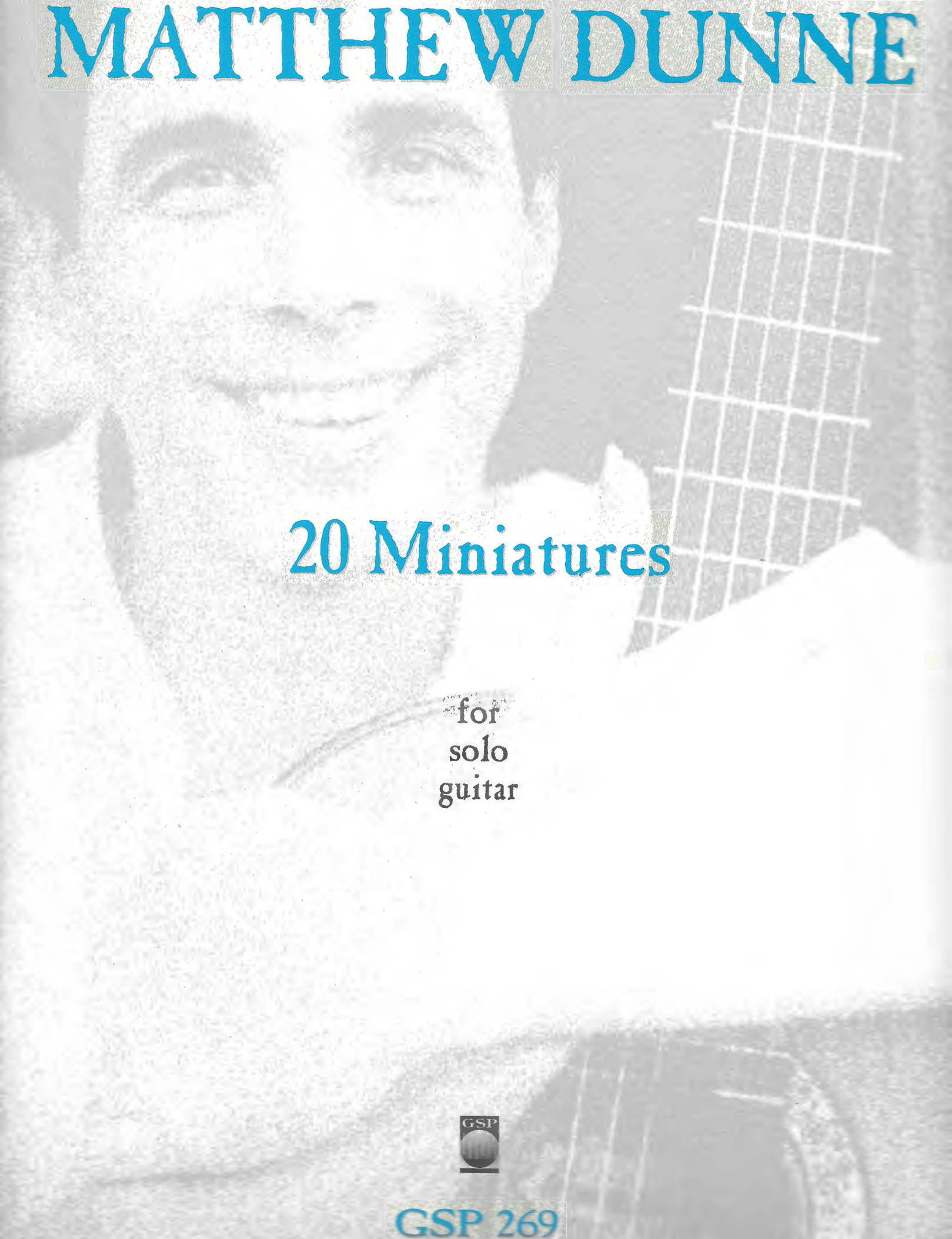
MATTHEW DUNNE



20 Miniatures

for
solo
guitar

GSP

GSP 269

MATTHEW DUNNE

20 Miniatures

for solo guitar

composition funded by a grant from
The Artist Foundation of San Antonio

About the music

I composed the Twenty Miniatures for Guitar in the summer and fall of 2009, as a result of winning a grant from the Artist Foundation of San Antonio. Many of my prior works for guitar were commissioned by virtuoso performers and ensembles. Consequently, I wanted to write some music that many guitarists could enjoy playing, including serious students, amateurs, and professionals. I found it invigorating to try to write short, accessible pieces that have musical depth and focus, and include some technical challenges while maintaining a level of playability that does not exclude all but professional guitarists.

The compositional style of the Miniatures reflects my jazz influences, interest in harmonic development, and admiration for implied counterpoint. I have tried to stay quite focused with regards to textural and rhythmic settings, relying on those to provide continuity while (hopefully!) allowing melodic and harmonic development to provide variety. There are bits of milonga, jazz waltz, folk music, even a touch of celtic influence. Programmatically, the set opens with a group of five pieces that are musically and technically the most accessible of the twenty, and concludes with a theme and four variations, which explore differing moods on the same melody.

My edition is purposely somewhat sparse in its musical indications and fingerings. As an educator, I feel that fingering in guitar music is extremely important, but can also be personal. While I have indicated many of the fingerings I use, I invite guitarists to explore other options. Similarly, I feel that interpretation, dynamics, tempi, and phrasing should be guided not only by the composer but also by the performer. I am often delighted when I hear a performance of my music that includes new expressive ideas. The indicated tempi are suggestions, not specific requirements. I also prefer to write note durations, particularly in the bass, that are easy to read and reflective of musical intent. It is frequently impossible to sustain bass notes for their full duration, and I advise performers of my music to assuage any frustration they might feel about this reality of guitar music by remembering that one of the charms of our instrument is its organic, less-than-perfect consistency.

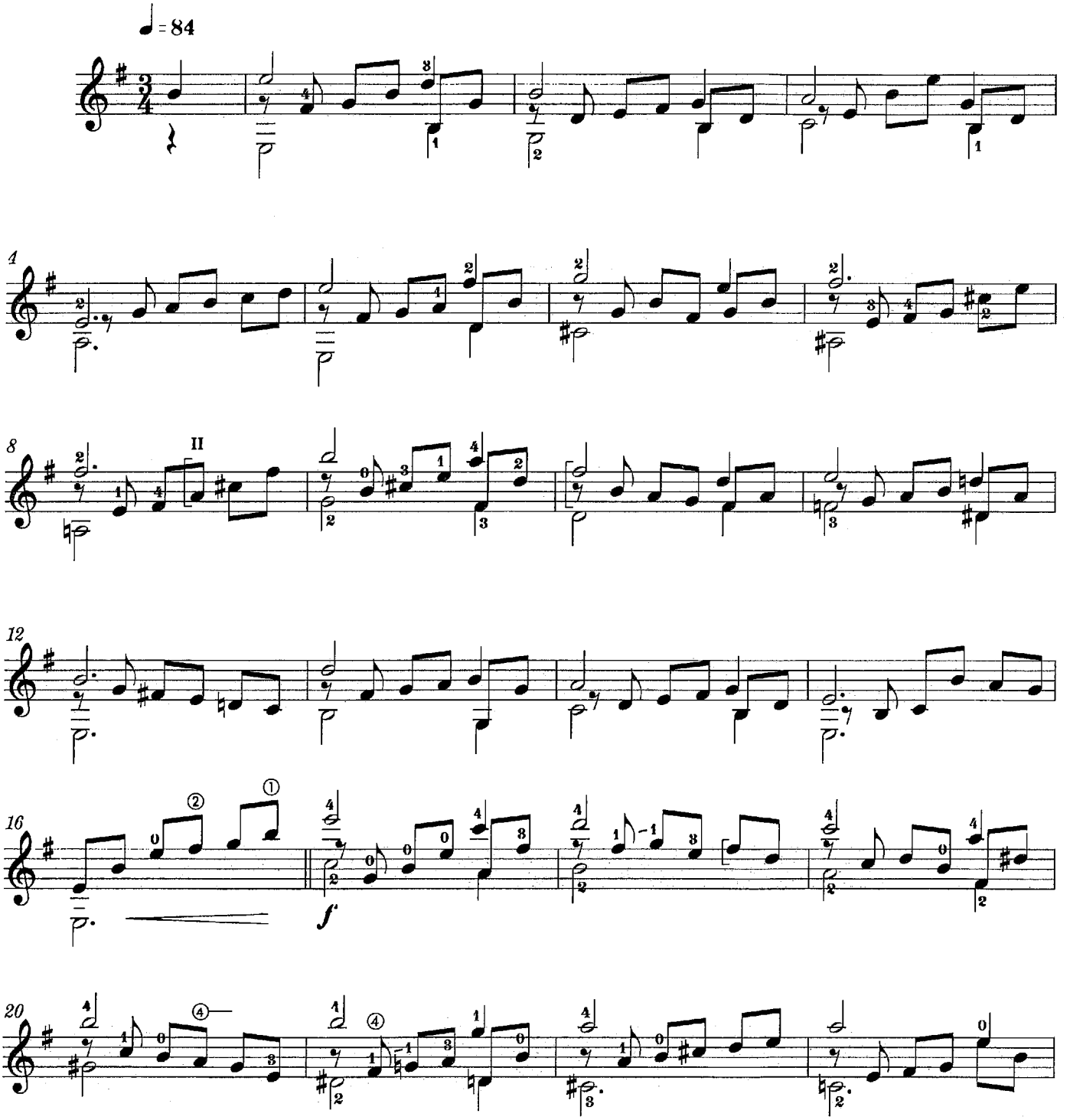
About the recording

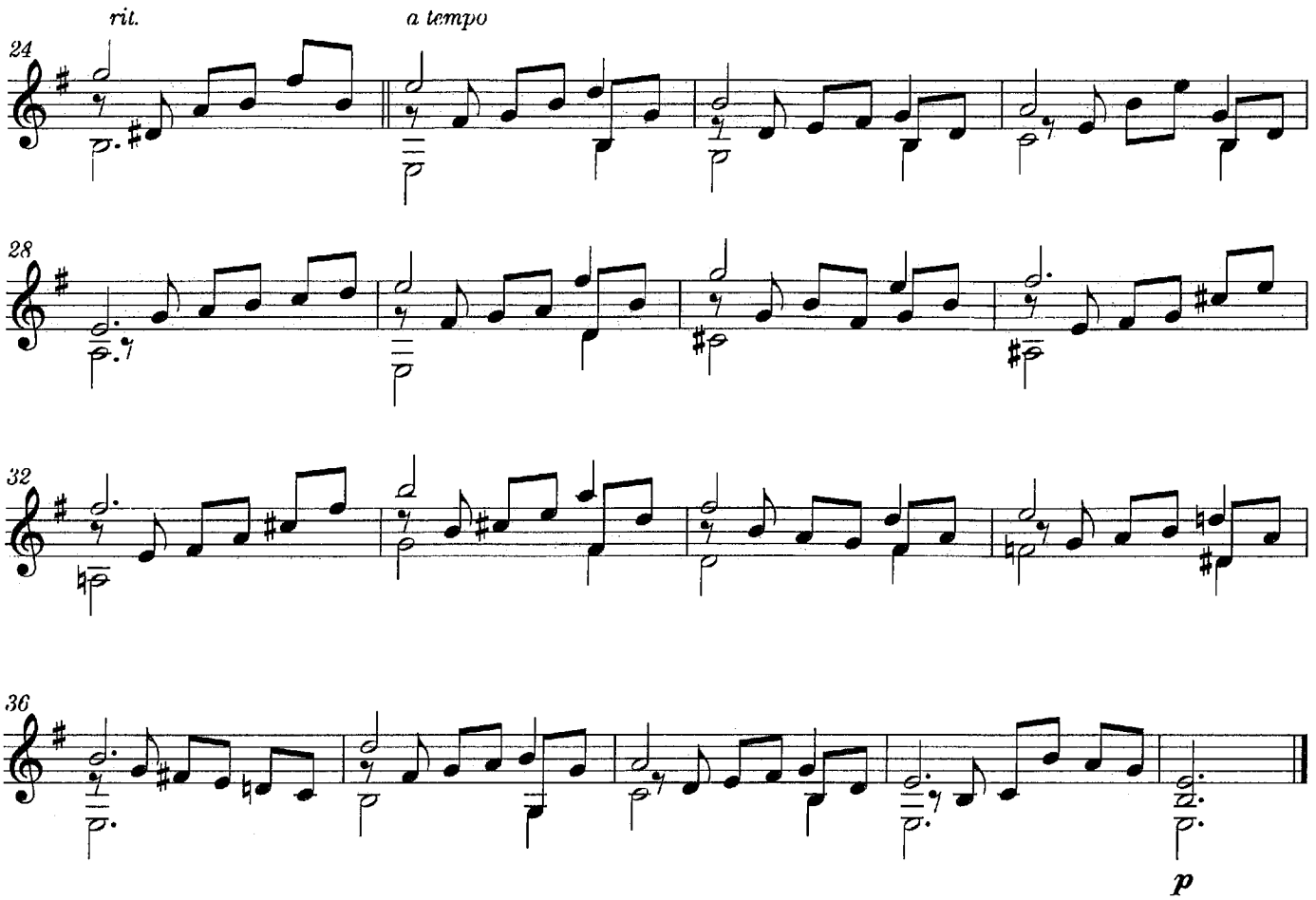
Recorded and edited in November 2010 by Matthew Dunne, San Antonio. Mastered by Matthew Dunne and Christopher Cline. The guitar on this recording was built by Thomas Humphrey in 2008. Tom was not only one of the greatest guitar makers of our time, but a close friend and a believer in my guitar composition.

20 Miniatures

1

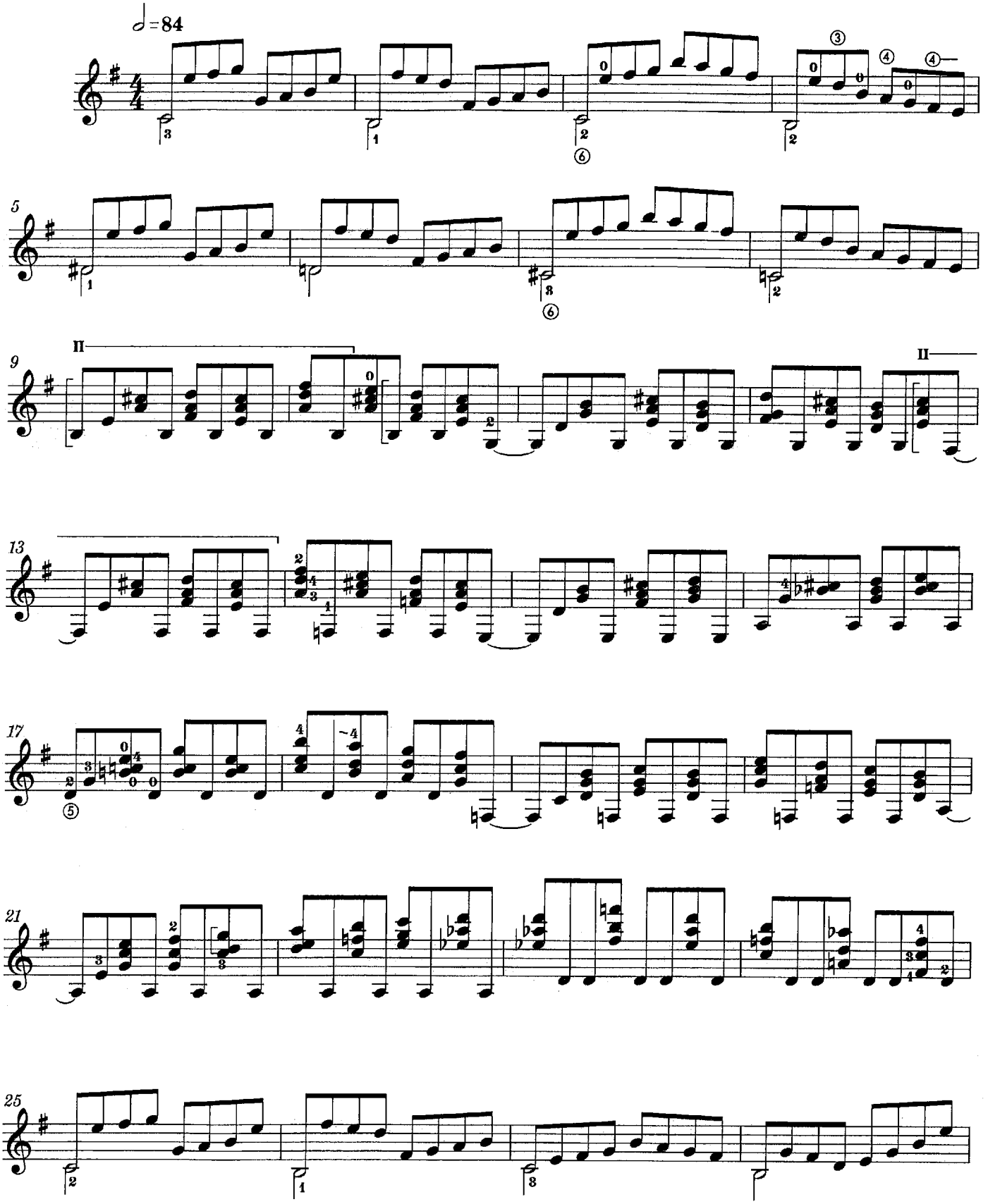
Matthew Dunne

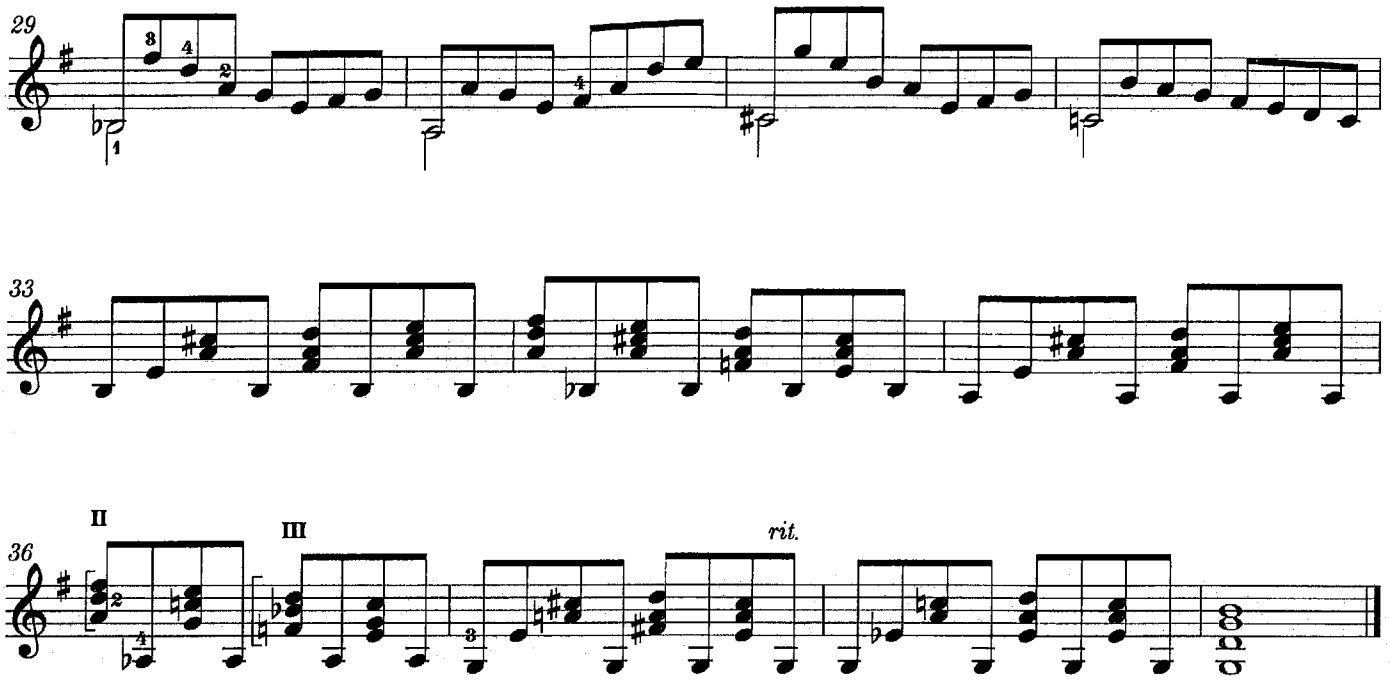



rit.
a tempo
24
28
32
36
p

2

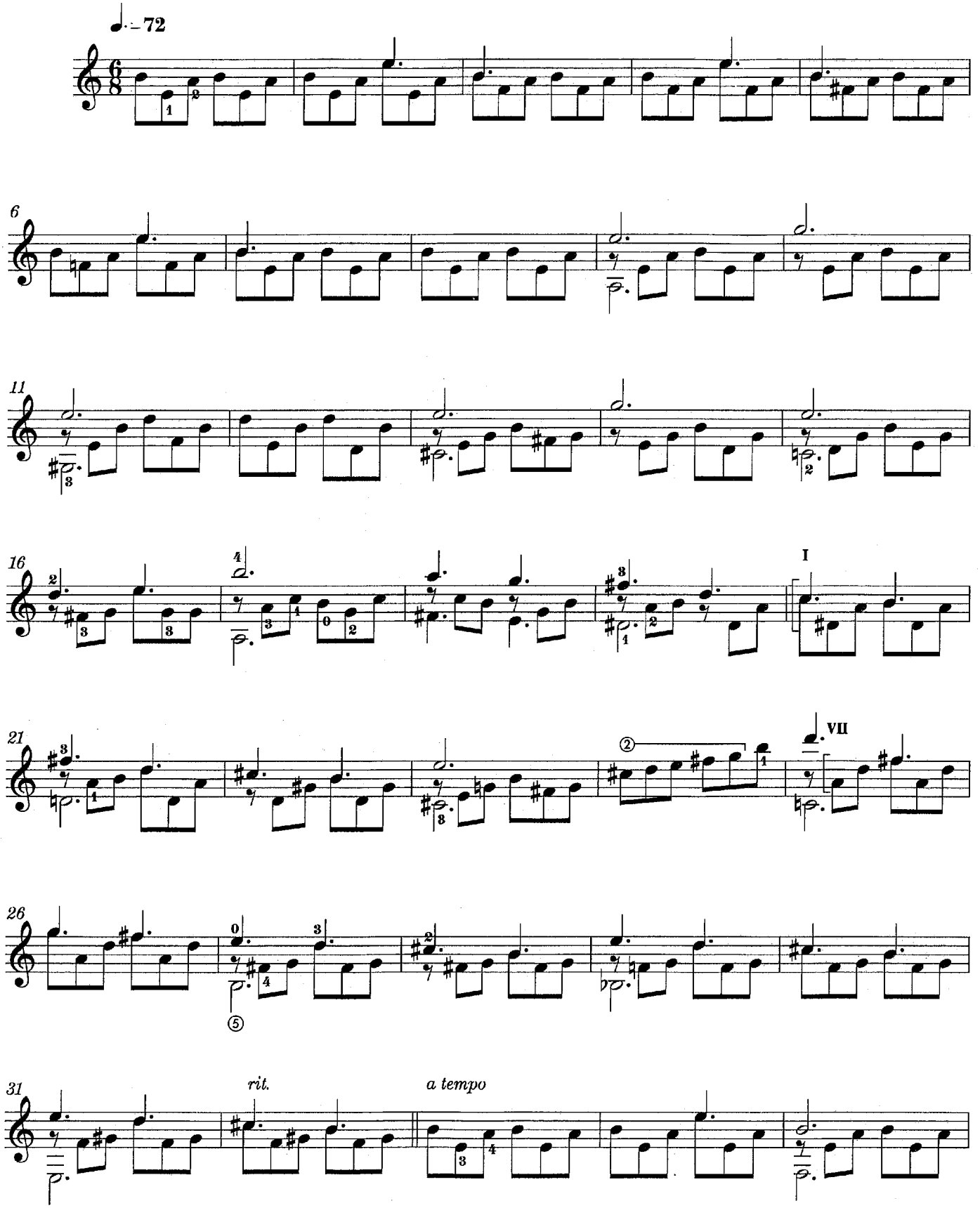
Matthew Dunne

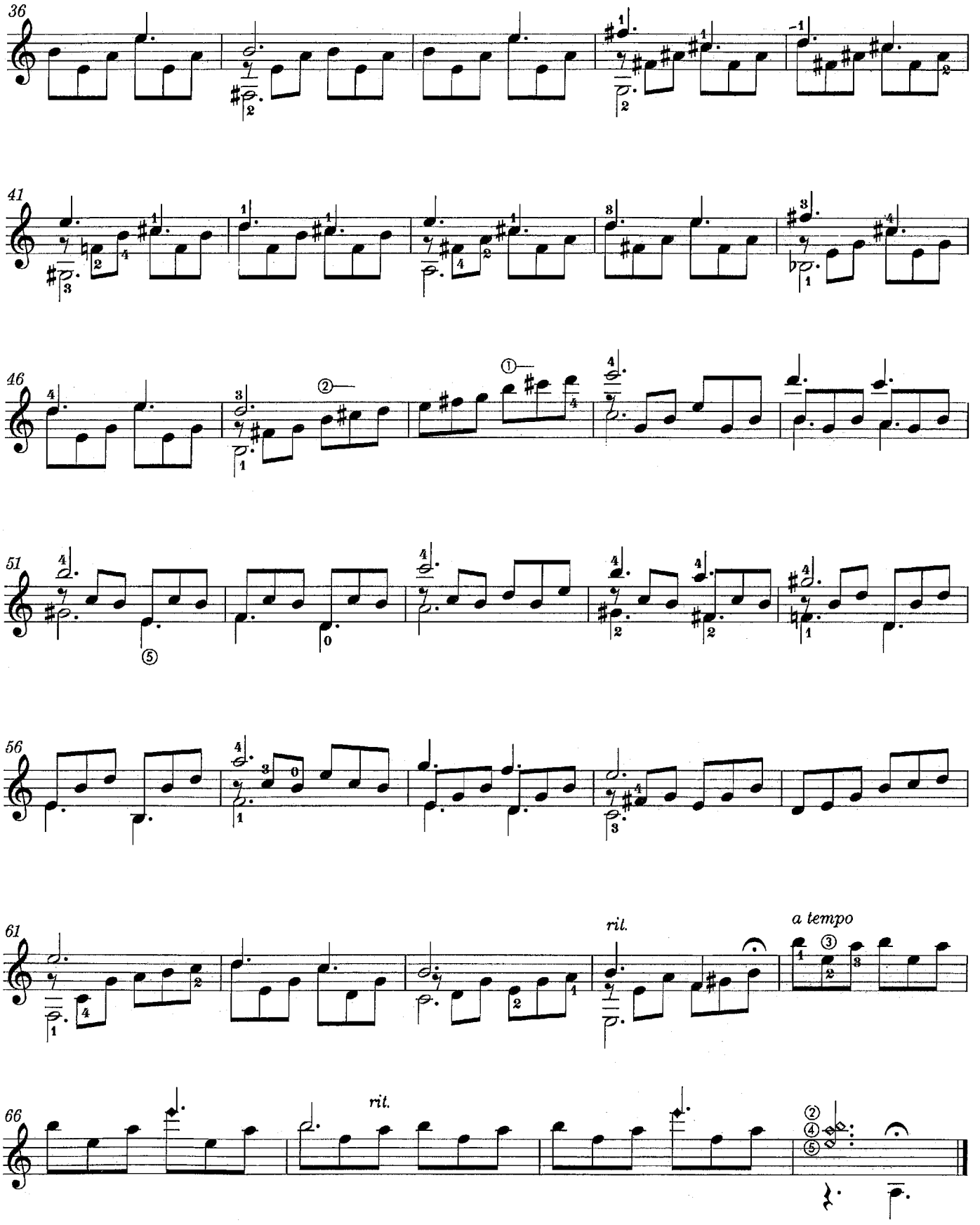



29
33
36
II
III
rit.

3

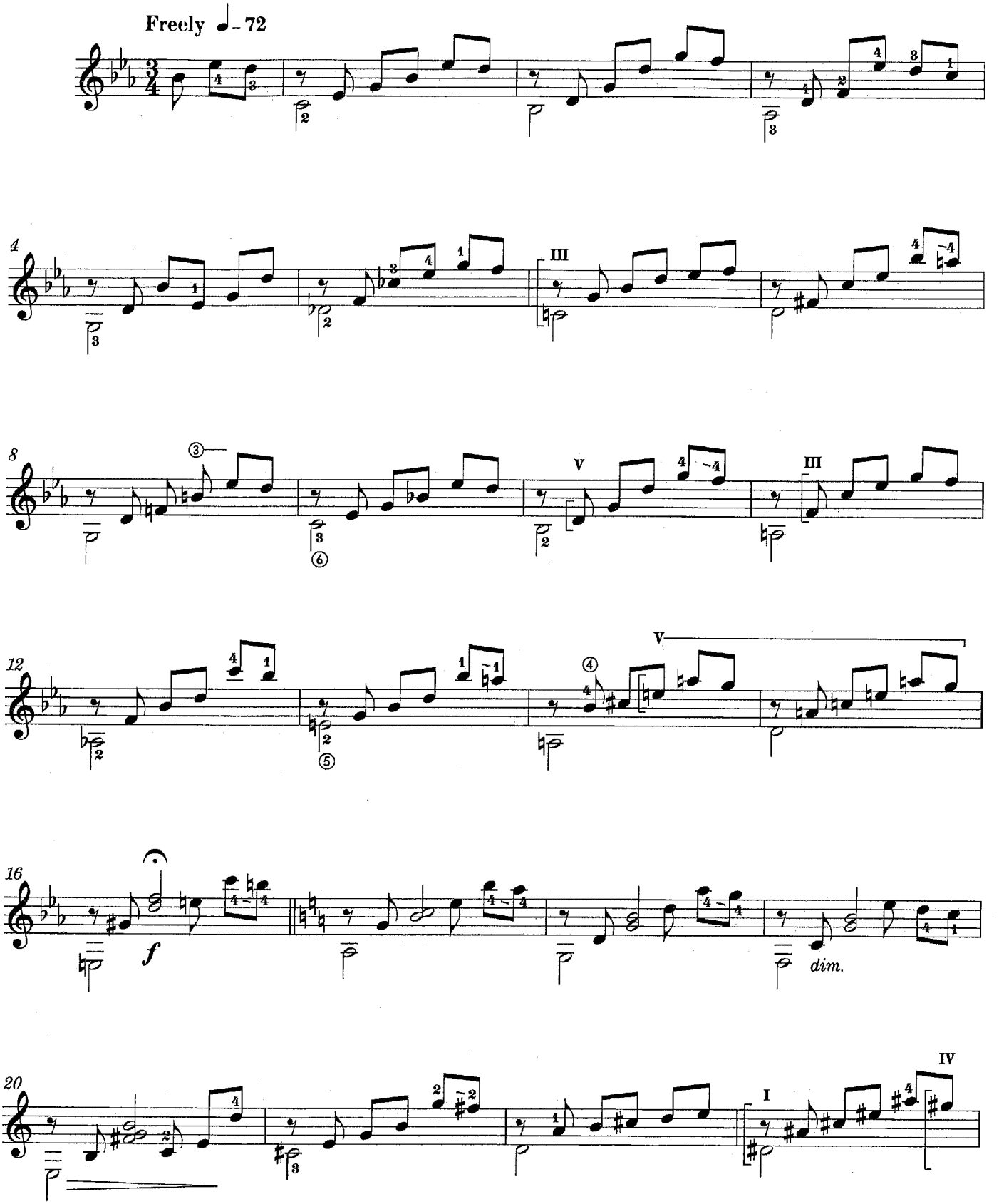
Matthew Dunne

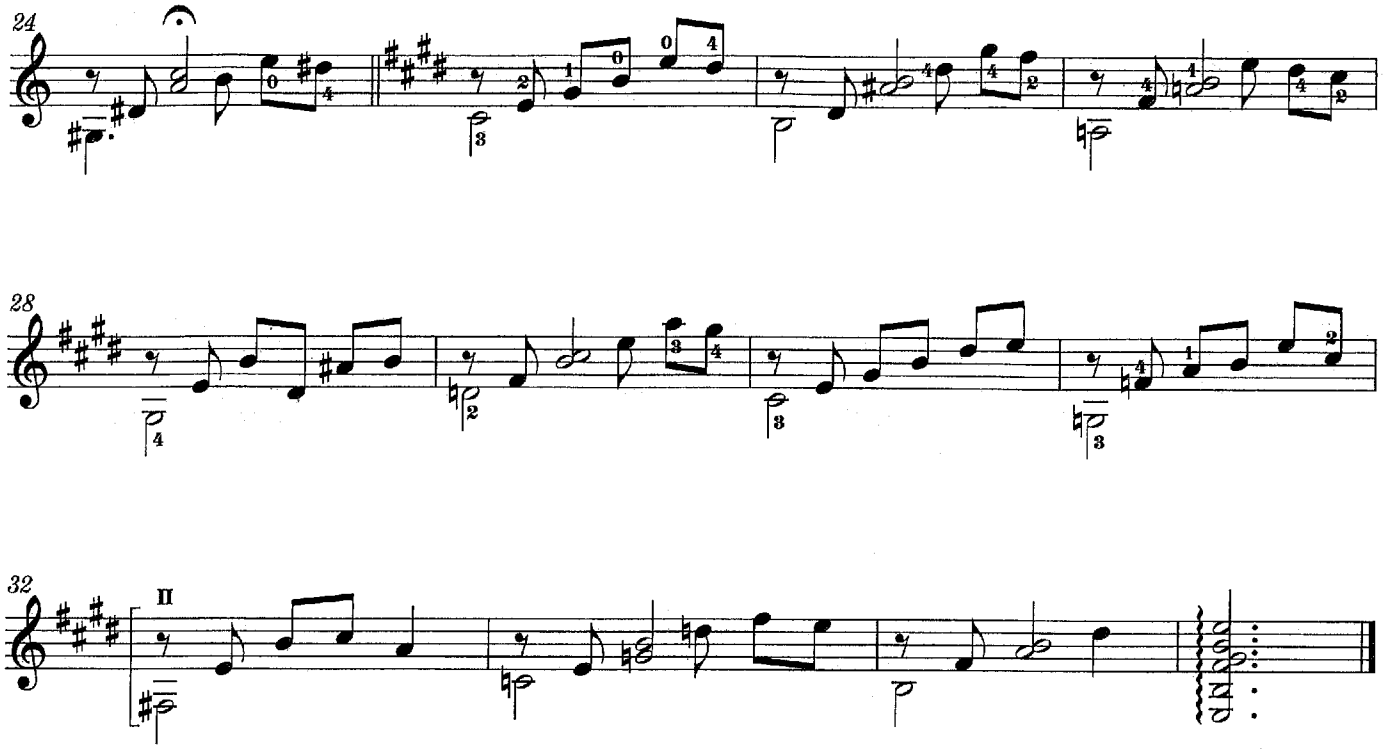



36
41
46
51
56
61
rit.
a tempo
66
rit.

4

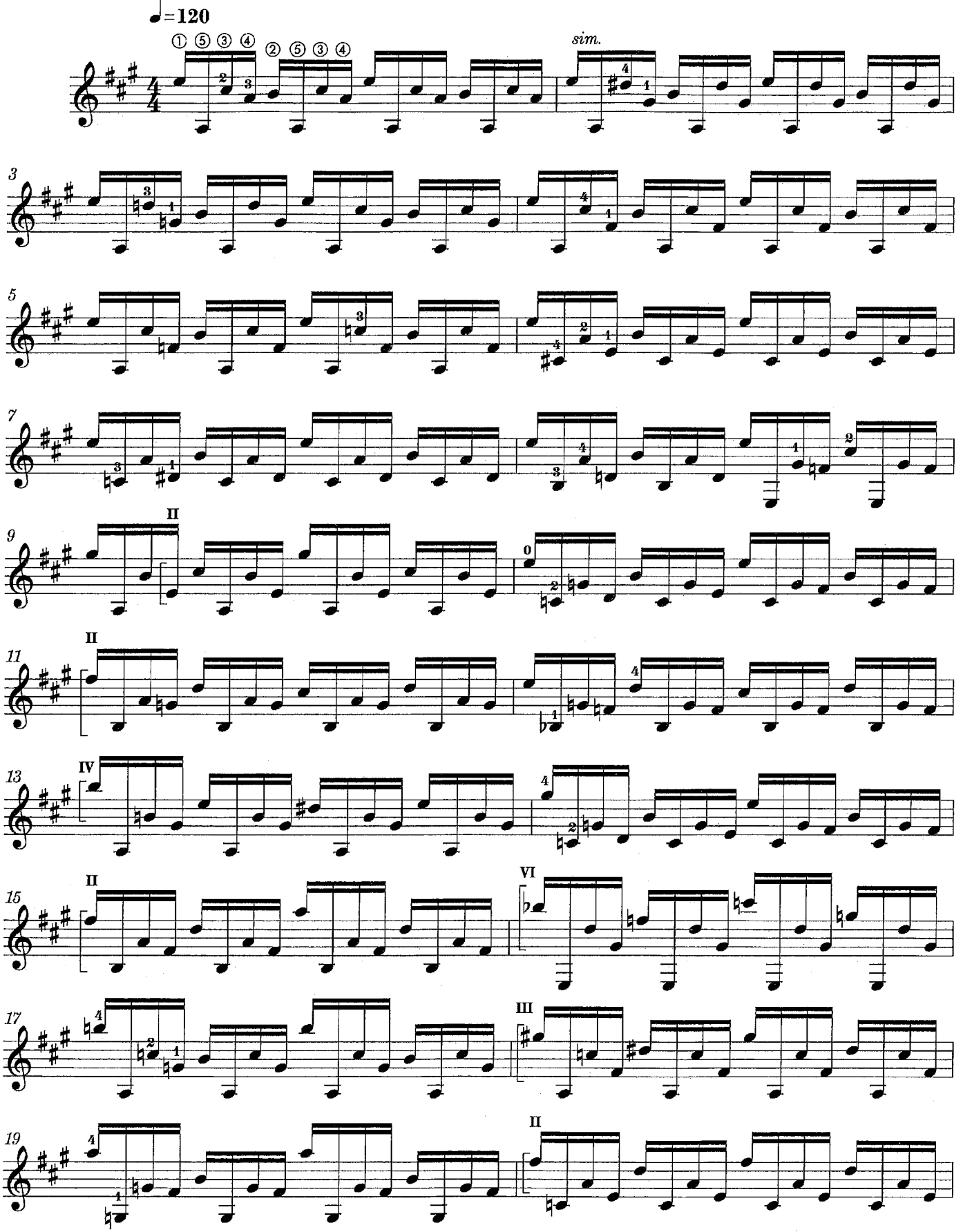
Matthew Dunne

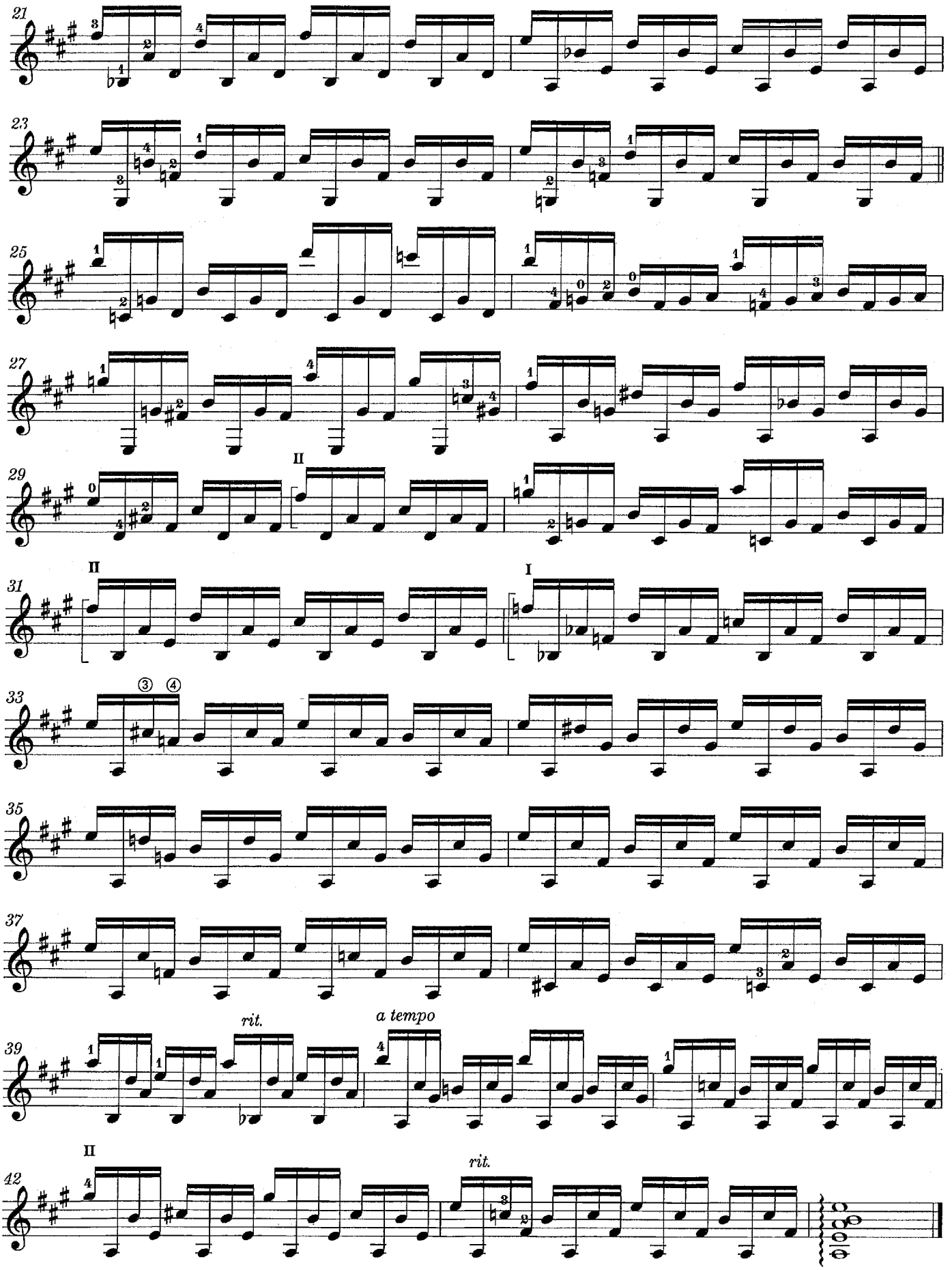



24
28
32
II

5

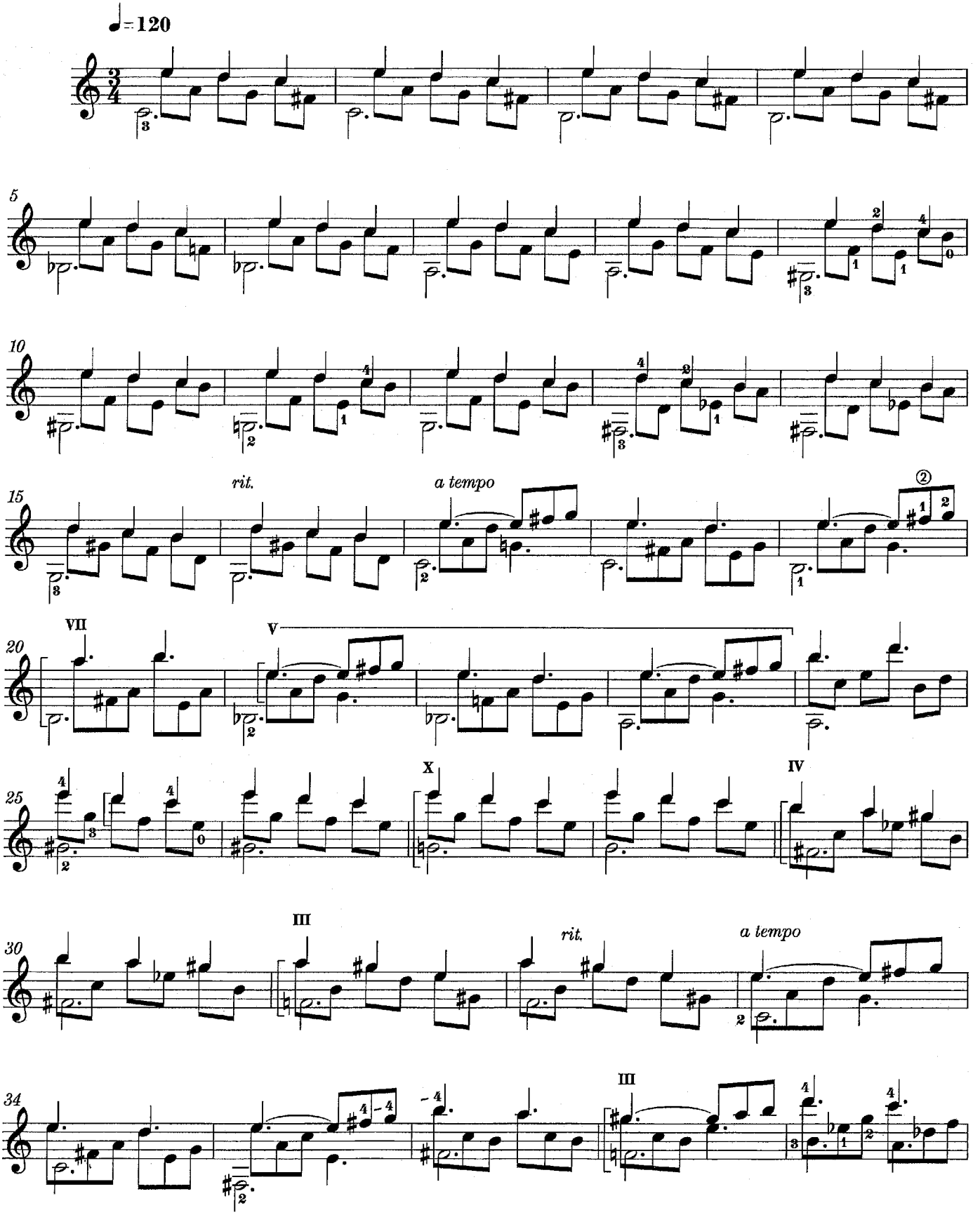
Matthew Dunne

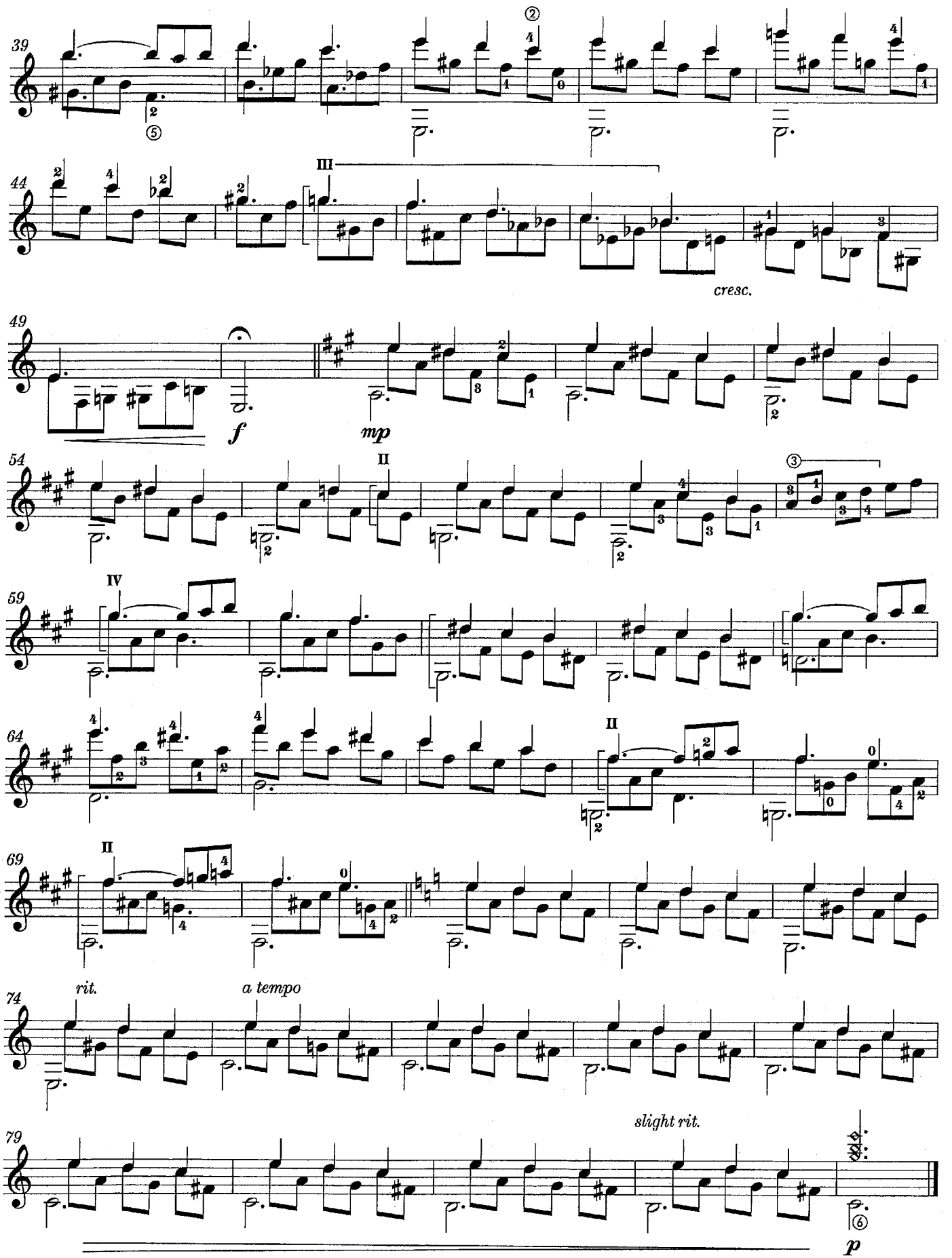



21
23
25
27
29
II
31
II
I
33
35
37
39
rit.
a tempo
42
II
rit.

6

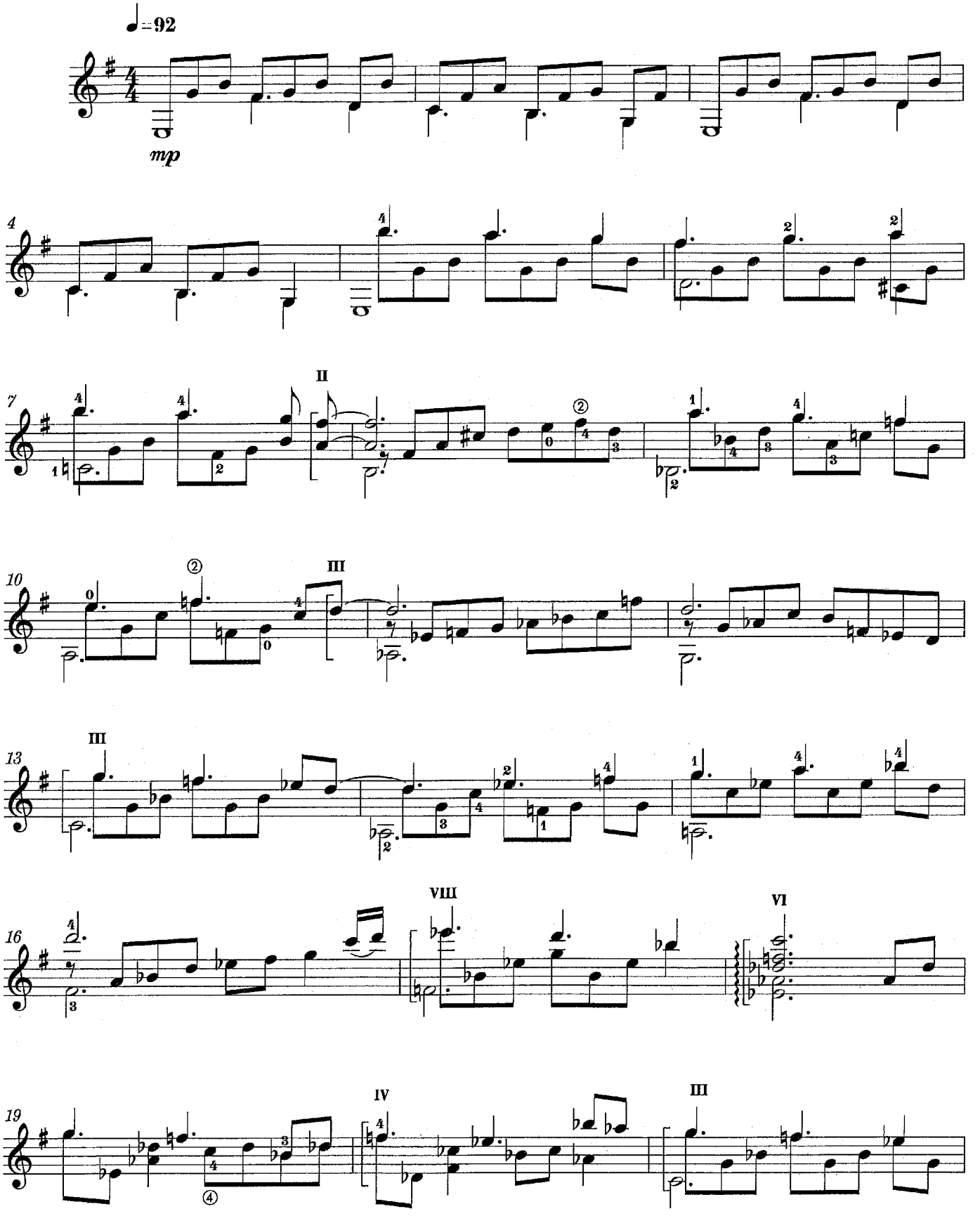
Matthew Dunne

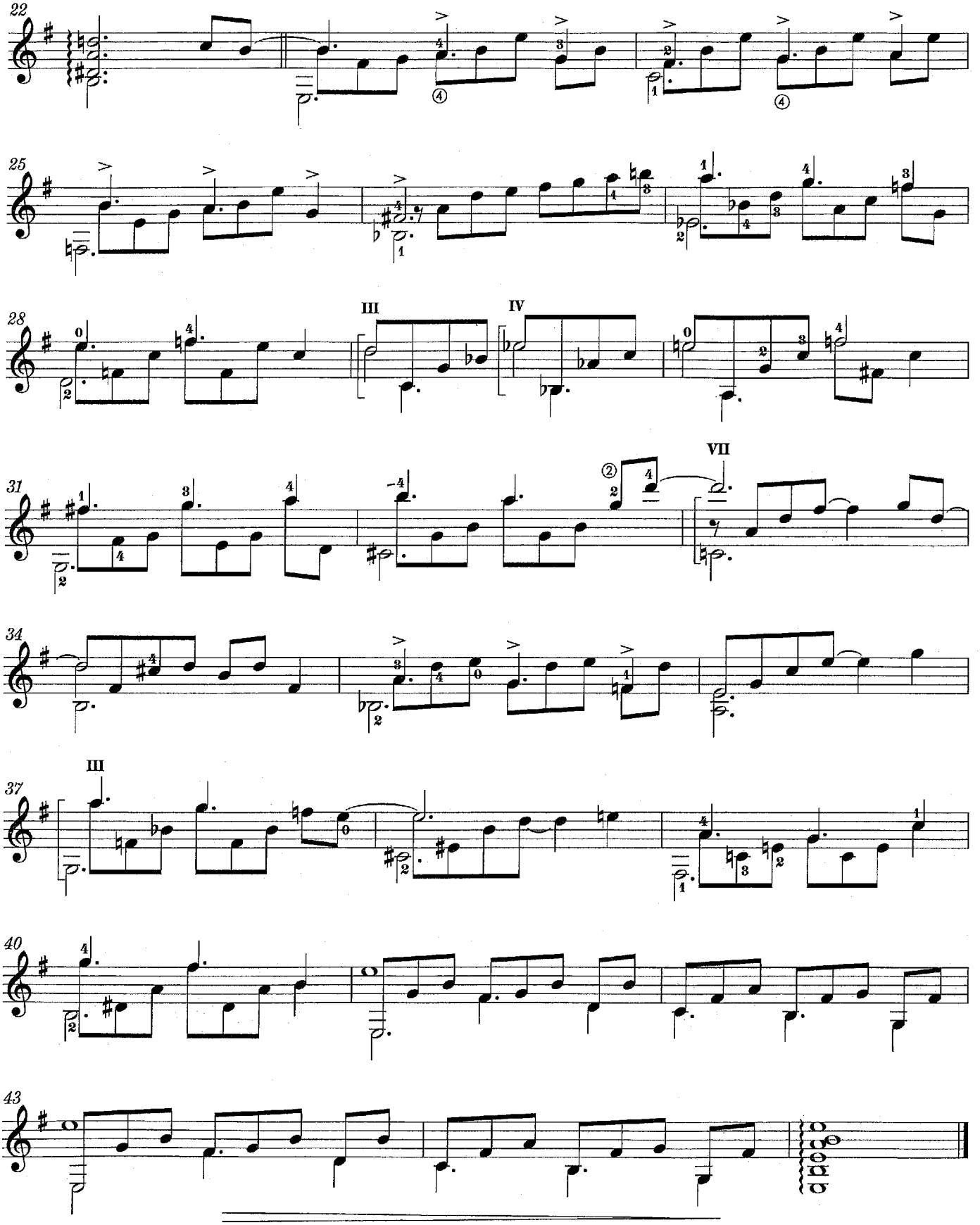



39
44
III
cresc.
49
f
mp
54
II
59
IV
64
II
69
II
74
rit.
a tempo
79
slight rit.
p

7

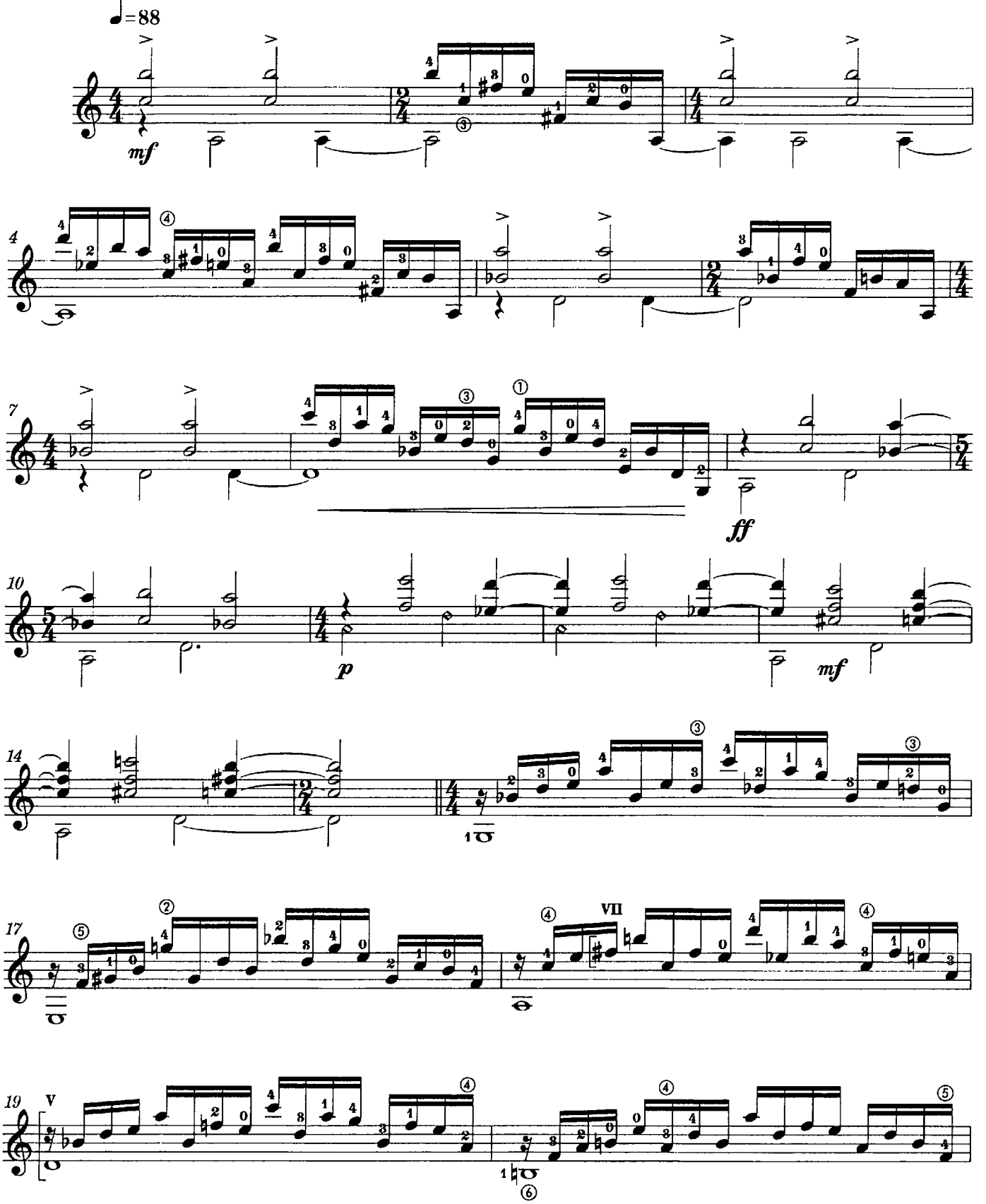
Matthew Dunne

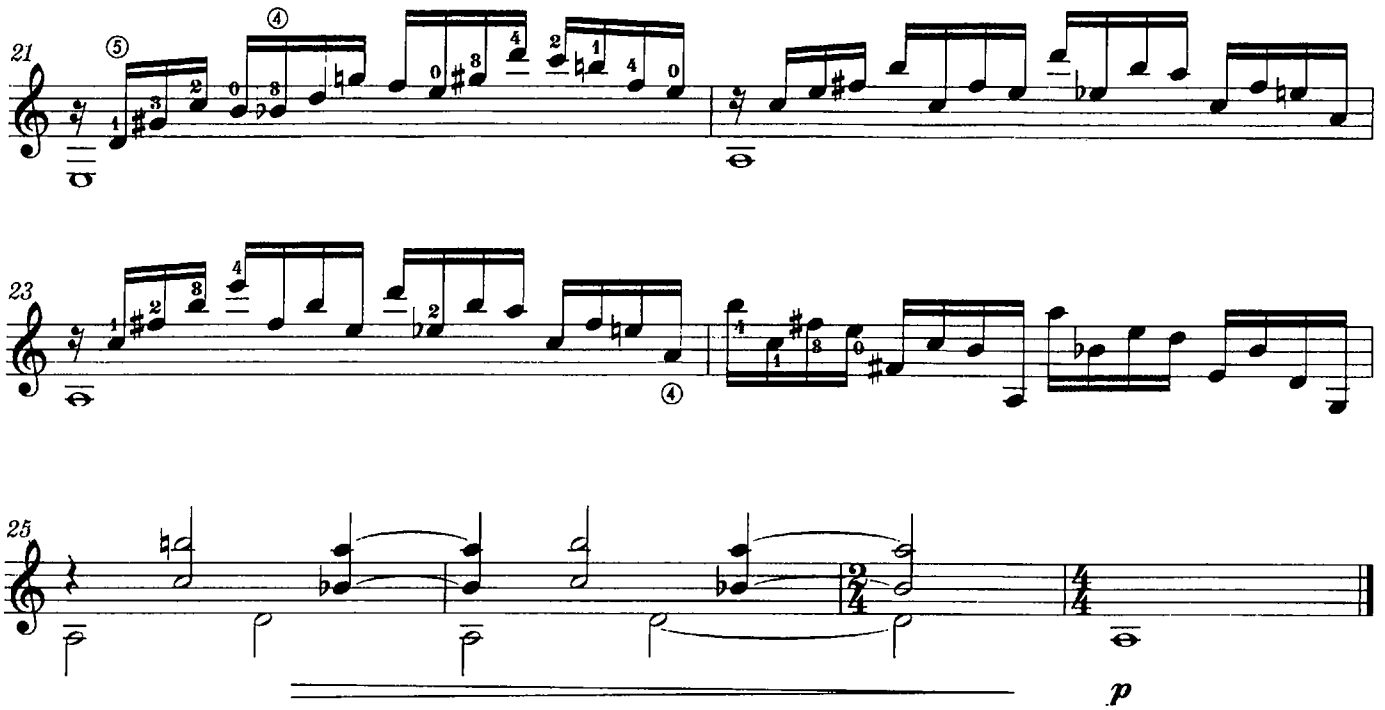



22
25
28
III
IV
31
VII
34
37
III
40
43

8

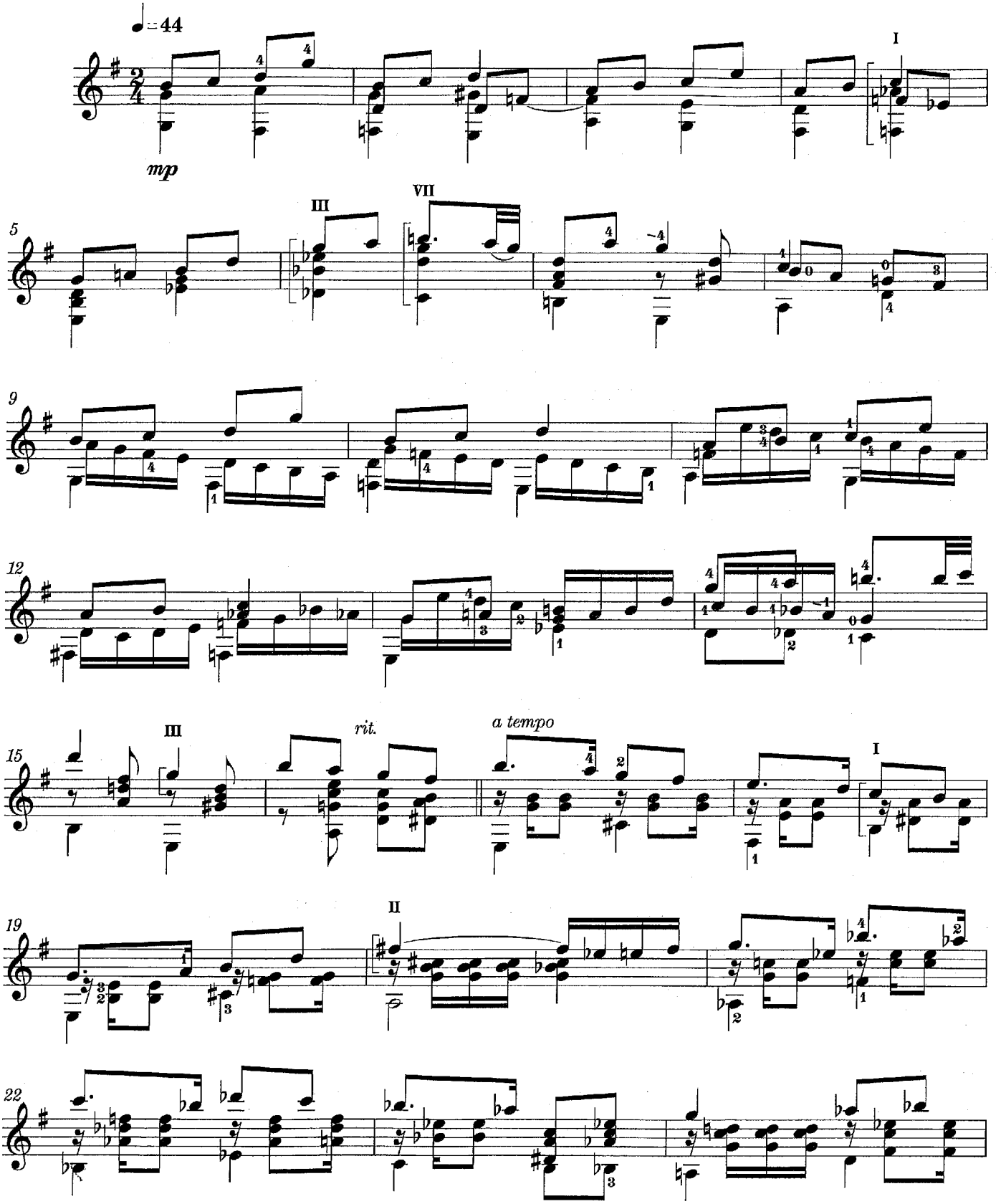
Matthew Dunne

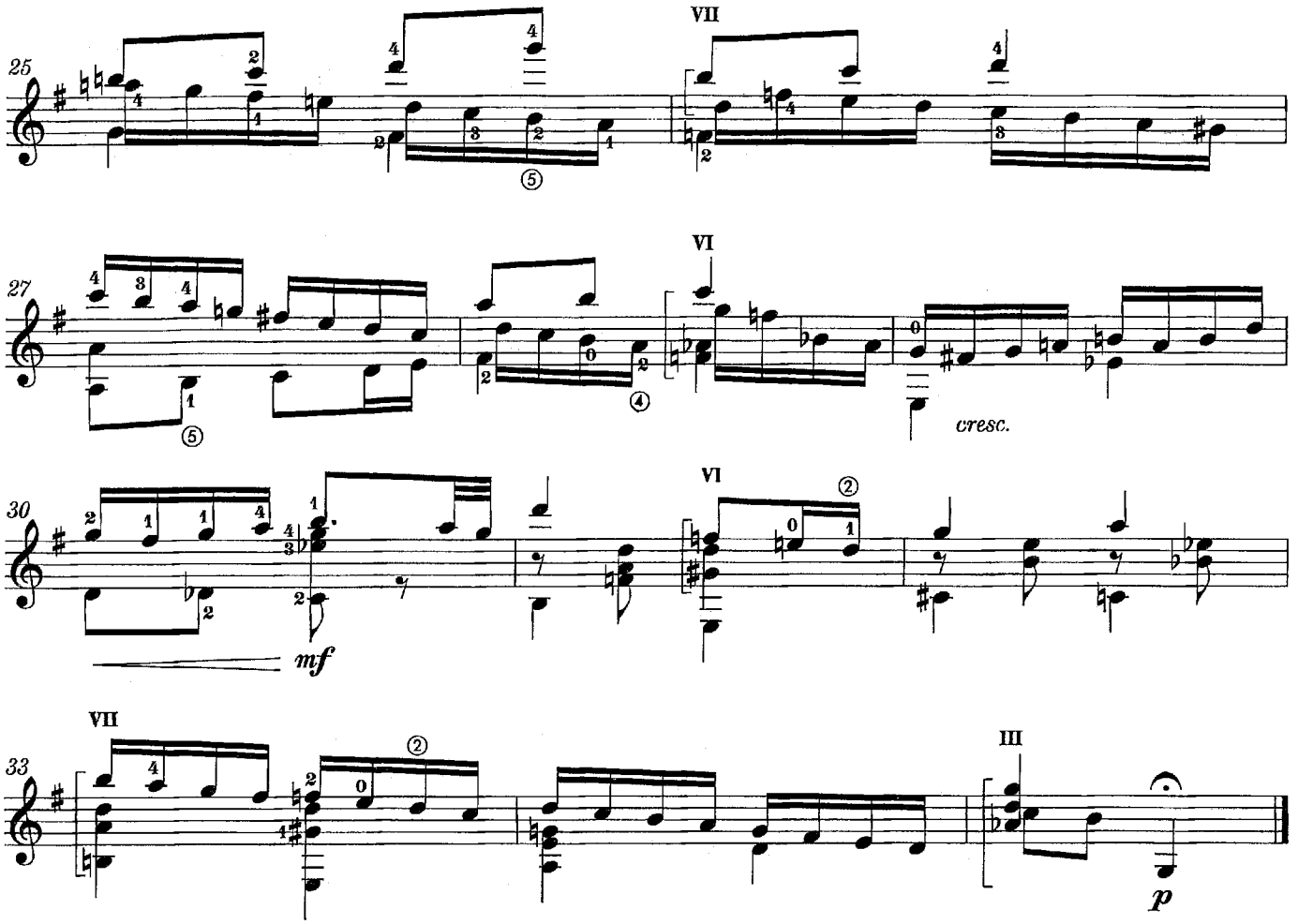



21
23
25
p

9

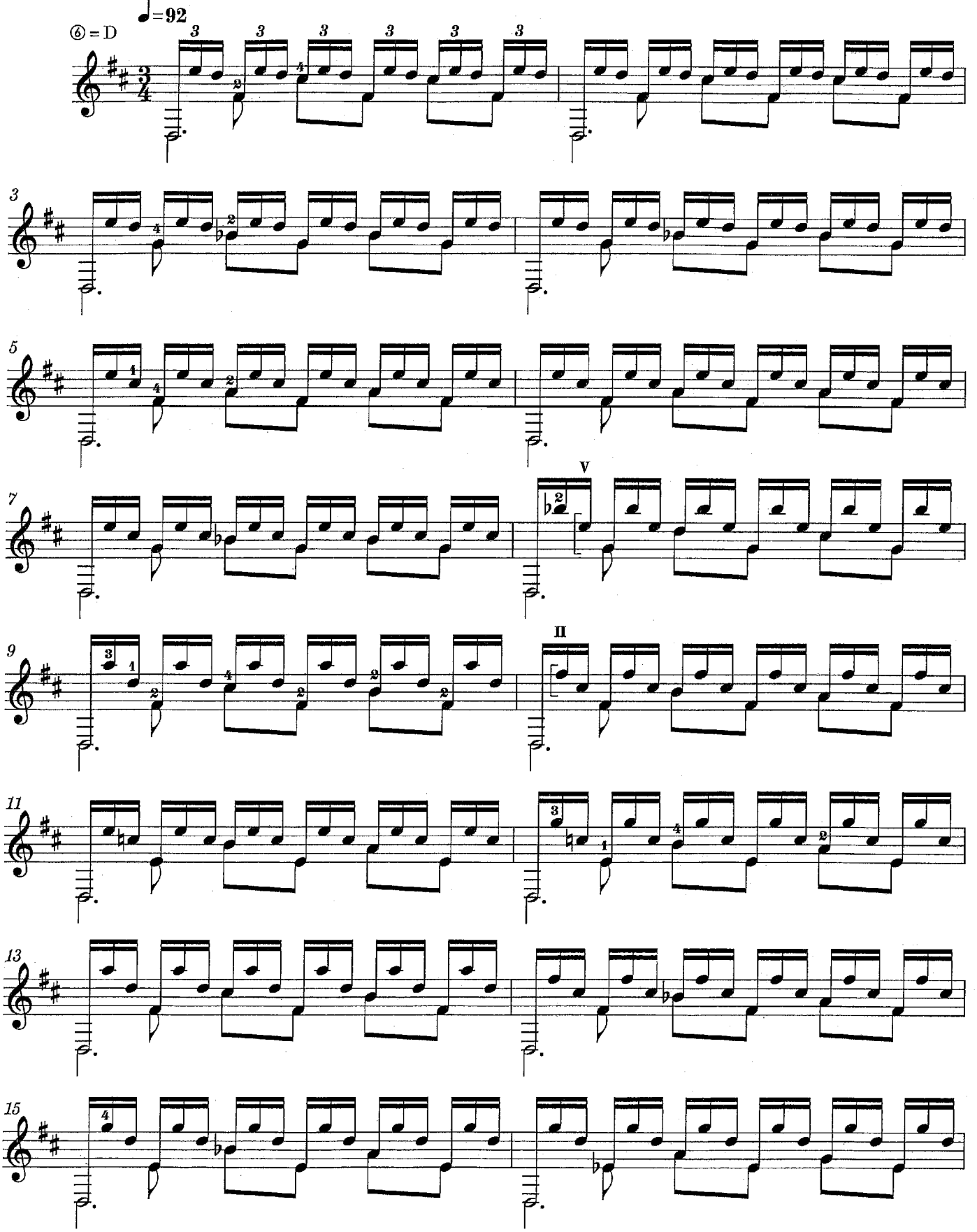
Matthew Dunne

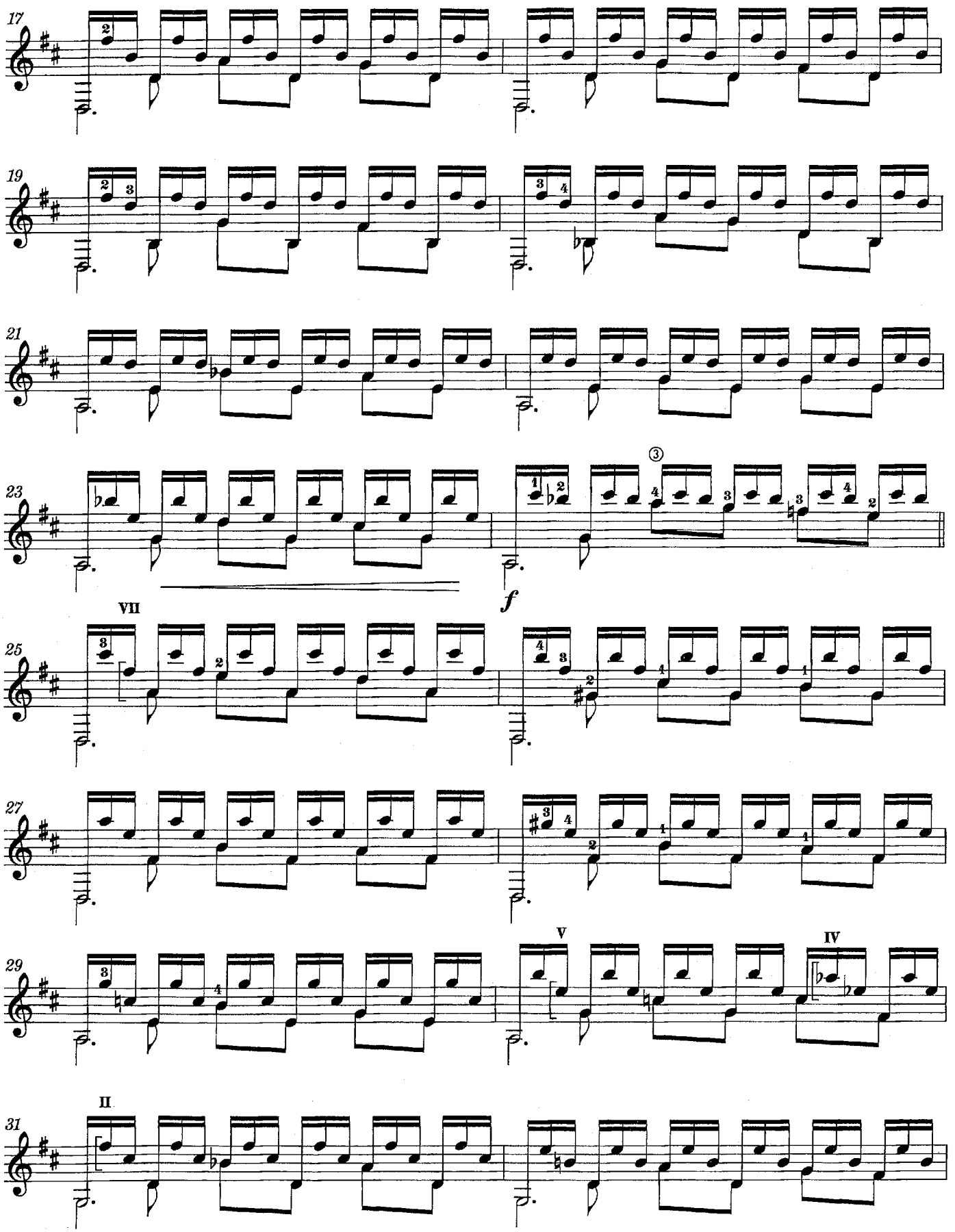


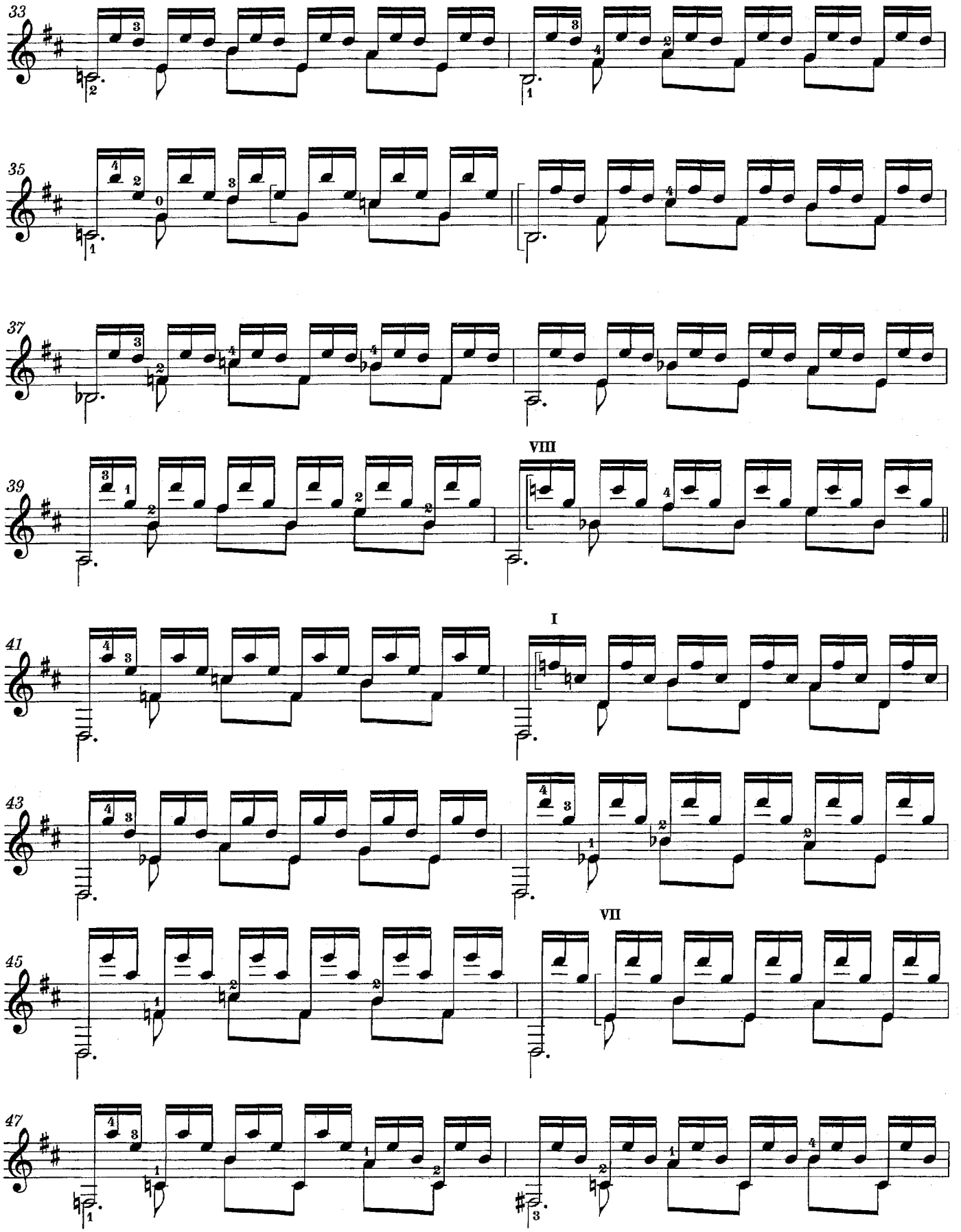

25
VII
27
VI
cresc.
30
VI
mf
33
VII
III
p

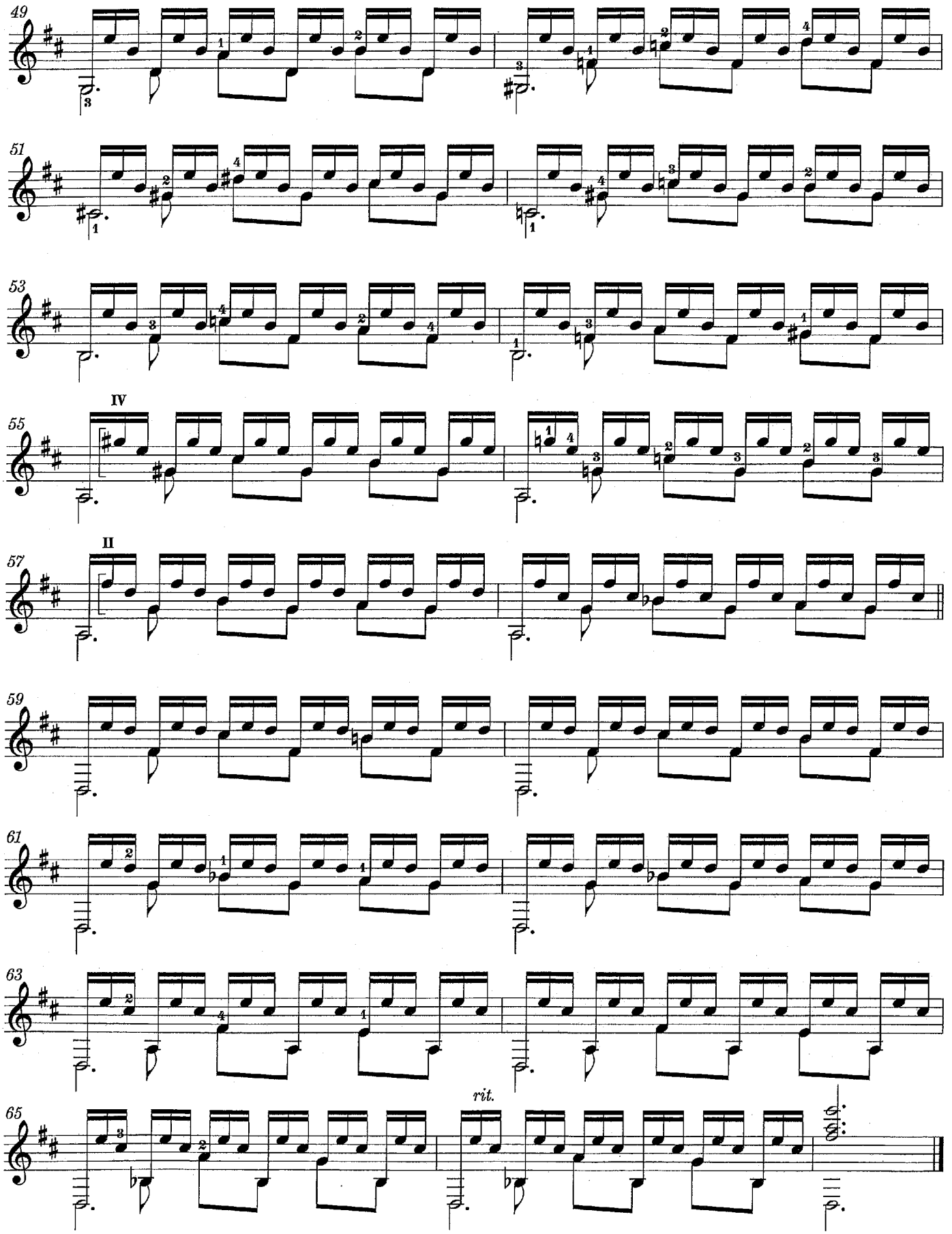
10

Matthew Dunne



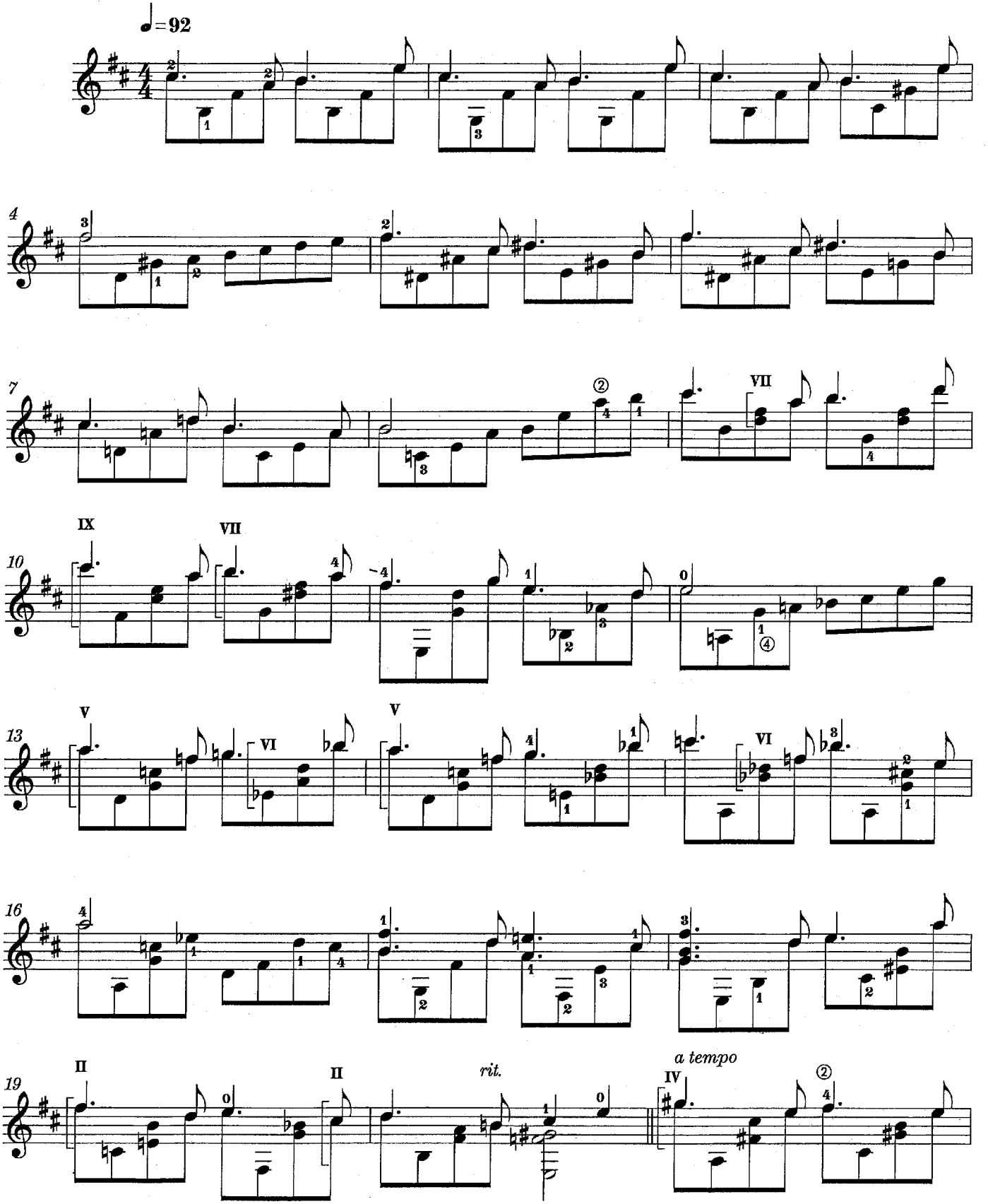

17
19
21
23
③
f
VII
25
27
V
IV
29
II
31

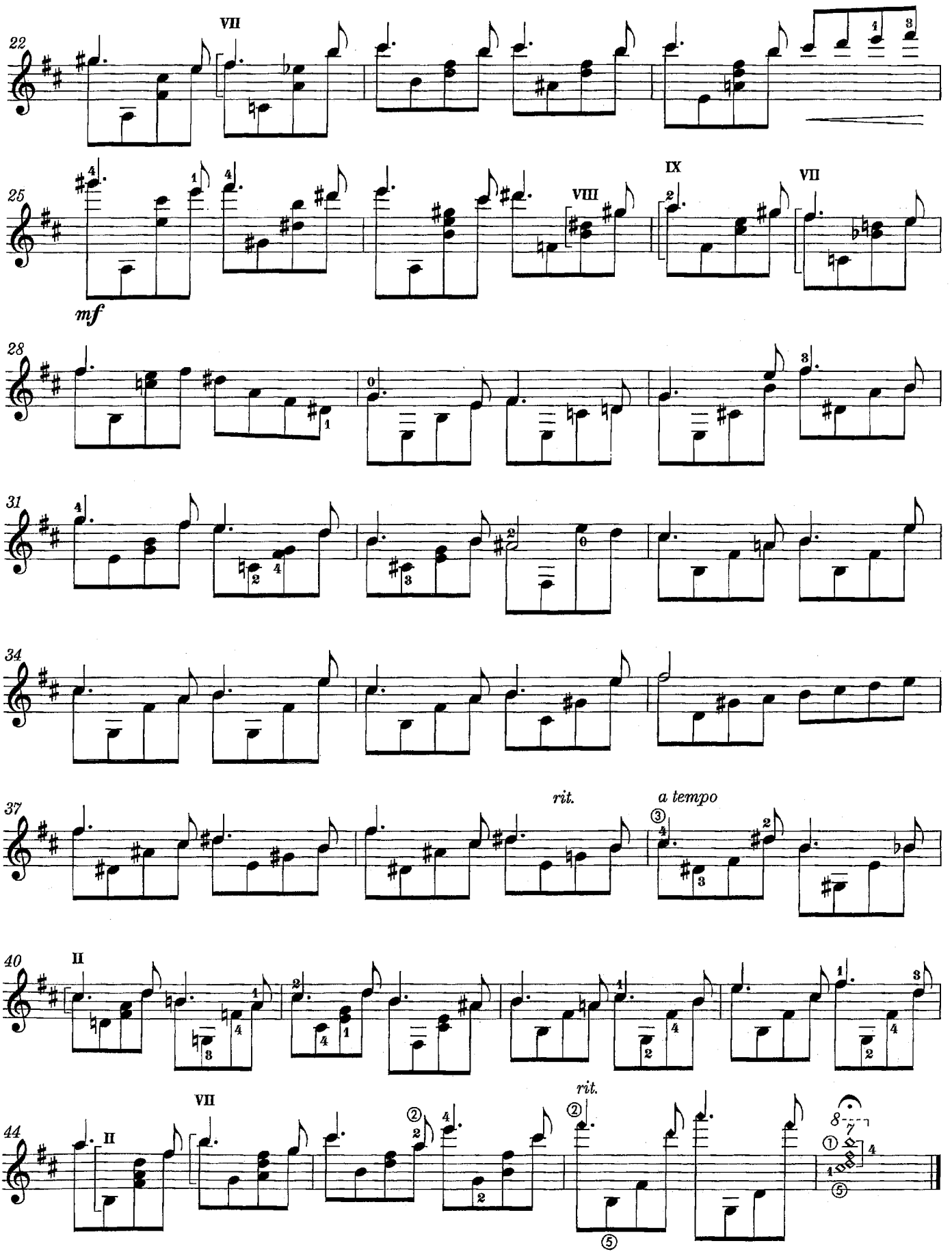

33
35
37
39
VIII
41
I
43
45
VII
47


49
51
53
IV
55
II
57
59
61
63
rit.
65

11

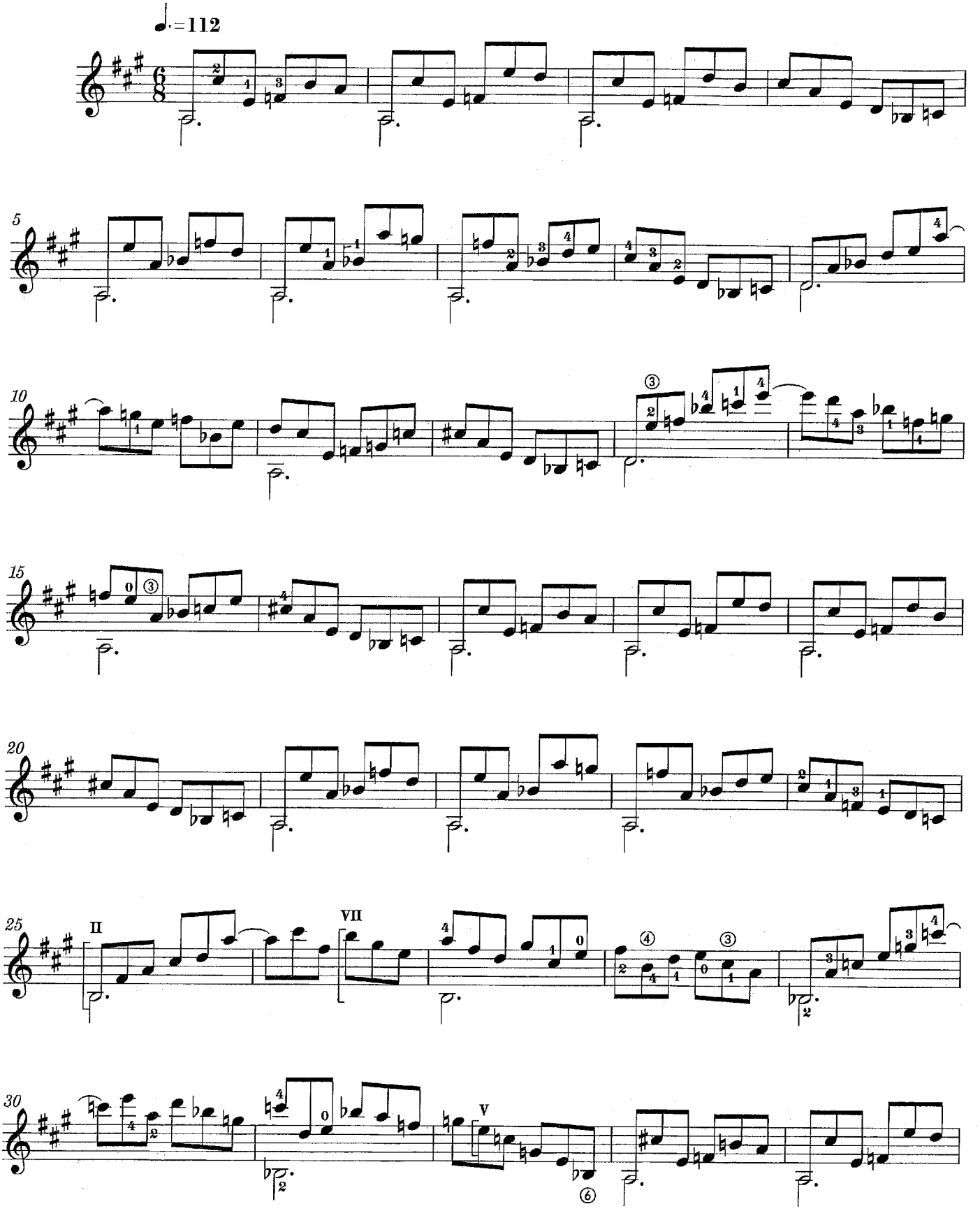
Matthew Dunne

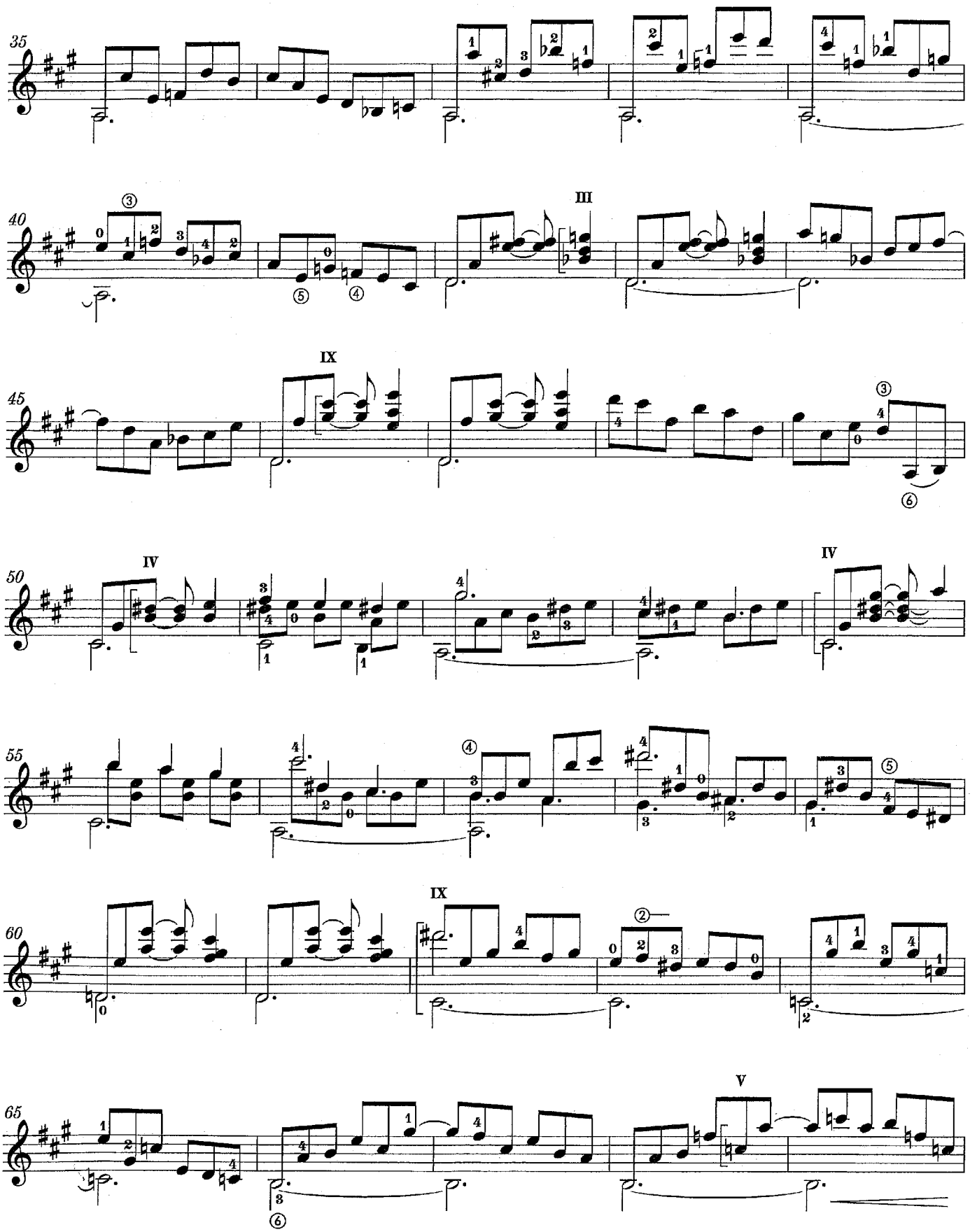


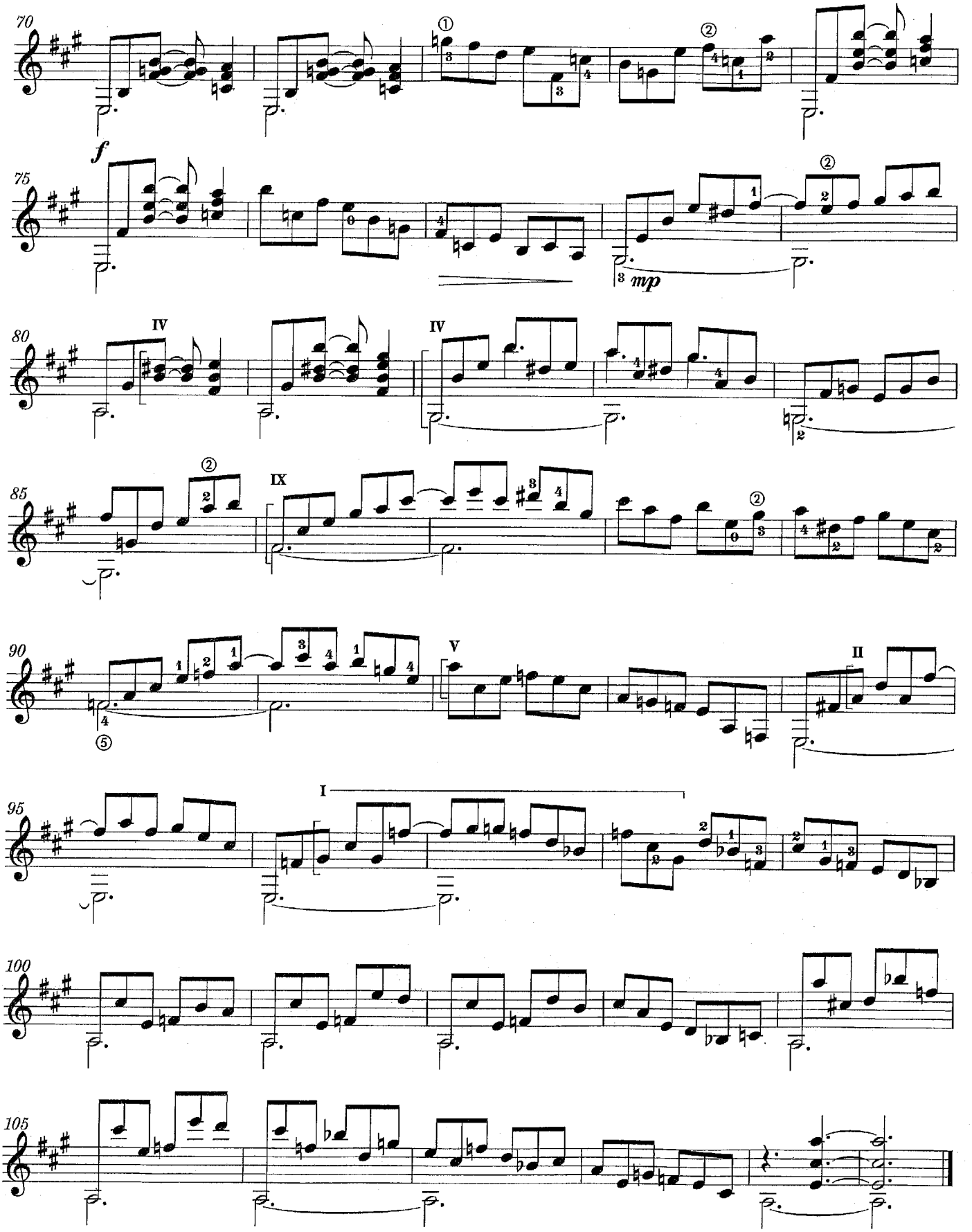

22
VII
25
mf
VIII
IX
VII
28
31
34
37
rit.
a tempo
40
II
44
II
VII
rit.

12

Matthew Dunne

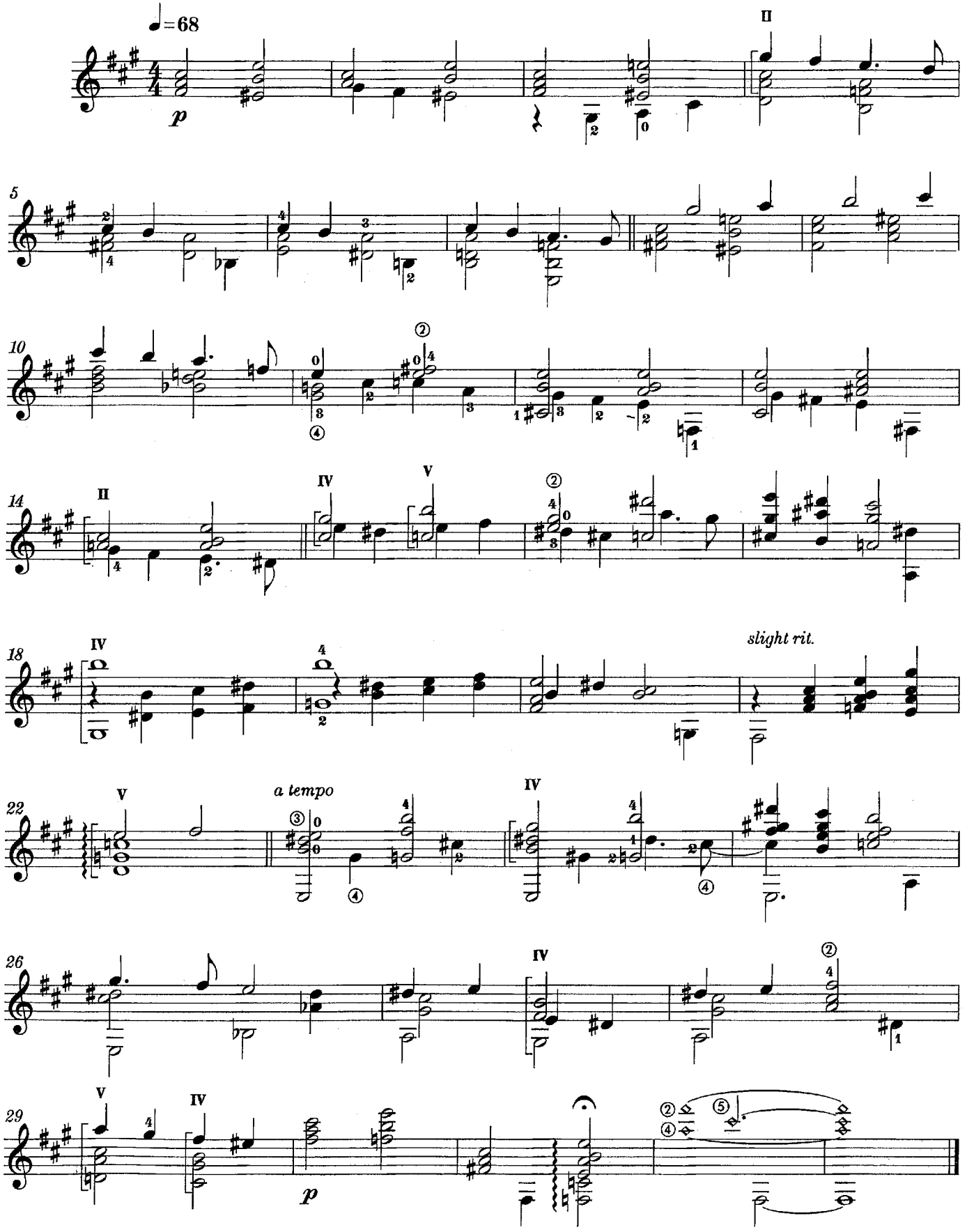



35
40
III
45
IX
50
IV
IV
55
60
IX
65
V


70
①
②
f
75
②
mp
80
IV
IV
85
②
IX
②
90
V
II
95
I
100
105

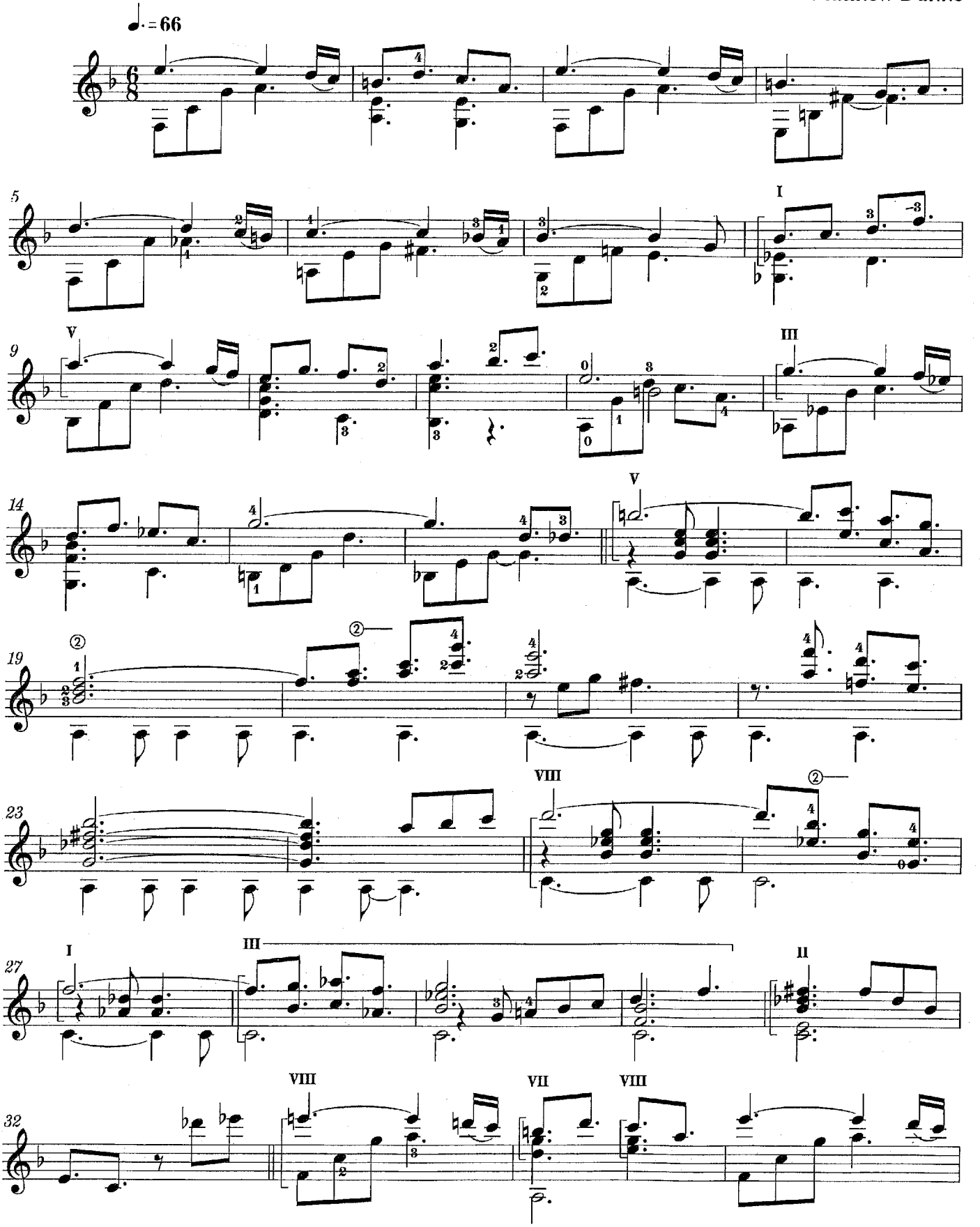
13

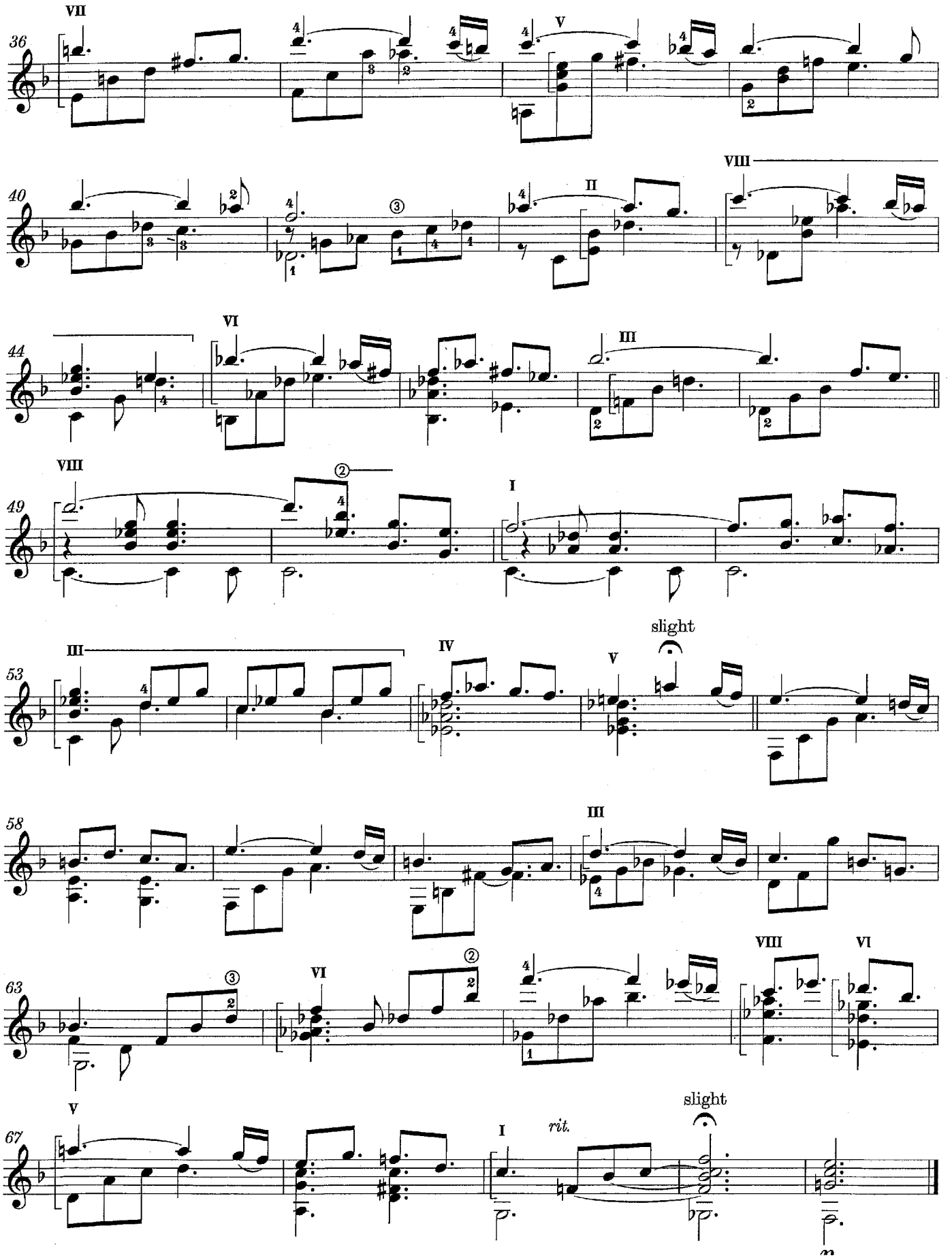
Matthew Dunne



14

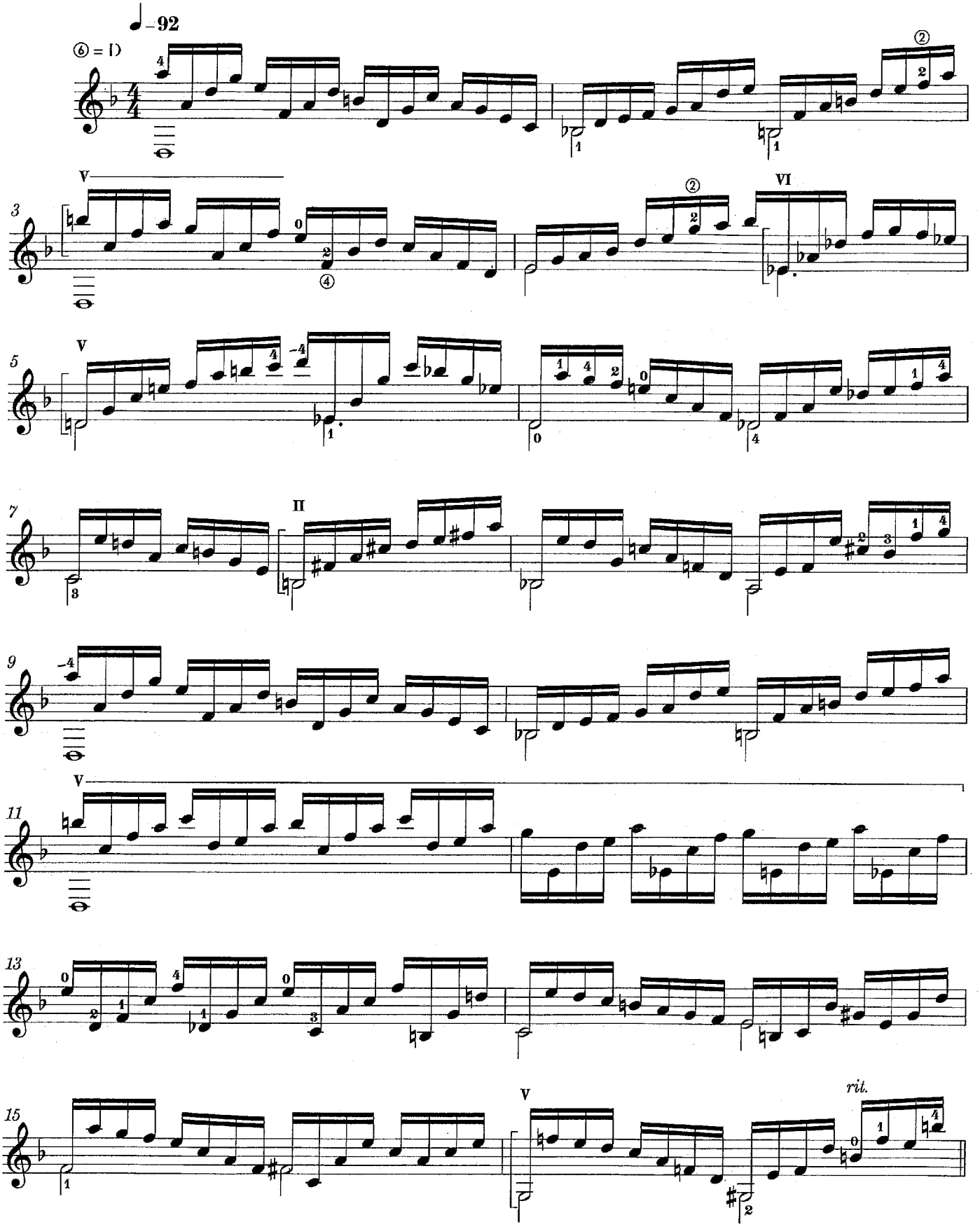
Matthew Dunne

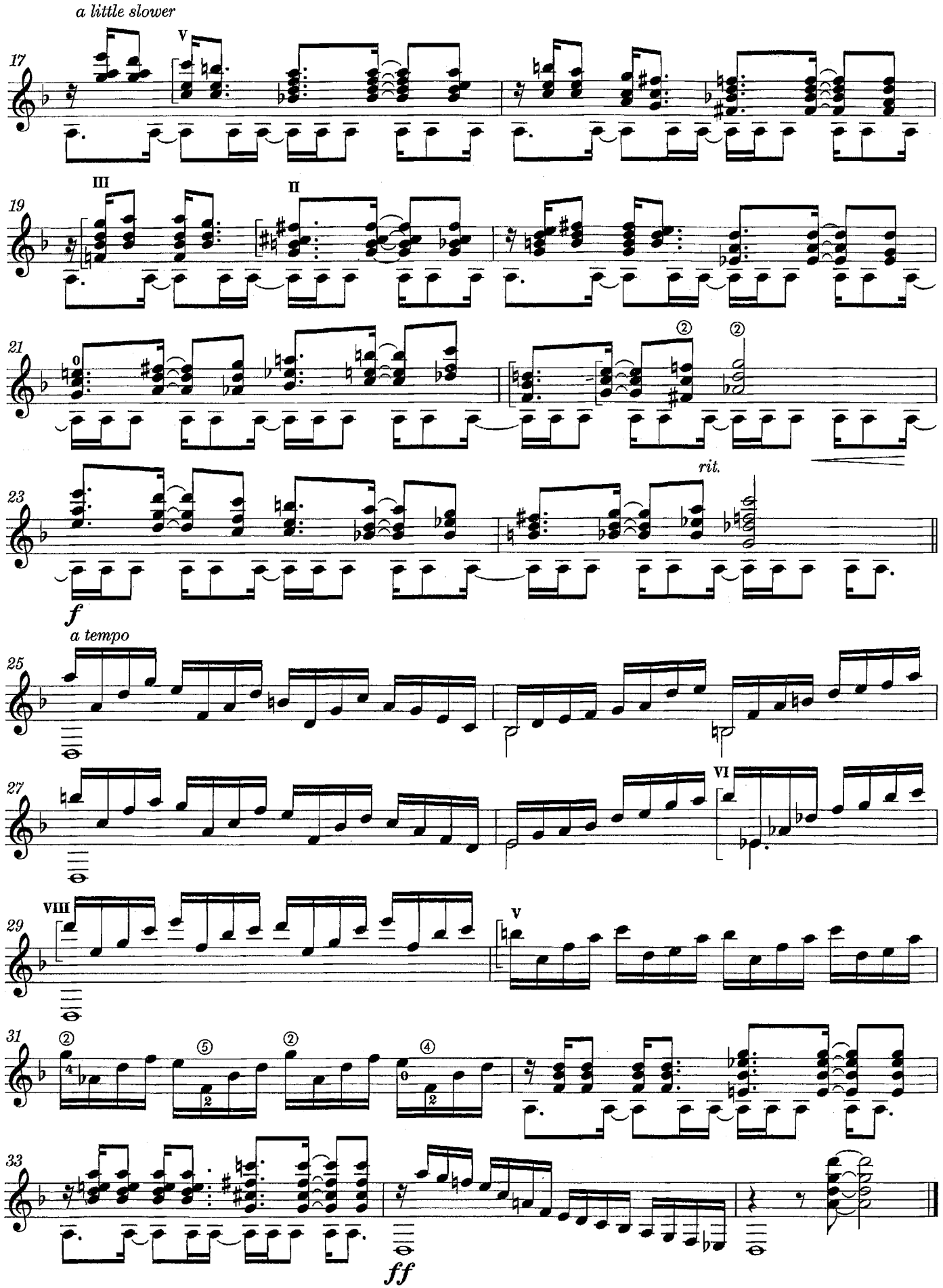



36
VII
V
40
II
VIII
44
VI
III
49
VIII
I
53
III
IV
V
slight
58
III
63
VI
VIII
VI
67
V
I
rit.
slight

15

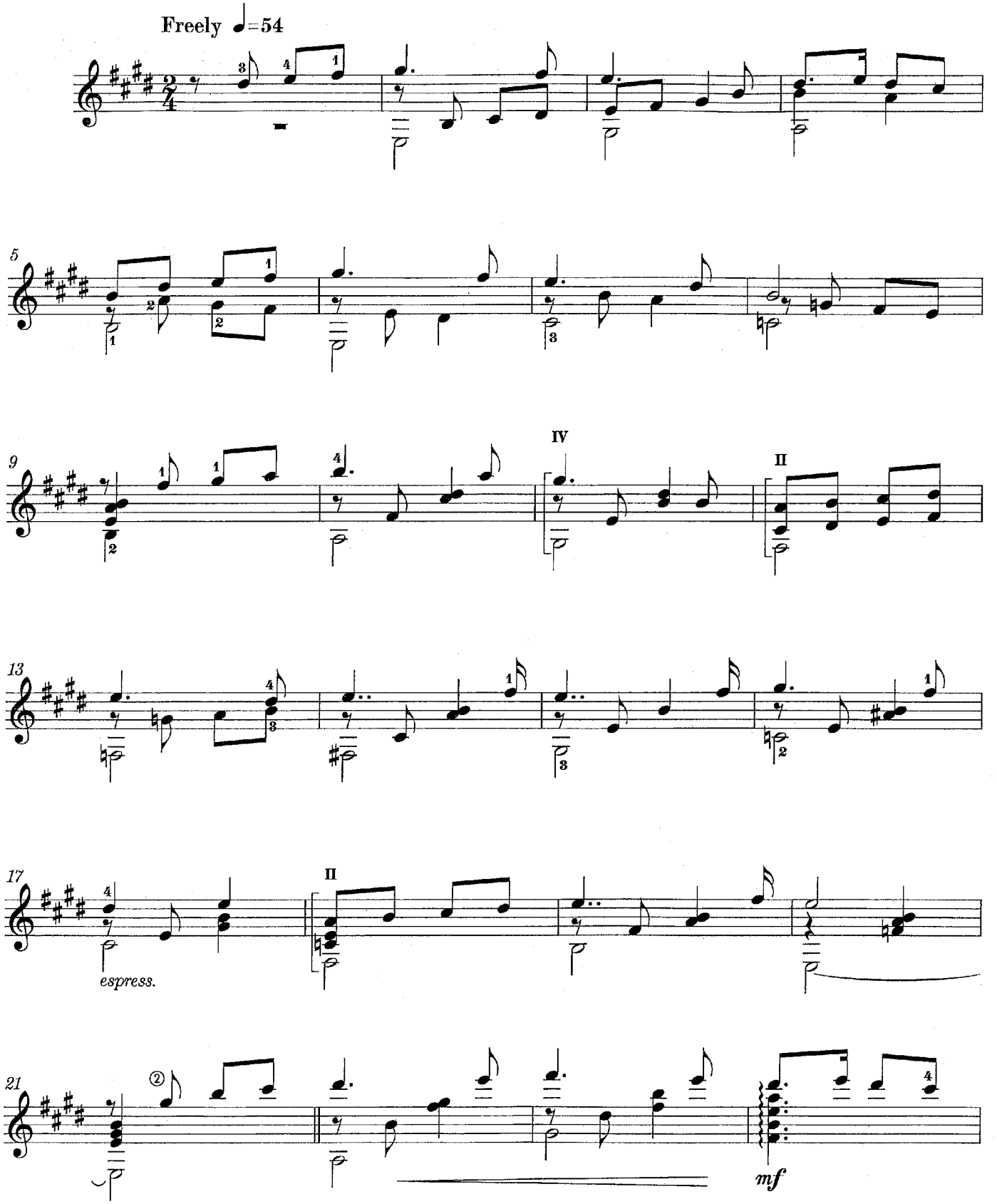
Matthew Dunne

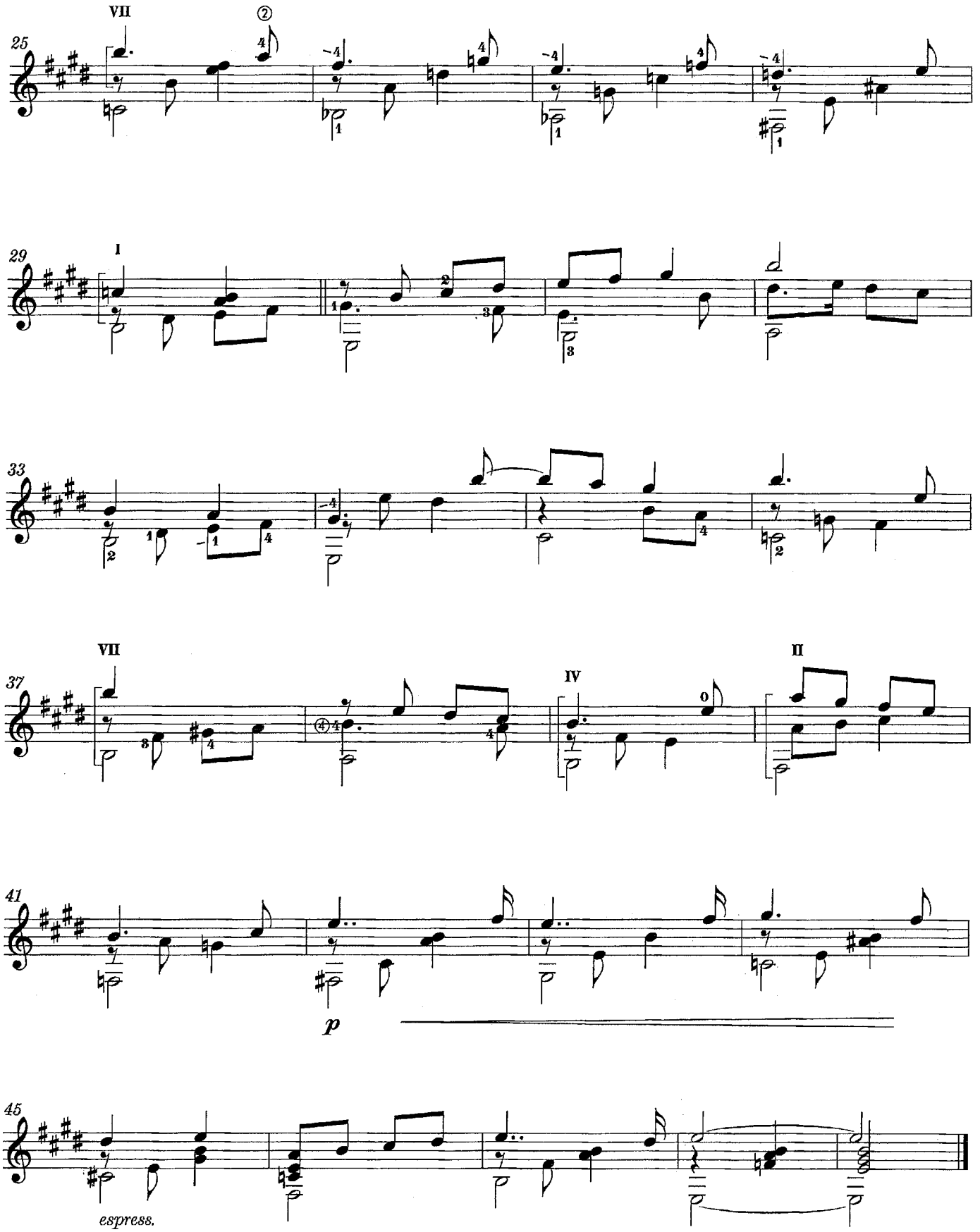



a little slower
17
V
19
III
II
21
0
②
②
23
rit.
f
a tempo
25
27
VI
29
VIII
V
31
②
⑤
②
④
33
ff

16

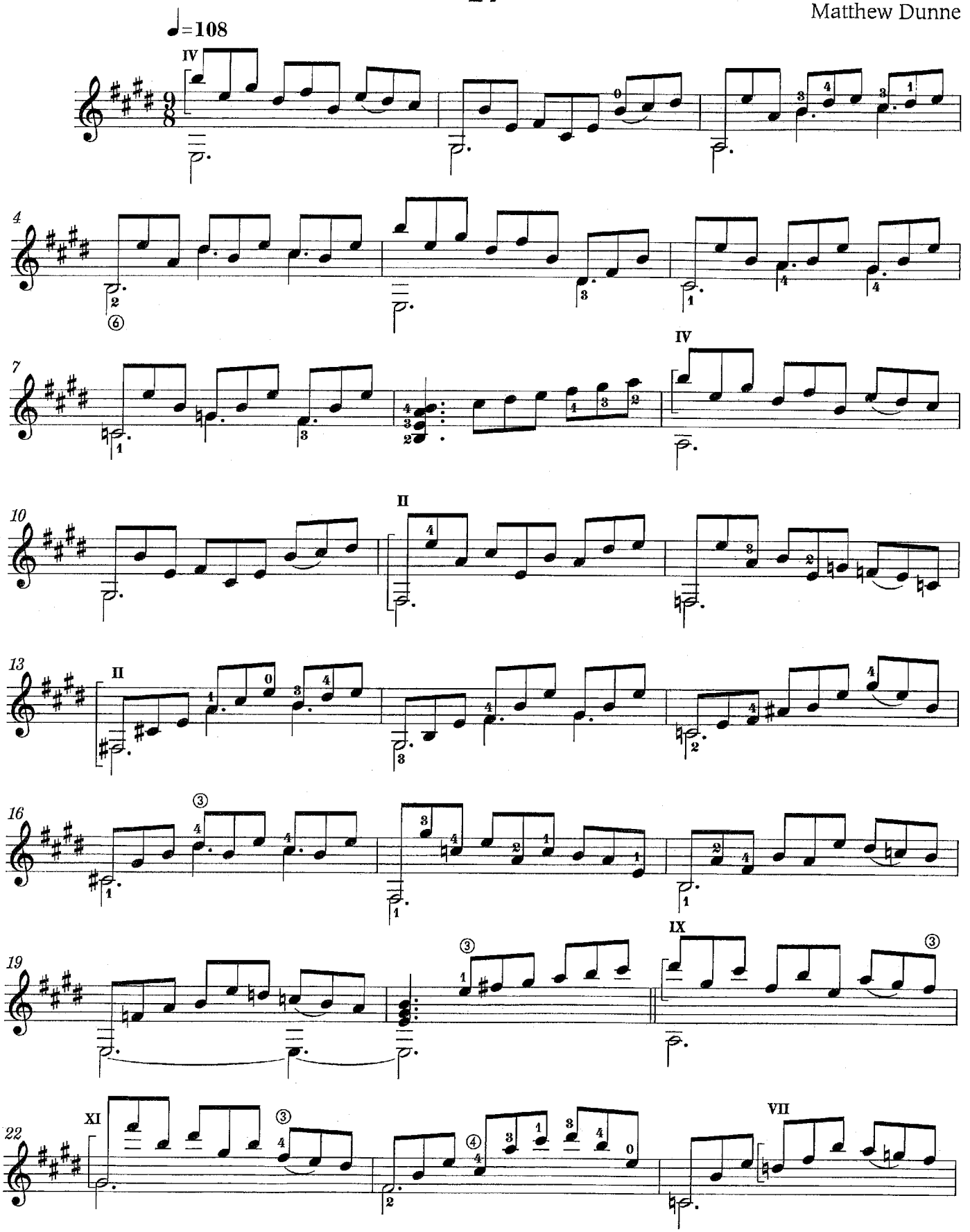
Matthew Dunne

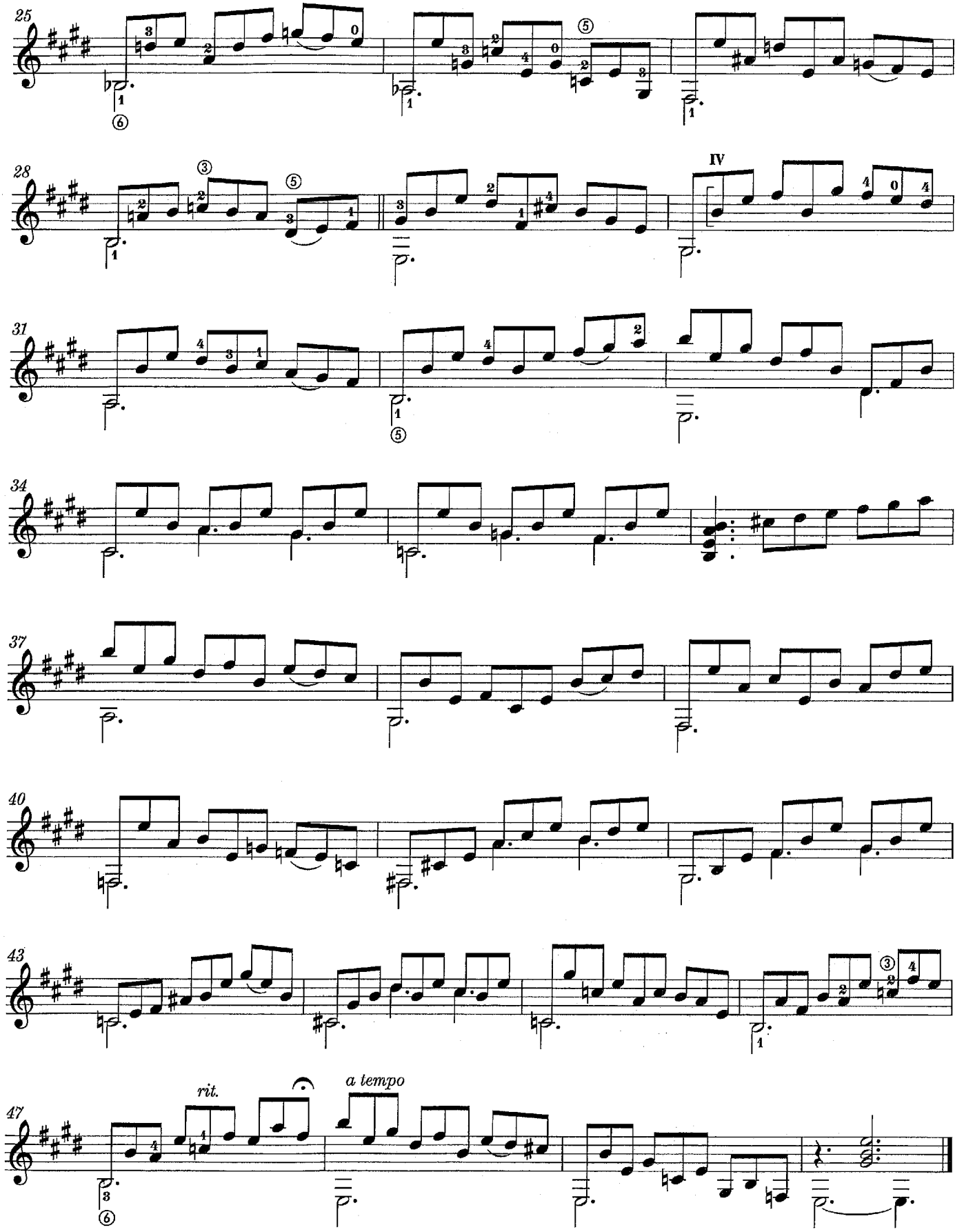



25
VII
29
I
33
37
VII
IV
II
41
p
45
espress.

17

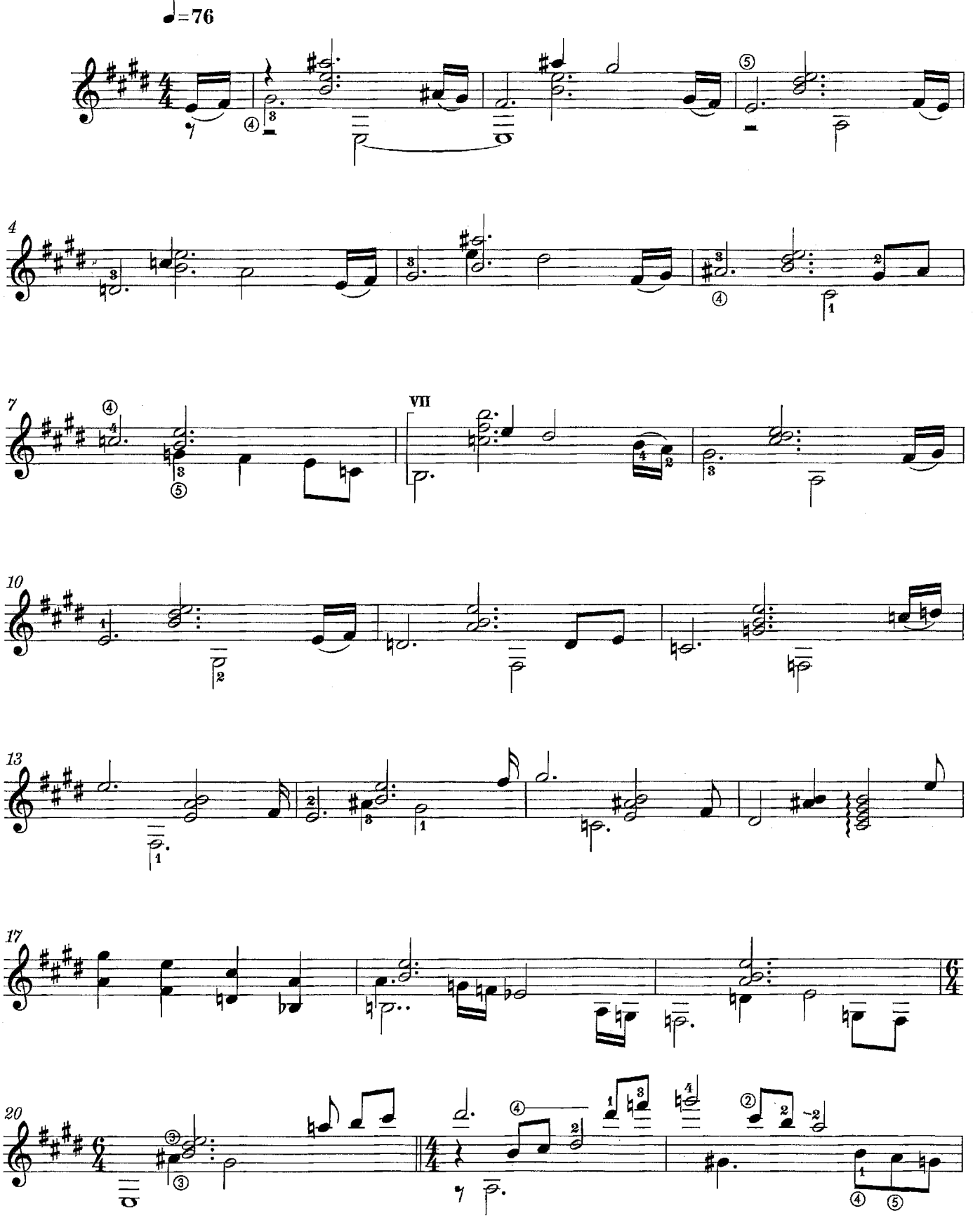
Matthew Dunne

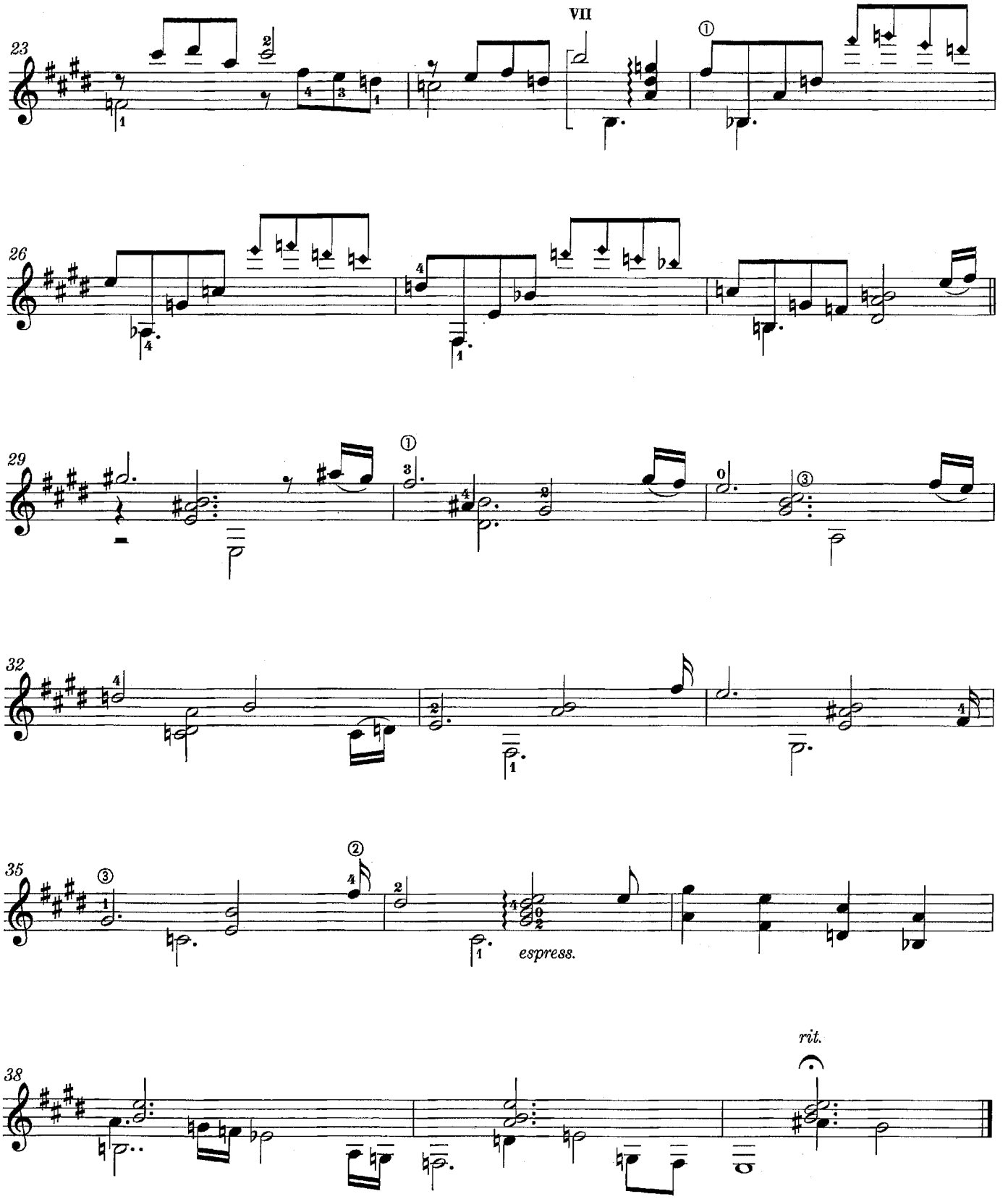



25
28
IV
31
34
37
40
43
47
rit.
a tempo

18

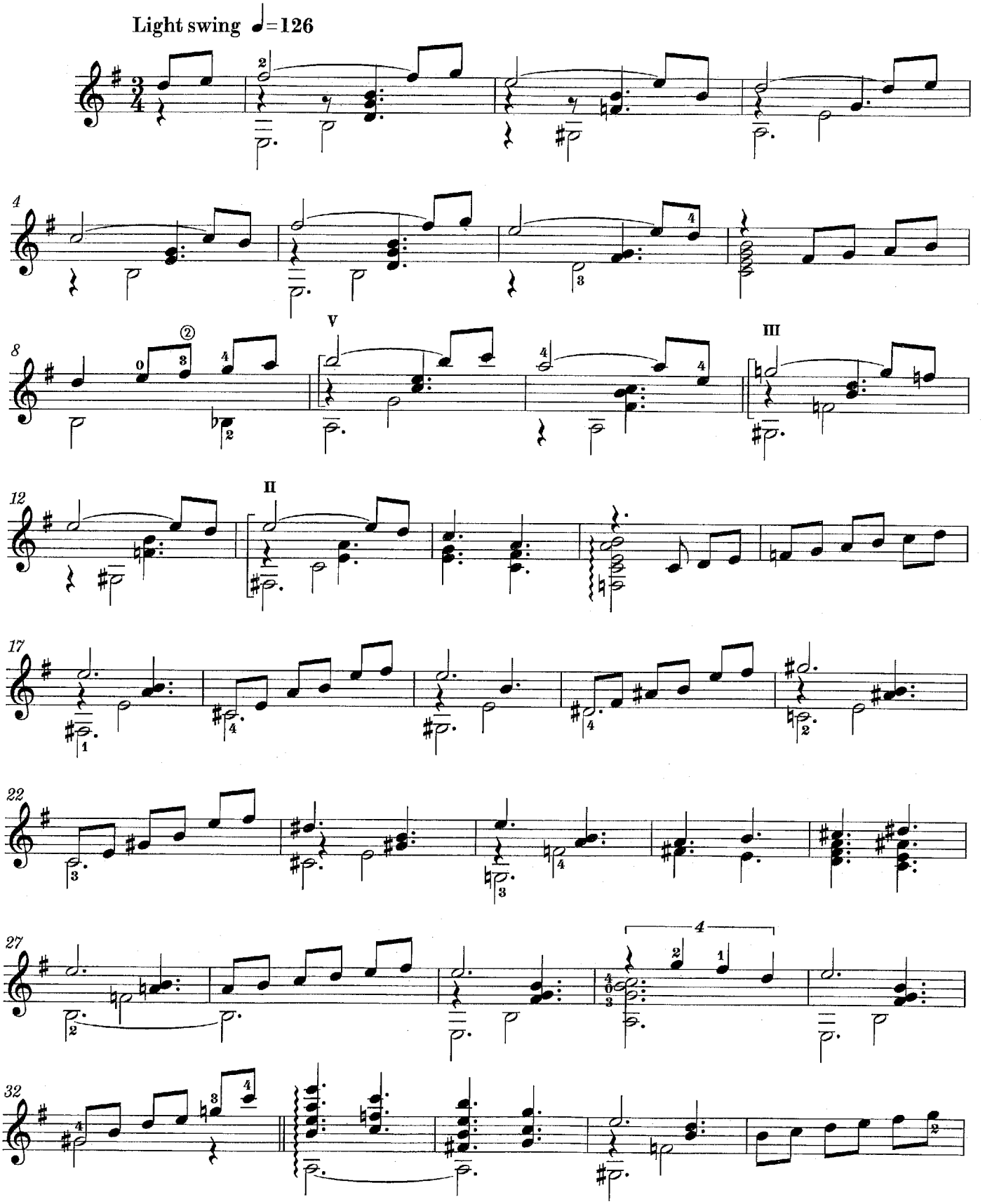
Matthew Dunne

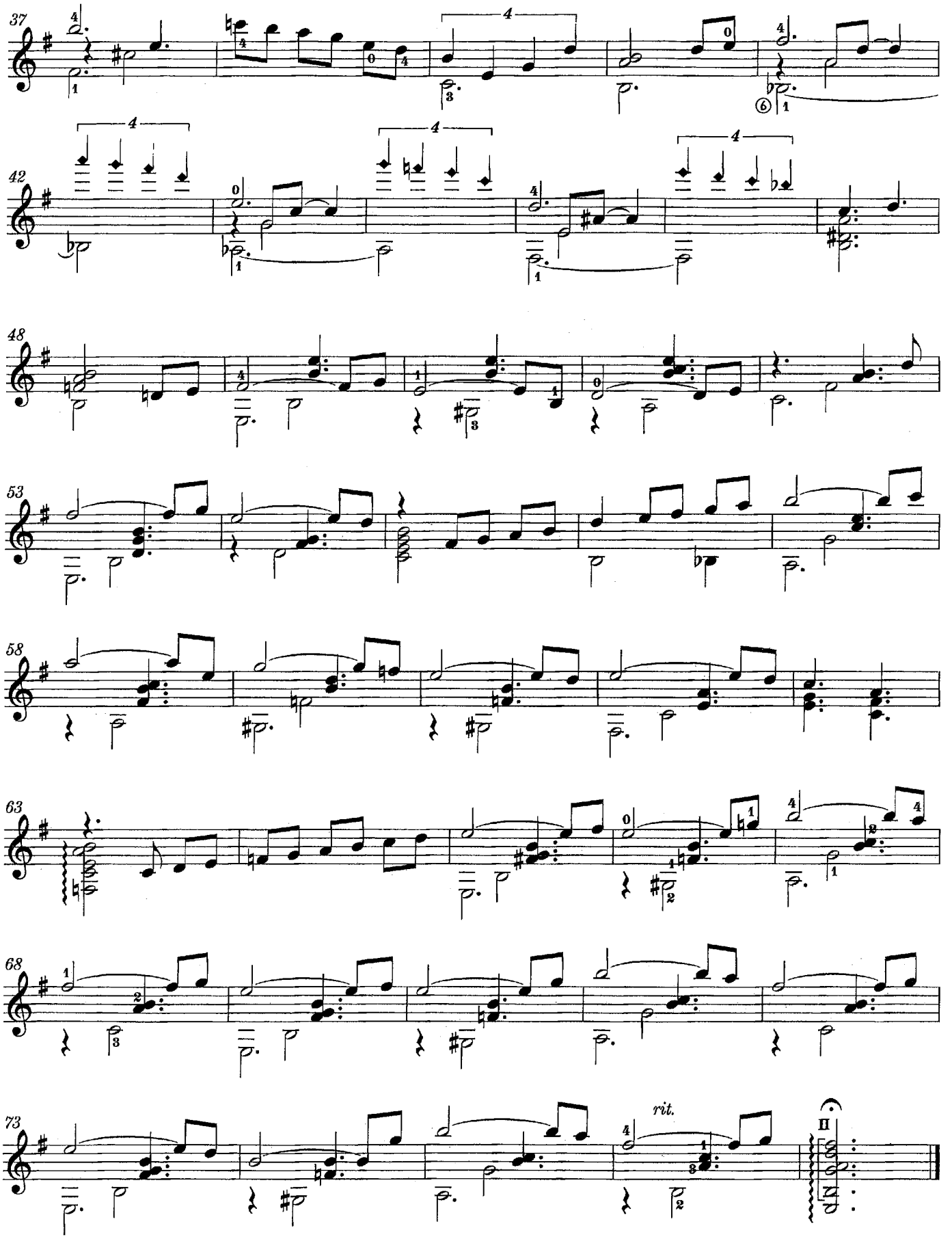



VII
espress.
rit.

19

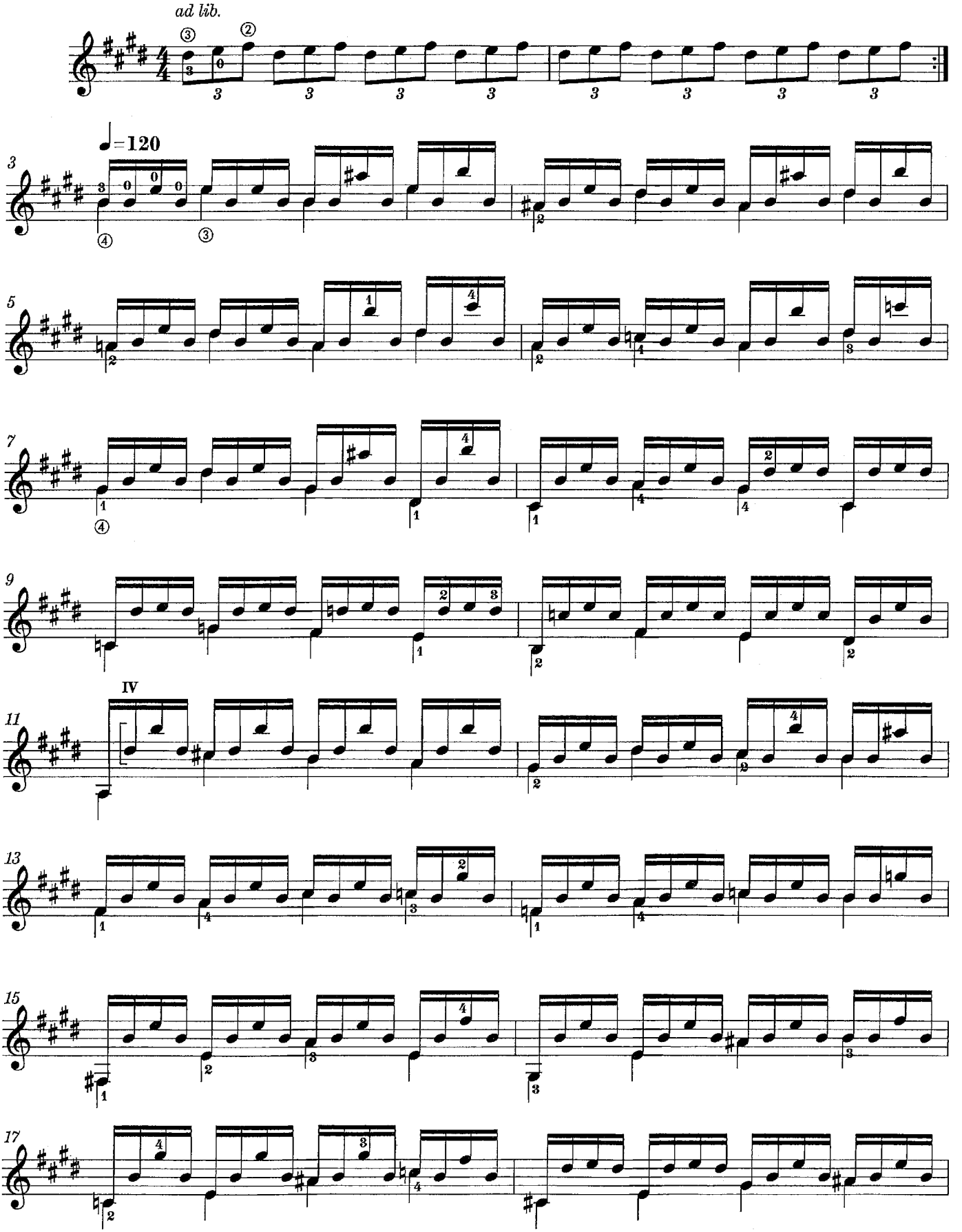
Matthew Dunne

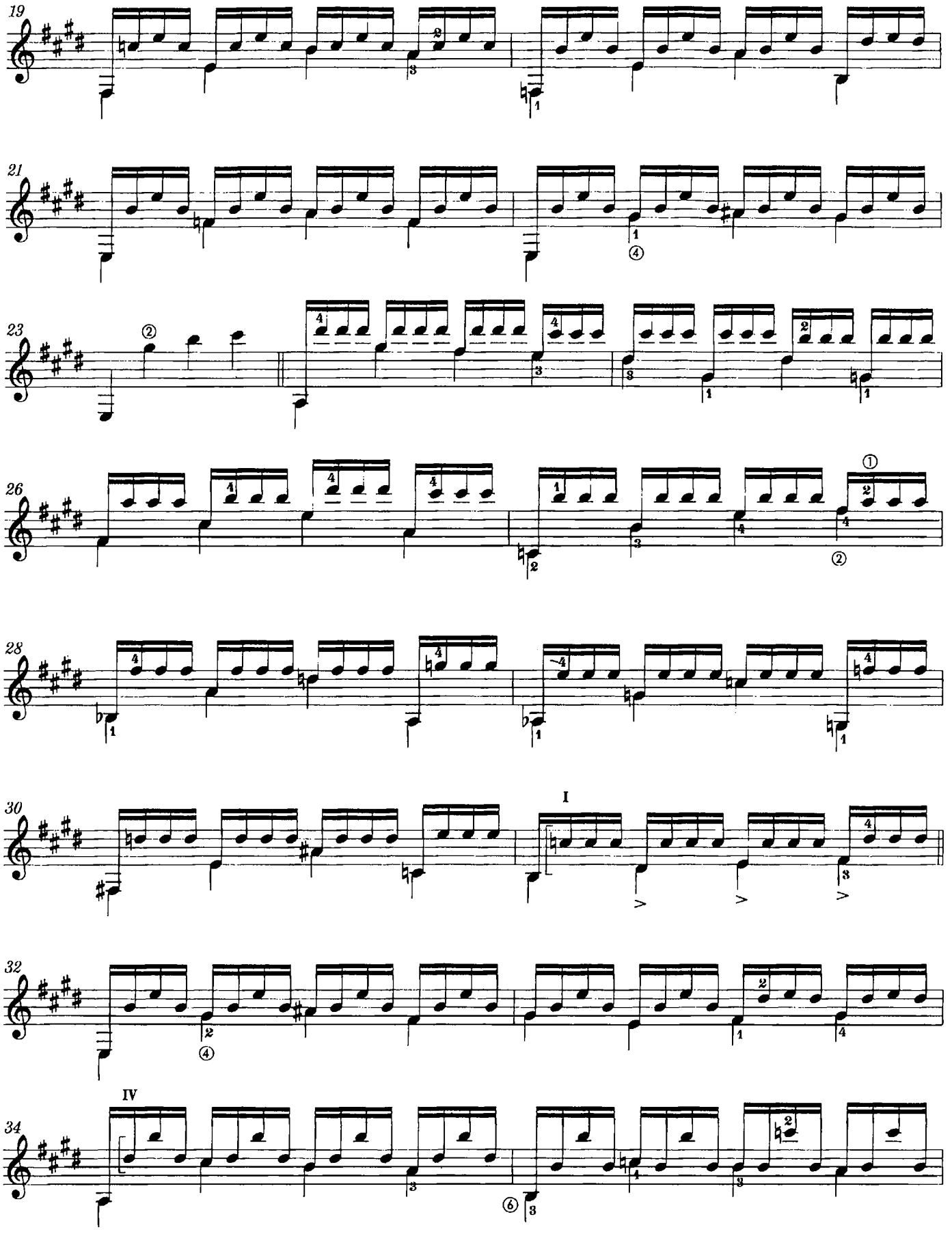


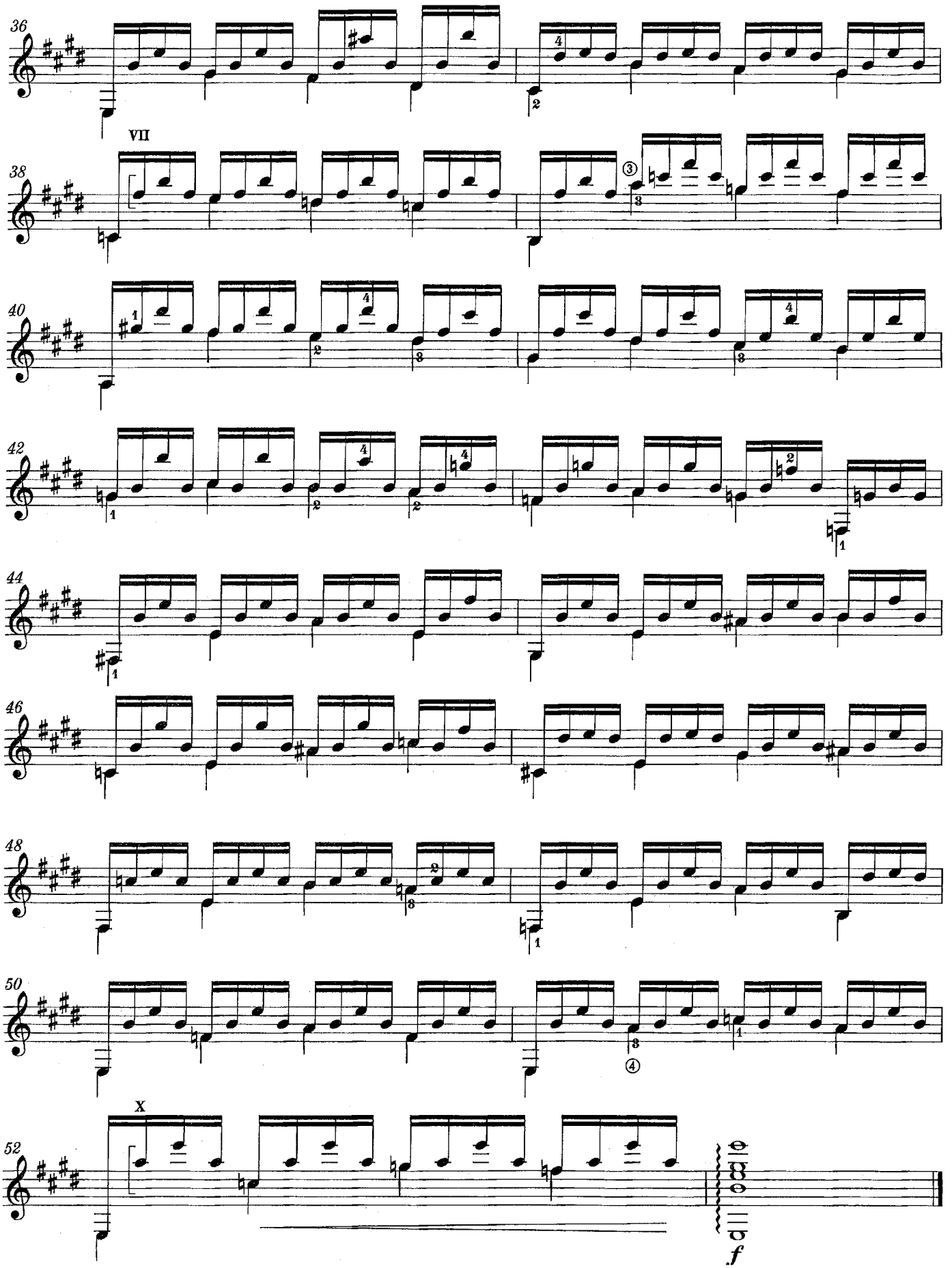

37
42
48
53
58
63
68
73
rit.

20

Matthew Dunne




19
21
23
26
28
30
I
32
IV
34


36
VII
38
40
42
44
46
48
50
X
52
f