Liszt at the age of 14
Courtesy "The Musical Quarterly"

Franz Liszt, born in Raiding, Hungary, was a very delicate and sickly boy until h reached the age of six. Then, one day, while his father was playing a *Concerto* the piano, little Franz came up beside him and implored him to repeat the last moveme over and over again. "What would you like to be when you grow up?" asked his fathe lighting his pipe. "That man there!" said the boy pointing to a picture of Beethoven The next day his father began to give him lessons. Franz spent hours practising t scales and made such rapid progress that he played in a concert by the time he was ni years old. The performance was so brilliant that everybody wanted to meet him and si of the nobles present raised funds to send him to Vienna for study with Czerny. Late "little Liszt" enjoyed a greater triumph for, when Beethoven heard him play, he was amazed by Franz's wonderful technique that he went to the stage, grasped the child, a kissed him on the forehead.

Because the little village of Raiding was rather isolated, it became a camping plac for wandering gypsies, who, as they arrived in their wagons, would pitch their tents the square. At night, amid the blaze of great bonfires, the men with violins and cymba and the girls in brilliant coloured dresses, ear-rings, and necklaces, would dance and sing the rugged folk-tunes of Romany. Little Franz would drink in these weirdly abrup rhythms and melodies which later became so evident in his famous *Hungarian Rhaps dies.*

Theme from Liebesträume No. 3

A Dream of Love

Andante

Liszt (1811-188

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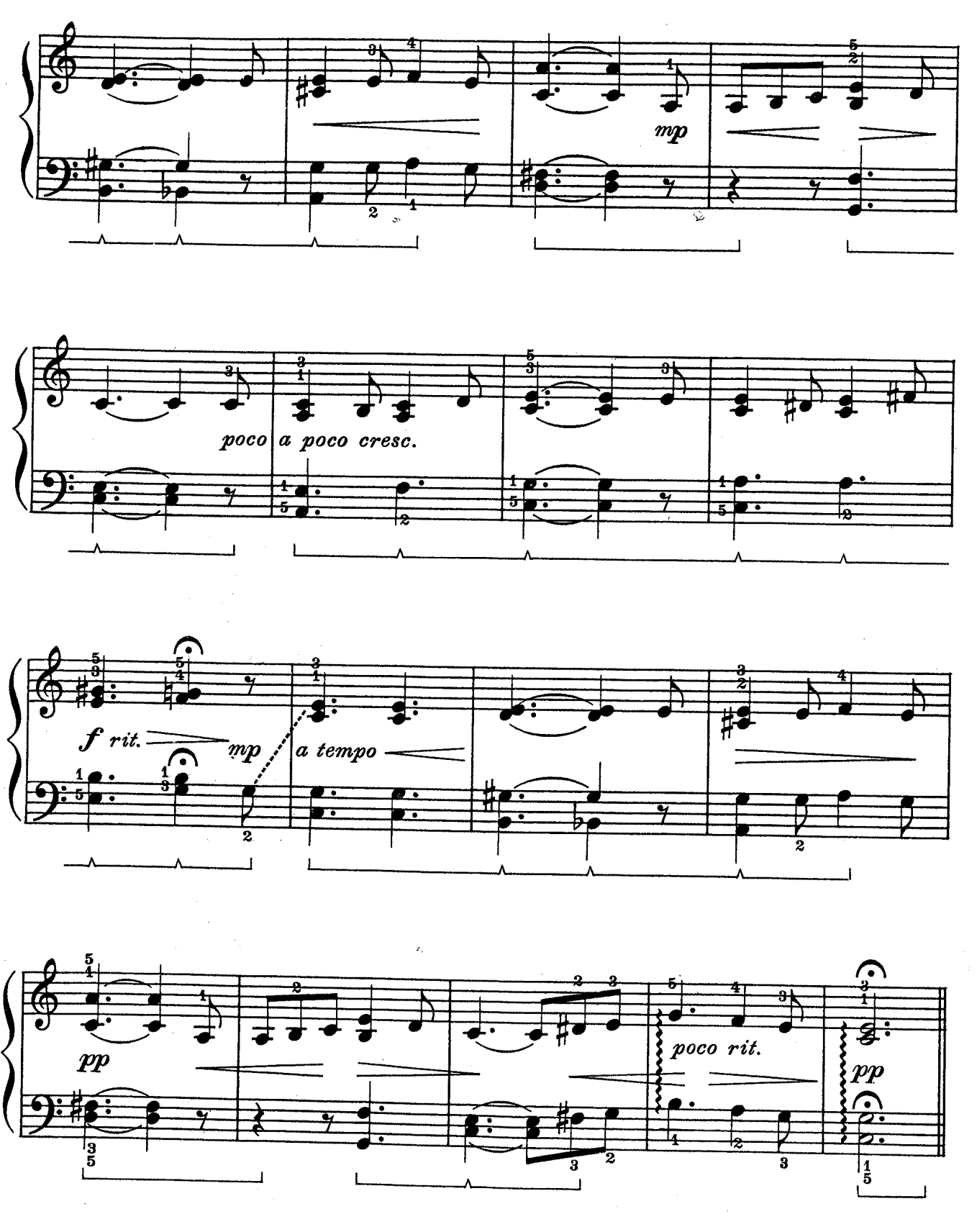
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