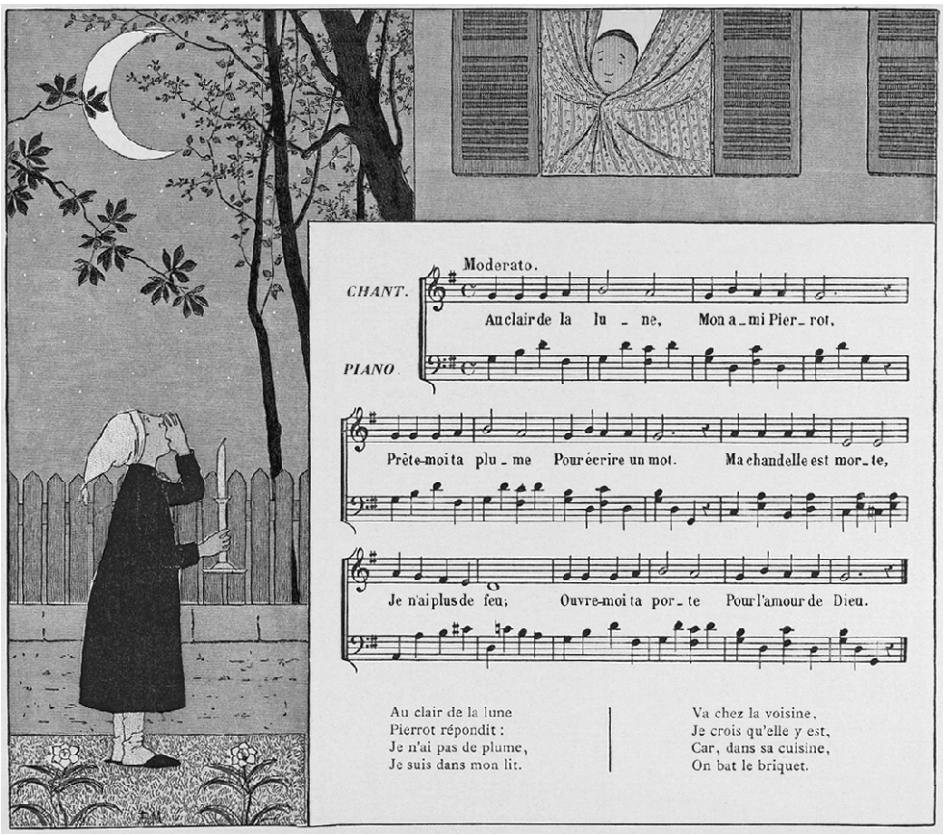
# Au clair de la lune

Tradition has it that this famous tune was composed by the French composer Jean-Baptiste Lully, though it may have been based on an older folk song. French children seem to all learn this tune at an early age, and many in Canada do as well.

The harmony is of parallel construction with just a few rolled chords to complete it. Learn the melody with the left hand as well, and it will be easy to take the movements of the fingers up a third to play the notes as written.




*from a 19th century French children's book Vieilles Chansons pour les Petits Enfants: Avec Accompagnements*

*Au clair de la lune,*
*Mon ami Pierrot,*
*Prête-moi ta plume,*
*Pour écrire un mot;*
*Ma chandelle est morte,*
*Je n'ai plus de feu*
*Ouvre-moi ta porte*
*Pour l'amour de Dieu.*

*Au clair de la lune,*
*Pierrot répondit:*
*Je n'ai pas de plume,*
*Je suis dans mon lit.*
*Va chez la voisine,*
*Je crois qu'elle y est;*
*Car dans sa cuisine*
*On bat le briquet.*

*Au clair de la lune,*
*L'aimable Lubin,*
*Frappe chez la brune*
*Ell' répond soudain:*
*Qui frapp' de la sorte?*
*Il dit à son tour:*
*Ouvre-moi ta porte*
*Pour le dieu d'amour.*

*Au clair de la lune,*
*On n'y voit qu'un peu,*
*On cherche la plume,*
*On cherche du feu.*
*En cherchant d'la sorte*
*Je n'saisc'qu'on trouva:*
*Mais j'sais que la porte*
*Sur eux se ferma.*

*In the light of the moon,*
*Pierrot, my friend*
*Loan me your pen to write something down.*
*My candle's dead, I've got no flame to light it*
*Open your door, for the love of God!*

*In the light of the moon,*
*Pierrot replied*
*I don't have a pen, I'm in bed*
*Go to the neighbor's, I think she's there*
*Someone just lit a match in the kitchen.*

*In the light of the moon,*
*likable Harlequin*
*Knocked on her door, and she responded*
*Who's knocking like that?*
*He replied in turn*
*Open your door, for the God of Love!*

*In the light of the moon, you can barely see*
*Someone looked for a pen, someone looked for a flame*
*In all of that looking, I don't know what was found.*
*But I do know that those two shut the door behind them.*

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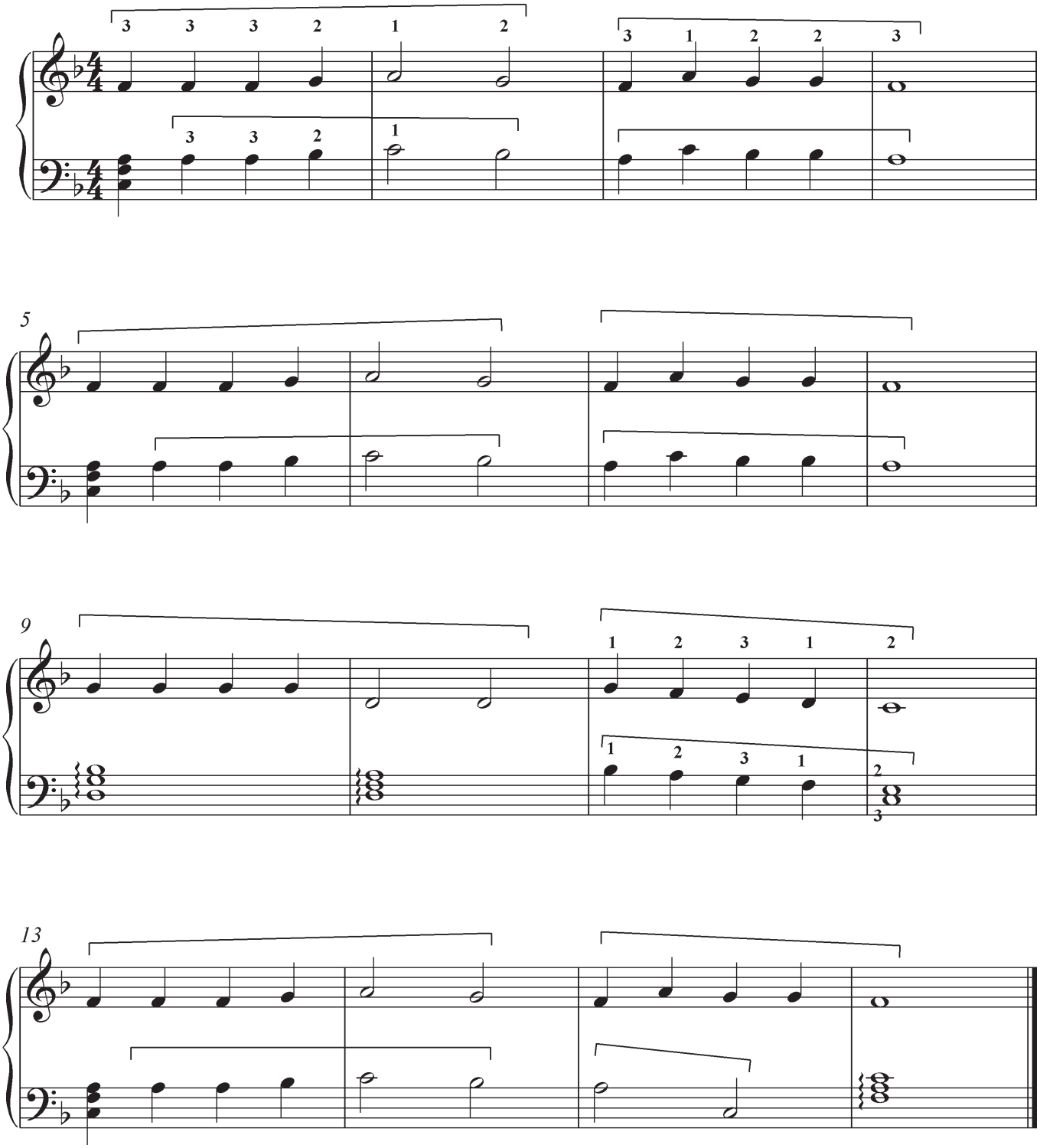
Jean-Baptiste Lully