FLORENCE B. PRICE

ORGAN MUSIC

Edited by Calvert Johnson

Classical Vocal Reprints
2701 South Van Hoose Drive
Fayetteville, AR 72701
1(800)298-7474 or 1(479)442-2595

FLORENCE BEATRICE PRICE

SHORT ORGAN WORKS

Edited by Calvert Johnson

Classical Vocal Reprints
2701 South Van Hoose Drive
Fayetteville, AR 72701
1(800)298-7474 or 1(479)442-2595
www.classicalvocalrep.com / www.classicalvocalreprints.com

SHORT ORGAN WORKS

To the general musical public, Florence Price was perhaps best known as a composer of short pieces written for pedagogical purposes or for the amateur. Many of her teaching pieces for piano were published by such companies as Oxford University Press, Carl Fischer, Summy, and so on. Nonetheless, these works are miniature masterpieces of their kind. Price relied on her careful craftsmanship, and never gave in to trite approaches in spite of the undemanding technique required.

The same comments can be made of her published organ works -- they were intended for the average amateur church organist. These three compositions (*Adoration*, *In Quiet Mood*, and *Offertory*) exemplify the works contained in this second volume of Price's compositions. Published by Galaxy and Lorenz, all three make only slight demands on the performer and are very accessible to an audience, whether in church or in a theatre or concert hall. In form, all three are ternary structures with lyric melodies and pleasant harmonies inspired by popular music (Price was, after all, an accomplished theatre organist, often accompanying silent movies or radio programs). An additional work, *A Pleasant Thought*, was prepared in late 1951 for publication, as indicated by the composer's annotation at the bottom of the first page, "Other titles furnished from which editor may choose if desired."

The works that exist only in manuscript share the same qualities as the published organ compositions. Most are in ternary form (*Allegretto*, *Little Melody*, *A Pleasant Thought*, *Retrospection*). *Festal March* is an academic march inspired by English models with a need for additional (optional) repetitions in case a procession is longer or shorter on diverse occasions. Thus its form is ABCAB (not including repeats in this formula). *The Hour Glass* has a rondo-like ABACA structure. *The Hour Glass* and *Retrospection* were apparently composed as a pair (in this order), and might be programmed accordingly, although the works are organized in alphabetical order in this volume.

As frequently occurs in Price's compositions, some of the organ works have melodies that recall Negro Spirituals or folk tunes. *The Hour Glass* and *Retrospection* have melodies which are basically pentatonic like most folk-songs and Spirituals of African-Americans. Furthermore, the harmonic idiom of all but *Festal March* is strongly influenced by jazz harmonies, as might be expected of a person active in theatre organ activities.

Florence Price was asked to discuss various African-American characteristics of her *Symphony No. 3 in C Minor* (composed 1940) for a November 1, 1940, performance by the Michigan W.P.A. Symphony Orchestra.[2] Her comments about the symphony could very easily be applied to her organ works exhibiting similar traits:

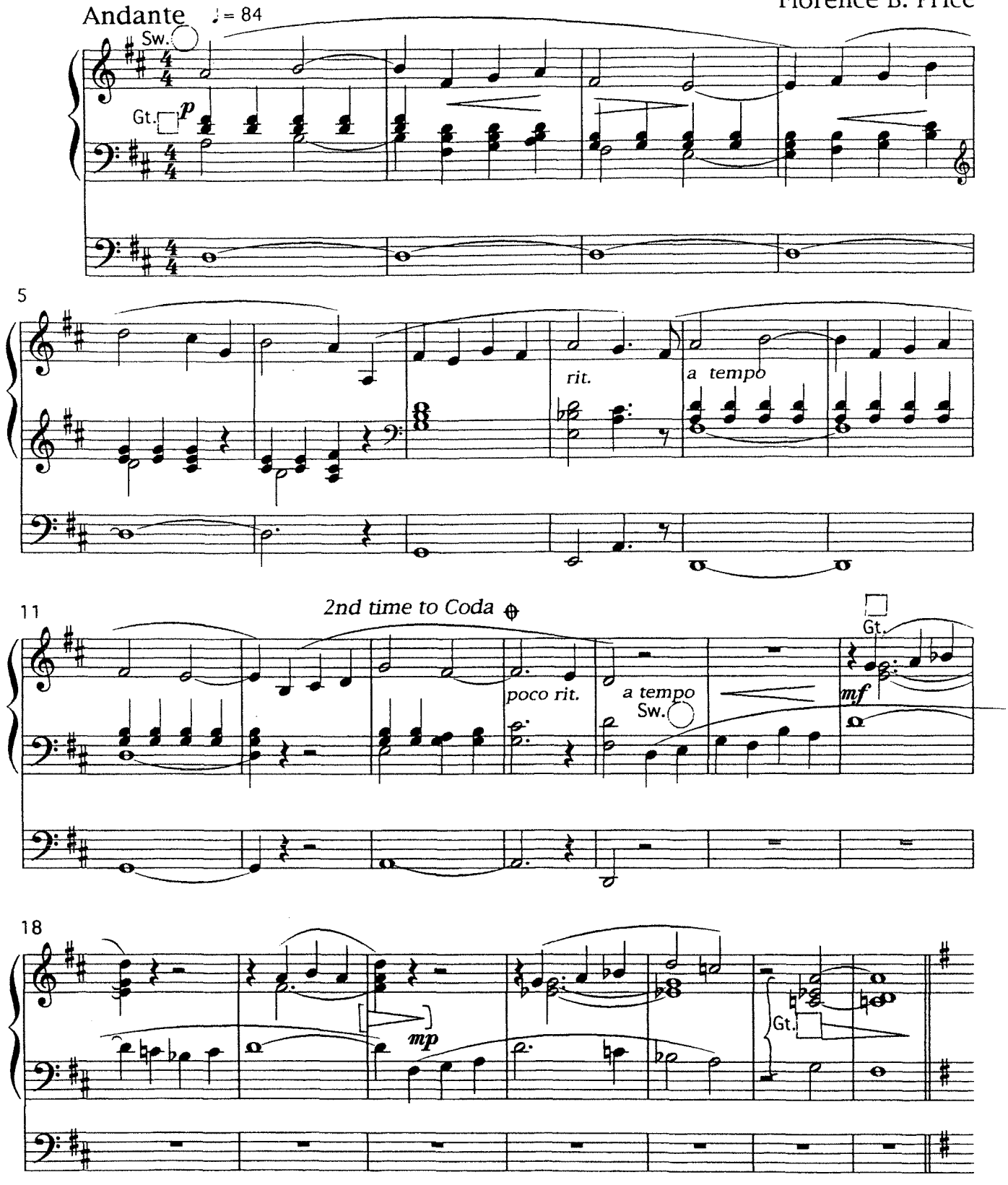
> "It is intended to be Negroid in character and expression. In it no attempt, however, has been made to project Negro music solely in the purely traditional manner. None of the themes are adaptations or derivations of folk songs.
>
> "The intention behind the writing of this work was a not too deliberate attempt to picture a cross section of present-day Negro life and thought with its heritage of that which is past, paralleled or influenced by contacts of the present day.

Adoration

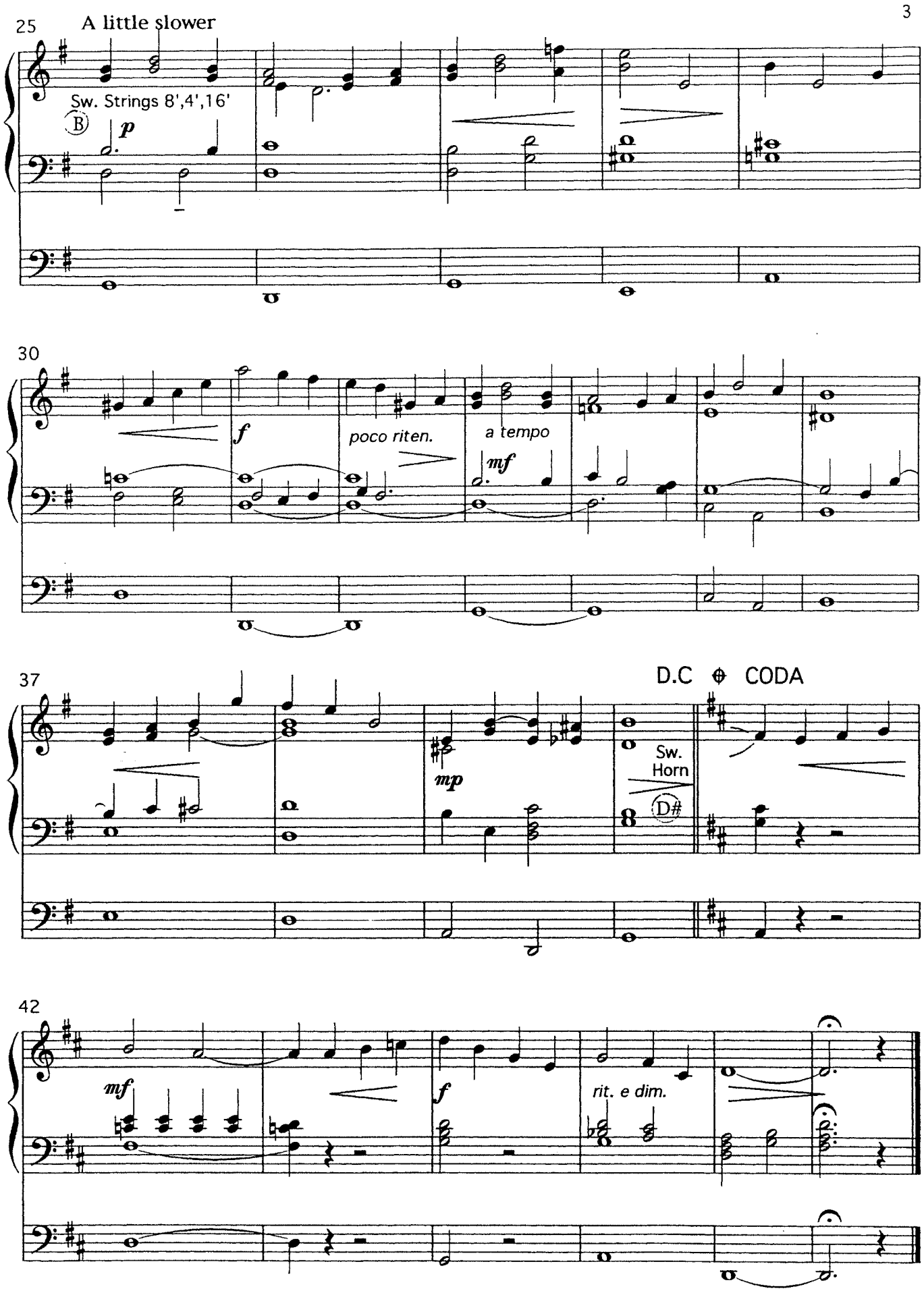
3 1/2 minutes

Sw. Horn [8'] (D# *Prepare* B) *13 3545 430*
Gt. Dulc[iana 8"] [D]
Ped. Ged. *Ped. 31, Chorus Ged[eckt 16']*

Florence B. Price



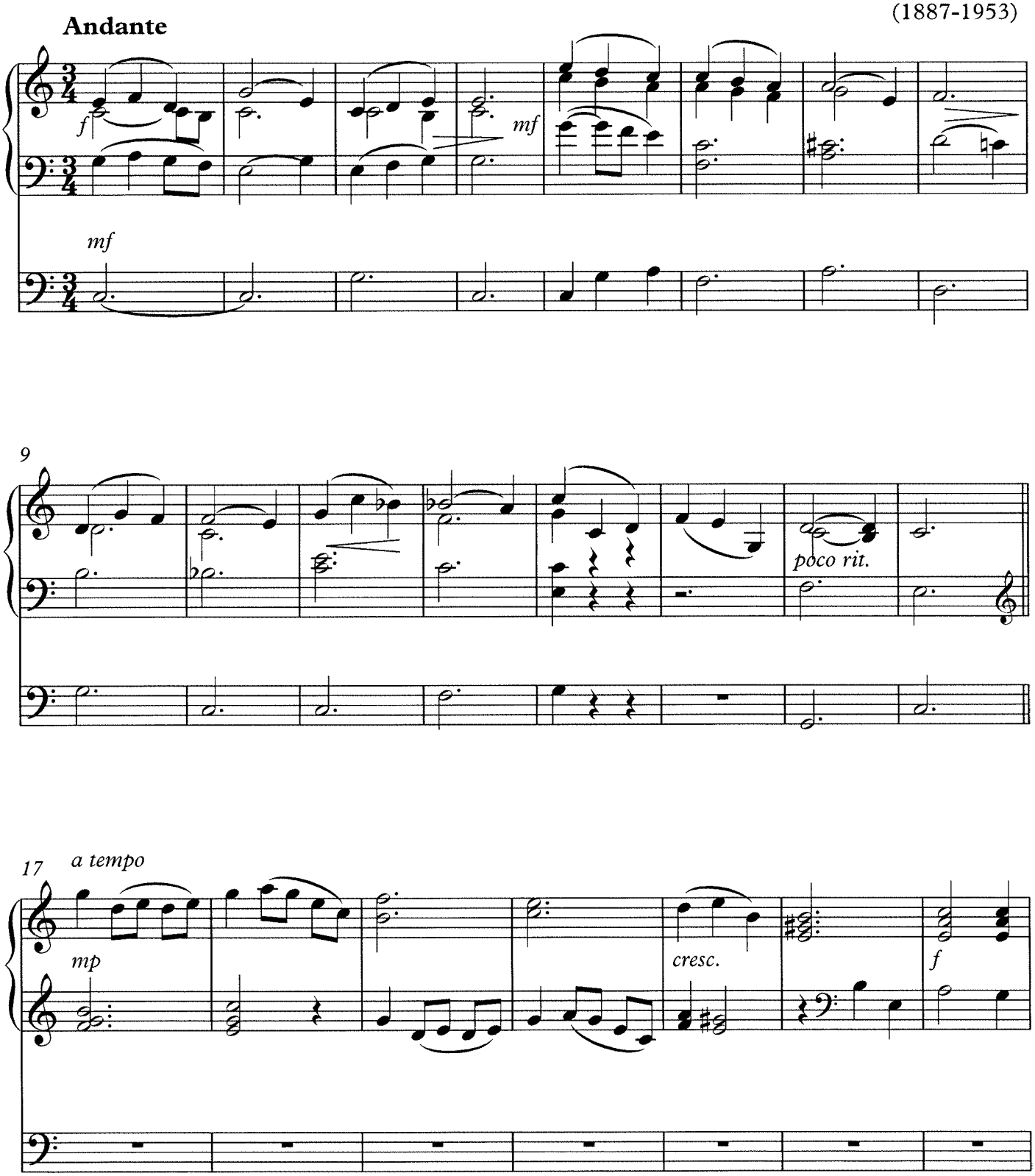
Copyright © 1993 by G. Schirmer, Inc.
International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved.

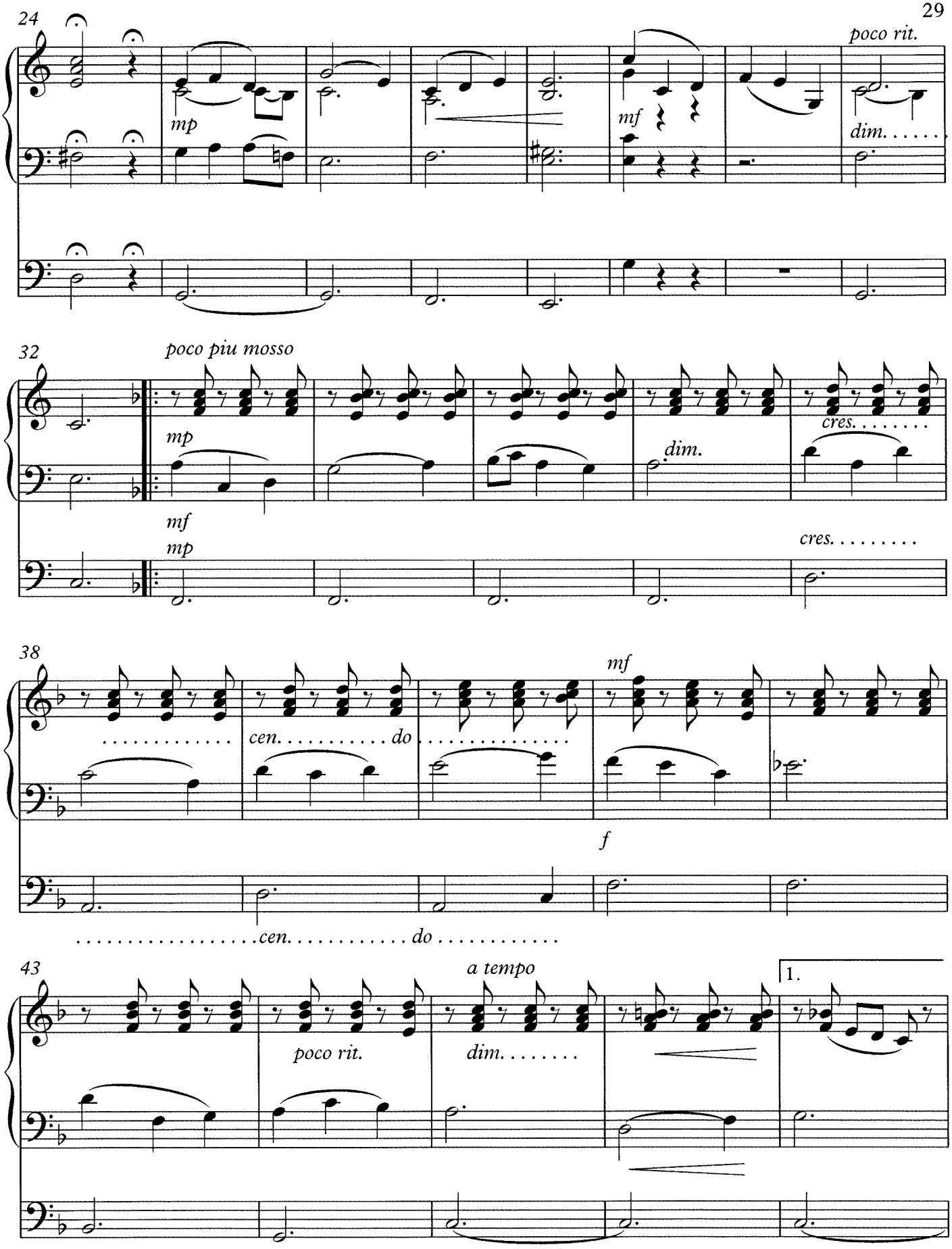

25
A little slower
Sw. Strings 8',4',16'
B
p
30
f
poco riten.
a tempo
mf
37
D.C ⊕ CODA
mp
Sw.
Horn
D#
42
mf
f
rit. e dim.

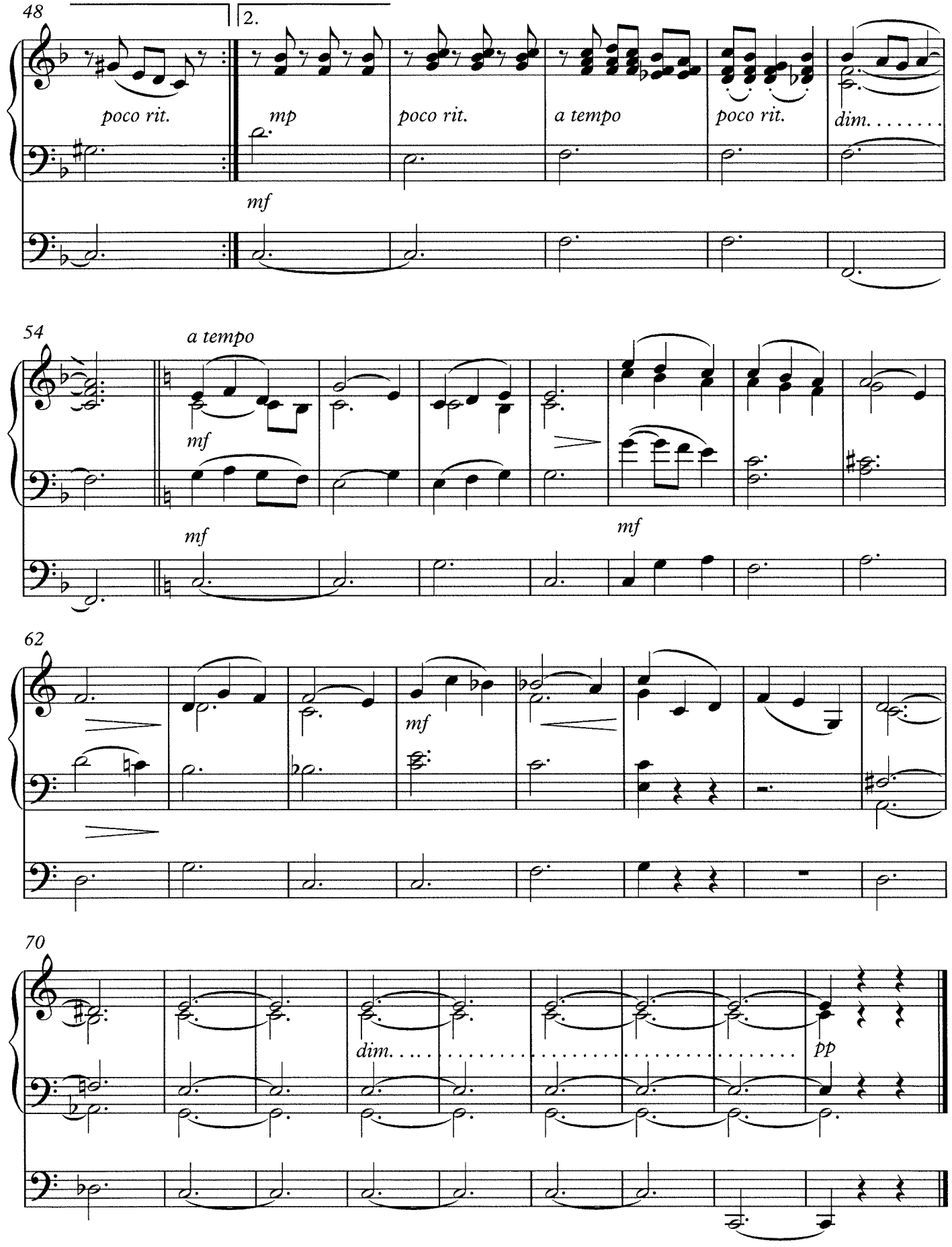
Andante

(July 24, 1952)

Florence B. Price
(1887-1953)

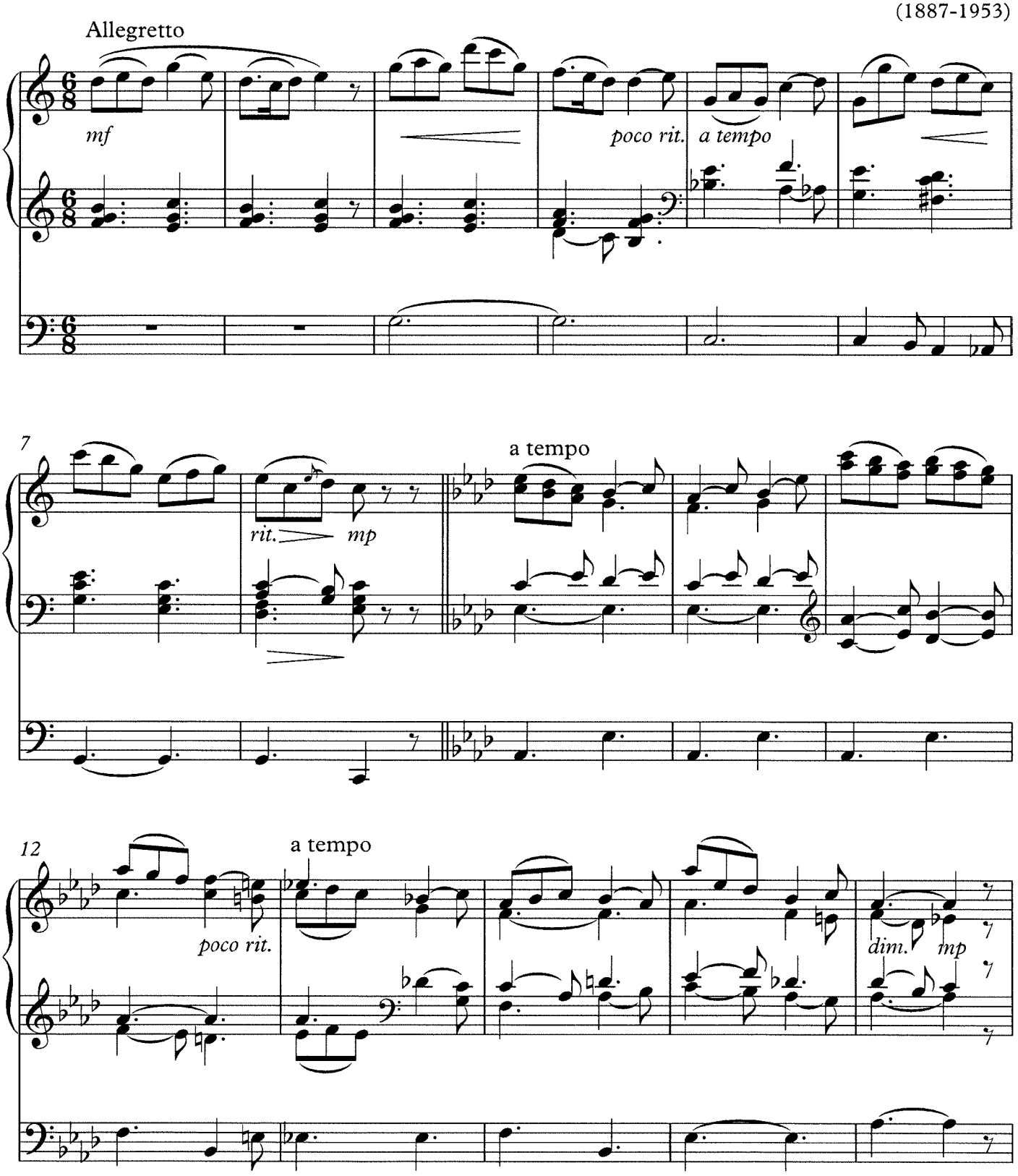



24
mp
mf
poco rit.
dim. . . . . .
32
poco piu mosso
mp
mf
mp
dim.
cres. . . . . .
cres. . . . . .
38
mf
. . . . . .
cen. . . . . do
. . . . . .
f
. . . . . .cen. . . . . do . . . . . .
43
a tempo
poco rit.
dim. . . . . .
1.


48
poco rit.
2.
mp
poco rit.
a tempo
poco rit.
dim.
mf
54
a tempo
mf
mf
mf
62
mf
70
dim.
pp

Little Pastorale

Florence B. Price
(1887-1953)



Copyright ©2018

17

mf

22

dim.

mp

mf

27

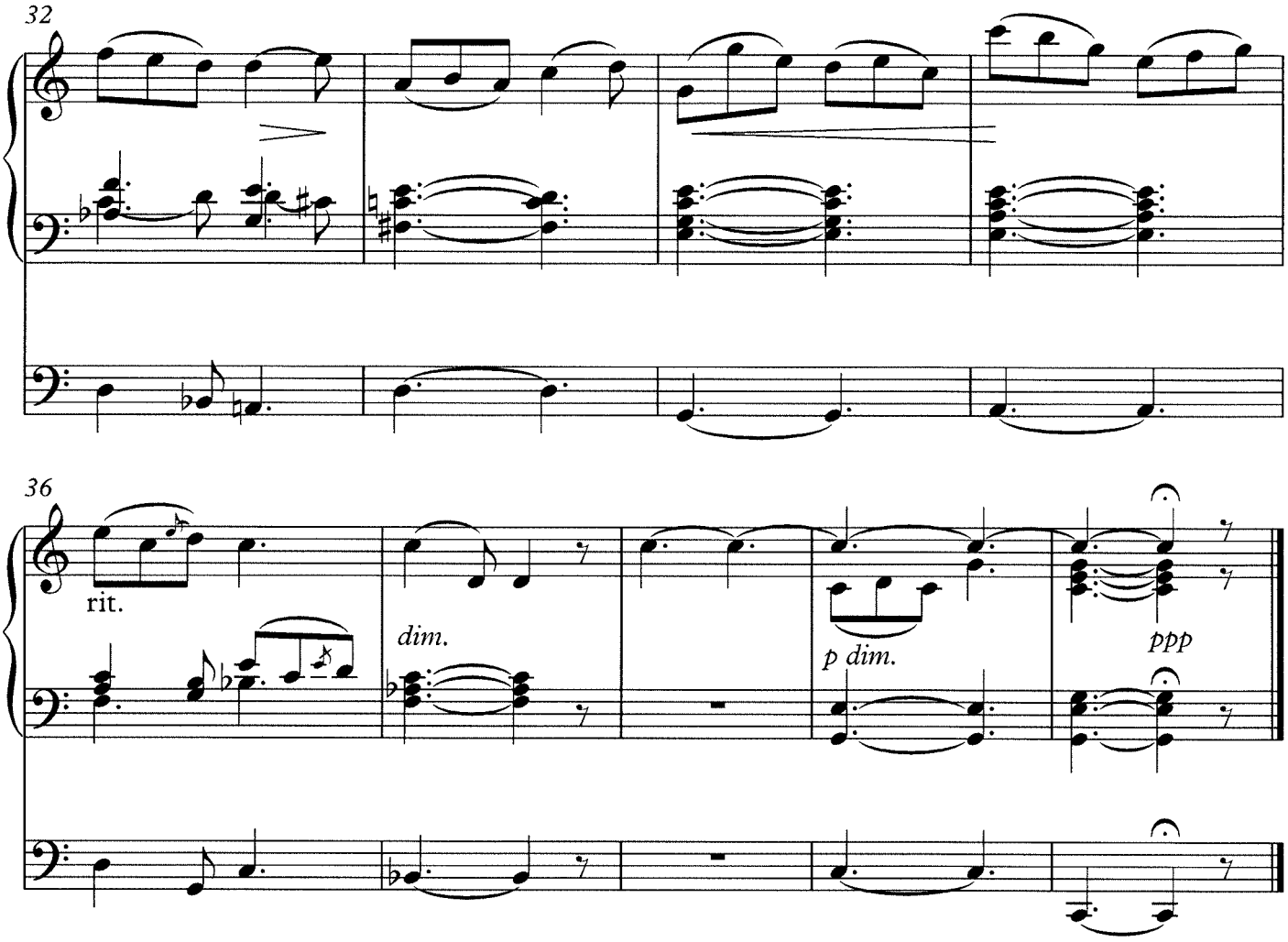
mp

rit.

a tempo

mp

mf


32
36
rit.
dim.
p dim.
ppp