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GRETCHANINOFF

CHILDREN'S BOOK OPUS 98 FOR THE PIANO

Willard A. Palmer, Editor

Alfred

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ABOUT THIS EDITION

"In the field of Children's Music, Gretchaninoff has created a number of genuine masterpieces which prove to be truly loving penetrations into the peculiar world of Children. In these works the composer enters into this world, not as an outside observer, but by becoming a child himself. Their enormous popularity, and the exceptional pleasure which the little musicians derive from performing these compositions, offer the best proof that Gretchaninoff has succeeded in solving brilliantly the most difficult problem of 'children's musical literature' without either the insincerity or the condescension of the usual 'children's composer'."

The above quotation from Sabaneyeff's book *Modern Russian Composers* summarizes some of the important reasons for the great success of Gretchaninoff's music for children.

Alexander Gretchaninoff was born in Moscow in 1864, and died in New York in 1956. He spent the last 16 years of his life in the United States, and became an American Citizen. His teachers included Arensky and Rimsky-Korsakoff. He composed a number of successful operas and symphonic works. He became particularly noted for his compositions for children and for his church music and vocal works.

His *CHILDREN'S BOOK, Opus 98, for the piano,* is a collection of 15 musical miniatures. Each of these is an effective recital piece. Because the selections are quite brief, the young student can easily master several of them and perform them as a suite. This sort of performing experience is extremely valuable to the young musician.

The present edition restores the original titles (in accurate translations) to these selections. Gretchaninoff understood that children do not always care for childish titles. In this edition, the text of the original Russian edition and added fingering appears in heavy print. Editorial suggestions are in lighter print. The music has been newly engraved and openly spaced for easier reading.

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1. A Tale

Moderato

mf

(4)

(8)

3

5

rall.

(12)

a tempo

rall.

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2. In Camp

Lento

(echo)

Allegro

f *pp* *p*

5

più f

9

13

p

17

f *pp*

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3. March

Marziale

f

5

f *non legato*

9

p

13

17

f

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4. Farewell

Andantino

mf espressivo

più f

rit.

a tempo

p

rall.

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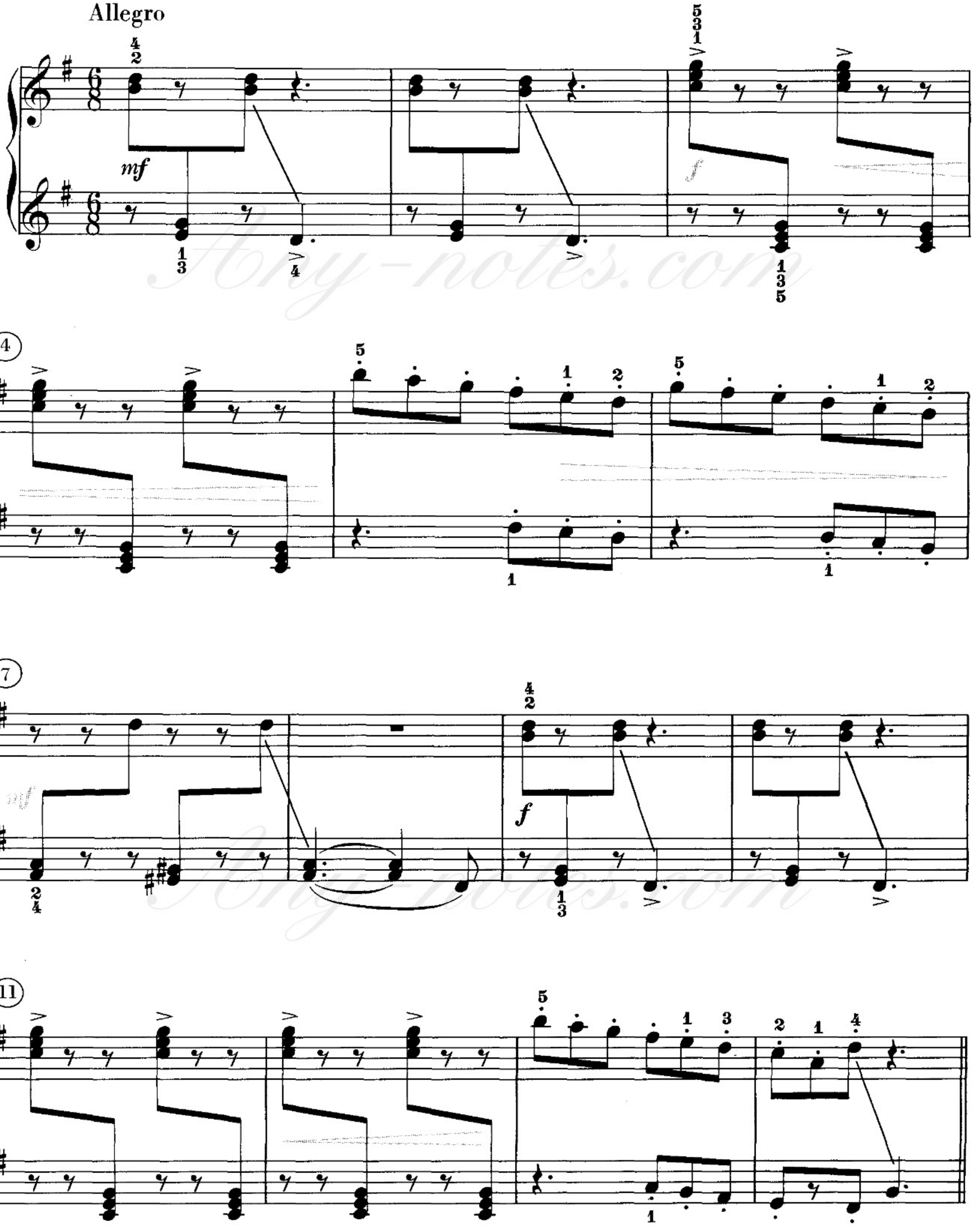
5. Horse and Rider



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16

p *cresc.*

18

Much too far!

mf

21

But "All's well that ends well."

f

25

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6. In a Woodland Glade

Allegro

f *p*

f *p*

mf *f*

p

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14

accelerando

a tempo

f

18

p

f

21

p

mf

24

p

poco rit.

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7. Discontent

Andantino

p

con pedale

cresc.

f

rall.

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13

a tempo

p *poco cresc.* *rall.* *mf* *pp*

17

21

cresc. *f* *rall.*

24

a tempo

p *poco cresc.* *rall.* *mf* *pp*

28

molto rall.

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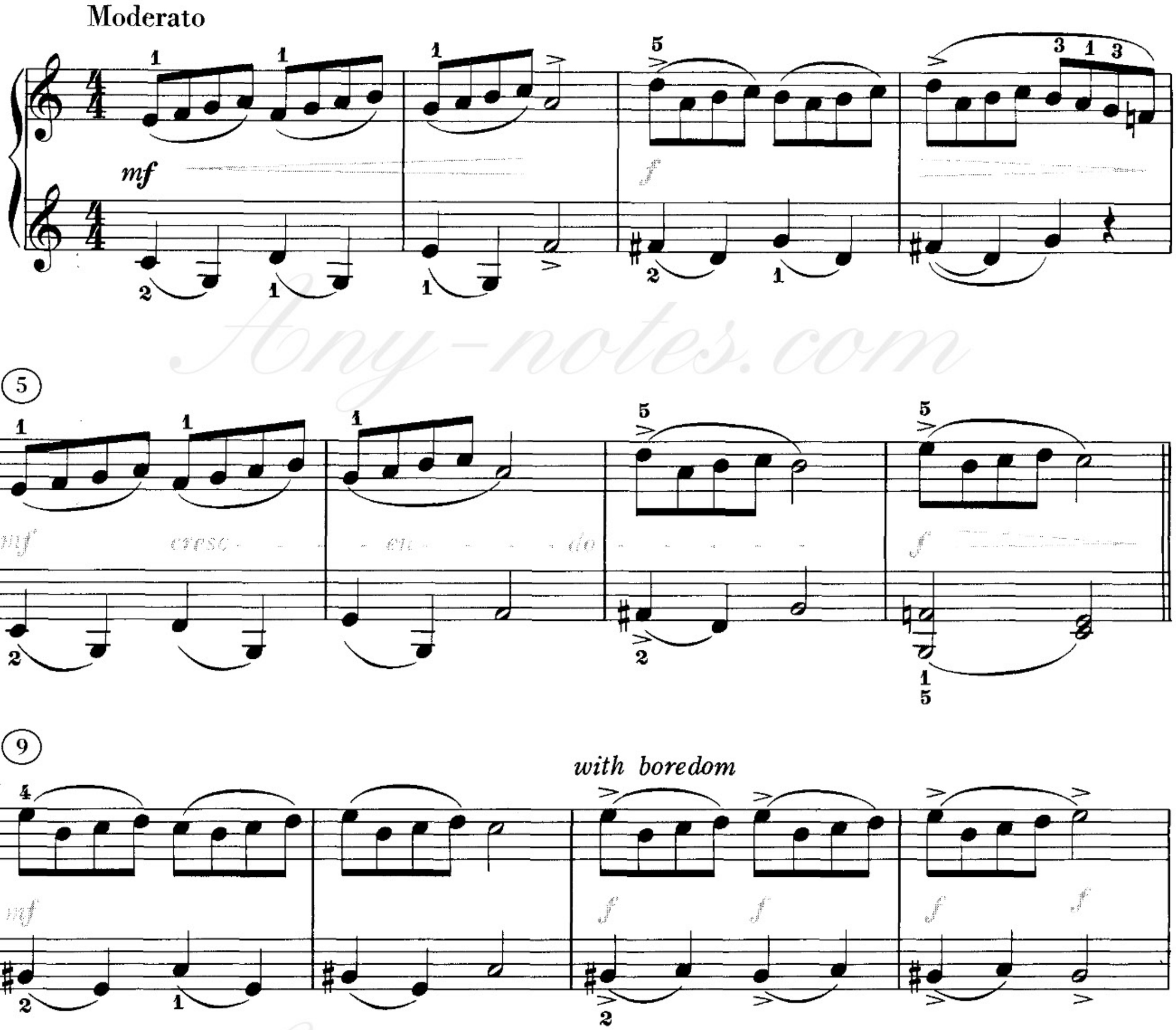
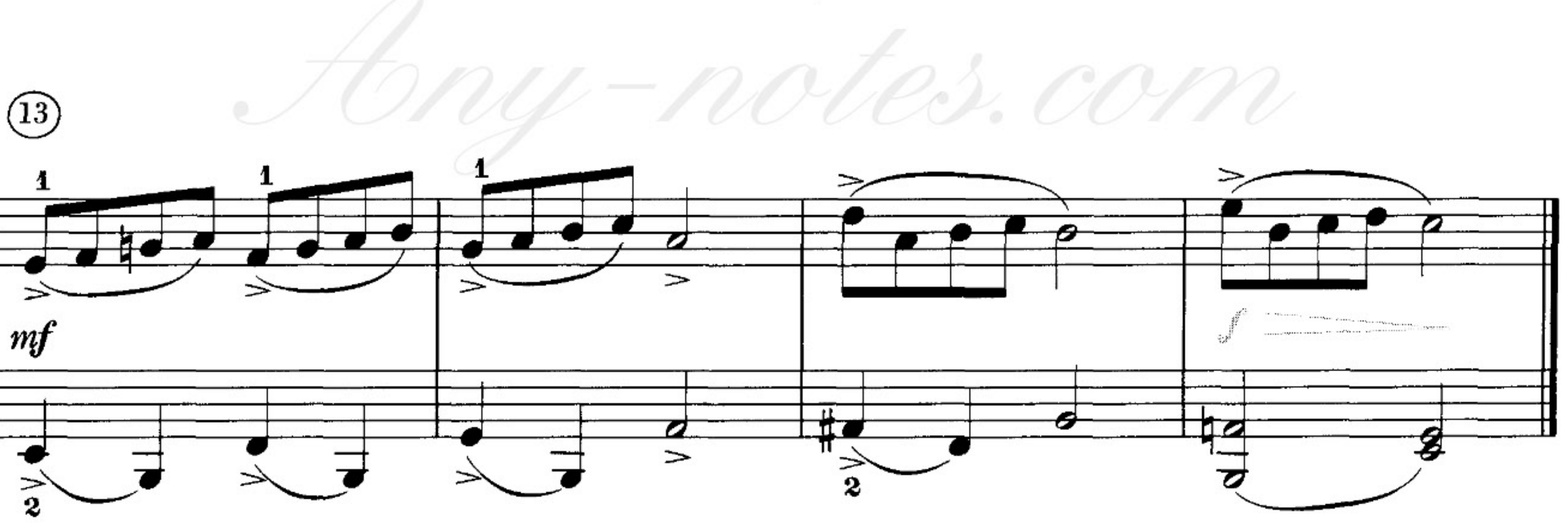
8. A Tiresome Tale





In spite of its title, this selection is an entertaining recital piece. By over-emphasizing the accents in the last six measures, the performer conveys the idea of the plodding plot of the "Tiresome Tale" in a most amusing manner.

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9. Lullaby

Lento

p espressivo

5

mf

9

espressivo

13

p

17

mf

rallentando

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10. Dance

Allegretto

mf

f

non legato

non legato

4

p

non legato

non legato

f

7

p

10

a tempo

rall.

mf

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13

5 non legato

non legato

5 non legato

non legato

f

17

p

20

a tempo

rall.

mf

23

5 non legato

non legato

rallentando

non legato

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11. Terrible Tale

Moderato

mf *f*

5

mf *p poco accelerando* Meno mosso *f*

Tempo I

9

rall. *p* *f*

13

mf *p* *poco acceler.* Meno mosso *mf*

17

Tempo I *p* *rall.*

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12. Etude

Allegro

f

clear, precise

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13. Festive Dance

Tempo di mazurka

mf

pizz.

f

p

mf

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17

21

26

31

36

p

f

mf

rallentando

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14. A Lingering Song

Moderato assai

mf

poco accelerando

ritard.

mf

2nd time rall.

a tempo

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15. Waltz

Tempo di valse

mf

simile

non legato

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17

f

ped. Simile

21

25

29

non legato

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33

rall.

37

a tempo

mf

simile

41

45

49

non legato

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