MU150 Test Out Materials: Fall 2025 Semester (Performance, BA, Composition, Education Only)

Directions

For Performance, BA, Composition, and Education majors wishing to test-out of MU150 Piano Class 1 - prepare the requested exam materials to the best of your ability. These materials represent many of the topics that will be covered in MU150 throughout the Fall semester. Strong mastery of these skills must be demonstrated to pass the exam. Please feel free to contact the test administrator, Dr. Timothy Burns, if you have any questions as you prepare these materials.

Passing the Exam

You must score an 80% on each section of the exam to pass the test-out completely. Please note - for freshmen taking this exam at the beginning of the Fall semester, it is strongly recommended that you enroll in MU150 to reserve a seat in class.

In addition, it is possible to provisionally pass this exam by scoring 80% or higher on two out of three sections. You would then need to complete the remaining part of the exam by the last day of classes in the Fall semester. Those not completing the remaining part of the exam will not pass MU150, and they may delay completion of their keyboard skills degree requirement.

Contact

If you have any questions about this exam, please reach out to Dr. Timothy Burns, the MU150 test administrator, by email at tim.burns@colostate.edu.

Exam Requirements

Part 1 – Skills

1. Single octave major and minor scales (natural, harmonic, and melodic forms) – All scales performed in eighth note patterns, hands together, with proper finger patterns, at quarter equals 76 BPM. Prepare the following keys – F, C, G, D, A, E, B.

2. Single octave major and minor octave arpeggios – All arpeggios performed in triplet patterns, hands together, with proper finger patterns, at quarter equals 60 BPM. Prepare the following keys – F, C, G, D, A, E, B.

Part 2 – Repertoire

1. Perform *Festive Dance* – score is provided starting on Page 3.

2. Sight-read a short piano work, hands together – practice samples provided starting on Page 5.

3. Perform a lead sheet of your choice in left hand comping style (right hand melody, left hand chords) from the following list. Music is provided starting on Page 12:

    a. The First Noel
    b. Dixie Land
    c. Home on the Range

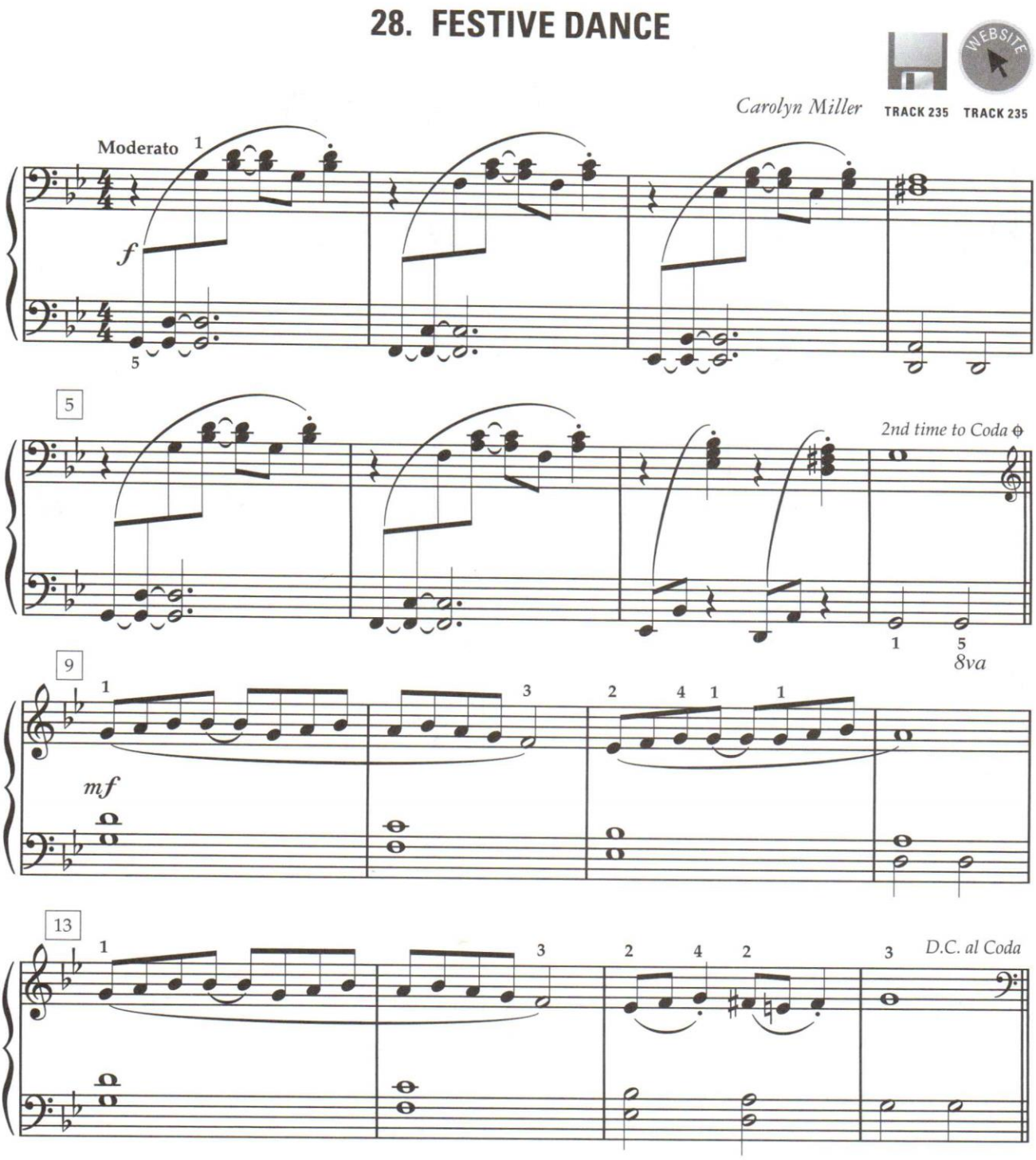
4. Tonally transpose a single line excerpt to one of the following keys of your choice: F Major, G Major, C Major. This single line is provided on Page 15.

Part 3 – Music Theory

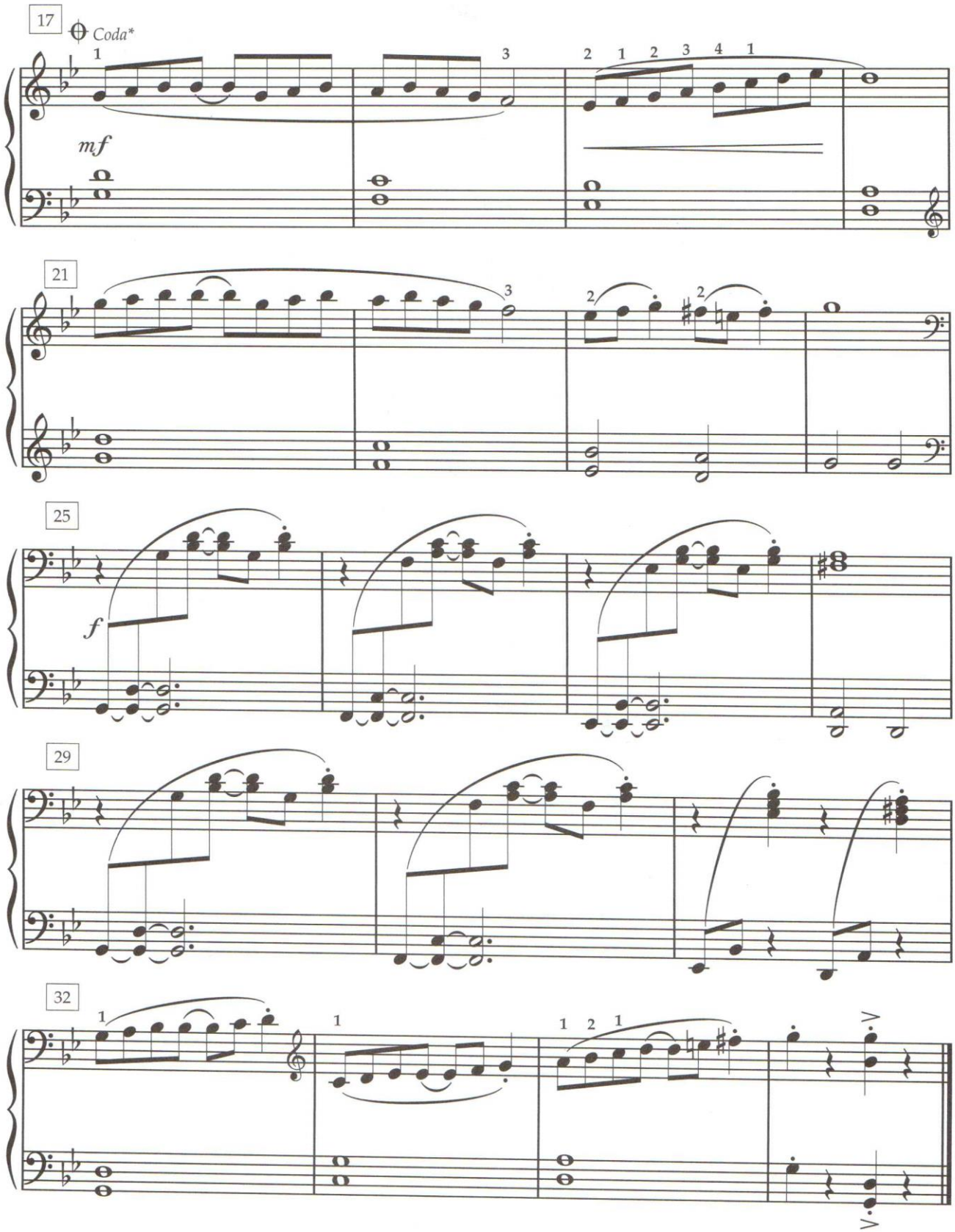
1. Perform two of the provided chord progressions in the keys of C, E, F and G, progressions and keys instructor's choice. Chord progressions are provided starting on Page 15.

2. Improvise a first species counterpoint to the cantus firmus provided on Page 16. Make sure that your counterpoint follows the rules consistent with first species counterpoint.

Part 2, Item 1: Festive Dance

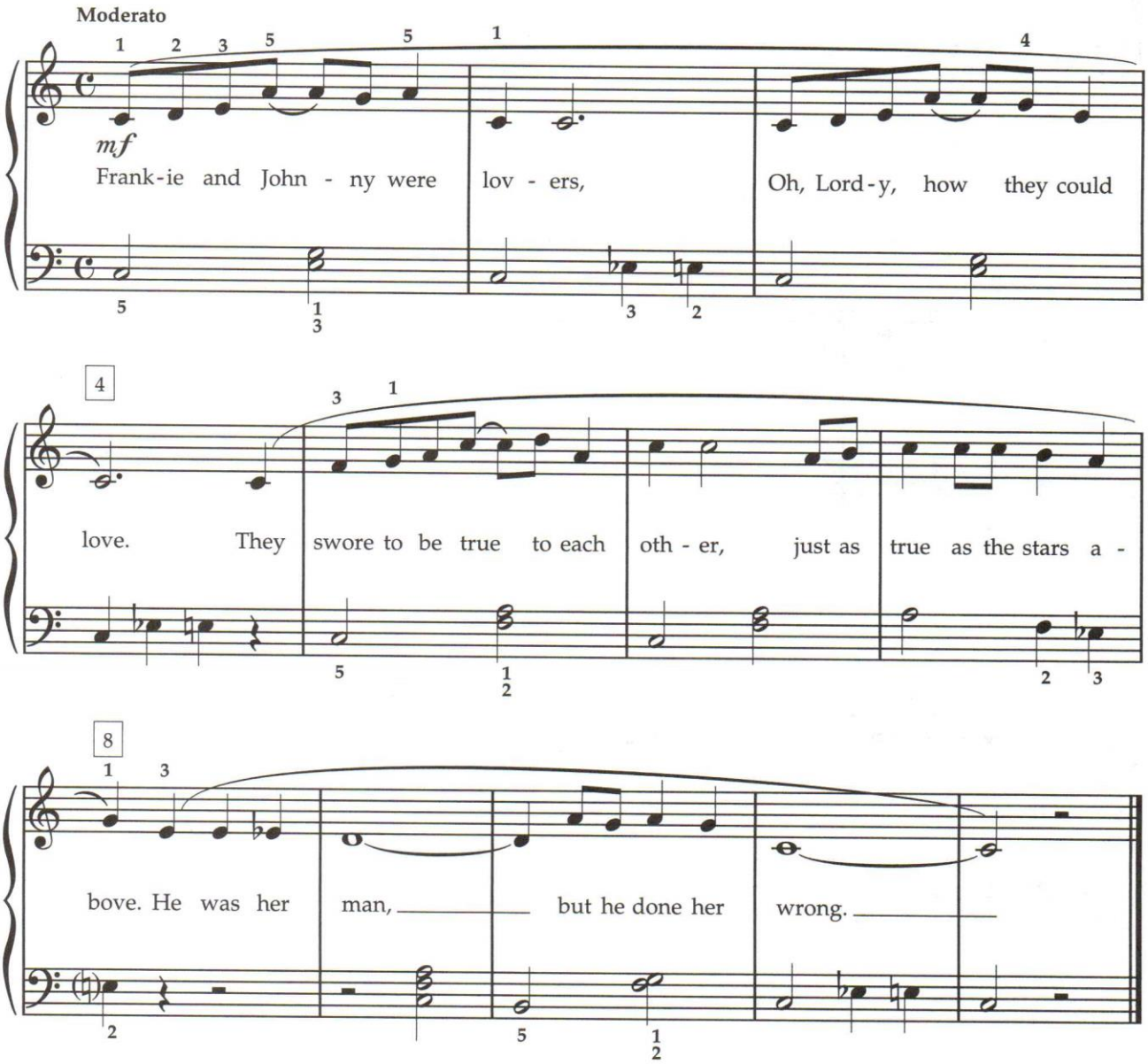


Festive Dance by Carolyn Miller. © 1996 by The Willis Music Co. This arrangement © 2010 by The Willis Music Co. International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted by permission of Hal Leonard Corporation.

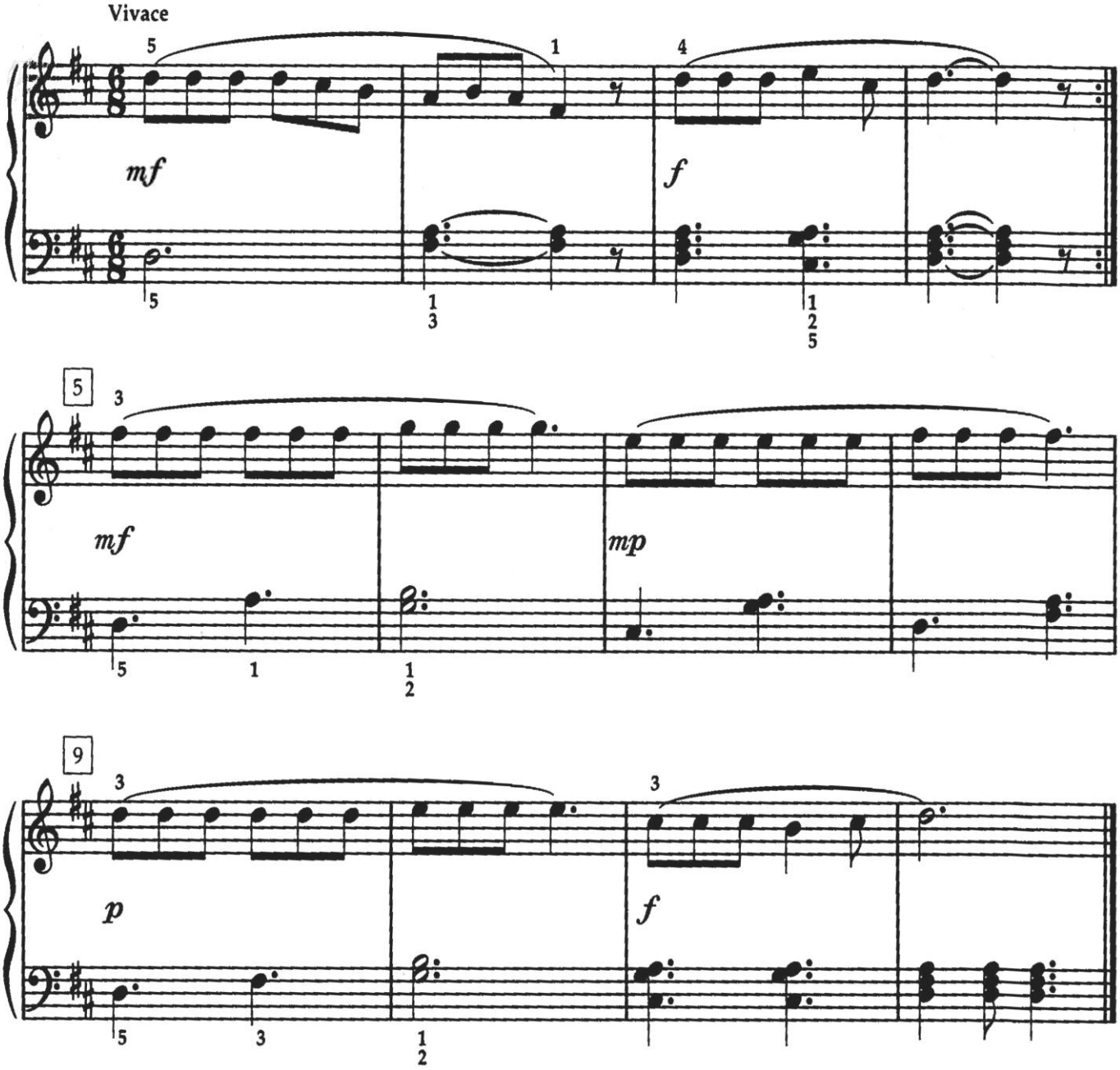

17
Coda*
mf
21
25
f
29
32

Part 2, Item 2 – Sight-reading Examples

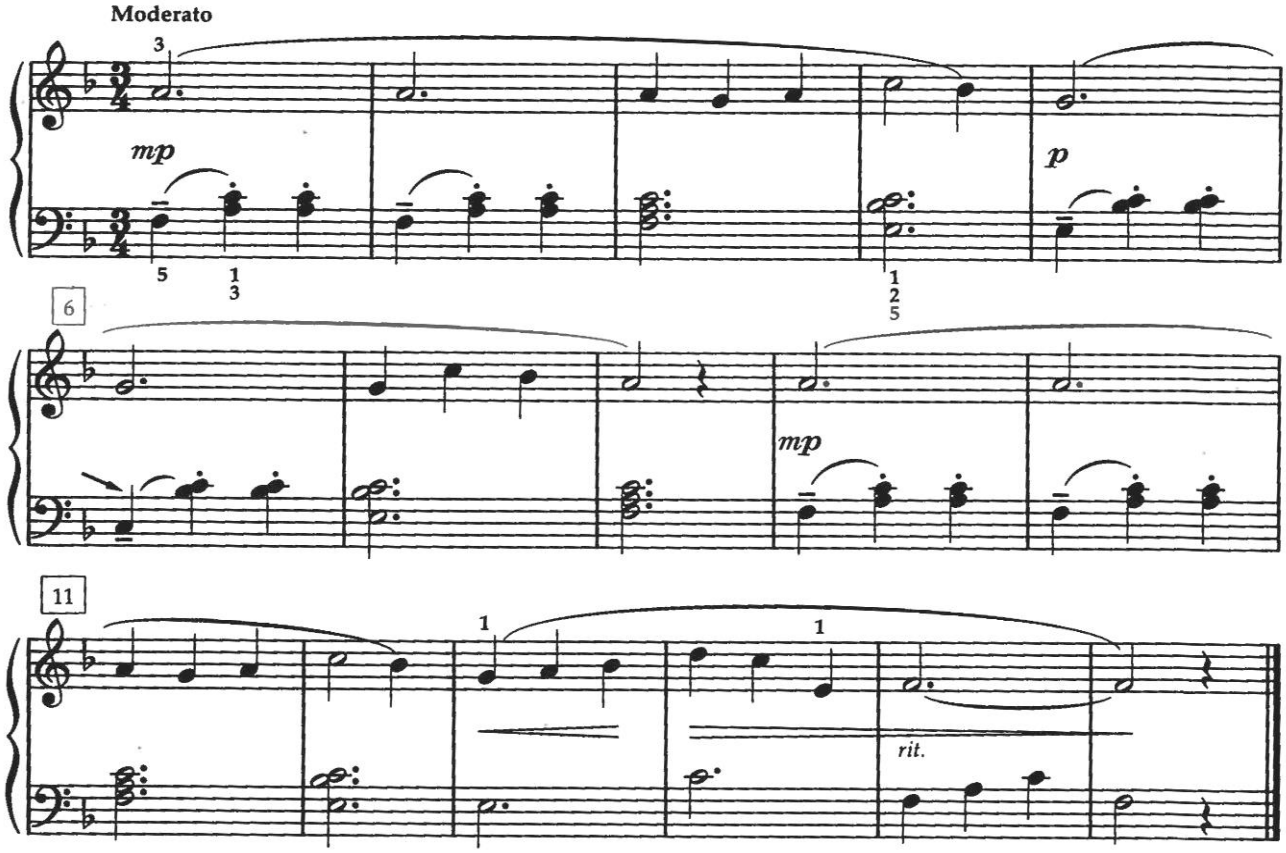
1. Frankie and Johnny



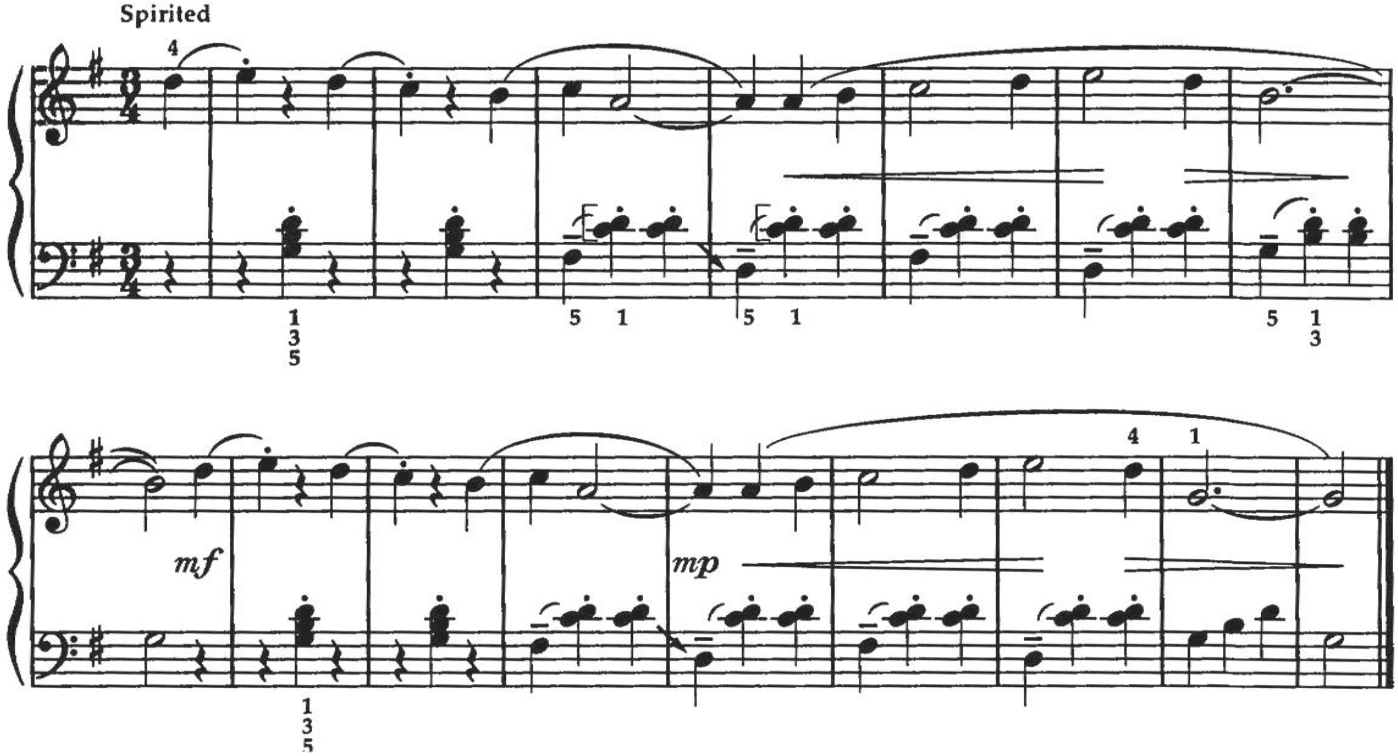
2. Vive la compagnie



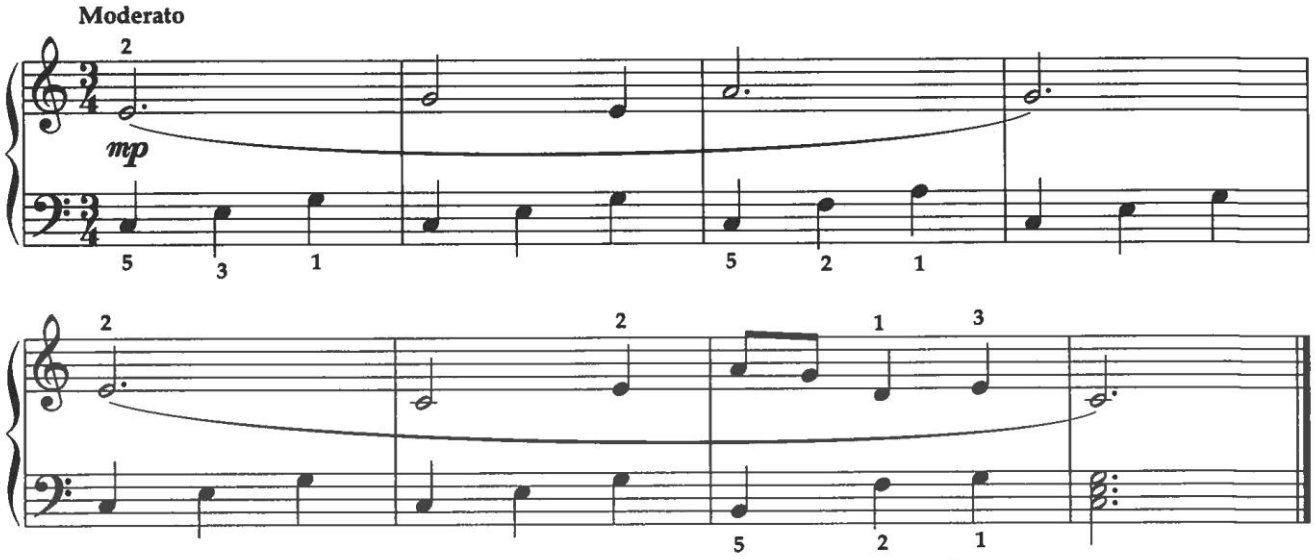
3. Du, du liegst mir im Herzen



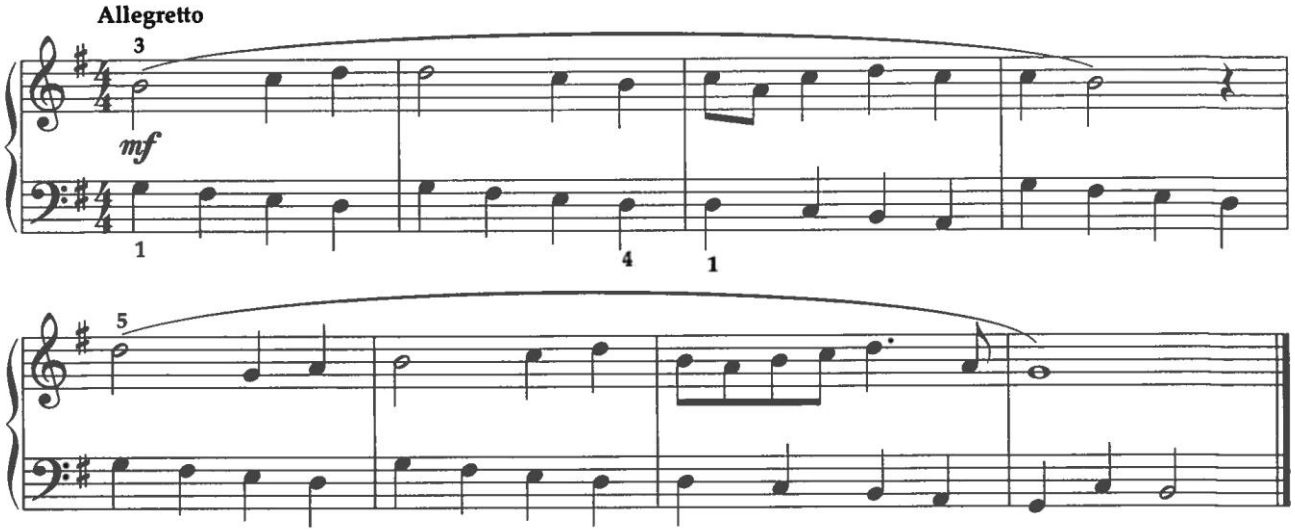
4. My Hat Has Three Corners



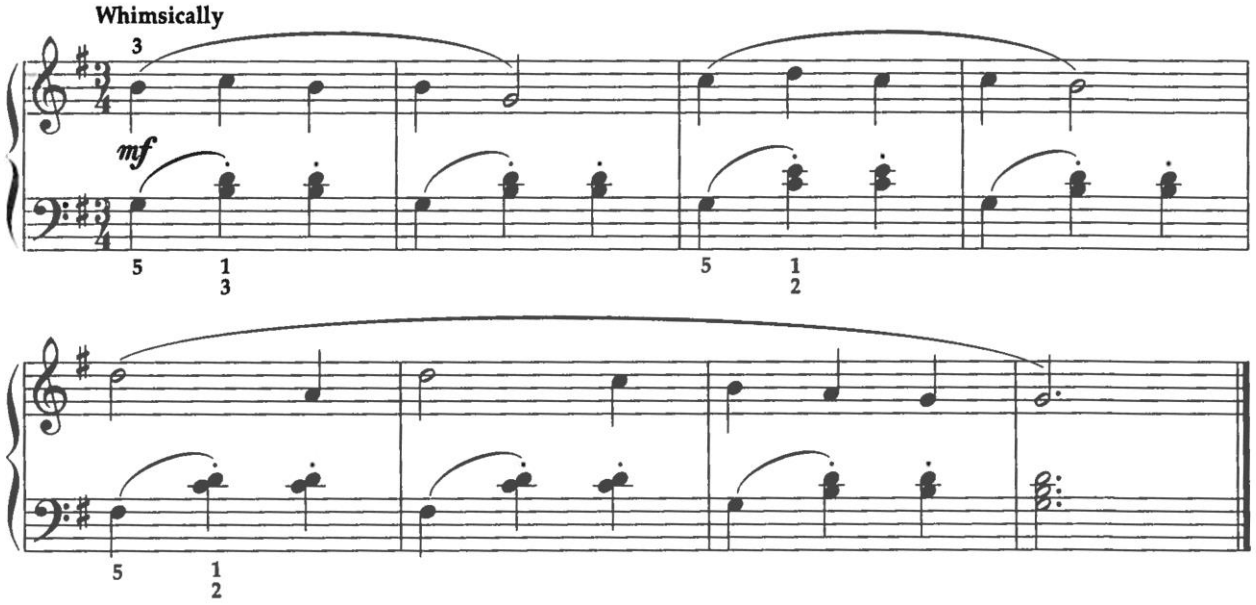
5. “Moderato” Example



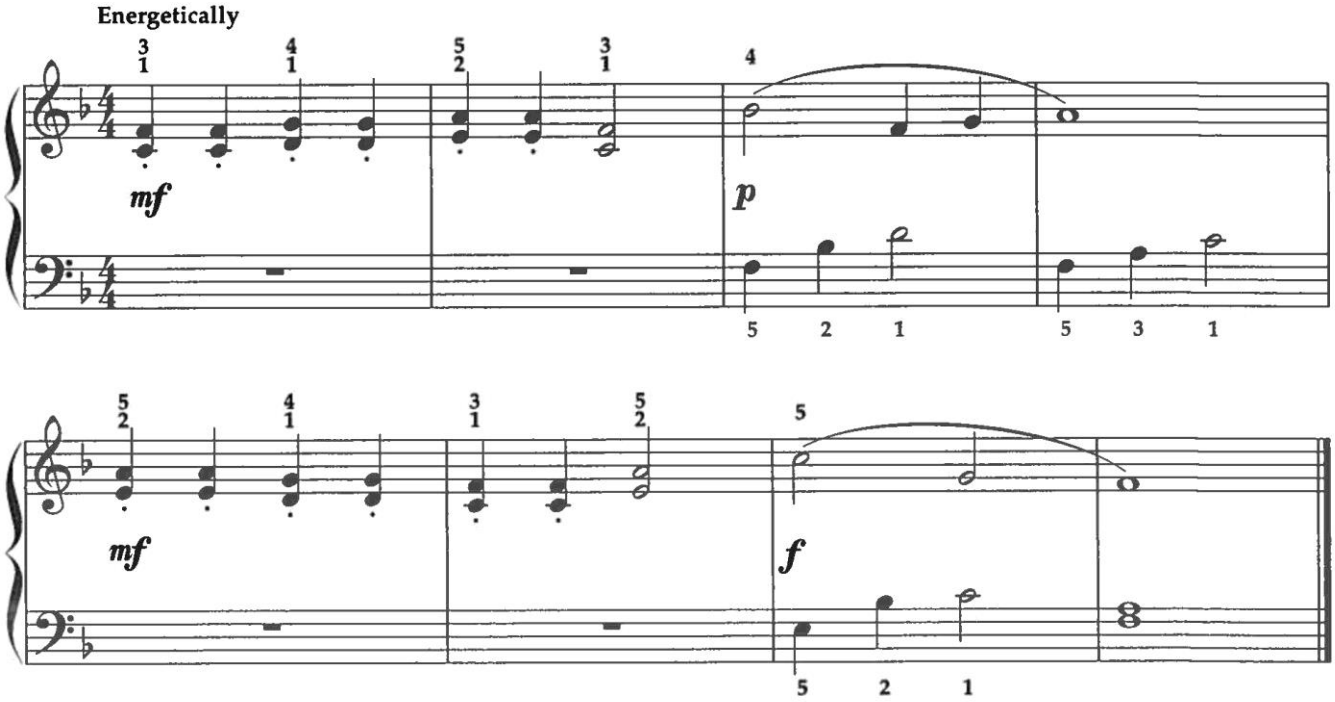
6. “Allegretto” Example



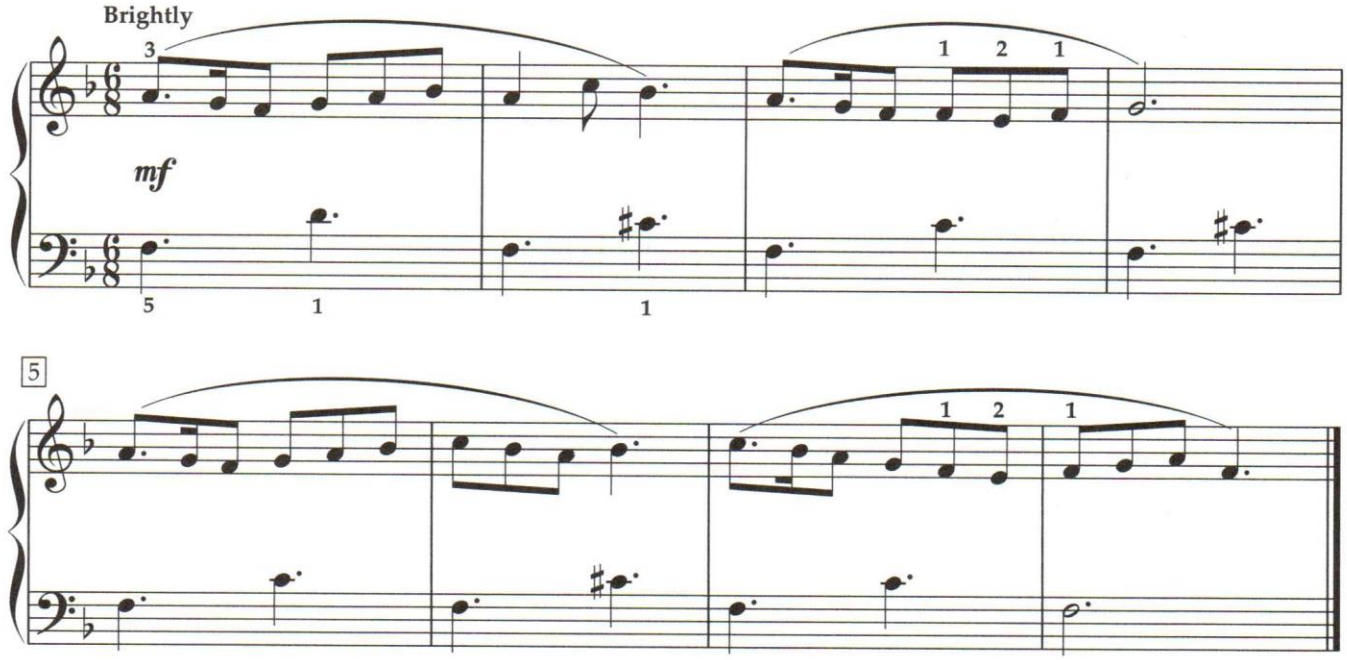
7. “Whimsical” Example



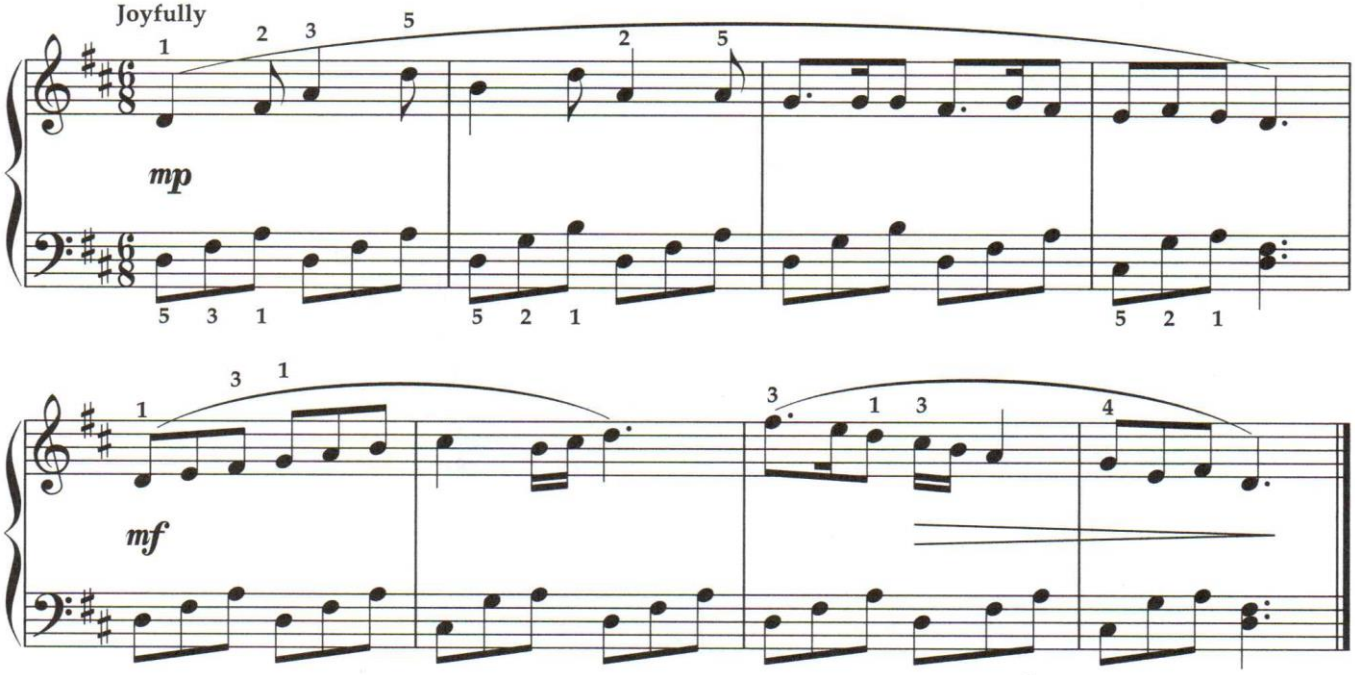
8. “Energetic” Example



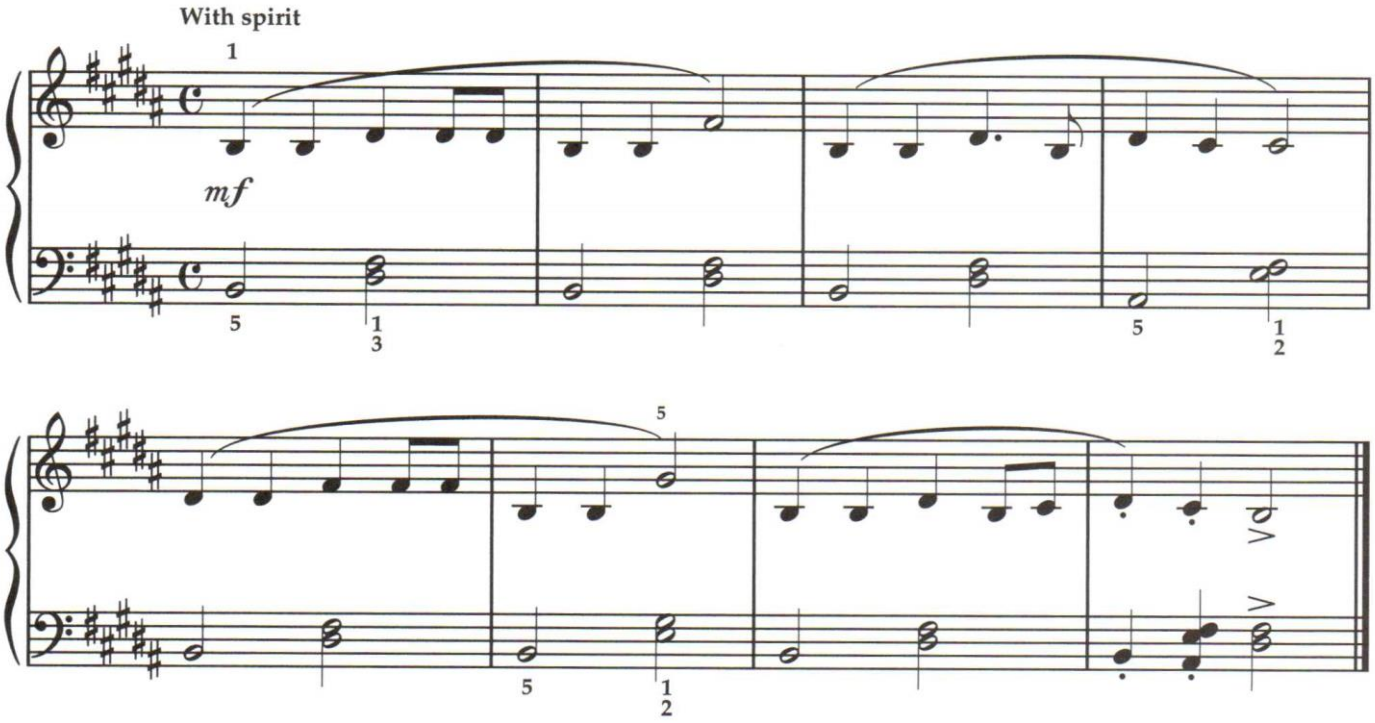
9. “Brightly” Excerpt



10. “Joyfully” Excerpt



11. “With Spirit” Excerpt

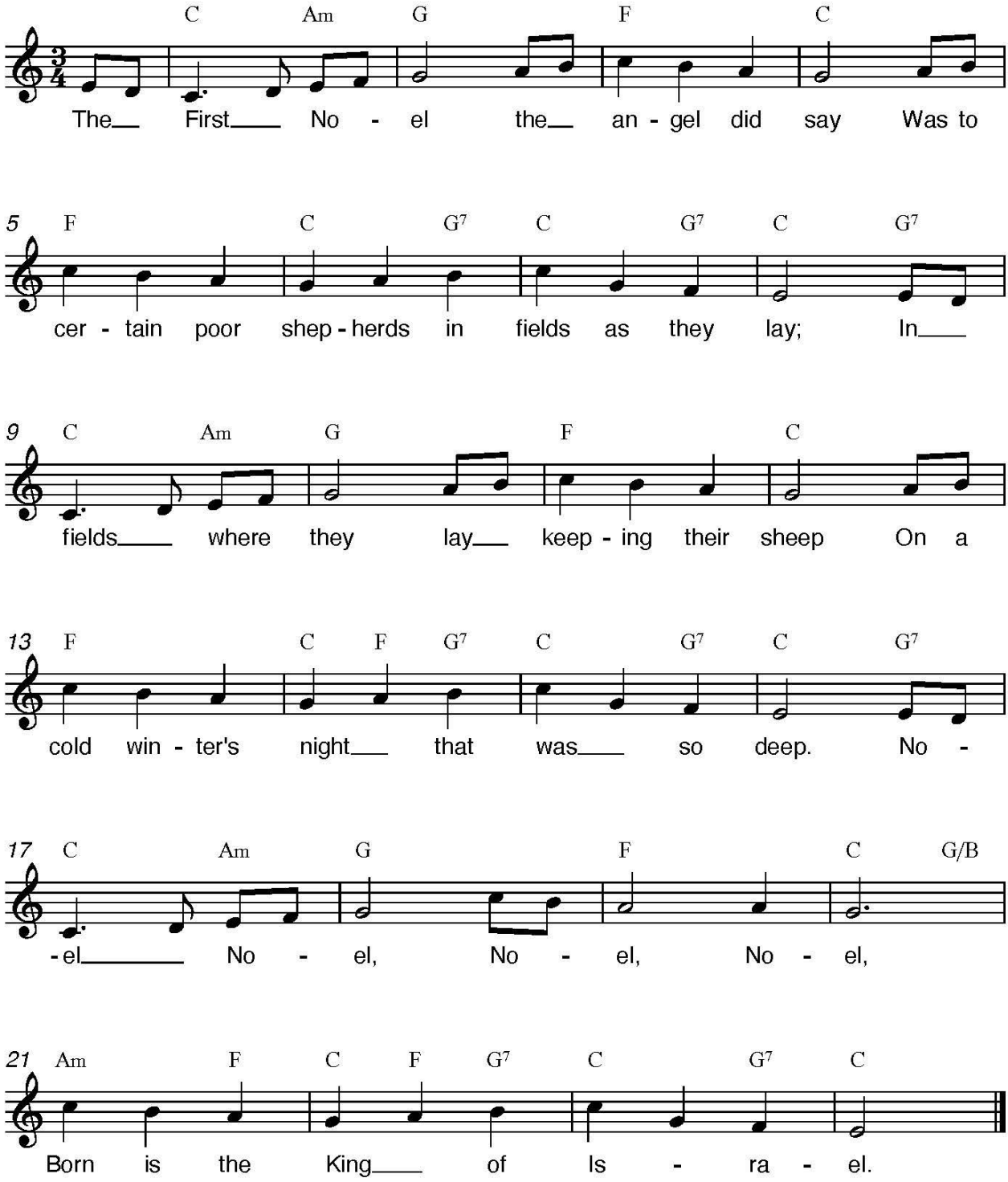


Part 2, Item 3 – Lead Sheets

1. The First Noel

The First Noel

Traditional English Carol



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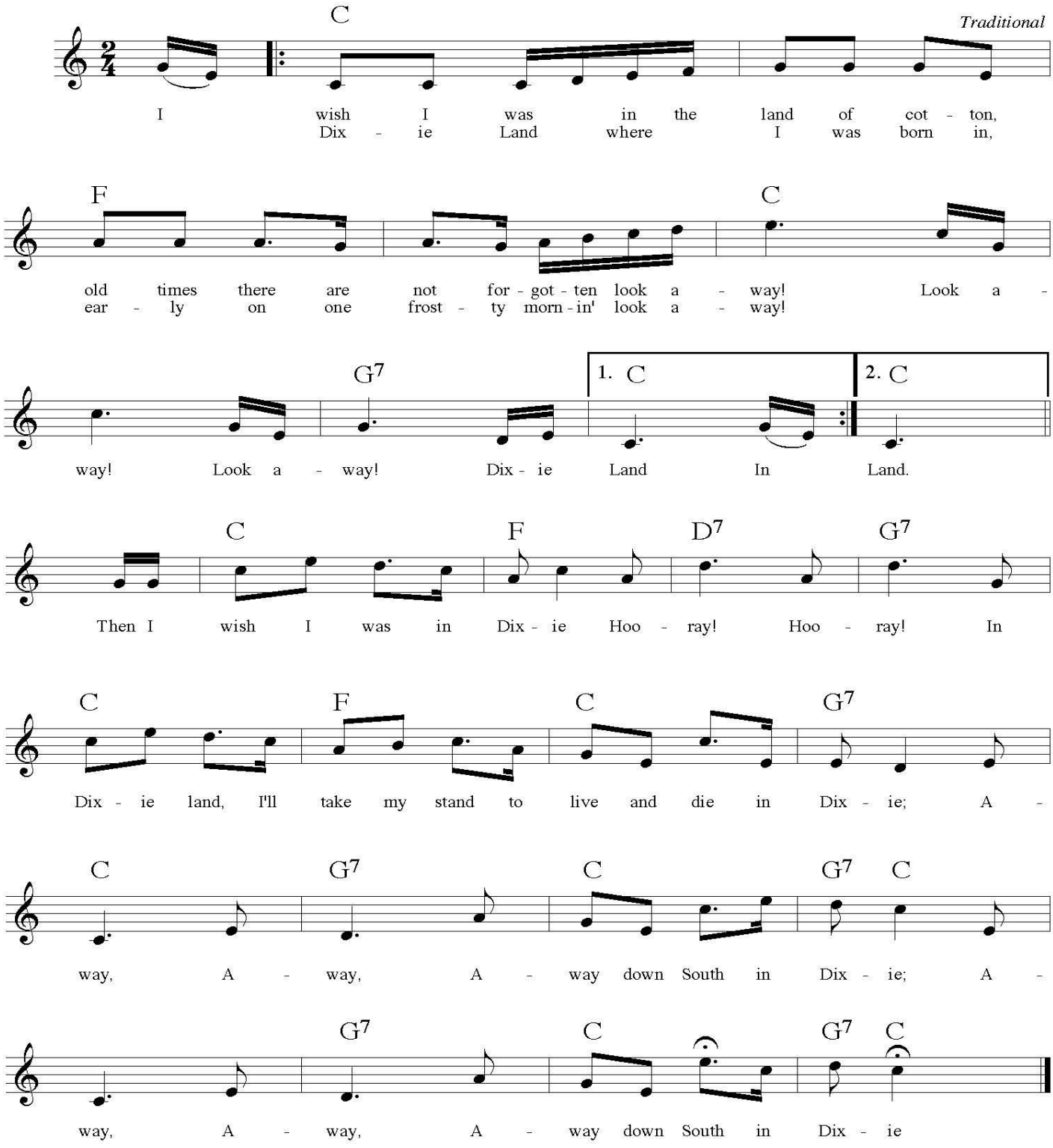
2. Dixie Land

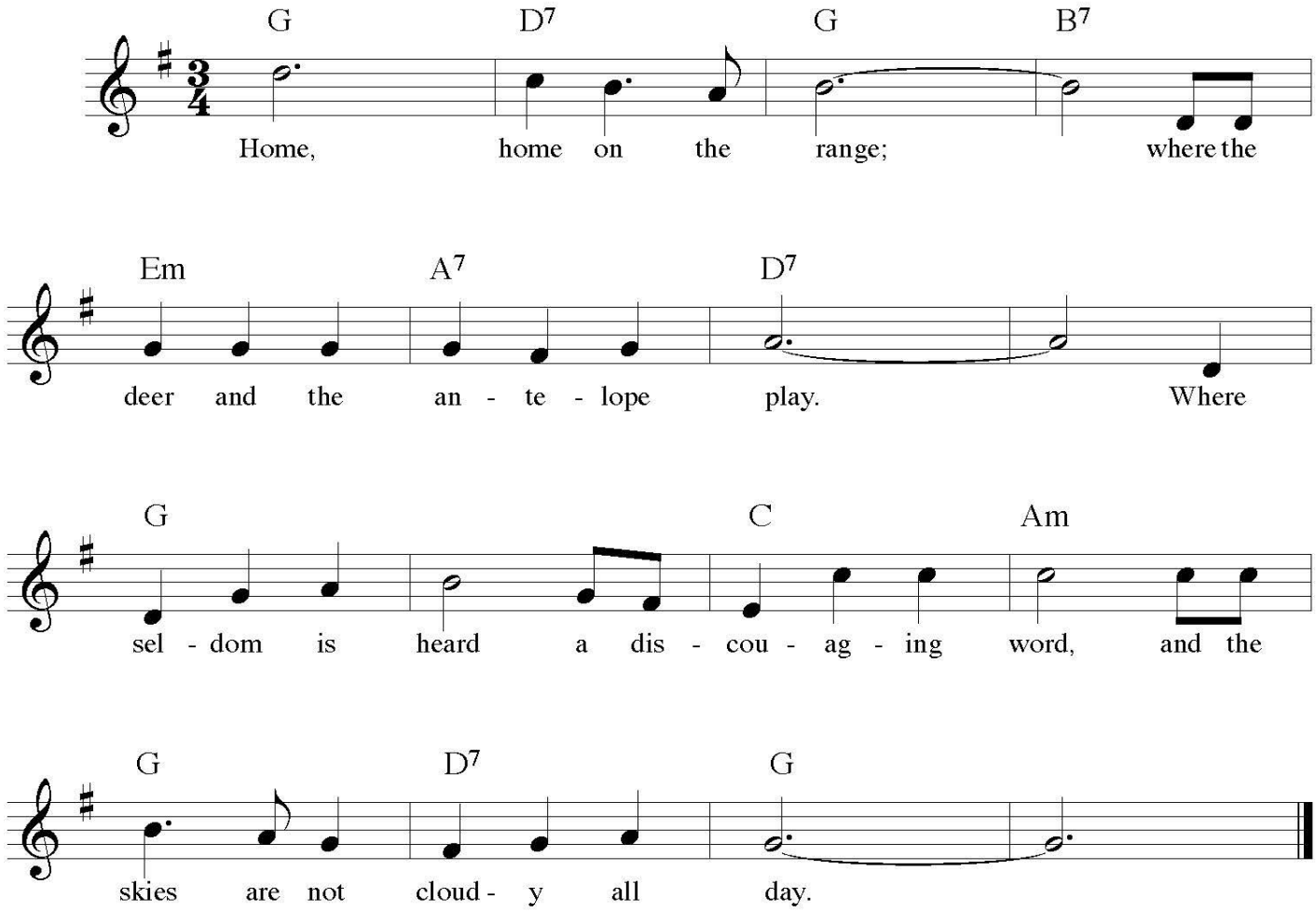
Dixie Land



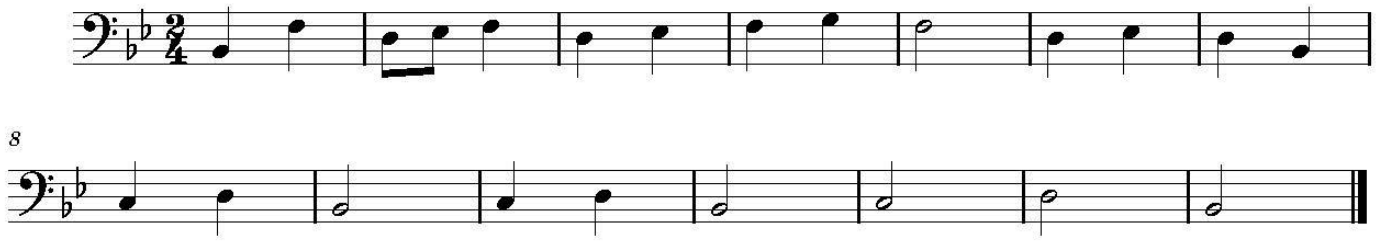
3. Home on the Range

Home on the Range

Traditional Folk Song

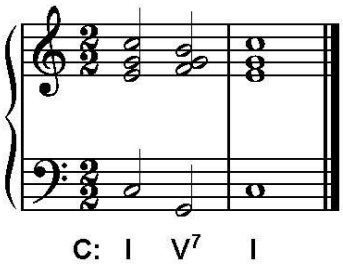


Part 2, Item 4 – Single Line for Transposition

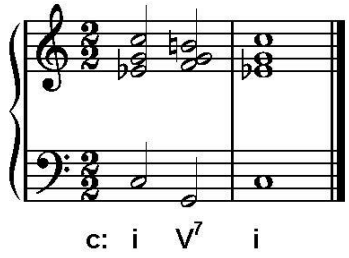


Part 3, Item 1 – Chord Progressions

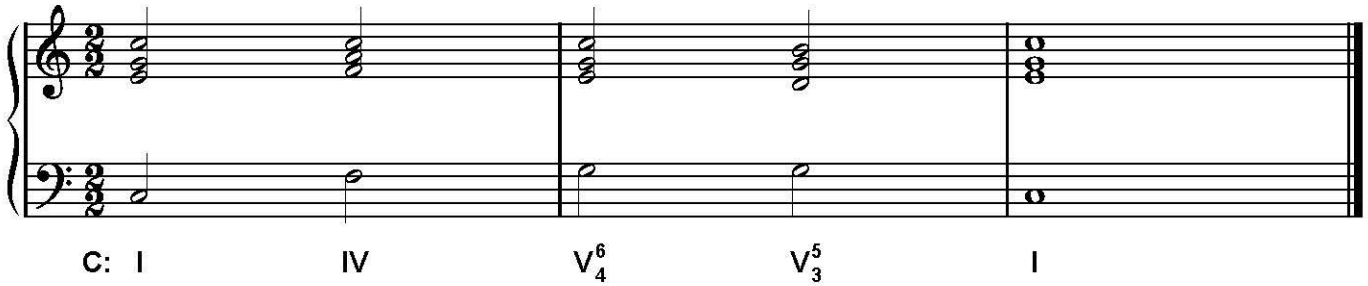
1. Progression 1



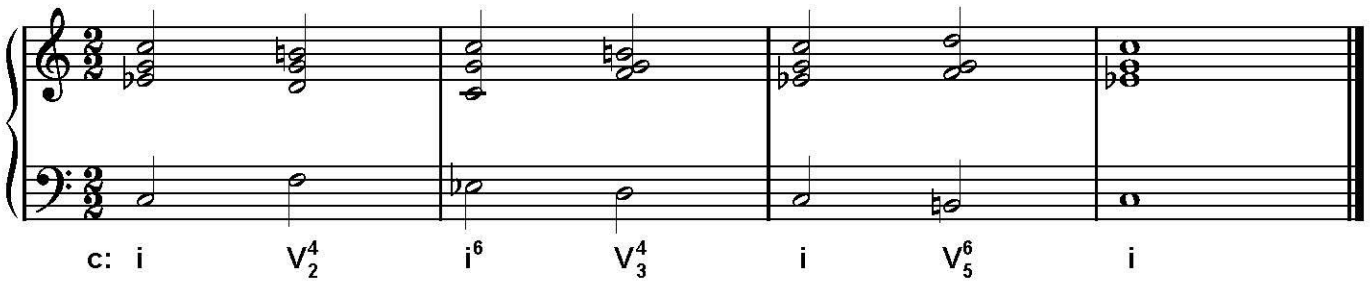
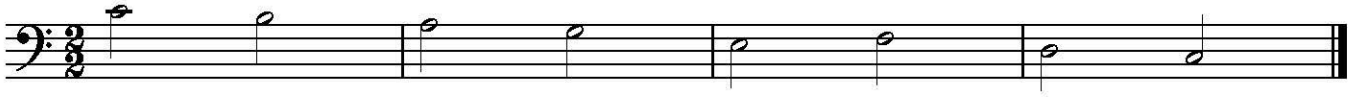
2. Progression 2



3. Progression 3



4. Progression 4



Part 3, Item 2 – Cantus Firmus for First Species Counterpoint