Ollie's

Toodles

Clarinet solos within familiar orchestral works

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Clarinet Solos in Familiar Orchestral Works

Imagine that you are listening to a favorite orchestral work. Suddenly, an embedded clarinet solo arrives with heavenly sweetness, and then, it is gone. In his TV series "The Story of Music," Howard Goodall reminds us that, with the technological wonder of recorded music, it is barely a hundred years since we have been able to listen to a favorite symphony more than once or twice in a lifetime. Moreover, in the olden days, before the internet, the listener was wont to ask, "Where might I find the score offering that lovely solo?" It wasn't easy until the Age of Information exploded upon all of us: the library card catalogs of the world began to migrate to the internet, music notation software became affordable and scores in the public domain began to be archived on various servers. An embarrassment of riches awaited musicians eager to have access to a plethora of beloved works.

An embedded clarinet solo may stand alone without accompaniment as in the Valse, 12, from "Gaité Parisienne" by Jacques Offenbach. More often, our instrument emerges with exquisite accompaniment from the other orchestral instruments as in the fifth movement of Hector Berlioz's "Symphonie Fantastique." There is, of course, an abundance of exposed clarinet parts immersed within wind and string ensembles as part of many works. There is a captivating clarinet duet in thirds in the Mazurka, Act III, of Tchaikovky's "Swan Lake" ballet with oboe counterpoint, but, exquisite as it is, I decided to leave it out of this collection. You'll have to enjoy it on your own. Embedded clarinet solos can be long, as in the case of the one at the beginning of Rimsky-Korsakov's "Capriccio Espagnol" and Maurice Ravel's "Bolero", or very short, as in "Danse Russe", also of Act III of "Swan Lake", where, there is a lyrical solo of only four measures, bracketed by an introduction from the oboe and concluded by the bassoon, all the while receiving the barest of accompaniment from five other string parts. In my judgment, it had to be included.

The collection offered here is limited by the pieces in my automobile flash-memory player and my own subjectivity. I played albums in alphabetical order and when I encountered, in my judgment, a clarinet solo too lovely to pass up, I downloaded the score from the International Music Score Library Project (IMSLP), poked around until I found the solo and sequenced it with my music notation program.

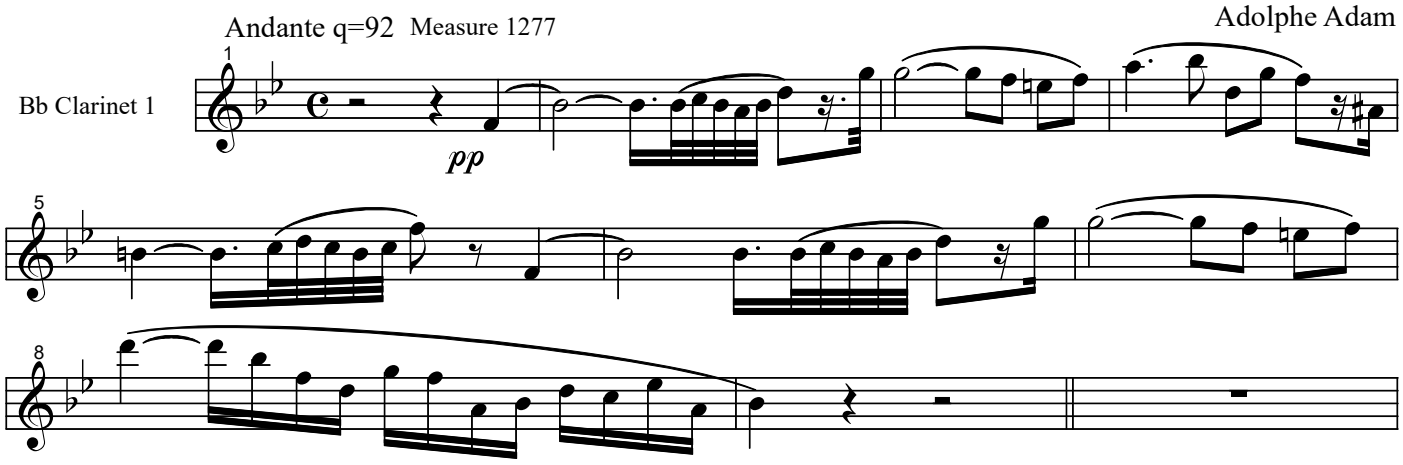
So, here you have "Ollie's Toodles", warts and all, as it were, ready to amuse and amaze your fellow musicians at an upcoming rehearsal of your local musical group. Should you be put off by the absence of a favorite solo, feel free to write to me at oseely@hotmail.com to complain. Better, yet, learn how to fish rather than simply to eat one, get your act together and sequence it yourself so as to include it in your personal, but augmented, copy of this archive, which I declare, without shame or embarrassment, to be in the public domain. If you feel so moved, send me a copy of the solo in pdf format, and I'll include it in the next edition.

Happy playing, all!

Oliver Seely
December 20, 2025
Oakhurst, California

Giselle

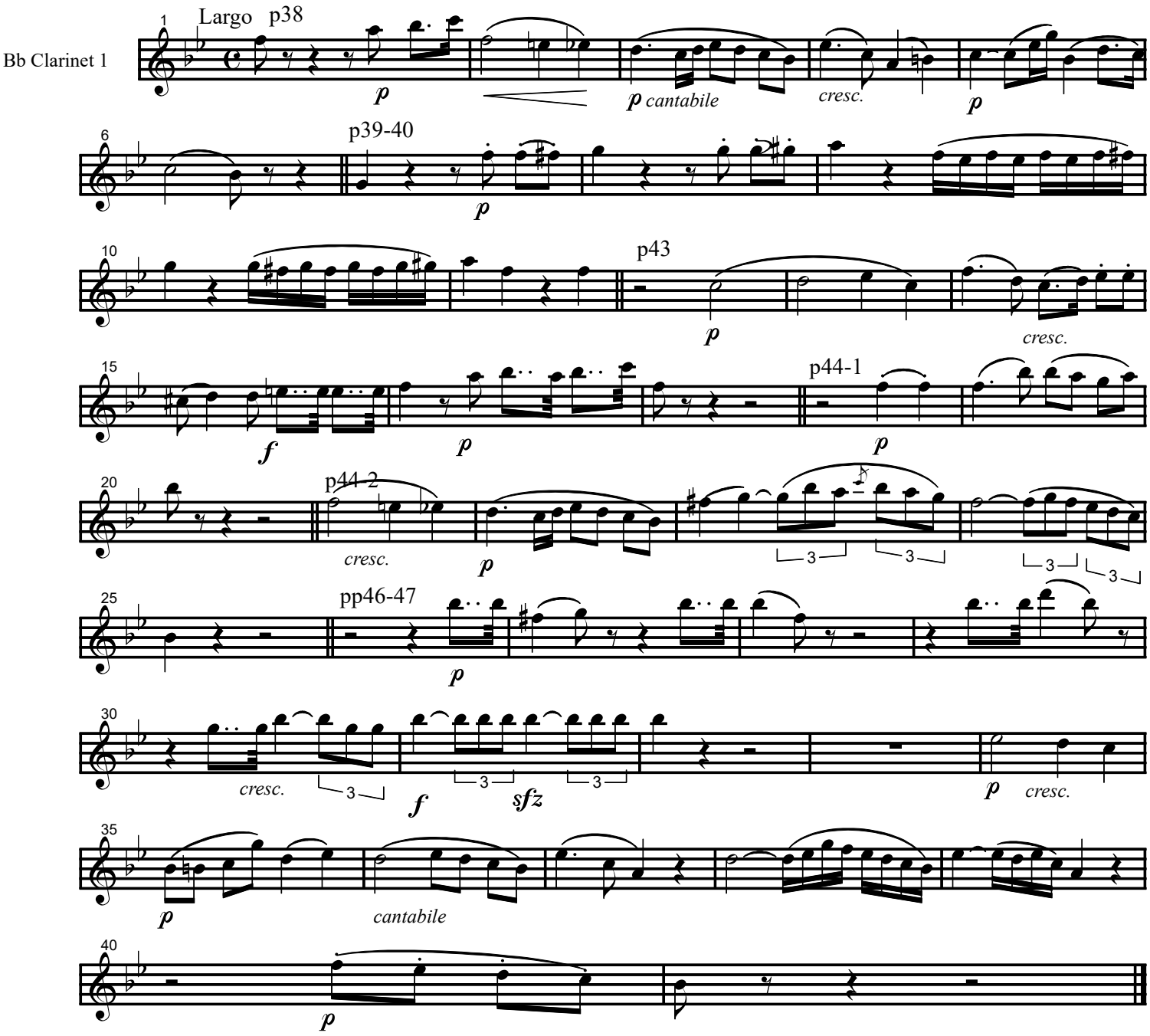
2.15 Pas de deux



Piano Concerto No. 1
II. Largo

from the Dover publication

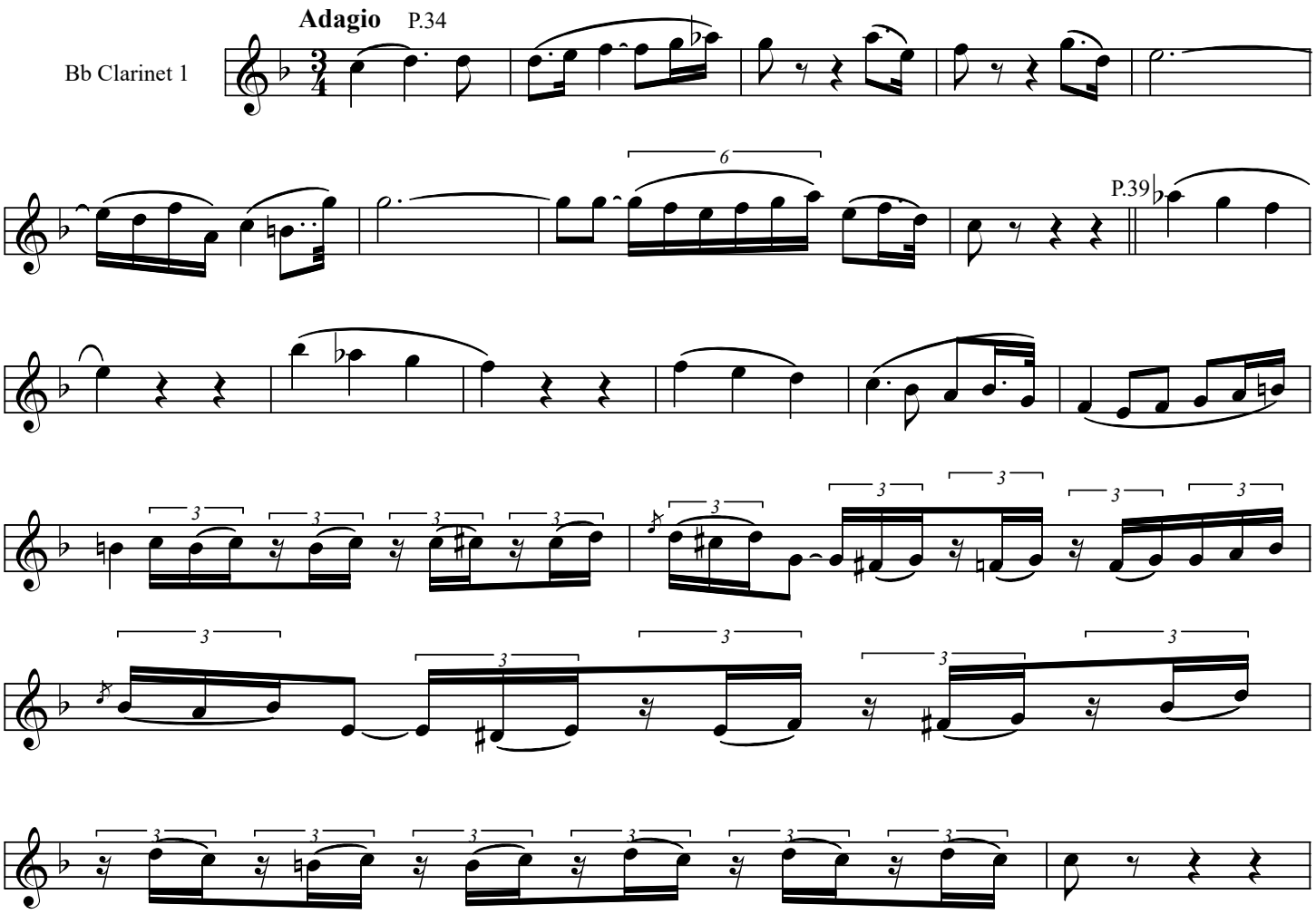
Ludwig van Beethoven



Symphony No. 4

From the Leipzig, Breitkopf und Hartel score

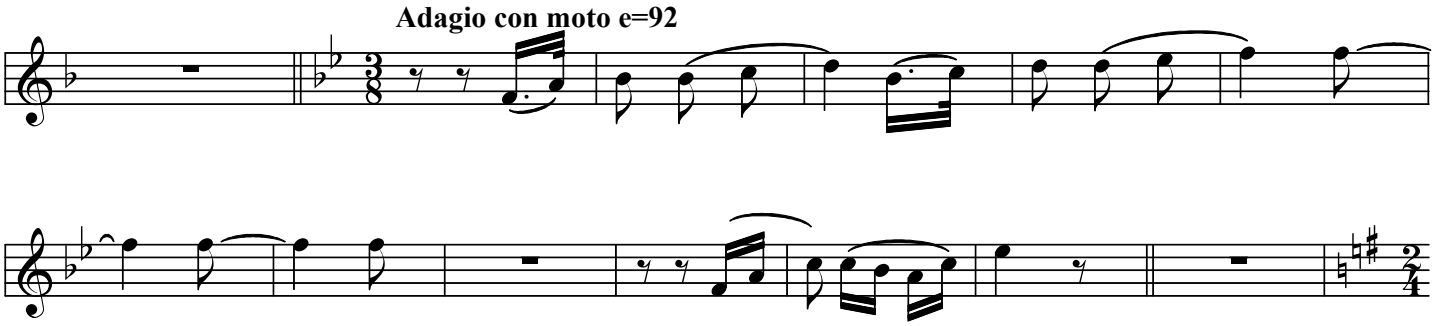
Ludwig van Beethoven



Symphony No. 5

From the Leipzig, Breitkopf und Hartel score

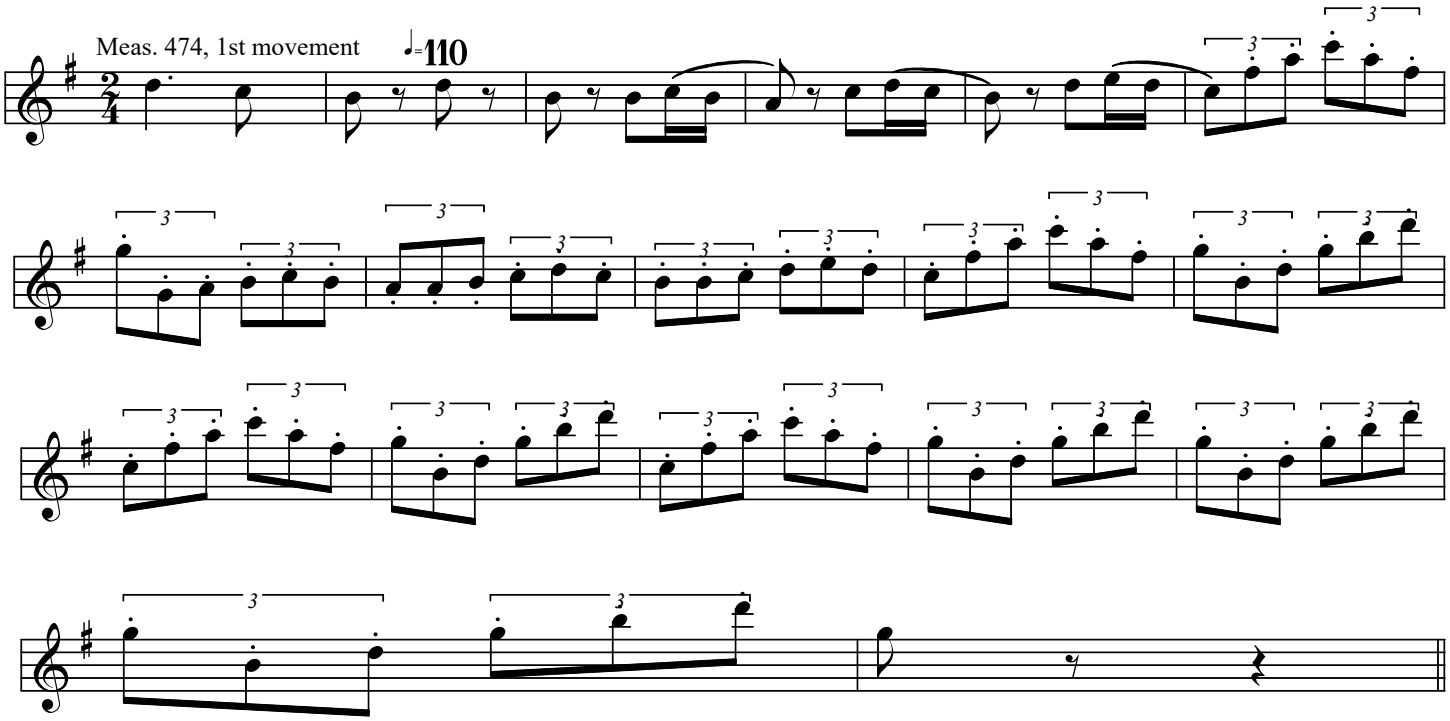
Ludwig van Beethoven

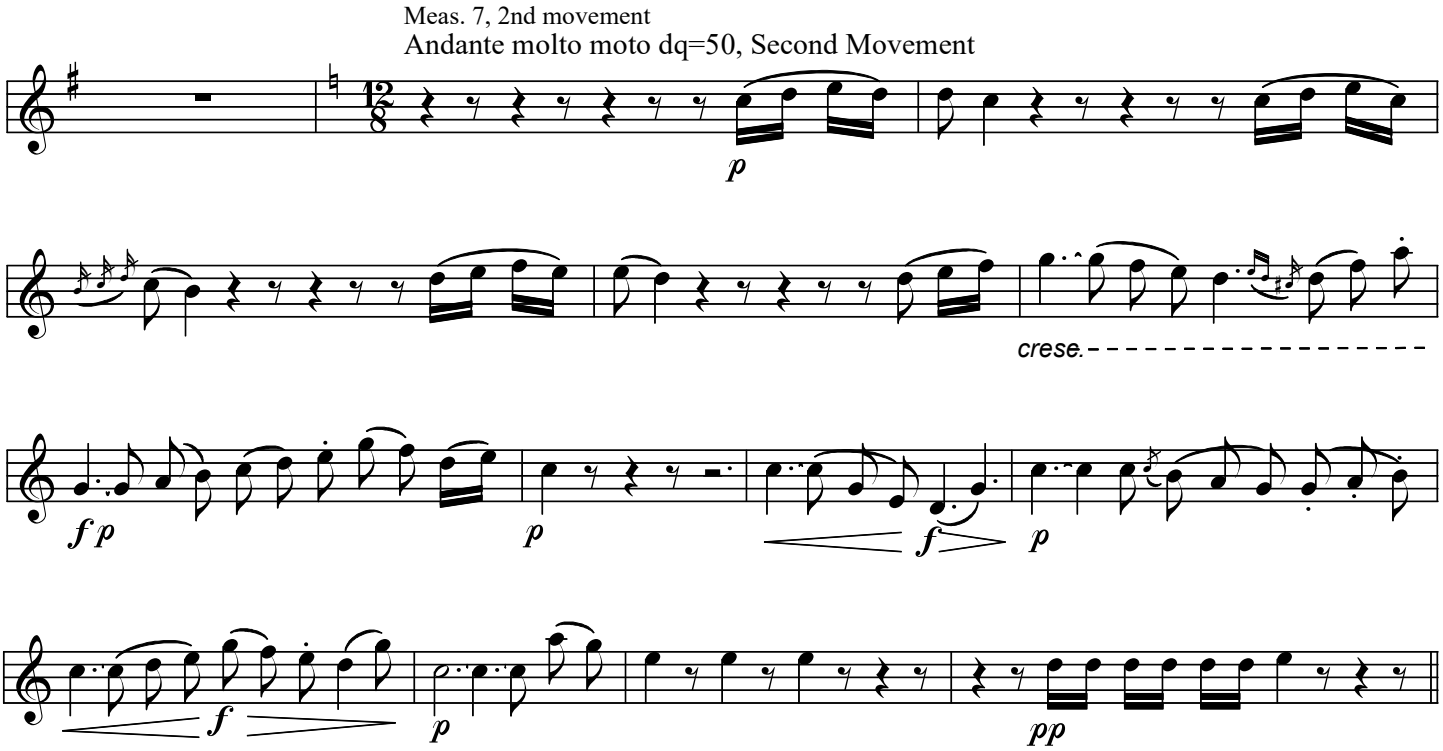


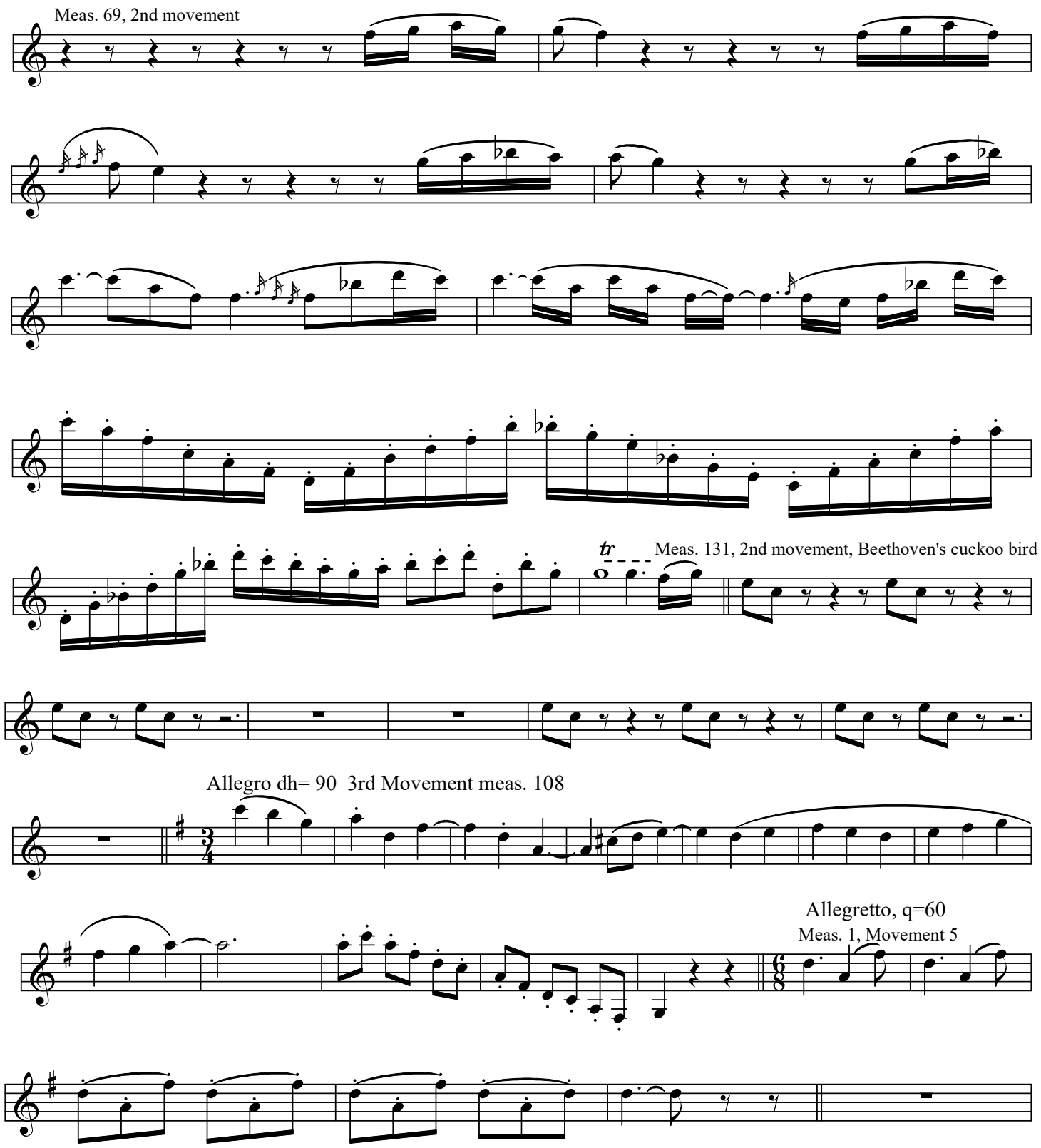
Symphony No. 6

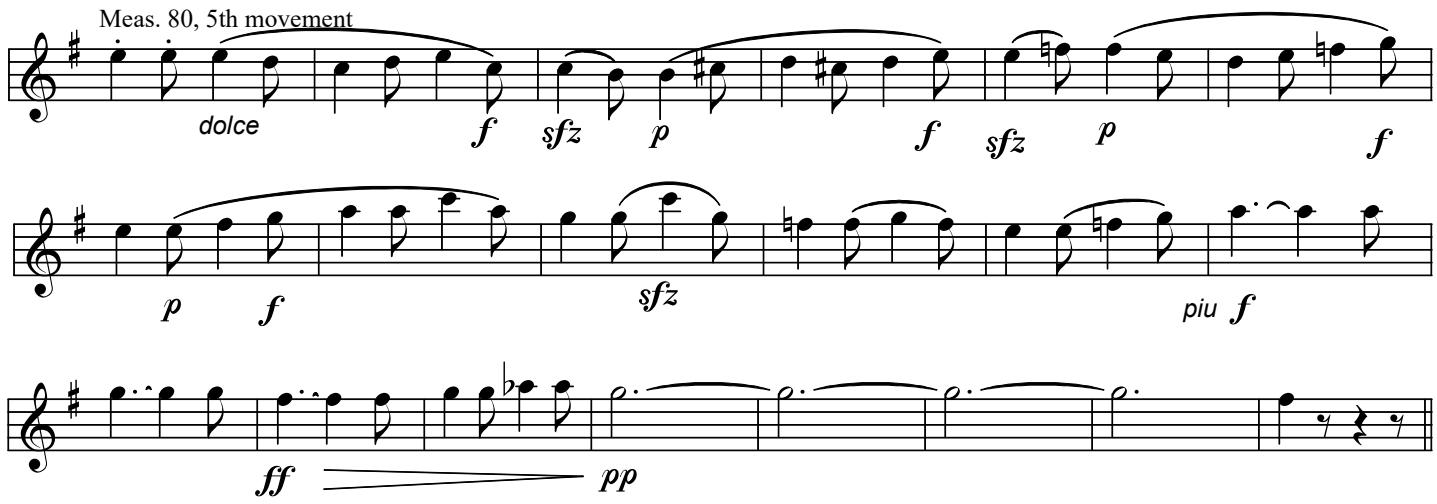
From the score prepared by Brandon Amaro

Ludwig van Beethoven





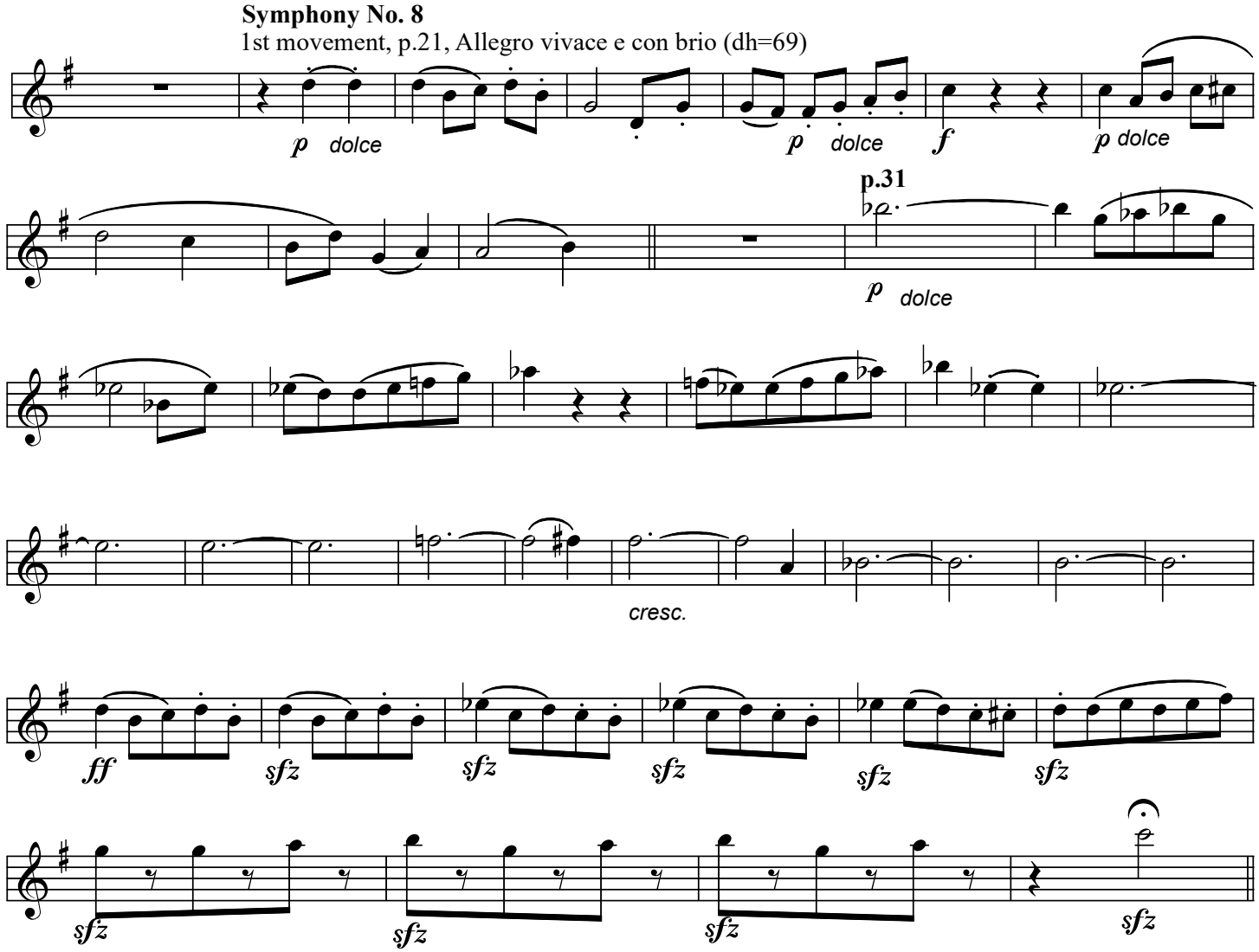

Meas. 69, 2nd movement
tr
Meas. 131, 2nd movement, Beethoven's cuckoo bird
Allegro dh= 90 3rd Movement meas. 108
Allegretto, q=60
Meas. 1, Movement 5



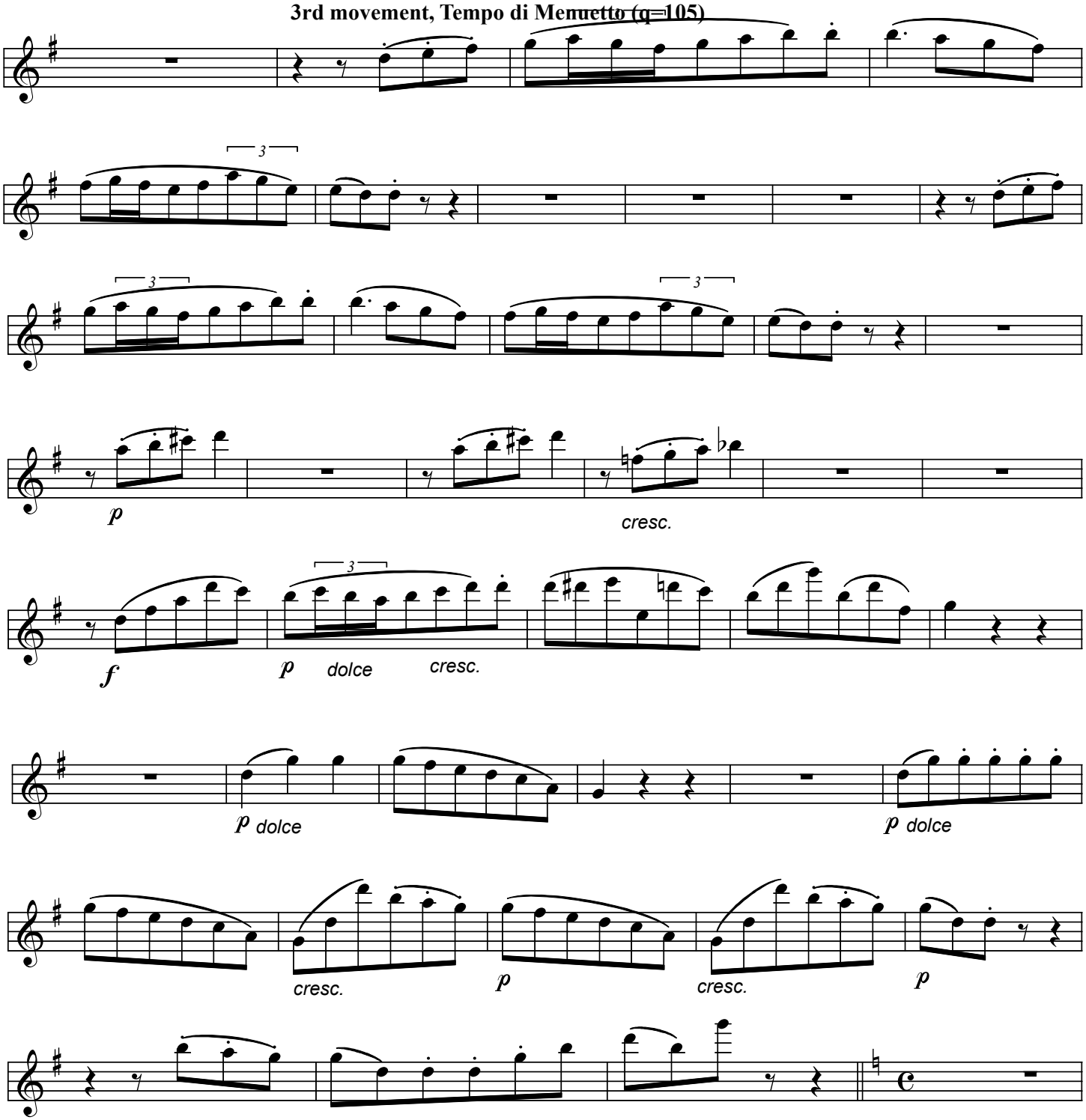
Symphony No. 8

from IMSLP Score 06303

Ludwig van Beethoven



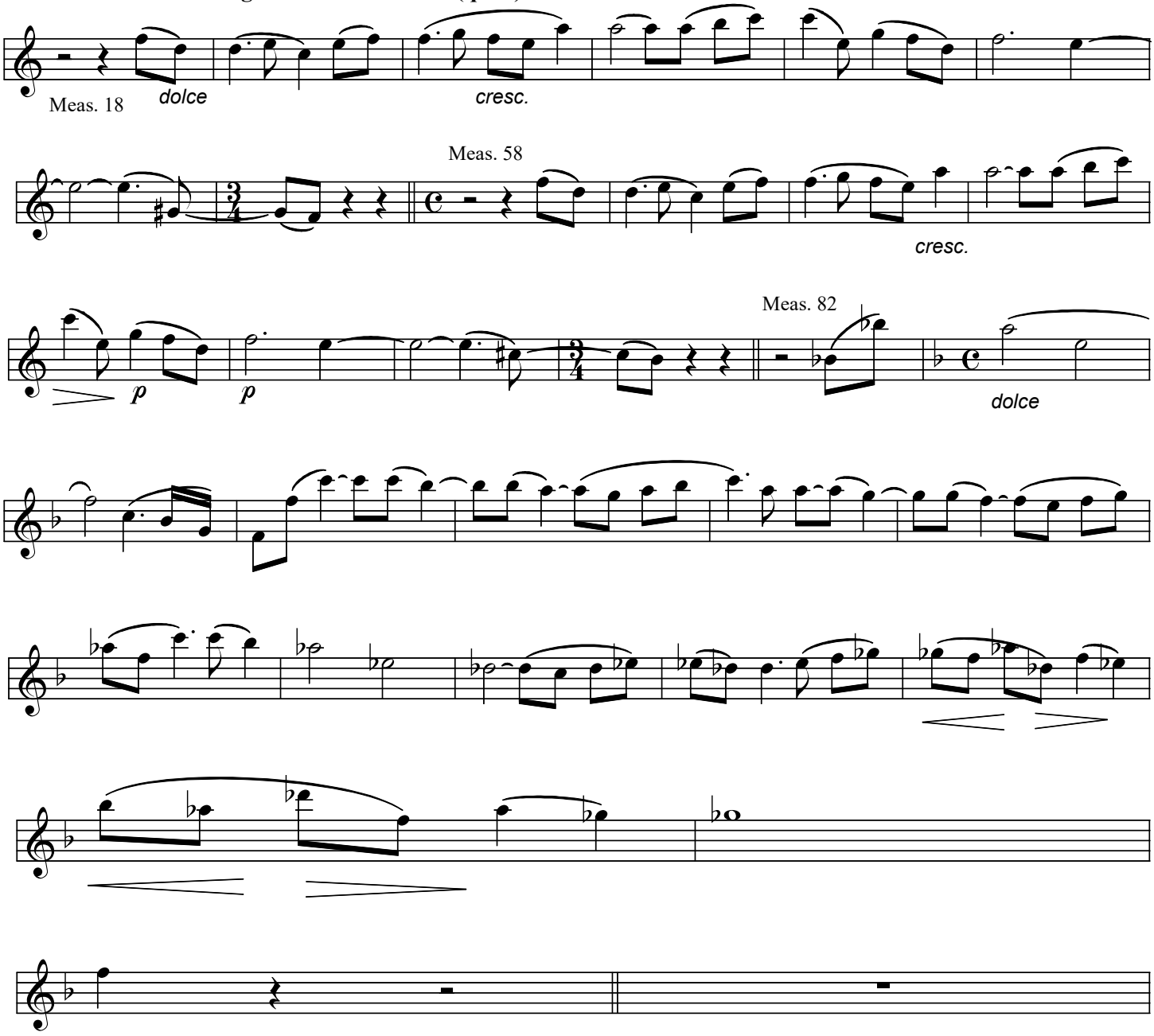
3rd movement, Tempo di Menuetto (q=105)



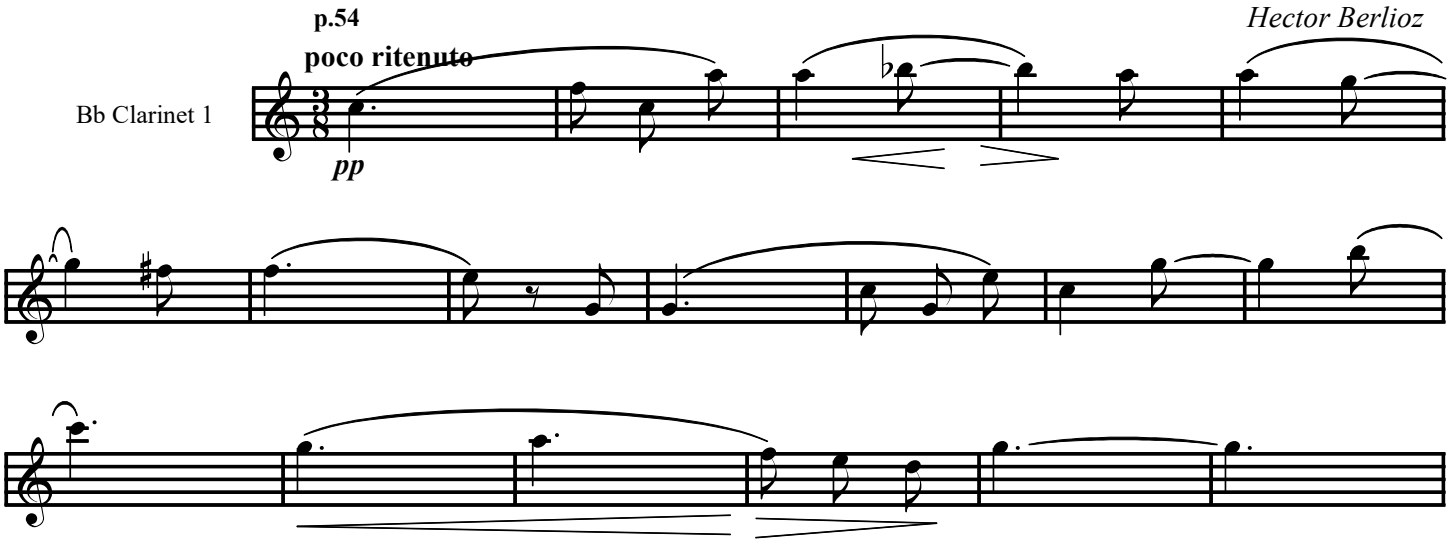
Symphony No. 9

Ludwig van Beethoven

Symphony No. 9
3rd Movement Adagio molto e contabile (q=60)

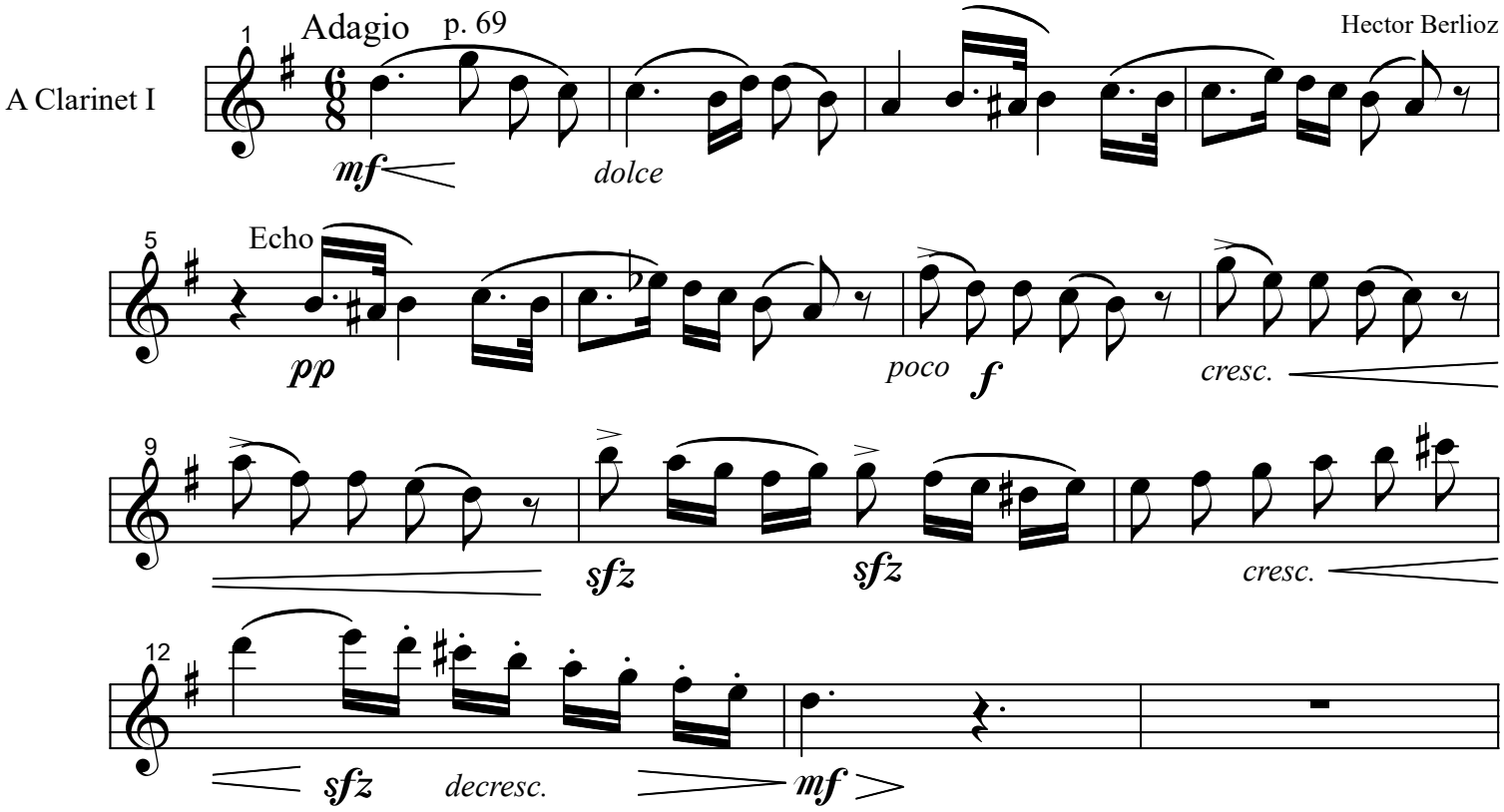


II. Ein Bal de Symphonie Fantastique

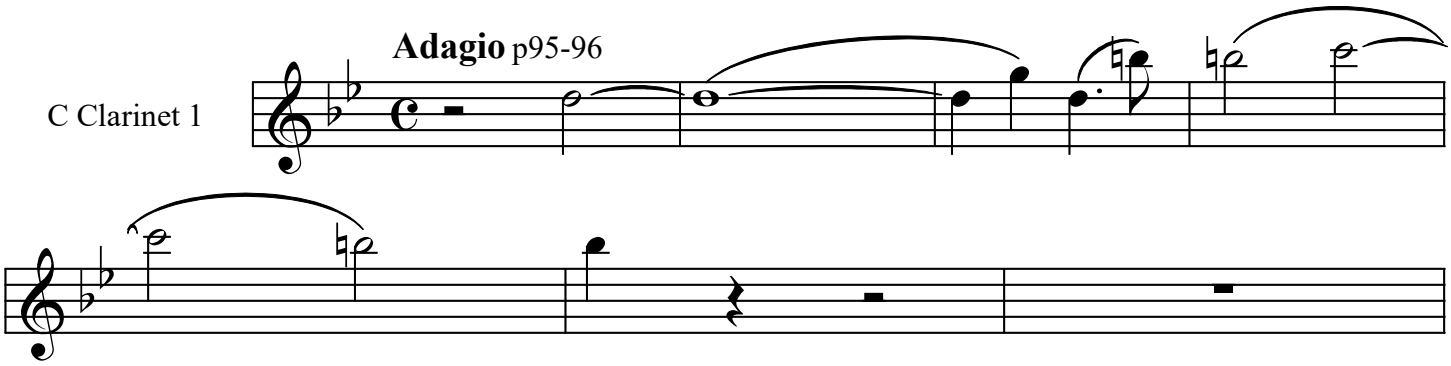


III. Scenes aux Champs

from Symphonie Fantastique

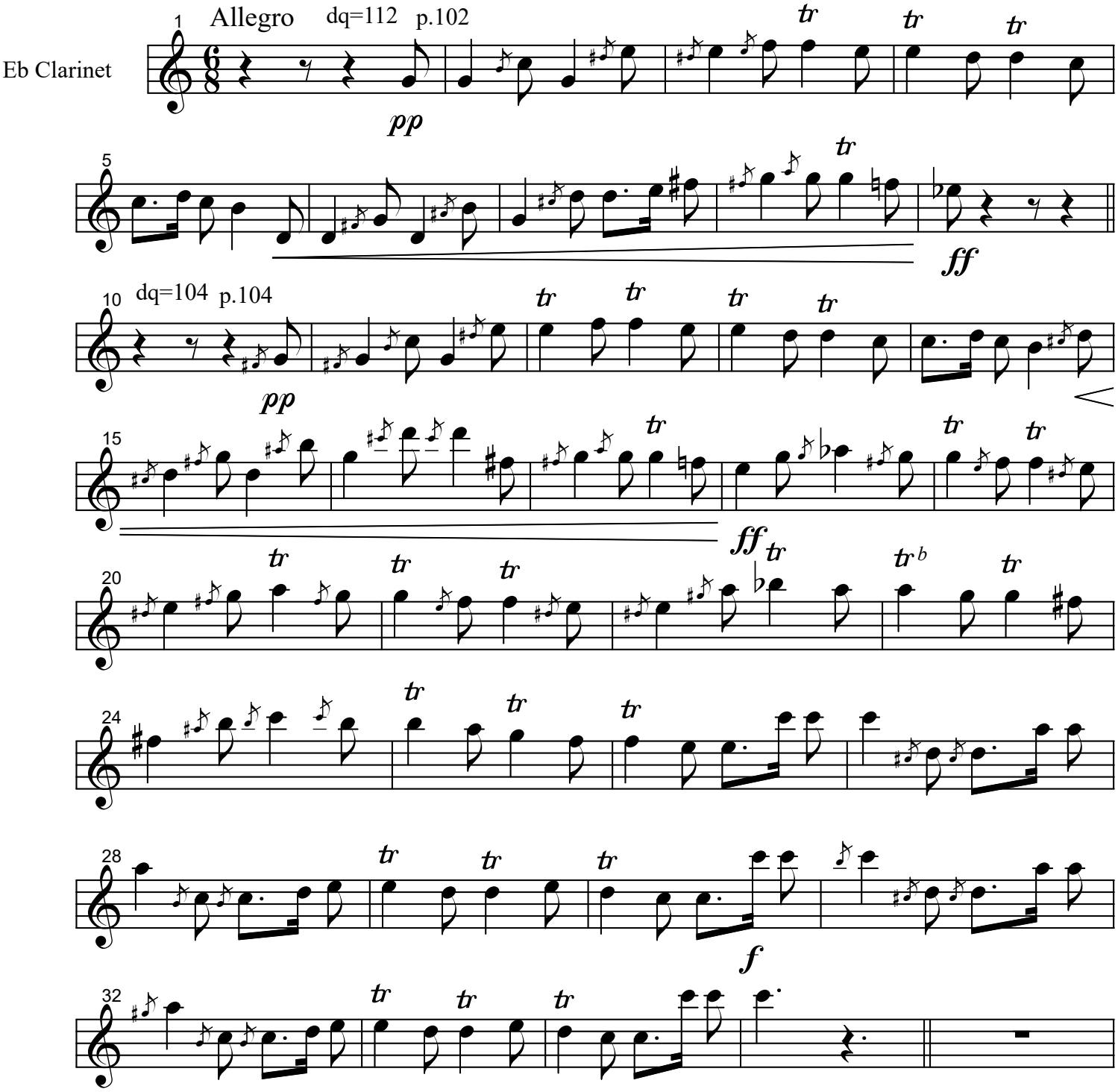


IV. Marche aux Supplice



V. Hexensabbath

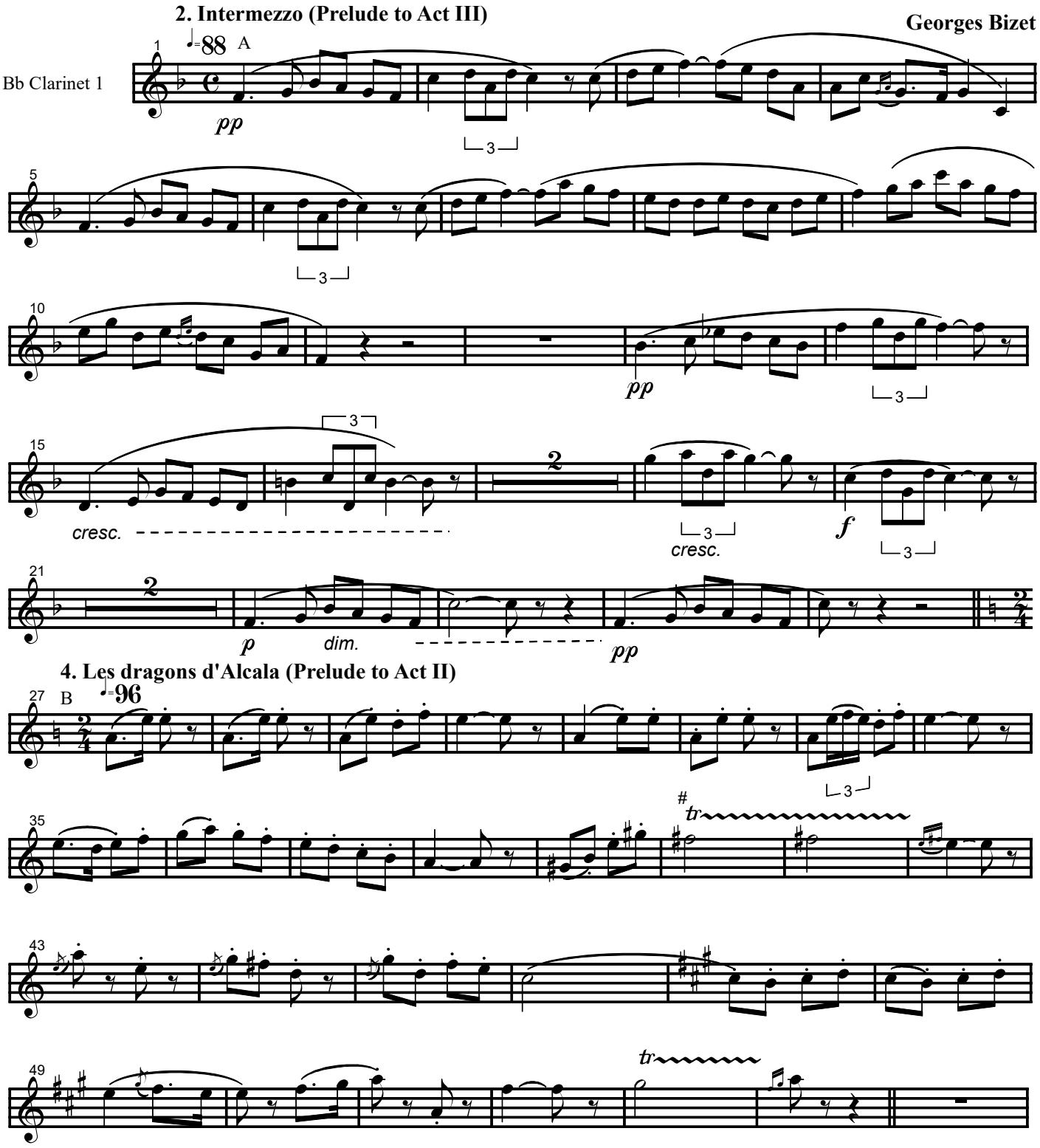
A Witches Sabbath



Carmen, Suite No. 1

2. Intermezzo (Prelude to Act III)

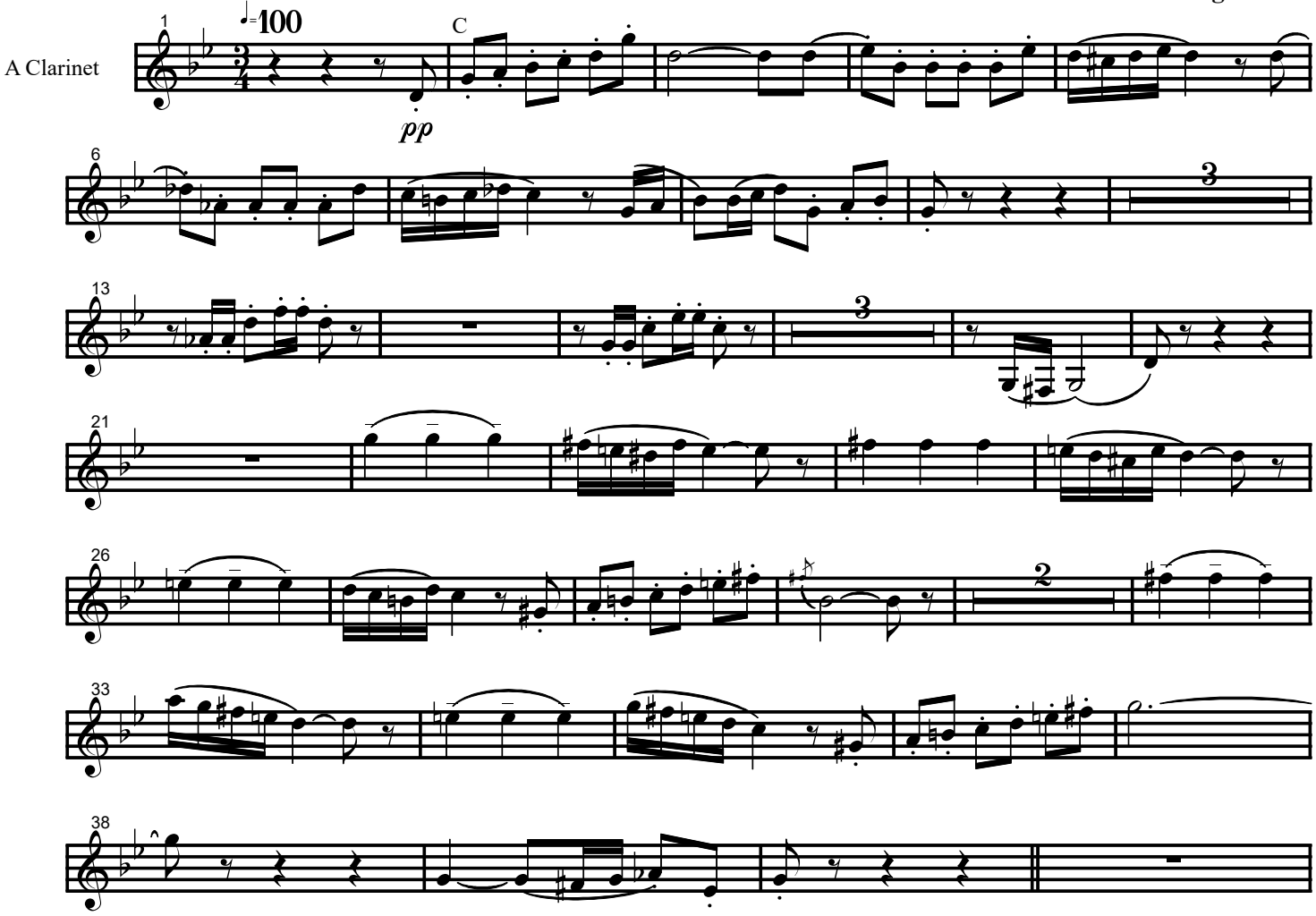
Georges Bizet



Carmen Suite No. 2

11. Danse Bohème (Gypsy Song, Act 2)

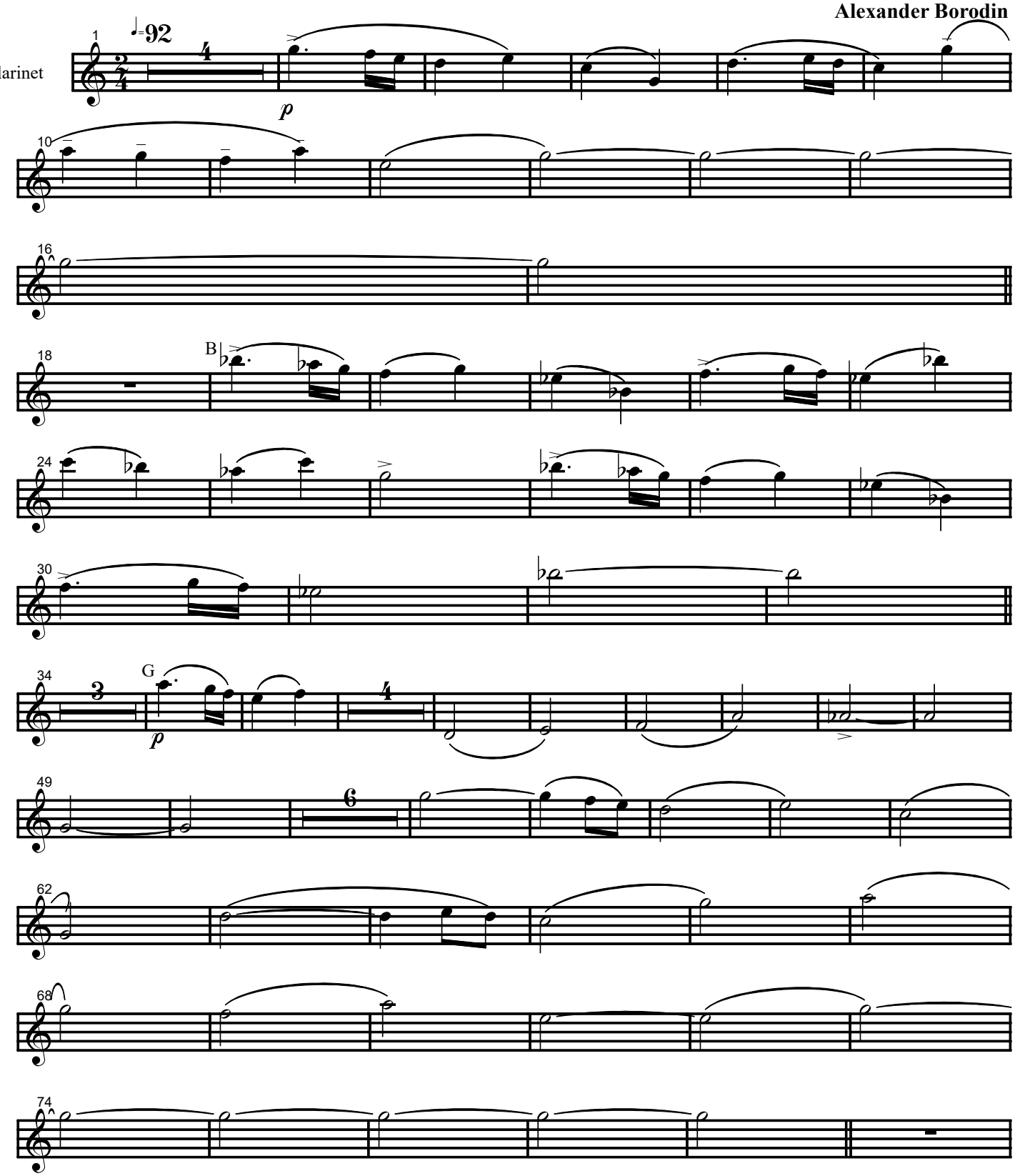
Georges Bizet



In the Steppes of Central Asia

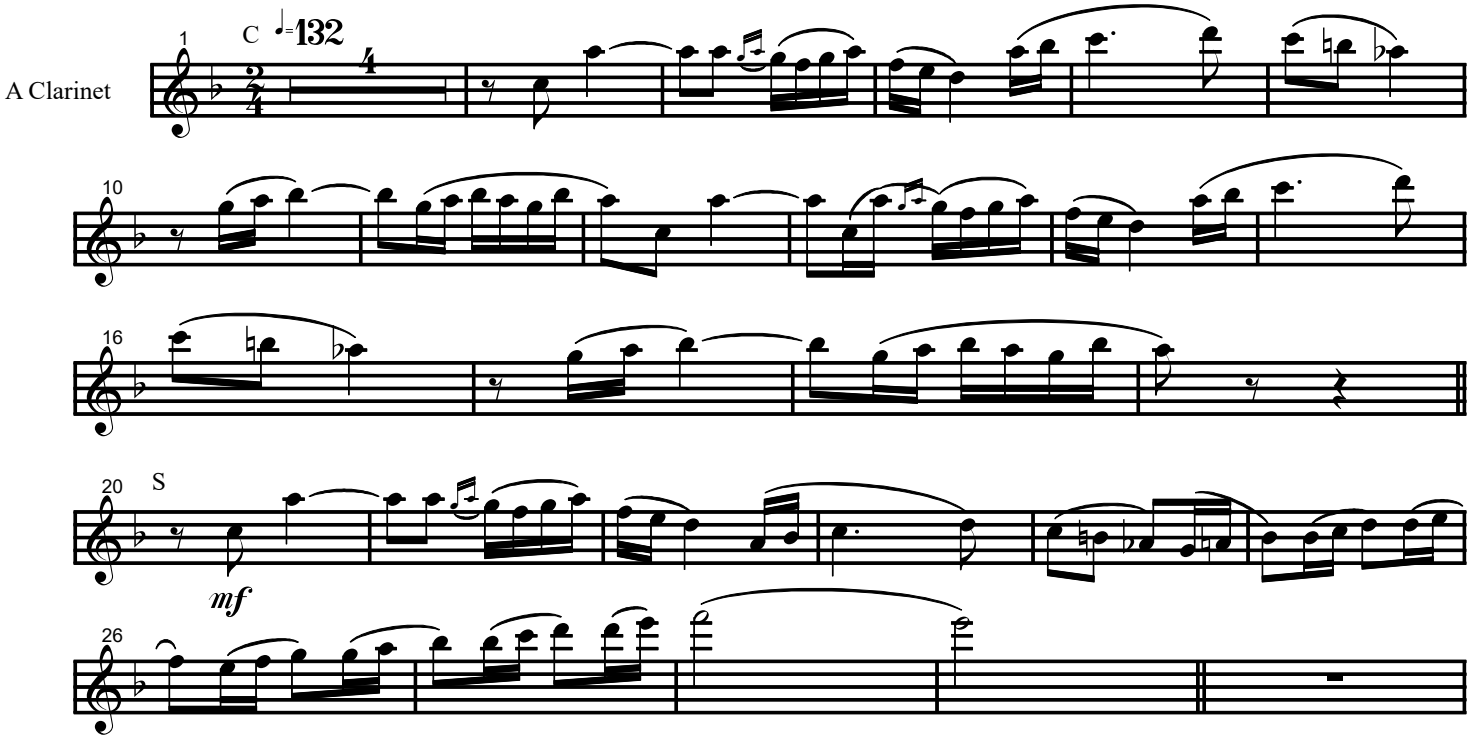
Alexander Borodin

A Clarinet



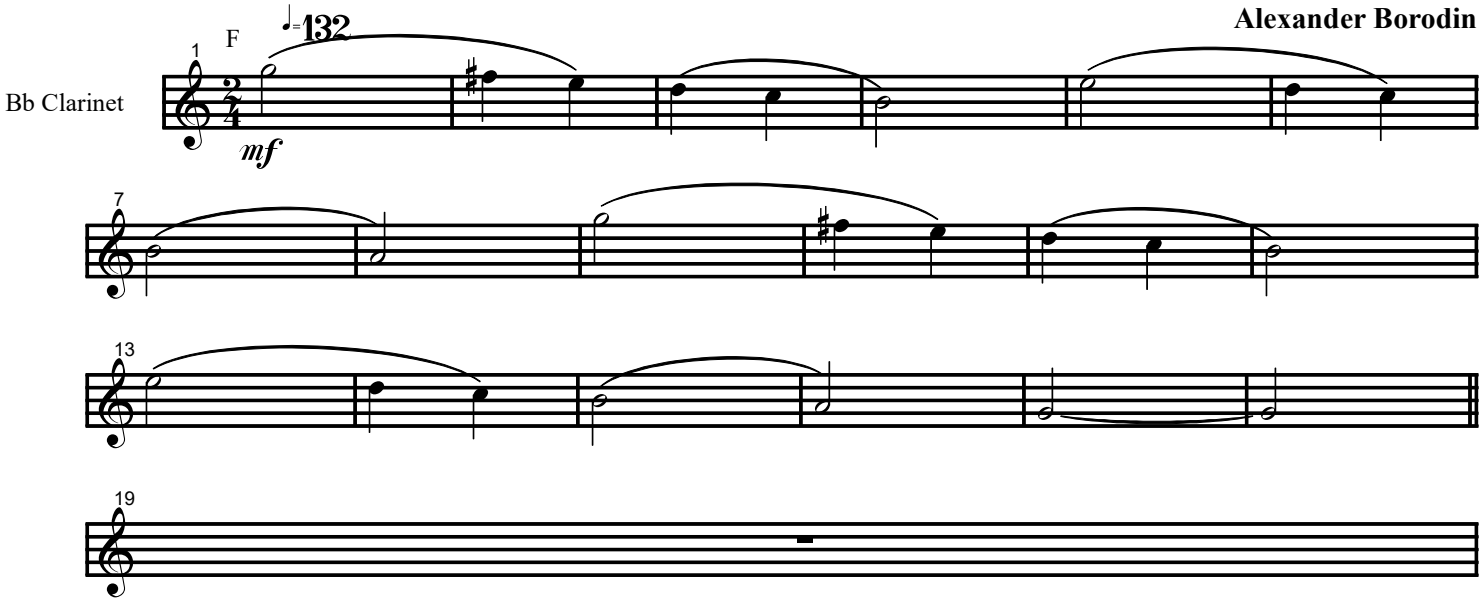
Prince Igor Overture

Alexander Borodin



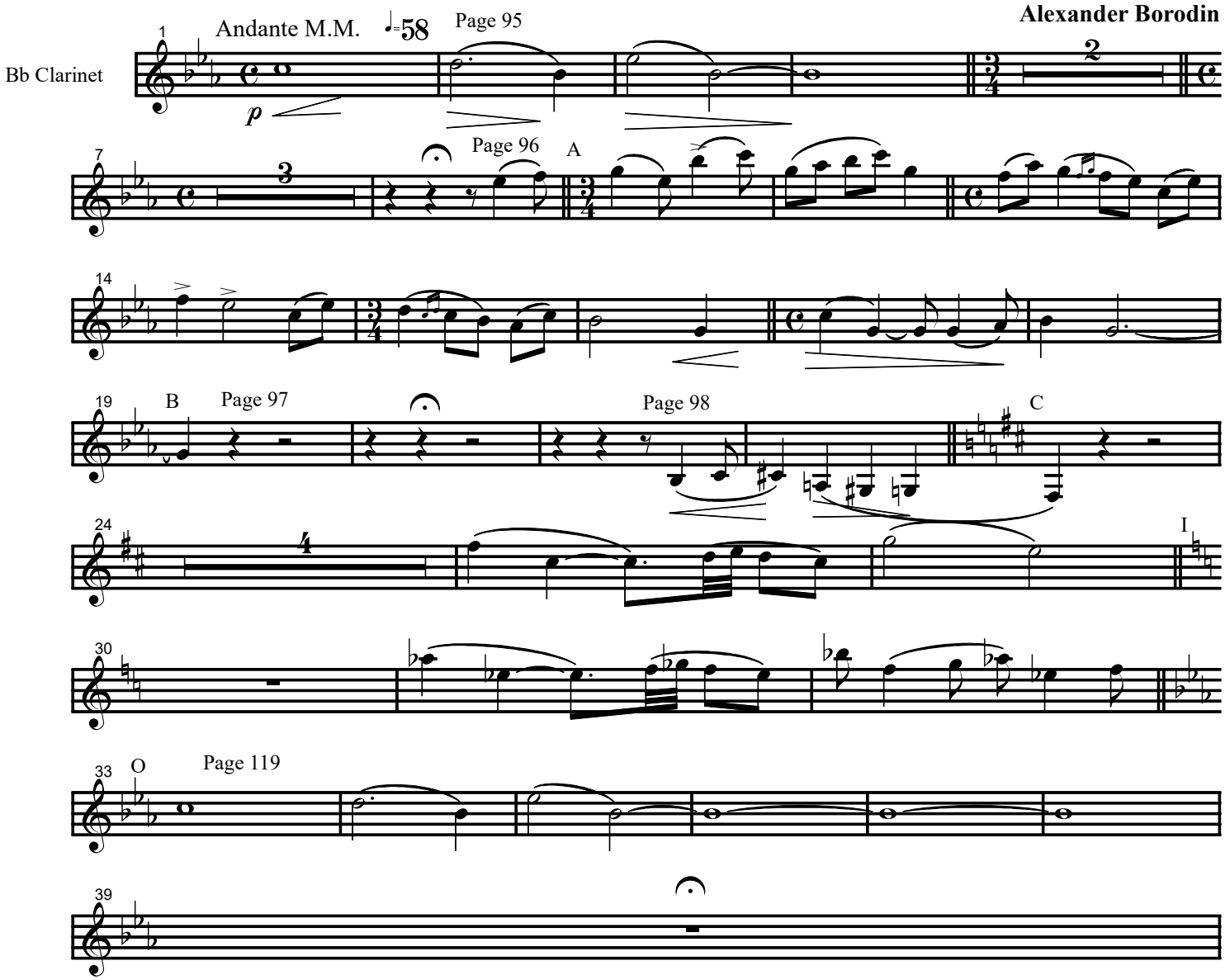
Prince Igor Overture

Alexander Borodin



Symphony No. 2
III

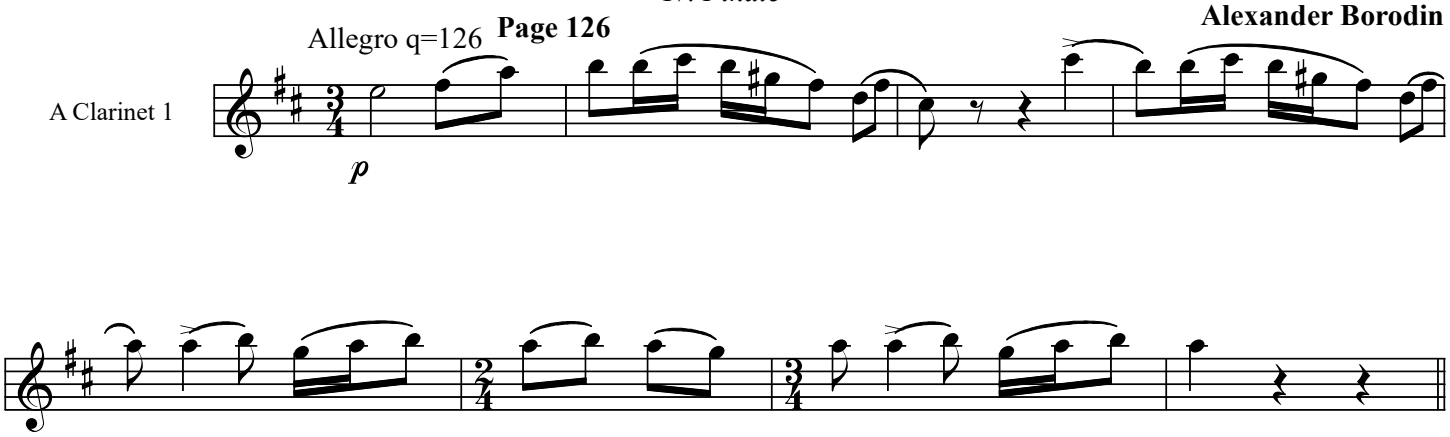
Alexander Borodin



Symphony No. 2

IV. Finale

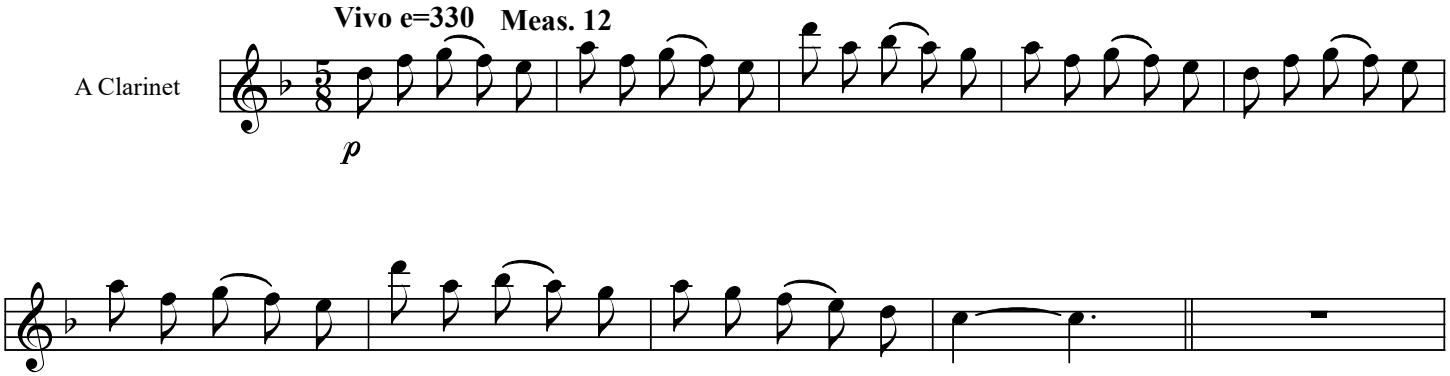
Alexander Borodin



Symphony No. 3

II. Scherzo

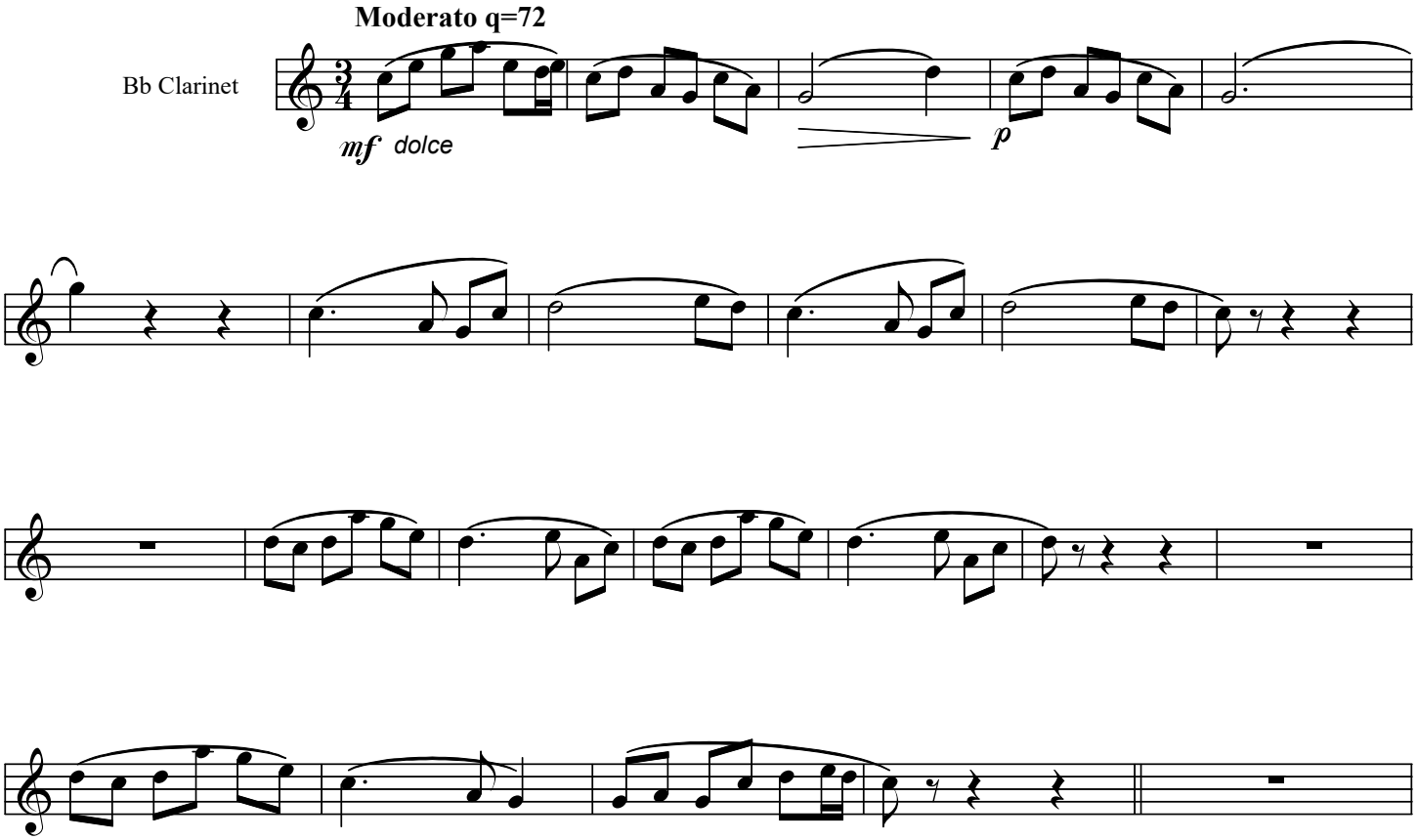
Alexander Borodin



Symphony No. 3

III. Menuetto

Alexander Borodin



Concerto No. 1 for Guitar and Orchestra

II

Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco

Andantino -- alla romanza

Bb Clarinet 1

1 2 4 7 11 3 14

p *dolce*

III

16 10 21 26 32

Ridmico e cavalleresco, dq=80

Between 6 and 7

Les Sylphides
2. Nocturne

Frédéric Chopin

Bb Clarinet 1

Lento, q=60

mf

5. Mazurka

Allegretto q=100

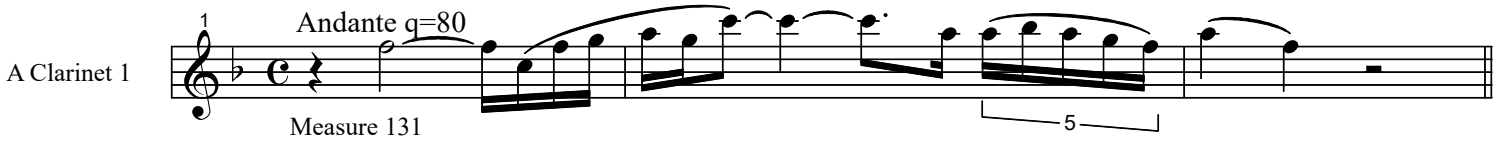
mf

Coppélia

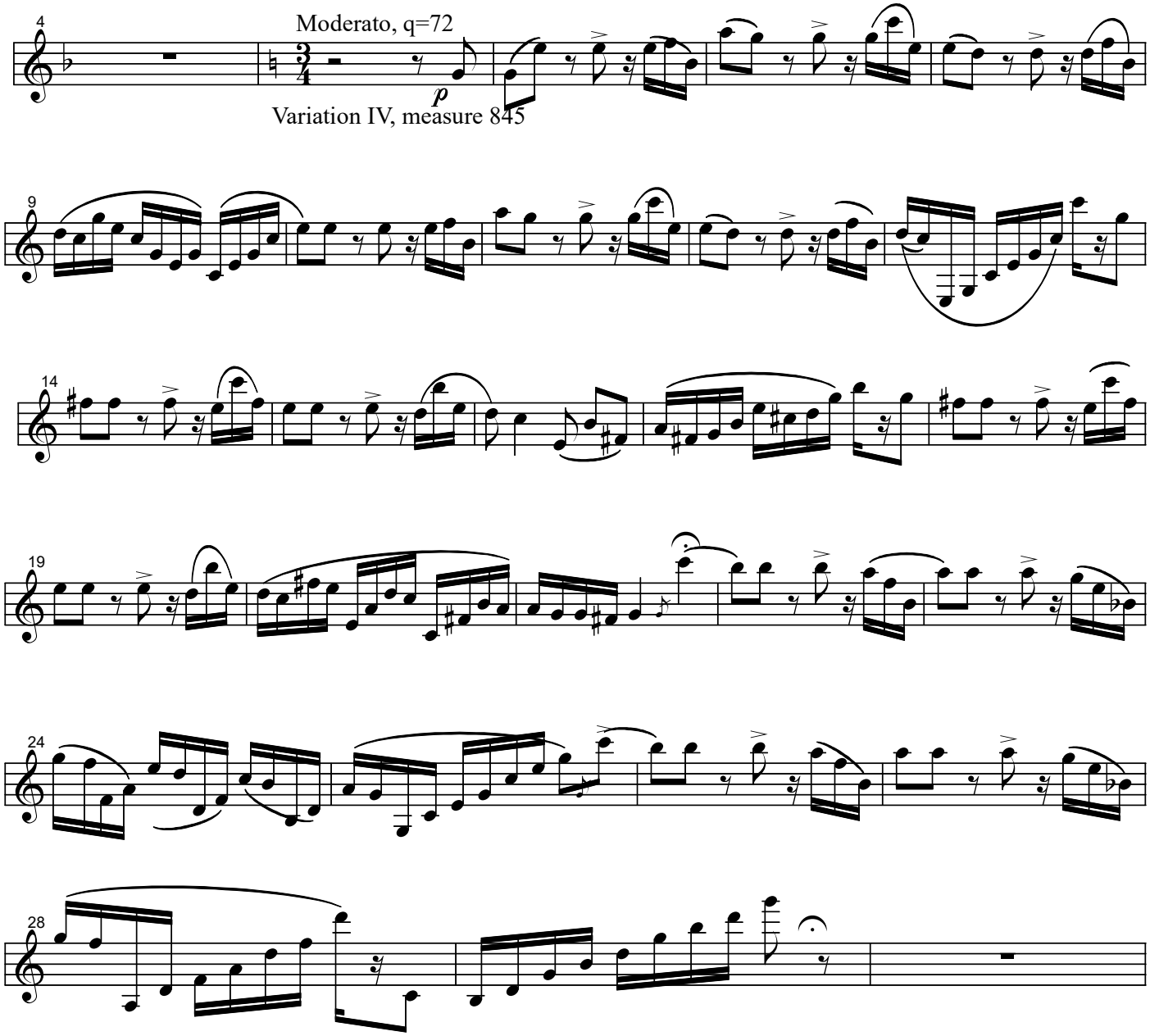
Act I

Prelude

Léo Delibes



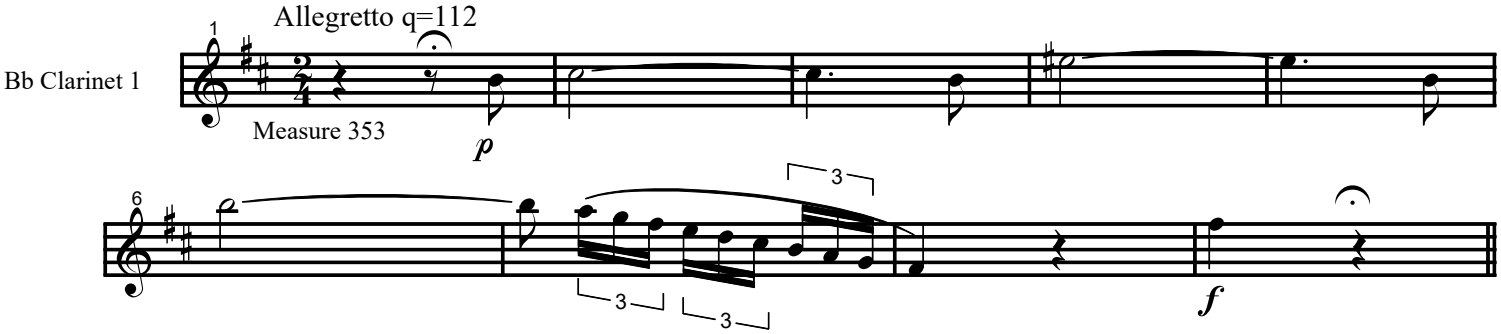
Thème Slave Varié



Coppélia

Nr. 2.12 Scène

Léo Delibes

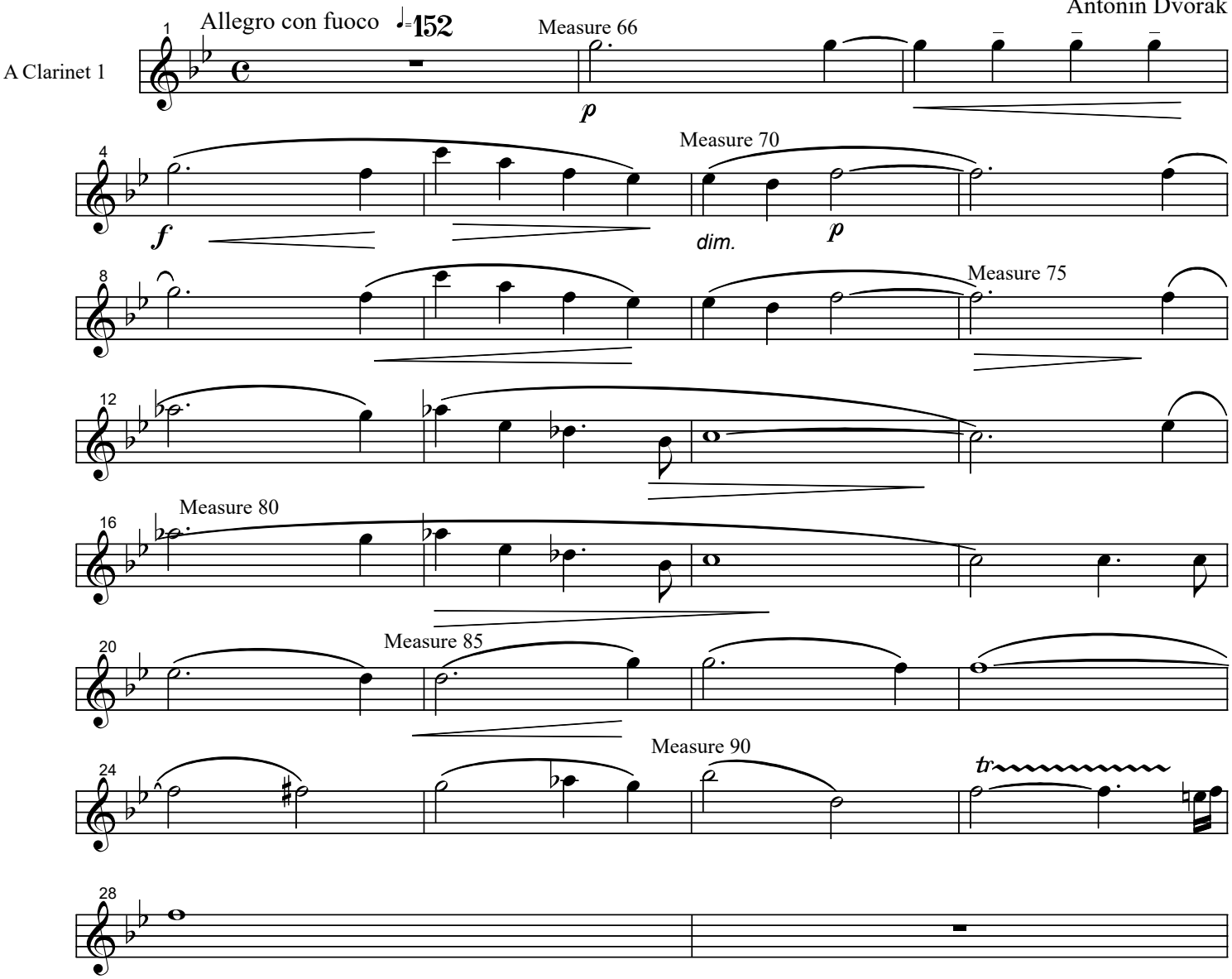


5. Mazurka

Symphony No. 9

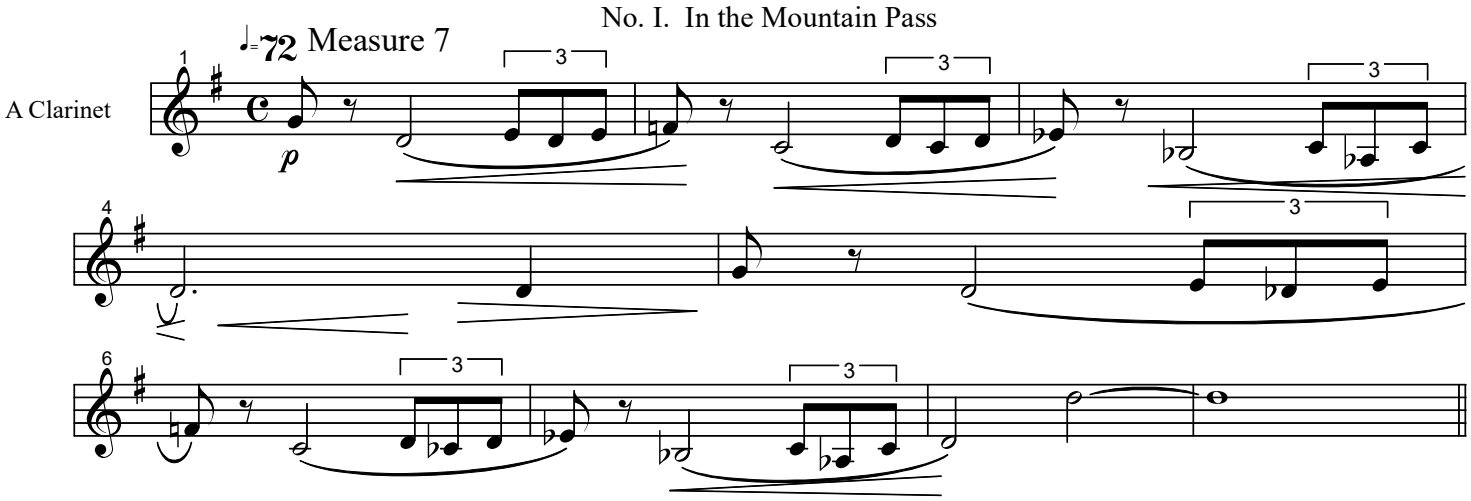
IV

Antonin Dvorak

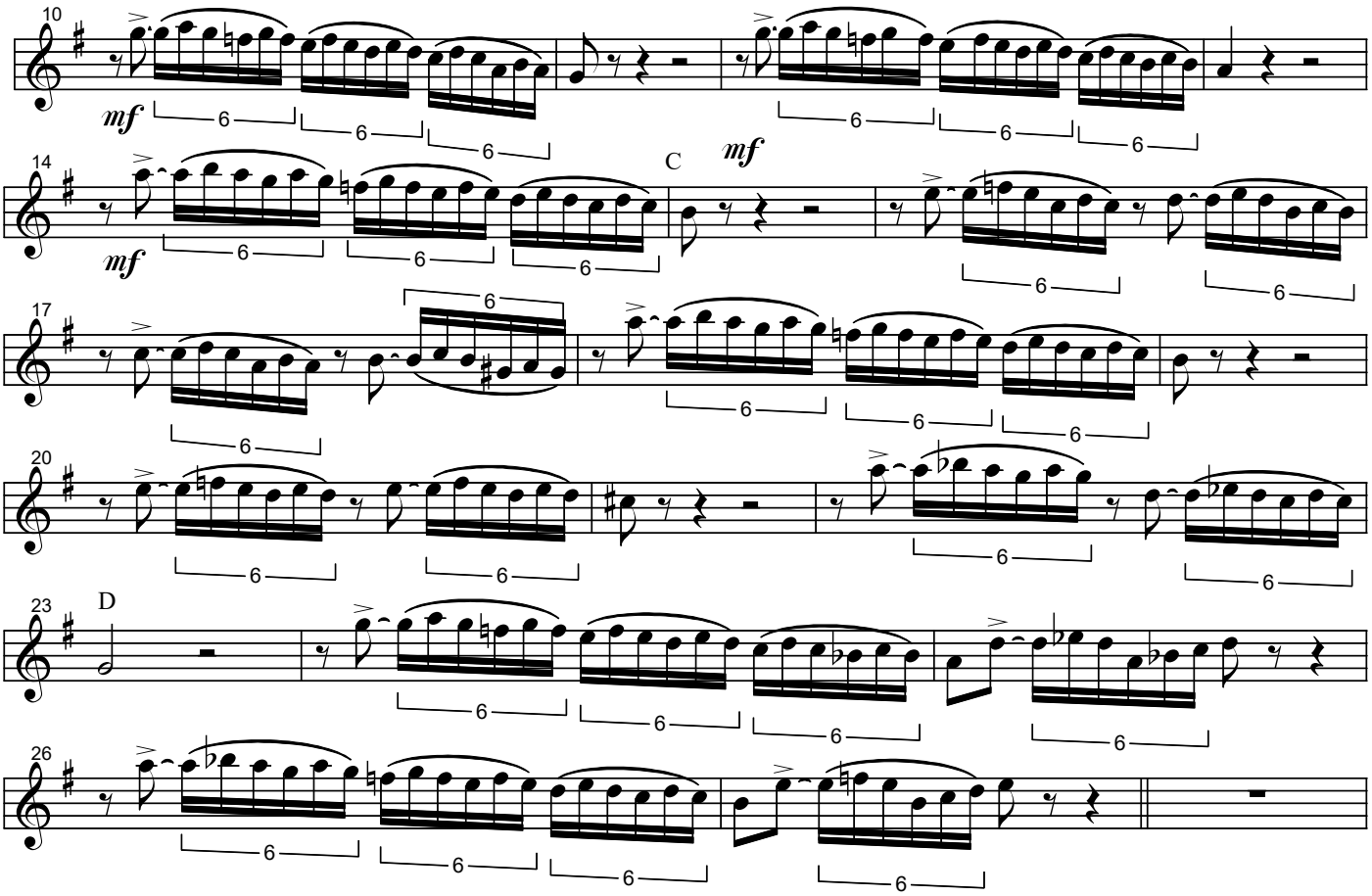


Caucasian Sketches

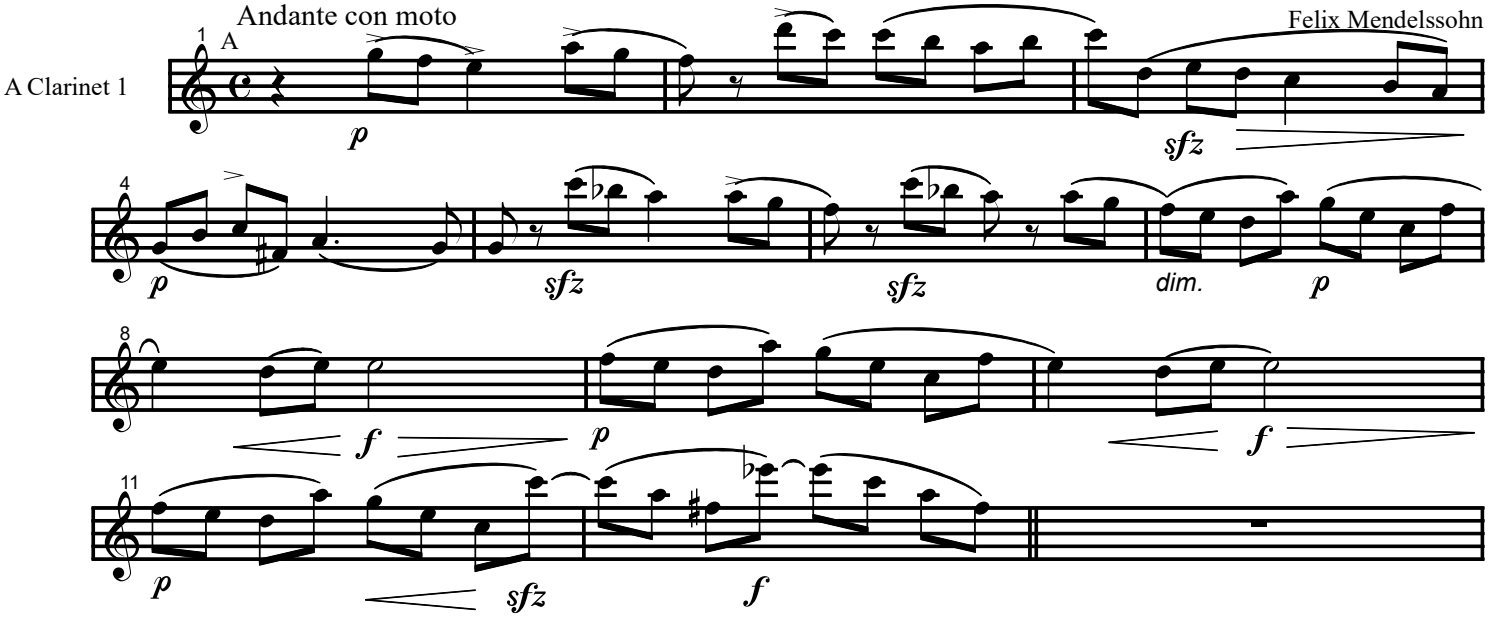
No. I. In the Mountain Pass



No. IV. Procession of the Sardar



Symphony No. 4

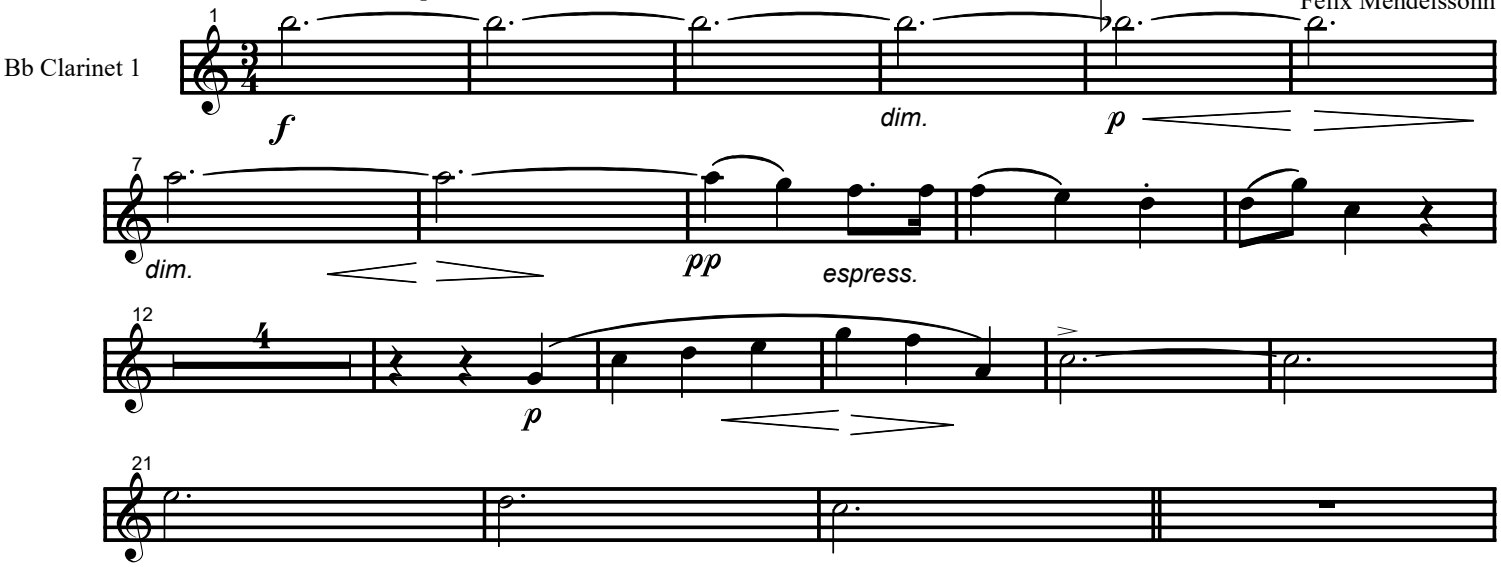


Symphony No. 5

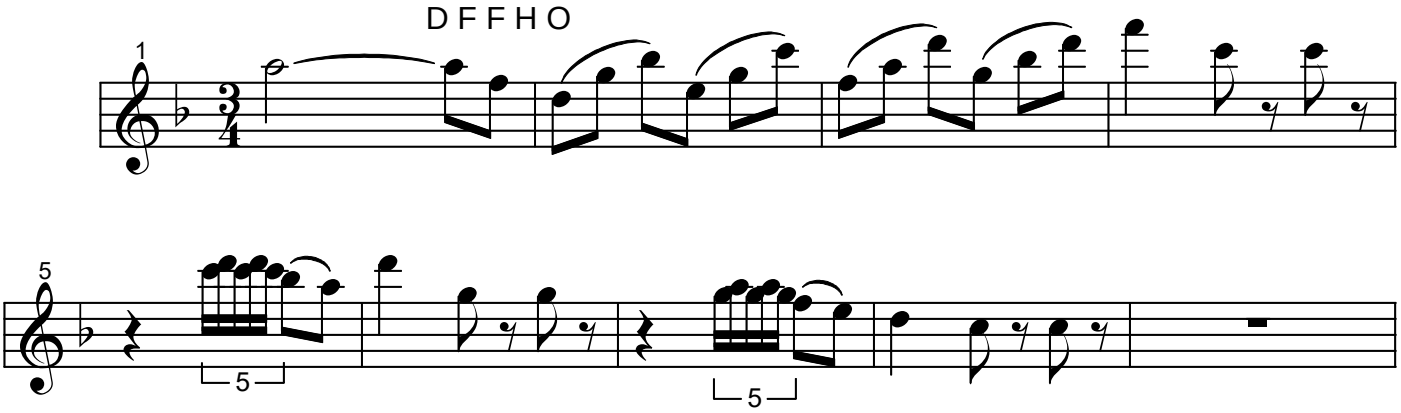
Allegro vivace

Thirteen measures past A

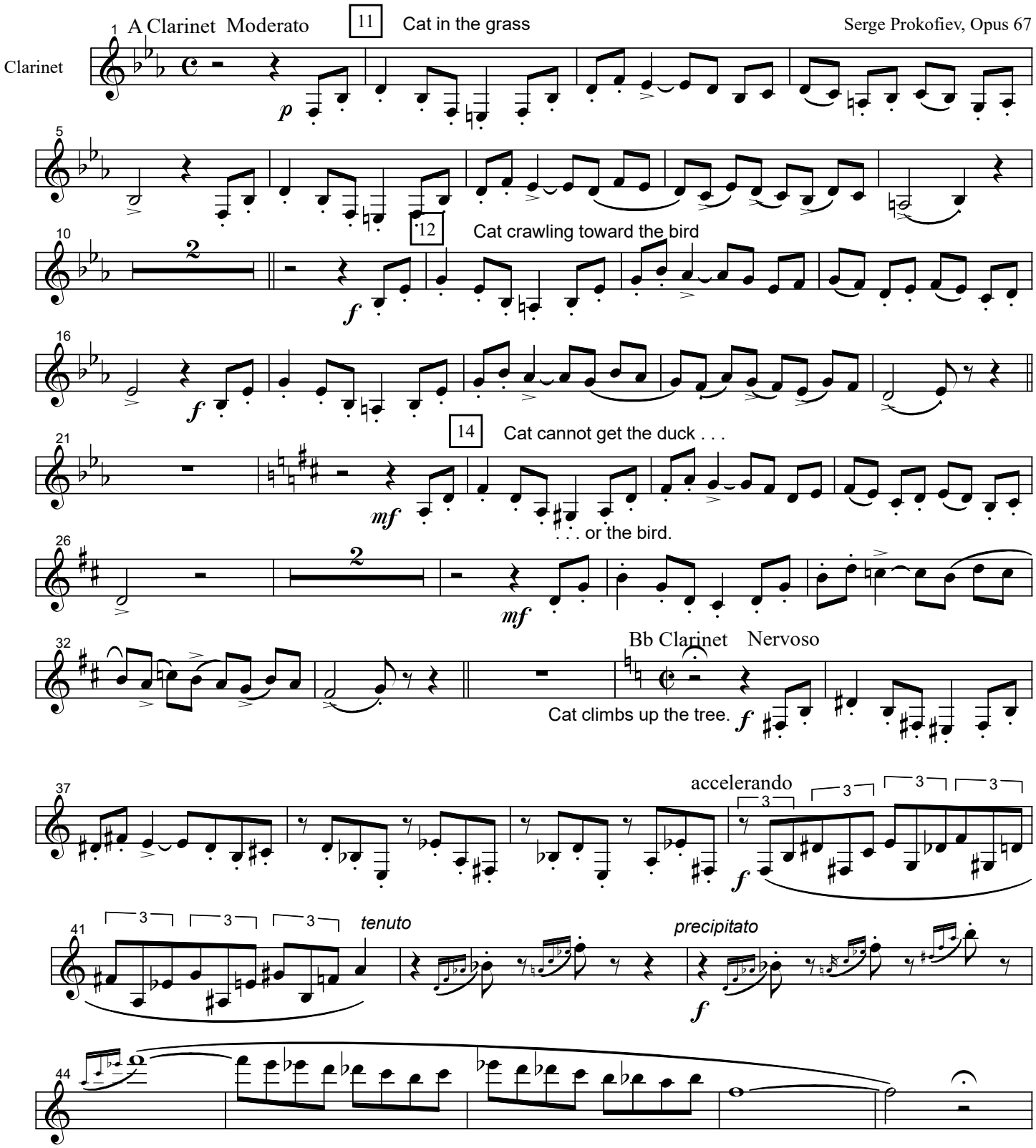
Felix Mendelssohn



Gaîté Parisienne



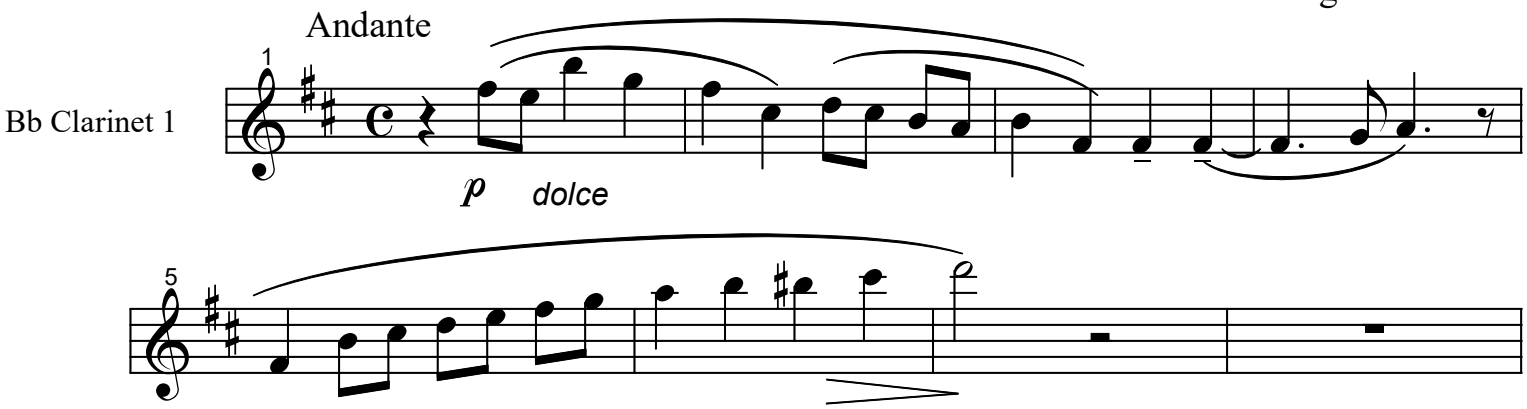
Peter and the Wolf



Piano Concerto No. 3

Mvmnt-1

Sergei Prokofiev

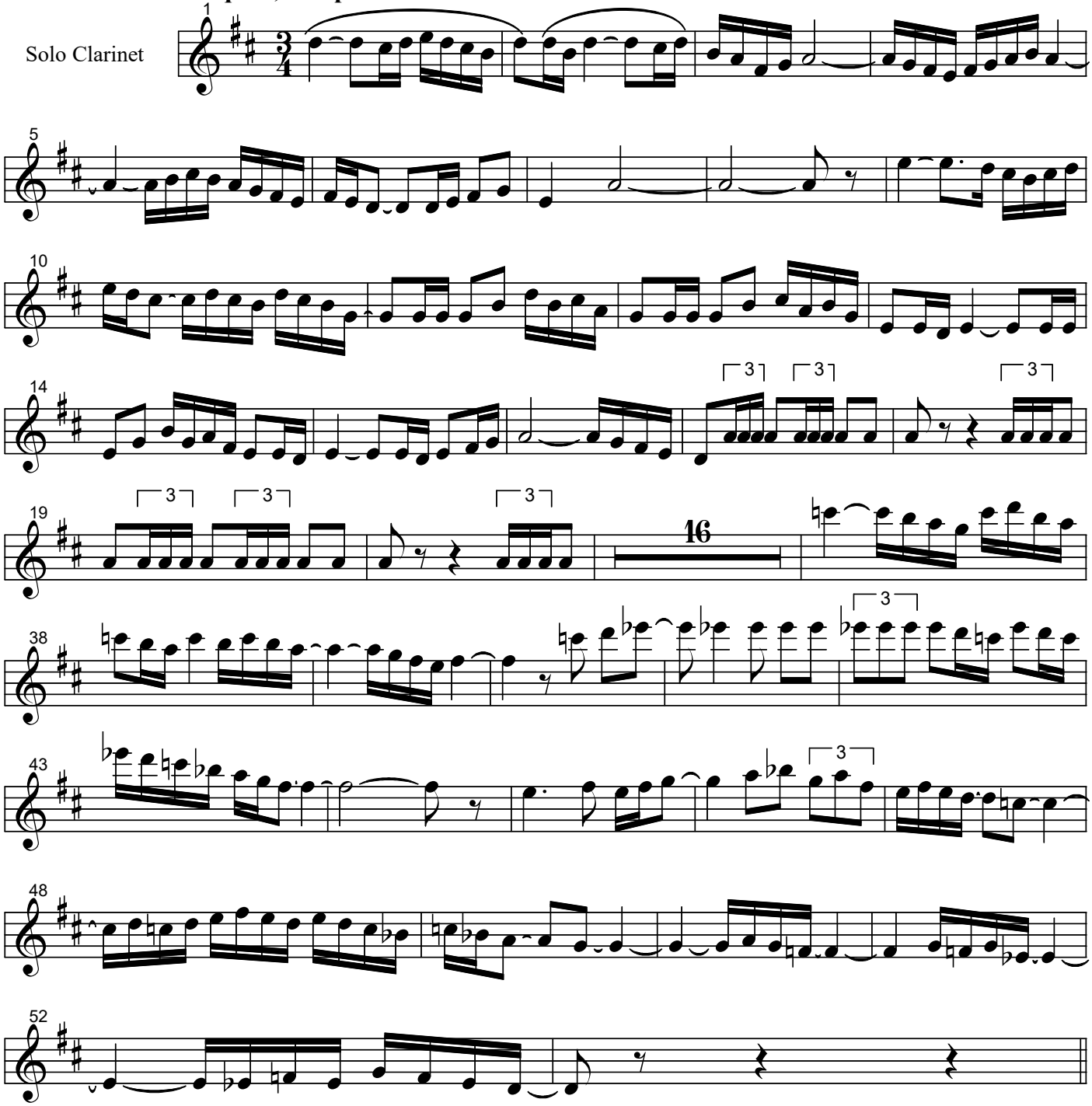


Bolero

q=72, Tempo di Bolero

Maurice Ravel

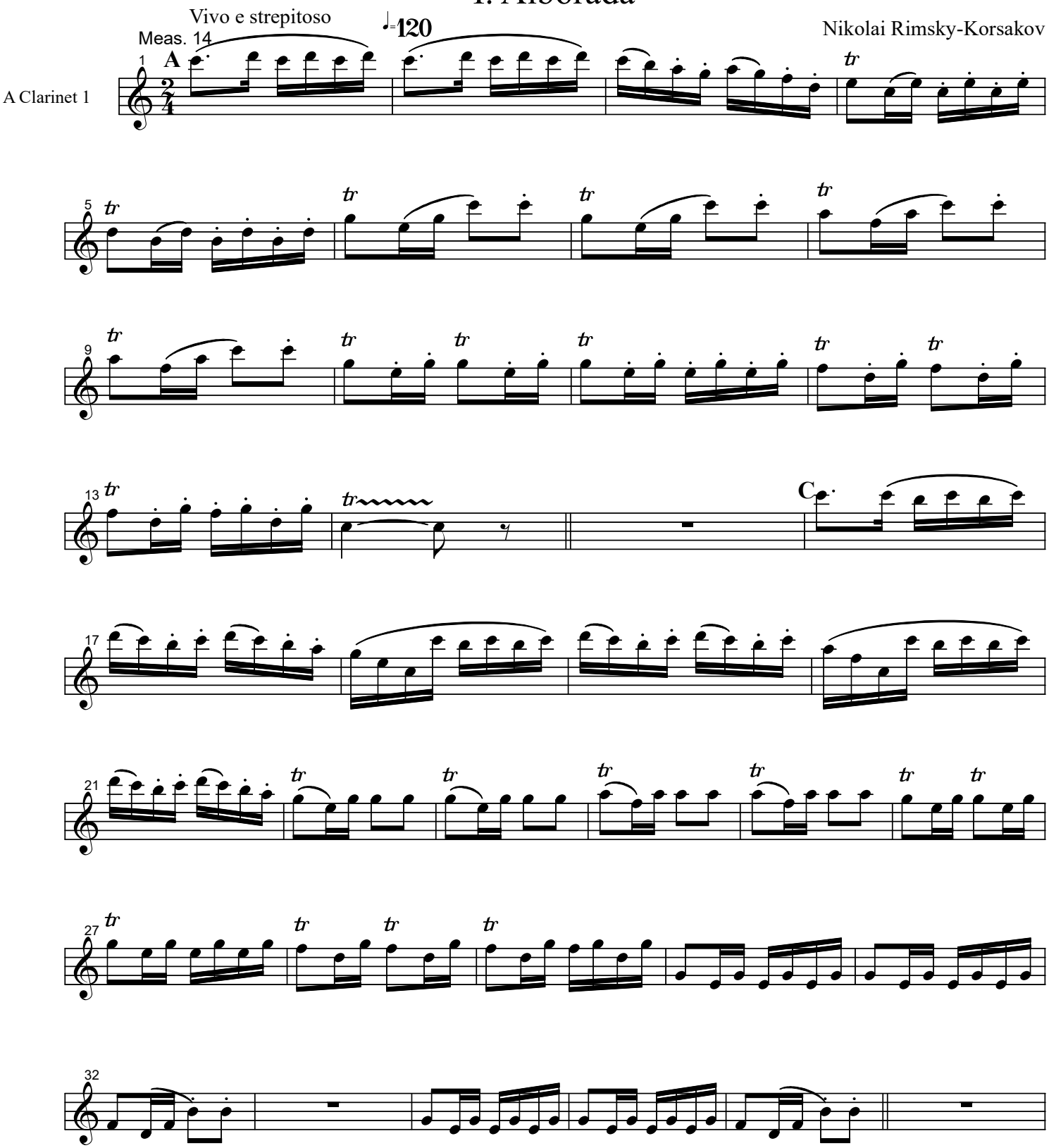
Solo Clarinet



Capriccio Espagnole, Op. 34

I. Alborada

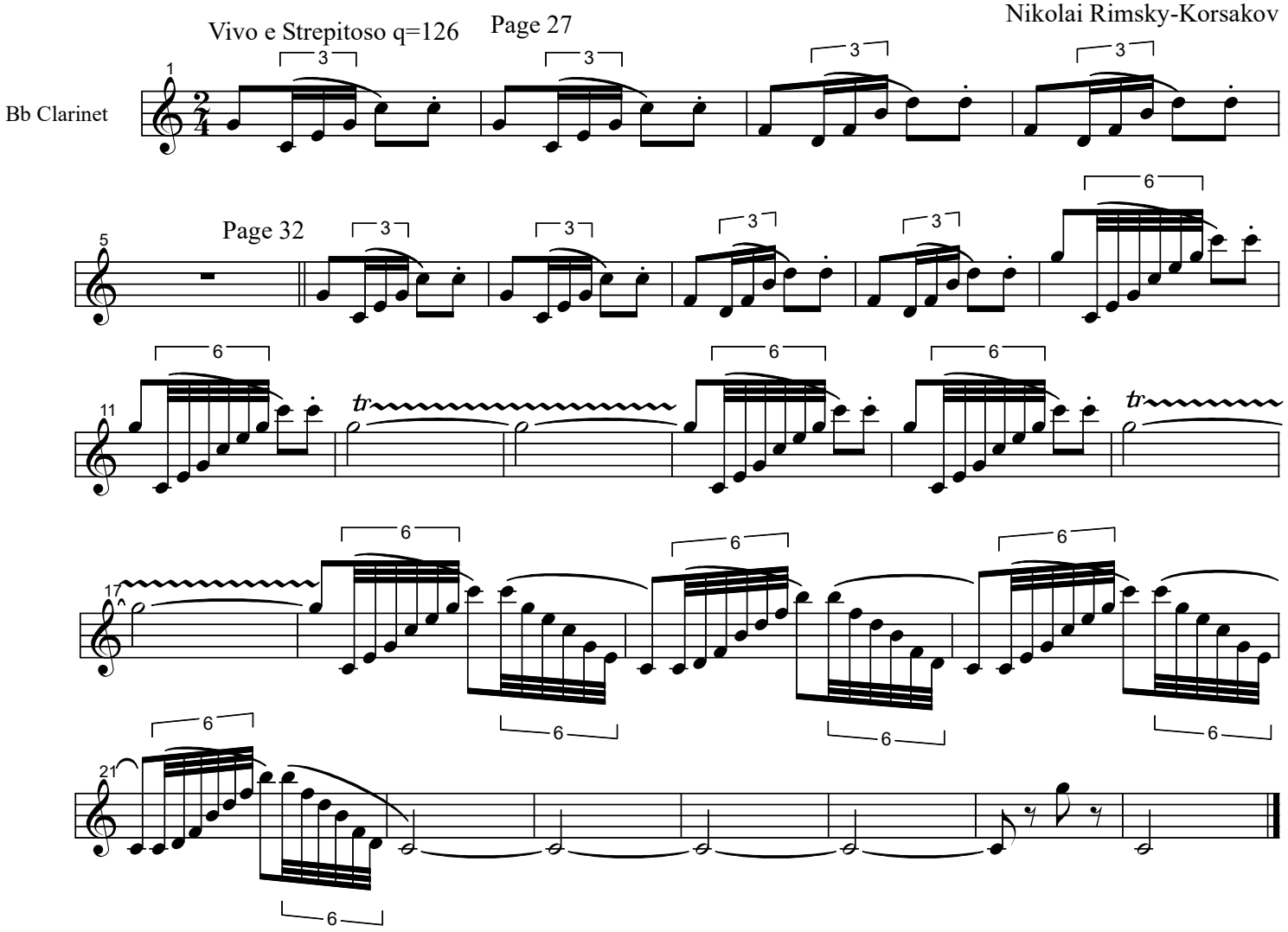
Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov



Capriccio Español, Op. 34

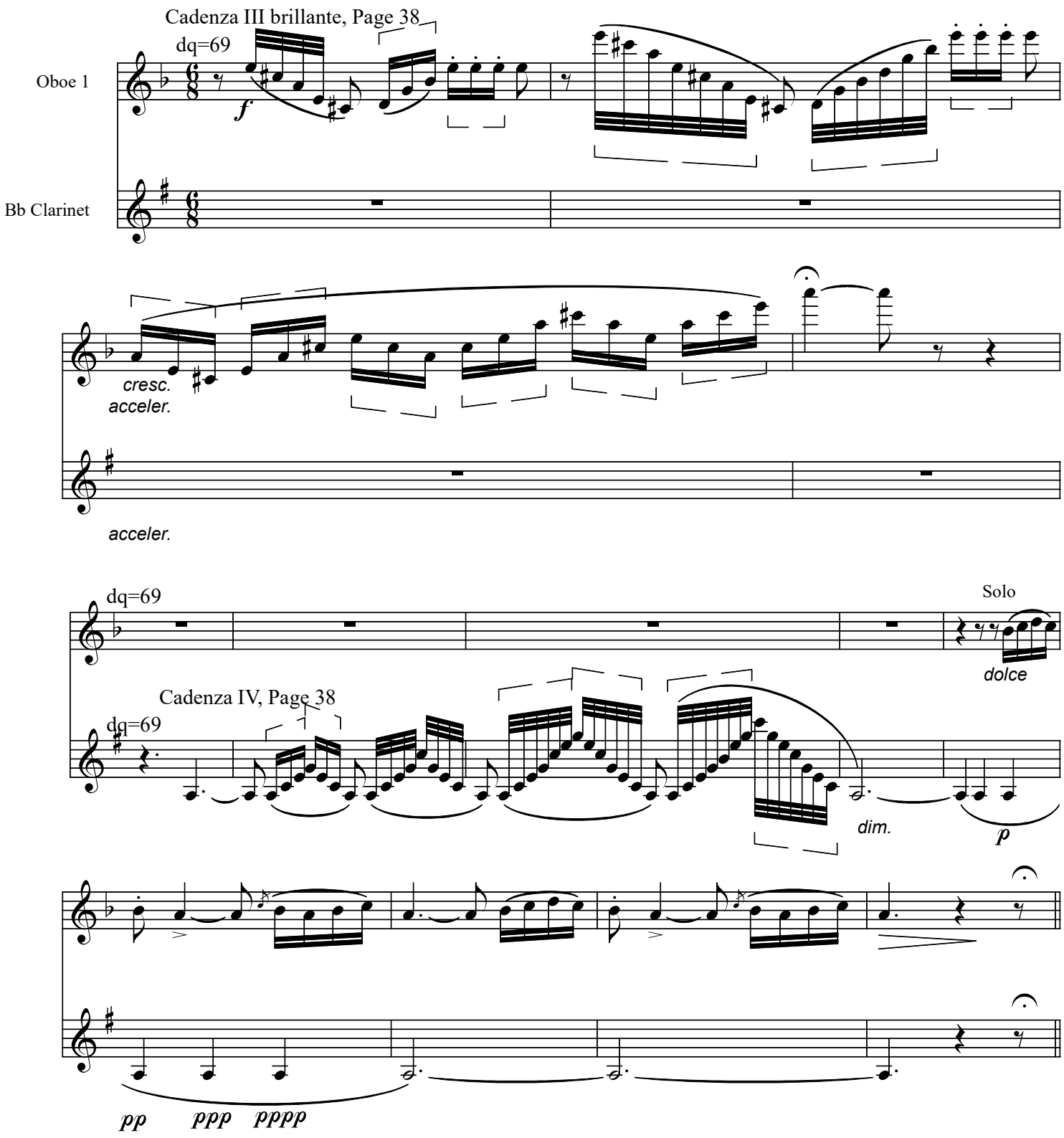
III. Alborada

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov



IV. Scena e canto gitano

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

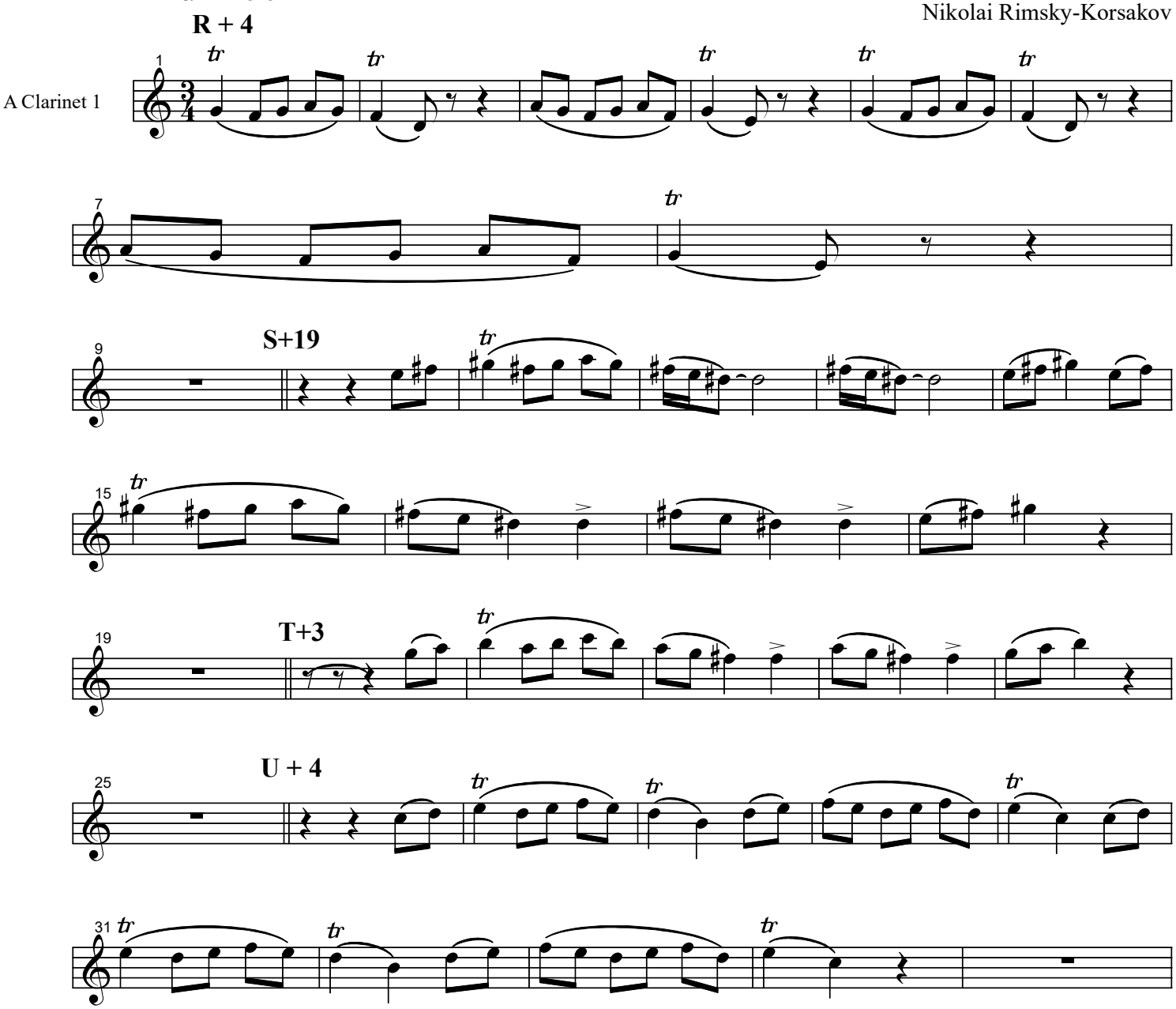


Capriccio Español

V. Fandango asturiano

dh=66

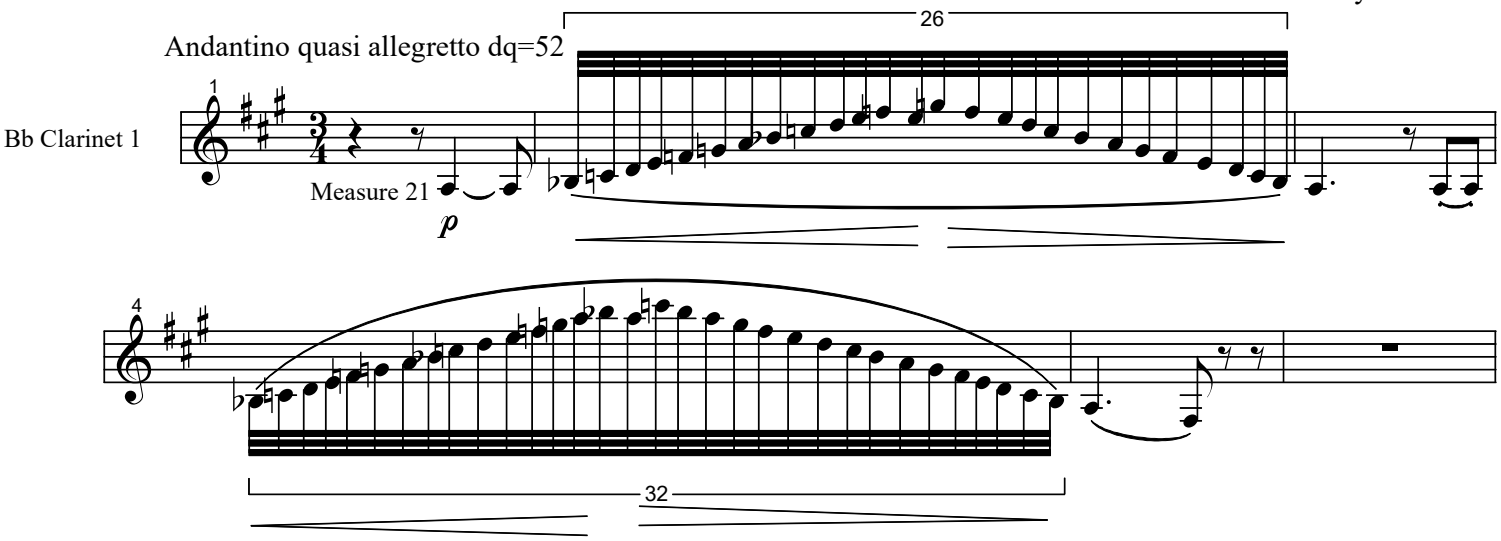
Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov



Scheherazade

III

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

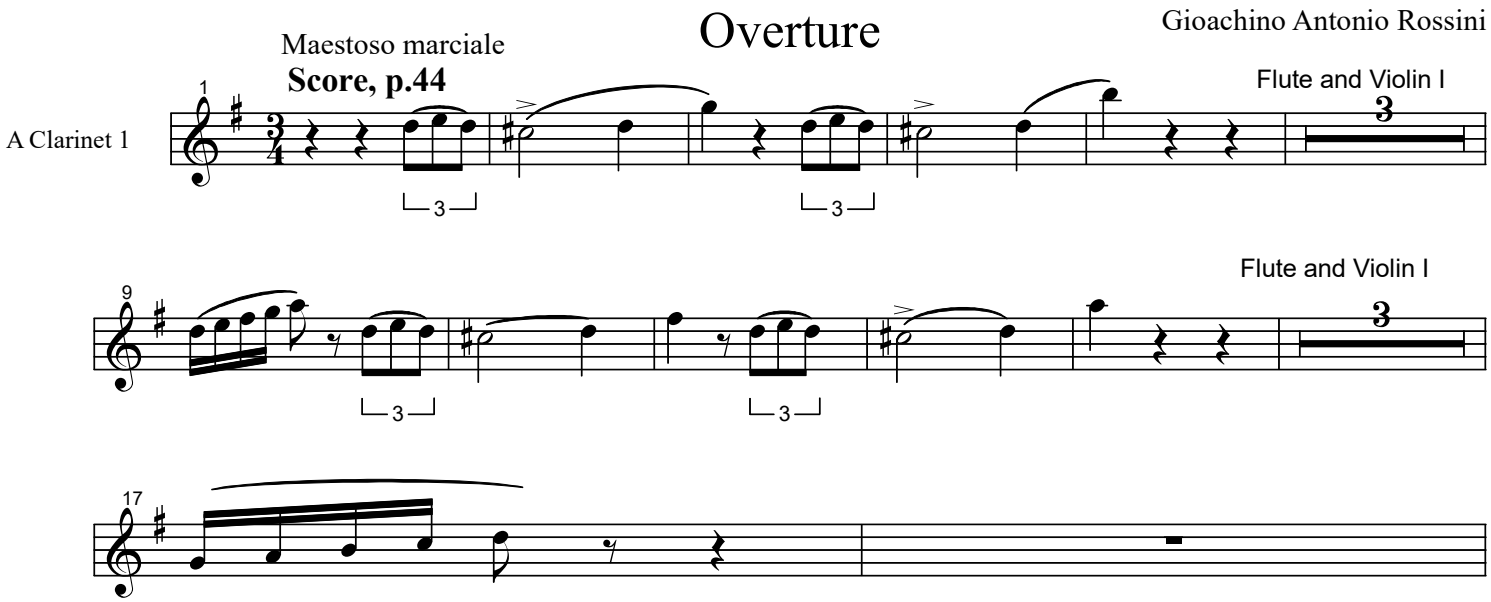


La Gazza Ladra

(The Thieving Magpie)

Overture

Gioachino Antonio Rossini



Semiramide

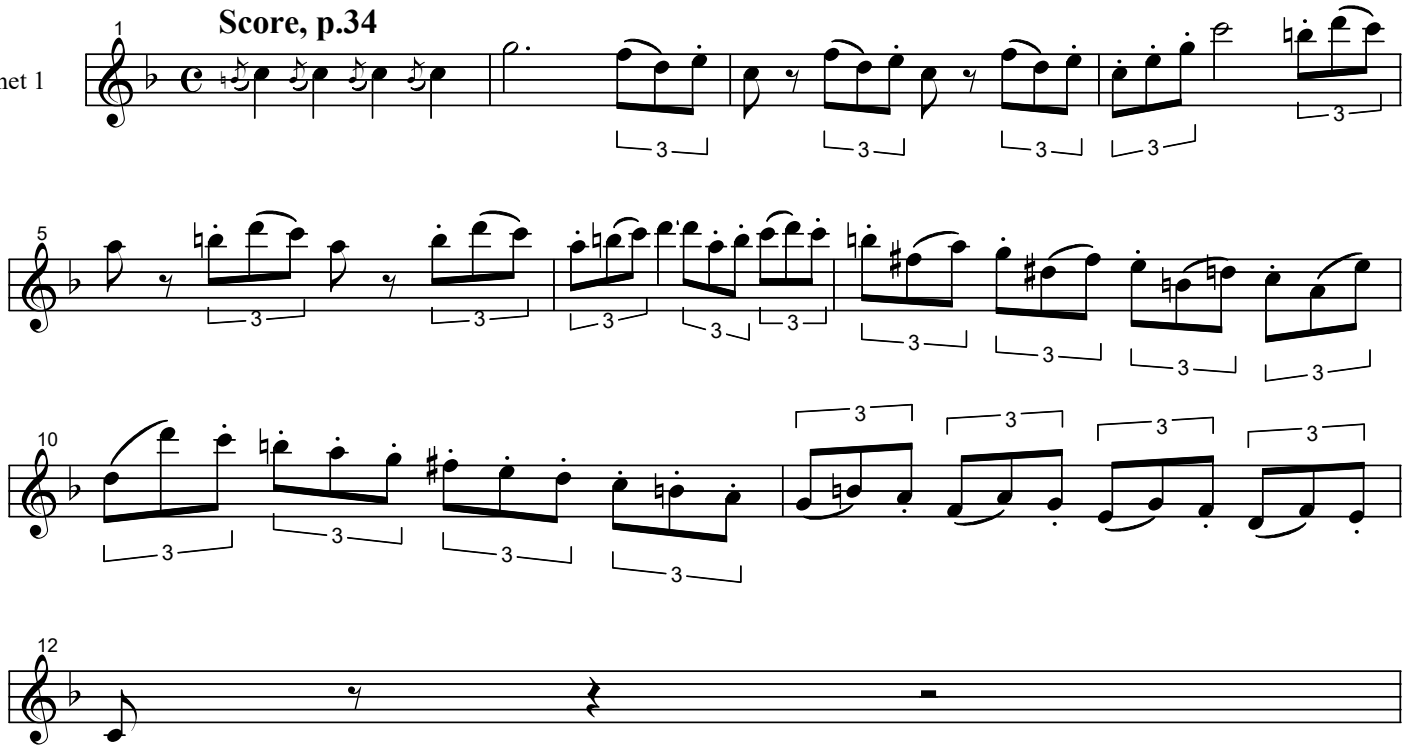
Overture

Gioachino Antonio Rossini

Allegro vivace

Score, p.34

A Clarinet 1



Fossil Fanfare

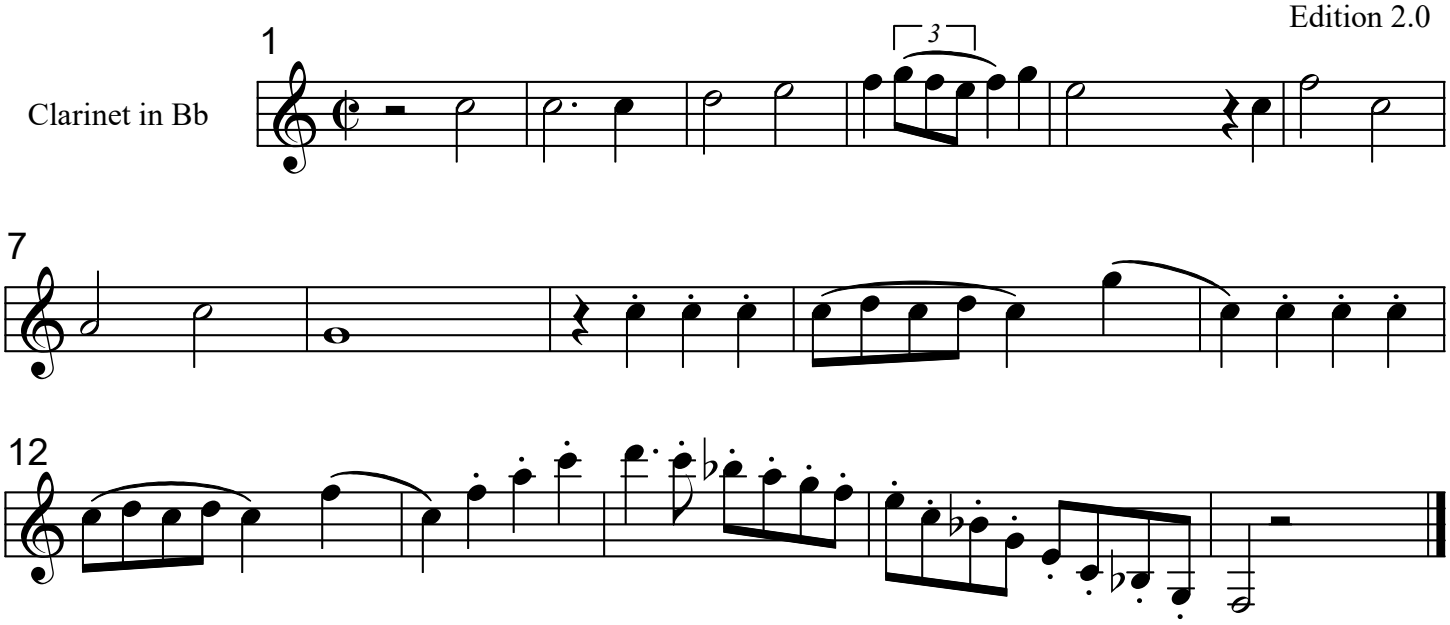
for Bb Clarinet and Xylophone, Marimba or one-hand Piano

(from "Carnival of the Animals")

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835 -1921)

(arr. O. Seely)

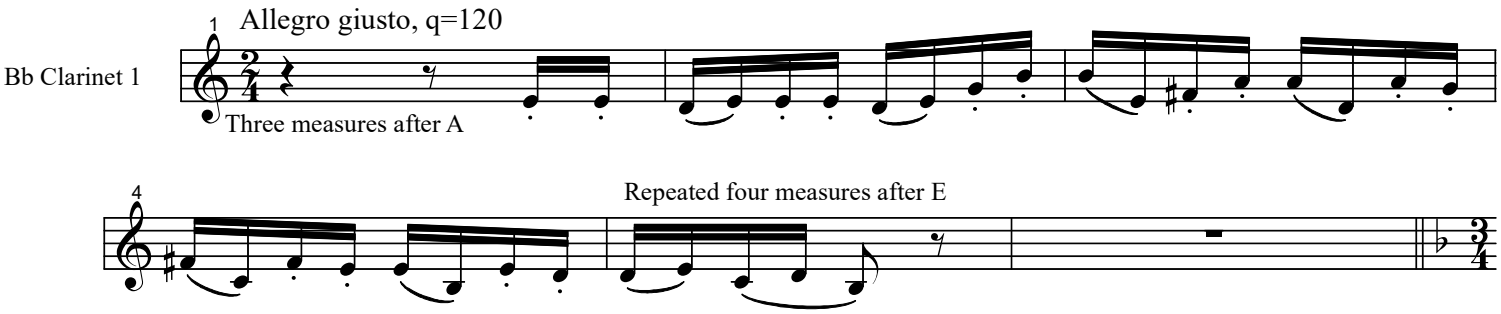
Edition 2.0



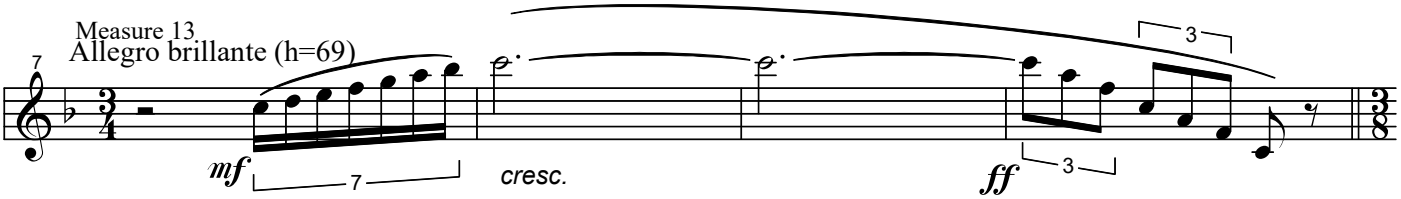
Nutcracker

0. Overture

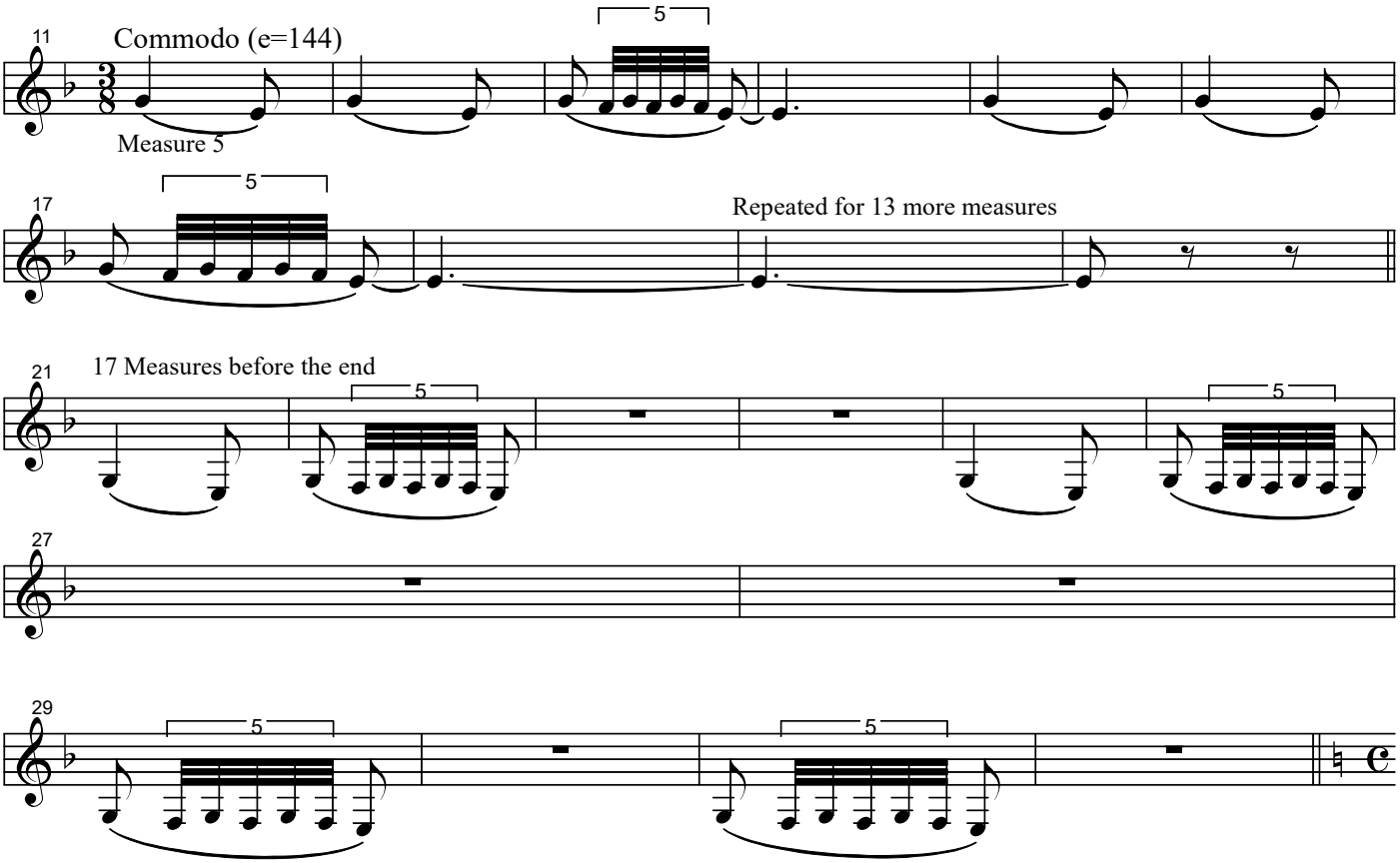
Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky



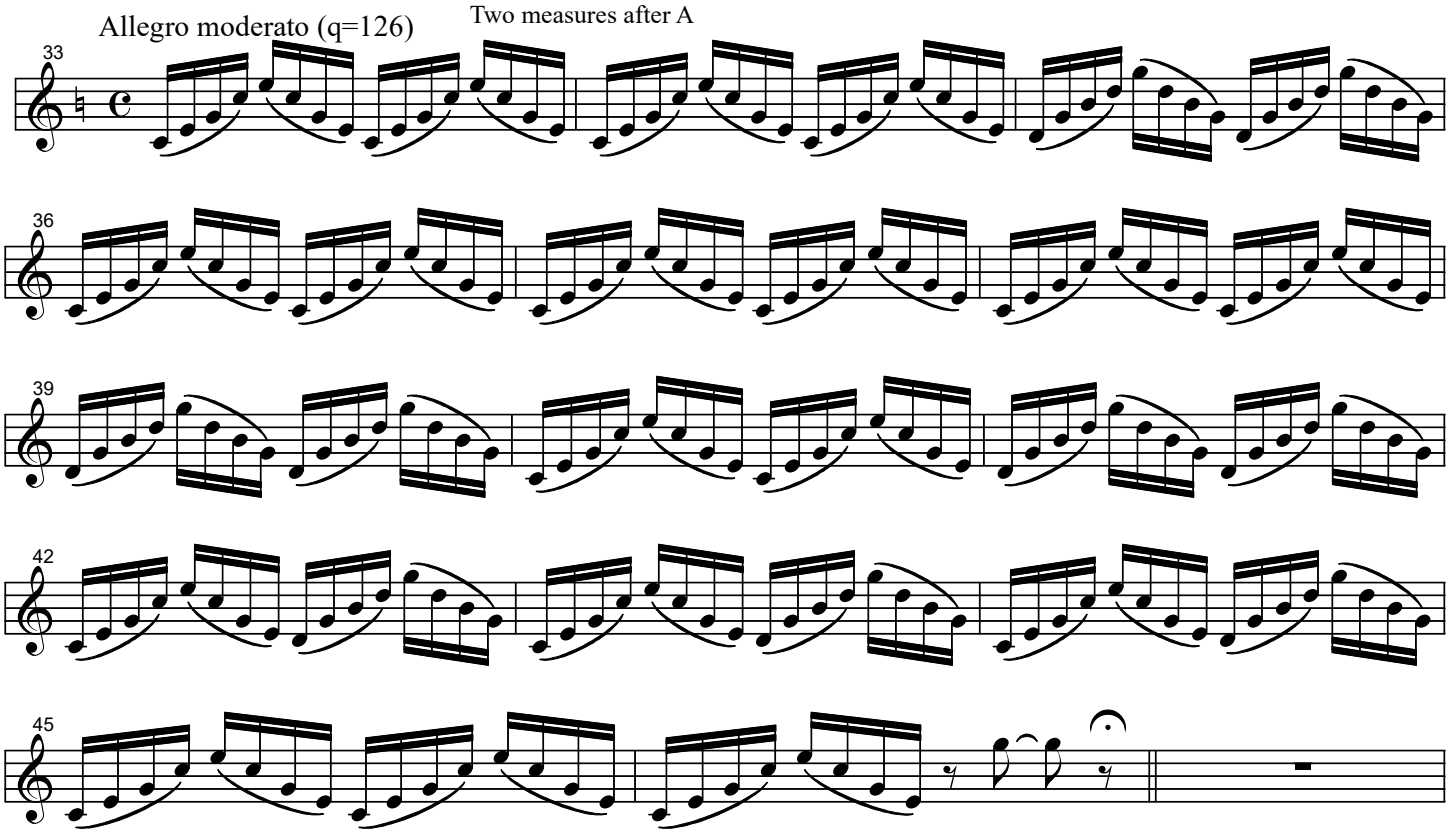
12a. Chocolat (Spanish Dance)



12b. Le Café (Arabian Dance)

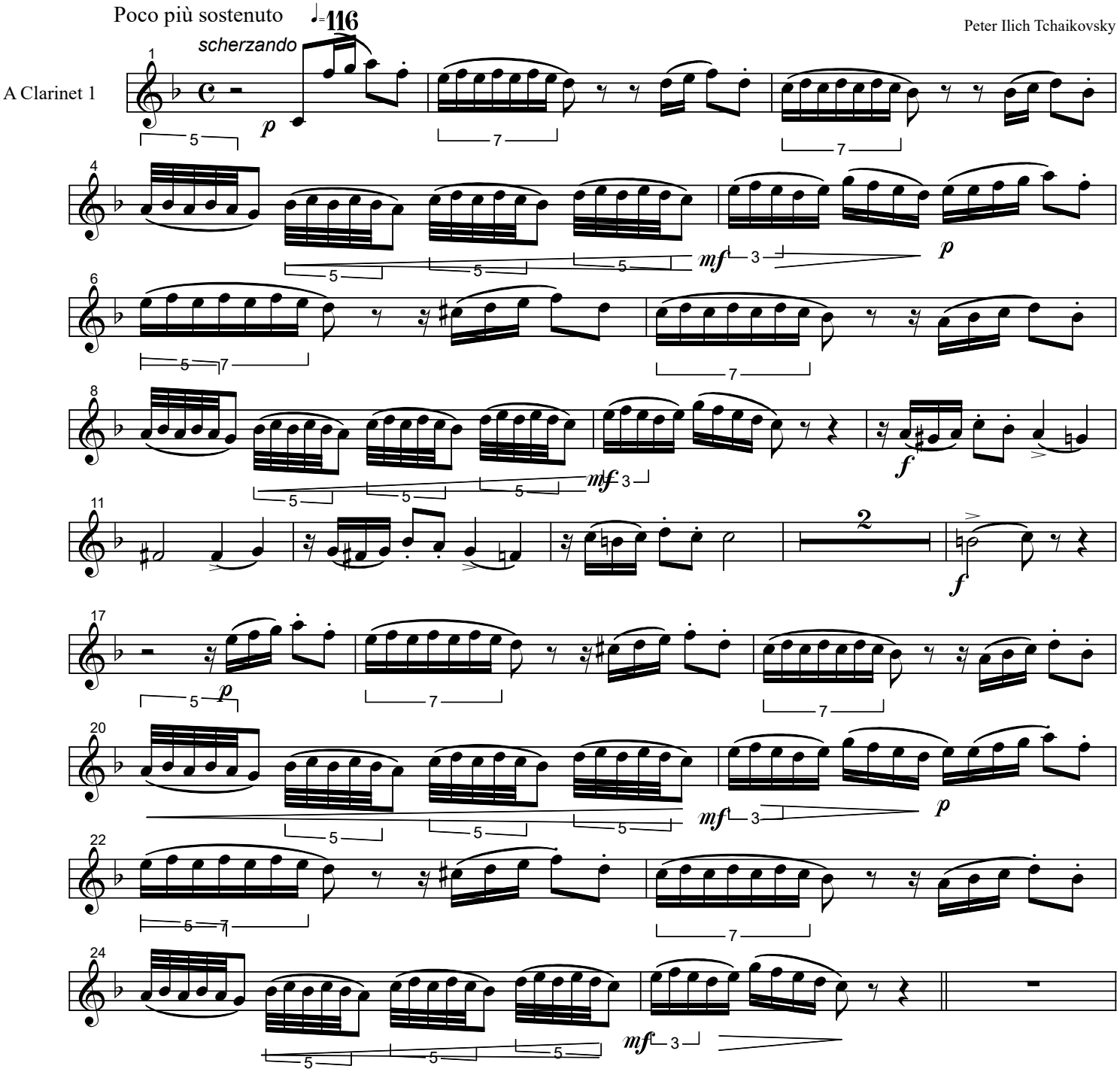


12c. Thé (Chinese Dance)



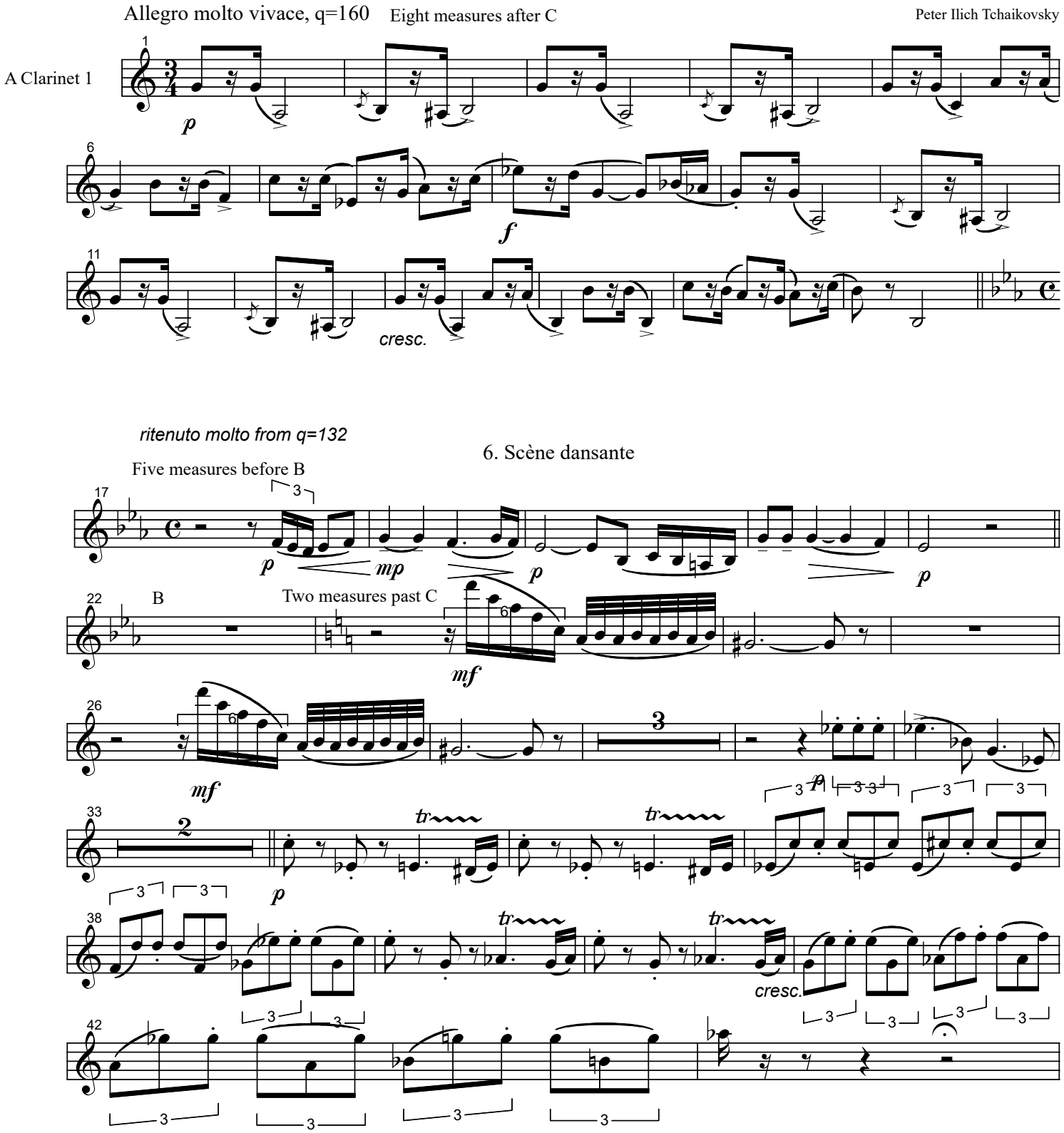
Nutcracker

1. Scène de l'ornement et de l'illumination de l'arbre de Noël

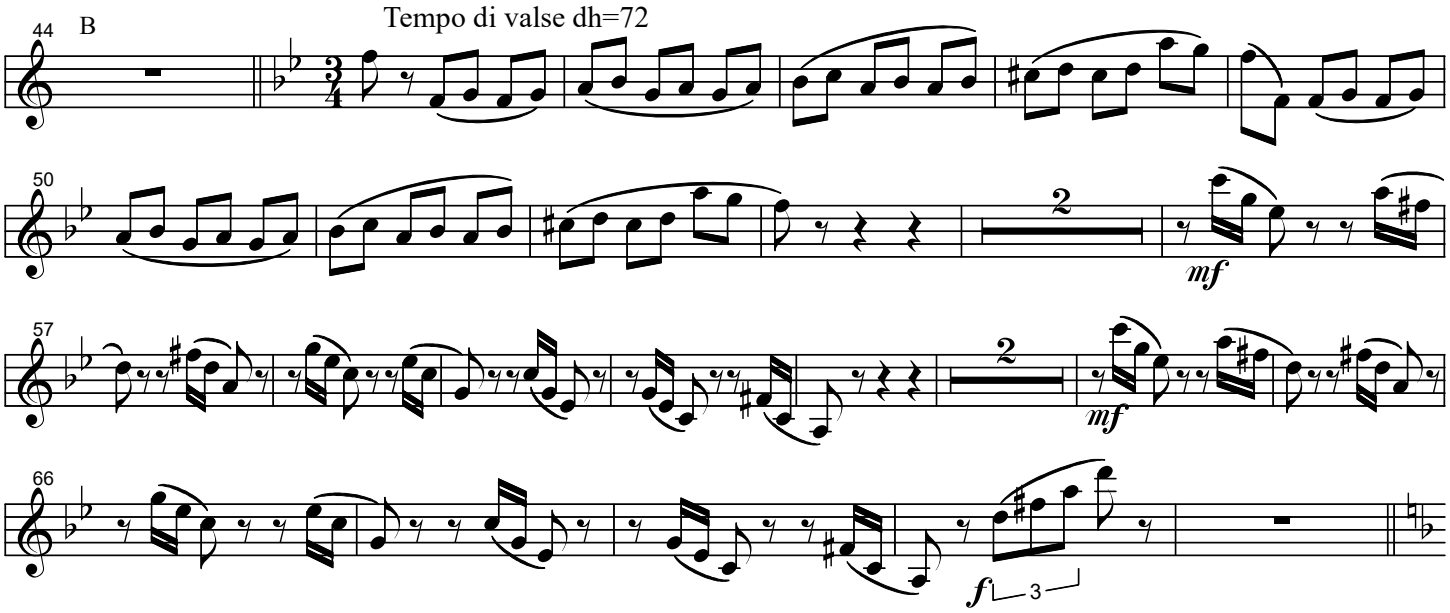


Nutcracker

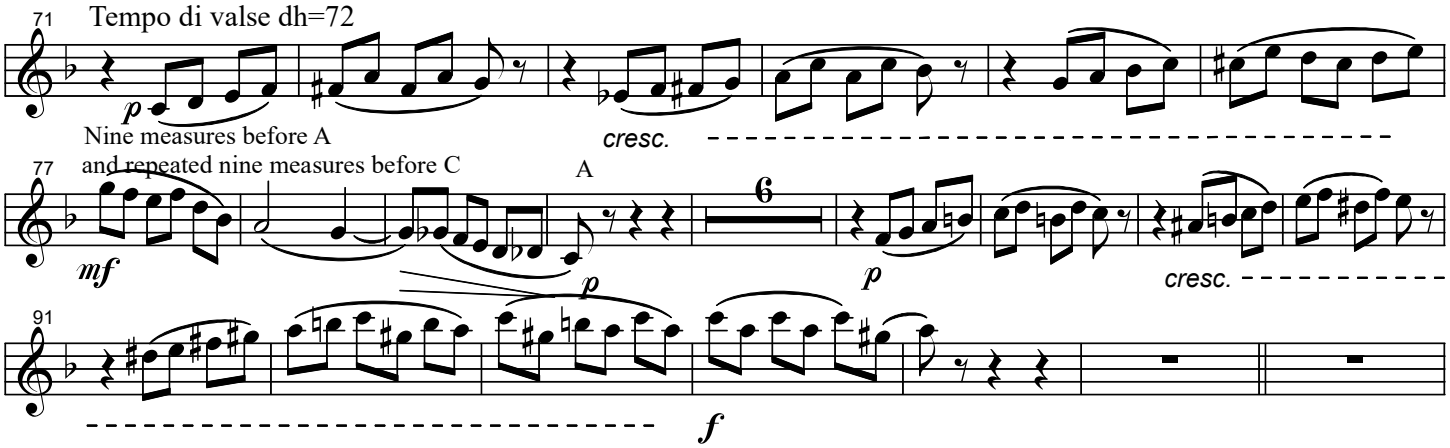
4. Scène dansante



9. Waltz of the Snowflakes



13. Waltz of the Flowers



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11. Scène

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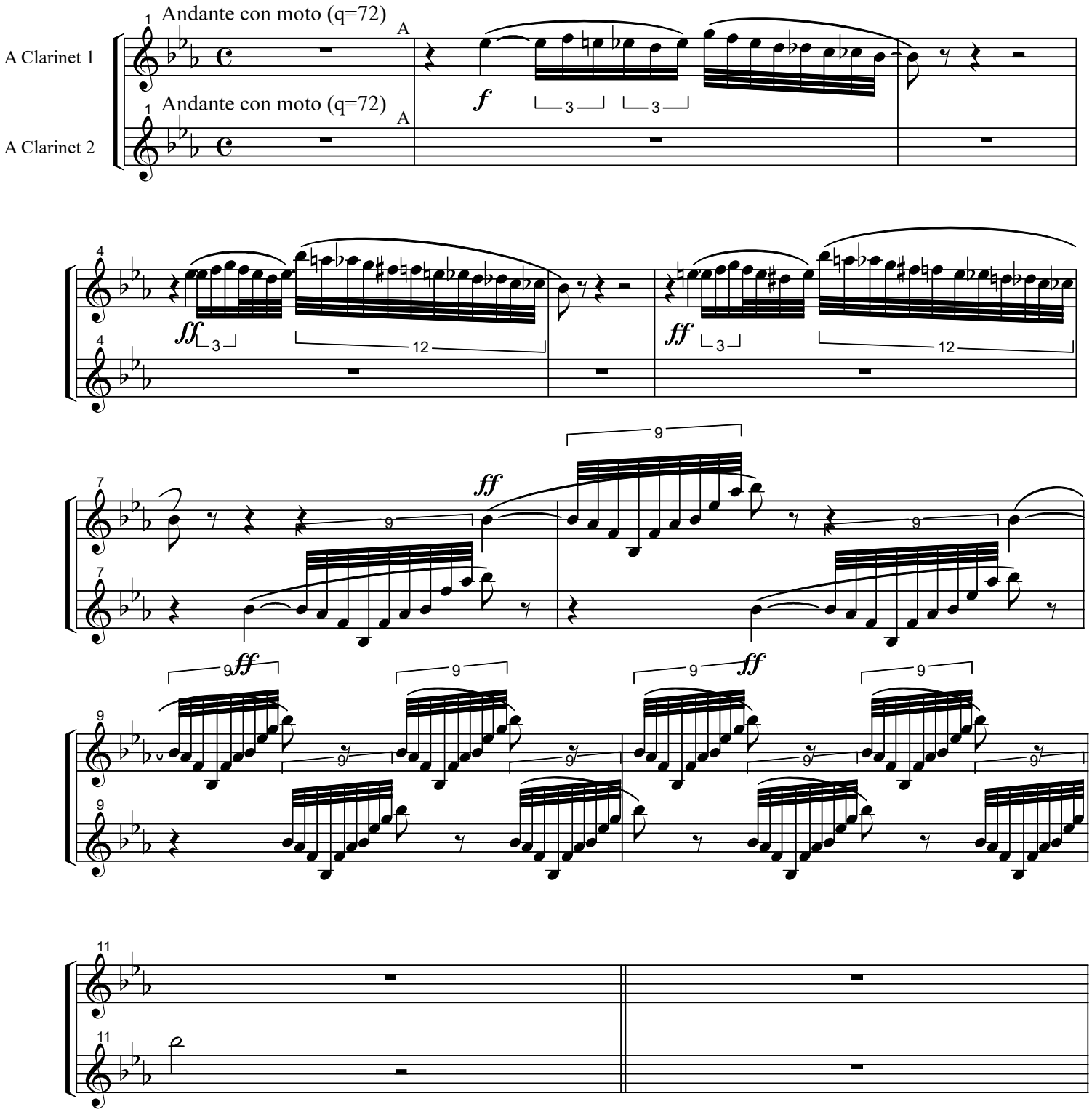
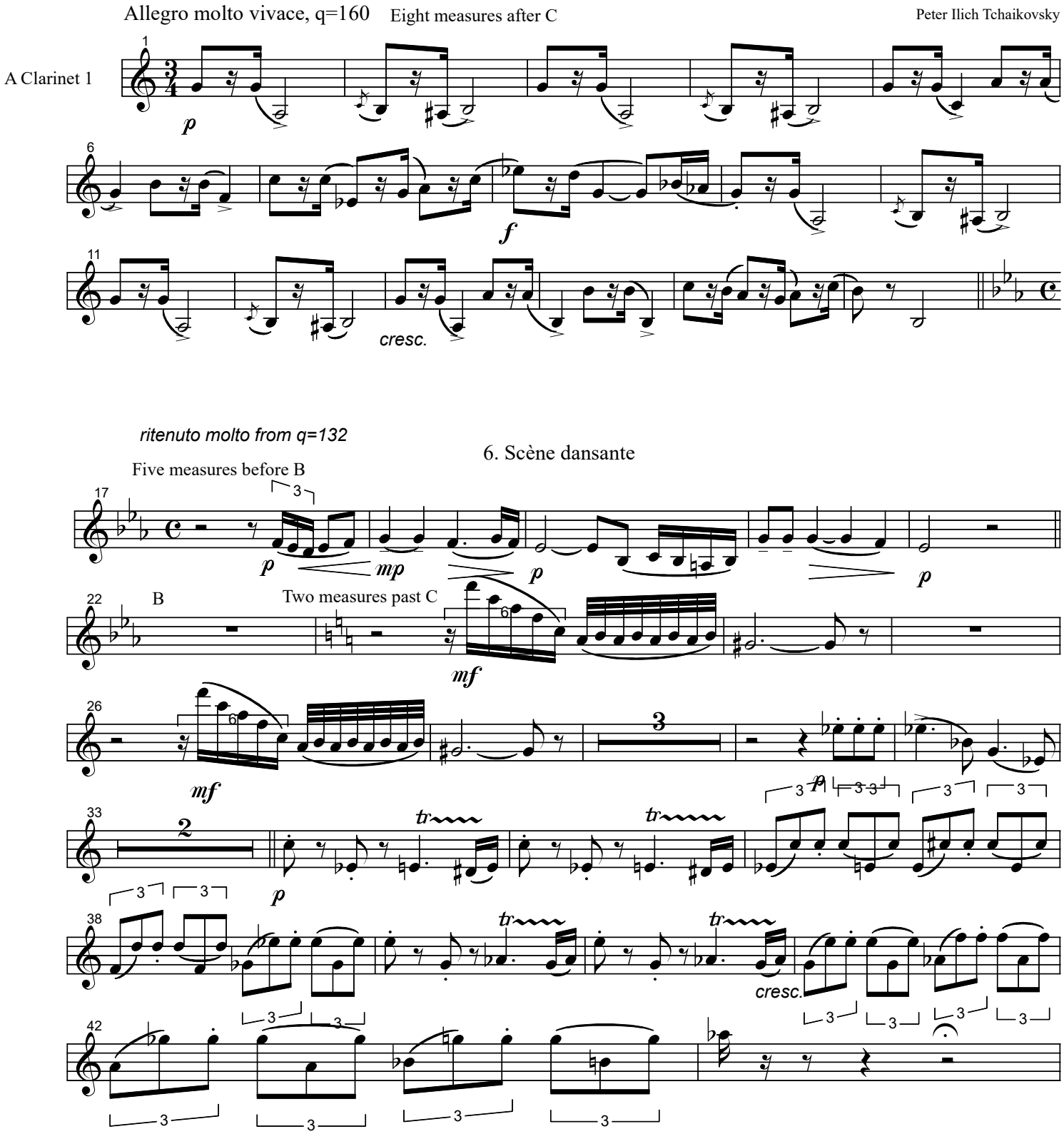
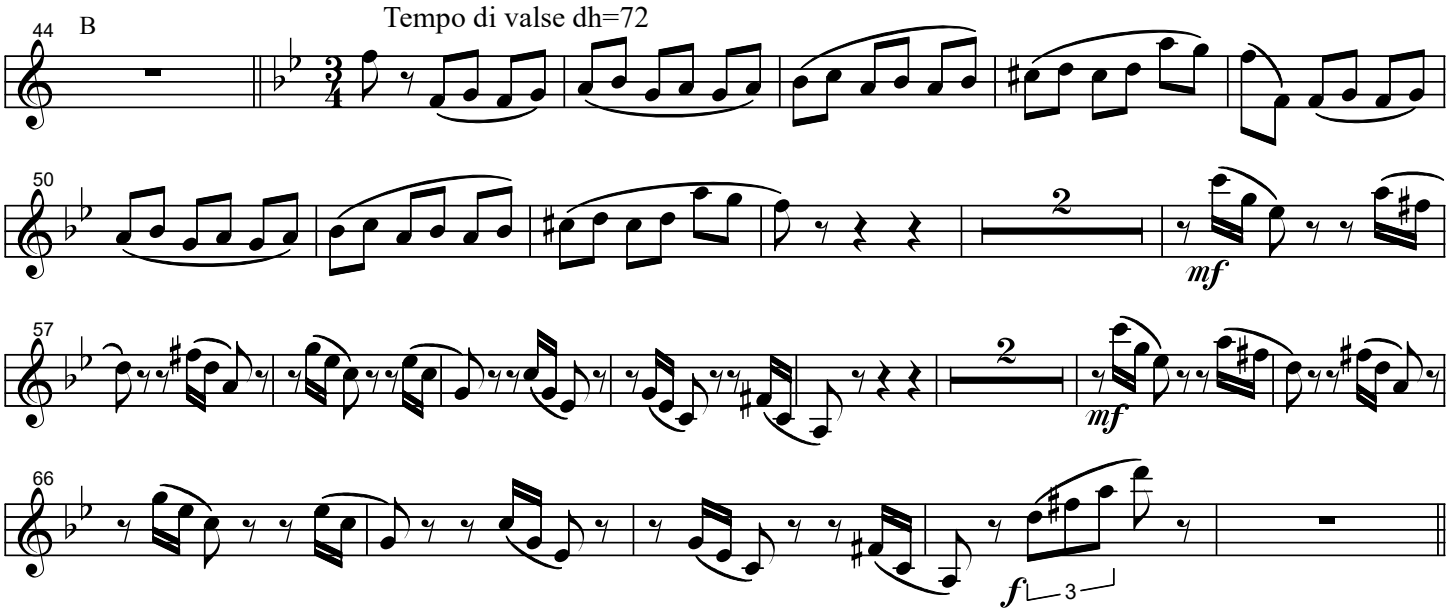


Nutcracker

4. Scène dansante



9. Waltz of the Snowflakes

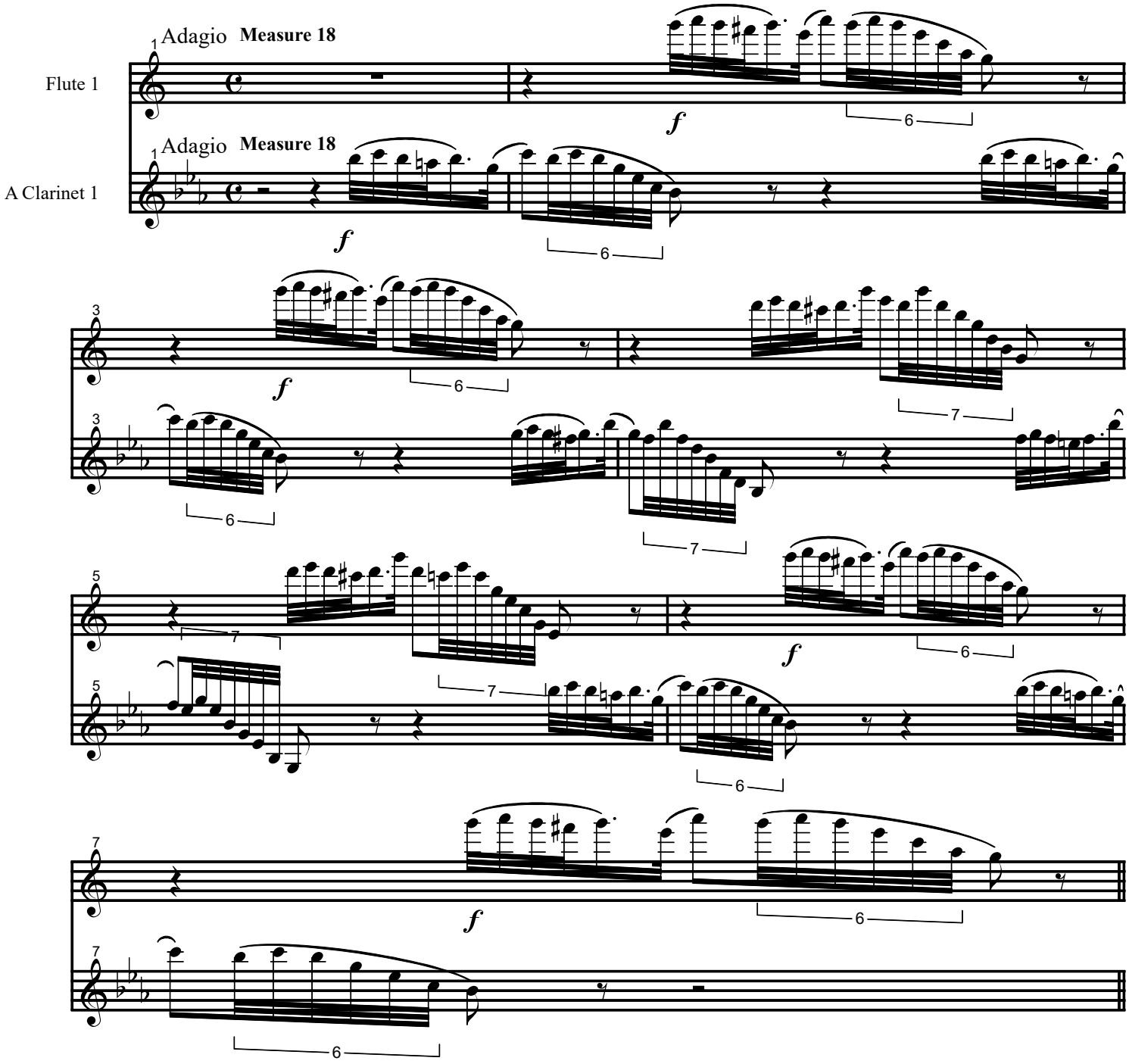


Sleeping Beauty Ballet

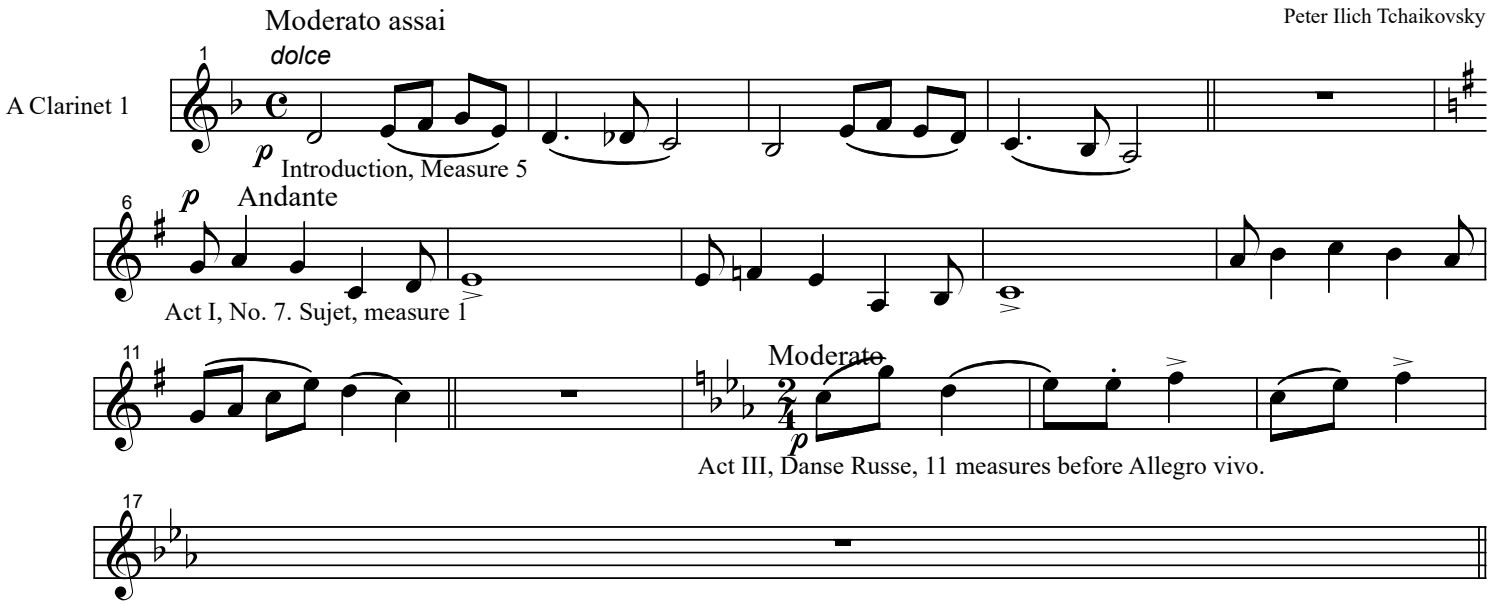
Act 3, No. 25, Pas de quatre

Cendrillon, Le Prince Fortuné, L'oiseau Bleu, La Princesse Florine

Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky

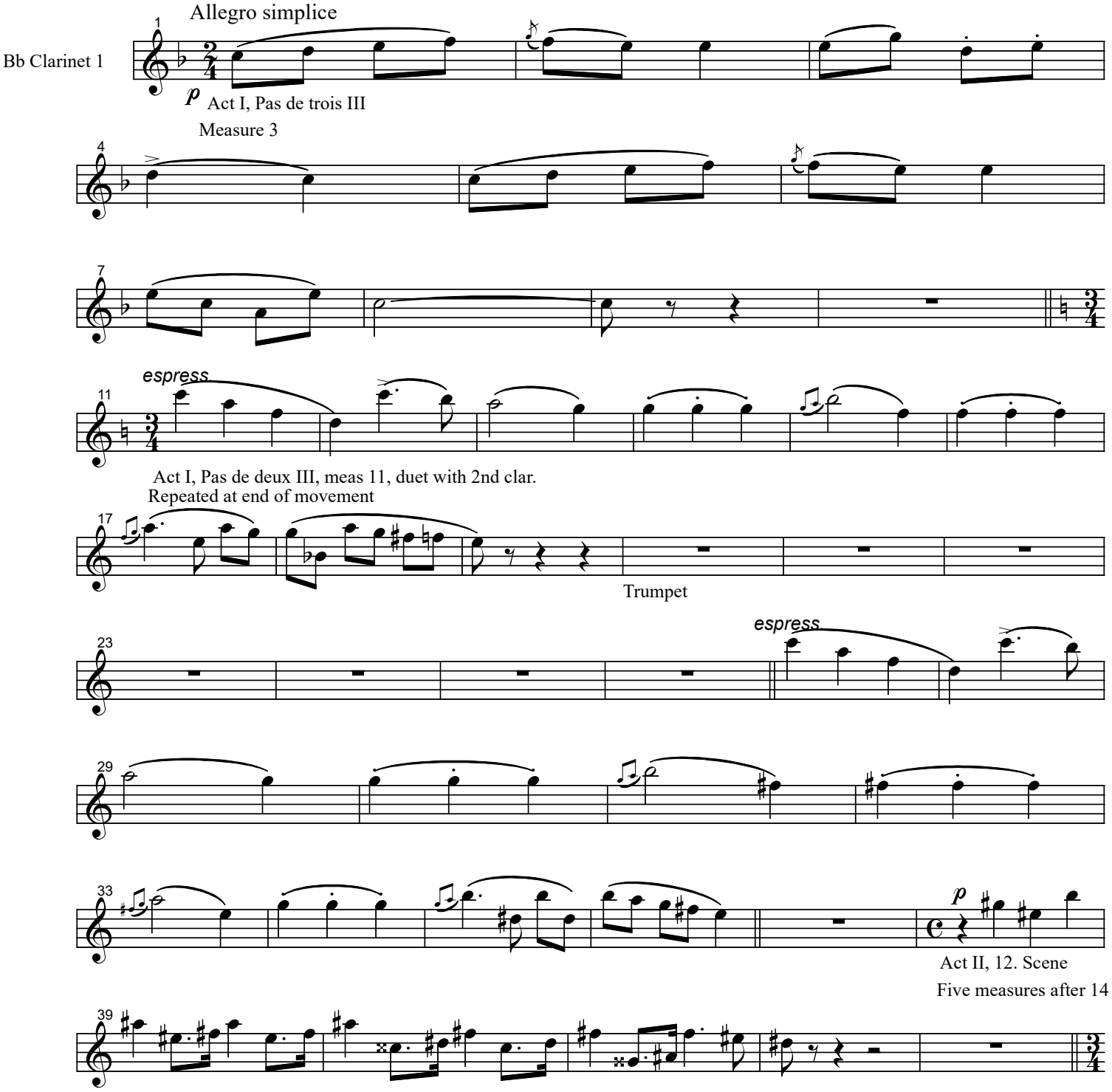


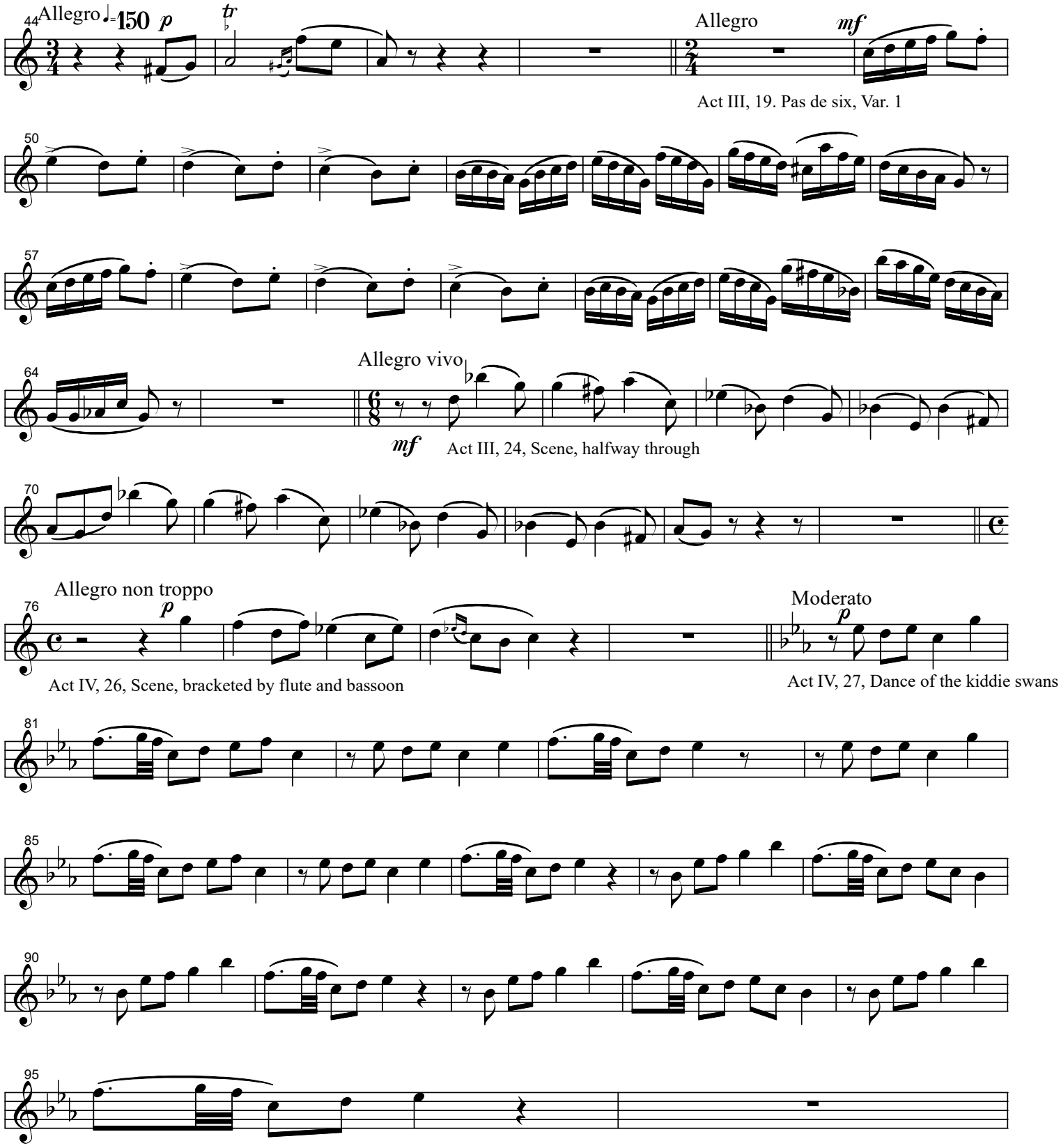
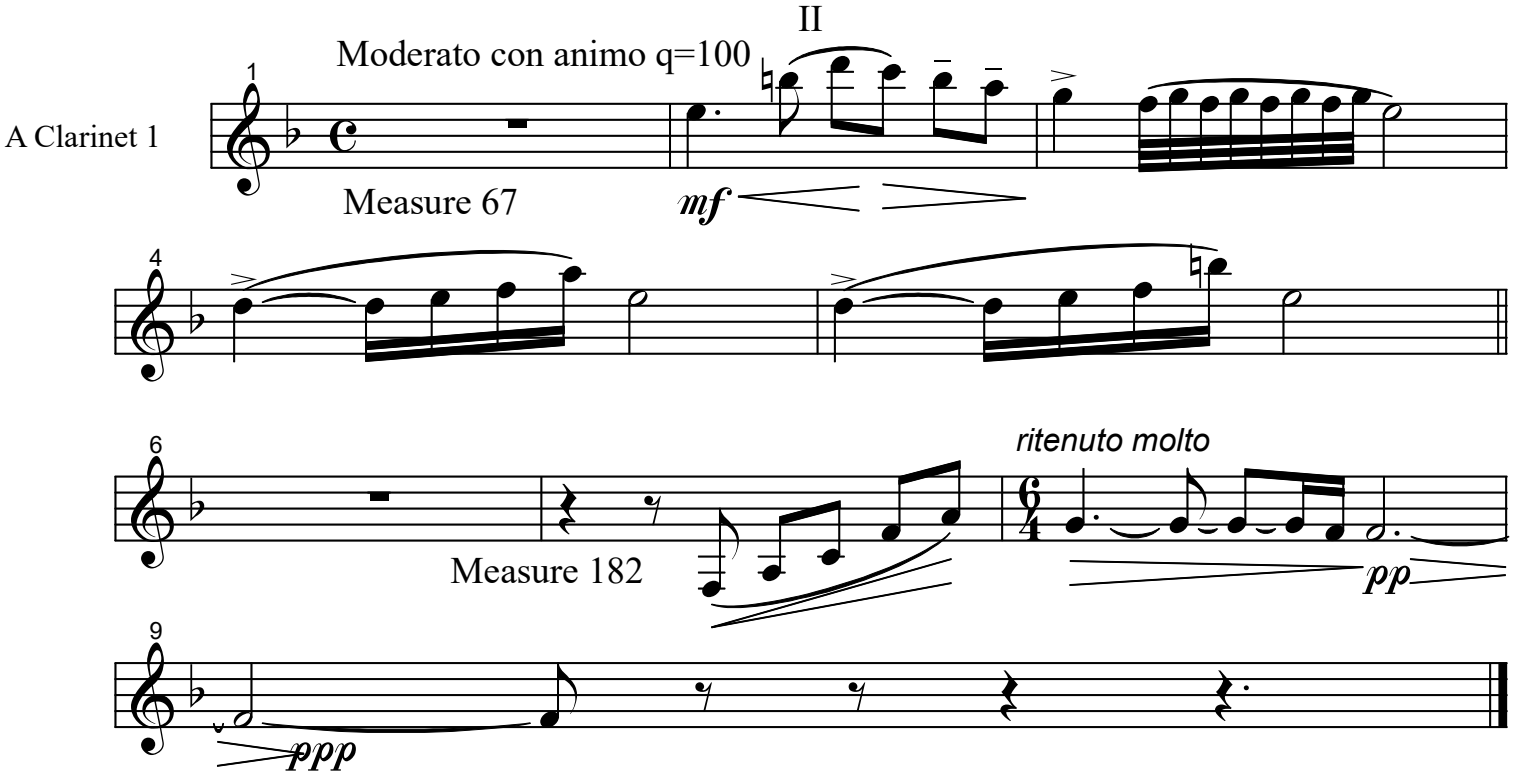
Swan Lake


Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky
A Clarinet 1
Moderato assai
dolce
p
Introduction, Measure 5
Andante
Act I, No. 7. Sujet, measure 1
Moderato
Act III, Danse Russe, 11 measures before Allegro vivo.

Swan Lake

Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky




44
Allegro ♩= 150
p
tr
Allegro
mf
Act III, 19. Pas de six, Var. 1
50
57
64
Allegro vivo
mf
Act III, 24, Scene, halfway through
70
76
Allegro non troppo
p
Act IV, 26, Scene, bracketed by flute and bassoon
Moderato
p
Act IV, 27, Dance of the kiddie swans
81
85
90
95

Symphony No. 5