Canon Sonata no. 1 in G

2 Violins
or
2 Violas
or even
Violin and Viola

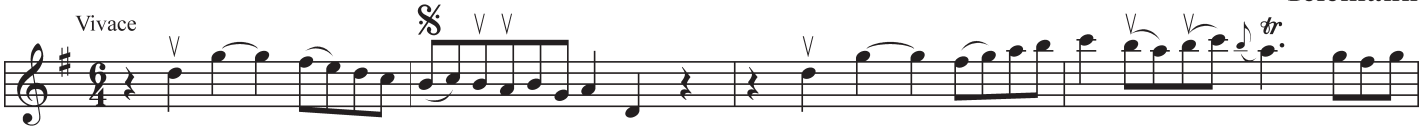
Georg Philipp TELEMANN

Ardross House

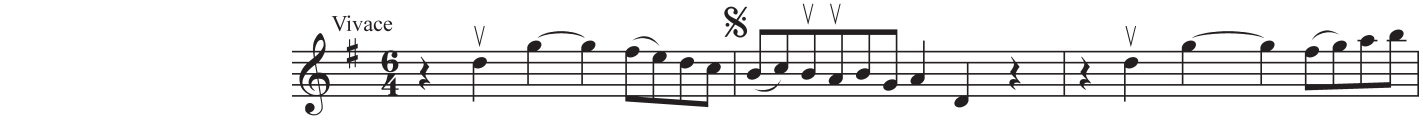
Canon Sonata no. 1

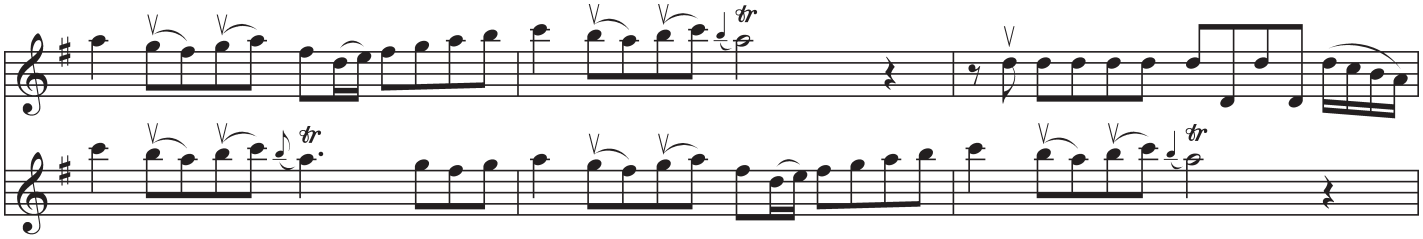
Telemann

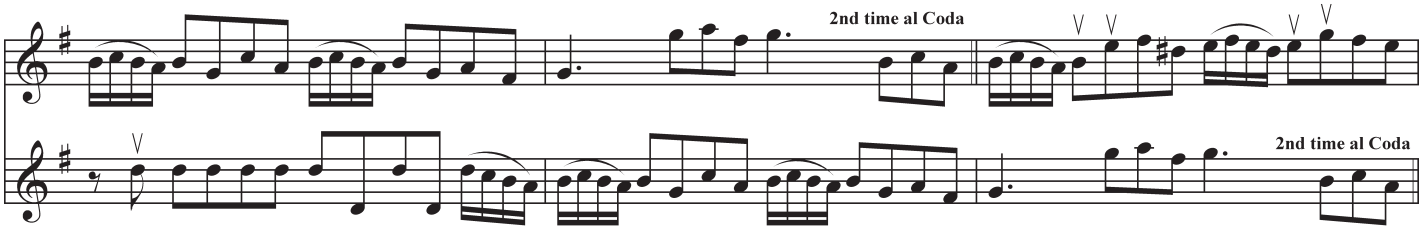
Vivace

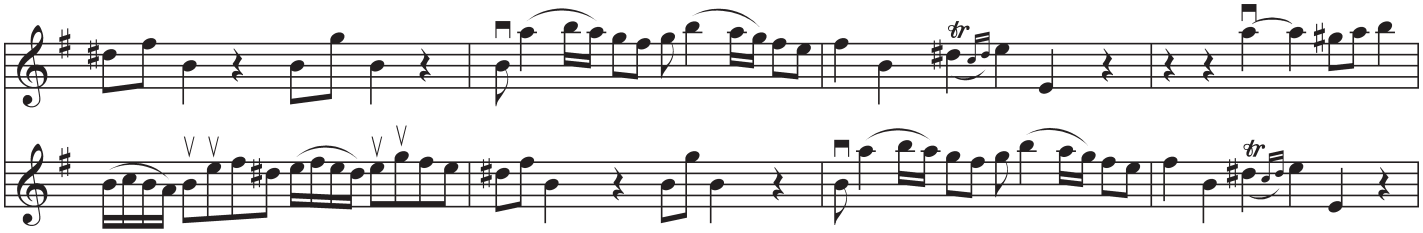


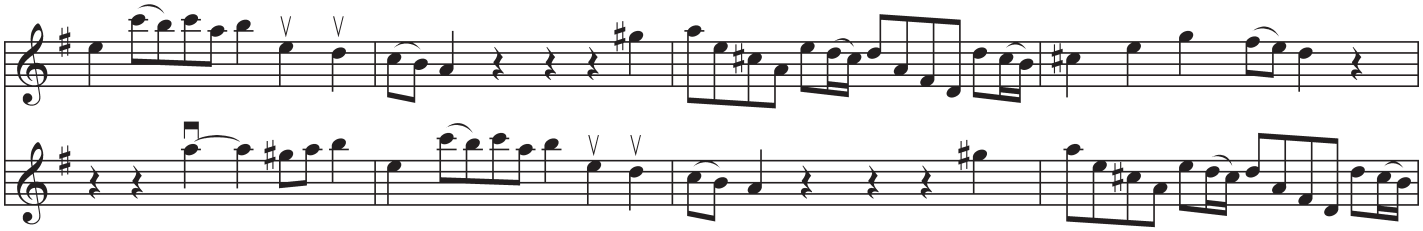
Vivace

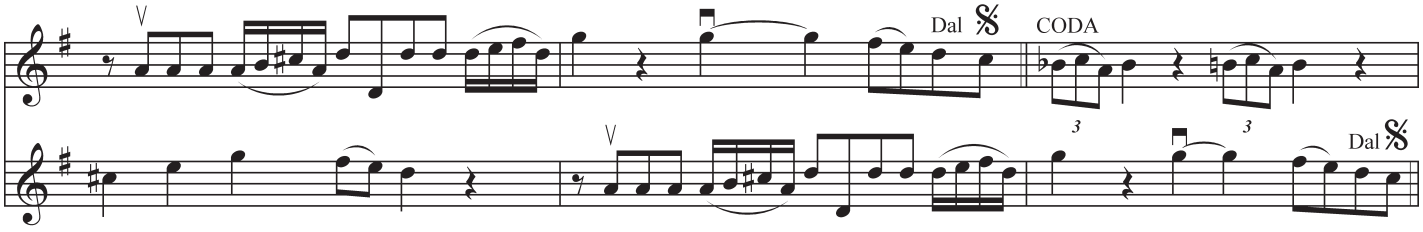


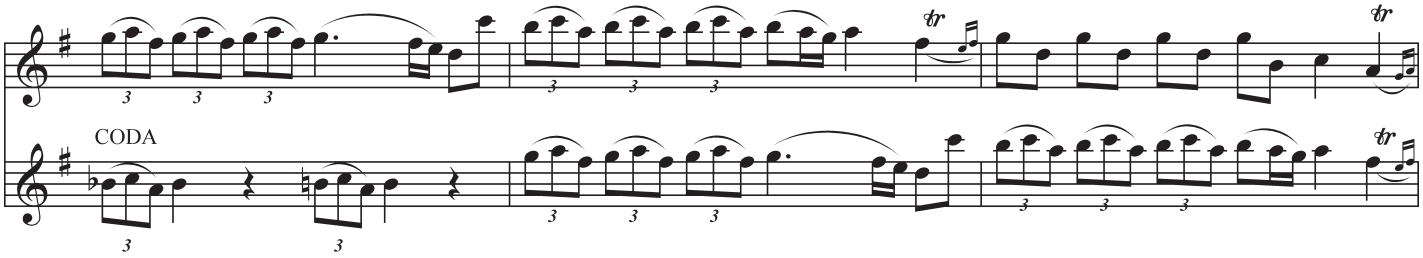


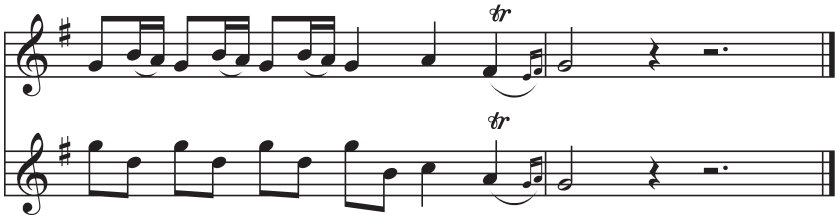




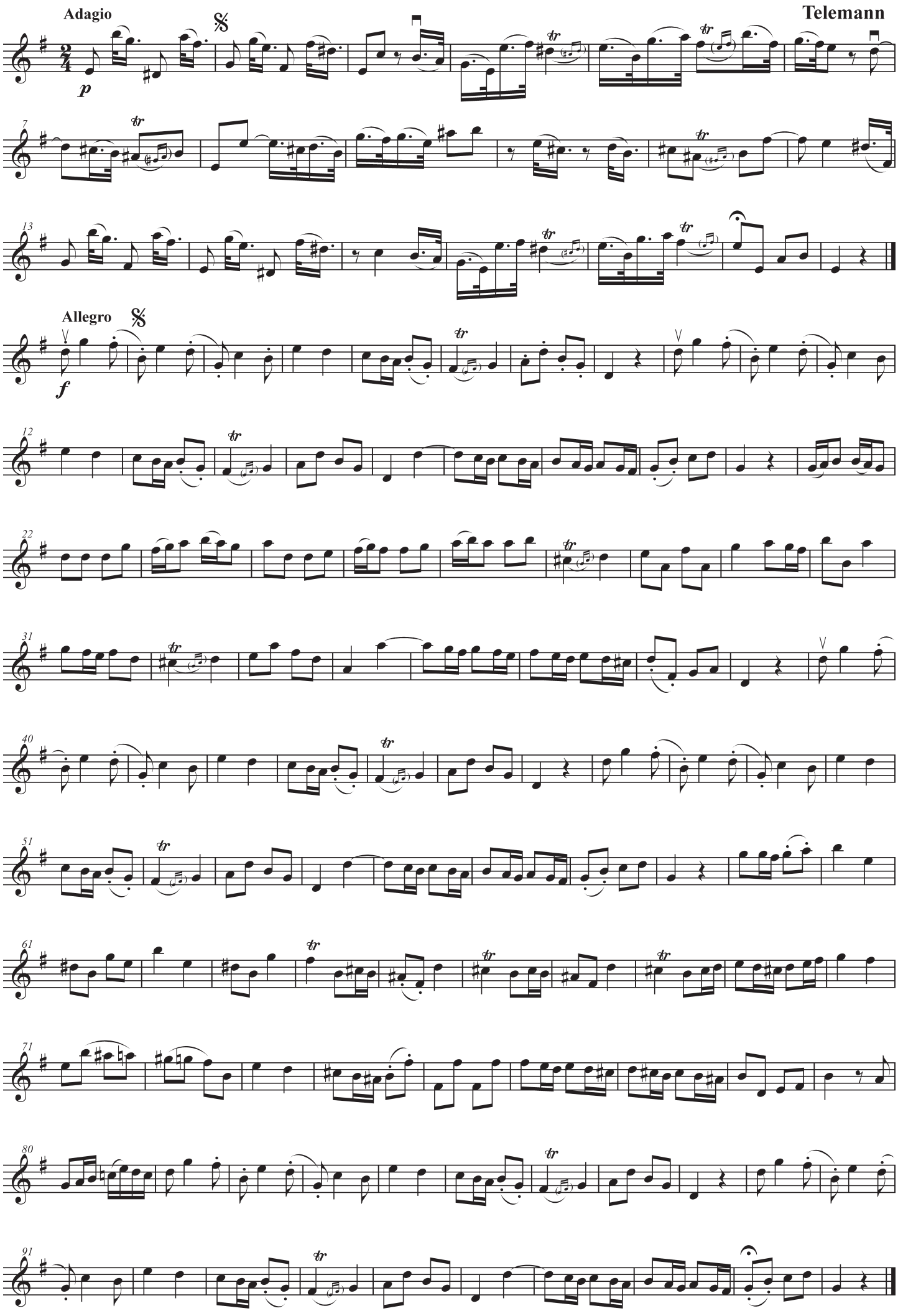






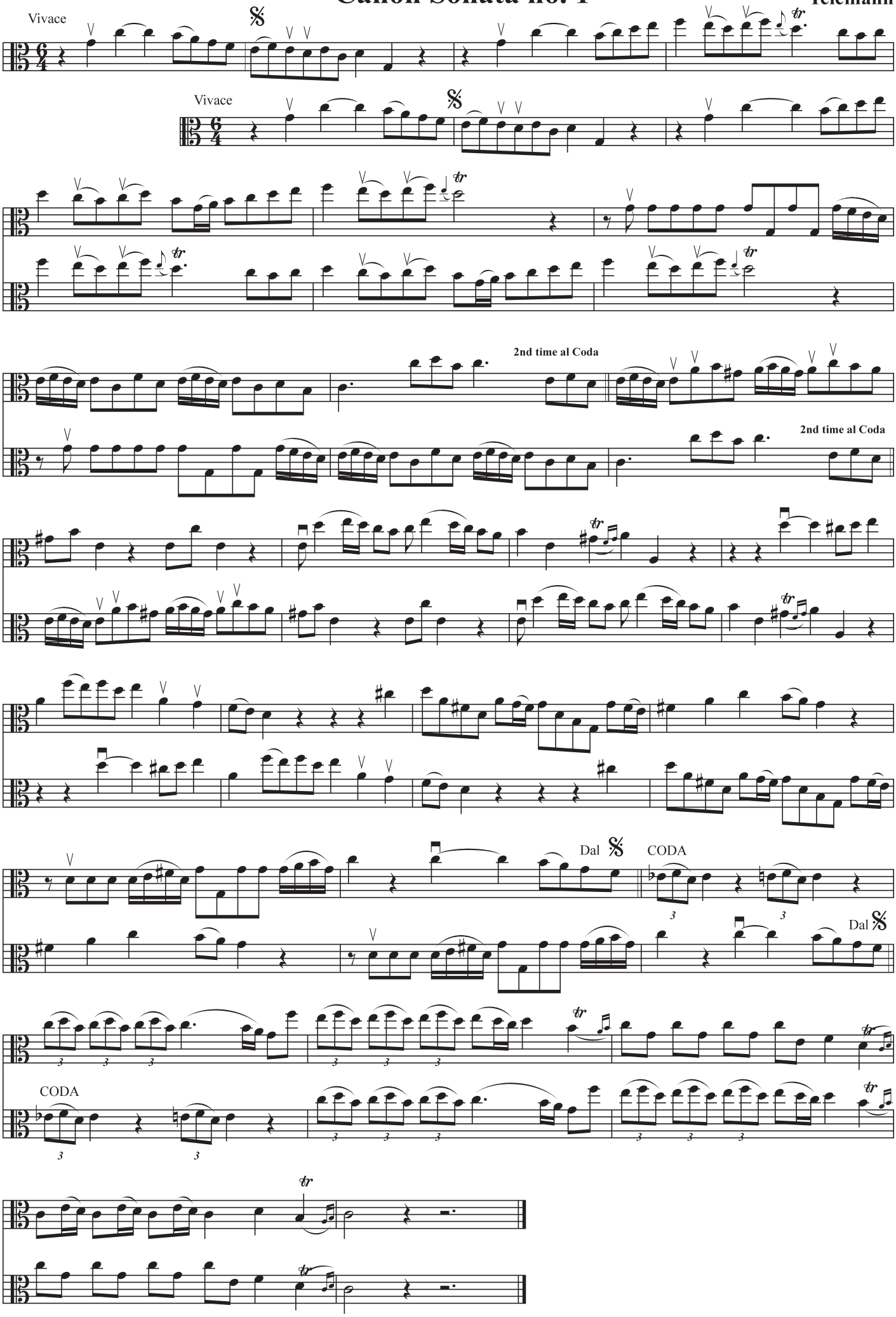


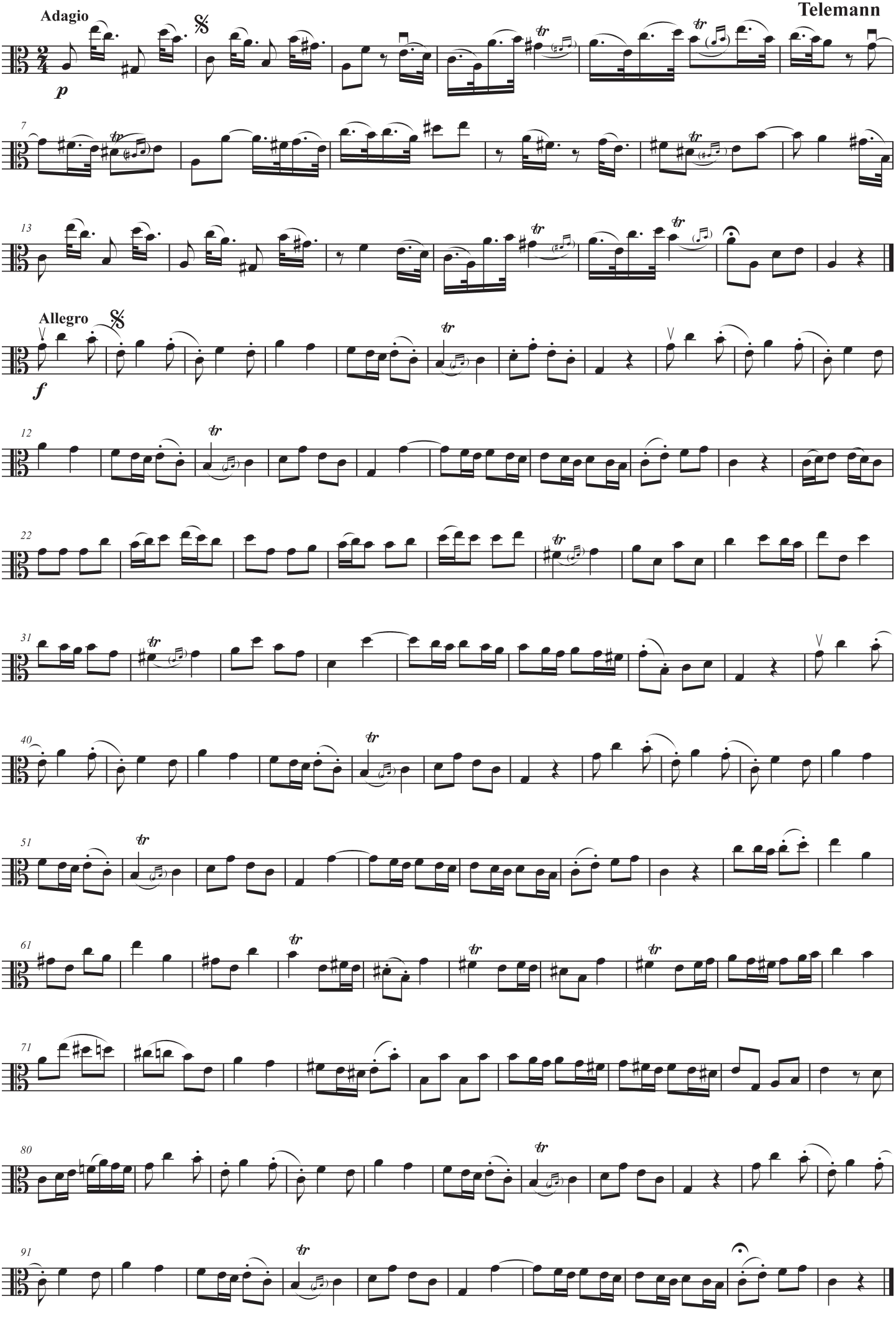
Background notes regarding this canon sonata and its fourteen associated audio files can be found on page 8 of this pdf.


Adagio
Telemann
p
7
13
Allegro
f
12
22
31
40
51
61
71
80
91

Canon Sonata no. 1

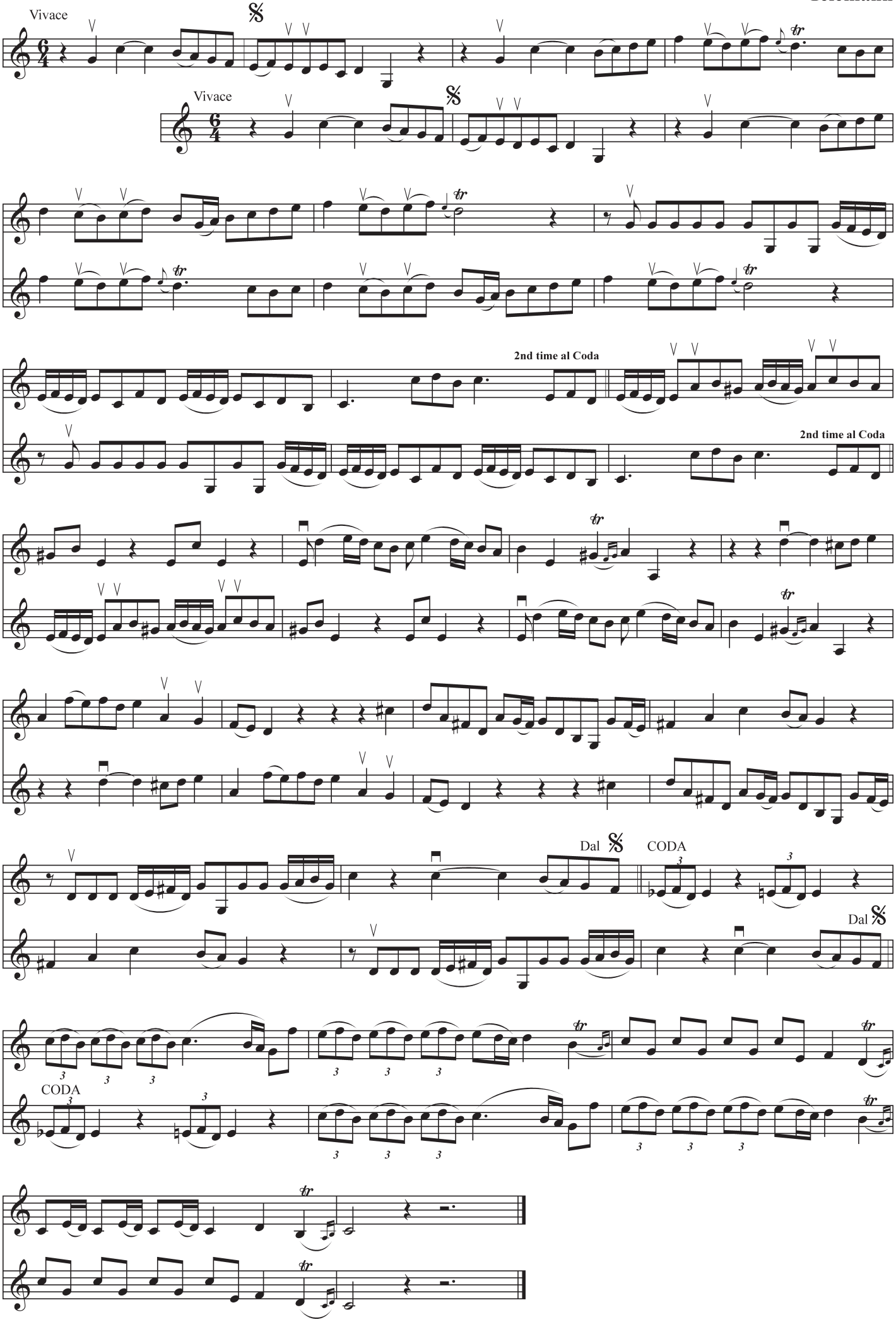
Telemann

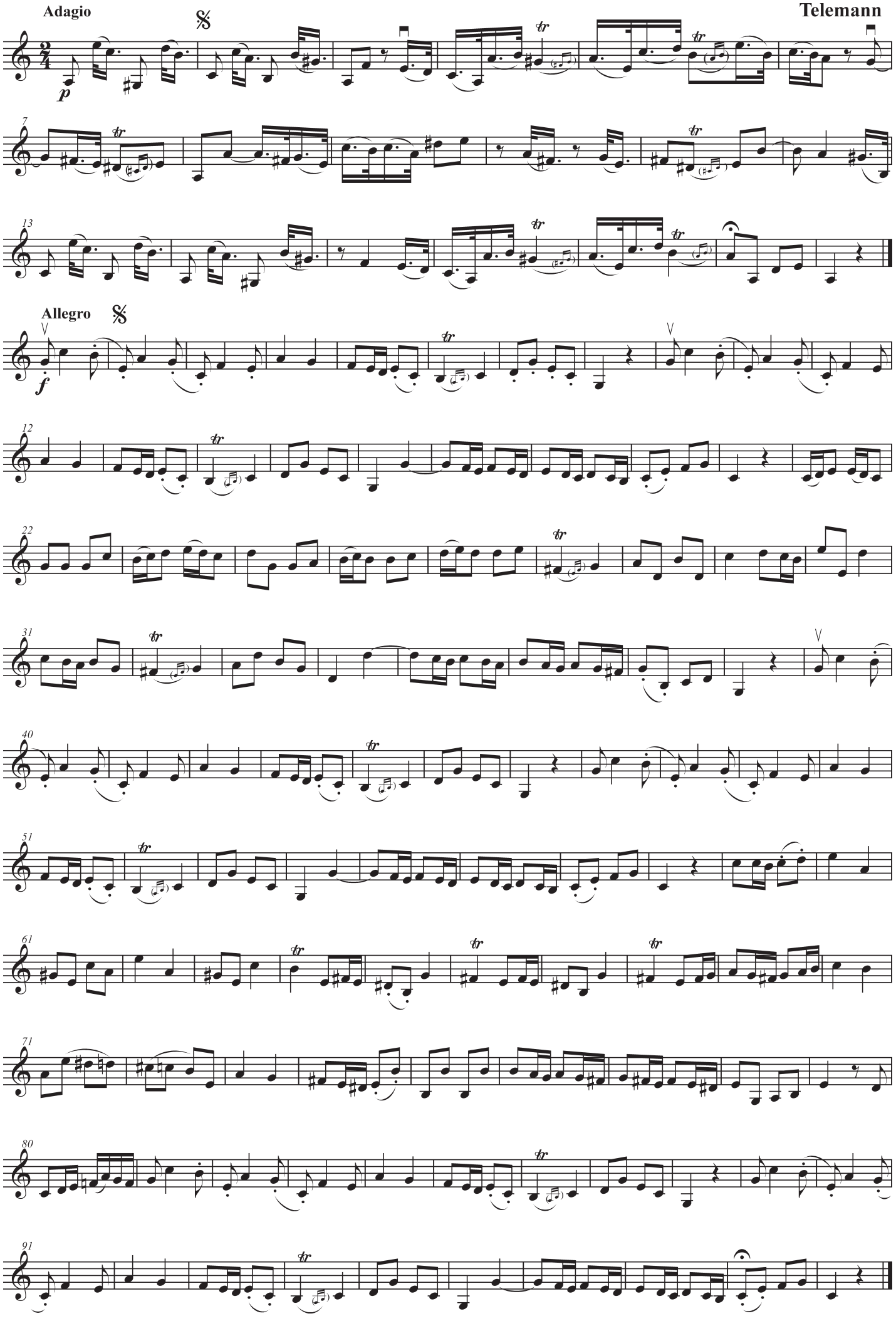



Telemann
Adagio
p
Allegro
f

Canon Sonata no. 1

Telemann




Adagio
Telemann
Allegro

Background

Georg Philipp Telemann (1681 - 1767) is credited with being one of the most prolific of all composers, and this Canon Sonata is a great example of just how attractive his music can be.

It is one of a set of six, originally written for two violins or two flutes, each individual movement being composed as a canon, the second player entering one bar later than the first, though probably finishing together, player two ending at the pause sign.

In the first movement, Vivace, it is quite easy to come adrift and so for this movement only I have written out both parts. Obviously the music has to be played very metronomically!

For the violin recordings the Vivace comes with a choice of tempo, either crotchet = 130 or a bit more lively at crotchet = 138. (For the viola, 130 is fast enough!)

For the Adagio I have chosen quaver = 66 while the Allegro has crotchet = 104.

You also have another choice of recordings, either with both parts sounding, or with the second part muted.

There are six of these lovely pieces and plenty of published editions to choose from.

I have had my old Peters edition now for over 55 years, from when I taught at the County of Stafford Teaching Training College at Nelson Hall (an ex-war-time army camp).

Remember that Telemann was born four years before Bach, but died seventeen years later than him, when Mozart was already about eleven, and some of his music does sound remarkably Mozartian.

This first Canon Sonata has been prepared in this format for my granddaughter, whom I would love to be playing it with; but for now, while we are still in lockdown because of the coronavirus pandemic, this is the best introduction I can give her to this delightful music.

And hopefully, dear reader, it will delight you too.

Kerry Milan, Stafford August 2020

p.s.

Because Telemann originally specified violins or flutes the lowest note used is the D above middle C which of course means that the violin can also play the music a fifth lower, in Key C.

So instead of two violas the piece could be played as a violin / viola duo.

And just in case there are violinists not too comfortable with the alto clef, or simply transposing, I have also included the violin part, treble clef, in the Key of C!