Breitkopf & Härtels Edition of Vocal Scores

Butler

Muirgheis

Vocal Score

SEVEN SHILLINGS AND SIX PENCE

BREITKOPF & HARTEL
LEIPZIG ○ BERLIN ○ BRUSSELS ○ NEW YORK
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TO

CLANN NA h-EIREANN

MUIRGHEIS

(THE FIRST IRISH OPERA) IN THREE ACTS

ENGLISH WORDS BY

NORA CHESSON

IRISH TRANSLATION BY THADGH O'DONOGHUE

MUSIC COMPOSED BY

O'BRIEN BUTLER

NOT MORE THAN TWO NUMBERS FROM THE OPERA
MAY BE SUNG IN PUBLIC WITHOUT PERMISSION

PRICE 7/6 NETT

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CHARACTERS

THE O'GNEEVE, Chief of Glenmore . . . . . *Baritone.*
DIARMUID, Chief of Iveragh. . . . . *Tenor.*
HUGH DALL, a blind Harper . . . . . *Baritone.*
CROGHAN, an attendant to Diarmuid . . . . . *Tenor.*
DONN OF THE SAND HILLS, Fairy King . . . . . *Bass.*
MAIRE, Foster-sister to Muirgheis . . . . . *Contralto.*
MUIRGHEIS, daughter of the O'Gneeve and Bride of Diarmuid . . . . . *Soprano.*
Chorus of Peasants, Wedding Guests, and Sea-fairies.

SCENE OF ACTION.

Act. I. A sea-shore representing Muireagh's strand Waterville on the Coast of Kerry.

Act. II. O'Gneeve's Hall.

Act. III. Scene I.
A well at the edge of a wood in Background.

Scene II.
O'Gneeve's Hall.

ARGUMENT.

The scene of the opera is laid in Waterville on the Coast of Kerry, Ireland at the dawn of Christianity. Muirgheis and her foster-sister Maire are both in love with Diarmuid, a neighbouring chieftain. Diarmuid returns the love of Muirgheis, and Maire filled with jealous hate, calls upon Donn of the Sand Hills a fairy King of the seacoast, to carry off Muirgheis to Tir-na-n'og (Fairyland). Donn consents, but warns Maire that if she asks another request of him it will involve her own death. He gives Maire an enchanted branch of quicken and tells her that if Muirgheis touches it even with finger tips she comes immediately under his power. Maire weaves this branch into a wedding wreath which she places on Muirgheis' head at the Marriage feast, whereupon Muirgheis is carried off by Donn. Diarmuid is in a passion of despair, but refuses to be comforted by Maire, who seeing her efforts fruitless, is stricken with remorse.

She again calls upon Donn, knowing the penalty she incurs, and requests him to restore Muirgheis. Donn consents, but enraged at the action of Maire, he dooms her to be changed after death, into a sea-wave. Muirgheis is restored, but her mind is blank, for it is a tradition in Kerry that if people return from Fairyland they are soulless and without memory until they shed tears. Diarmuid approaches, but she does not greet him. All her friends try in vain to awaken her recollection. At length the name of Maire seems to penetrate the spell. The dead body of her foster-sister is brought in and Muirgheis bursts into tears and her soul returns.

NOTE.

The plot of this opera was planned by the Composer himself, the idea being to weave the story of his first opera around the scenes of his childhood, in and about his Native place, with all the local colour possible. The plot was further developed by the late Nora Chesson, and Mr. George Moore. The Composer is indebted to Mr. Alexander Moring for permission to use the English words with the Irish translation, in concert programmes, book of words, and public performances of the opera, as well as in the vocal score. The opera was first produced at the Theatre Royal Dublin, with great success, the composed conducting, on 7th Dec., 1903.

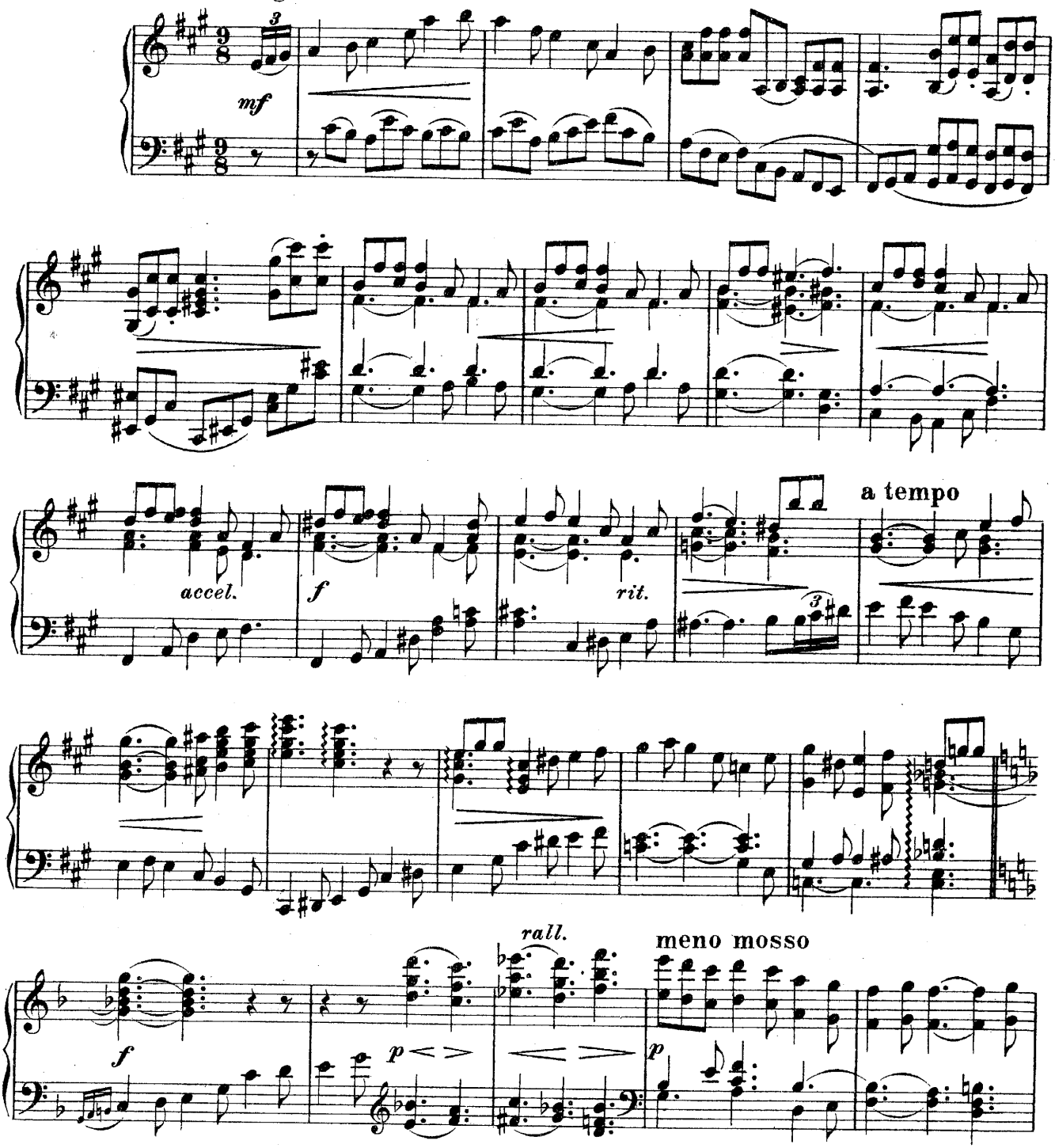
Muirgheis

The first Irish Opera in three Acts.

English words by Nora Chesson.
Irish translation by Thadgh O'Donoghue.
Music by O'Brien Butler.

Overture.

Allegro vivace.



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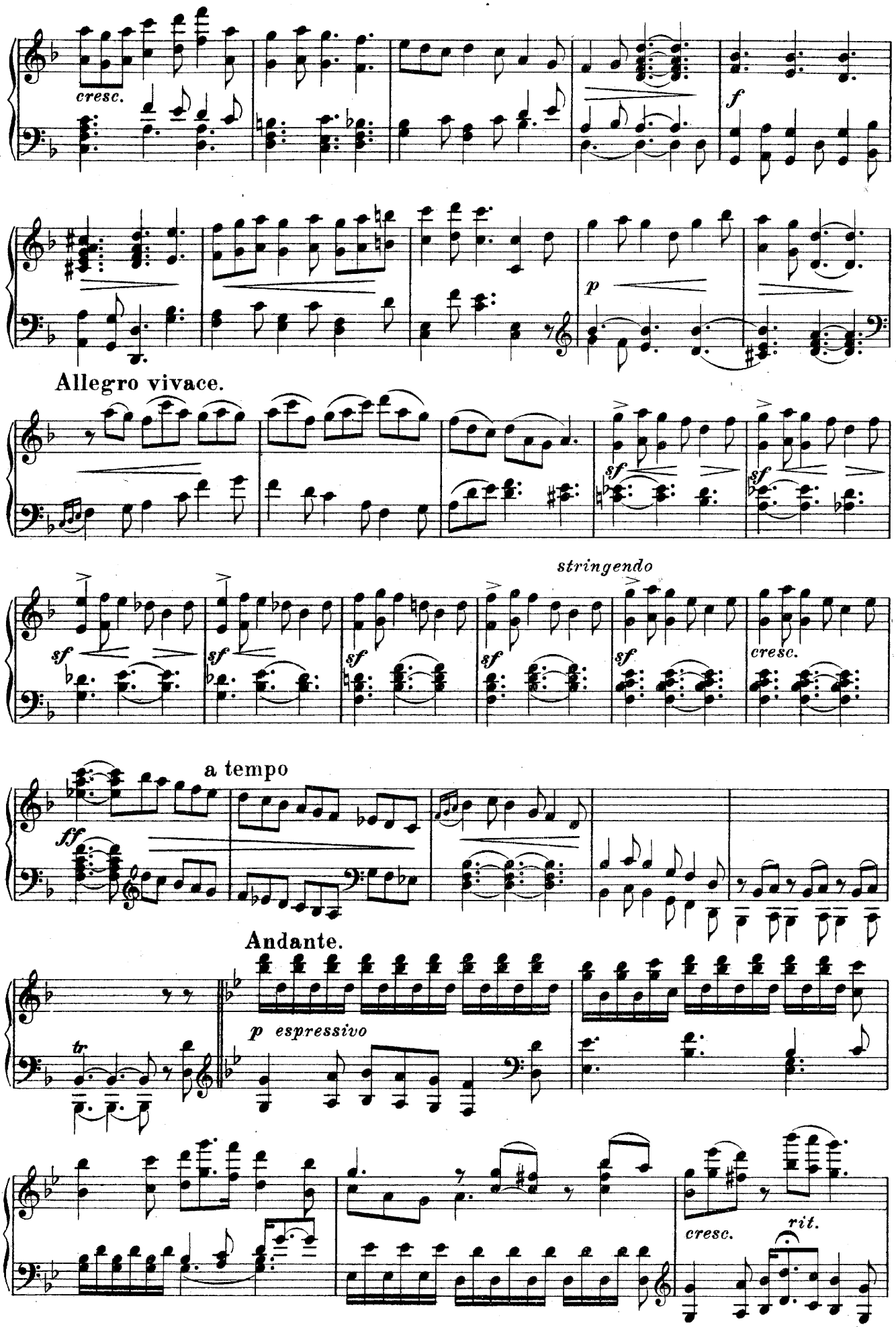
cresc.
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p
Allegro vivace.
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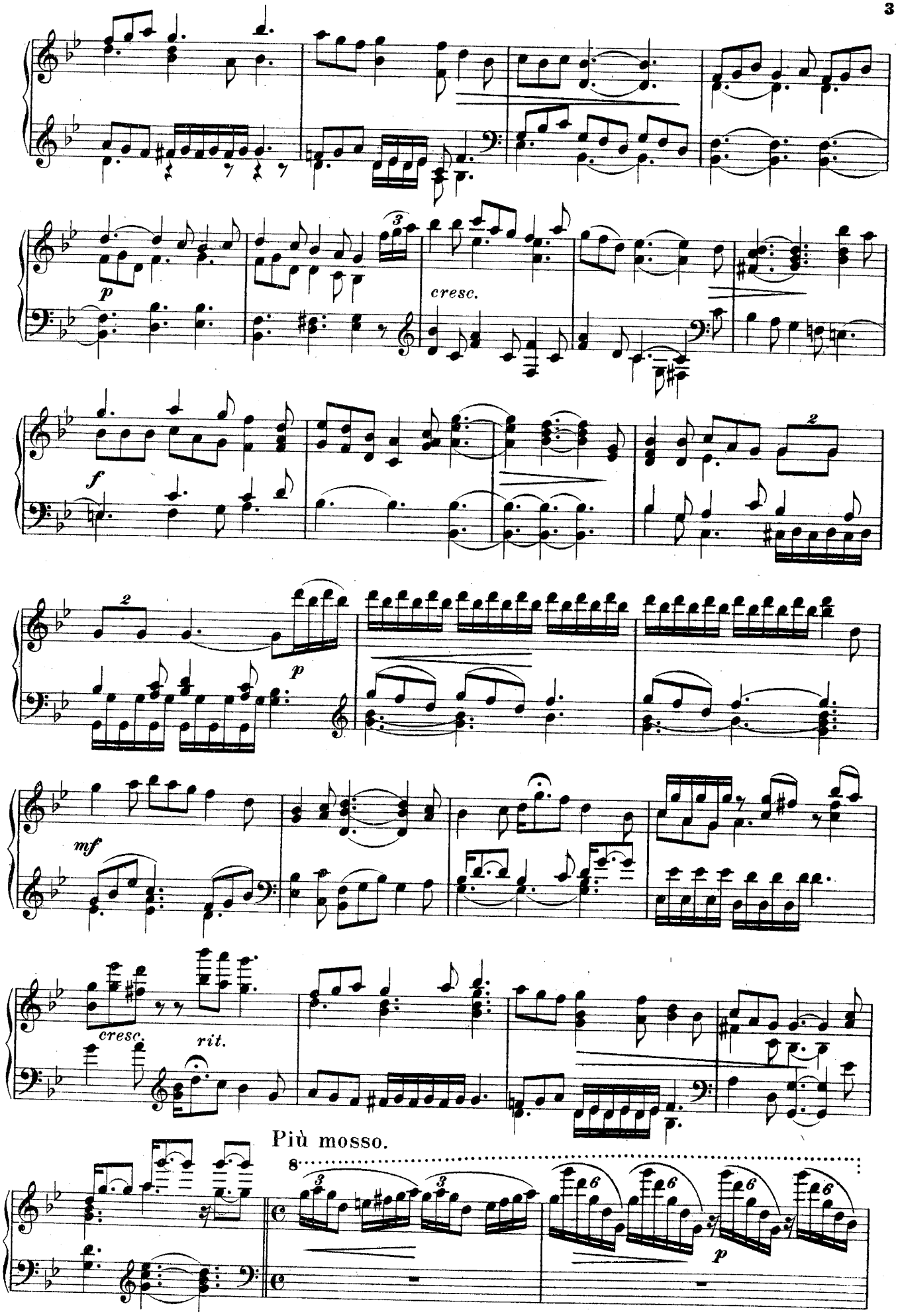
stringendo
cresc.
a tempo
ff
Andante.
tr
p espressivo
cresc.
rit.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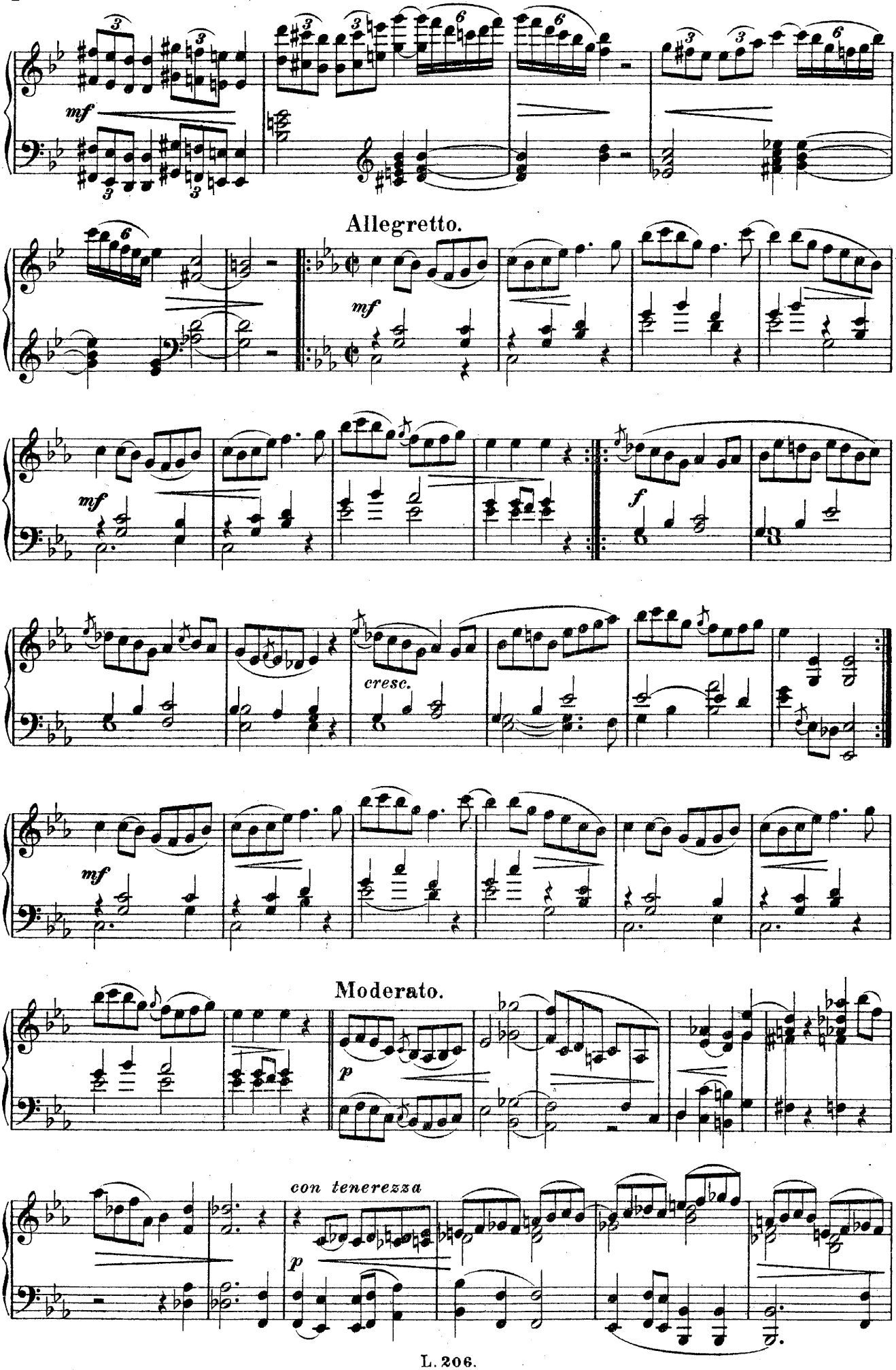
Più mosso.
p


mf
Allegretto.
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Moderato.
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con tenerezza
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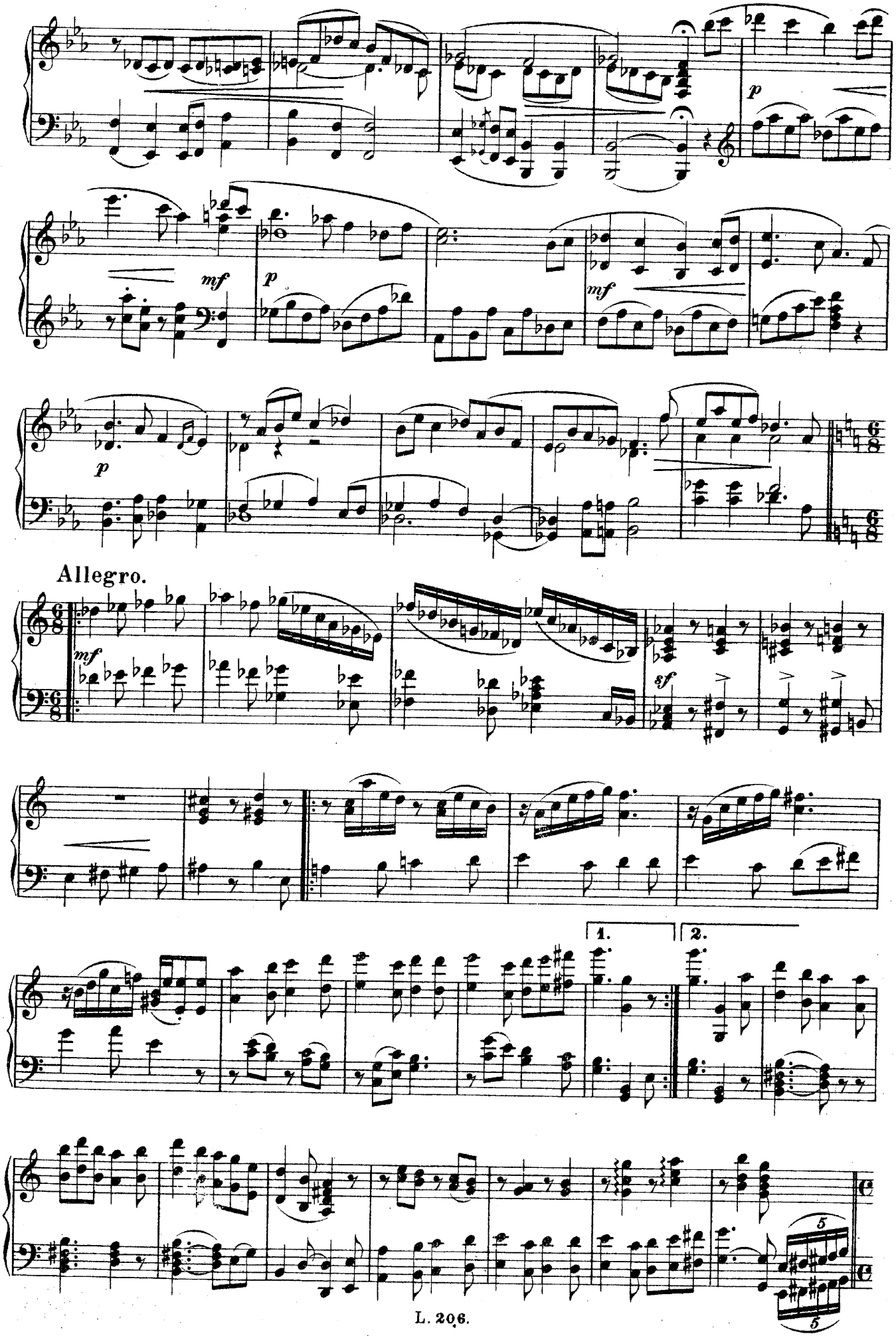
p
mf
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Allegro.
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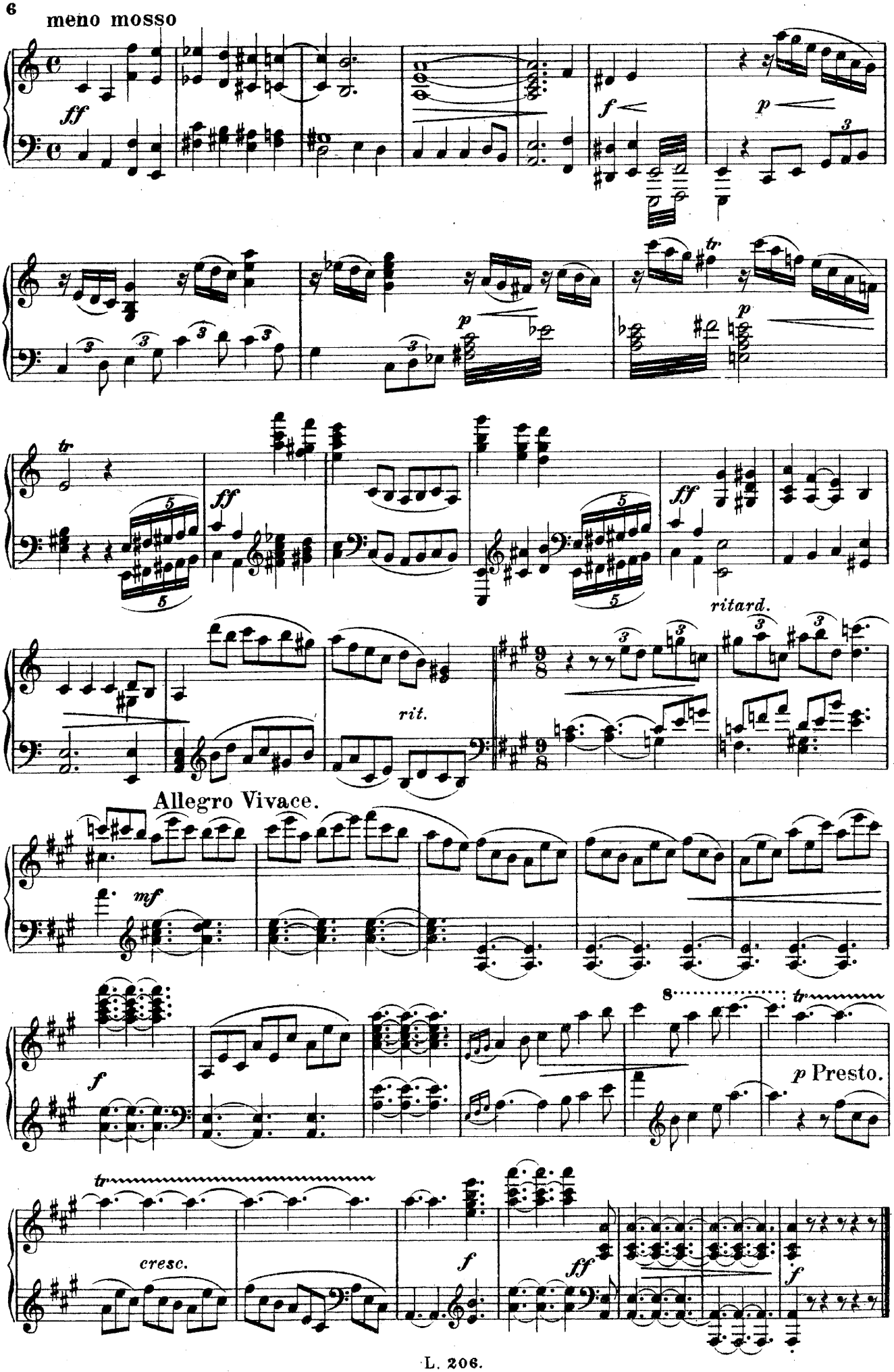
2.


meno mosso
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f
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ritard.
rit.
Allegro Vivace.
mf
8
p Presto.
cresc.