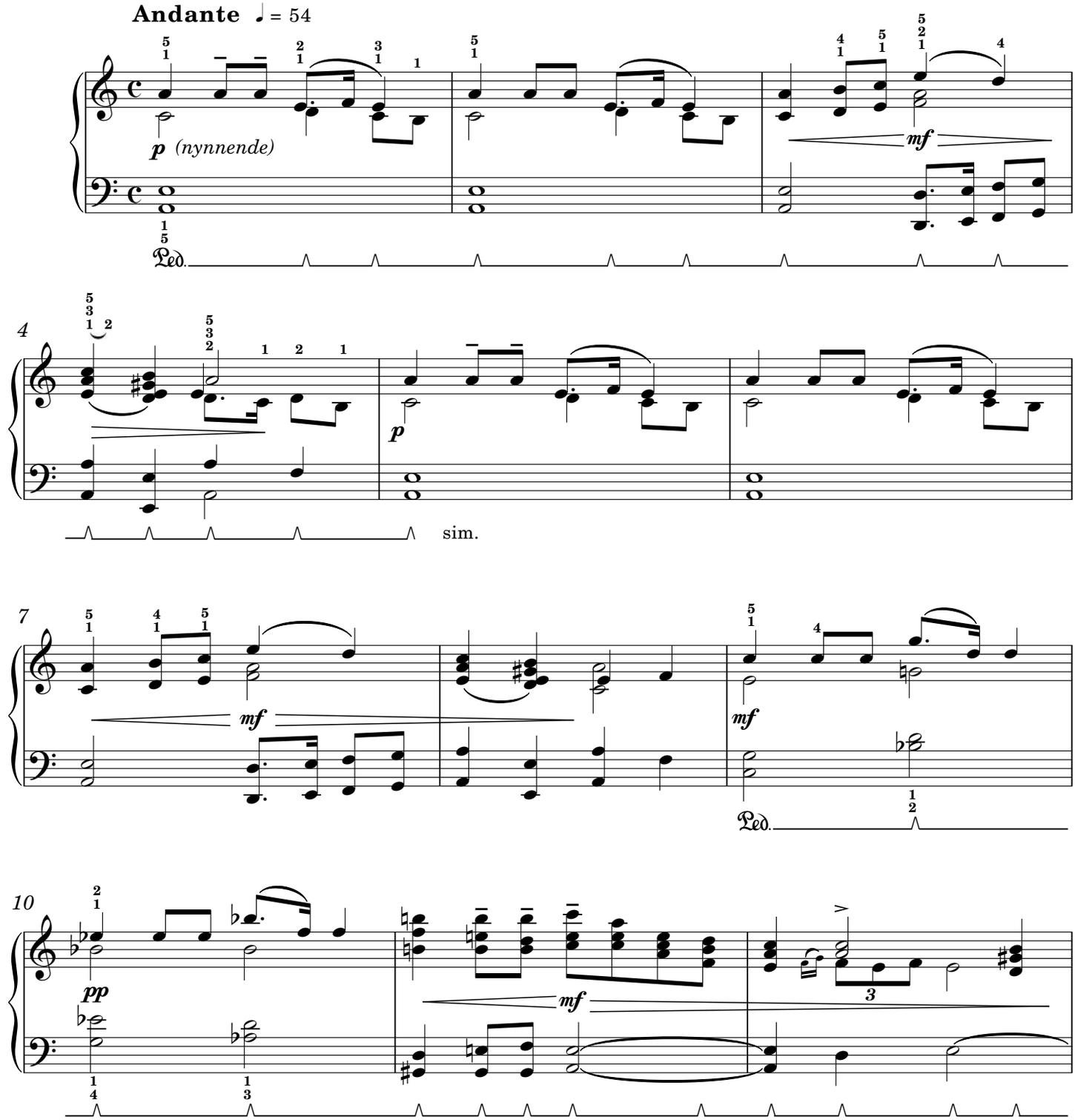
Carl NIELSEN (1865-1931)
Folk Tune Op 3 No 1

INTERMEDIATE

Nielsen's Op 3 encompasses all manner of early works, unpublished in his lifetime, from brass and string quartets to a pair of piano pieces of which this is the first. He probably wrote it as a teenager, while he was still growing up on the island of Funen: a (mostly) idyllic childhood which he would later recall affectionately in a cantata. *Playing tips*: For those of you who don't know Danish, the word *nynnende* at the start of the piece means humming; this is a folk tune tinged with melancholy, to be sung in a subdued manner. A sad A minor tonality prevails throughout, along with the frail heartbeat of the dotted quaver/semiquaver motif. The modulation into A major at 25 brings a brief but belated ray of sunshine. The element of repetition demands a creative approach to the score: give the melody a fresh turn at each new appearance. The LH should make itself known in bar 3, bar 7 and wherever it echoes the dotted quaver/semiquaver figure. At bar 11, and again at bar 19, keep the RH relaxed through the octave chords. The hand should remain stable, but the wrist can relax slightly between each chord. *Pedal tips*: See markings on the score.



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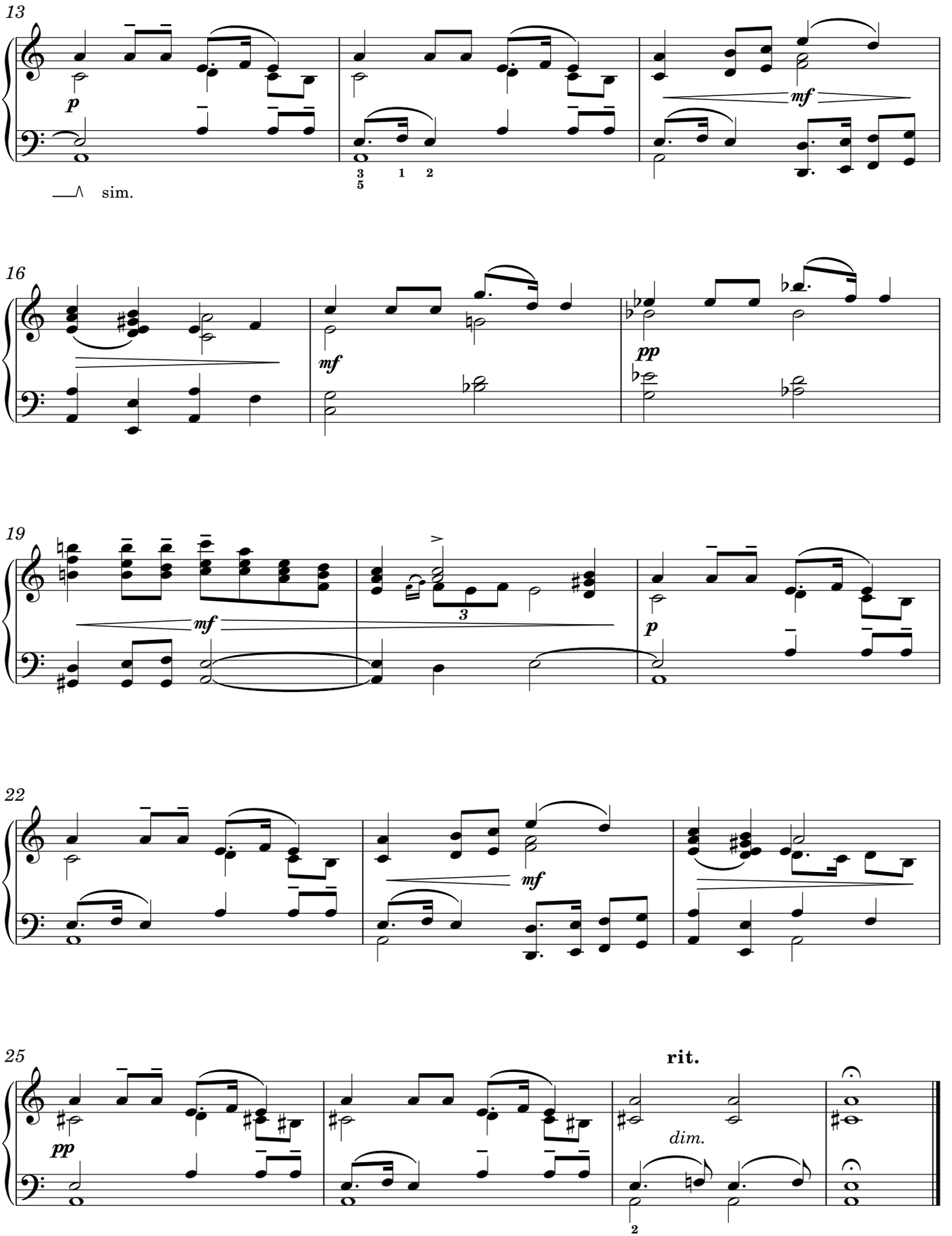
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