# Nocturnes

## 8 Romantic-Style Solos for Piano

DENNIS ALEXANDER

Some of my favorite pieces from the Romantic period are the nocturnes of Frédéric François Chopin (1810–1849). These pieces, referring to night time, are quiet and meditative in style. Chopin knew the nocturnes of John Field (1782–1837), and Field's works in this genre influenced the nocturnes of Chopin. Among the characteristics of nocturnes are vocally inspired melodic lines, beautiful harmonies, and arpeggiated accompaniment patterns in the left hand.

As a teacher, I have always longed for original nocturnes similar in style and form to the Chopin nocturnes, but easier in technical difficulty. I wanted them to sound sophisticated yet be suitable for recitals and competitions. Consequently, when the opportunity to write some collections of nocturnes was presented to me, I immediately accepted the challenge.

I composed 14 nocturnes ranging in levels from early intermediate to late intermediate. Divided into two books, the first book contains eight nocturnes for early intermediate to intermediate pianists. The second book features six nocturnes at the intermediate to late intermediate levels. Each piece has its own unique character and mood. I hope that these nocturnes will inspire students to better understand the beauty, elegance, and magic of the Romantic period and especially the genius that Chopin displayed in his nocturnes.

Dennis Alexander

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*This collection is dedicated with great pride and joy to Diana Pacini Bauer, my colleague and former student.*

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# Nocturne No. 1 in C Major

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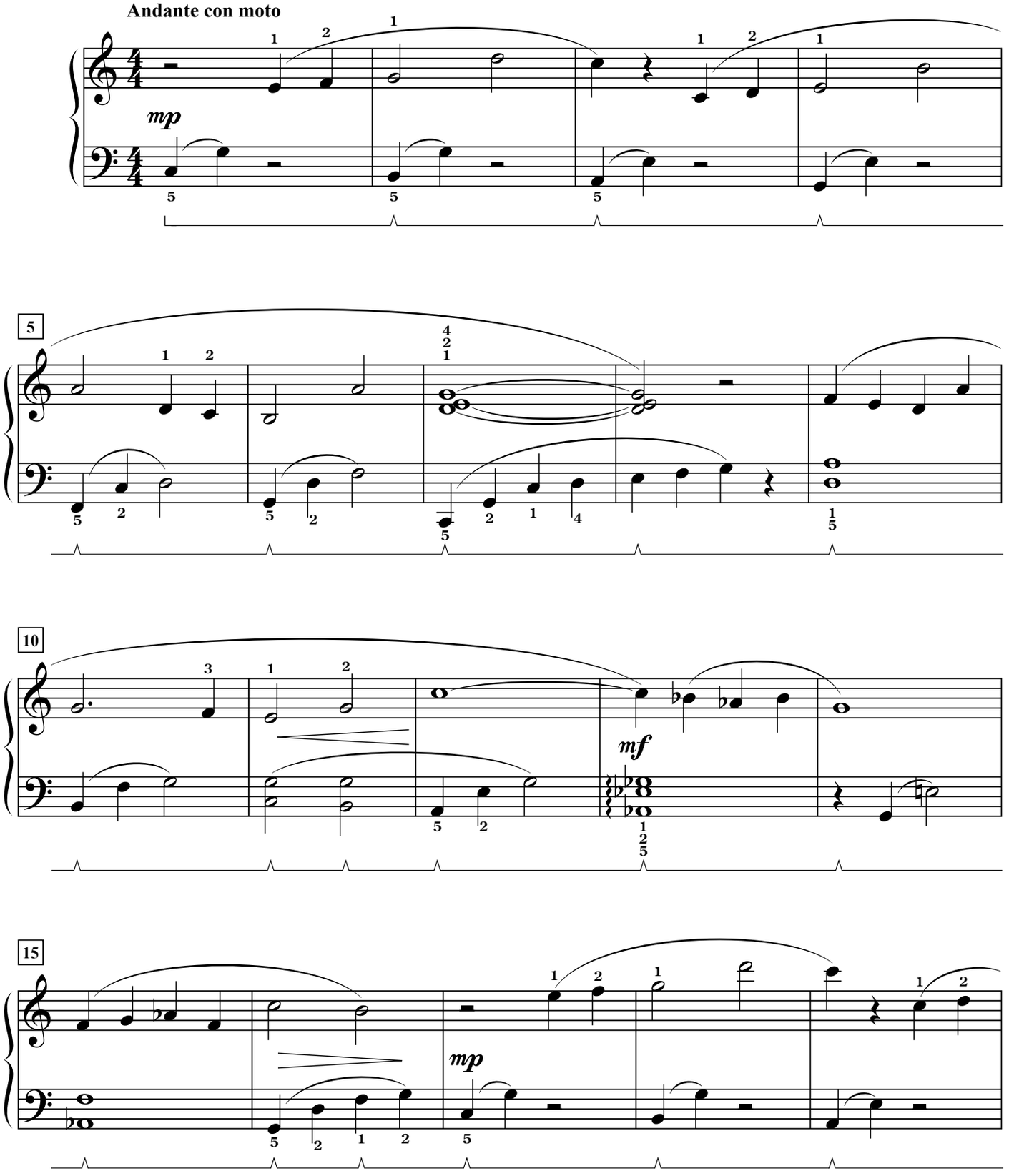

# Nocturne No. 3 in F Major

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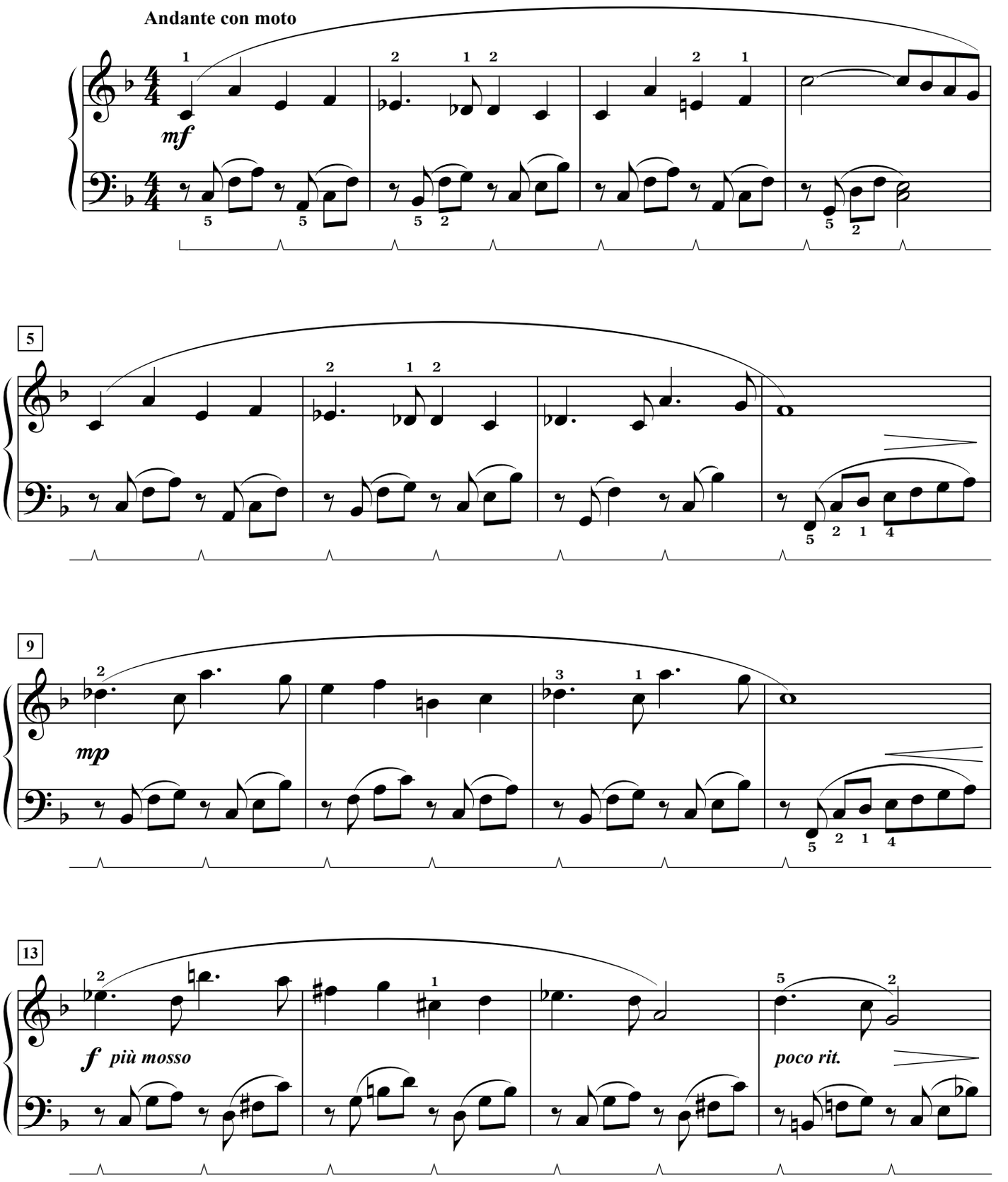

# Nocturne No. 5 in G Major

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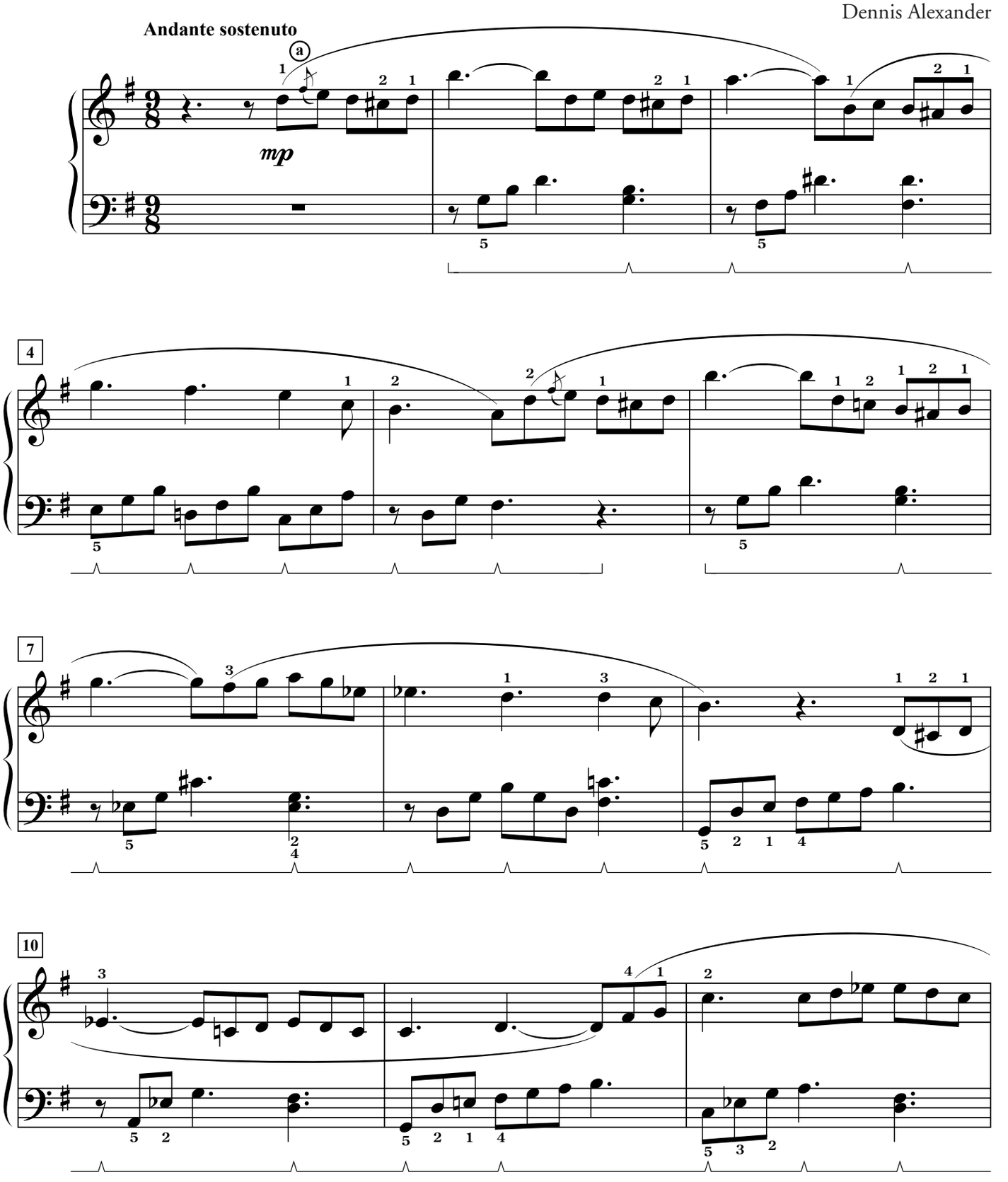


(a) Play the grace notes quickly before the beat.