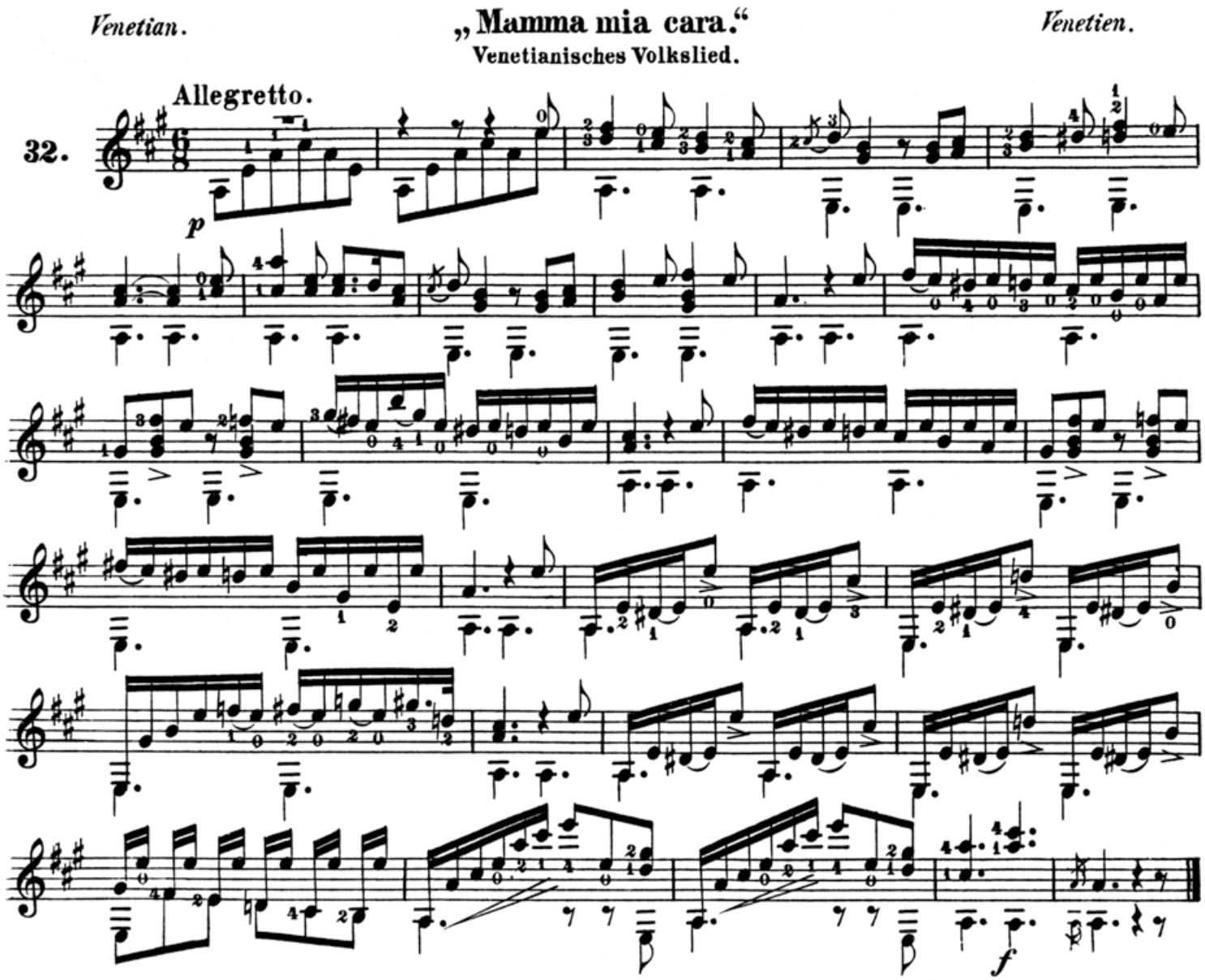
The two Italian pieces presented here were taken from Johann Kaspar Mertz's *Kukuk: Musicalische Rundschau: kurze unterhaltungs-Stücke für die Guitarre,* a collection of national melodies, opera themes, and other amusements for the guitar.

The first of these, "Mamma mia cara," better known as as "The Carnival of Venice," has inspired dozens of sets of variations for various instruments. Mertz calls it a Venetian folksong, but it is often identified elsewhere as being of Neapolitan origin. This arrangement is taken from *Kukuk*, Vol. 4. Probably the most spectacular setting for guitar of this piece was that of Marc Aurelio Zani de Ferranti (for a guitar tuned to E-major). The second piece is a *tarantella,* a popular dance of Taranto, taken from *Kukuk*, vol. 9. Mertz calls this a "Neapolitan national dance," but in his day the Kingdom of Naples included the entire southern part of Italy from the borders of the Papal states to Reggio di Calabria, including Taranto.

Tuscany Publications hopes these pieces will whet your appetite for our forthcoming publication of three heretofore-unknown tarantellas and other dances for guitar by Mauro Giuliani, based on a manuscript in the collection of composer/guitarist John King. And notice also, in our current catalog, Stephen Aron's masterful arrangement for solo guitar of Rossini's *La Danza,* an exciting and virtuosic tarantella.

Watch this spot for still more tarantellas, coming soon …