FOREWORD

The three volumes of *Themes from Masterworks* are designed to acquaint piano students with some of the world's great composers of vocal and instrumental literature—songs, operas, string quartets, symphonies, etc. Twenty-two composers are represented, some of whom wrote little or nothing for piano but contributed greatly to our musical heritage. We hope this series will enlarge the piano student's musical horizons by providing experience with composers, literature, idioms and styles that he could not meet if his literature were limited exclusively to music written for piano.

In making the selections we have been careful to choose only those themes which could be transcribed for piano without losing the essence of their style and sonority.

The music in each book is arranged chronologically by composer, not in order of difficulty.

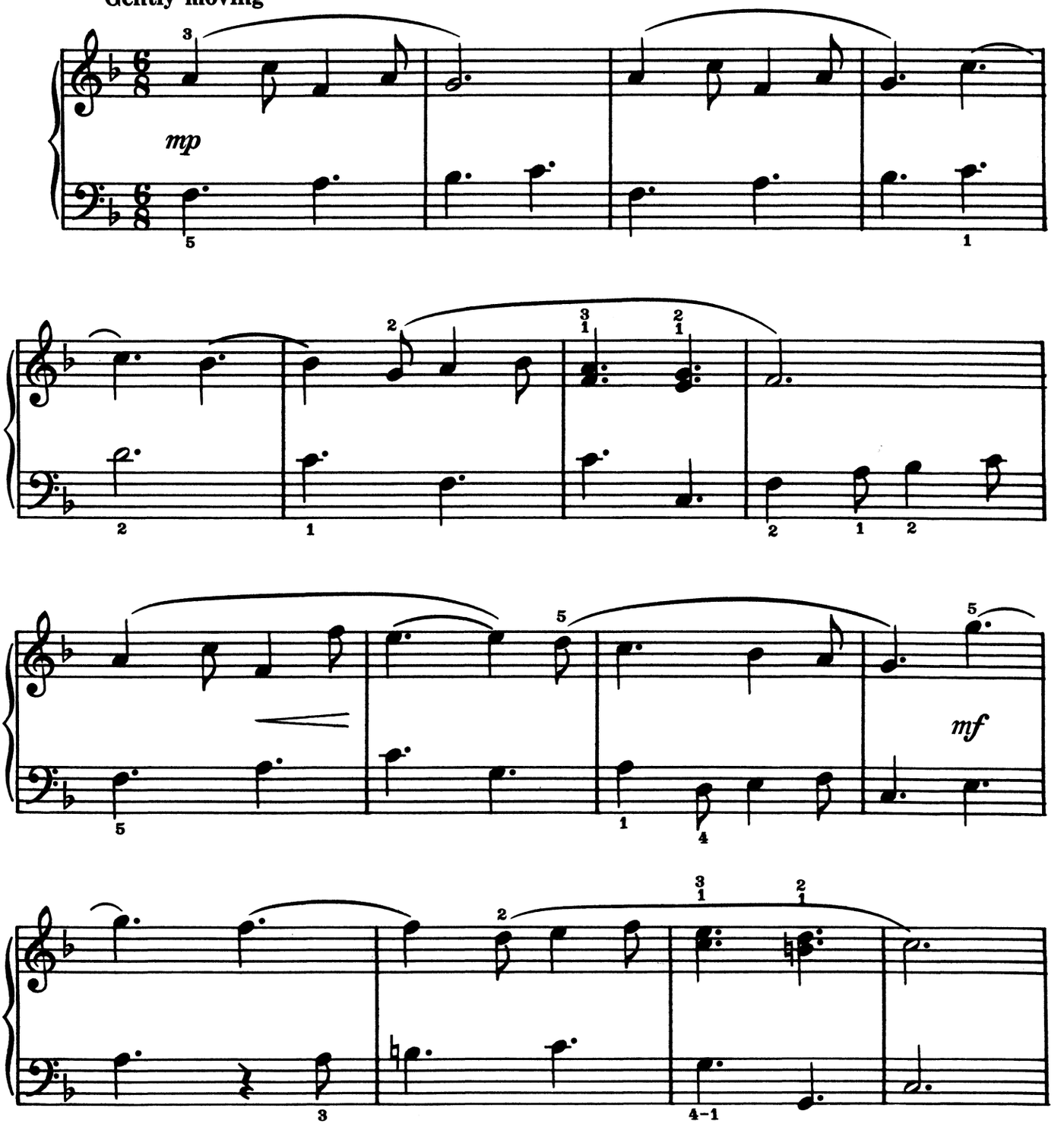
Princeton, New Jersey

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL (1685-1759)

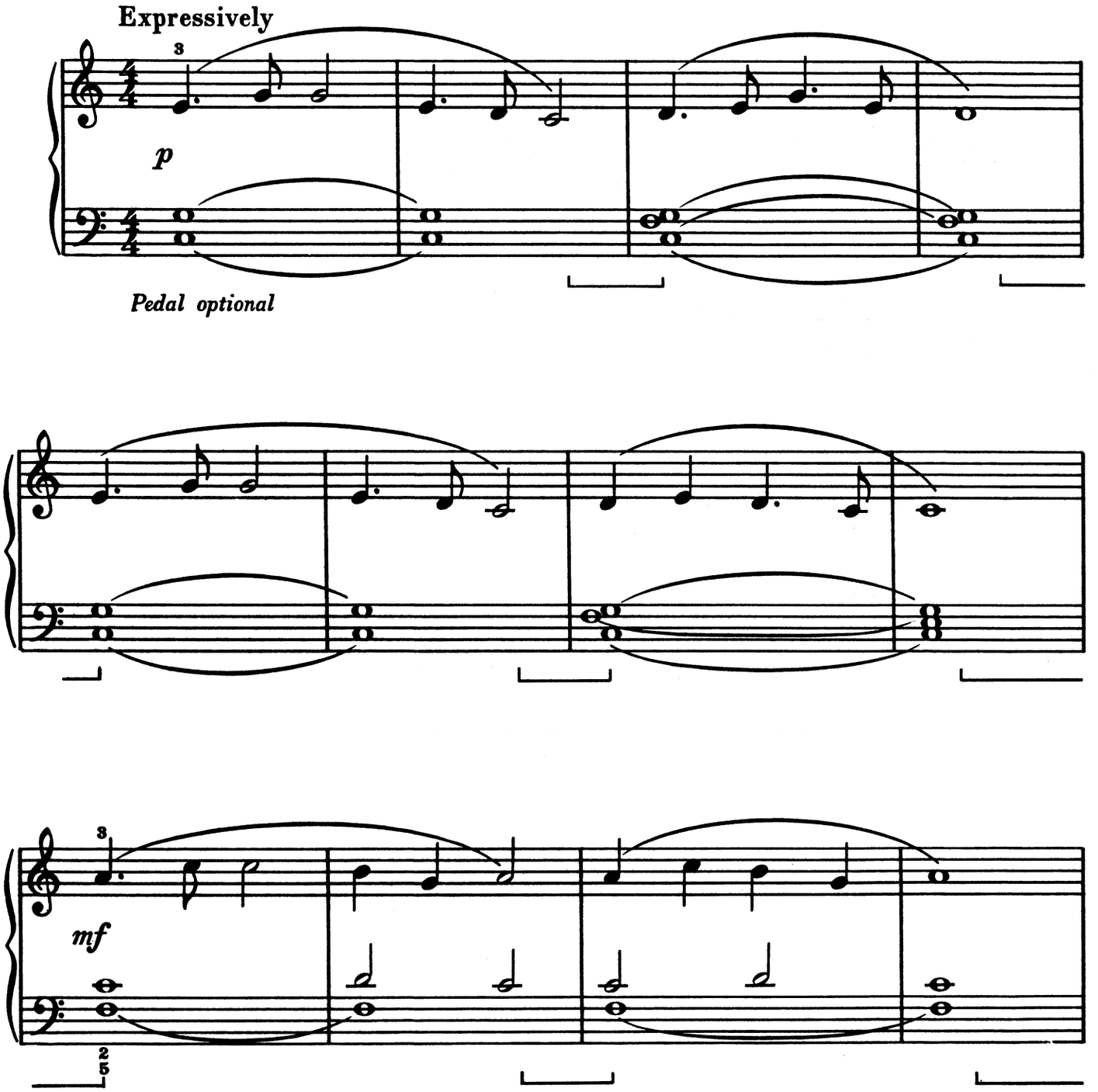
On a summer evening in 1717, King George I of England presided over a royal party, held aboard barges on the Thames River. For this occasion Handel composed the "Water Music" suite for orchestra, in which this graceful theme is heard.

Air

Gently moving



ANTONIN DVOŘÁK (1841-1904)

The Bohemian composer Dvořák lived for three years in America, where he became interested in American folk music. Some of his impressions of our music appear in his Fifth Symphony, called "From the New World." This theme, from the second movement, captures Dvořák's impression of our Negro spirituals.

From the New World