24 Country Dances

for the Year 1748

With a Thorough Bass for the Harpsichord with Figures or Directions to each Dance. Composed for the Entertainment and Diversion of Gentlemen & Ladies that are lovers of English Dancing by T. Davis

Arranged for viol

including scores for treble, tenor and bass viols with optional bass viol accompaniment

Dick Yates

December 2020

There seems to be no surviving information about the composer of *24 Country Dances*, T. Davis. The dances were printed in London: "…for H. Waylett at the black Lyon in Exeter Change in the Strand Where may be had, Twelve SOLOS by the same author, and the Judgment of Paris by Mr. [Thomas] Arne."

The original also included instructions on how to perform each dance such as, "The first Cu [couple?] set & cast off one Cu and set and turn then ye. 2nd Cu do the same. Then the first and 2nd Man clap Hands and the 1st and 2nd Wo clap Hands at the same Time and then clap Hands with each Partner, the first Cu. cast off one Cu. and foot it & Right Hand & left quite round."

These pieces are simple but engaging. They are suitable for solo practice without the accompanying bass line, but may also be productively used as instructional material in which the teacher plays the bass line on a bass viol.

The Country Dances were originally set for violin, and so adjustments to keys were necessary to better fit, first, the treble viol range. This was done for each piece individually rather than as a wholesale, systematic transposition of the entire set.

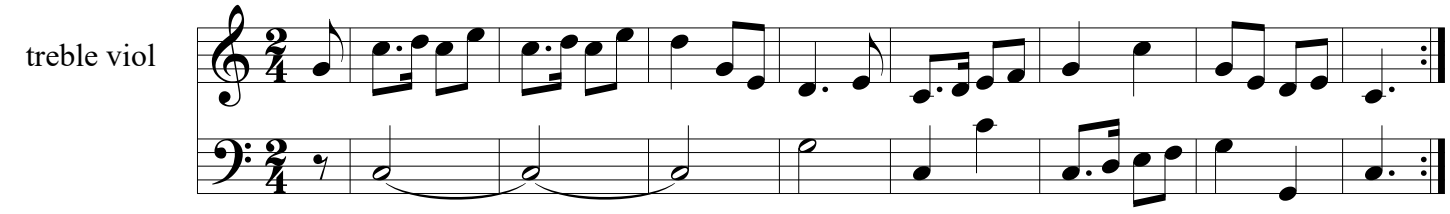
Considerably more adjustment was needed for the tenor and bass versions as straightforward transposition down of the treble version would place the bass line out of range in many places. Octave transpositions to the bass line were therefore necessary in addition to the key changes.

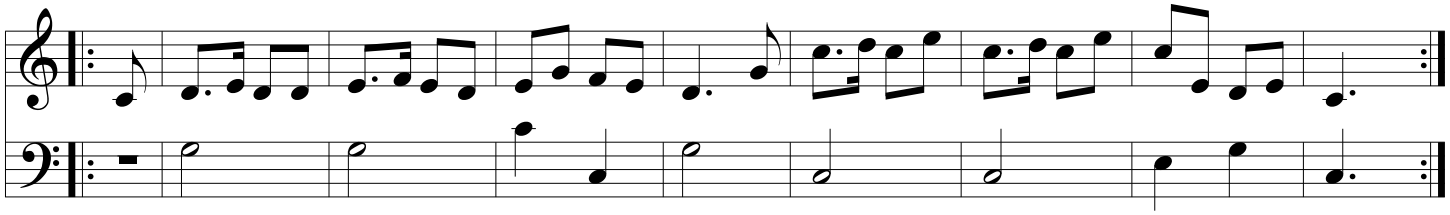
24 Country Dances for the Year 1748

T. Davis

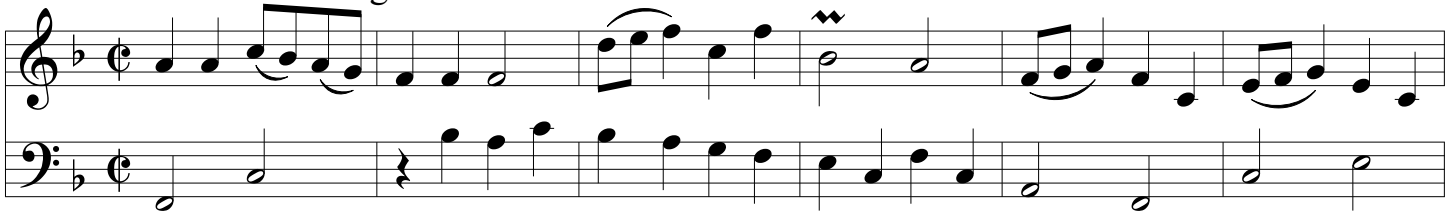
Fort Agustus

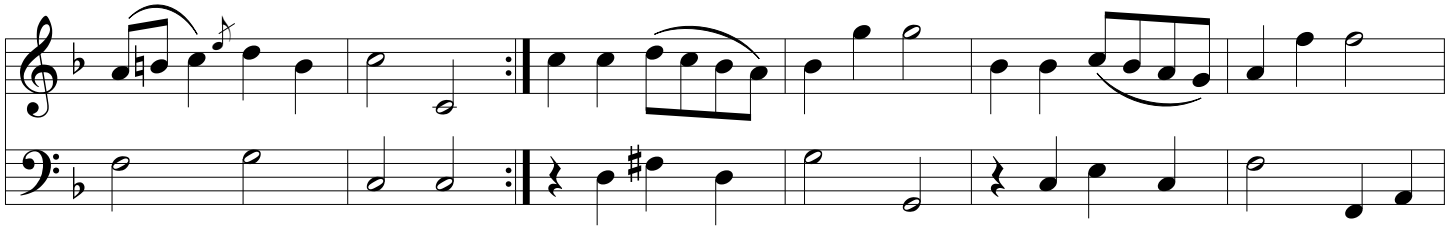
treble viol

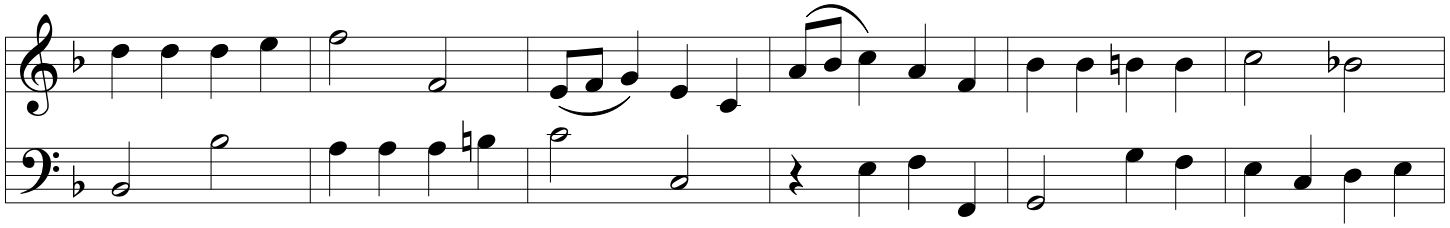


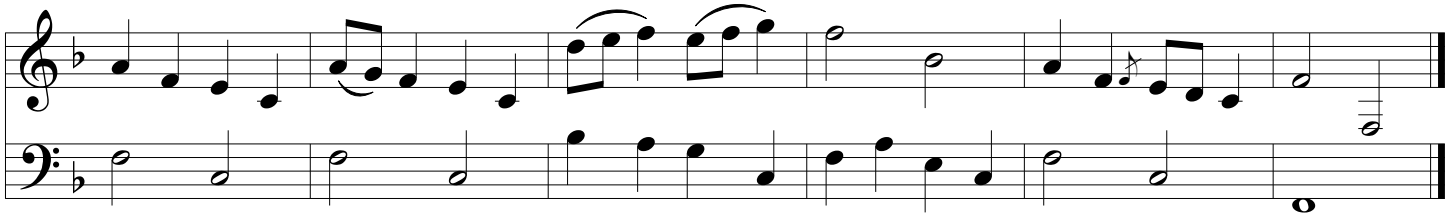


Westminster Bridge

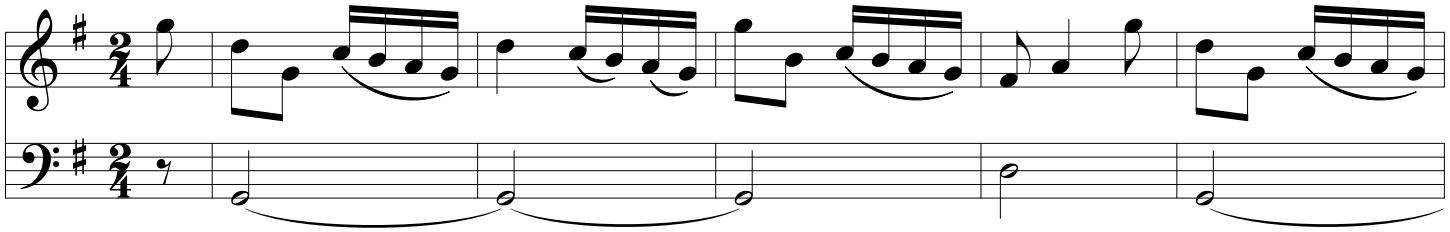


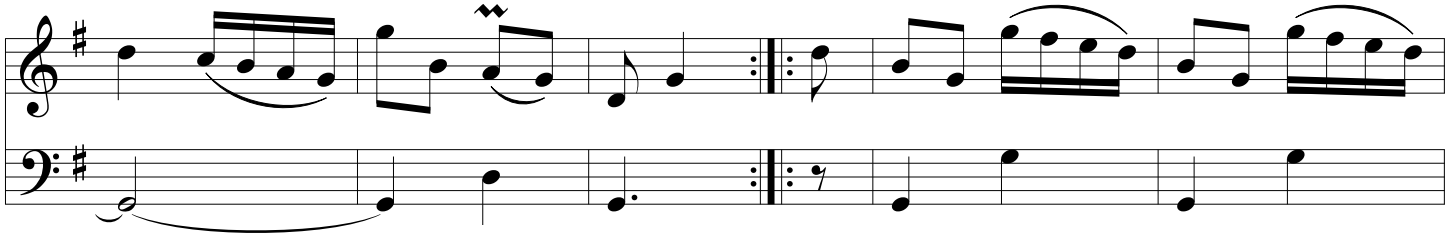


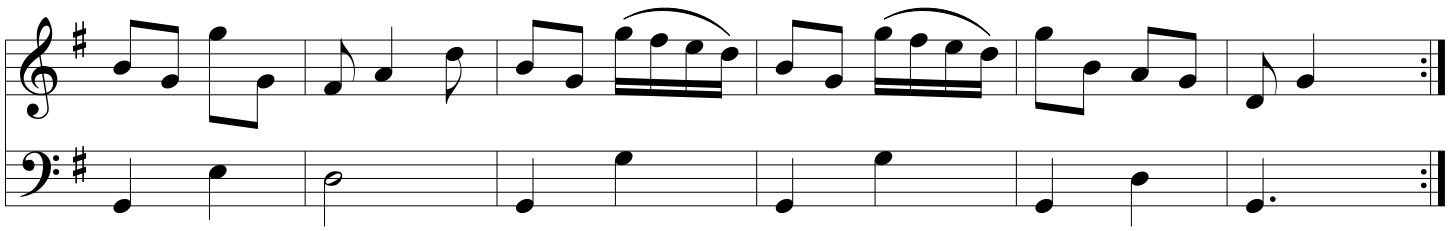




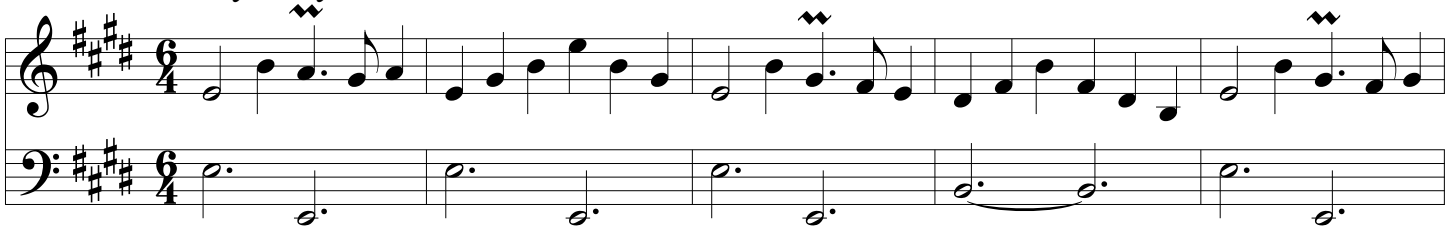
Lovet's Reel

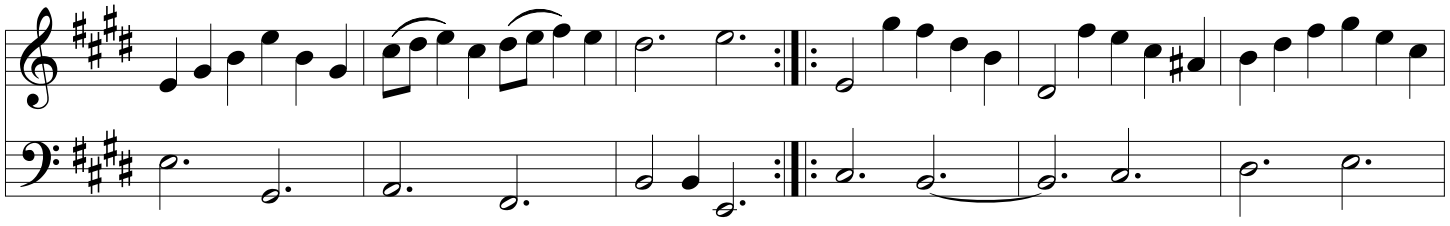


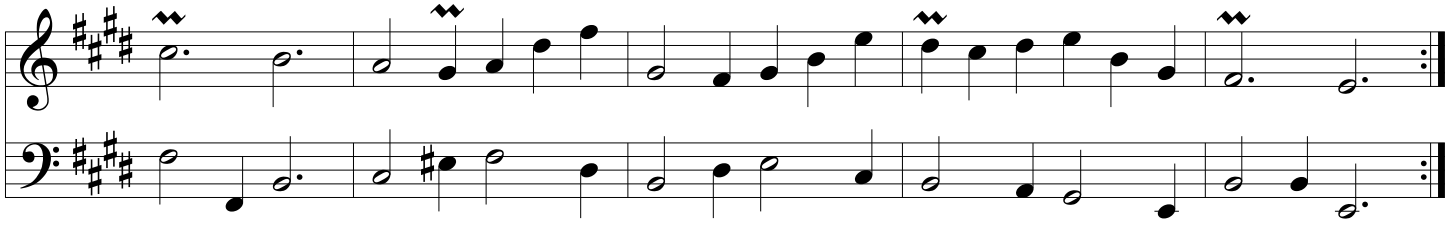




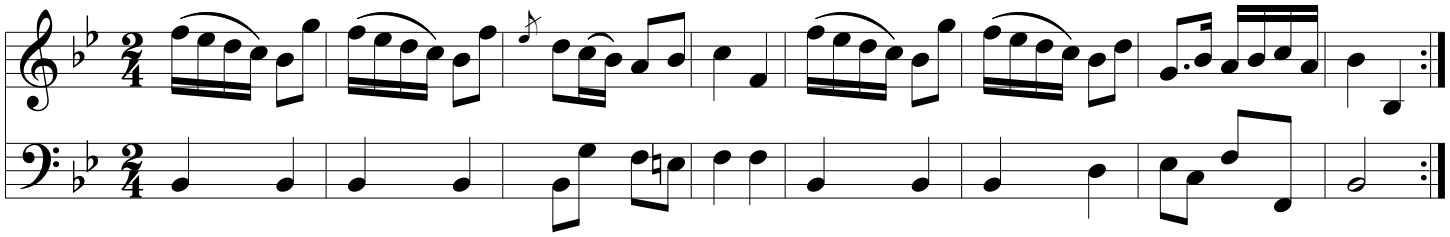
Merry Hary

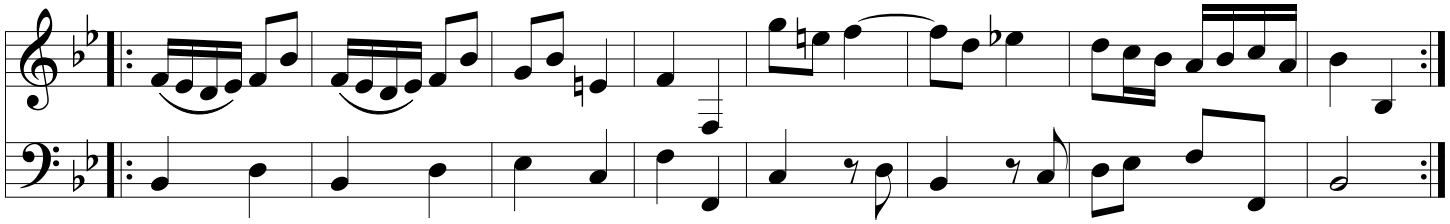




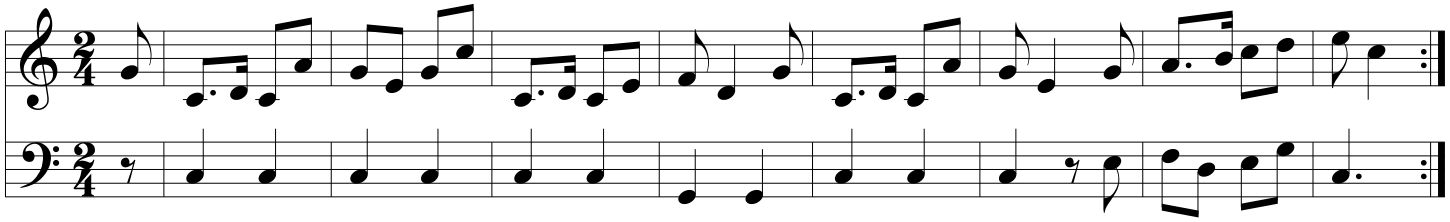


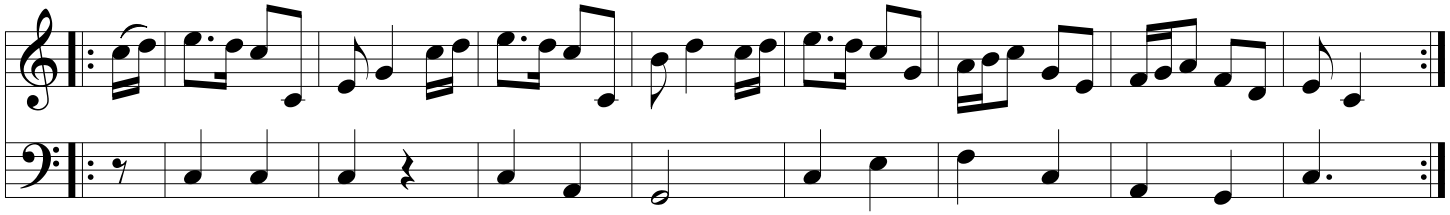
Leister House



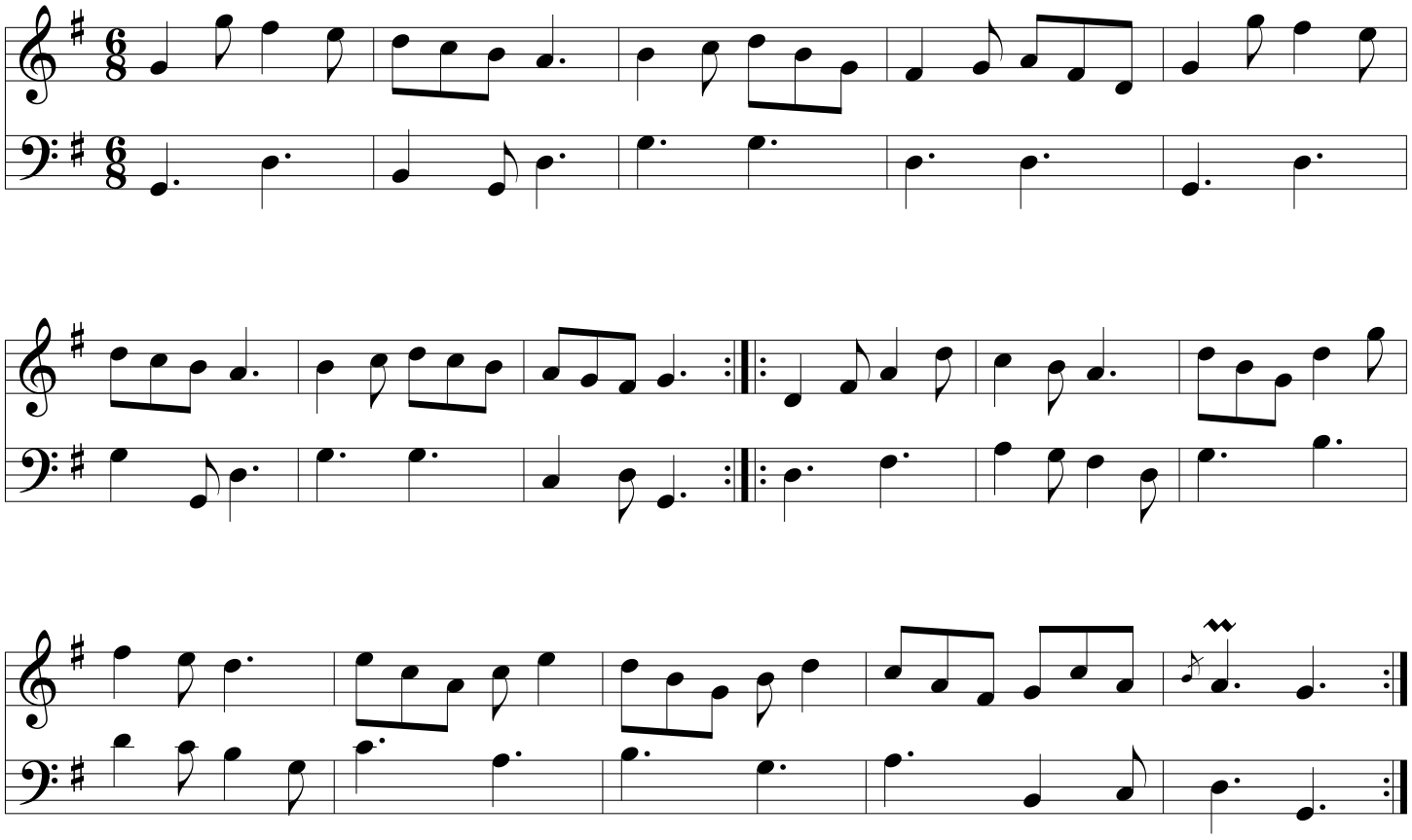


Glascon Lasses

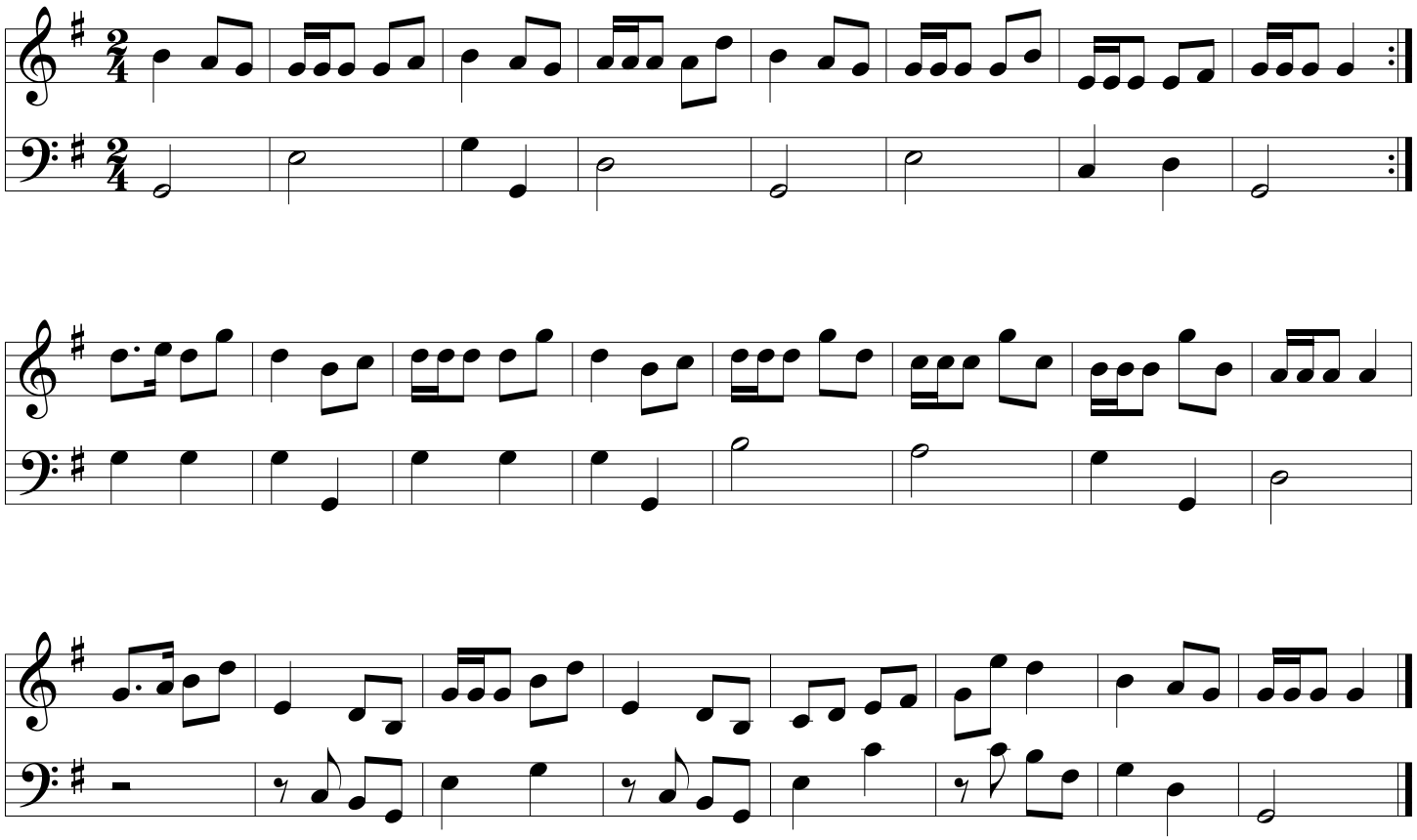




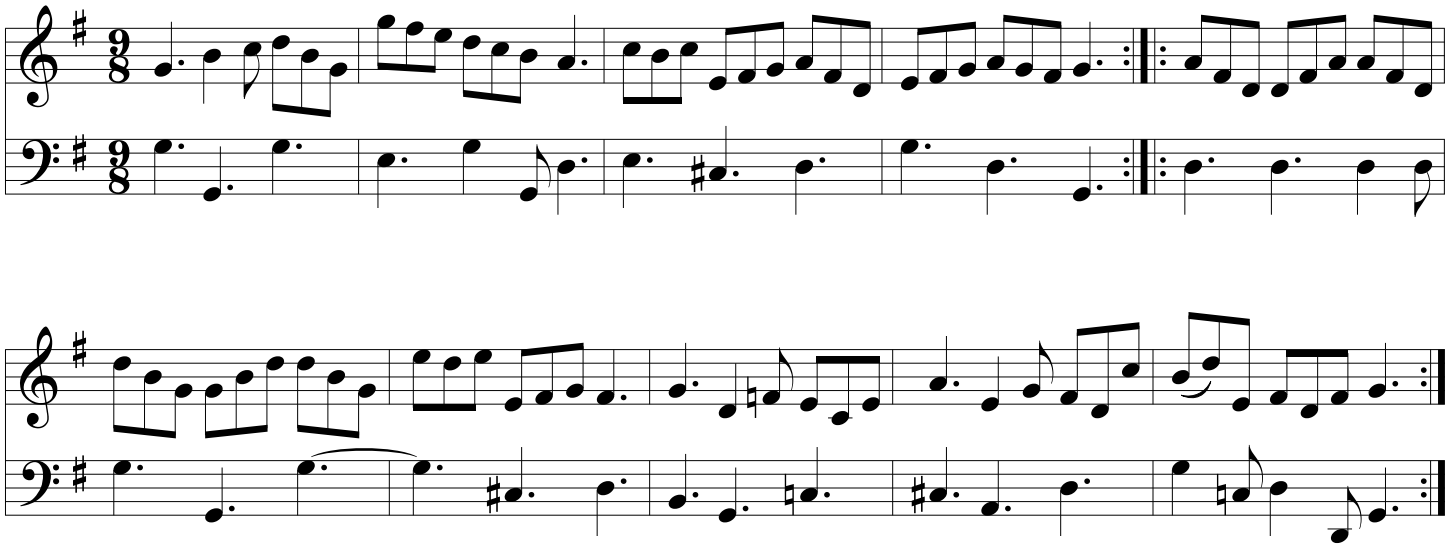
Lucky Dick



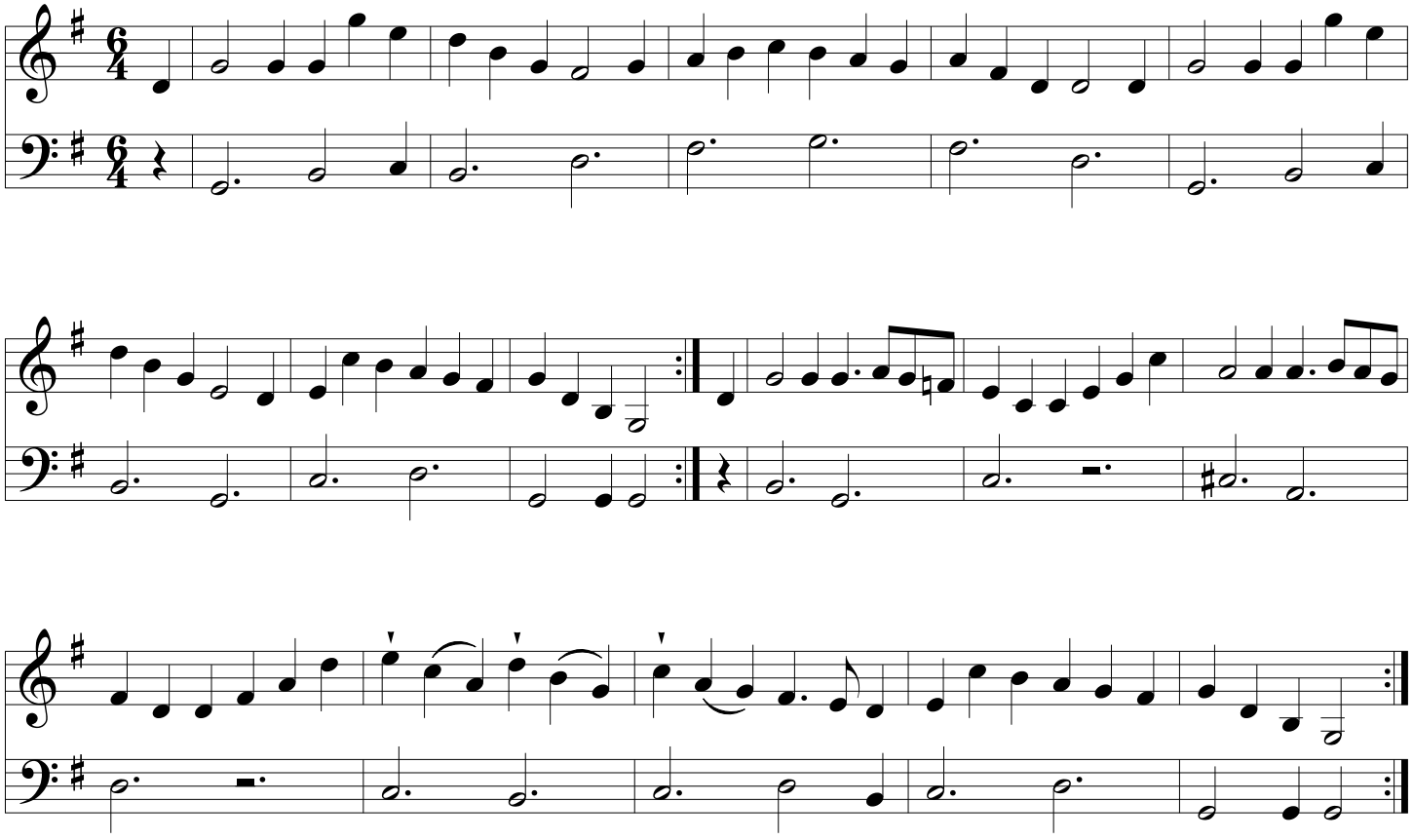
Maclod's Rant



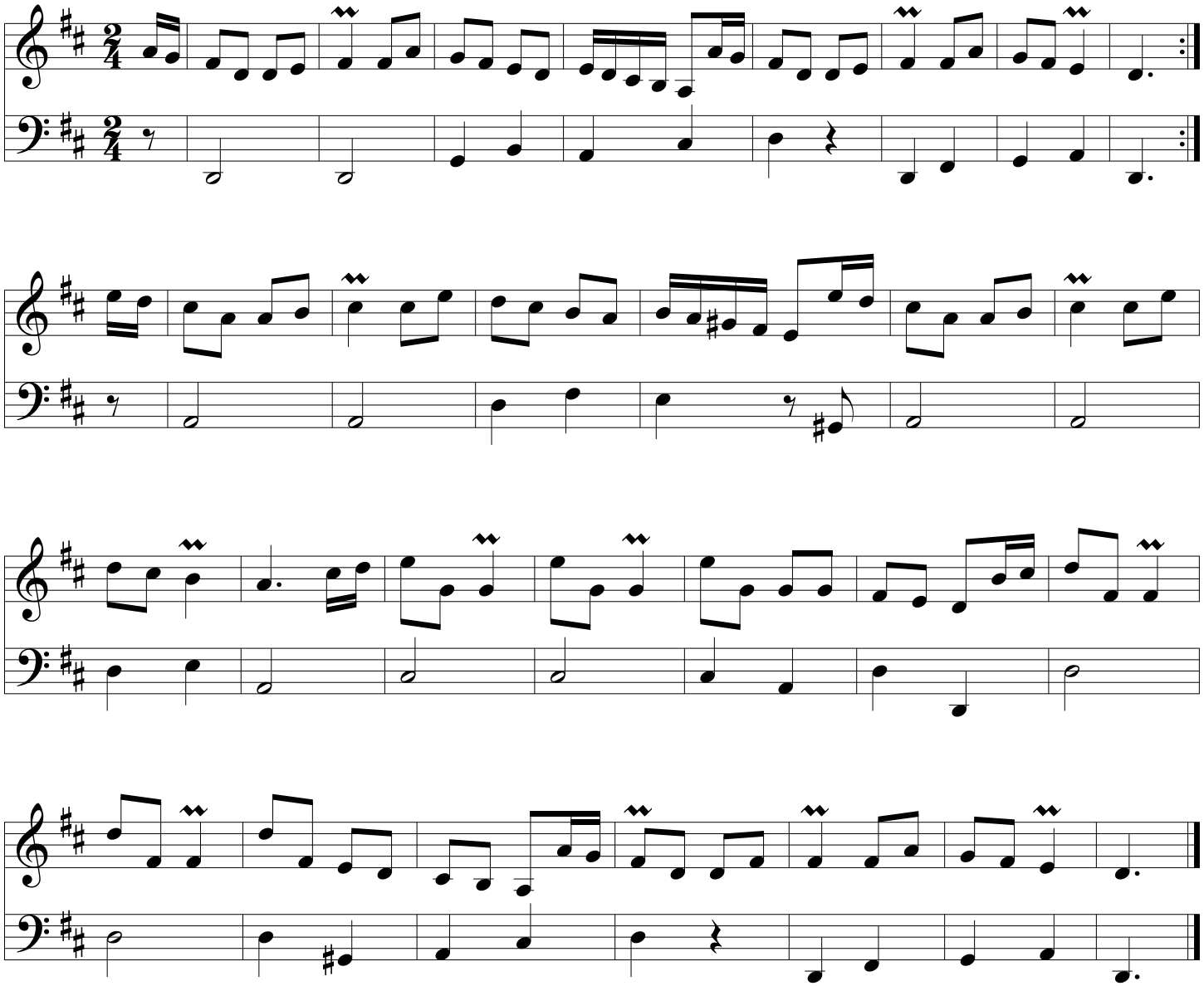
Ken Green



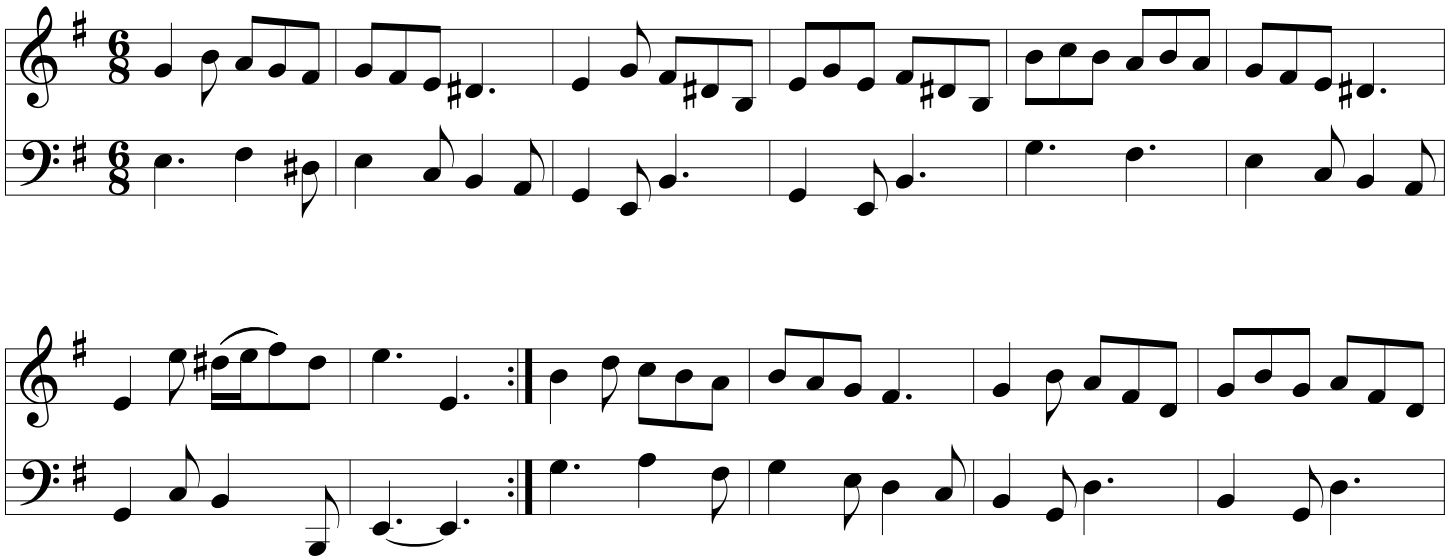
Hart Hall

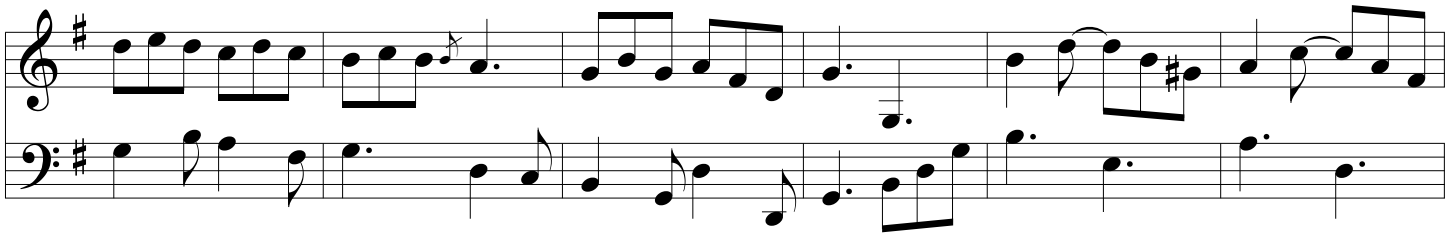


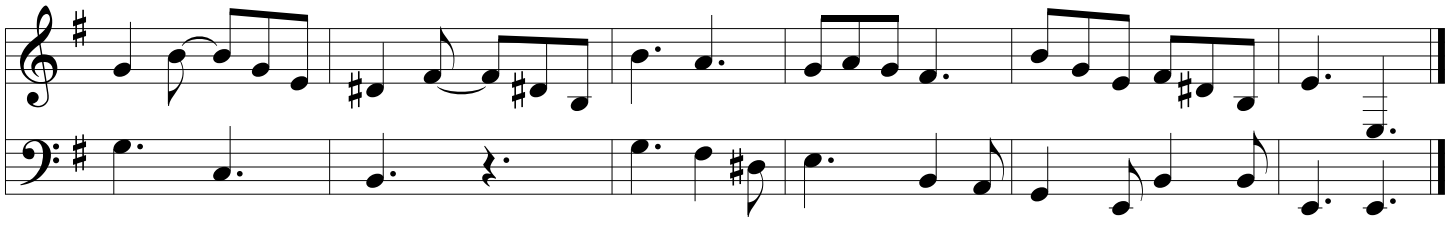
The Green Room



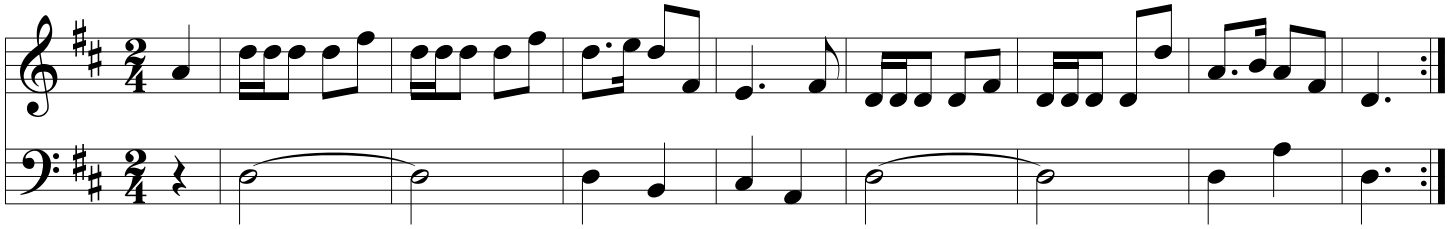
Jemmy Jigger

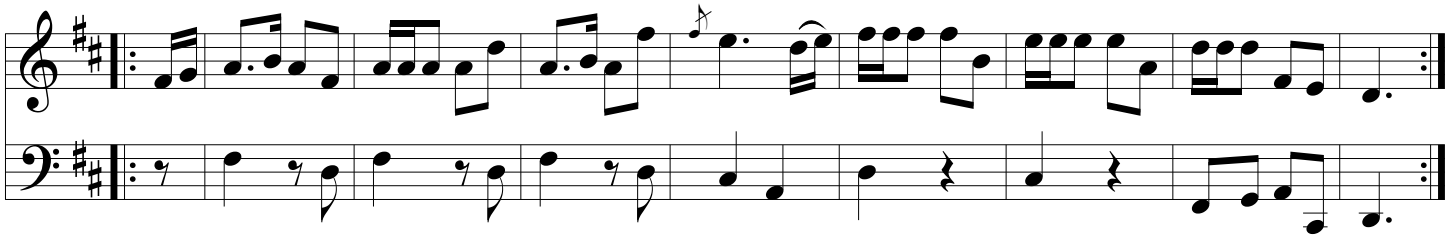




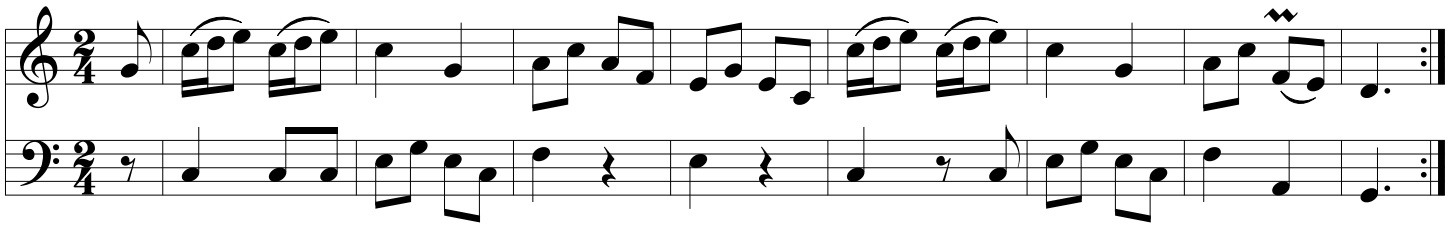


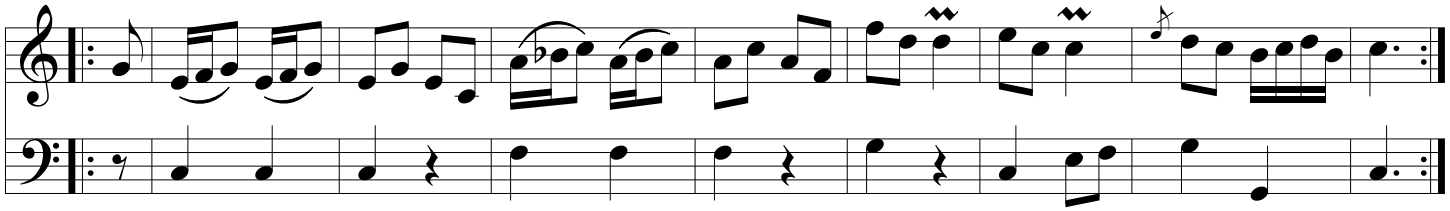
Johnny Grot's House



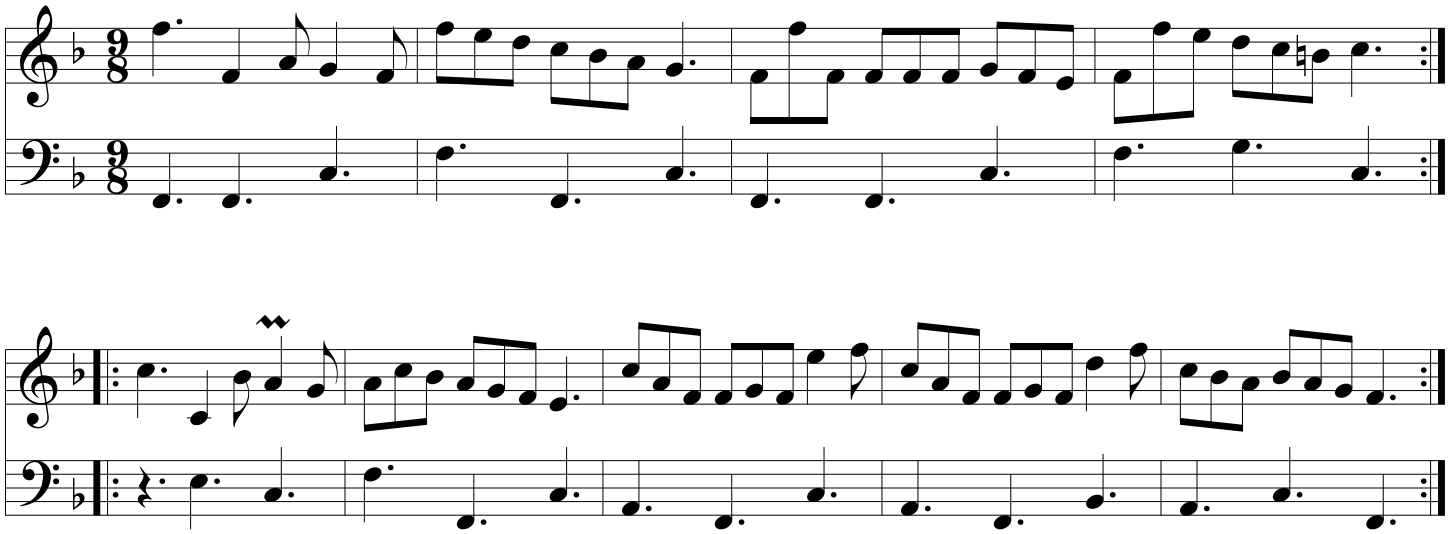


Caston Hall

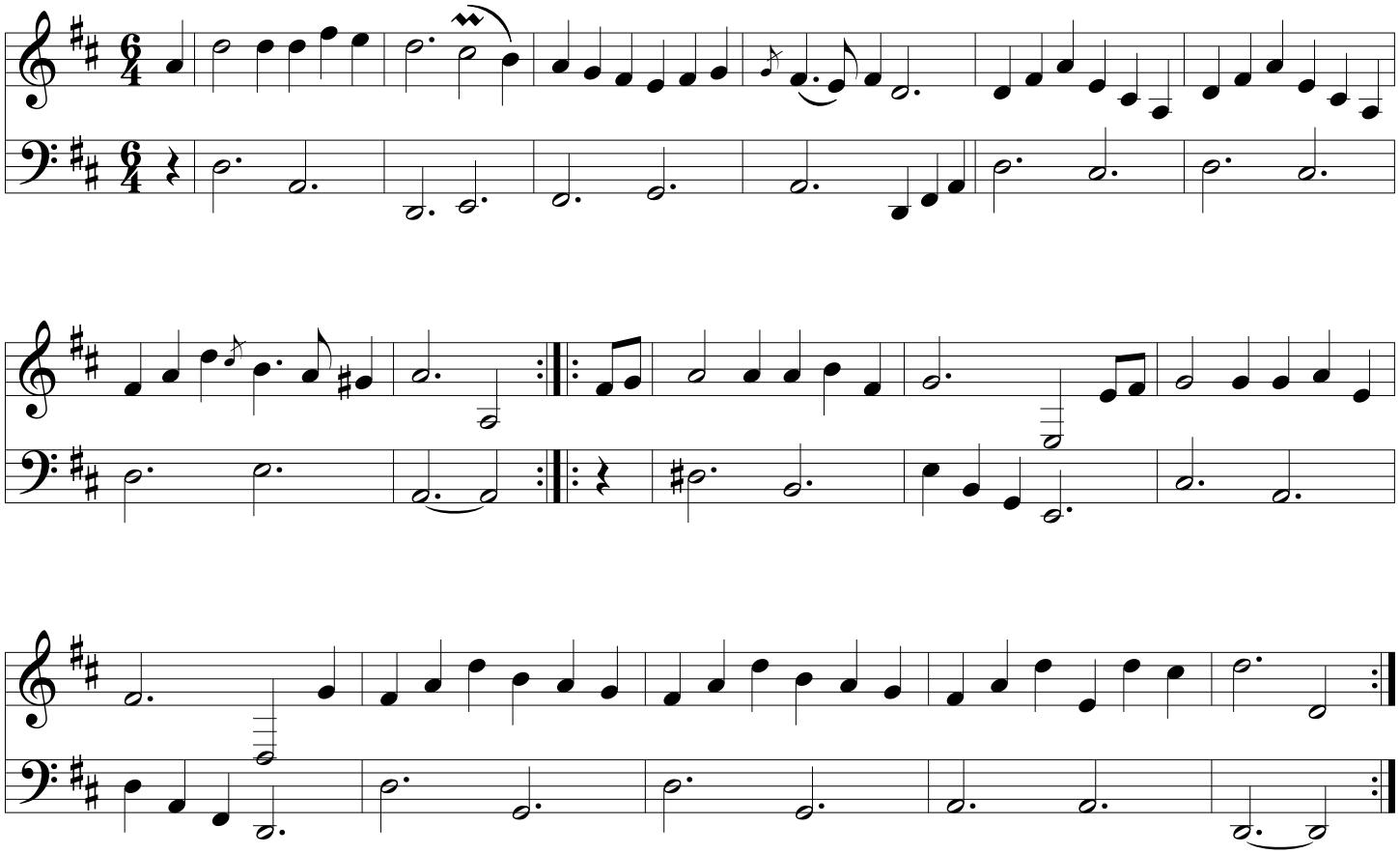




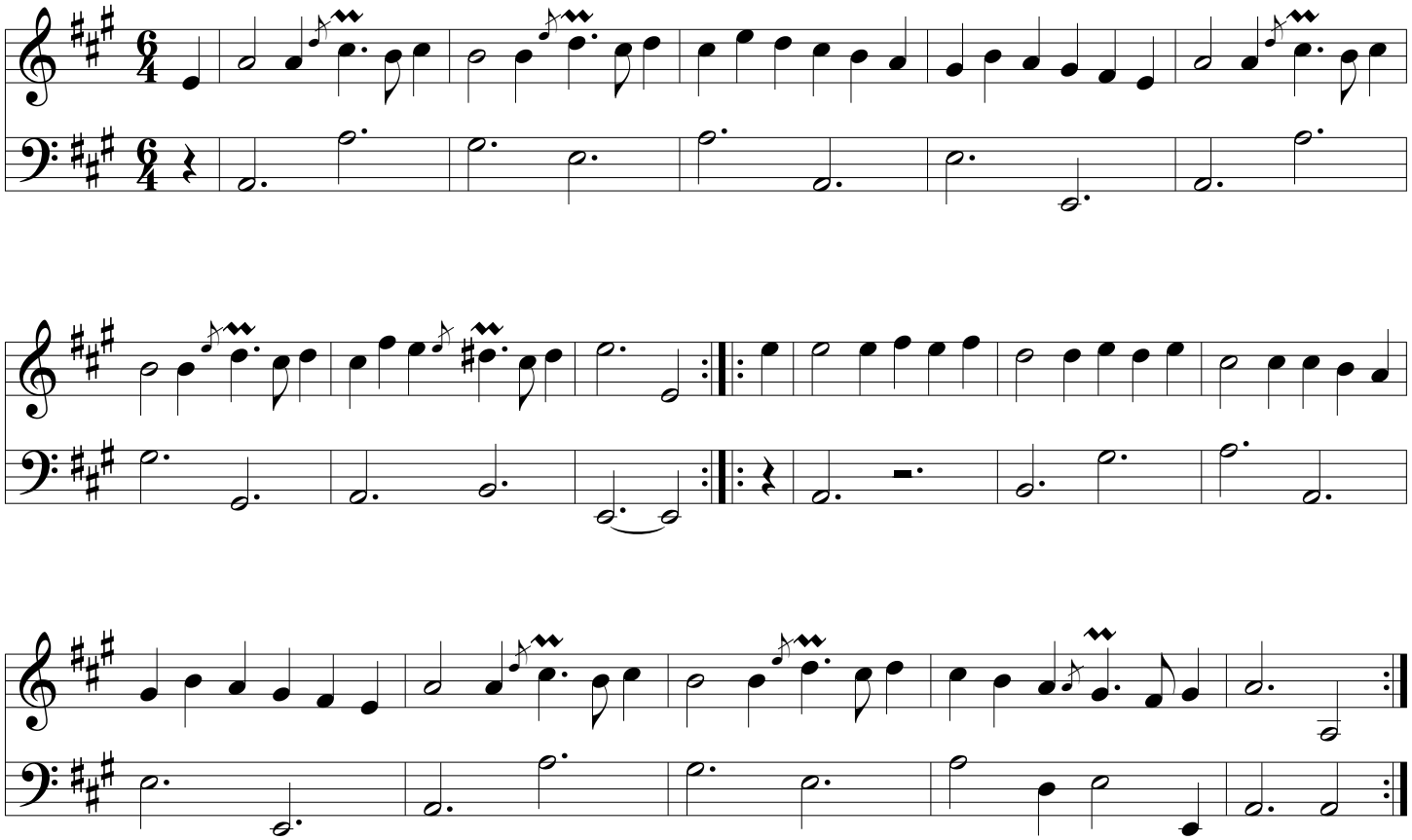
Capt. Flash



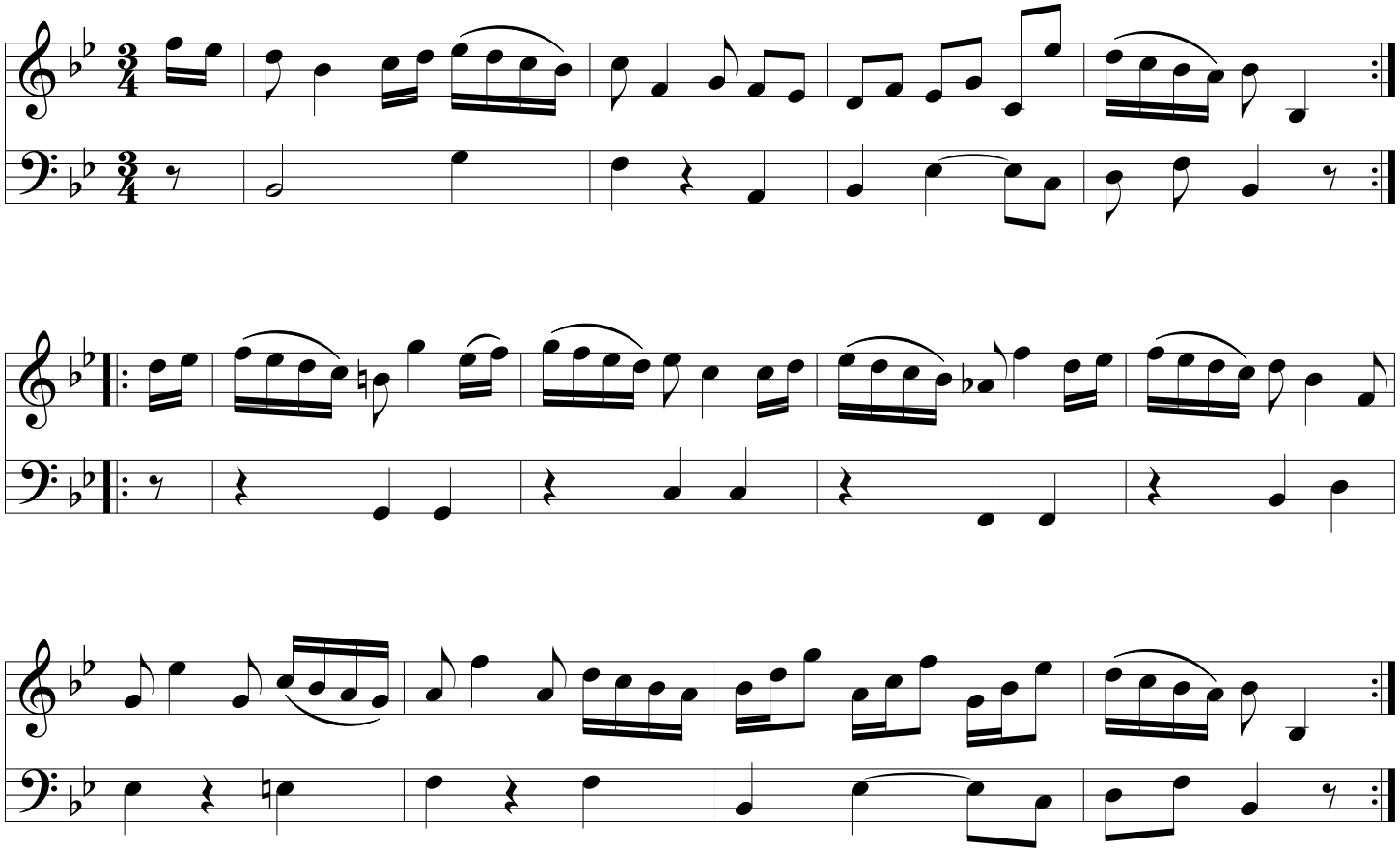
Kitty's Frolick



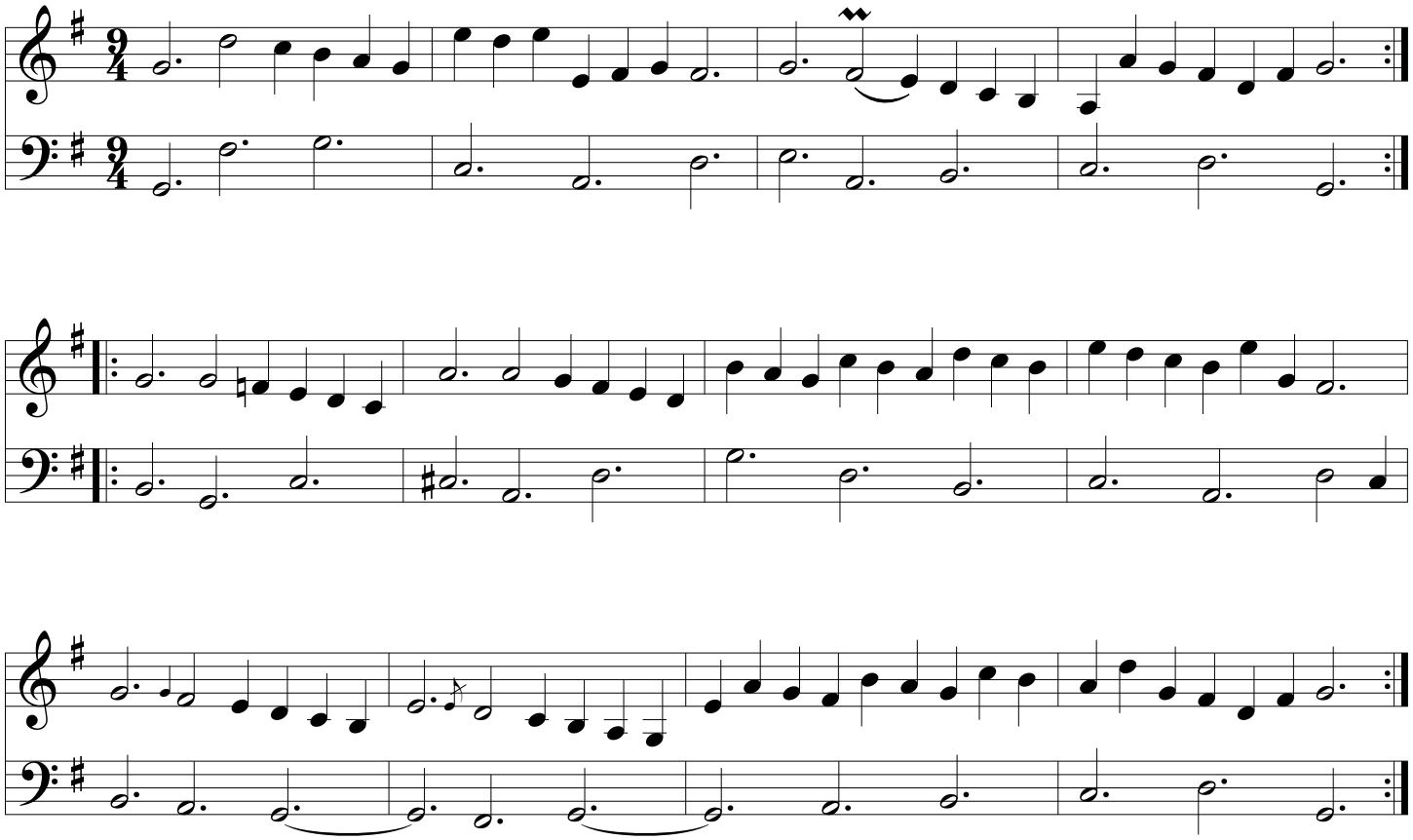
Bromely Assembly



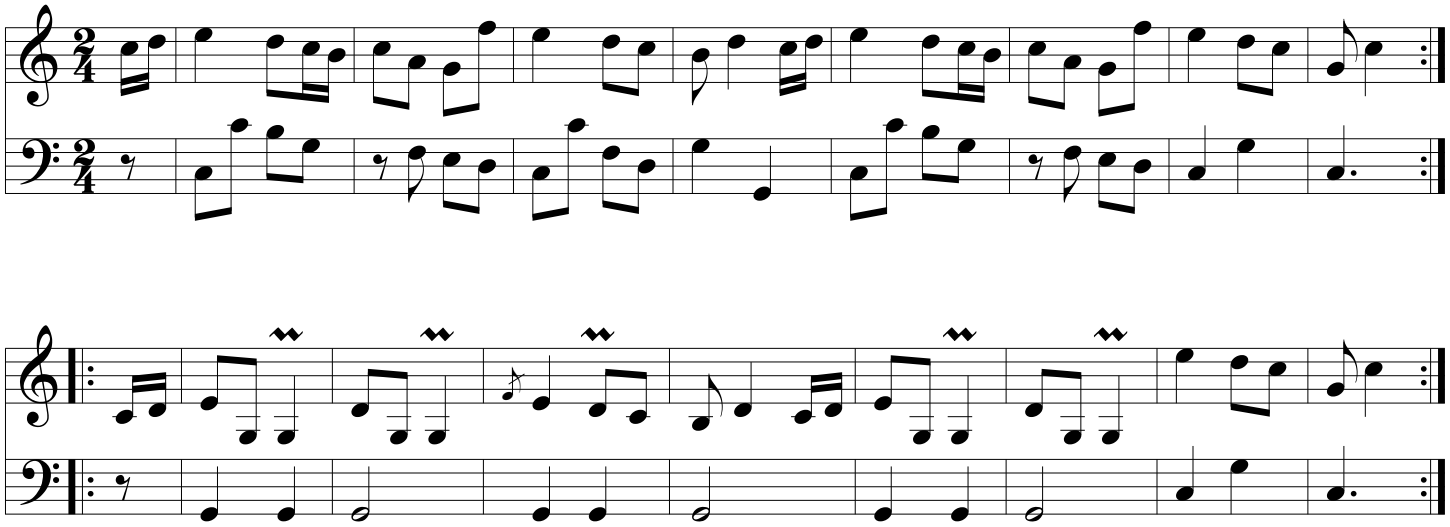
Berely Square



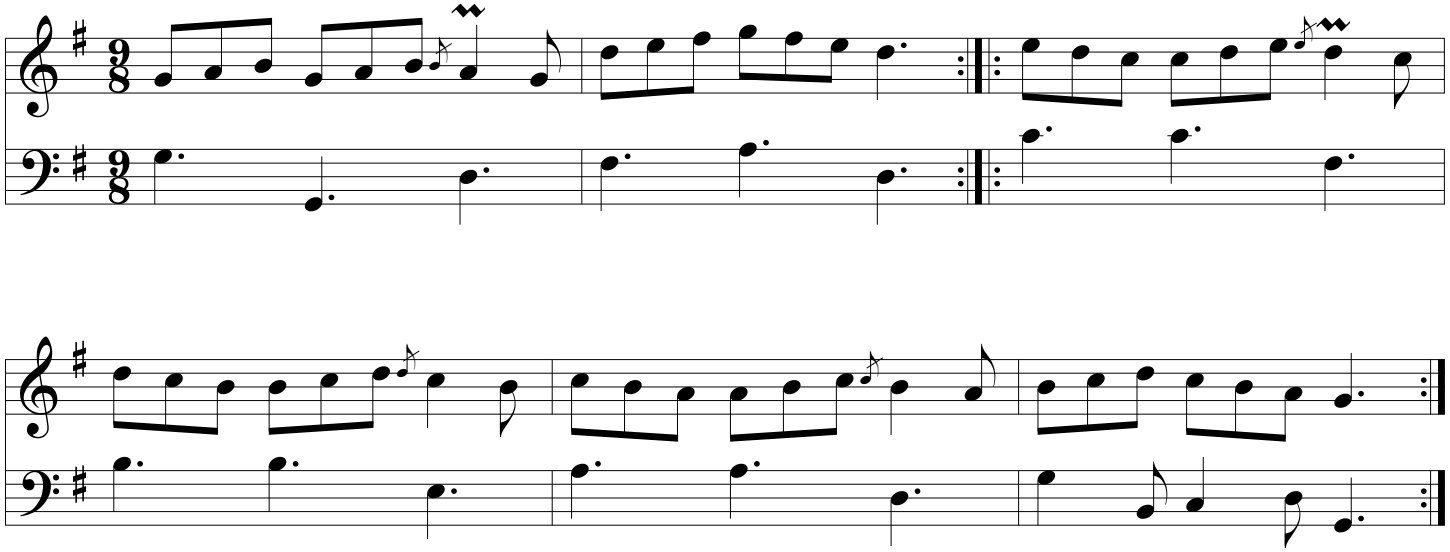
Pultney Green



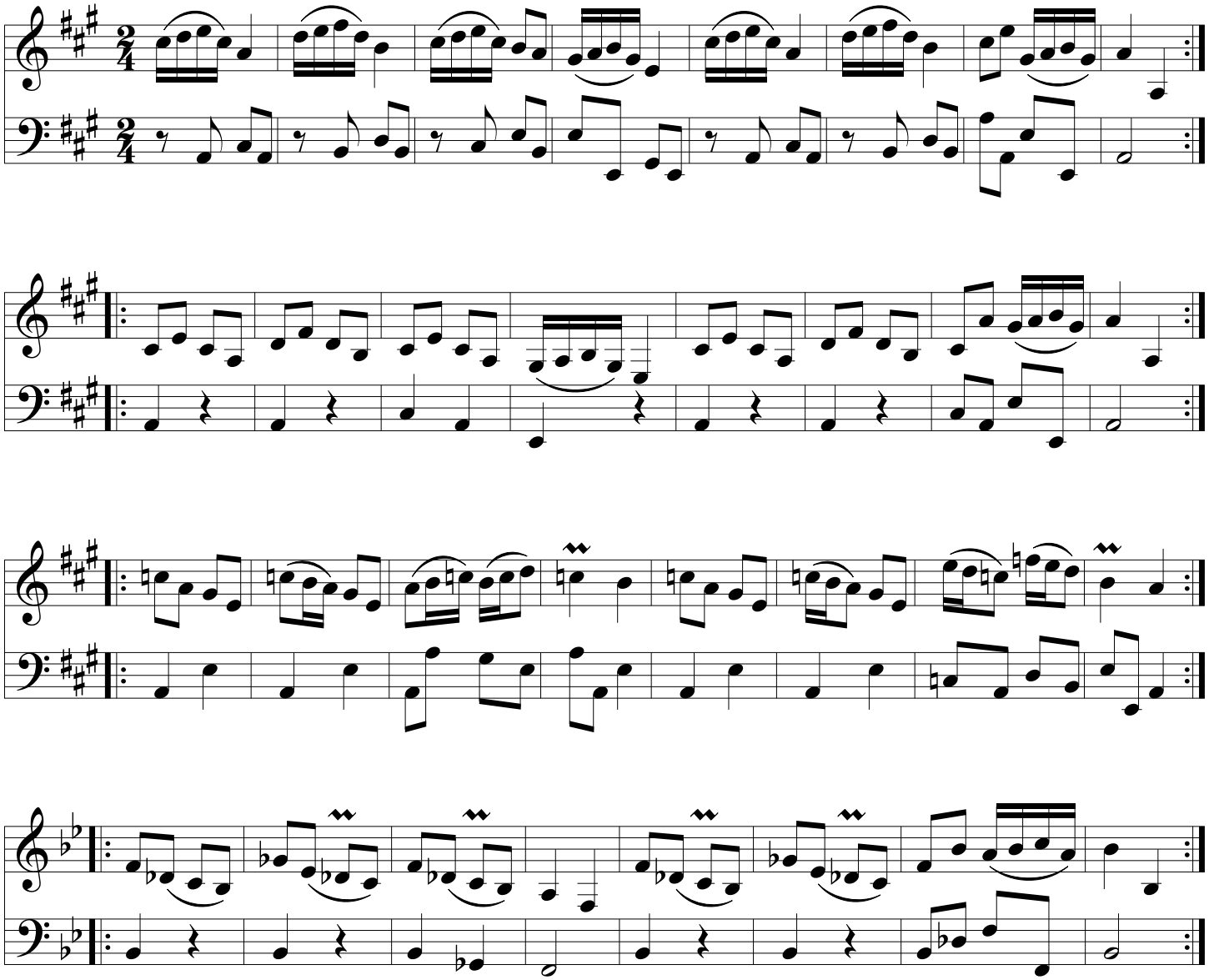
Jenny's Whim



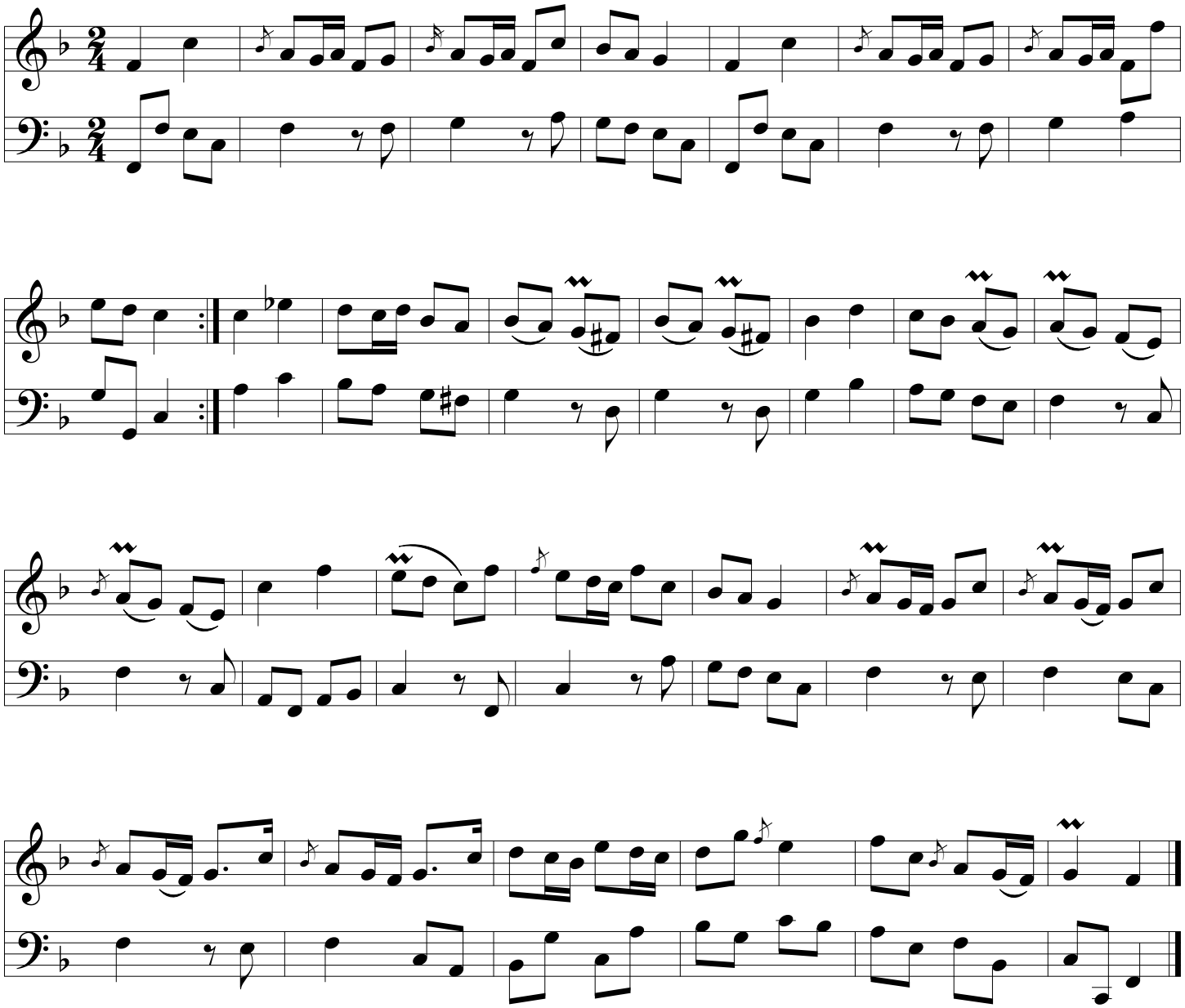
Frible



Pretty Miss's Fancy



The Lovisa

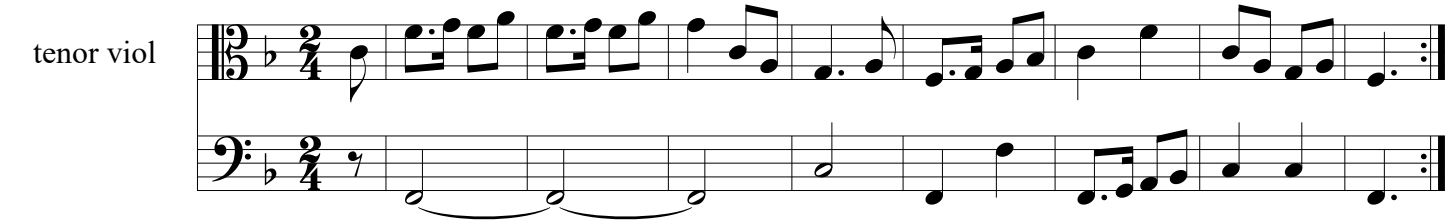


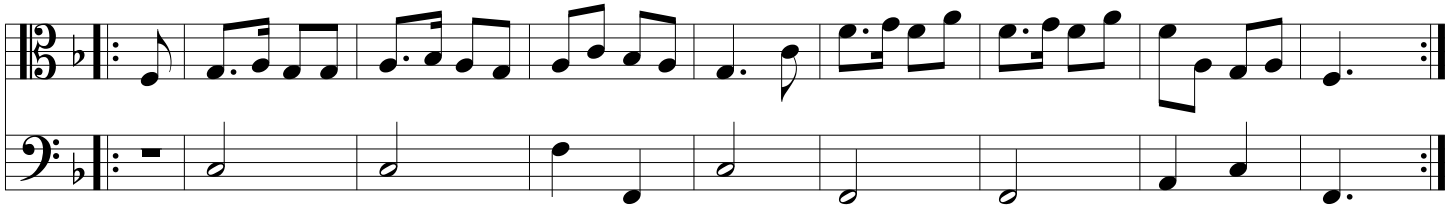
24 Country Dances for the Year 1748

T. Davis

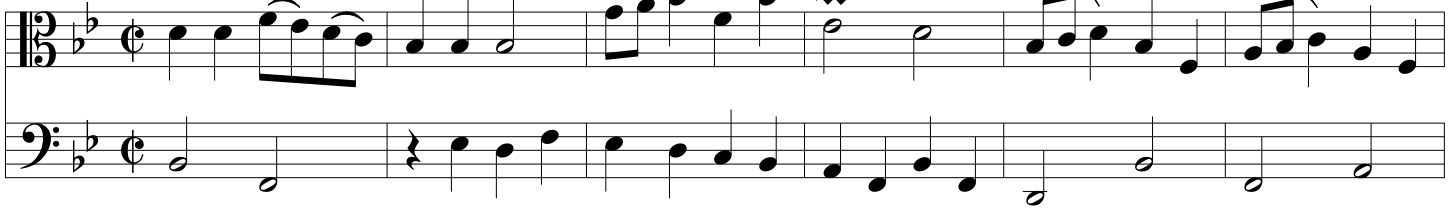
Fort Agustus

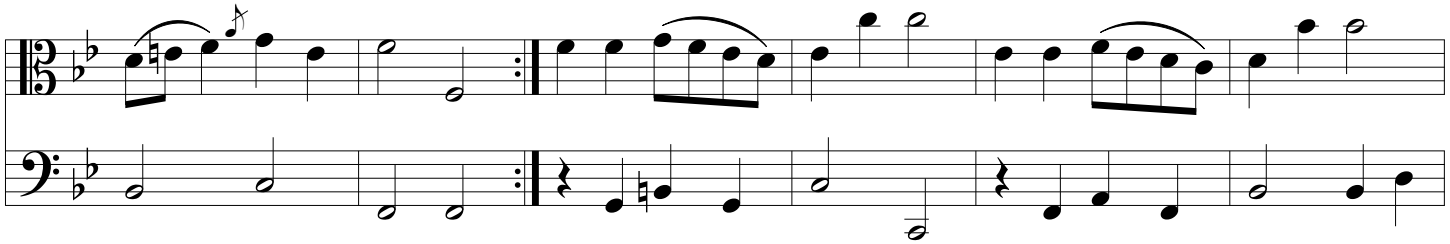
tenor viol

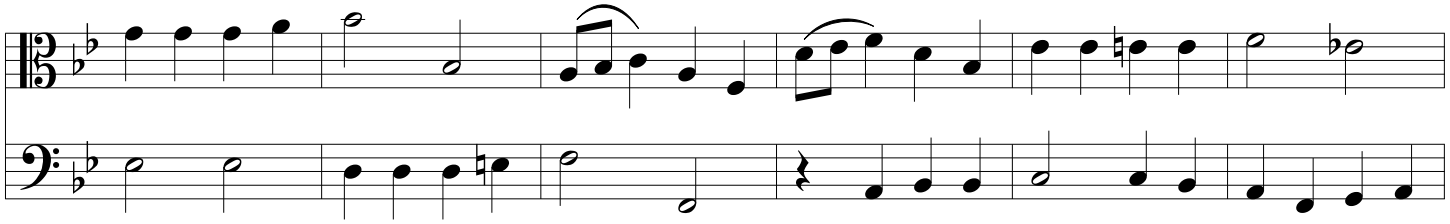


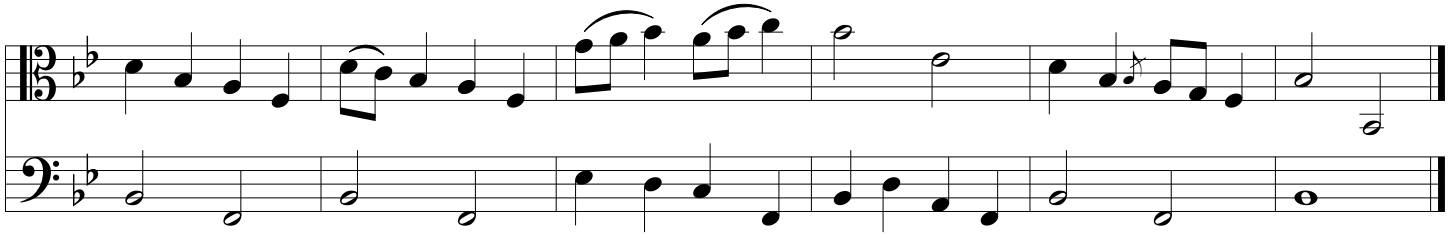


Westminster Bridge

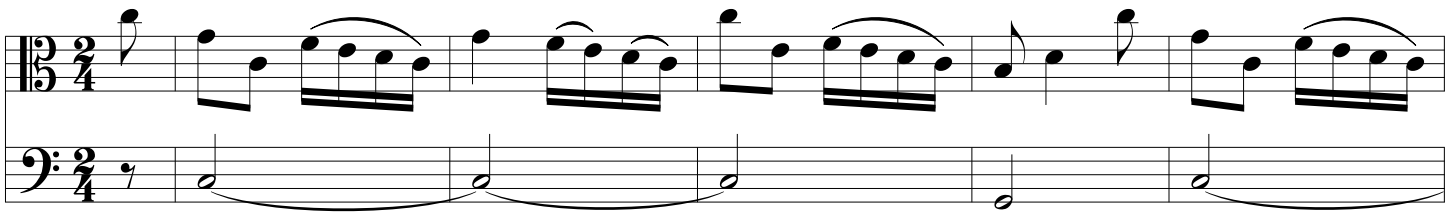


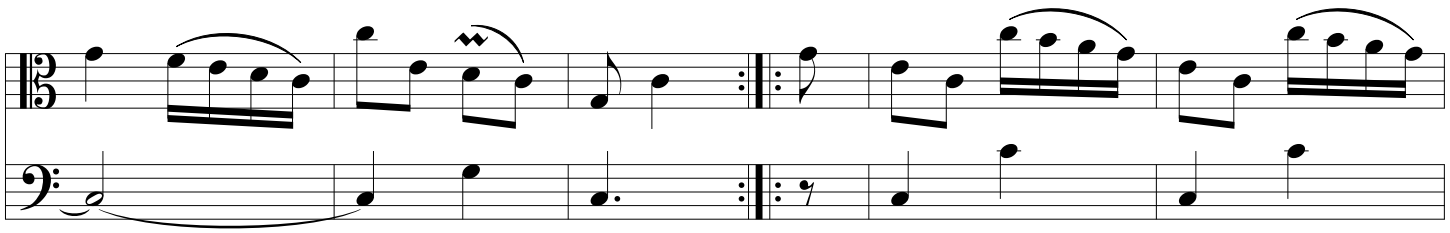


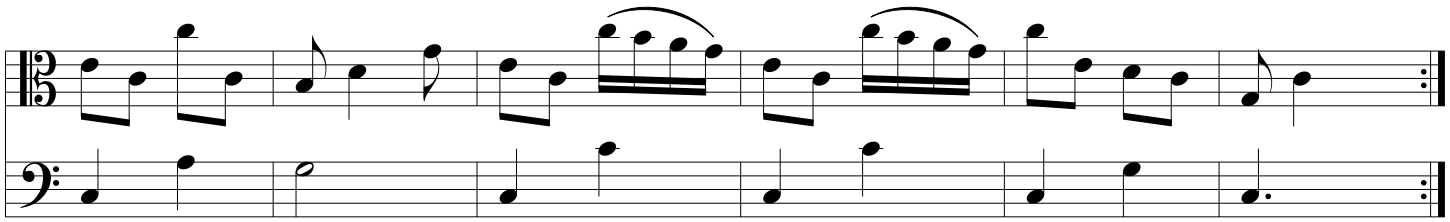




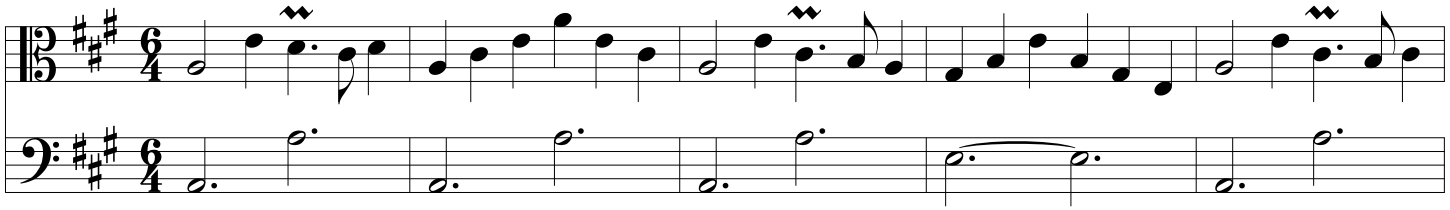
Lovet's Reel

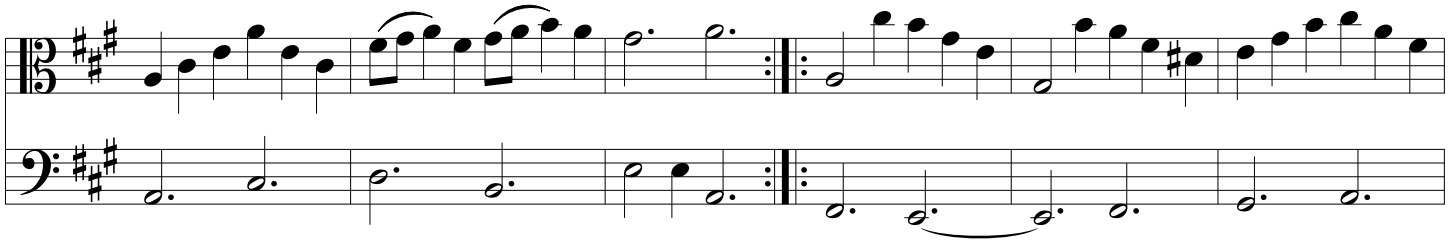


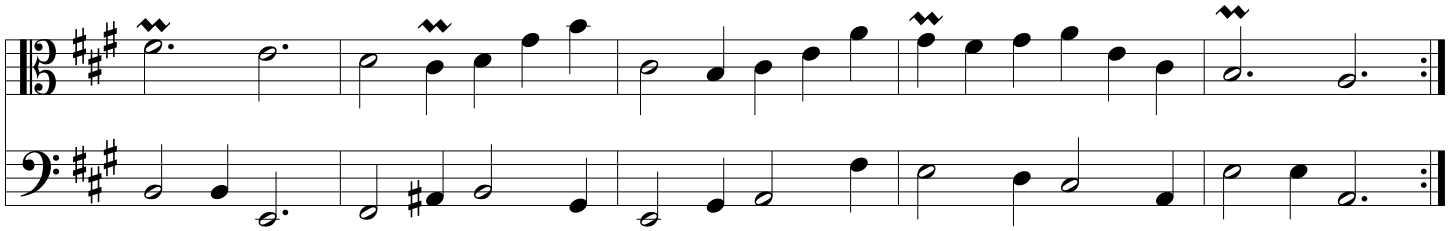




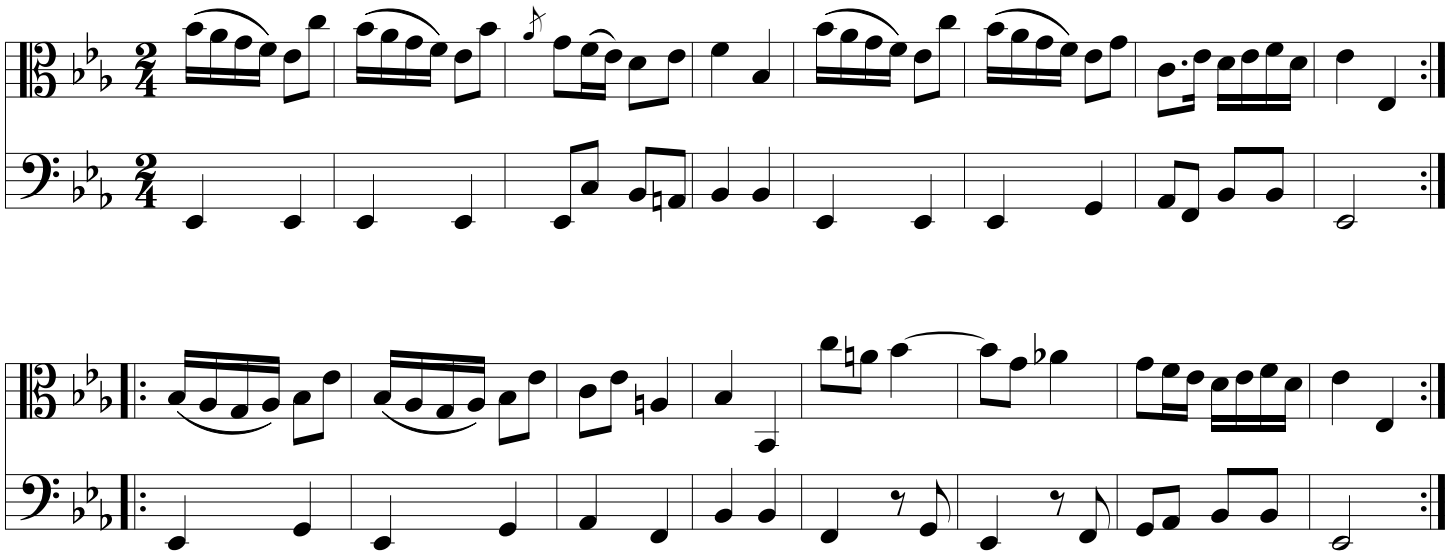
Merry Hary



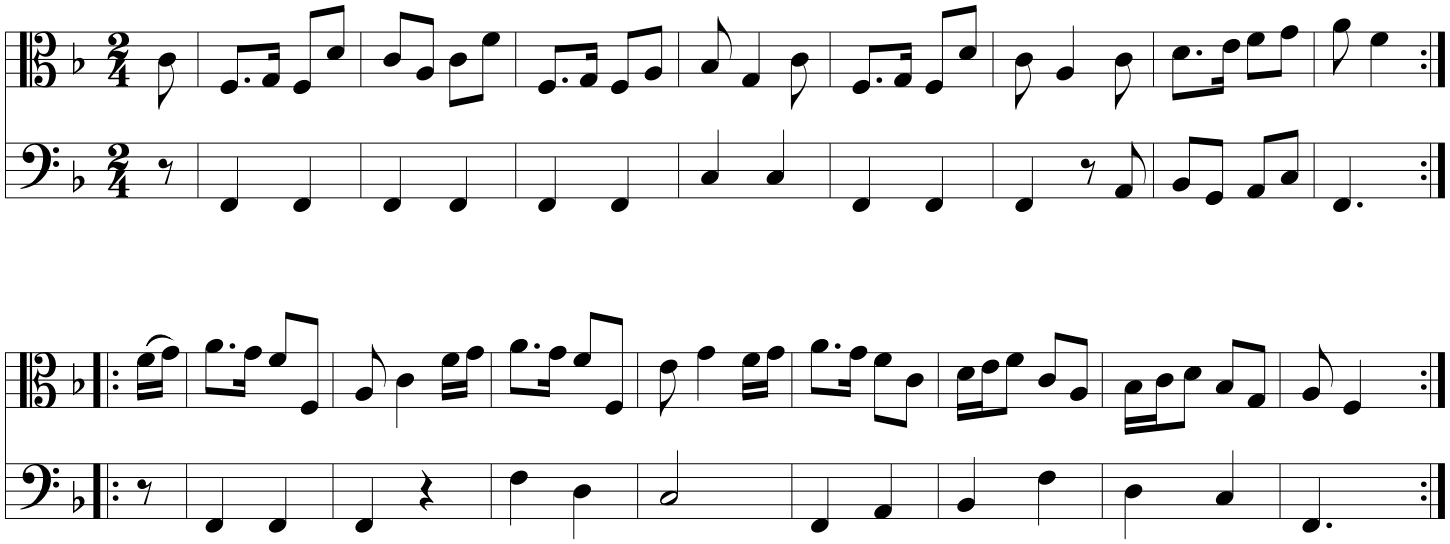




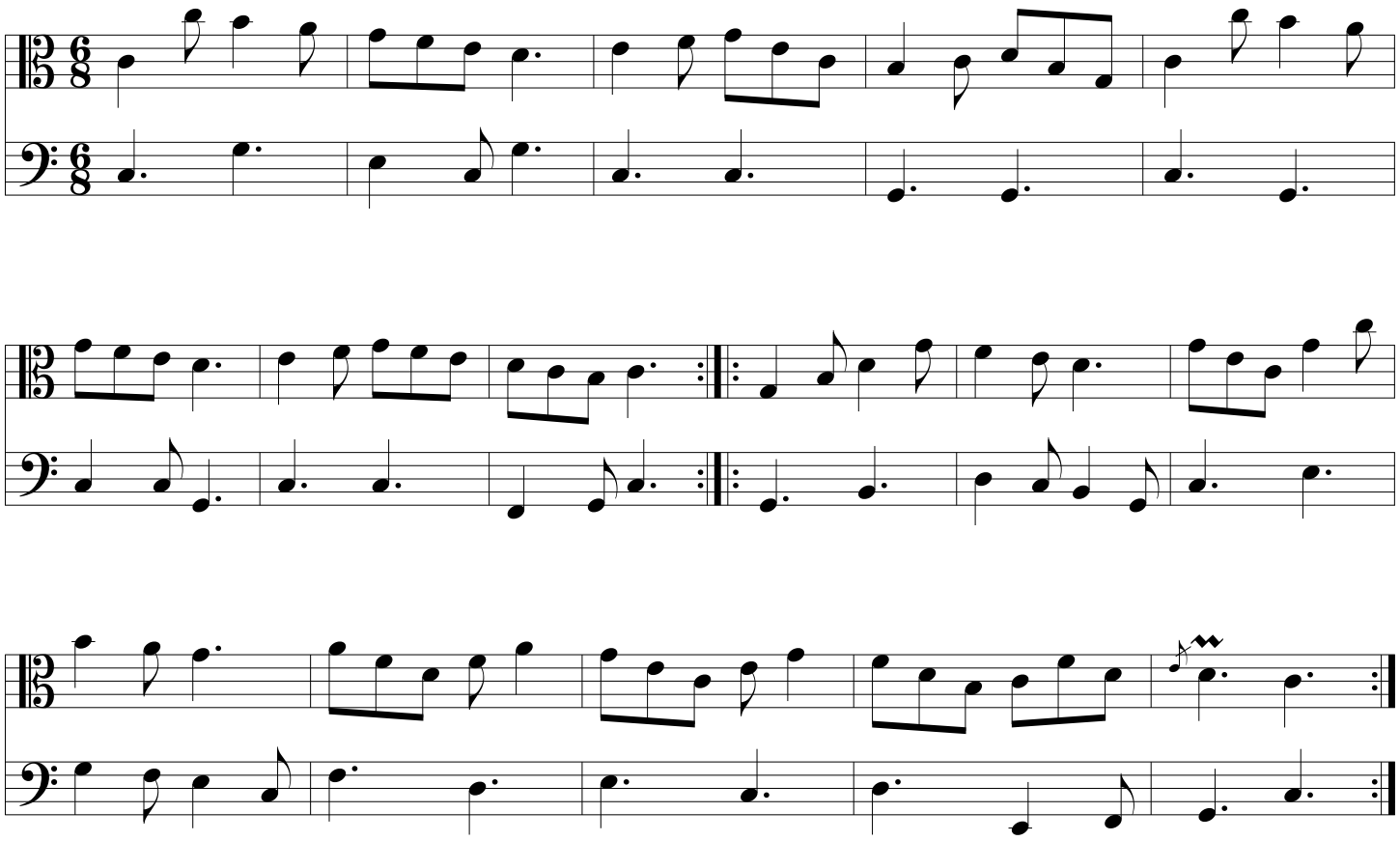
Leister House



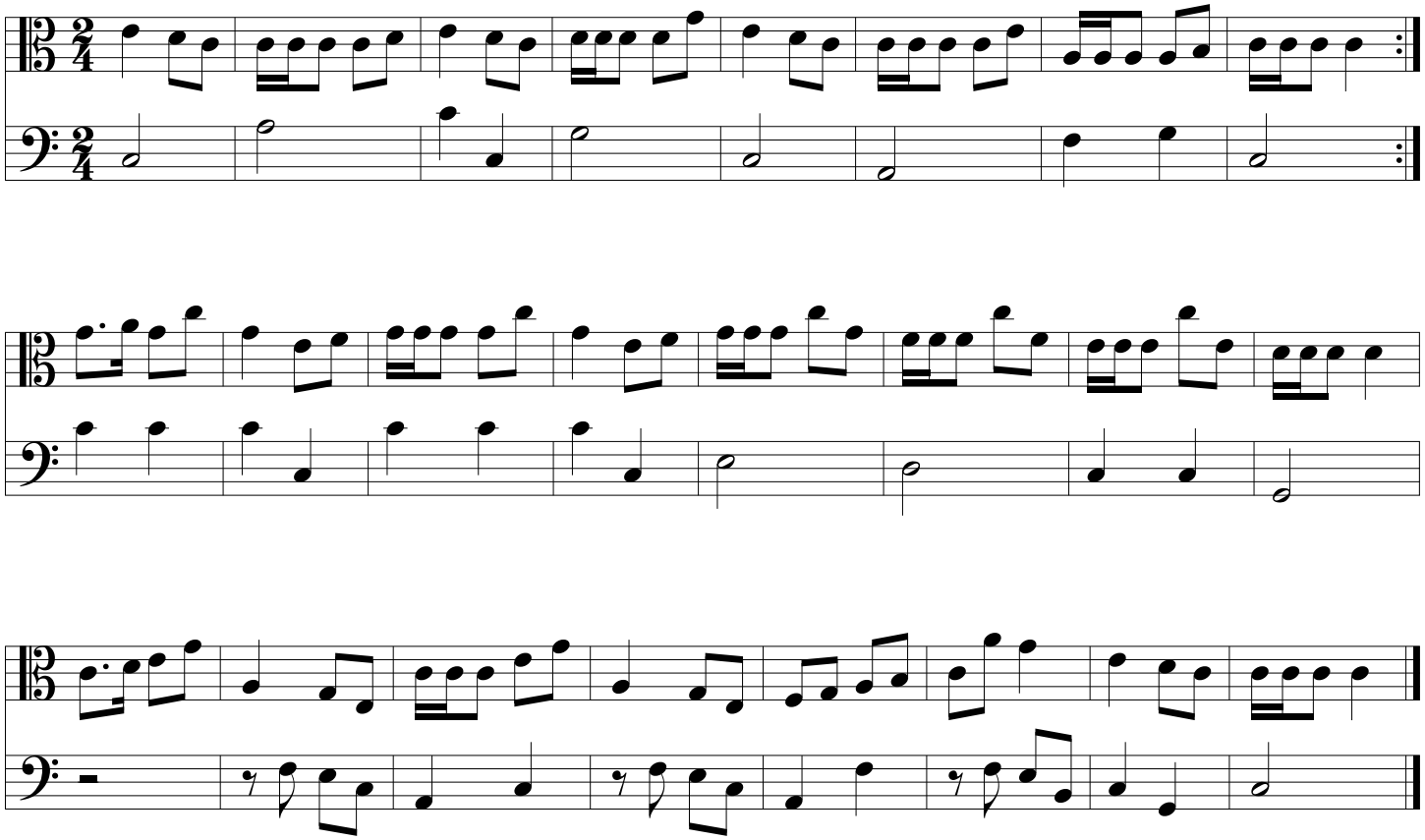
Glascon Lasses



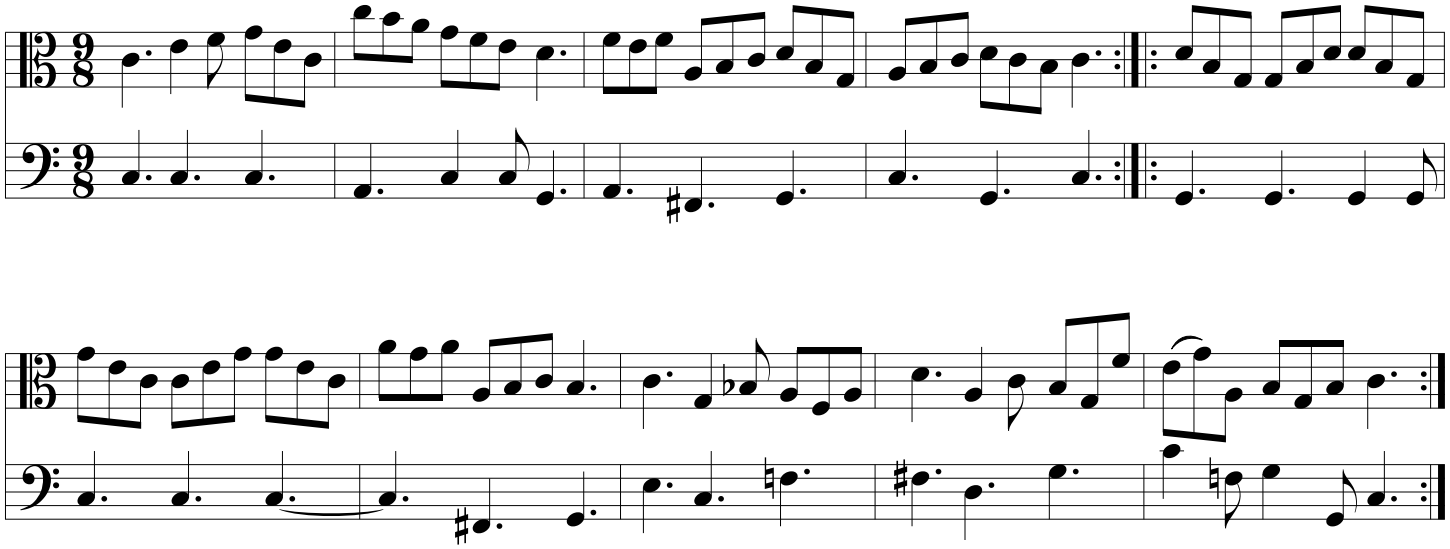
Lucky Dick



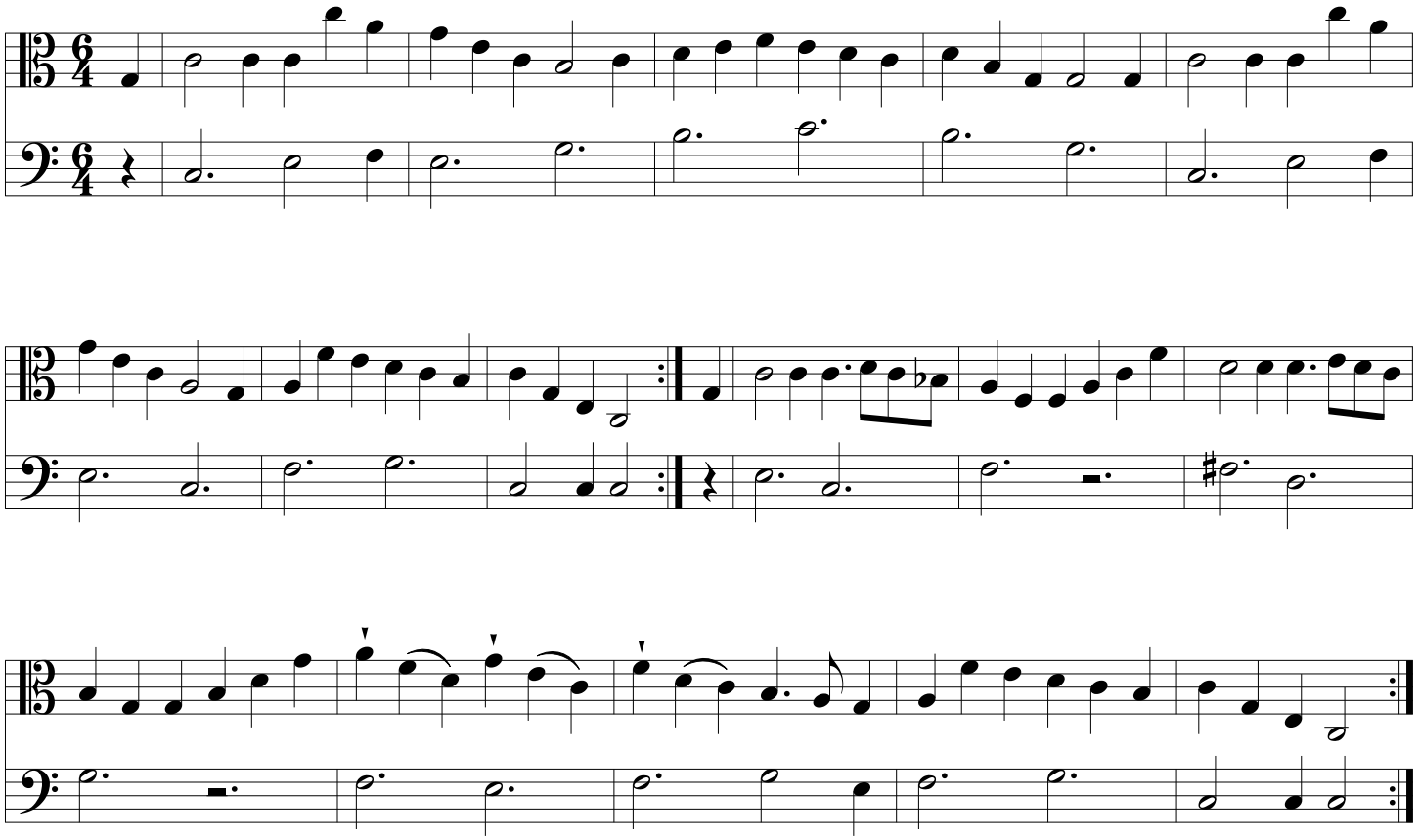
Maclod's Rant



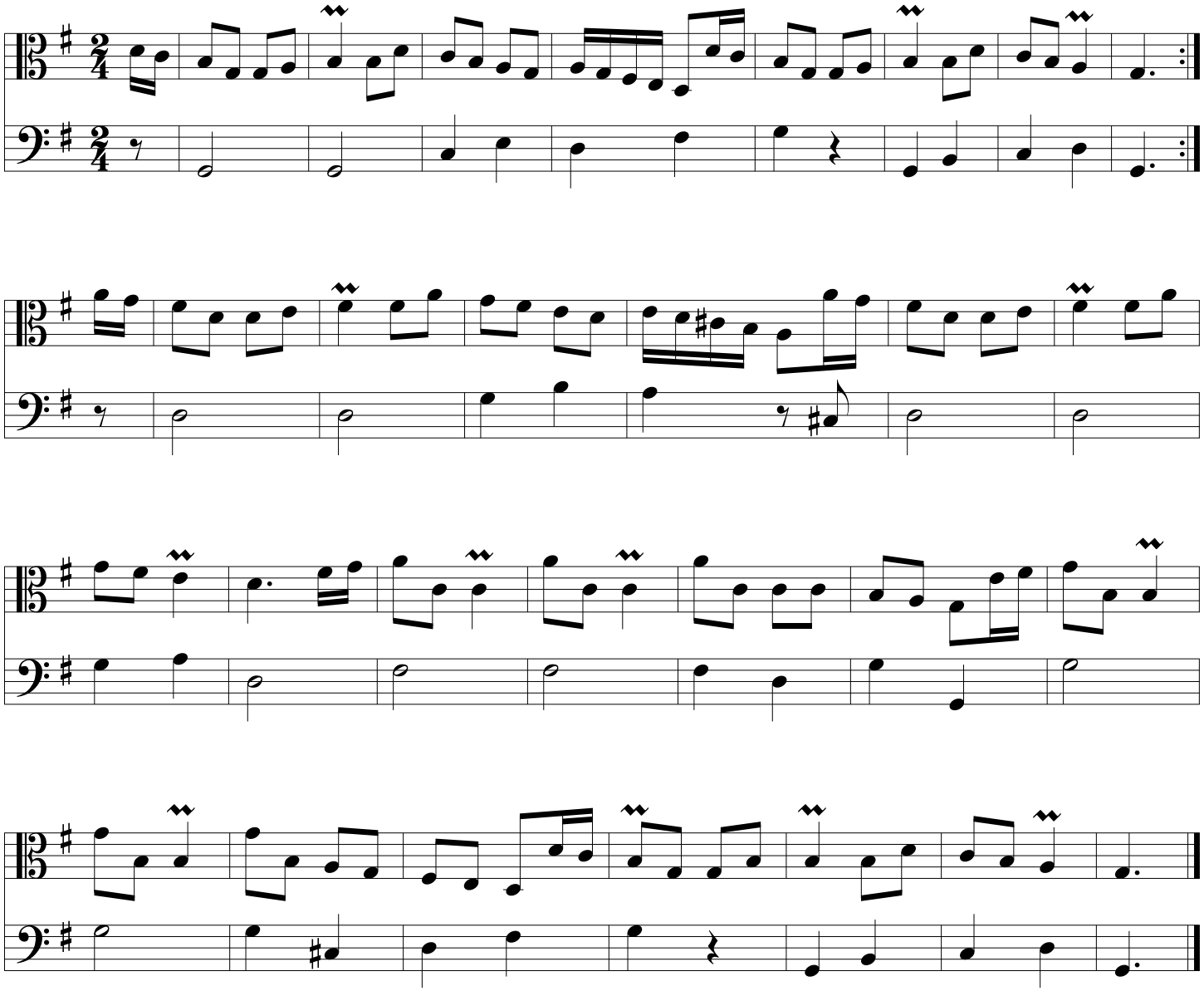
Ken Green



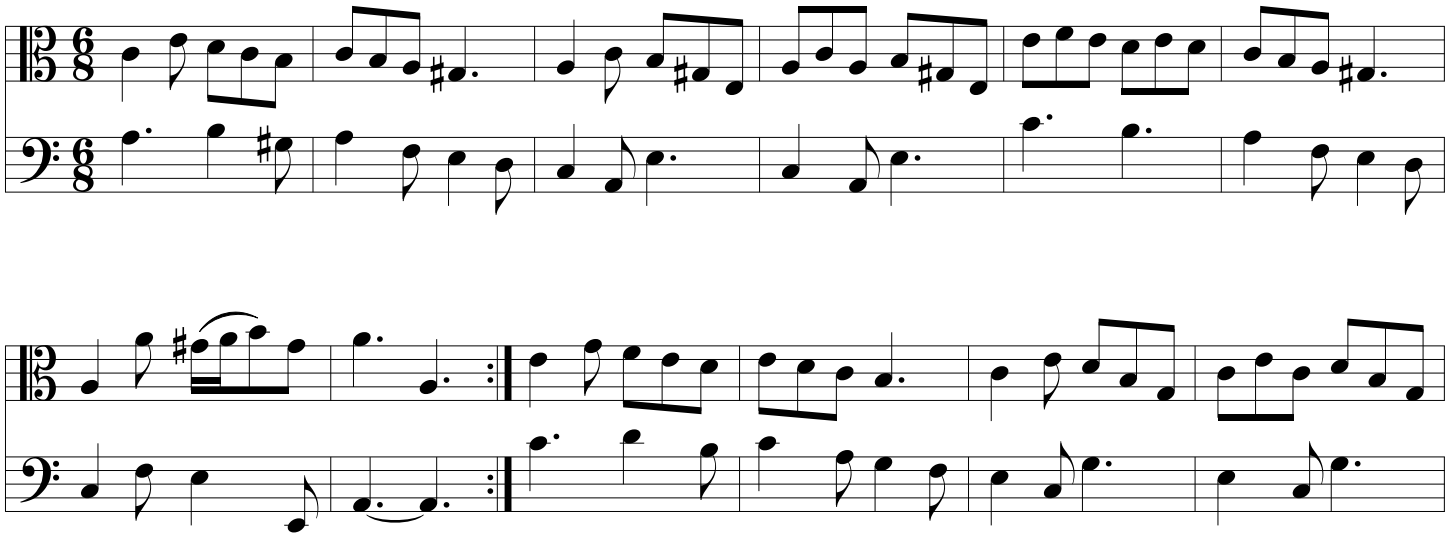
Hart Hall

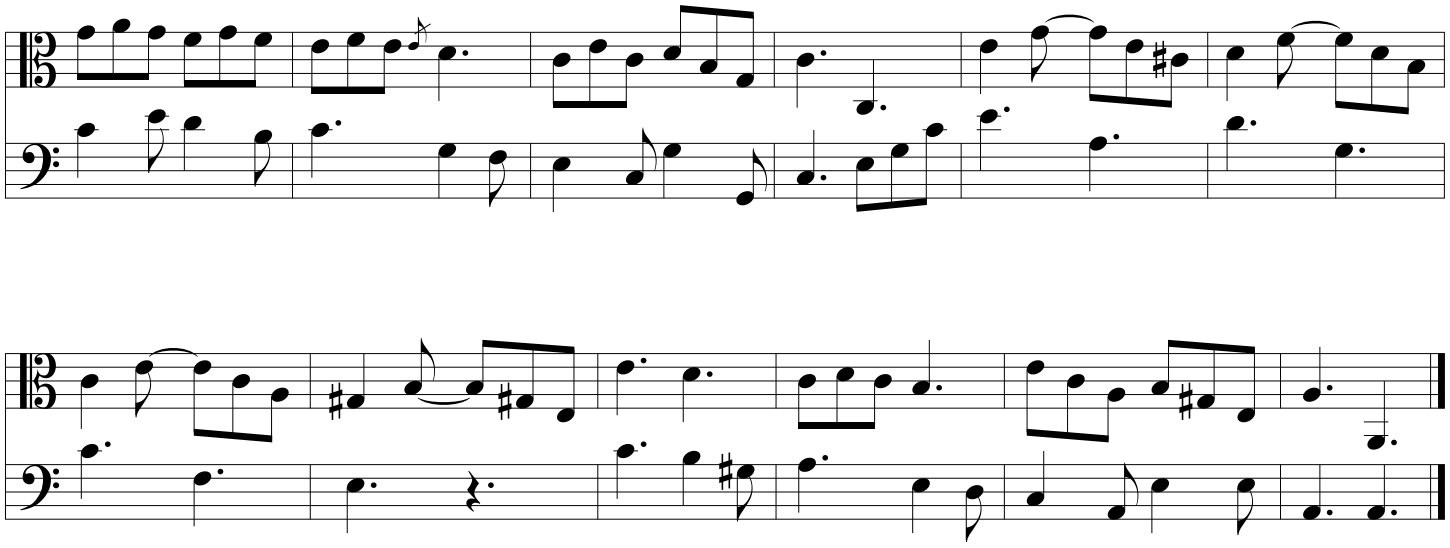


The Green Room

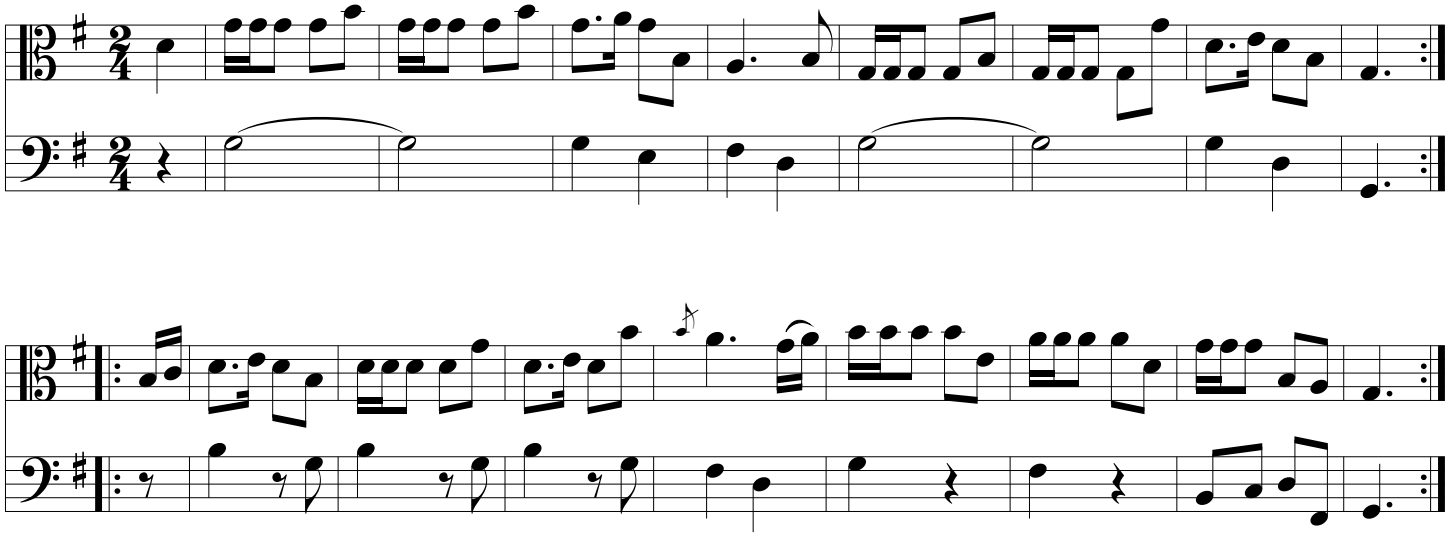


Jemmy Jigger

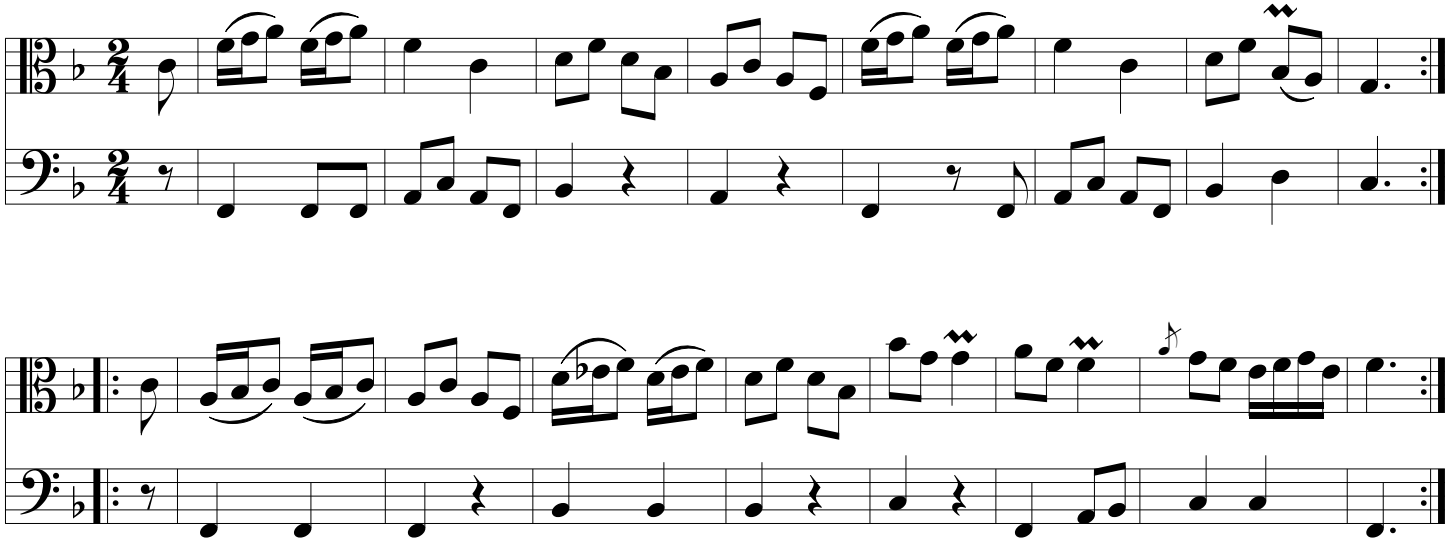




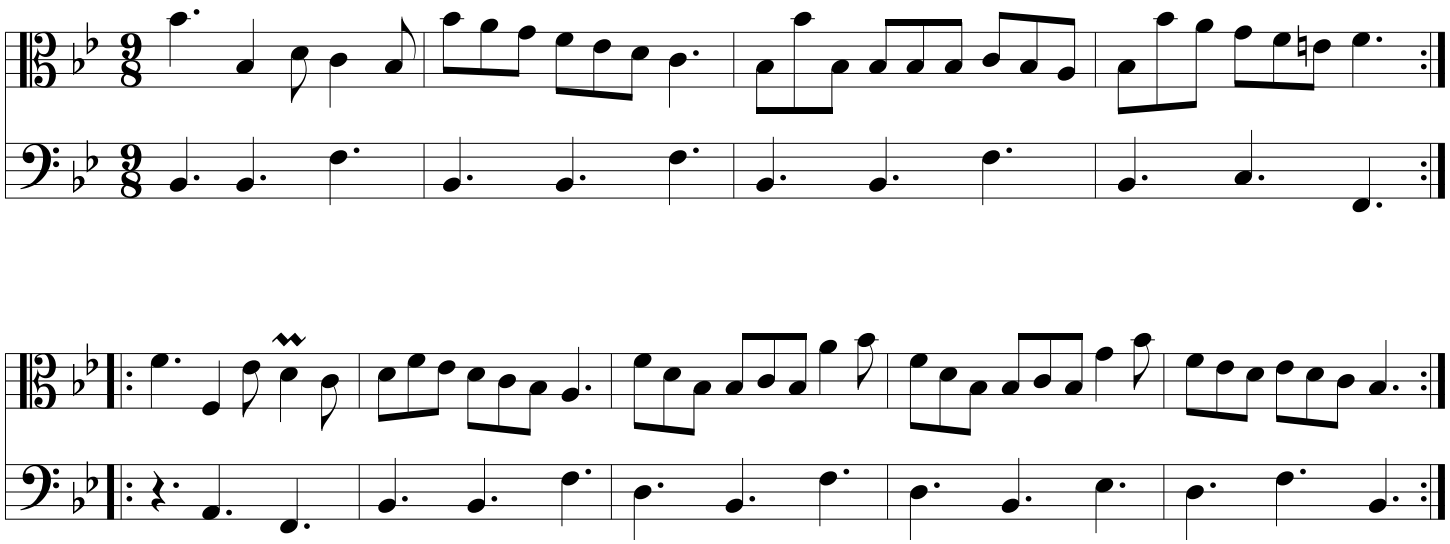
Johnny Grot's House



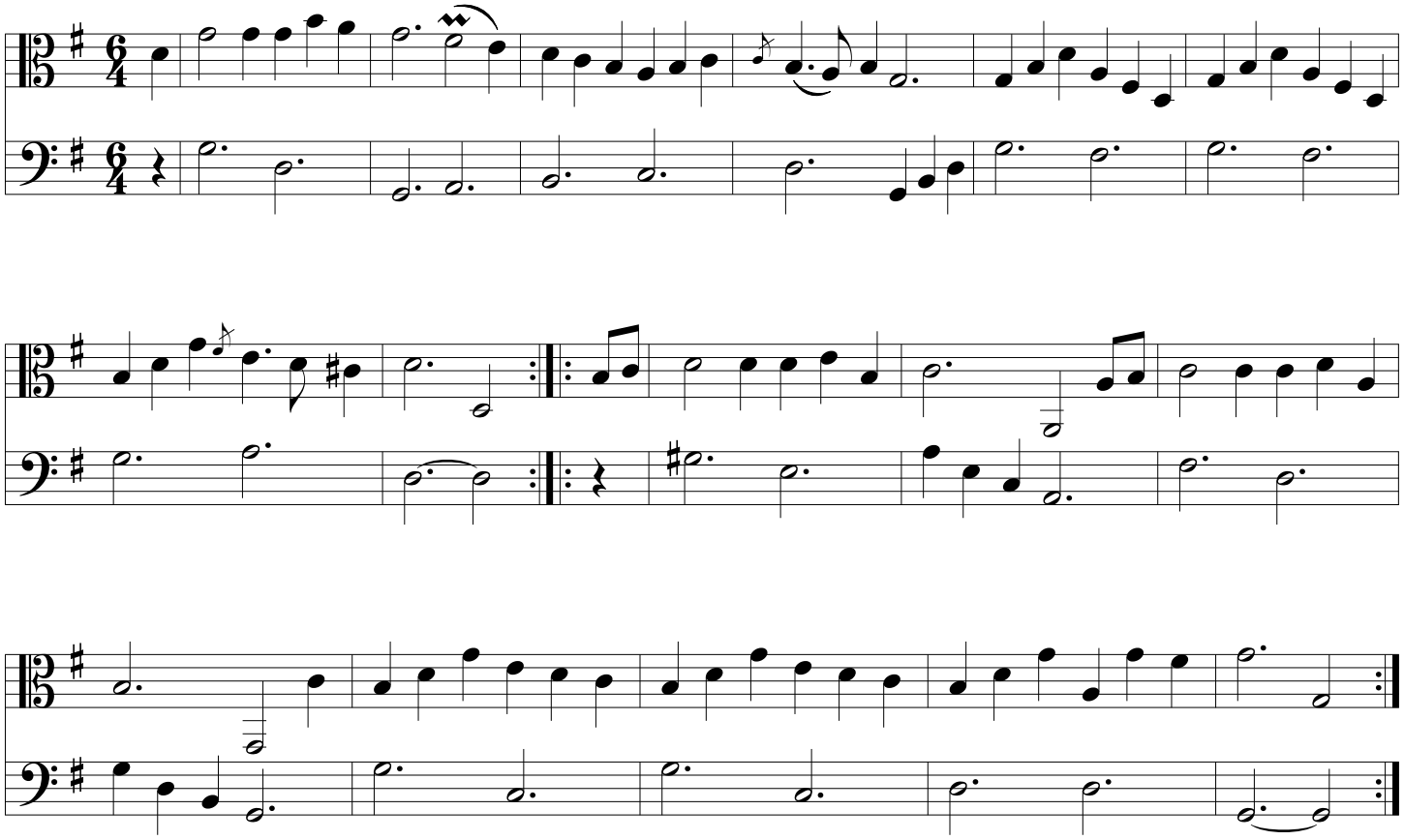
Caston Hall



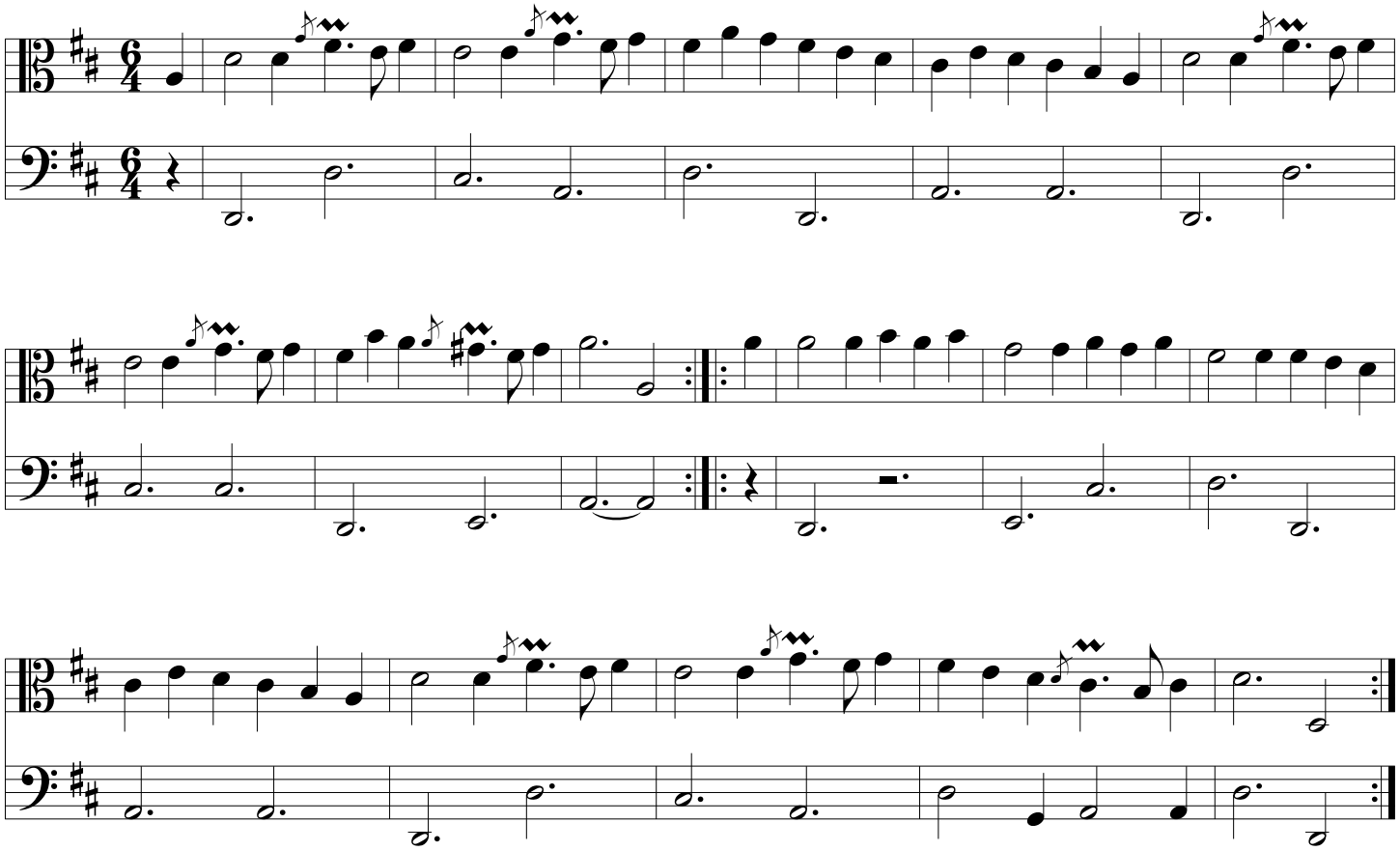
Capt. Flash



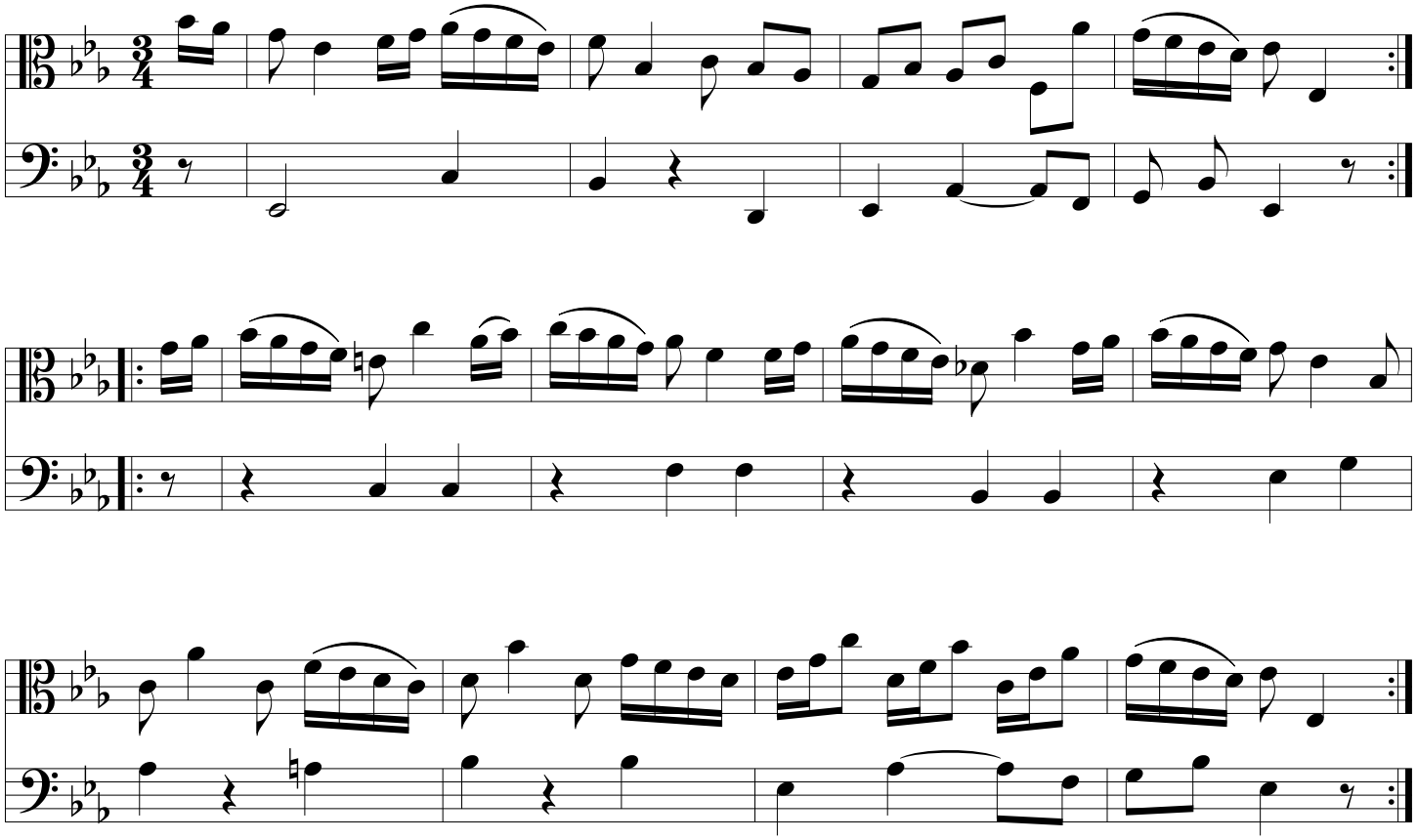
Kitty's Frolick



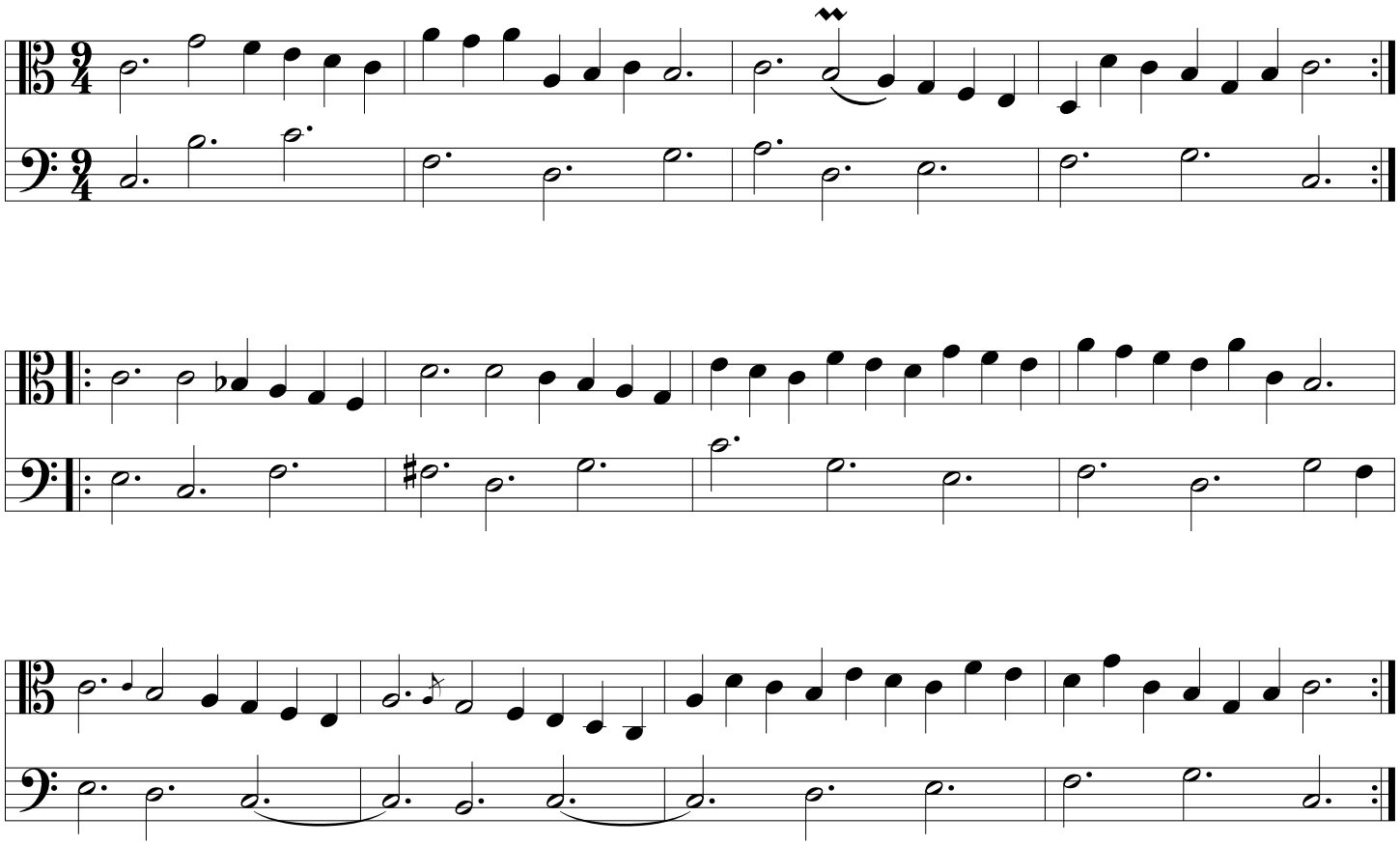
Bromely Assembly



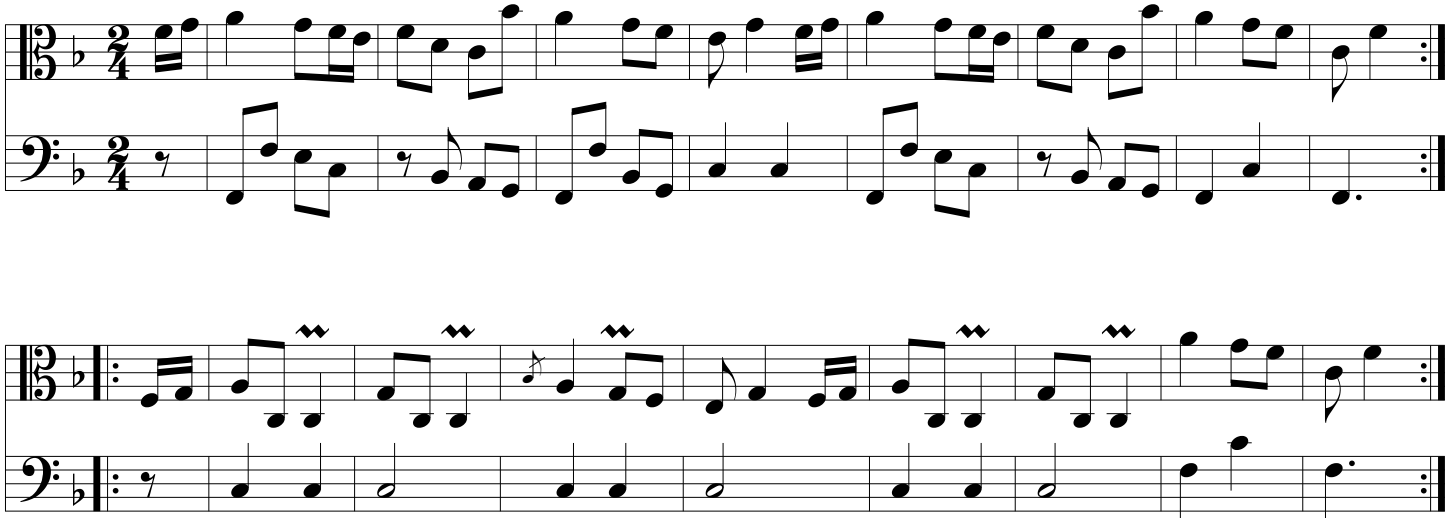
Berely Square



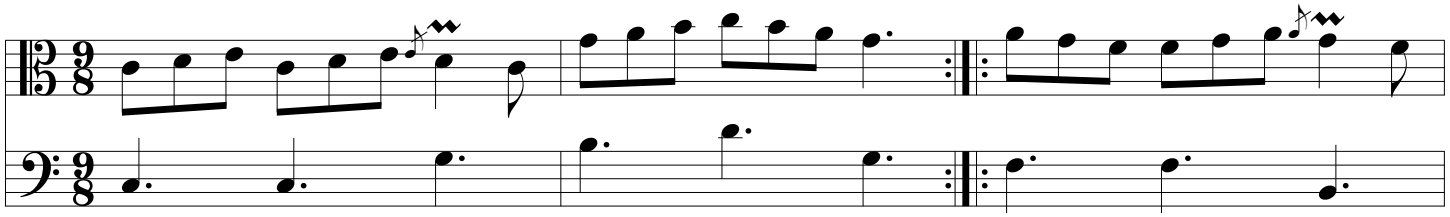
Pultney Green

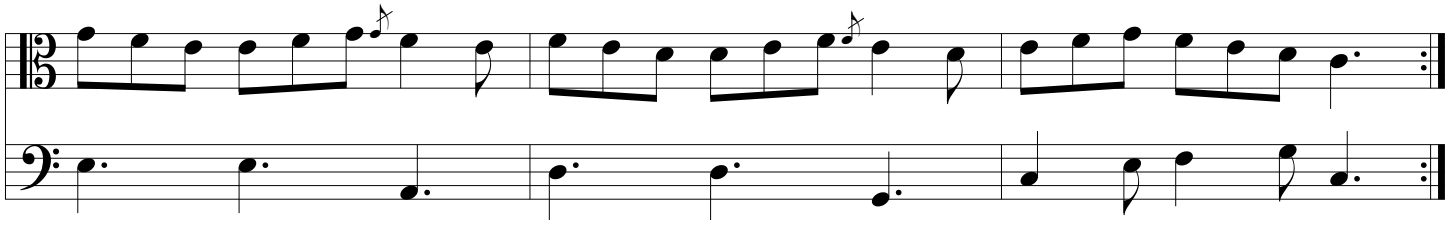


Jenny's Whim

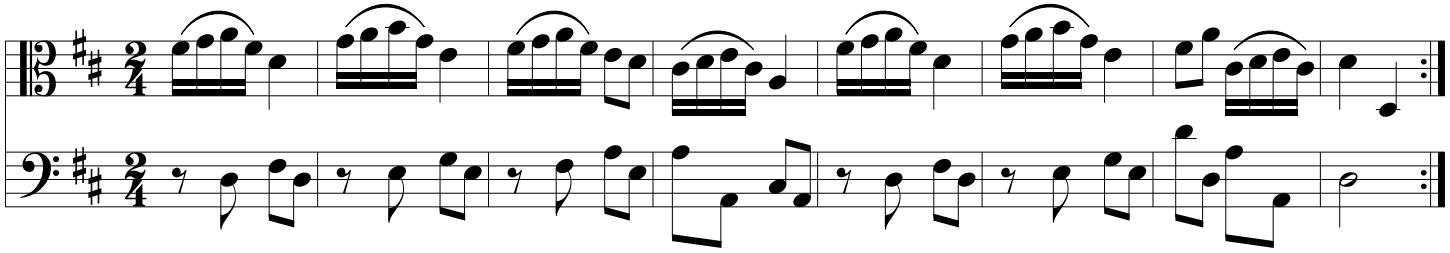


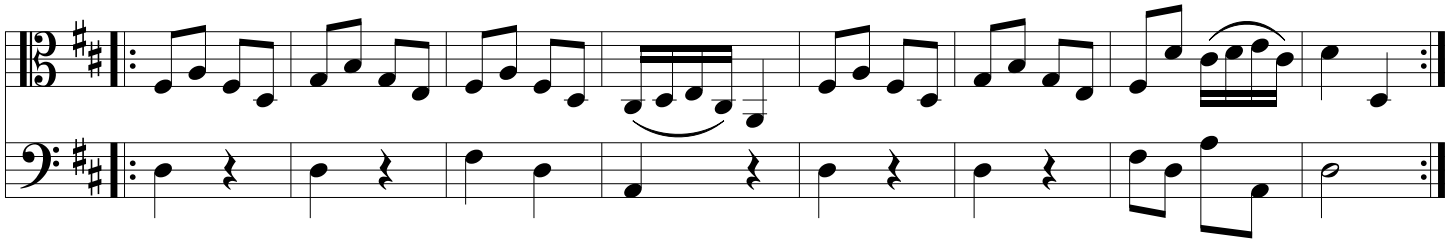
Frible

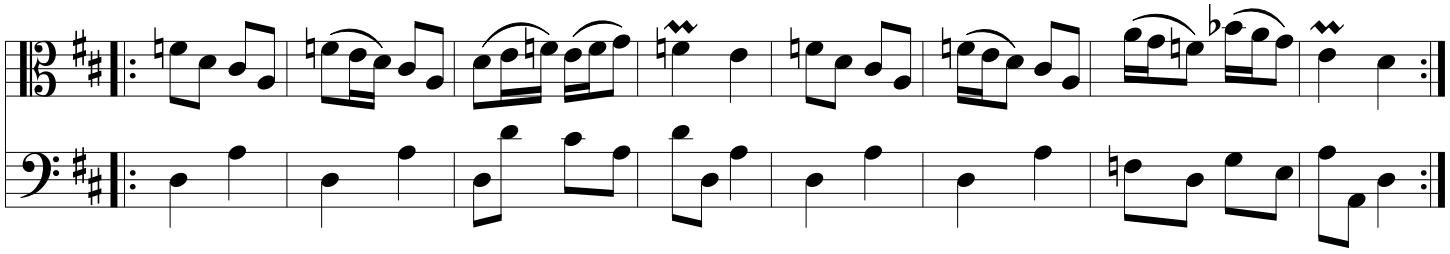


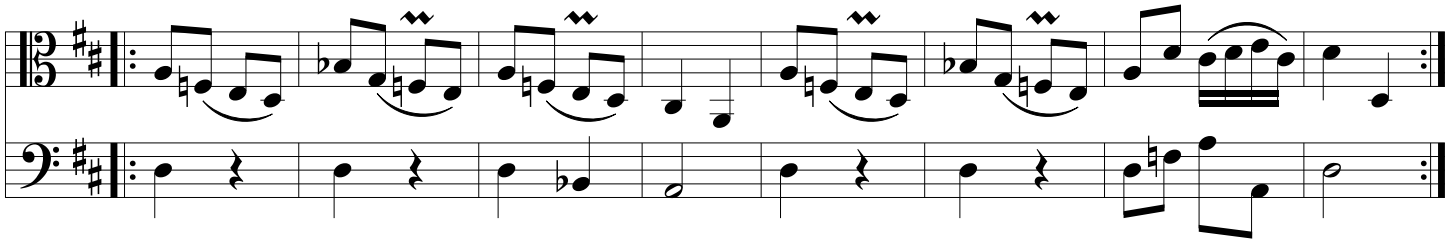


Pretty Miss's Fancy

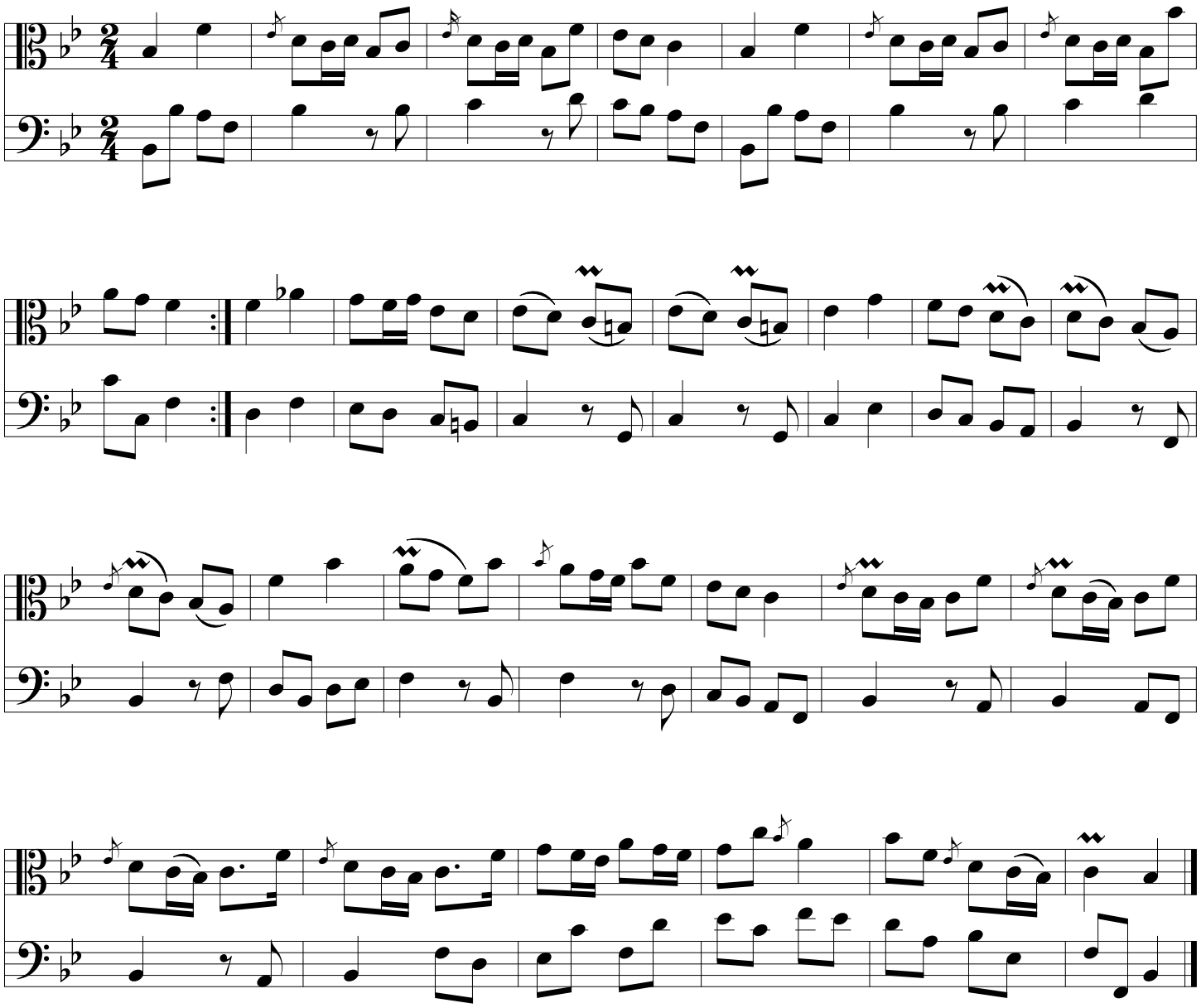








The Lovisa

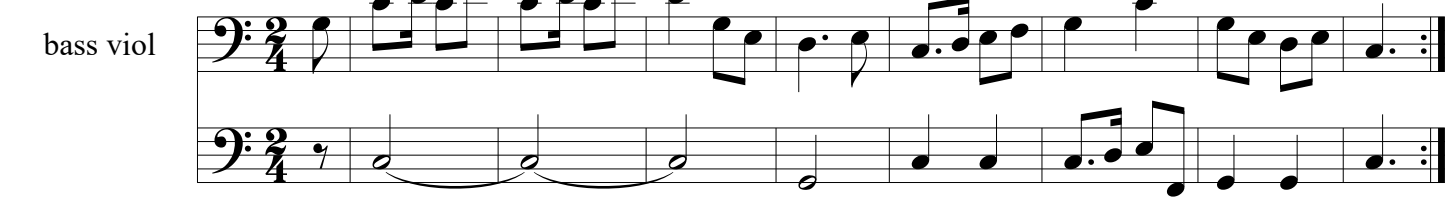


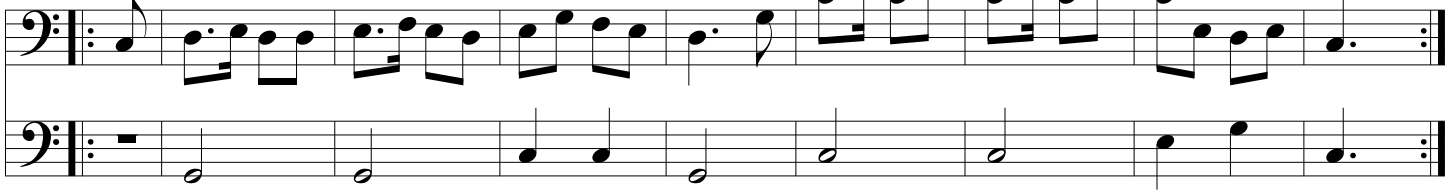
24 Country Dances for the Year 1748

T. Davis

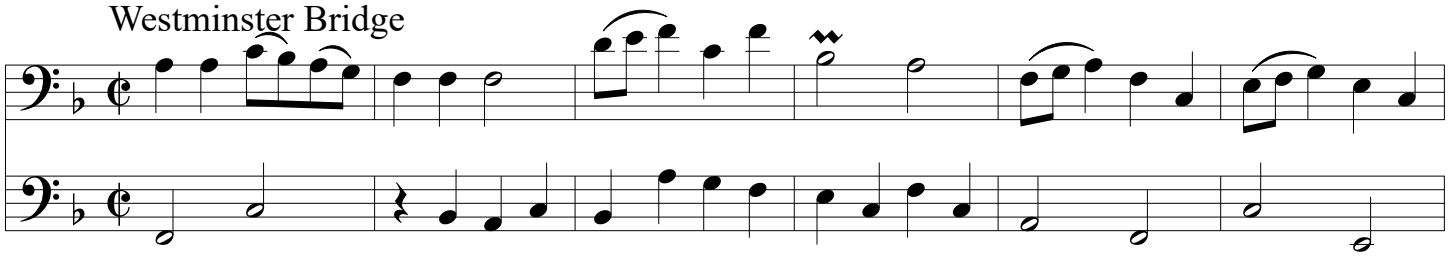
Fort Agustus

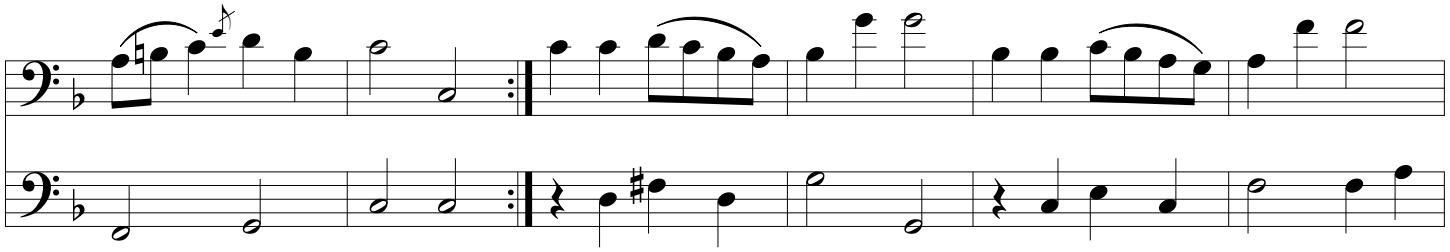
bass viol

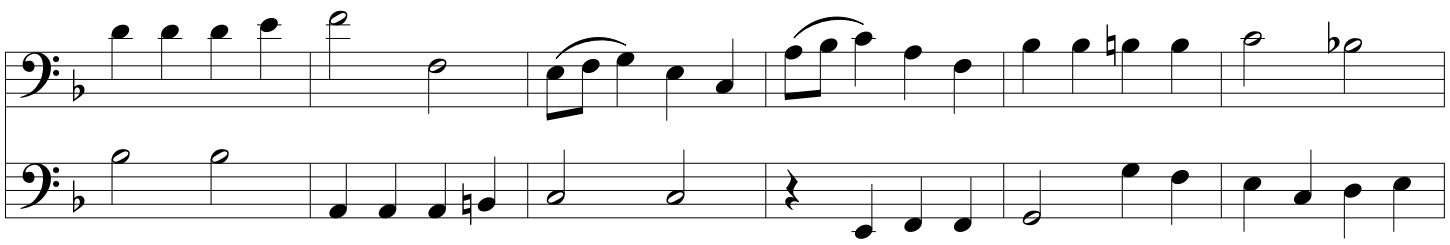


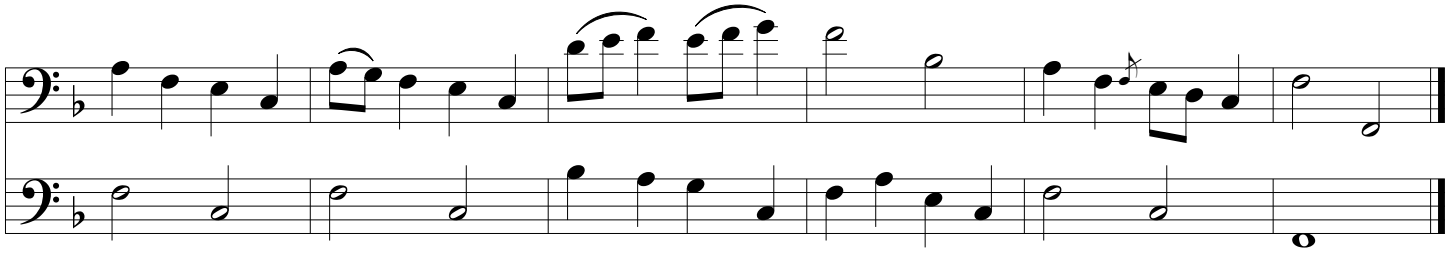


Westminster Bridge

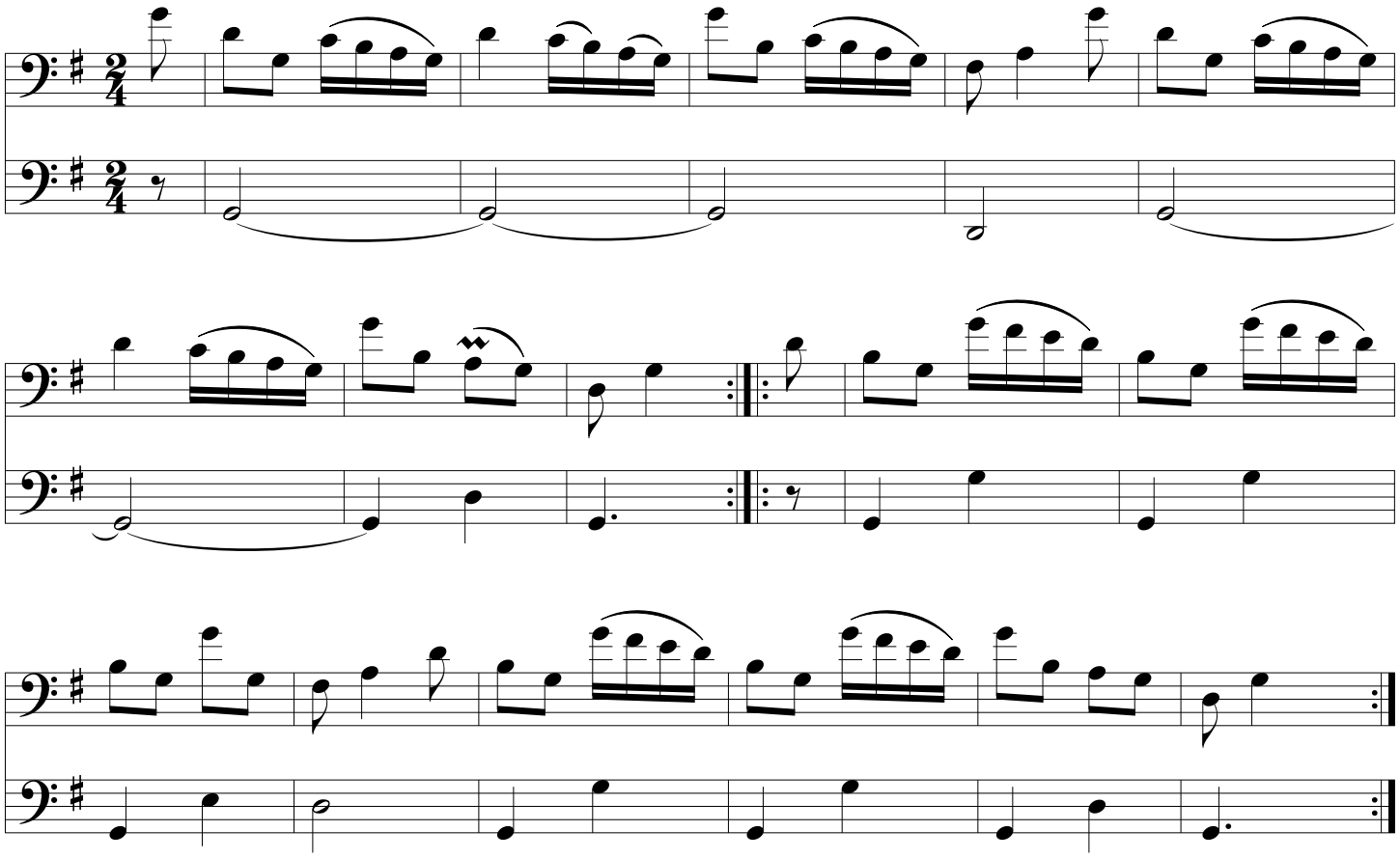




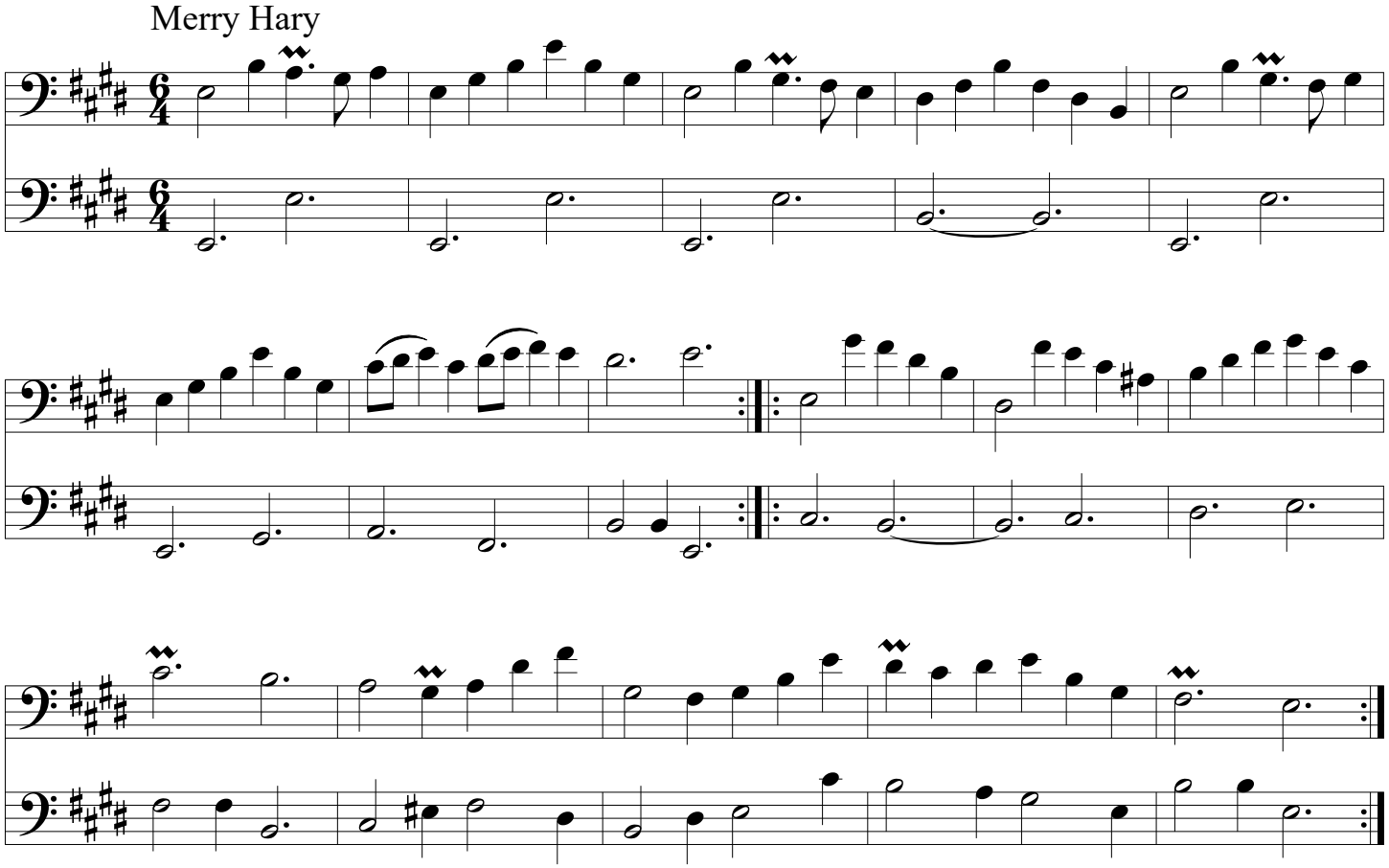




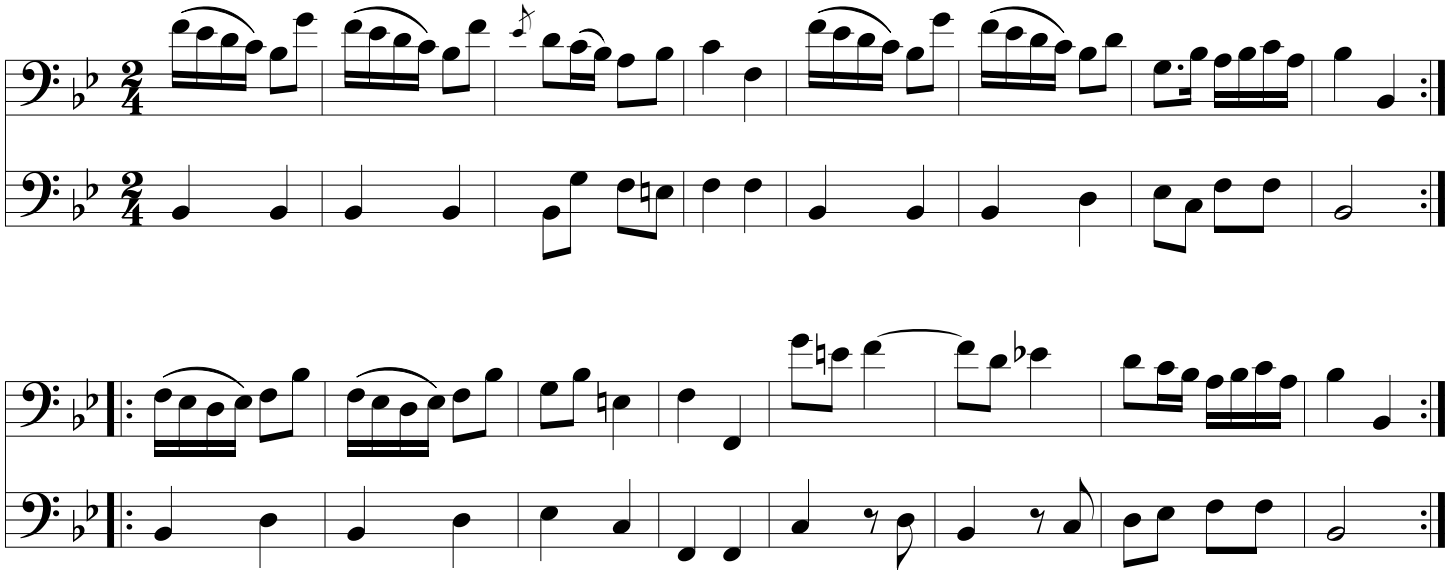
Lovet's Reel



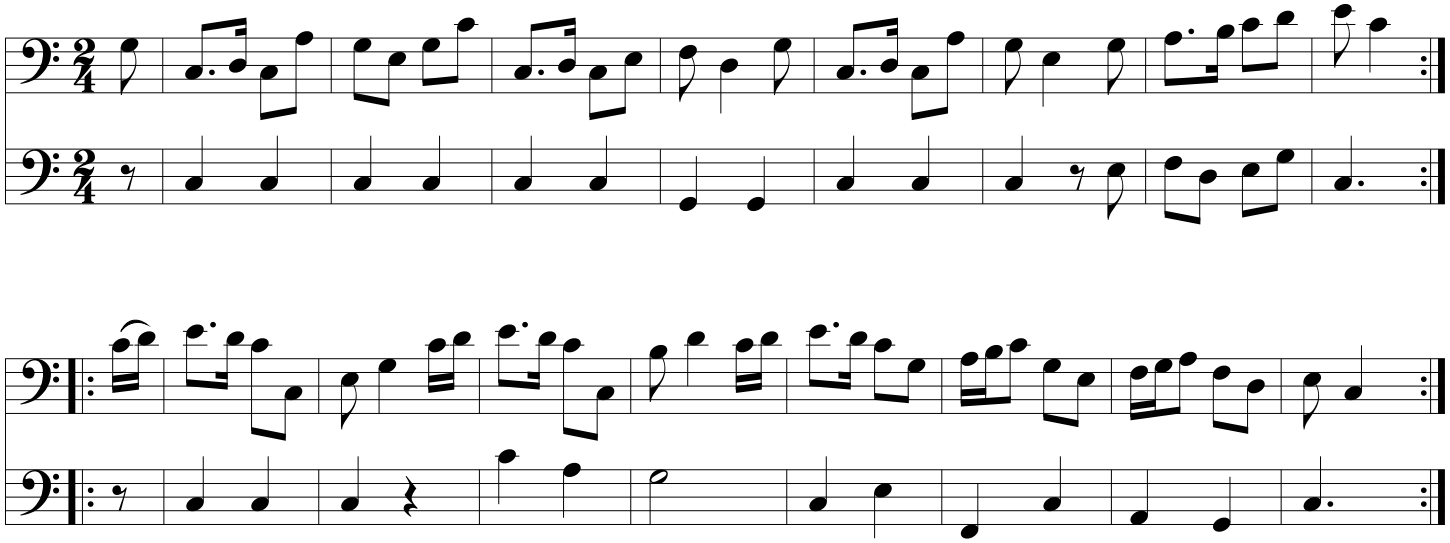
Merry Hary



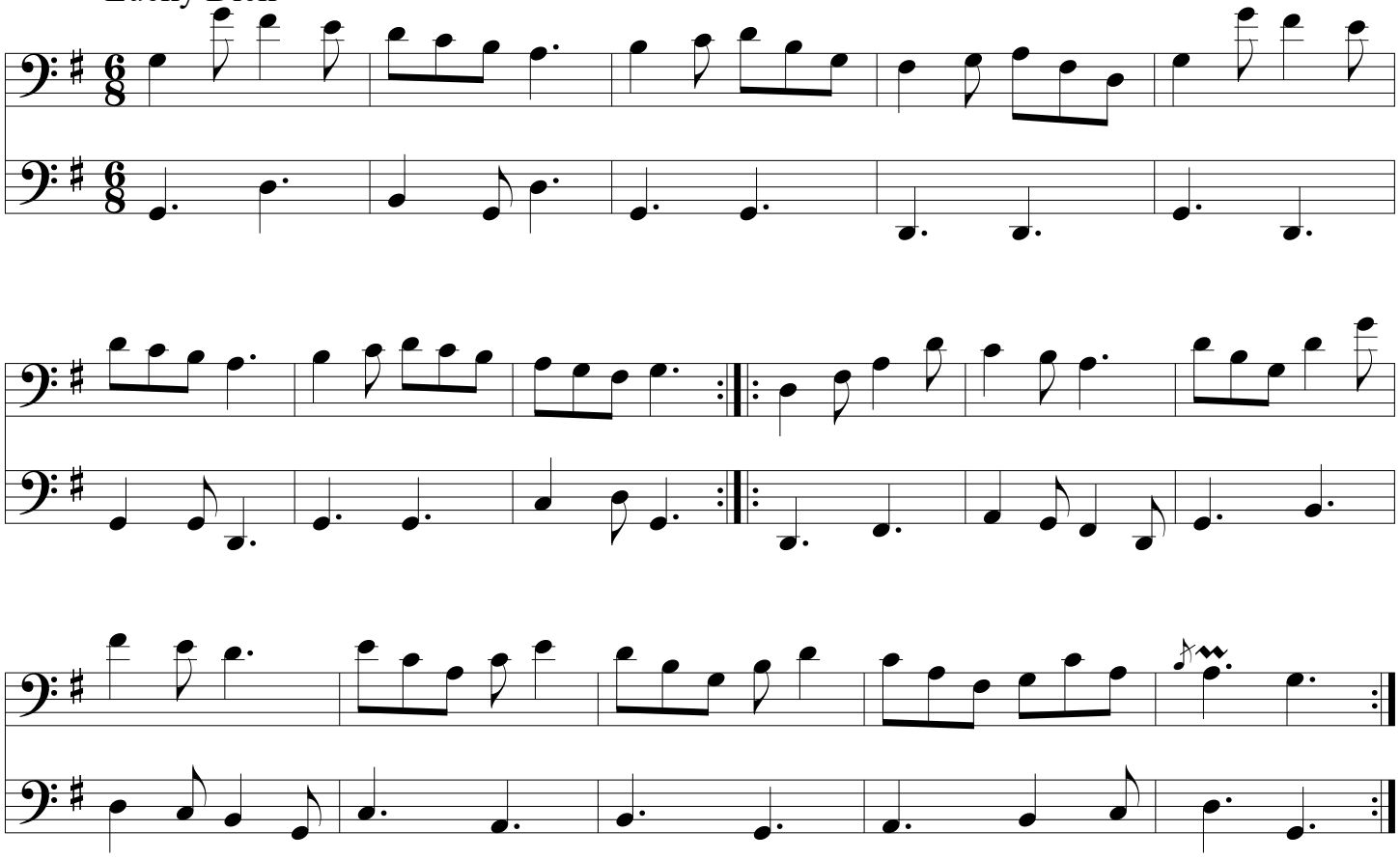
Leister House



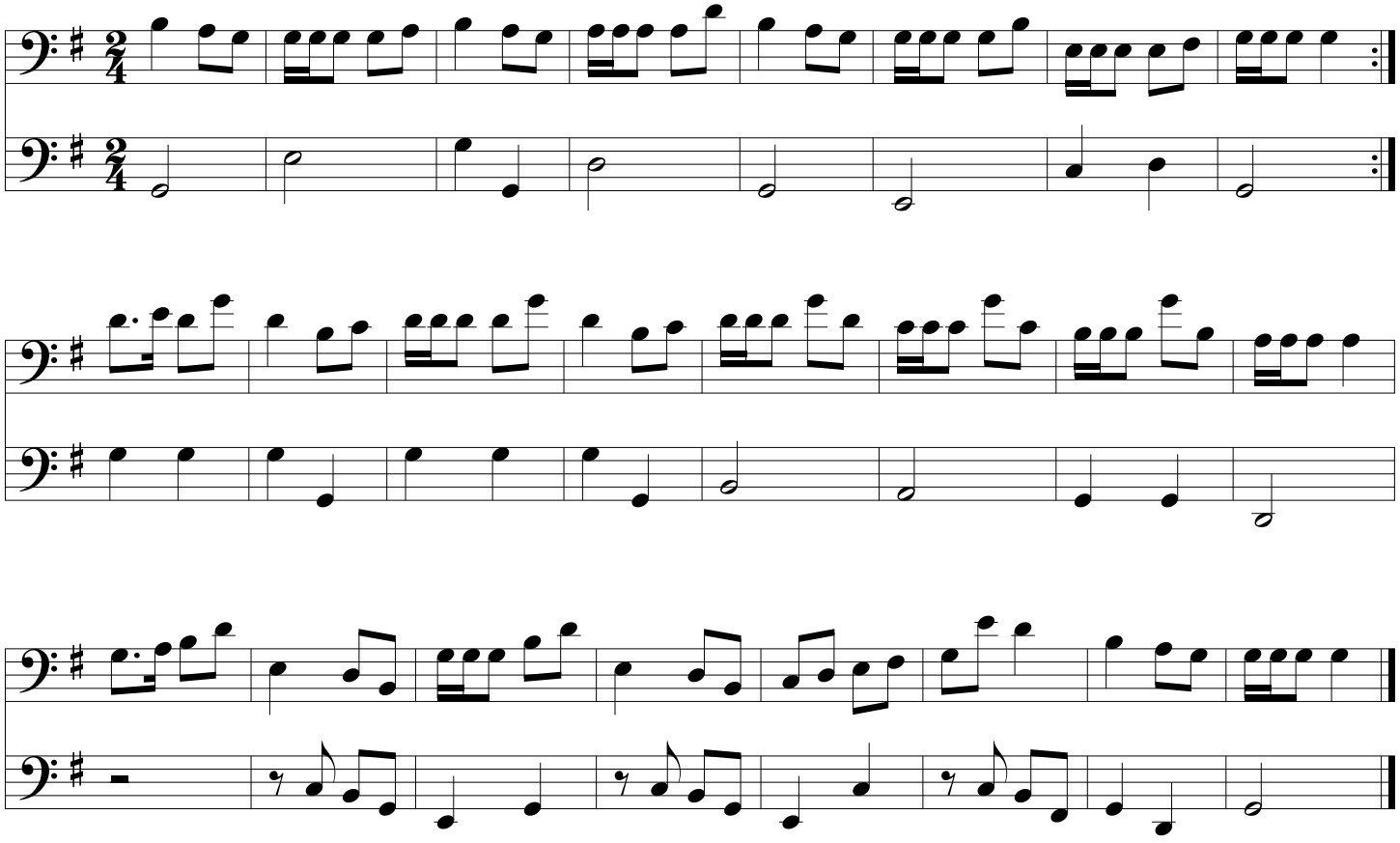
Glascon Lasses



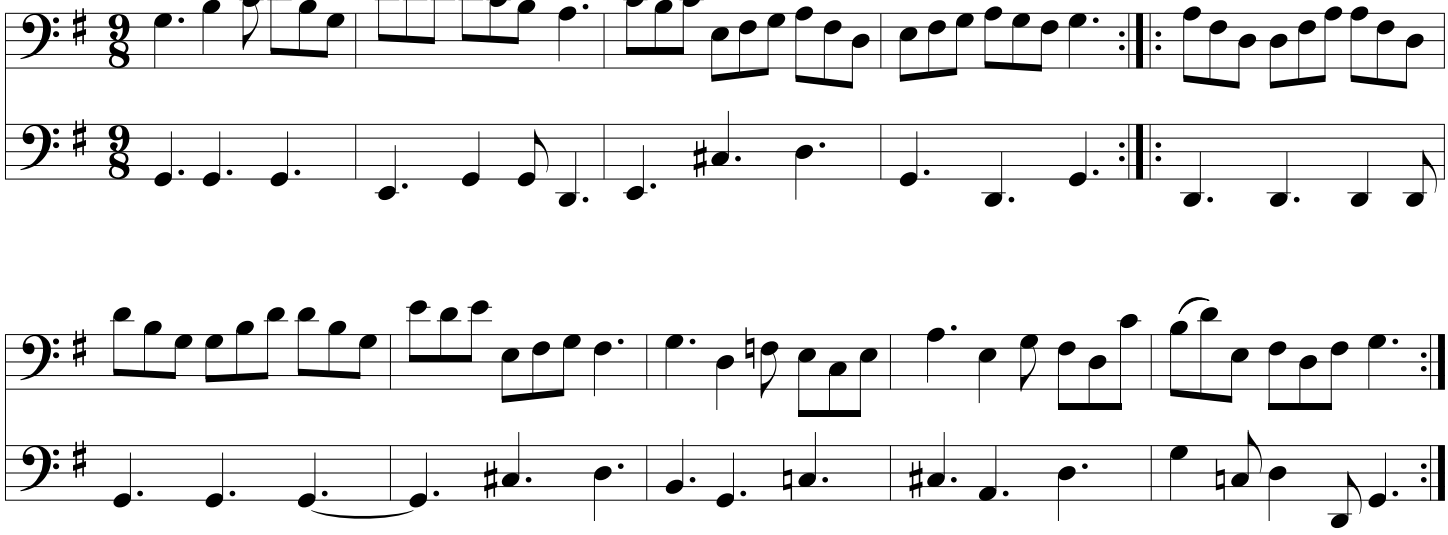
Lucky Dick



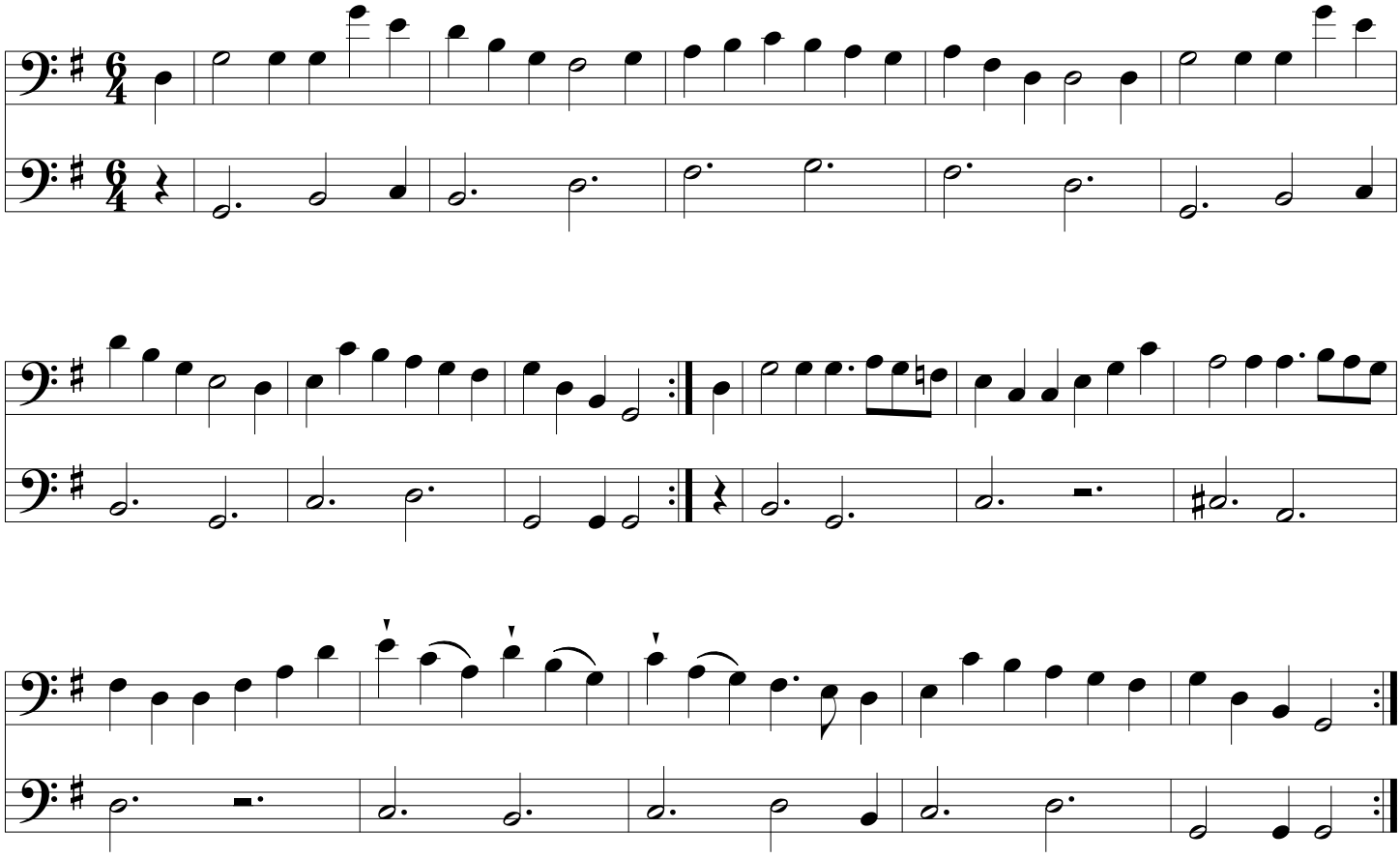
Maclod's Rant



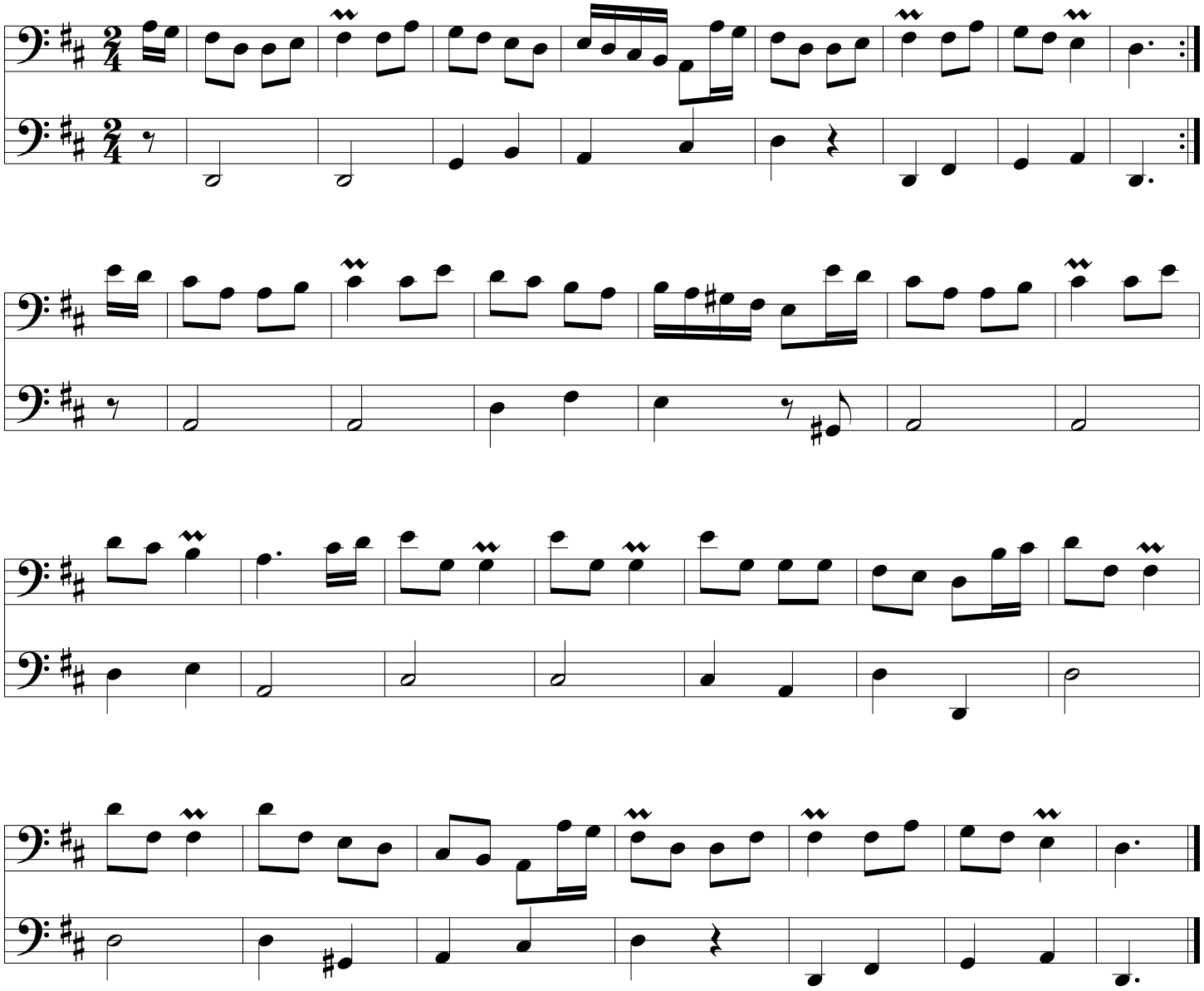
Ken Green



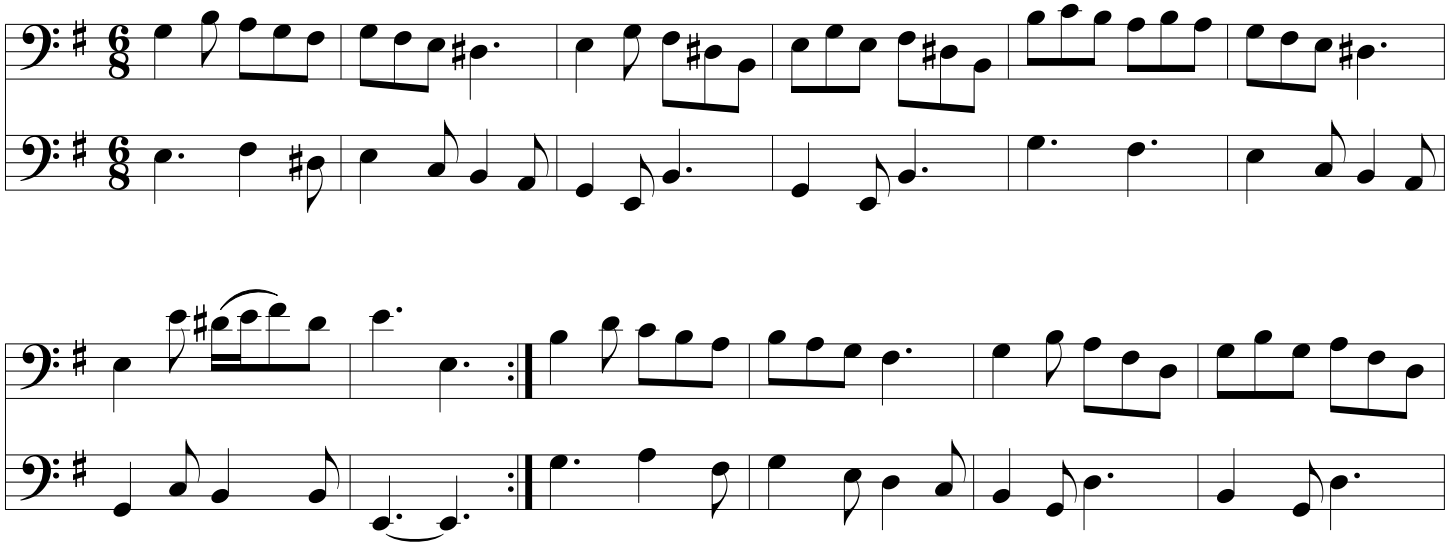
Hart Hall

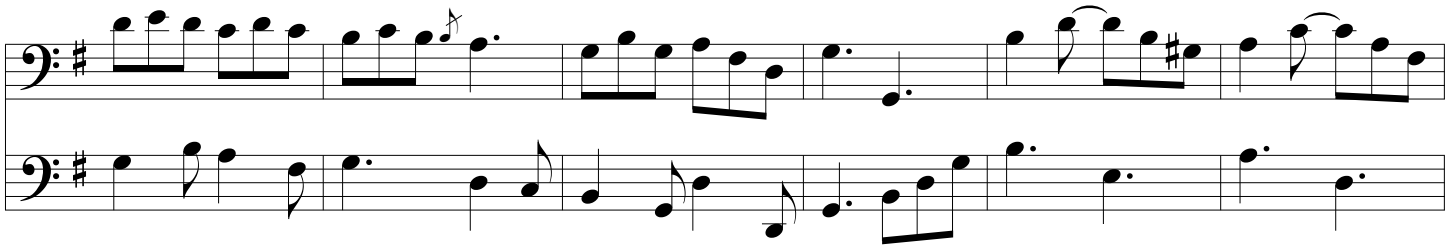


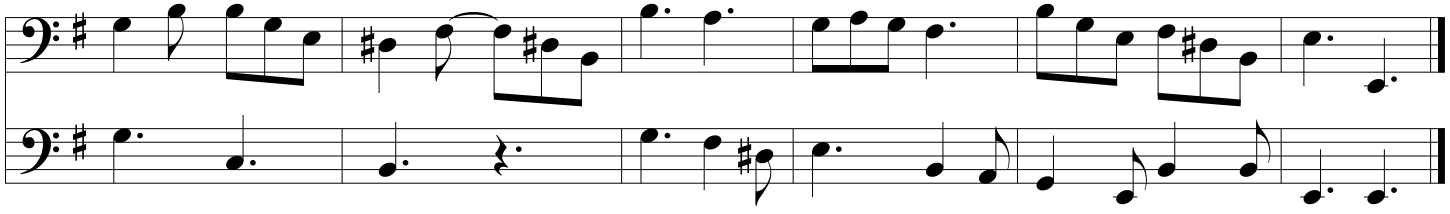
The Green Room



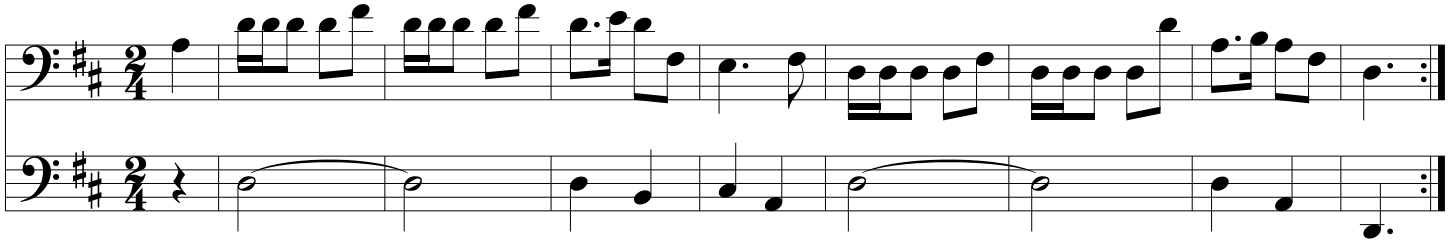
Jemmy Jigger

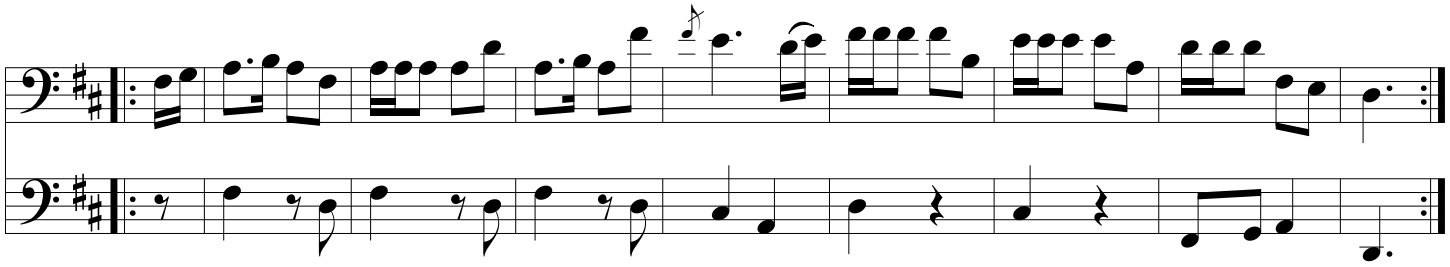




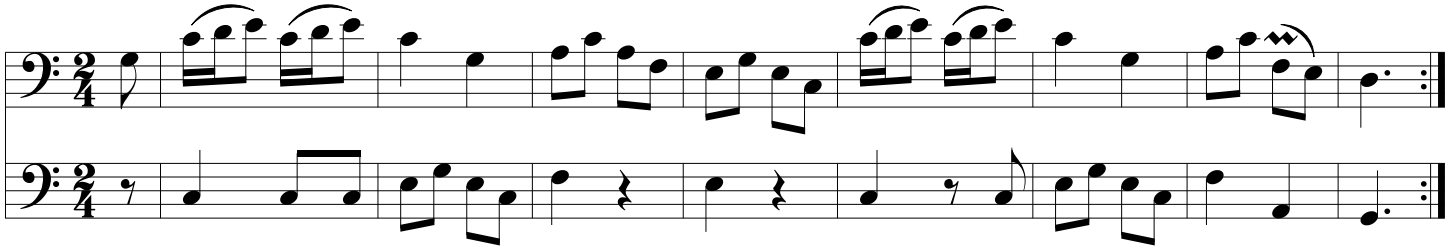


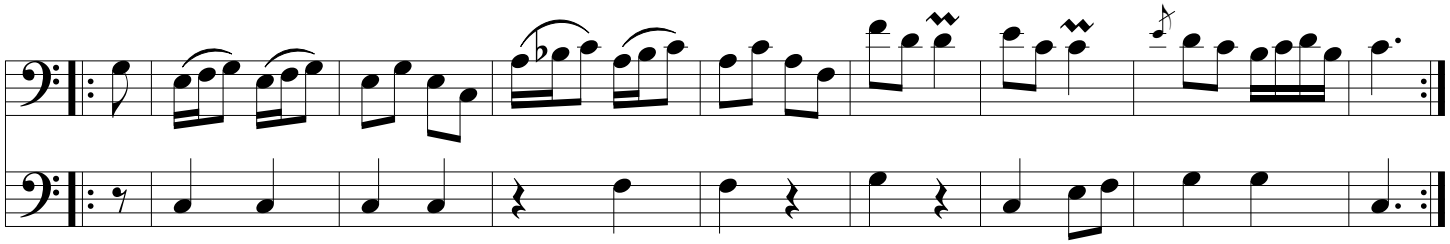
Johnny Grot's House



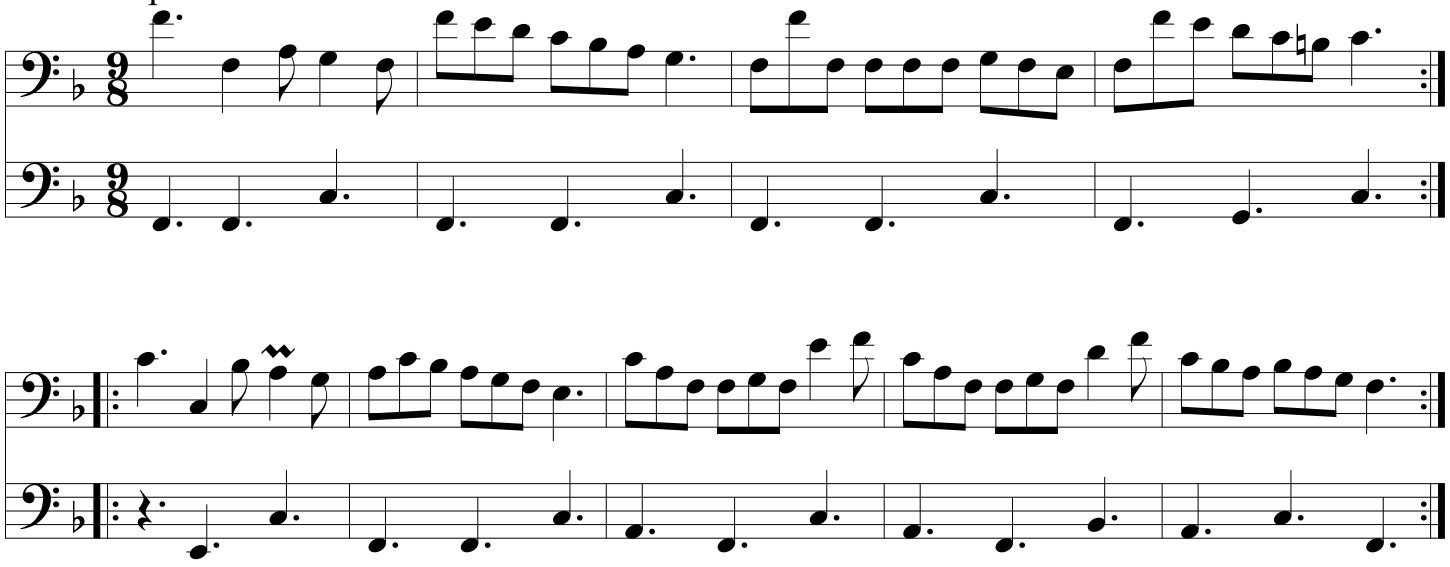


Caston Hall

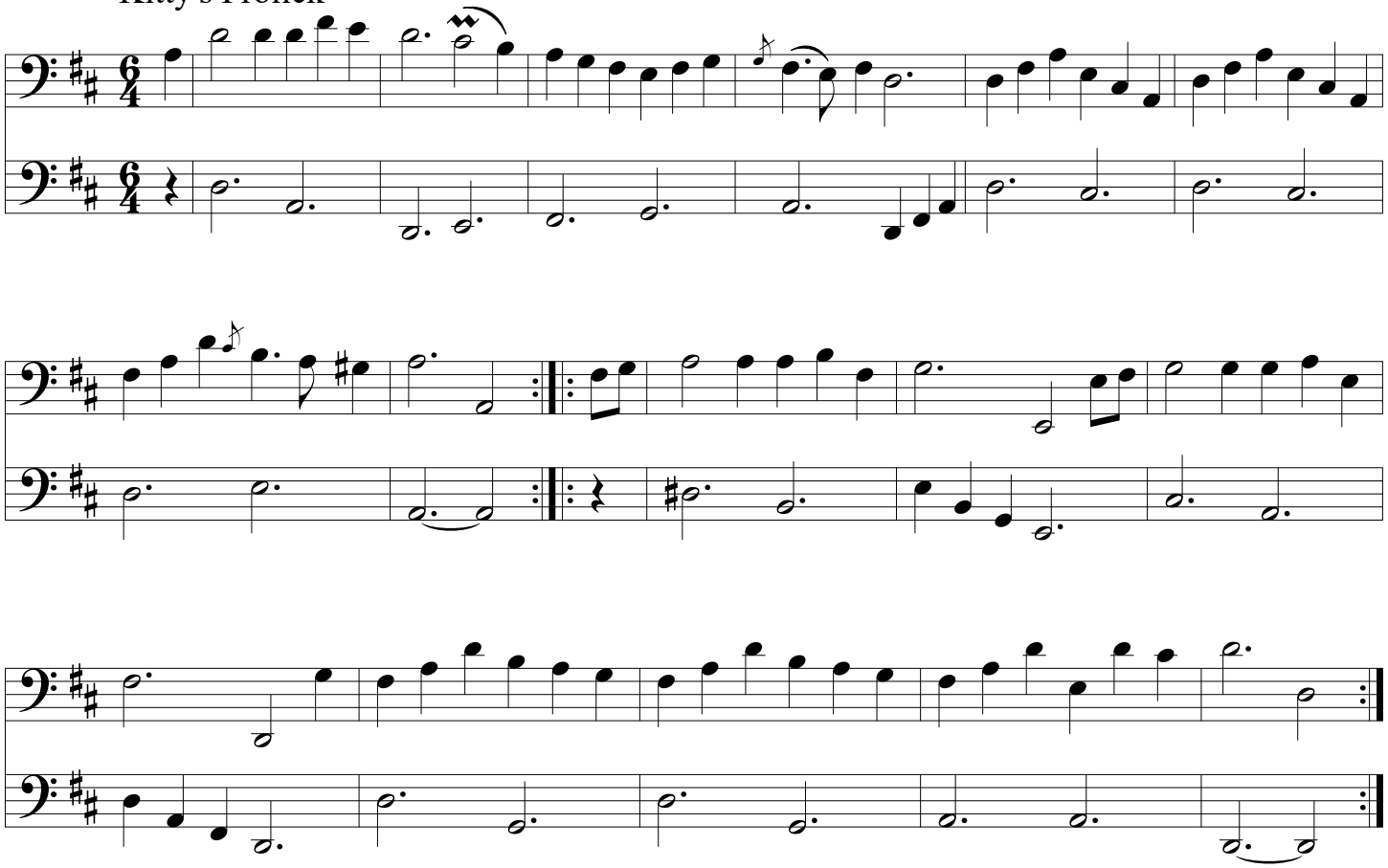




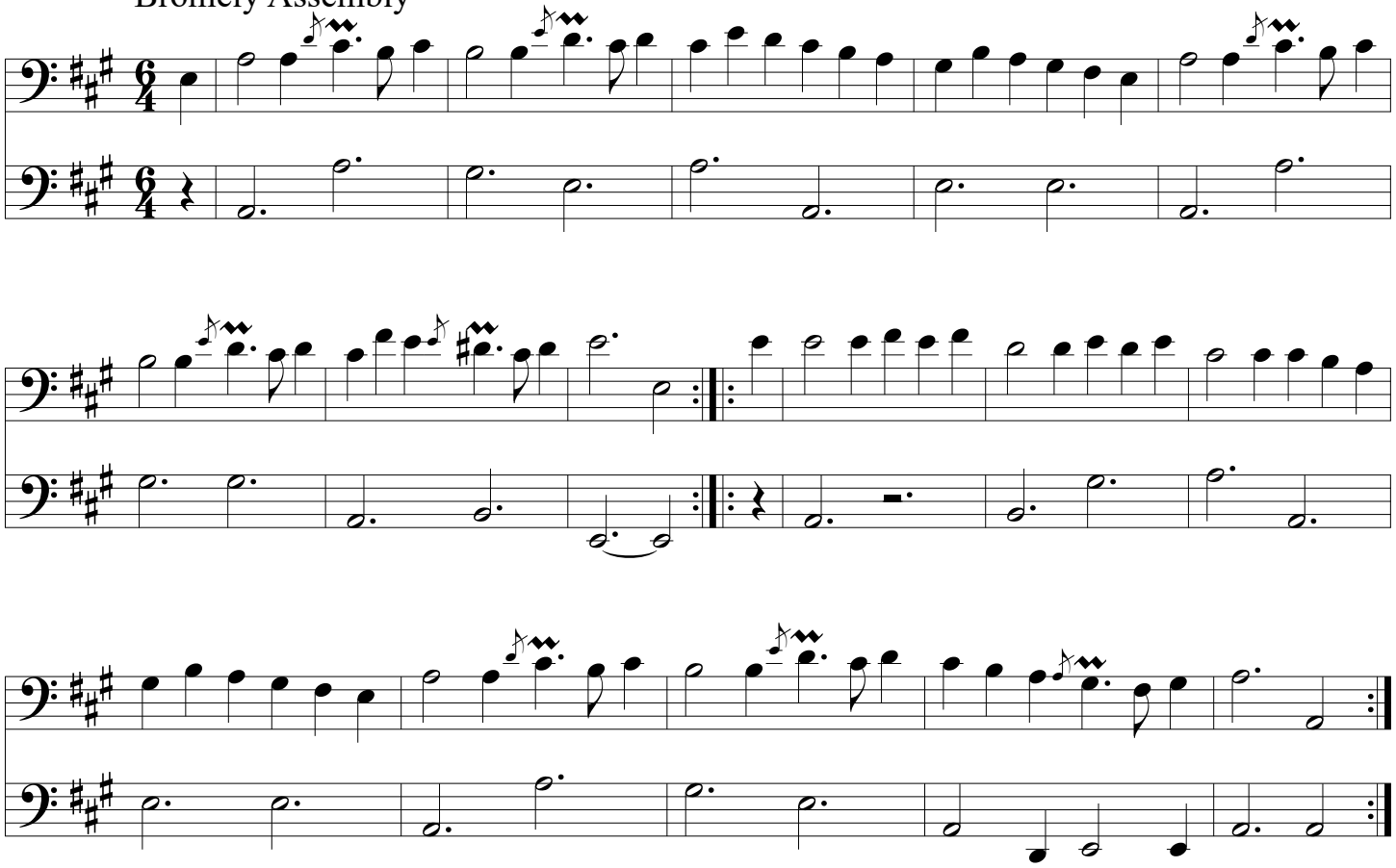
Capt. Flash



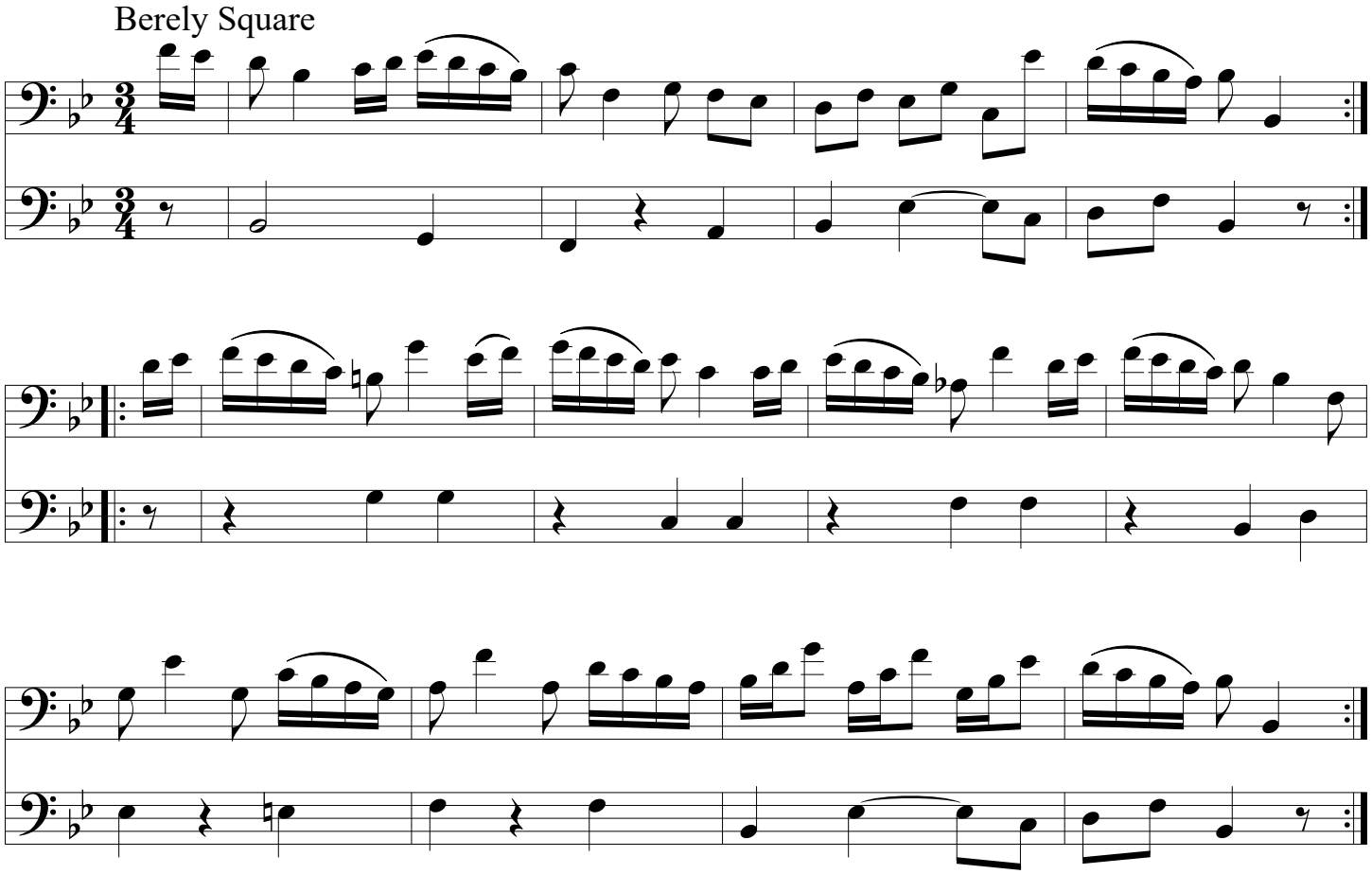
Kitty's Frolick



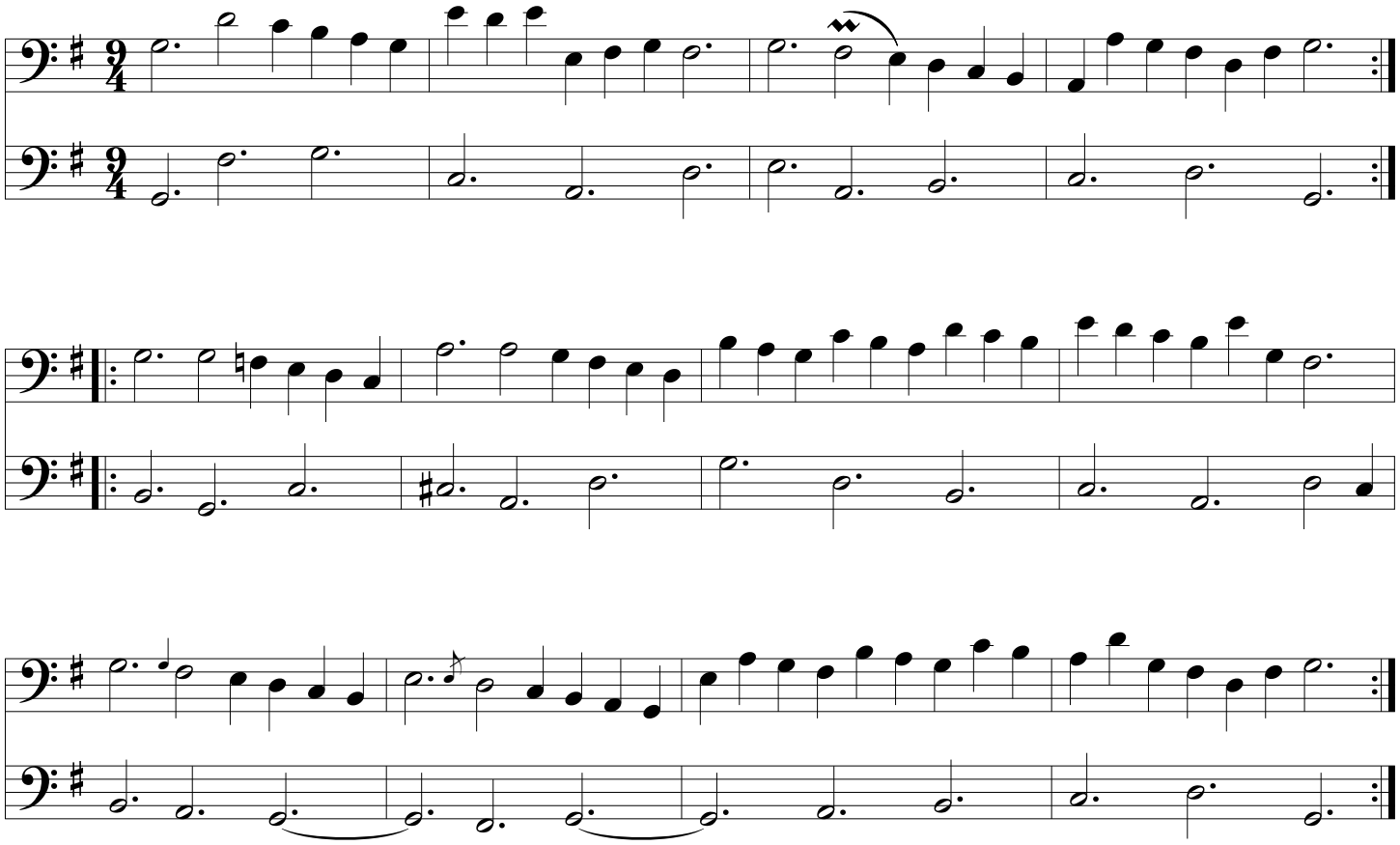
Bromely Assembly



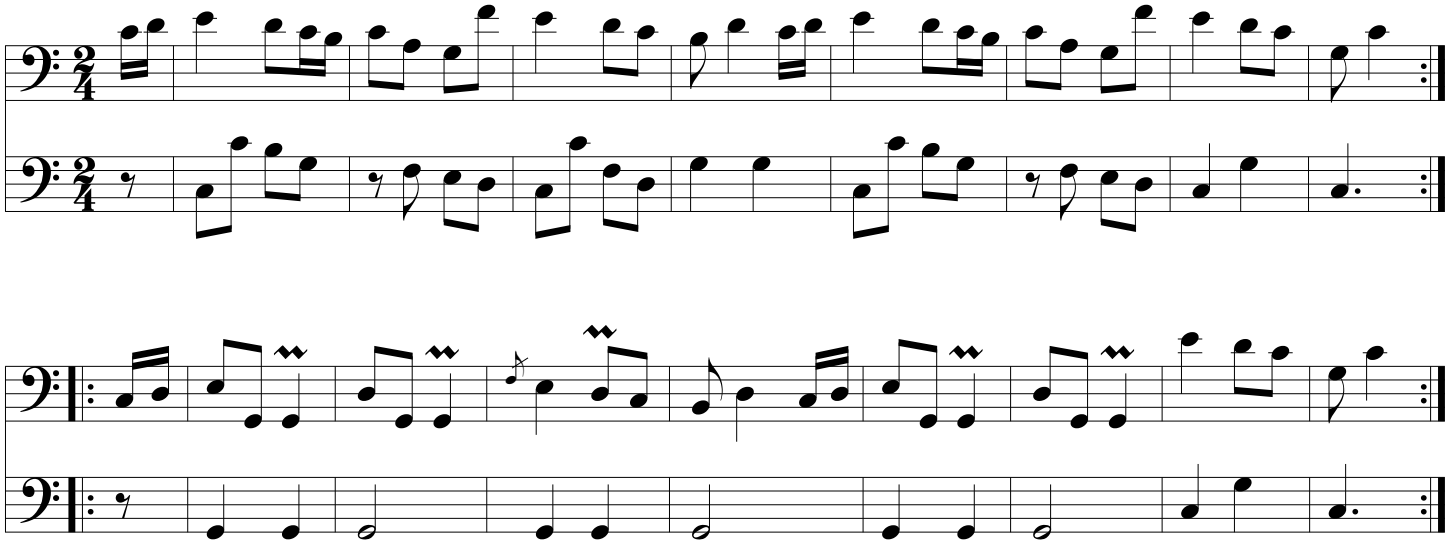
Berely Square



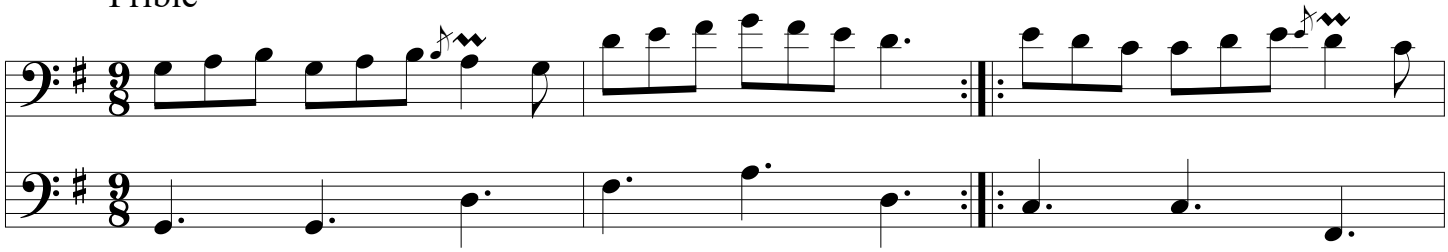
Pultney Green

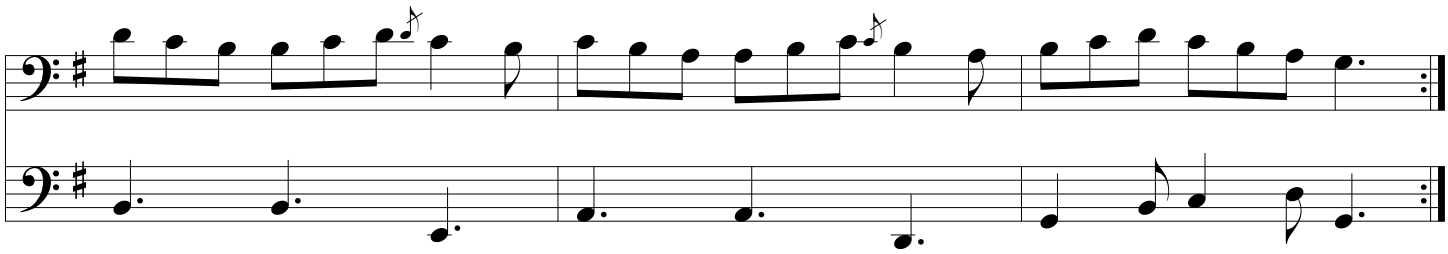


Jenny's Whim

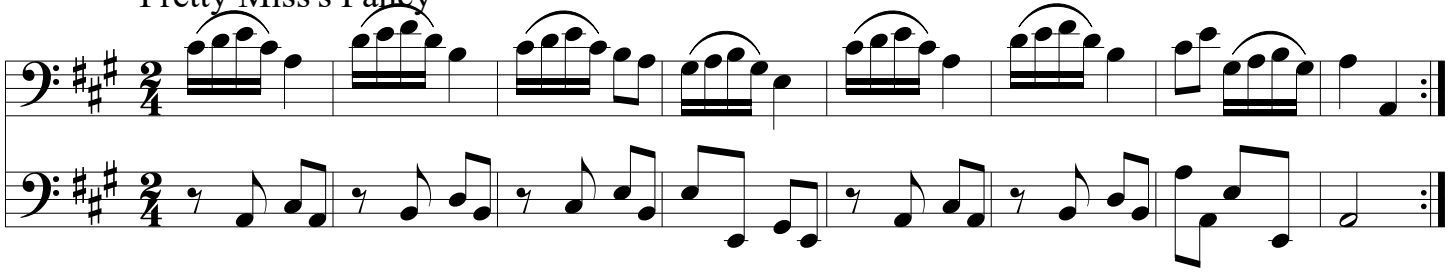


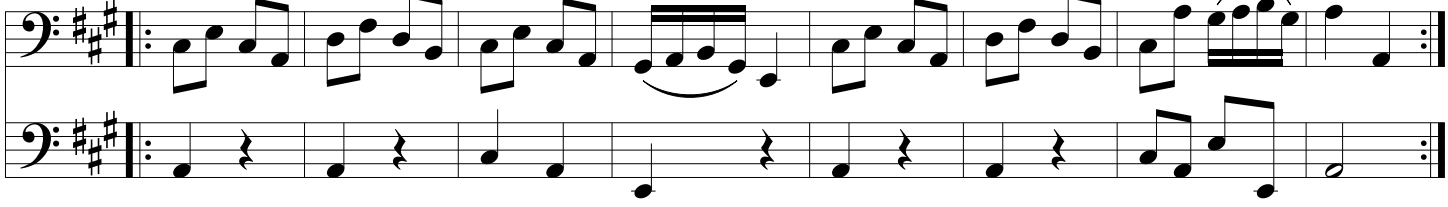
Frible

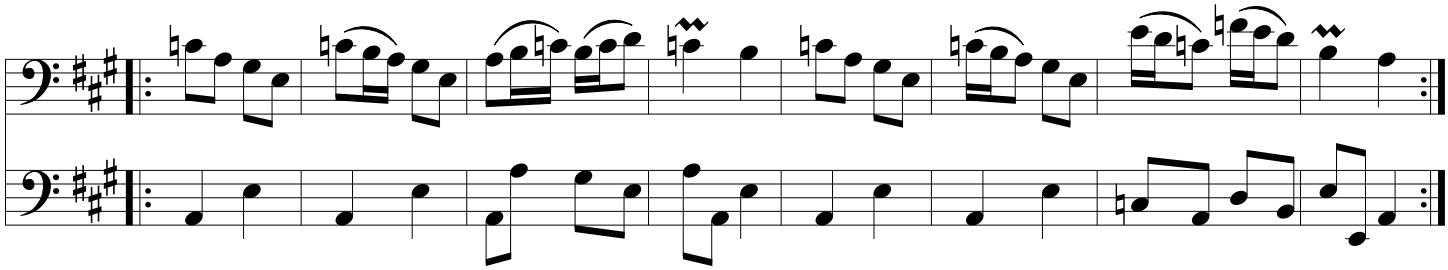


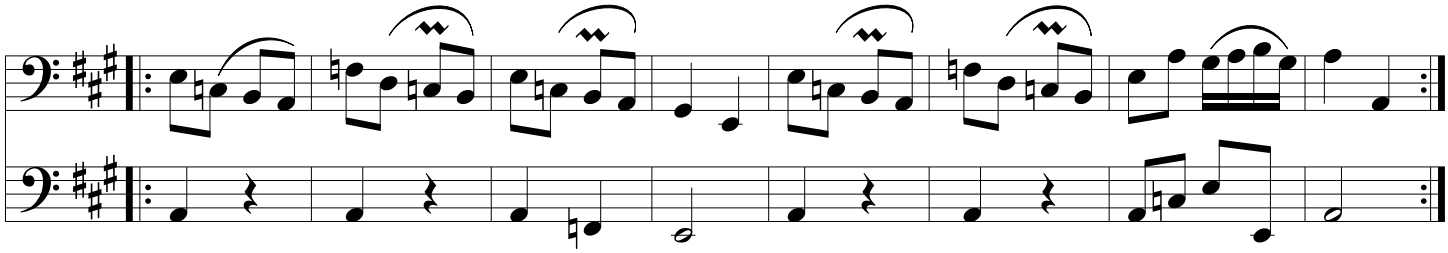
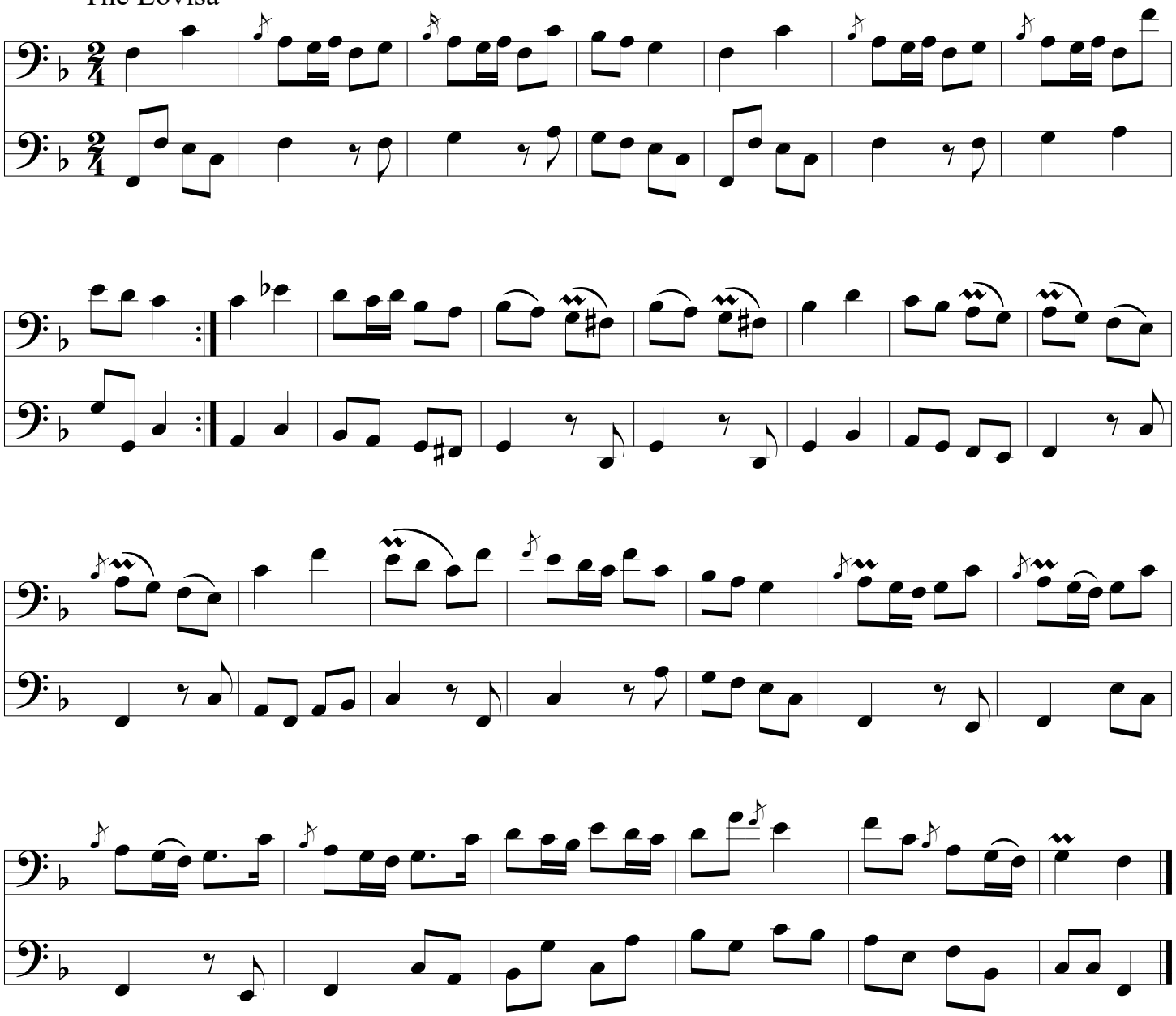


Pretty Miss's Fancy









The Lovisa