Kalmus Orchestra Library

GUSTAV
HOLST

THE PLANETS

Suite for Large Orchestra

Critical Edition based on the Composer's Manuscript

Edited by Clinton F. Nieweg and Gregory Vaught

Op. 32/H125

FULL SCORE

EDWIN F. KALMUS, CO.

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PROGRAM NOTE

Written between 1914 and 1917, Gustav Holst was initially inspired to compose *The Planets* based on a conversation he had about astrology while on holiday in Spain with some friends in 1913. Intrigued by the concepts, he sought to write an orchestral suite for seven of these astrological signs based on the planets known to the world at the time, and imbue the music with the appropriate astological meaning. Rather than order the planets as an astronomer would, Holst ordered them in such a way as to attain maximum musical effectiveness. Scored for a large orchestra, fellow composer Ralph Vaughan Williams wrote in 1920, "Holst uses a very large orchestra in *The Planets* not to make his score look impressive, but because he needs the extra tone colour and knows how to use it." Aside from the large orchestra, the final movement, "Neptune, the Mystic," includes a chorus of female voices that sing a soft wordless line offstage who continue to sing and fade away after the orchestra has fallen silent. While "Mars, the Bringer of War" and "Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity" are the most popular and well-known movements, Holst's personal favorite was "Saturn, the Bringer of Old Age." Certainly Holst's most popular work, this critical edition by Clinton Nieweg and Gregory Vaught, is based on the composer's manuscript.

INSTRUMENTATION

4 Flutes (3rd & 4th d. Piccolos, 4th d. Bass Flute)
3 Oboes (3rd d. Bass Oboe)
English Horn
3 Clarinets in B flat & A
Bass Clarinet
3 Bassoons
Double Bassoon

6 Horns in F
4 Trumpets in C
2 Tenor Trombones
Bass Trombone
Tenor Tuba
Bass Tuba

Timpani (2 players)
Percussion (4-5 players)
Glockenspiel, Xylophone, Triangle, Side Drum,
Tambourine, Cymbals, Bass Drum, Gong, Bells

2 Harps
Celeste
Organ

Strings

Women's Choir (part available separately)

Duration: approx. 50 minutes

CRITICAL NOTES

This Critical Edition has been prepared using the facsimile of the full score manuscript and referring to all other public domain editions of the work. The rationale behind this project has been to resolve the many differences between the printed score and the players' parts which still exist in the performing editions of *The Planets* and arrive at the most correct and consistent readings possible.

Instrumentation: The part listed for the Bass Flute is played in America on an Alto Flute in G. The Bell part is normally played on large chimes.

Holst indicates that the following instruments have been "cued in" to the orchestra parts, as far as possible, to permit performance of the work when these instruments are not available:

Flute 4 (combining Piccolo 2 and Bass Flute [sic])
Oboe 3 (combining Bass Oboe)
Clarinet 3 (In *Mercury*, the Clarinet 3 part is to be played and that for Clarinet 2 omitted.)
Bassoon 3
Contrabassoon
Horns 5 and 6
Trumpet 4
Tenor Tuba
Organ

Regrettably, the score frequently does not indicate what instrument is playing the cues of a missing instrument, and no "reduced" score exists.

In the notes which follow, all page numbers refer to the full score.

1. *Mars*, throughout: In this movement it appears that Holst was thinking of the six horns not as three pairs, but rather as two trios. Thus, the part for Horn 4 frequently is higher than that for Horn 3.

2. Page 80, measure 2: While the Horns, Violas and Cellos have a crescendo, the Violins are directed to make a diminuendo. This occurs again on page 102, measure 4.

3. Page 85, measure 3: The Oboe 3 note has been changed from D to C to match the passsage found two measures previously. The Editors feel that the manuscript is in error here.

4. Page 94, measure 4: The Trombone 2 note has been changed from F to E♭ to fit into the A♭ major chord. Once again the Editors feel that the manuscript is in error.

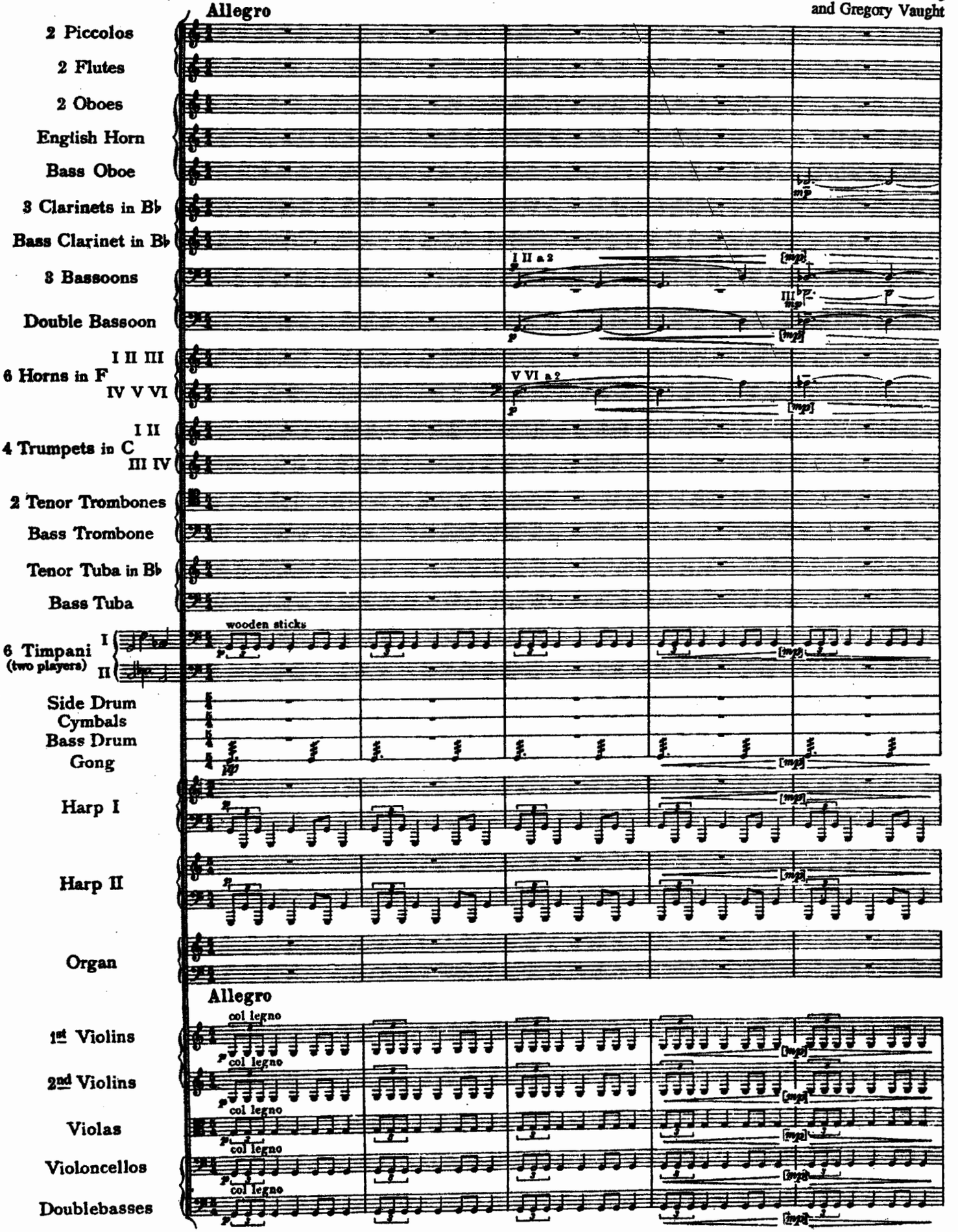
5. Page 107, measure 3: The G in the Bass Trombone is not included in any of the printed sources, but is clearly present in the manuscript.

6. In the Timpani part, several notes have been changed in the various movements to correspond with the bass line when a drum of the appropriate pitch was available.

Clinton F. Nieweg, The Philadelphia Orchestra
Gregory Vaught, San Antonio Symphony Orchestra

I. Mars, the Bringer of War.

Gustav Holst
Edited by Clinton F. Nieweg
and Gregory Vaught



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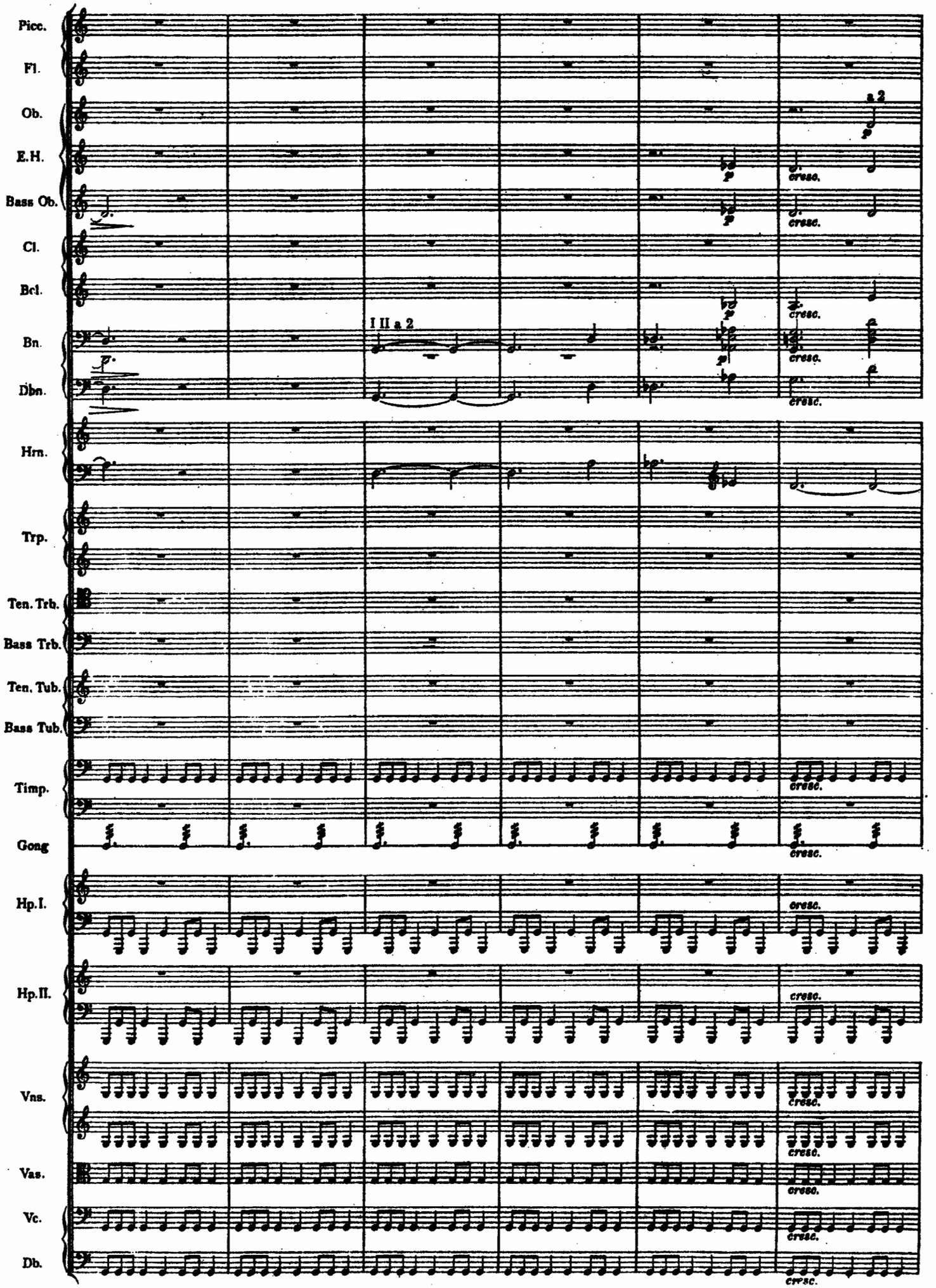
Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E.H.
Bass Ob.
Cl.
Bcl.
Bn.
Dbn.
Hrn.
Trp.
Ten. Trb.
Bass Trb.
Ten. Tub.
Bass Tub.
Timp.
Gong
Hp. I.
Hp. II.
Vns.
Vas.
Vc.
Db.
I II a 2
a 2
cresc.

The Planets.

Suite for Large Orchestra.

Violin I.

I. Mars, the Bringer of War

Gustav Holst
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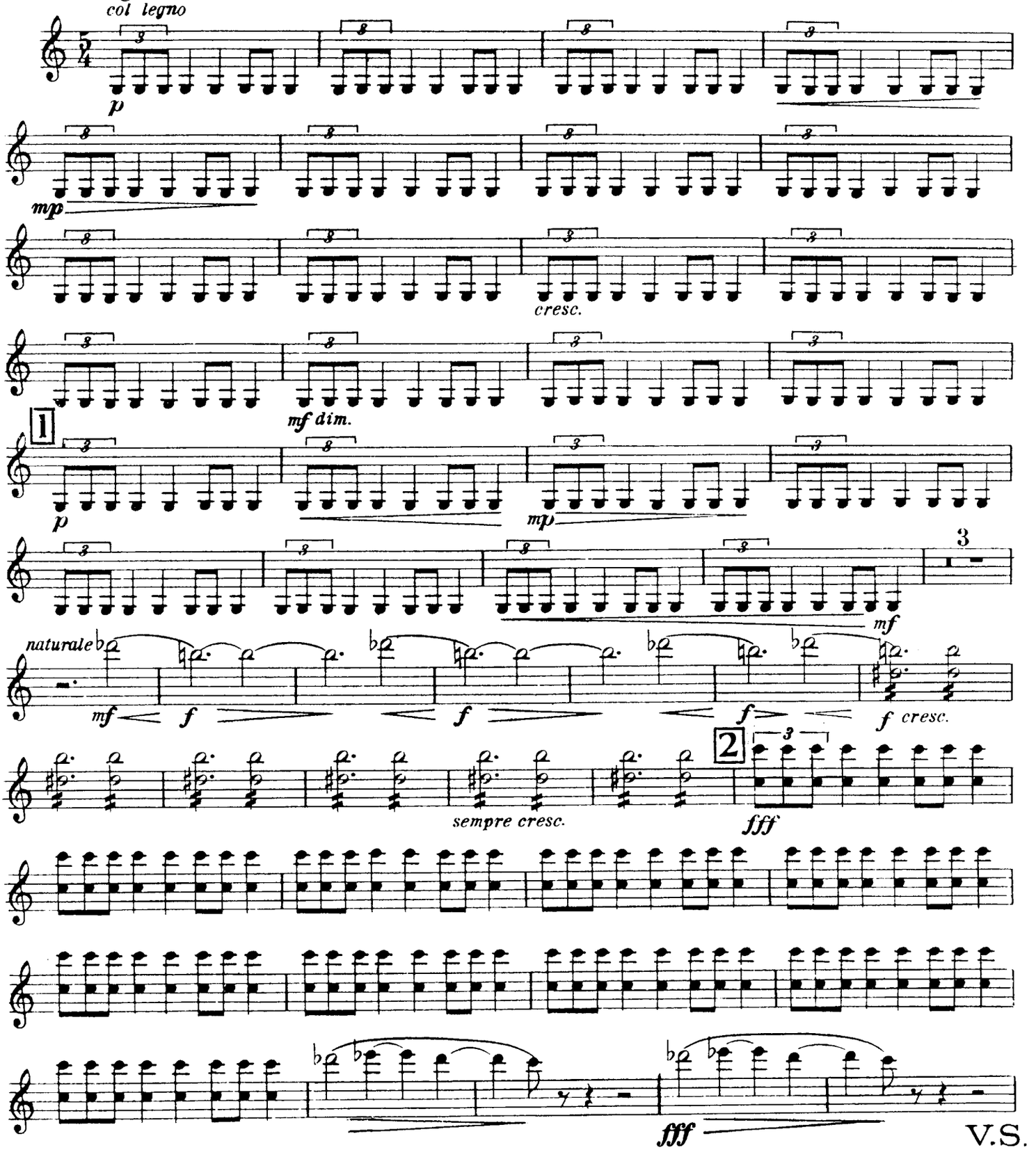

In the absence of the instrument indicated against passages in small notes between asterisks, these notes are to be played.

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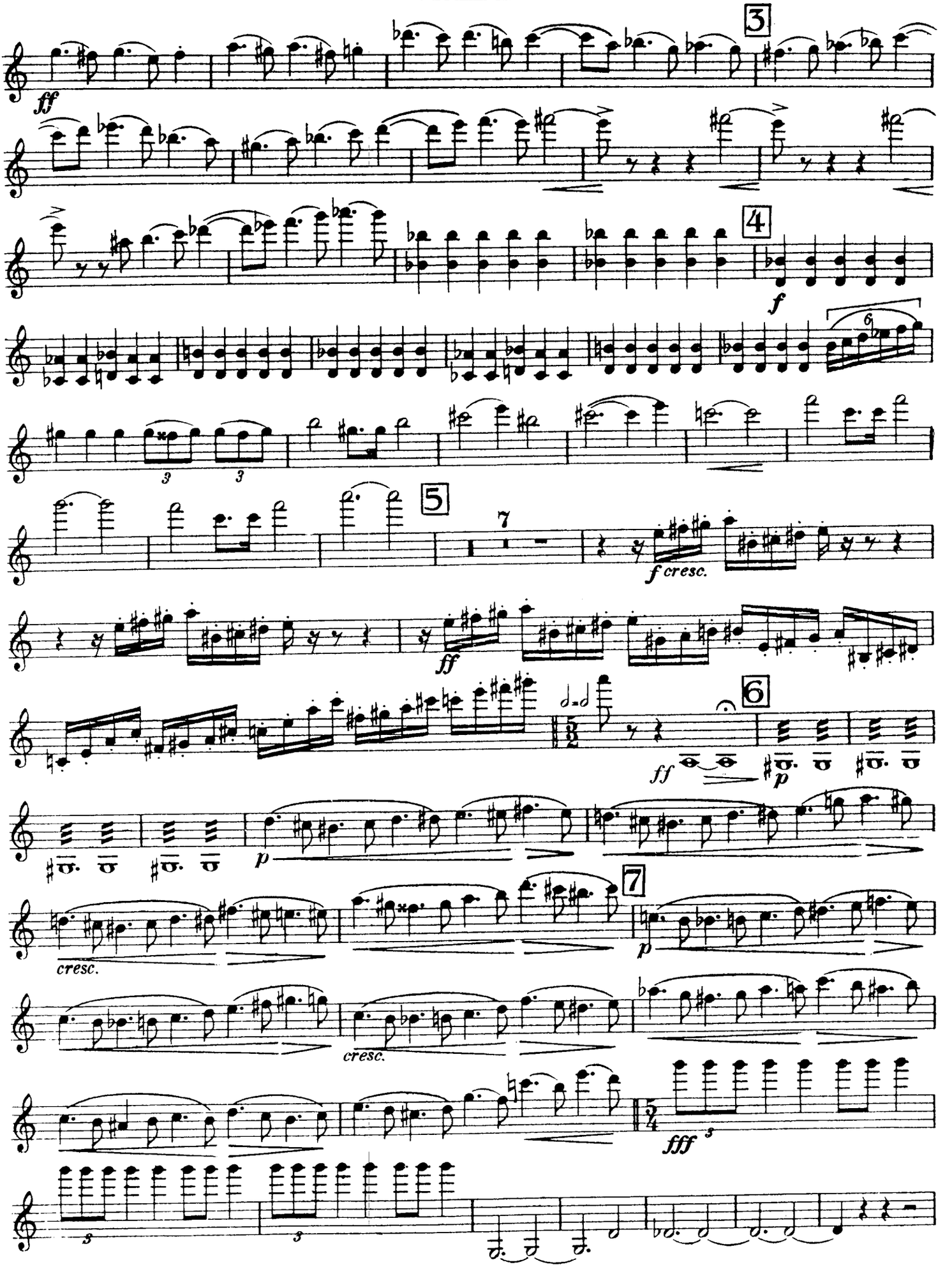
Violin I.