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.

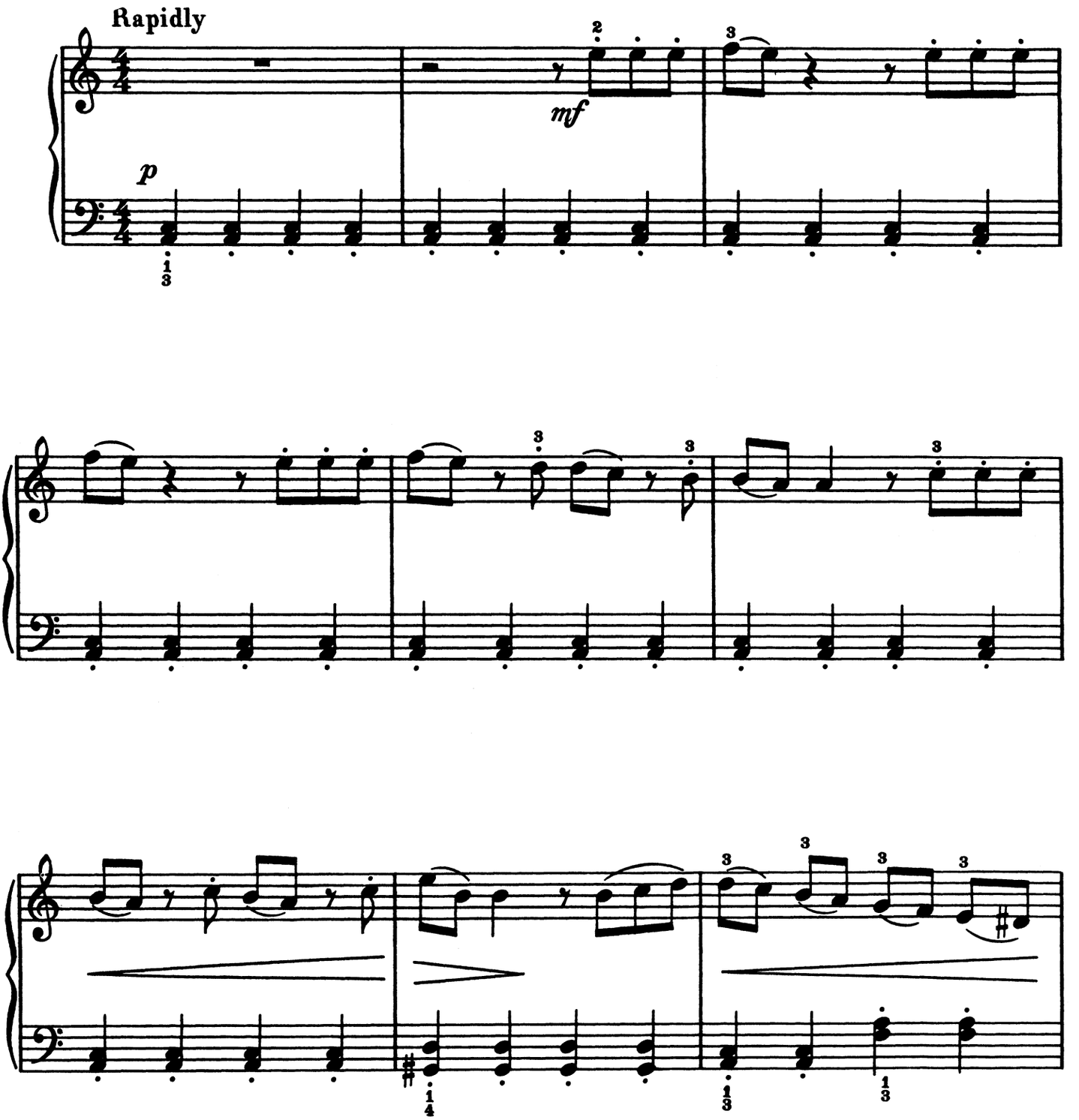
The music in each book is arranged chronologically by composer, not in order of difficulty.

Princeton, New Jersey

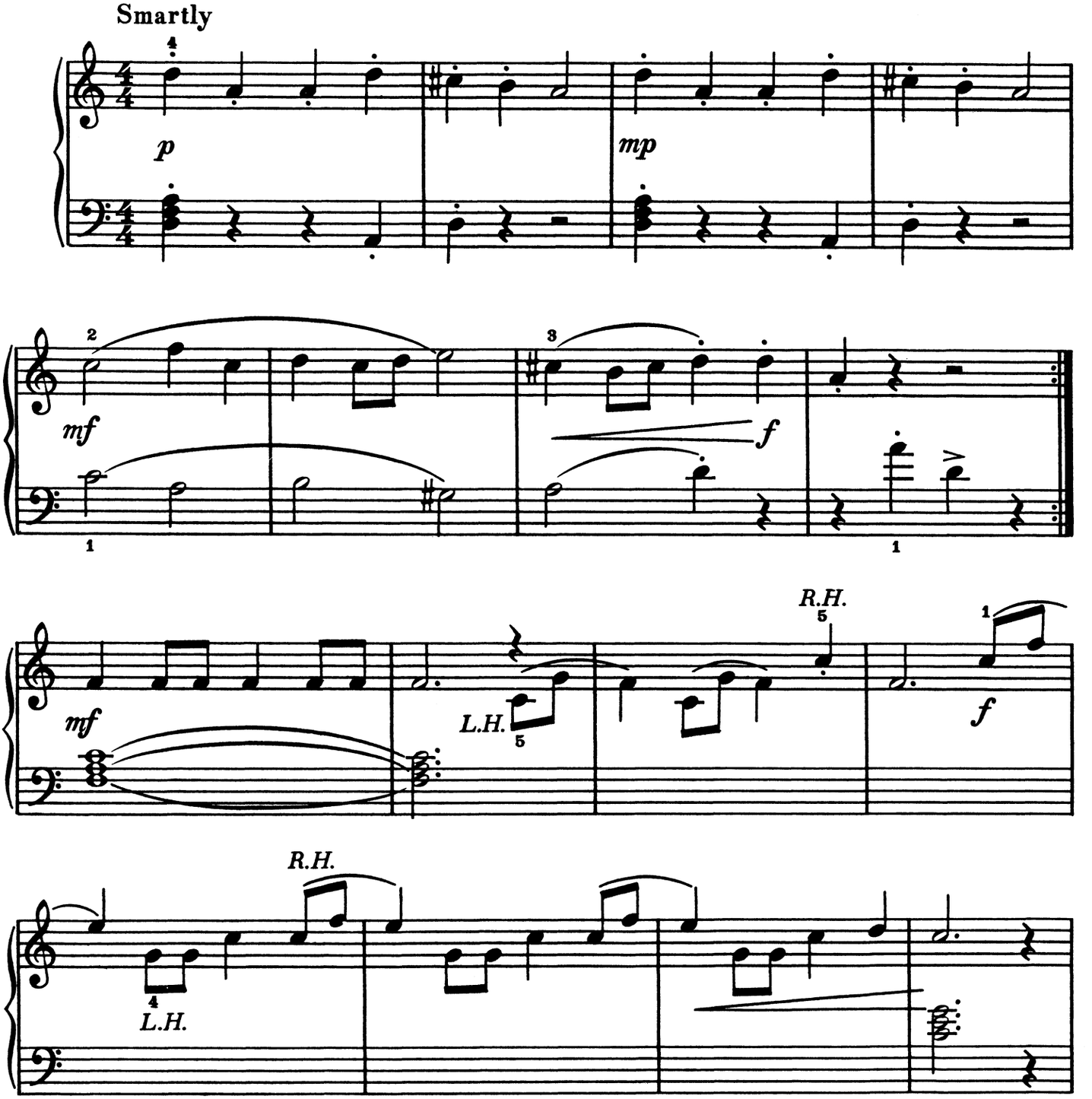
GIOACCHINO ANTONIO ROSSINI (1792-1868)

This theme comes from the overture to Rossini's most famous comic opera, *The Barber of Seville*, written when the composer was only twenty-four years old.

The Barber of Seville



GEORGES BIZET (1838-1875)

In the first act of Bizet's famous opera, *Carmen*. soldiers in the city of Seville are "changing the guard" in formal military ritual. A group of boys and girls mimic them in an amusing little scene, accompanied by this famous march.

Changing the Guard