TRINITY
COLLEGE LONDON

Specimen Improvisation Tests

Stylistic Stimulus

for Trinity College London exams from 2017

Initial–Grade 8

E♭ Instruments – Treble Clef

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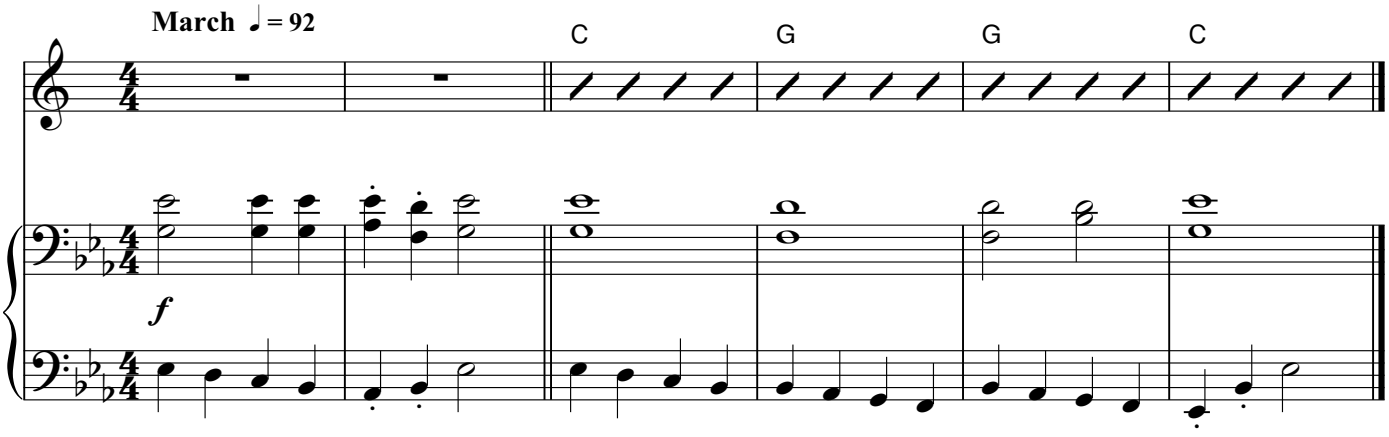
Stylistic stimulus

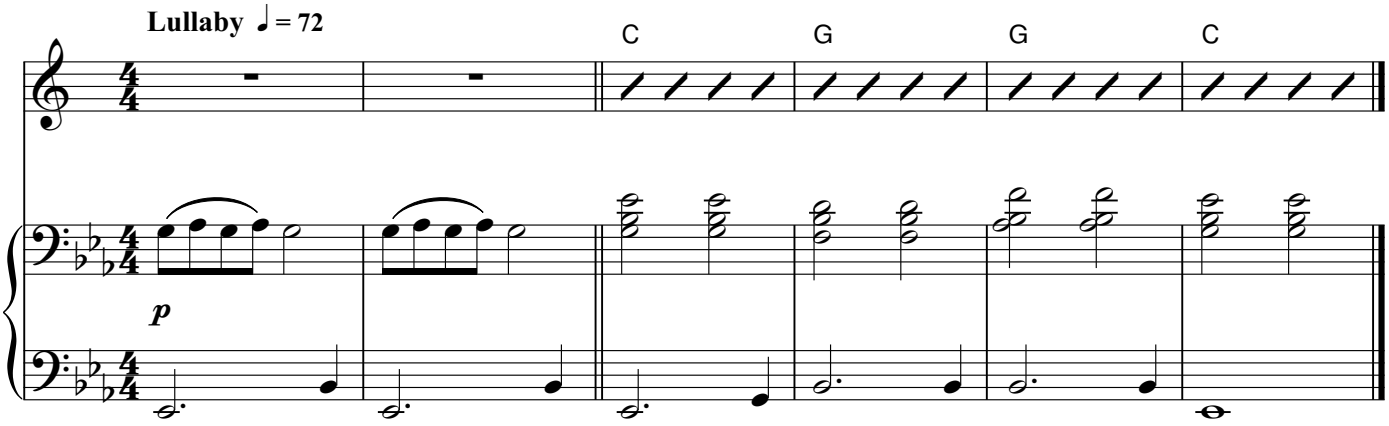
The stylistic stimulus requires candidates to improvise over a notated piano part played by the examiner. Candidates are given a stimulus which includes the notated piano part and chord symbols. The stimulus begins with a two-bar introduction played by the examiner alone, followed by a further section over which candidates must improvise for a specified number of repeats. In the exam, the examiner plays the stimulus twice for candidates' reference, without repeats. Candidates are then given 30 seconds' preparation time, during which they may prepare for their improvisation aloud if they wish. The test then follows. The examiner then plays the stimulus again, and candidates join after the introduction, improvising for the specified number of repeats. Candidates should aim to improvise in a way that complements the musical idiom of the stimulus.

Initial

Example 1

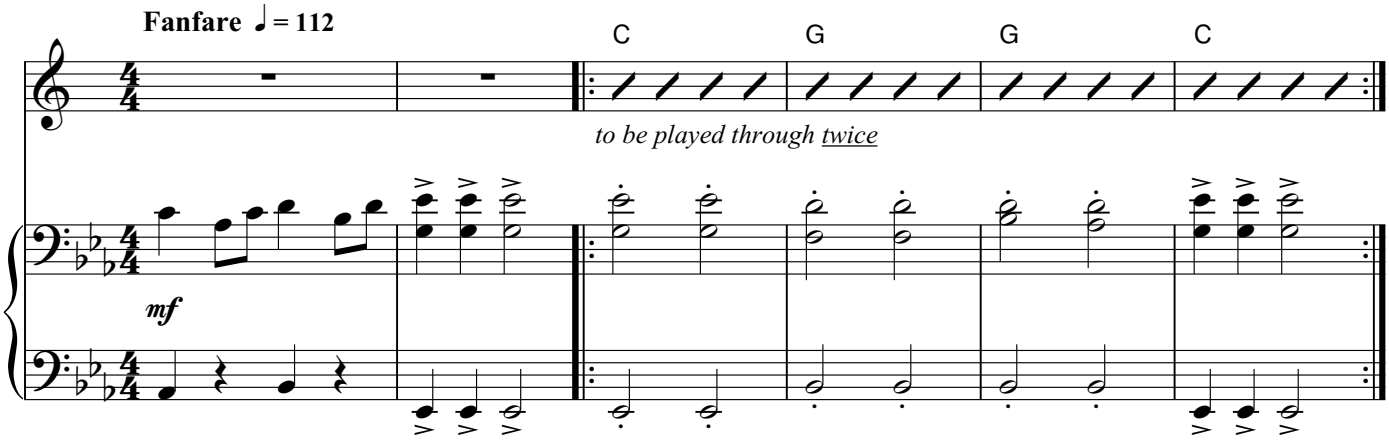


Example 2



Grade 1

Example 1



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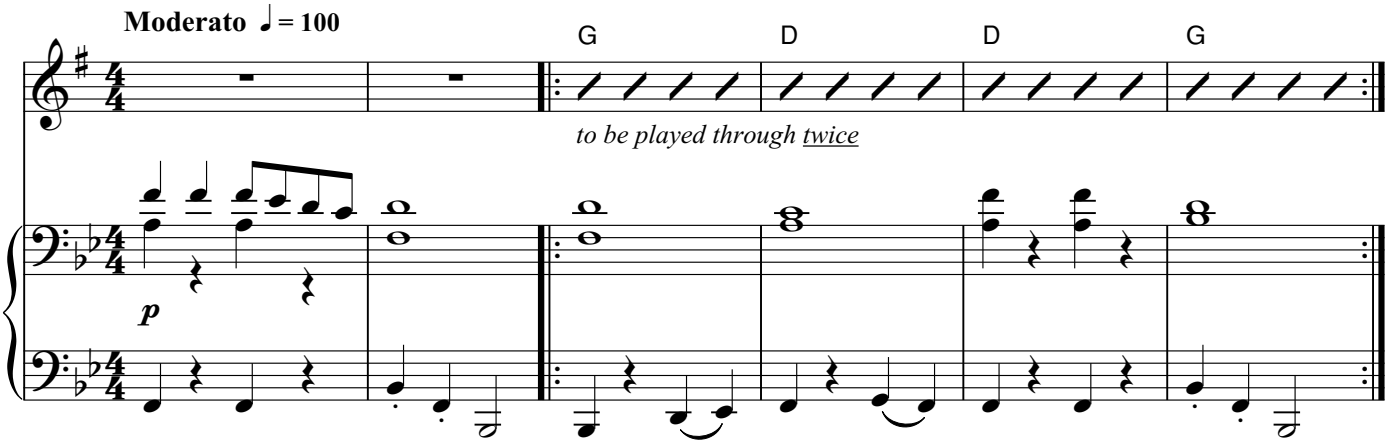
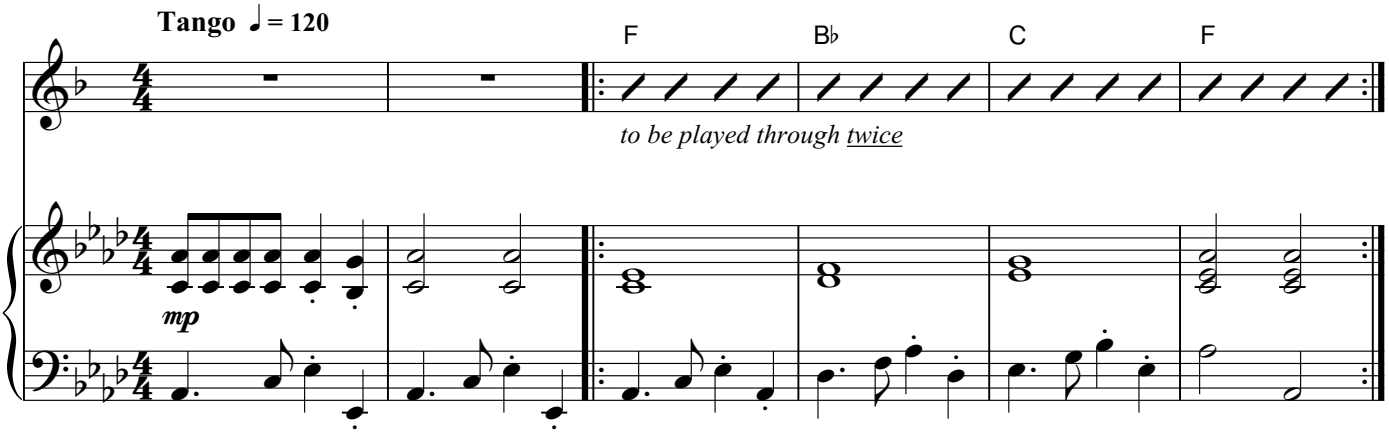


Grade 2

Example 1



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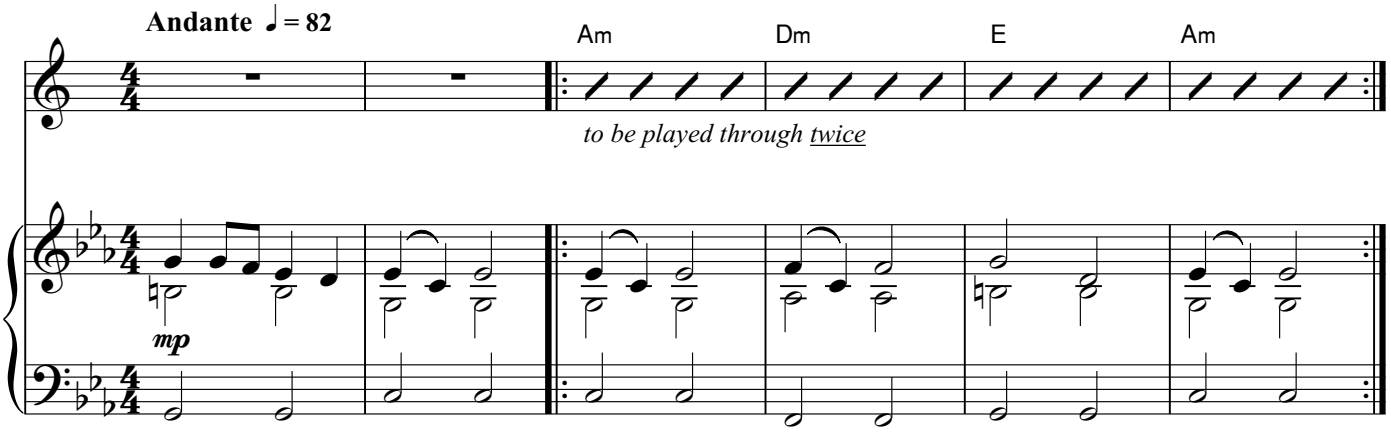
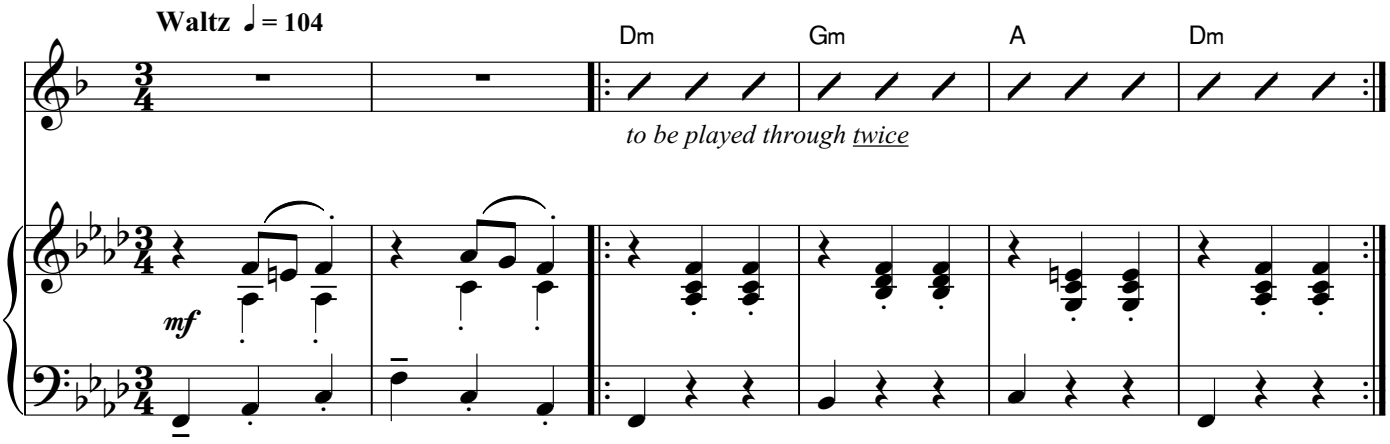


Grade 3

Example 1



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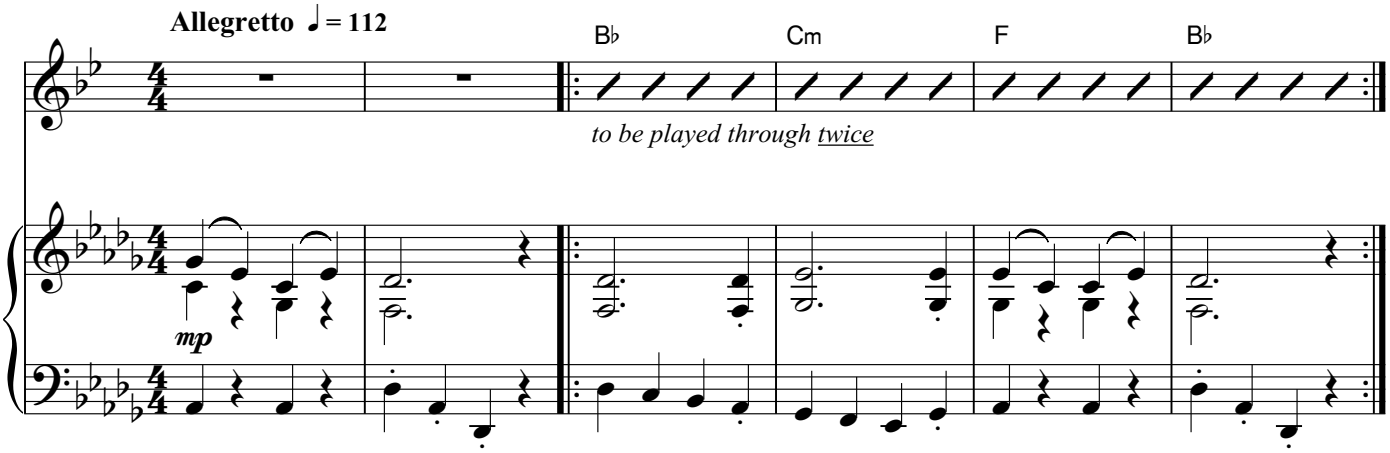
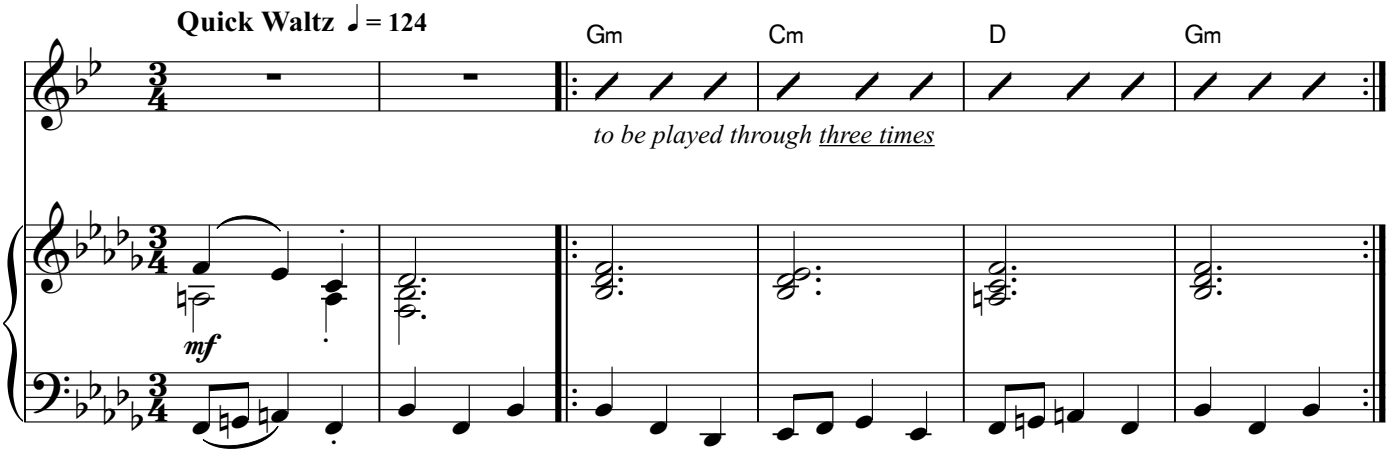


Grade 4

Example 1



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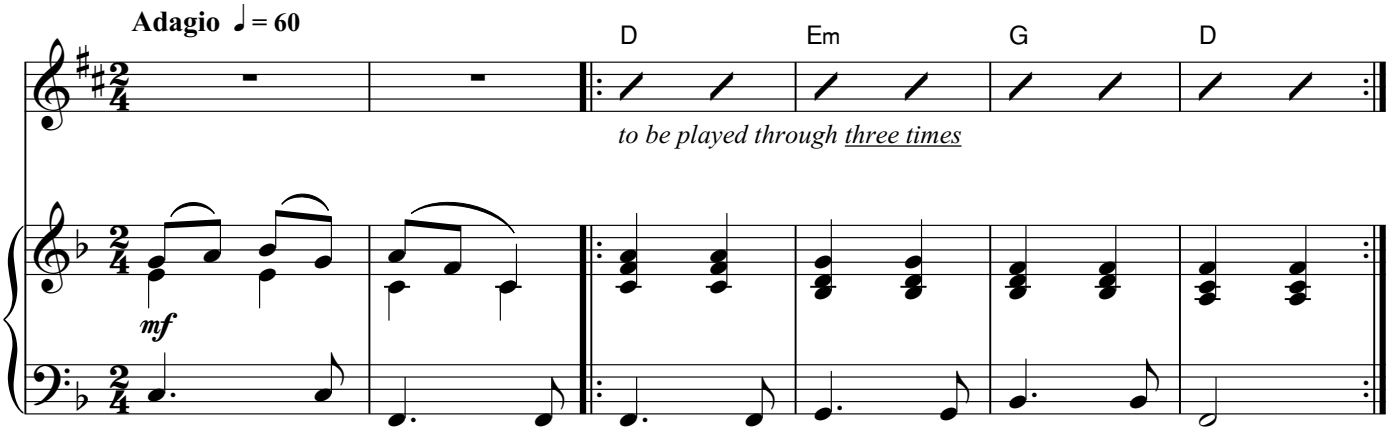
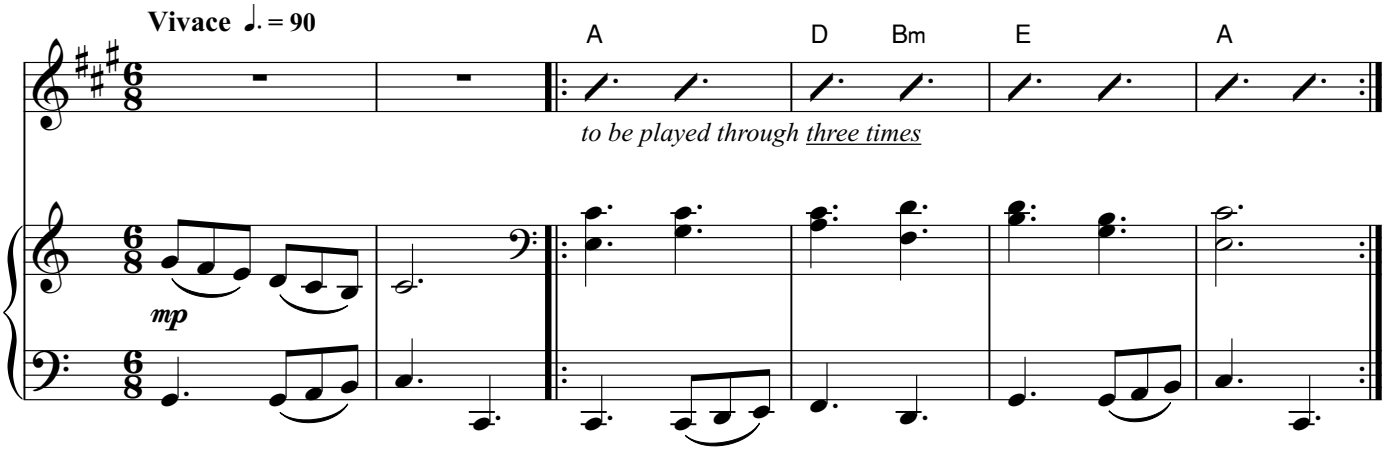


Grade 5

Example 1



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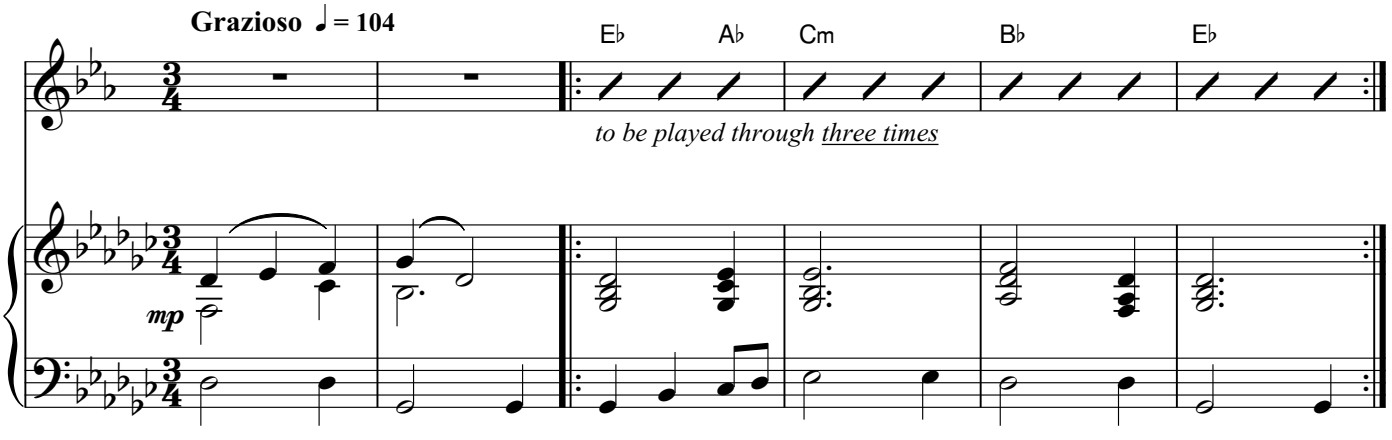
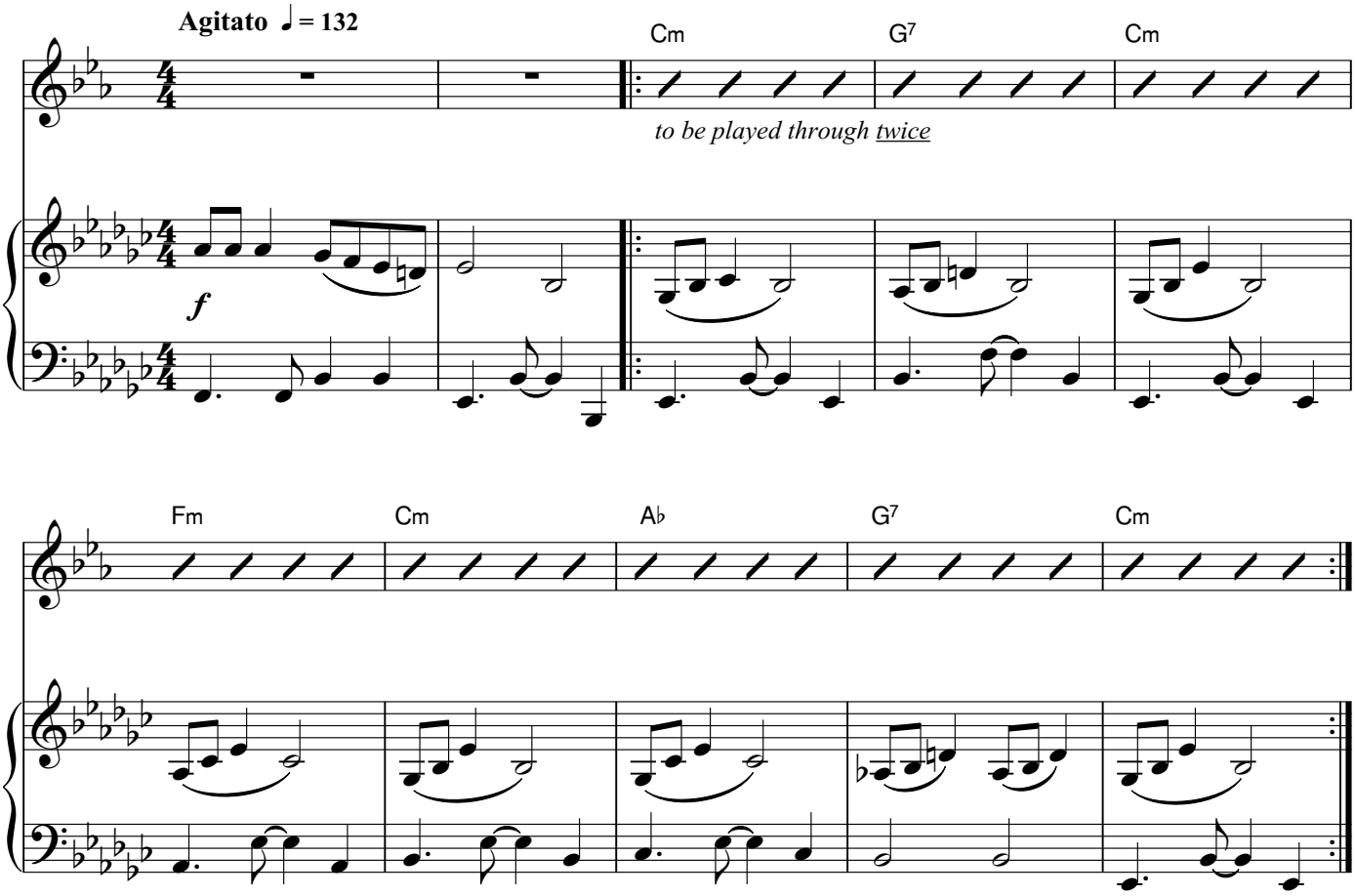


Grade 6

Example 1



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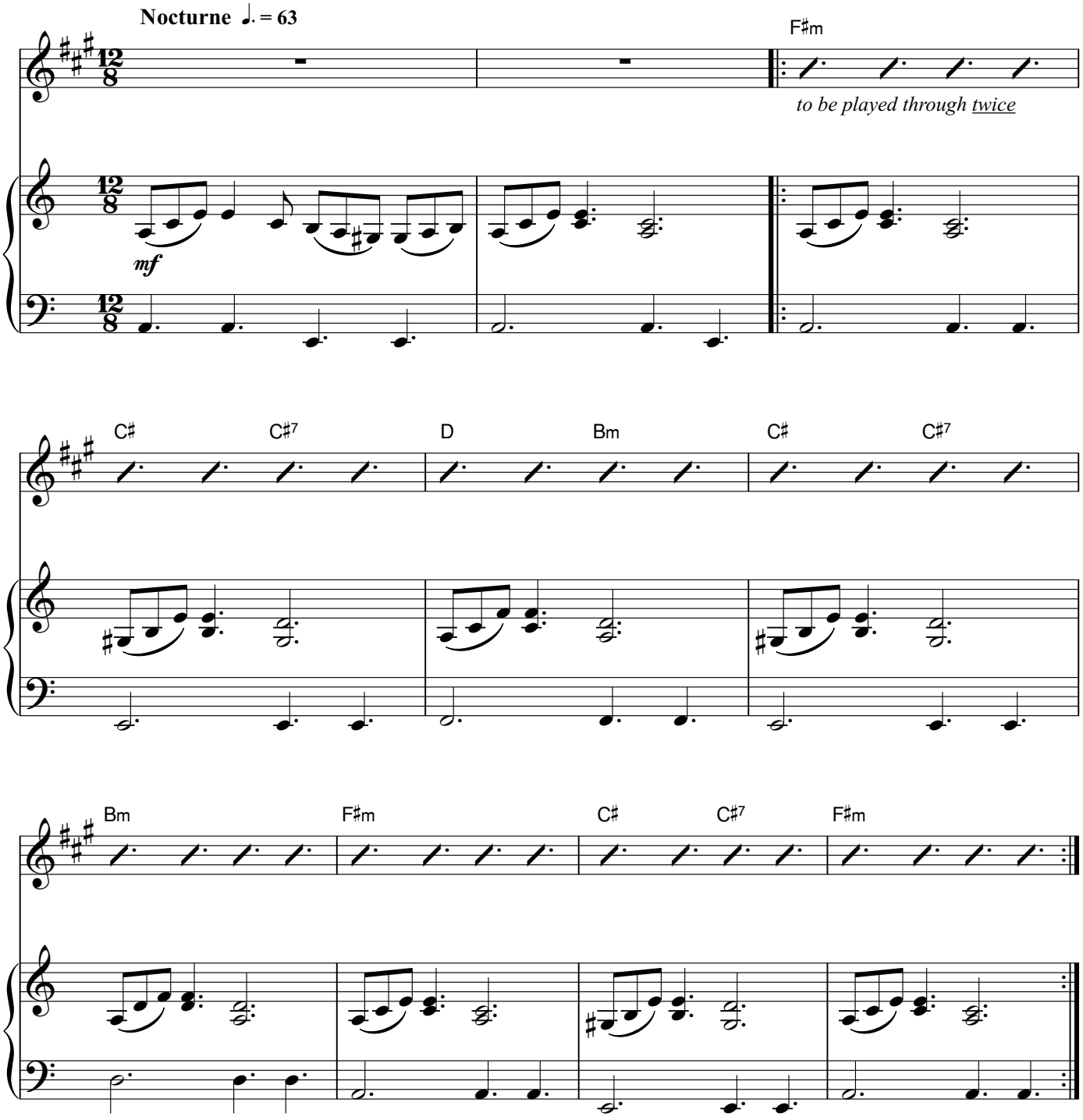
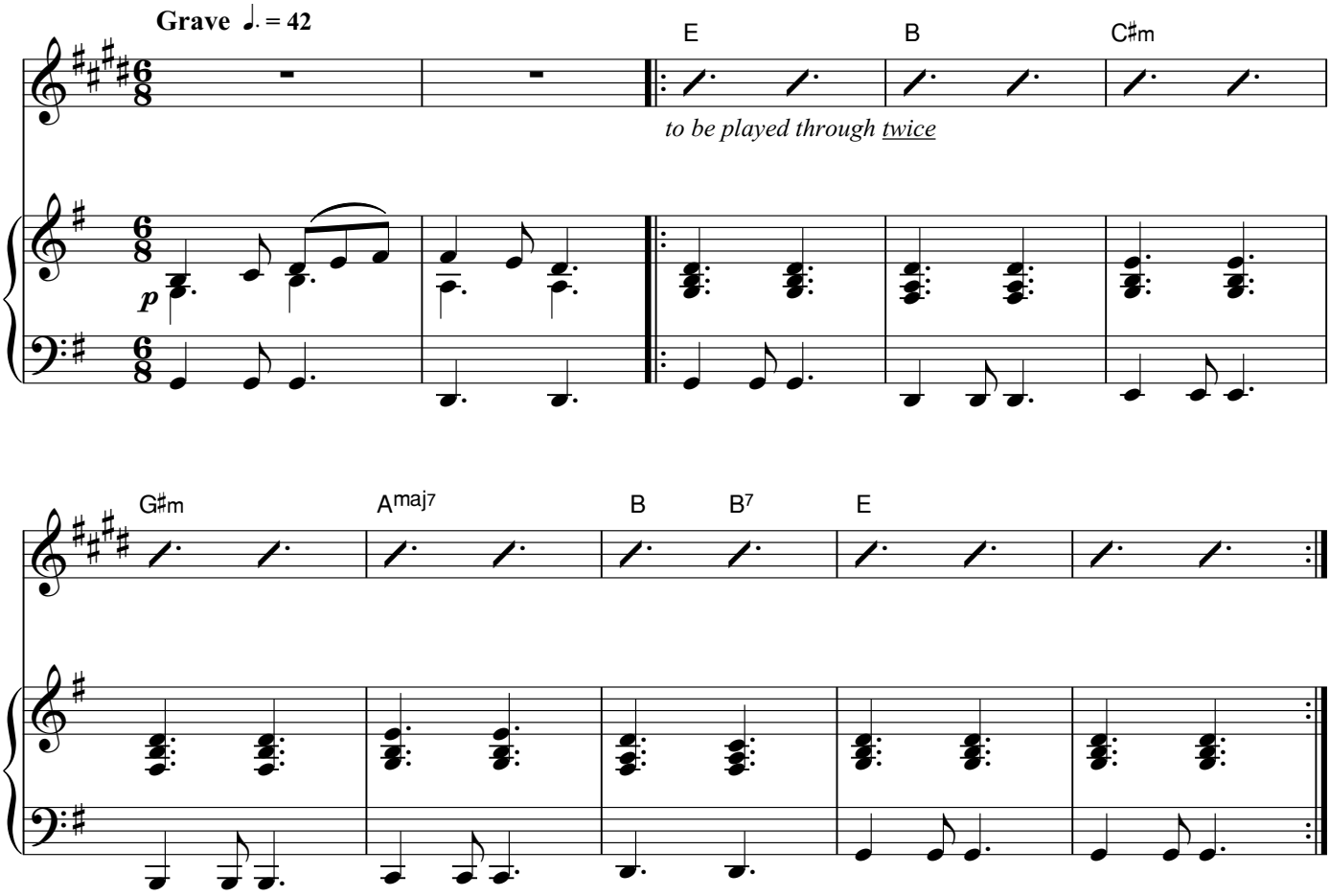

Nocturne ♩. = 63
F♯m
to be played through twice
mf
C♯
C♯7
D
Bm
C♯
C♯7
Bm
F♯m
C♯
C♯7
F♯m

Grade 7

Example 1



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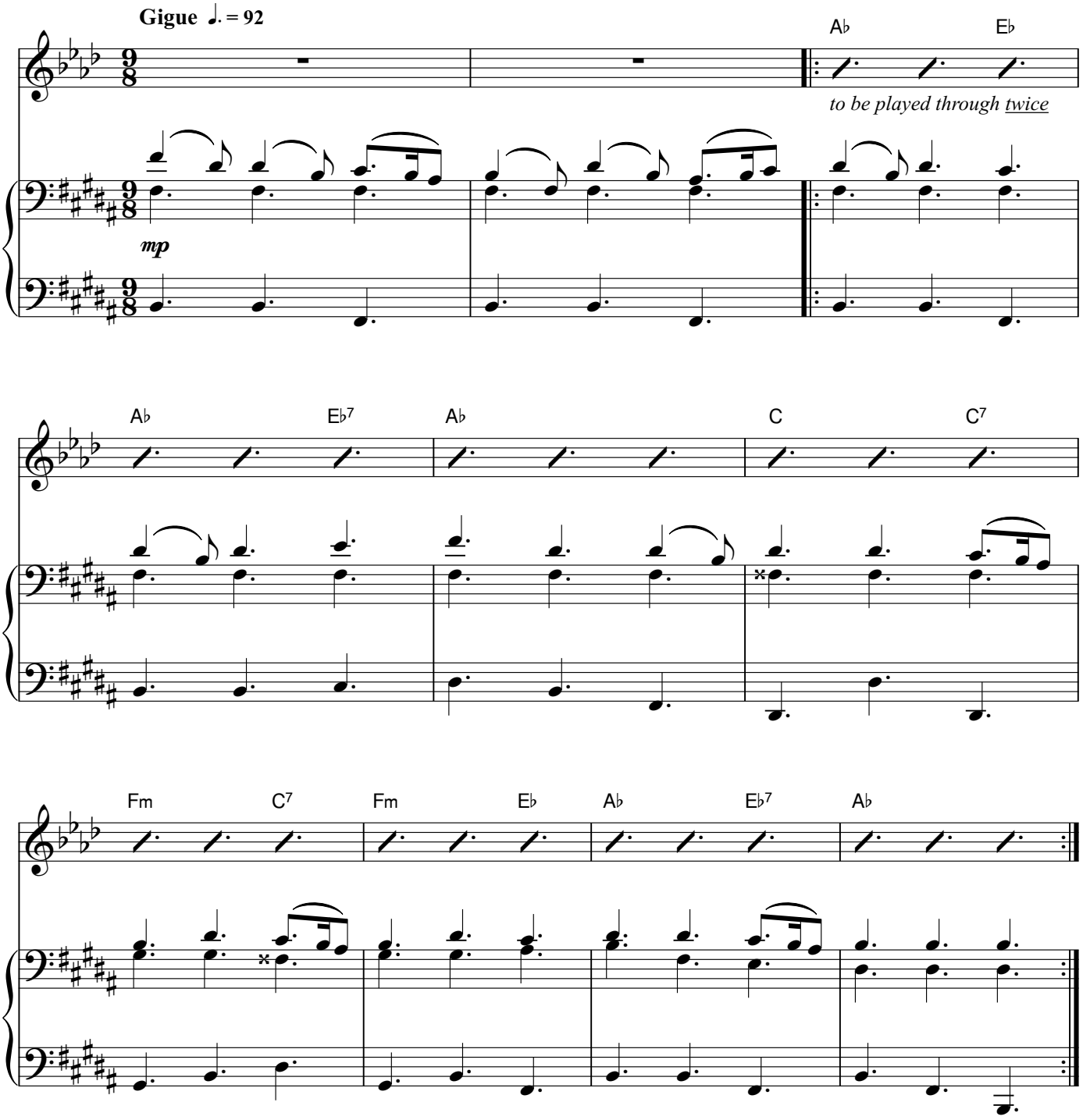
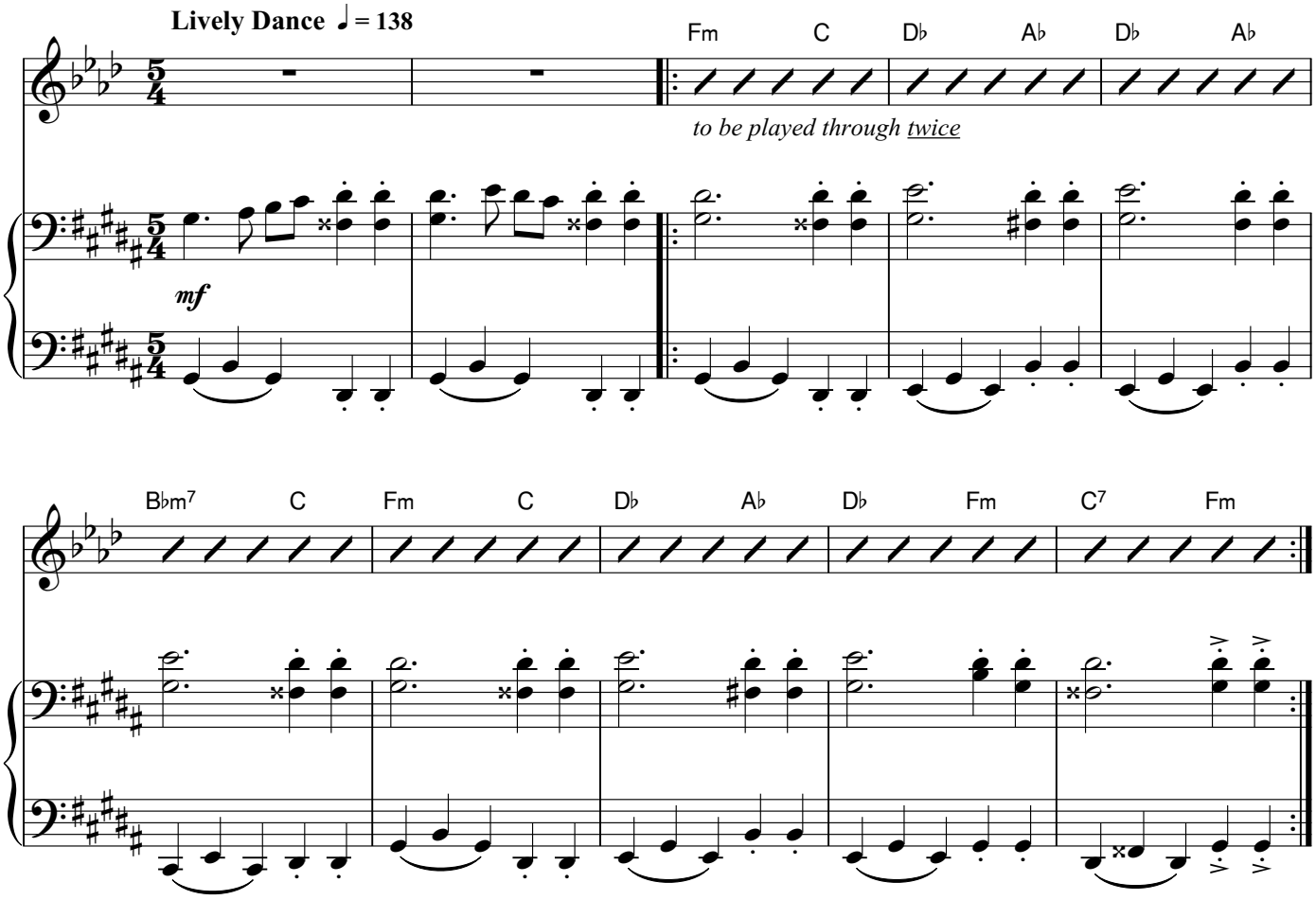
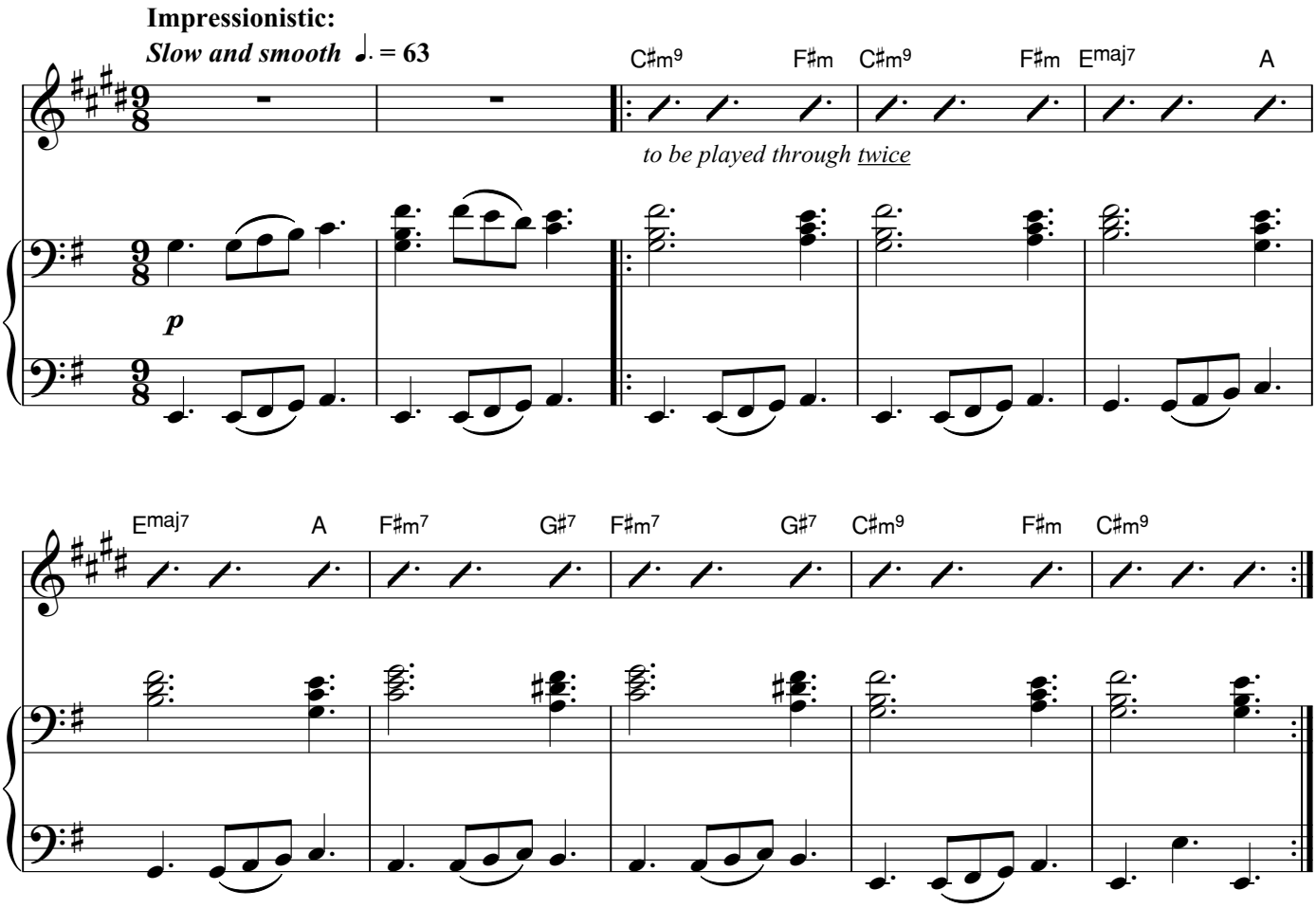

Gigue ♩. = 92
A♭
E♭
to be played through twice
mp
A♭
E♭7
A♭
C
C7
Fm
C7
Fm
E♭
A♭
E♭7
A♭

Grade 8

Example 1



Example 2


Impressionistic:
Slow and smooth ♩. = 63
C♯m9
F♯m
C♯m9
F♯m
Emaj7
A
to be played through twice
p
Emaj7
A
F♯m7
G♯7
F♯m7
G♯7
C♯m9
F♯m
C♯m9