Come, Heavy Sleep

John Dowland

Arranged for Niibori Guitar Orchestra
by
Andrew Forrest

This beautiful song by John Dowland (1562-1626) has been arranged from his original for four voices and lute. Dowland's lute songs represent a pinnacle of the art and this one must surely be one of the most poignant.

> Come, heavy sleep, the image of true death,
> And close up these my weary weeping eyes,
> Whose spring of tears doth stop my vital breath
> And tears my heart with sorrow's sigh-swoll'n cries.

Beware of taking too slow a tempo in this piece. It's easy to imagine such dolorous words proceeding at a very solemn pace, but this would impede the flow and also confound what sustain there is on a plucked instrument (they are for the most part vocal lines). I would suggest a tempo of 64-72 crotchets (quarter notes) to the minute.

In the event of a public performance, please include the arranger's name on the programme.

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Niibori

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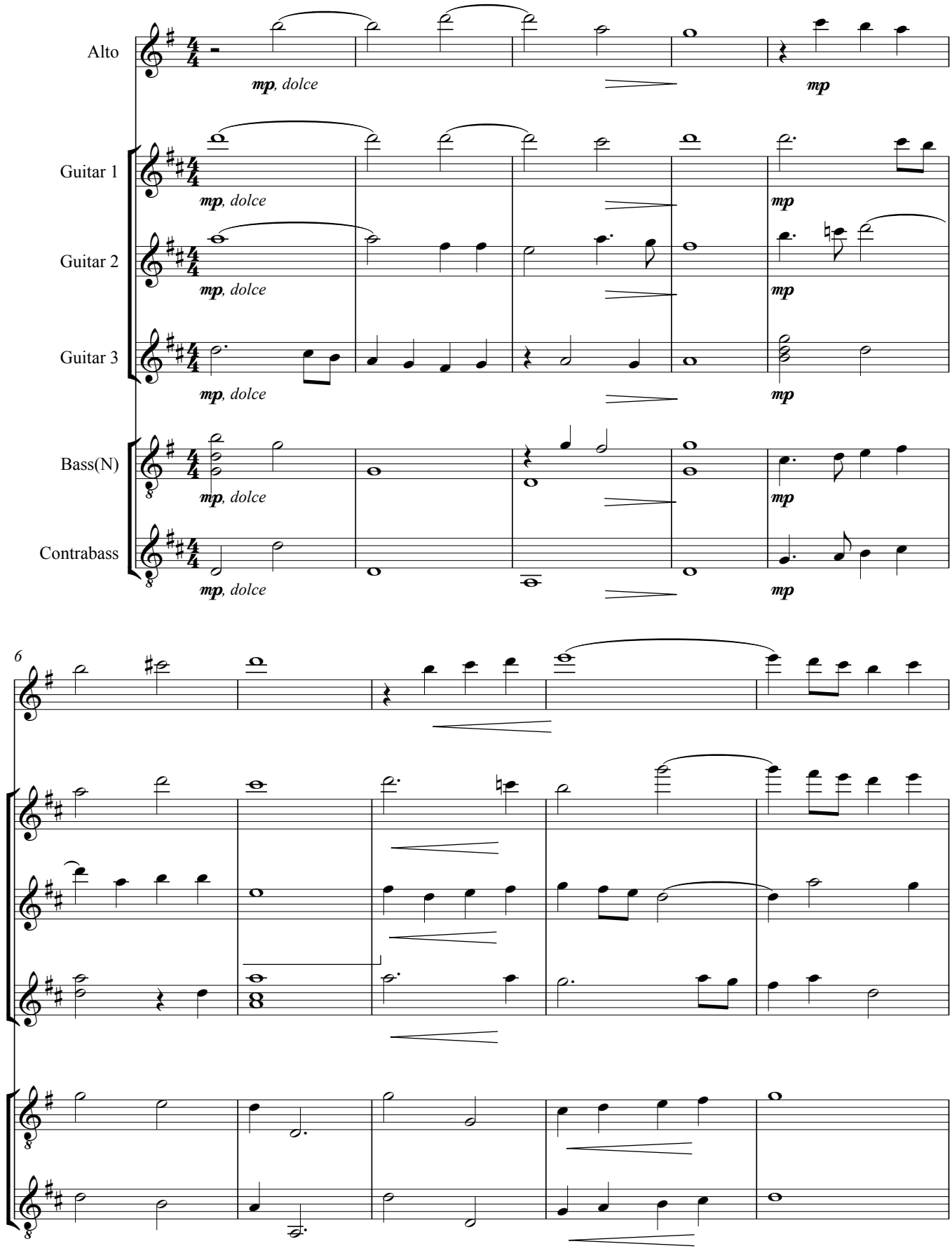

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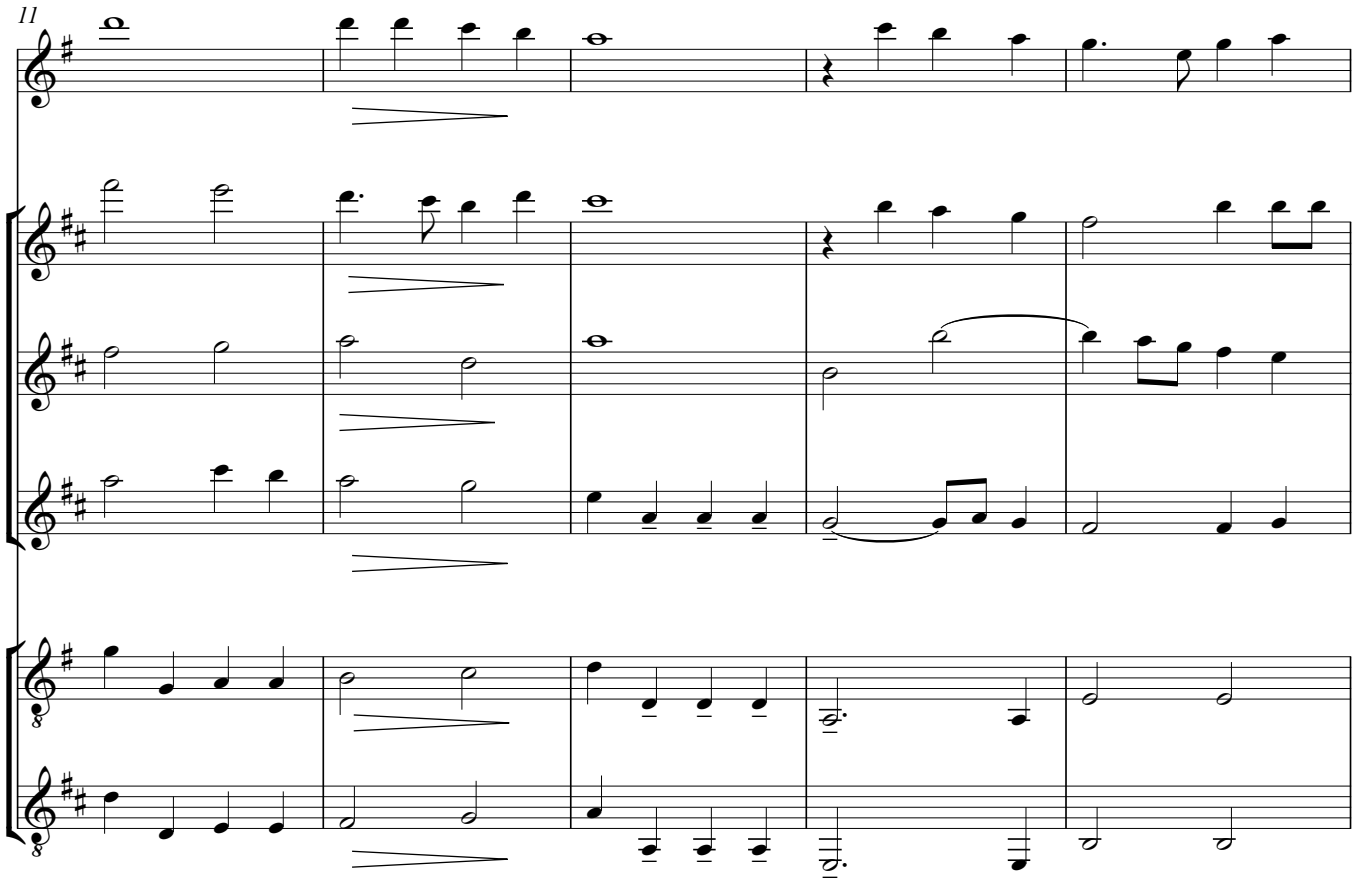
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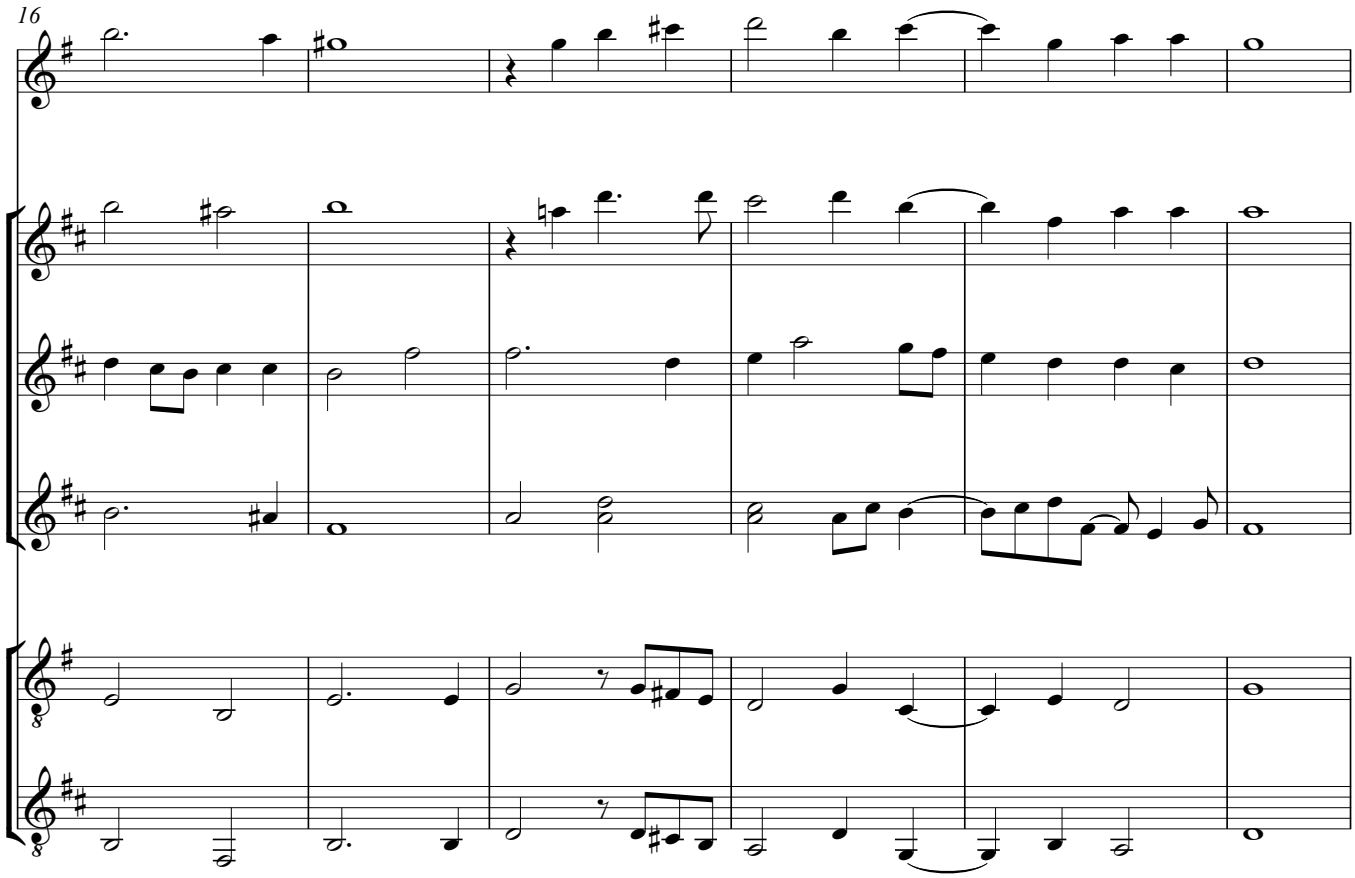
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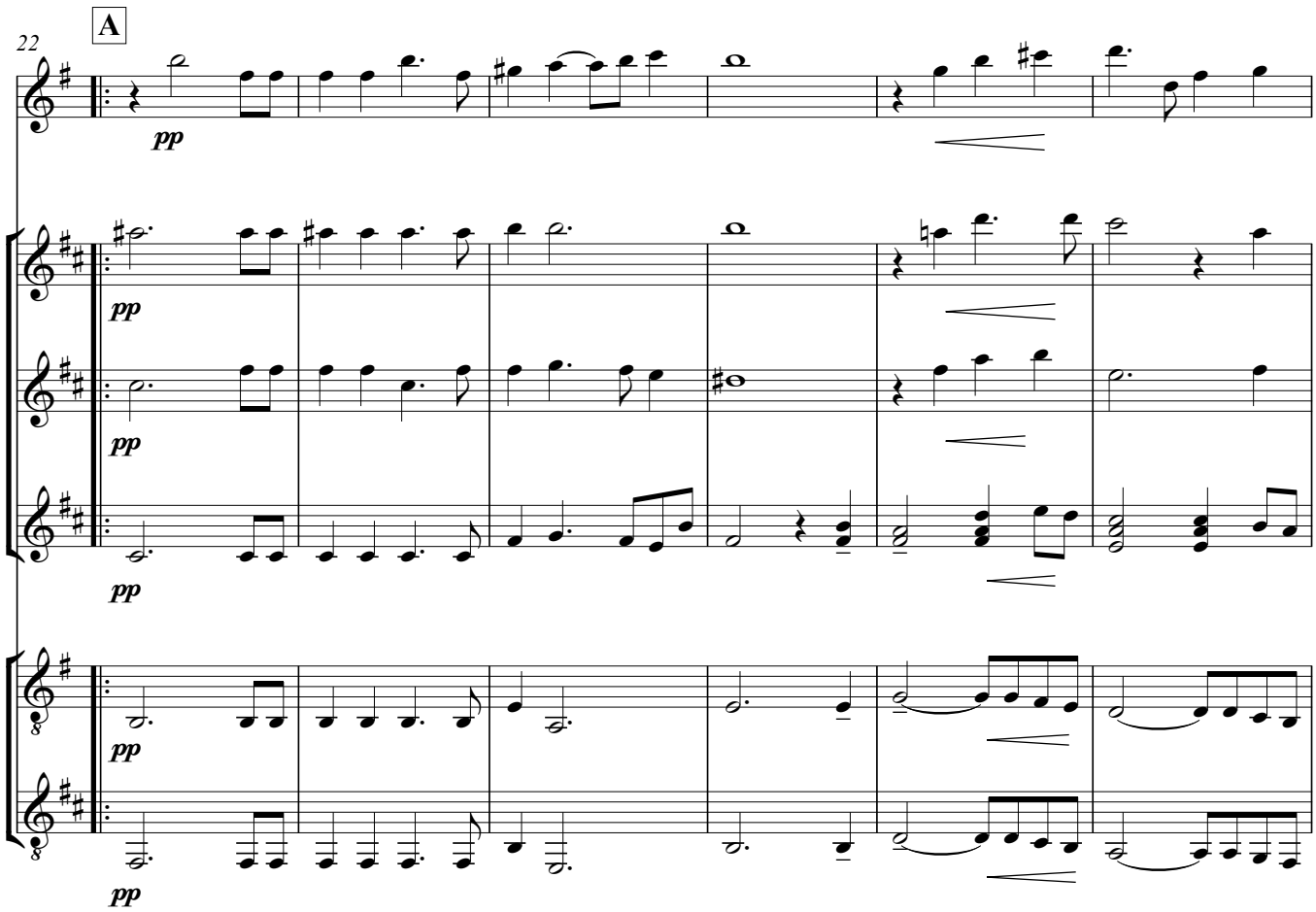
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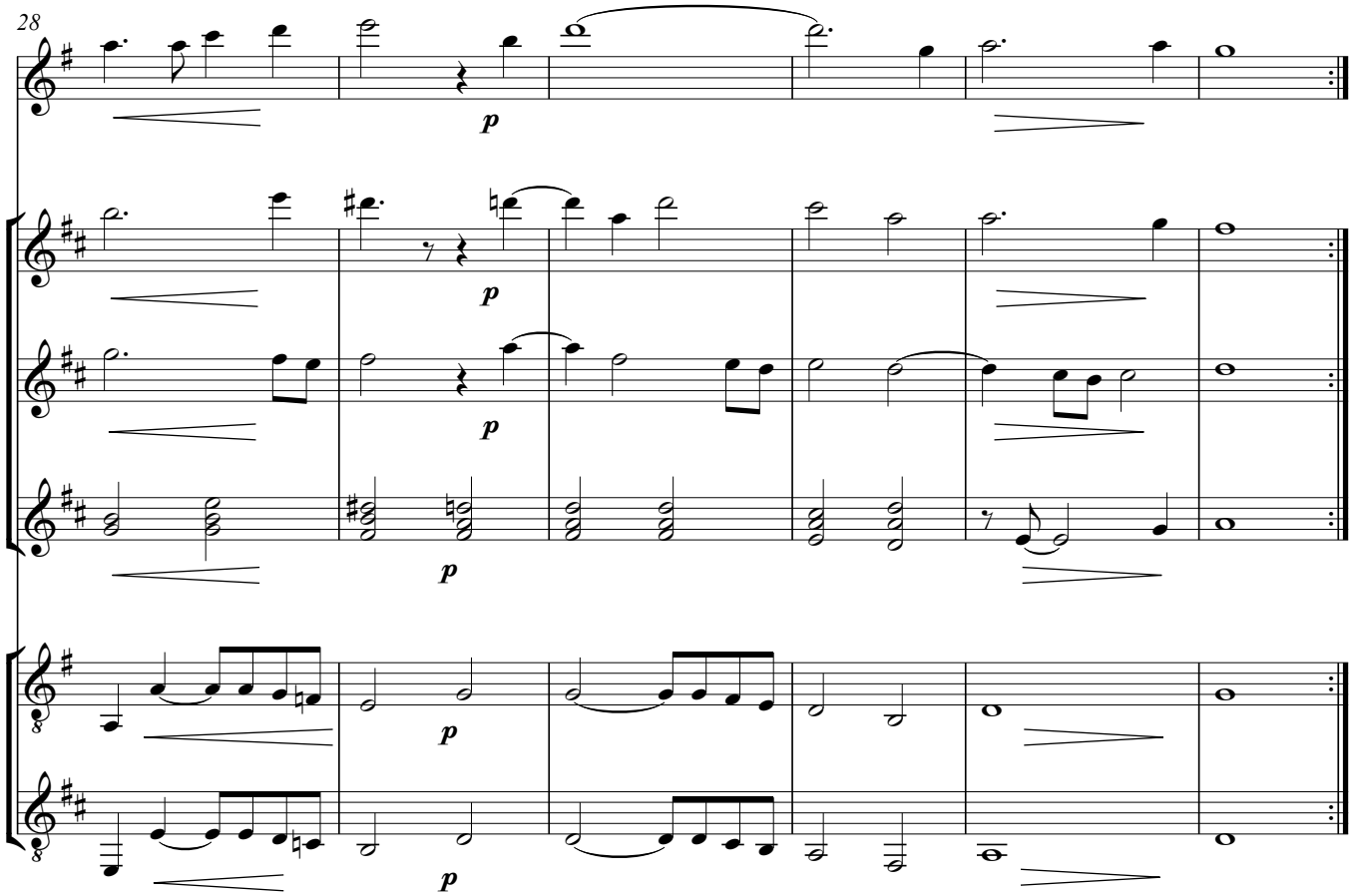
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Alto

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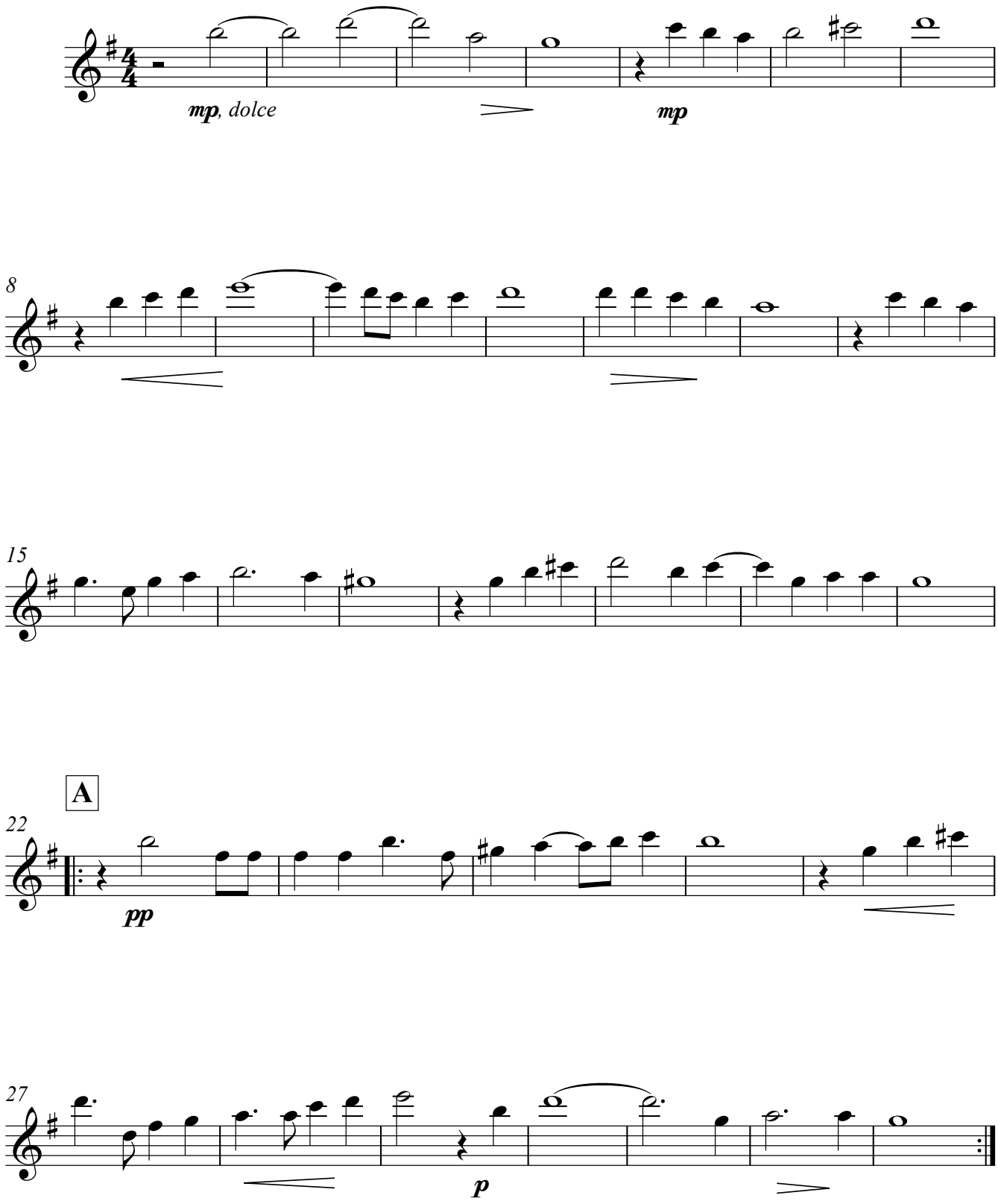

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Guitar 1

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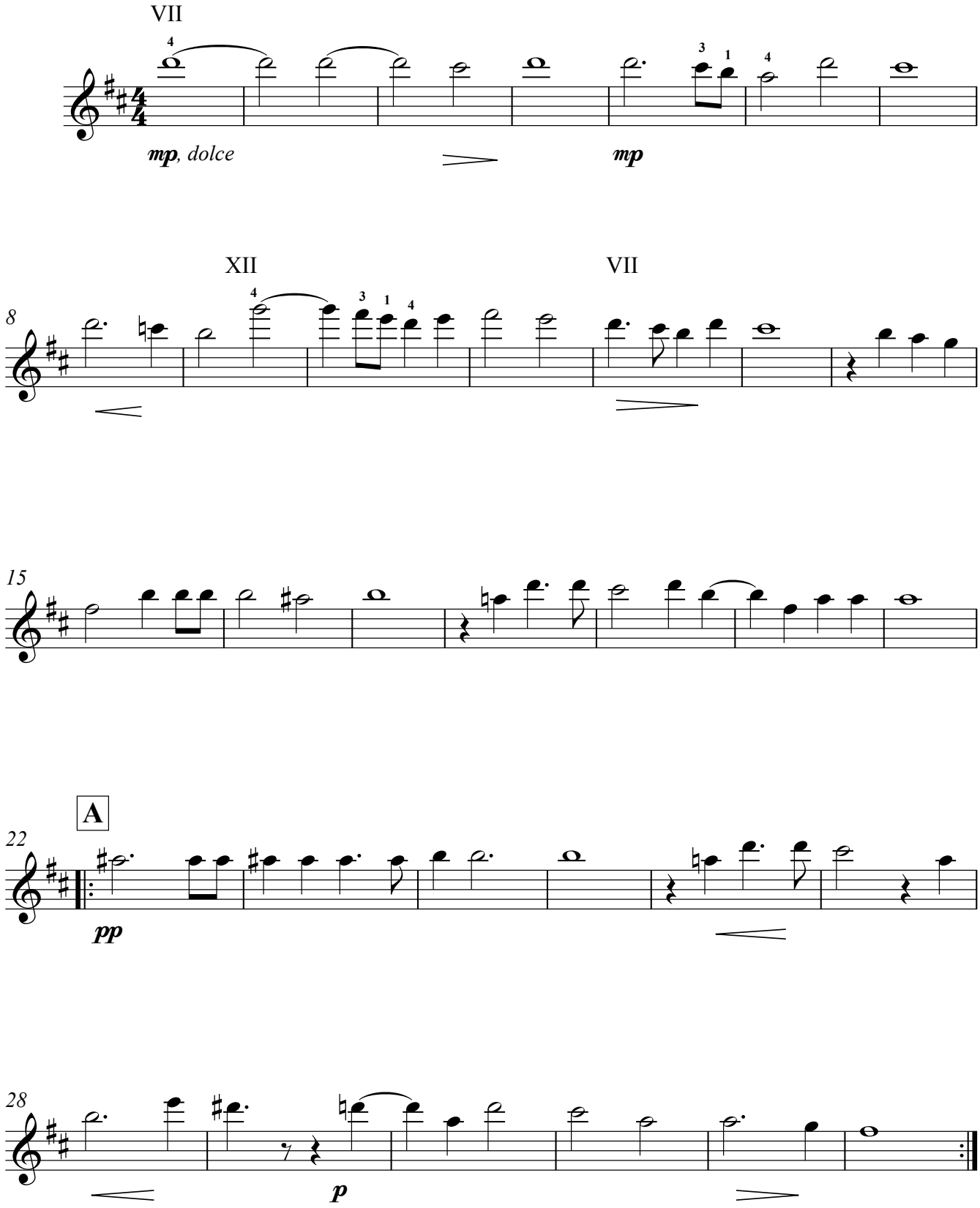

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Guitar 2

Come, Heavy Sleep

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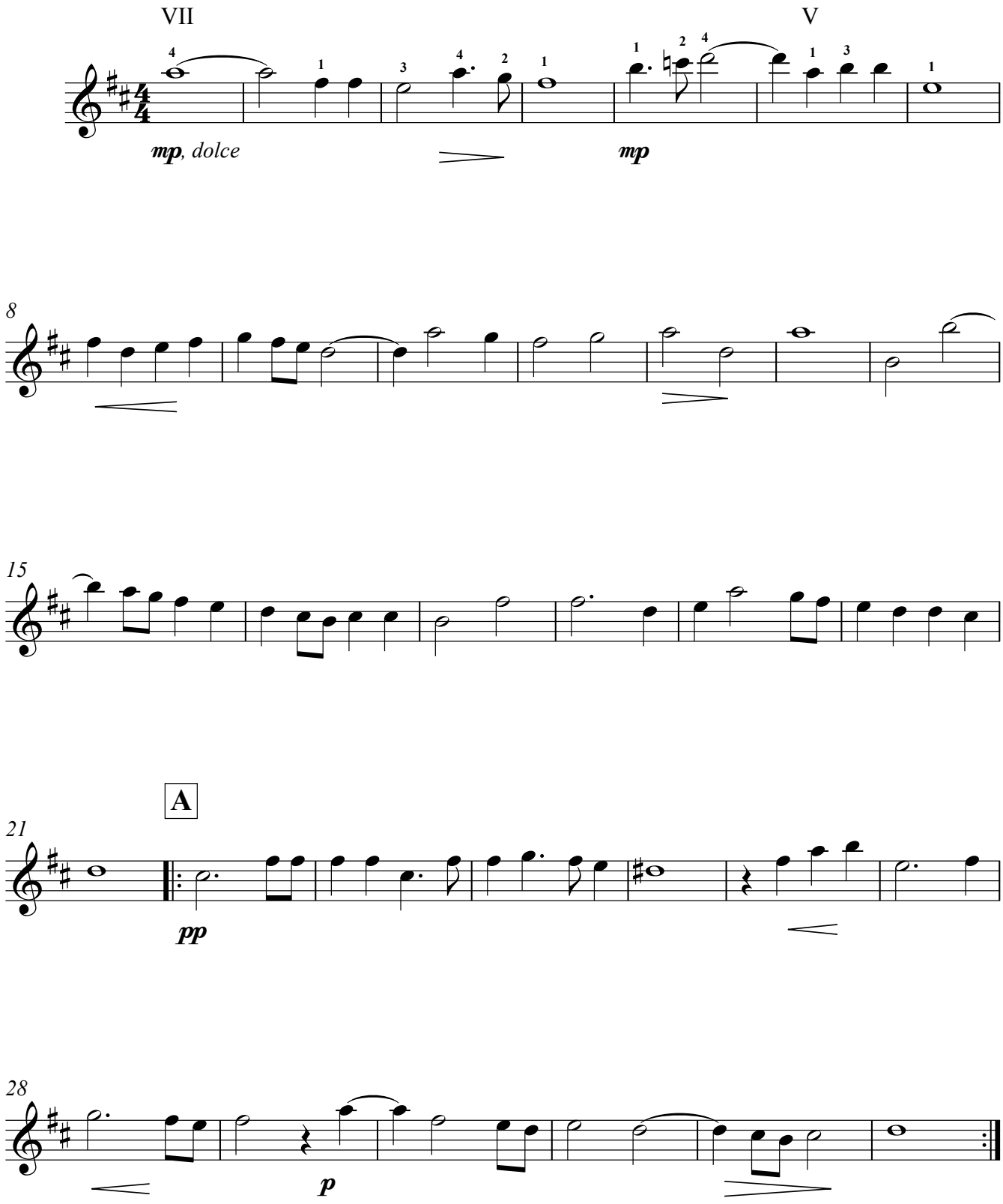

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Guitar 3

Come, Heavy Sleep

John Dowland (1563-1626)

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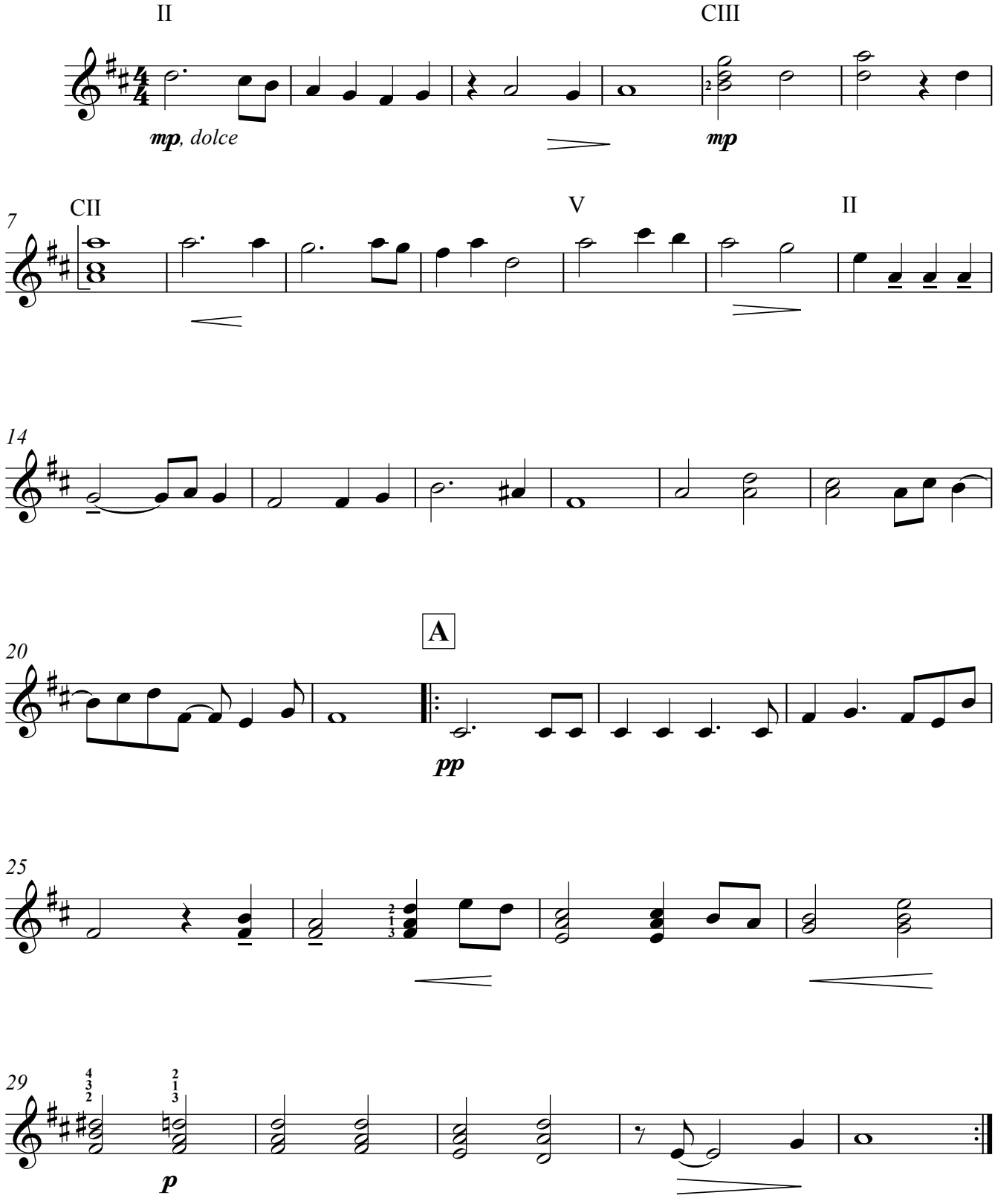

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Bass(N)

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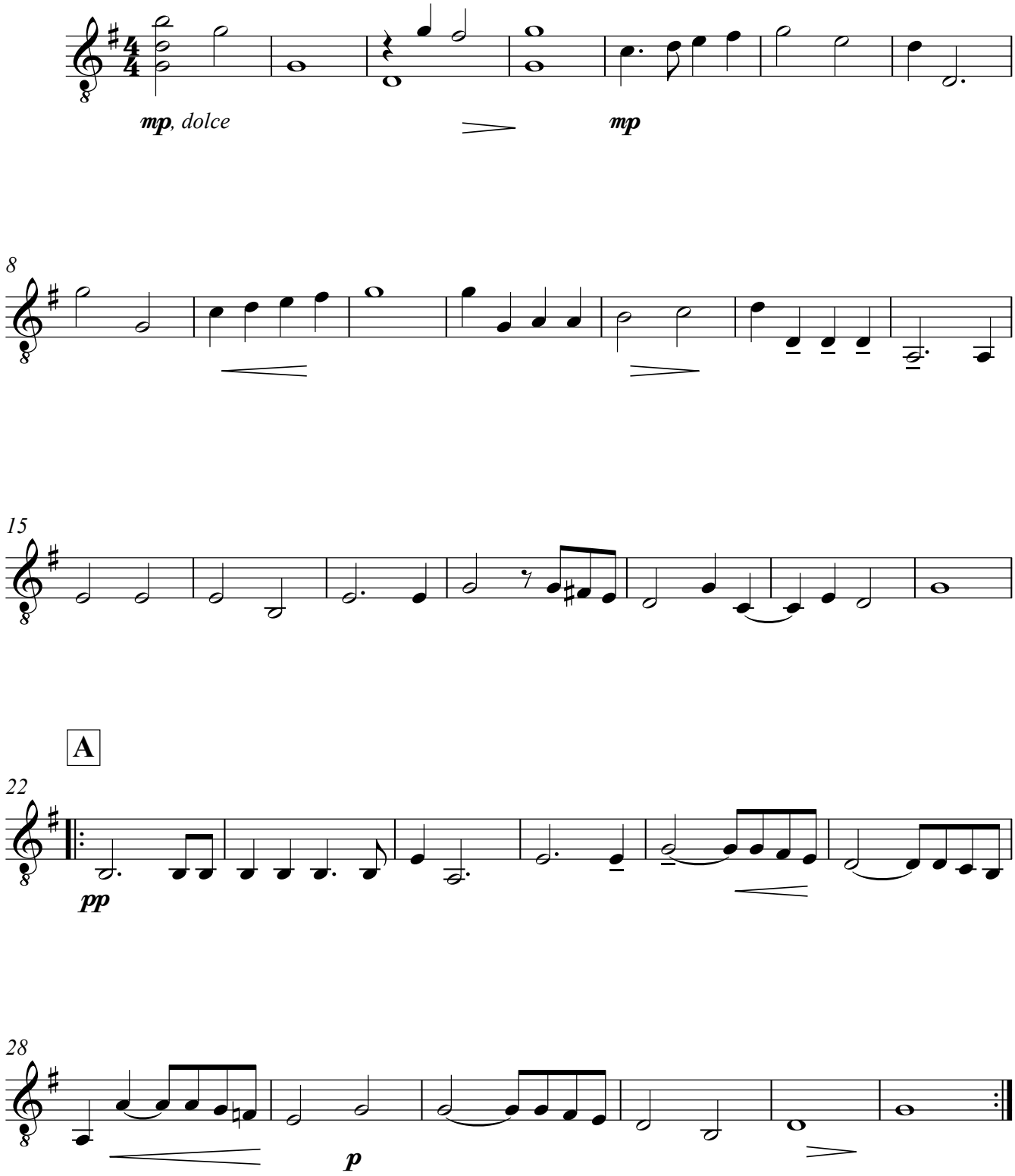

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Contrabass

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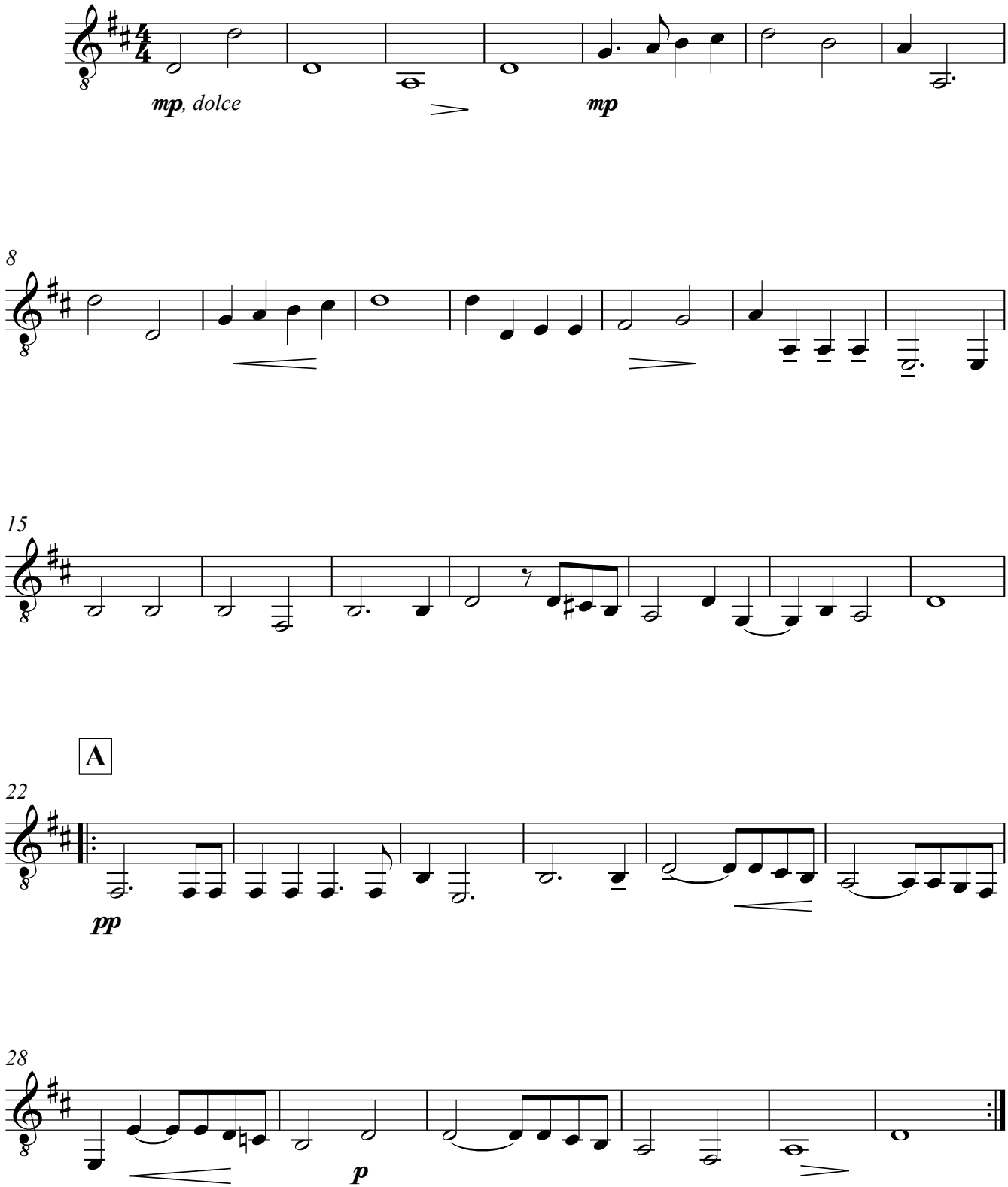

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