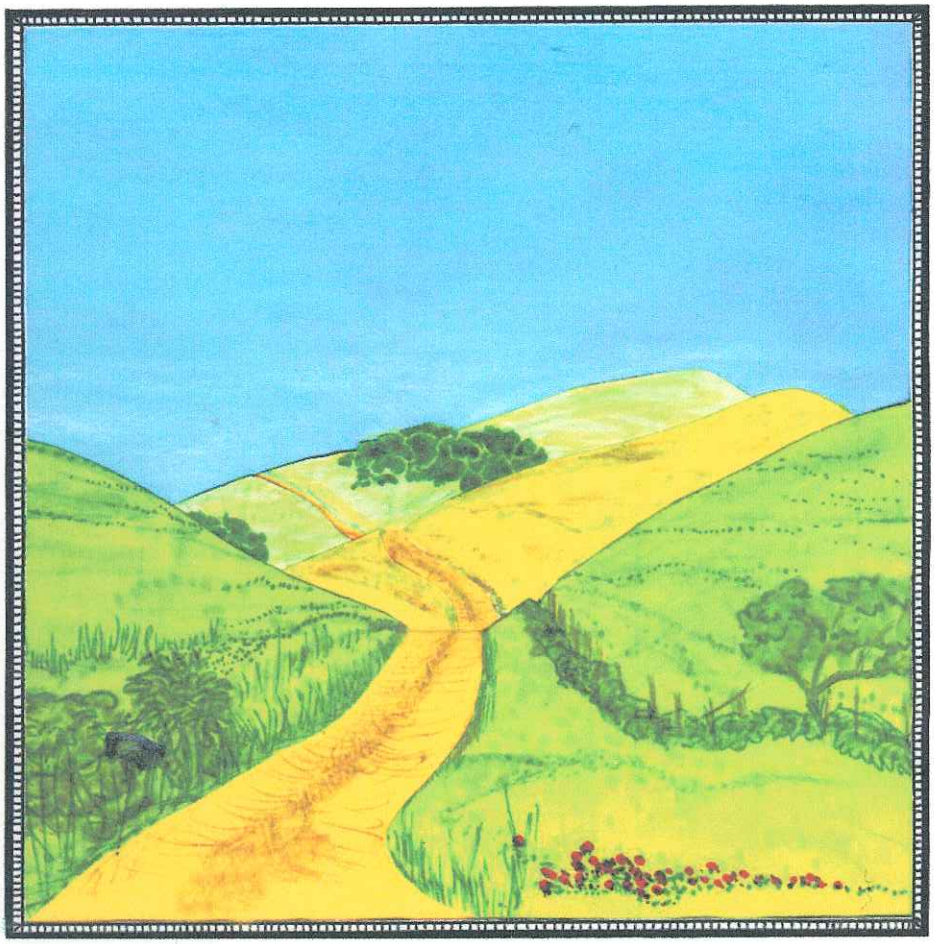
JAMES SELLARS



The Merry Guide

HOG RIVER MUSIC
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Program Notes

These little piano pieces stem from an Anglo-American sentiment that was virtually obliterated by the first world war, a childlike innocence, a nostalgia for home and countryside so beloved and protected by the Victorians. This sentiment was clearly felt by the pianist Yvar Mikhashoff who interlaced the music with selections from A. E. Housman's *A Shropshire Lad* and arranged the combination for small orchestra and narrator. The piano pieces are here published with the poems, resulting in a true period piece for the amateur pianist.

James Sellars

The Merry Guide, in arrangement for narrator and chamber orchestra, is available from the publisher.

Hog River Music
1800 Albany Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06105-1005
U.S.A.

Tel.: (860) 523-1820 • Fax: (860) 232-5214
www.hogriver.com

I. The Wind of Morning

Once in the wind of morning
I ranged the thymy world;
The world-wide air was azure
And all the brooks ran gold.

There through the dews beside me
Behold a youth that trod,
With feathered cap on forehead,
And poised a golden rod.

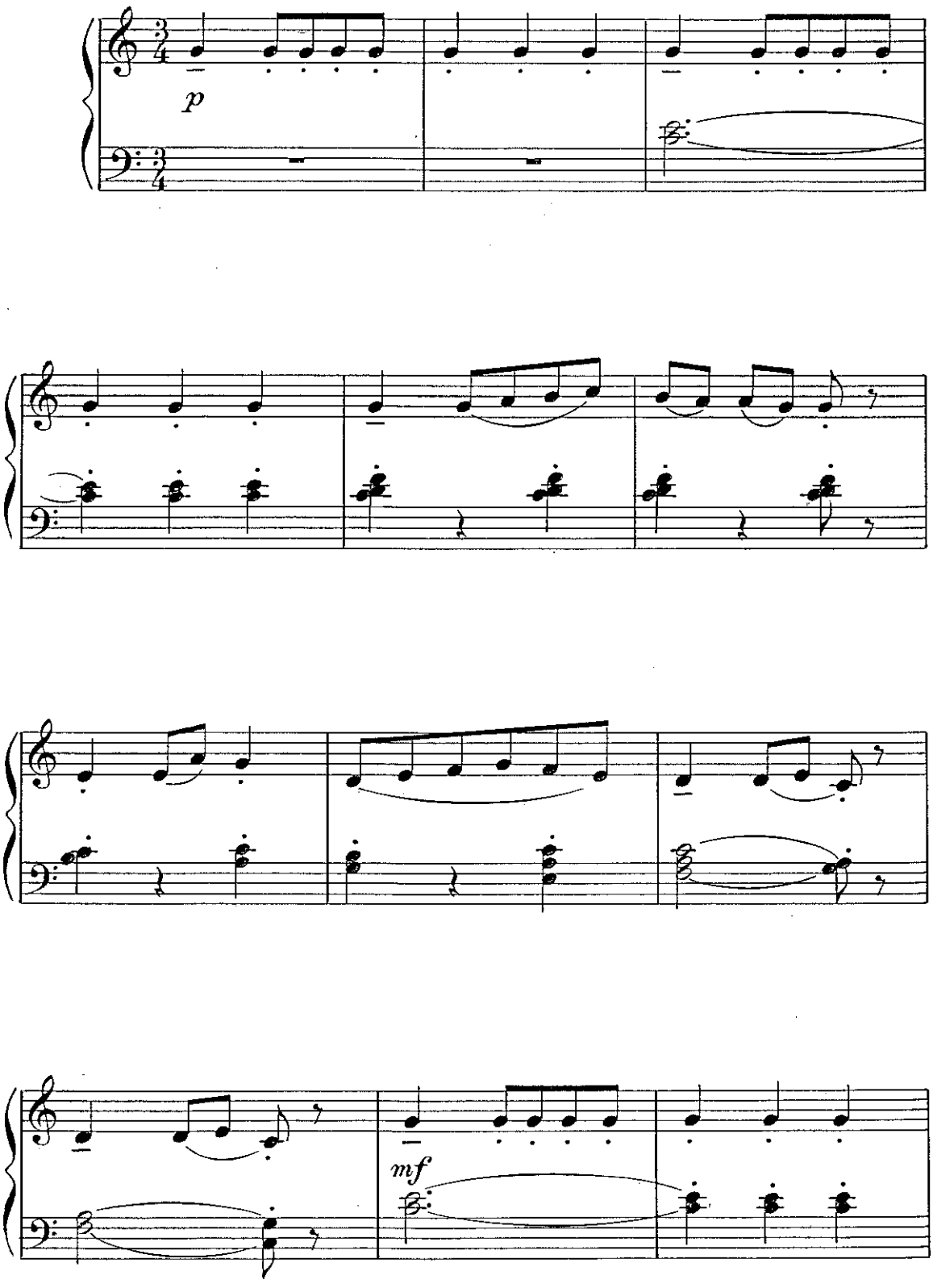
With mien to match the morning
Any gay delightful guise
And friendly brows and laughter
He looked me in the eyes.

I. THE WIND OF MORNING

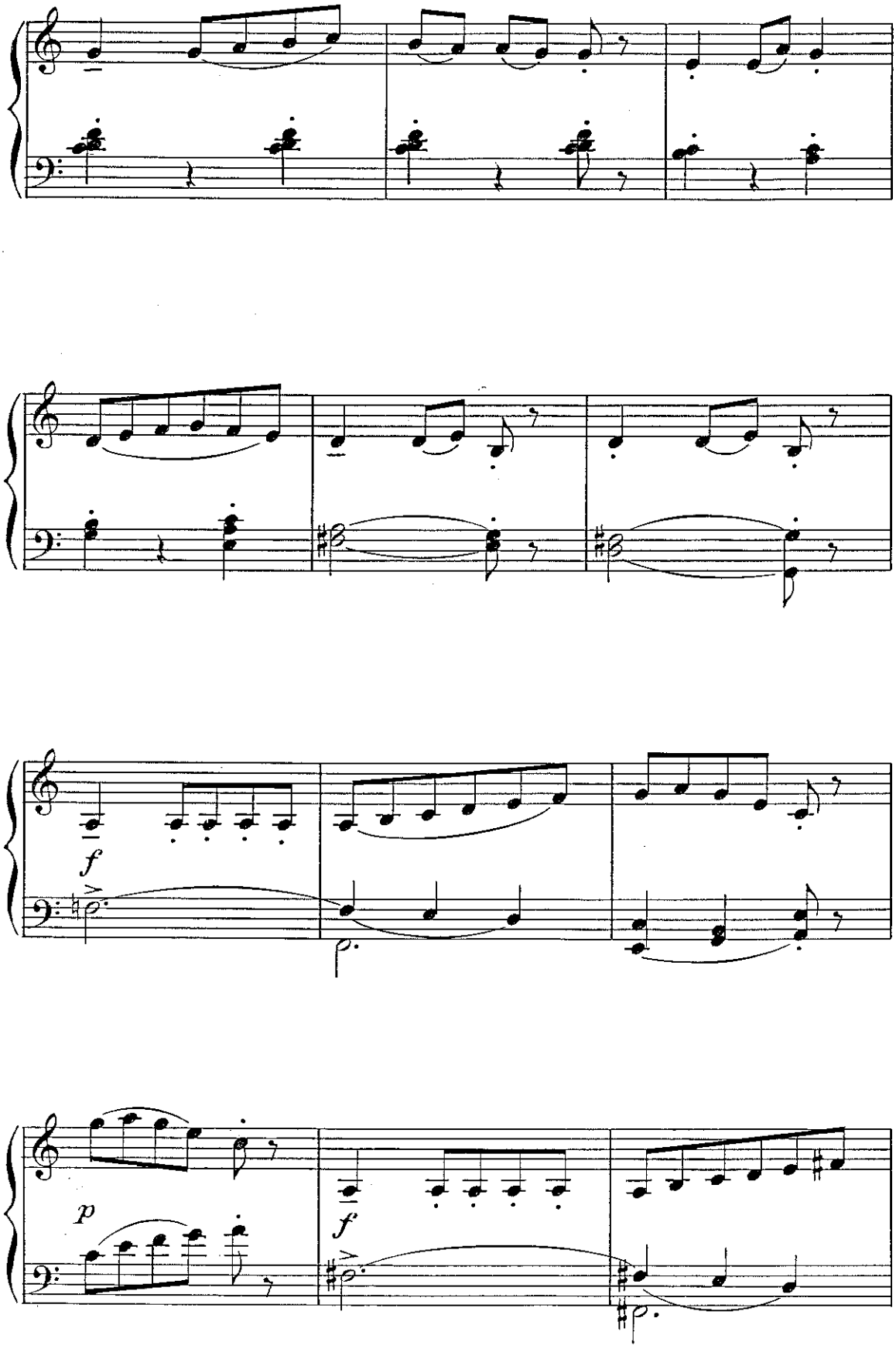
(for A.W.H.)

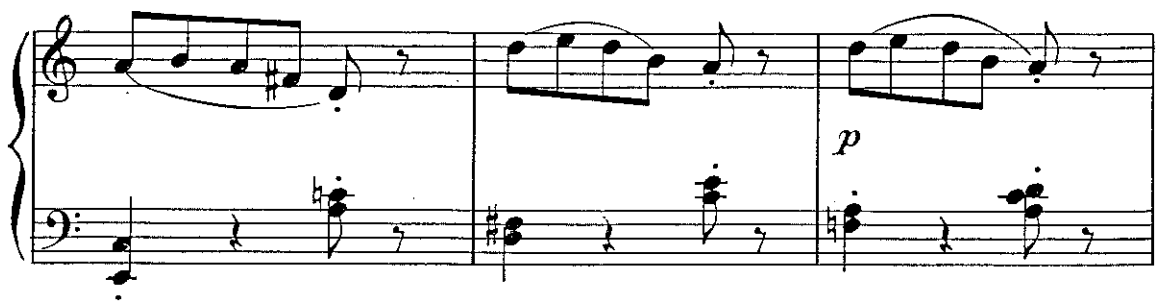
JAMES SELLARS

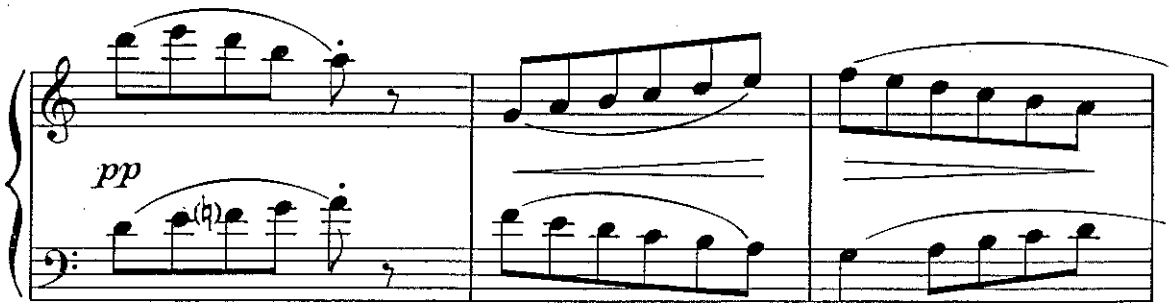
Not too fast

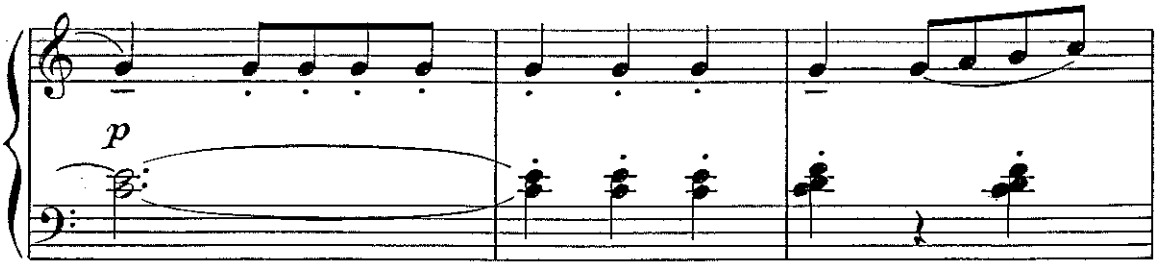


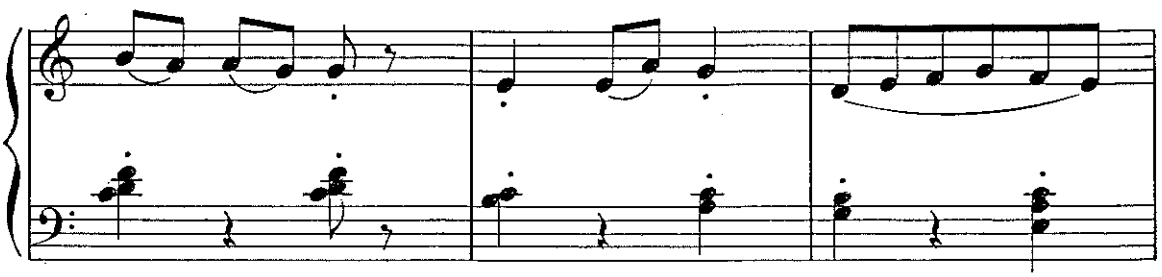
© 1985 by Hog River Music

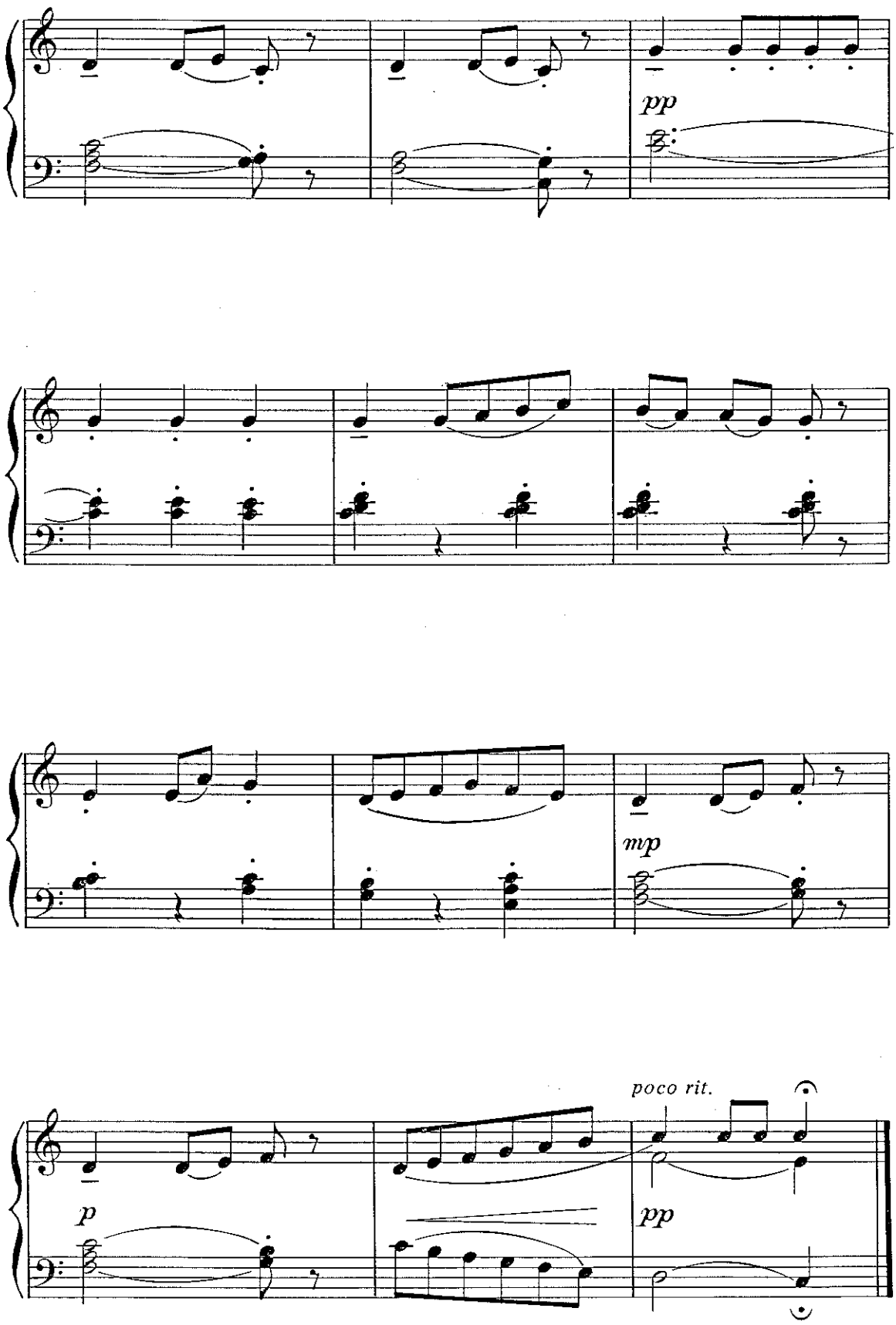

f
p
f


p


pp


p




pp
mp
poco rit.
p
pp

II. Kind Looks and Laughter

With mien to match the morning
Any gay delightful guise
And friendly brows and laughter
He looked me in the eyes.

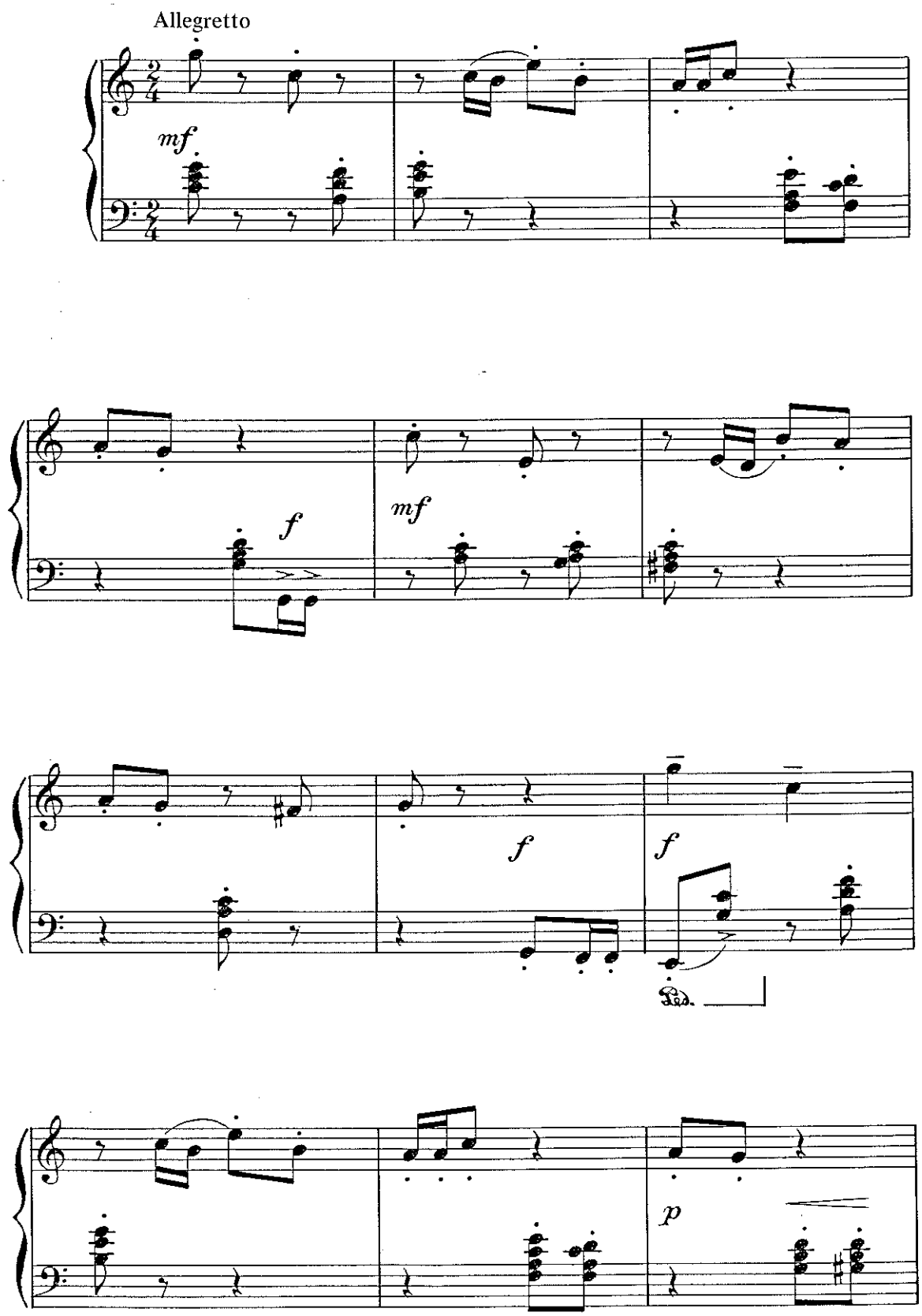
Oh, whence, I asked, and whither?
He smiled and would not say,
And looked at me and beckoned
And laughed and led the way.

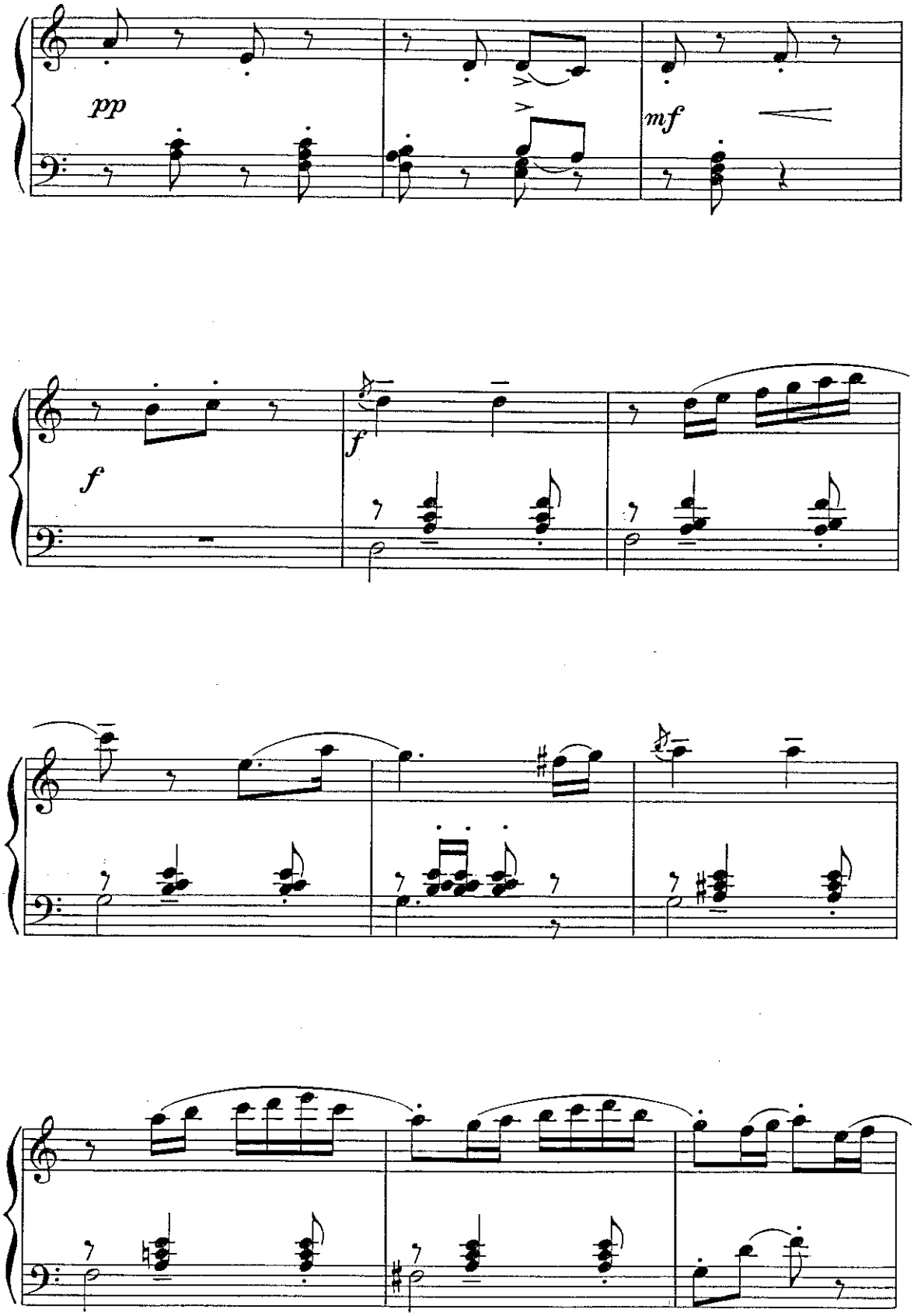
And with kind looks and laughter
And nought to say beside
We two went on together,
I and my happy guide.

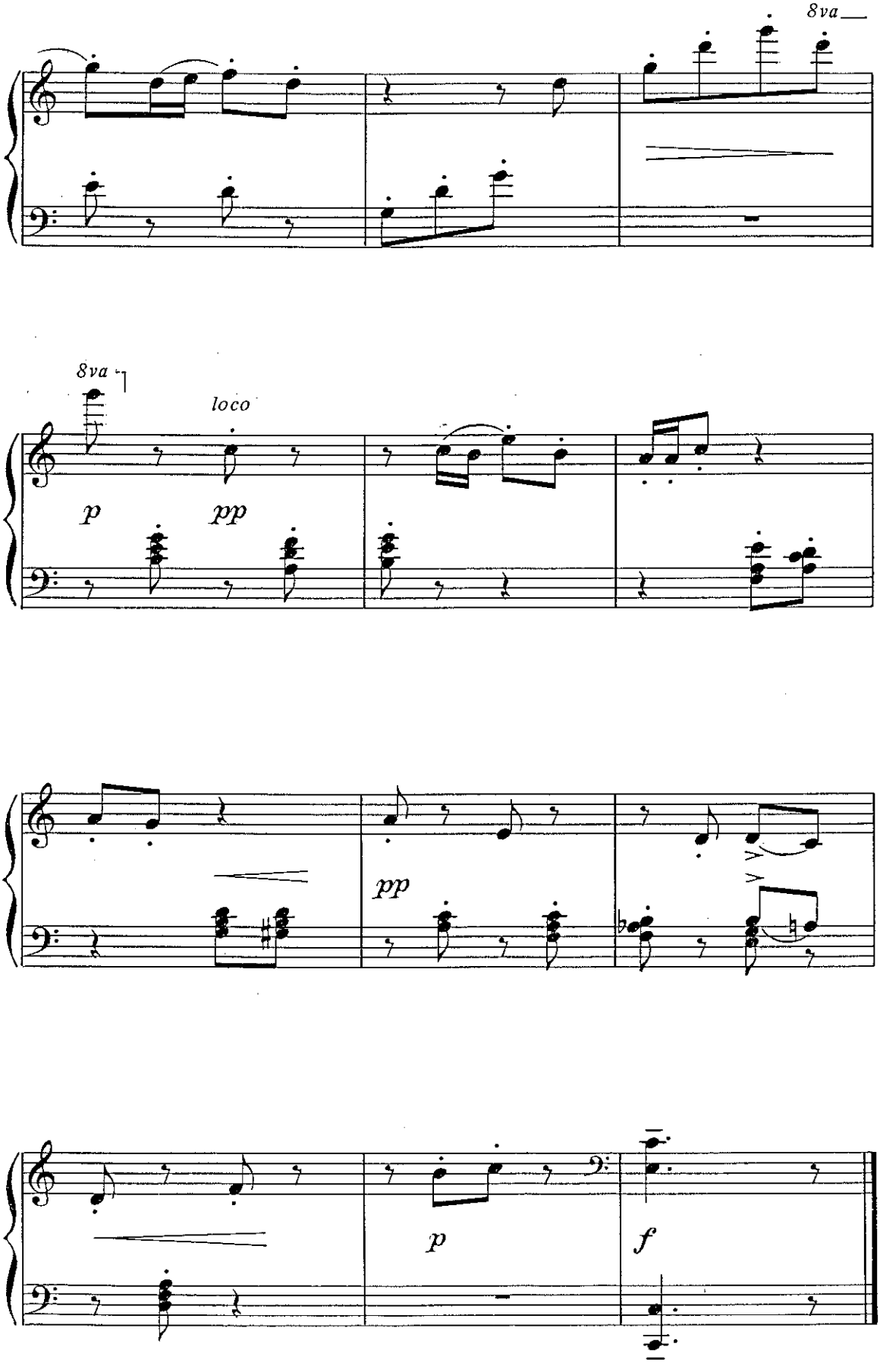
II. KIND LOOKS AND LAUGHTER

(for E.S.)

JAMES SELLARS




pp
mf
f
f


8va
8va
loco
p
pp
pp
p
f

III. The Solitude of Shepherds

Across the glittering pastures
And empty upland still
And solitude of shepherds
High in the folded hill.

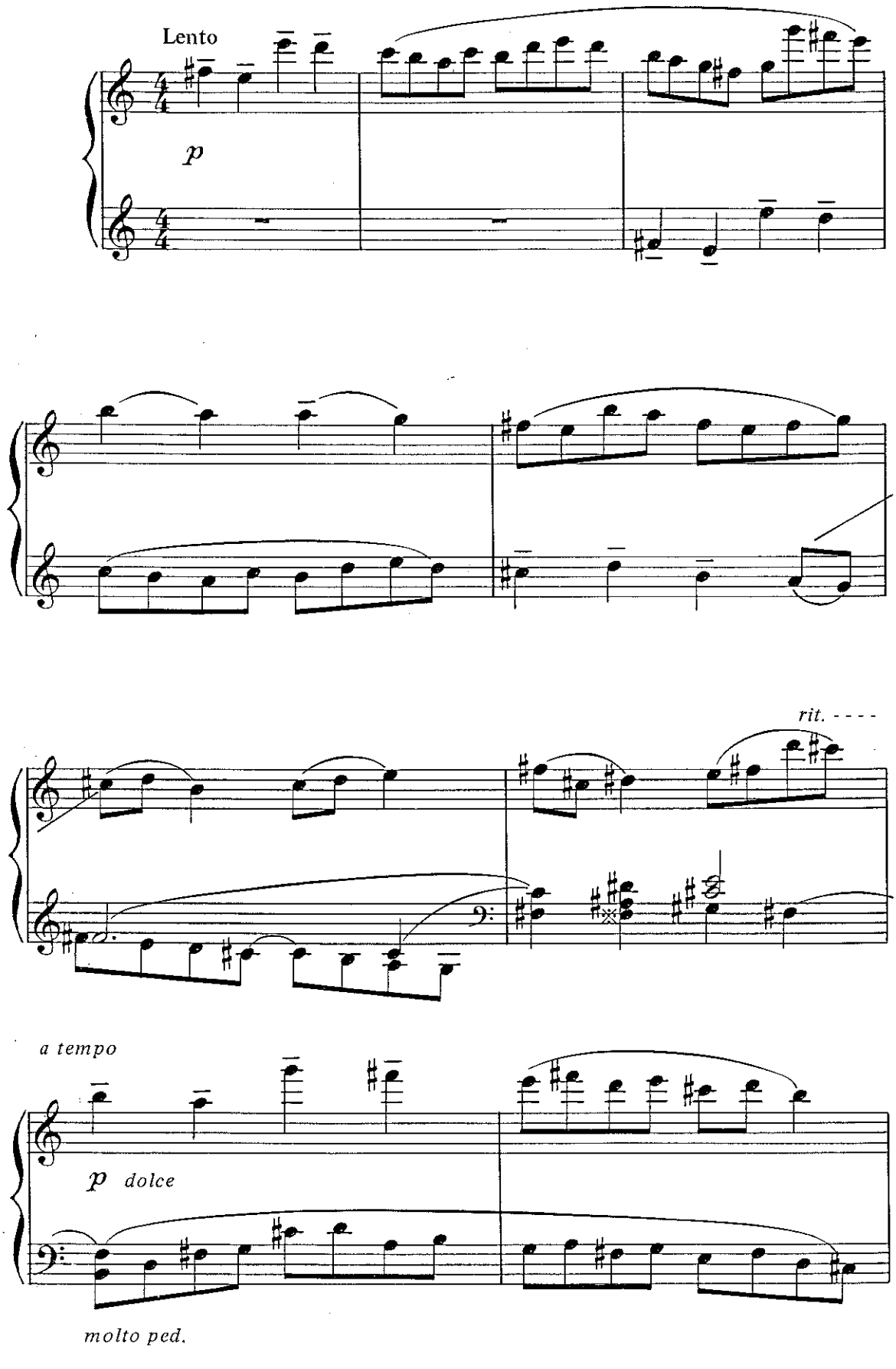
By hanging woods and hamlets
That gaze through orchards down
On many a windmill turning
And far-discovered town,

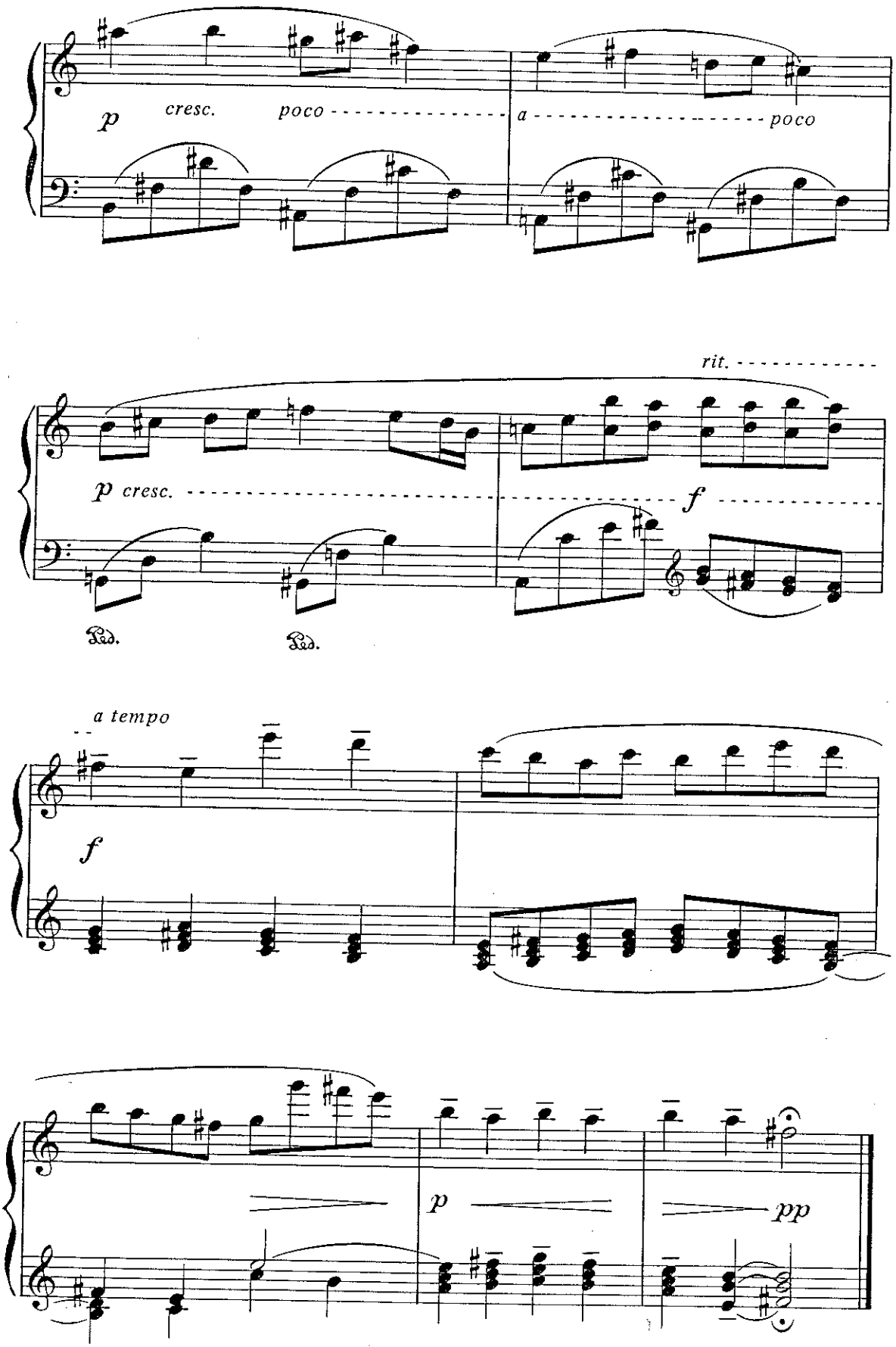
With gay regards of promise
And sure unslackened stride
And smiles and nothing spoken
Led on my merry guide.

III. THE SOLITUDE OF SHEPHERDS

(for Y.M.)

JAMES SELLARS




p
cresc.
poco
a
poco
rit.
p cresc.
f
Ped.
Ped.
a tempo
f
p
pp

IV. Realms of Woodland

By blowing realms of woodland
With sunstruck vanes afield
And cloud-led shadows sailing
About the windy weald,

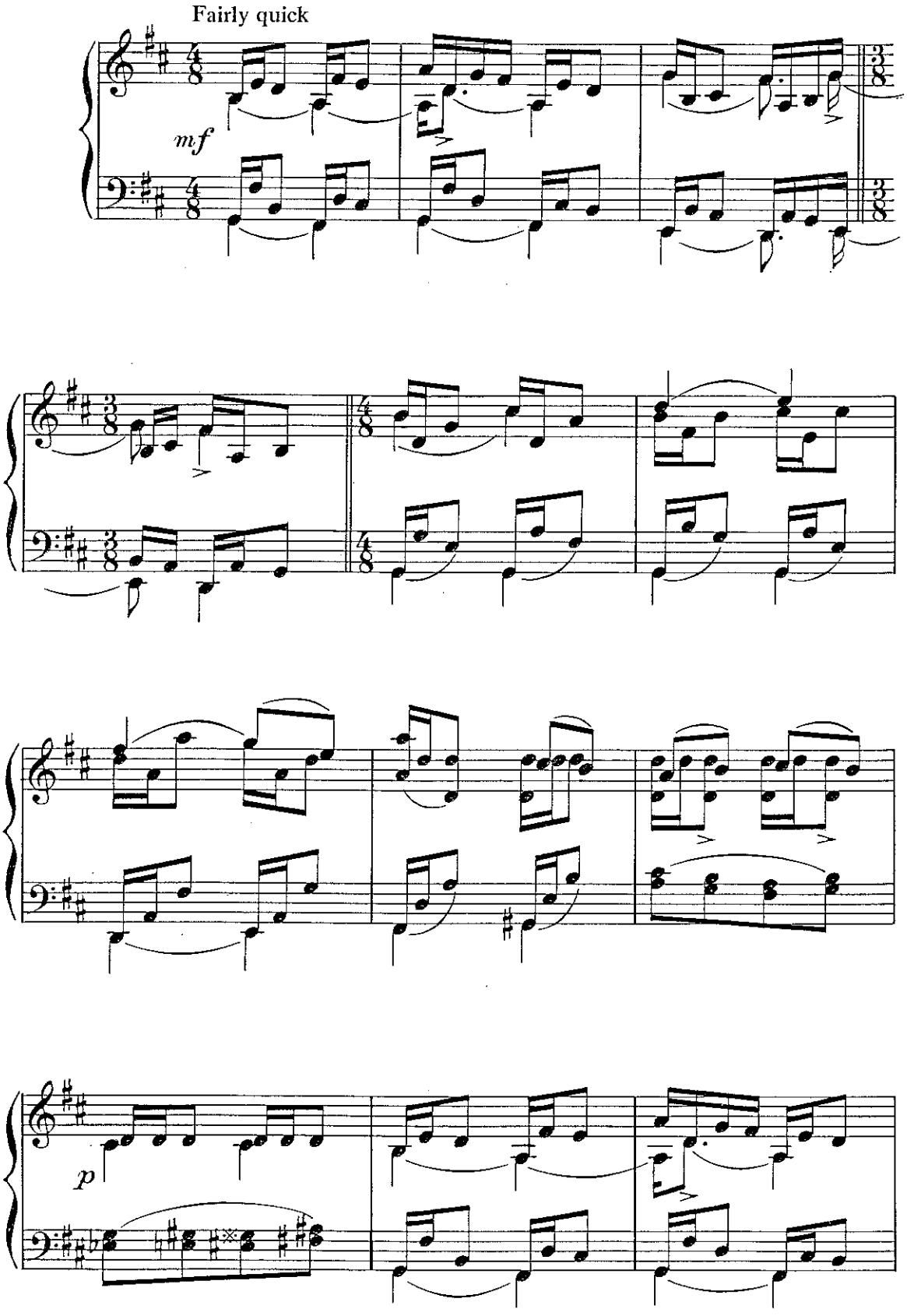
By valley-guarded granges
And silver waters wide,
Content at heart I followed
With my delightful guide.

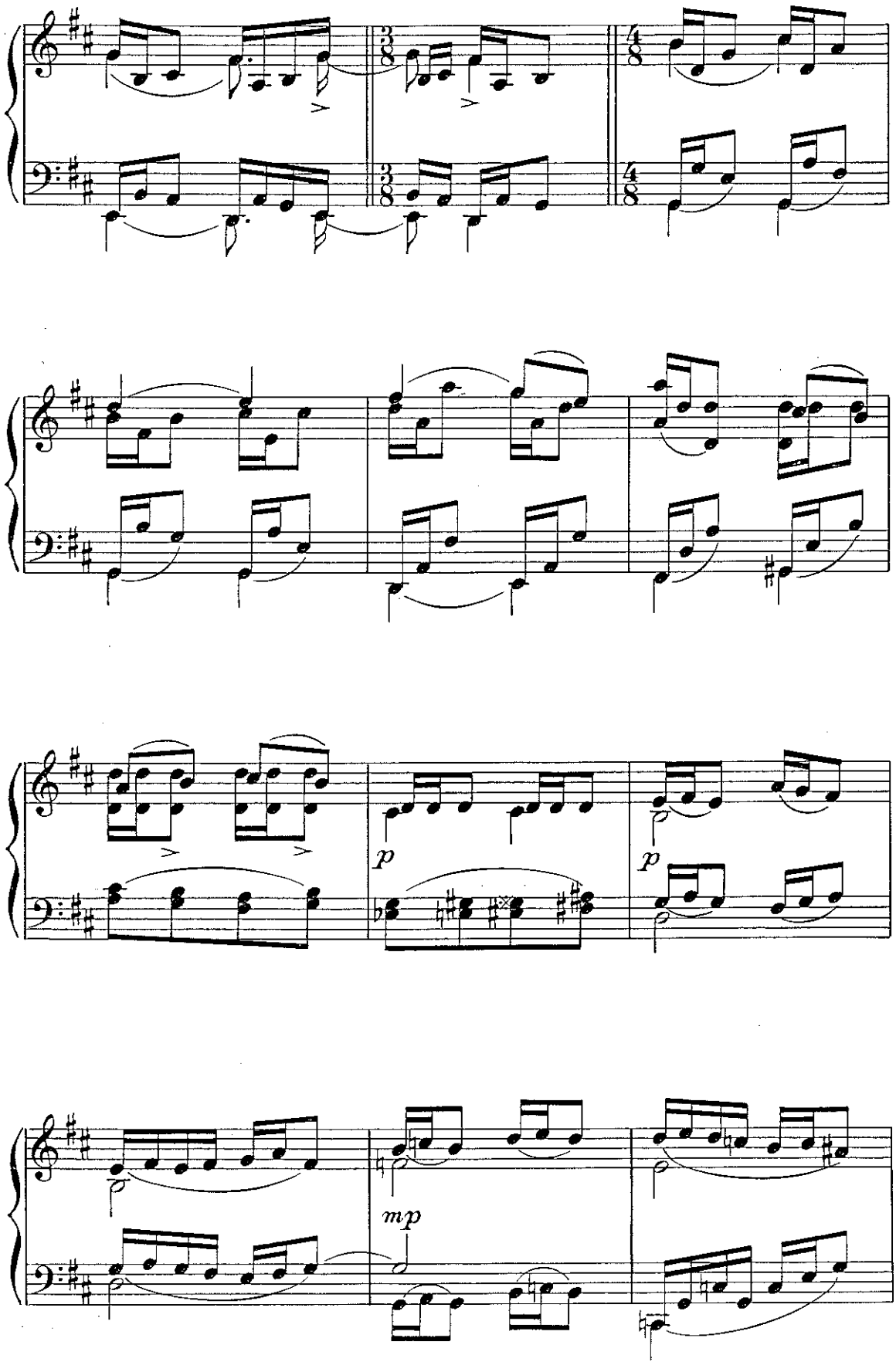
And like the cloudy shadows
Across the country blown
We two face of forever,
But not we two alone.

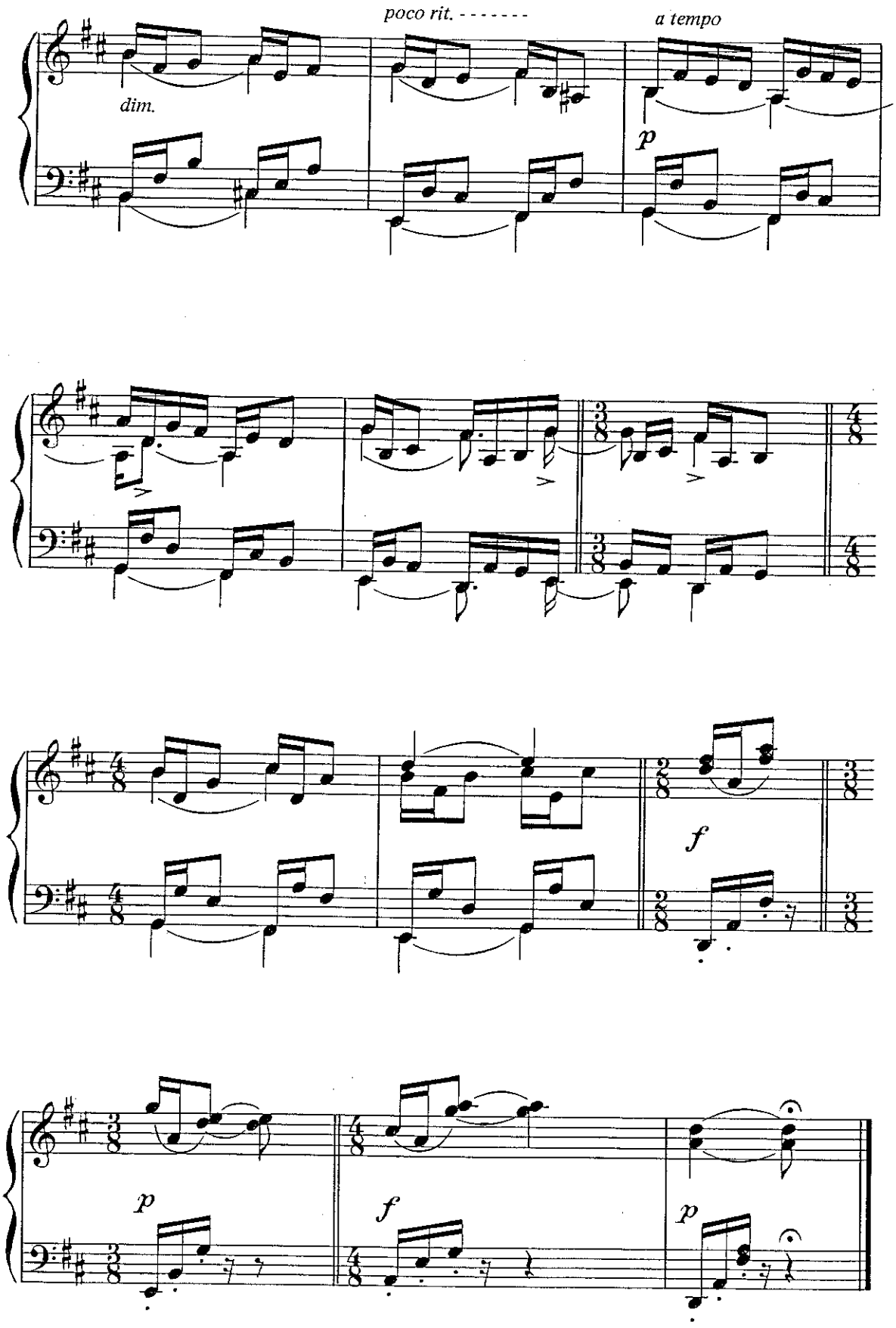
IV. REALMS OF WOODLAND

(for S.J.H.)

JAMES SELLARS




p
p
mp


poco rit. - - - - - - -
a tempo
dim.
p
f
p
f
p

V. The Drift of Blossoms

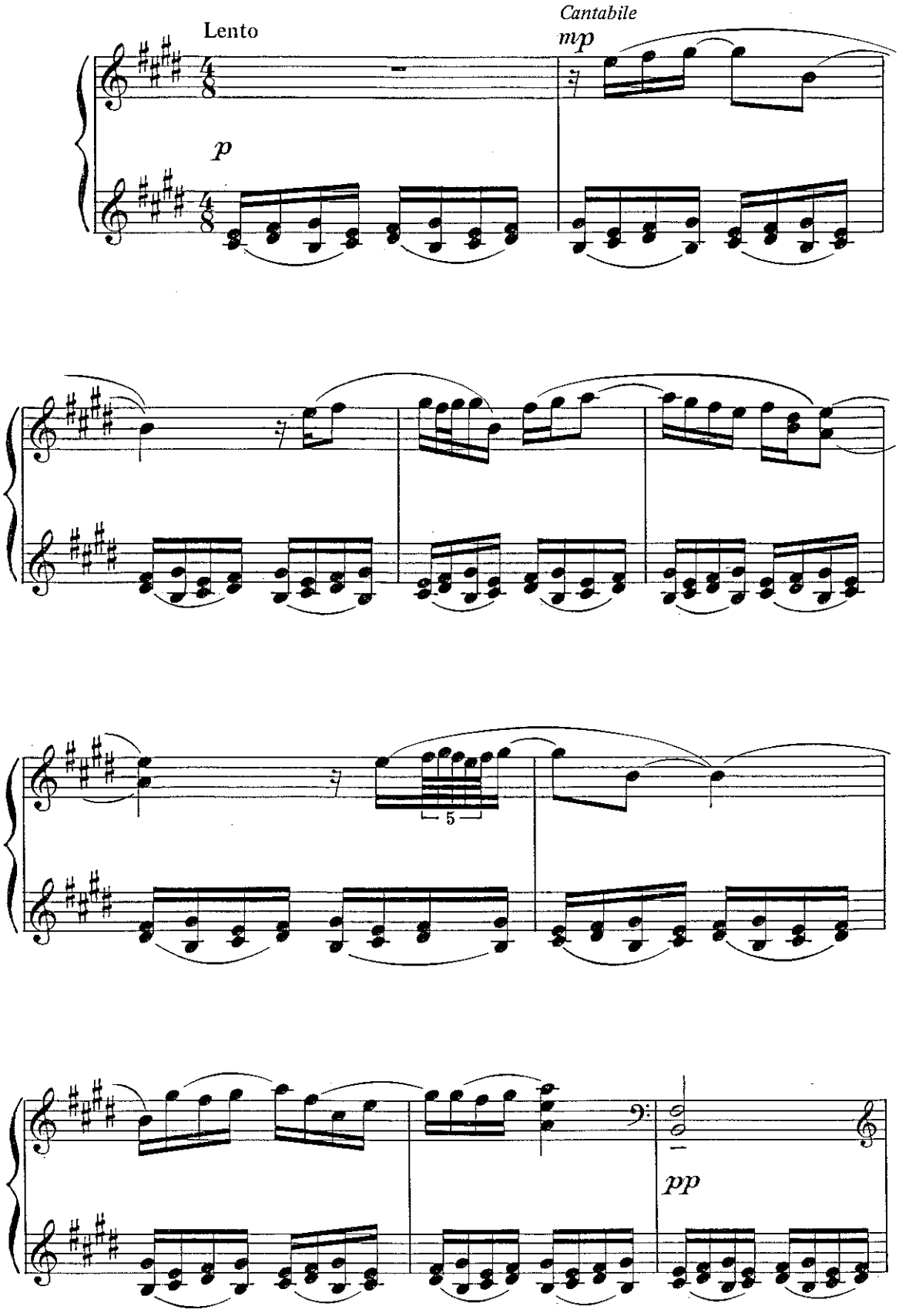
With the great gale we journey
That breathes from gardens thinned,
Borne in the drift of blossoms
Whose petals throng the wind;

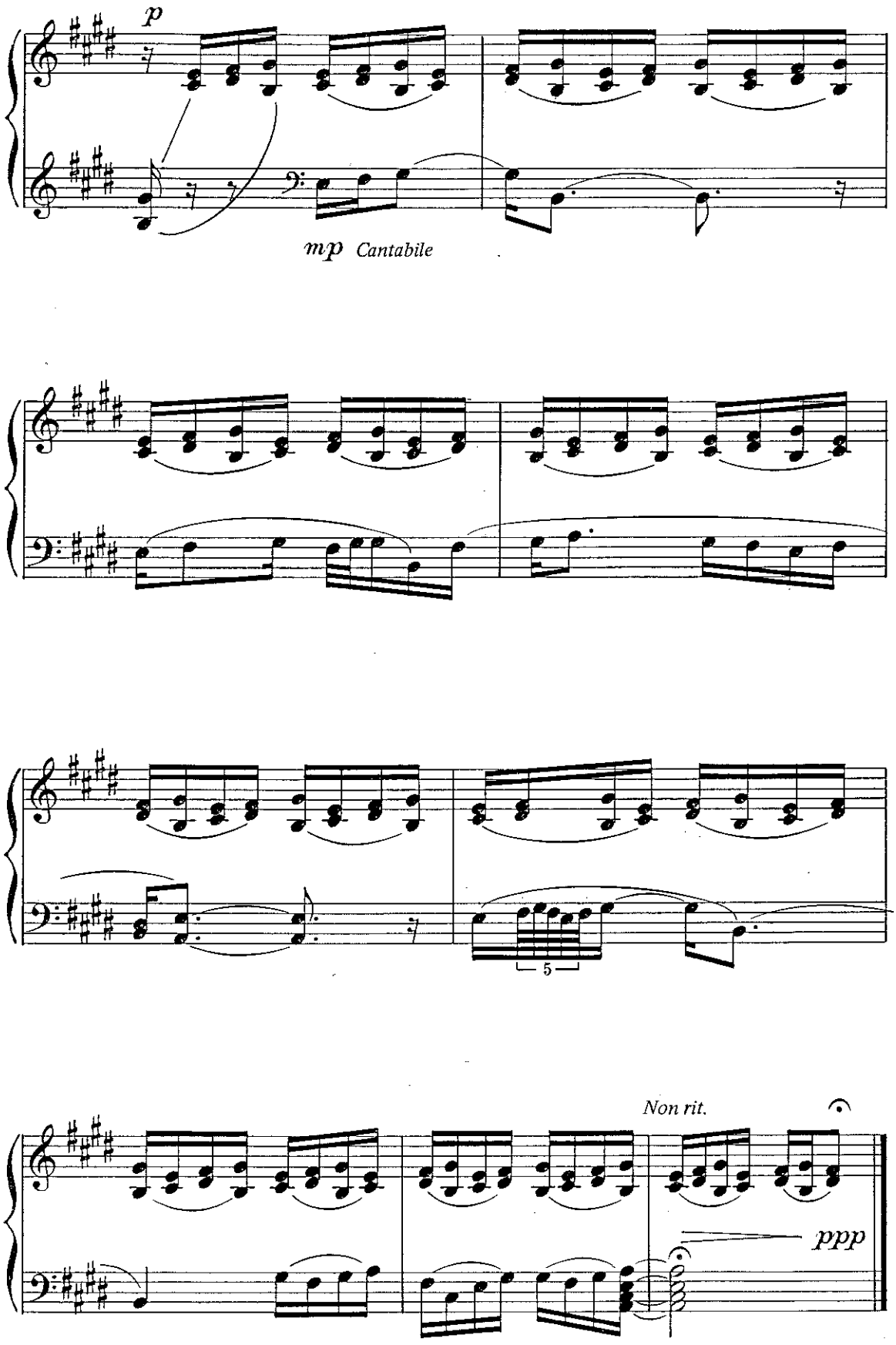
Buoyed on the heaven-heard whisper
Of dancing leaflets whirled
From all the woods that autumn
Bereaves in all the world.

V. THE DRIFT OF BLOSSOMS

(for G.W.K)

JAMES SELLARS




p
mp Cantabile
5
Non rit.
ppp

VI. The Fluttering Legion

And midst the fluttering legion
Of all that ever died
I follow, and before us
Goes the delightful guide.

With lips that brim with laughter
But never once respond,
And feet that fly on feathers,
And serpent-circled wand.

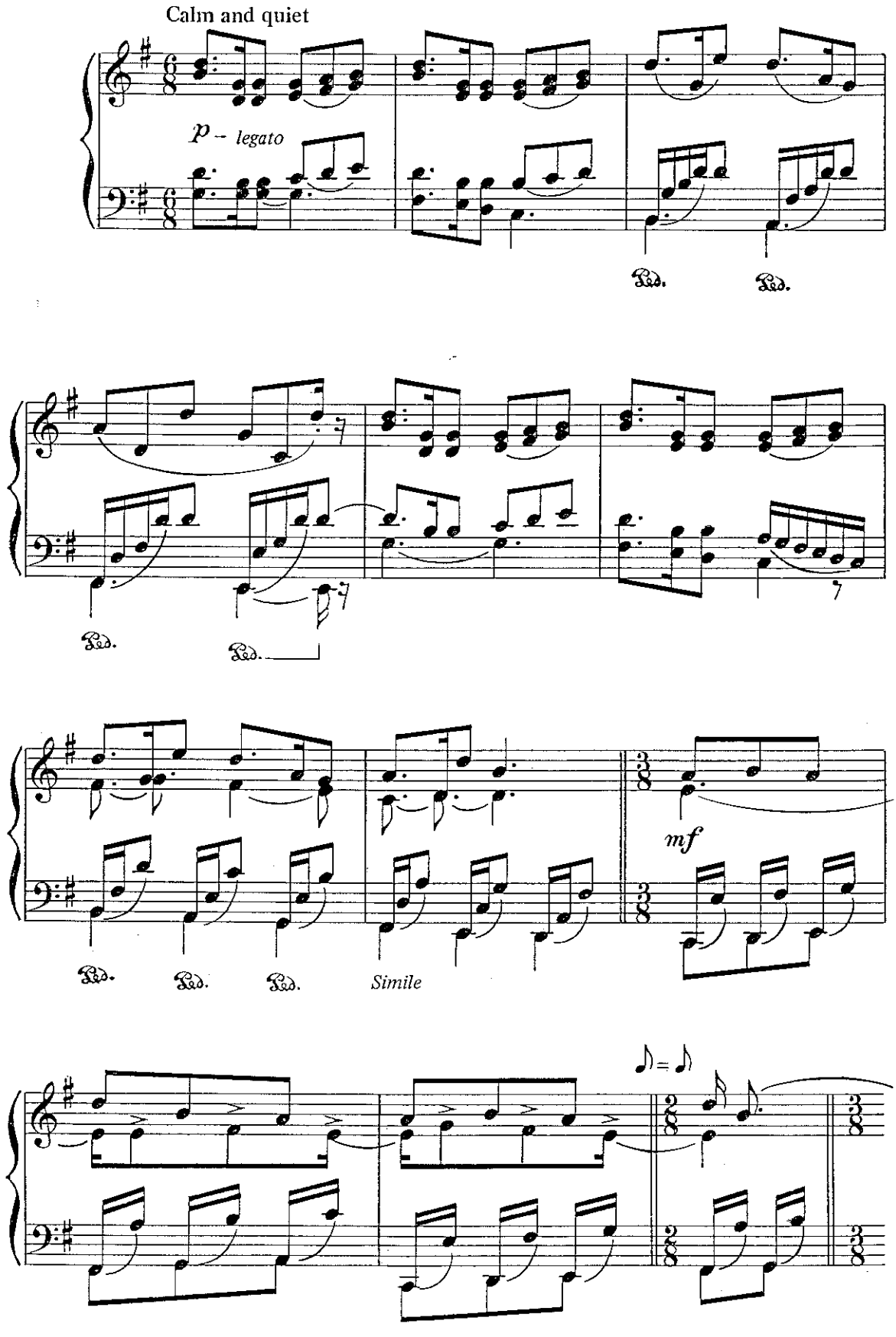
EPILOGUE

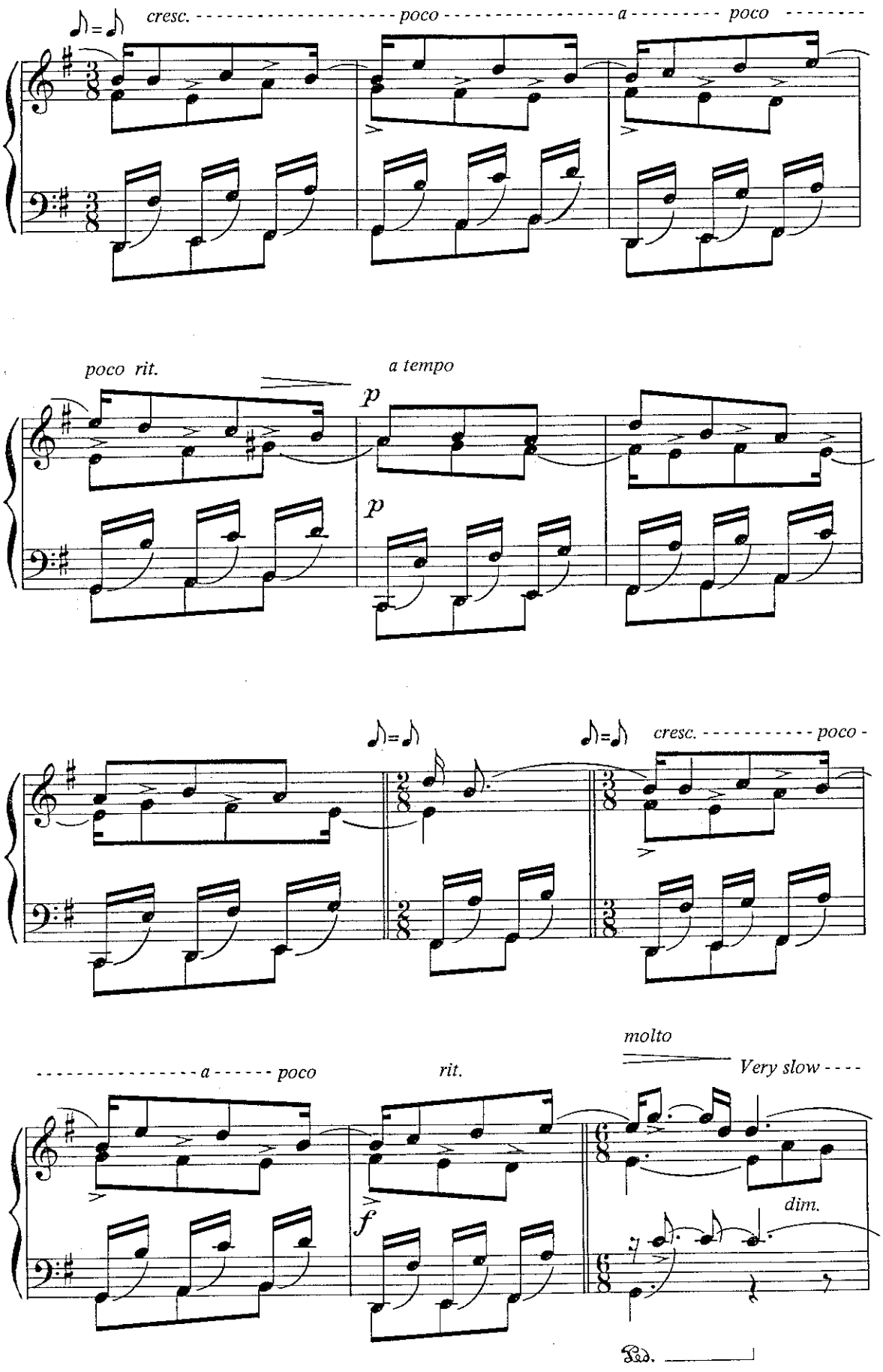
And with kind looks and laughter
And naught to say beside
We two went on together,
I and my merry guide.

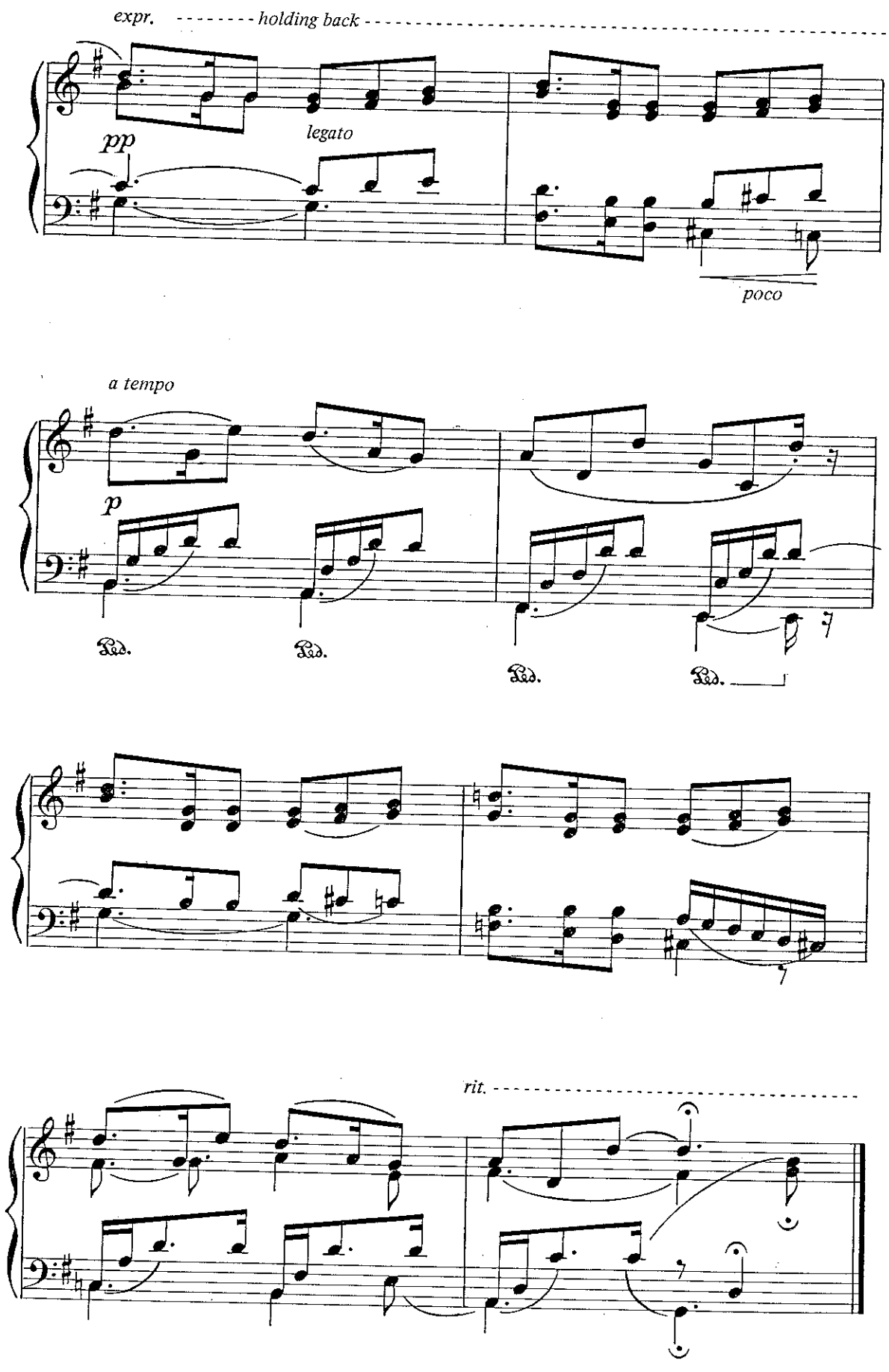
VI. THE FLUTTERING REGION

(for R.B.)

JAMES SELLARS




cresc.
poco
a
poco
poco rit.
a tempo
p
p
cresc.
poco
a
poco
rit.
molto
Very slow
dim.
f
Ped.


expr.
holding back
pp
legato
poco
a tempo
p
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
rit.