Collection #10

Arrangements by
garydahl

Polka!

For Piano Accordion

SAMPLE PAGES

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FOREWORD

Gary's professional music career, lasting over six decades, resulted in an impressive body of work including hundreds of individual arrangements and ten eBook collections. These popular arrangements are harmonically and melodically correct, show the power and beauty of the accordion, and will challenge the beginning, intermediate, and advanced accordion players. Each of Gary's arrangements came from his heart and offers a true musical experience that should be encountered by anyone who loves and enjoys playing the accordion!

Numerous requests from his students and members of the accordion community -- always searching for *high level professionally arranged piano accordion songs* -- inspired Gary to develop this library with a few simple goals:

- All arrangements are creative and harmonically correct.
- All arrangements contain a sensible degree of difficulty.
- All arrangements are enjoyable for you to play and therefore enjoyable to your audience.
- Each song book is in a convenient and accessible PDF format.

Each song book is organized to provide a collection of arrangements that are similar by theme, genre or type. This makes getting your favorite solos easy. Together these eBooks represent a huge repertoire for the modern accordion player and are guaranteed to satisfy even the most demanding audience.

DENNIS O'TOOLE

The artistic and easily read engravings throughout this book were provided by Dennis O'Toole, a professional music engraver specializing in the accordion.

PREFACE

The arranging goal for this eBook is to provide favorite popular polkas in varying degrees of difficulty. Clarinet, Achtung Los and Beer Barrel polkas represent professional stylings and are designed for spectacular sounding performances. All of the arrangements are entertaining and playable for the intermediate player while providing valuable material for the professional accordionist. The selections use both 4/4 and 2/4 time signatures for traditional presentation and all of the polkas are to be played with similar tempo and interpretation.

The Polka and the Accordion are inseparable. Every accordionist must by popular demand, have a reasonably extensive polka repertoire. This eBook will provide hours of enjoyment and entertainment for the accordion student, recreational player and professional accordionist.

Gary Dahl

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A BRIEF GUIDE TO SLOW PRACTICE

By Gary Dahl

I decided when I started teaching thirty-seven years ago, each student would be required to demonstrate slow practice tempos in selected sections of a piece assigned a week earlier. At first, these tempos are rather like slow-motion and gradually increase only when the skill level is ready. I have never regretted this decision because it has produced many confident, satisfied accordionists.

What are the benefits of this kind of practicing?

- The student actually learns the piece faster, having had time to read the correct notes, time values, dynamics, etc.
- Performance slips are greatly reduced (a slip is not a mistake). A mistake is playing the same wrong notes at every performance, while an occasional slip sometimes just happens.
- Slow practice eliminates practice mistakes. Why should we practice a mistake? Not too logical is it?
- Control, especially in fast rhythmic pieces is much more secure. This is especially true in long scale-like passages.
- Because dynamics are exaggerated during slow practice, they retain their color at tempo.
- Slow practice and repetitions of short passages is essential to increase learning speed and to eliminate mistakes.

There are many more points I could list but these are the basics. Occasionally my students think I am some sort of Psychic because I can tell immediately if they have not done their slow practice. If it is a fairly new piece, the fingers are searching everywhere for the notes. Slow practice will enable you to learn quickly while fast practice will produce very slow results or none at all. Slow practice is not particularly fun but it is part of the discipline we must observe. I tell my students I am not asking them to slow practice because it is fun, in fact it can be boring. You have to bleed a little, pay the price to realize the exciting benefits. You can't learn in your sleep.

To the Adult Student: Music is for all to enjoy, both for listening pleasure and the thrill of playing the accordion confidently and musically. Music is a way of expressing ourselves. Many people would give anything to play an instrument with authority. Don't let your age get you down. It is literally true; you are never too old to learn. Many adults are happier now and getting more out of life by learning music.

Adult students will learn more at lessons using these suggestions:

- Make believe you are 10 years old again. Forget preconceived ideas.
- Don't talk too much–concentrate on listening.
- Let the teacher lead with the best sequence for you to reach your particular goals.
- Don't let your ego get in the way, even if you are an experienced player.
- Study harmony to dramatically enhance your current skills. You will then be able to produce your own arrangements–this is where the real fun is!
- Don't try to pick pieces way beyond your capability. It is always better to play a less difficult piece well than a more advanced selection sloppy; just experience the pleasure of high–quality music–making!

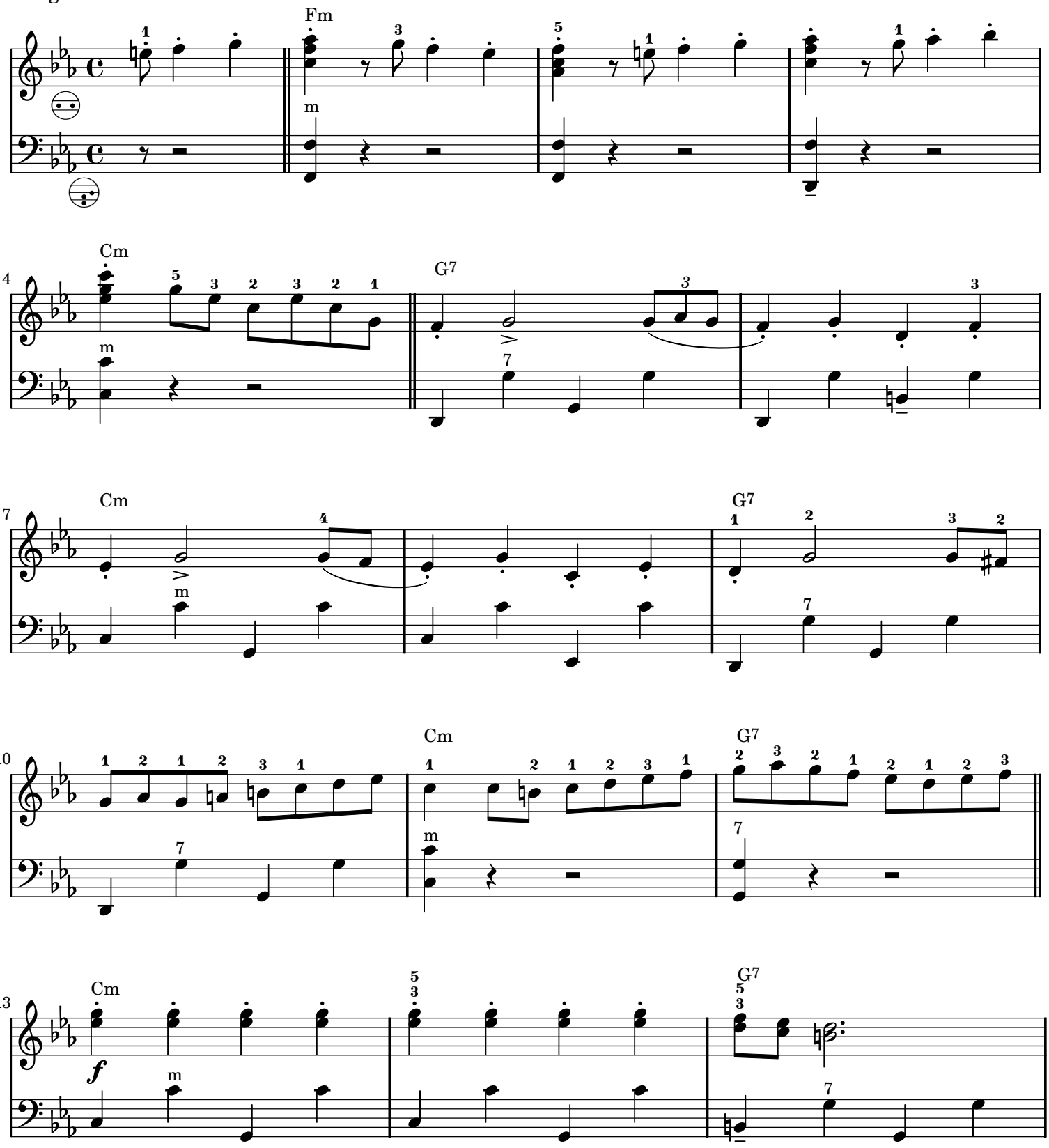
$5.90

FERRY-BOAT SERENADE

SAMPLE ONLY

Traditional
arranged by garydahl 5/28/15

Intermediate Grade
Allegro



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ACHTUNG LOS

For Toby Hanson

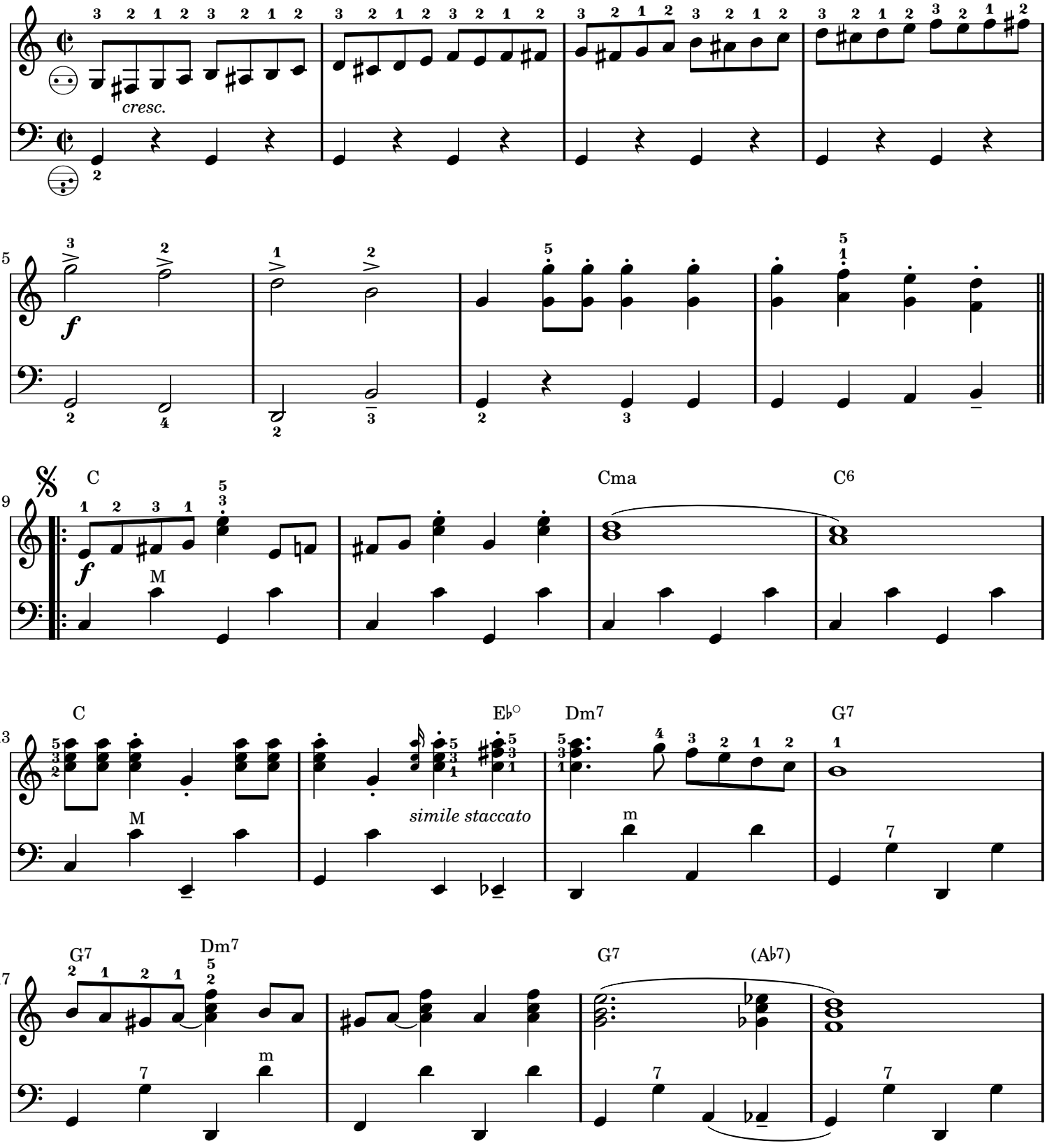
SAMPLE ONLY

Wilde

arranged by garydahl 01-10

High Performance Polka

Fast and Loud



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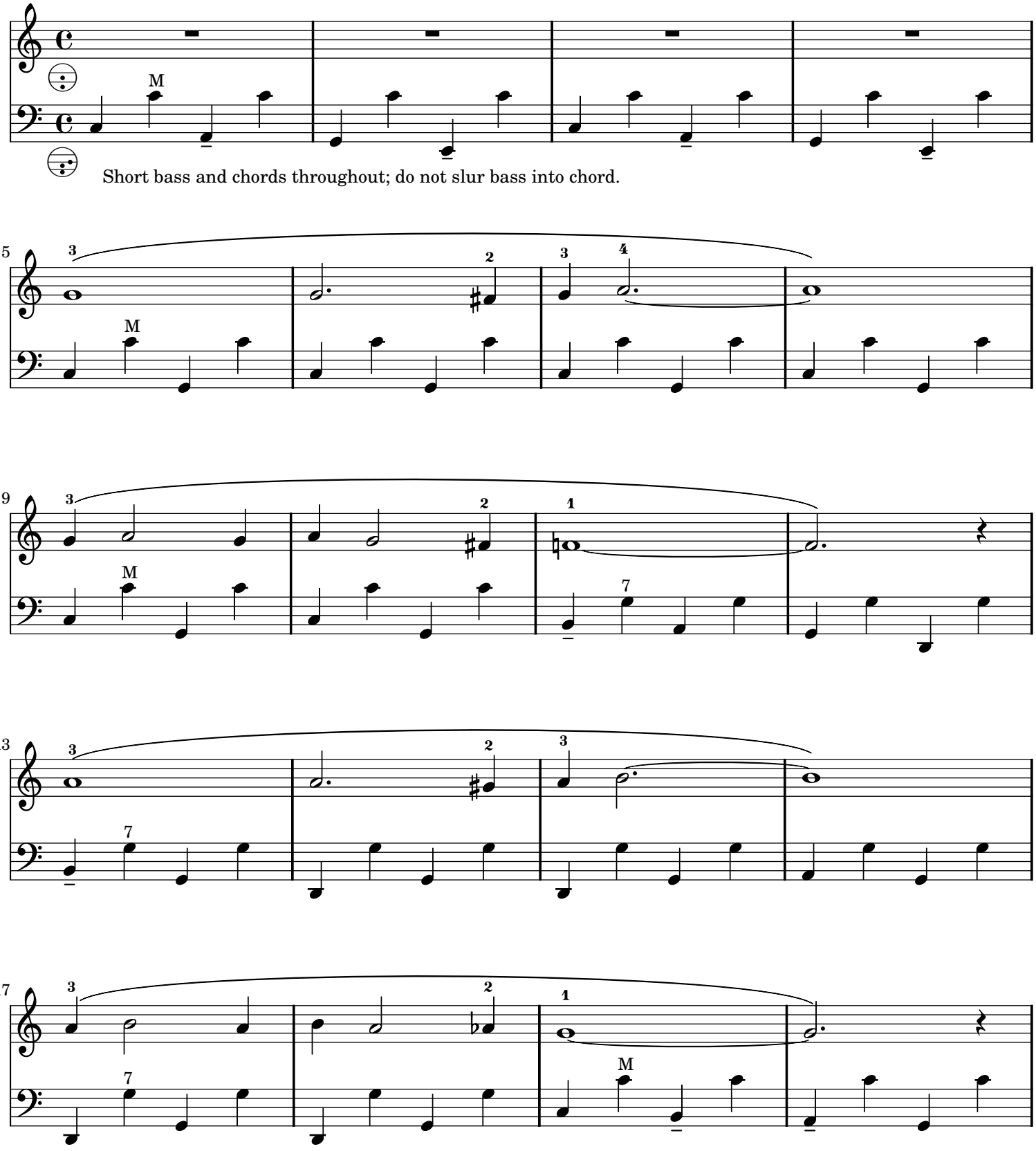
BEER BARREL POLKA

SAMPLE ONLY

Vejvoda
arranged by garydahl 4-07

First Lessons Book Grade



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BEER BARREL POLKA

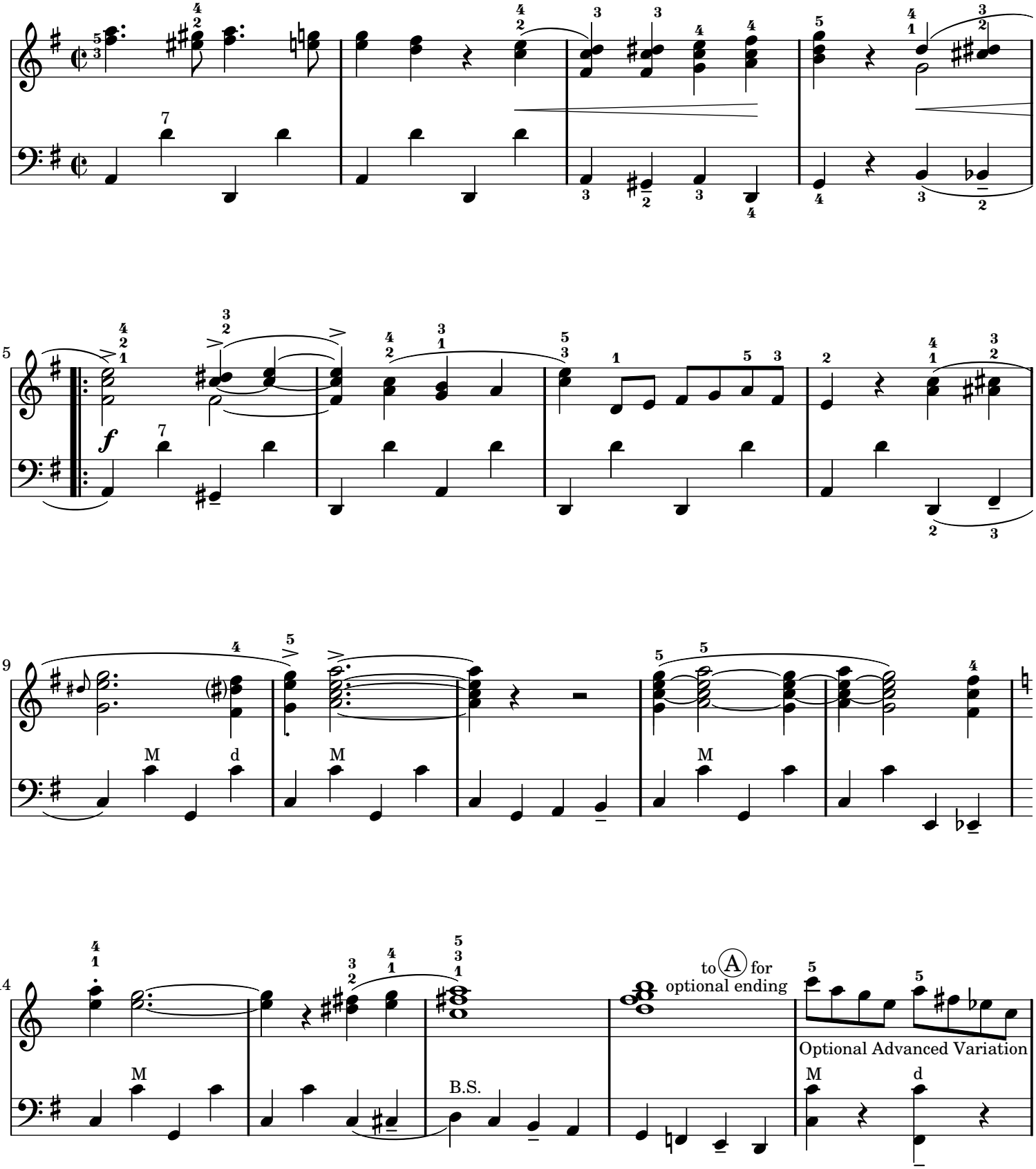
The 'Real' Arangement

Systems not in Sequence -- SAMPLE ONLY

Vejvoda

arranged by garydahl 9-1-07

Polka Tempo (but not too fast)



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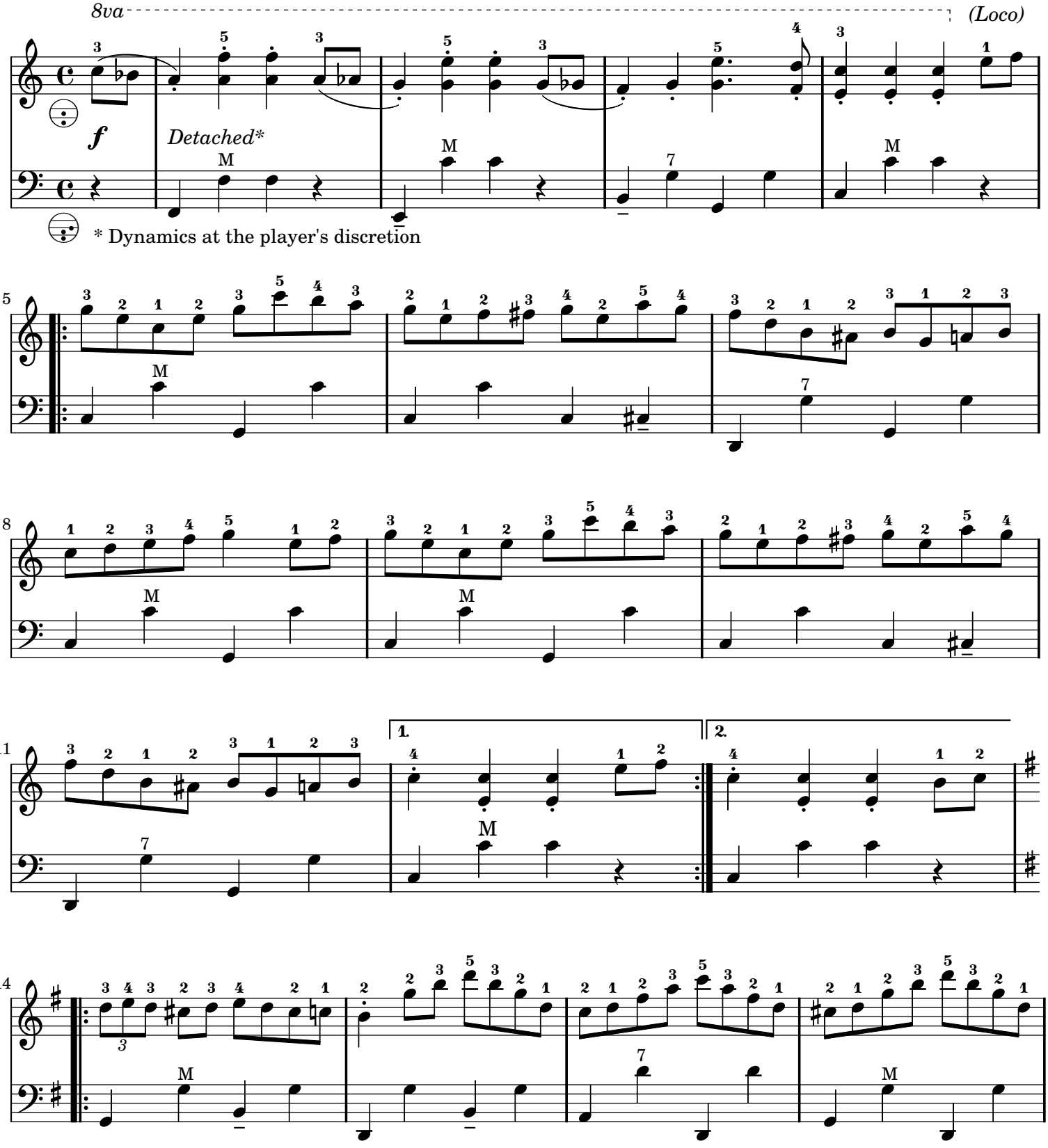
CHAMPAGNE POLKA

SAMPLE ONLY

Welk Band
arranged by garydahl 6-1-06

Fast Polka



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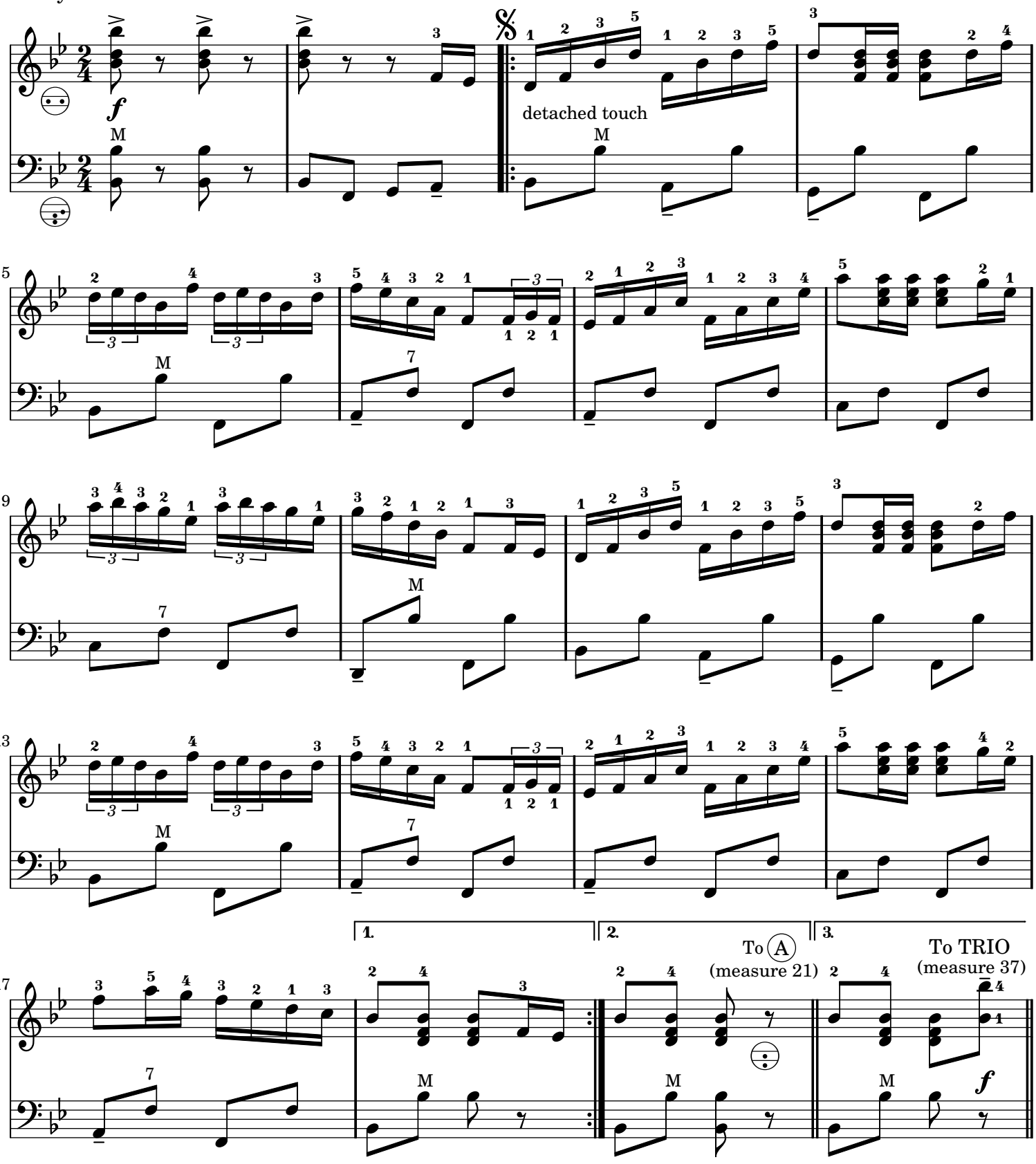
CLARINET POLKA

SAMPLE ONLY

Traditional
arranged by garydahl 04-22-14

Lively



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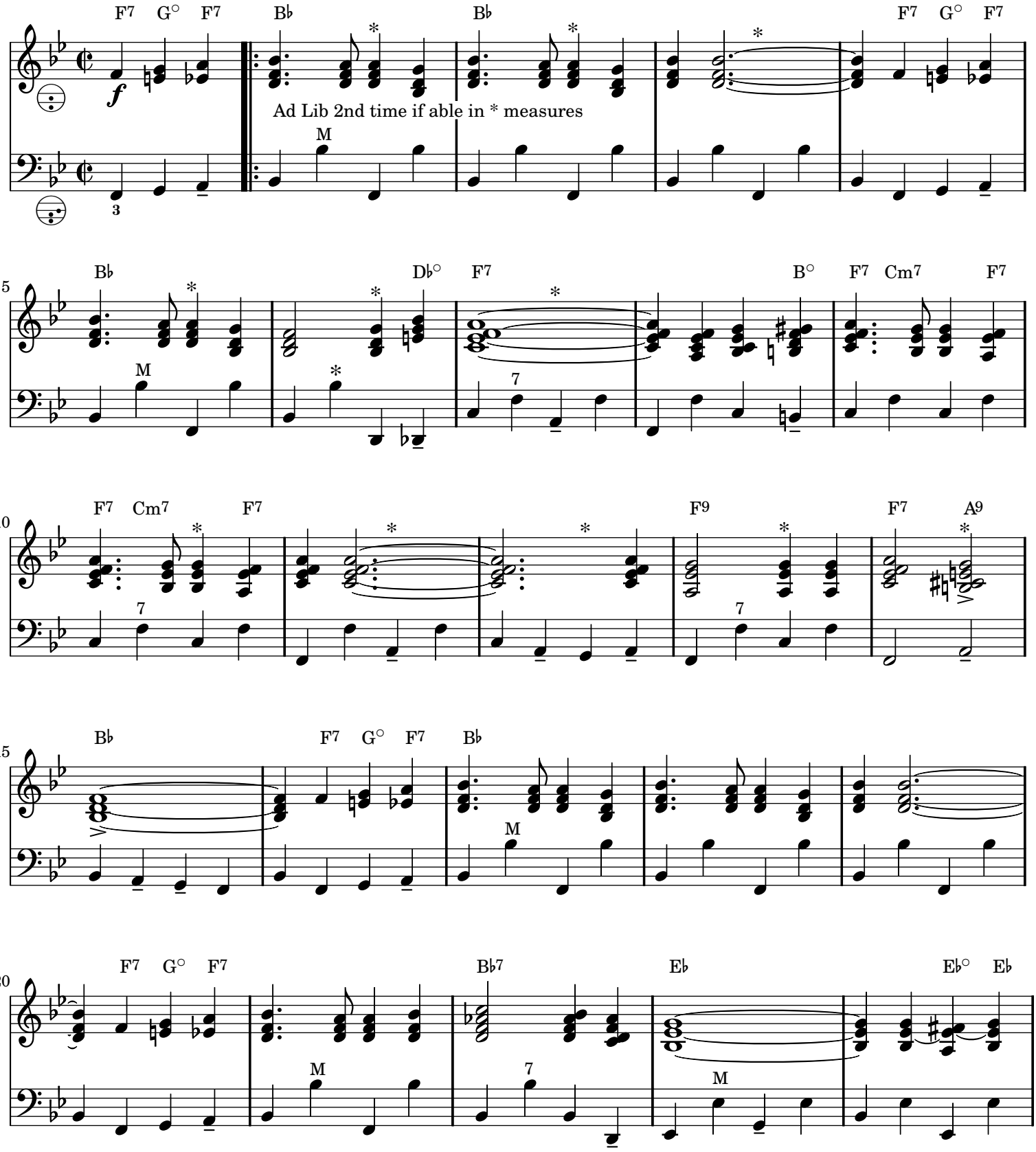
JUST BECAUSE

Yankovic Style

SAMPLE ONLY

The Sheldon Bros.
arranged by garydahl 5-1-09

Polka Tempo



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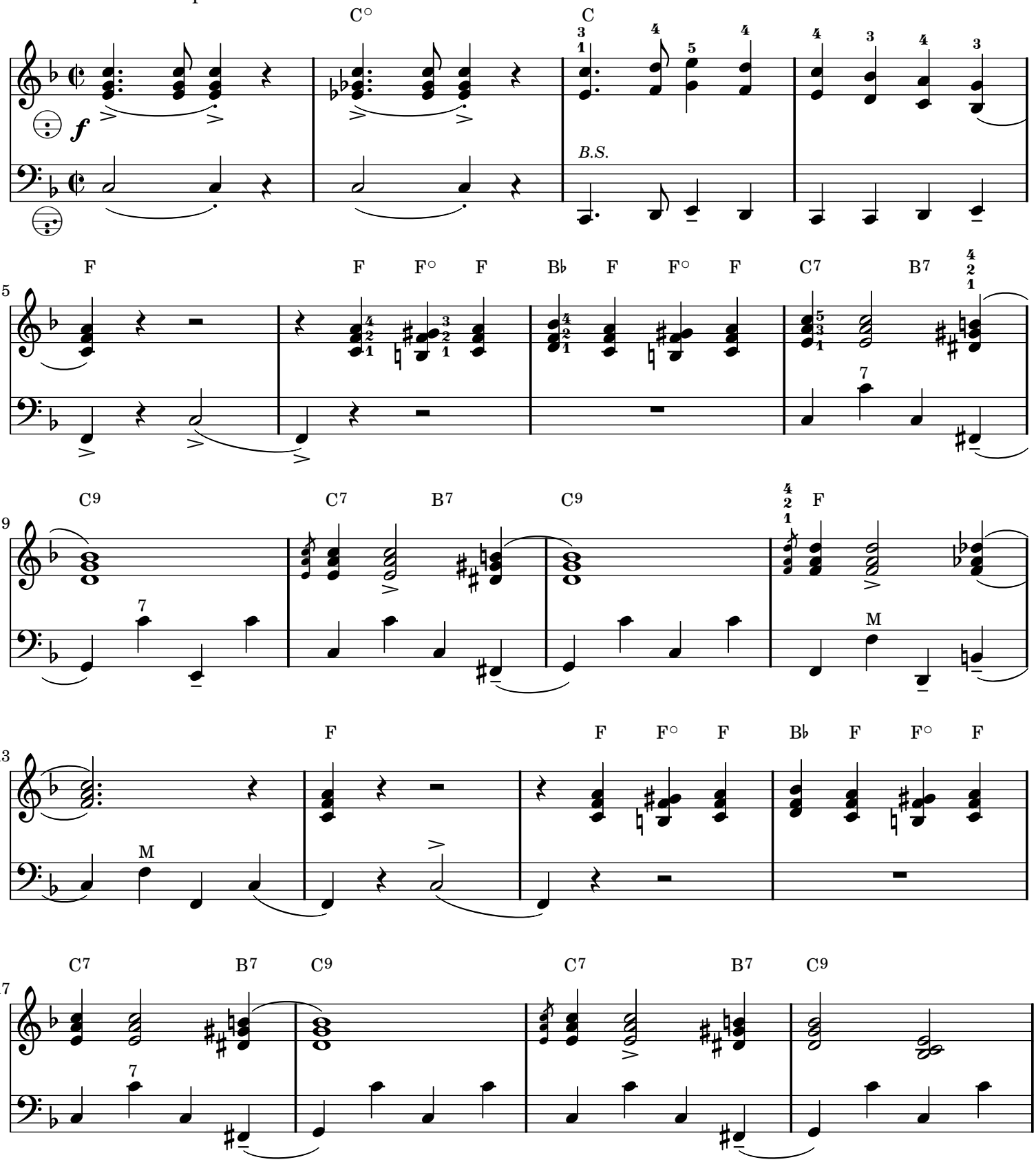
LIECHTENSTEINER POLKA

SAMPLE ONLY

Kotscher & Lindt
arranged by garydahl 04-01-07

Medium Polka Tempo



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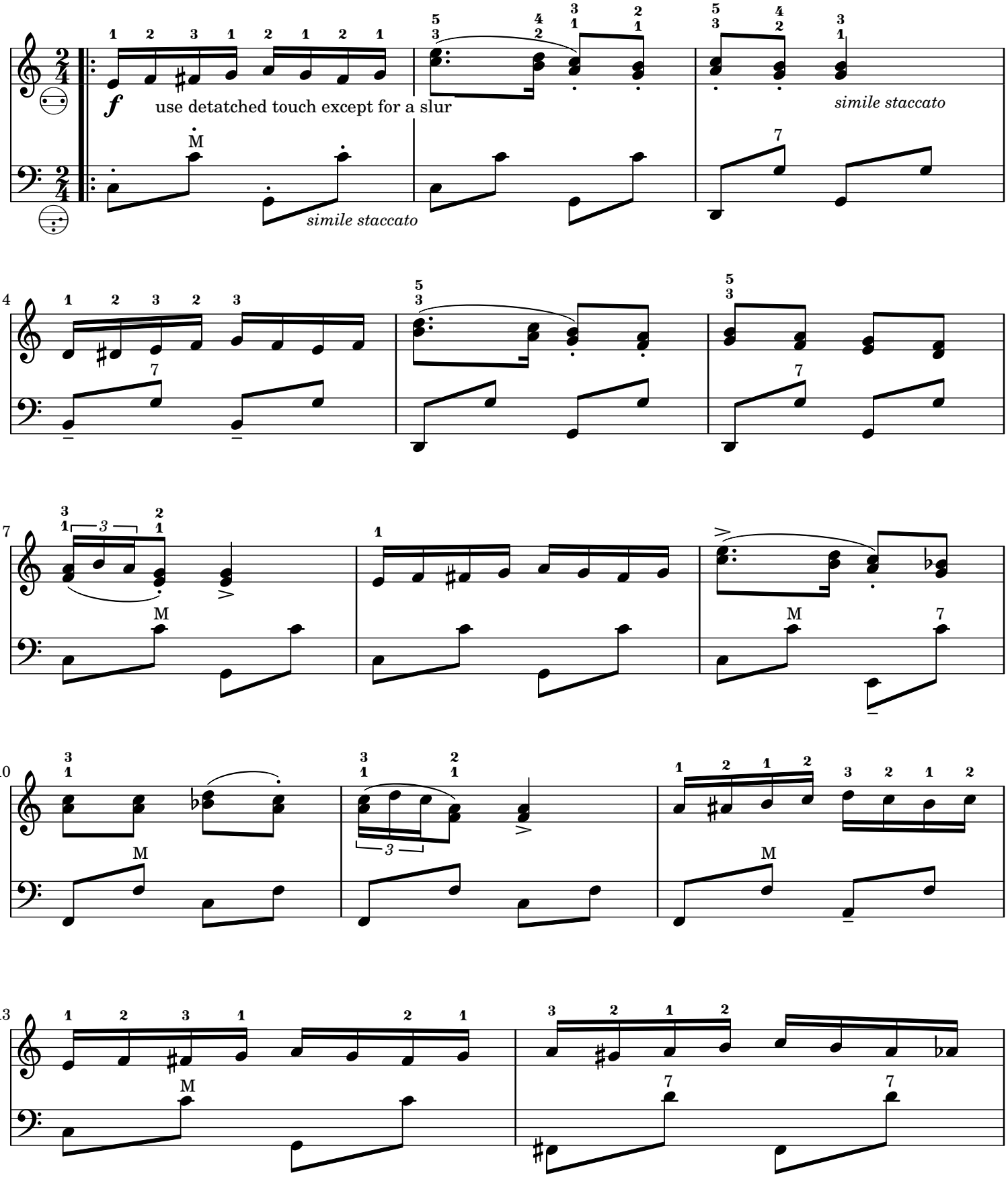
$6.00

WIENERSCHNITZEL POLKA

SAMPLE ONLY

Traditional Polka
arranged by garydahl 10-25-16

Bright Polka Tempo



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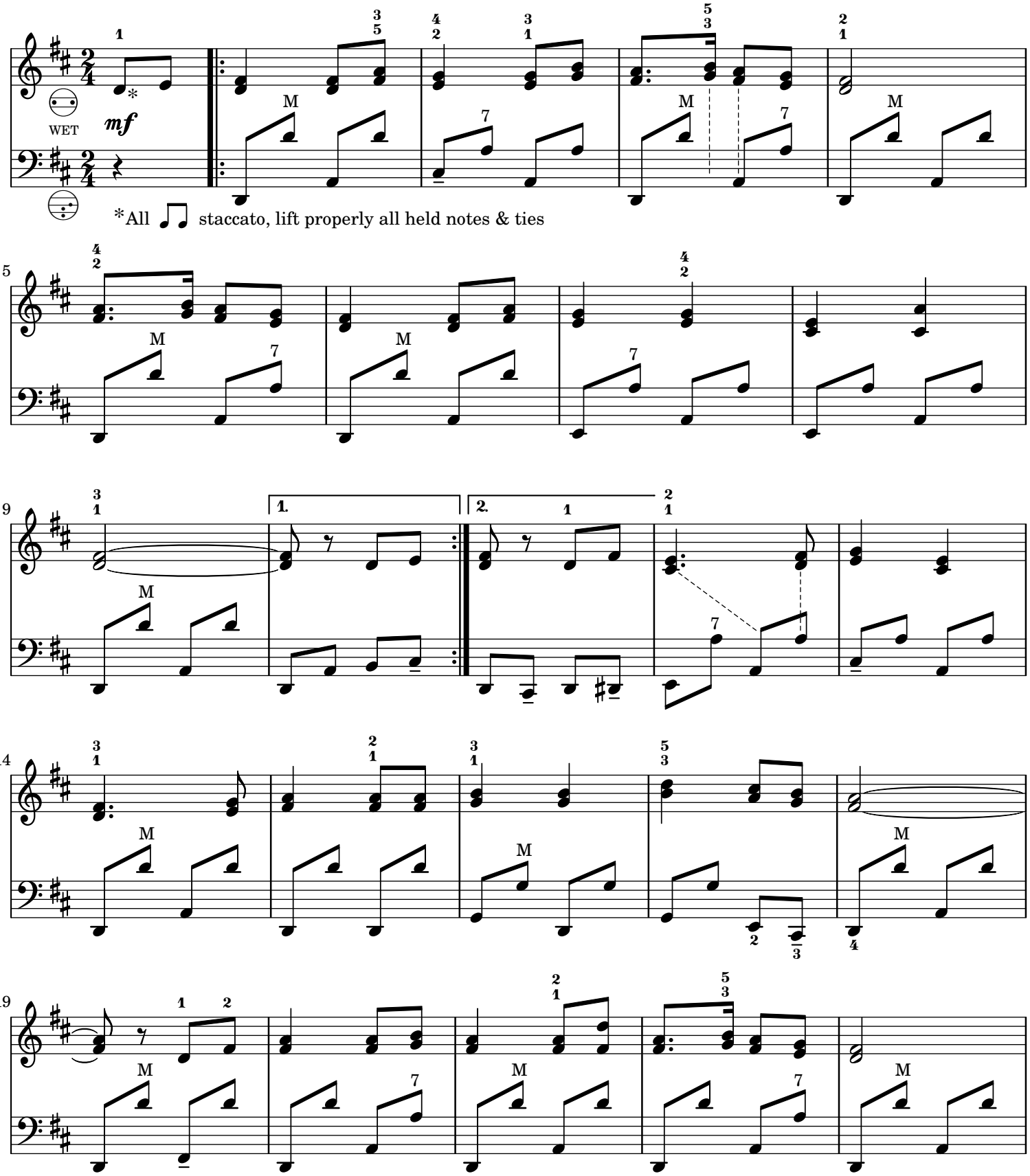
MUSS I DENN ZUM STADTELE HINAUS

SAMPLE ONLY

$6.50

German Folk Song
arranged by garydahl 11-10-16

Medium Sing Along
March -- Polka



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Arrangements by *garydahl*

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