Grazia and Picco

by Lady Isabella Machaut de Valois a.k.a. Carolyn Adams

" Grazia and Picco" is a composition in ABA form inspired by the protagonists of Jacqueline Parks's novel of the Renaissance ," The Secret Book of Grazia dei Rossi". This fictional account of a Jewish woman's life in Renaissance Italy was inspired by the real life of one Pacienza Pontremoli as documented through her correspondence with Isabella d"Este da Gonzaga, Marchesana of Mantova.

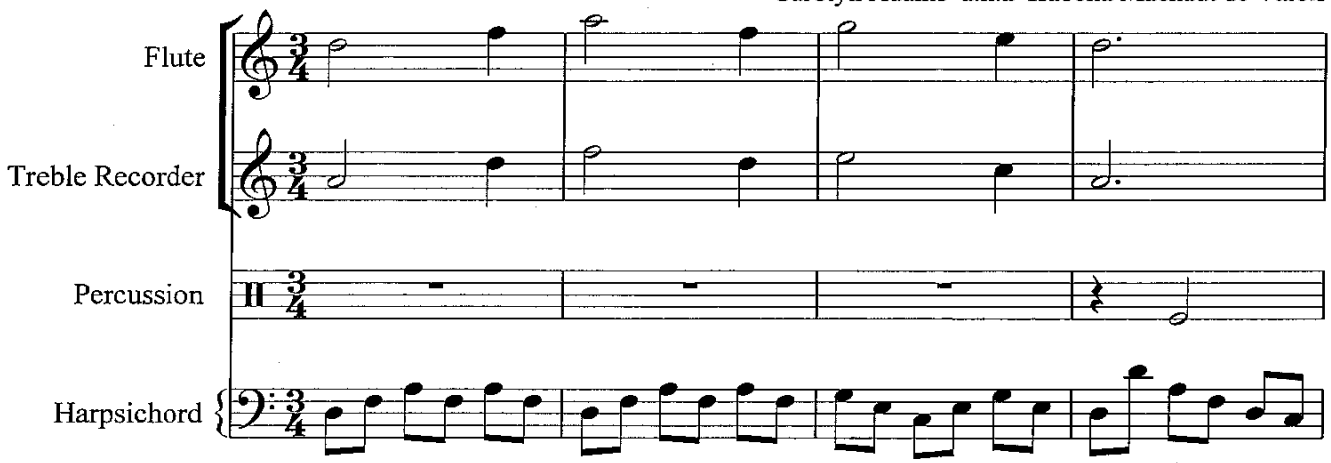
I have written this composition for flute, recorder, harpsichord and assorted percussion (tambourine, triangle, snare drum, tenor drum), all instruments readily available in the late 1500's with the exception of the harpsichord. While the harpsichord did not exist in its more common form until the late 1600's, the equivalent virginal would have supplied a similiar timbre. However, my composition program did not list virginal as an instrument option.

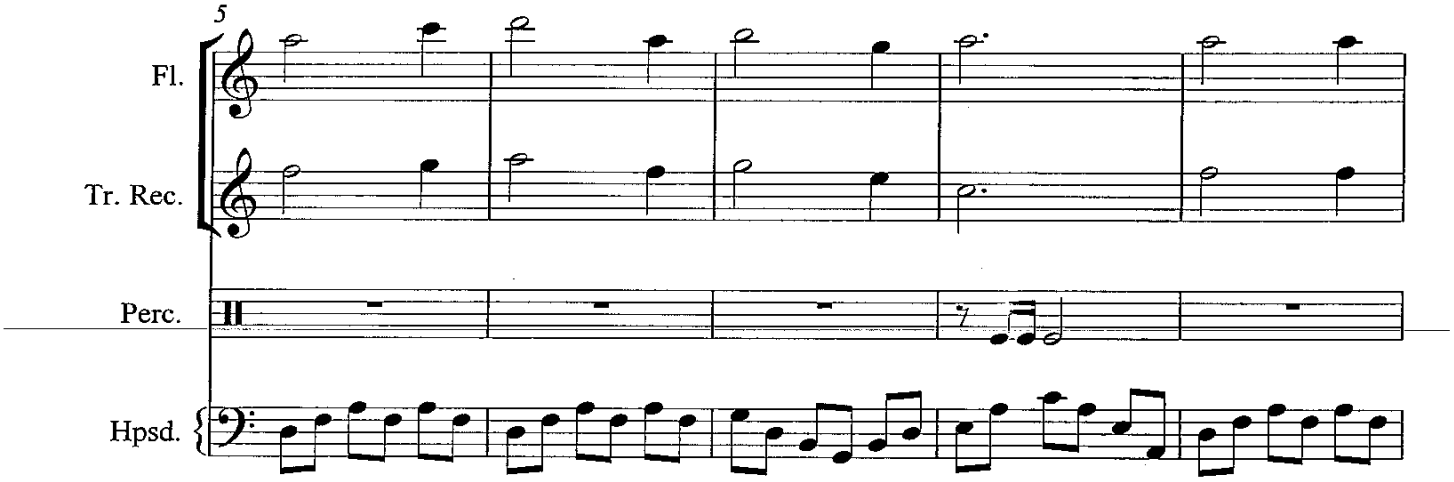
I chose to write this piece in what would be called ABA form in modern music terminology. One theme (A) is introduced, followed by a conrasting (B) theme and brought to a conclusion by the return of the original theme. The galliarde, a popular dance of the late Renaissance followed the same organizational principles. There are many surviving examples of this musical/dance form: I have included a harp transcription of one by John Dowland for purposes of comparision. My initial theme is smooth and graceful, intended to portray the lovely Grazia. The second theme is more martial in character, to portray Picco, who is a soldier. I chose D dorian as my key , this mode being a popular choice of composers of the time, and I did not modulate my second theme into a relative key as this was a practice not widely used until the Baroque period.

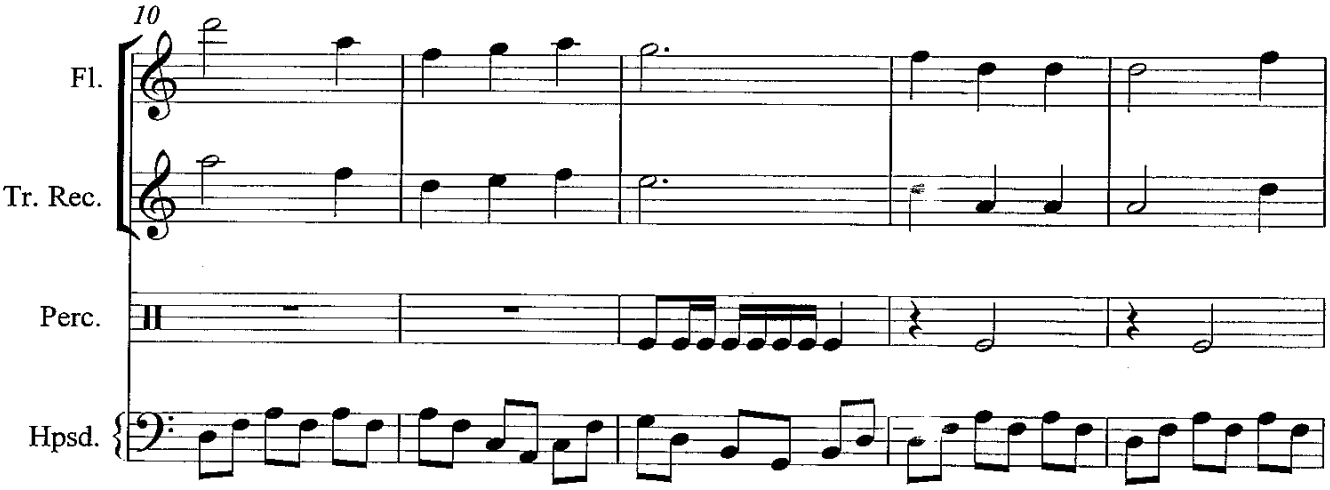
Grazia and Picco

Moderato

Carolyn Adams a.k.a Isabella Machaut de Valois







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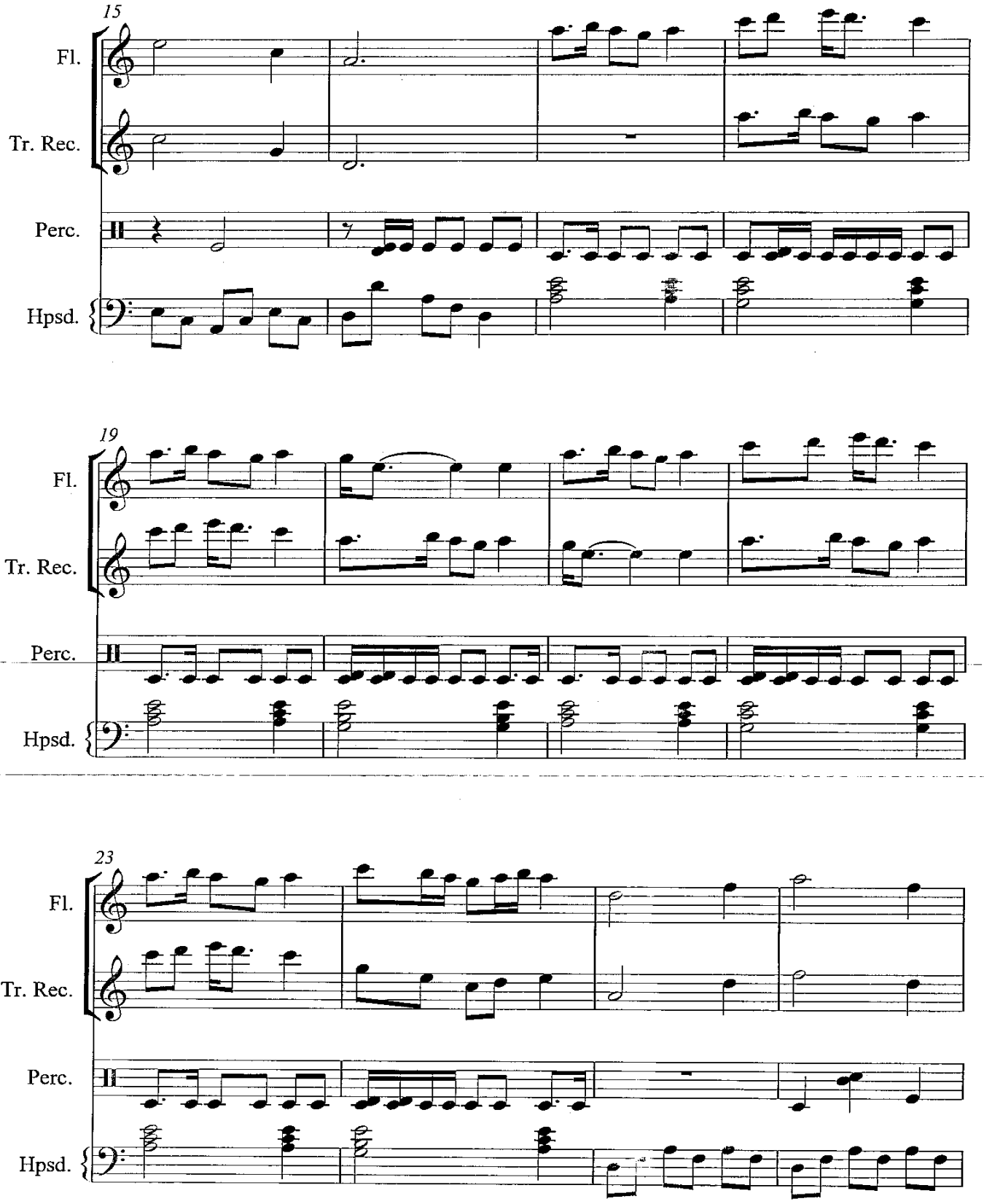
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Fl.
Tr. Rec.
Perc.
Hpsd.
19
Fl.
Tr. Rec.
Perc.
Hpsd.
23
Fl.
Tr. Rec.
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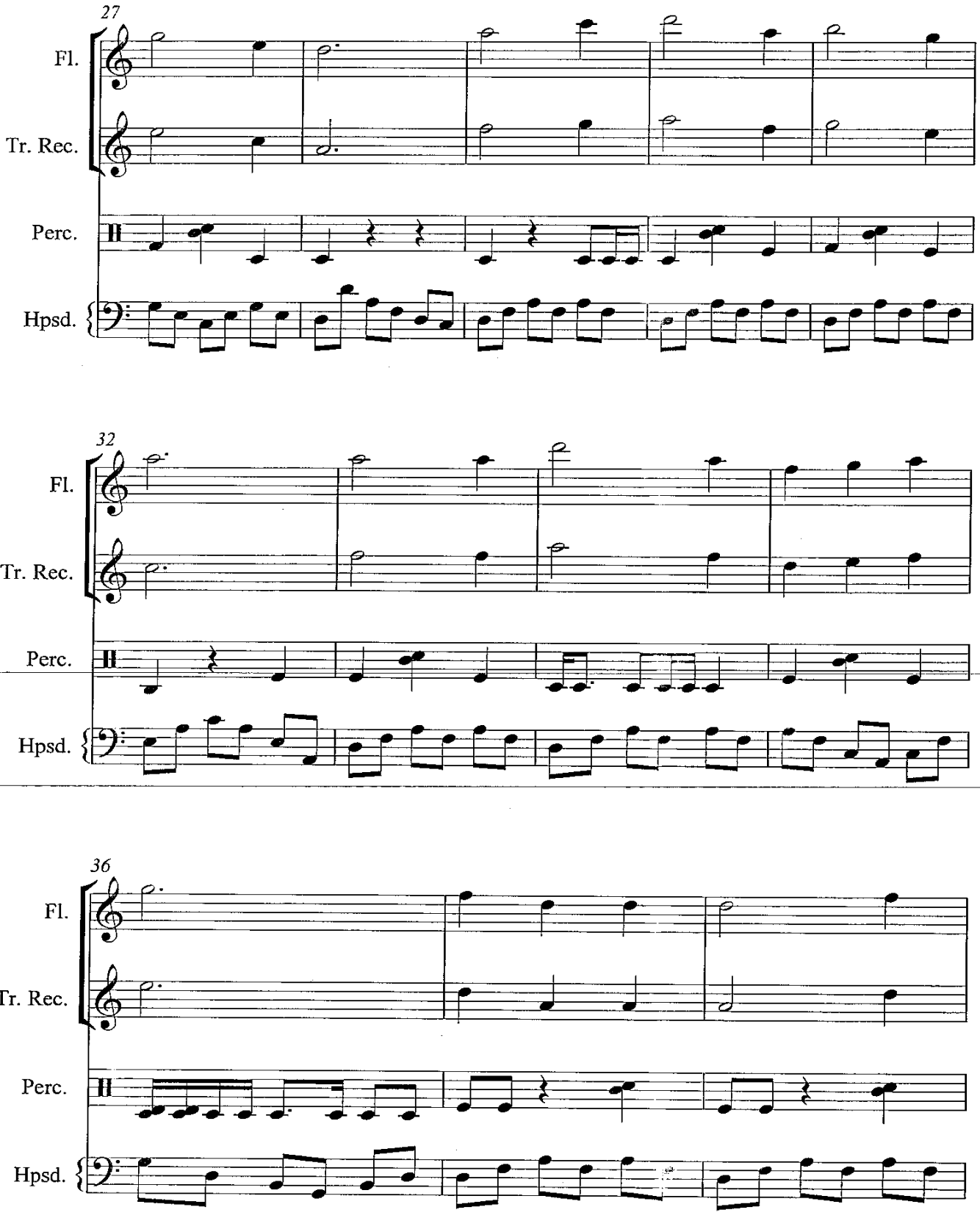
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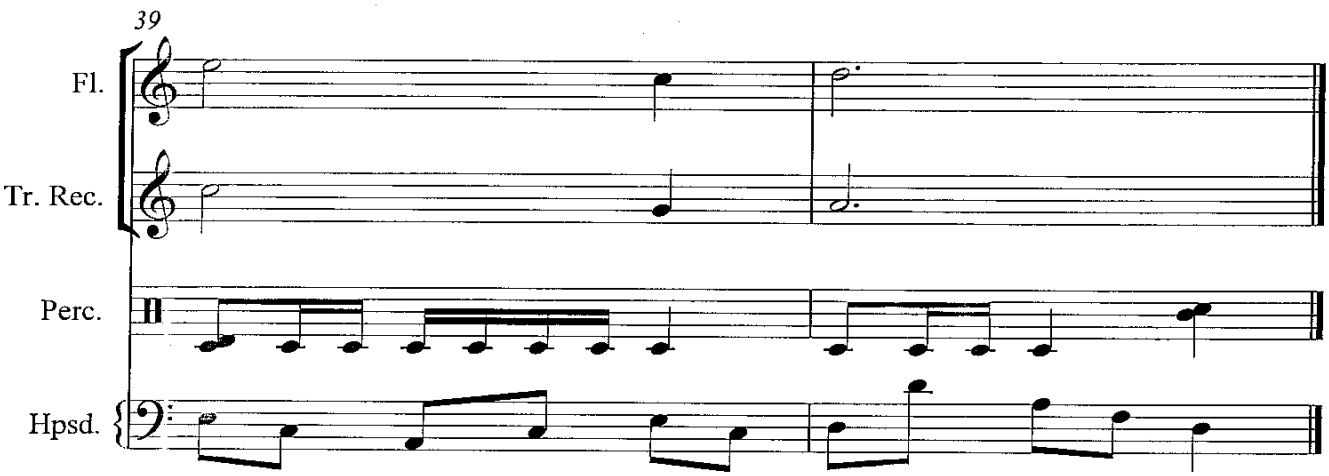
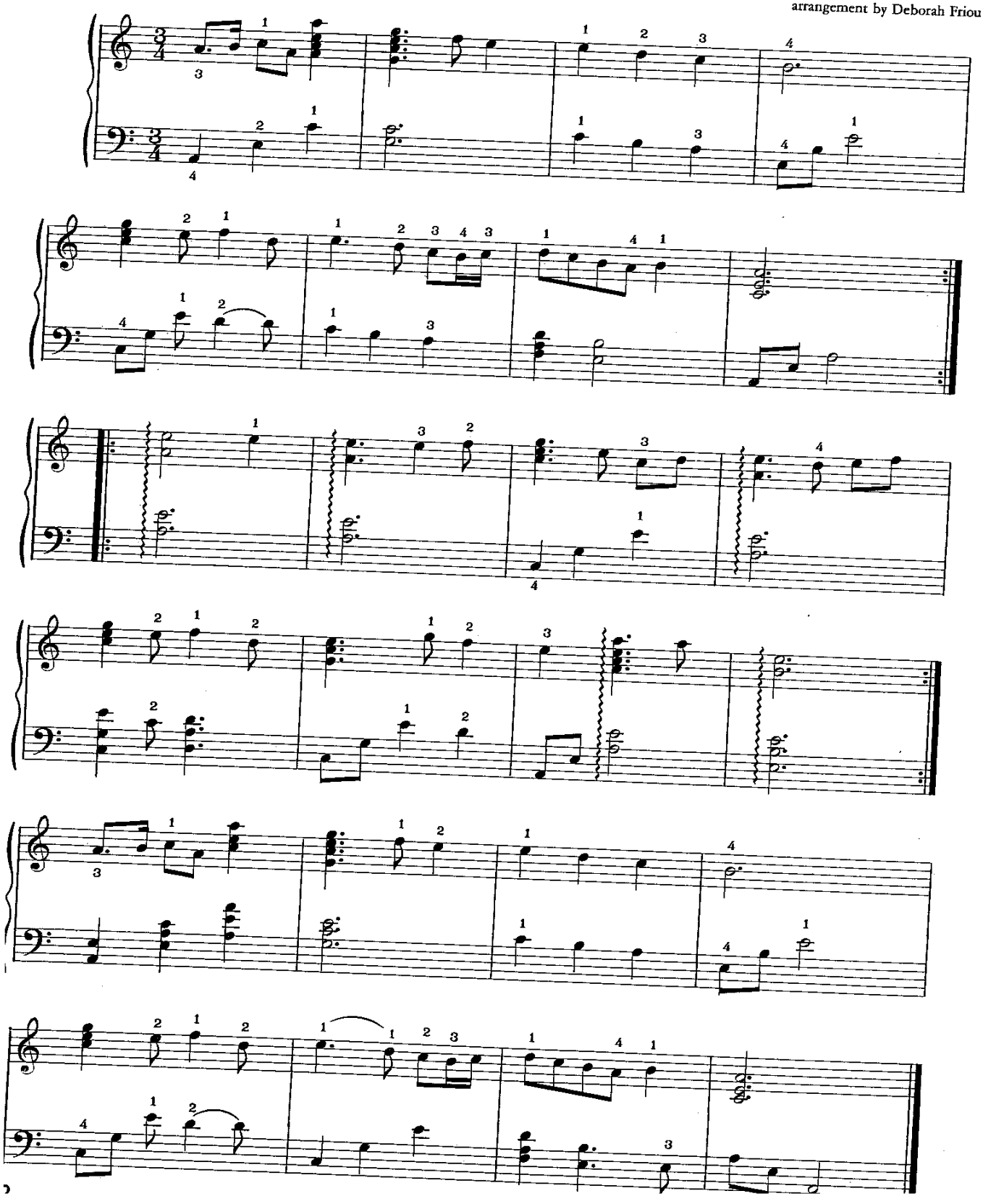
Fl.
Tr. Rec.
Perc.
Hpsd.
32
Fl.
Tr. Rec.
Perc.
Hpsd.
36
Fl.
Tr. Rec.
Perc.
Hpsd.

4



The Earl of Essex Galliard

Quickly

melody by John Dowland

arrangement by Deborah Friou