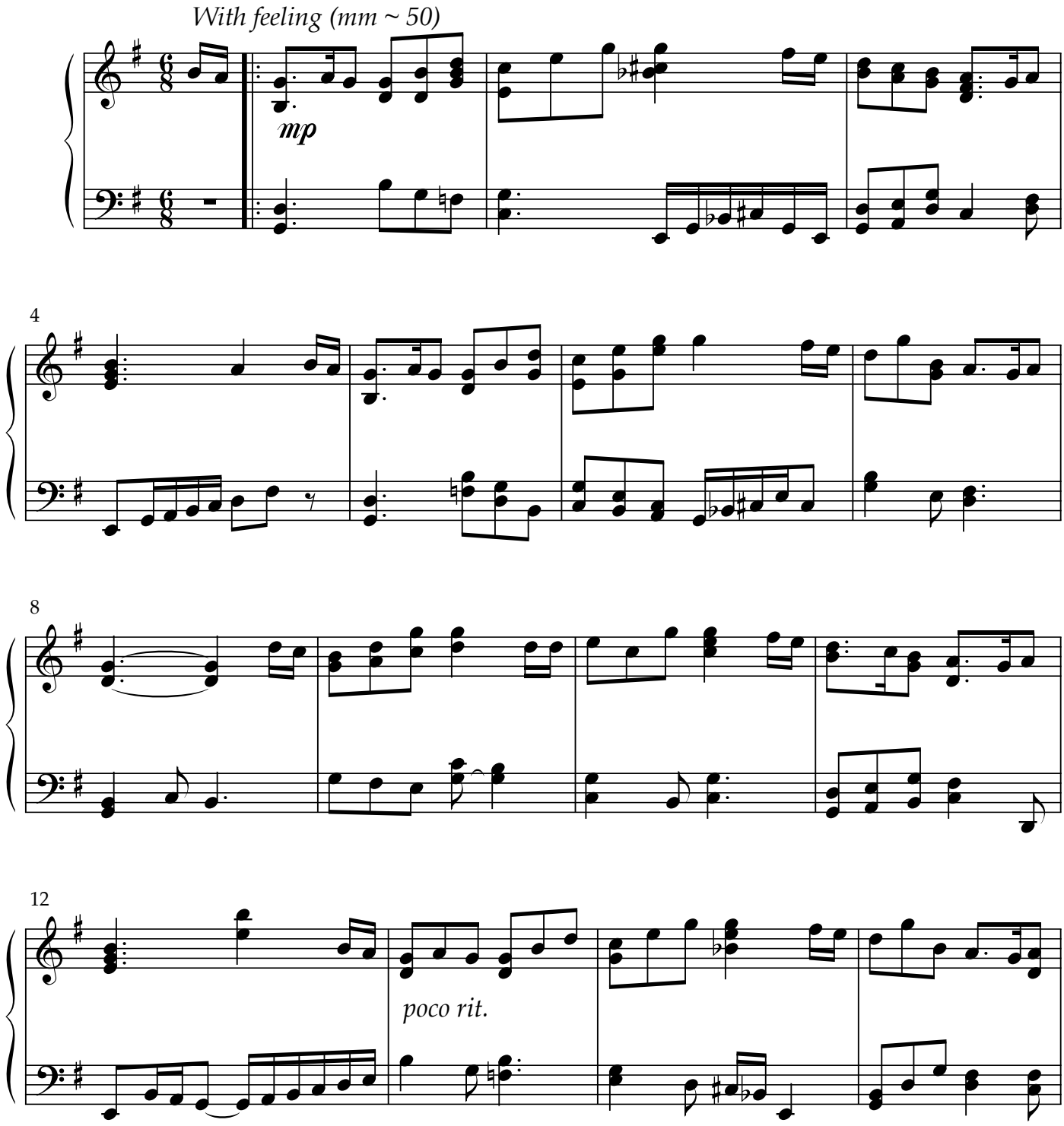
MY LODGING'S in the COLD GROUND

traditional harp tune



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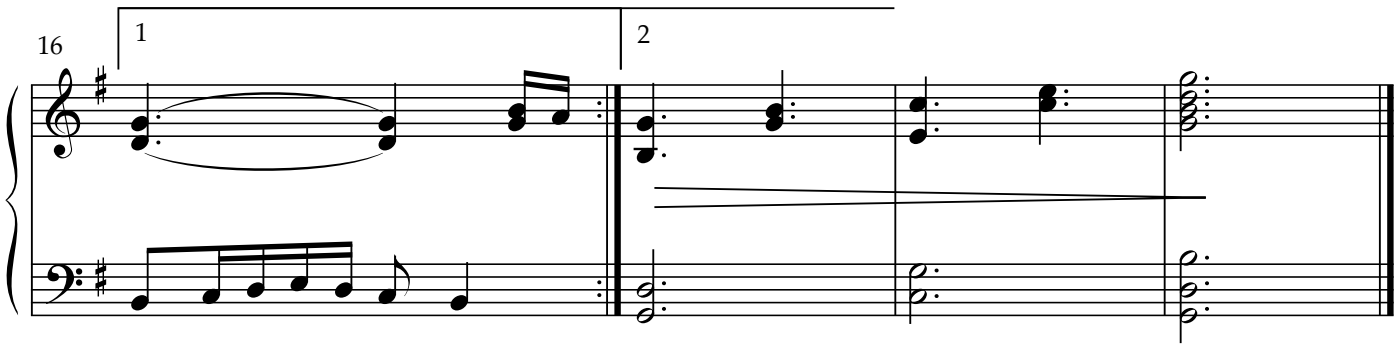

This is the melody used by the poet Thomas Moore for his well-known song "Believe Me If All Those Endearing Young Charms".“The air of that popular favorite ... has come to be regarded by not a few musical authorities as being originally English instead of Irish,” says Chief O’Neill - barely suppressing a shudder - in his *Irish Folk Music*. He continues: "Very naturally, any such claim contrary to the time-honored belief will by Irishmen at least be considered ridiculous."

Unhappily for the Chief, the fact of the matter is that the melody does not appear in any of the harp collections or other collections of Irish music prior to 1787. In contrast, a song with a similar name appears in an English publication as early as 1665. All this is pretty scary stuff for the Chief, but he rallies bravely to the cause: "Like many other Irish airs, it may have found its way into England in the early part of the eighteenth century ..."

And he finishes with a flourish (and who are we to argue?) :

"If originally an English composition, it must be admitted that more than a century’s residence in the Emerald Isle has by no means proved a drawback to it; on the contrary, the Irish form appears to be infinitely finer than the original English version, and for that reason, if for no other, it may be considered an Irish melody."