S O N A T A
per il Cembalo Solo

Johann Friedrich Agricola
(1720-1774)

© Borys Medicky
bmedicky@hotmail.com

Last edited March 2006

Non-commercial copying is encouraged.

Composer and work

Johann Friedrich Agricola was a pupil of Johann Sebastian Bach. Renowned in his day as an organist and teacher of singing, he was also a successful composer of opera and directed the royal opera at the court of Frederick the Great. Today he is remembered for his annotated German-language translation of Tosi's famous singing treatise, *Anleitung zur Singekunst* (1757).

The Sonata per il Cembalo Solo was published in the musical journal *Musikalisches Mancherley* in 1762. Publications such as these were a popular way of disseminating music in the later eighteenth century, and movements of larger works sometimes appeared in successive issues – as much to sell more issues of the journal as to save space – although this particular sonata was published in a single issue. The title implies performance on the harpsichord; it could probably be played successfully on the eighteenth-century fortepiano as well.

A recording of this work, along with compositions by other pupils of J. S. Bach, may be heard on the CD *Claviermusik der Bach-Schüler* (MD+G L 3318).

Editorial practice

This edition was prepared from a microfilm of the original publication. The film is somewhat blurry in its finer details, although larger items such as note heads are clear.

Every effort has been made to be faithful to the original score. All markings – slurs, articulations, dynamics, ornaments and movement titles – are original. Time signatures and barring are as in the original.

The following minor departures are to be noted:

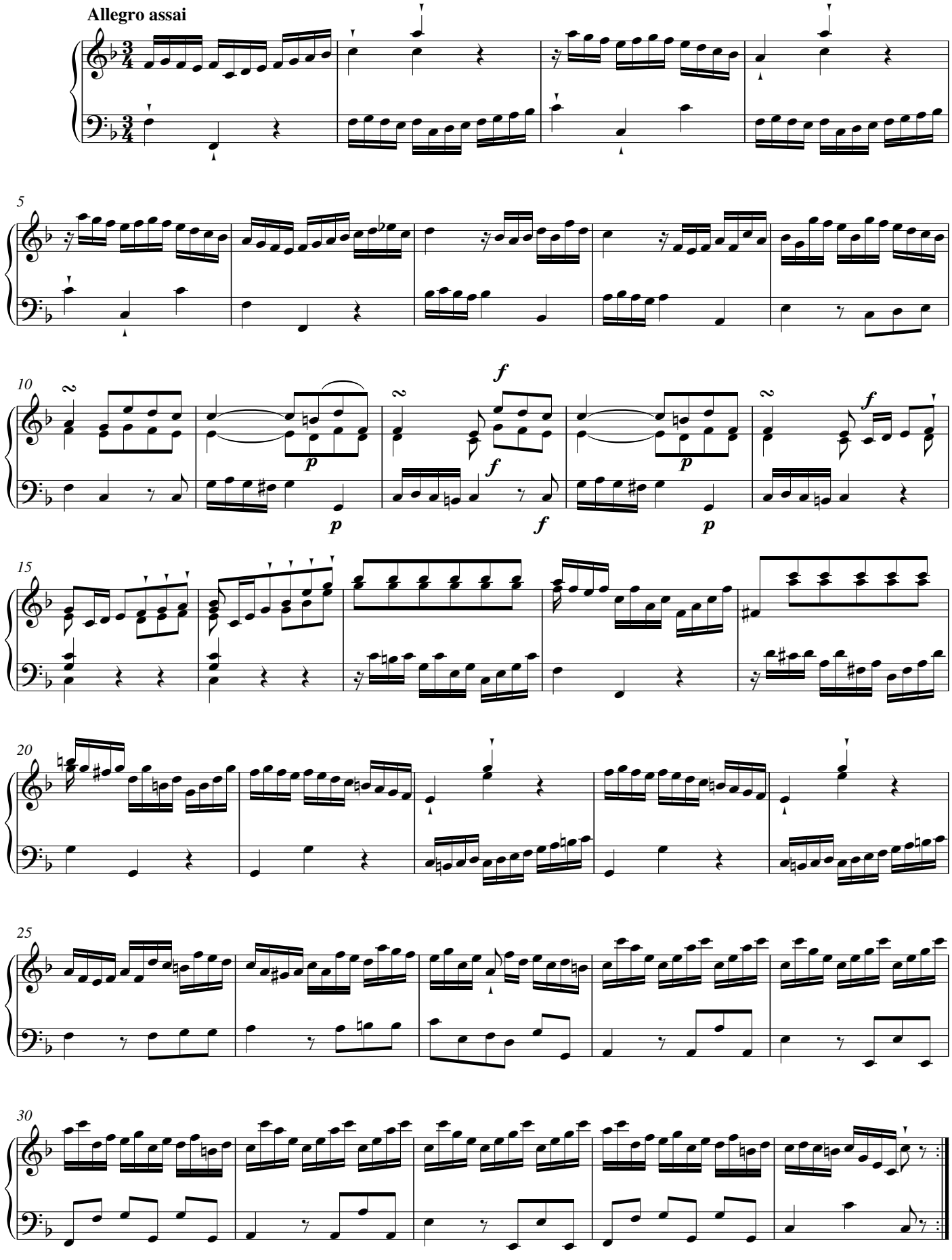
- The upper staff has been converted from soprano clef to treble clef.
- Accidentals follow the modern convention in which one accidental affects all identical notes later in the bar. This means that some accidentals which would be spurious according to the modern system have been removed. In one case, repetition of a naturalized note as a pedal over several bars required adding the natural in each bar.
- A few short passages bracketed by repeat signs indicating they are to be played twice have instead been fully written out.
- Cross-staff beaming has been eliminated: in the original, this appears to have been done solely to avoid the use of leger lines. The affected notes have been assigned to the hand that seems best able to play them.
- Some chords in which all notes are stemmed separately have been allowed to share a single stem. Beaming otherwise follows the original exactly.
- A few minor rhythmic errors in the usage of dotted rests have been corrected in the second movement.

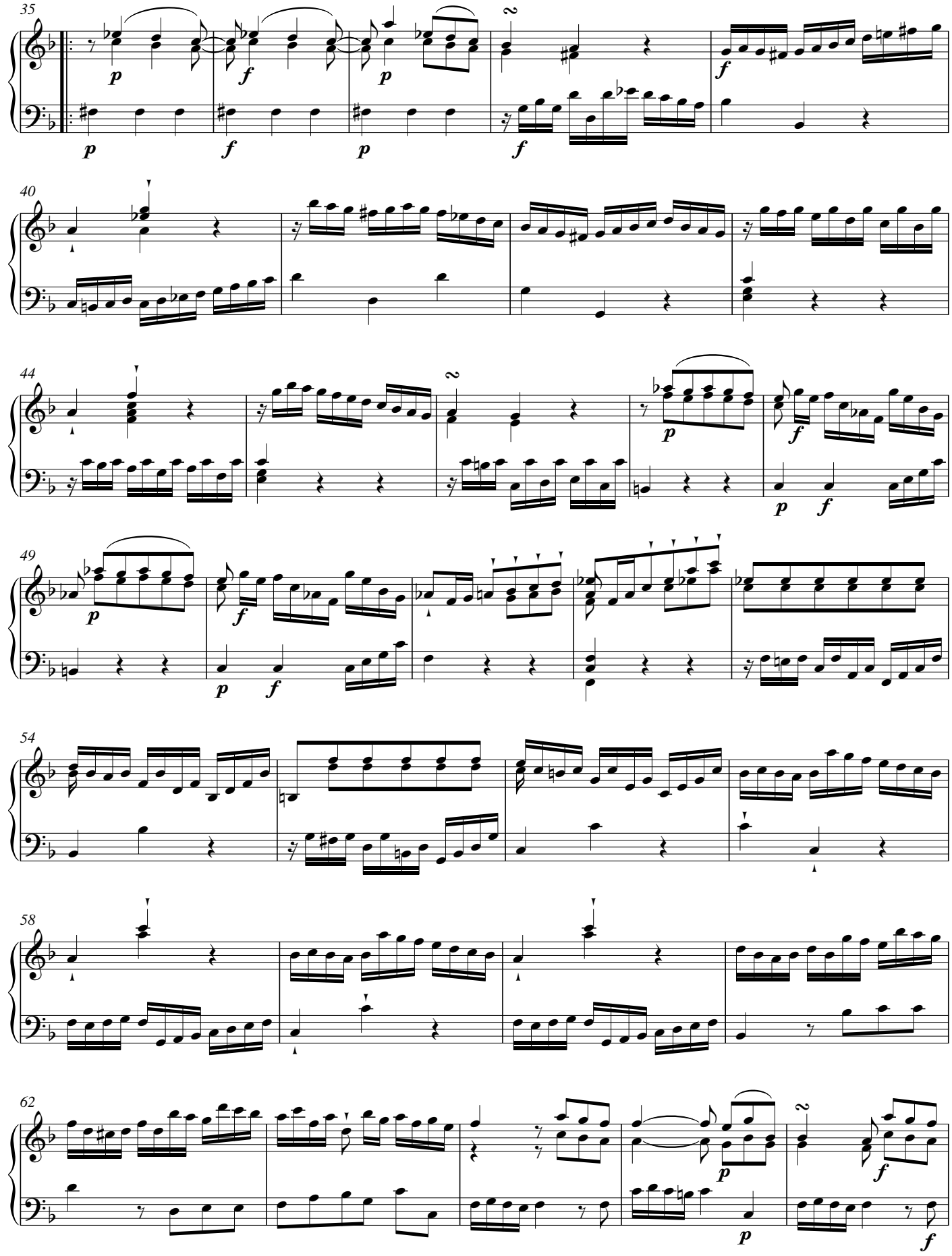
© Borys Medicky
March 2006

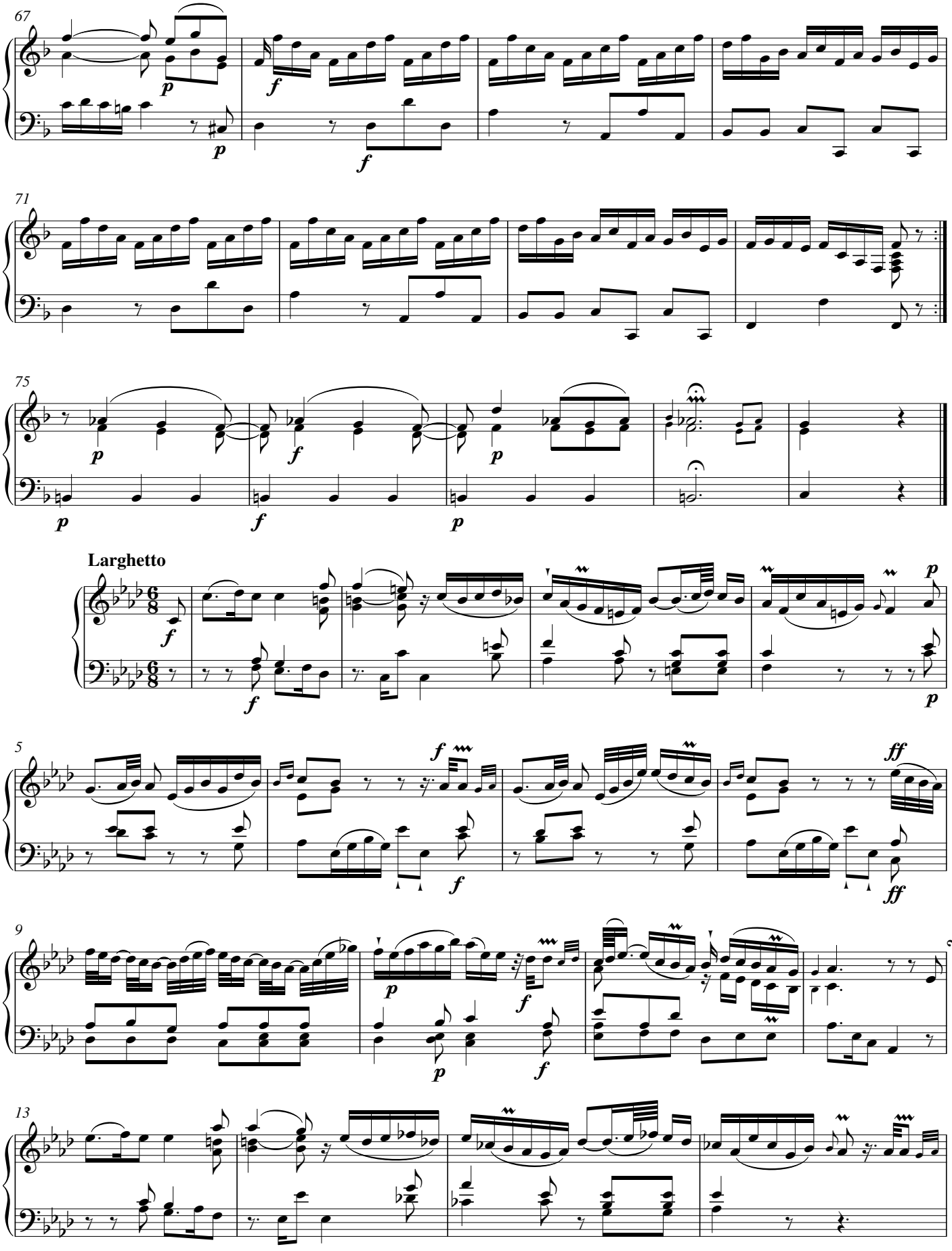
S O N A T A per il Cembalo Solo

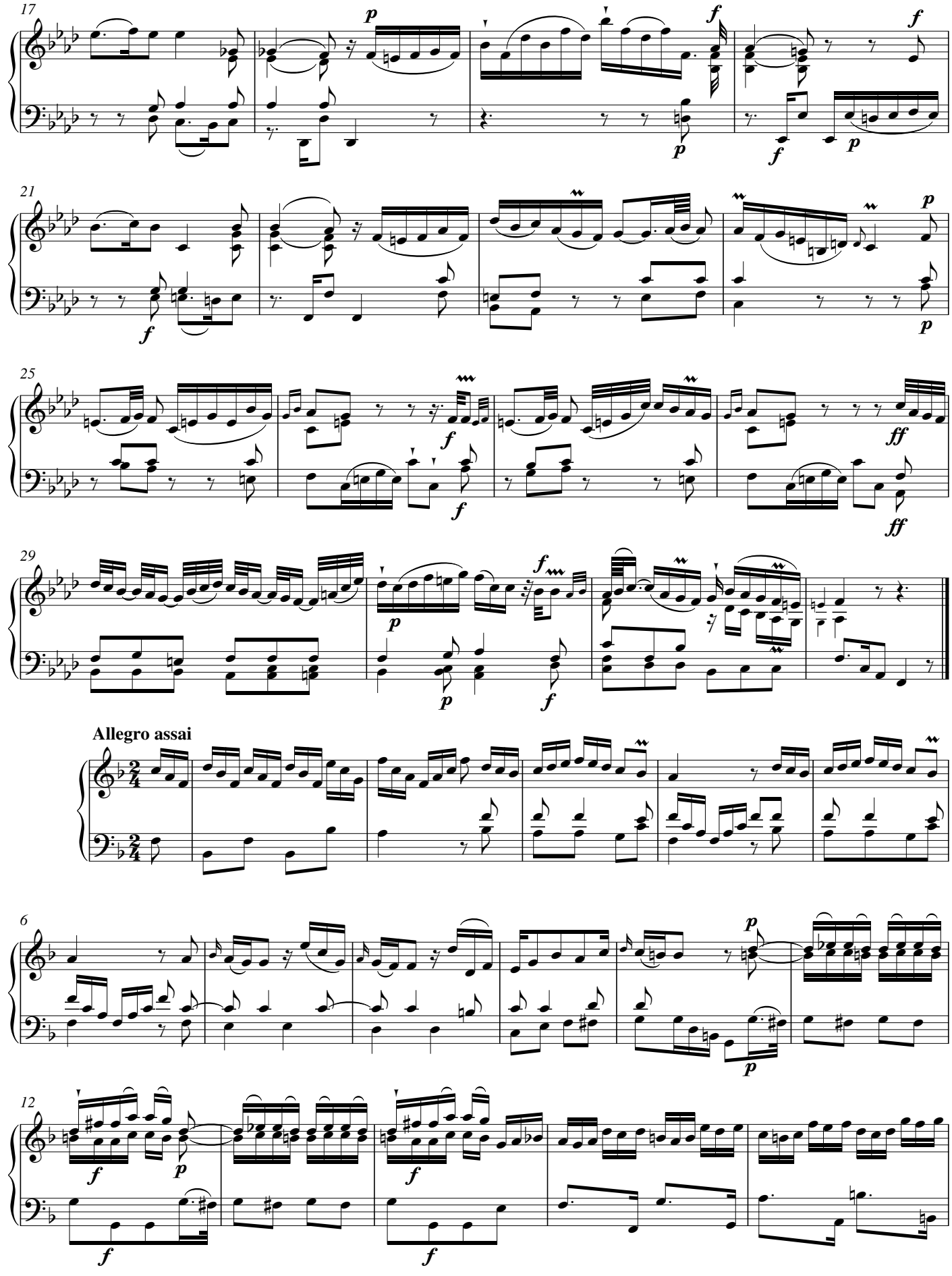
Gio. Fed. Agricola

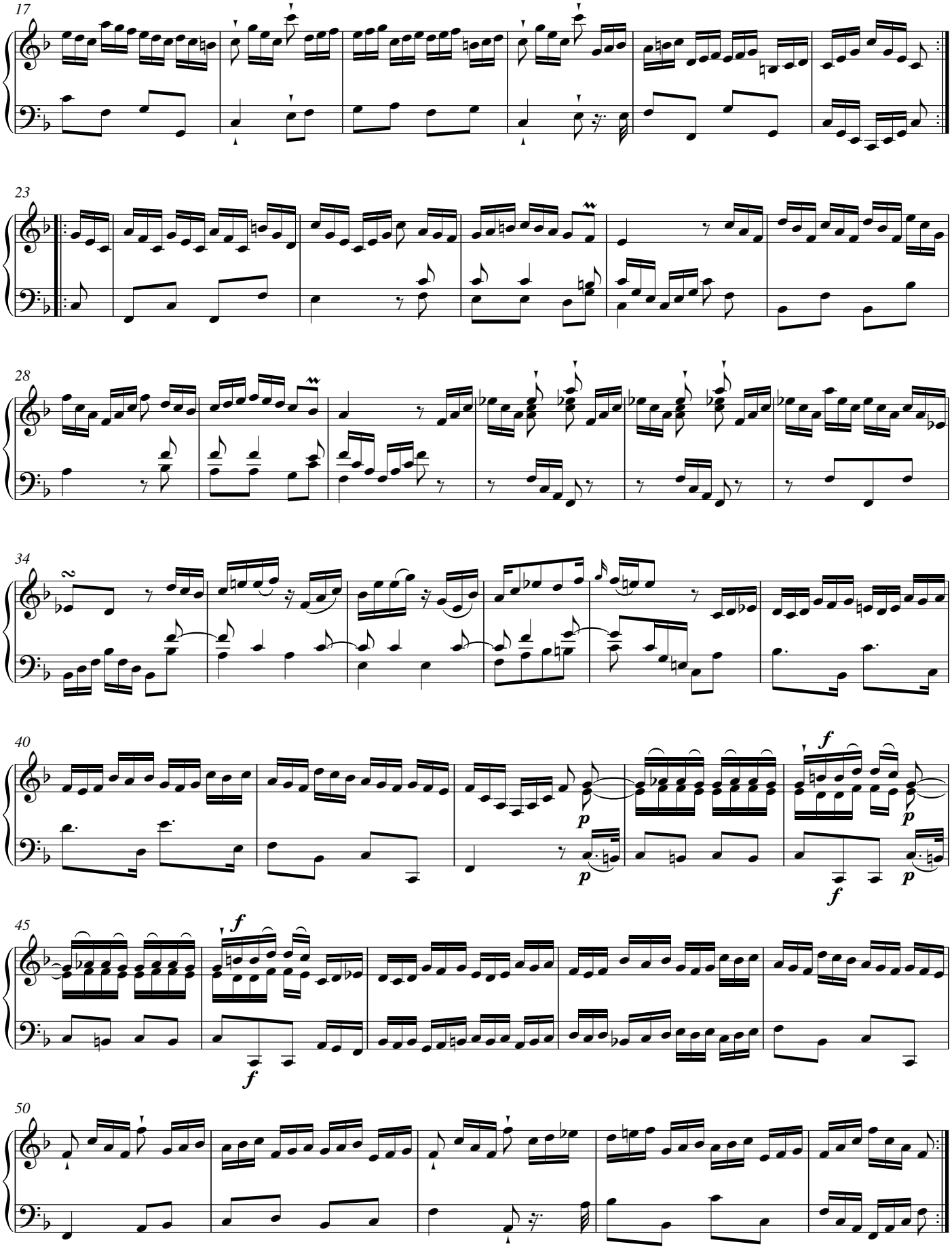
Allegro assai




35
40
44
49
54
58
62


67
71
75
Larghetto
5
9
13


17
21
25
29
Allegro assai
6
12


17
23
28
34
40
45
50
f
p
f
p
f
p
f
p