Book 2: Early Intermediate–Intermediate

Museum Masterpieces

10 Piano Solos Inspired by Great Works of Art

Catherine Rollin

As a child, I was very fortunate to have wonderful parents who loved the arts and viewed culture as something essential to life. They frequently took me to concerts, plays, operas, and our city's art museum, the Detroit Institute of Arts. It was there where I first became aware of the power of the visual arts. The greatest journey one can take is the one that my parents fostered in me—the journey into the world of creativity and imagination. It is through the arts that human beings create and reach beyond the ordinary experiences of daily life and the best of human potential is reached.

In *Museum Masterpieces*, I have composed music inspired by paintings that have moved me and taken me on that creative journey. These paintings are shown on pages 13–16. See the first page of each composition for the painting's corresponding page number. I hope that students enjoy these pieces and experience the profound interconnection between these two worlds of the arts.

Warmest wishes,

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Van Nuys, CA 91410-0003
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ISBN-10: 1-4706-1543-6
ISBN-13: 978-1-4706-1543-7

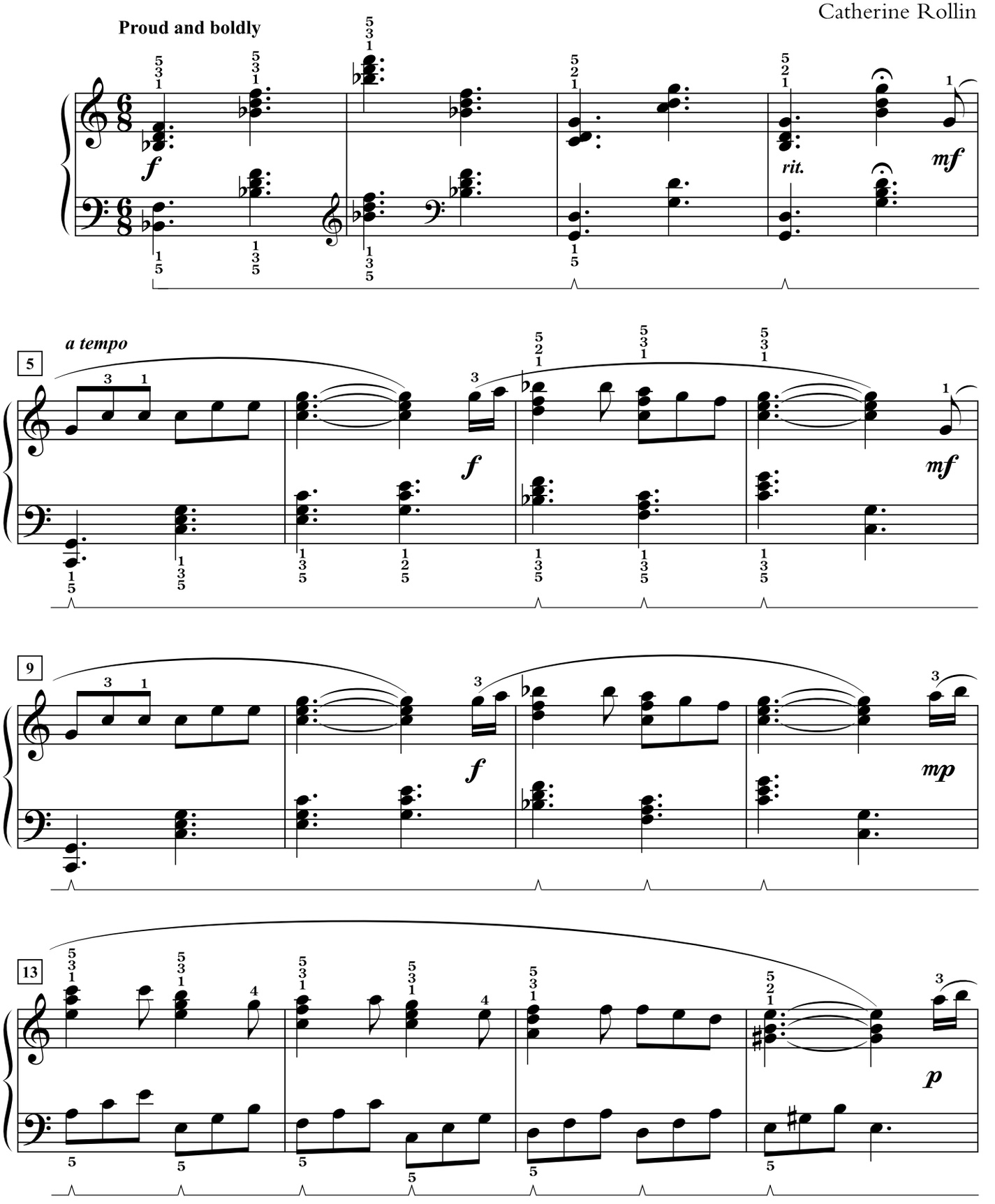
for Benjamin David Grier and Chau Tu Grier

Washington Crossing the Delaware

collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

artist: Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze (1816–1868)

Catherine Rollin



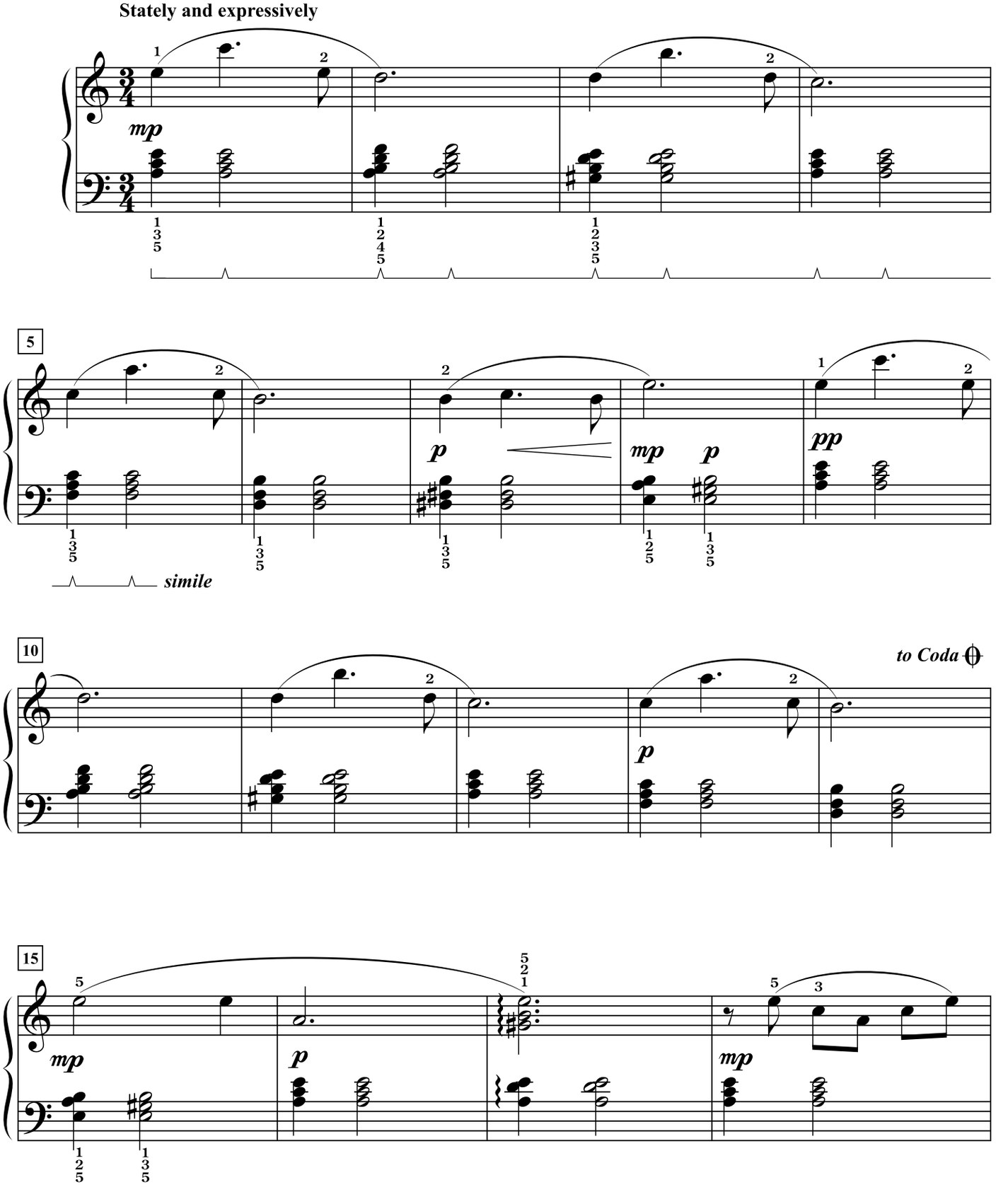
for Karen Resnick

Girl with a Pearl Earring

collection of Mauritshuis, The Hague

artist: Johannes Vermeer (1632–1675)

Catherine Rollin



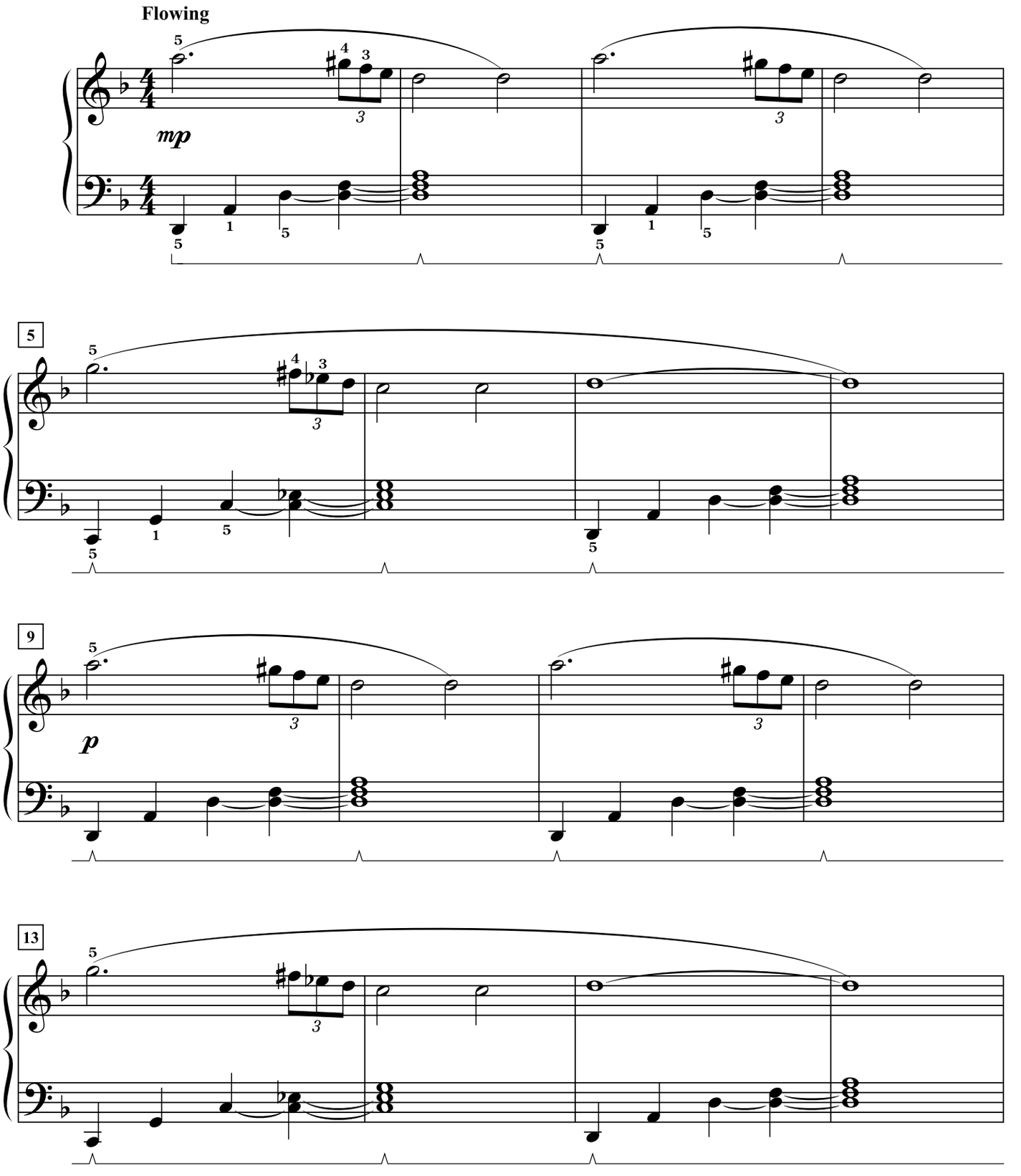
for Andrea Sachs

La charmeuse de serpents (The Snake Charmer)

collection of Musée d'Orsay, Paris

artist: Henri Rousseau (1844–1910)

Catherine Rollin



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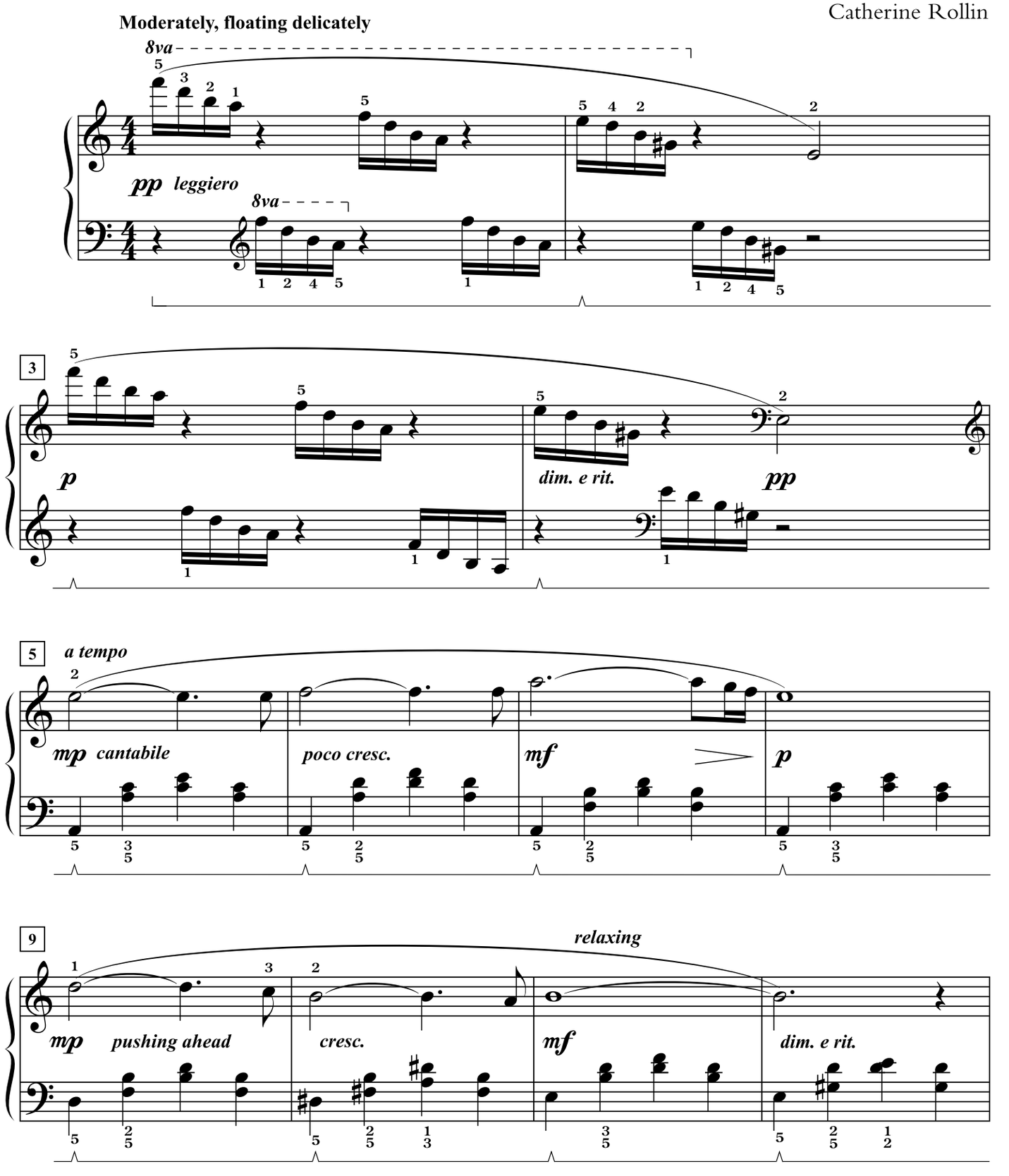
for Aimée and Tor Shwayder

Nocturne in Black and Gold –The Falling Rocket

collection of the Detroit Institute of Arts

artist: James Abbott McNeill Whistler (1834–1903)

Catherine Rollin



in memory of Clarissa Fineman

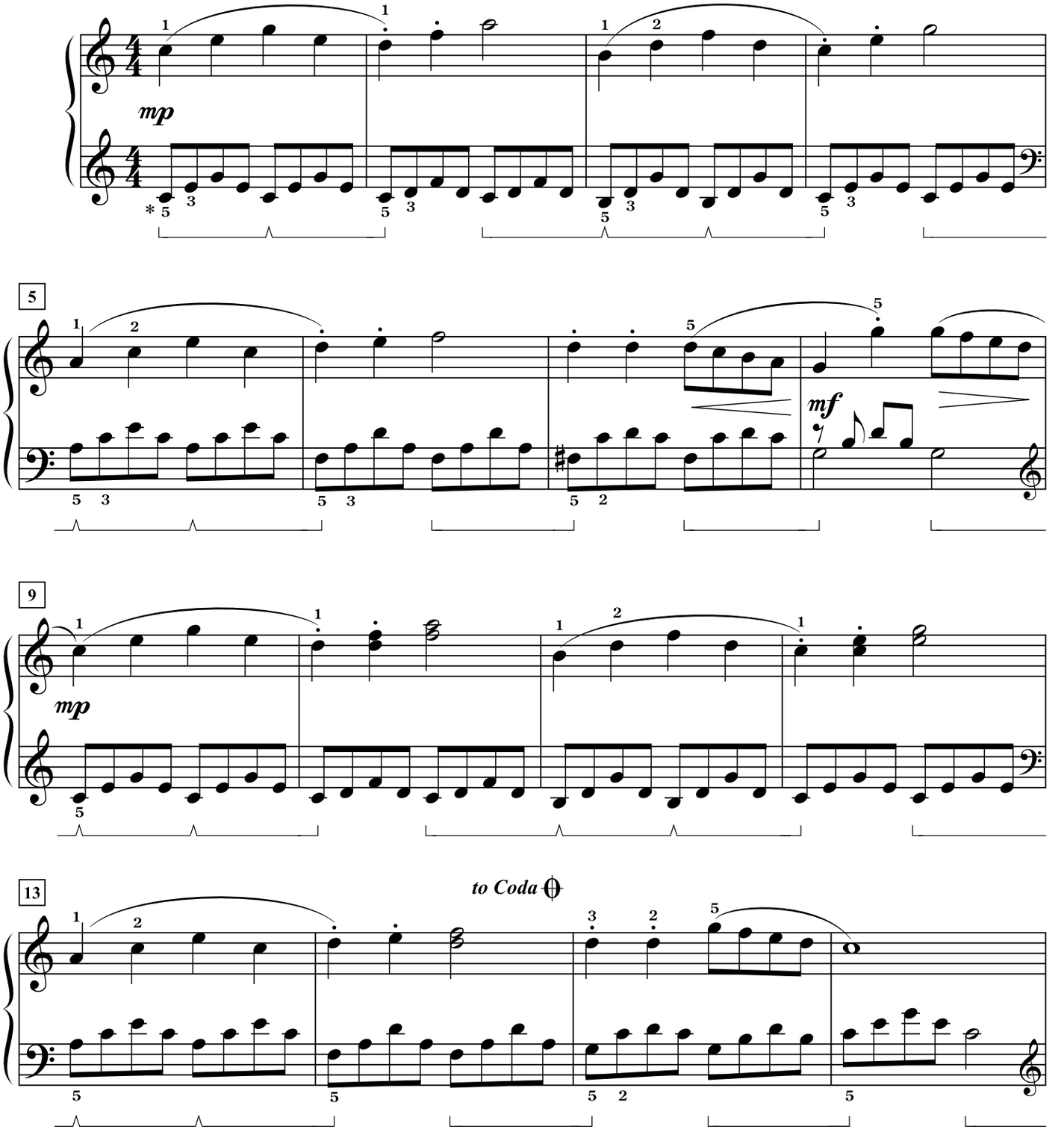
Jeunes filles au piano (Young Girls at the Piano)

collection of Musée d'Orsay, Paris

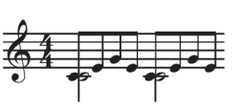
artist: Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841–1919)

Catherine Rollin

Flowing moderately and happily



* LH finger pedal suggested:



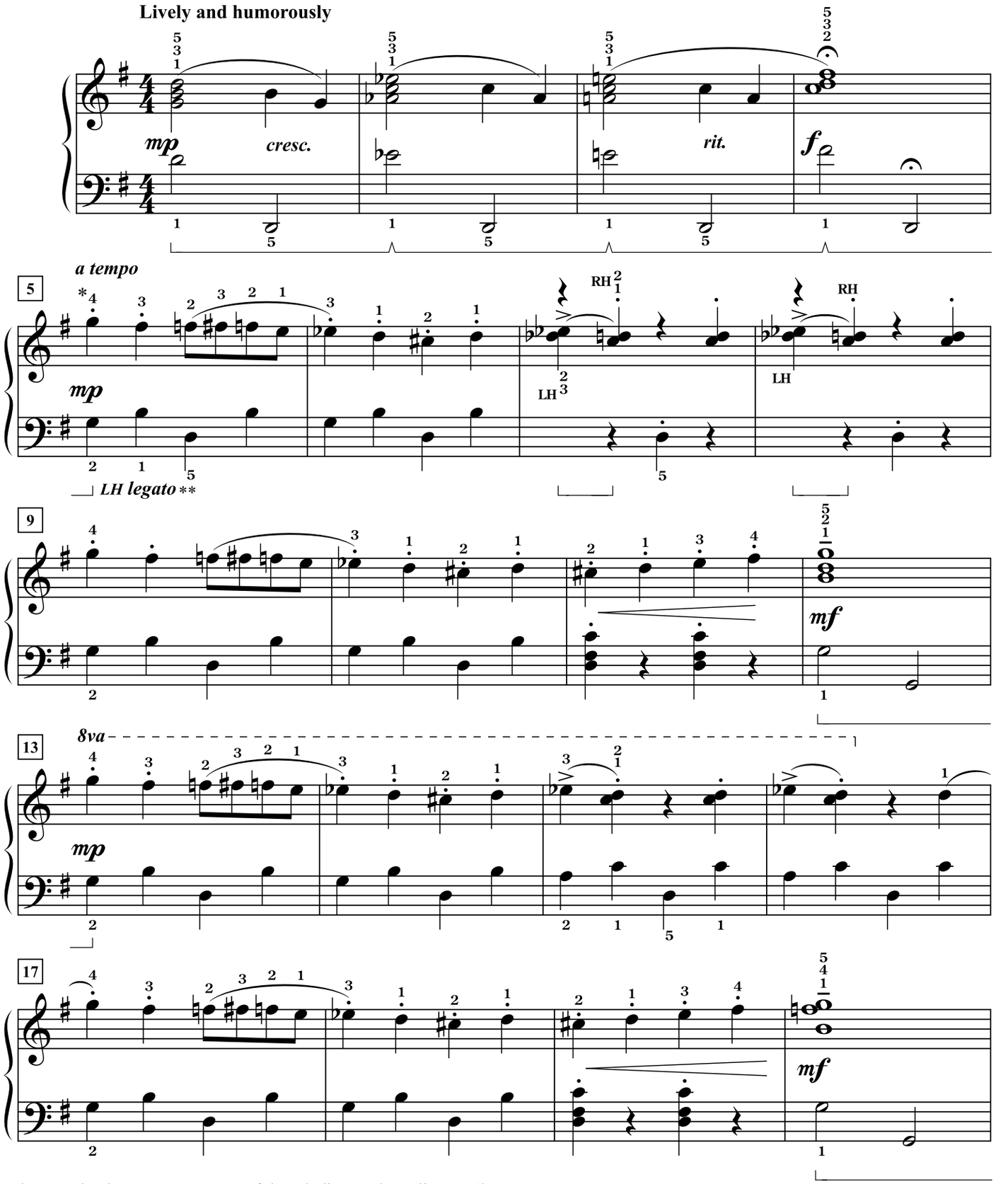
for Andrew Grier

Cirque (Circus)

collection of Musée d'Orsay, Paris

artist: Georges Seurat (1859–1891)

Catherine Rollin



* From the theme to "Entrance of the Gladiators" by Julius Fučík

** LH finger pedal is suggested: