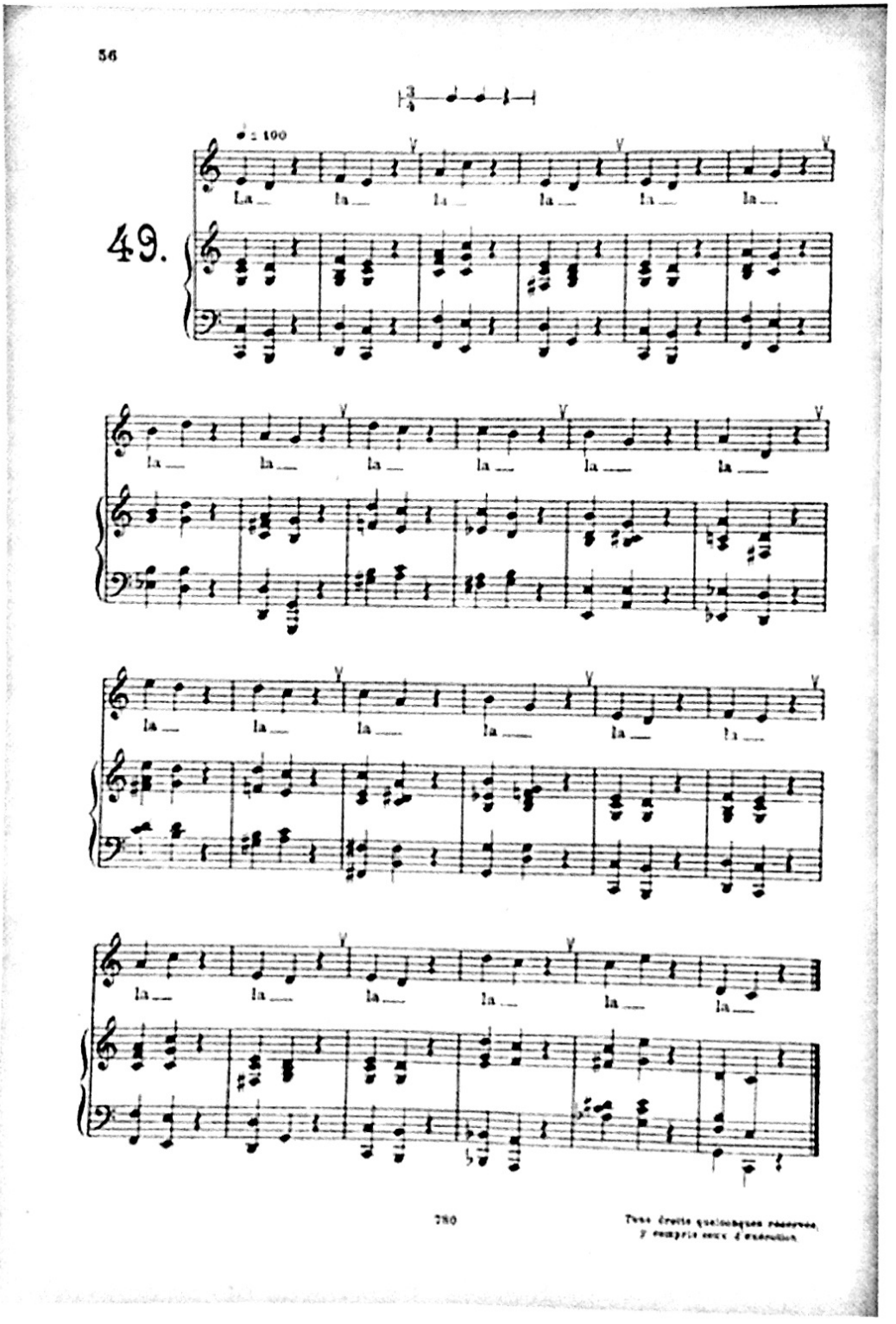
A Crusic Challenge from Jaques-Dalcroze by Monica Dale, March 2005

I recently found a set of pieces by Jaques-Dalcroze titled Marches Rythmiques, published in 1906. These 80 pieces aren't all "marches," however. I emailed Jack to see whether he was familiar with them, and of course he was (I can't discover anything he doesn't already have!). He explained that the word "marches" translates better as "walks."

What's remarkable about these pieces is how rhythmically consistent each is. It's difficult to create music with one unvarying rhythmic idea throughout, and still make it interesting; yet Jaques-Dalcroze did just that. At the top, he gives the rhythmic idea -- whether a one-measure pattern, a phrase spanning four measures, or a short series of changing meters. Here's one example: