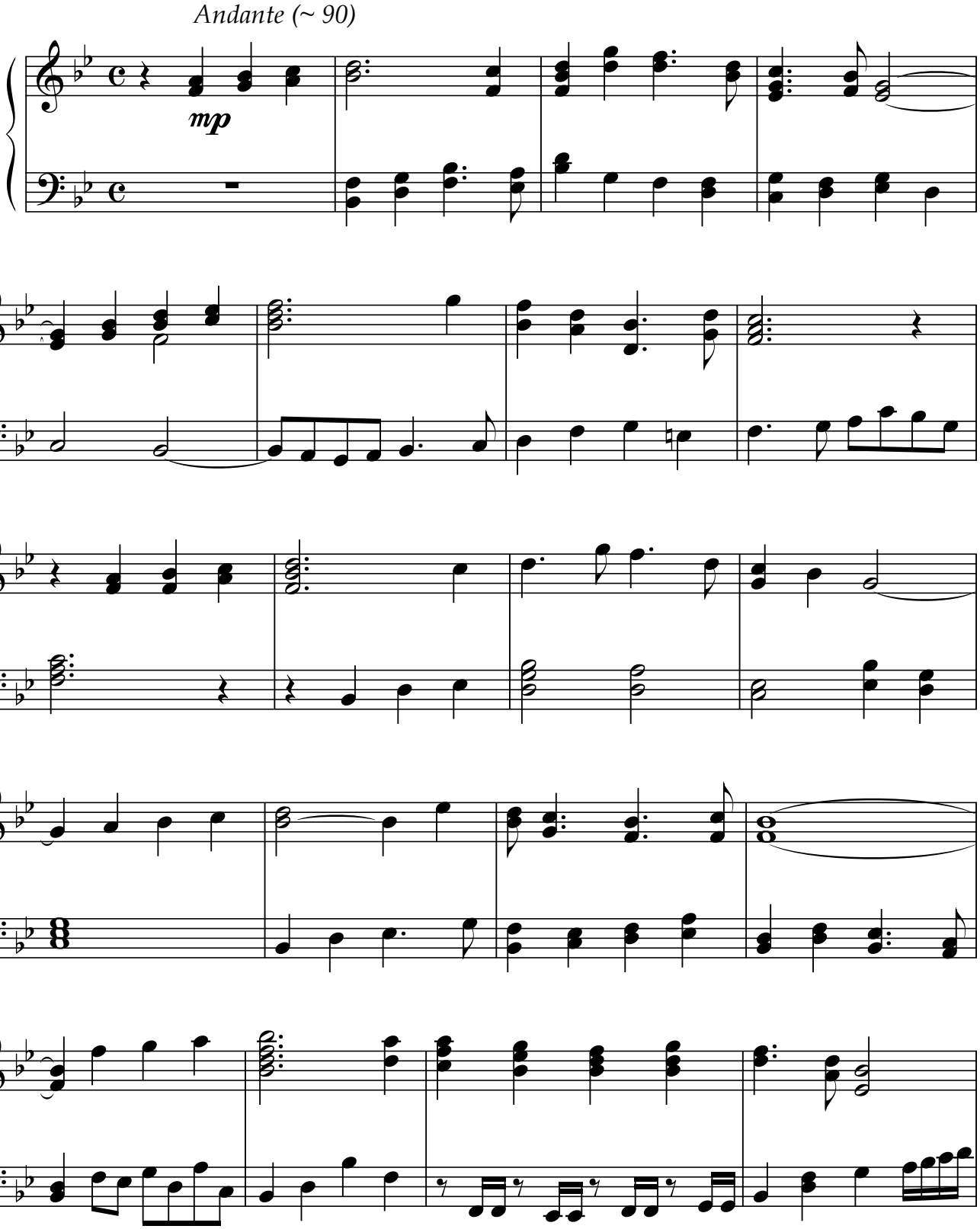
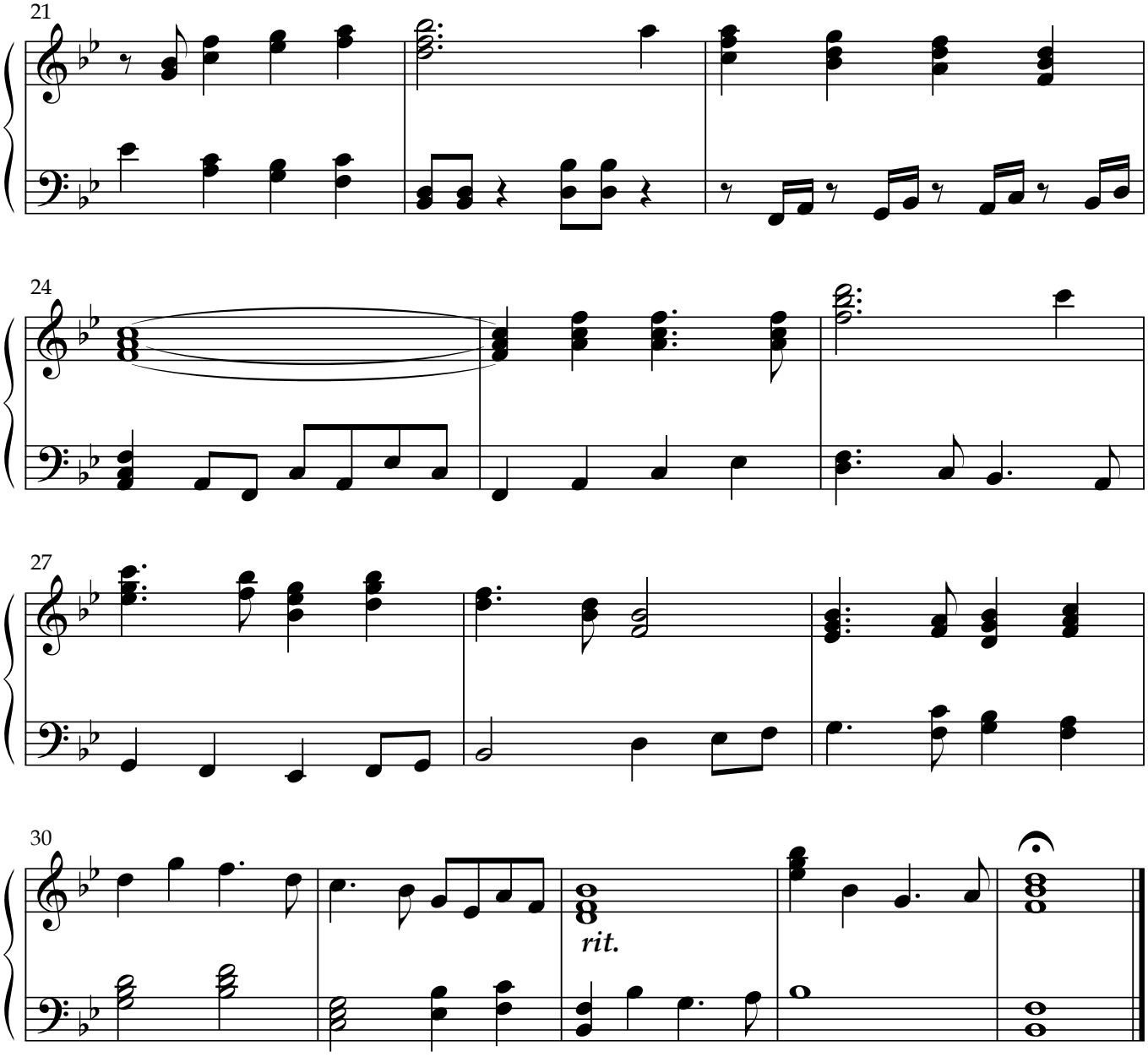
DERRY AIR

Ulster traditional



DERRY AIR



This is perhaps the most familiar piece in this collection because of its use as the melody for "Danny Boy" - love it or hate it, the quintessential Irish ballad (whose words were composed by an English actor named Fred Weatherly, who never actually set foot in Ireland!)

The original melody was collected by a Miss Jane Ross from an itinerant musician in County Derry (known in some circles as "Londonderry") sometime in the middle of the 19th century. Regardless of the abuse it has had to endure over the years (nothing quite matches the experience of listening to a pub singer approaching the hight note with the sure and certain knowledge that he/she will attack it and fall off backwards), the melody remains unparalleled for its beauty and serenity.