A Set of Progressive
LESSONS
for the Harpsichord, or the Piano Forte expressly
calculated for the ease of beginners
Composed by SAMUEL ARNOLD Musc. Doc.
Book 1. —— Opera XII. —— Price 10s 6d.
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Stationers Hall
according to Act
of Parliament

The following Leffons were Compofed at the particular requeft of my late worthy Friend Mr. Butler, and moft of them originally for his particular ufe as a Teacher on the Harpfichord.

His requeft concerning thofe Leffons arofe from the mutual difficulties that he and his Pupils had often experienced during the firft few Months of their Intercourfe as Maftur and Scholars —— thefe difficulties he attributed to the generallity of Compofers whofe Mufic requires fuch Power in the execution of it that none but Mafters or thofe who play nearly as well as Mafters are qualified to perform it.

Thofe kind of Compofitions my Friend judged to be moft improper for the firft Eflays of Pupils who were only fo far prepared as to know the Notes and the firft Rudiments neceffary to their beginning to play on the Harpfichord, and as a kind of fupport to this Judgement he farther obferved that thofe difficulties in the ftile of the Mufic were always perplexing, irkfome, and often difgufting to the beginner, confequently dif-pleafing to the Mafter, as they were conftant unneceffary Impediments to the improvement of the Pupil.

My Friend therefore wifhed and requefted that I would conflder this mutual Impediment, and that I would try to remove it by Compofing a few Leffons by way of Experiment, of fuch a Nature as would be fuitable to the firft endeavours of Scholars on the Harpfichord.

The force of his Obfervations refpecting the Impropriety of inftructing thro' the medium of difficult inftead of eafy Mufic, I felt the more fenfibly, as it was a Practice I had often condemned, and always avoided.

Being thus excited by the experience and the kindnefs of my Friend, I chearfully complied with his requeft. the Principle that I laid down to myfelf as a Guide in this new fpecies of Compofition (if the term may be allowed) I drew from the nature of the Subject that I was to work upon, a manifeft Plainnefs with Simplicity was the Principle adopted, the Compofition to be fo fuited to the inexperienc'd capacity of Beginners, as that in each ftep they fhould find Encouragement to proceed from Plainnefs and Succefs, from which Succefs they would daily feel their own rifing knowledge as they advanced in their Purfuit; which is the beft kind of Encouragement that Application or Emulation can receive.

Some Leffons on this Plan were Compofed during the Life of my Friend, thofe he as a Maftur carried into Practice among his Scholars, by that Criterion he tried their effect, they had his approbation. not from his regard as a Friend, as he declared, but from their good effect in practice, which was in his opinion the beft Evidence he could bring in their favor.

This effect he thus accounted for — he found, and was pleas'd that the Scholars readily comprehended the Leffons; and that comprehen-fion he faid not only gave them a facility, and a degree of correctnefs (confider'd as Novices) in their method of executing them, but alfo increafed their defire of farther improvement.

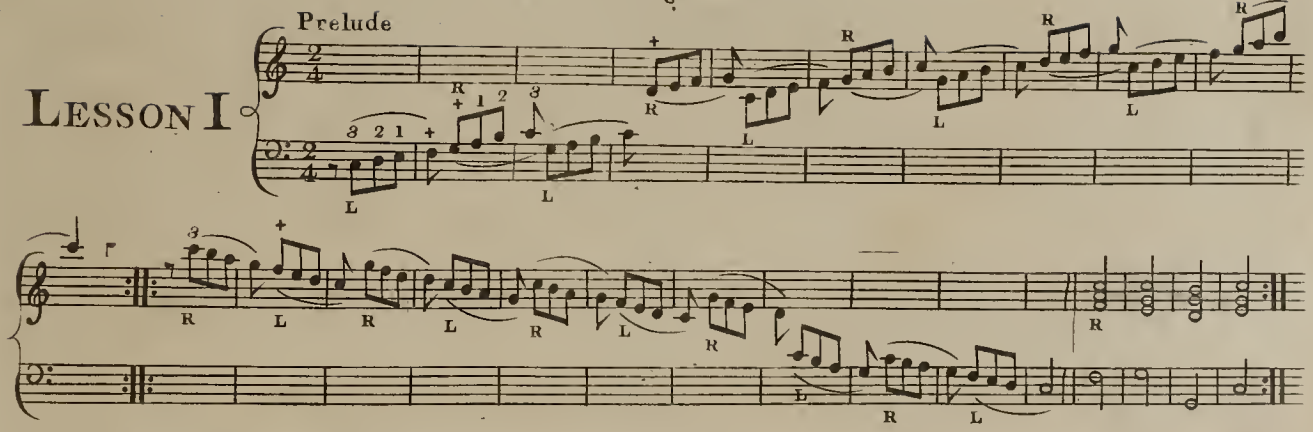
From this fuccefs in our experiment he earneftly wifhed that I would extend my Endeavours on this Subject; by giving the Public a Courfe of Leffons Profeffedly for the ufe of thofe who wifh to make a Progrefs on the Harpfichord.

That defign is now executed; the Leffons rife gradually from the eafieft up to the moft difficult Stile of Harpfichord Mufic, and in the following Books, every Key in common ufe, Major and Minor, is attended to.

NB. R. ſtands for right hand, L. for left.

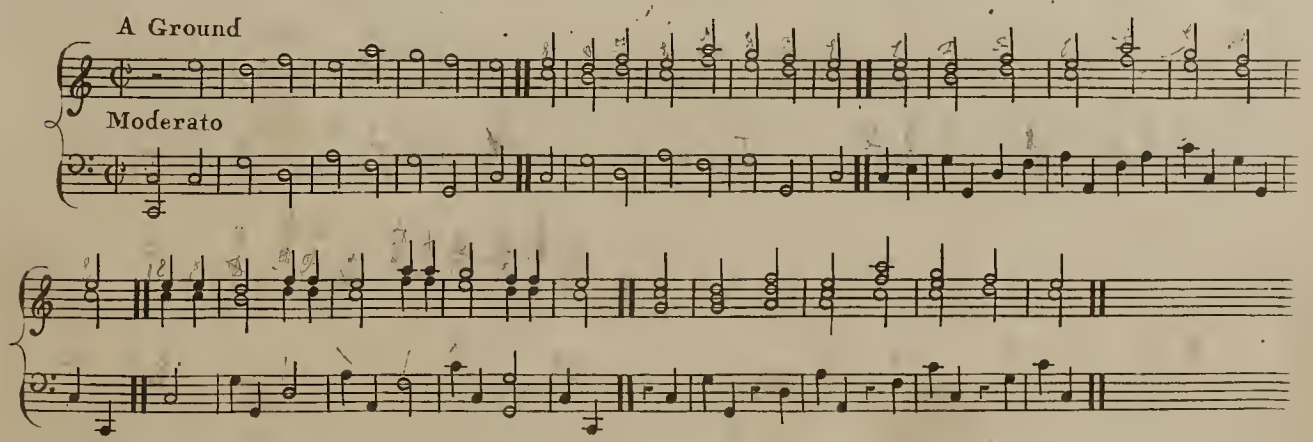
LESSON I

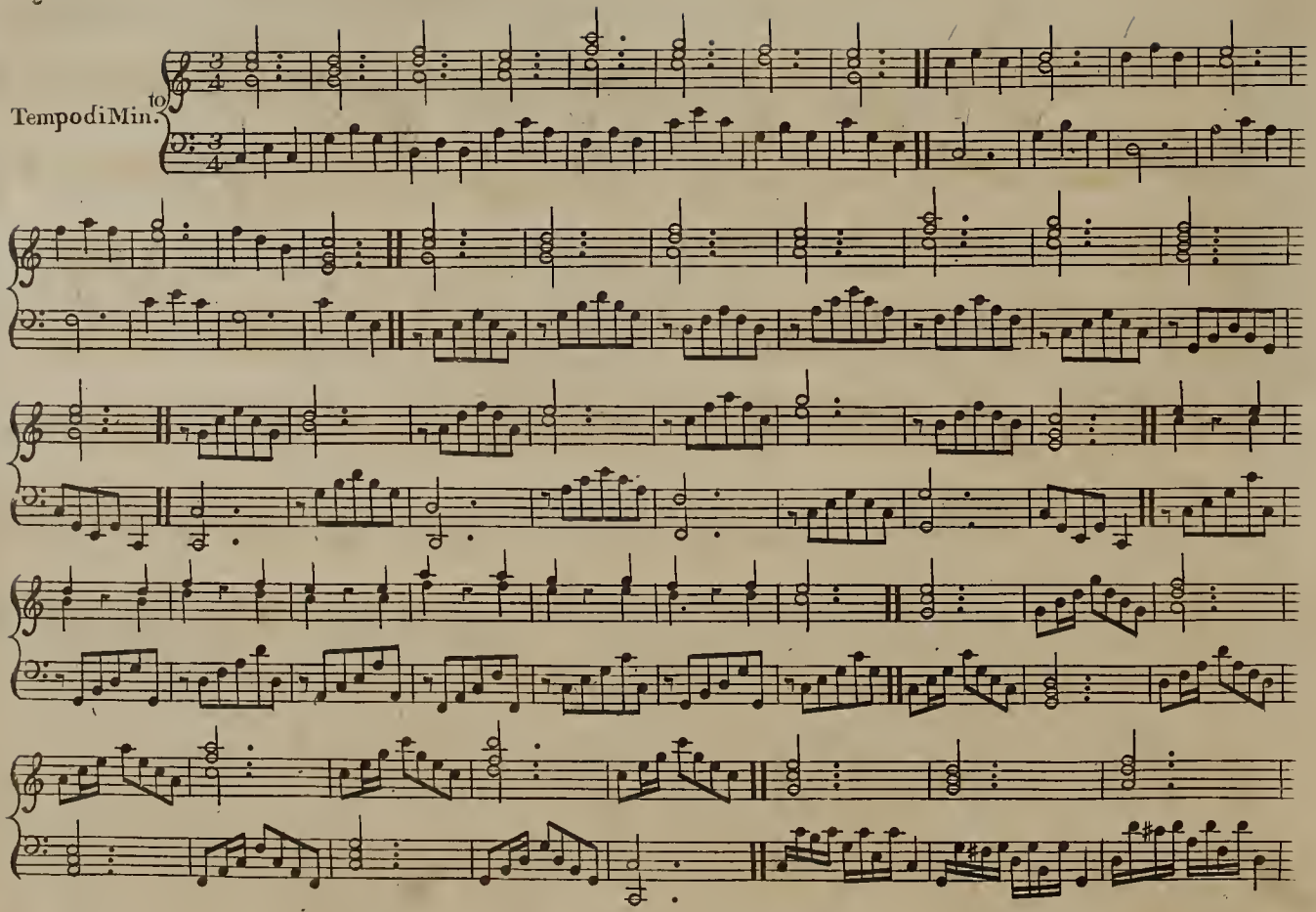
Prelude

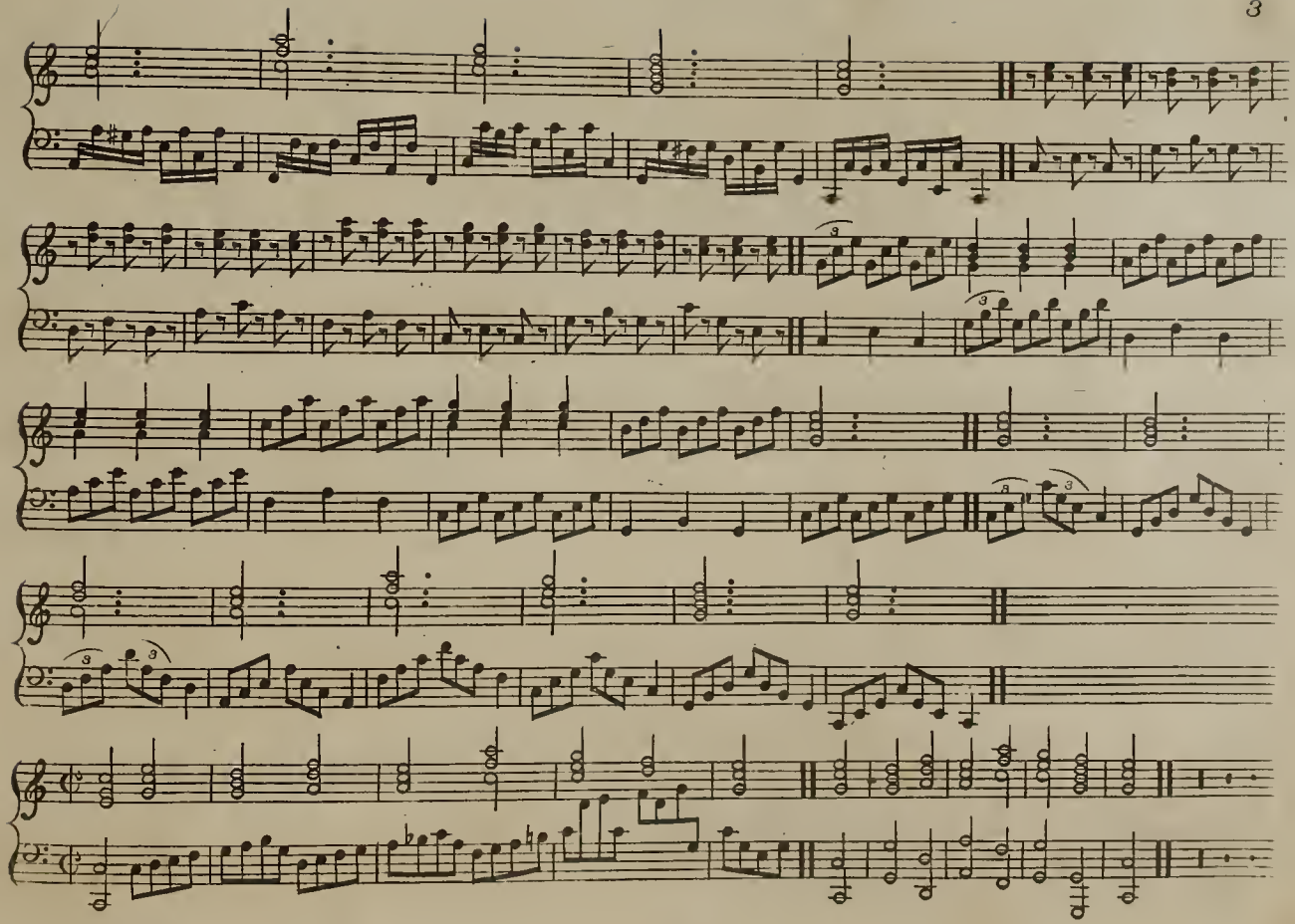


A Ground

Moderato




Tempo di Min.
to



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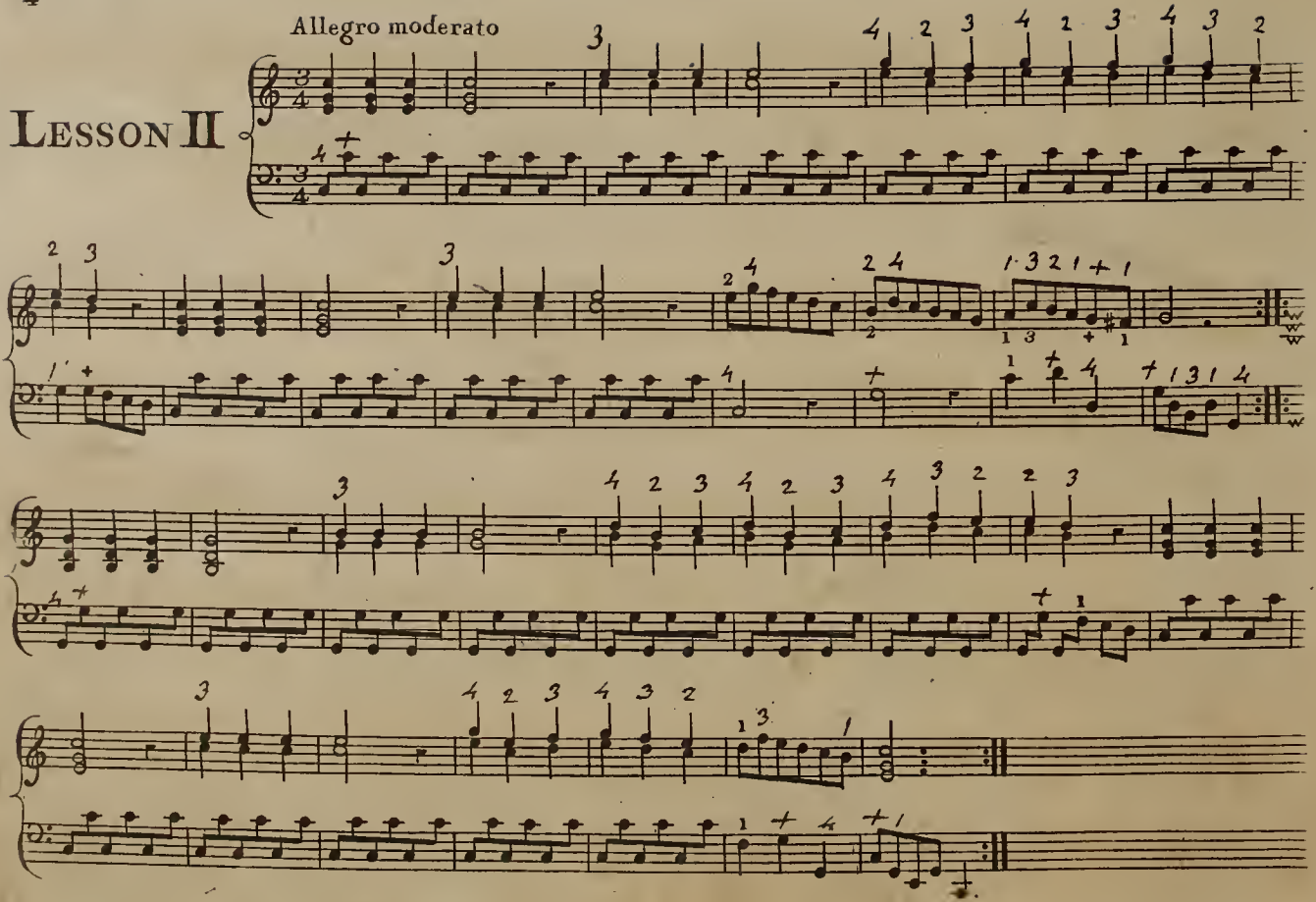
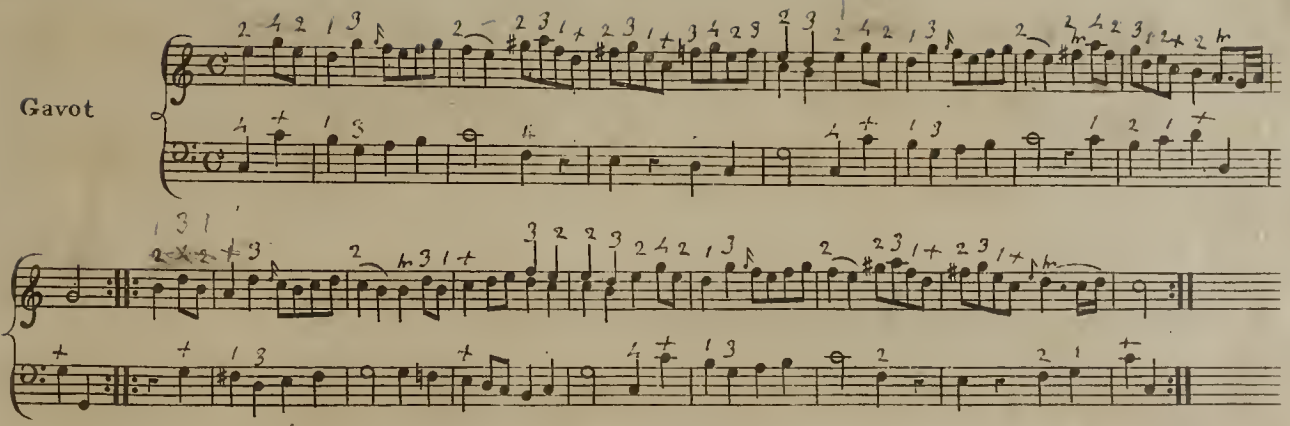
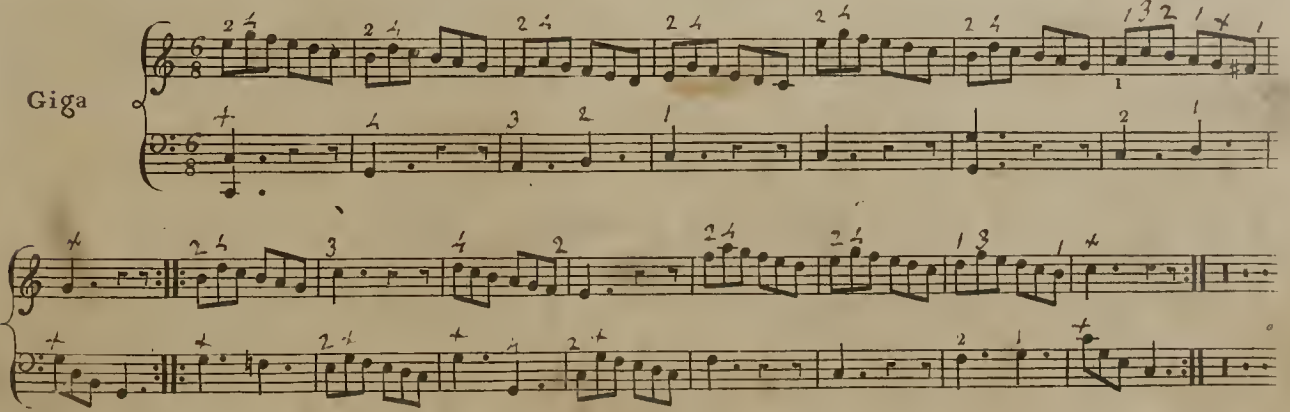
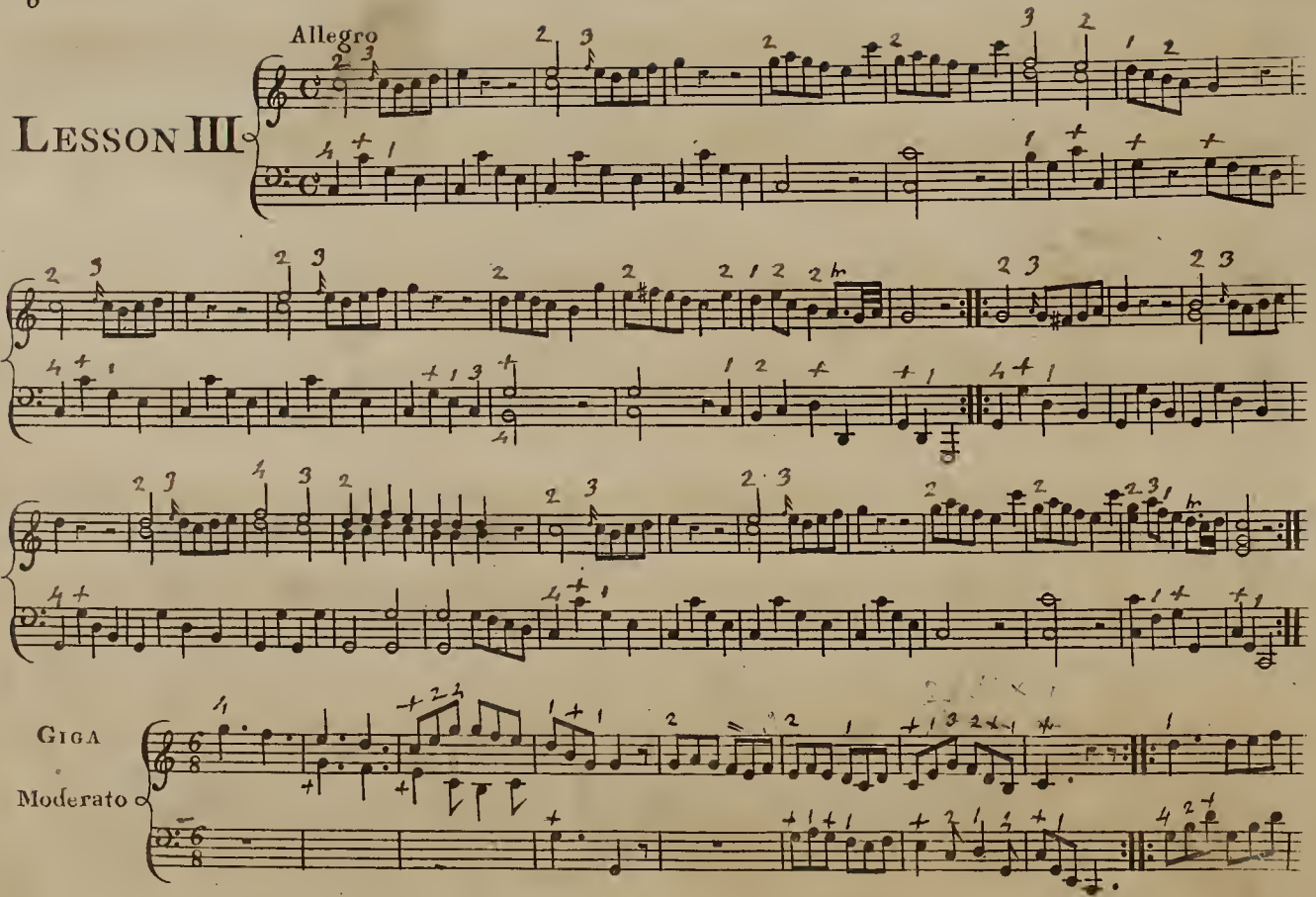


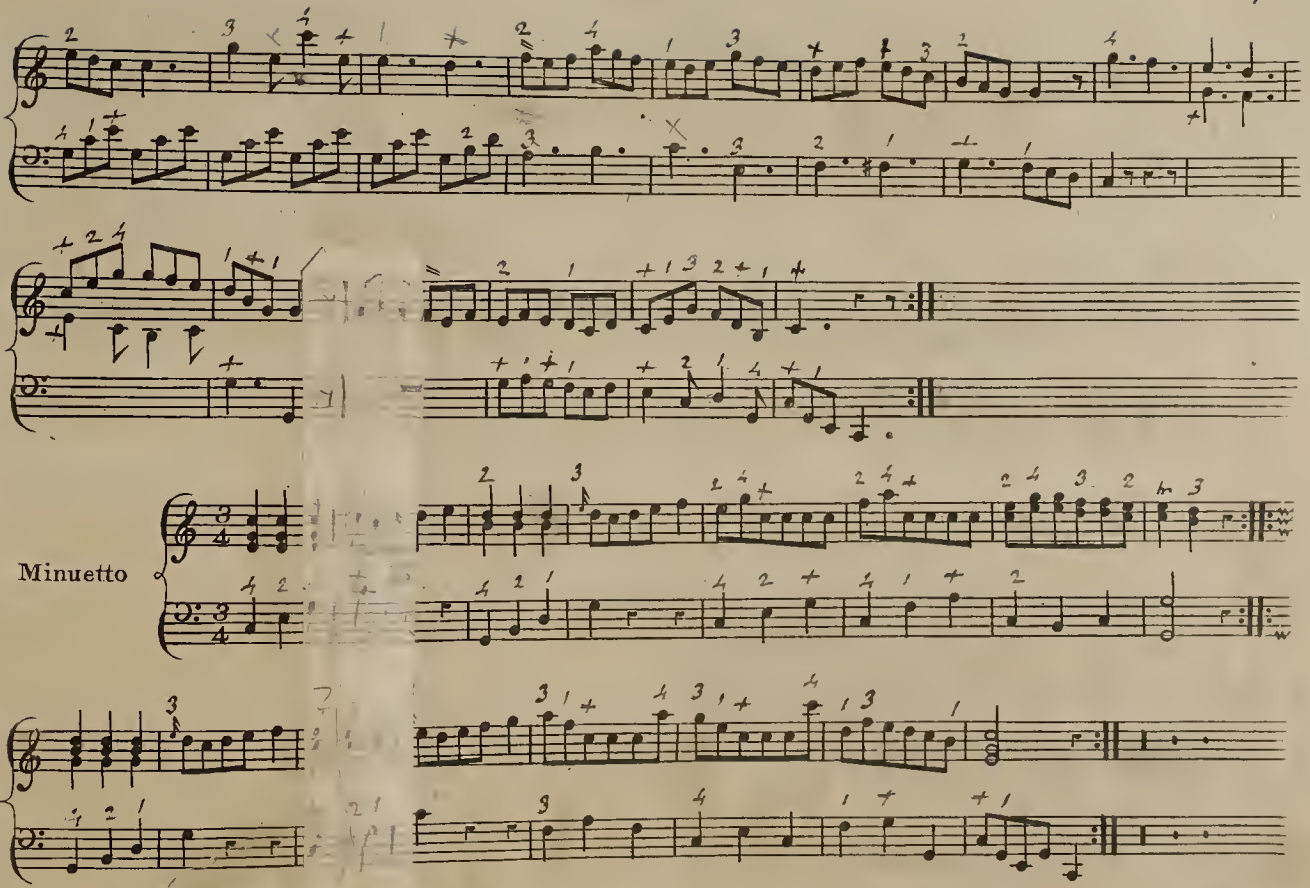
Gavot



Giga

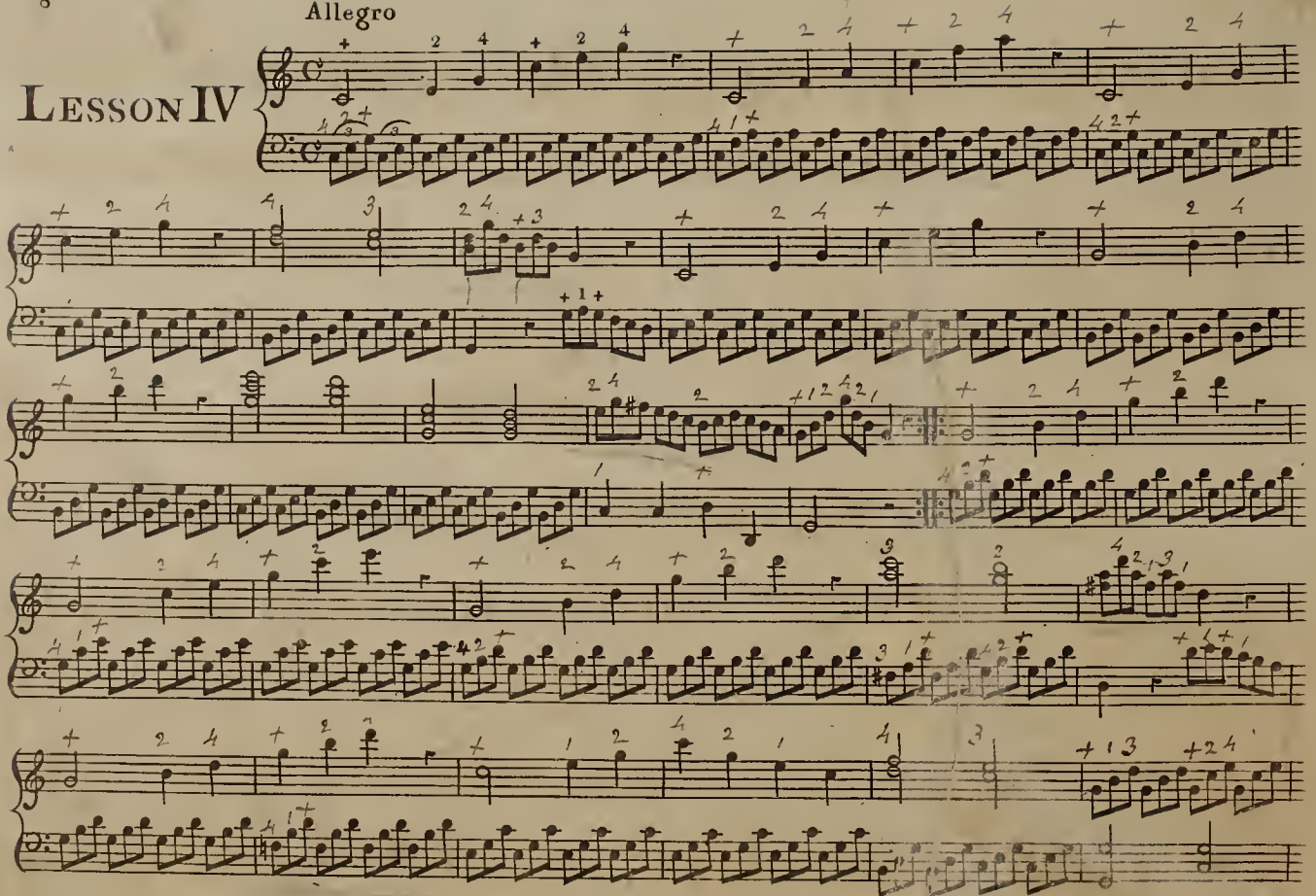


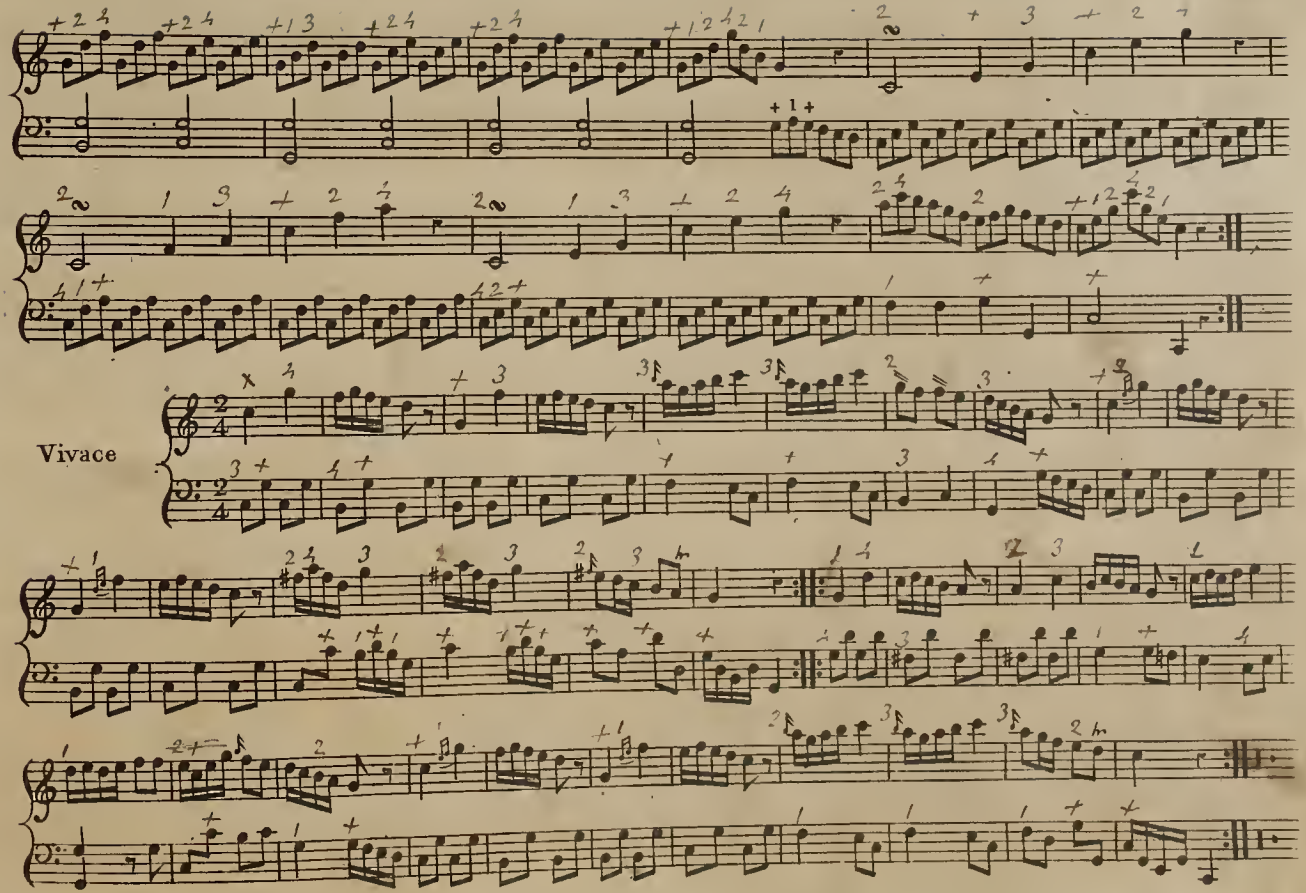

Allegro
LESSON III
GIGA
Moderato


Minuetto

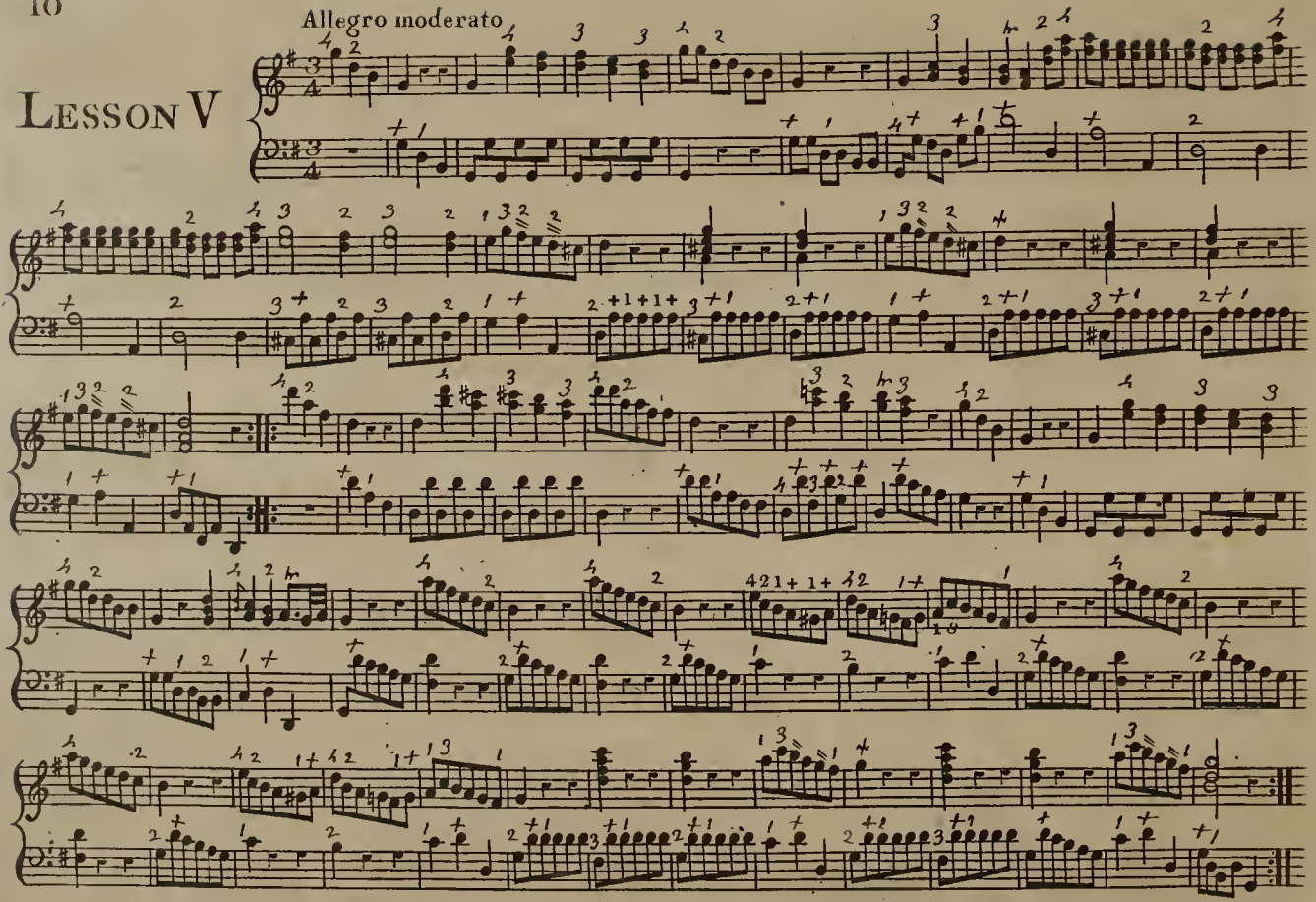
Allegro

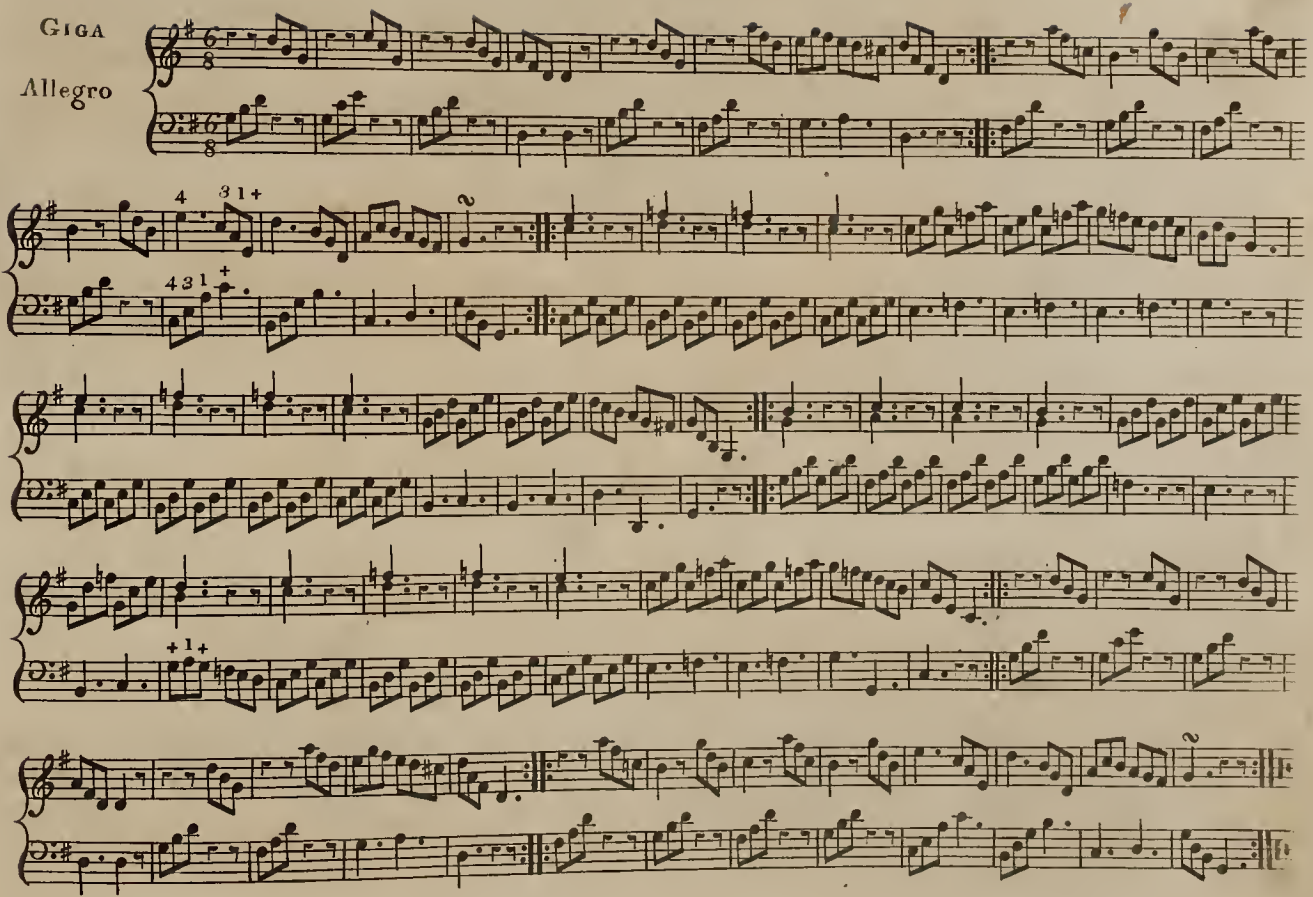
LESSON IV



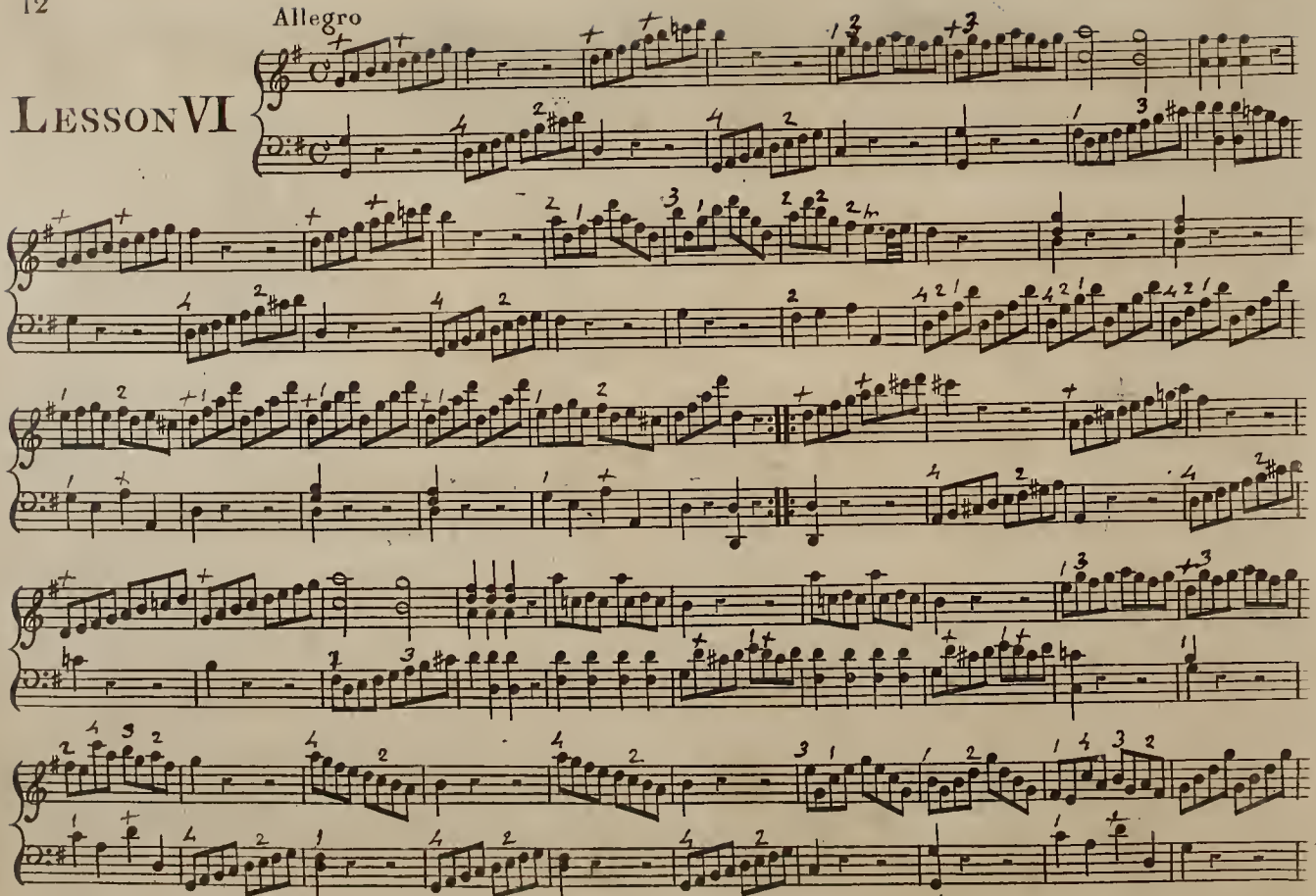

Vivace

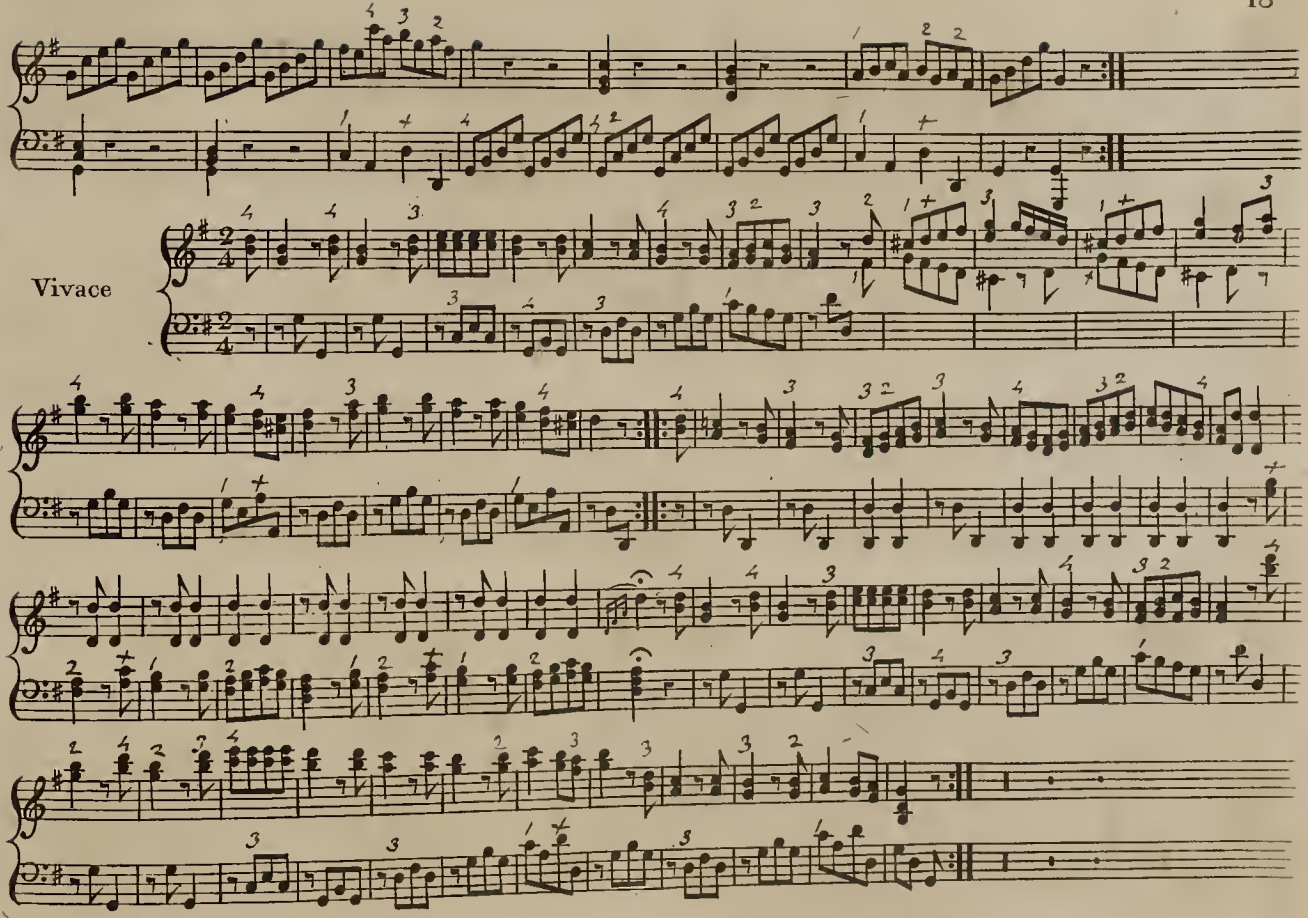
LESSON V




Giga
Allegro

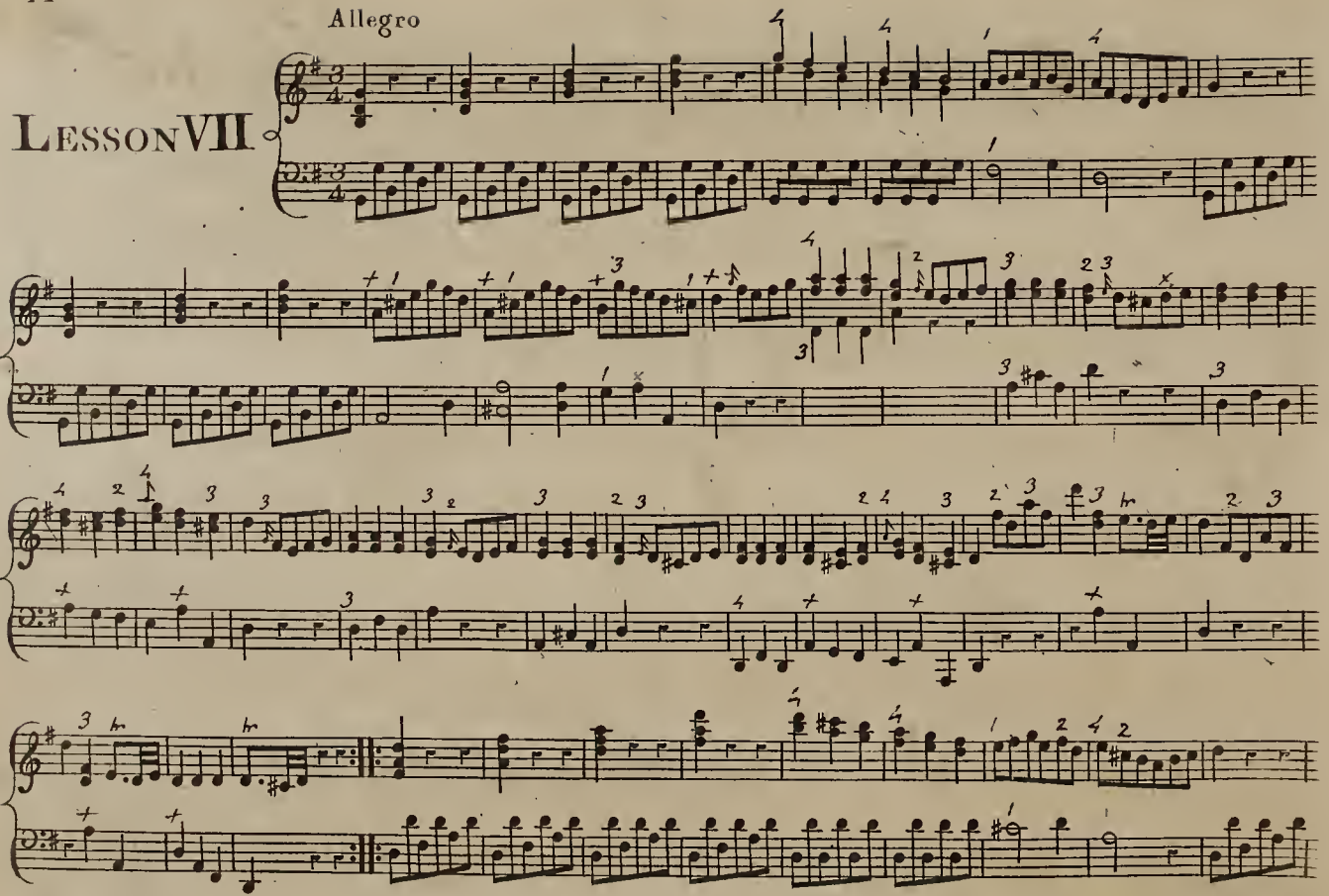
LESSON VI

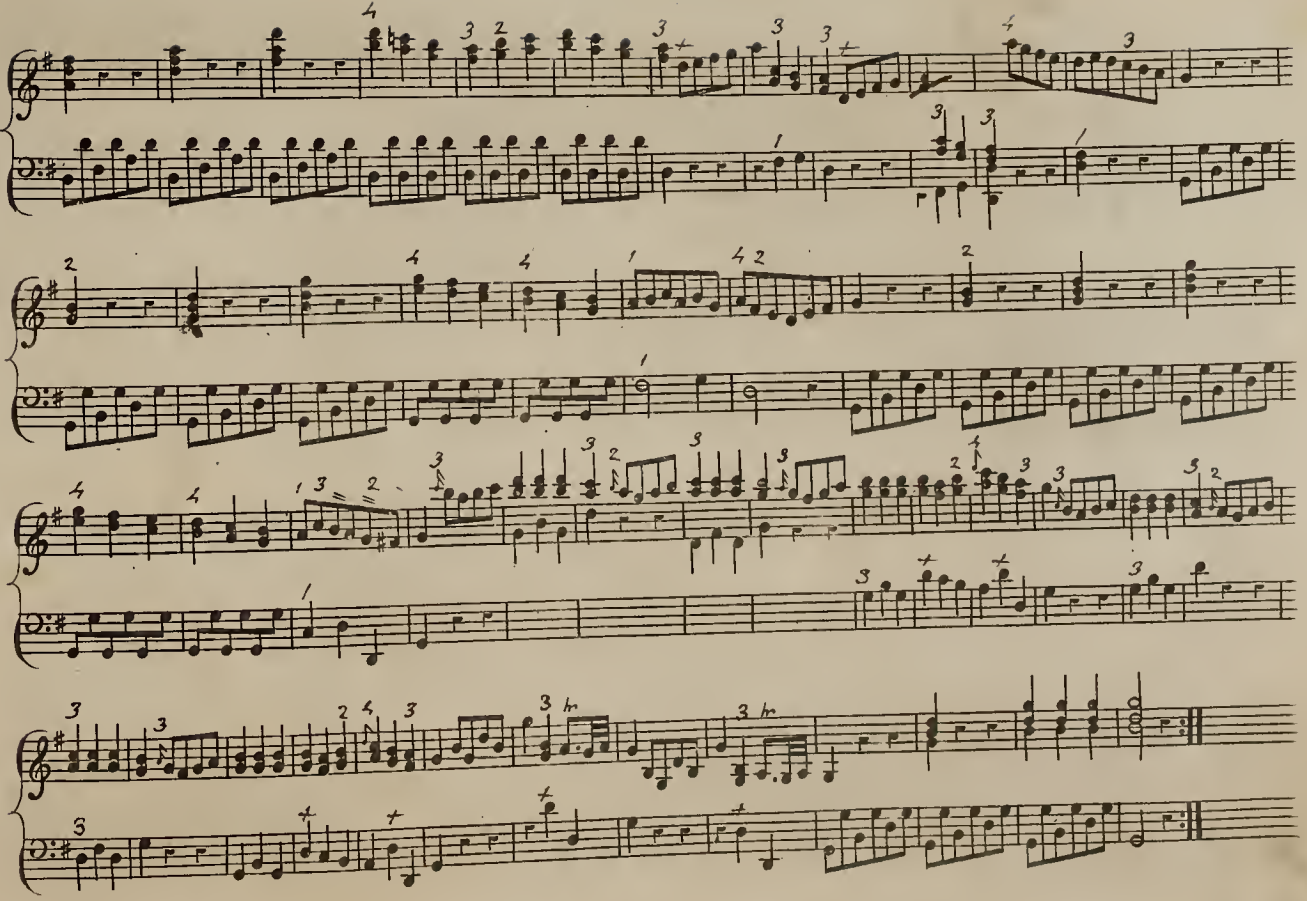


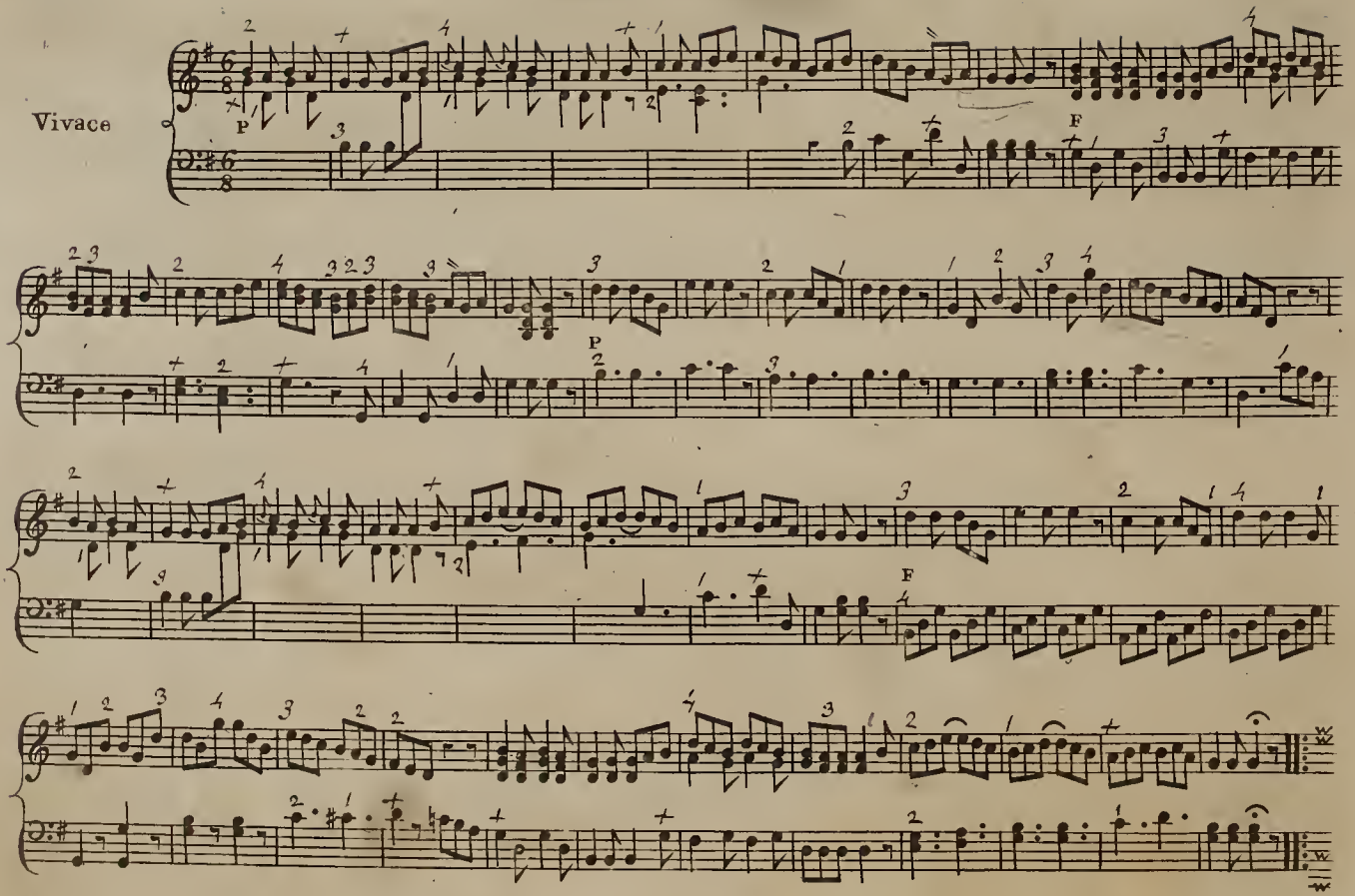

Vivace

LESSON VII

Allegro






Vivace
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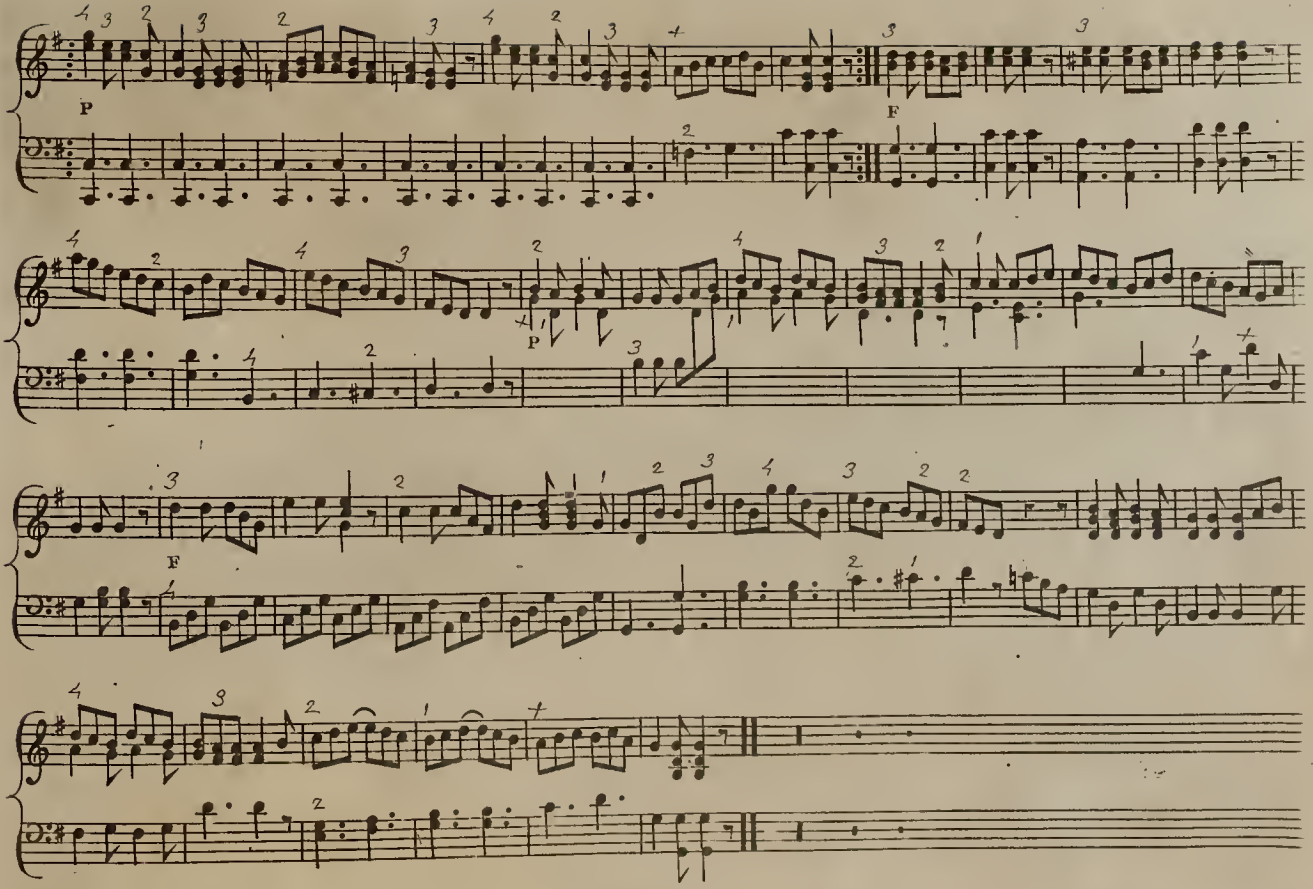
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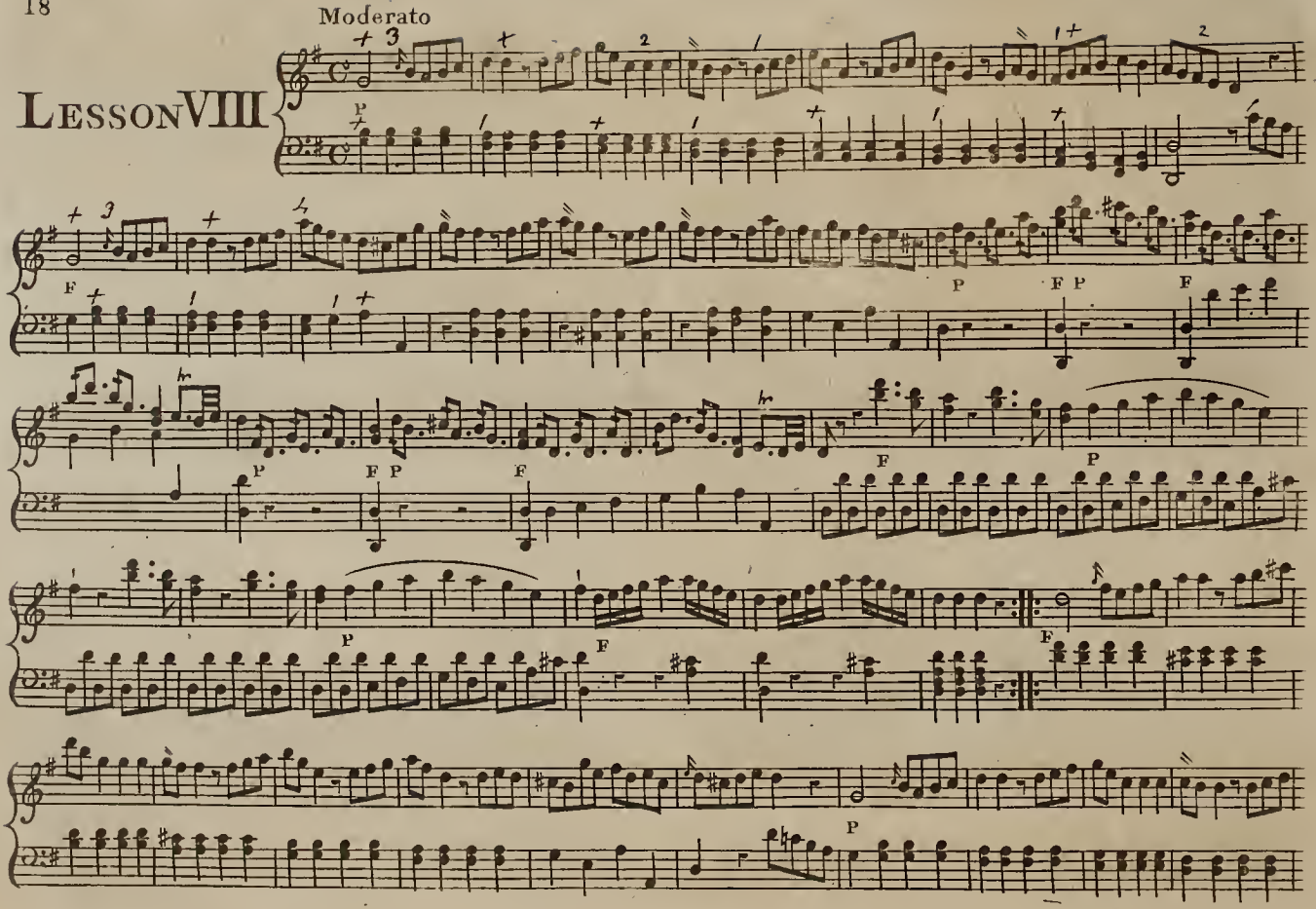

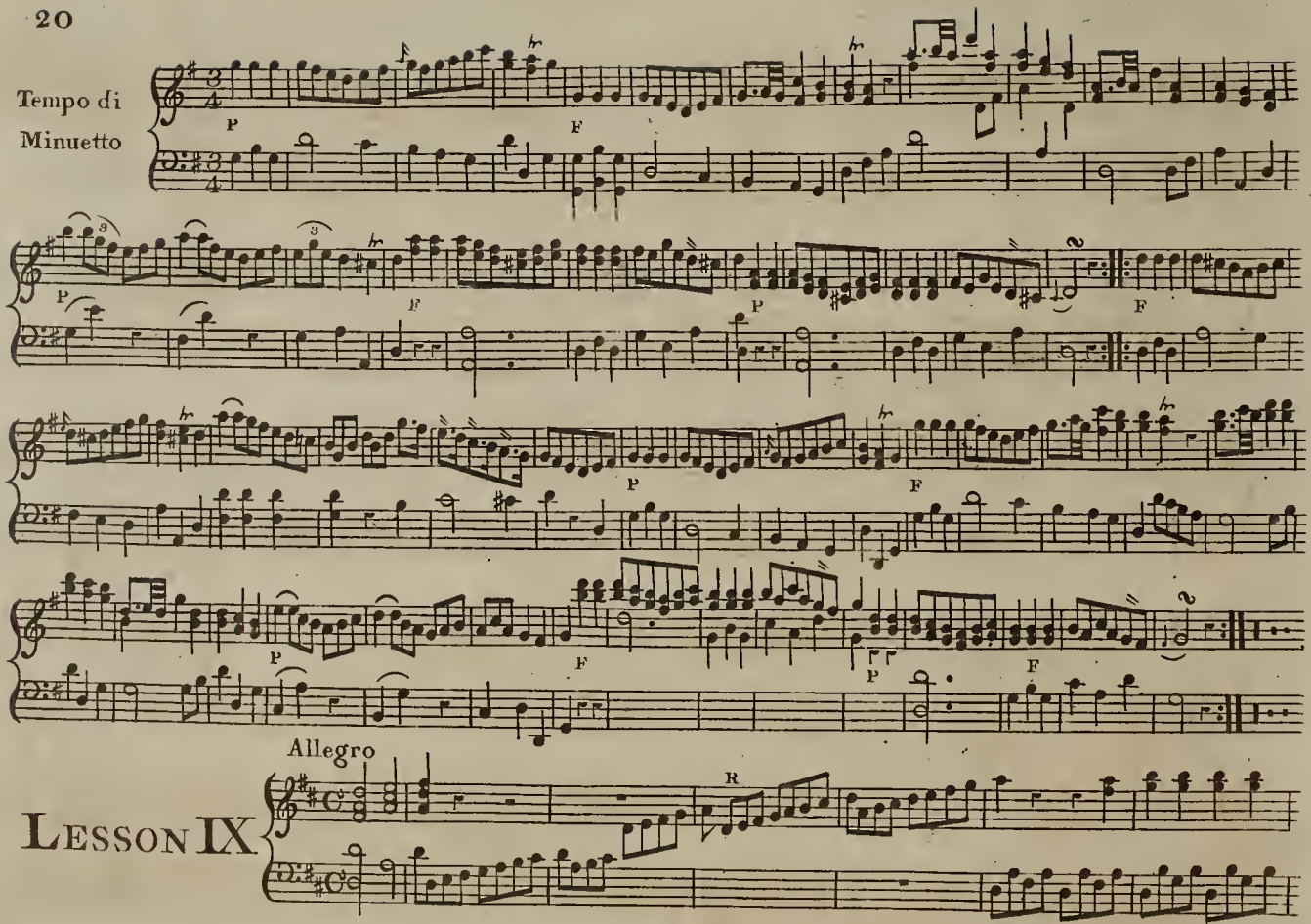
Tempo di
Minuetto
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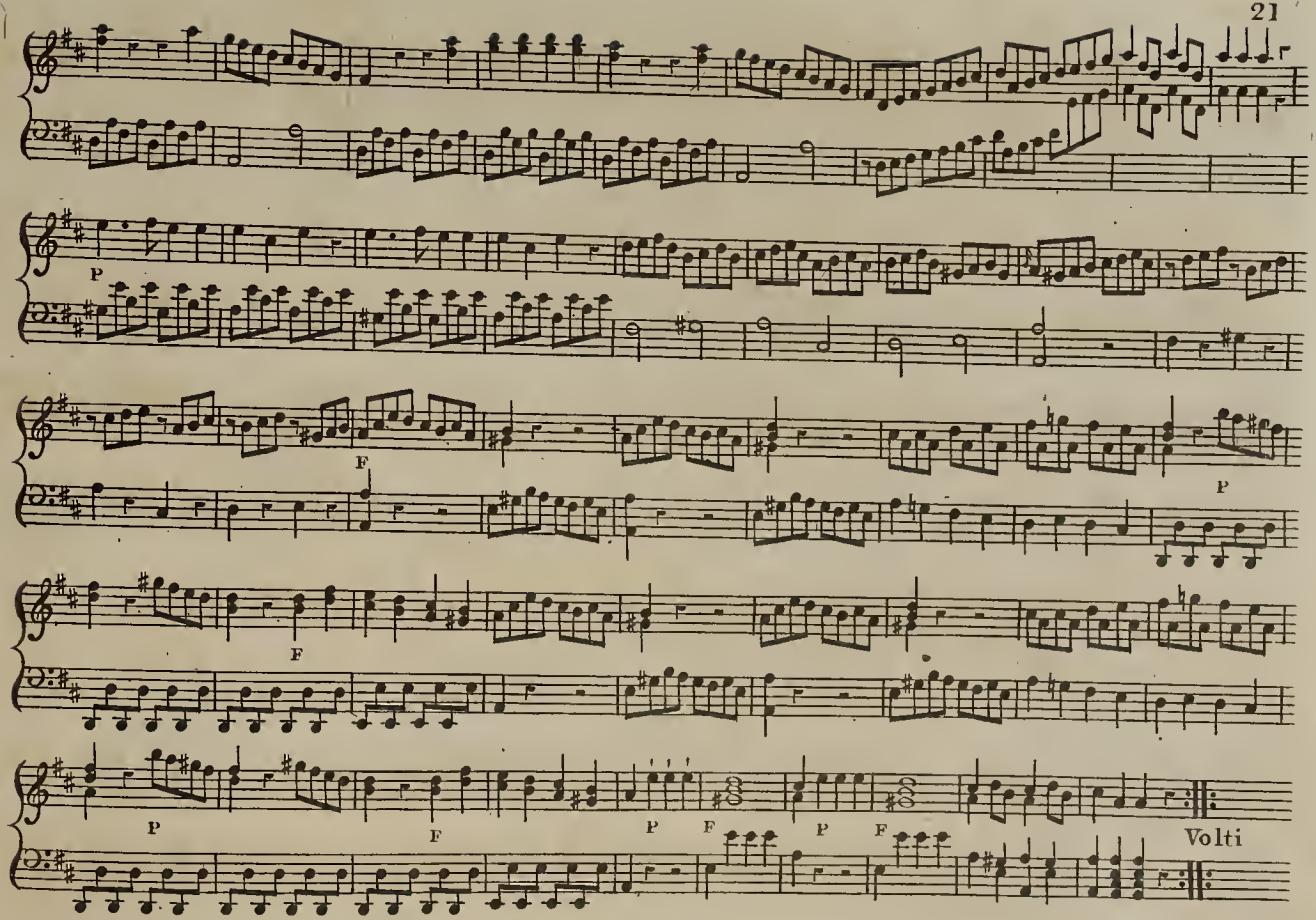
Allegro
R
LESSON IX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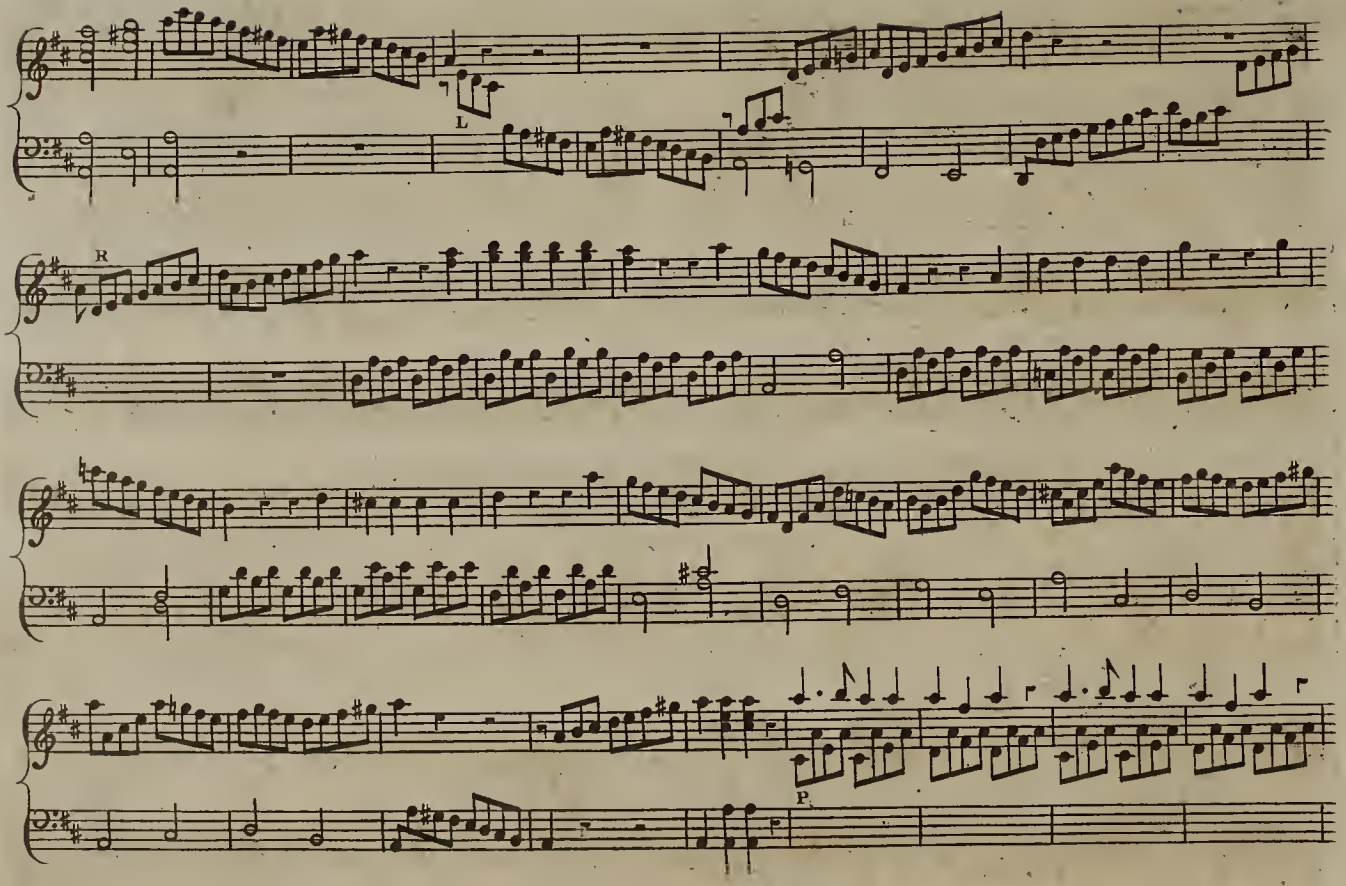
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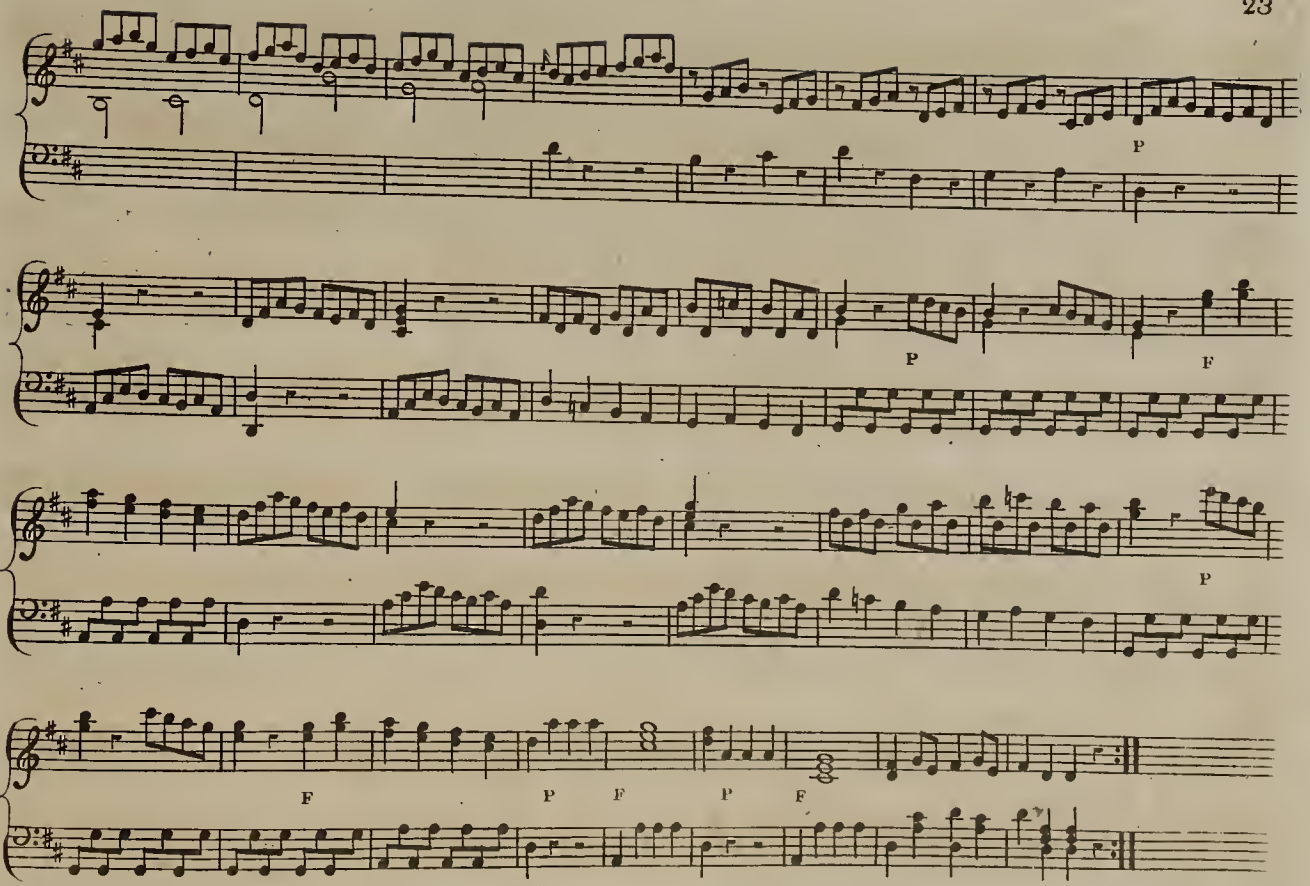
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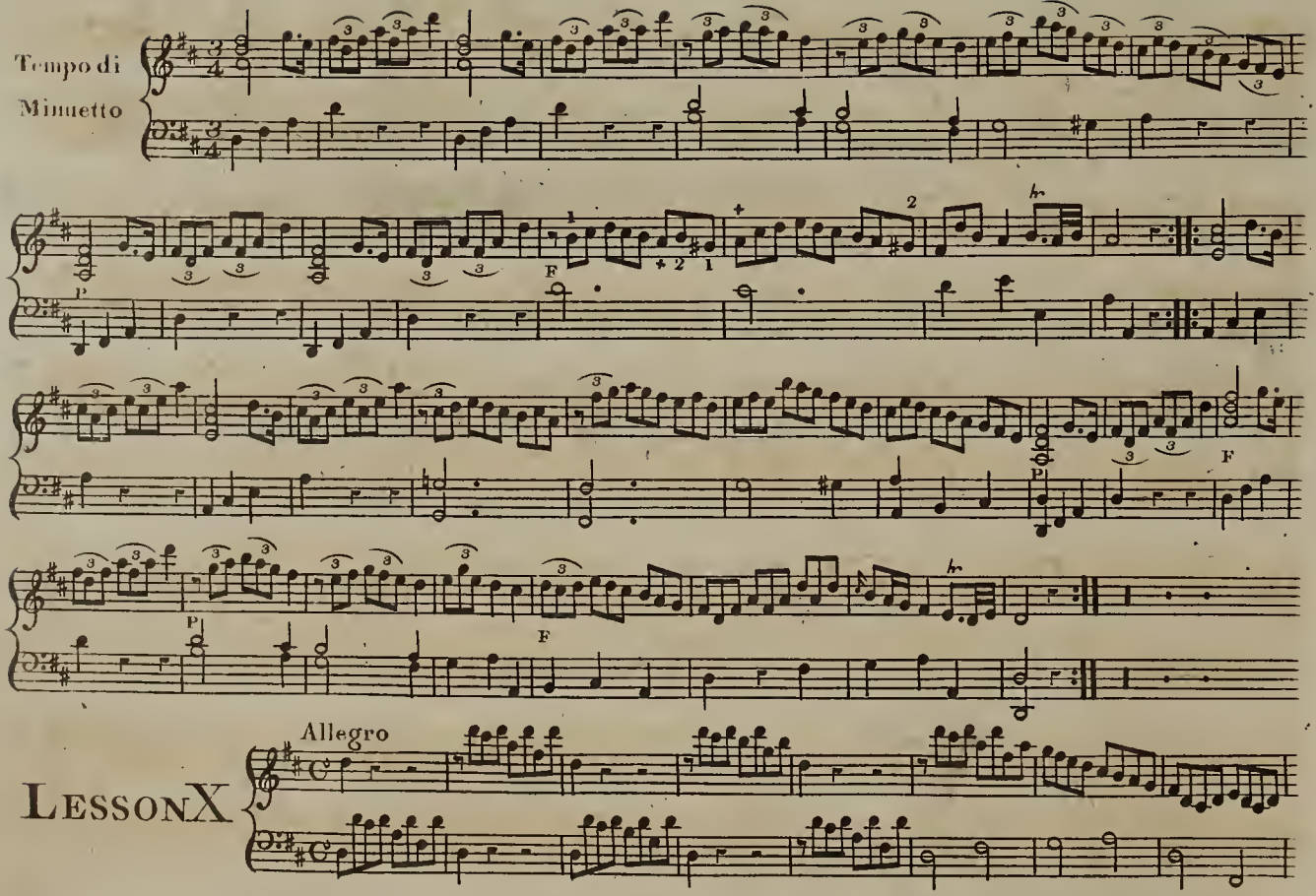
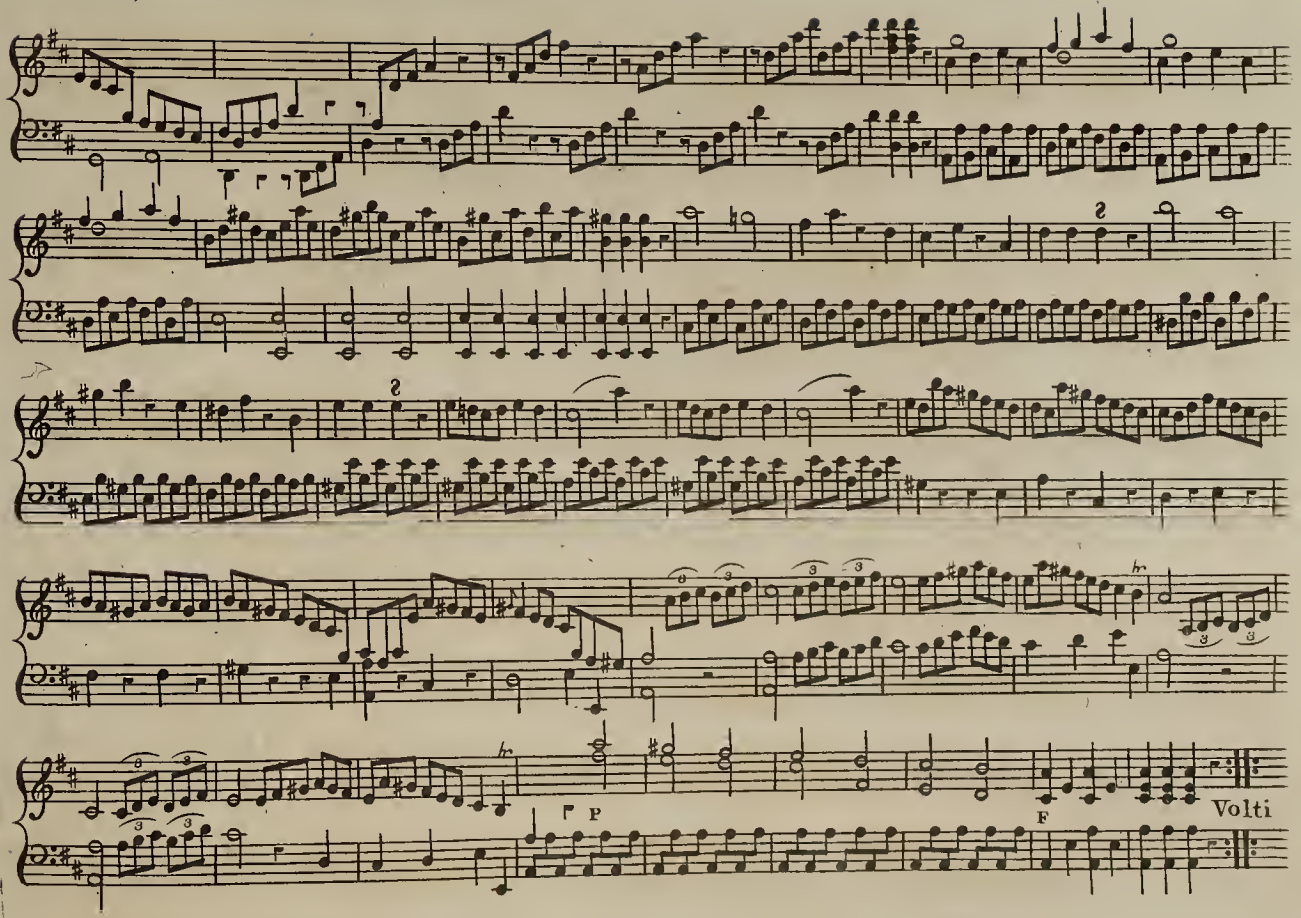


LESSON X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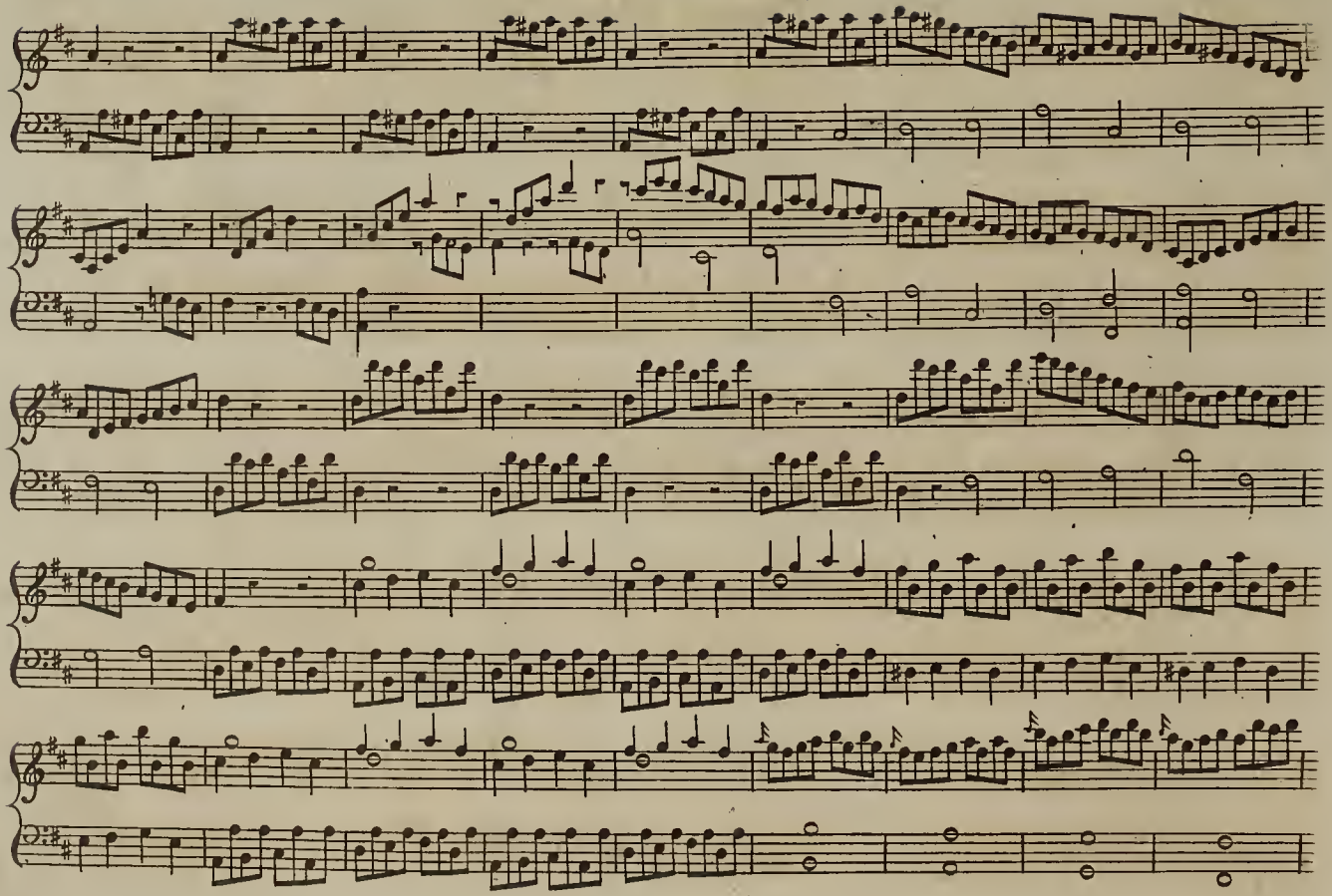
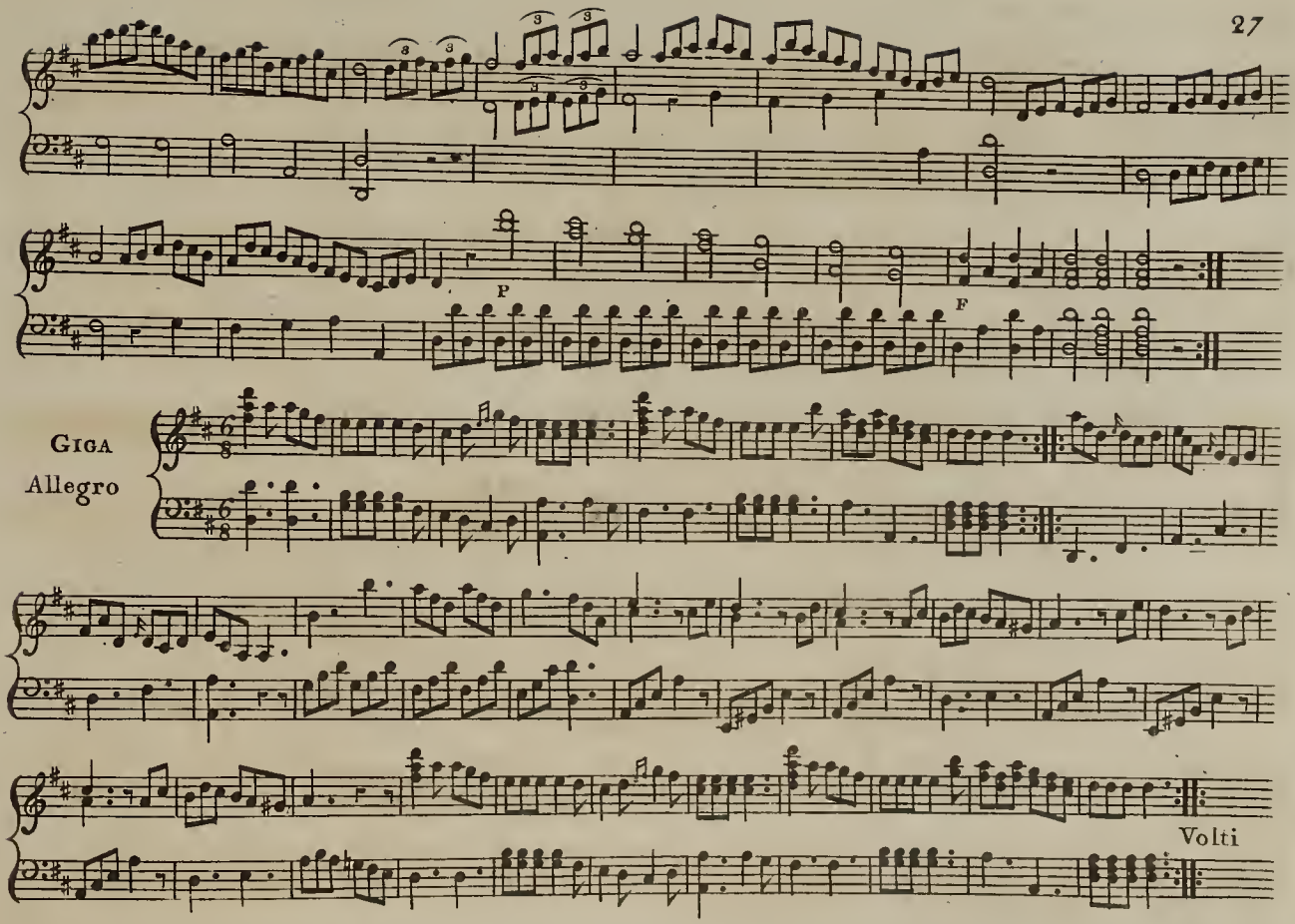
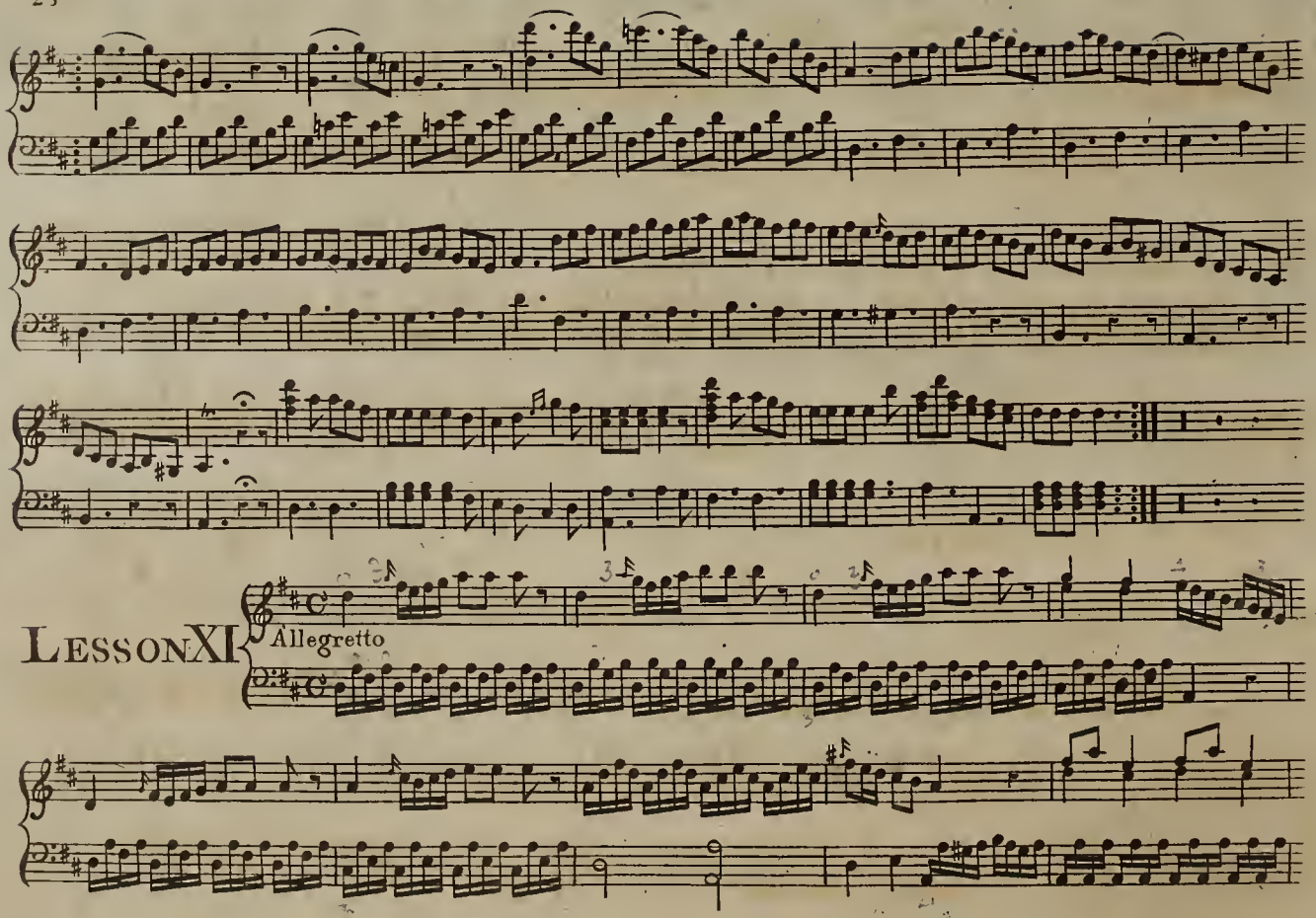
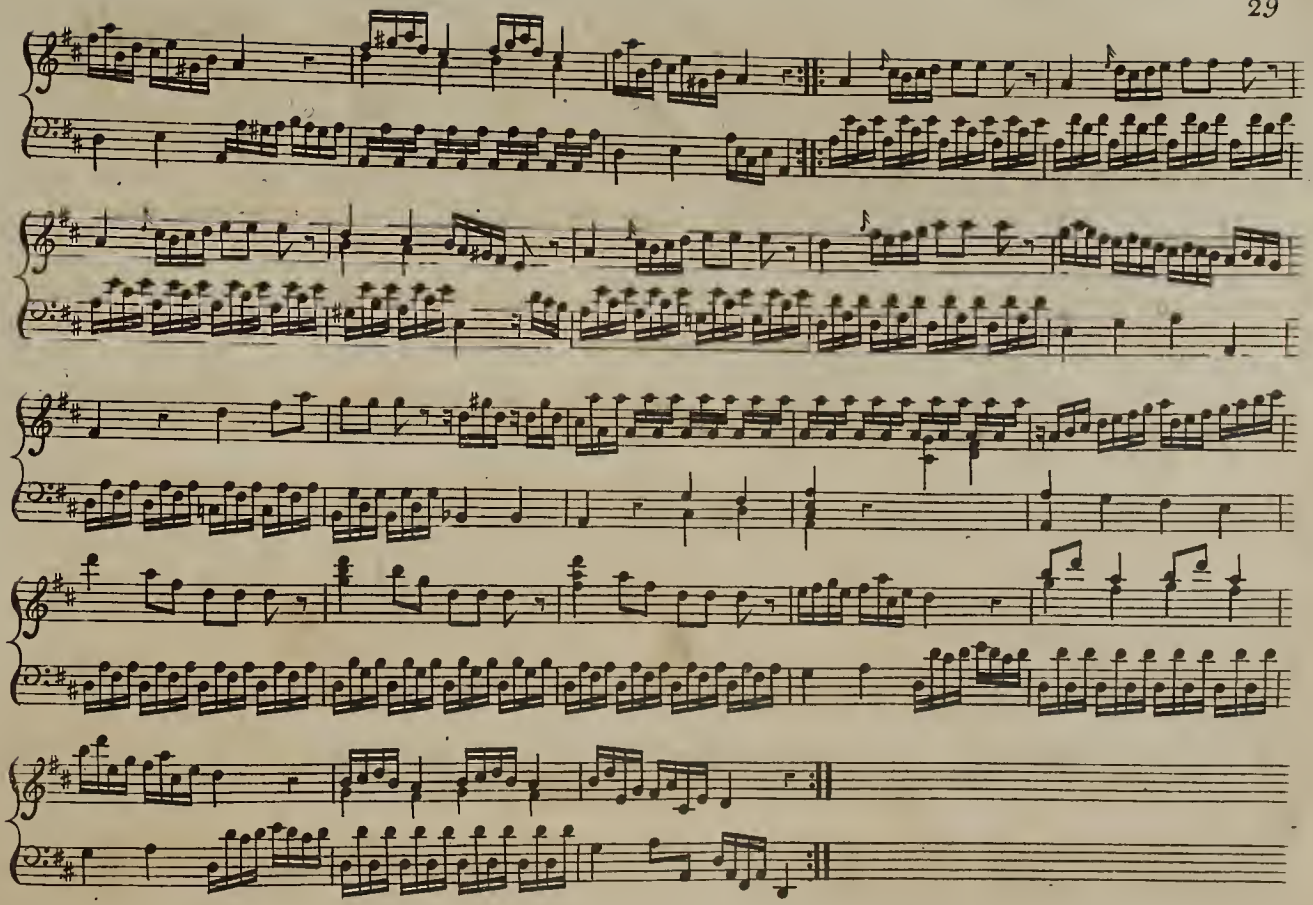
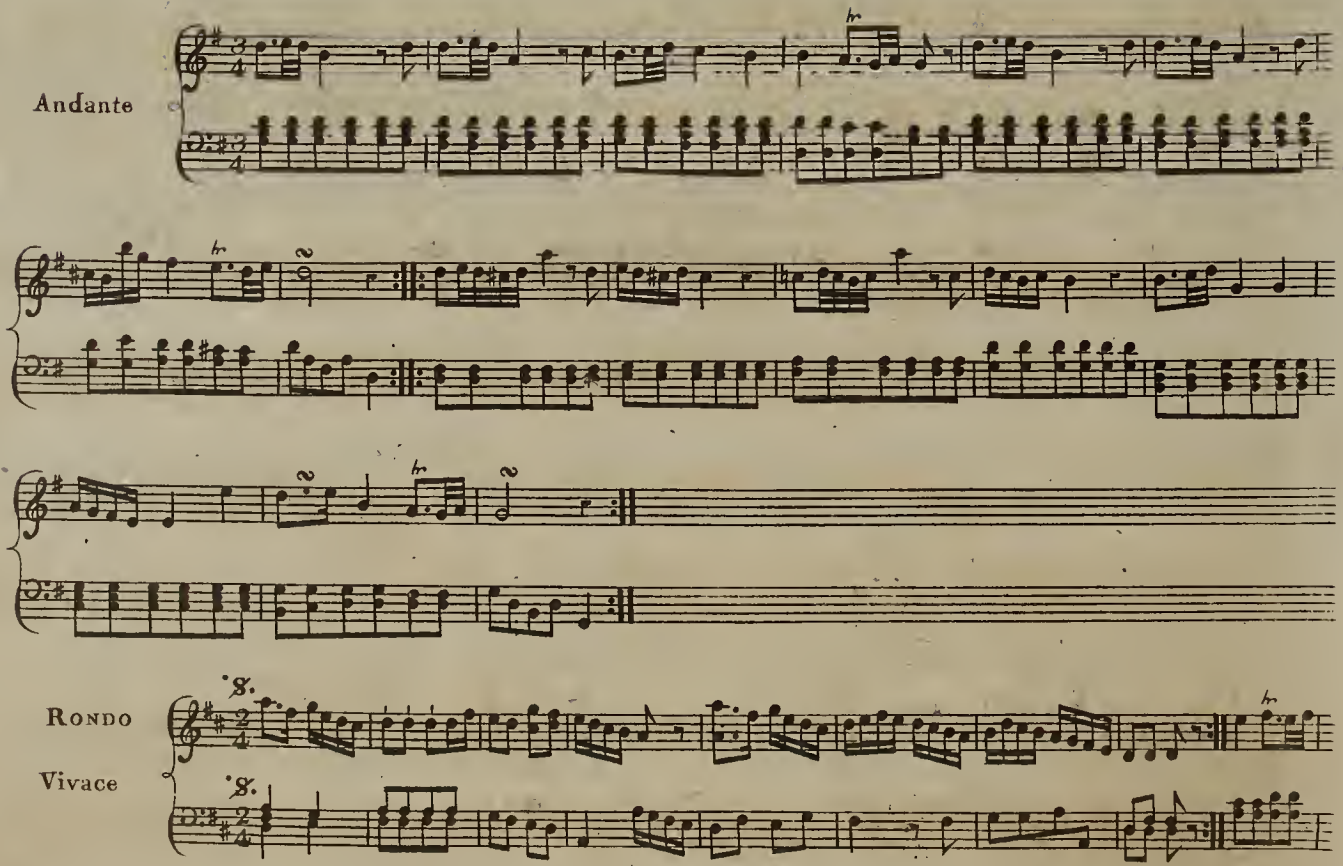
Volti

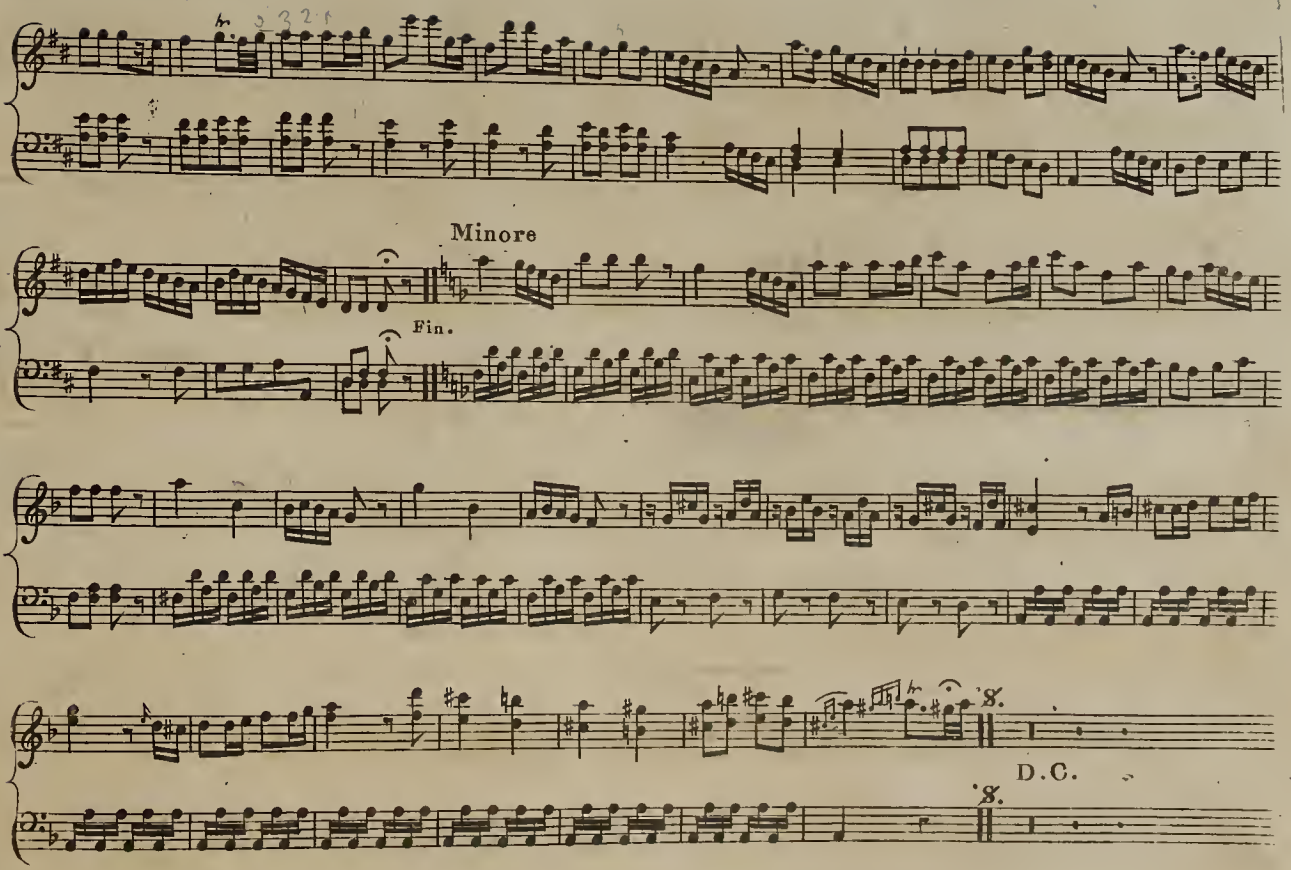



P
F
Giga
Allegro
Volti


LESSON XI
Allegretto

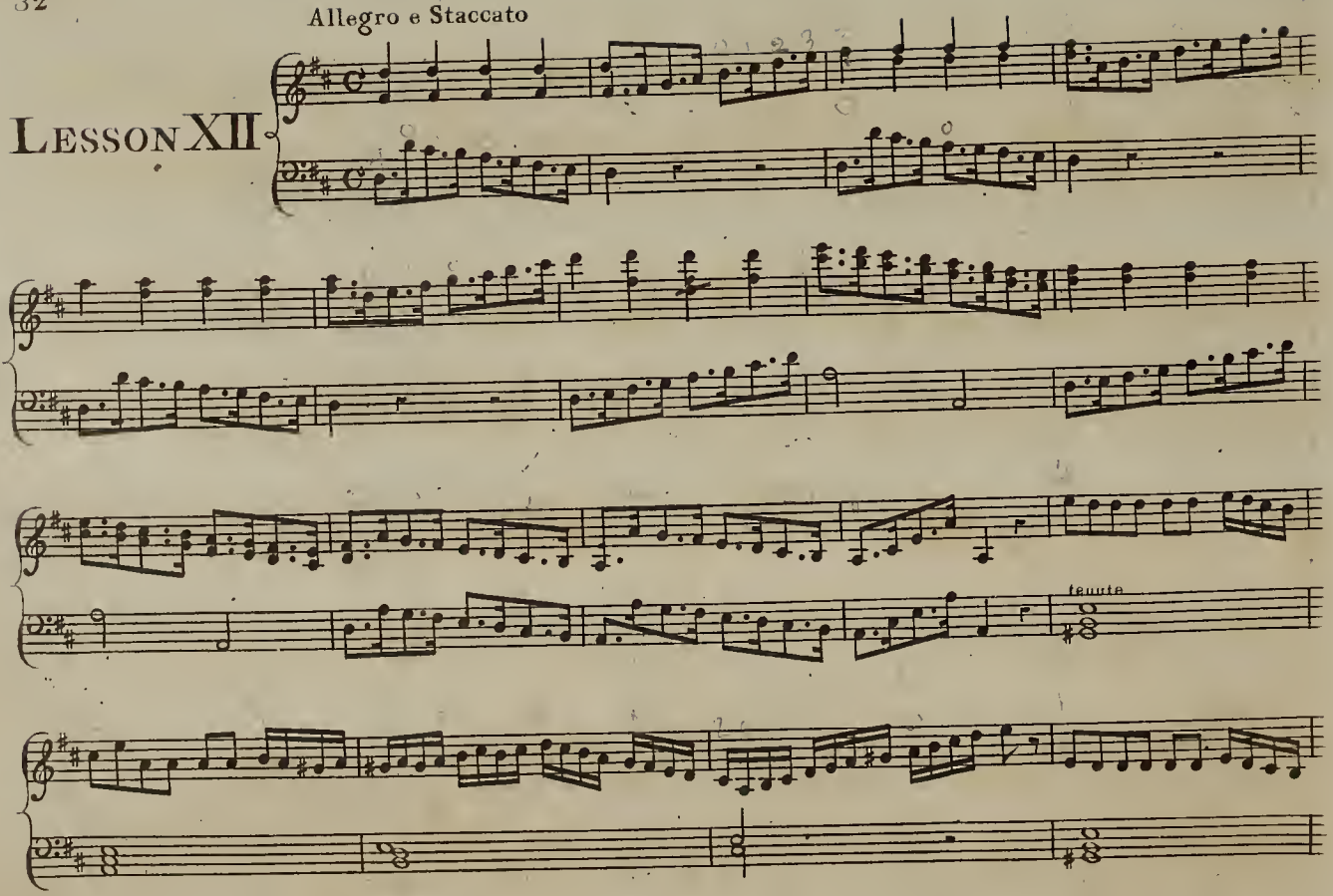


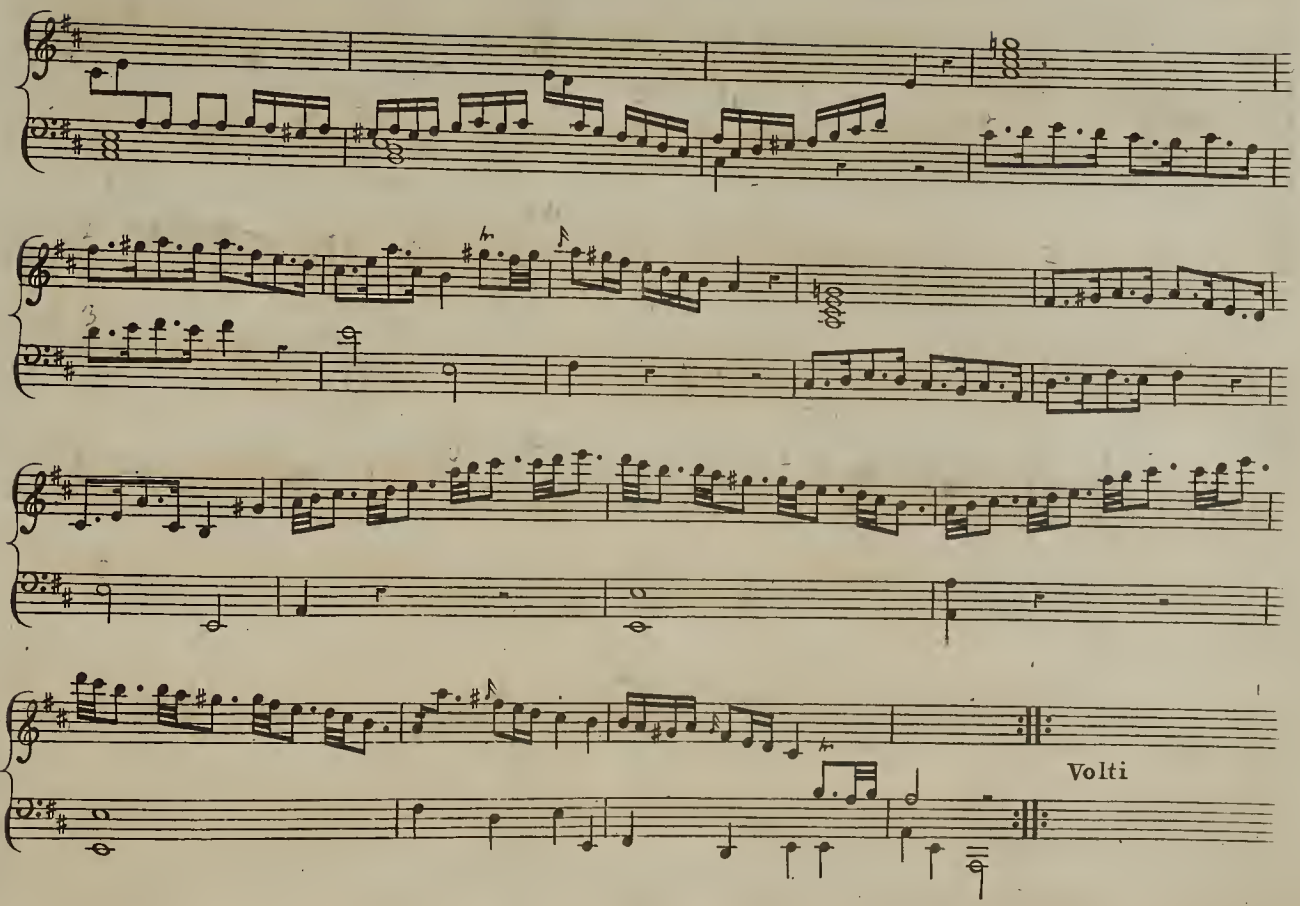

Andante
Rondo
Vivace

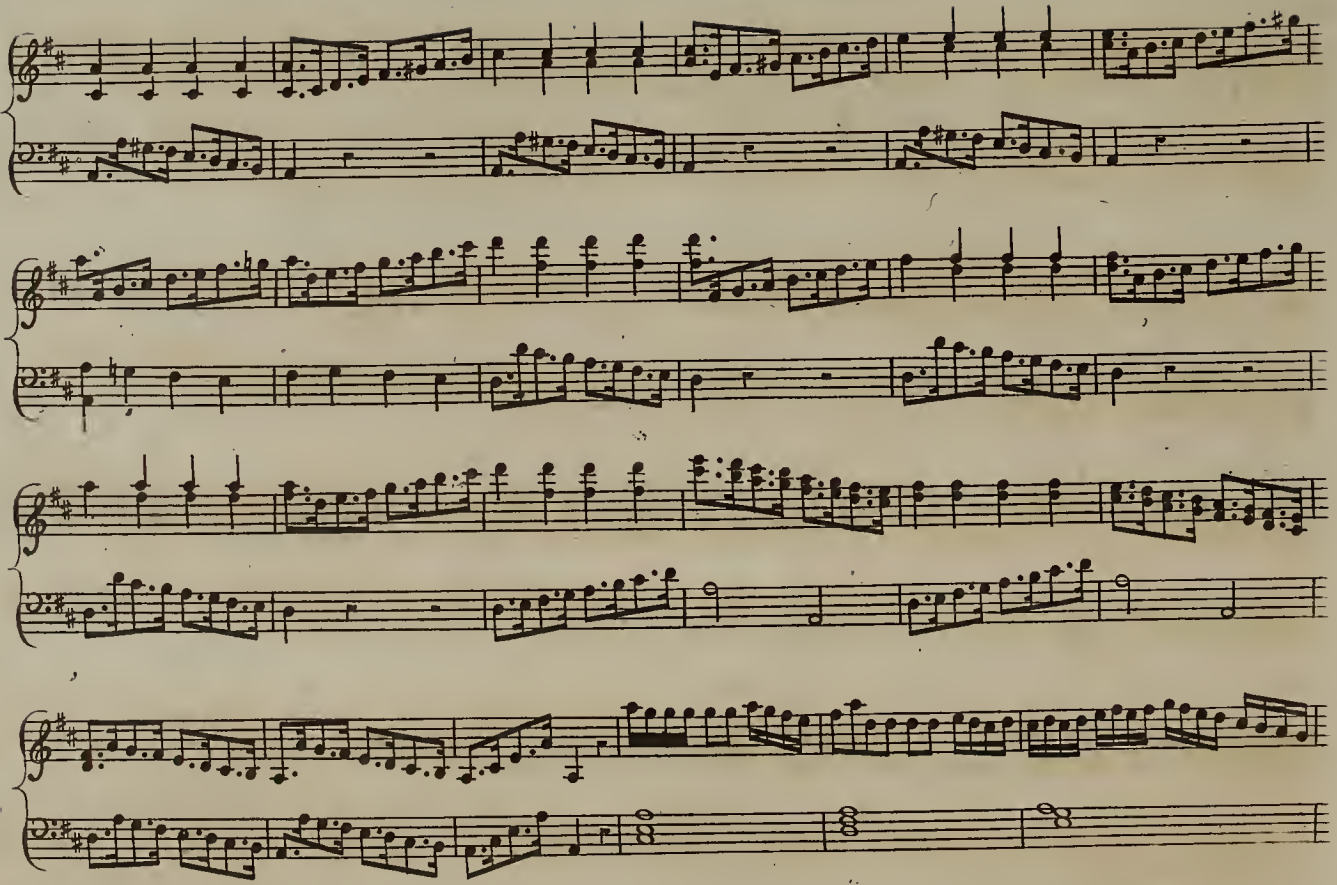

Minore
Fin.
8.
D.C.
8.

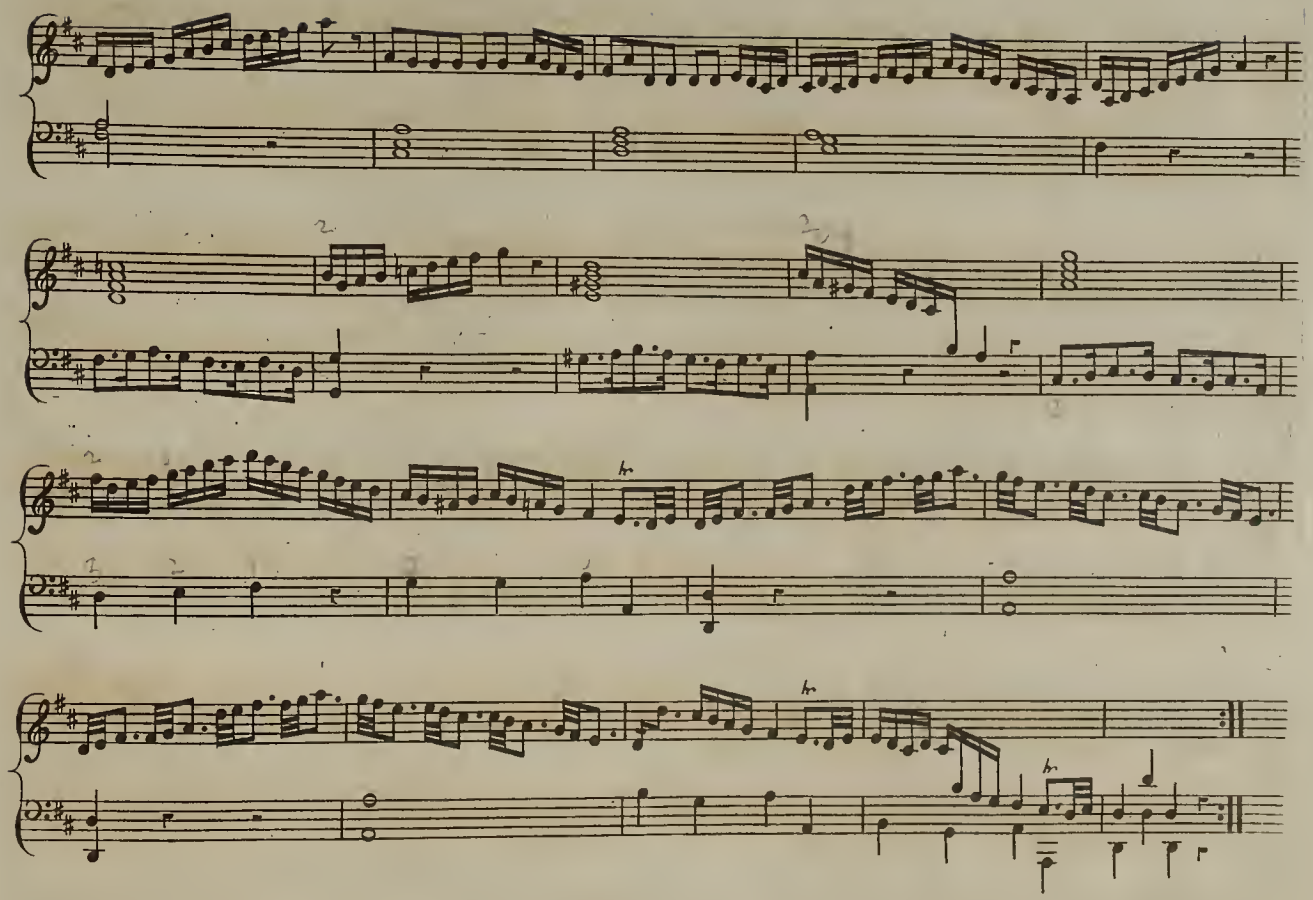
Allegro e Staccato

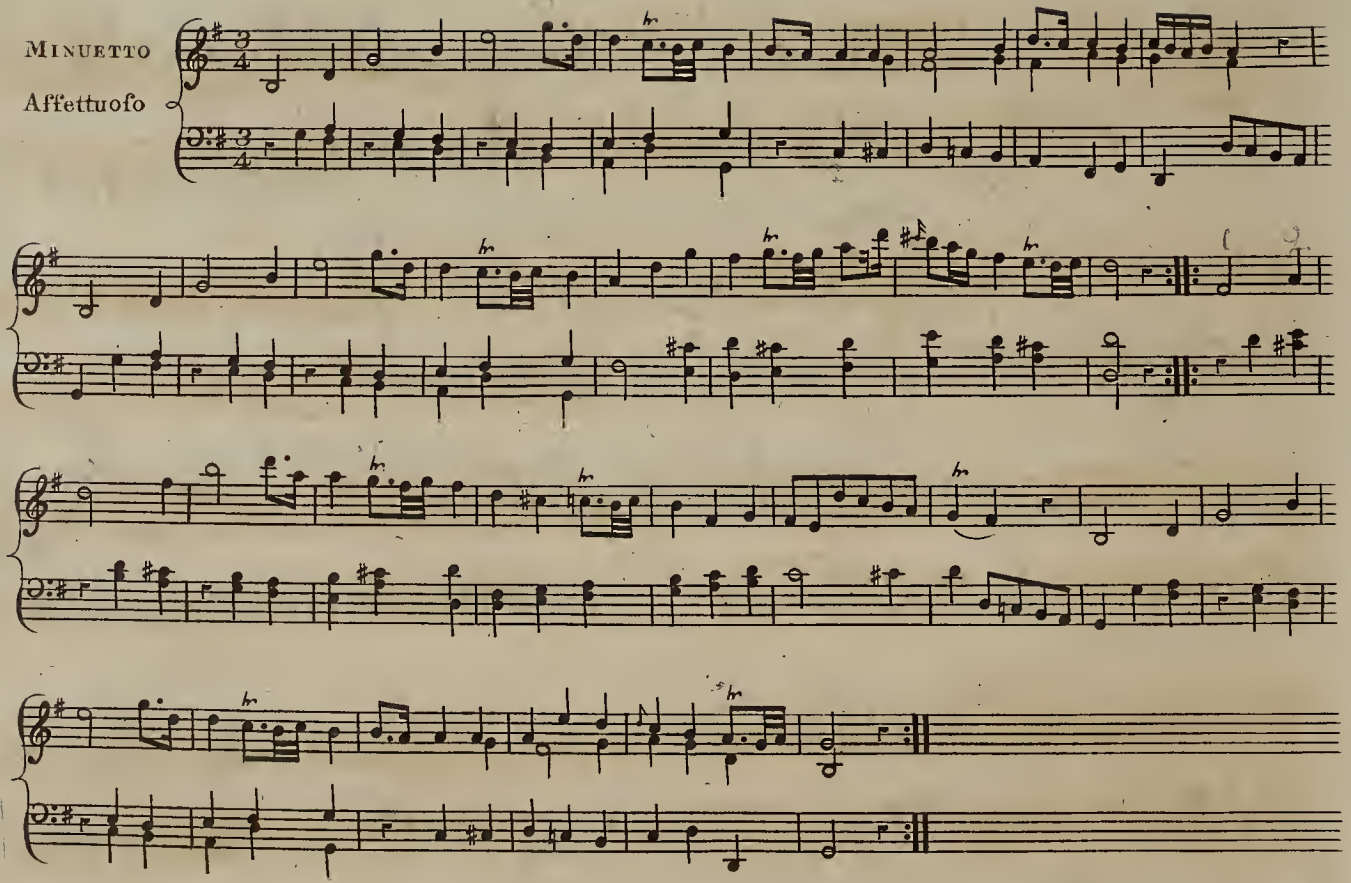
LESSON XII

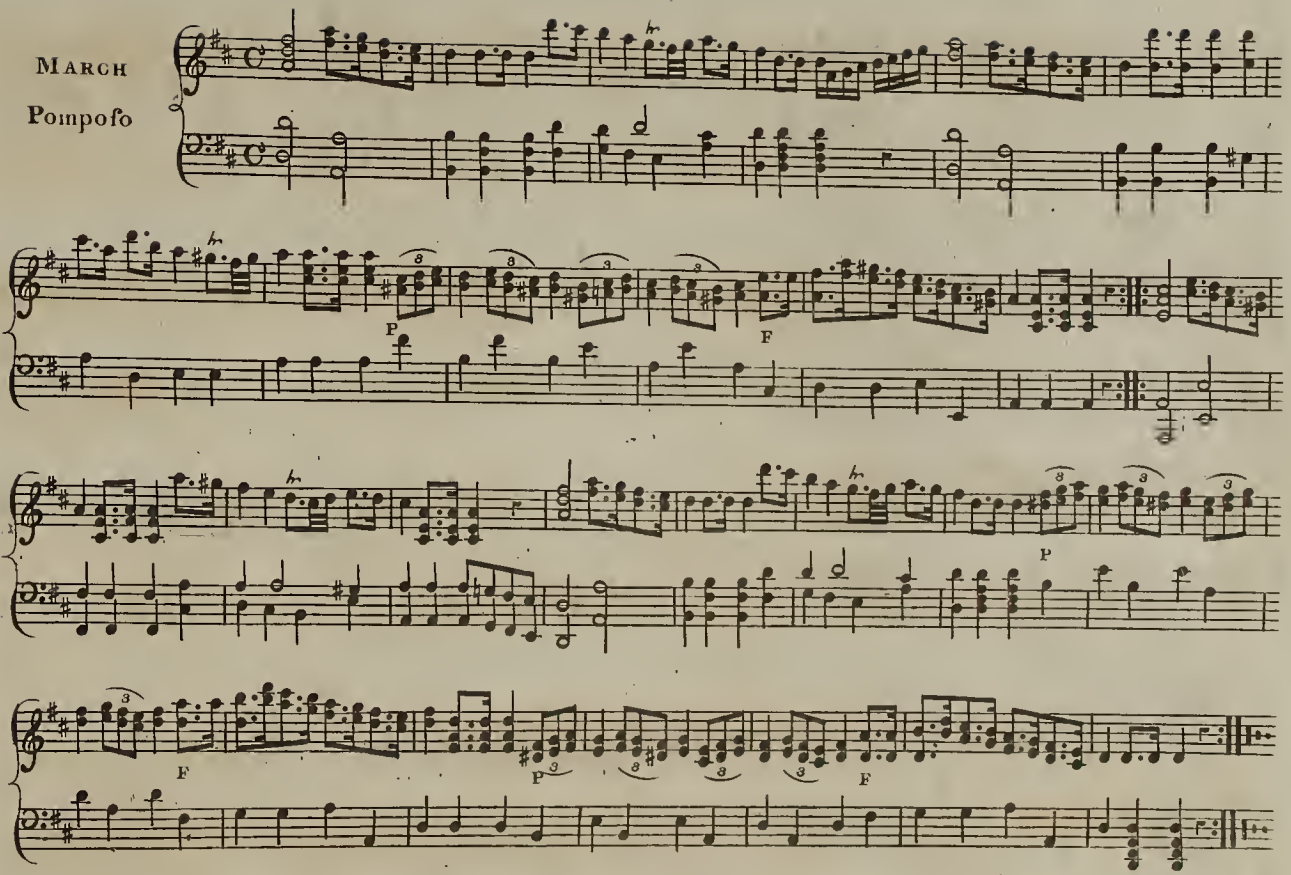



Volti






Minuetto
Affettuofo


MARCH
Pompoſo
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F
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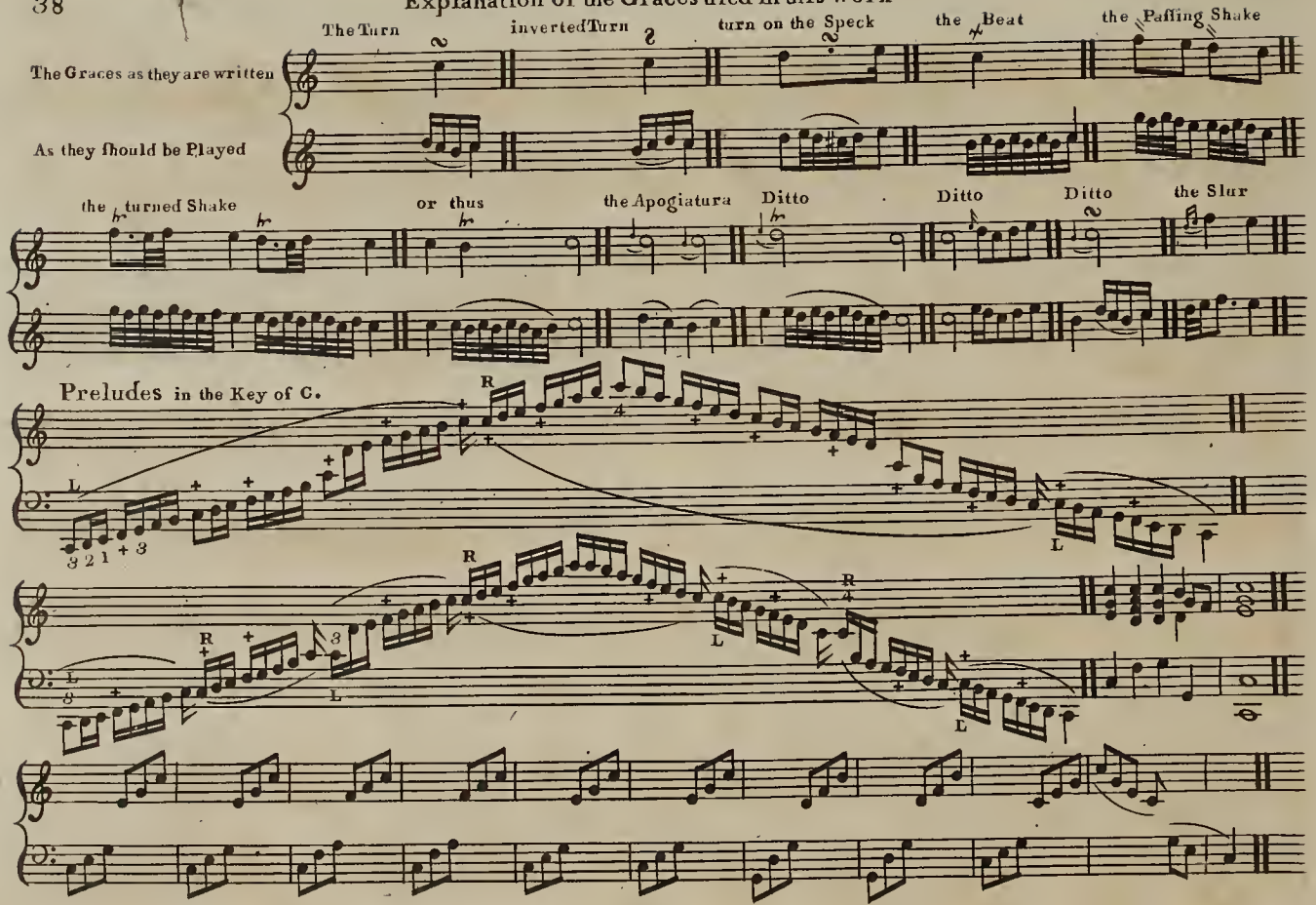
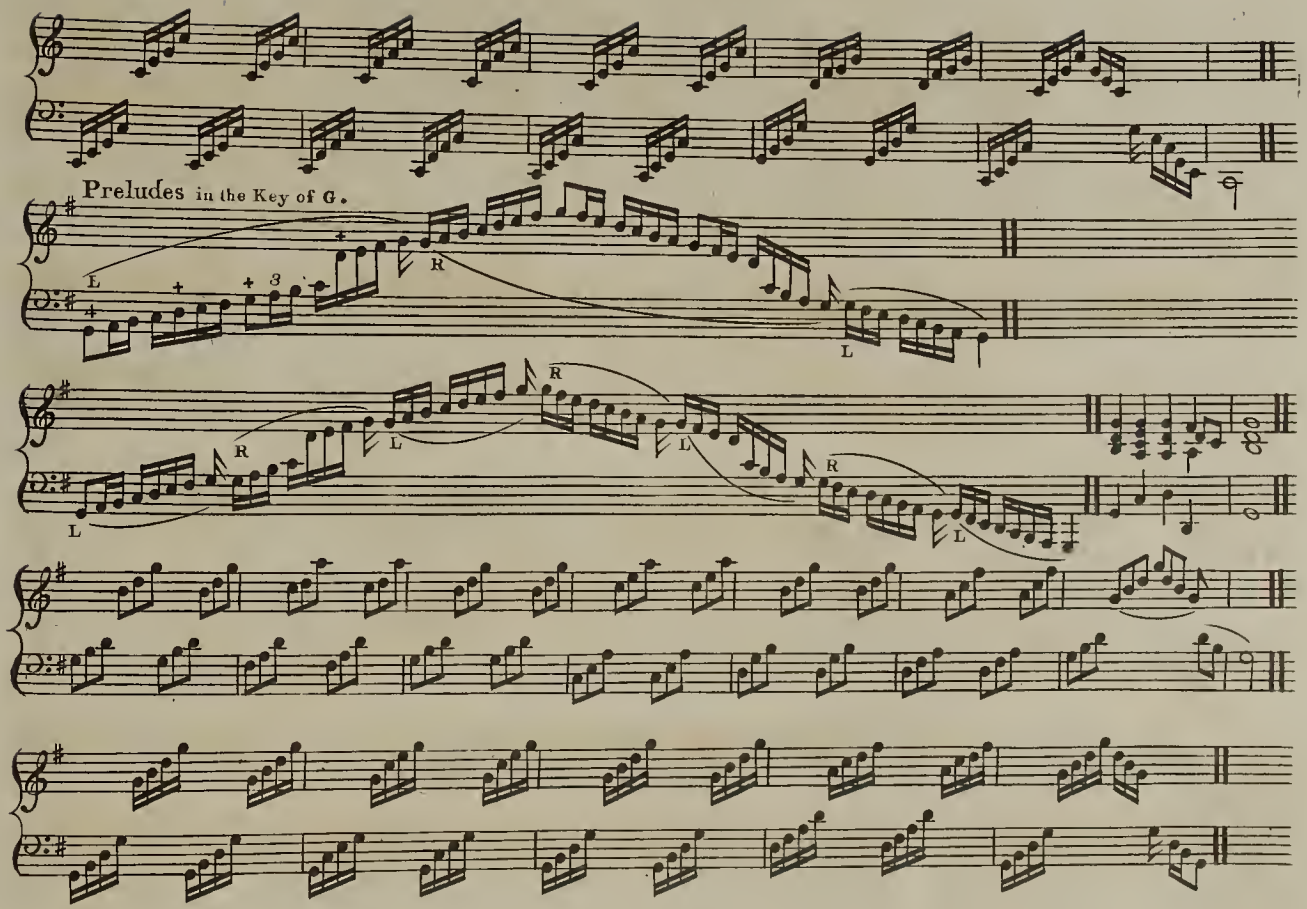
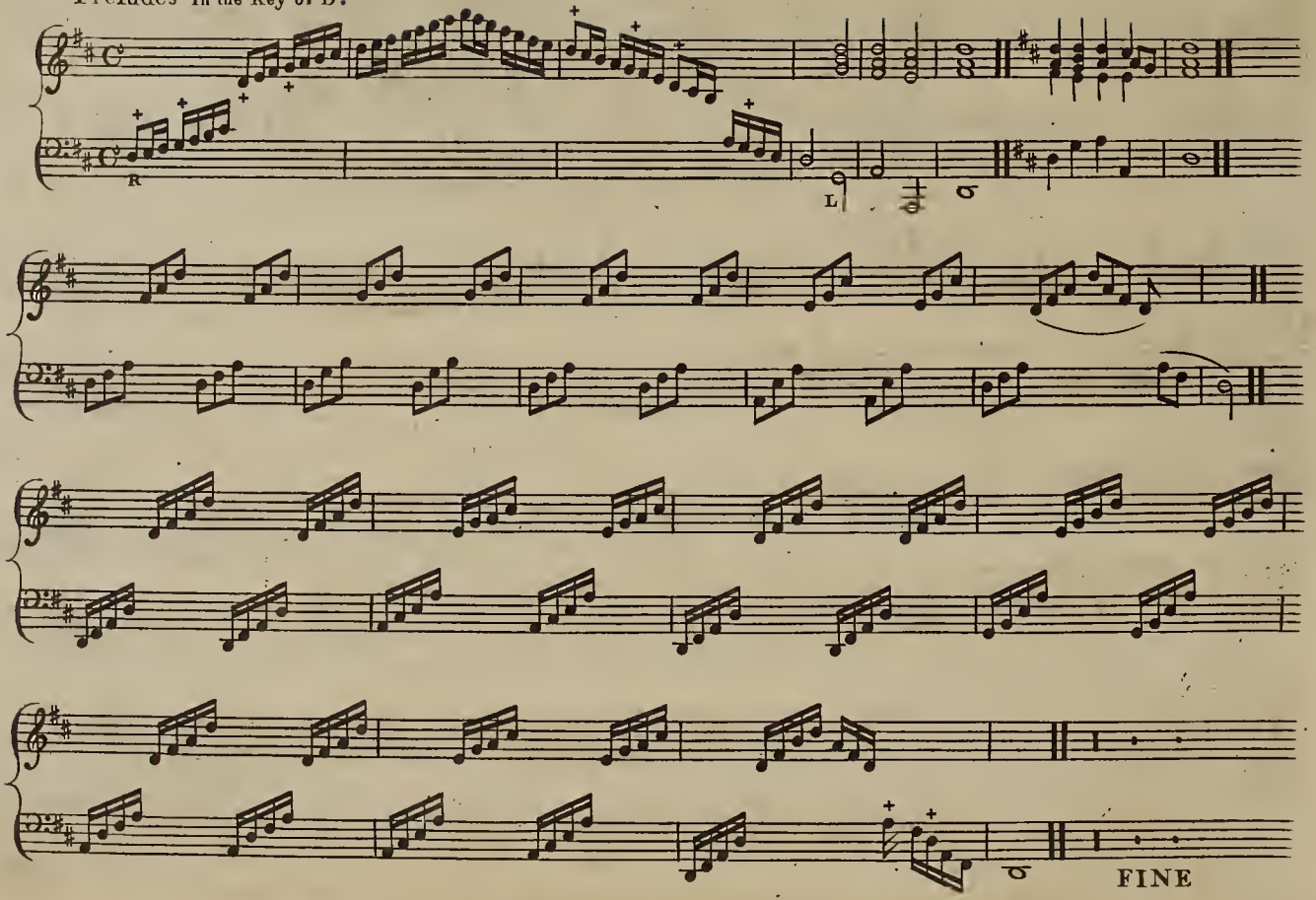
F

Explanation of the Graces used in this Work




Preludes in the Key of G.
L
R
3

Preludes In the Key of D.



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