Mel Bay Presents

FOLK SONGS & DANCES FROM THE BALKANS

FLUTE EDITION

by Costel Puscoiu

Flute performances by Jacqueline Dekker
Sound and recording by Mihai Puscoiu
Accompaniments by Costel Puscoiu

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

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Foreword

It is very difficult to write a (music) book or to talk about the Balkans because the political situation there is very turbulent and radical changes have been made in the last years. The old political frontiers are no more and the new frontiers are changing every day, as in the case of the former Yugoslavia. What will the situation be in 10 years' time? Nobody can answer that. Quite possibly a whole new set of frontiers.

The name of the region I am referring to is the Balkan Peninsula which begins at the Balkan Mountains. Geographically, this diverse territory stretches from the Adriatic Sea (west) to the Black Sea (east), and from the Carpathian Mountains (north) to the Mediterranean Sea (south). This includes the territories of Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia, Albania, Macedonia, Greece, European Turkey and Romania (south and east).

The historical development of the Balkans has always been very turbulent and unpredictable. Politically, the area used to be a buffer zone between Western Europe and Asia which knew the domination of the Greeks, the Romans, the Byzantines and, in the last five centuries, the Ottoman Empire (the Turks). The Balkans were, are and will remain a "barrel of dynamite".

The political situation in the Balkans seems to change very fast, but the inhabitants of the area stay the same. Consider all these determined and courageous peoples, for example the Macedonians, the Albanians, the Bosnians, the Croatians or the Serbians: the Ottoman Empire and the former Yugoslavia are no more, but the peoples exist and will carry on inhabiting these places for years to come.

The Balkans are culturally a conglomerate of peoples with very different origins: Thraco-Illyrians (Albanians), Greeks (Greeks), Thraco-Romans (Romanians), Slavs (Bulgarians, Serbians, Croatians, Slovenians, Macedonians) and Ottomans (Bosnians). The languages and alphabets are many and varied: Slavic languages written in the Cyrillic alphabet (Bulgarian, Macedonian, Serbo-Croatian), Slavic languages written in the Latin alphabet (Serbo-Croatian, Slovenian), Latin languages (Romanian), the Greek language written in the Greek alphabet (Greek).

The religions are also very diverse: Eastern Orthodox (Greeks, Bulgarians, Serbians, Romanians, Macedonians), Roman Catholics (Croatians, Slovenians) and Muslims (Bosnians, Albanians). Ethnic and religious diversity could possibly be one of the explanations for the continuing frictions and the exaggerated nationalism of the Balkans.

This great cultural diversity is transmitted to the music of these peoples, which constitutes an important part of their lives and traditions. The types and styles of vocal and instrumental folk music are very different: slow old epic ballads with archaic form and rich ornaments, vital songs with beautiful melodies and various texts about all the human feelings (love, satirical, drinking, lullabies, etc.), pastoral songs, dynamic male or female dances for large and small groups performed in an open or closed circle, semicircle, straight or winding line.

The difference between the folk music from Macedonia, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Serbia, Dalmatia, Turkey or Slovenia is very easy to hear. There are also distinct regional differences inside these national styles, with more or less Turkish influence heard mainly in the slow melodies.

The dances from the Balkans are very vital, powerful and metrically varied:
2/4 - Bulgarian horo, Serbian kolo, Romanian hora and sîrba;
3/4 - Slovenian (alpine) dances;
5/8 - Grecian tsakoniko, Romanian rustem;
6/8 - Romanian slow hora, Dalmatian (barcarole) dances;
7/8 or 7/16 - Bulgarian rachenitza, Macedonian dances, Grecian syrto and kalamatiano, Romanian geampara;
9/16 or 9/8 - Bulgarian horo.

The tempo of these dances is often very quick and contains frequent accelerations and decelerations. The rhythm and the meter are mostly irregular and asymmetric. The famous Hungarian composer and ethno-musicologist Bela Bartok was fascinated by the tumultuous rhythms from the Balkans and often used the term "Bulgarian rhythm" in his books.

The keys and therefore the harmonies used in Balkan music are also different from those of European classical music. They contain more Eastern elements, more chromatics.

The instruments specific to the Balkans are also varied: violin (gadulka, vioara), lute (lavta, tambura, saz, baglama, cobza), shepherd's flutes (duduk, fluier, kaval, frula), bagpipe (gayda, cimpoi, gora), drum (tapan, defi, tambourine), cymbal (santouri, tambal), shawm (ney, zurna), pan flute (syrinx, nai, muscal), bousouki, guitar, mandolin, accordion, clarinet, contrabass.

FOLK SONGS AND DANCES FROM THE BALKANS FOR FLUTE is only a small, but representative collection of well-known and less-known beautiful melodies from the Balkans. I have carefully chosen the melodies with the aim to offer you a rich, enjoyable and varied book. The arrangements and other adaptations (keys, ornaments, etc.) have been introduced to make this beautiful South-Eastern European music more suitable for performance on the flute. I would recommend repeating each piece 3-4 times because the melodies (like all folk songs in the world) are very short.

I hope you will find my FOLK SONGS AND DANCES FROM THE BALKANS FOR FLUTE pleasant and entertaining, but also useful for enlarging your exotic repertoire. I wish you good luck in discovering the pleasure of the music.

Costel Puscoiu

About the Author

Costel Puscoiu was born on August 29th, 1951 in Bucharest, Romania. He studied at the "Ciprian Porumbescu" College of Music in Bucharest, and graduated there, majoring in Composition and Theory. In Romania he worked as a music teacher, and for a few years he was a conductor and researcher at the Institute for Ethnology and Folklore in Bucharest. He was also a member of the Society of Romanian Composers.

His compositions comprise symphonic music (symphonies, cantatas, suites, concerto for viola), chamber music (string quartets, sonata for clarinet and piano, contemporary music for several ensembles, music pieces for panflute), choir pieces and filmscores. His compositions are often influenced by Romanian folklore and Byzantine liturgies. He is also the author of several musicological and folkloristic studies and articles.

In September 1982 he preferred the Netherlands to his native Romania, and now he works as a panflute teacher and as the leader of an orchestra at The Free Academy in Delft (the music-school department) and at The Music-School in Krimpen a/d IJssel. Meanwhile he has become a member of the Dutch Composers Association.

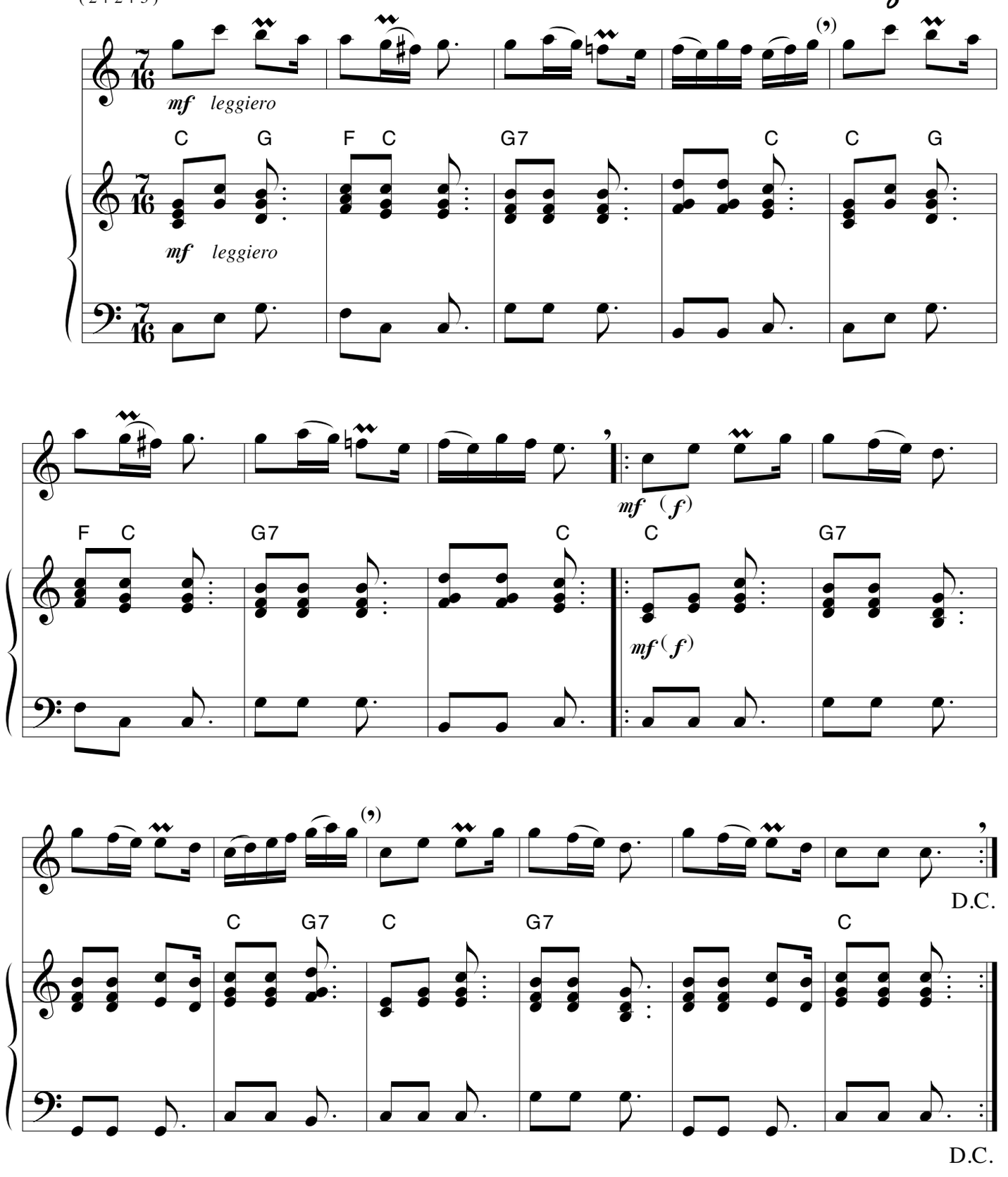
Track 1

Rachenitza

Allegro vivo

Bulgarian

(2 + 2 + 3)

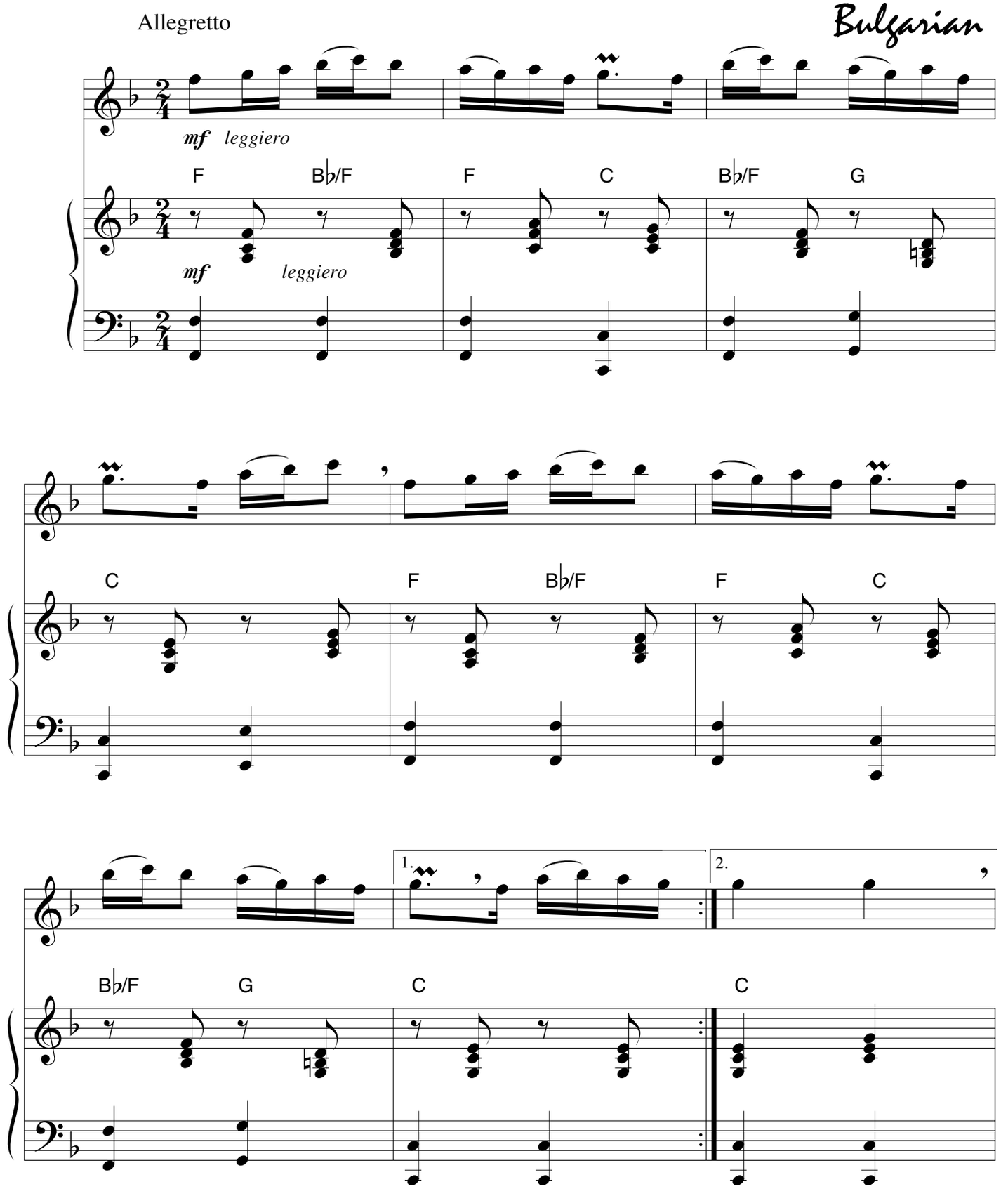


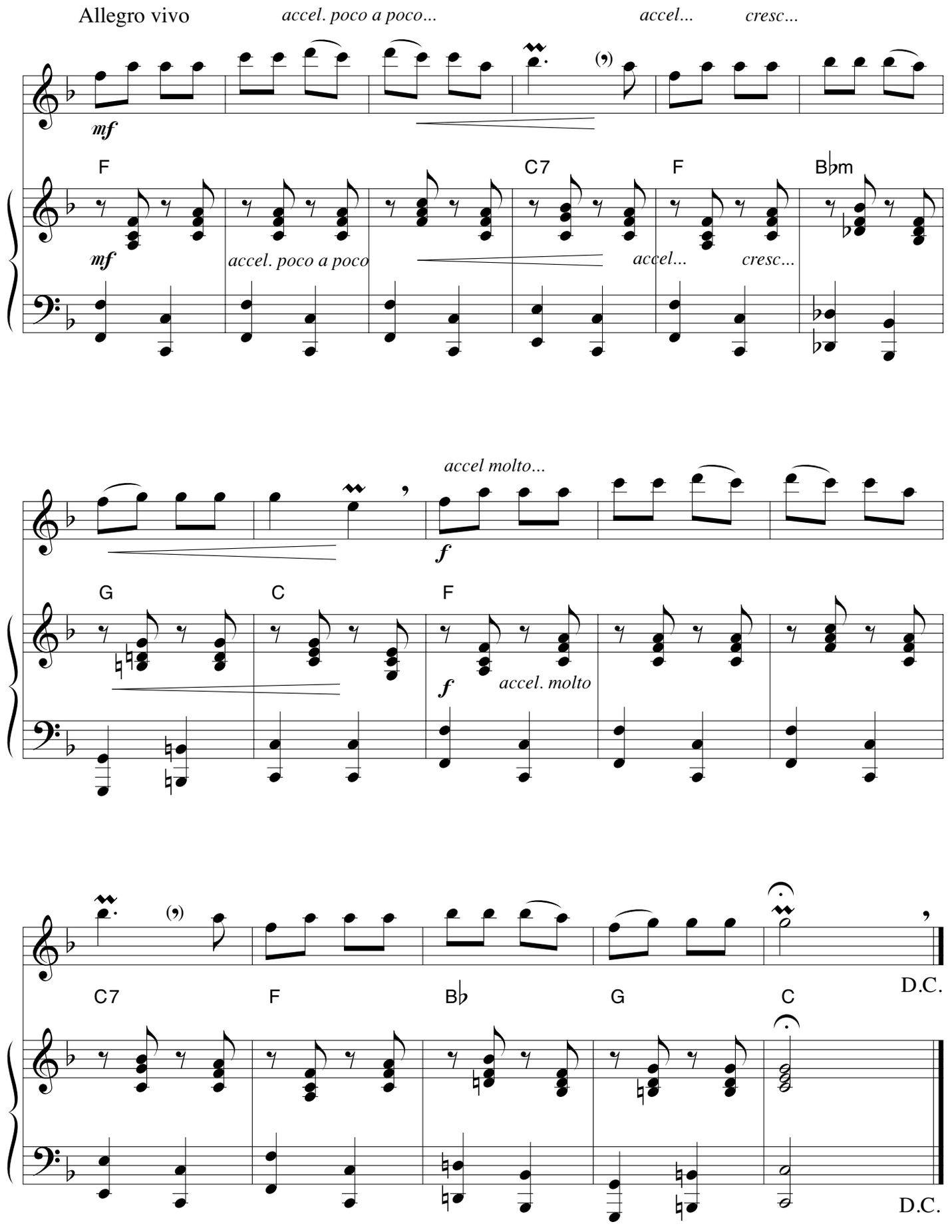
Track 2

Angelina

Allegretto

Bulgarian




Allegro vivo
accel. poco a poco...
accel...
cresc...
mf
F
C7
F
B♭m
mf
accel. poco a poco
accel...
cresc...
accel molto...
f
G
C
F
f
accel. molto
C7
F
B♭
G
C
D.C.
D.C.

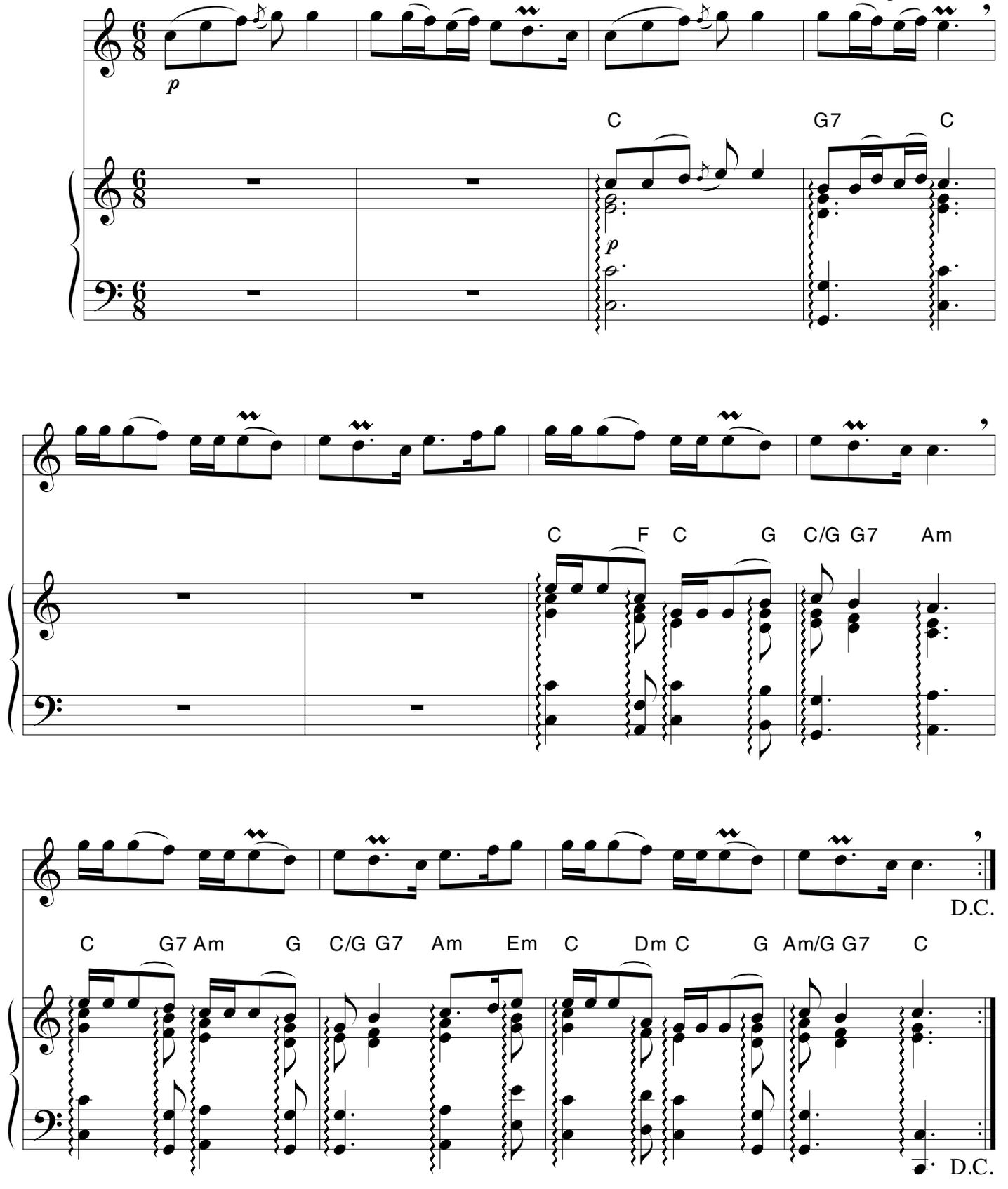
Track 3

Children's Song

Andantino

cantabile

Bulgarian

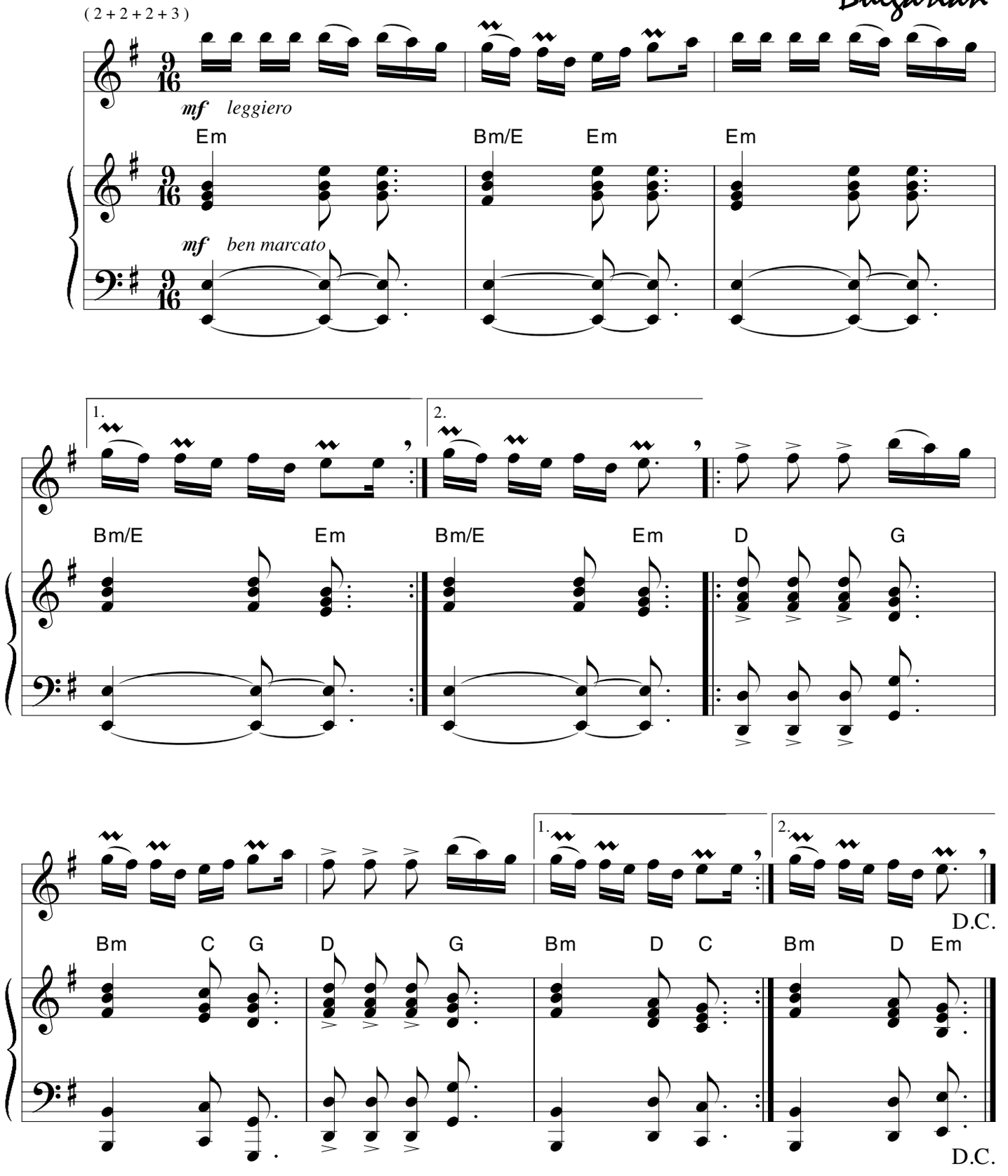


Track 4

Quick Circle Dance

Allegro

Bulgarian

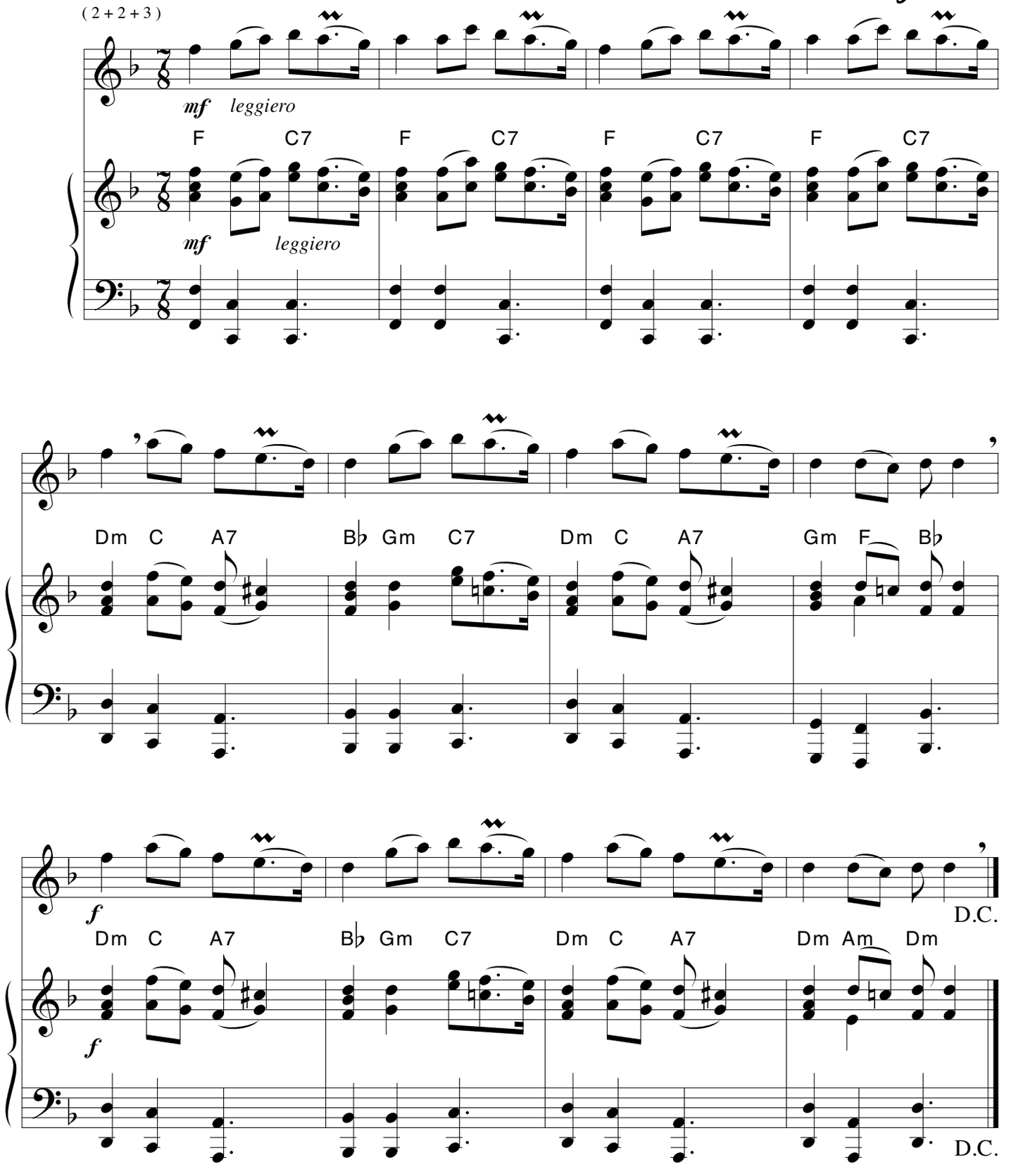


Track 5

Elena's Horo

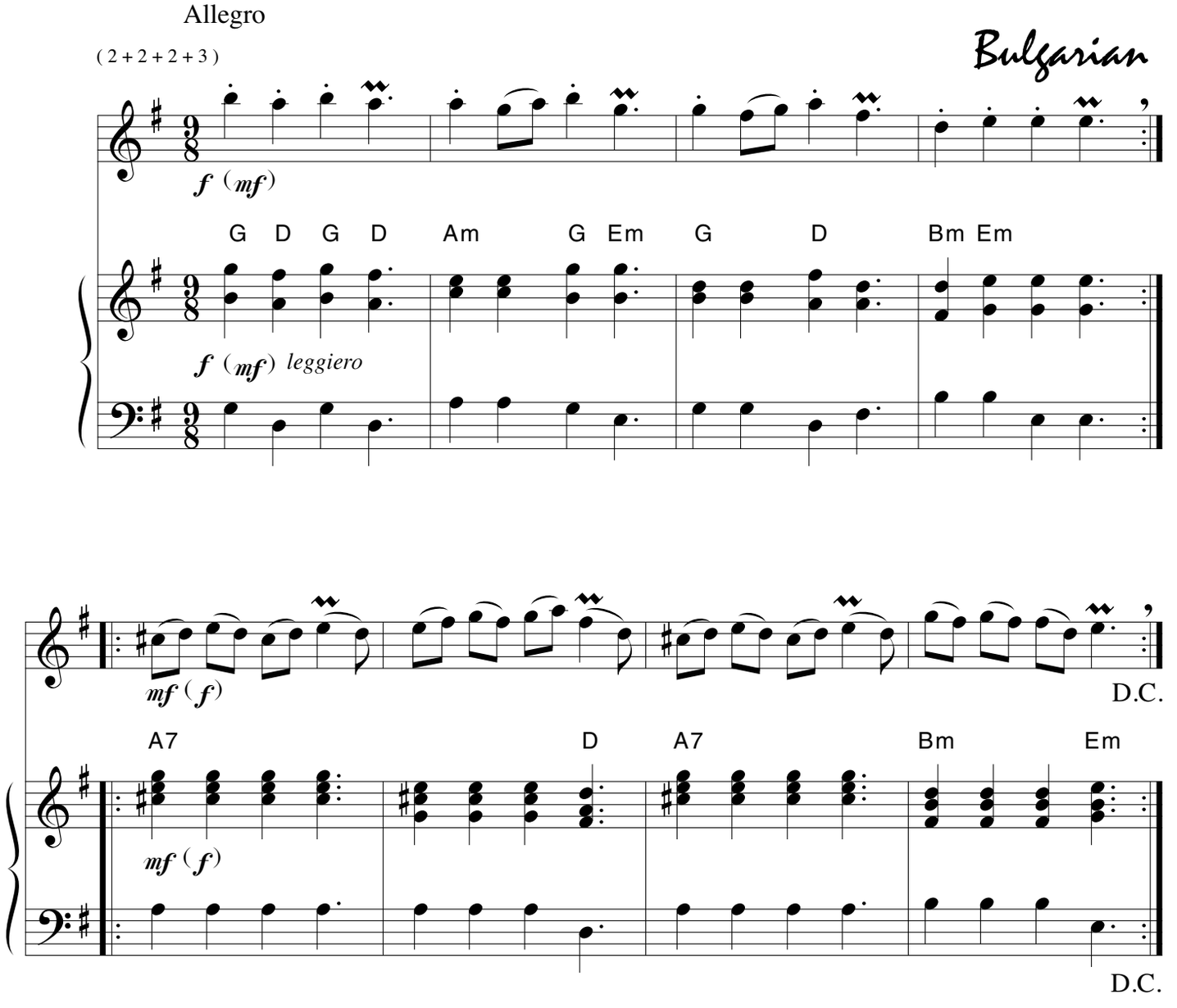
Allegro

Bulgarian



Track 6

Dajcovo's Horo



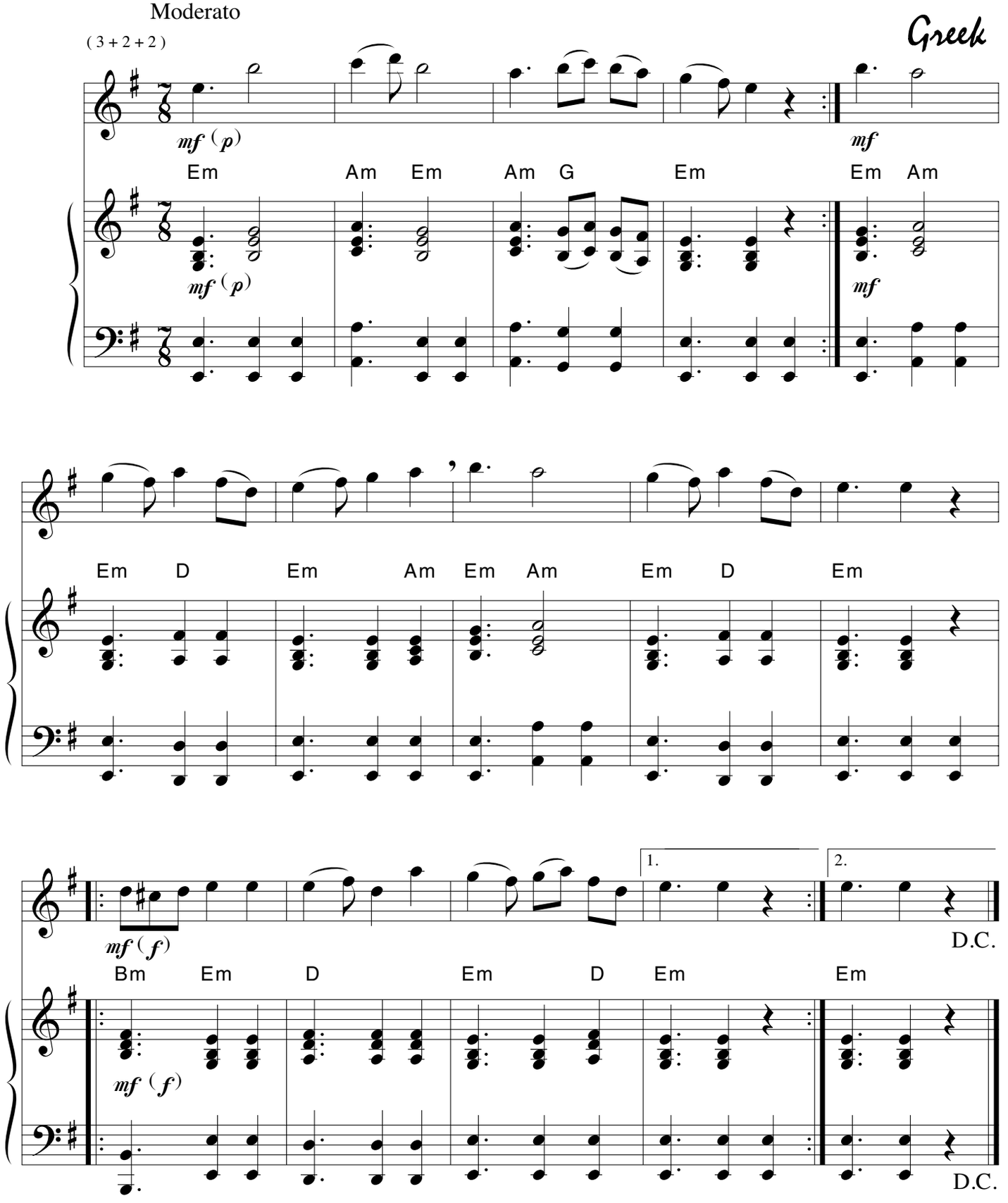
Track 7

On the Mountain of Zalongon

Moderato

Greek

(3 + 2 + 2)



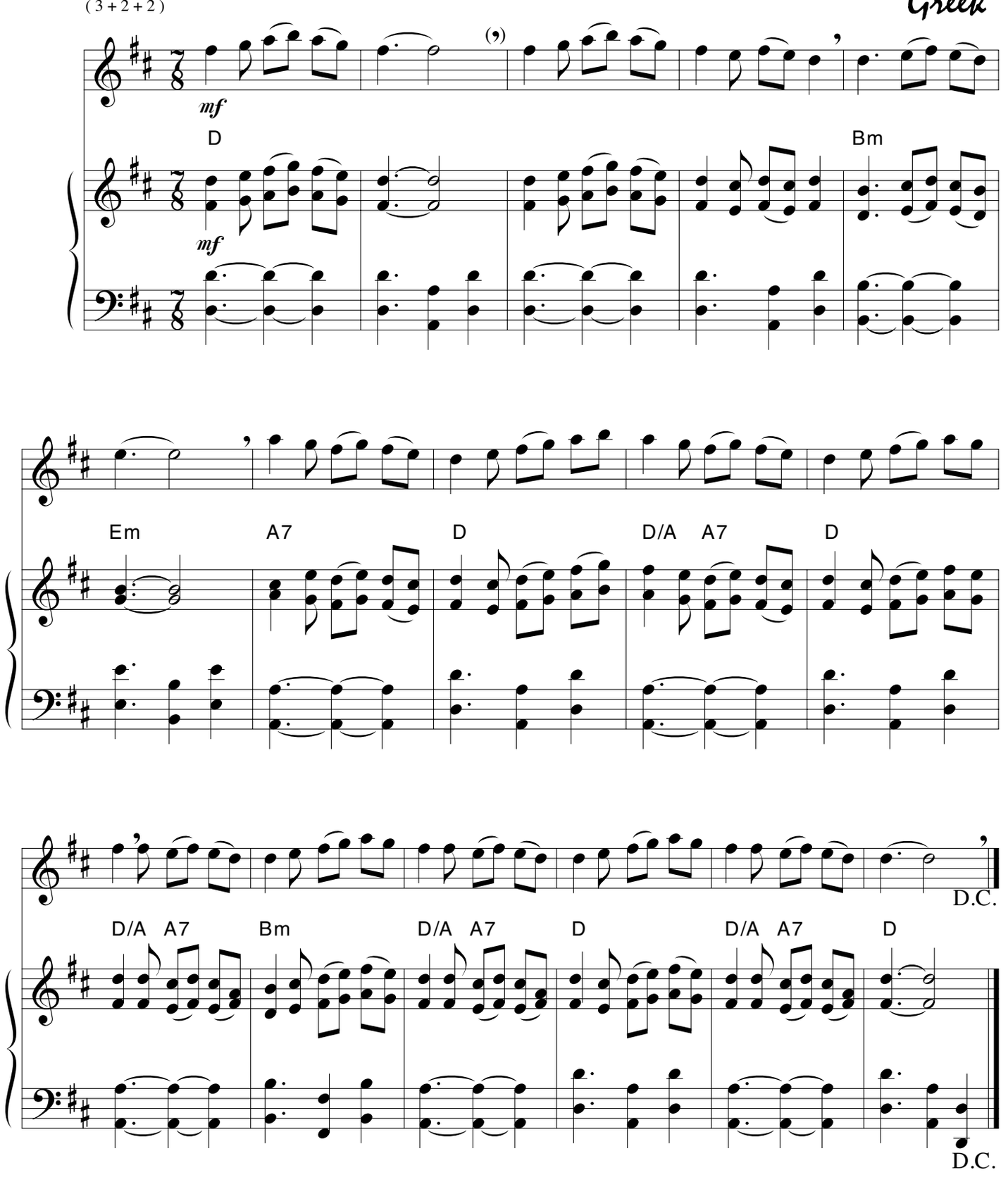
Yerakina

Track 8

Allegretto

Greek

(3 + 2 + 2)

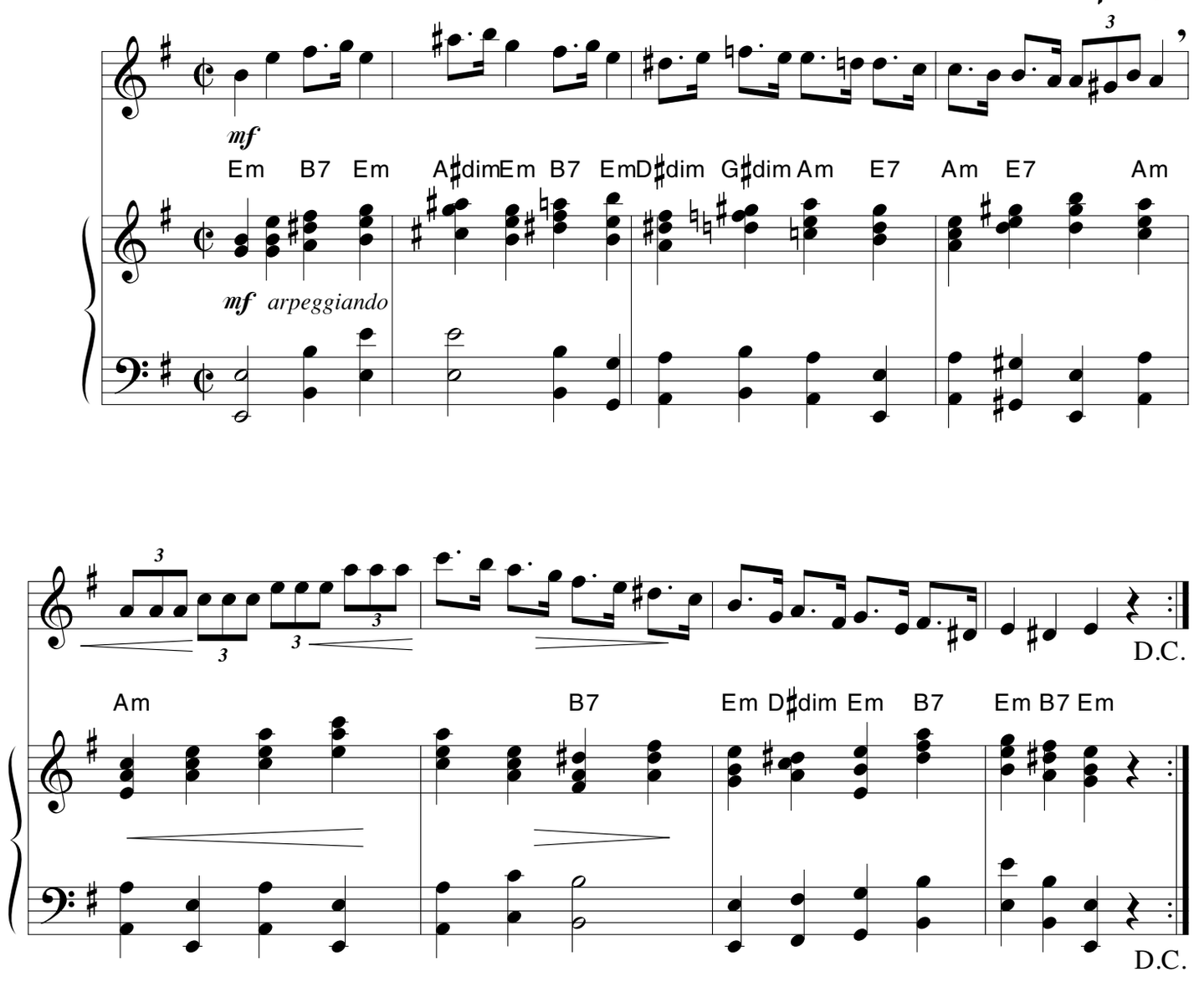


Track 9

Hassapiko
(The Butcher's Dance)

Andantino galante

Greek



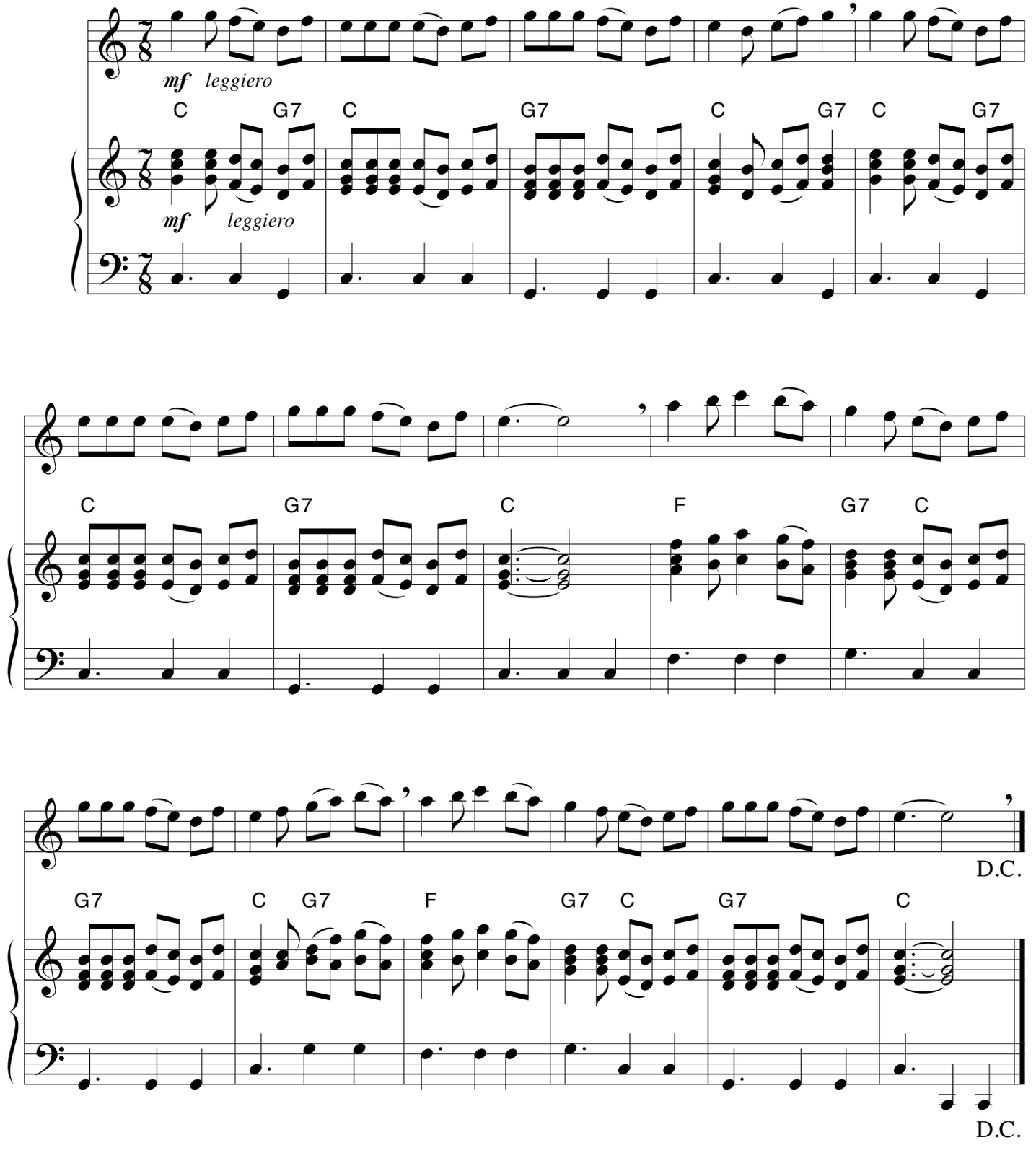
Track 10

Syrto

Allegretto

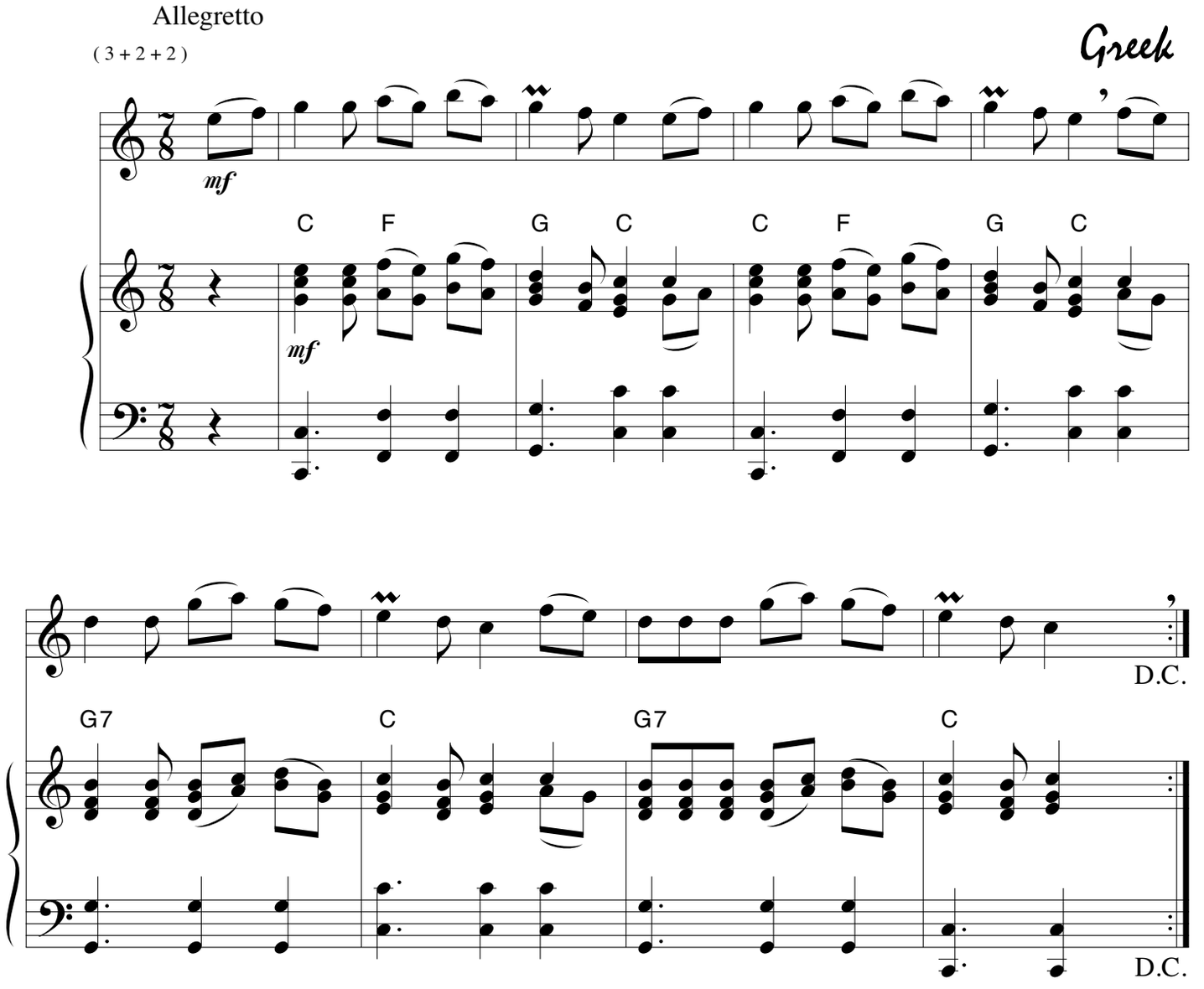
(3 + 2 + 2)

Greek



Mother Turks

Track 11



Track 12

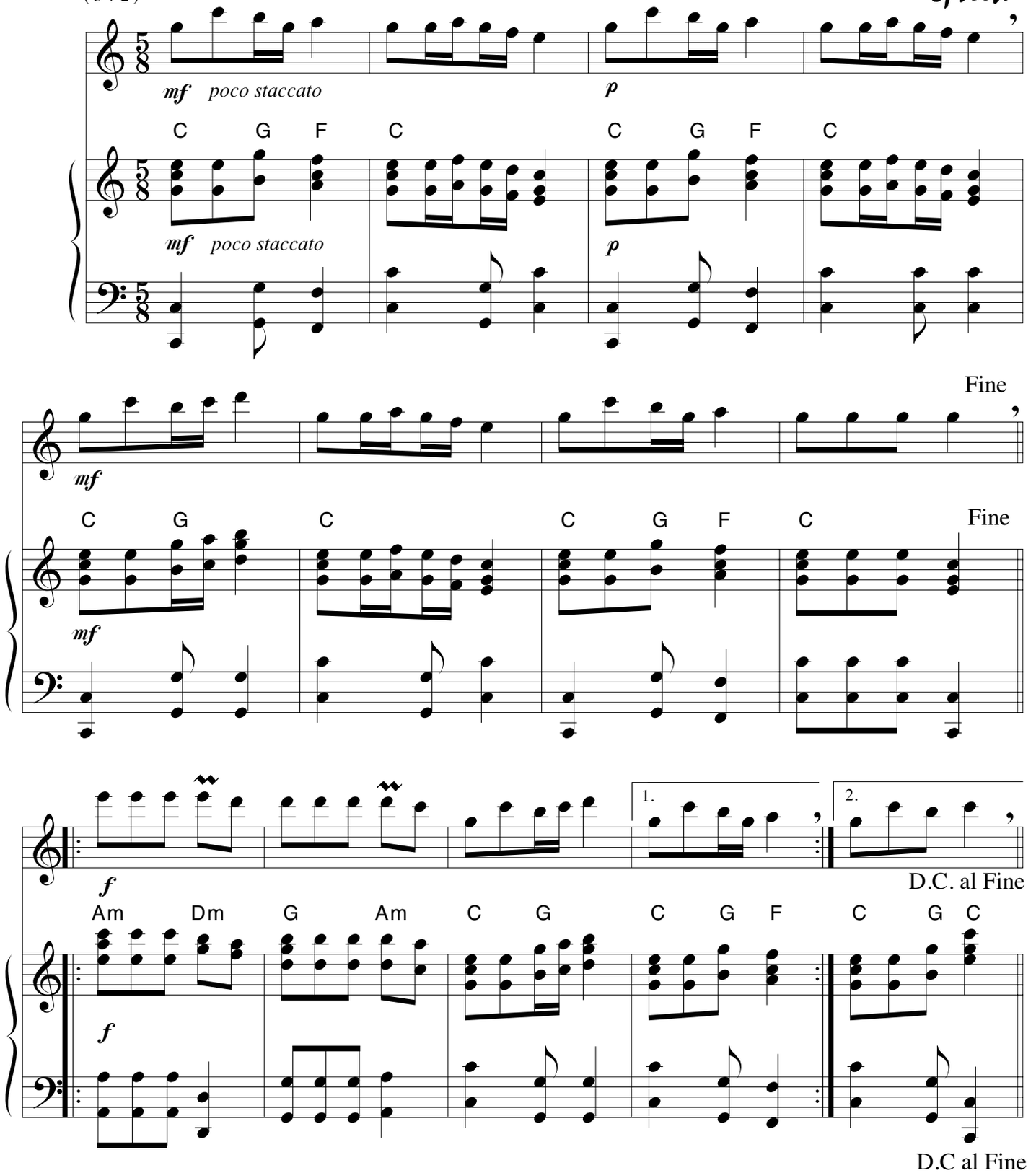
Tsakoniko

(Dance from Tsakonia)

Allegro

(3 + 2)

Greek

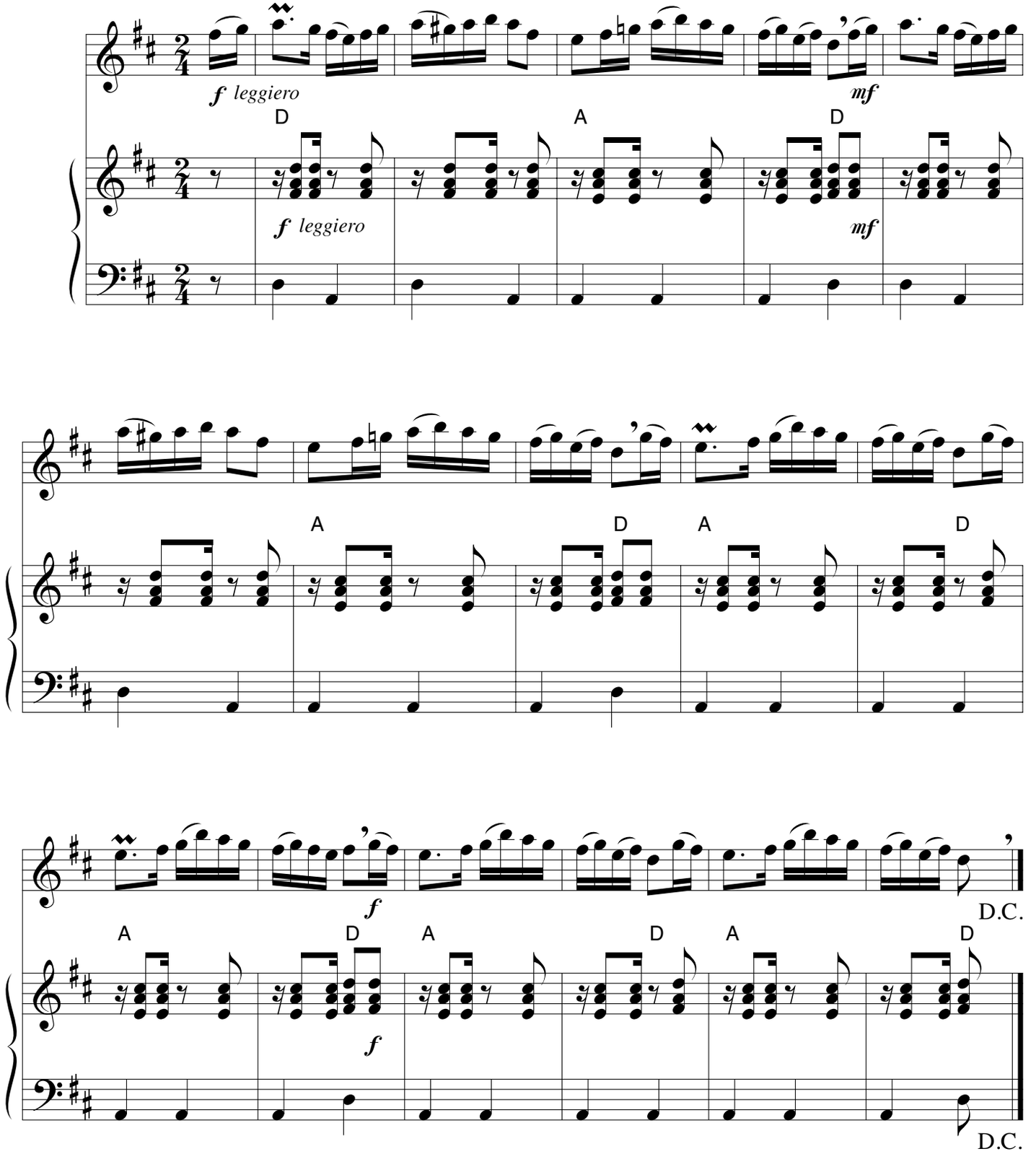


Track 13

My Little Ribbon

Andantino

Greek



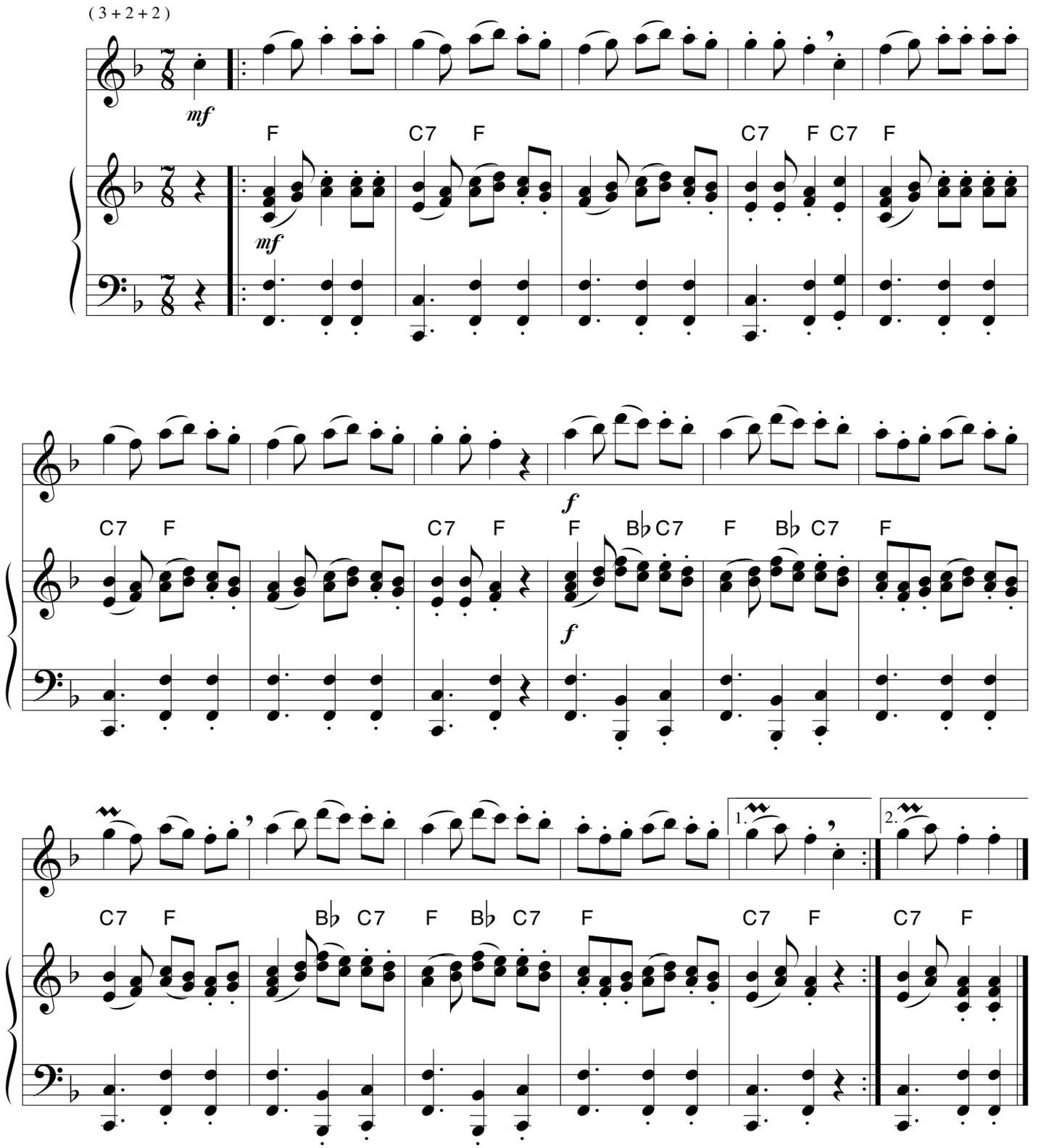
Track 14

Kalamatiano

(Dance from Kalamata)

Allegro spiritoso

Greek

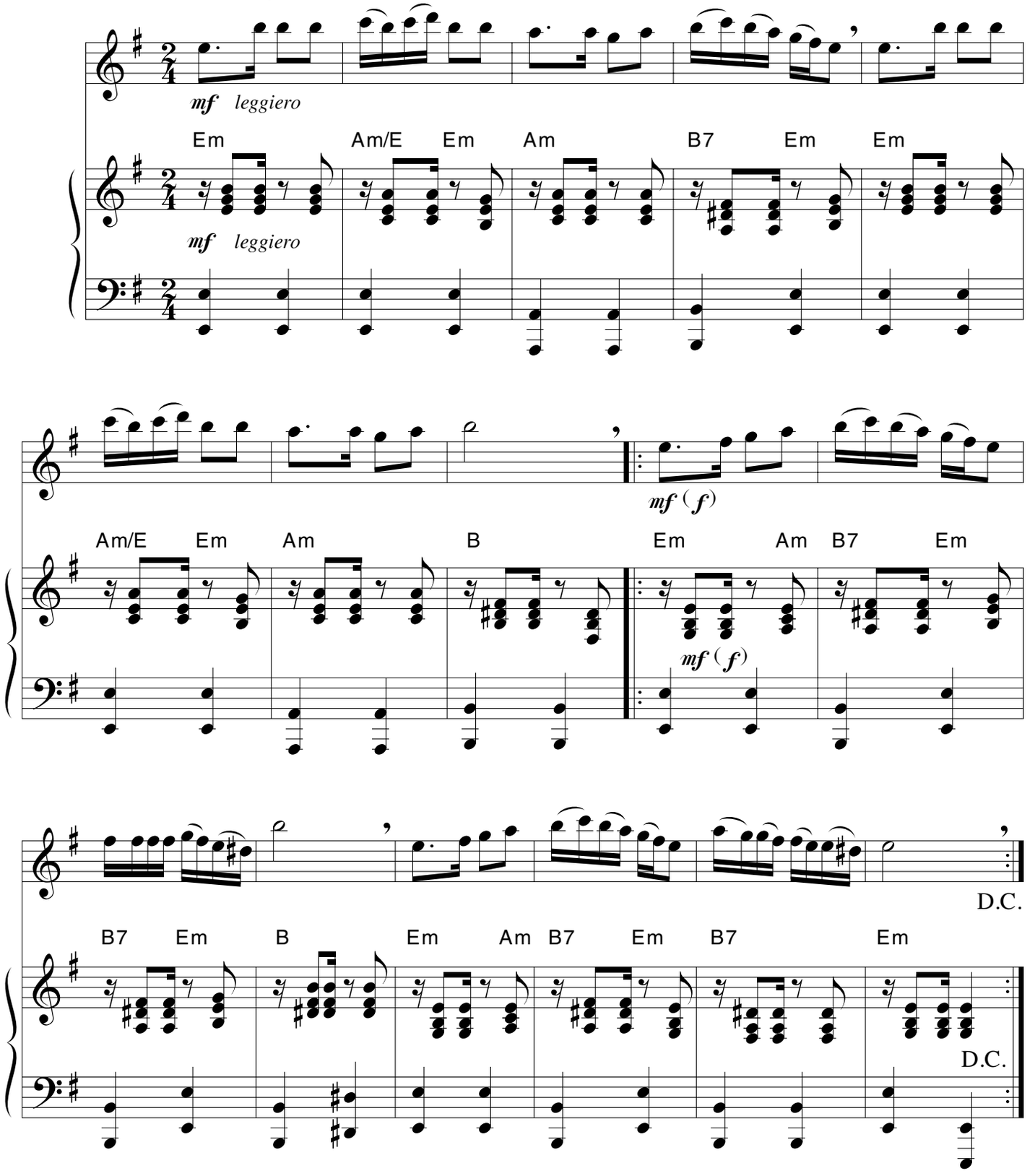


Track 15

Jasmine

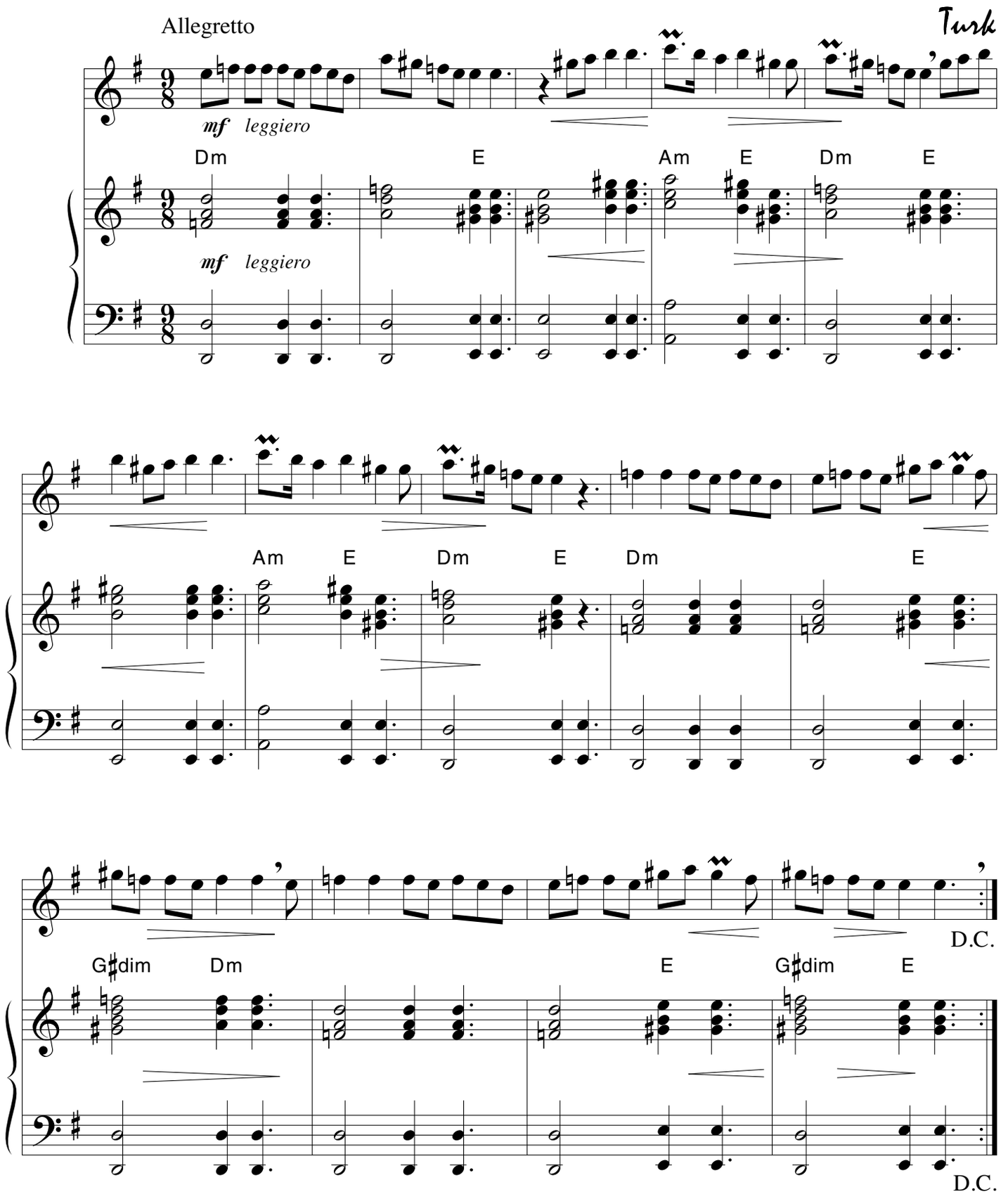
Andantino giocoso

Turk



Track 16

Dark Blue Grapes

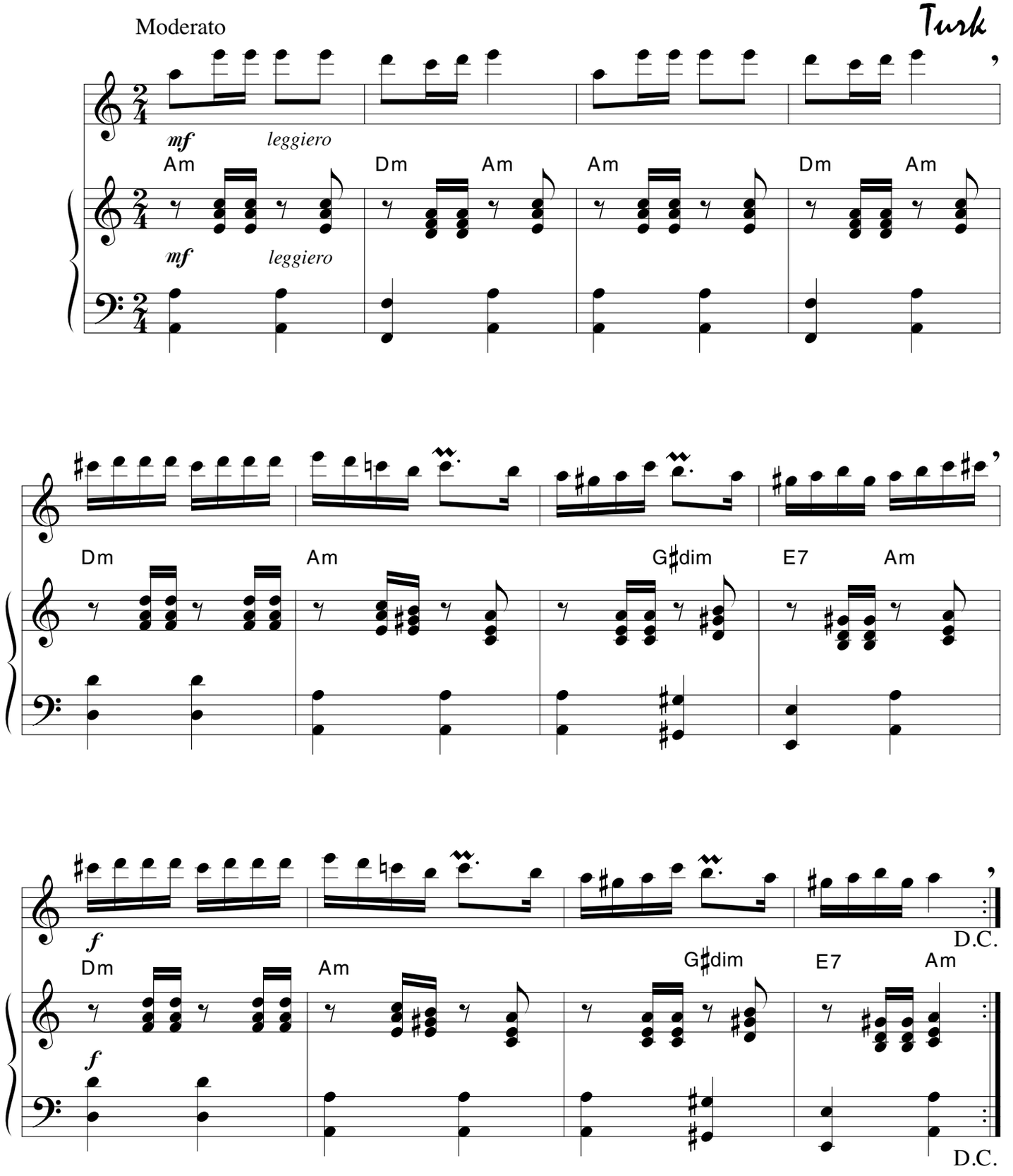


Track 17

My Boy, My Boy

Moderato

Turk



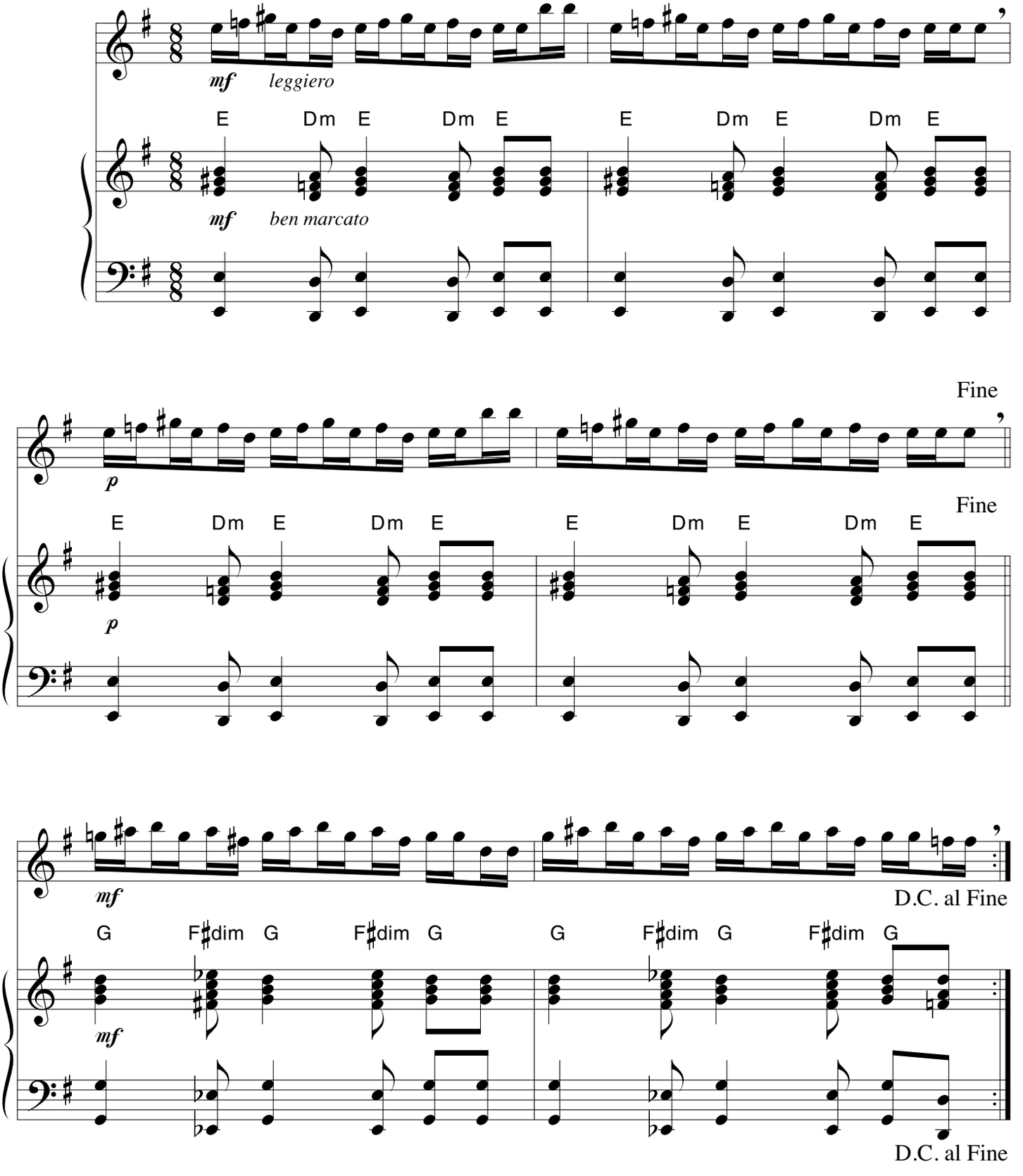
Love the Girls

Track 18

Moderato

(3 + 3 + 2)

Turk



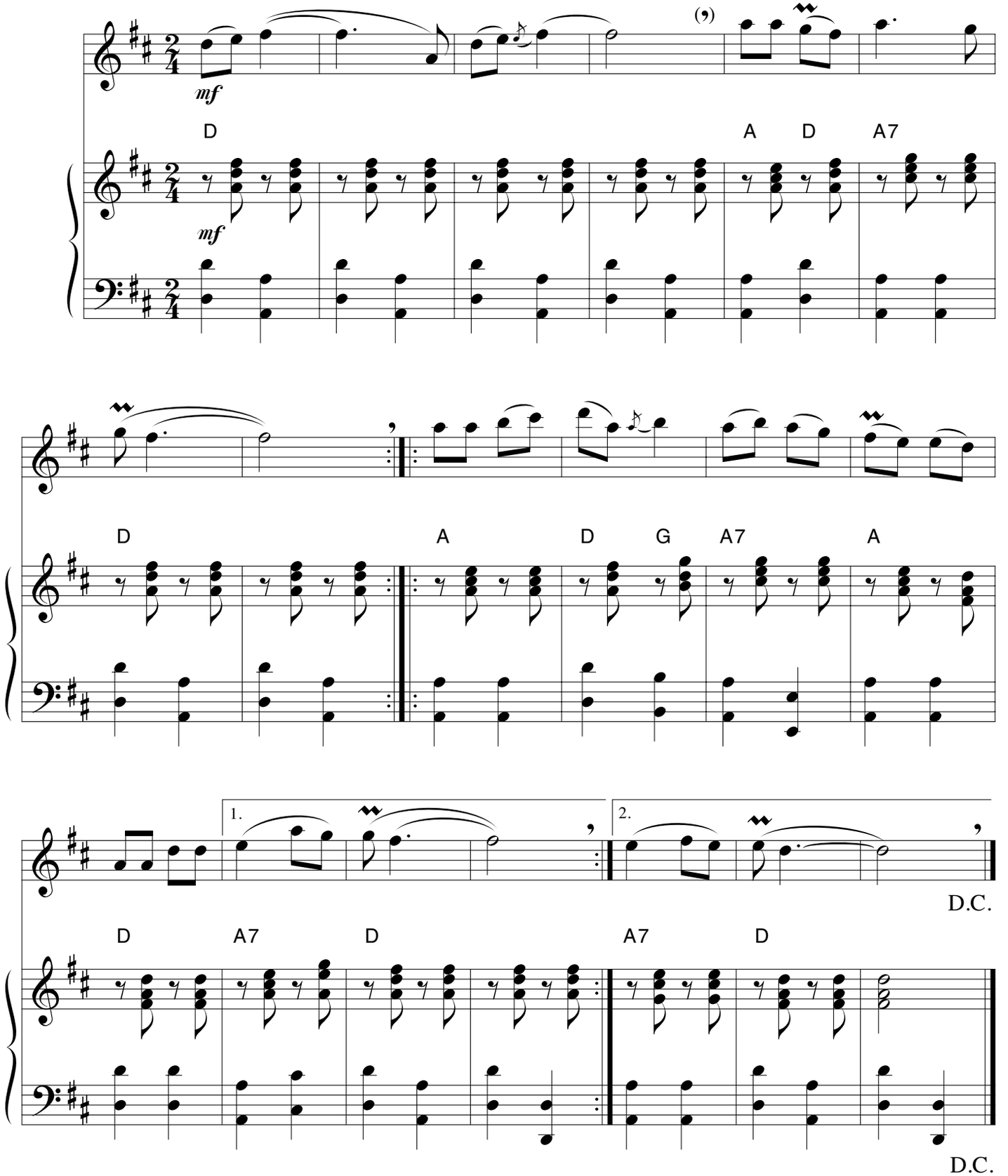
Track 19

Radu, Darling

Moderato

cantabile

Romanian



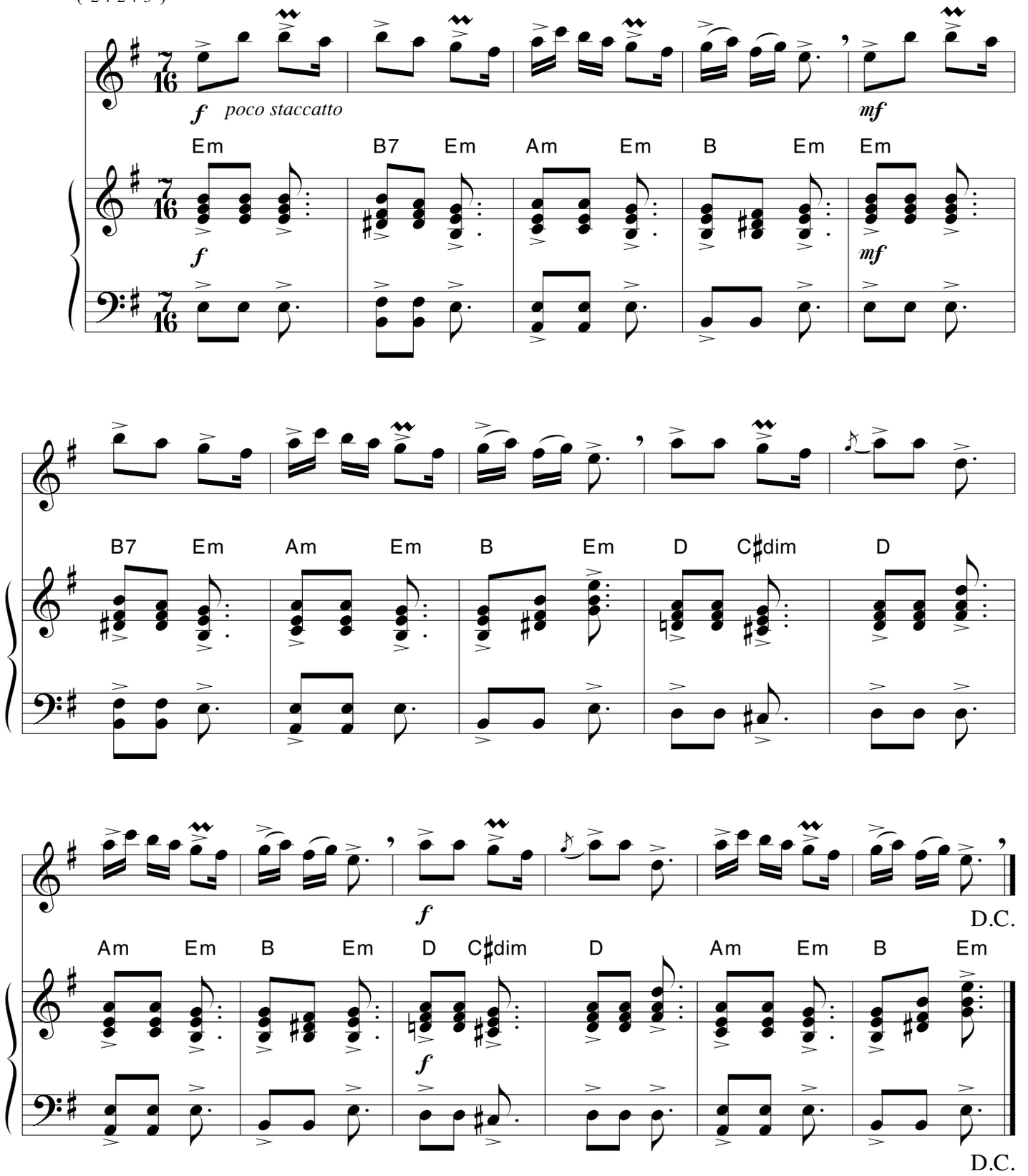
Good Is the Rosé Wine

Track 20

Allegretto

(2 + 2 + 3)

Romanian

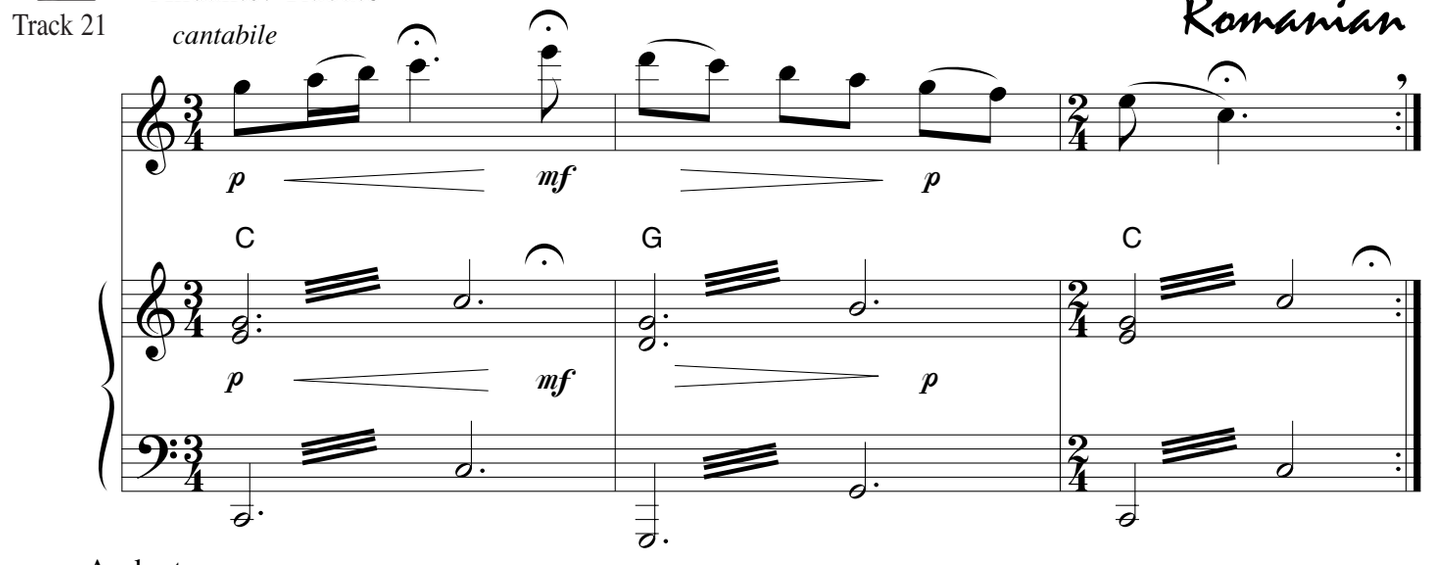


I'm Going to Cross the River Olt

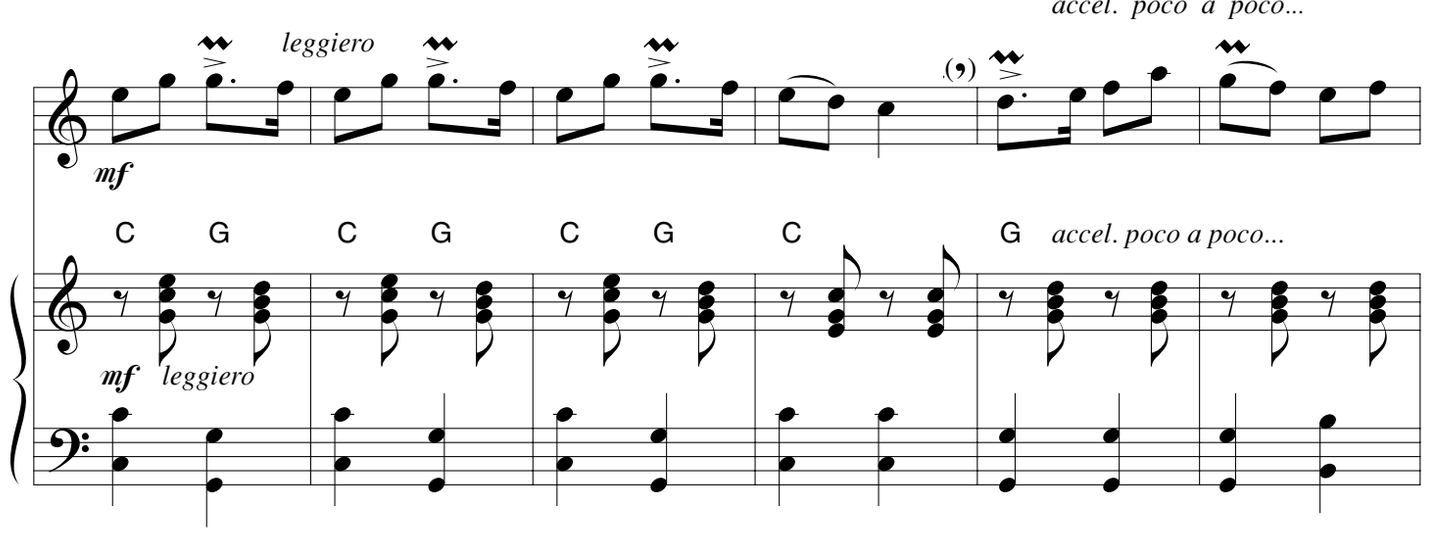
Track 21

Andante. Rubato

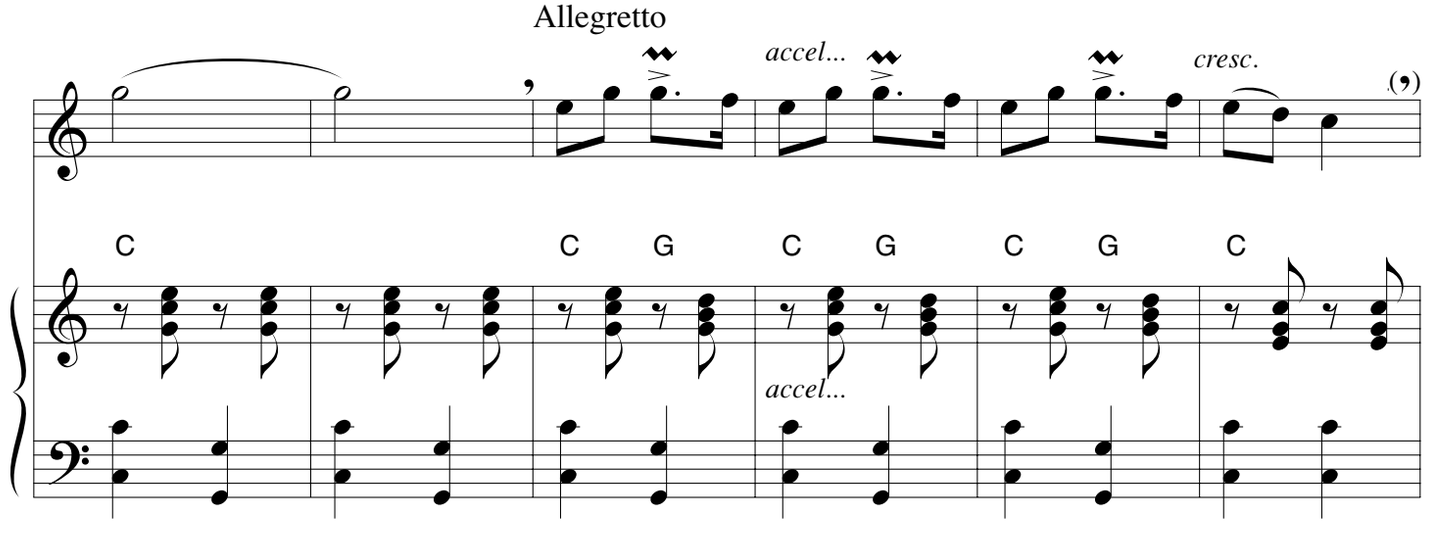
Romanian

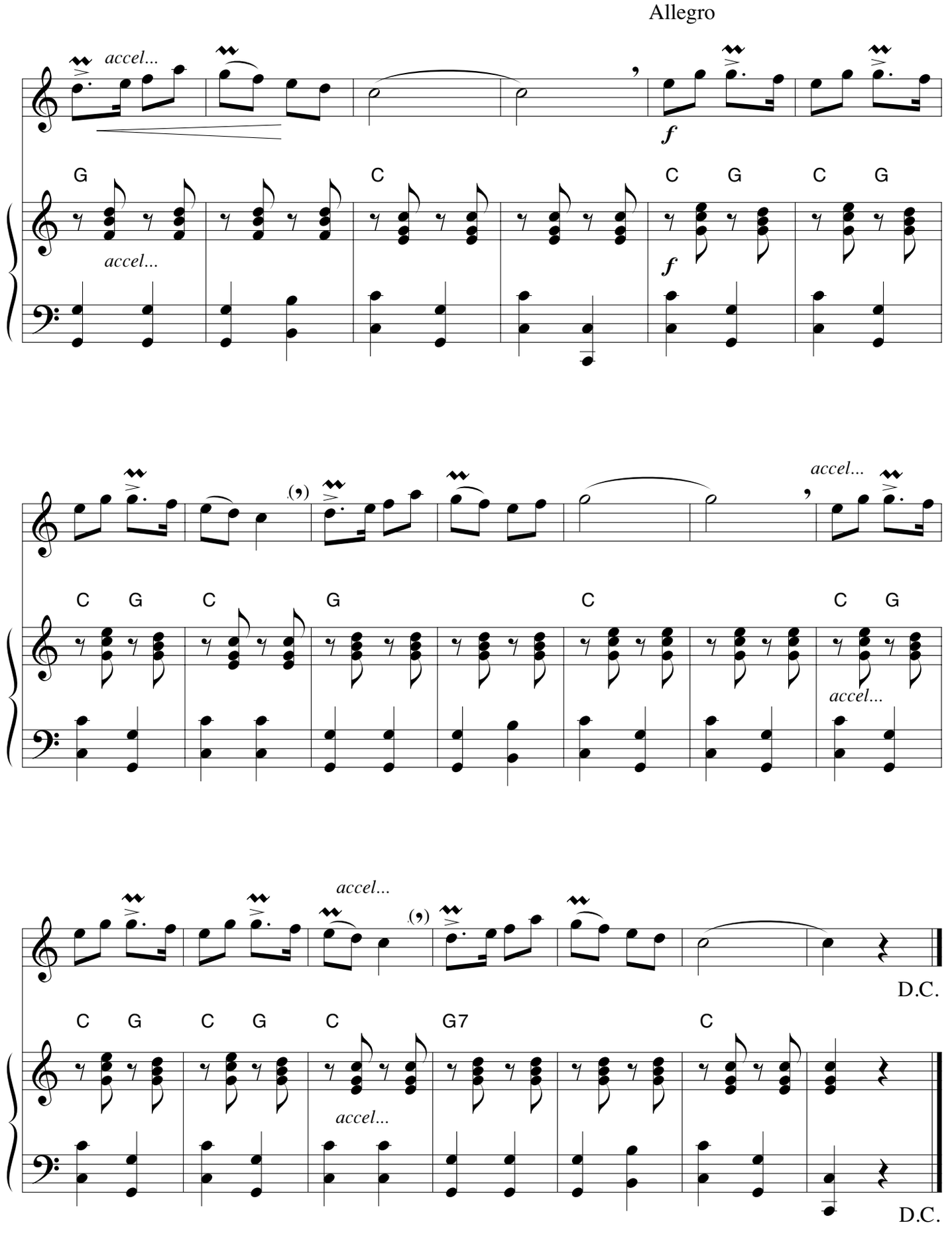


Andante



Allegretto




Allegro
accel...
f
G
C
C
G
C
G
accel...
f
C
G
C
G
C
C
G
accel...
accel...
C
G
C
G
C
G7
C
accel...
D.C.
D.C.

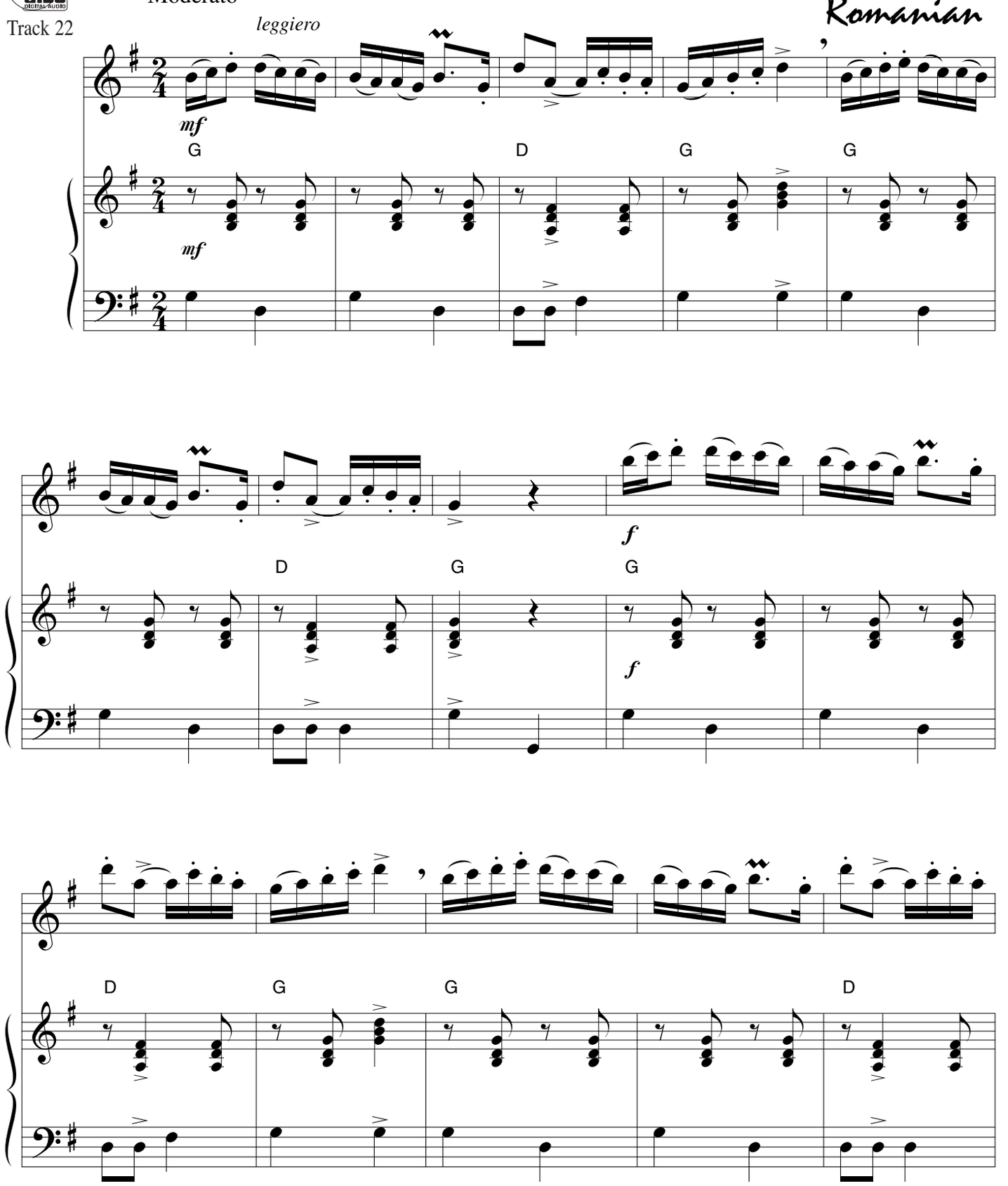
The Old Man's Dance from Arbore

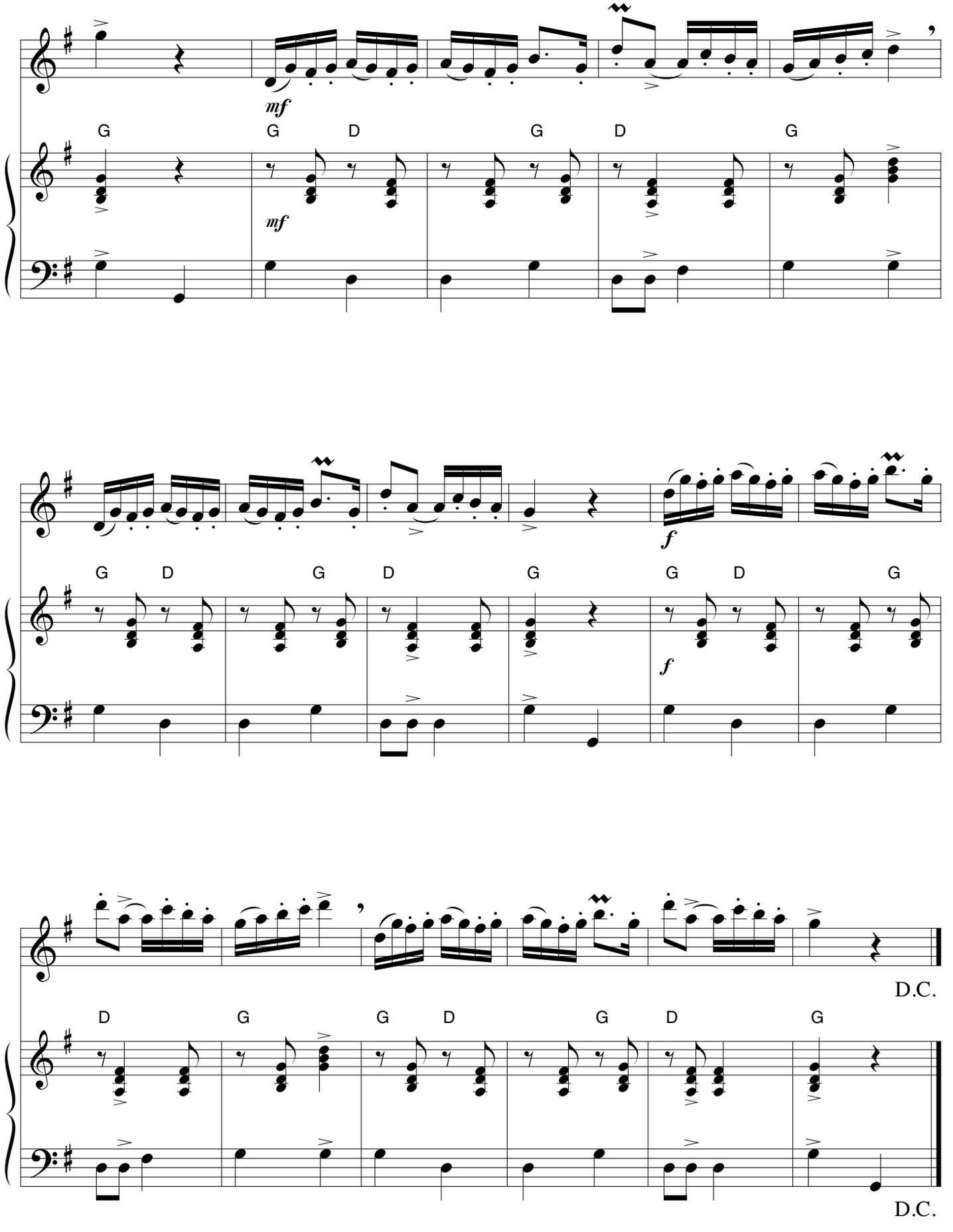
Track 22

Moderato

leggiero

Romanian



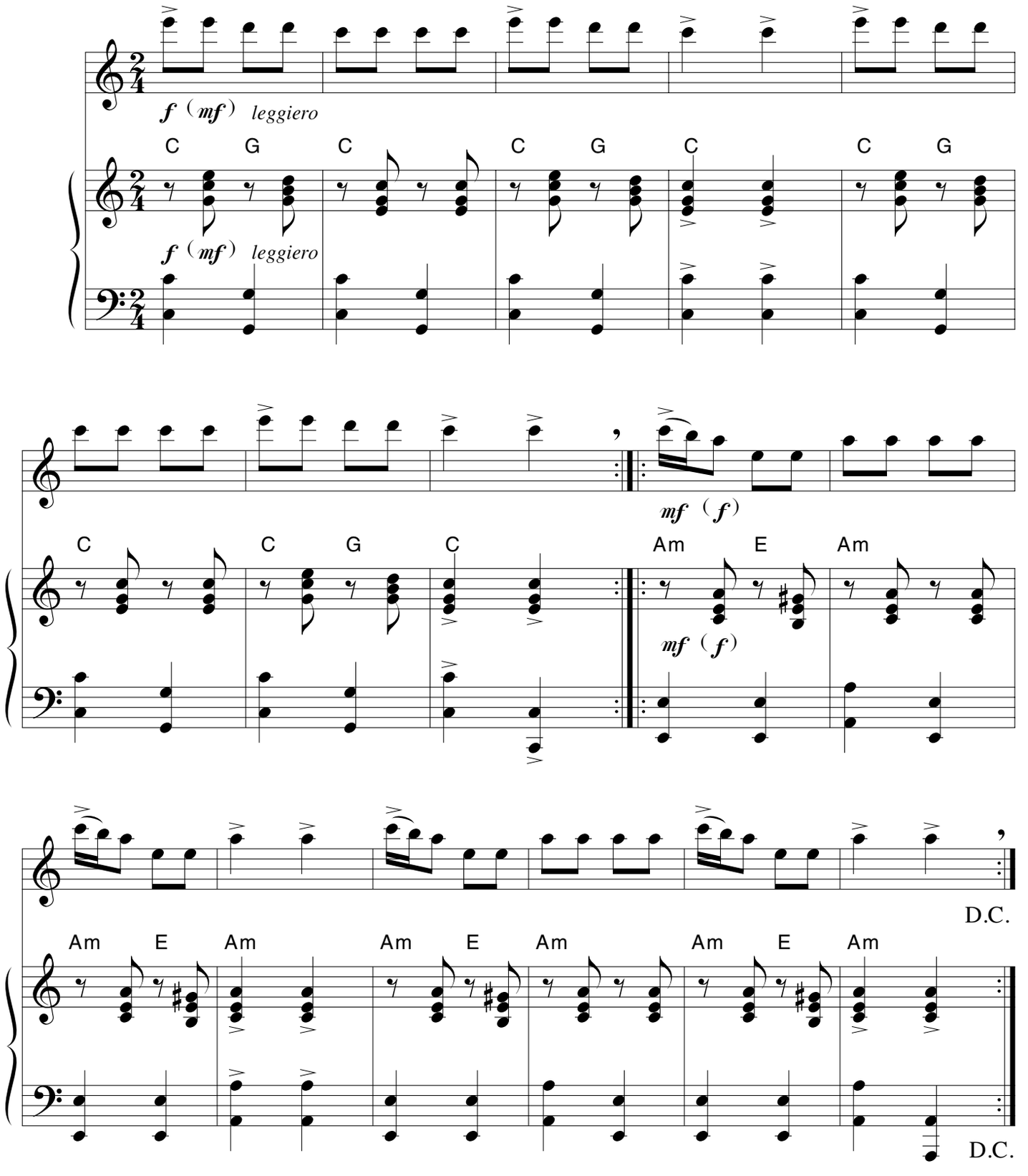

mf
G
G
D
G
D
G
mf
f
G
D
G
D
G
G
D
G
f
D.C.
D
G
G
D
G
D
G
D.C.

Track 23

Dance from Moldavia

Allegro vivo

Romanian



Play Again, Your Violin

Track 24

Allegretto

Romanian

(2 + 2 + 3 + 3)

f (*mf*) *ben marcato*

B♭ F B♭ C7 F

f (*mf*) *ben marcato*

mf

C F B♭ C7 F

mf

D.C.

Gm Dm Am Dm A7 Dm

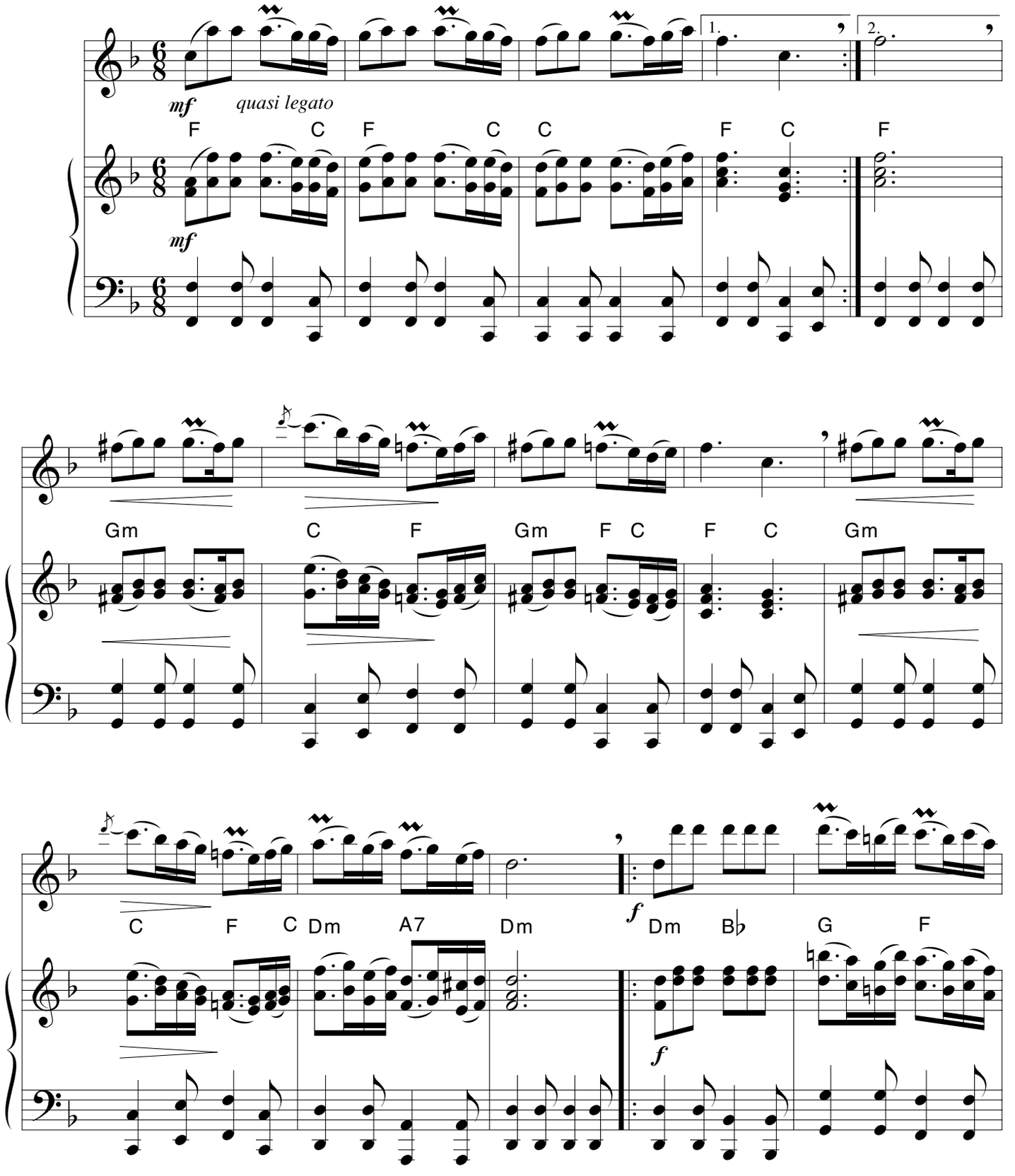
D.C.

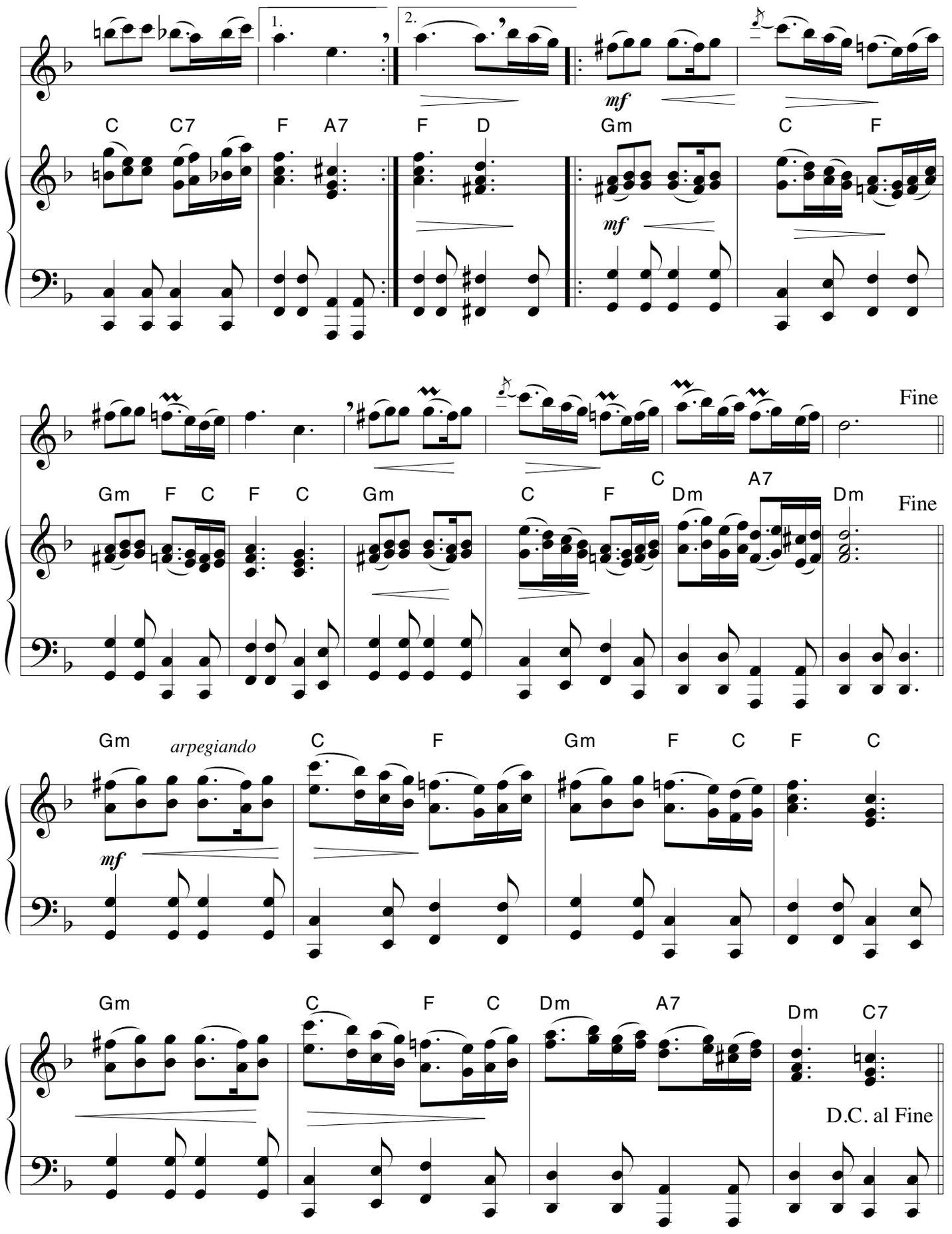
Track 25

Old-fashioned Dance

Andantino cantabile

Romanian




1.
2.
mf
C C7 F A7 F D Gm C F
mf
Fine
Gm F C F C Gm C F C Dm A7 Dm
Fine
Gm arpegiando C F Gm F C F C
mf
Gm C F C Dm A7 Dm C7
D.C. al Fine

Track 26

Sârba from Ploiesti

Romanian

Presto

leggiero

f

C G7 C

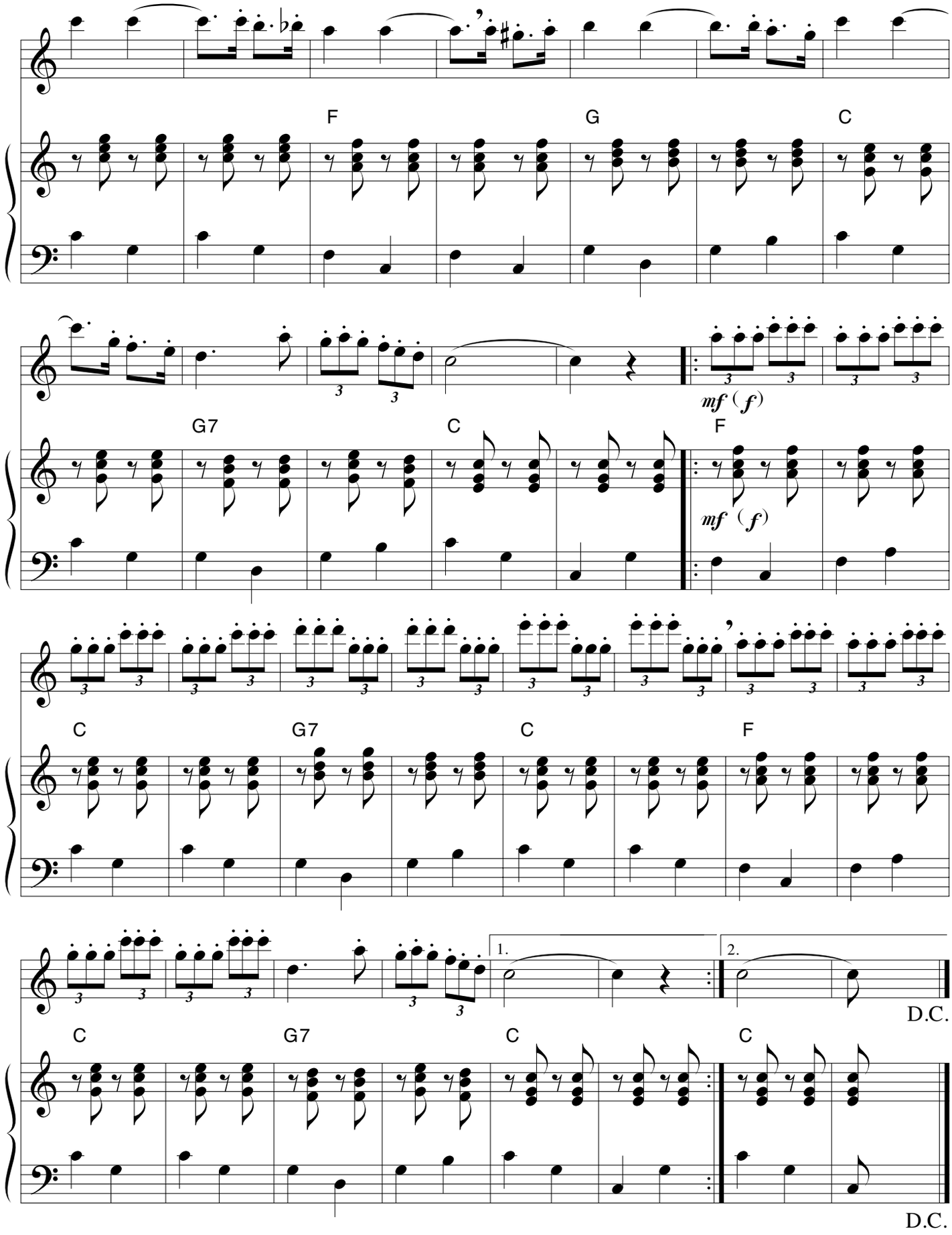
f *leggiero*

F G7 C G7

mf

C G7 C

mf


F
G
C
G7
C
F
mf (f)
mf (f)
C
G7
C
F
1.
2.
D.C.
C
G7
C
C
D.C.

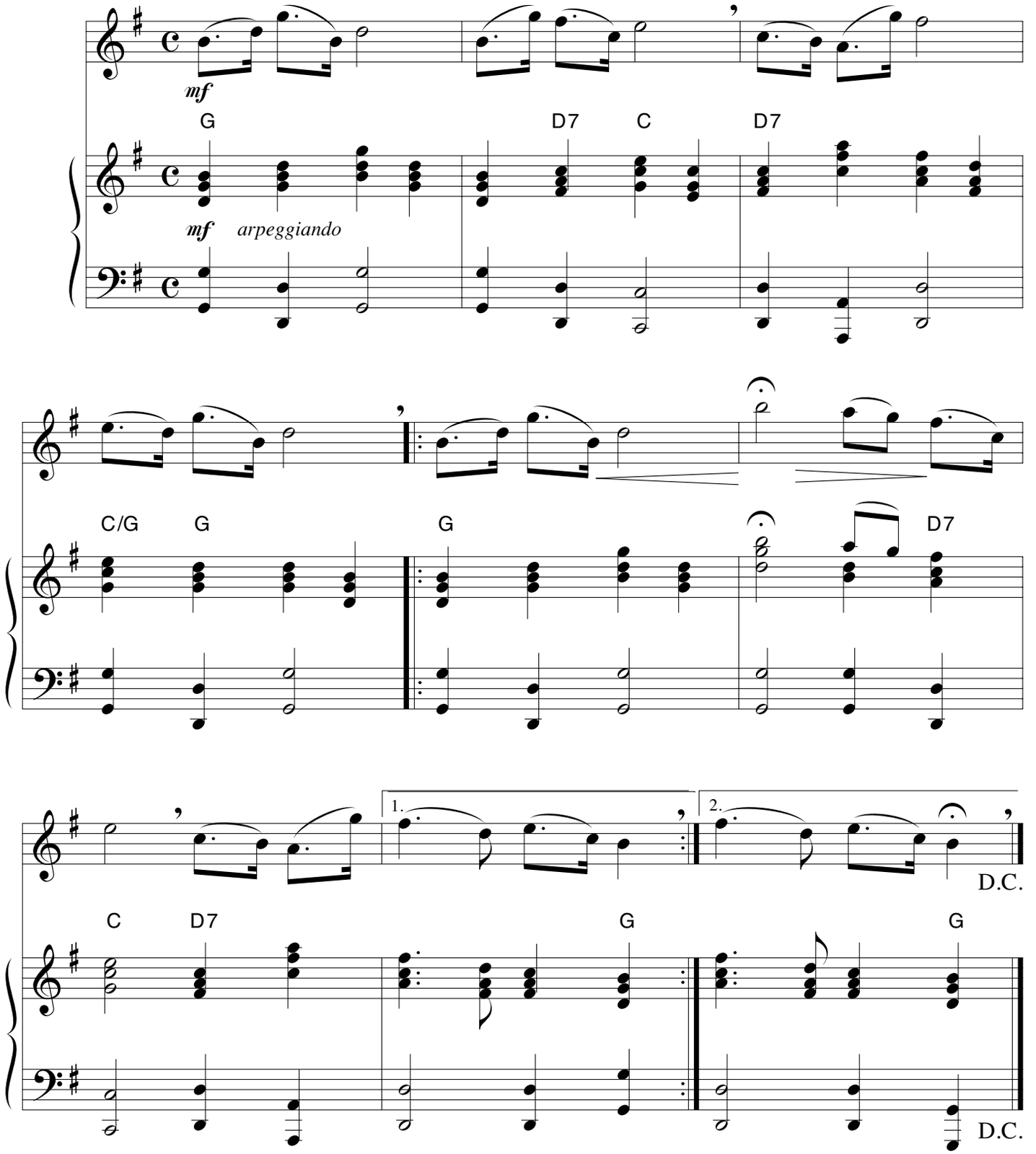
Track 27

There, Behind the Izar

Andante

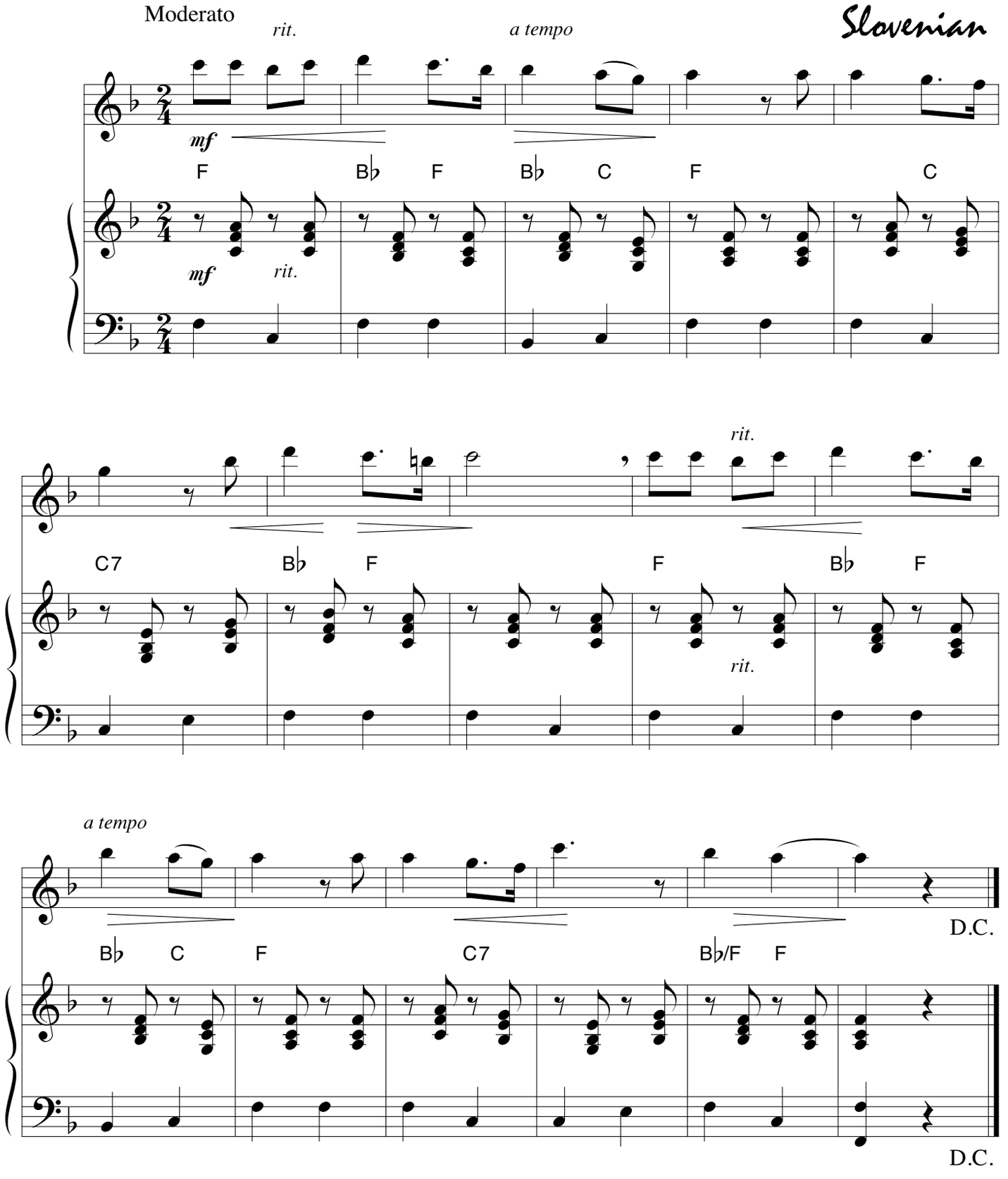
cantabile

Slovenian



How Can I Love Somebody

Track 28

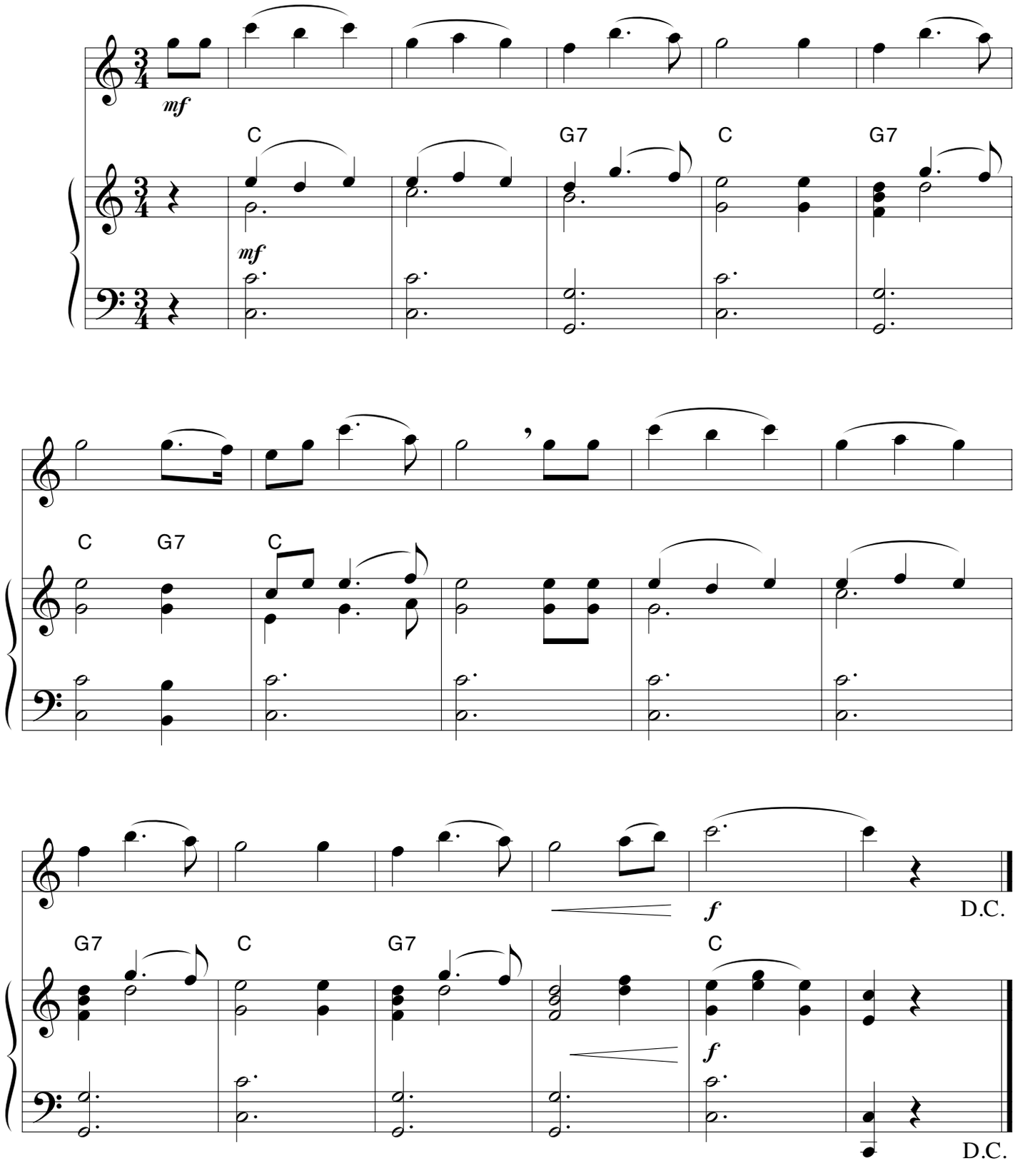


Track 29

Dance from Koroska

Slovenian

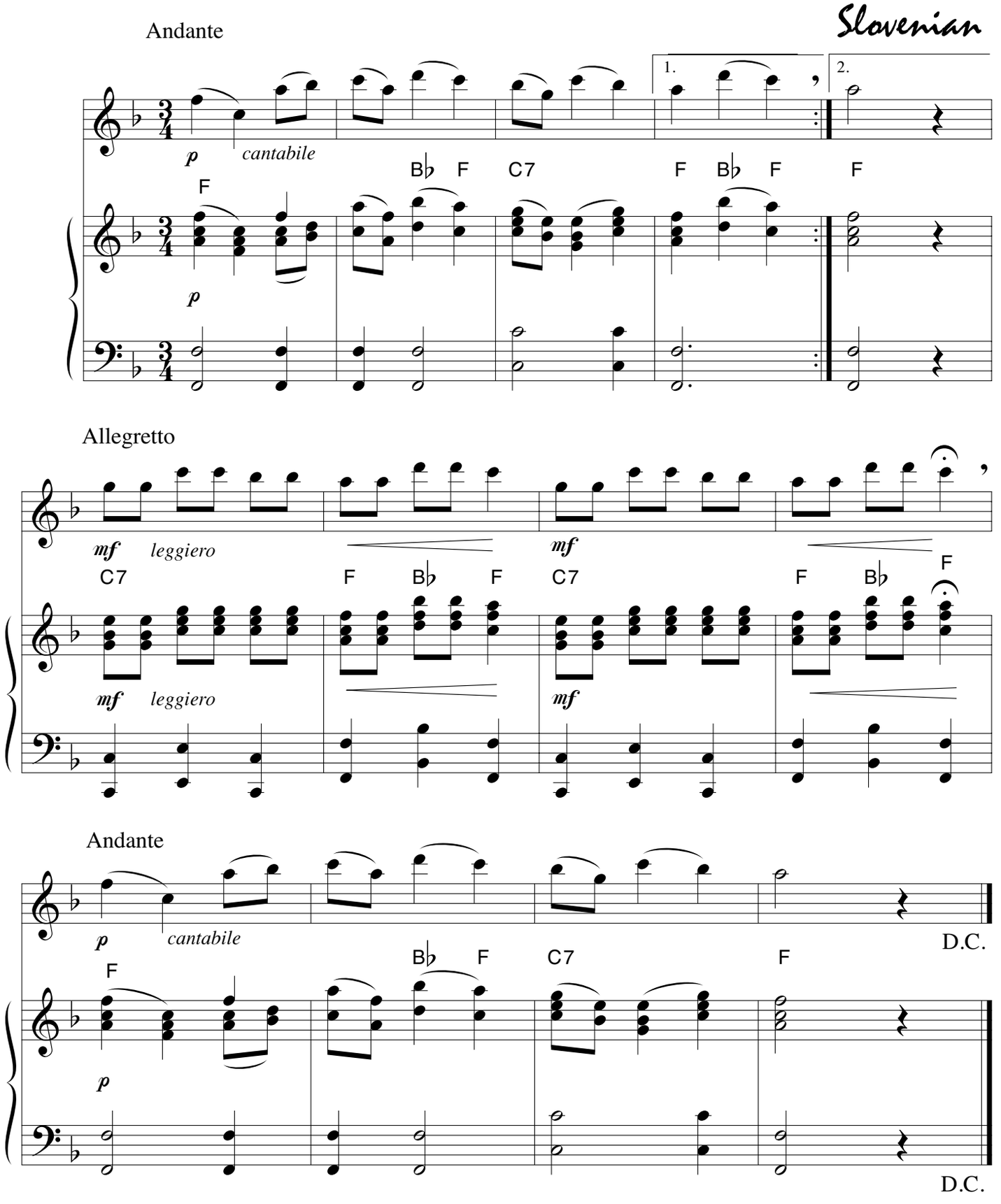
Allegro vivo



Track 30

The Sun Set Behind the Hill

Slovenian

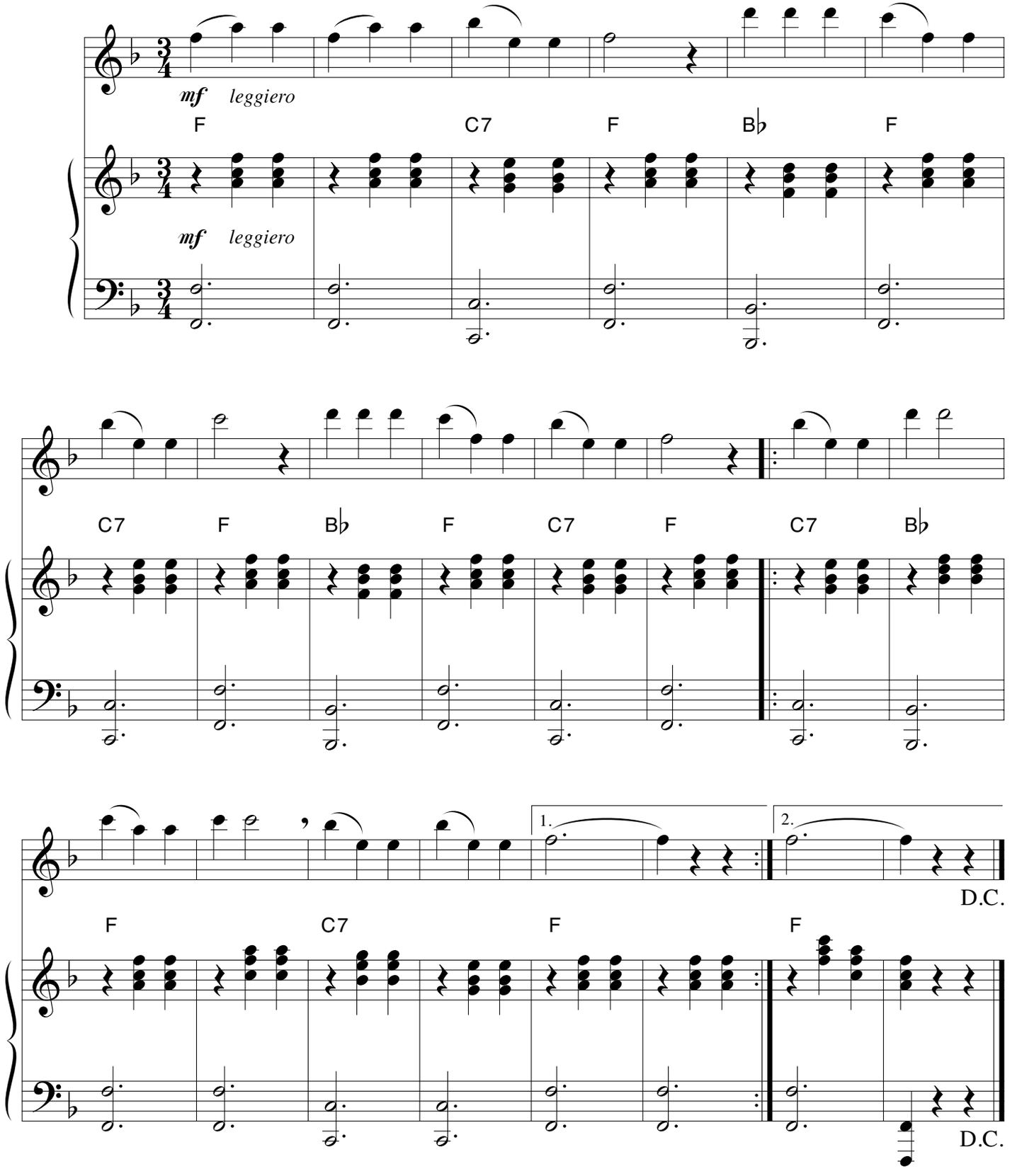


Track 31

Spring

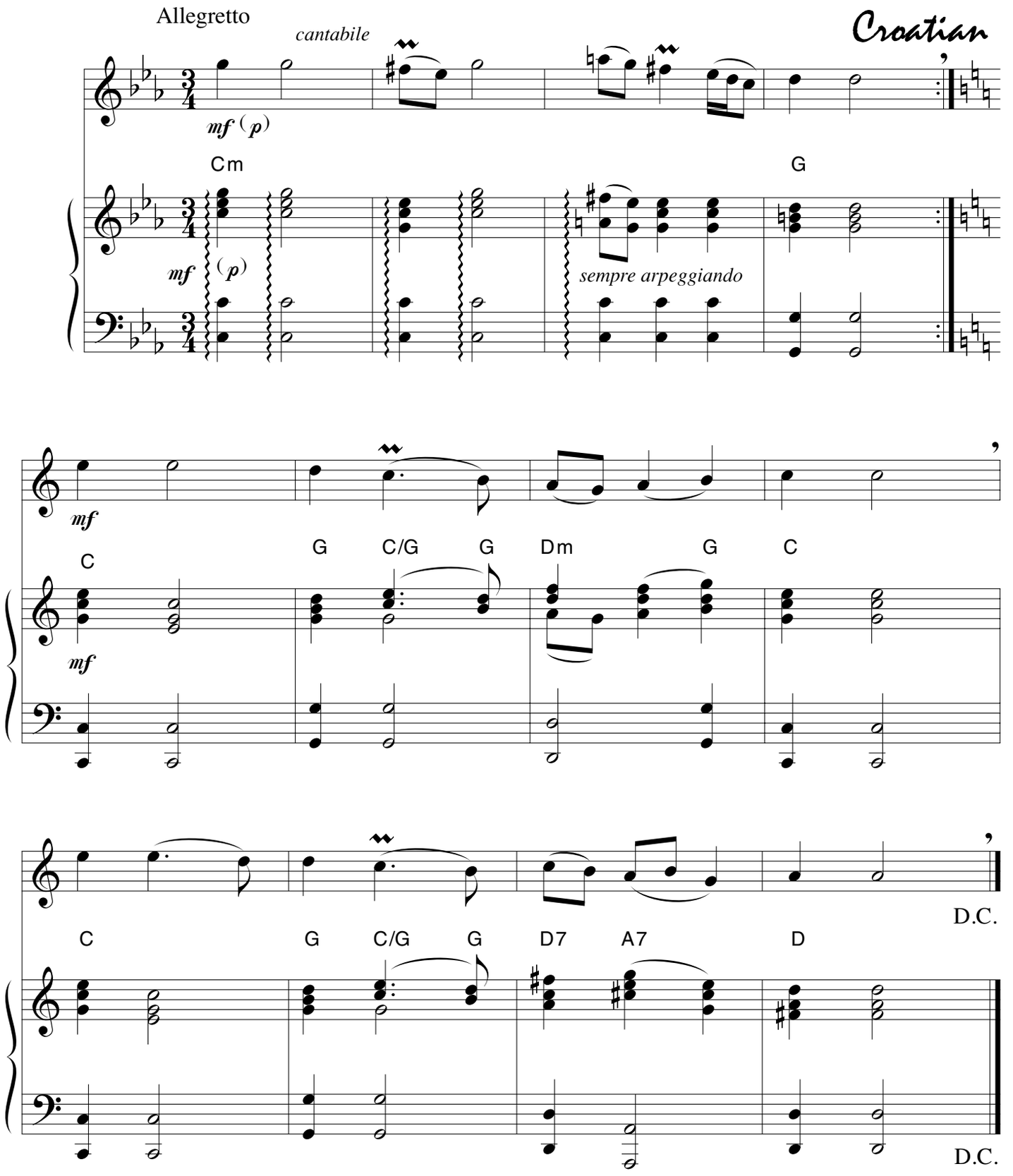
Presto

Slovenian



Track 32

A Boy and Girl's Desire

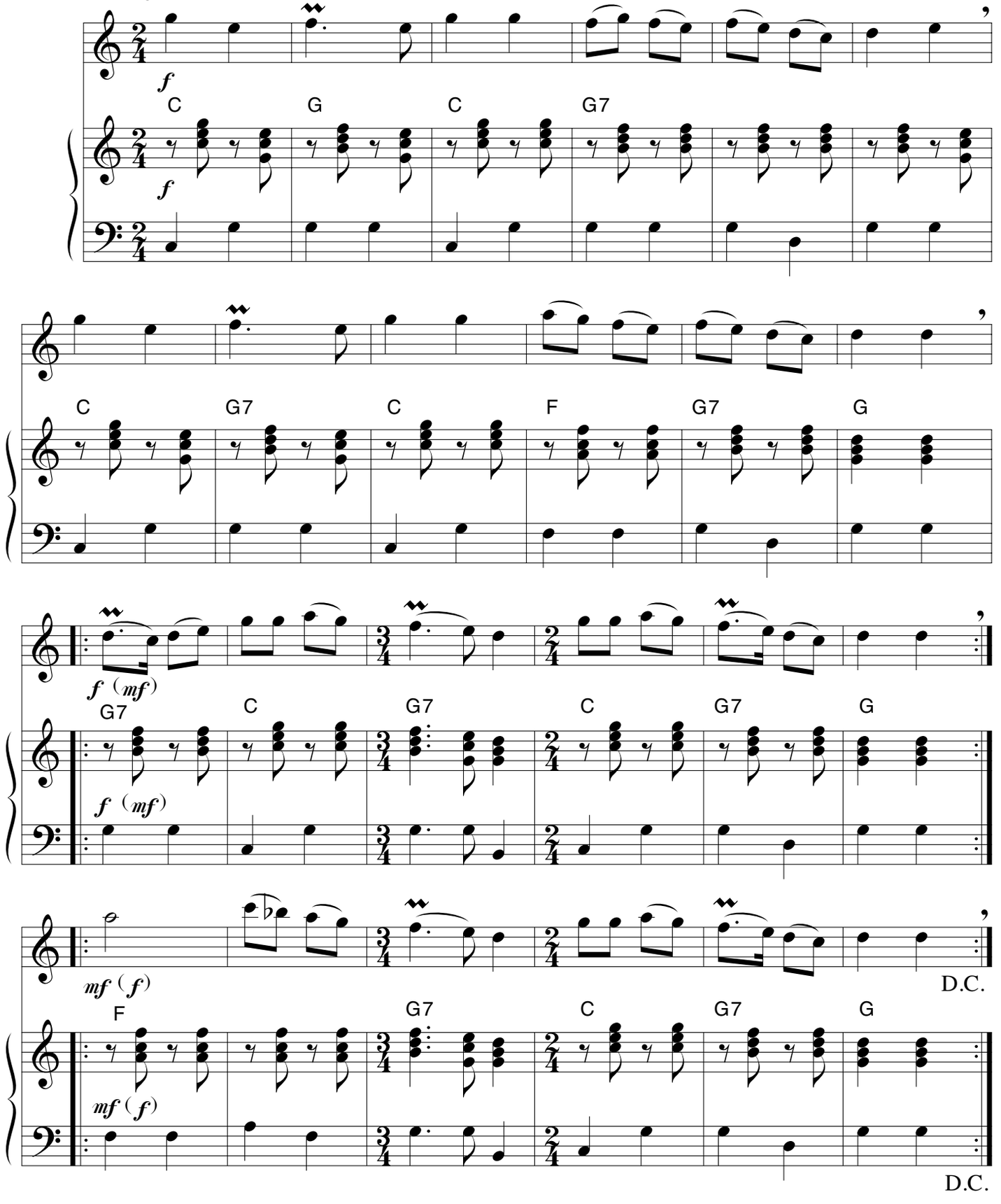


Track 33

The Stream of Lepenica

Allegro moderato

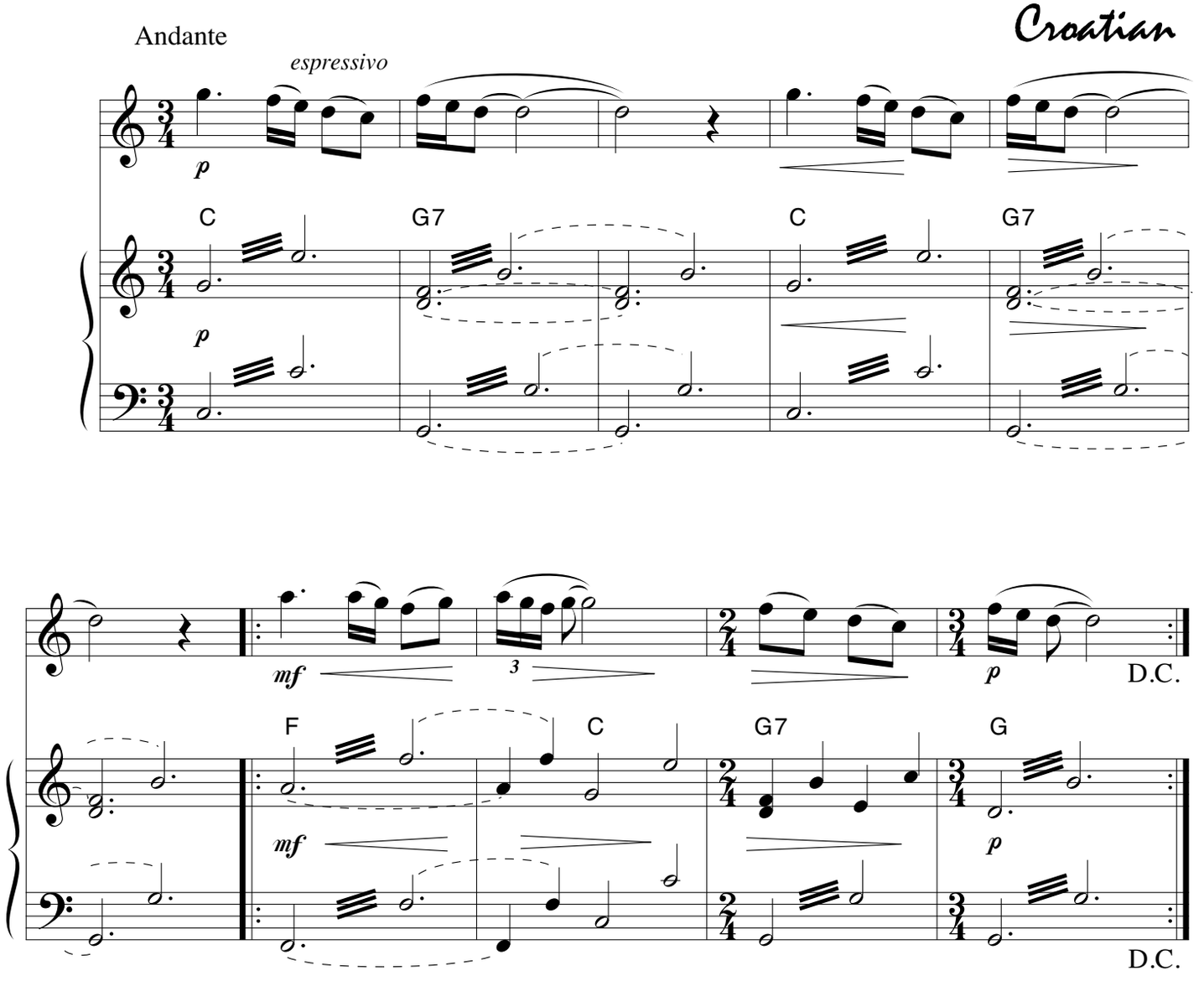
Croatian



Track 34

I'll Fall in Sleep

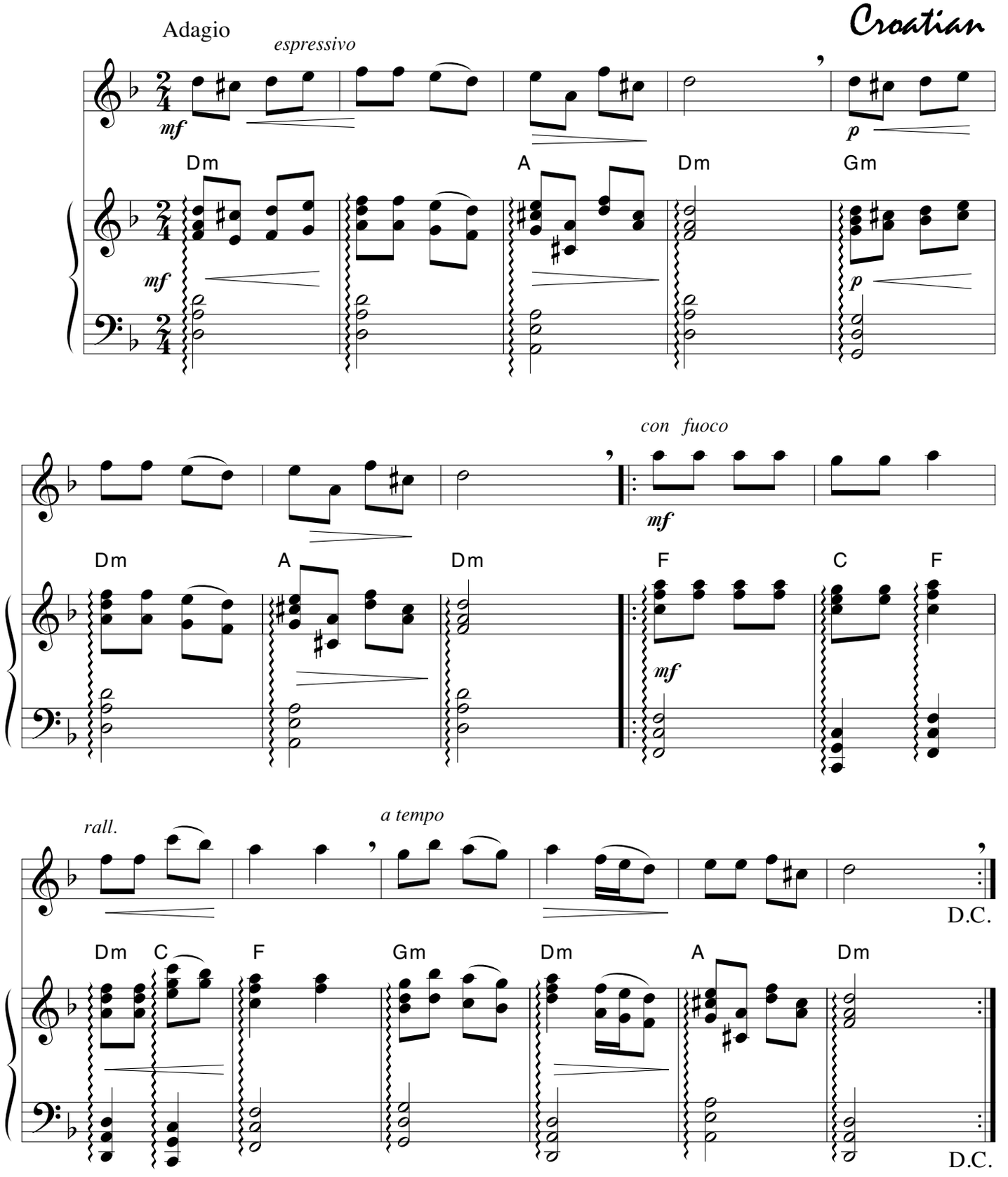
Croatian



Track 35

When the Violets Come Out

Croatian

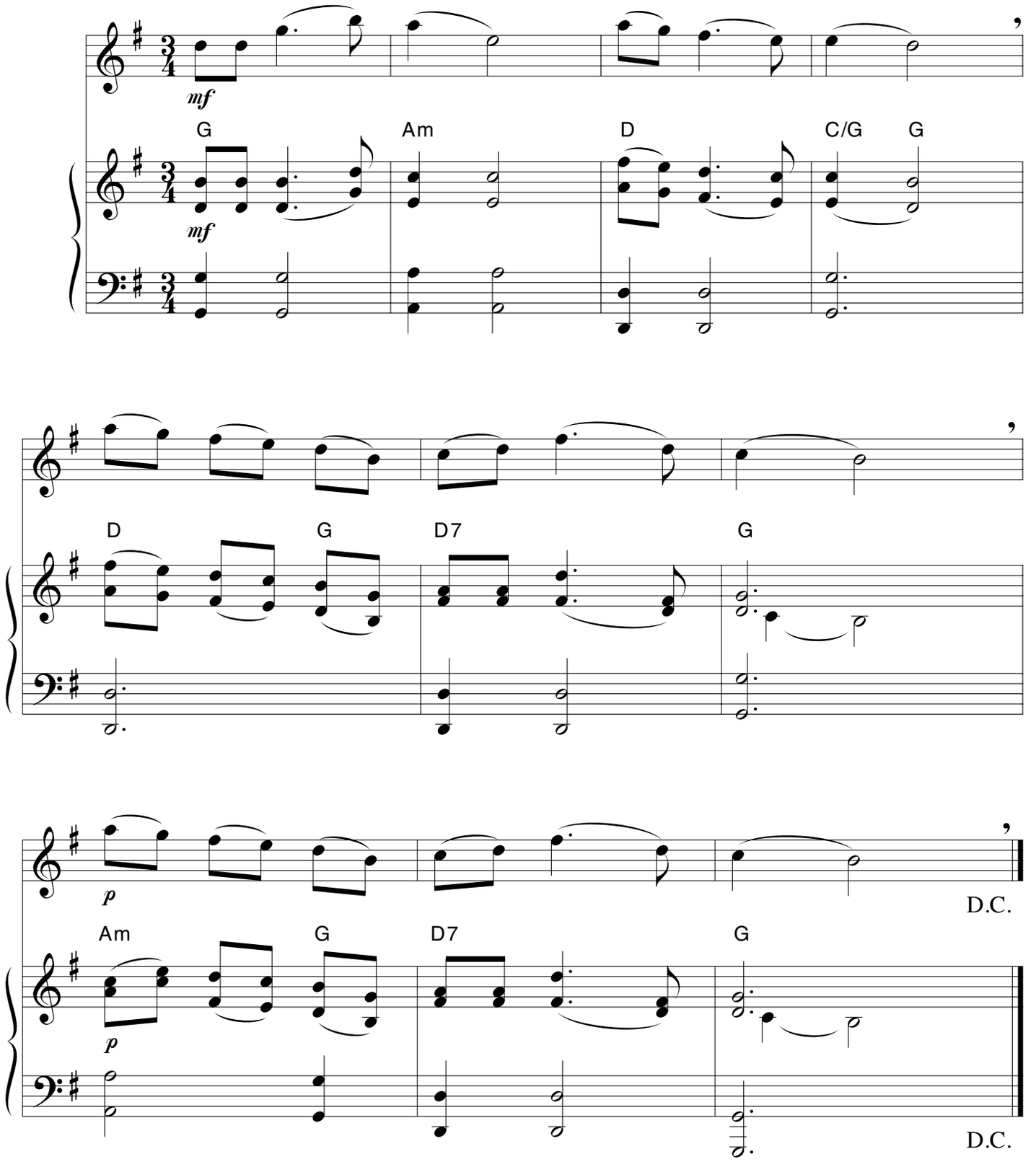


Marica

Track 36

Allegretto

Croatian

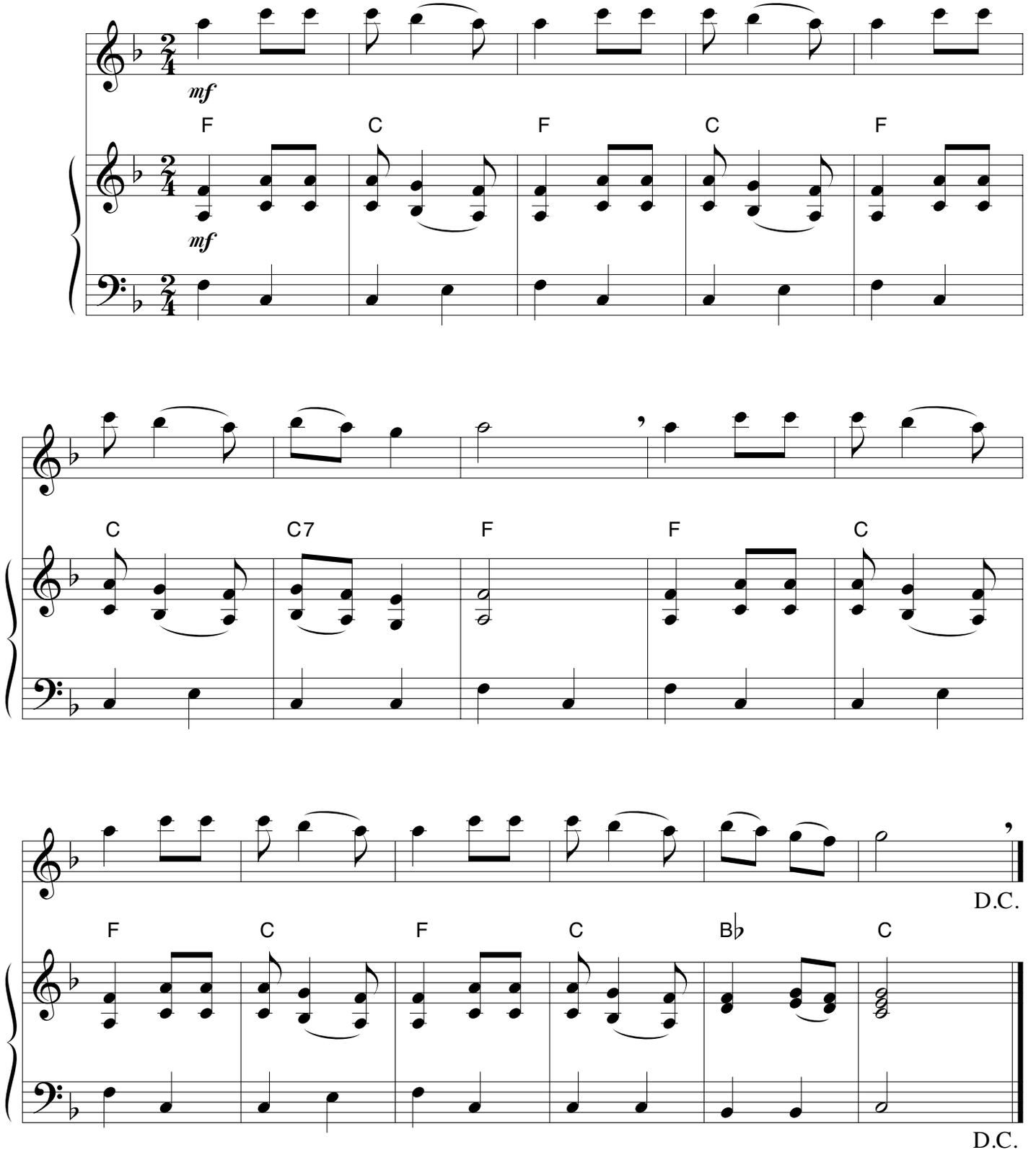


Track 37

Patriotic Song

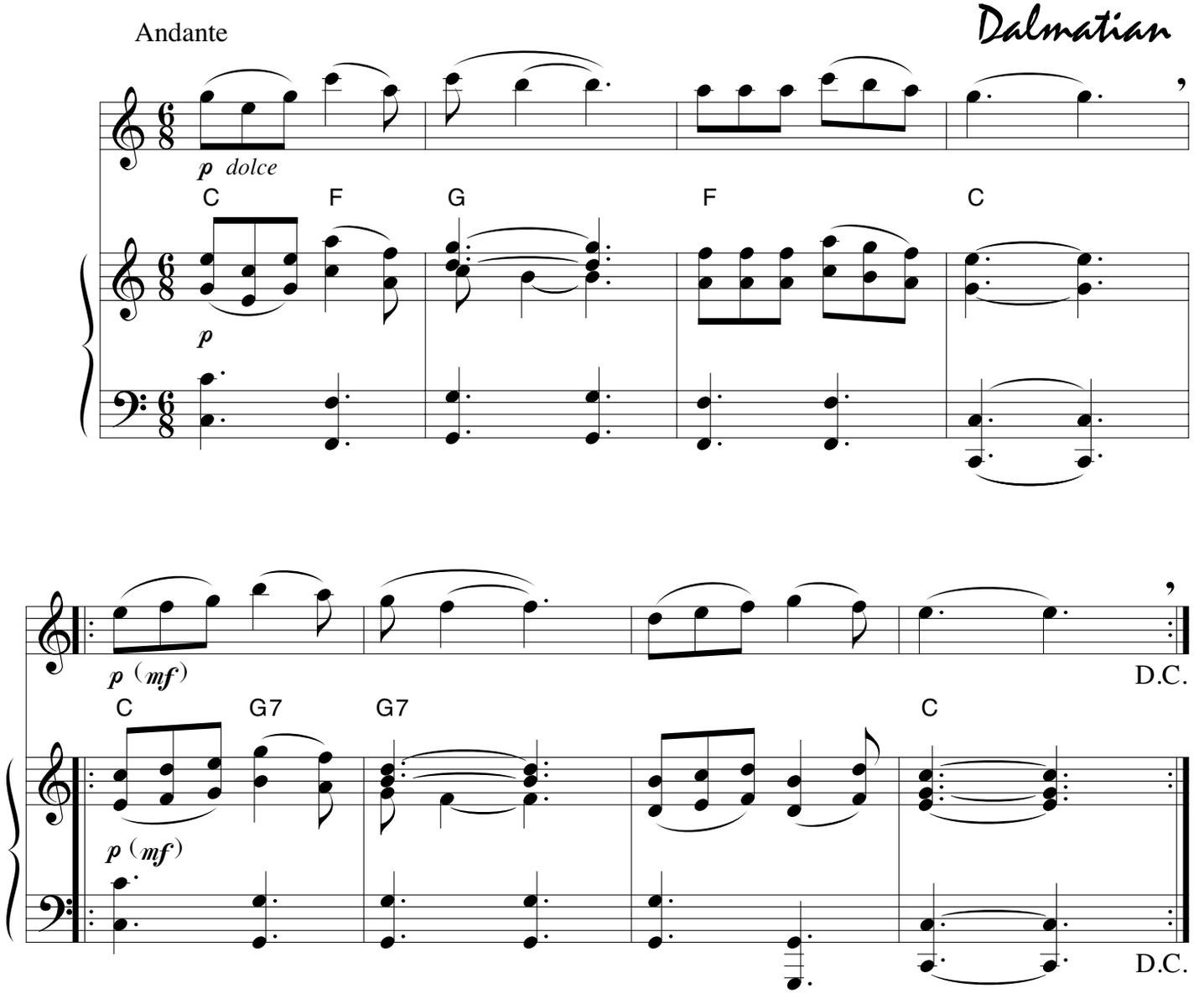
Moderato

Croatian



Track 38

One Little Marten

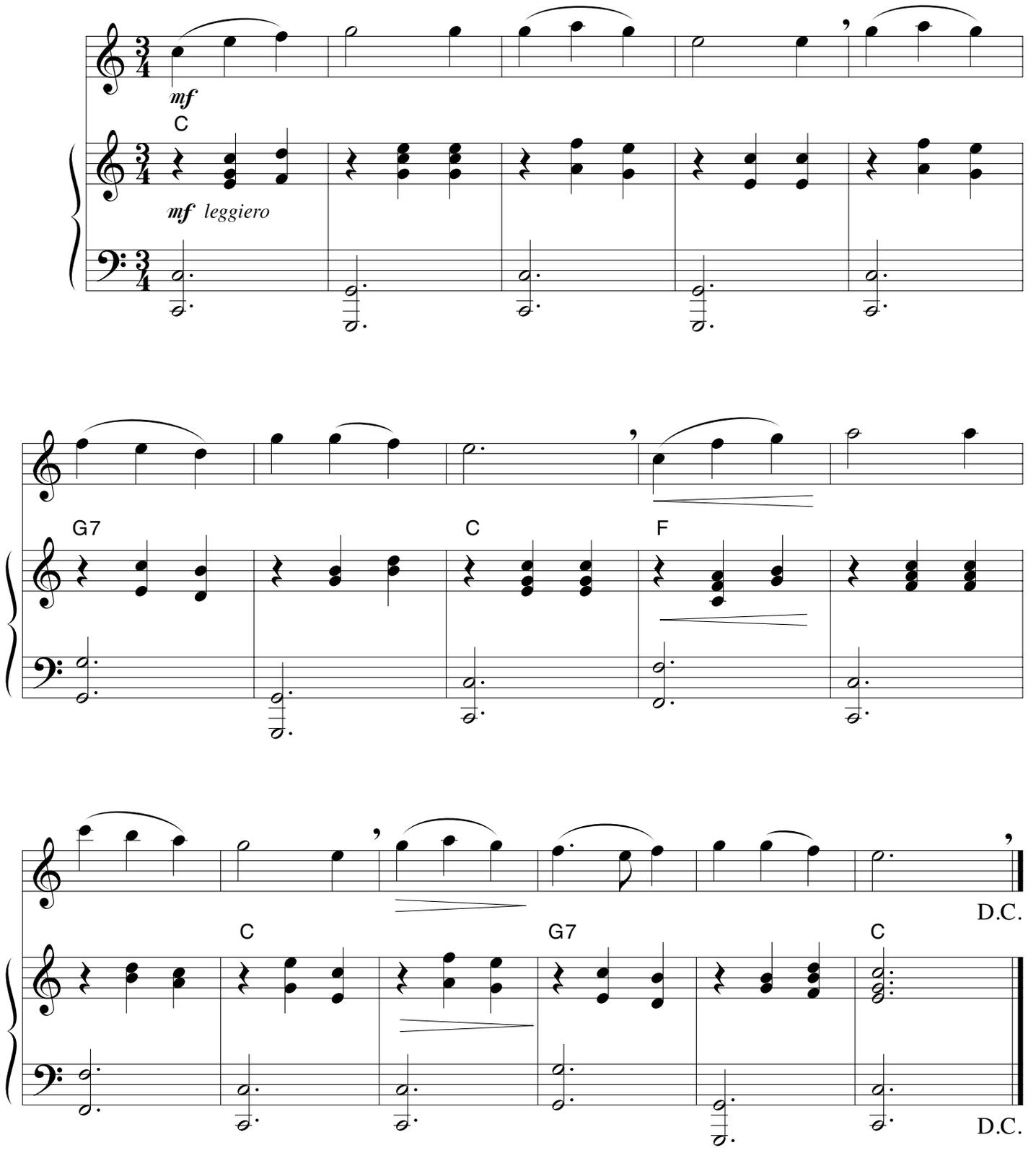


Track 39

The Little Shepherdess

Allegretto

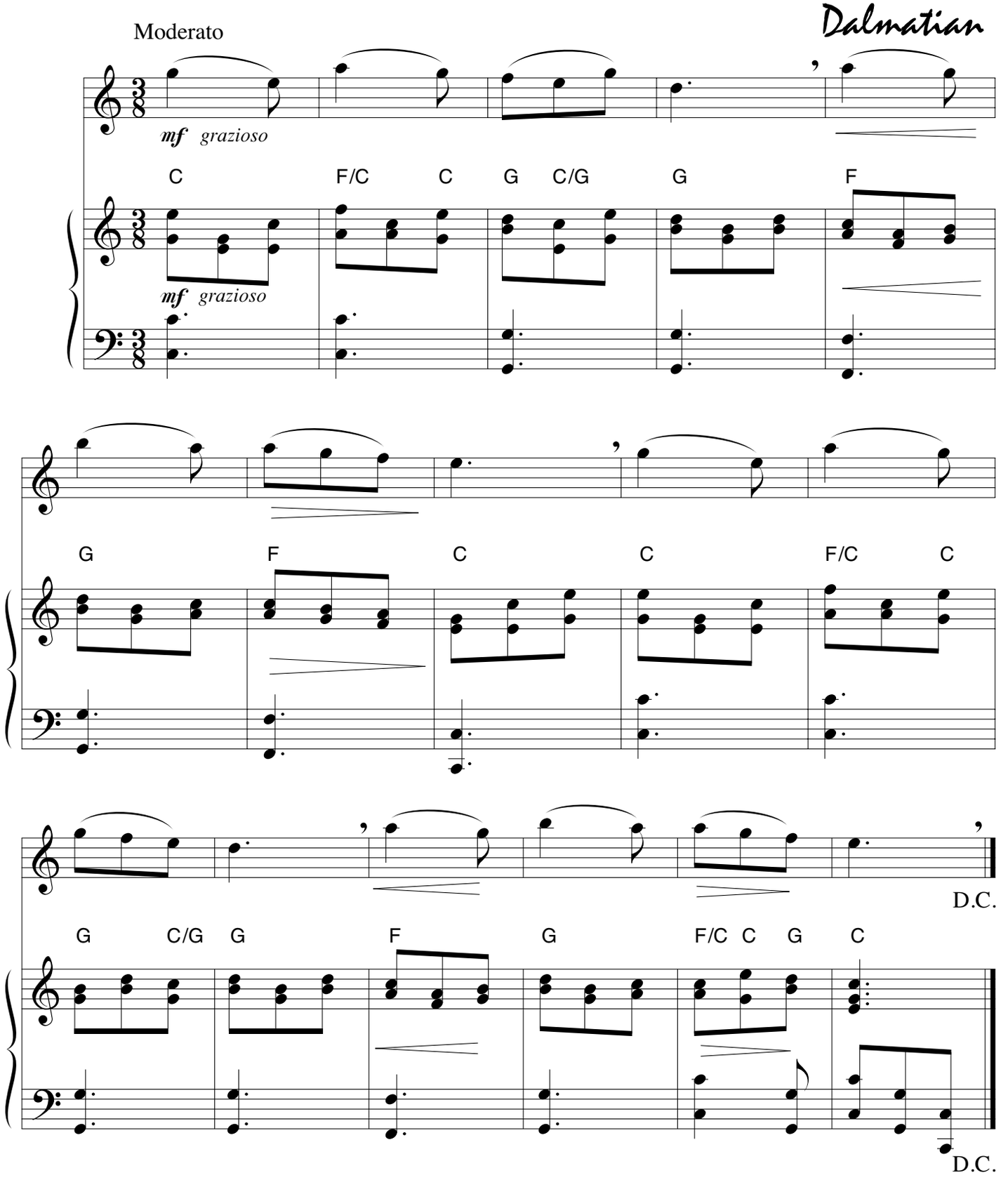
Dalmatian



Track 40

My Green Rosemary

Dalmatian

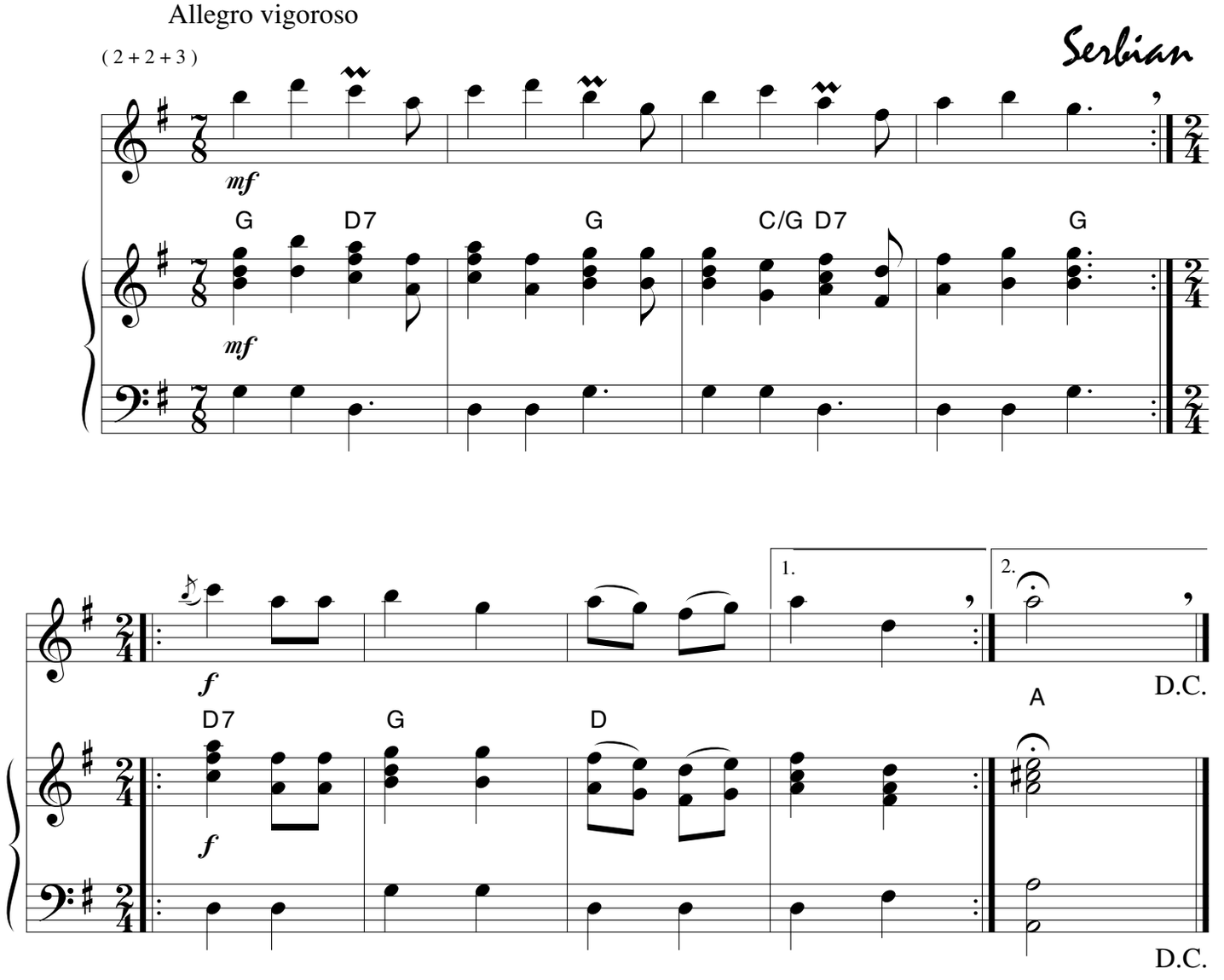


Track 41

The Dance of Old Glisha

Allegro vigoroso

Serbian

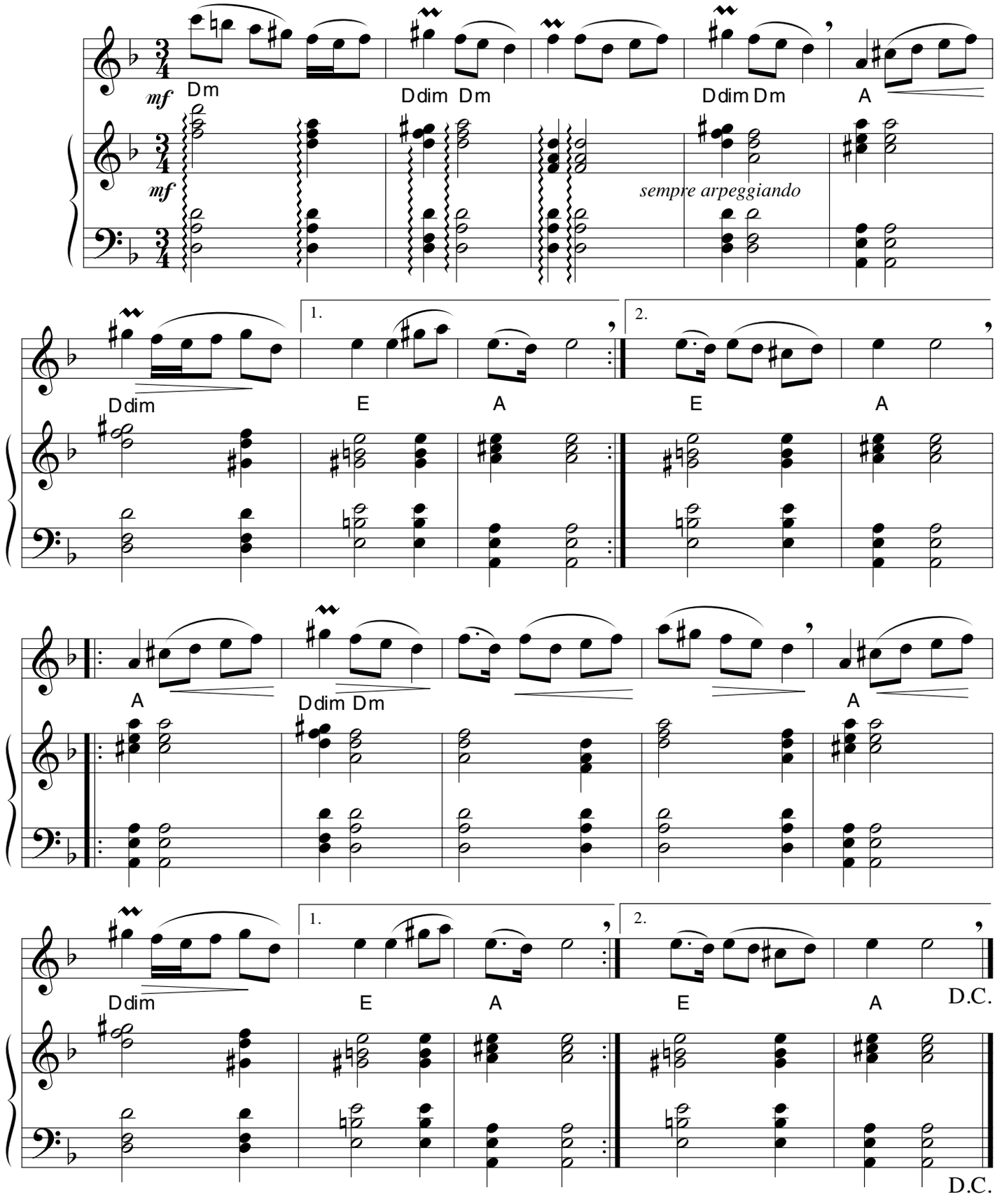


Milosheva's Kolo

Track 42

Allegretto

Serbian

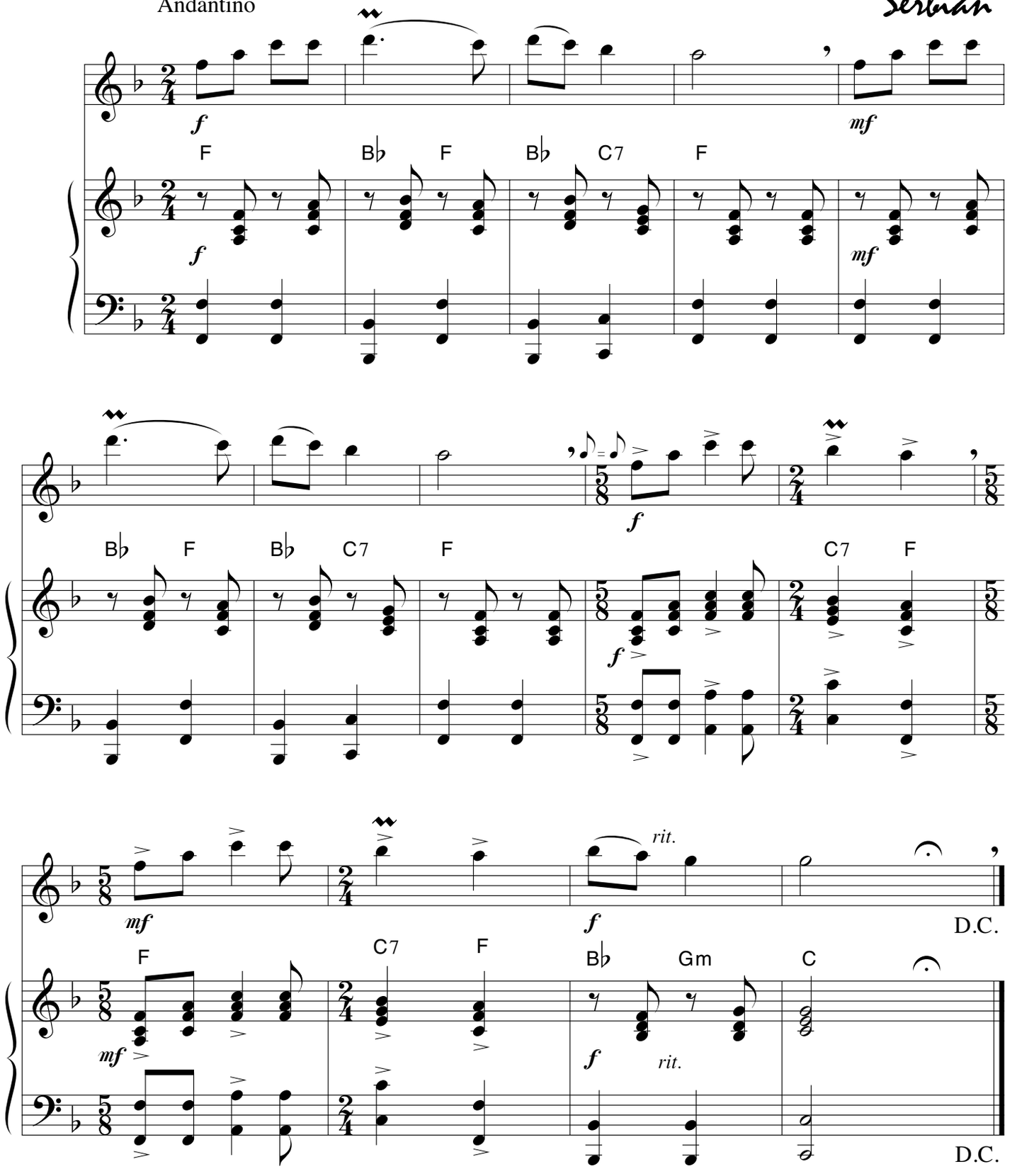


Track 43

Mara Watch the Sheep

Andantino

Serbian

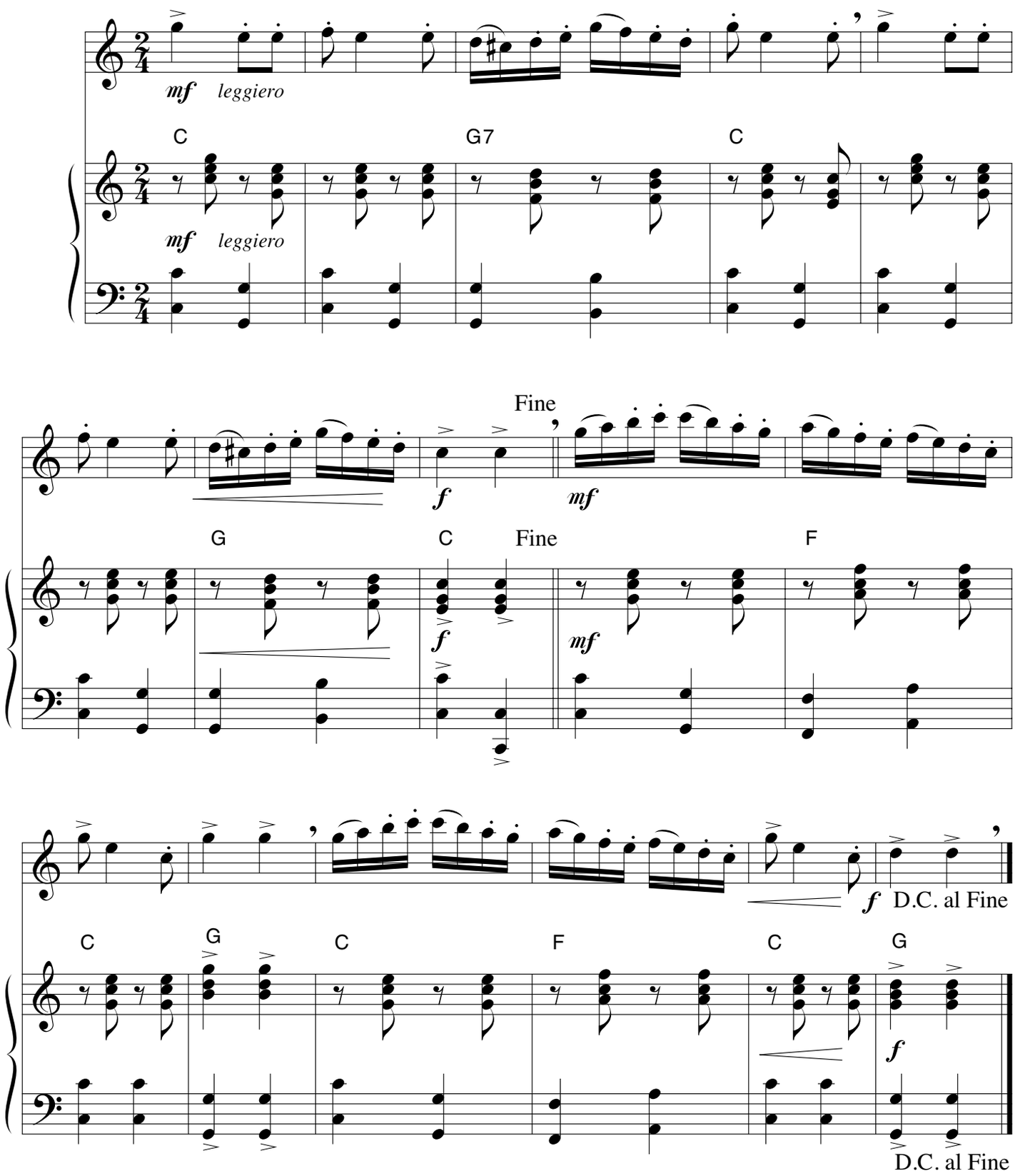


Track 44

The Girl from Sumadija

Moderato

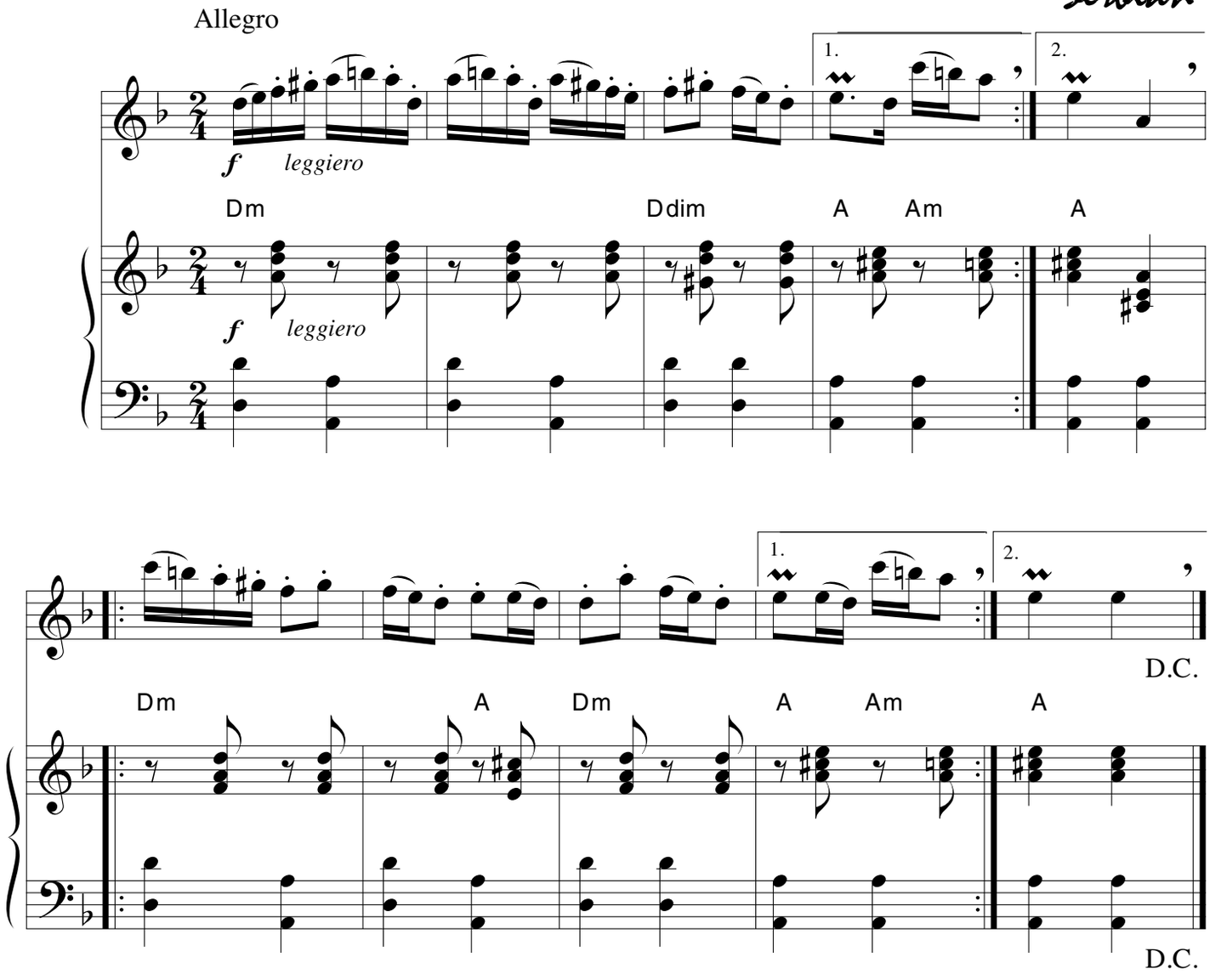
Serbian



The Old Woman from Gradista

Track 45

Serbian

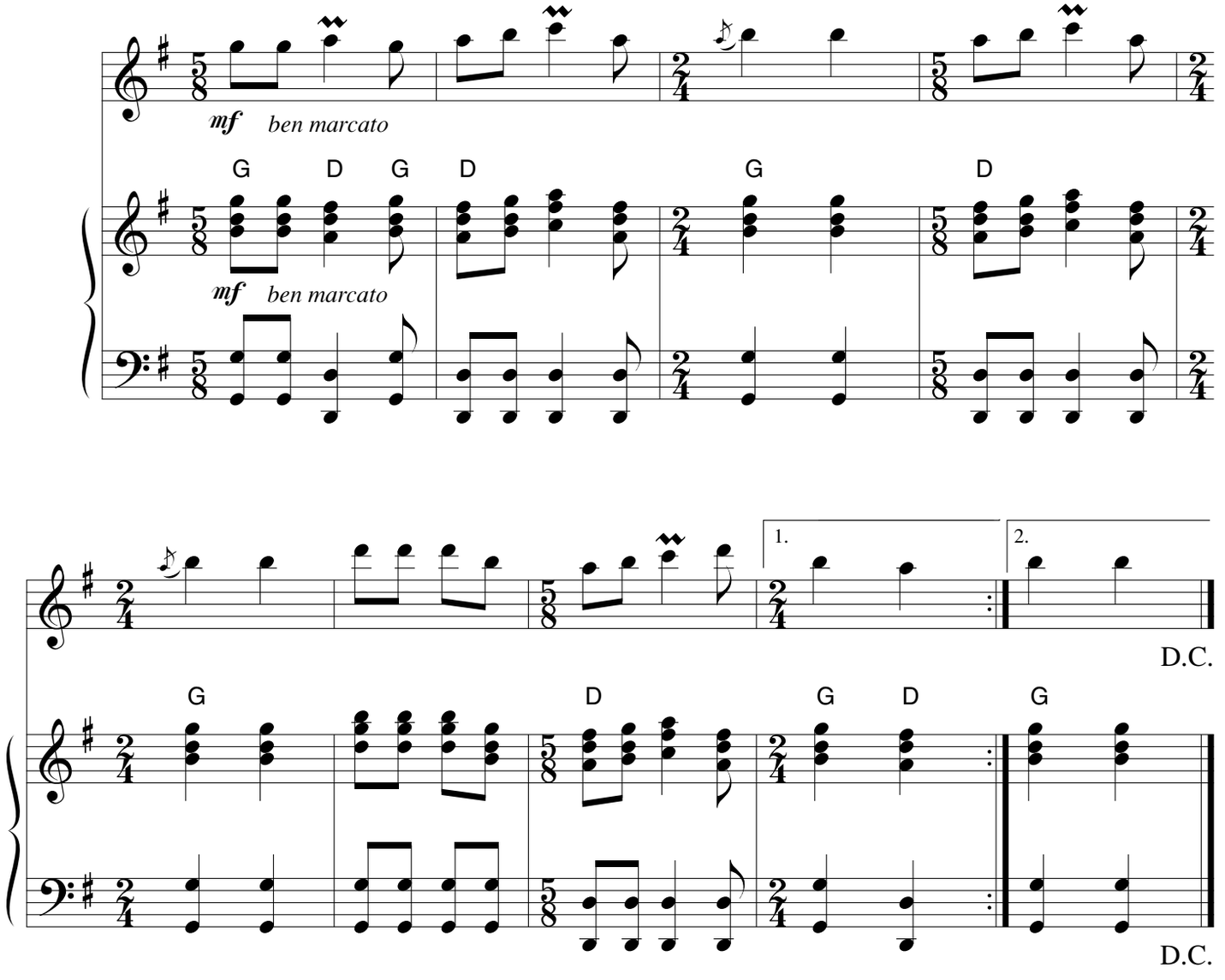


Track 46

When the Roses Bloom

Allegretto

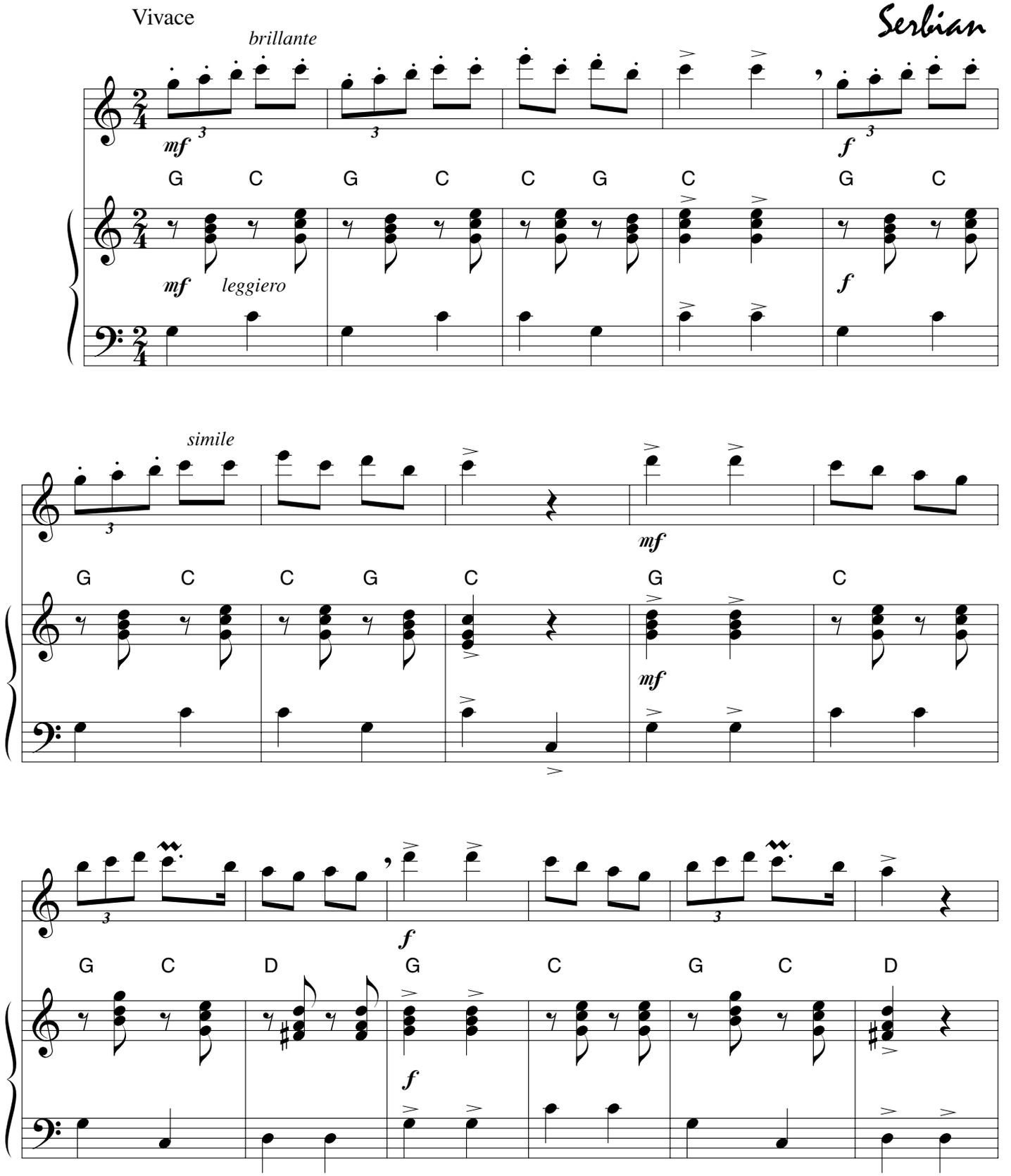
Serbian

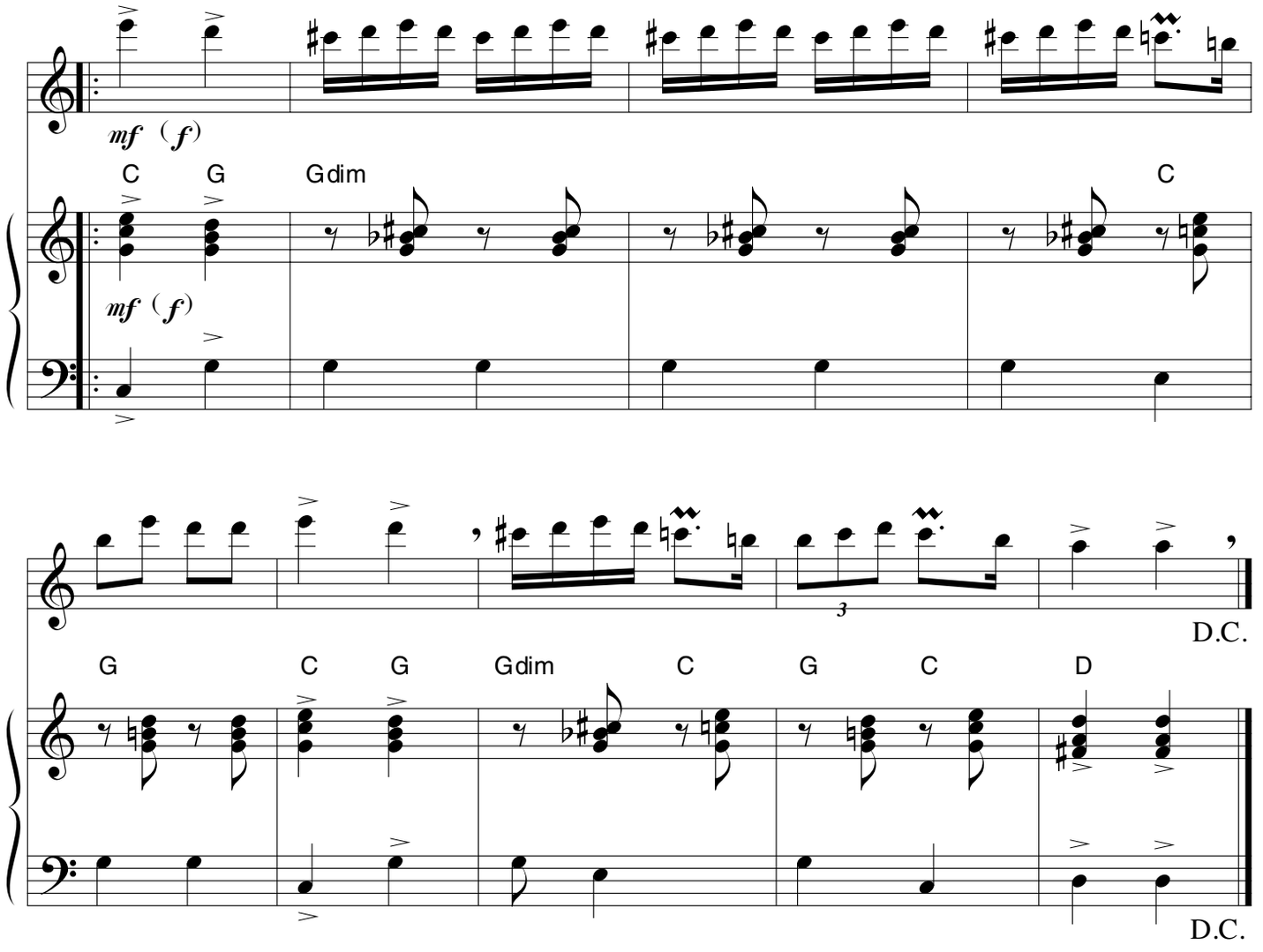


Track 47

Vlainjica's Kolo

Serbian




mf （f）
C
G
Gdim
C
mf （f）
3
D.C.
G
C
G
Gdim
C
G
C
D
D.C.

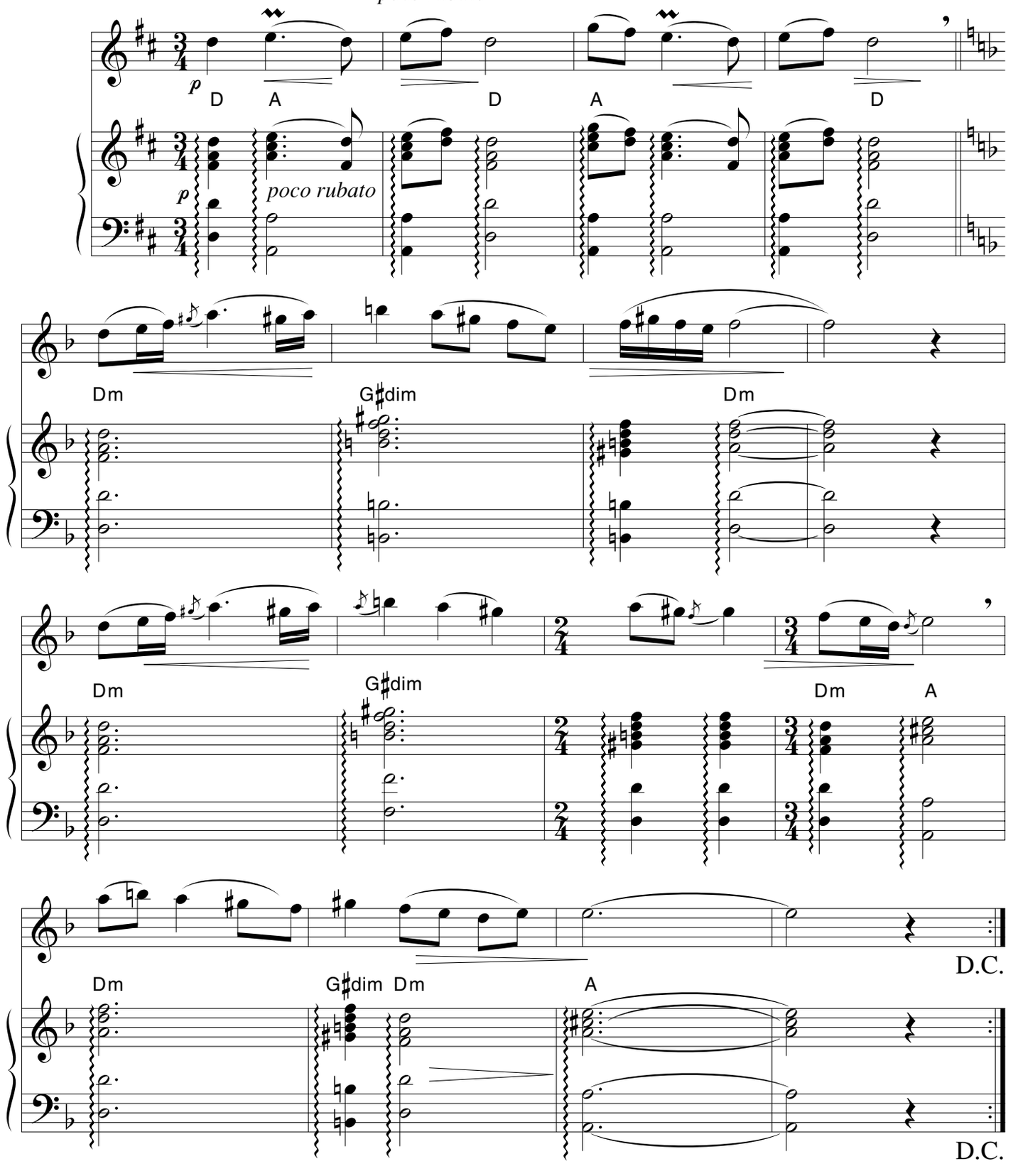
Track 48

Sarajevo, Beautiful Place

Bosnian

Andantino doloroso

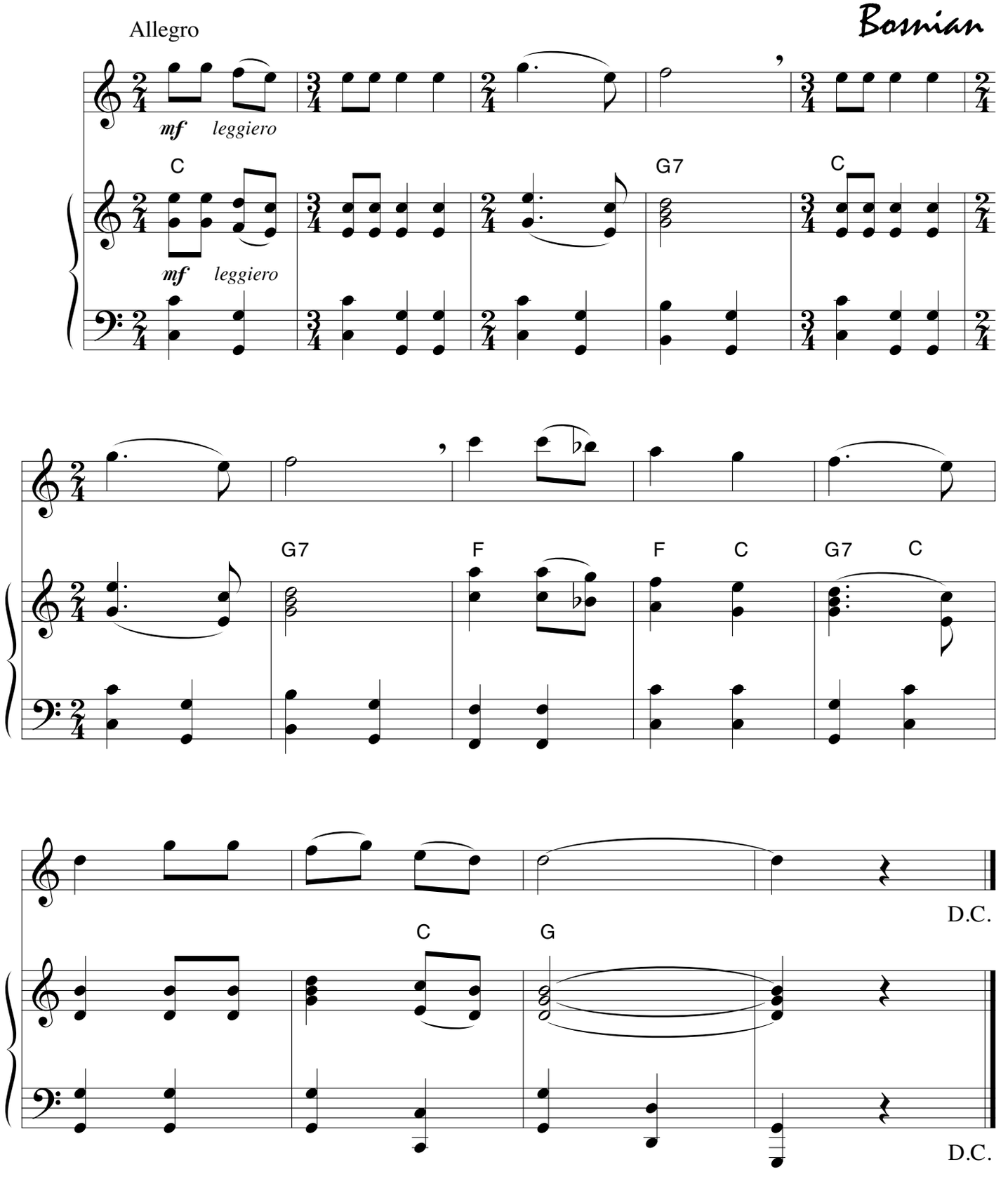
poco rubato



Track 49

Mara Crosses Over the Bosna

Bosnian



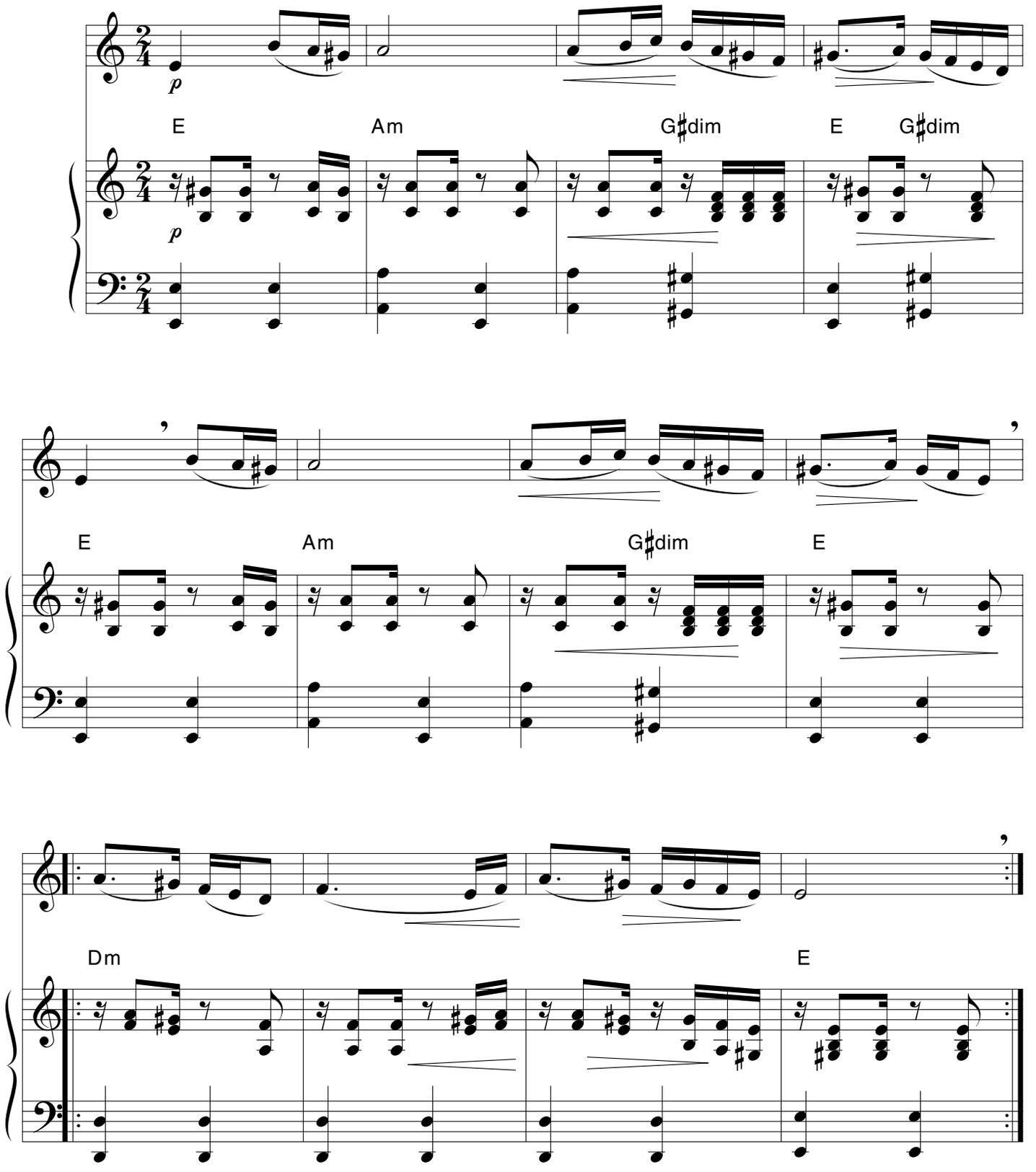
Track 50

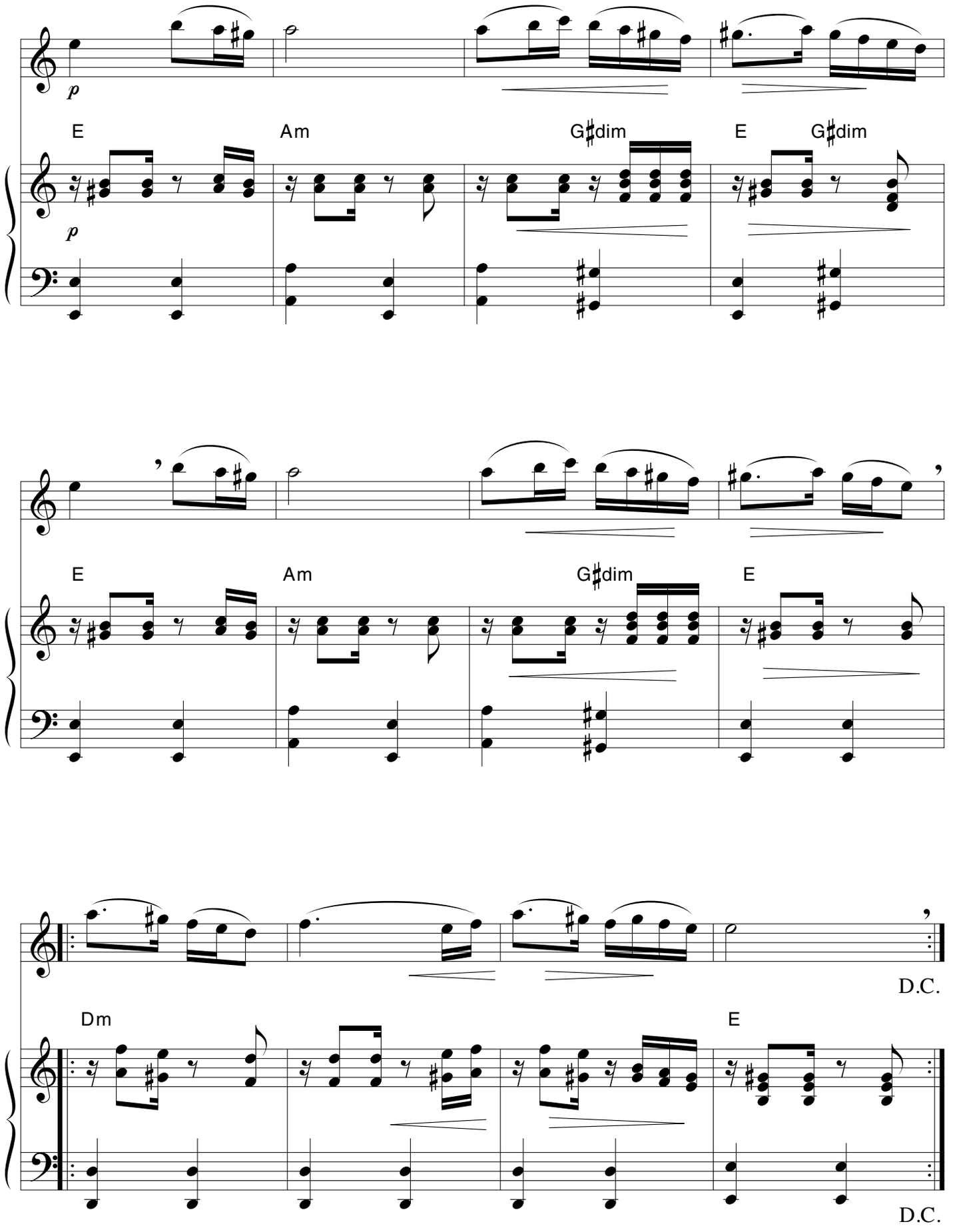
The Carnation

Andante

Bosnian

con tristeza



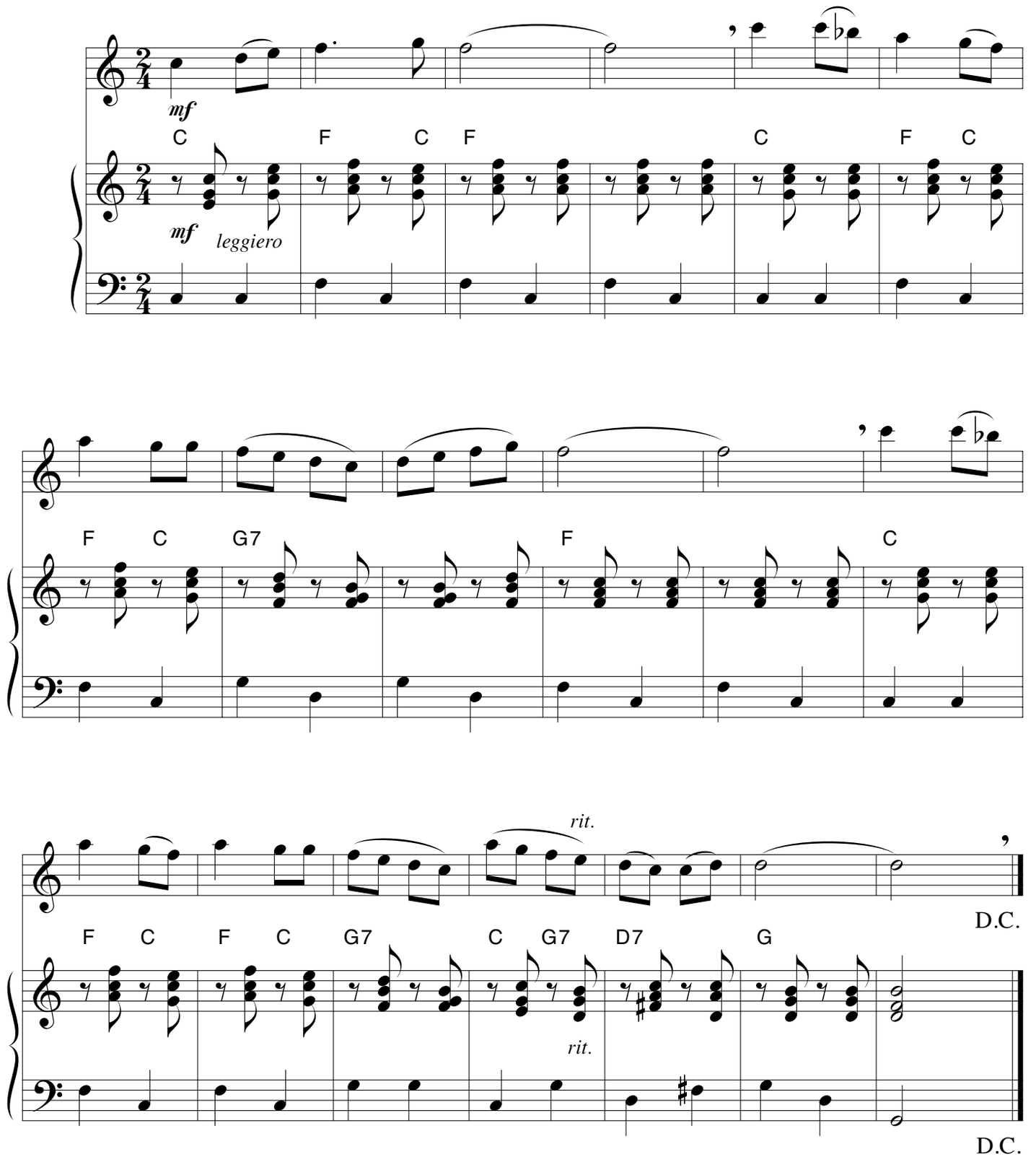

p
E
Am
G♯dim
E
G♯dim
p
E
Am
G♯dim
E
D.C.
Dm
E
D.C.

Track 51

The Big Market from Prijebor

Allegro

Bosnian

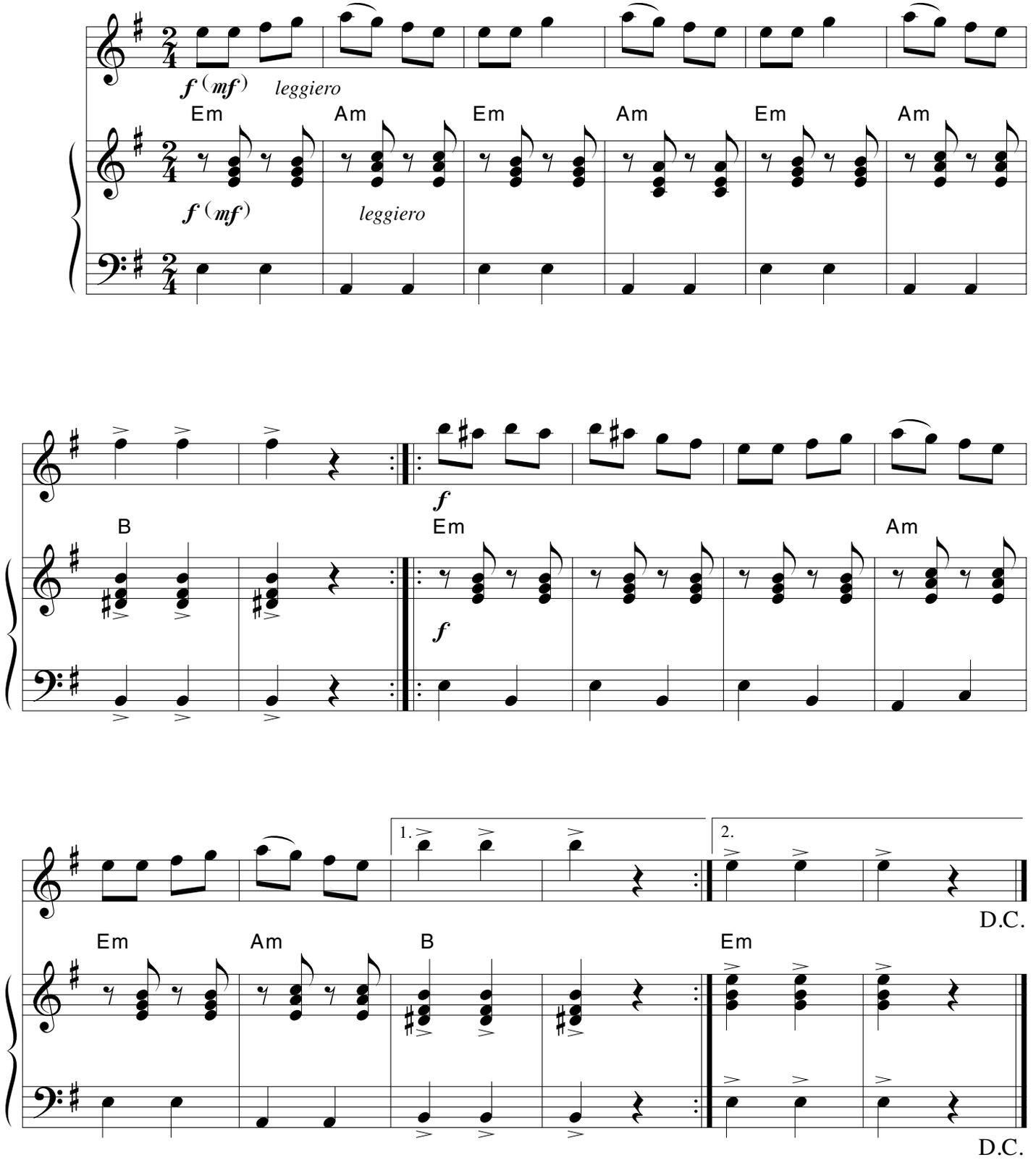


Track 52

Jumping Dance

Allegro vivo

Bosnian

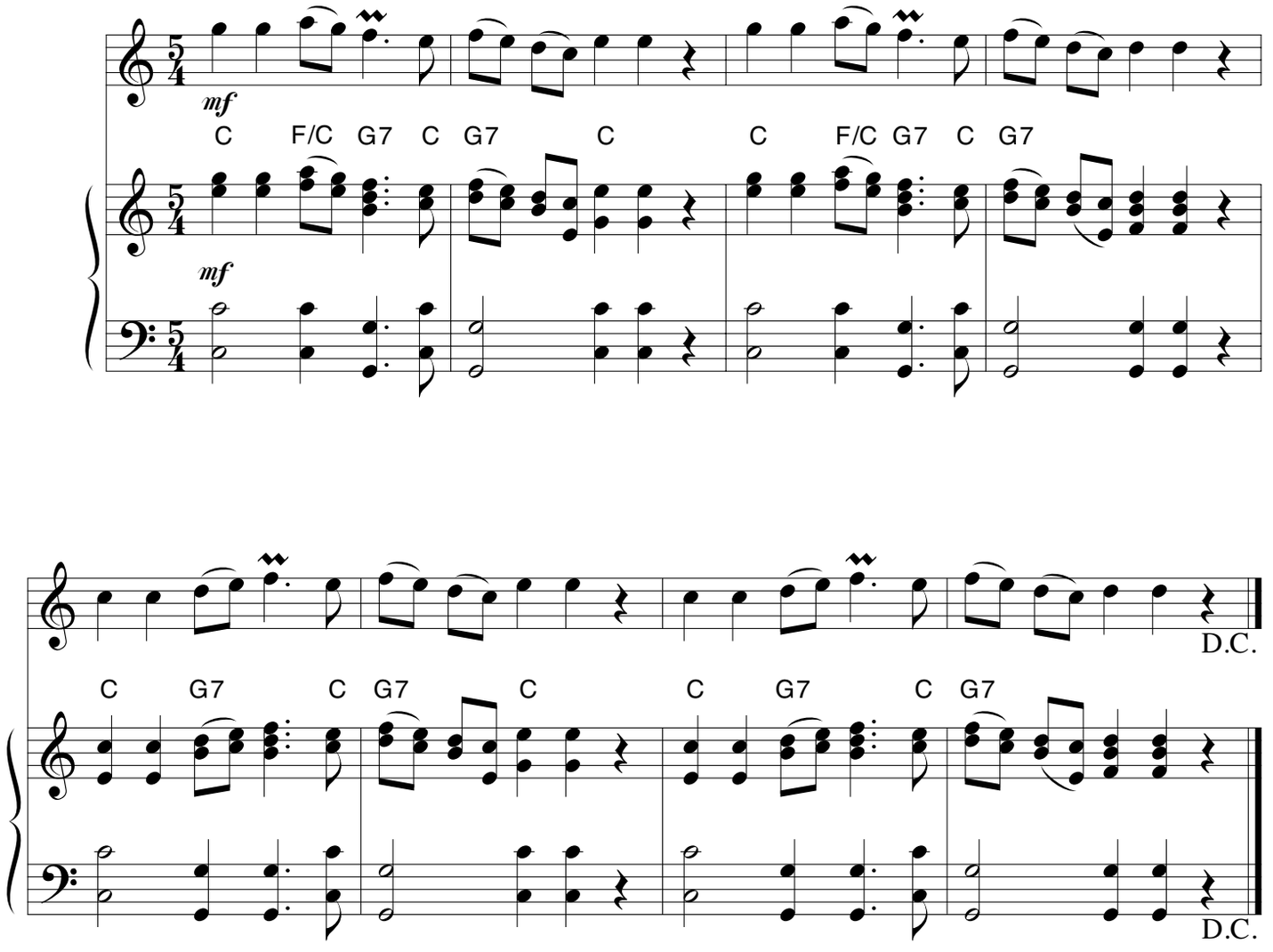


Coloured Socks

Track 53

Allegro giocoso

Macedonian



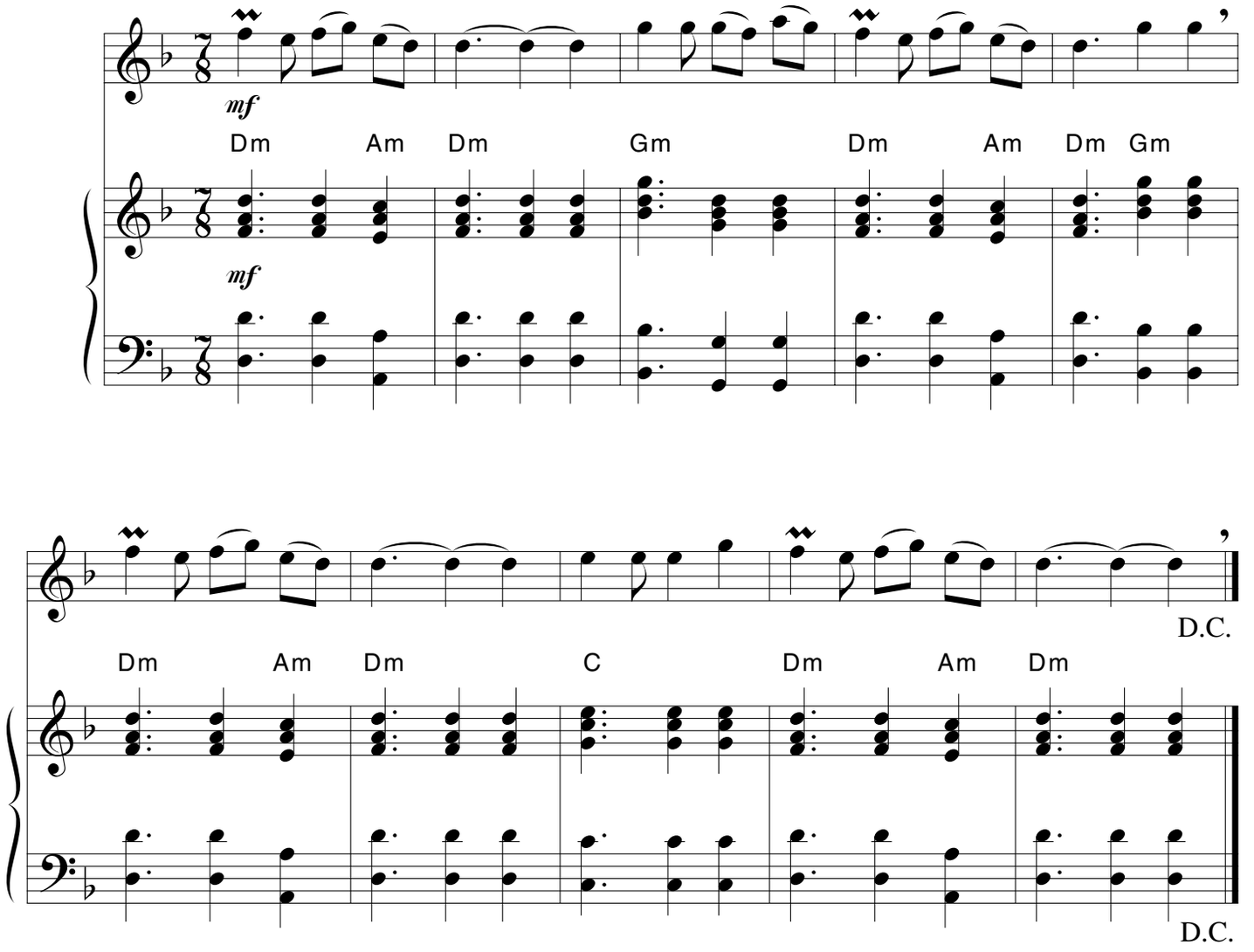
I Am Marooned in the Mountains

Track 54

Allegretto

(3 + 2 + 2)

Macedonian

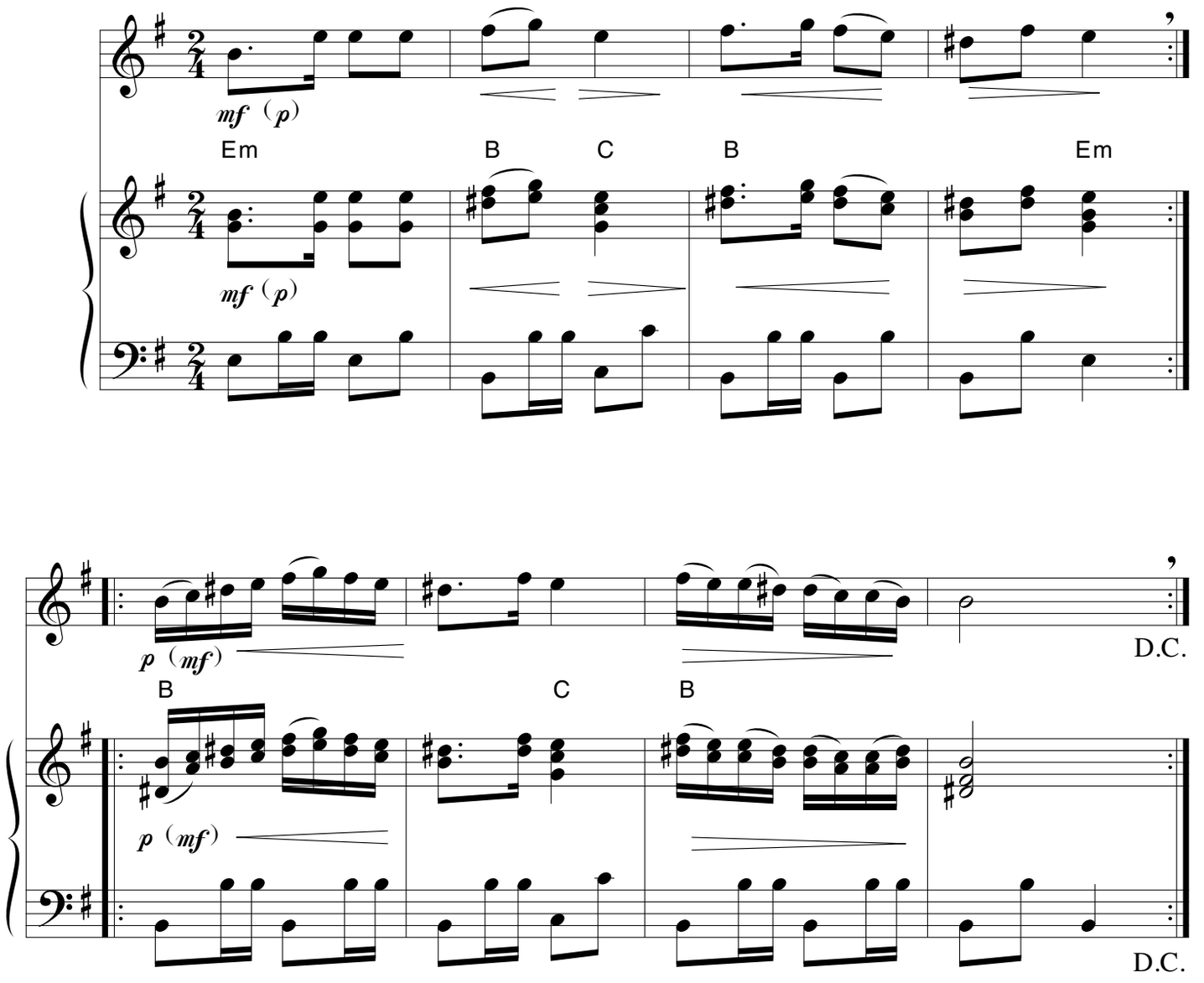


Track 55

Who Do You Love ?

Andante amoroso

Macedonian



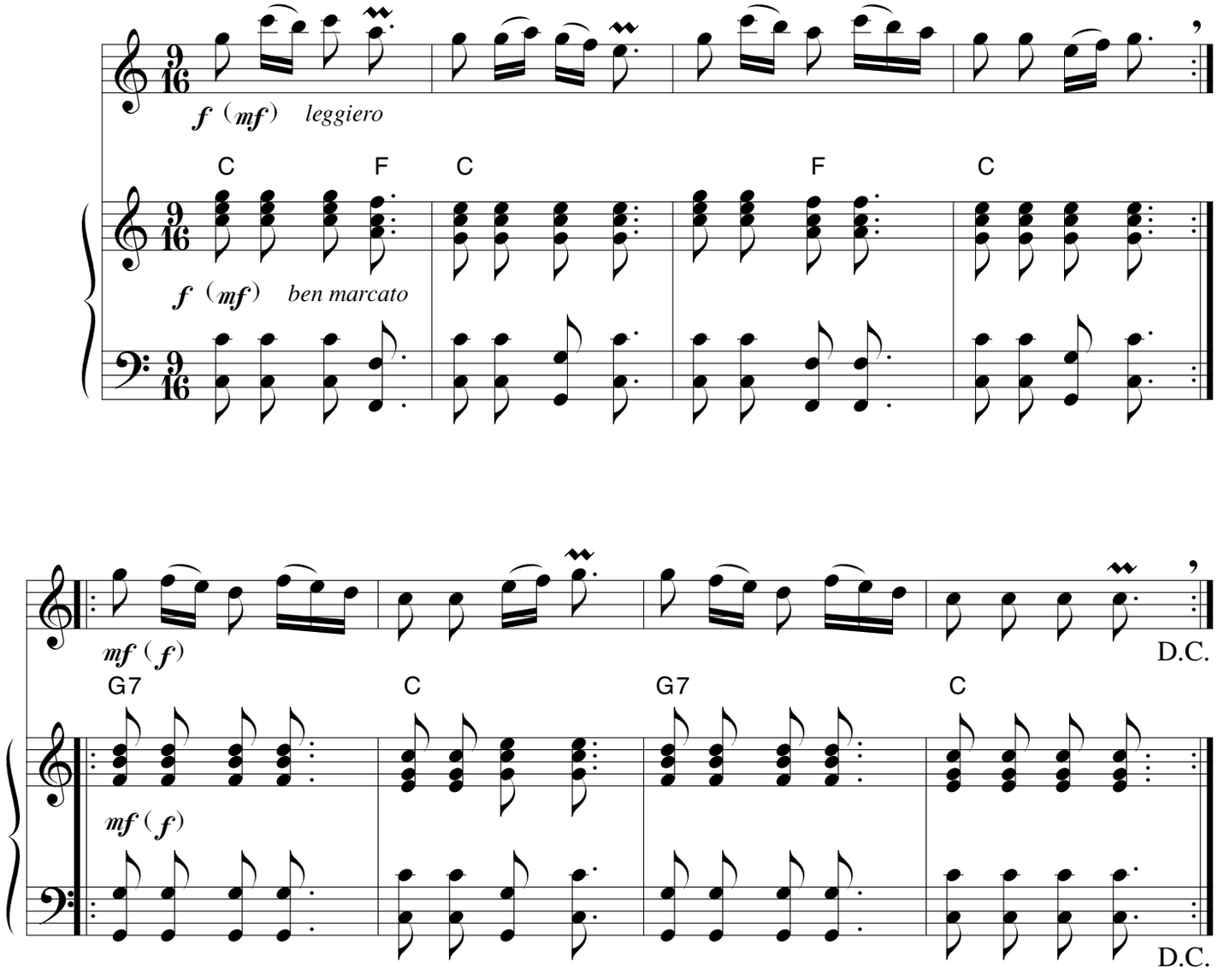
The First Love

Track 56

Allegro vivo

(2 + 2 + 2 + 3)

Macedonian



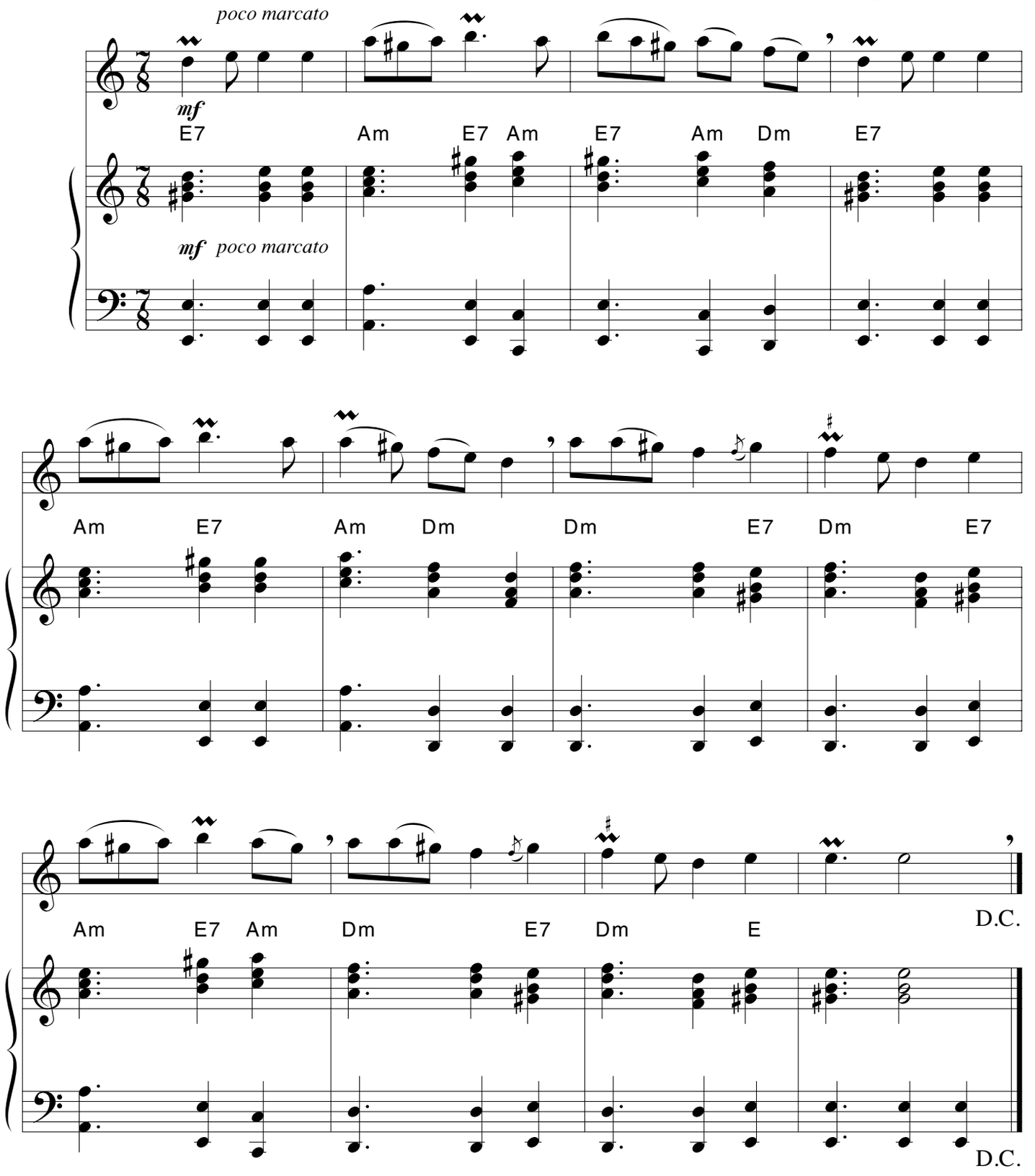
Are You Home My Love ?

Track 57

Allegretto

(3 + 2 + 2)

Macedonian



Track 58

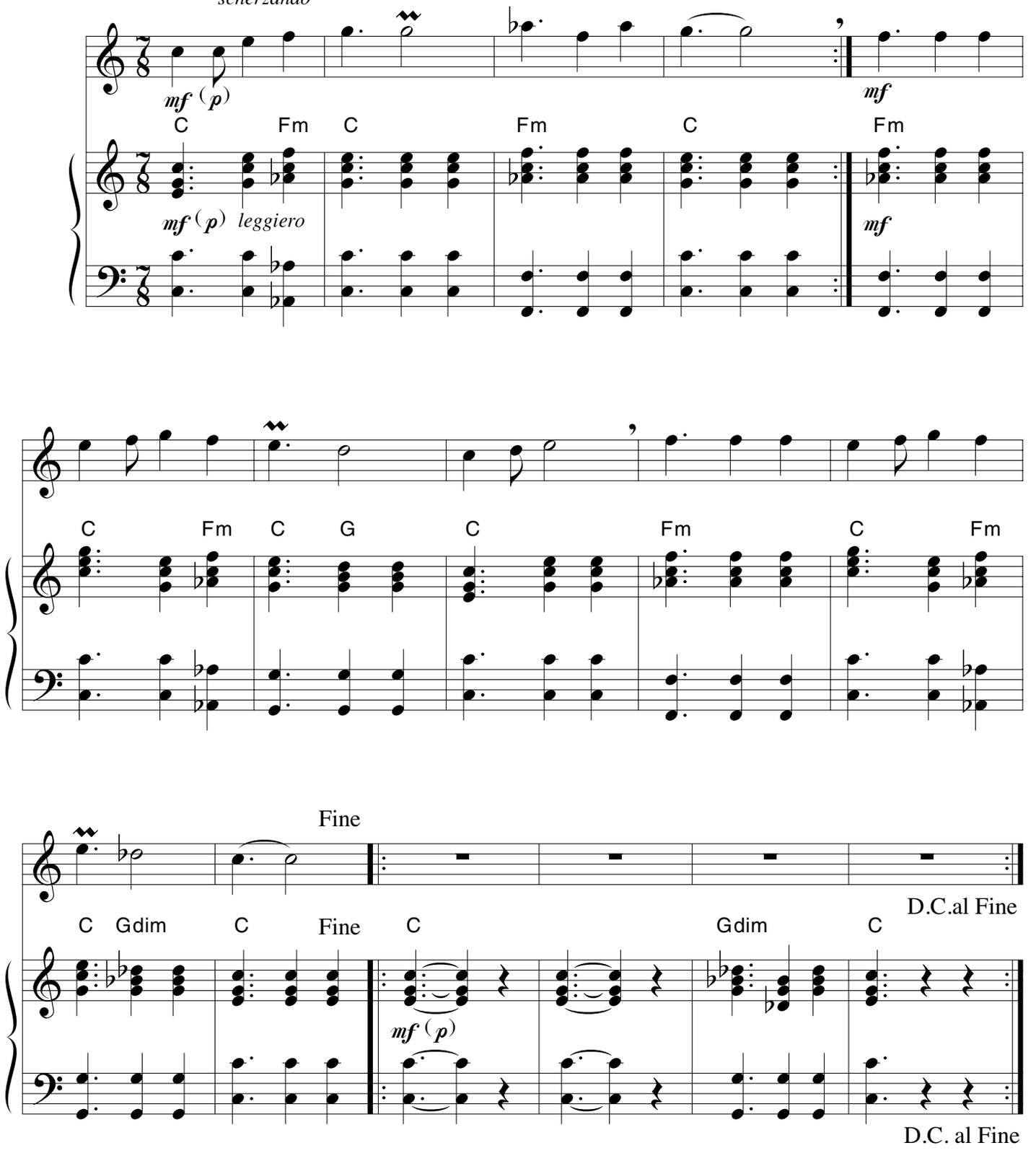
The Bad Grandfather

Andantino

(3 + 2 + 2)

scherzando

Macedonian



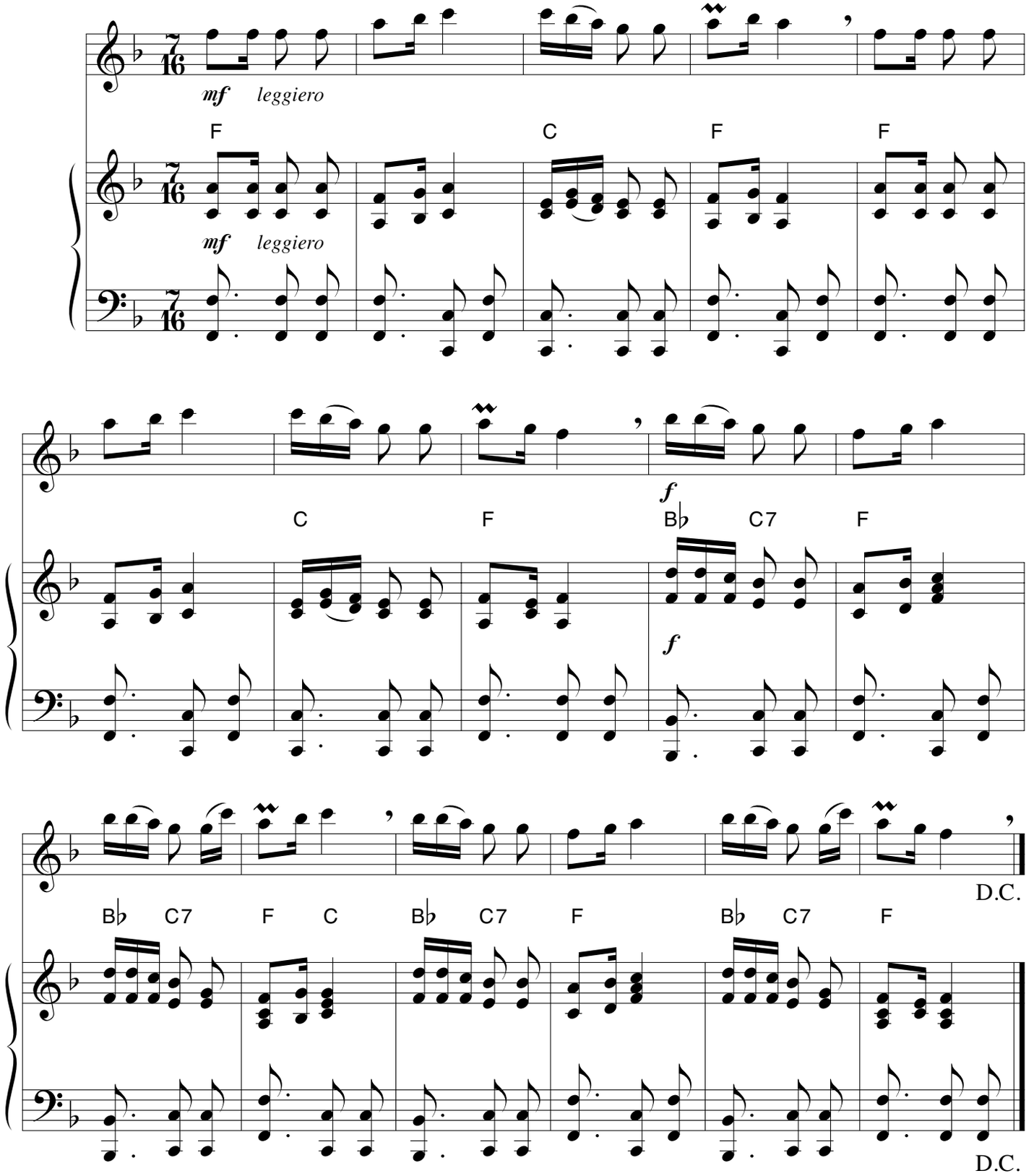
Grape Gathering

Track 59

Allegro vivo

(3 + 2 + 2)

Macedonian



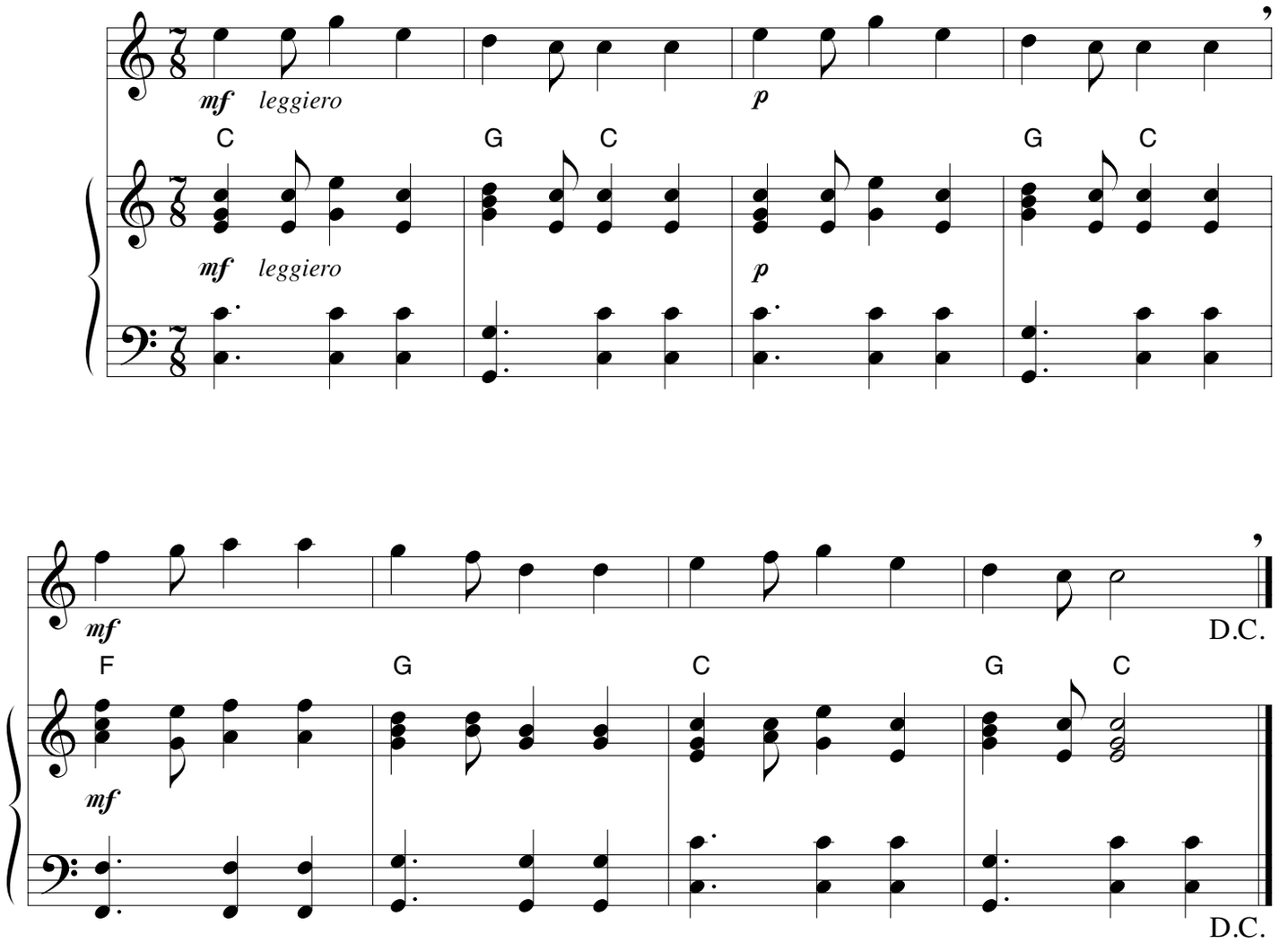
Track 60

I Must Marry an Old Man

Moderato

(3 + 2 + 2)

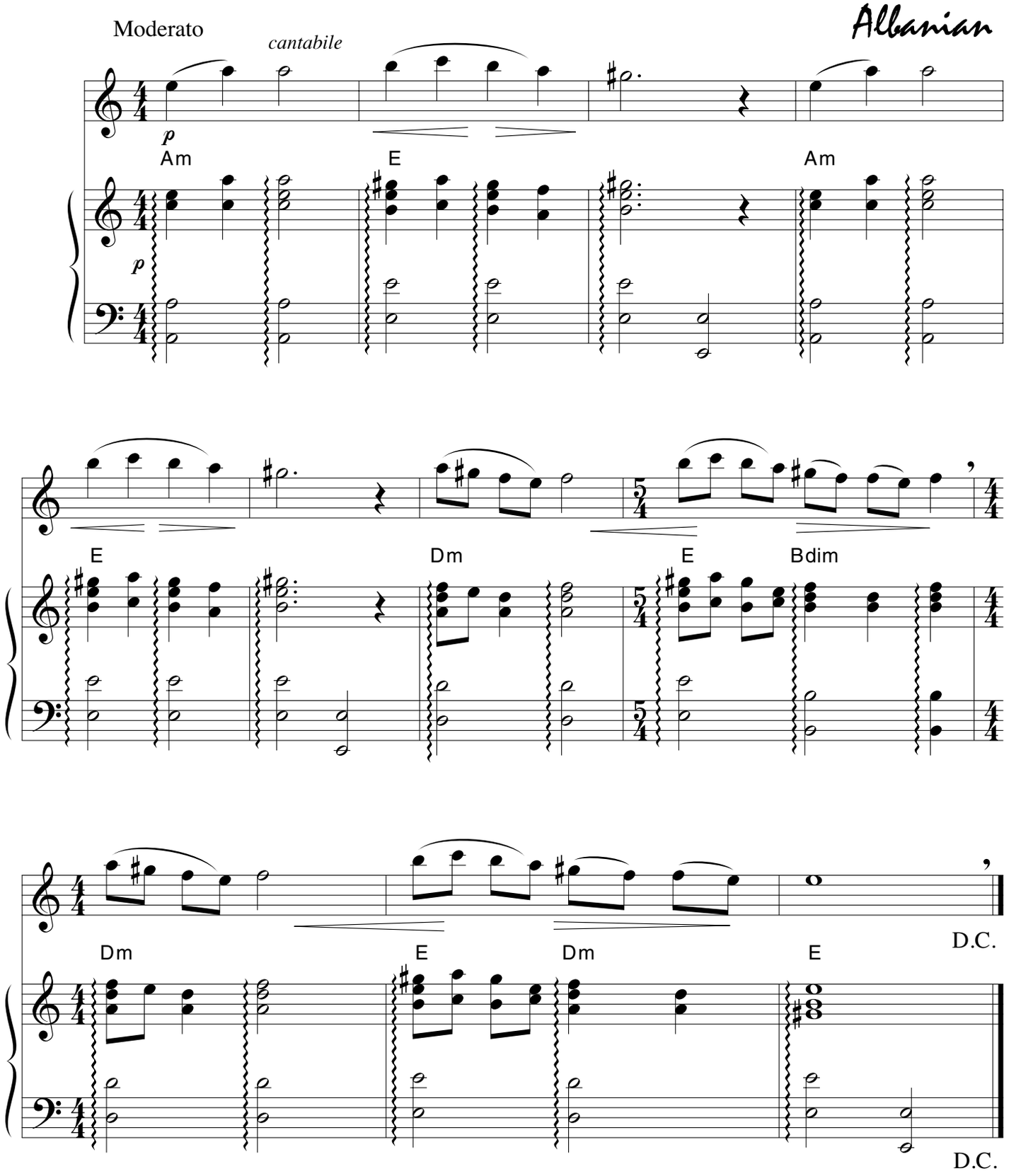
Albanian



Track 61

Love Song

Albanian

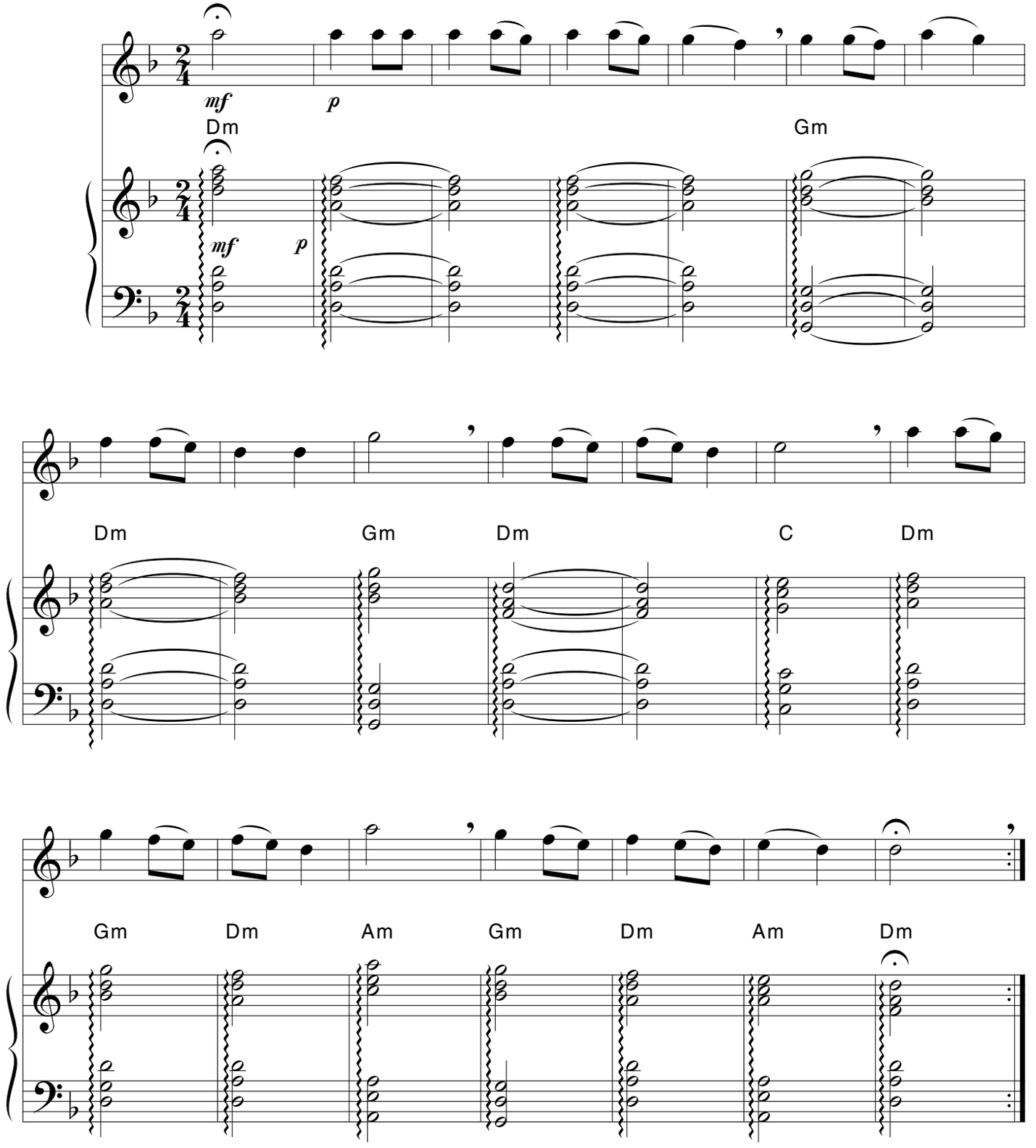


Track 62

You May Not Stay Long in Life, Grey Horse

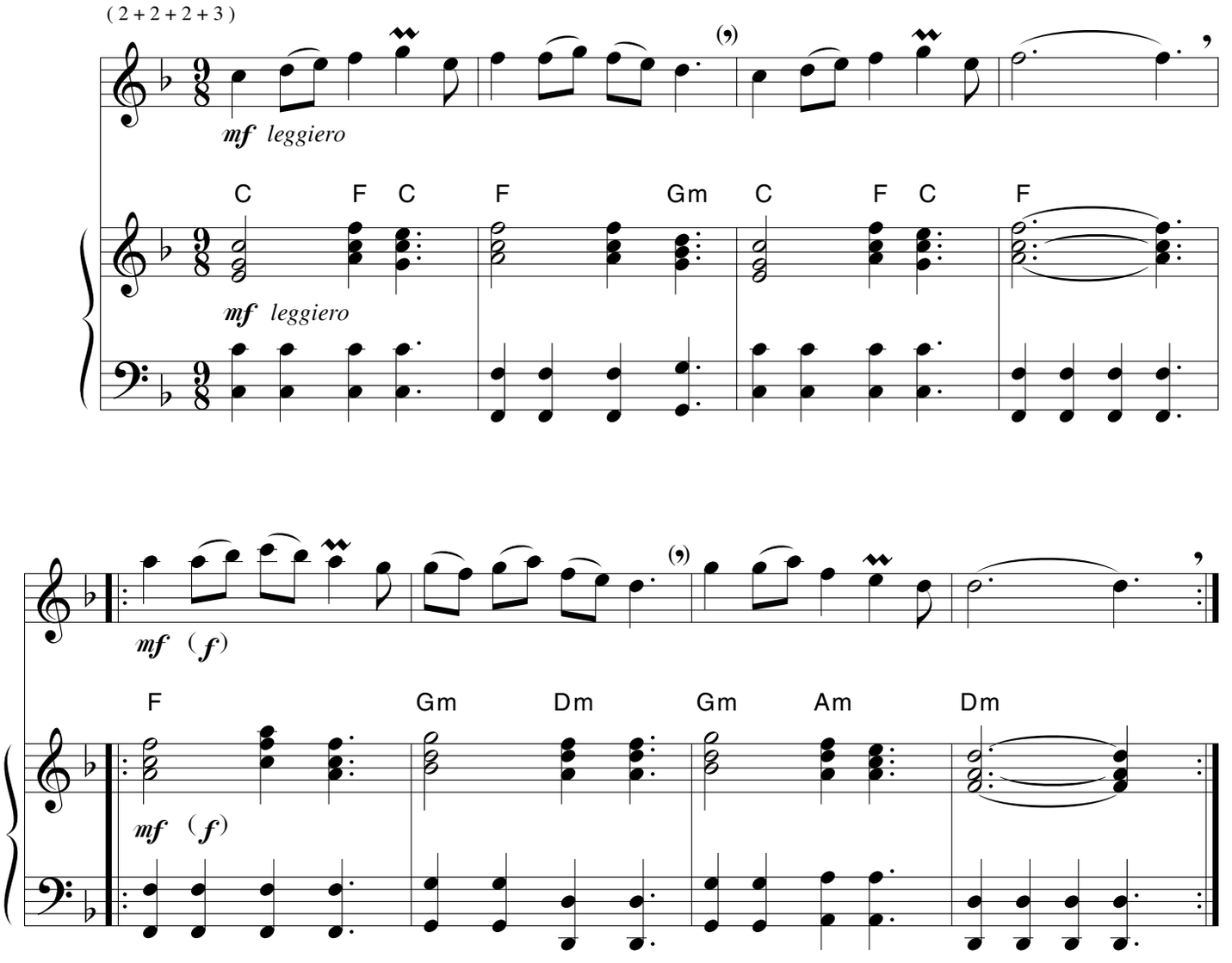
Andantino

Albanian



Track 63

A Room With a Ceiling

Allegretto

Albanian