VOLUME ONE

Enjoy the music!

BASS IN BACH

for Solo Double Bass

Original Bach-influenced pieces

composed by

David Johnstone

A personal note from the cellist-composer David Johnstone

*[Traducción al **Español** al final de este volumen]*

First question you are bound to ask: what are these **"Bass In Bach"** pieces for double bass about then? In a nutshell – music very similar to Bach composed for young and/or less experienced bassists which sounds good and convincing on the bass but is actually a far bit easier than our maestro Bach himself! However, don't view these pieces and expect to find exact Bach-like copies, or even original *Bach* undiscovered gems! That is not the purpose: the goal here is to create modern day 'Bach ambience' pieces, not academic Baroque period purities. These **18** pieces are conceived for the 'modern' bass - we are looking at NEW pieces featuring *Bachian* influences.

My involvement as a composer is not as a Baroque purist - for example some of the pieces have rather more defined 'classical' period recapitulations, and many apparently 'binary' movements do not repeat the second part at all. Yet I feel confident in proposing that ALL the *Bachian* structures in the music will be perfectly easy to grasp by all, and that in general players will find they can get these pieces perfectly 'polished up' thus proceeding far sooner than they might believe to the initial Suites of Bach – but you can maintain these little creations in repertoire as well! …

I have chosen easy double bass tonalities for the pieces. However, it should be made clear that all are conceived as individual pieces and not as a set or suite. I am conscious of the tasks given to young players, and I am well aware that playing an entire Suite of Johann Sebastian Bach in public for the first time is a momentous but nerve-racking occasion for most (probably all!) of us, and so with my pieces I feel it better that most players concentrate on perhaps just a couple of specific movements.

Of course, for the more ambitious or those more advanced there is no problem at all in grouping several pieces together and playing them as a 'quasi' Suite: perhaps rather impressive would be to try including the original title *"Bass in Bach" Suite* for Solo Double Bass, regardless of which movements are finally selected for the Suite (and not really important if several different keys are used)!

The goal of producing beautiful concert music is of the same importance to the composer in the easiest pieces to those of most difficulty. All are highly programmable, these can be played confidently and convincingly in public. Later everyone will feel a little more comfortable about tackling *real* J.S. Bach for the first time, but advanced players, and even professionals, will have extra repertoire to insert alongside their other Bach pieces!!

This whole project is **dedicated** to the international Bach-Day movement "**Bach in the Subways**" and with especial gratitude to its founder **Dale Henderson** – indeed we shall be guiding Spanish musicians towards presenting these pieces from 2016 onwards in Pamplona, Spain, in the forthcoming international Bach days.

As always, it is a real pleasure to hear of other performances or activity inclusions as they happen, so do please drop a note to **'johnstone-music'**!

Enjoy the music !!

Initial music score preparation and edition by the Navarre cellist Javier Navascués Allué -

Double Bass revision by the bass soloist and principal bassist of the Navarre Symphony Orchestra Piotr Antoni Piotrowski

Please note that fingerings are given merely as suggestions: players can choose other options at their wish or from the guidance of their teachers. These present fingerings are a base of useful suggestions from which the bassist can experiment according to personal style, ability, and artistic projection!

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BASS IN BACH

for Solo Double Bass

1.. Gavotte in C *(2′ 00″)*

2.. Bourree in G *(1′ 15″)*

3.. Polonaise in D *(2′ 15″)*

4.. Sarabande in E minor *(2′ 30″)*

5.. Minuet in G (No. 1) *(3′ 15″)*

6.. Minuet in G (No. 2) *(3′ 45″)*

7.. Gigue in C *(1′ 15″)*

8.. Sarabande in A *(2′ 30″)*

9.. Allemande in D *(2′ 00″)*

10.. Prelude (Fugue) in E *(2′ 00″)*

11.. Ouverture in C minor (Introduction) *(3′ 00″)*

12.. Prelude in E *(3′ 15″)*

13.. Courante in A *(1′ 15″)*

14.. Gigue in G *(2′ 00″)*

15.. Toccata in E *(3′ 00″)*

16.. Toccata-Fantasia in F *(3′ 30″)*

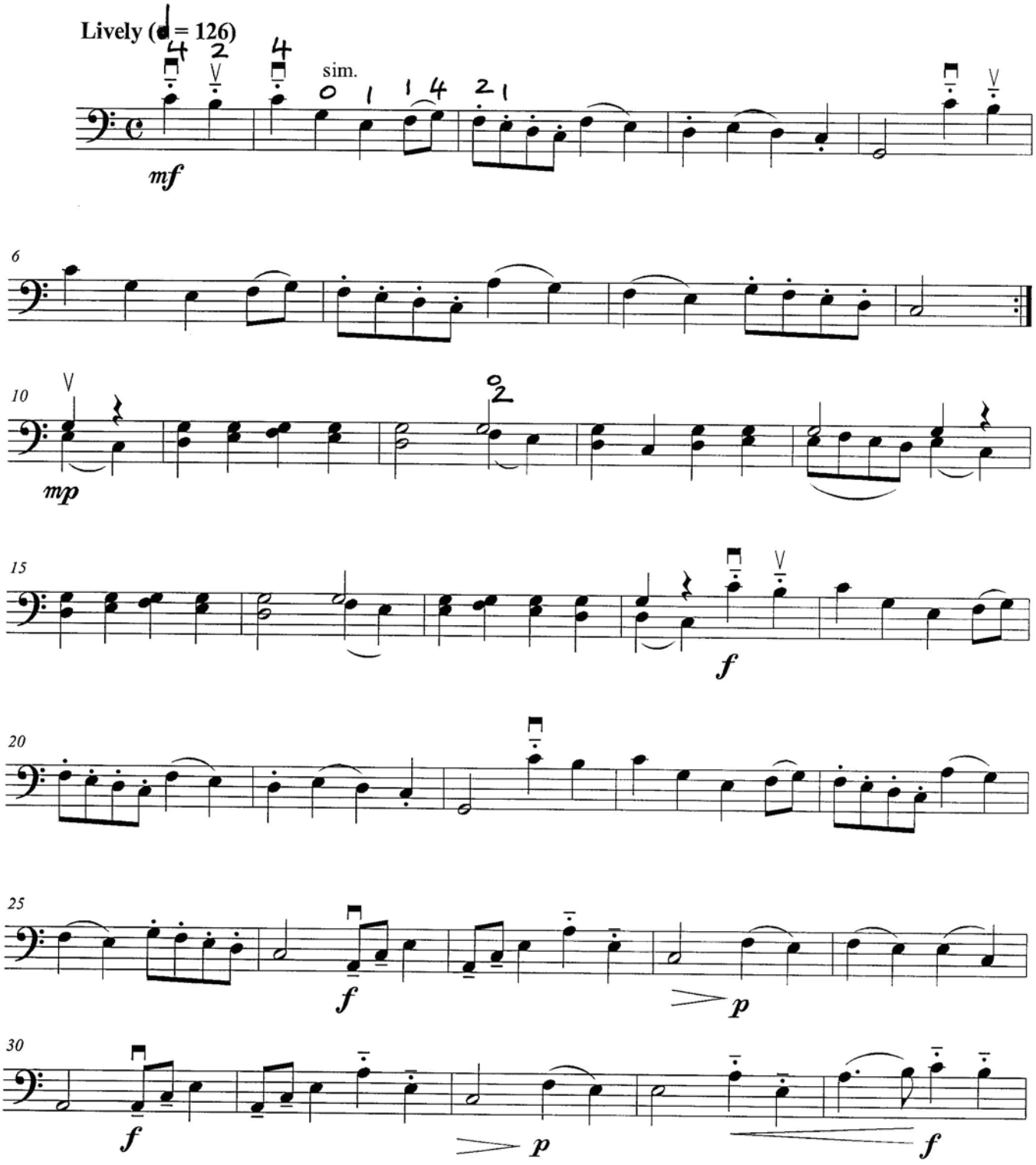
17.. Largo (Sicilienne) in E minor (with optional 2nd Bass) *(3′ 30″)*

18.. Arioso in F (with optional 2nd Bass) *(2′ 45″)*

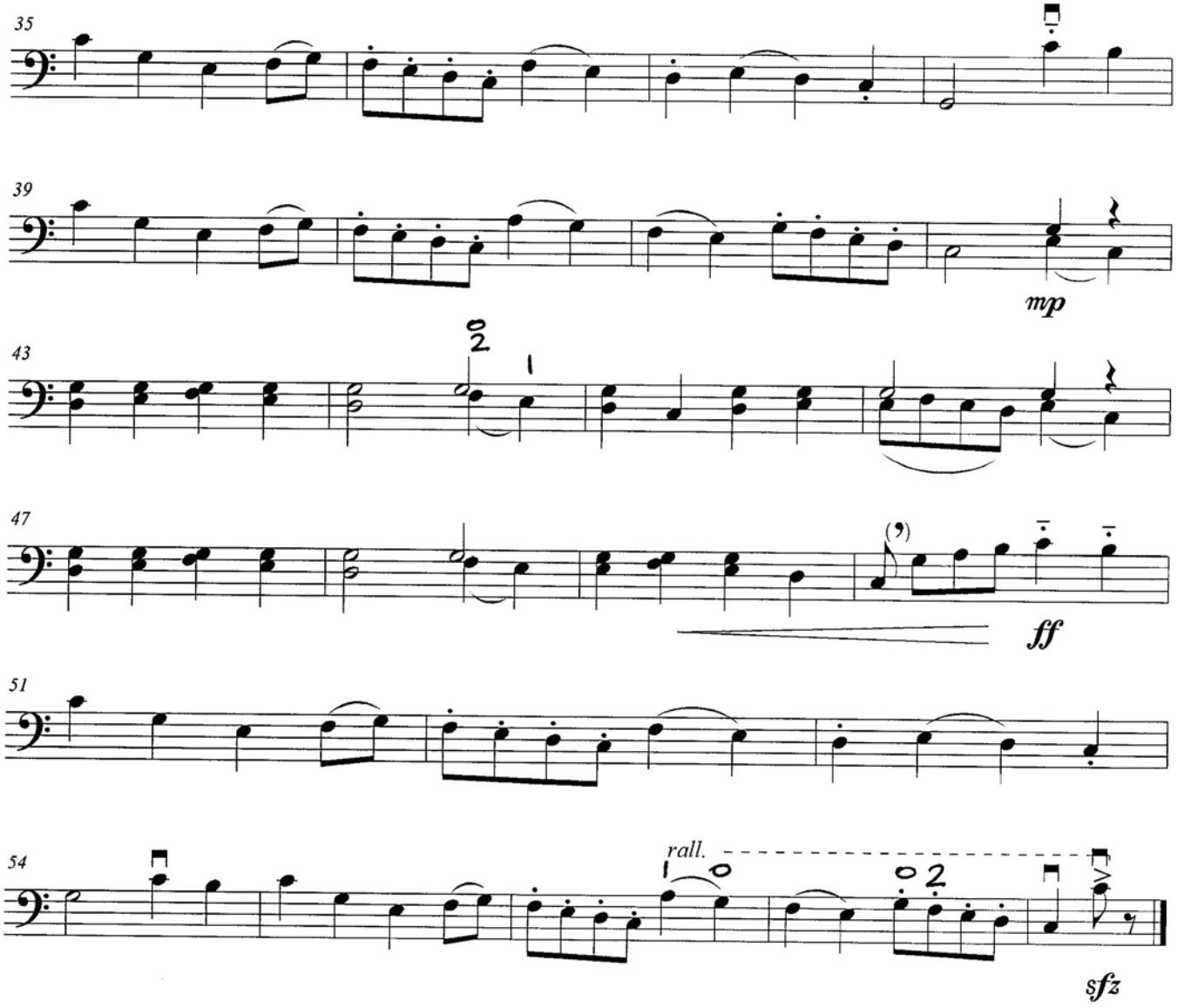
Bass

Gavotte in C

David Johnstone



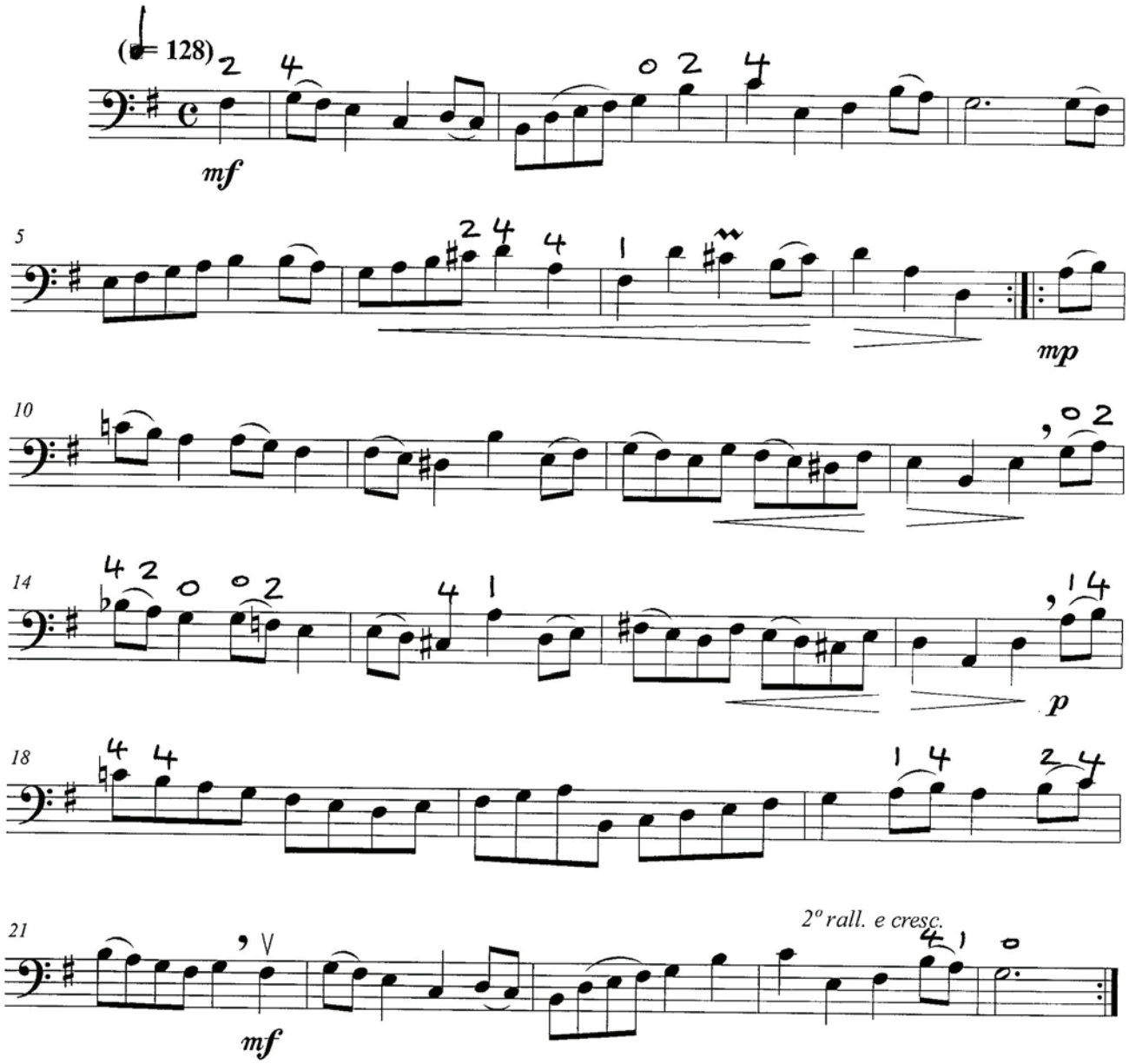
Gavotte in C



Bourree in G

Bass

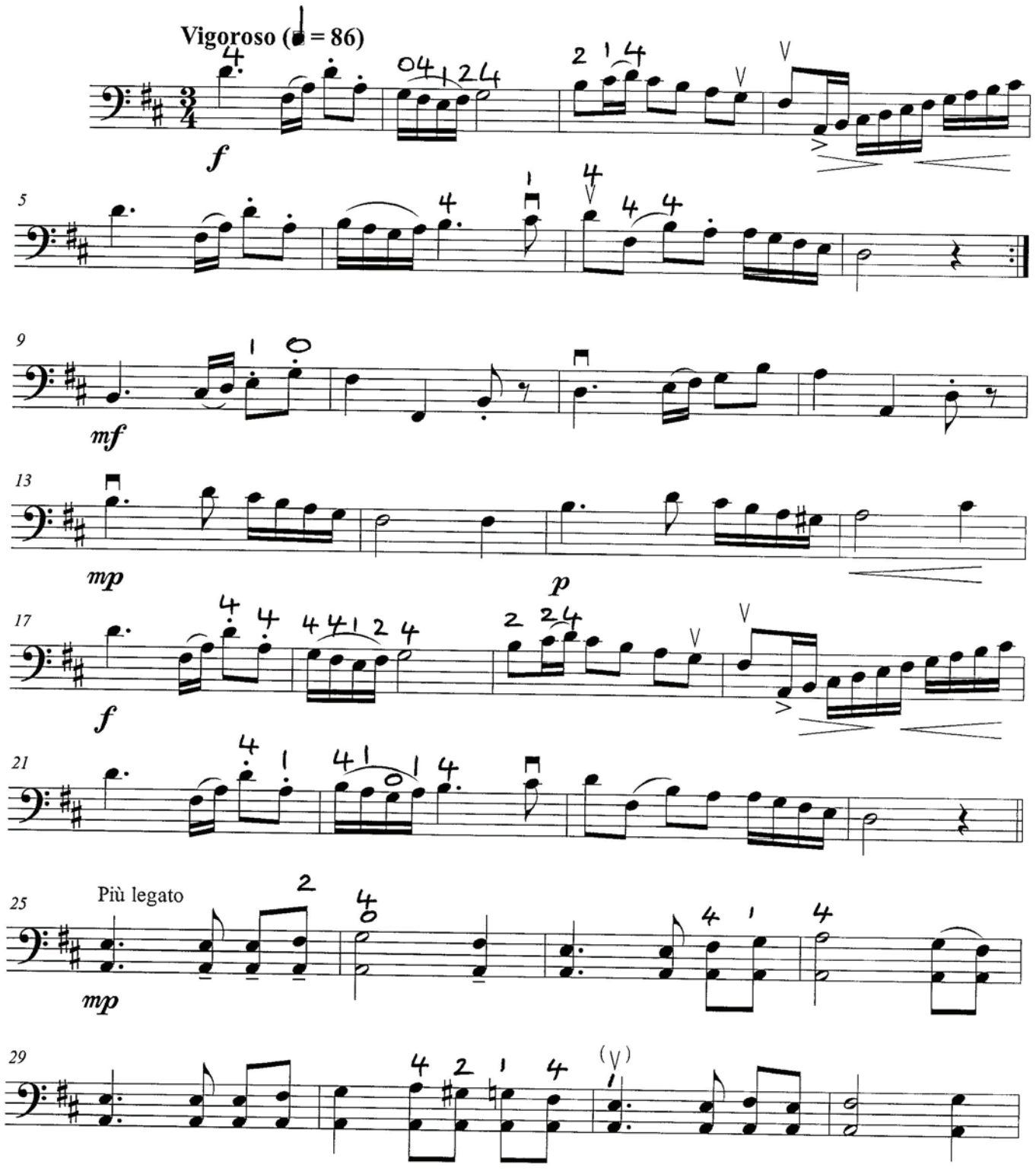
David Johnstone



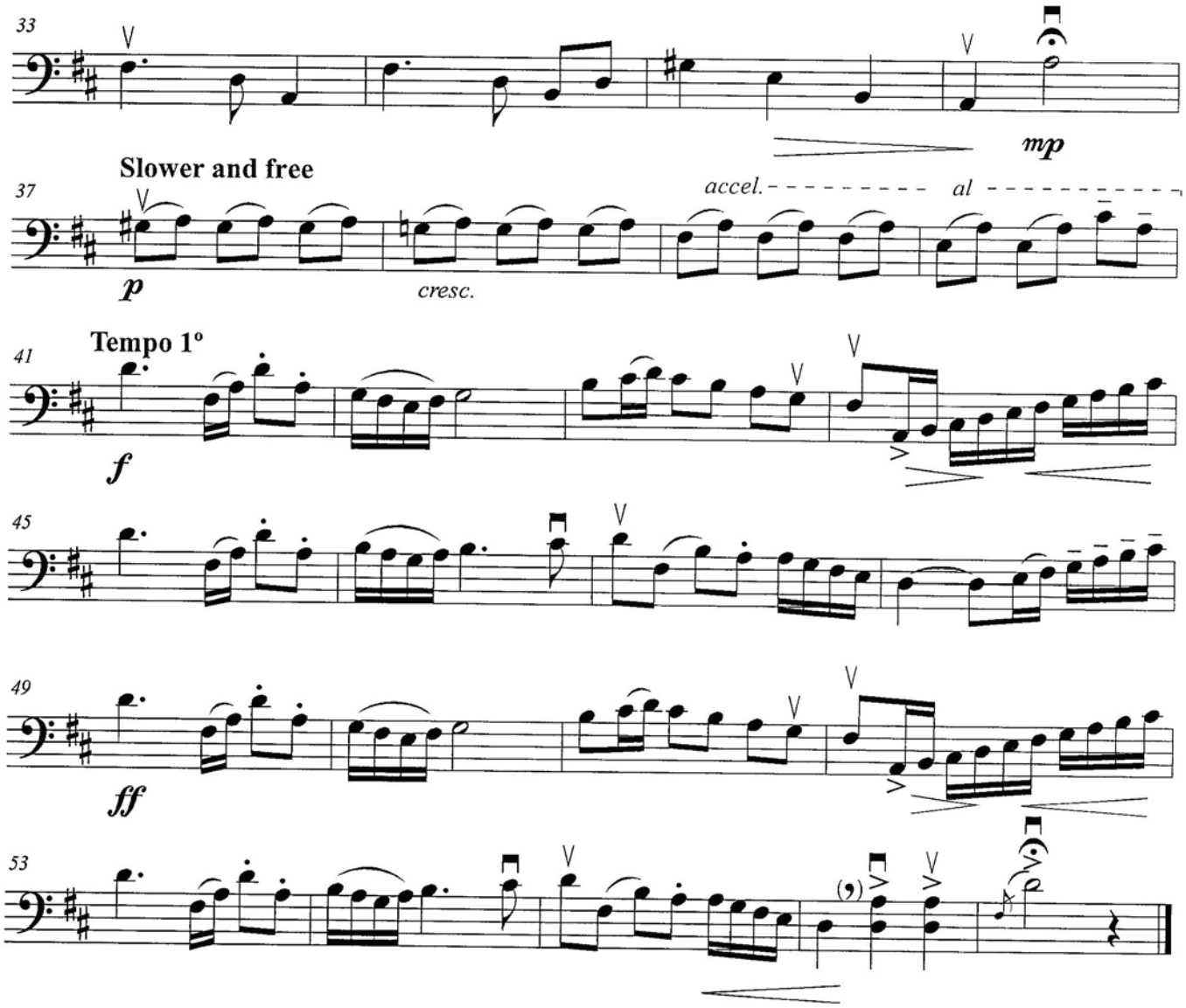
Bass

Polonaise in D

David Johnstone



Polonaise in D

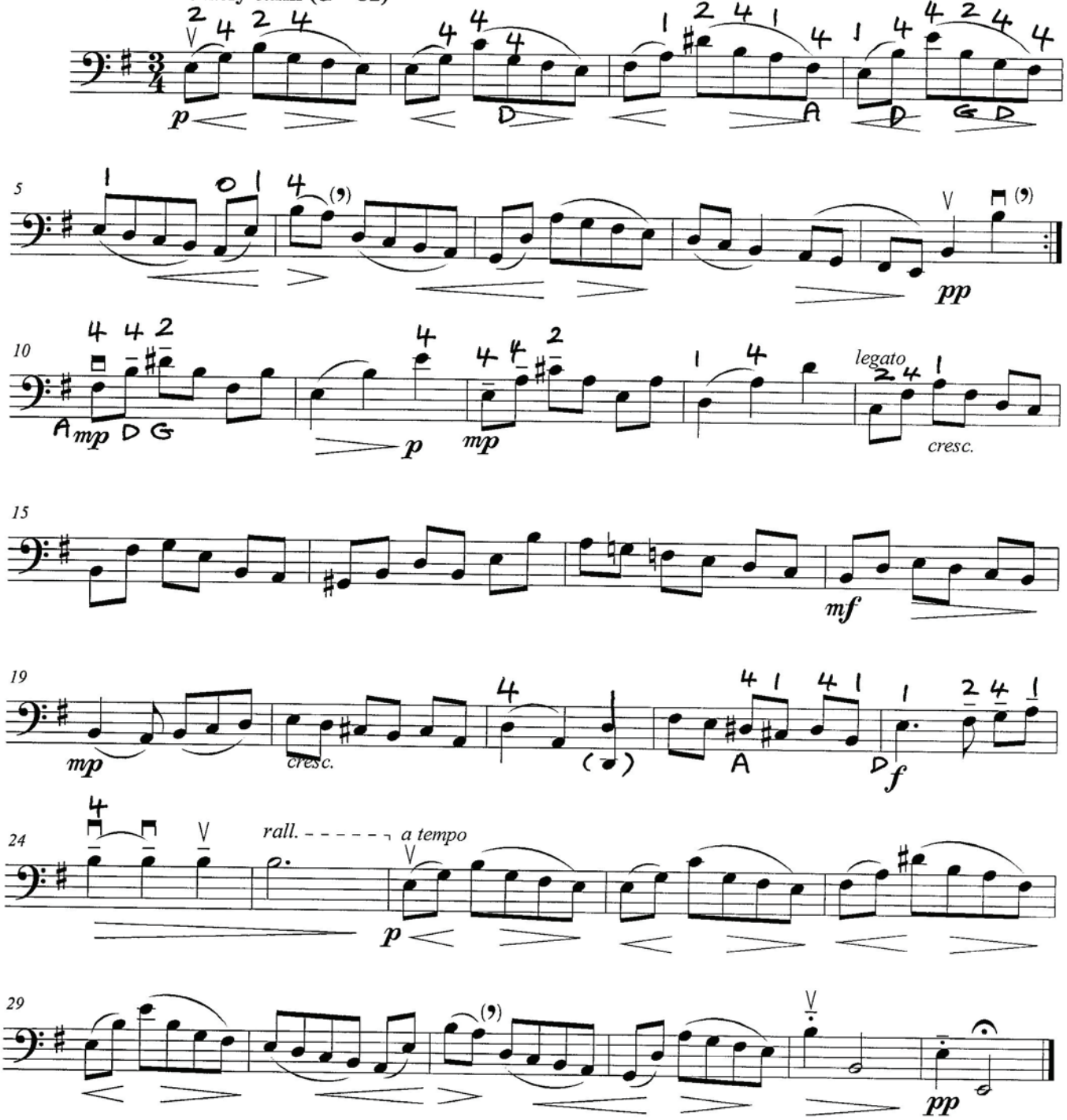


Bass

Sarabande in E Minor

David Johnstone

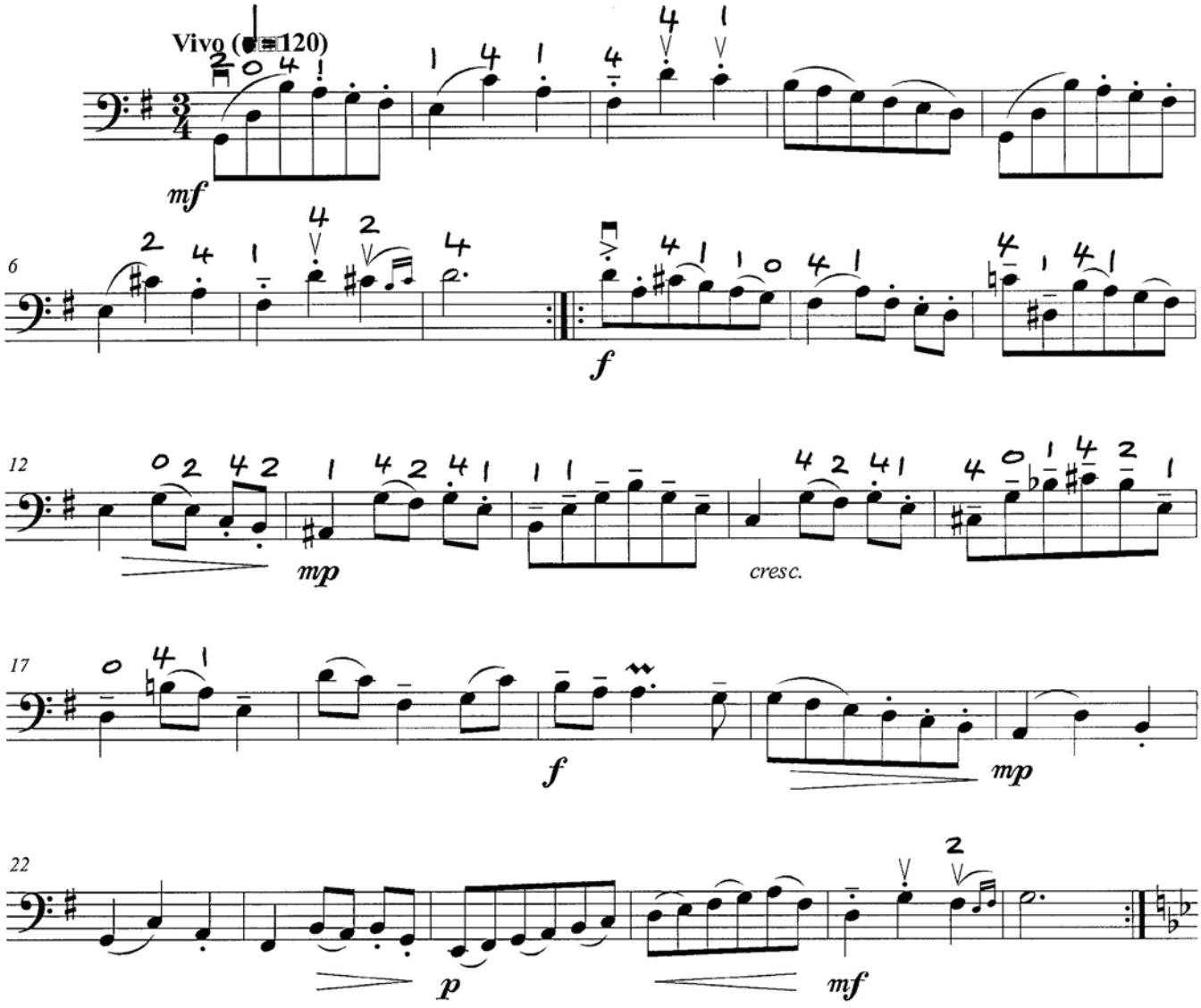
Somewhat moving,
but extremely calm (♩ = 52)

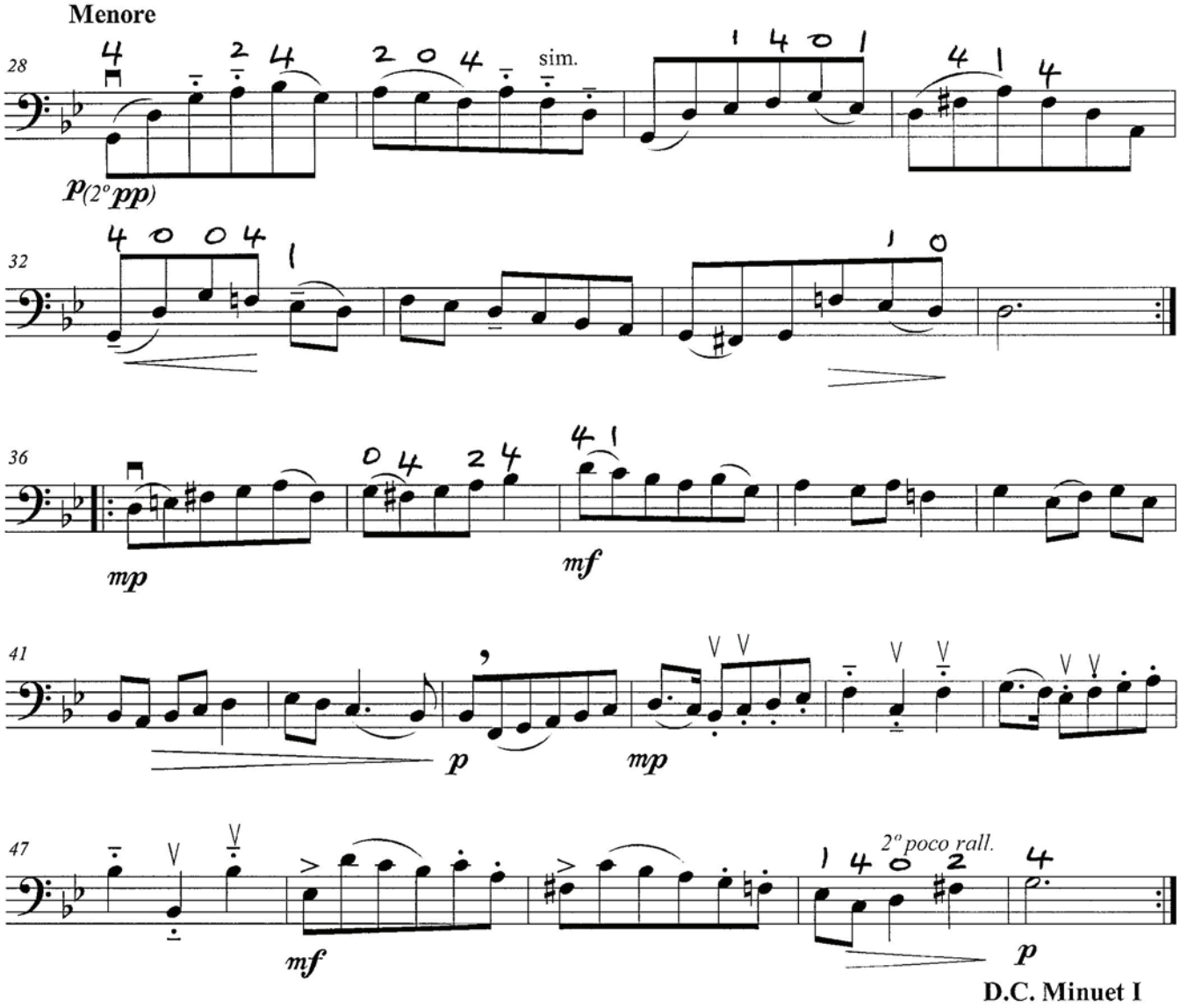


Bass

Minuet in G (N°1)

David Johnstone

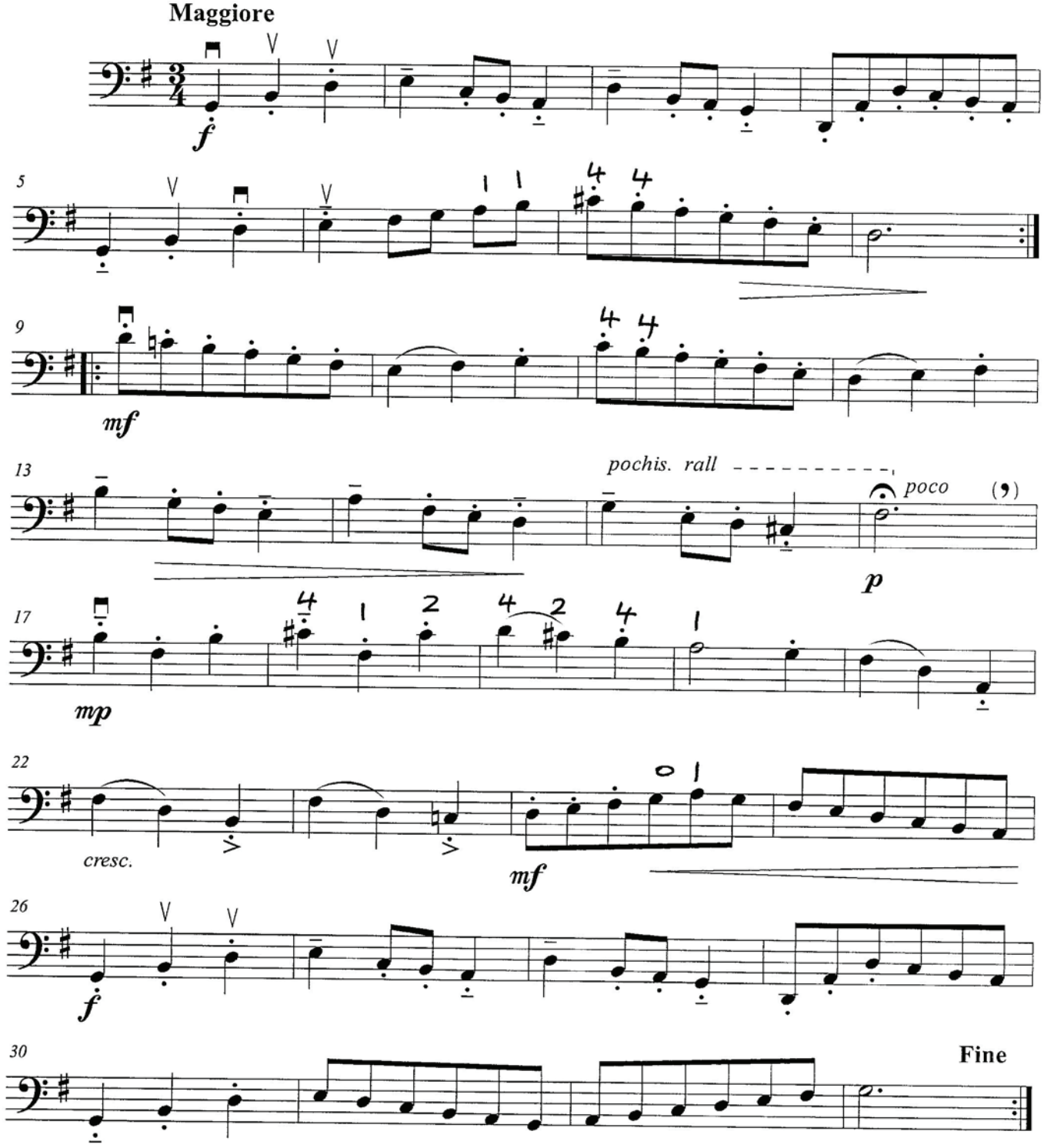



Menore
28
sim.
p (2° pp)
32
36
mp
mf
41
p
mp
47
mf
2° poco rall.
p
D.C. Minuet I

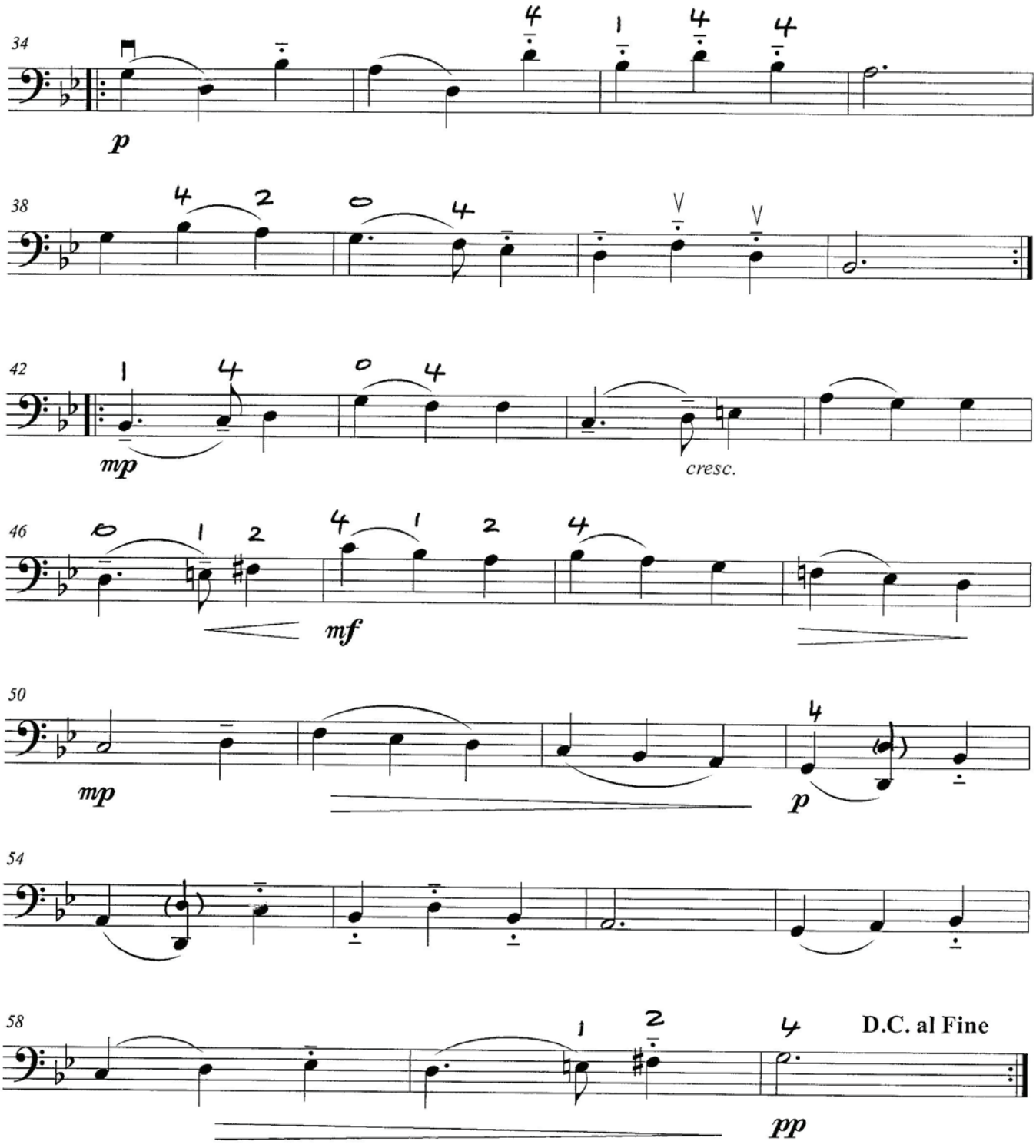
Bass

Minuet in G (N° 2)

David Johnstone



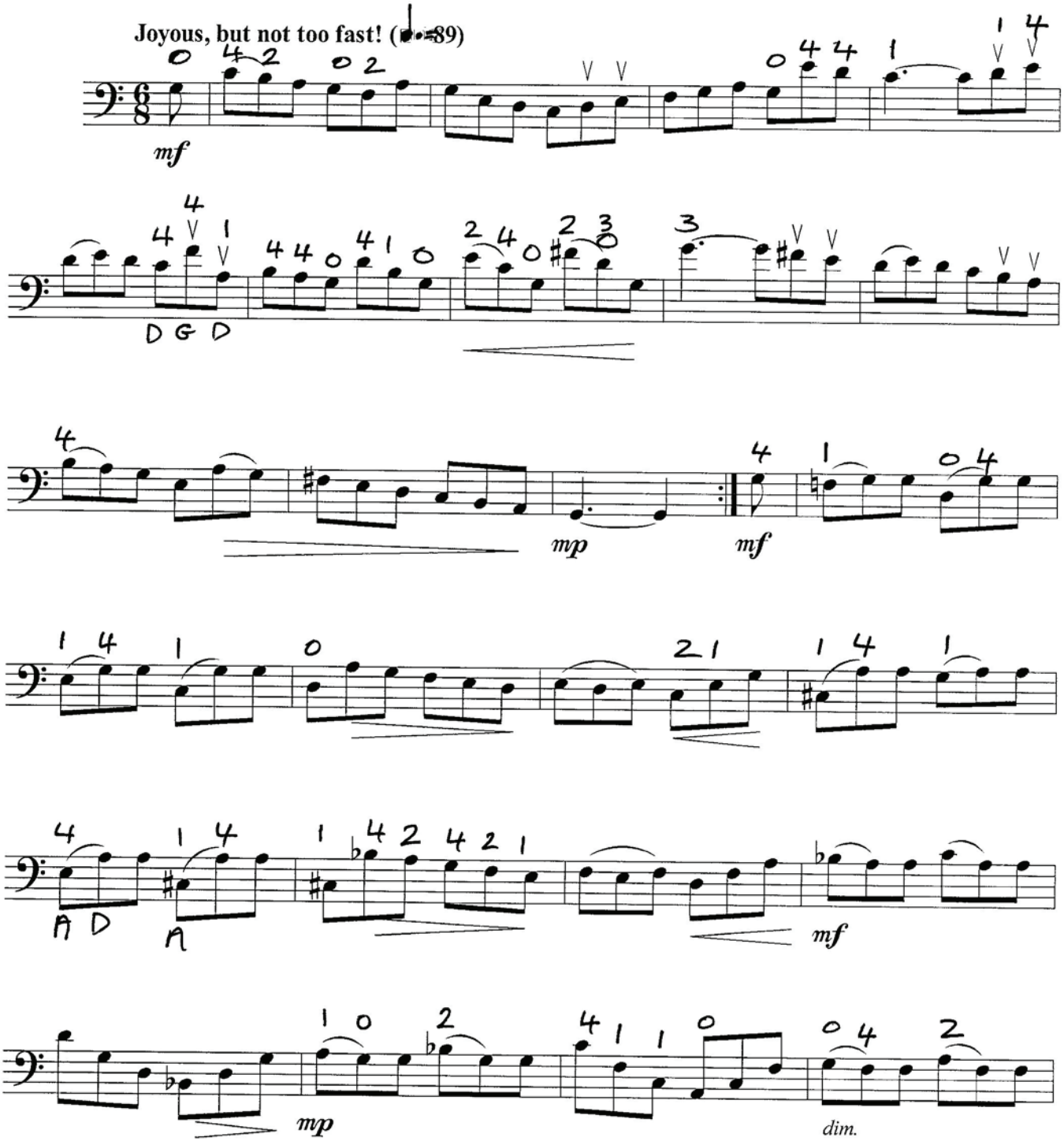
Minuet in G (Nº 2)



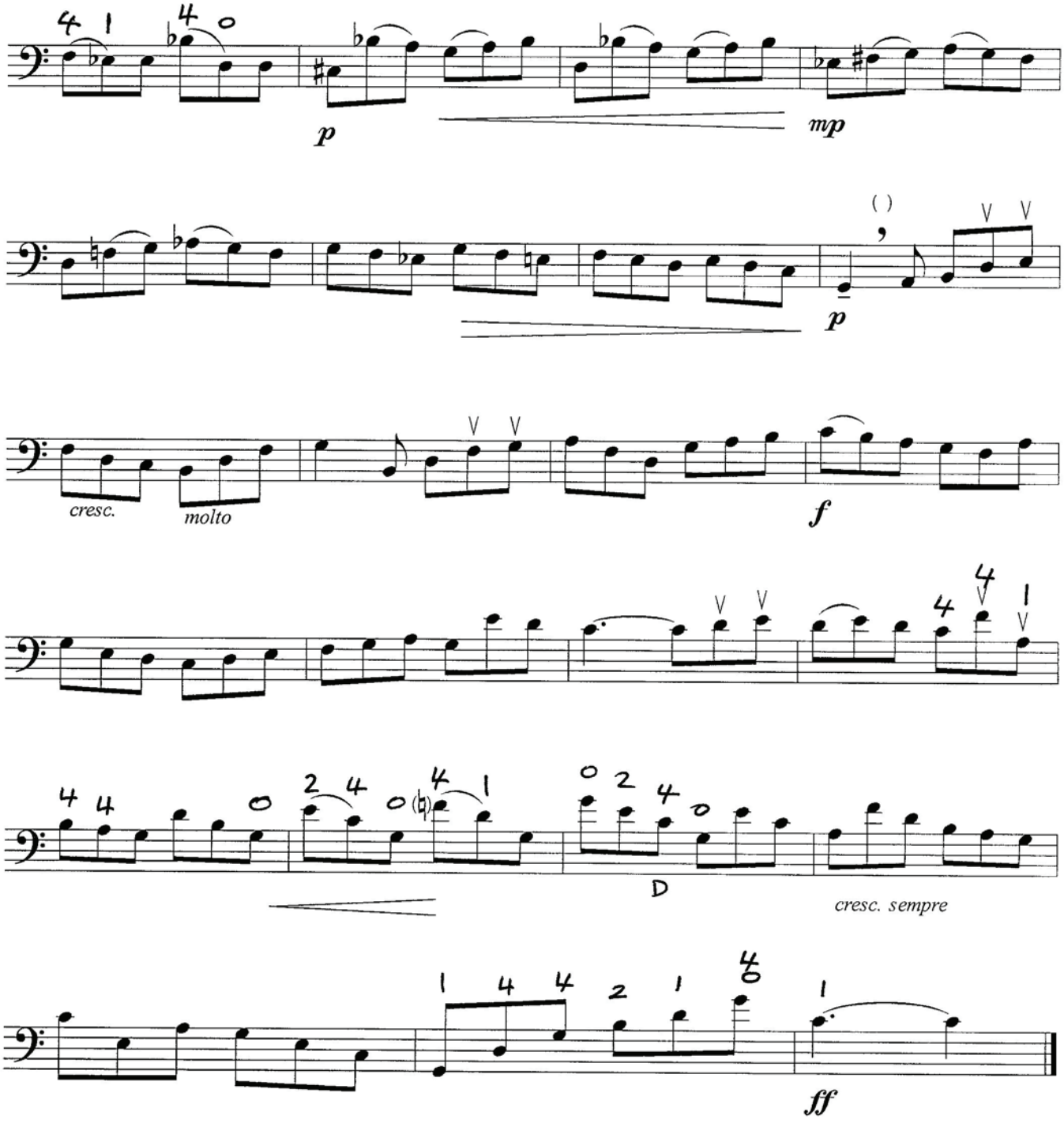
Bass

Gigue in C

David Johnstone



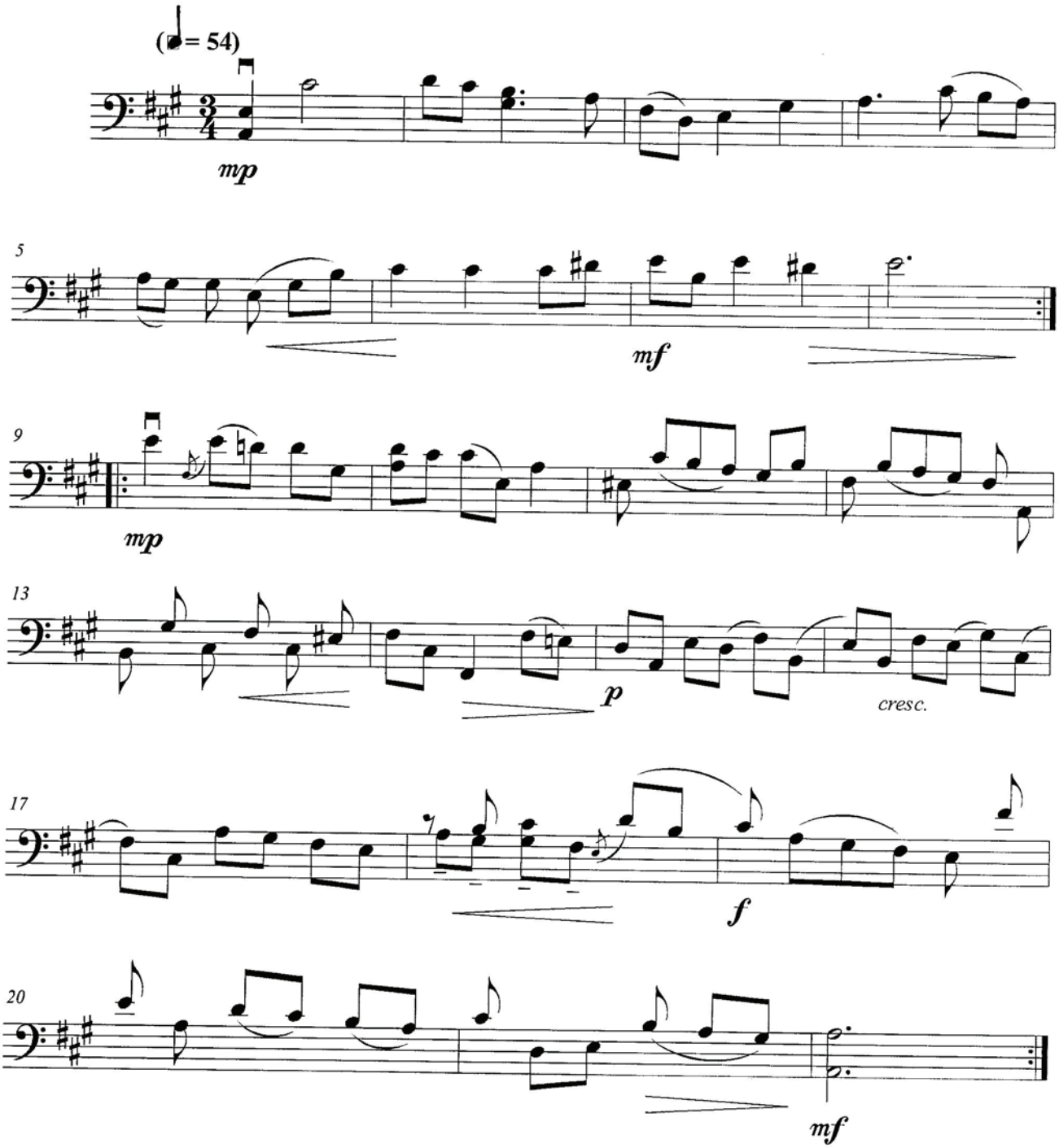
Gigue in C



Sarabande in A

Bass

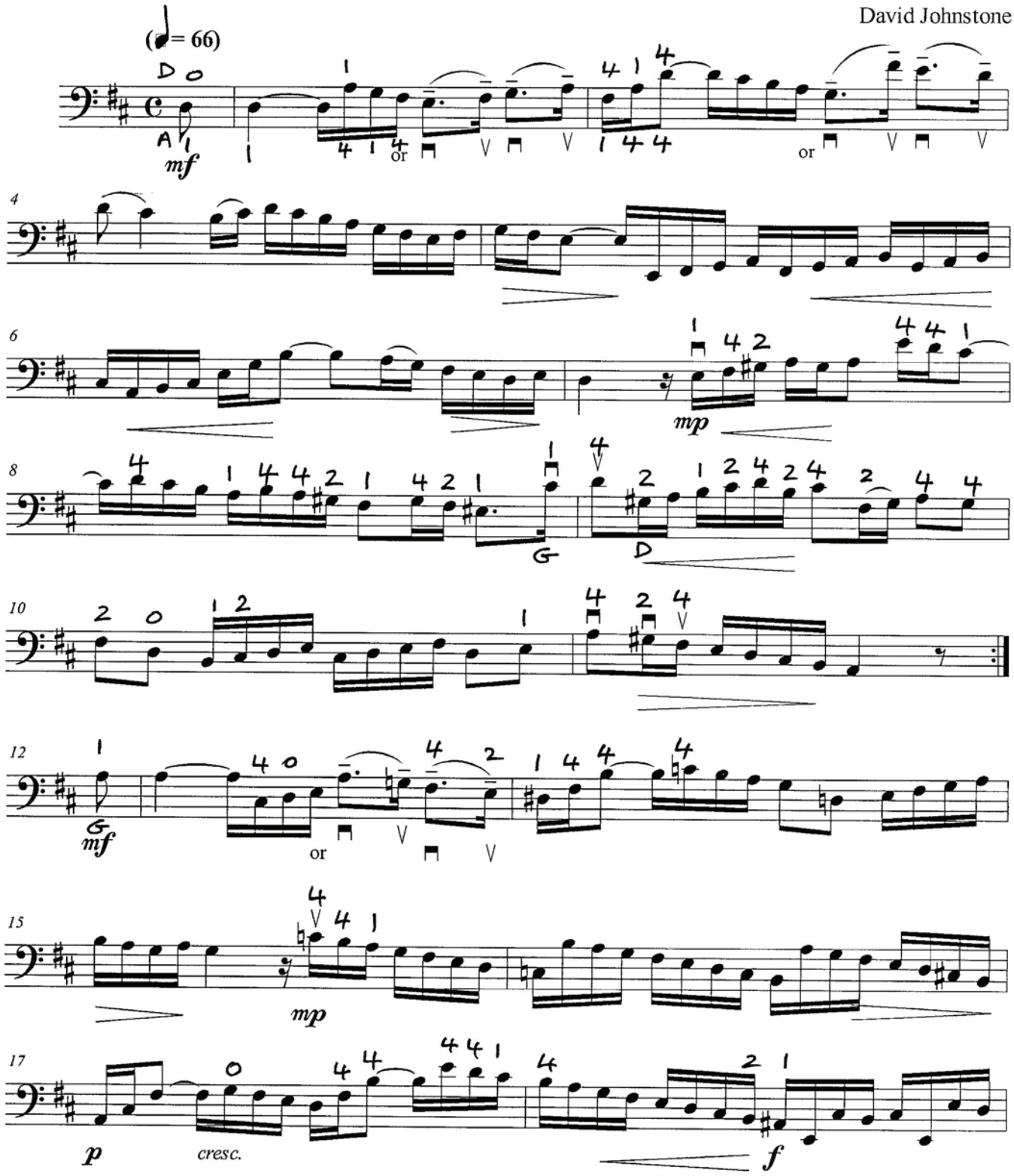
David Johnstone



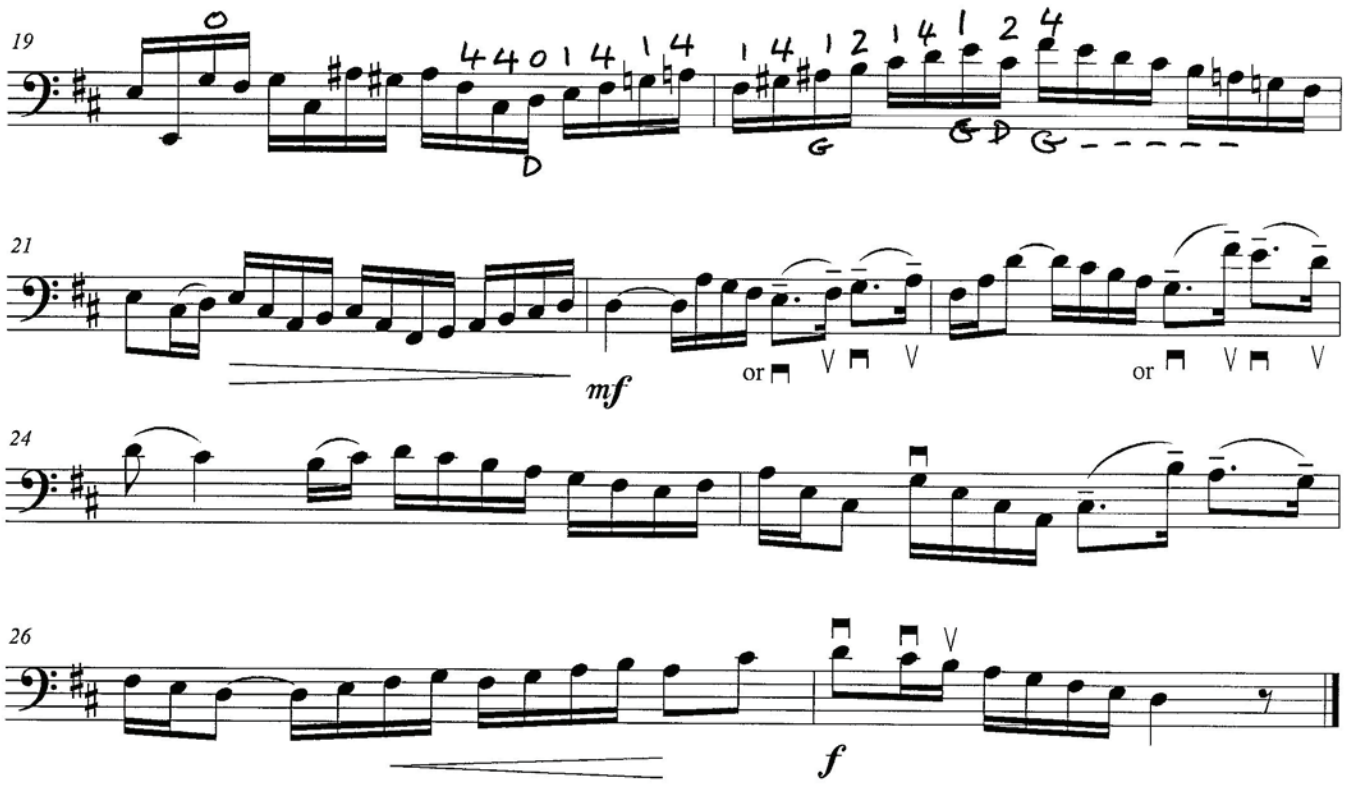
Bass

Allemande in D

David Johnstone



Allemande in D



Una nota personal del violonchelista y compositor David Johnstone

*[Notes in **English** are at the beginning of this volume]*

La primera pregunta que seguramente te vas a hacer: *¿cuáles son estos volúmenes **"Bass In Bach"** para contrabajo?* En pocas palabras: música muy similar a la de Bach compuesta para contrabajistas jóvenes o con menos experiencia, que suena bien y convincente en el contrabajo, pero es un poco más fácil que la de nuestro maestro Bach! Sin embargo, no deberías esperar encontrar en estas piezas copias de Bach, o incluso alguna joya por descubrir original de Bach! Ese no es el objetivo: el objetivo aquí es crear piezas modernas del estilo de Bach - estas **18** piezas están concebidas para la contrabajo "moderno".

Mi participación como compositor no es tal como un purista barroco (por ejemplo, algunas de las piezas tienen re-exposiciones "clásicas" más definidas, y muchos movimientos aparentemente 'binarios' no tienen en absoluto la repetición en la segunda parte). Sin embargo, me siento confiado en proponer que todas las estructuras *'bachianas'* de la música serán perfectamente fáciles de entender por todos los músicos y, en general, los contrabajistas encontrarán que pueden conseguir un 'brillo' en estas piezas, y como resultado proceder a las primeras Suites de Bach mucho antes de lo que se podrán creer; pero se puede mantener estas pequeñas creaciones 'en repertorio' ...

He elegido tonalidades fáciles para contrabajo en las piezas. Sin embargo, debe quedar claro que todas están concebidas como piezas individuales y no como un conjunto o suite. Soy consciente de las tareas encomendadas a los jóvenes, y que interpretar toda una suite de Johann Sebastián Bach en público por primera vez es una ocasión trascendental, pero estresante para la mayoría (probablemente todos!). Así que con mis piezas me siento mejor que la mayoría de los músicos que se concentran en quizás un par de movimientos específicos.

Por supuesto, para los más ambiciosos o los más avanzados no hay ningún problema en absoluto en la agrupación de varias piezas y interpretarlas como casi una suite: tal vez bastante impresionante sería tratar incluyendo el título original "*Bass In Bach" Suite* para Solo Contrabajo, independientemente de que los movimientos sean finalmente seleccionados para la Suite (y no es realmente importante si se utiliza varias tonalidades diferentes)!

El objetivo de producir música hermosa de concierto es de la misma importancia en las piezas más fáciles a los más difíciles. Todas son altamente programables, éstas se pueden reproducir con seguridad y de manera convincente en público. Más tarde te sentirás un poco más cómodo para tocar obras de J.S. Bach por primera vez, pero los músicos avanzados, e incluso profesionales, tendrán un repertorio extra para insertar junto a su otra música de Bach!!

Todo este proyecto está **dedicado** al movimiento internacional del día de Bach **"Bach In the Subways"** y, sobre todo, con especial gratitud a su fundador **Dale Henderson** - de hecho estaremos guiando músicos españoles hacia la presentación de estas piezas en 2016 y adelante en Pamplona, España, en los próximos días internacionales de Bach. Como siempre, es un verdadero placer saber de otras actuaciones o inclusiones de actividad a medida que ocurren, así que por favor, deja una nota a ***'johnstone-music'*** !

Disfruta la música !!

International Bach-day movement

“Bach in the Subways”

founded by Dale Henderson

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