# GIAN CARLO MENOTTI

## CONTENTS

Foreword . . . . . .2
About the Composer. . . . . .2
About the Music . . . . . .2
Form . . . . . .3
Editorial Considerations. . . . . .3
Sources Consulted . . . . . .3

RICERCARE AND TOCCATA
On a Theme from *The Old Maid and the Thief*
Ricercare . . . . . 4
Toccata. . . . . 8

## Foreword

### ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Gian Carlo Menotti, Italian-American composer and librettist, was born in Cadegliano-Viconago, Italy, on July 7, 1911, and died in Monte Carlo, Monaco, on February 1, 2007. He studied at the Milan Conservatory and the Curtis Institute of Music, where he subsequently taught. At Curtis, Menotti studied composition with Rosario Scalero and began a long career of writing operas, first in Italian and later in English. He also wrote his own libretti, two for American composer Samuel Barber (1910–1981), his lifelong companion. Several of Menotti's operas were written for radio or for television. In addition, Menotti wrote ballets, choral works, cantatas, a Mass, a violin concerto, a piano concerto, a triple concerto, a song cycle, a suite for two cellos, three solo piano works, and several other unpublished works.

### ABOUT THE MUSIC

Menotti published three works for solo piano: *Poemetti per Maria Rosa: 12 Pieces for Children* (1937), piano selections based on the popular television opera *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (1951), and *Ricercare and Toccata on a Theme from "The Old Maid and the Thief"* (1953).

#### Menotti's *The Old Maid and the Thief*

Following the success of Menotti's opera *Amelia al ballo (Amelia Goes to the Ball)*, NBC commissioned Menotti for a radio opera. The result was Menotti's first opera in English, *The Old Maid and the Thief*. The successful one-act opera premiered on April 22, 1939, with Alberto Erede conducting the NBC Symphony Orchestra, and was later adapted for the stage.

The opera is composed in *opera buffa* (comic opera) style with 14 discrete scenes rather than a through-composed form, a format well-suited for radio. The plot concerns Bob, a handsome beggar, who wanders one day to the doorstep of town spinster Miss Todd. Laetitia, the young maid of the house, convinces Miss Todd to talk to him. Taken by his good looks, they convince him to stay the night for rest and a meal. He captivates them with his wit and storytelling, leading them the next morning to persuade him to stay for another week. Confusion later ensues when Bob is mistaken for an escaped thief and suspicions are raised in the town. Frightened by the news but helpless to Bob's charm and desperate to win his affections, Miss Todd steals money from her neighbors and alcohol from a local liquor store to give to Bob. After a confrontation with him, Bob reveals that he is not the thief everyone suspects him to be. As an argument unfolds between them, Miss Todd threatens to turn him over to the authorities even though he has done nothing wrong. When she goes to get the police, Laetitia convinces Bob to run away with her. They flee, but only after snatching up Miss Todd's valuables—including her car—leaving her with nothing.

In a 1993 dissertation, Sylvia Watkins Ryan explains how Menotti derived a solo piano piece from this opera:

> Twelve years after the successful radio premiere in 1939 of *The Old Maid and the Thief*, Menotti selected a bold three-measure motto theme from the opera's third scene as the germ for his most advanced piano composition. *Ricercare and Toccata on a Theme from "The Old Maid and the Thief"* was composed in 1951 and premiered on November 1 of that same year in Town Hall by Ania Dorfmann, to whom it was dedicated.[1]

[1] Sylvia Watkins Ryan, "The Solo Piano Music of Gian-Carlo Menotti: A Pedagogical and Performance Analysis" (DMA diss., University of Oklahoma, 1993), 103–104.

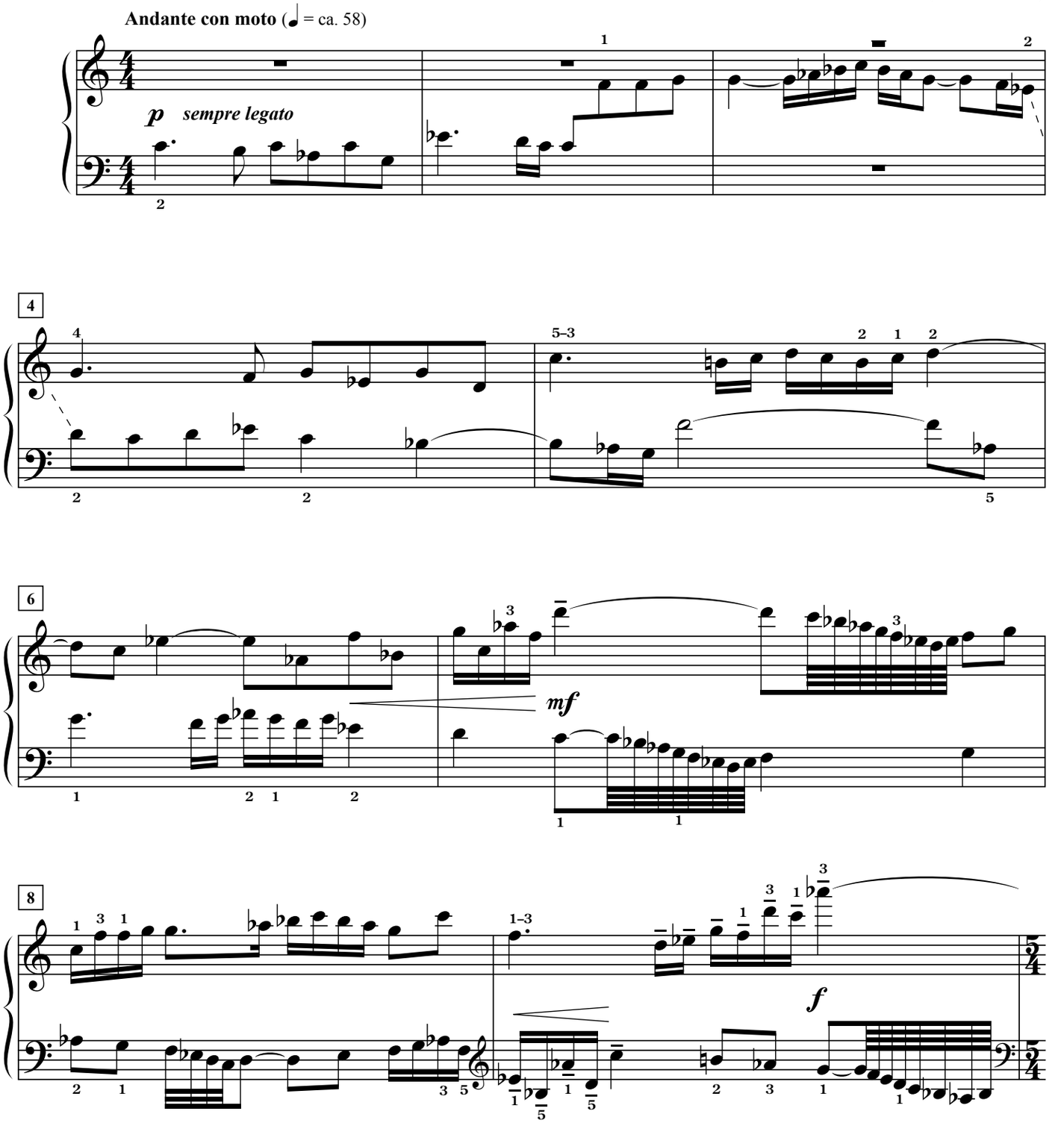
*For Ania Dorfmann*

# Ricercare and Toccata

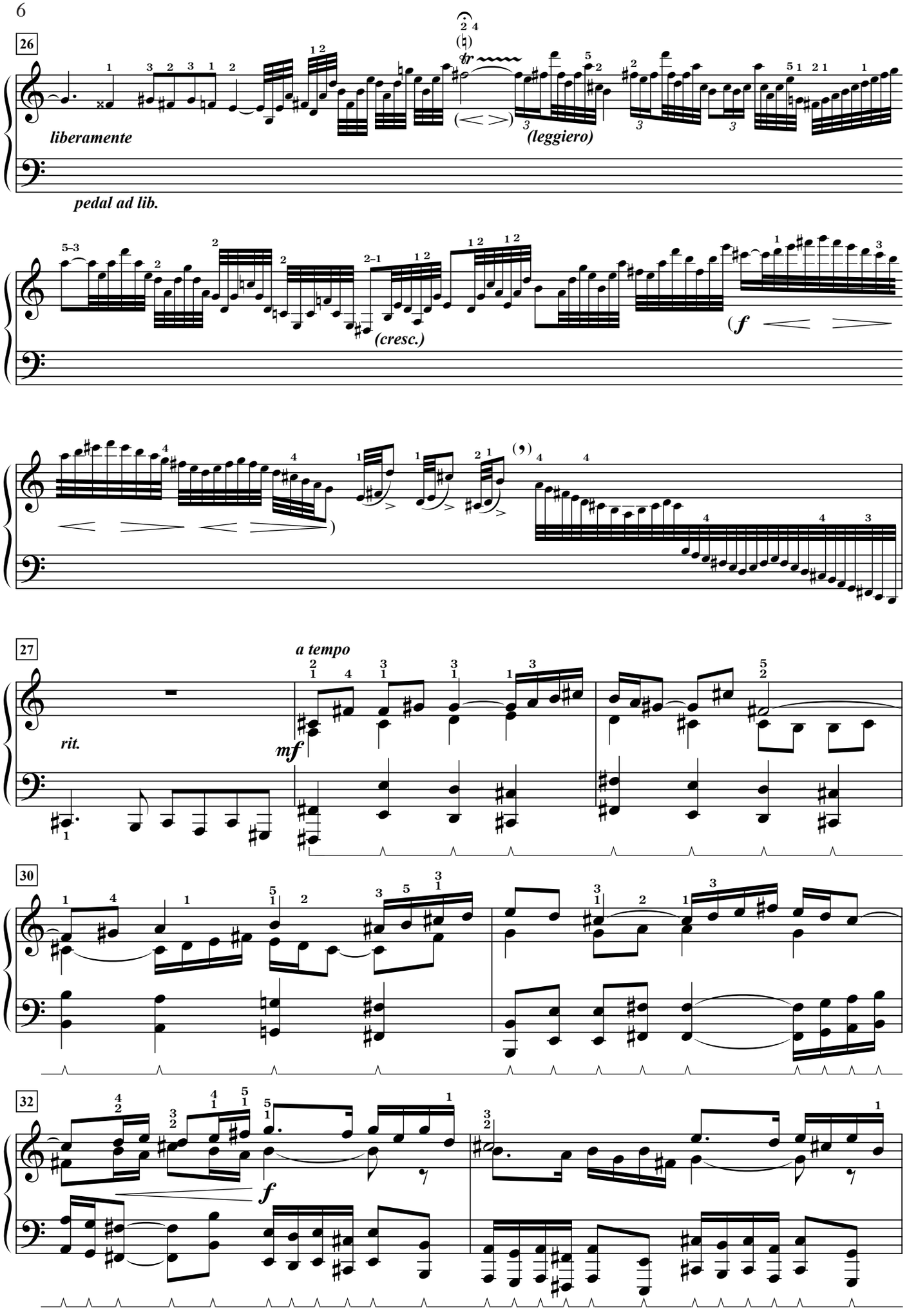
## On a Theme from *The Old Maid and the Thief*

### Ricercare

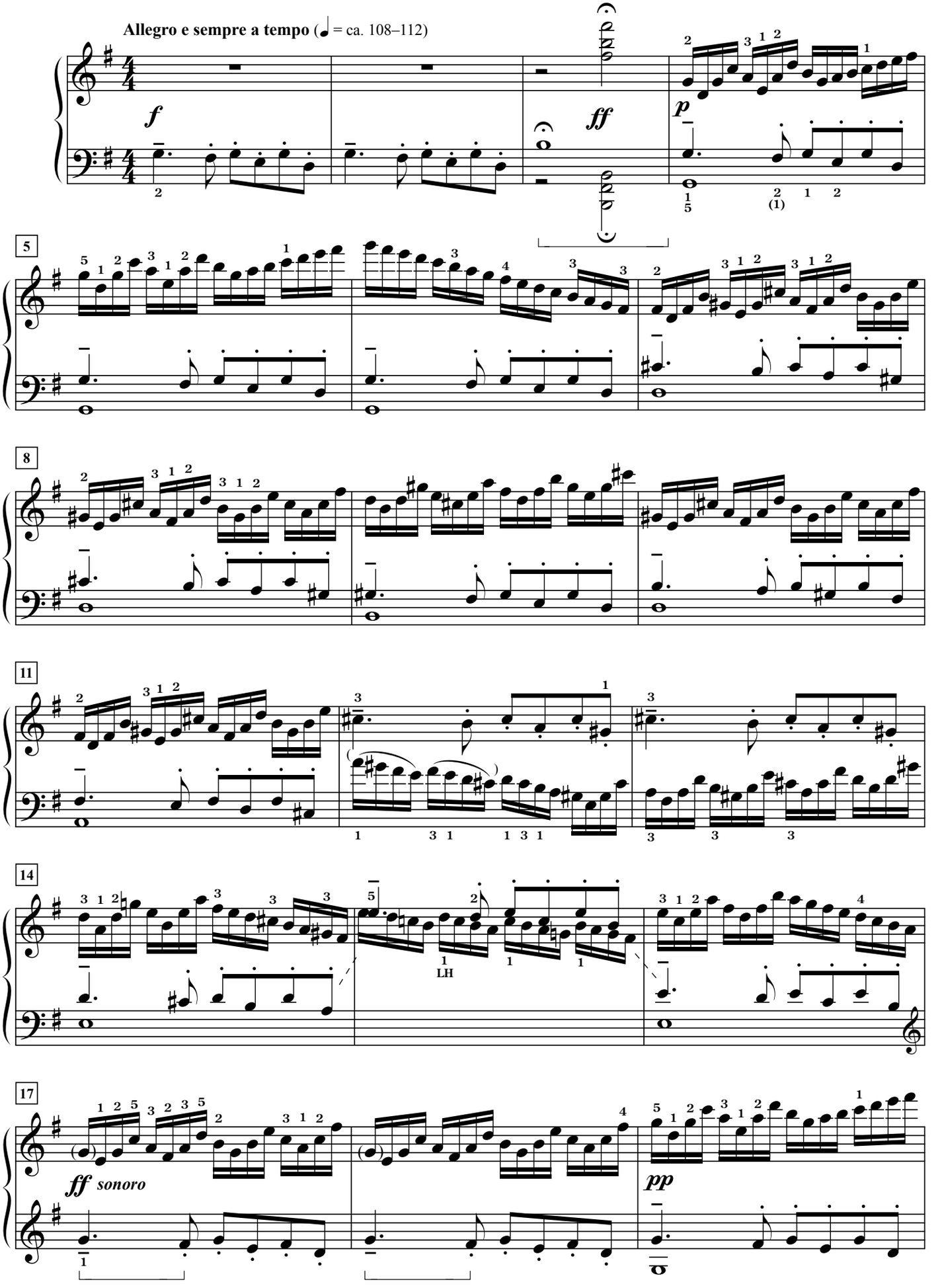
Gian Carlo Menotti
(1911–2007)




© 1953 FRANCO COLUMBO, INC.
Copyright Assigned to and Renewed by BELWIN-MILLS PUBLISHING CORP.
All Rights Controlled and Administered by ALFRED MUSIC
This Arrangement © 2014 BELWIN-MILLS PUBLISHING CORP.
All Rights Reserved including Public Performance


26
liberamente
pedal ad lib.
(leggiero)
(cresc.)
(f
27
a tempo
rit.
mf
30
32
f

# Toccata


Allegro e sempre a tempo (♩ = ca. 108–112)
f
ff
p
5
8
11
14
17
LH
ff sonoro
pp

# MENOTTI

## POEMETTI FOR THE PIANO

## 12 Pieces for Children

EDITED BY SYLVIA WATKINS RYAN

AN ALFRED MASTERWORK EDITION

Alfred Music
P.O. Box 10003
Van Nuys, CA 91410-0003
alfred.com

Copyright © 2015 by Alfred Music
All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.
ISBN-10: 1-4706-2284-X
ISBN-13: 978-1-4706-2284-8

*Cover art:* Acrobats in the Circus *(1918)*
*by Fernand Léger (French, 1881–1955)*

No part of this book shall be reproduced, arranged, adapted, recorded, publicly performed, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means without written permission from the publisher. In order to comply with copyright laws, please apply for such written permission and/or license by contacting the publisher at alfred.com/permissions.

# GIAN CARLO MENOTTI

## CONTENTS

About the Composer . . . . . 2
About the Music . . . . . 3
Notes on the Individual Pieces . . . . . 3
Editorial Considerations . . . . . 5
Sources Consulted . . . . . 5

## POEMETTI

Giga . . . . . 6
Lullaby *(Ninna-Nanna)* . . . . . 8
Bells at Dawn *(Alba Festivo)* . . . . . 9
The Spinner *(La Filatrice)* . . . . . 10
The Bagpipers *(I Zampognari)* . . . . . 12
The Brook *(II Ruscello)* . . . . . 15
The Shepherd *(II Pastore)* . . . . . 16
Nocturne *(Notturno)* . . . . . 18
The Stranger's Dance *(Danza dello Straniero)* . . . . . 20
Winter Wind *(Vento Invernale)* . . . . . 22
The Manger *(II Presepio)* . . . . . 24
War Song *(Canzone Guerresca)* . . . . . 26

## ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Gian Carlo Menotti (1911–2007) was born in Cadegliano, Italy. He is best remembered as an opera composer and founder of three international performing arts festivals. Menotti knew by the age of six that he wanted to be a composer, and he finished his first opera by age 11. After studying at the Milan Conservatory, he came to America in 1928 to attend the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. His studies in composition with Rosario Scalero (1870–1954) and piano with Vera Resnikoff (1899–1979) provided a lasting foundation for his future career. At Curtis, Menotti began a long friendship and collaboration with fellow composer Samuel Barber (1910–1981).

Menotti achieved early success in 1937 with the New York City premiere of his comic opera *Amelia Goes to the Ball*. His opera *The Old Maid and the Thief* was commissioned by NBC and first performed on the radio in 1939. In 1953, Menotti used a theme from this work as the basis for his most advanced solo piano piece: "Ricercare and Toccata on a Theme from 'The Old Maid and the Thief.'"

Menotti's opera *The Medium* and its companion piece *The Telephone* had a successful run on Broadway in 1947–48, as did *The Consul* in 1950. The composer's most popular work, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, was commissioned by NBC and televised on Christmas Eve, 1951. Since then, annual performances have kept this work alive. Menotti's arrangement of eight intermediate-level piano pieces drawn from the opera was published in 1951.

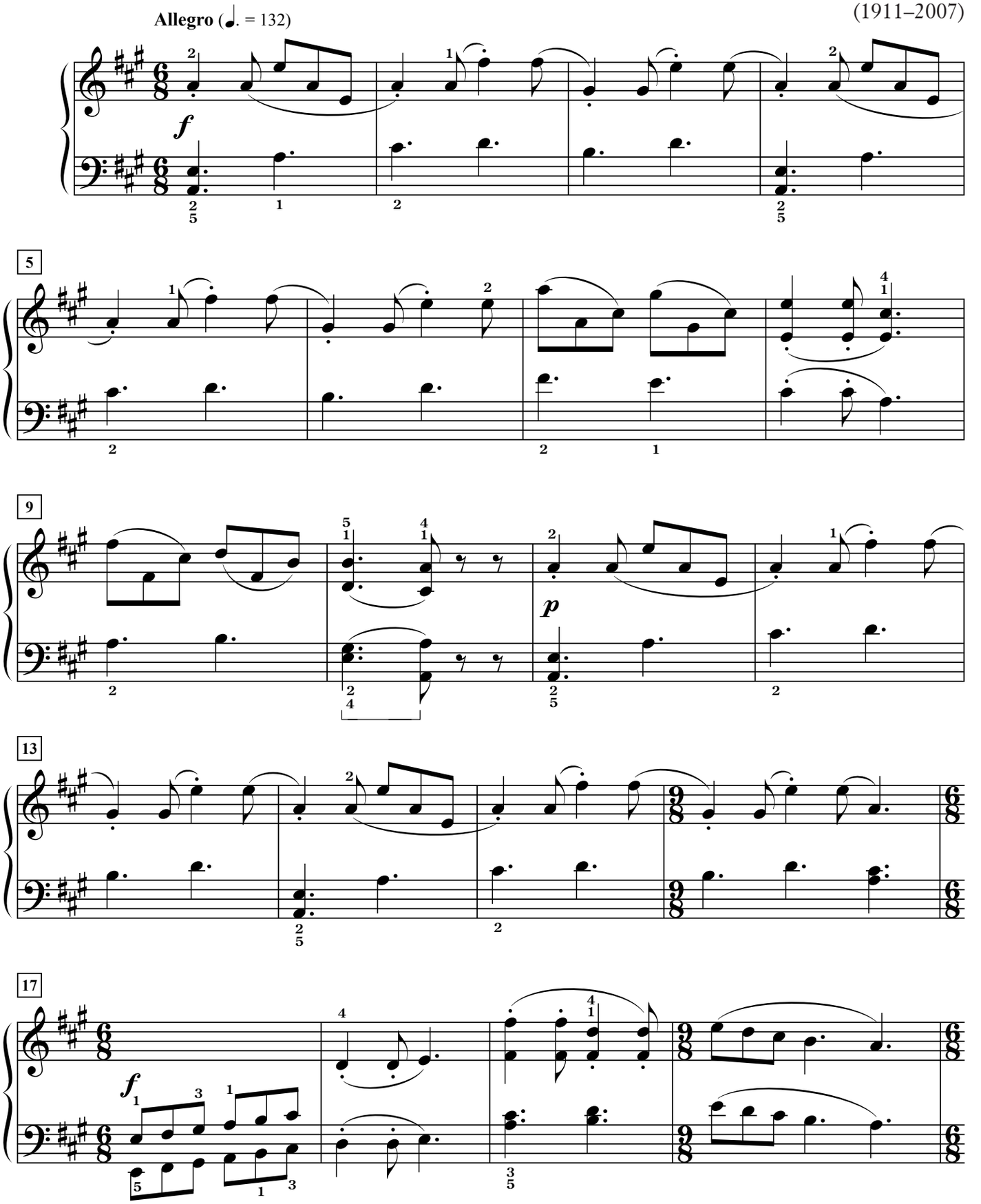
Menotti wrote 24 mature operas, numerous concert works, a piano concerto, and several librettos. He received two Pulitzer Prizes, a Drama Critics' Circle Award, and a Kennedy Center Honor for lifetime achievement in the arts. In 1991, Menotti was chosen as Musician of the Year by *Musical America*.

Menotti has left behind a lasting legacy of lyrical and accessible music. In a *Los Angeles Times* article he expressed his musical philosophy: "Great art must have what I call an *inevitability*…I am a neo-Platonist, I suppose. I believe there is a Platonic ideal of beauty, and artists are given a fleeting vision of that beauty. The rest is a process of remembering."[1]

[1] Tim Page, "MUSIC & DANCE: Menotti at Twilight: The Pulitzer-winning composer and founder of Spoleto Festival U.S.A. looks back on his six-decade career and ponders the future," *Los Angeles Times*, May 19, 1991.

# Giga

Gian Carlo Menotti
(1911–2007)

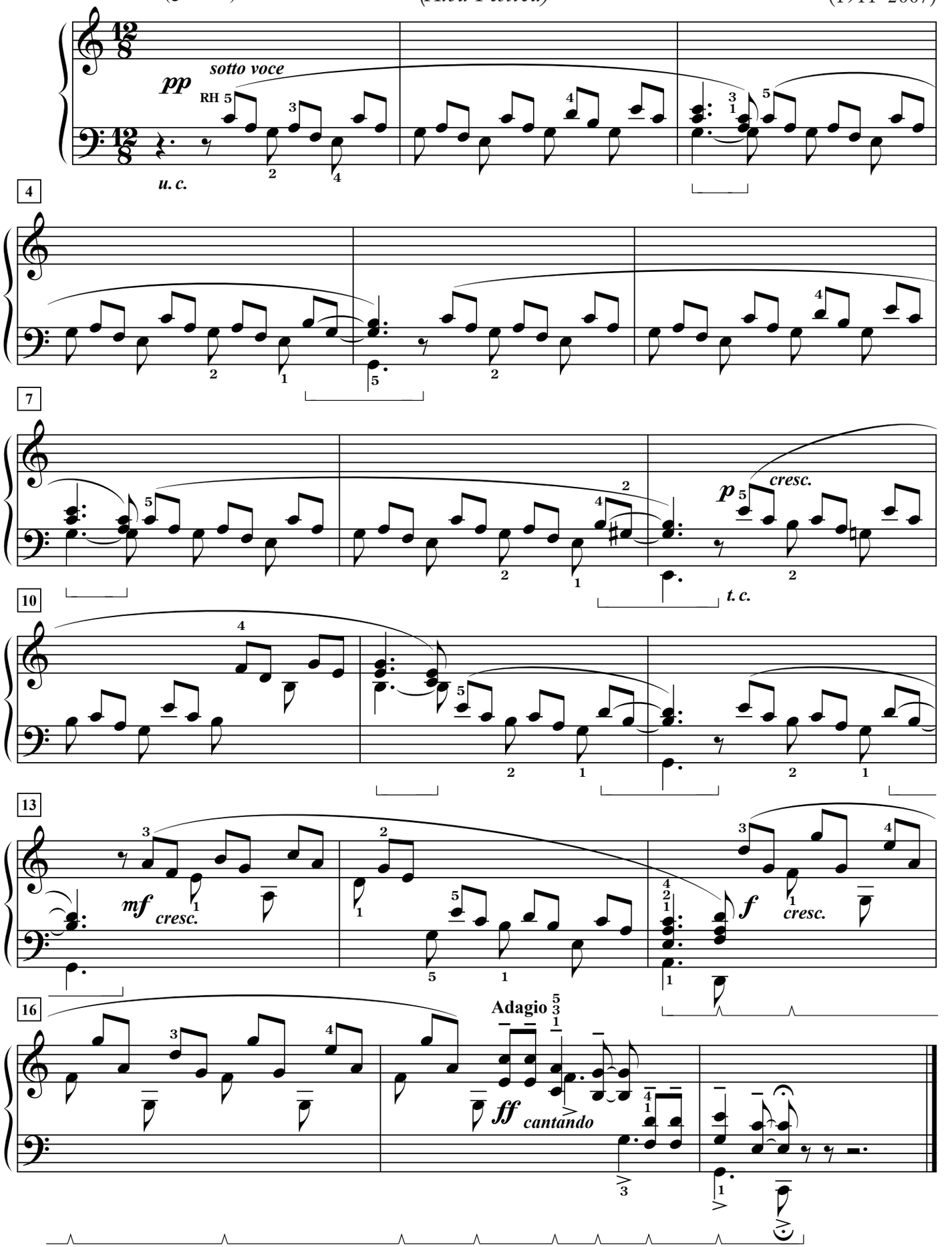



© 1937 (Renewed) by FRANCO COLOMBO, INC.
Copyright Assigned BELWIN-MILLS PUBLISHING CORP.
All Rights Controlled and Administered by ALFRED MUSIC
All Rights Reserved

# Bells at Dawn

*(Alba Festiva)*

Gian Carlo Menotti
(1911–2007)

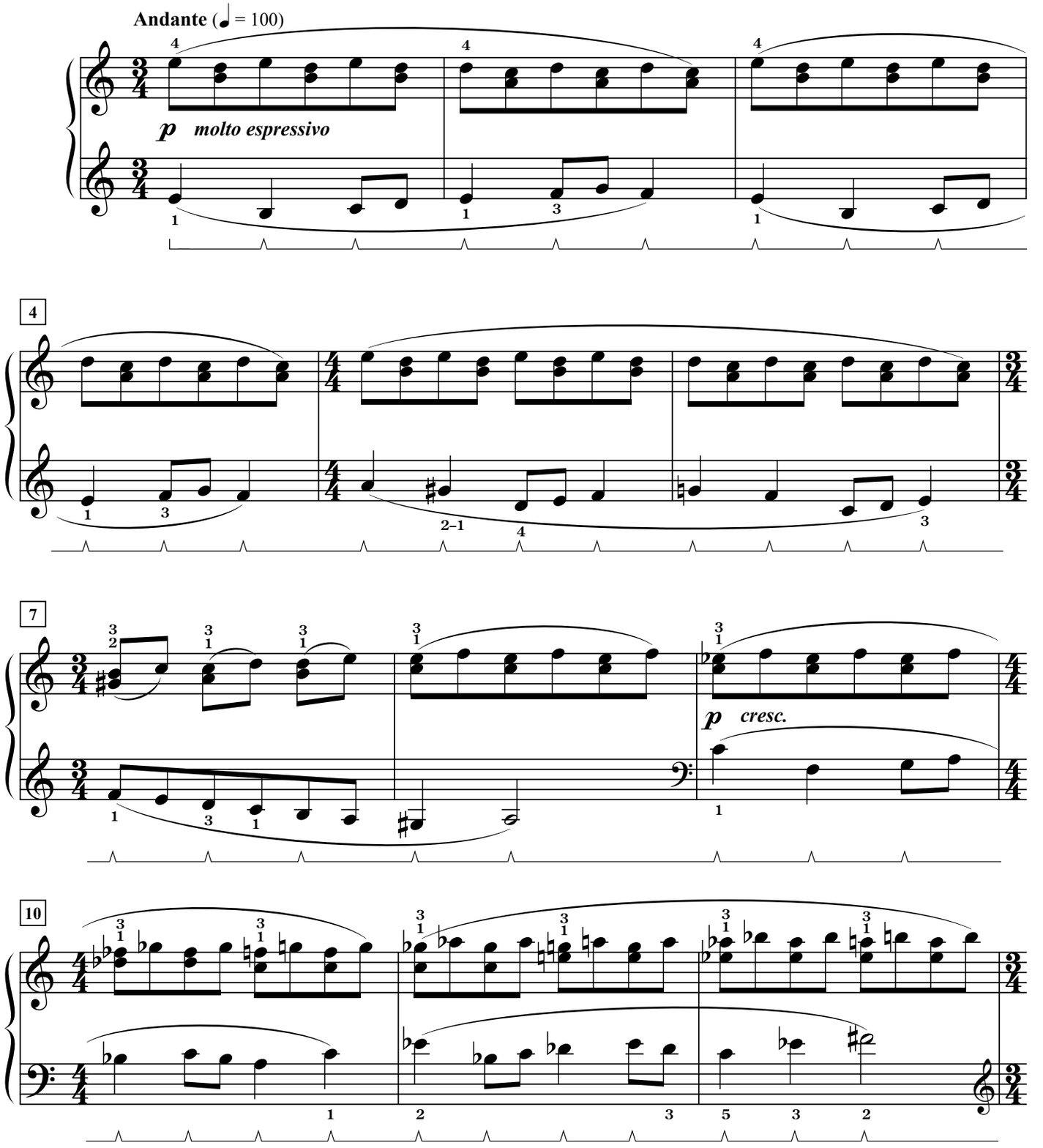



© 1937 (Renewed) by FRANCO COLOMBO, INC.
Copyright Assigned BELWIN-MILLS PUBLISHING CORP.
All Rights Controlled and Administered by ALFRED MUSIC
All Rights Reserved

# The Spinner

*(La Filatrice)*

Gian Carlo Menotti
(1911–2007)

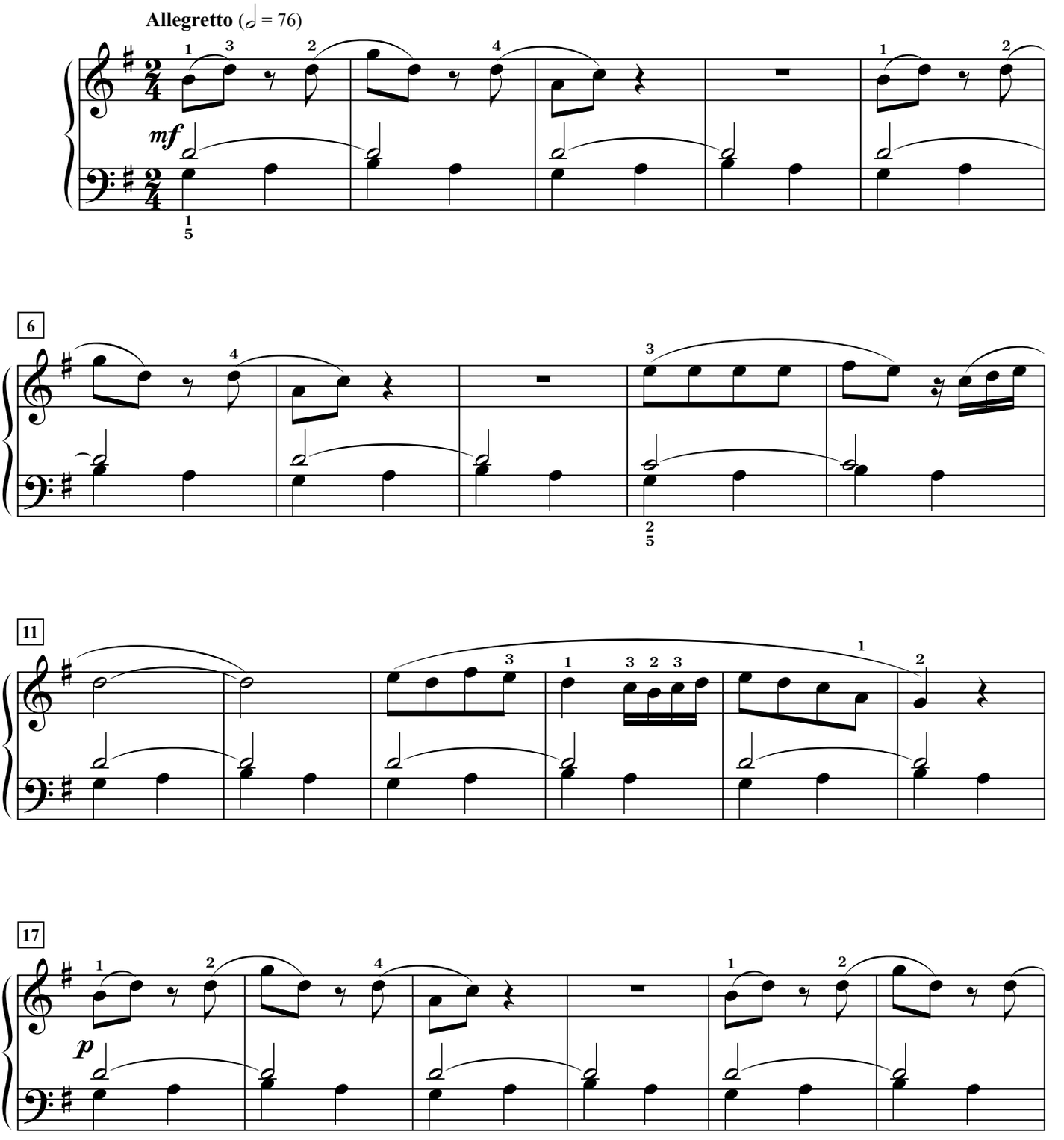



© 1937 (Renewed) by FRANCO COLOMBO, INC.
Copyright Assigned BELWIN-MILLS PUBLISHING CORP.
All Rights Controlled and Administered by ALFRED MUSIC
All Rights Reserved

# The Bagpipers

*(I Zampognari)*

Gian Carlo Menotti
(1911–2007)



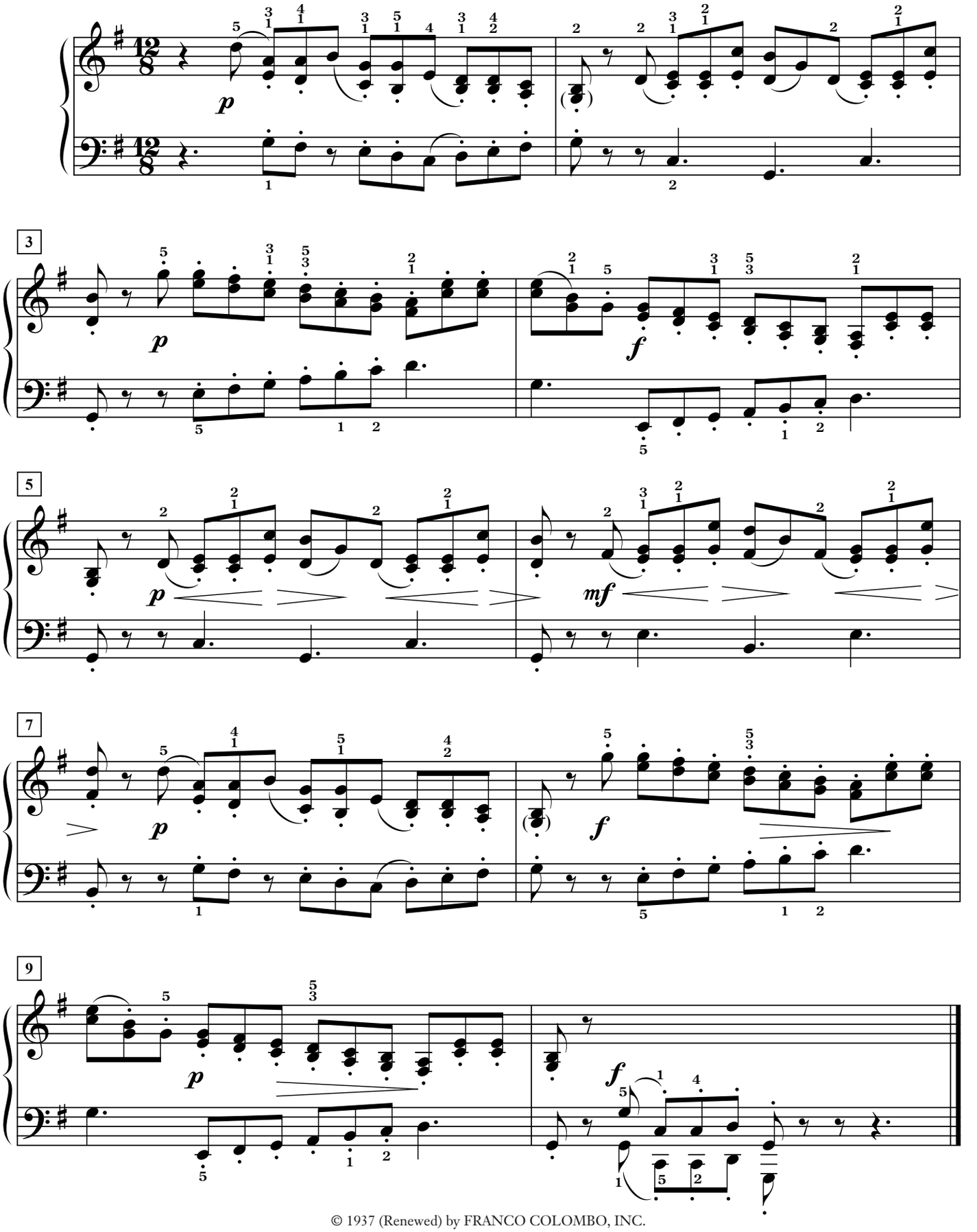

© 1937 (Renewed) by FRANCO COLOMBO, INC.
Copyright Assigned BELWIN-MILLS PUBLISHING CORP.
All Rights Controlled and Administered by ALFRED MUSIC
All Rights Reserved

# The Brook

*(Il Ruscello)*

Gian Carlo Menotti
(1911–2007)

**Allegro con grazia** (♩. = 88)

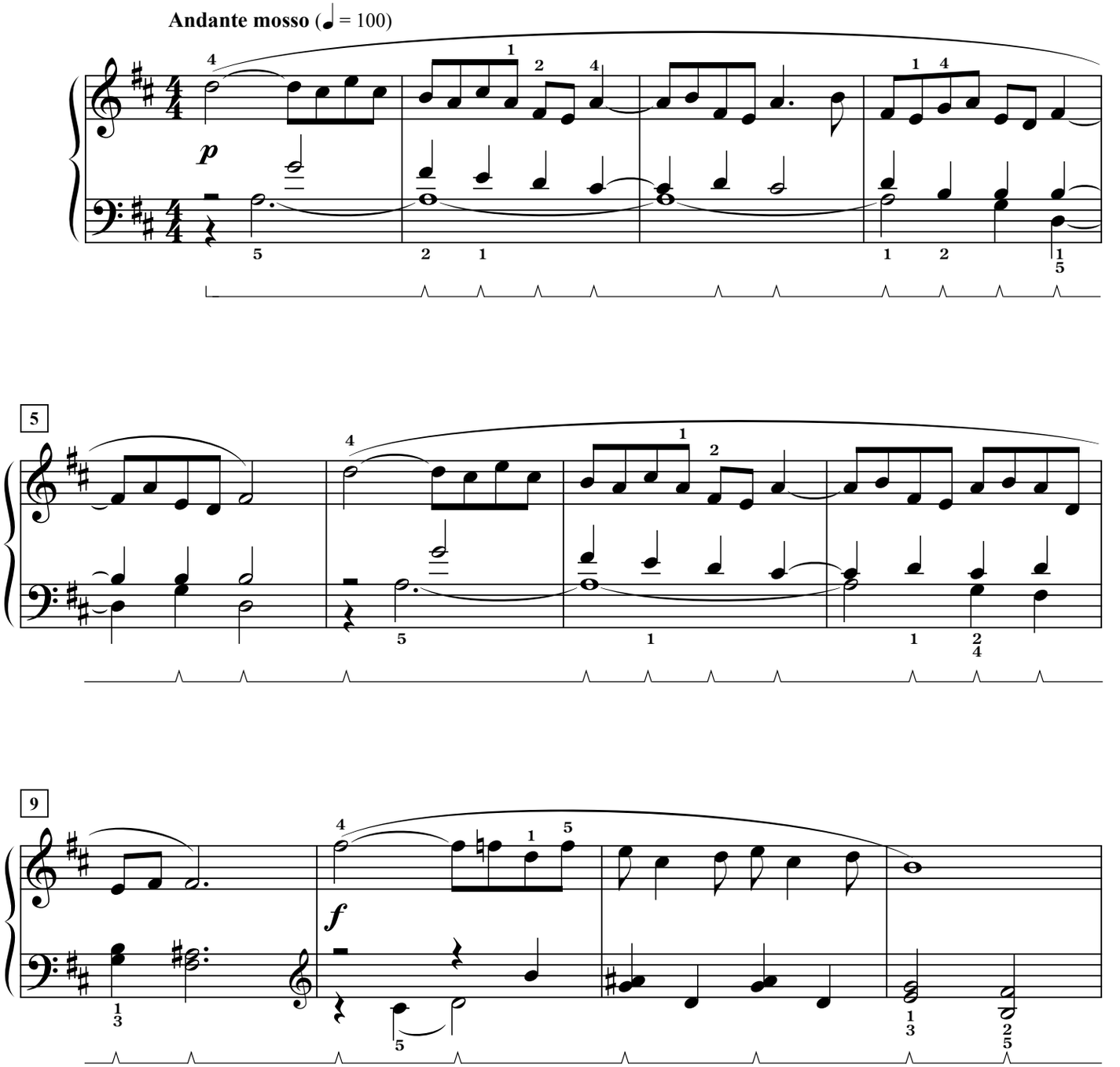



© 1937 (Renewed) by FRANCO COLOMBO, INC.
Copyright Assigned BELWIN-MILLS PUBLISHING CORP.
All Rights Controlled and Administered by ALFRED MUSIC
All Rights Reserved

# The Shepherd

*(Il Pastore)*

Gian Carlo Menotti
(1911–2007)

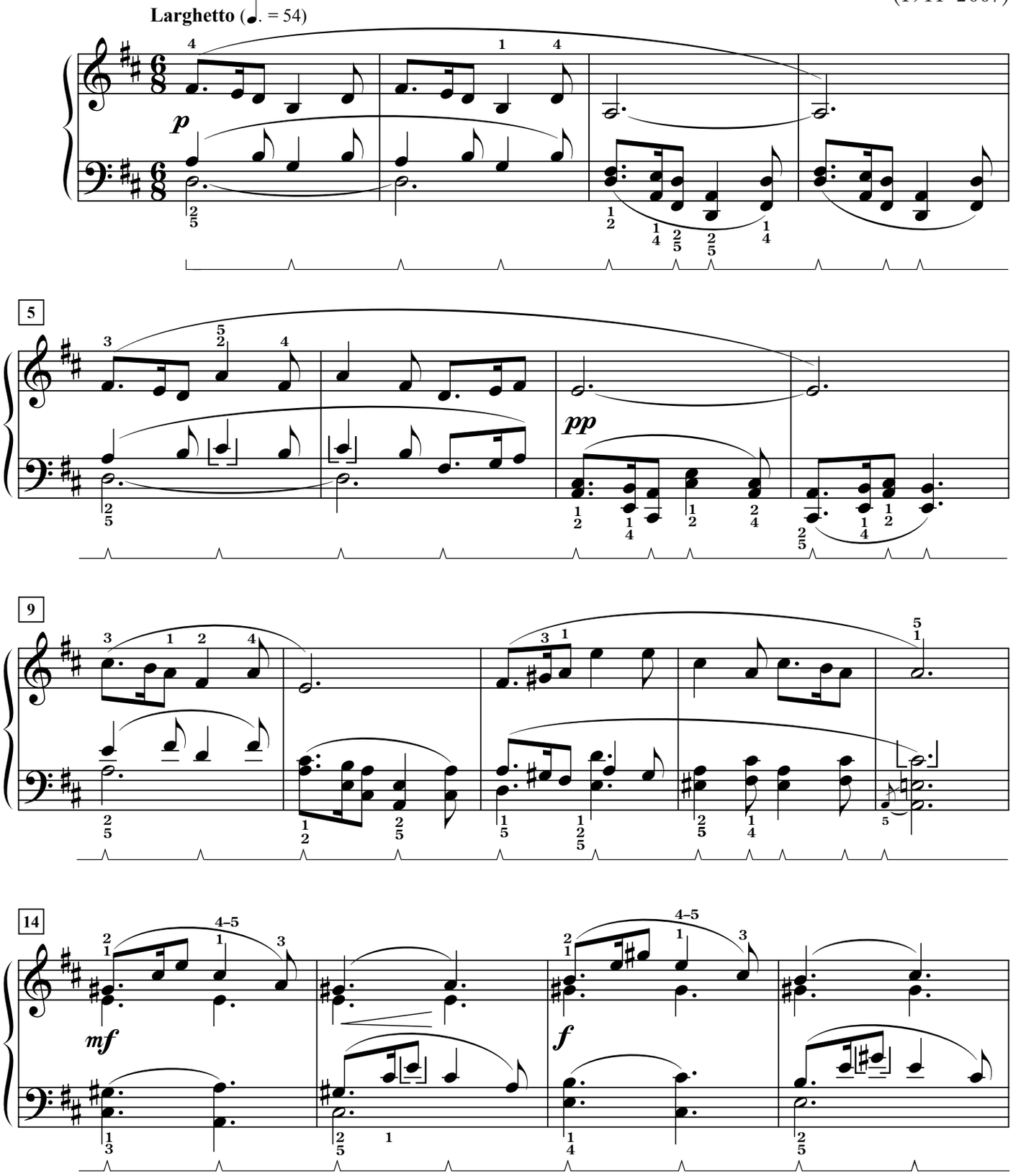



© 1937 (Renewed) by FRANCO COLOMBO, INC.
Copyright Assigned BELWIN-MILLS PUBLISHING CORP.
All Rights Controlled and Administered by ALFRED MUSIC
All Rights Reserved

# Nocturne

*(Notturno)*

Gian Carlo Menotti
(1911–2007)

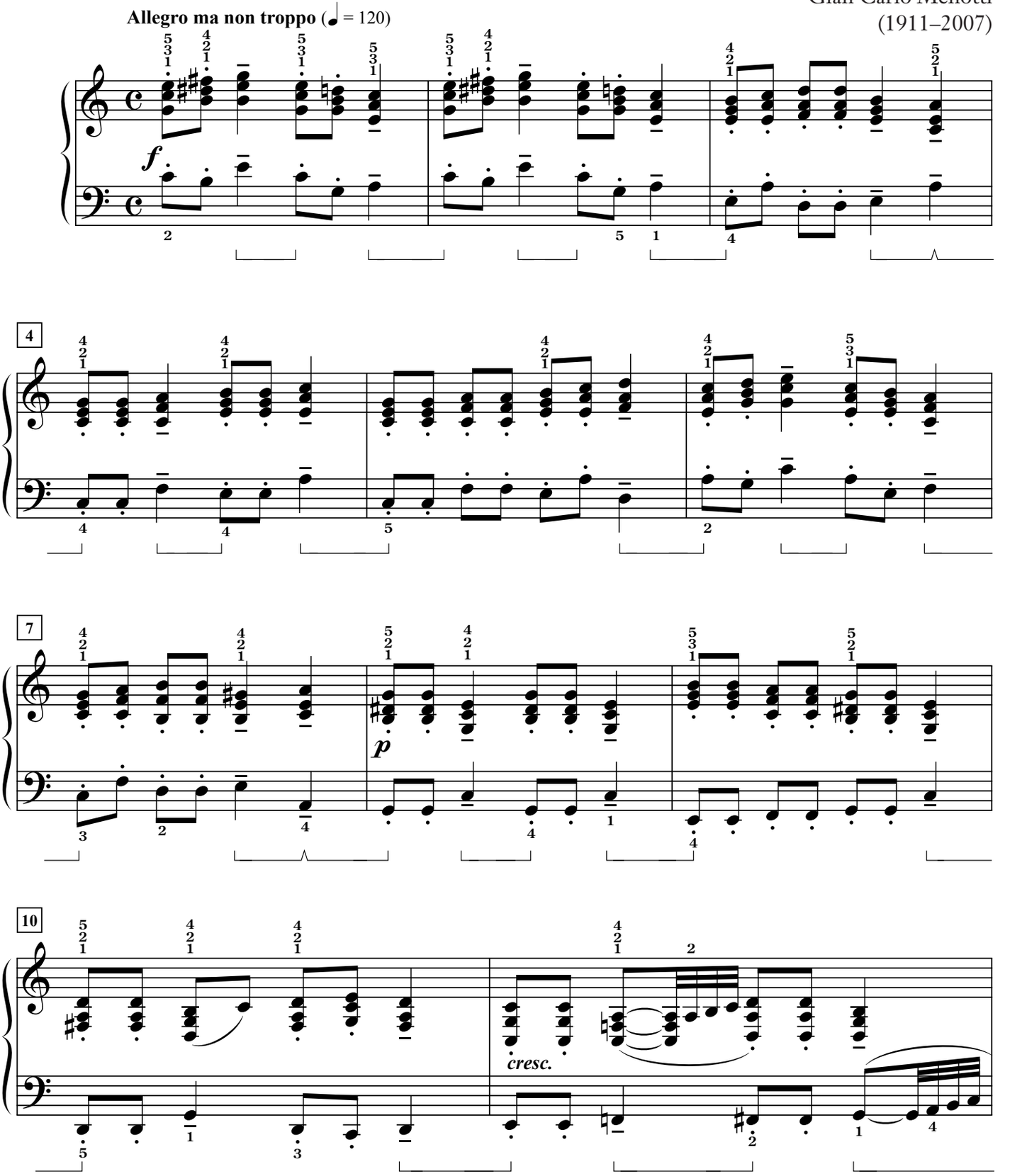



© 1937 (Renewed) by FRANCO COLOMBO, INC.
Copyright Assigned BELWIN-MILLS PUBLISHING CORP.
All Rights Controlled and Administered by ALFRED MUSIC
All Rights Reserved

# The Stranger's Dance

*(Danza dello Straniero)*

Gian Carlo Menotti
(1911–2007)



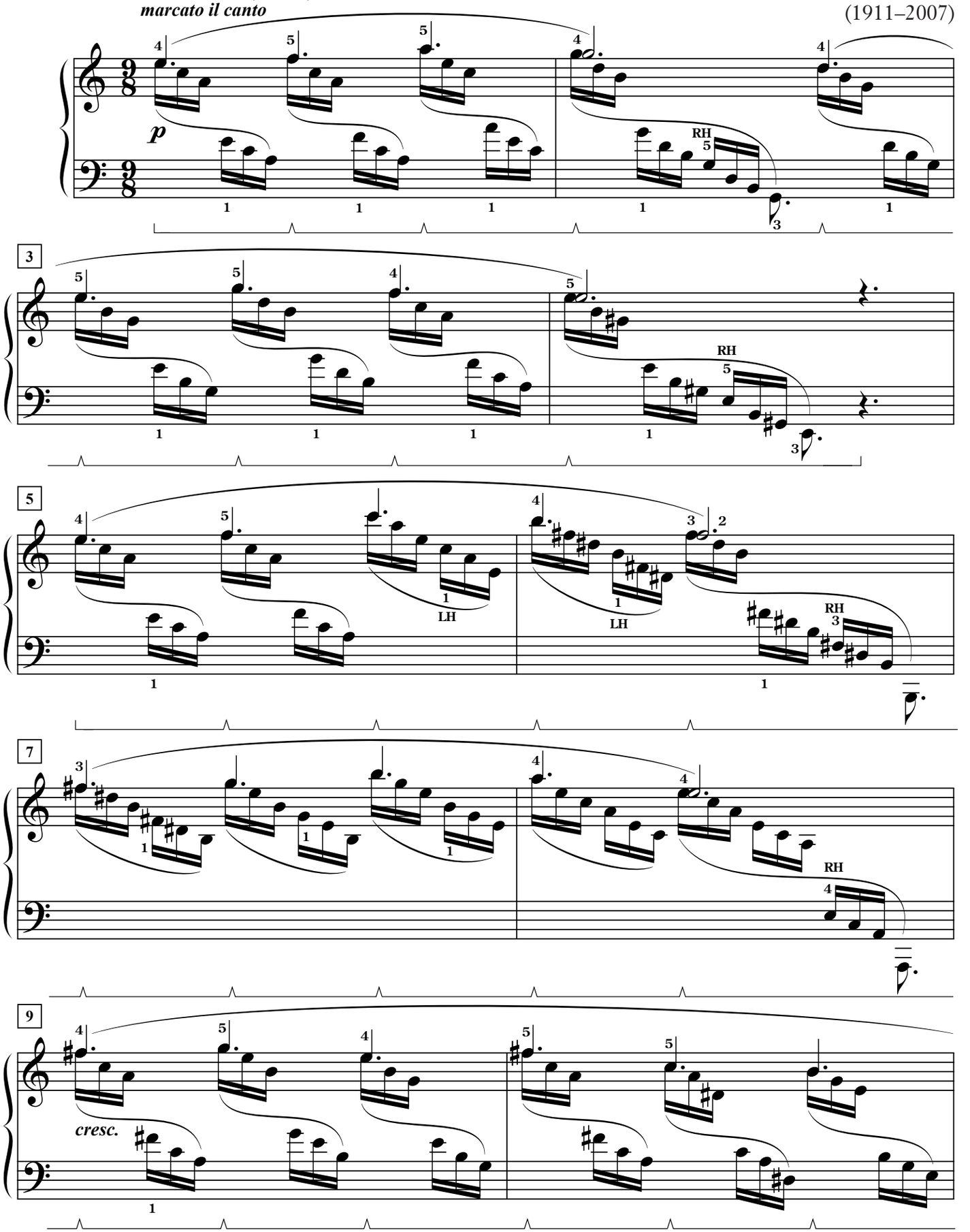

© 1937 (Renewed) by FRANCO COLOMBO, INC.
Copyright Assigned BELWIN-MILLS PUBLISHING CORP.
All Rights Controlled and Administered by ALFRED MUSIC
All Rights Reserved

# Winter Wind

*(Vento Invernale)*

Gian Carlo Menotti
(1911–2007)

**Andante mosso** (♩. = 76)
***marcato il canto***

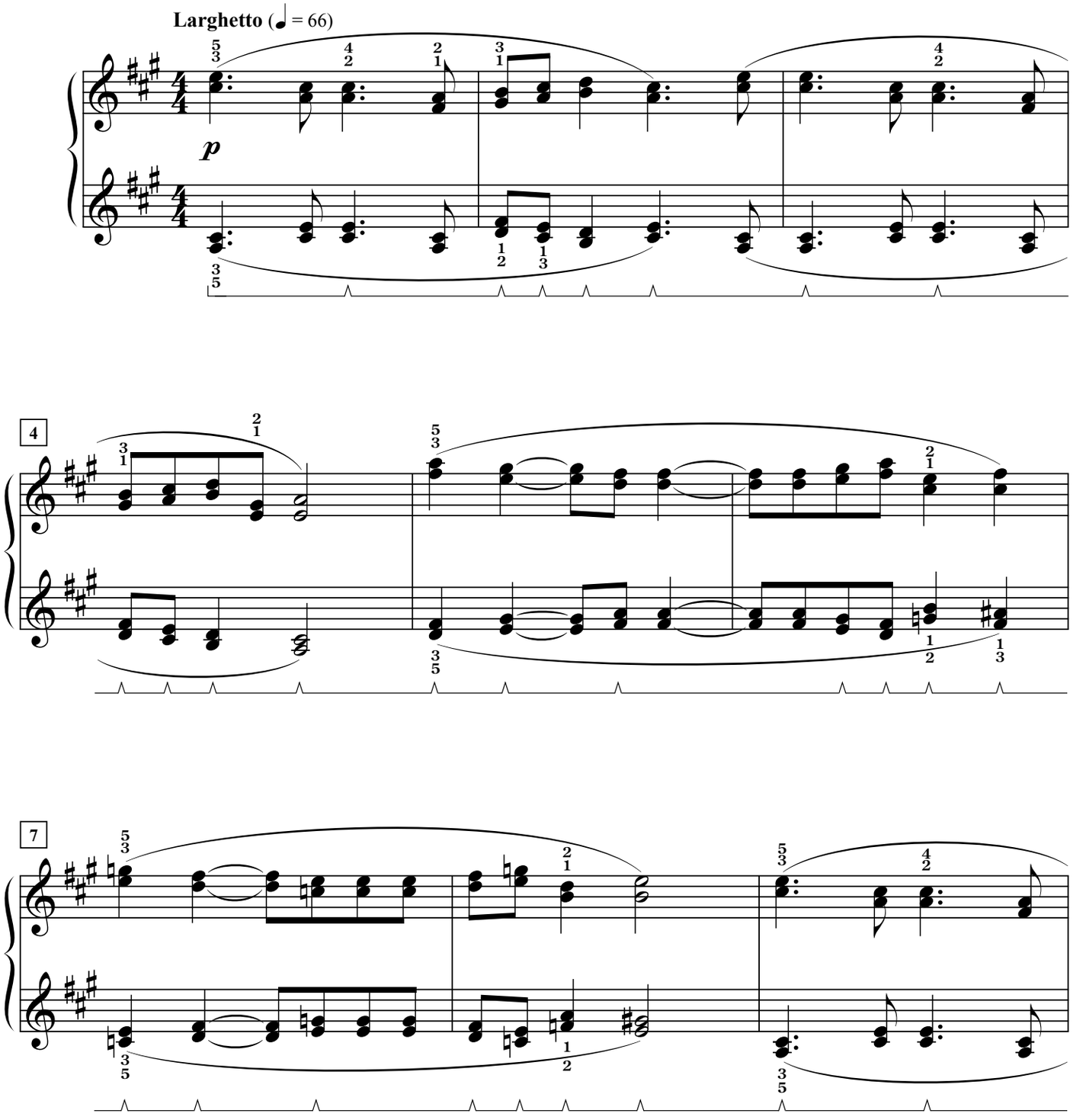



© 1937 (Renewed) by FRANCO COLOMBO, INC.
Copyright Assigned BELWIN-MILLS PUBLISHING CORP.
All Rights Controlled and Administered by ALFRED MUSIC
All Rights Reserved

# The Manger

*(Il Presepio)*

Gian Carlo Menotti
(1911–2007)

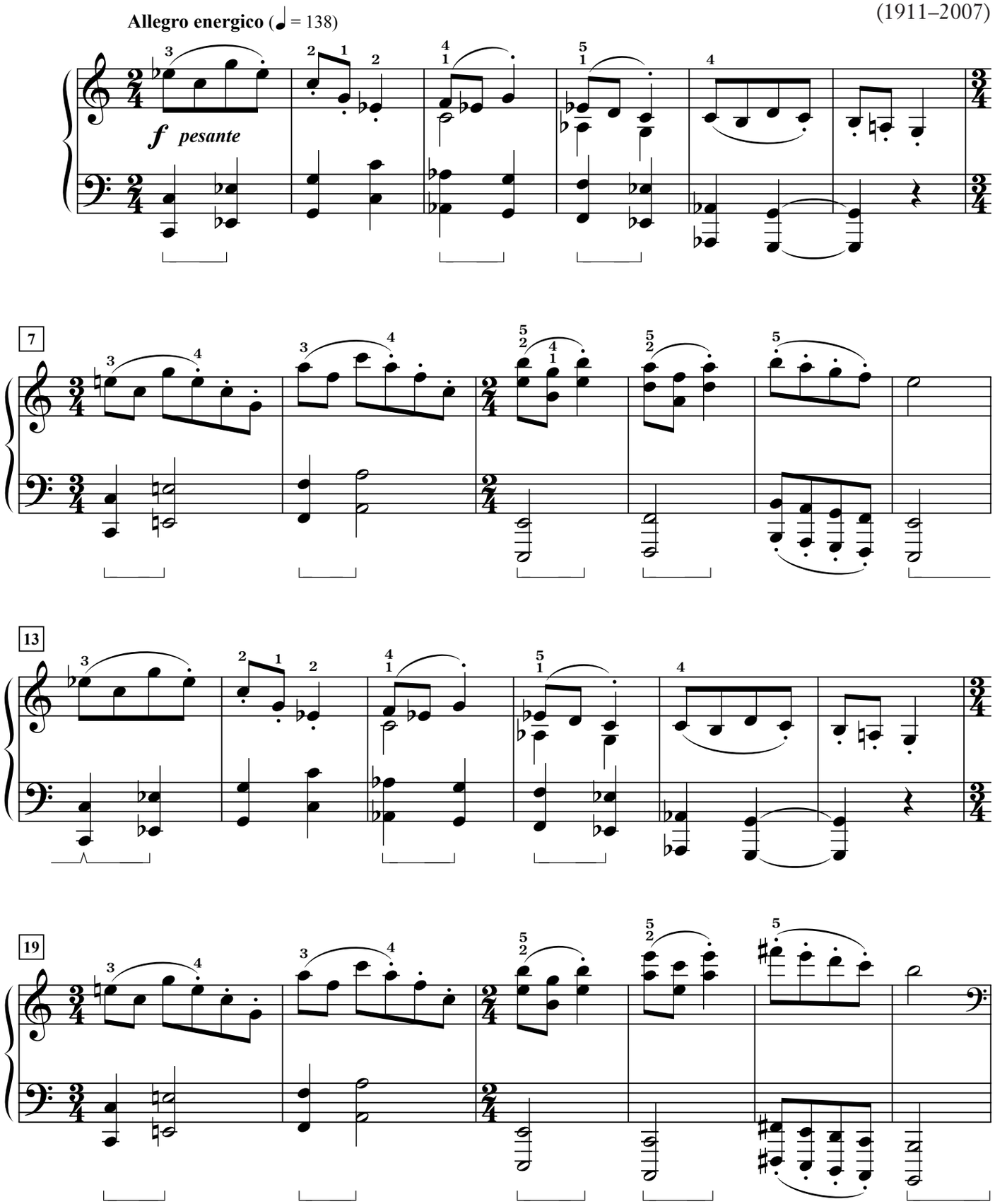



© 1937 (Renewed) by FRANCO COLOMBO, INC.
Copyright Assigned BELWIN-MILLS PUBLISHING CORP.
All Rights Controlled and Administered by ALFRED MUSIC
All Rights Reserved

# War Song

*(Canzone Guerresca)*

Gian Carlo Menotti
(1911–2007)




© 1937 (Renewed) by FRANCO COLOMBO, INC.
Copyright Assigned BELWIN-MILLS PUBLISHING CORP.
All Rights Controlled and Administered by ALFRED MUSIC
All Rights Reserved