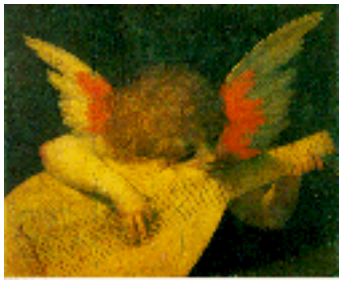

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FERNANDO SOR

Trois petits divertissements
Opus 61
Divertissement 1

for guitar duet

from the New Complete Works for Guitar of Sor, edited by Brian Jeffery

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PREFACE TO THIS NEW EDITION OF ALL SOR'S GUITAR DUETS

It is a special moment to see at last all the guitar duets of Sor now available in a modern edition. I published them in the form of reprints of the original editions in the *Complete Works for Guitar* of Sor (Tecla, nine volumes, 1981), but some of the early editions reproduced there were faded and hard to read and they were only in parts, not score. Now all the duets are available here in Sor's *New Complete Works for Guitar* (from Hebe), re-engraved and in both parts and score, and with some editorial problems resolved which previously must have caused some headaches to performers.

All Sor's known guitar duets date from late in his life (except the *Bolero a Duo* which is a special case). It was not until 1828, when he was fifty years old, that the first of them, *L'Encouragement*, appeared. He was living in Paris at that time, and all the other duets were published in that city between 1828 and his death in 1839. They are of two distinct kinds: compositions at a high level, and works which appear to be for relative beginners.

Three duets stand at the highest level of his achievement:

- *Les Deux Amis* (op. 41), written for performance by Sor and that other virtuoso guitarist of the time, Aguado. It includes passages which Sor says in his method he conceived specially with Aguado's particular way of playing fast running passages in mind.
- *Fantaisie* (op. 54 bis), which has as one of its movements the tremendous *Allegro dans le genre espagnol*, using rasgueado and characteristic Spanish rhythms and harmonies.
- *Souvenir de Russie* (op. 63), eloquent and fine, Sor's last work.

The other nine duets show every sign of having been written for relative beginners, and three (opp. 34, 53 and 55) are even expressly didactic. They are:

- *L'Encouragement* (op. 34).
- *Divertissement* (op. 38)
- *Six Valses* (op. 39)
- *Six Valses* (op. 44 bis)
- *Divertissement militaire* (op. 49)
- *Le premier pas vers moi* (op. 53)
- *Trois duos* (op. 55)
- *Trois petits divertissements* (op. 61)
- *Divertissement* (op. 62)

The *Bolero a Duo* is a special case, and I have advanced the hypothesis that it may not be simply an instrumental duet for two guitars, but rather an accompaniment, for two guitars, to a so far unidentified bolero by Sor for two voices. See the preface to it in this edition.

OPUS 61. TROIS PETITS DIVERTISSEMENTS

Published in 1837.

I am grateful to Darren O'Neill for proofreading this edition.

Brian Jeffery

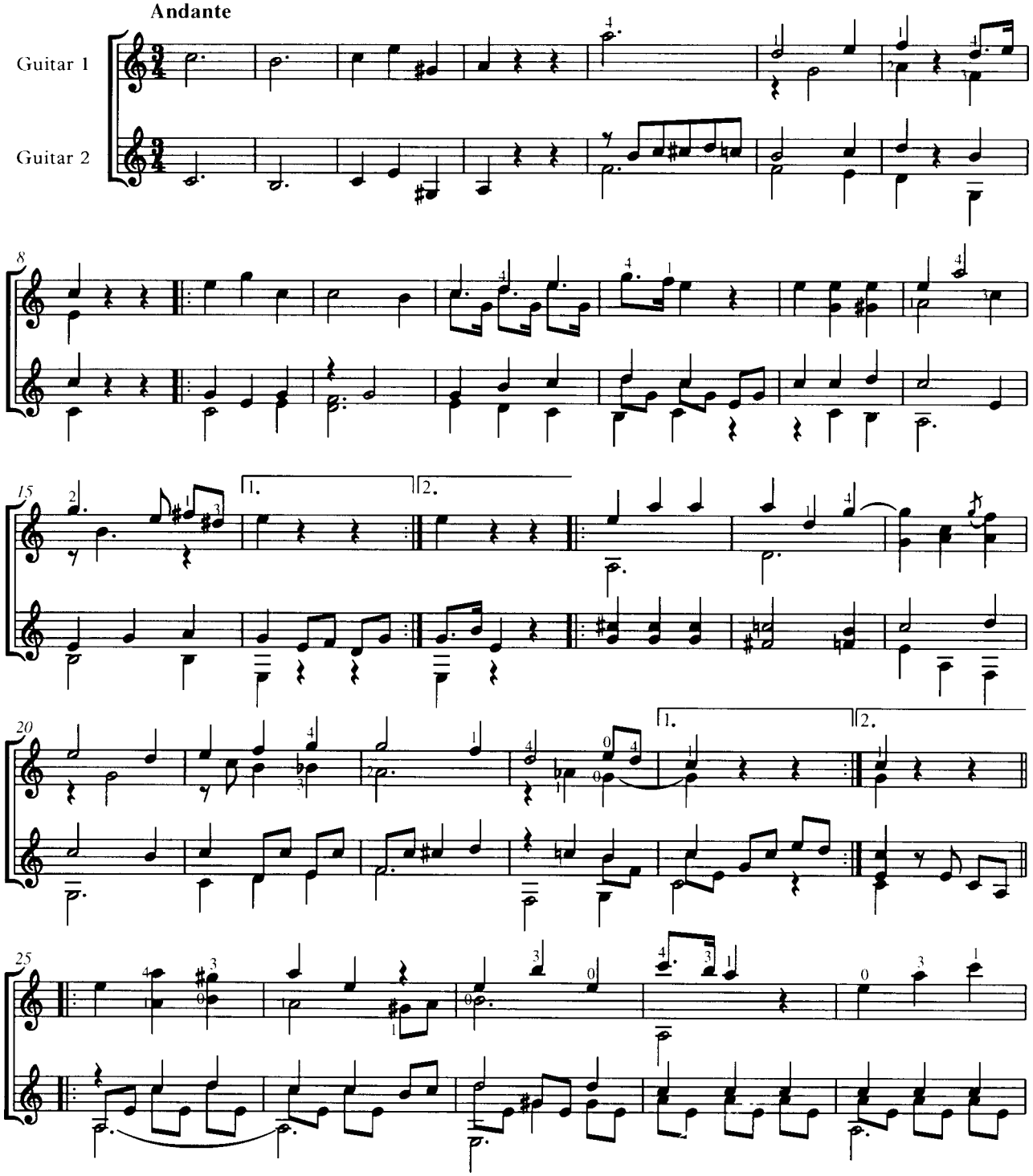
TROIS PETITS DIVERTISSEMENTS

for two guitars
Dedicated to Madame Hamilton

OPUS 61

DIVERTISSEMENT 1

Fernando Sor
Edited by Brian Jeffery



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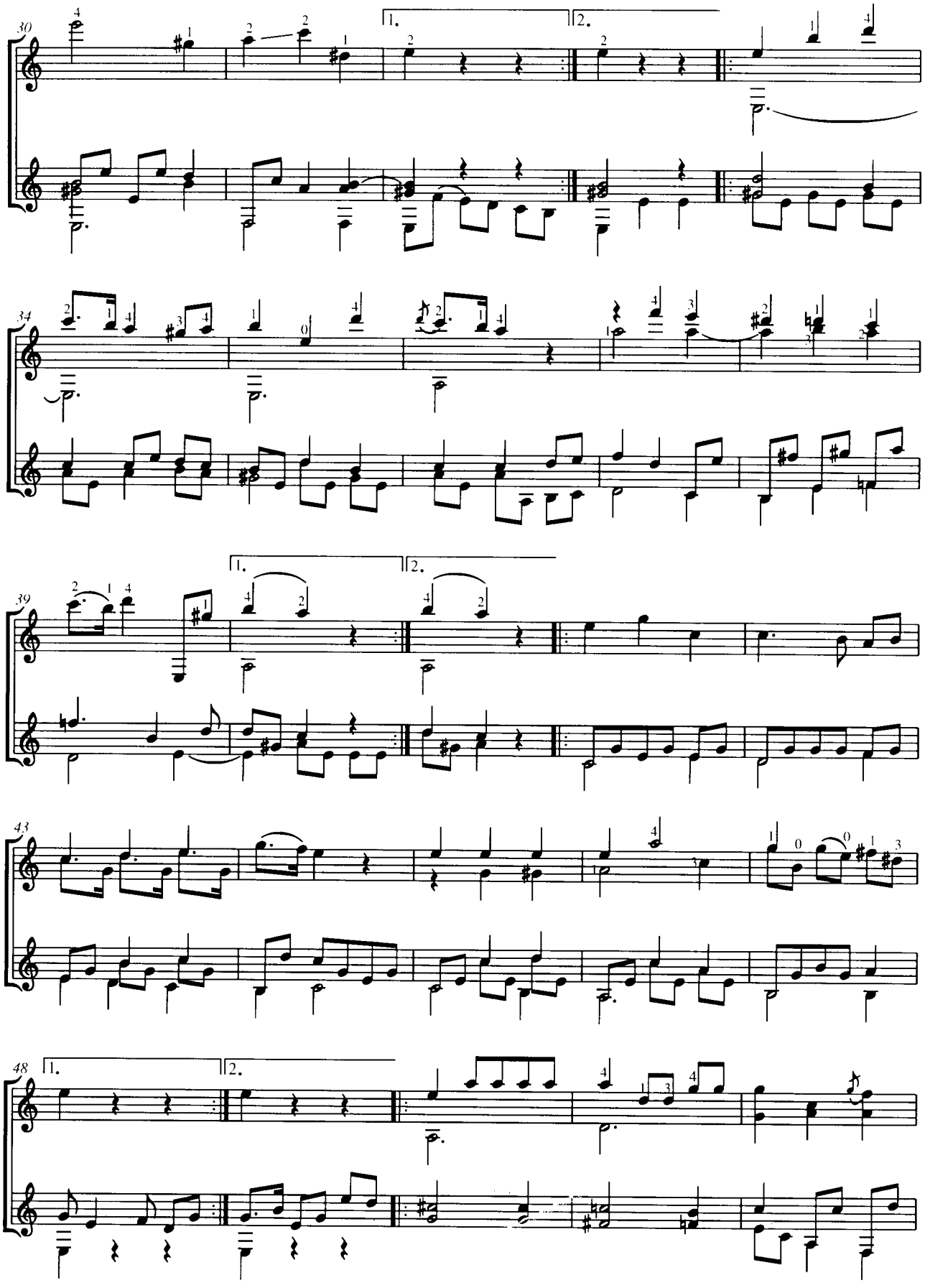
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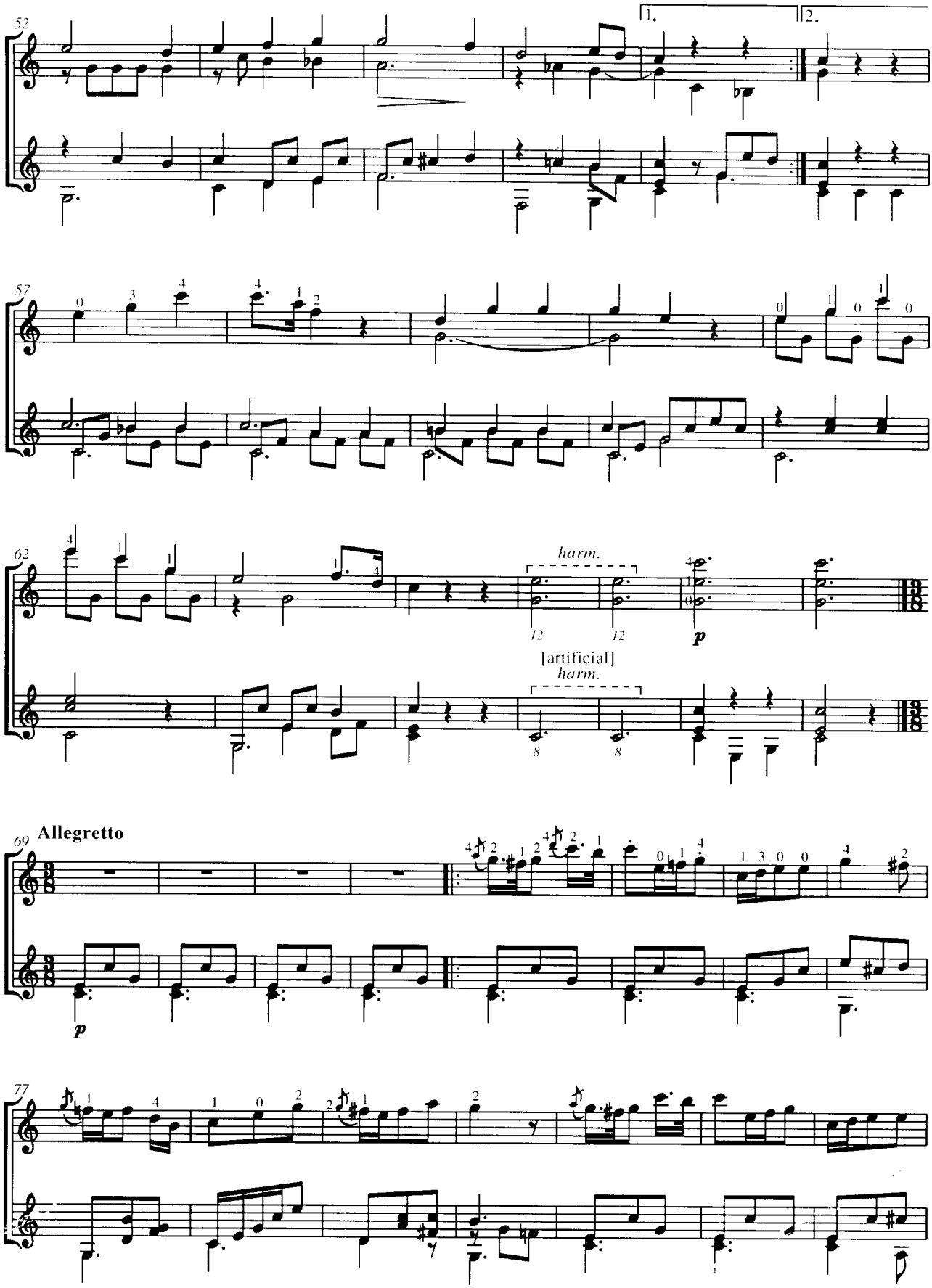
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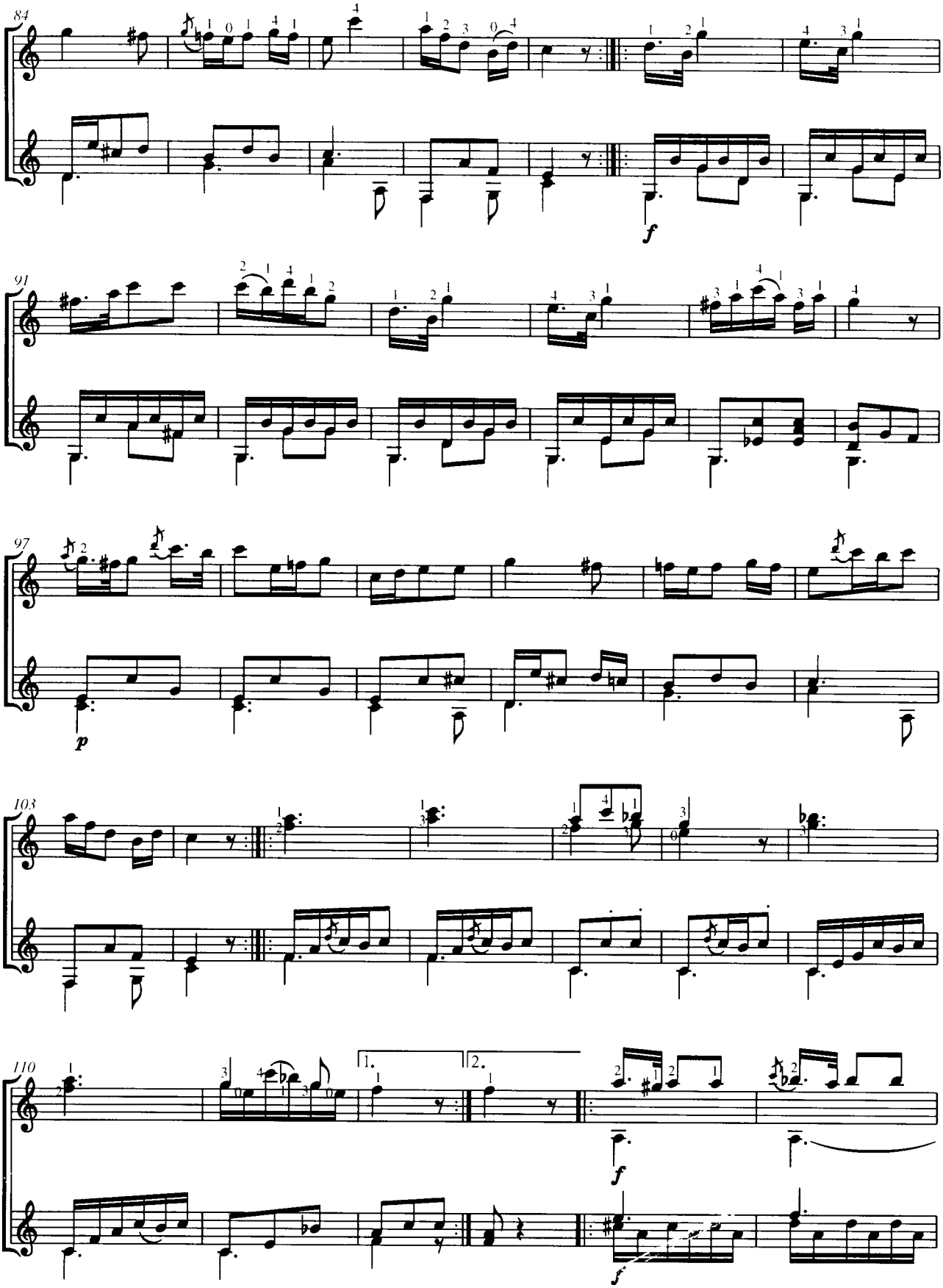
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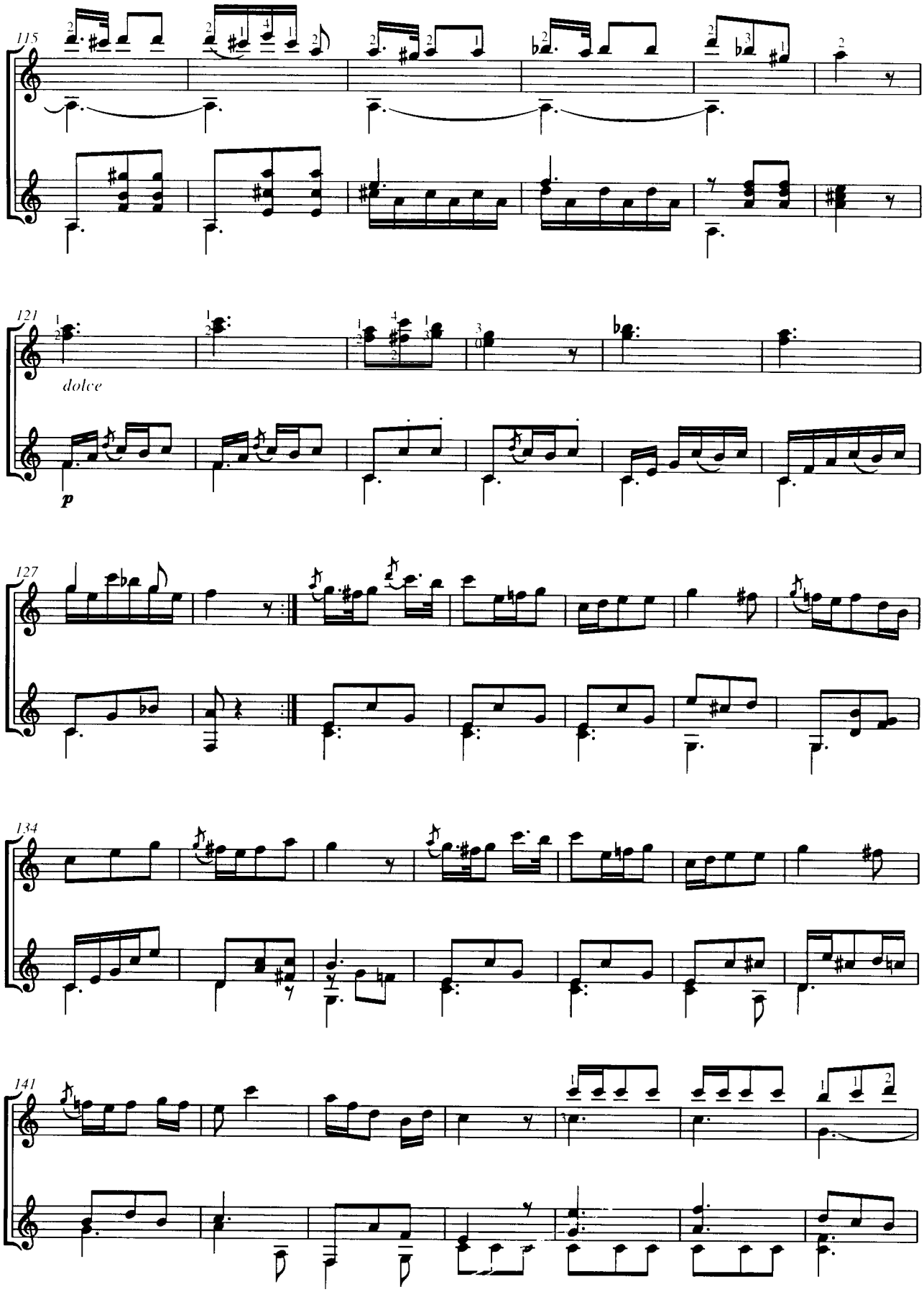
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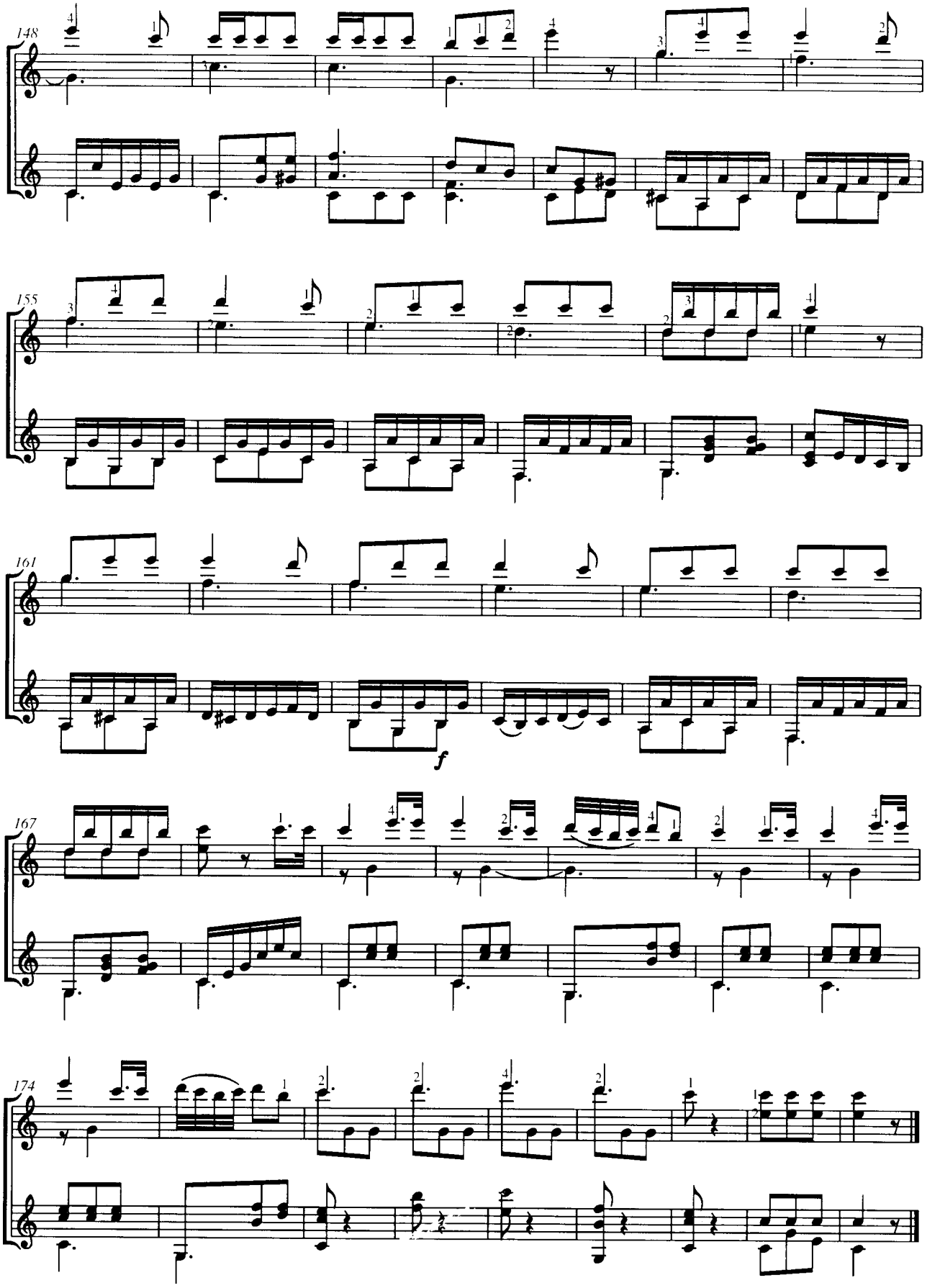
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