Bristow, G.F. Rip Van Winkle

Cast of Characters:
Rip Van Winkle - a farmer in the Catskill Mountains - Bass
Dame Van Winkle - Rip's wife - Contralto
Alice Van Winkle - Rip's daughter - Soprano
Edward Gardinier - a Captain in the Continental Army - Tenor
Herman Van Slaus - son of the village Burgomaster - Baritone

Plot Synopsis:

Act I:
Time: 1763; Setting: a village in the Catskill Mountains; woods
Rip Van Winkle, a hen-pecked husband, signs a contract with Diedrich Van Slause, the Burgomaster, agreeing that his daughter and fortune (meaning his farm) shall go to Diedrich's son Herman as marriage dowry unless Rip annuls the contract within 20 years and a day. That same day, after a fight with his wife, he goes hunting in a storm and comes upon a group of spirits in a glen. Rip drinks with them and falls into his famous 20-year sleep.

Act II:
Time: 1783, just after the Revolutionary War; Setting: same village; an army camp
Meanwhile, Alice, Rip's now-full-grown daughter, love Edward, a Captain in the Continental Army. When Herman presses his claim on her, she runs away to join Edward's (and her brother's) battalion as a vivandiere (food provisioner). Herman follows secretly, intending to kill Edward, but is caught and almost slain by Edward's loyal troops.

Act III:
Time: 1783, 20 years to-the-day from when Rip fell asleep;
Setting: woods; same village
Rip wakes up, goes home, and is distraught that no-one knows him and that all of his friends (and his wife) are dead. When he introduces himself as a loyal subject of King George, the villagers try to attack him, but Alice, who doesn't recognize him, protects him. When Herman presents the contract in court the next day, Rip realizes that it is his to annul, and he does so by ripping it up. He is reunited with his son and daughter, and blesses her marriage to Edward. Everyone rejoices.

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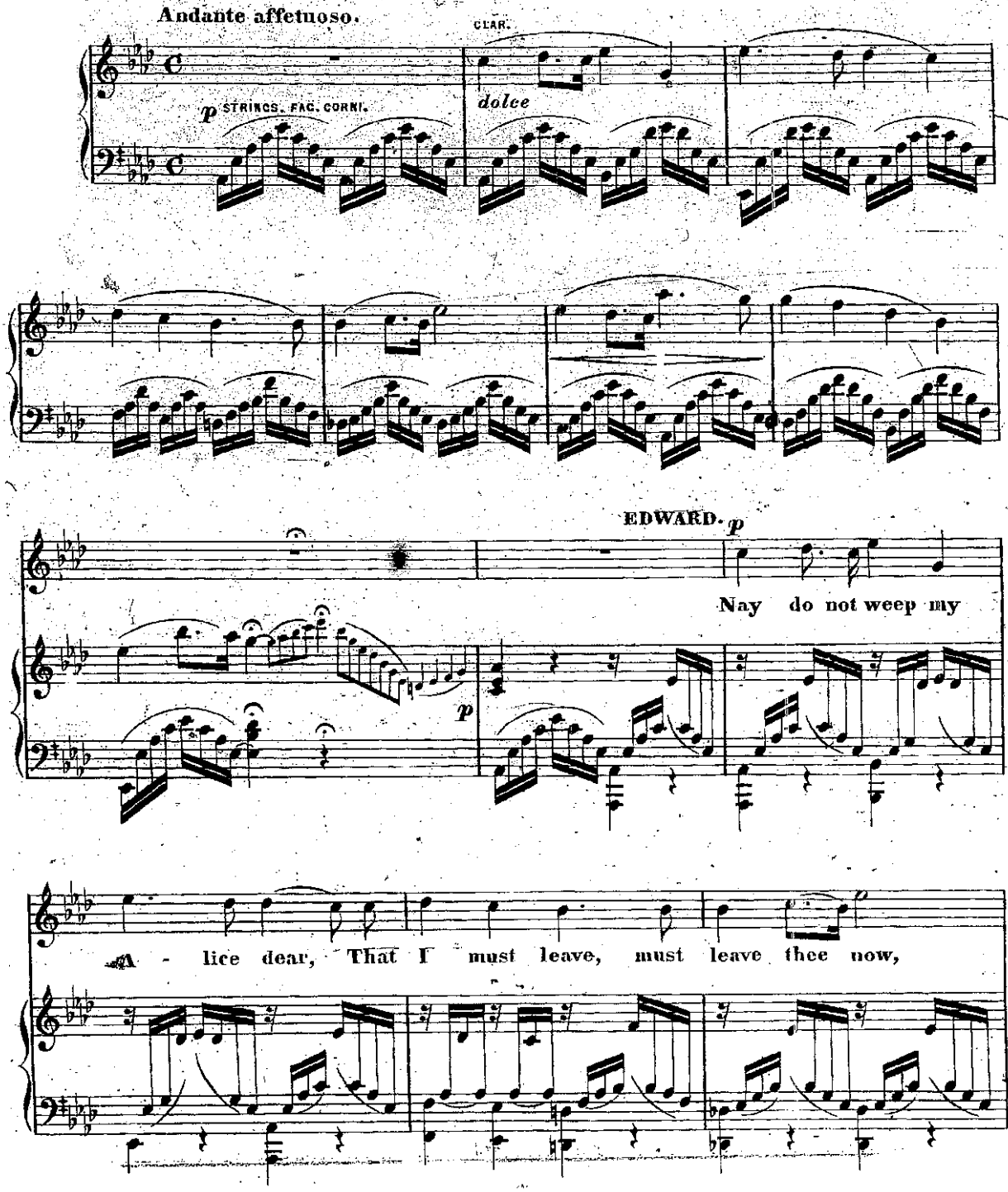
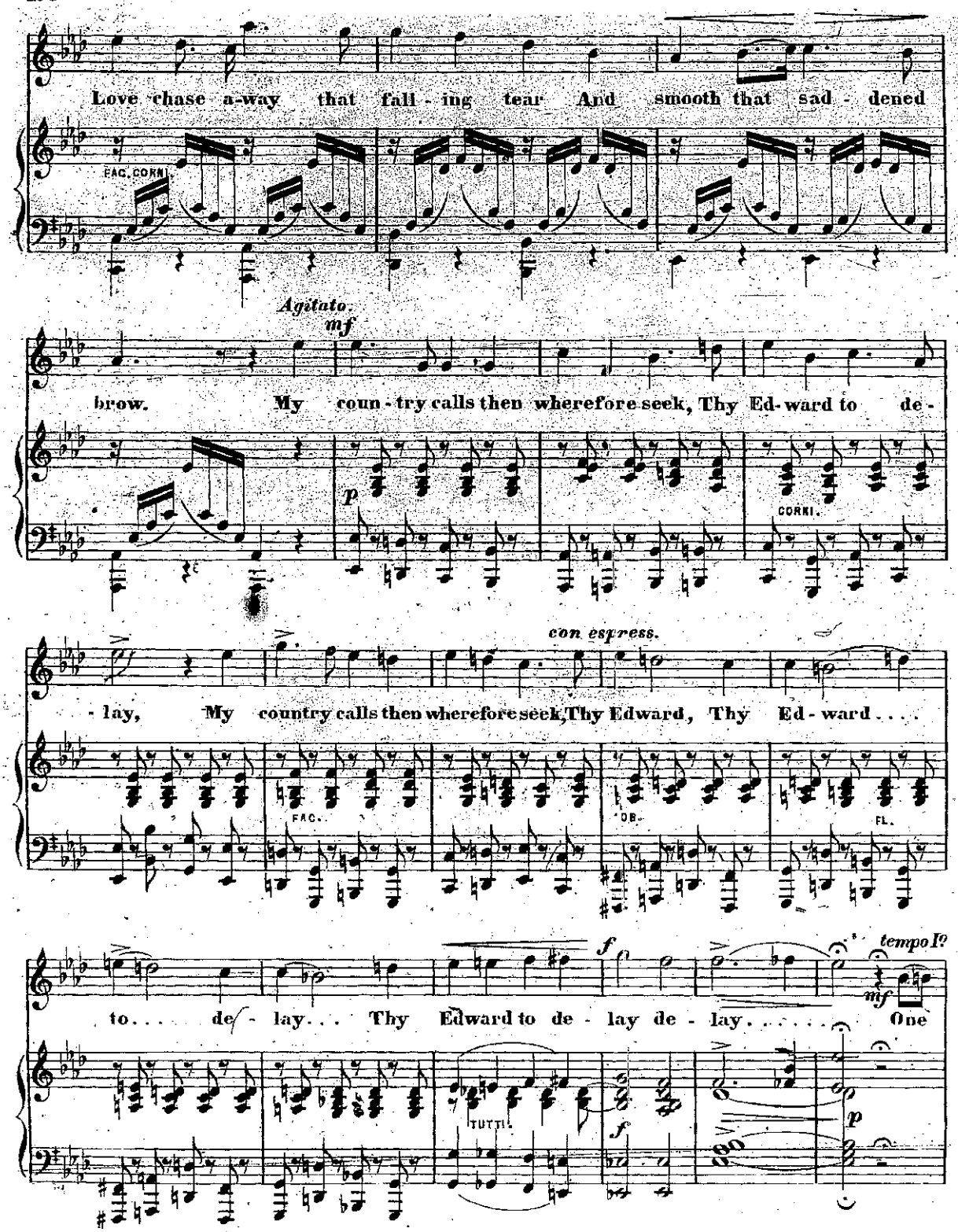
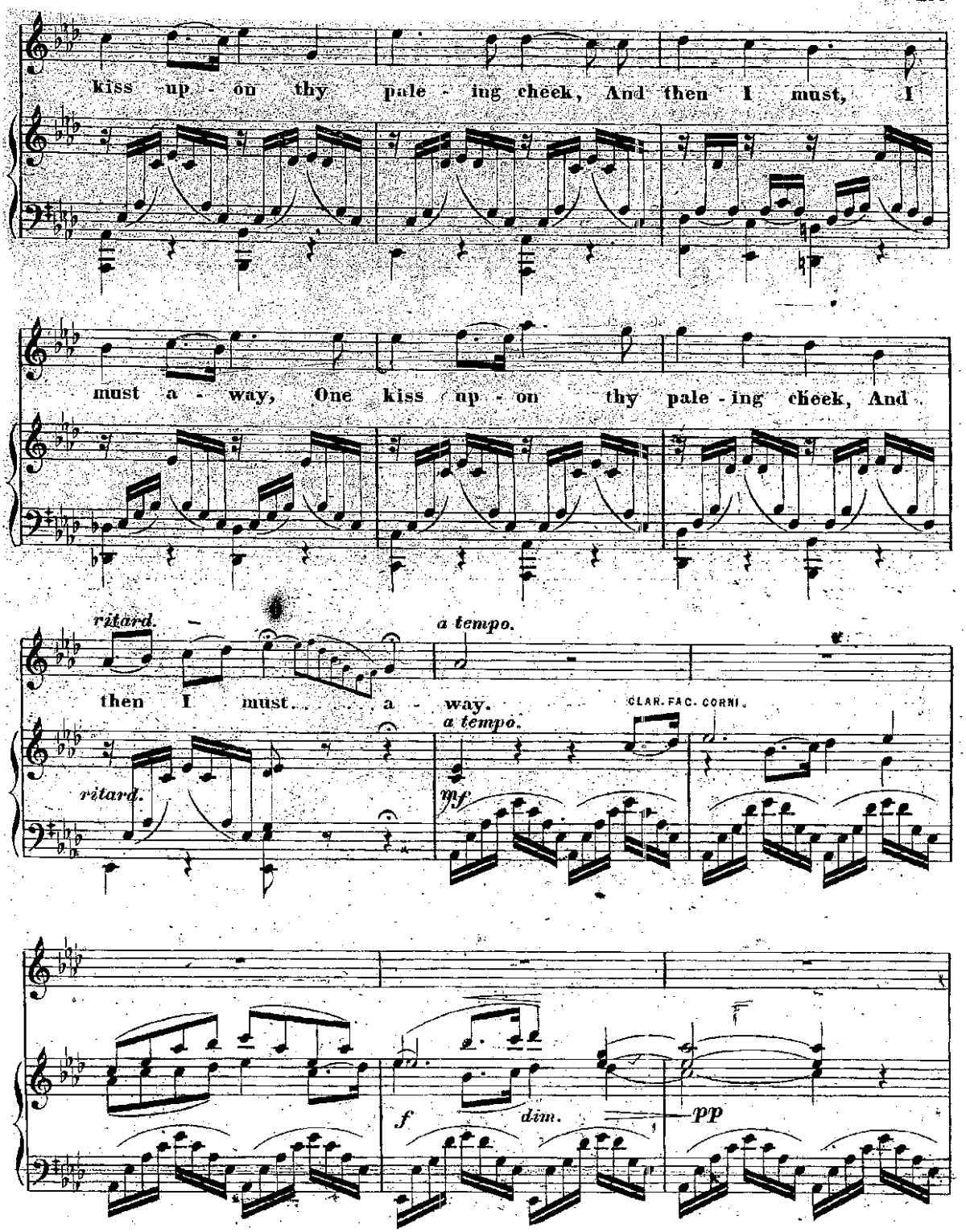
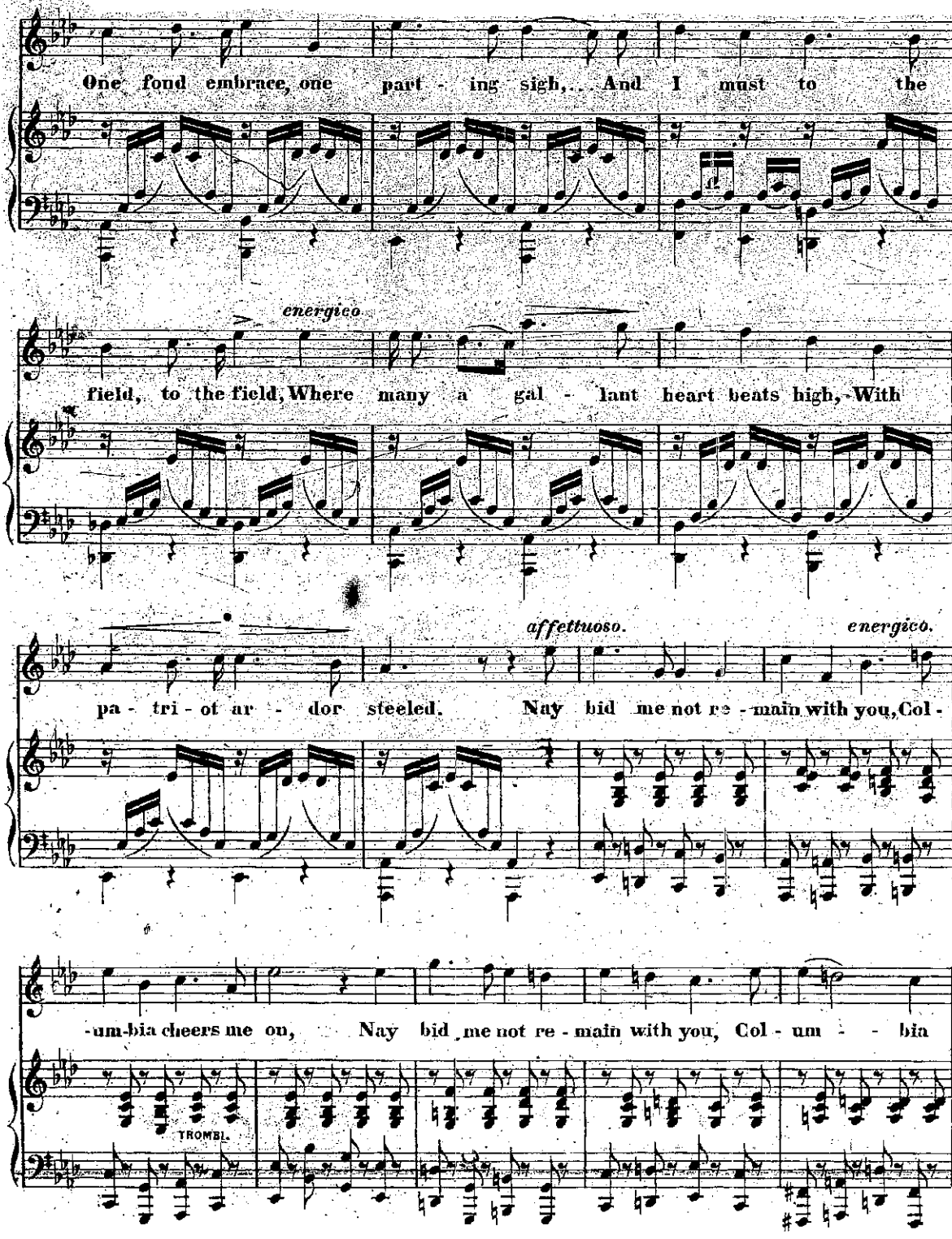
(Act II)

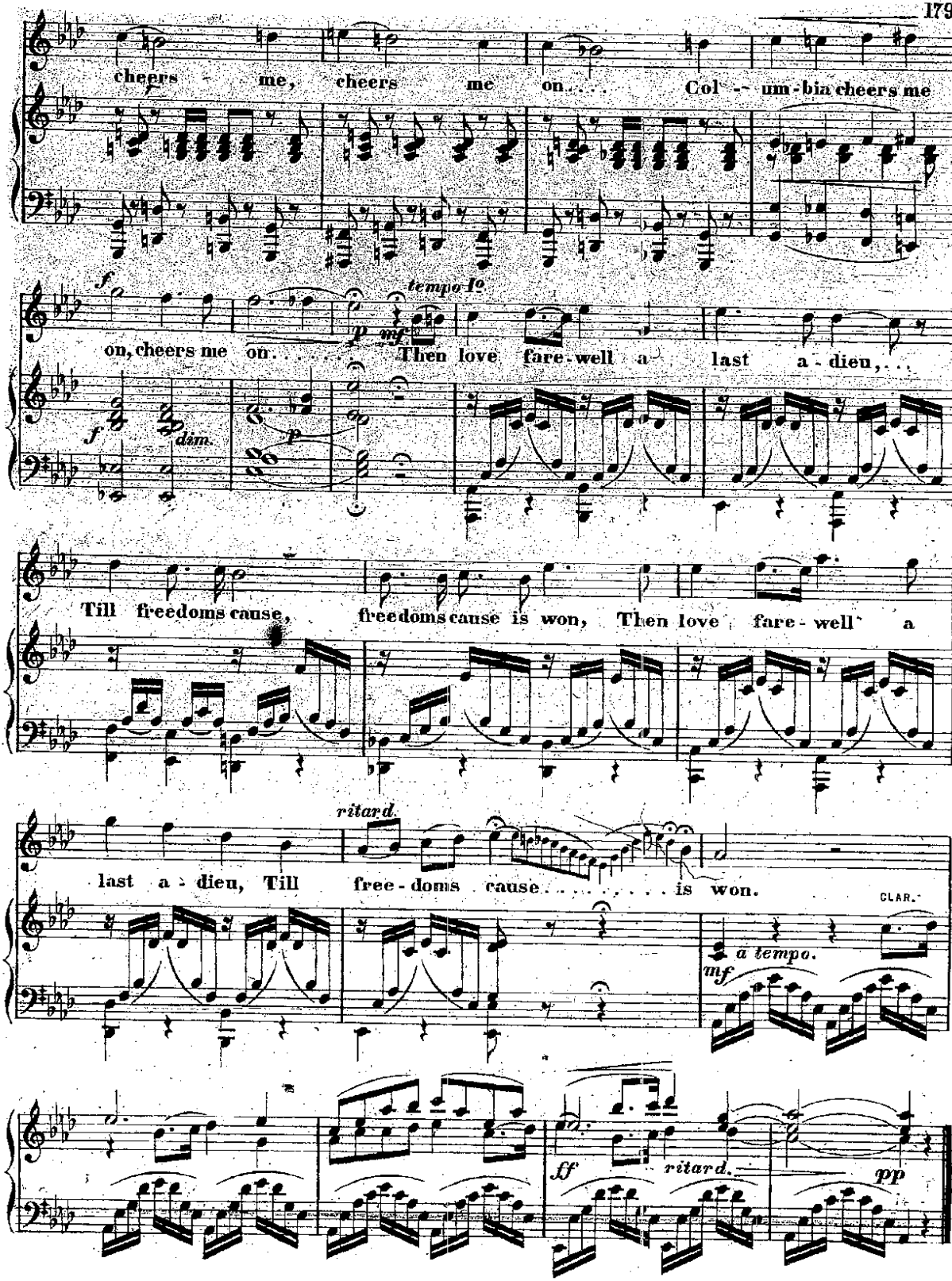
Aria. Edward.




Love chase a-way that fall - ing tear And smooth that sad - dened
FAG. CORNI.
Agitato.
mf
brow. My coun - try calls then wherefore seek, Thy Ed - ward to de -
p
CORNI.
con espress.
- lay, My country calls then wherefore seek, Thy Edward, Thy Ed - ward . . . .
FAG.
OB.
FL.
f
tempo I?
mf
to . . . de - lay . . . Thy Edward to de - lay de - lay . . . . . One
TUTTI.
f
p


kiss up - on thy pale - ing cheek, And then I must, I
must a - way, One kiss up - on thy pale - ing cheek, And
ritard.
then I must... a - way.
a tempo.
CLAR. FAC. CORNI.
a tempo.
ritard.
mf
f
dim.
pp


One fond embrace, one part - ing sigh, And I must to the
energico
field, to the field, Where many a gal - lant heart beats high, With
affettuoso.
energico.
pa - tri - ot ar - dor steeled. Nay bid me not re - main with you, Col -
-um-bia cheers me on, Nay bid me not re - main with you, Col - um - - bia
TROMBI.


cheers me, cheers me on. . . . Col - um - bia cheers me
f
on, cheers me on. . . . .
p
mf
tempo Io
Then love fare - well a last a - dieu, . . .
f
dim.
p
Till freedoms cause, freedoms cause is won, Then love fare - well a
ritard.
last a - dieu, Till free - doms cause. . . . . is won.
CLAR.
a tempo.
mf
ff
ritard.
pp