PIANO PROFICIENCY EXAM REQUIREMENTS

***Bachelor of Music: Education, Classical Performance*, and Composition** Concentrations:*

Complete all Areas 1 - 6

**Classical Performance Piano Majors are exempt from this exam*

***Bachelor of Music: Education** Concentration (**Keyboard Majors** only)*

Complete Areas 2 - 7

***Bachelor of Music: Jazz Studies** Concentration and **Bachelor of Arts** (<u>including</u> pianists):*

Complete Area 1, Area 2, Area 4, and Area 5

Area 1: **Major Scales:** C, D, E, F, G, A, B, D_b, G_b;

Harmonic Minor Scales: cm, dm, em, fm, gm, am

*two octaves with proper scale fingerings, hands separately at a moderated speed (70/2 notes)

Chord Progression in the Major keys above (hands together with LH single notes, pedaled): **I-vi-IV-ii$_6$-I$^6_4$-V$_7$-I**

Chord Progression in the Minor keys above (hands together with LH single notes, pedaled): **i-VI-iv-i$^6_4$-V$_7$-i**

Suggested speed: 60/chord

Area 2: **Two Solo pieces**

1. One piece or movement from Baroque or Classical Era;
2. 2. One piece from Romantic or 20th Century Era

**each piece should be at least 3-minute long, and must be the standard repertoire*

Area 3: **Frackenpohl Reading (prepare ALL)**

A. <u>Accompanying Style:</u>
   1. Fine Knacks for Ladies
   2. Lacrymosa
   3. Mississippi Rag
   4. En Habana

B. <u>Choral Style:</u>
   1. Andantino (Burgmüller)
   2. Chorale (Schop)

C. <u>Solo Excerpts:</u>
   1. Beethoven Sonatina
   2. Dolly's Funeral
   3. Diabelli
   4. Little Brown Jug

D. <u>Score Reading:</u> **check directions carefully*
   1. Pg. 185, no. 10 (prepare all 2-voice combinations)
   2. Pg. 199, no. 33
   3. Pg. 198, no. 31
   4. Pg. 96, no. 9 (saxophone & bass line)

Area 4: Sight-Reading commensurate with level of advancement

Area 5: A. <u>Melody Book</u>: **"Yesterday," "Over the Rainbow,"** <u>and</u> **"Entertainer"**

Play a prepared left-hand appropriate accompaniment while playing the melody in the right hand

**Check directions for each song carefully*

B. <u>Play and Sing</u> **"Happy Birthday"** with waltz-style accompaniment in the key of F Major.

**Waltz Style: right-hand chords and left-hand single notes (L-R-R, L-R-R, …)*

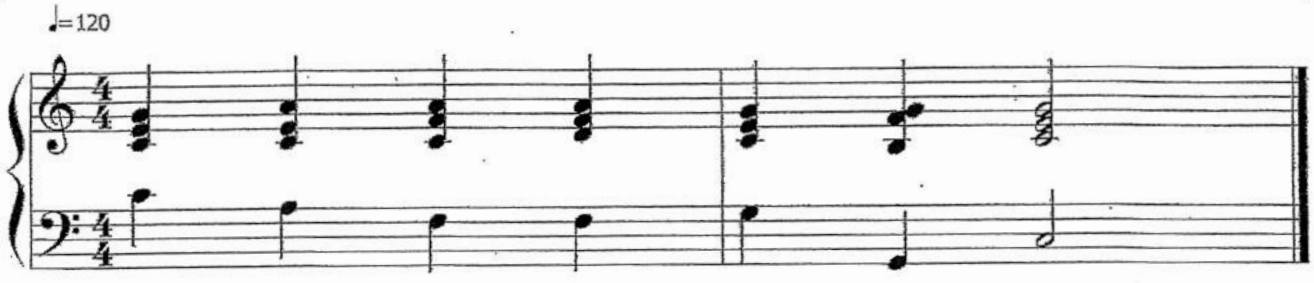
Area 6: A fluent performance of the Star-Spangled Banner in A-flat Major, with proper pedaling

Area 7: *for Education Concentration **<u>Keyboard Majors only</u>** - 4 octaves of all major, harmonic, and melodic minor scales; all major, minor, fully diminished seventh and dominant seventh arpeggios at a moderate speed, with correct fingerings; and the following pedaled chord progressions (single note in LH and chords in RH):

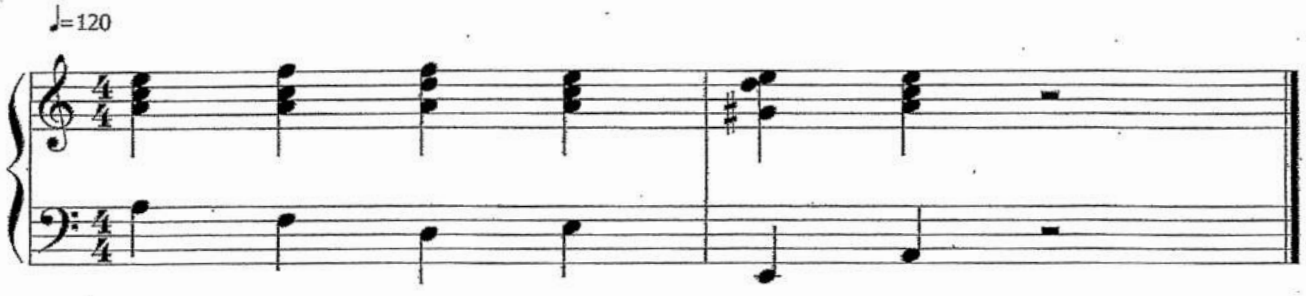
Major: I-vi-IV-ii6-I64-V7-I minor: i-VI-iv-i64-V7-i

[Chord Progression Formats]

Chord Progression (Major)

Format

I vi IV ii_6 I^6_4 V_7 I

Chord Progression (Minor)

Format

i VI iv i^6_4 V_7 i

AREA 3

EXCERPTS

[Frackenpohl Reading] A. Accompanying Style *prepare the piano accompaniment part ONLY

2. Fine Knacks for Ladies

Fast — Dowland

Voice

mf

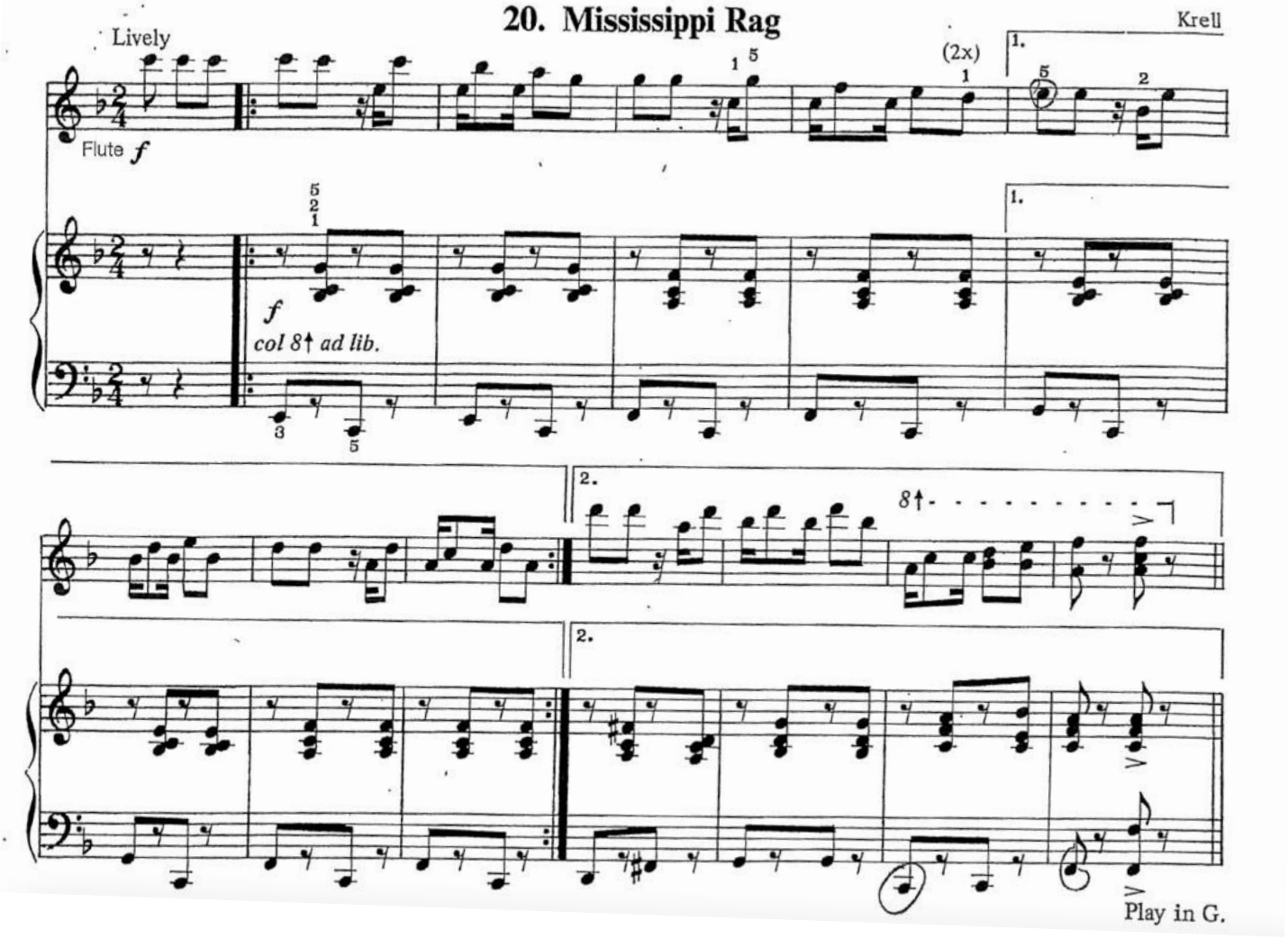
Piano

mf

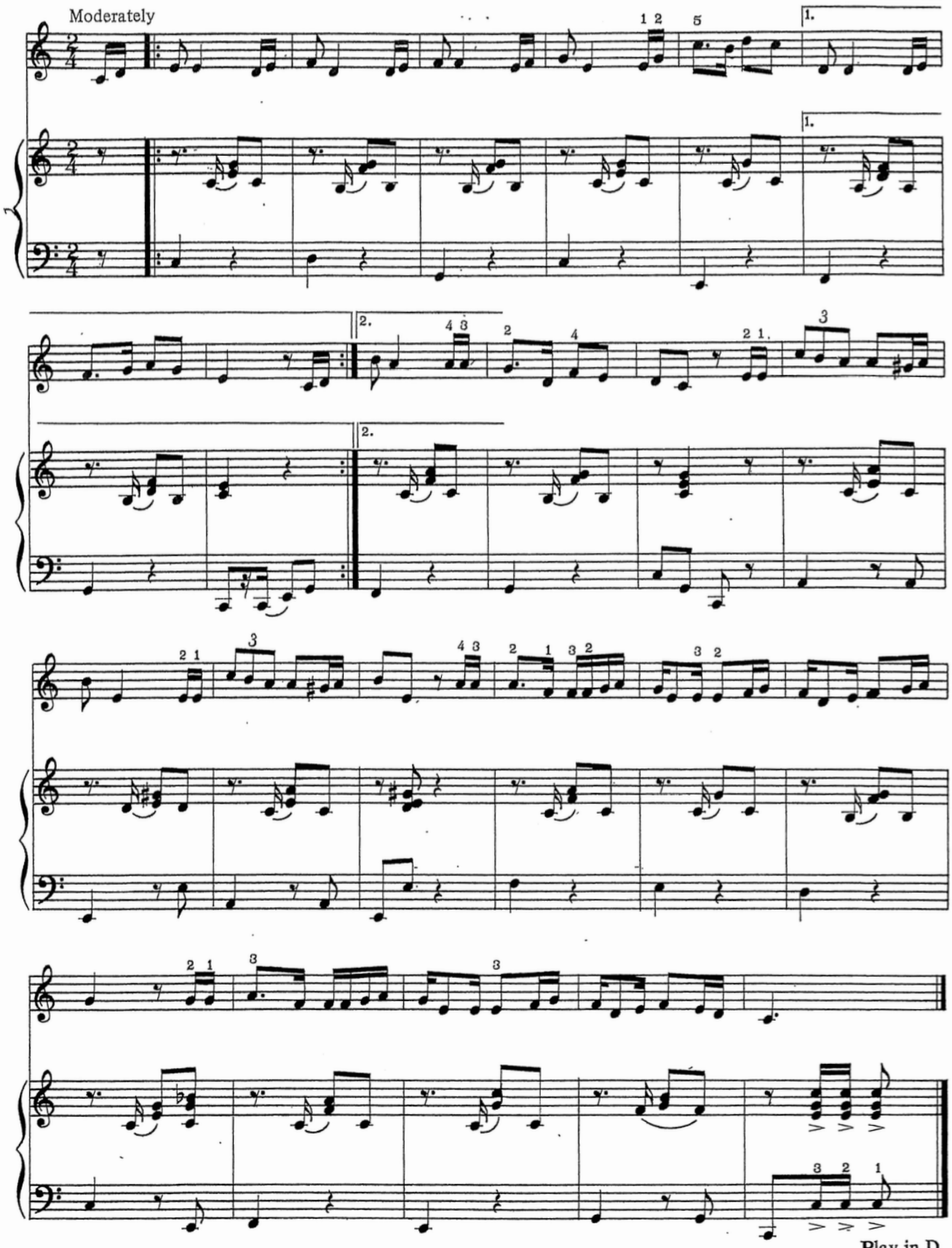
12. Lacrymosa, *Requiem*

Largo — Verdi

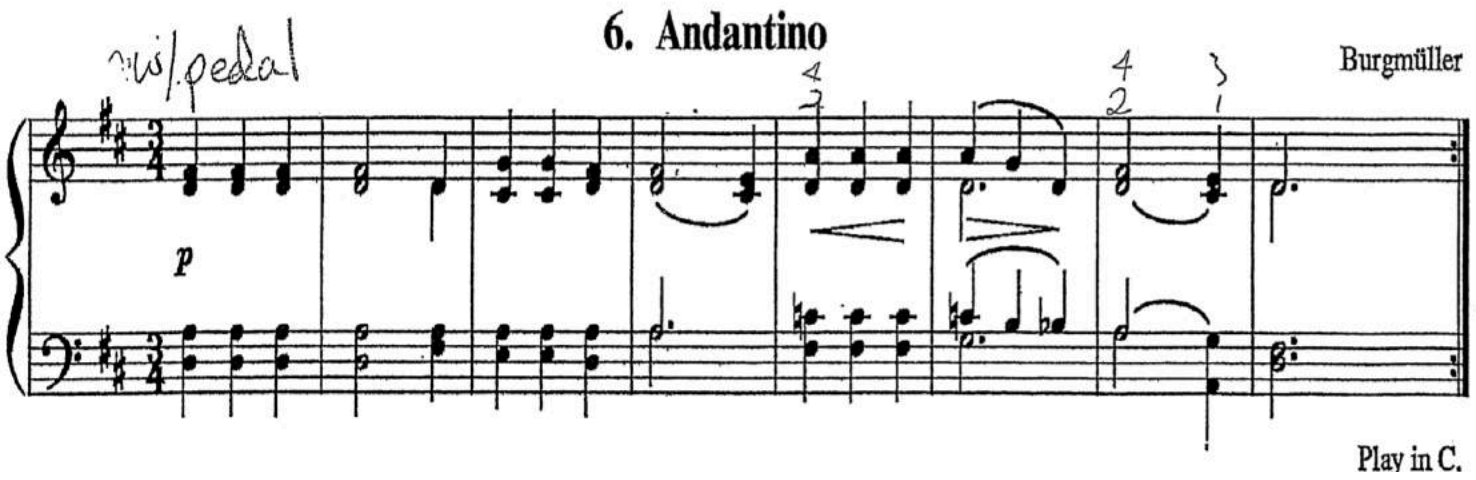
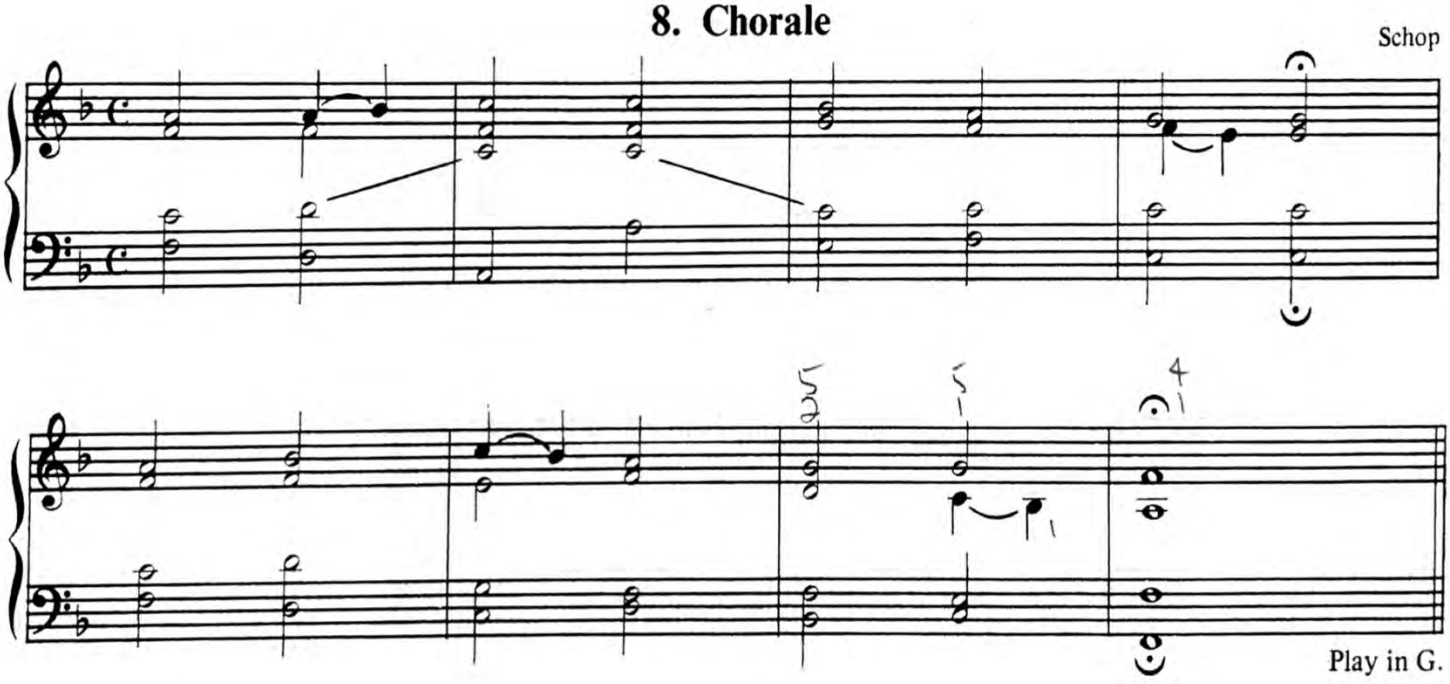
p

p

20. Mississippi Rag
Krell
Lively
Flute f
(2x)
1.
2.
f
col 8↑ ad lib.
8↑
Play in G.

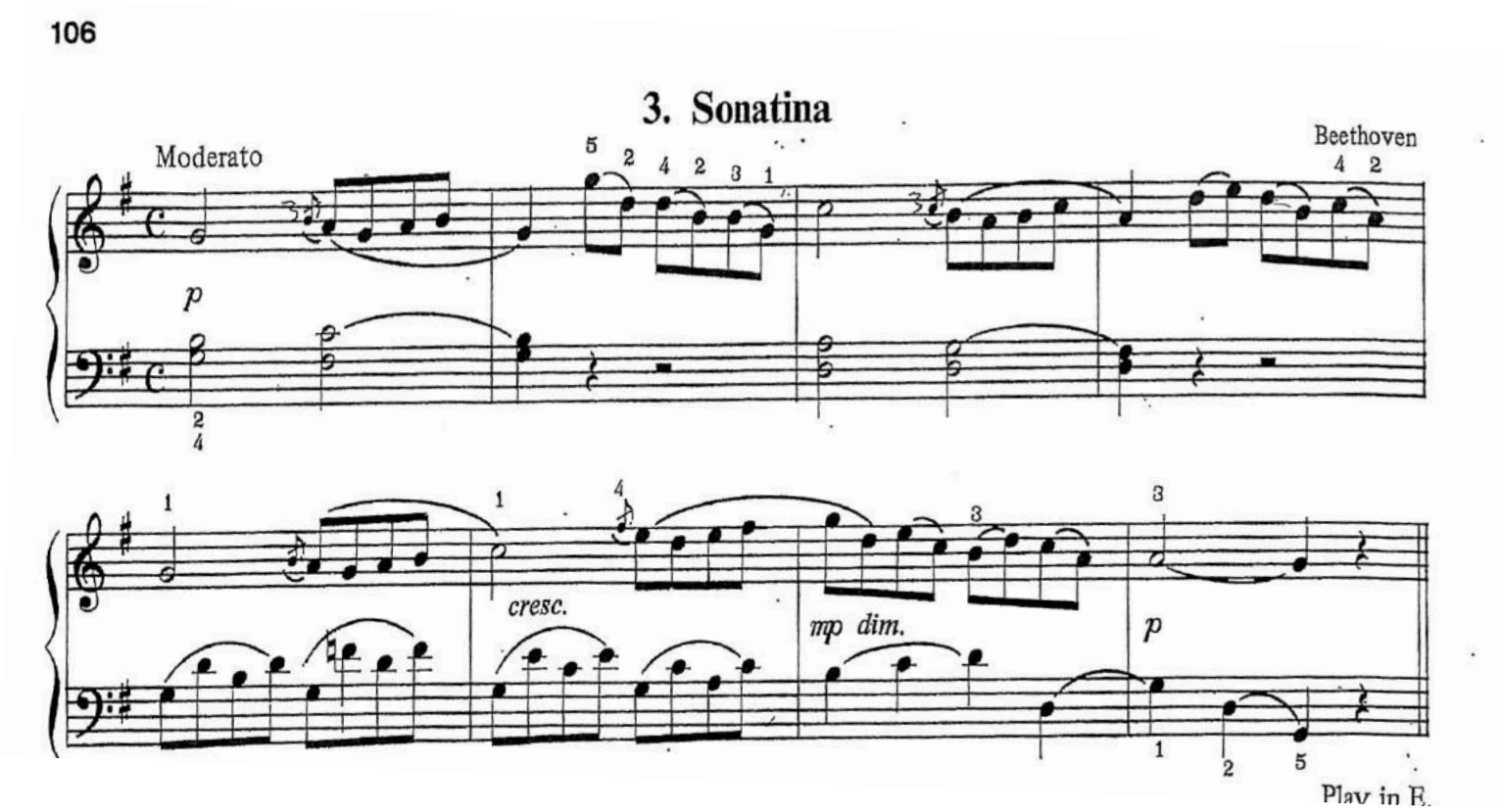
7. En Habaña

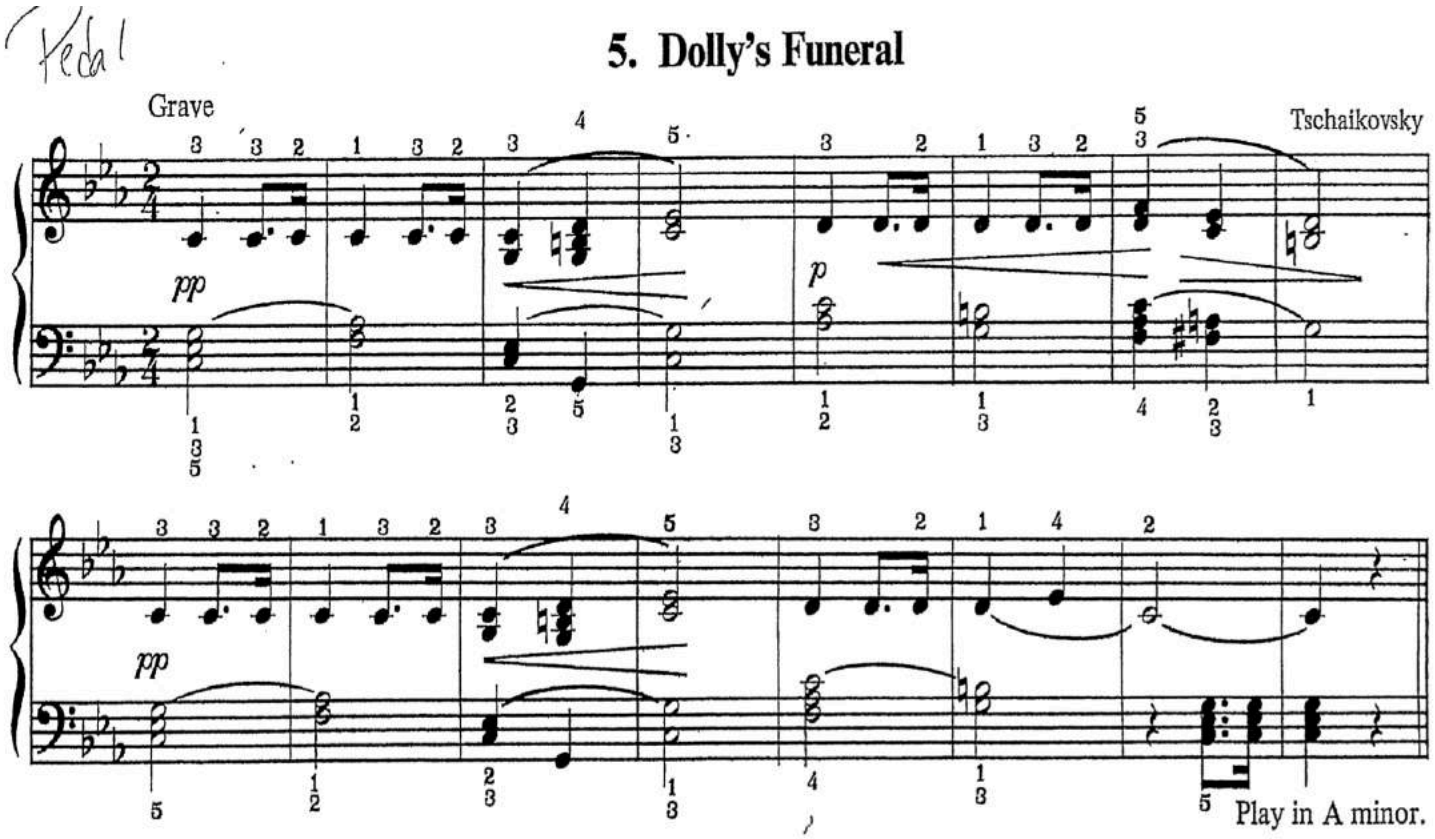
Latin American

Play in D.

Easier pieces in the preceding section are 1, 2, 5, and 6.

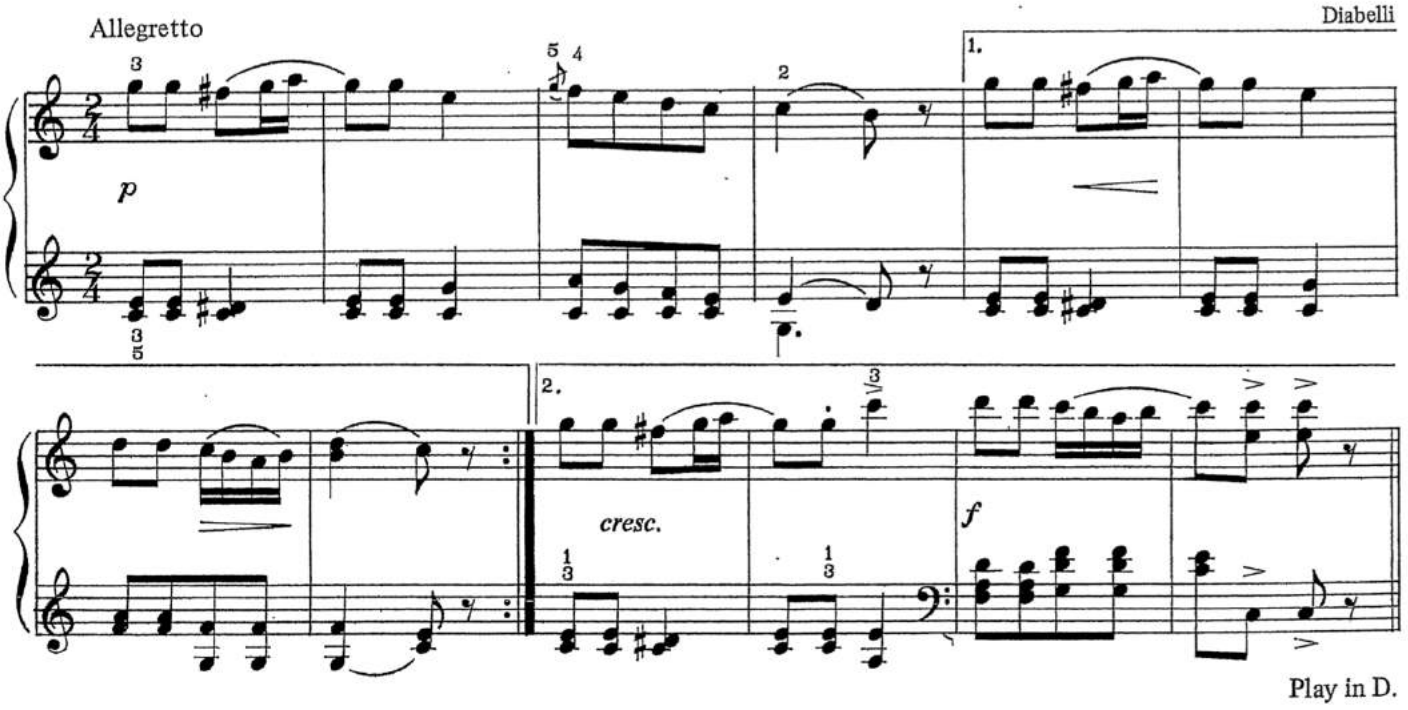
[Frackenpohl Reading] B. Choral Style



[Frackenpohl Reading] C. Solo Excerpts





6.

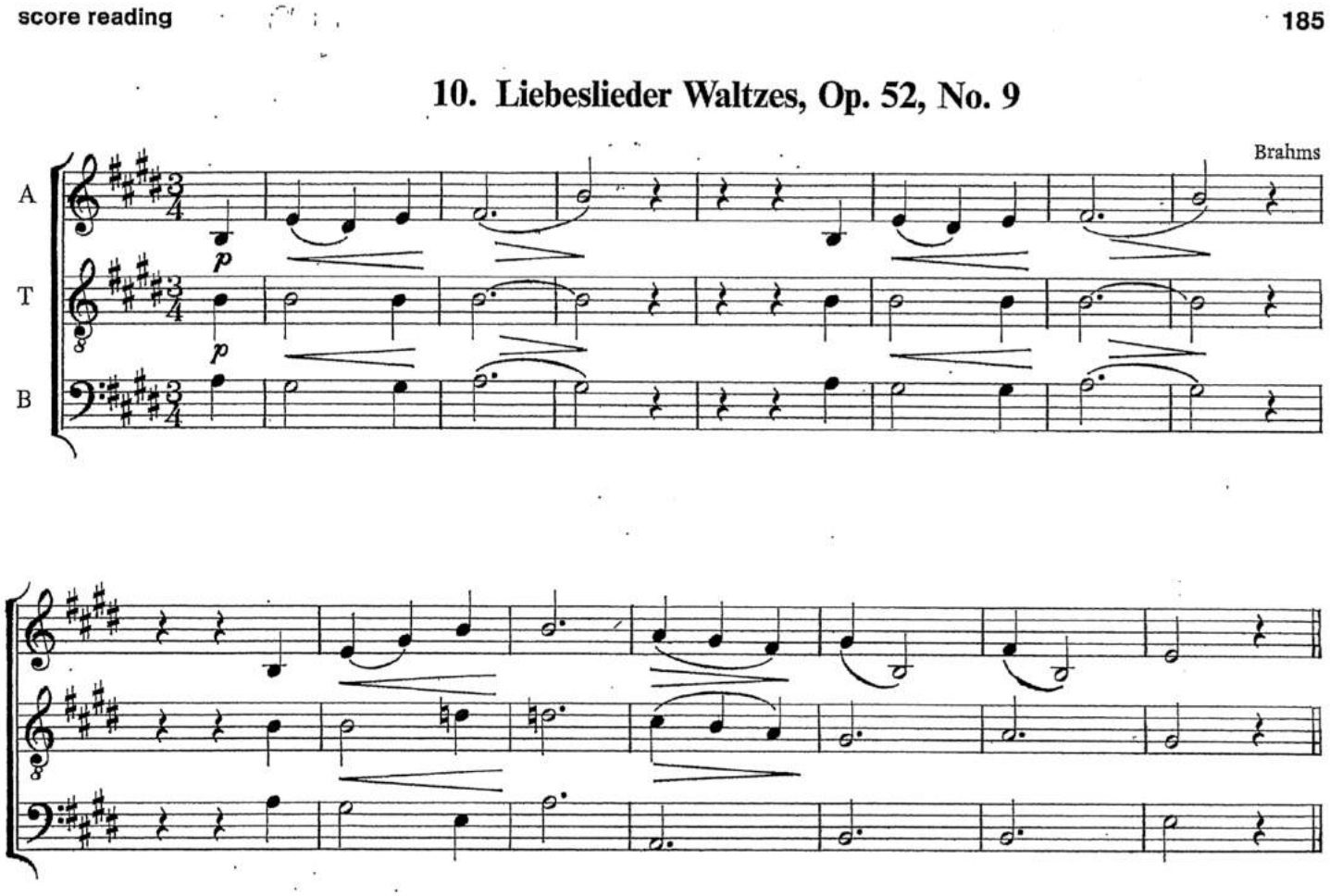


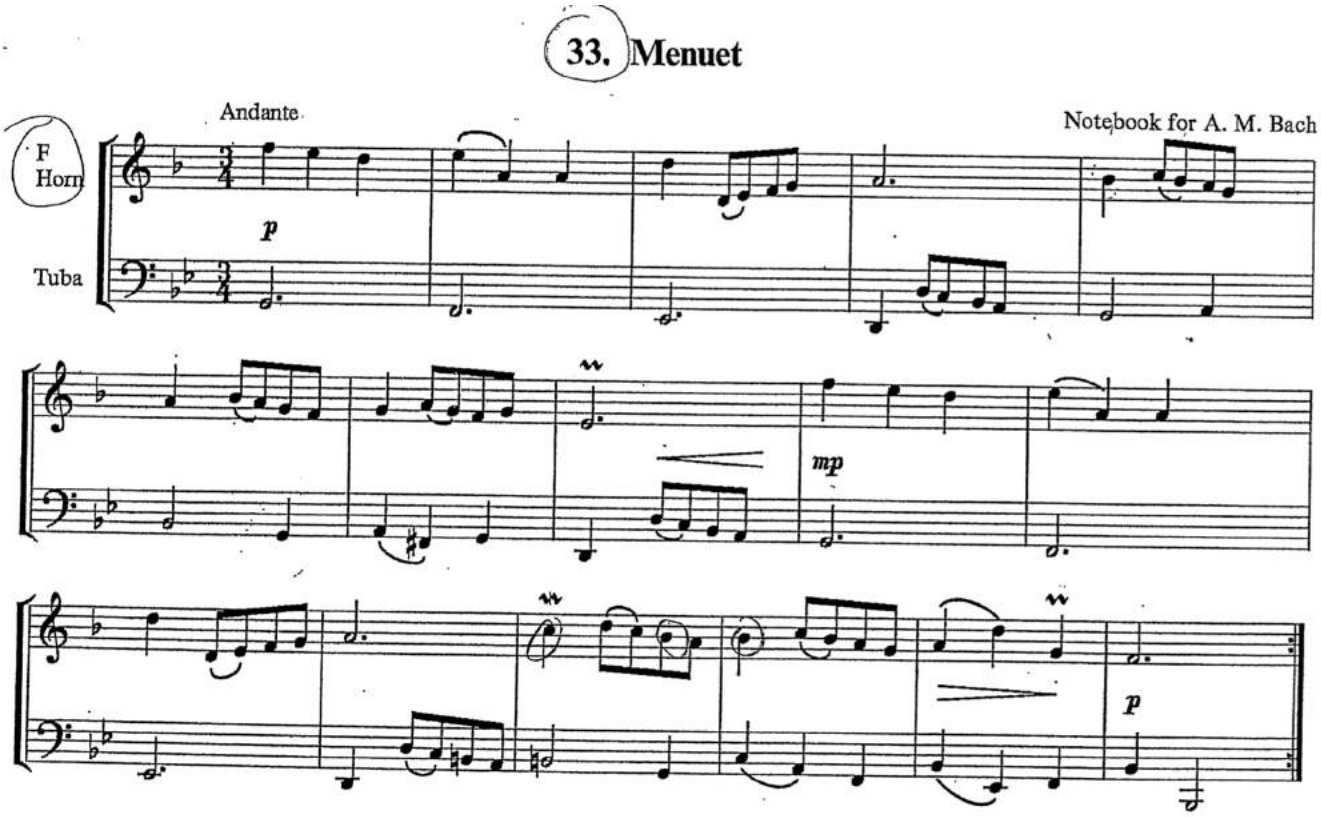
C. JAZZ

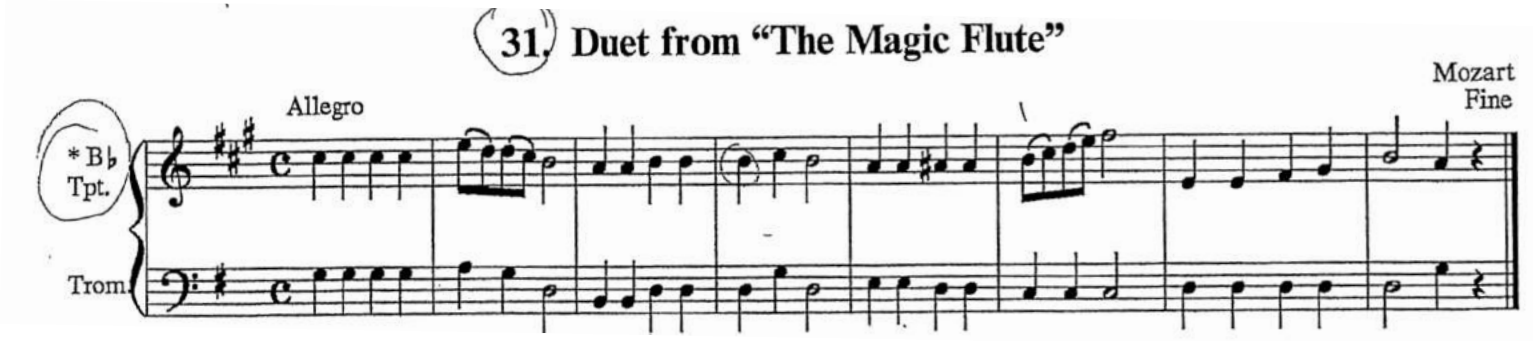
1. Little Brown Jug

[Frackenpohl Reading] D. Score Reading

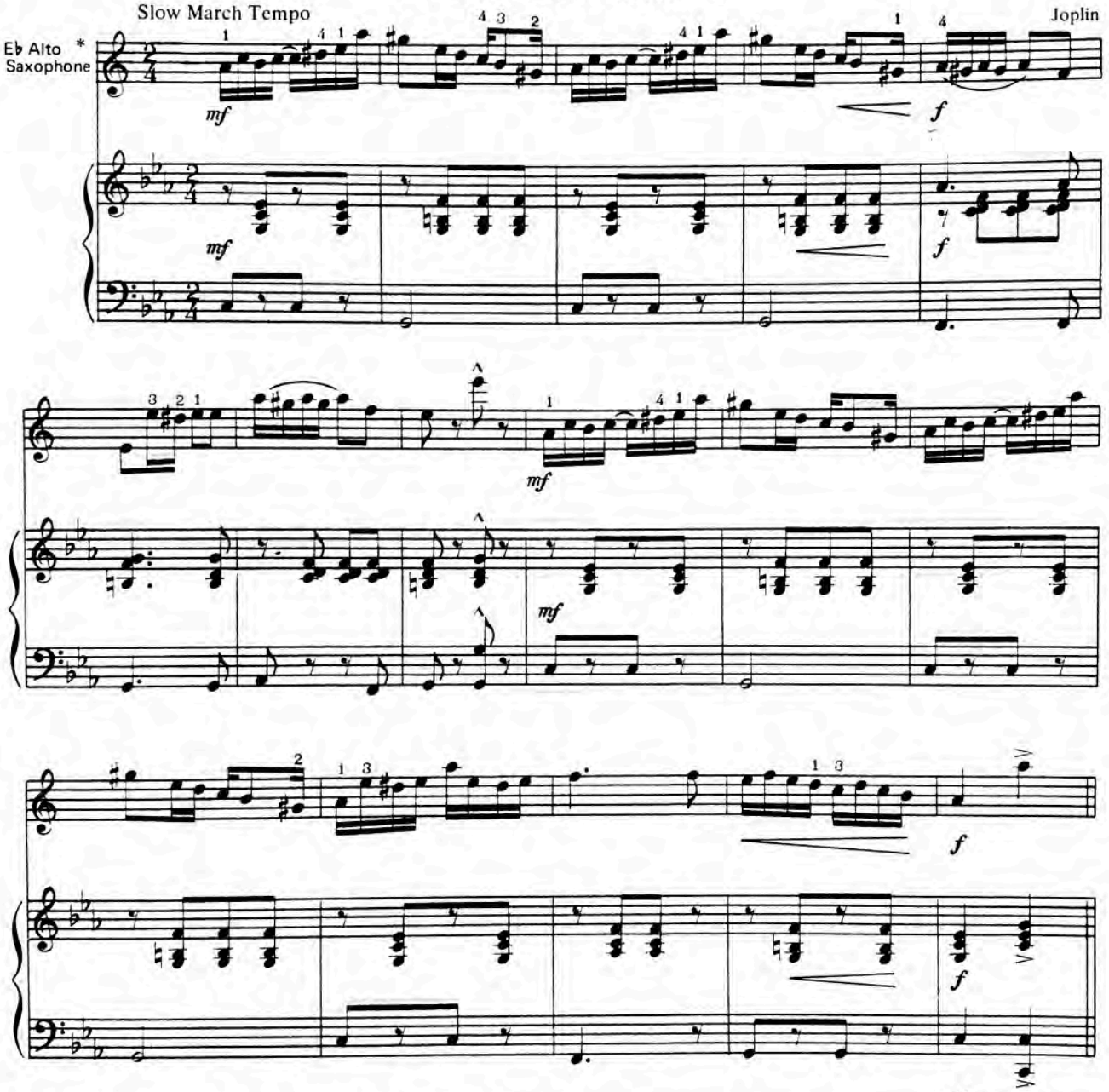
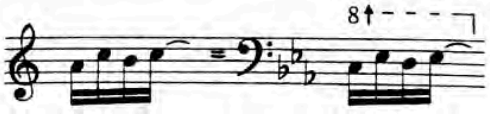
prepare all 2-voice combinations (A + B, T + B**, and **A + T**)*



Prepare to play both lines together.
**F Horn has to be transposed a perfect 5th below the written note.*

Prepare to play both lines together.
**Bb Trumpet has to be transposed a whole step below the written note.*



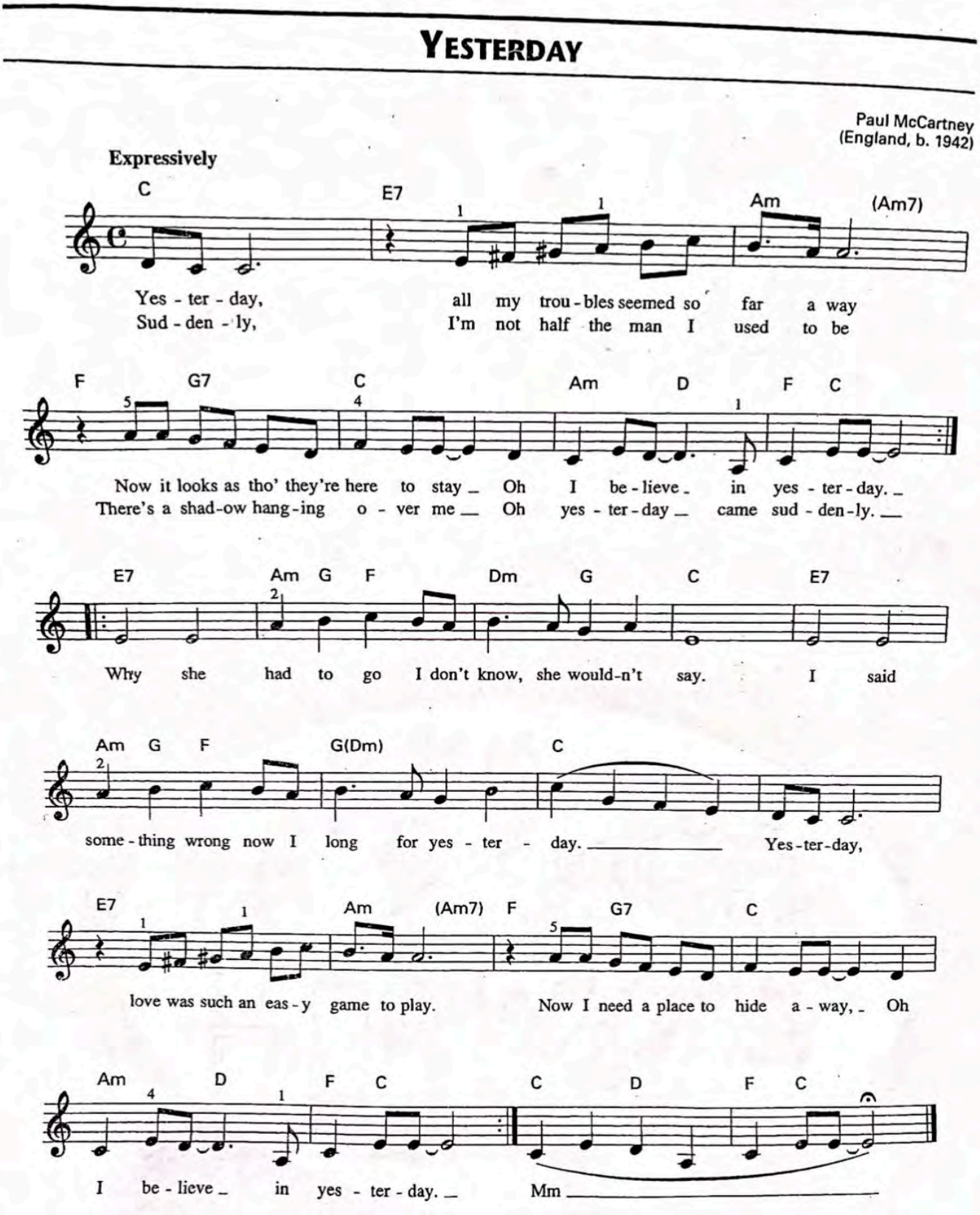
Prepare to play bass line of the piano accompaniment + Eb Alto Saxophone.
**The Eb alto sax has to be transposed a major sixth below the written note. Check the note below.*

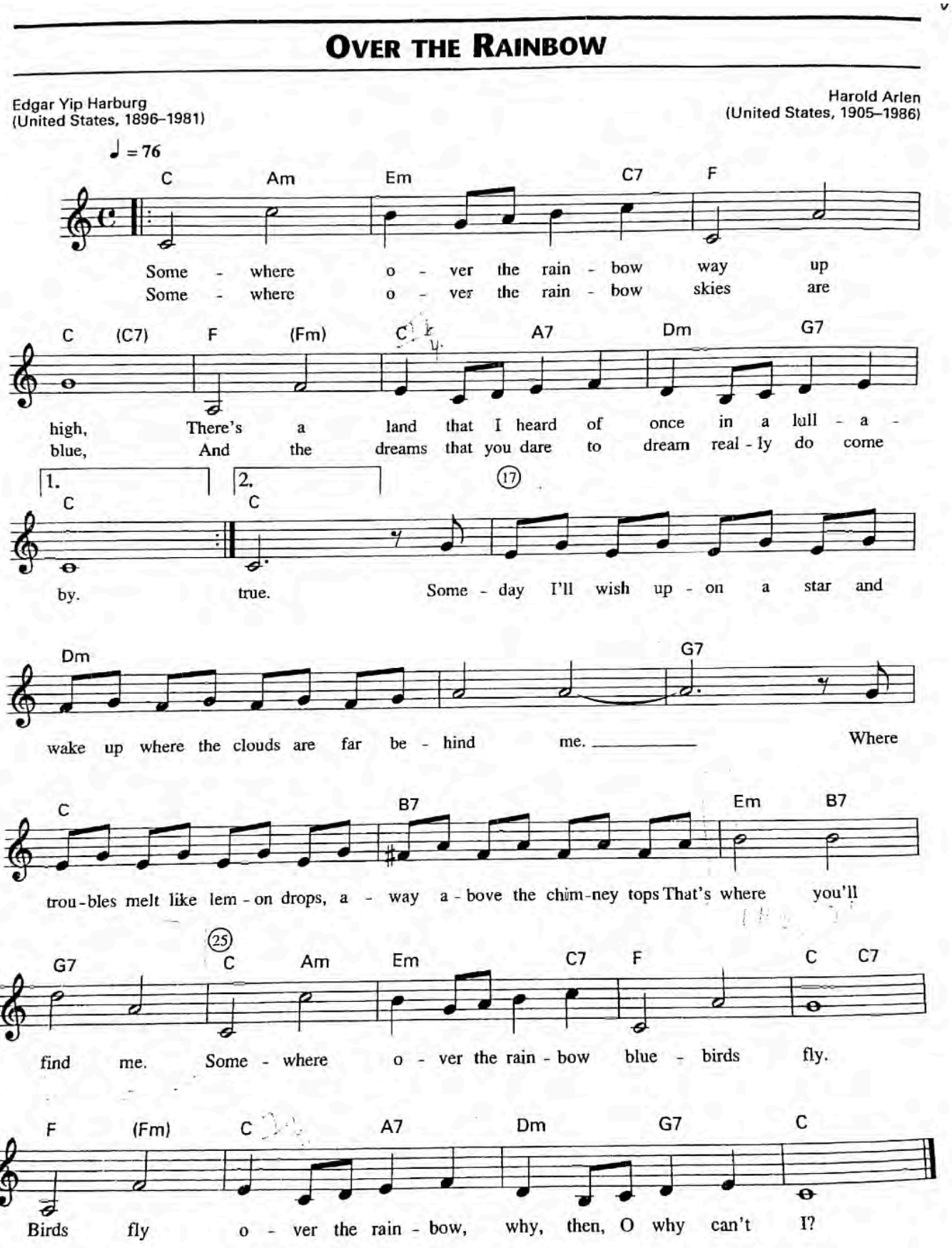
9. The Chrysanthemum

* The E♭ alto sax sounds a major sixth lower than the written note. An easy way to transpose is to think it in the bass clef, add three flats, and move it up an octave.

AREA 5

EXCERPTS

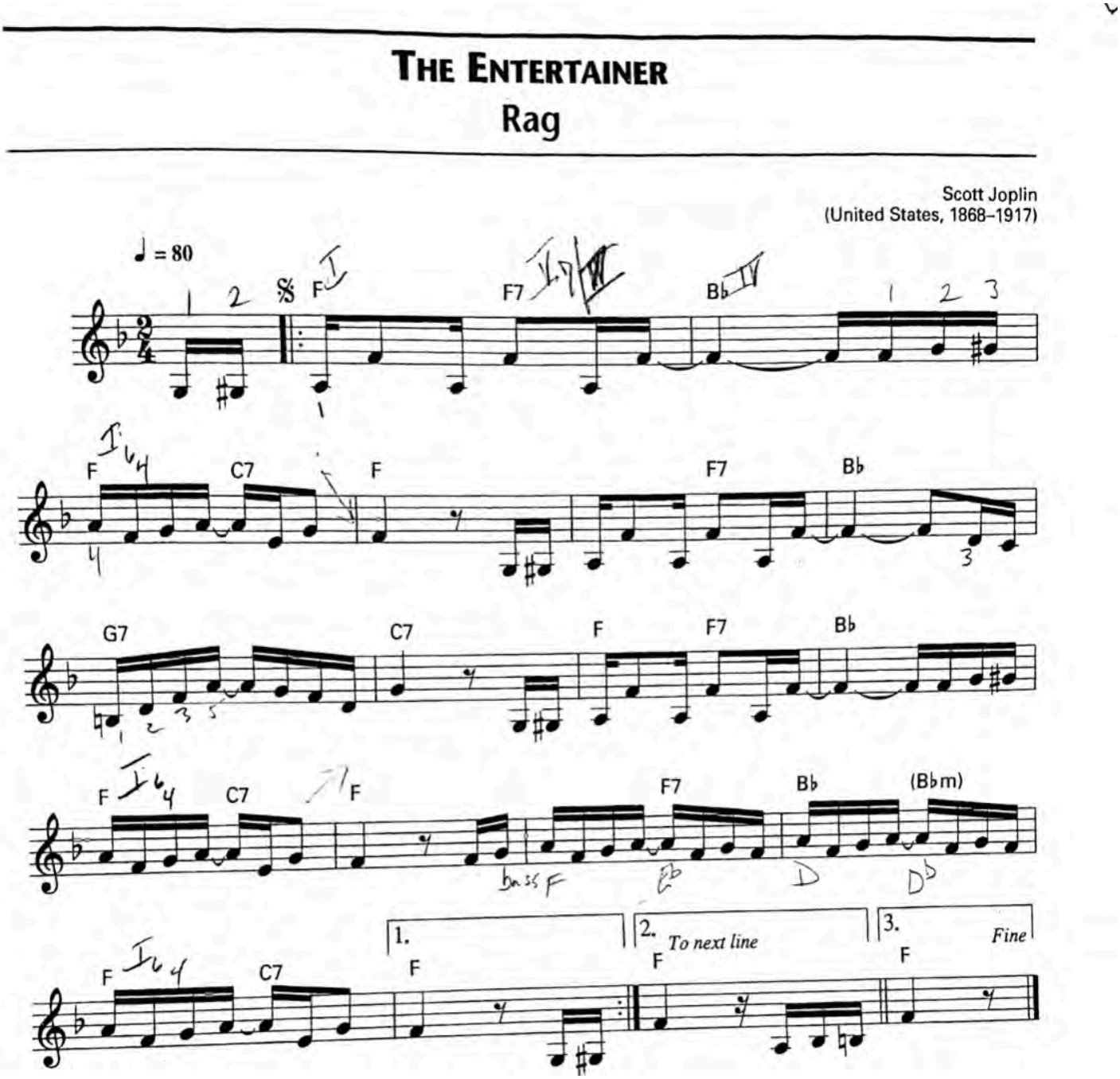
[Melody Book] 1. Yesterday

Direction:

- Left Hand: single notes (Root notes)
- Right Hand: build a chord <u>underneath</u> the melody. Use all the chords on the excerpt.

[**Melody Book**] 2. Over the Rainbow

Direction: Right Hand melody + Left Hand Alberti bass accompaniment.

[Melody Book] 3. Entertainer

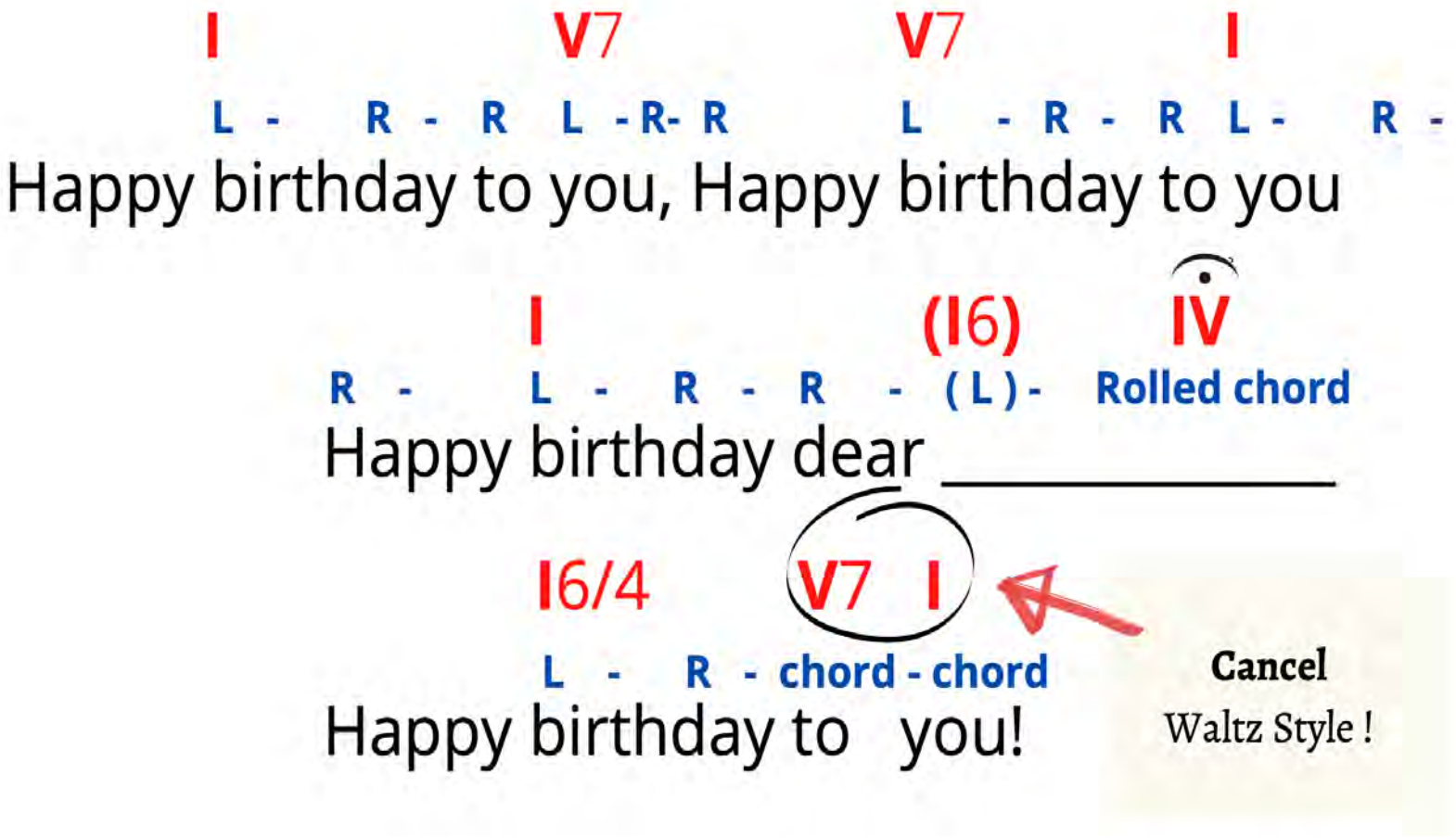
Direction: Right Hand plays melody + Left Hand broken chord accompaniment (stride style).

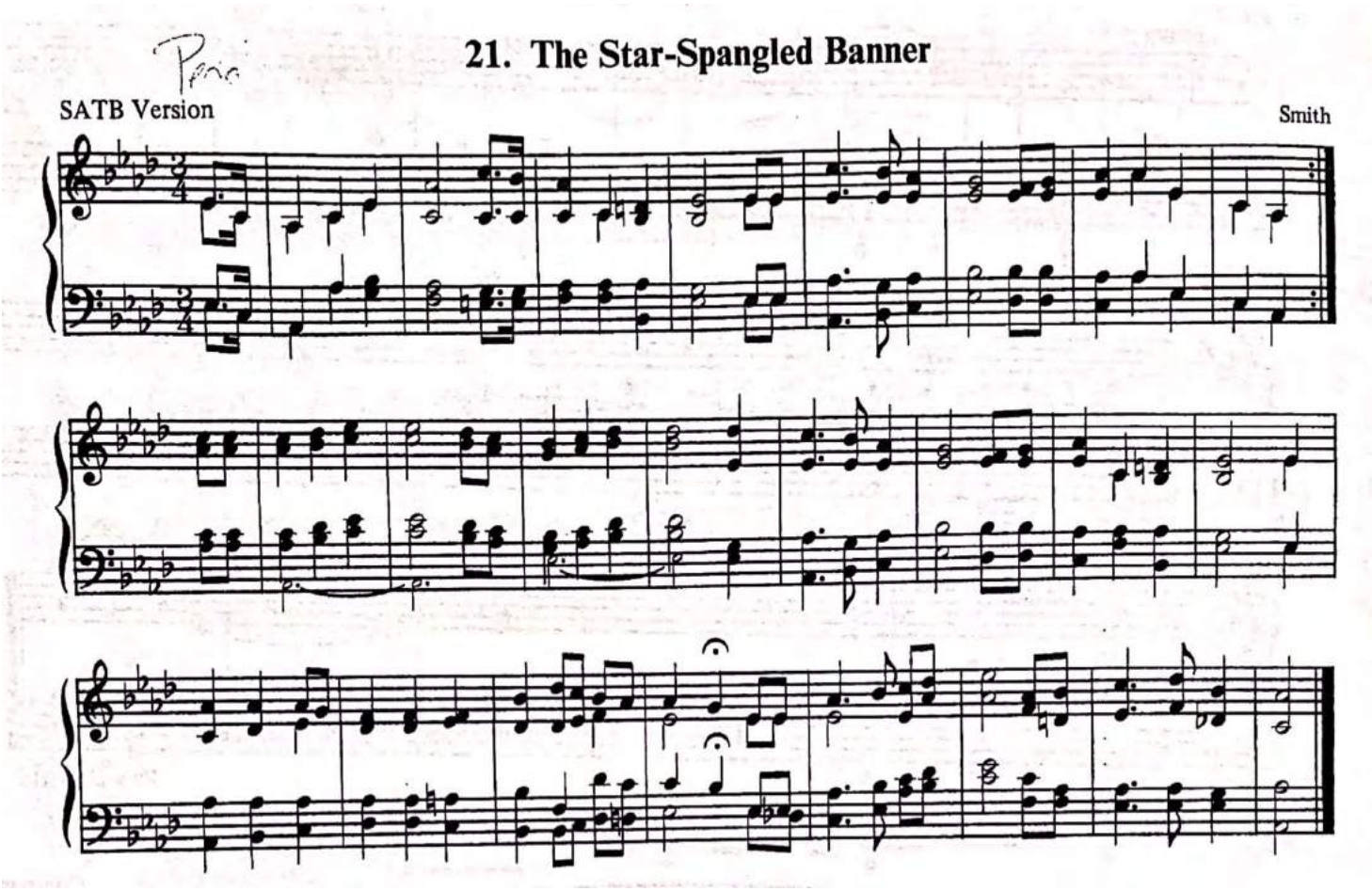


[Play and Sing] Happy Birthday

Direction: waltz-style accompaniment in the key of **F Major**.

**Waltz Style: right-hand chords (nearby chords) and left-hand single notes (L-R-R, L-R-R, …)*



AREA 6

*with proper pedaling