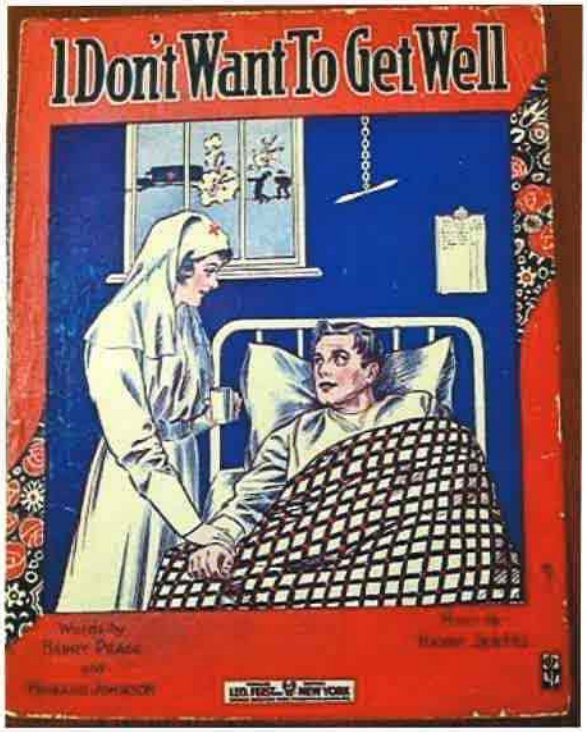

I Don't Want To Get Well

by Harry Jentes

Leo Feist, Inc. (1917)

One or Two Step

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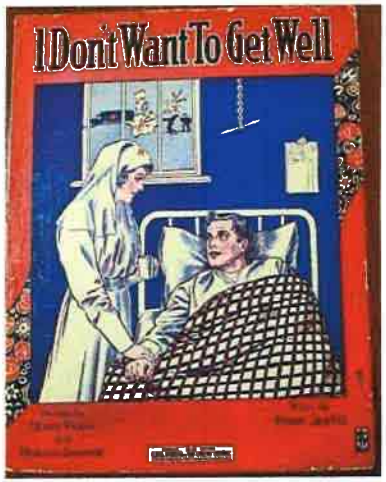


I Don't Want To Get Well
by Harry Jentes Leo Feist, Inc. (1917)
One or Two Step

"I Don't Want to Get Well" is a World War I era song released sometime between 1917 and 1918. Harry Pease and Howard Johnson wrote the lyrics. Harold Jentes composed the music. Leo Feist, Inc. of New York City published the song. Rosenbaum Studios designed the sheet music cover. It features a Red Cross nurse checking the pulse of a wounded soldier as he lies in his hospital bed. The two look at each other longingly. A battle is seen through the window. It was written for both voice and piano. Eddie Cantor popularized the song.

The song is about a soldier who does not want to get better because he has fallen in love with his nurse. The soldier sends a letter to his worried friend, assuring him that getting shot was the best thing that happened to him. The friend then decides to head to war and hopes he gets injured too. The chorus is as follows:

I don't want to get well,, I don't want to get well, I'm in love with a beautiful nurse.
Early ev'ry morning, night, and noon, The cutest little girlie comes and feeds me with a spoon.
I don't want to get well, I don't want to get well, I'm glad they shot me on the fighting line, fine!
The doctor says that I'm in bad condition, But oh, oh, oh, I've got so much ambition;
I don't want to get well,, I don't want to get well, For I'm having a wonderful time

Isadore Harold Jentes was born to German father Henry Jentes and American mother Rebecca Barnet, in Manhattan, New York. He was a life-long New York city resident.. Harry's first known professional position was as a pianist for the firm of Frederick A. Mills in 1910 or 1911. By the 1912 Harry had become a proficient enough performer in his twenties to work in vaudeville and do some arranging. His first instrumental was *Rhapsody Rag*, a worthy effort that is still heard today on occasion. Starting in 1912 Harry teamed up with a number of lyricists and turned out some fine songs as well. Jentes was also an early piano roll performer and one of the earliest ragtime recording artists on records, covering a great many tunes besides his own.

It was in 1915 that Harry also joined ASCAP and also married Mae Gibbons. His *Put Me to Sleep with an Old-Fashioned Melody (Wake Me Up with a Rag)* made Harry even more in demand as a composer. On Jentes' 1917 draft record he is shown to be employed by Feist. Among his frequent partners there was the busy lyricist Alex Gerber. However, soon after he was established with Feist, the firm published one of his greatest comic World War One hits, composed with Harry Pease and the prolific Howard Johnson. *I Don't Want to Get Well.* It helped to bring a brighter view of wounded or sick soldiers in hospitals populated by attractive nurses. Harry was also employed to play for making piano rolls.

In early October 1919 Harry moved to Manhattan and was employed by Irving Berlin's company as a staff arranger and composer. Jentes had a string of minor hits from that point on into the early 1920s.

In 1922 Harry became part of case law in a decision based on a lawsuit he had brought against Remick & Co. and Irving Berlin for Berlin's use of the title of "All By Myself". Legal issues basically left the situation unresolved. Just the same, from around that time on Berlin would frequently use his own name in the title to avoid further problems, such as *Irving Berlin's Blue Skies*.

A handful of pieces were composed by Jentes in the 1930s, most published by Mills, but no hits of any significance. The 1940 enumeration showed that he and Mae had moved a few blocks from their previous residence into a Fort Washington Ave. apartment, and he was once again listed as a composer of songs. Harry's 1942 draft record showed no employer, and it was likely that he was either retired or self-employed. After a surge of songs in 1942 and a few throughout the decade, the last known output from Harry was a 1950 tune co-written with *Stardust* lyricist Mitchell Parish. Little is known of his life beyond this point through his later years. Harry Jentes died of complications from pneumonia in 1958 at age 70. He was survived by his brothers and his wife. Mae passed on in 1963 in New York City. They are interred together at Saint Raymonds Cemetery in Bronx, New York.

Content from Wikipedia .

I Don't Want To Get Well

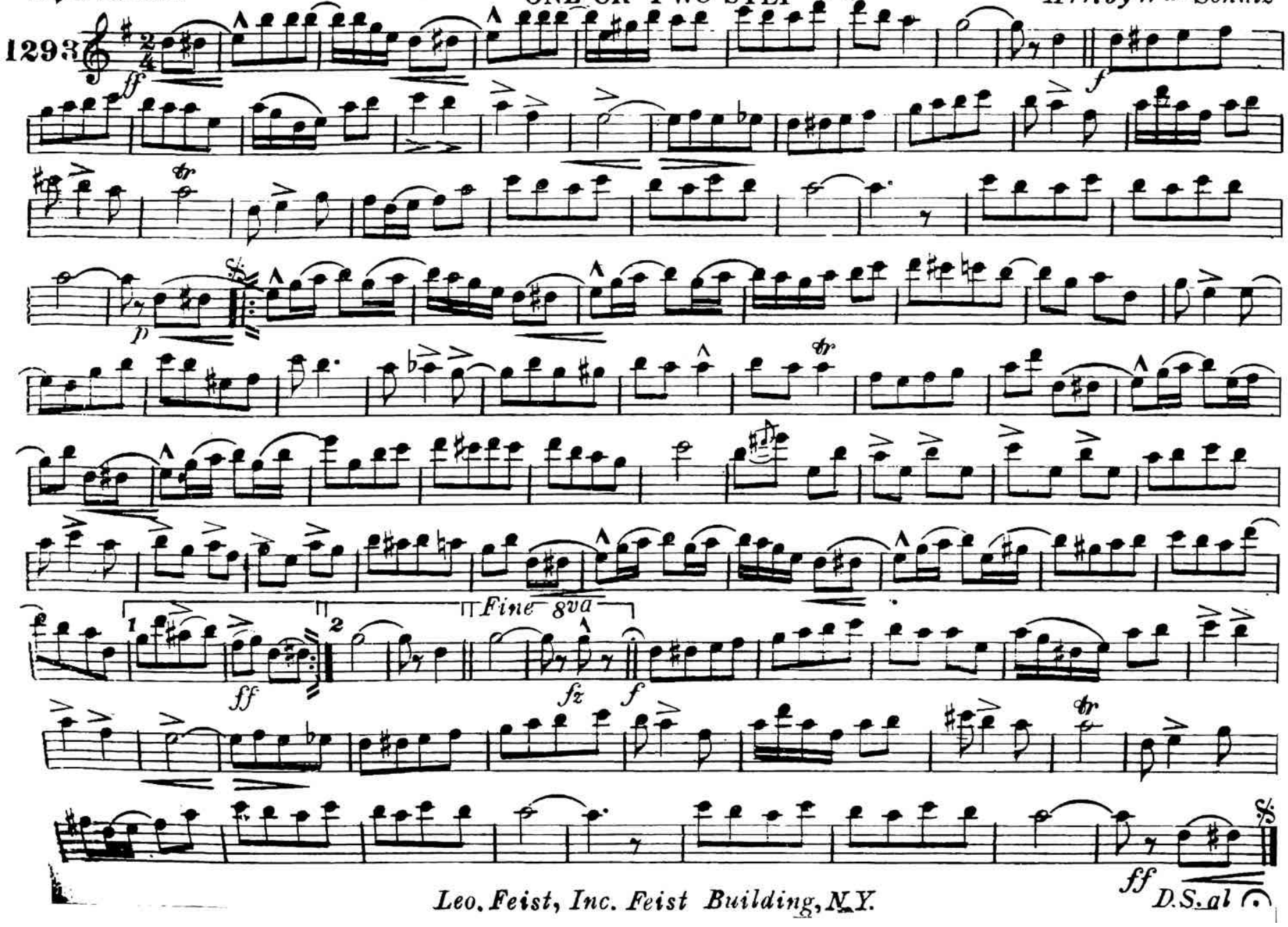
ONE OR TWO STEP

HARRY JENTES

Arr. by Wm Schulz

D♭ Piccolo

1293



Leo. Feist, Inc. Feist Building, N.Y.

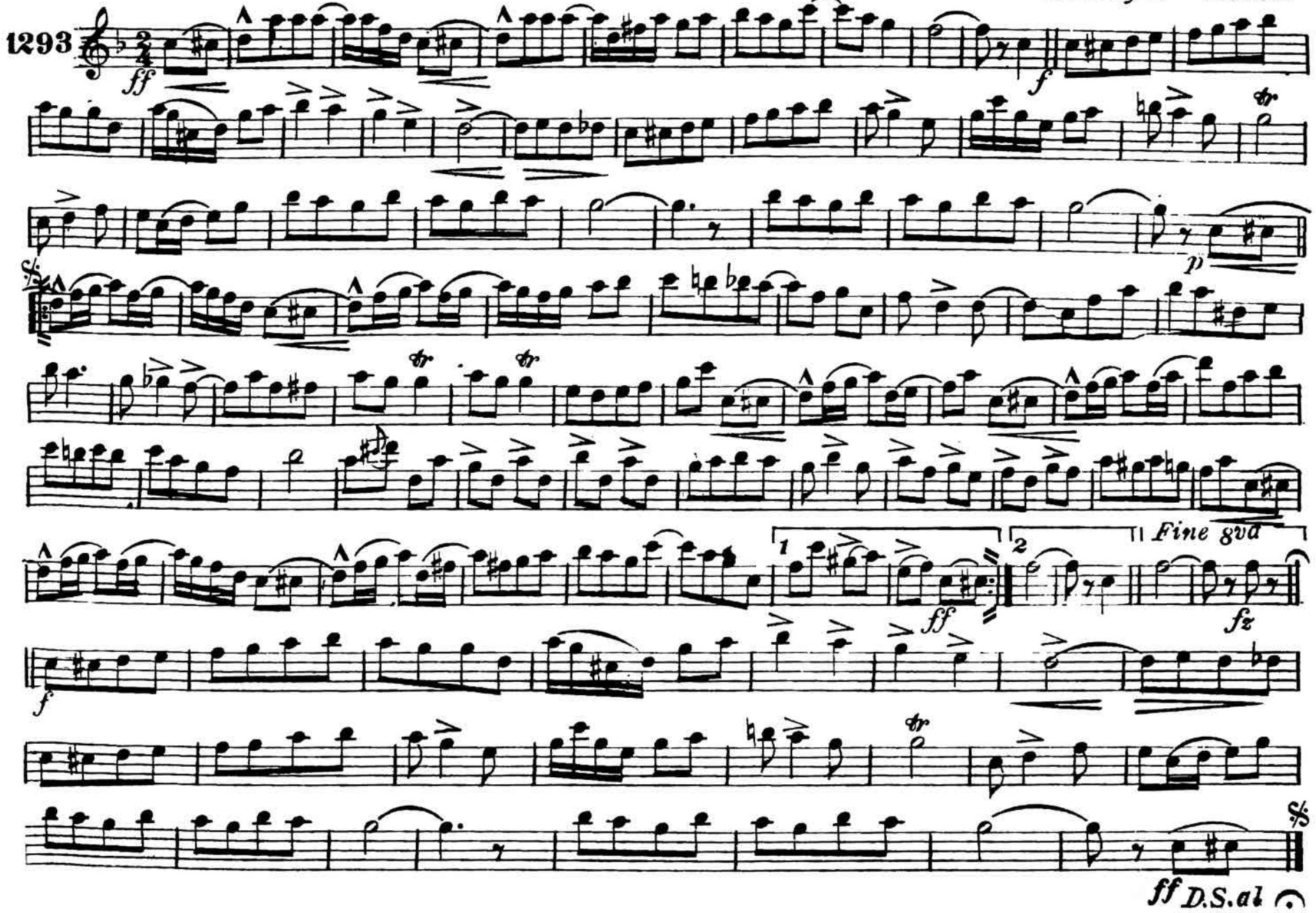
I Don't Want To Get Well

ONE OR TWO STEP

Eb Clarinet

HARRY JENTES
Arr. by Wm Schulz

1293



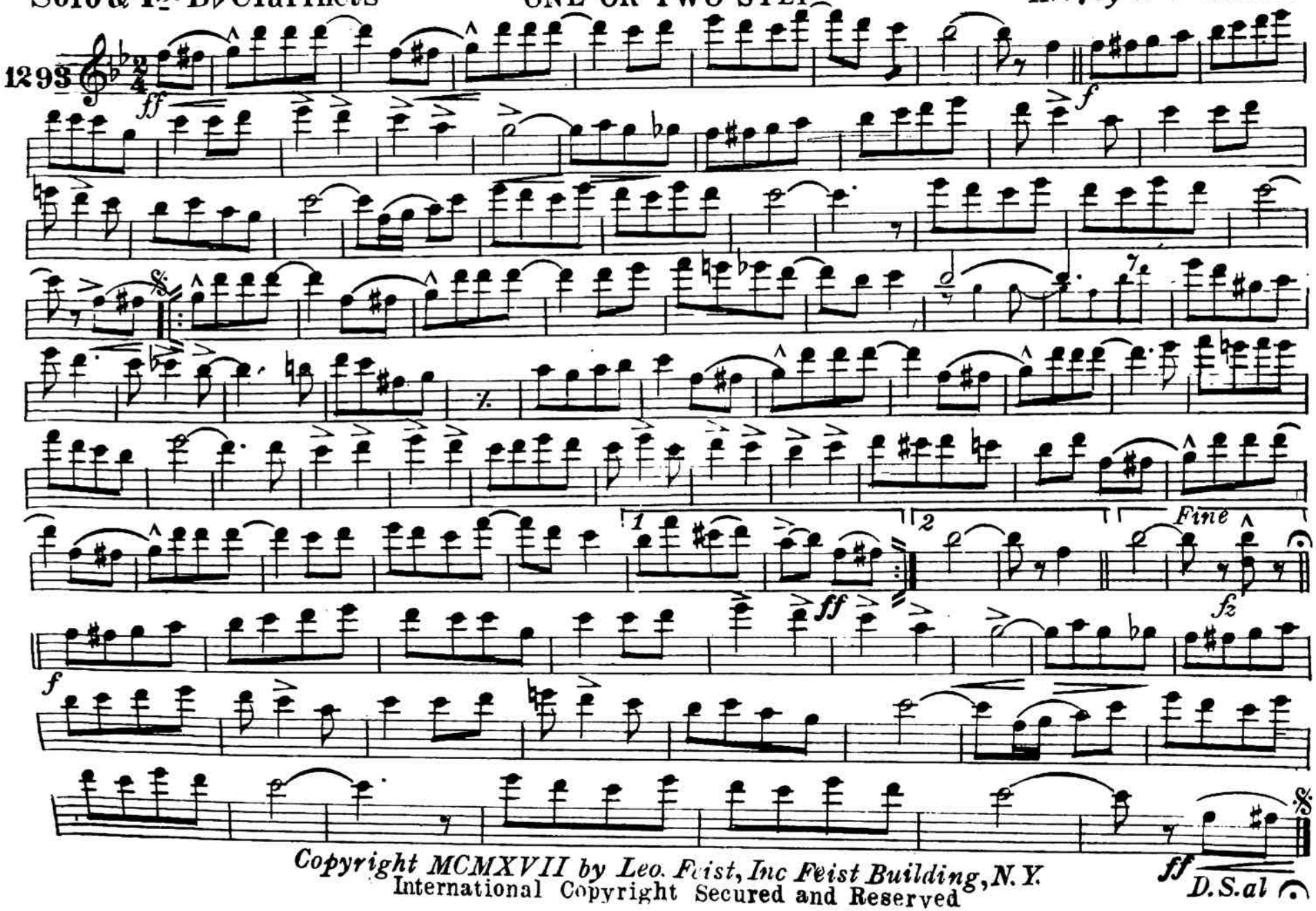
I Don't Want To Get Well

ONE OR TWO STEP

HARRY JENTES
Arr. by Wm Schulz

Solo & 1st B♭ Clarinets

1293



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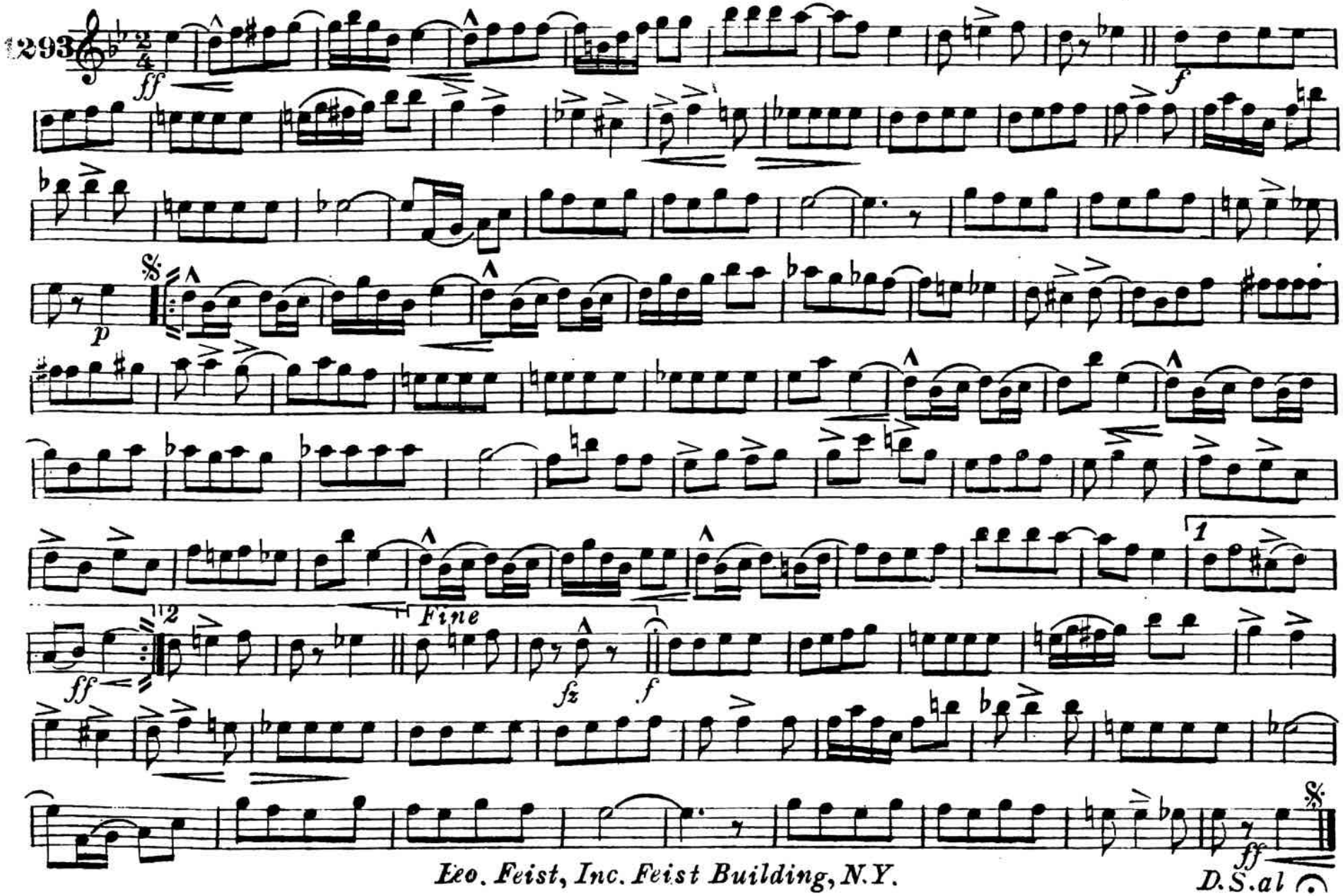
Feist Edition

I Don't Want To Get Well

ONE OR TWO STEP

HARRY JENTES
Arr. by Wm Schulz

2nd B♭ Clarinet



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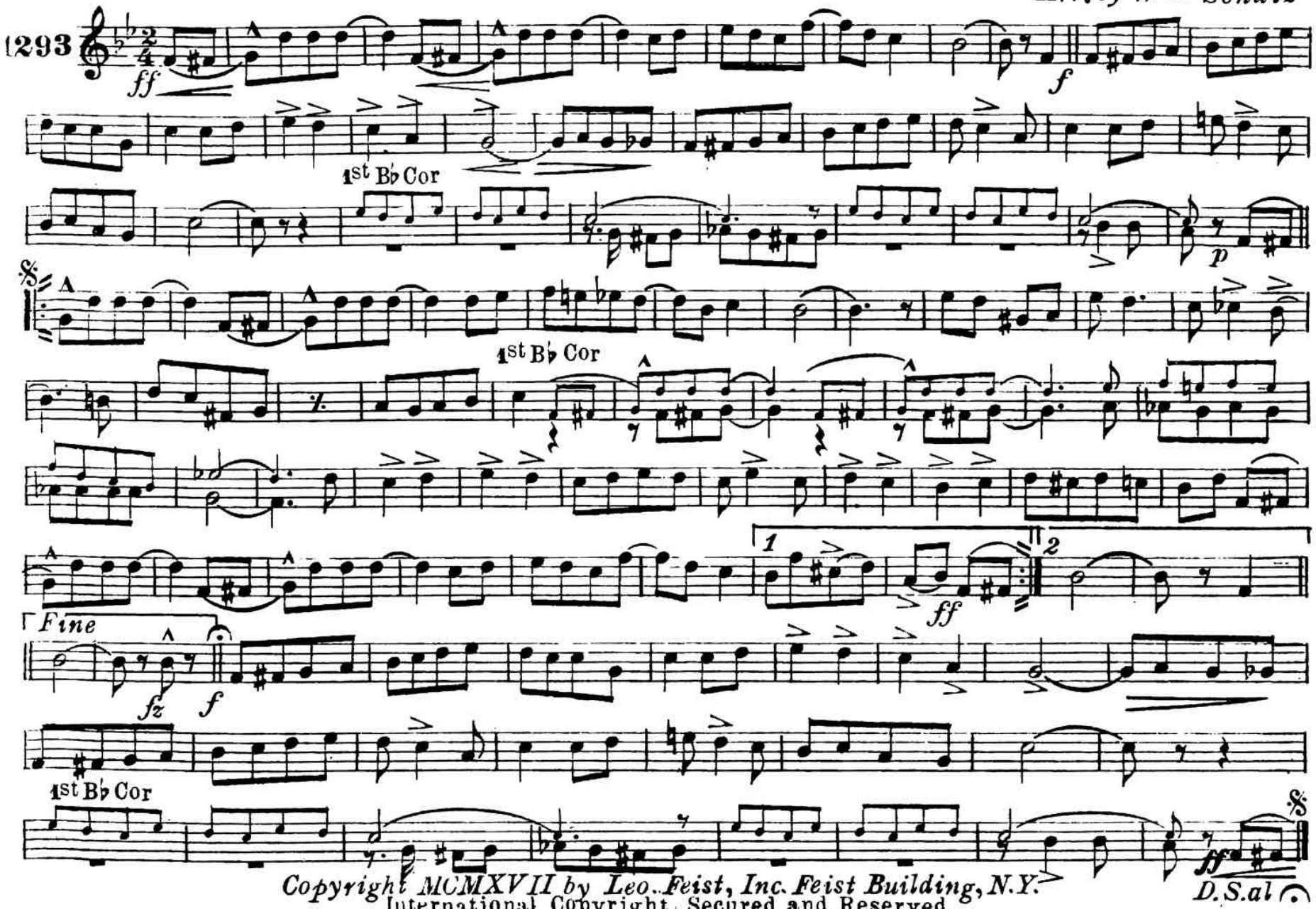
I Don't Want To Get Well

Solo B♭ Cornet

ONE OR TWO STEP

HARRY JENTES
Arr. by Wm Schulz



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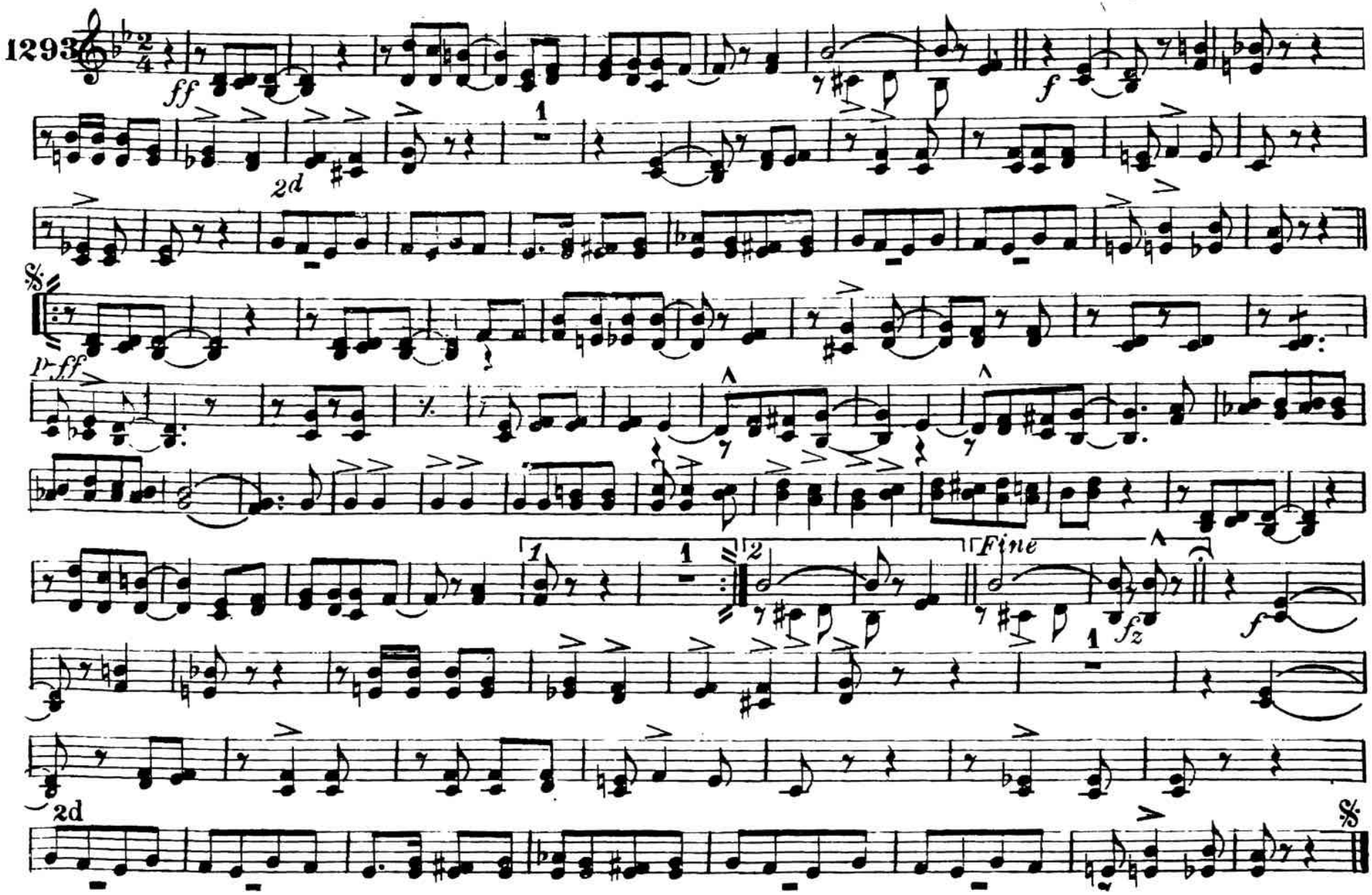
I Don't Want To Get Well

2nd & 3rd B♭ Cornets — **ONE OR TWO STEP** — **HARRY JENTES**

Arr. by Wm Schulz



Feist Edition

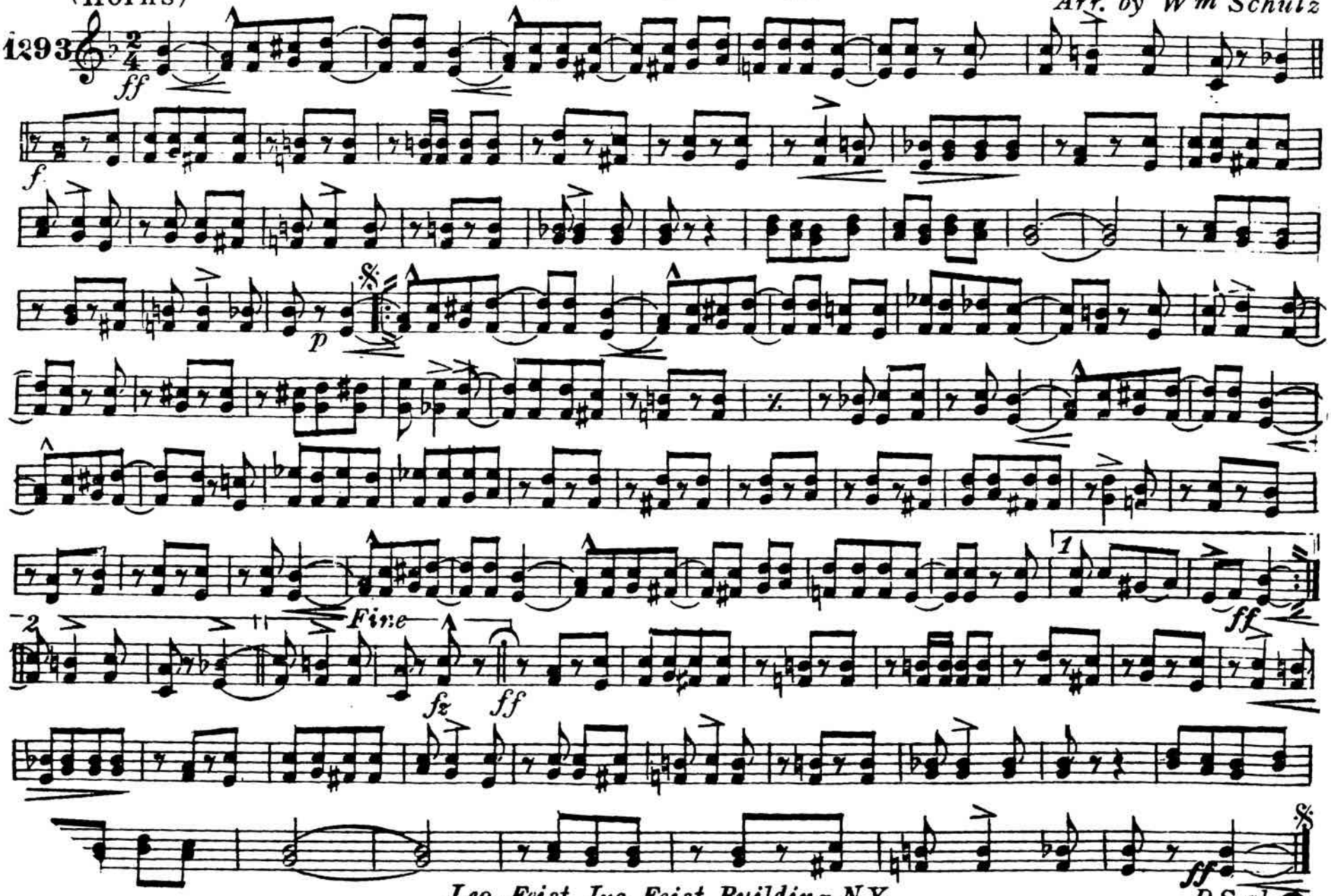
1st & 2nd Eb Altos
(Horns)

I Don't Want To Get Well

ONE OR TWO STEP

HARRY JENTES
Arr. by Wm Schulz

1293



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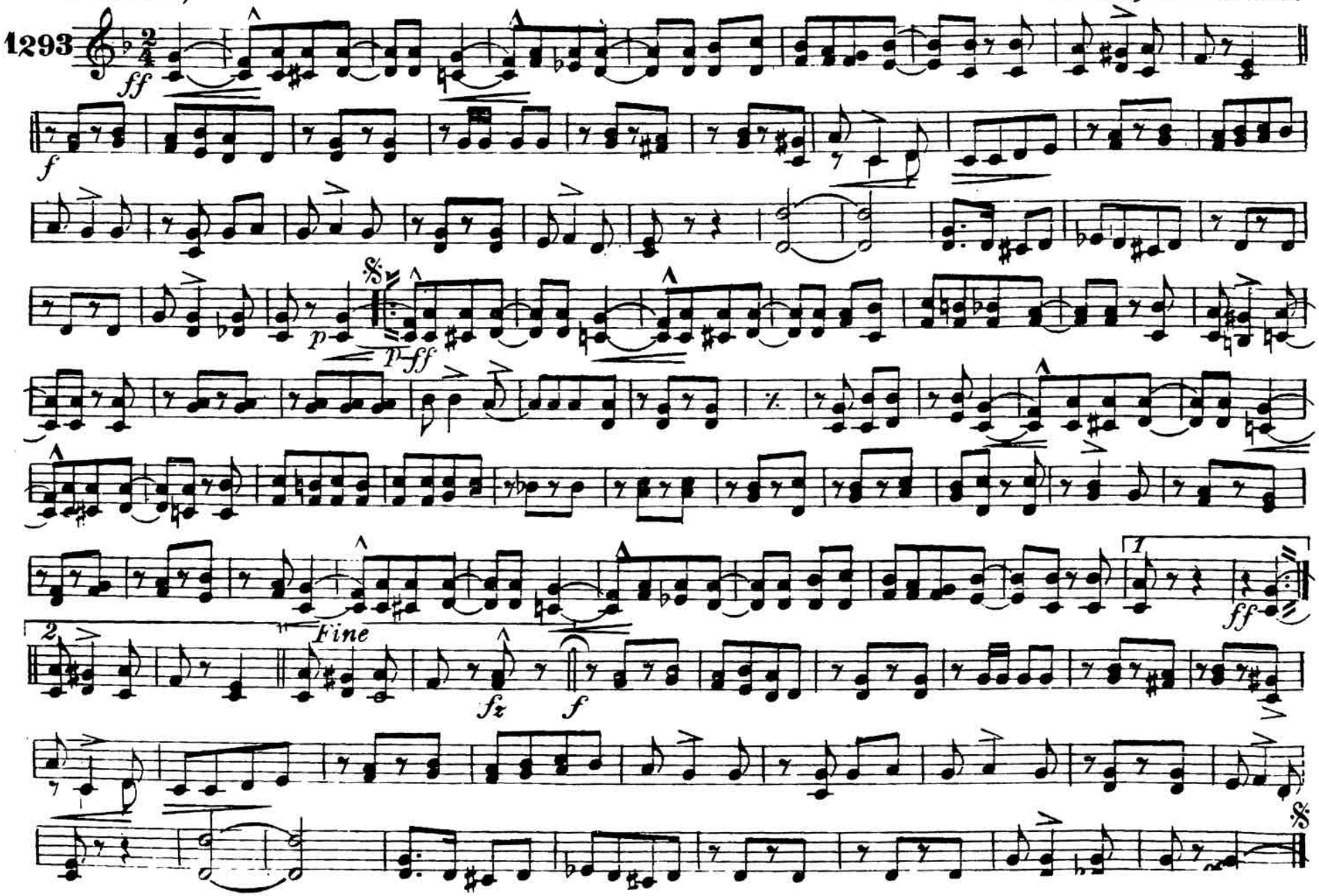
3rd & 4th Eb Altos
(Horns)

I Don't Want To Get Well

ONE OR TWO STEP

HARRY JENTES
Arr. by Wm Schulz

1293



Feist Edition

1st & 2nd Trombones

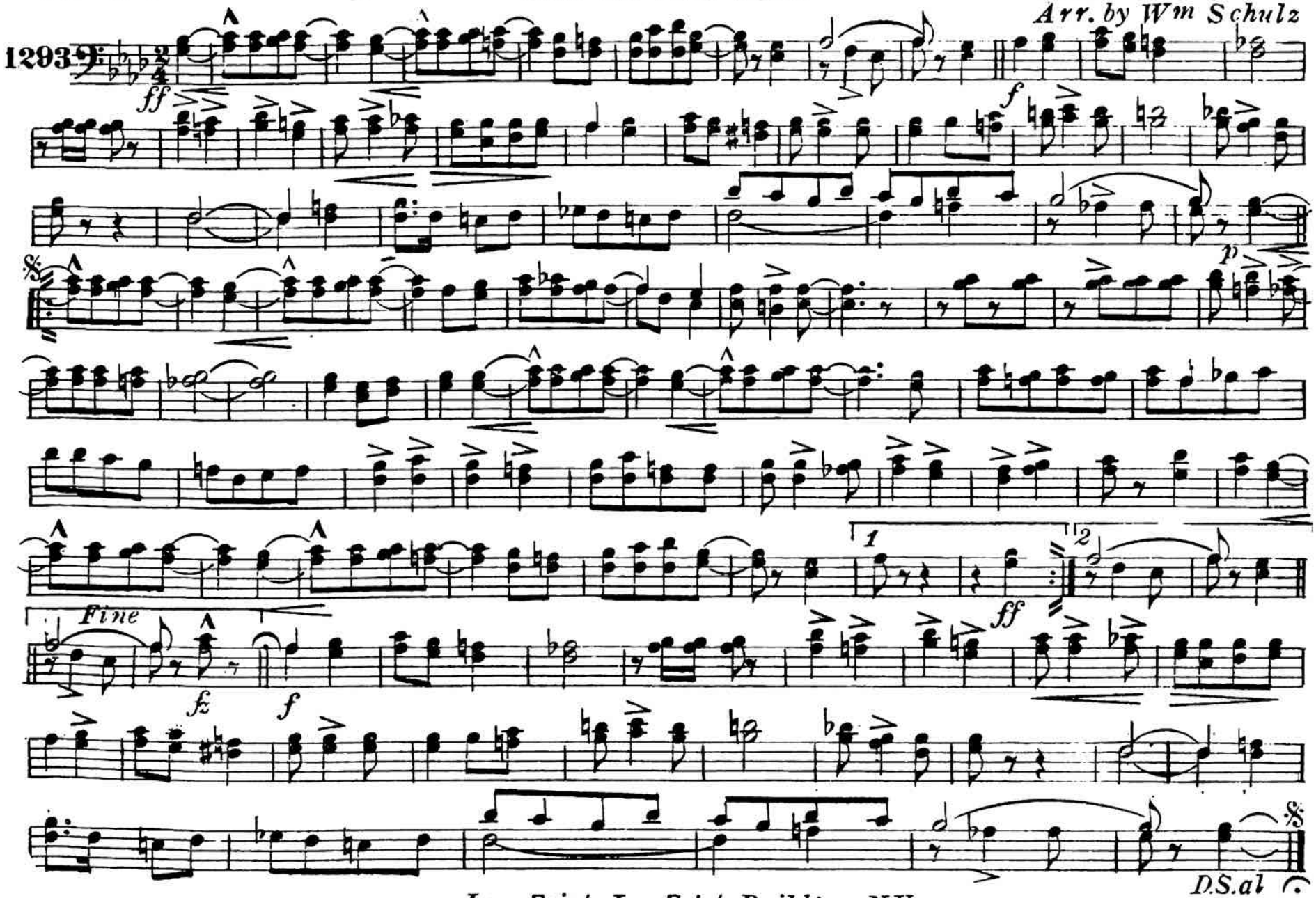
I Don't Want To Get Well

ONE OR TWO STEP

HARRY JENTES

Arr. by Wm Schulz

1293



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3rd Trombone

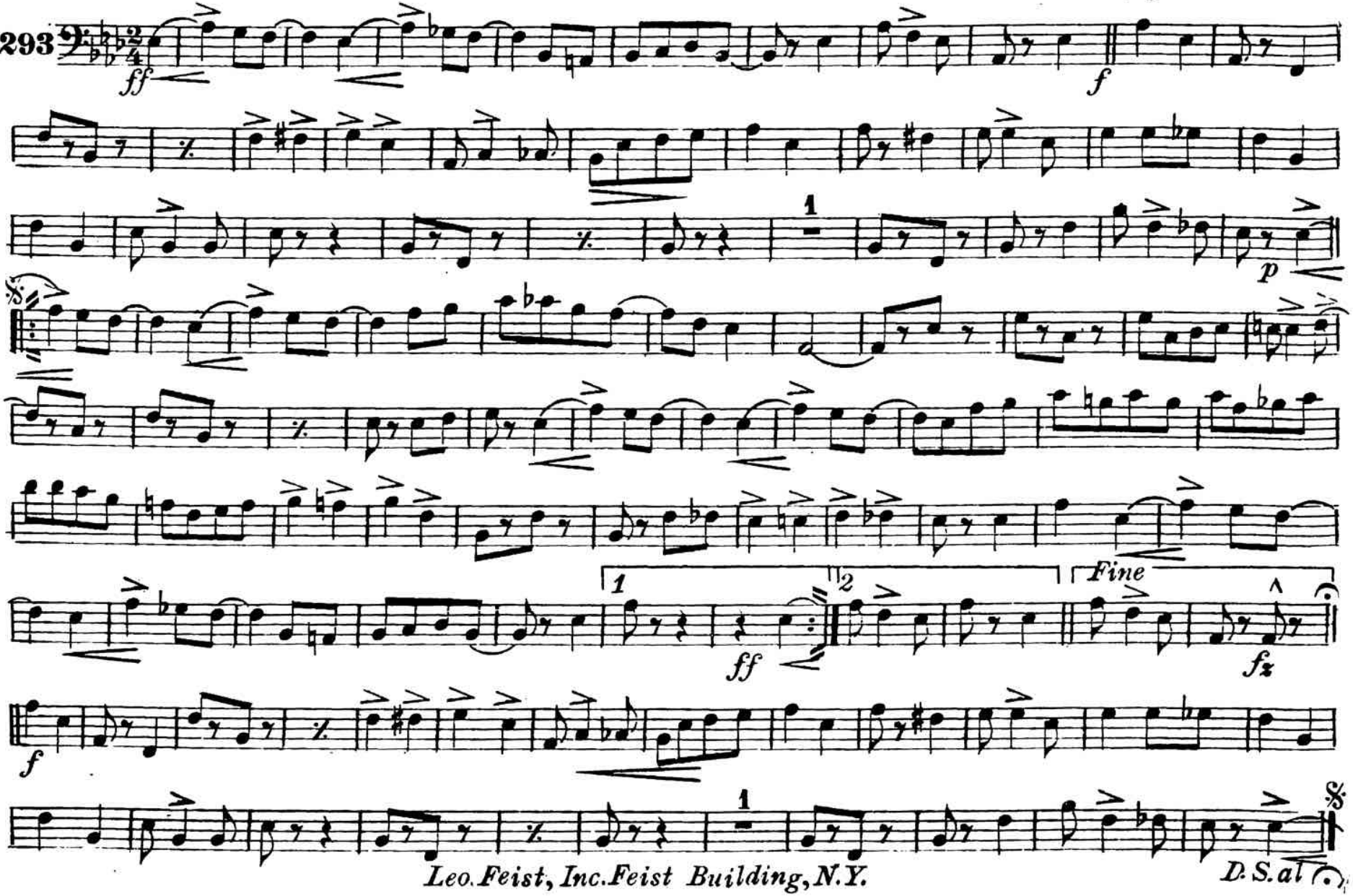
I Don't Want To Get Well

ONE OR TWO STEP

HARRY JENTES

Arr. by Wm Schulz

1293



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I Don't Want To Get Well

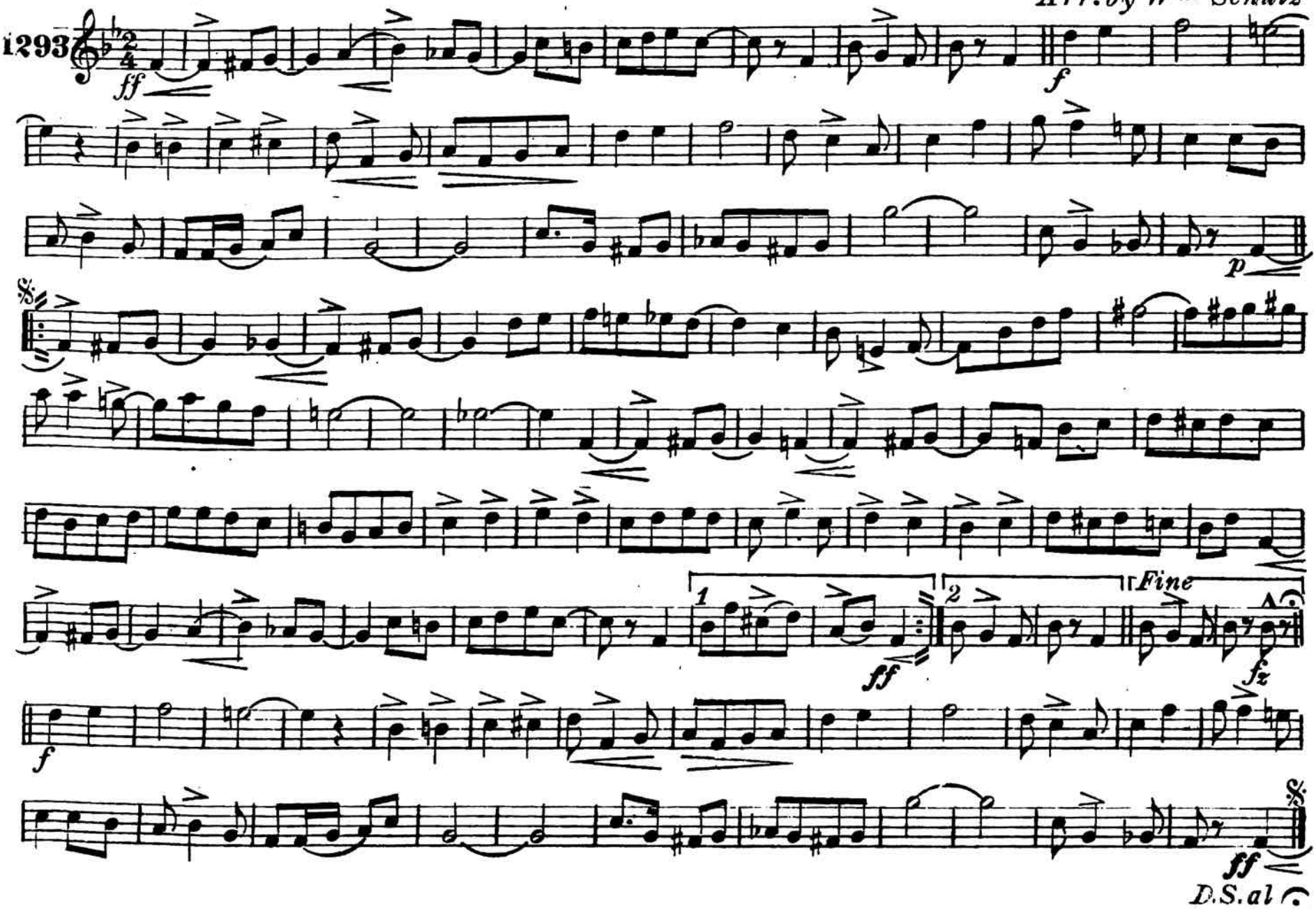
ONE OR TWO STEP

HARRY JENTES

Arr. by Wm Schulz

Baritone

1293

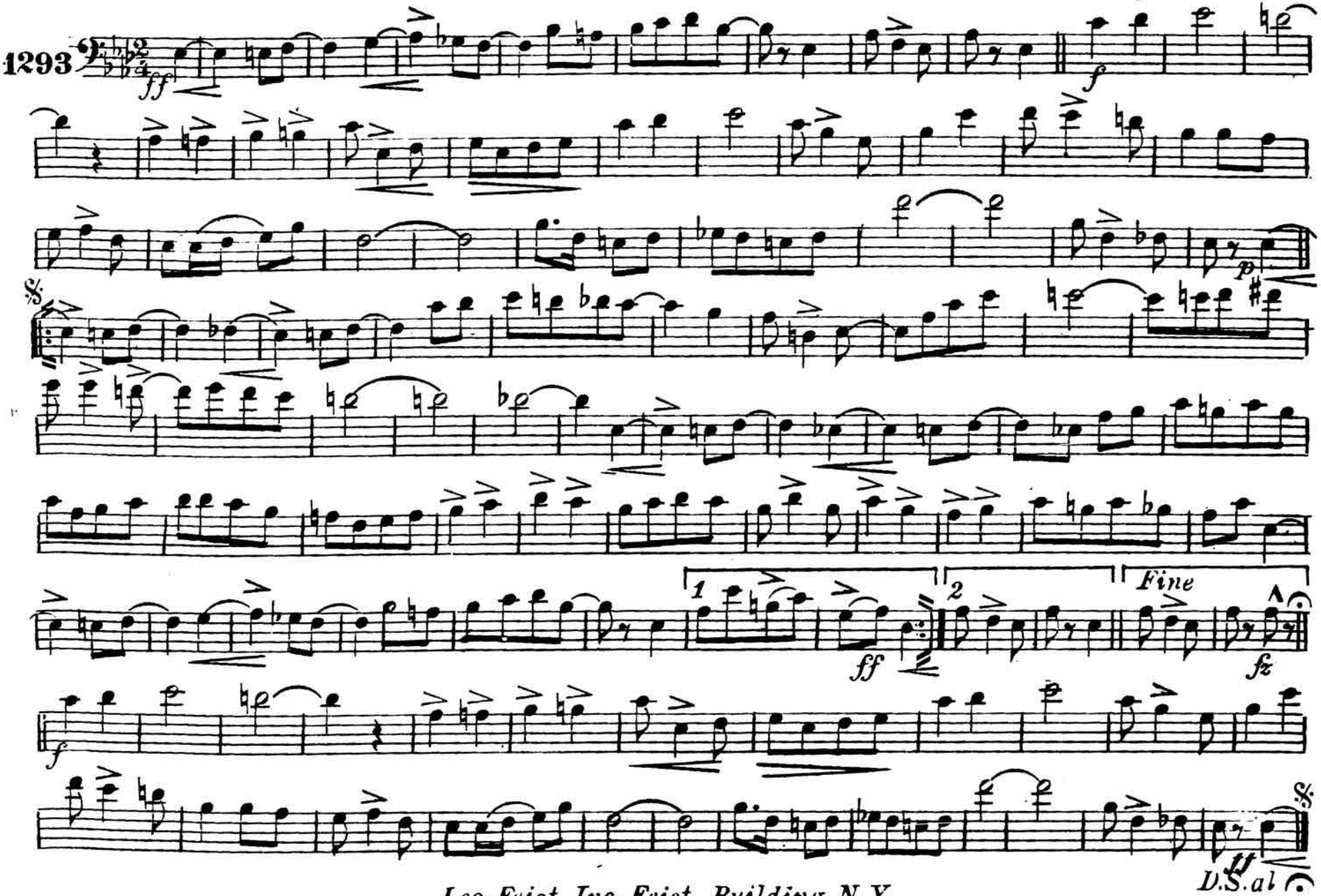


Feist Edition
Baritone

I Don't Want To Get Well
ONE OR TWO STEP

HARRY JENTES
Arr. by Wm Schulz

1293



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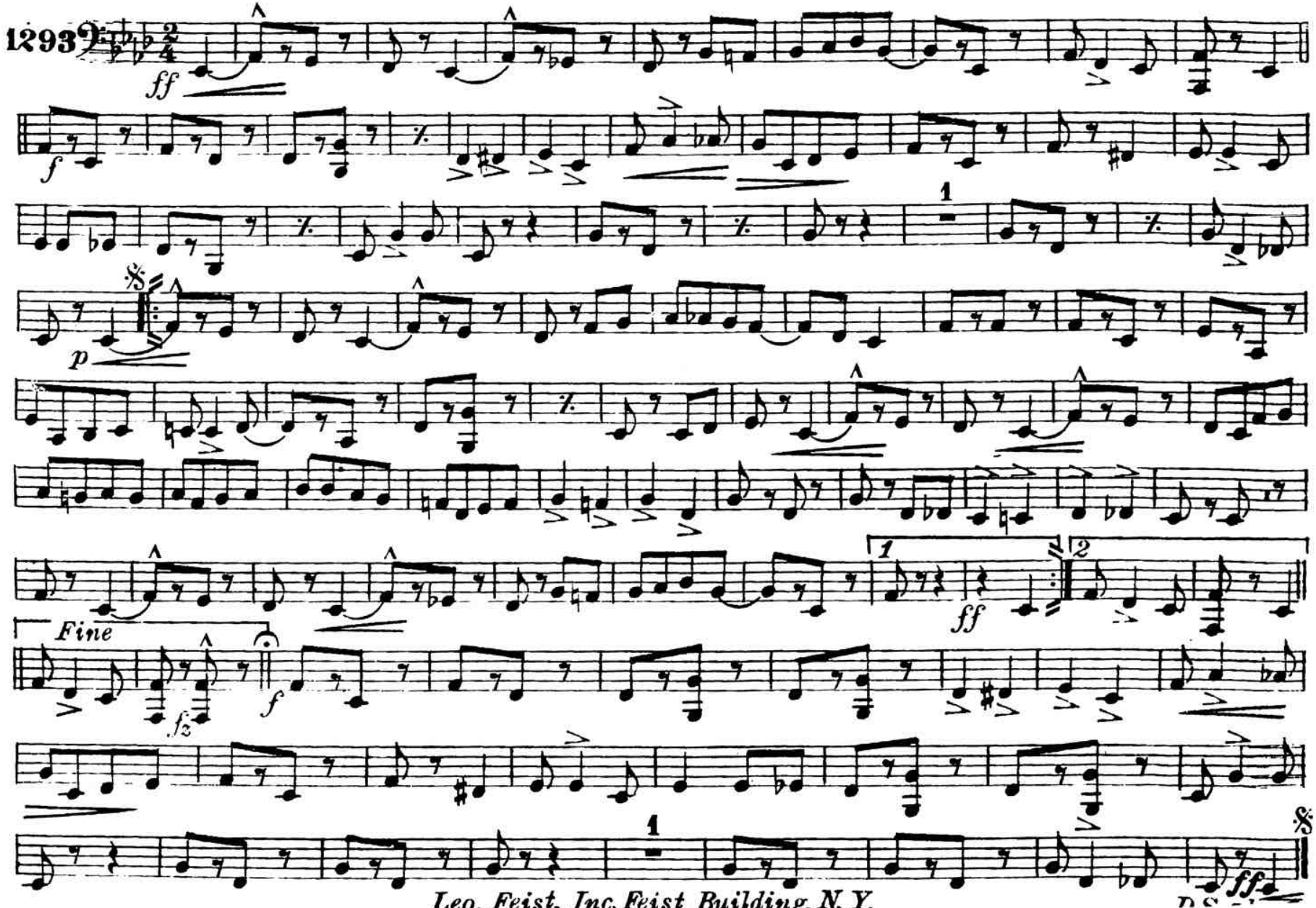
Basses

I Don t Want To Get Well

ONE OR TWO STEP

HARRY JENTES
Arr. by Wm Schulz

1293



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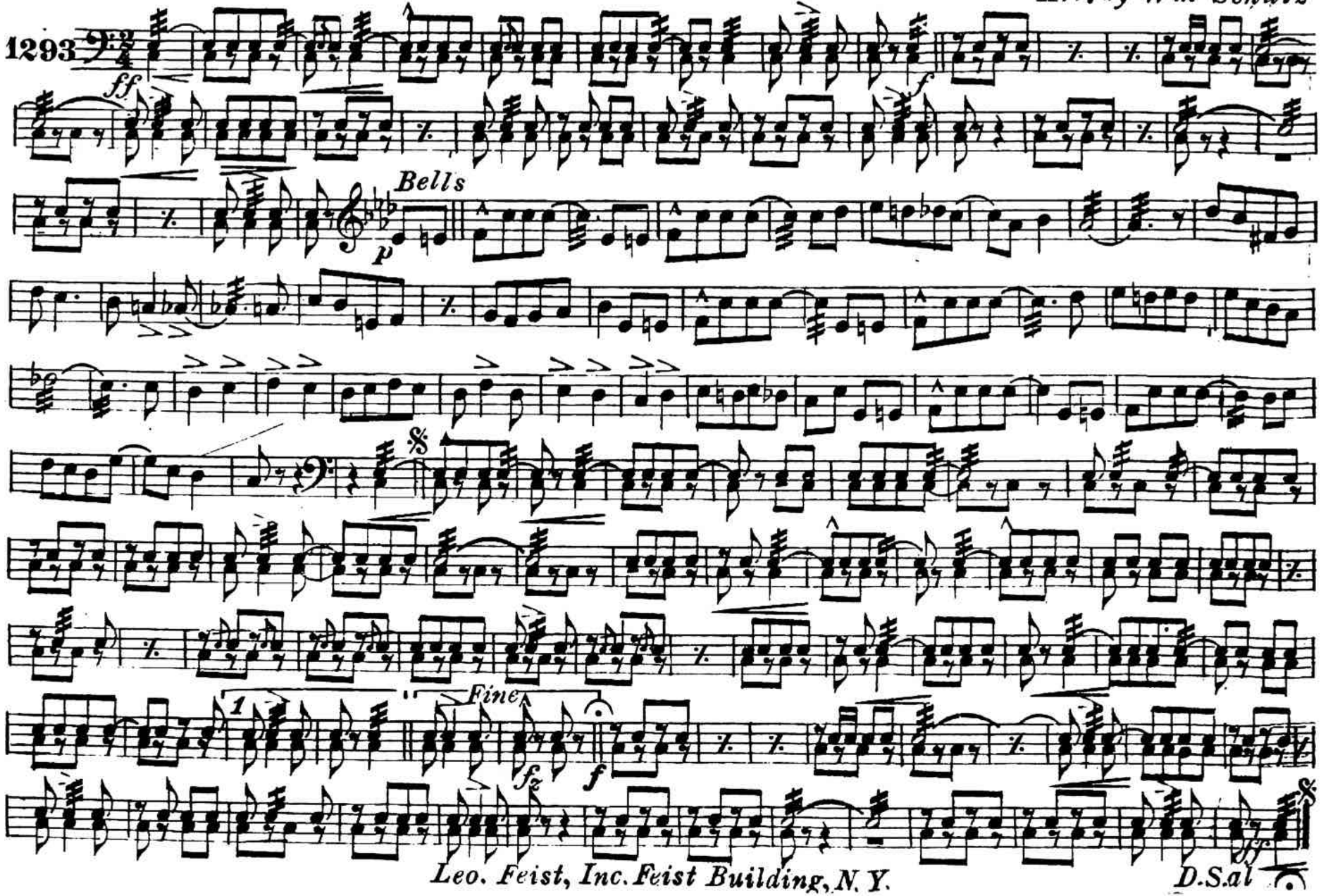
I Don't Want To Get Well

Drums

ONE OR TWO STEP

HARRY JENTES
Arr. by Wm Schulz



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