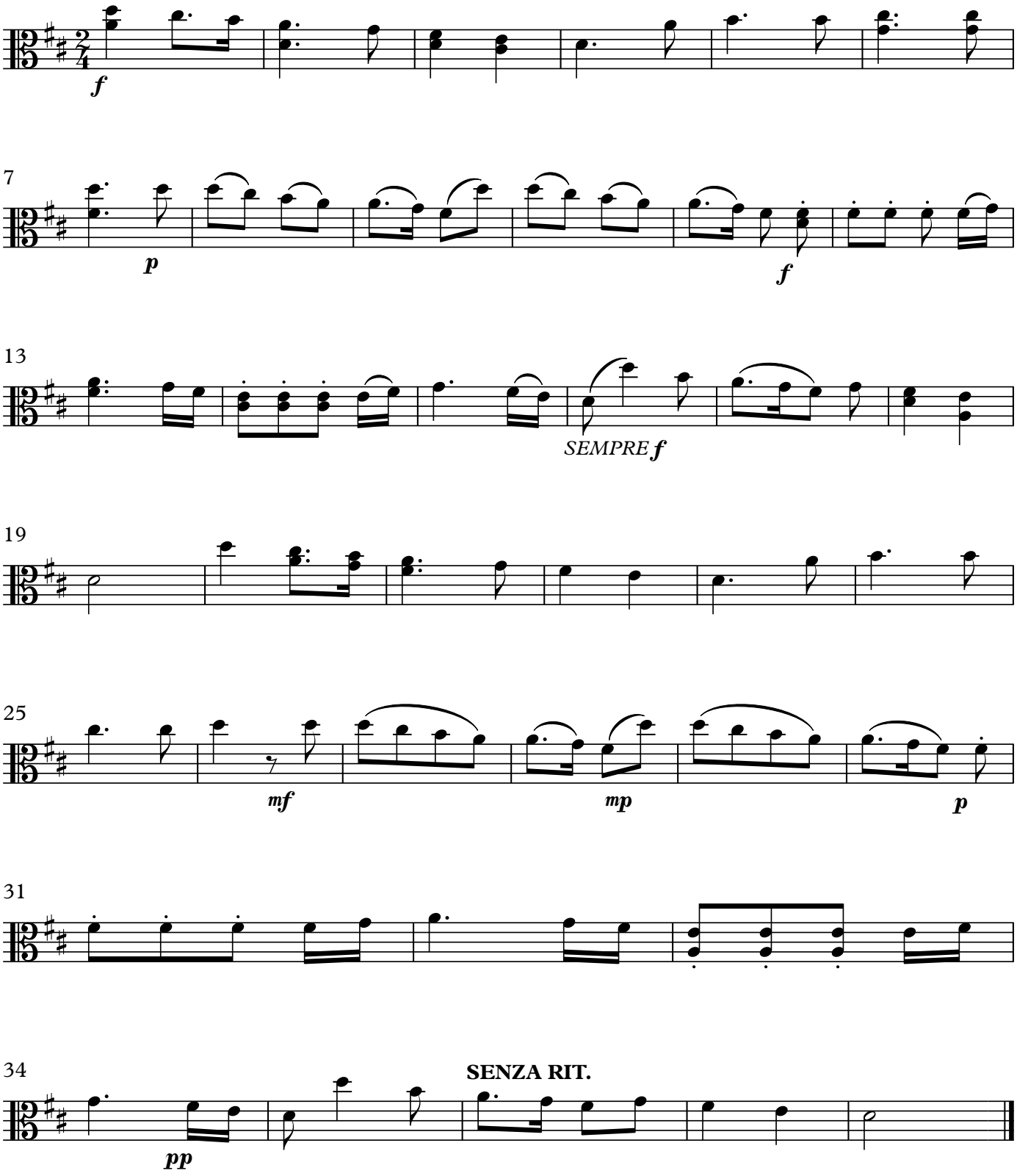
JOY TO THE WORLD

Viola I

GEORGE F. HANDEL



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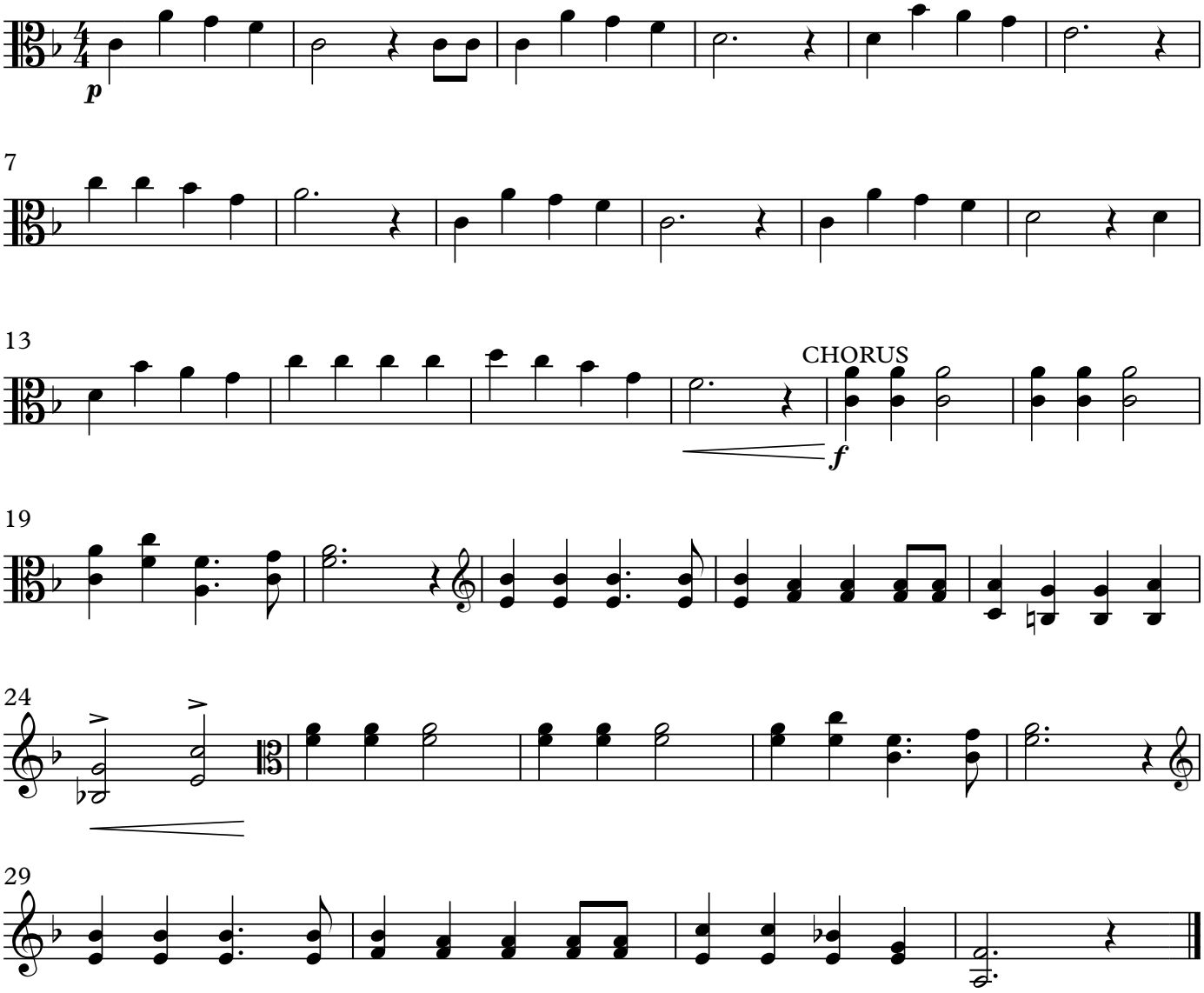
JINGLE BELLS

Viola I

TUNE: JAMES PIERPONT



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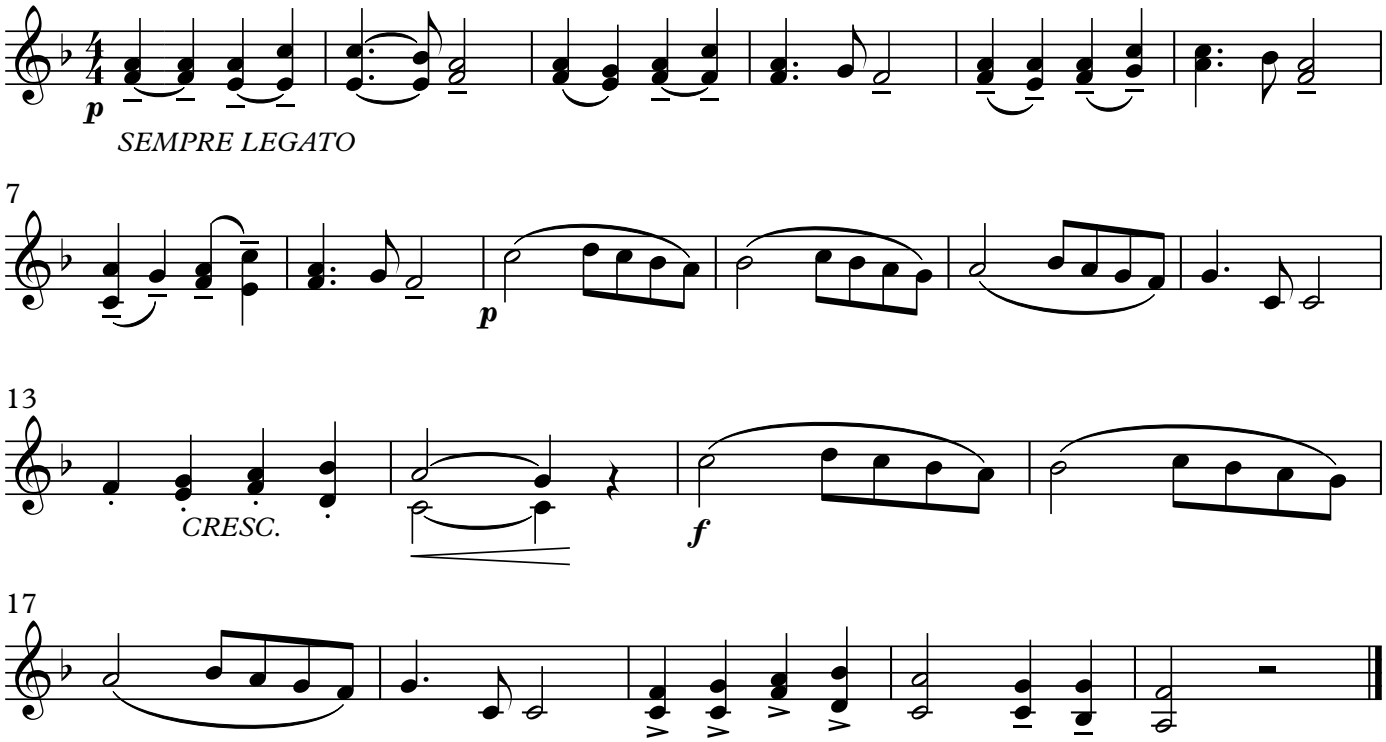
ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Viola I

French



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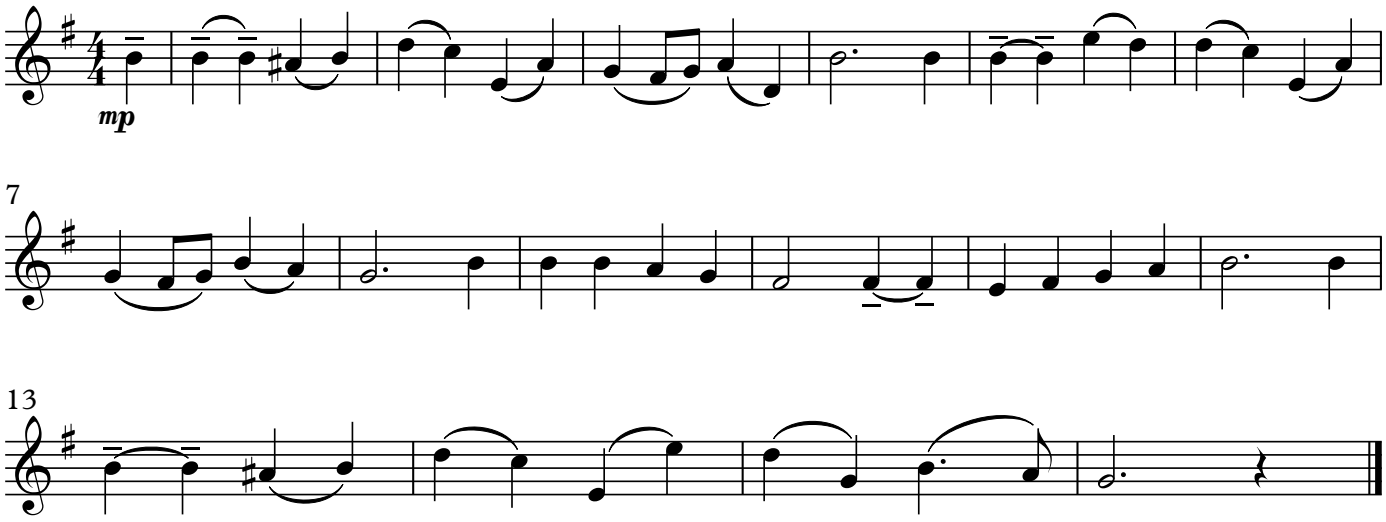
O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

1868

Viola I

Lewis H. Redner



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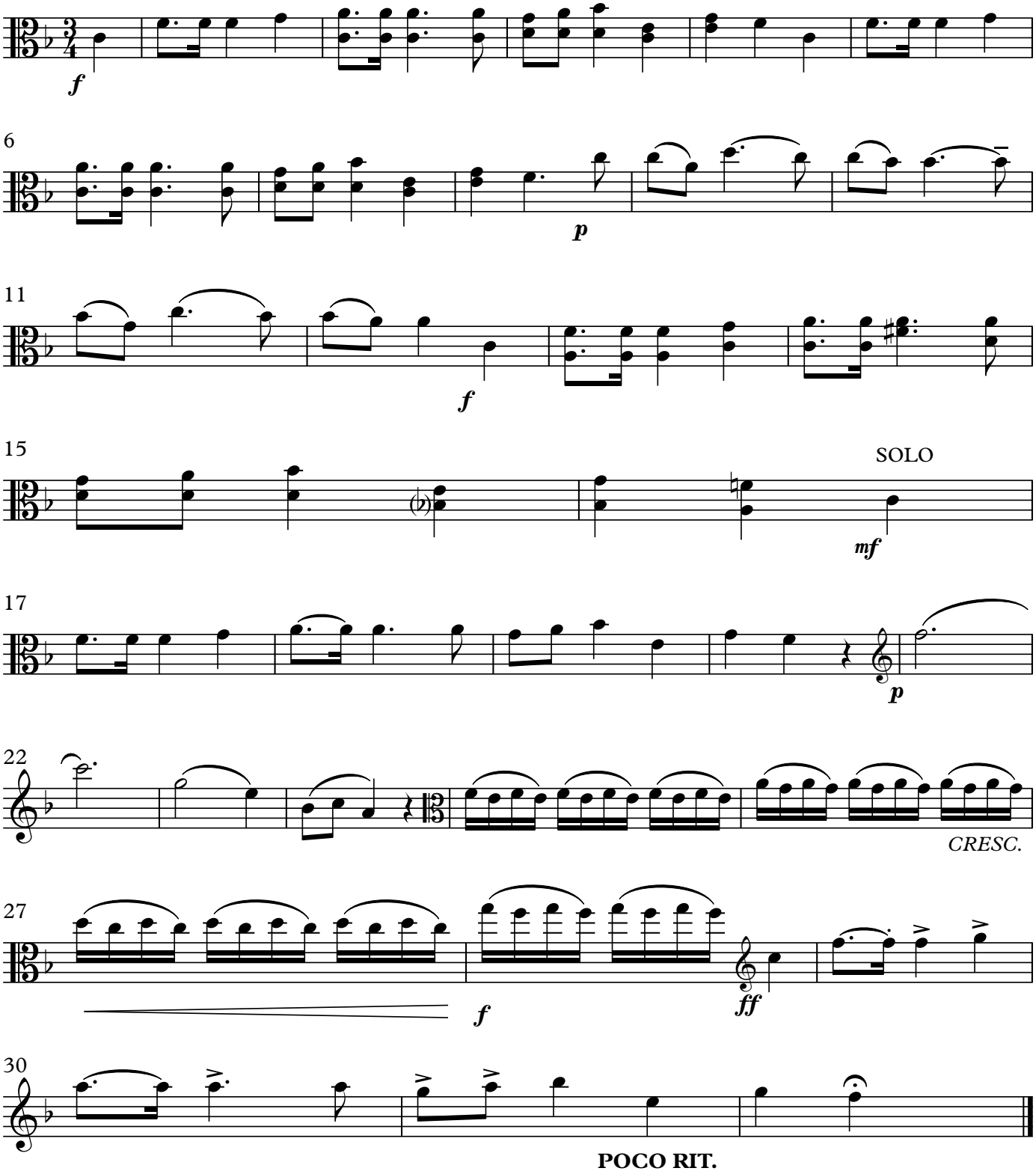
O TANNENBAUM

Viola I

GERMAN



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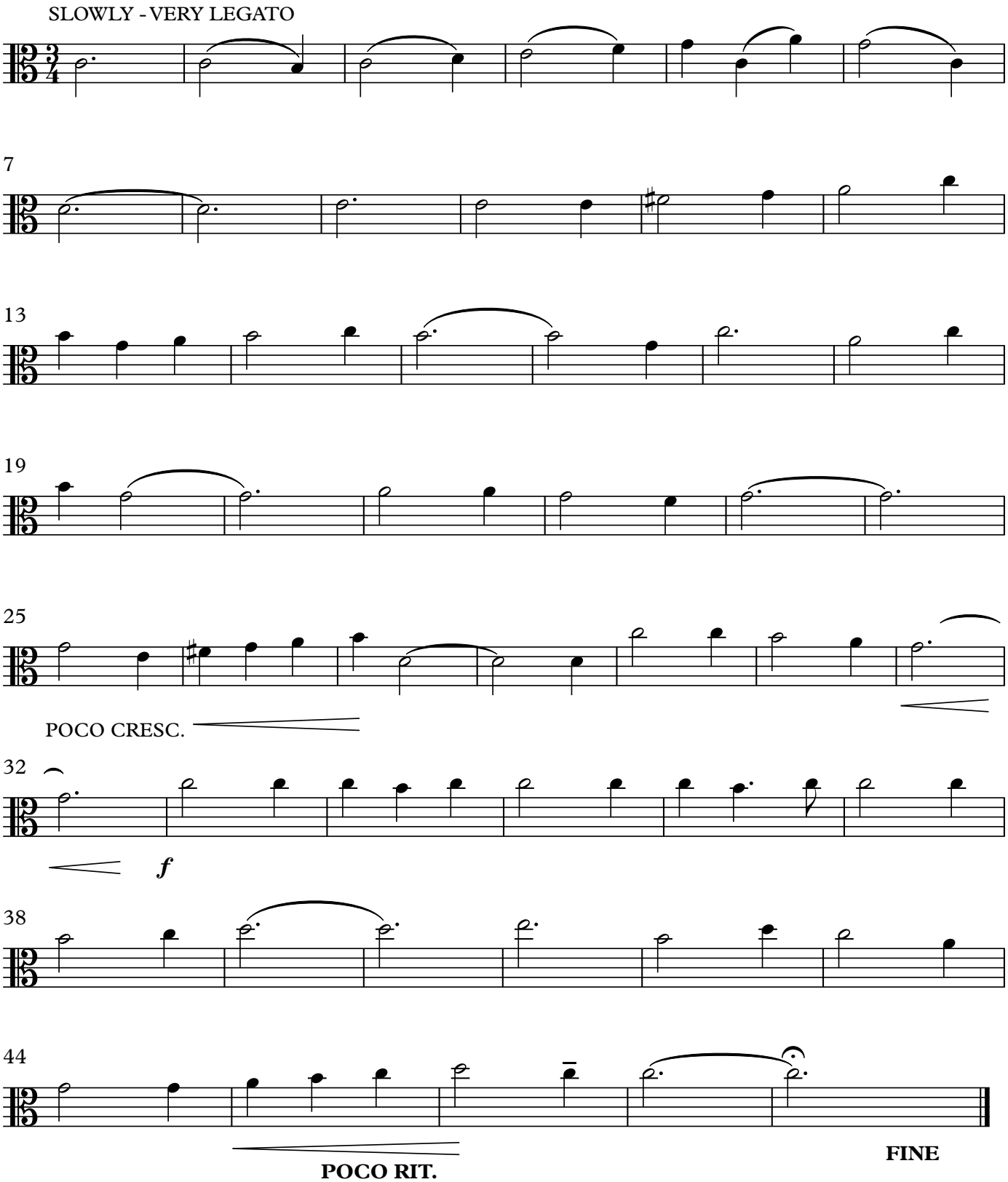
LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH

Viola I

SY MILLER & JILL JACKSON



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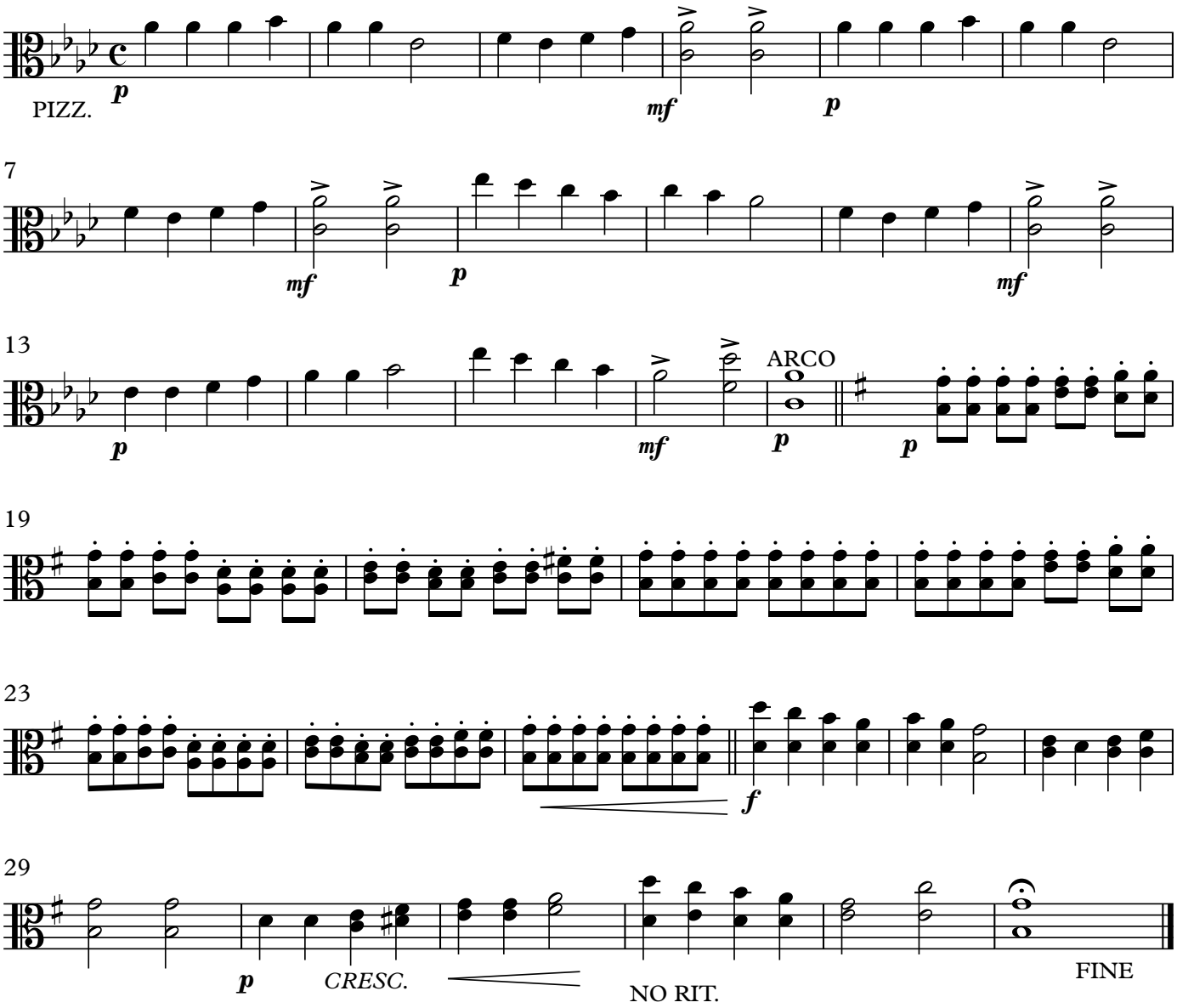
GOOD KING WENCELAUS

Viola I

ENGLISH



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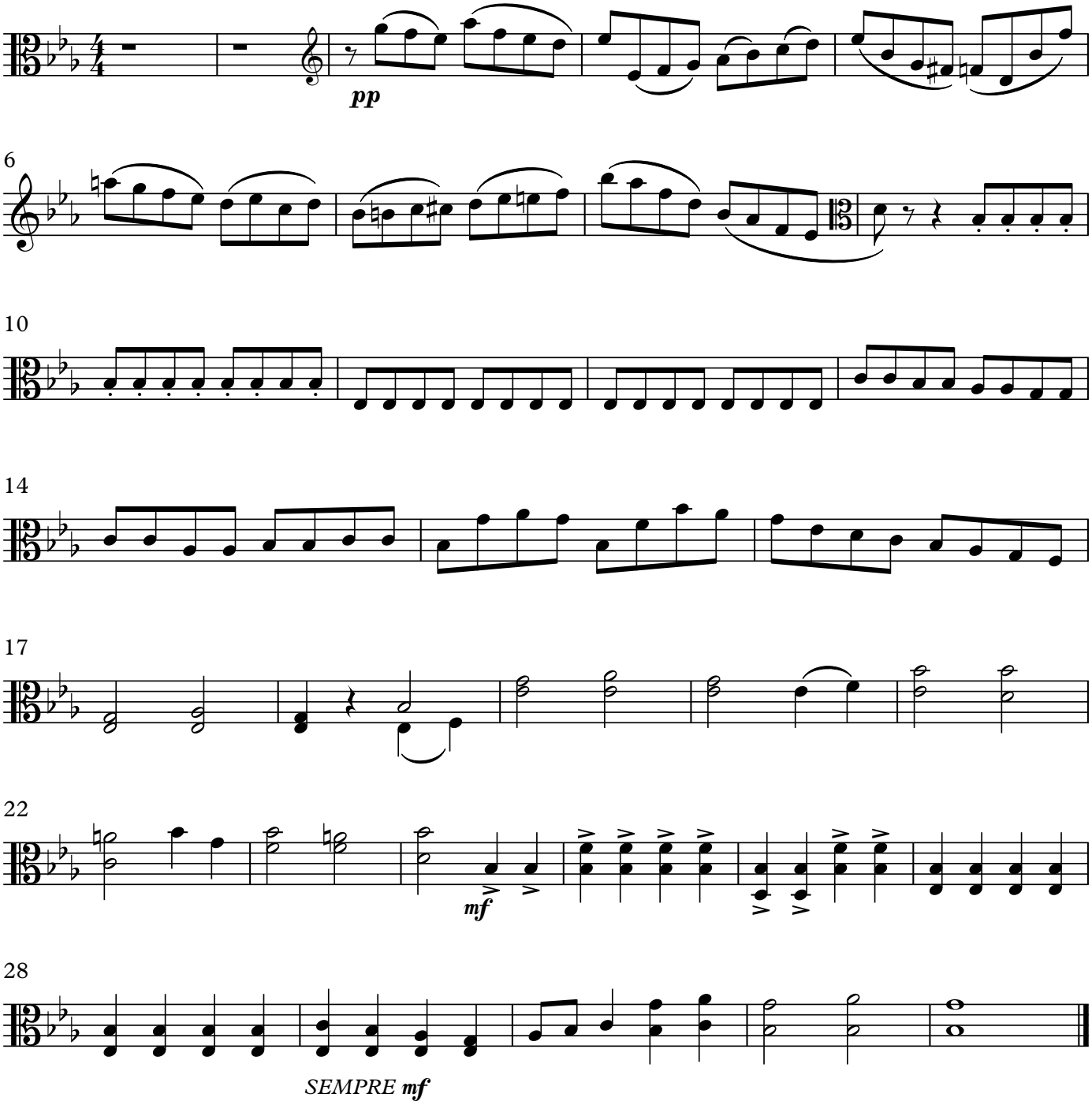
OH THOU JOYFUL DAY

OH SANCTISSIMA

Viola I

SICILIAN



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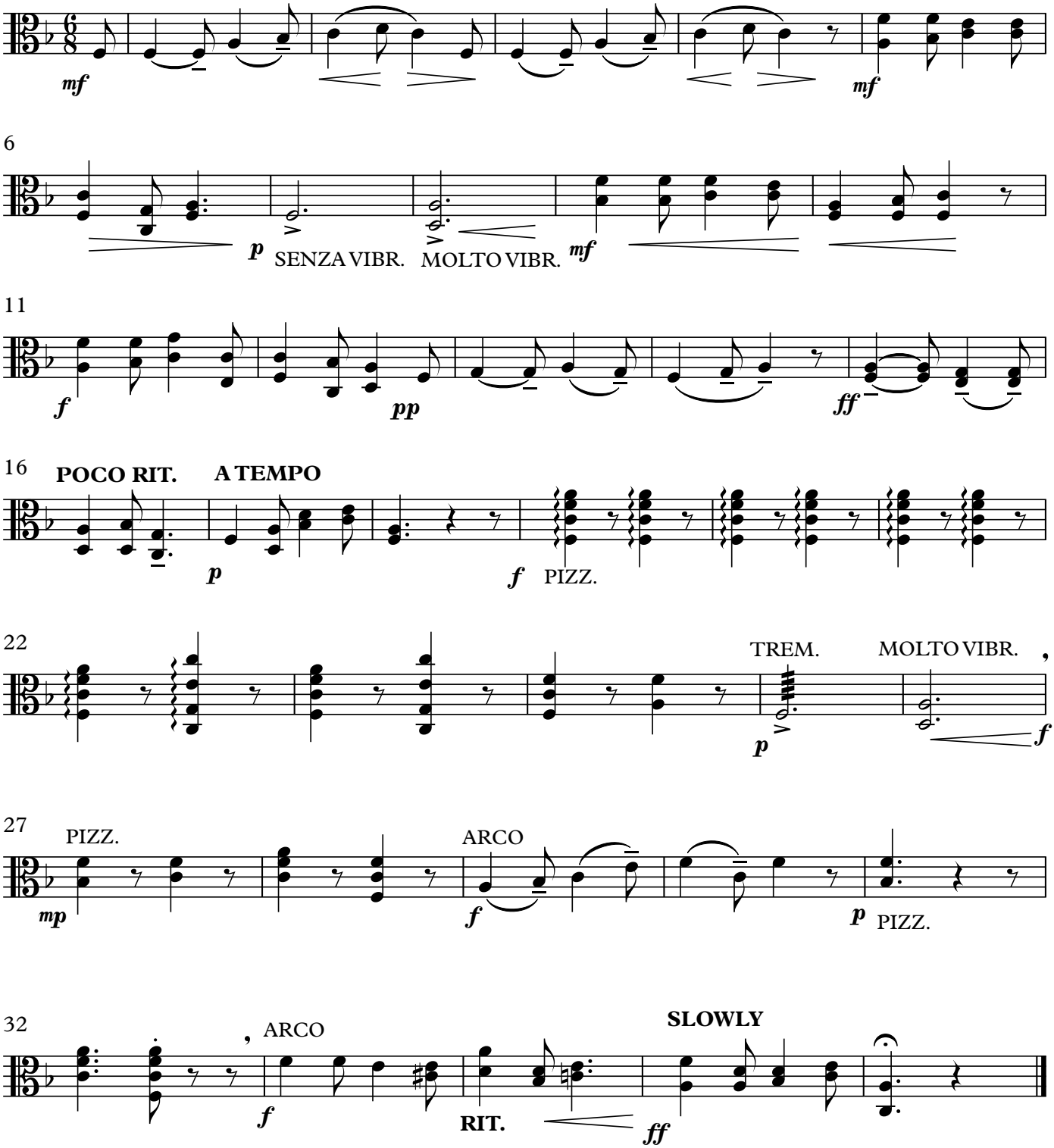
IN DULCI JUBILO

Viola I

OLD GERMAN



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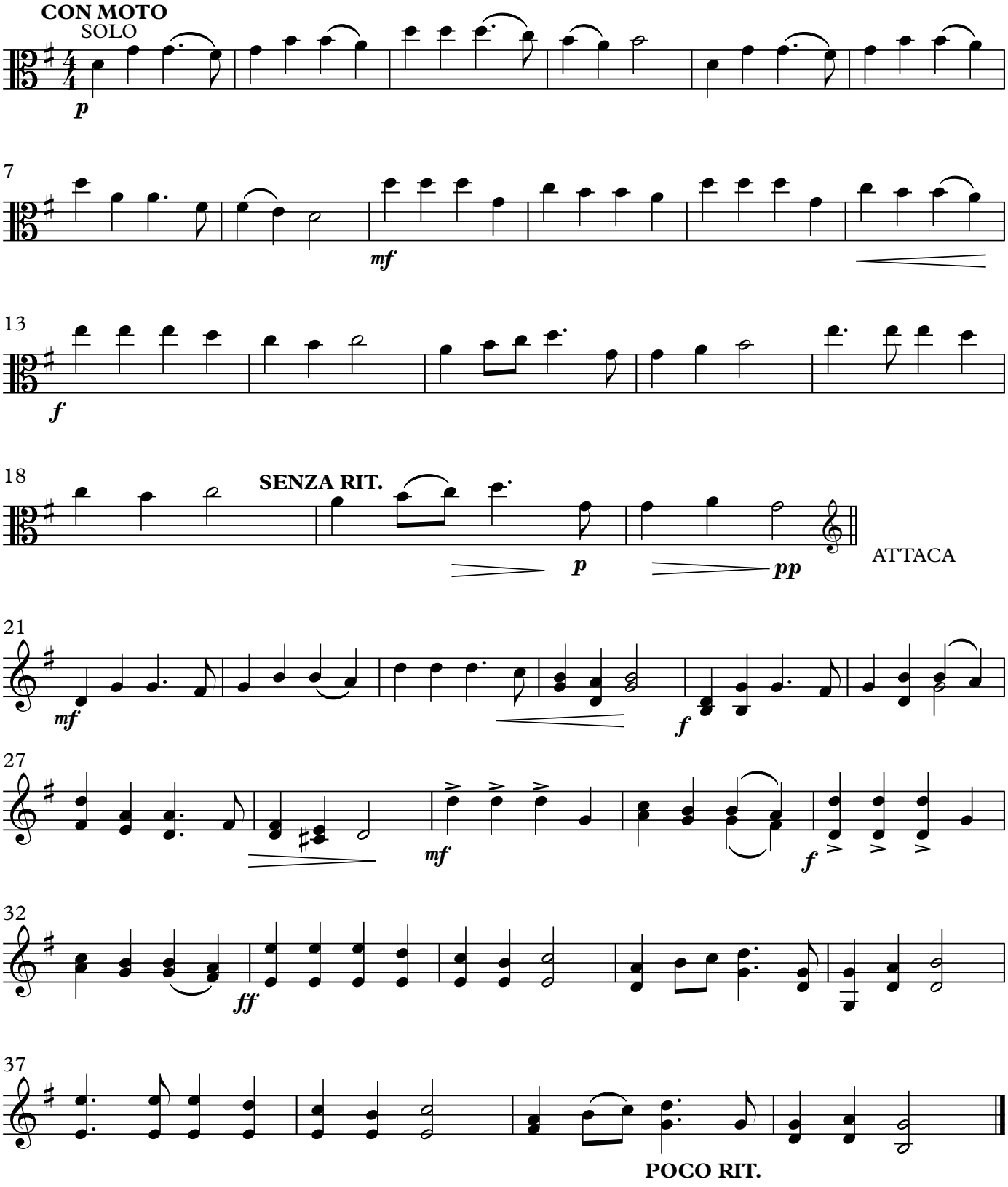
HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Viola I

MENDELSSOHN

CHARLES WESLEY



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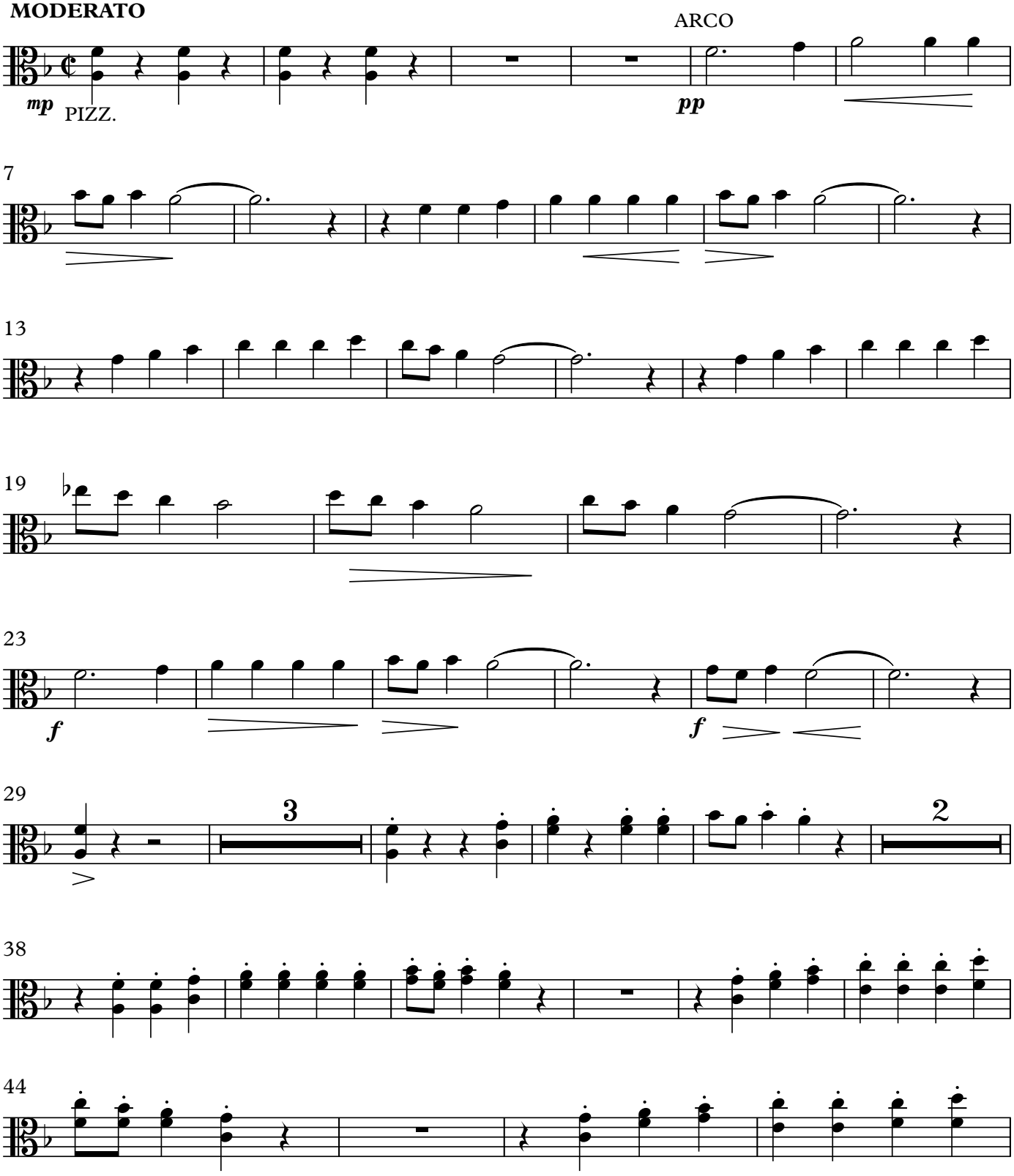
THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

Viola I

KATHRINE DAVIS
HENRY ONORATI
HARRY SIMEONE

MODERATO



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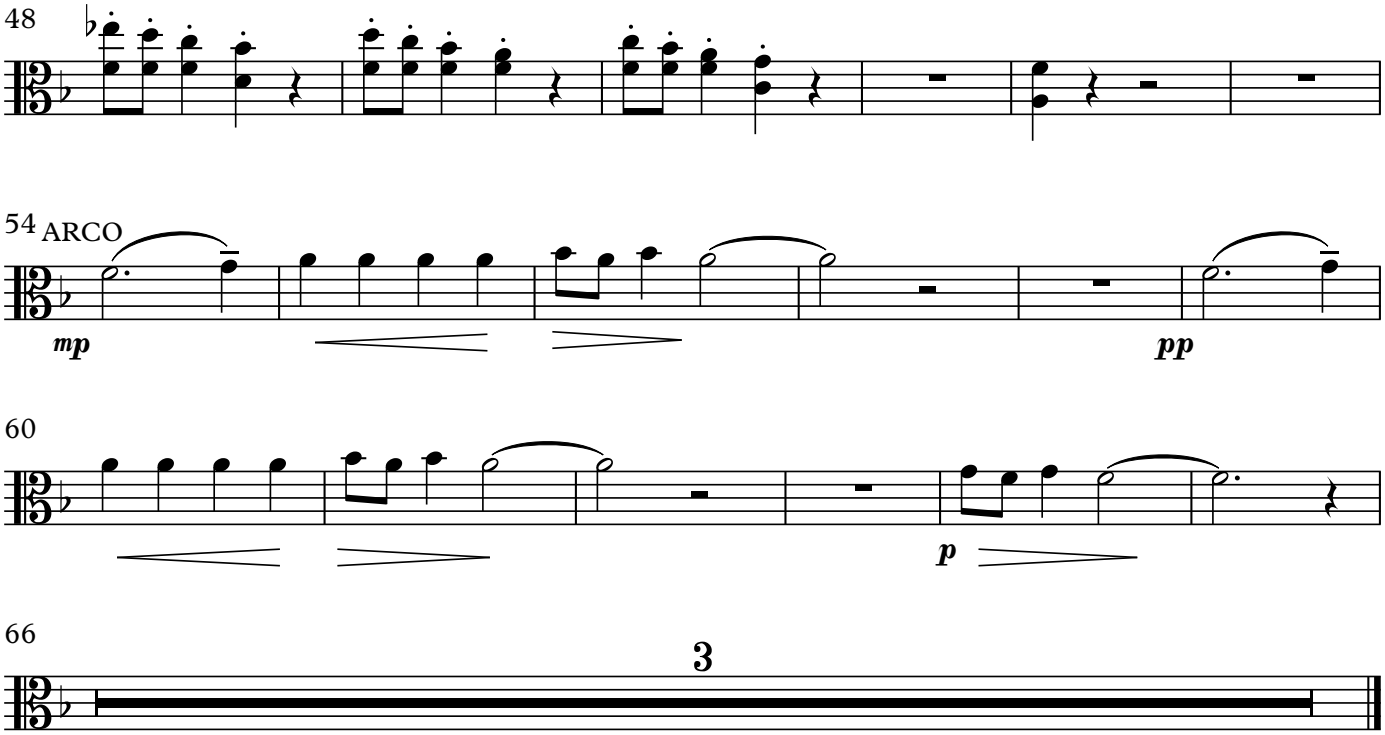
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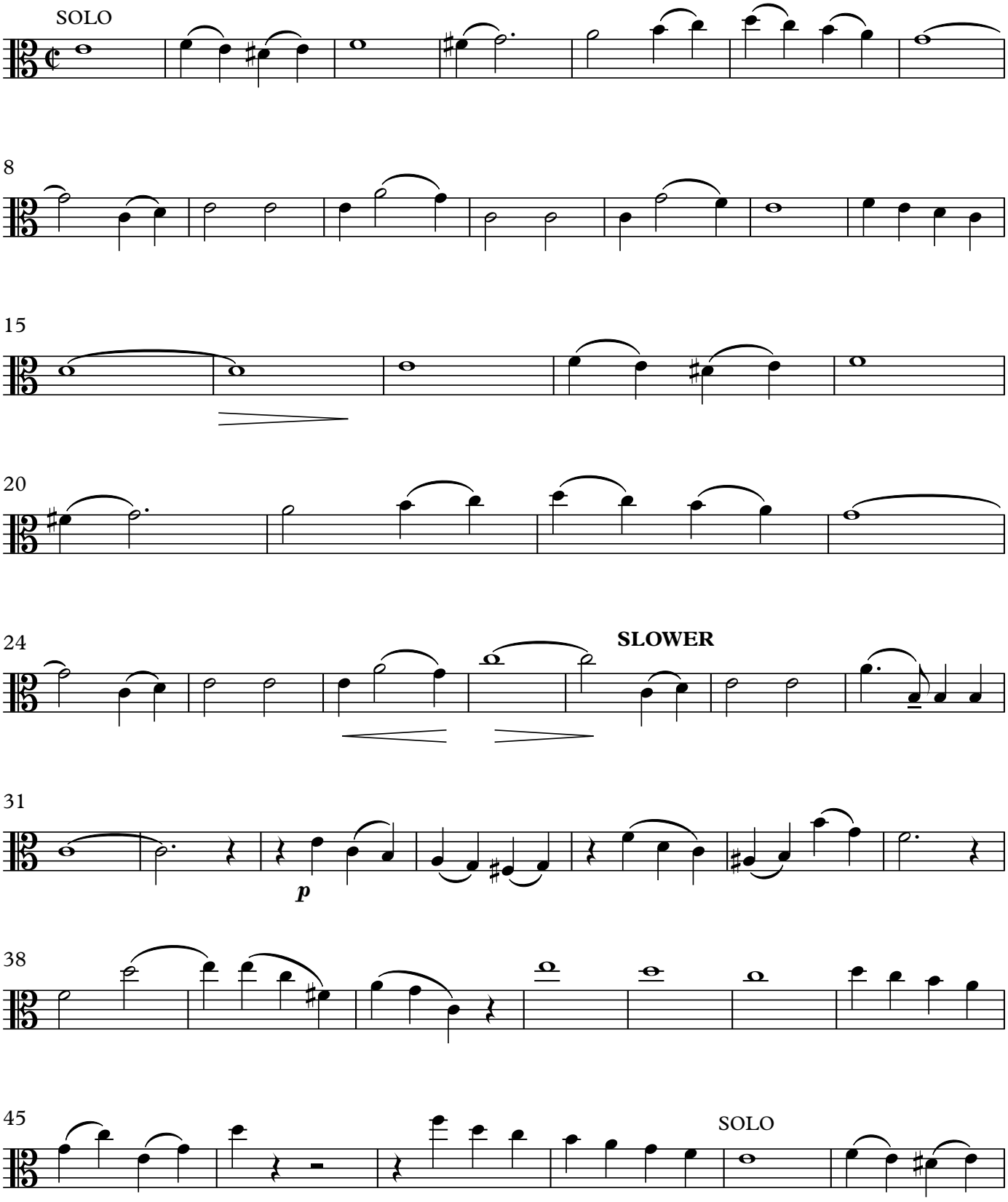
WHITE CHRISTMAS

Viola I

IRVING BERLIN



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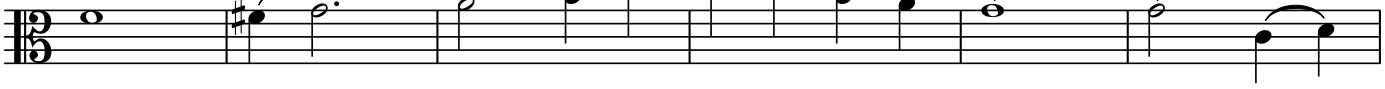
51



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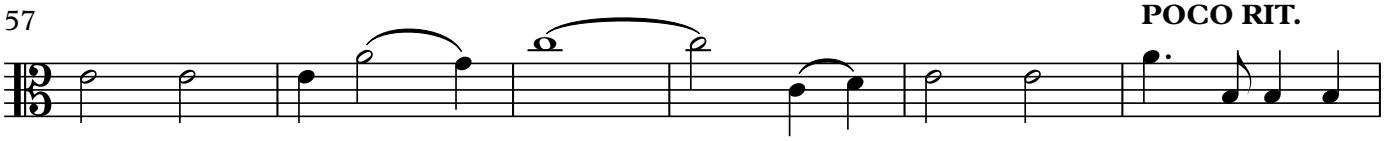
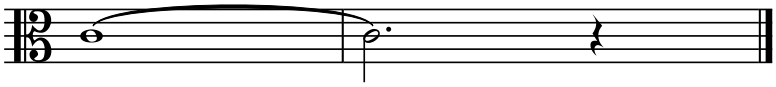
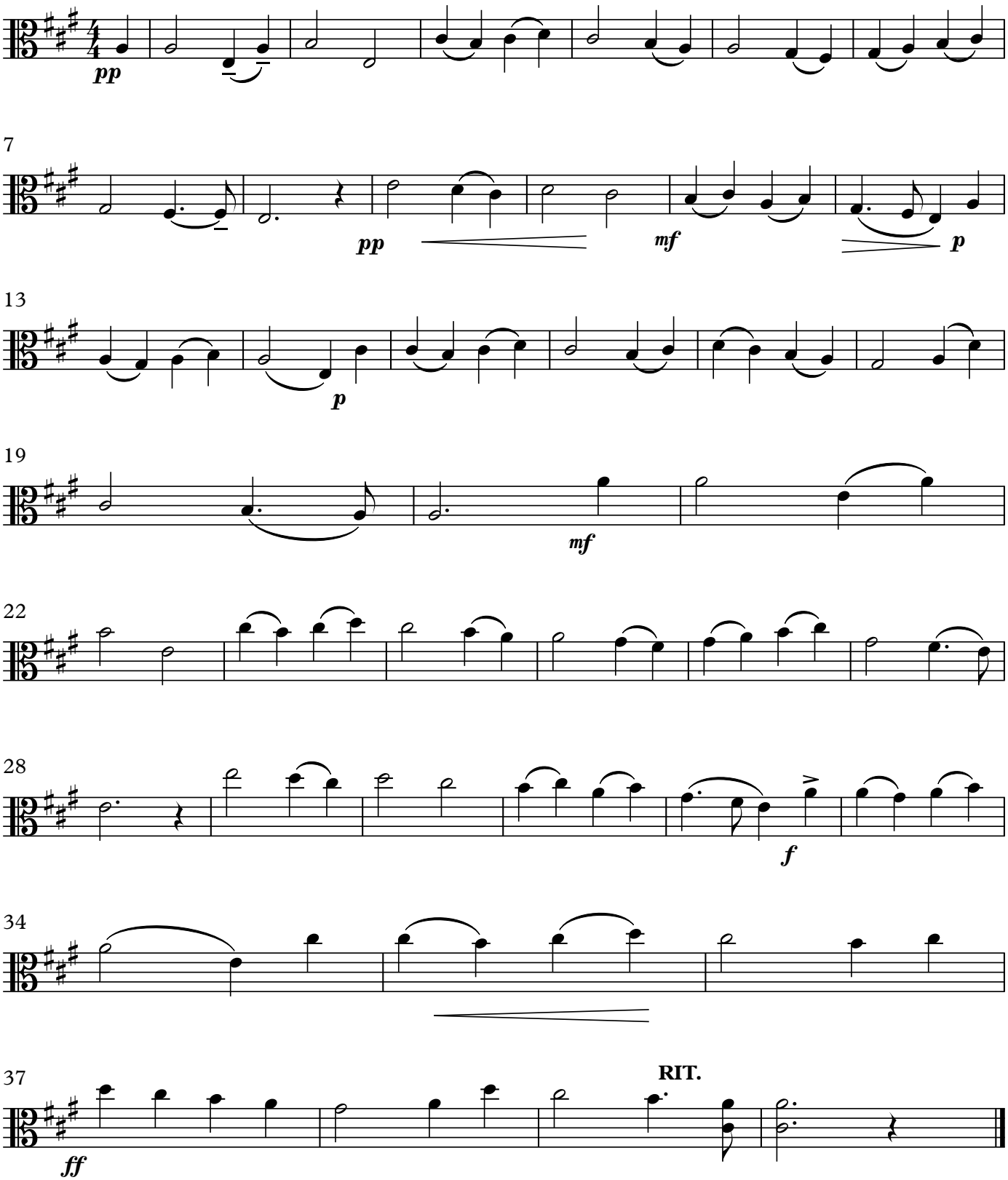


63 **A TEMPO**



ADESTE FIDELES

Viola I



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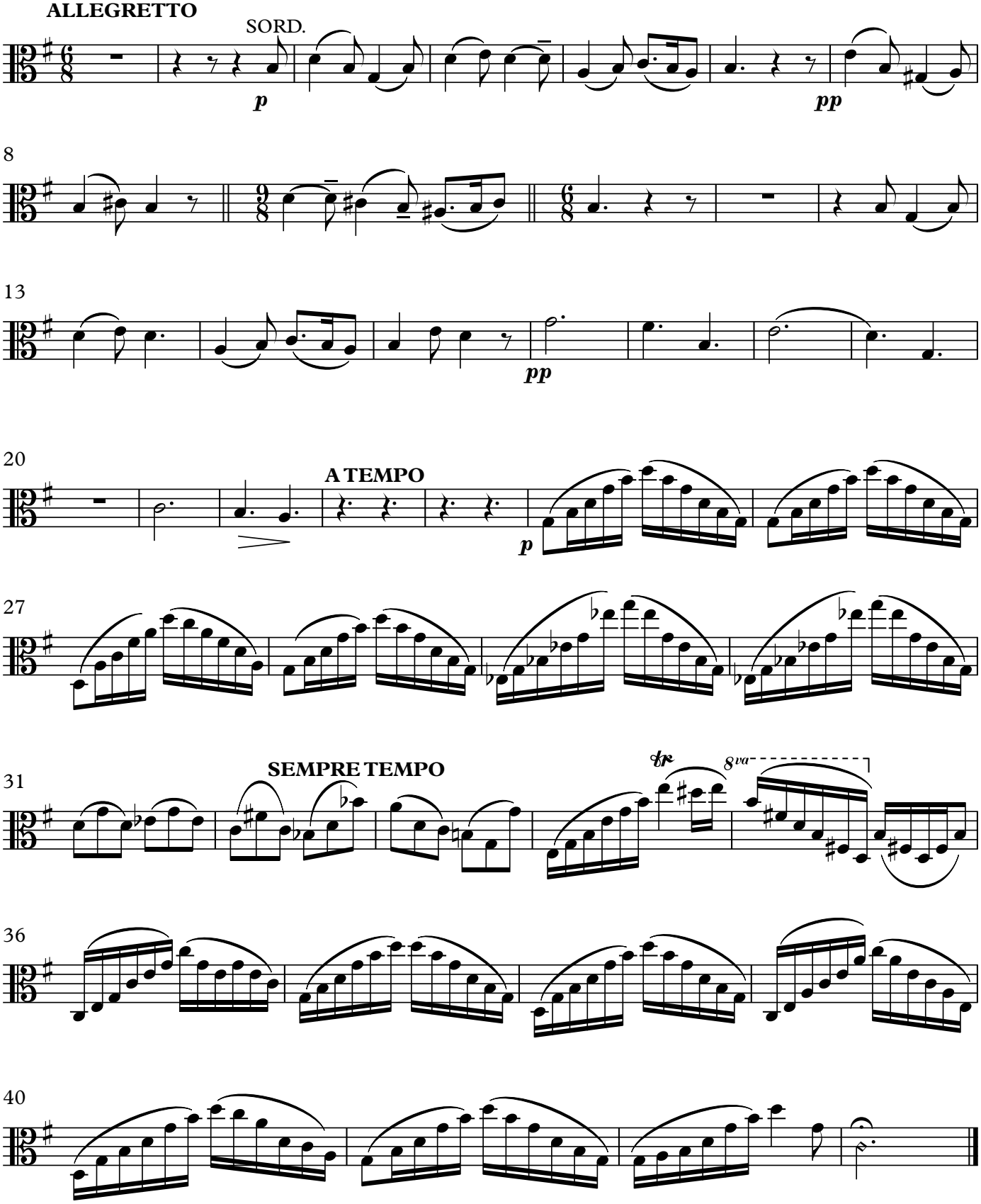
VIRGIN'S SLUMBER SONG

Viola I

MAX REGER

ALLEGRETTO



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DECK THE HALLS

Viola I

Welsh

MODERATO

2

f

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p NO VIBR.

SEMPRE PIANO

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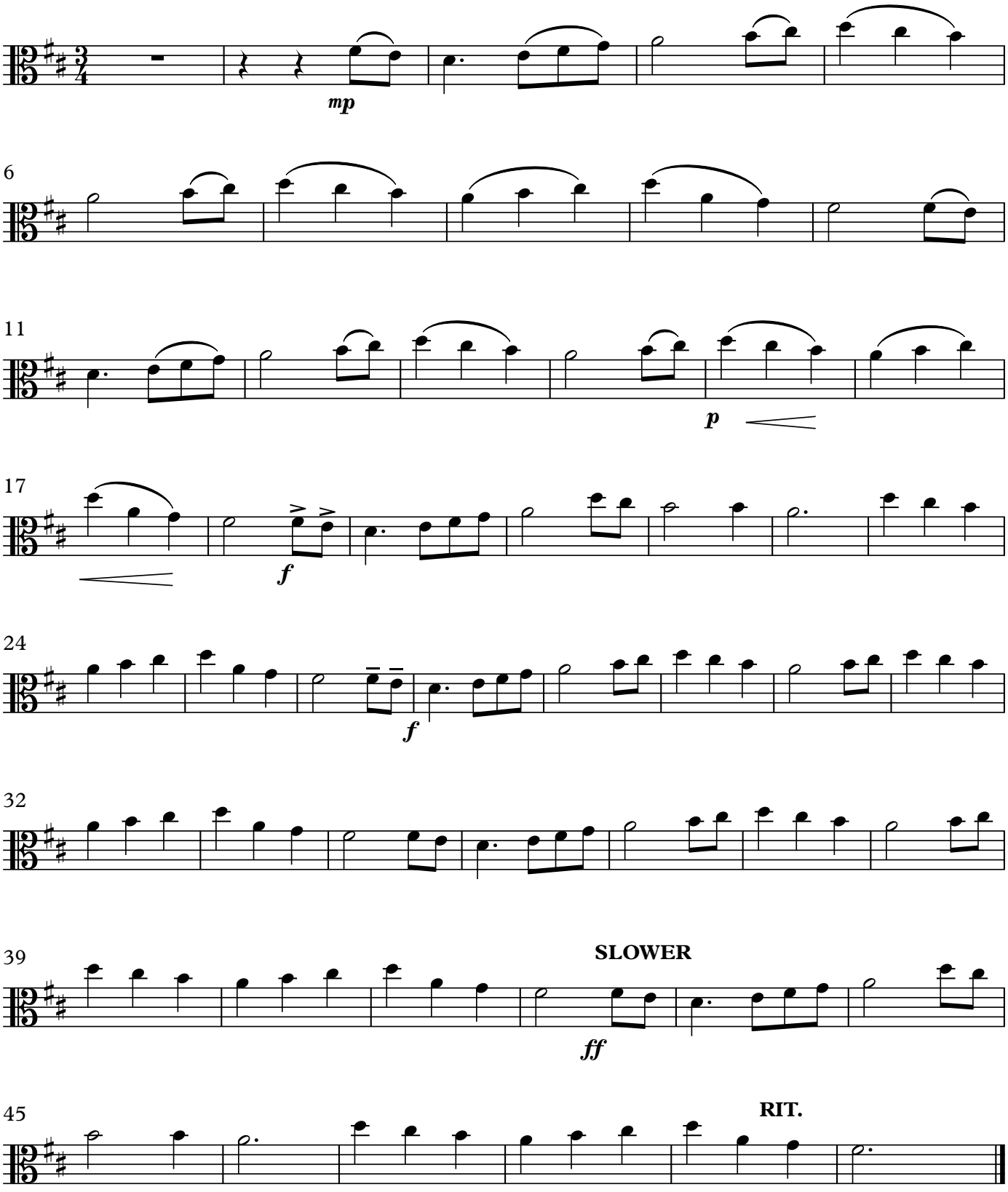
THE FIRST NOWELL

Viola I

ENGLISH TUNE



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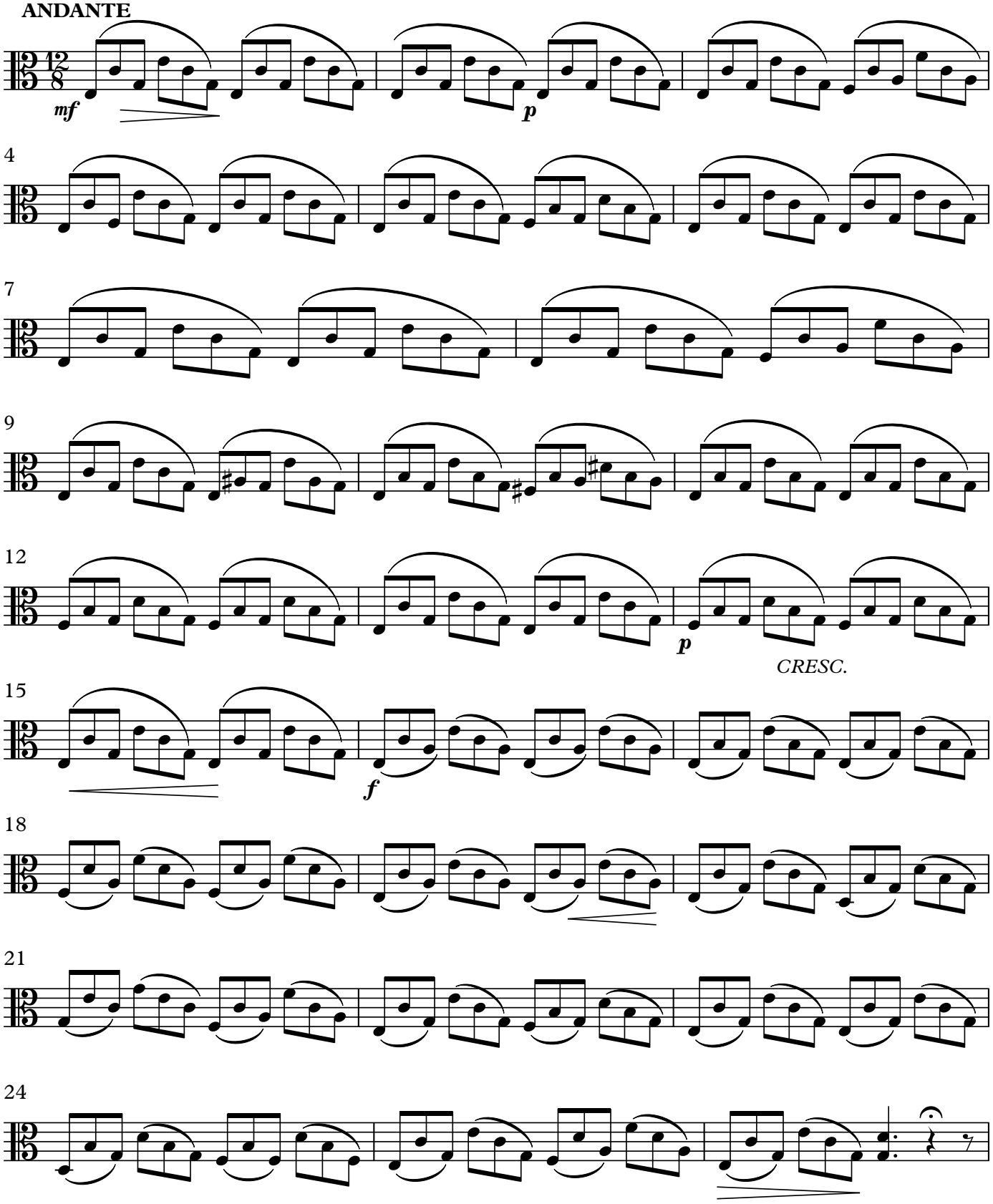
CANTIQUE DE NOEL

Viola I

ADOLPHE ADAM

ANDANTE



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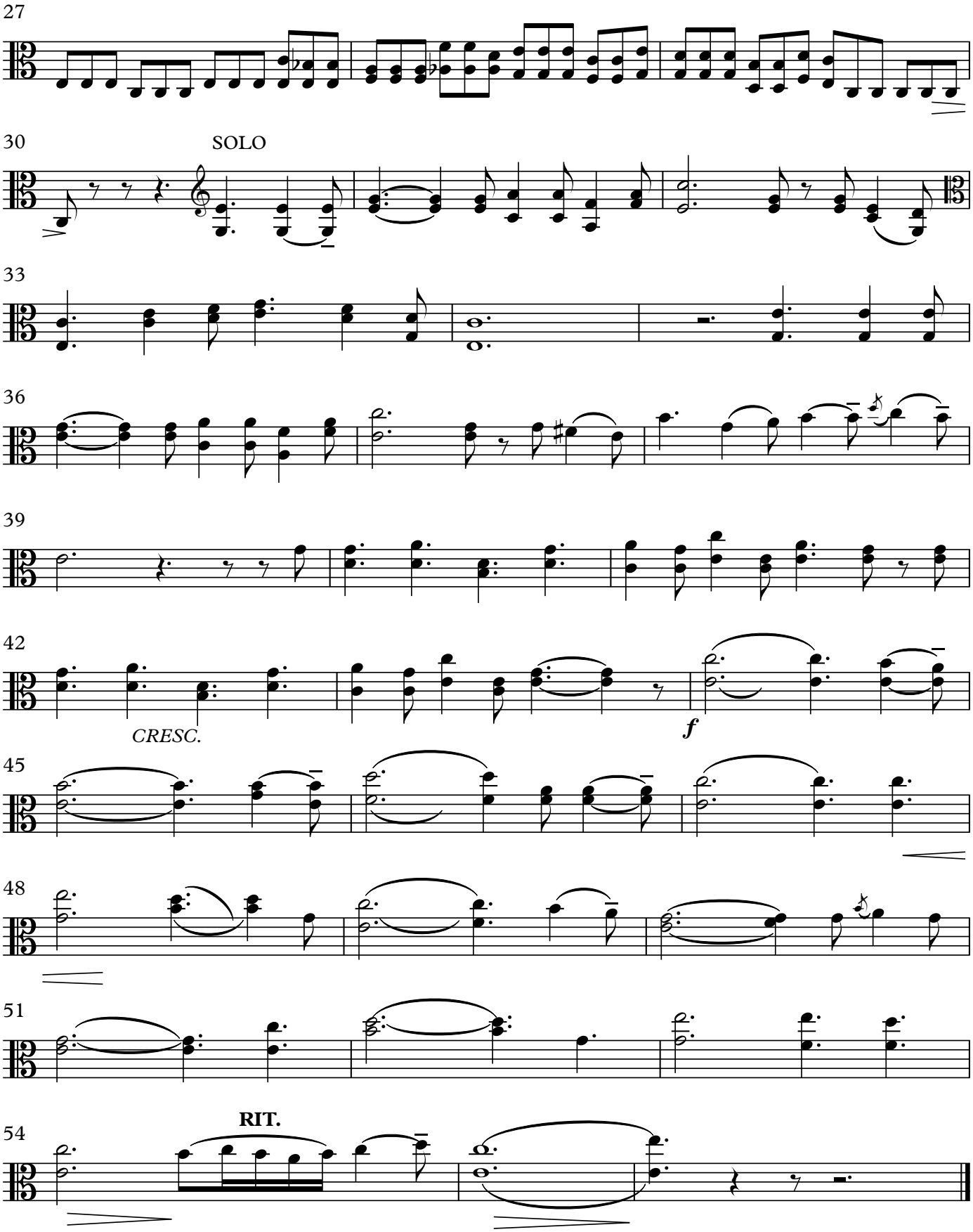
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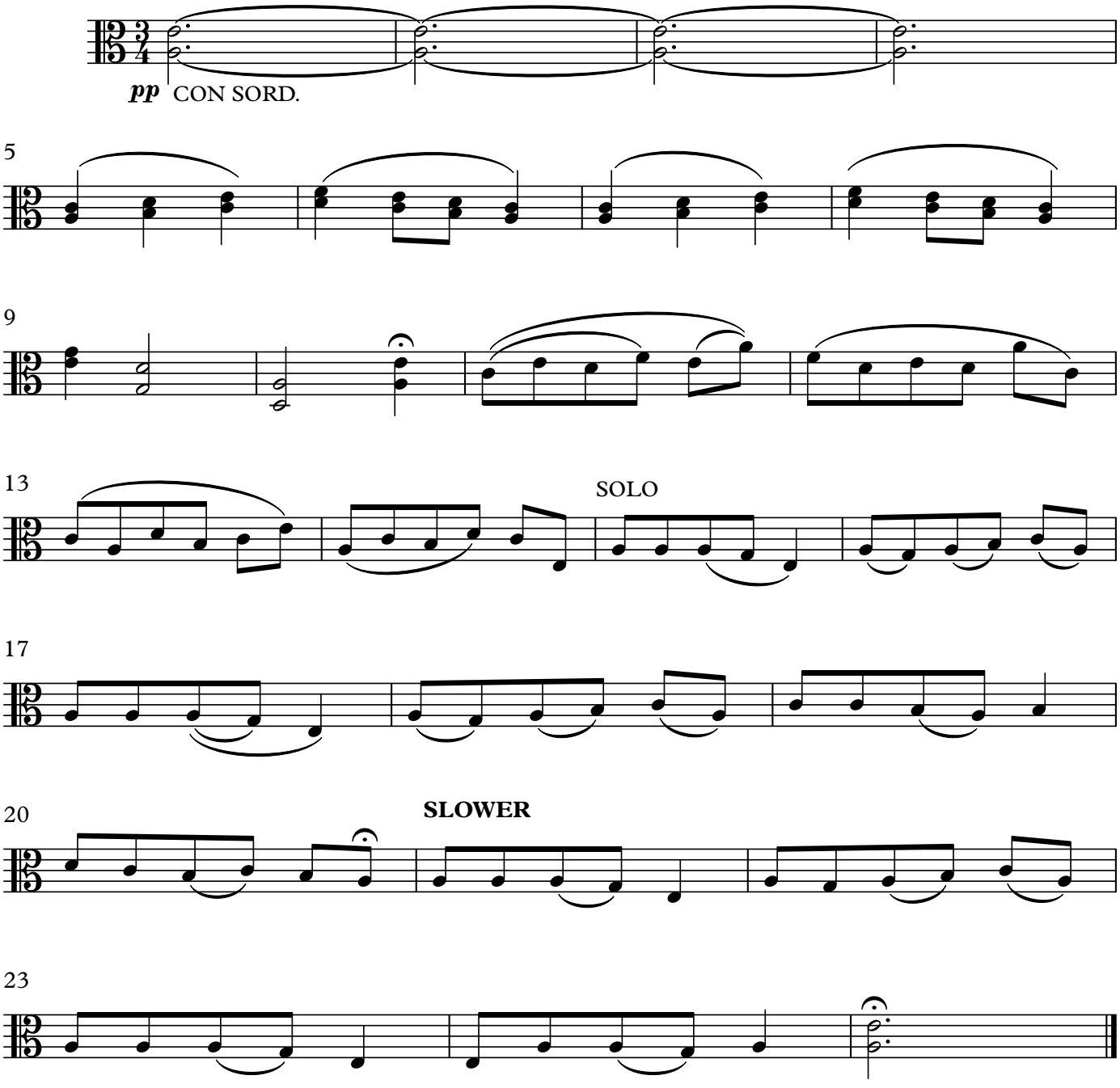
RIT.

CHRISTMAS EVE IS HERE

Viola II

French



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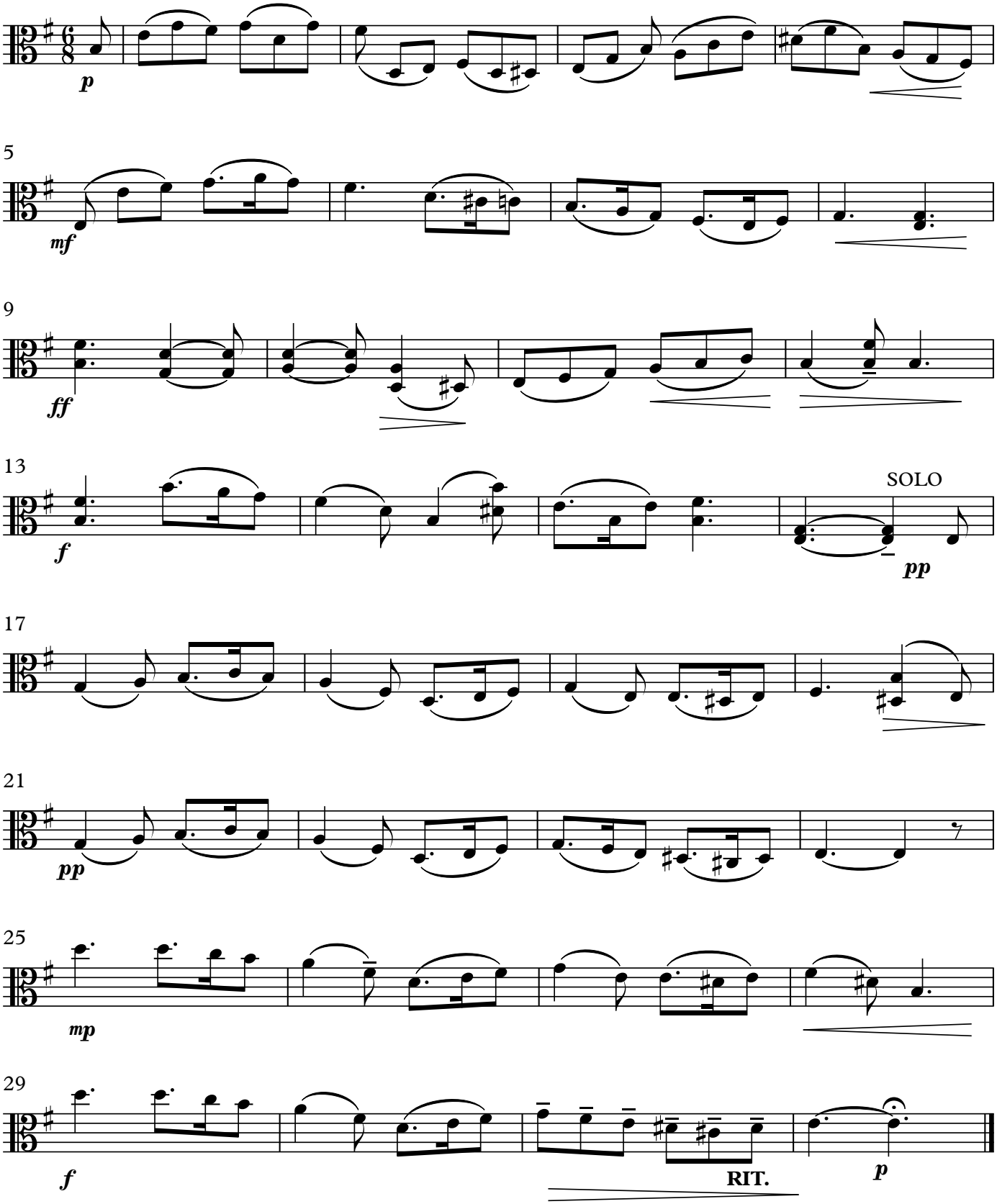
WHAT CHILD IS THIS ?

Viola II

GREENSLEEVES



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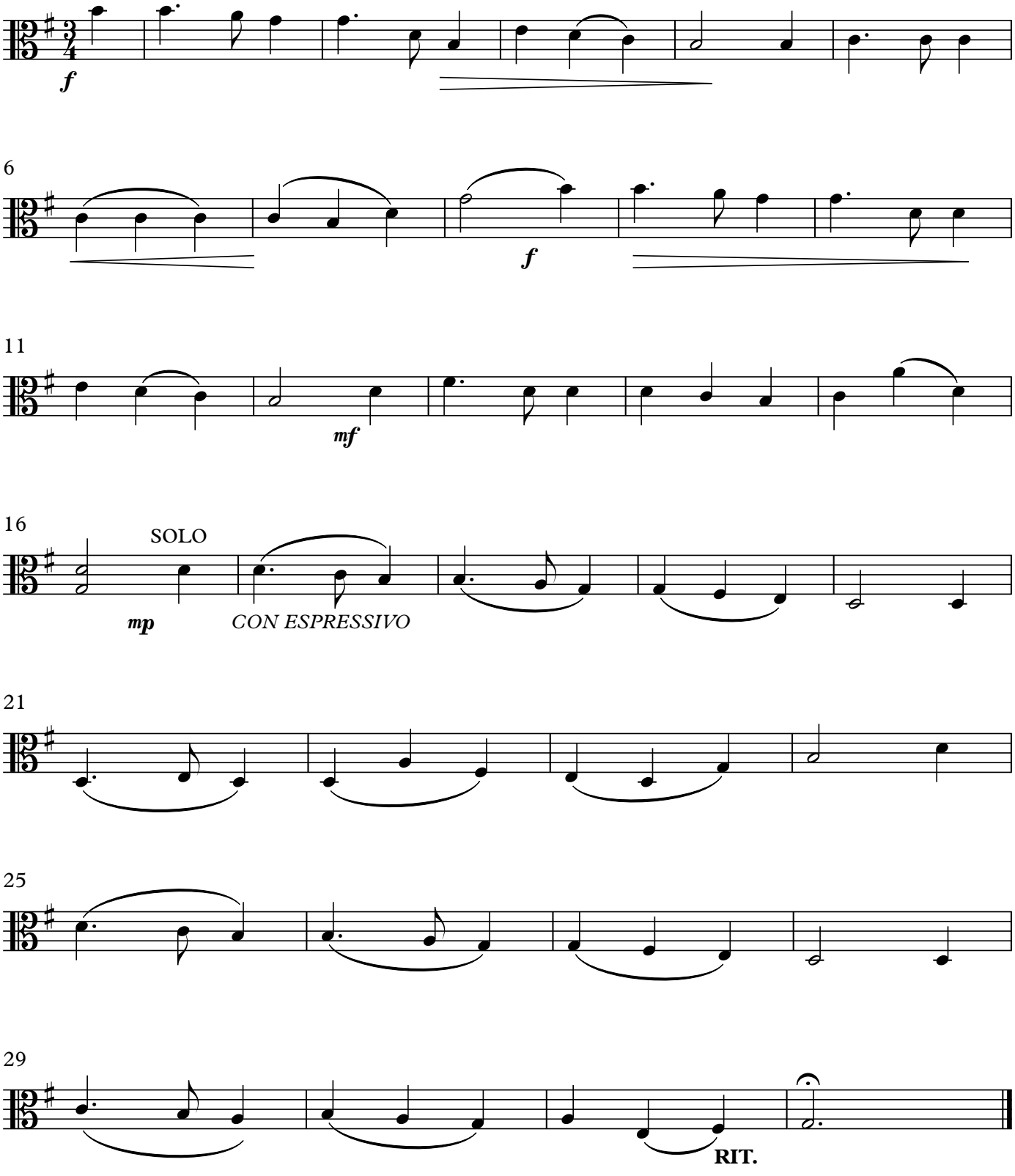
AWAY IN A MANGER

Viola II

MARTIN LUTHER

GERMAN



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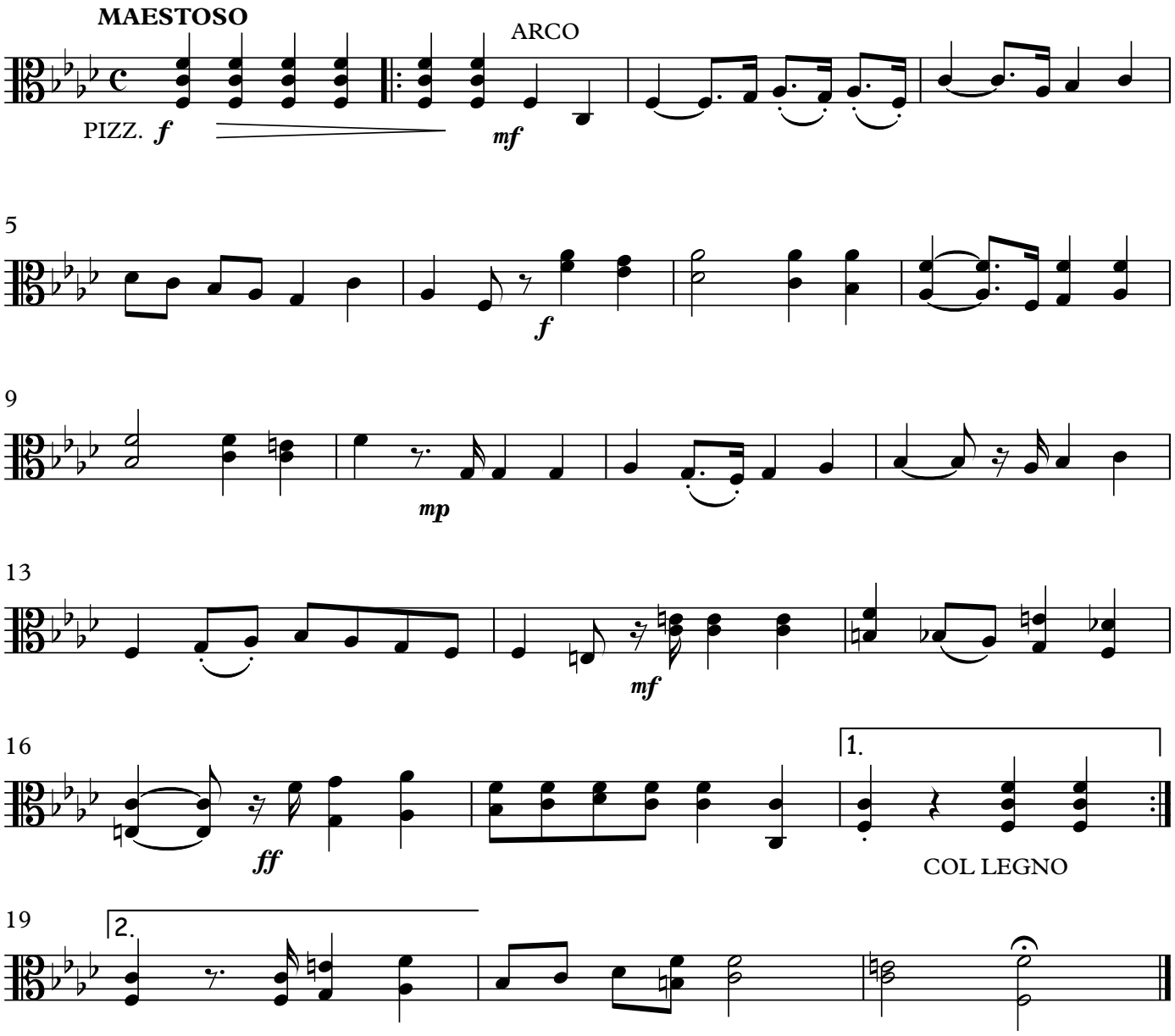
MARCH OF THE KINGS

Viola II

French



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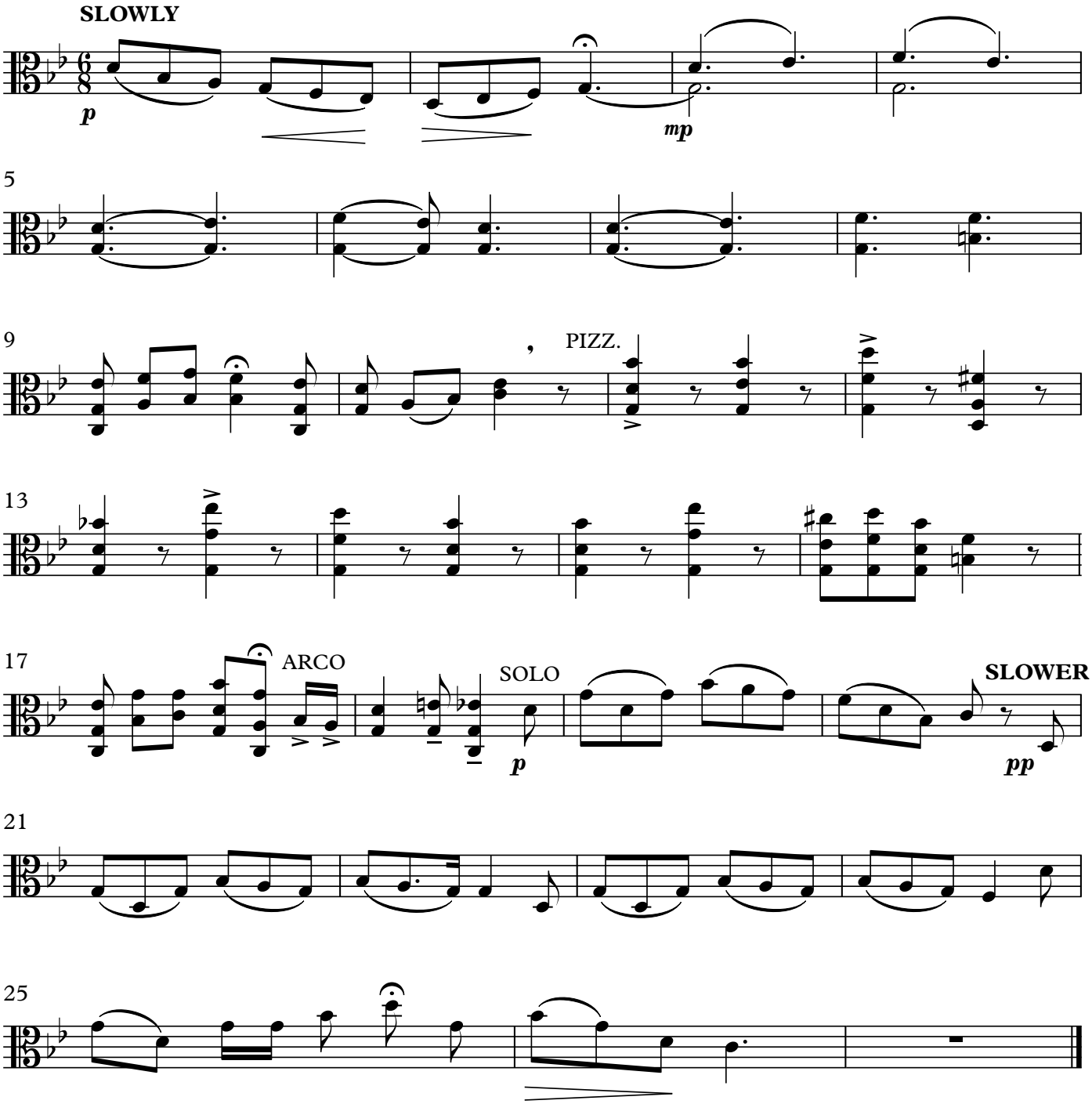
I WONDER AS I WANDER

Viola II

APPALACHIAN CAROL



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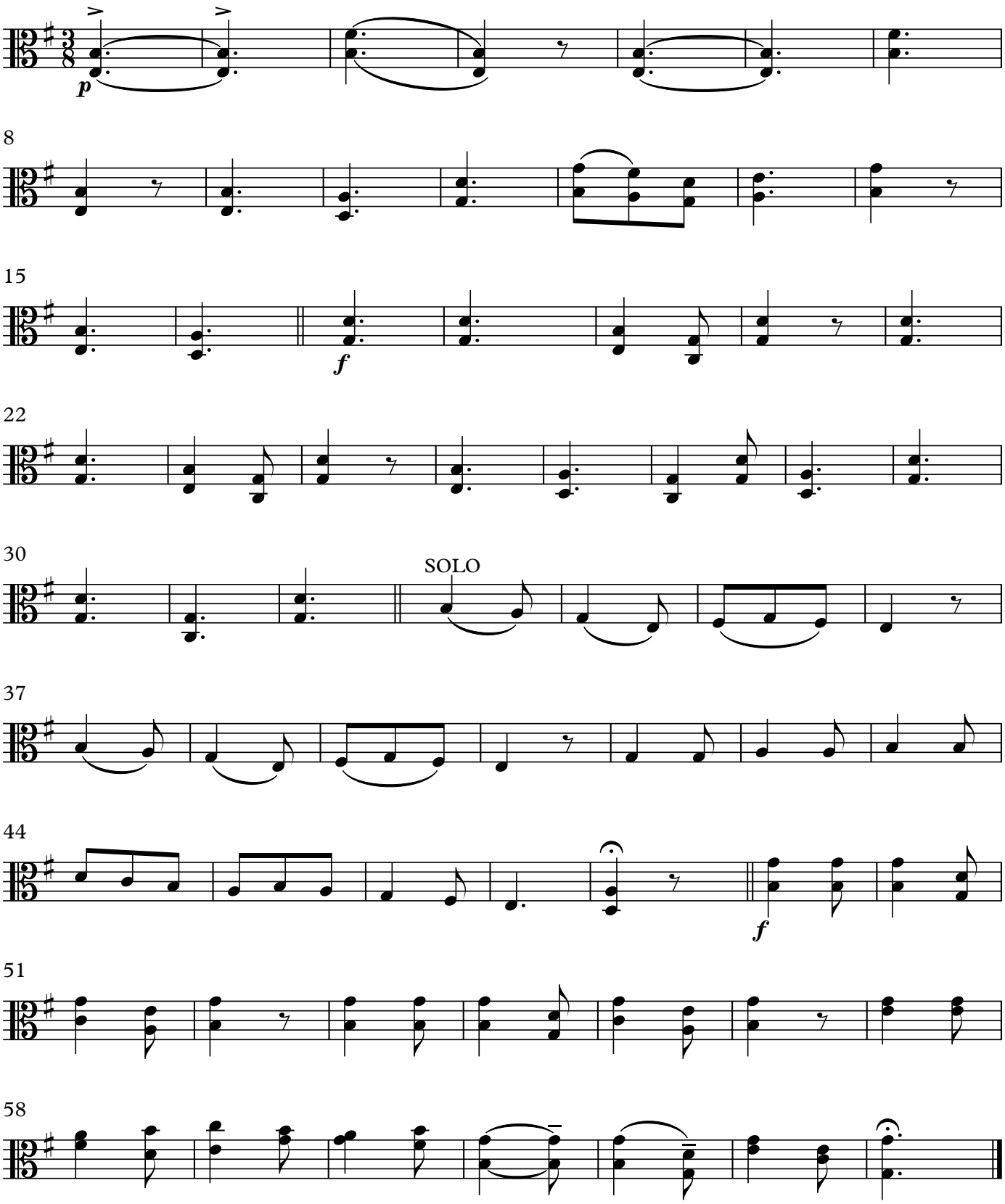
WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

Viola II

JOHN H. HOPKINS



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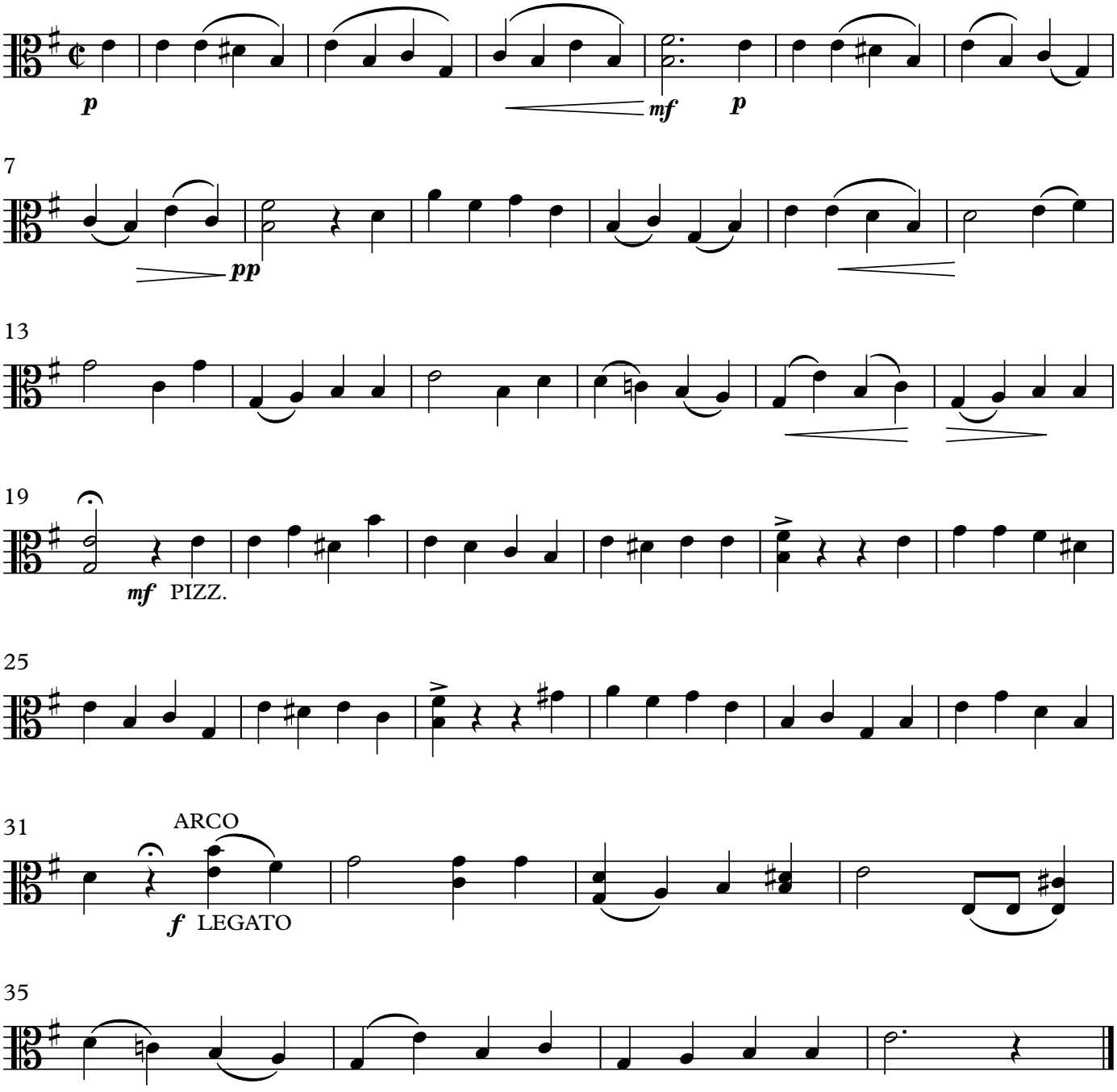
GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN

Viola II



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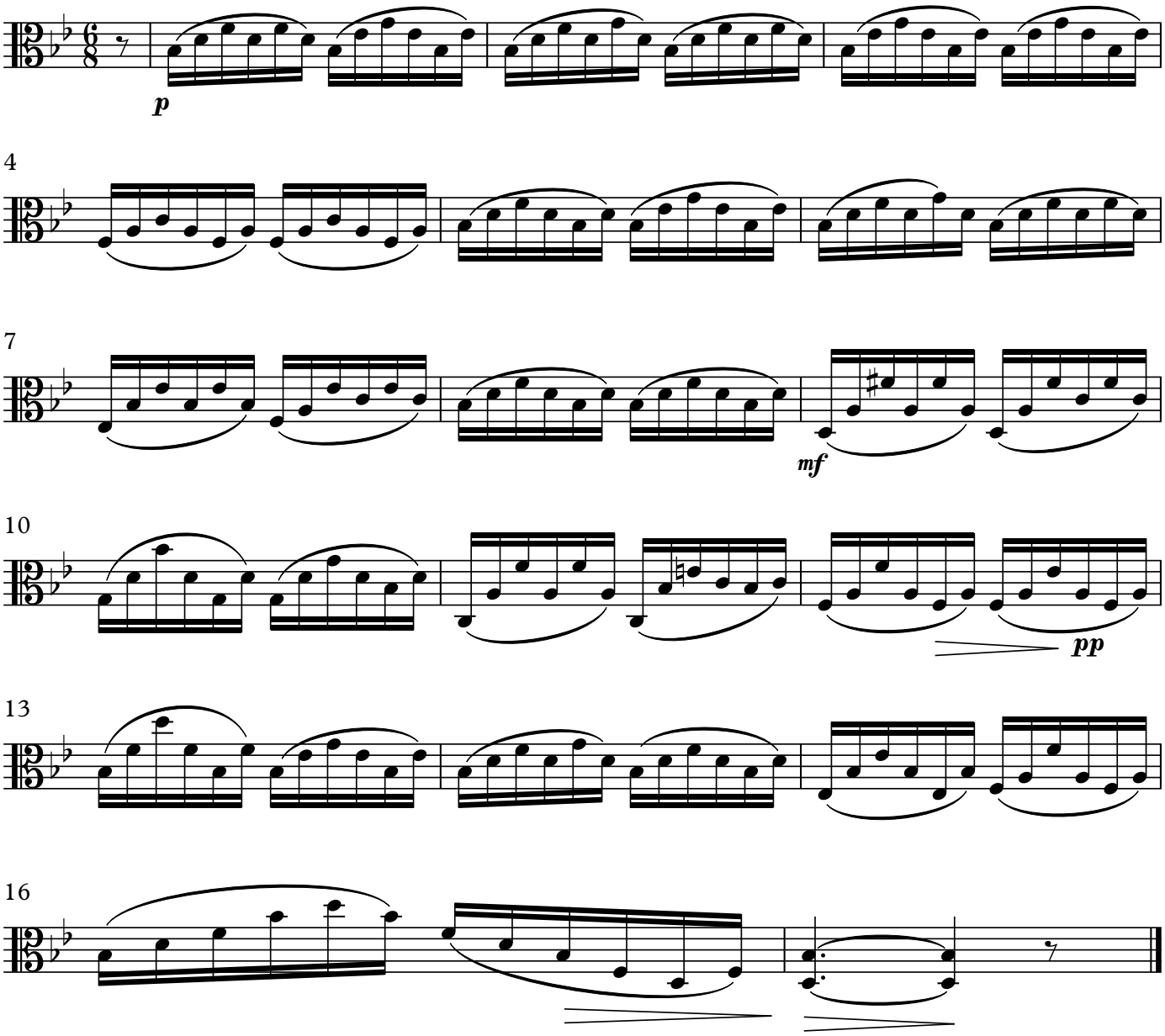
IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

Viola II

1850

EDMUND H. SEARS
RICKARD S. WILLIS



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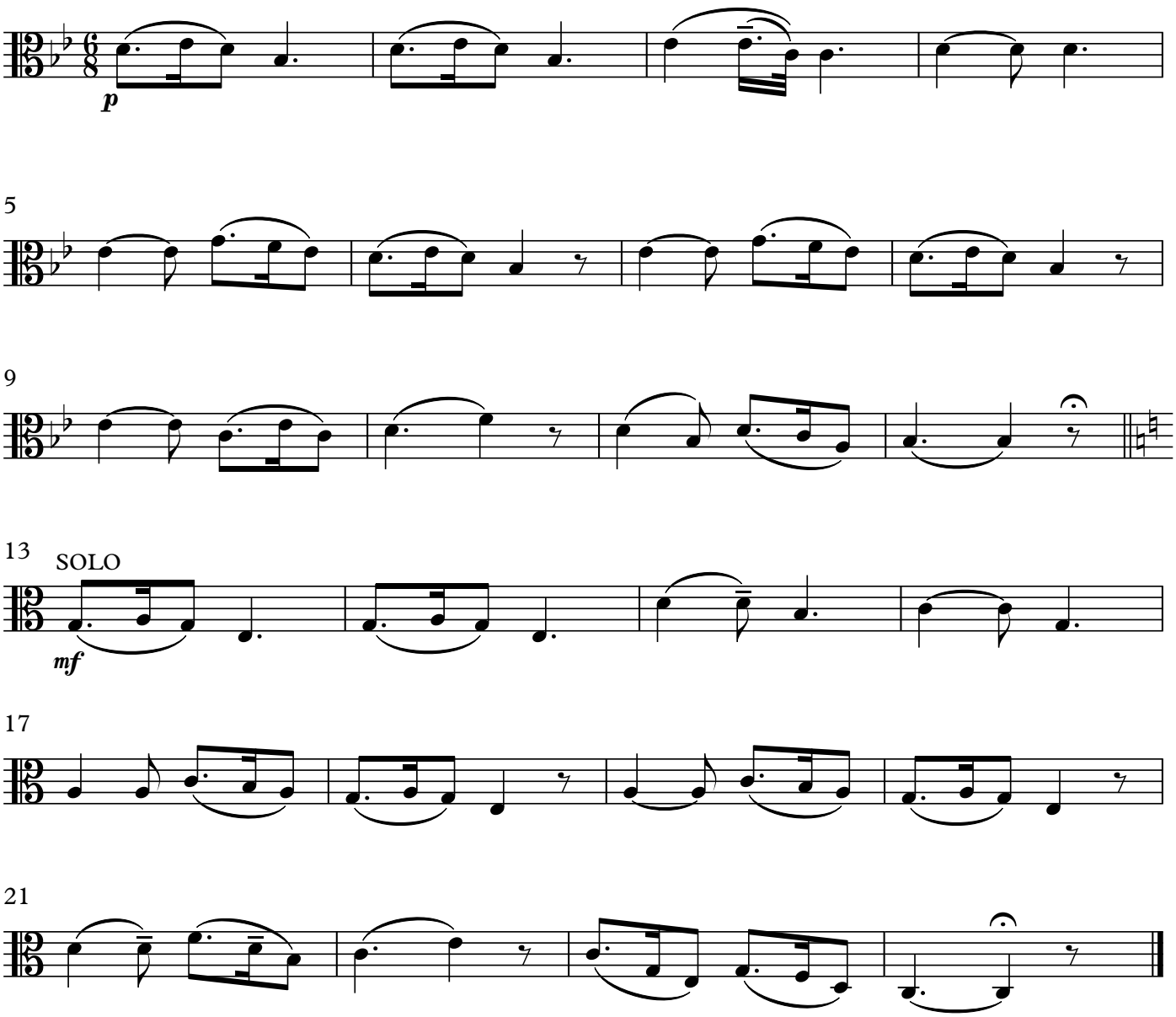
SILENT NIGHT

Viola II

FRANZ GRUBER



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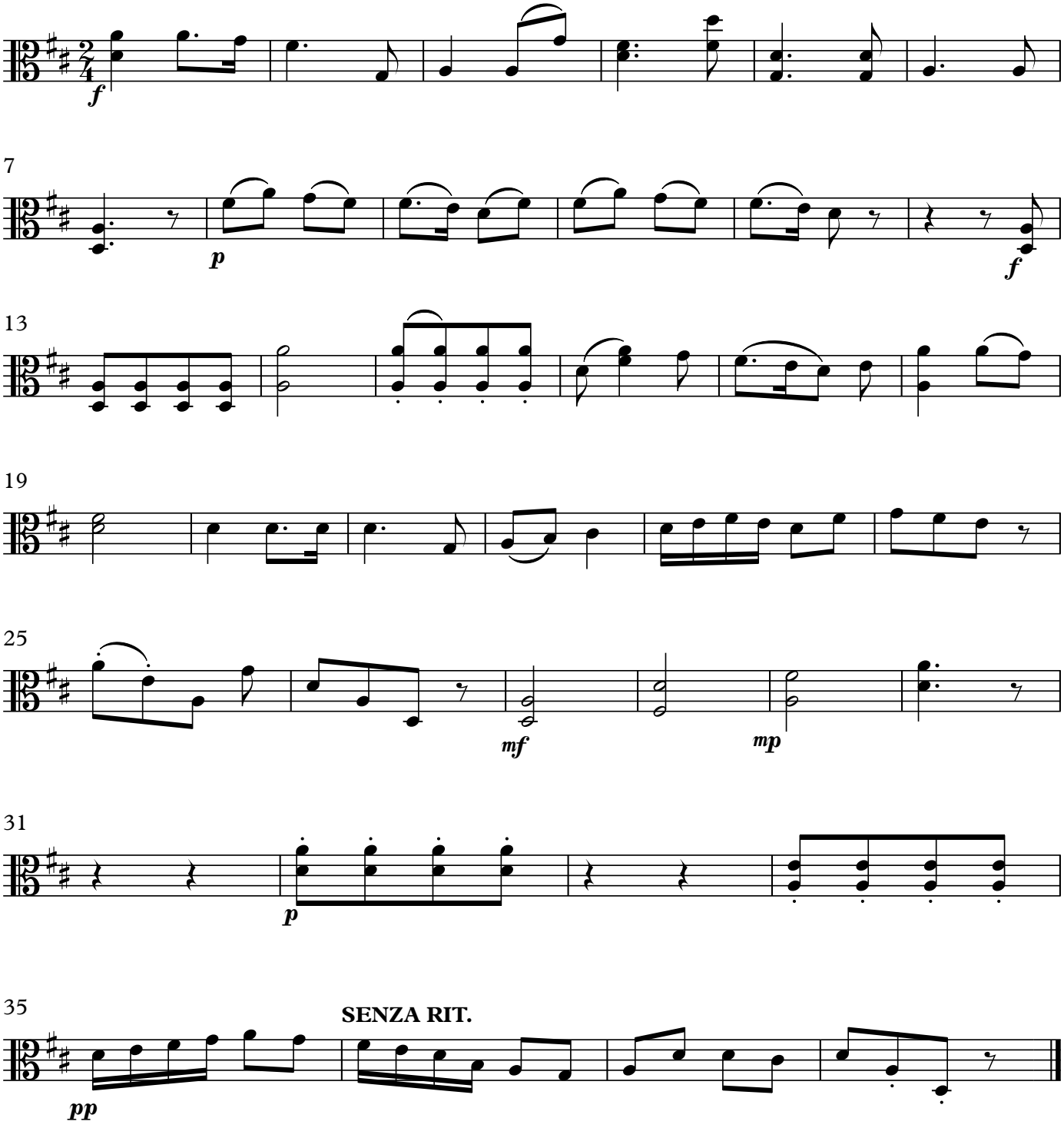
JOY TO THE WORLD

Viola II

GEORGE F. HANDEL



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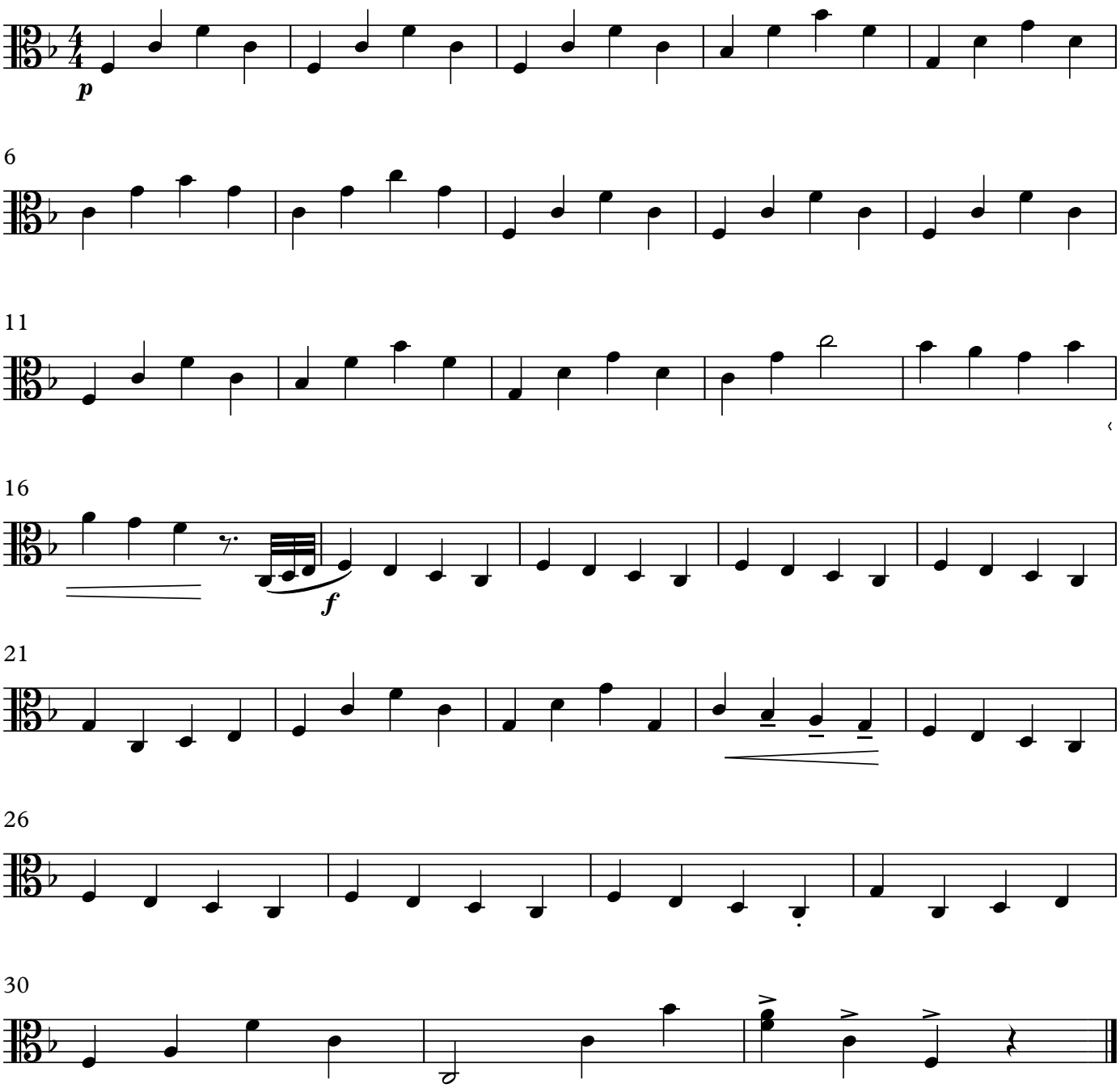
JINGLE BELLS

Viola II

TUNE: JAMES PIERPONT



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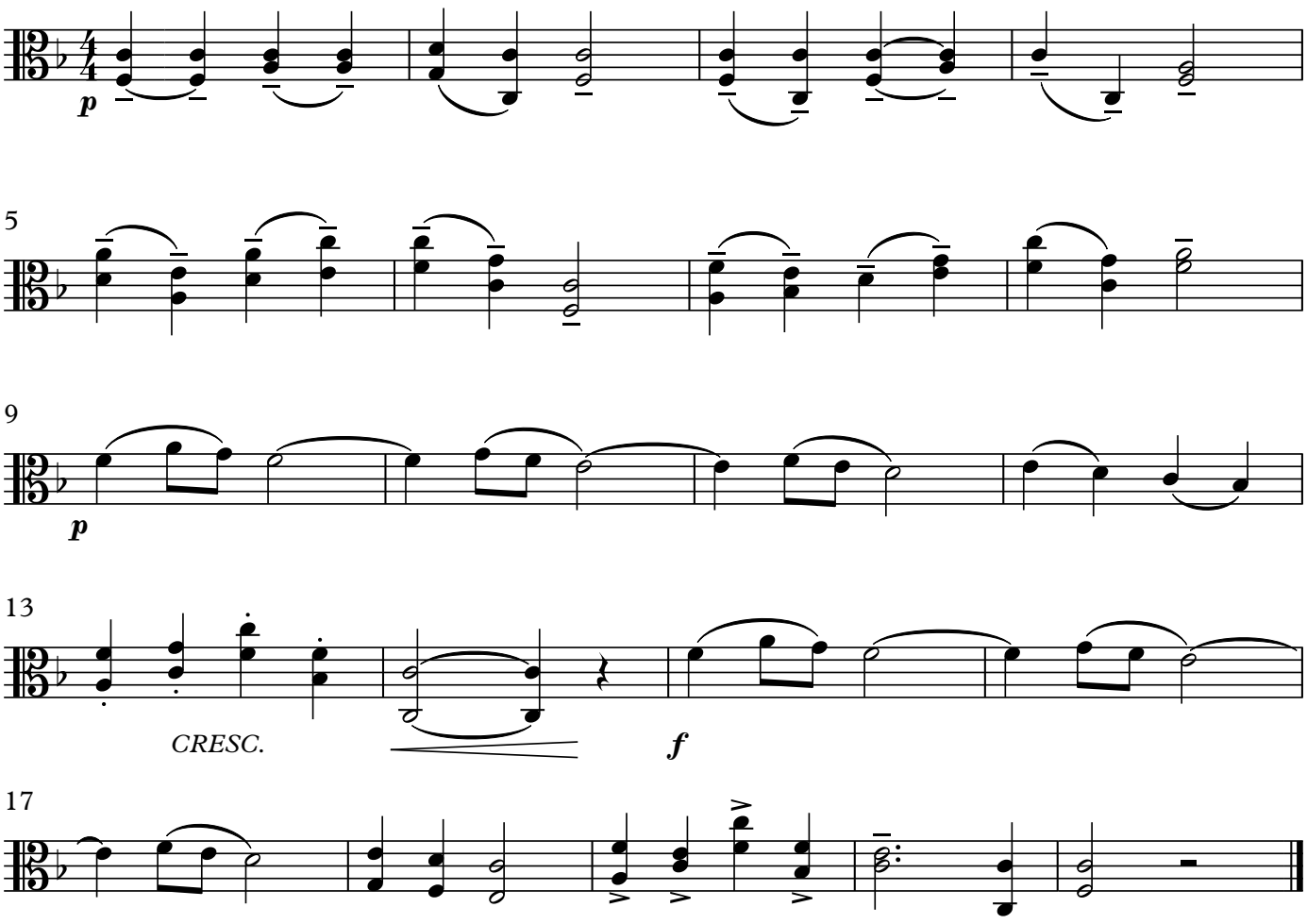
12

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Viola II

French



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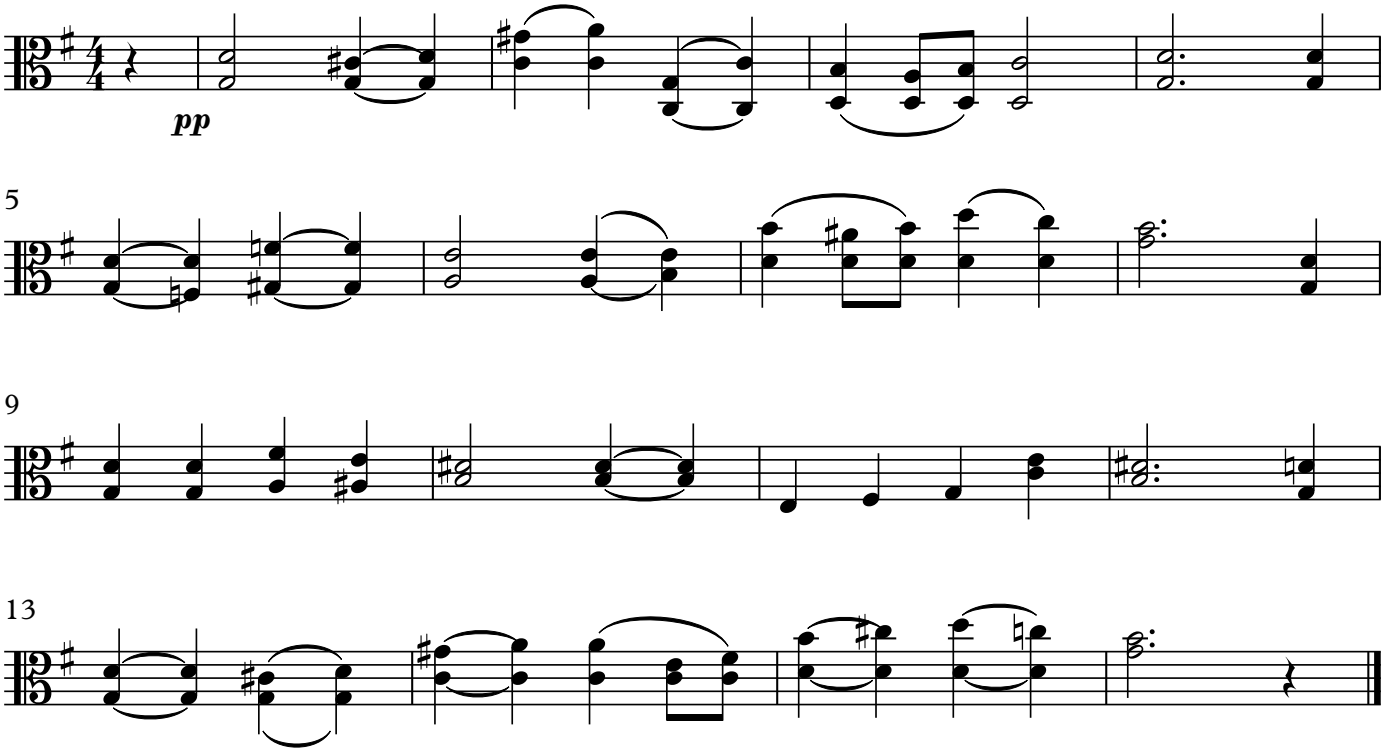
O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

1868

Viola II

Lewis H. Redner



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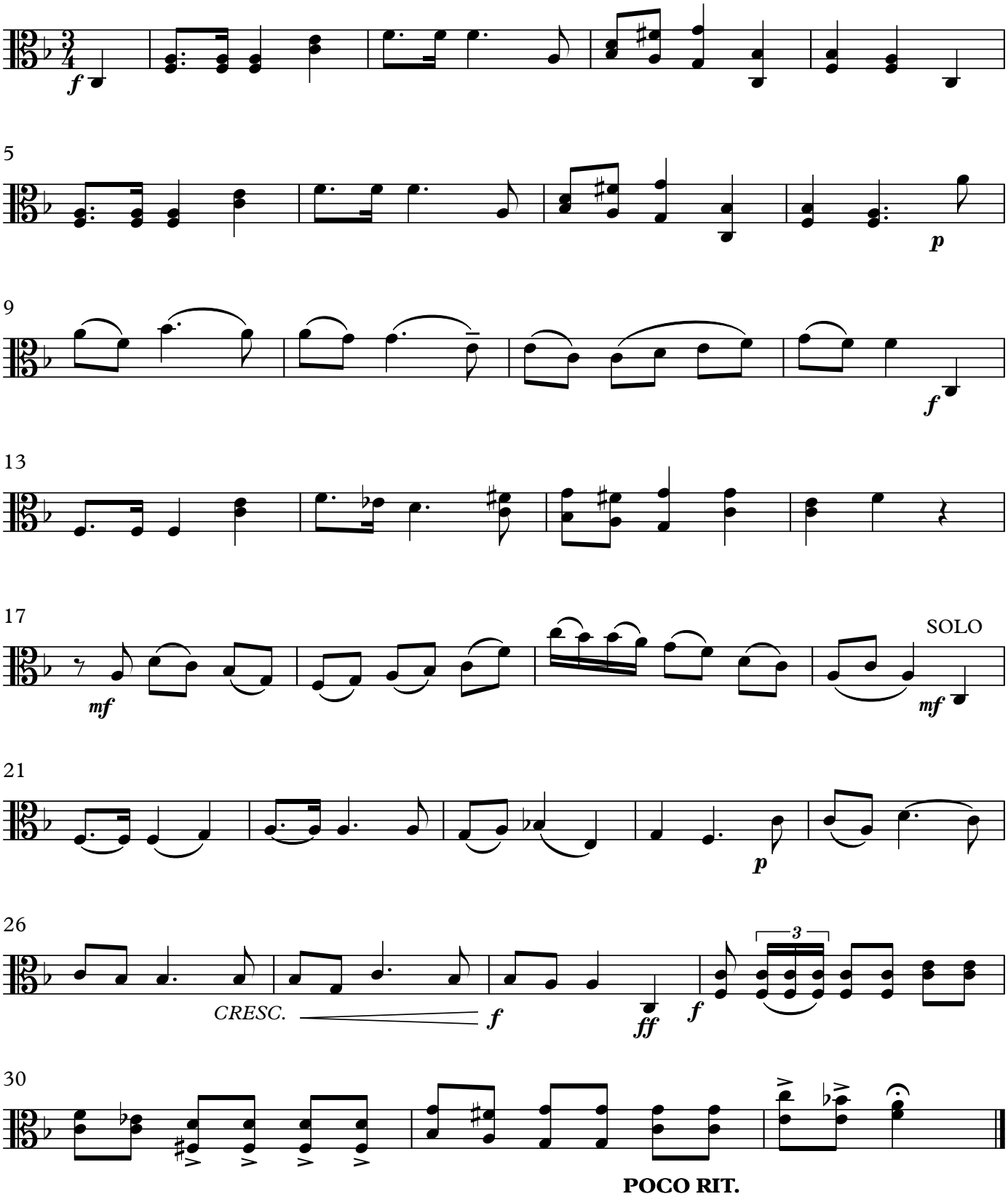
O TANNENBAUM

Viola II

GERMAN



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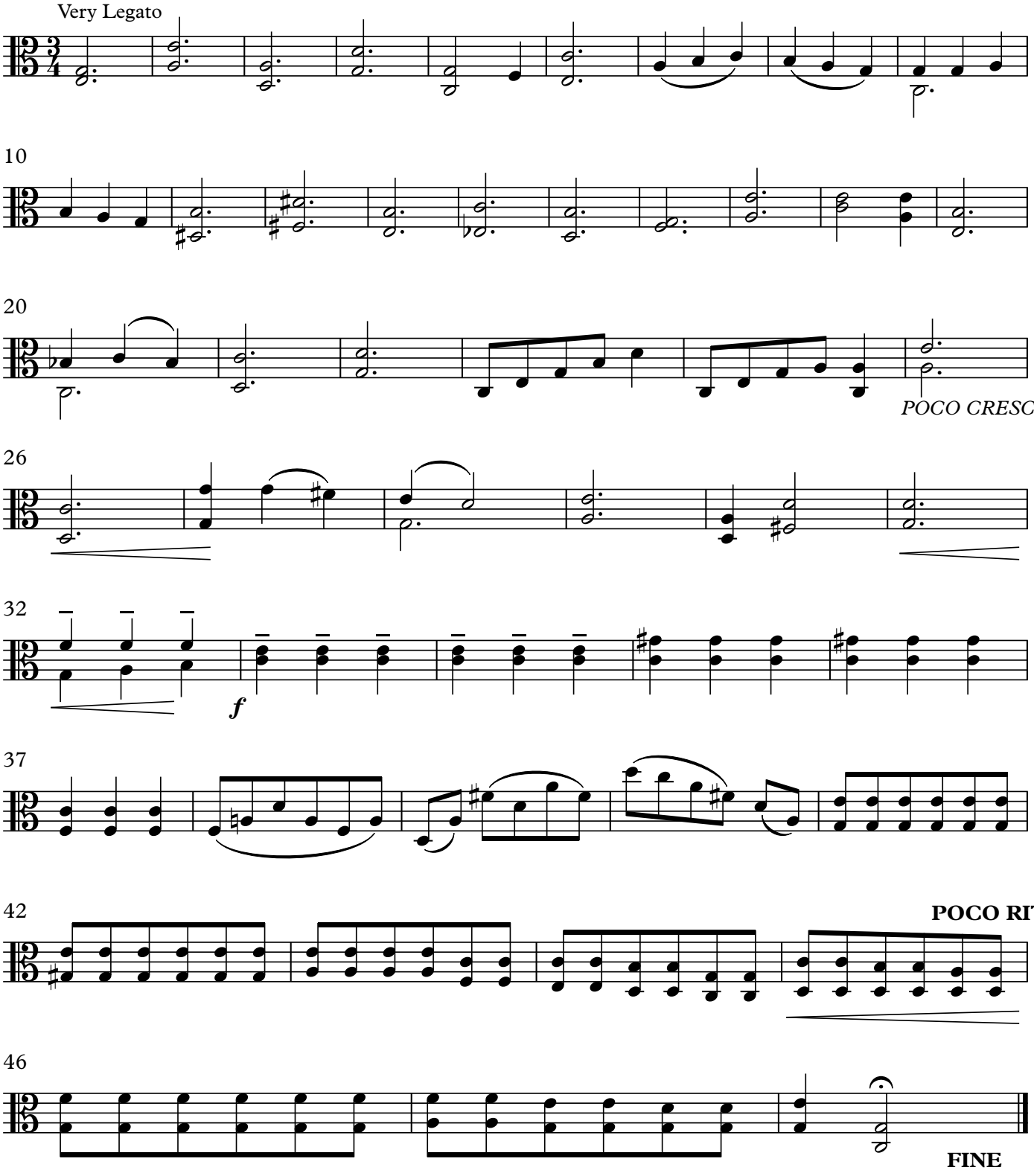
LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH

Viola II

SY MILLER & JILL JACKSON



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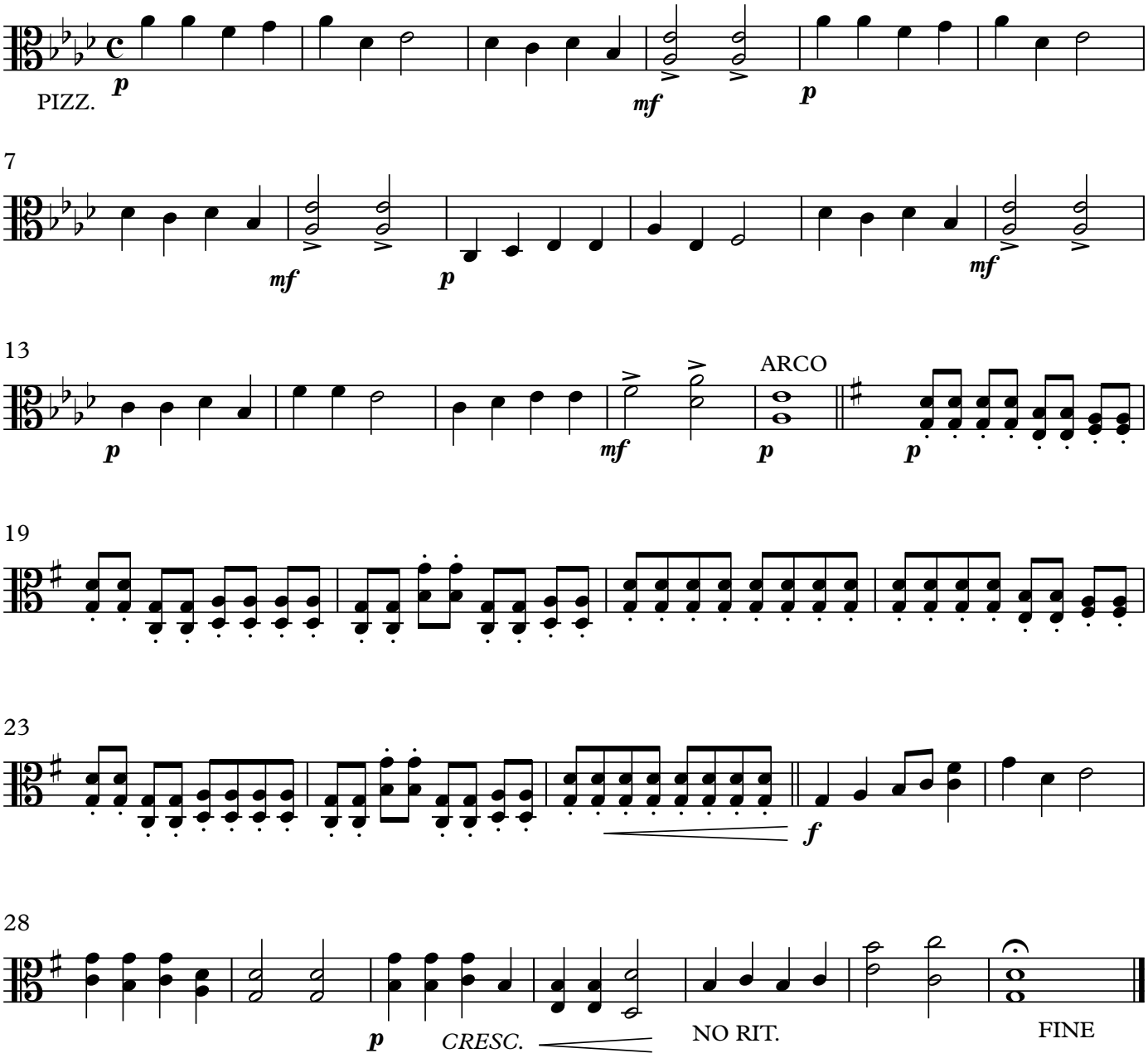
GOOD KING WENCELAUS

Viola II

ENGLISH



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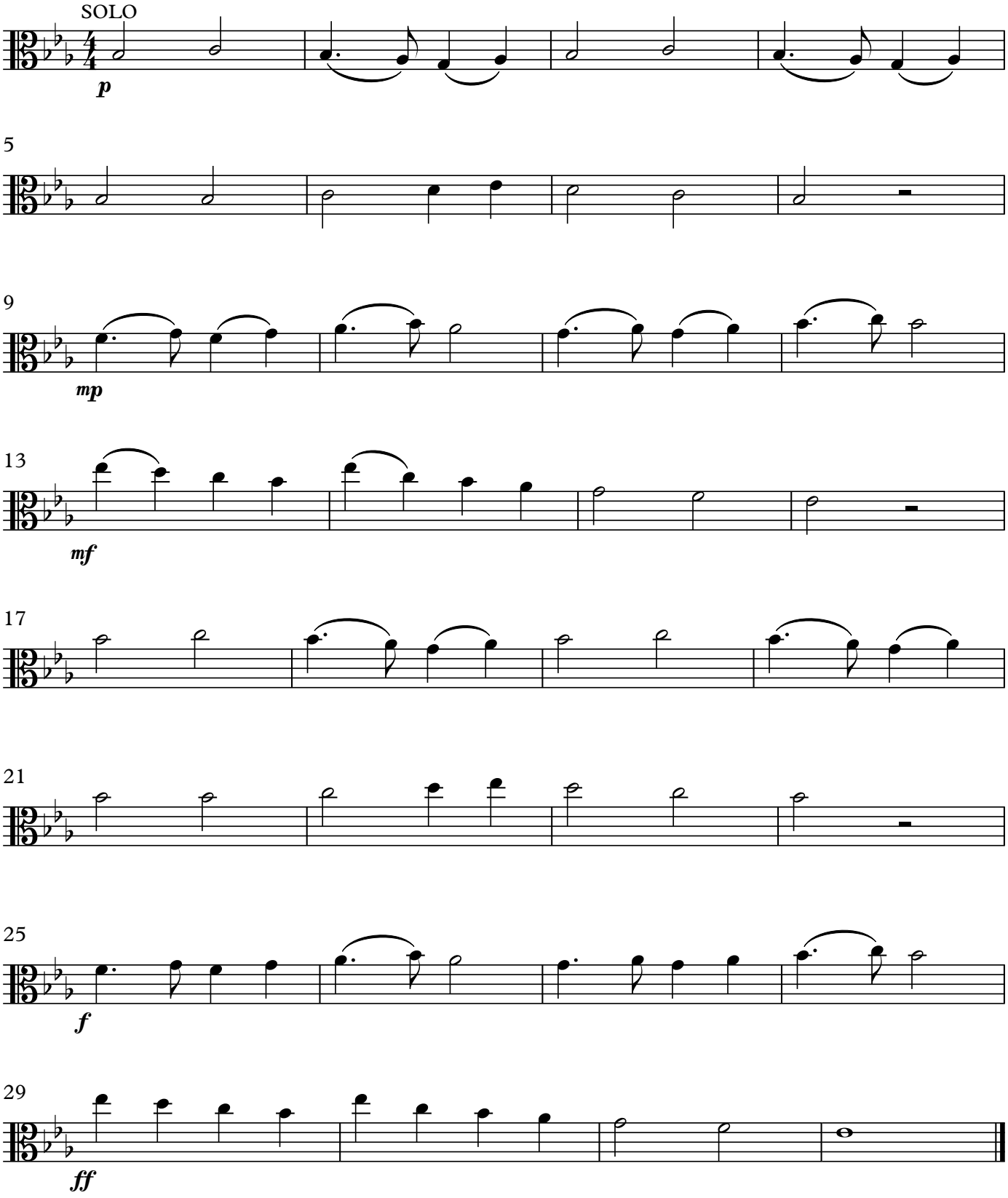
OH THOU JOYFUL DAY

OH SANCTISSIMA

Viola II

SICILIAN



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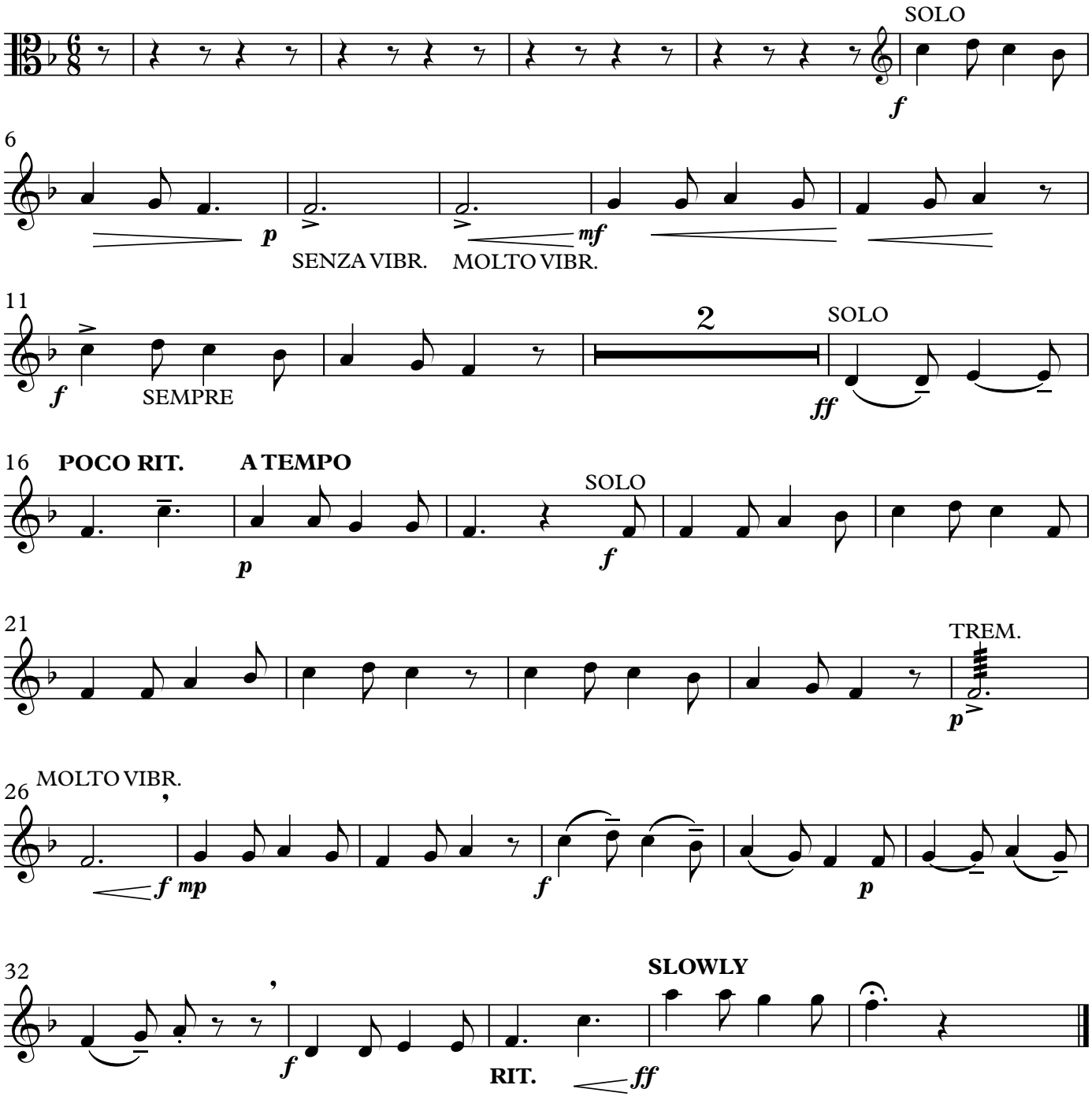
IN DULCI JUBILO

Viola II

OLD GERMAN



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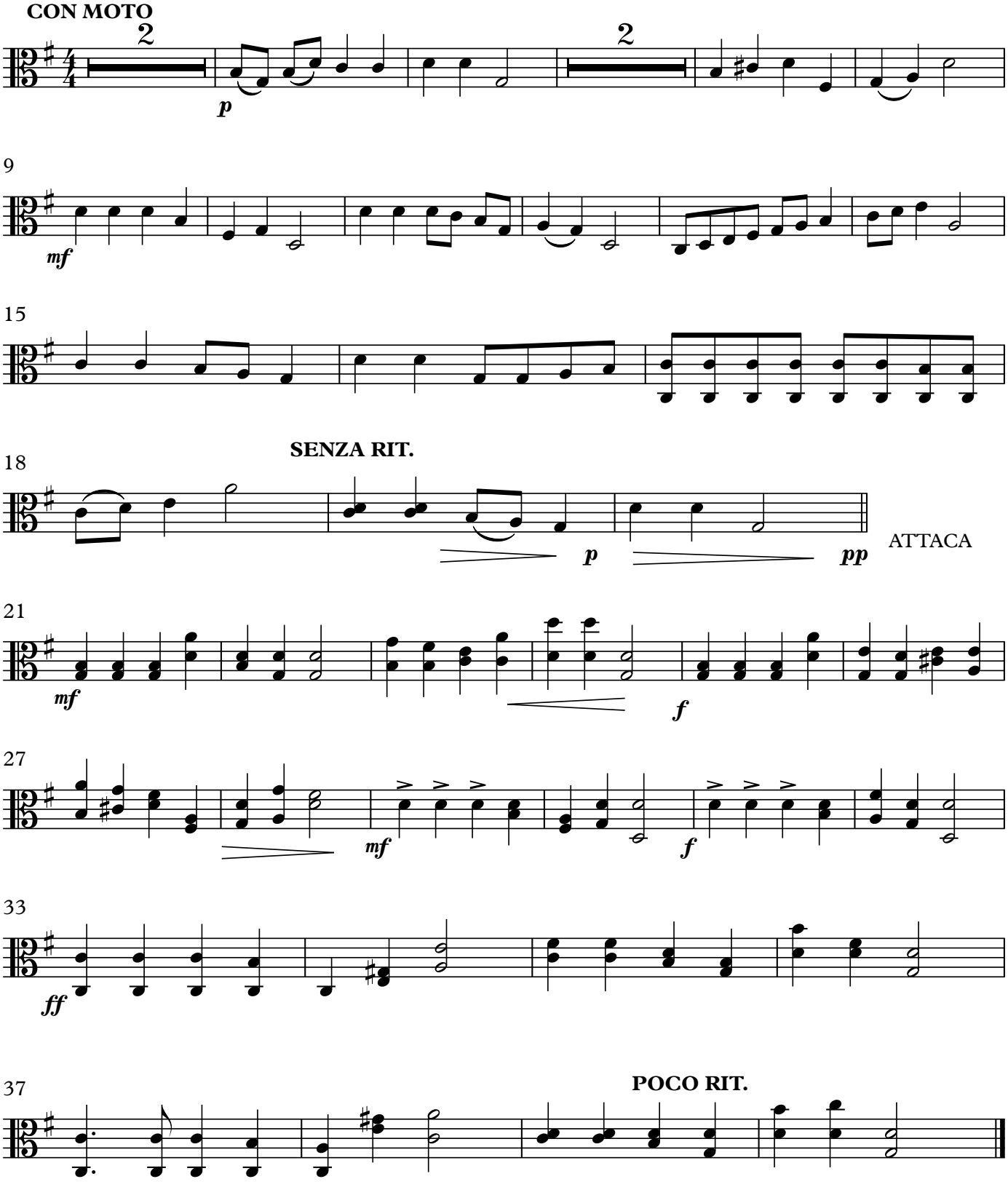
HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Viola II

MENDELSSOHN
CHARLES WESLEY



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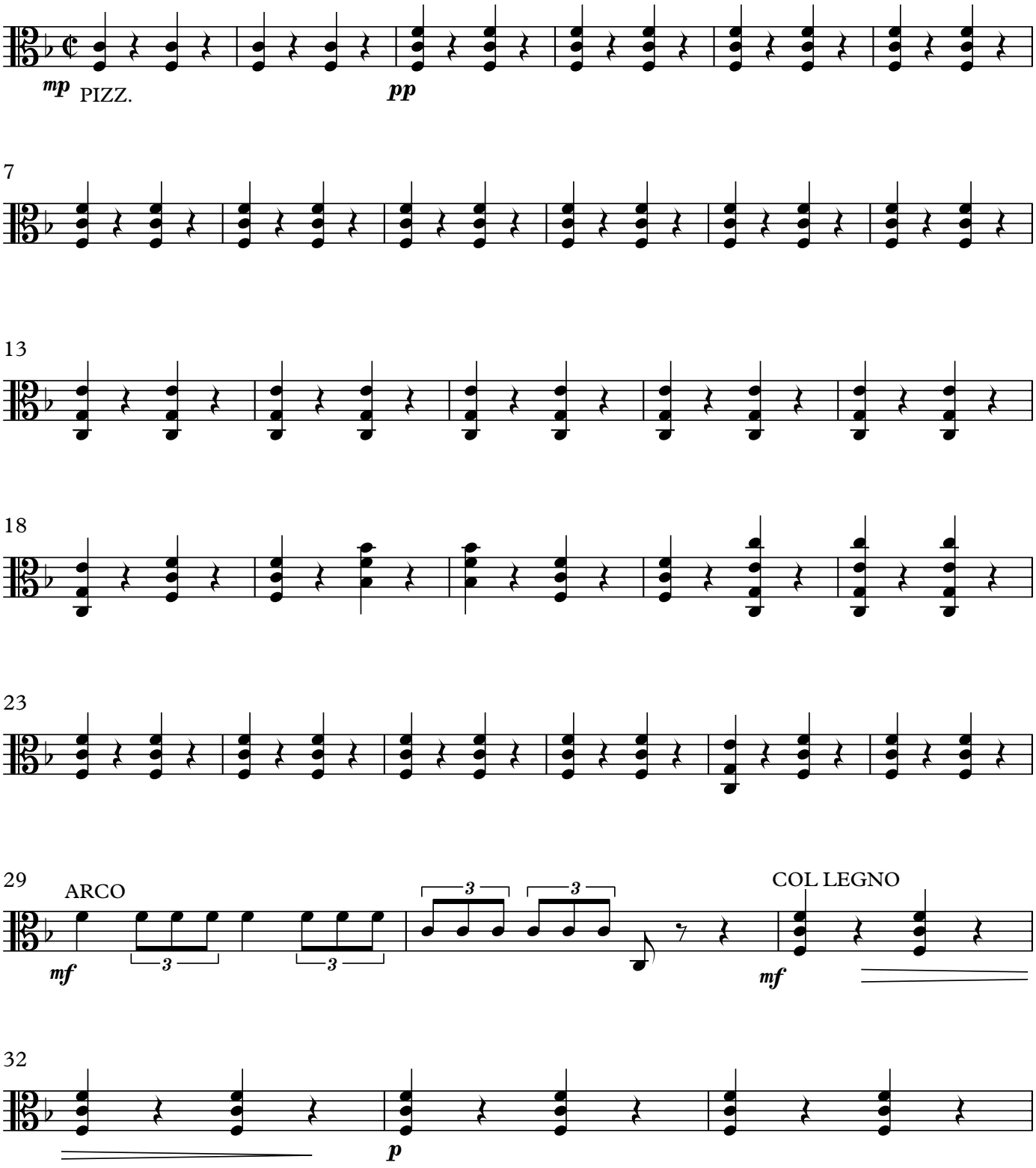
THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

Viola II

KATHRINE DAVIS
HENRY ONORATI
HARRY SIMEONE

MODERATO



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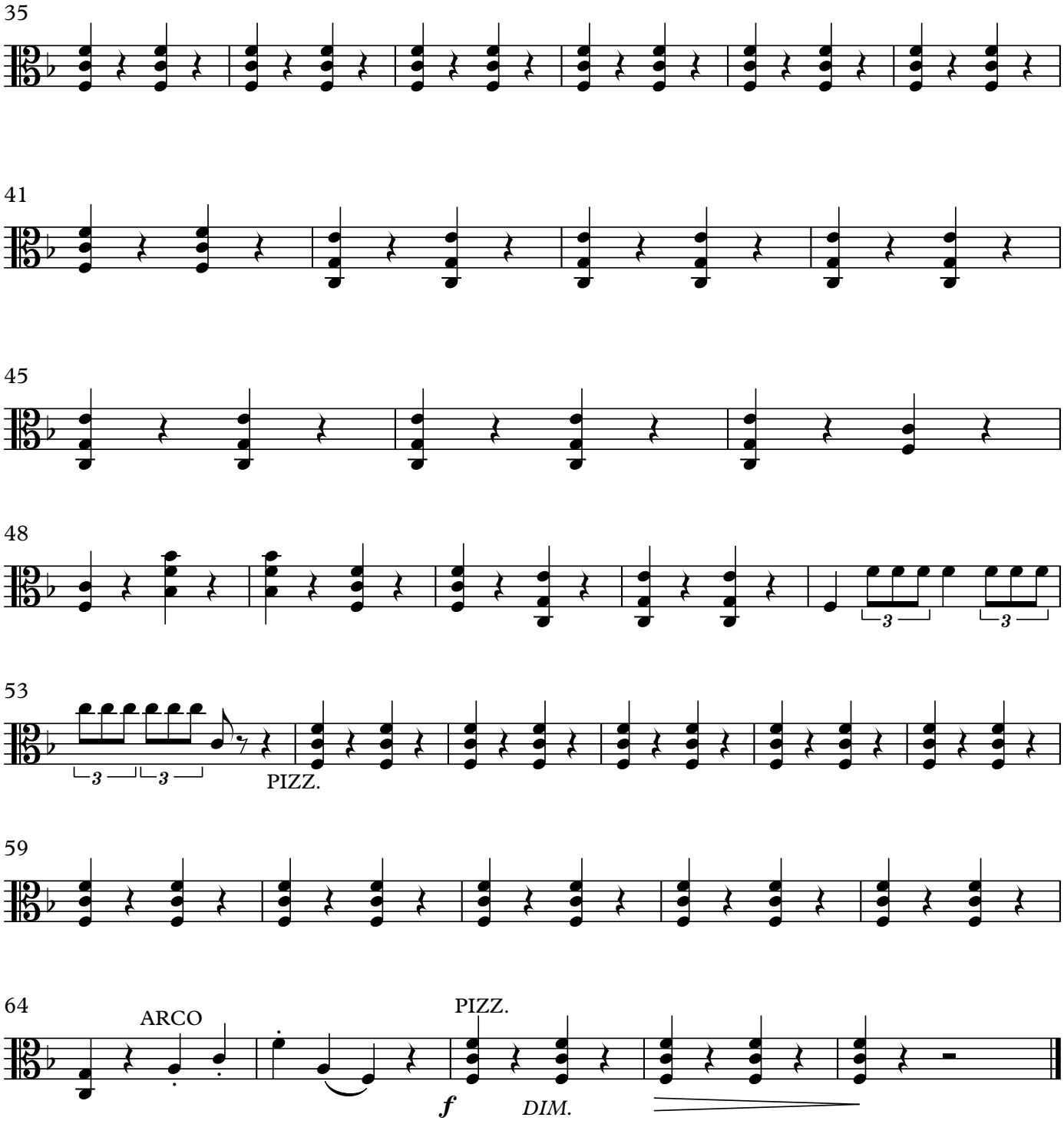
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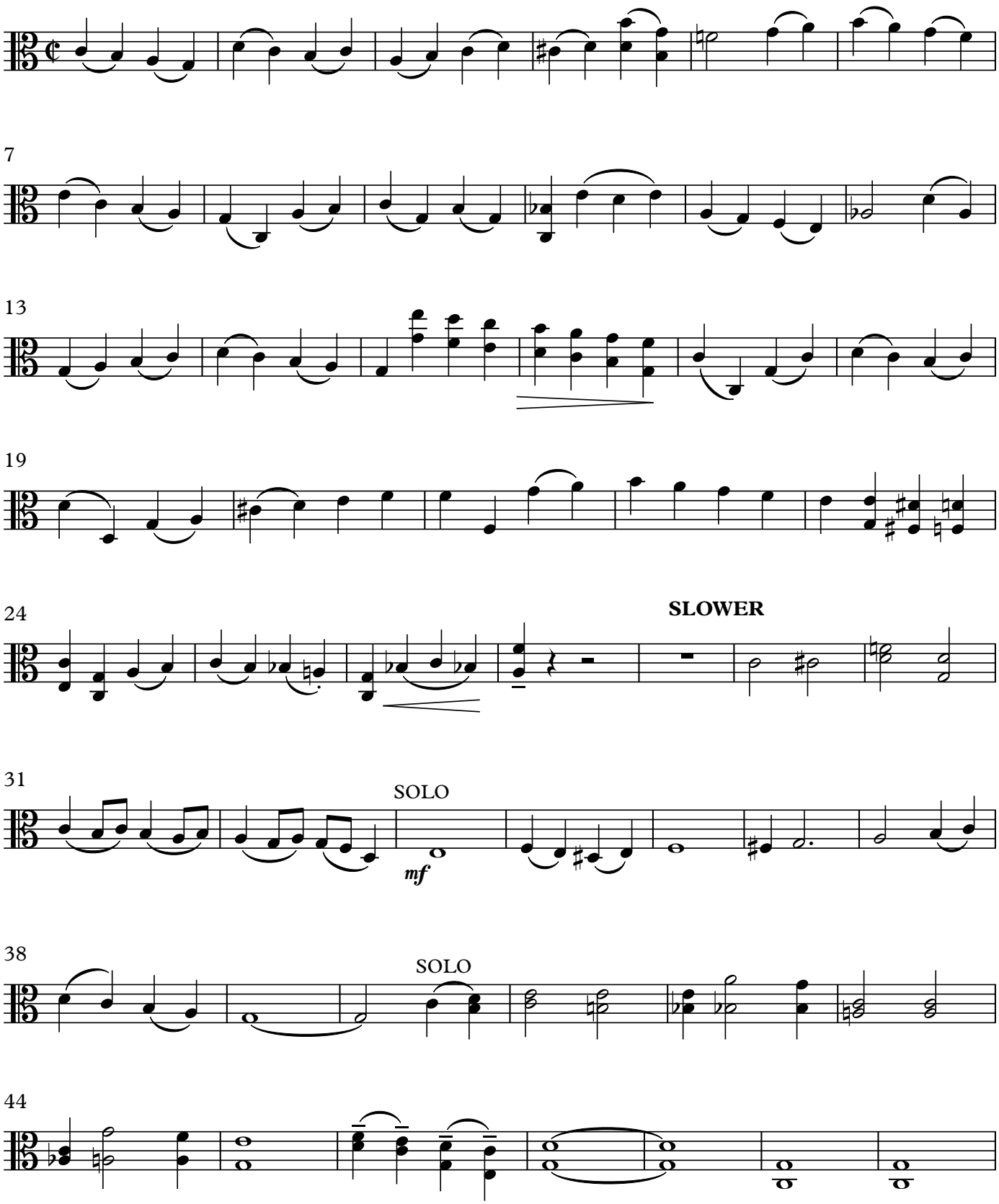
WHITE CHRISTMAS

Viola II

IRVING BERLIN



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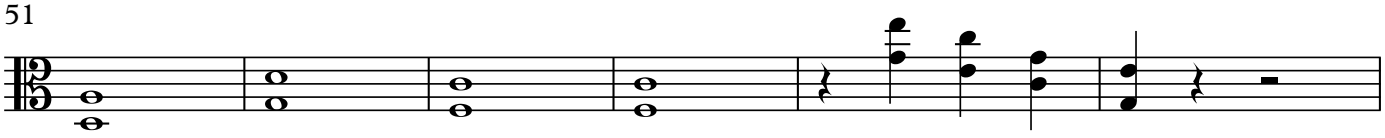

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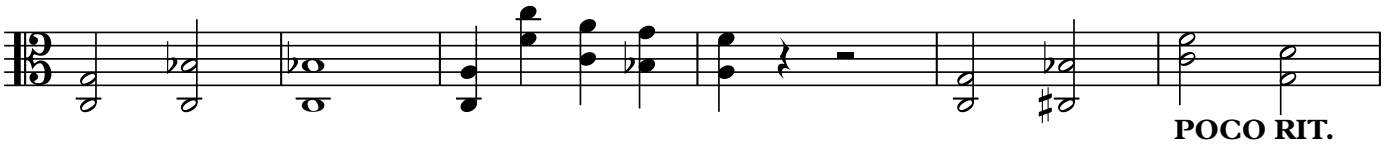

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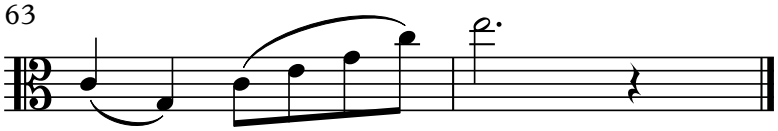
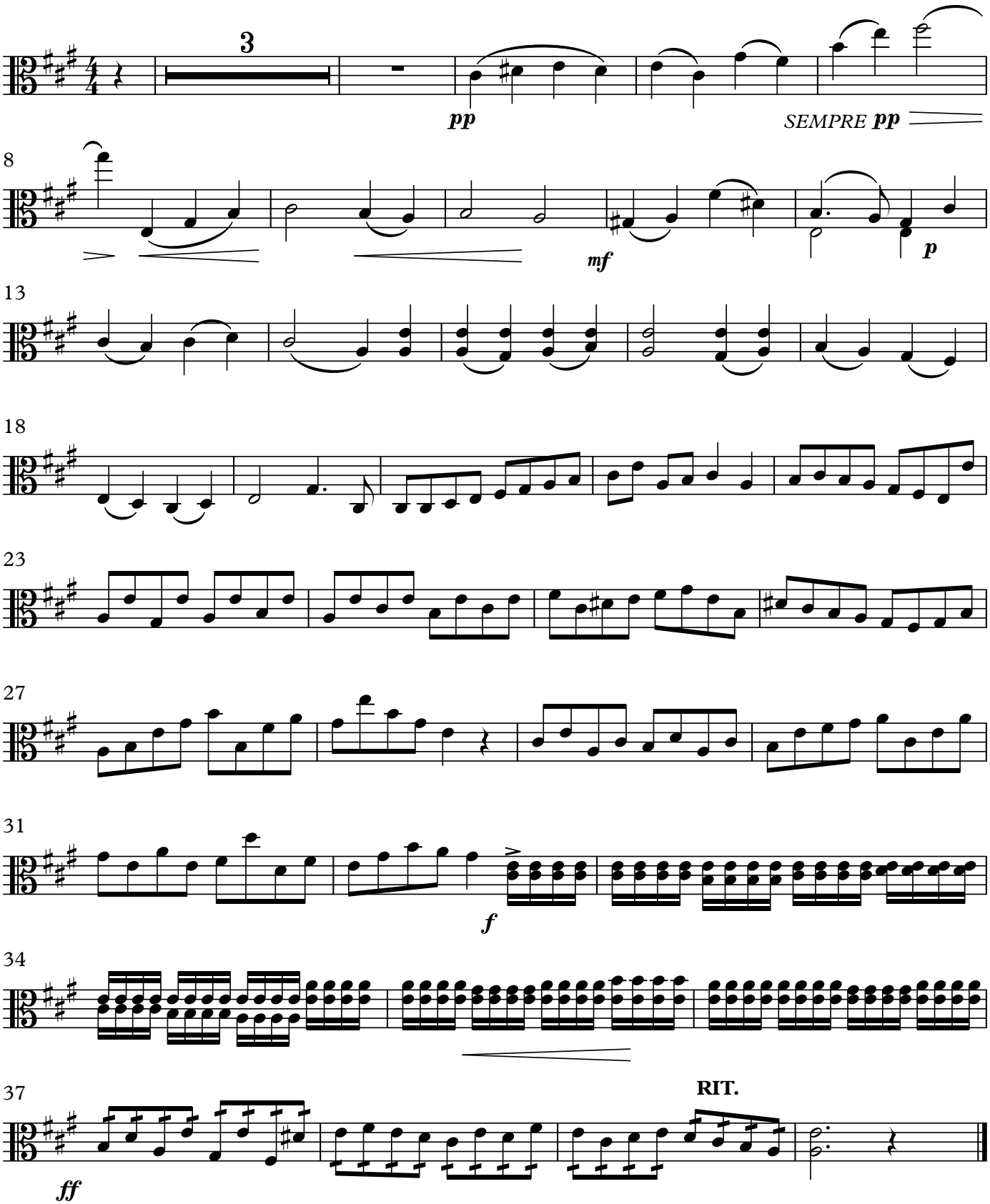


ADESTE FIDELES

Viola II



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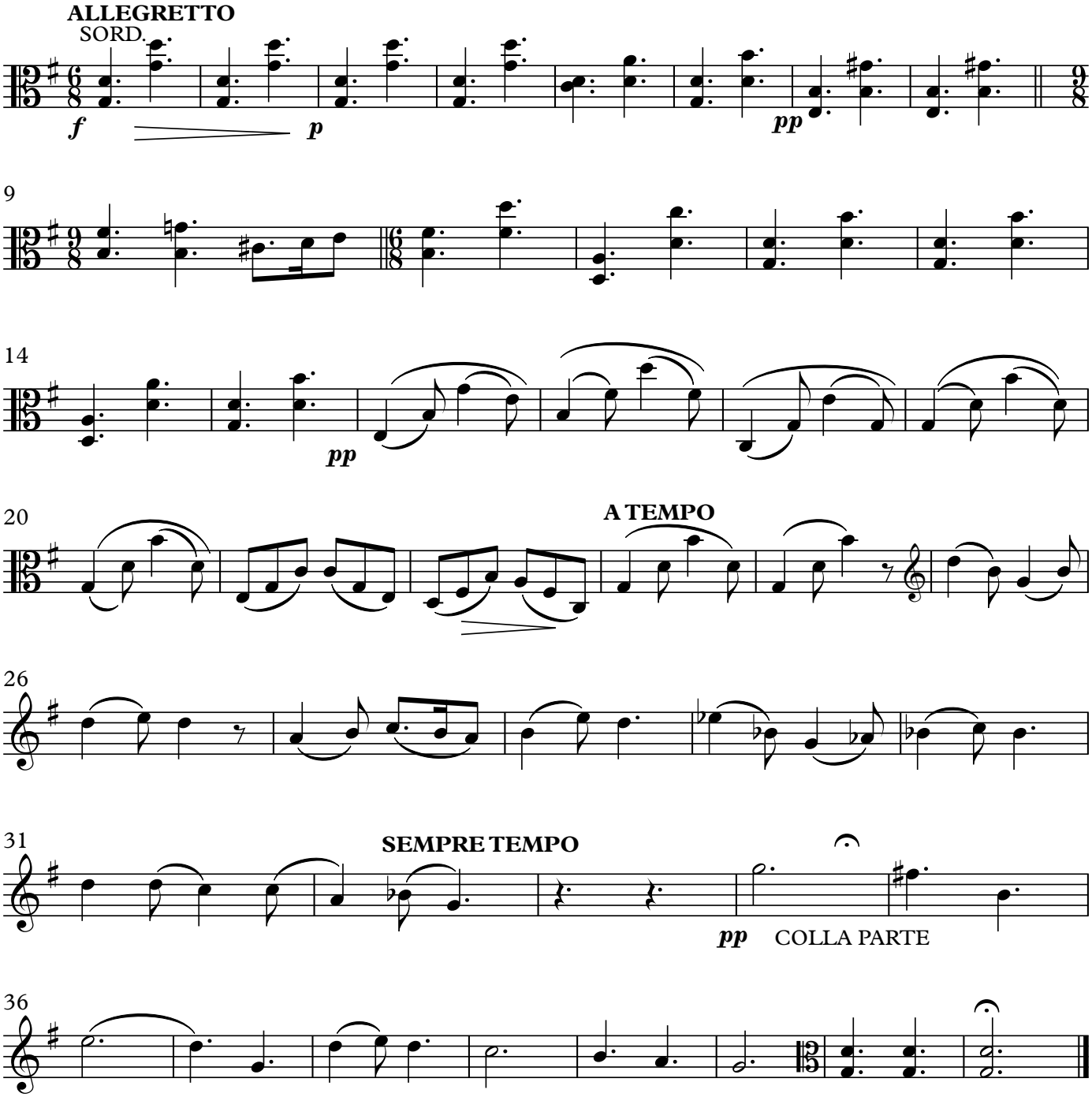
VIRGIN'S SLUMBER SONG

Viola II

MAX REGER



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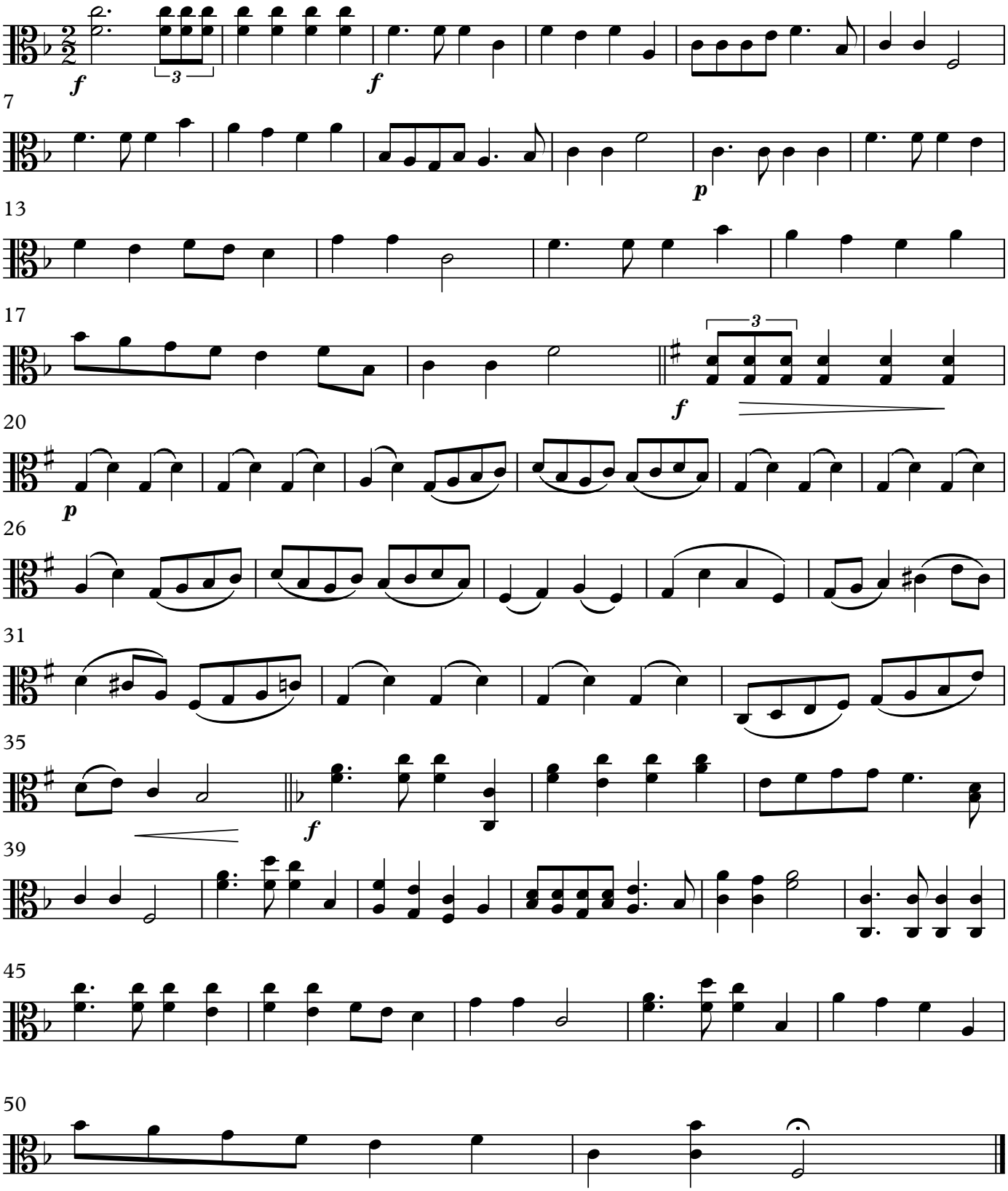
DECK THE HALLS

Viola II

Welsh

MODERATO



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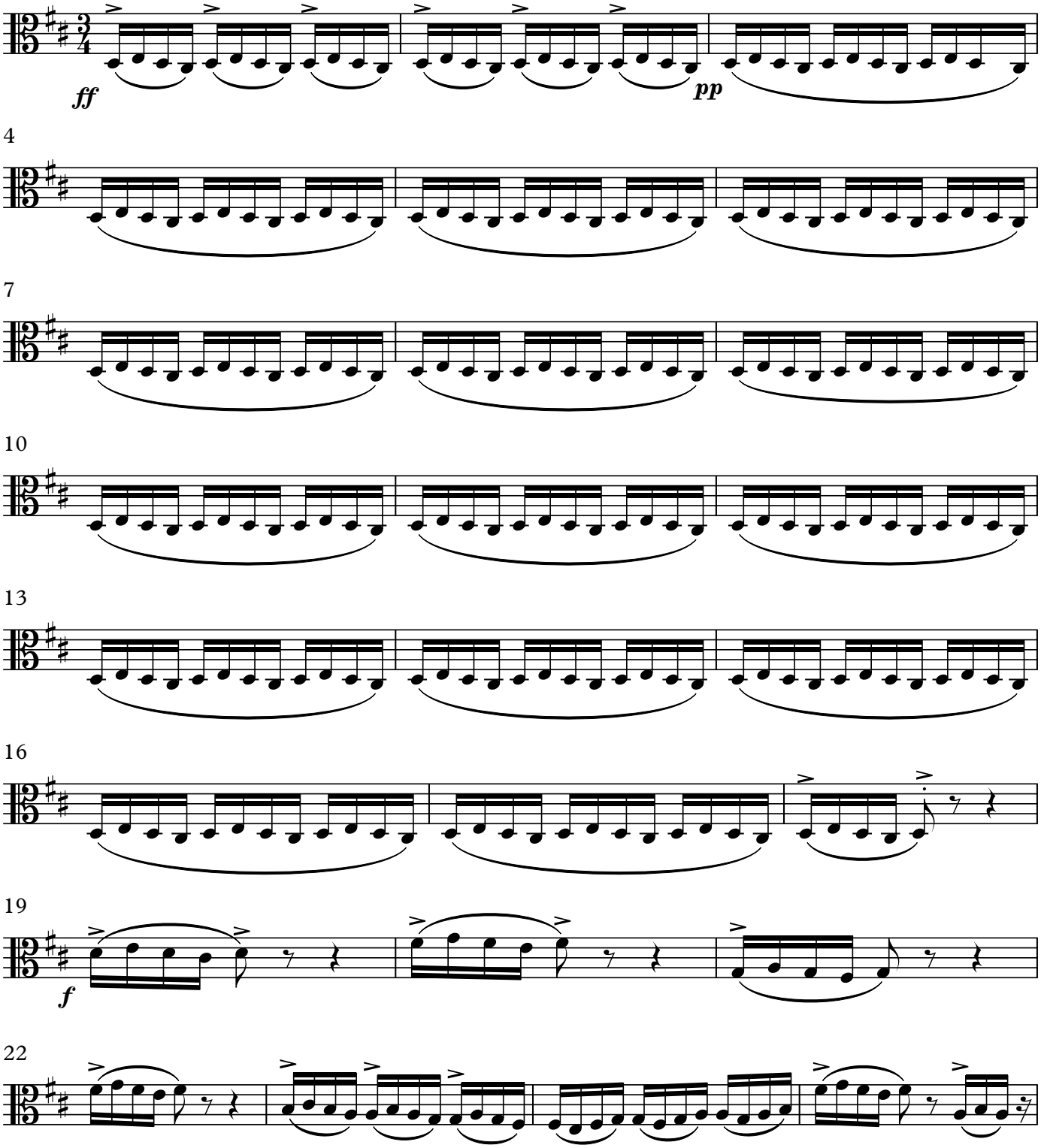
THE FIRST NOWELL

Viola II

ENGLISH TUNE



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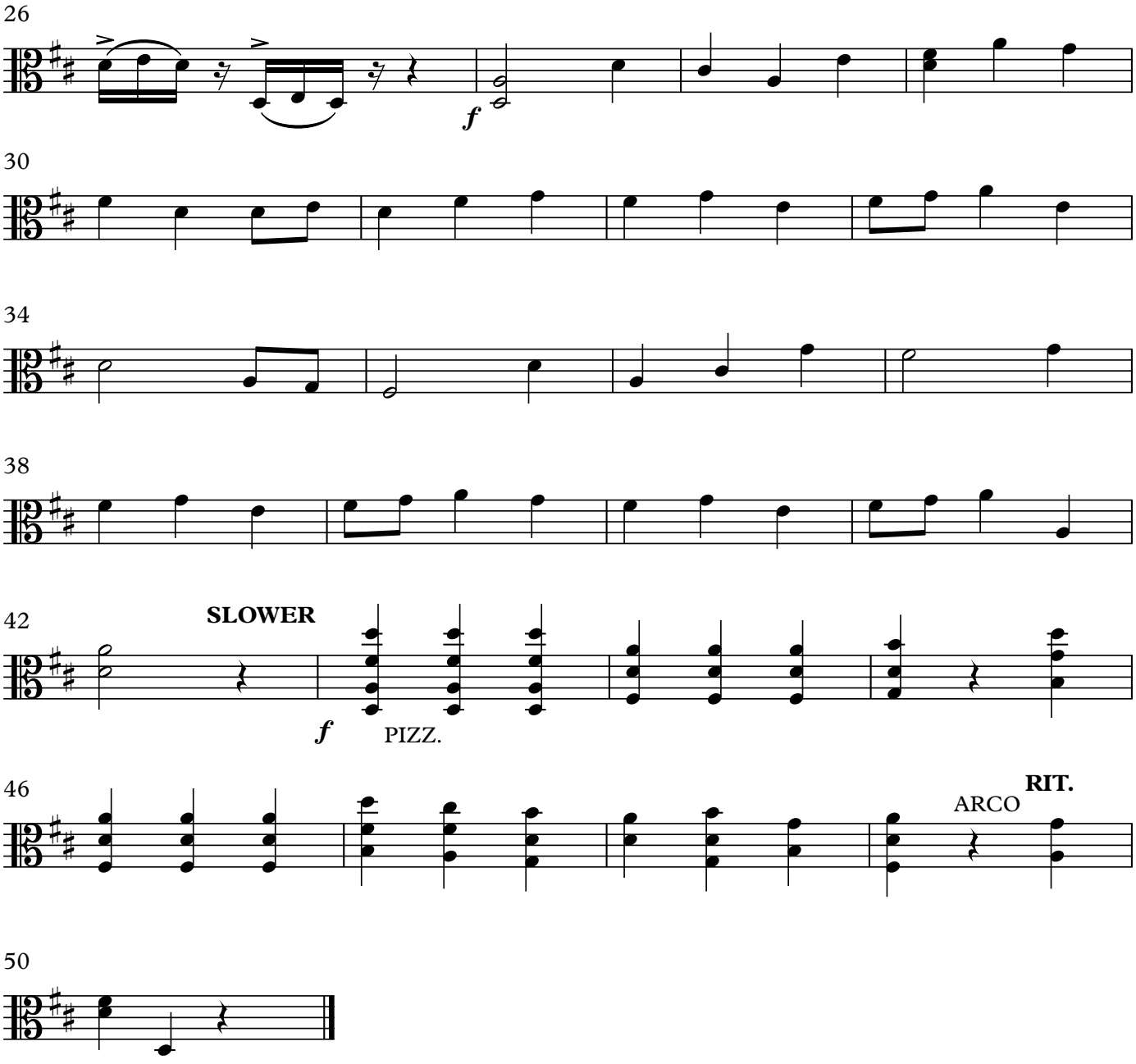
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PIZZ.
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ARCO
RIT.
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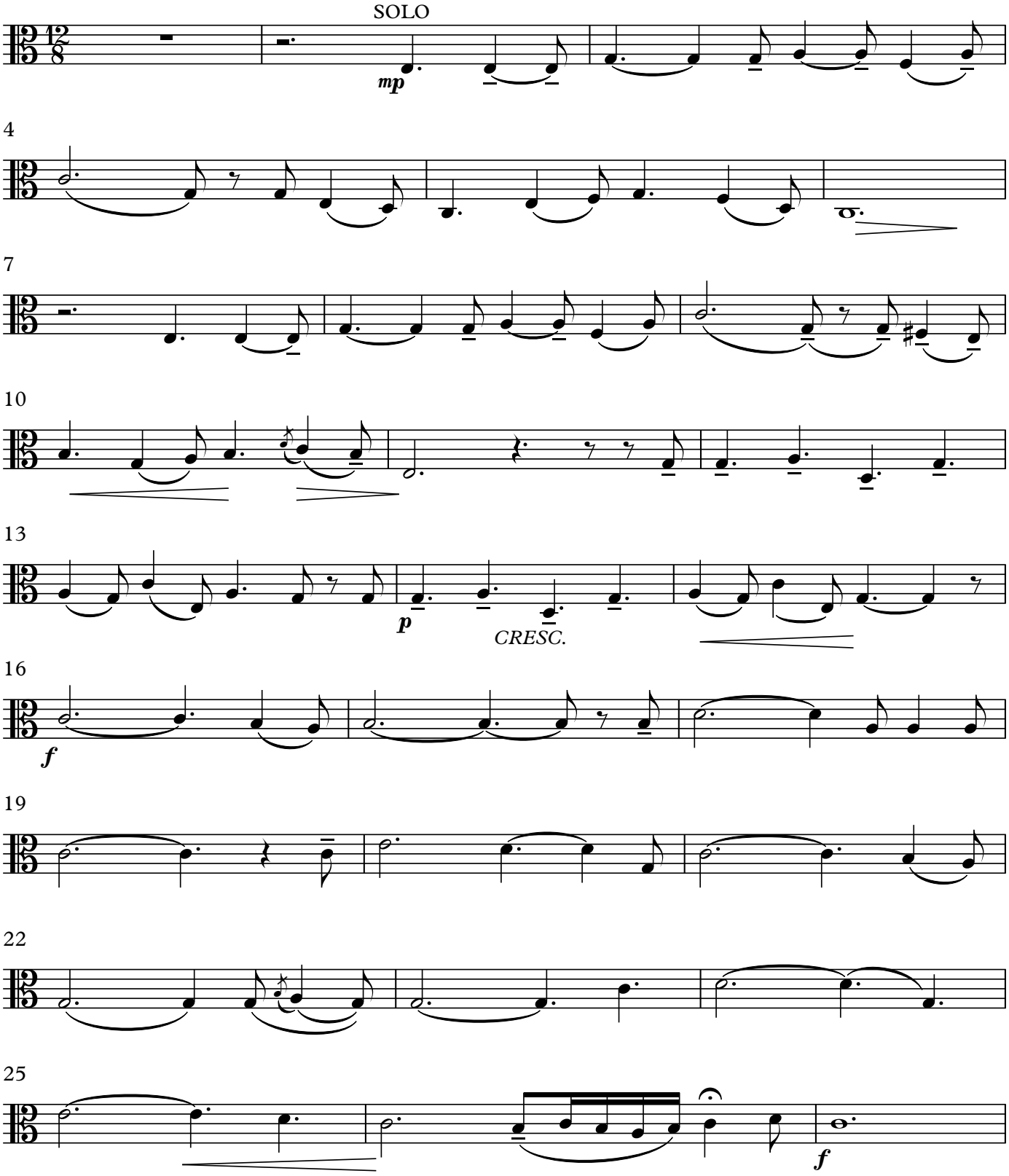
CANTIQUE DE NOEL

Viola II

ADOLPHE ADAM

ANDANTE



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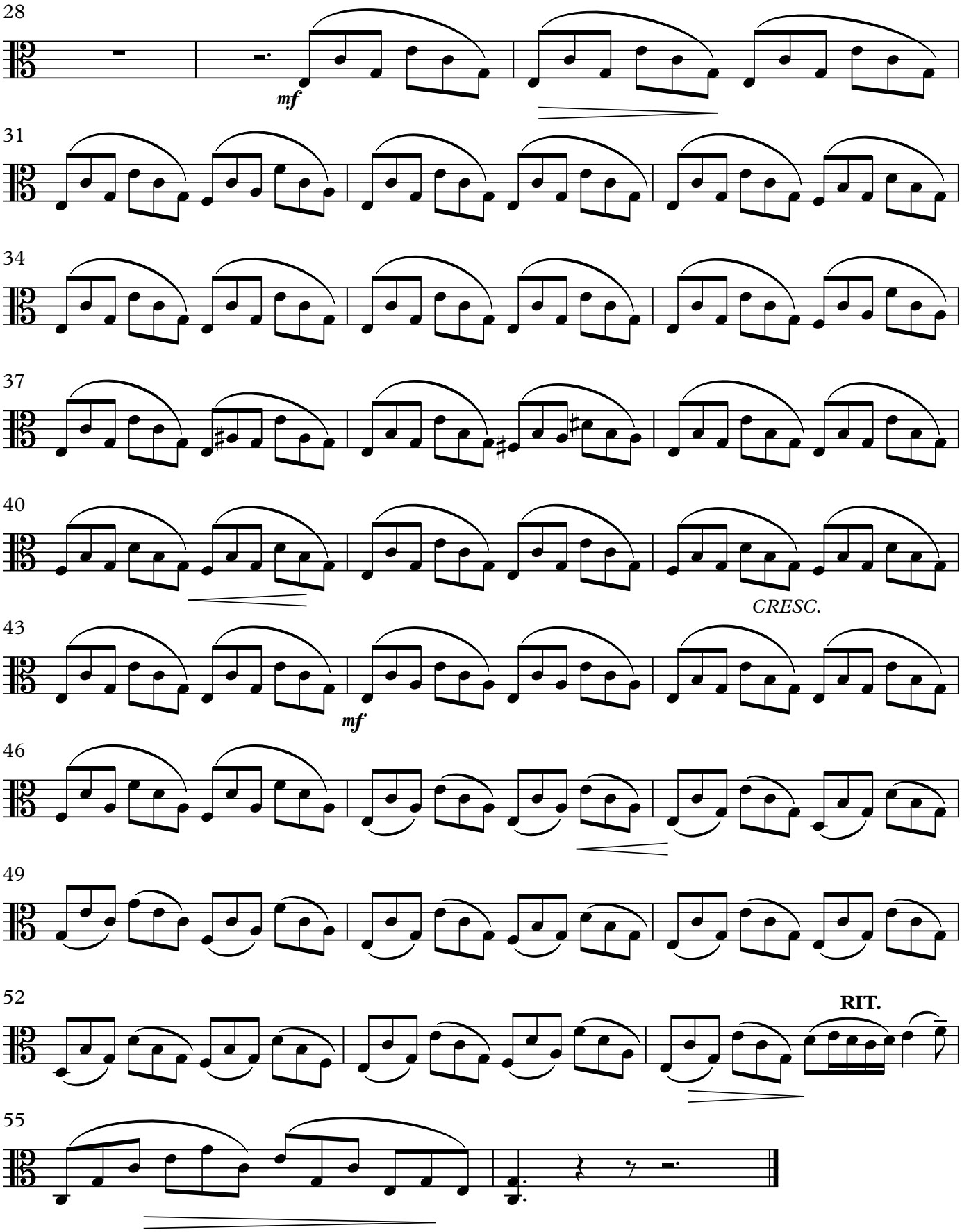
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