JOHANNES BOSKALJON

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 and of the Dutch Caribbean islands in particular. It does this by organizing concerts, releasing CDs and music scores, writing books and articles, and giving lectures and interviews.

In 2013, a start was made with collecting scores of the music composed by Johannes Petrus Boskaljon (1863-1936). Only four of his piano compositions had previously been published. On 15 October 1887, Johannes Boskaljon published his danza *Un Recuerdo* in the weekly periodical *Notas y Letras* (= Notes and Letters). Boskaljon dedicated this danza to Chris Ulder, the then director of the City Guard Orchestra in Curaçao. About sixty years later, three of his other compositions, *Estrella Solitaria, Un Wiri* and *Nube Sombría,* appeared in the piano book *Curaçaosche Dansmuziek* (= Dance music from Curaçao). *Curaçaosche dansmuziek* was an initiative of Rudolf Boskaljon, a son of Johannes Boskaljon. In releasing *Curaçaosche Dansmuziek*, Rudolf Boskaljon aimed to make the dance music of Curaçao more widely known outside the island. *Curaçaosche Dansmuziek* was released by *Broekmans & Van Poppel*, an international publisher of sheet music.

During the process of collecting compositions by Johannes Boskaljon, a small number of his scores were found in the Edgar Palm and the Freddy Arthur Da Costa Gomez music collections. Here, I express my gratitude to both Stephen Palm and Steve Bridgewater for the opportunity to search their respective collections. However, the vast majority of the original scores were available in the Engels-Boskaljon-Ecker collection. To preserve the Engels-Boskaljon-Ecker collection, Ernest (Jackie) Voges took the initiative and sponsored the electronic scanning of the entire collection. I would like to thank Verele Ghering-Engels for providing the pdf scans of all the handwritten music sheets by her great-grandfather Johannes Boskaljon.

This piano book offers a collection of 105 compositions by Johannes Boskaljon. It includes 60 waltzes, 29 danzas, 7 polkas, 3 one-steps, 3 tangos, 1 foxtrot and 2 marches. Two versions of the *No olvides* danza and the *First Curaçao* one-step were found, and we decided to include both versions.

I gratefully acknowledge the financial support given by three great-grandsons of Johannes Boskaljon: Agustin Diaz, Maur Engels and Rauf Engels. Their donations made the digitalization of all the scores possible. I would like to thank Marinus Degenkamp who professionally digitized all the scores in this piano book. My sincere thanks go finally to my cousin Robert Rojer who meticulously reviewed the subsequent digitized versions.

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

About Johannes Petrus Boskaljon

Johannes Petrus Boskaljon (Curaçao, 17 April 1863 – Curaçao, 5 March 1936) received his first flute and tenor horn lessons from his uncle Frederik de Jongh. During his military service, Boskaljon had the opportunity and time to further deepen and broaden his musical knowledge and experience. At the age of 33, he was appointed conductor of Curaçao's military band, a position that he would hold until his retirement in 1922. In the early decades of the twentieth century, Boskaljon and his military band played an important role in the musical life of Curaçao. Each Wednesday and Sunday evening, they gave public concerts in the centre of the city of Willemstad. When the military band was discontinued in 1928, Johannes Boskaljon took the initiative to form a new brass band: *St Cecilia.* St Cecilia consisted of former members of the military band, complemented with members drawn from civilian society. For many years, Boskaljon also directed the brass band of the *St Jozef* orphanage in the village of *Santa Rosa* in Curaçao. The orphans received free weekly music lessons from Boskaljon.

Boskaljon's choice of repertoire for these military band concerts revealed him to be quite bold for his time. After a performance of the *Choclo* tango on a Sunday evening in 1914, the general editor of the local catholic newspaper *Amigoe di Curaçao* fulminated in an editorial note, characterizing the tango as a *gross, sensual and uncivilized dance* that ought not be played in public. Apparently, this editorial did not impress Boskaljon. Some weeks later, the military band defiantly played *Tango Argentino,* written by the Spanish composer Juaquín Valverde Sanjuan. Boskaljon himself also composed three tangos: *¡Mas Luz!, Paraguay* and *Otro Tango*.

As a composer, Johannes Boskaljon wrote numerous dance pieces. With his military band, and later with the *St Cecilia* brass band*,* he added lustre to festivities during national holidays, soirées and at parties in the government palace or at private parties. When *Shon Jantji* Boskaljon, as he was called in Curaçao, passed away on 5 March 1936, the island lost one of its most popular figures of the time. During the funeral, his *St Cecilia* brass band honoured him by playing his funeral march *Adiós a Santa Cecilia.*

After Boskaljon's death in 1936, a public collection made it possible to build a music cupola on Brion Square in the centre of the city. At the unveiling in 1937 of this music cupola, which was named after Johannes Petrus Boskaljon, Mr Gronemeyer, chairman of the Curaçao Art Society, characterized his compositions as appealing due to the rhythmic and melodic charm that is clearly present in a great number of his compositions. Unfortunately, following a redesign of Brion Square in the 1970s, the cupola was demolished. However, in the 1980s, Boskaljon's cupola was restored and rebuilt in the garden of the *Curaçaosch museum*.

Johannes Boskaljon was married to Petronella Dijkstra. The couple had three children: Rudolf Frederic Willem Boskaljon (1887-1970), Rosina Henriëtte van Geffen-Boskaljon (1888-1949) and Cornelis August Boskaljon (1891-1930). His son Cornelis (Corri) became a popular composer of dance music. In 1922, he succeeded his father as the director of the military band in Curaçao. His other son, Rudolf (Dòdò), was the founder and director of the Curaçao Philharmonic Orchestra and a composer of orchestral works.

Contents (alphabetical)

	Title	Music type	Page
1.	¡Adiós 1896!	Valse	1
2.	All Right	Valse	2
3.	Amparo	Valse	3
4.	Aroma del Clavel	Valse	5
5.	Aquí Está	One step	7
6.	Aroma de Rosas	Valse	8
7.	Ata	Polka	10
8.	Bai Biki	Danza	11
9.	Bam balia un Rondu	Polka	12
10.	Bam Zoja	Foxtrot	13
11.	Candorosa	Danza	14
12.	Chupabèbè	One step	15
13.	Claveles Dobles	Valse	16
14.	Come funchi un dia	Polka	17
15.	Danza en sol mayor nr 1	Danza	18
16.	Danza en sol mayor nr 2	Danza	19
17.	Danza en la menor	Danza	20
18.	Danza en mi menor	Danza	21
19.	Di chiripa	Valse	22
20.	Divina Cadencia	Valse	24
21.	Doegoedoegoe	Danza	26
22.	Eco de 1912	Valse	27
23.	Eco de abril	Valse	28
24.	Ecos del alma	Valse	29
25.	El 26 de julio	Valse	31
26.	El Cojo	Polka	33
27.	El Despertador	Danza	34
28.	En el Paseo	Valse	35
29.	¡Escucha!	Valse	37
30.	Estrella Solitaria	Valse	38
31.	Felicidades	Valse	40
32.	Feliz 1902	Danza	41
33.	Feliz 1936	Valse	42
34.	Feliz Cumpleaños	Valse	43
35.	First Curaçao one step (first version)	One step	45
36.	First Curaçao one step (second version)	One step	46
37.	Heineken Bier (*Ded. to Mensing & Co agent of Heineken Beer*)	Valse	48
38.	Hulde aan onze luchthelden	March	49
39.	Karawara	Danza	52
40.	La Boda de Plata	Valse	53
41.	La Celosa	Valse	55

Contents (alphabetical cont.)

	Title	Music Type	Page
42.	Lágrimas mías	Valse	56
43.	La Luna de Curazao	Valse	59
44.	La Paranda	Danza	60
45.	La Ratonera	Danza	61
46.	La Risa	Polka	62
47.	Mantomba	Danza	63
48.	Maribomba	Polka	64
49.	Marcha Fúnebre	March	65
50.	¡Más Luz!	Tango	66
51.	Mi ideal	Danza	68
52.	No kinipi	Danza	69
53.	No Olvides (first version)	Danza	70
54.	No Olvides (second version)	Danza	71
55.	Nube sombría	Valse	72
56.	Orfeo	Danza	74
57.	Otro Tango	Tango	75
58.	Pa Paskoe	Valse	76
59.	Para Corri (*Dedicated to his son Cornelis Boskaljon*)	Valse	77
60.	Paraguay	Tango	78
61.	Para Thelma (*Dedicated to his granddaughter Thelma Boskaljon)*	Valse	79
62.	Patanata	Danza	80
63.	Placeres de la vida	Valse	81
64.	Poerim Alegre	Valse	83
65.	¡Qué error!	Valse	84
66.	¡Qué Locura!	Valse	85
67.	¡Qué Lucha!	Valse	86
68.	Risas y Flores	Valse	87
69.	Siempre Alegre	Polka	89
70.	Siempre Viva	Danza	90
71.	Sin Chansa	Danza	91
72.	Sublime ensueño	Valse	92
73.	Toetoeroetoe	Danza	94
74.	Triste Despertar	Valse	95
75.	Un Clavel	Danza	96
76.	Un poco más	Valse	97
77.	Un Lirio	Danza	99
78.	Un Recuerdo *(Dedicated to composer Christiaan Ulder)*	Danza	100
79.	Un tiki so	Danza	101
80.	Un wiri	Danza	103
81.	Un Yazmín	Valse	104
82.	Una Perlita	Valse	105

Contents (alphabetical cont.)

	Title	Music Type	Page
83.	Una Rosa	Valse	106
84.	Una Viola	Valse	107
85.	Une idée fixe	Valse	108
86.	Uno de Tantos	Danza	110
87.	Valse en do mayor nr 1	Valse	111
88.	Valse en do mayor nr 2	Valse	112
89.	Valse en do mayor nr 3	Valse	113
90.	Valse en do mayor nr 4	Valse	114
91.	Valse en do mayor y fa mayor nr 1	Valse	115
92.	Valse en do mayor y fa mayor nr 2	Valse	116
93.	Valse en do mayor y fa mayor nr 3	Valse	118
94.	Valse en do mayor y sol mayor	Valse	119
95.	Valse en sol mayor nr 1	Valse	120
96.	Valse en sol mayor nr 2	Valse	121
97.	Valse en sol mayor y do mayor nr 1	Valse	122
98.	Valse en sol mayor y do mayor nr 2	Valse	123
99.	Valse en re mayor	Valse	125
100.	Valse en mi menor y mi mayor nr 1	Valse	126
101.	Valse en mi menor y mi mayor nr 2	Valse	127
102.	Valse en la menor y do mayor	Valse	129
103.	Valse en la menor y la mayor	Valse	131
104.	Wantomba	Danza	133
105.	Welkom!	Valse	134
106.	White Zombie	Valse	135

Contents (per music type)

	Title	Music type	Page
1.	¡Adiós 1896!	Valse	1
2.	All Right	Valse	2
3.	Amparo	Valse	3
4.	Aroma del Clavel	Valse	5
5.	Aroma de Rosas	Valse	8
6.	Claveles Dobles	Valse	16
7.	Di chiripa	Valse	22
8.	Divina Cadencia	Valse	24
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10.	Eco de abril	Valse	28
11.	Ecos del alma	Valse	29
12.	El 26 de julio	Valse	31
13.	En el Paseo	Valse	35
14.	¡Escucha!	Valse	37
15.	Estrella Solitaria	Valse	38
16.	Felicidades	Valse	40
17.	Feliz 1936	Valse	42
18.	Feliz Cumpleaños	Valse	43
19.	Heineken bier (*Ded. to Mensing & Co agent of Heineken Beer*)	Valse	48
20.	La Boda de Plata	Valse	53
21.	La Celosa	Valse	55
22.	Lágrimas mías	Valse	59
23.	La Luna de Curazao	Valse	60
24.	Nube sombría	Valse	72
25.	Pa Paskoe	Valse	76
26.	Para Corri (*Dedicated to his son Cornelis Boskaljon*)	Valse	77
27.	Para Thelma (*Dedicated to his granddaughter Thelma Boskaljon*)	Valse	79
28.	Placeres de la vida	Valse	81
29.	Poerim Alegre	Valse	83
30.	¡Qué error!	Valse	84
31.	¡Qué Locura!	Valse	85
32.	¡Qué Lucha!	Valse	86
33.	Risas y Flores	Valse	87
34.	Sublime ensueño	Valse	92
35.	Triste Despertar	Valse	95
36.	Un poco más	Valse	97
37.	Un Yazmín	Valse	104
38.	Una Perlita	Valse	105
39.	Una Rosa	Valse	106
40.	Una Viola	Valse	107

Contents (per music type, cont.)

	Title	Music Type	Page
41.	Une idée fixe	Valse	108
42.	Valse en do mayor nr 1	Valse	111
43.	Valse en do mayor nr 2	Valse	112
44.	Valse en do mayor nr 3	Valse	113
45.	Valse en do mayor nr 4	Valse	114
46.	Valse en do mayor y fa mayor nr 1	Valse	115
47.	Valse en do mayor y fa mayor nr 2	Valse	116
48.	Valse en do mayor y fa mayor nr 3	Valse	118
49.	Valse en do mayor y sol mayor	Valse	119
50.	Valse en sol mayor nr 1	Valse	120
51.	Valse en sol mayor nr 2	Valse	121
52.	Valse en sol mayor y do mayor nr 1	Valse	122
53.	Valse en sol mayor y do mayor nr 2	Valse	123
54.	Valse en re mayor	Valse	125
55.	Valse en mi menor y mi mayor nr 1	Valse	126
56.	Valse en mi menor y mi mayor nr 2	Valse	127
57.	Valse en la menor y do mayor	Valse	129
58.	Valse en la menor y la maor	Valse	130
59.	Welkom!	Valse	133
60.	White Zombie	Valse	134
1.	Bai Biki	Danza	11
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5.	Danza en la menor	Danza	20
6.	Danza en mi menor	Danza	21
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17.	No Olvides (second version)	Danza	71
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19.	Patanata	Danza	80

Contents (per music type, cont.)

	Title	Music Type	Page
20.	Siempre Viva	Danza	90
21.	Sin Chansa	Danza	91
22.	Toetoeroetoe	Danza	94
23.	Un Clavel	Danza	96
24.	Un Lirio	Danza	99
25.	Un Recuerdo (*Dedicated to composer Christiaan Ulder*)	Danza	100
26.	Un tiki so	Danza	101
27.	Un wiri	Danza	103
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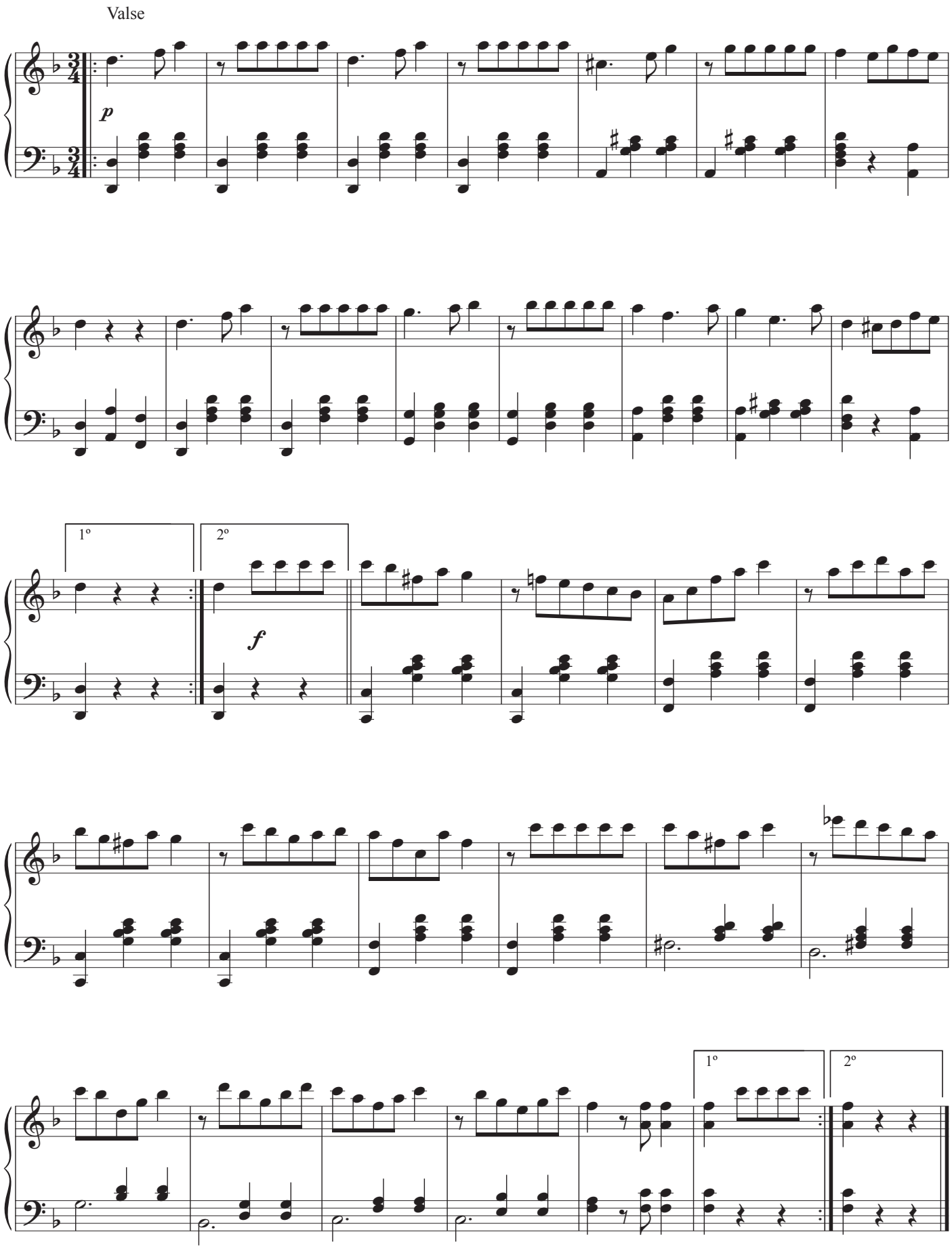
2.	Marcha Fúnebre	March	65

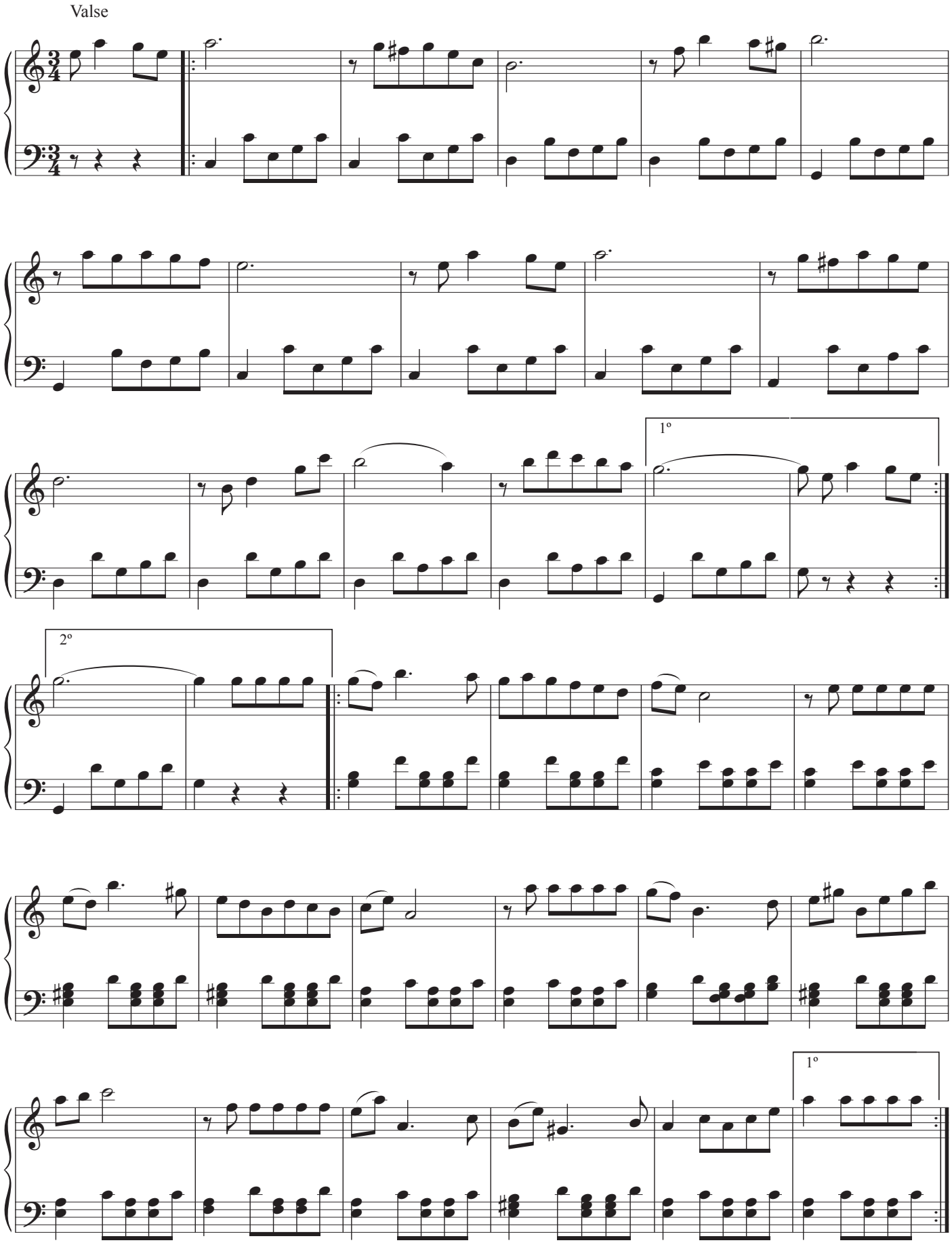
Adios 1896!

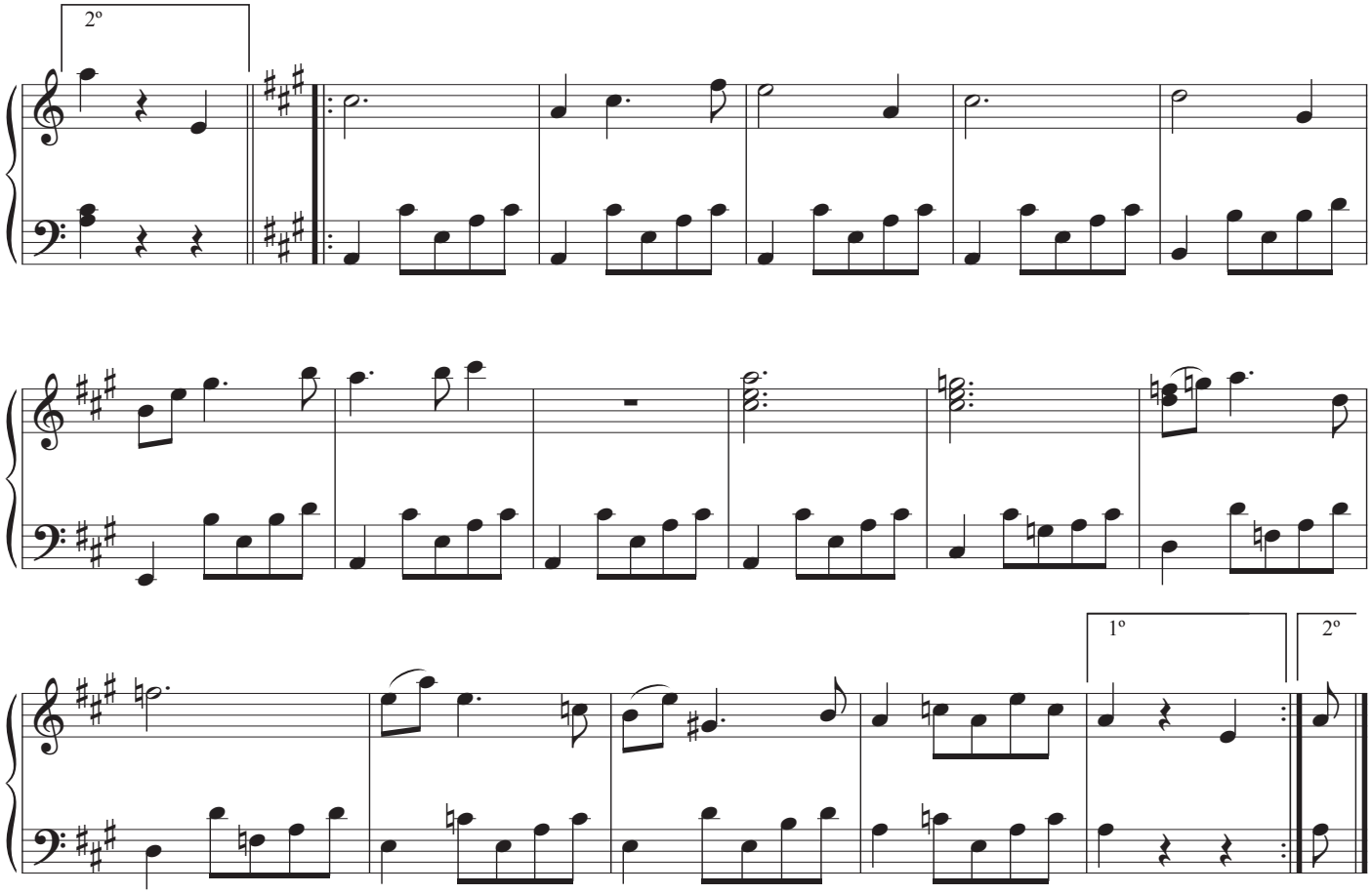
Valse



All Right

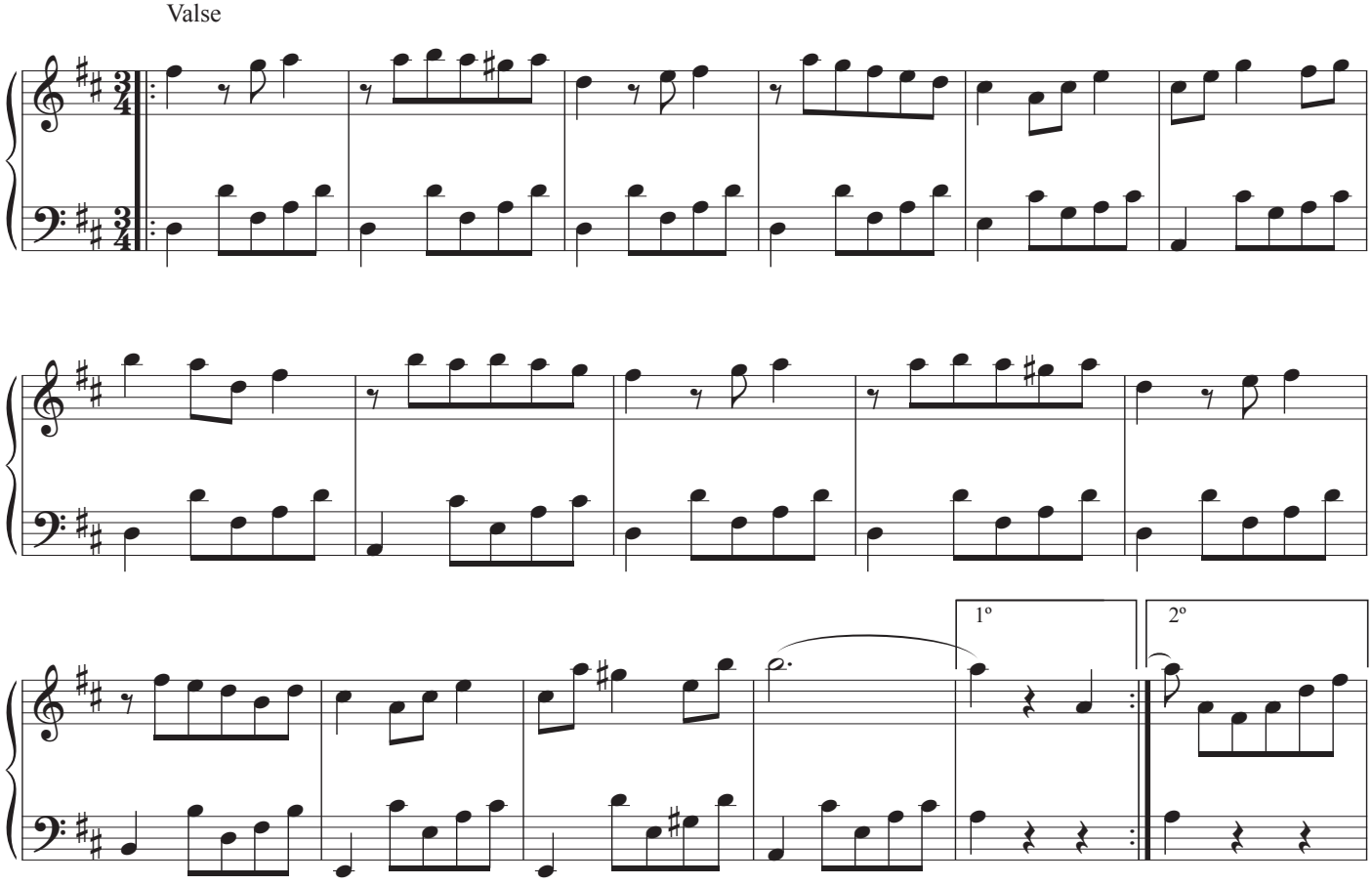
Valse

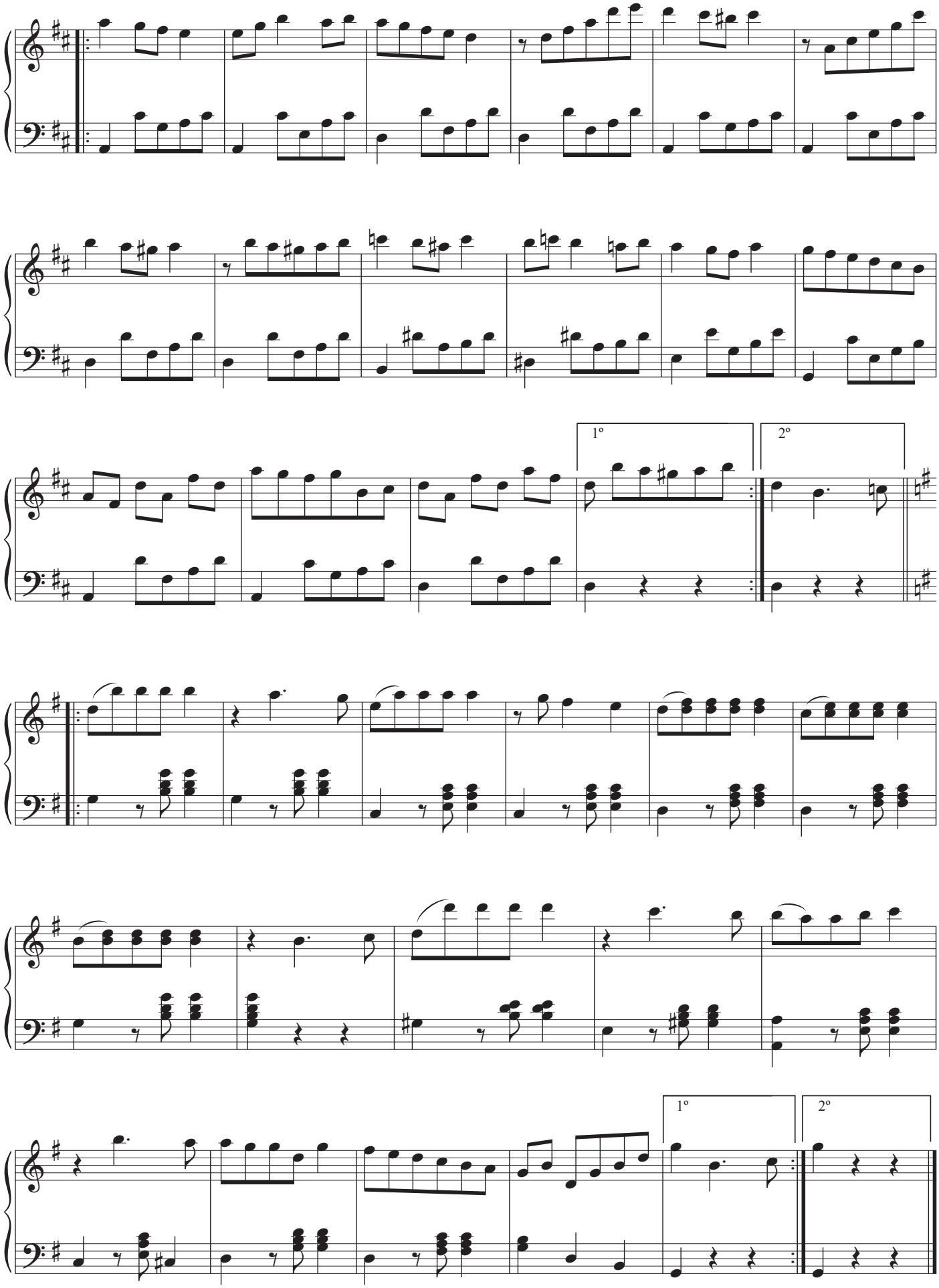




Amparo

Valse

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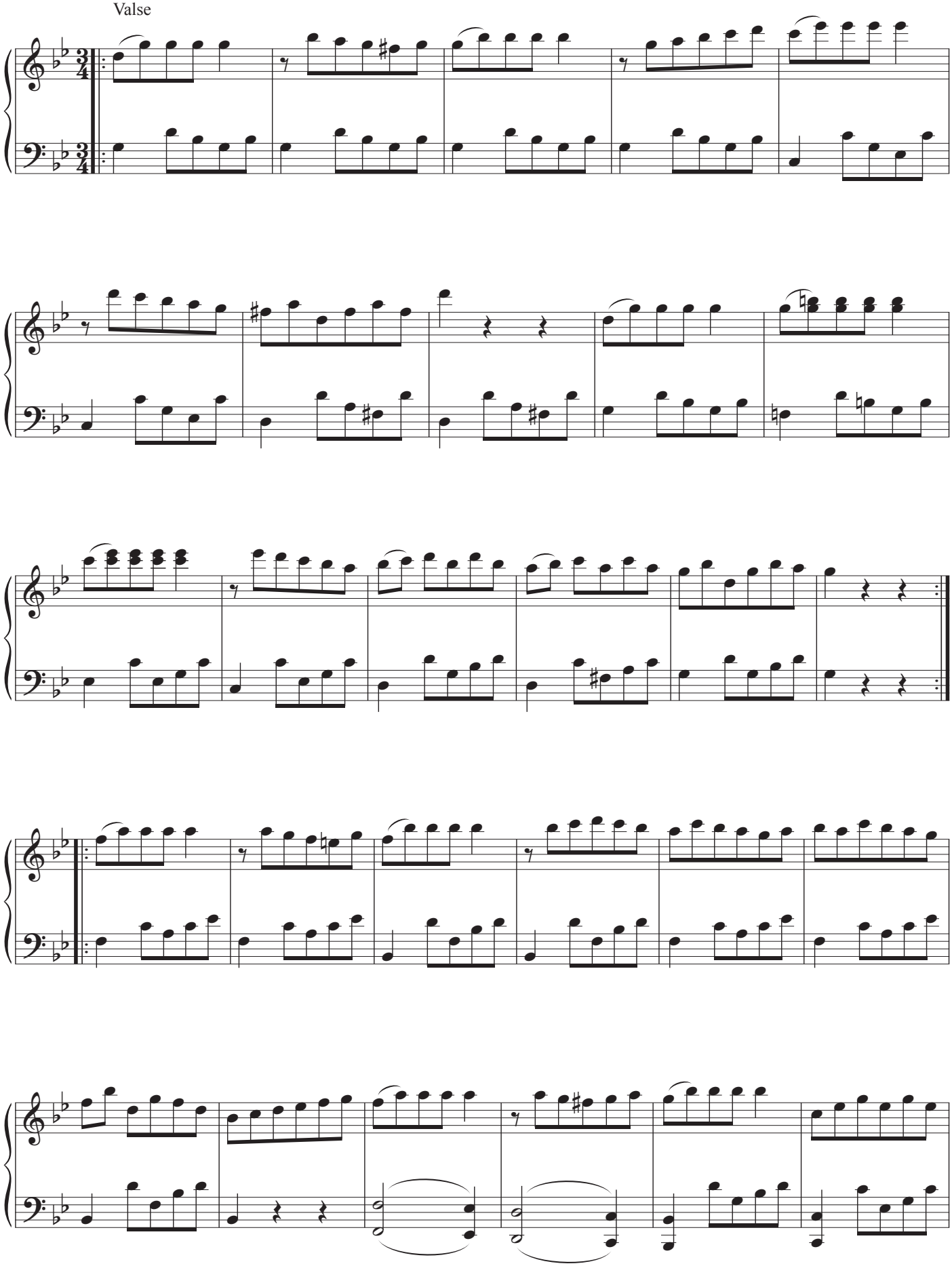
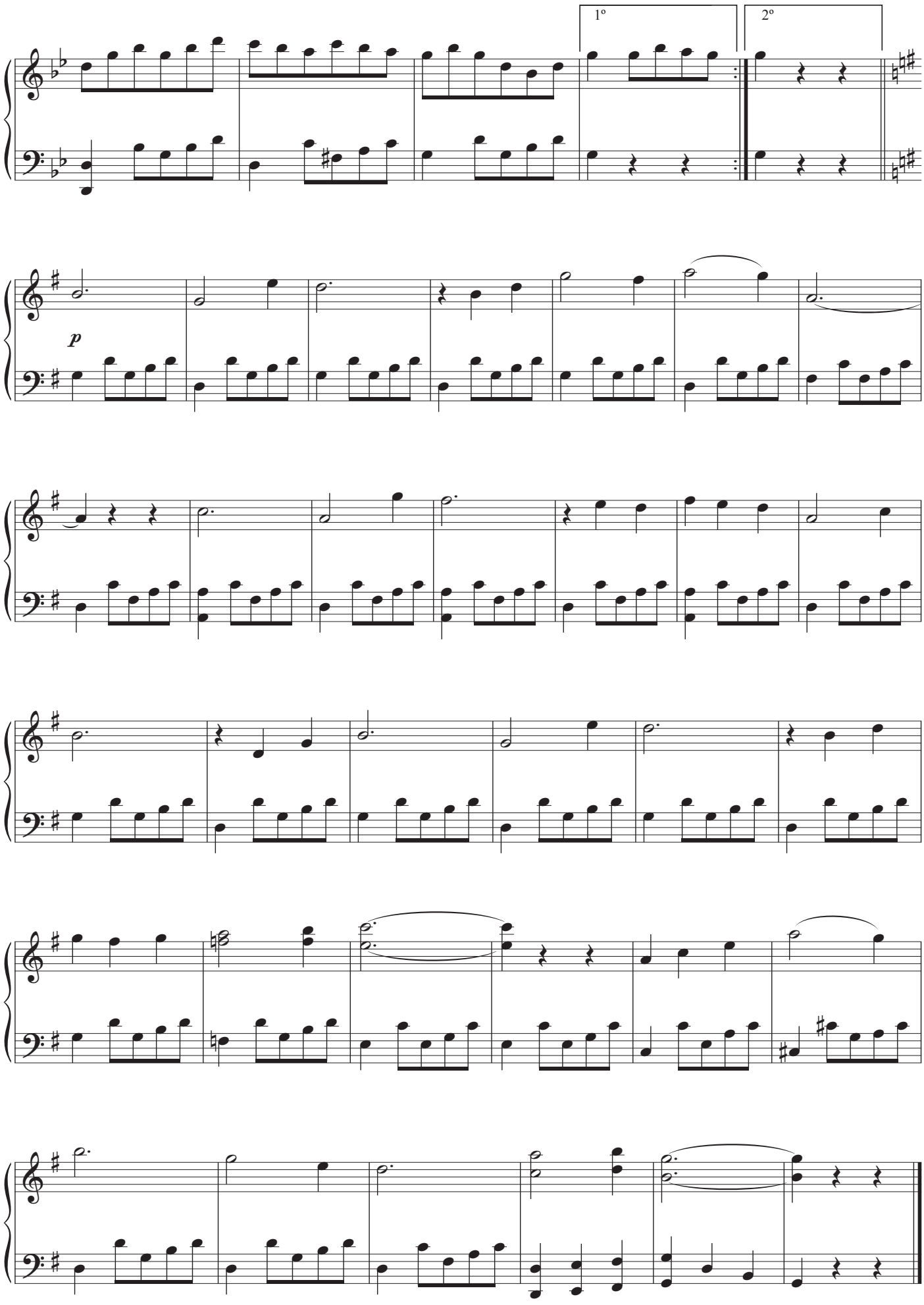
Aroma del Clavel

Valse

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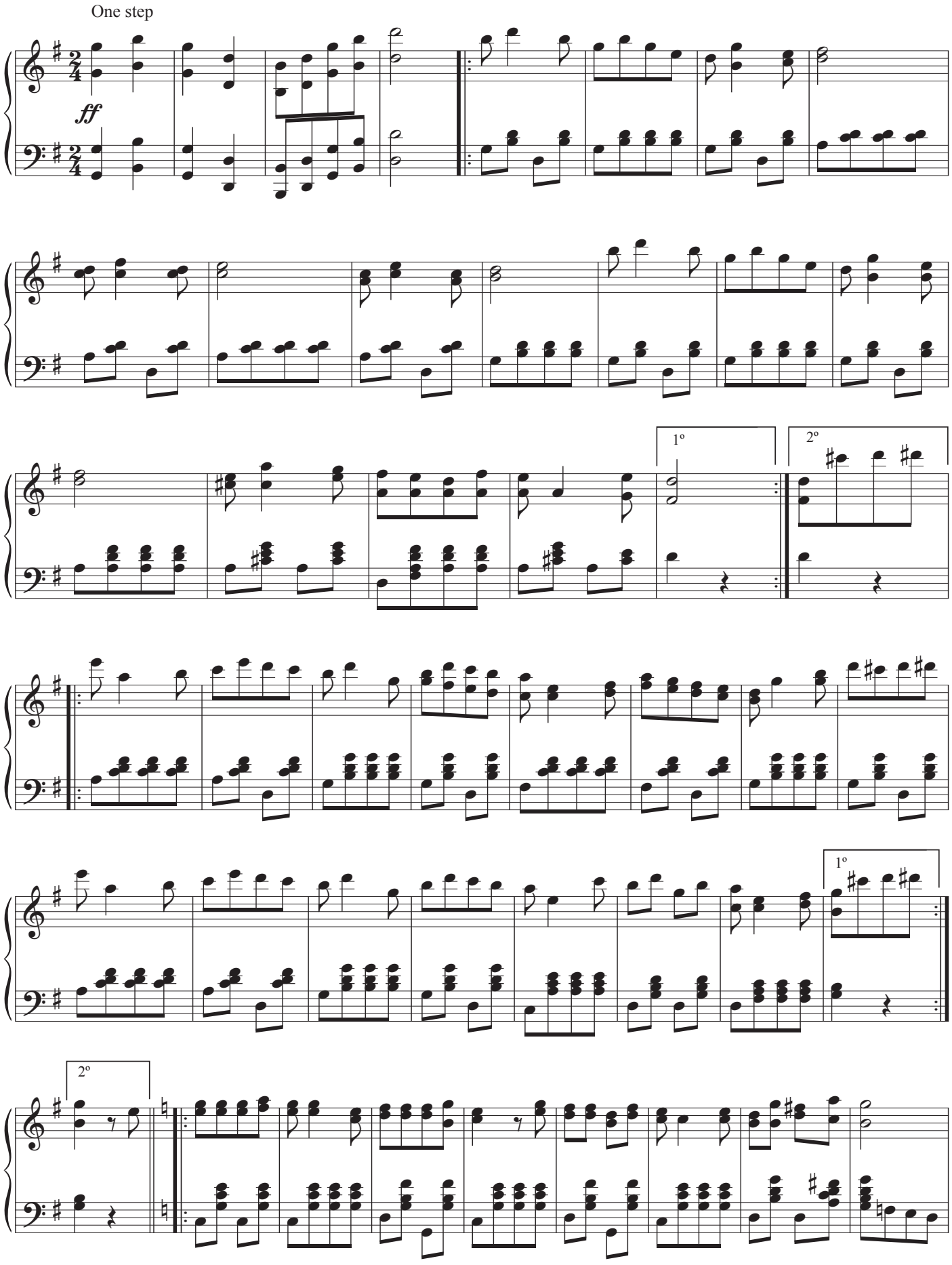
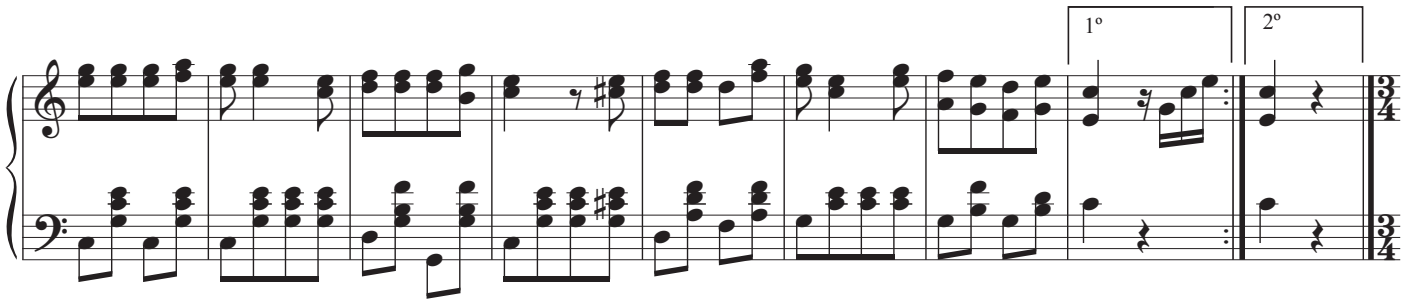
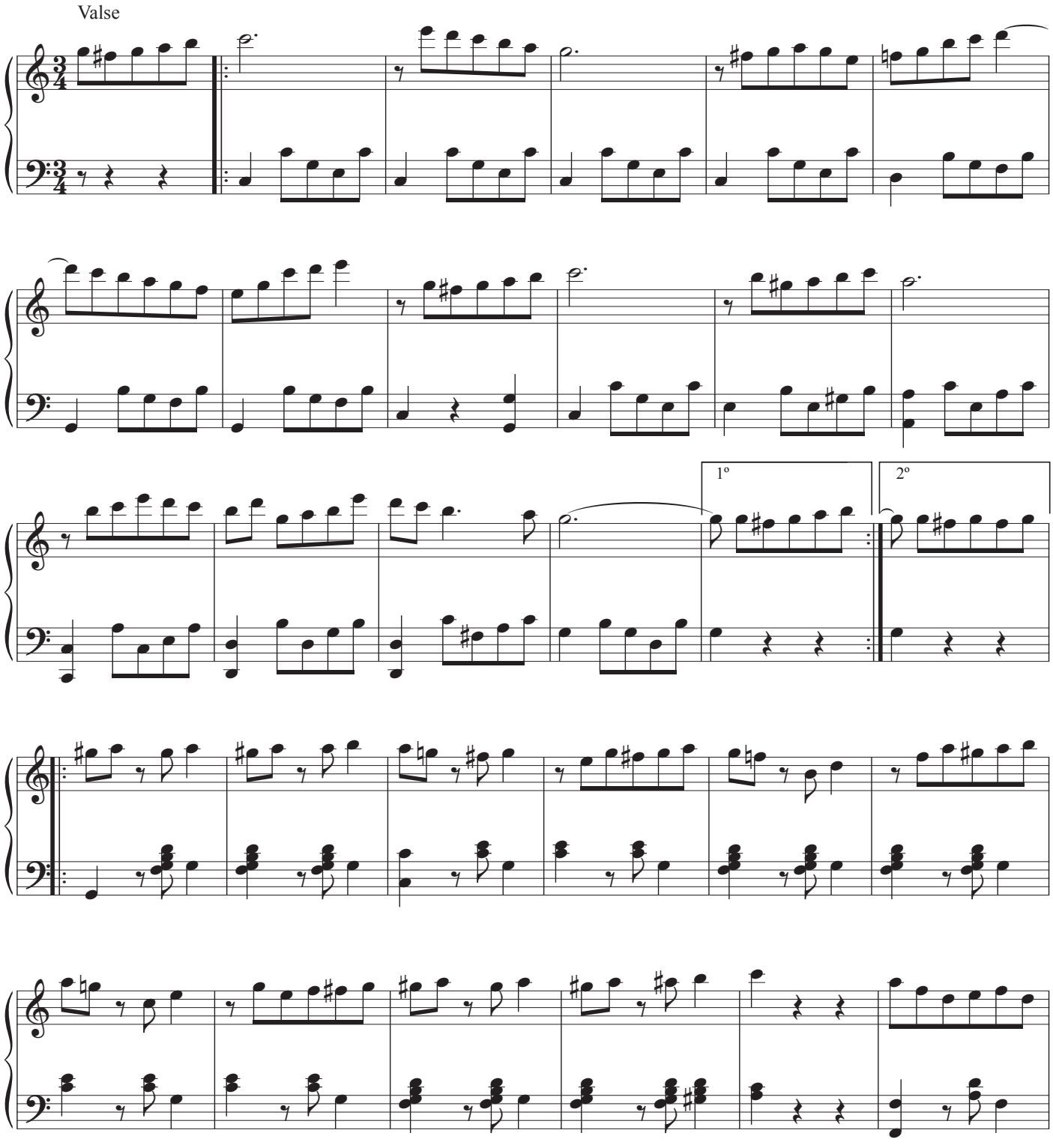
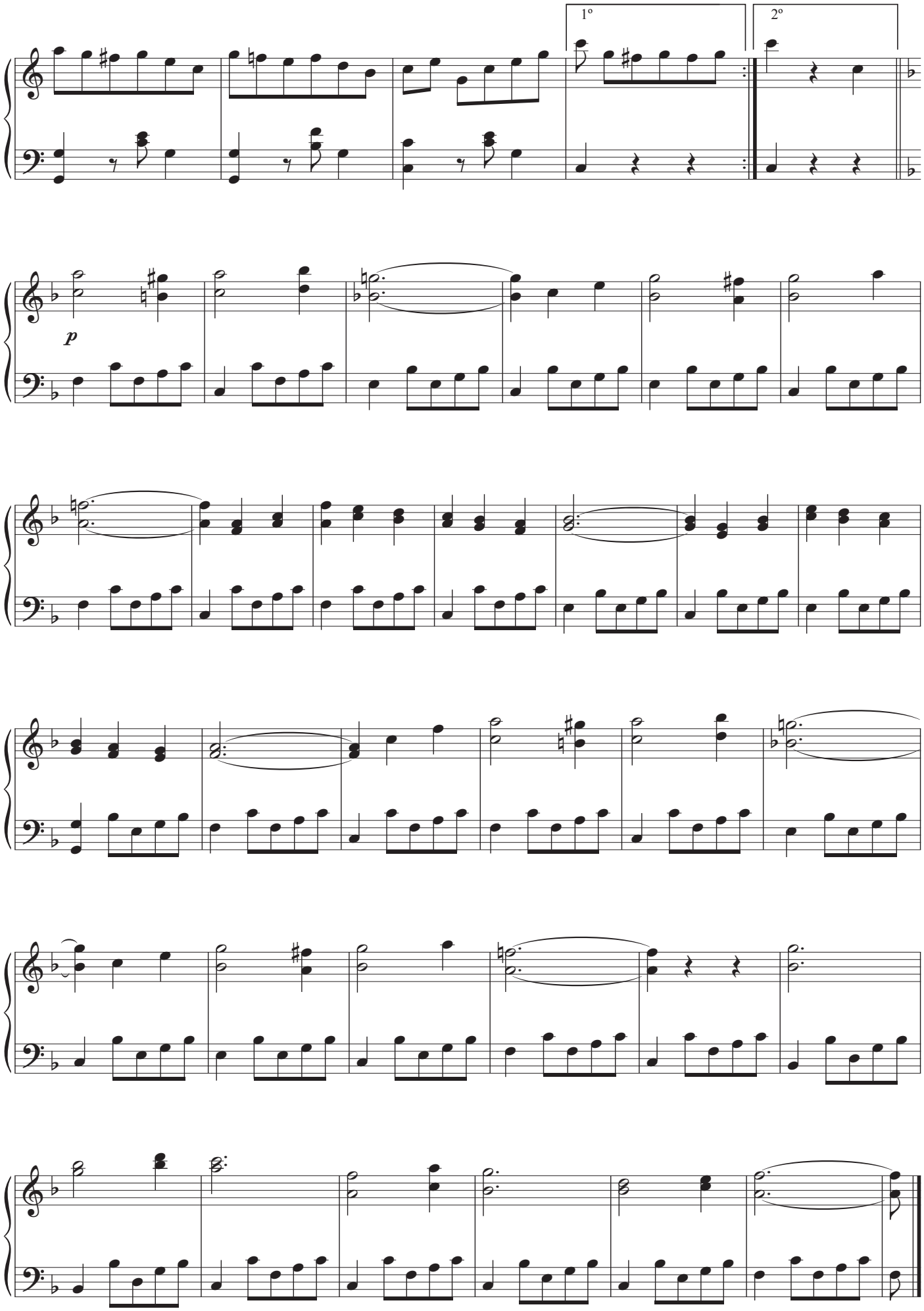




Aroma de Rosas

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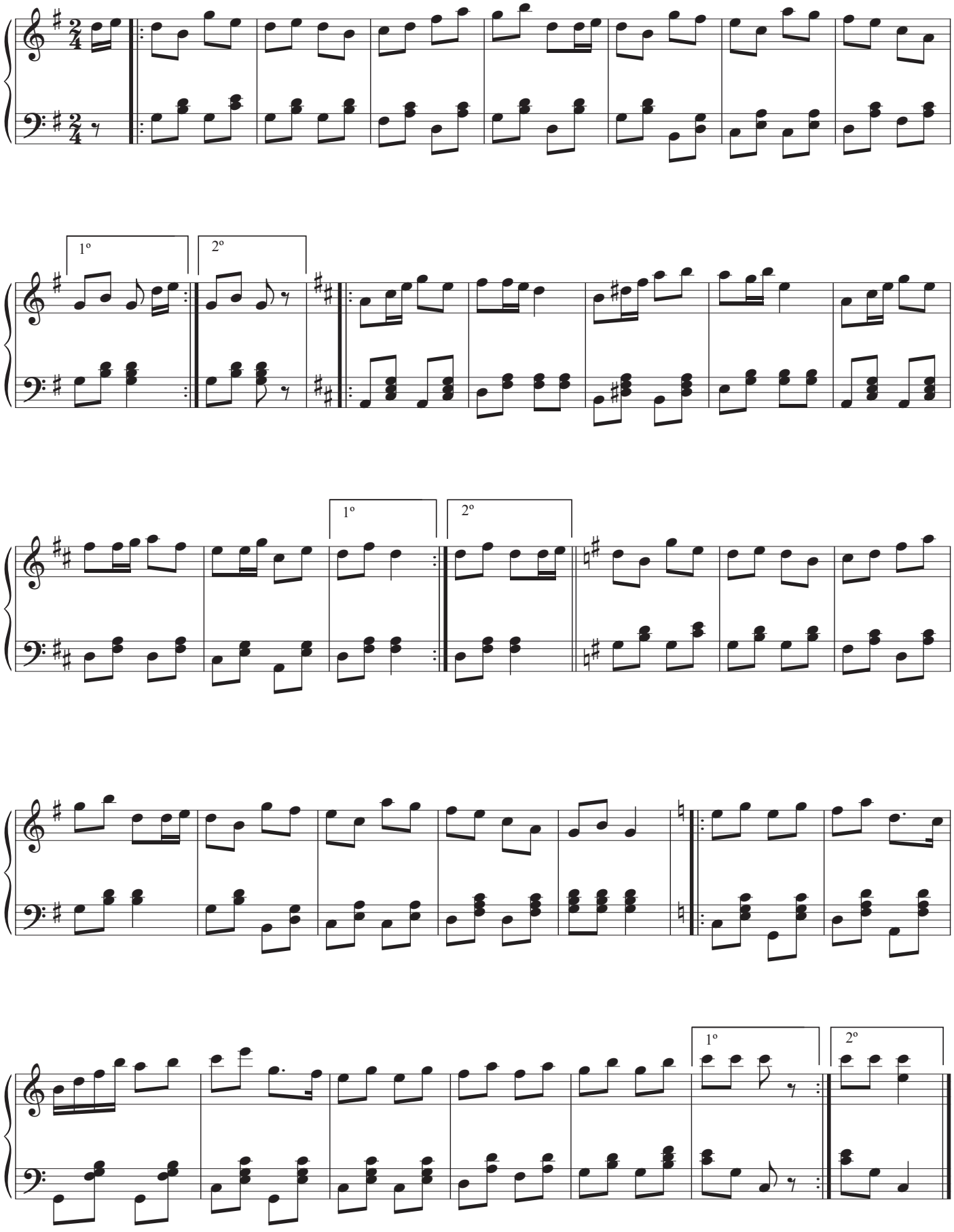
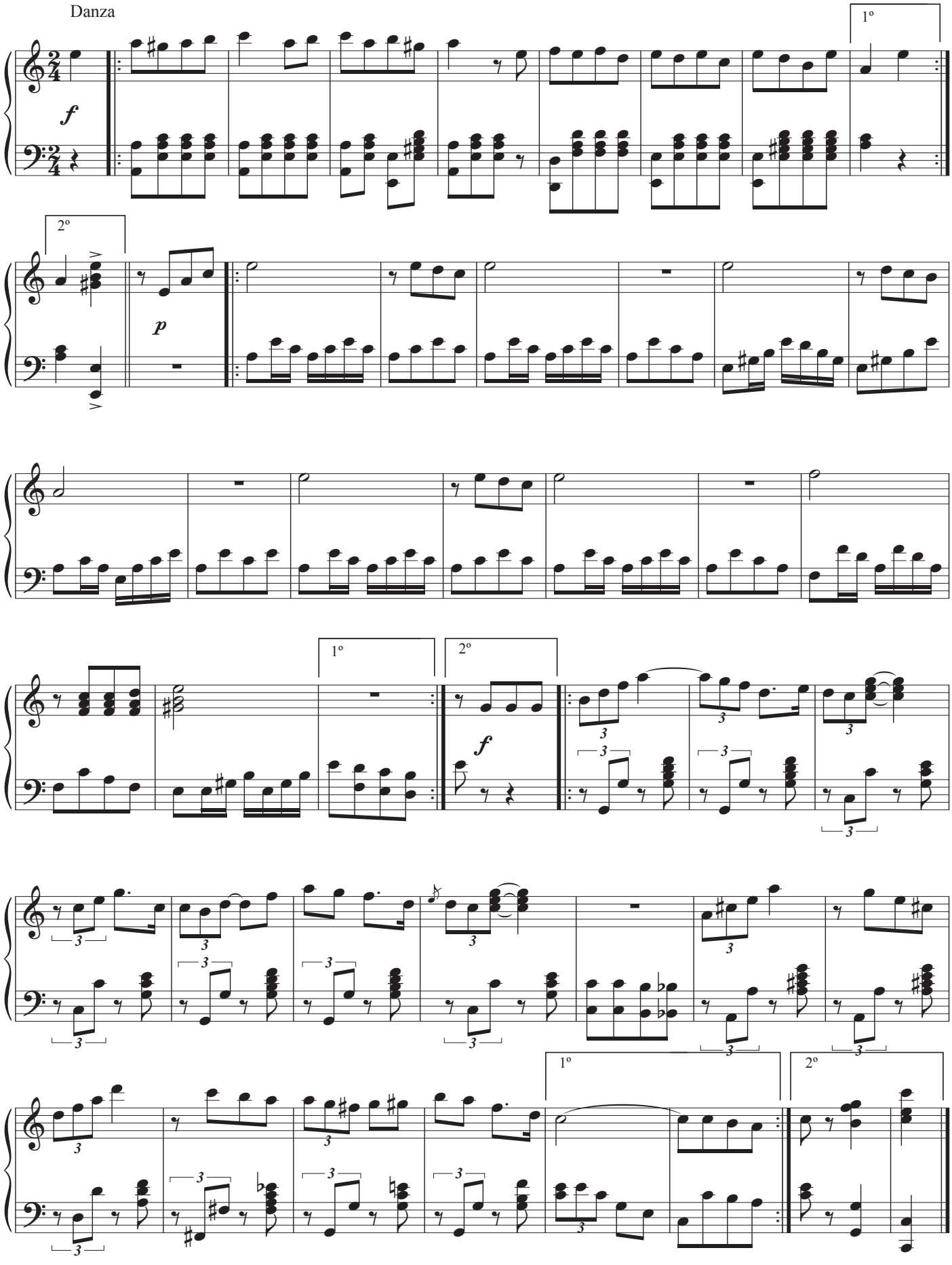
Ata

Polka

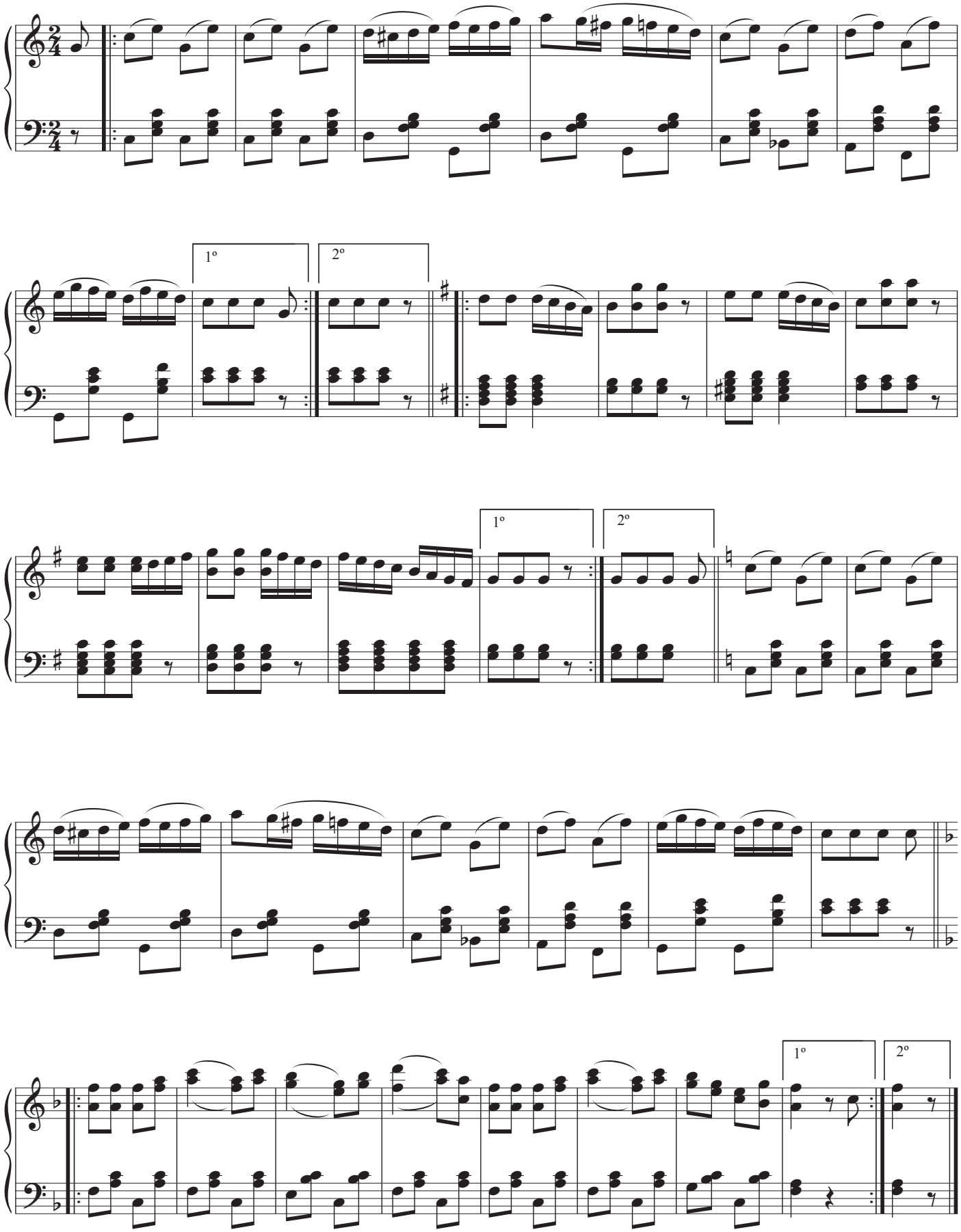


Bai biki



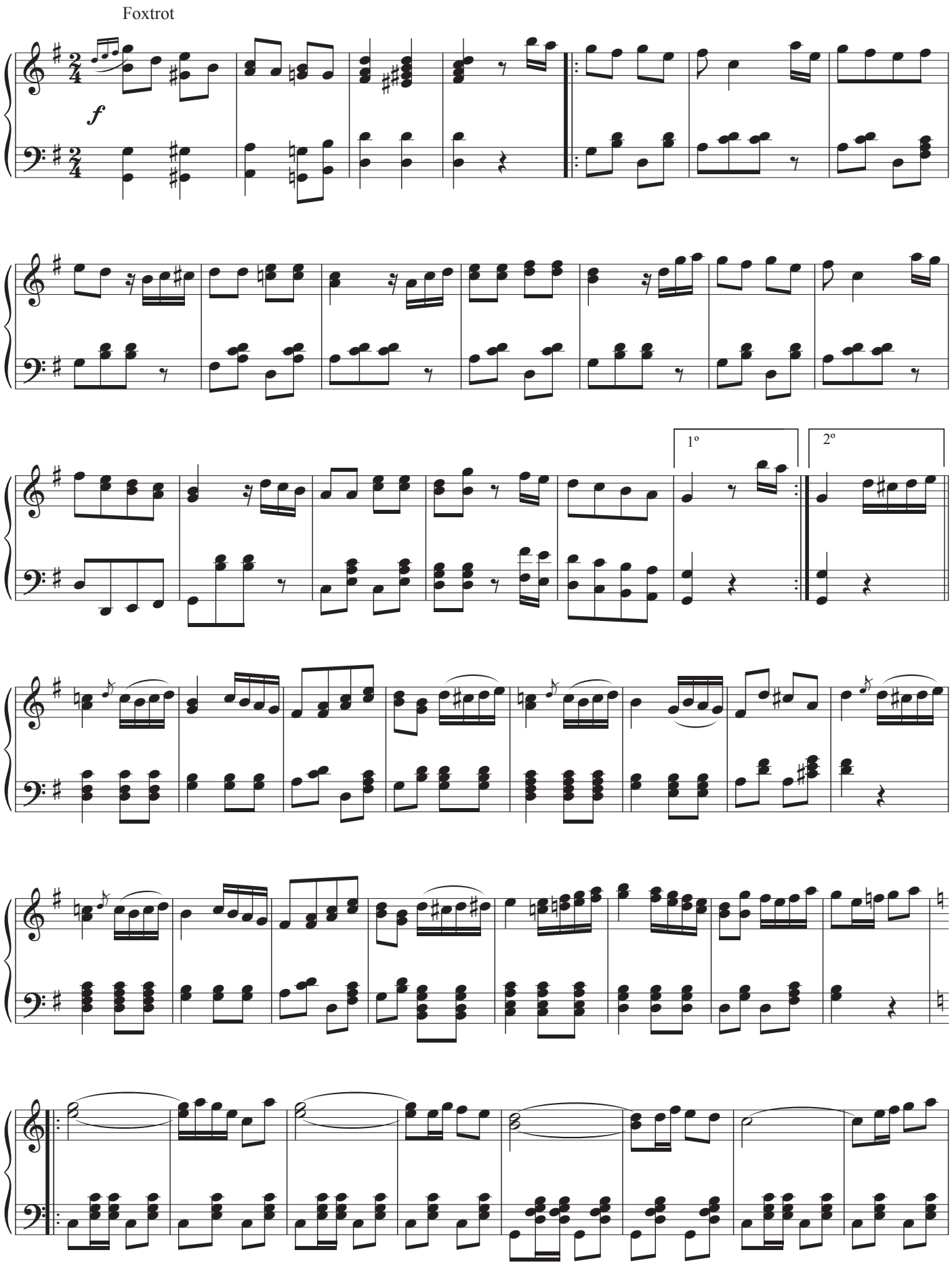
Bam balia un rondo

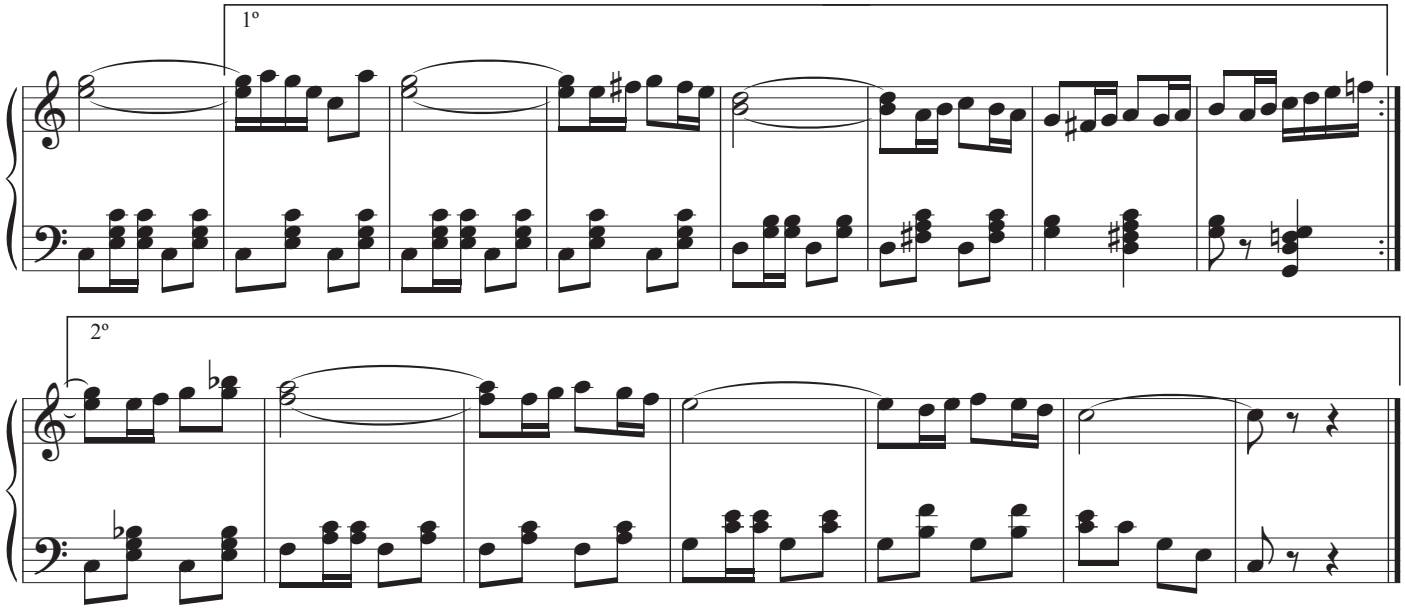
Polka



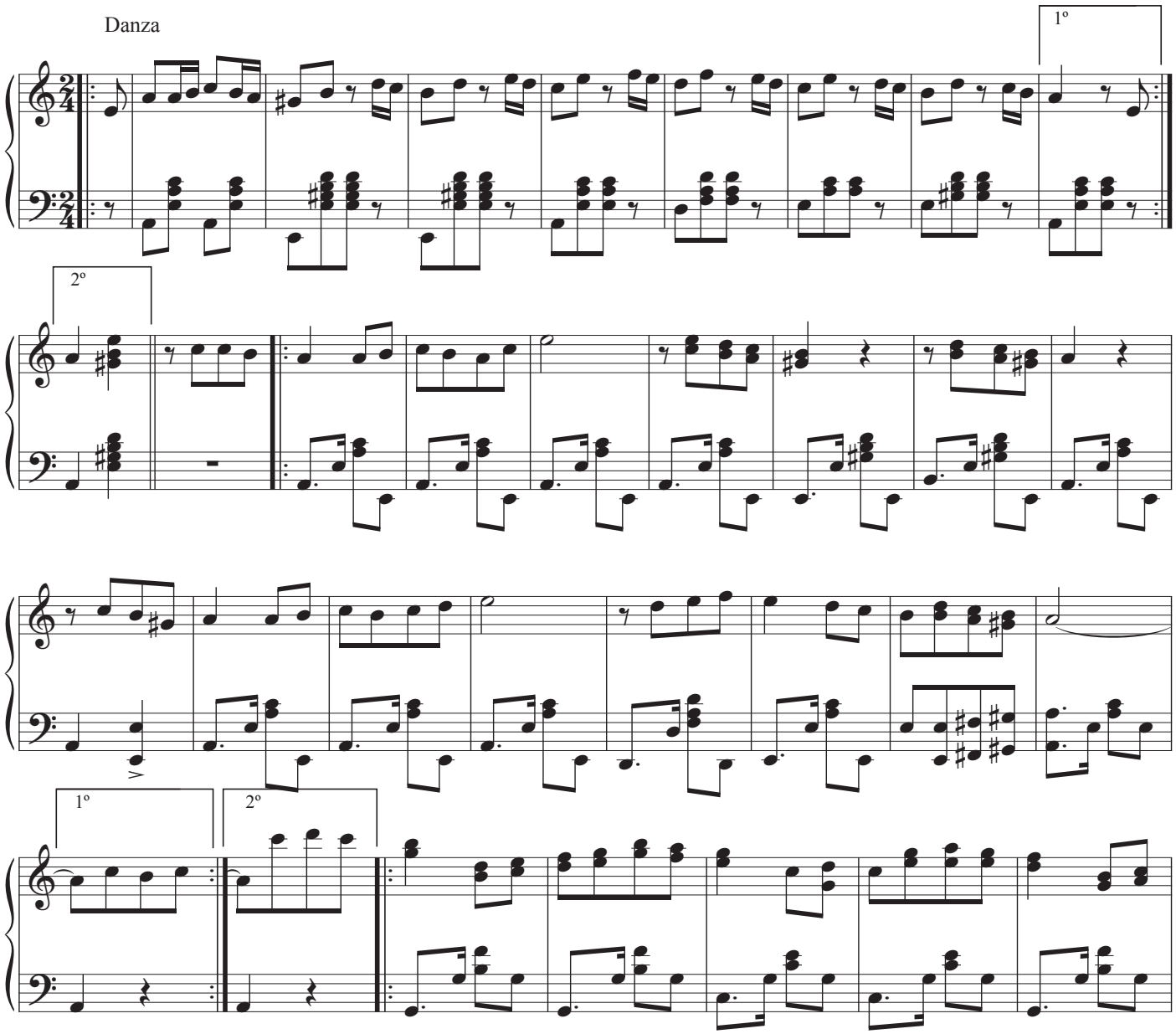
Bam Zoja

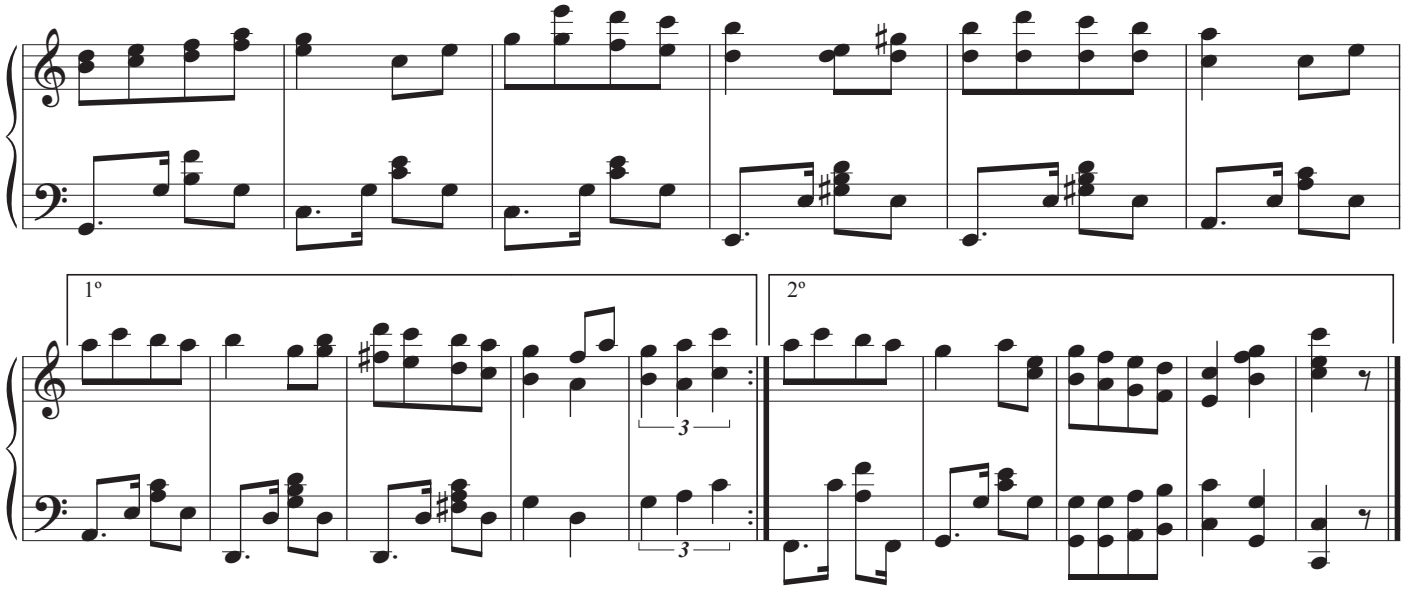
Foxtrot





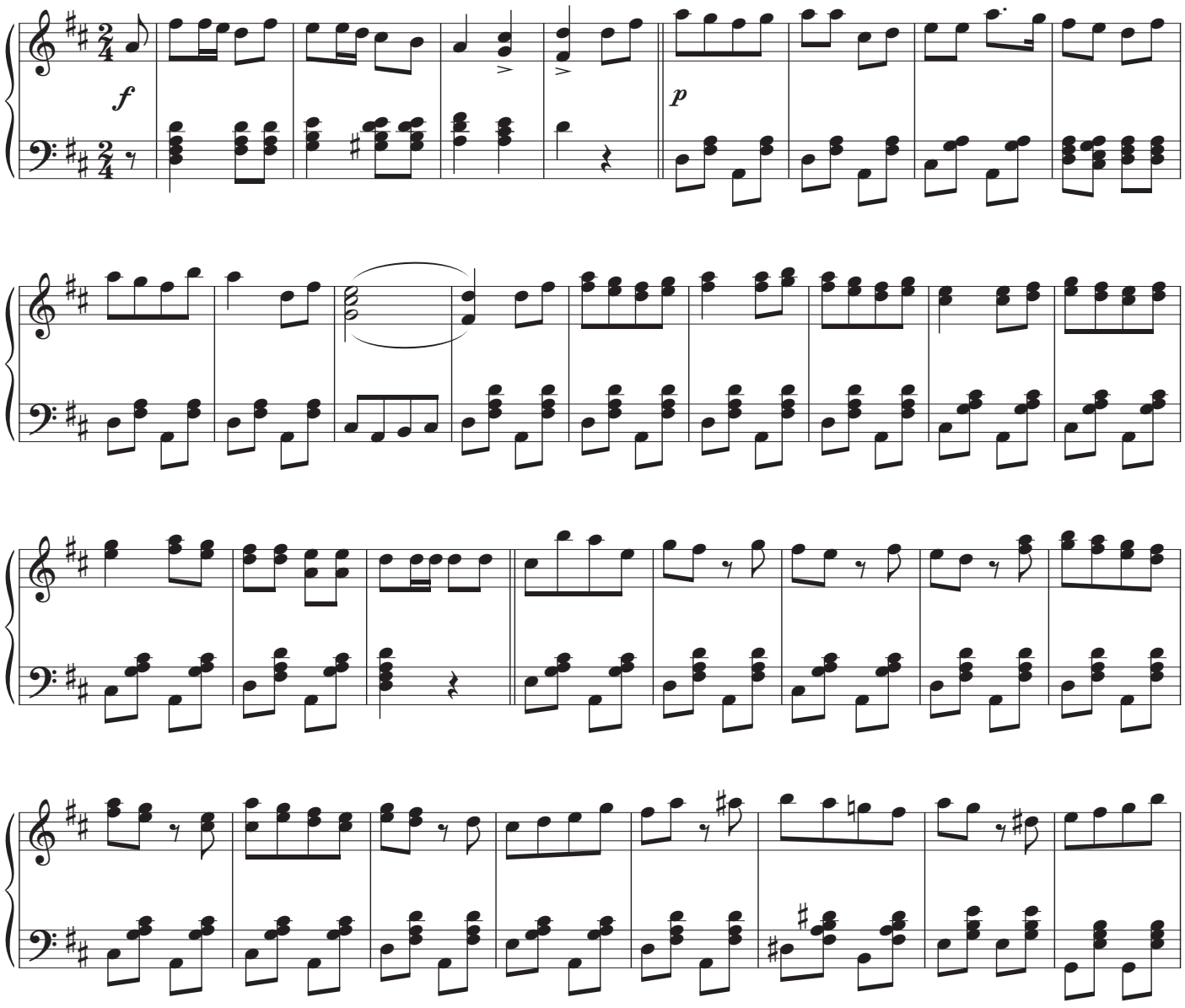
Candorosa

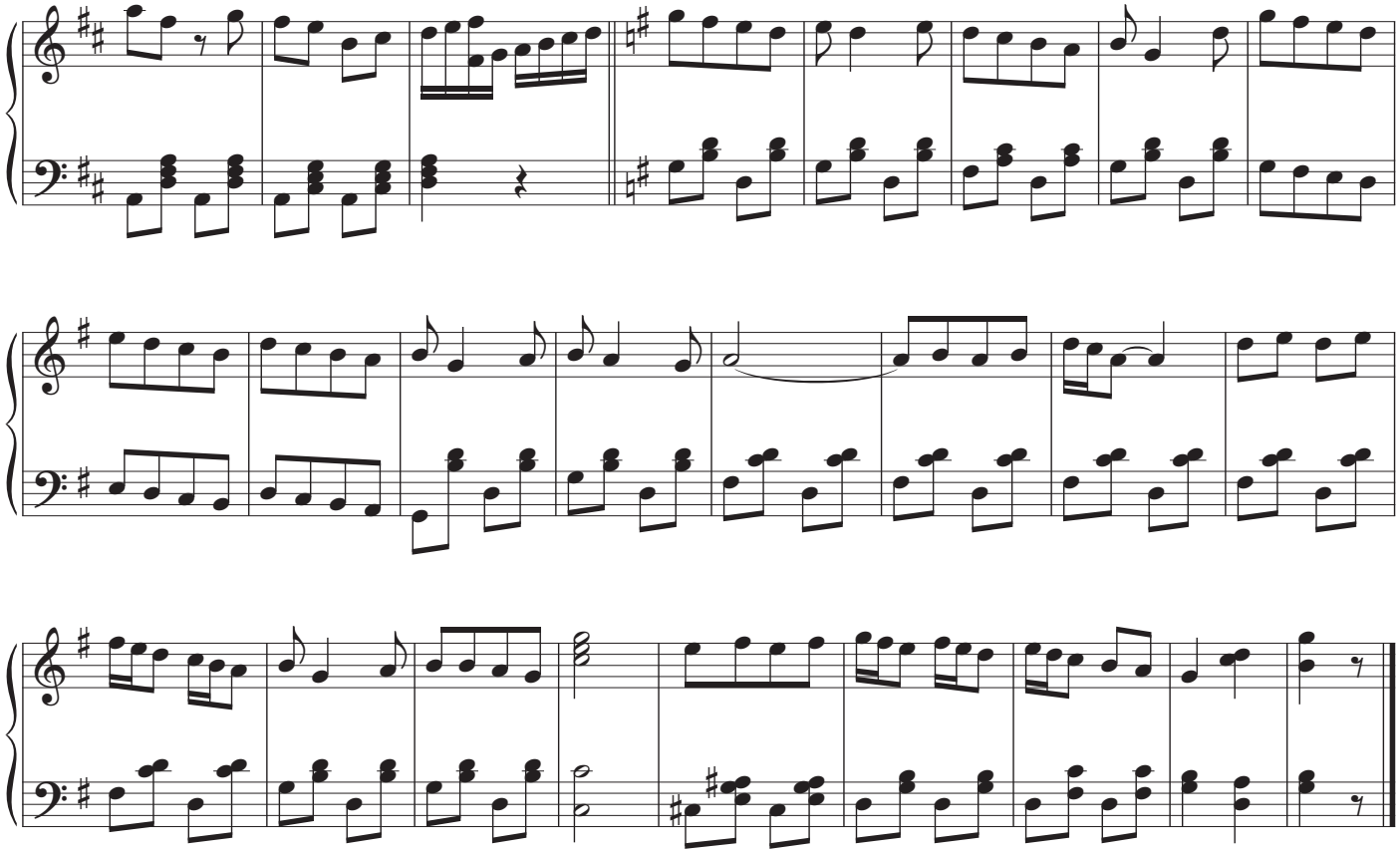




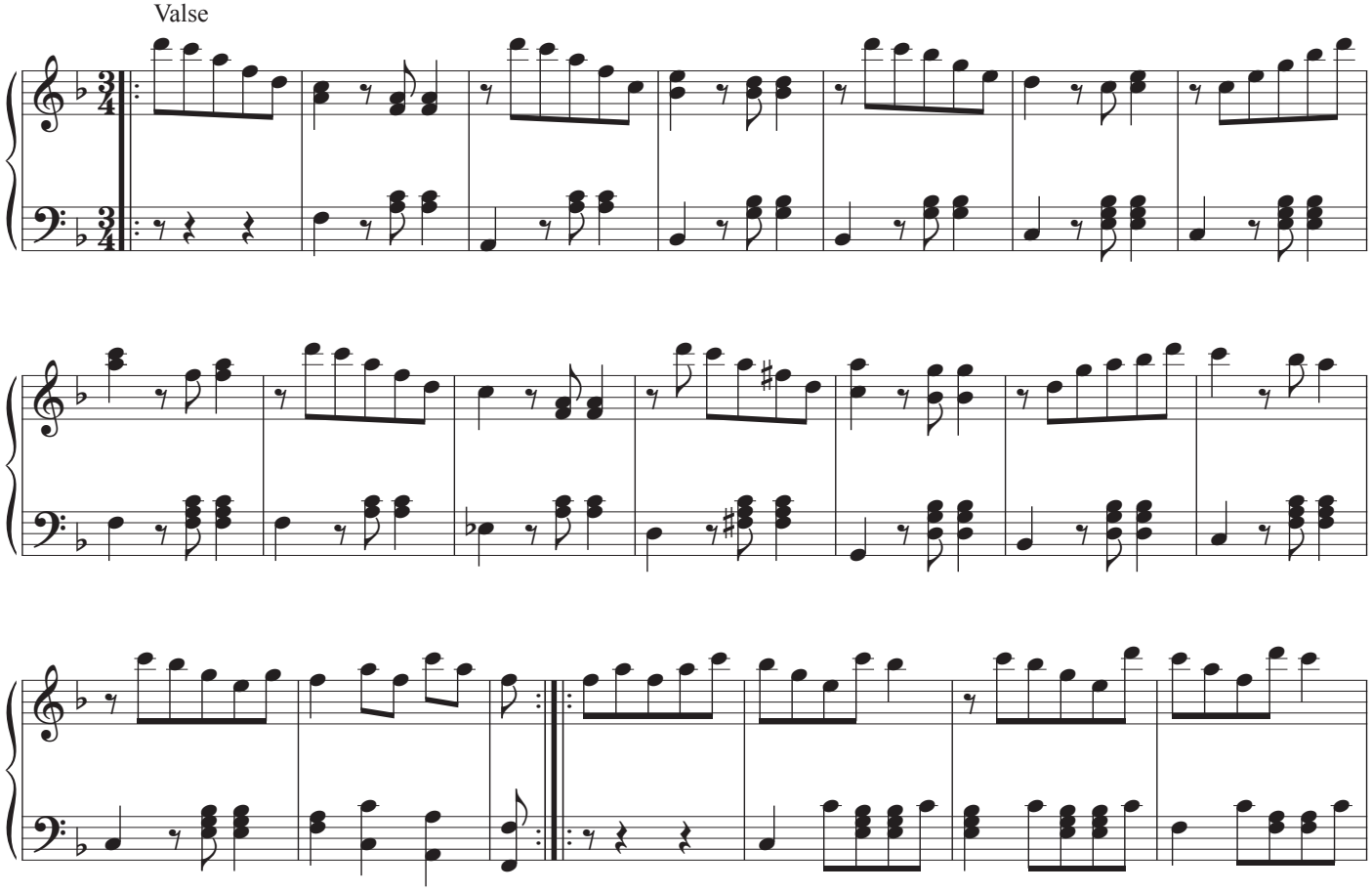
Chupabebe

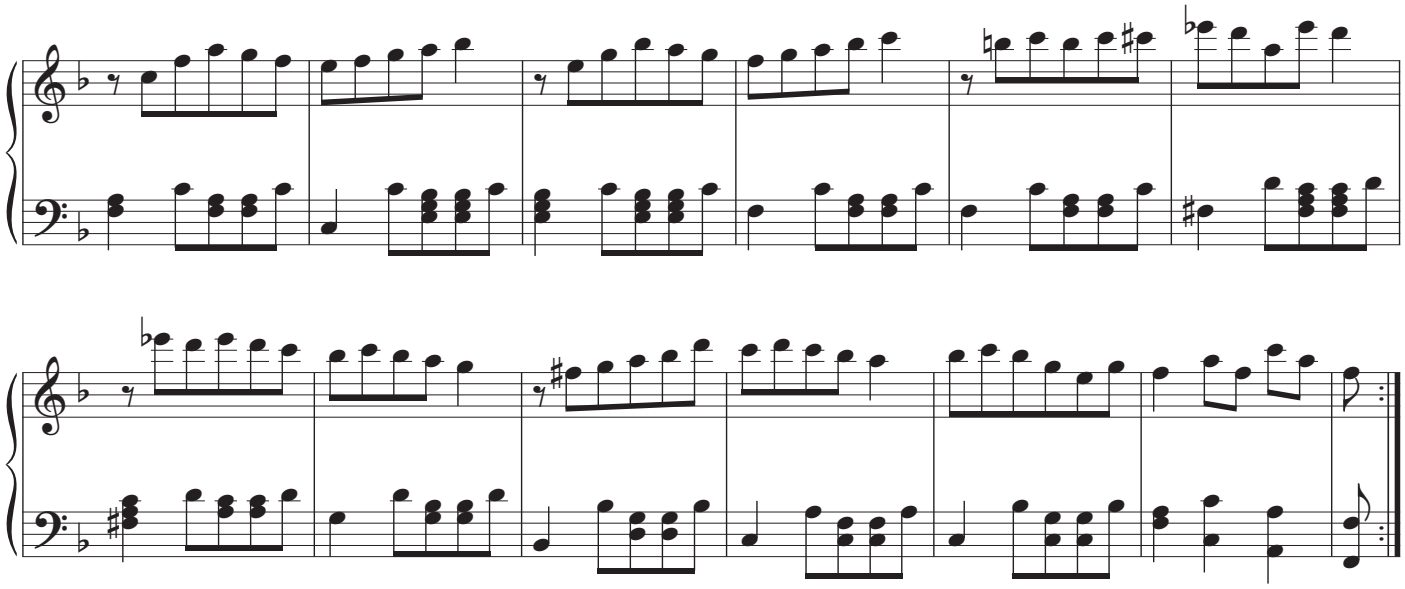
One step



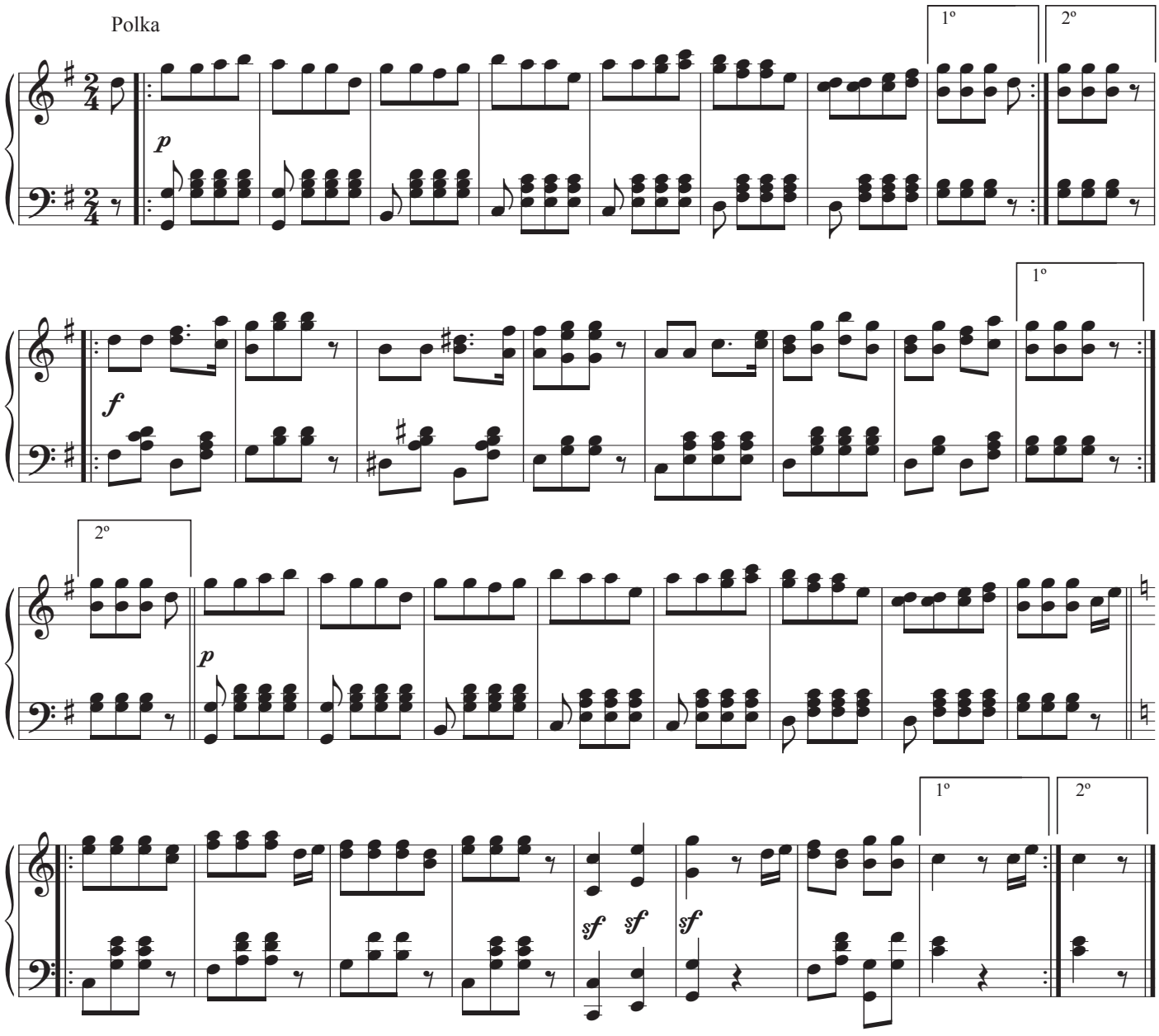


Claveles Dobles

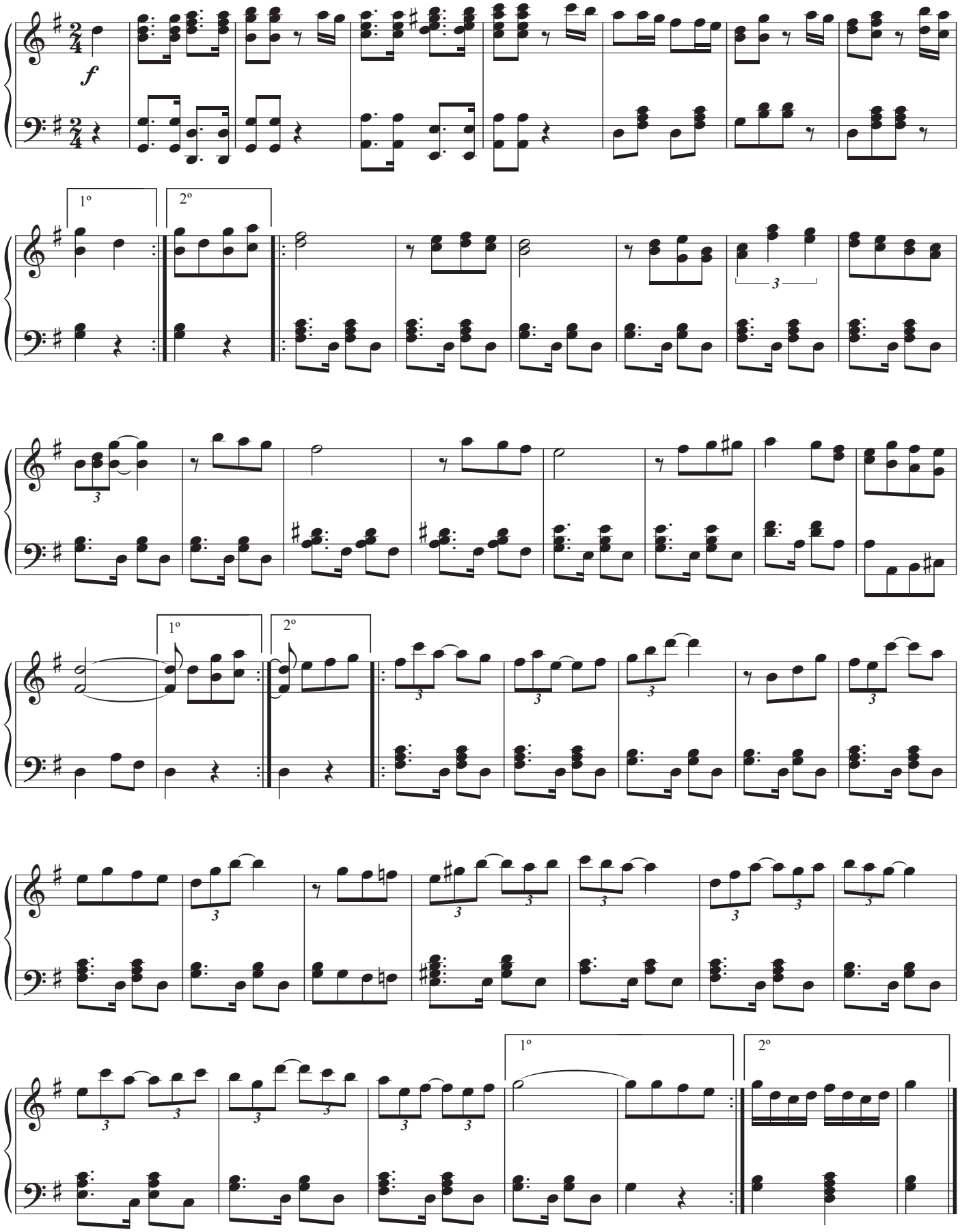




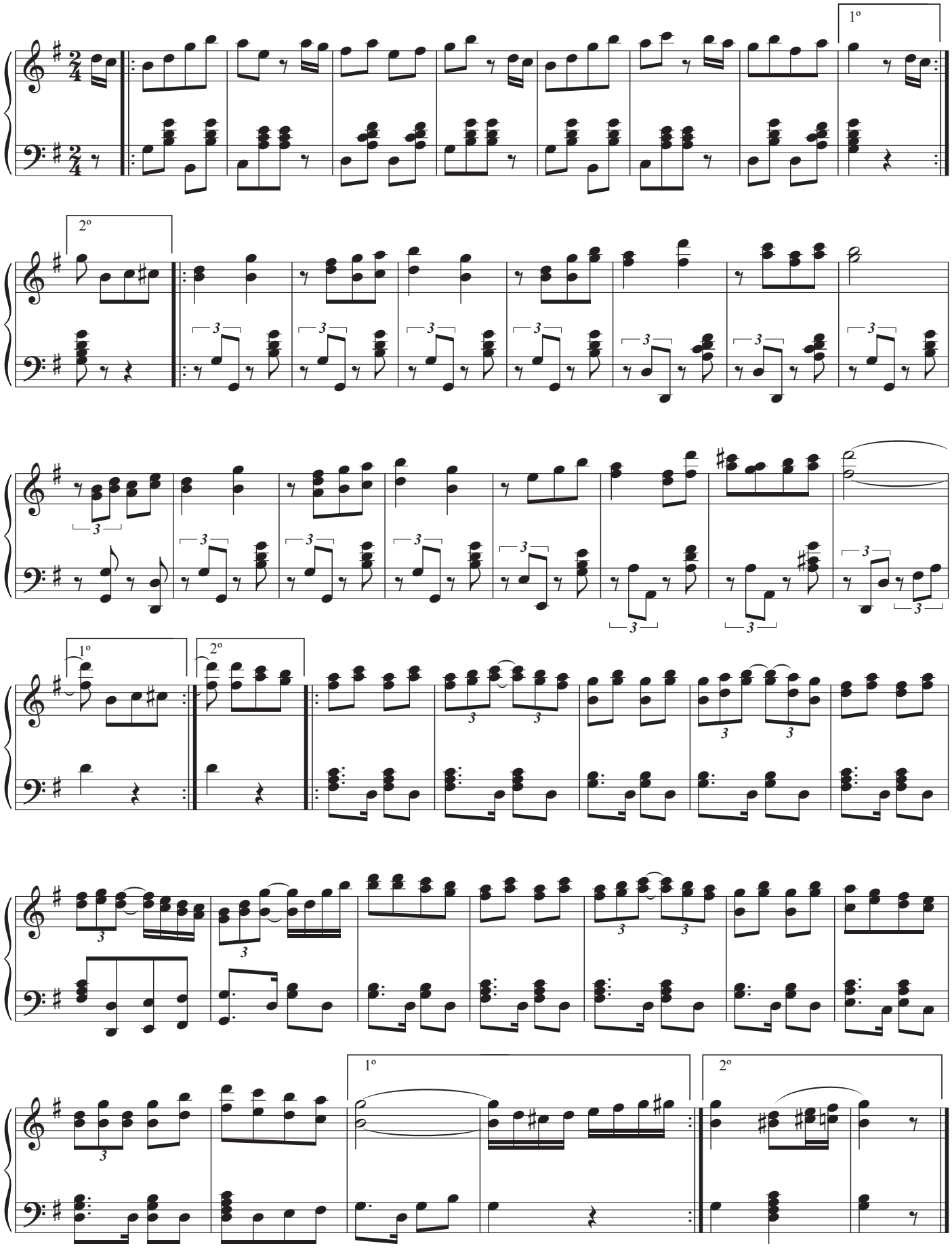
Come funchi un dia



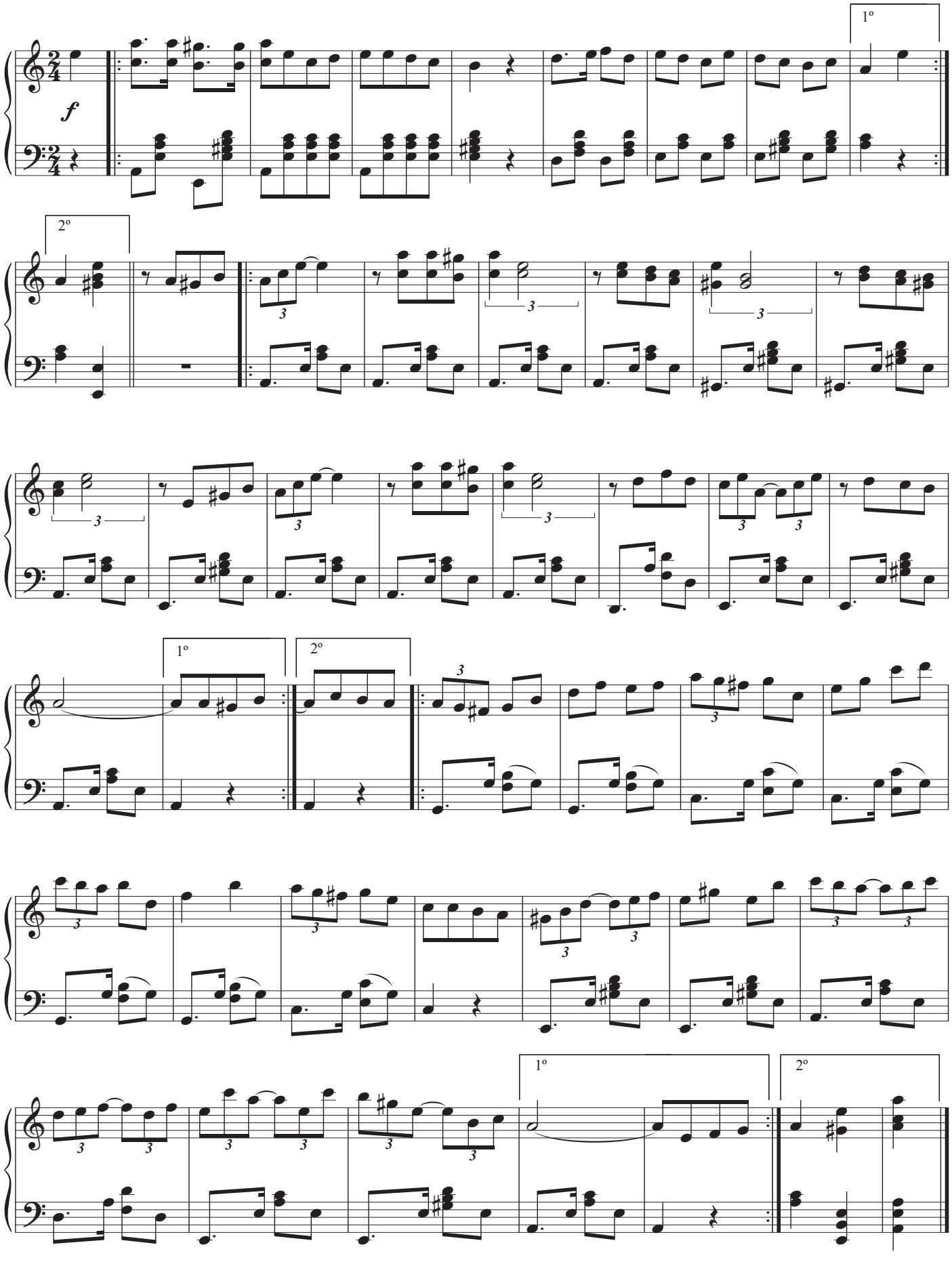
Danza en sol mayor nr 1



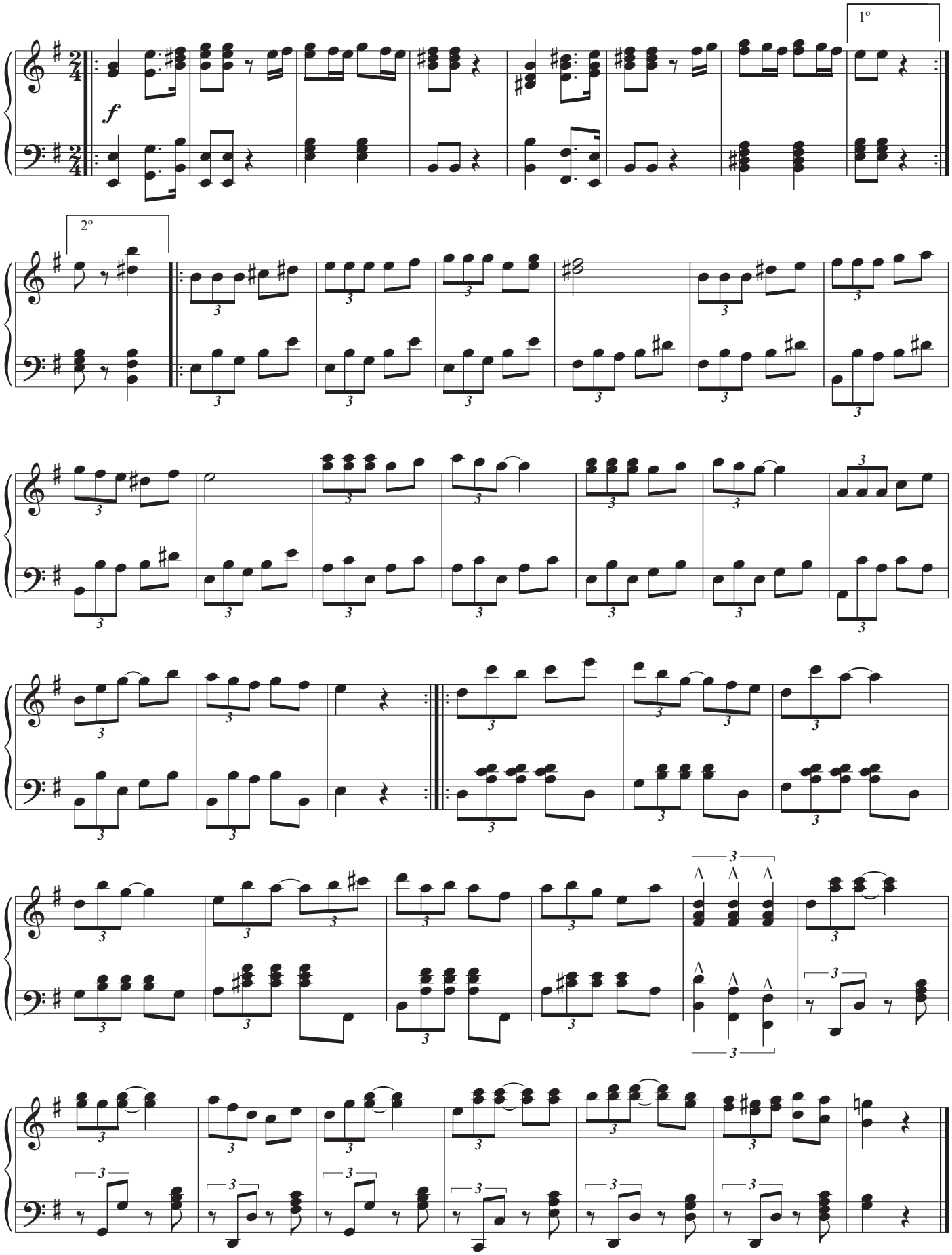
Danza en sol mayor nr 2



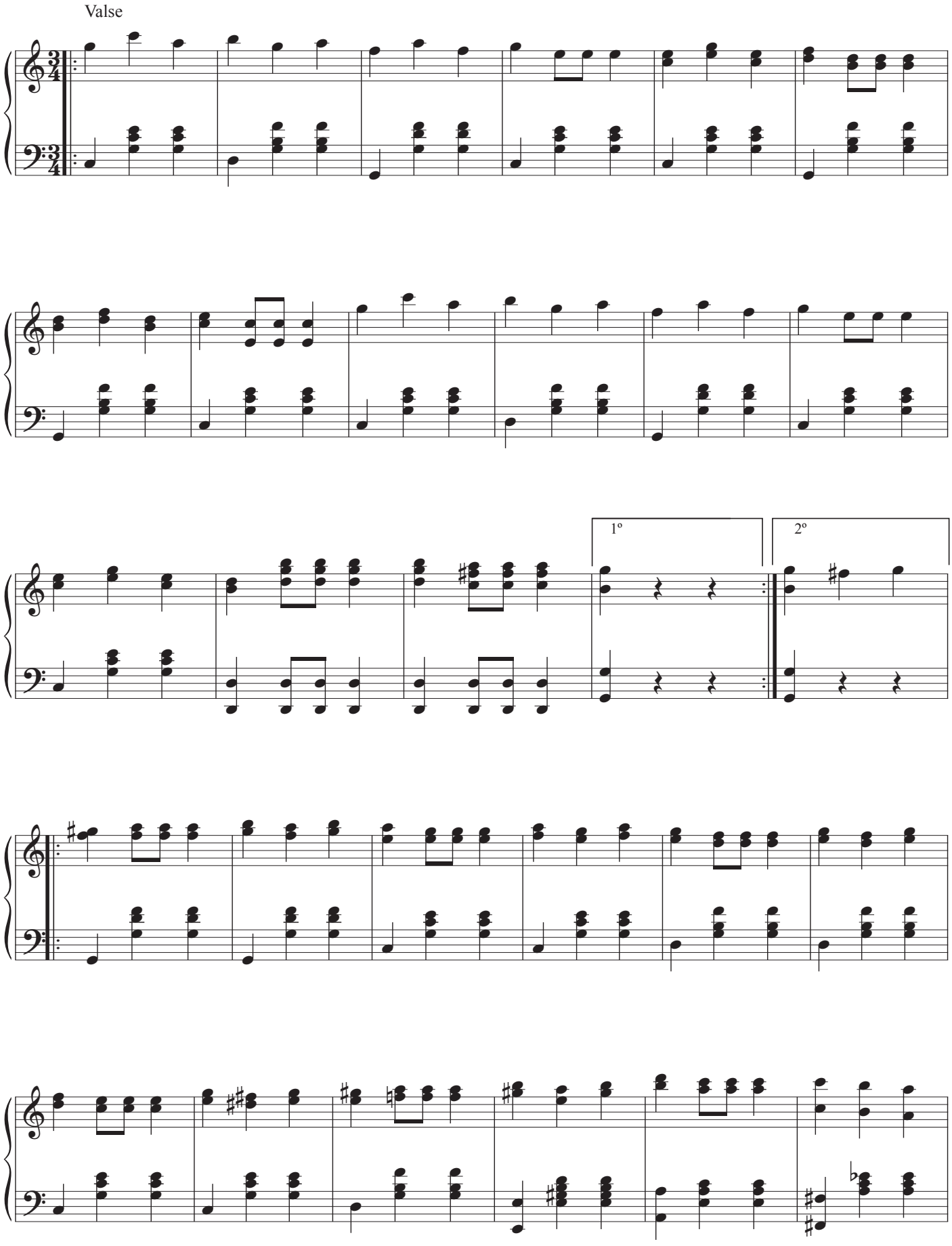
Danza en la menor

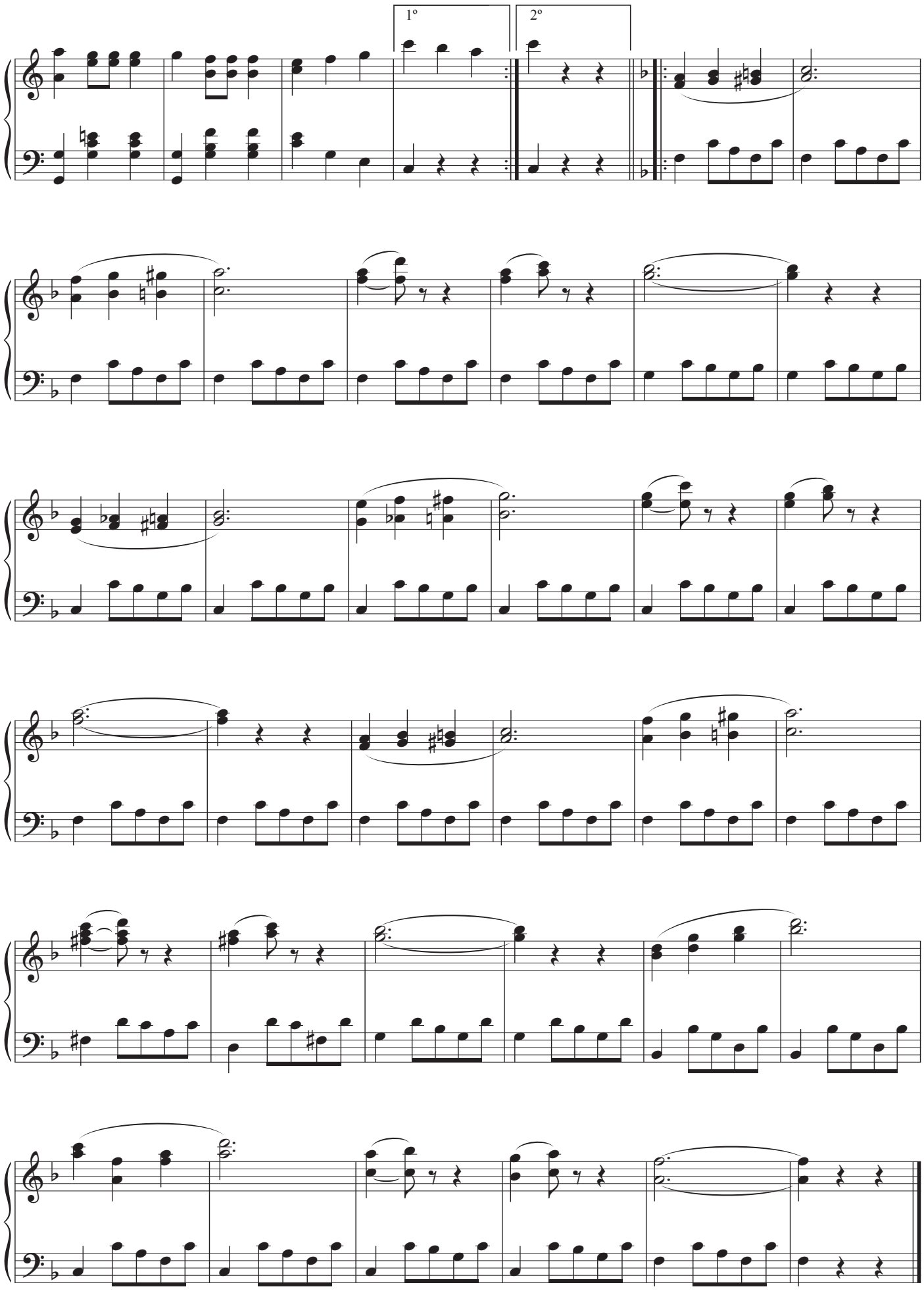


Danza en mi menor



Di chiripa

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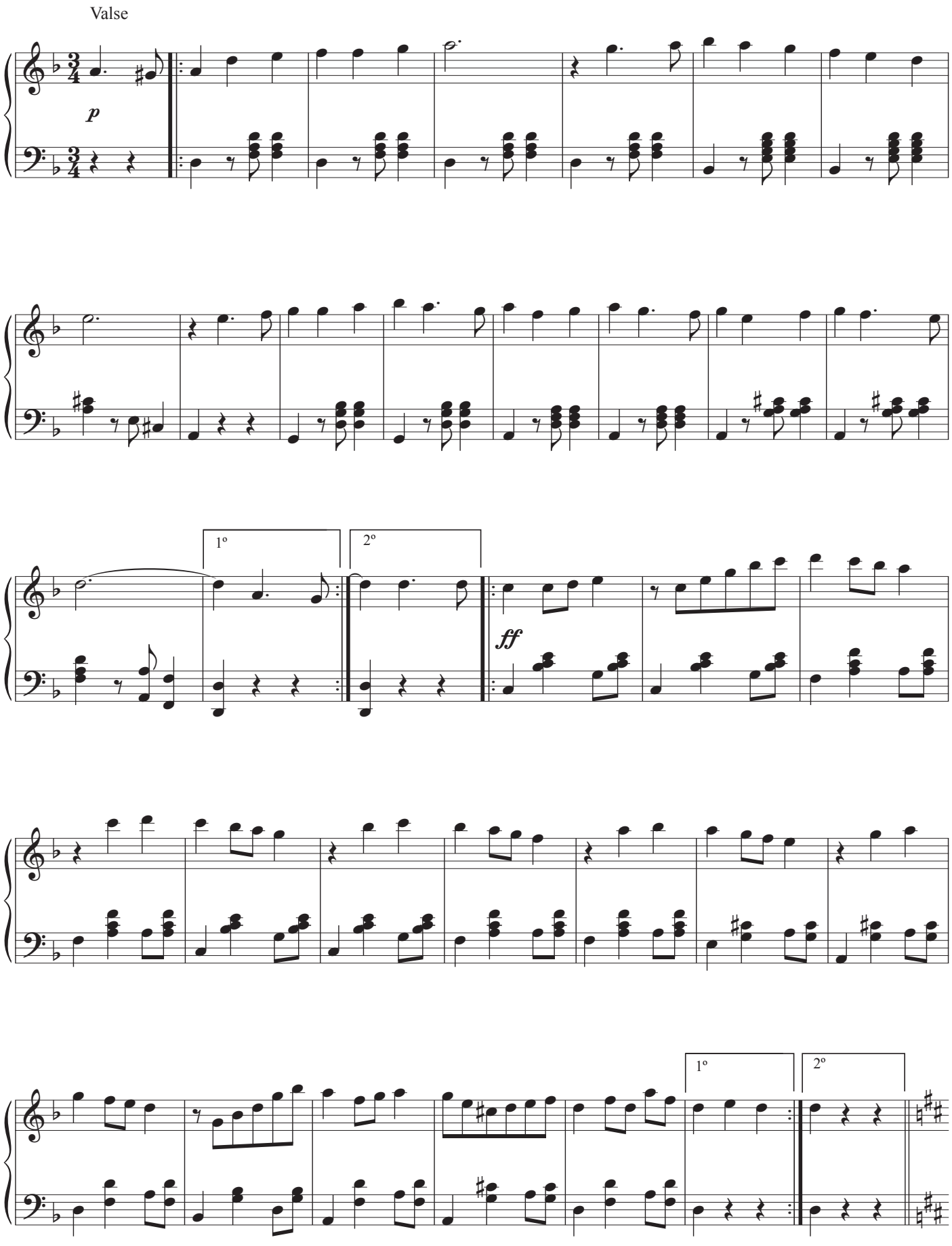
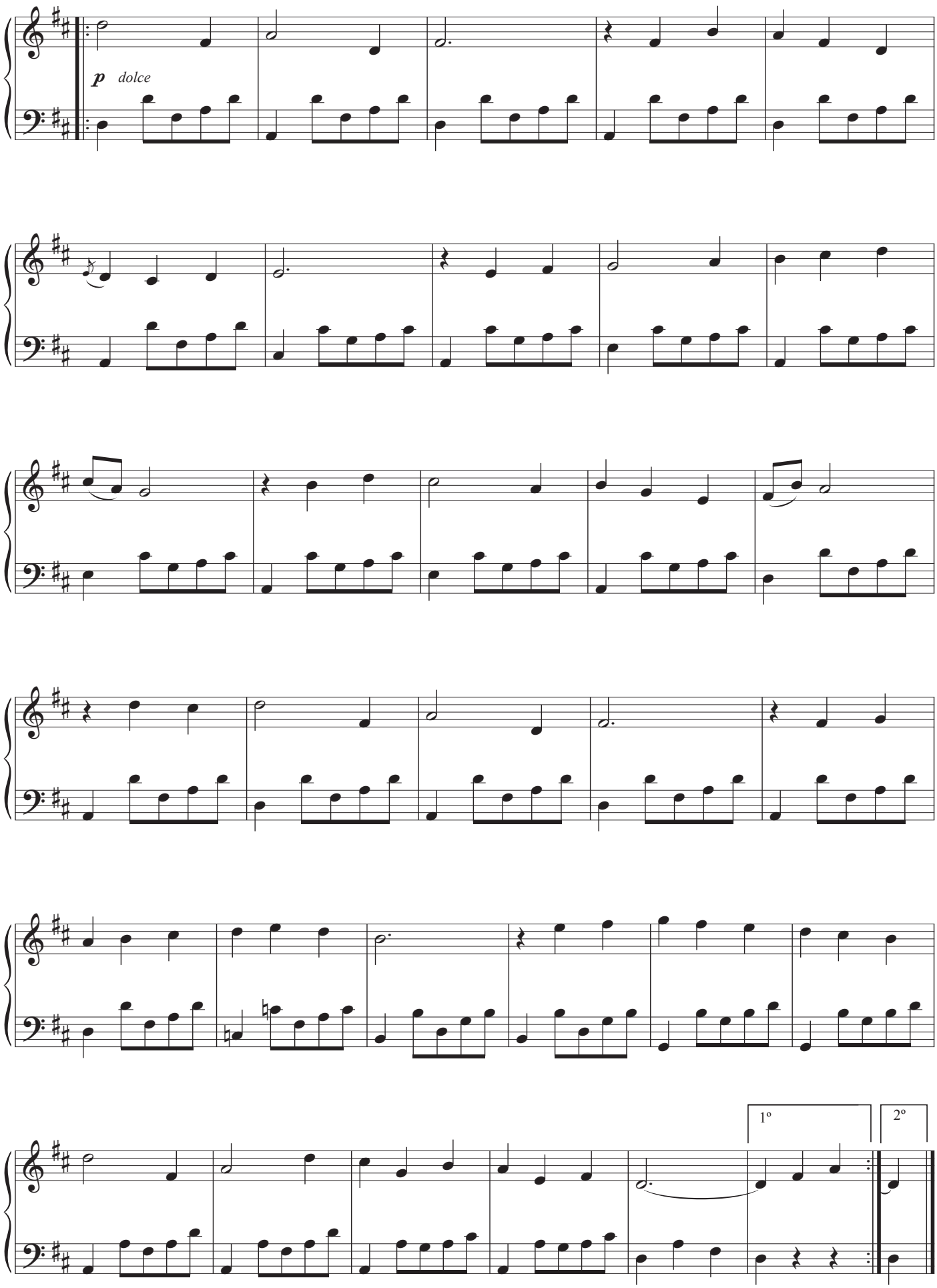
Divina Cadencia

Valse

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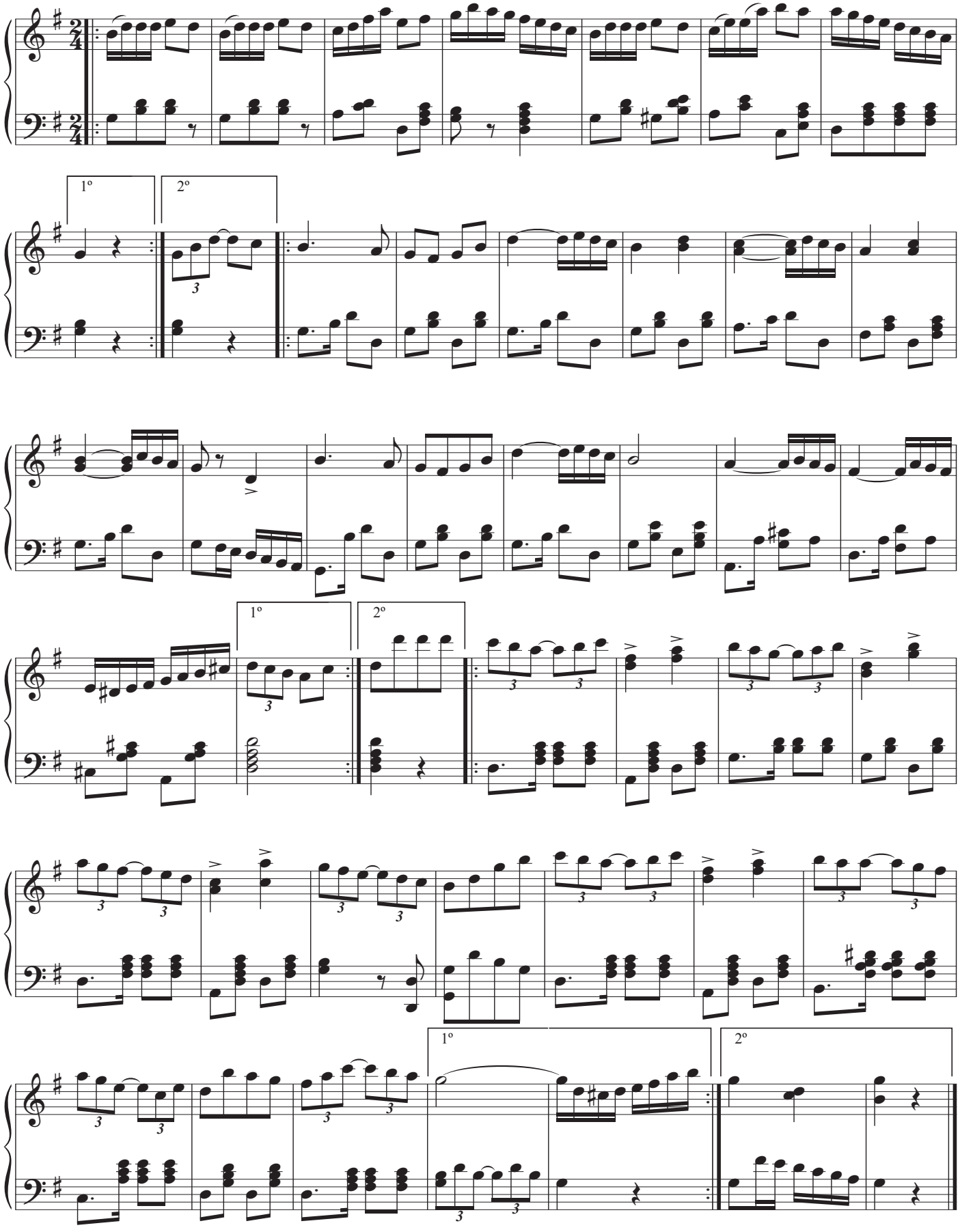
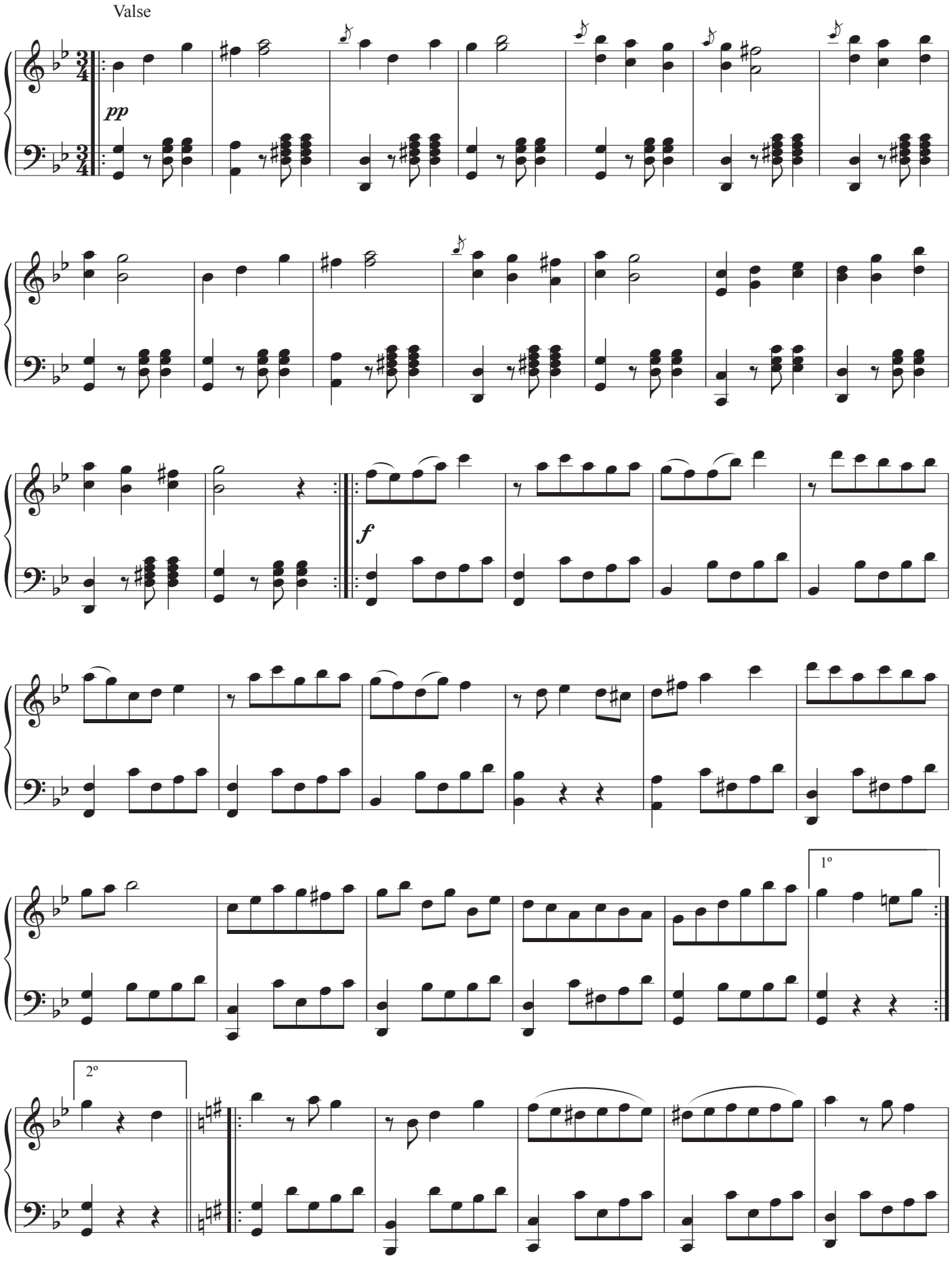
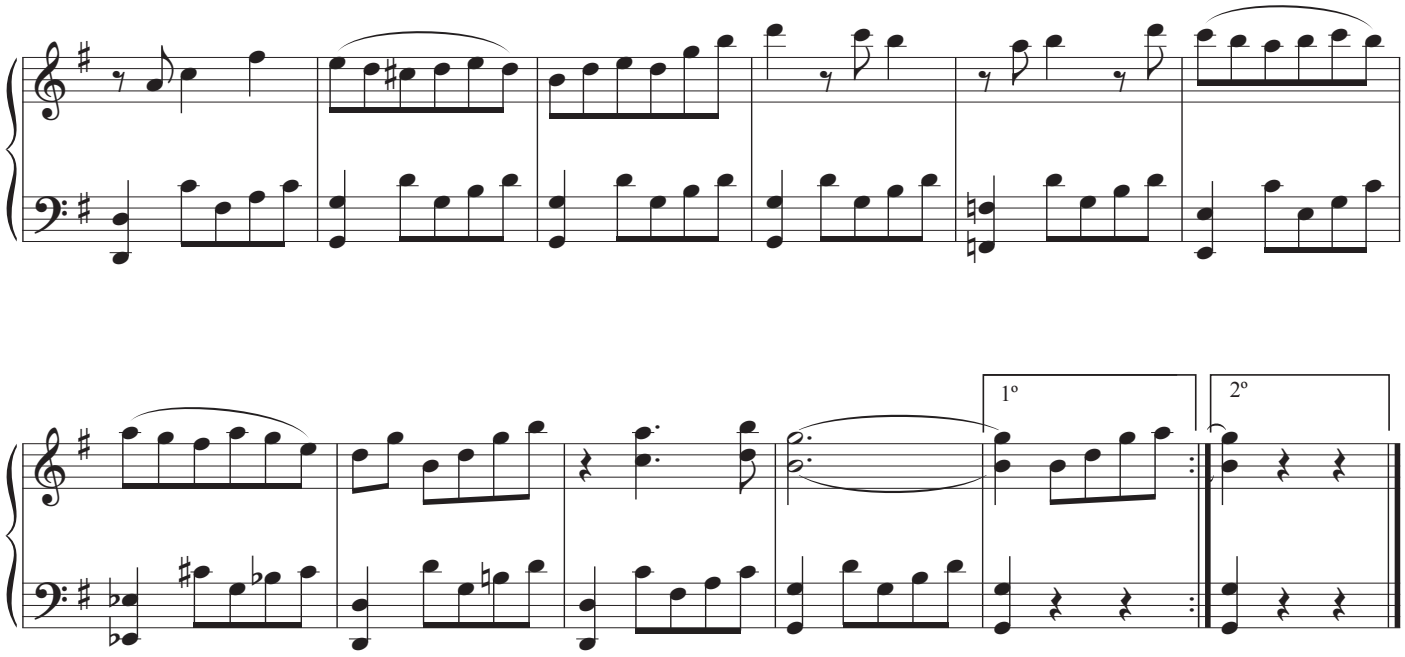
Doegoedoegoe

Danza

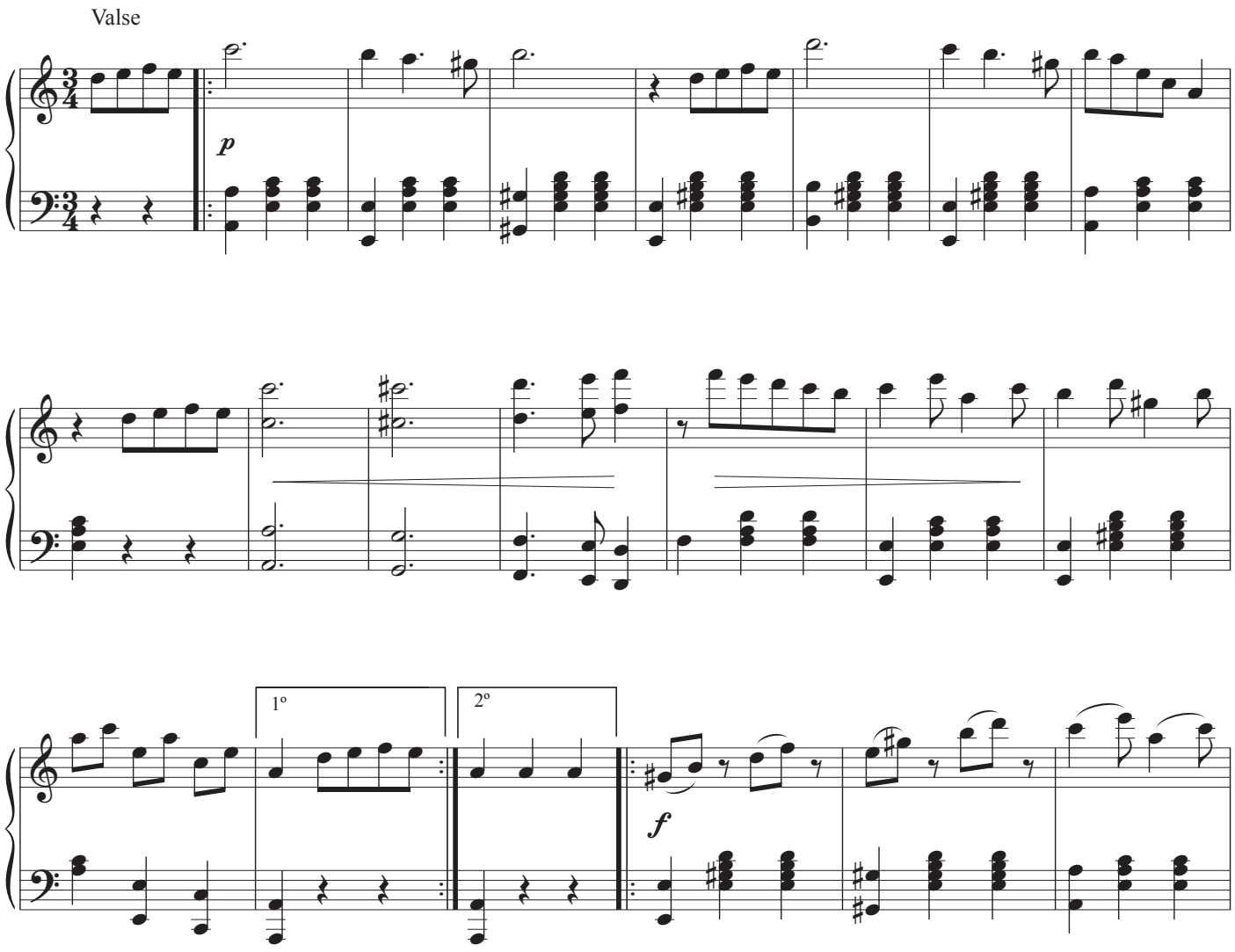


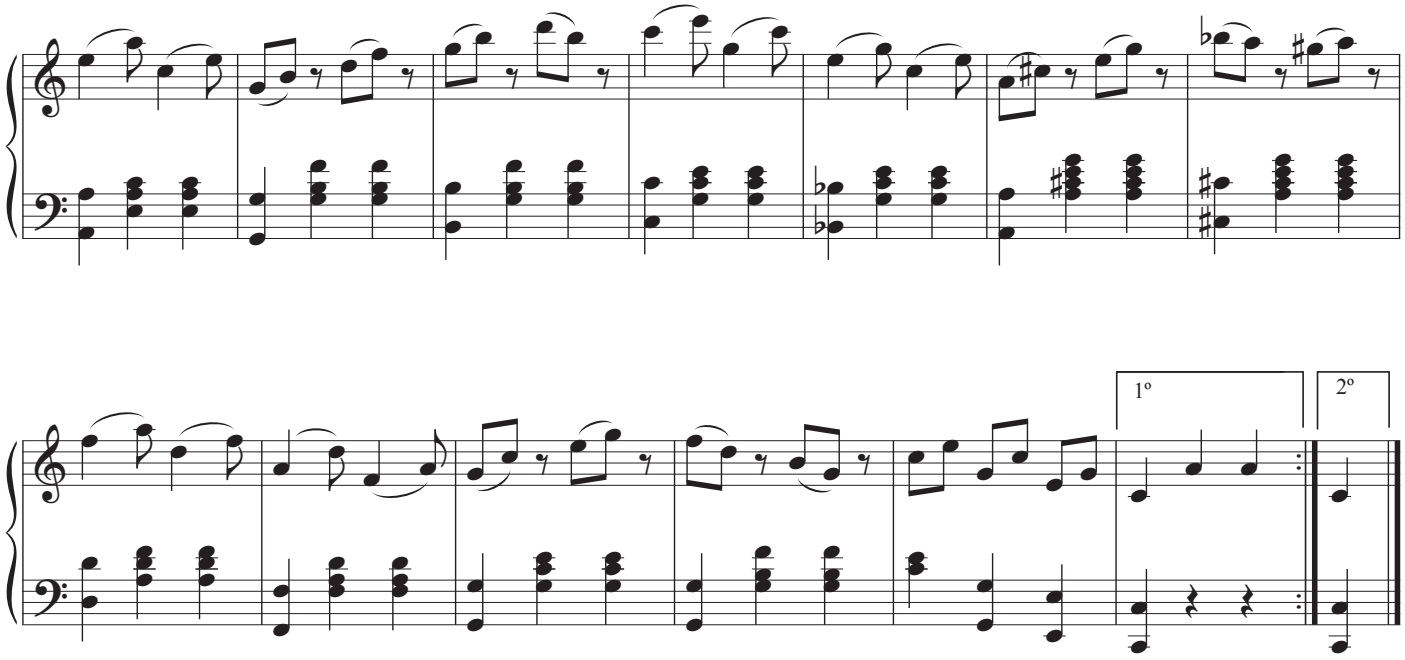
Eco de 1912



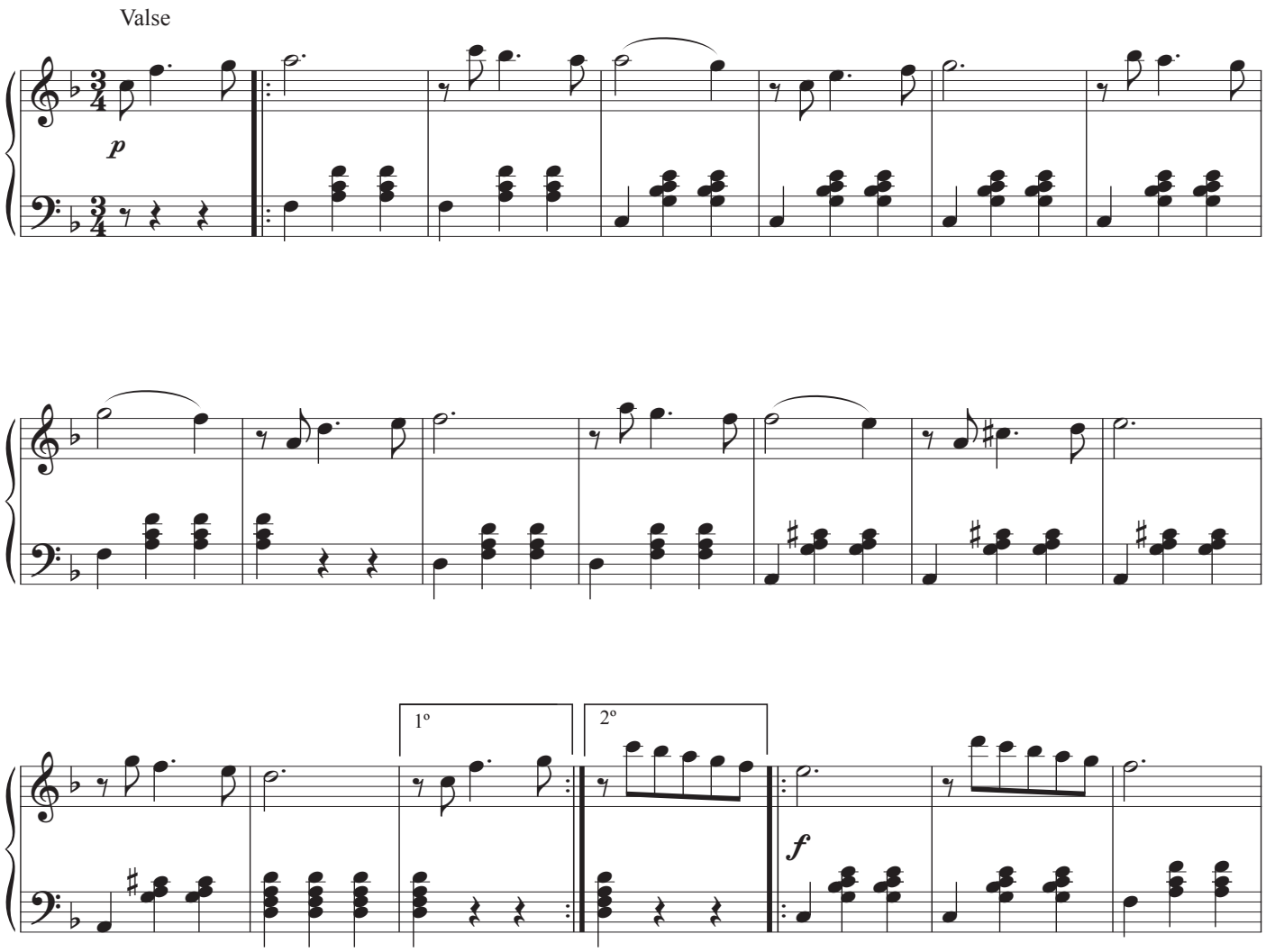


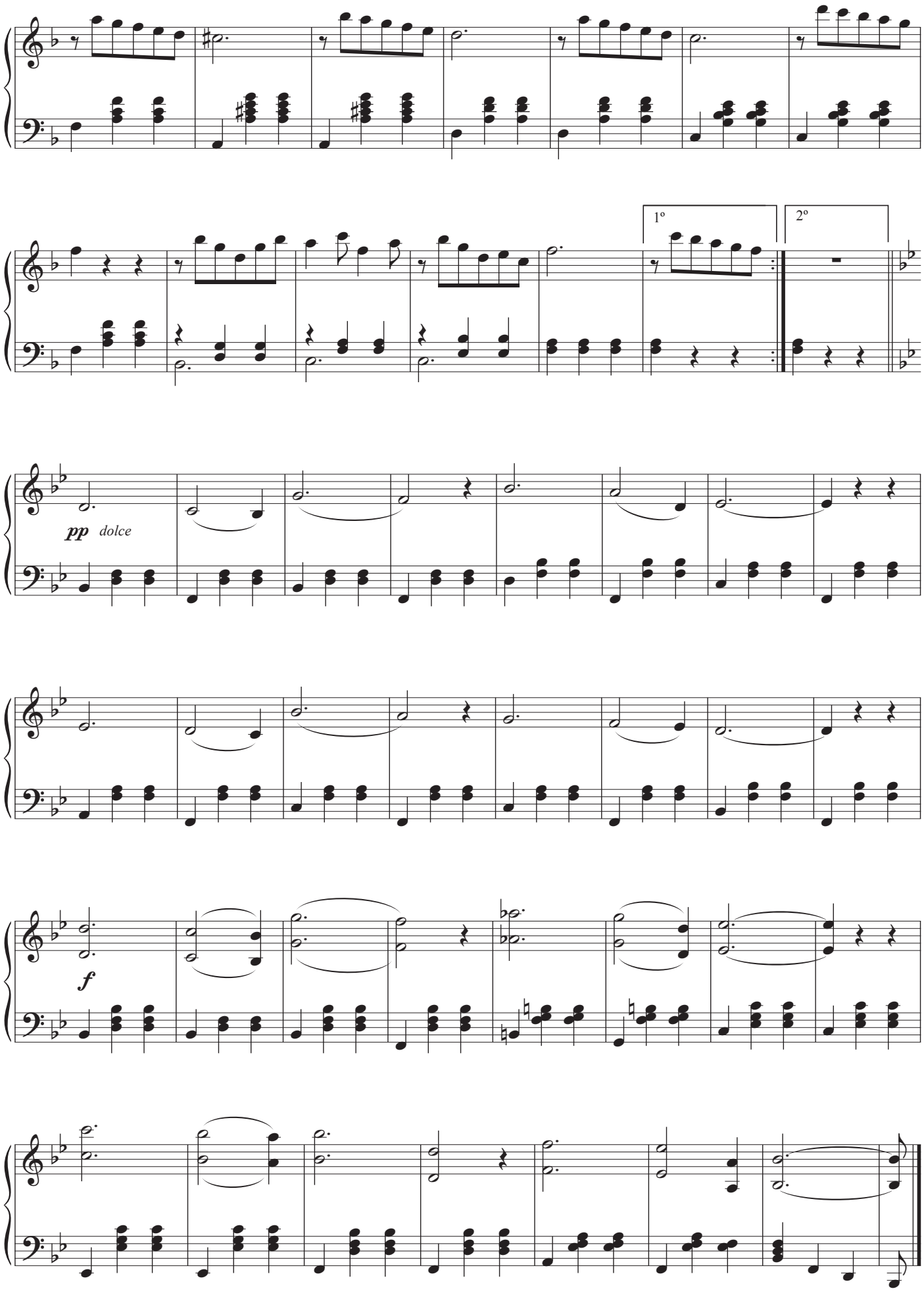
Eco de abril





Ecos del alma

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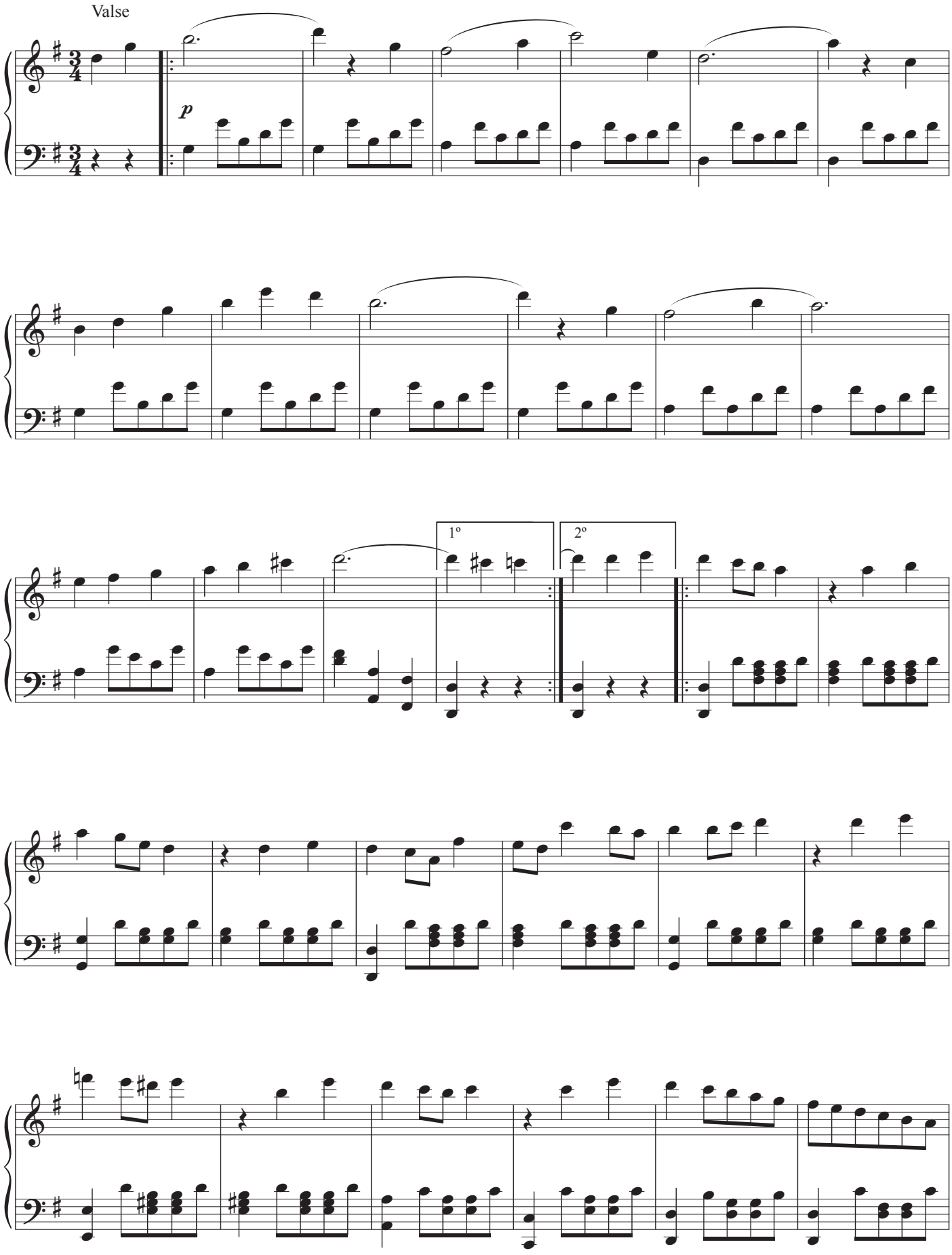
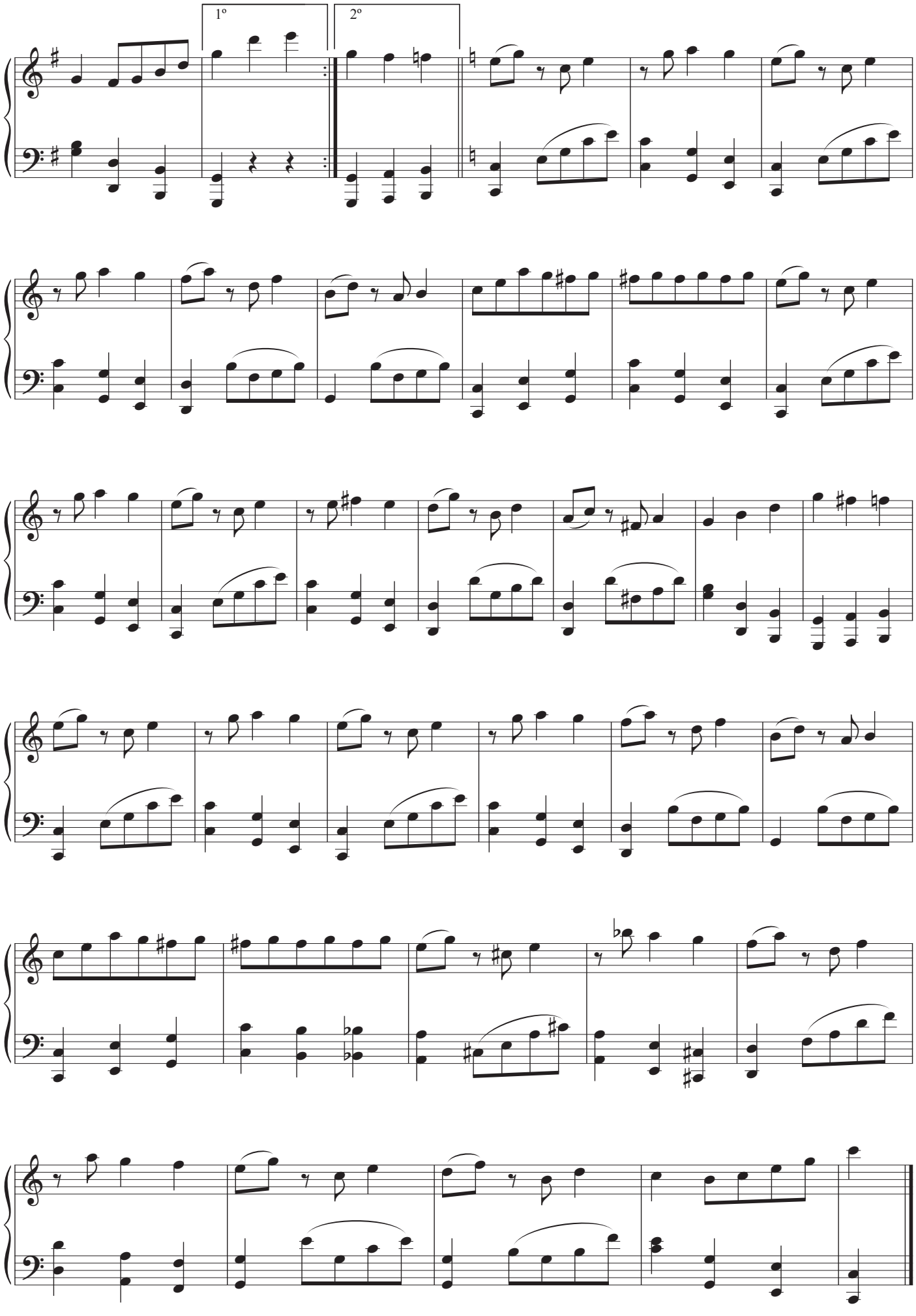
El 26 de Julio

(1904)

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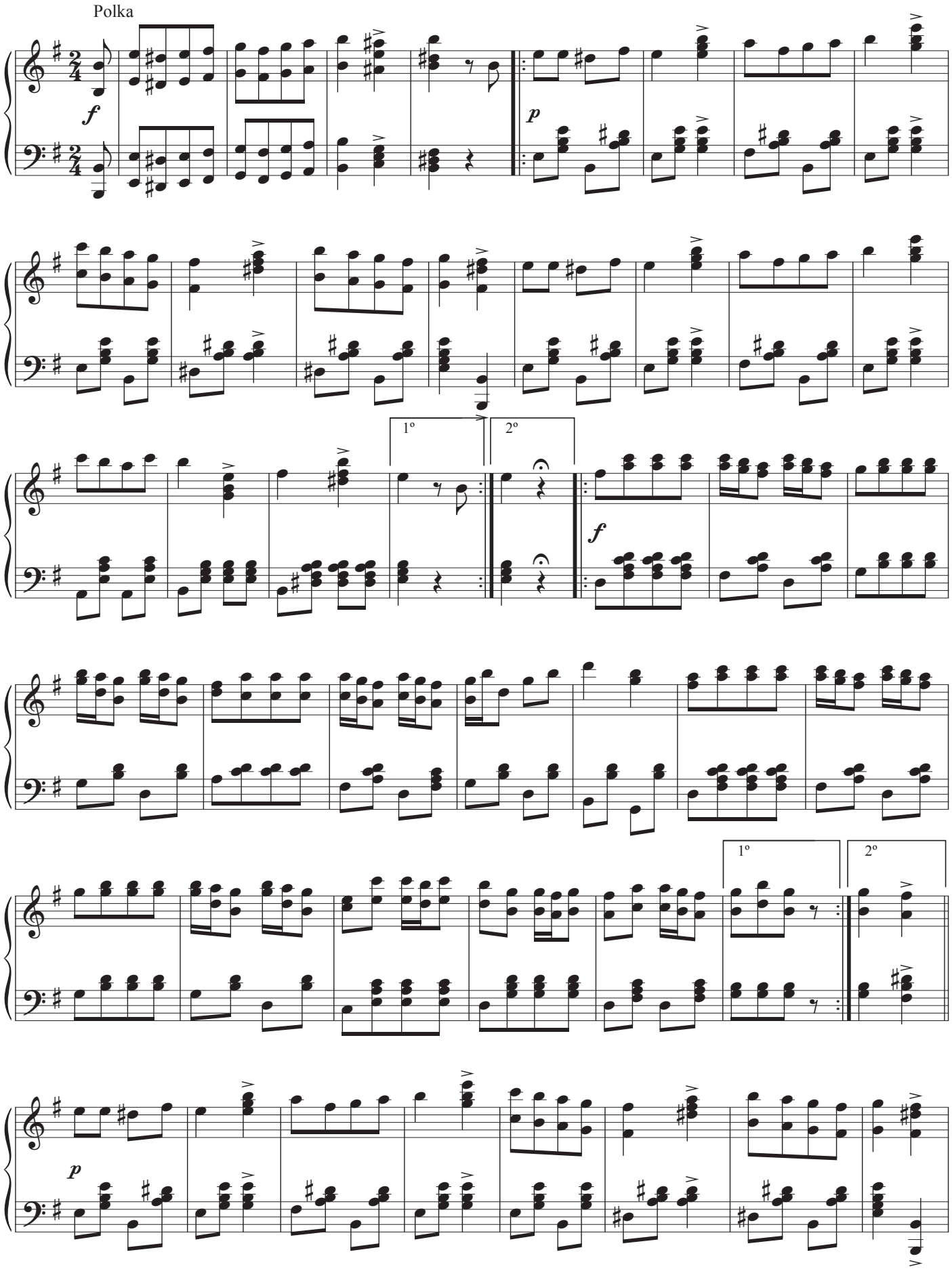
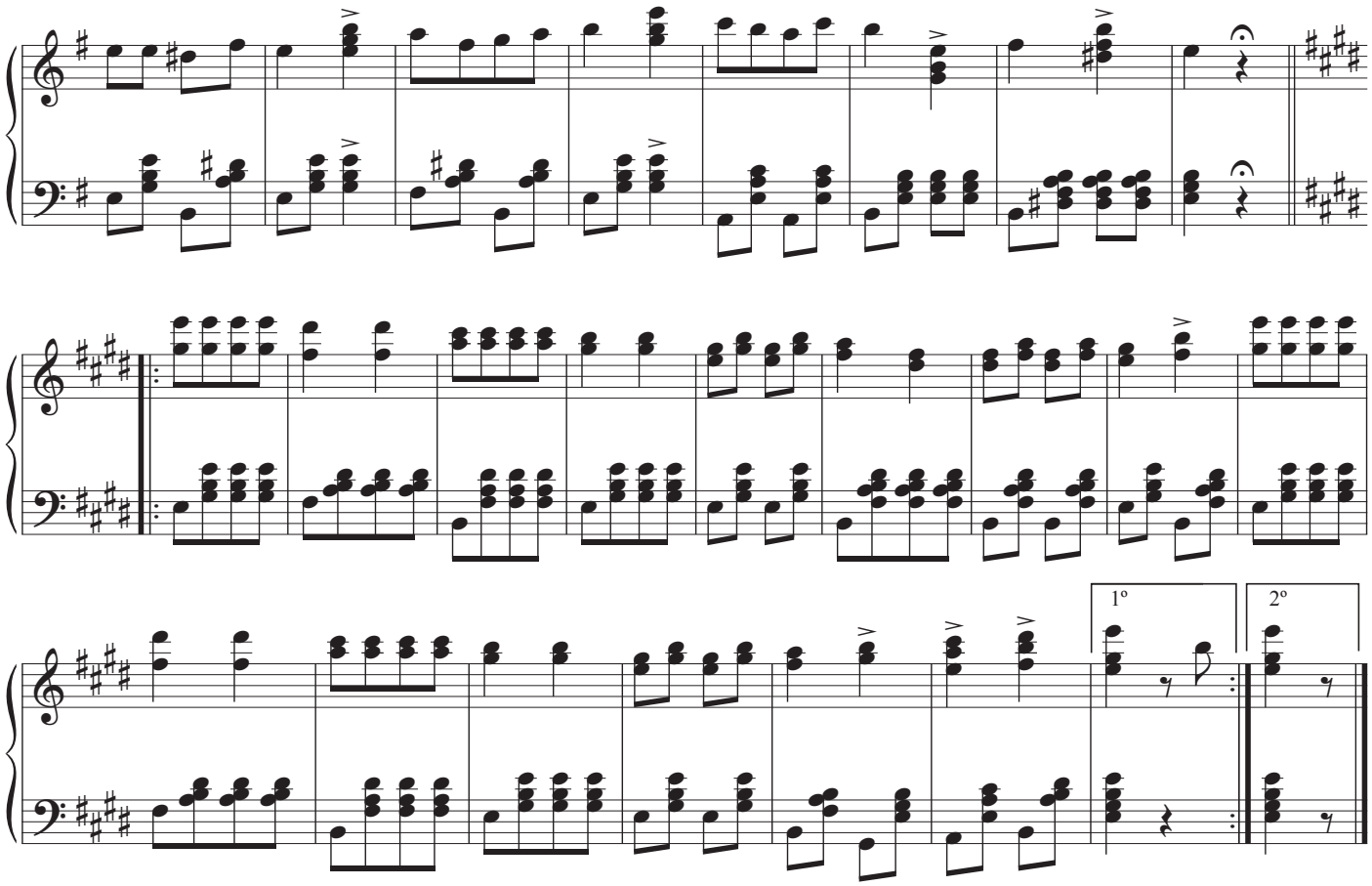
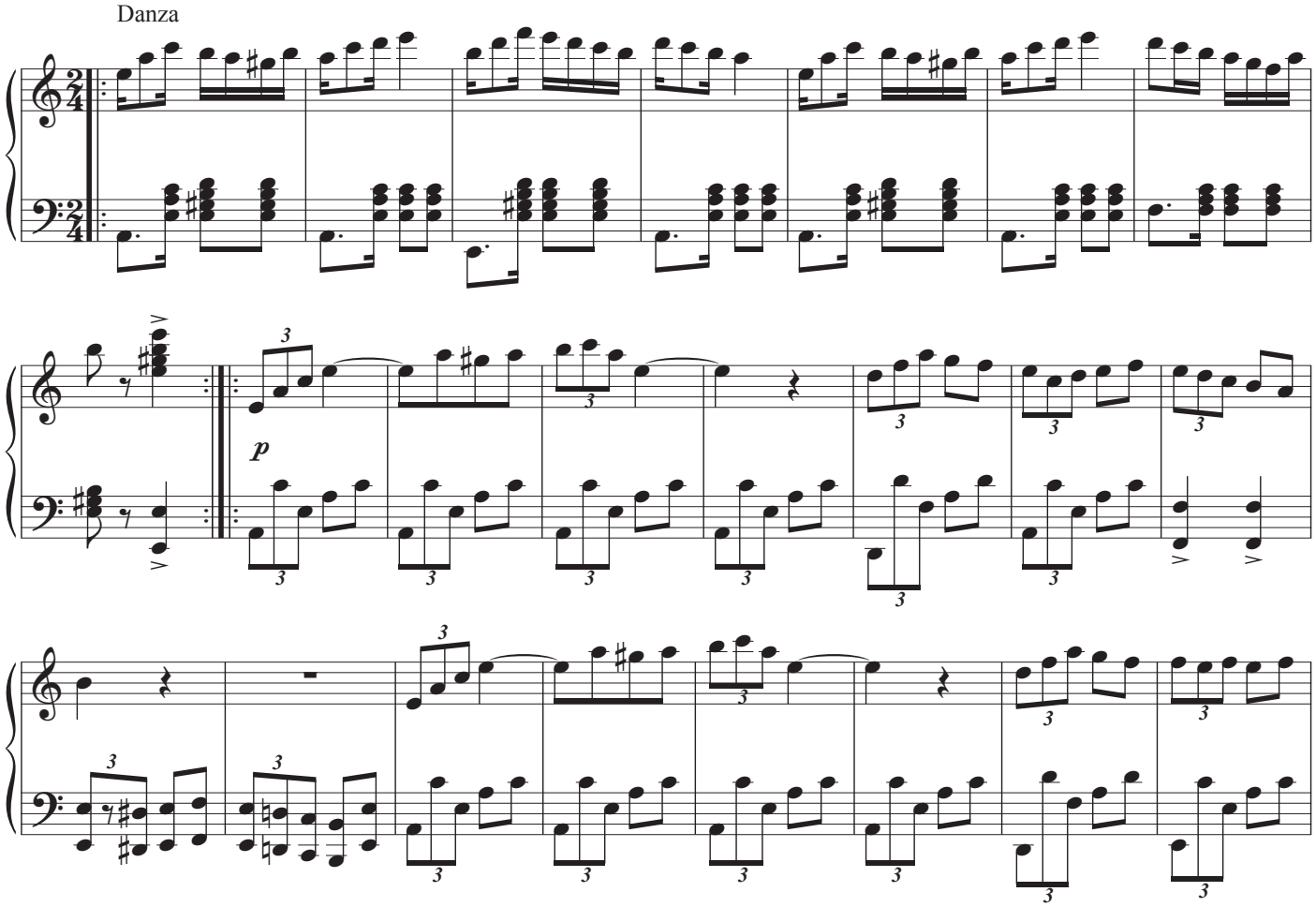
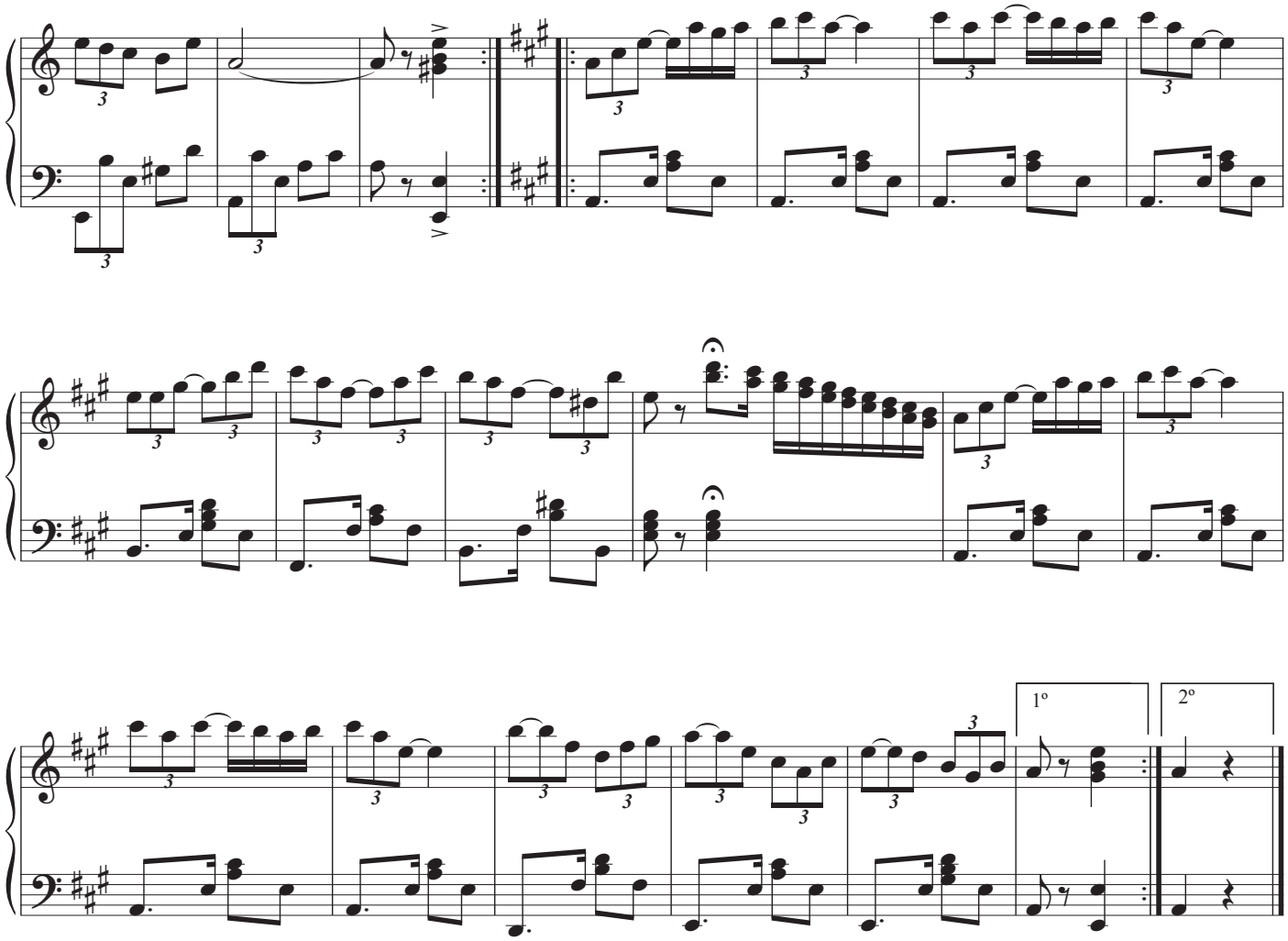
El Cojo



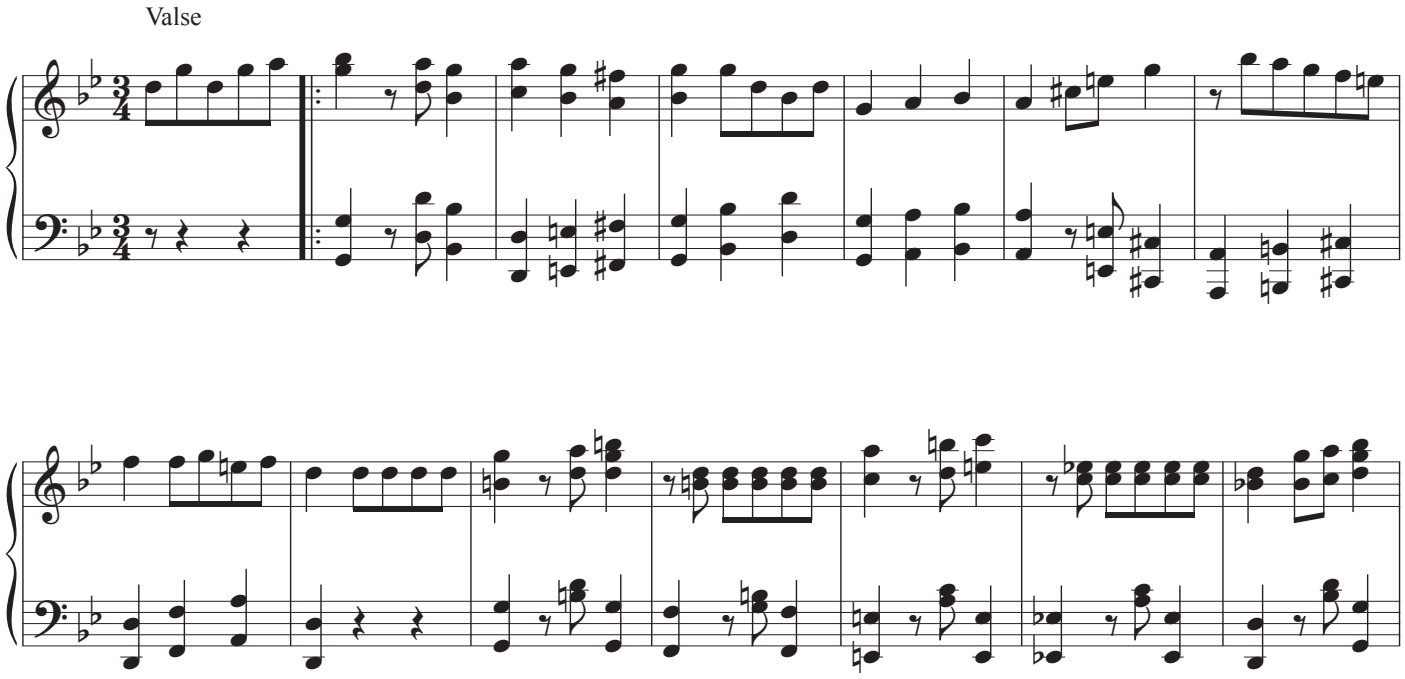


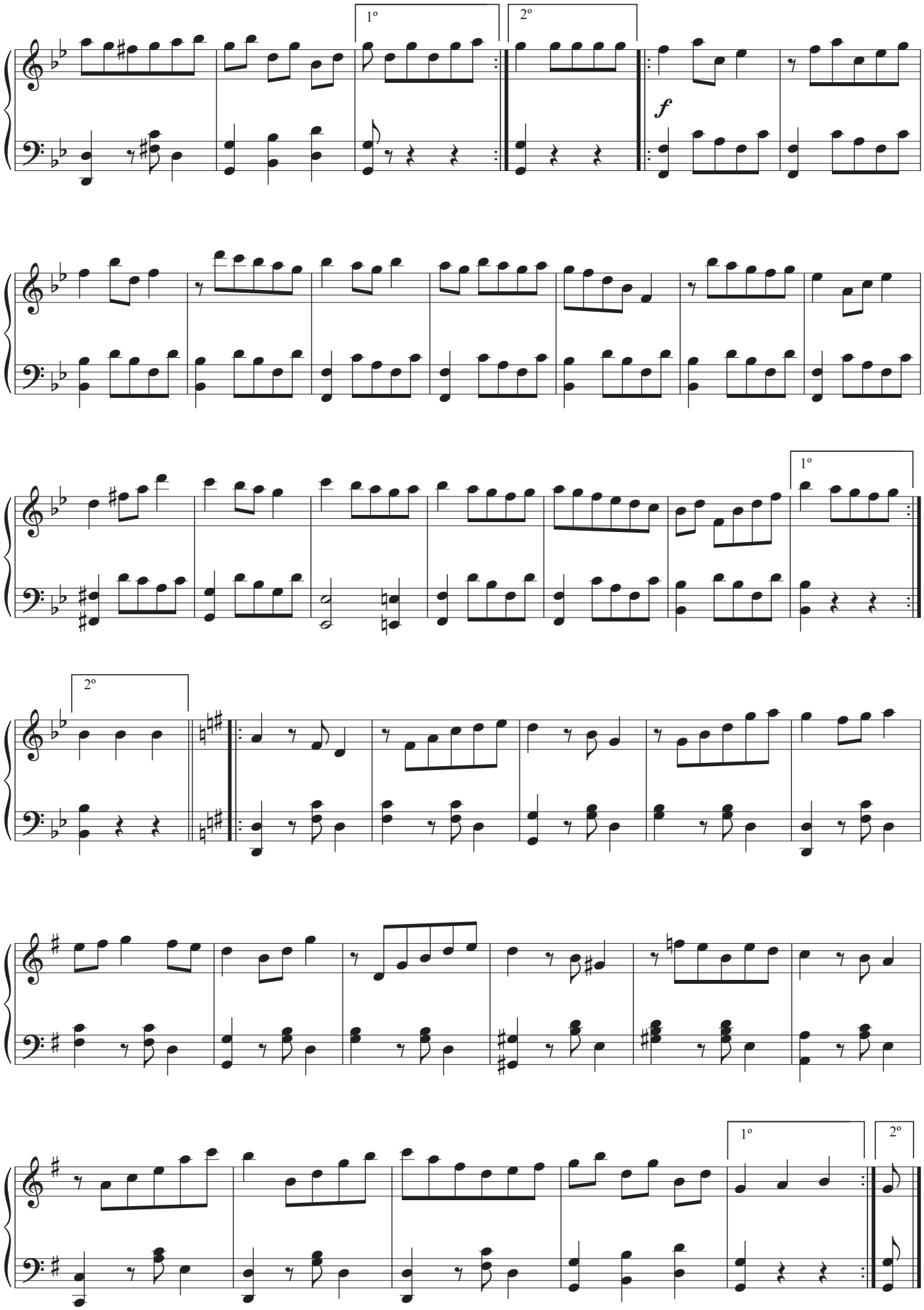
El Despertador





En el Paseo

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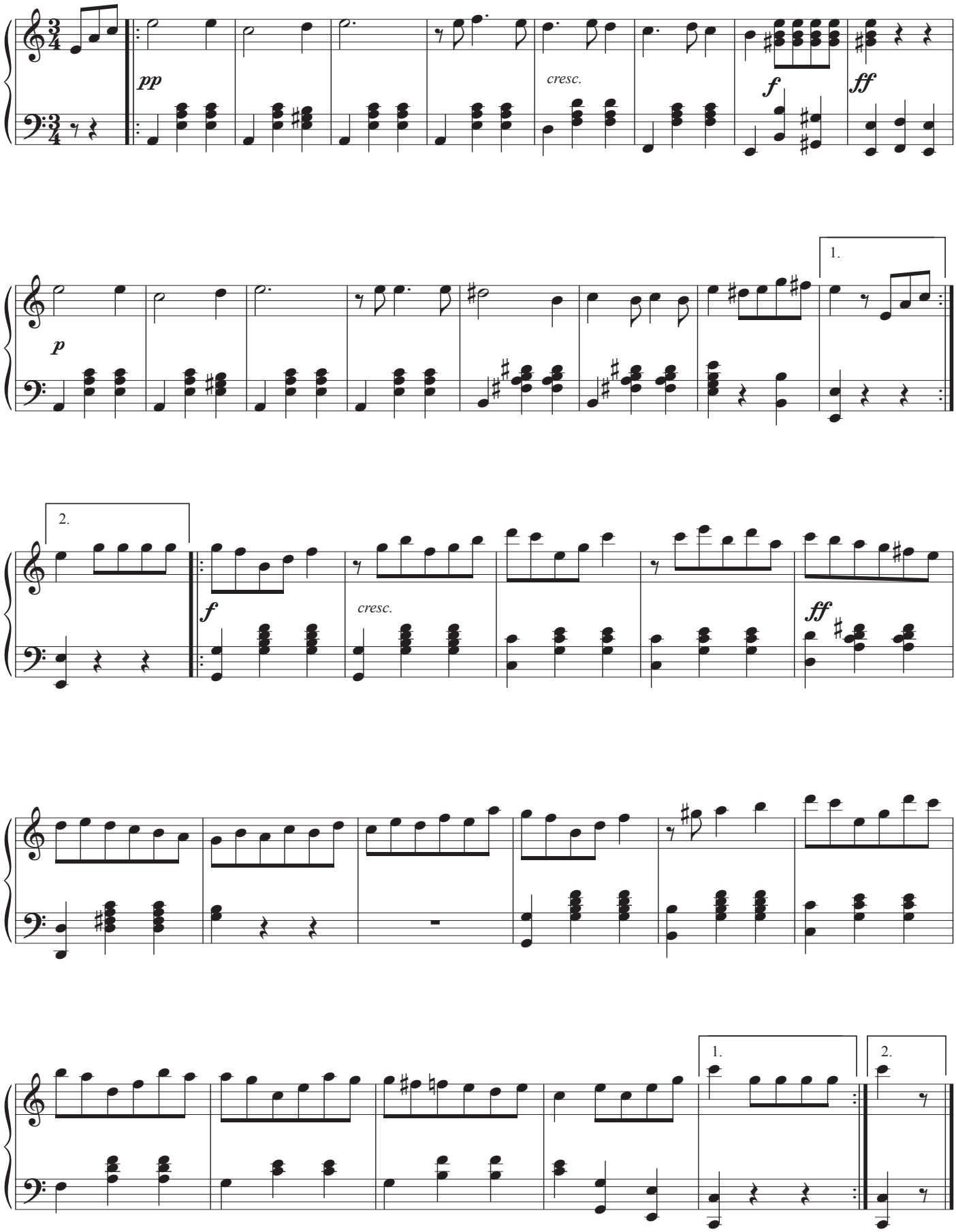
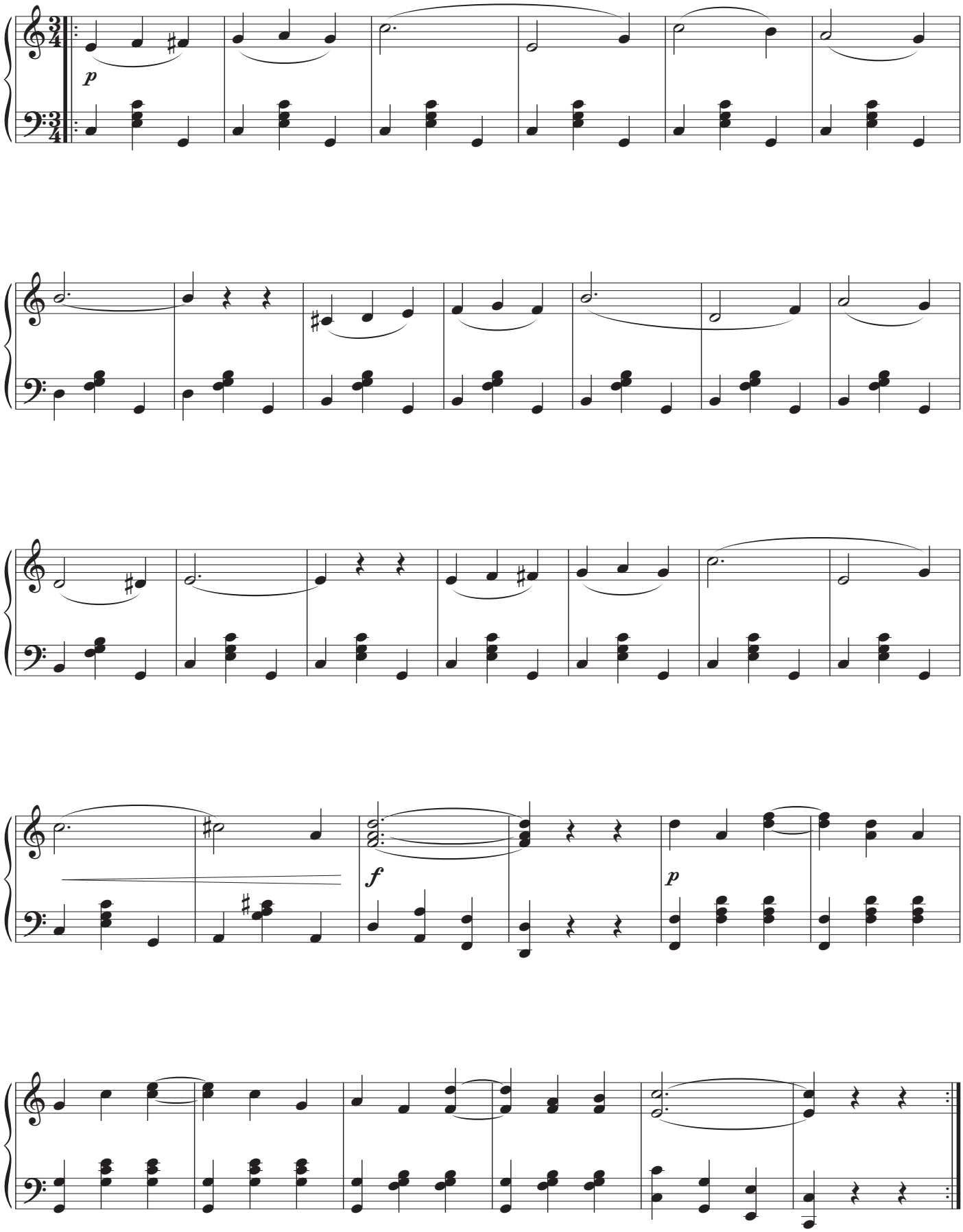
Escucha!

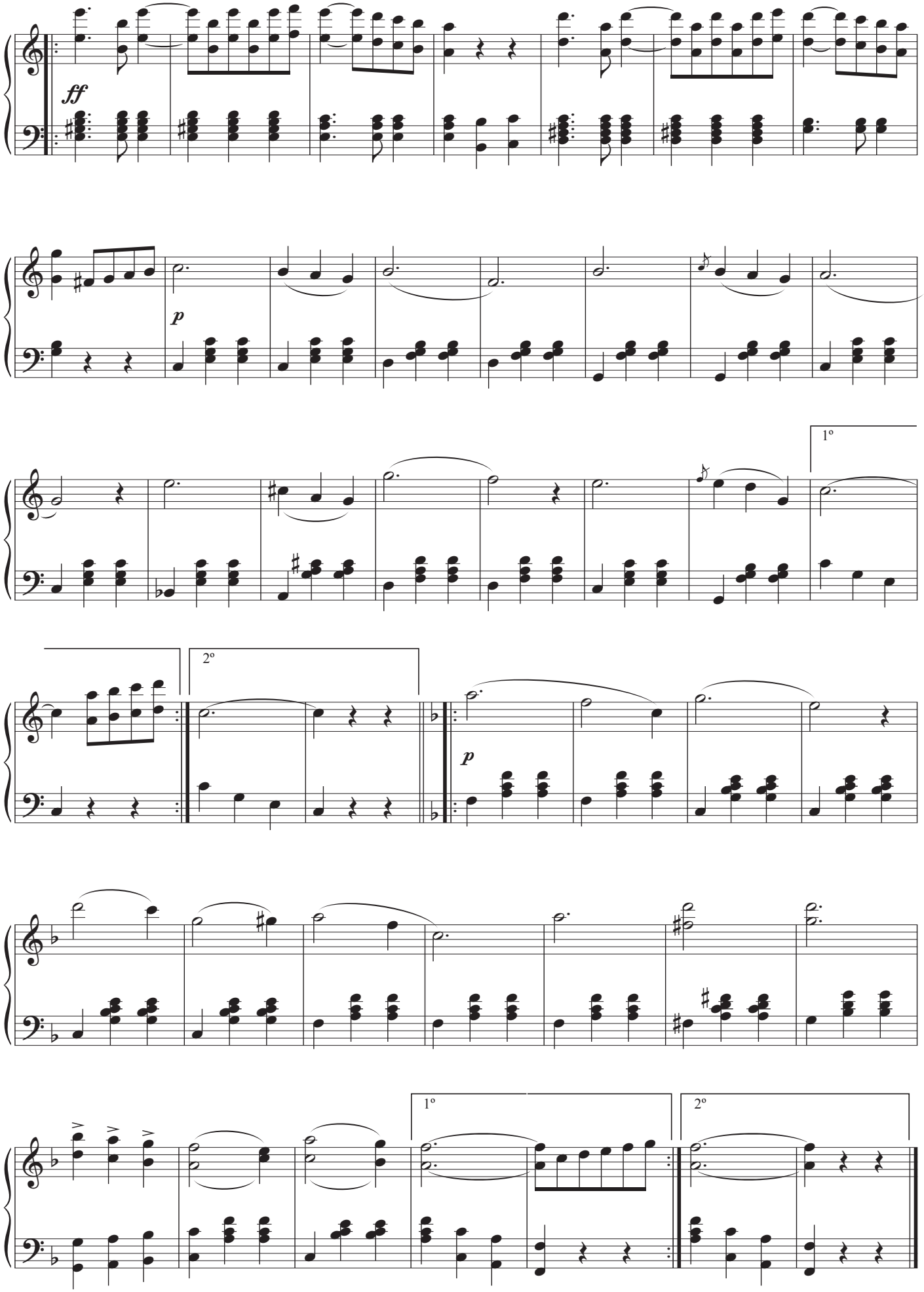
Valse



Estrella solitaria

Valse

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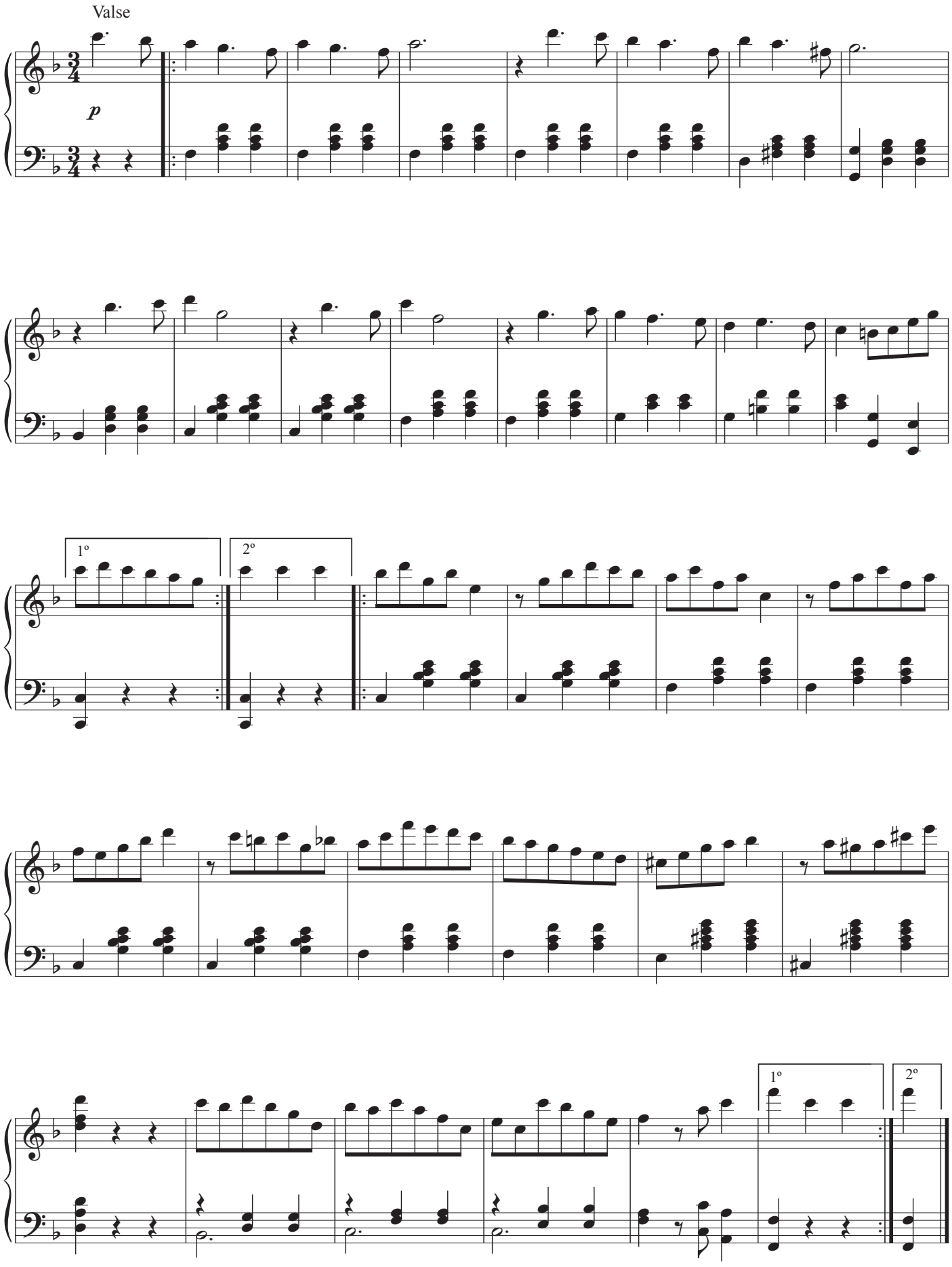
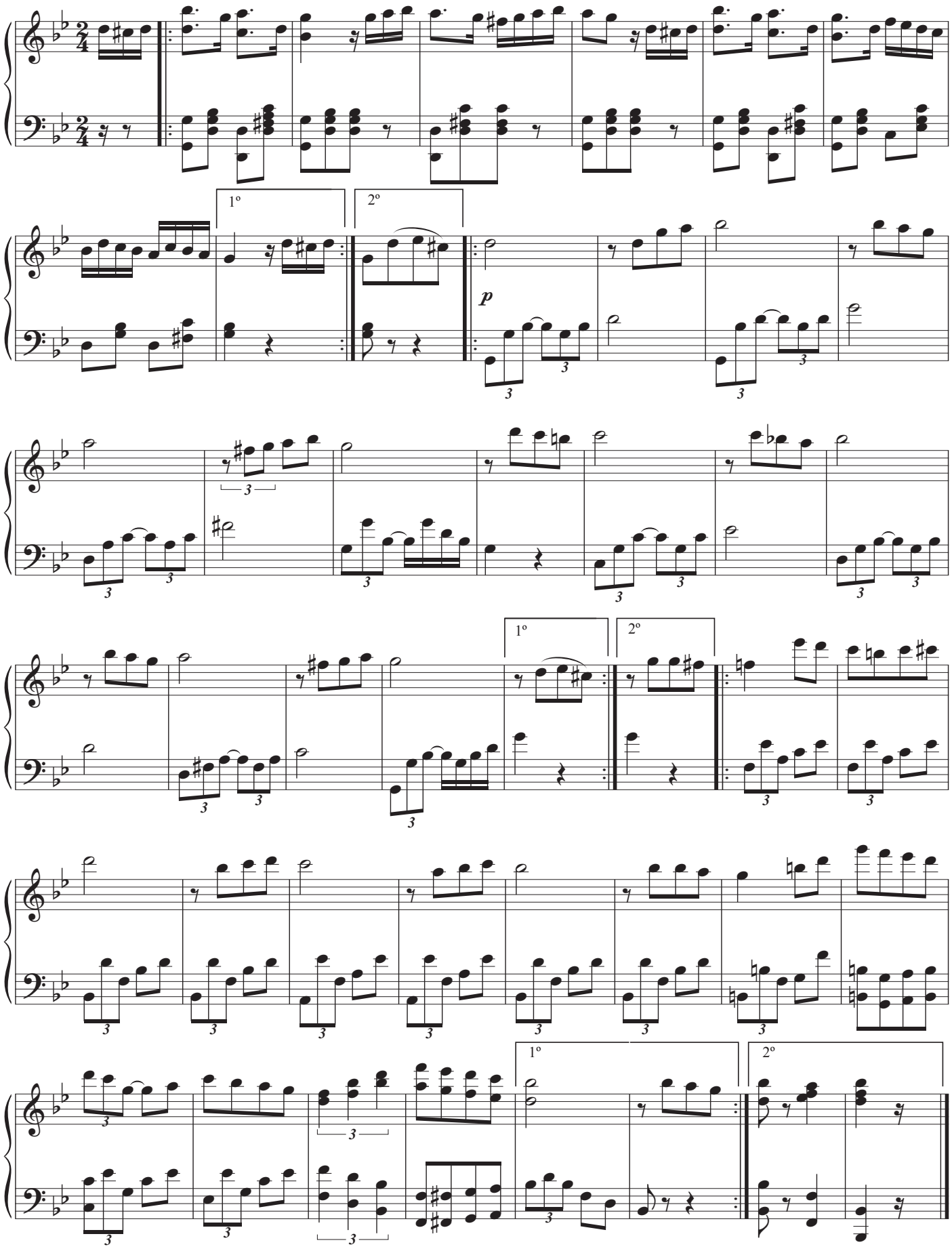
Felicidades



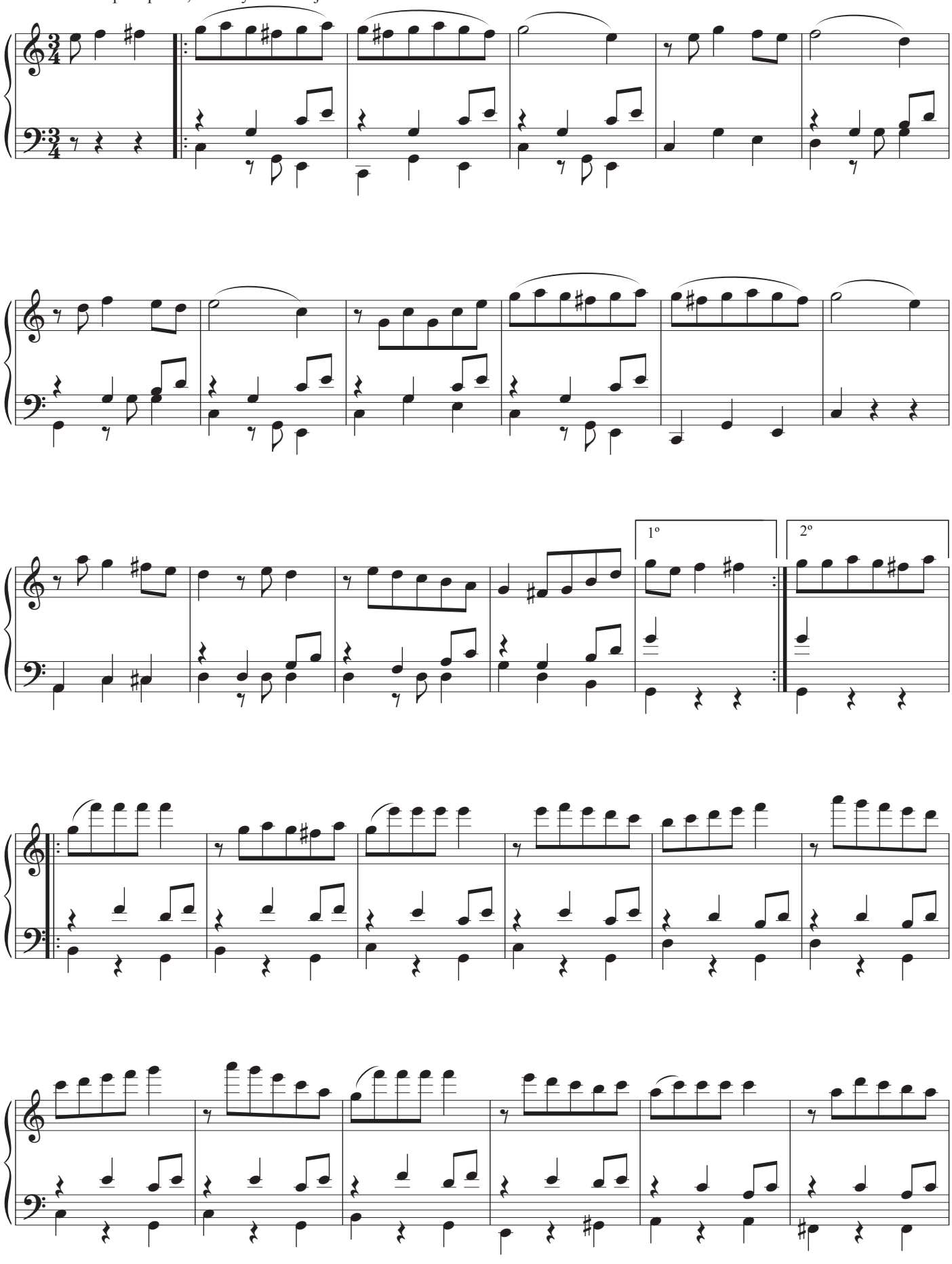
Feliz 1902

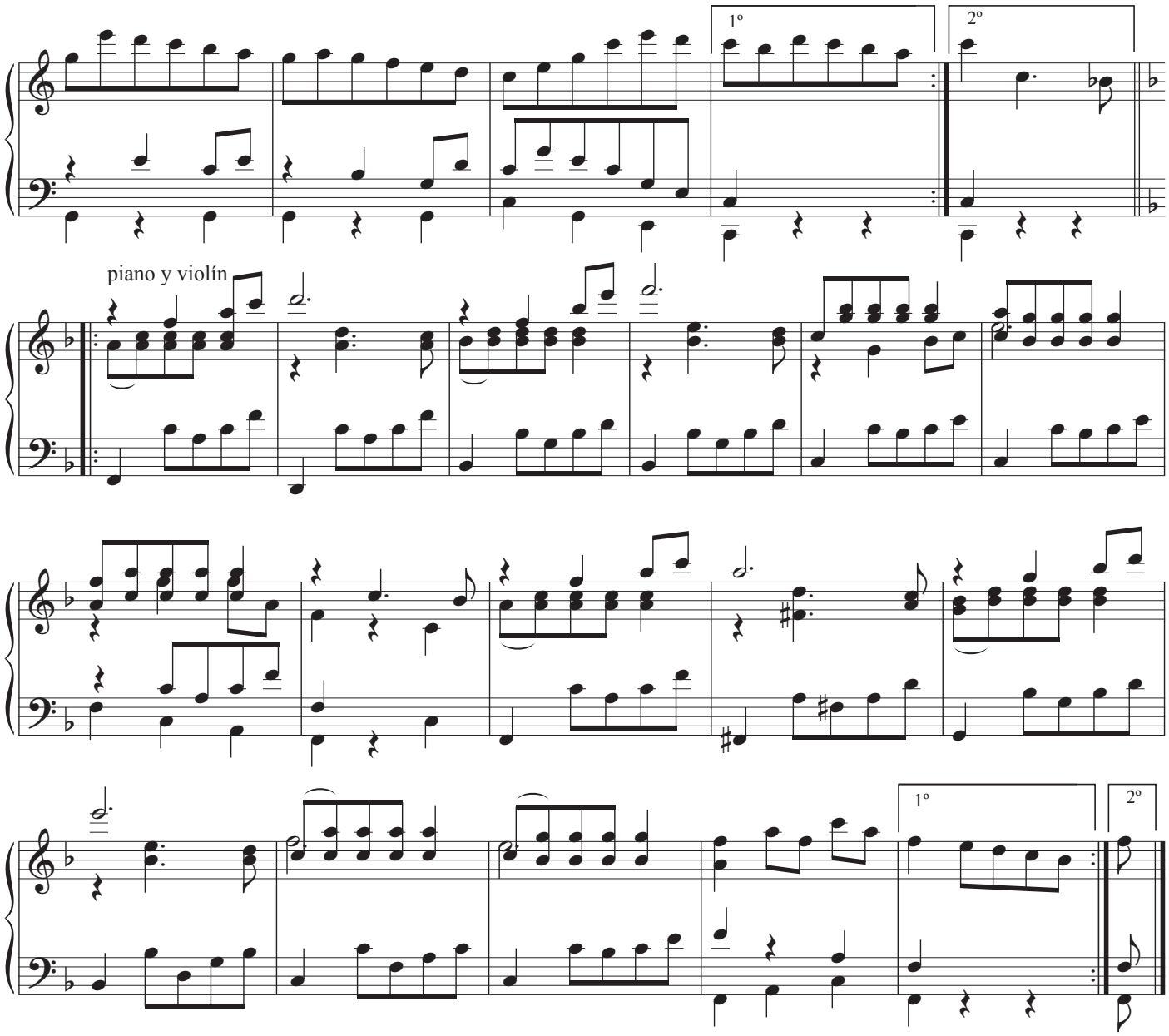
Danza



Feliz 1936

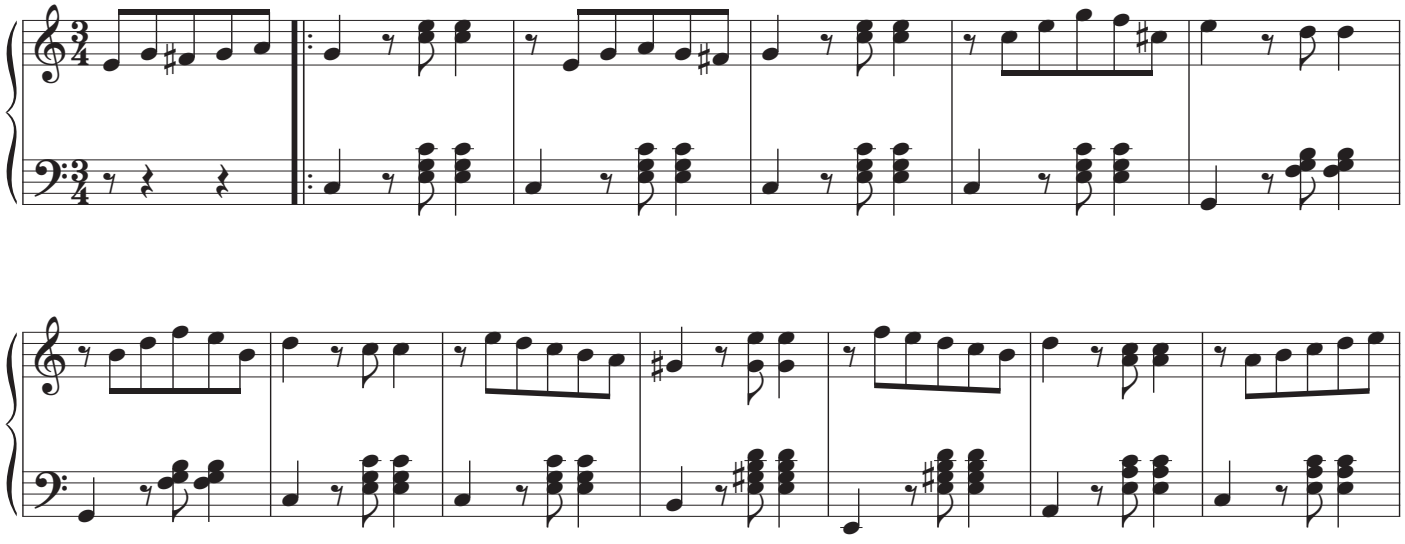
Valse para piano, violín y contrabajo

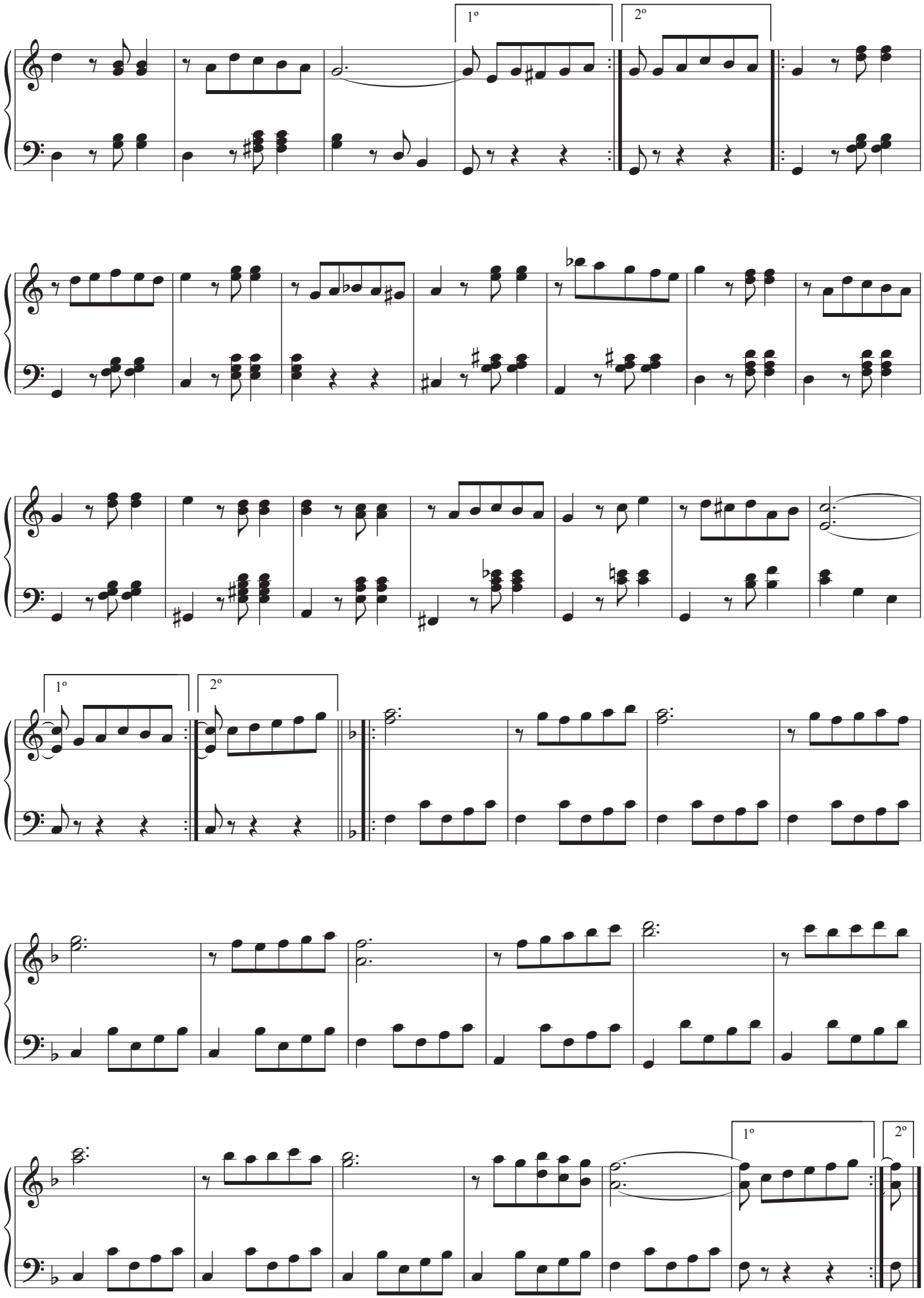




Feliz cumpleaños

Valse

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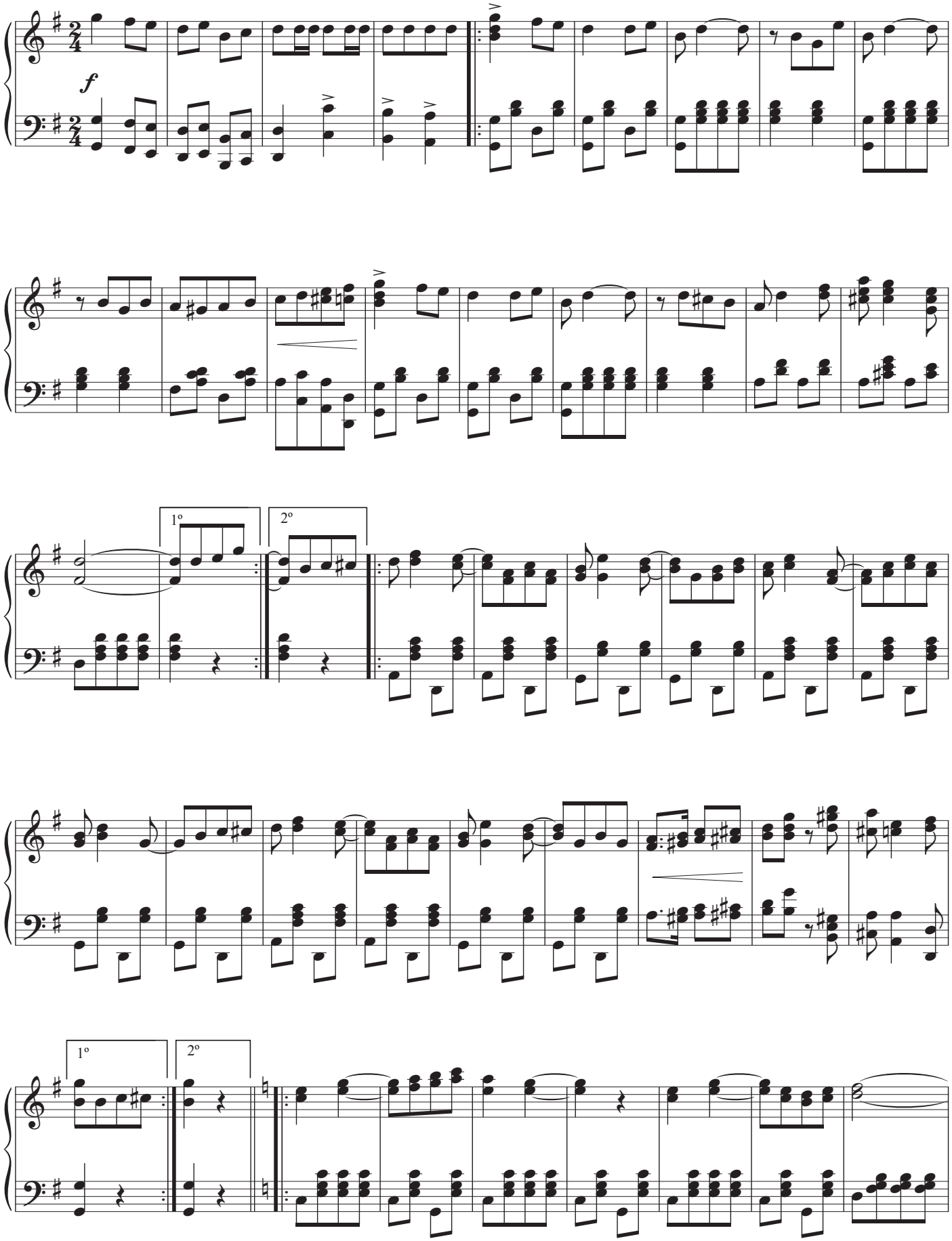
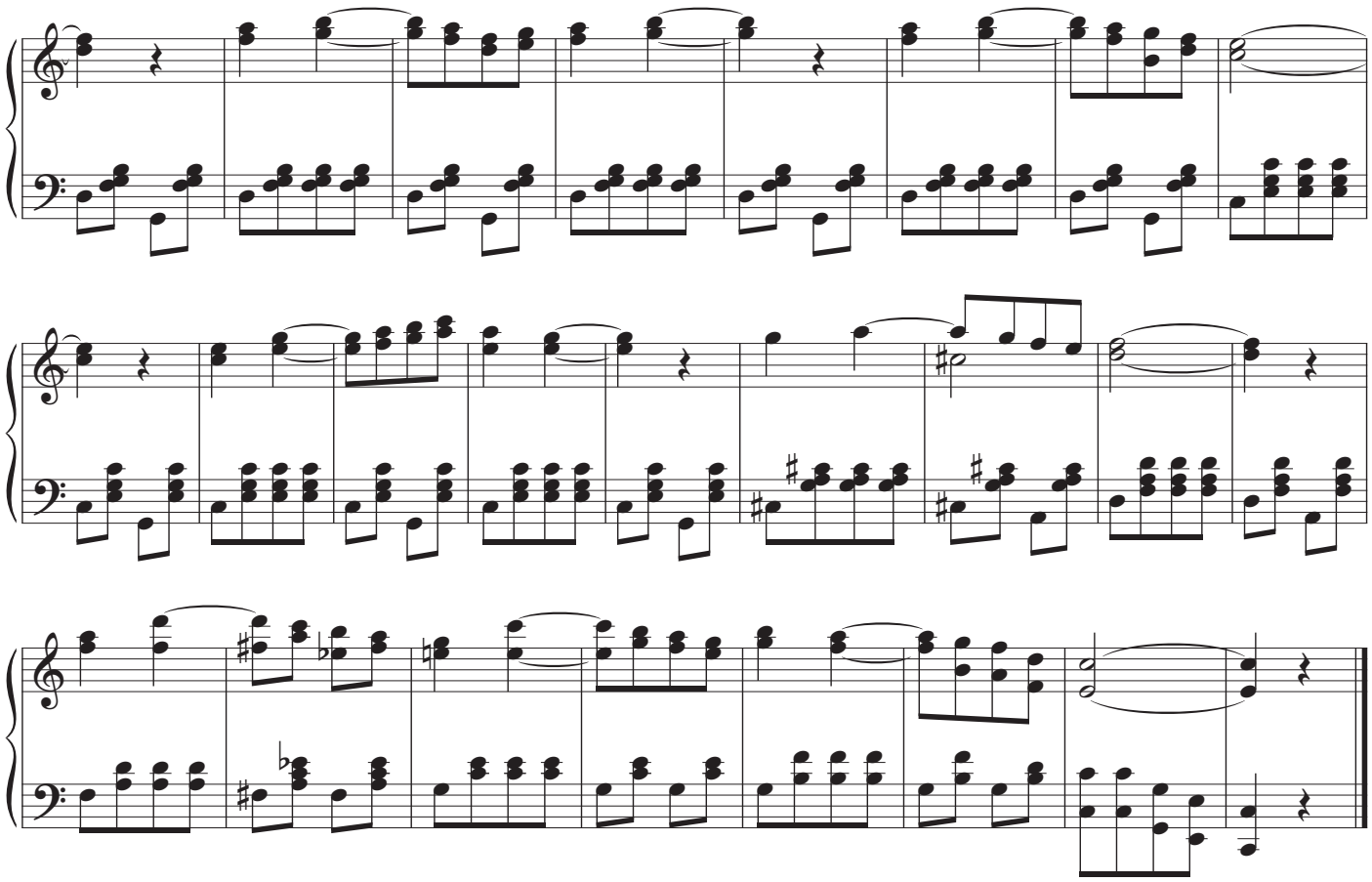
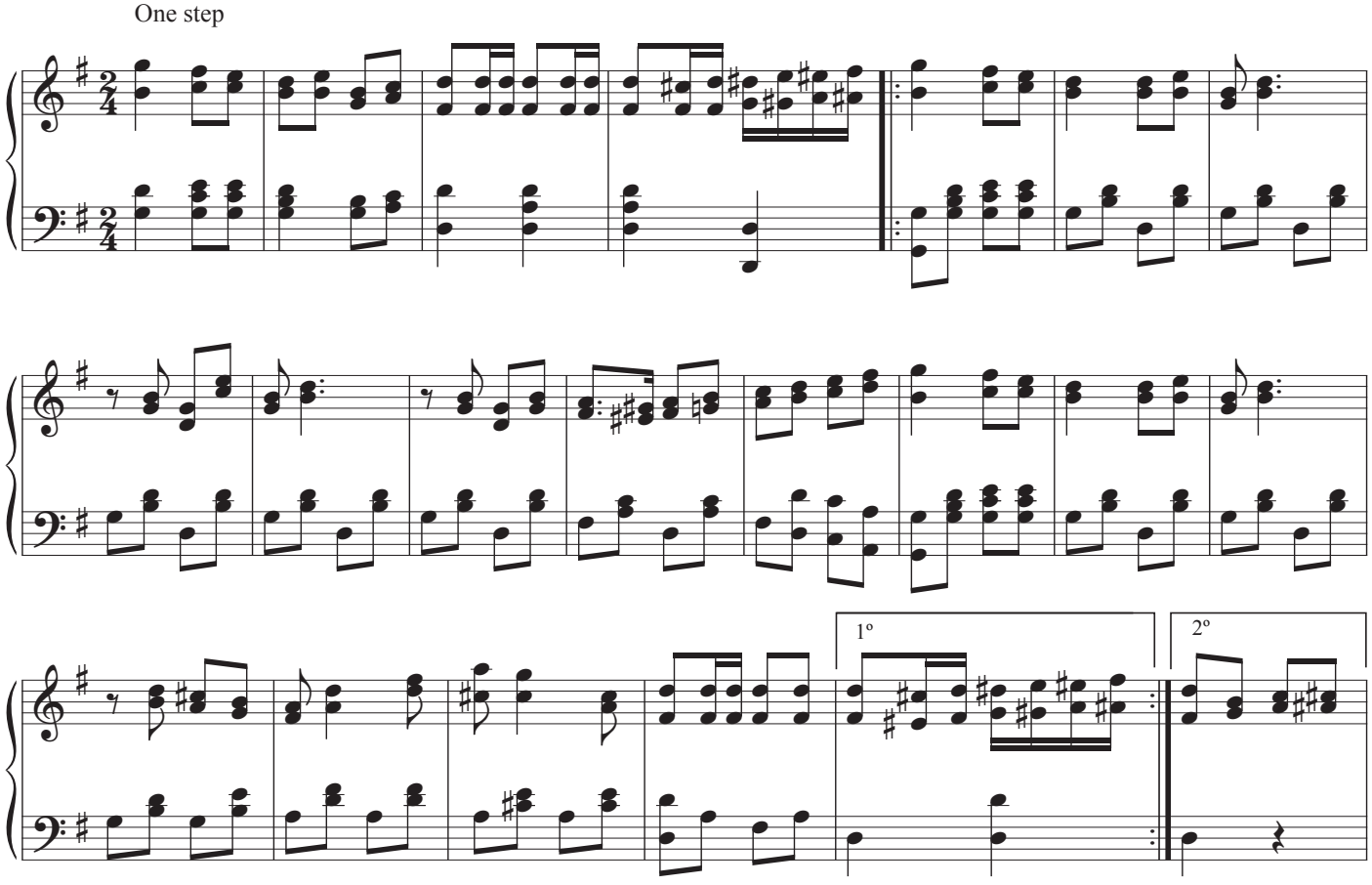
First Curaçao One Step

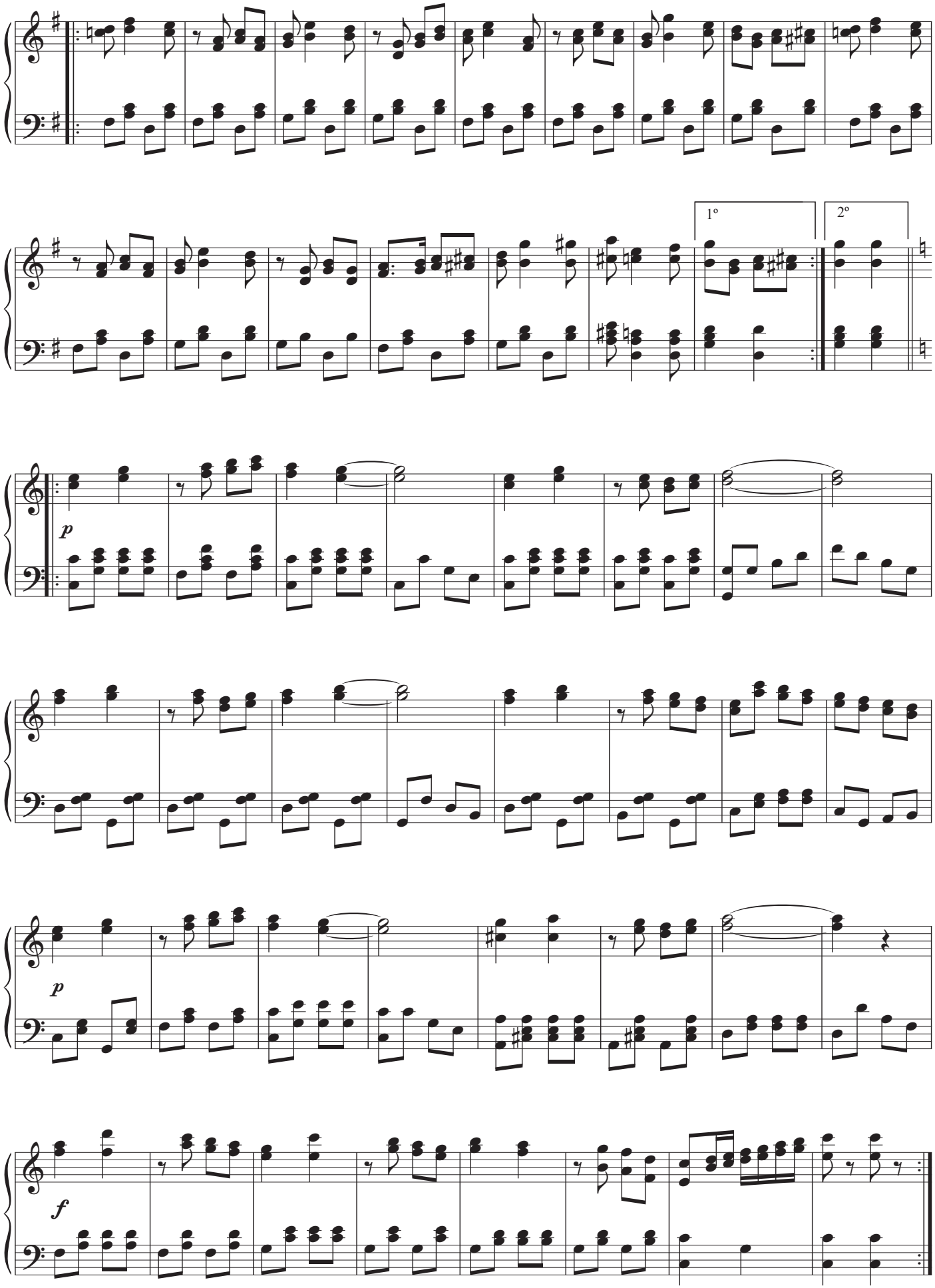
One step





First Curaçao One Step (2nd version)

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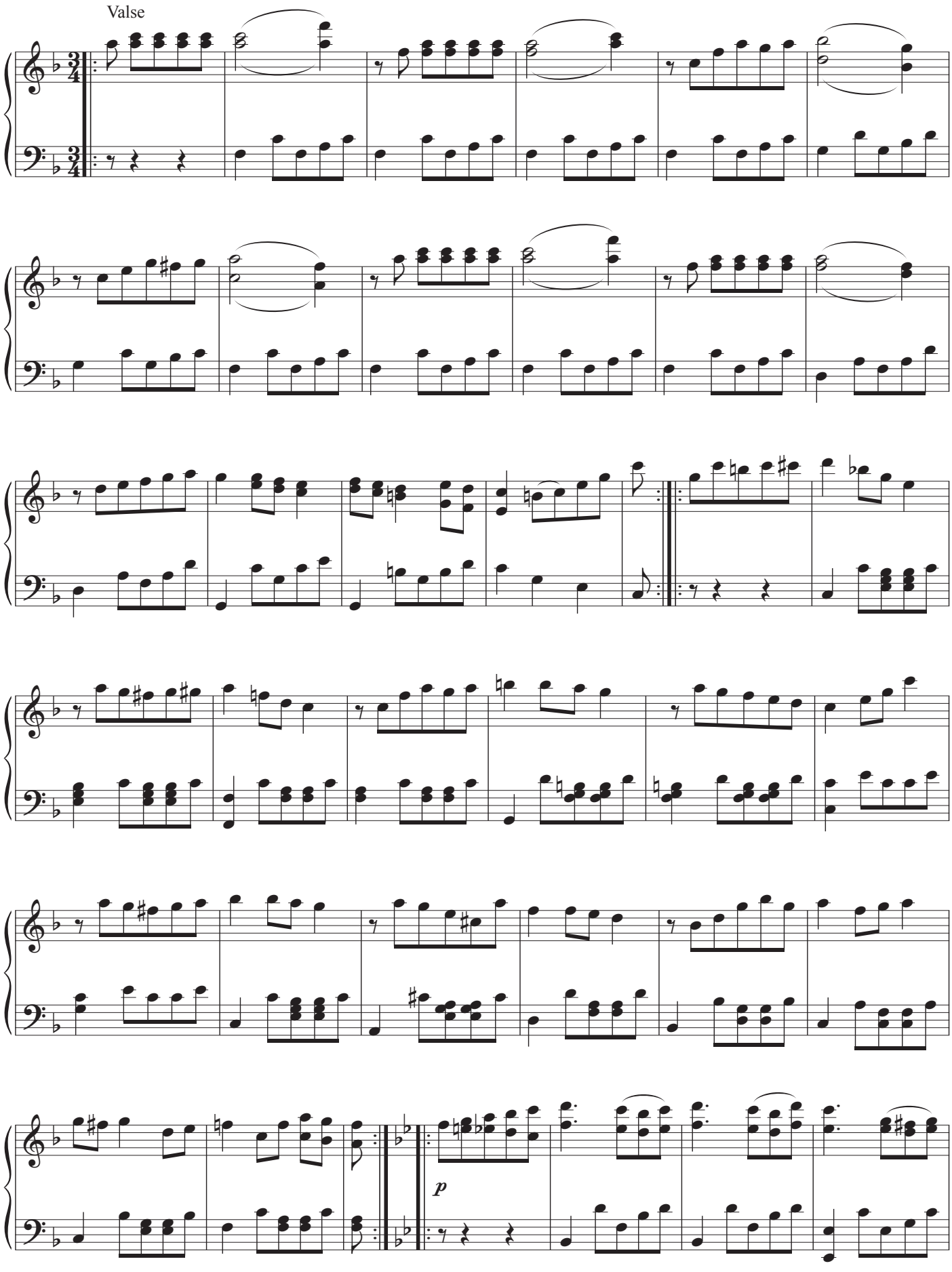
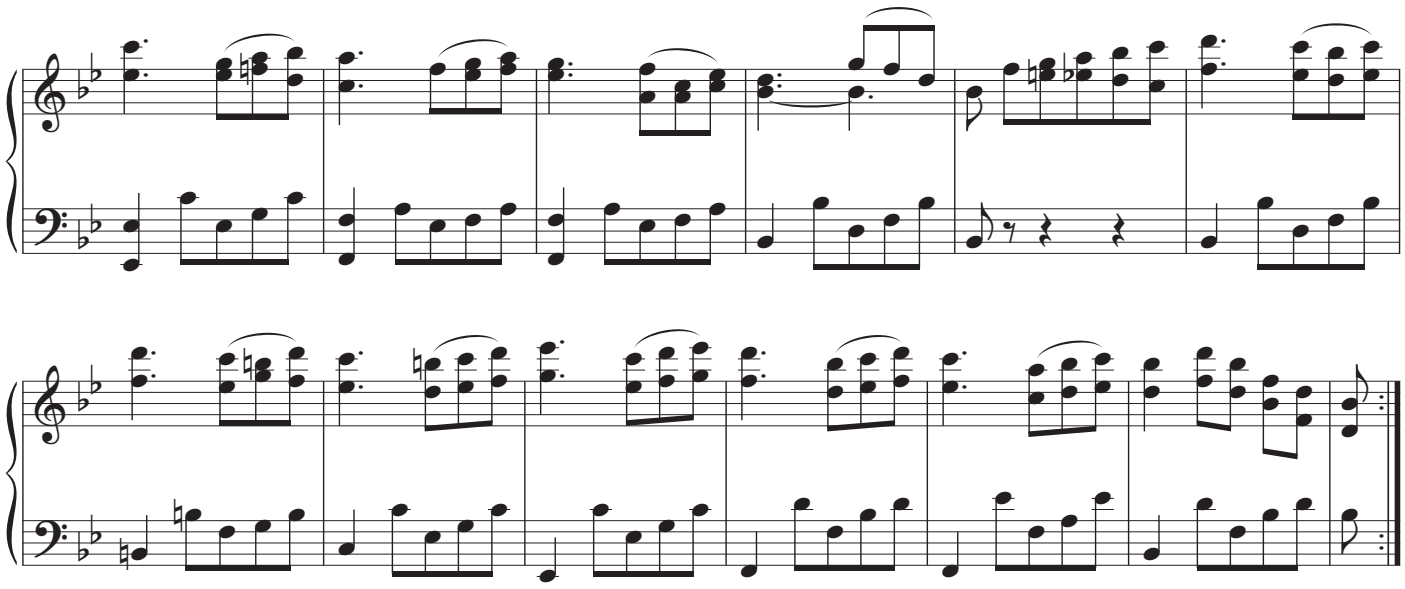
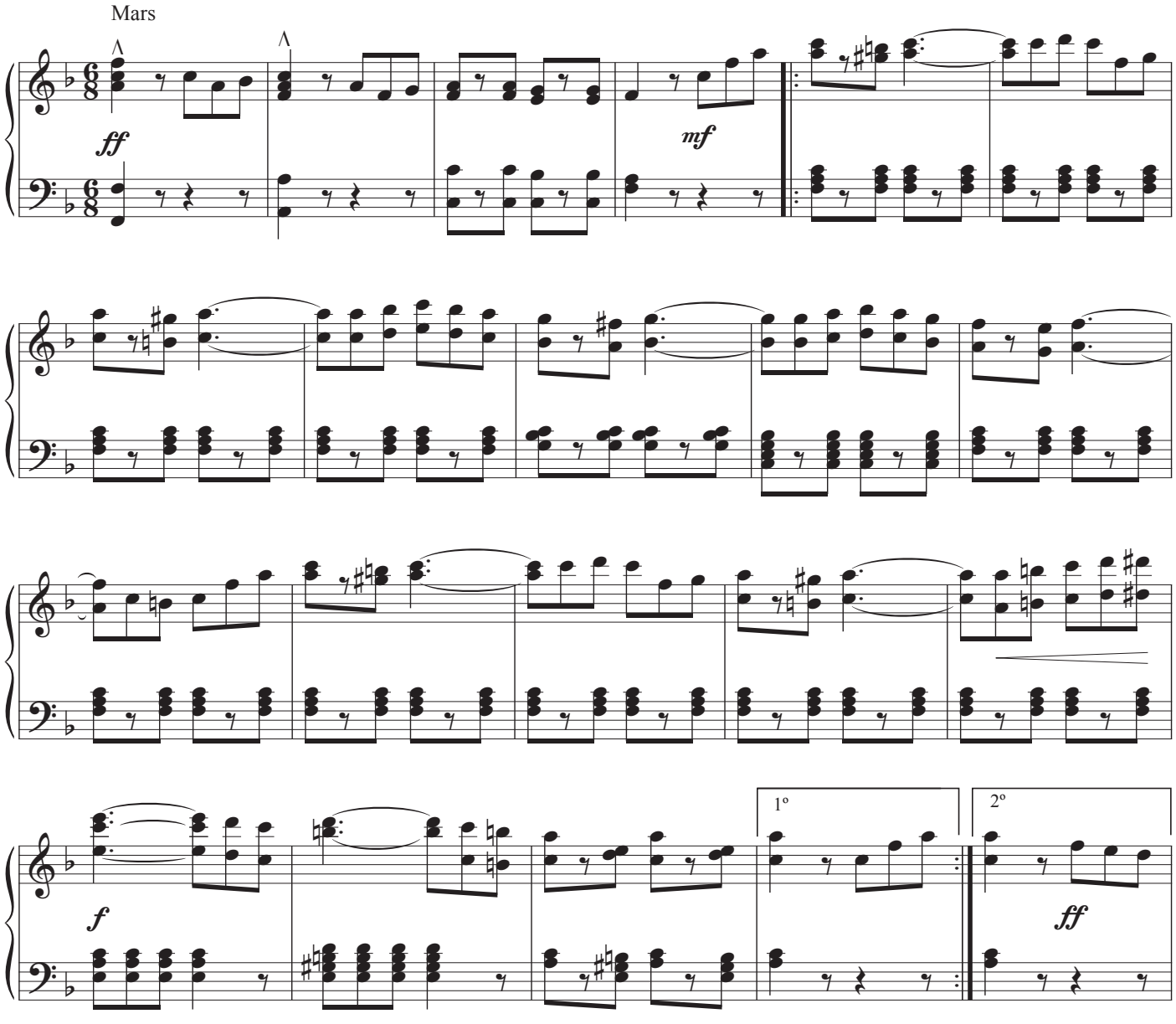
Heineken Bier

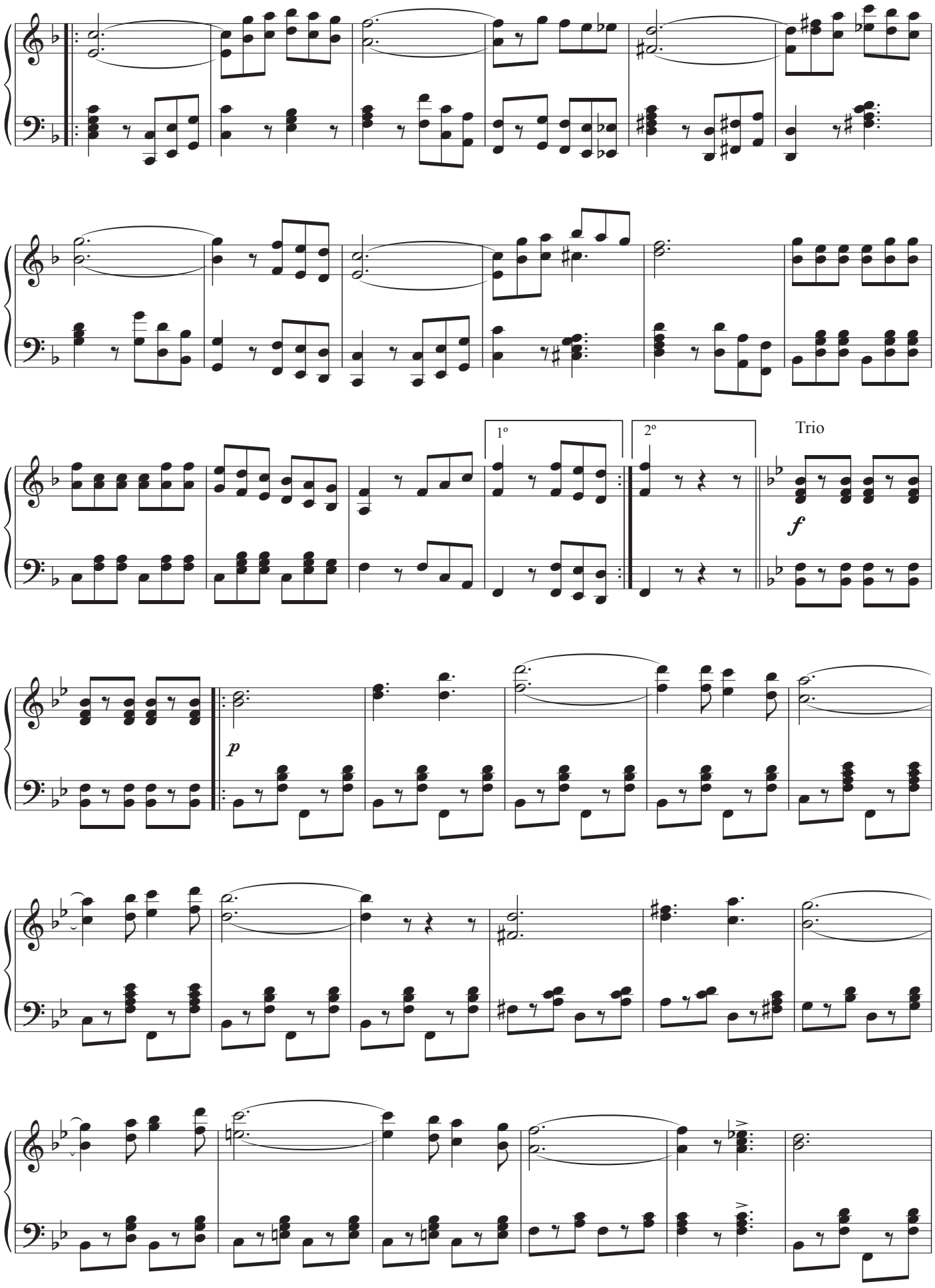
opgedragen aan de firma Mensing & Co. Agenten alhier





Hulde aan onze Luchthelden

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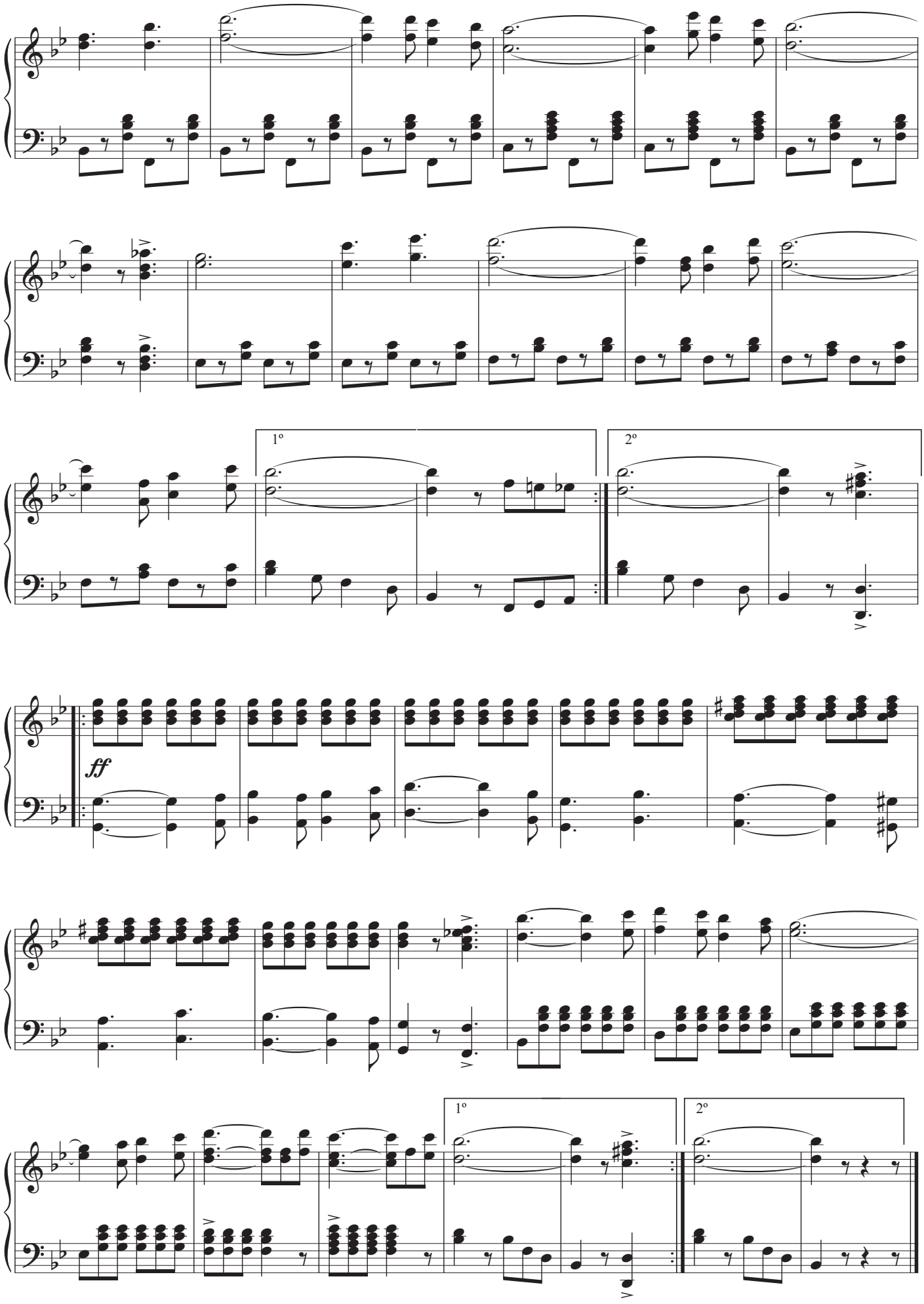
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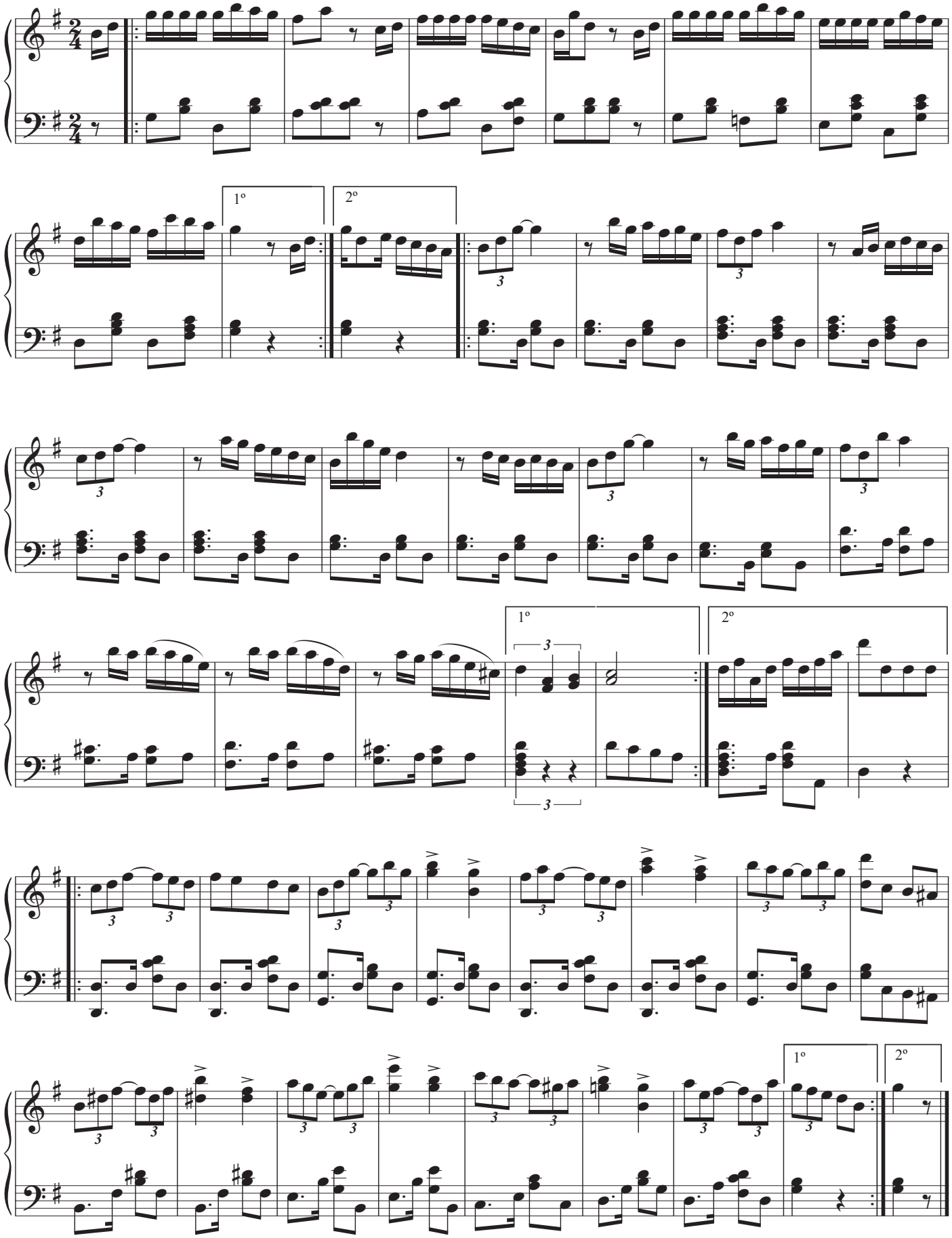
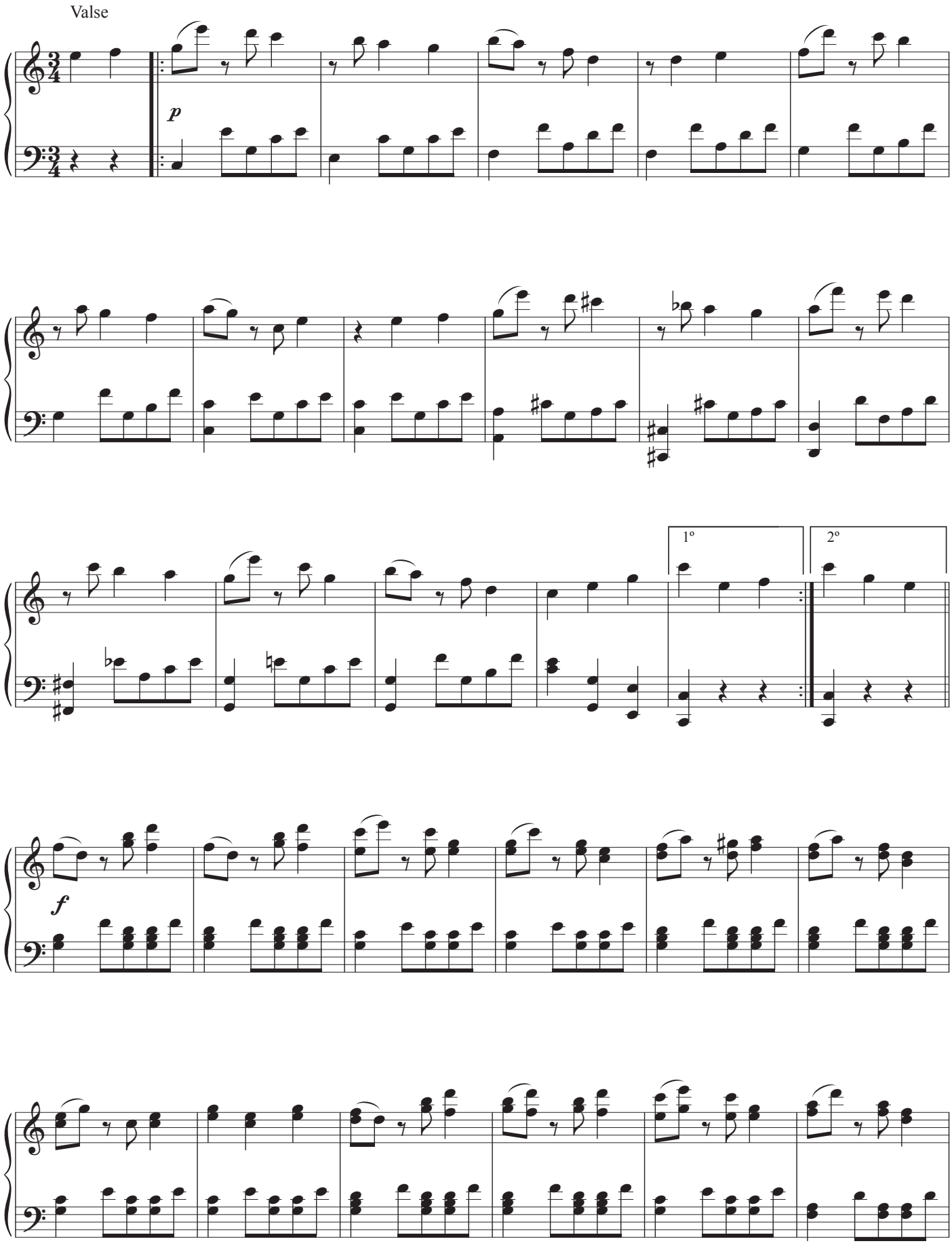
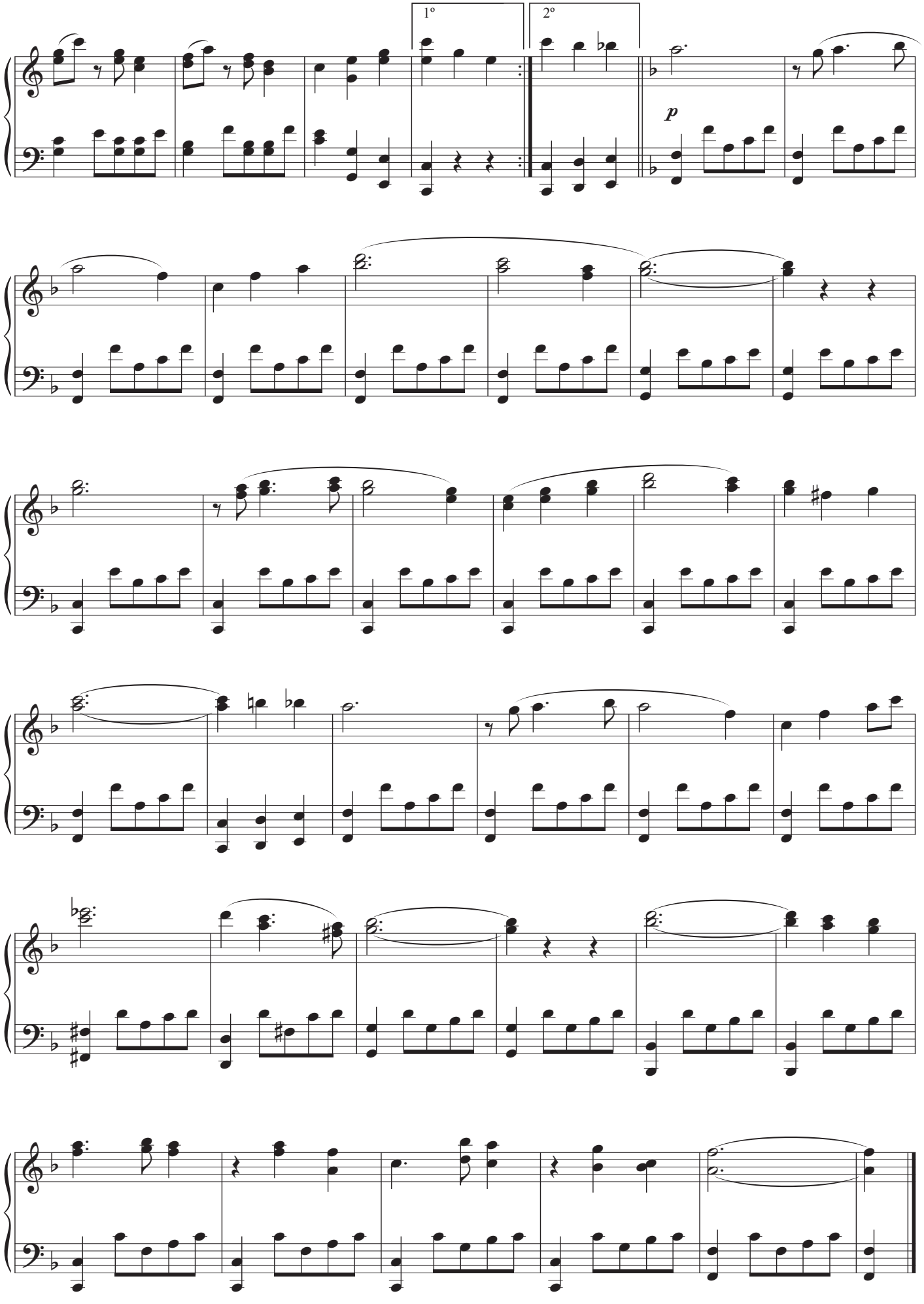
Karawara

Danza



La Boda de Plata

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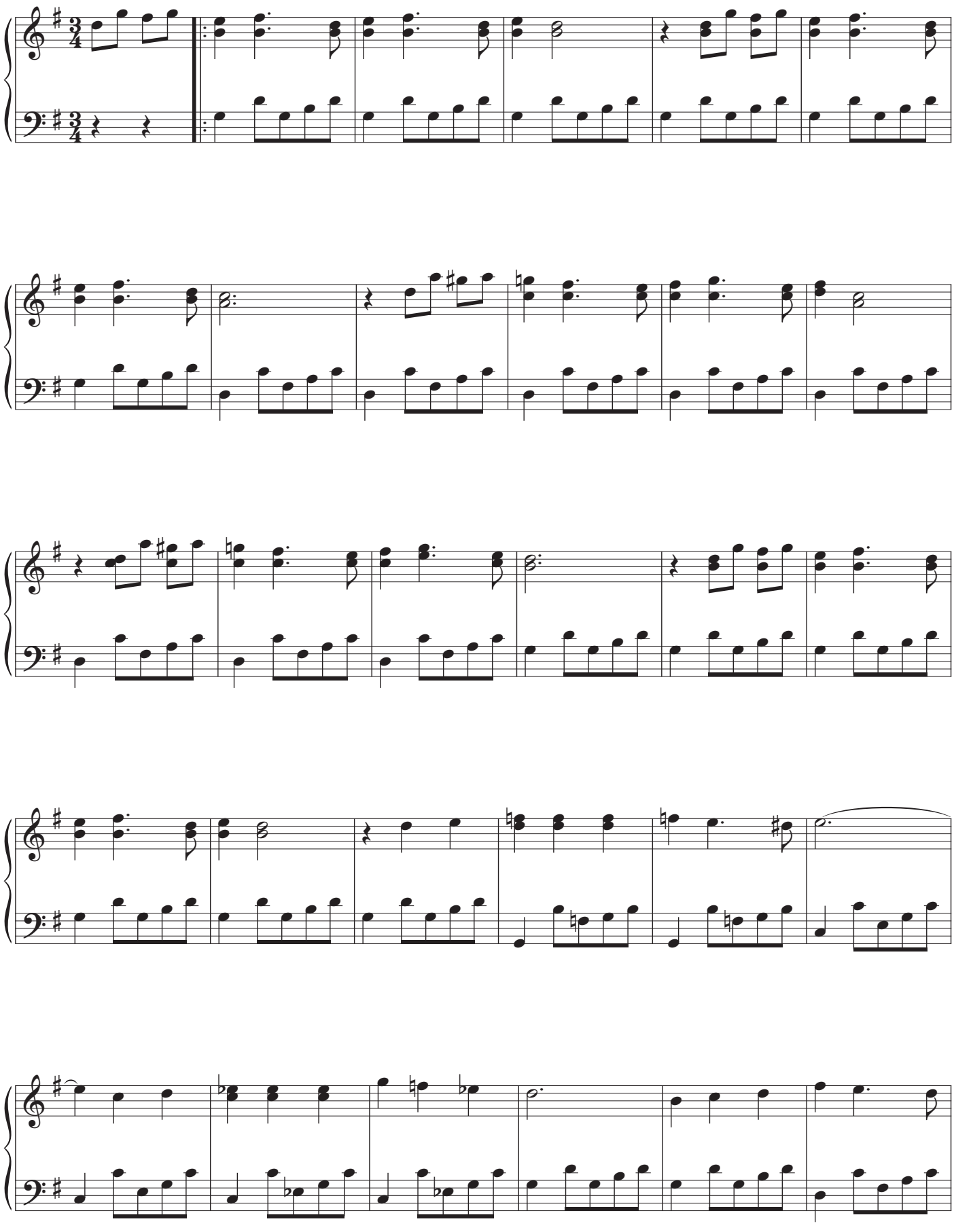
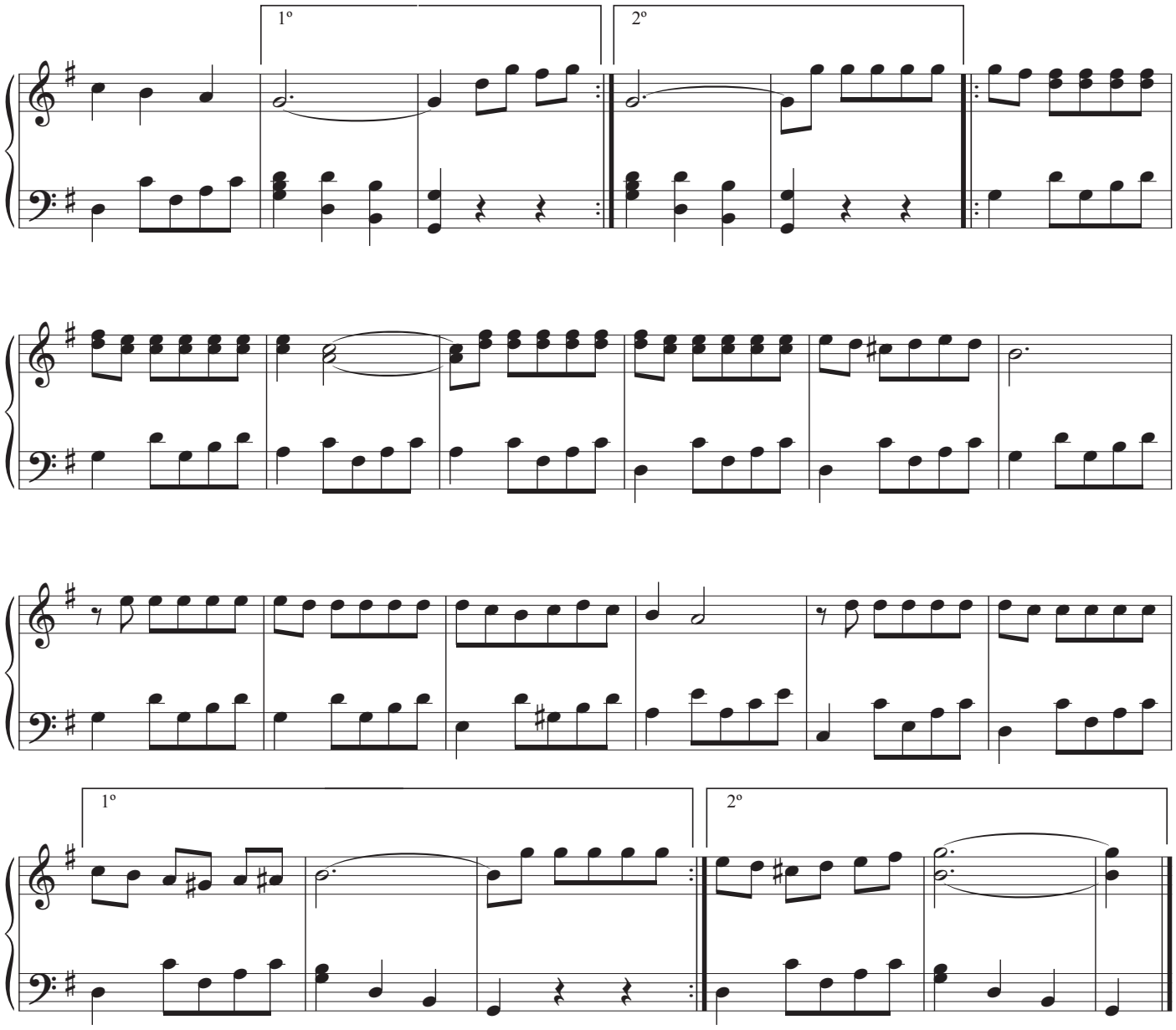
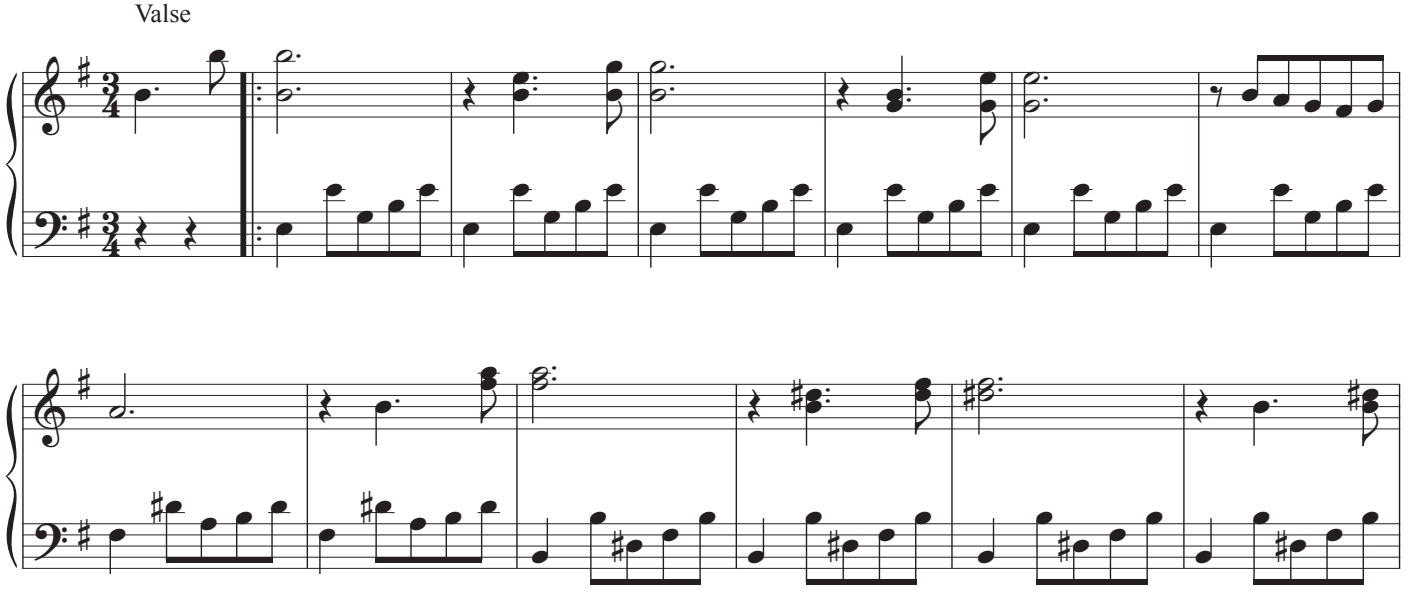
La Celosa

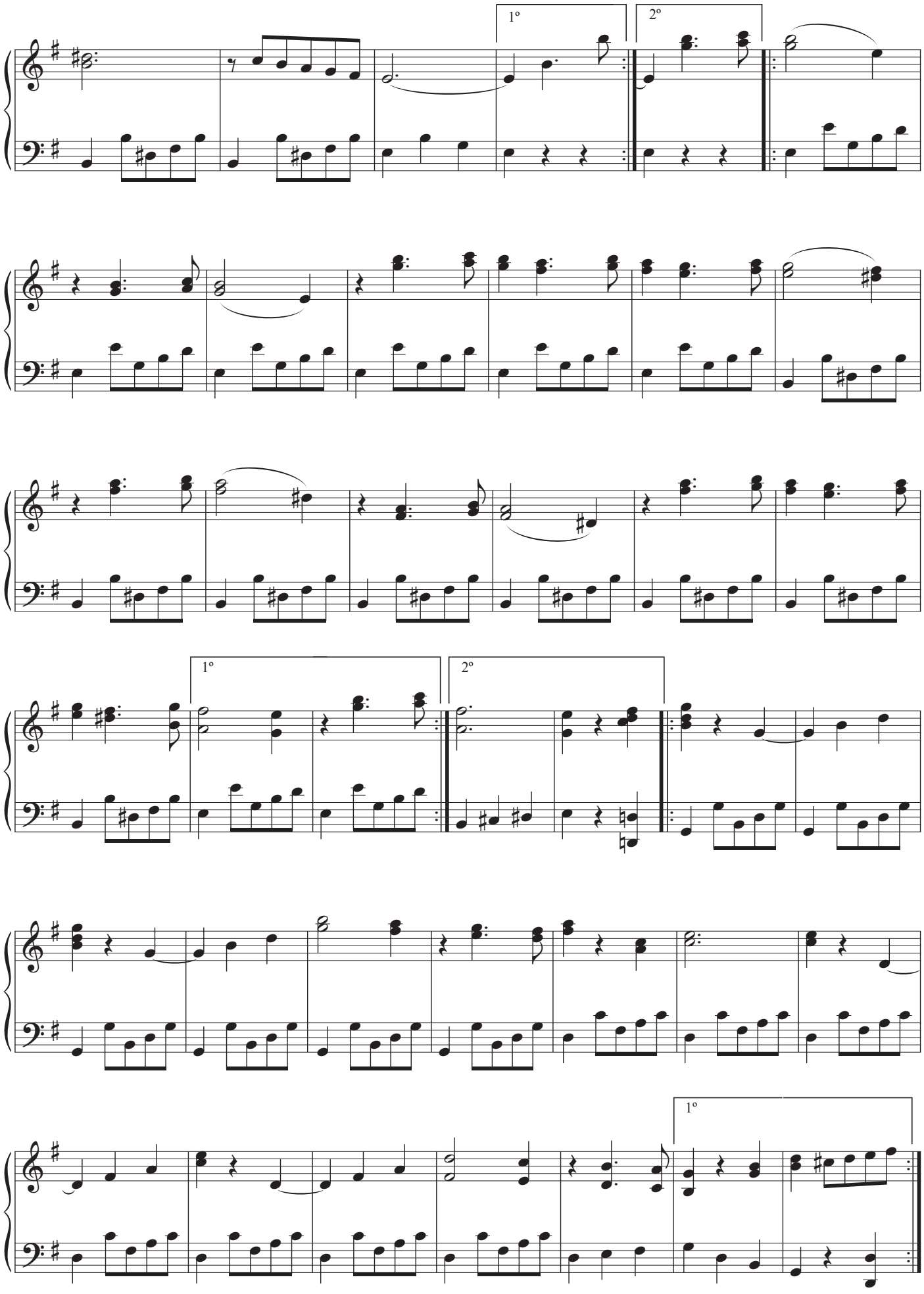
Valse





Lágrimas mías

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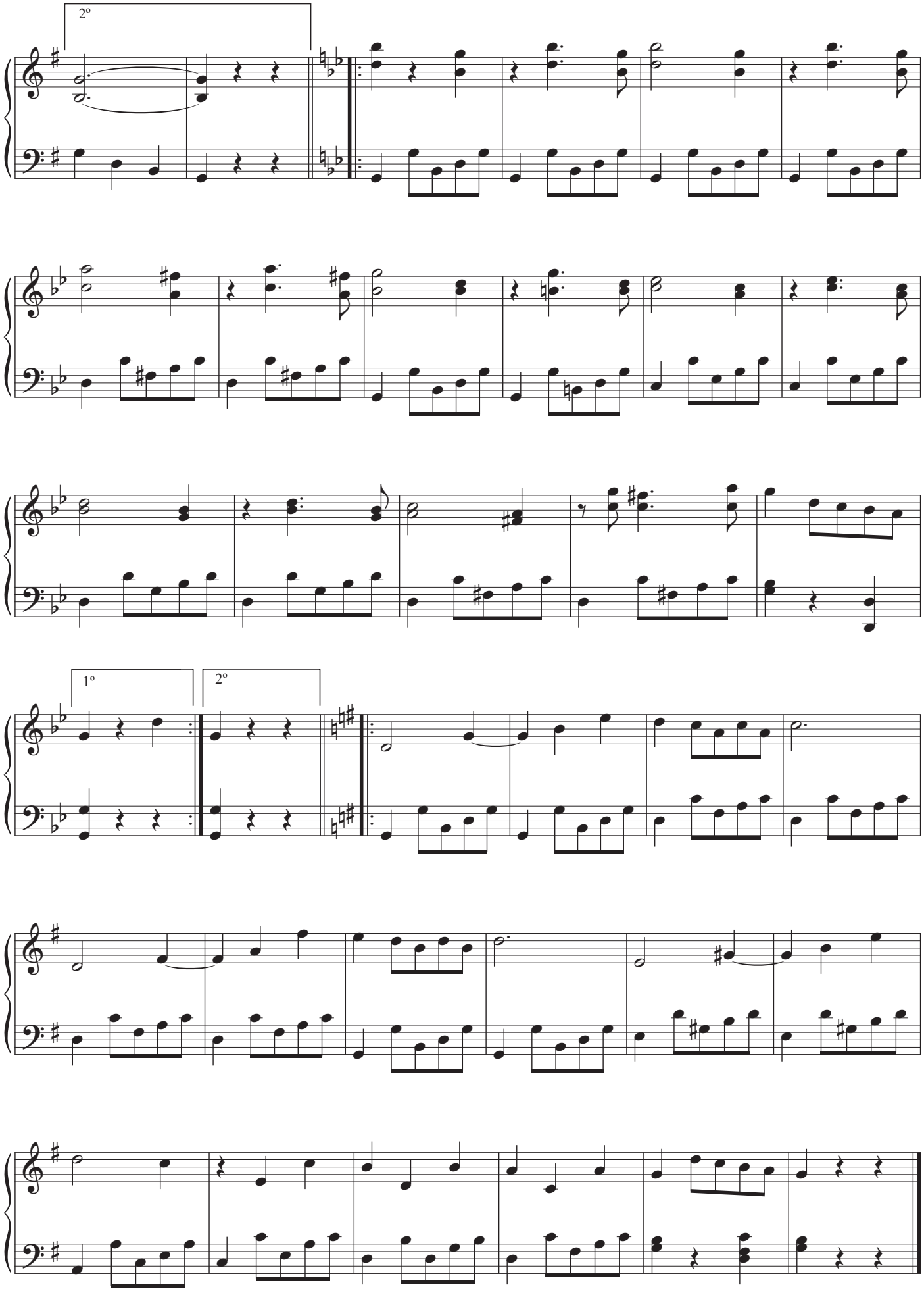
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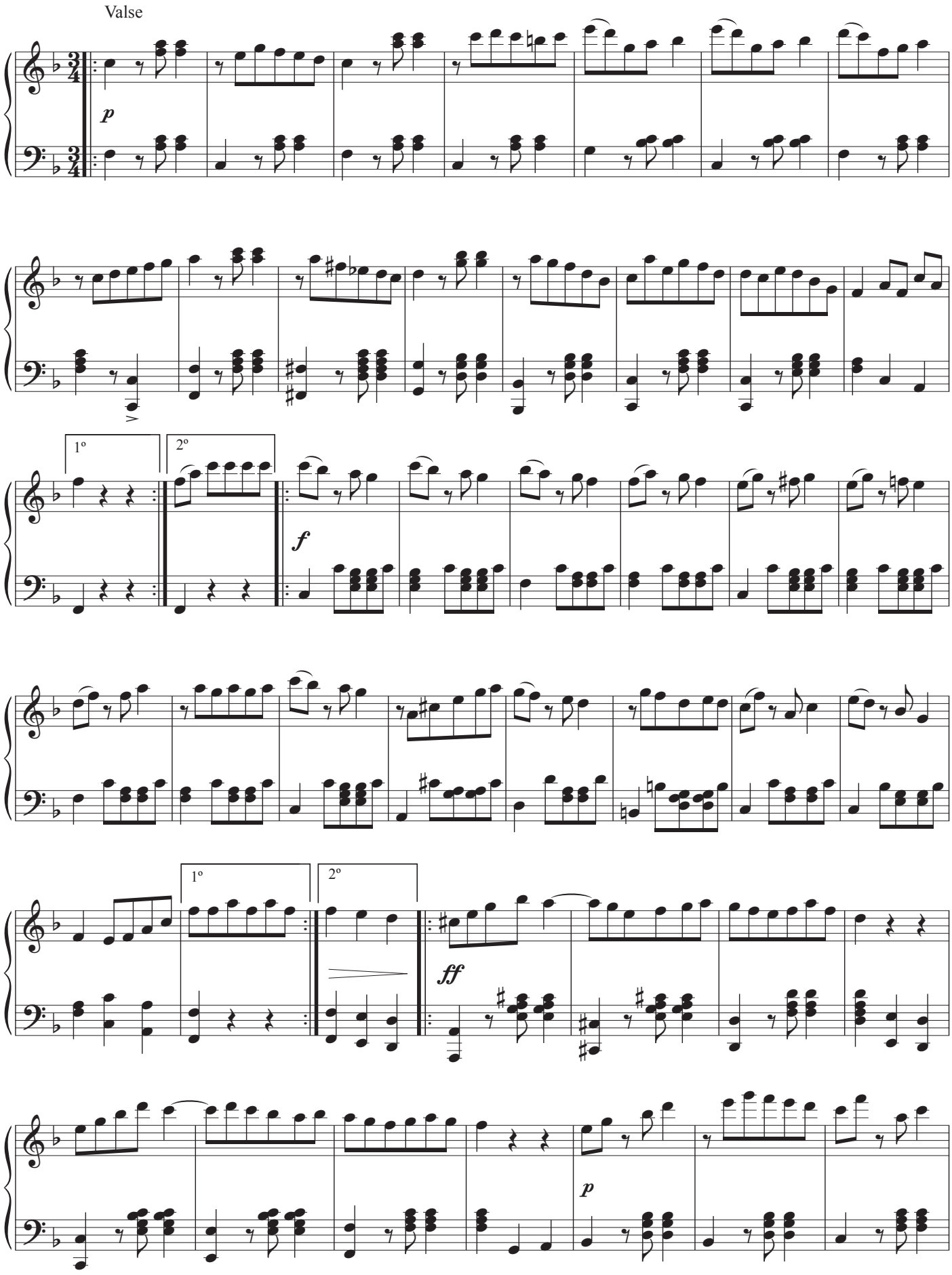
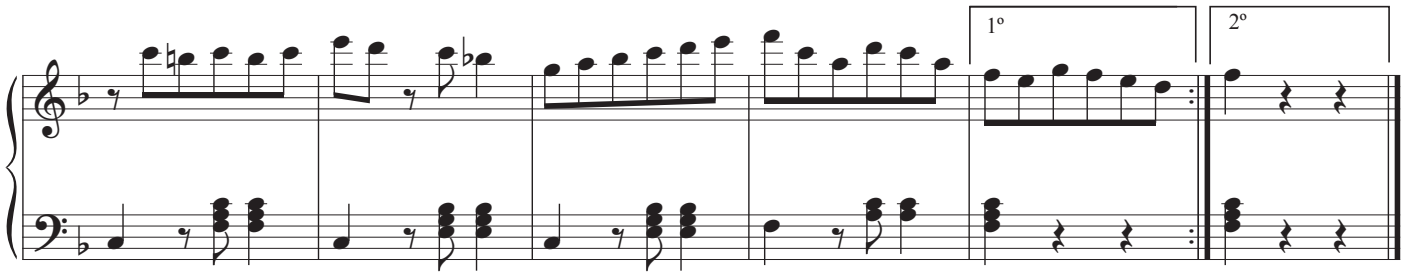
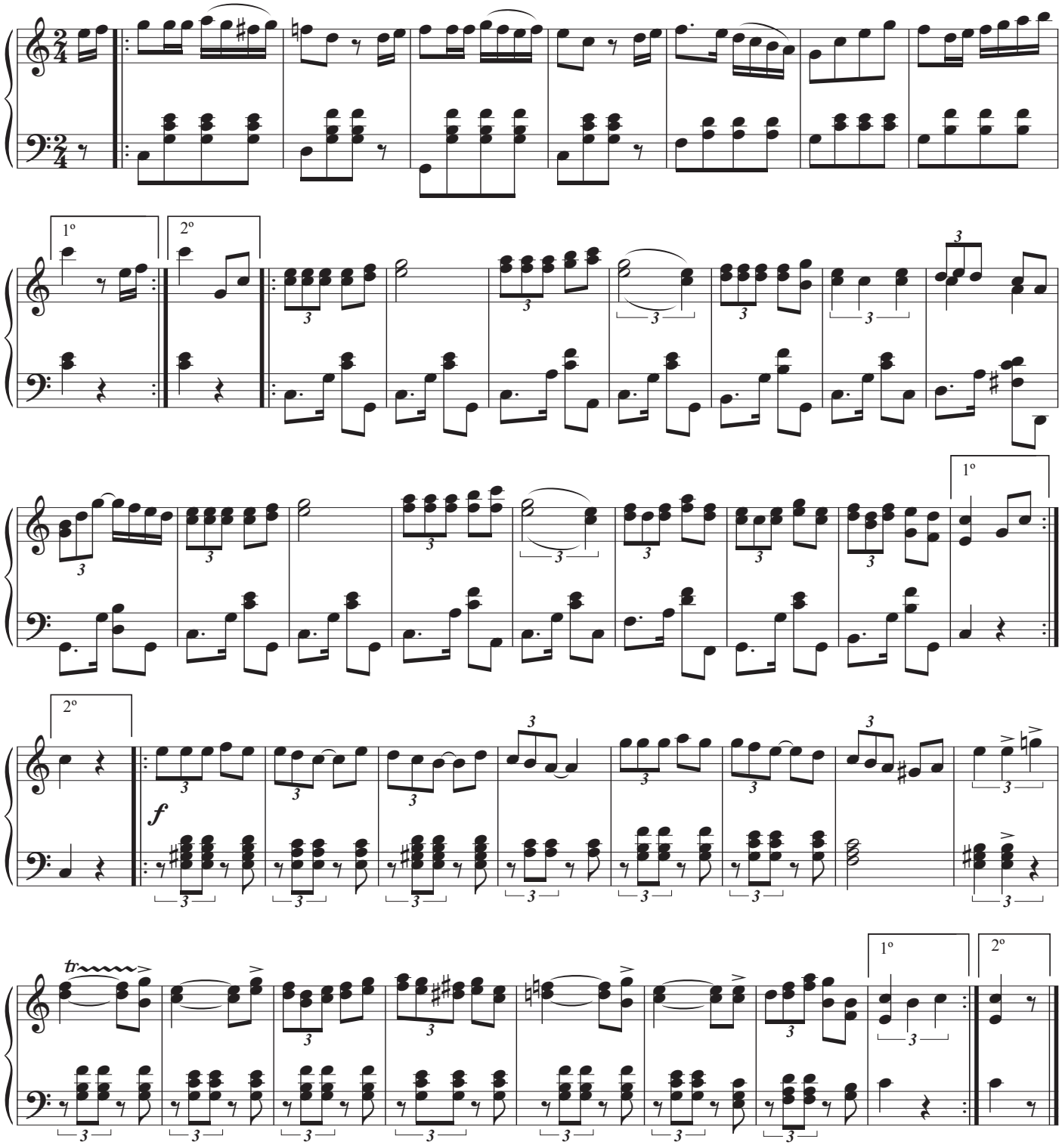
La Luna de Curaçao





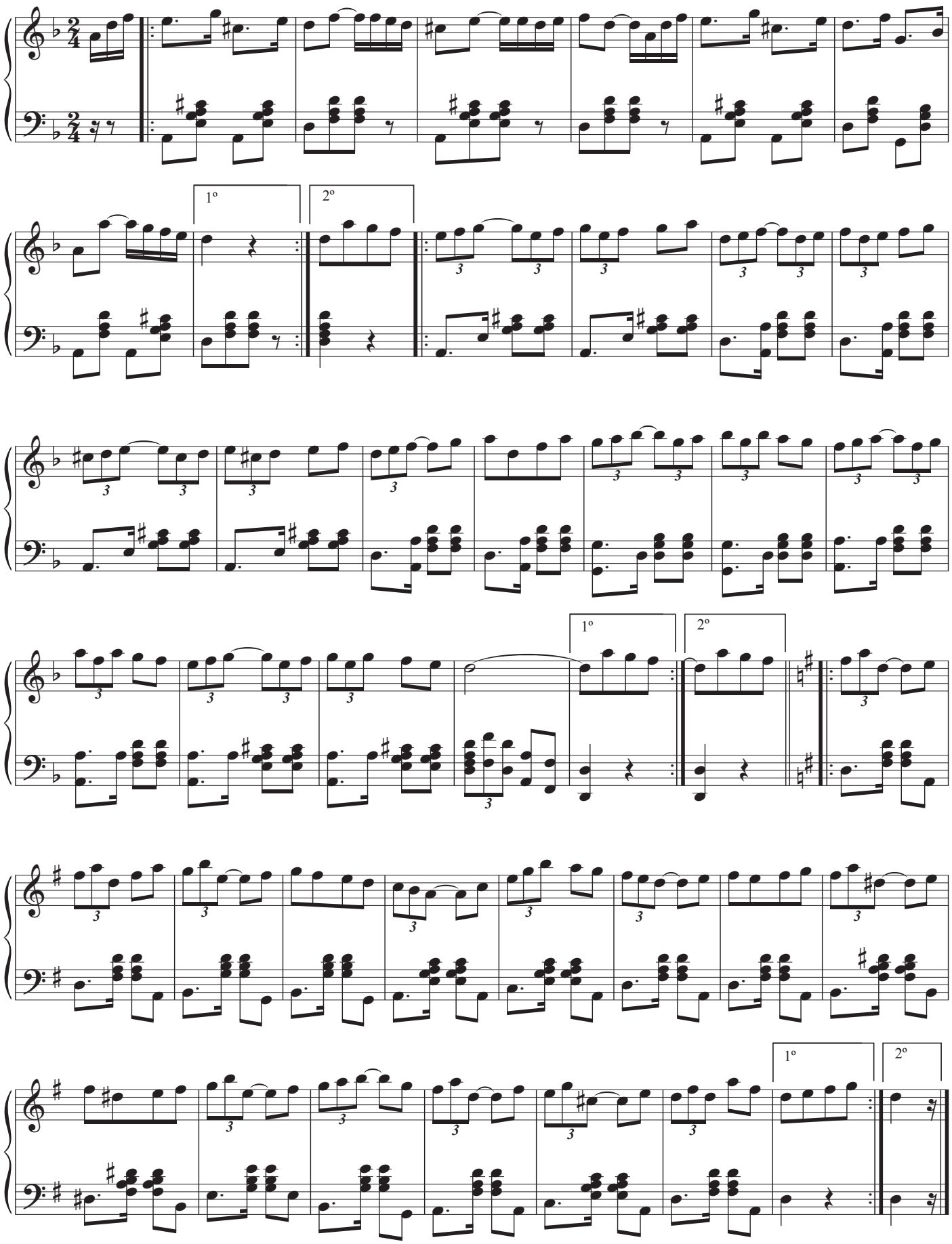
La Paranda

Danza



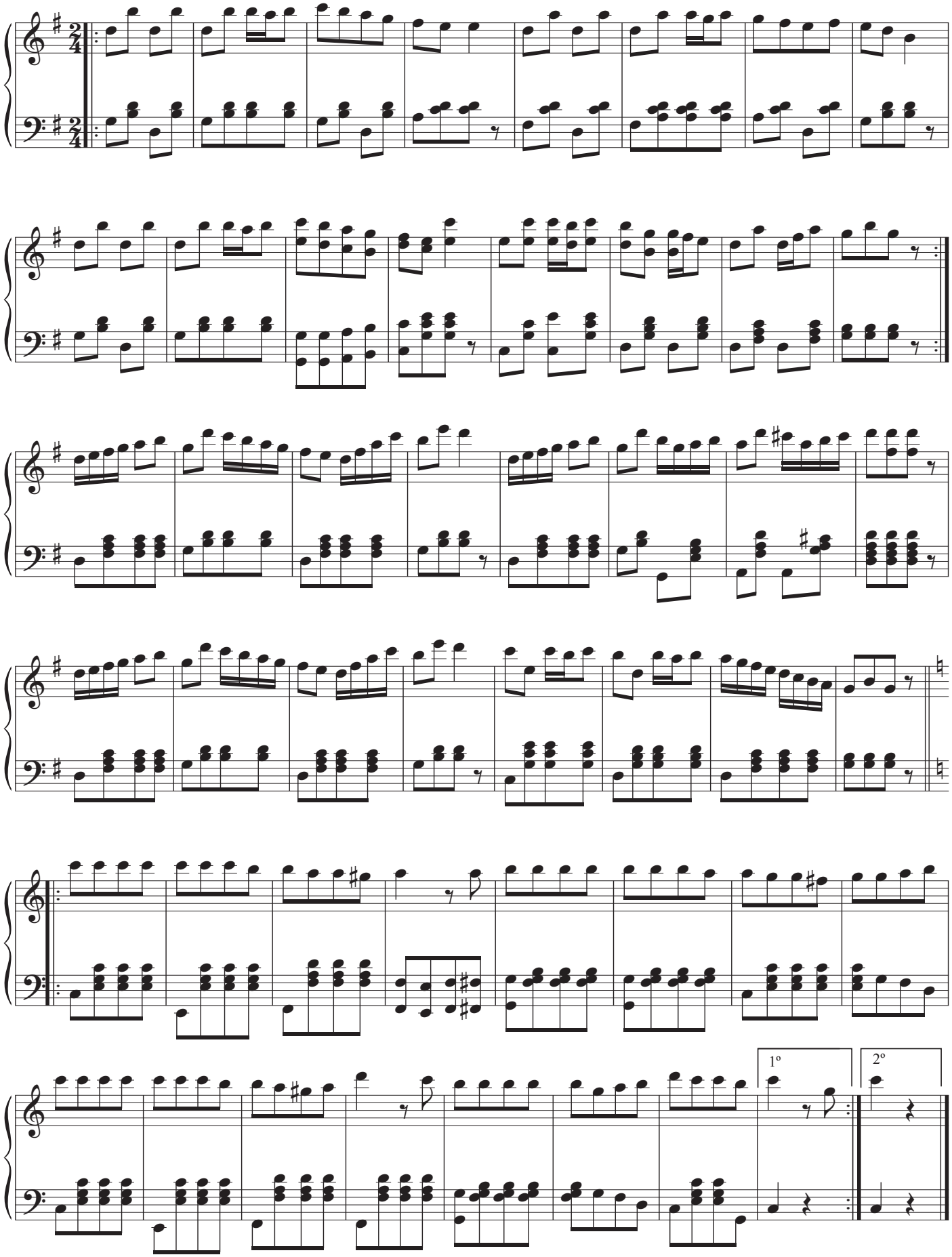
La Ratonera

Danza

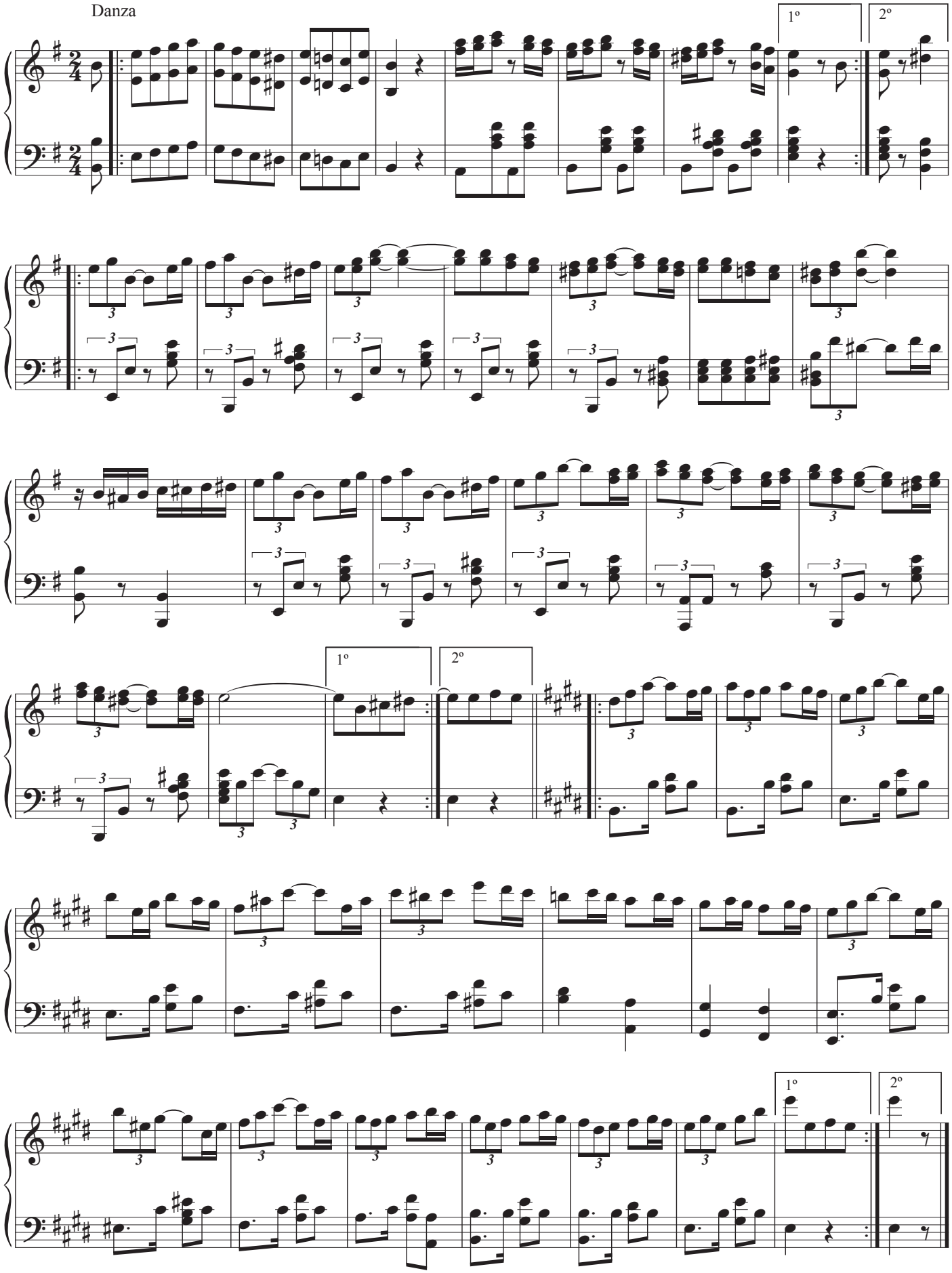


La Risa

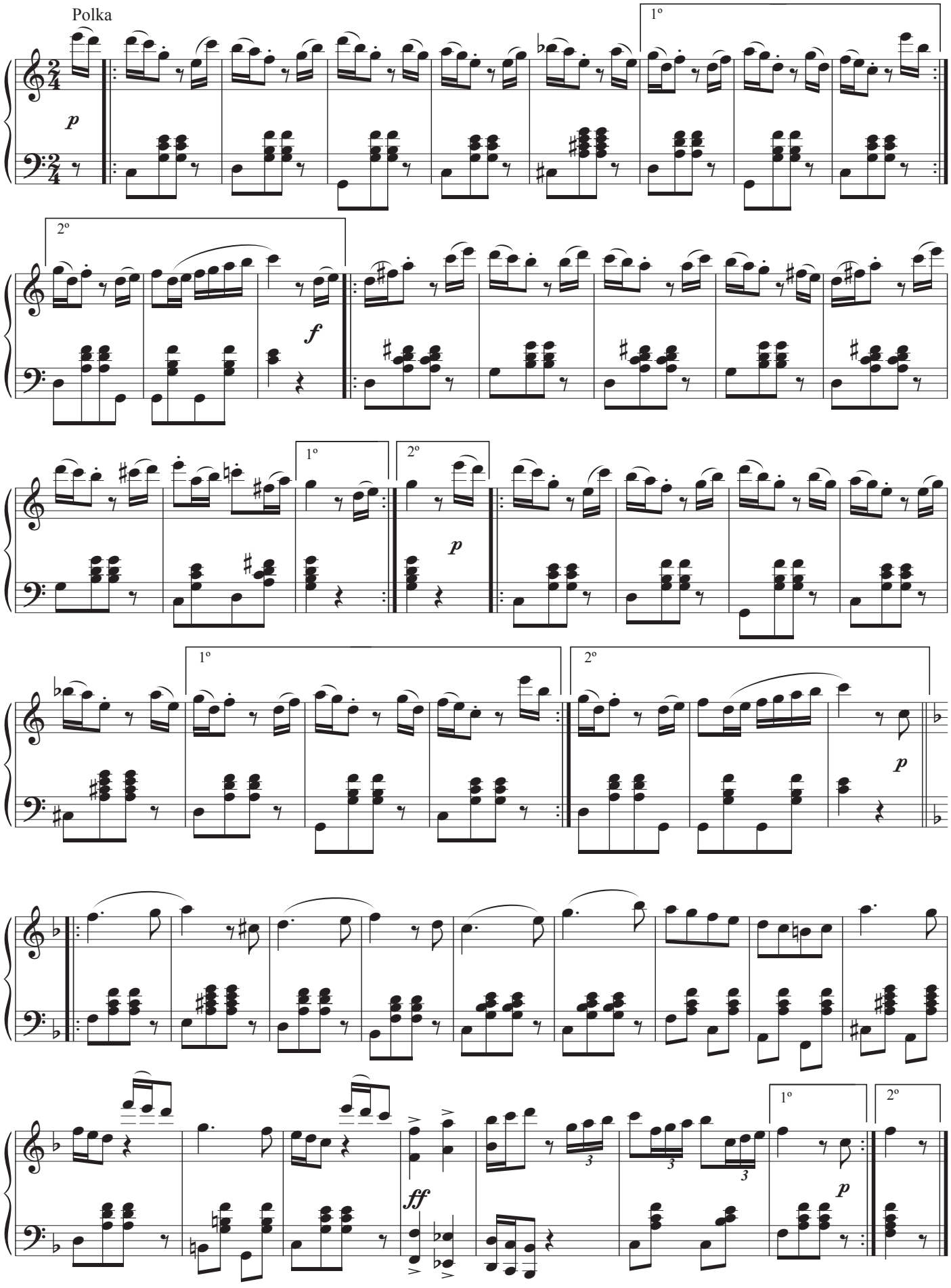
Polka



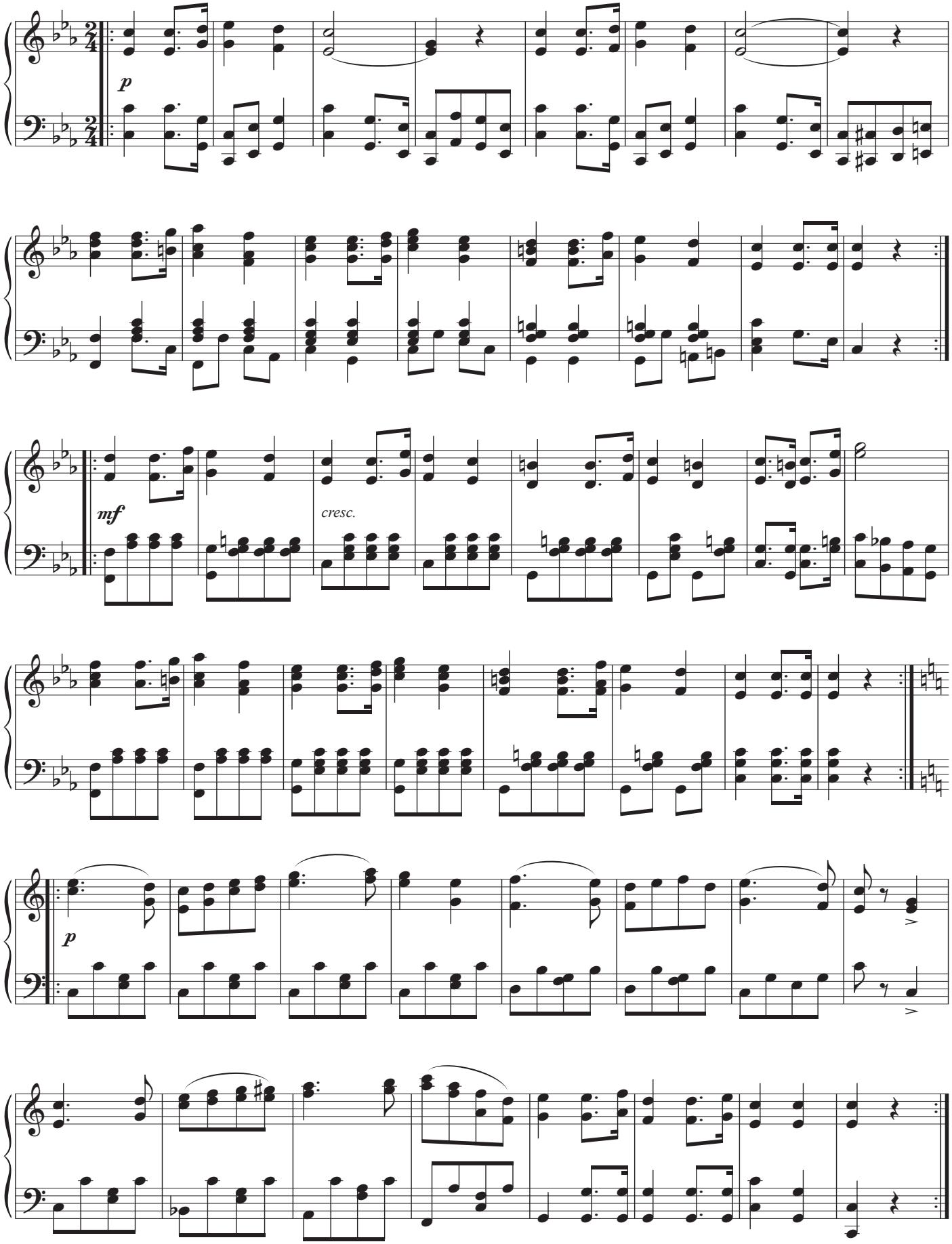
Mantomba



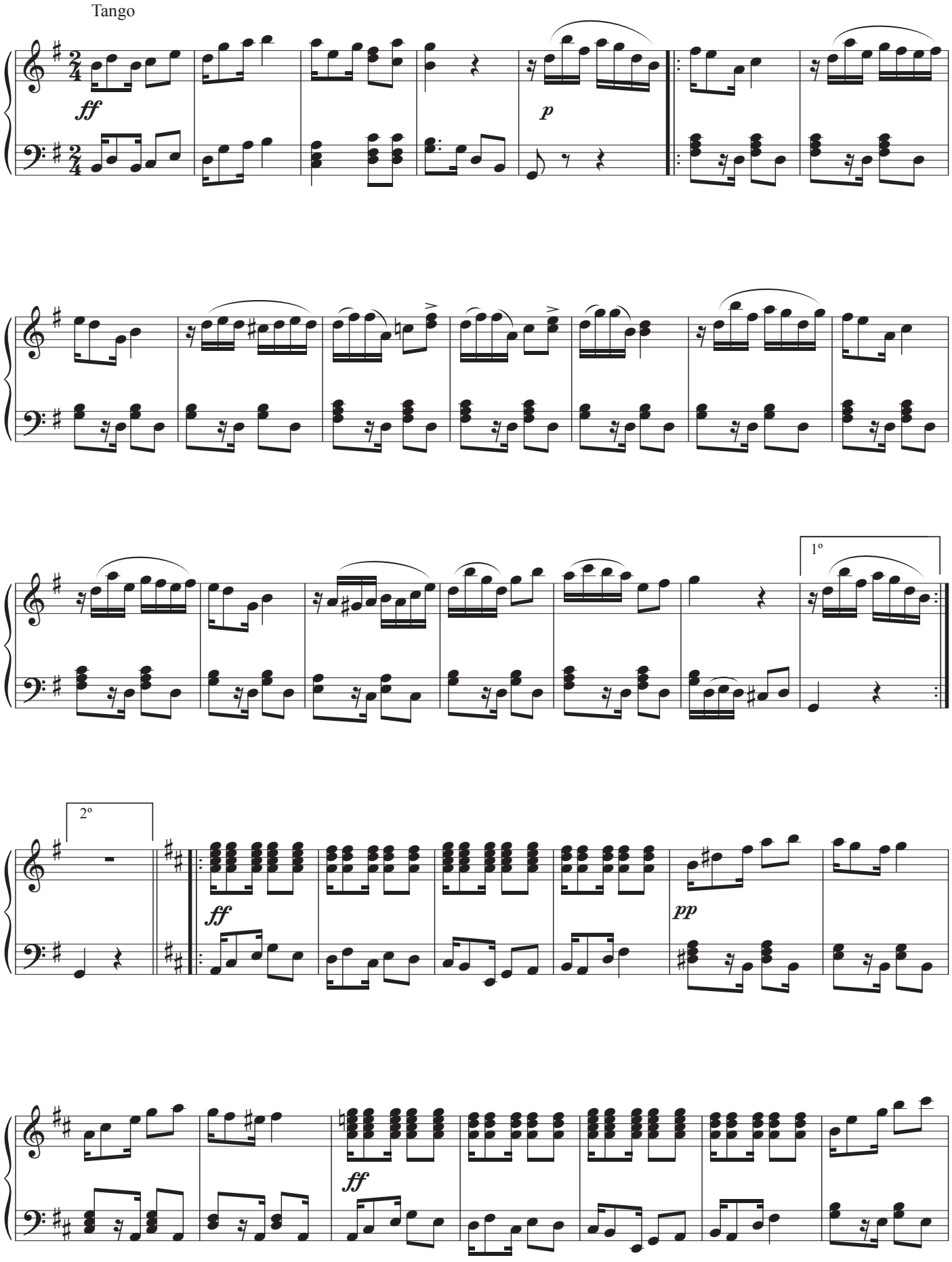
Maribomba

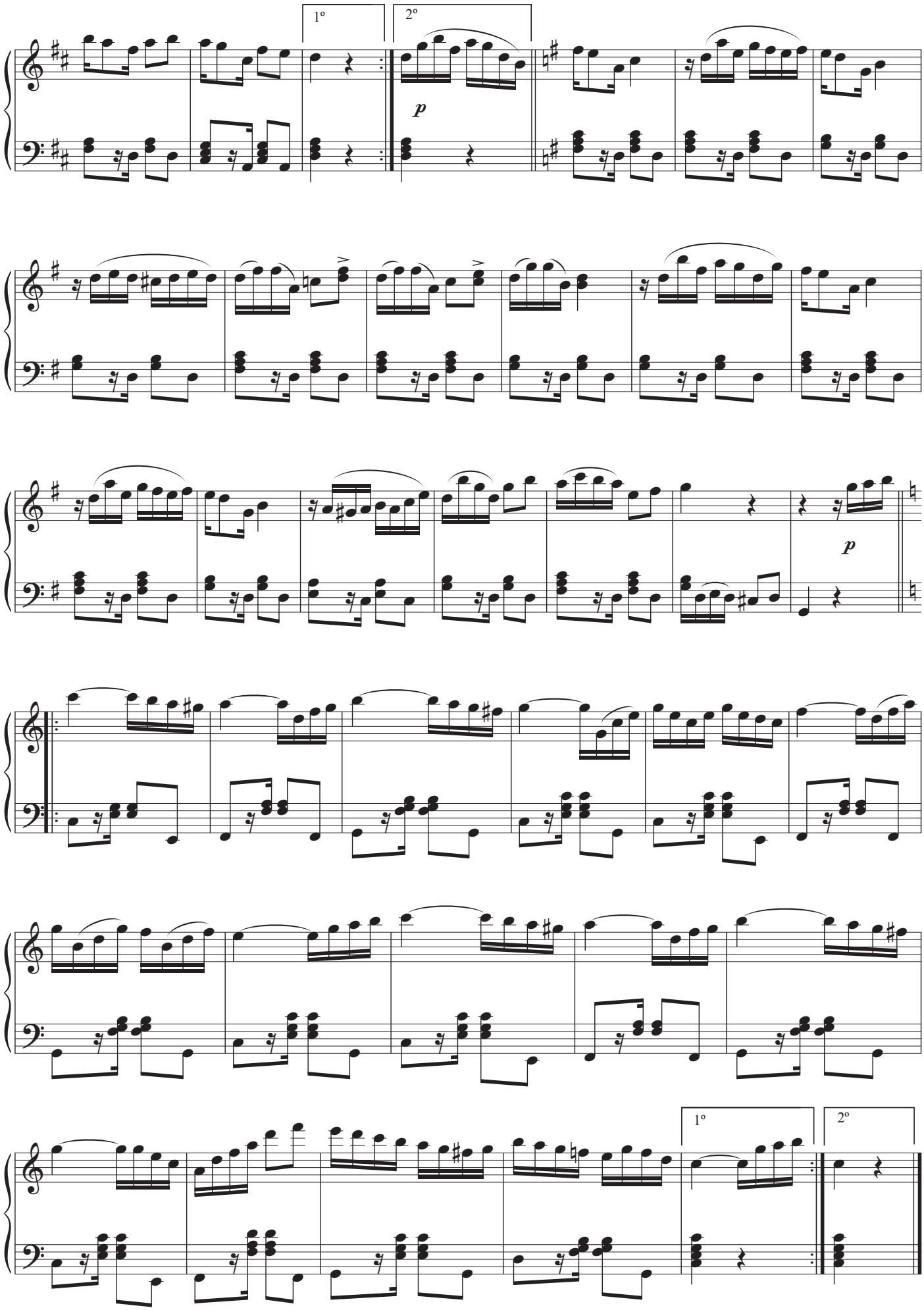


Marcha fúnebre



Más luz!

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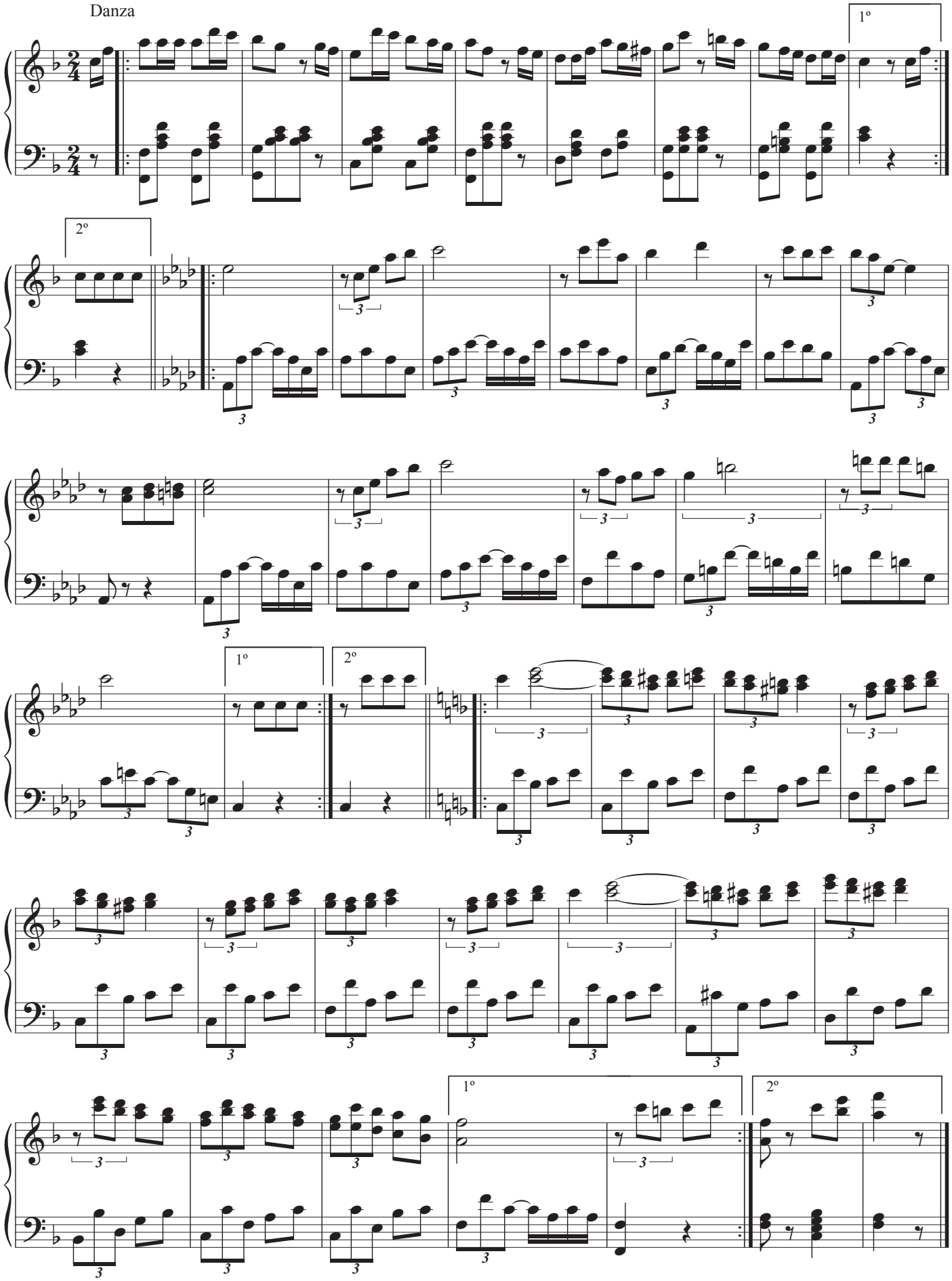
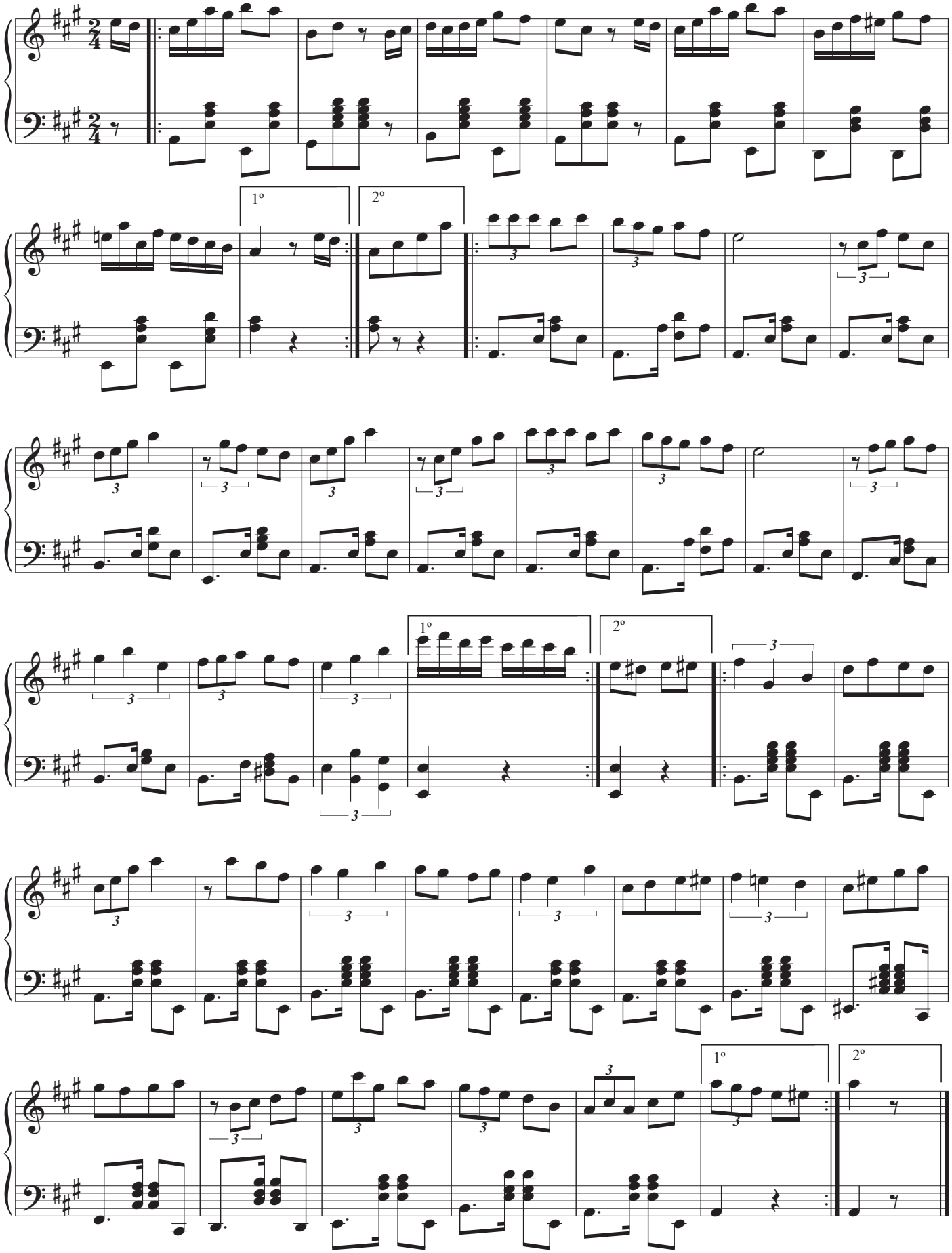
Mi ideal



No kinipi

Danza



No Olvides

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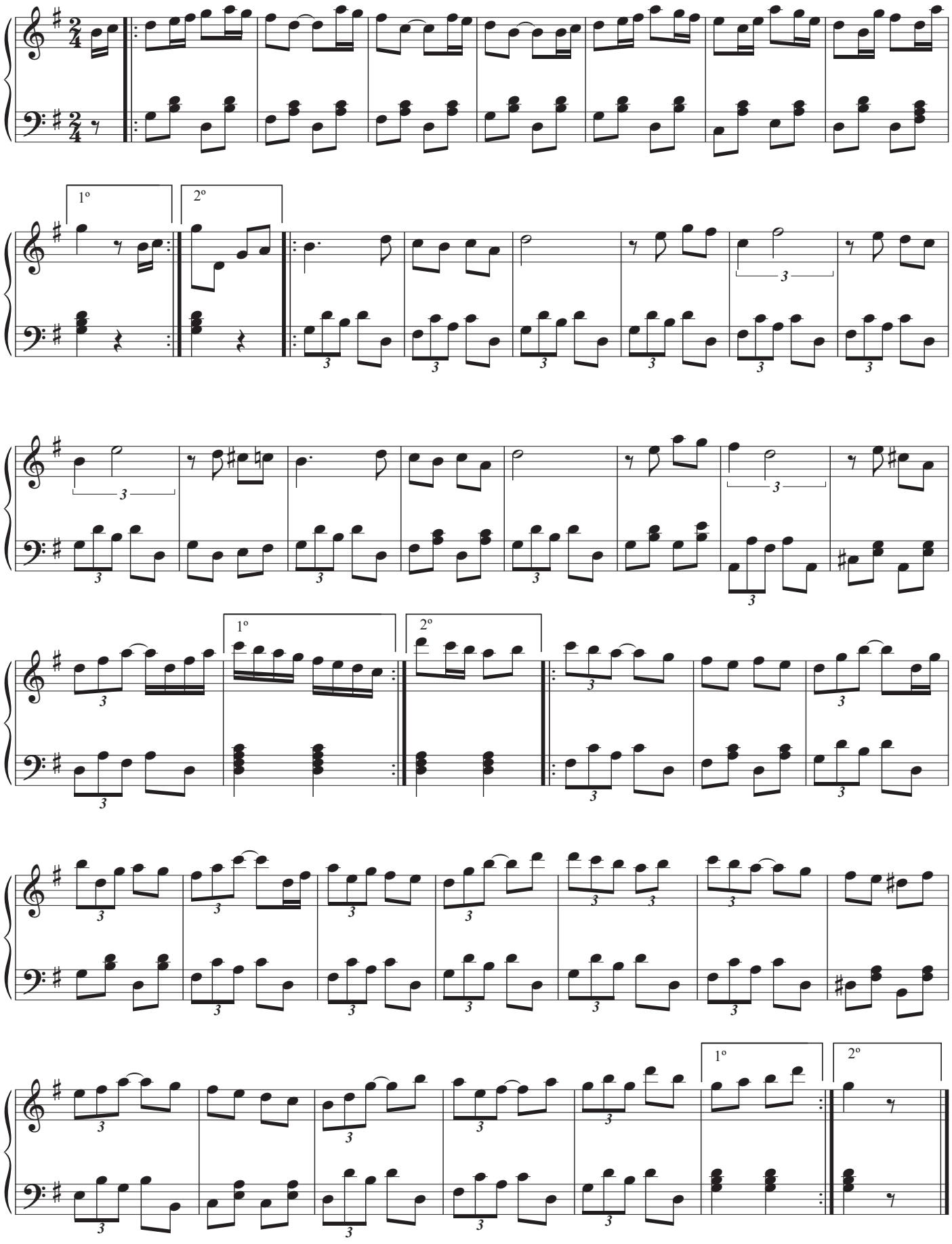
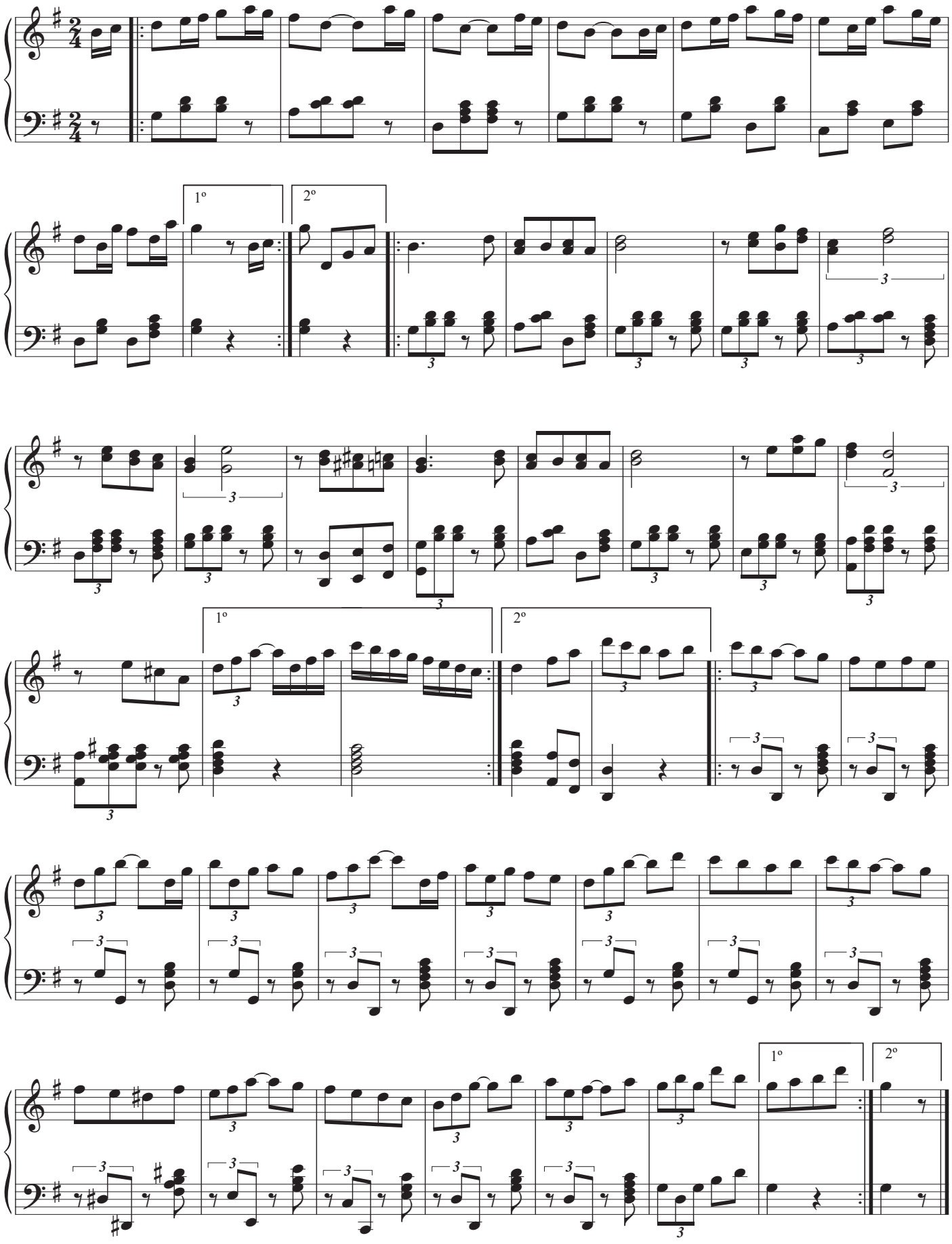
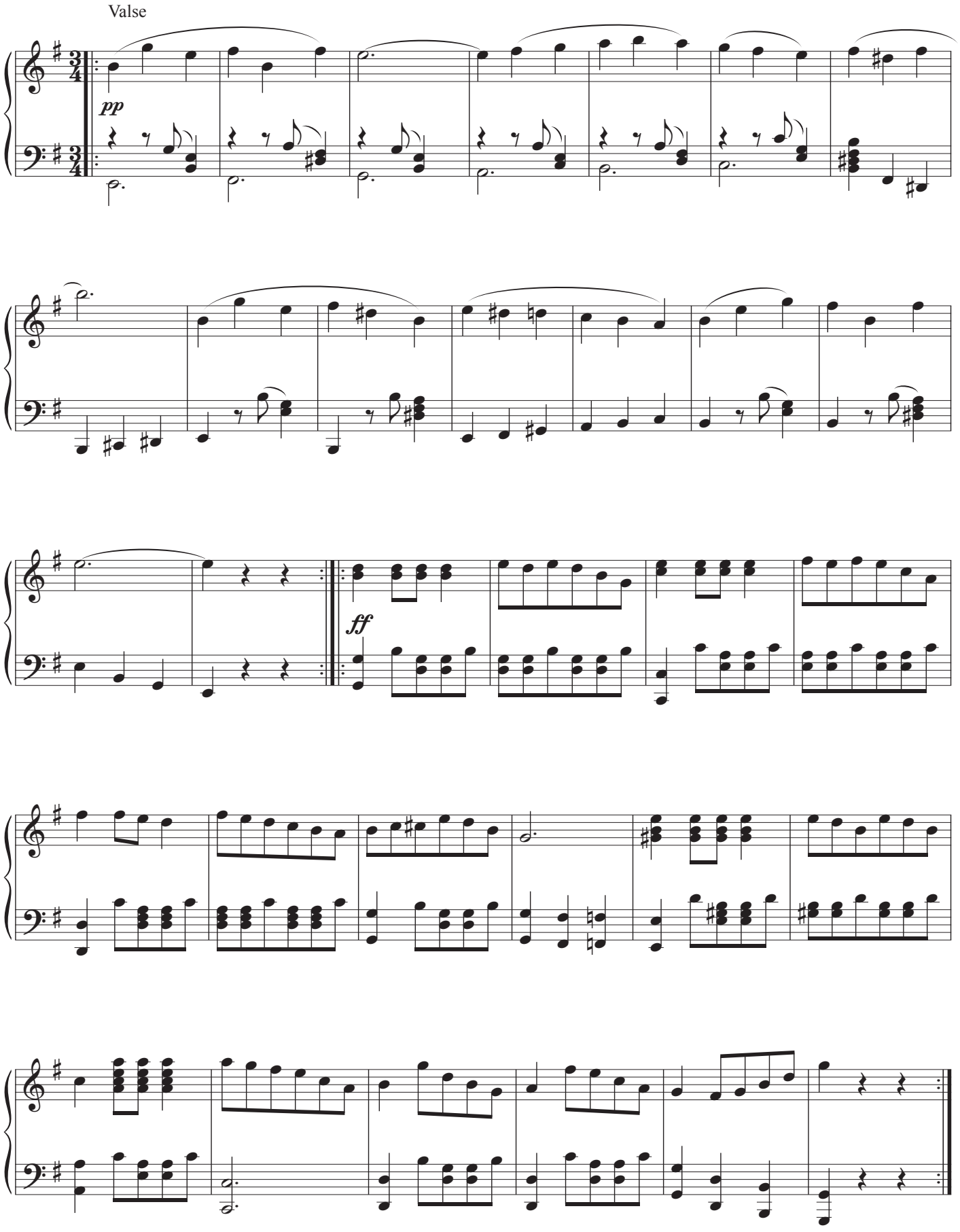


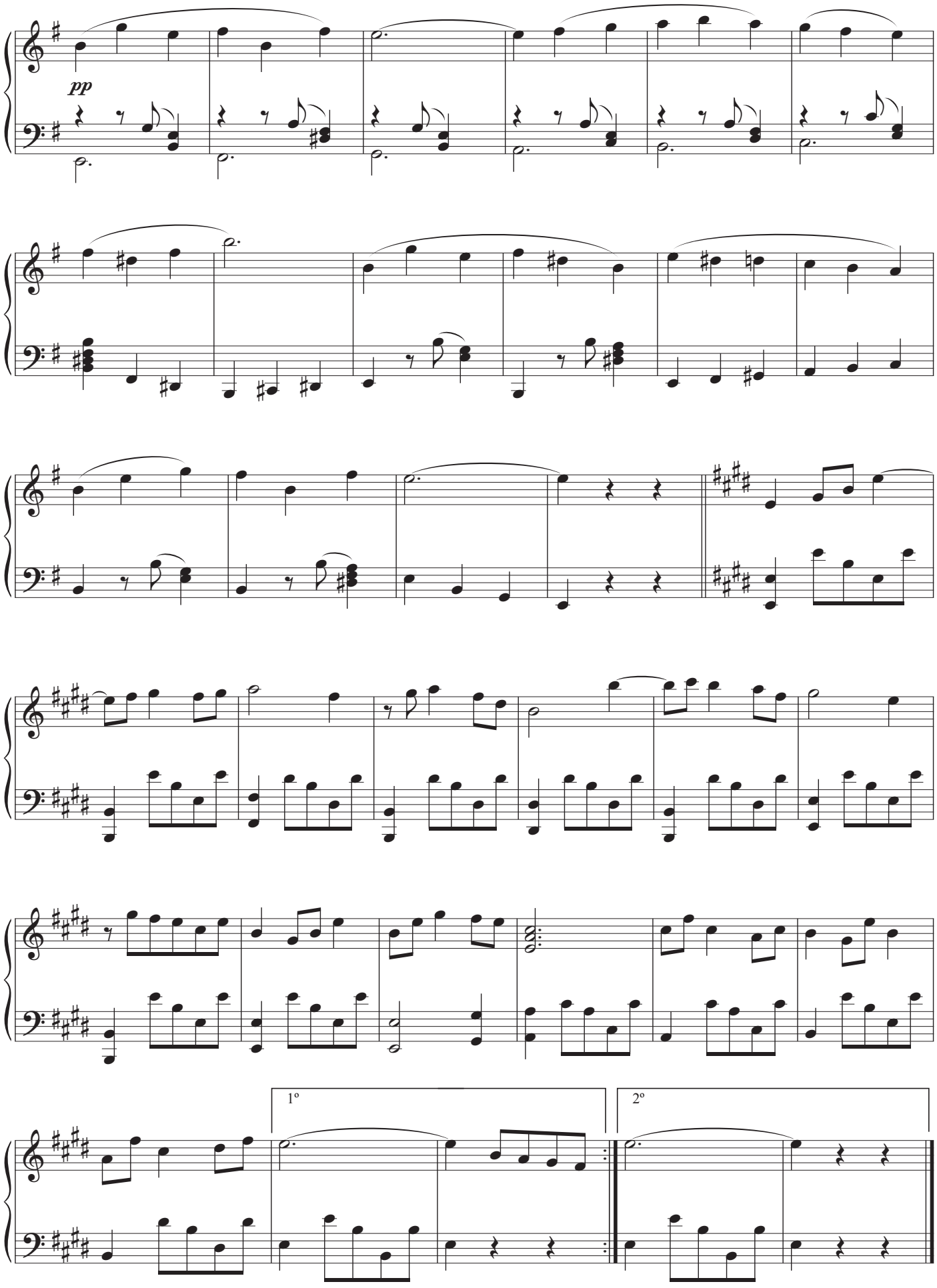
No Olvides (2nd version

Danza



Nube sombría

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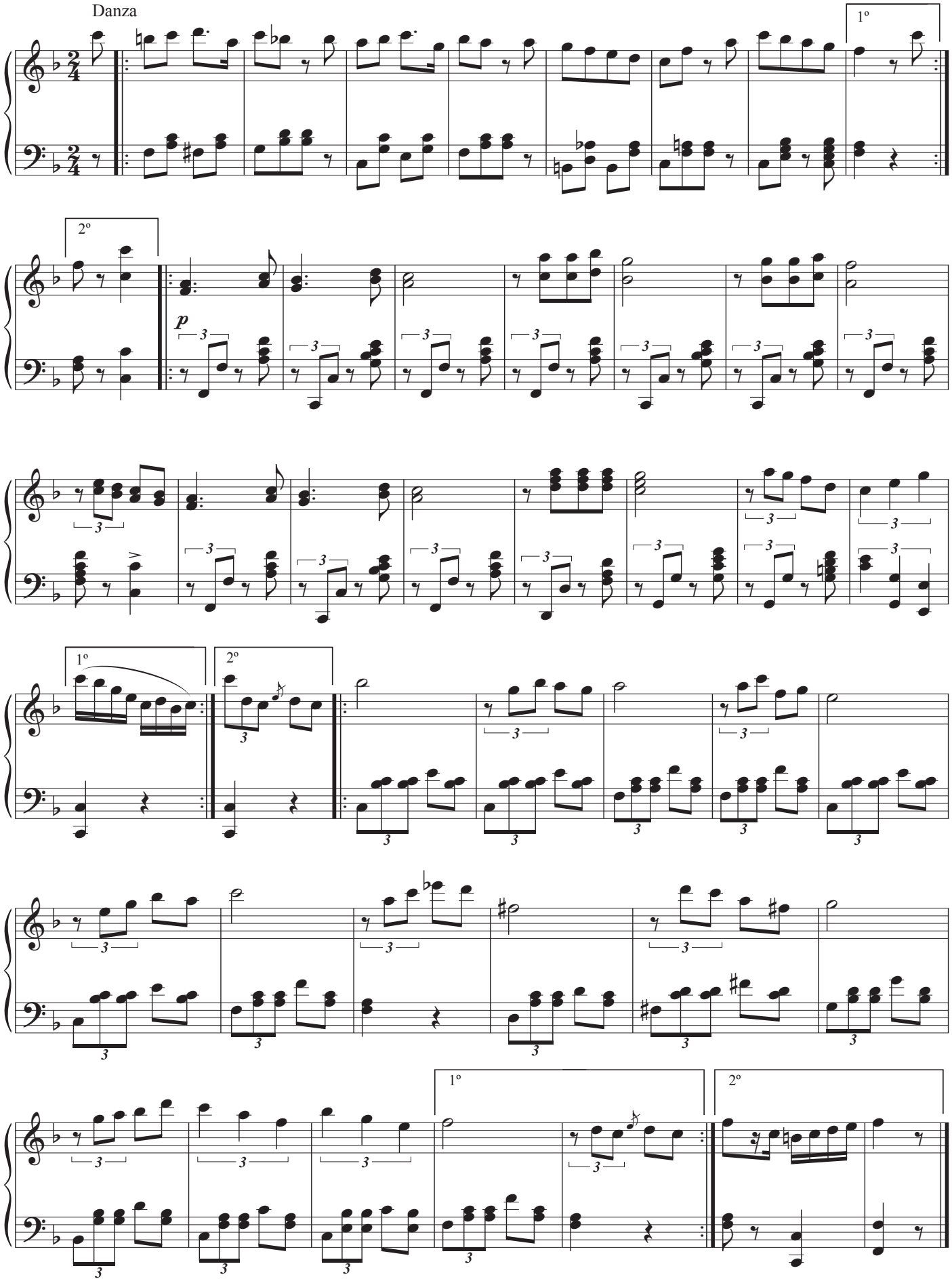
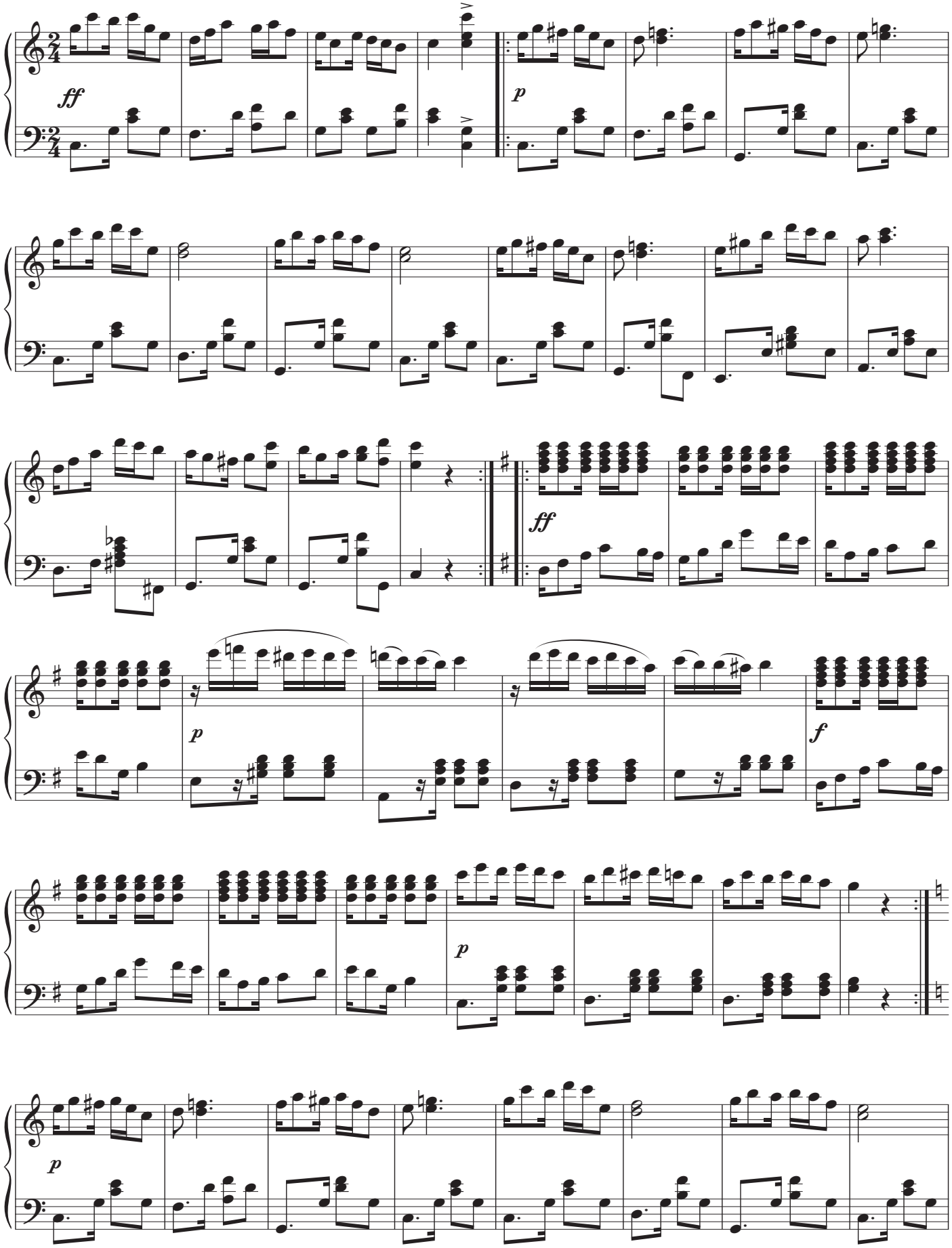
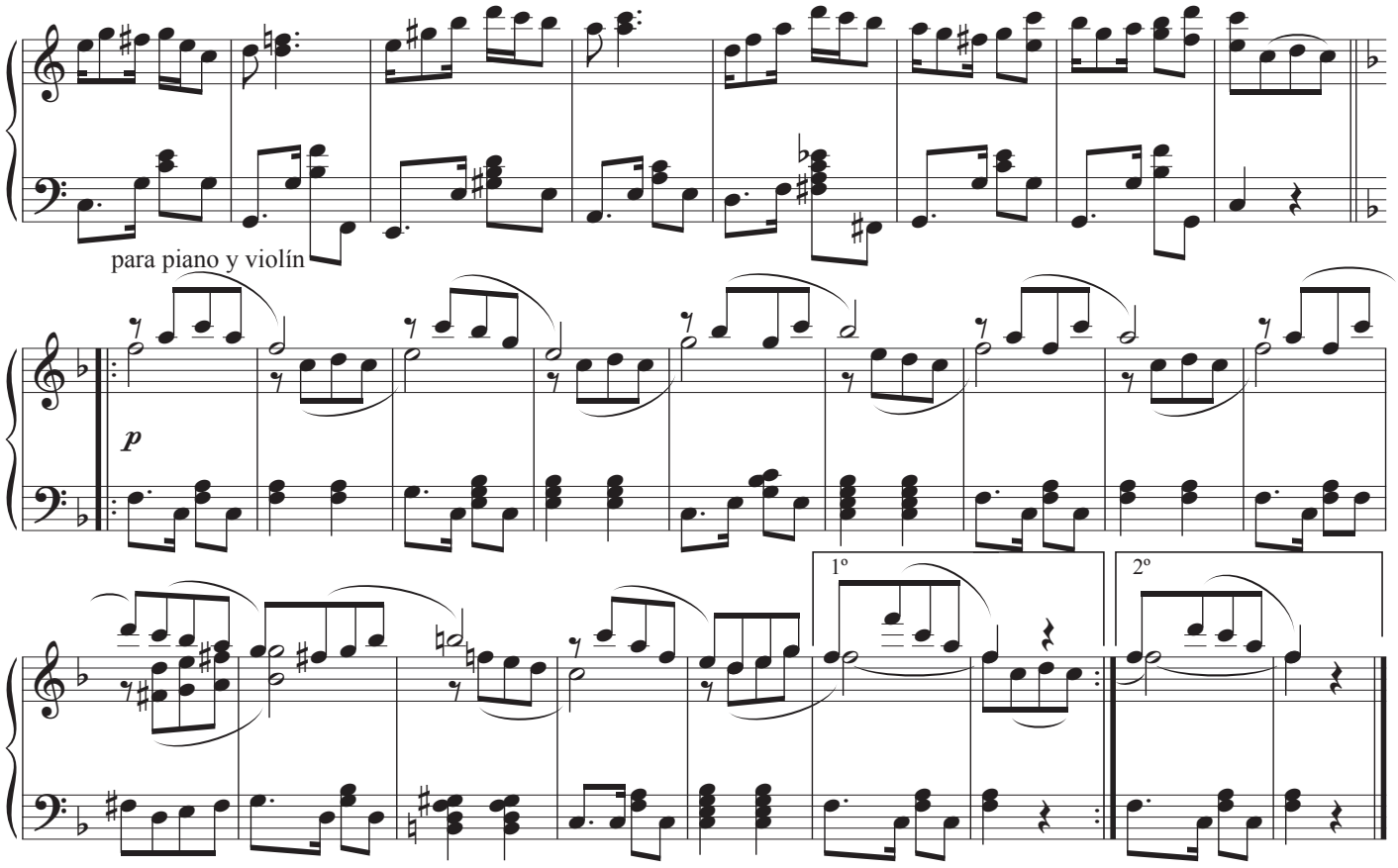
Orfeo

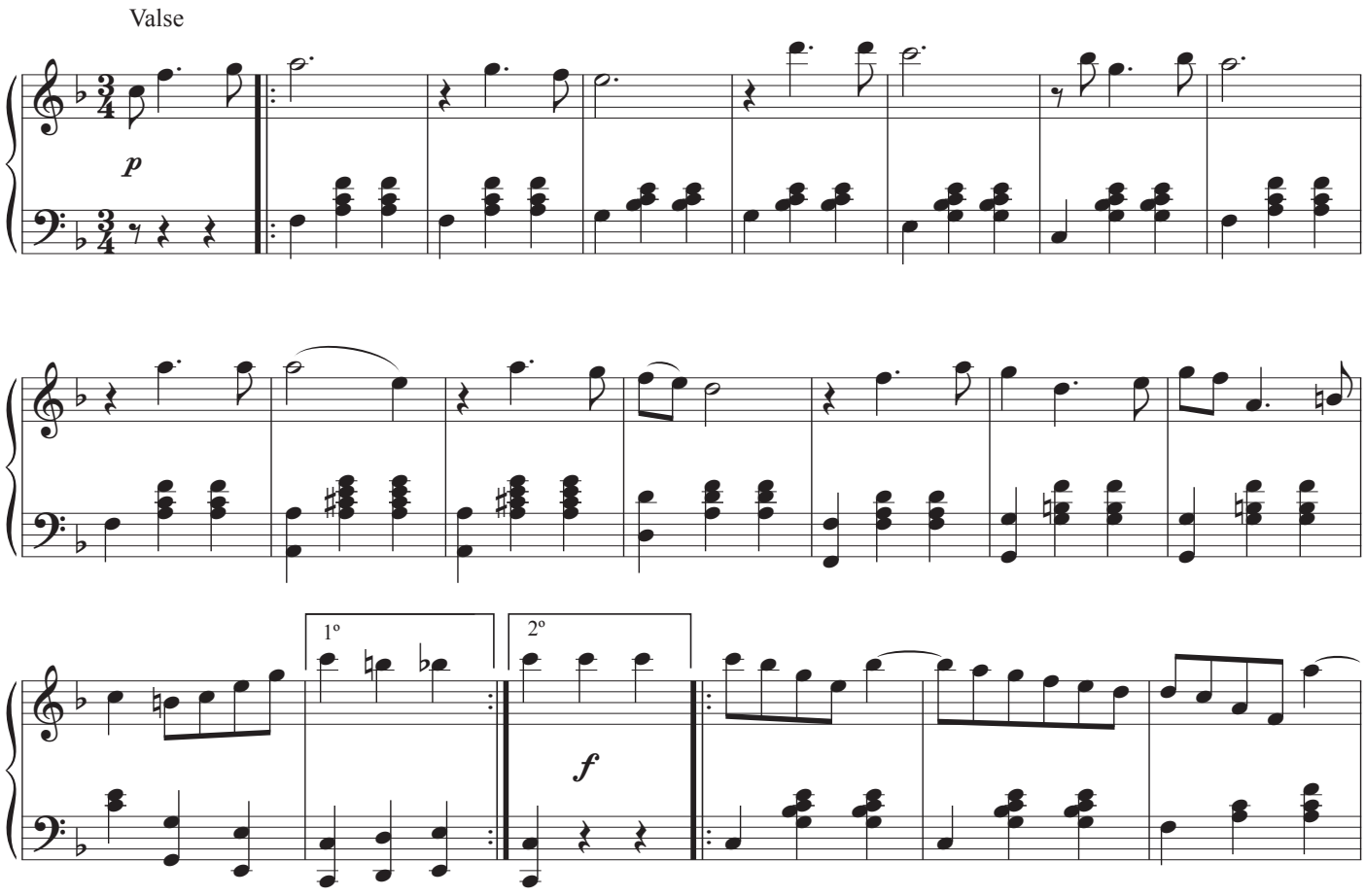


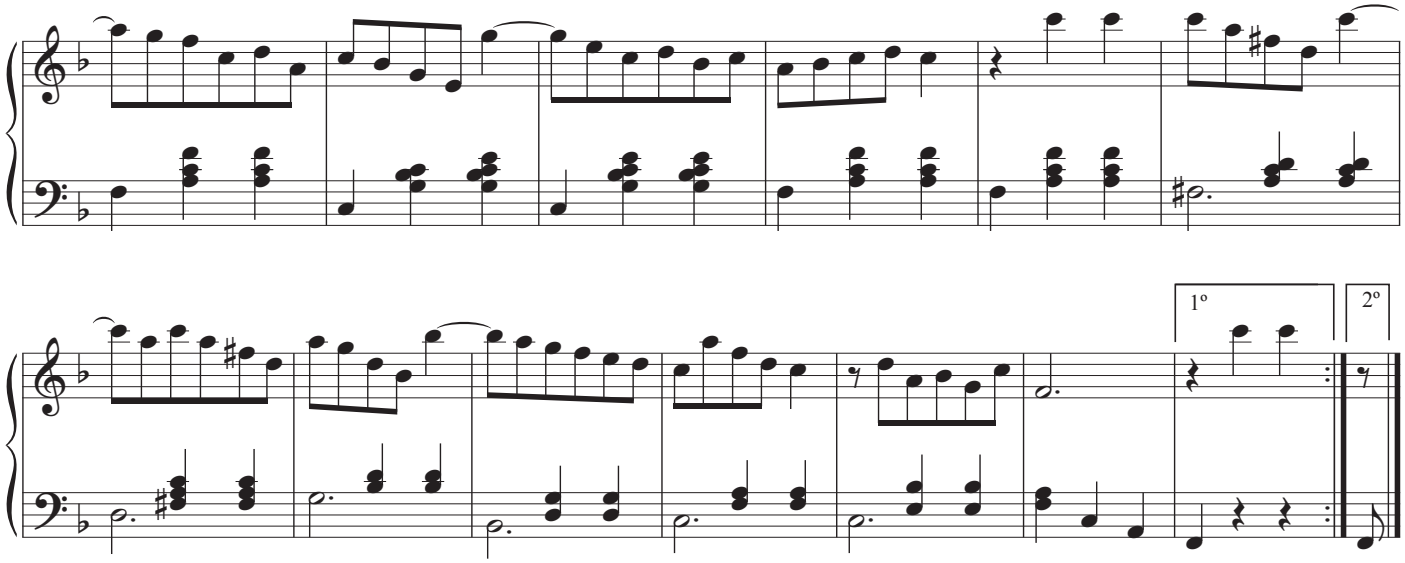
Otro Tango





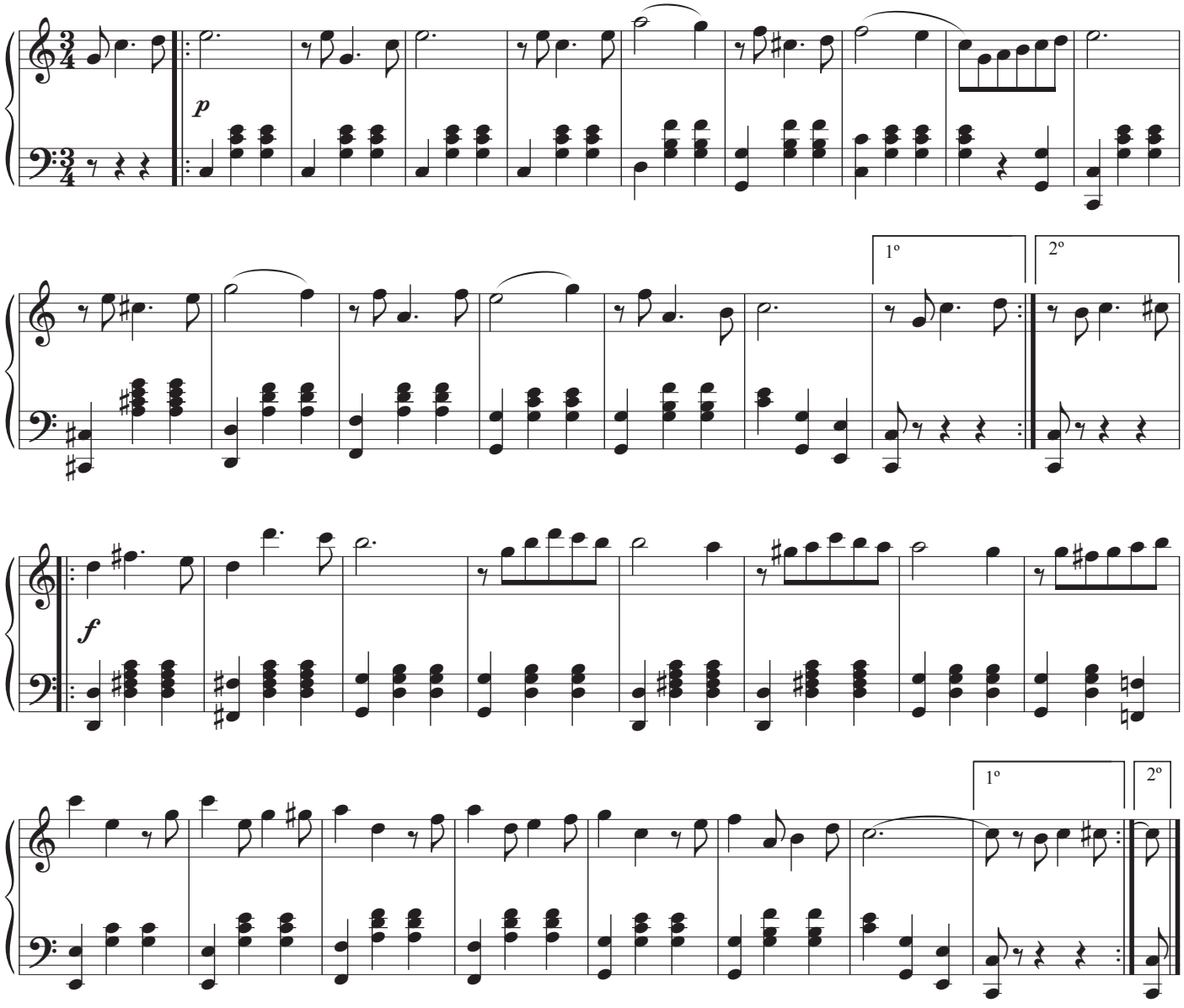
Pa Paskoe





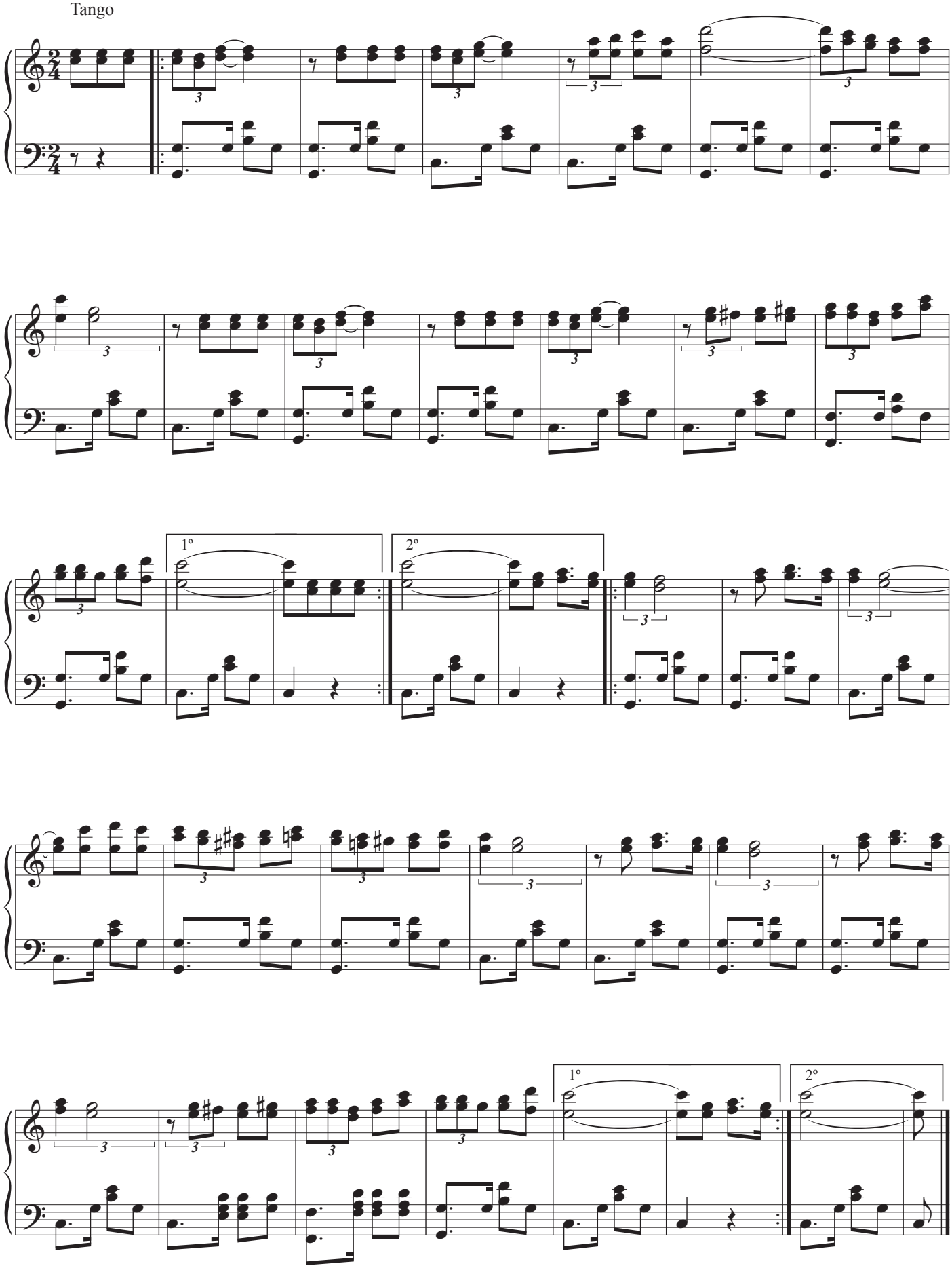
Para Corri

Valse



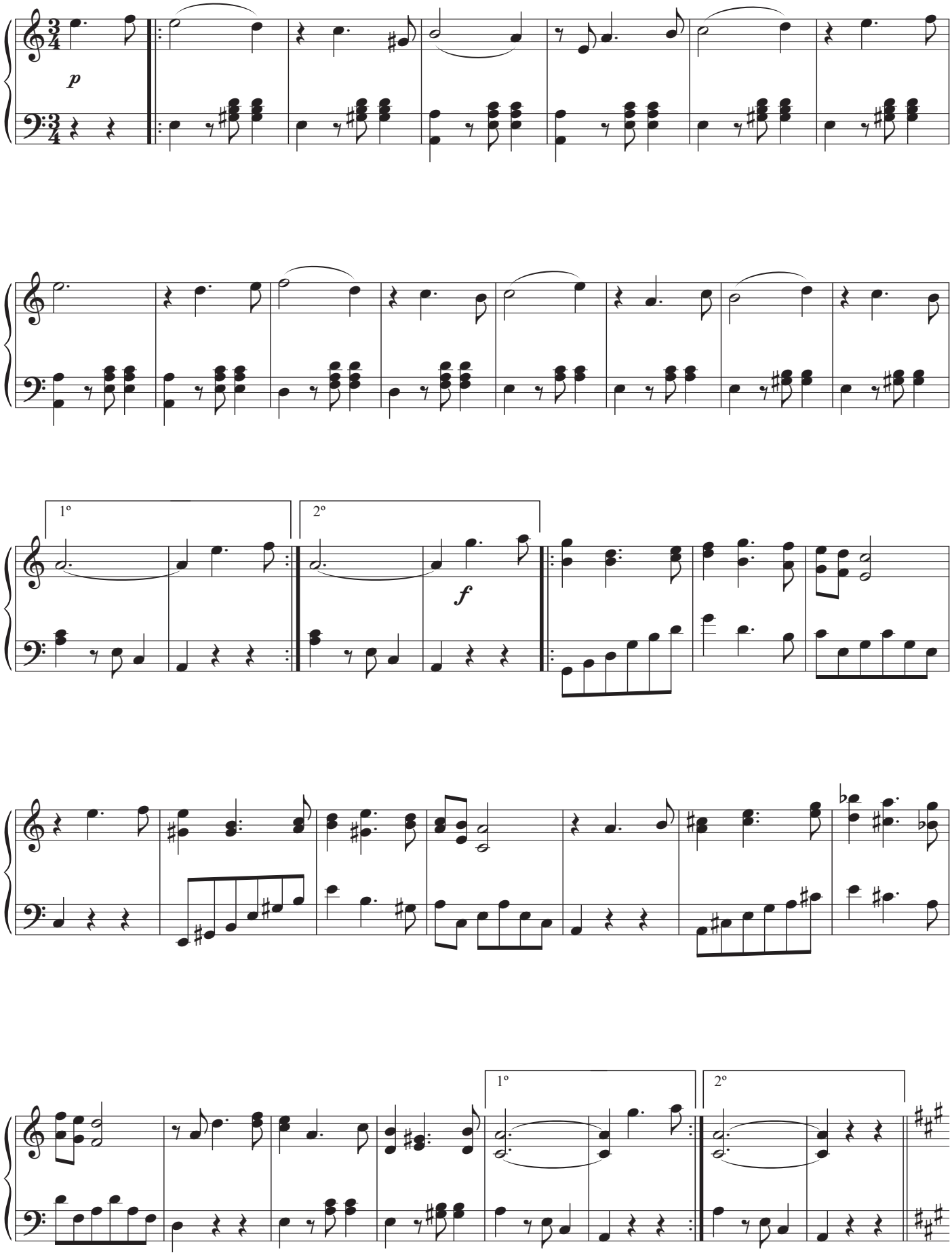
Paraguay

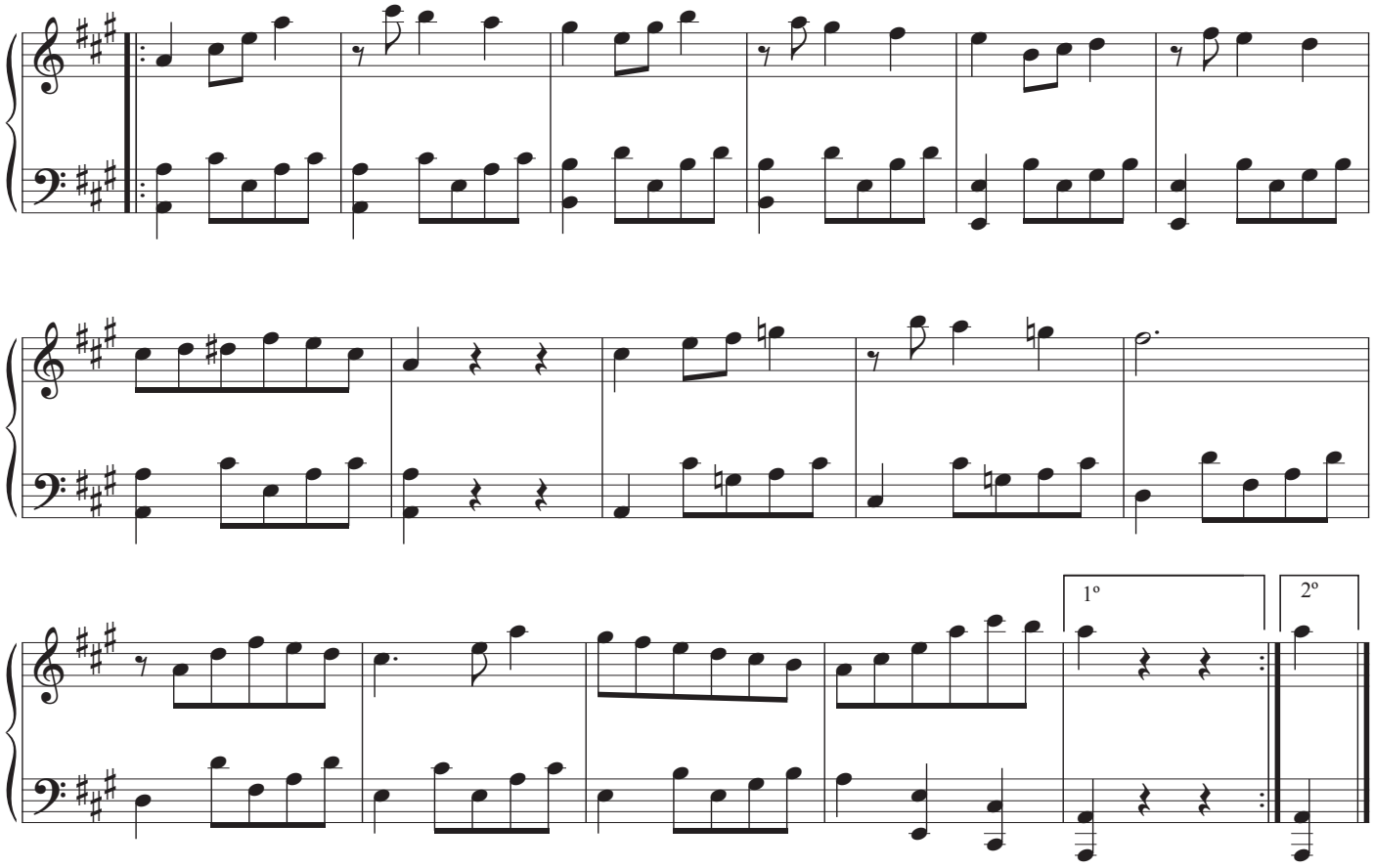
Tango



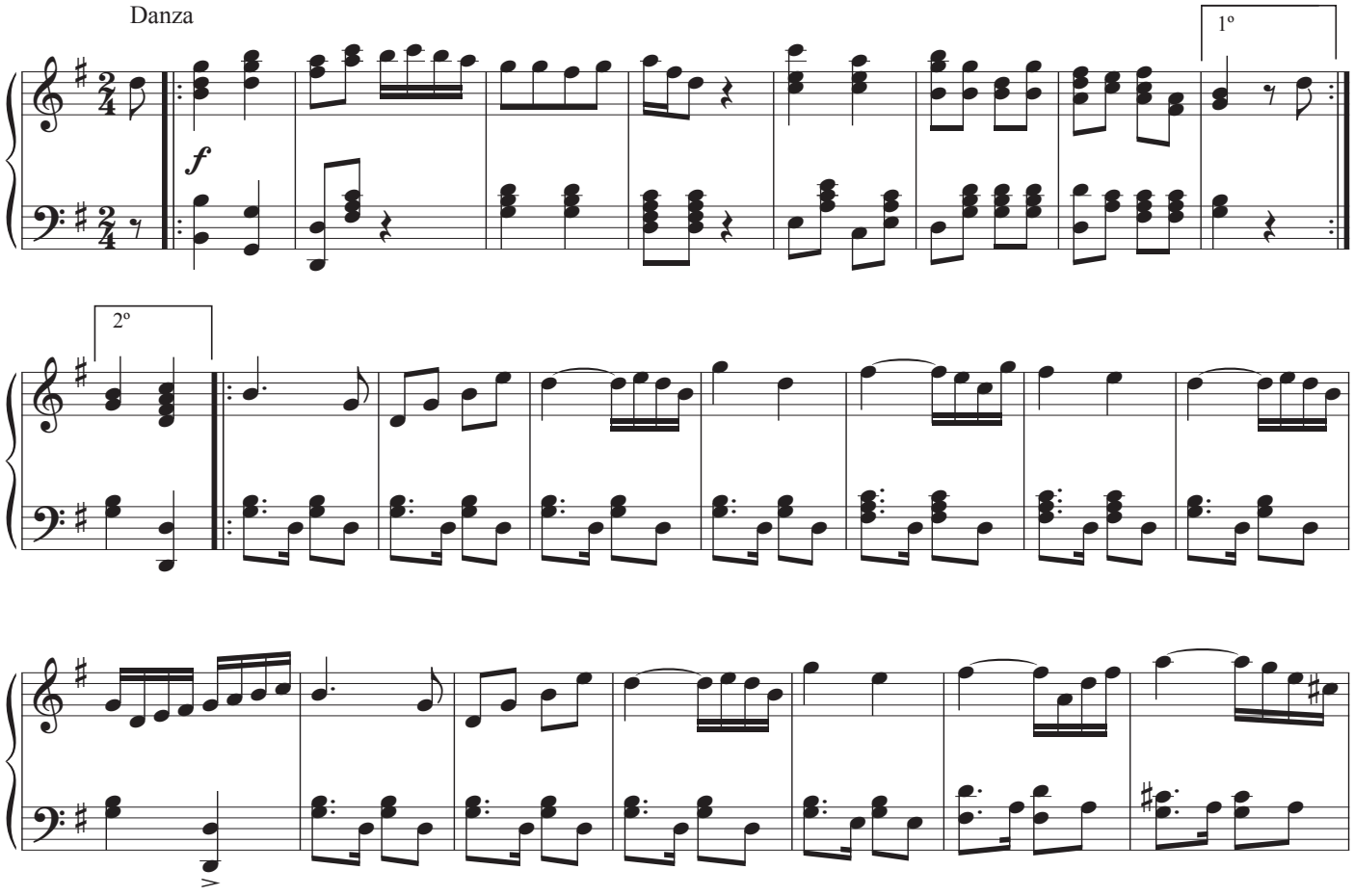
Para Thelma

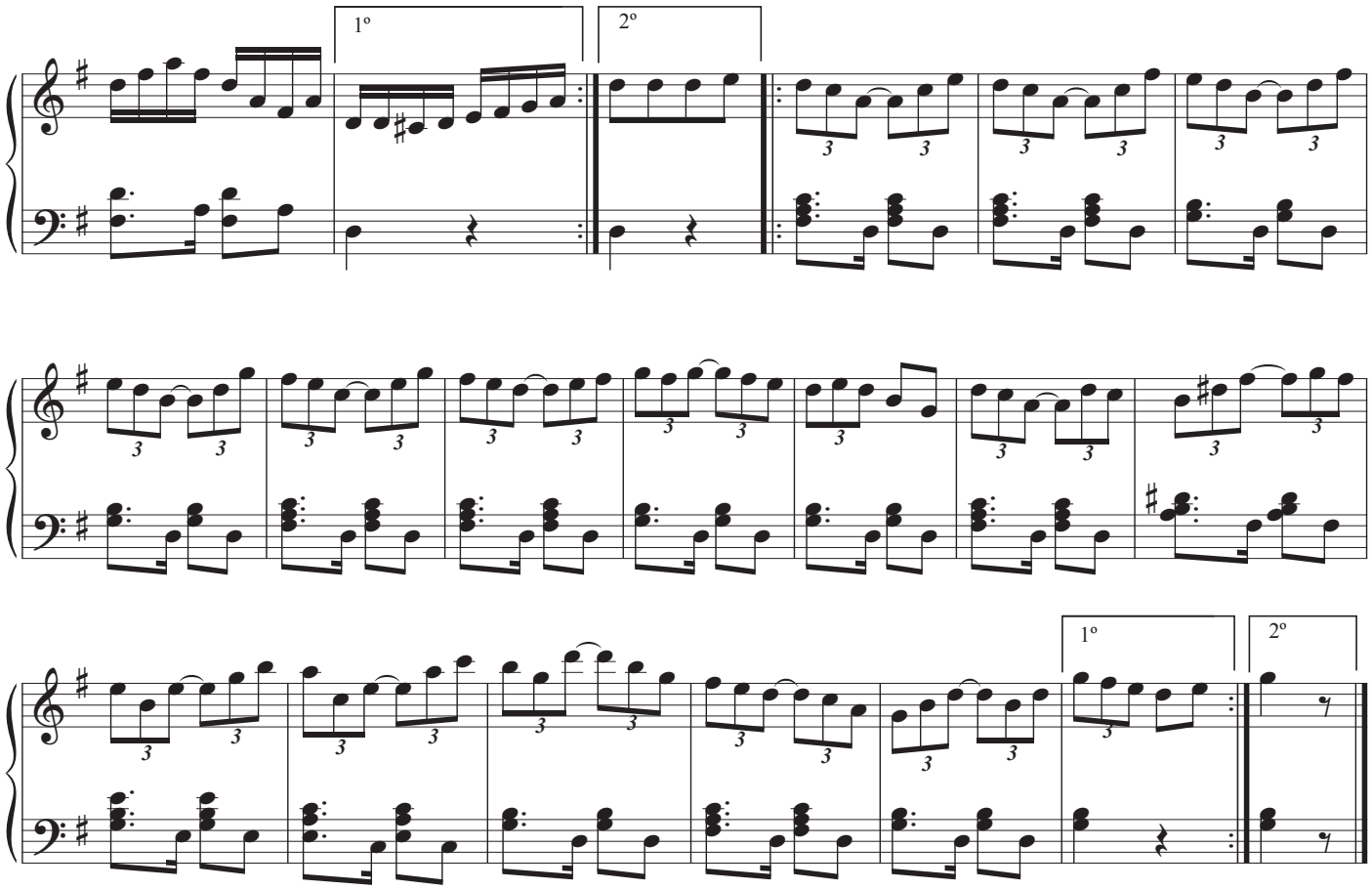
Valse





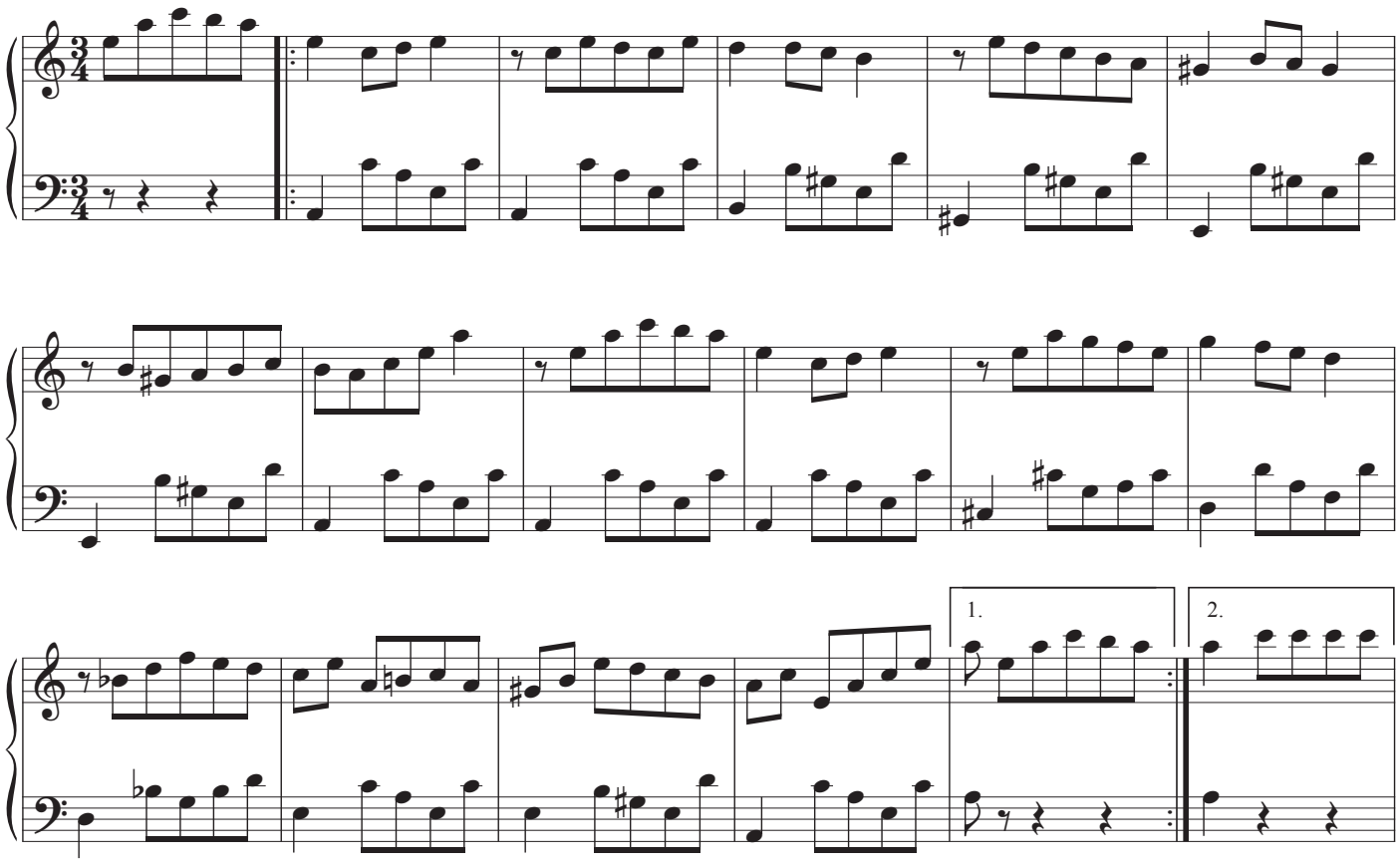
Patanata

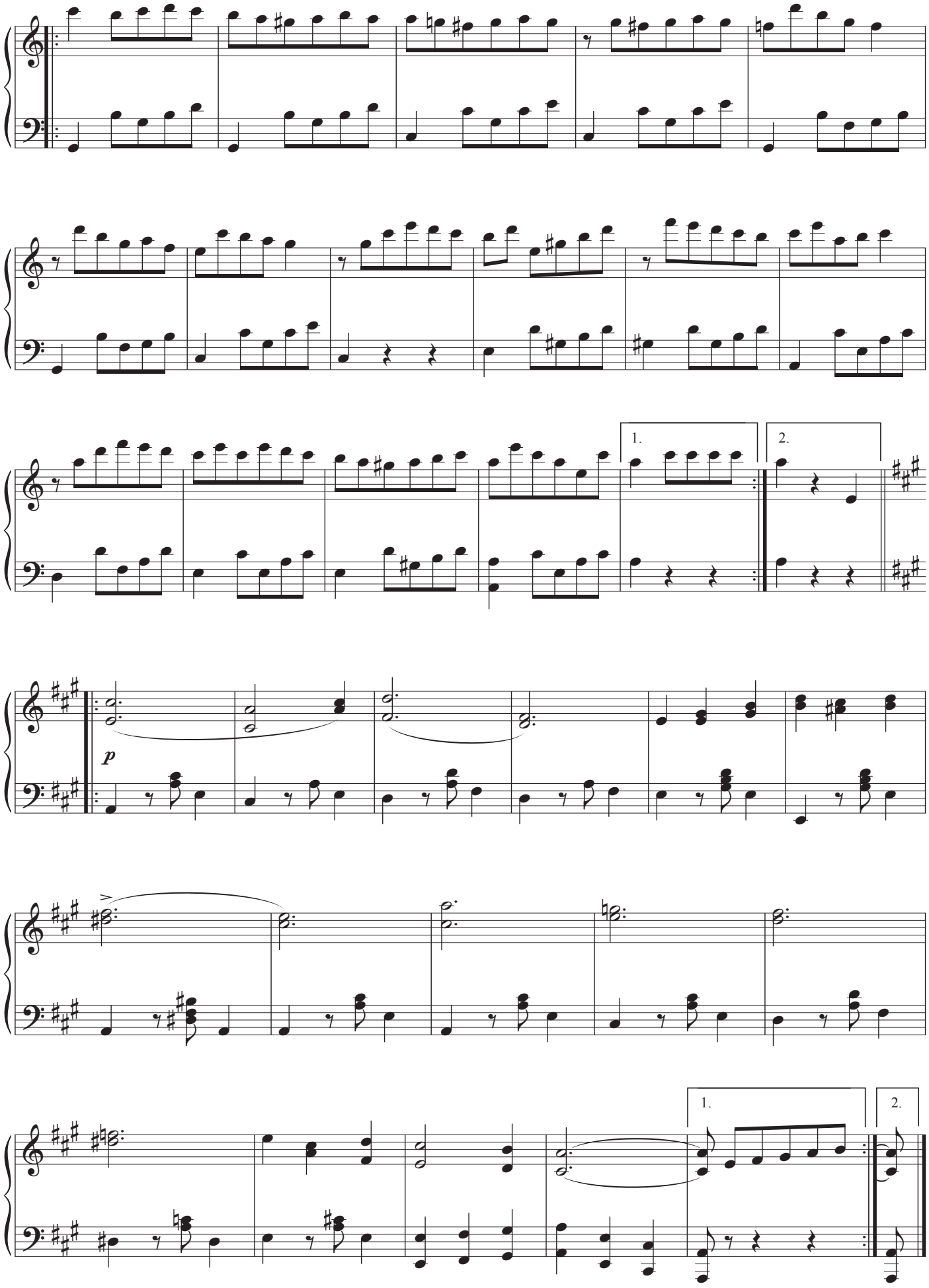




Placeres de la vida

Valse




1.
2.
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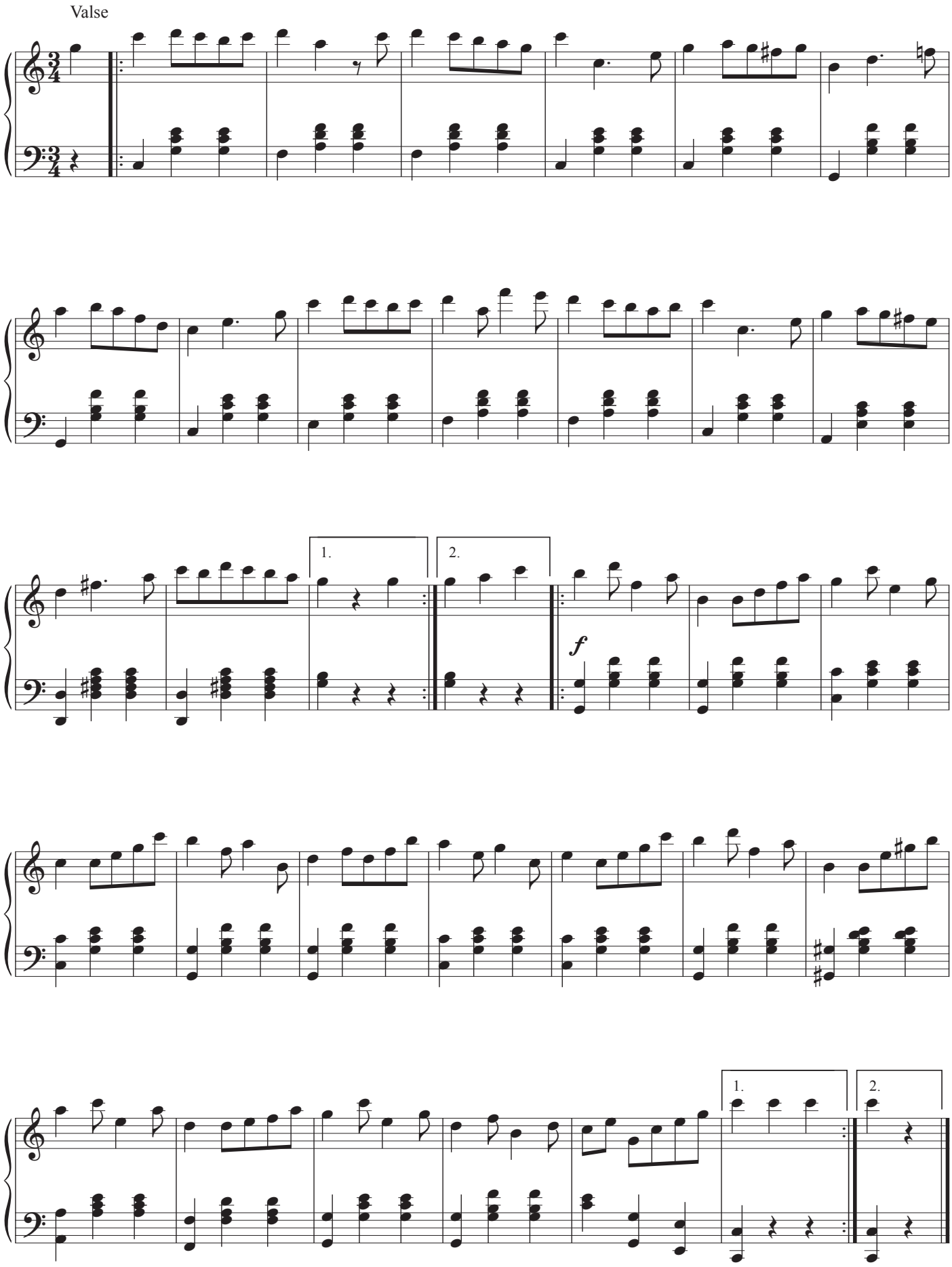
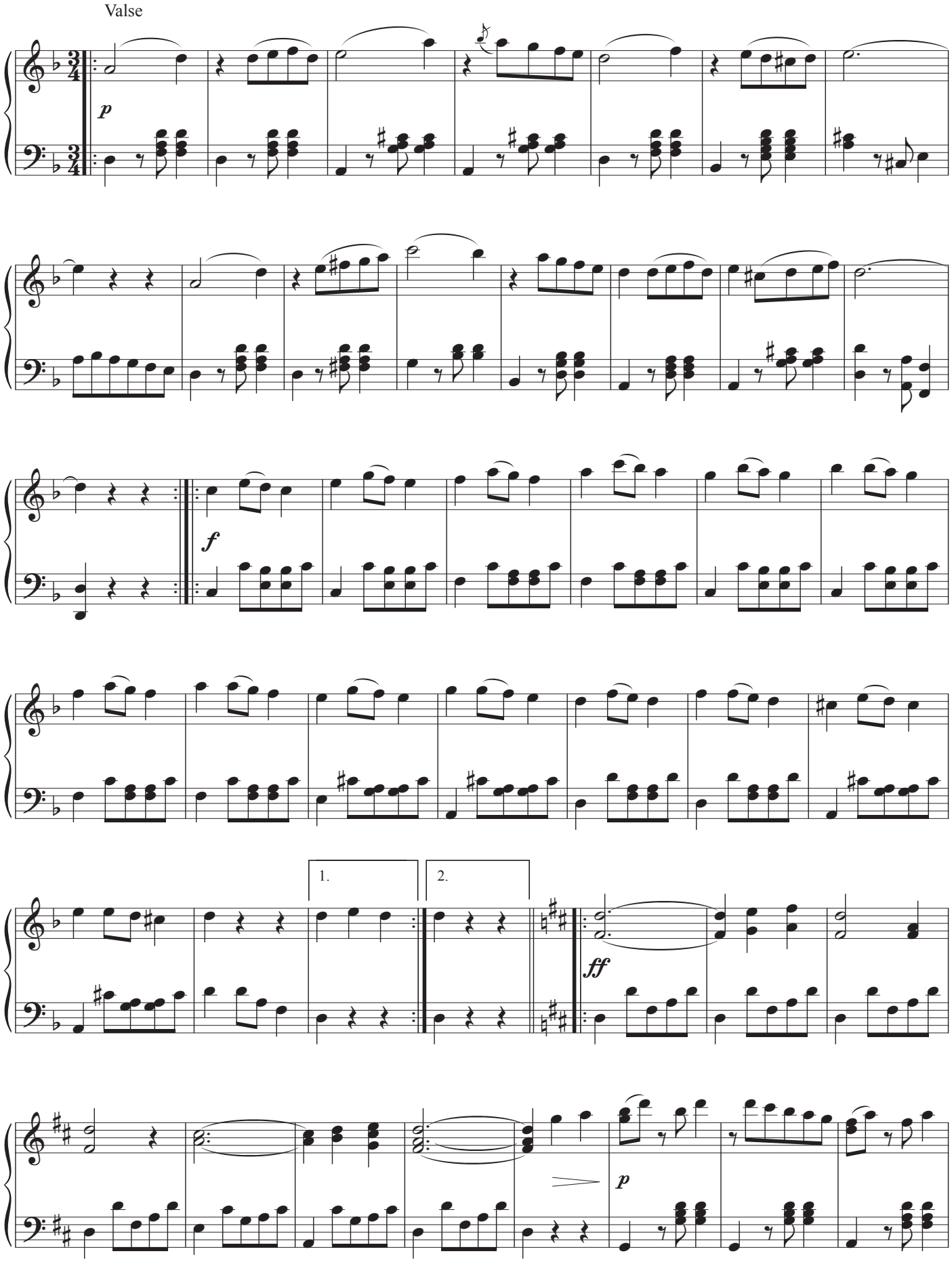
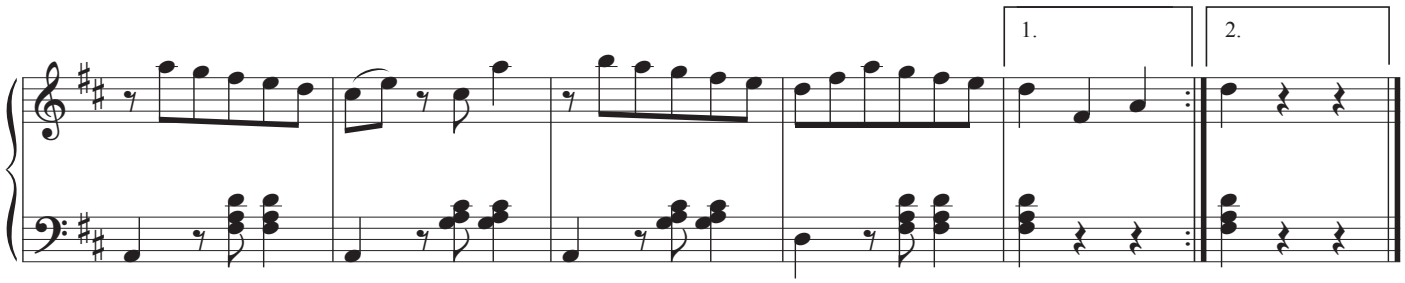
Poerim Alegre



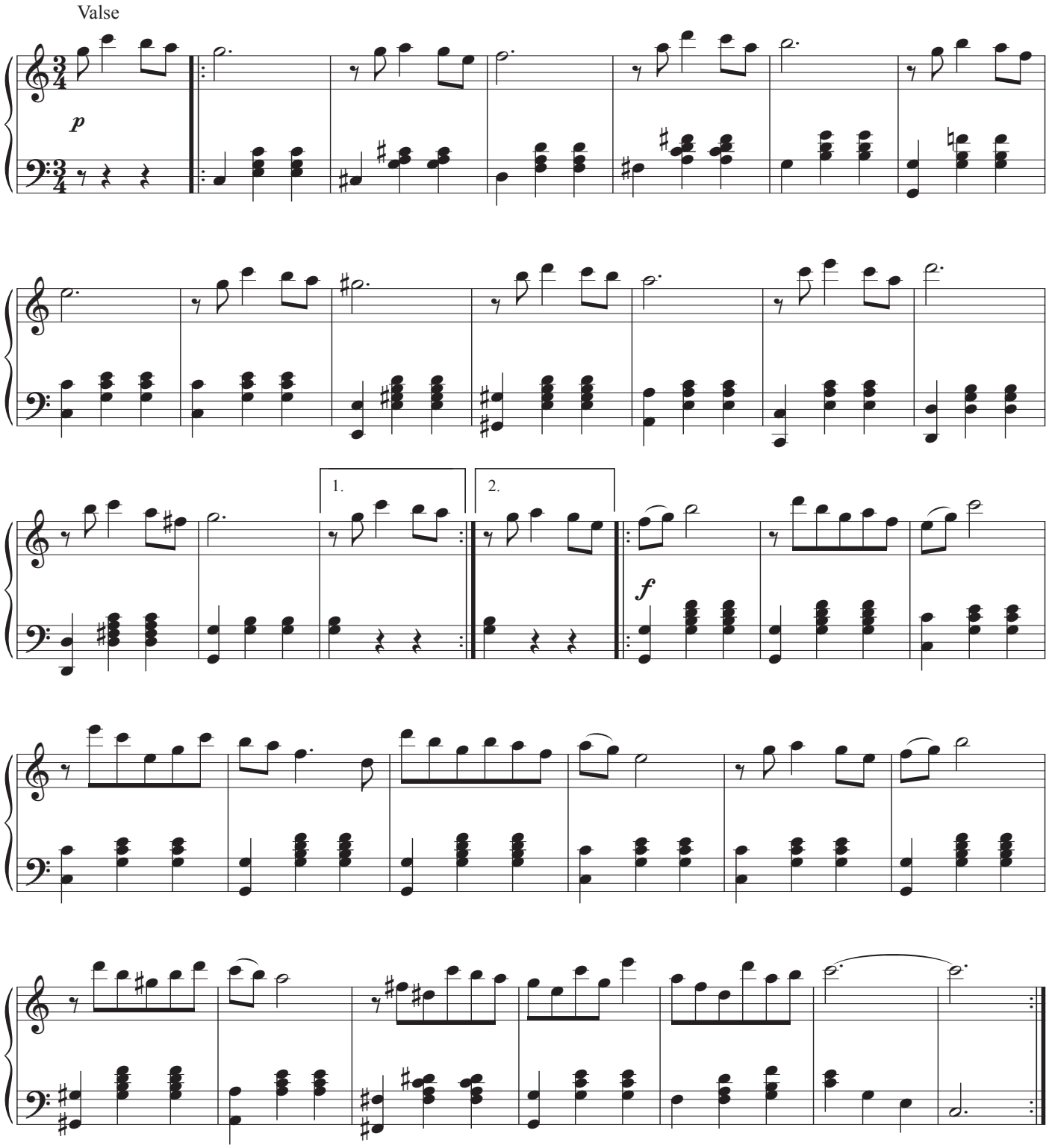
Qué error!





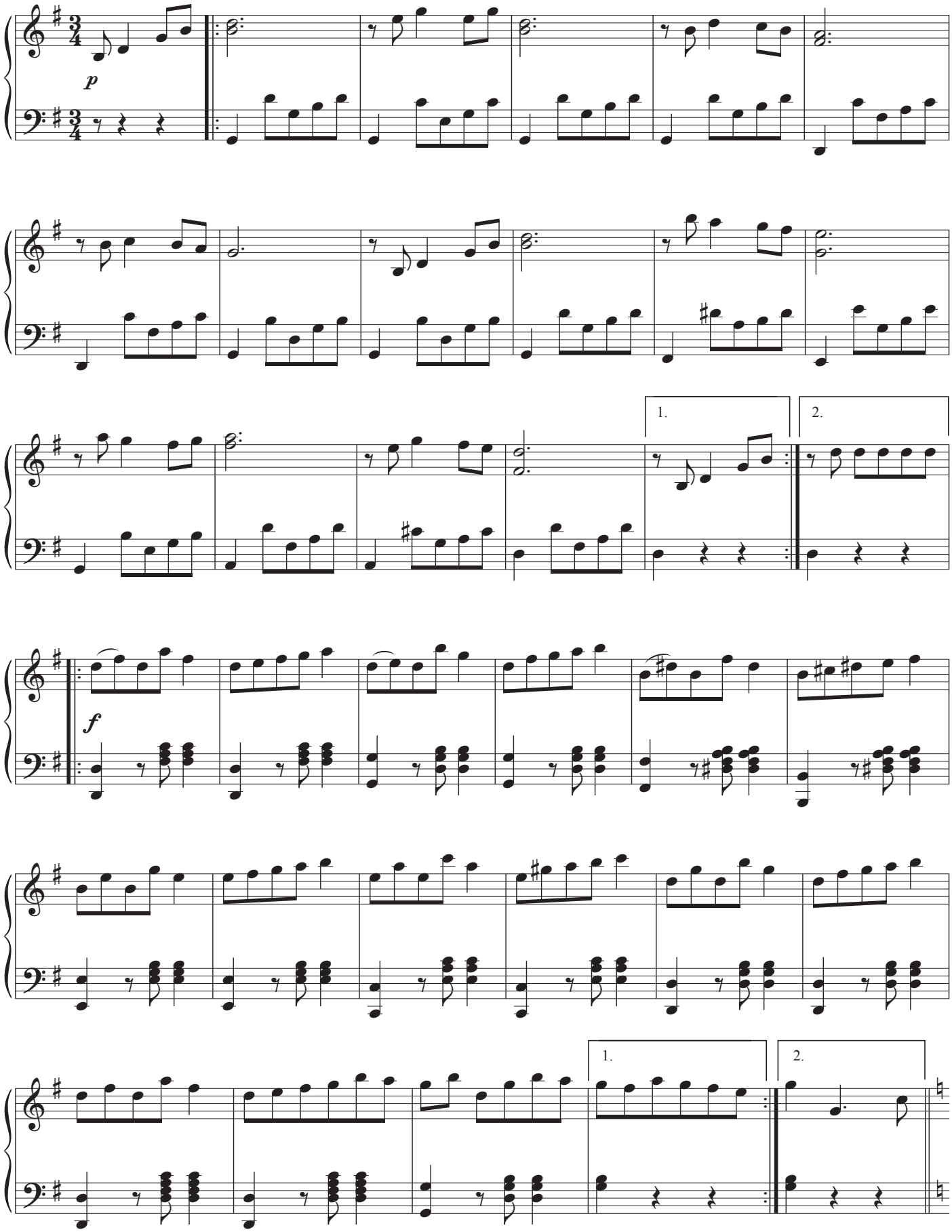
Qué Locura!

Valse

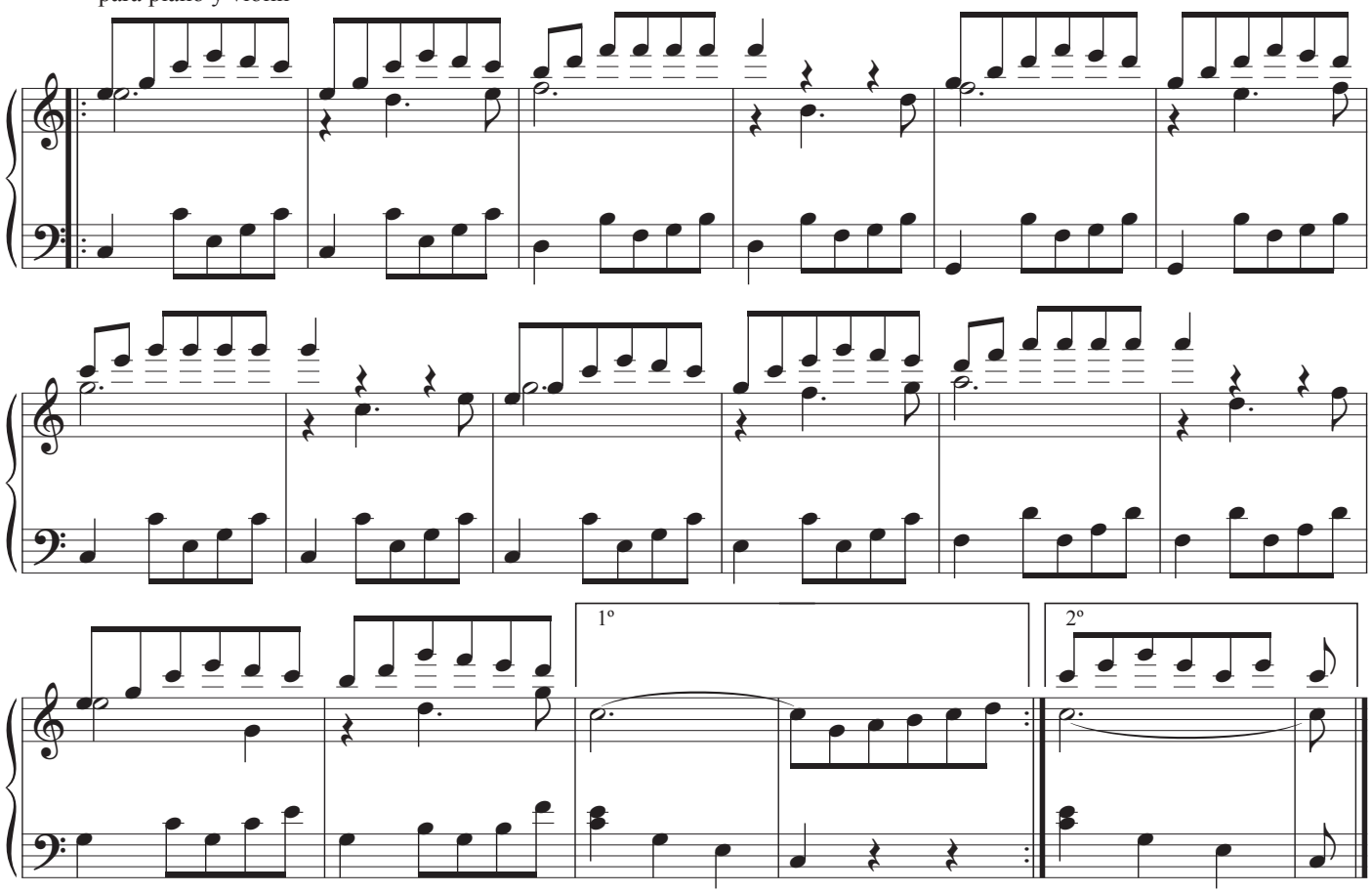


Qué Lucha!

Valse

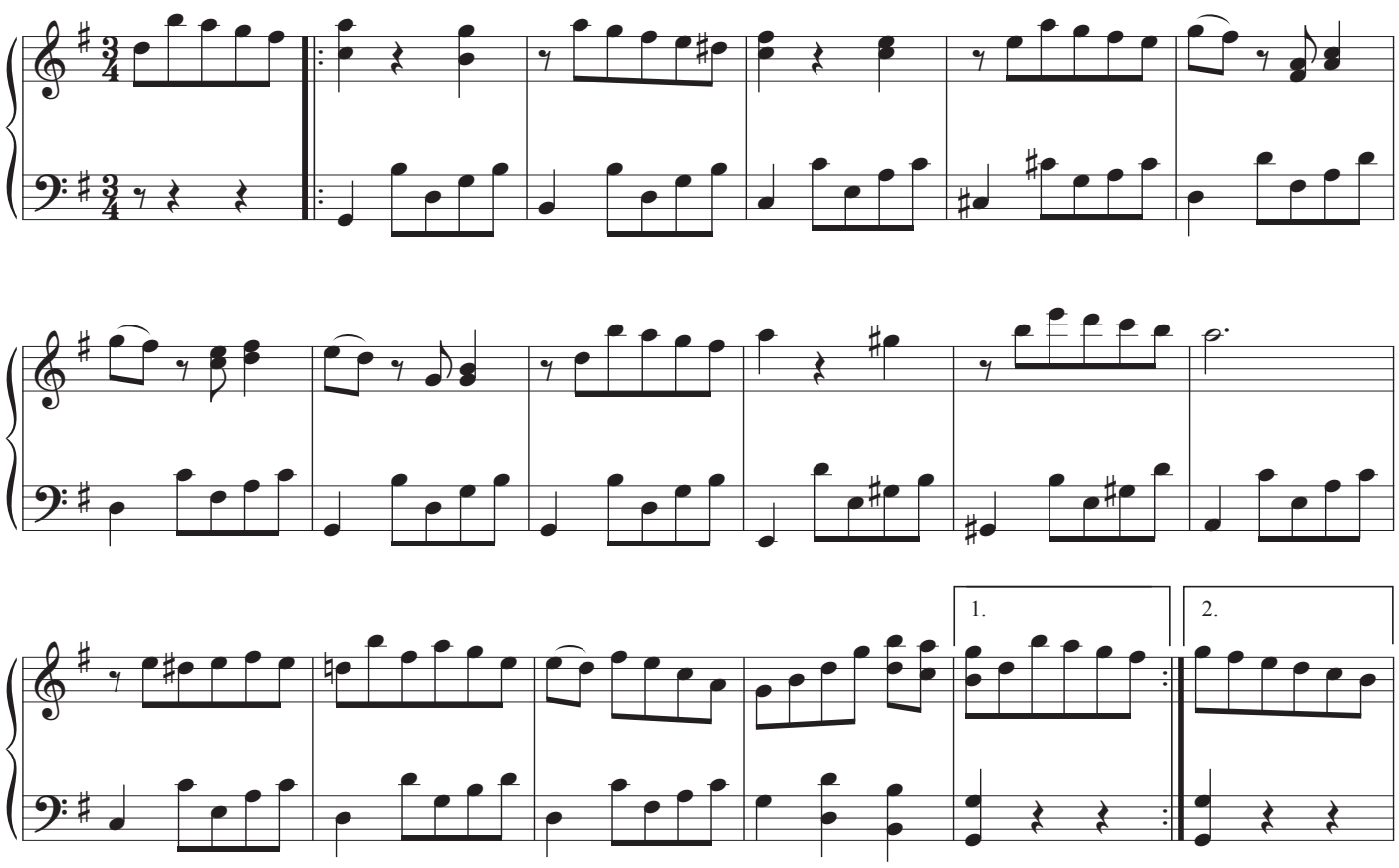


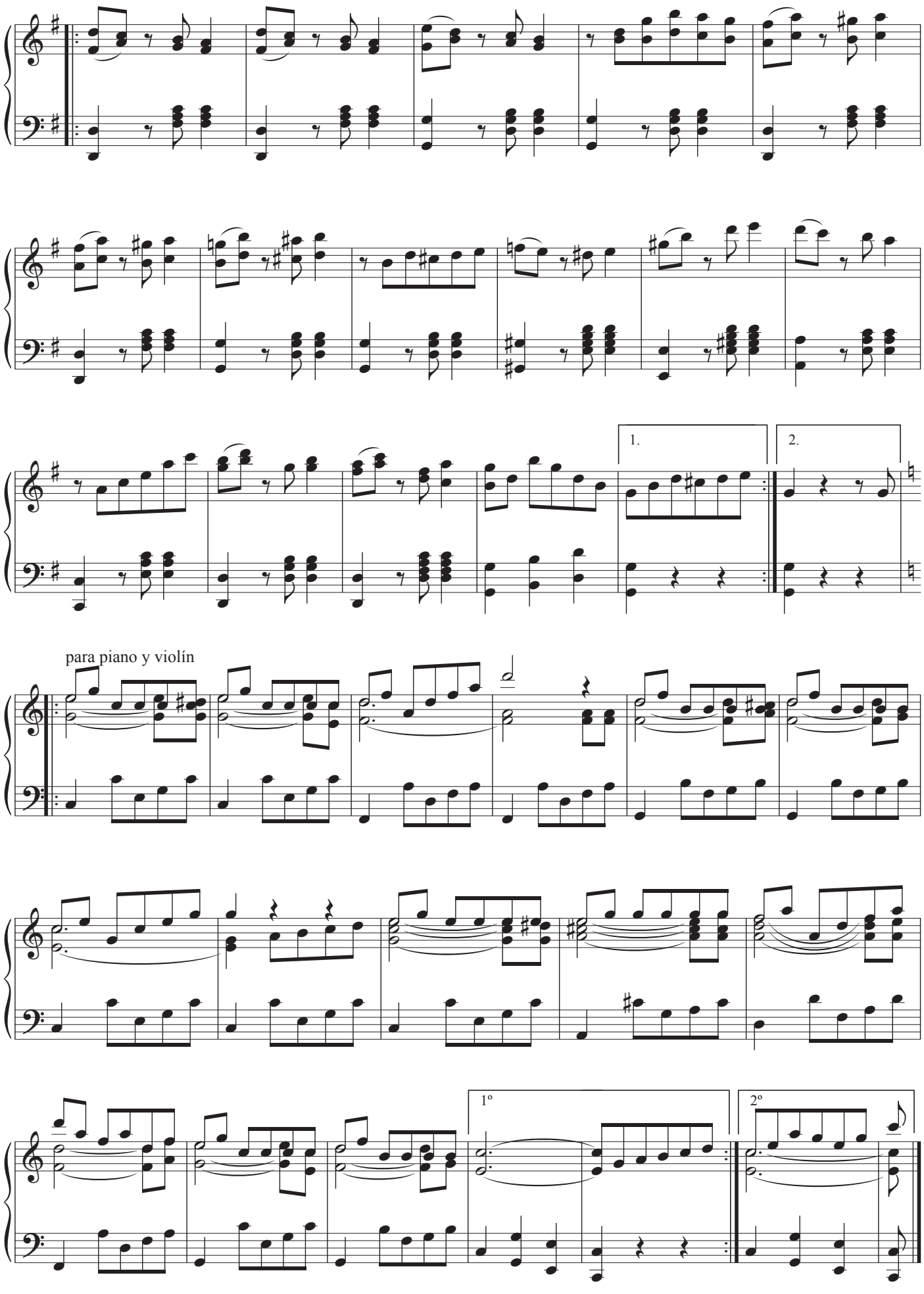
para piano y violín



Risas y Flores

Valse




1.
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para piano y violín
1º
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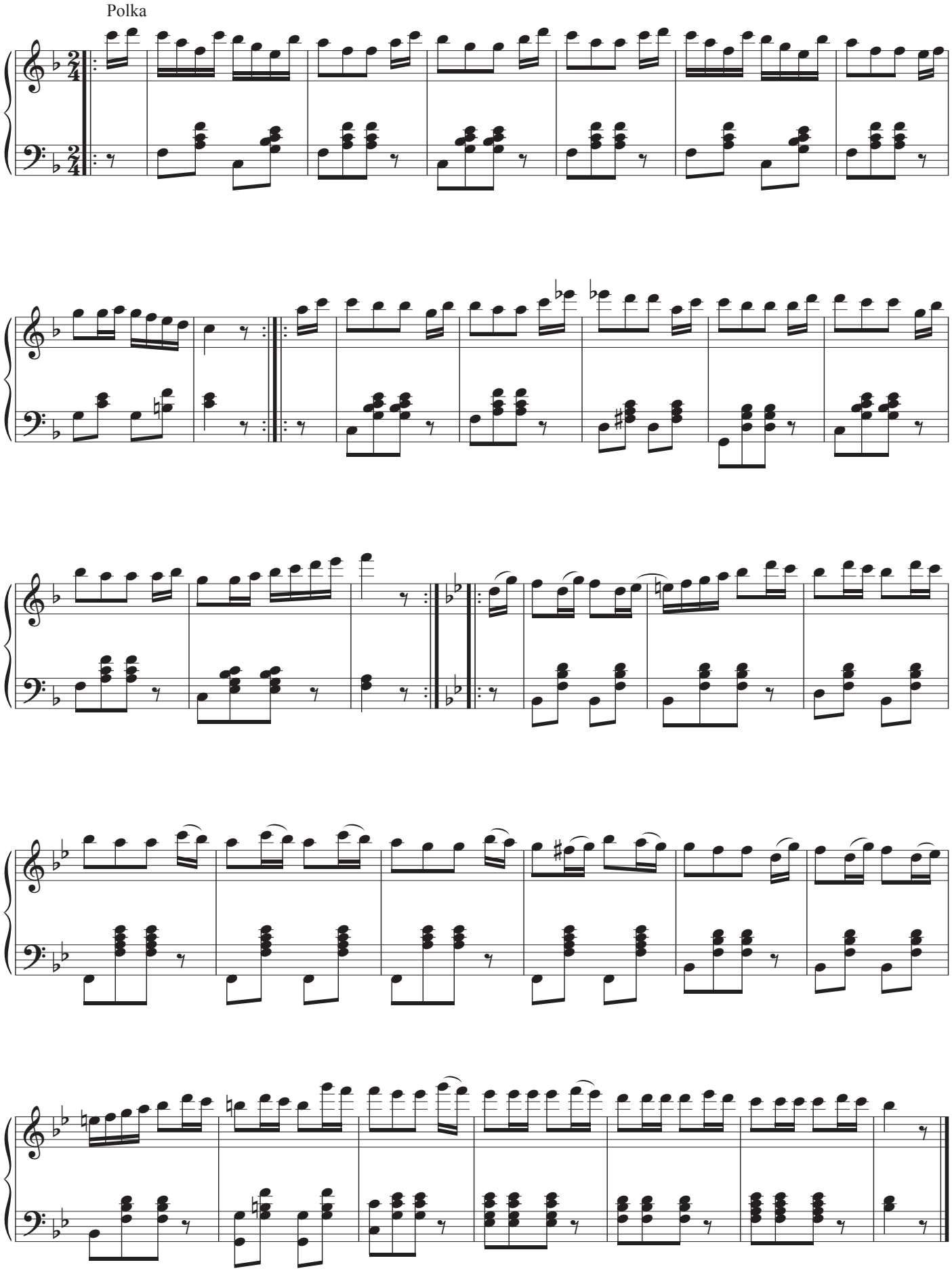
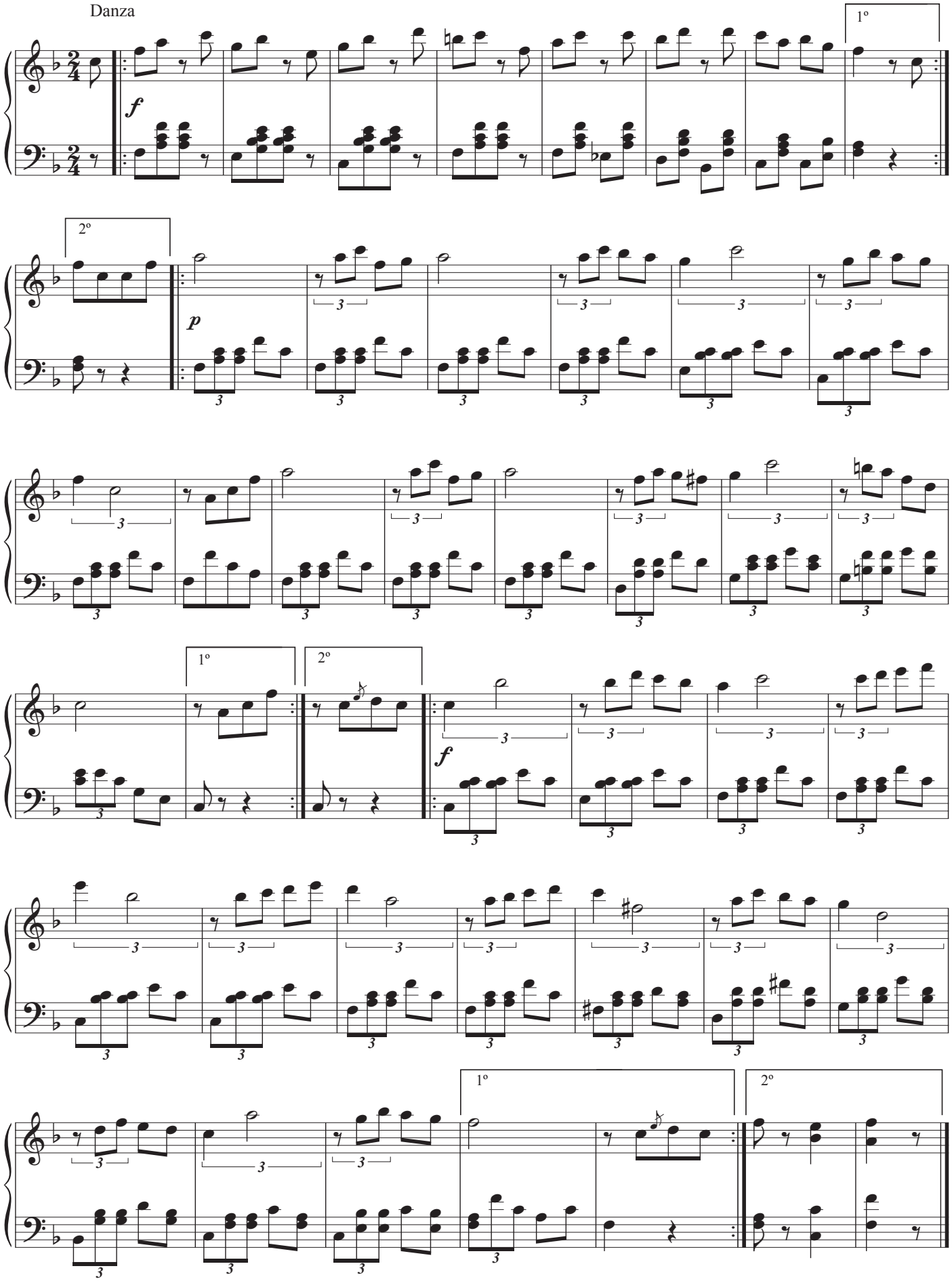
Siempre Alegre

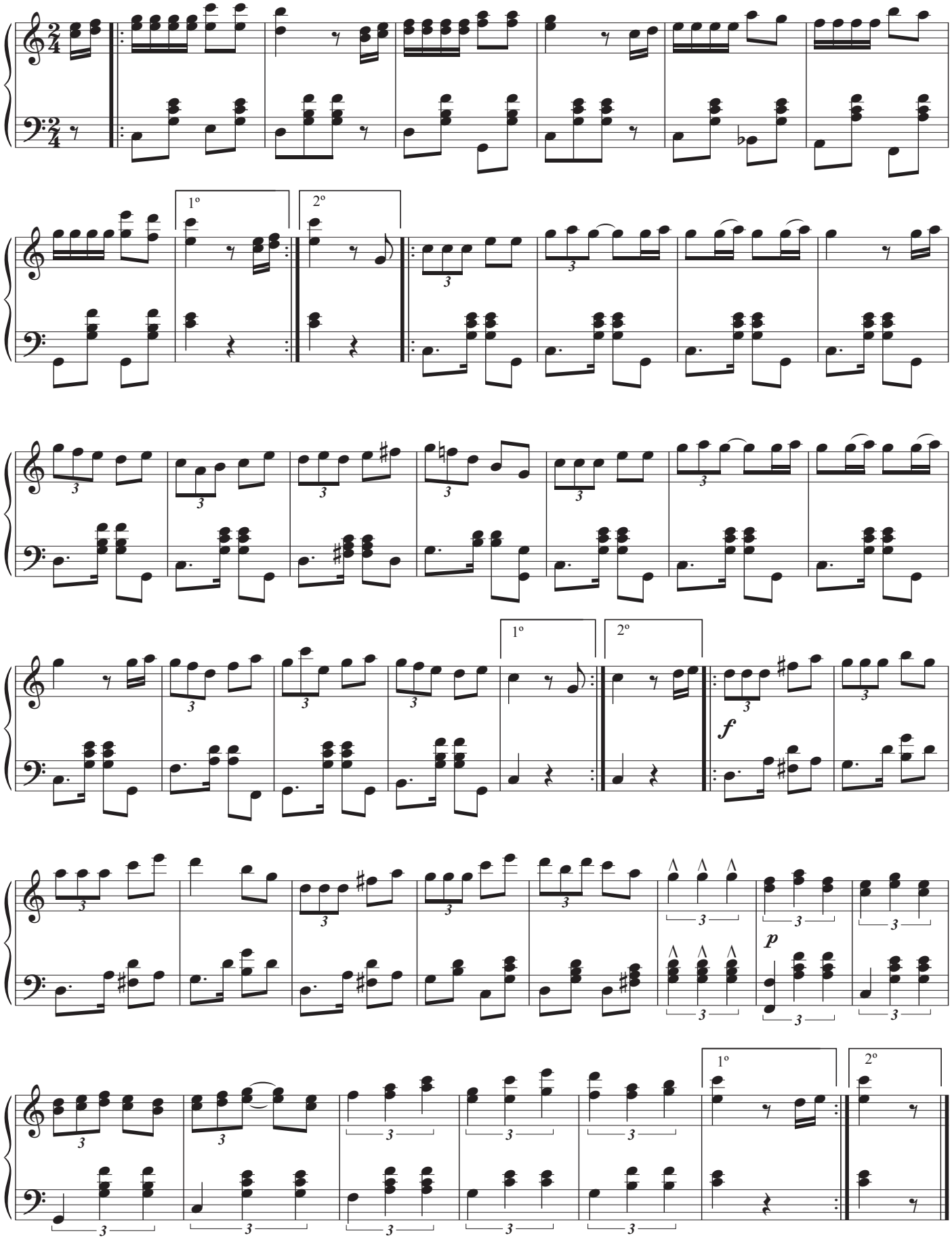


Siempre Viva



Sin Chansa

Danza



Sublime ensueño

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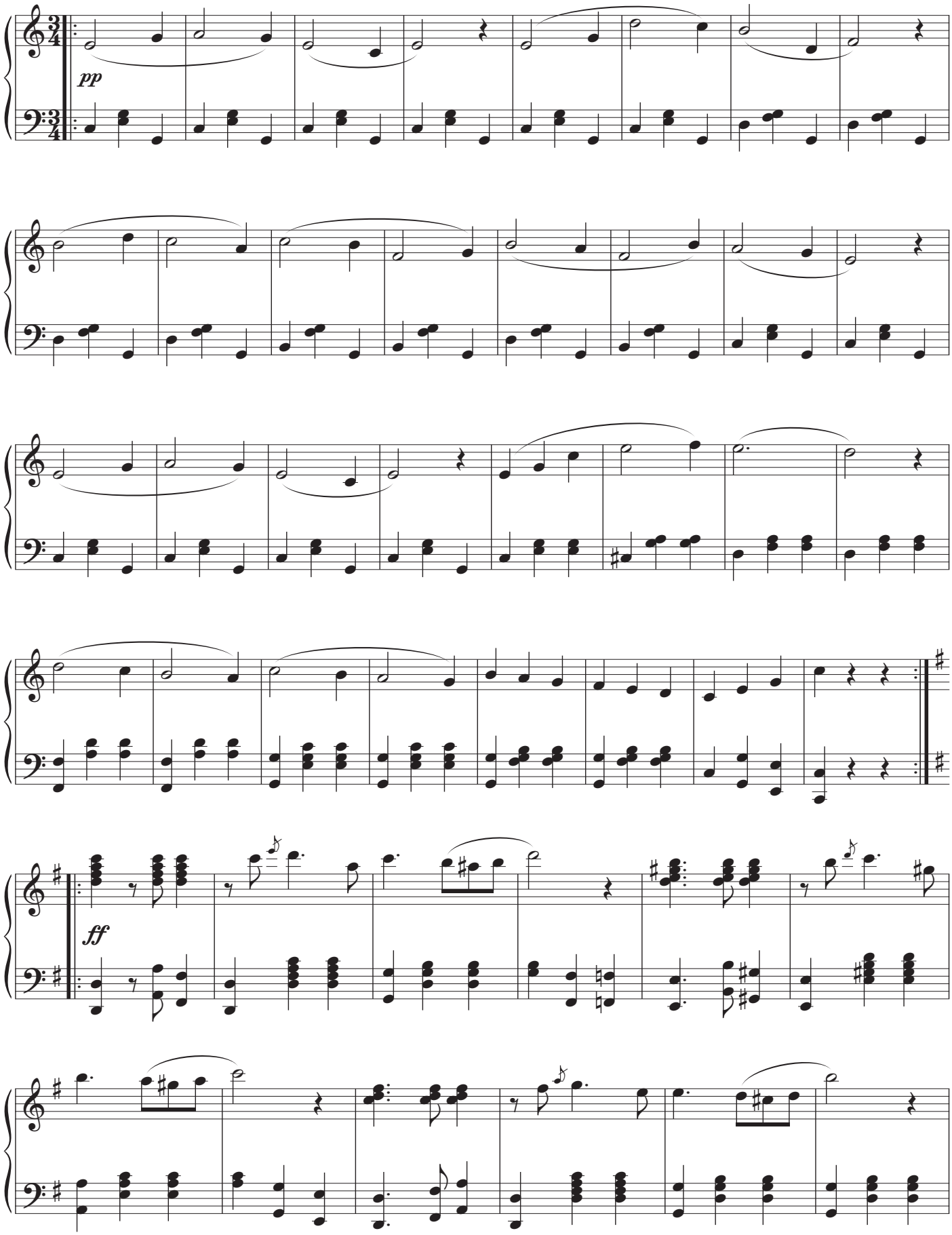

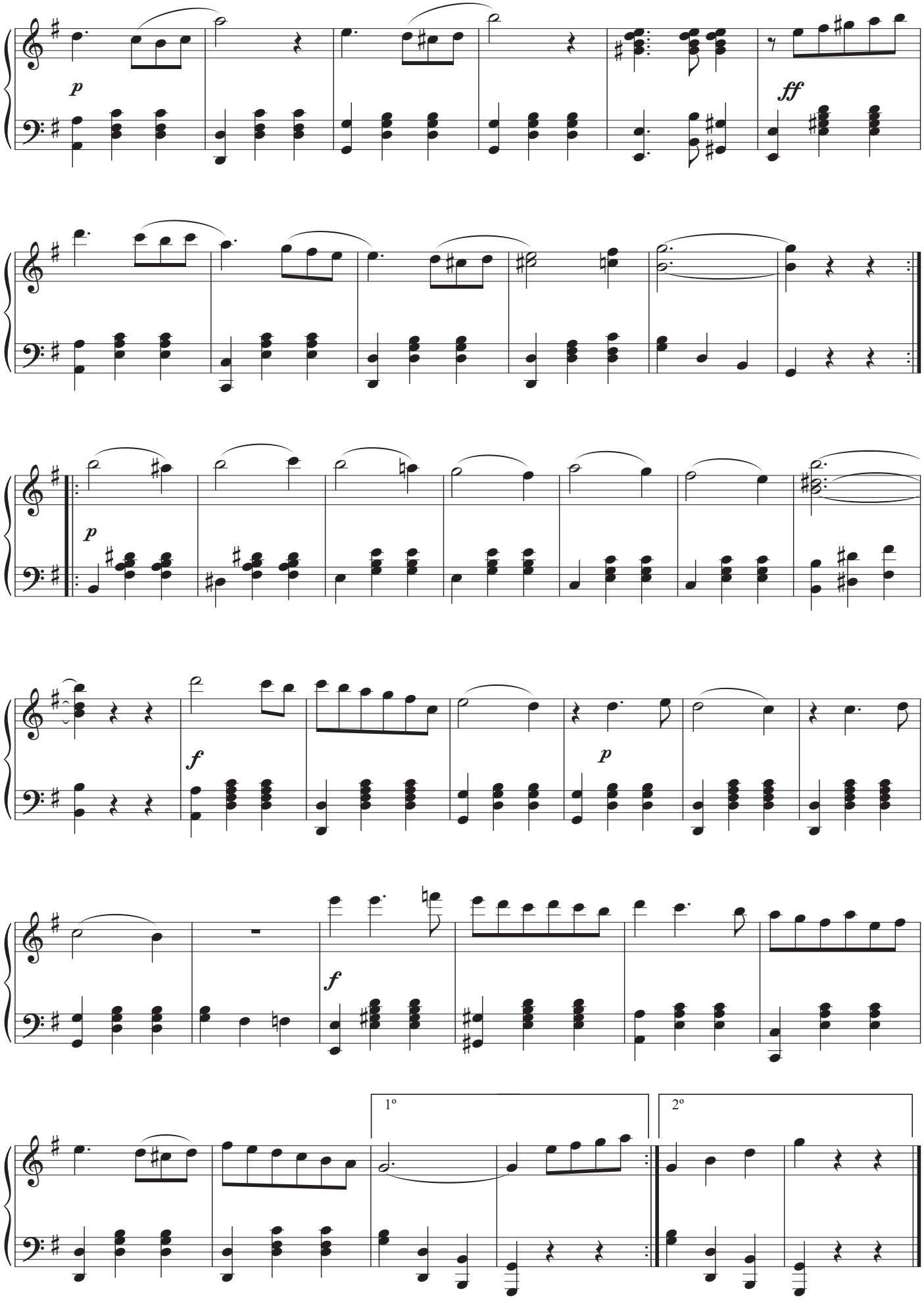
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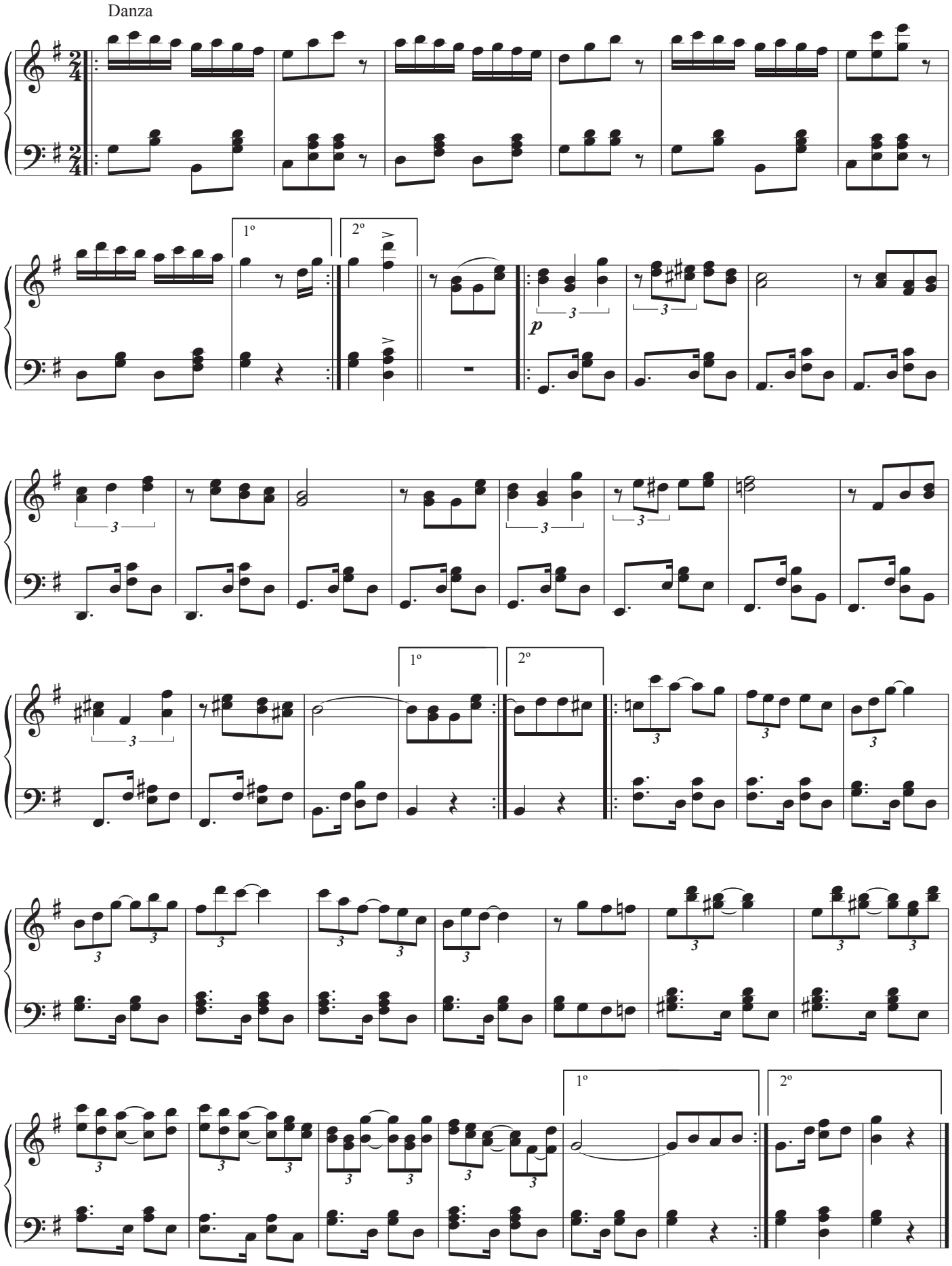
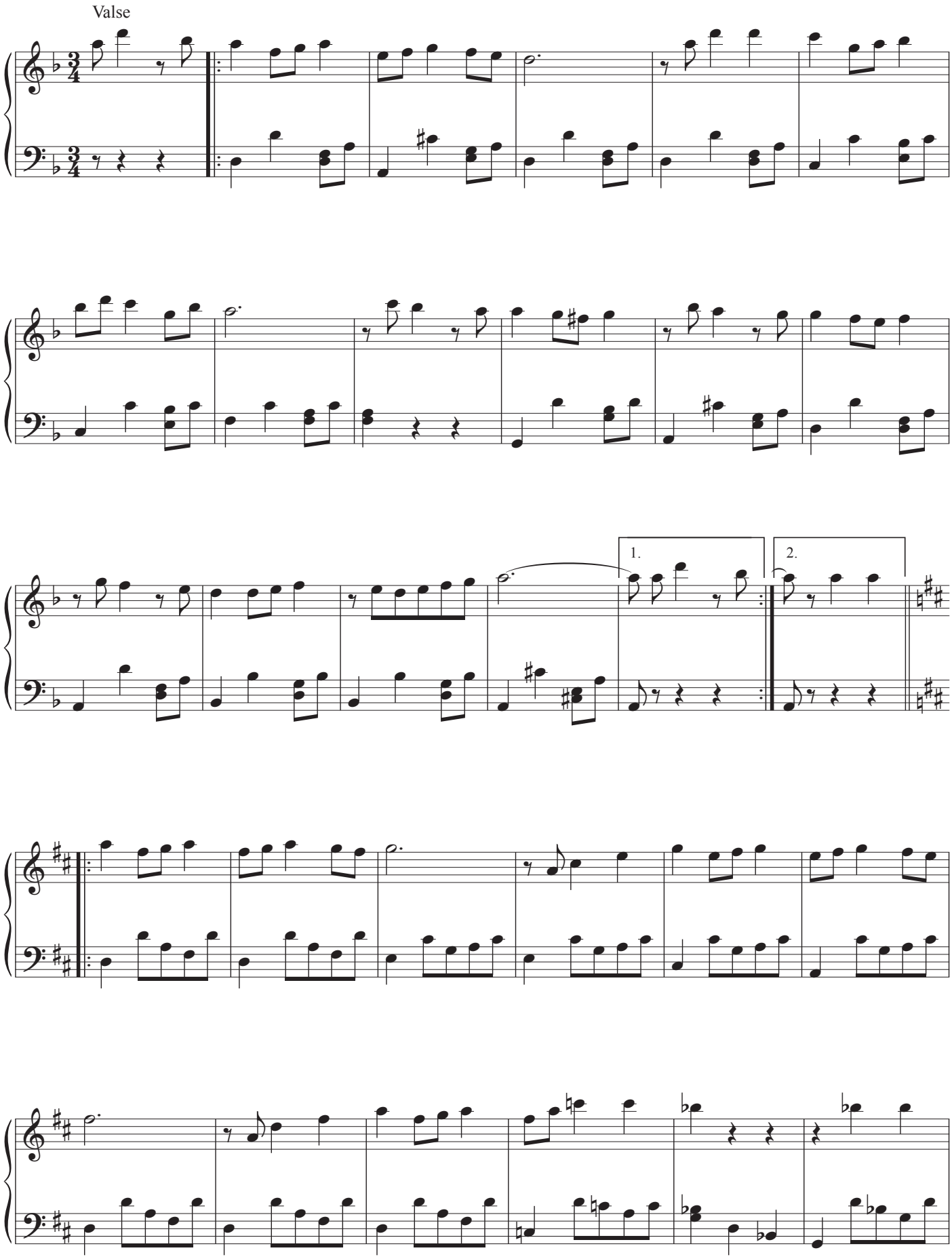
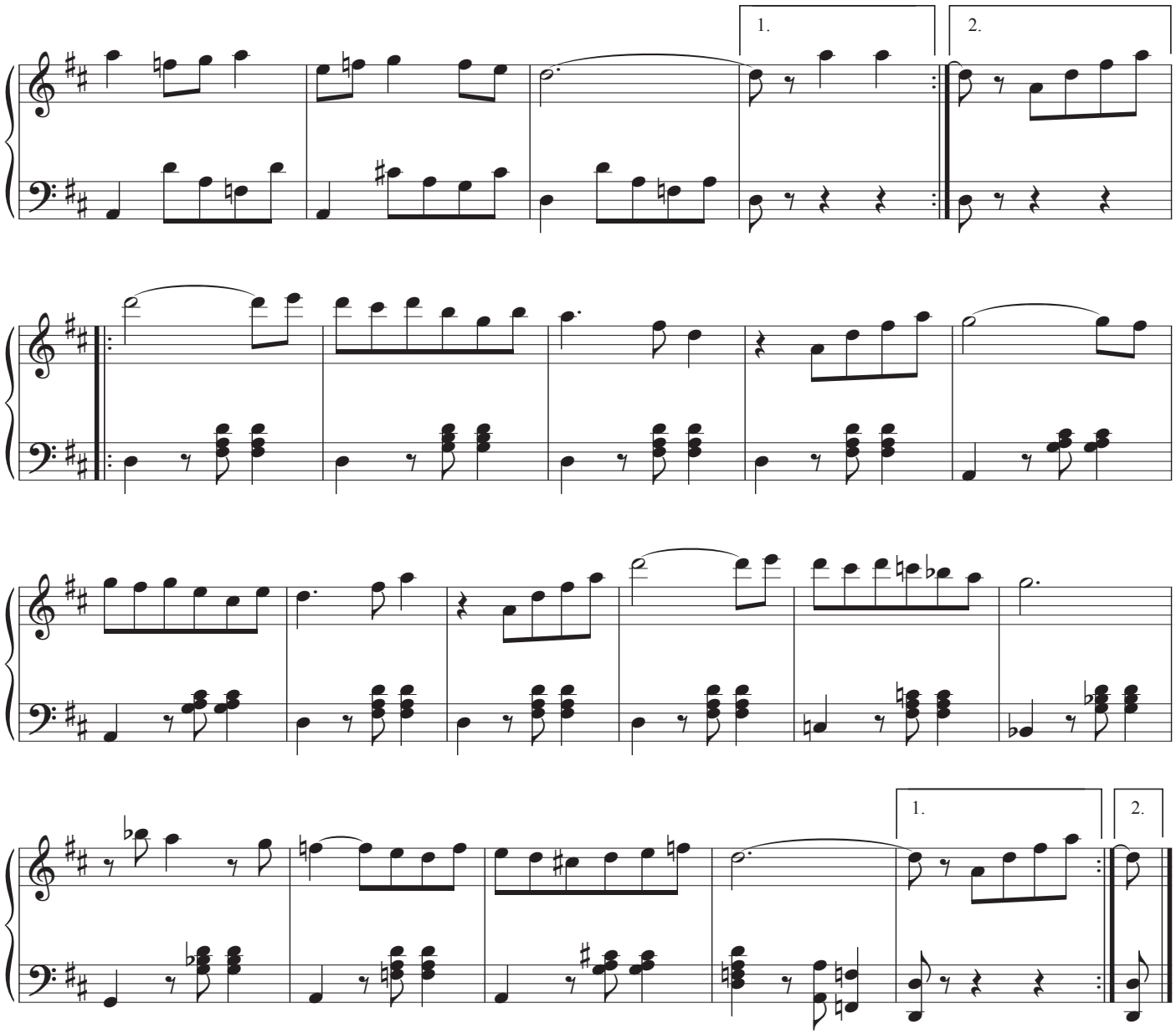


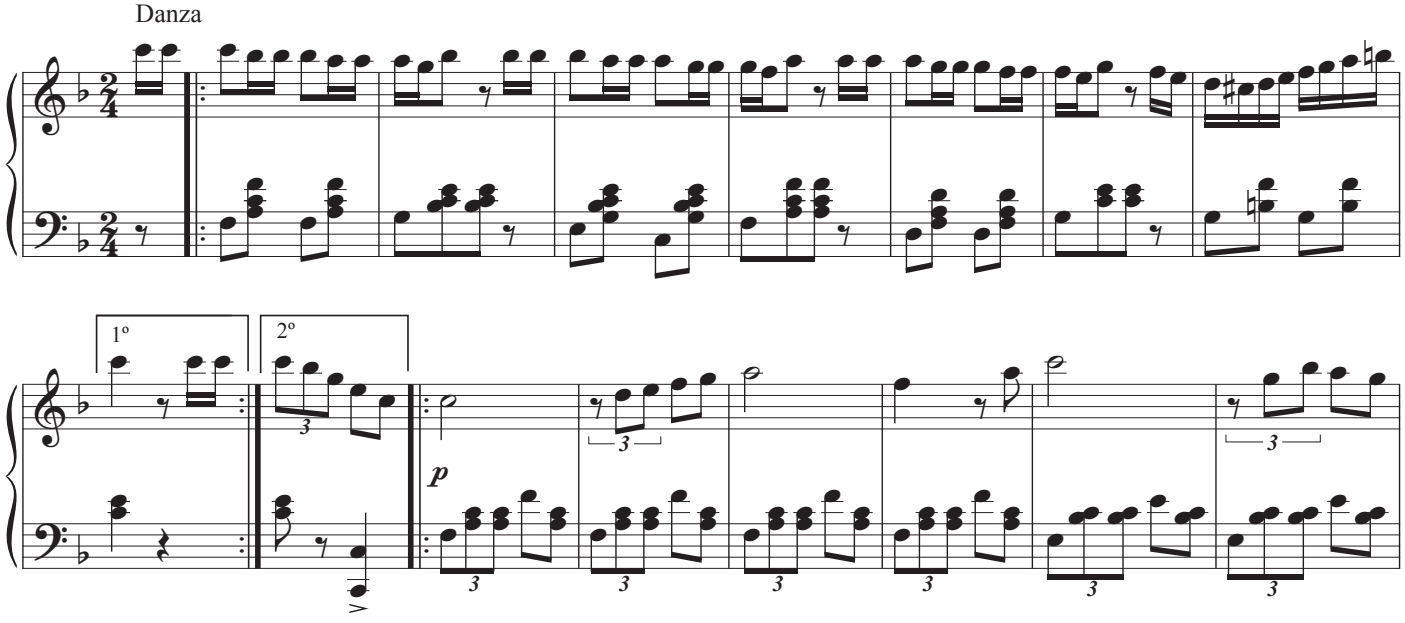
Triste despertar

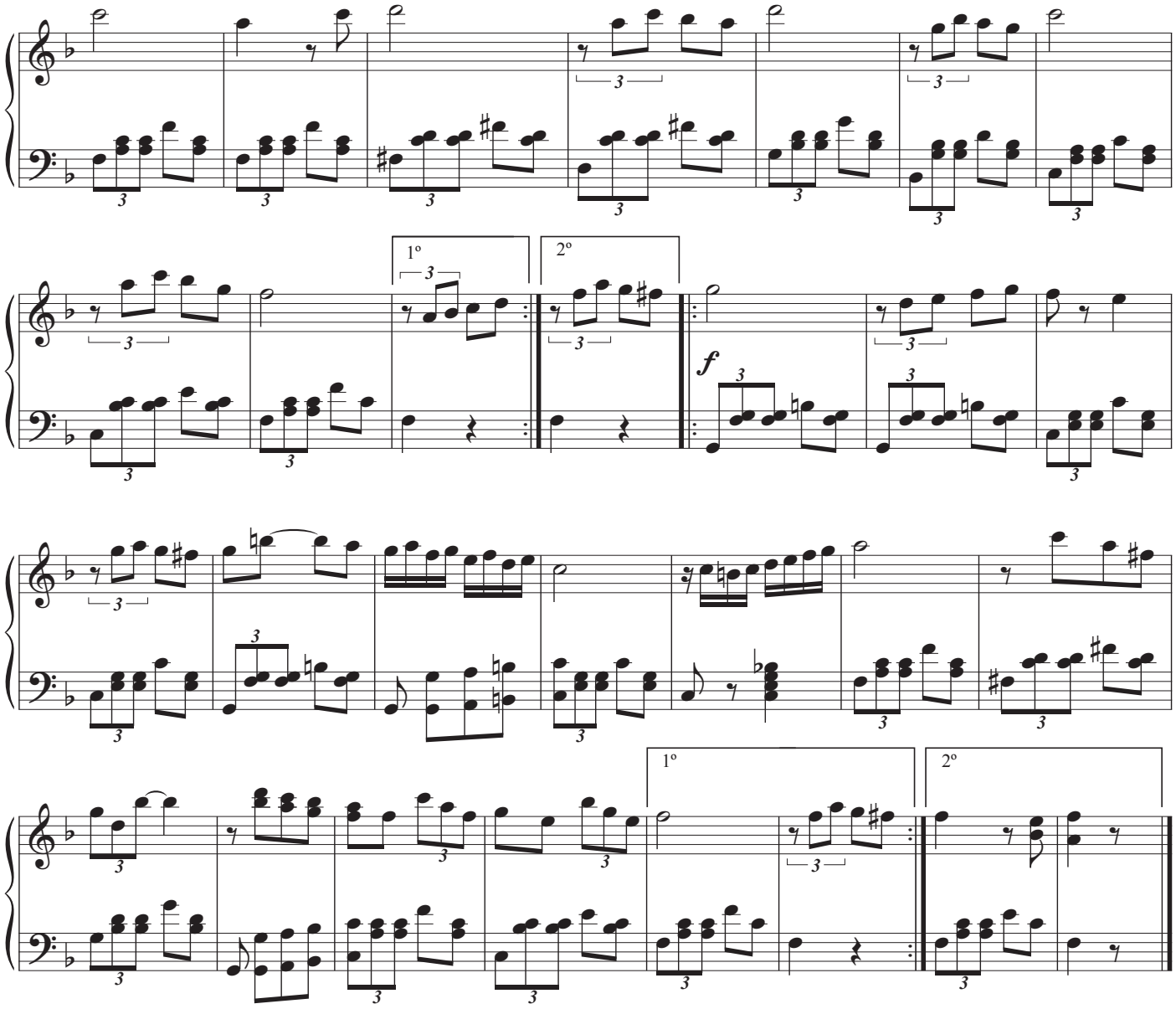




Un Clavel

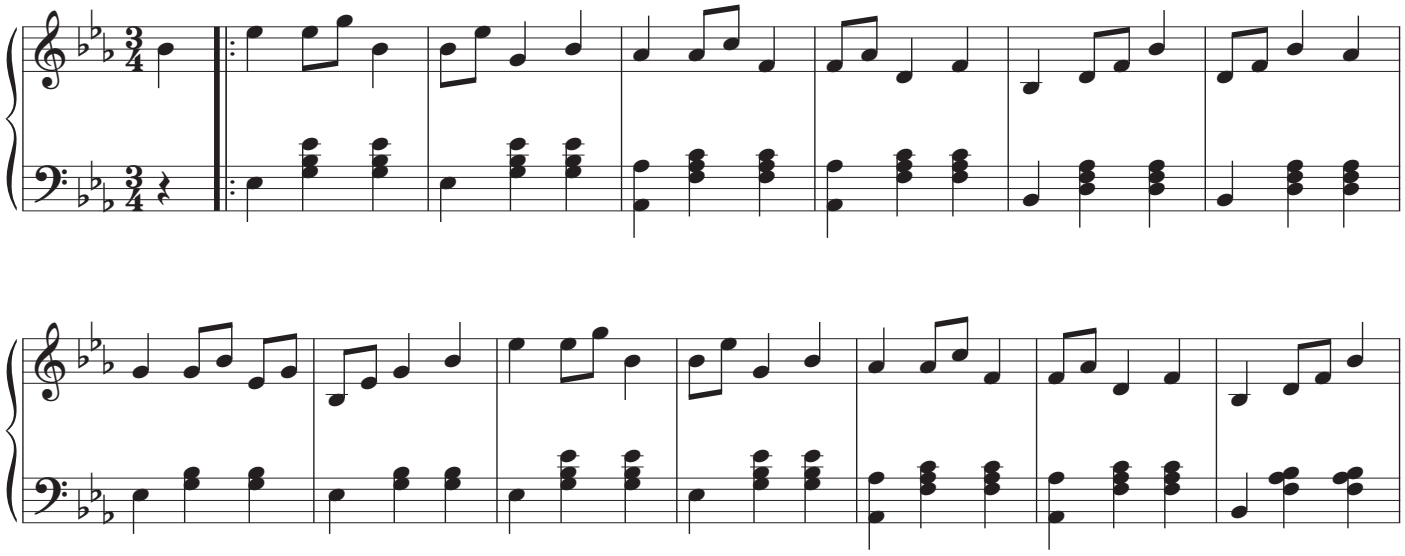
Danza

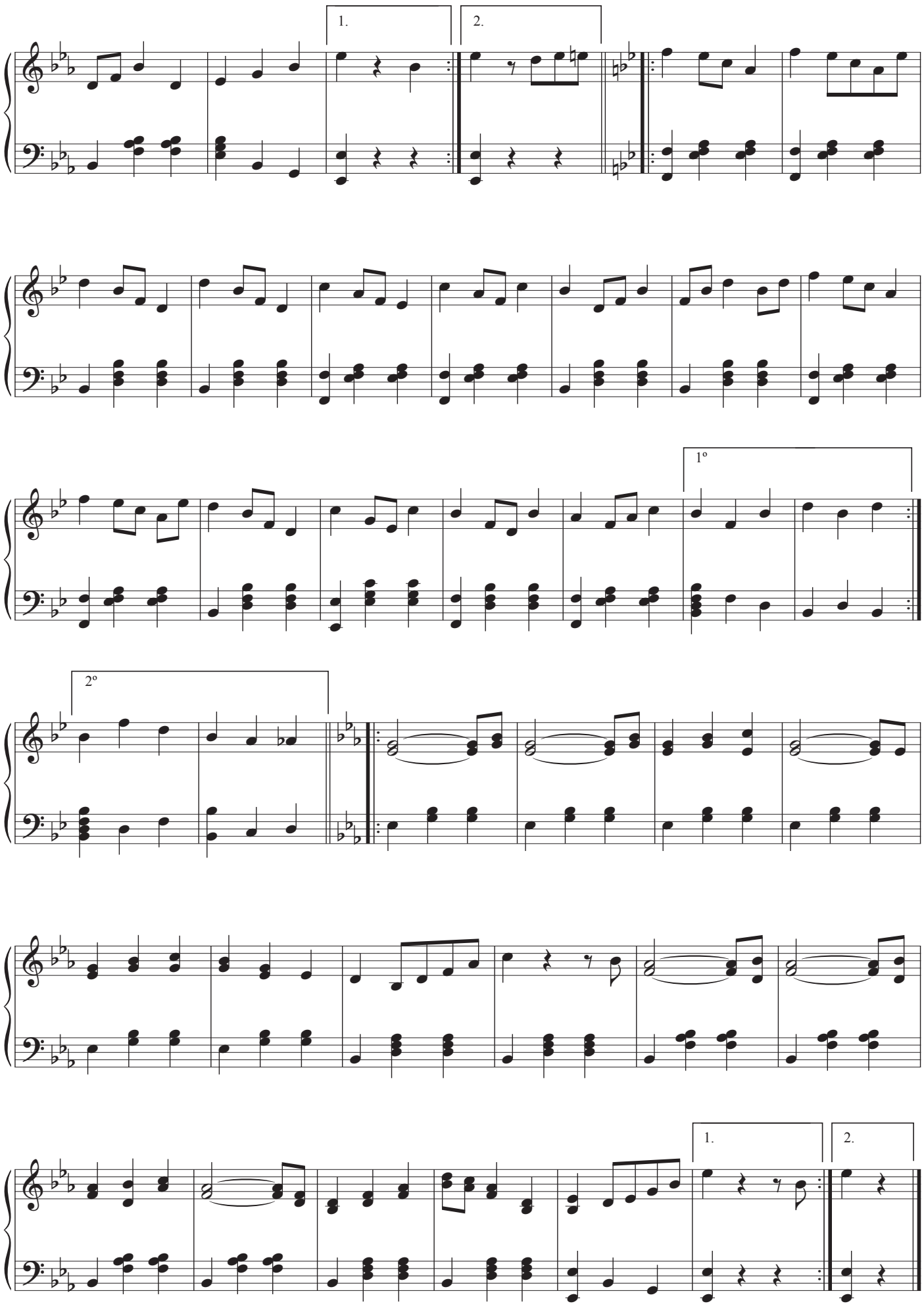




Un poco más

Valse

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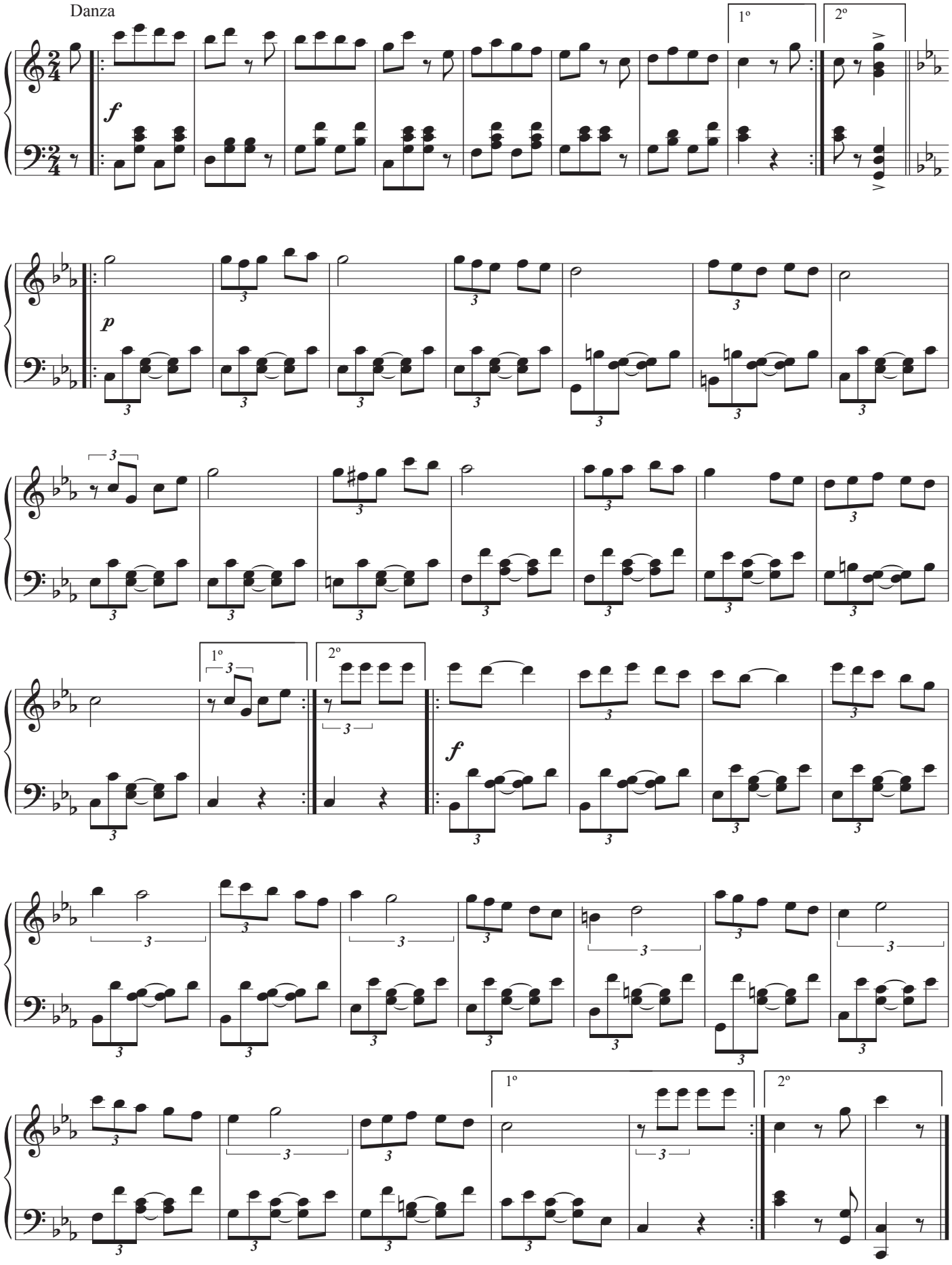
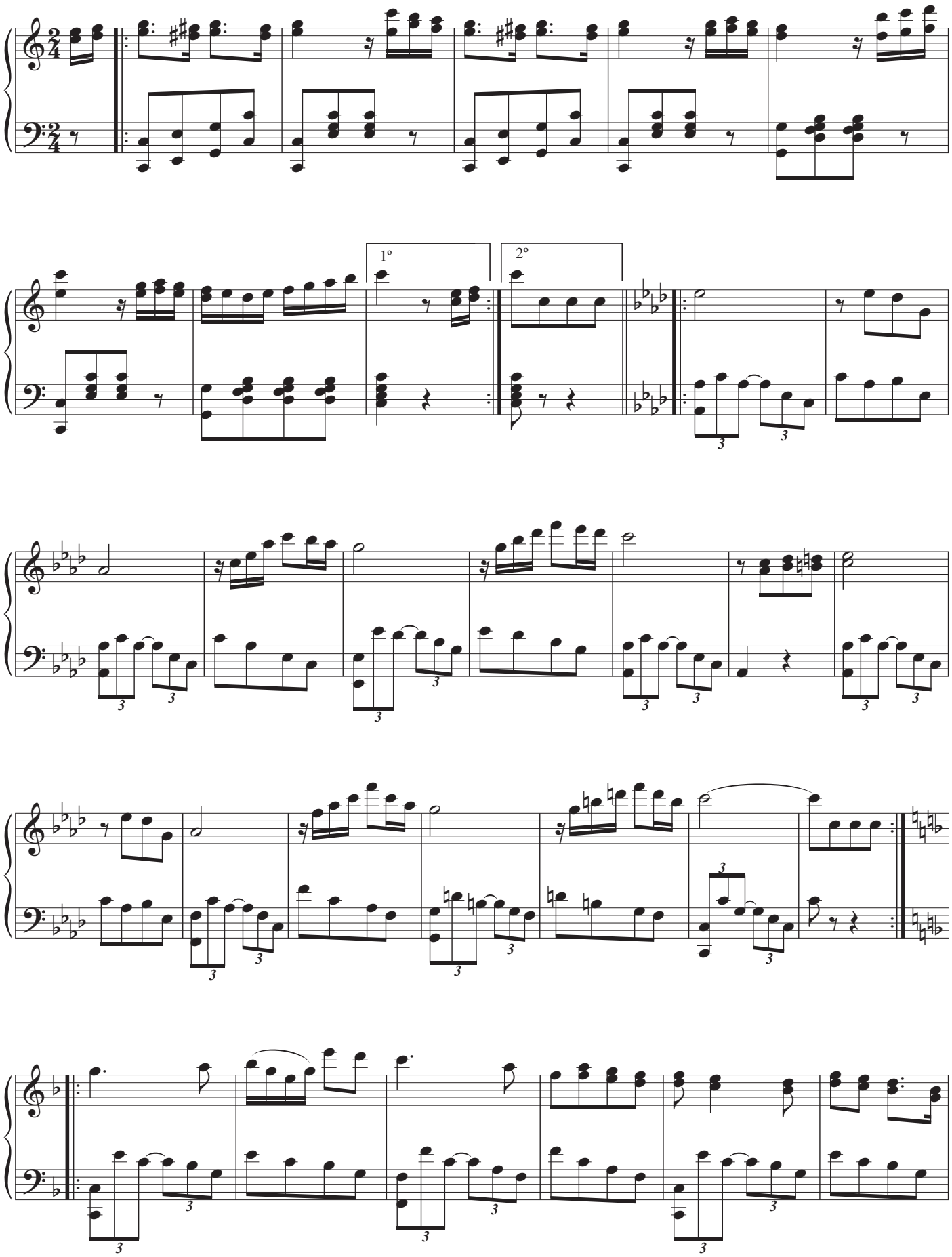
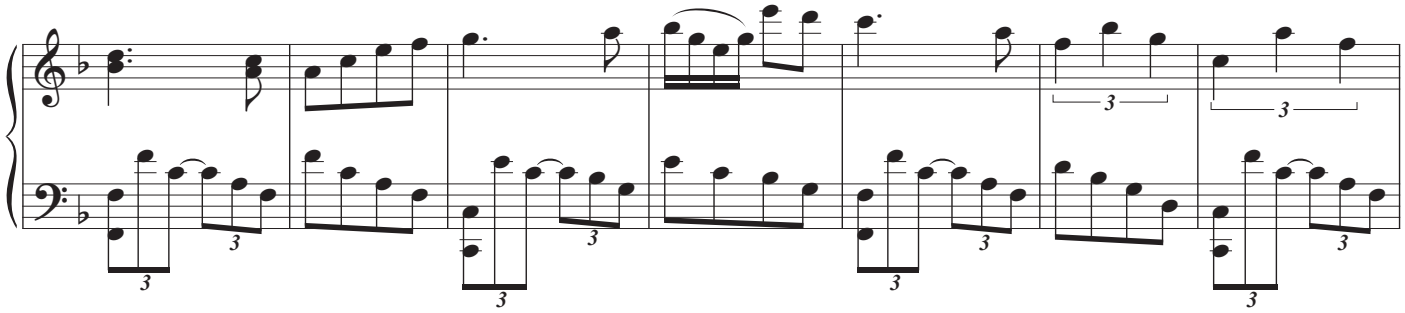
Un Lirio

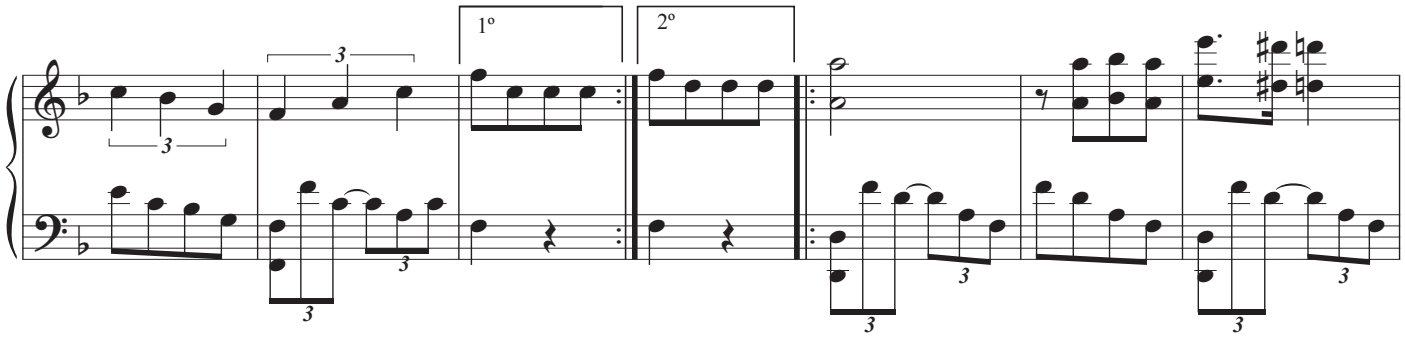


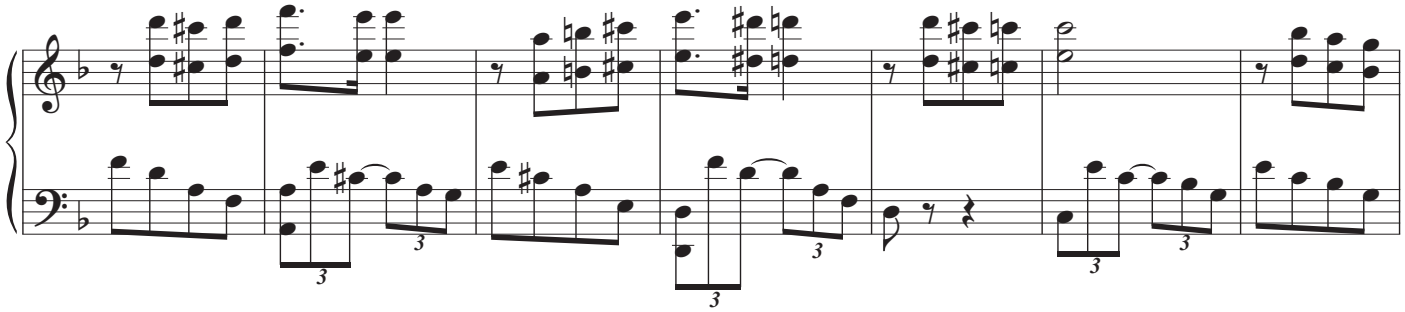
Un Recuerdo

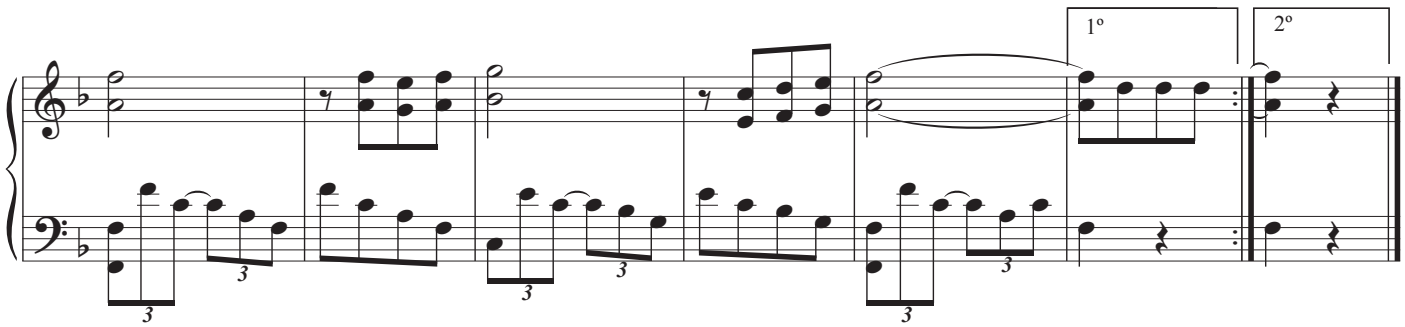
Danza





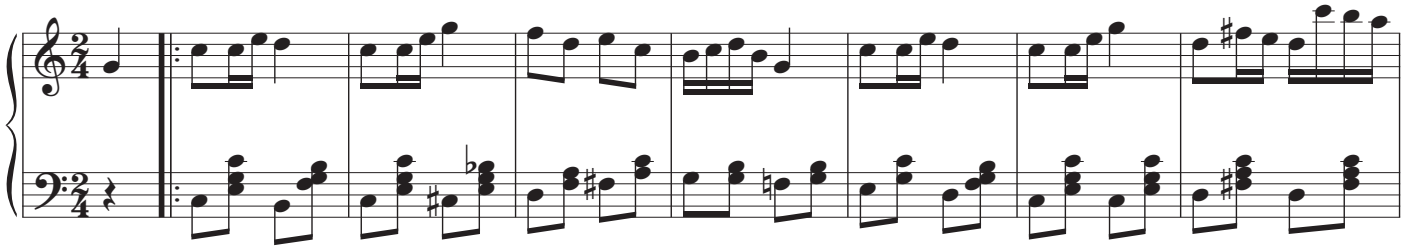


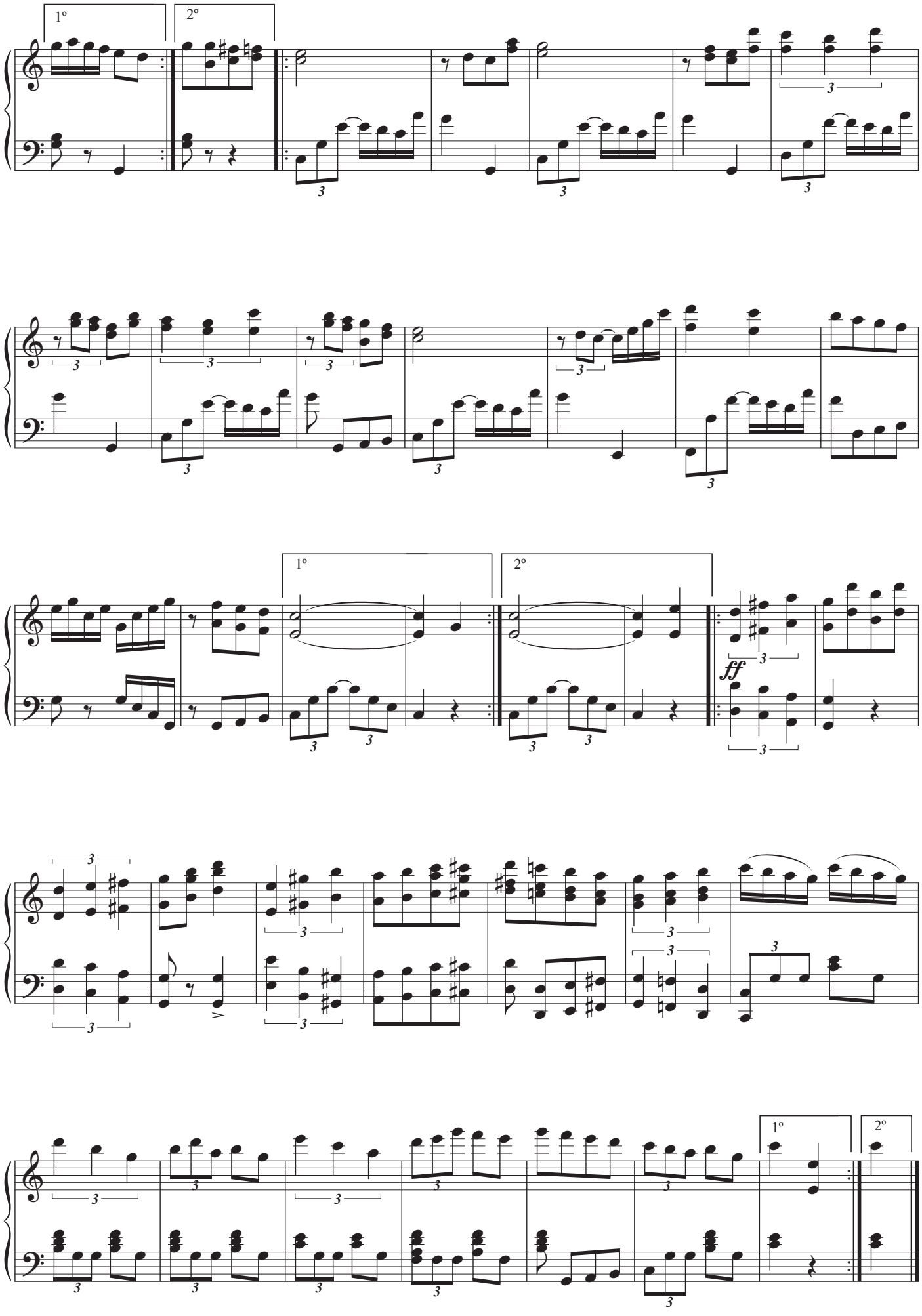




Un tiki so

Danza

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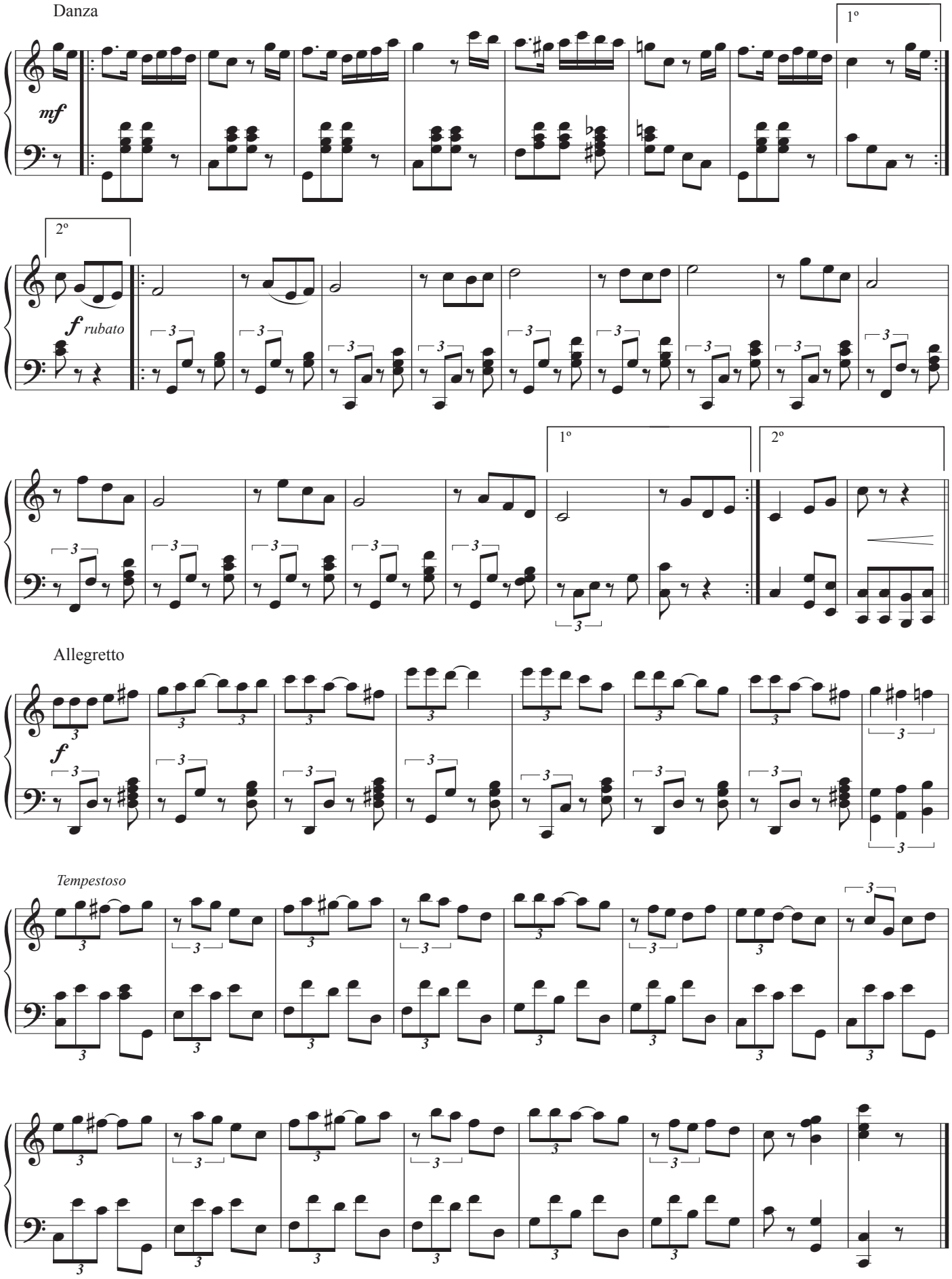
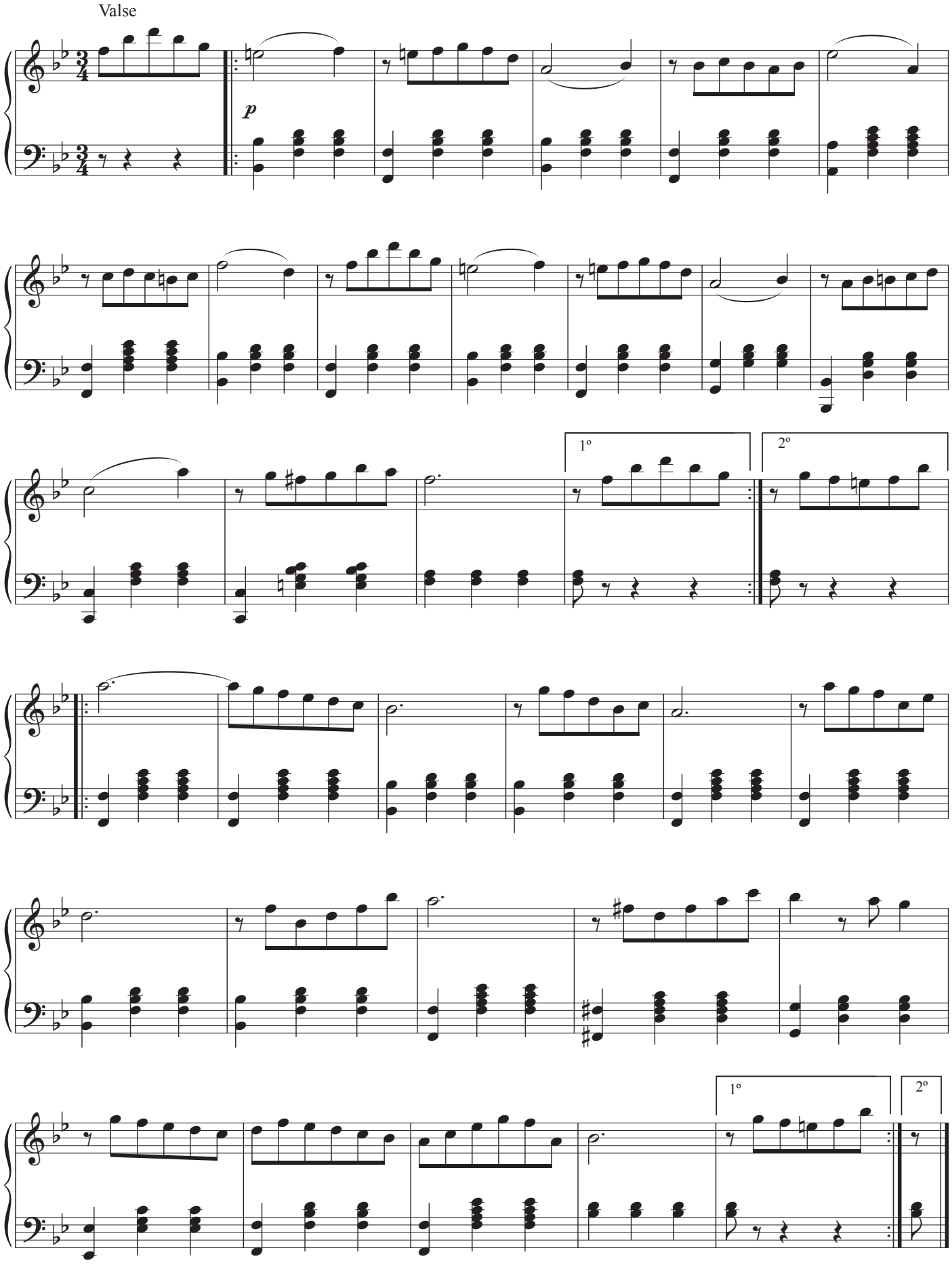
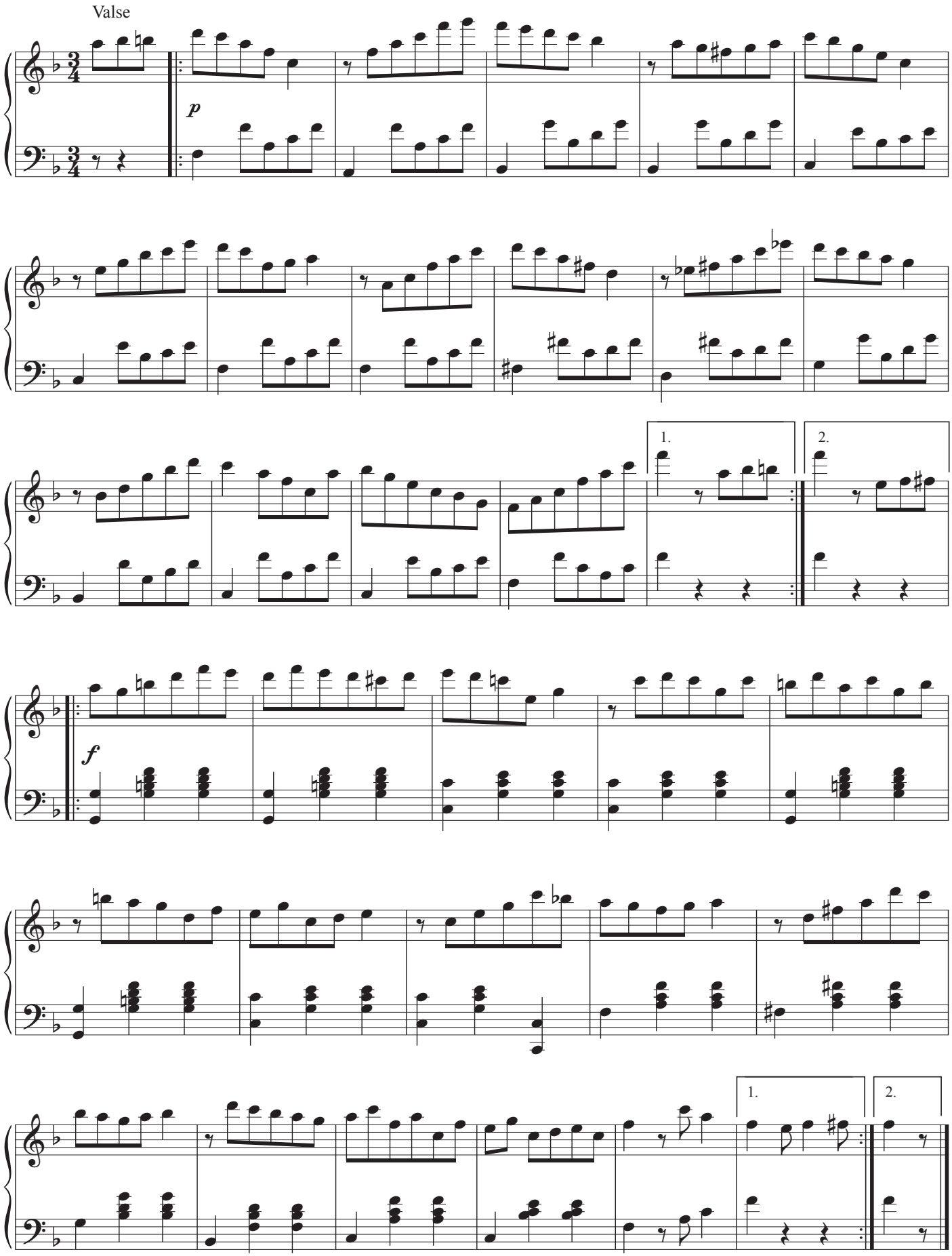
Un wiri



Un Yazmín

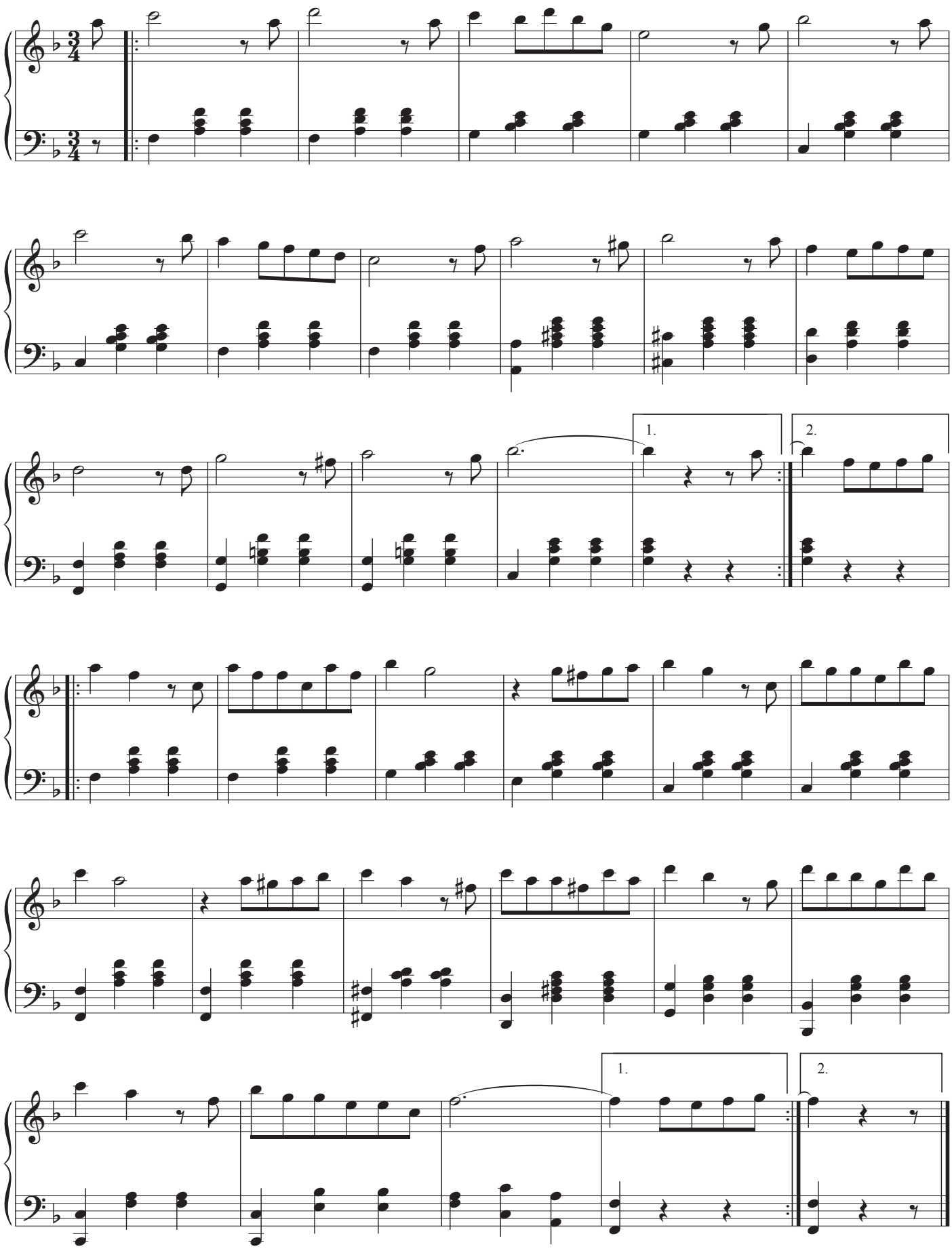


Una perlita

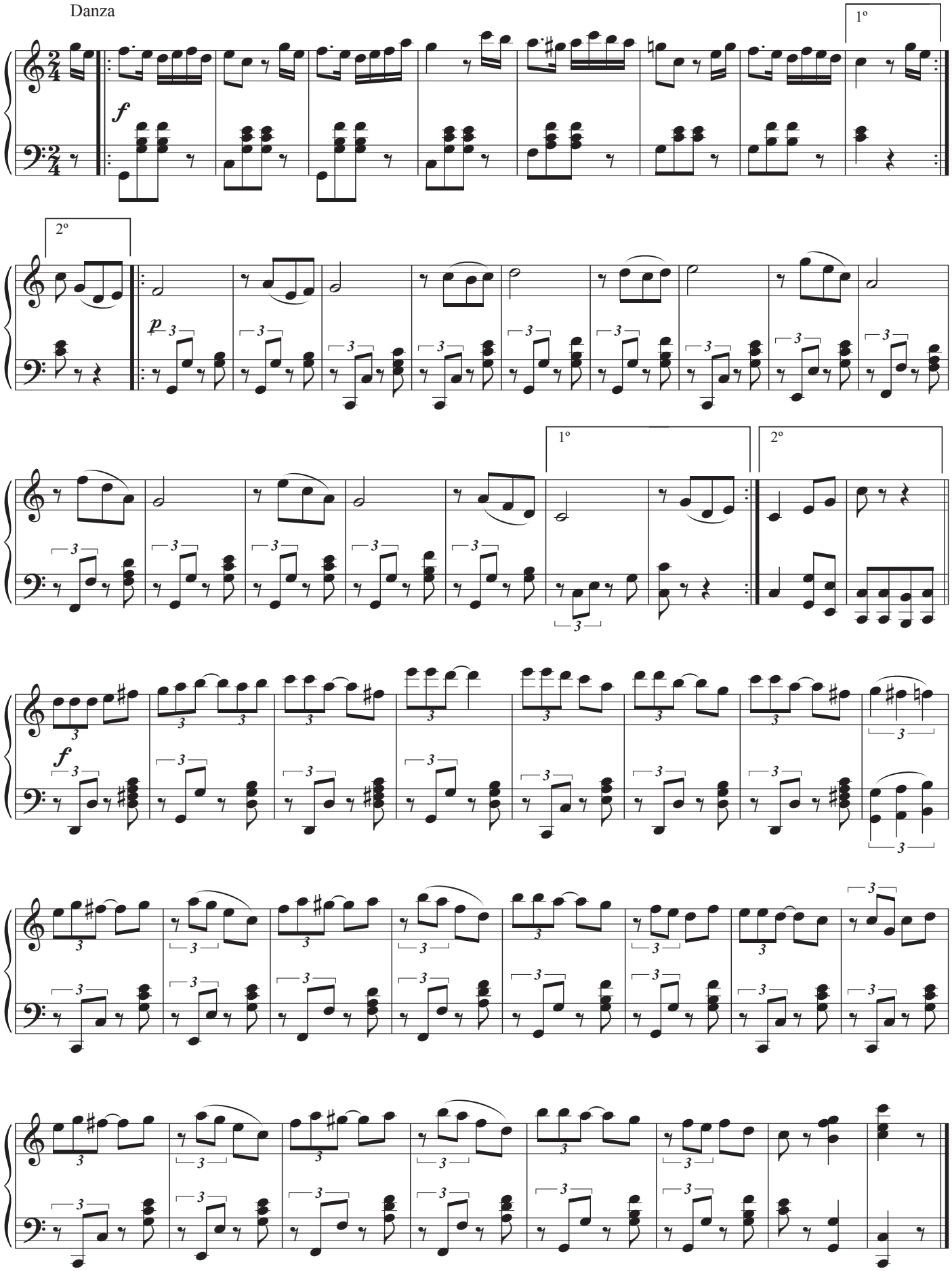


Una Rosa

Valse



Una Viola



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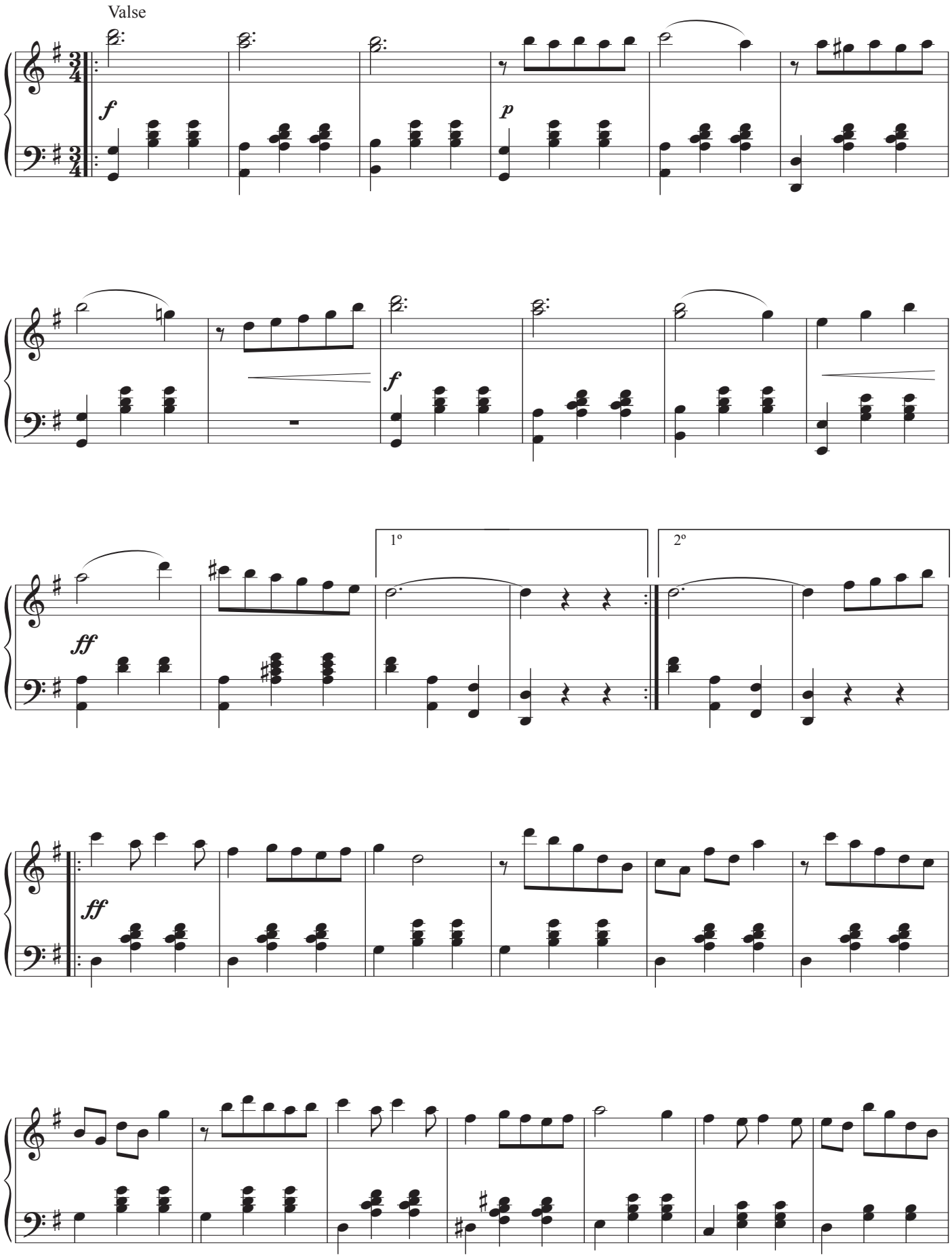

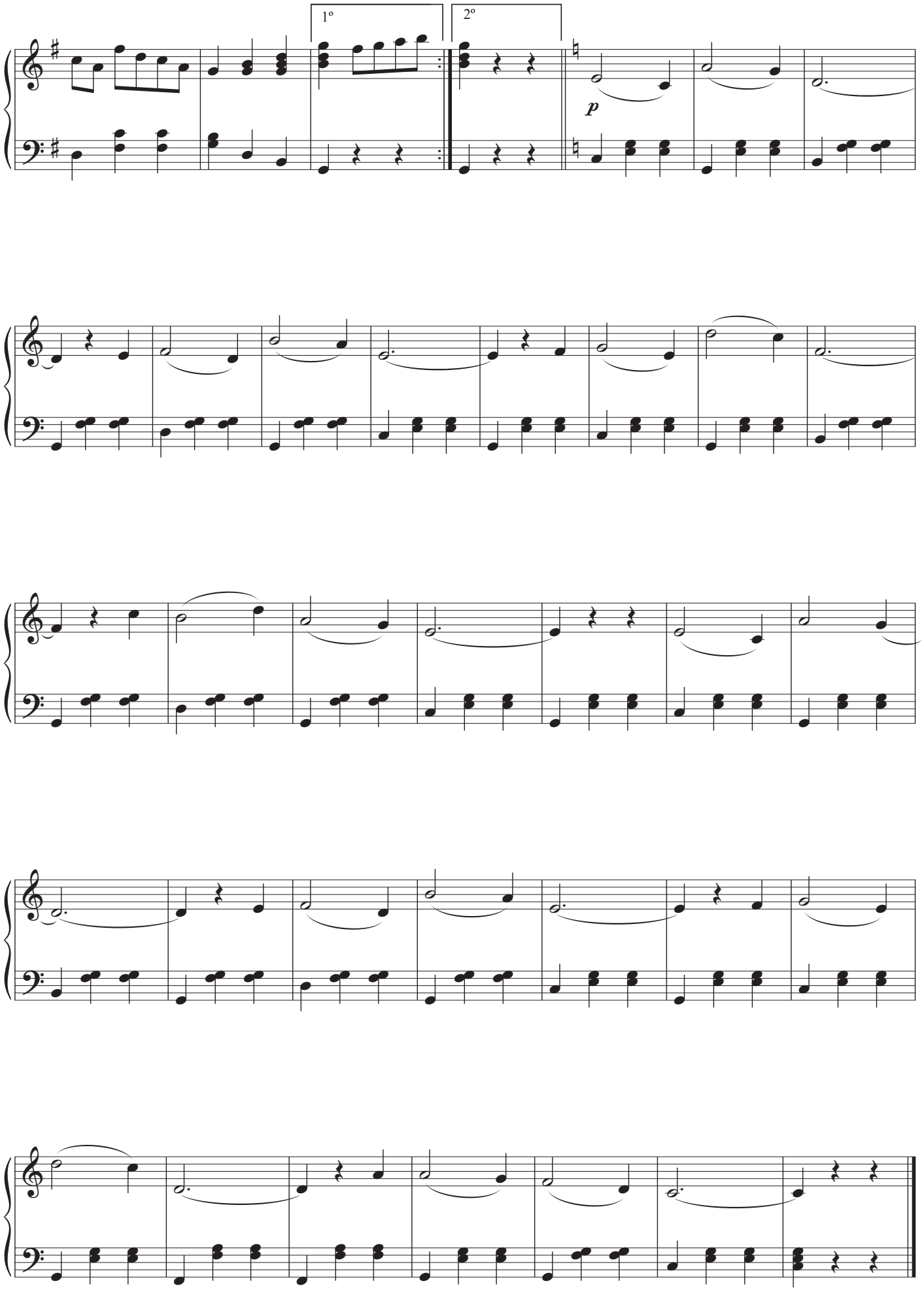
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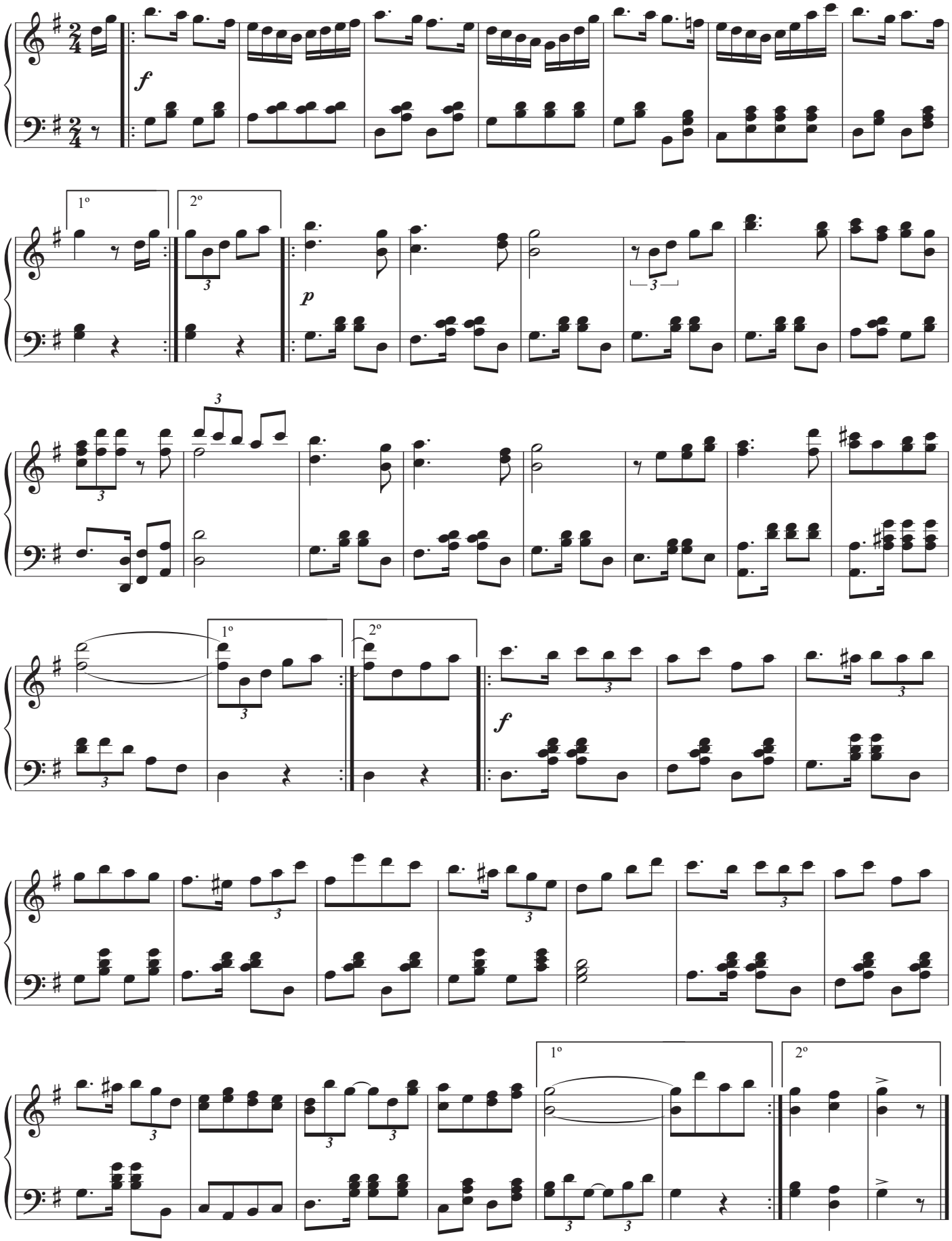
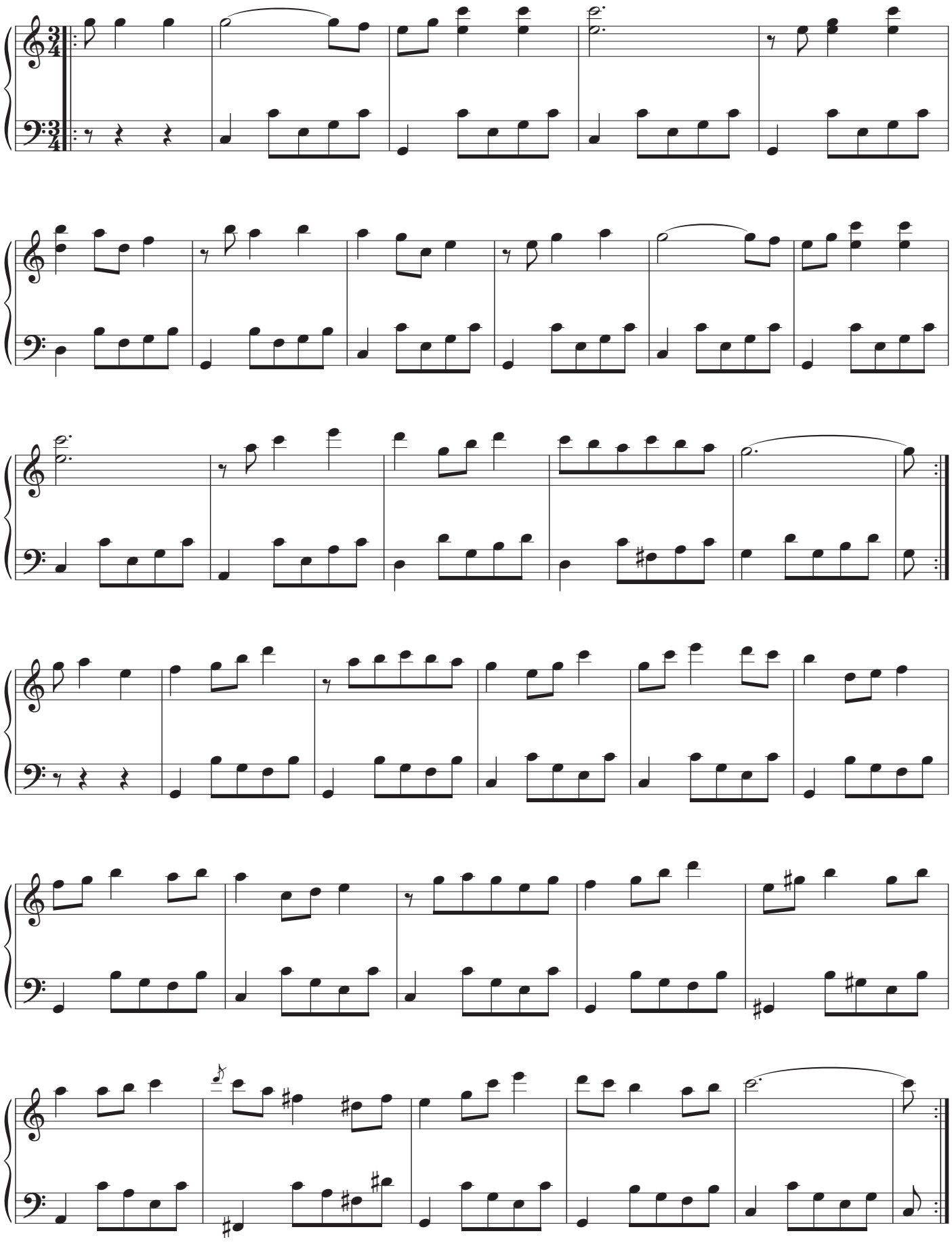
Uno de Tantos

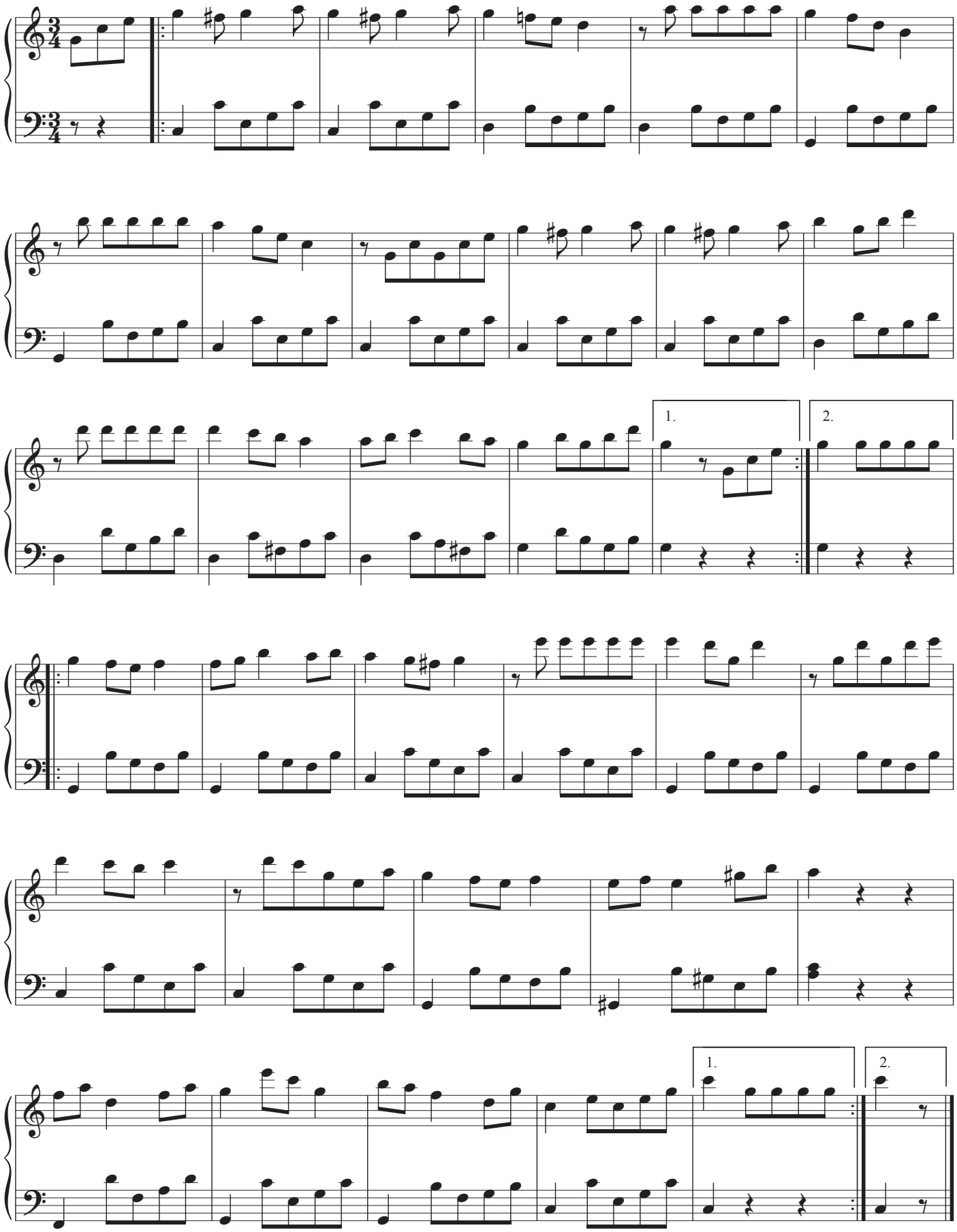
Danza



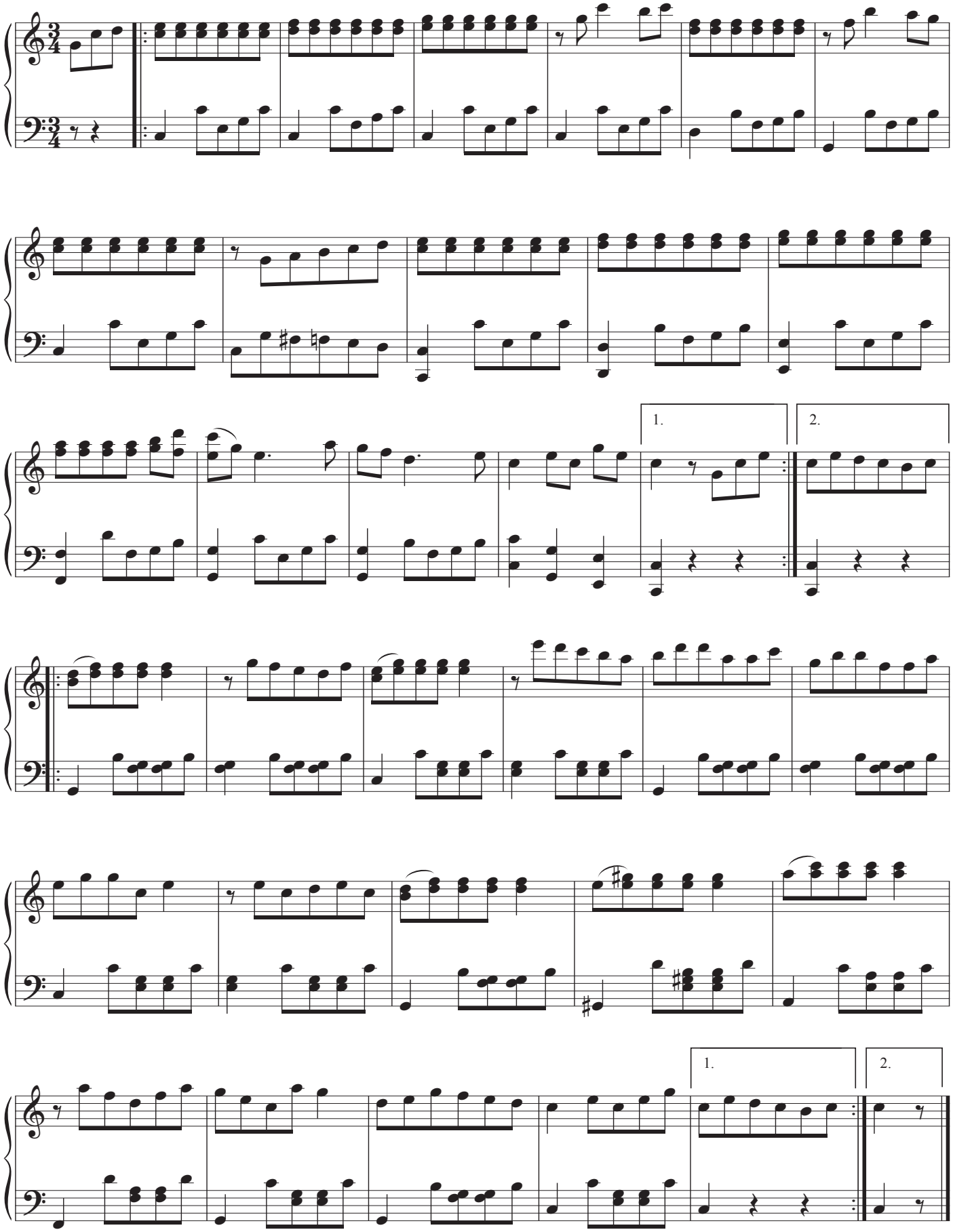
Valse en do mayor nr 1



Valse en do mayor nr 2



Valse en do mayor nr 3



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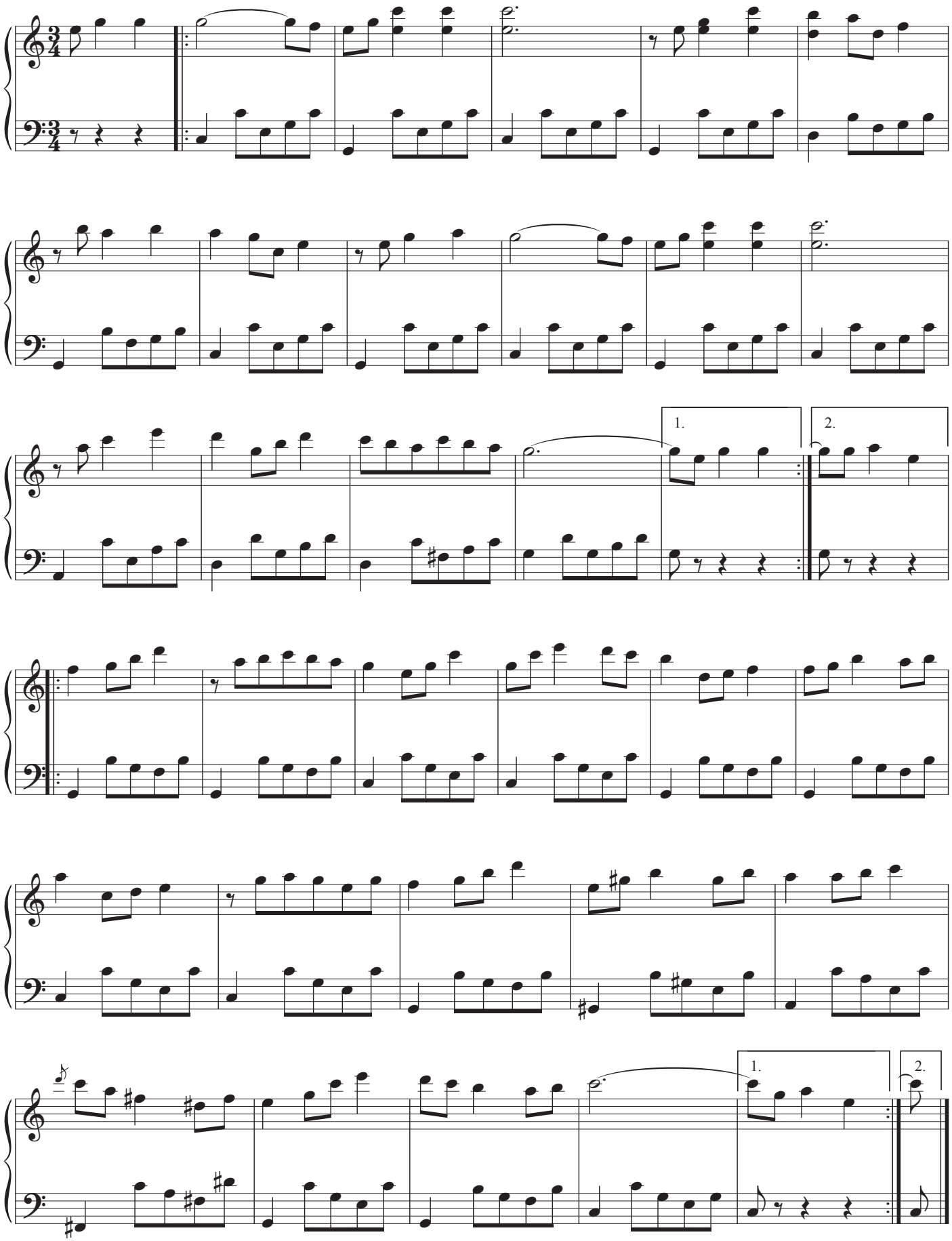
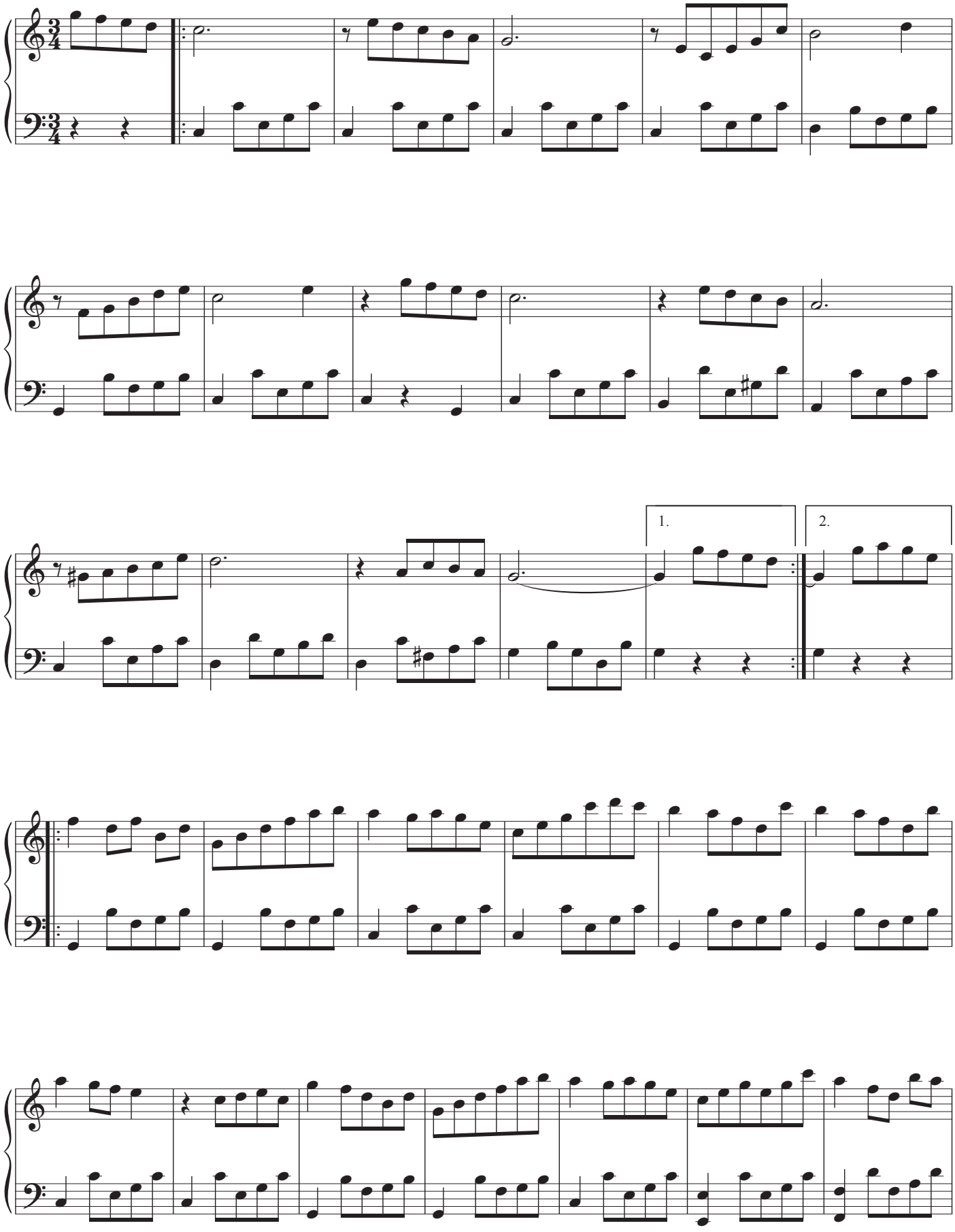
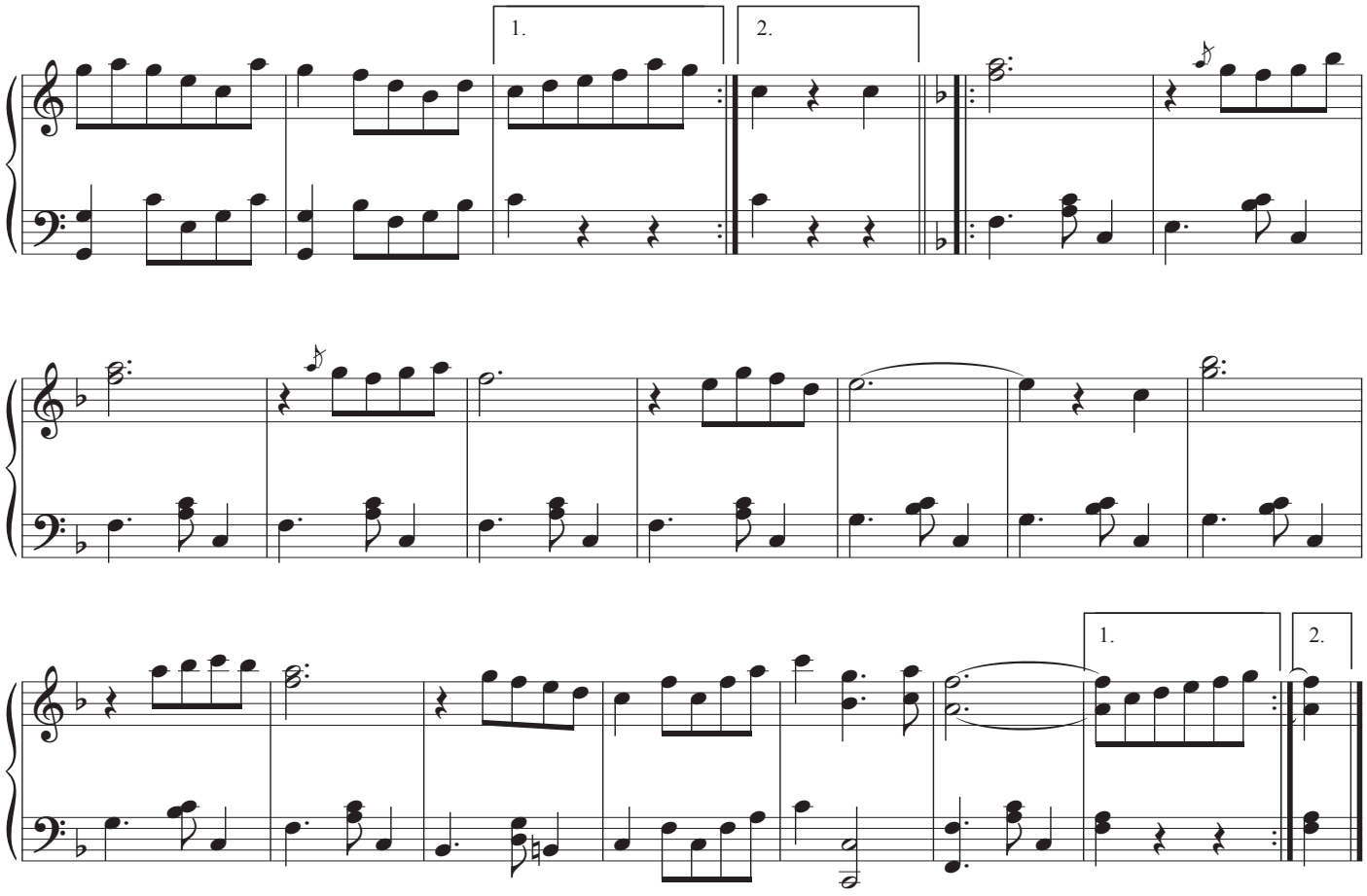


Valse en do mayor y fa mayor nr 1





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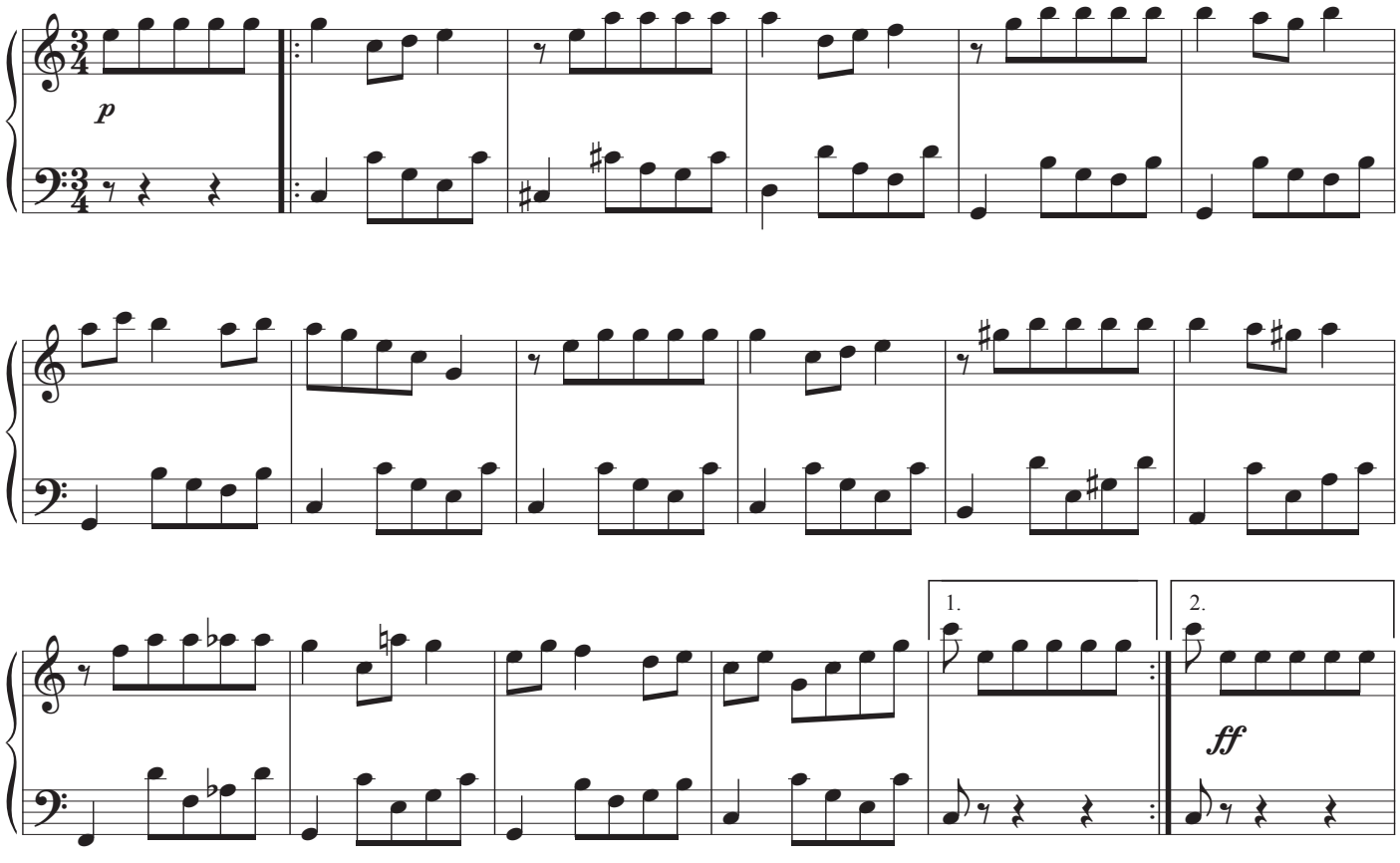

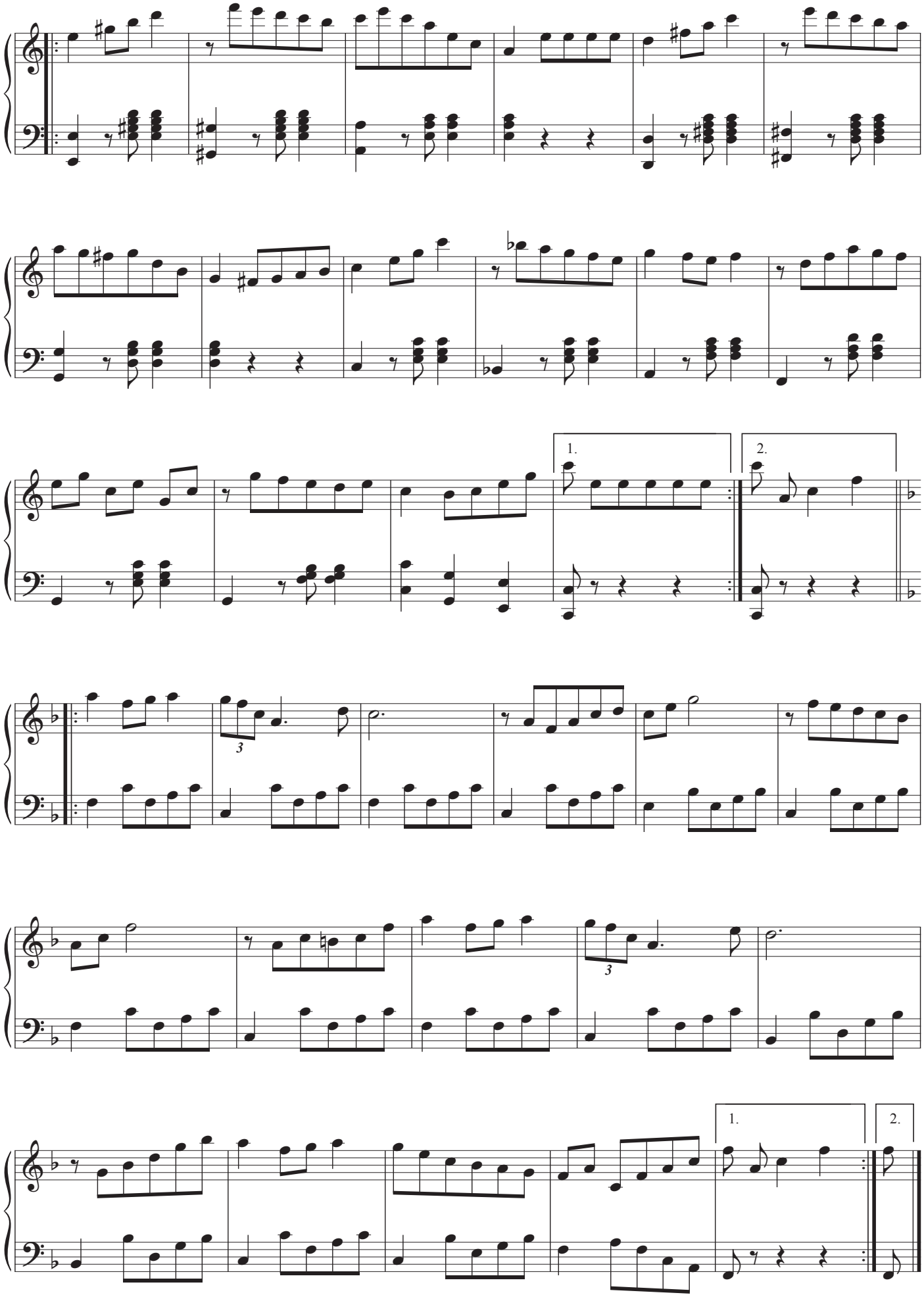
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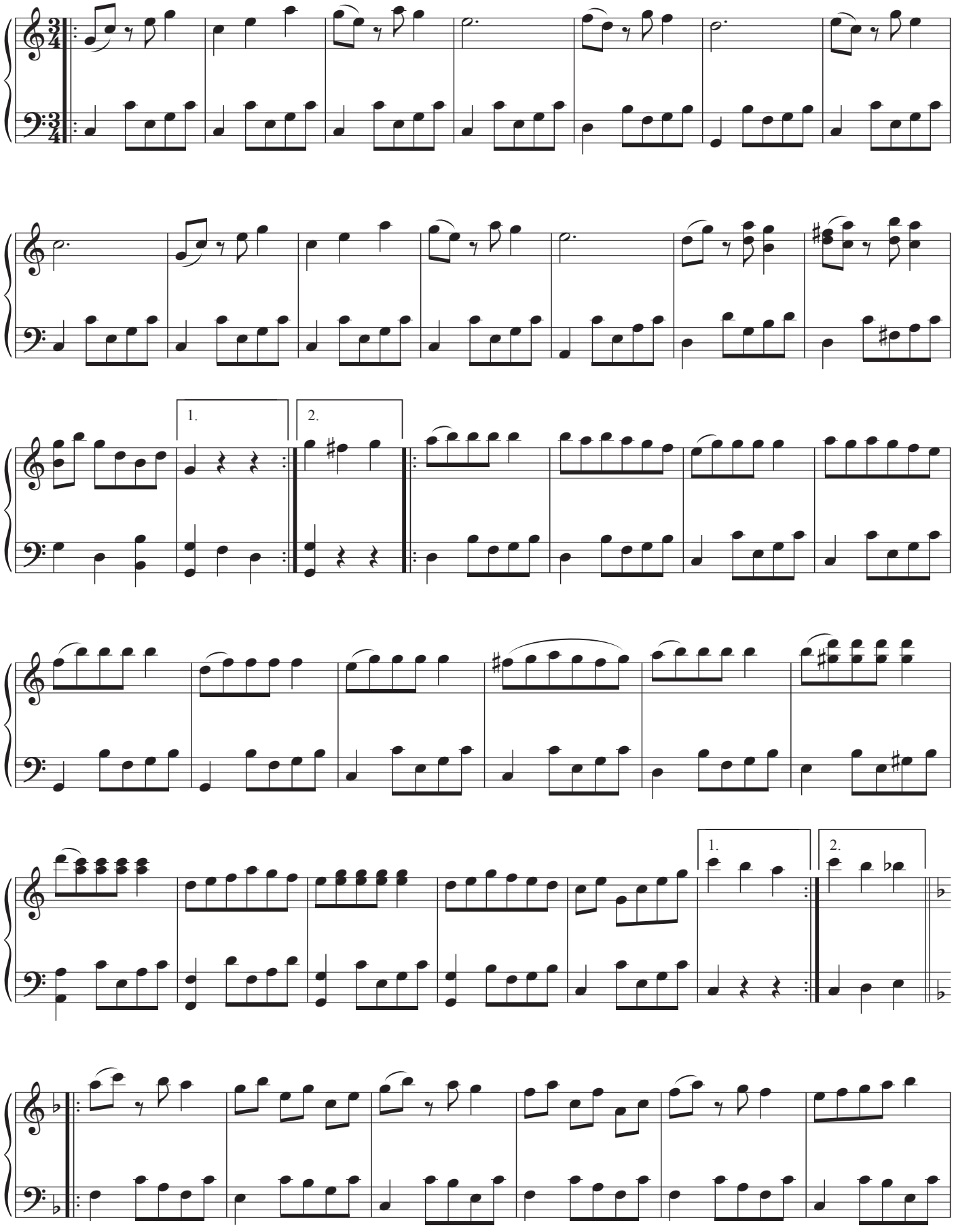
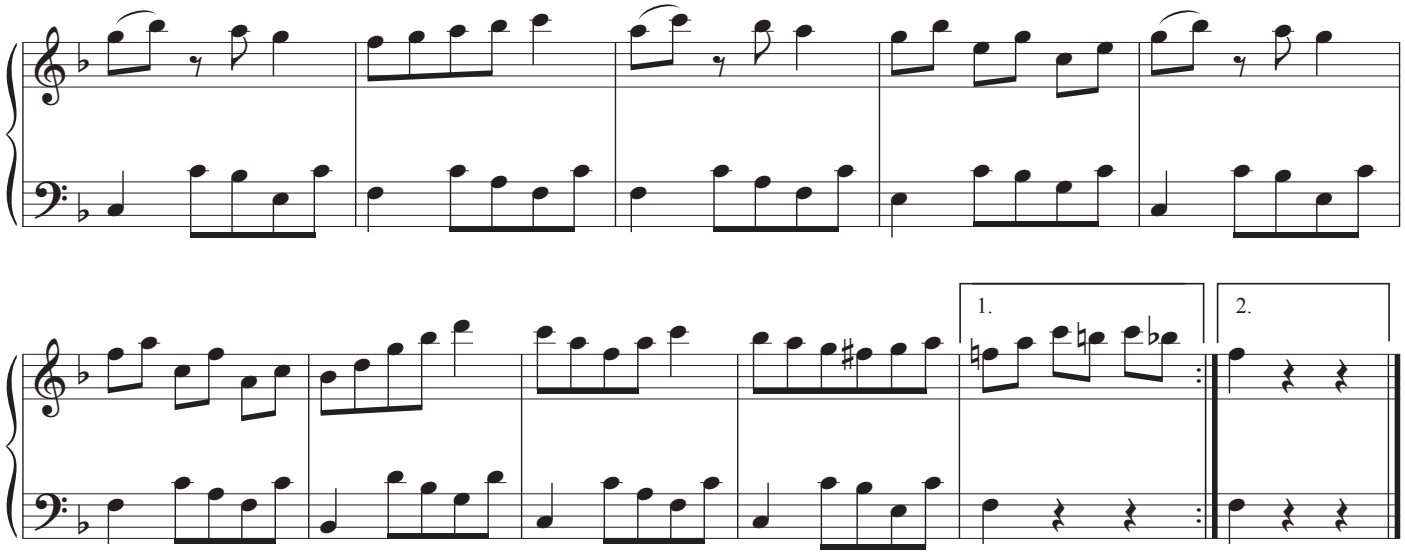
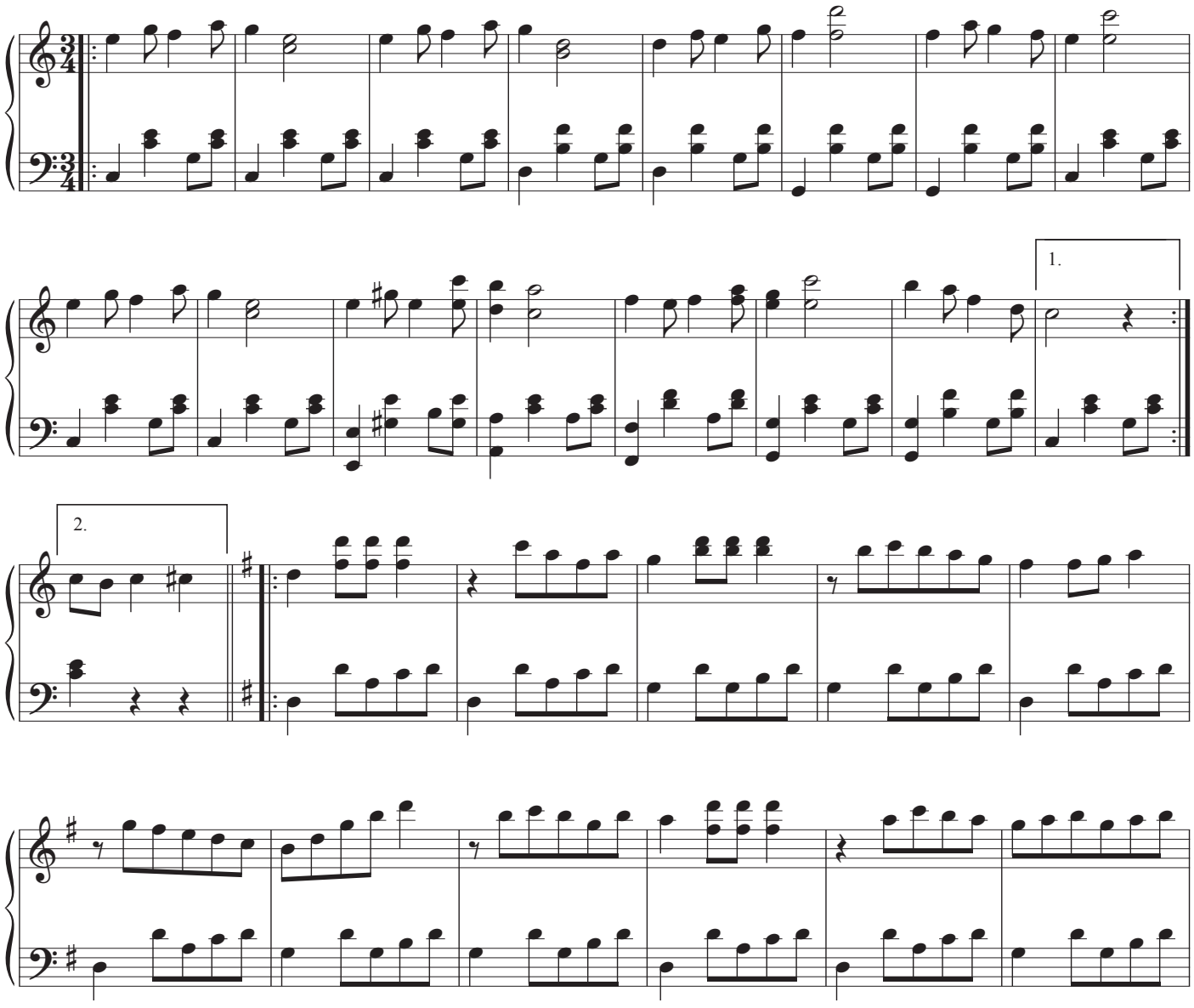
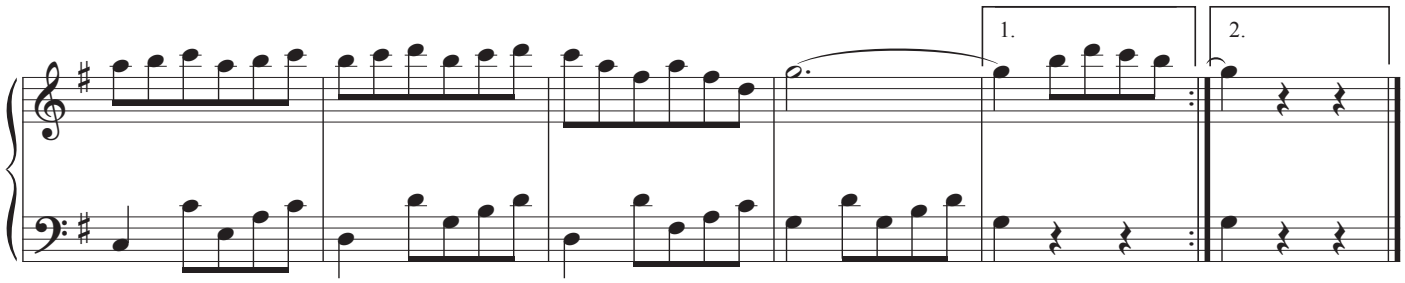


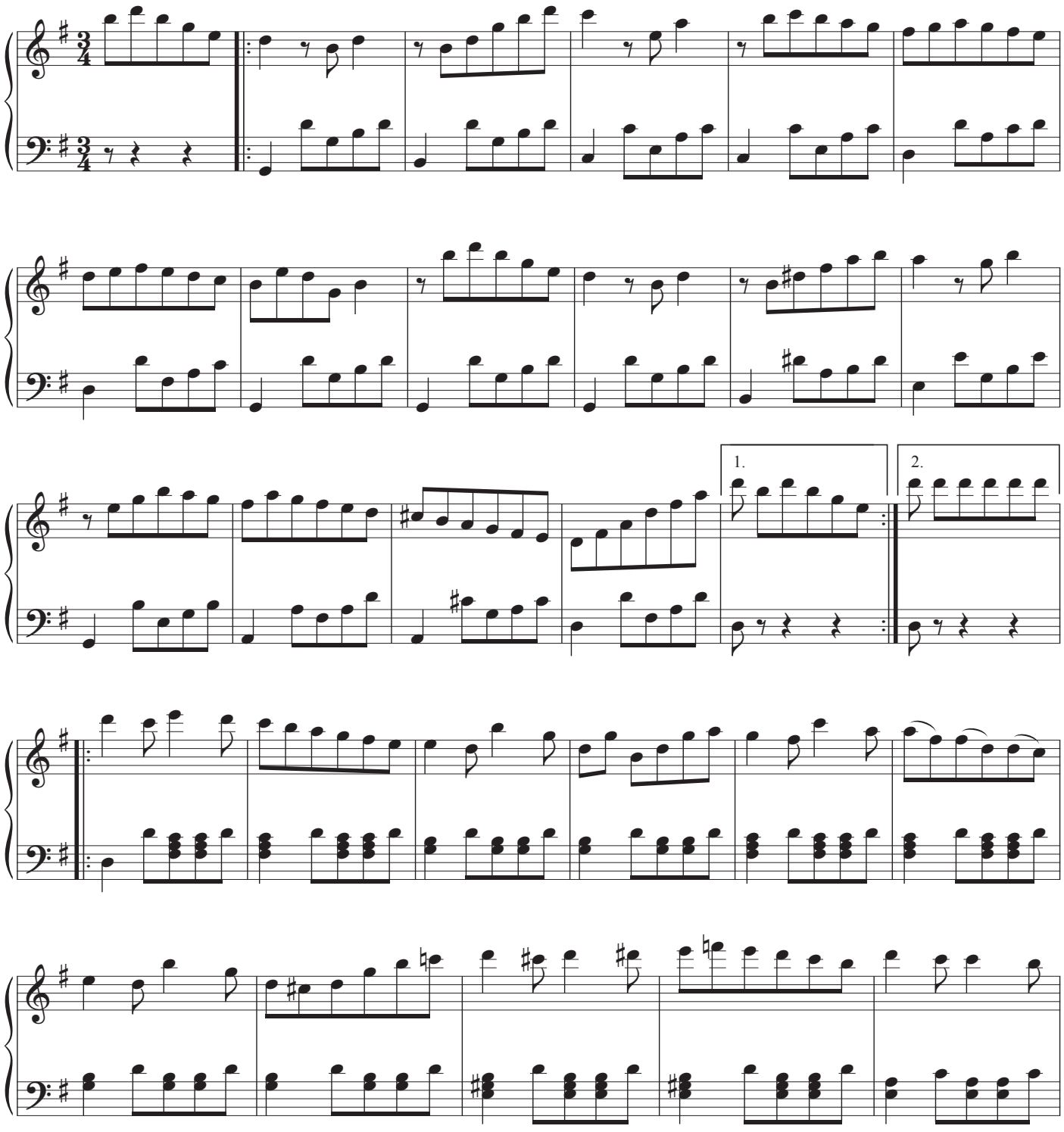


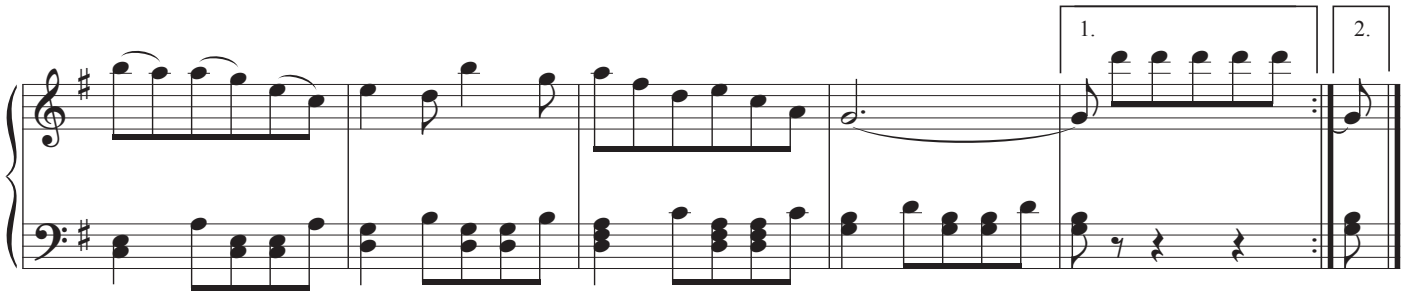
Valse en do mayor y sol mayor





Valse en sol mayor nr 1





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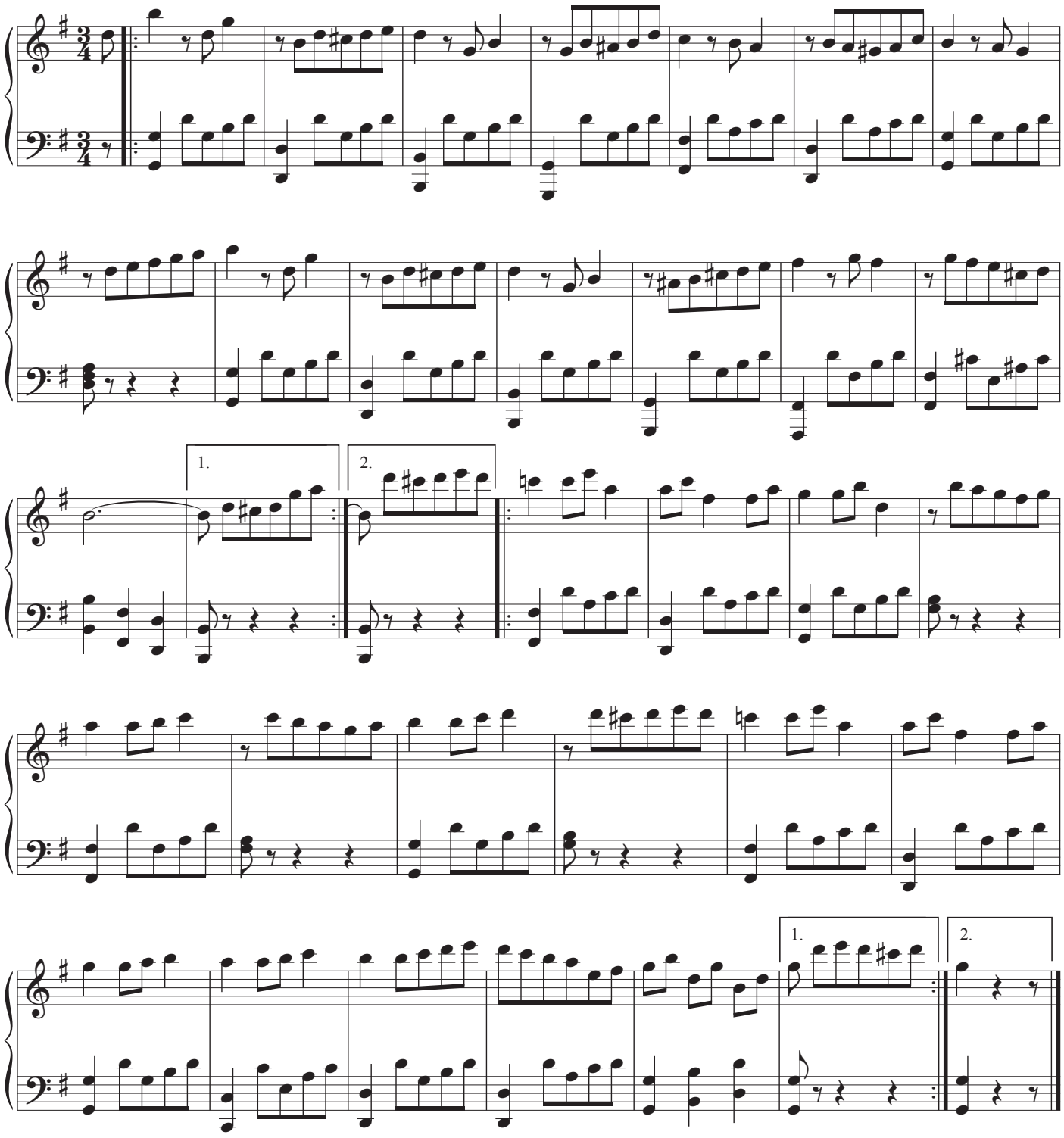
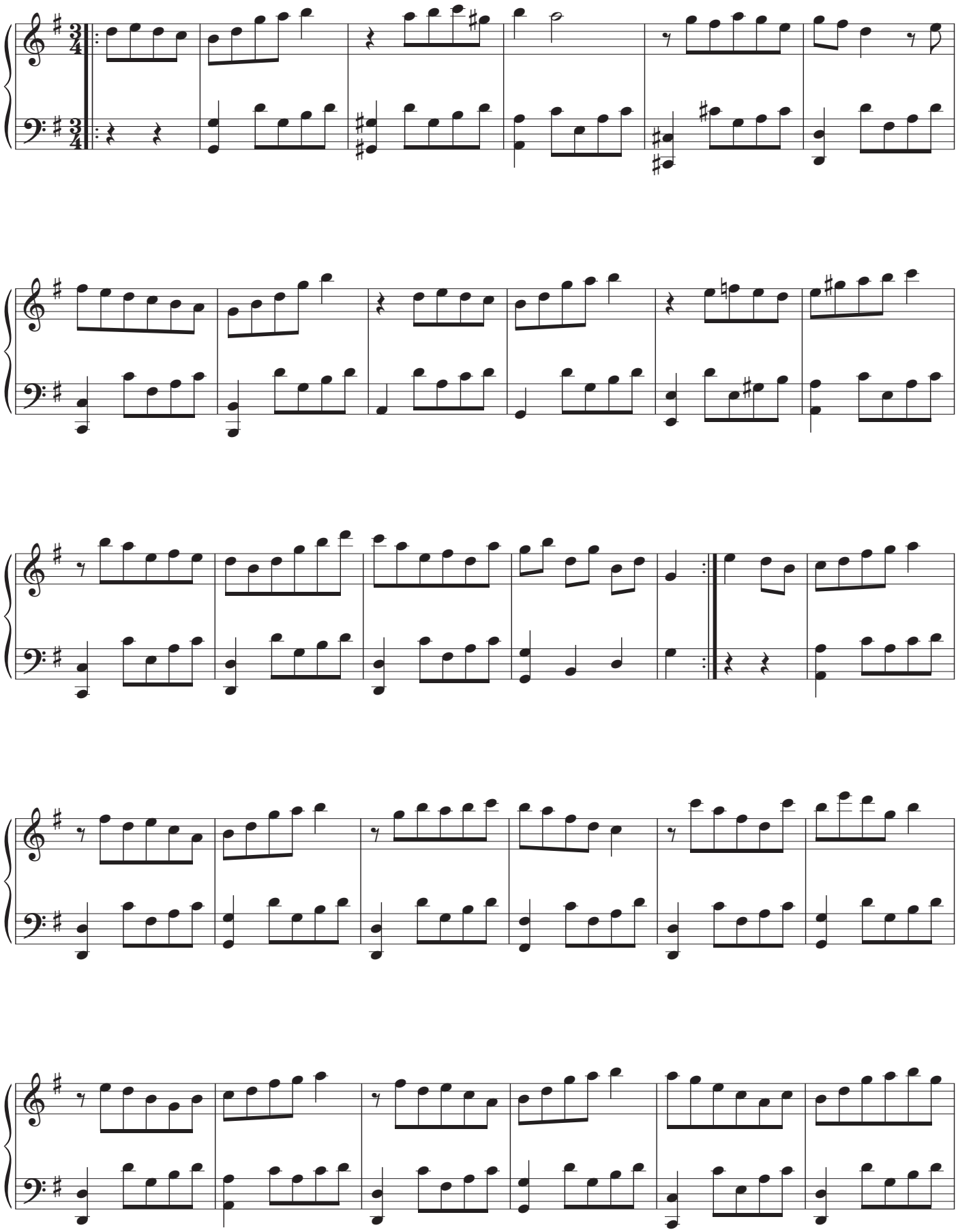
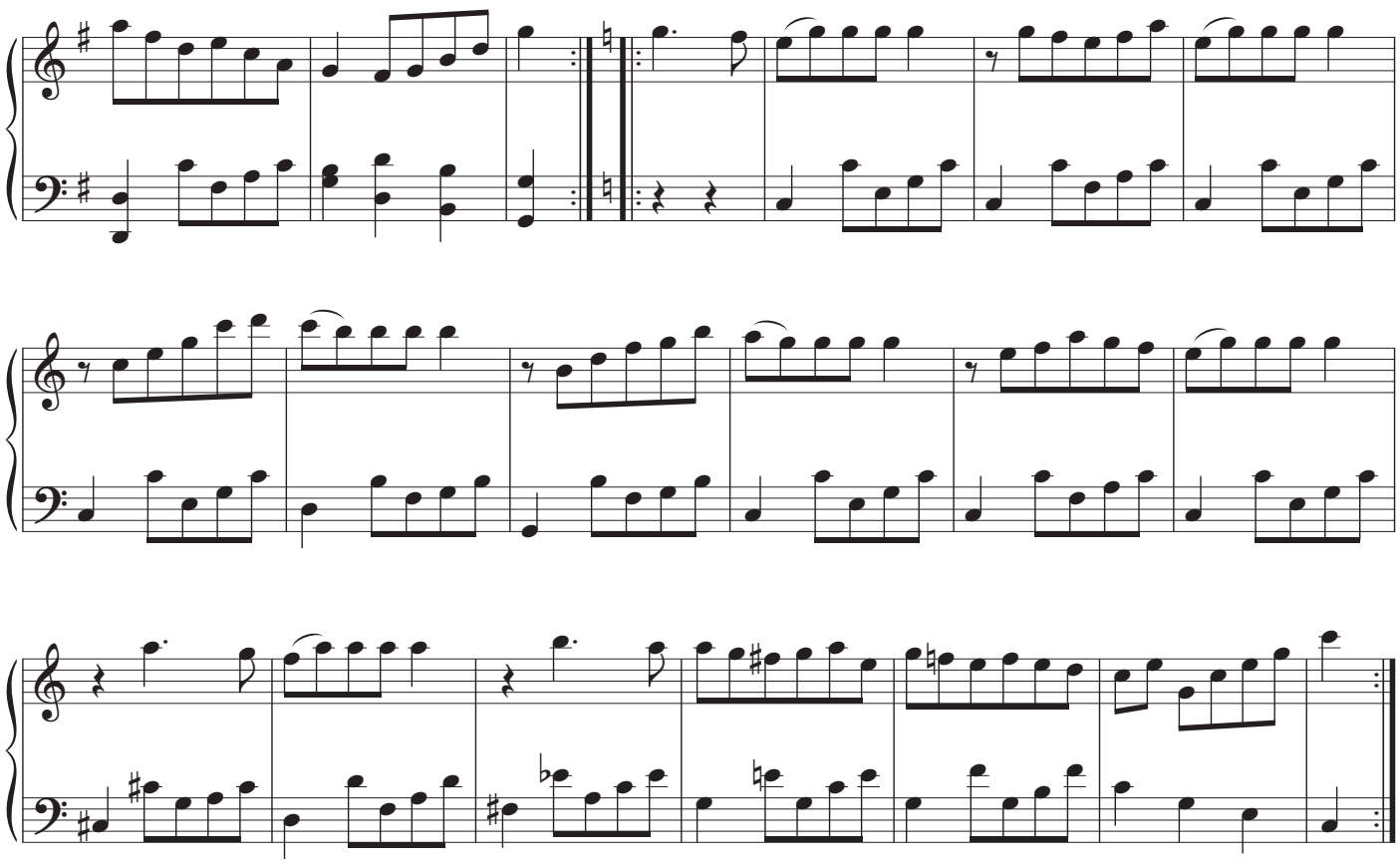


Valse en sol mayor y do mayor nr 1





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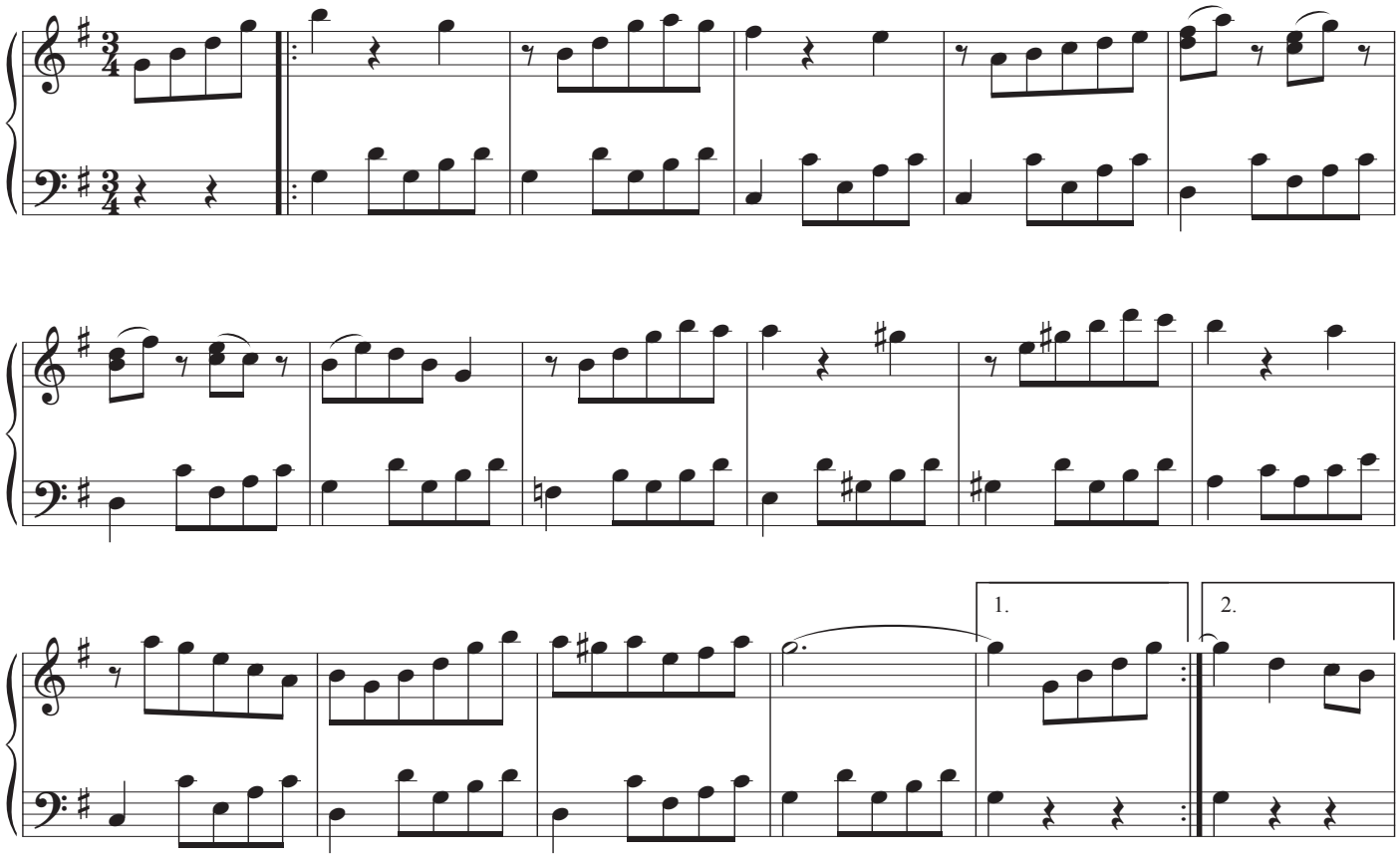

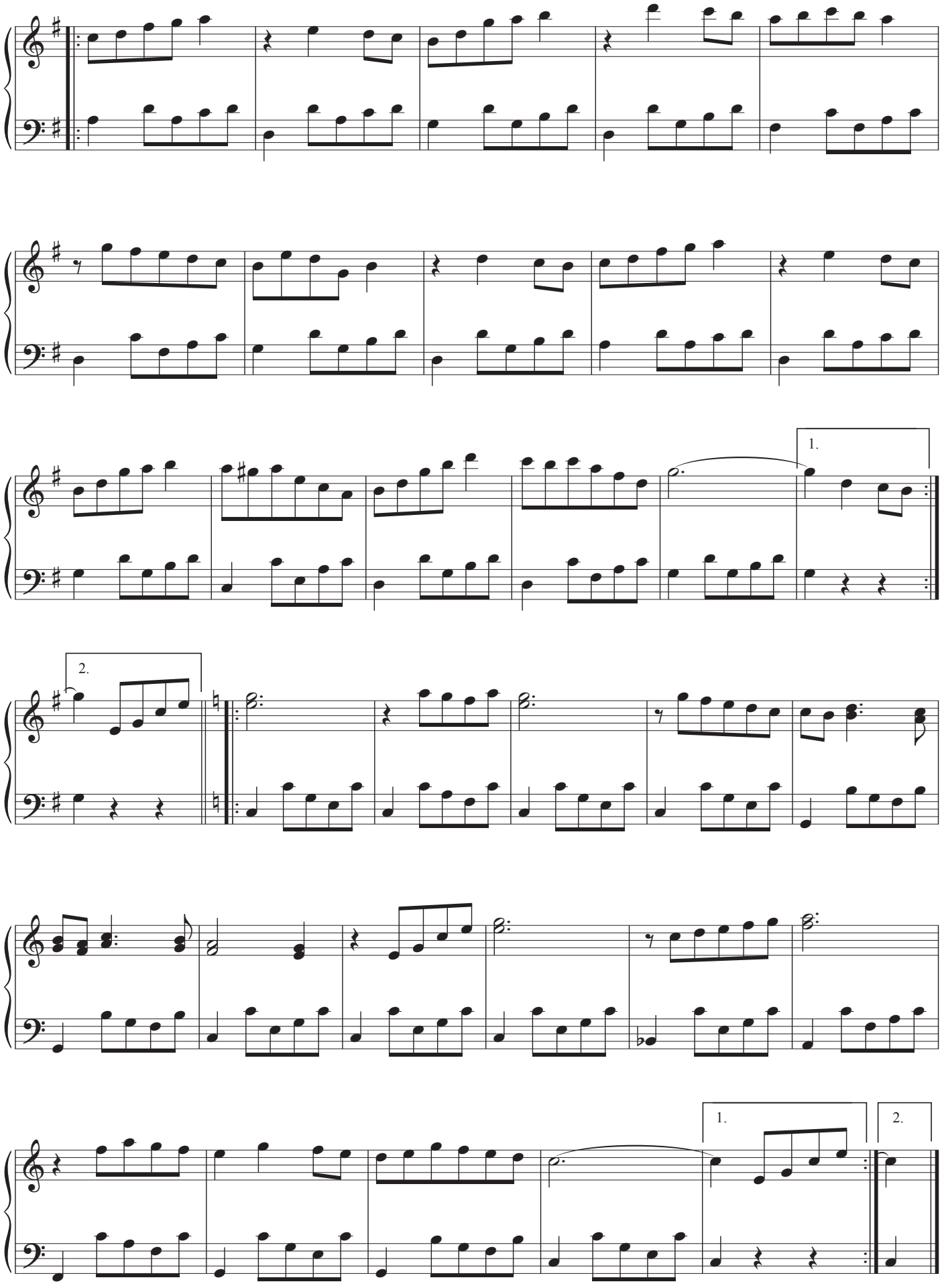
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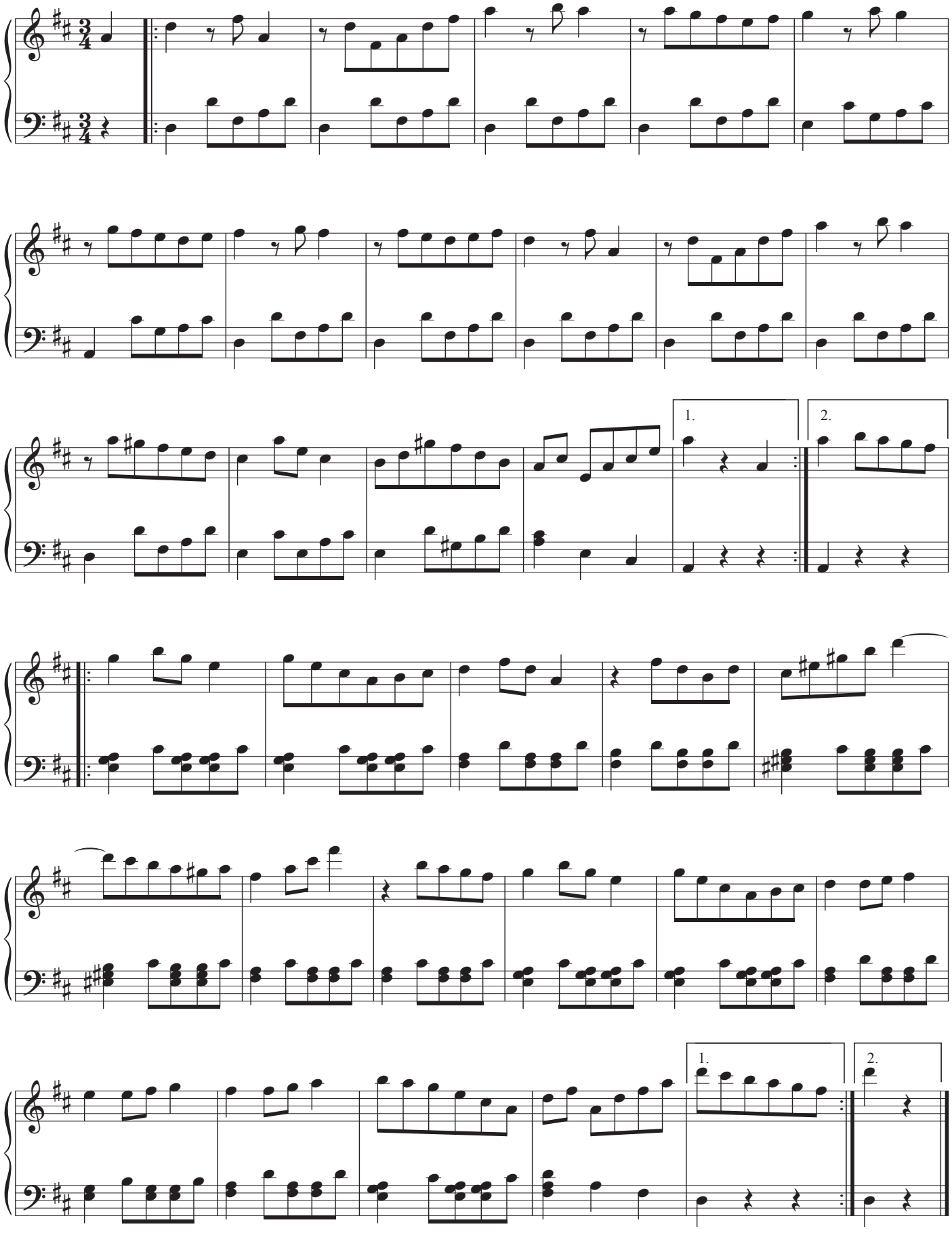
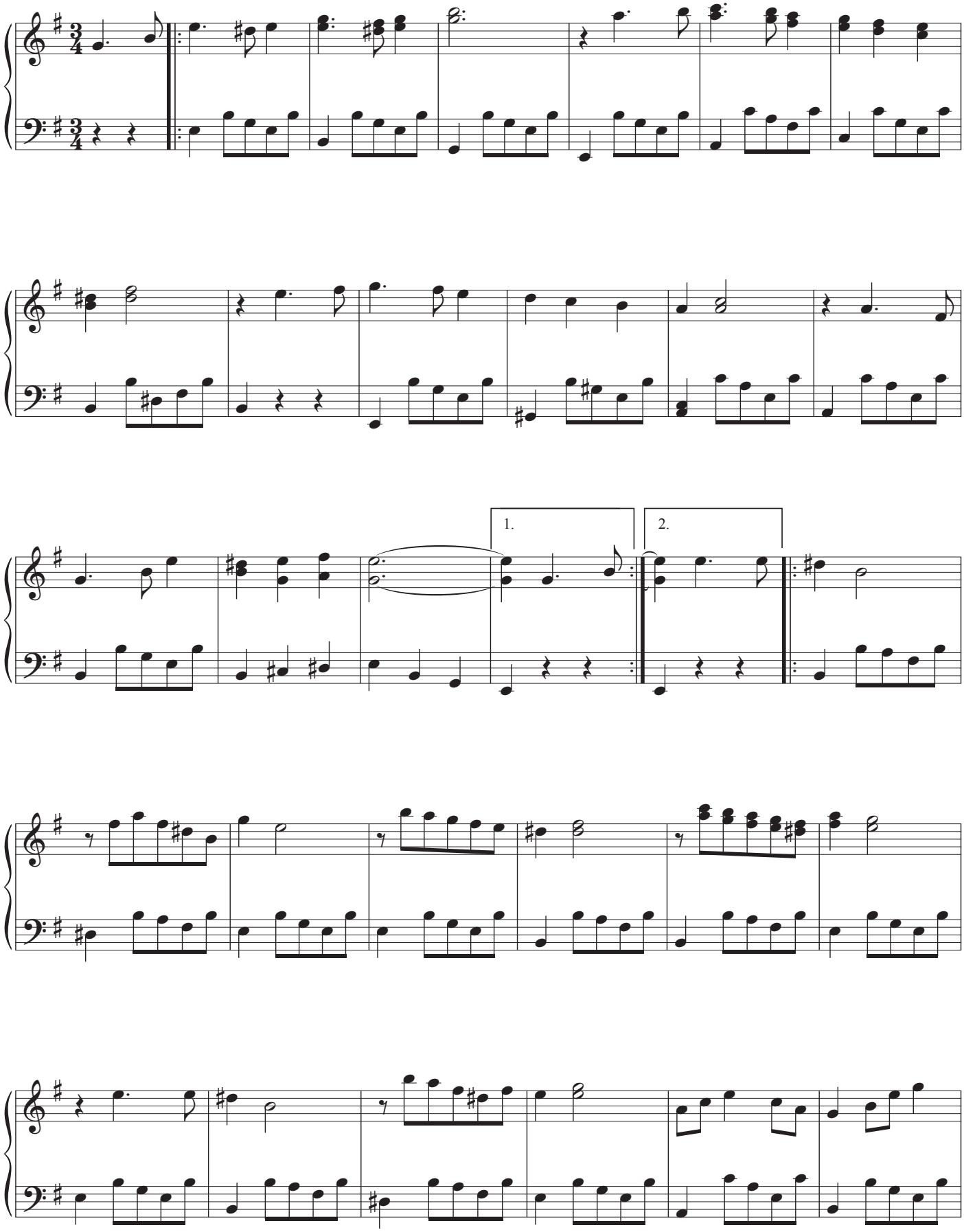
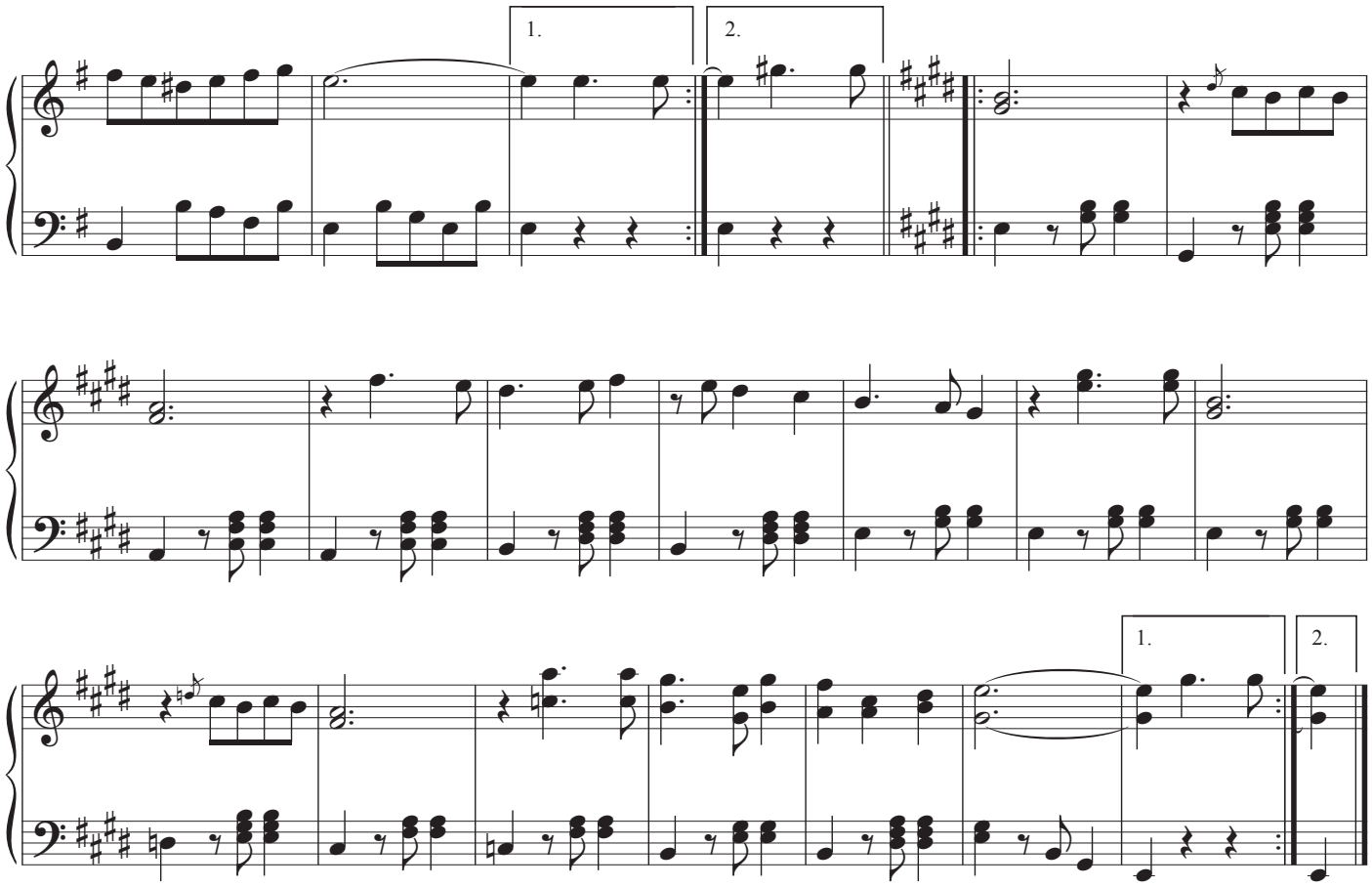
Valse en re mayor



Valse en mi menor y mi mayor nr 1





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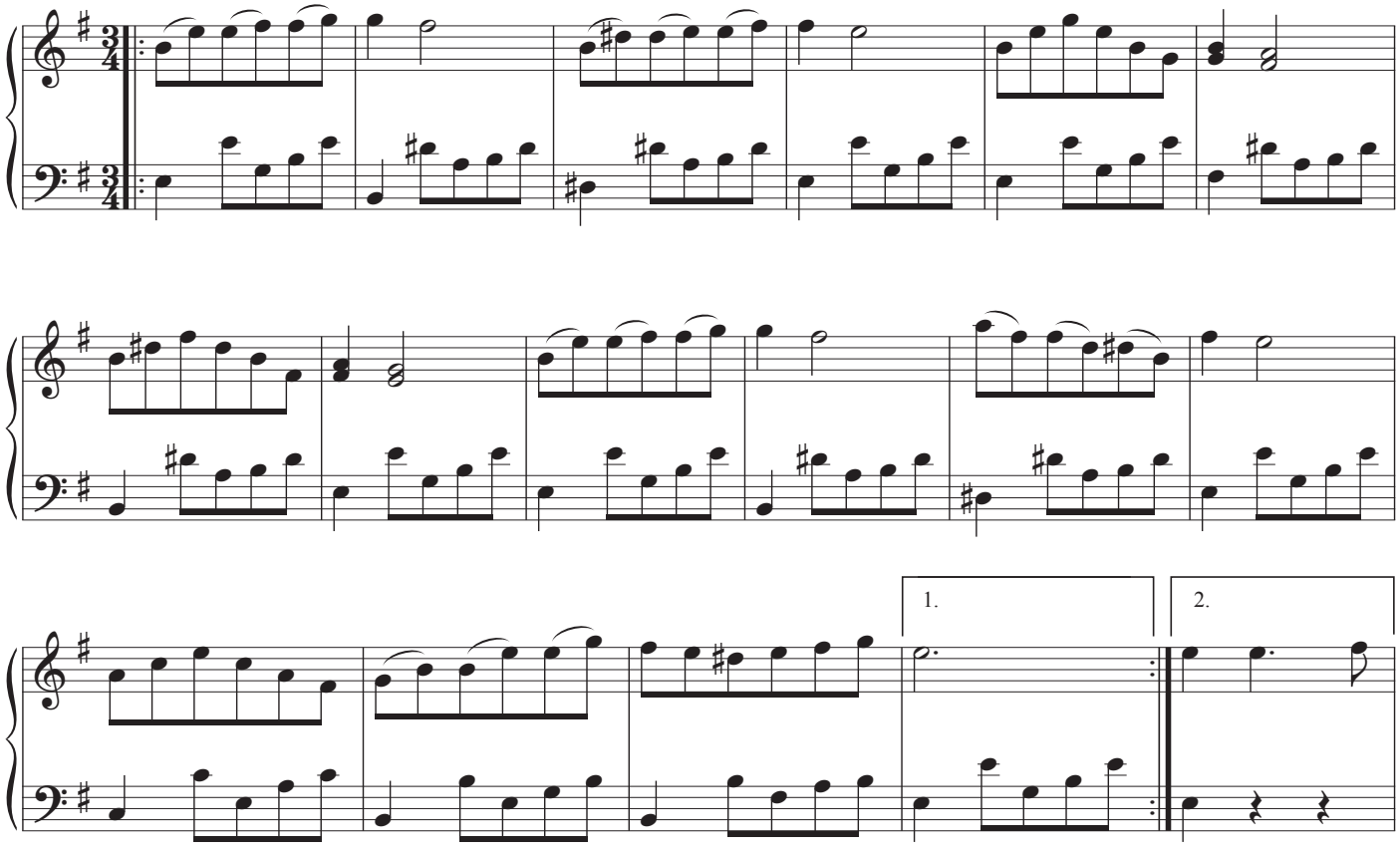

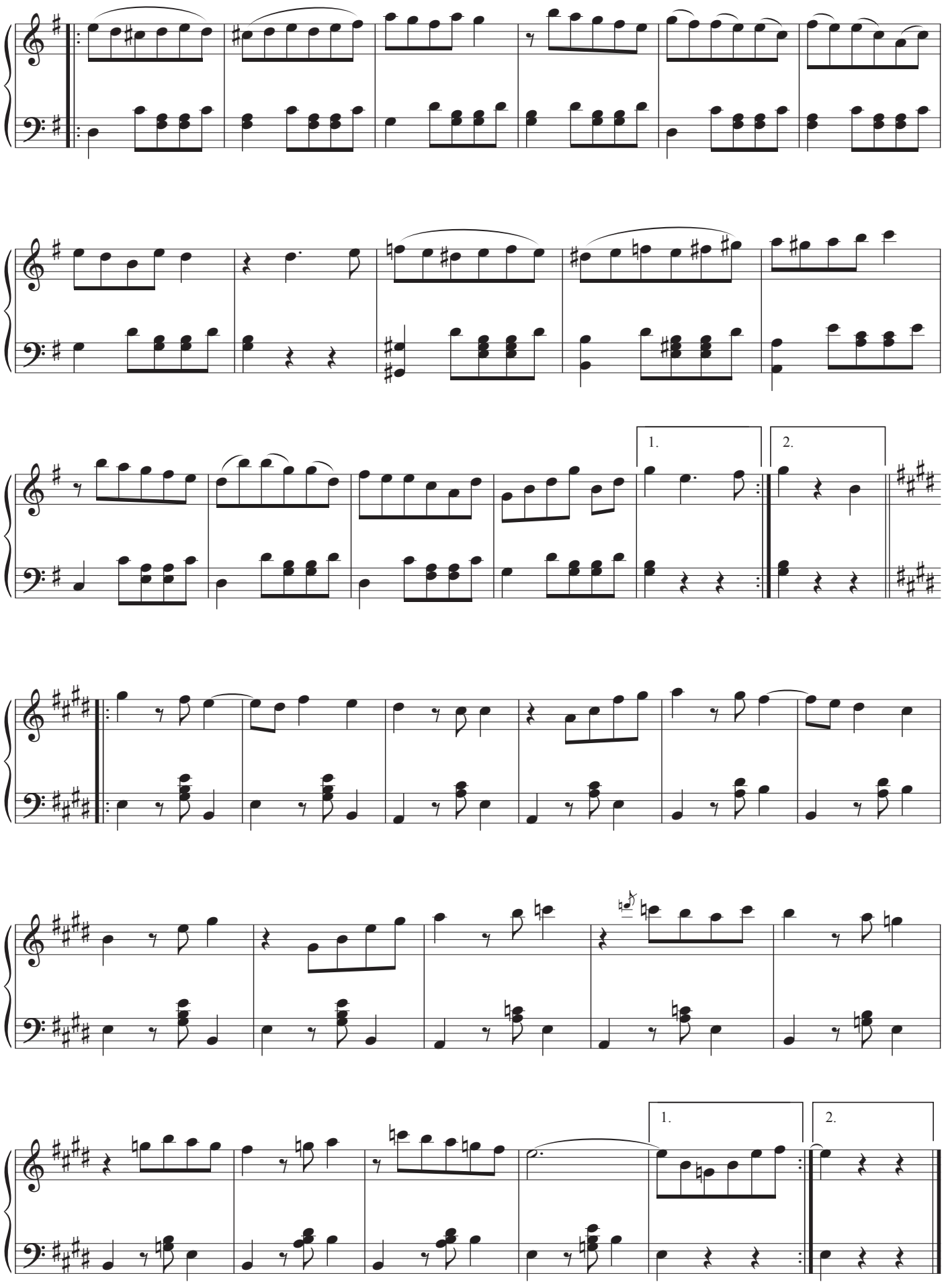
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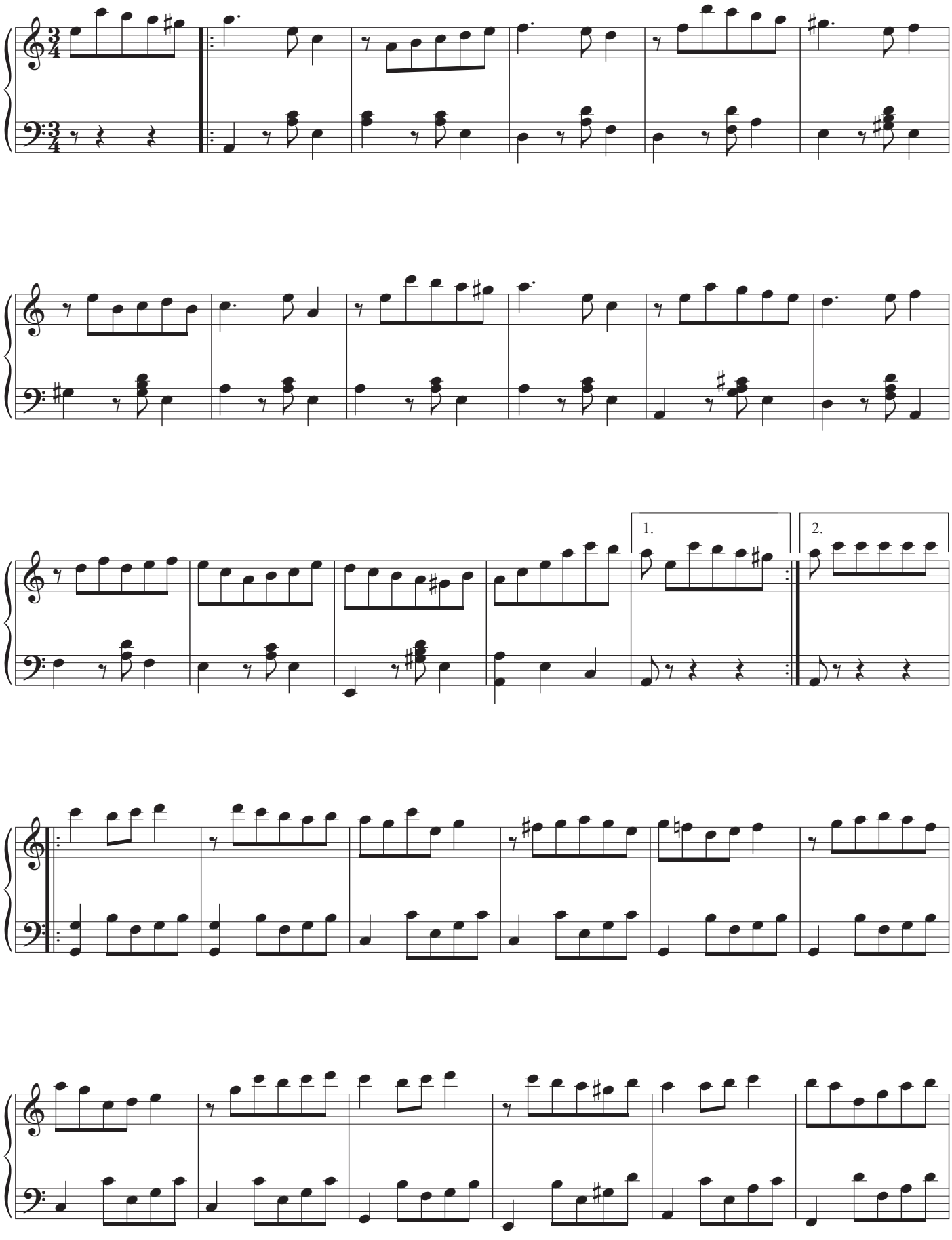
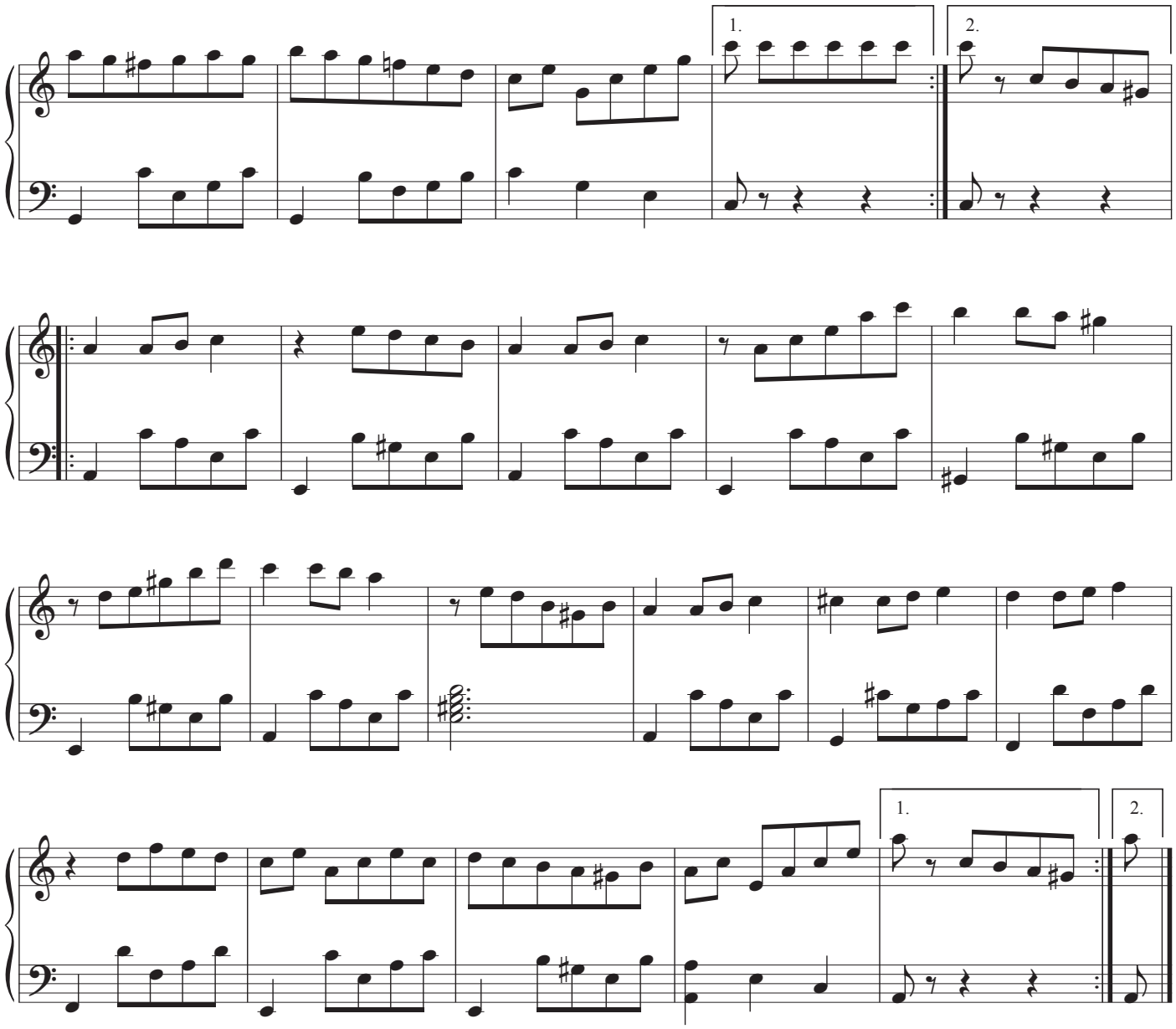
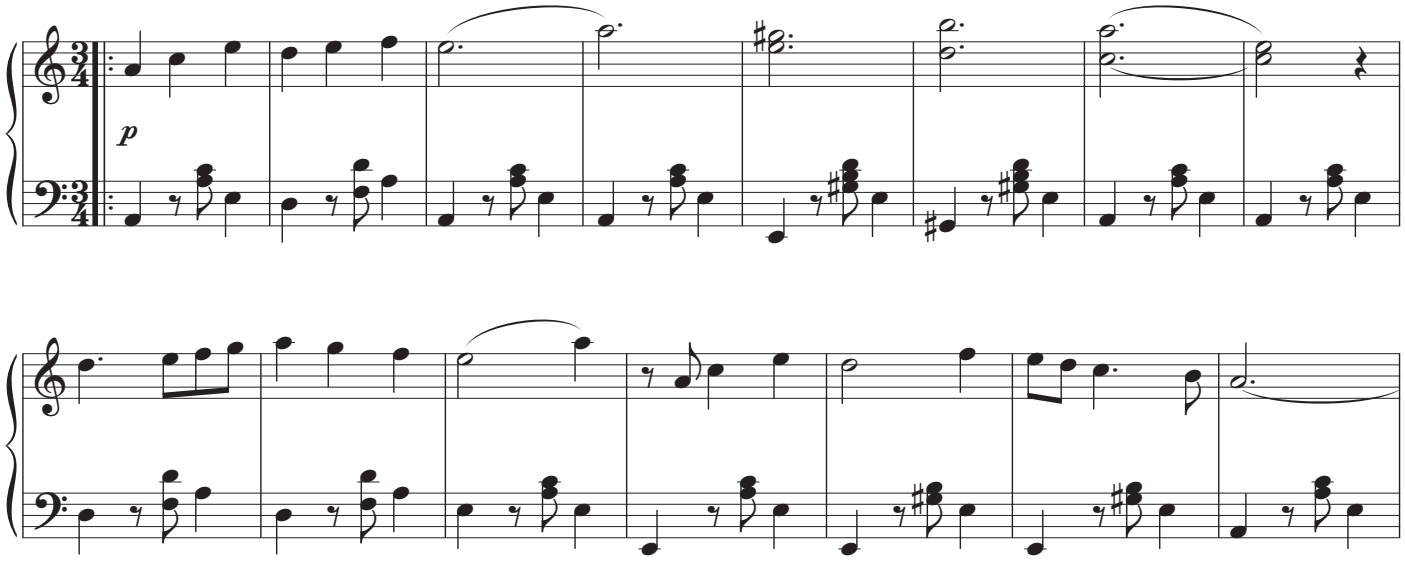
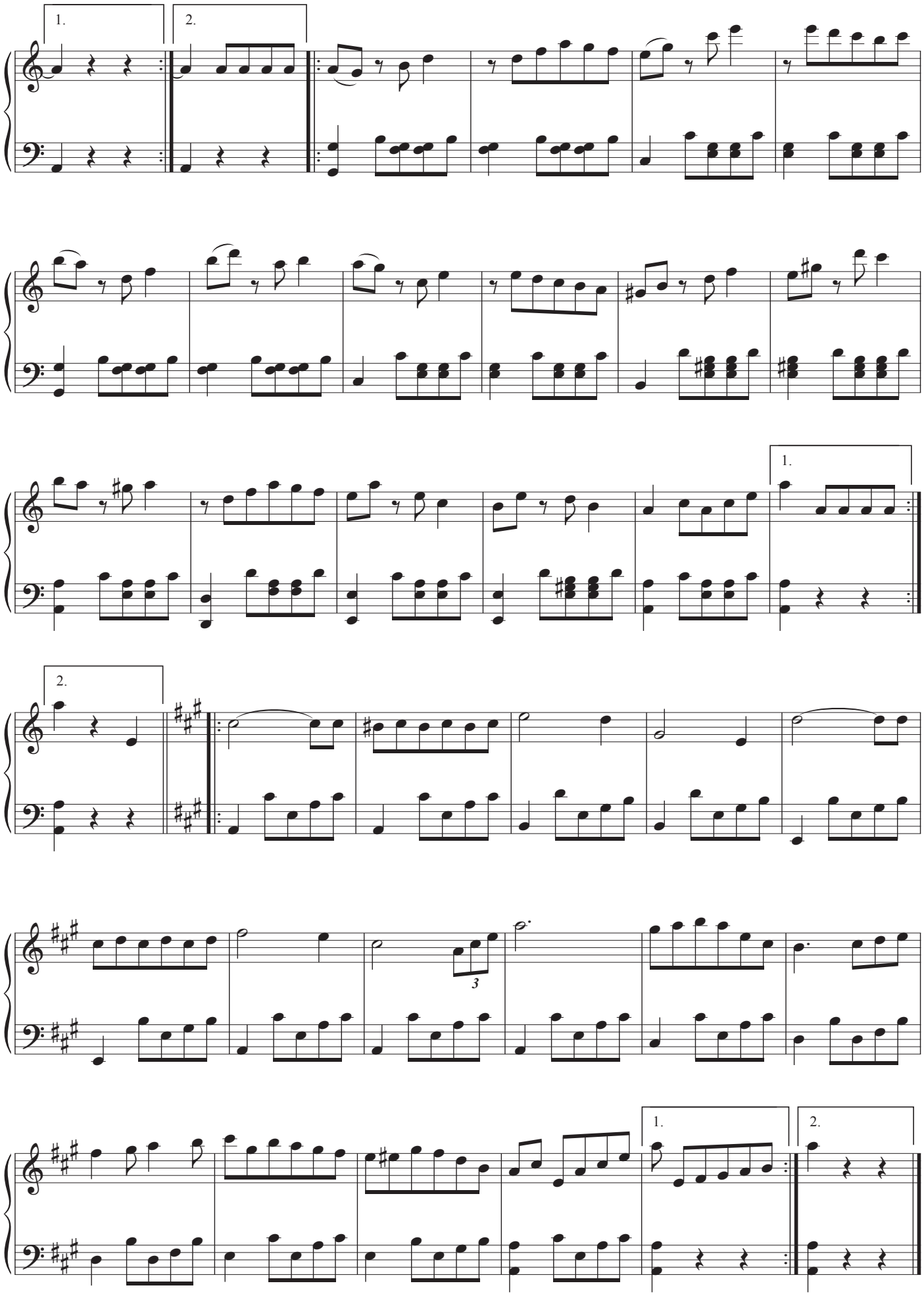
Valse en la menor y do mayor





Valse en la menor y la mayor

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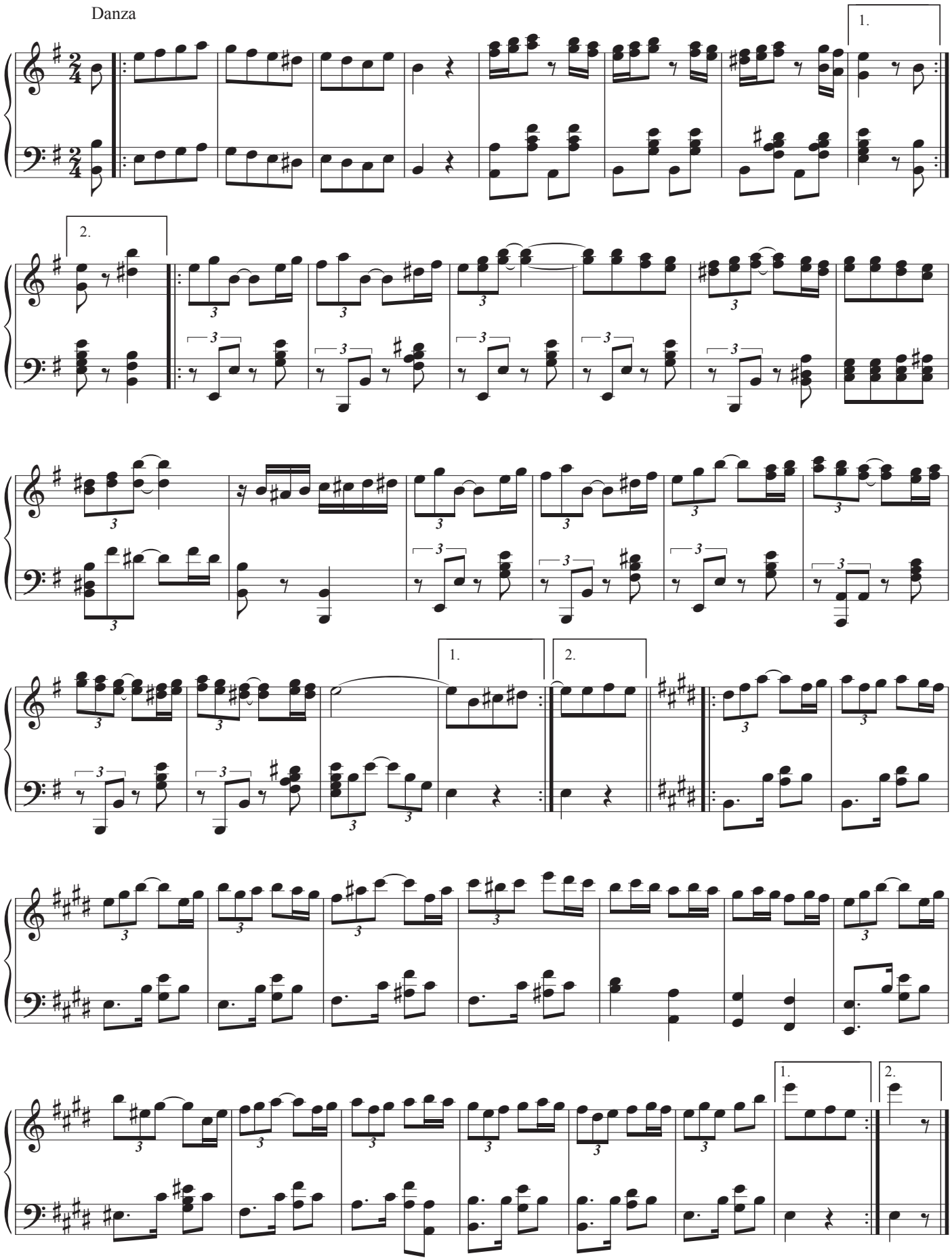
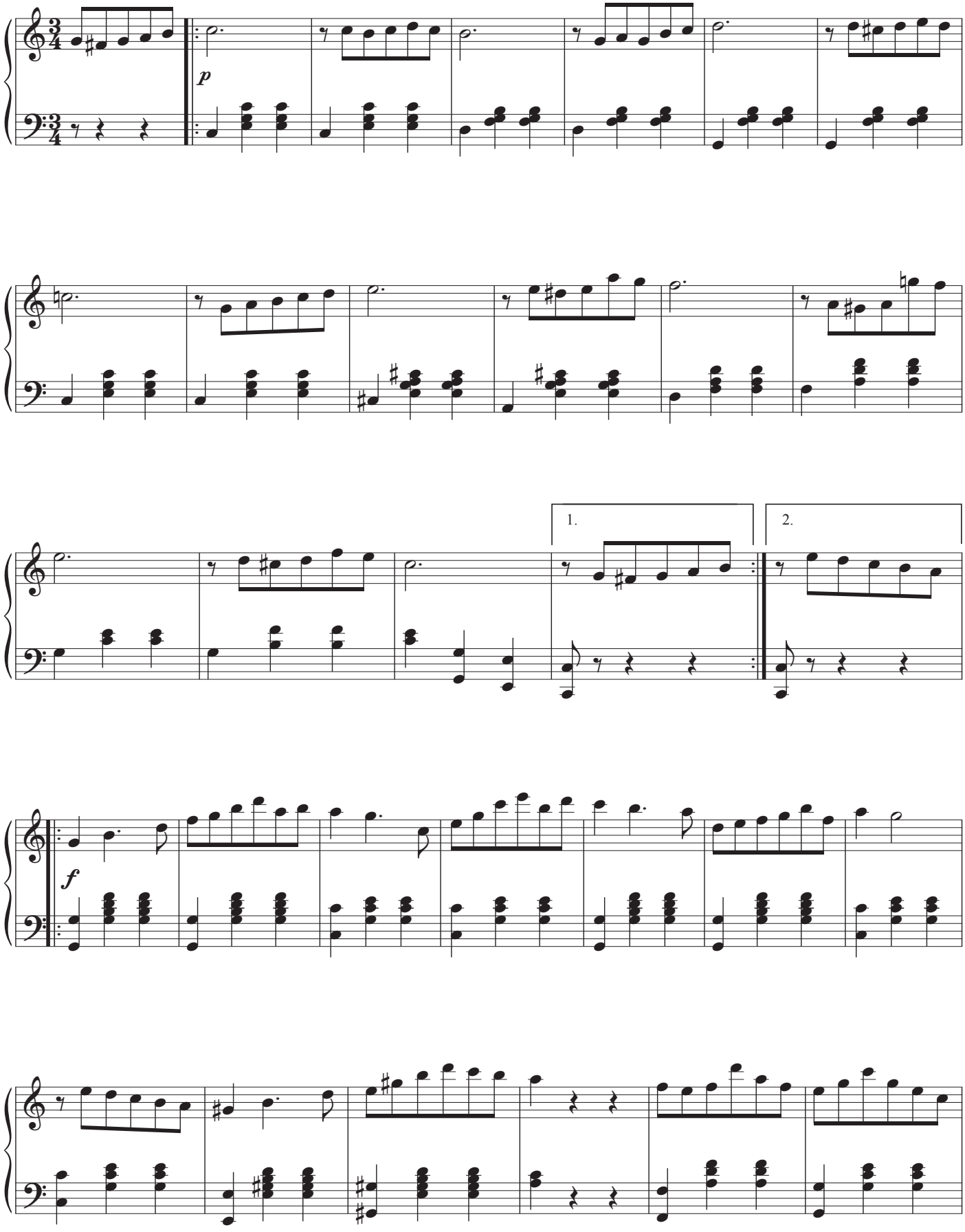
Wantomba

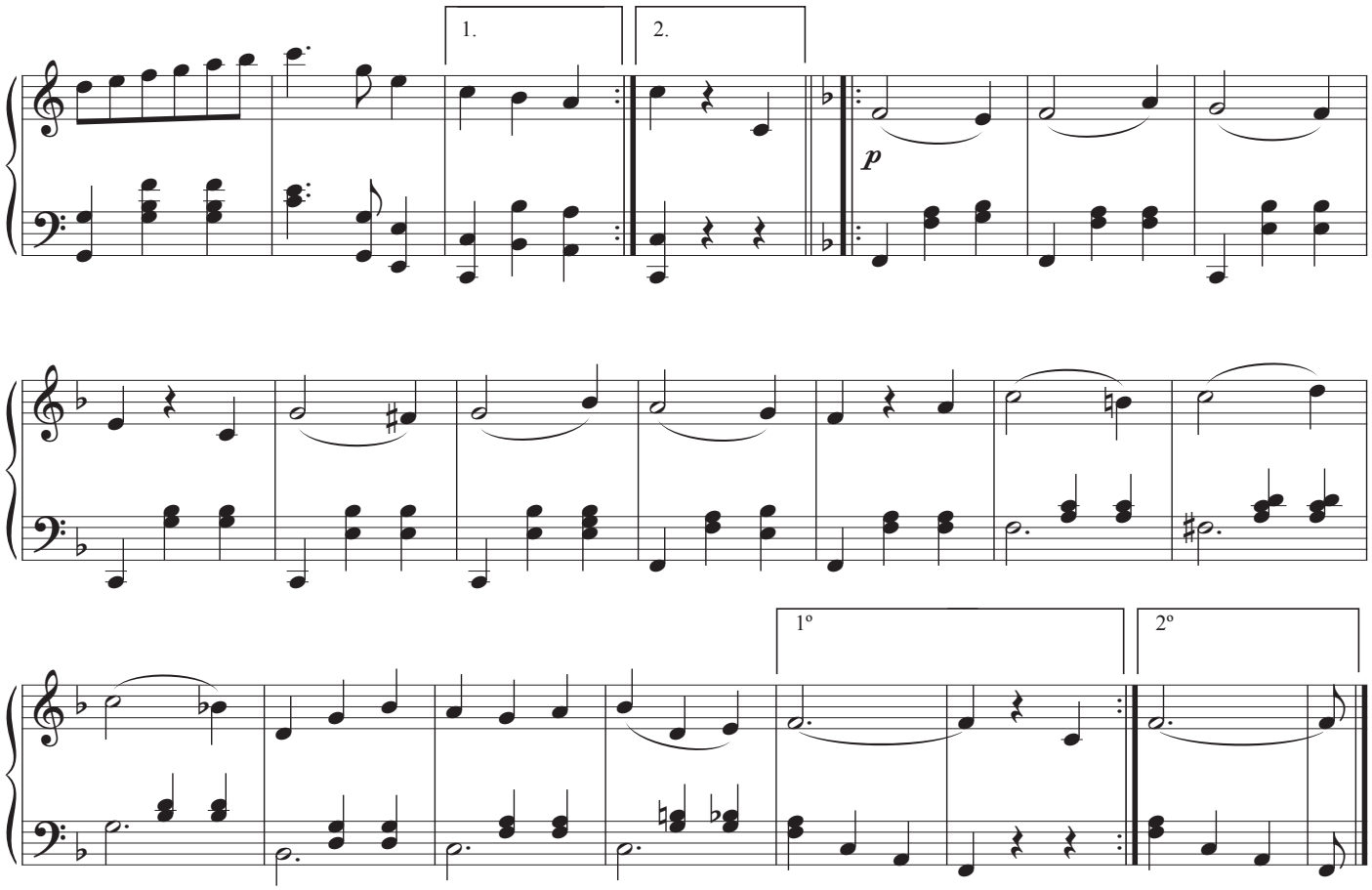


Welkom!

[1898]

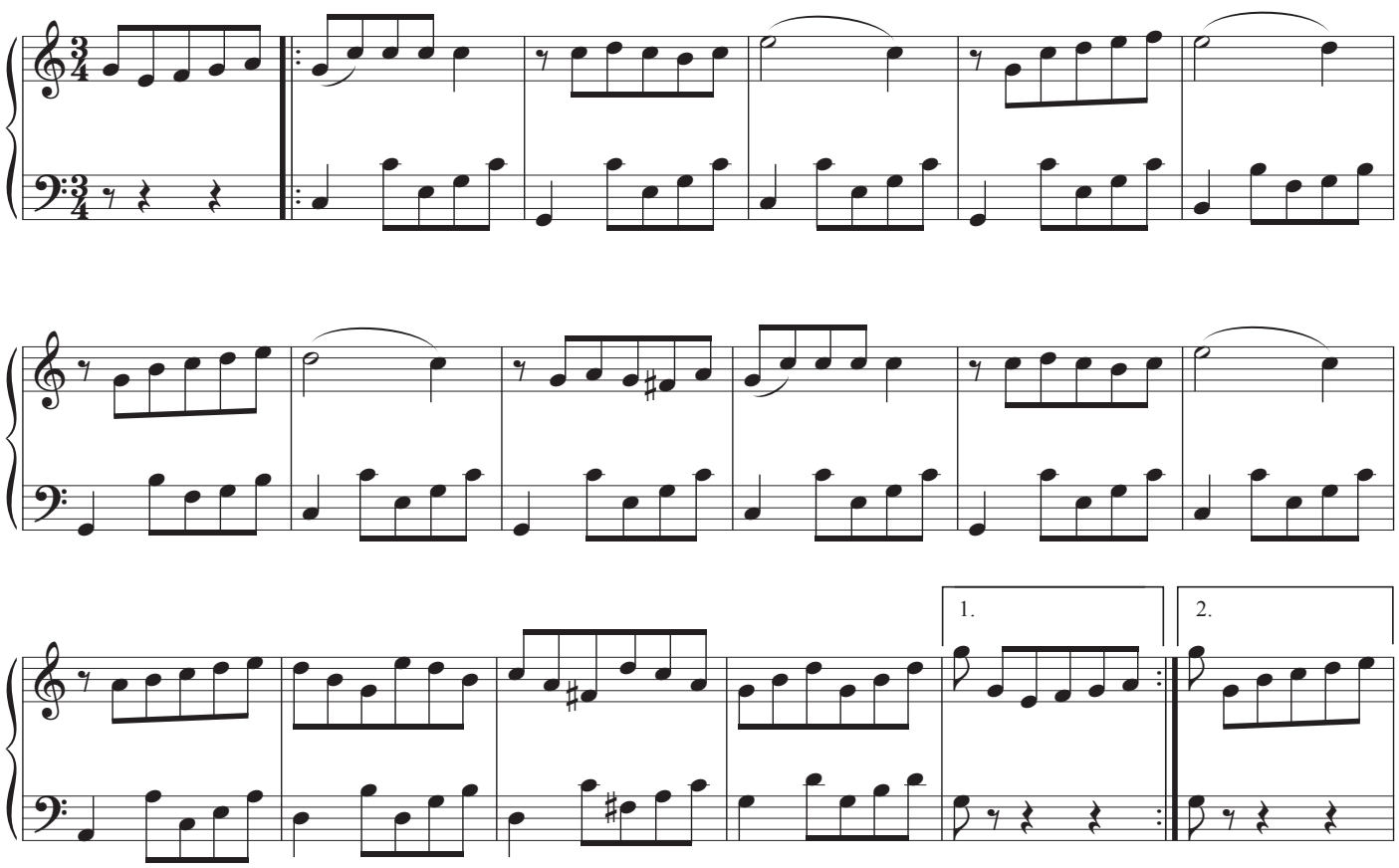
Valse

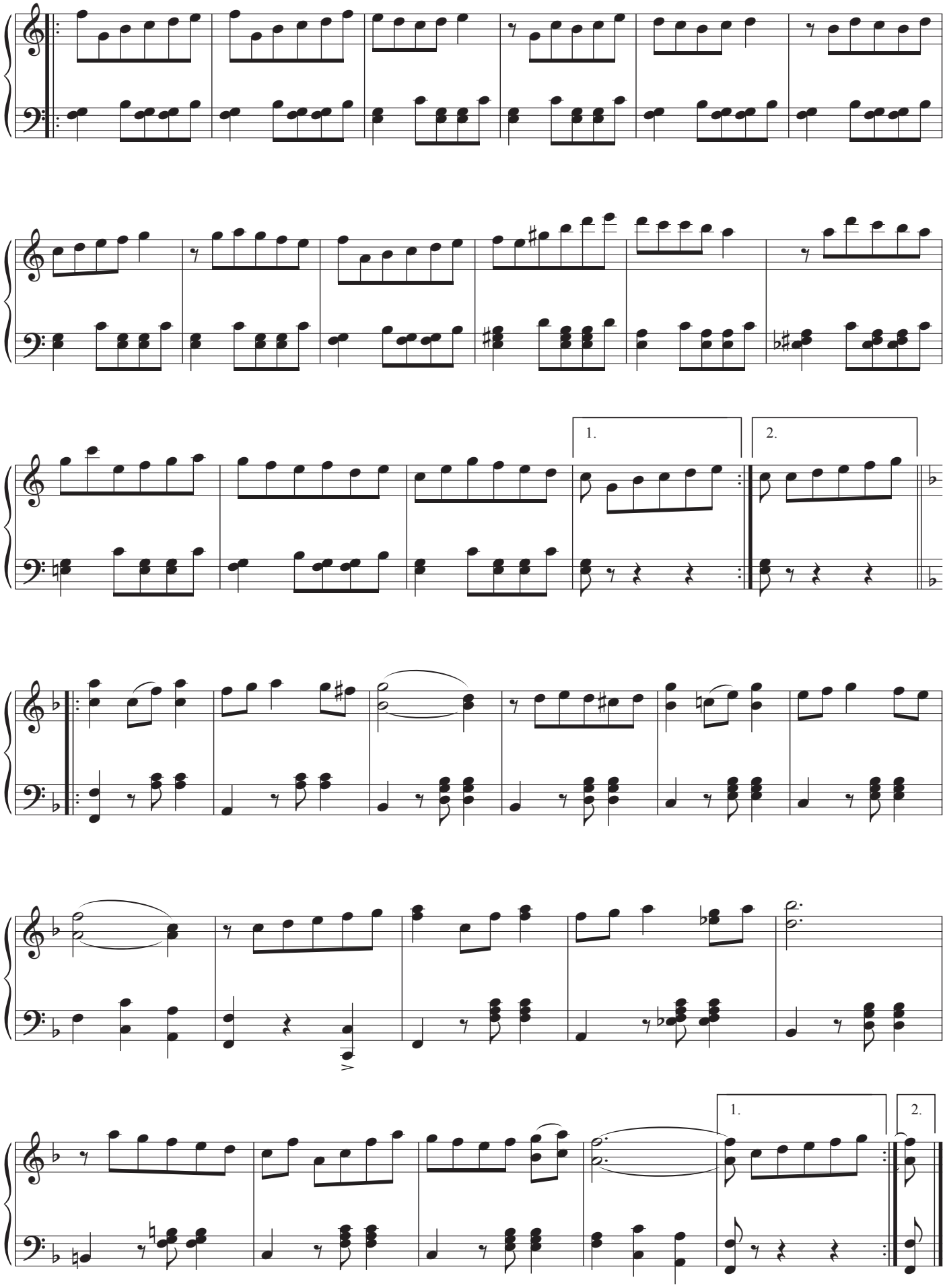




White Zombie

Valse

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