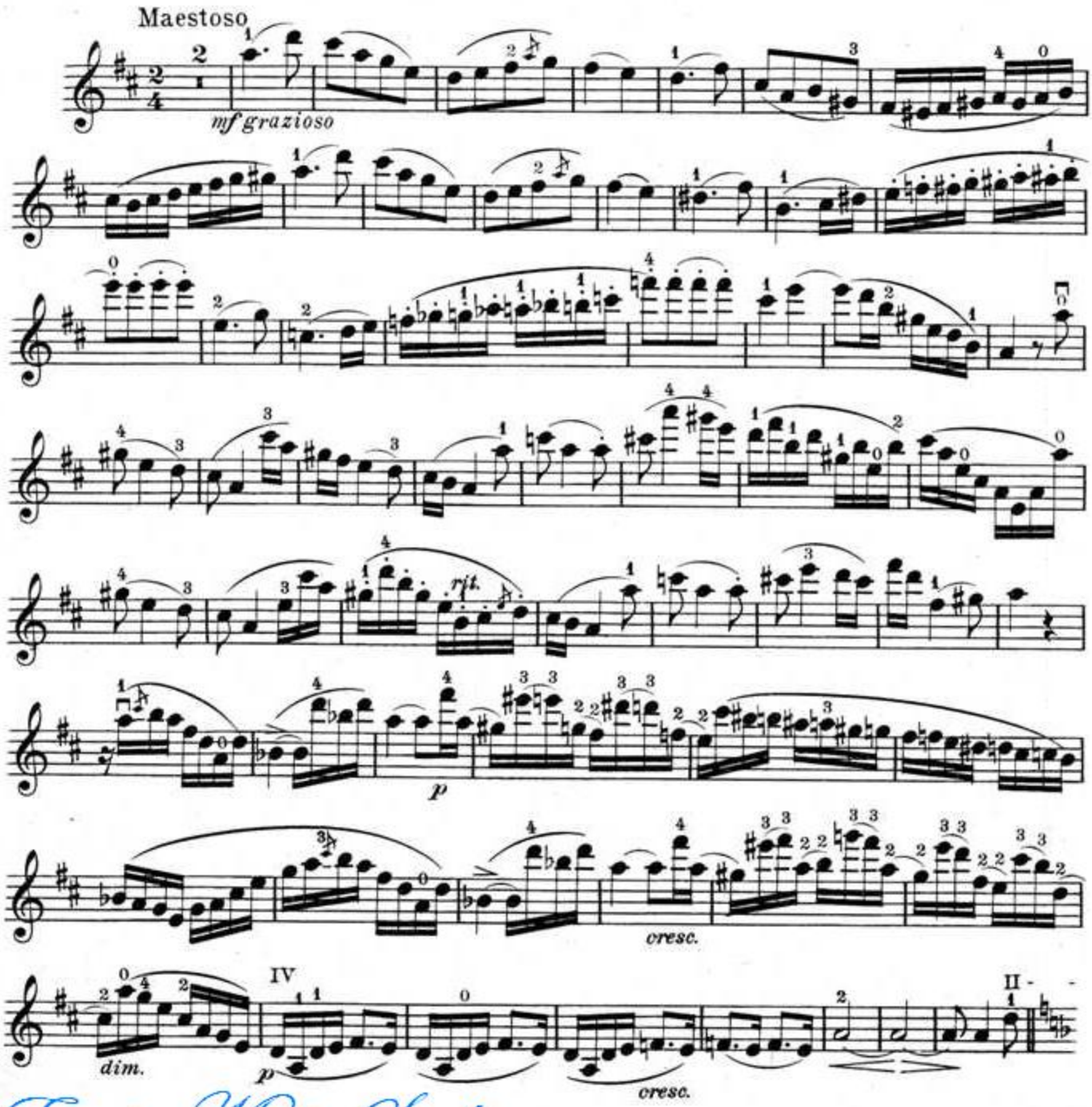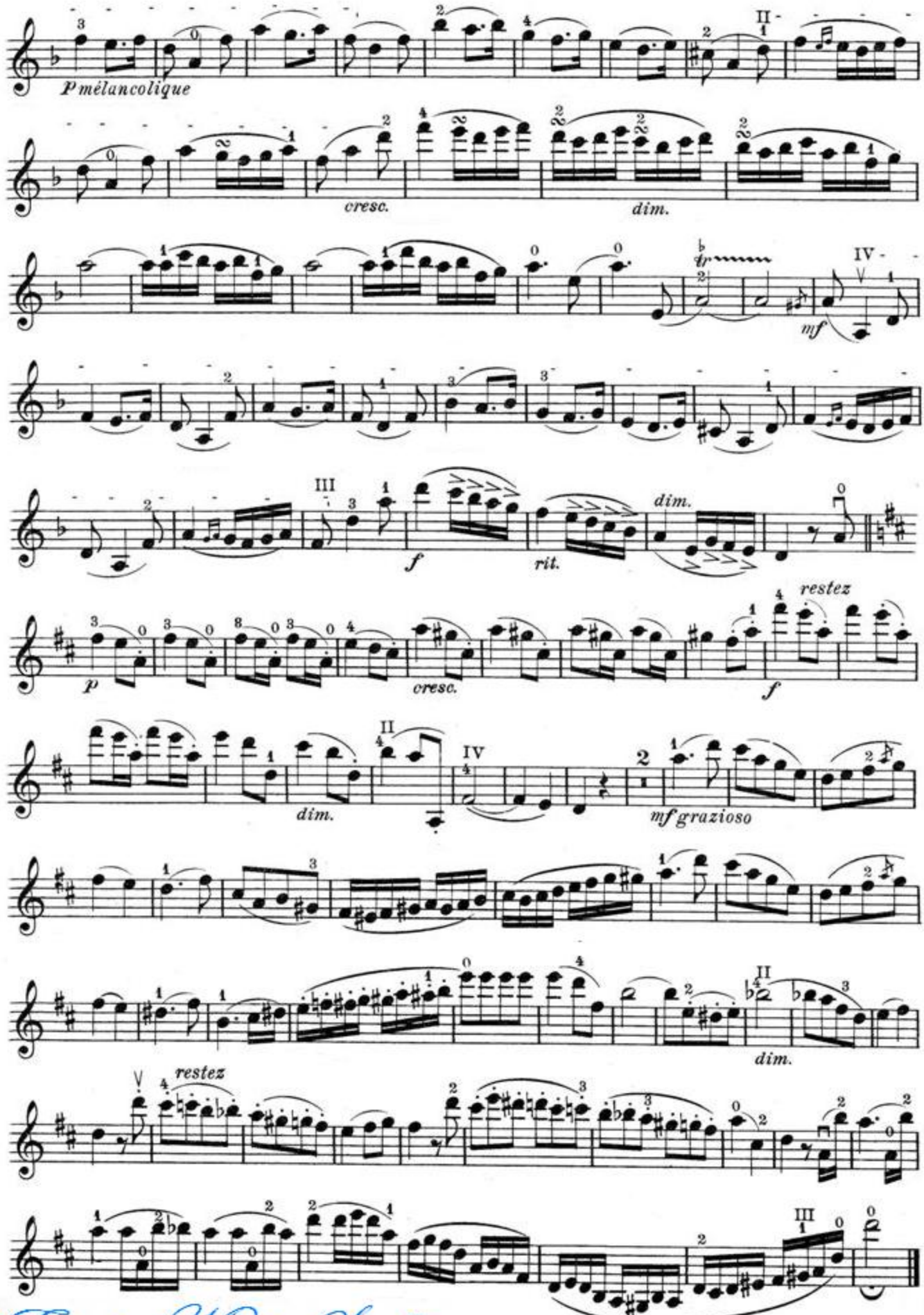Romance Sans Paroles

Pablo de Sarasate, Op. 7
1844-1908

An eminent critic once remarked "Vieuxtemps was an artist with an ardent mind, Joachim towers aloft in the heights of serene poetry, Sarasate is an incomparable charmer". This is an excellent description of Sarasate as a performer; he did not possess force and passion as much as purity of style and ineffable charm. While he had a marvellous technique, he rarely played the compositions of Paganini, Ernst or other composers of this school of violin technique because long stretches in intervals were required, and Sarasate had a small hand. It was in his own compositions that the great Spanish virtuoso was paramount; it has been said that no one else has ever been able to play them with the same degree of exquisite delicacy and refinement.



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