JEAN BERNARD ANTOINE PALM

1885 - 1963

Dance music from Curaçao

PUBLISHED BY THE PALM MUSIC FOUNDATION

Preface

The Palm Music Foundation (www.palmmusicfoundation.com) aims to promote the classical and salon music of the Antilles, specifically the Dutch Caribbean islands. It does this by organizing concerts, releasing CDs and music scores, publishing books and articles and offering lectures and interviews about this unique collection of classical and salon music.

Unfortunately most of the compositions written by the Curaçaoan pianist and composer Jean Bernard Antoine Palm (1885-1963) – or shon Toni Palm as he was called by his friends and acquaintances – were lost. Still, we were able to collect 10 of his compositions. The most important source has been the private Edgar Palm collection, which includes an important part of all handwritten manuscripts written by Curaçaoan composers. Besides handwritten manuscripts found in this private collection, one valse – *Recuerdo* - written by shon Toni Palm was published in 1931 as part of the Dutch contribution in the *Exposition Coloniale Internationale* in Paris, and his music written for the national anthem - *Himno Boneriano* – was published in 1948 in *Bam Canta* by Nilda Jesurun Pinto and Rudolf Palm, two danza's – *Sorpresa inesperada* and *Vano empeño* - were published in 1950 in *Curaçaosche dansmuziek* by Broekmans and Van Poppel in Amsterdam and one valse - *Numero 33* - in 1982 in *Muzikantil* by Editorial Kooperativo Antiyano Kolibri in Curaçao.

I would like to extend my thanks to Stephen Palm for his permission to copy the original handwritten scores made by Jean Bernard Antoine Palm. In addition, I would like to thank Marinus Degenkamp, who professionally digitized all the scores. Lastly, sincere thanks to my cousin Robert Rojer for meticulously reviewing all digitized versions of the scores.

Johannes I.M. Halman
Chairman of the Palm Music Foundation

About Jean Bernard Antoine Palm

Jean Bernard Antoine (shon Toni) Palm was born in Curaçao on June 19, 1885 as a son of George Frederik Palm and Selly Guilhoux. Toni Palm was born at Pietermaai 23, the house where his maternal grandparents lived and he was named after his maternal grandfather Johannes Bernardus Antonius Guilhoux. His paternal grandfather, Frederik Wilhelm Palm (Curaçao, 1816-1863) is the oldest known performing musician from Curaçao who was appointed in 1841 as the kapellmeister of the first military garrison in Curaçao. Toni Palm grew up in the colourful Otrobanda, where elements of European, African, Caribbean and Latin-American cultures influenced each other and where Curacao's music culture emerged in the mid-19th century. A domestic party in Otrobanda was unimaginable without plenty of music and dancing. Shon Toni Palm came from a musical family. He received his lessons in piano playing and music theory from Jan Gerard Palm (1831-1906), a cousin of Frederik Wilhelm Palm. Jan Gerard Palm is generally considered to be the father of the Curaçaoan waltzes, mazurkas, danzas and tumbas. Toni Palm developed himself into a talented pianist, organist and composer. He was the regular pianist of the orchestra *Los Dispuestos*, an orchestra of which Rudolf Palm (1880-1950) a grandson of Jan Gerard Palm, was the conductor. This orchestra gave its first performance on November 30, 1901, with works by Donizetti, Mendelssohn, Offenbach, Gottschalk and Jan Gerard Palm. Toni Palm regularly also filled in as an organist in the synagogue Mikvé Israel and the Protestant Fort Church in Curaçao, to replace the permanent organists. After his mother died in 1916, he was so moved by this, that he practically stopped composing music.

As a composer, Toni Palm was recognized for his special danza's, which he wrote in the style of the danza's by the Puerto Rican composer Juan Morel Campos (1857-1896). His most famous composition is undoubtedly the music he wrote for the national anthem of Bonaire. This melody has also been the Antillean national anthem (without lyrics) for many years. Besides dance music, Toni Palm has also composed classical chamber music. Marlene, one of his daughters remembers, that her father once told her, that in his early years, he wanted to send one of his classical compositions to the French composer Claude Debussy (1862-1918). Unfortunately this piece has still not been recovered.

From profession, Toni Palm was a merchant. In the Breedestraat 118 in Otrobanda he owned the *Palm Store* in which he sold fashion items such as French fabrics, haberdashery, hats, and original Keds shoes. And in the Langestraat in Otrobanda he had the first company in Curaçao where potato chips were made and where he, together with his cousin

Eddy Gorsira, had a trade in lobsters from Sint Maarten. The street that ran up there next to this shop (Hendriksteeg) was known as "Seru di shon Toni" (the shon Toni hill). Palm has also been a board member of the *Curaçaosche Hypotheekbank,* a mortgage bank that was co-founded by his grandfather Johannes Bernardus Antonius Guilhoux (1812-1888).

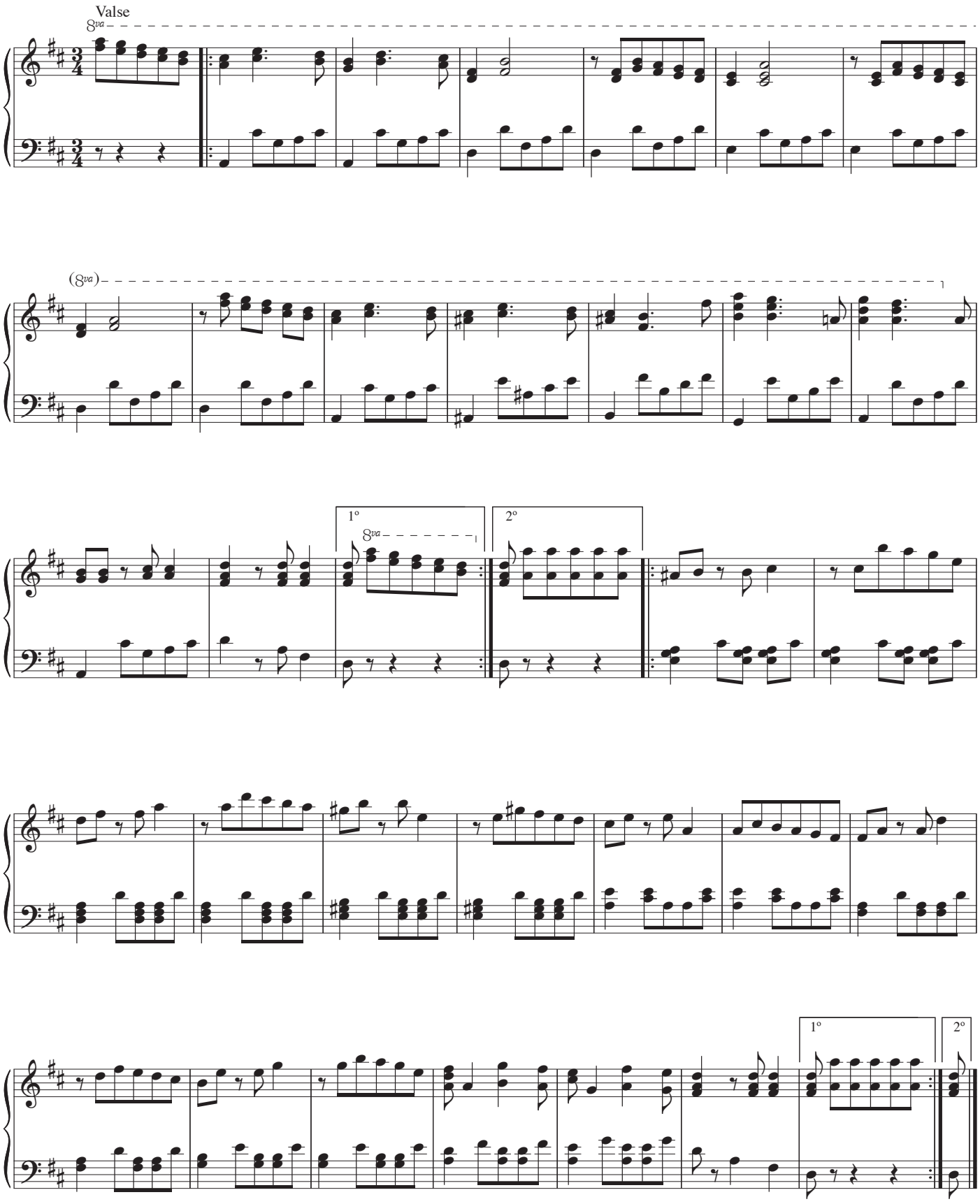
Toni Palm was married to Maria Emilia (Rosa) Inees (1908-1981) and had eight children, respectively Oscar, Telma, Lelia, Norva, Donald, Marlene, Warren and Celine. Toni Palm died on May 31, 1963 in Willemstad (in Otrobanda) in Curaçao.

Unfortunately, we were unable to collect all his compositions. We therefore continue to hope that several of the missing compositions will be rediscovered at some point in the (near) future. Nevertheless, this album includes a nice subset of Toni Palm’s compositions.

Contents

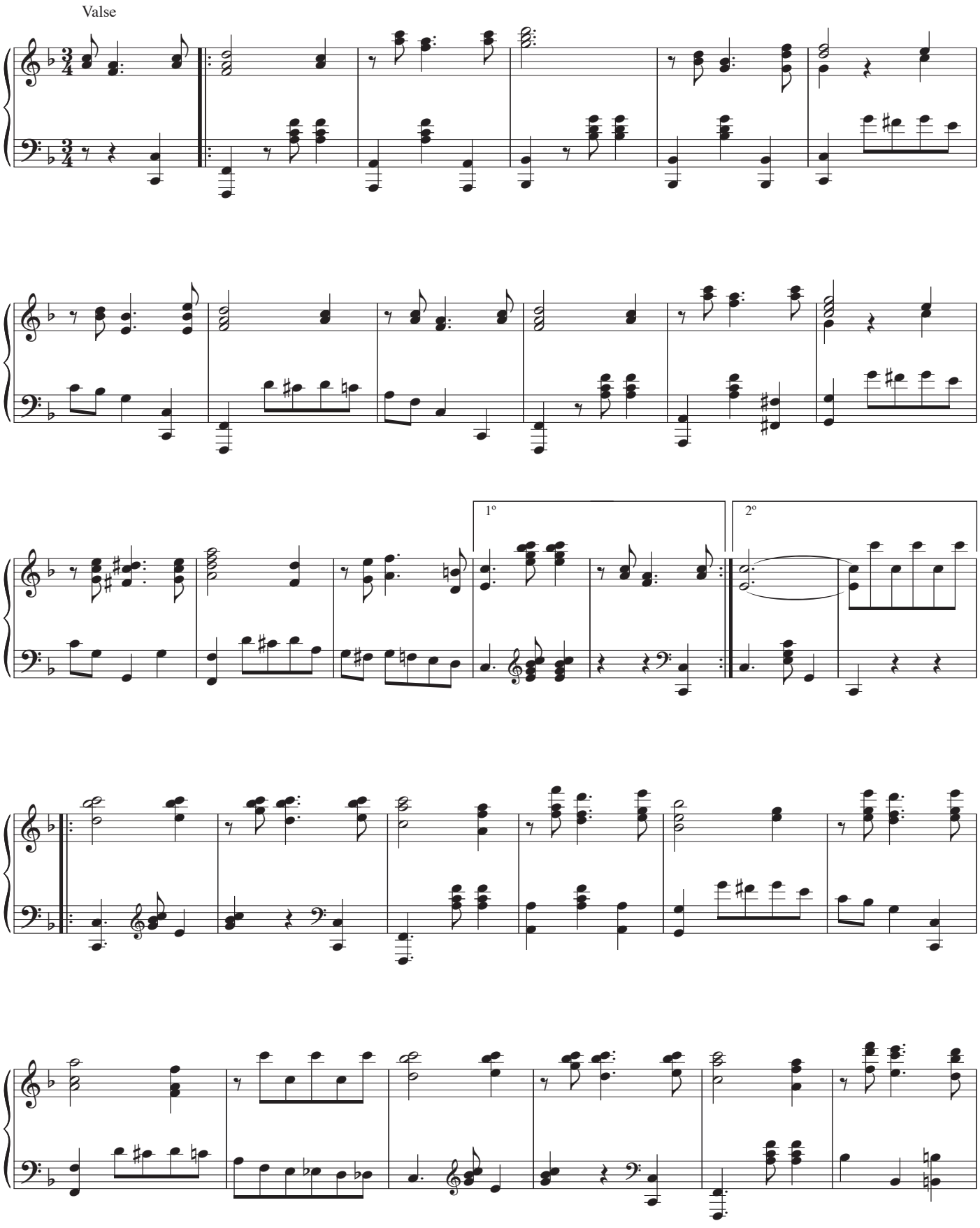
	Name of the composition	*Music type*	*Page*
1:	Incurable	Valse	1
2:	Maria	Valse	2
3:	Numero 33	Valse	4
4:	Recuerdo	Valse	5
5:	Un amargo despertar	Valse	6
6:	El desengaño	Mazurka	7
7:	Amor preferido	Danza	8
8:	Sorpresa inesperada	Danza	9
9:	Vano empeño	Danza	11
10:	Himno Boneriano	Anthem	13

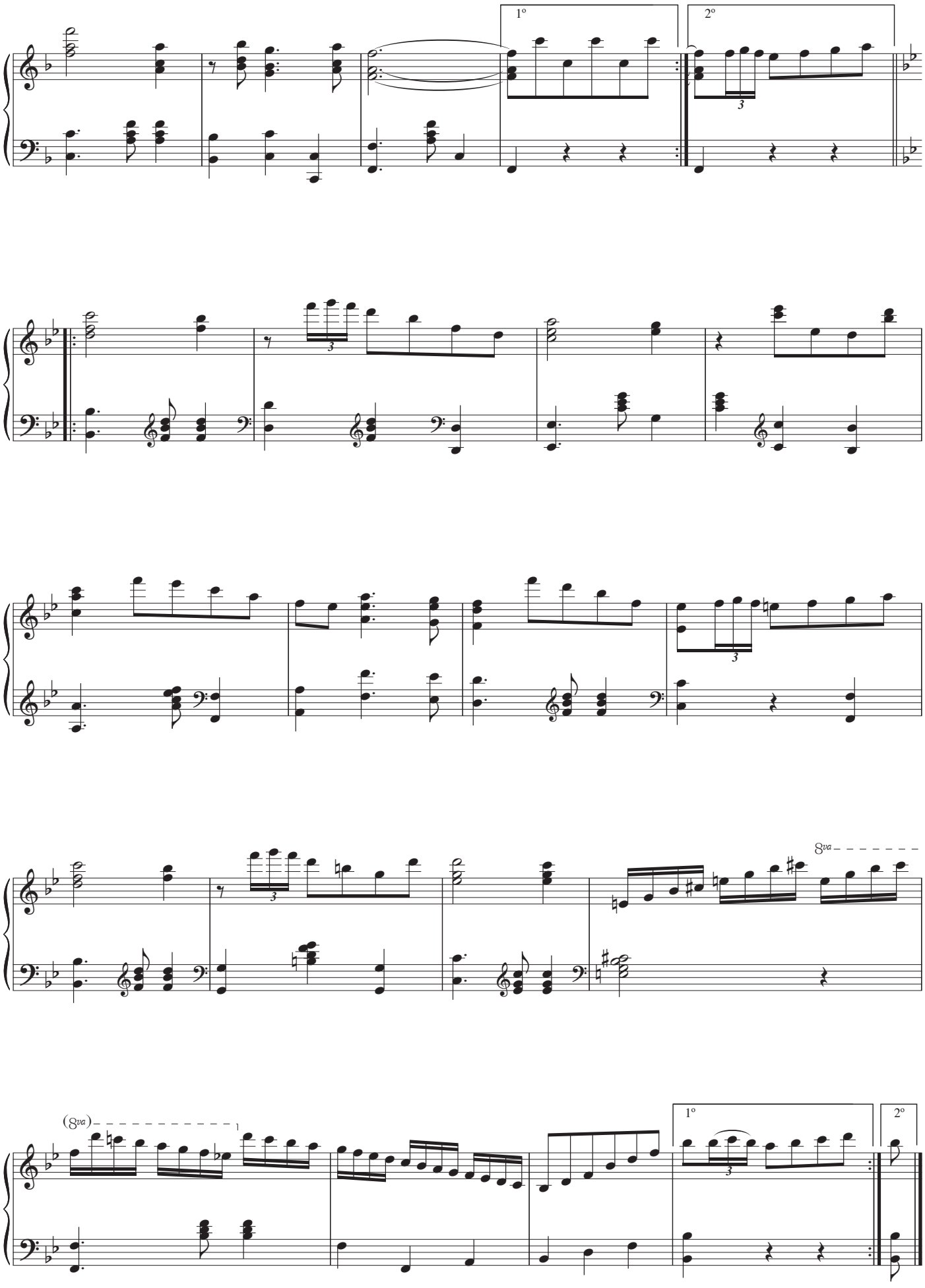
Incurable



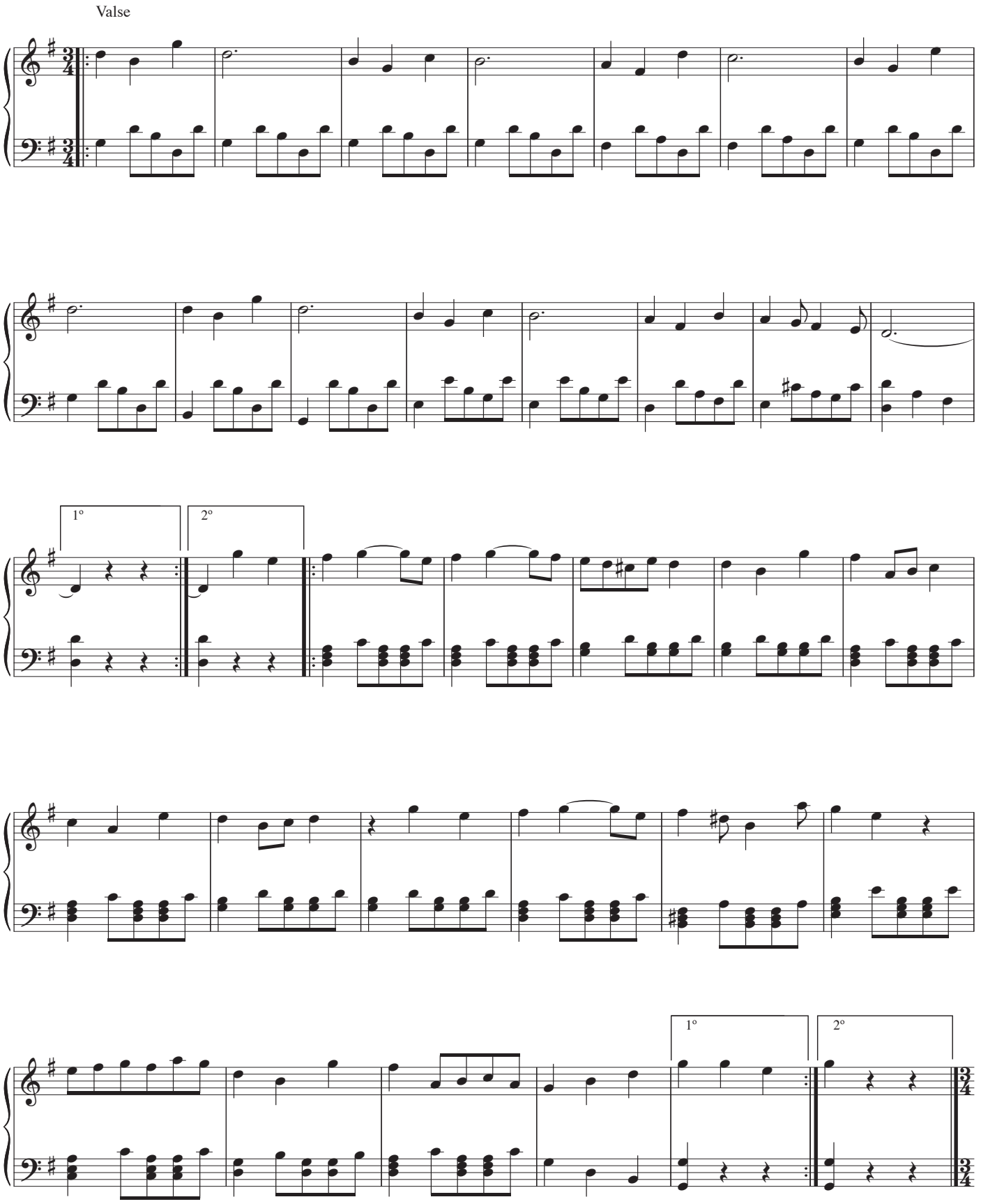
Maria

dedicada a mi amiga Maria Astier

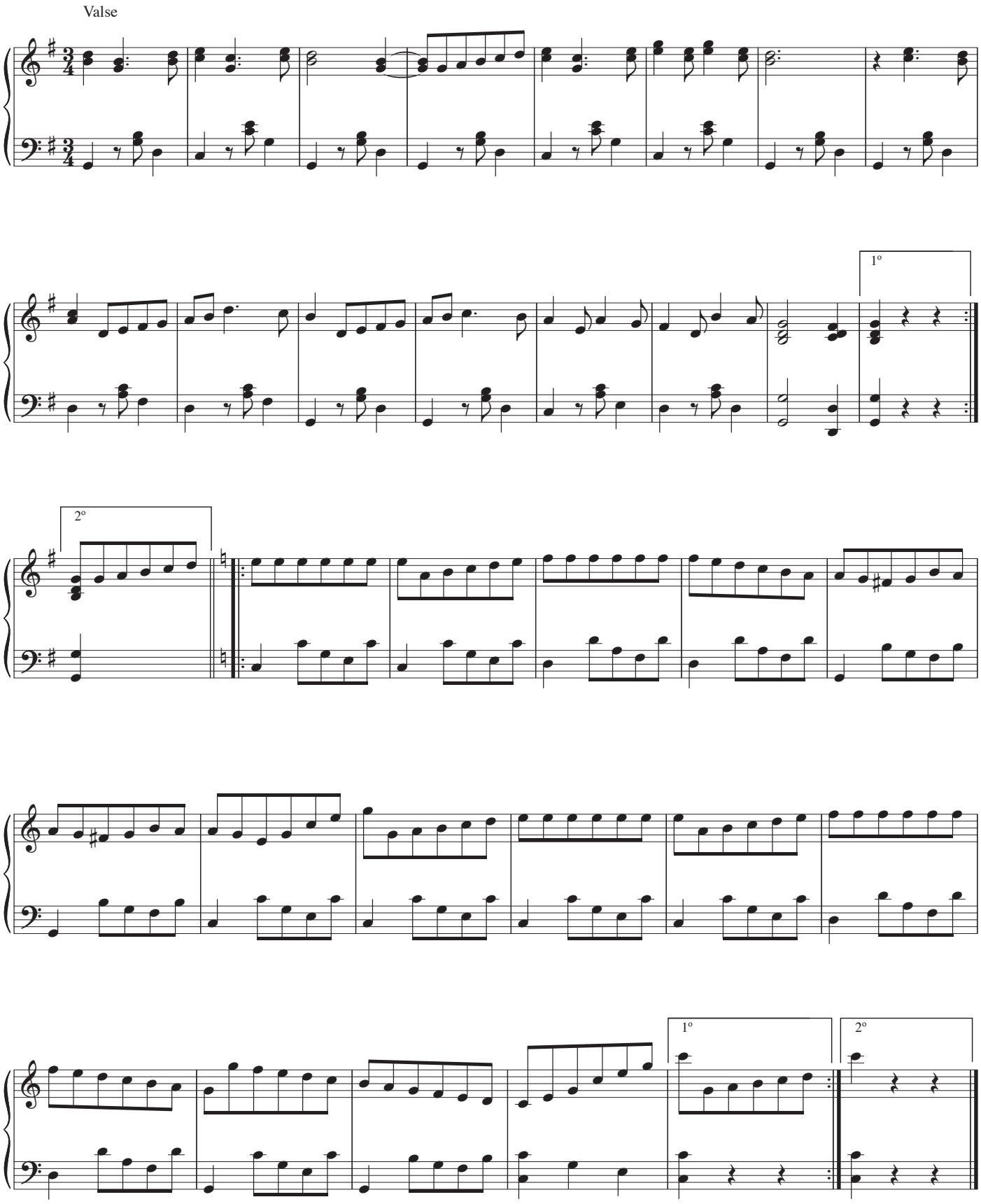



1°
2°
8va
(8va)
1°
2°

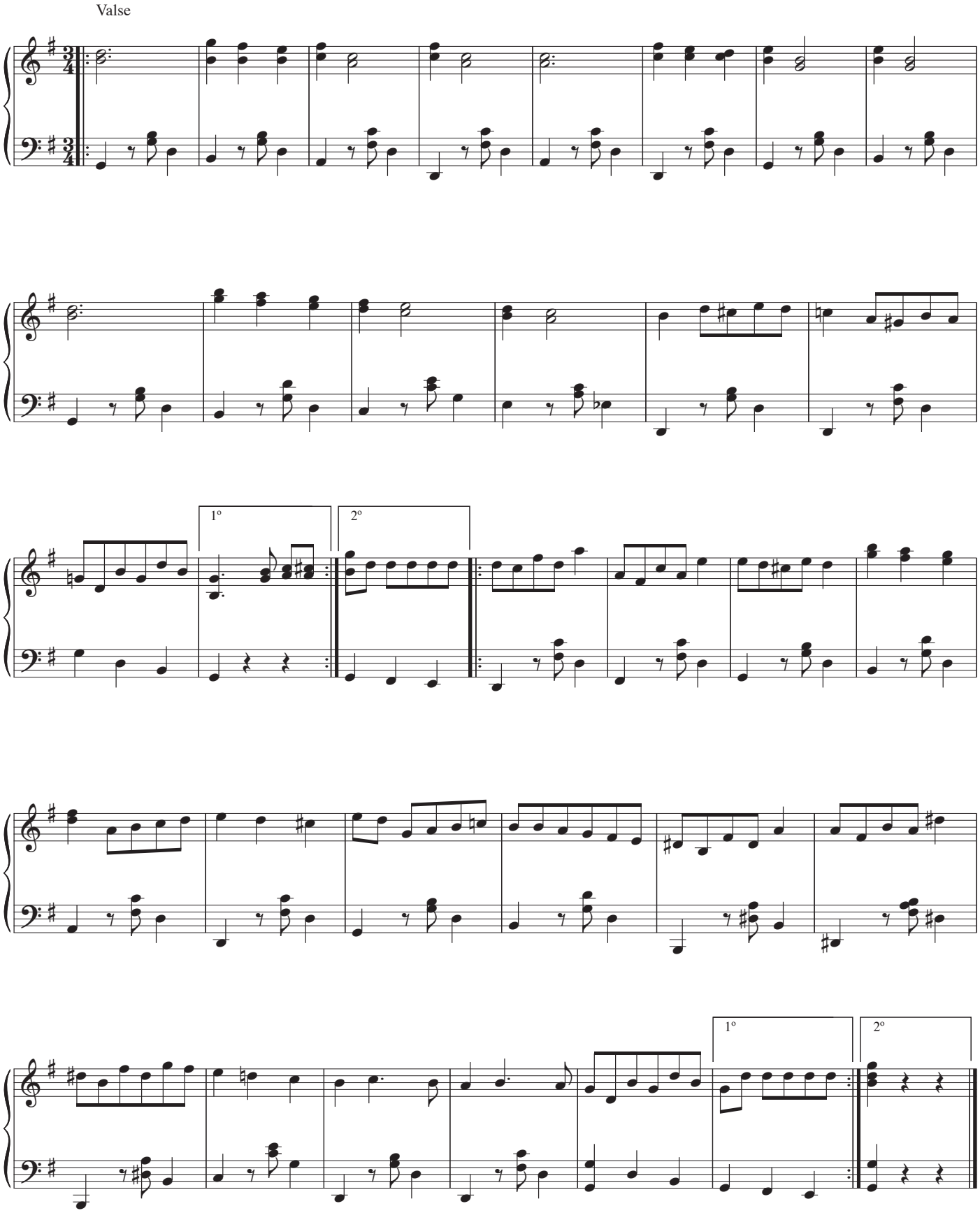
Número 33



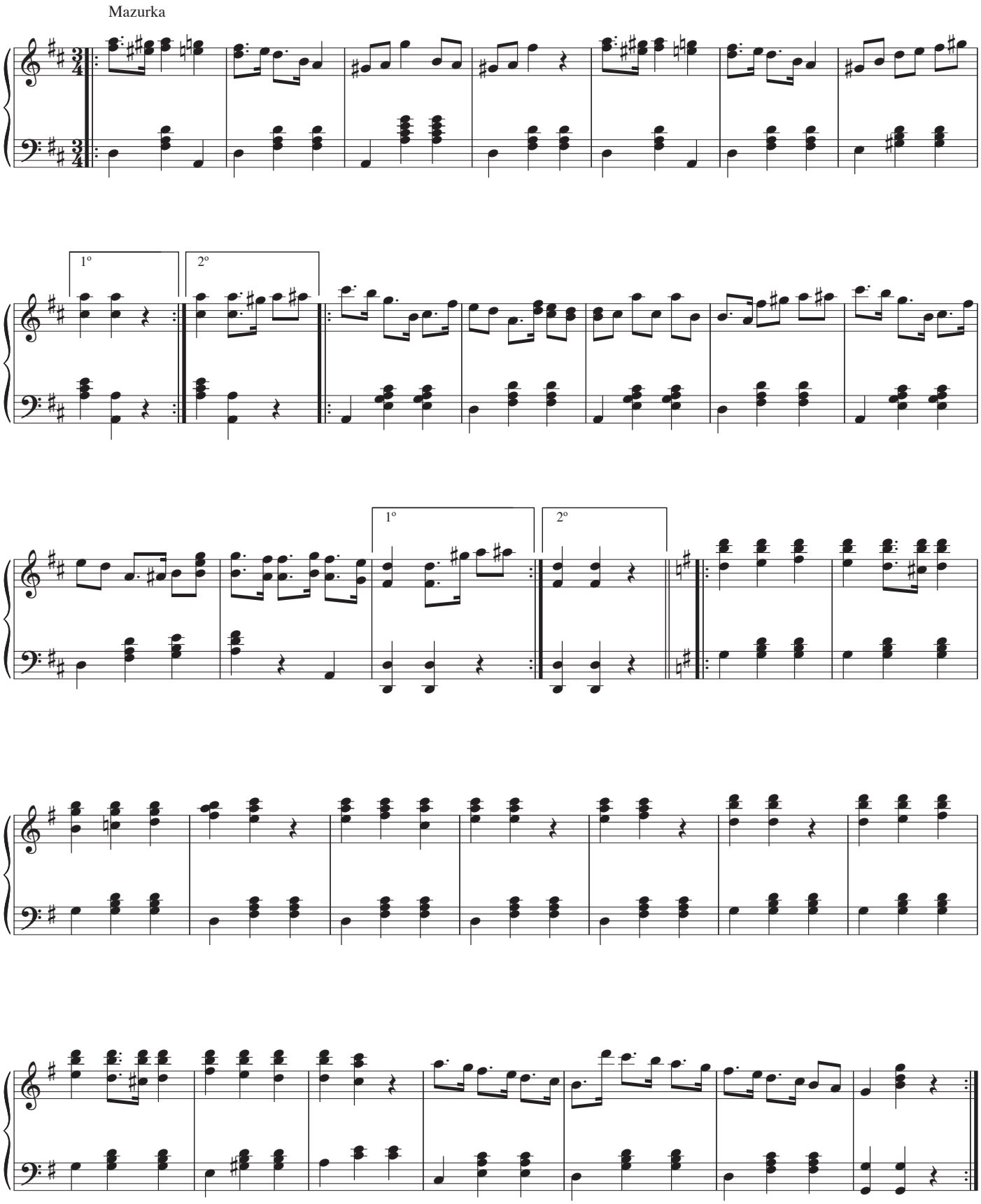
Recuerdo



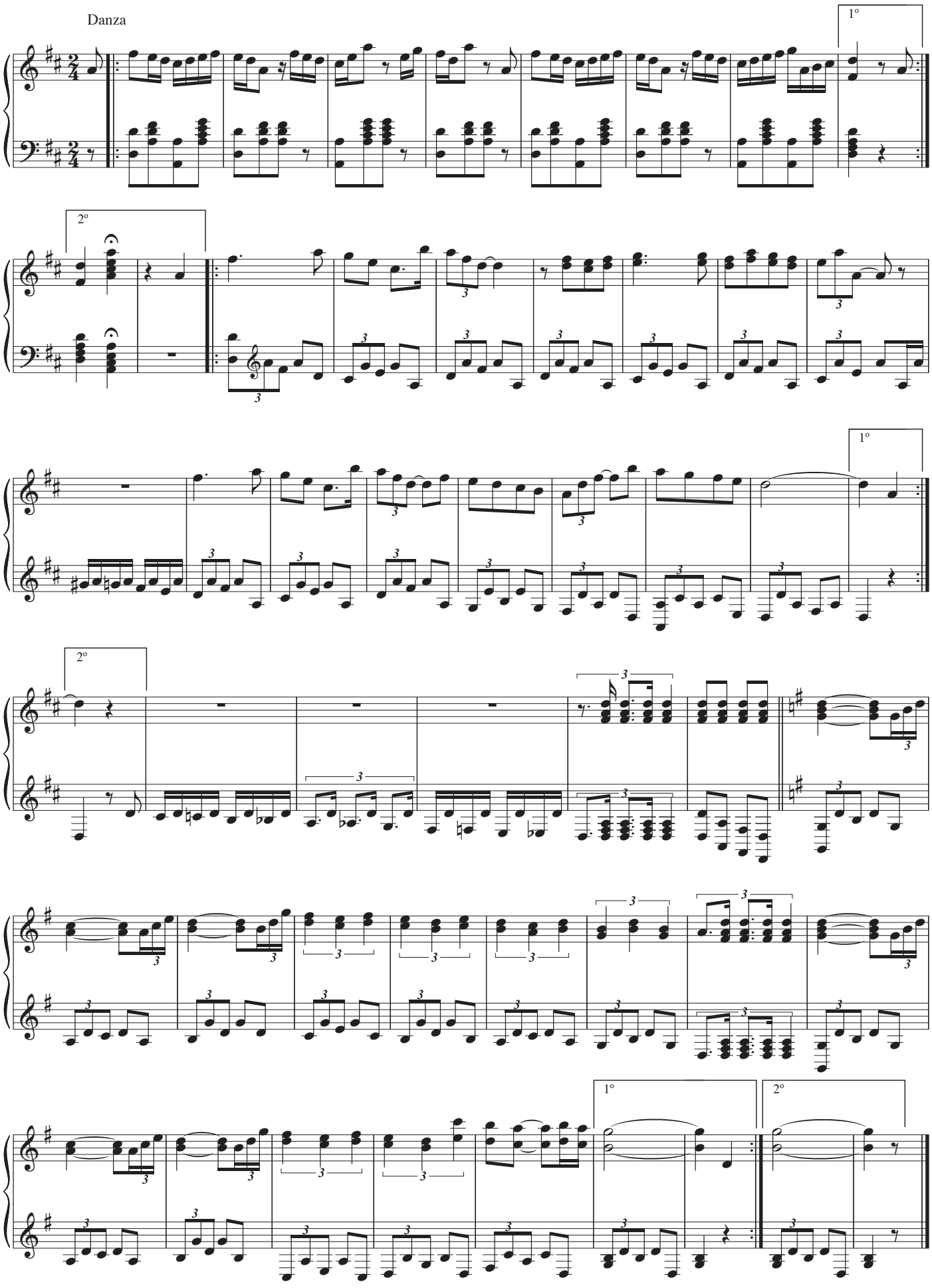
Un Amargo Despertar



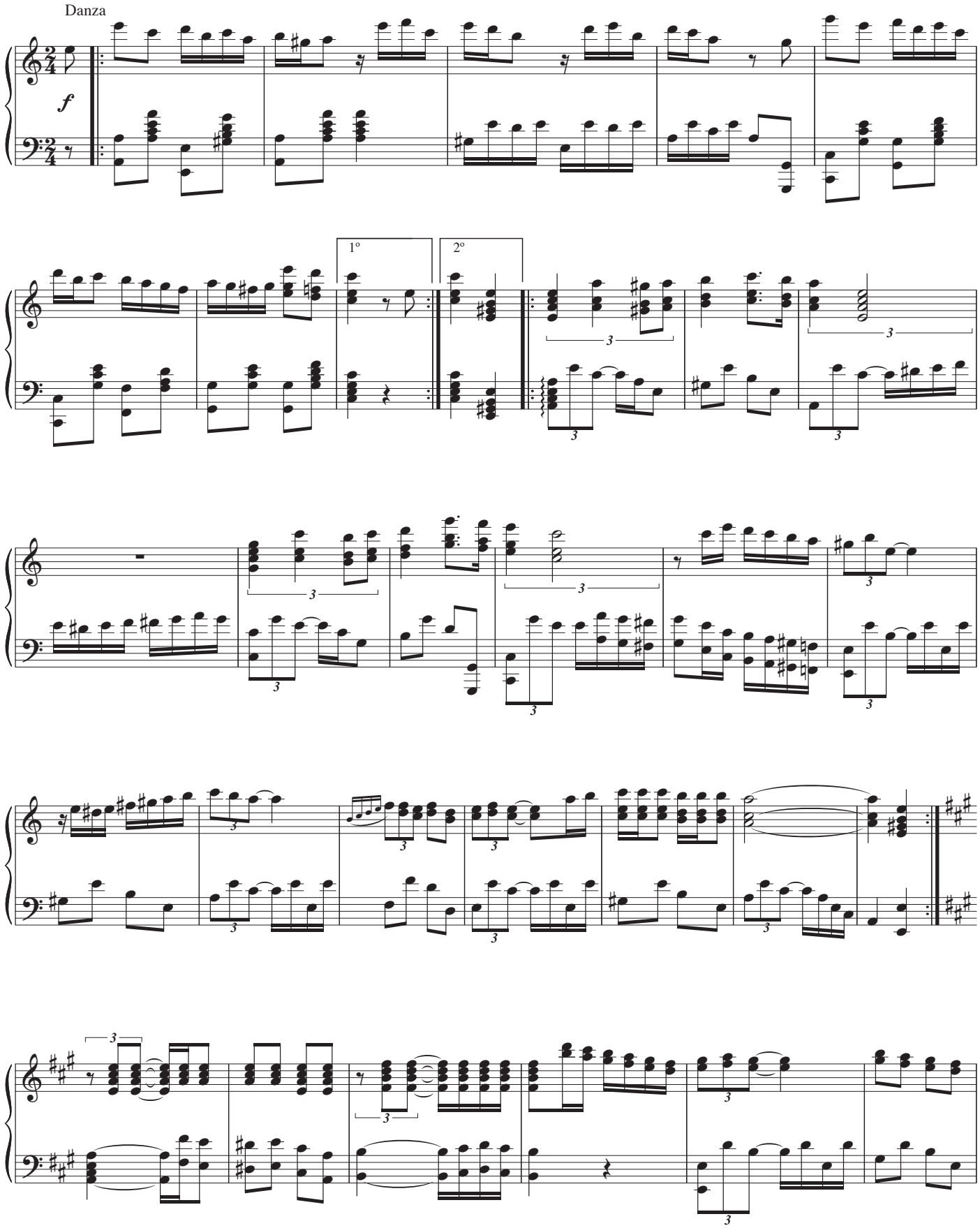
El Desengaño

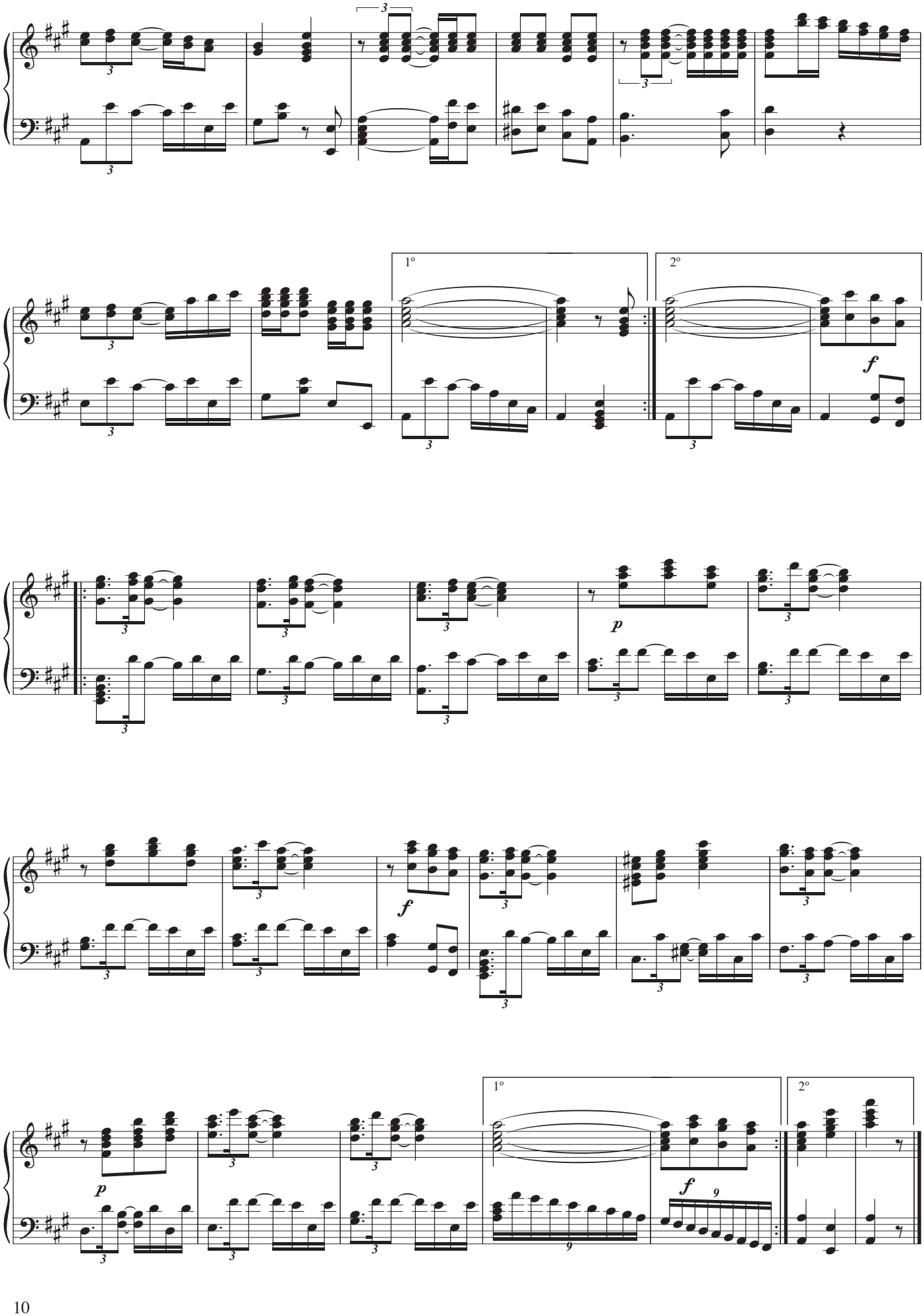


Amor preferido

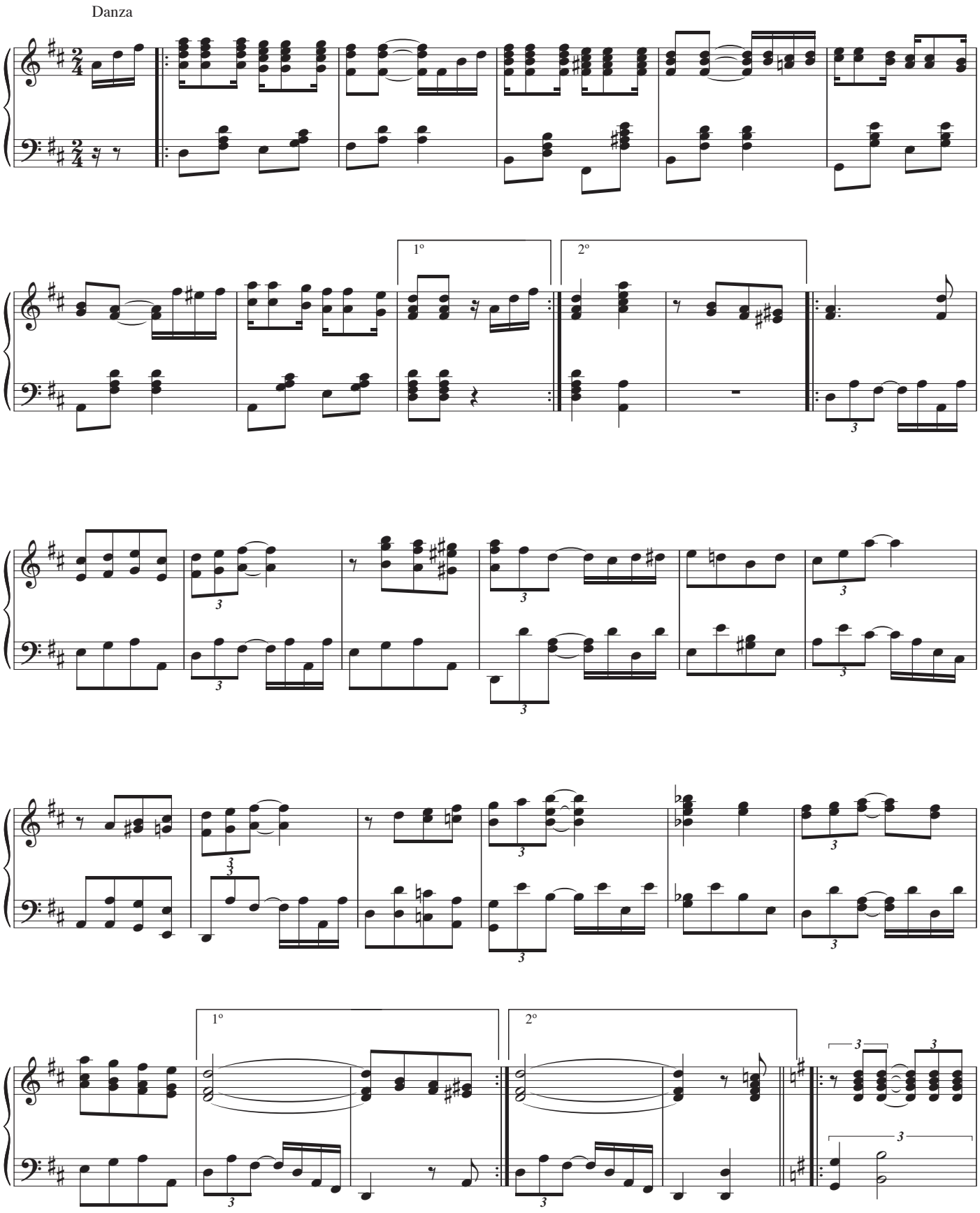


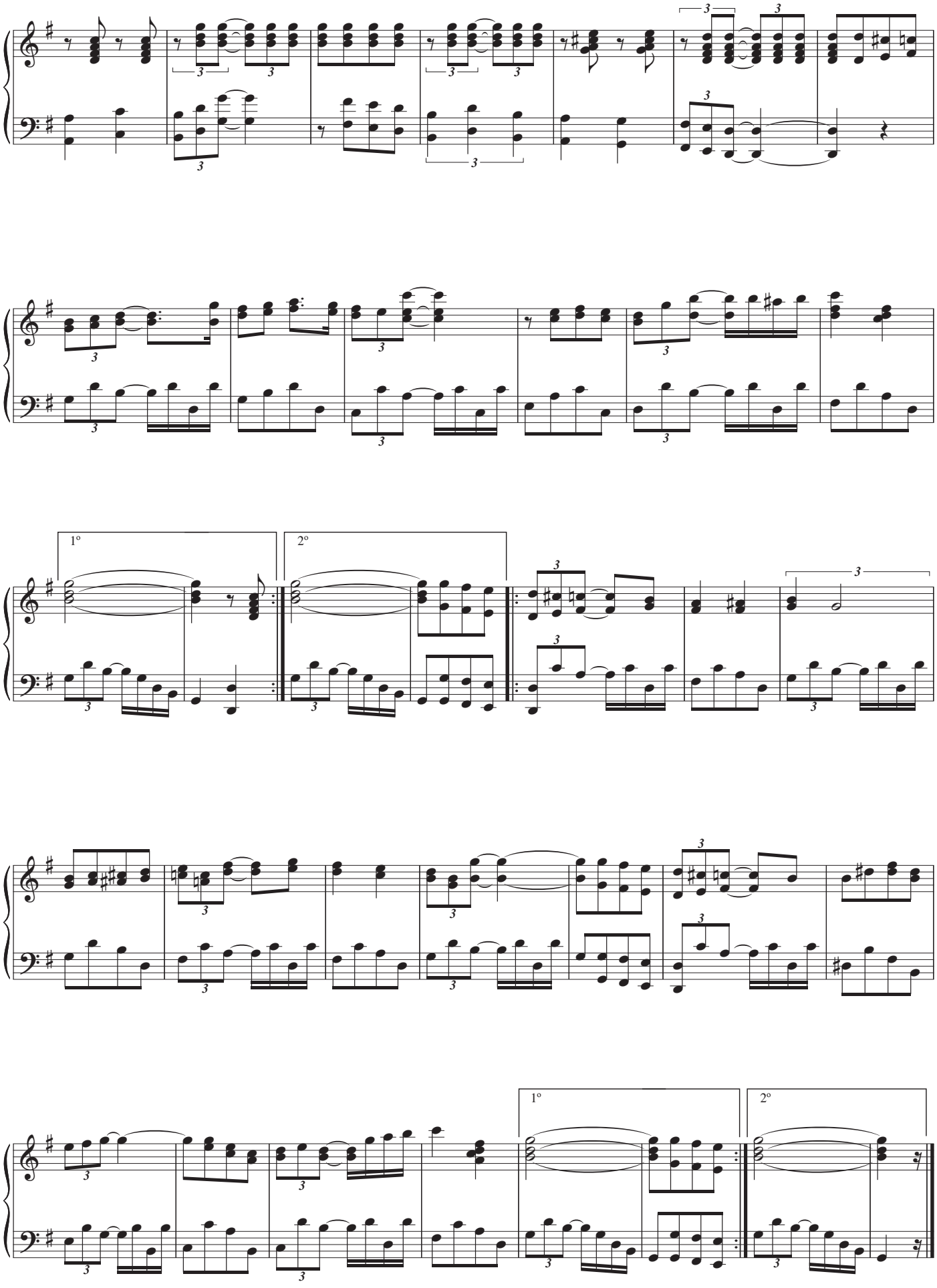
Sorpresa inesperada

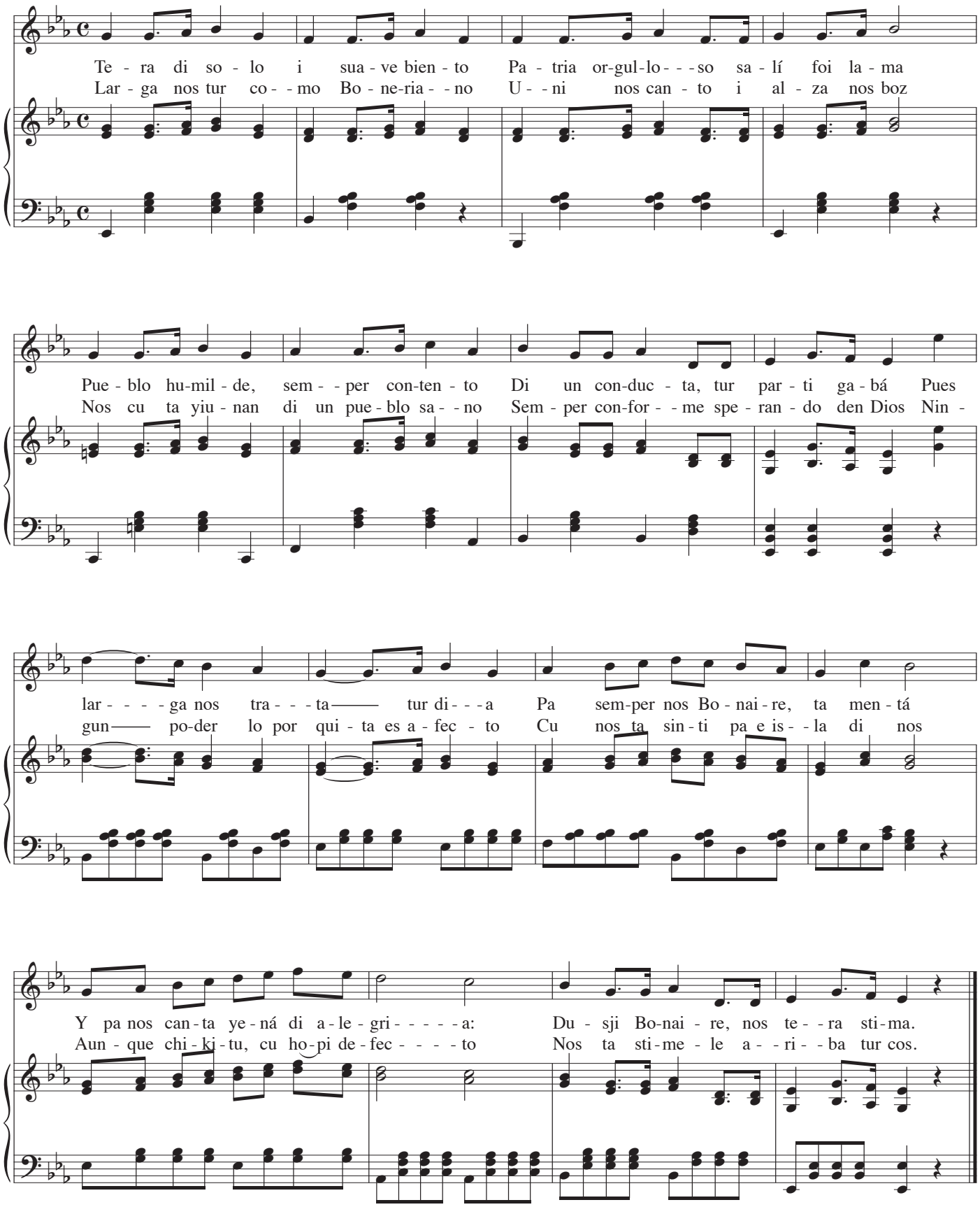



1°
2°
f
p
f
p
f
1°
2°

Vano empeño




1°
2°
1°
2°

Himno Boneriano

Palabras di H.O. Booi