STRING PREMIERE

• • •

PERFORMANCE WORKS FOR YOUNG STRINGS

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Wingert-Jones Publications

Erwin • Horvath • McCashin • Mitchell

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to String Premiere, Performance Works for Young Strings. Spanning grades 1 through 2+, this collection of 30 arrangements and original works is sequenced from simple pieces for young string players up through more complex works for intermediate students.

These early arrangements are uniquely scored, yet musically interesting for players and audience alike. The collection covers a variety of musical styles, from delightful arrangements of time-tested works to more popular musical styles, including folk and rock. The melodic lines are passed through Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Bass parts in addition to Violin I. A Violin III book that parallels the viola part is also available.

Each work in the collection has a short introductory paragraph providing relevant information about the music, the composer, the origin of the work, and/or the style. A few of the arrangements utilize modern percussive techniques, such as knocking on the instruments and foot stomping, for added student interest and rhythmic drive. The authors of String Premiere wish you outstanding success with your concerts and performances!

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BIOGRAPHIES

Joanne Erwin, Professor of Music Education at Oberlin Conservatory, earned her Bachelor and Master's degrees in Music Education at the University of Illinois and taught in central Illinois before moving to Texas to play cello in the Fort Worth Symphony. In addition to the symphony work she taught in the Arlington School District and took Suzuki teacher training. She conducted the Junior Youth Orchestra of the Youth Orchestra of Greater Fort Worth and founded a Suzuki School in that organization. After completing a Ph.D. in string pedagogy at the University of North Texas she accepted her current position of Professor of Music Education at Oberlin Conservatory. Dr. Erwin maintains a Suzuki cello studio and conducts the Oberlin Arts and Sciences Orchestra in addition to her Conservatory classes. She has served as president of Ohio Orchestra and String Teachers Association, on the board of American Symphony Orchestra League's Youth Orchestra division, and on the board of the Cleveland Cello Society. Publications include the text *Prelude to Music Education*, method book *New Directions for Strings,* companion text *A Scale in Time* and various articles in American String Teacher, Suzuki Journal and Teaching Music. She has conducted festival orchestras in several states and in London, Singapore, Panama City and is a regular presenter at state and national conferences.

Robert D. McCashin, Director of Orchestras and Professor of Conducting, joined the faculty in the JMU School of Music in the fall of 1992. He was awarded the Distinguished Teacher Award for the College of Visual and Performing Arts, for the 2014-2015 academic year. For more than 23 years, he's been the Music Director for the JMU Symphony, Chamber Orchestra and Opera Orchestras. He continues with the Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, and teaches all relevant courses in the Graduate MM and DMA orchestral conducting program. Dr. McCashin is a successful writer and arranger of educational publications, having now published more than 70 works for the educational music Grade I through V levels. His original works and arrangements are published through Wingert-Jones, FJH Music and Tempo Press. Other publications include *New Directions for Strings*, a two-volume classroom string method, and *A Scale in Time*, a scale and warm-up book for all-level string players. In addition, Dr. McCashin regularly guest conducts in a variety of settings, including Regional and All-State Orchestras across the US as well as Regional professional orchestras. He has been invited to present more than 30 conducting workshops and seminars for national level and state level teacher conferences throughout the U.S. Dr. McCashin is Founder, Past President and former National Board member for the College Orchestra Directors Association.

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Kathleen A. Horvath, Associate Professor of String Education and Pedagogy at Case Western Reserve University and Instructor of Double Bass at the Cleveland Institute of Music. She holds a Bachelor of Music from the Eastman School of Music (Double Bass), a Master of Arts in Performance and String Pedagogy, and Doctor of Philosophy in Music Education from The Ohio State University. In demand as a clinician and adjudicator, she has presented at many National, State, and International conferences. As a conductor Dr. Horvath has conducted festivals in Illinois, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Arkansas, Alaska, Ohio, Georgia, Virginia, and Montana. He research is primarily focused on the prevention of performance related injuries through correct positioning of the body and the accompanying teaching methodology that facilitates accurate development. Her journal publications include articles and reviews in Music Educators Journal, Triad, Scroll, Bass World, American String Teacher, Council of Research in Music Education, and the Southeastern Journal of Music Education. She has served as Double Bass editor and contributor to the String Syllabus for the last three editions. Her book contributions include sections in volumes 1, 2 and 3 of *Teaching Music Through Performance in Orchestra* and a chapter in the *Applications of Research to String Education*. She also has co-authored a two-volume string class method book entitled *New Directions for Strings* and a companion text, *A Scale in Time* published by FJH Music.

Brenda Mitchell is Associate Professor of Music at Miami University, where she has been a faculty member since 1990. She teaches music education courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and is the Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of Music. Her public school teaching experience included eleven years in Arizona in the Mesa Public Schools and Tempe Elementary Schools. Conducting experience includes The Phoenix Symphonette (youth orchestra for the Phoenix Symphony), Arizona Elementary All-State Orchestra, Arizona Regional Junior High School Orchestra, and other guest conducting in Ohio. Her research interests center on string pedagogy for young students. Publications include *Lessons in Performance for Beginning and Developing Strings, New Directions for Strings Book 1 and 2,* and *A Scale in Time*, all with The FJH Music Company, Inc. In 2005 Dr. Mitchell received the Crossan Hays Curry Award for Outstanding Teaching from the School of Fine Arts at Miami University.

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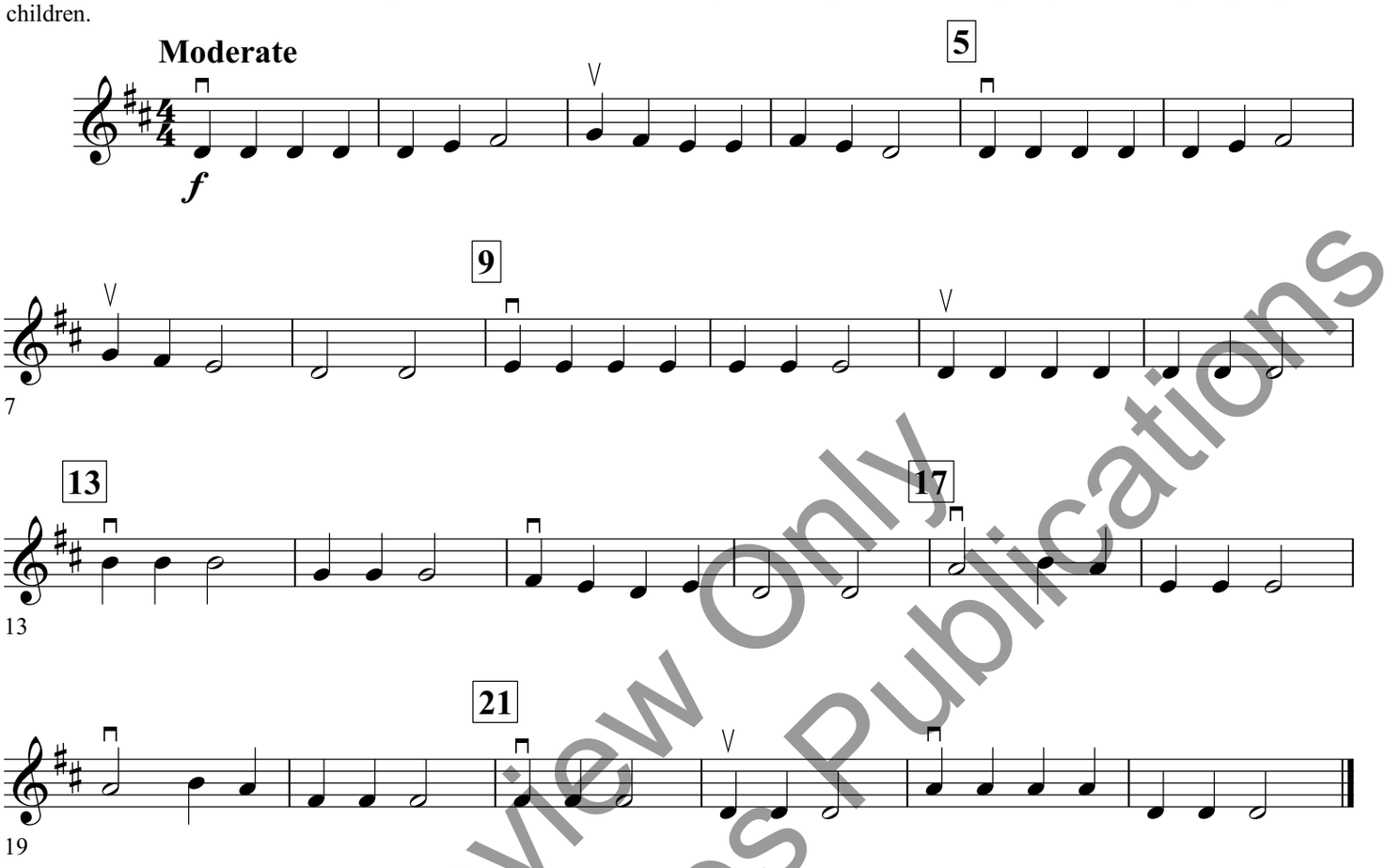
1. Czech Folk Song

Traditional
arranged by Joanne Erwin

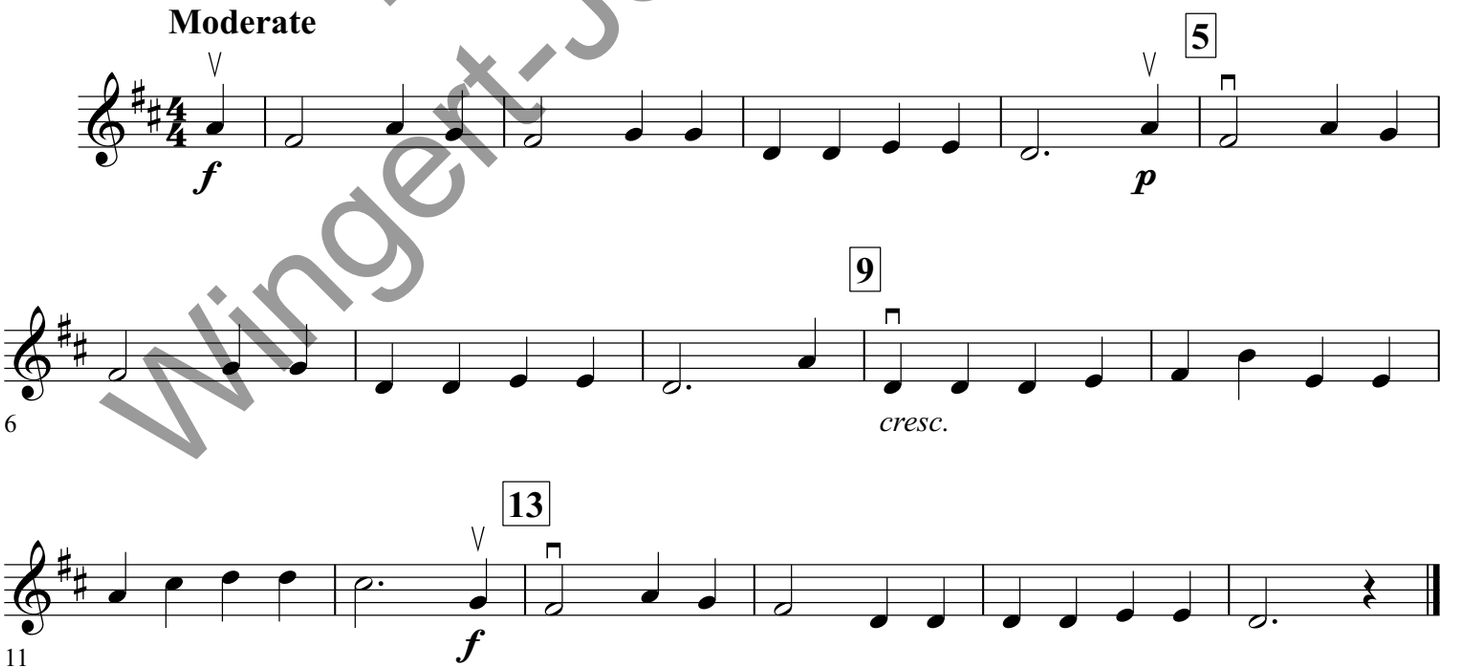
This song is from the region of Bohemia in the Czech Republic. Much Czech folk music is strongly related to dance forms; this tune, translated as "Annie Went to the Cabbage" or "To the Garden Annie Went," has strong elements of the polka, and is a song for young children.



2. Blue Bells of Scotland

Traditional
arranged by Joanne Erwin

This tune dates back to 1801. As with many songs, there are varying sets of lyrics. Franz Josef Haydn (1732-1809) used this tune as the basis for one of his piano trios.



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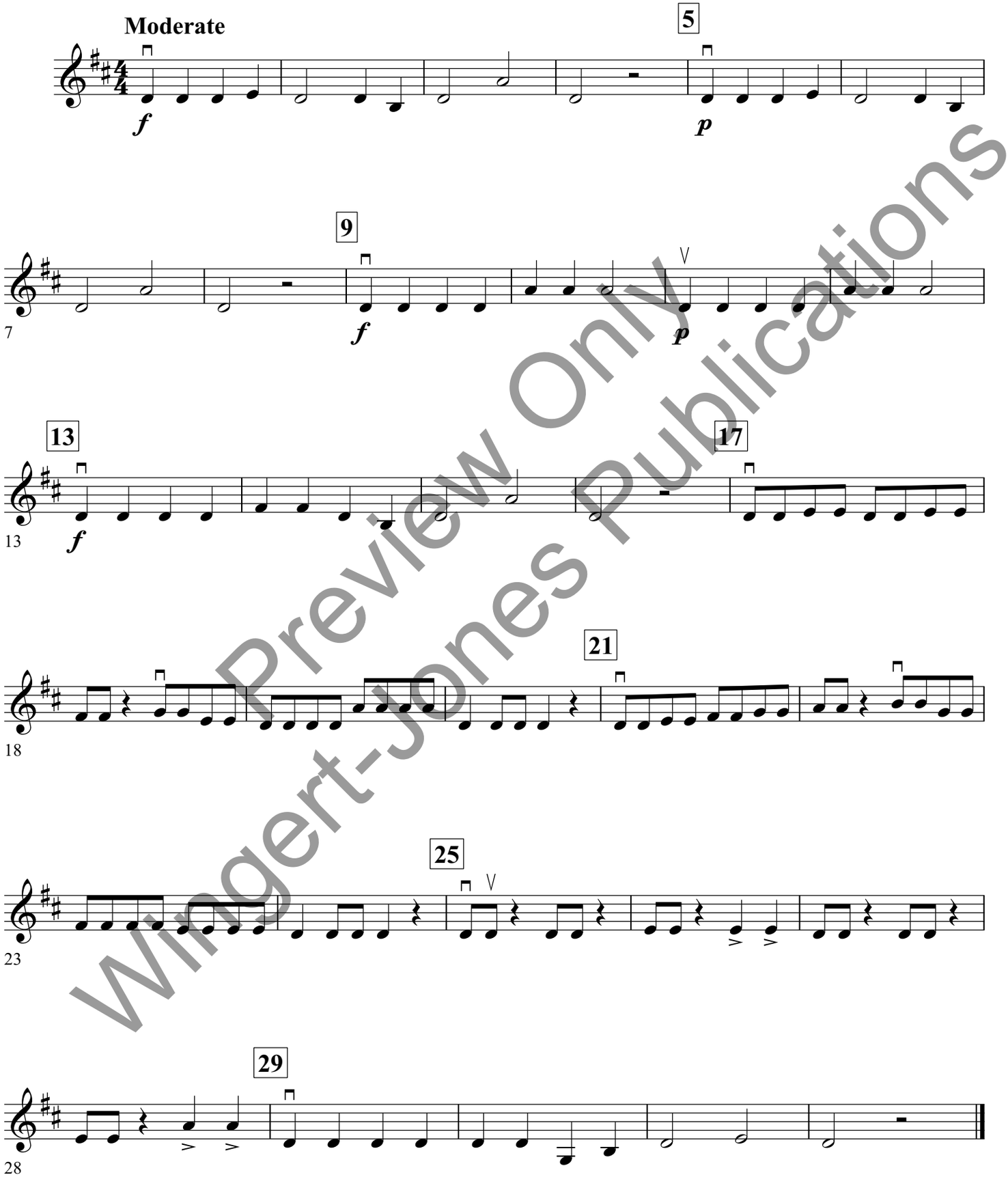
3. A Riddle

German Folk Song
arranged by Joanne Erwin

This English folk song and lullaby went with settlers to Appalachia. The roots of this piece date back to the 15th century. Many American folk singers have recorded this piece.



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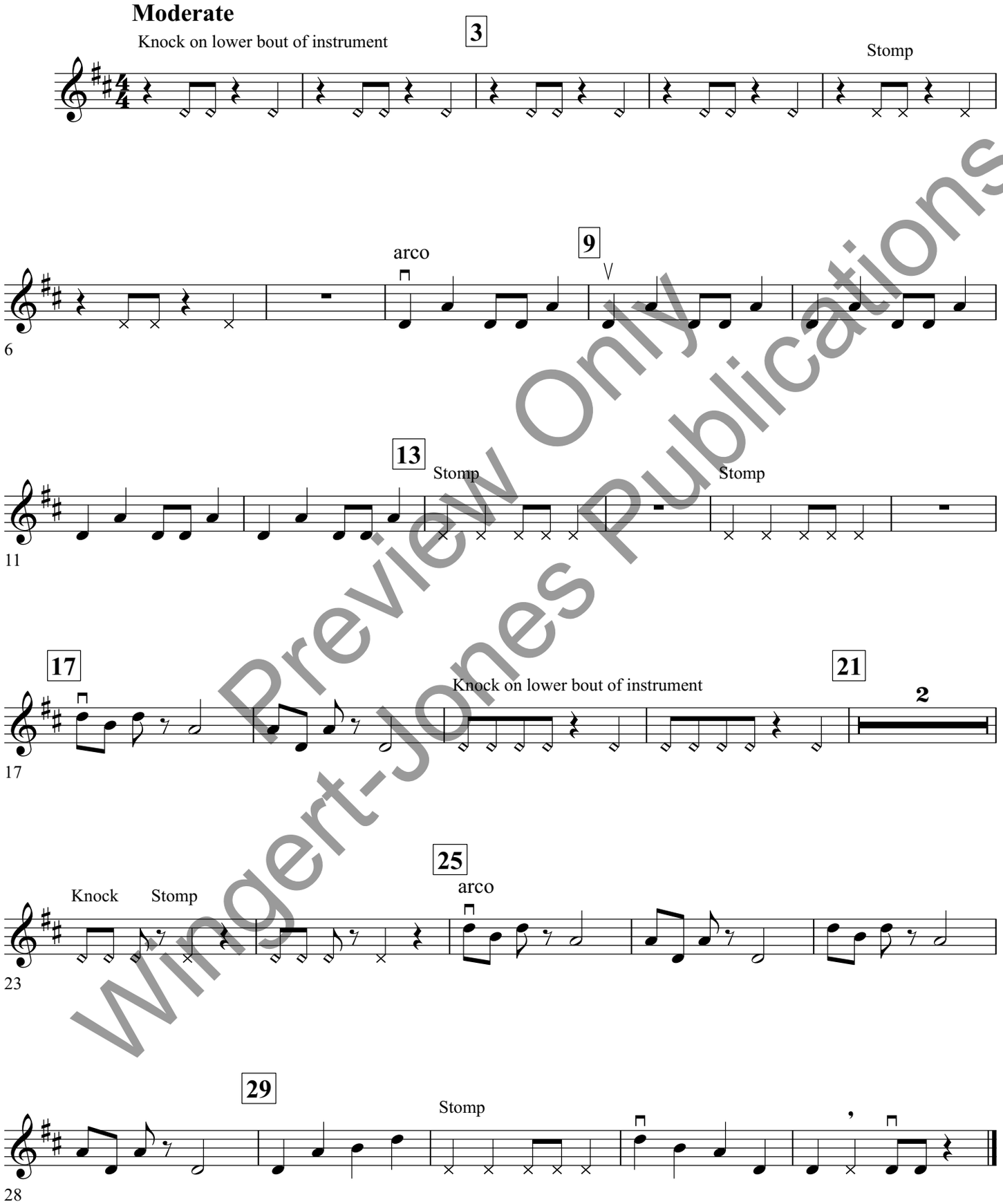
4. Rock Jam

Kathleen Horvath

Rock-inspired rhythms in both the melodic and supporting lines imparts a modern feel to this piece. Special effects (knocking on instruments and foot stomps) add a strong percussive drum-set-like element.



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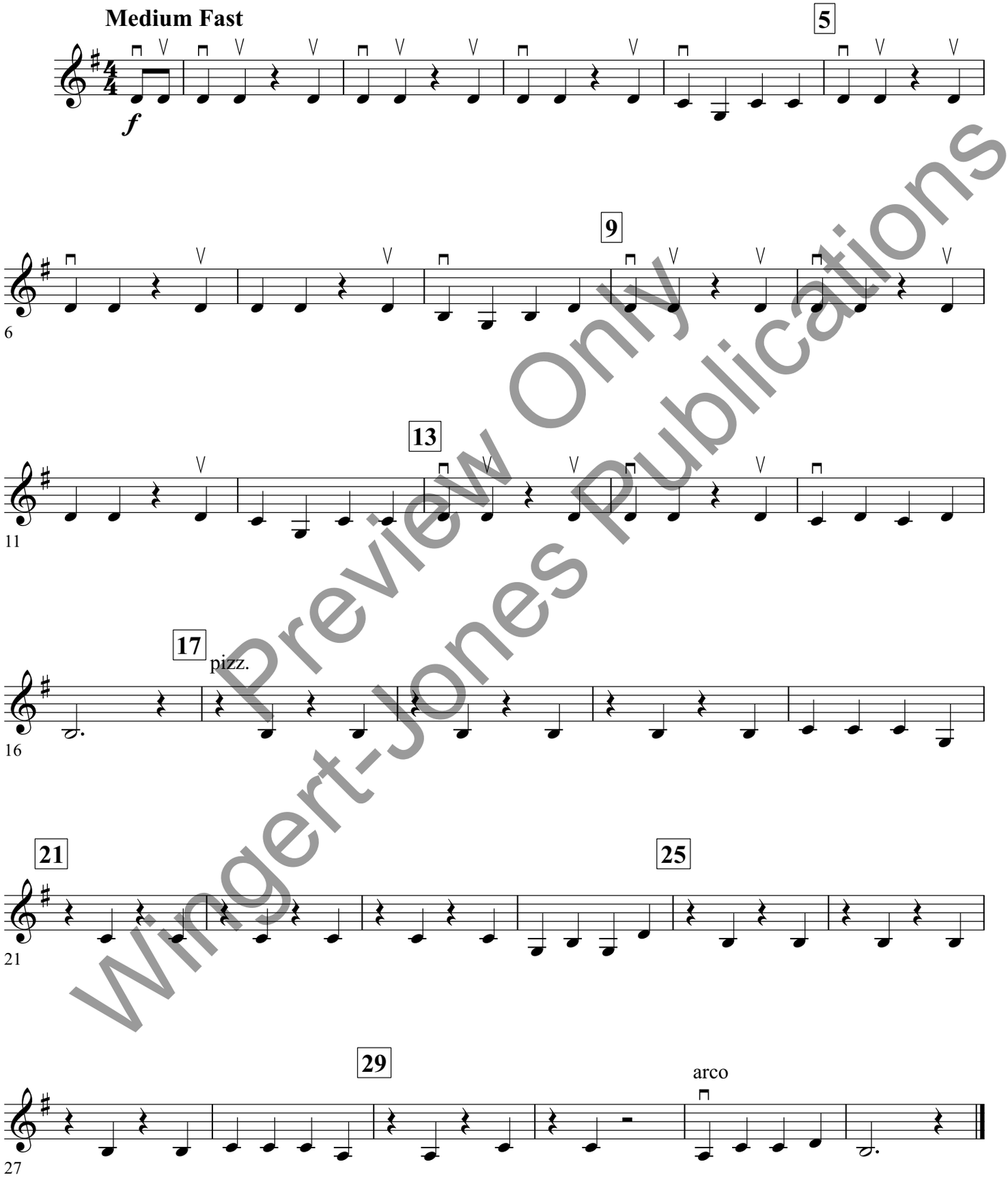
5. Wabash Cannonball

American Traditional
arranged by Robert D. McCashin

This American folk song was first published in 1882, titled "The Great Rock Island Route." Written by J. A. Roff, the subject is a fictional train named for the Wabash River in Indiana. The title of the piece was changed tot he current one in the early 20th century.



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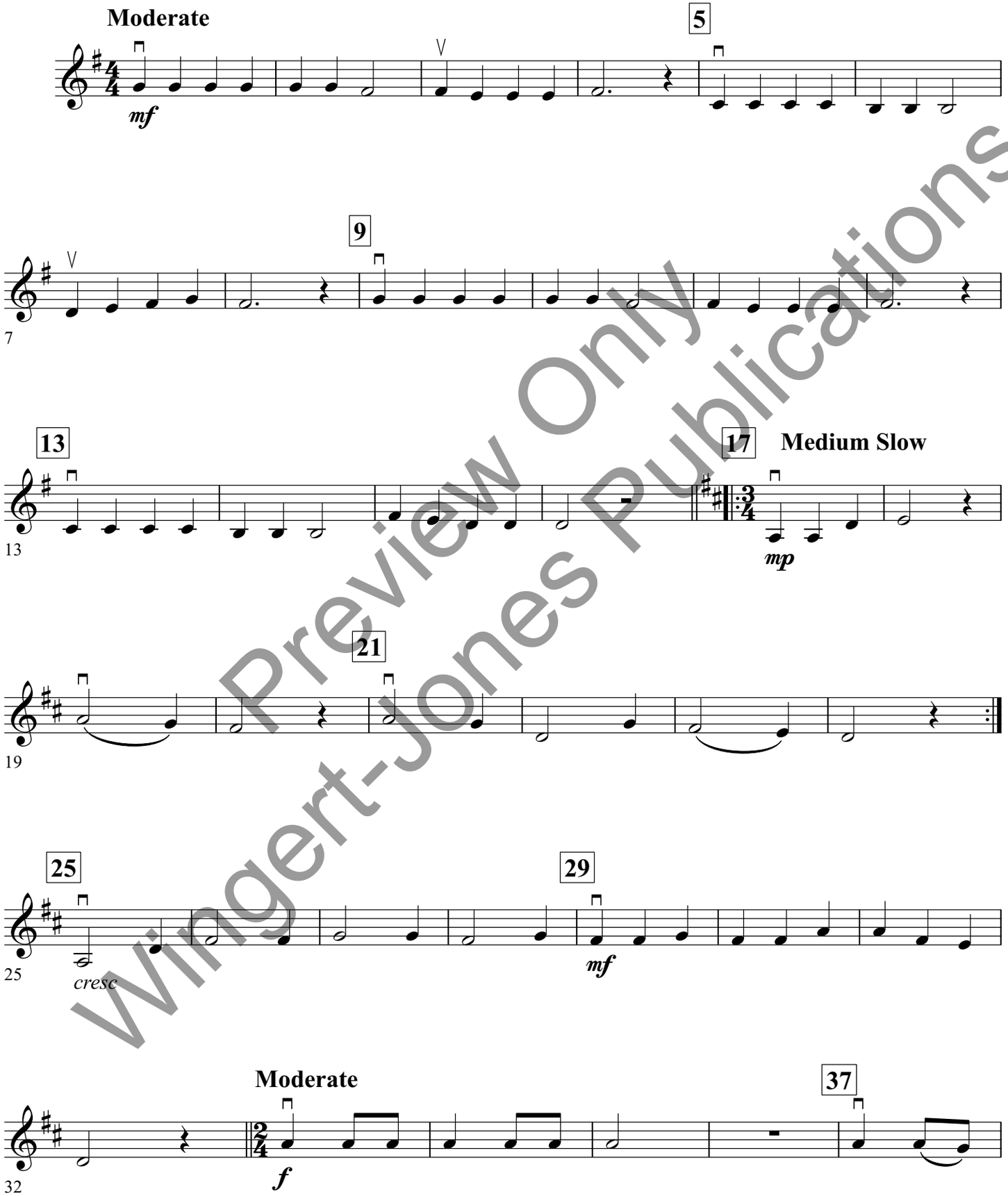
6. Holiday Medley

arranged by Joanne Erwin

The three well-known holiday pieces in this medley evoke the winter season: *Jolly Old St. Nicholas*; *The First Noel*; and *Joy to the World*.



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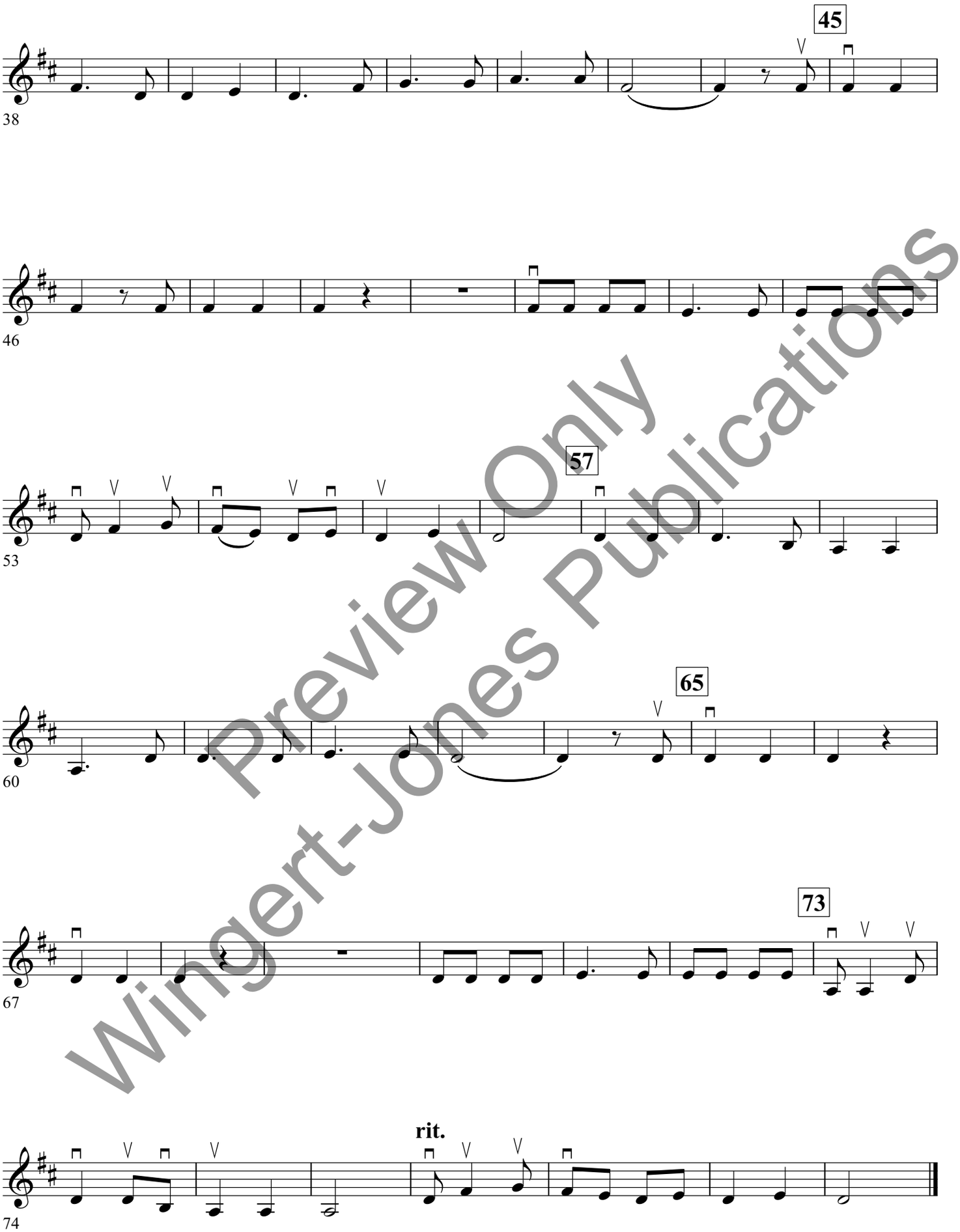

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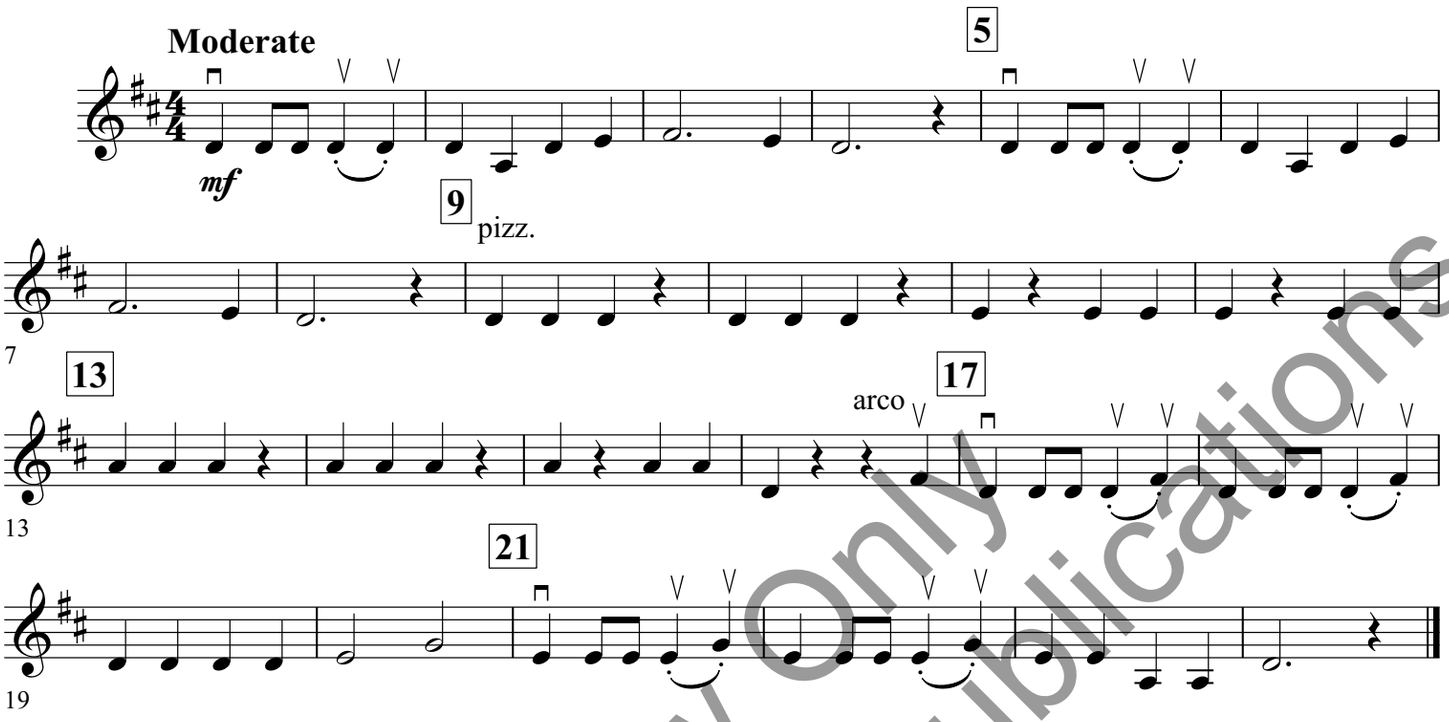
7. Mi Chacra

Argentinian Folk Song
arranged by Brenda Mitchell

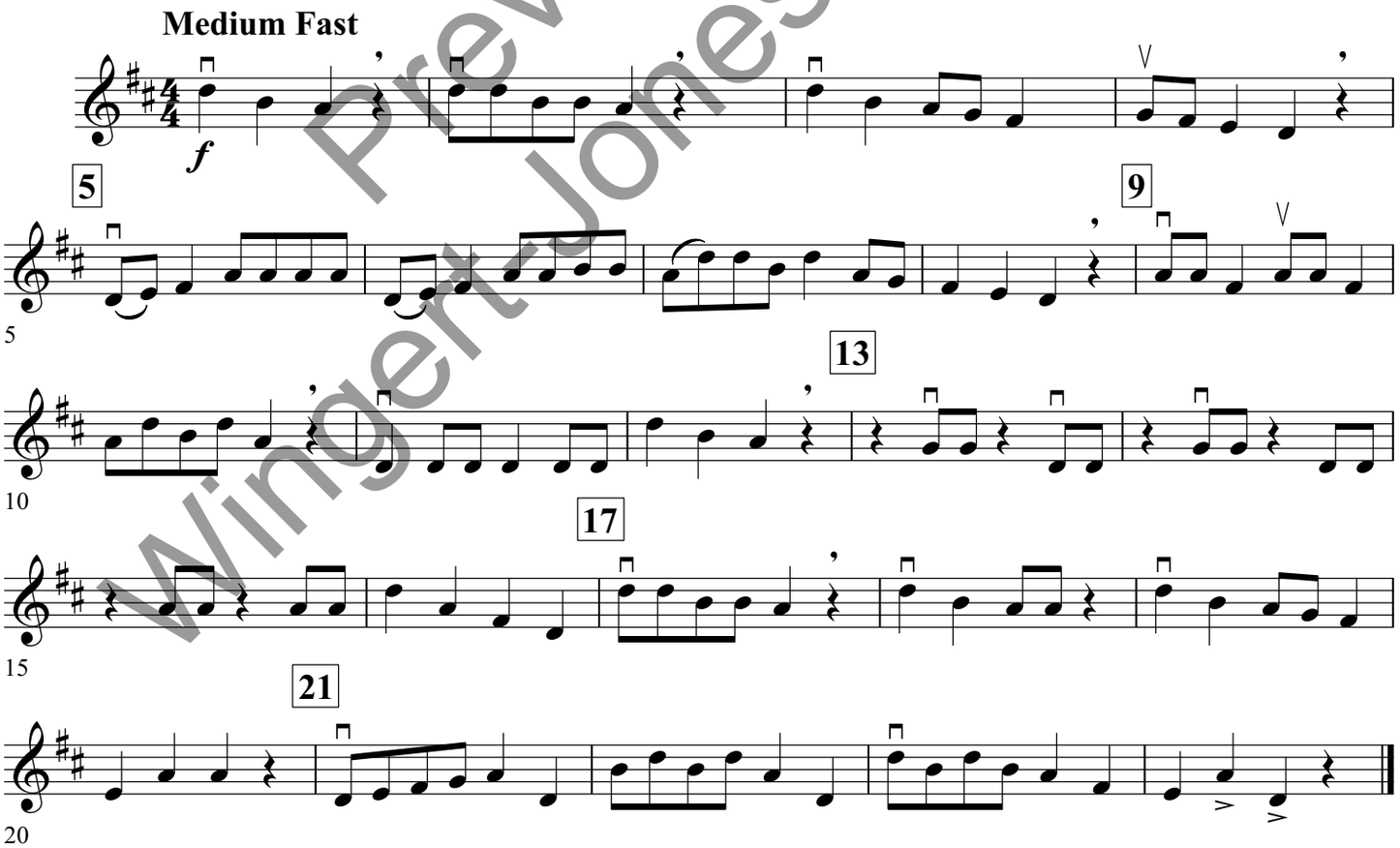
This is a children's song from Argentina about a farm. The lyrics of the song verses include a number of animals found on a farm, with accompanying animal sounds ("quack," "oink," etc.).



8. Rabbit Race

Robert D. McCashin

The playful feeling conveyed by the melodic line of this piece lends to the scene of rabbits racing to the finish. All instruments have the melody at some point during this piece.



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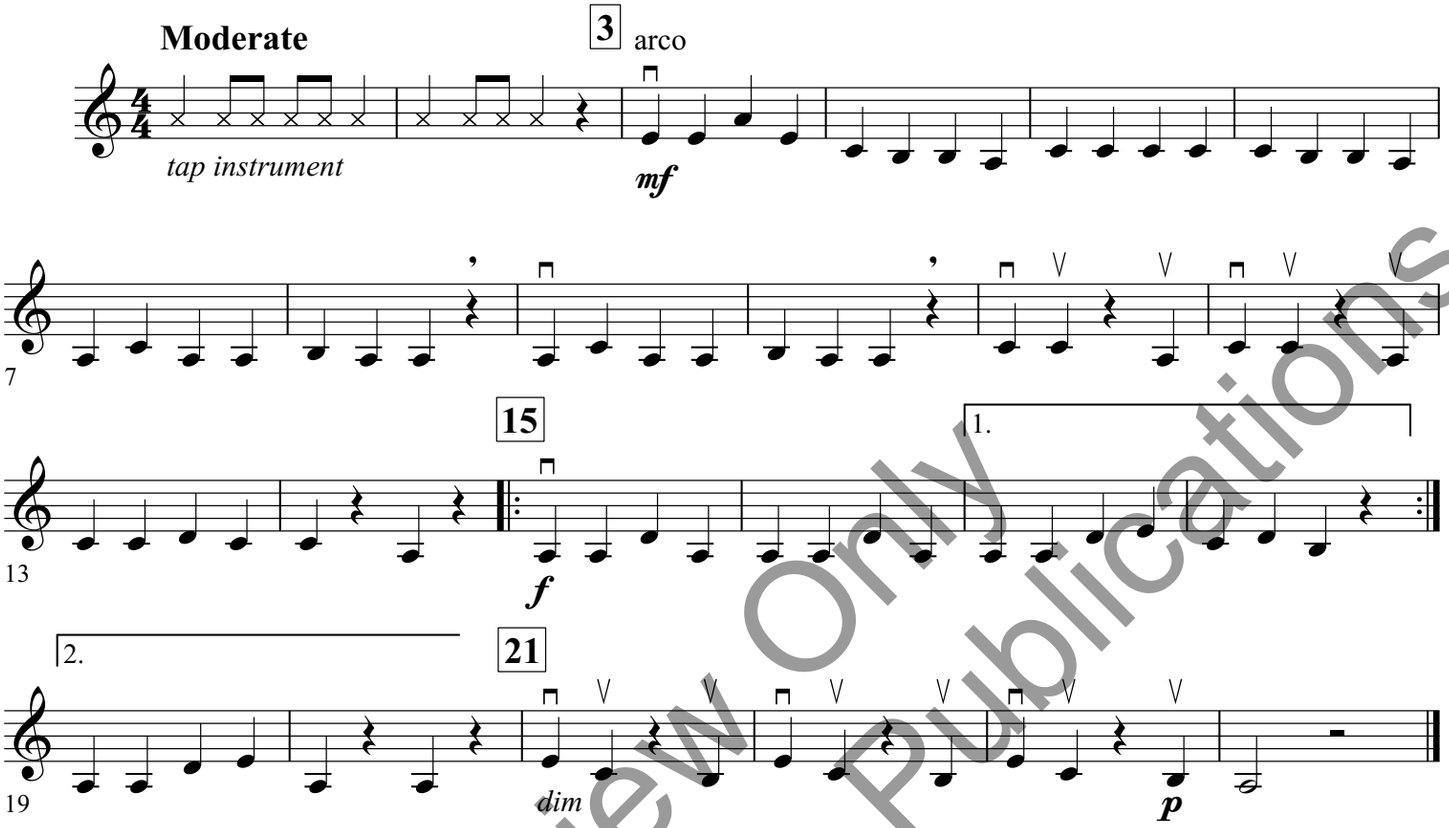
9. O Chanukah

Traditional
arranged by Joanne Erwin

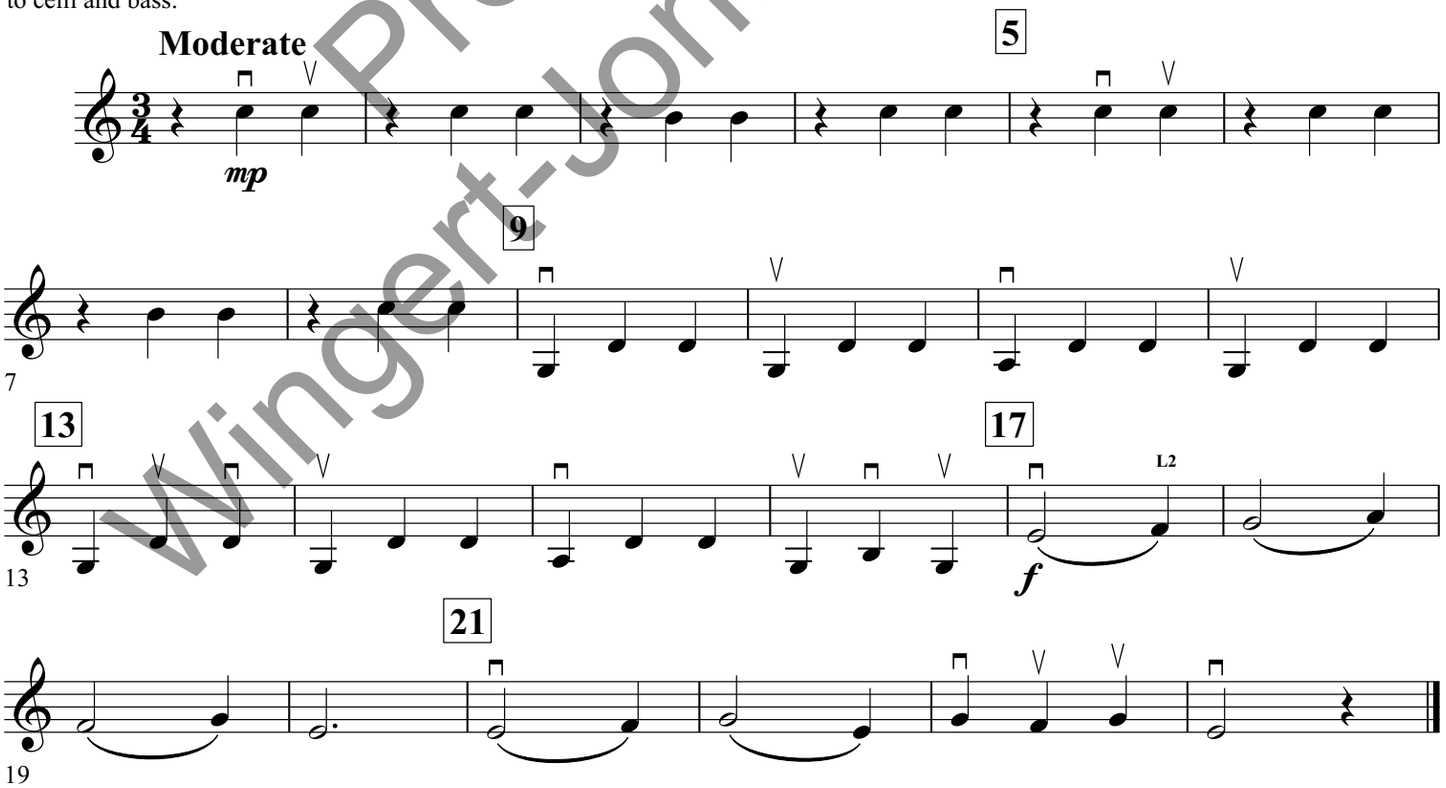
This traditional Chanukah song is a lively tune. The lyrics refer to activities associated with celebrating Chanukah: lighting the menorah, dancing the horah, eating treats and latkes, and playing with a dreidel, a small top.



10. Itty Bitty Waltz

Robert D. McCashin

This pleasant little waltz begins and ends with a charming, simple melody played by the 1st violins. The middle section moves the melody to celli and bass.



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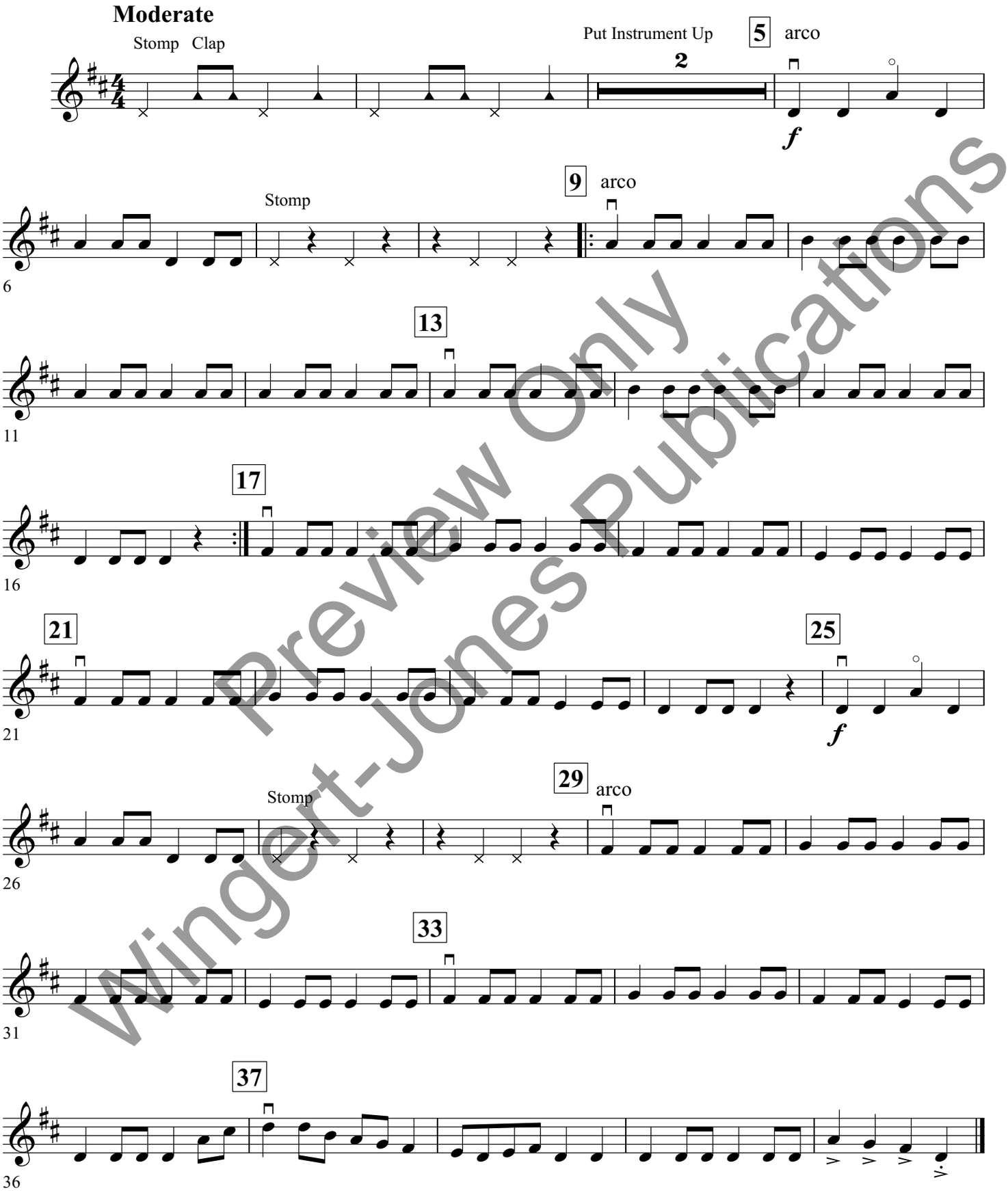
11. Boil Them Cabbage

American Fiddle Tune
arranged by Kathleen Horvath

This American folk song has had various lyrics associated with it. This piece was frequently used in the past (and the present) to teach young musicians how to play traditional folk music instruments, such as the fiddle, guitar, dulcimer, and banjo.



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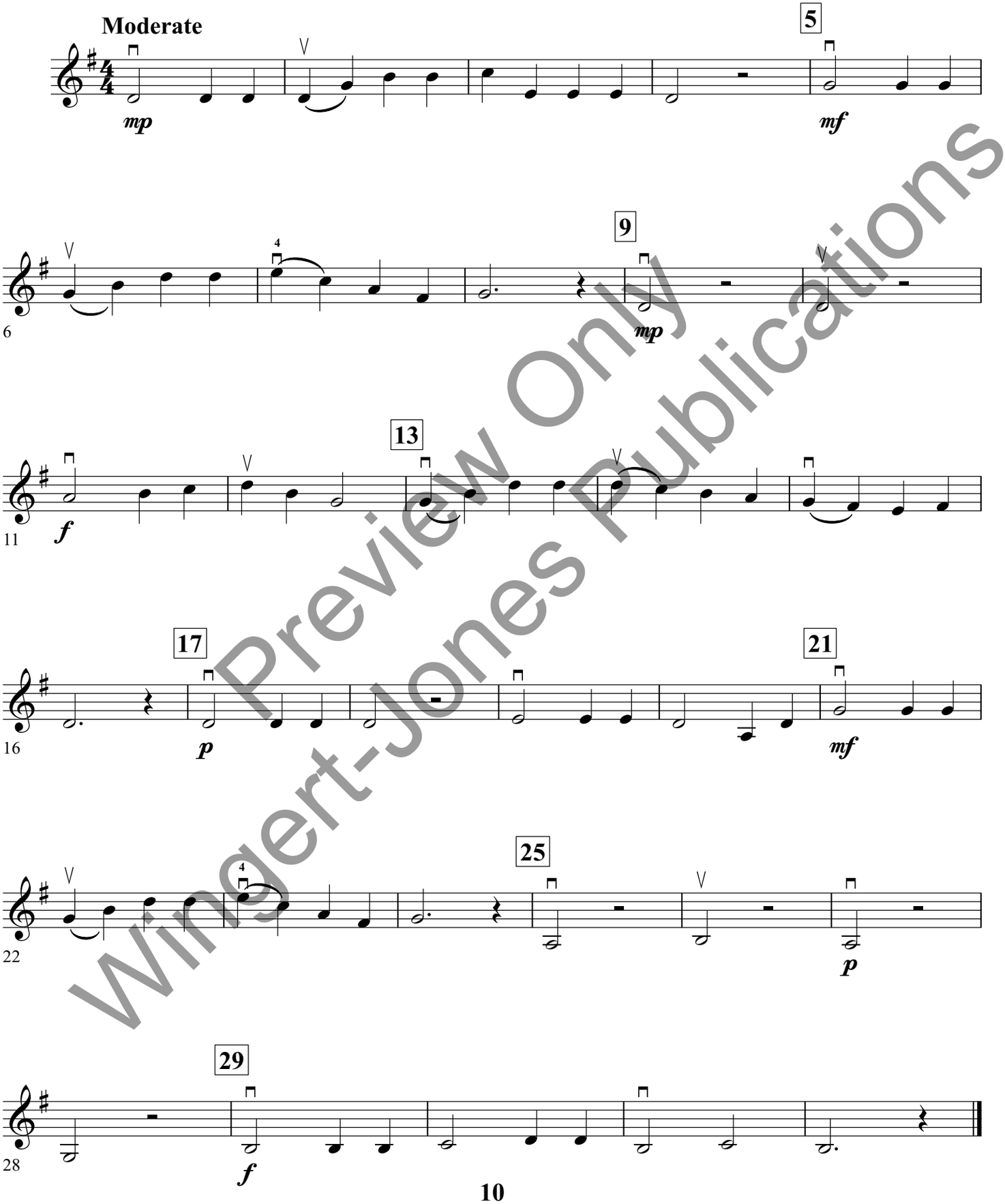
12. Early One Morning

English Folk Song
arranged by Robert D. McCashin

This English folk song was first published in the 1850's, while the lyrics were published earlier, in the 1780's. One can find a number of recordings of this piece by contemporary artists.



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13. Merry Widow Waltz

Franz Lehar
arranged by Robert D. McCashin

"The Merry Widow Waltz," composed by Austro-Hungarian composer Franz Lehar (1870-1948) is from his operetta, The Merry Widow. After the Vienna premier in 1905, The Merry Widow became the most internationally well-known operetta of its time.

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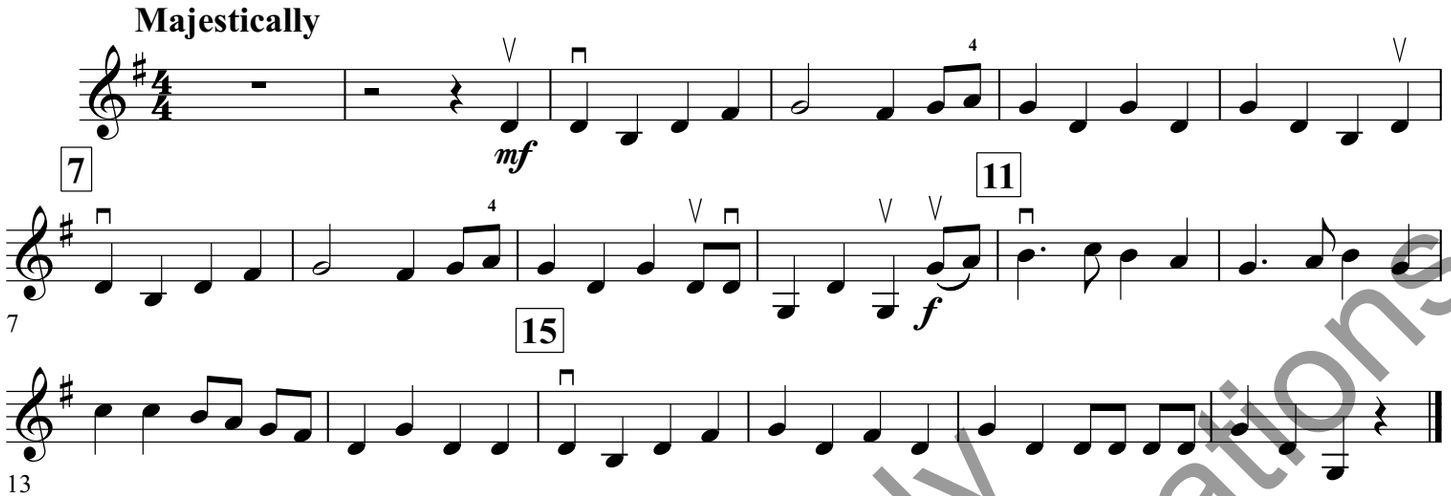
14. The British Grenadiers

Traditional
arranged by Brenda Mitchell

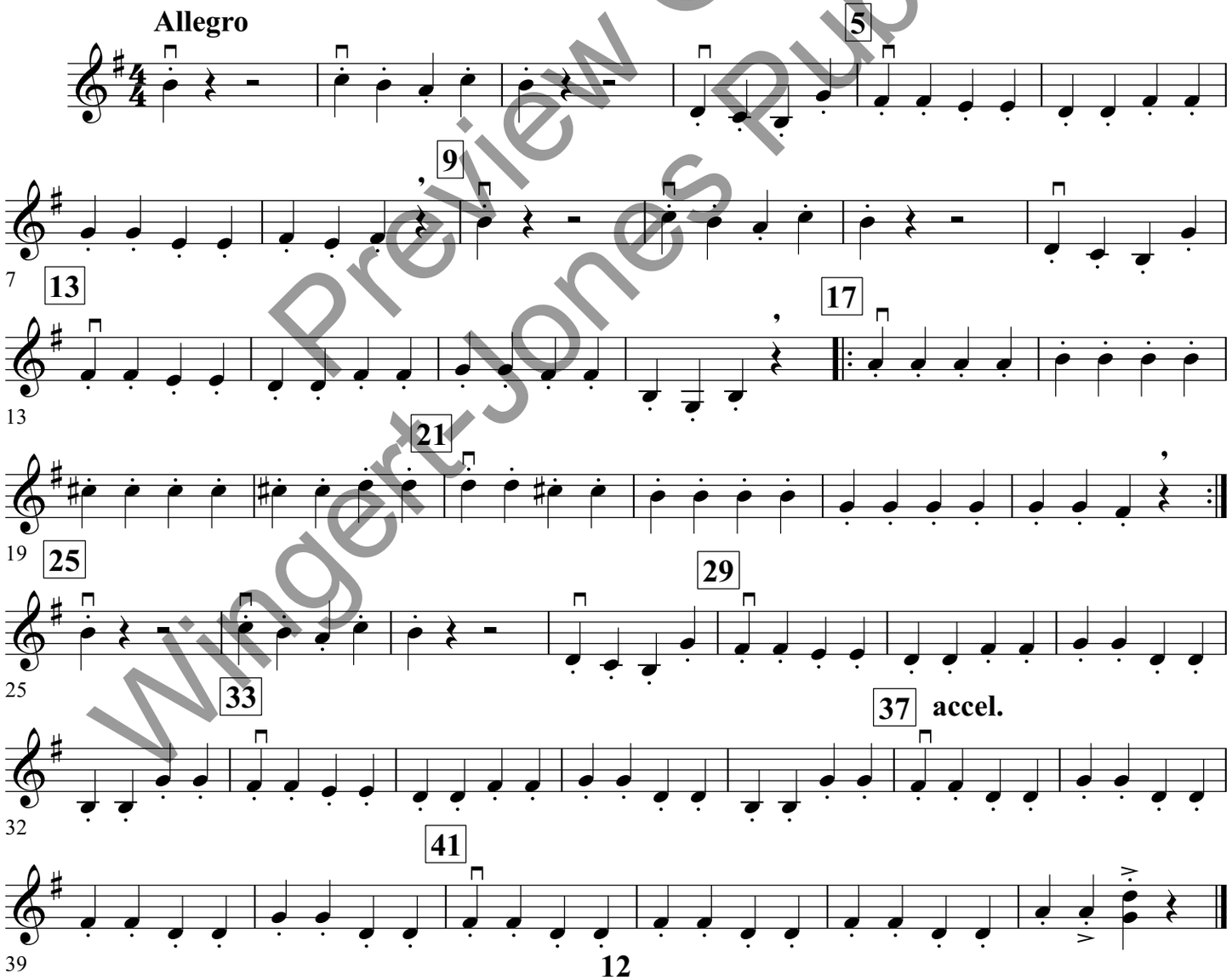
"Grenadiers" originally carried grenades, but eventually the "grenadiers" were chosen for their size and physical strength. This tune is played for British and Canadian military forces each June at the Trooping the Colour ceremony celebrating the British sovereign's birthday.



15. Trepak

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
arranged by Robert D. McCashin

Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) based the "Trepak" in his ballet The Nutcracker on the traditional Ukrainian dance. The quick tempo and lively rhythms reflect the lively nature of this dance, traditionally performed by men.



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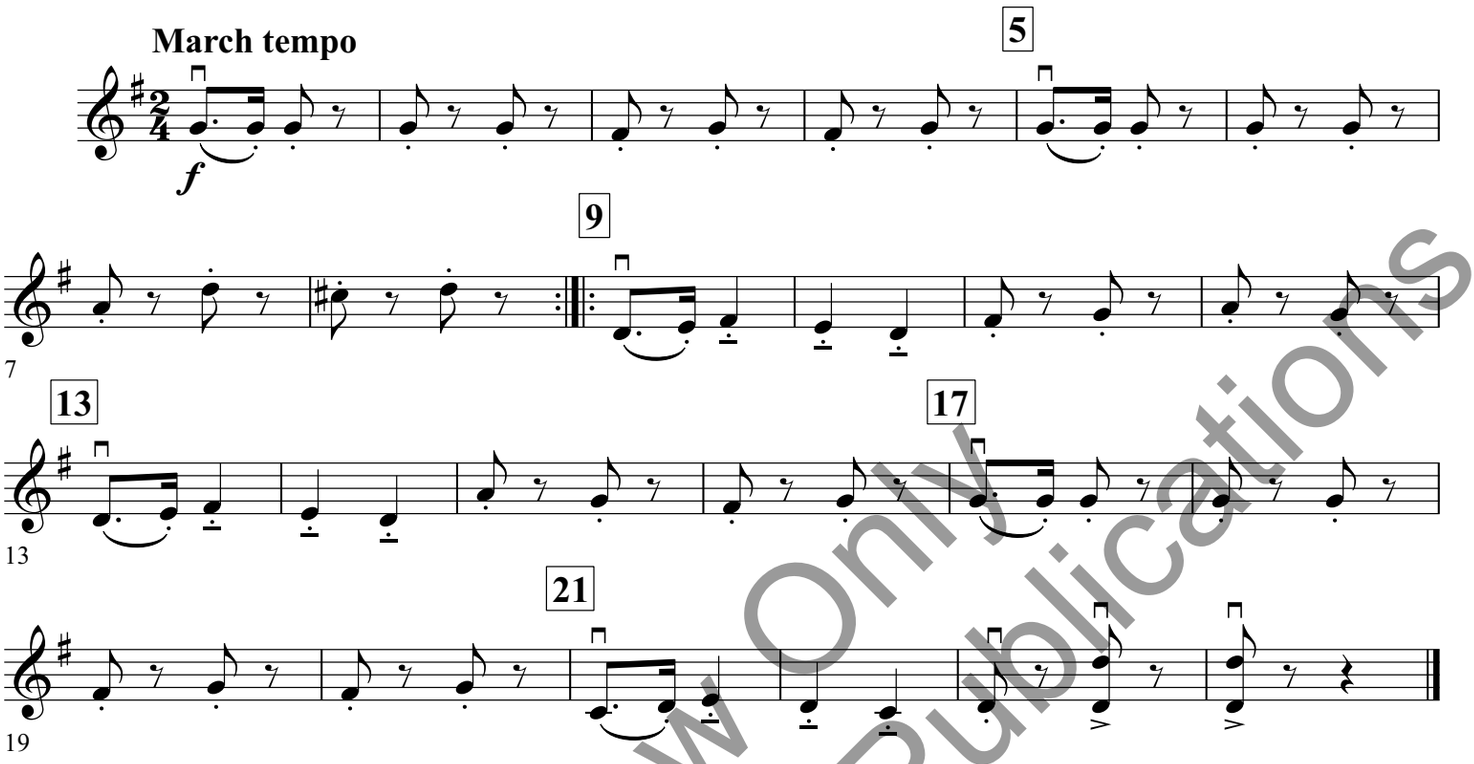
16. Soldier's March

Robert Schumann
arranged by Robert D. McCashin

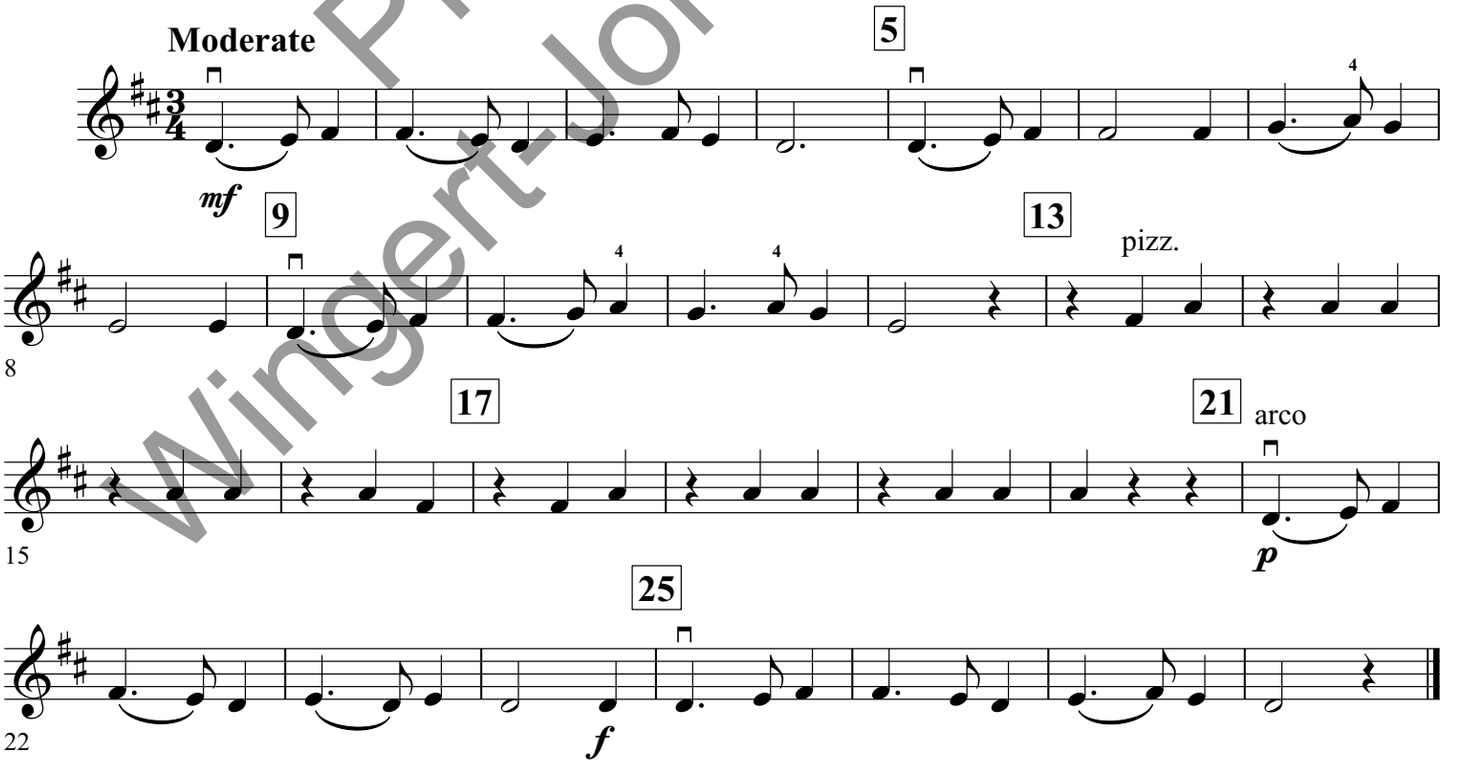
Robert Schumann (1810-1856) wrote "Soldier's March" for piano, as part of the larger work, Album for the Young Op. 68, written in 1848. Schumann composed this work for his three young daughters. Album for the Young is playable by young musicians.



17. What Shall I Give to the Child in the Manger?

Spanish Carol
arranged by Brenda Mitchell

This is on old Catalan carol. Catalonia is a region of Spain, with France to the north and the Mediterranean Sea to the east. Barcelona is a major city in Catalonia, which has a strong cultural heritage and a sense of independence. Major people from Catalonia include cellist Pablo Casals, artist Salvador Dali, and architect Antoni Gaudi.



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18. The Great Gate of Kiev

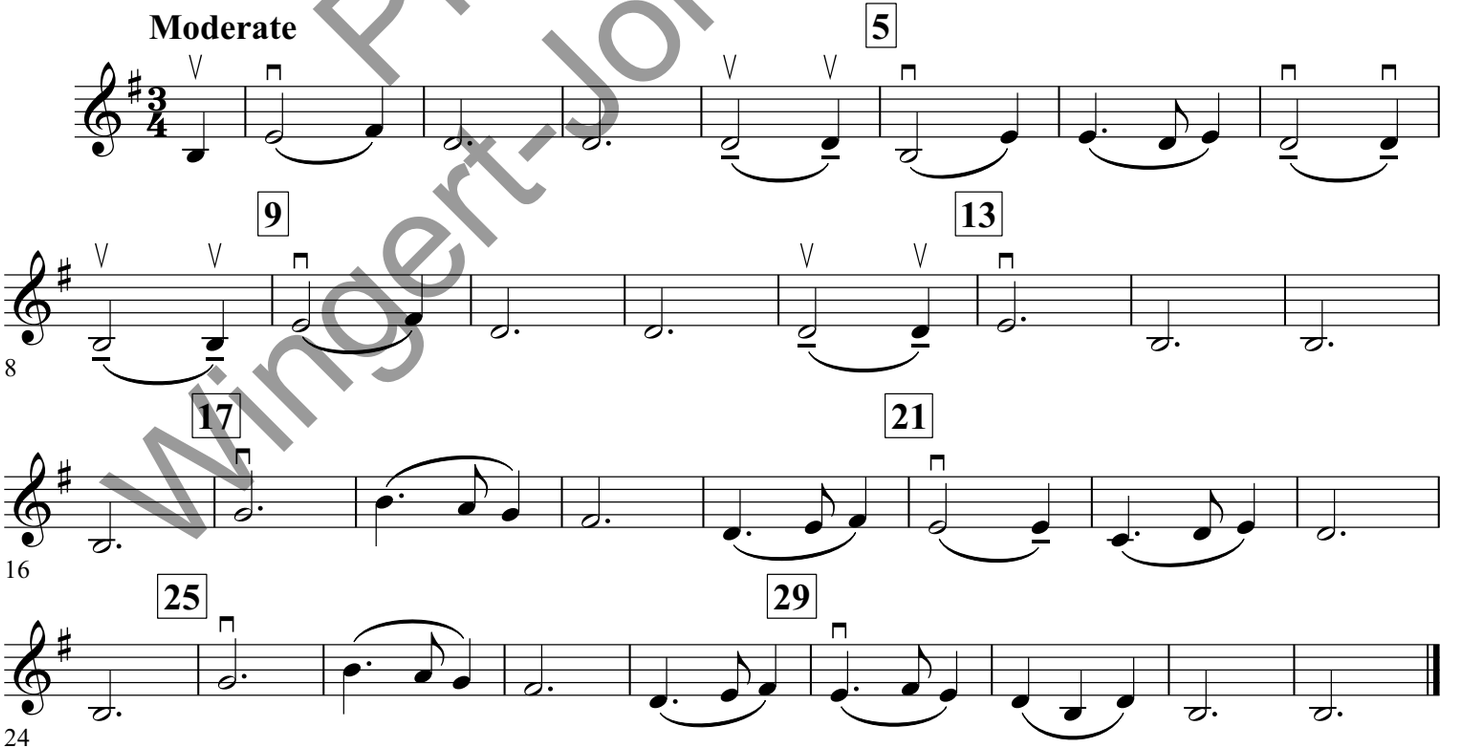
Modest Mussorgsky
arranged by Robert D. McCashin

Russian composer Modest Mussorgsky (1839-1881) composed "The Great Gate of Kiev" for piano in 1874. It is part of a multi-movement work, Pictures at an Exhibition, written in memory of Mussorgsky's friend Viktor Harmann. The ten movements are musical depictions of ten watercolors by Hartmann. The piano version of Pictures at an Exhibition was orchestrated by several people, including the most-often-performed version by Maurice Ravel.

19. Greensleeves

English Traditional
arranged by Robert D. McCashin

This English folk song/ballad dates back to the 1500s. By the early 1600s William Shakespeare referenced "Greensleeves" in his play "The Merry Wives of Windsor." Various composers have used the Greensleeves melody as the basis for a work, including English composer Ralph Vaughan-Williams.



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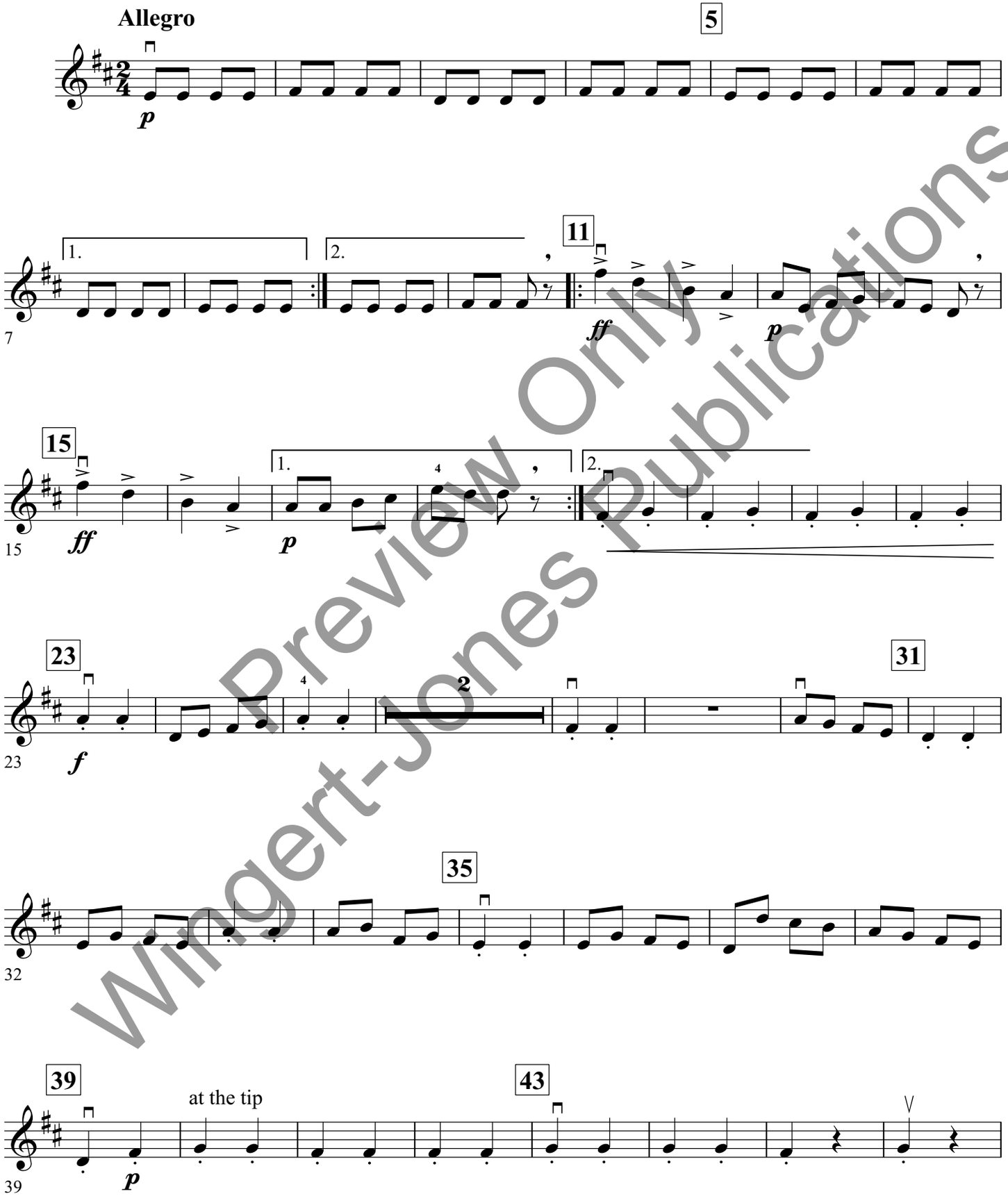
20. Can-Can

Jacques Offenbach
arranged by Kathleen Horvath

The "Can-Can" is an energetic dance that was performed by a women's chorus line. The dance featured flashy costumes and high leg kicks. Composer Jacques Offenbach (1819-1880) included the "Can Can" in his operetta, Orpheus in the Underworld.



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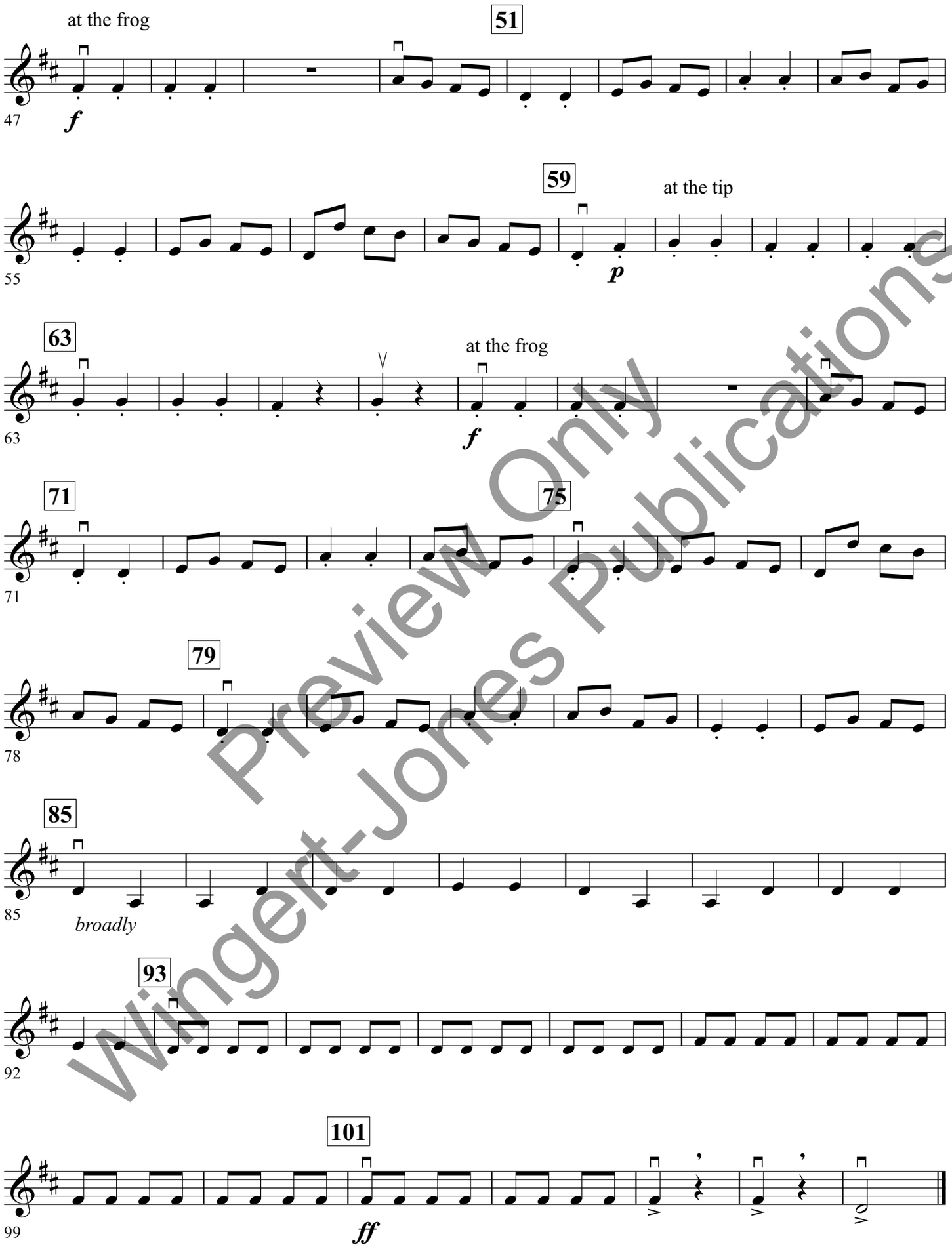

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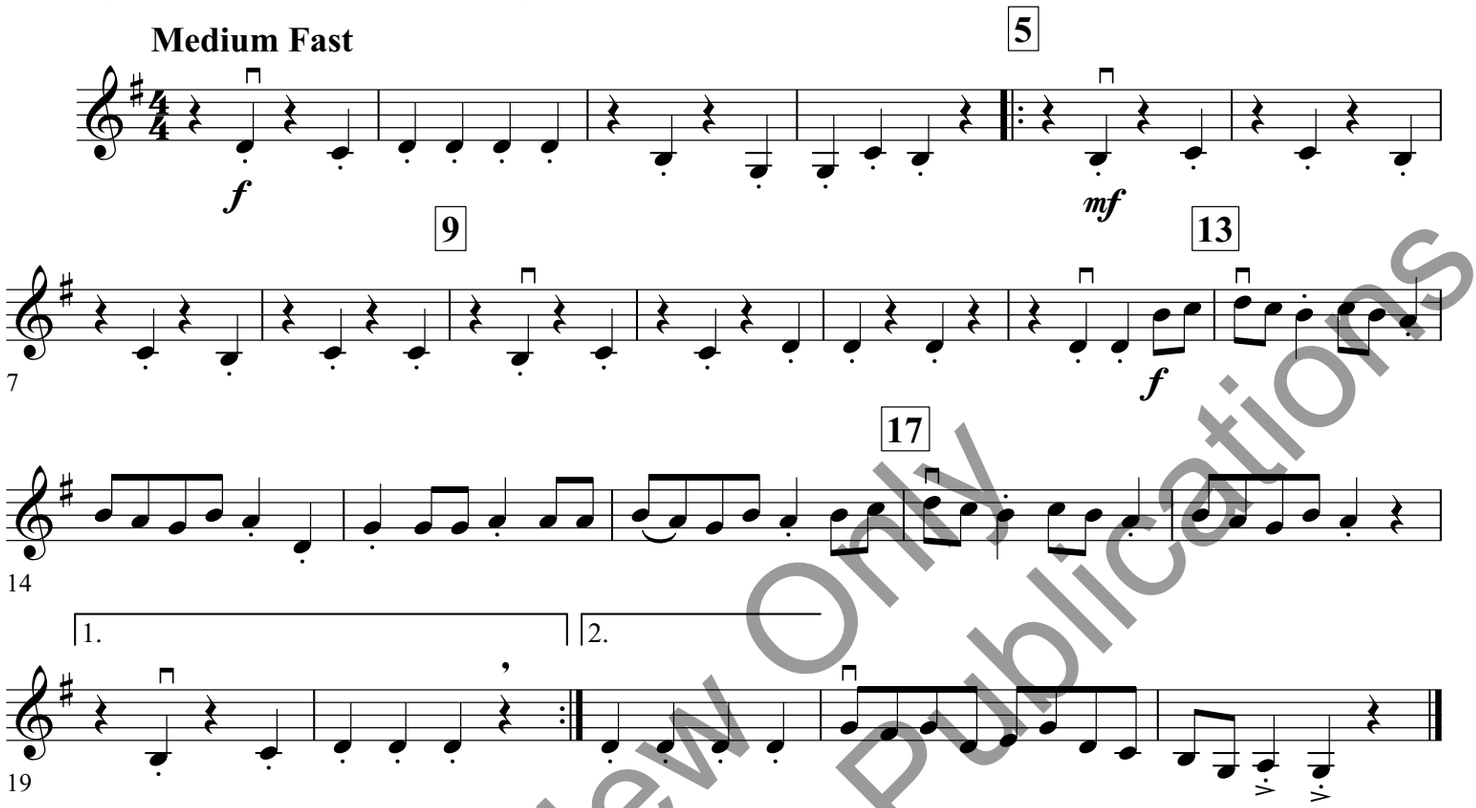
21. Arkansas Traveler

Traditional American
arranged by Robert D. McCashin

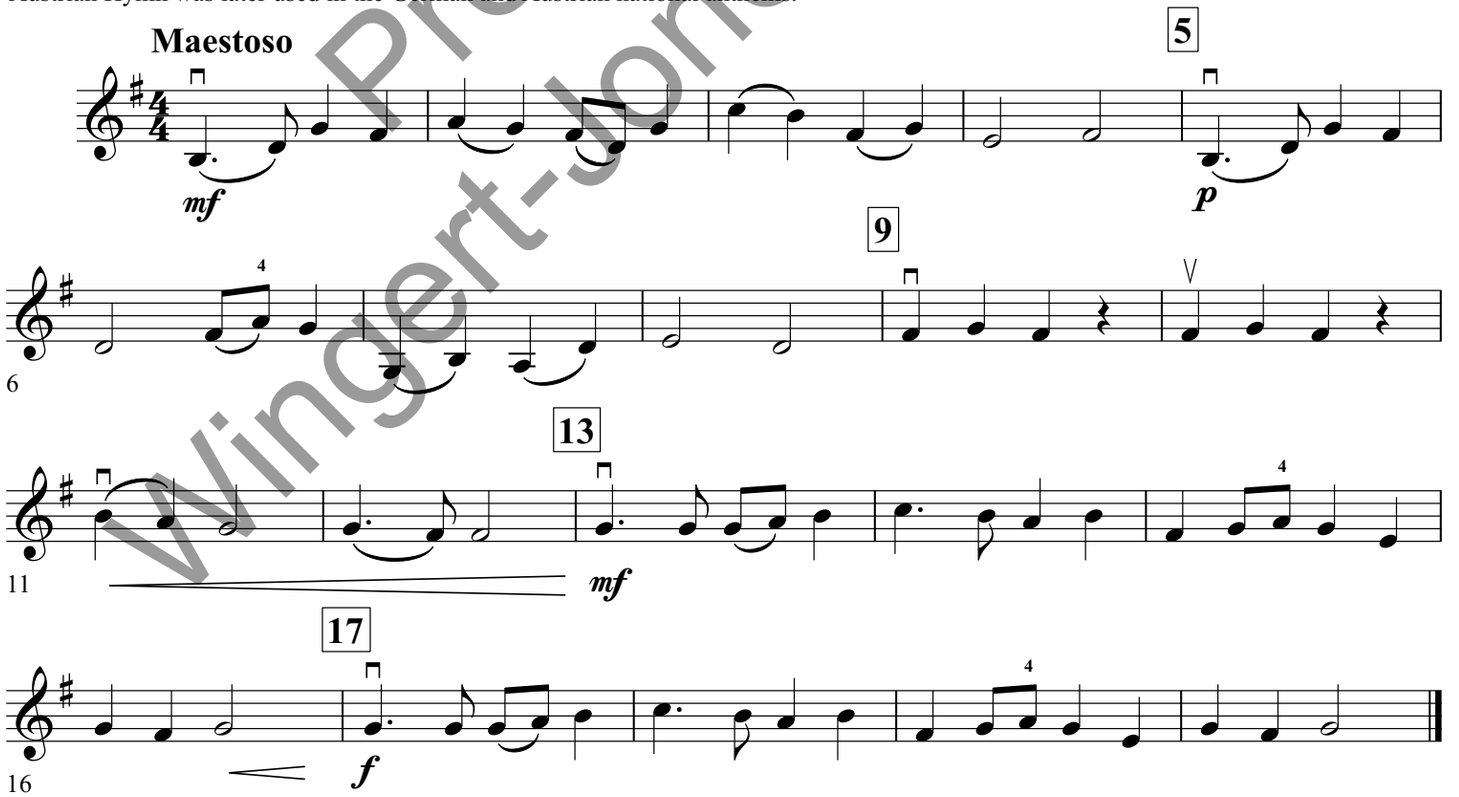
This lively fiddle tune has had several sets of lyrics written for it over the years. The composer was Colonel Sanford Faulkner. The music was first published in 1847, and was the state song for Arkansas from 1949-1963.



22. Austrian Hymn

Franz Joseph Haydn
arranged by Brenda Mitchell

Based on the theme from Haydn's String Quartet Op. 76, No. 3, 2nd mvt, this work is called the "Emperor" quartet. The theme for the Austrian Hymn was later used in the German and Austrian national anthems.



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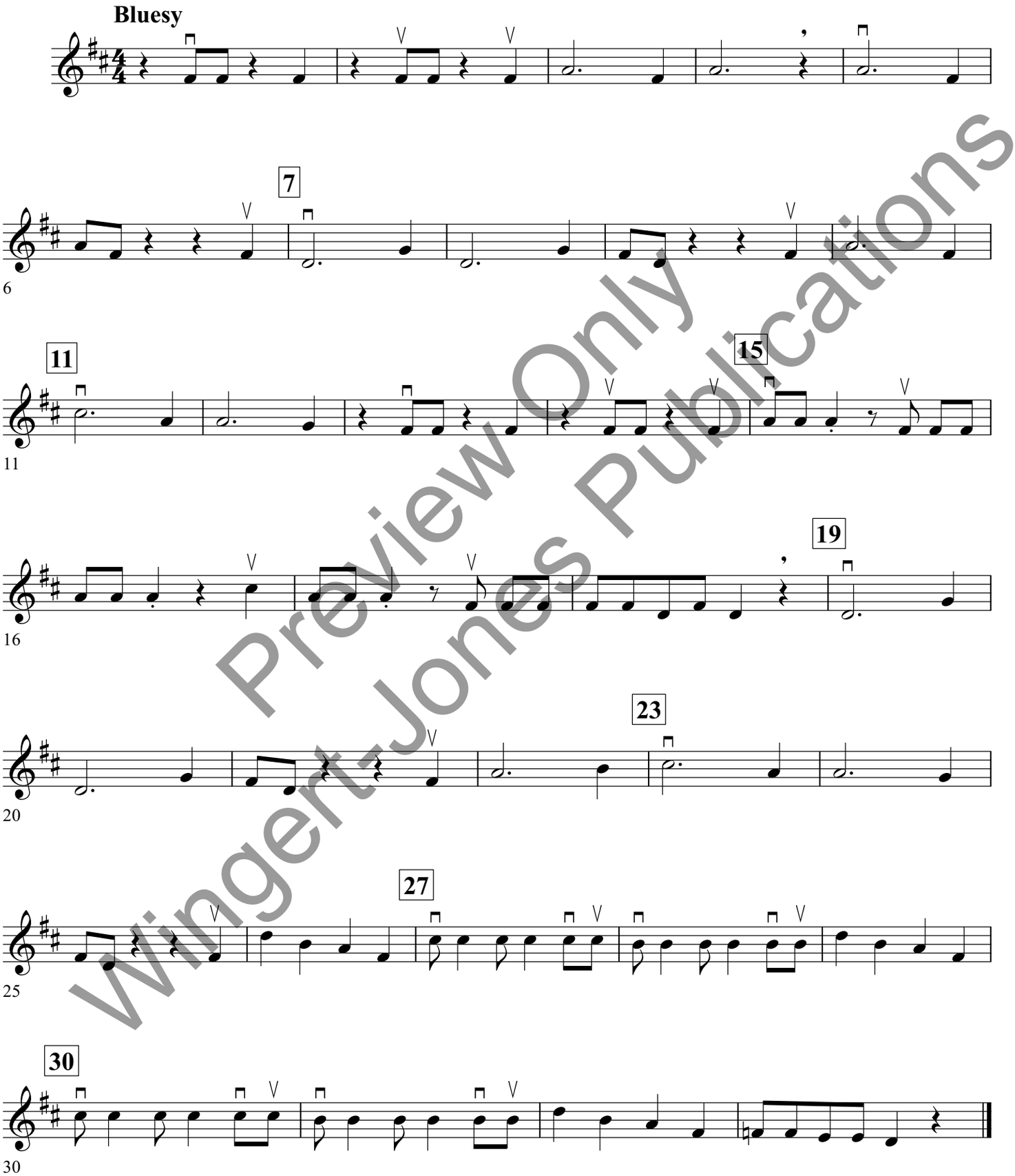
23. Downtown Detective

Kathleen Horvath

Repeated rhythmic blues motives in the lower strings are punctuated by the upper strings. This piece is reminiscent of television theme songs and movie scores from the 1960s and 70s with detectives relentlessly chasing criminals. The syncopated rhythms in the upper strings near the end heighten the dramatic feeling of this piece.



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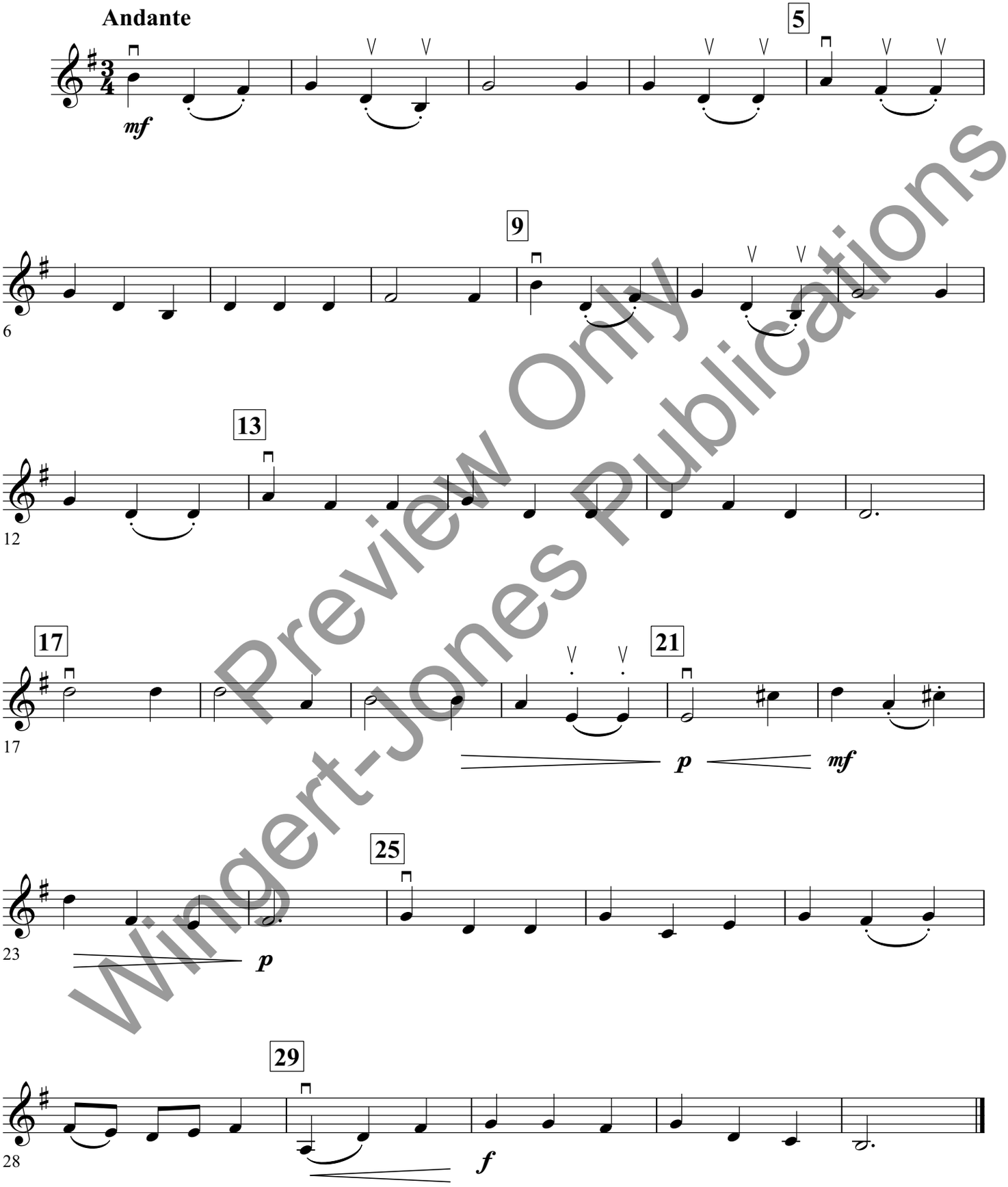
24. Minuet in G

J. S. Bach
arranged by Brenda Mitchell

Minuet in G is one of a number of pieces in the "Notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach," J. S. Bach's second wife. This minuet was originally composed for keyboard.



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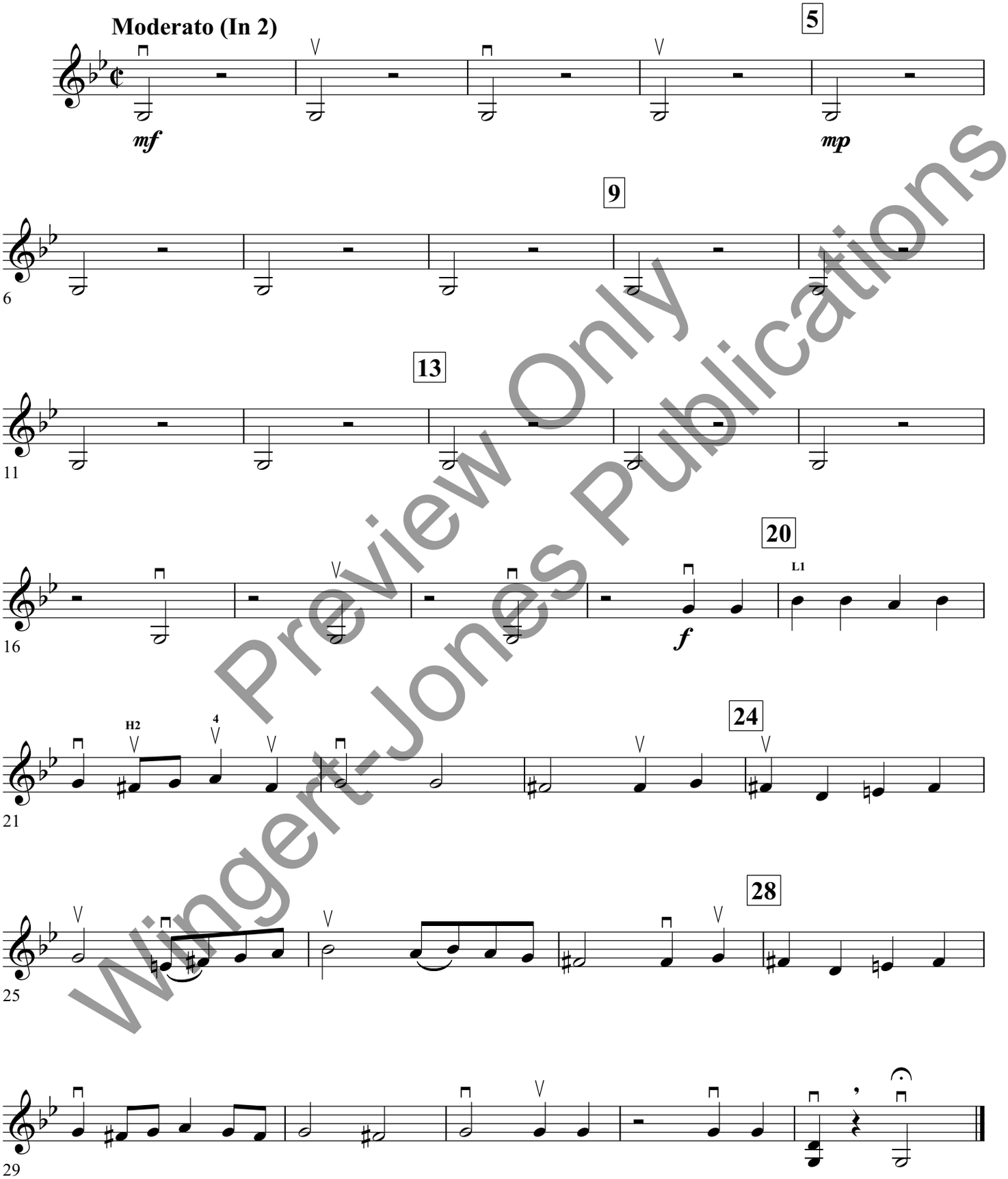
25. Pat-a-Pan

French Carol
arranged by Robert D. McCashin

This French carol, written by Bernard de La Monnoye (1641-1728) was first published in 1720. "Pat a Pan" refers to the drummer, while "tu-re-lu-re" in the lyrics references the flute. Shepherds play both drum and flute in this piece.



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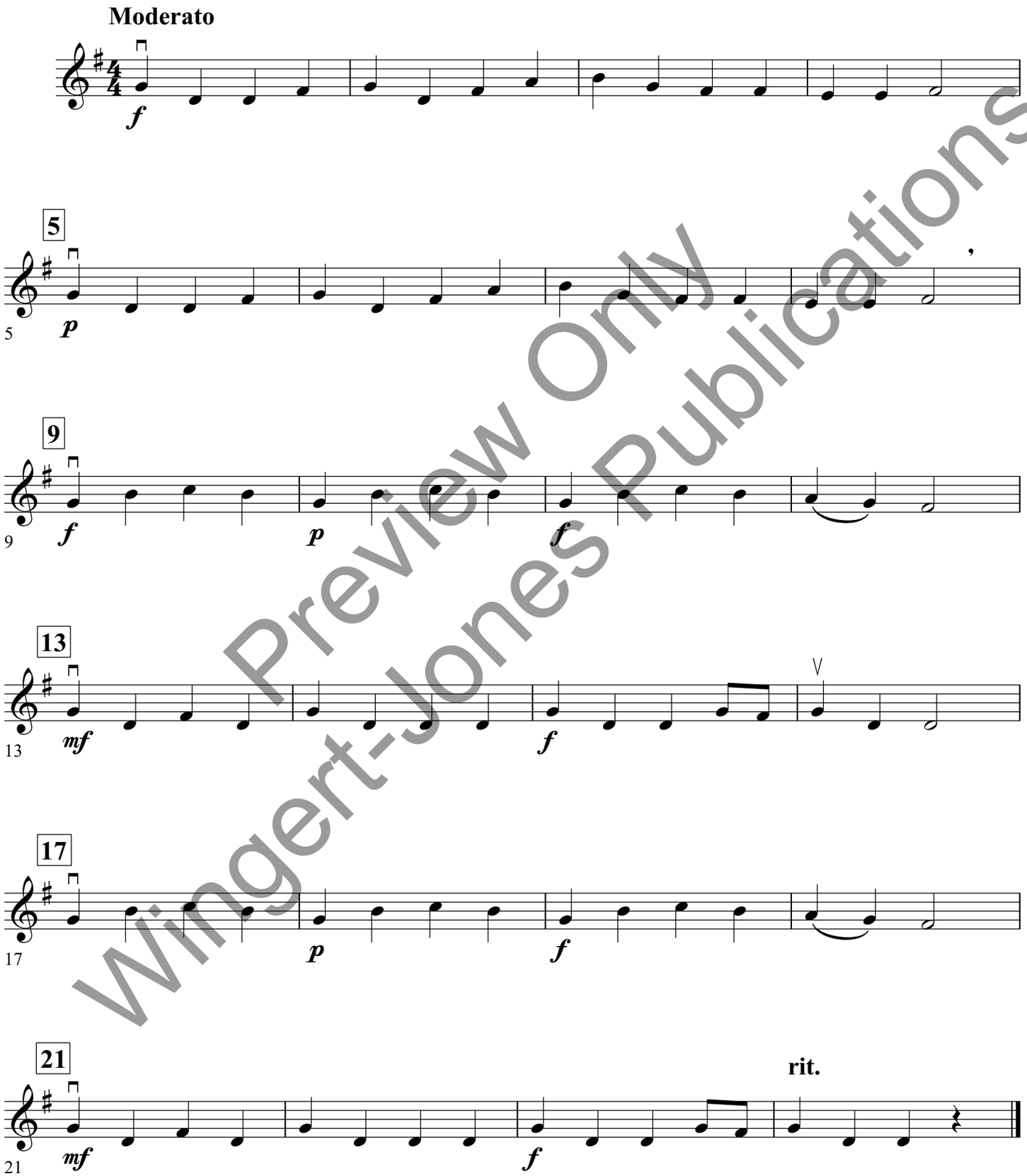
26. The Harmonius Blacksmith

George Frederic Handel
arranged by Brenda Mitchell

This arrangement is based on the last movement, Air and Variations, of Handel's Suite No. 5 for harpsichord. Interestingly, Handel never called this work "The Harmonious Blacksmith." This title first appeared in the 19th century.



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27. Rondeau

Jean-Joseph Mouret
arranged by Robert D. McCashin

Jean-Joseph Mouret (1682-1738) was a French composer. This "Rondeau" is one of his most enduring compositions, from the first Suite de symphonies. "Rondeau" is the French word for "rondo," a musical form the alternates a principal theme with one or more contrasting sections. The "Rondeau" is a frequently heard wedding processional. It was also the theme for the PBS Masterpiece Theatre series.

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28. Scotland the Brave

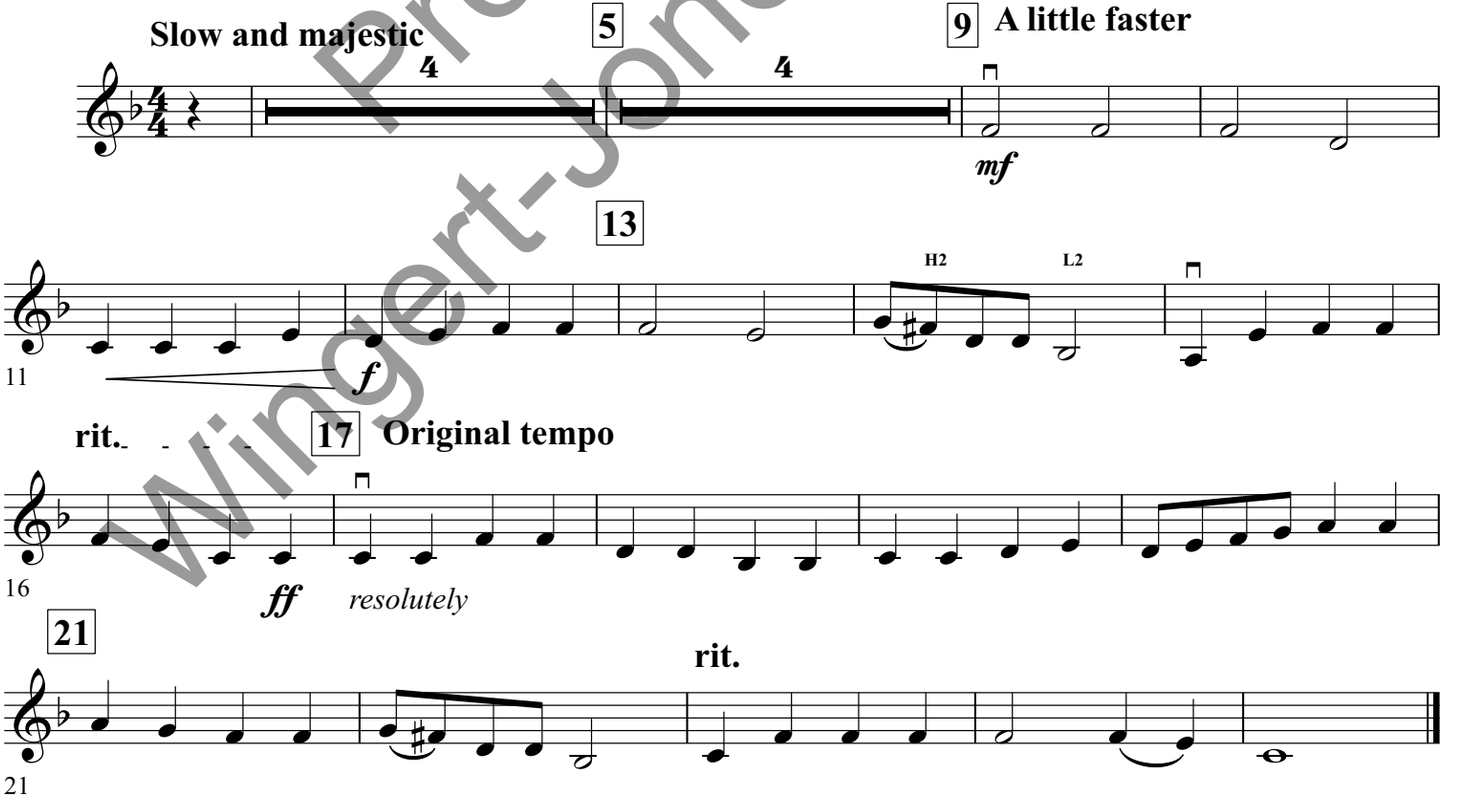
Traditional
arranged by Joanne Erwin

This patriotic work is considered Scotland's unofficial national anthem. The melody was written around 1900; lyrics were written later, around 1951. "Scotland the Brave" is frequently performed by pipe bands (bagpipes and drums).

29. Loch Lomond

Scottish Traditional
arranged by Joanne Erwin

Loch Lomond is a Scottish lake. The song "Loch Lomond" was published in 1841, written by an unknown composer. The tune has existed as a song from the 1700s.



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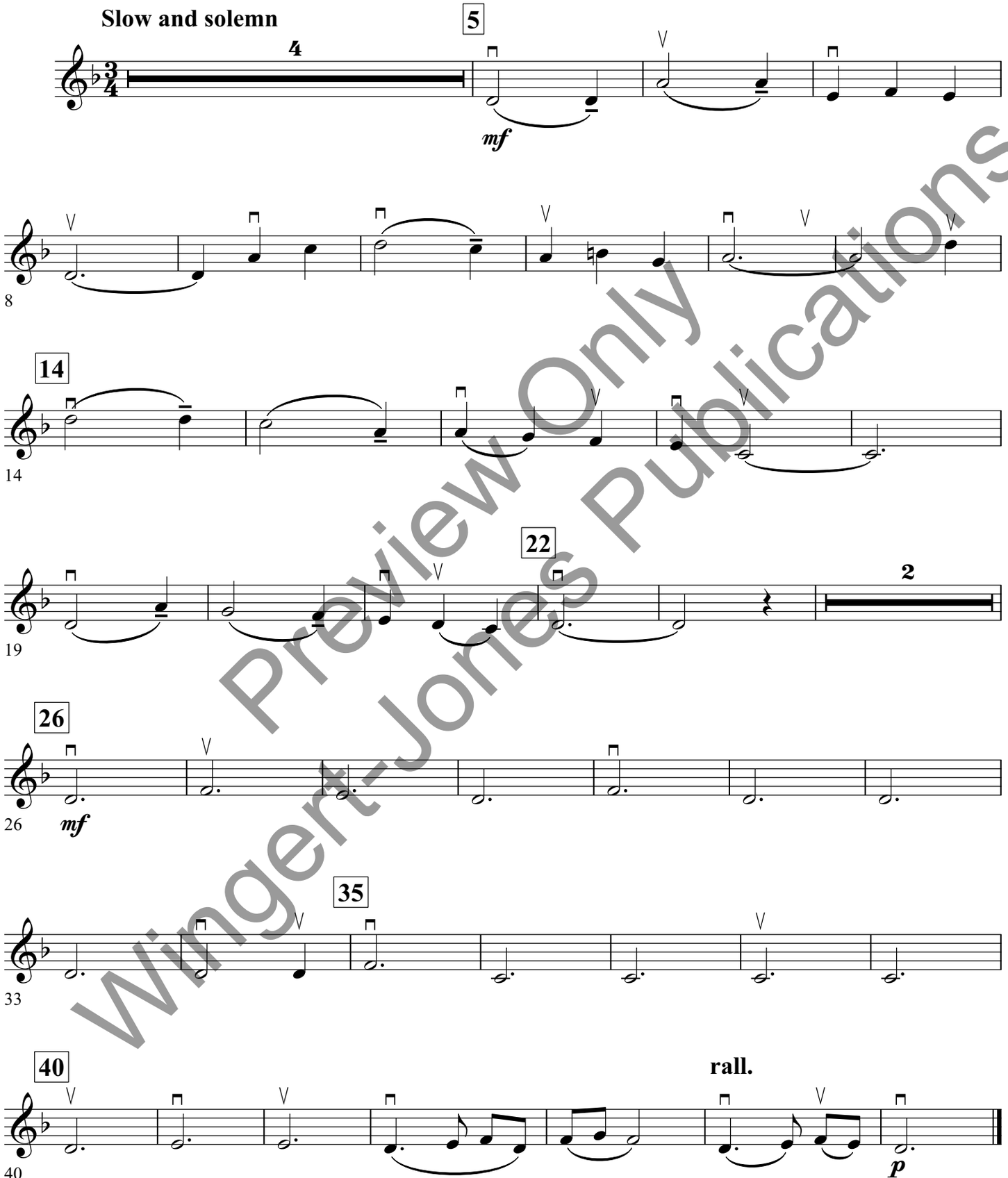
30. Scarborough Faire

English Traditional
arranged by Robert D. McCashin

Scarborough is a town in the Yorkshire region of England. This traditional ballad, dating back to at least the 1500s, has a lovely minor/modal melody. Many adaptations and versions of this timeless tune exist.



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