MENDELSSOHN

THREE PIECES

(posthumous)

edited by
ERNEST WALKER

PIANO SOLO

2/-
~~2s. 6d.~~

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160 WARDOUR STREET
LONDON W.1

MADE IN ENGLAND

PREFACE

These three pieces by Mendelssohn (all of them hitherto unpublished, so far as has been possible to discover) are printed from manuscripts in the possession of Margaret Deneke, honorary fellow and choirmaster of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, who acquired them by gift from the late Paul Victor Mendelssohn Benecke, fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, the eldest son of the composer's eldest daughter. They form part of a very extensive and varied collection of Mendelssohniana which has now been deposited on loan to the Bodleian Library.

In order to make a trio of piano solo pieces, it has been thought advisable to print ' Im Kahn ' (the title is Mendelssohn's) in an instrumental form edited by myself. The original is a song with words by Heine :

Mein Liebchen, wir sassen beisammen
Traulich im leichten Kahn,
Die Nacht war still, und wir schwammen
Auf weiter Wasserbahn.

Die Geisterinsel, die schöne,
Lag dämmernd im Mondenglanz,
Dort klangen liebe Töne,
Dort wogte der Nebeltanz.

Dort klang es lieb und lieber,
Es ward uns wohl und weh,
Wir schwammen leise vorüber,
Allein auf weiter See.

The manuscript is signed ' Zu freundlicher Erinnerung an Weimar d. 16ten April, 1841. Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy.'

For the Song without Words in D minor there are two sources, identical except for the accidental omission in one of them of a *f* in the fourth bar. One of these is contained in a manuscript, in a copyist's hand, of ' Sechs Lieder ohne Worte,' with an autograph title-page inscribed ' An Fr. Schlemmer zu freundlicher Erinnerung Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy. Frankfurt a/M. d. 24. Dec. 1844.' The D minor is the fourth of the set: the others are those subsequently published as op. 85, No. 1, op. 85, No. 2, op. 67, No. 1, op. 67, No. 5 and op. 67, No. 6. The other source is contained in a small manuscript book with a printed title-page: ' Manuscript. Lieder ohne Worte von Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy. Seiner Freundinn Juliet Benecke als Christmas Music Book überreicht von Carl Klingemann. Weihnachten 1848.' The book contains op. 85, No. 6, op. 85, No. 3 and op. 85, No. 1, in addition to the present piece. Why it should not have been published, in conjunction with others of equal quality, is not known.

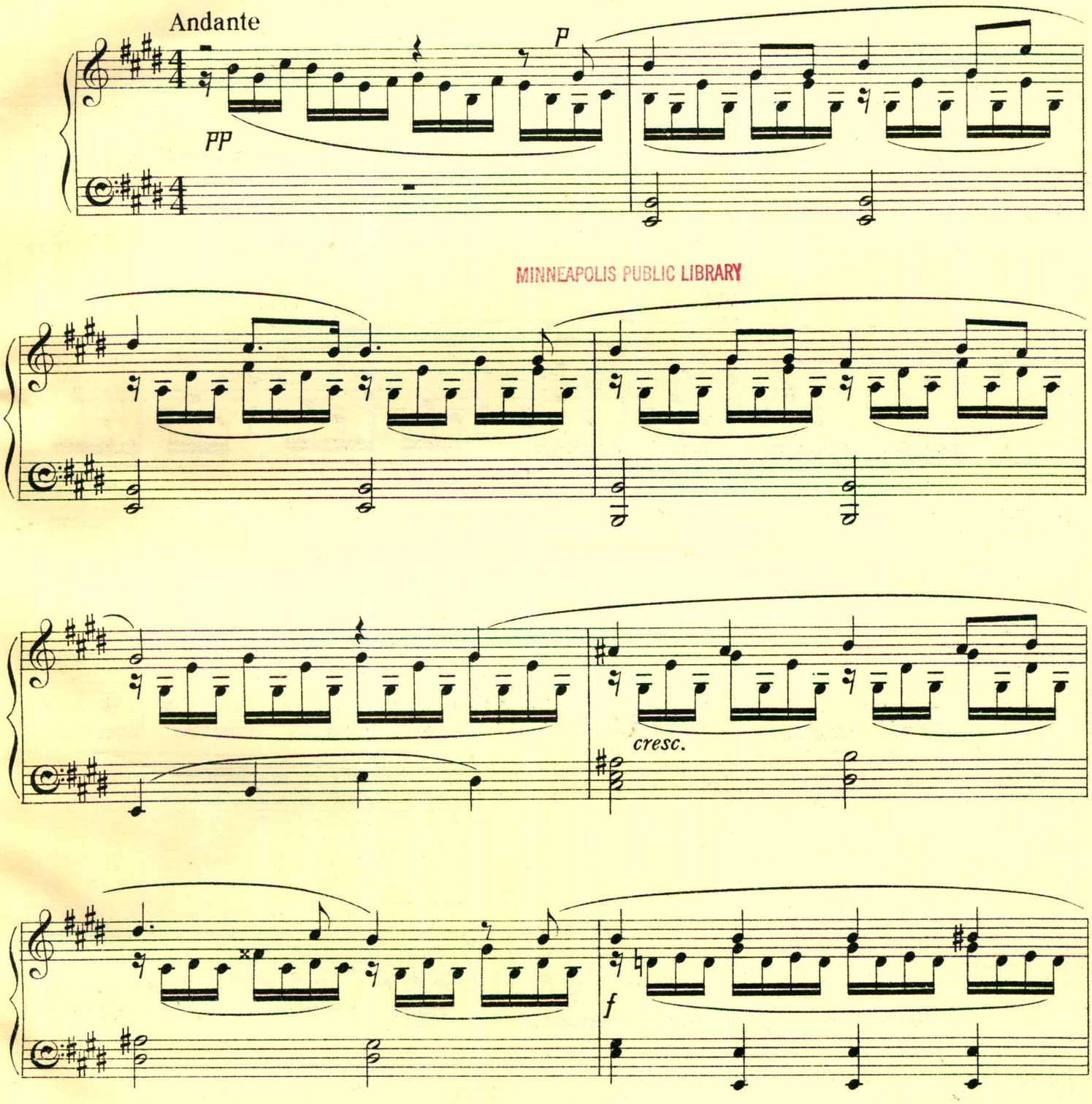
The Canon, an autograph but not signed, is dated ' London 7ten Juni, 1842.' Mendelssohn was fond of contributing to friends' albums such illustrations of his contrapuntal readiness : the British Museum possesses a piece of the same character (published in 1940 by Messrs. Cramer, under the editorship of Mr. Jack Werner, and inscribed ' Zu freundlicher Erinnerung Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, London, 6ter Mai, 1847 ') of which the first six and the last three bars, apart from the penultimate chord, are the same as in the present canon, though the general scheme is different and the whole piece is 35 bars long as against 45. The two may be considered as different developments of the same germ-idea.

ERNEST WALKER

THREE PIECES

I
IM KAHN

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy
Edited by Ernest Walker



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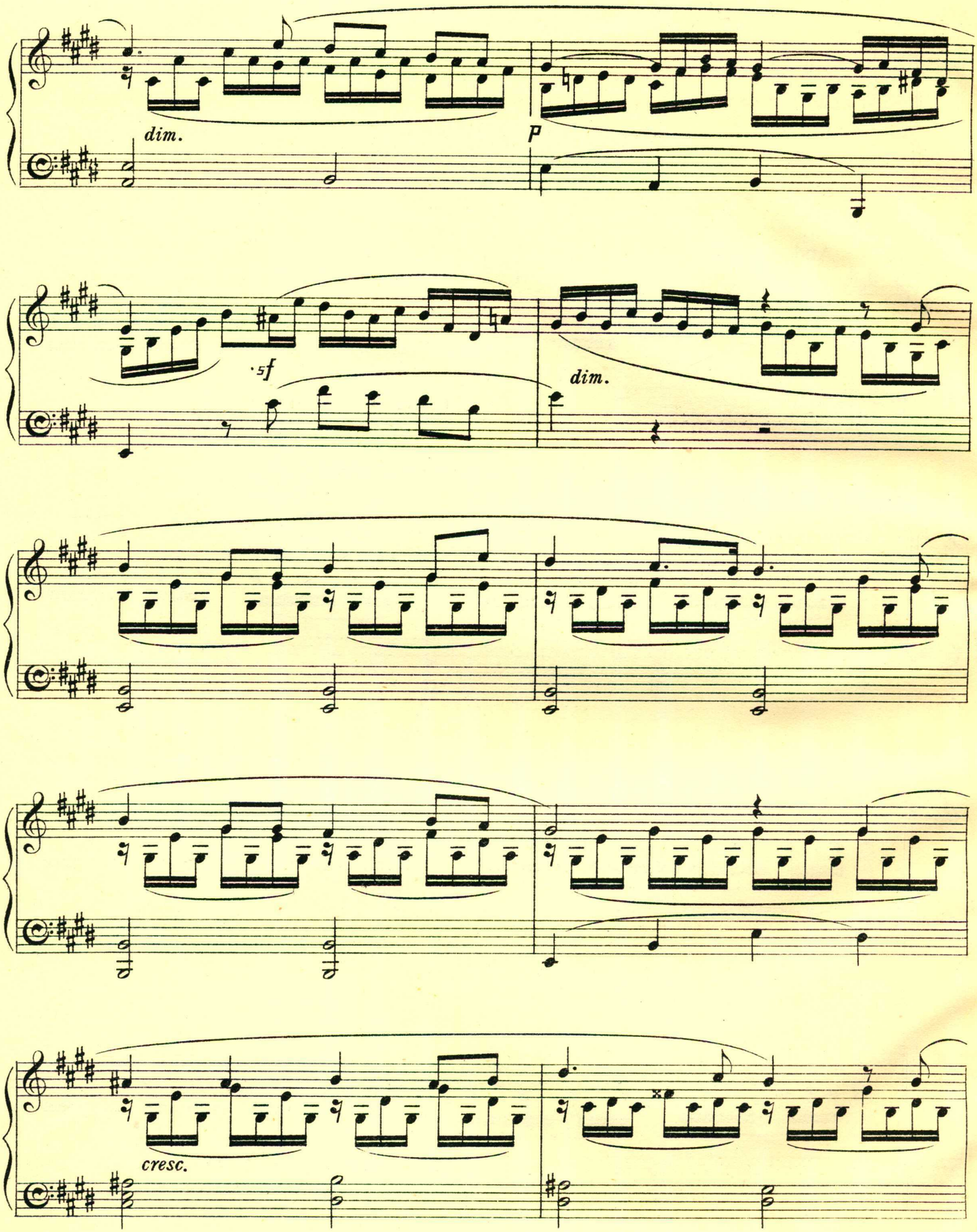
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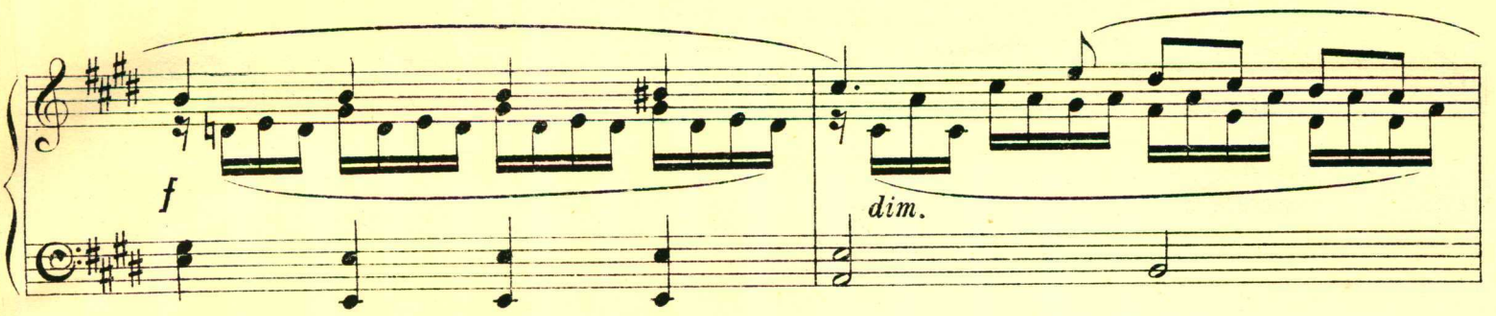
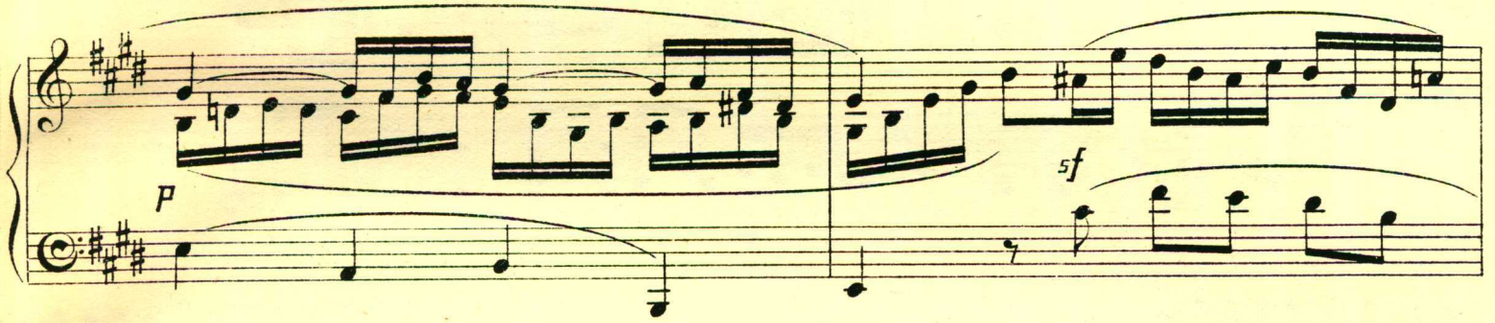
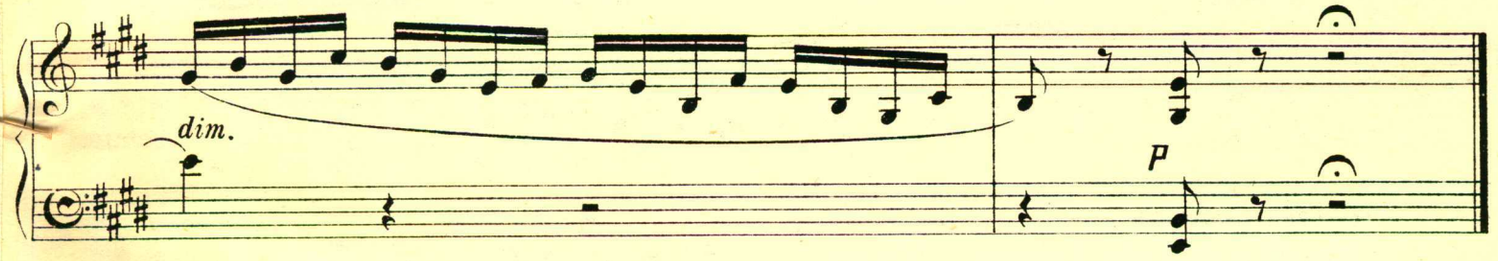
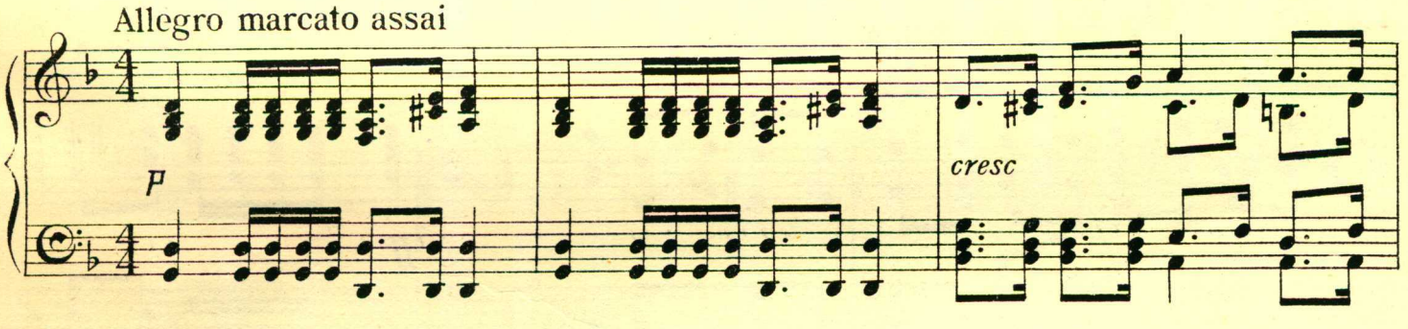


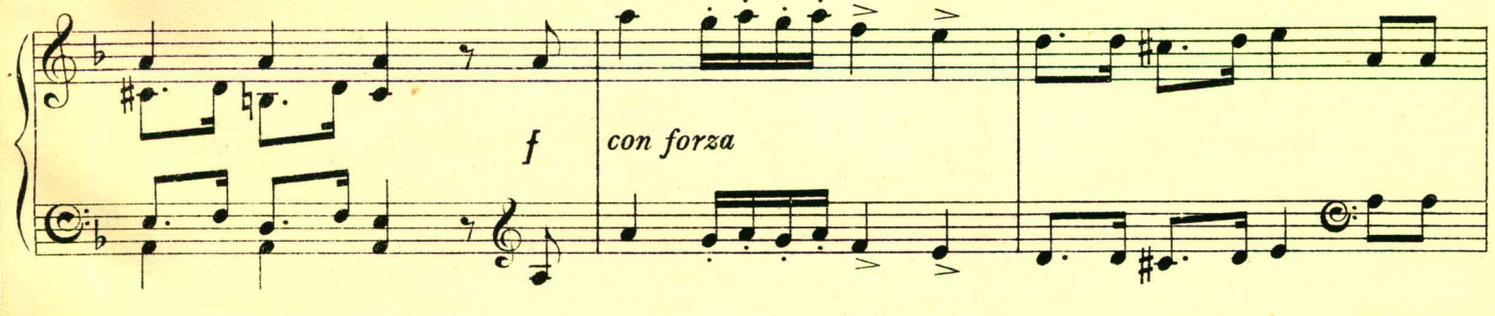




II
SONG WITHOUT WORDS

Allegro marcato assai





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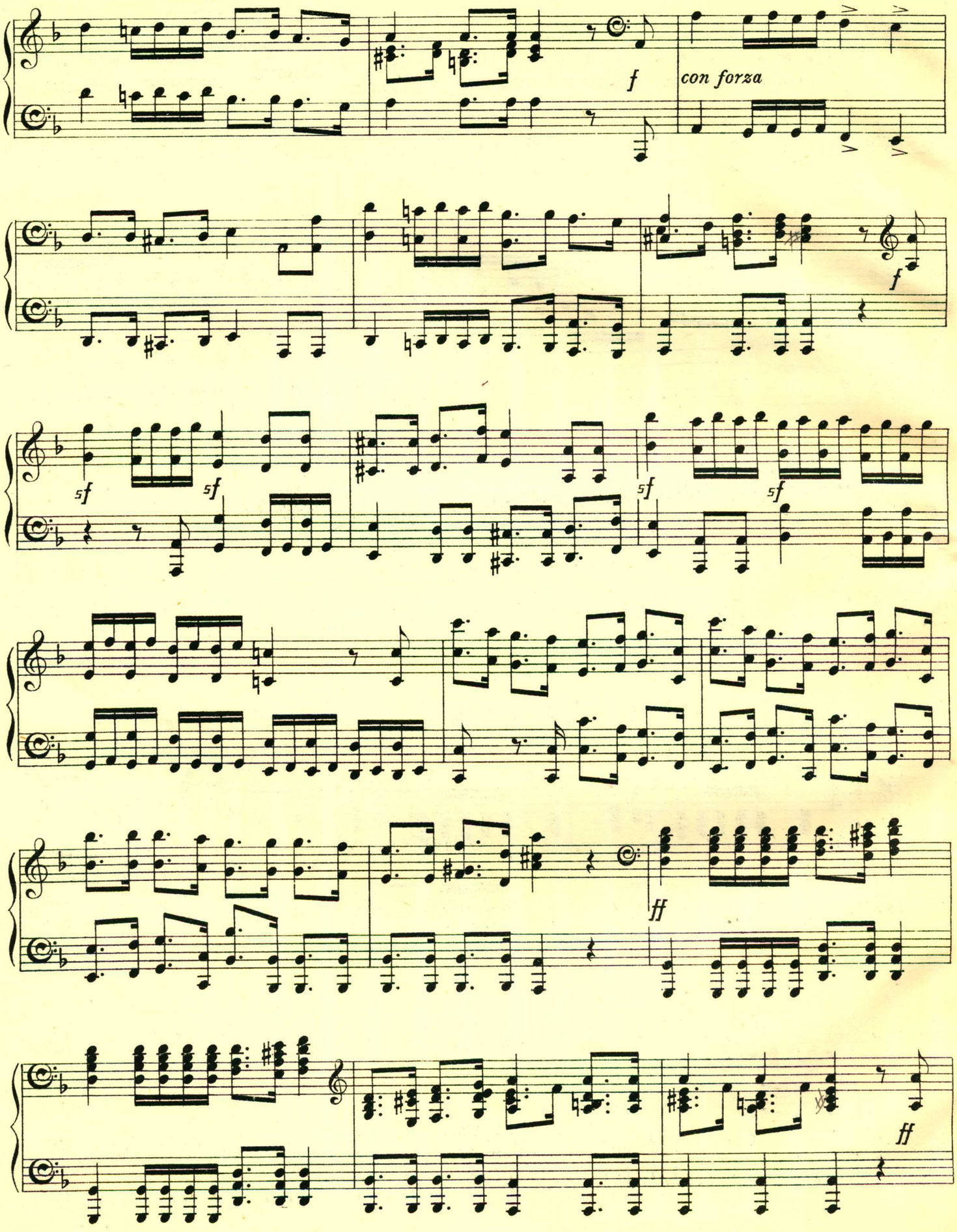
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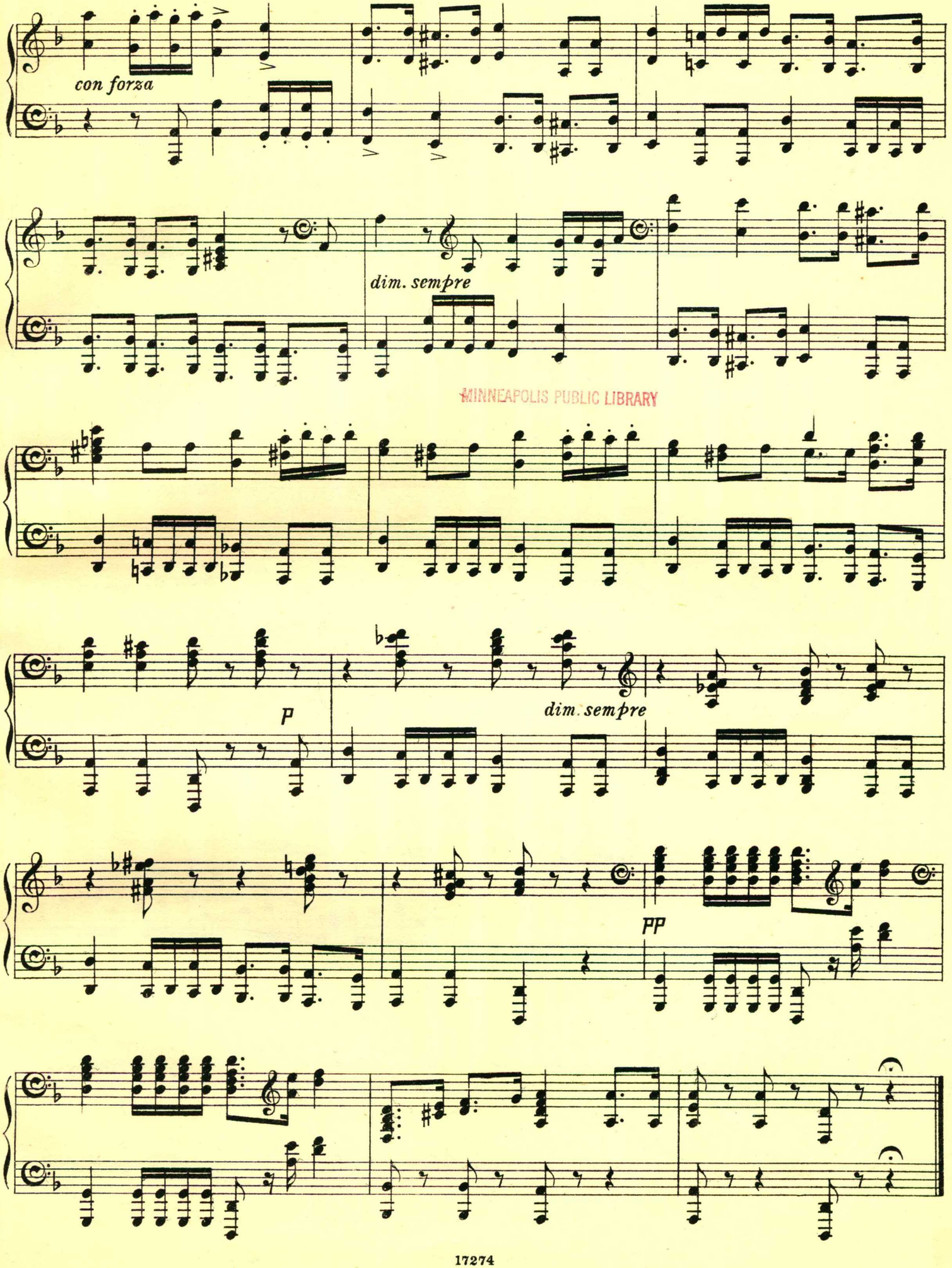

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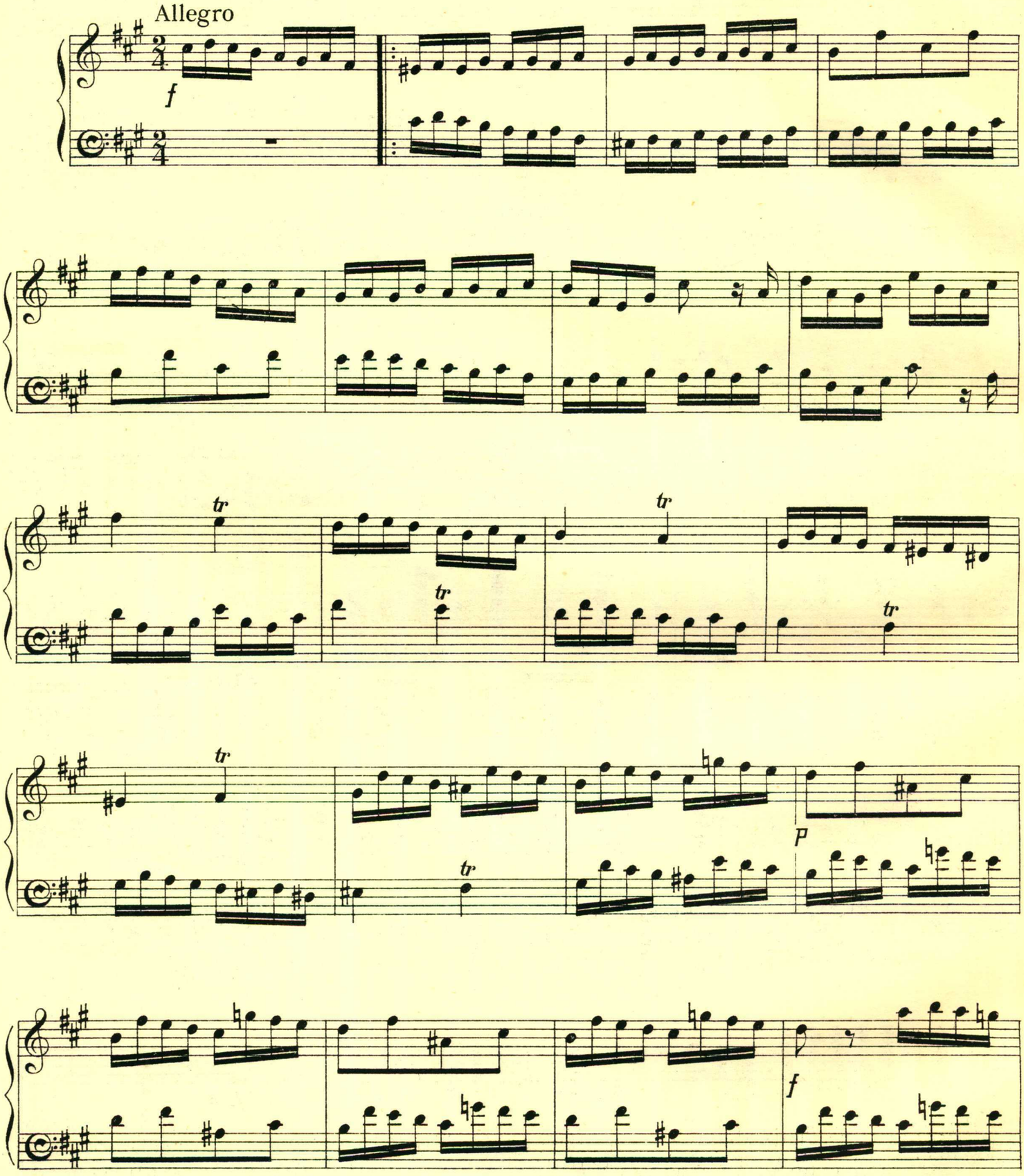
III
CANON



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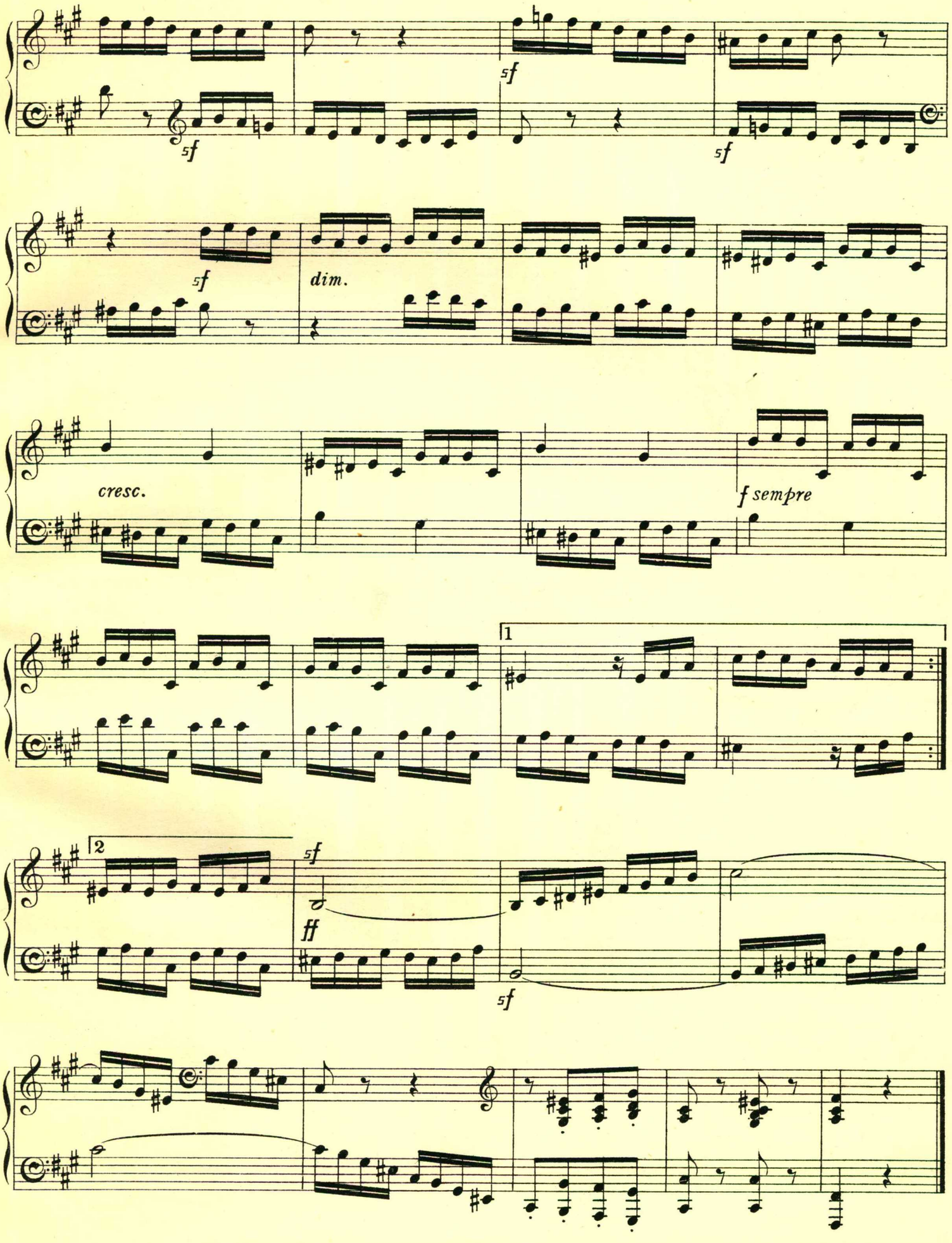
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