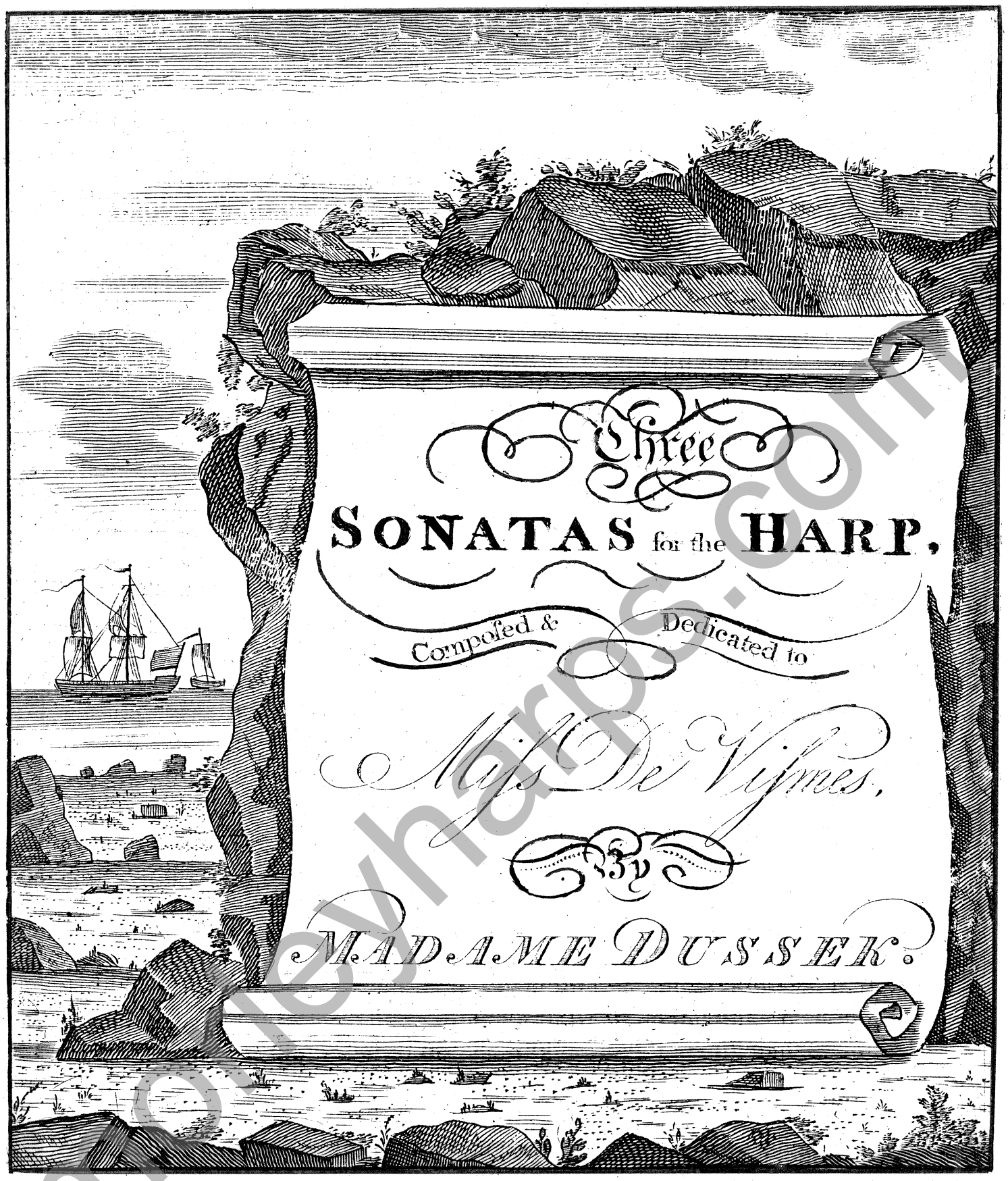

EDITED
by
DAVID WATKINS

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Three Sonatas for the Harp

by Madame Dussek

Contemporary descriptions of Madame Dussek's Harp compositions were always most favourable. They were described as "popular" or as having a "certain vogue" and it's rather surprising that they have been neglected for such a long time. These Three Sonatas (dedicated to Miss de Vismes) were published by Corri and Dussek around 1796. (Corri was Sophia Dussek's father). Of easy to medium difficullty they are full of elegance and charm, and some felicitous invention and musical ideas put them in a much higher category than other harp sonatas of that period.

The Rondo of the first Sonata does not seem to have much 'music' in it, but when well played, captivates with it's obsessive music box phrases and will always rouse a smile. The same can be said about the Rondo of the third Sonata 'The Caledonian Hunt' with it's characteristic 'Scotch Snap'(♫.) on the third beat of the first full bar. All three Sonatas have a generous larding of Scottish melodies, a fashionable idea of that period and even Haydn arranged many folk songs from the British Isles.

There has been much debate as to whether the Sonata in C minor (edited by Zabaleta) was written by wife or husband, and it certainly has the easy charm of these three Sonatas.

As Sophia Dussek owed her harp playing career to her famous husband it may be that he had more than a helping hand in these compositions.

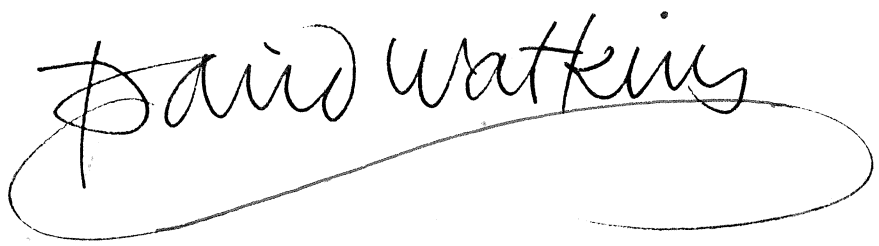
DECORATIONS

Decorations written ♪♩ to be played like a 'Scotch Snap' ♪♪. (First note on the beat).

Decorations written ♪♩, played with the second note on the beat.

Madame Dussek – Sophia Corri

Sophia Corri was born in Edinburgh in 1775. She performed in public at a very early age, her father having been her first music teacher. In 1788, the Corri family moved to London where Sophia had great success as a singer. Jan Ladislav Dussek taught her to play the harp and she became famous as a performer after their marriage in 1792. Their daughter Olivia was also a well-known harpist.



David Watkins

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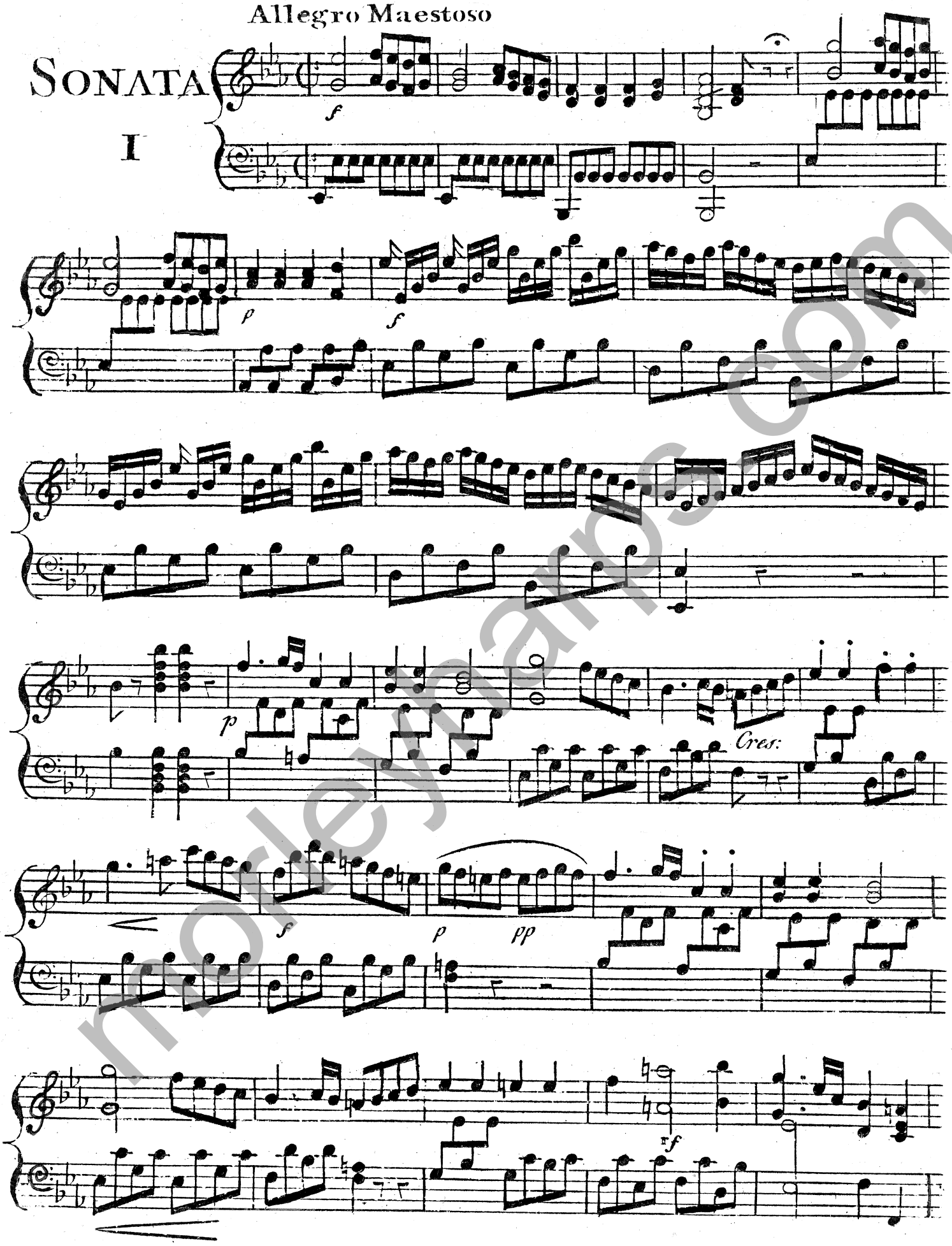
Allegro Maestoso

SONATA I



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p p rf p

f vf vf

sf p ff

sf

Volti

morleymarps.com

mf

f

p

p

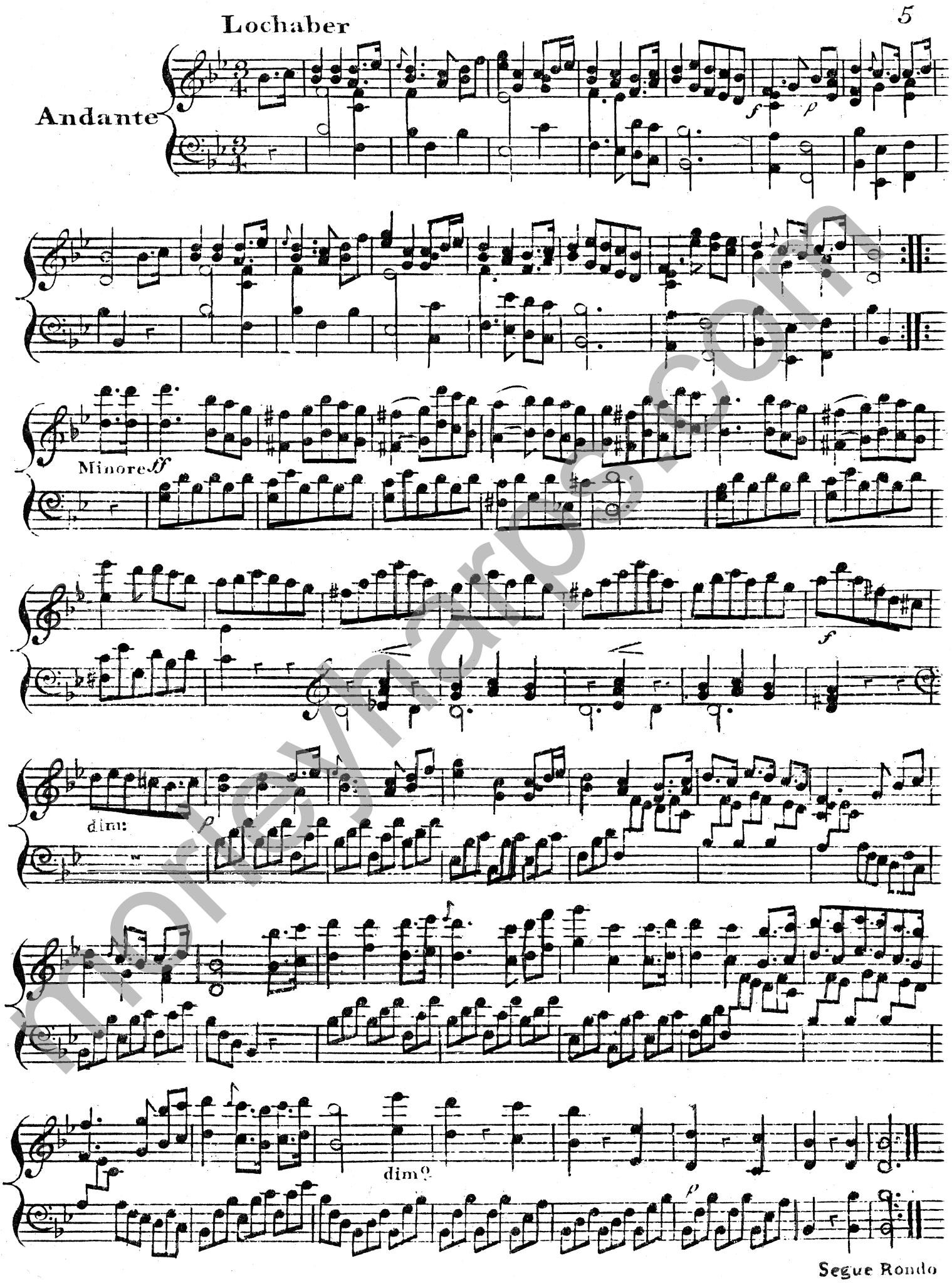
mf

rf

p

f

marlyrae.com


Lochaber
Andante

Minore

dim:

dim°

Segue Rondo

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Rondo

Allegretto

mezzo

f

p

f

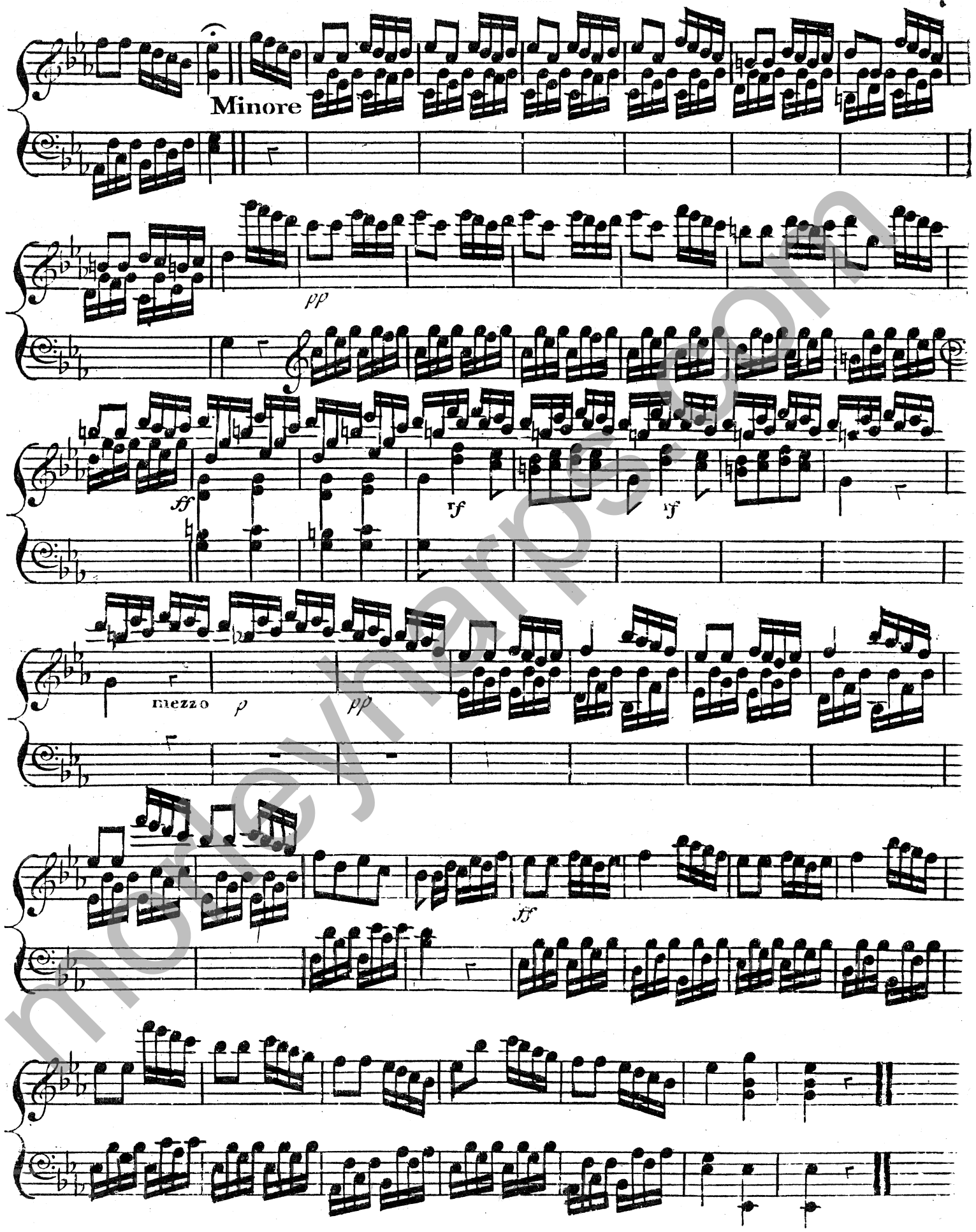
f

p

pp

xf

noteman.com



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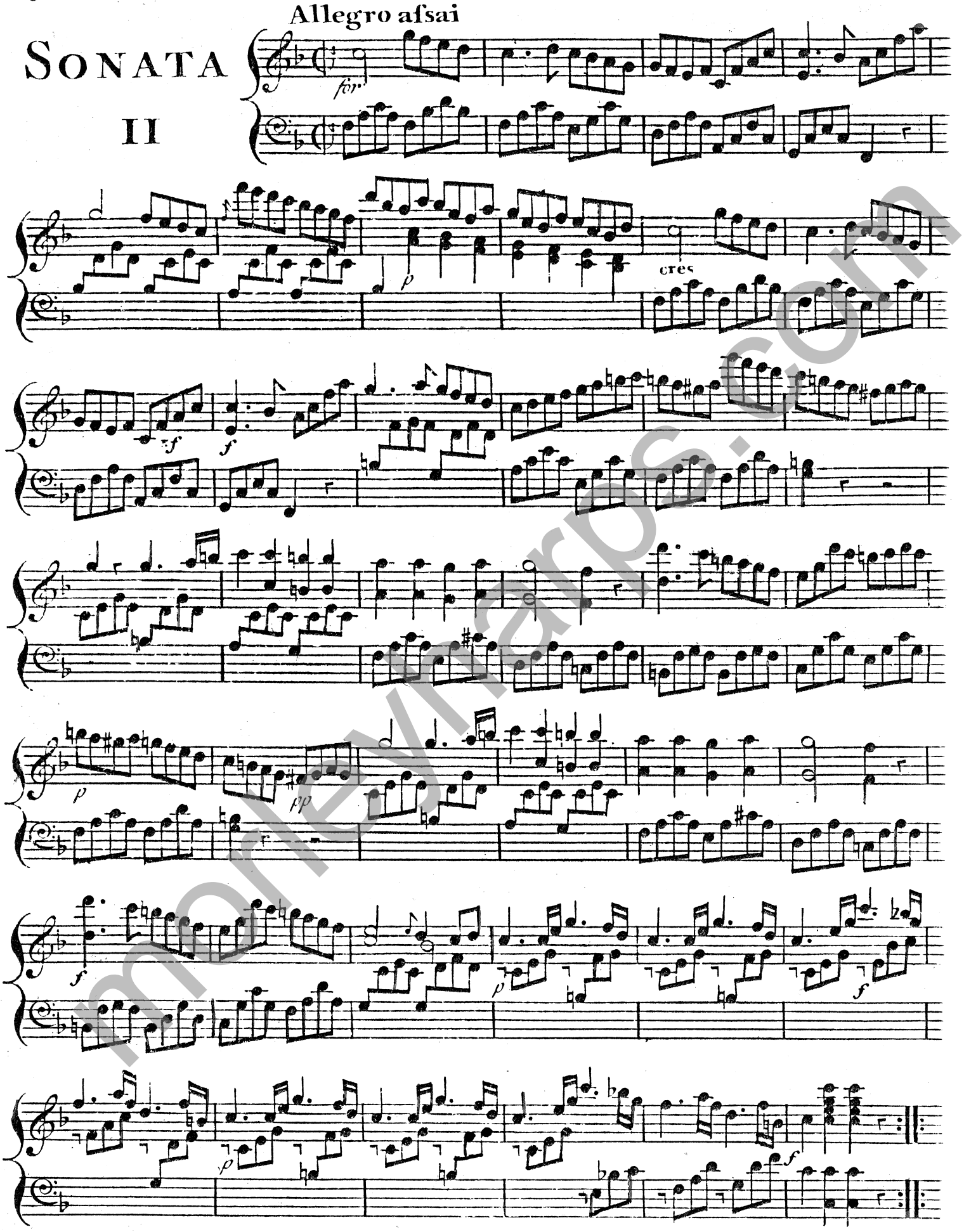
SONATA II

Allegro afsai



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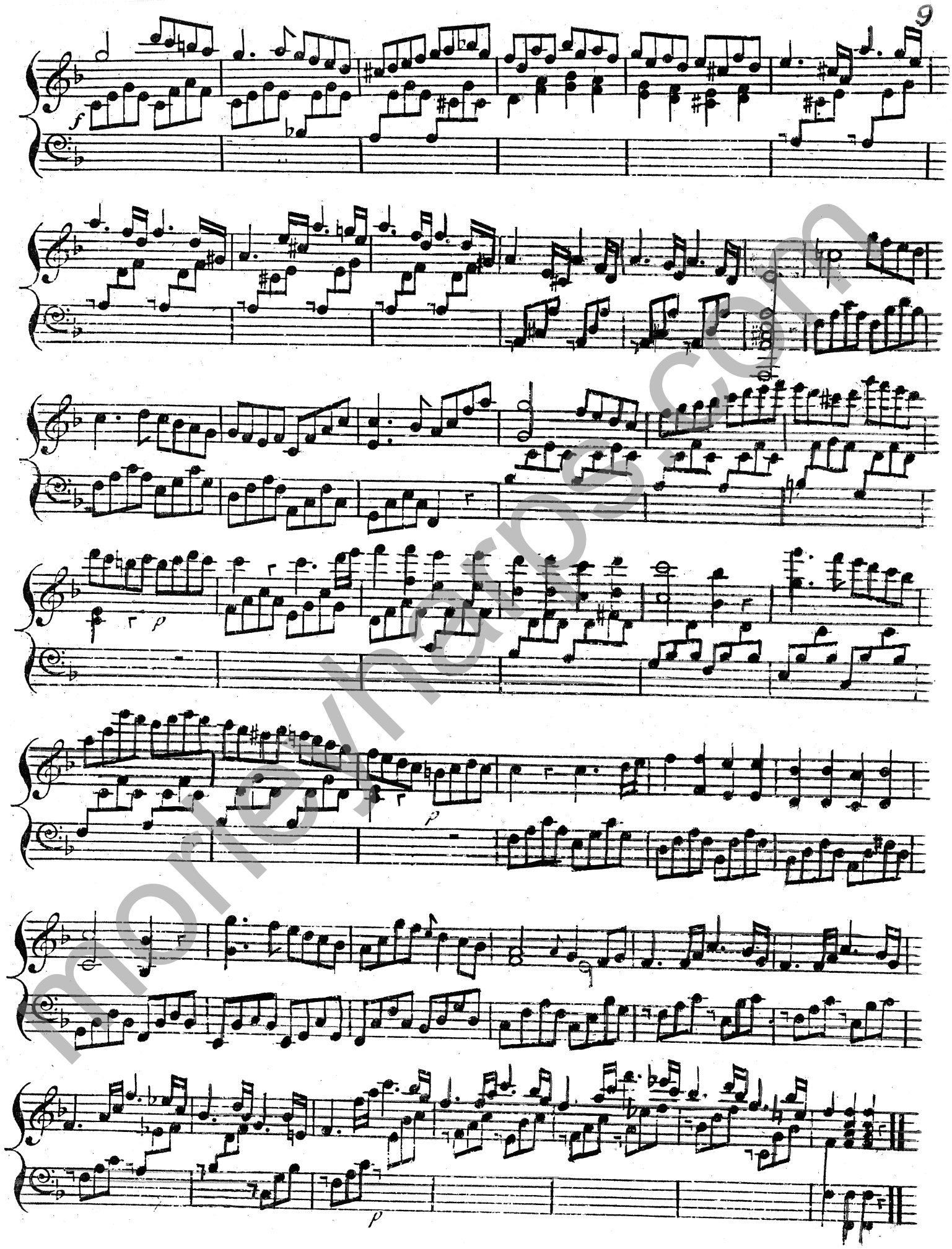

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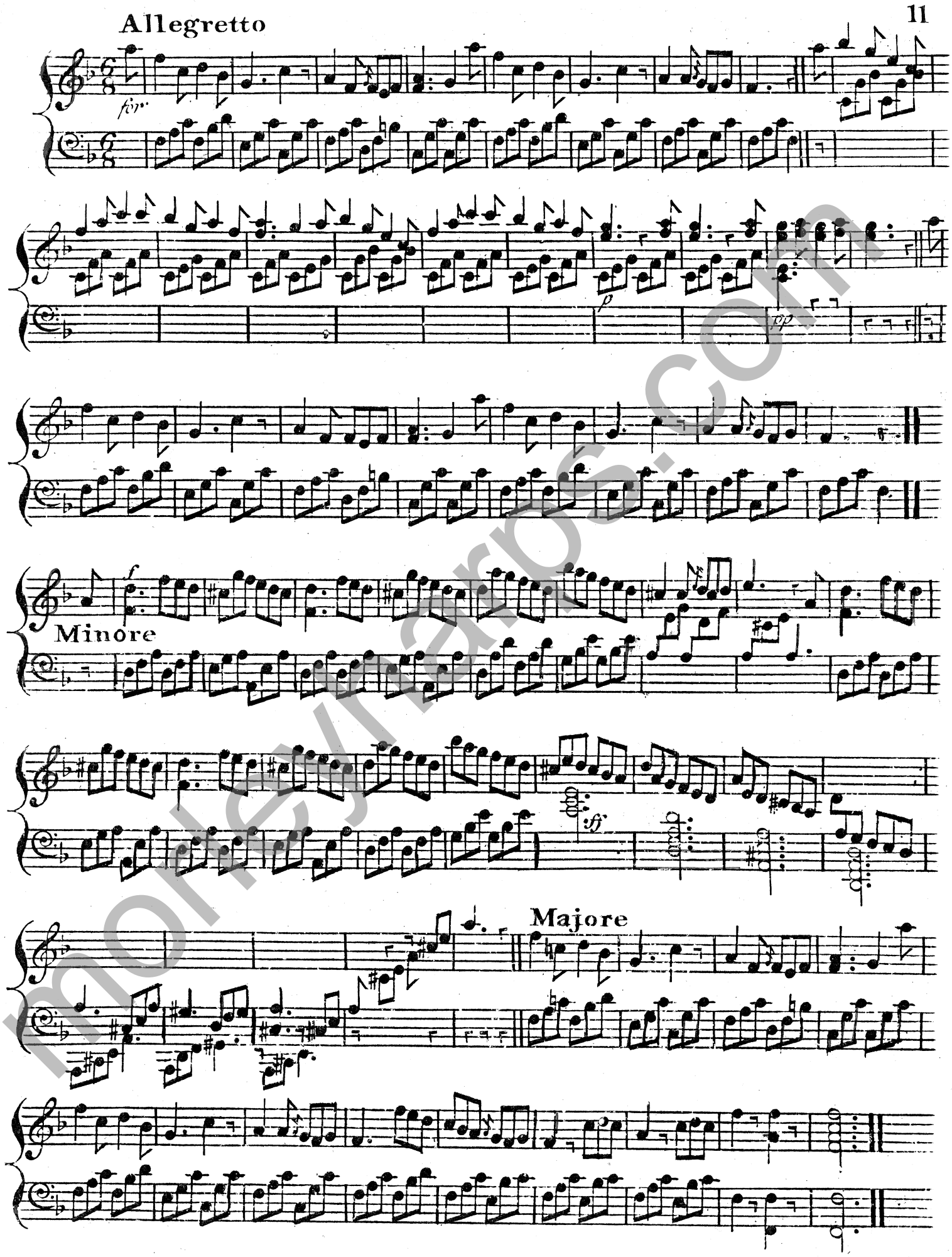
Larghetto
con
Espreſsione

monteverdi.com



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SONATA III

f

Allegretto

p

f

p

f

Minore

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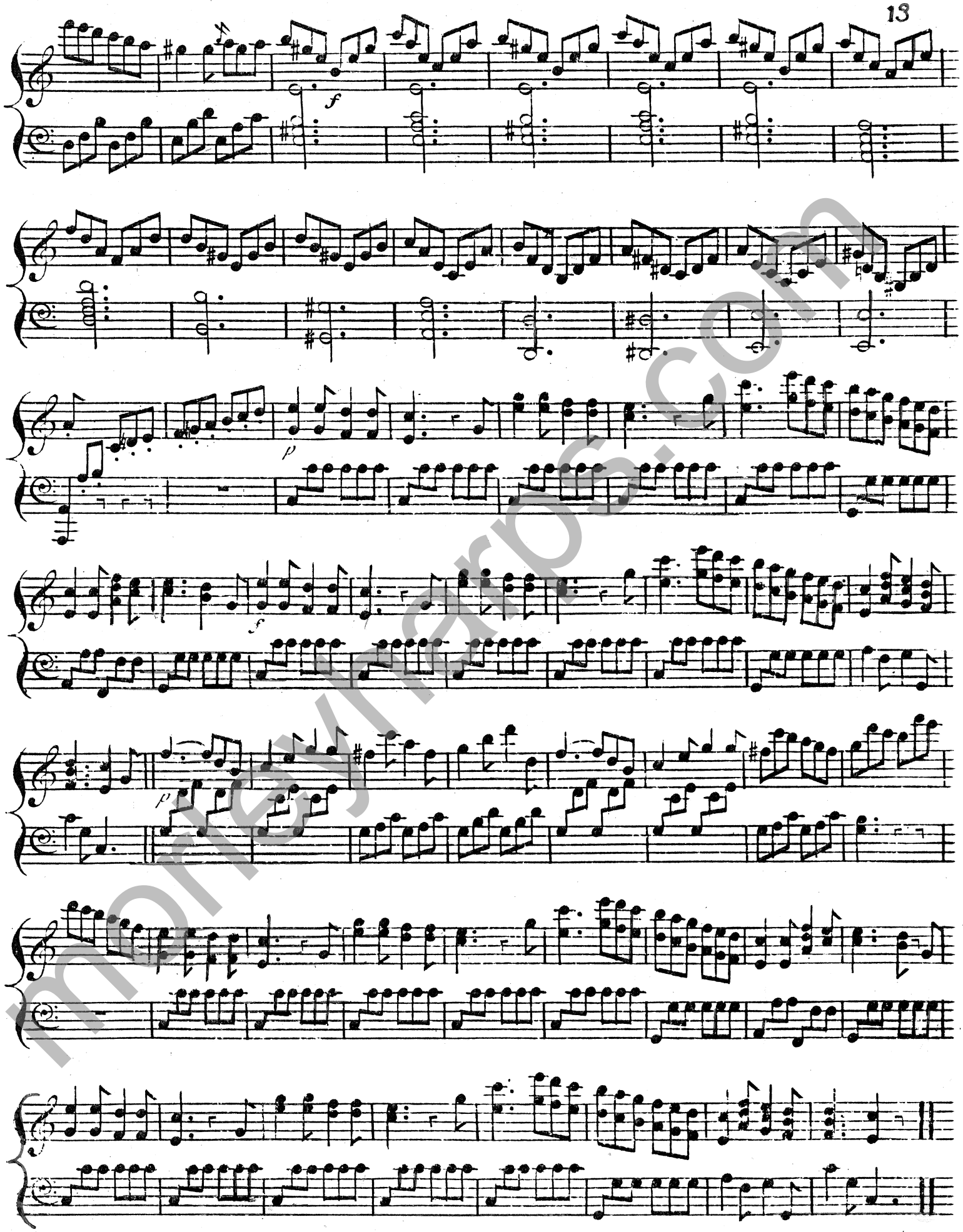

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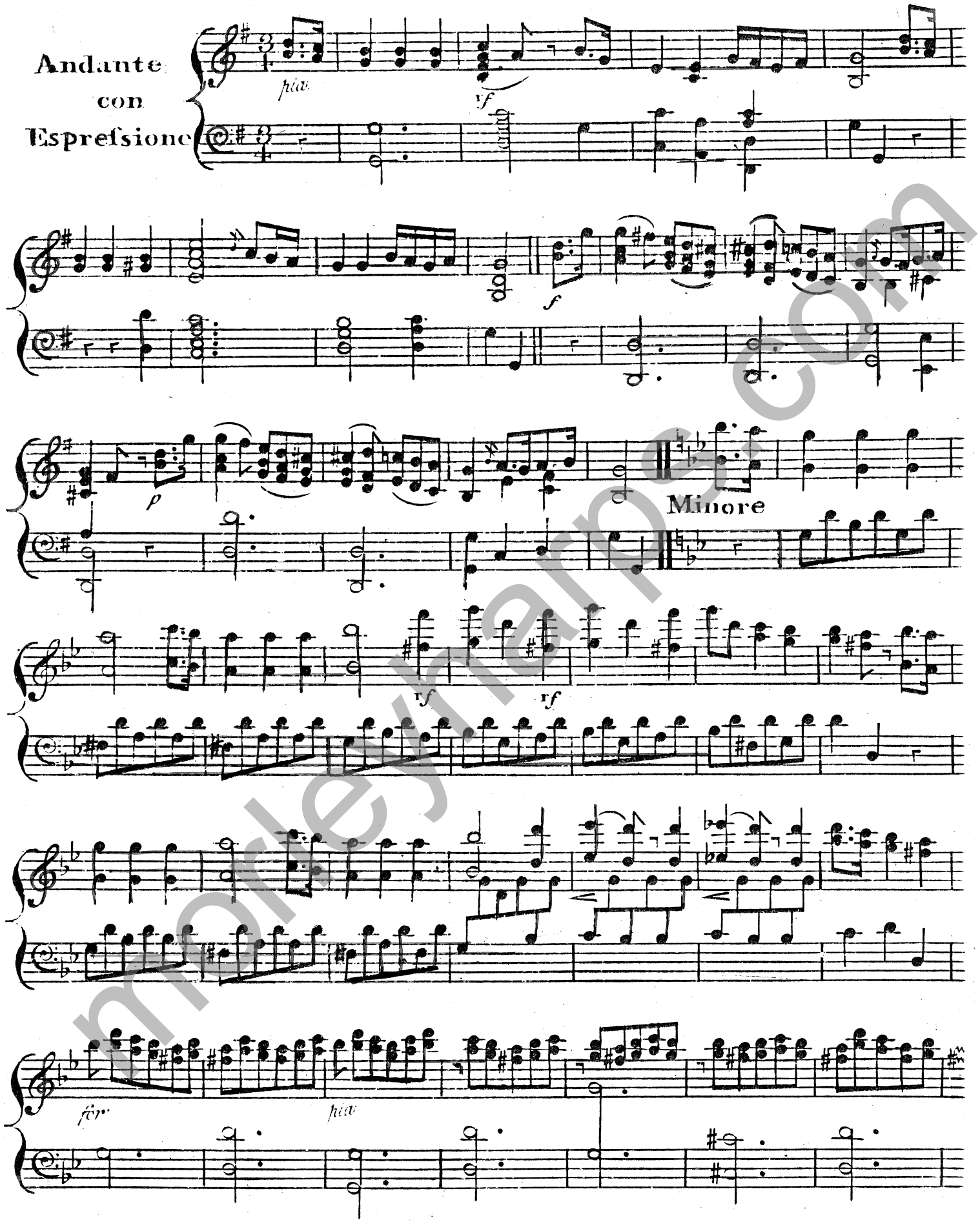

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Majore

dim?

rf

Caledonian Hunt

Rondo

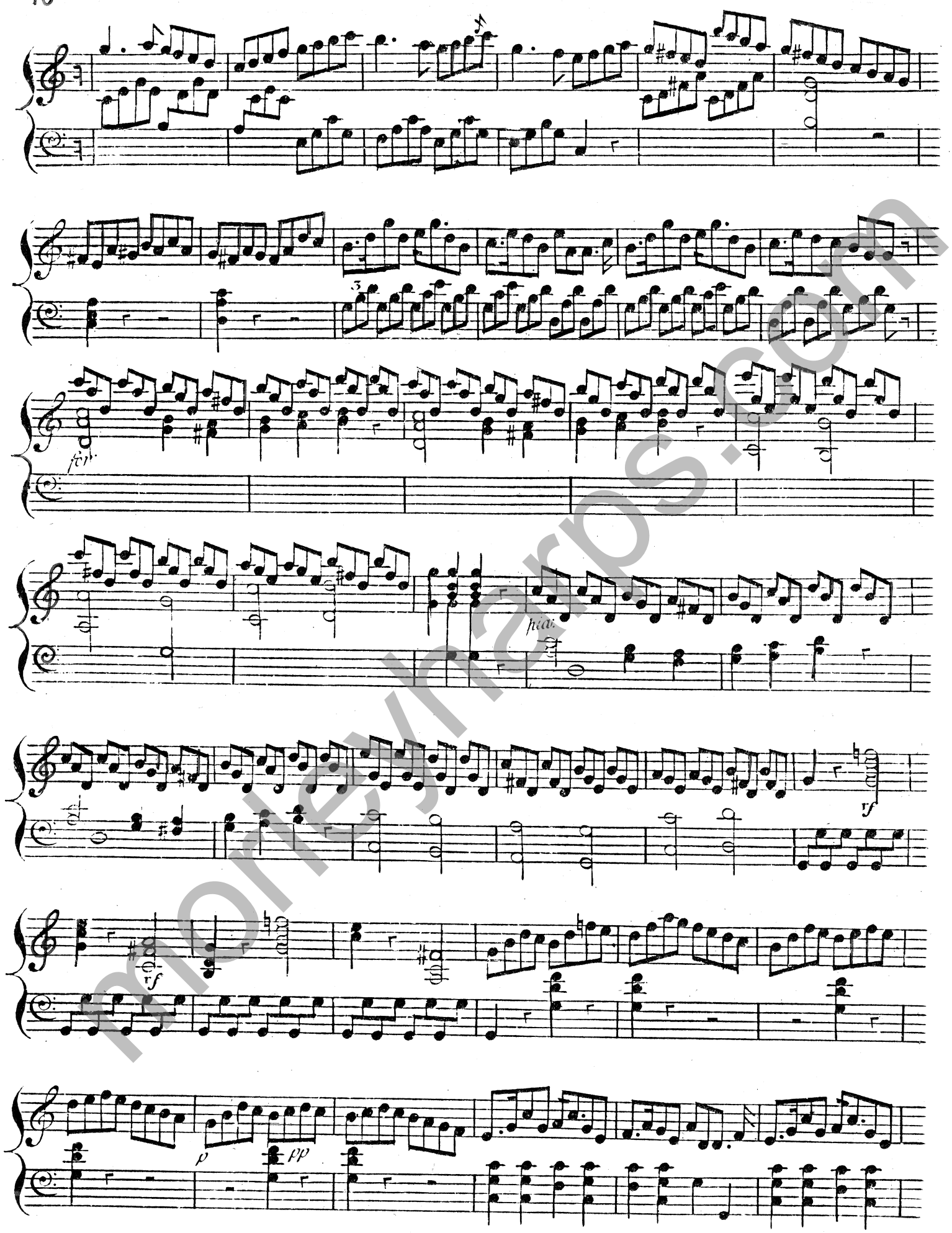
Allegro

p

f

V.S.

noteflight.com



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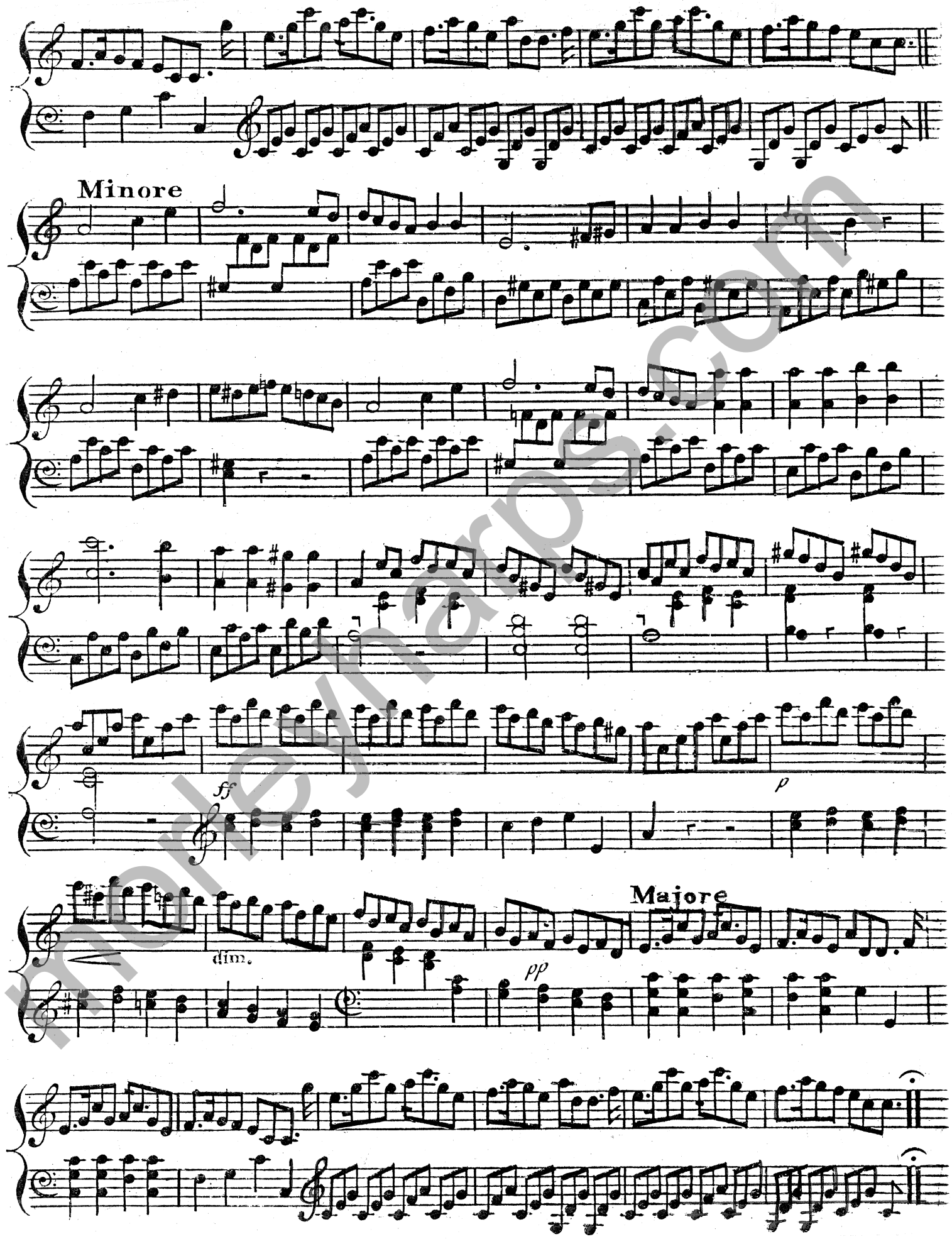

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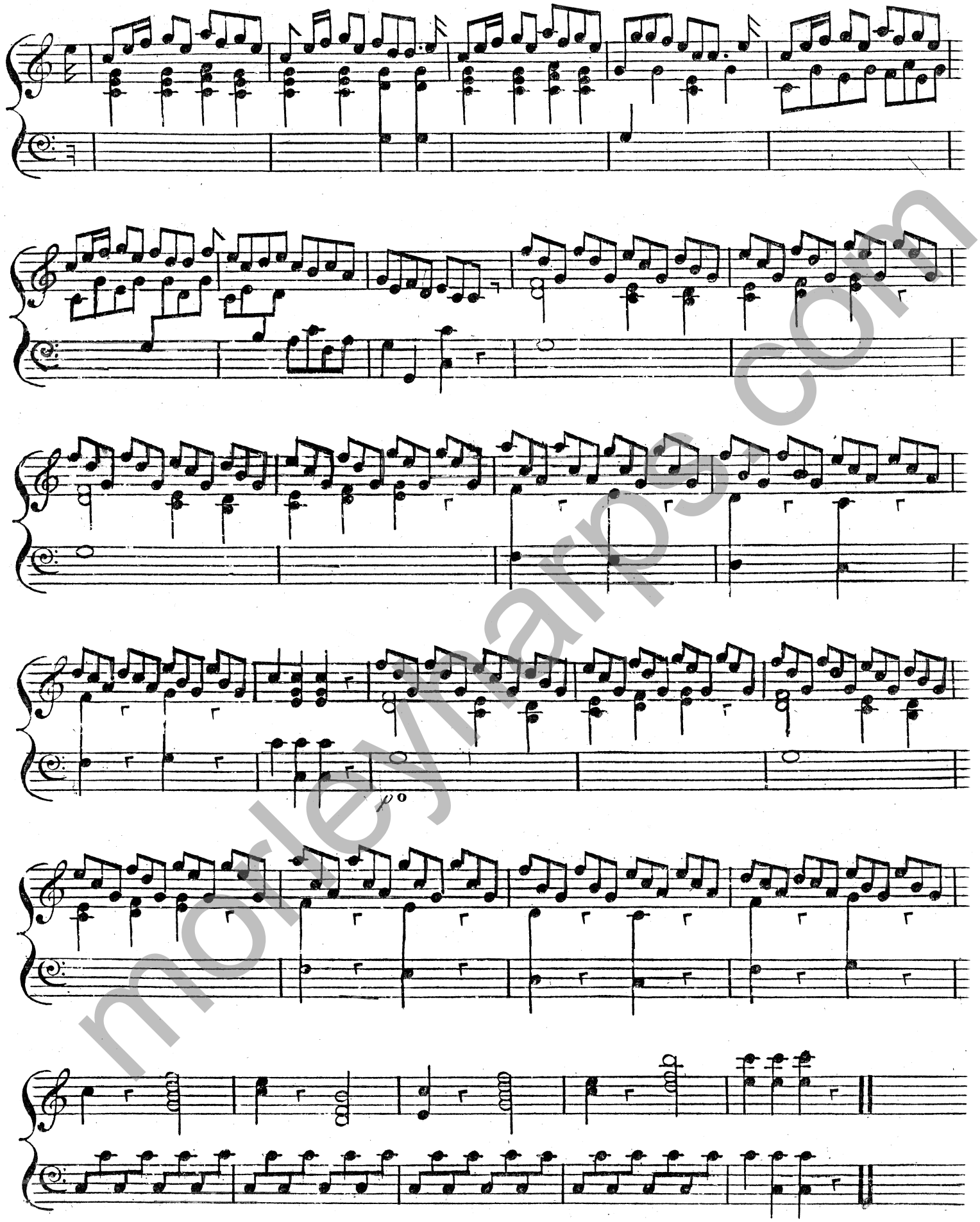

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