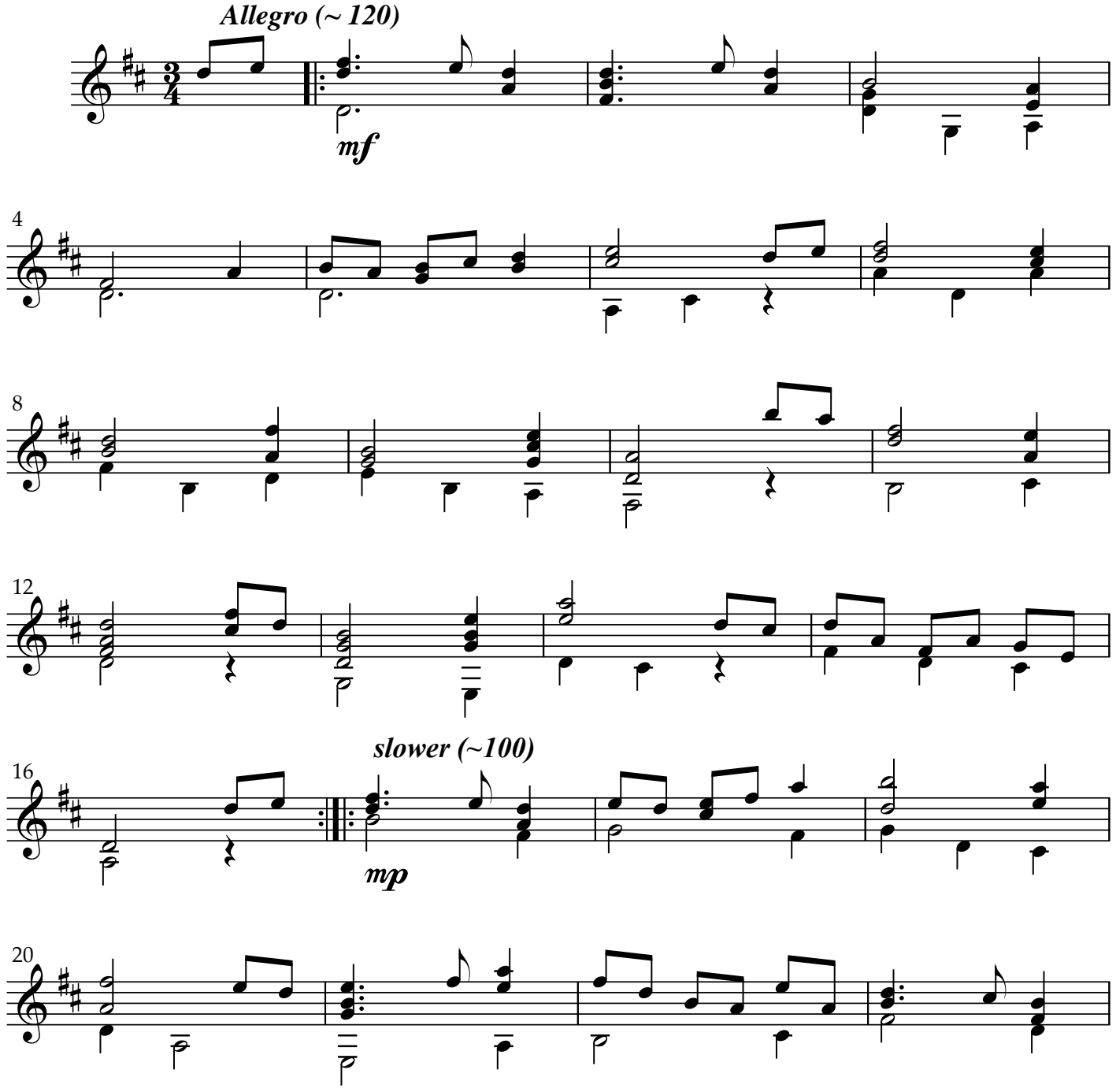
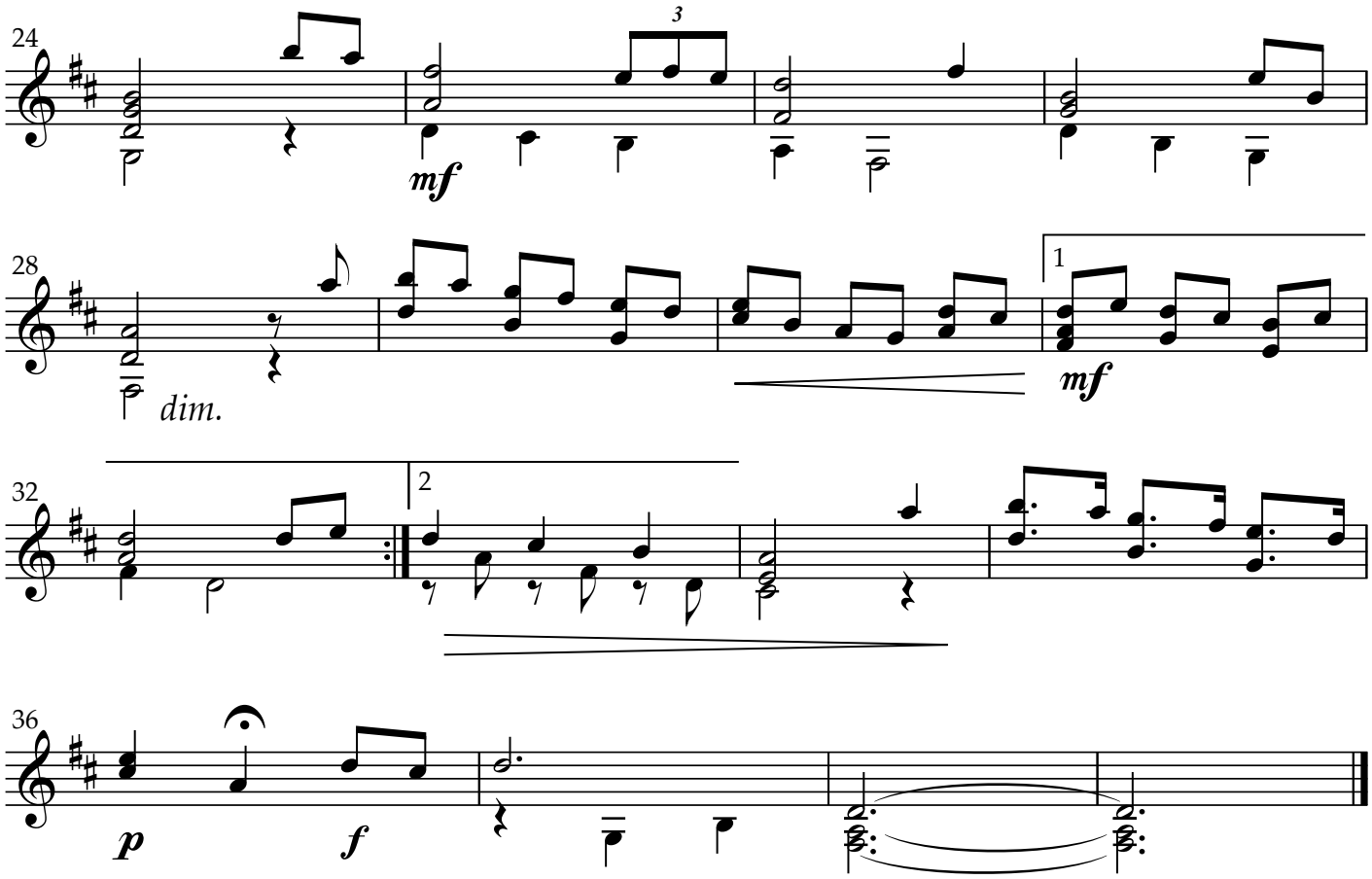
SÍ BEAG, SÍ MÓR
("Sheebeg Sheemore")

T. O Carolan (1660-1738)





One of the best-known of Carolan's harp tunes. The title means "Little Fairy, Big Fairy", and refers to a pair of hills near the Co. Leitrim estate of the Bard's friend George Reynolds. Local folklore had told of a battle between two fairy bands - presumably the Littles vs. the Bigs - for whom the hills were named.

350 or so years after its composition, this pleasant lilting tune remains a staple in the repertoire of today's session musicians and makes a handy waltz when one is needed.