Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky

VARIATIONS ON A ROCOCO THEME, Op. 33

FOR VIOLONCELLO
AND PIANO

ARRANGED BY
Wilhelm Fitzenhagen

EDITED BY
Janos Starker

IN COLLABORATION WITH
Emilio Colón

Ludwig Masters
PUBLICATIONS

Copyright © 2008 Masters Music Publications (ASCAP).
International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved.

My guiding principle in preparing these editions remains the same as in seven decades of aiding and assisting young, middle-aged and old colleagues. The purpose is not to induce players to follow slavishly my suggestions, because they are suggestions based on underlying rules of string playing. If a player reaches proficiency in handling the bow and masters the geography of the finger board, any number of possibilities becomes available to play a melody or a passage. The decisions, therefore, are led by musical considerations, which are highly subjective, and by mechanical issues which are more definable.

There are a number of rules that I follow concerning the left hand, and most of them have to do with position changes:

1. Avoid unnecessary motions.
2. Change at smaller distances.
3. Avoid contrary motions in succession.
4. In distant connections use higher fingers to lower fingers or the same finger, so as to allow the rotation of the forearm, and to continue to touch the strings at an identical angle. This aspect has been the basis of my approach, so as to observe centered intonation and controlled vibrato.

The decision to use anticipated or delayed shifts is a musical one, and requires the knowledge of the timing, finger choice and bowing. Differences in body and size, and of stretching ability require different solutions. Some of the bowings require the use of a specific part of the bow. Therefore I advise deviations from my suggestions, but based on these considerations, not on ingrained habits.

I hope my editions will encourage experimentaiton and lead to more advanced executions.

Professor Emilio Colón has earned my gratitude for his insistence and assistance in preparing these publications.

Janos Starker

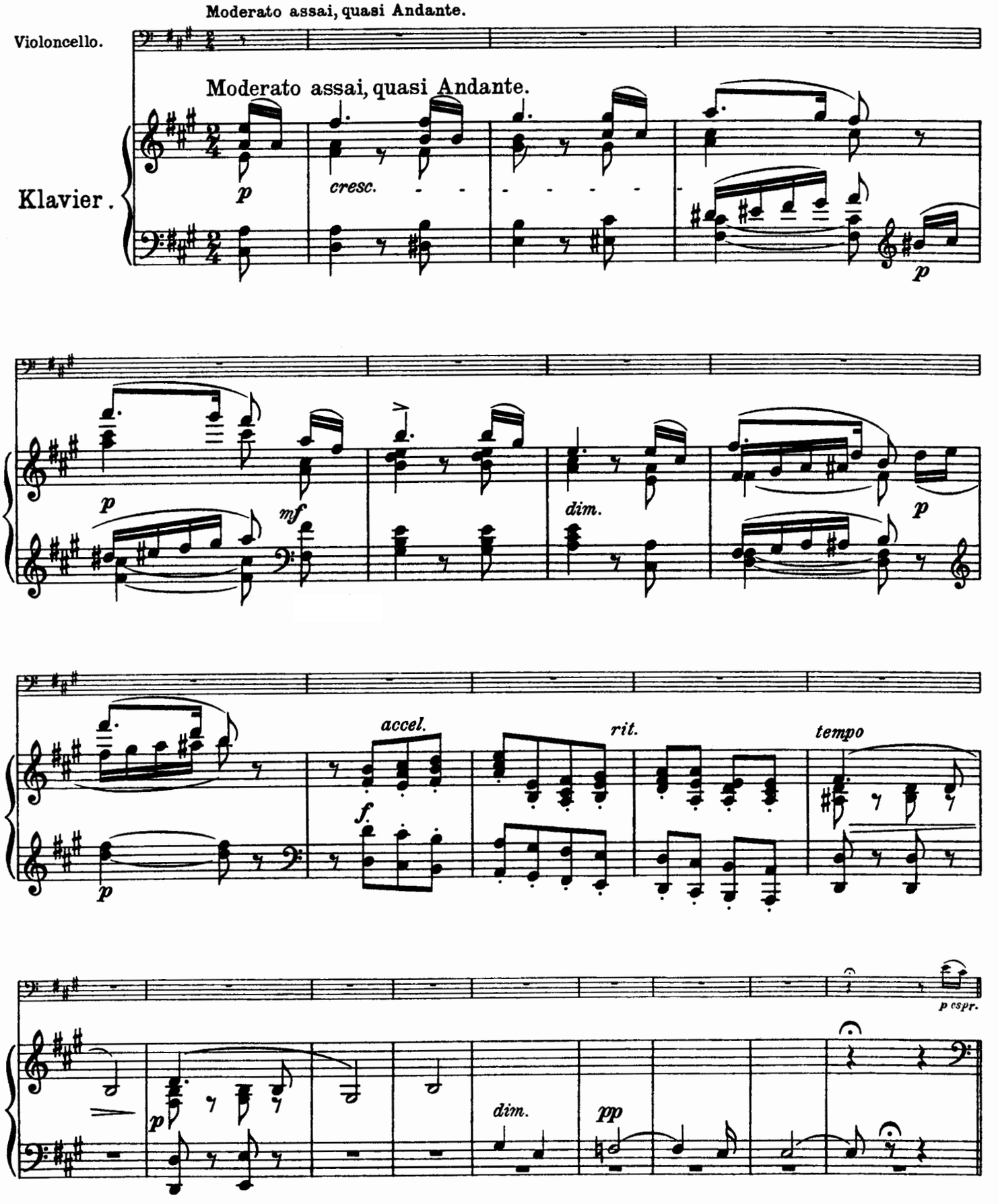
Tchaikovsky: **Variations on a Rococo Theme**

This edition is based on the long-familiar version by Wilhelm Fitzenhagen. The argument rages over its validity, versus the original Tchaikovsky manuscript which has one more variation and follows a different order. Recently an English writer suggested that the work be put into something like a dust-bin of history. Well, I have no objection to the original, but my taste buds prefer the Fitenhagen, as do most of my illustrious colleagues of the past century. I love the work's references to the classical style, the virtuosic use of the instrument and its careful orchestration, all of which hopefully avoid romantic excesses.

J.S.
Bloomington
2007

Variationen über ein Rokoko-Thema.

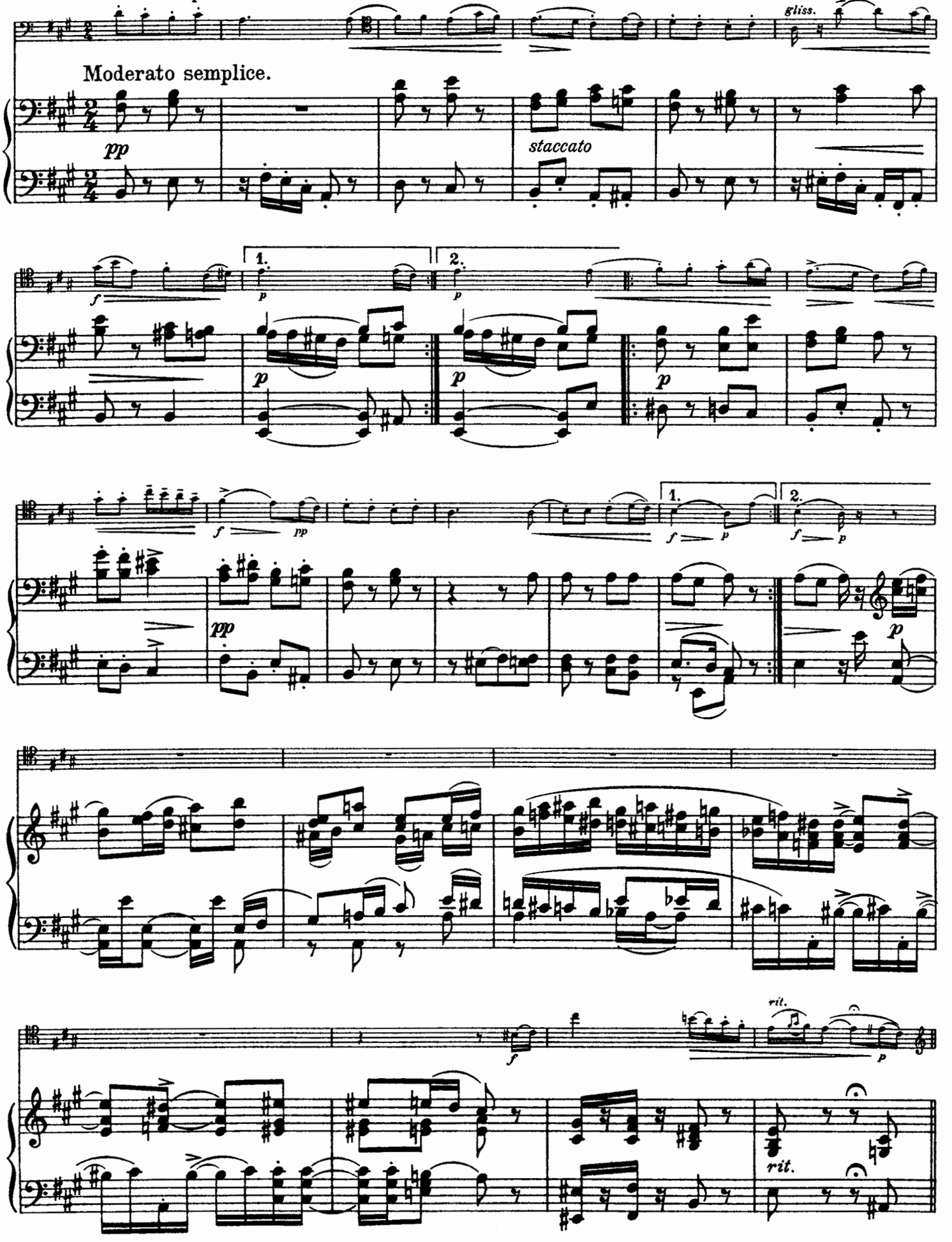
P. Tschaikowsky, Op. 33.

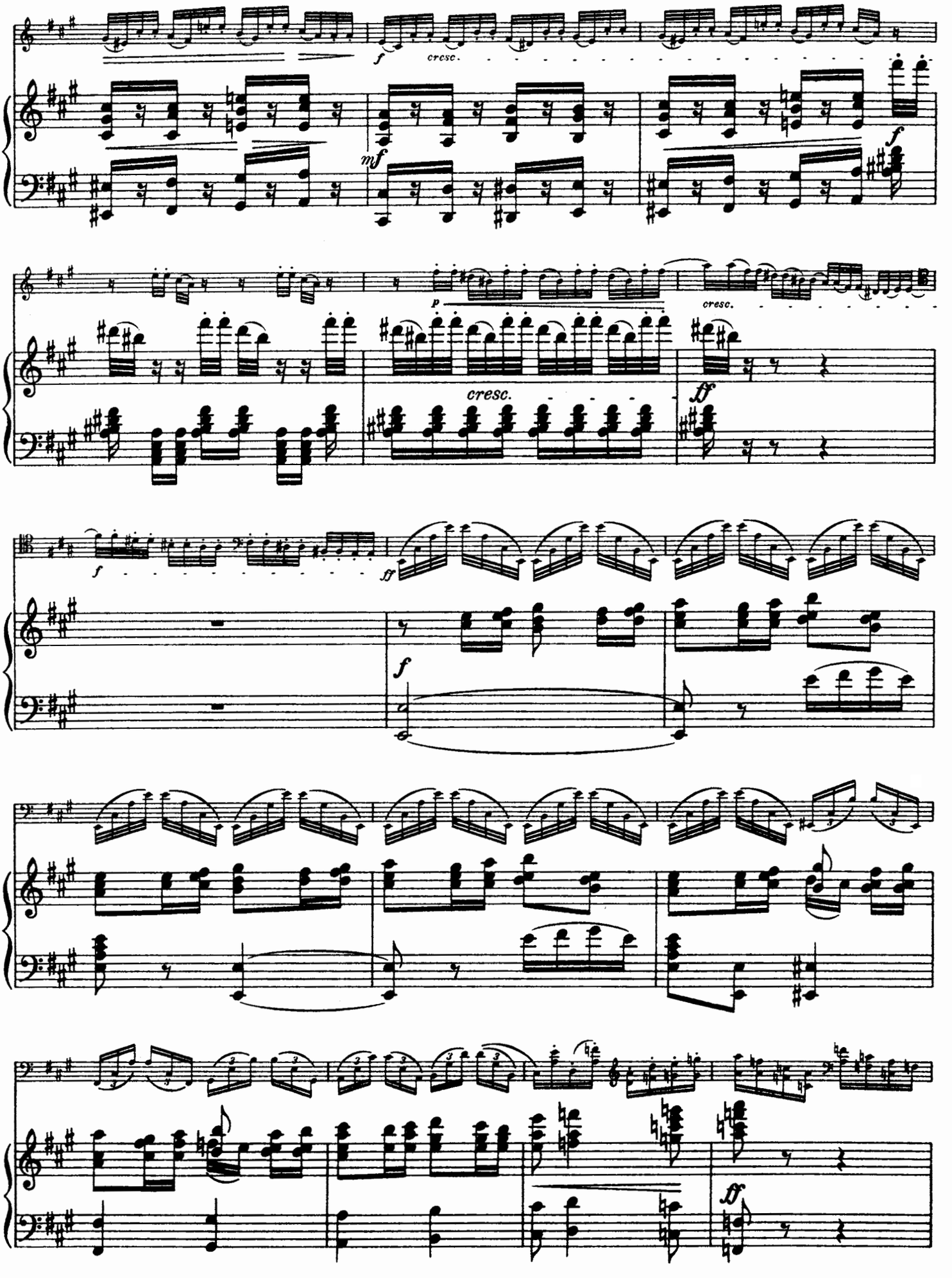


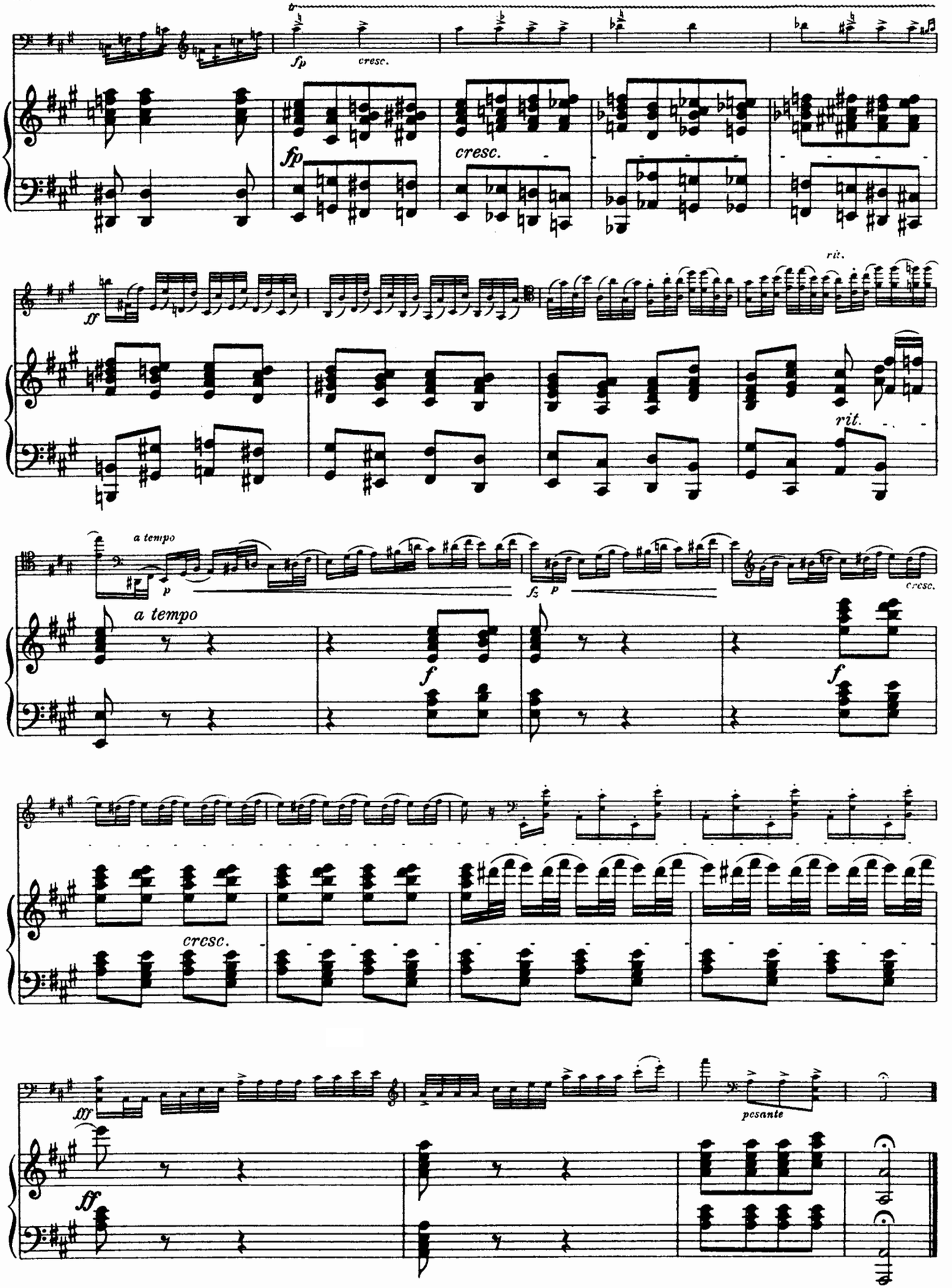
LUDWIG Masters PUBLICATIONS

Thema.

Moderato semplice.



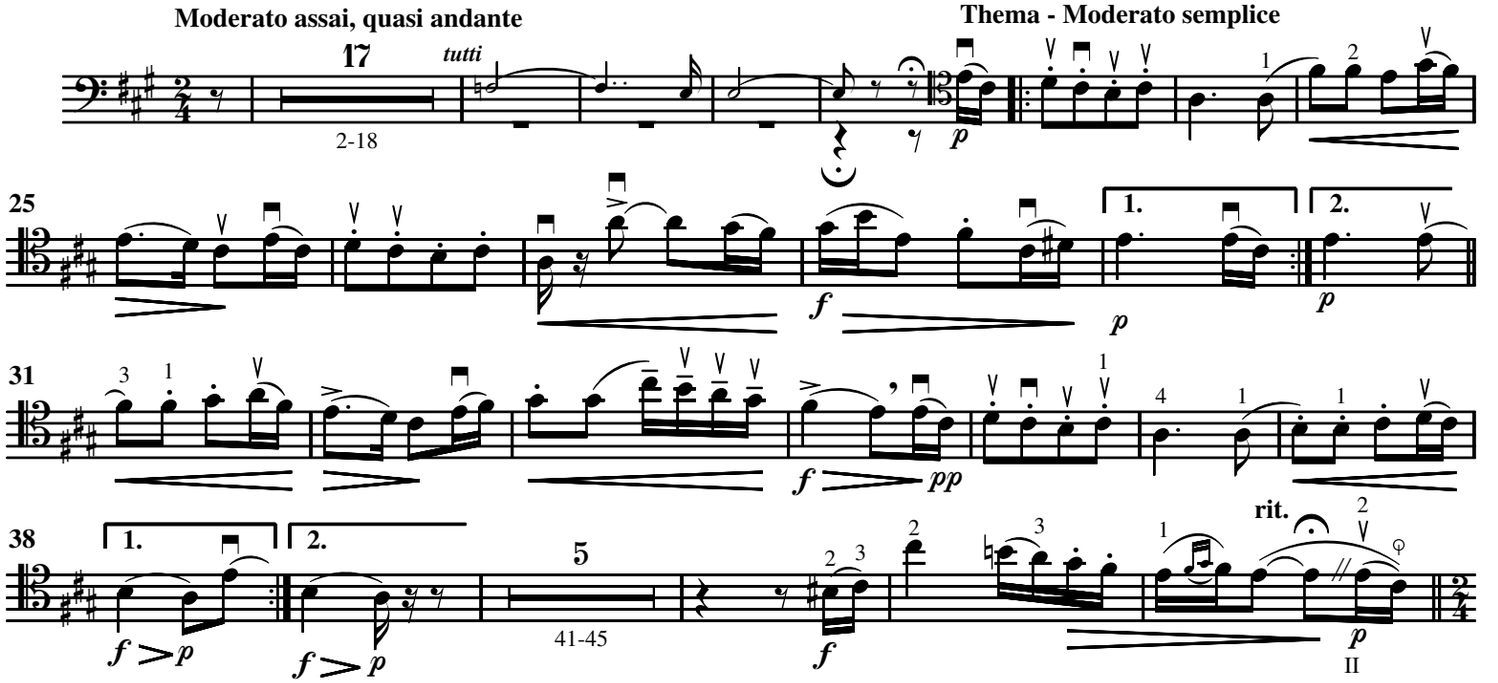

f
cresc.
mf
f
p
cresc.
cresc.
ff
f
ff
f
ff


sfp
cresc.
sfp
cresc.
sf
rit.
rit.
a tempo
p
fz
p
cresc.
a tempo
f
f
cresc.
fff
pesante
ff

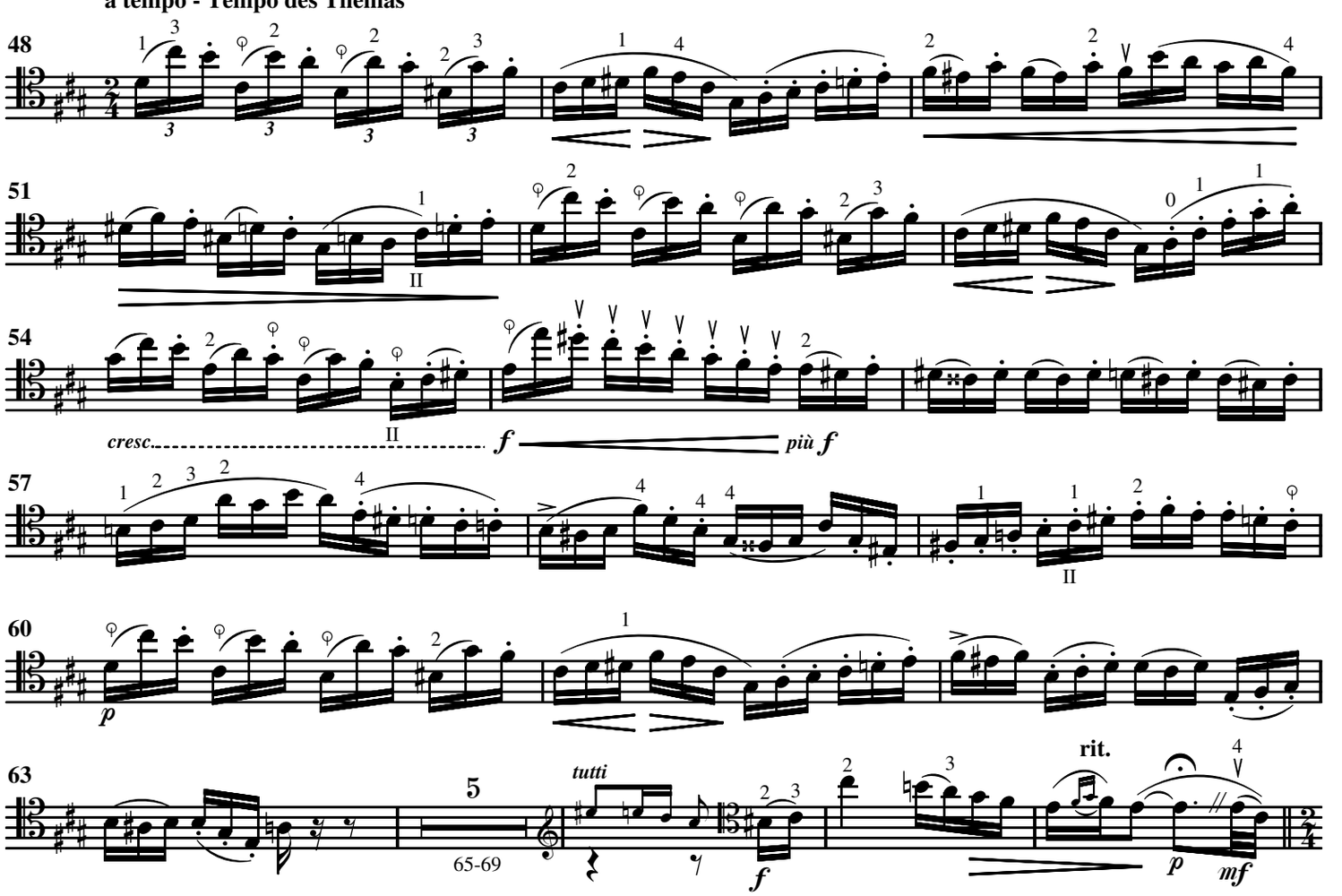
Variations on a Rococo Theme

Violoncello

Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky, Op. 33
Edited by Janos Starker
in collaboration with Emilio Colón



Variation I



Copyright ©2008 LUDWIGMASTERS PUBLICATIONS, LLC
All Rights Reserved Printed in the U.S.A.

Variation II

Tempo des Themas

72 *ossia spiccato*

75 *f* *mf*

79 *f* *mf* *p*

83 *f* *ff* *mf*

86 *f*

90 *f* *tutti* 93-97 *mf* *cresc.*

99 *f* *a piacere* III *dim.* rall. *p* *pp*

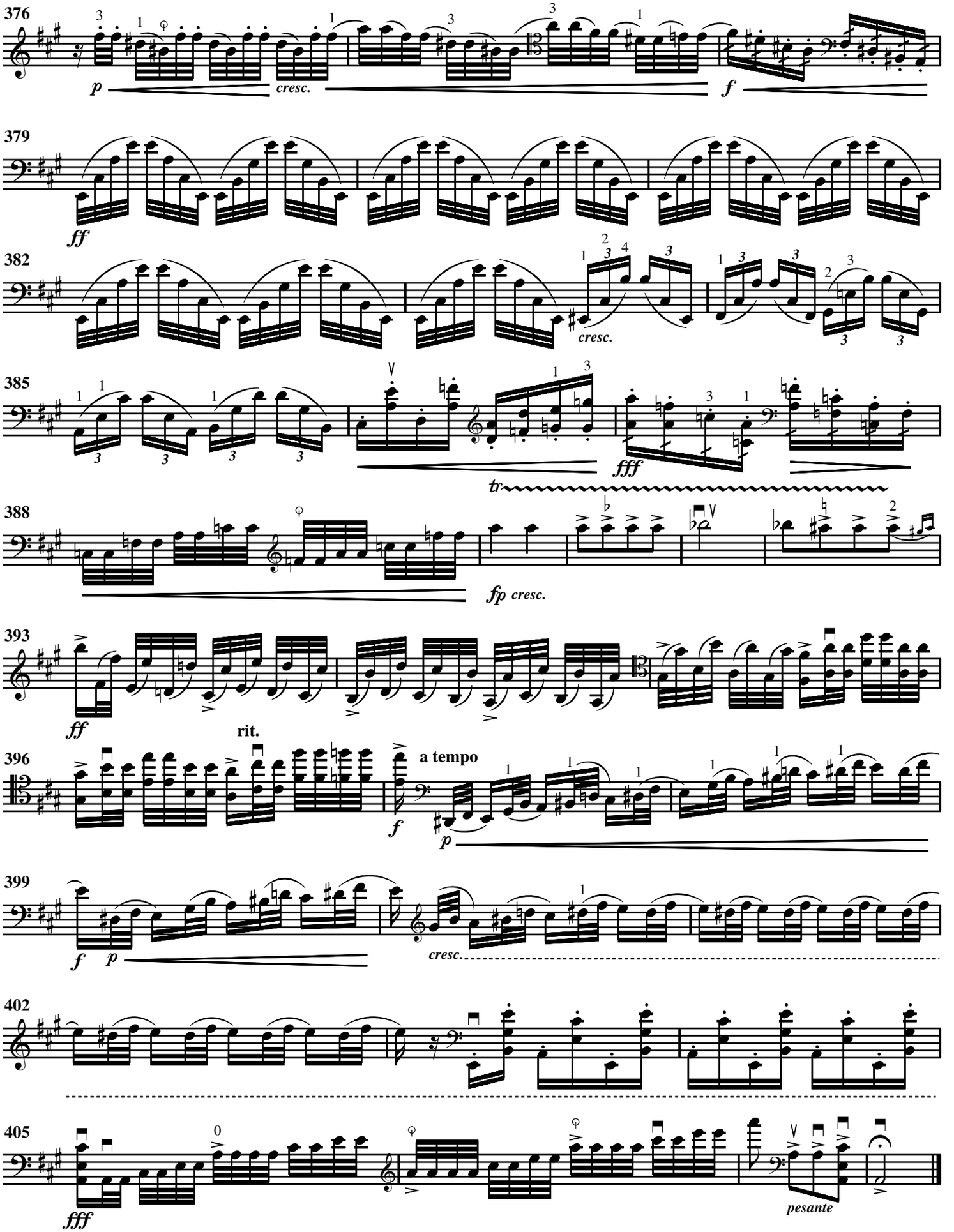
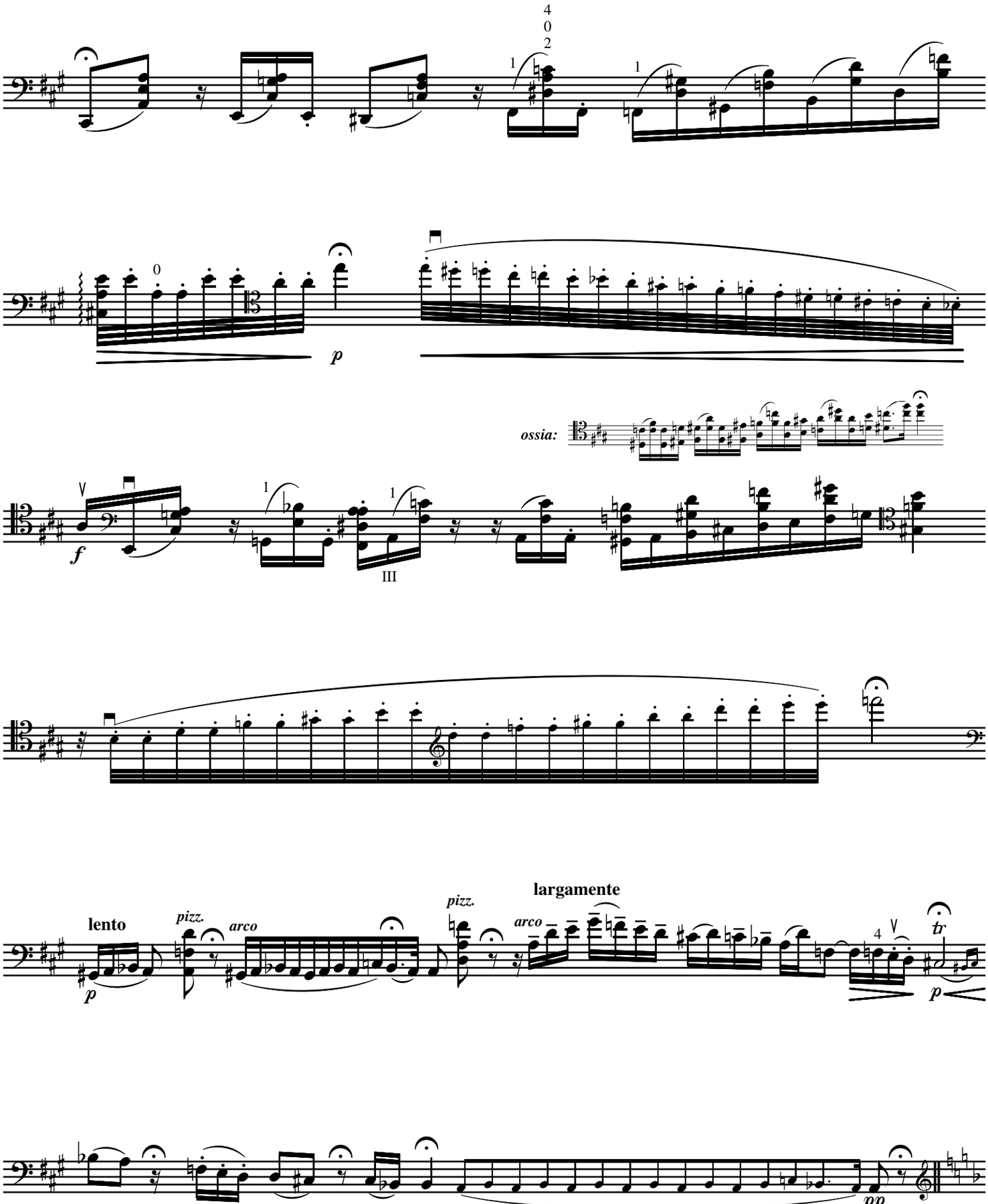
Variation III

Andante sostenuto

105 *p cantabile* *cresc.*

111 *f* *p*

117 *f* *p* *cresc.*


376
p
cresc.
f
379
ff
382
cresc.
385
fff
tr
388
fp cresc.
393
ff
rit.
396
a tempo
f
p
399
f
p
cresc.
402
405
fff
pesante

Original cadenza