JOHN THOMPSON

Third-Grade

VELOCITY STUDIES

Edited and Annotated Versions
of
Standard Dexterity Etudes

5824 THE WILLIS MUSIC COMPANY

Copyright, 1938
by
The Willis Music Co.

Printed in U. S. A.

W. M. Co. 5824

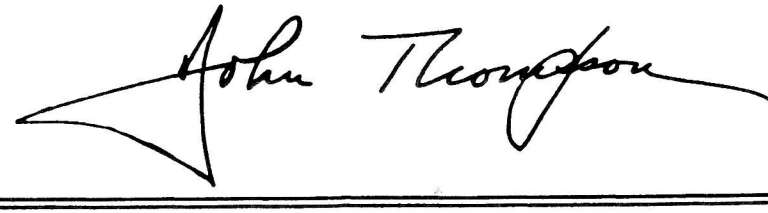
FOREWORD

The purpose of this book is expressed in its title, i.e., to develop velocity in piano playing of about Third Grade of difficulty. It is designed to supplement the THIRD GRADE BOOK in JOHN THOMPSON'S MODERN COURSE FOR THE PIANO and deals only with the purely technical side of piano playing. All the various phases of pianism have been considered and excellent examples for Right Hand, Left Hand and Hands Together are carefully selected from many of the masters of étude writers.

The editor has given short notes on how to practice each exercise and space is reserved for keeping a record of the velocity attained in each instance.

Needless to say, speed is of no value unless it is under perfect control. Each exercise therefore, should be learned first at slow tempo until accuracy and ease of performance are assured, after which the tempo should be gradually increased.

While the prime purpose of the etudes is to develop the mechanics of piano playing, every effort should be made to play them as artistically as possible. For this reason it is of great importance to observe phrasing, the use of the pedal as indicated and the marks of expression.



W. M. Co. 5824

CONTENTS

		Page
1.	**Finger Legato**—Right Hand	3
2.	**Finger Legato**—Left Hand	3
3.	**Finger Legato**—Both Hands	4
4.	**Legato Passages as Melody**	4
5.	**Legato Scale Passages**—Right Hand	5
6.	**Legato Scale Passages**—Left Hand	6
7.	**Wrist Staccato**—Right Hand	7
8.	**Rolling Attack**—Right Hand	7
9.	**Passage Playing**—Both Hands	8
10.	**Trills**—Right Hand	9
11.	**Diatonic Sweeps**—Right Hand	10
12.	**Three-note Slurs**—Right Hand	10
13.	**Broken Chords**—Right Hand	11
14.	**Broken Chords**—Divided between Hands	12
15.	**Broken Thirds**—Both Hands	14
16.	**Left-Hand Broken Chords**	15
17.	**Arabesque**	16
18.	**Left Hand Passage Playing**	17
19.	**March Wind**—Left Hand	17
20.	**Broken Chords**—Both Hands	18
21.	**Sustaining the Thumb**	19
22.	**Chasing Butterflies**	20
23.	**Smoothness in Passage Playing**	22
24.	**Perfect Evenness in Scale Playing**—Right Hand	24
25.	**Arpeggios divided between the Hands**	25
26.	**Perfect Evenness in Scale Playing**—Left Hand	26
27.	**Broken Chord-Groups**—Right Hand	27
28.	**Progress**	28
29.	**Albumleaf**	29
30.	**L'avalanche**	30
31.	**Tender Flower**	32
32.	**Harmonies du Soir**	33
33.	**Angel Voices**	34
34.	**Chorale**	36
35.	**Fanfare**—Finger Staccato	37
36.	**Rippling Waters**	37
37.	**Carnival of the Birds**—Trills	38
38.	**Criss-Cross**	39
39.	**Gracefulness**	40
40.	**Prelude in C minor**	41
41.	**Staccato Chord Playing**	42
42.	**Chromatic Scales**—Both Hands	43
43.	**Trill Figures**—Both Hands	44
44.	**Scherzino**	45
45.	**The Swallow**	46
46.	**Turn Right**—Right Hand	48
47.	**Passage Playing**—Both Hands	50
48.	**Light Wrist Staccato**—Left Hand	51
49.	**Thumb under and Hand over in Arpeggio Playing**	52
50.	**Velocity**—Both Hands	54

– PRACTICE RECORD –

..... (*Pupil's Signature*)

..... (*Teacher's Signature*)

Record of Scales and Arpeggios Studied and Maximum Tempo Attained

SCALES

DATE		TEMPO

ARPEGGIOS

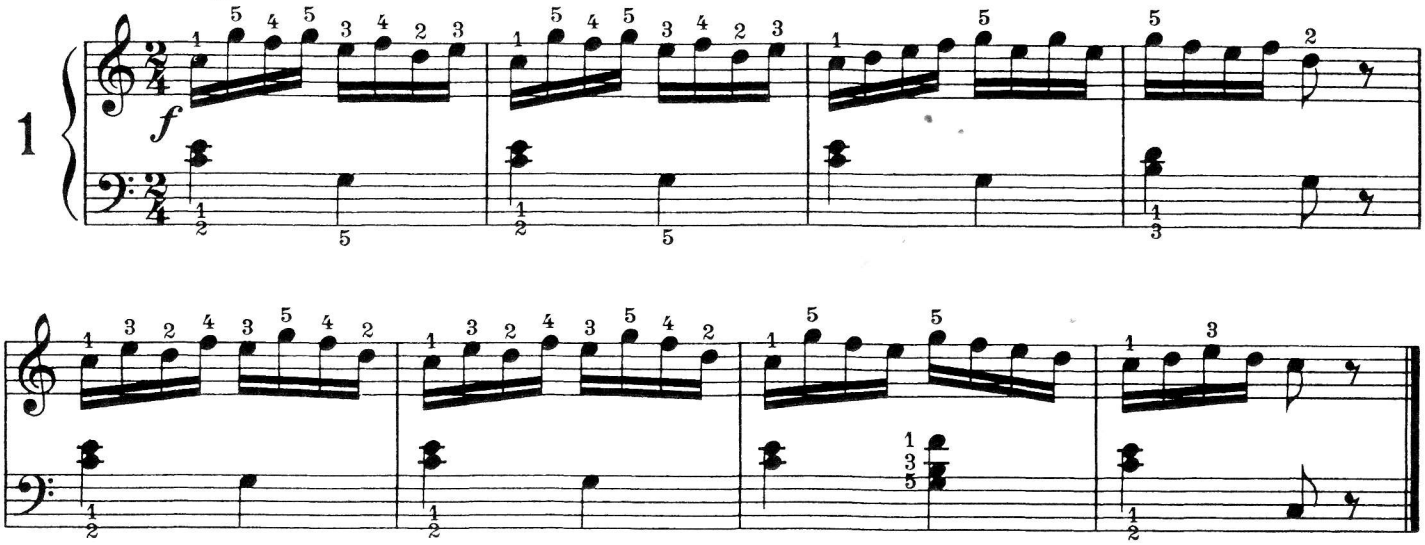
Raise and drop the fingers with military precision.

Velocity attained M.M.....

Finger Legato-Right Hand

Allegro vivace

Czerny



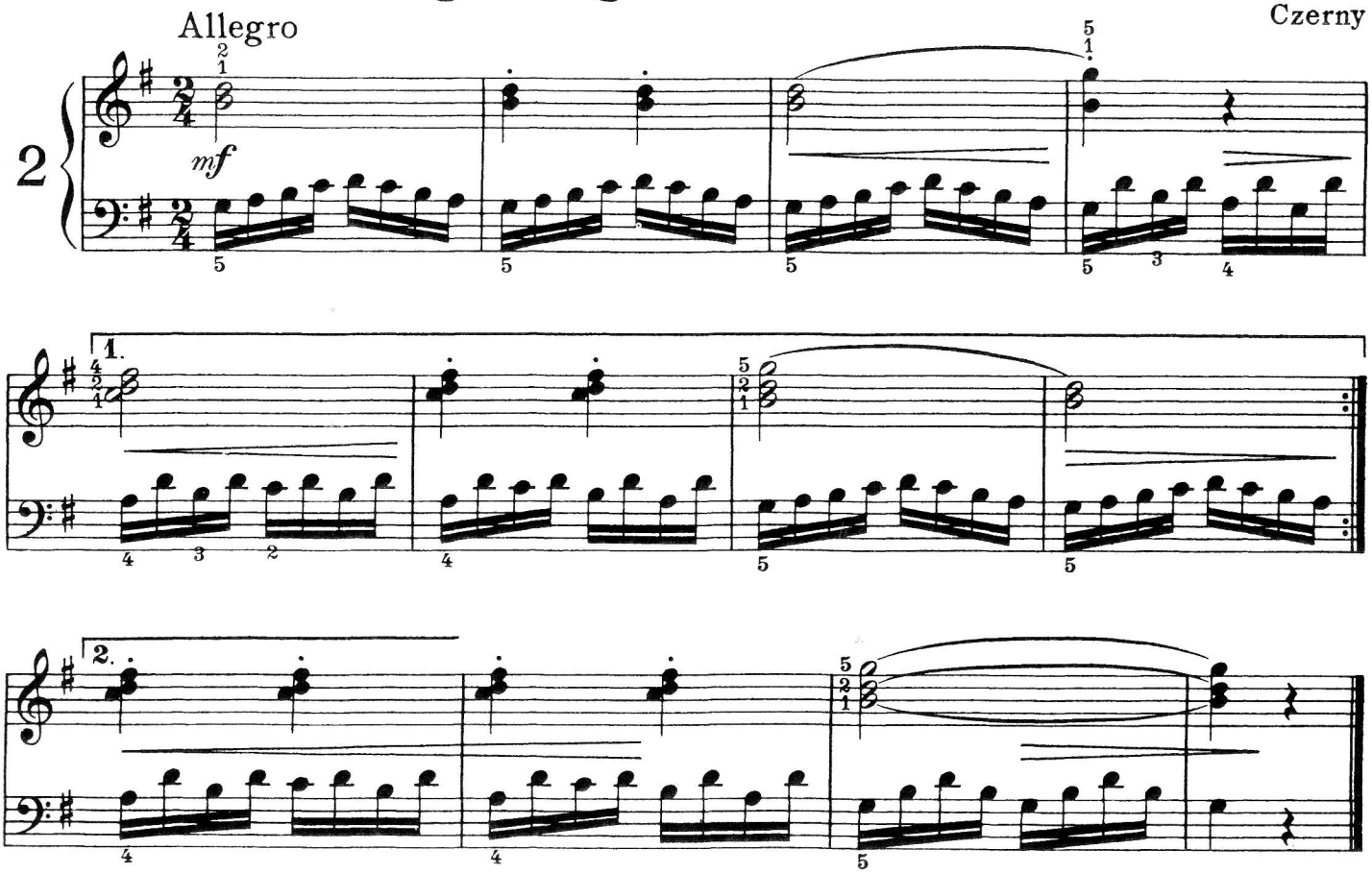
Observe the phrasing and marks of expression.

Velocity attained M.M.....

Finger Legato-Left Hand

Allegro

Czerny



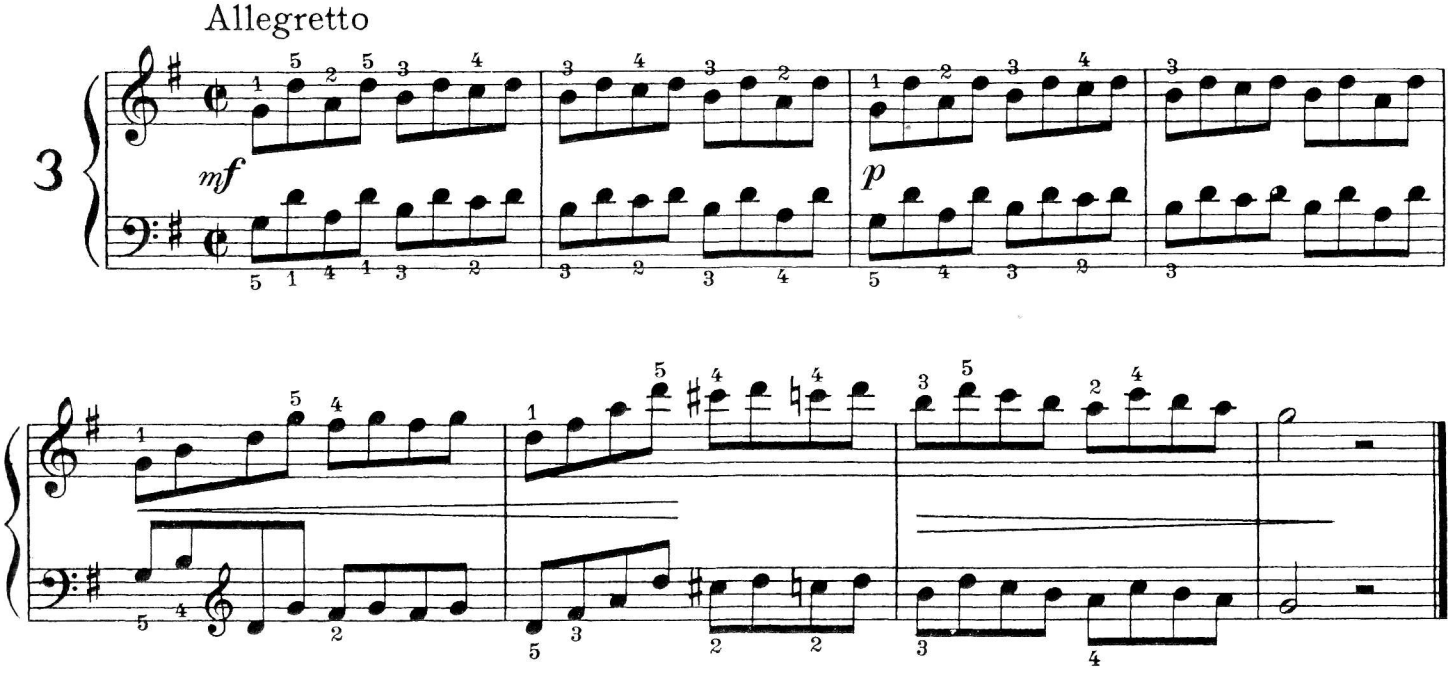
Copyright, MCMXXXVIII by The Willis Music Co.
Printed in U. S. A.

Use well-articulated finger legato in both hands.

Velocity attained M. M.....

Finger Legato - Both Hands

Czerny

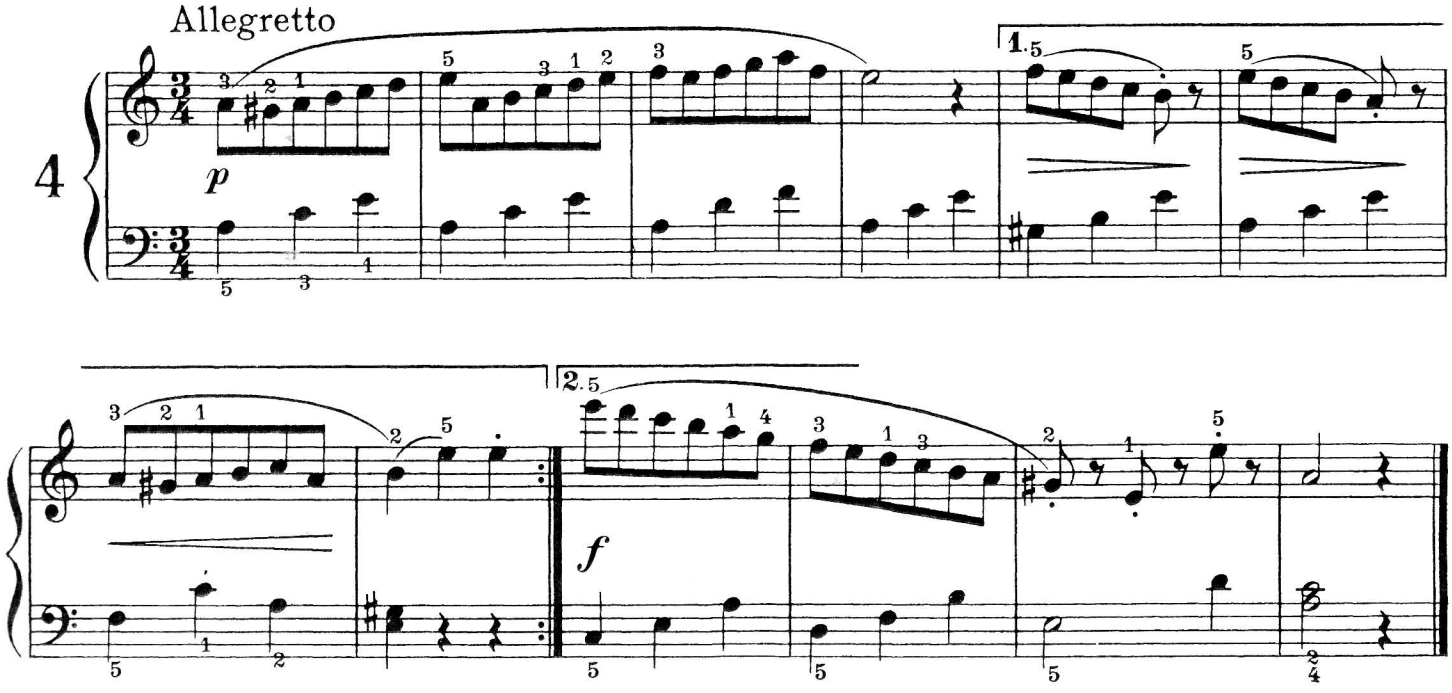


As gracefully as possible.

Velocity attained M. M.....

The Brooklet

Duvernoy



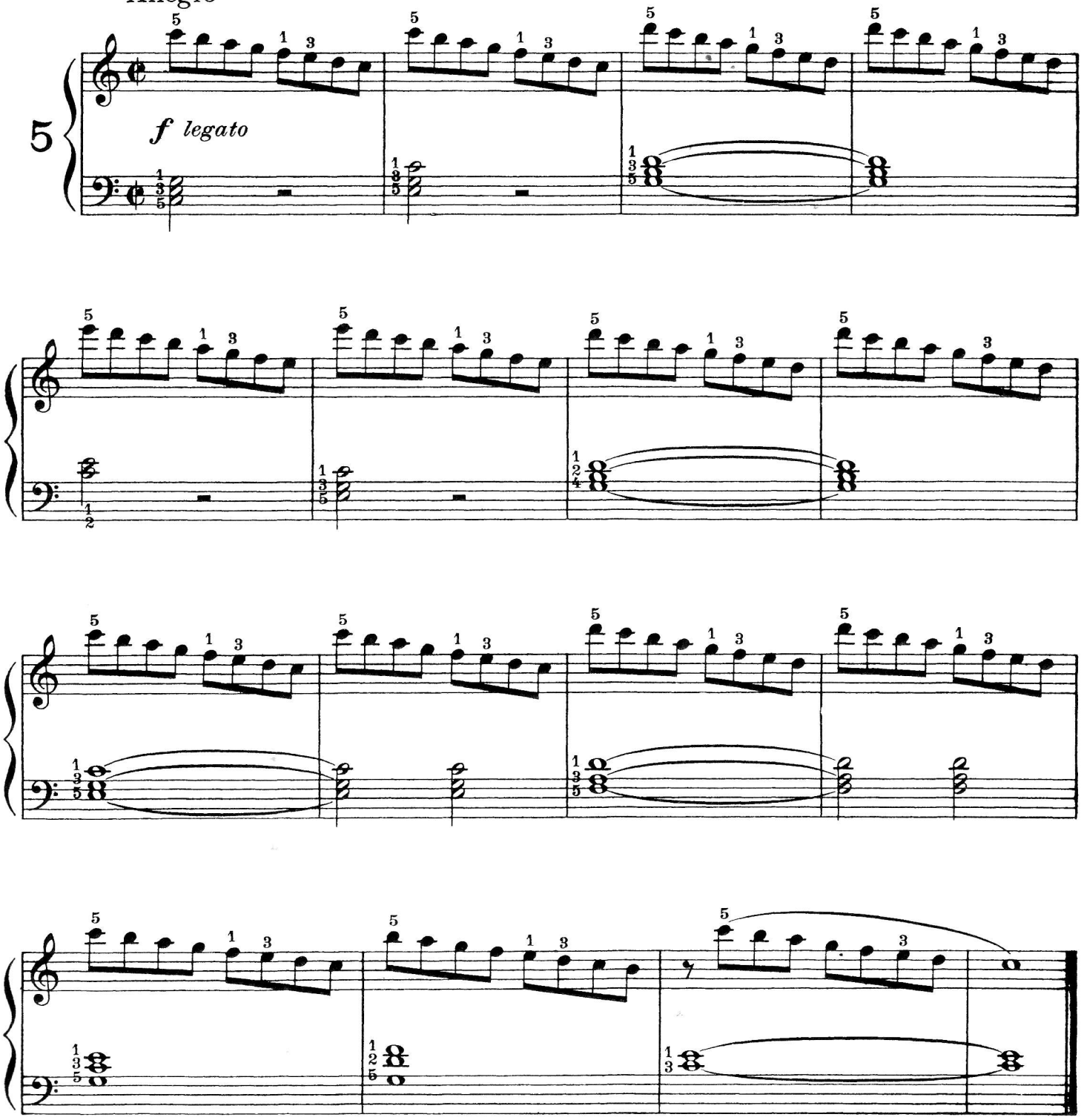
Try to play the scales as smoothly as glissandos.

Velocity attained M. M. .....

Legato Scale Passages - Right Hand

Lemoine

Allegro



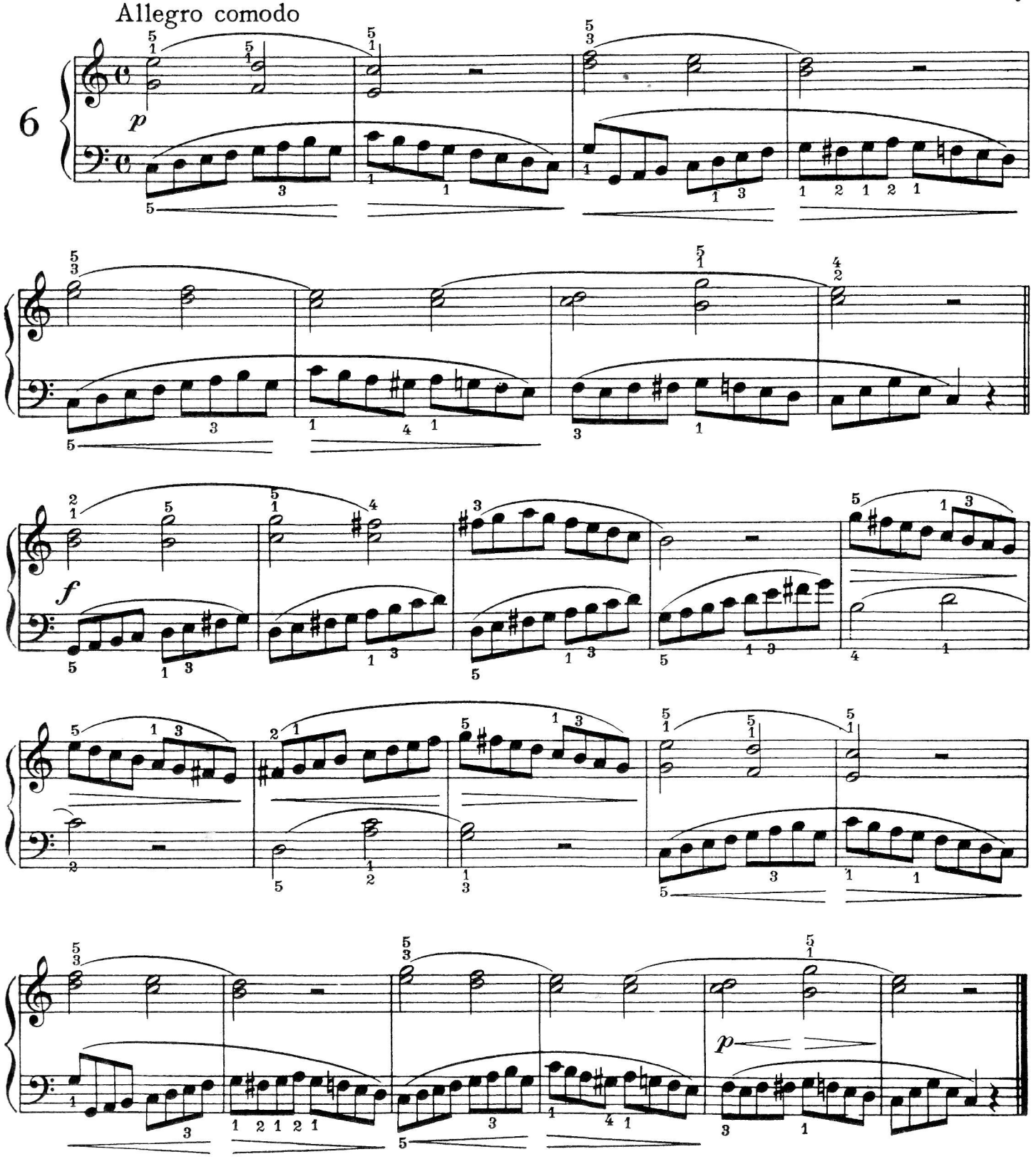
Treat the scale figures as an accompaniment to the Melody which should be played as expressively as possible.

Velocity attained M. M.....

Scale figures as Accompaniment

Duvernoy

Allegro comodo



Observe the phrasing in the left-hand part.

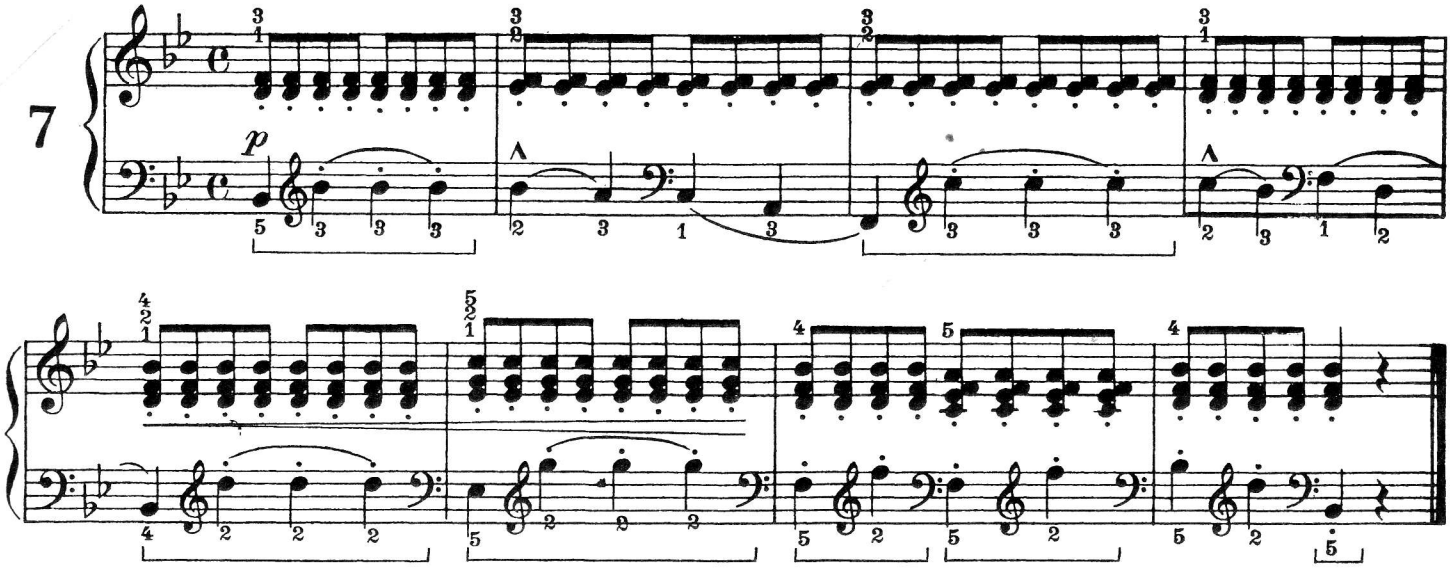
Velocity attained M. M.....

Wrist Staccato-Right Hand

Czerny

Moderato

7



Play the right-hand groups with rolling attack, tossing off the last note of each group.

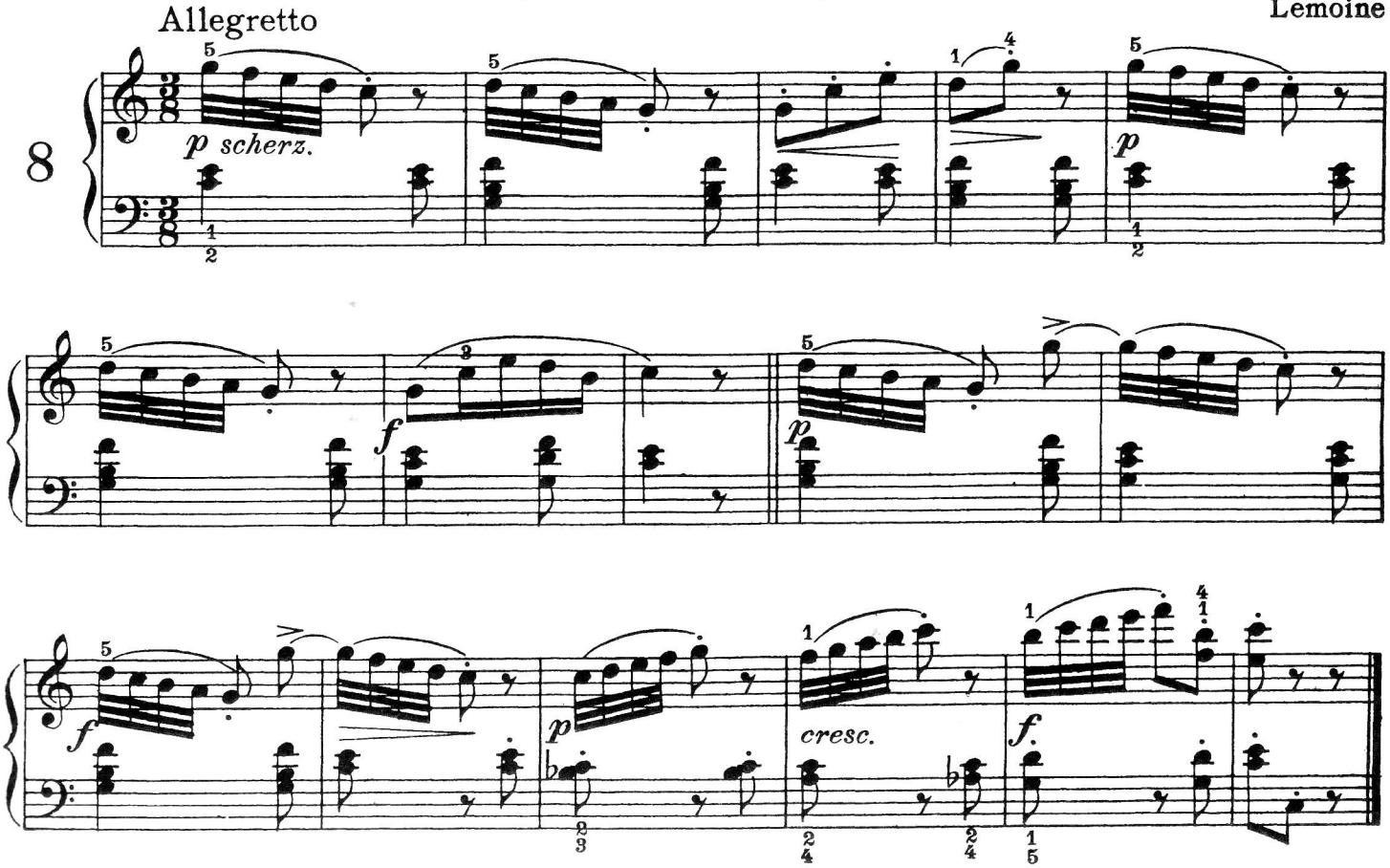
Velocity attained M. M.....

Rolling Attack-Right Hand

Lemoine

Allegretto

8

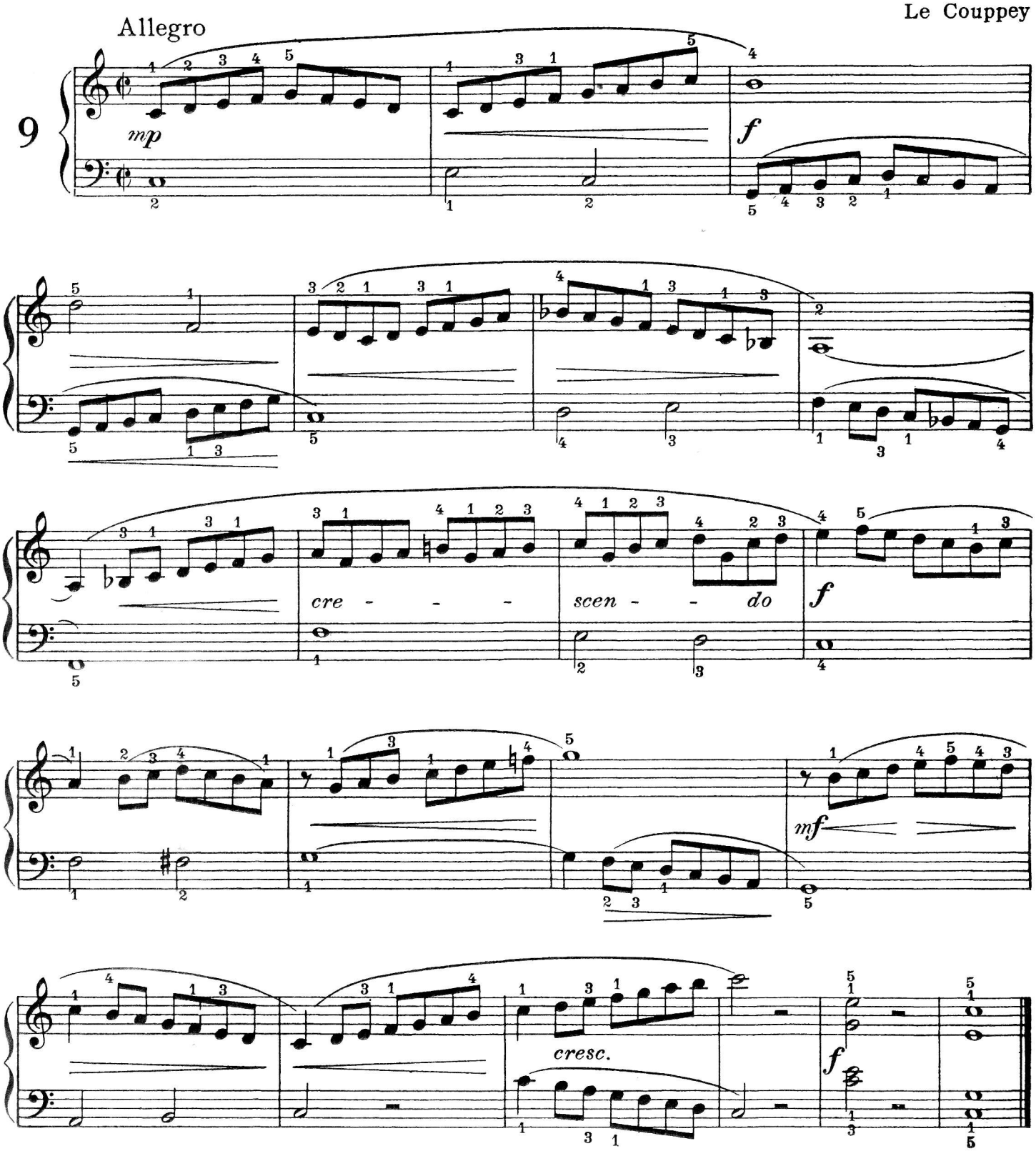


Practice first in four-four time.
Later in alla breve.
Apply the swells and diminuendos as indicated.

Velocity attained M. M.....

Smooth Passage Playing

Le Couppey



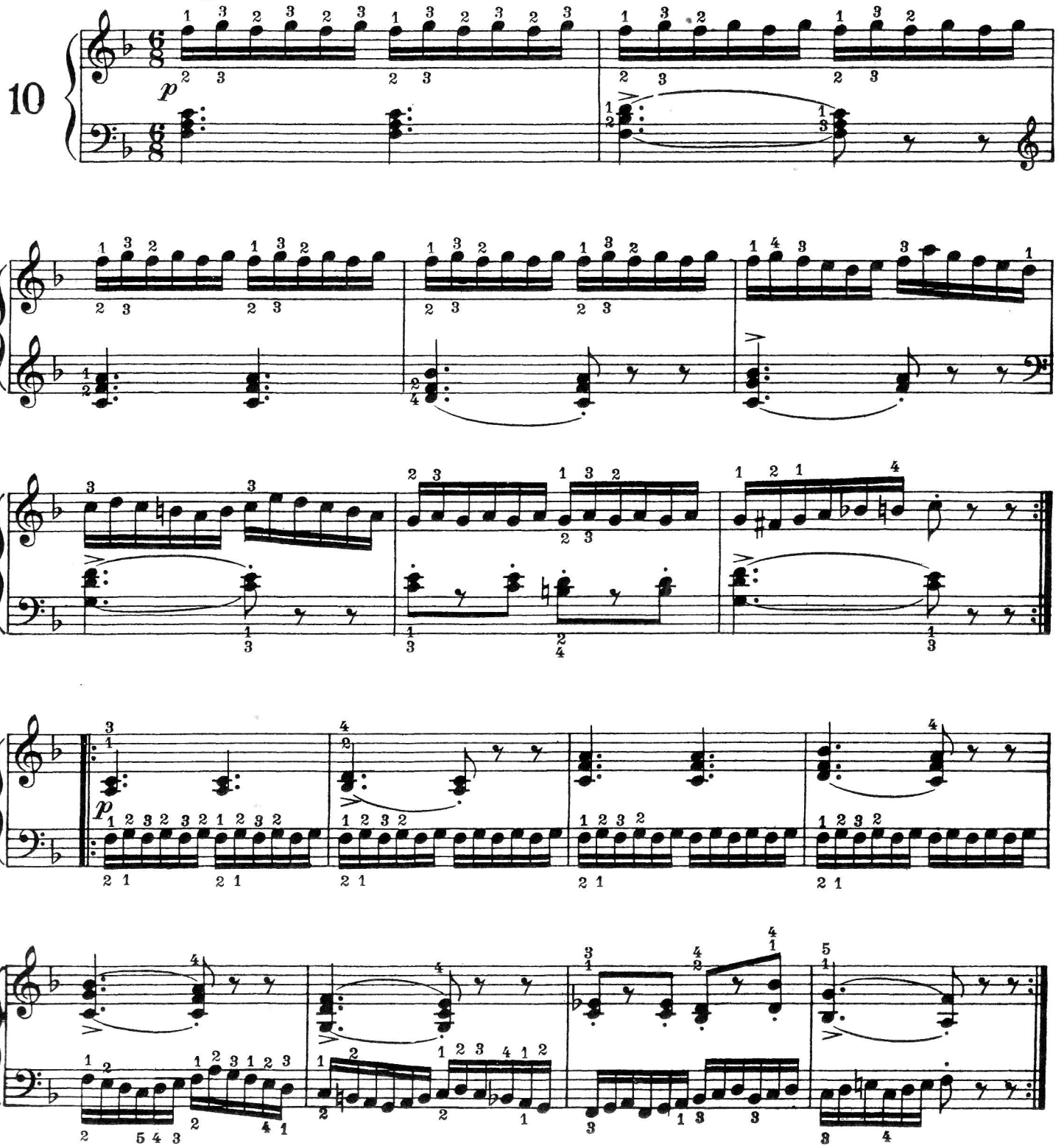
Practice first with well-articulated finger-legato. Learn both sets of fingering.
As speed develops, keep the fingers closer and closer until they actually "ride" the keys.

Velocity attained M. M.....

The Trill

Köhler

Allegro



Play the scale figures with fingers close to the keys and with a sweeping motion of the arm.
They should sound almost like glissandos.

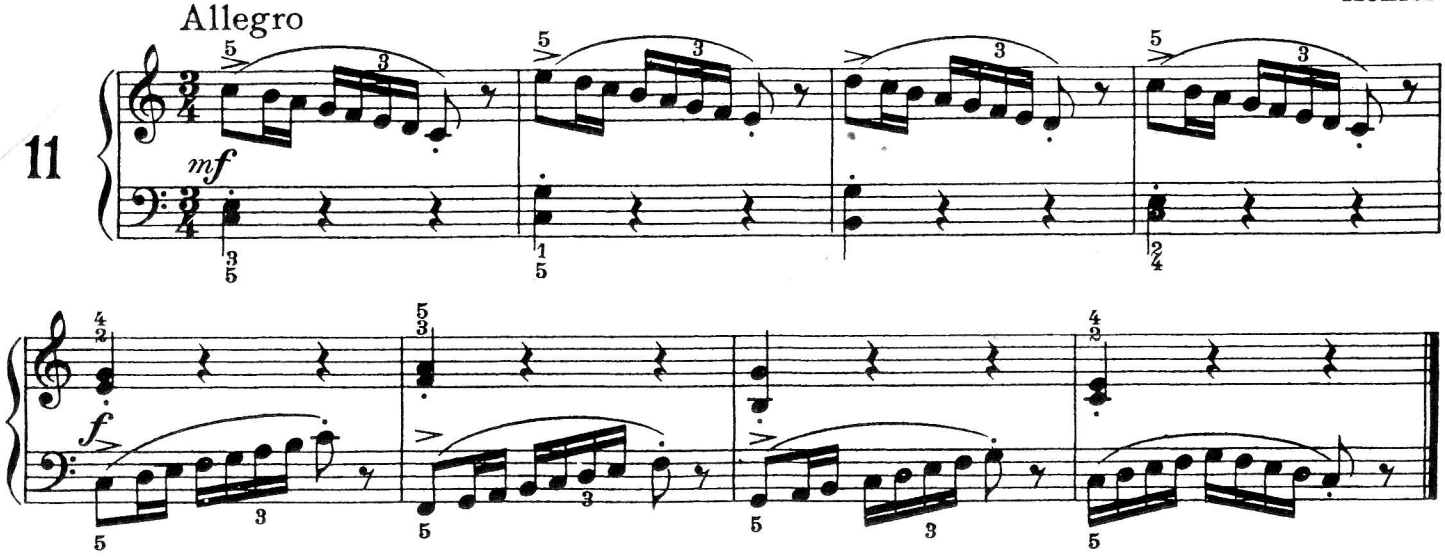
Velocity attained M. M.....

Diatonic Sweeps

Köhler

Allegro

11



Apply sharp attack and release to the three-note groups in the right hand while the left hand uses a plucking finger staccato.

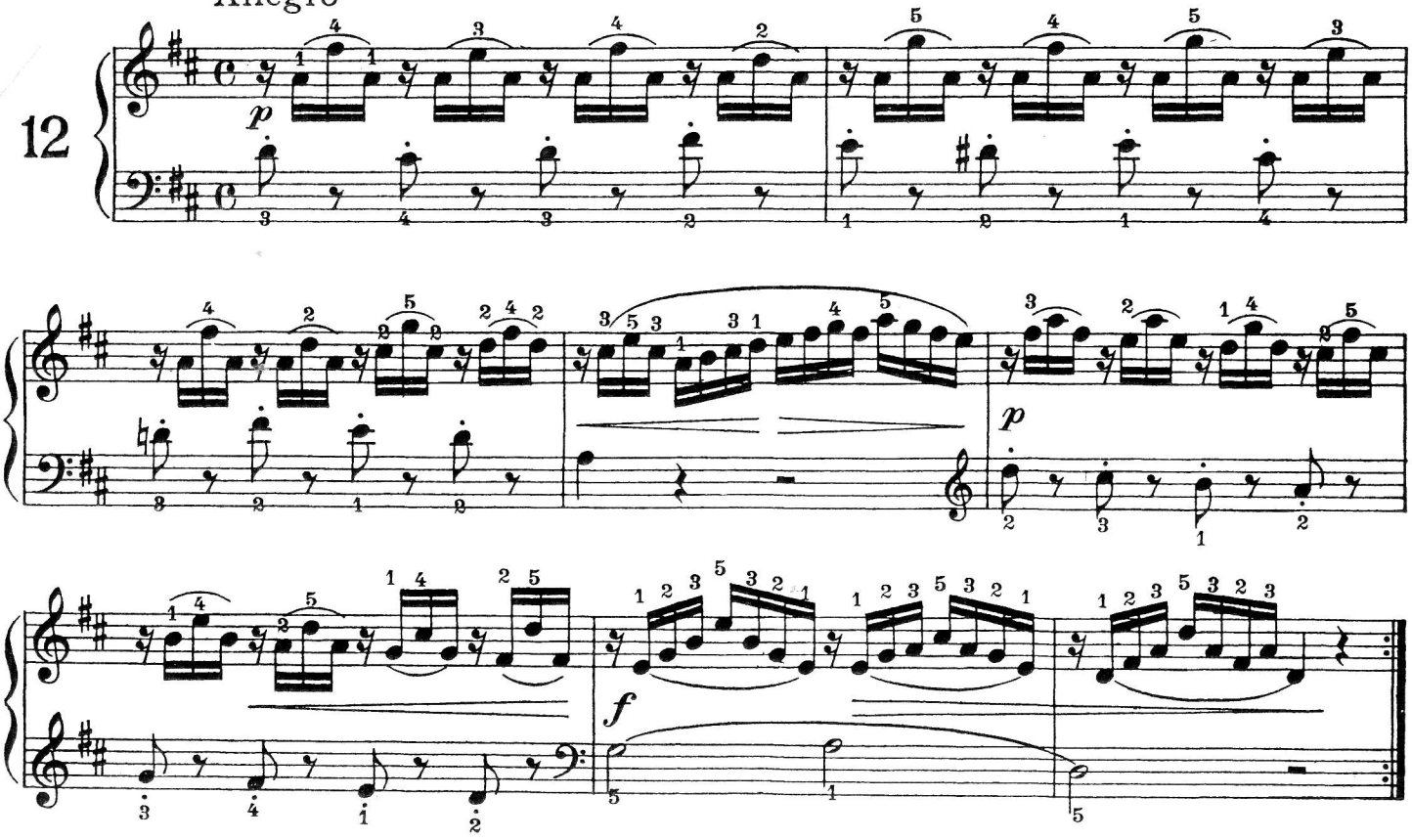
Velocity attained M. M.....

Three-note Slurs

Czerny

Allegro

12



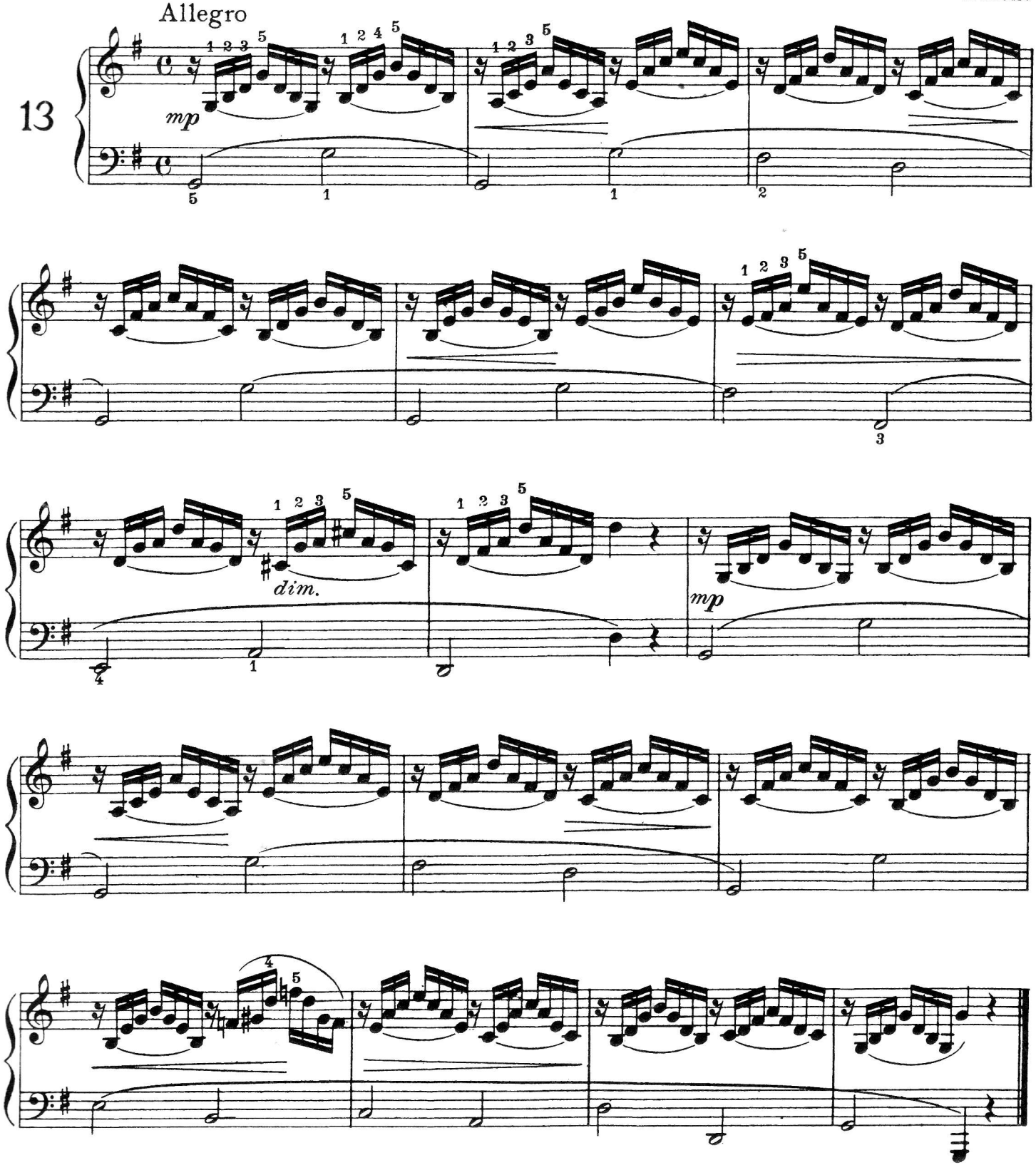
Play the right-hand broken chords with a graceful Rotary Motion. Observe the phrasing of the sustained left hand.

Velocity attained M. M.....

Rolling Attack - Broken Chords

Berens

Allegro



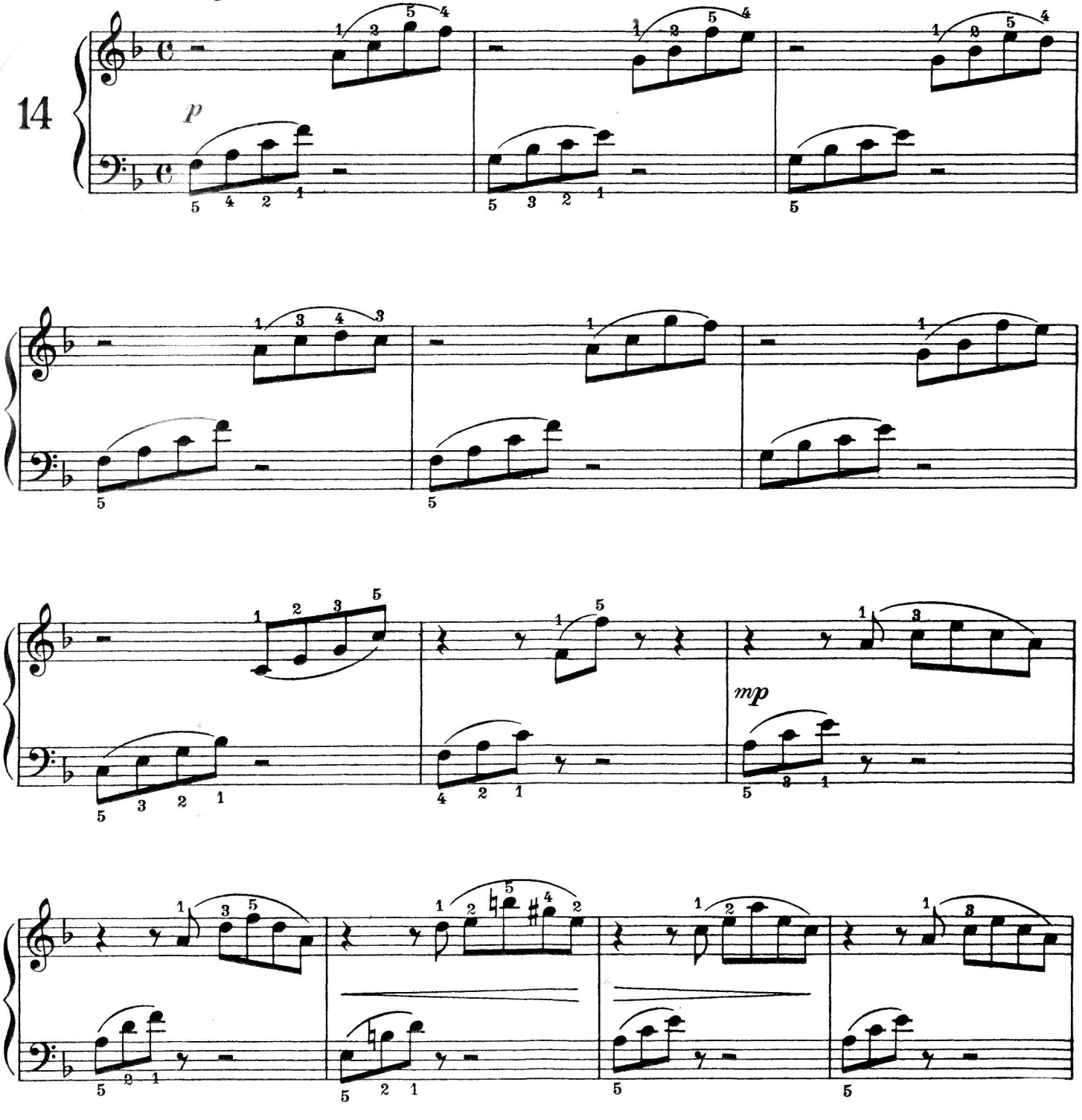
These arpeggio figures should be tossed from one hand to the other and sound as smoothly as though played with one hand.

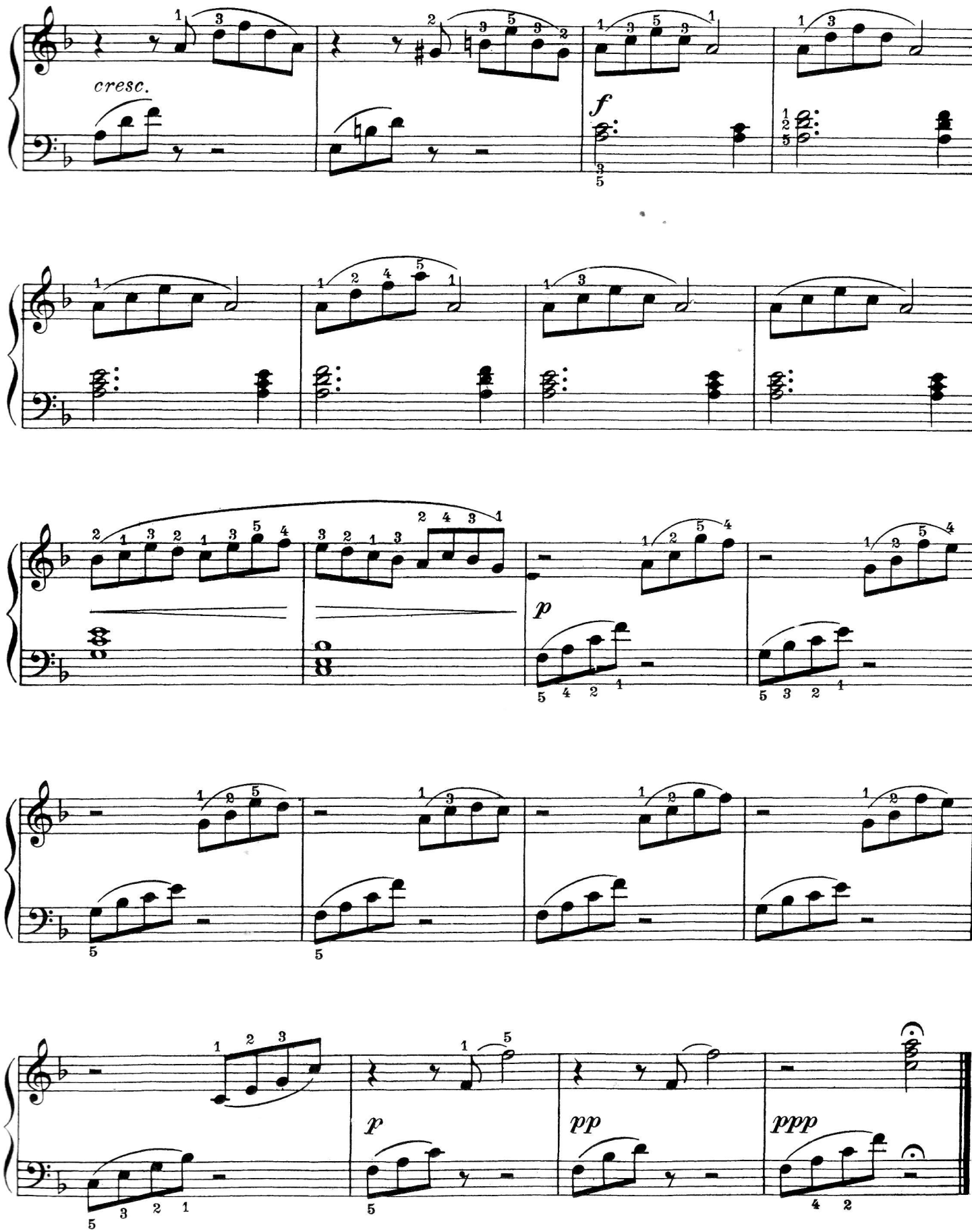
Velocity attained M. M. .....

By the Seaside

Streabbog

Allegro moderato




cresc.
f
p
p
pp
ppp

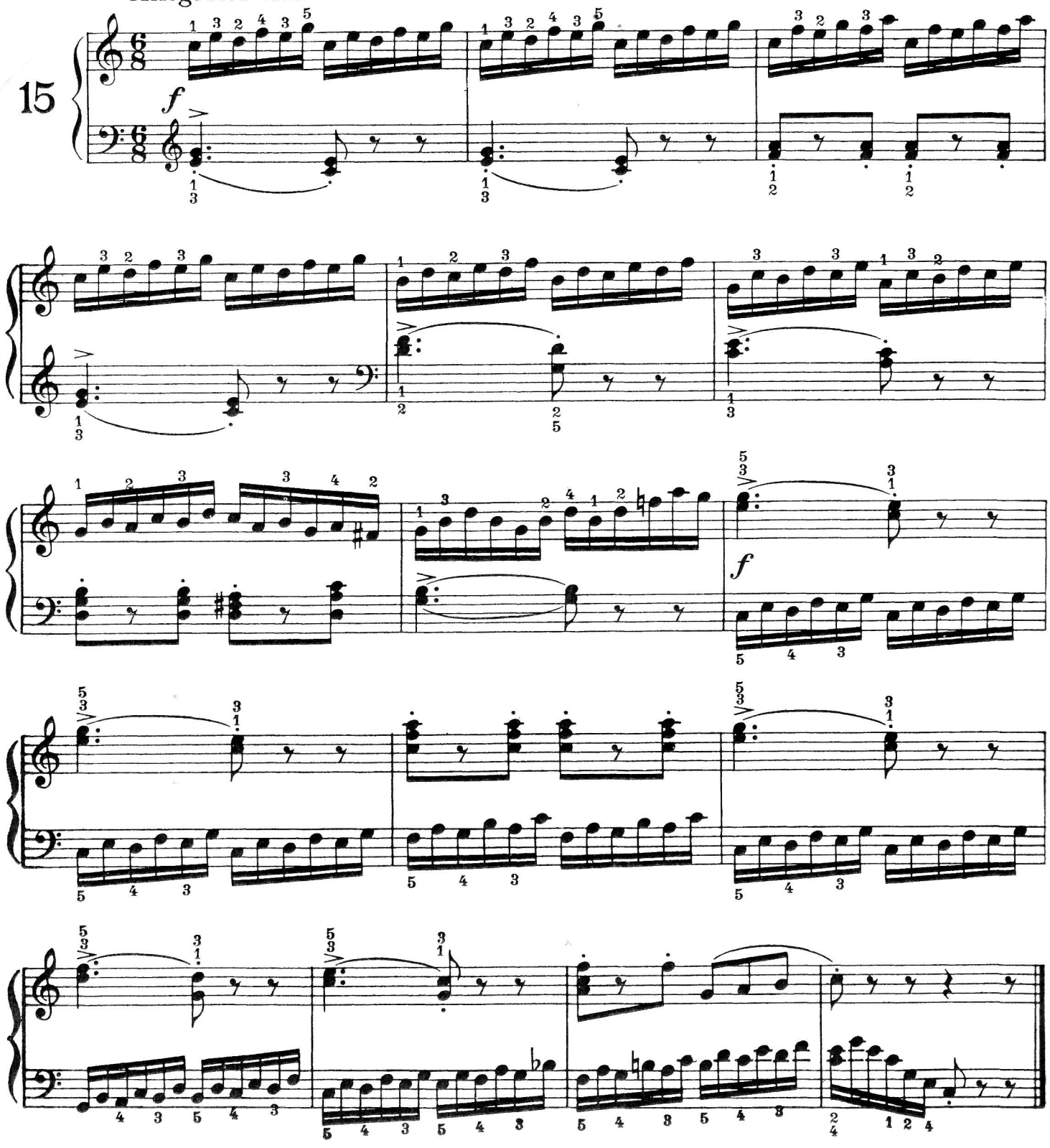
Practice the broken thirds first with high Finger Legato. As speed develops, use less and less finger action.

Velocity attained M. M.....

Broken Thirds

Köhler

Allegretto vivo



Use a slight rolling motion in playing the left-hand broken chords.

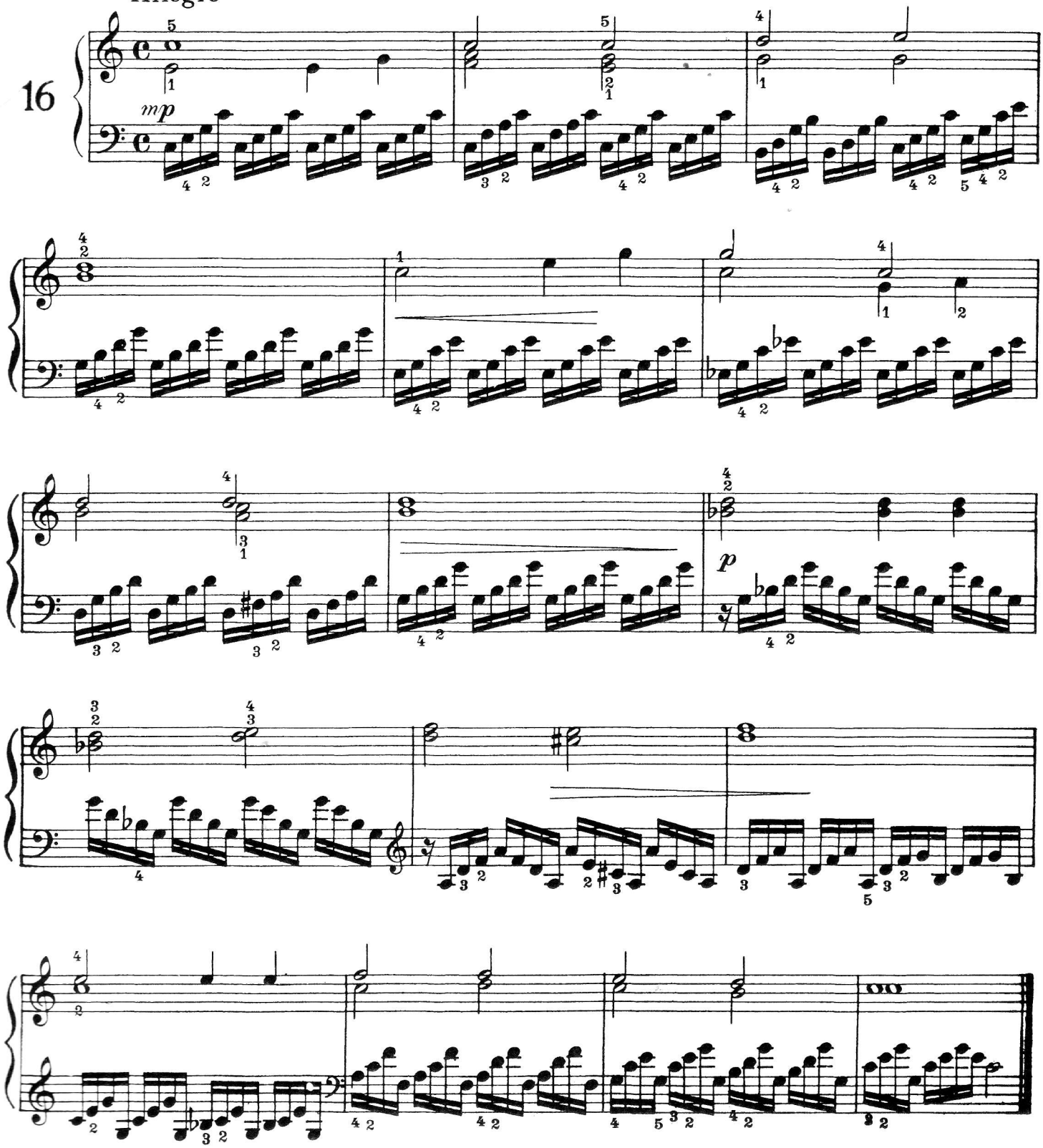
Velocity attained M. M.....

Left Hand Broken Chords

Köhler

Allegro

16



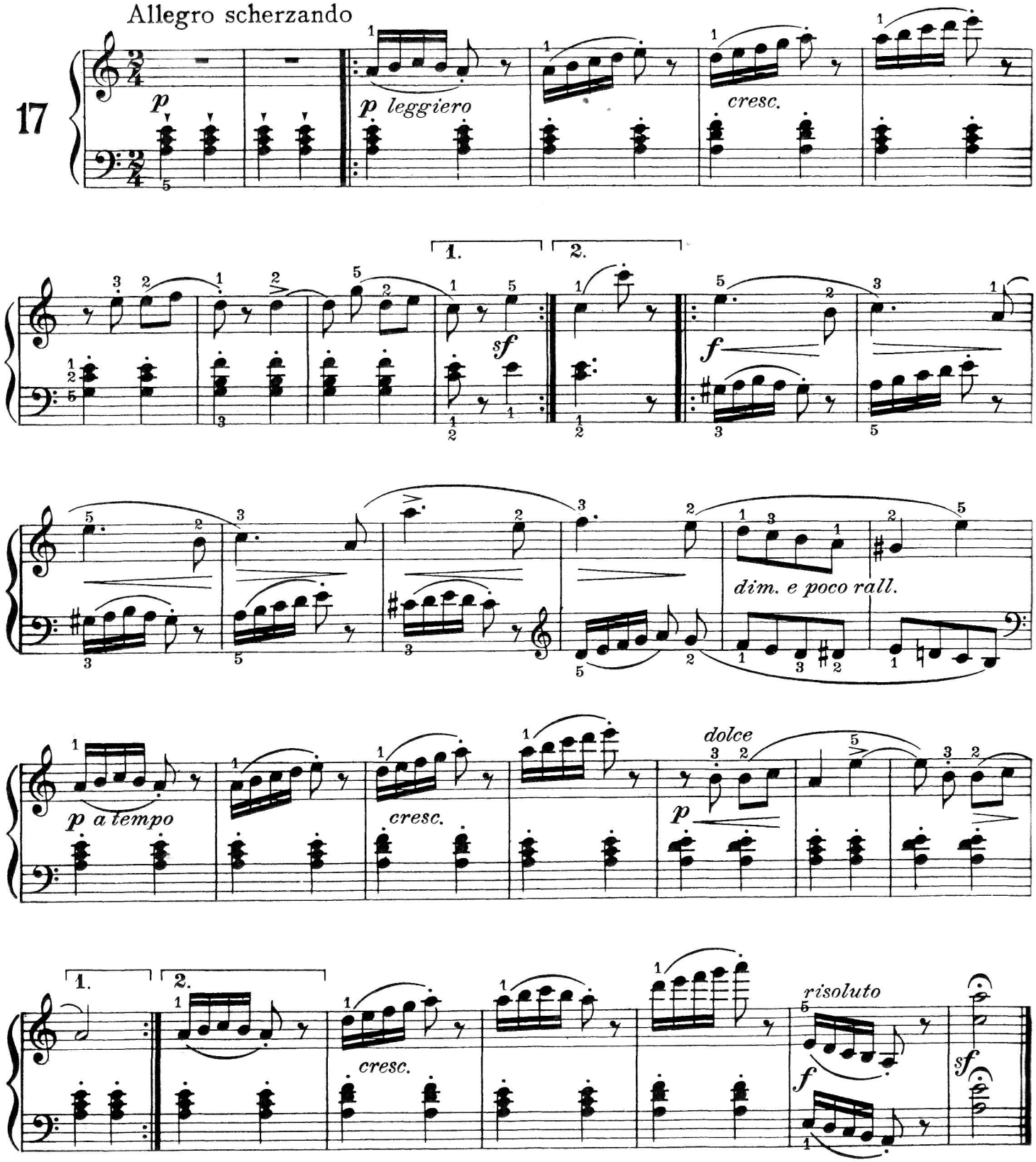
Roll off the groups in 16ths.
Play the left hand chords with forearm staccato.

Velocity attained M. M. .....

Arabesque

Burgmüller

Allegro scherzando



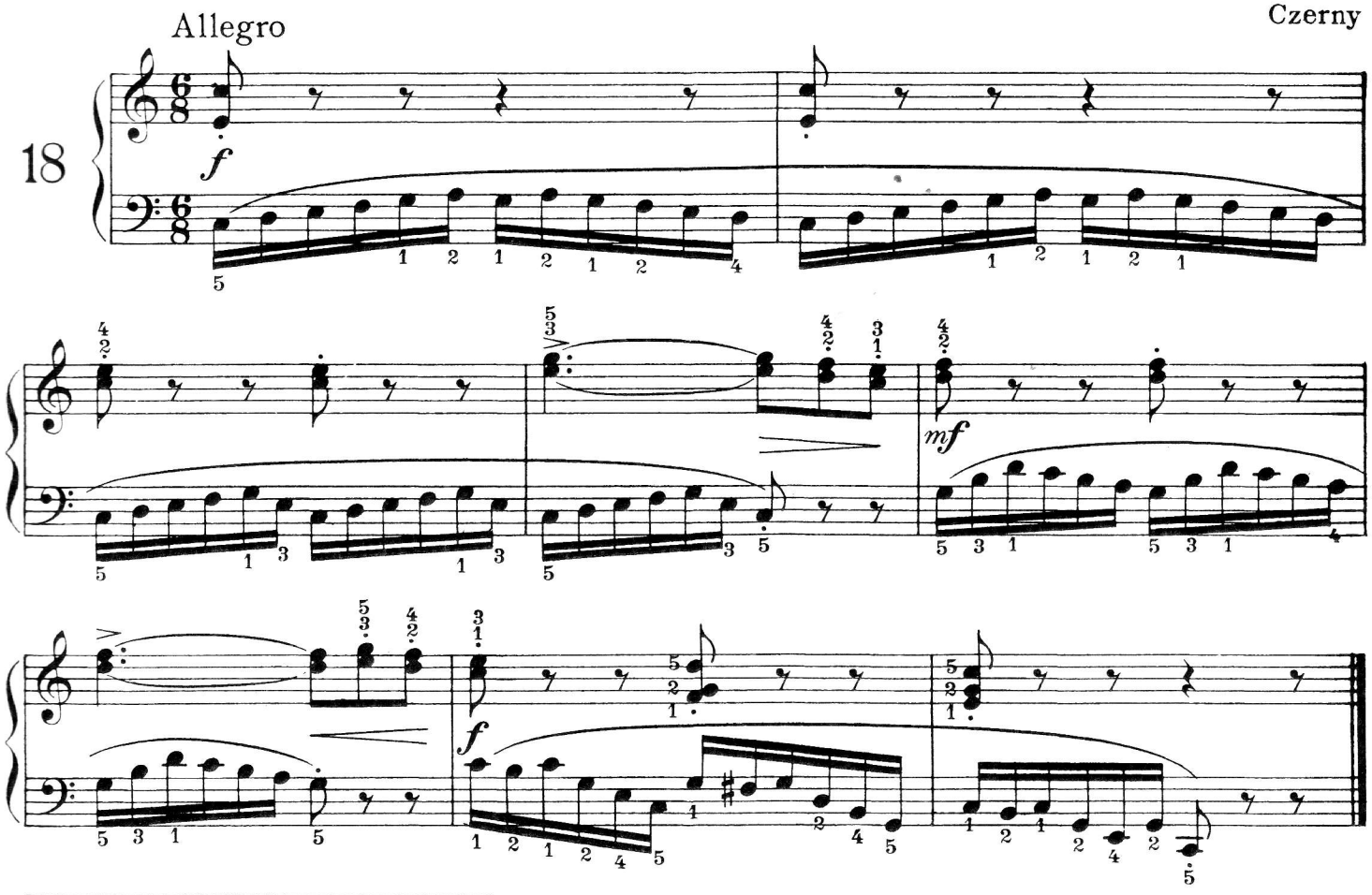
Play the left hand with strict finger legato – well articulated.

Velocity attained M. M. .....

Left Hand Passage Playing

Allegro

Czerny



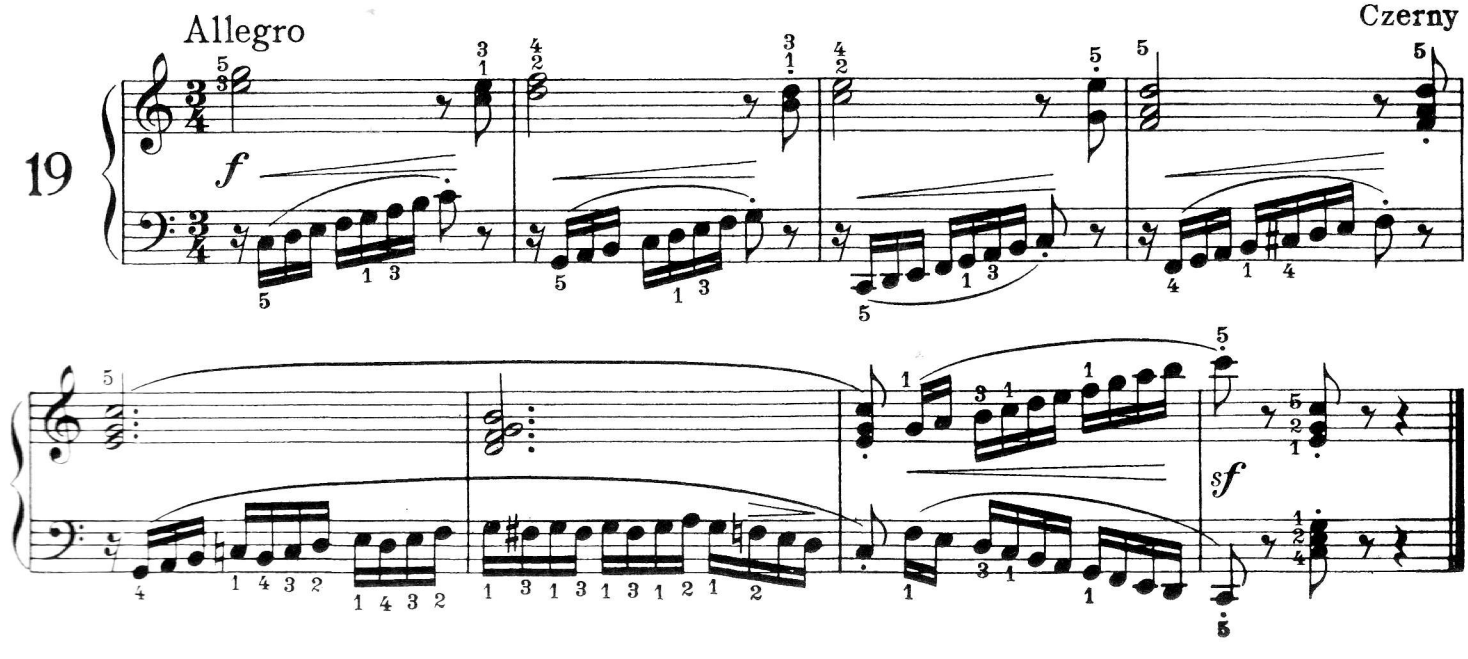
Play the left hand with close finger legato – employing, at the same time a sweeping motion of the arm.

Velocity attained M. M. .....

March Wind

Allegro

Czerny



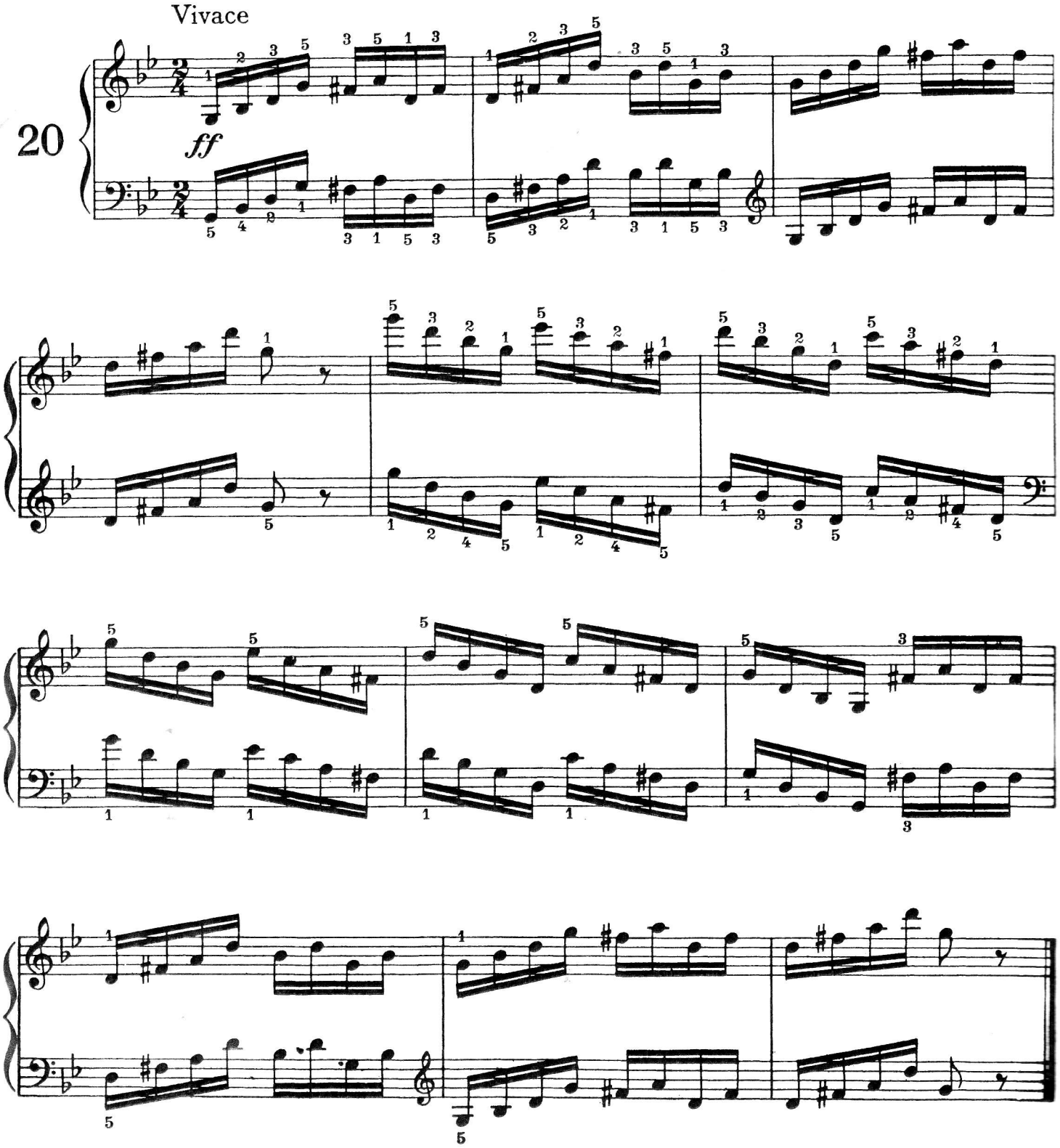
Practice this first at moderate tempo with *high finger legato.*
Later, as speed develops, keep the fingers close to the keys and use a rolling motion of the arm.

Velocity attained M. M.....

Broken Chords - Both Hands

Czerny

Vivace



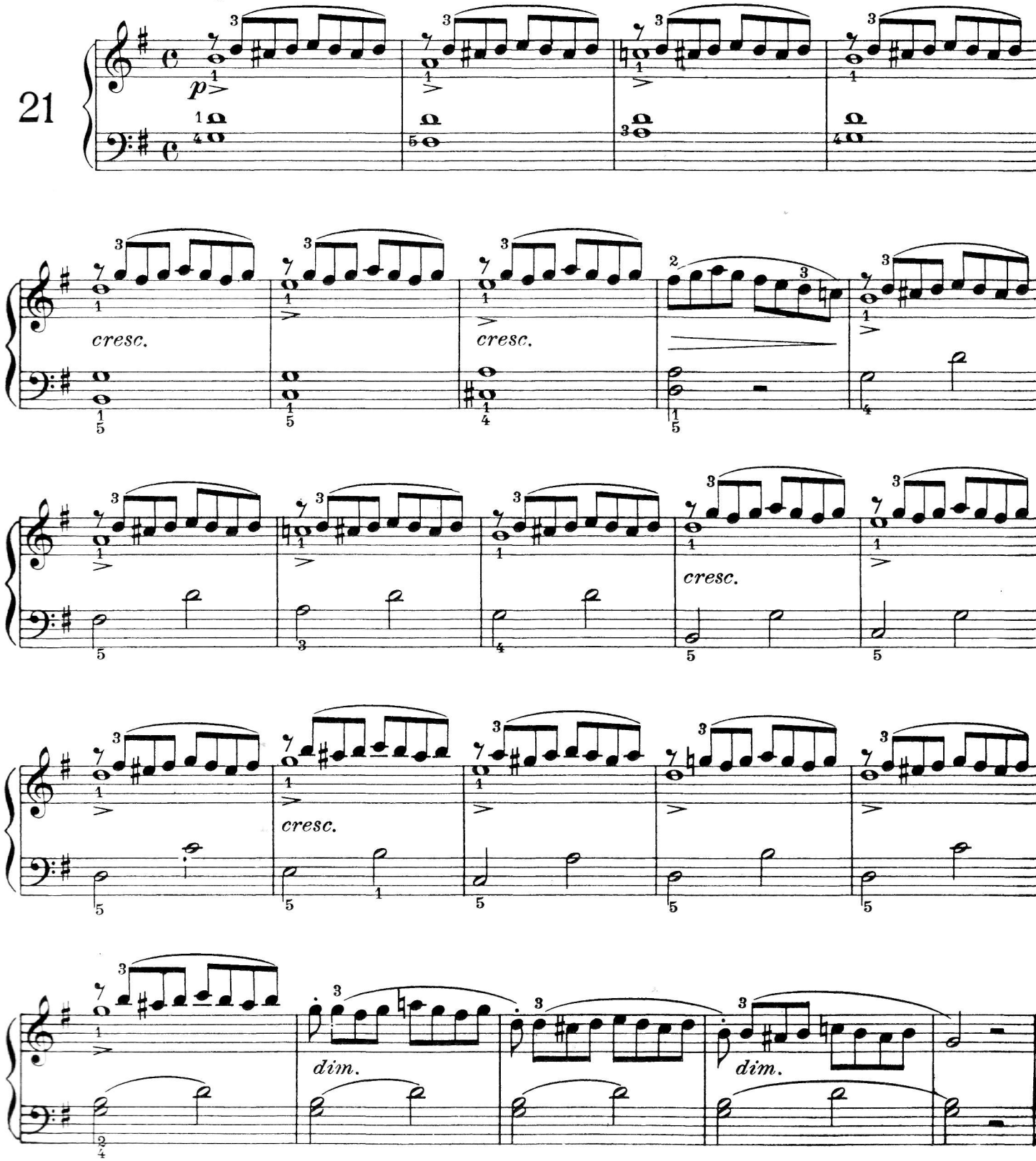
Let the sustained notes (played by the thumb) support the weight of the arm, while the upper voice is played with finger legato.

Velocity attained M.M. .....

Sustaining the Thumb

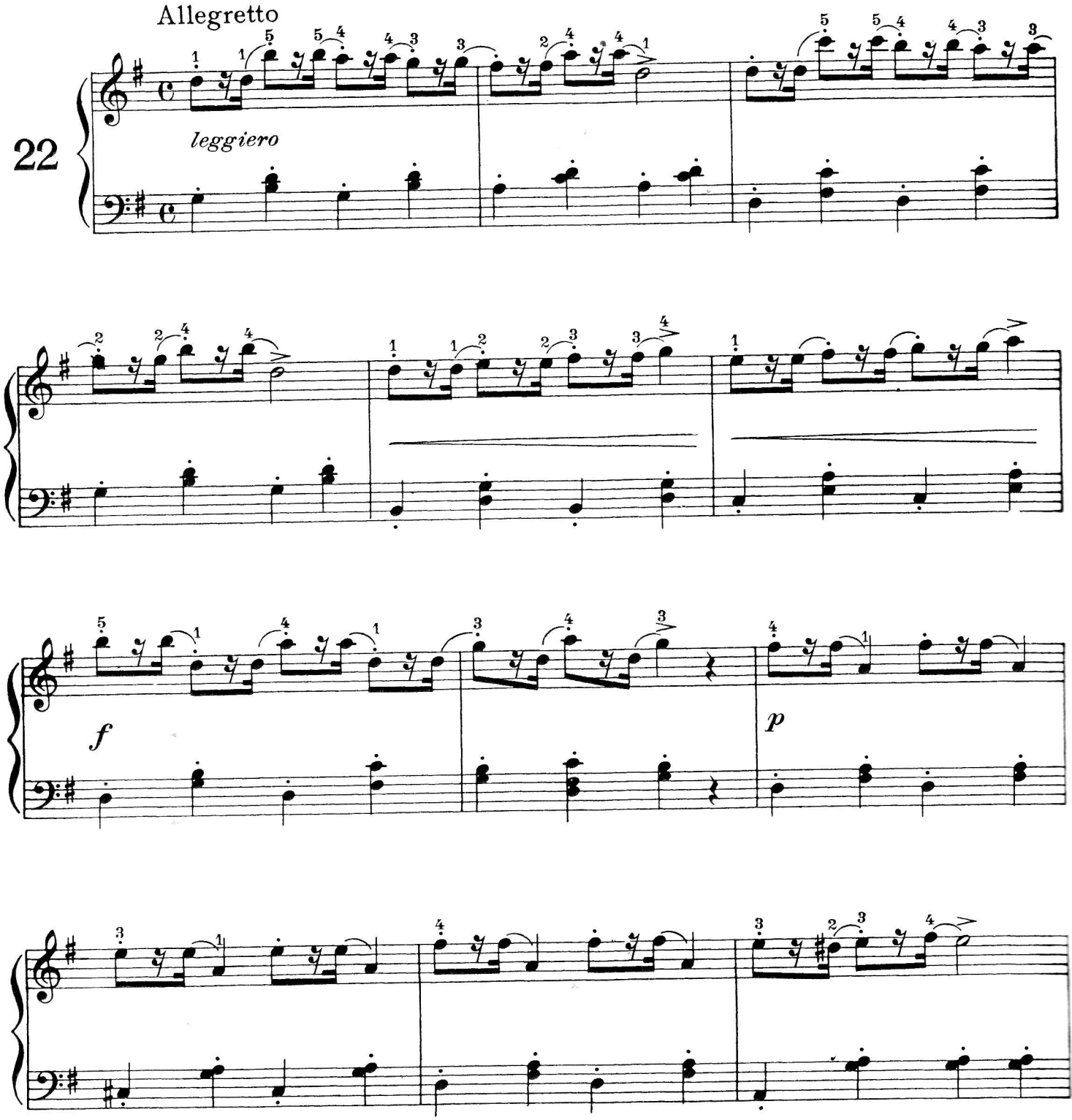
Duvernoy

Allegretto



Play the two-note slurs with a rolling motion of the hand, and toss off each group sharply.

Velocity attained M. M.....

Chasing Butterflies

Streabbog