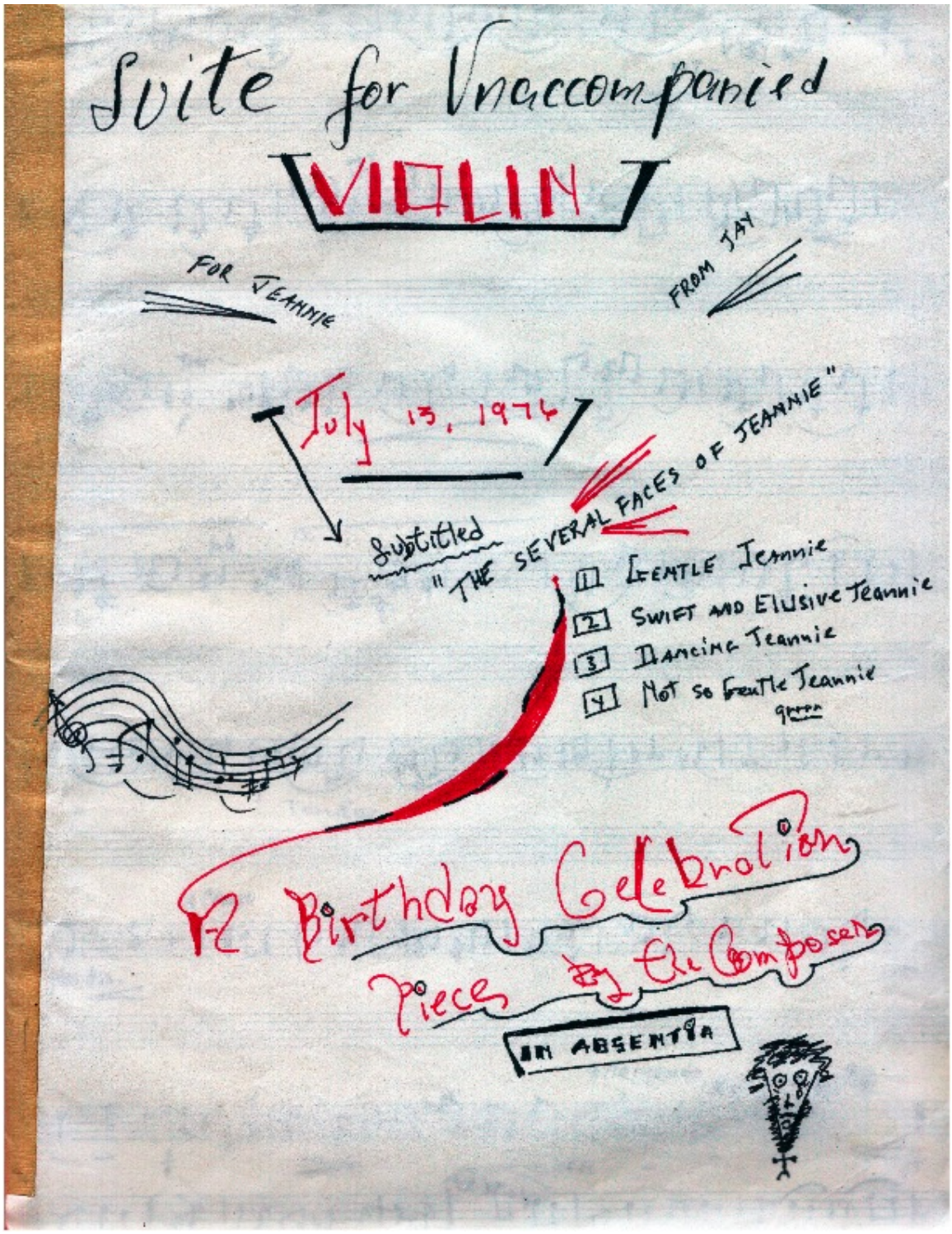
W. Jay Sydeman

Suite for Unaccompanied Violin:
"The Several Faces of Jeannie"
(1976)

Arts Aeternum



Cover page of manuscript

Written while living in a Tibetan Buddhist temple in Hawaii in 1976 for the violinist Jeannie Doe. These are not technically difficult pieces, although they capture the many varied moods of this very lovely lady... somewhat a portrait in sound. Well, actually, "Swift and Elusive Jeannie" requires significant chops, and Movement 4, a flair for the dramatic.

– W. Jay Sydeman, February-March 2011

W. Jay Sydeman's life mirrors the breadth and variety of his music. Born in New York in 1928 and educated at Manhattan's Mannes School of Music, he quickly became one of the most sought-after and honored composers of his generation, receiving commissions from such prestigious groups as the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Tanglewood Music Center, and the Boston Symphony, which premiered his orchestral work in memory of John F. Kennedy in 1966. "Sydeman uses a whole battery of far out techniques," wrote the *New York Times*, "but he has an uncanny ability to throw in the whole avant-garde machinery as if it were the simplest, most normal way of making music in the world ... More than many of his colleagues, he seems to know what will sound well, and he works for some remarkably attractive, pure textures. His sounds seem to grow from a physical sense of exactly what material is right."

In 1970, after a heady period that included awards from the National institute of Arts and Letters, the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Library of Congress, Sydeman left New York – and composition – to begin a journey of personal and artistic exploration.

"Around 1980," he has written, "I returned to composition – at first a large number of choral works which reconnected me to the source of all music – the human voice. Out of this new lyric impulse have evolved all of my works since that time – more romantic, more accessible. I create music for the musician."

– Howard Hersh,
Artistic Director of "Music Now"

Sydeman is part of a composers' group in Nevada City annually producing the "Wet Ink Festival of New Music." He now lives in Mendocino and hosts a bi-weekly program on KZYX, "The Mind of a Composer," 10 am to noon on Mondays, introducing and commenting on contemporary music.

Duration:
I. "Gentle Jeannie" (Adagio espressivo) – circa 3:15
II. "Swift and Elusive Jeannie" (Allegro) – circa 2:00
III. "Dancing Jeannie" (Moderate dance, very rhythmic) – circa 2:00
IV. "Not so Gentle Jeannie" (Drammatico, molto rubato) – circa 3:00

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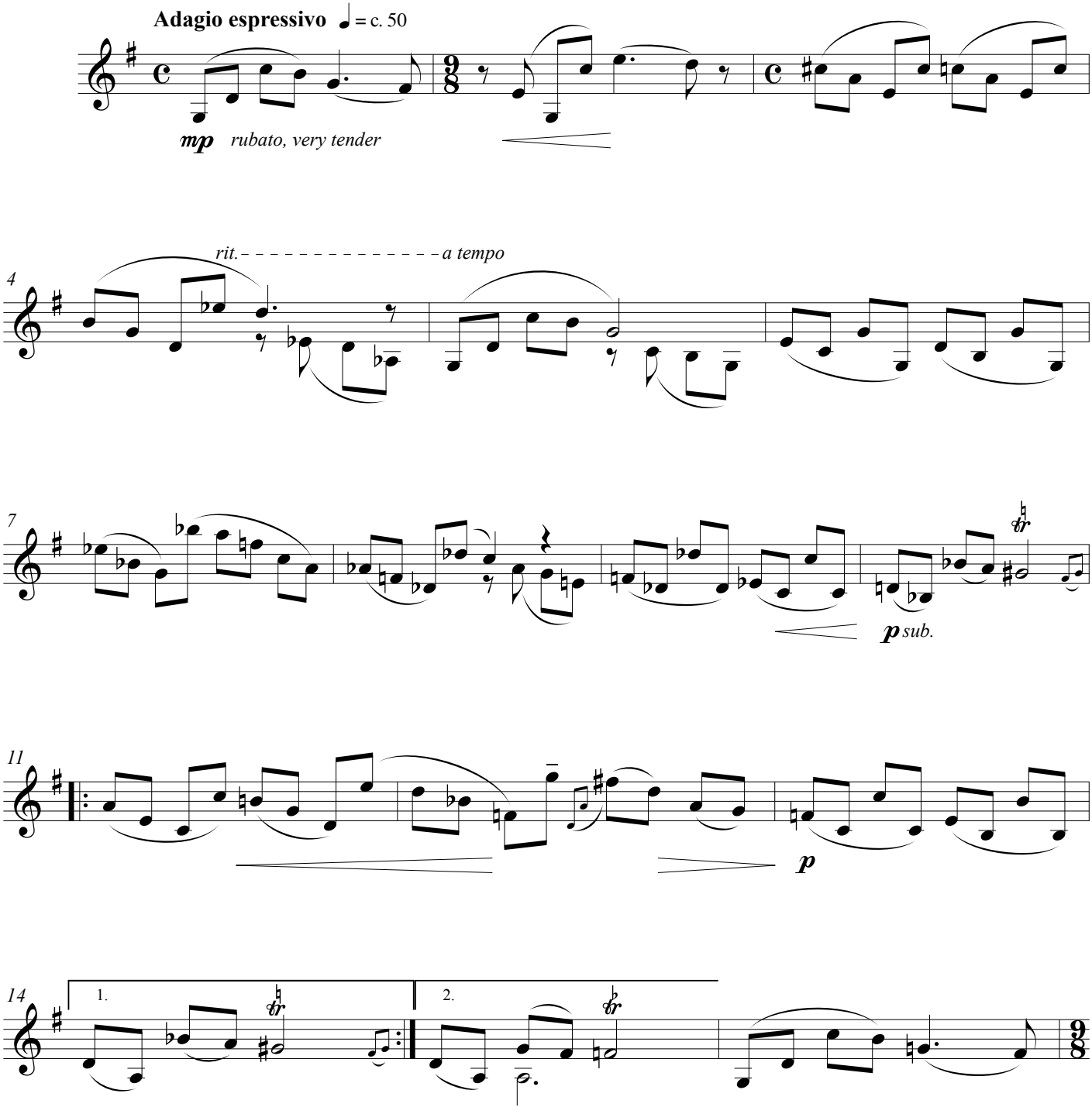
Edited and engraved by Rick Shinozaki (Albany, CA), consulting with the composer.

Suite for Unaccompanied Violin

"The Several Faces of Jeannie"

W. Jay Sydeman
(July 1976)

I. "Gentle Jeannie"



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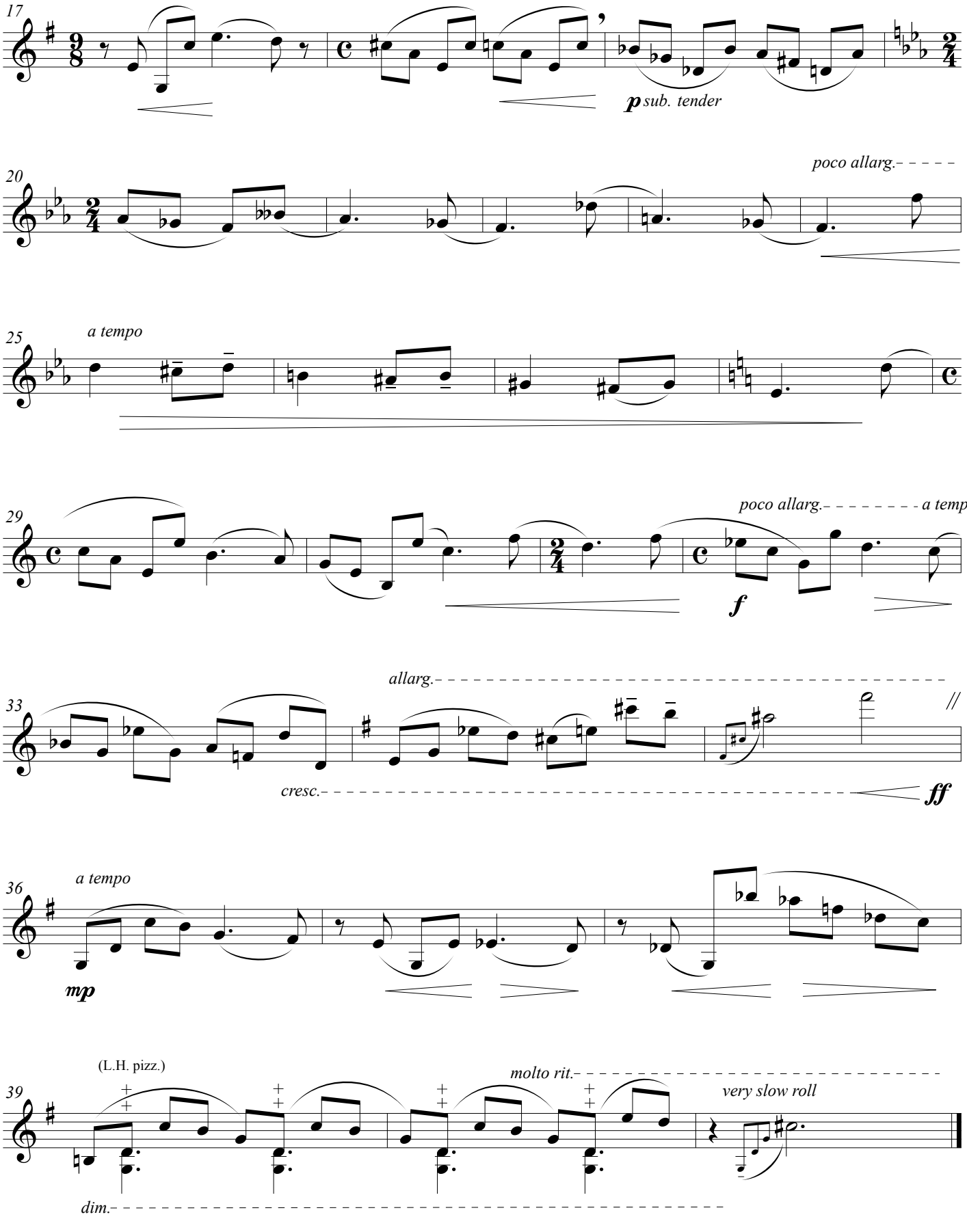
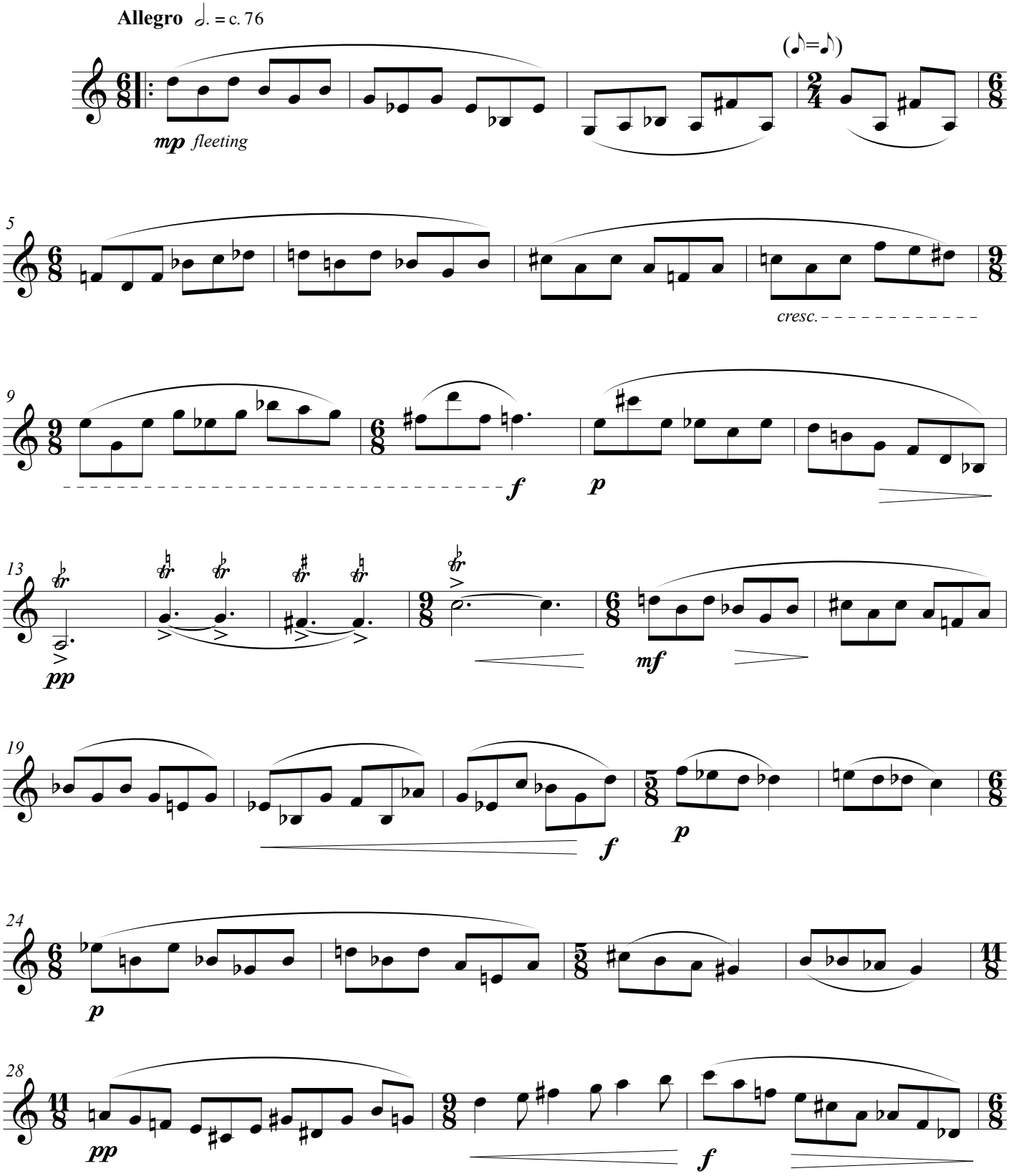
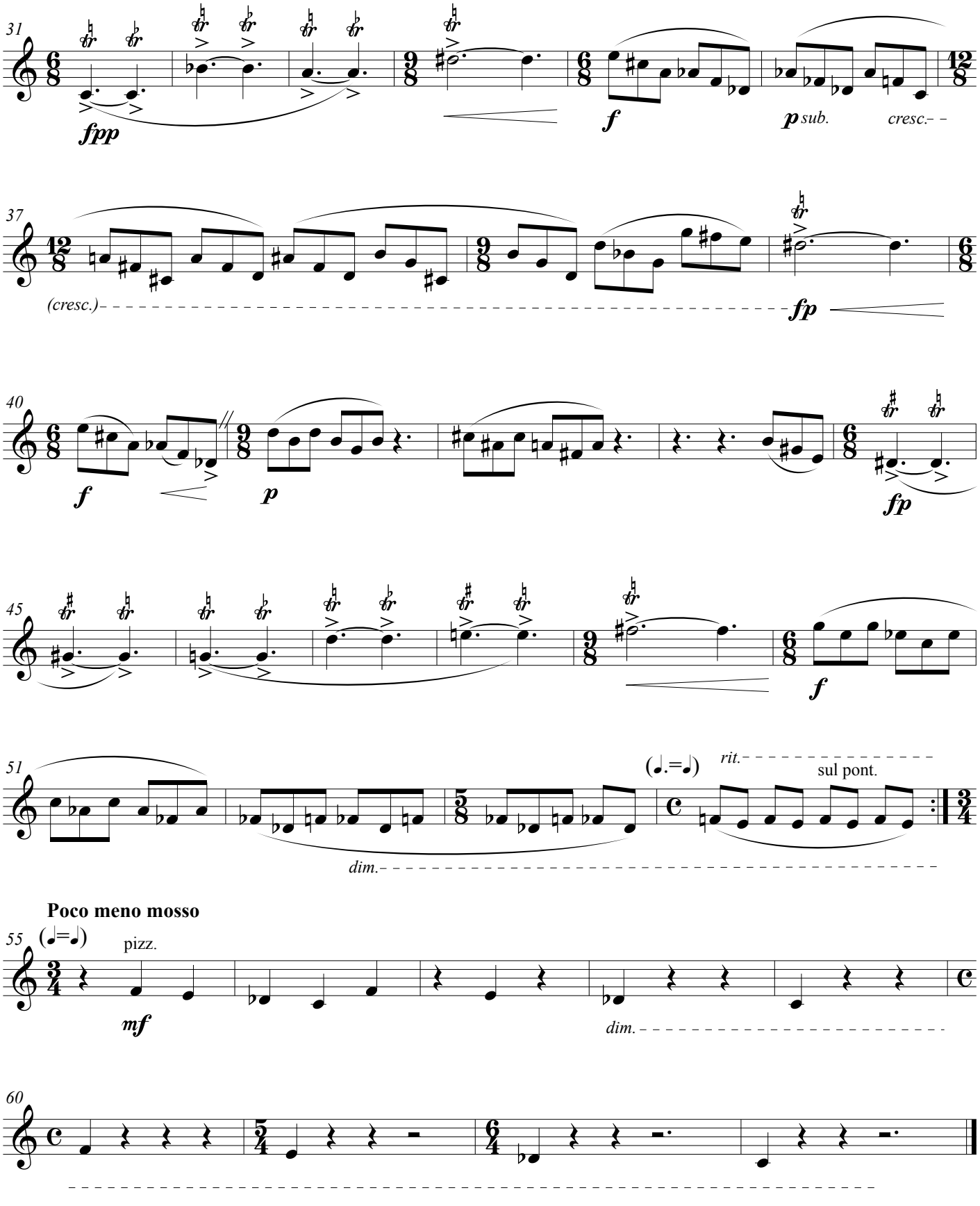

17
p sub. tender
20
poco allarg.
25
a tempo
29
poco allarg.
a tempo
f
33
allarg.
cresc.
ff
36
a tempo
mp
39
(L.H. pizz.)
molto rit.
very slow roll
dim.

II. "Swift and Elusive Jeannie"

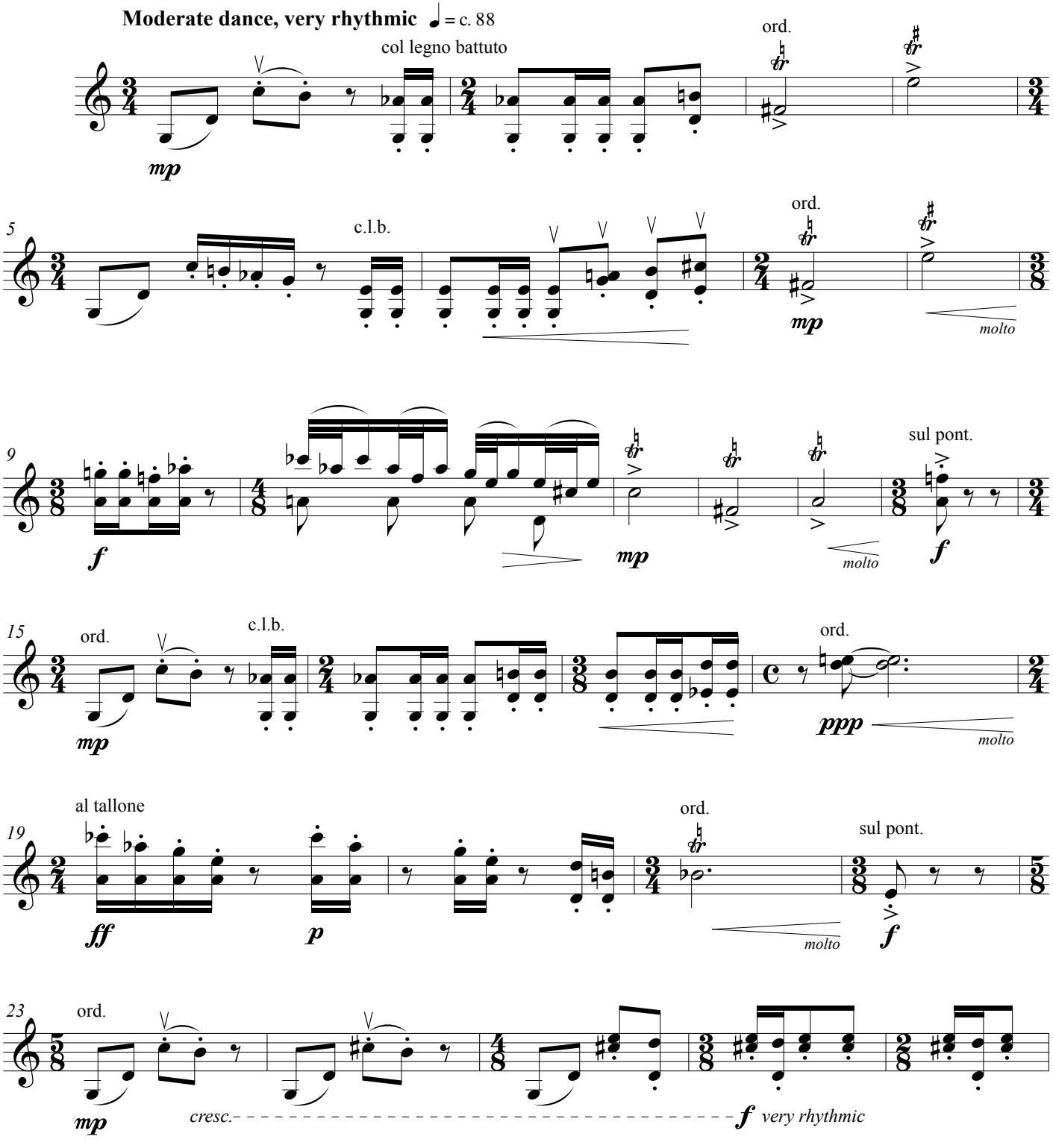


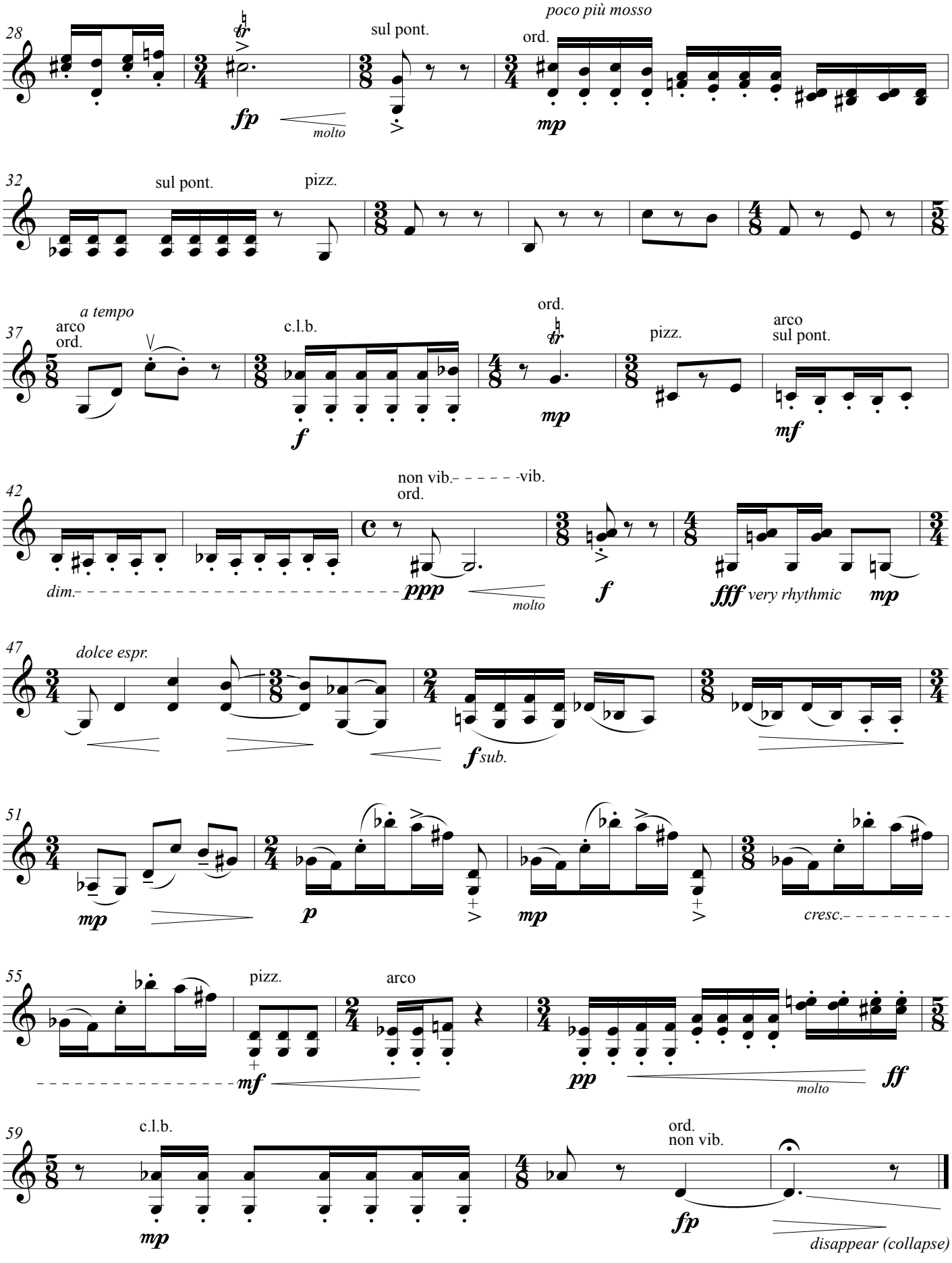

31
fpp
f
p sub.
cresc.
37
(cresc.)
fp
40
f
p
fp
45
f
51
(♩.=♩)
rit.
sul pont.
dim.
Poco meno mosso
55
(♩=♩)
pizz.
mf
dim.
60

III. "Dancing Jeannie"

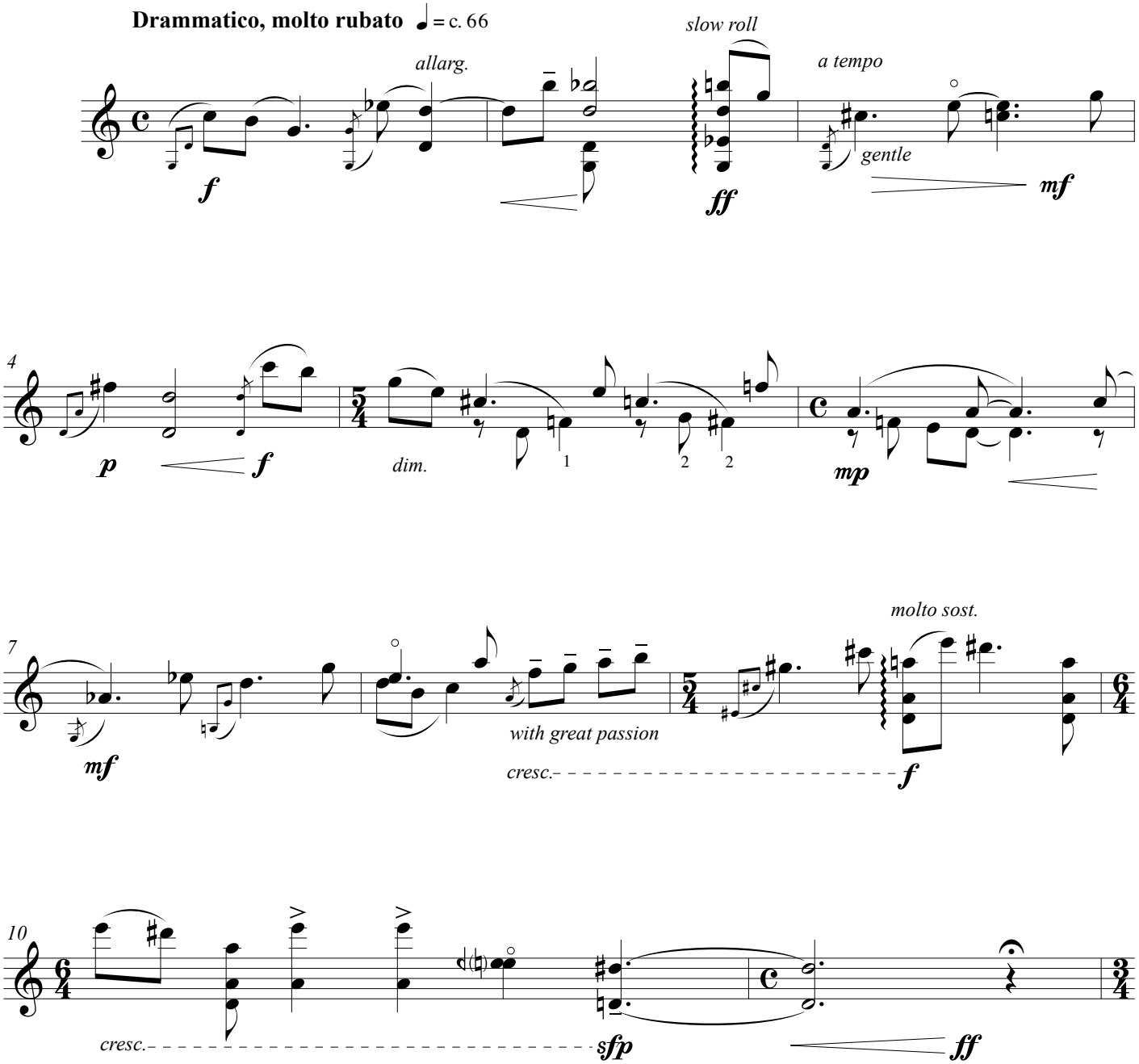
col legno battuto: bounce the bow; half wood, half hair
sul pont.: some of the hair must touch the bridge

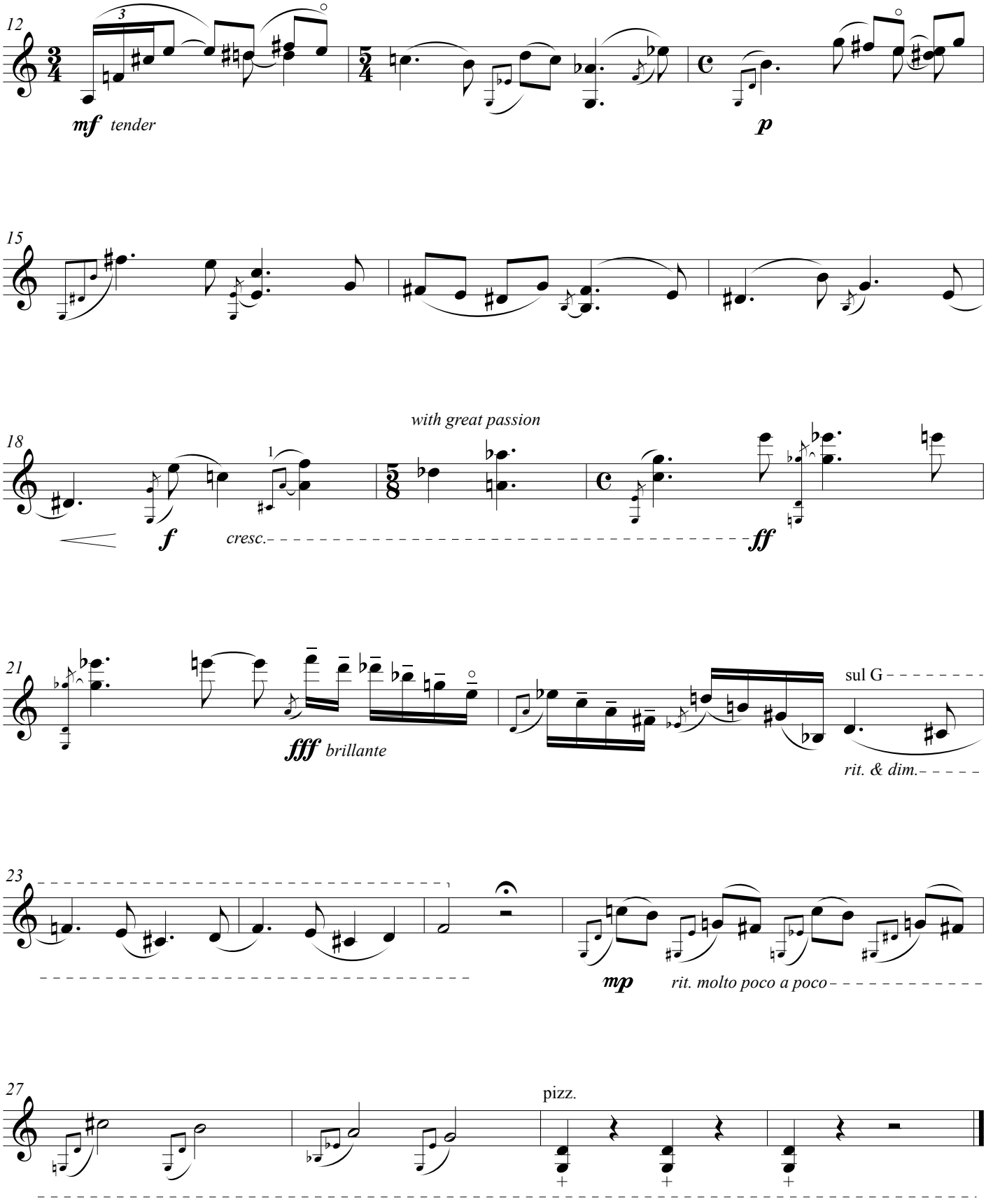
Moderate dance, very rhythmic ♩ = c. 88




28
fp
molto
sul pont.
poco più mosso
ord.
mp
32
sul pont.
pizz.
37
a tempo
arco
ord.
c.l.b.
f
ord.
mp
pizz.
arco
sul pont.
mf
42
non vib.- - - - - -vib.
ord.
dim.- -
ppp
molto
f
fff very rhythmic
mp
47
dolce espr.
fsub.
51
mp
p
mp
cresc.- - - - - - - - -
55
pizz.
arco
mf
pp
molto
ff
59
c.l.b.
mp
ord.
non vib.
fp
disappear (collapse)

IV. "Not so Gentle Jeannie"




12
3
mf tender
p
15
18
with great passion
1
f
cresc.
ff
21
fff brillante
sul G
rit. & dim.
23
mp
rit. molto poco a poco
27
pizz.