SUITE IV

From 'Old Welsh Children's Songs'

For Guitar

Tony Eastwood

Suite IV

1) Y Fasged Wye	(G major)
2) Bu Farw'r Cathod	(C minor)
3) Ton Ton Ton	(B minor)

Songs 2 and 3 are taken from *Sixteen Fantasy Arrangements of Old Welsh Children's Songs (2015).*

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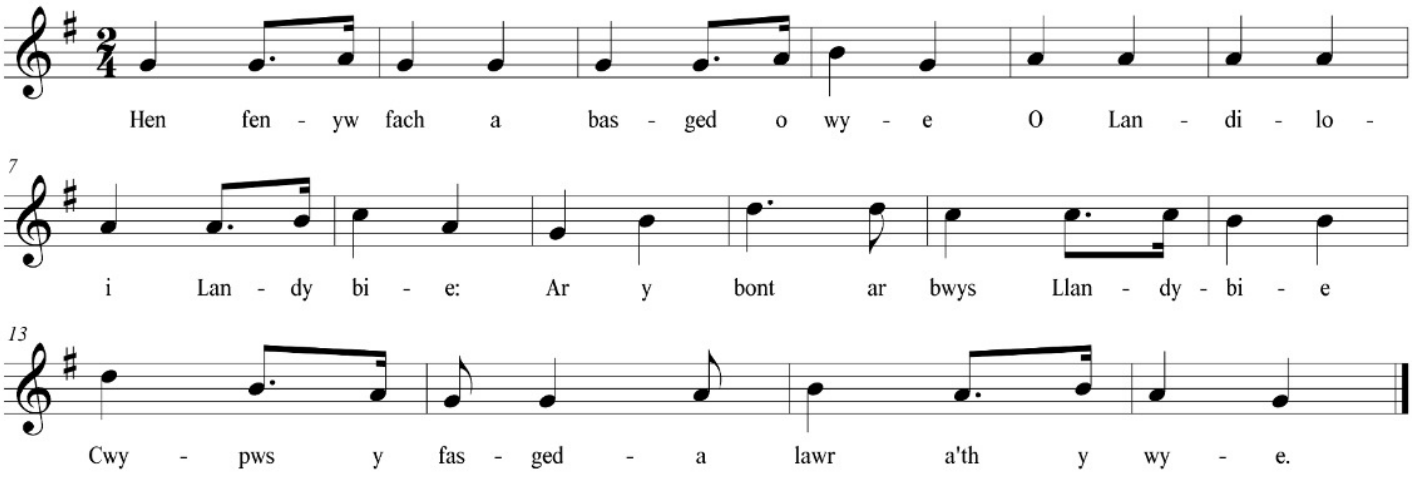
(18) Y Fasged Wye

Hen wraig fach â basged o wye
Hen wraig fach â basged o wye
o Landeilo i Landybïe.
Ar y bont ar bwys Llandybïe
fe gwmpodd y fasged
a lawr aeth yr wye.

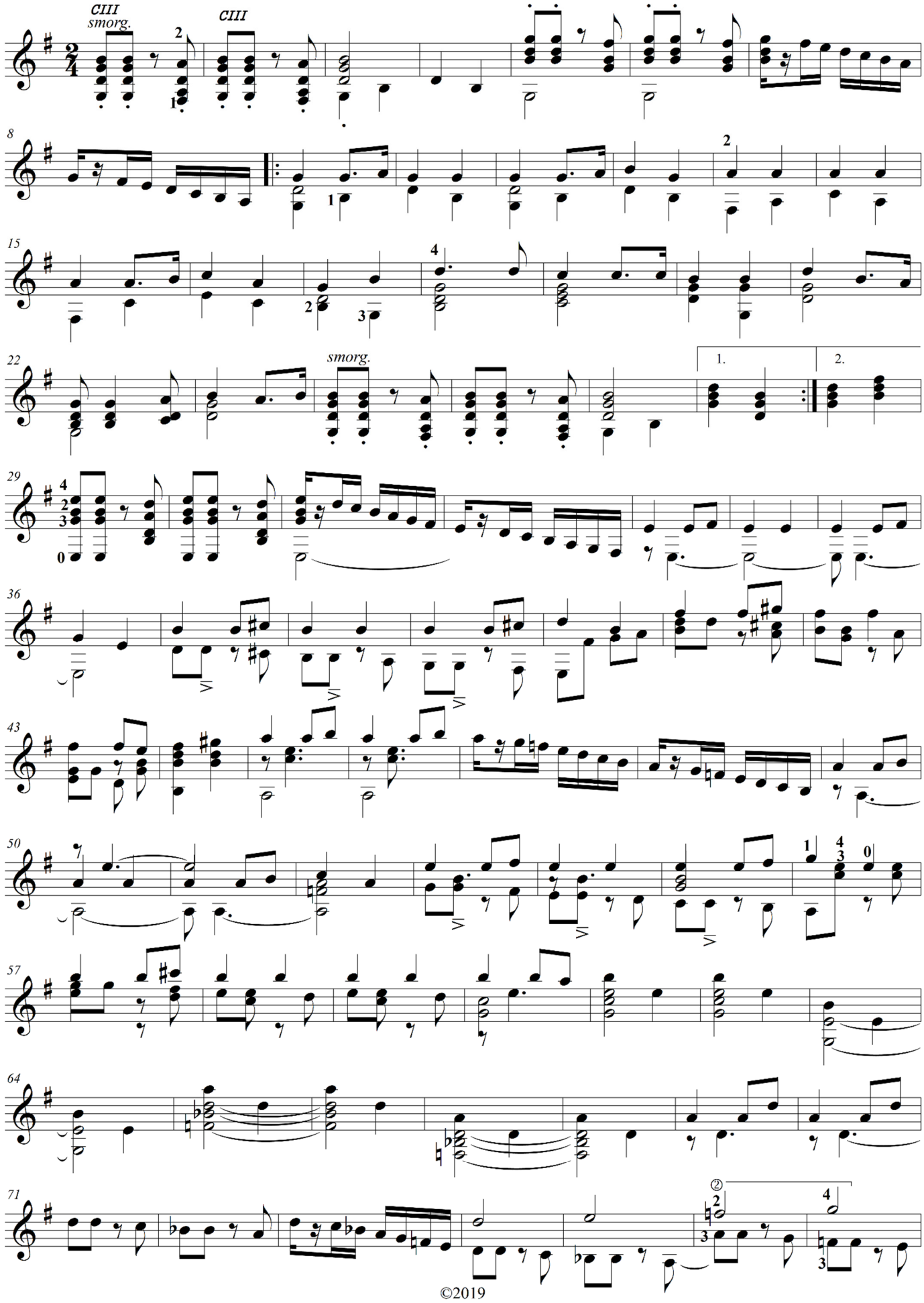
A typical children's song – the little old ladyon her way to market with her basket of eggs – when down she falls. No doubt a great game to play with a small child!

Y Fasged Wye



Y Fasged Wye

Trad. arr. Tony Eastwood



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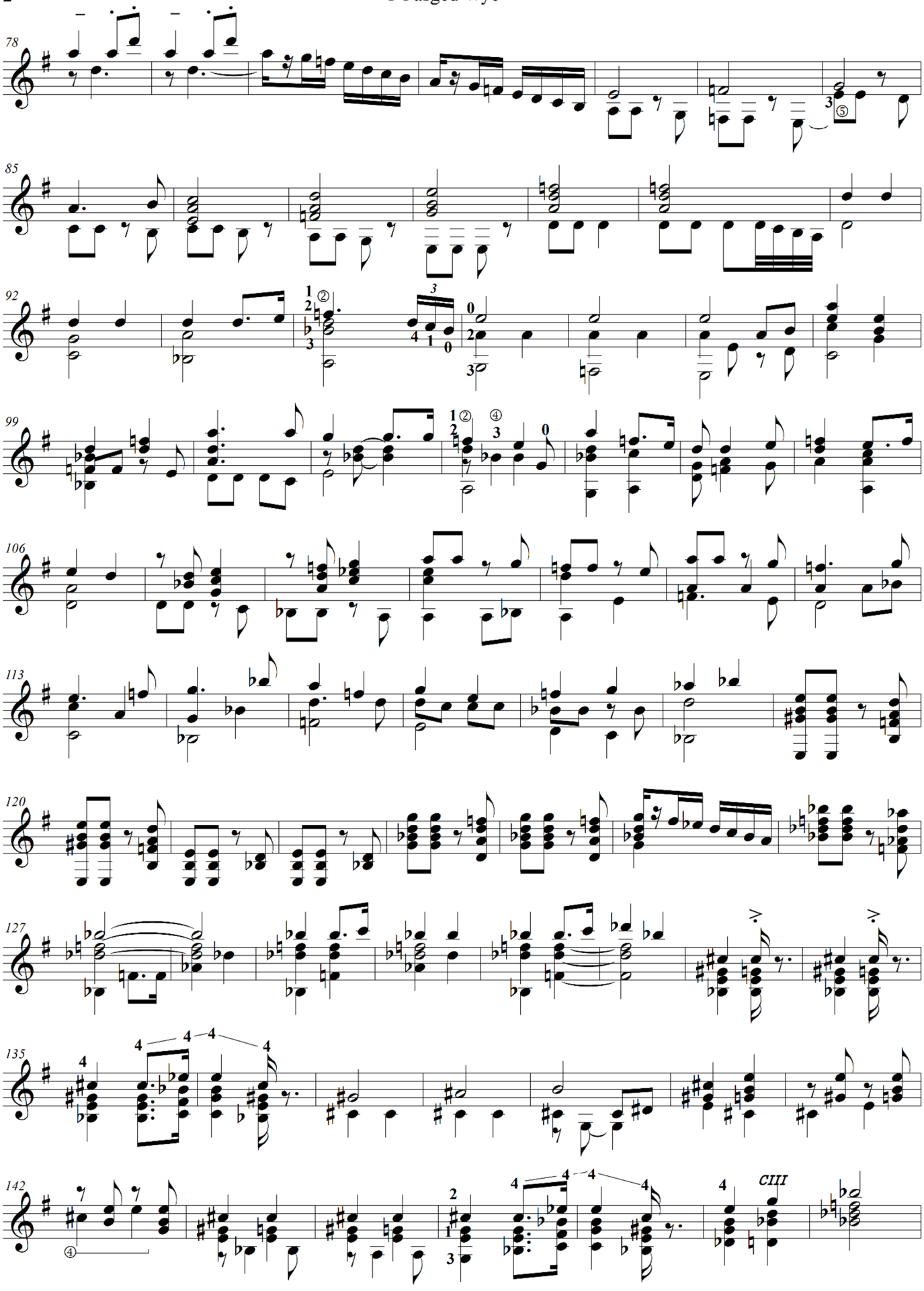
Y Fasged Wye



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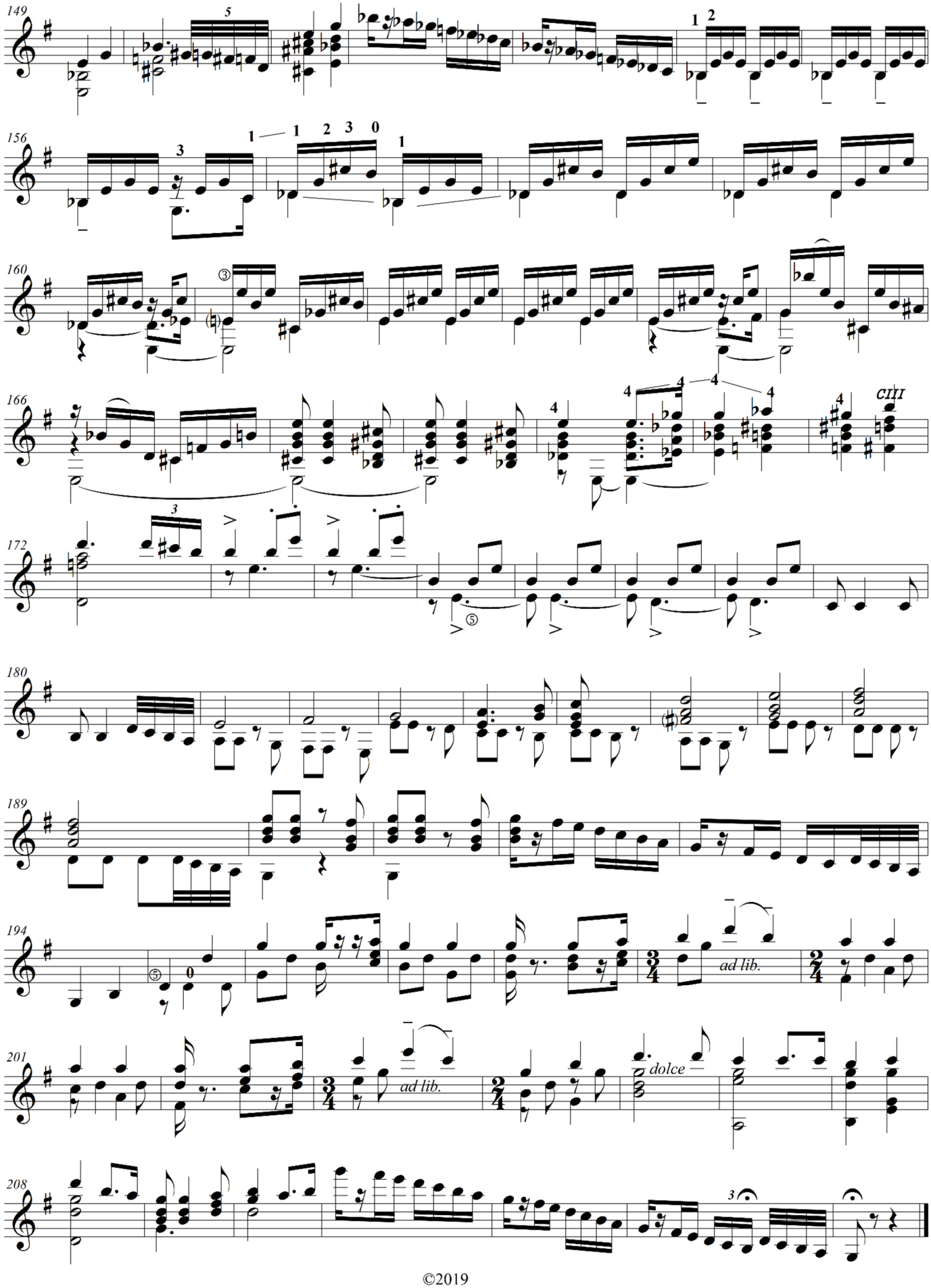

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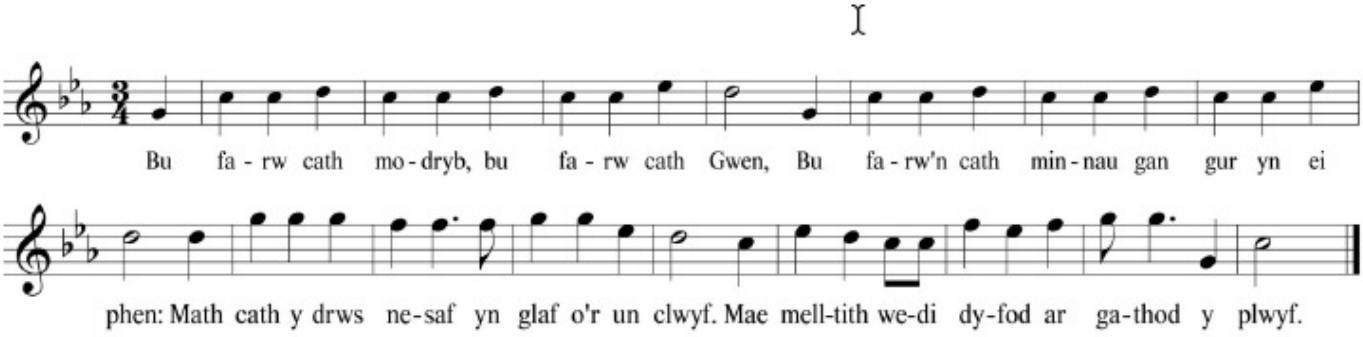
(6) Bu Farw'r Cathod



Auntie's Cat has died
Gwen's Cat has died
Our cat has died of a headache
Next door's cat is ill with the same sickness
A curse has come upon the cats of the parish

Surely one of the weirdest songs regularly sung anywhere and not just in Wales. Musically, I'm greatly indebted to Malher's first Symphony for the idea of a mock funeral. In Malher's work the animals carry the coffin of the Huntsman to a minor key arrangement of the tune we know as *Frere Jacques*.

In my setting undoubtedly the mice are carrying the coffin of the cat. It's an idea that alternately thrills them with dread (bars 99-104, 119-122) , with dancing joy (bars 105-118), calm confidence (bar 25-29), triumphant victory (bars 122-26) and even sadness (bars 127-131) – to say nothing of the physical difficulty of carrying the heavy animal – bars 5-19 and especially stumbling under the weight of the bier in bars 154-169.

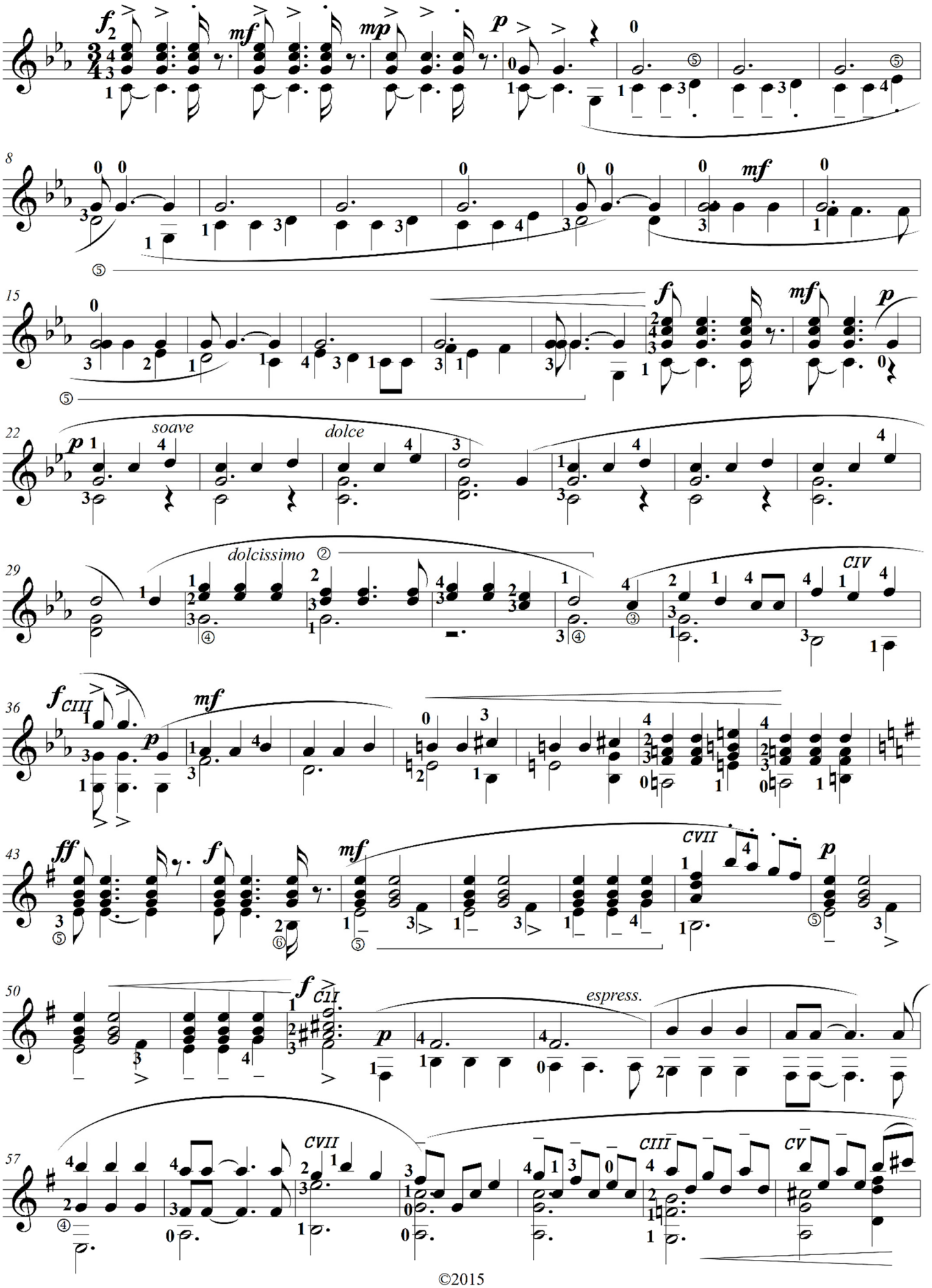
Bar 170 and seq. however, should reminder us that cats are very good at playing dead – something, it appears, that our bold mice have forgotten!

Playing this piece should give you every opportunity to produce that most amazing variety of tones that Segovia so valued.

Bu farw'r cathod

Trad. arr. Tony Eastwood

Marche funebre



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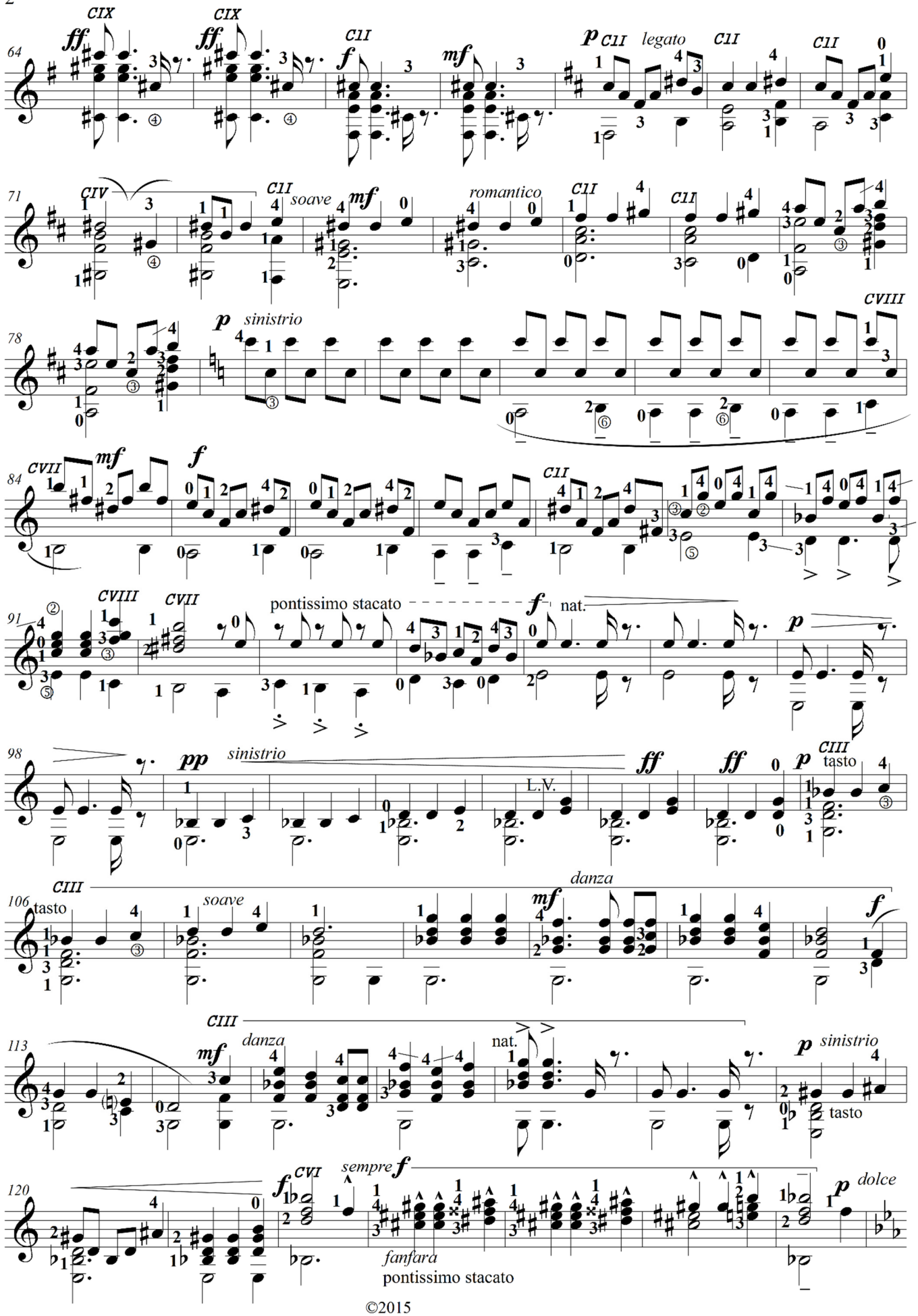
Bu farw'r cathod



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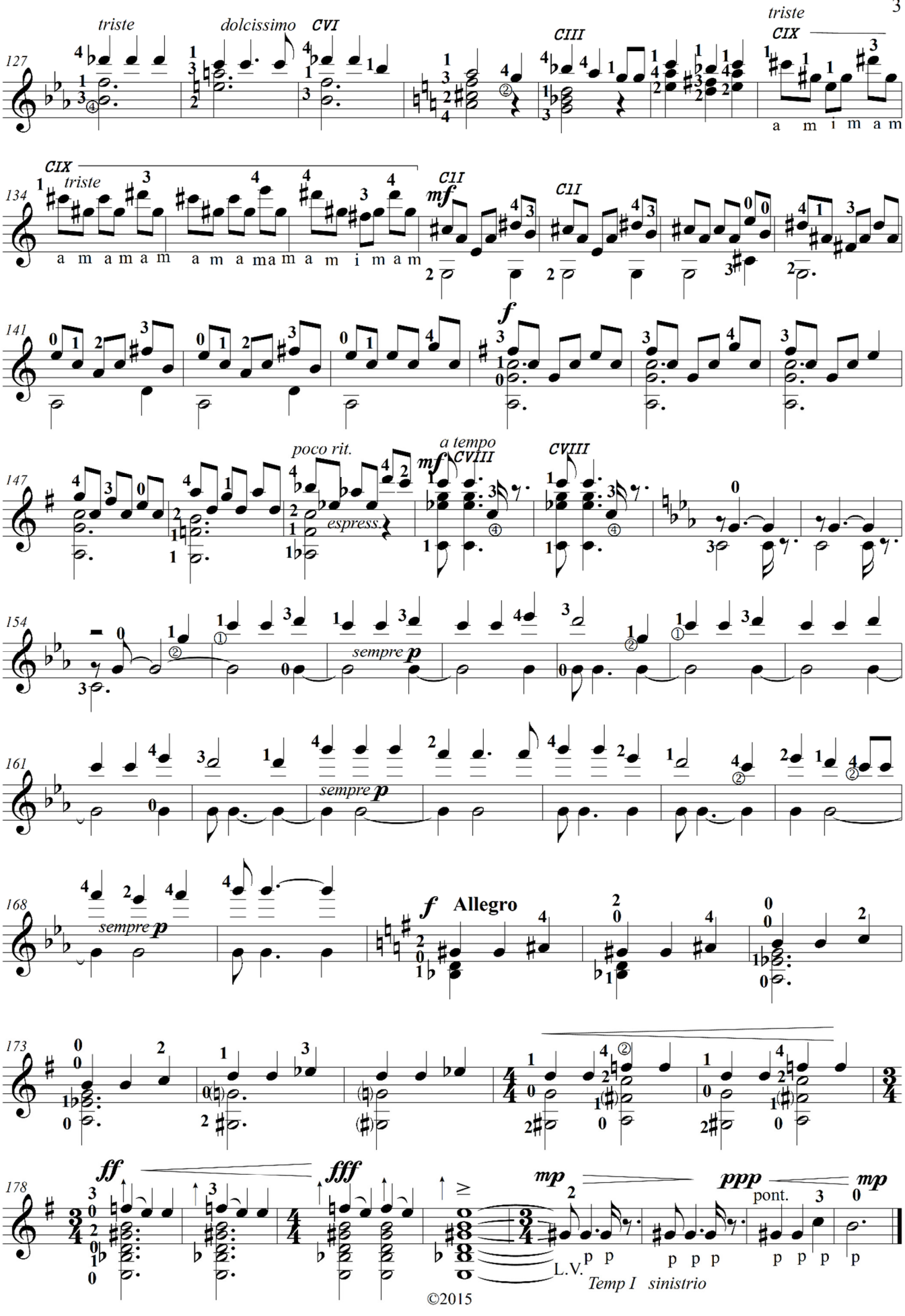
127
triste
dolcissimo
CVI
CIII
triste
CIX
a m i m a m
134
CIX
triste
a m a m a m a m a m a ma m a m i m a m
CII
mf
CII
141
f
147
poco rit.
espress
a tempo
mf
CVIII
CVIII
154
sempre p
161
sempre p
168
sempre p
f
Allegro
173
178
ff
fff
mp
ppp
pont.
mp
L.V.
p p
p p p
p p p
p
Temp I sinistrio

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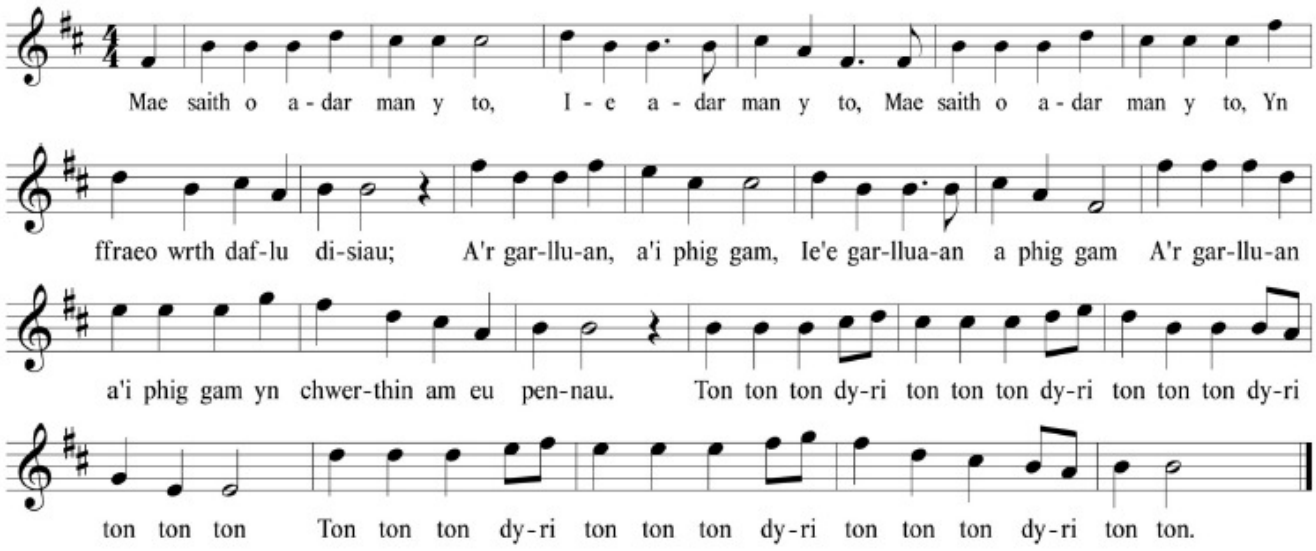
(13) Ton Ton Ton



Seven sparrows quarrelling throwing dice
And the owl with a crooked beak laughing at them

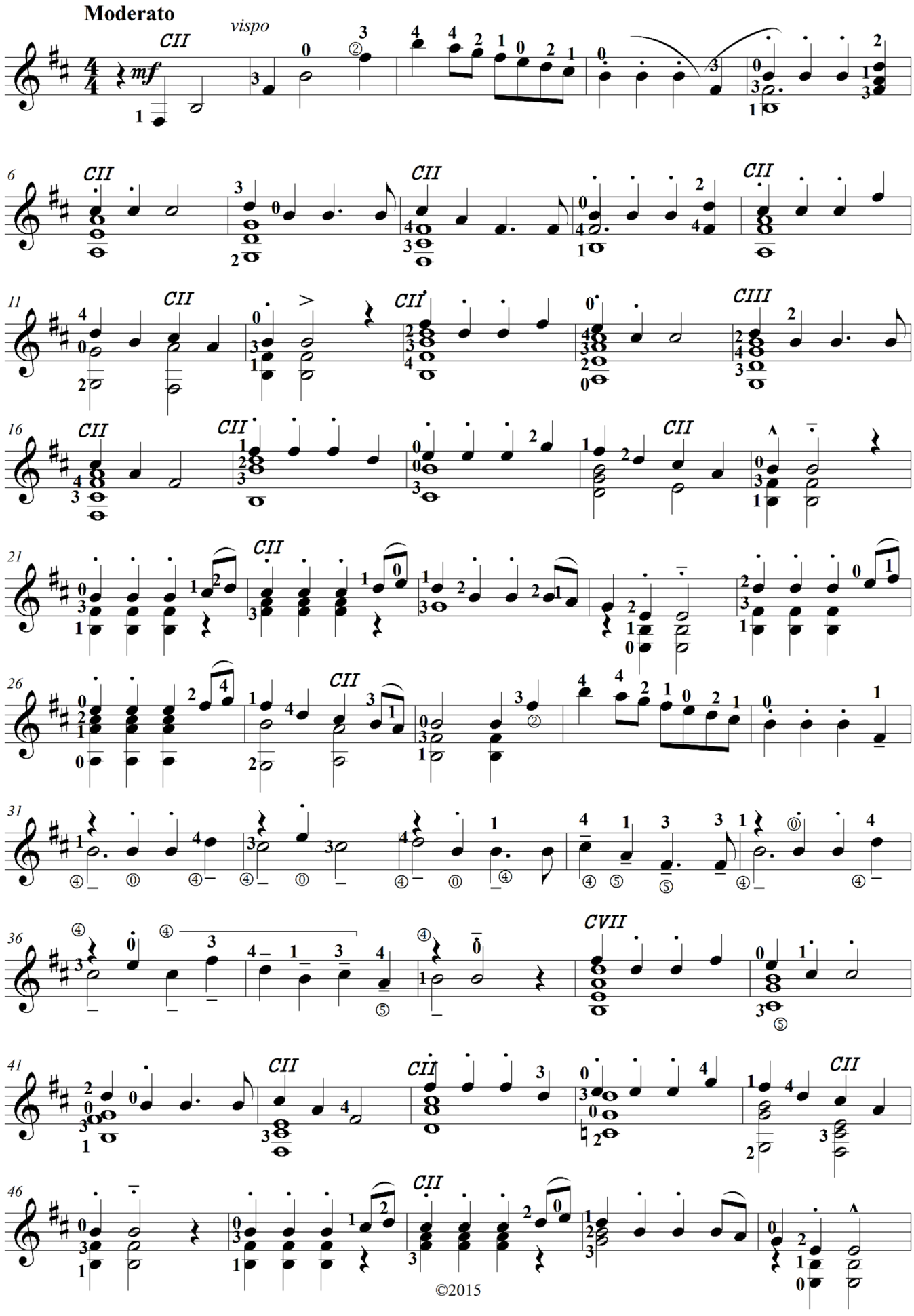
A strong rhythmic piece with words which are borderline nonsense. A a song like this would have been sung with the child on the knee – jiggling the child up and down - especially on the words *Ton Ton Ton* first set in bar 21.

Although the birds here are sparrows it always reminds me of another Welsh children's song about birds: *Mi welais Jac y do, Yn eistedd ar ben to* (I saw a jackdaw, Sitting on a roof top). Hence the image in my mind is of those jackdaws and disreputable seagulls which frequent the chimneys of my village. Apart from laughing at us from their vantage point on the chimney pots they take great pleasure in stuffing down as much twigs, moss and rubbish as they can – presumably in an attempt to suffocate my neighbours.

I haven't marked in many dynamics – this is a piece in which you should make up your own mind as to which sections are loud and which are soft.

Ton ton ton

Trad. arr. Tony Eastwood



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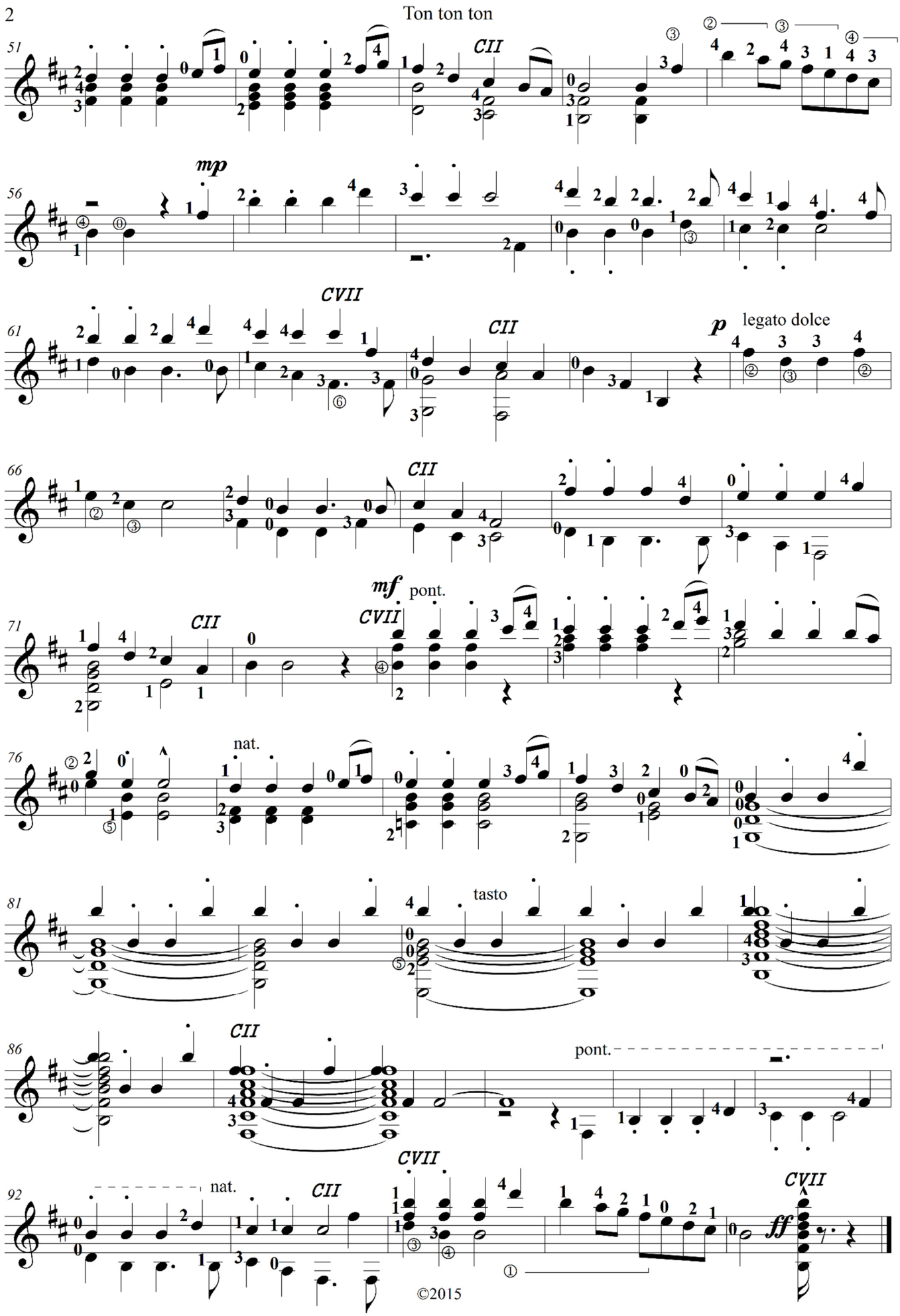
Ton ton ton
51
CII
56
mp
61
CVII
CII
p
legato dolce
66
CII
71
mf
pont.
CVII
CII
76
nat.
81
tasto
86
CII
pont.
92
nat.
CII
CVII
CVII
ff
①
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