Iowa Band Law March

The Iowa Band Law March (published 1923)…….....Karl L. King

Dedicated to Major George W. Landers, sponsor of the state law that allowed city tax monies to be spent on local municipal bands. Karl L. King directed this march with the largest mass band ever assembled – 188 high school bands, almost 13,000 musicians, more than 80,000 people in the stands at a University of Michigan football game in 1960 that was nationally televised.

In 1921, due to lobbying efforts by Karl King, Alonzo Leach, and Major George Landers, the Iowa legislature passed an act actually written by Landers, but known officially as House File 479, and enacted as the Municipal Band Law. Municipalities with a population of less than 40,000 were authorized to levy a tax not to exceed 2 mills annually. First, a petition had to be signed by 10 percent of the eligible voters requesting that the issue be placed on the ballot at the next municipal election. If passed, the tax could be activated, although it could be for less than the allowed 2 mills. A local band would now become truly "municipal" in that it was actually a department of city government like the water department or the street department. No longer would a bandmaster have to beg support from a commercial club or a chamber of commerce year after year and never be quite sure if enough money was going to materialize. Funds for the maintenance of the band could be written right into the city budget.

The Iowa Band Law proved to be extremely popular, and hundreds of towns and small cities in Iowa took advantage of the opportunity to have a publicly funded local band. The Iowa Band Law was copied by 33 states and at least three foreign countries. Despite government cutbacks in recent years, several municipal bands in Iowa continue to thank the Iowa Band Law for their annual funding.

Karl King wrote his march, "The Iowa Band Law," when the bill was passed. It is of modest difficulty, and remains one of his most popular marches with both school and community bands.

Information taken from...

The Biographical Dictionary of Iowa, edited by David Hudson, Marvin Bergman, and Loren Horten (U of Iowa Press)
Hawkeye Glory, by Thomas Hatton (Golden Dragon Press)

Dedicated to Geo. W. Landers, Clarinda, Iowa, founder of Iowa Band Law.

The Iowa Band Law

Solo B♭ Cornet

MARCH

K. L. KING

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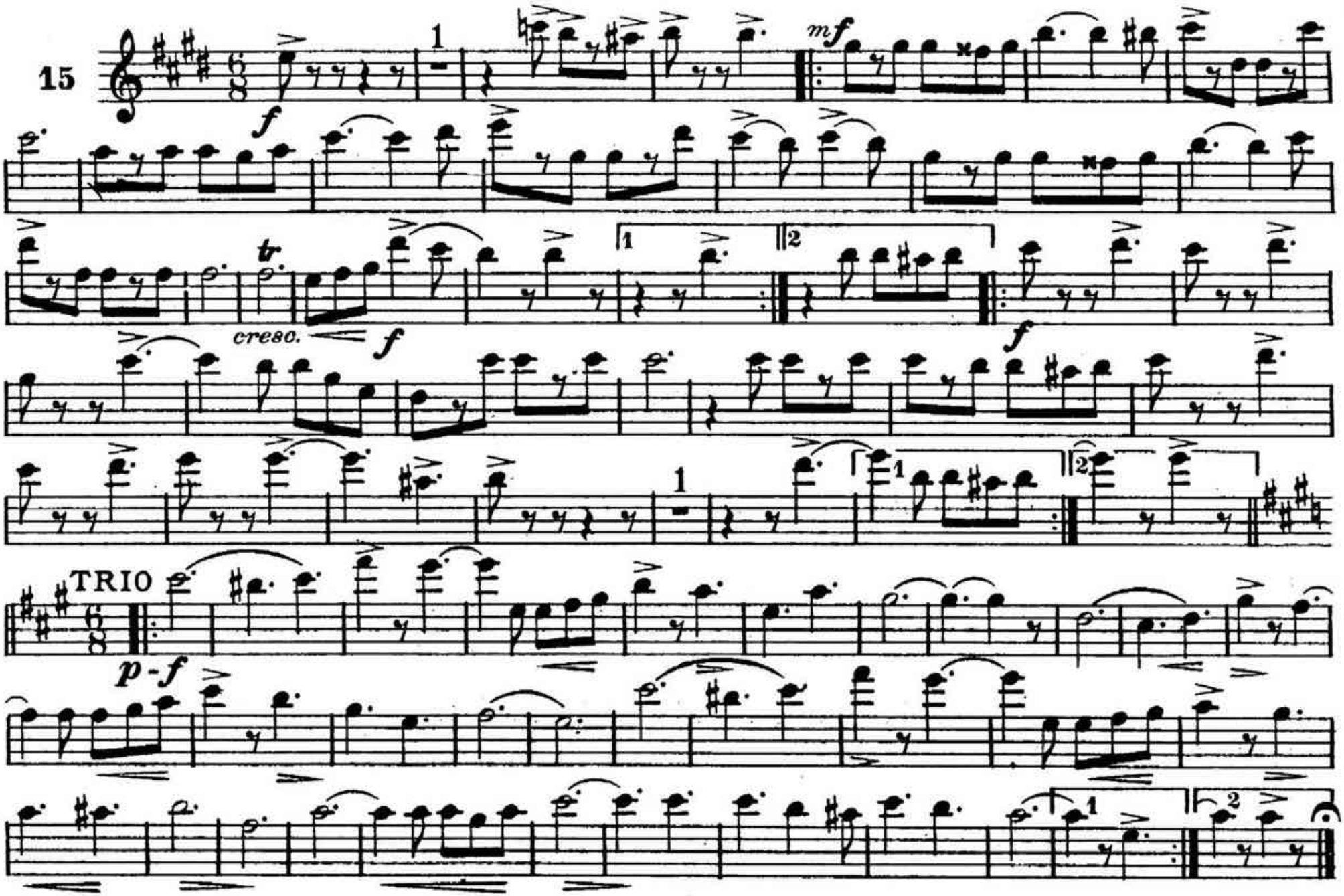
The Iowa Band Law

D♭ Piccolo

MARCH

K. L. KING



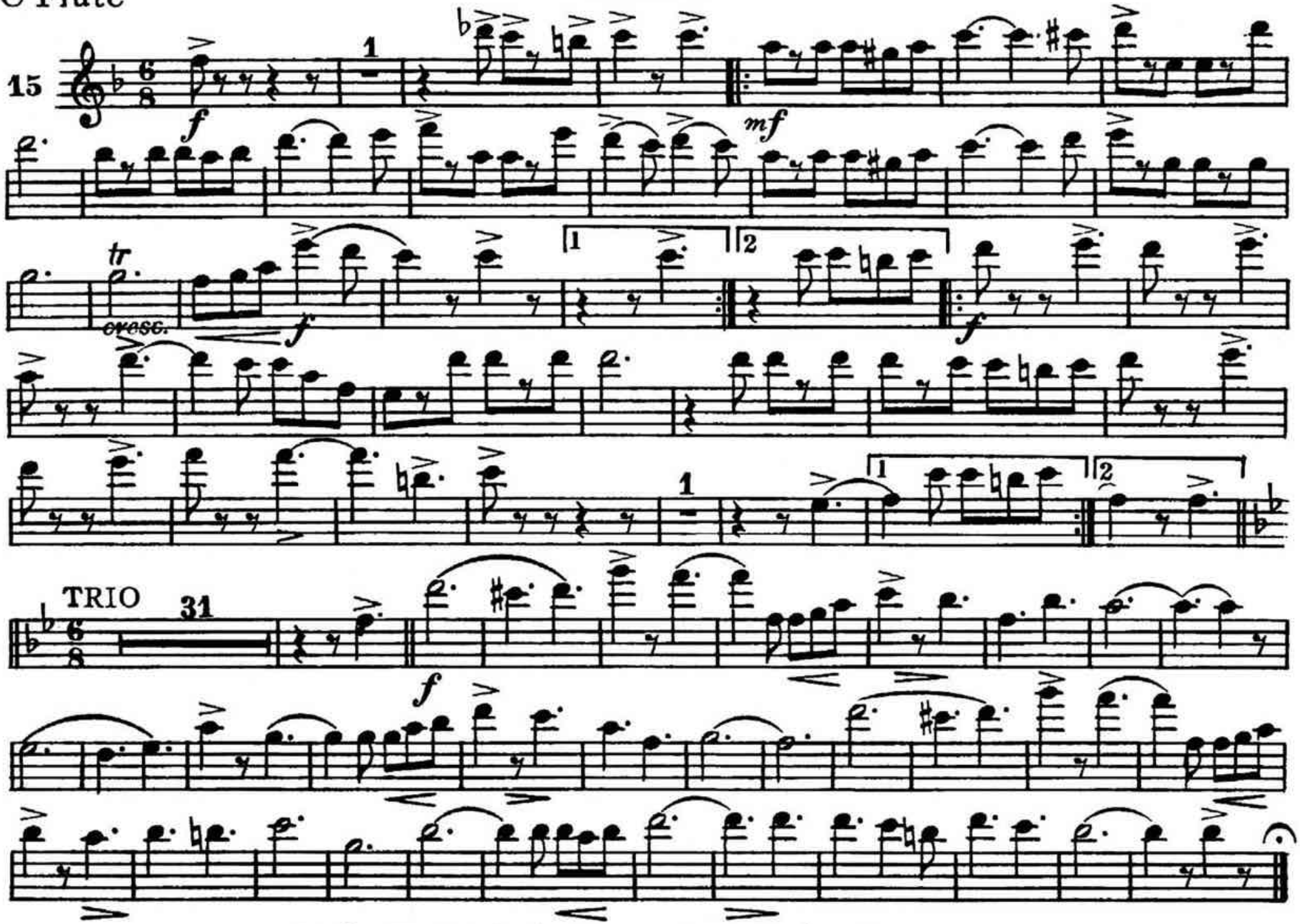
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Iowa Band Law

MARCH

K. L. KING

C Flute



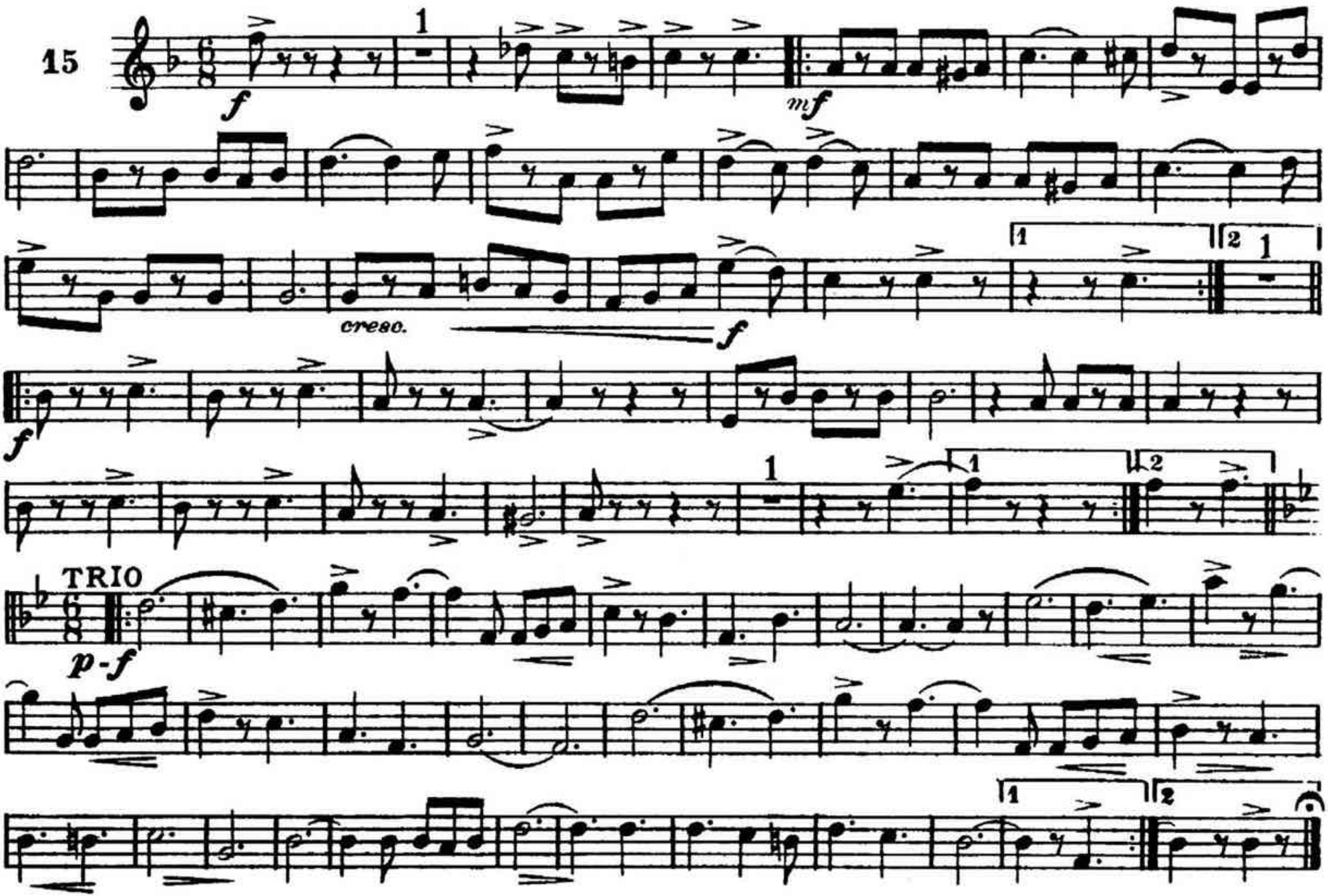
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Oboe

The Iowa Band Law

MARCH

K. L. KING



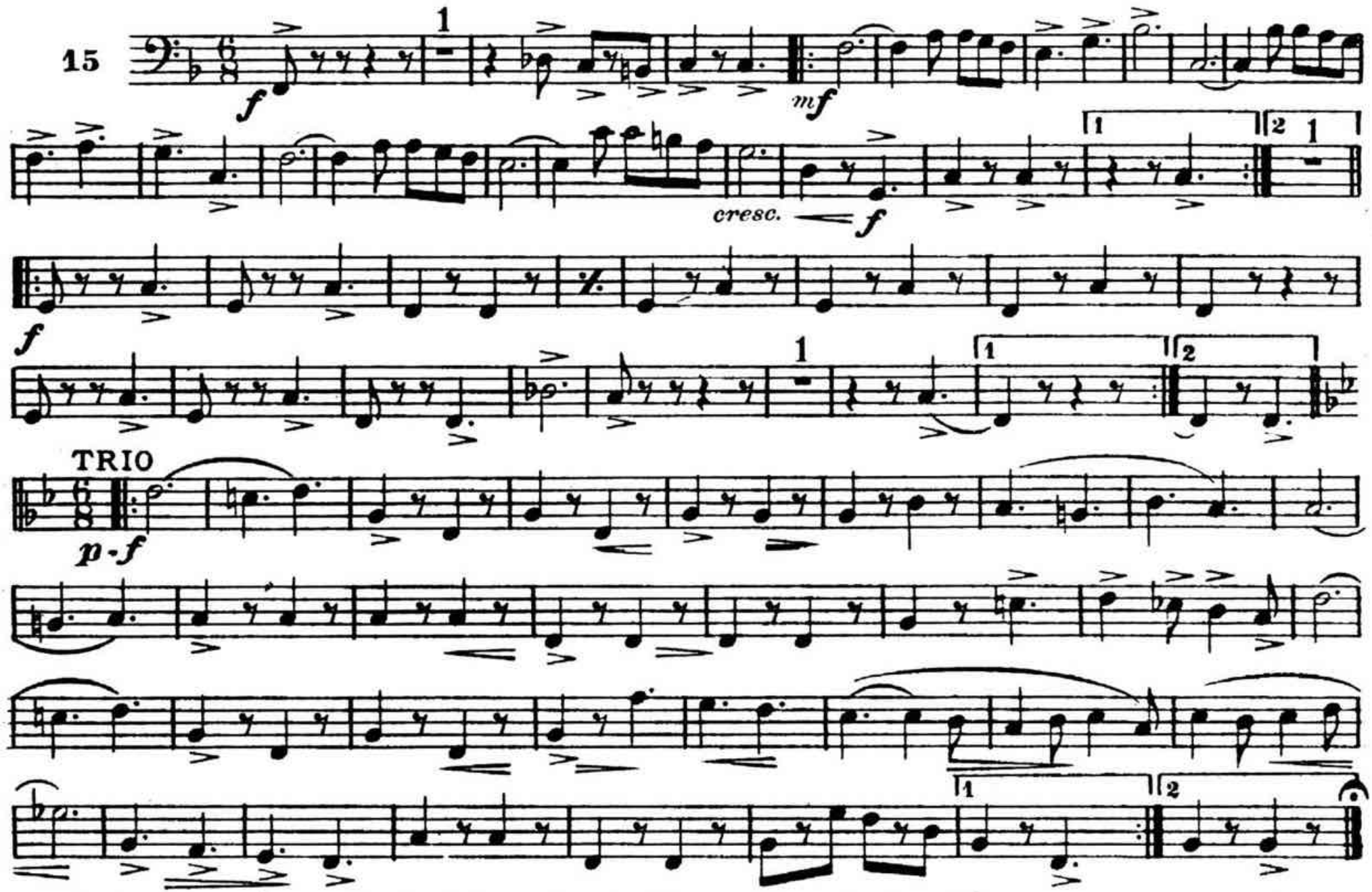
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Iowa Band Law

Bassoon

MARCH

K. L. KING



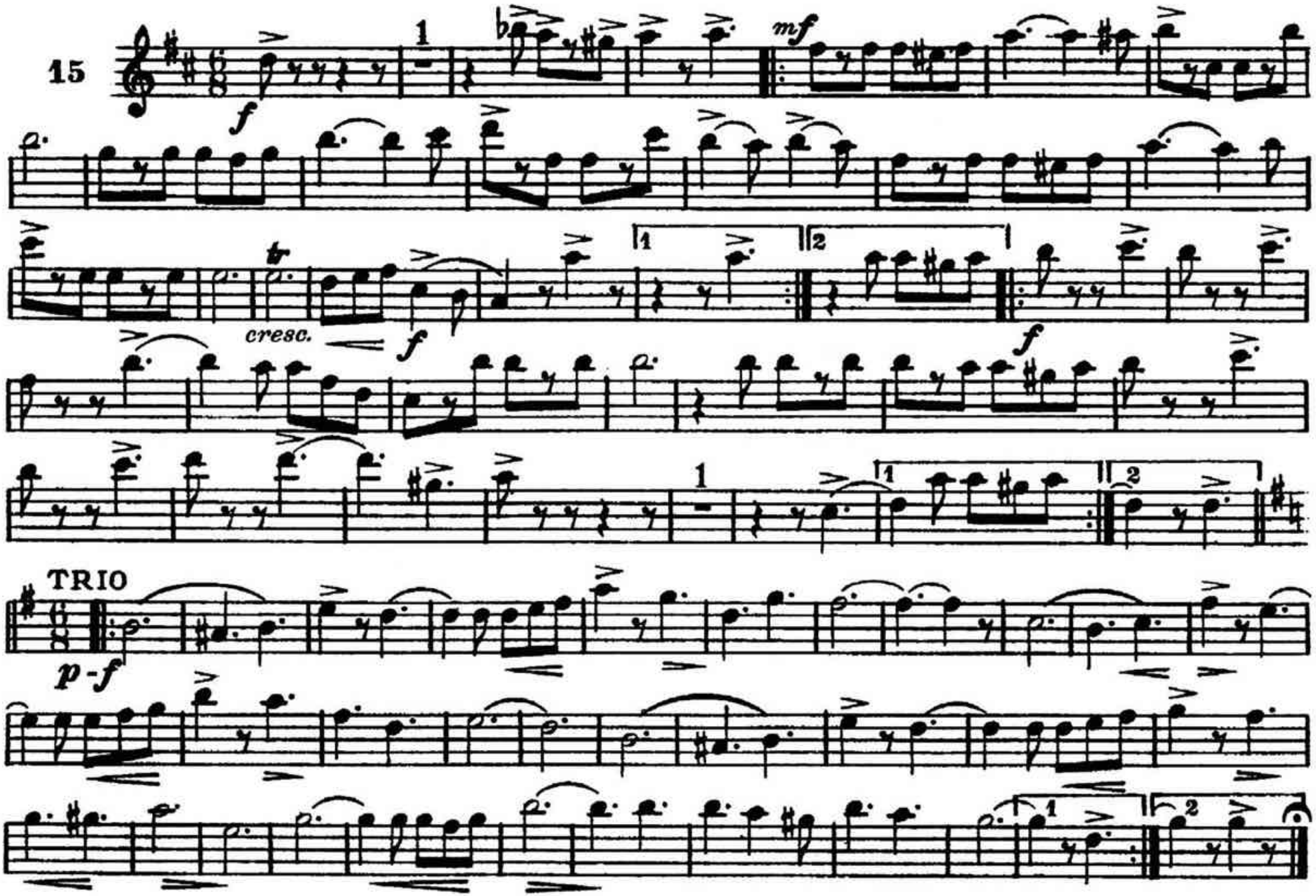
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Iowa Band Law

Eb Clarinet

MARCH

K. L. KING



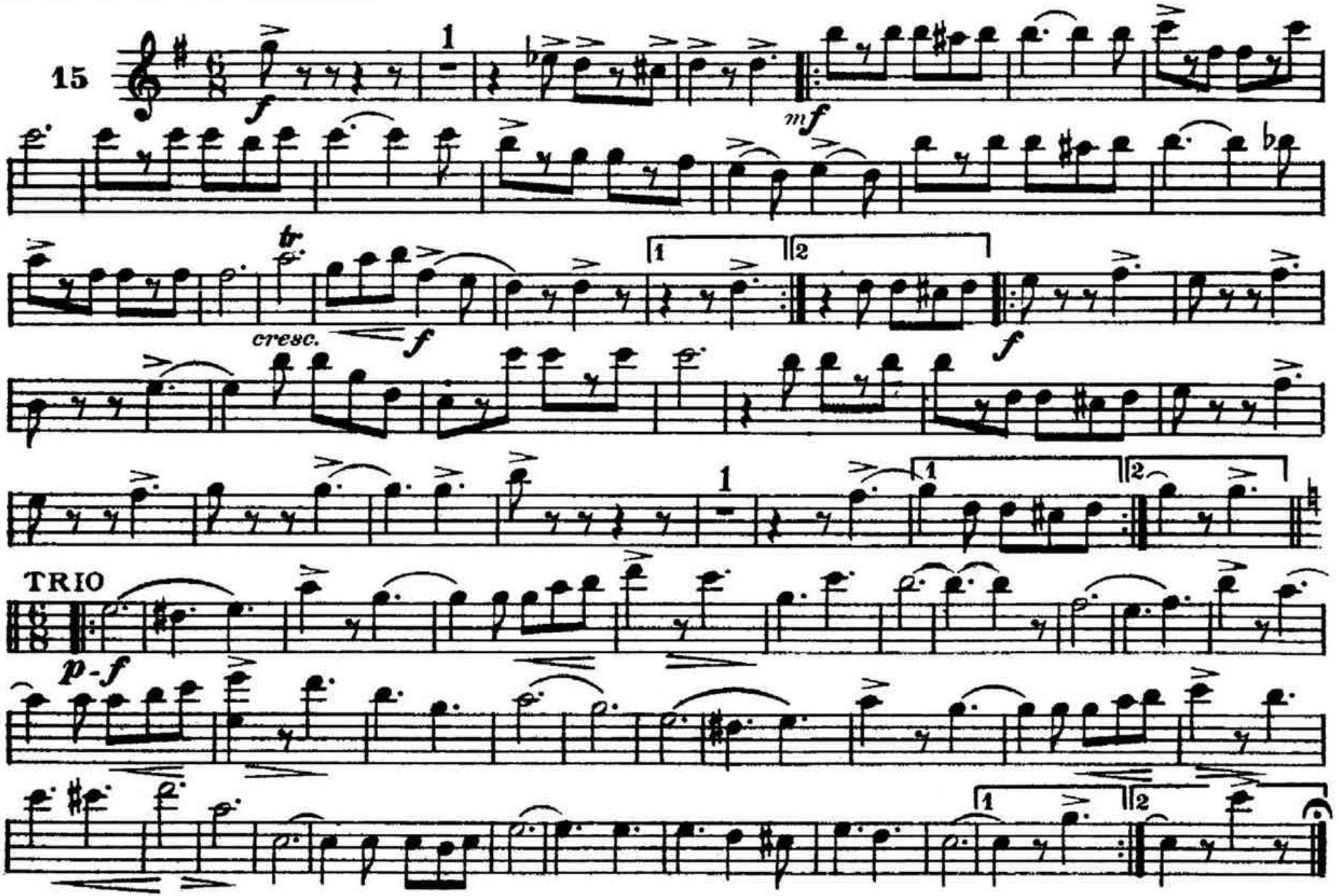
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Iowa Band Law

MARCH

K. L. KING

Solo or 1st B♭ Clarinet



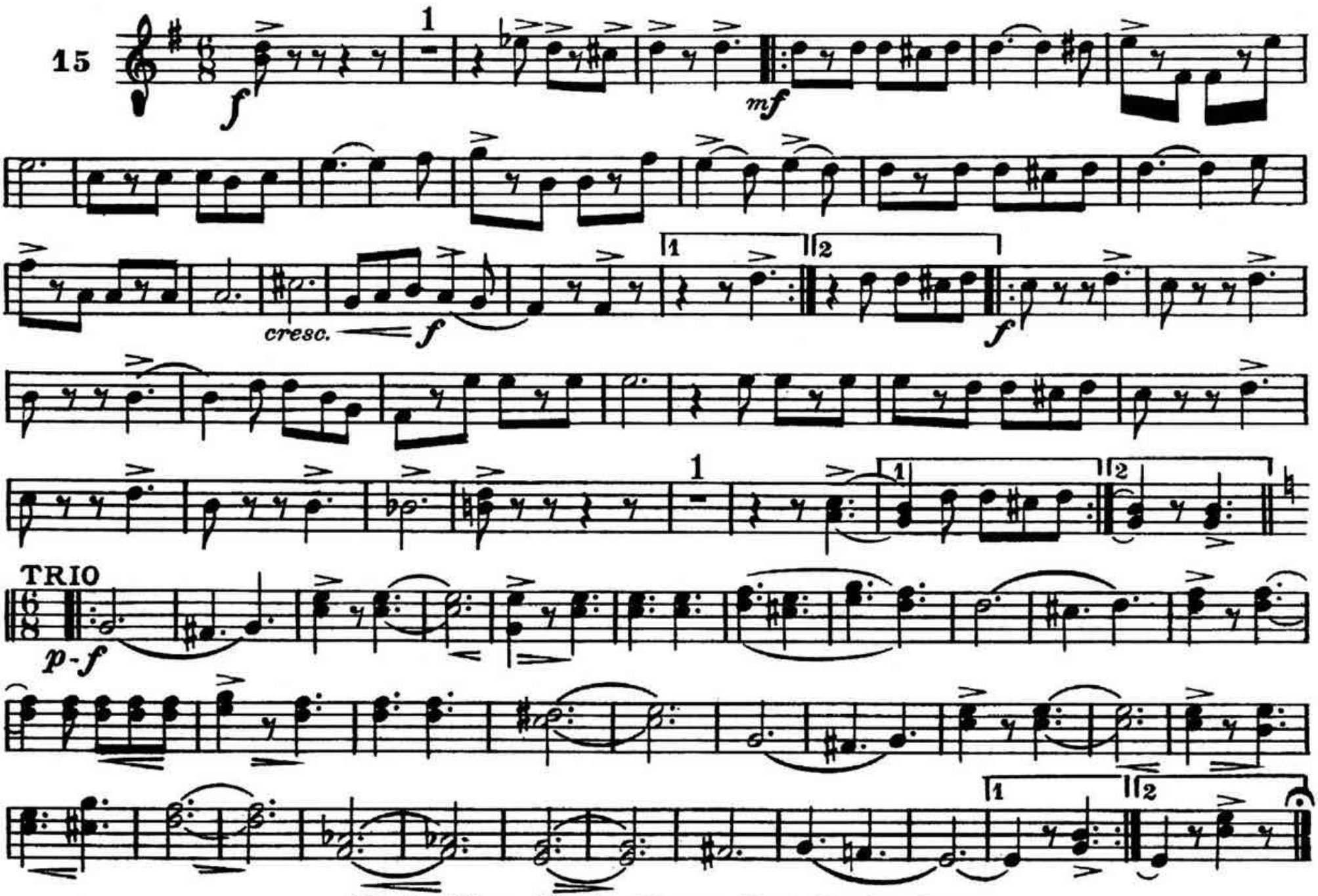
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Iowa Band Law

MARCH

2d & 3d B♭ Clarinets

K. L. KING



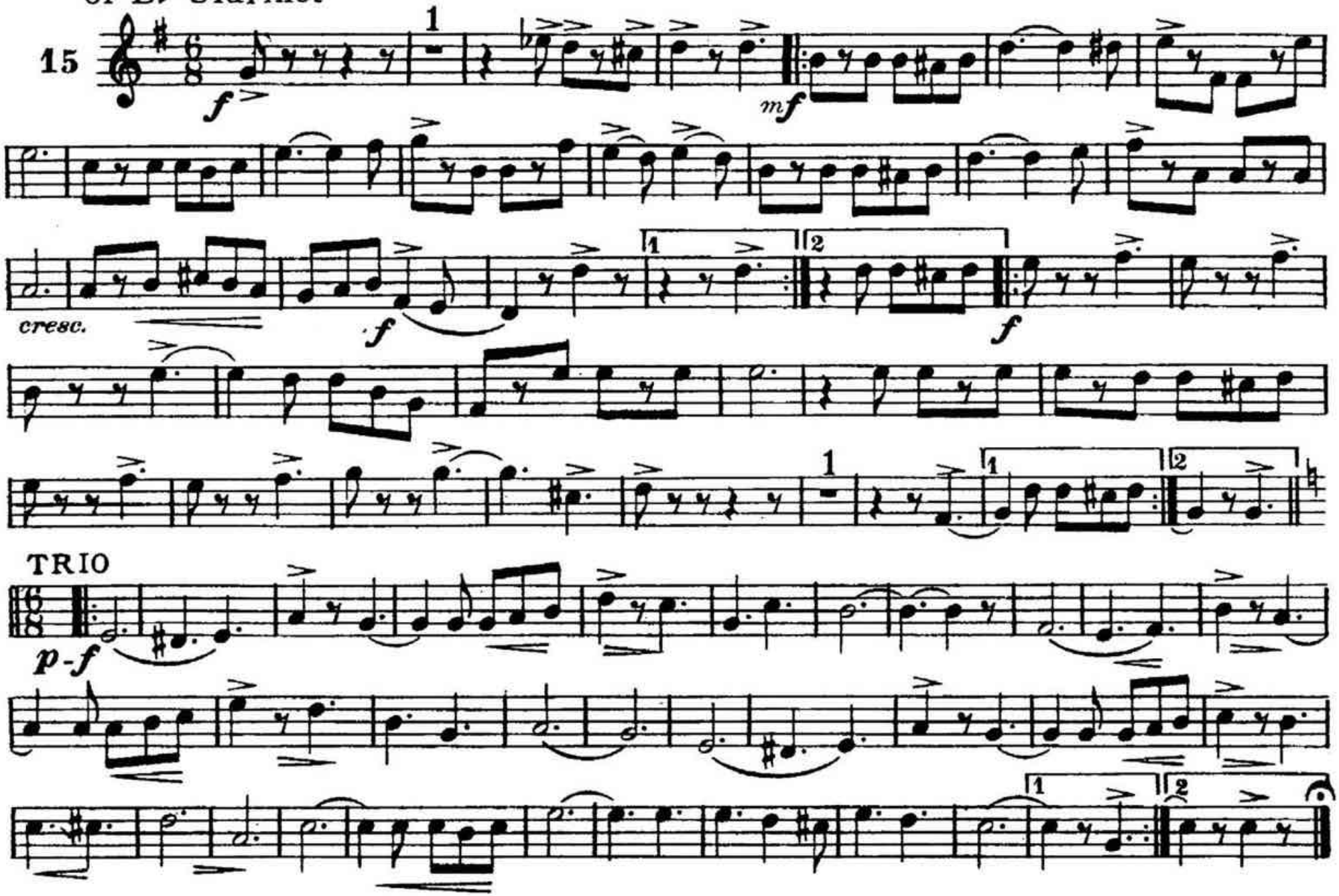
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Iowa Band Law

B♭ Soprano Saxophone
or B♭ Clarinet

MARCH

K. L. KING



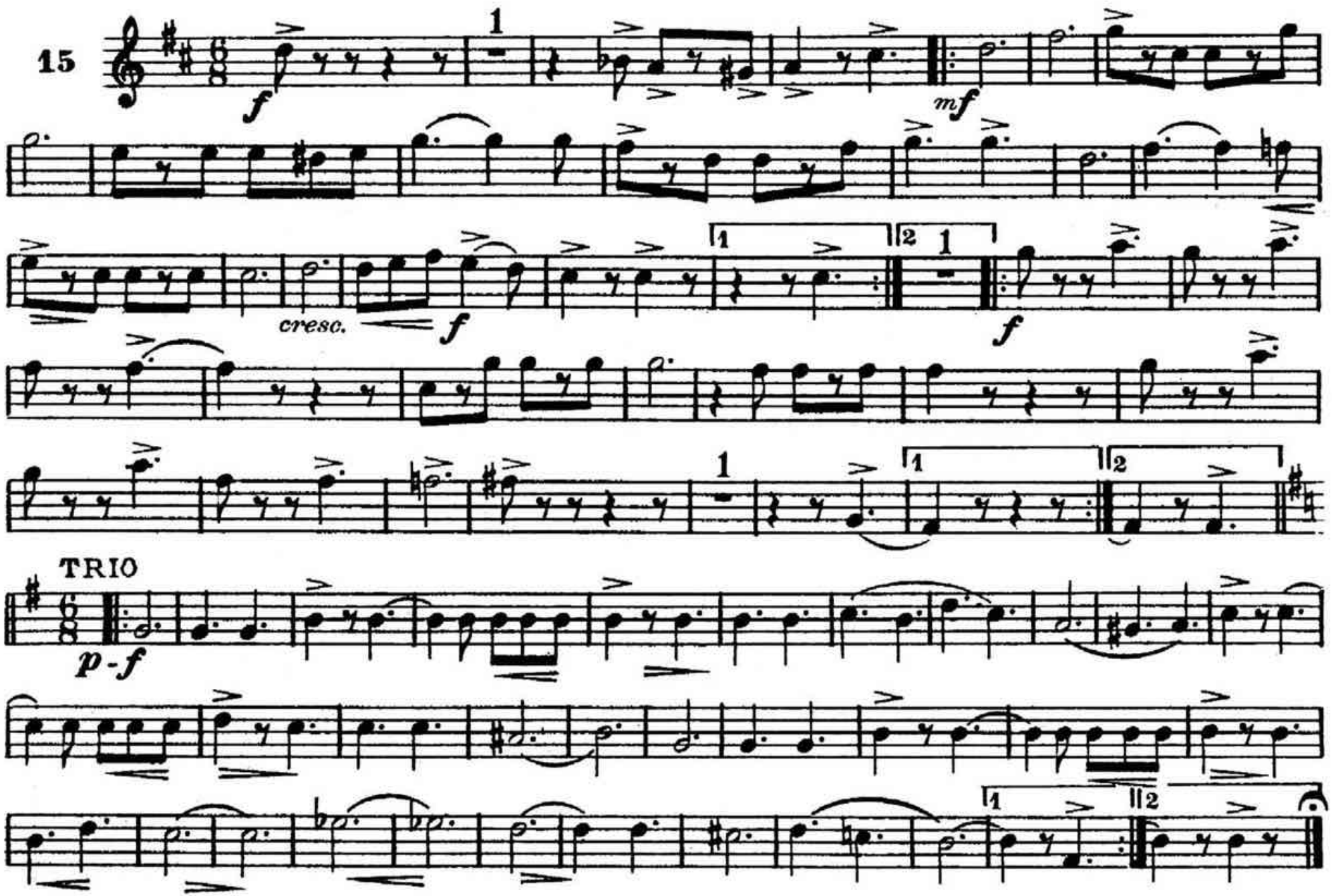
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Iowa Band Law

E♭ Alto Saxophone

MARCH

K. L. KING



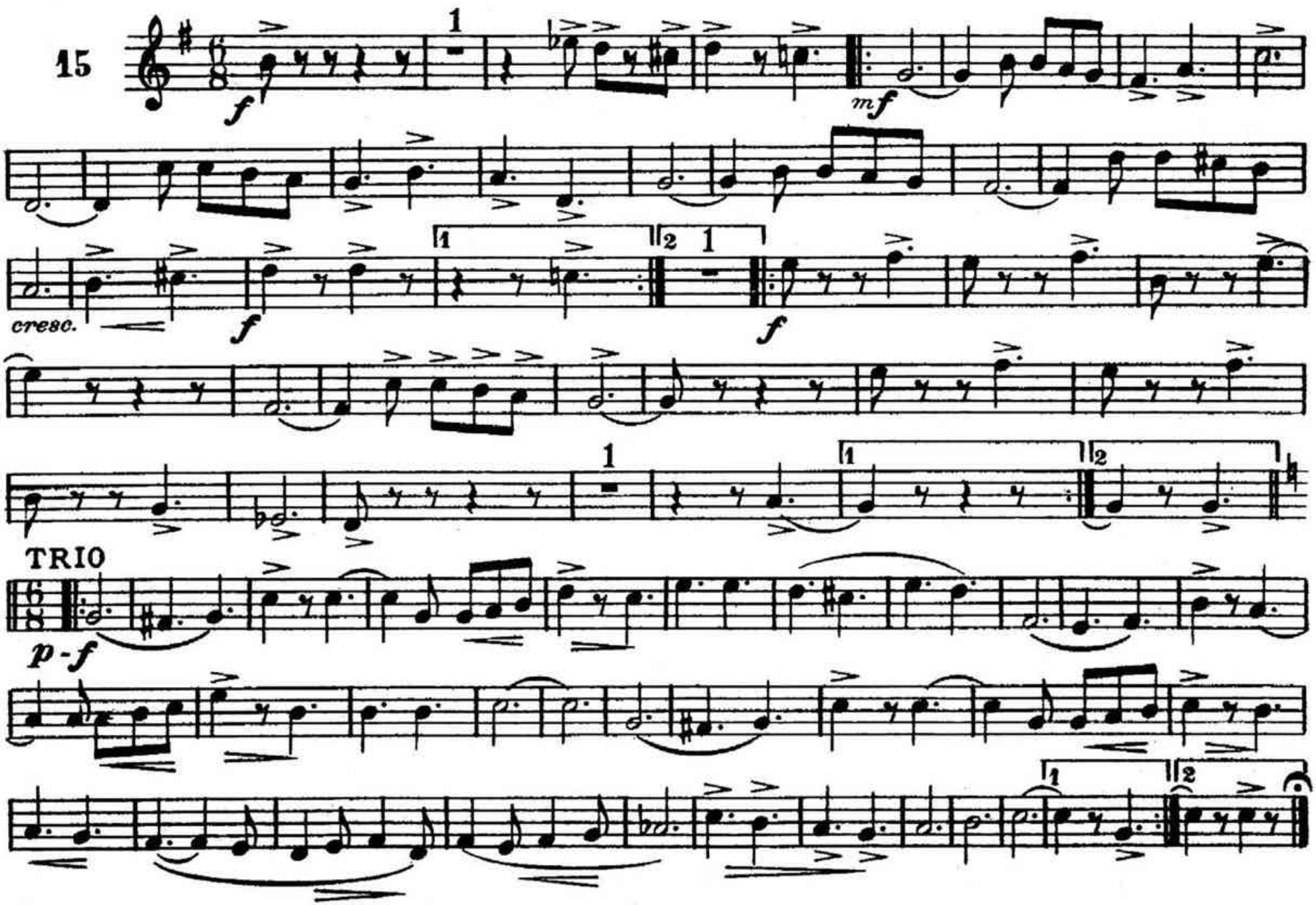
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Iowa Band Law

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

MARCH

K. L. KING



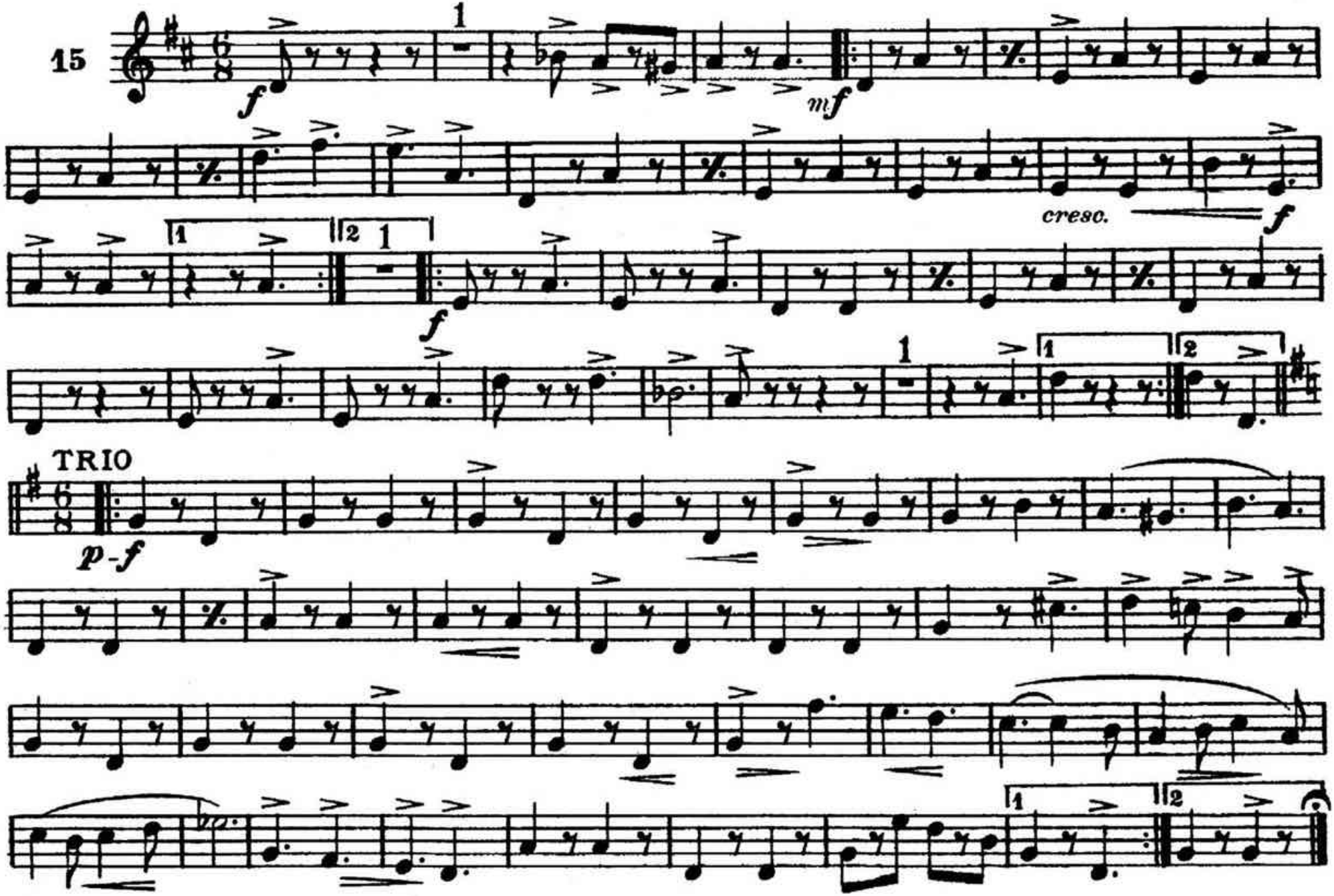
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Iowa Band Law

MARCH

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

K. L. KING



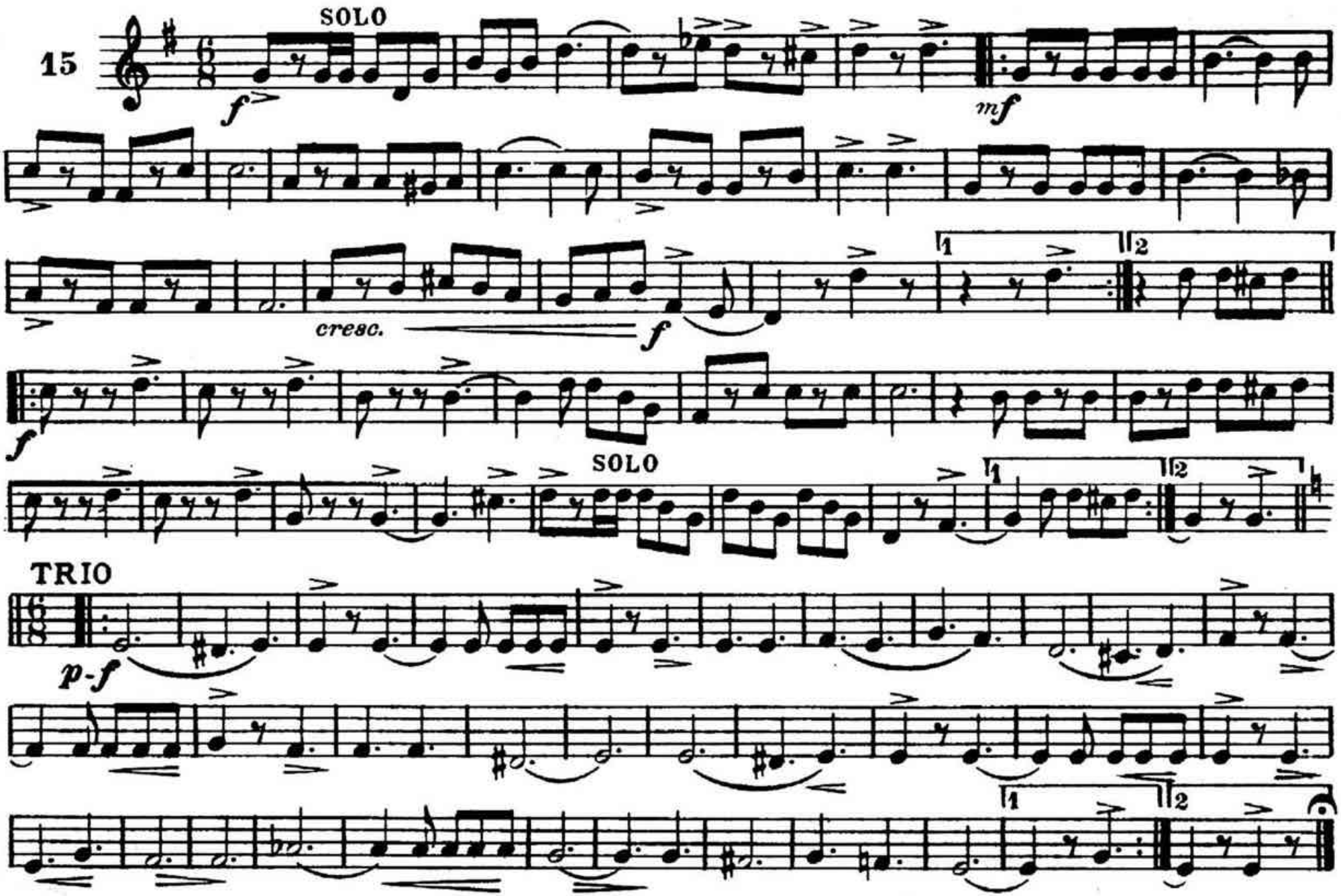
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Iowa Band Law

MARCH

1st B♭ Cornet

K. L. KING



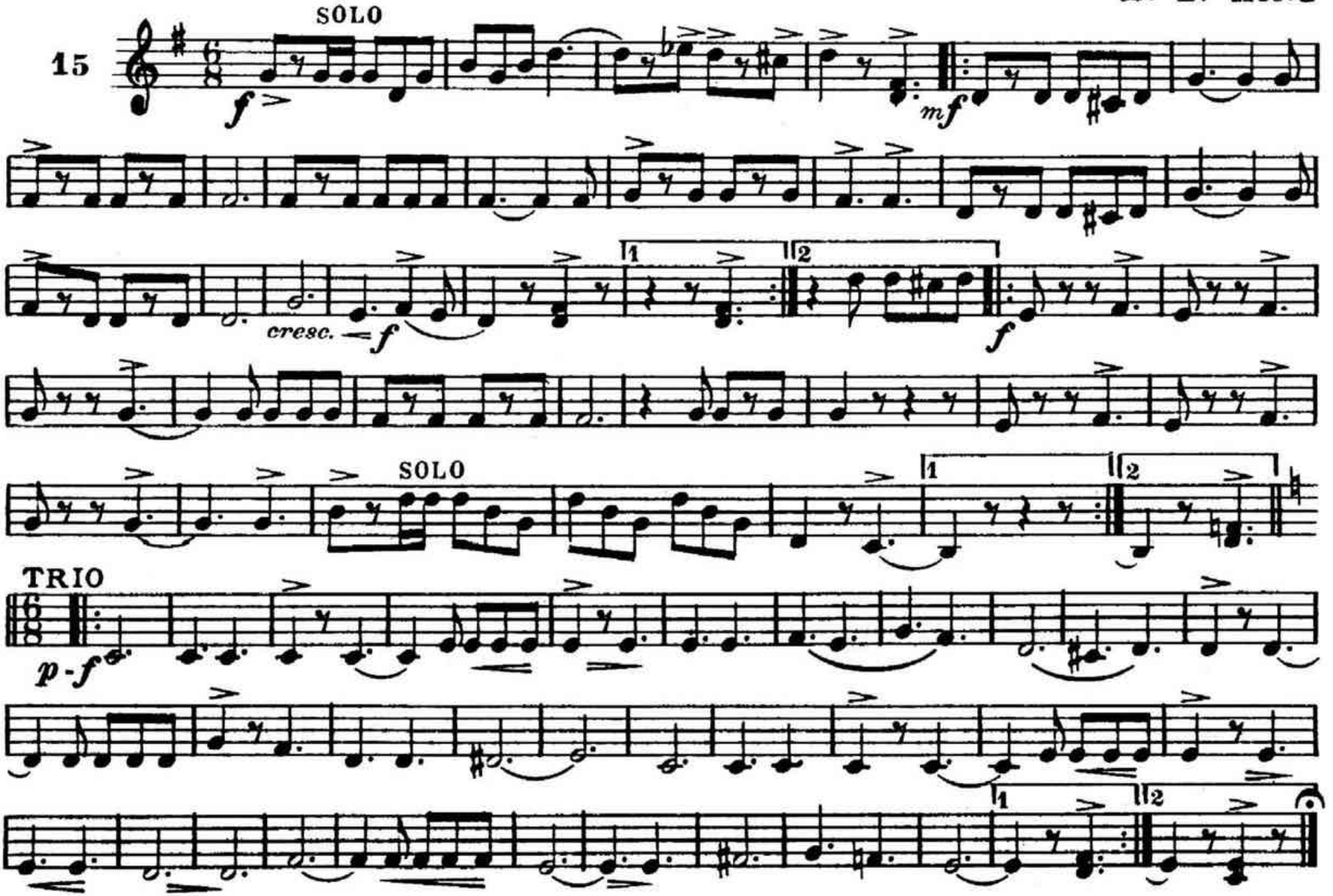
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Iowa Band Law

MARCH

2d & 3d B♭ Cornets

K. L. KING



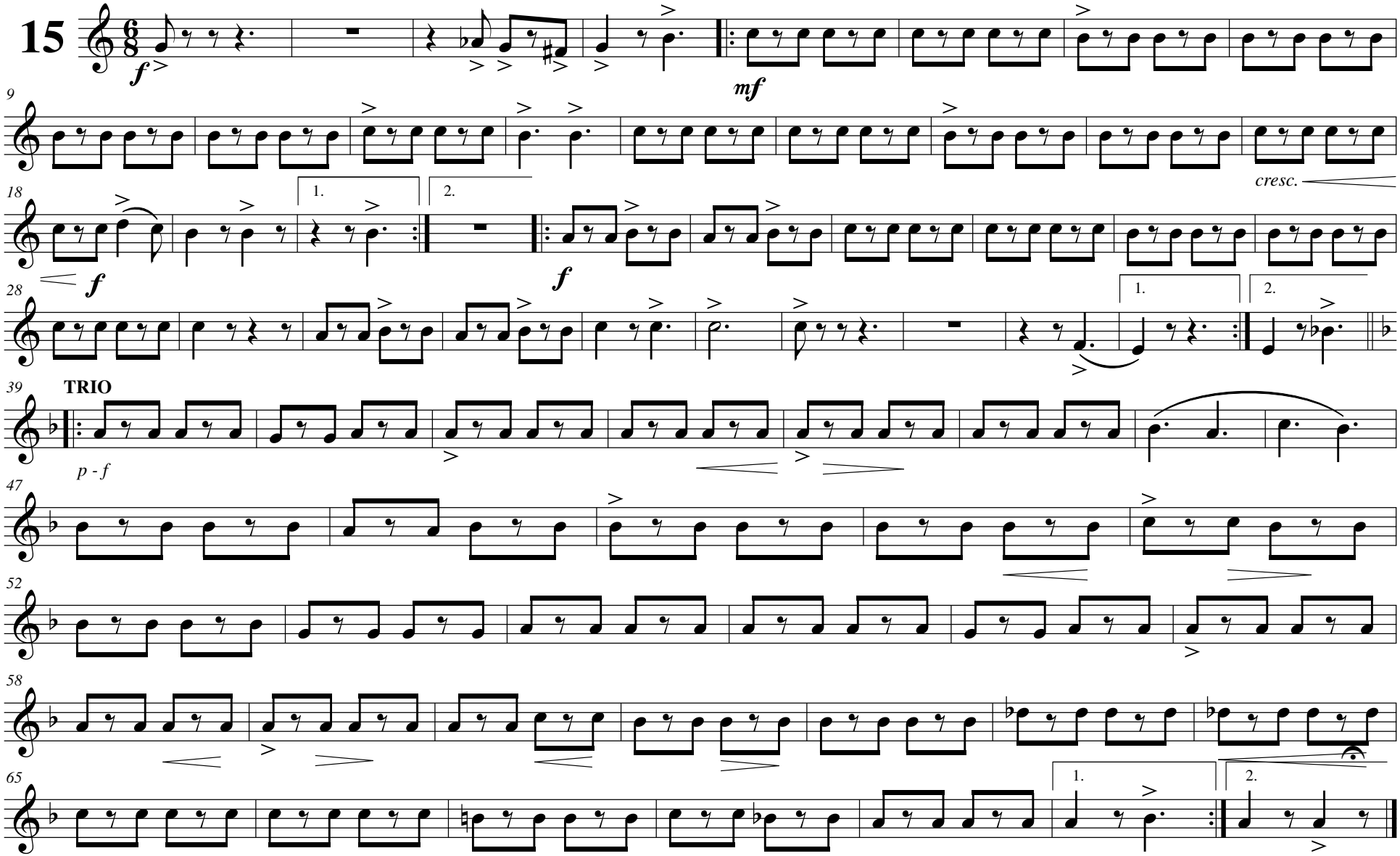
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Iowa Band Law

March

1st F Horn

K. L. King



K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa

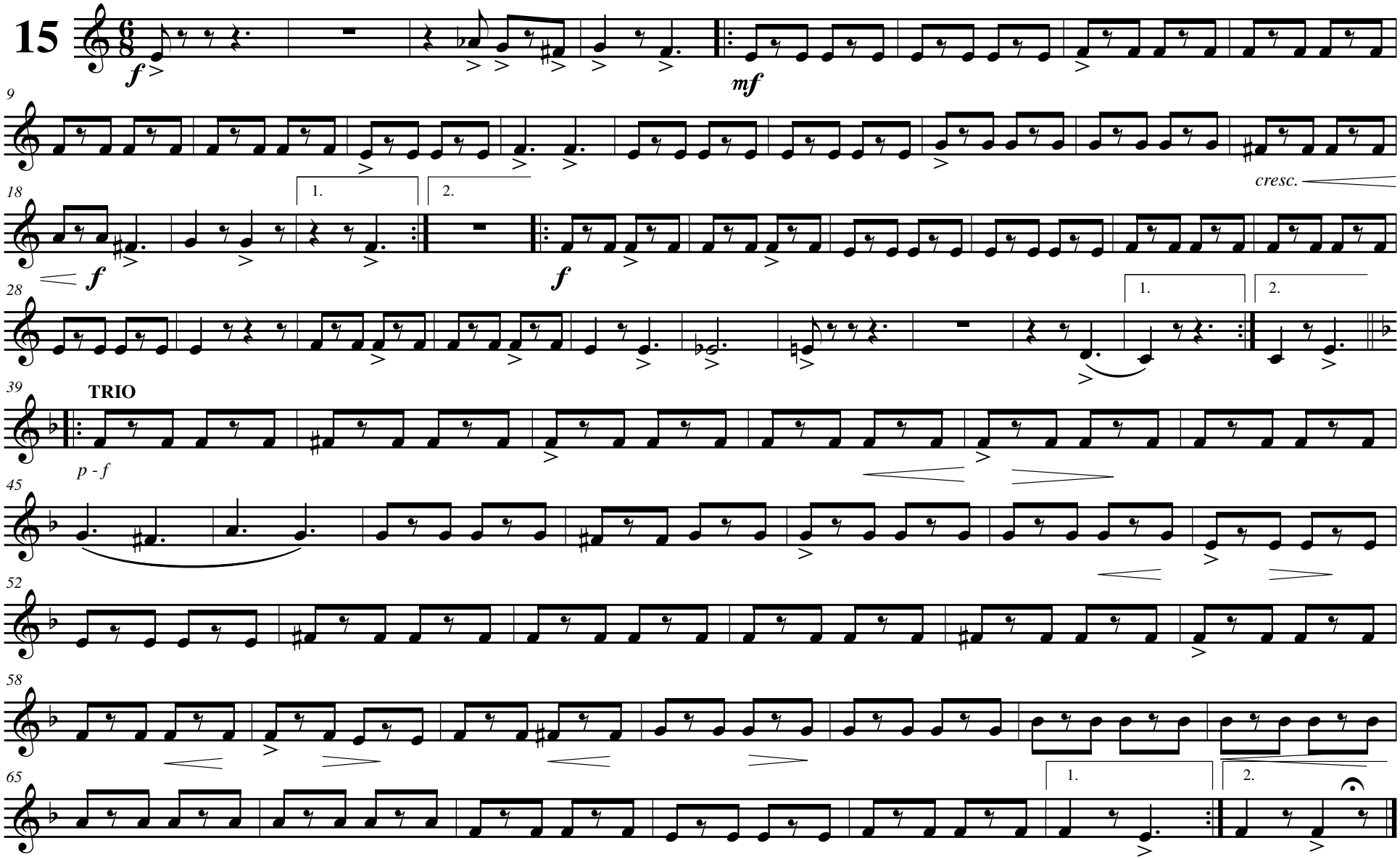
Transposition by Terry Kimble

The Iowa Band Law

March

Horn in F 2

K. L. King



K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa

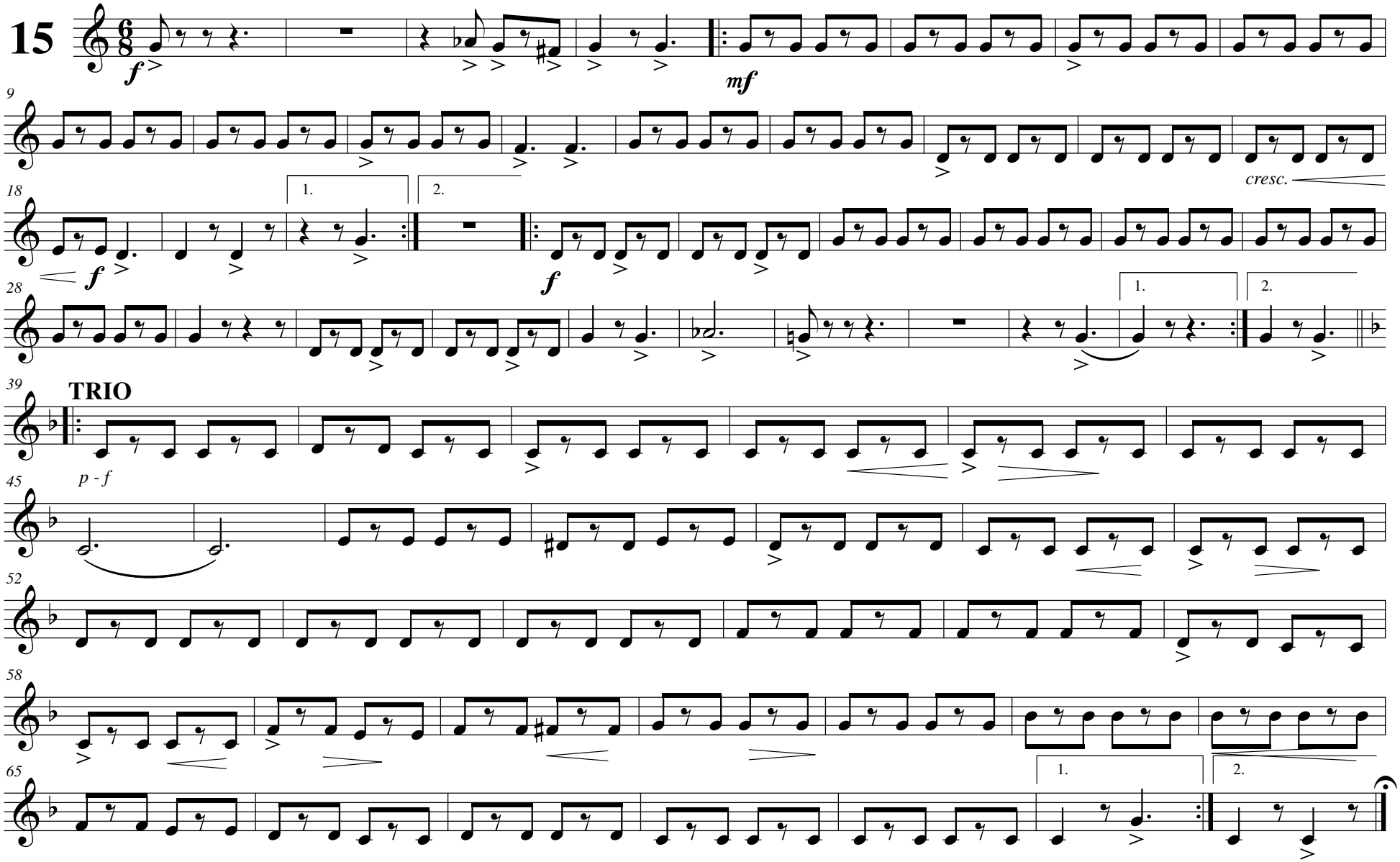
Transposition by Terry Kimble

The Iowa Band Law

March

Horn in F 3

K. L. King



Transposition by Terry Kimble

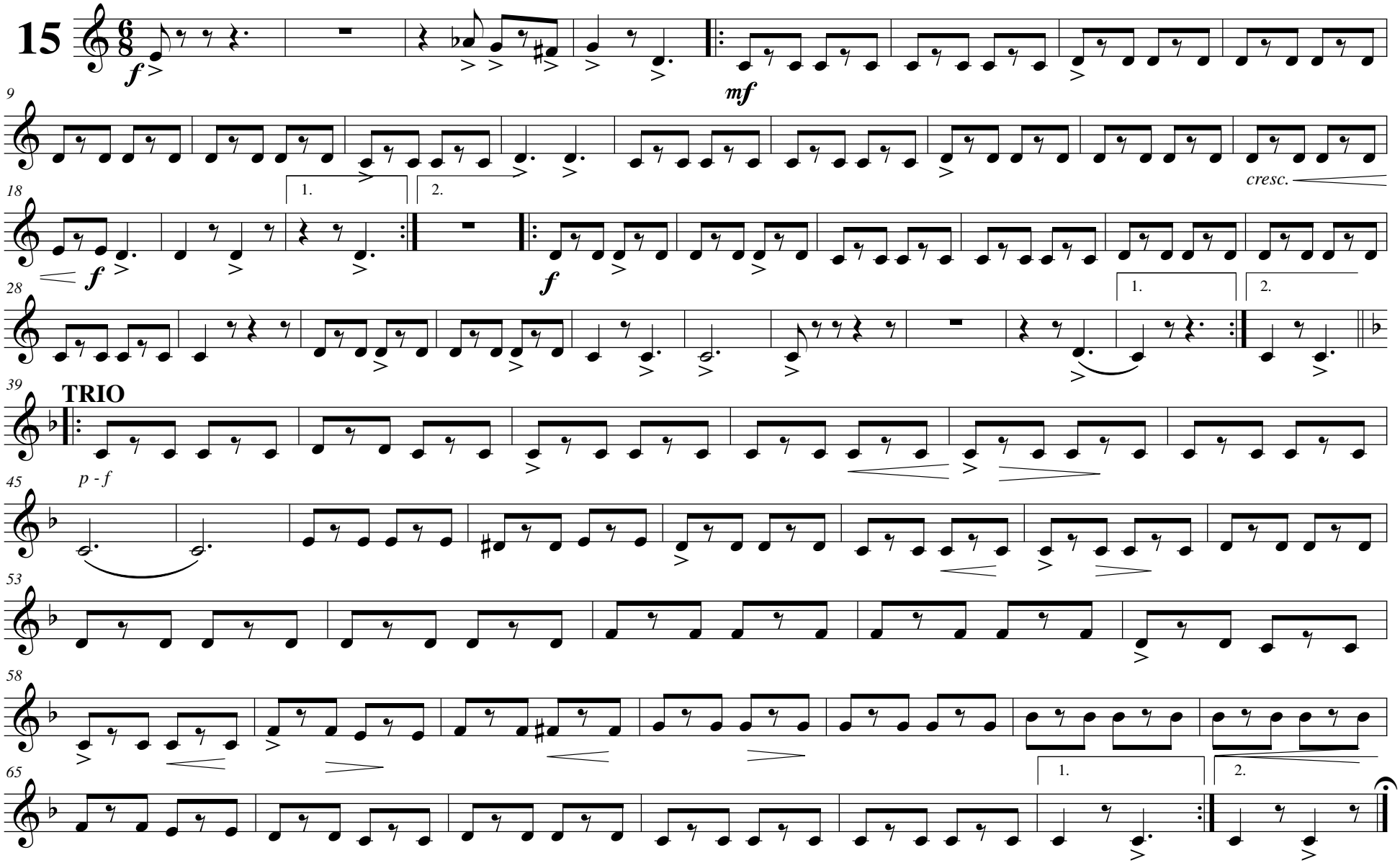
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa

The Iowa Band Law

March

Horn in F 4

K. L. King



K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa

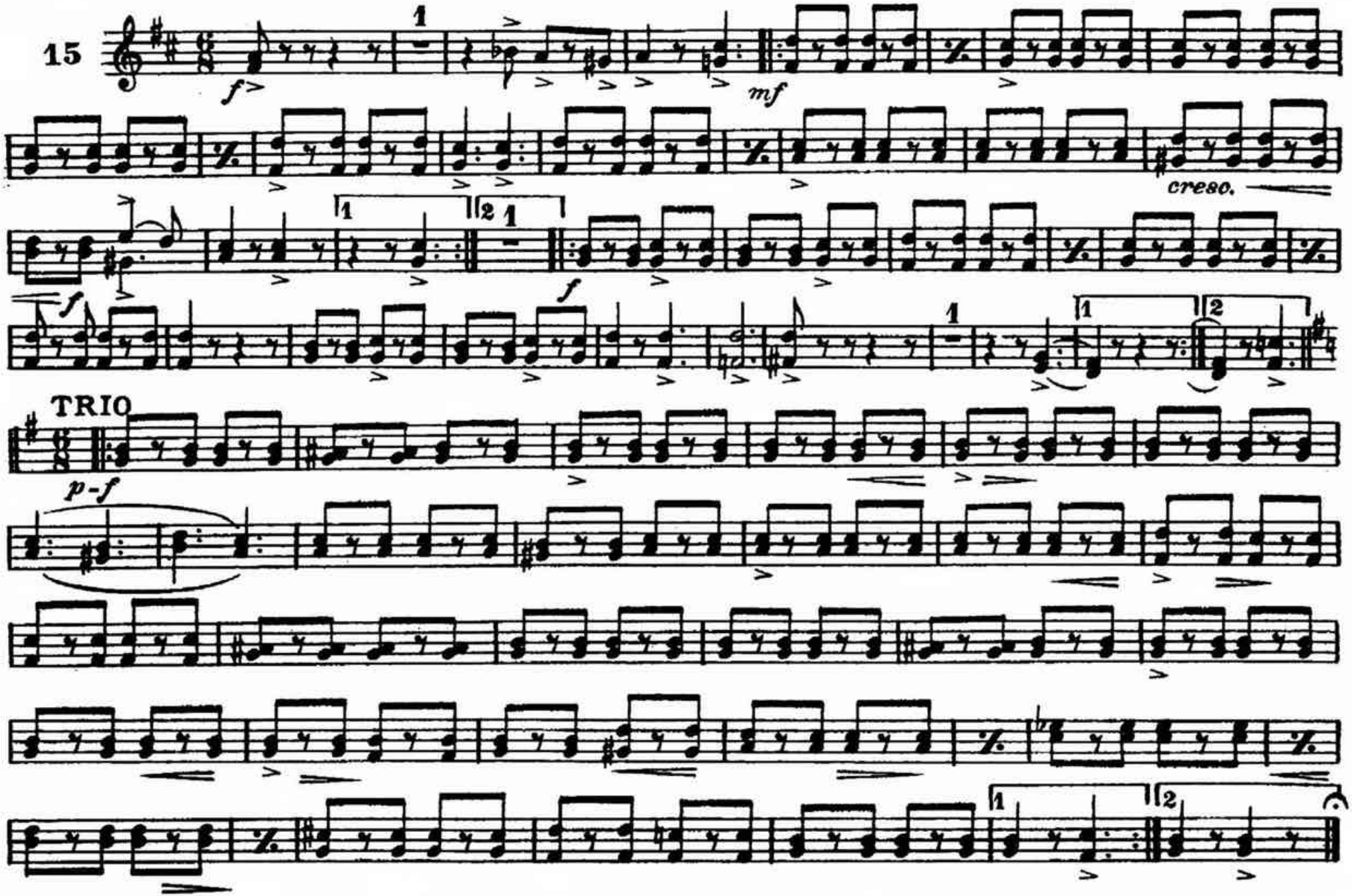
Transposition by Terry Kimble

The Iowa Band Law

MARCH

1st & 2d Eb Altos

K. L. KING



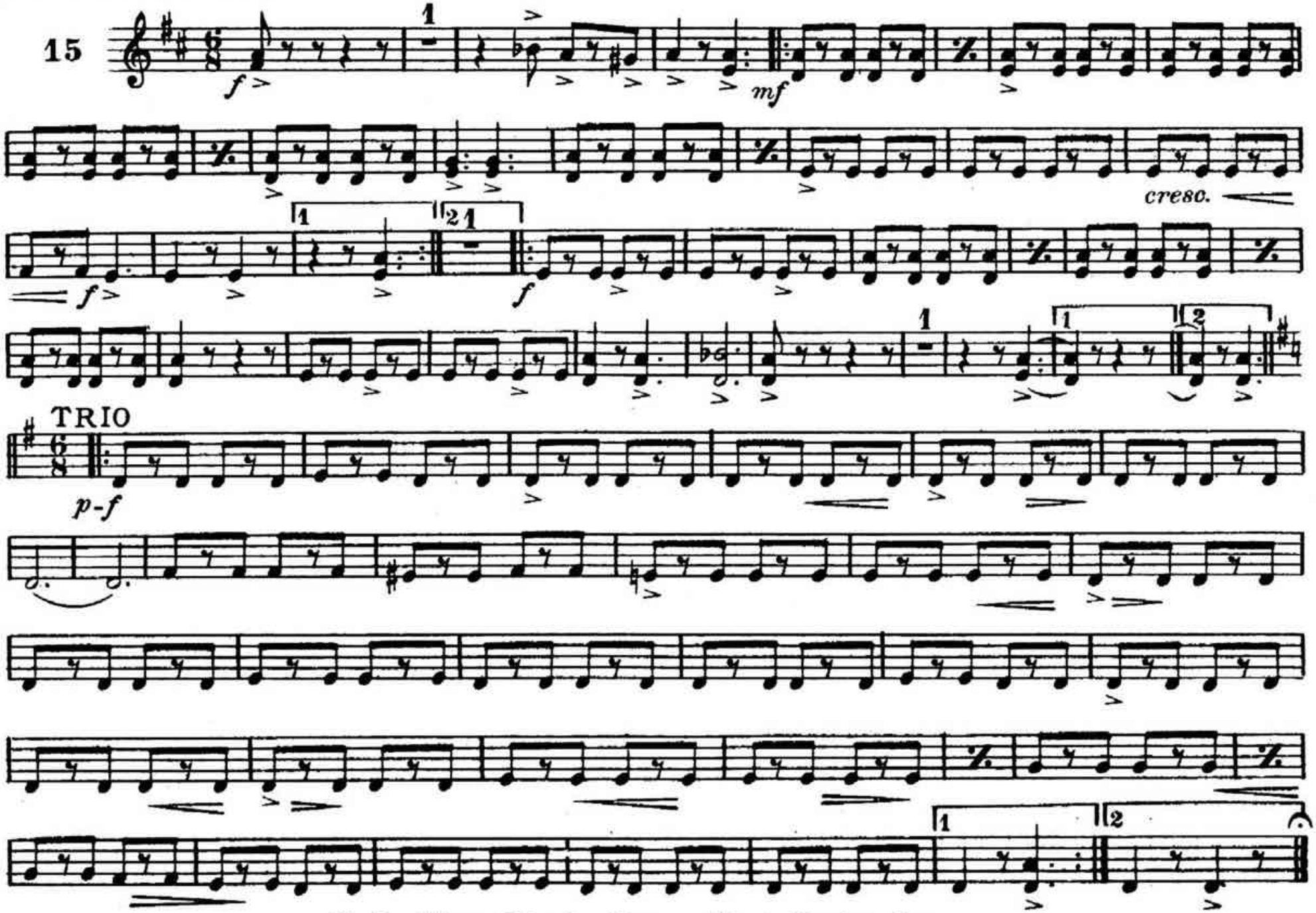
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Iowa Band Law

MARCH

3d & 4th Eb Altos

K. L. KING



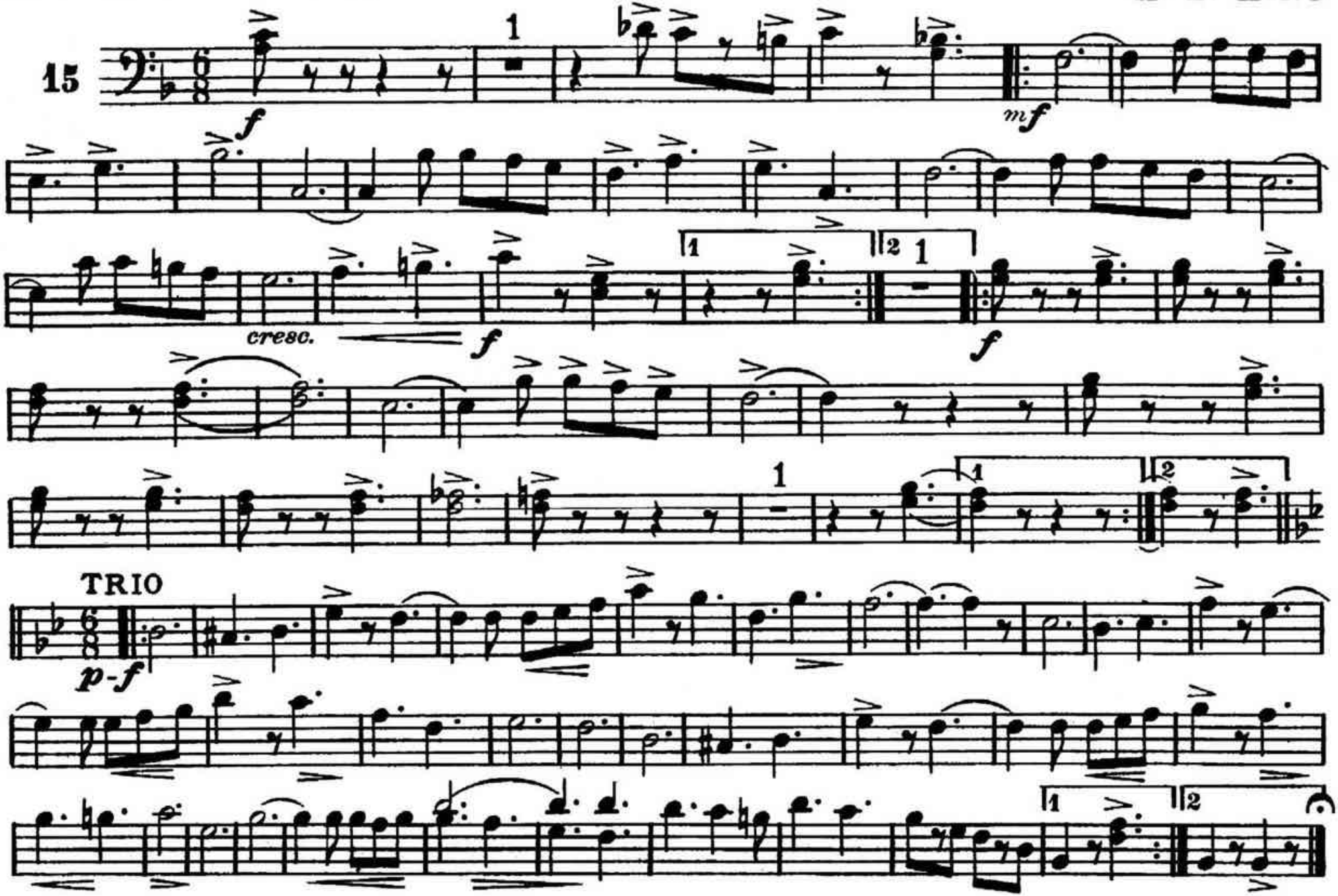
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Iowa Band Law

MARCH

1st & 2d Trombones

K. L. KING



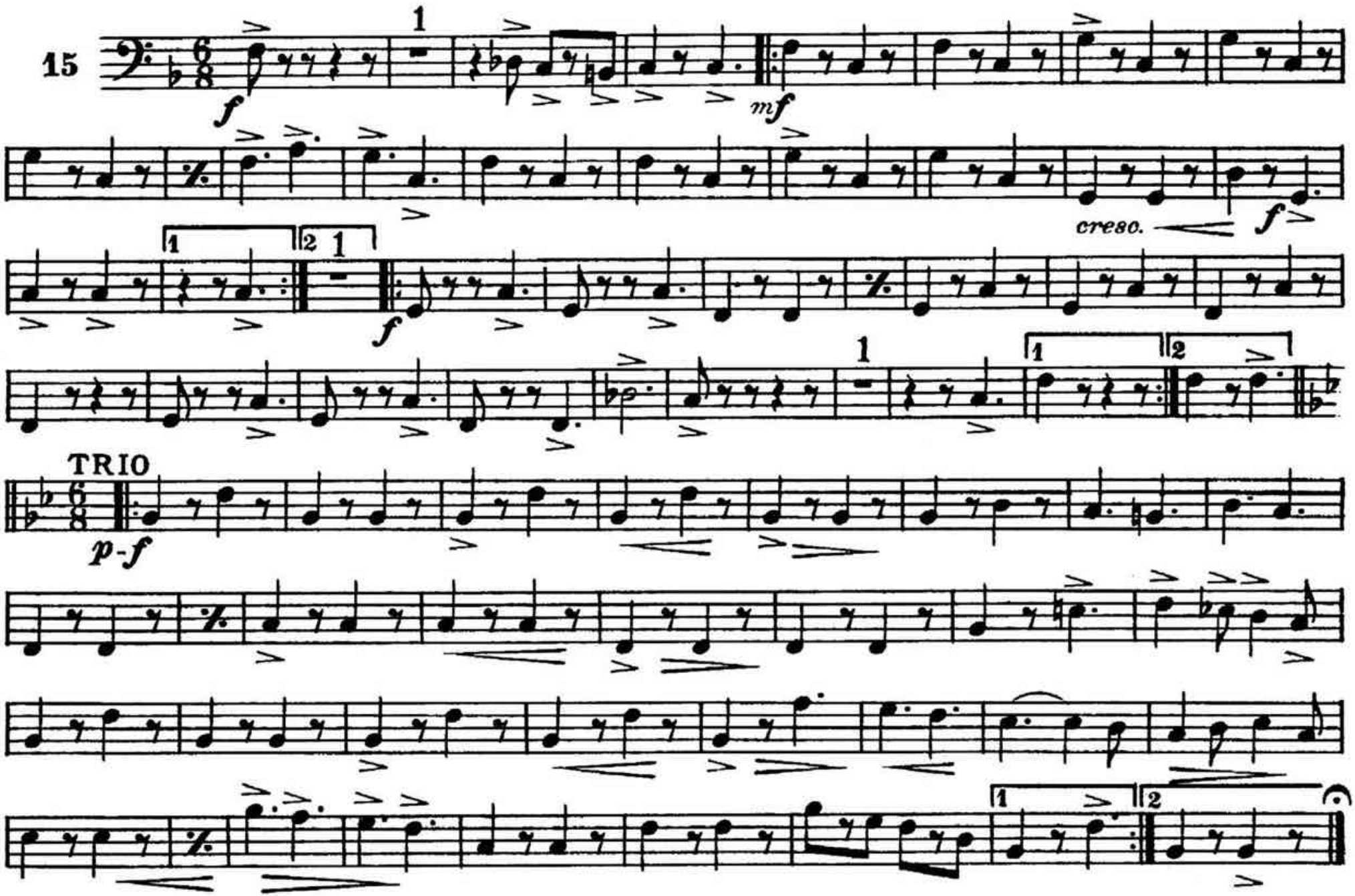
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Iowa Band Law

3d Trombone

MARCH

K. L. KING



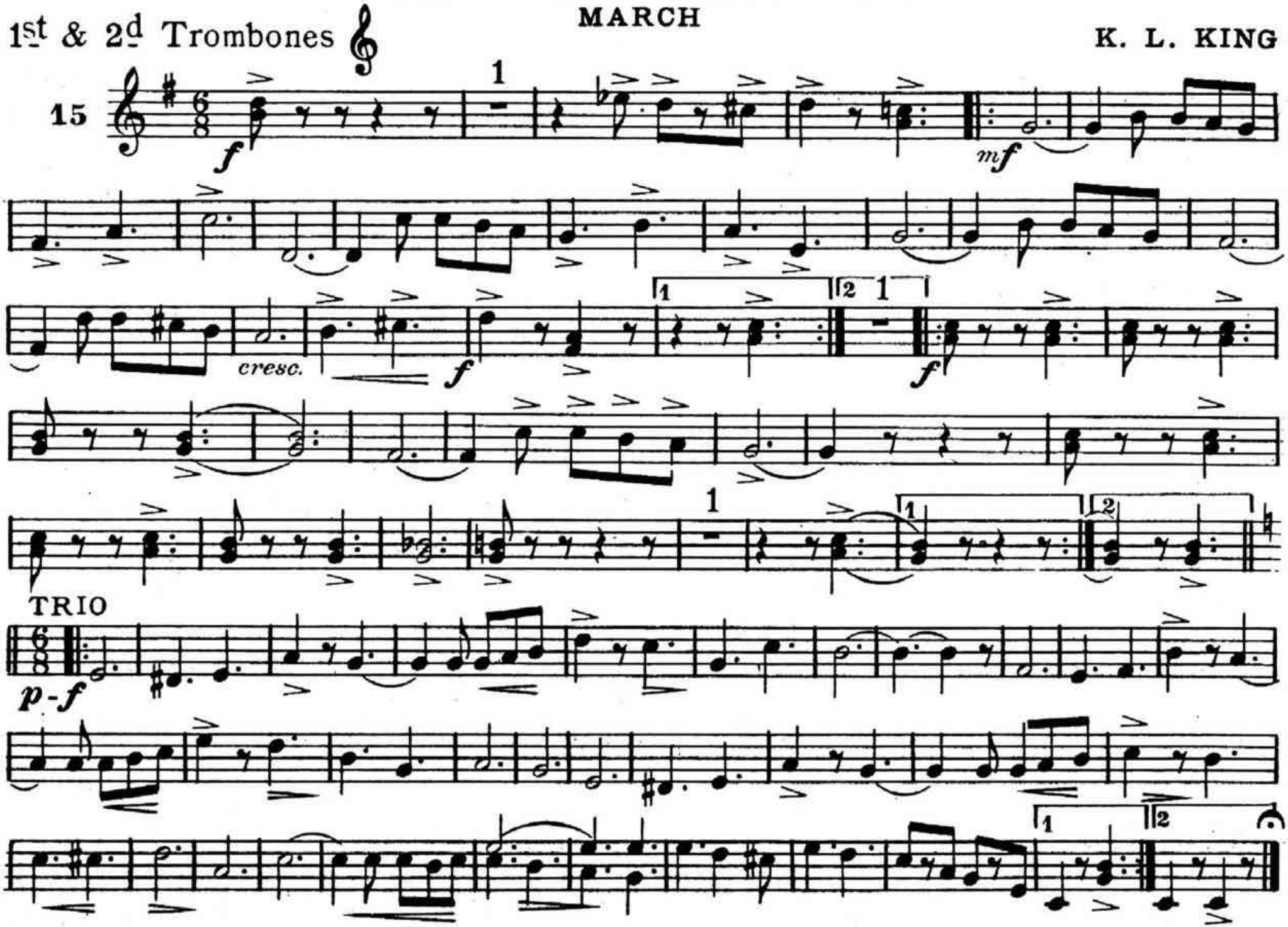
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Iowa Band Law

MARCH

1st & 2d Trombones

K. L. KING



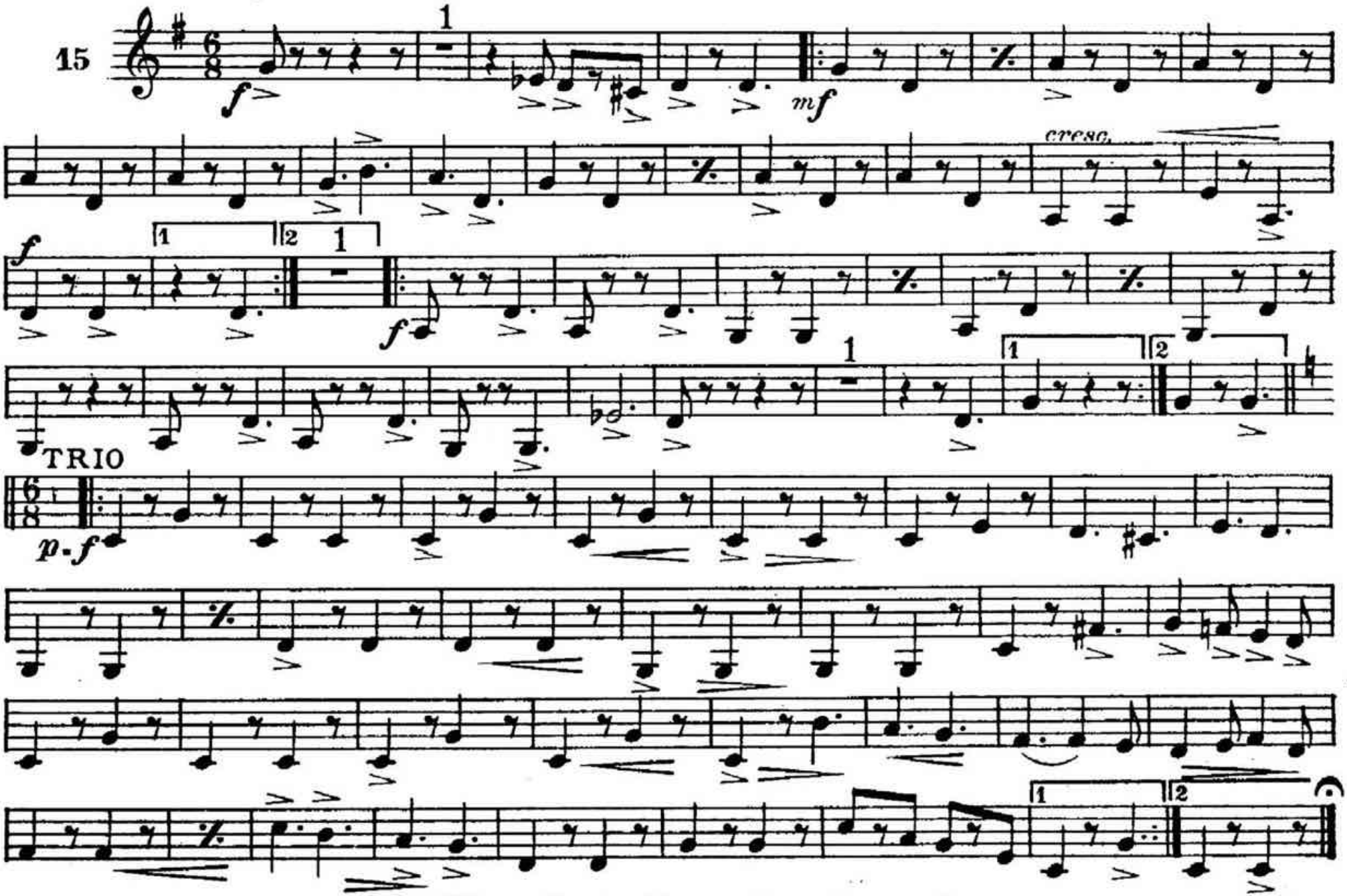
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Iowa Band Law

MARCH

3d Trombone

K. L. KING



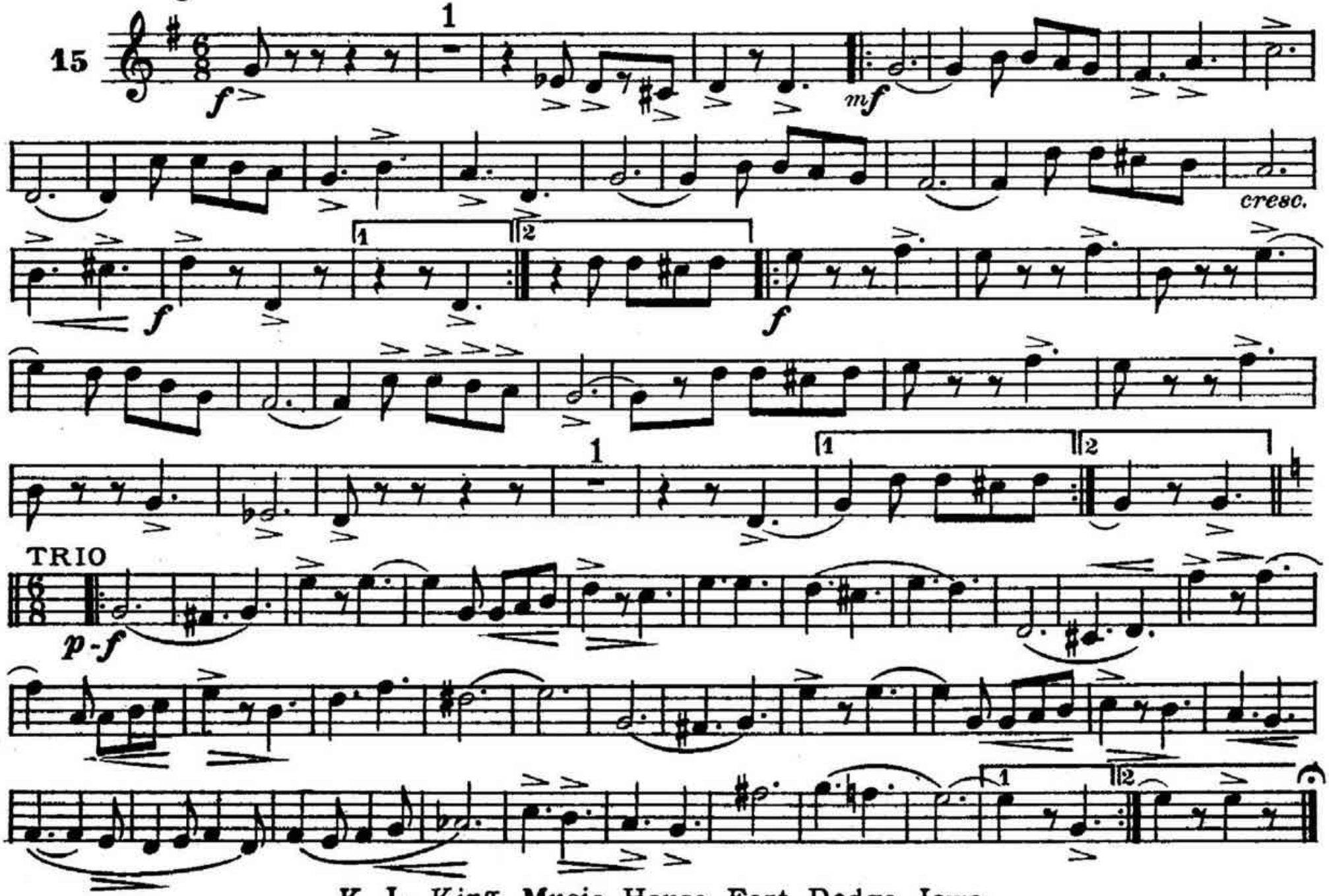
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Iowa Band Law

MARCH

Baritone

K. L. KING



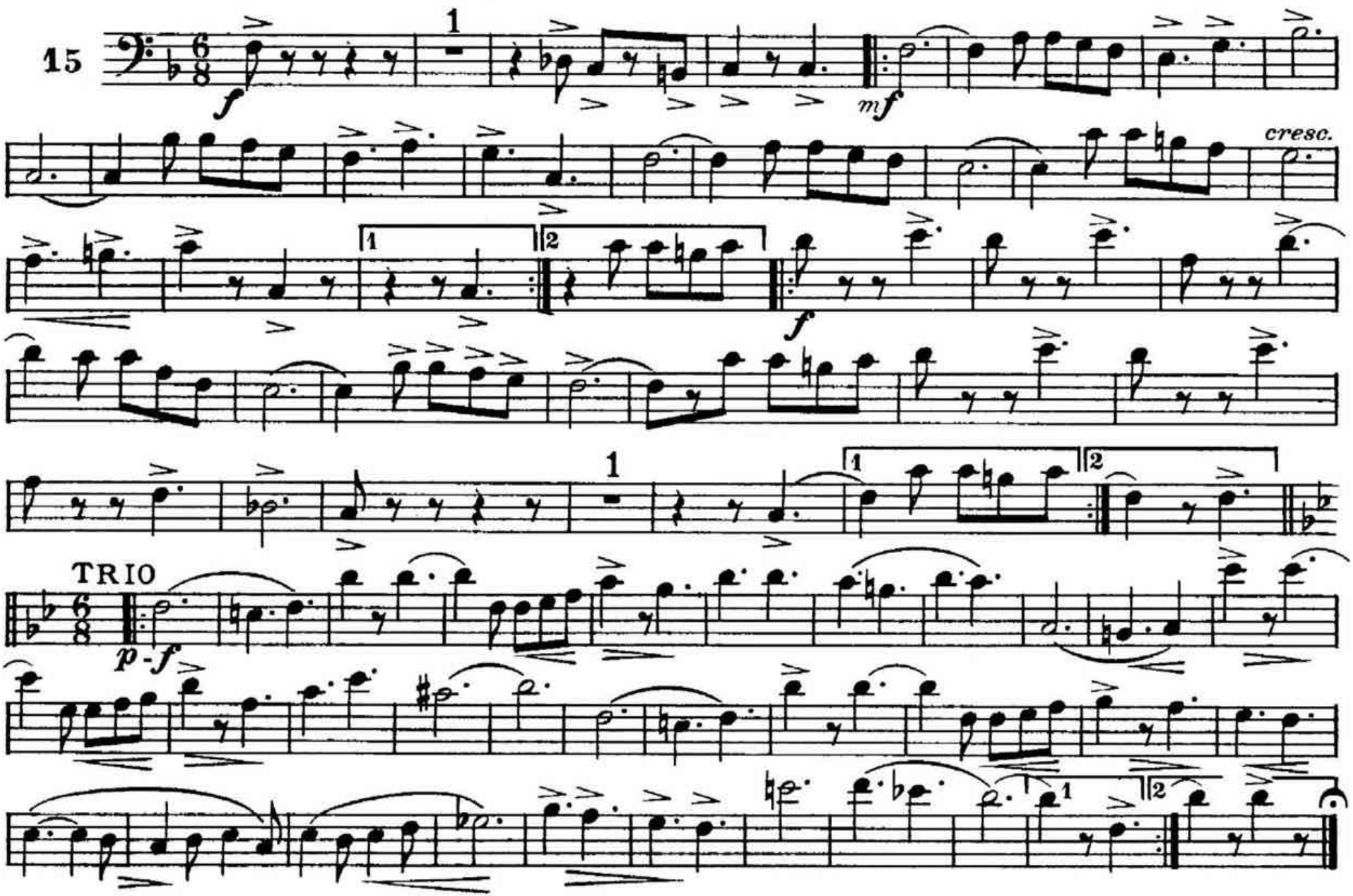
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Iowa Band Law

MARCH

Baritone

K. L. KING



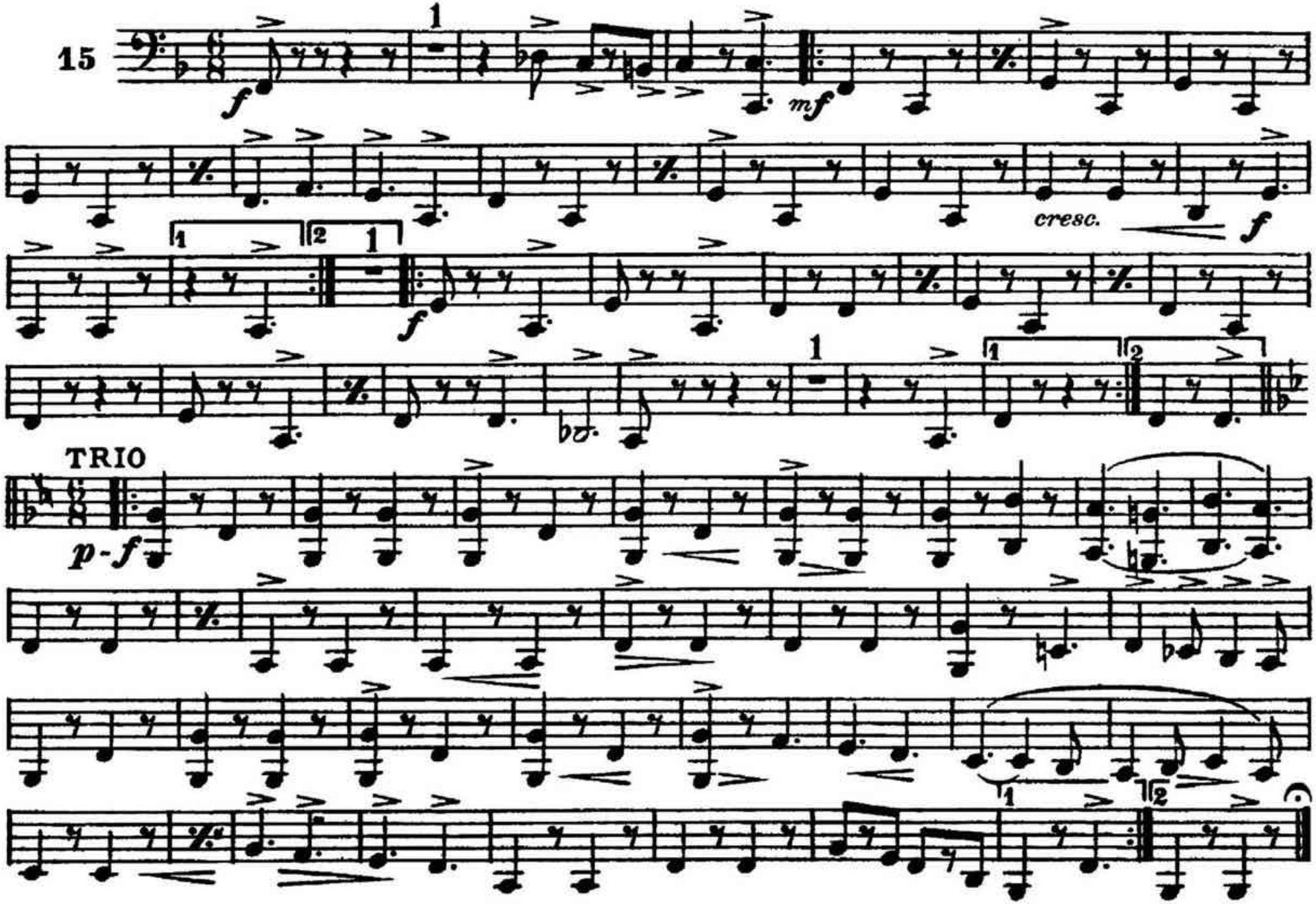
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Basses

The Iowa Band Law

MARCH

K. L. KING



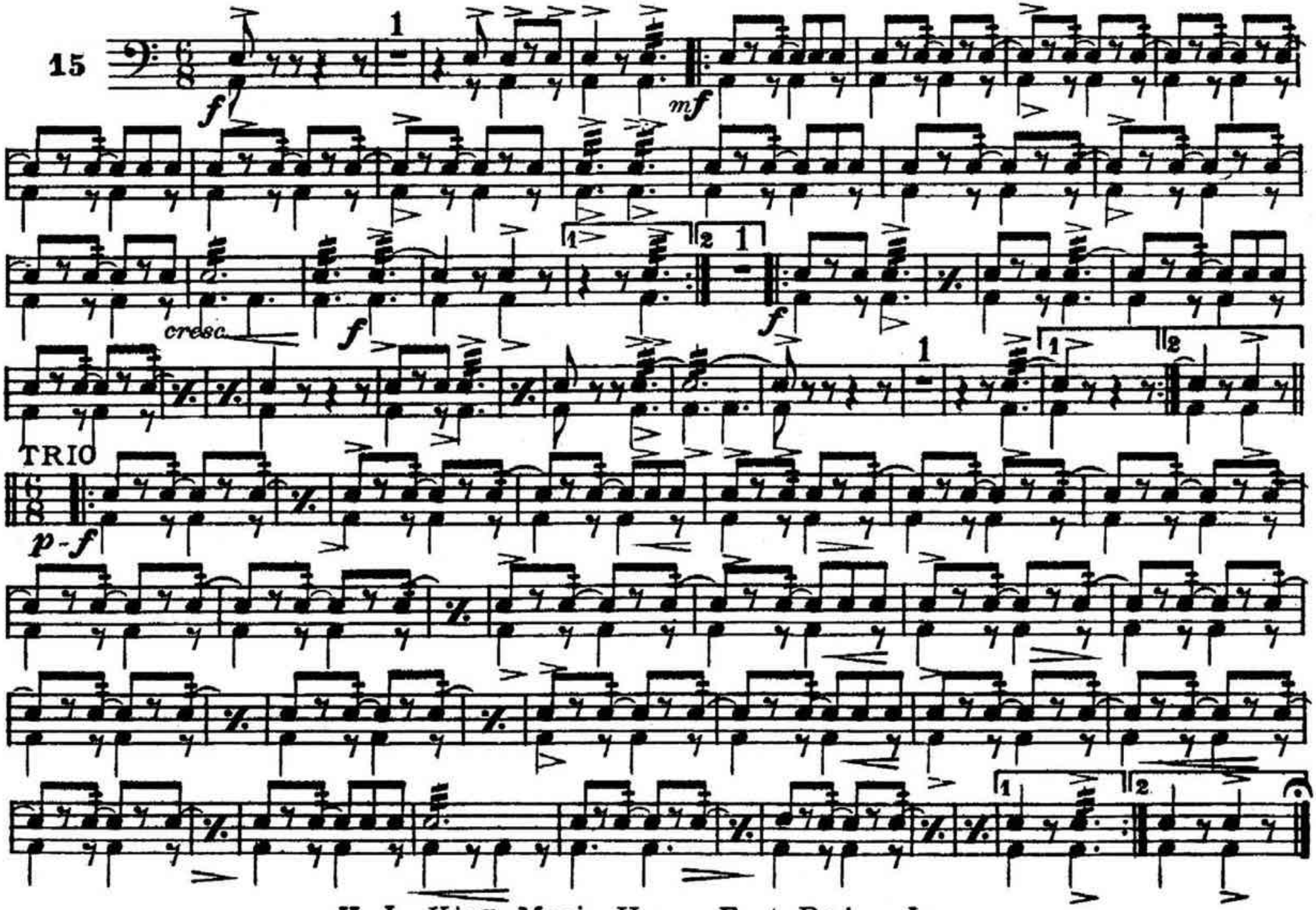
K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Iowa Band Law

Drums

MARCH

K. L. KING



K. L. King Music House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.