Grand Solo

for the Viola -

So difficult as to be Absolutely Impossible

by P.H. Miles
completed September 9th 1907

Miles's dedication reads:

To Johnson

This, then, is a

Grand Solo

for the Viola -
So difficult as to be Absolutely Impossible

Only genuine edition, as played by the Hermit of Oxville with both hands, one foot and a chin, before all the Royalty, Nobility and Gentry of the great North West, before the Railways busted it up. Refuse all substitutes and avoid injurious imitations; spare for nothing, find your own soap; mind your step and look out for the hole in the floor. The Hermit is so successful in his performance that no-one else has ever been known to attempt it, either before, since or behind; the only notes he misses are those he can't see for his whiskers; nervous old ladies near the fire have had to be led out – strong men have been known to fall down one of the wells and a large bear once died in the yard. His perspiration has often been taken for tears of anguish and his breath has been known to shrivel up the strings. Now or never is your only chance; say the word and receive by return of post a large nickel-plated, iron-framed, fur-lined, parti-coloured sausage. See the other side. P.T.O.

Transcriber's note:

The dedicatee, Percy Johnson, was a friend or acquaintance of the composer who emigrated to Canada at the same time (c. 1904) as Miles's younger brother, George Douglas Miles (“Doug”). Both Doug and Johnson appear to have been competent amateur players of the viola. Doug's homestead was Oxville, Alberta, hence the “Hermit of Oxville” while Johnson was reported to live 85 miles away - 3-4 days' travel by ox-cart which was Johnson's only means of transport.

Grand Solo for the Viola

P.H.Miles

Fairly fast

poco ***f***

10

19

28

p ***f***

37

p ***f*** ***p*** *cresc.*

46

f ***mf*** *dim.*

55

rit.

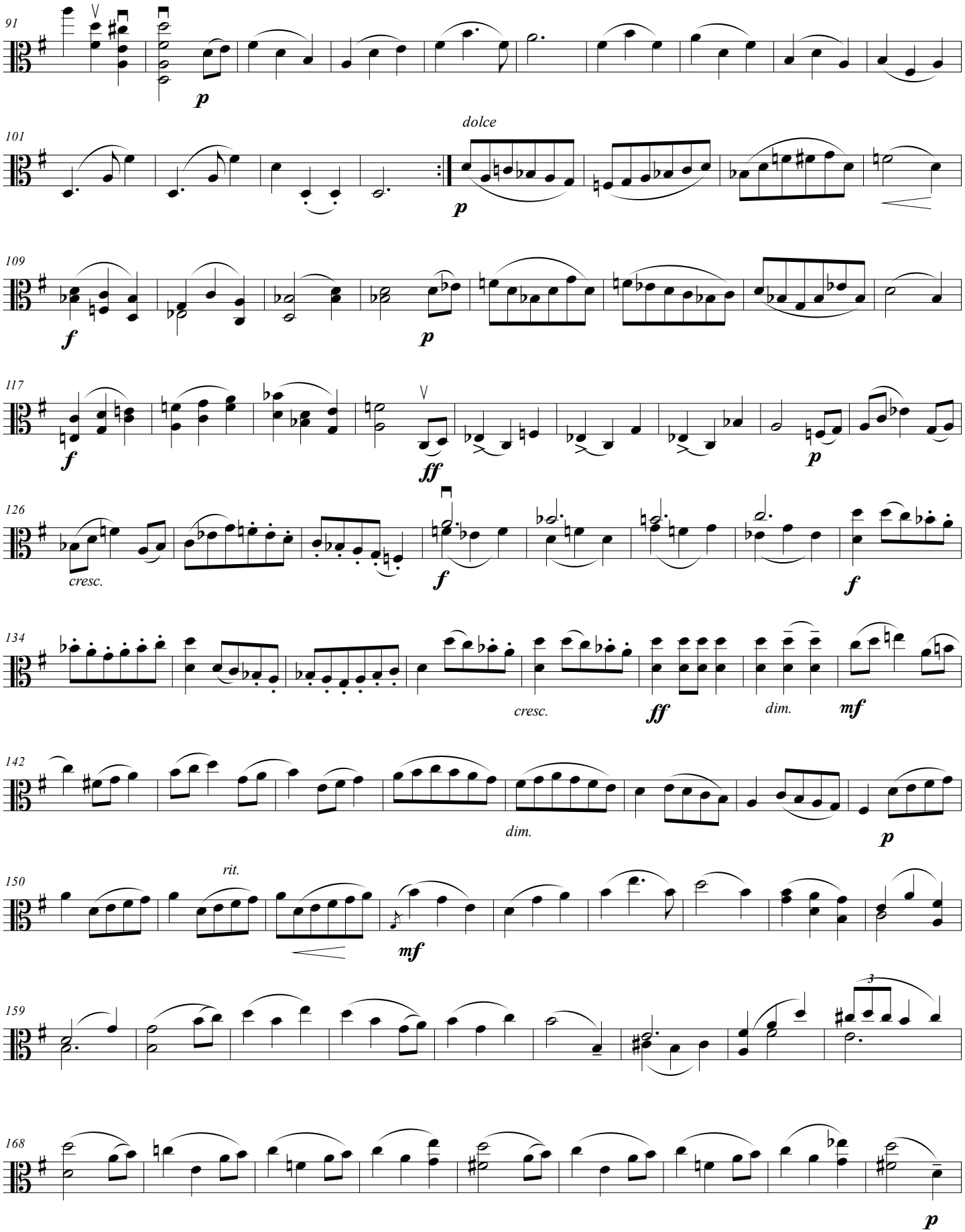
p ***mf***

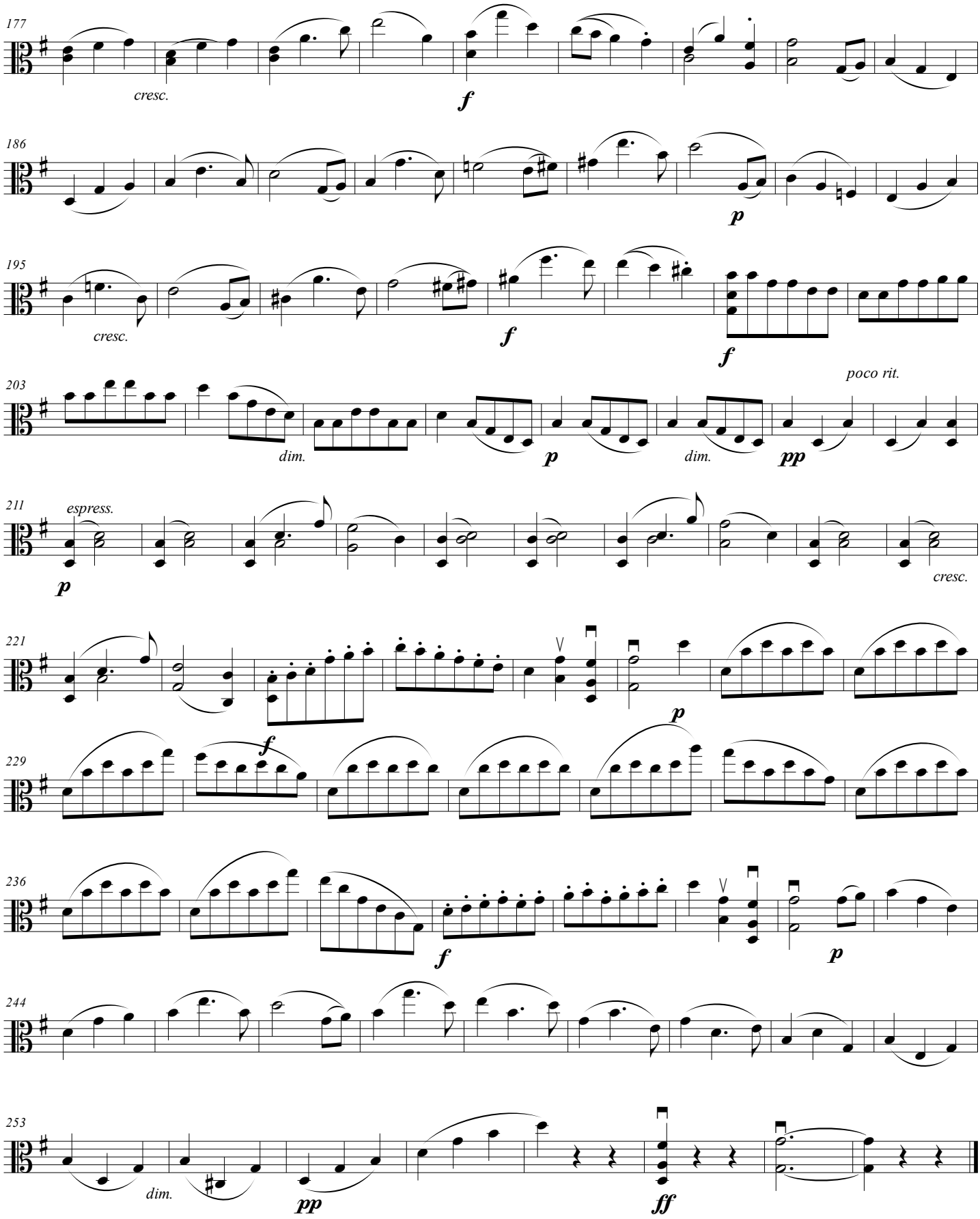
63

73

f ***f***

82


91
p
101
dolce
p
109
f
p
117
f
ff
p
126
cresc.
f
f
134
cresc.
ff
dim.
mf
142
dim.
p
150
rit.
mf
159
168
p


177
cresc.
f
186
p
195
cresc.
f
f
203
poco rit.
dim.
p
dim.
pp
211
espress.
p
cresc.
221
p
f
229
236
f
p
244
253
dim.
pp
ff