AMERICAN MUSIC FOR PIANO
EDITED BY GAIL KUBIK

OTTO LUENING

TWO INVENTIONS

PIANO SOLO

PRICE 60 CENTS

MERCURY MUSIC CORPORATION
231 W. 40th St.—New York City

TWO INVENTIONS FOR PIANO -
By Otto Luening

About the Composer

Otto Luening was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1900. For twenty years, he has been one of the most conspicuous figures in American music, not only as the composer of a great many works in all forms, for which he received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1930-1931, but also for his activities as a conductor and as one of the moving spirits in the Yaddo Festivals, the American Music Center in New York, and New Music Quarterly Recordings.

His music has had numerous performances by such orchestras as the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, and Rochester Philharmonic and, in addition, has been performed in Canada, South America, Belgium, Switzerland, and Germany.

Mr. Luening has been particularly interested in the development of opera in this country and for several years was director of the Opera Department of the Eastman School of Music. He was awarded in 1933 the David Bispham Medal for his opera, "Evangeline."

About the Music

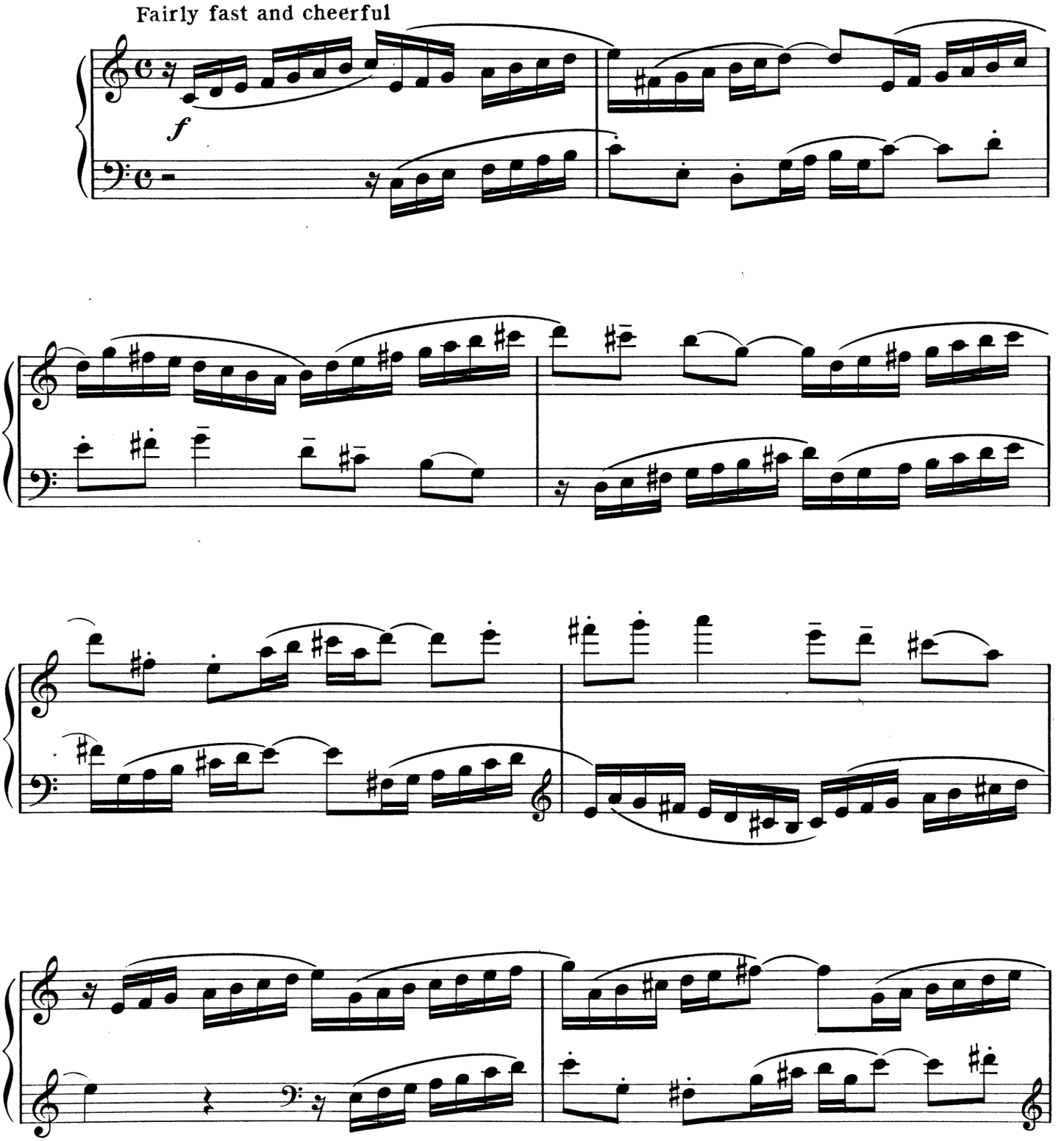
INVENTION 1 begins with a lively and cheerful motif based on a scale passage. This is imitated and developed contrapuntally by the use of inversions and transposition of the material to other keys. By measure 4 the voices are exchanged and the key is D major; in measures 7 to 10, the development touches several new modes briefly. An interlude, measures 11 to 17, is based on combinations of triads with added seconds and sevenths, sharply accented. At the return of 4/4 time, the first section of the piece is repeated with the addition of a choral-like melody, which should be brought out.

INVENTION 2 is a set of variations on a ground bass which begins on the second note of measure 1 and consists of eight notes. The basic thematic material is presented in the first nine measures. Variation I presents this material in the major key. Variation II, in 12/8 time, is an exact inversion of the subject. Variation III is a tonal inversion of Variation I with an organ point in the bass. In Variation IV, a hymn-like tune is added to further develop the previous material, and the piece comes to an ff close on an accented pedal point on A.

Two Inventions for Piano
No. 1

OTTO LUENING

Fairly fast and cheerful



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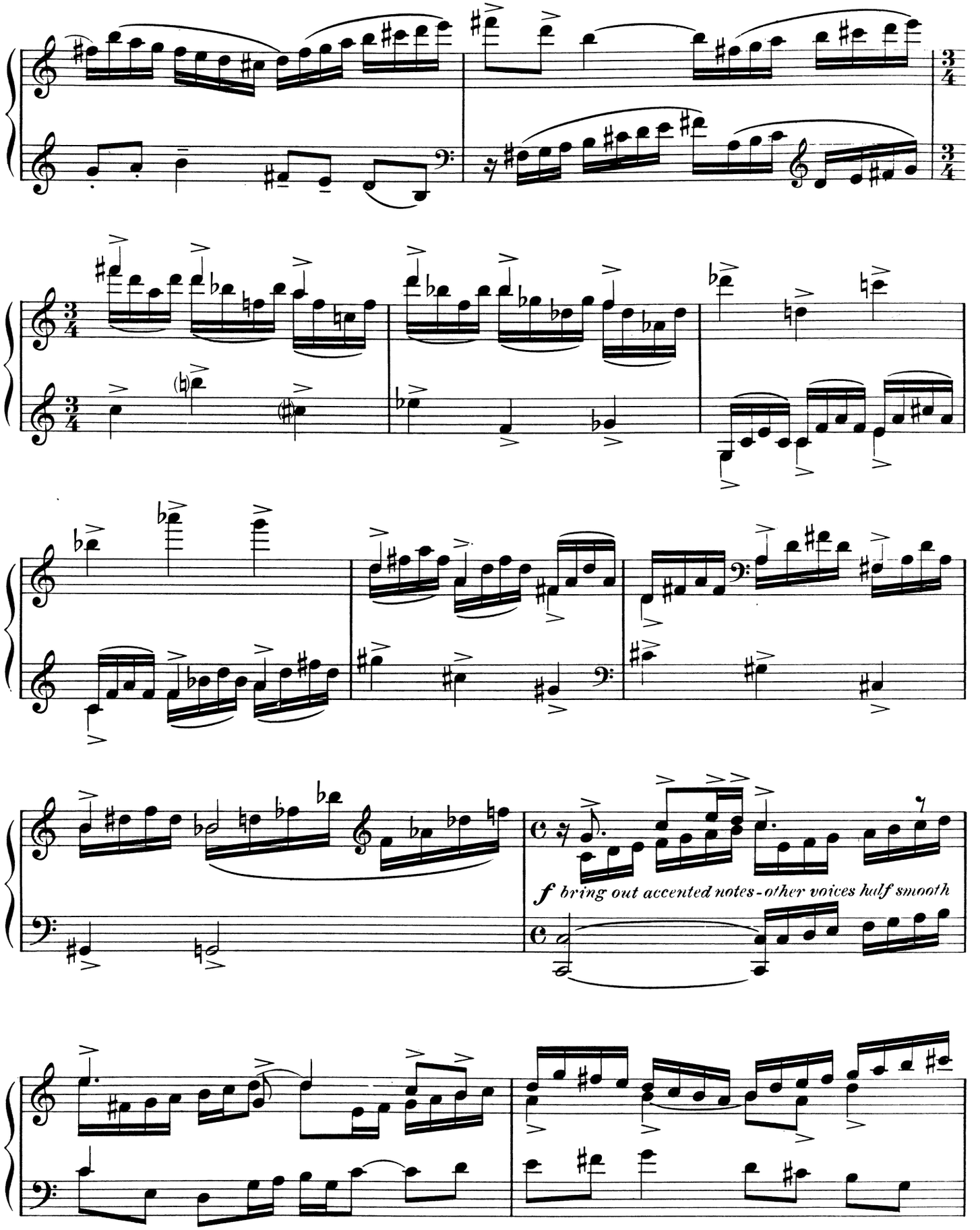
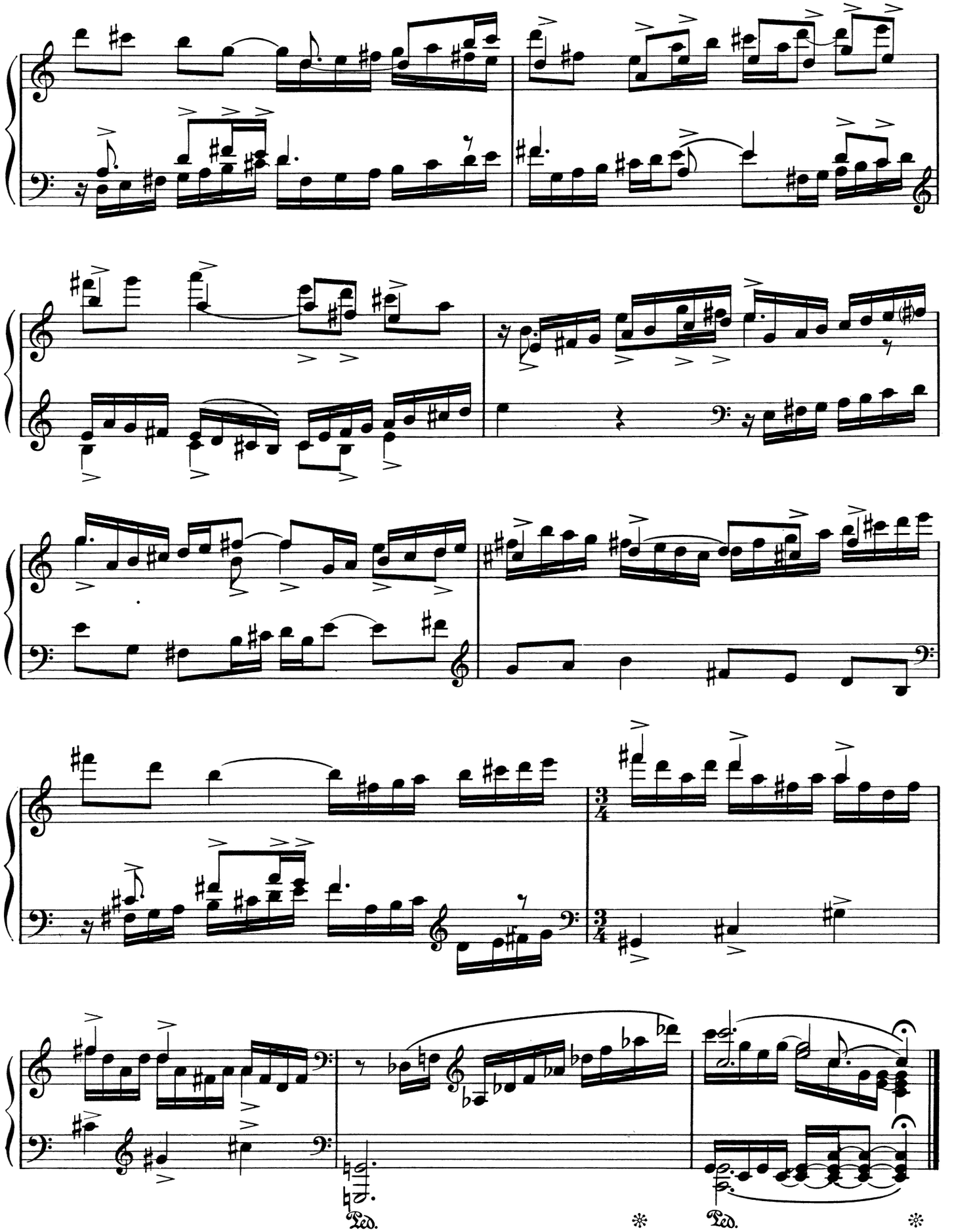

f bring out accented notes - other voices half smooth


Ped.
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Ped.
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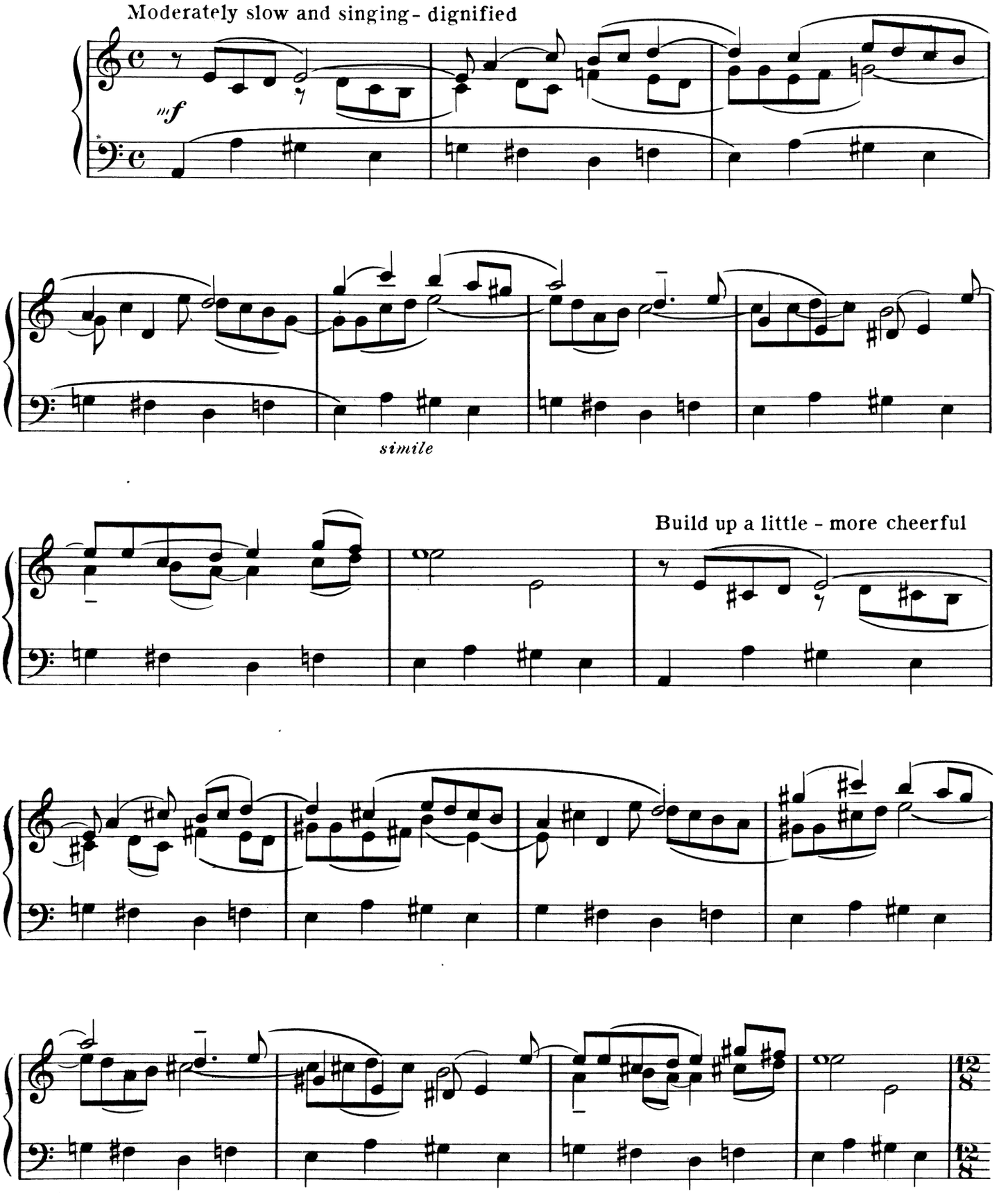
No. 2

OTTO LUENING

Moderately slow and singing - dignified



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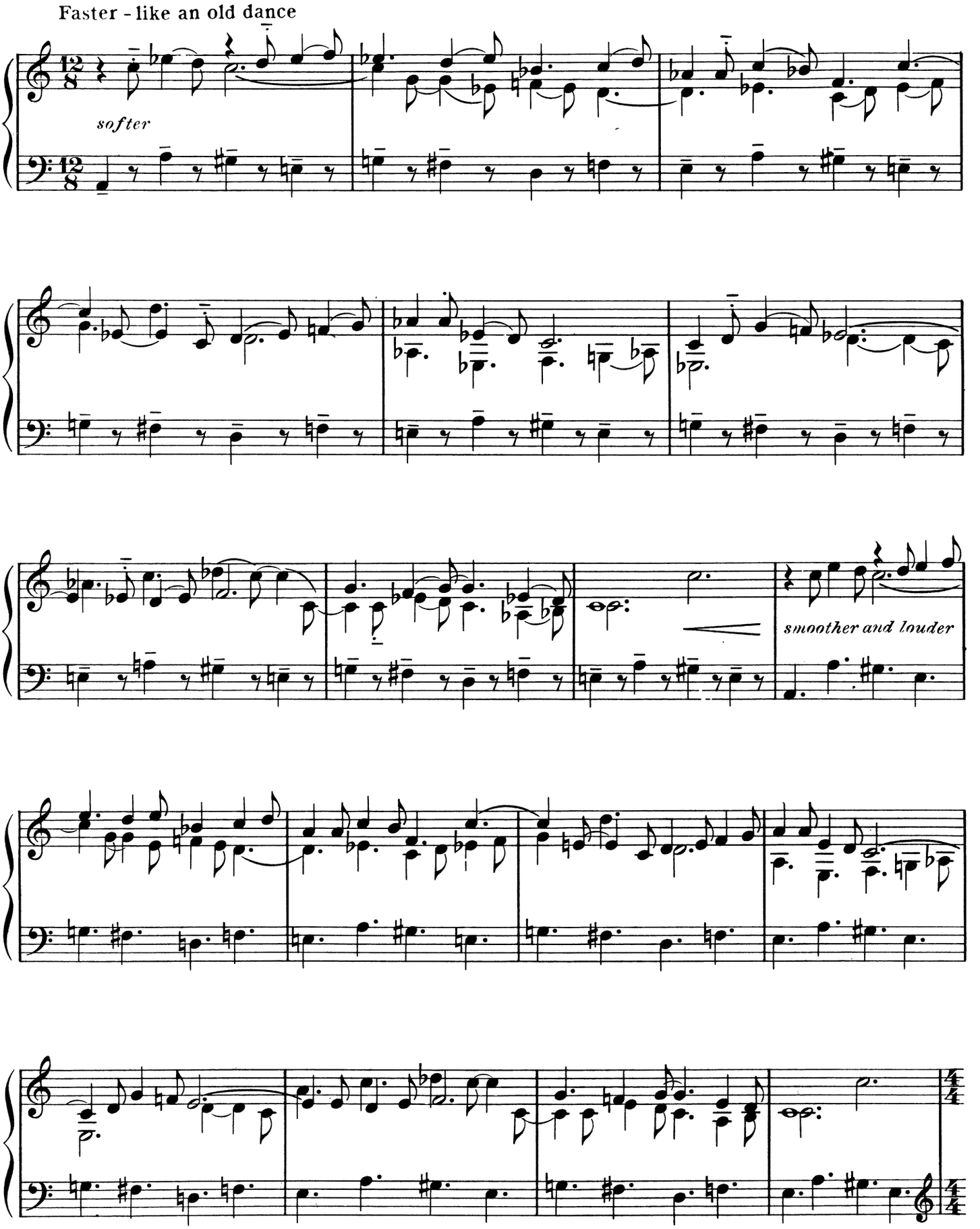
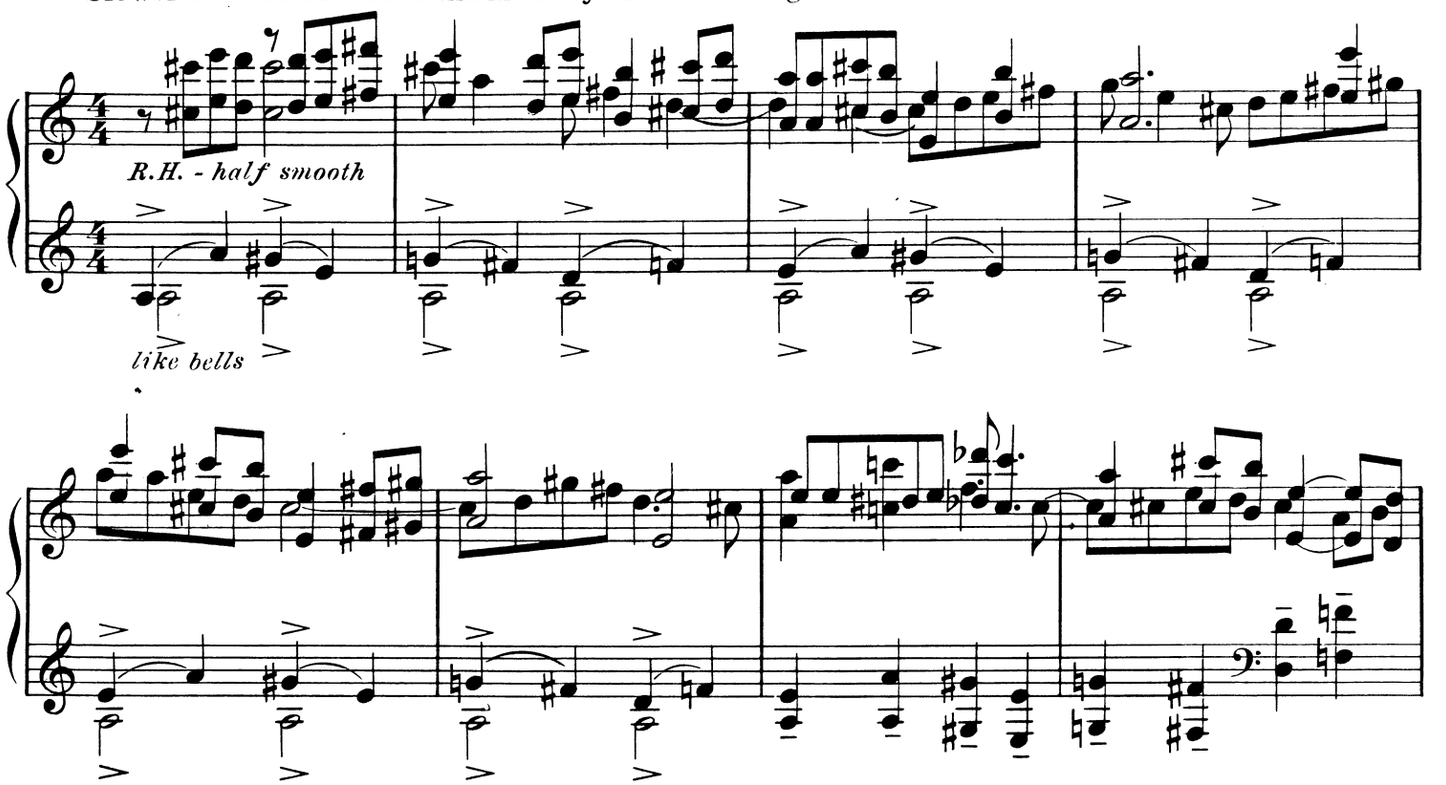
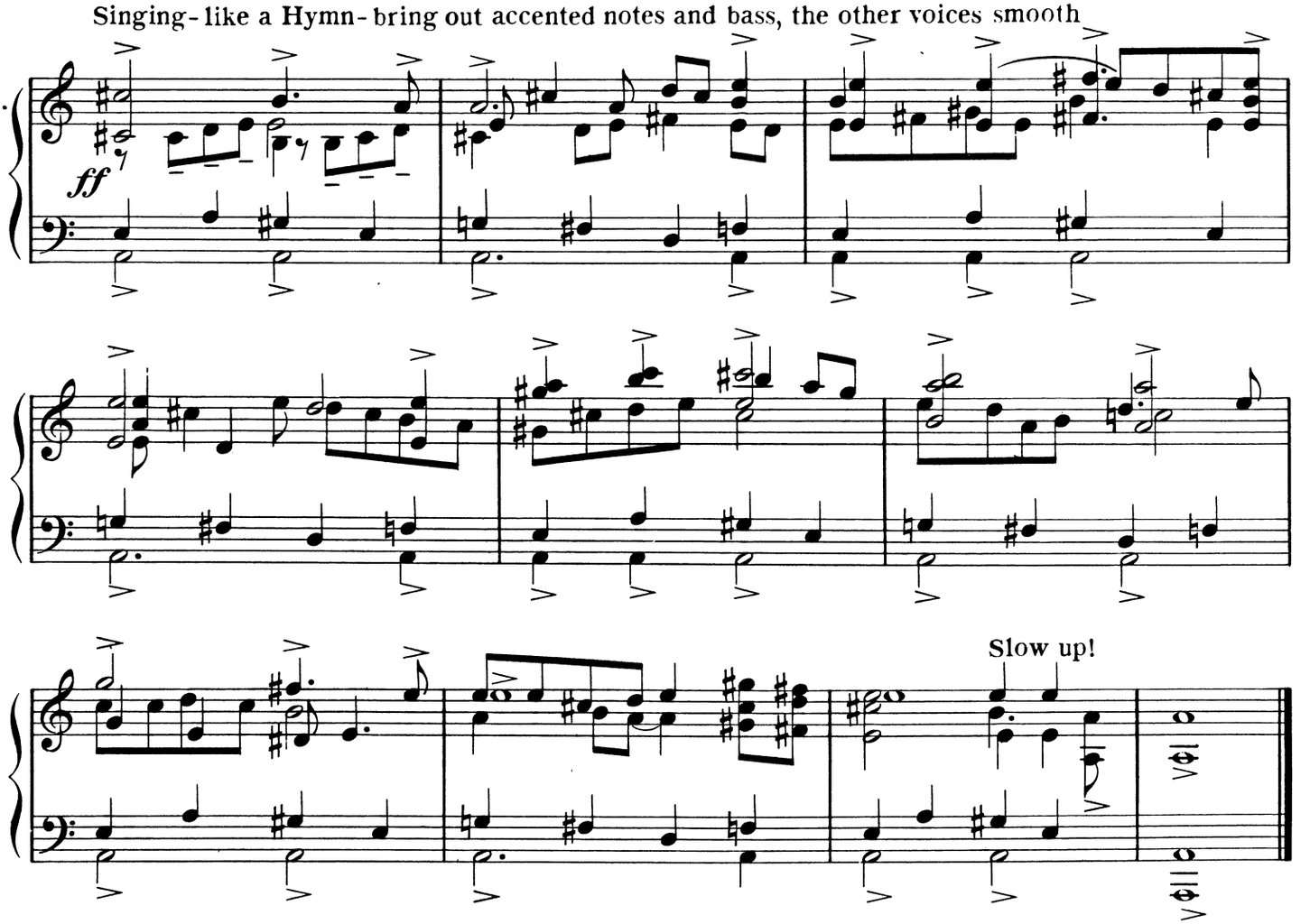

Faster - like an old dance
softer
smoother and louder

Slower and softer...Like the memory of a folk song



Singing-like a Hymn-bring out accented notes and bass, the other voices smooth