

# "A NOTTE ALTA,"

POEMA MUSICALE  
per PIANOFORTE

ALFREDO CASELLA  
(1917)

Lento molto.  
Misterioso.

4/4

(a)

pp

un poco confusamente, come annebbiati.

con sordina

pp

Detailed description: This is the first system of the musical score. It features a grand staff with three staves: two for the piano and one for the pedals. The time signature is 4/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo and mood are 'Lento molto. Misterioso.' The piano part begins with a series of chords, some marked with a star and '(a)'. The dynamic is 'pp' (pianissimo). The instruction 'un poco confusamente, come annebbiati.' is written above the piano part. The pedal part consists of a series of chords, also marked 'pp'. The instruction 'con sordina' is written below the piano part.

(Pedale ad libitum per tutto il poema, secondo la sonorità del pianoforte)

3/4 (♩ = ♩) 4/4

più pp

Detailed description: This is the second system of the musical score. It continues the grand staff from the first system. The time signature changes to 3/4, with a note value of a quarter note equal to a quarter note in the previous system. The key signature remains one flat. The piano part has a long note marked 'più pp'. The pedal part continues with chords.

☆ Onde ridurre al minimo le alterazioni e facilitare la lettura di questa musica, l'autore ricorda che gli accidenti valgono invariabilmente per tutta la battuta.

Inoltre tutte le note non precedute da alterazioni - nella battuta stessa beninteso - rimangono ♮.

Es.:

Detailed description: This is an example of note alterations. It shows a single staff with a treble clef. The notes are D, G, B, and F. Above the notes are accidentals: a natural sign for D, a sharp sign for G, a flat sign for B, and a natural sign for F. The notes are grouped with slurs and '3' indicates triplets. The example is labeled 'Es.:'.

Vengono così eliminati tutti gli accidenti "precauzionali" ad eccezione di quelli - di uso classico - che seguono immediatamente

i tagli di battuta, cioè:

(a) A meno di indicazione contraria, nessun accordo, durante l'intero poema, deve venire arpeggiato.

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Grave

$\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{7}{8}$   $\frac{4}{4}$

*p espressivo* *sf poco* (*p*)

*pp*

*pp*

*più pp*

*pp*

(l'istesso tempo)

*p dolce e capriccioso*

3 6 6

*(poco accelerando)*

6 3 13

*poco cresc.* *mp* *dim.*

*tr*  $\frac{4}{4}$  *(lento)*

*lunga* *veloce e leggero*

*più p*

$\frac{6}{4}$

*(pp)*

$\frac{4}{4}$

*m.d.* *un poco meno pp*

*m.s.*

*pp*

*(sempre pp)*

*(da sempre)*

*(\*)*

*Poco più mosso, ma sempre molto calmo*

First system of the musical score. It consists of three staves: a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a separate bass clef staff. The grand staff contains a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *p* and a section marked *m.d. un poco marcato*. The bass clef staff features a continuous accompaniment of eighth notes with triplet markings.

Second system of the musical score. It continues the grand staff and bass clef staff from the first system. The grand staff includes a section marked *meno piano, un poco espressivo*. The bass clef staff continues with eighth notes and triplet markings.

Third system of the musical score. It introduces a new melodic line in the treble clef staff. The grand staff and bass clef staff continue. The treble clef staff includes a section marked *crescendo ed animando poco a poco*, *senza sordina*, *m.d.*, and *mf m.s.*. The bass clef staff features sixteenth notes with sextuplet markings.

Fourth system of the musical score. It continues the melodic line in the treble clef staff and the accompaniment in the bass clef staff. The system includes various rhythmic markings such as triplets, sextuplets, and a quintuplet.

5/4

3

3

5

5

*rapido*

This system contains two systems of music. The first system is in 5/4 time and features a melodic line with triplets and quintuplets. The second system, marked 'rapido', shows a more complex melodic line with a large slur and a key signature change to two flats.

Alquanto animato

*f*

11

11

11

11

11

*dim.*

4/4

This system is in 4/4 time and consists of five measures of music. Each measure contains a piano part with a double bar line and the number '11' below it, and a melodic line. The system ends with a 'dim.' (diminuendo) marking.

4/4

*p leggero*

6

7

7

6

(sopra alla m. d.)

con sordina

3/4

This system is in 4/4 time and contains four measures. Each measure has a piano part with a double bar line and a number (6 or 7) below it, and a melodic line. The system is marked 'p leggero' and 'con sordina'. The time signature changes to 3/4 at the end.

3/4

4/4

*diminuendo e rallentando*

6

7

6

6

6

6

This system is in 3/4 time and contains two measures, each with a 4/4 time signature. Each measure has a piano part with a double bar line and a number (6 or 7) below it, and a melodic line. The system is marked 'diminuendo e rallentando'.

*pp*

*P ma sonoro*

*tenere a lungo*

2/2

(\* Red.)

(\* Red.)

(\* Red.)

This system is in 2/2 time and contains two measures. The first measure has a piano part with a double bar line and the number '3' below it, and a melodic line. The second measure has a piano part with a double bar line and the number '3' below it, and a melodic line. The system is marked 'pp' and 'tenere a lungo'. There are three '( \* Red.)' markings below the first measure.

$\frac{2}{2}$  Andante molto tranquillo e calmo, quasi adagio

*pp*

*ppp e confuso, mormorando*

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains a melodic line with a series of notes, some marked with 'x'. The lower staff is in bass clef and features a continuous pattern of sixteenth notes, with groups of six notes bracketed and labeled with the number '6'. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

*un poco marcato ma sempre pianissimo*

*sempre legatissimo*

The second system continues the musical notation from the first system. The piano accompaniment in the bass clef remains a steady sixteenth-note pattern with '6' markings. The treble clef staff continues the melodic line with various intervals and dynamics.

The third system shows further development of the piano accompaniment and the treble clef melody. The piano part continues with its sixteenth-note pattern, while the treble part introduces some rests and longer note values.

*espressivo molto, con melanconia*

*p*

The fourth system introduces a treble clef staff with a melodic line, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment in the bass clef continues with its sixteenth-note pattern, with '6' markings. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

The fifth system continues the musical notation from the fourth system. The piano accompaniment in the bass clef remains a steady sixteenth-note pattern with '6' markings. The treble clef staff continues the melodic line with various intervals and dynamics.

Musical score system 1, first system. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The music is in a key with one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and a common time signature. The first measure is marked *p* *leggero*. The right hand has a melodic line with sixteenth notes and slurs, while the left hand has a bass line with sixteenth notes. A large slur encompasses the first two systems. A second system begins with a key signature change to two sharps (D major or F# minor) and is marked *un poco marcato*. The notation includes a *m.s.* (mano sinistra) instruction.

Musical score system 2, second system. It continues the piece with a grand staff. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs and sixteenth notes. The left hand has a bass line with sixteenth notes. A large slur encompasses the first two systems. A second system begins with a key signature change to two sharps (D major or F# minor) and is marked *m.d.* (mano destra). The notation includes a *m.s.* instruction.

Musical score system 3, third system. It continues the piece with a grand staff. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs and sixteenth notes. The left hand has a bass line with sixteenth notes. A large slur encompasses the first two systems. A second system begins with a key signature change to one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and is marked *(p)*. The notation includes a *m.s.* instruction.

Musical score system 4, fourth system. It continues the piece with a grand staff. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs and sixteenth notes. The left hand has a bass line with sixteenth notes. A large slur encompasses the first two systems. A second system begins with a key signature change to two sharps (D major or F# minor) and is marked *m.d.*. The notation includes a *m.s.* instruction.

*dolce e sempre tranquillo*

*p*

*pp*

*p ma sostenuto*

(a)

*(a) la parte superiore degli accordi un poco marcata*

(sempre pp)

System 1: Treble clef, 2/2 time signature. Features sixteenth-note triplets in the right hand and sustained chords in the left hand. A 3/4 time signature change occurs in the second measure. The system concludes with a fermata over the final notes.

(sempre p)

System 2: Treble clef, 2/2 time signature. Continues with triplets in the right hand. A section marked *p dolce* begins in the second measure, featuring a sixteenth-note melody in the right hand and a sixteenth-note accompaniment in the left hand. A 3/4 time signature change is present at the end of the system.

System 3: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Features a sixteenth-note melody in the right hand and a sixteenth-note accompaniment in the left hand, both marked with a '6' (sextuplet).

System 4: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature. Features a sixteenth-note melody in the right hand and a sixteenth-note accompaniment in the left hand, both marked with a '9' (nonuplet). A 2/2 time signature change occurs in the second measure, followed by a section marked with an '8' (octuplet).

senza affrettare

8.  $\frac{1}{2}$

*pp cristallino*

*espressivo*

$\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{2}{2}$   $\frac{5}{4}$

*p*

8.  $\frac{5}{4}$   $\frac{2}{2}$

*pp*

$\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{2}{2}$

Poco animando  
espressivo e sostenuto

calce

*mp* *cresc.*

*poco f (ma sempre con sordina)*

*dim.*

Più mosso scorrevole

*pp leggerissimo*

*m.d.*

*il canto mp*

First system of musical notation. It consists of three staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It contains six measures of music, each starting with a sixteenth-note chord marked with a '6'. The middle staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#), with notes marked with 'x' and 'o'. The bottom staff has a bass clef and a key signature of two sharps, with notes marked with 'x' and 'o'.

Second system of musical notation, similar to the first. It consists of three staves with the same clefs and key signatures. The top staff contains six measures of music, each starting with a sixteenth-note chord marked with a '6'. The middle and bottom staves continue the accompaniment with notes marked with 'x' and 'o'.

Third system of musical notation. The top staff begins with the instruction *calmāndo*. It contains six measures of music. The first measure has a sixteenth-note chord marked with a '6' and a '1' above it. The second measure has a sixteenth-note chord marked with a '6'. The third measure has a sixteenth-note chord marked with a '6' and a '5' above it. The fourth measure has a sixteenth-note chord marked with a '6' and a '3' above it. The fifth and sixth measures have sixteenth-note chords. The middle staff has notes marked with 'x' and 'o', and the instruction *dim.* is written below it. The bottom staff has notes marked with 'x' and 'o'.

Più calmo, ma però sempre più mosso del tempo I.

*sottovoce, ma intensamente, quasi parlando*

Fourth system of musical notation. It consists of two staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps, with notes marked with 'x' and 'o'. The bottom staff has a bass clef and a key signature of two sharps, with notes marked with 'x' and 'o'. The instruction *pp* is written below the first measure of both staves. The system ends with a *cresc.* marking on the right side.

colce

mf

2/2

2/2

2/2

This system contains the first two staves of music. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The time signature is 2/2. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The first measure is marked 'colce'. The dynamic marking 'mf' is placed in the second measure. The music consists of a melodic line in the upper staff and a harmonic accompaniment in the lower staff.

(pp)

sottovoce e grave

2/2

2/2

This system contains the third and fourth staves of music. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The time signature is 2/2. The dynamic marking '(pp)' is placed in the second measure. The instruction 'sottovoce e grave' is placed in the fourth measure. The music continues with melodic and harmonic lines.

3

2/2

2/2

This system contains the fifth and sixth staves of music. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The time signature is 2/2. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' in the fifth measure. The music continues with melodic and harmonic lines.

(la m.d. sempre pp)

espr. molto

mp

un poco lamentoso (sotto alla m.d.)

2/2

3/2

2/2

This system contains the seventh and eighth staves of music. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The time signature is 2/2. The dynamic marking 'mp' is placed in the second measure. The instruction 'espr. molto' is placed in the second measure. The instruction 'un poco lamentoso (sotto alla m.d.)' is placed in the third measure. The music continues with melodic and harmonic lines.

colce

2/2

2/2

This system contains the ninth and tenth staves of music. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The time signature is 2/2. The instruction 'colce' is placed in the first measure. The music continues with melodic and harmonic lines.

*poco sf*

(sottovoce)

Un poco movendo  
capriccioso

*meno p*

*poco marcato*

m. 8

*poco sf*

*pochissimo crescendo*

*rall.*

*più p*

Lento. Dolcissimo. Misterioso.

2/5

*pp*

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2

8

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2

8

*sempre più pp*

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2

*Agitando e crescendo molto*

*mp cresc. poco a poco*

*senza sordina*

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2

5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2

$\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{2}{2}$

*con voce forte*

*sf*

3

$\frac{3}{2}$  *stringendo e cresc. sempre*  $\frac{3}{2}$

*con forza*

*sf*

$\frac{2}{2}$   $\frac{2}{2}$   $\frac{2}{2}$

*più f*

$\frac{3}{2}$  *sempre più forte e concitato*  $\frac{2}{2}$

*sf*

*sf*

$\frac{2}{2}$   $\frac{3}{2}$   $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{4}{4}$

*sf secco*

3

8

$\frac{4}{4}$  Allegro animato e veemente

*marcato*

4/4

8

*m.d.*

*m.s.*

*sf*

7

5

5/4

8

6/8

*piu ff*

3

3

3

3

3

5/4

1

*un poco allargato*

*piu allargando*

8

4/4

*m.d.*

*marcatissimo*

*fff*

*m.s.*

2

11

2

11

9/8 (3/4 + 3/8)

4/4

(9)

*marcatissimo*

$\frac{4}{4}$  Presto  $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{4}{4}$

*(ff)*

*marcato assai*

$\frac{4}{4}$  *diminuendo poco a poco*  $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{4}{4}$

*f*

$\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{4}{4}$

*meno f*

8<sup>a</sup> bassa.....

$\frac{4}{4}$  (*senza rallentare*) *scomparendo*  $\frac{2}{4}$

*mf* (*sempre dim.*) *(p)*

8<sup>a</sup> bassa.....

$\frac{2}{4}$   $\frac{4}{4}$  *poco rall:*.....

*(piu p)* *(pp)* *lunga pausa*

8<sup>a</sup> bassa.....

Come sul principio.  
Lento molto. Misterioso.

pp  
con sordina (sino alla fine del pezzo)

This system contains the first two measures of the piece. It features a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The piano part is marked *pp* and includes the instruction *con sordina (sino alla fine del pezzo)*. The bass clef staff shows a steady accompaniment of eighth notes.

*più pp*

This system contains measures 3 and 4. The piano part is marked *più pp*. The treble clef staff shows a melodic line with some grace notes. The bass clef staff continues with eighth notes.

$\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{4}{4}$  Grave  $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{7}{8}$   
*p espressivo* *sf poco*

This system contains measures 5 and 6. The tempo is marked *Grave*. The time signature changes from  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $\frac{4}{4}$  and then back to  $\frac{3}{4}$ . The piano part is marked *p espressivo* and *sf poco*. The treble clef staff features a melodic line with a triplet in measure 6. The bass clef staff has a steady accompaniment.

$\frac{7}{8}$  (Red.)  $\frac{4}{4}$  *(p)* *m.s. poco marcato*

This system contains measures 7 and 8. The time signature changes to  $\frac{7}{8}$  and then back to  $\frac{4}{4}$ . The piano part is marked *(p)* and *m.s. poco marcato*. The treble clef staff features a melodic line with a triplet in measure 8. The bass clef staff has a steady accompaniment.

*dolce, capriccioso, ma con stanchezza e melanconia*

Musical score for the first system, featuring a treble and bass clef. The treble clef contains a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes and a sixteenth-note figure. The bass clef provides harmonic support with chords and a bass line. A dynamic marking of *(mp)* is present in the bass clef. The system concludes with two sixteenth-note figures, each marked with a '6' above a bracket.

*poco accelerando*

Musical score for the second system. The treble clef features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes and a sixteenth-note figure. The bass clef provides harmonic support. Dynamic markings include *poco cresc.* and *rapido*. A time signature change to  $\frac{3}{4}$  is indicated. The system concludes with a melodic phrase in the treble clef marked *(mp)* and a bass line.

*molto espressivo, quasi doloroso*

Musical score for the third system. The treble clef features a melodic line with a sixteenth-note figure. The bass clef provides harmonic support. Dynamic markings include *mf*, *più f*, *sf (non troppo)*, and *p*. A time signature change to  $\frac{4}{4}$  is indicated. The system concludes with a melodic phrase in the treble clef marked *(p)* and a bass line.

*Calmando*

Musical score for the fourth system. The treble clef features a melodic line with a sixteenth-note figure. The bass clef provides harmonic support. Dynamic markings include *più p*, *rall...*, *lunga*, and *sf (non troppo)*. The system concludes with a melodic phrase in the treble clef marked *sf (non troppo)* and a bass line.

Lento, molto grave

*p* *staccato, quasi pizzicati* *dim.*  
*7* *legatissimo*  
 (senza pedale)

*allontanandosi e perdendosi*  
 (senza rall.)

*lunga*  
*pp* (Ped.=)

Come prima  
 2/2 (Andante molto tranquillo e calmo, quasi adagio)

*ppp*  
*ppp e confuso, mormorando*

*un poco marcato, ma sempre pp*  
 (sempre legatis.)

*espressivo molto*

First system, measures 1-3. Treble clef: piano (*p*) dynamic. Bass clef: sixteenth-note patterns with '6' fingerings.

Second system, measures 4-6. Treble clef: mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. Bass clef: sixteenth-note patterns with '6' fingerings.

Third system, measures 7-9. Treble clef: pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic. Bass clef: sixteenth-note patterns with '6' fingerings.

Fourth system, measures 10-12. Treble clef: piano (*p*) dynamic. Bass clef: sixteenth-note patterns with '6' fingerings and a '5' fingering. Includes *morendo* marking.

*senza rallentare sino alla fine*

Fifth system, measures 13-15. Treble clef: pianissimo (*ppp*) dynamic. Bass clef: sustained notes. Includes *dolcissimo*, *meno p*, *poco sf*, and *lasciar vibrare a lungo* markings.

*ppp quasi impercettibile*