John Dowland
(1563-1626)

Come, Heavy Sleep

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 has been arranged from his original for four voices and lute and from the lute solo.

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

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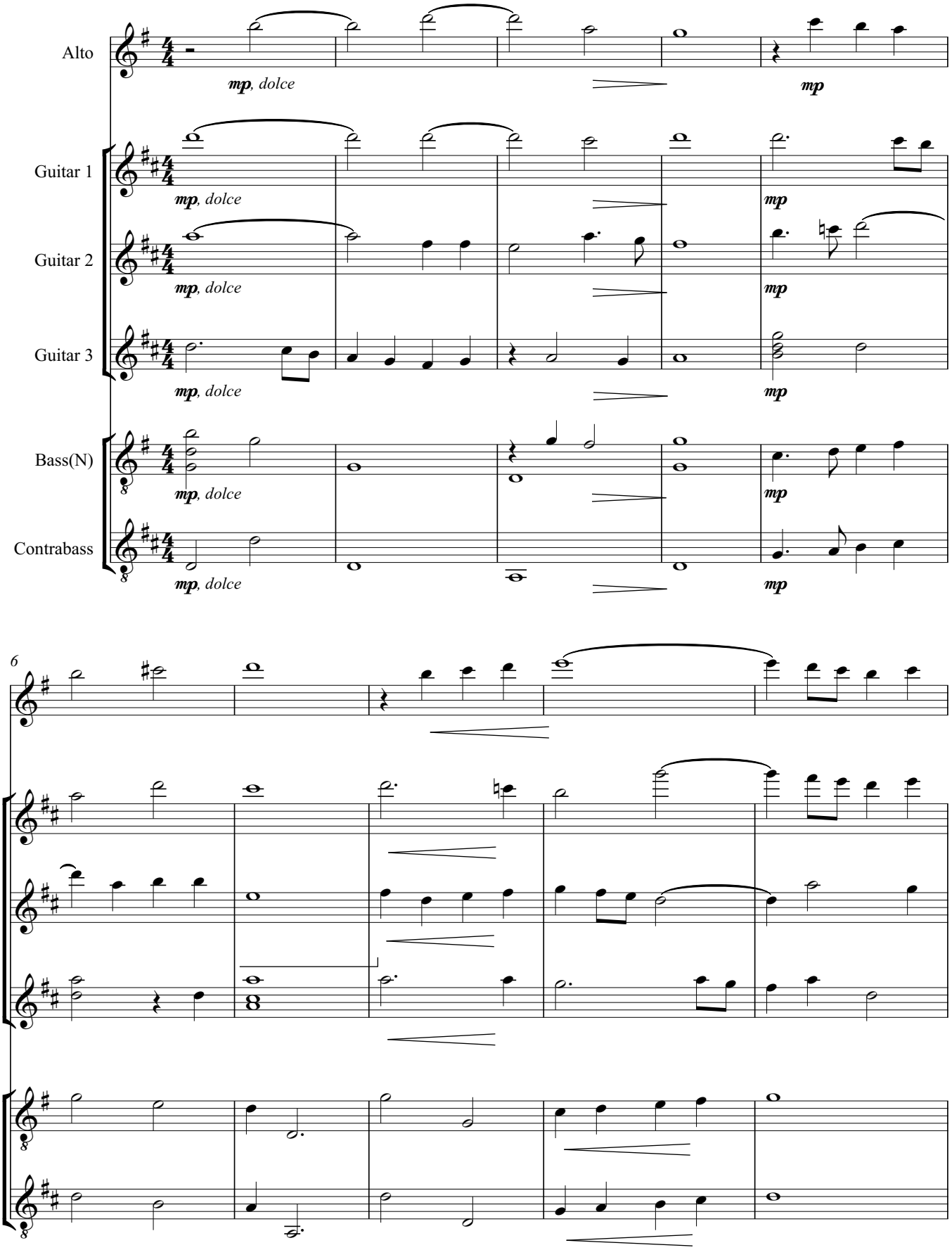

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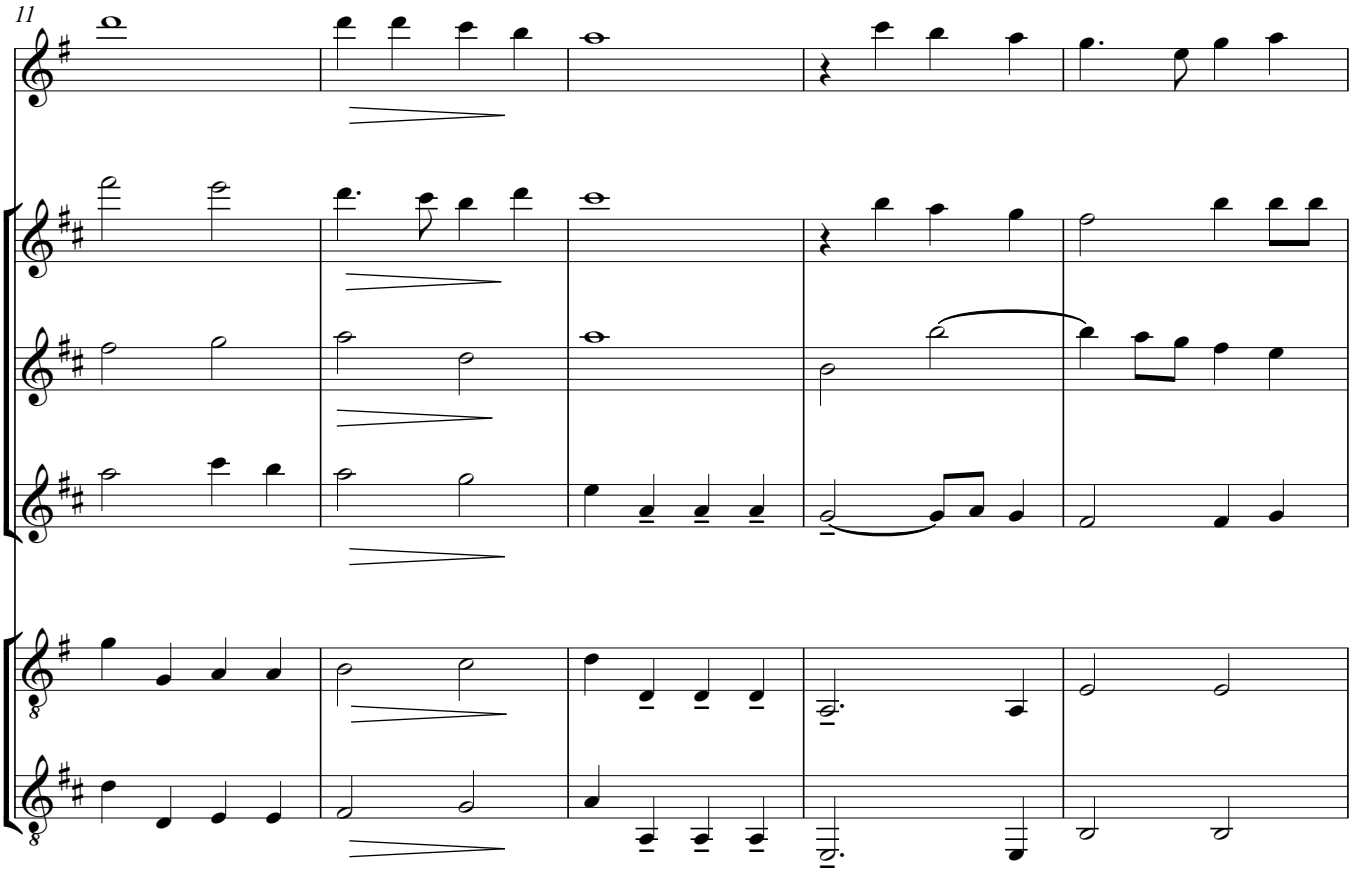
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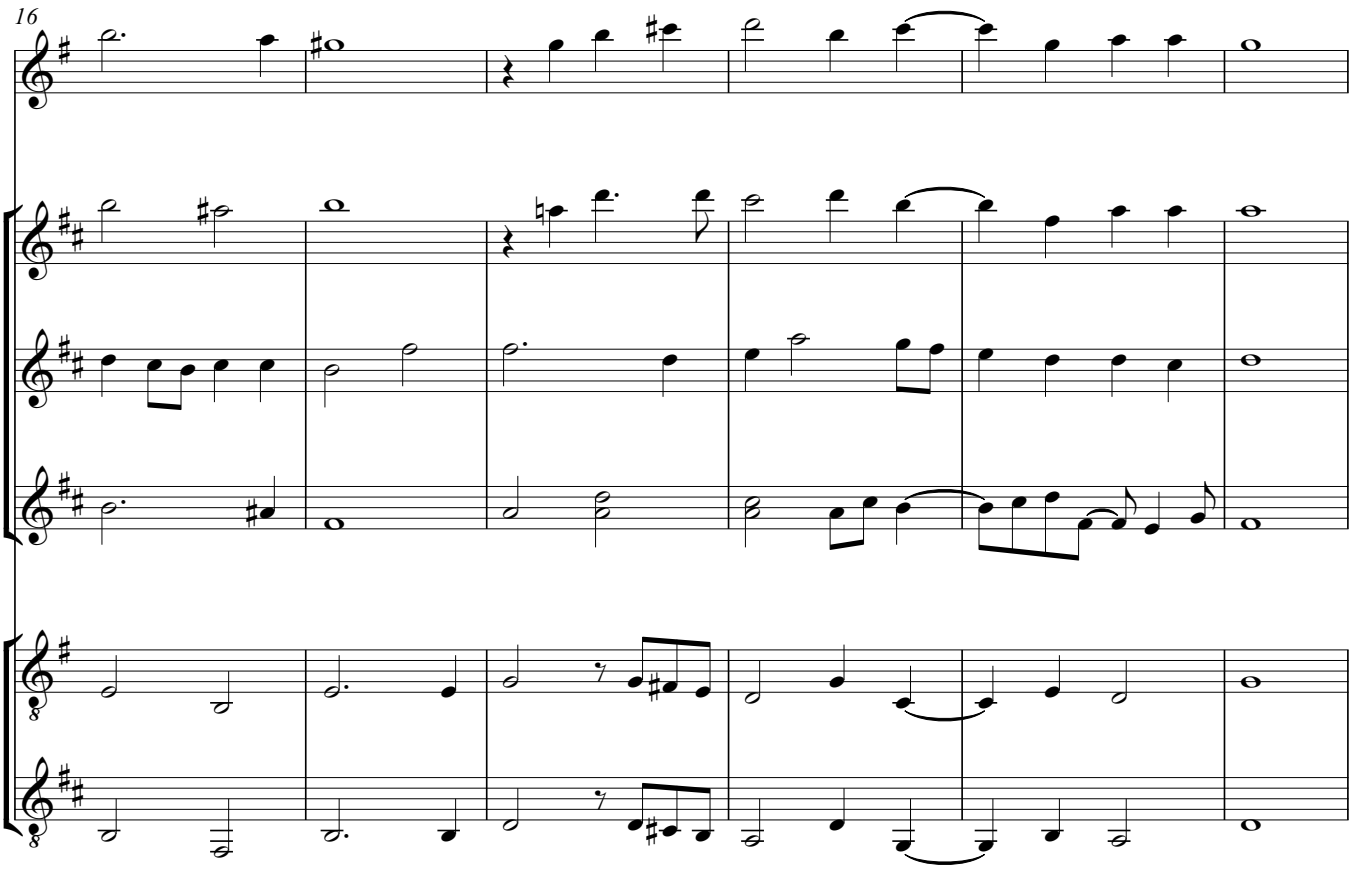
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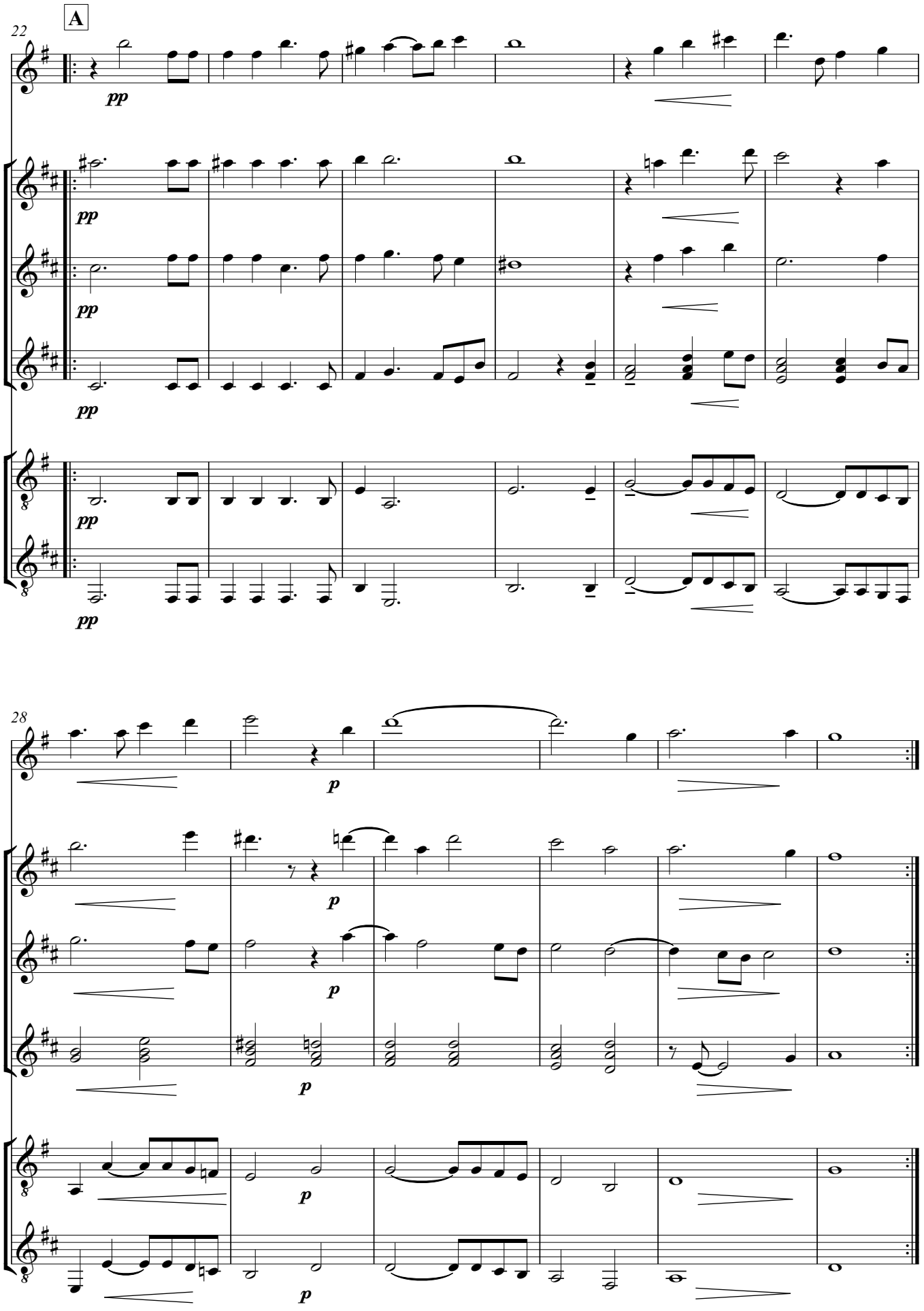
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Alto

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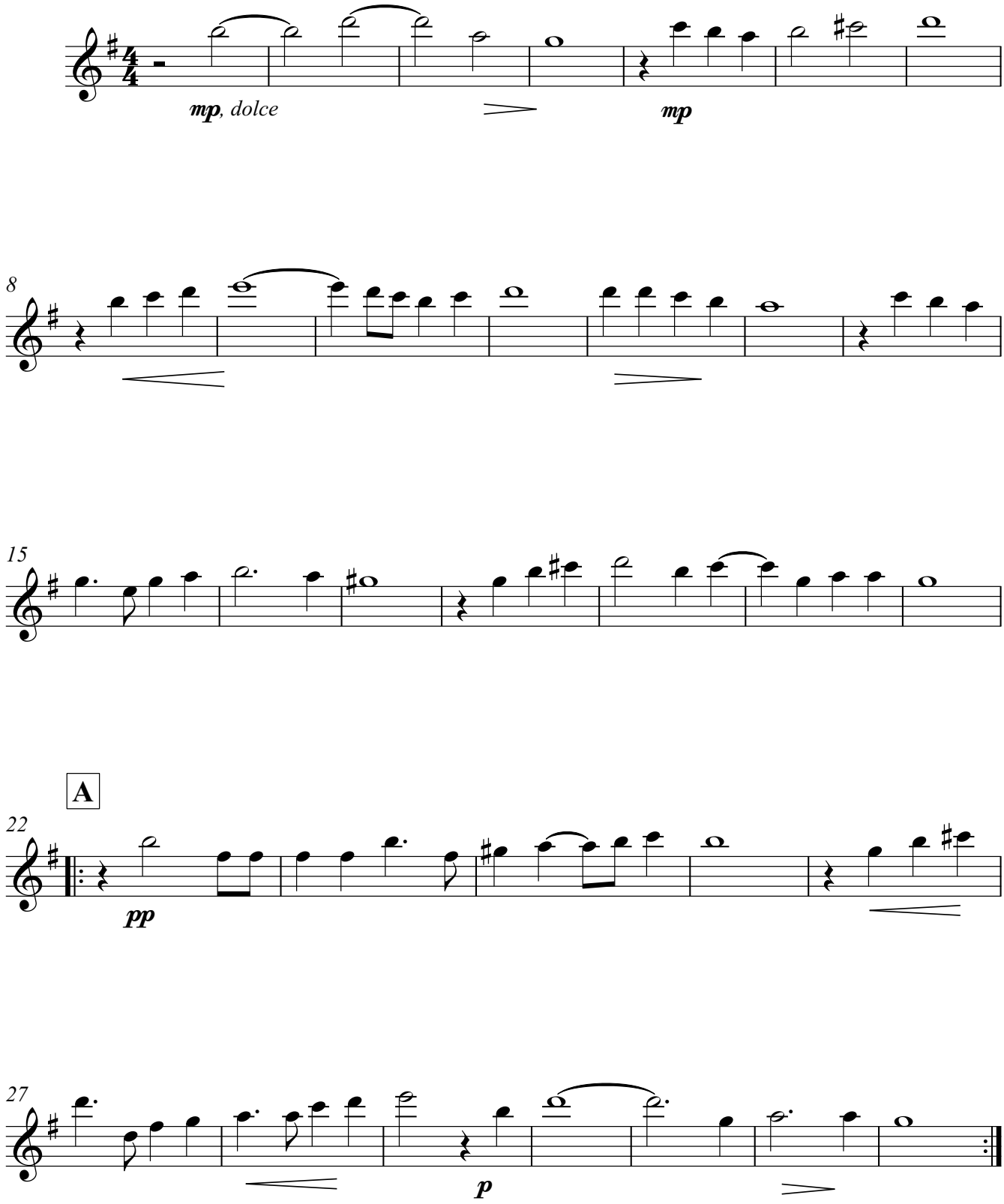

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Guitar 1

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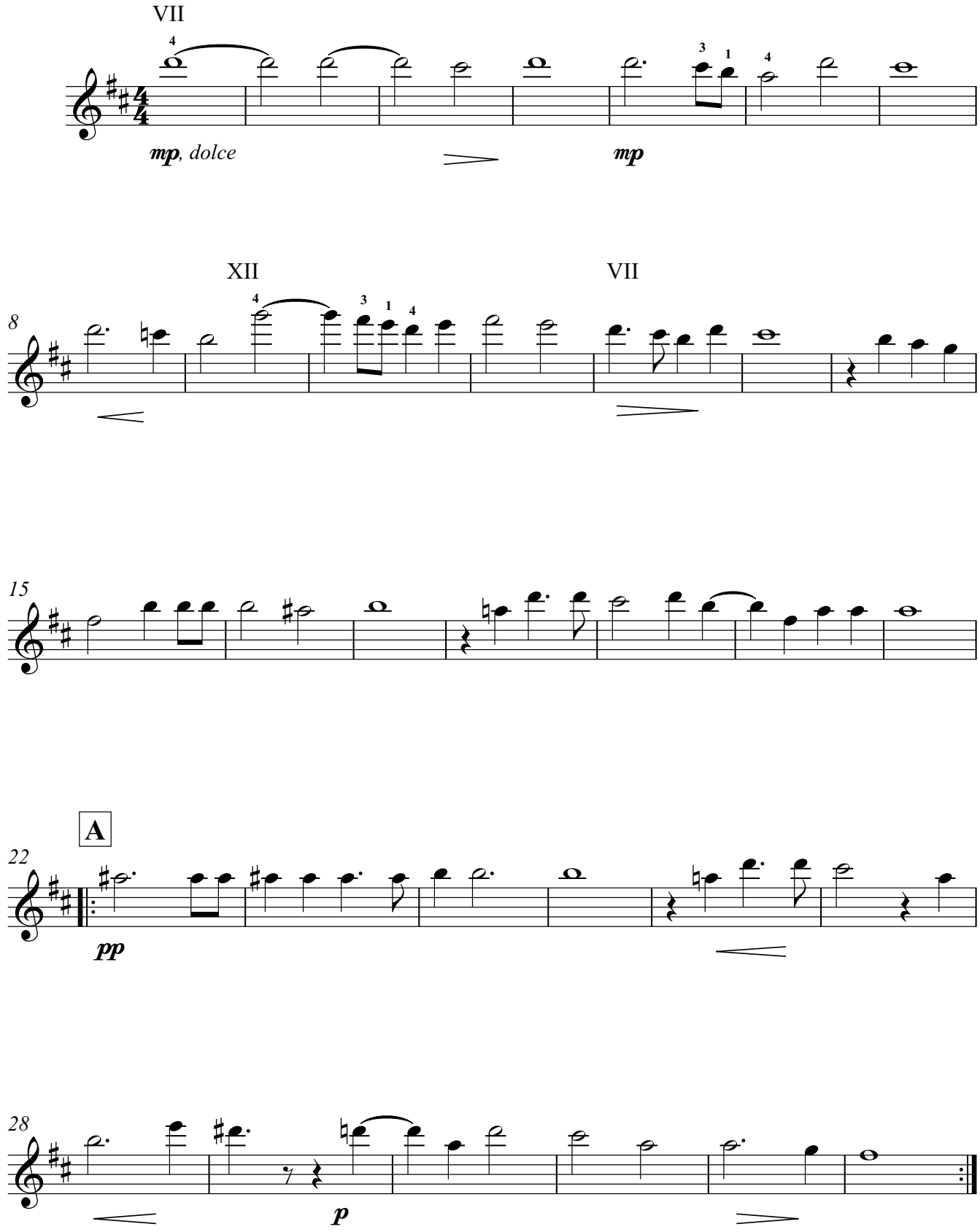

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Guitar 2

Come, Heavy Sleep

John Dowland (1563-1626)

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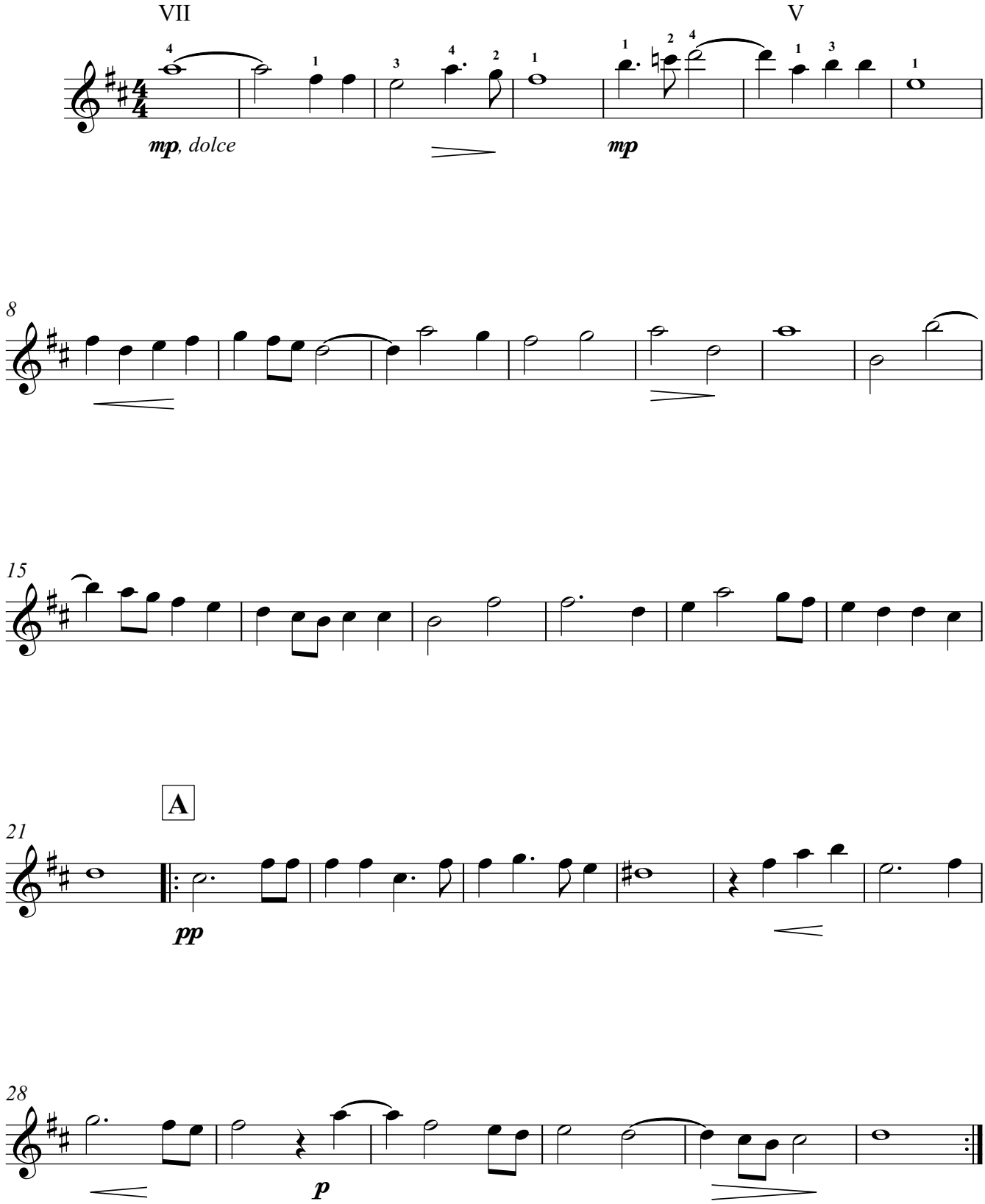

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Guitar 3

Come, Heavy Sleep

John Dowland (1563-1626)

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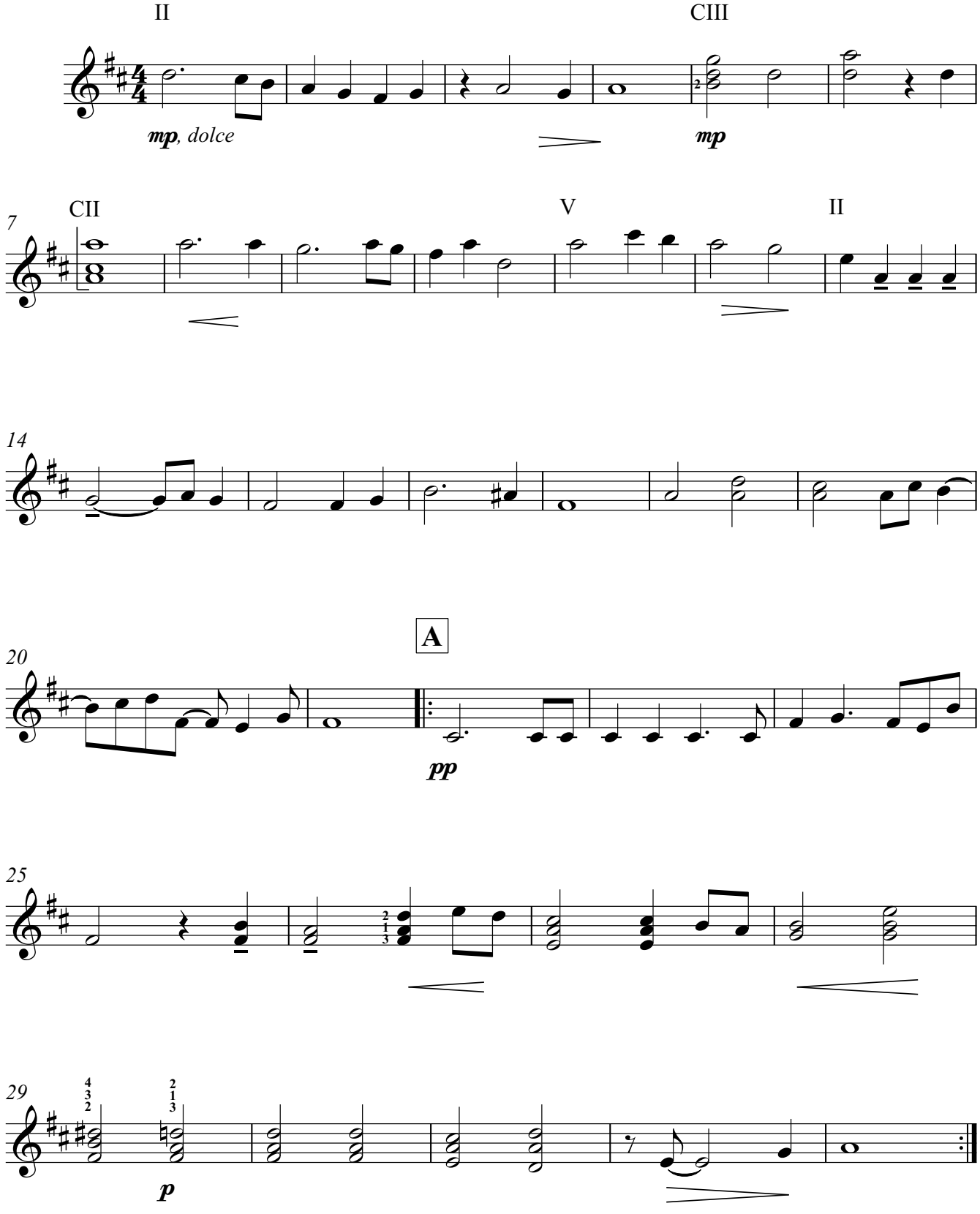

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Bass(N)

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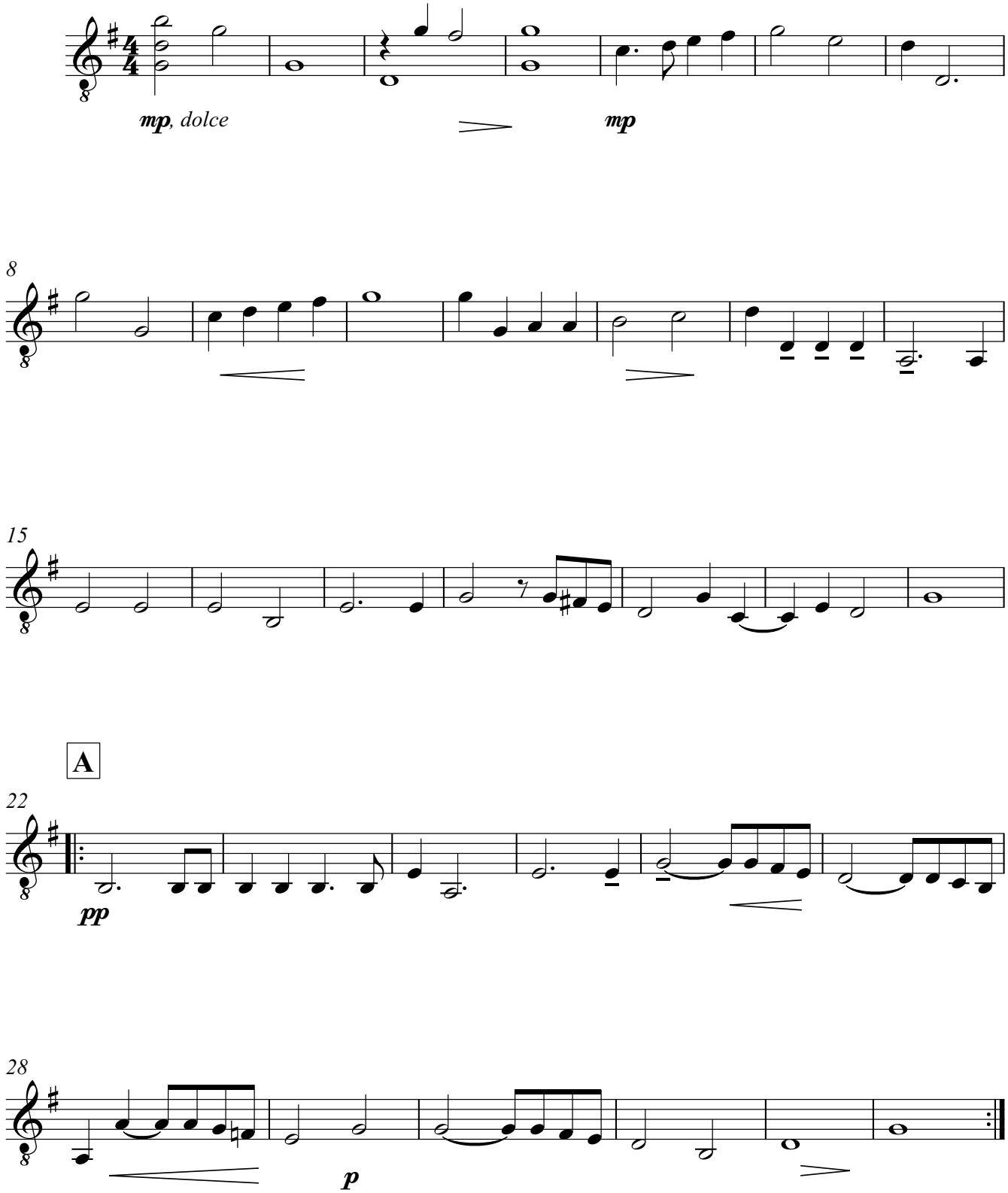

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Contrabass

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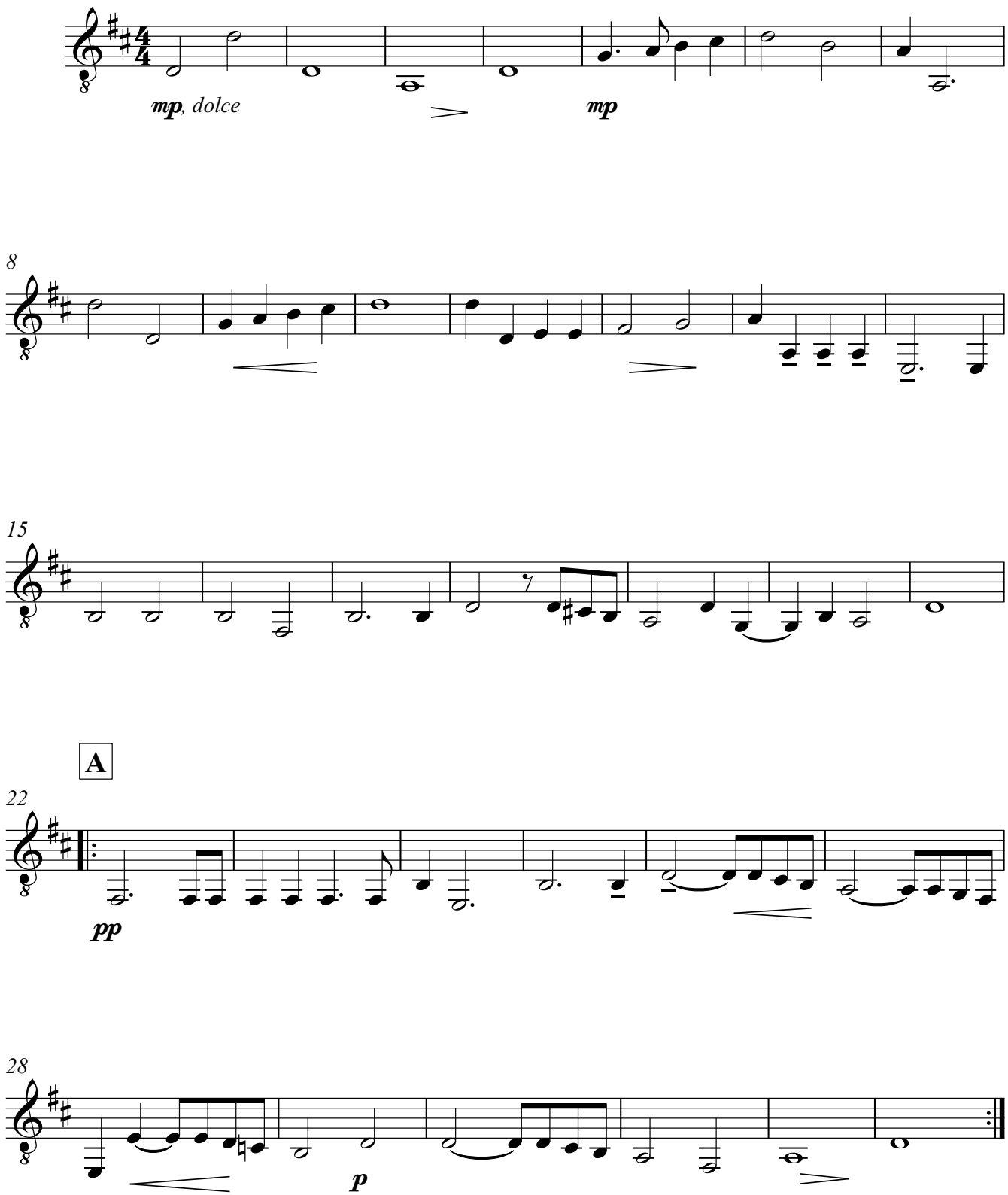

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