IAN KEITH HARRIS

SONATA
'LES AMOURS'

Two Oboes d'amore (Oboes) & Harpsichord (Piano)

AMORIS INTERNATIONAL
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AICM 007

Ian Keith Harris

(1935-)

Australian composer, arranger, oboist, music educator, critic and eclectic musician, Ian Harris, was born in Melbourne in 1935, living there for the first 26 years of his life. He started the piano at the age of five and three years later was playing cornet in his school band. He took up the violin shortly after this, playing for several years, but relinquished it when he became his school pianist at thirteen. The oboe came next, and in 1953, he began his Bachelor of Music degree at Melbourne University Conservatorium of Music taking piano as chief study and oboe as second. National Service in the Army intervened and, this time, Ian Harris played the trombone in the University Regiment. The same year, he changed to oboe as his chief study. The trombone did not impress Jiři Tancibudek, his professor! This time, the piano was his second study and composition (Arthur Nickson) crept in too.

Not surprisingly he was soon in demand as a free-lance orchestral musician, arranger and copyist, working in a very eclectic mix of musical spheres from arranging for Eartha Kitt (television and various theatrical shows), to playing in opera, ballet, chamber music and symphony orchestras. He was a founding member of the *Glendenian Trio*, (flute, oboe, bassoon), which gave regular broadcasts over several years. The trio was another area in which his skills at arrangement were frequently employed.

Ian Harris moved to Hobart, Tasmania, in 1961 (Tasmanian Orchestra), was seconded to the Sydney Symphony Orchestra (cor anglais) for several months, returned to Tasmania only to be seconded again, this time to the Victorian Symphony Orchestra (oboe).

Back again in Tasmania, his next move was to Wellington, New Zealand (1965-1974) to join NZBCSO (the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation Symphony Orchestra) as Principal Cor anglais. During this time, in which he yo-yoed across Australasia, Harris tutored at the universities of Tasmania, Melbourne, and the Victoria University of Wellington. It was at the latter that he completed his degree in composition (with David Farquhar) in 1969. He was to return yet again to Tasmania at the end of 1974.

However, this time, he embraced a new career as a music educator with his move. His wealth of instrumental and orchestral experience was invaluable to his students. He also conducted the Tasmanian Junior Youth Orchestra for several years.

Harris was a dedicated member of policy committees, especially in Education and the Arts. A great listener to music and musicians, he served as music critic for *The Mercury,* Hobart's daily newspaper, for several years.

His *oeuvre* consists mainly of chamber music, much of which has been performed and

broadcast: *Microsymphony for Cor anglais Quartet* (cor anglais, string trio), *Oboe Quartet* (oboe, string trio), *Essay for Bassoon and Strings*, *Sonata for Viola and Piano*, amongst many other pieces and numerous arrangements for broadcasts and concerts.

His sense of fun has shown in many of his compositions including, *A Piece with Strawberry Jam*, *The Little Dog's Day* (Rupert Brooke), *'Paw de trois'- Three Dances for Canines* (for Woodwind Quintet, with movements dedicated to his dogs by name), *The Whitebait Fishers* –

> *"**A sort of Donizetti-like spoof for harpsichord, string quartet and small choir, for which the producer of the hour-long national radio show penned the libretto for this, a special anniversary broadcast of the programme**."*

Harris orchestrated songs for symphony concerts, including a version of *The Last Rose of Summer* for Rita Streich (1920-1987). He also wrote, directed and even performed in advertising jingles, playing celesta, oboe, cor anglais or whatever was required.

Ian Harris moved back to Sydney definitively in 2000 and has since devoted himself to composition and a considerable *entourage* of cats (10) and dogs (5). He is a keen gardener and chef and a passionate enthusiast of the oboe d'amore. A close friend of Jennifer Paull, he has written many works for her.

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Sonata
'Les Amours'

Two Oboes d'amore (Oboes) & Harpsichord (Piano)

AI CM 007

Written at the suggestion of Jennifer Paull, to whom it is dedicated, this work was completed in April 2006. It comprises four movements and a closing *apotheosis*. *'Les Amours'*, is a pun on *'les hautbois d'amour'*. It is a reflection upon loves past and present; particularly that which she and I share of the oboe d'amore. In similar fashion to many Baroque sonatas, this work alternates fast and slow movements, beginning with a slow.

The first movement is indicated *Andante con moto*. It is to be played with a steady and regular rhythm to mark the contrast between the two woodwind parts of initial long-flowing lines and the vigorous, somewhat *staccato*, harpsichord part. The *rôles* are partly reversed in the middle and development sections but resume their original qualities in recapitulation.

The second movement, a *grande velocità*, is essentially a dialogue between the two solo instruments with *staccato*, rhythmical accompaniment. This movement is almost a *rondo* in 9/8 – three groups of three. Short chromatic passages for all in the second subject make a sparkling statement.

The third movement is directed *Lento*. The *cantabile* woodwind lines are conversational counterpoints above a walking harpsichord part. It should be played without *rubato*. There is a considerable use of the *mordent* in all parts.

The fourth movement is a fugue in a complex rhythm of 4/4 + 5/8, marked *Allegro giocoso*, which is constant throughout. It is built upon what is basically a *staccato motif*.

The 'Apotheosis' is a brief *Grave*. The slow and dream-like woodwind parts are always in parallel, contrasting to the somewhat violent interjections by the harpsichord. This represents the triumph of hope over despair, light over darkness.

Ian Keith Harris
2006

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Works by Ian Keith Harris published by ***Amoris International*** *include the following*

A Summer Idyll A SI 018

An Album of Aquarelles A SI 019
Syrinx and Pan
Aurora Australis
West of The Winter Wind

Autumnal Interlude A SI 020

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FunFare A EN 009

'Paw de trois' – Three Dances for Canines A EN 010

The White Rose A OR 003 (String Orchestra etc.) & A EN 007 (String Quartet etc.)

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for Jennifer Paull

SONATA

' LES AMOURS '

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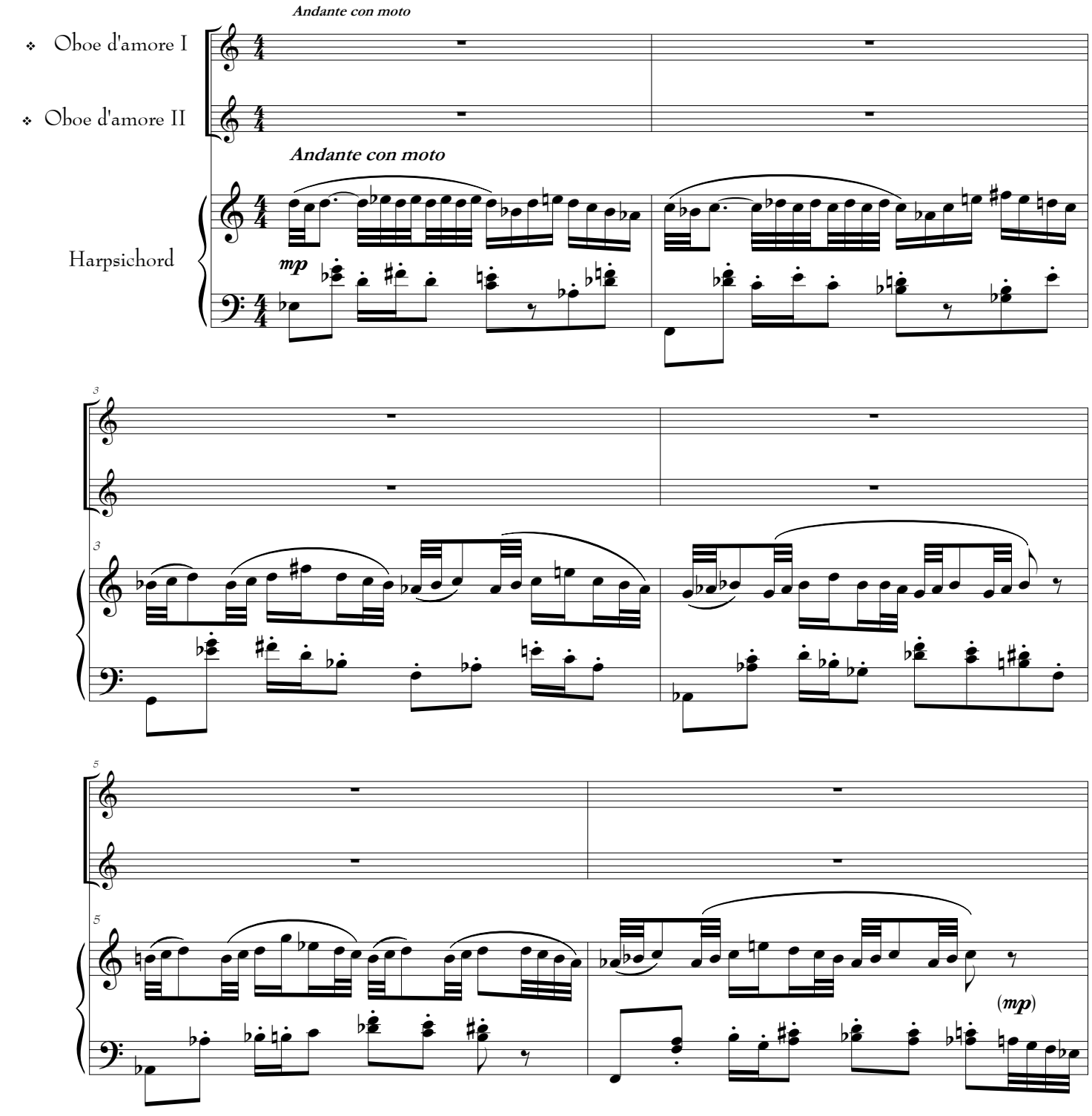
Ian Keith Harris
(1935 -)



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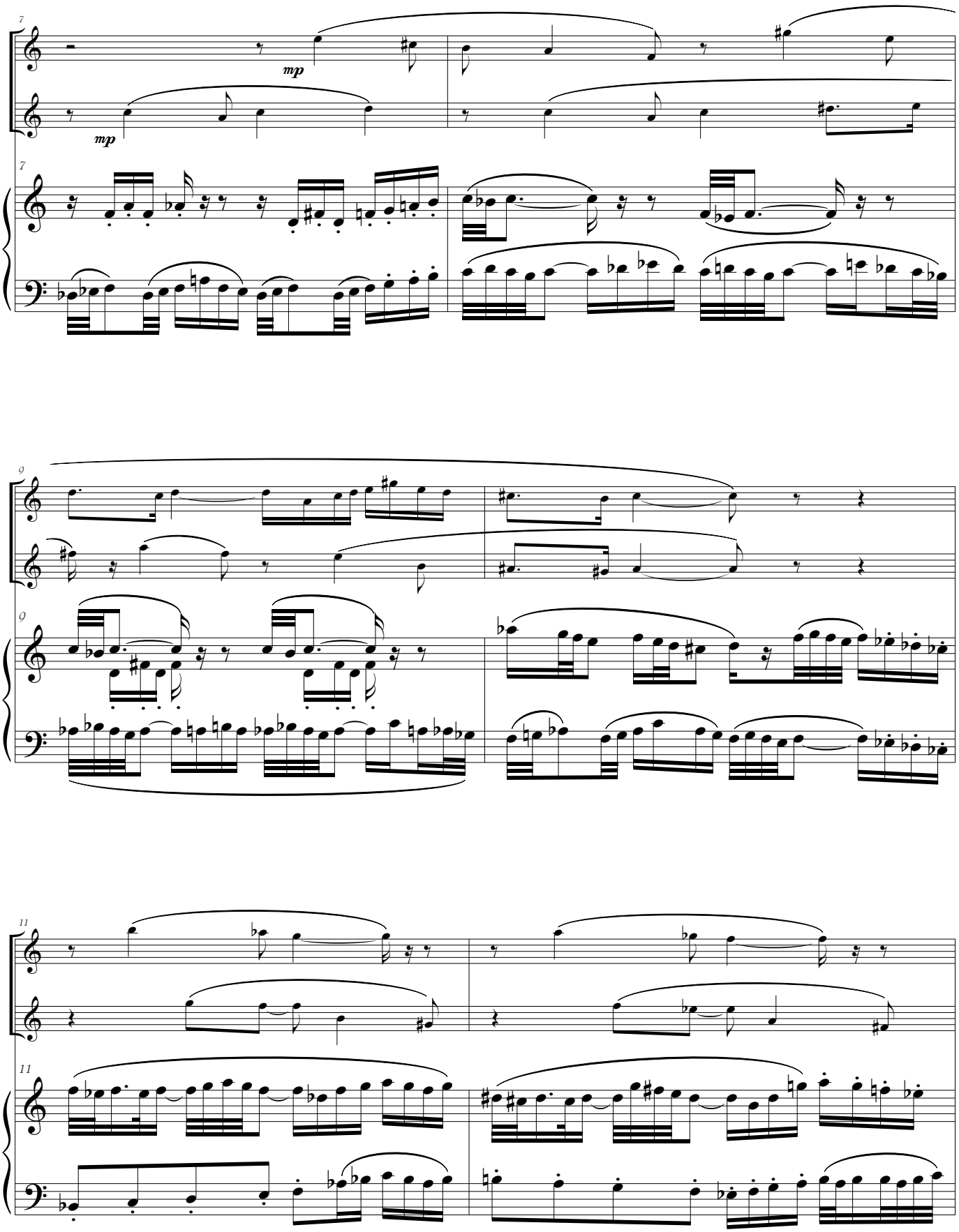
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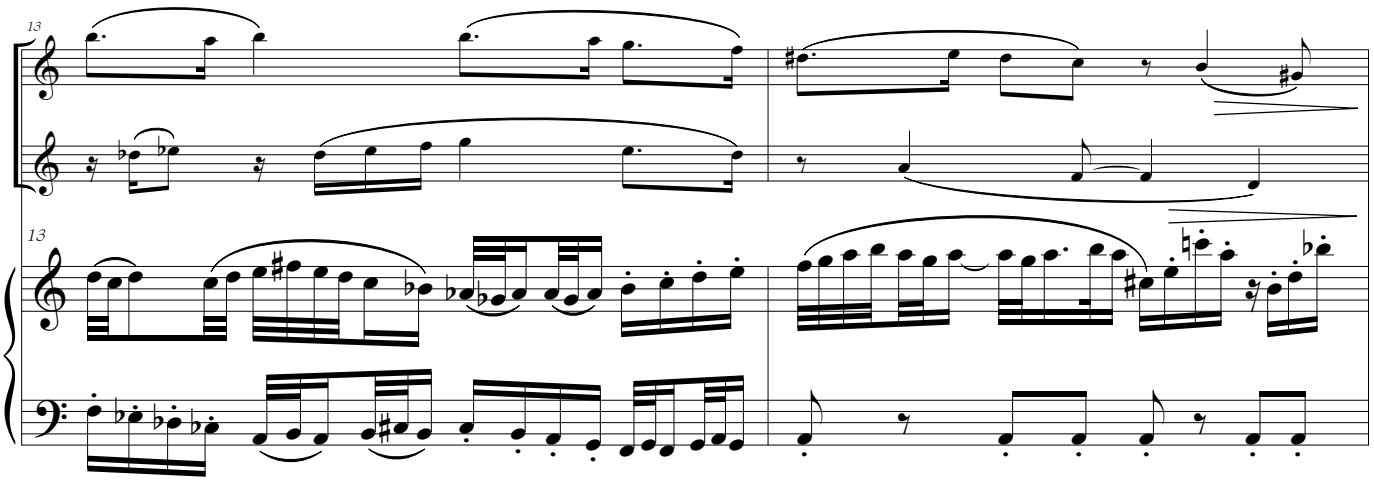
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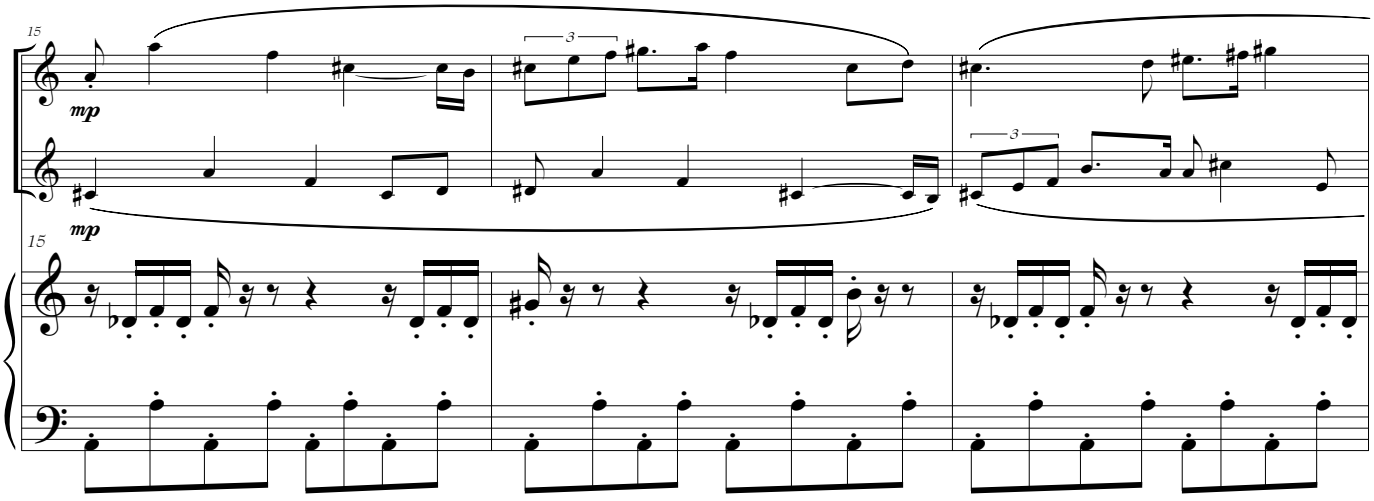
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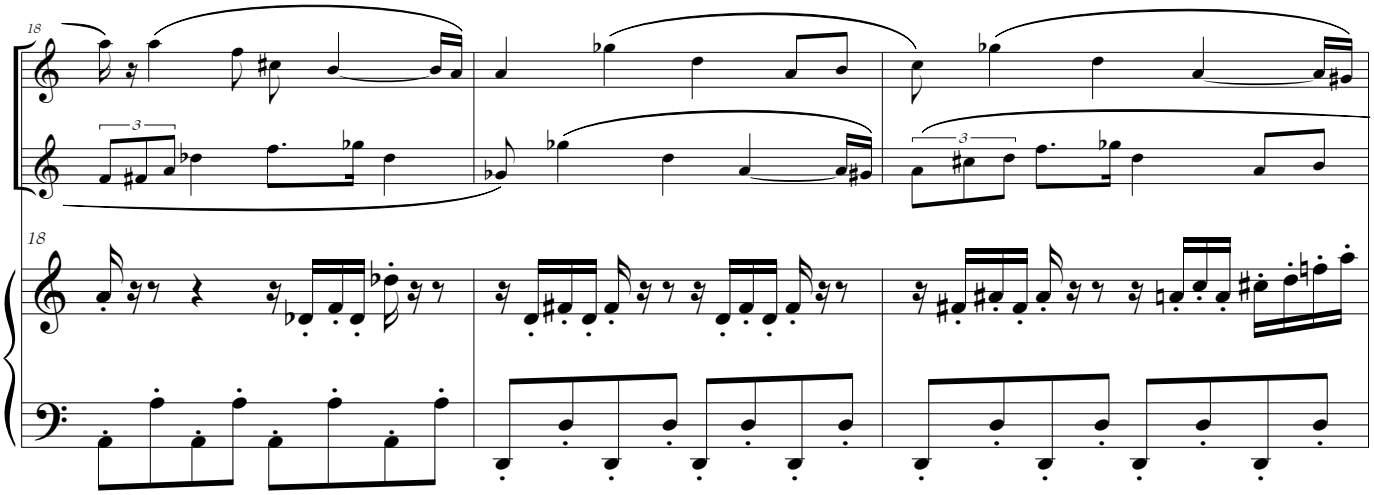
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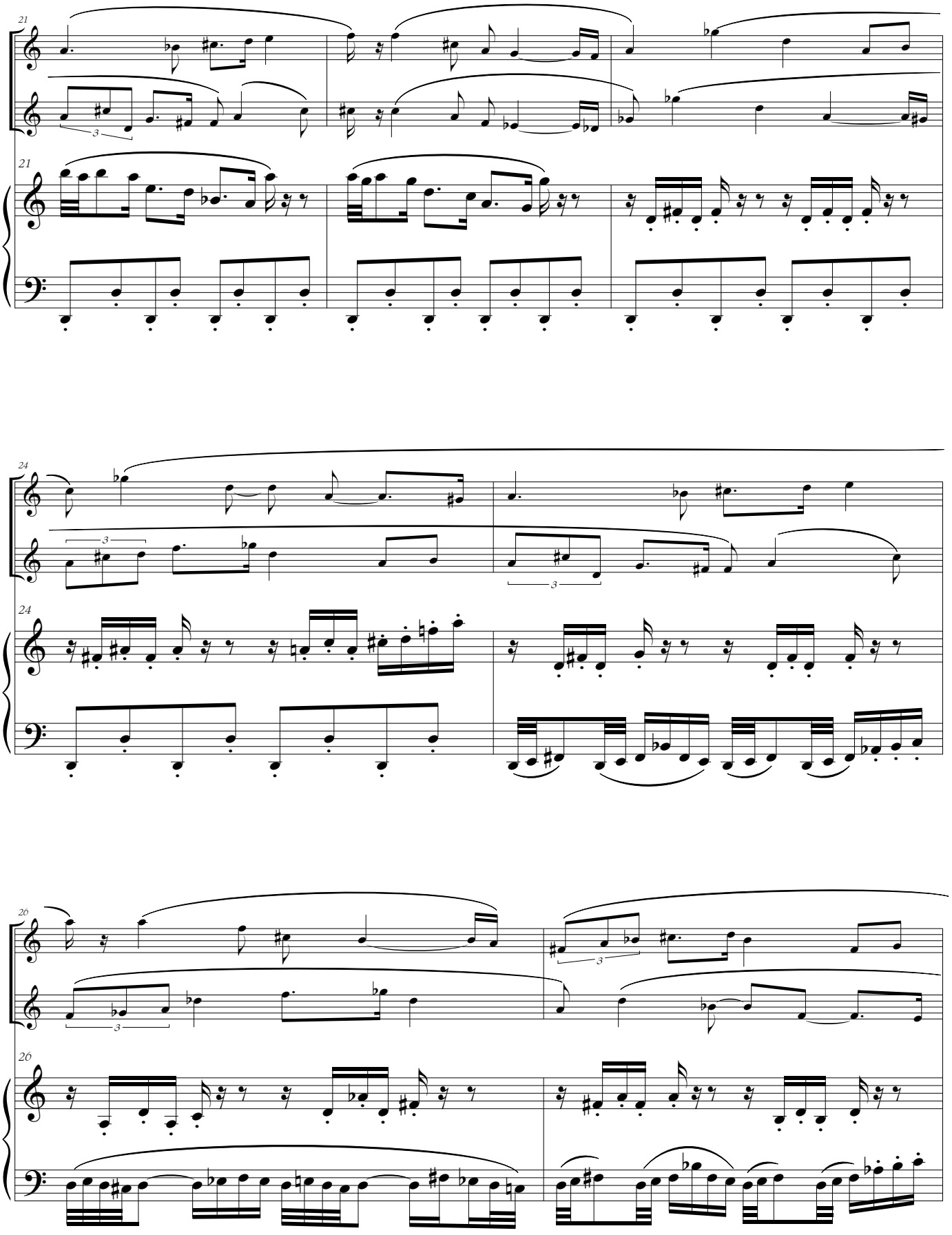

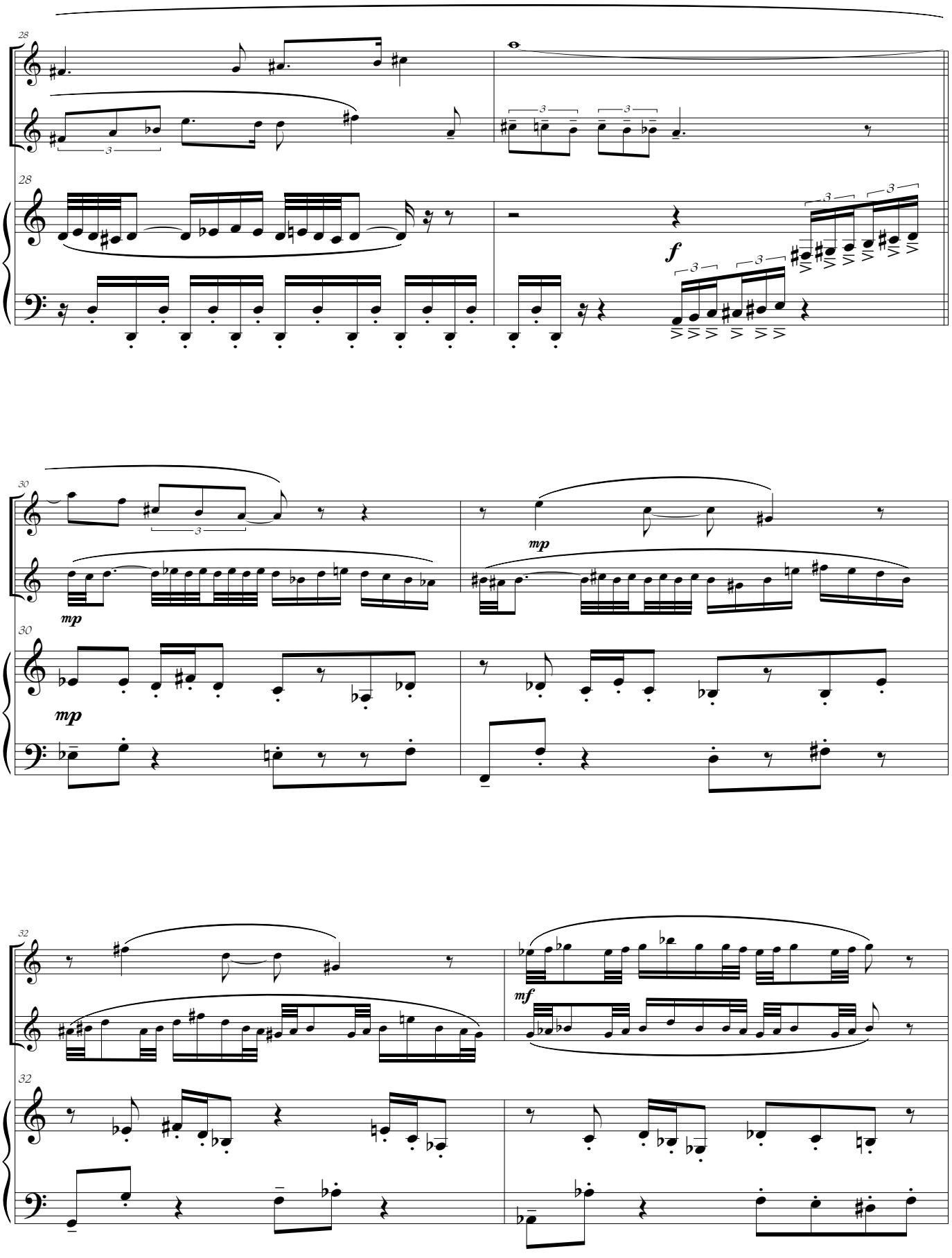
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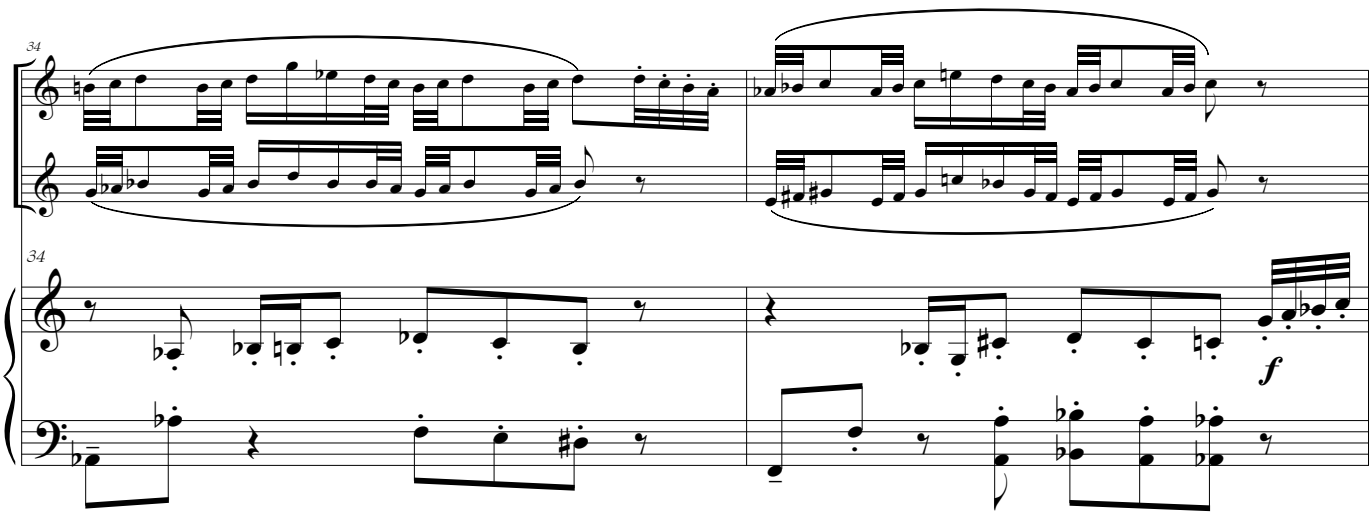
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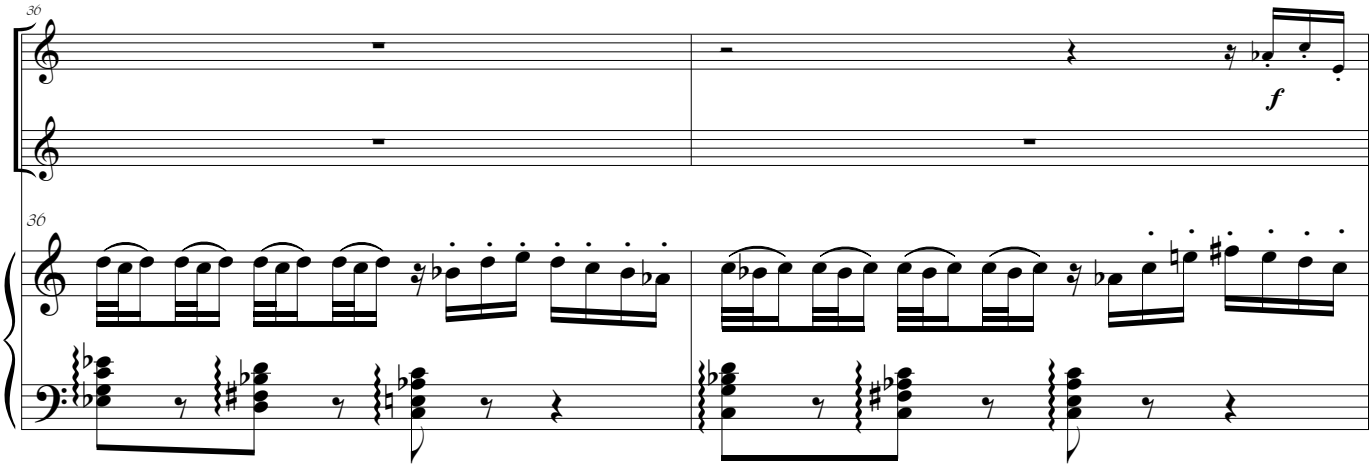
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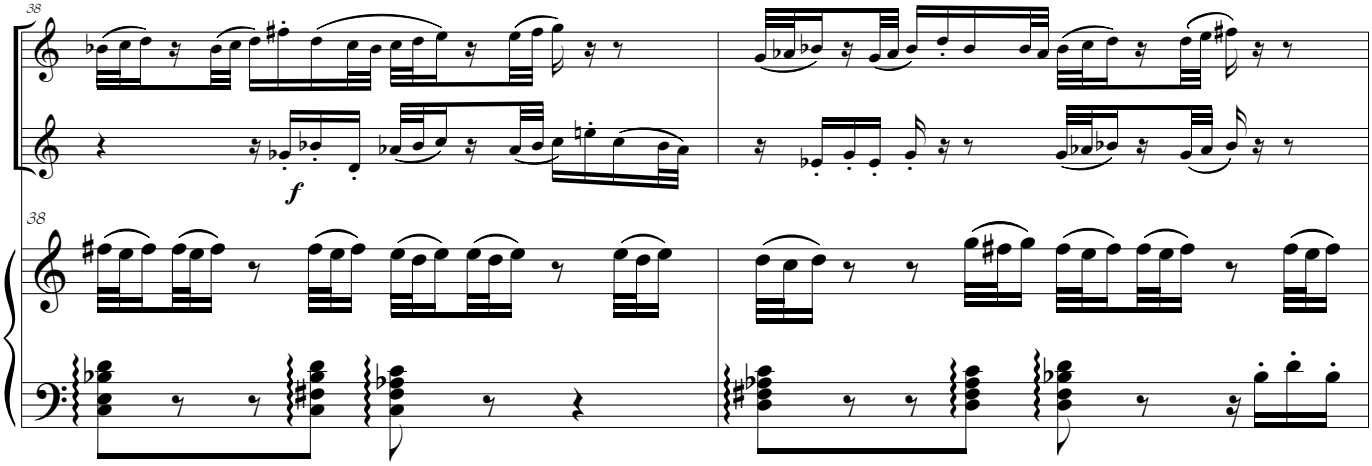
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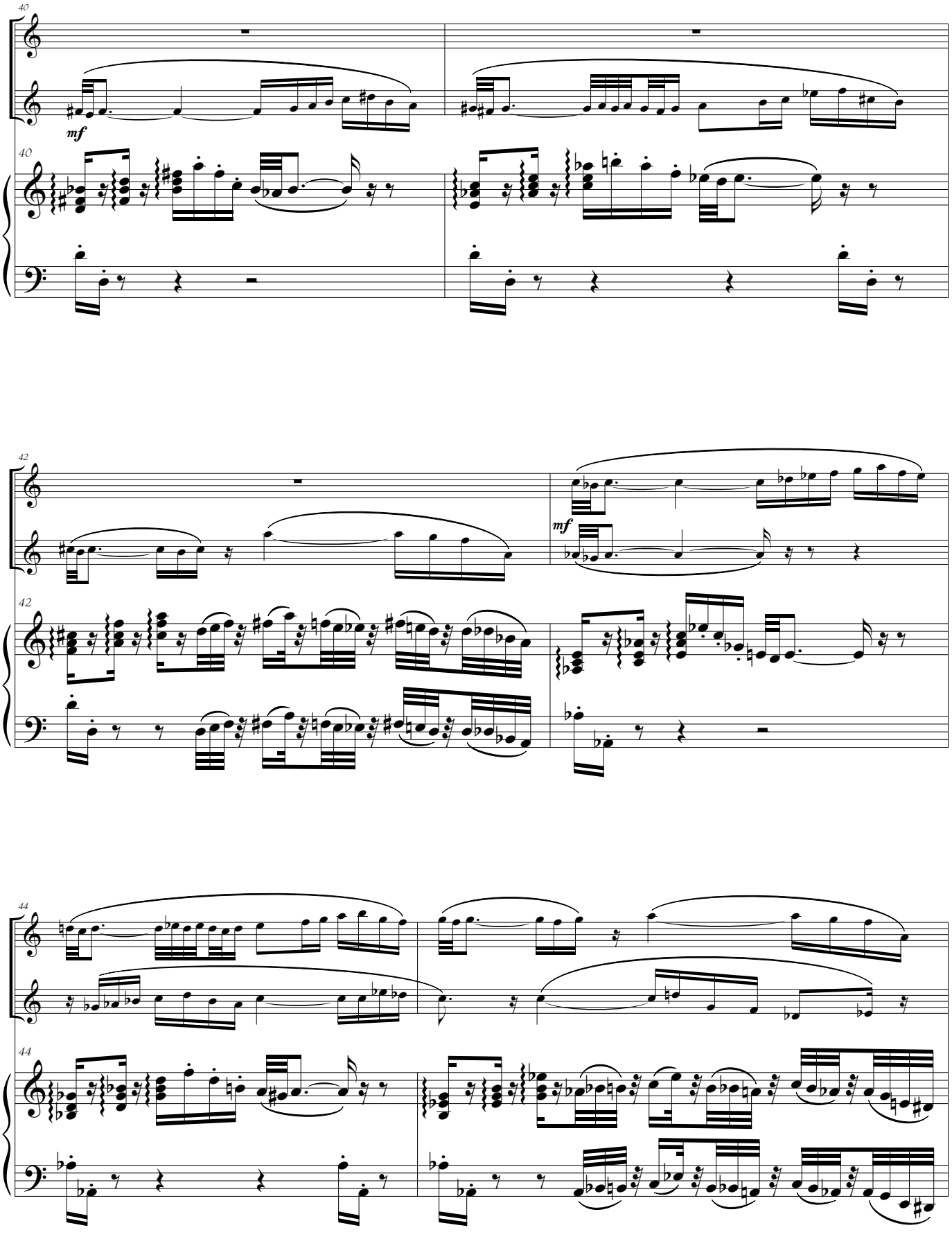
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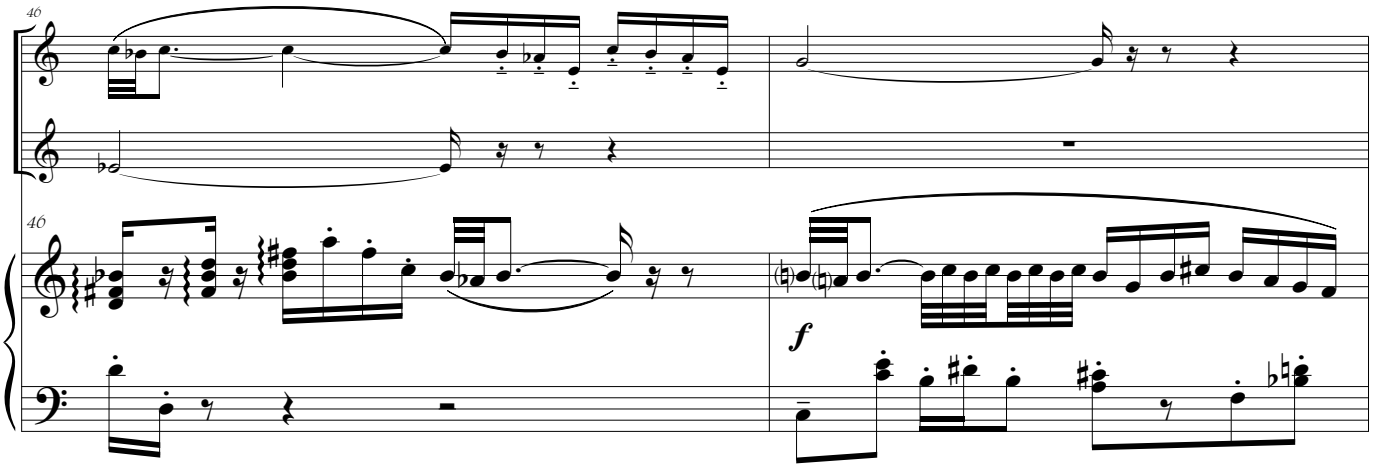
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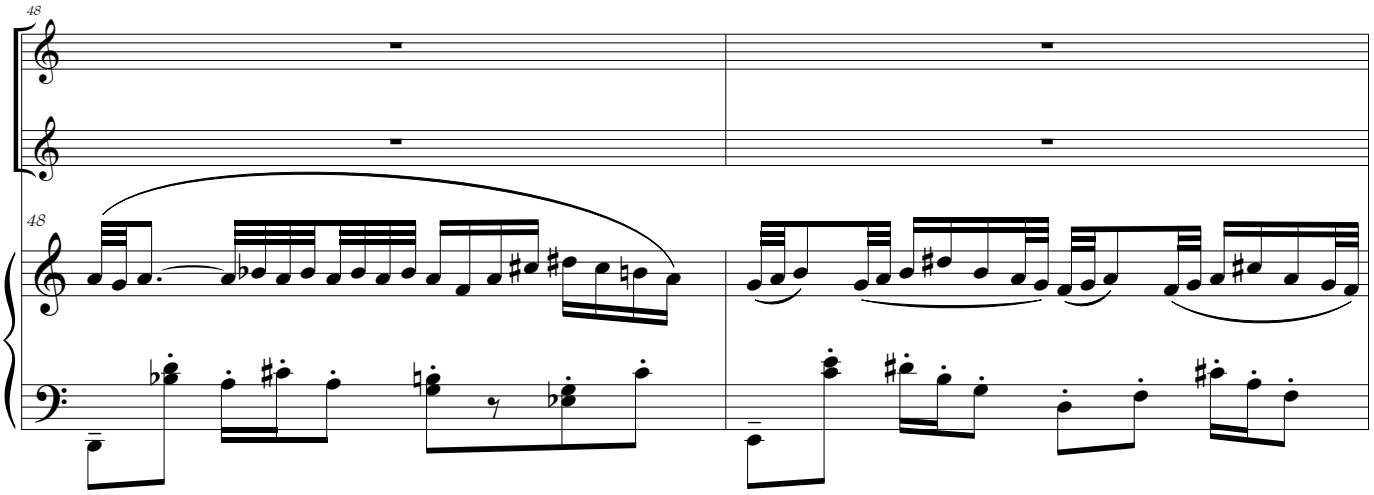
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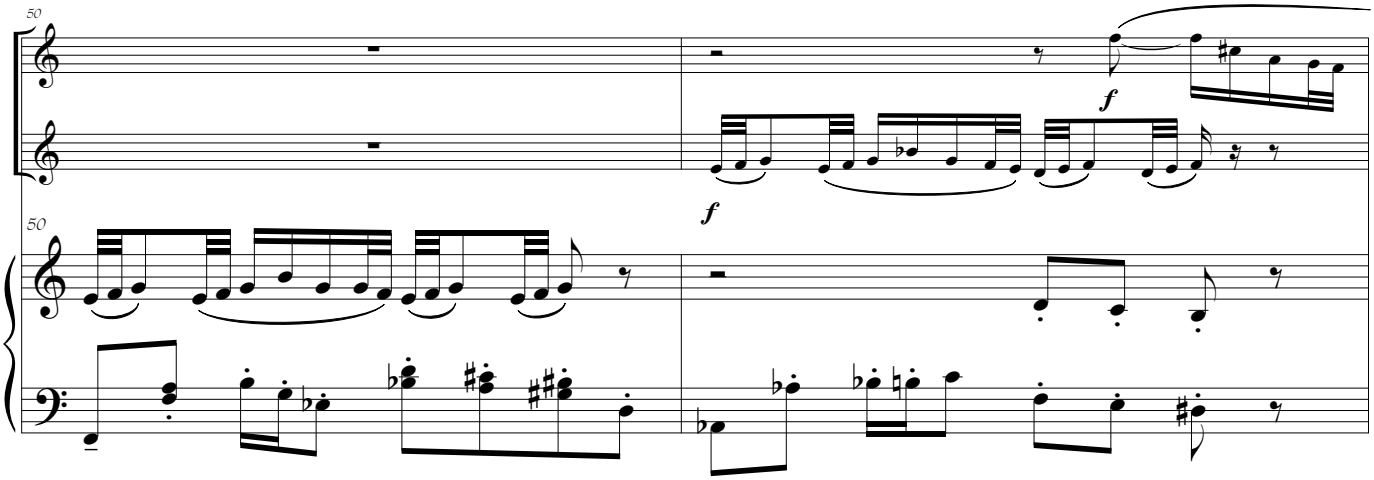
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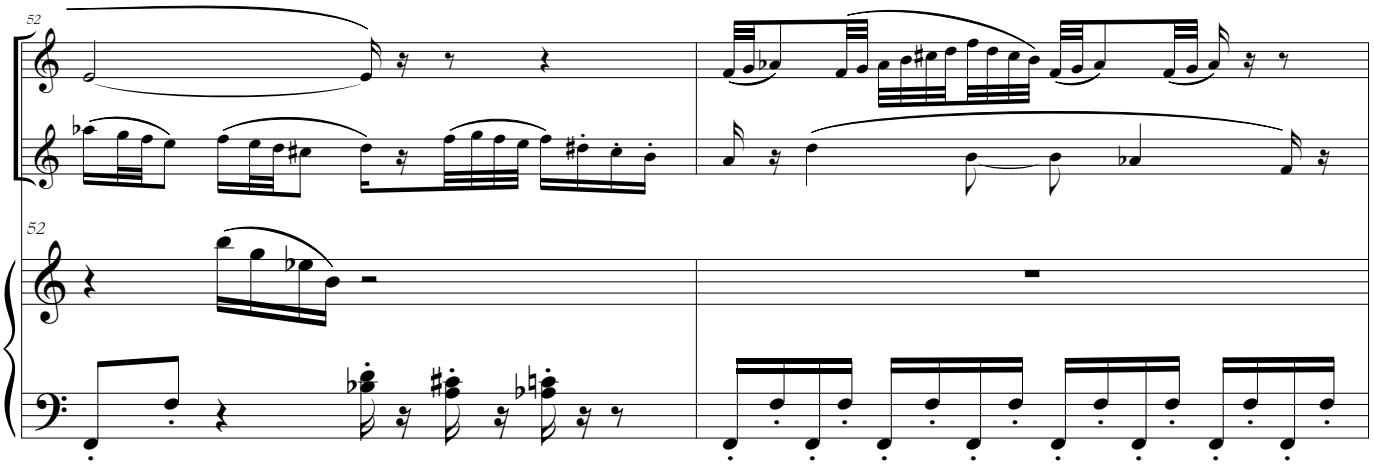
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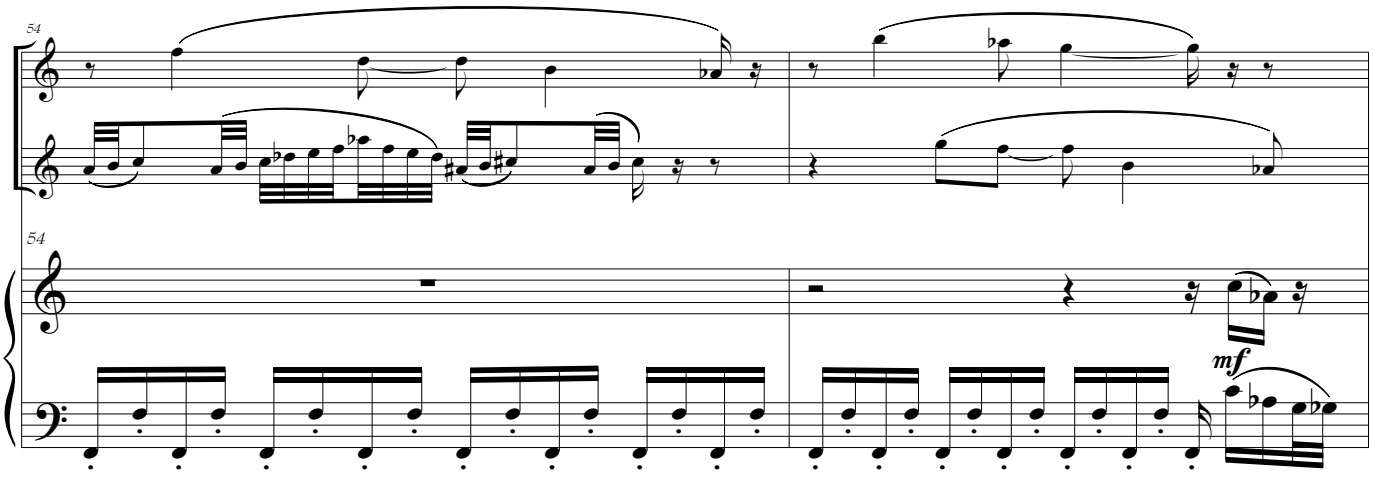
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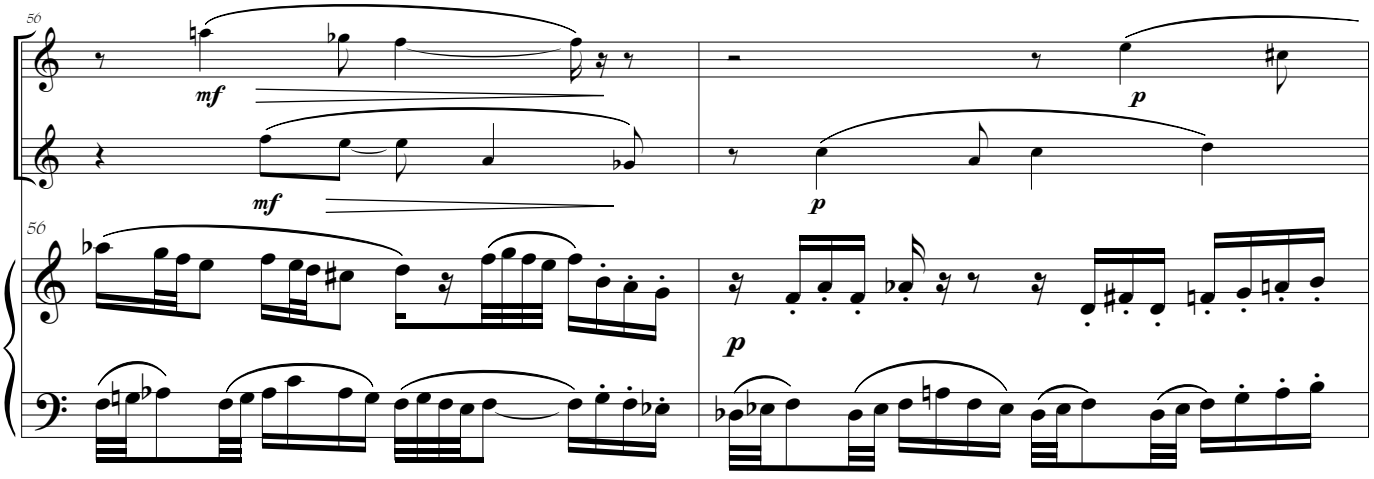
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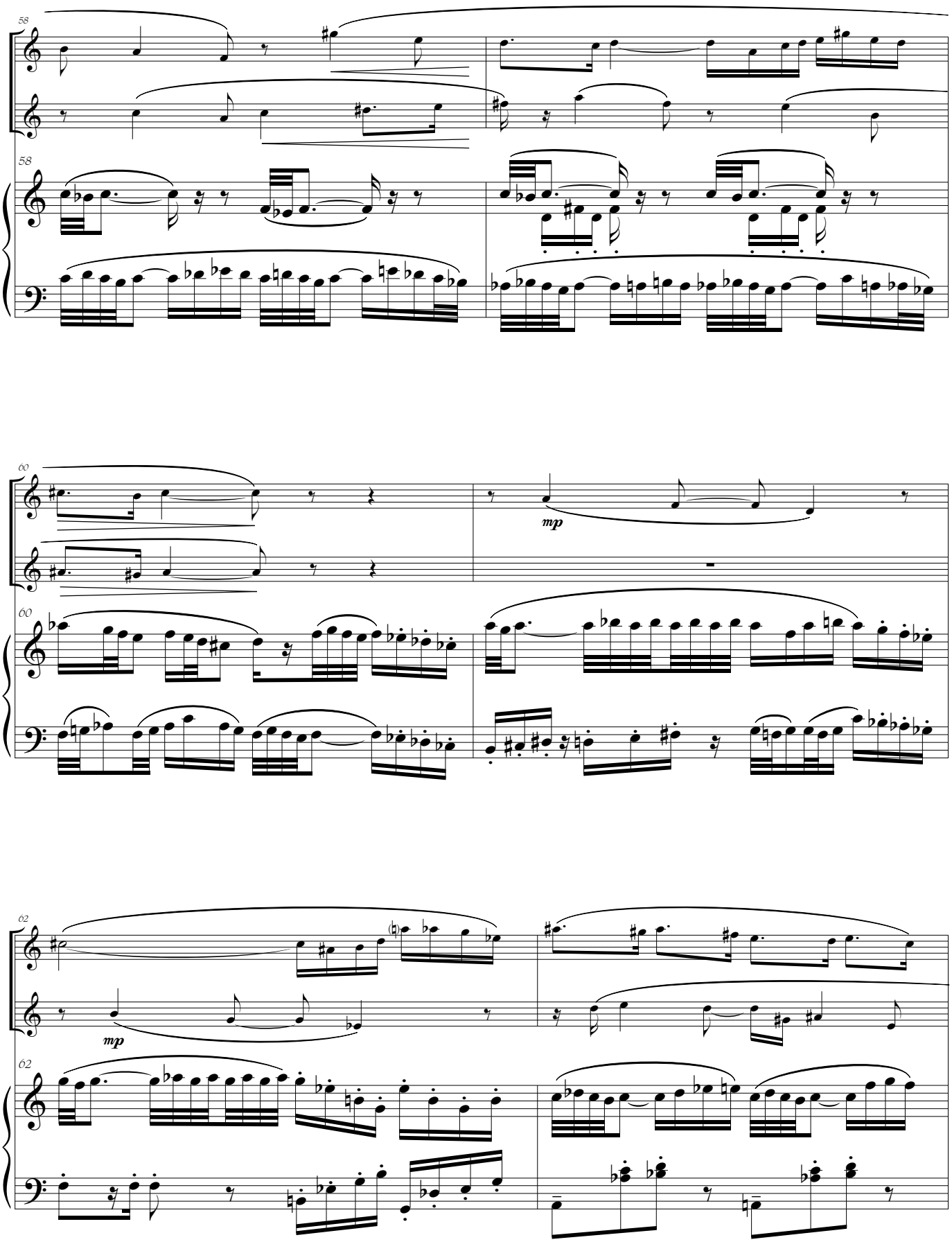
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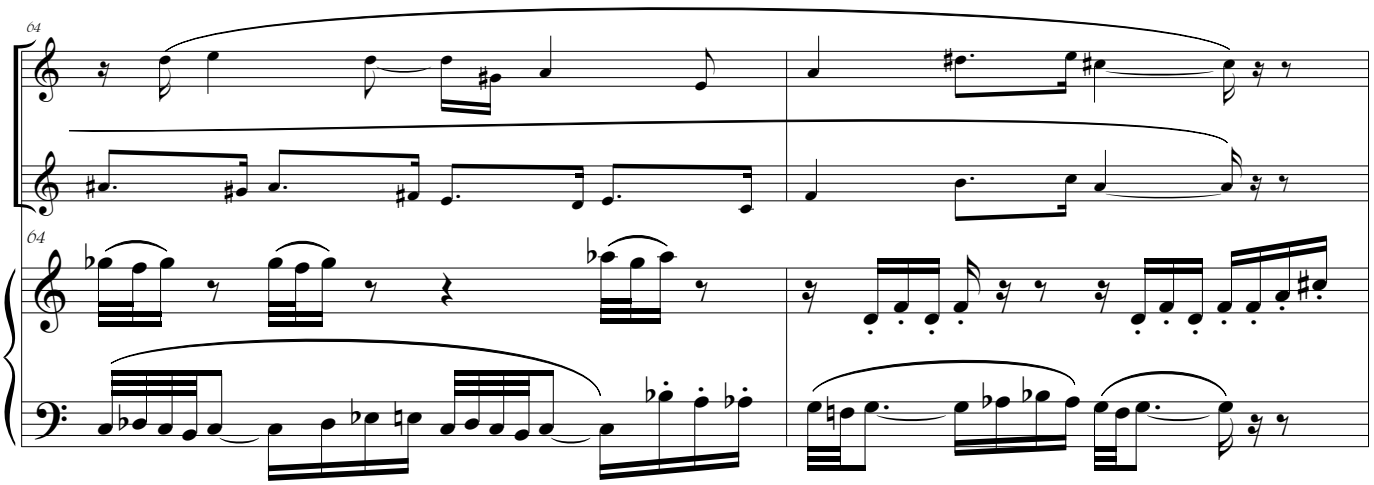
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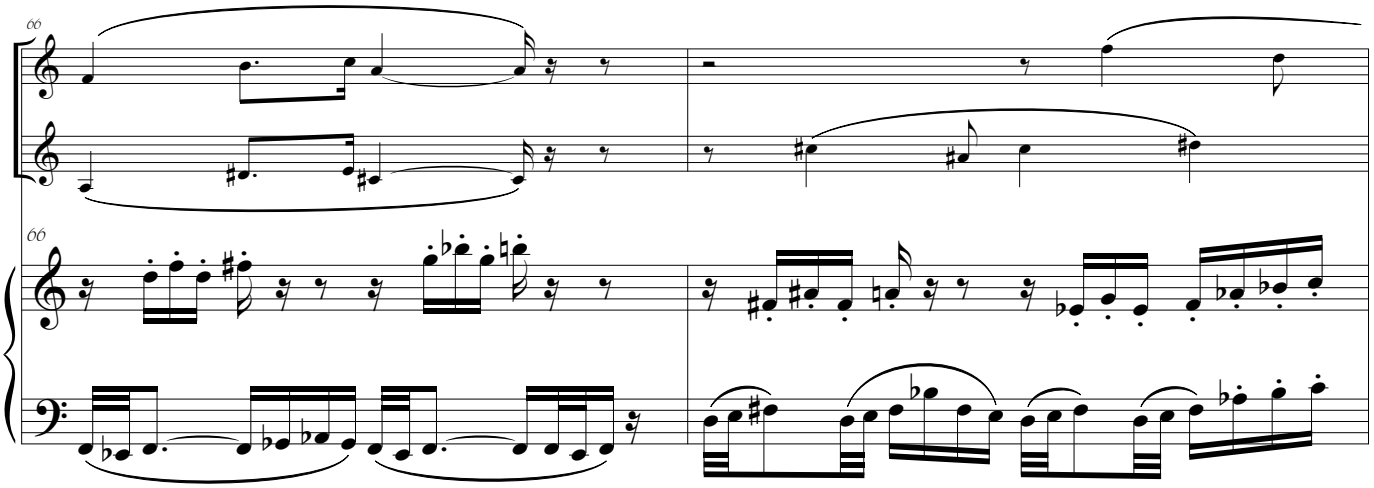
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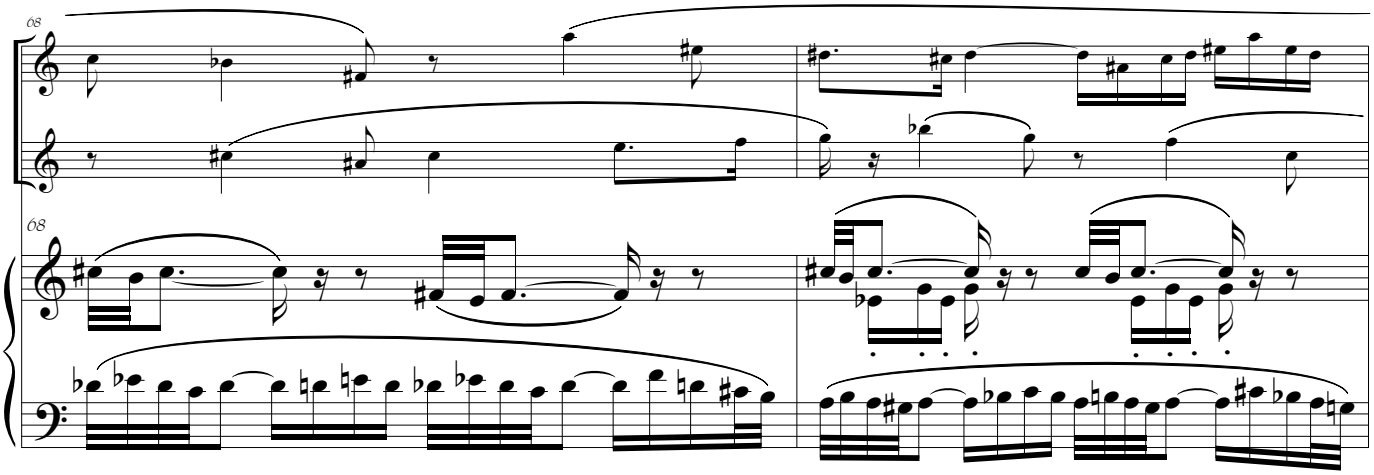
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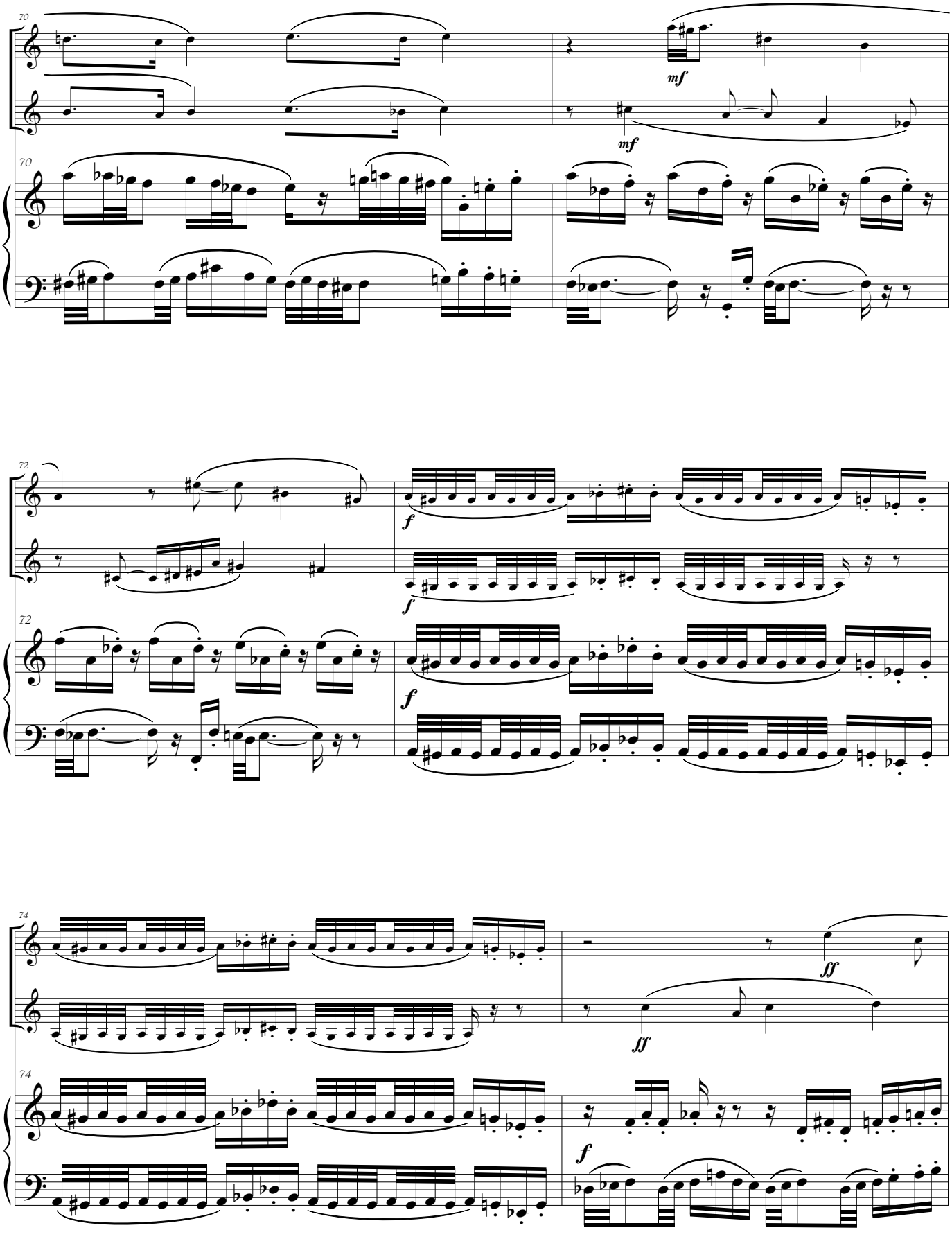
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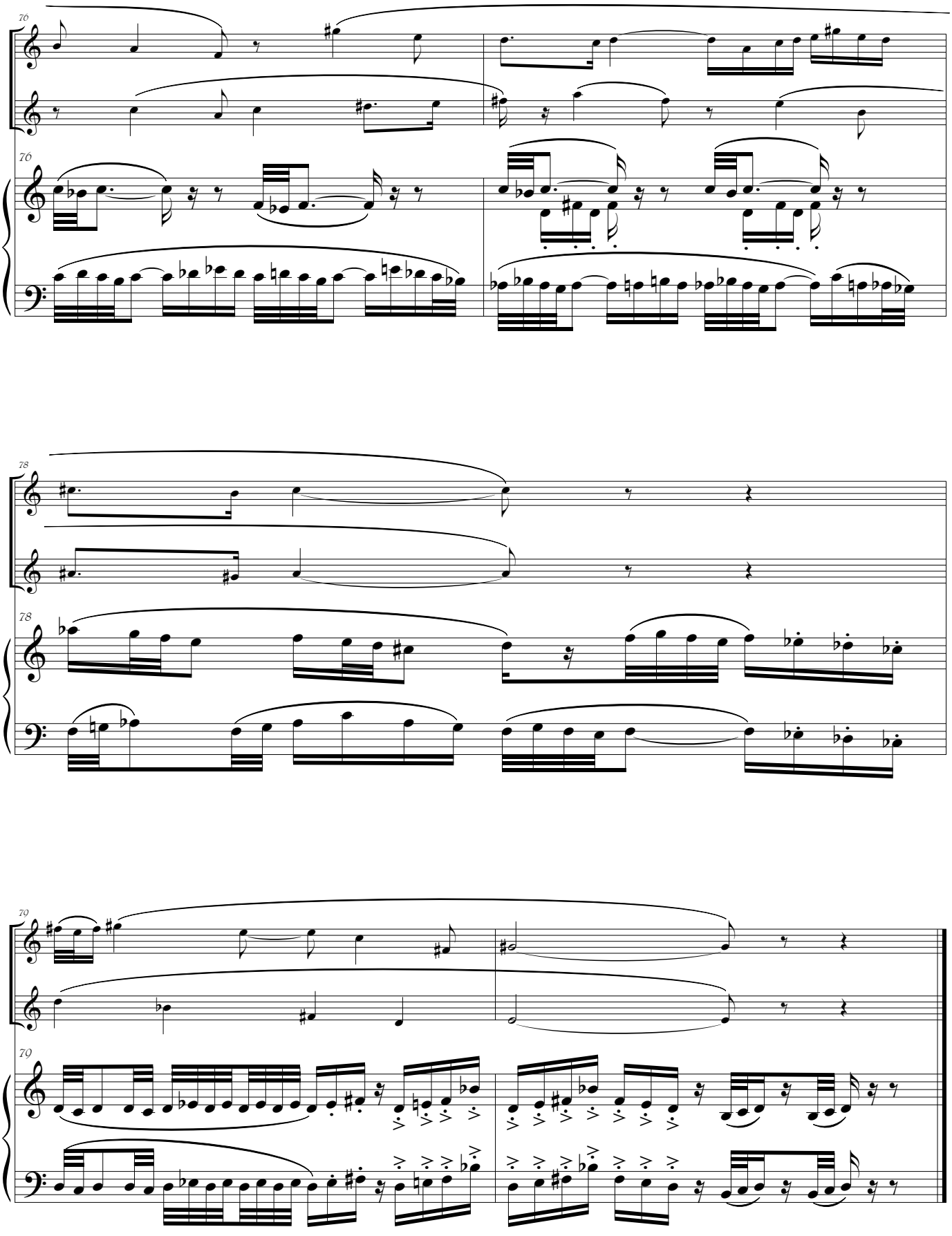

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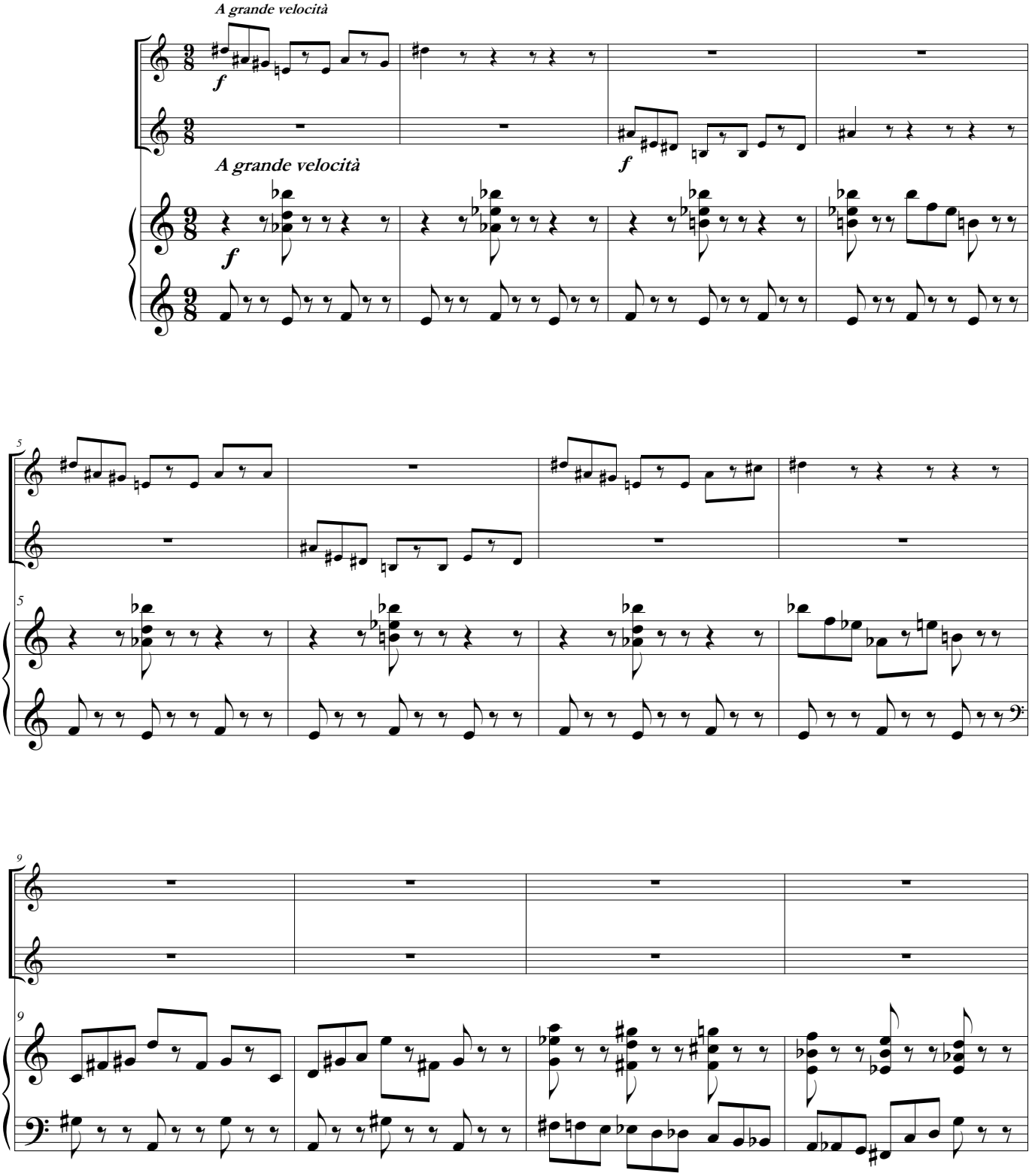

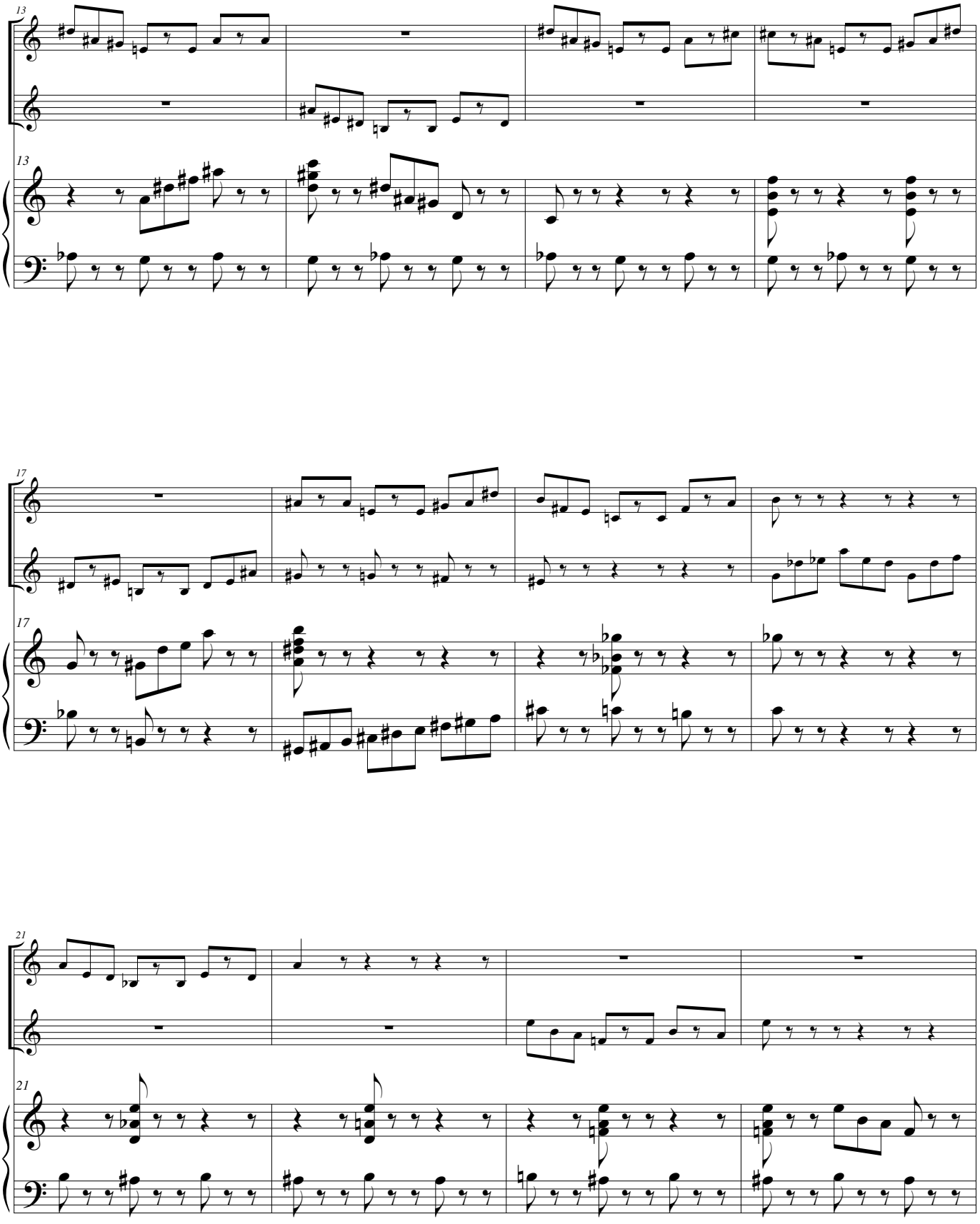

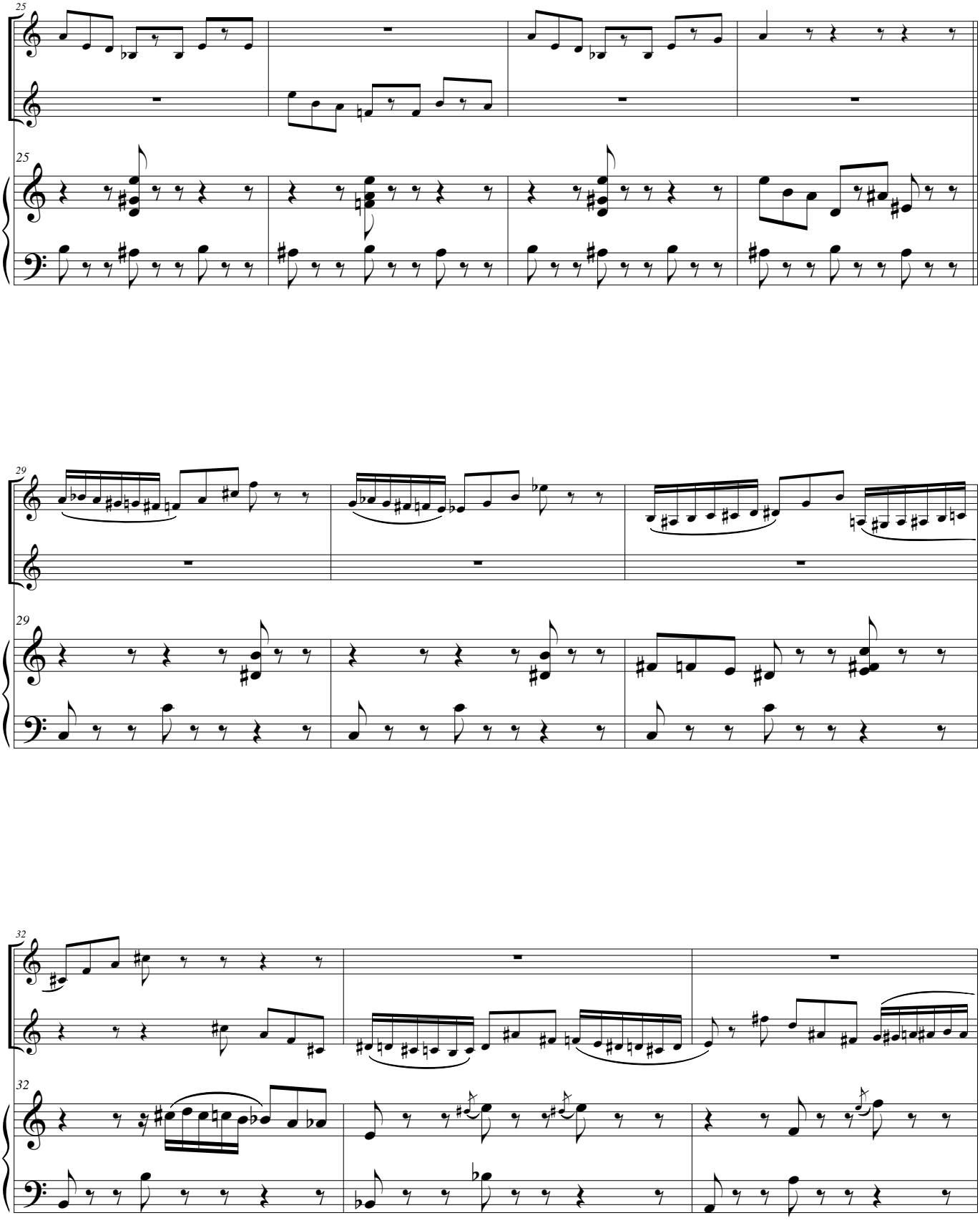

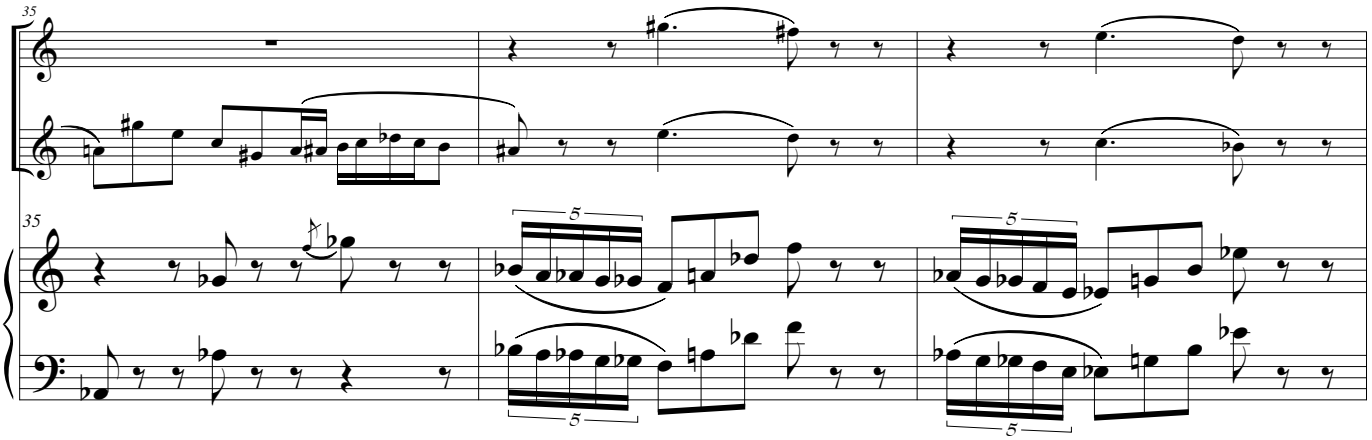
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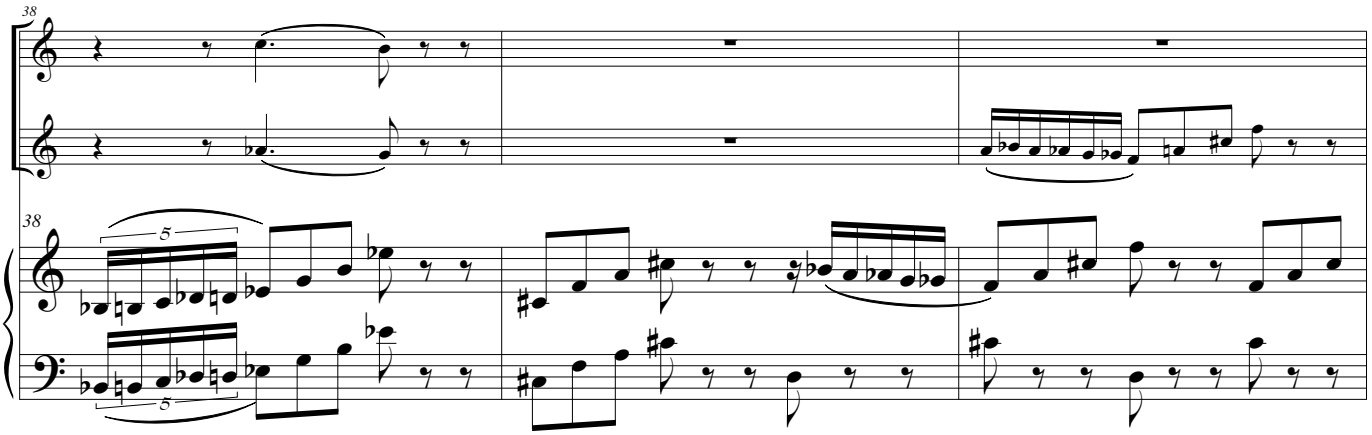
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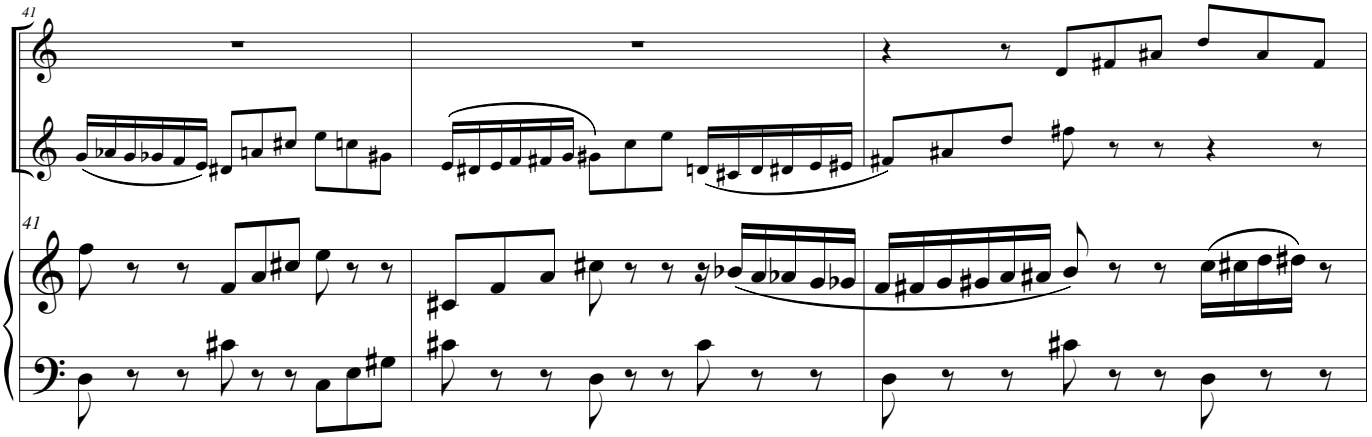
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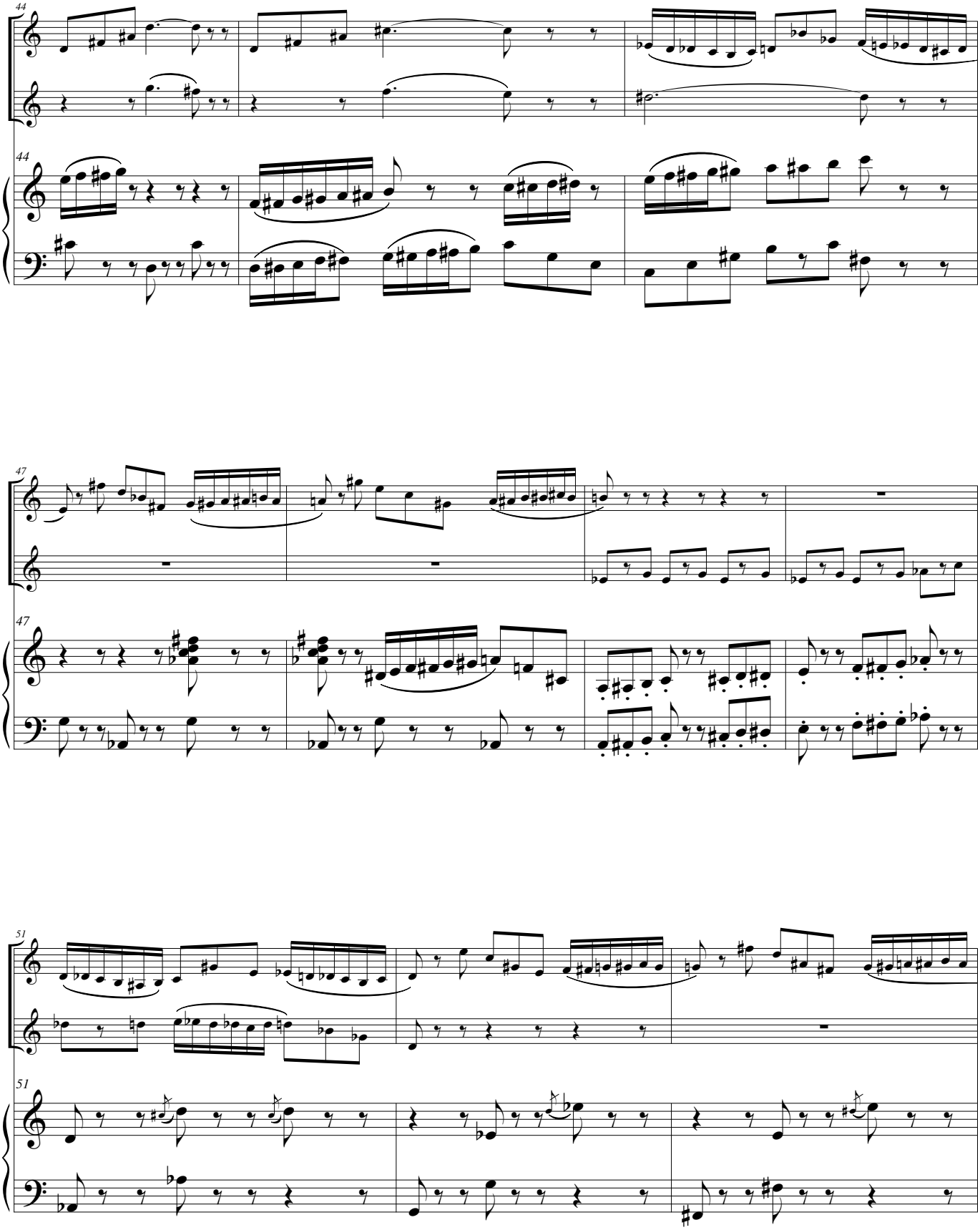

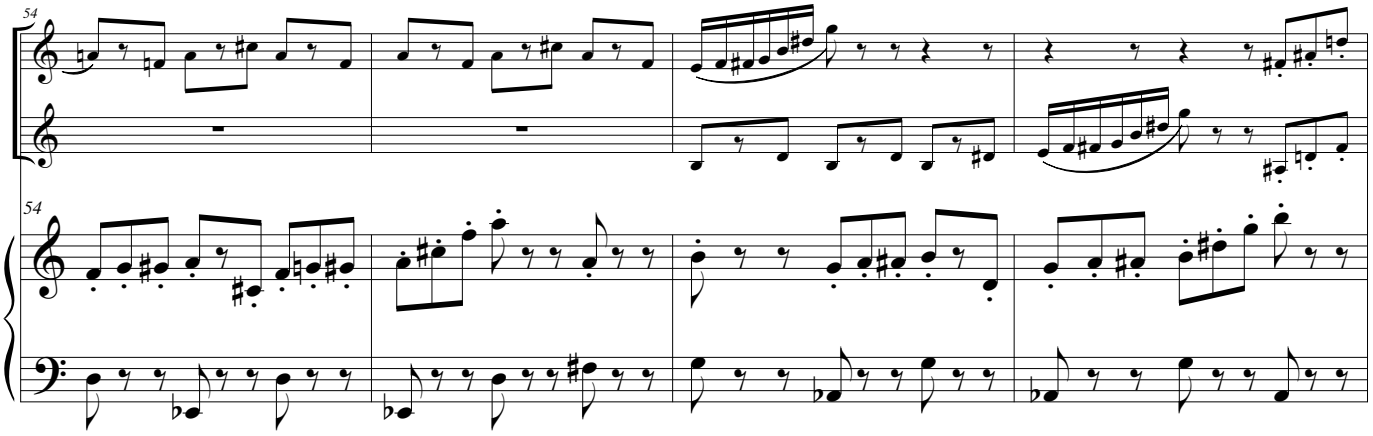
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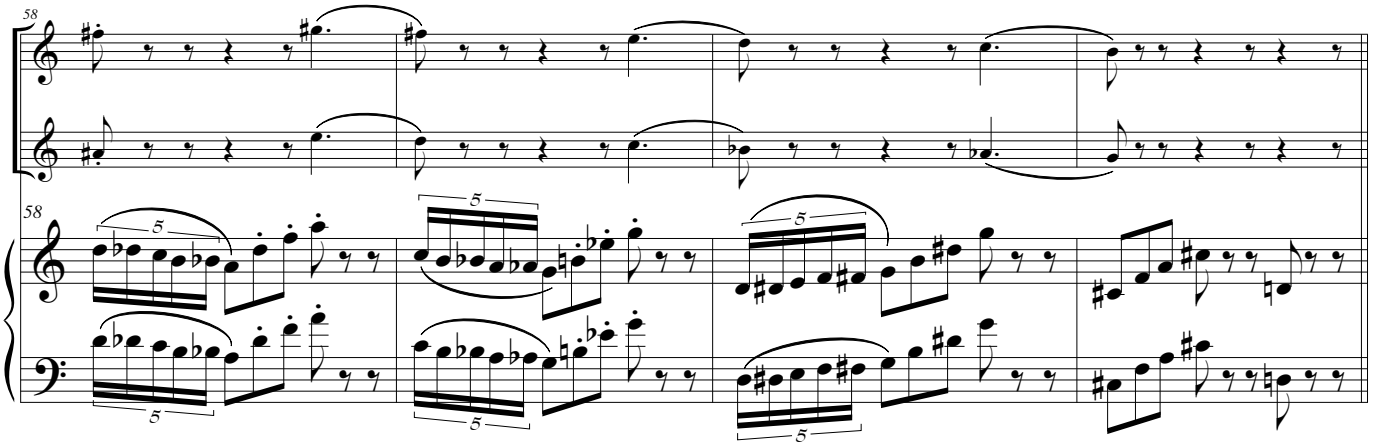
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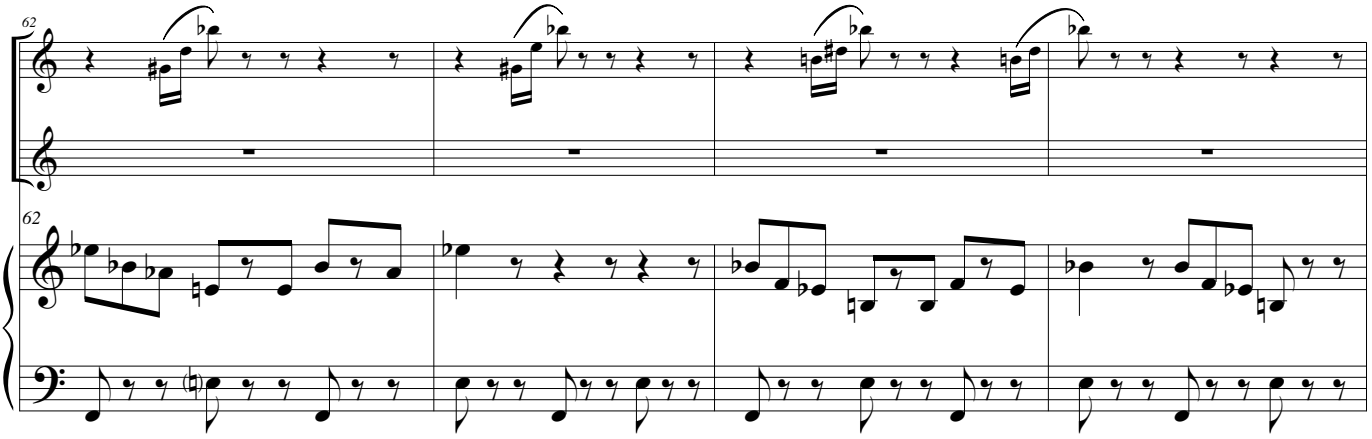
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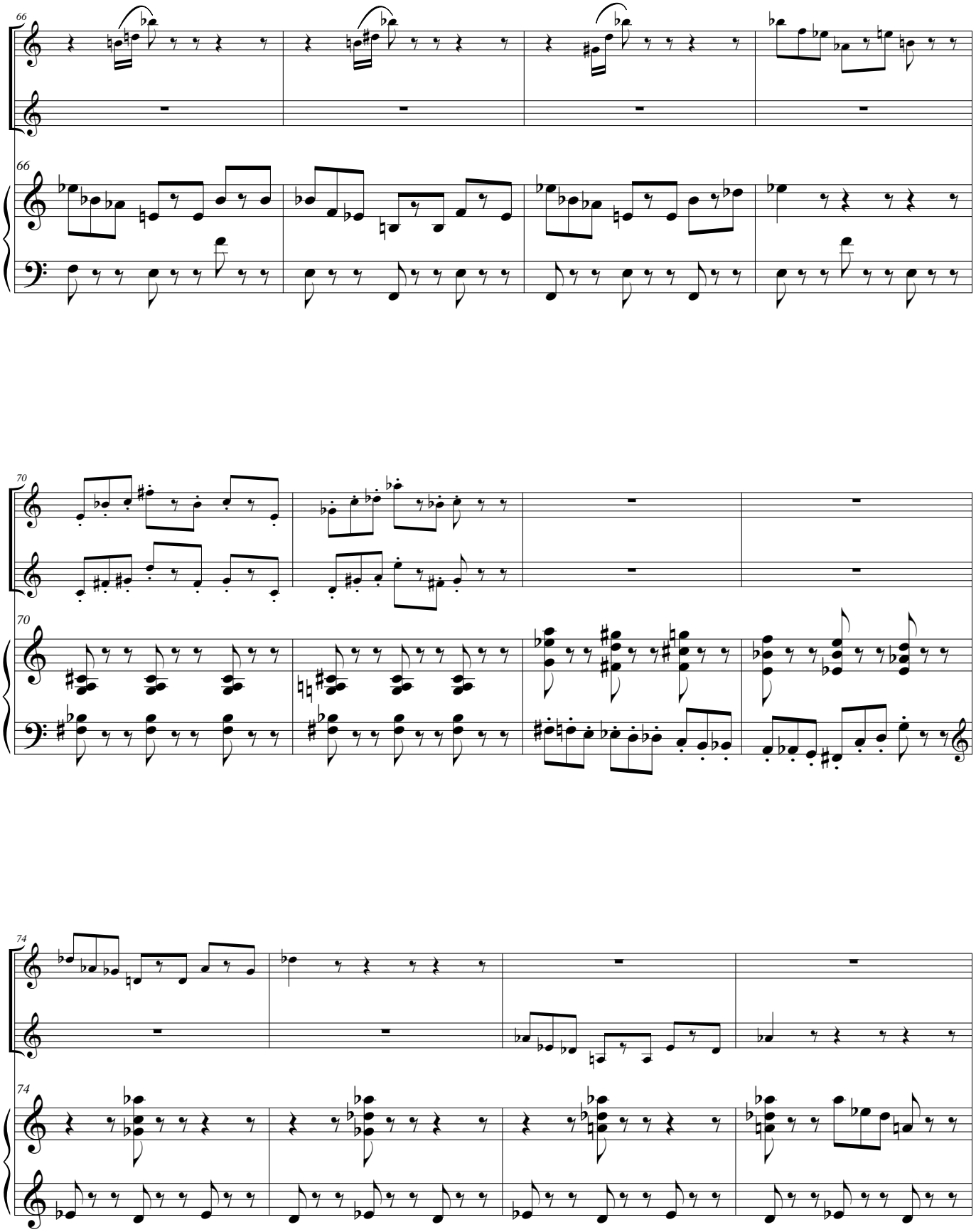

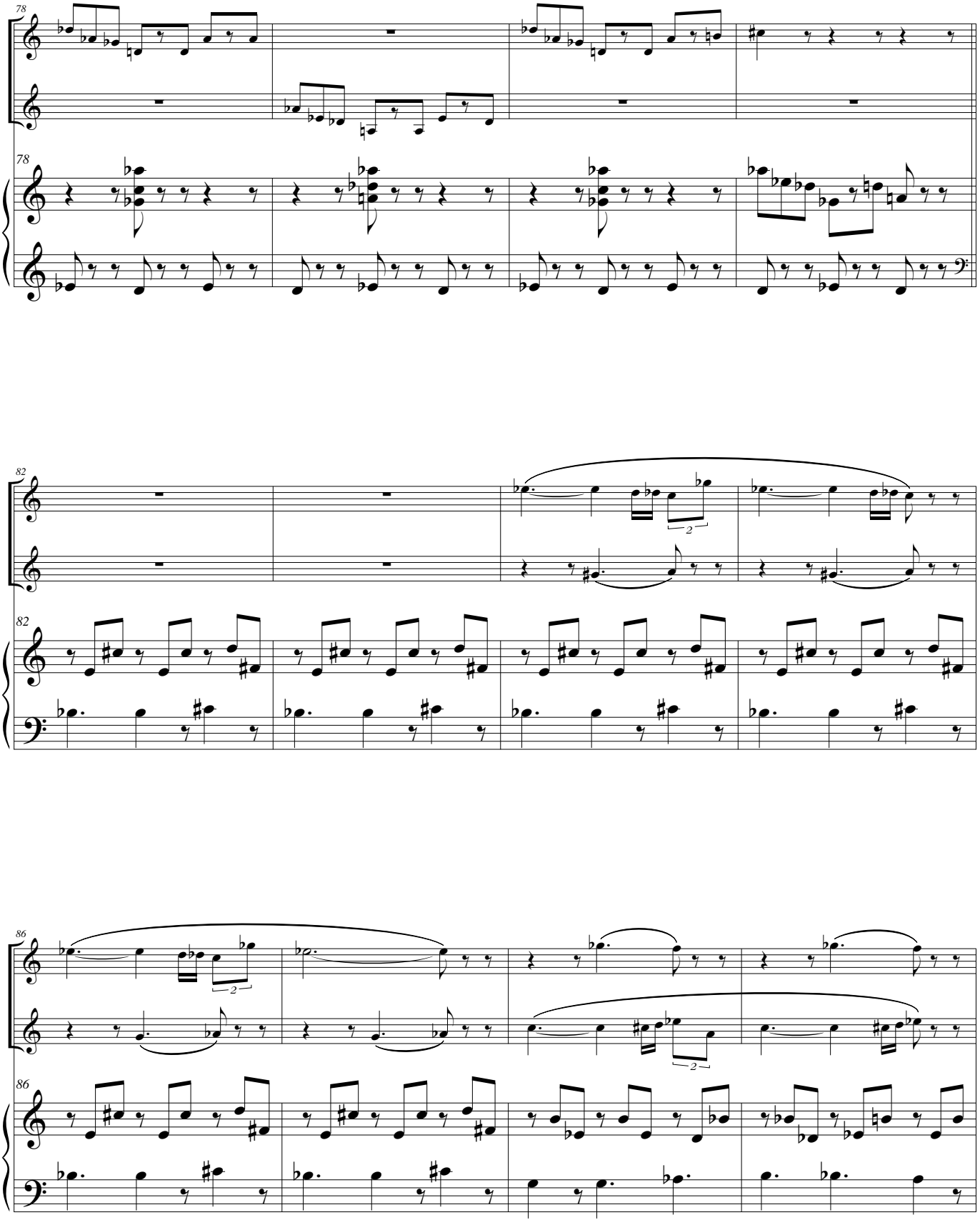
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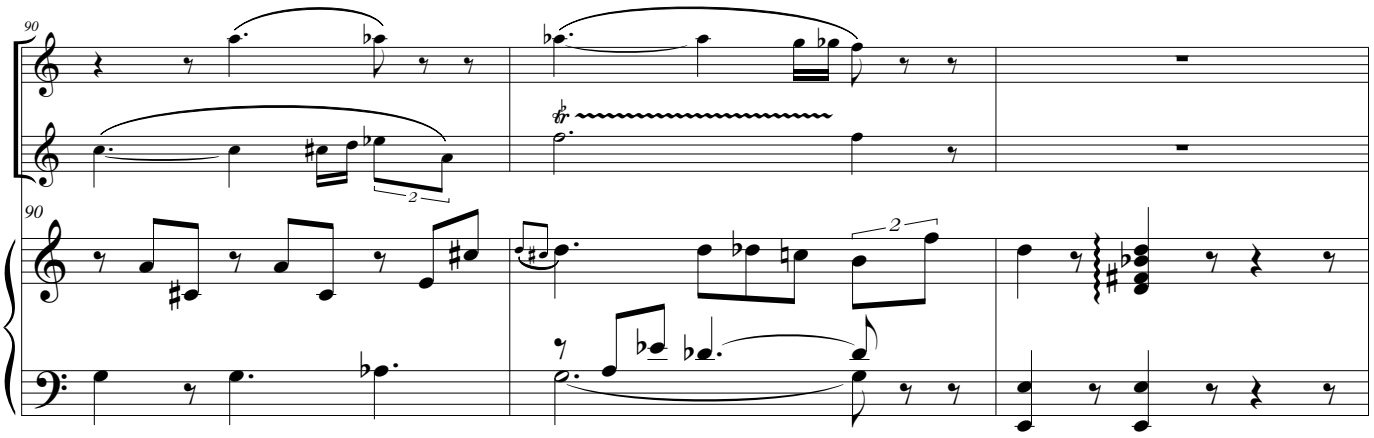
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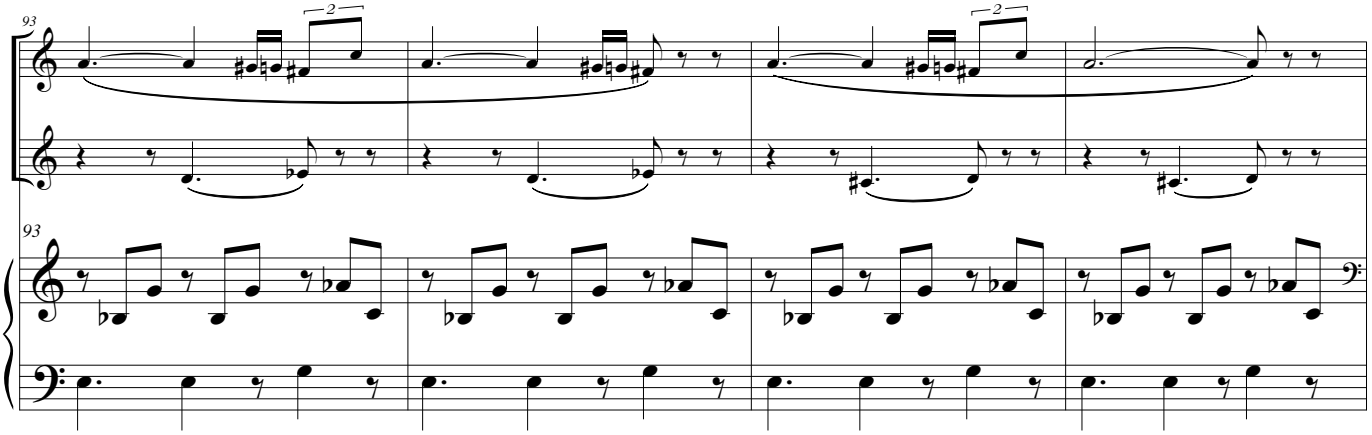
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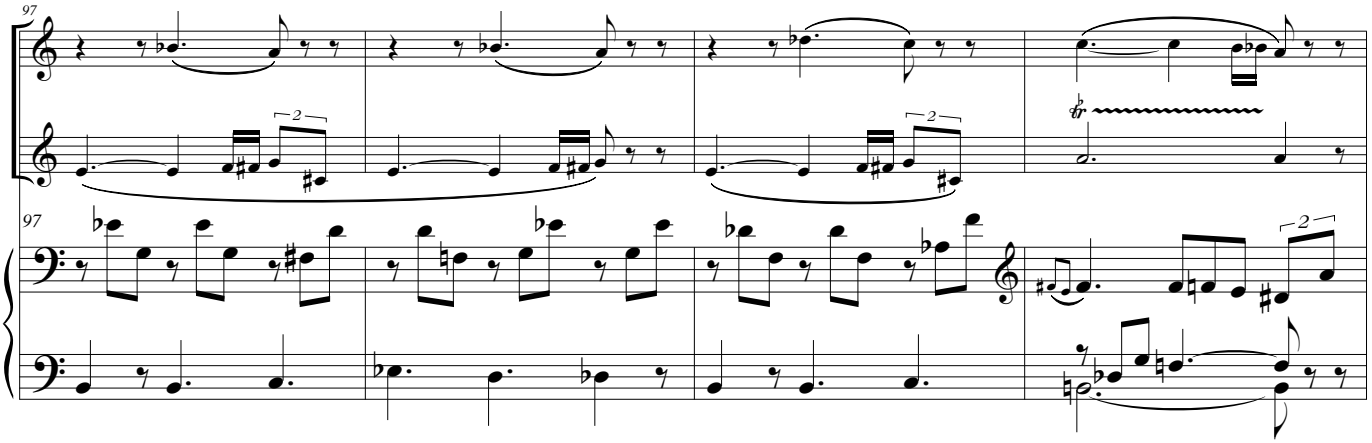
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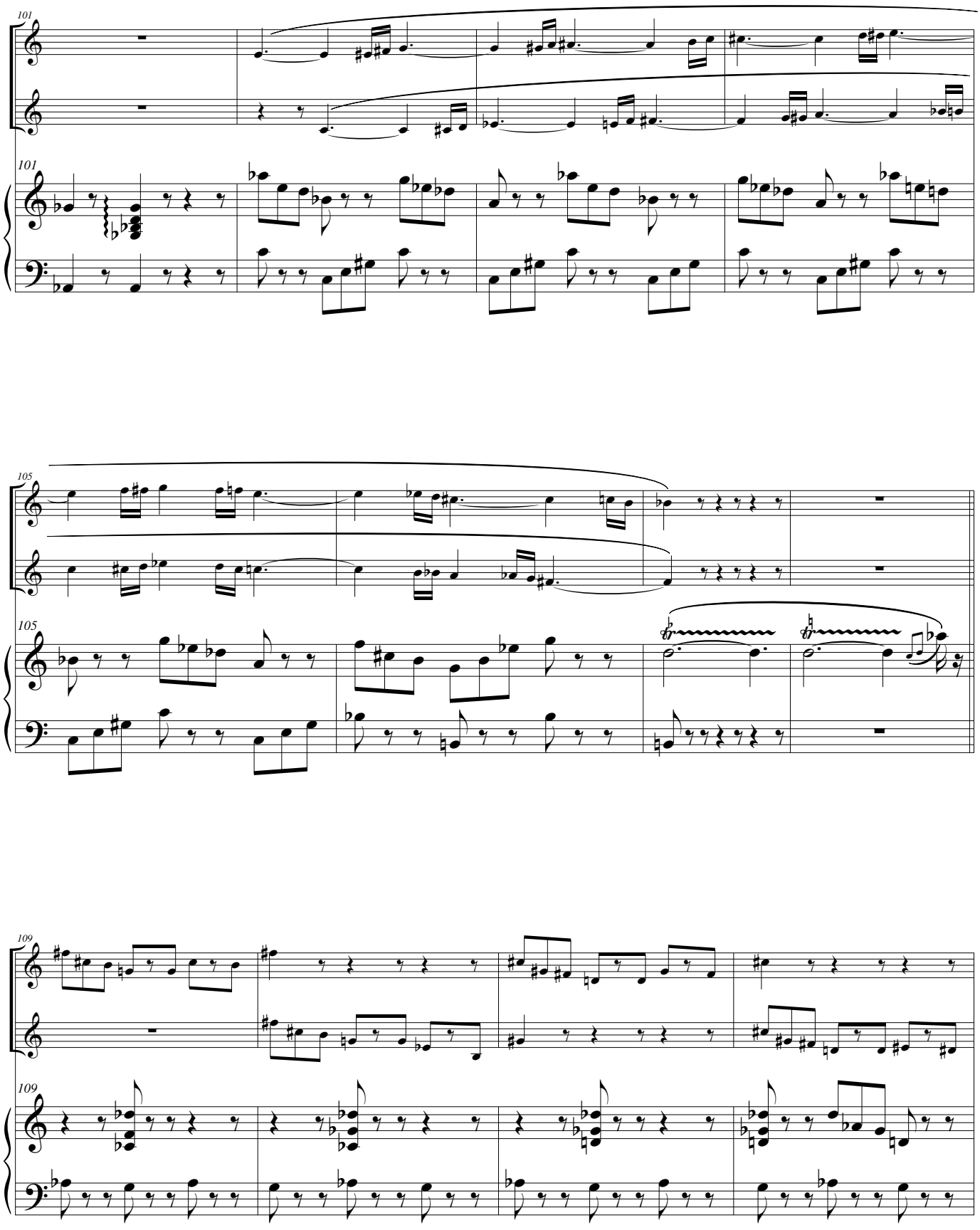
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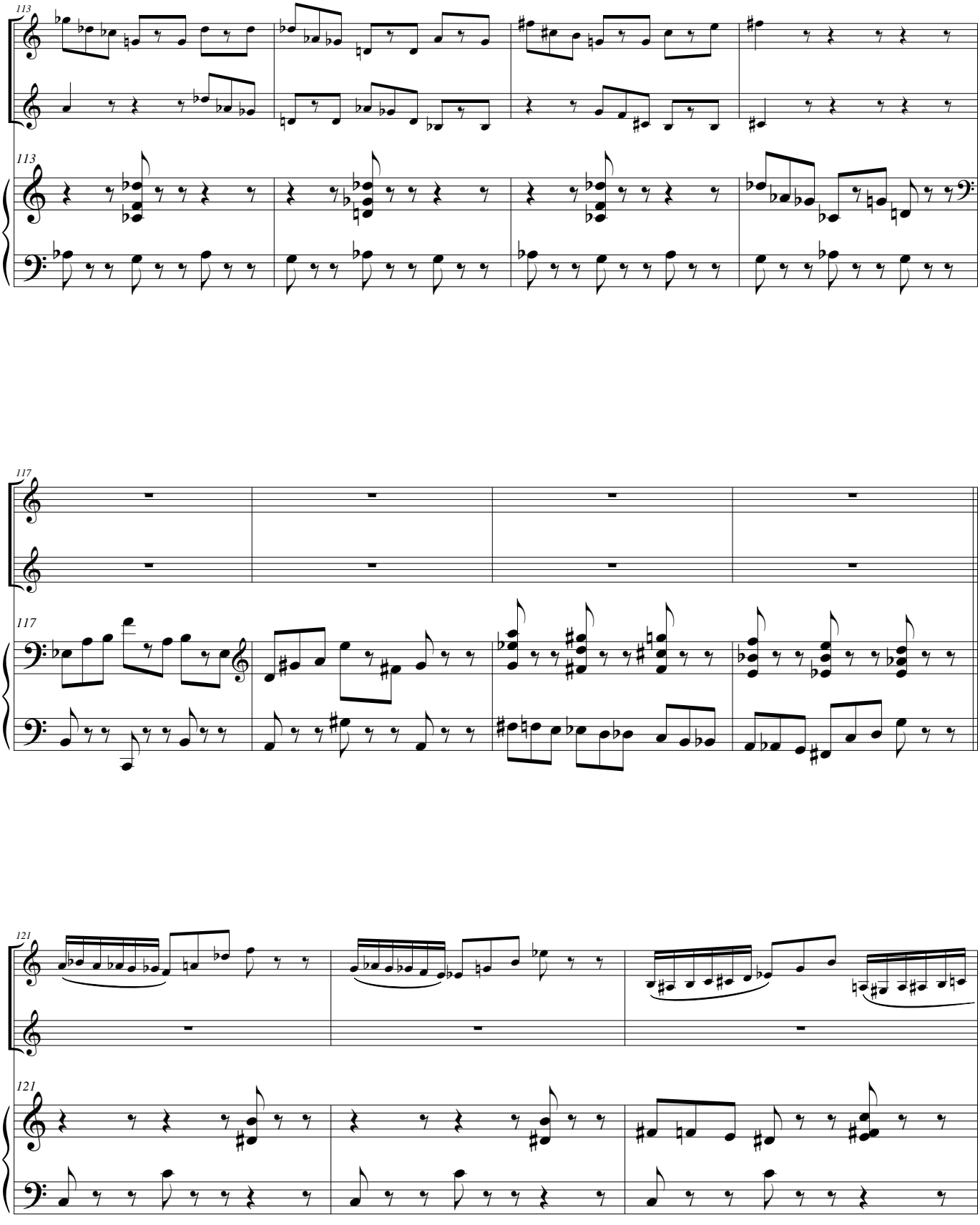
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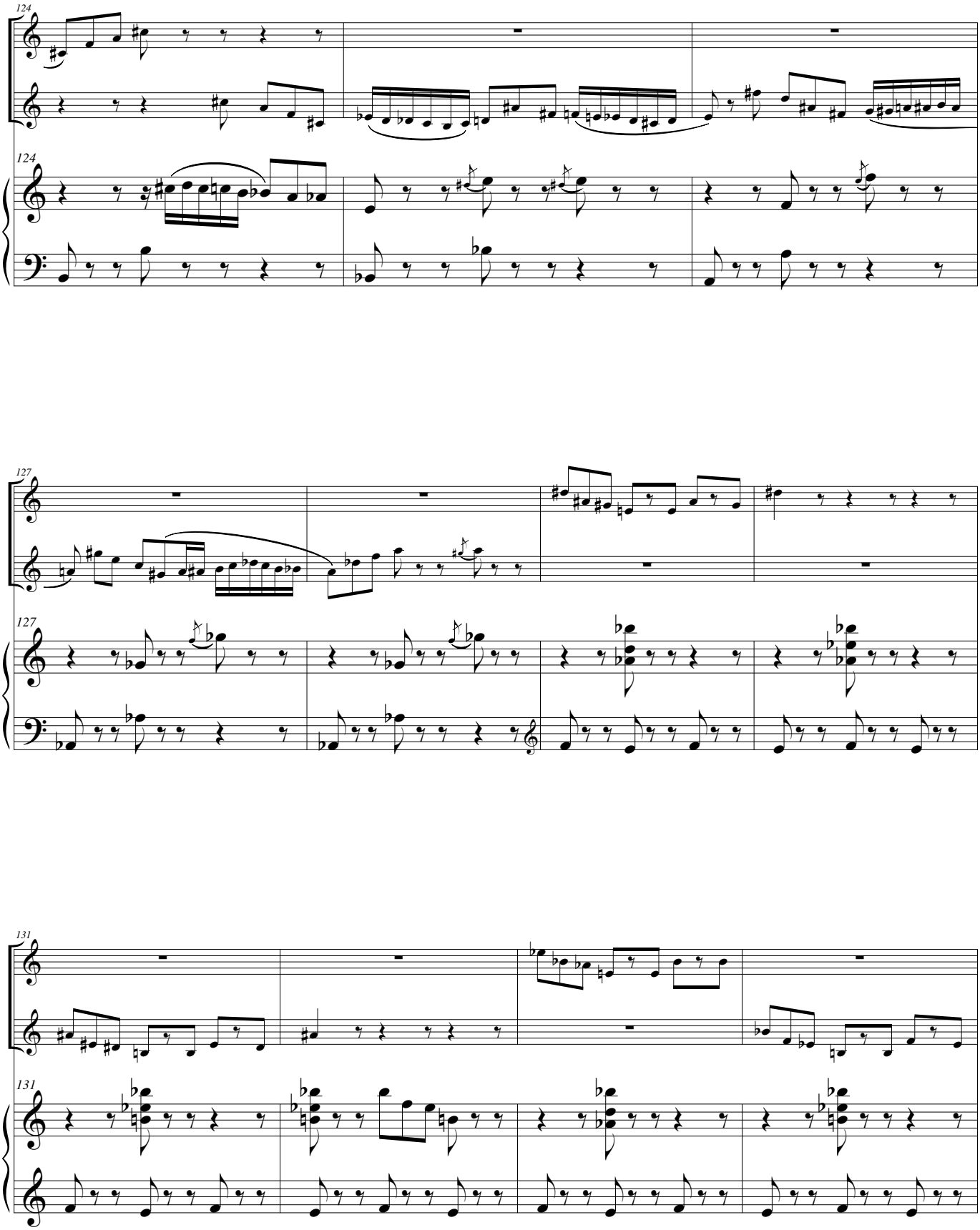
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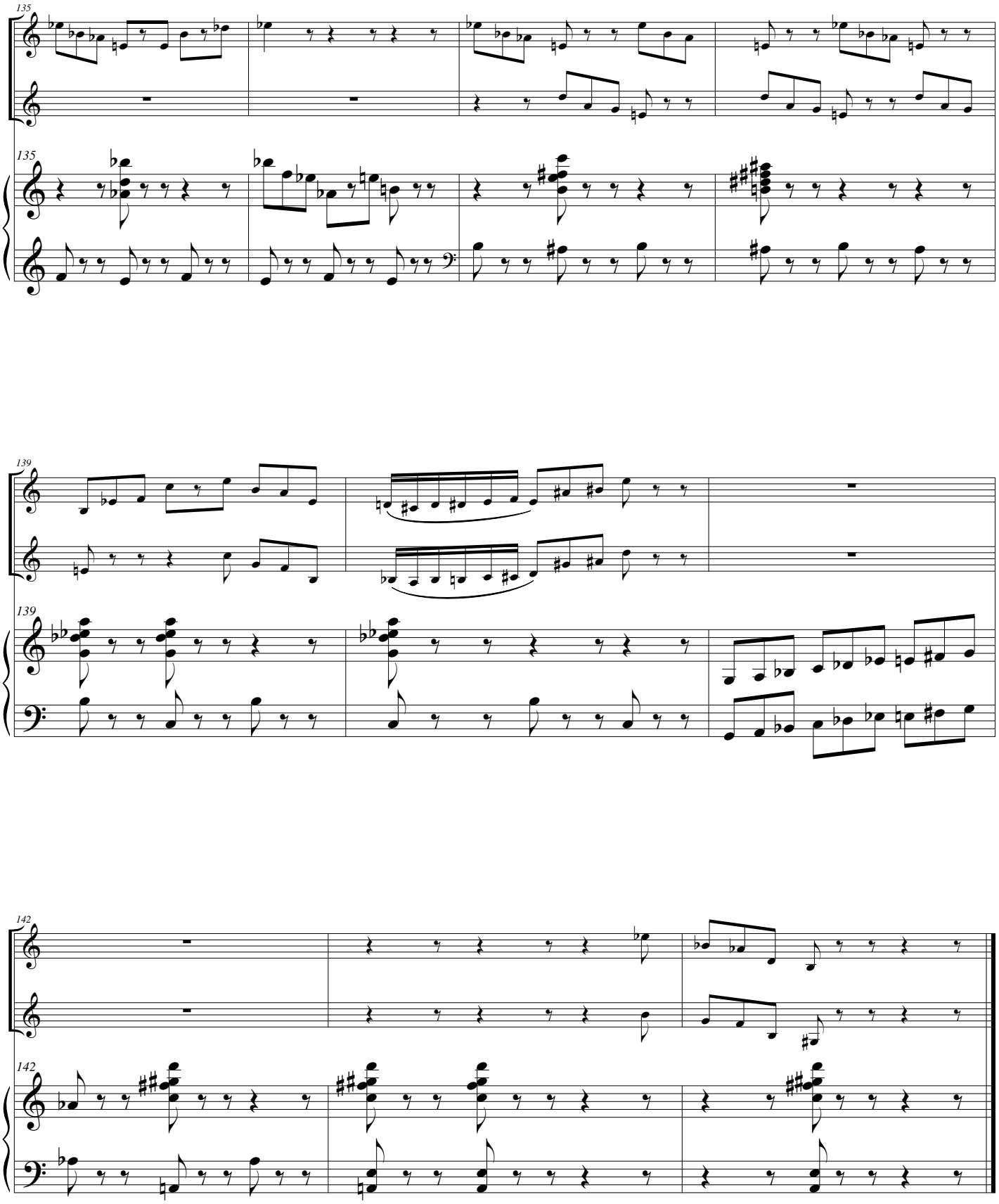
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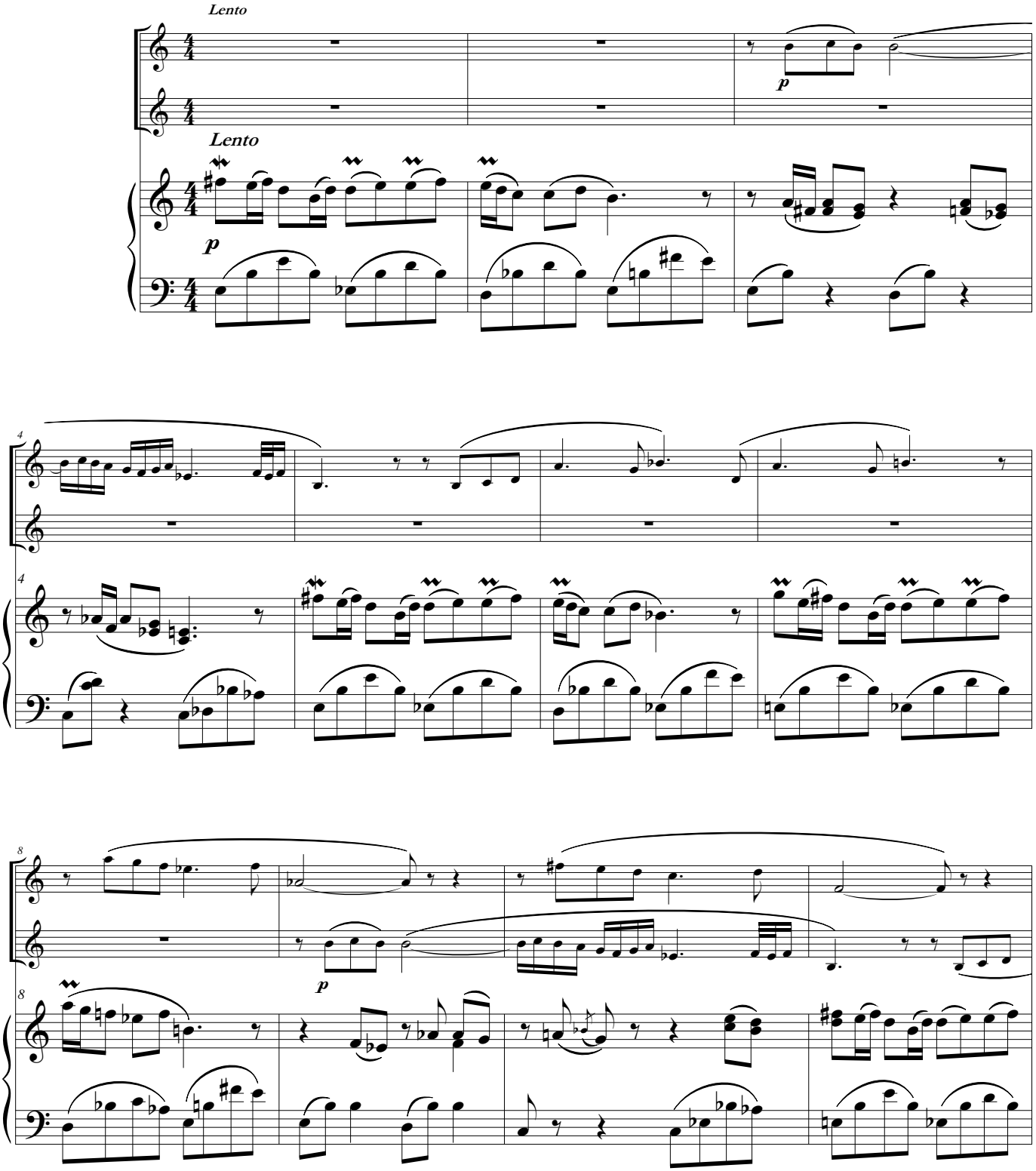

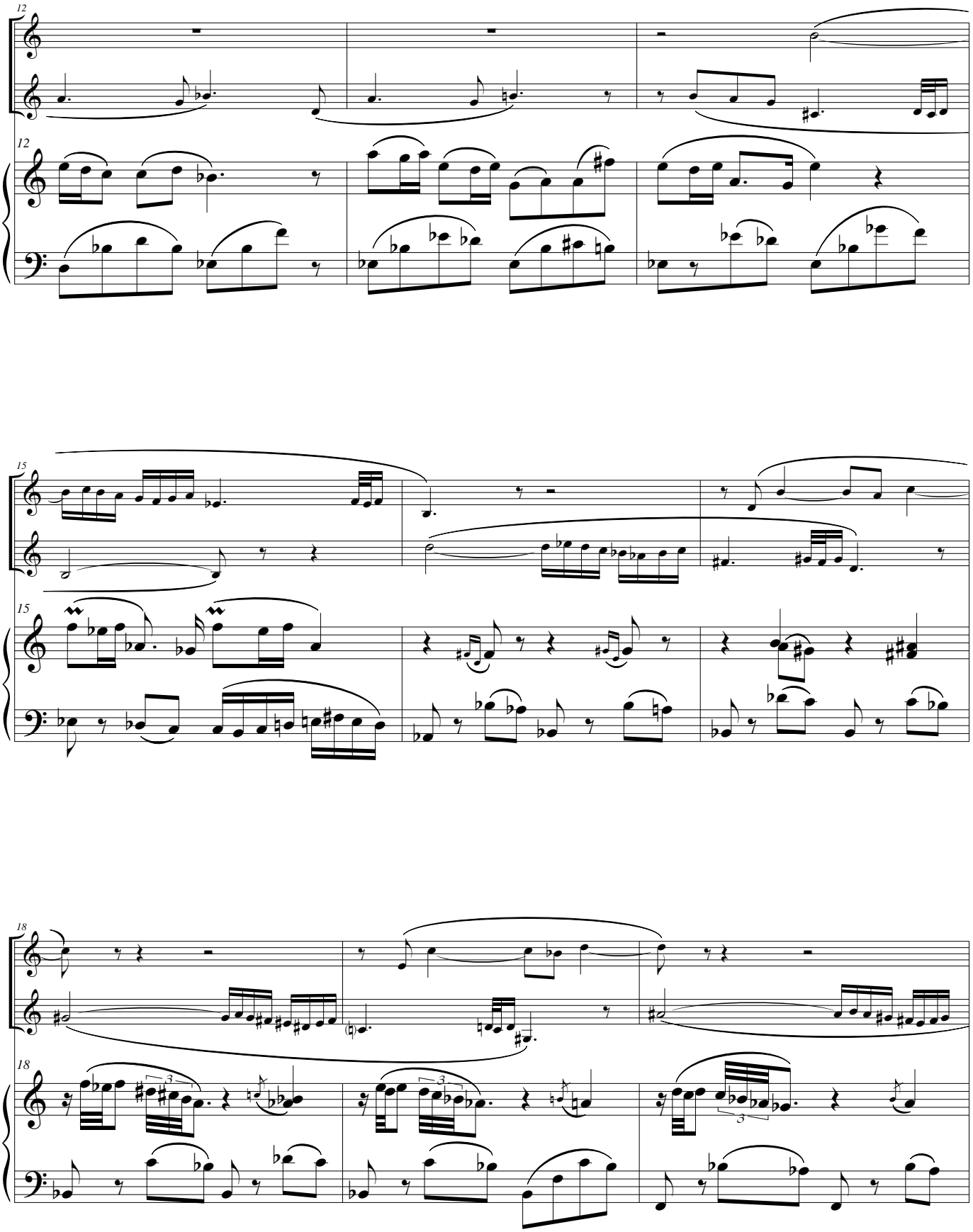

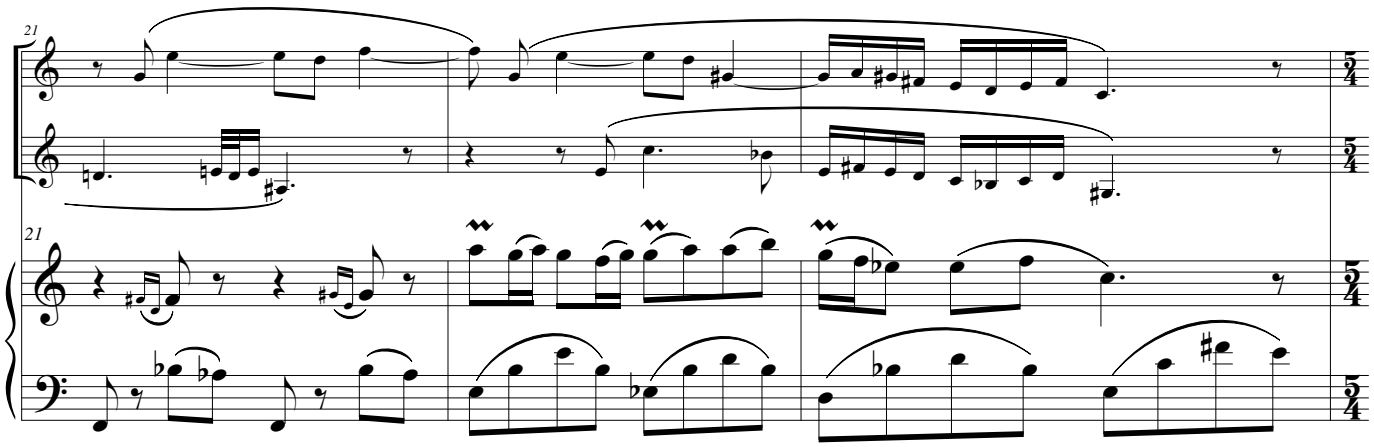
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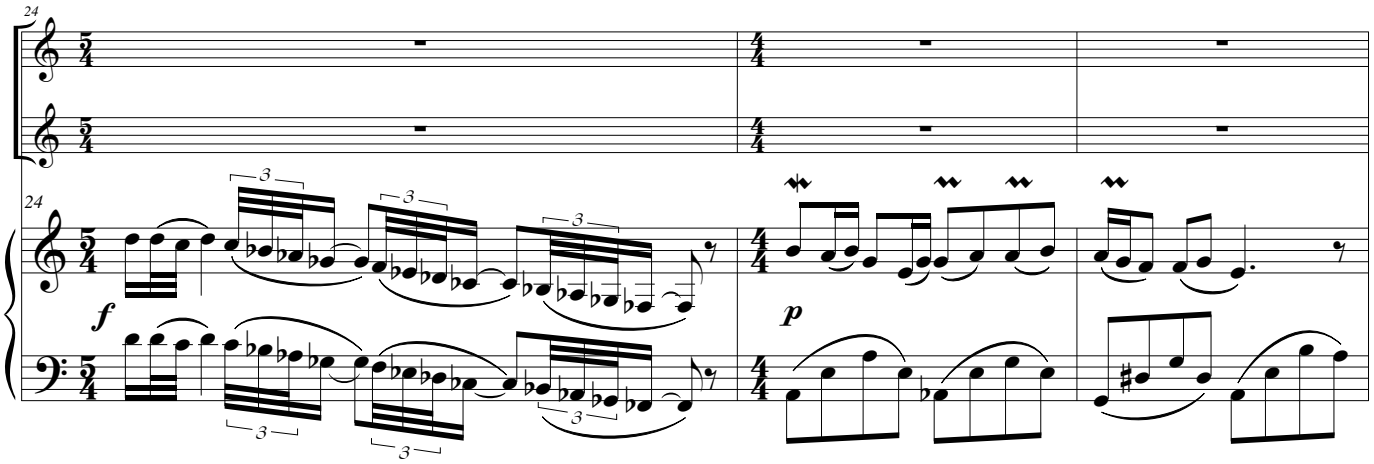
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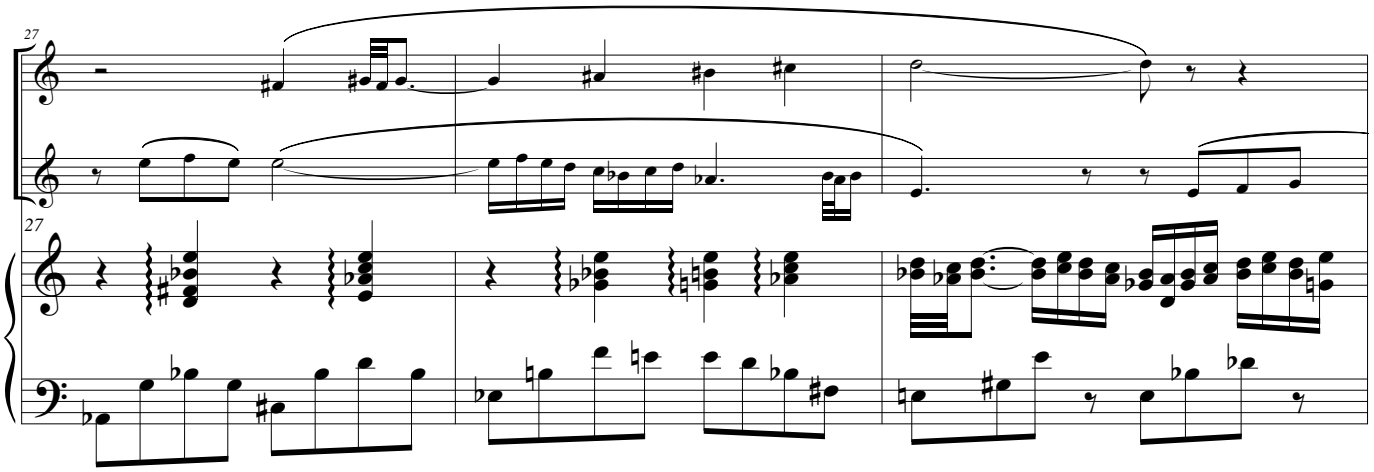
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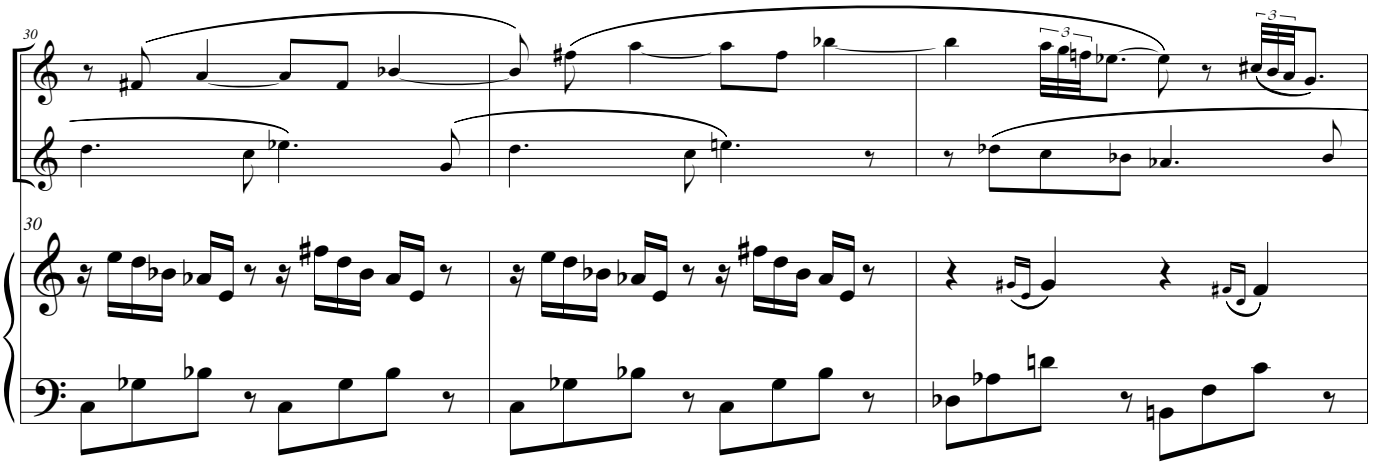

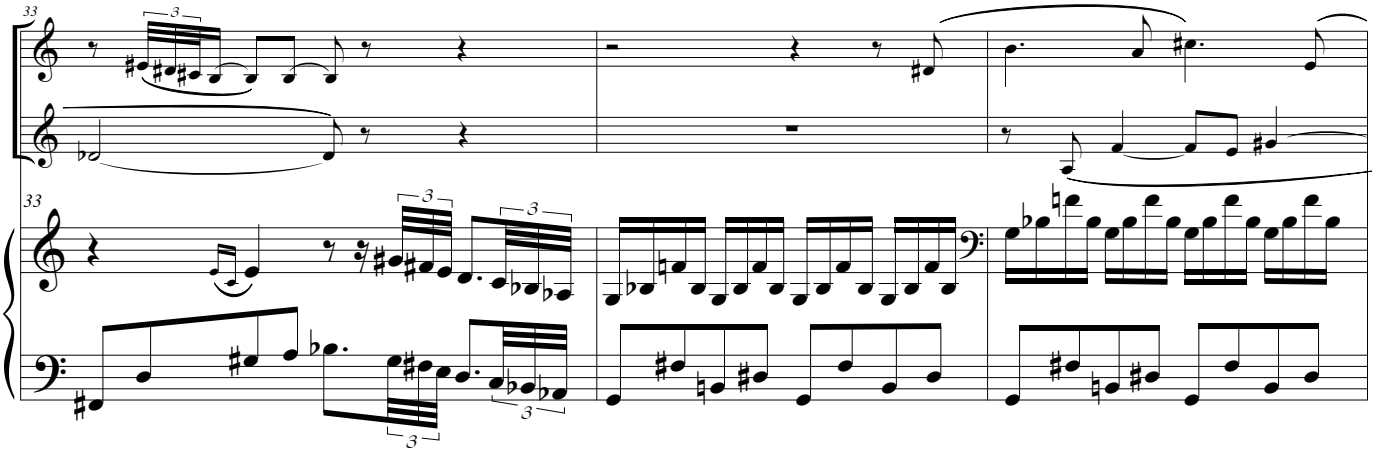

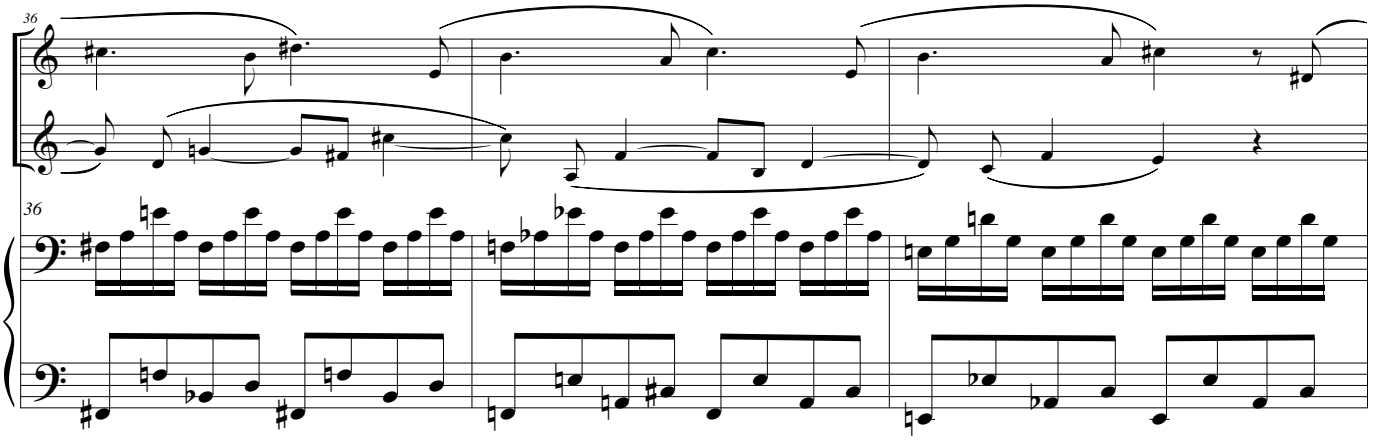

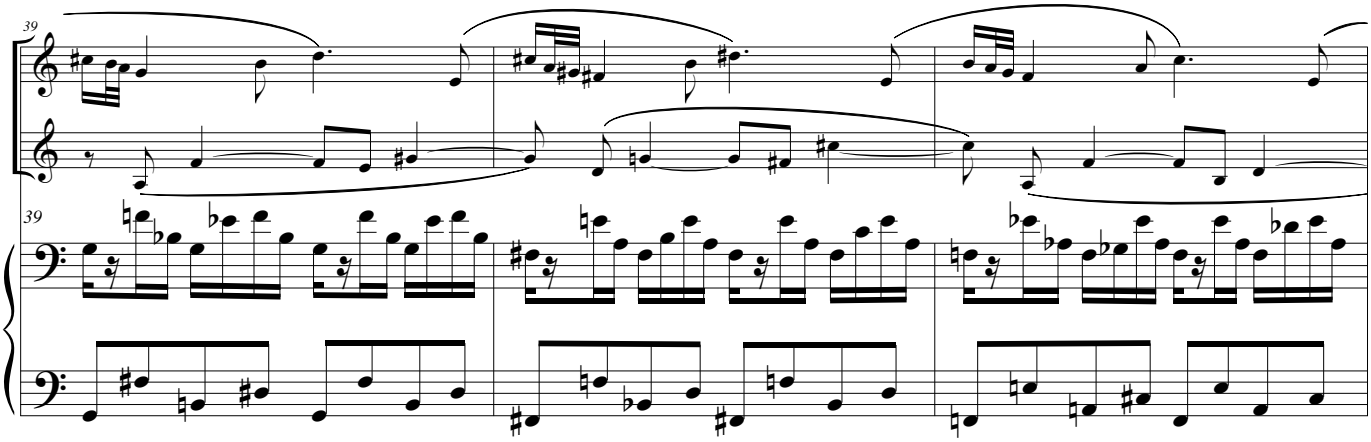
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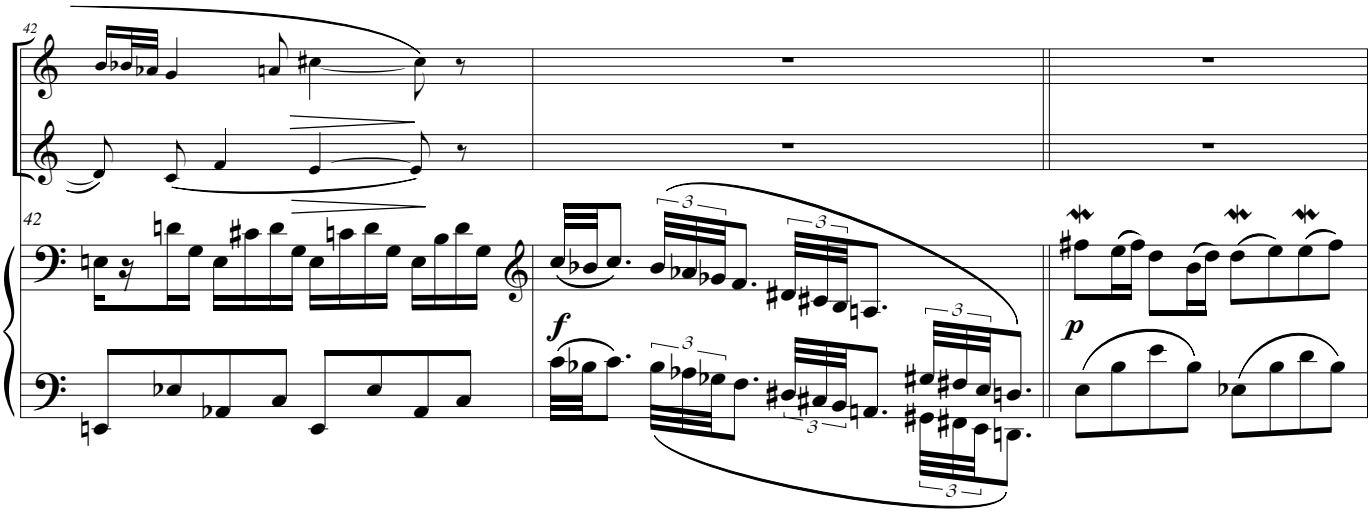
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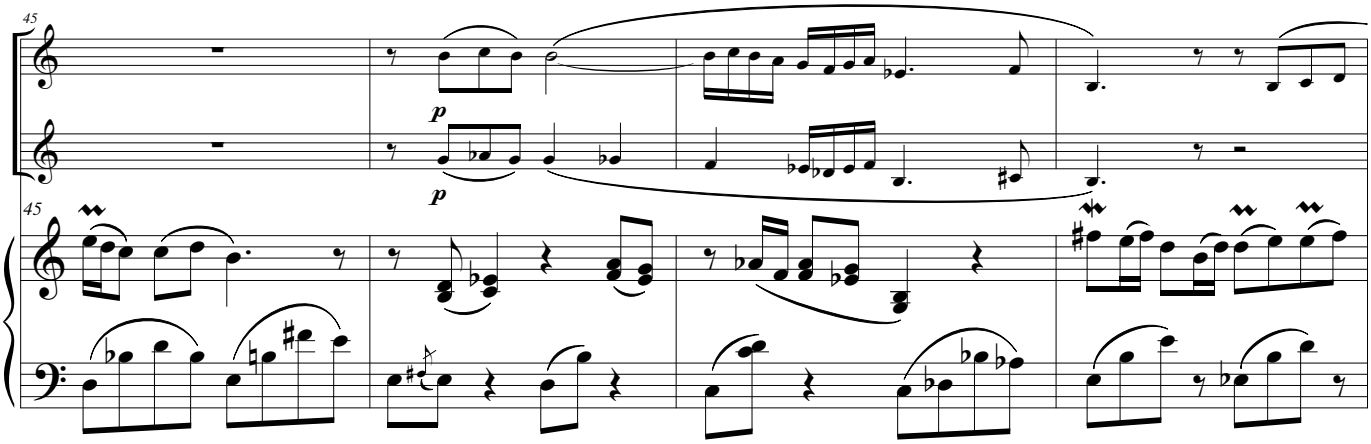
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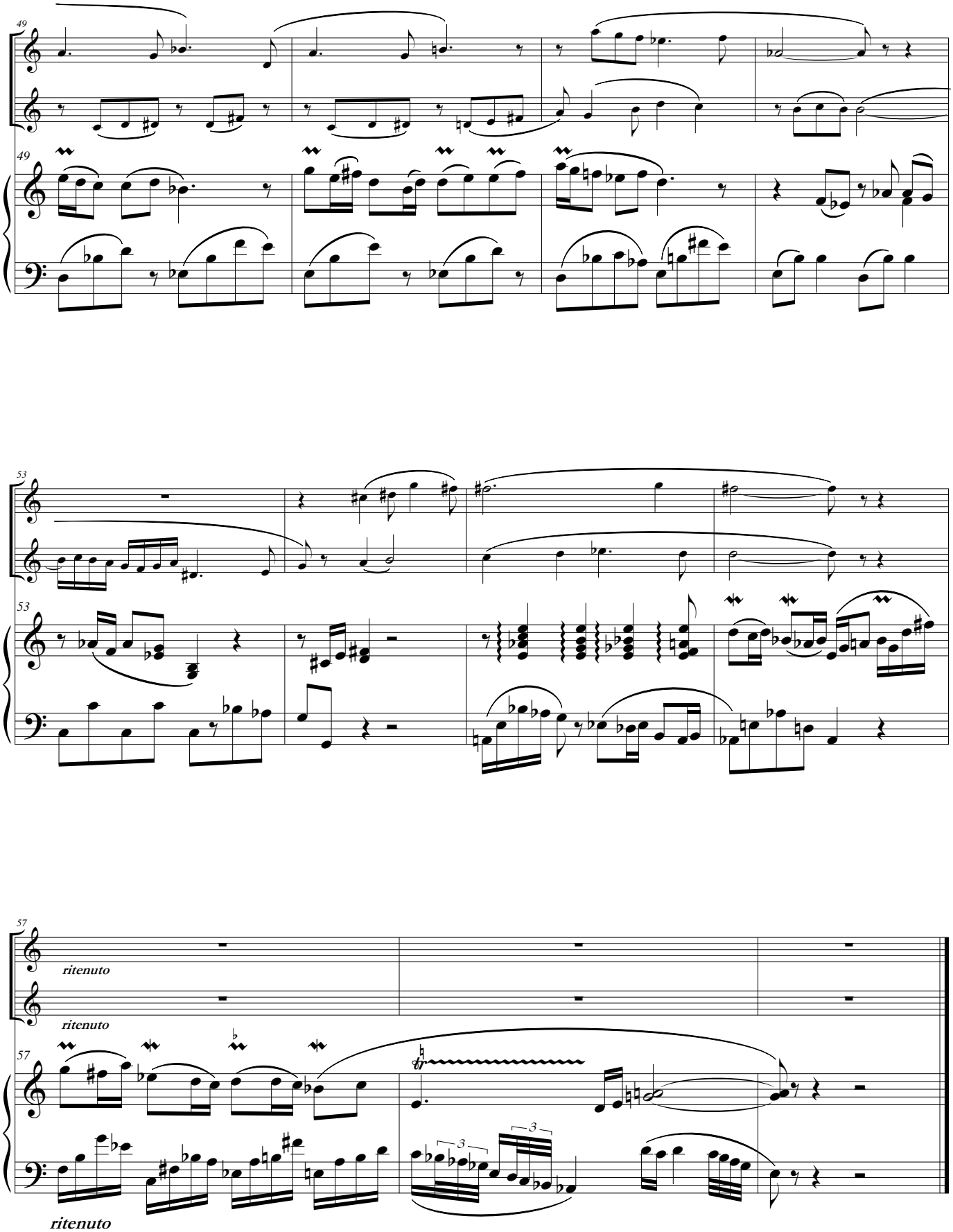
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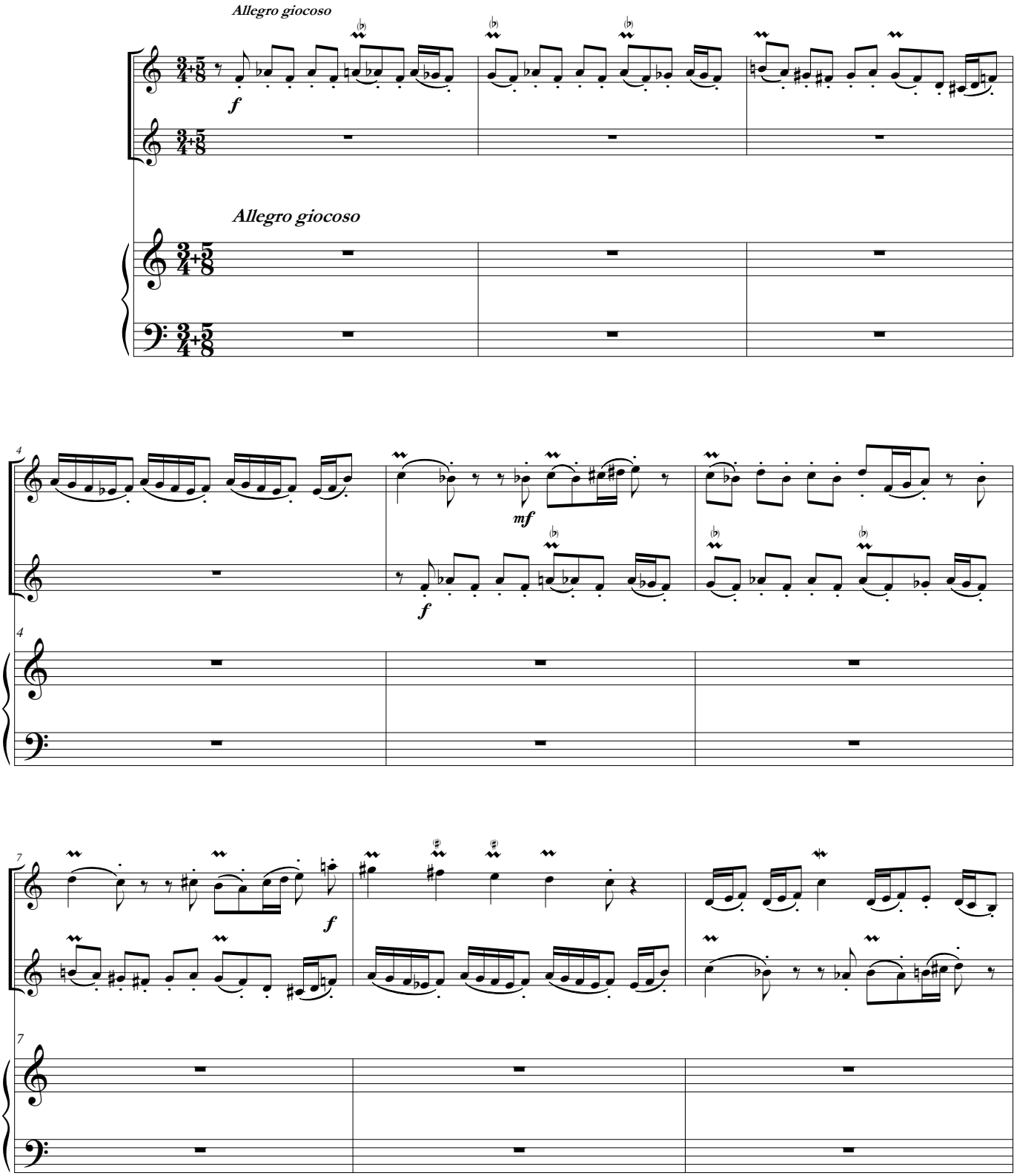

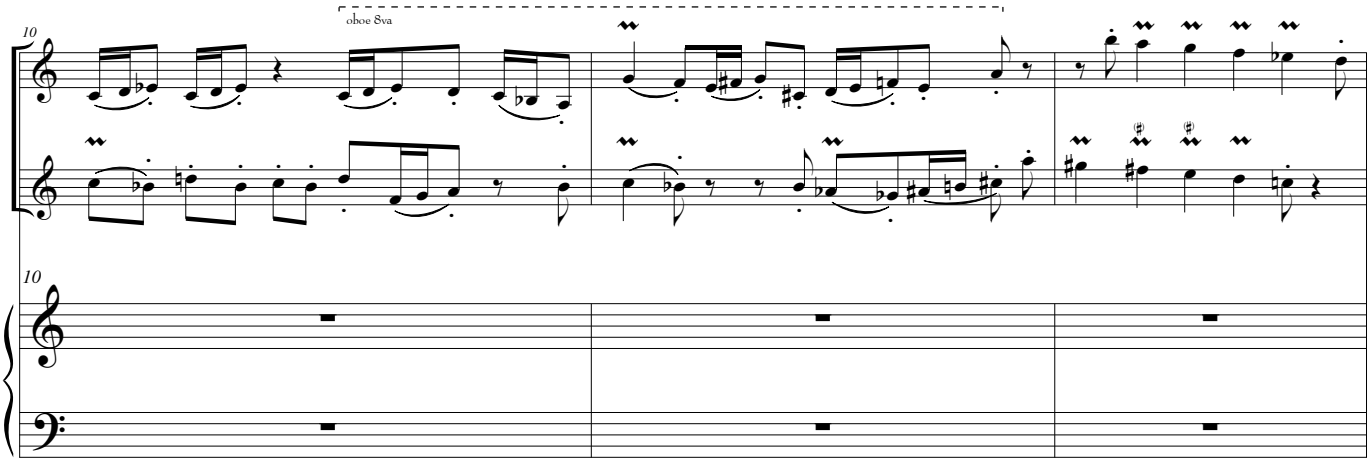
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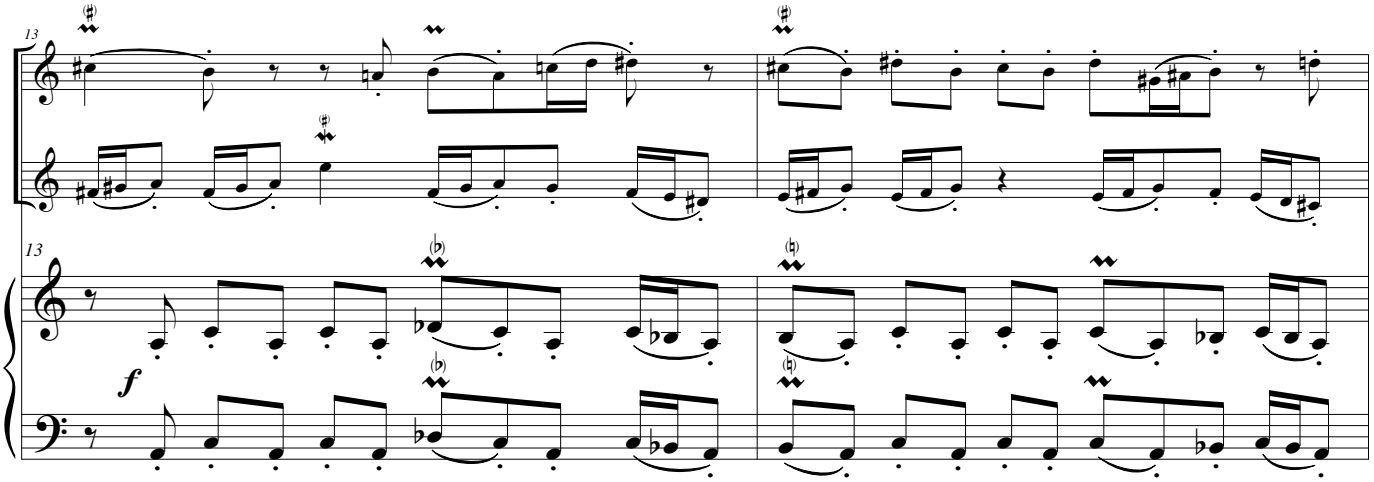
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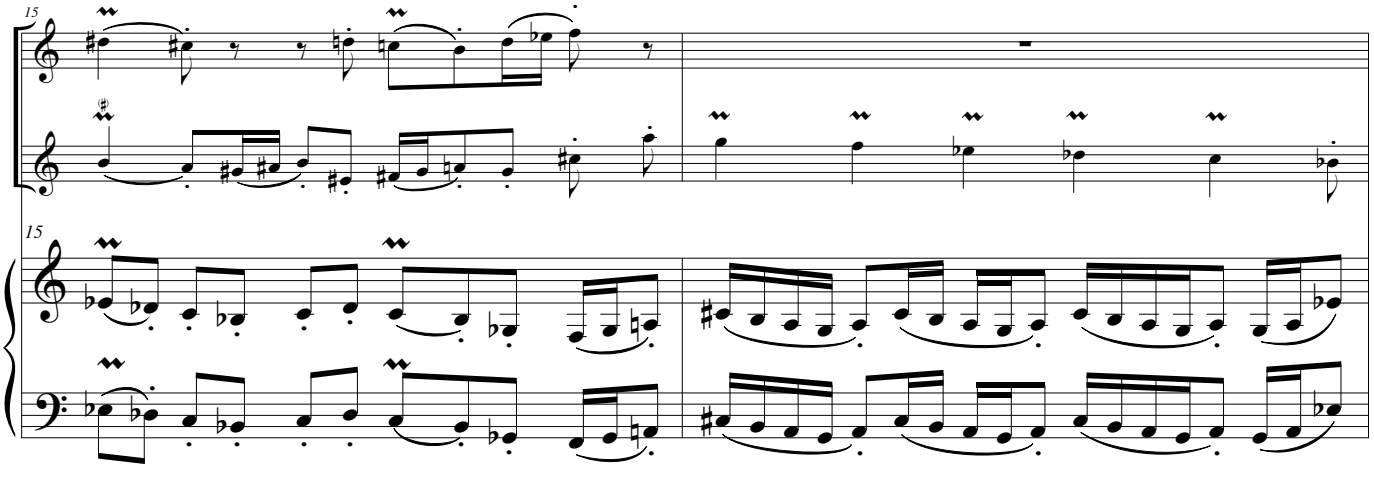
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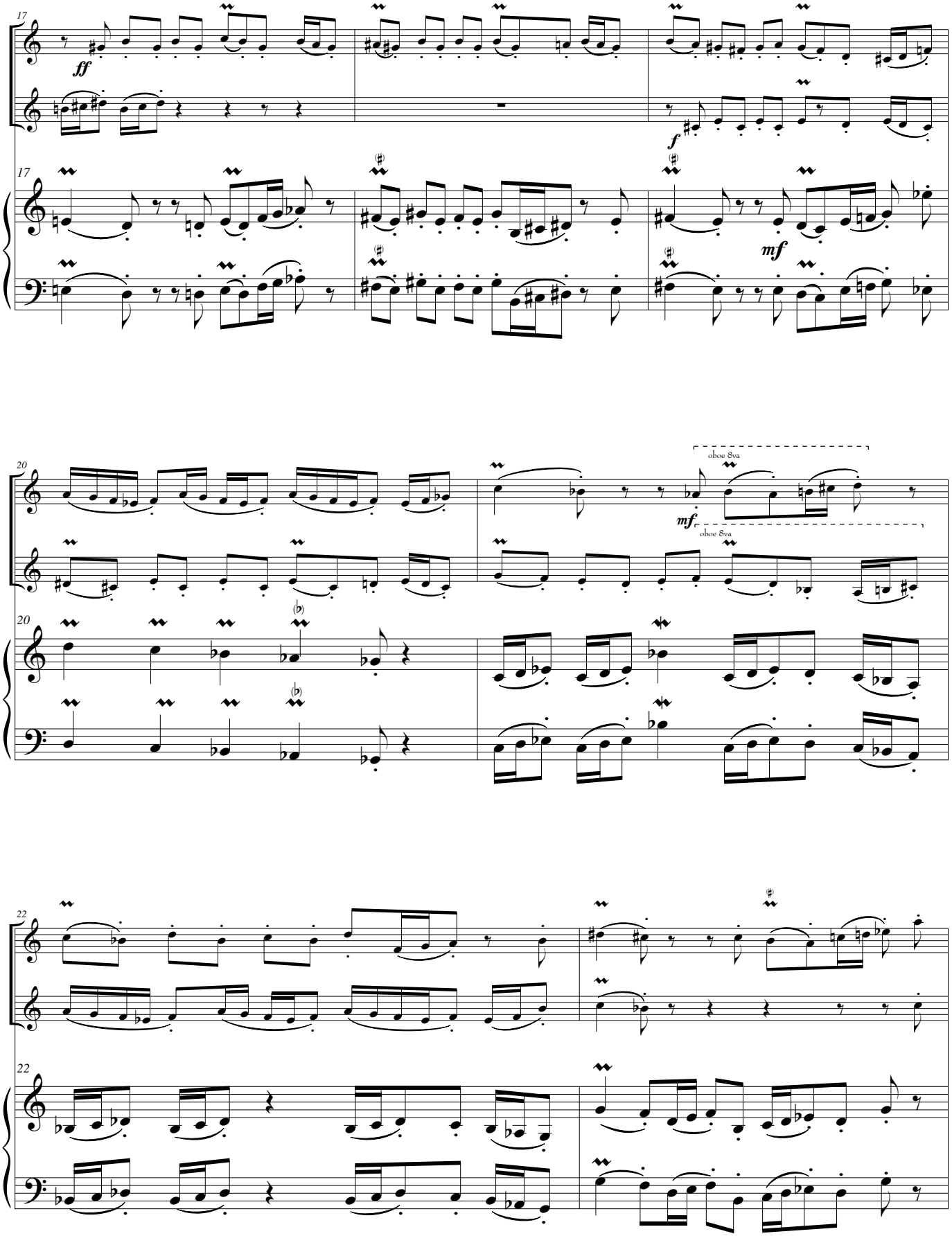
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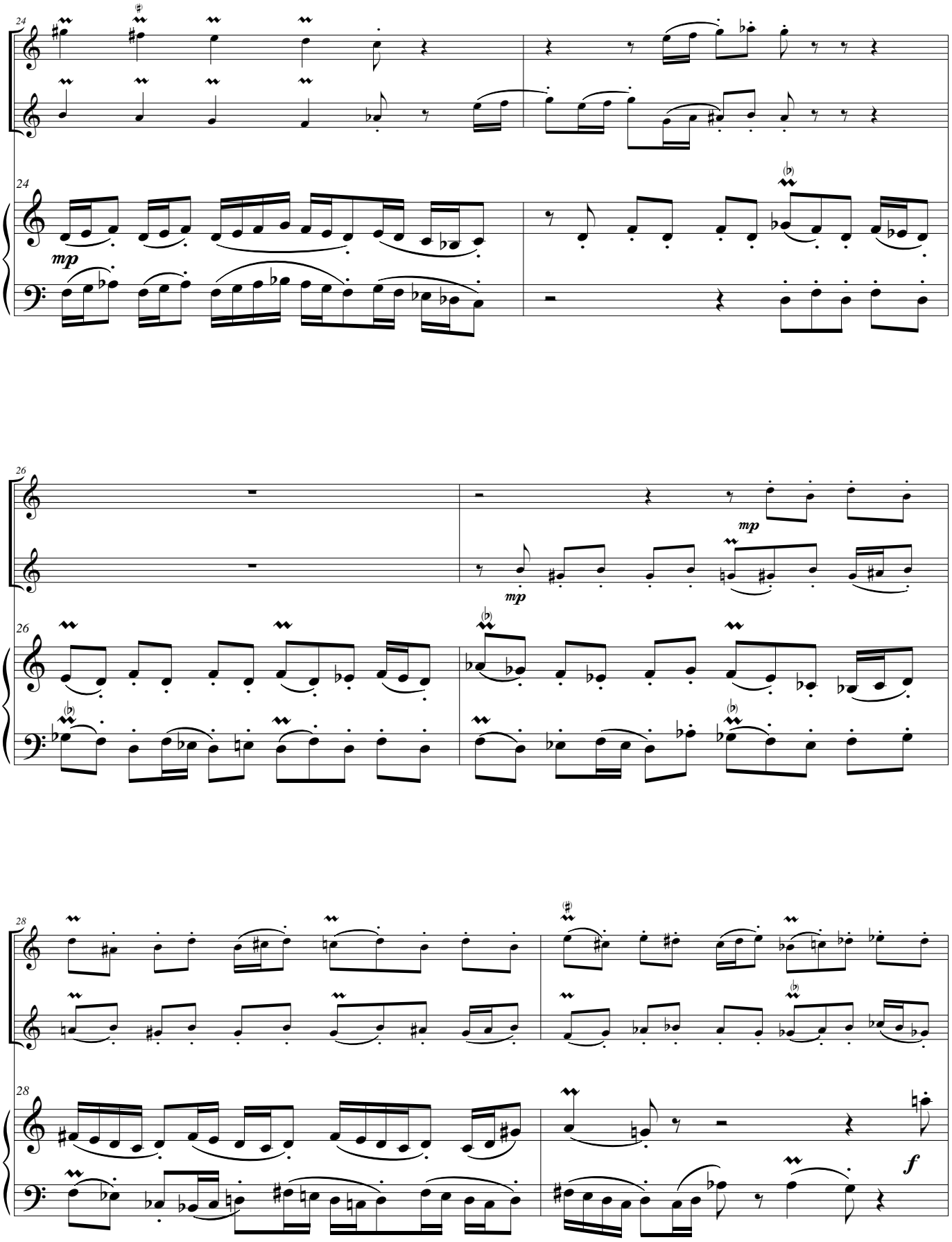
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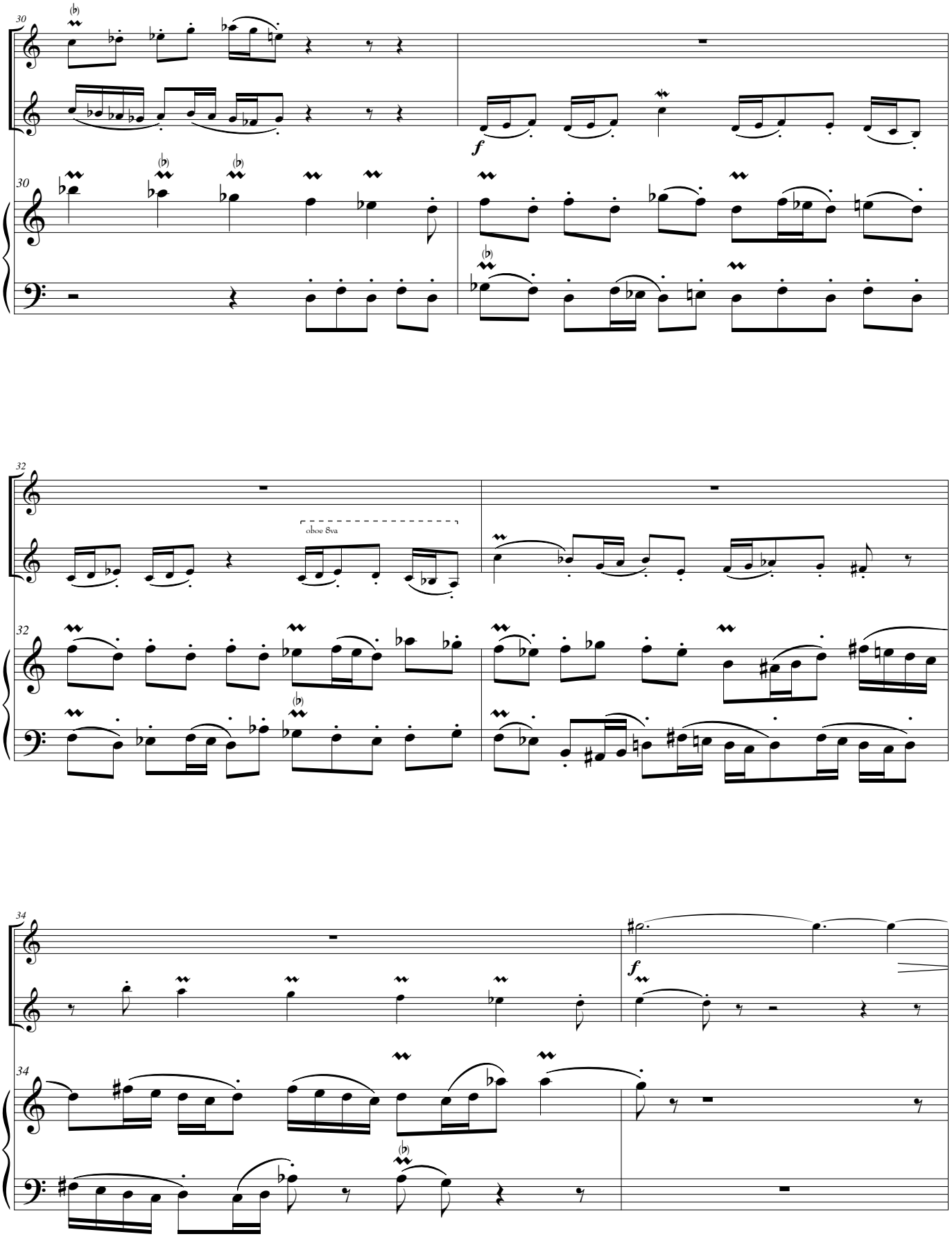
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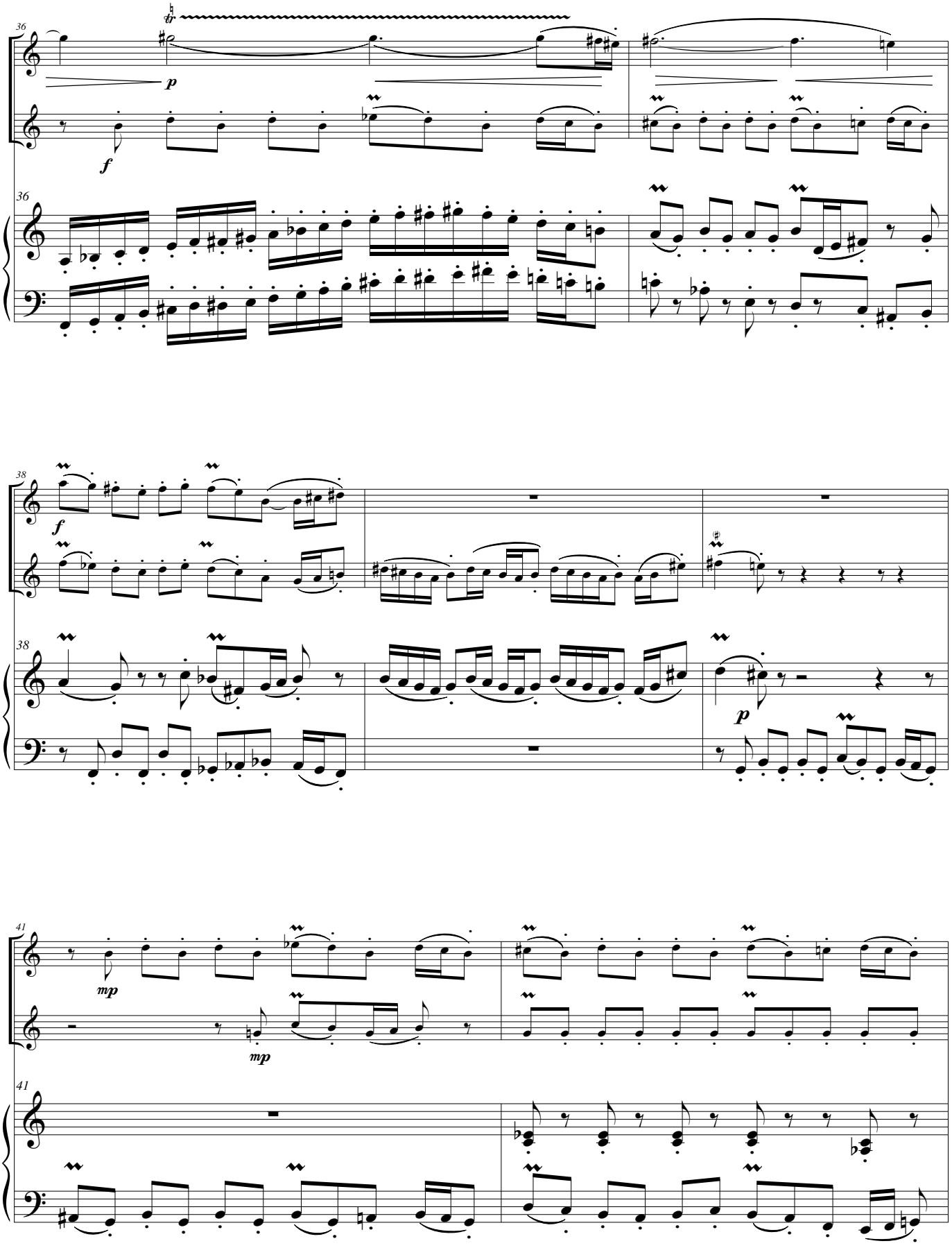
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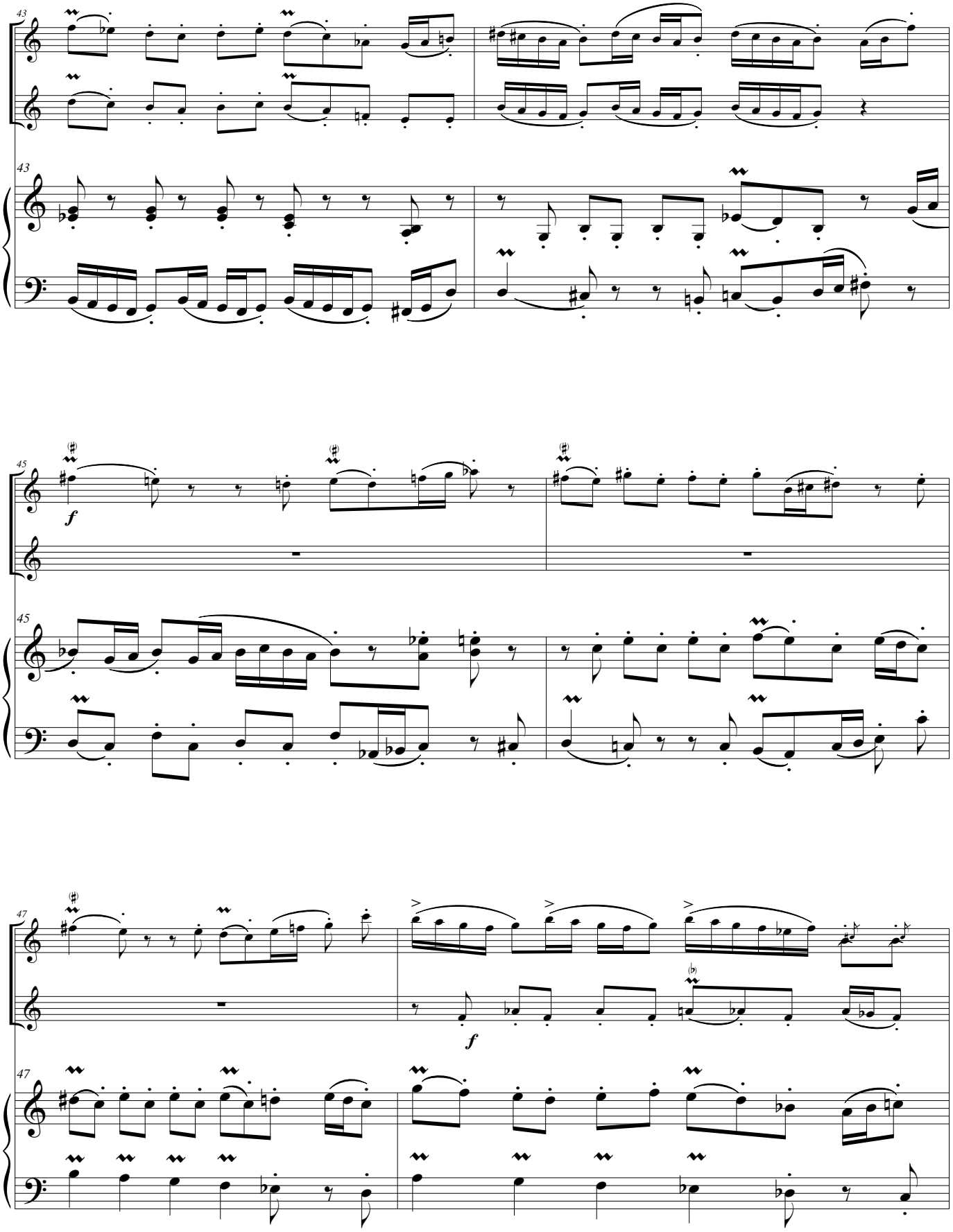
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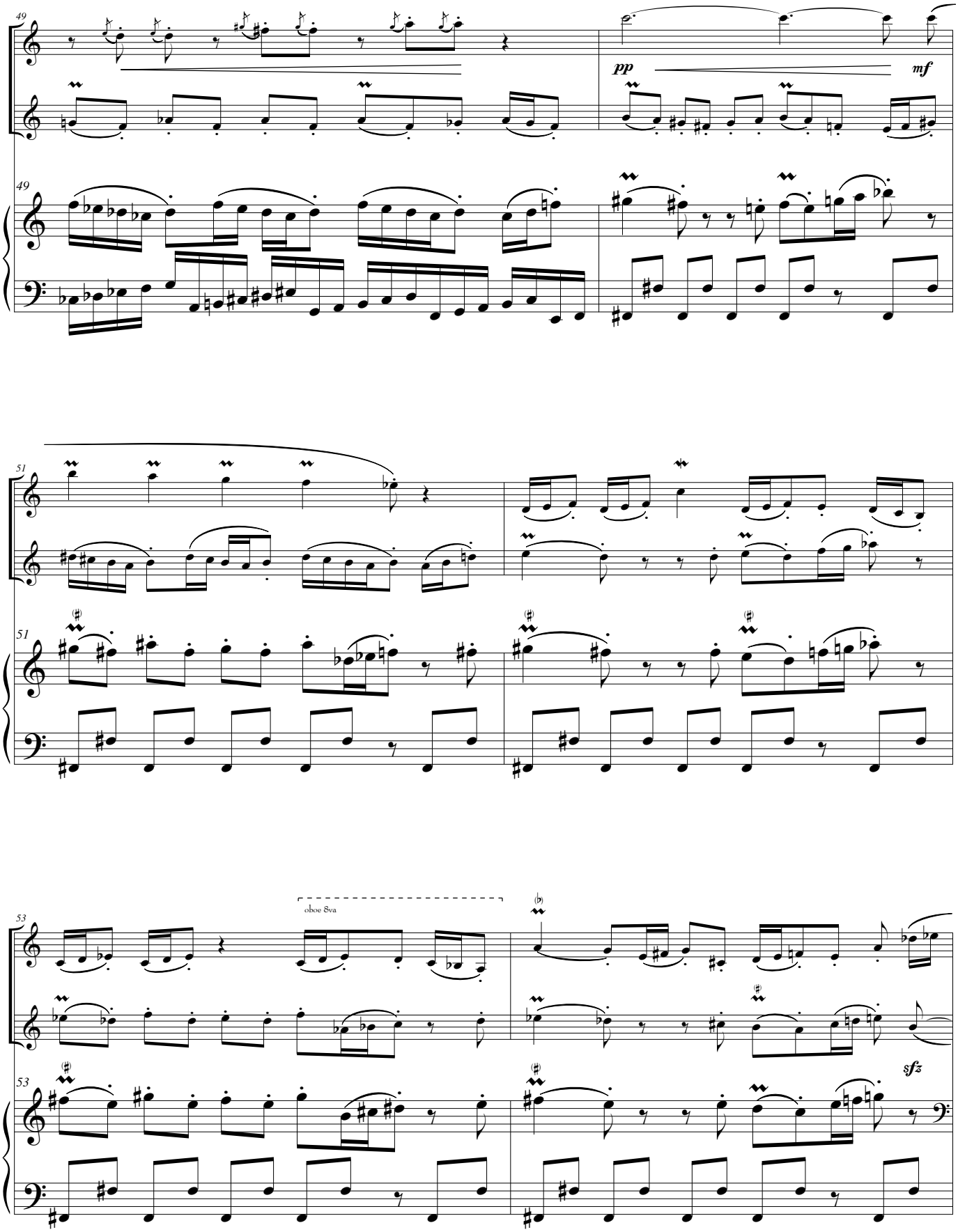
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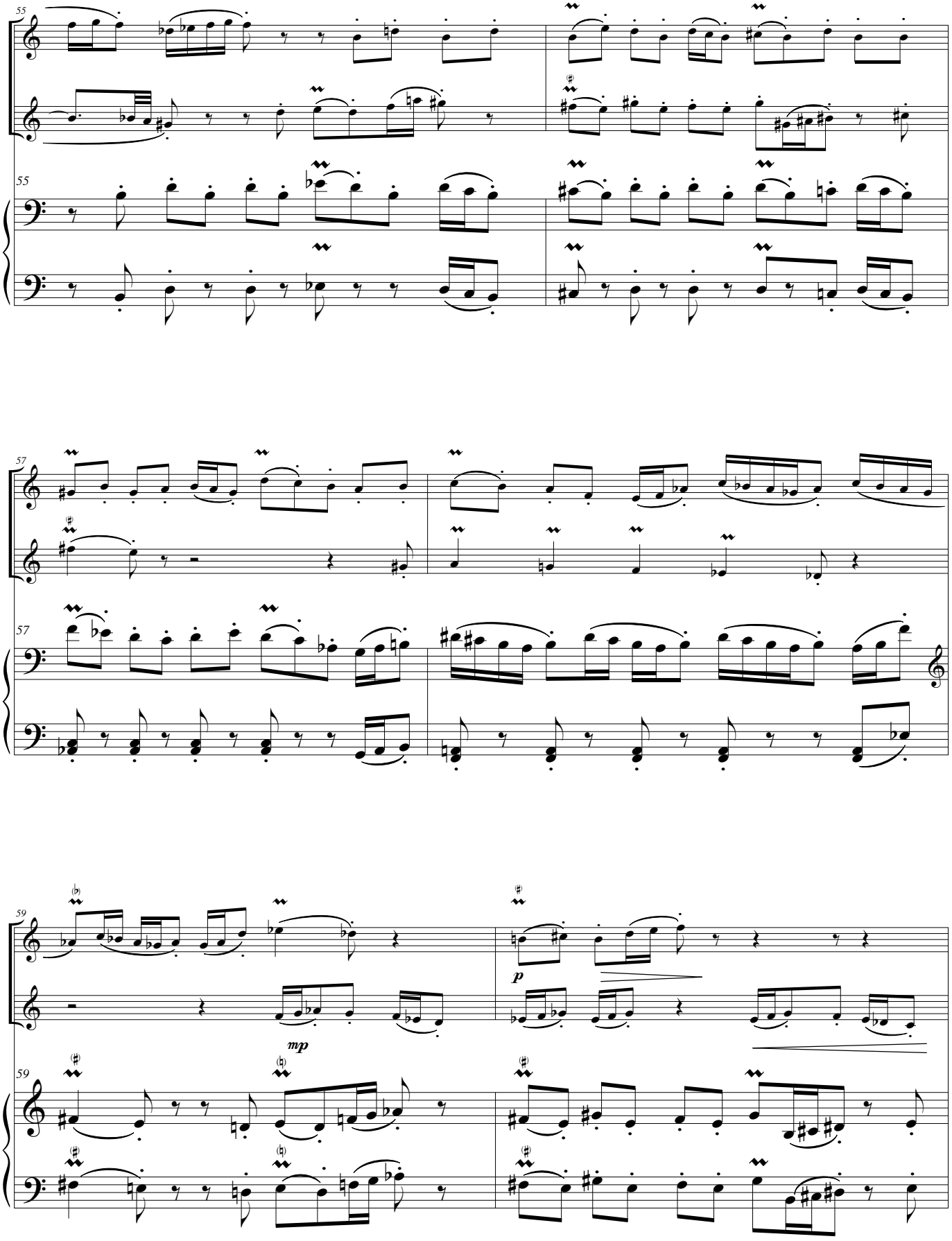
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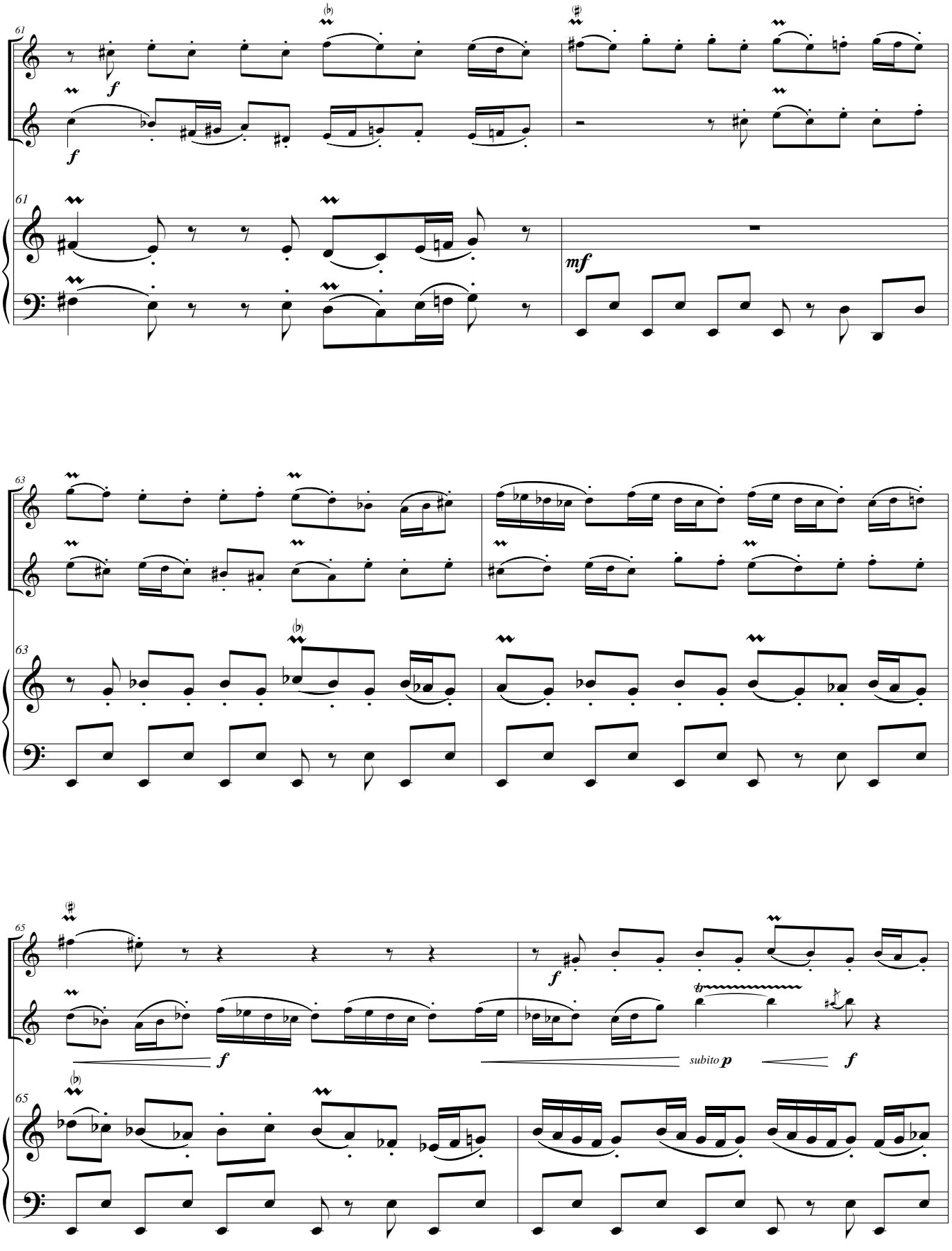
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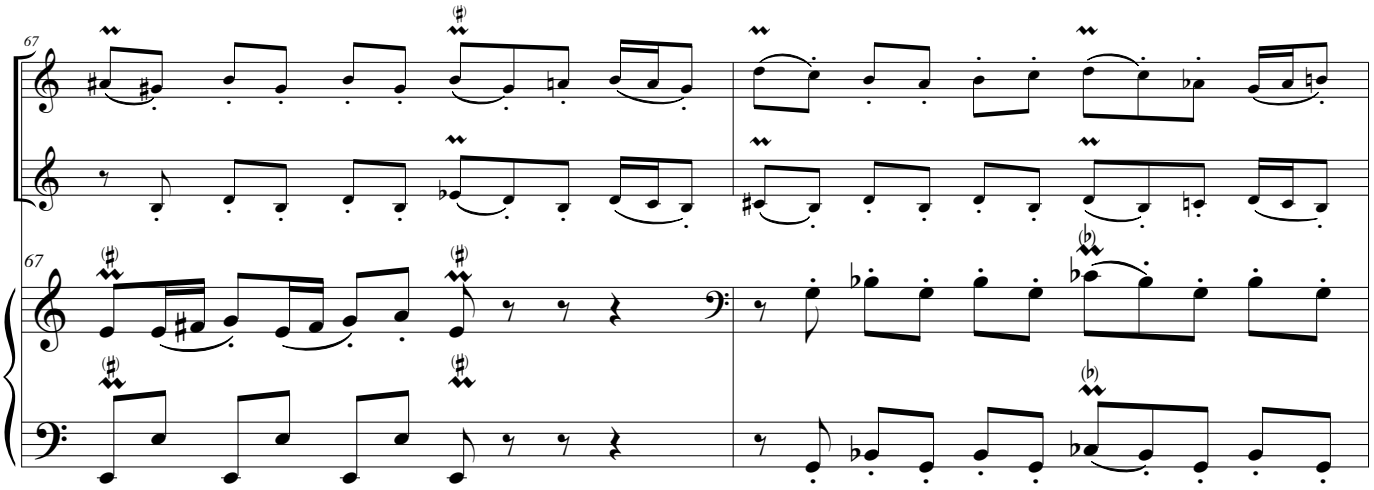
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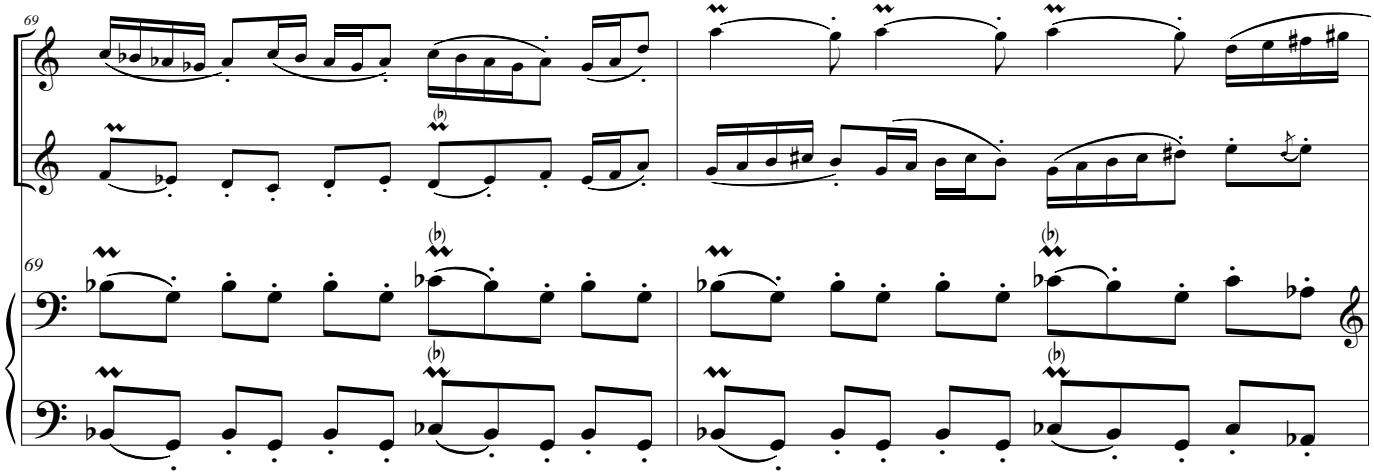
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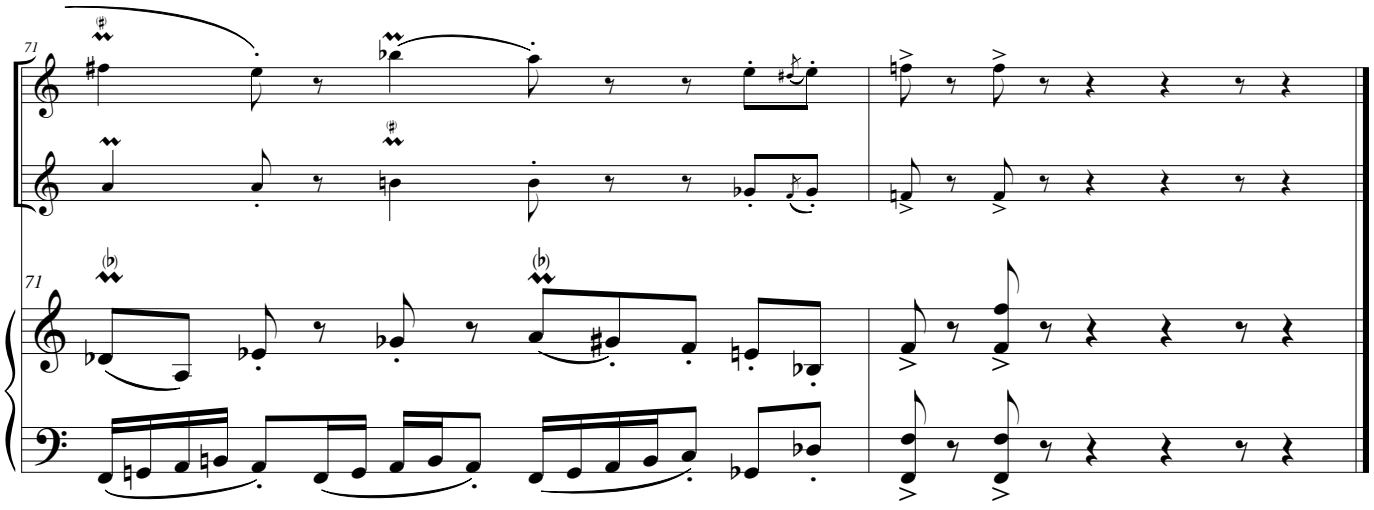
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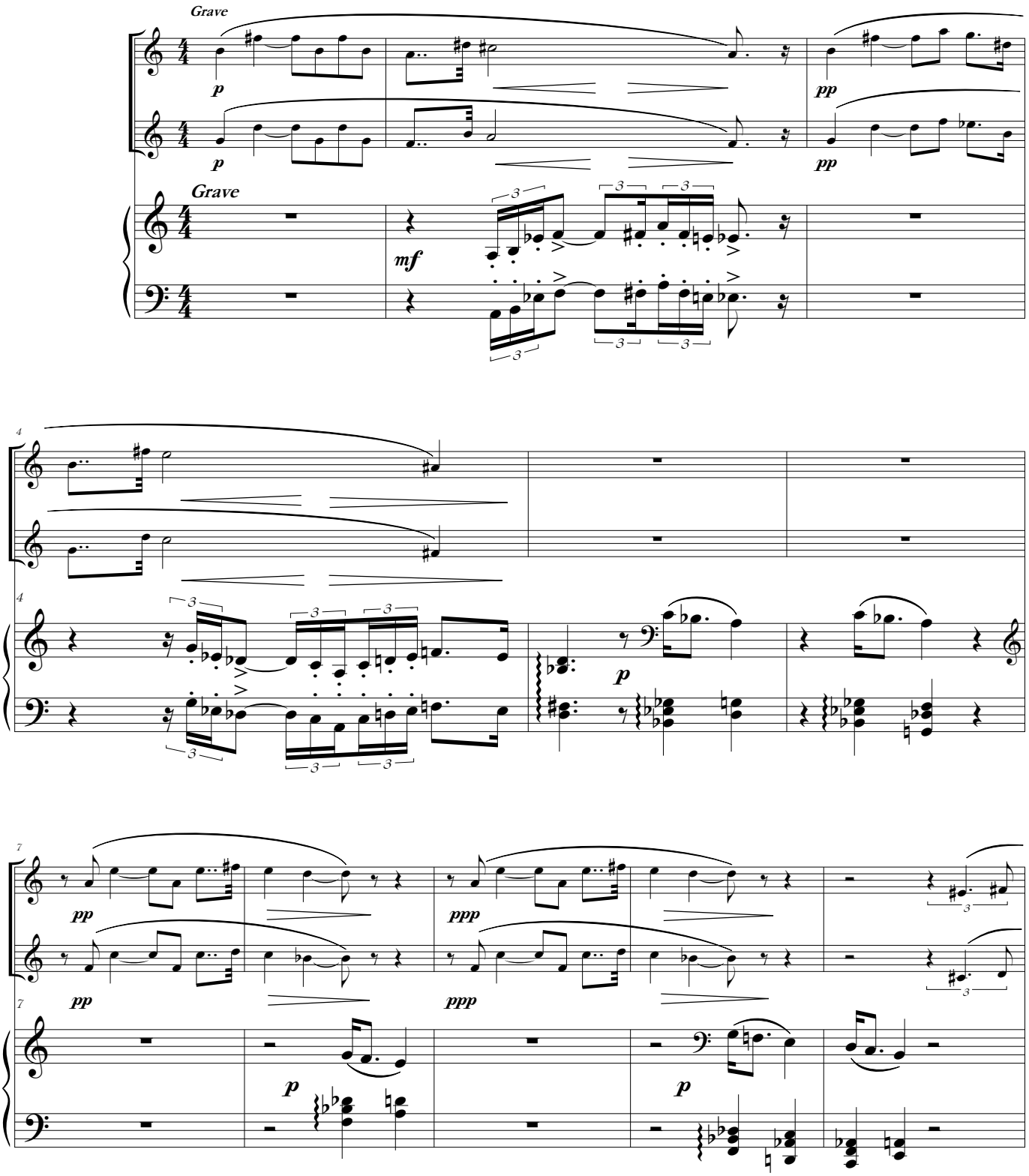
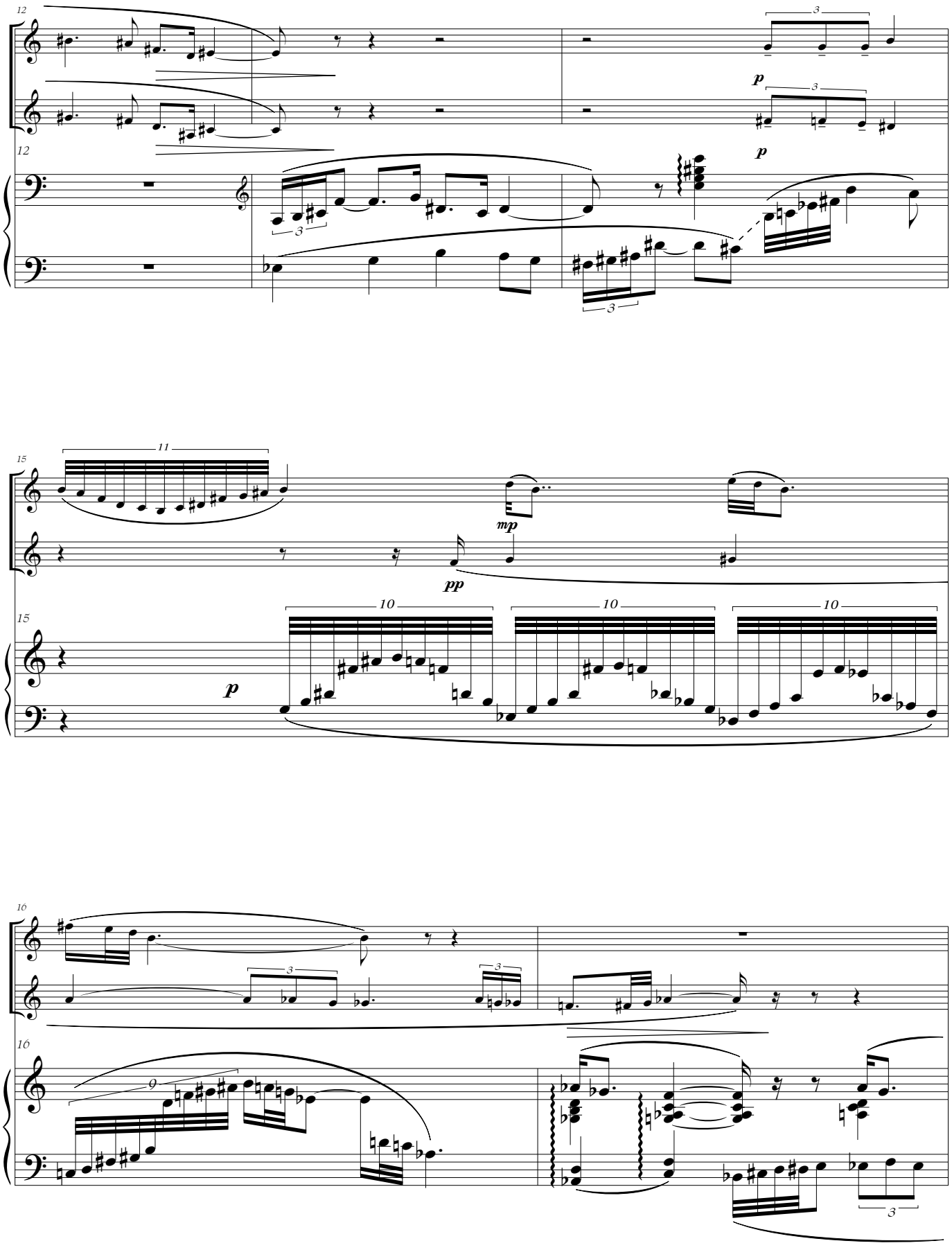
Apotheosis

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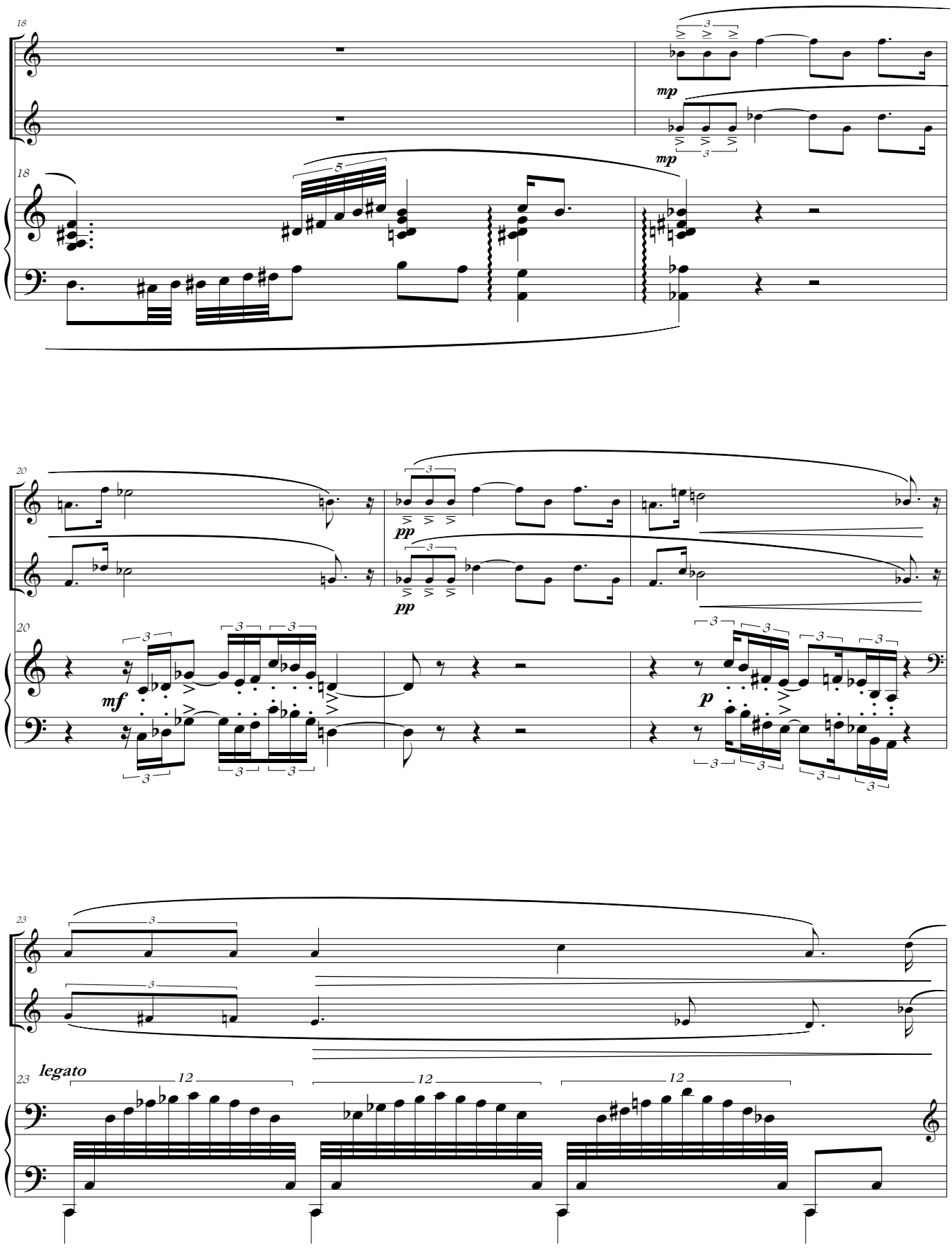
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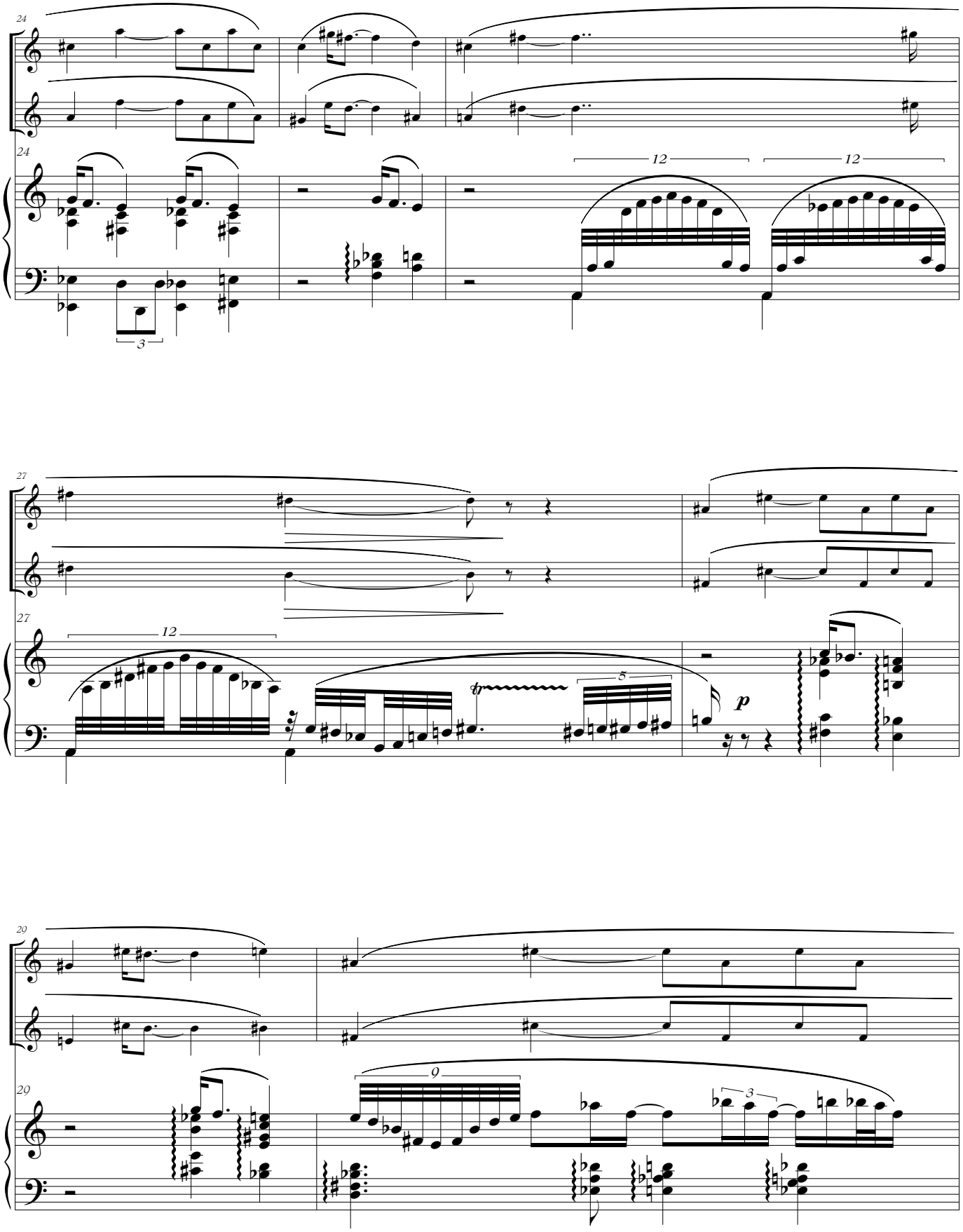
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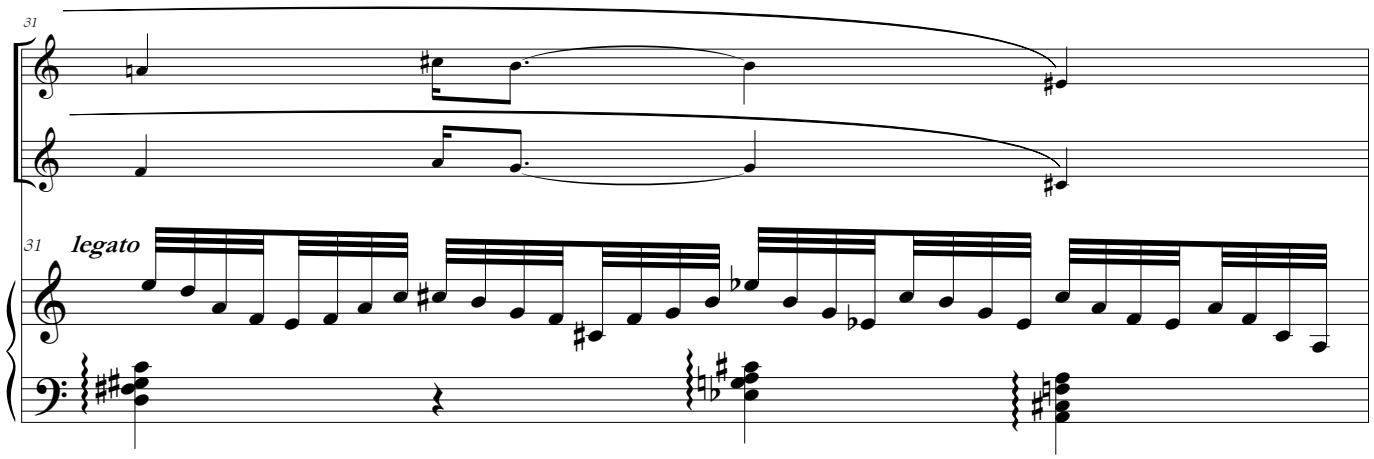
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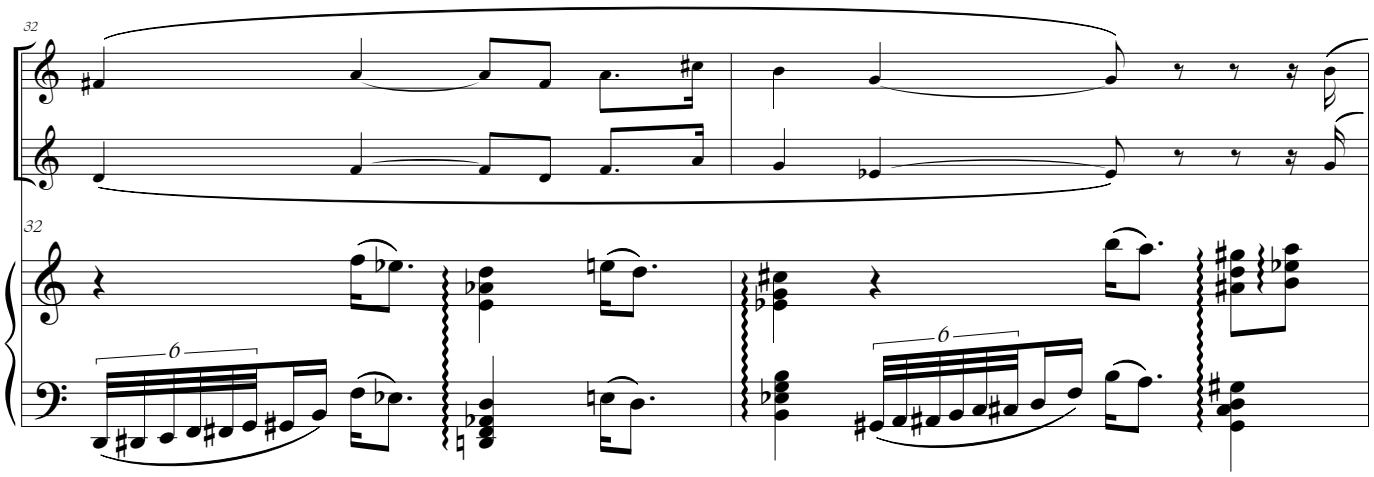
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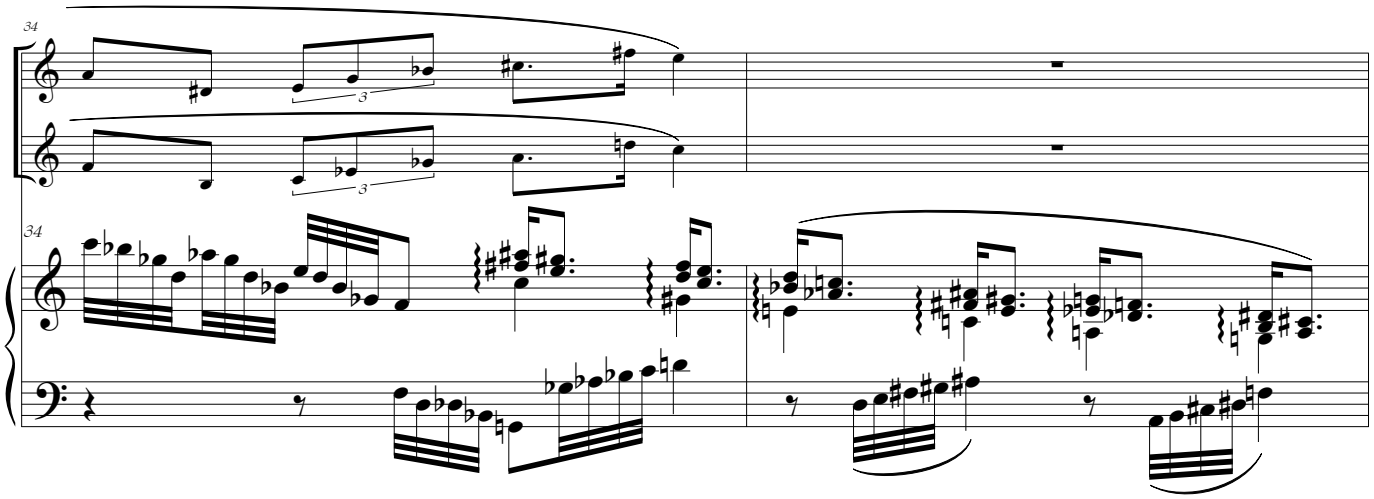
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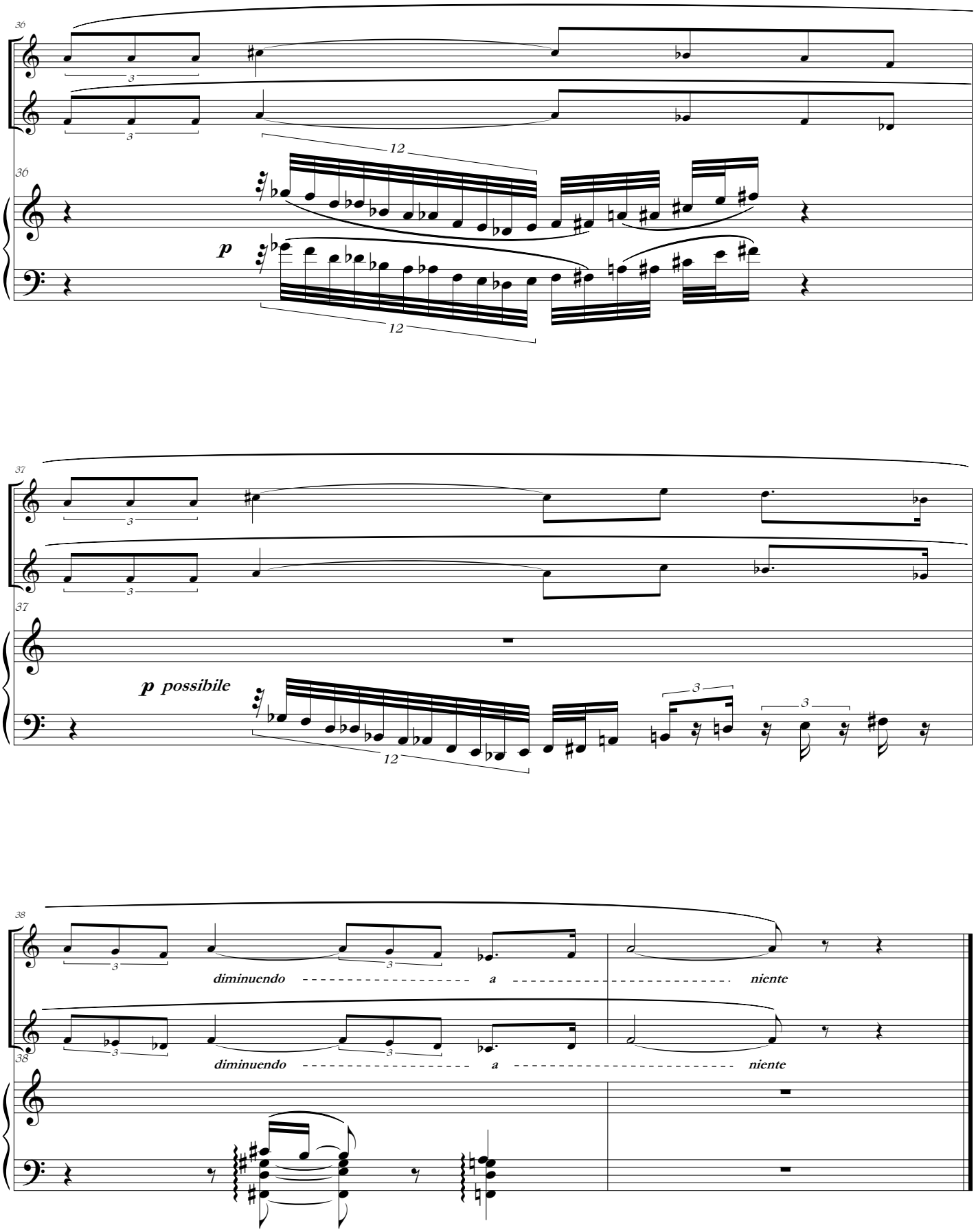
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for Jennifer Paull

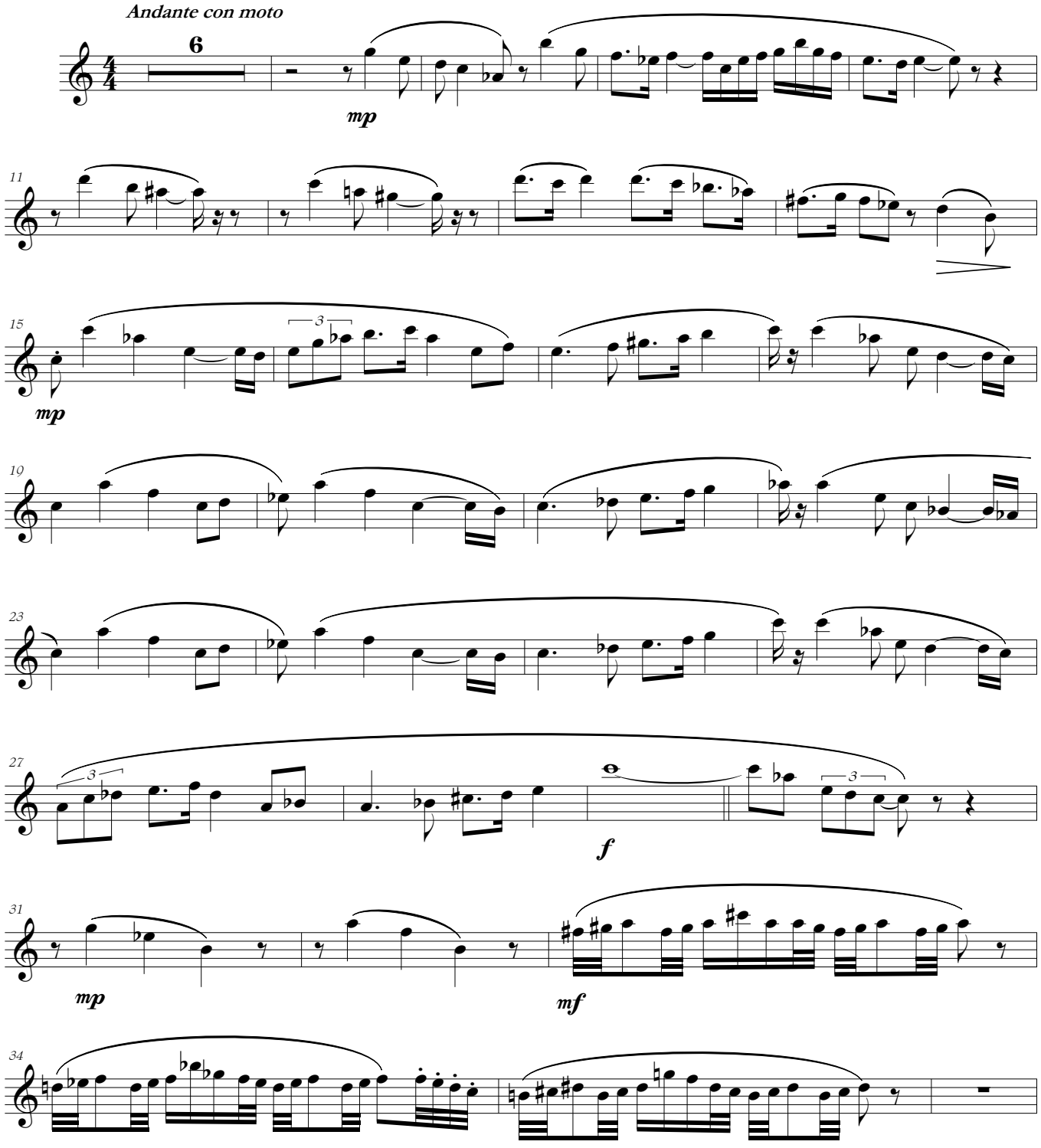
SONATA

' LES AMOURS '

I

Oboe d'amore I

Ian Keith Harris
(1935 -)



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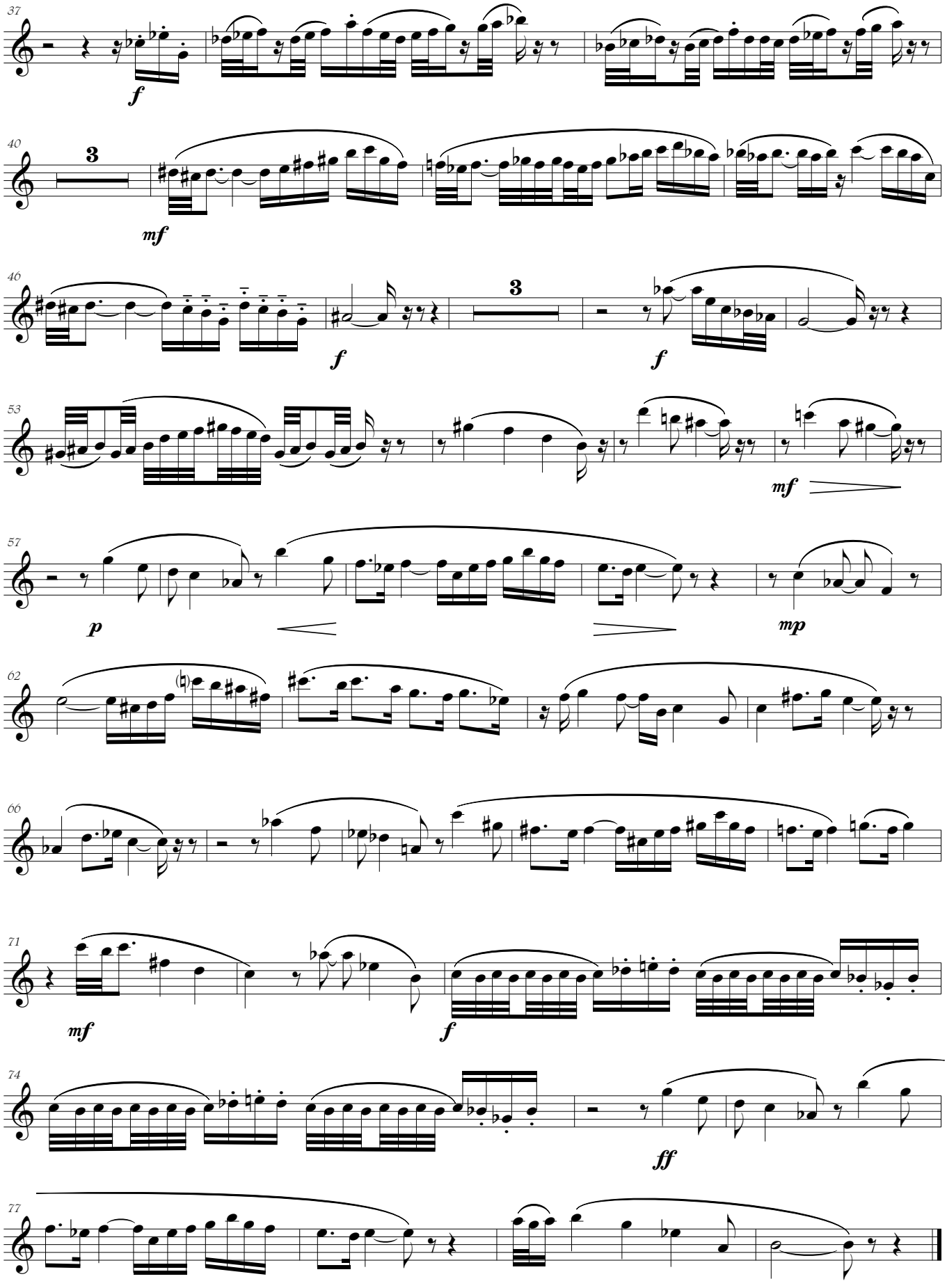
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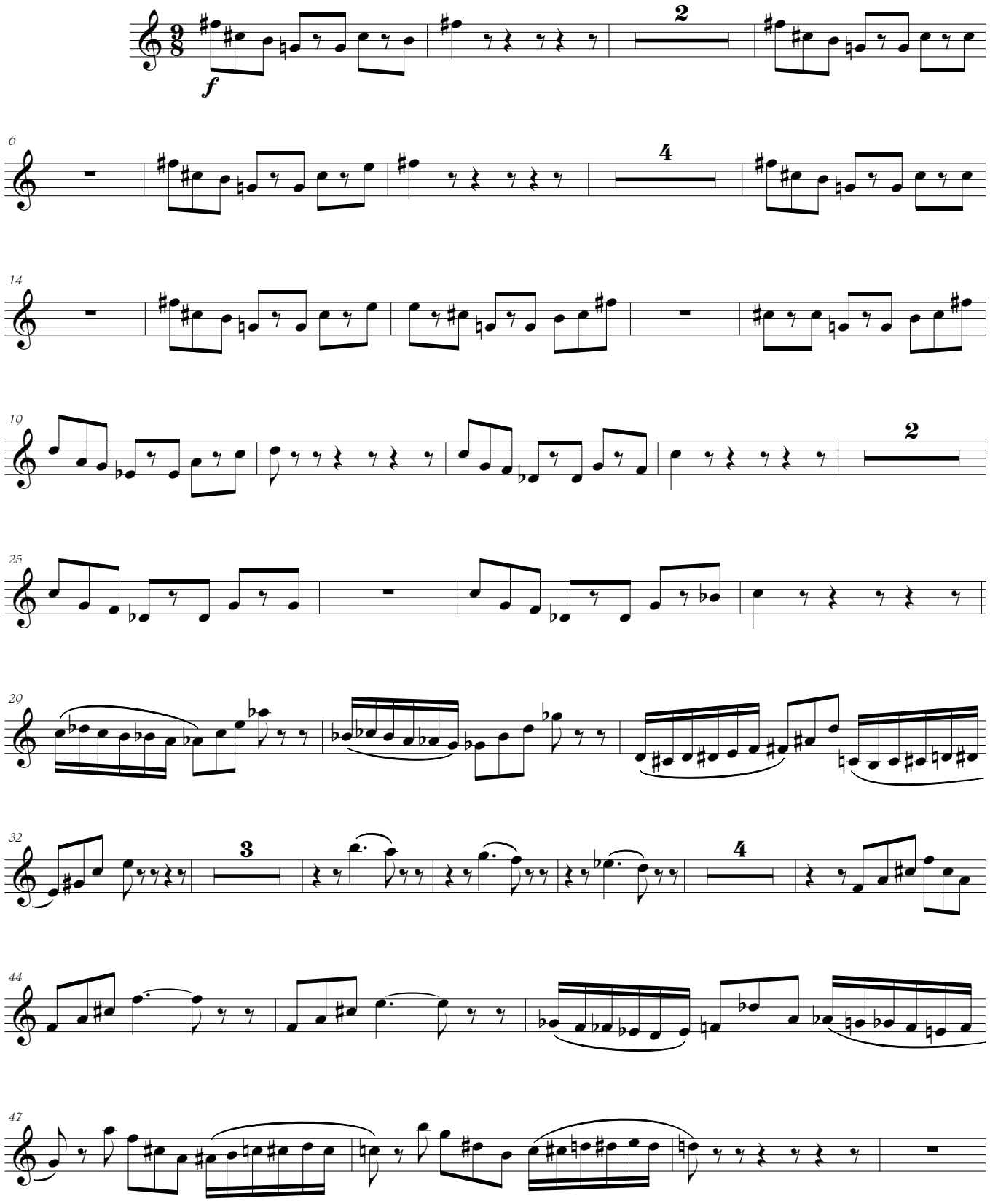
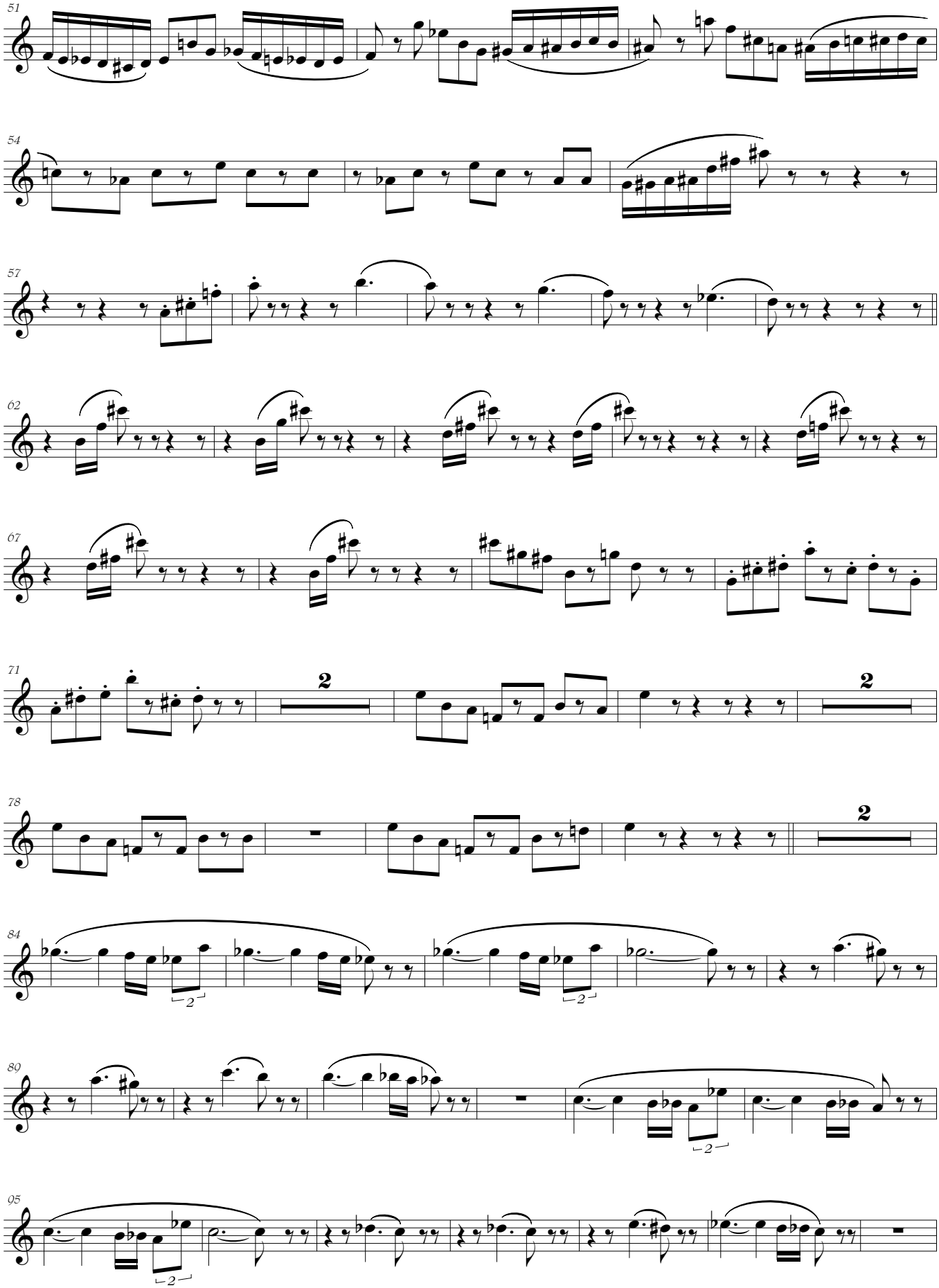
II

A grande velocità

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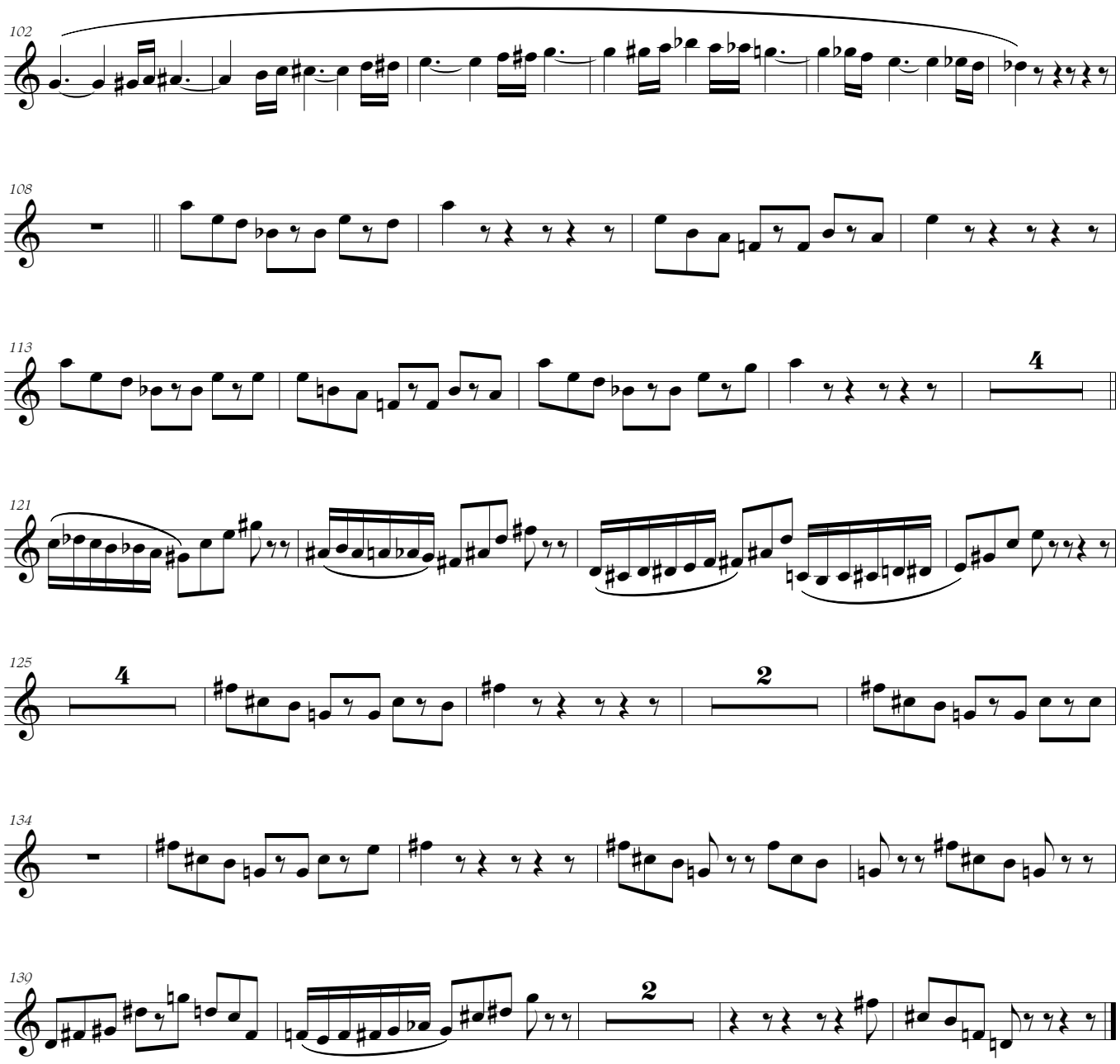

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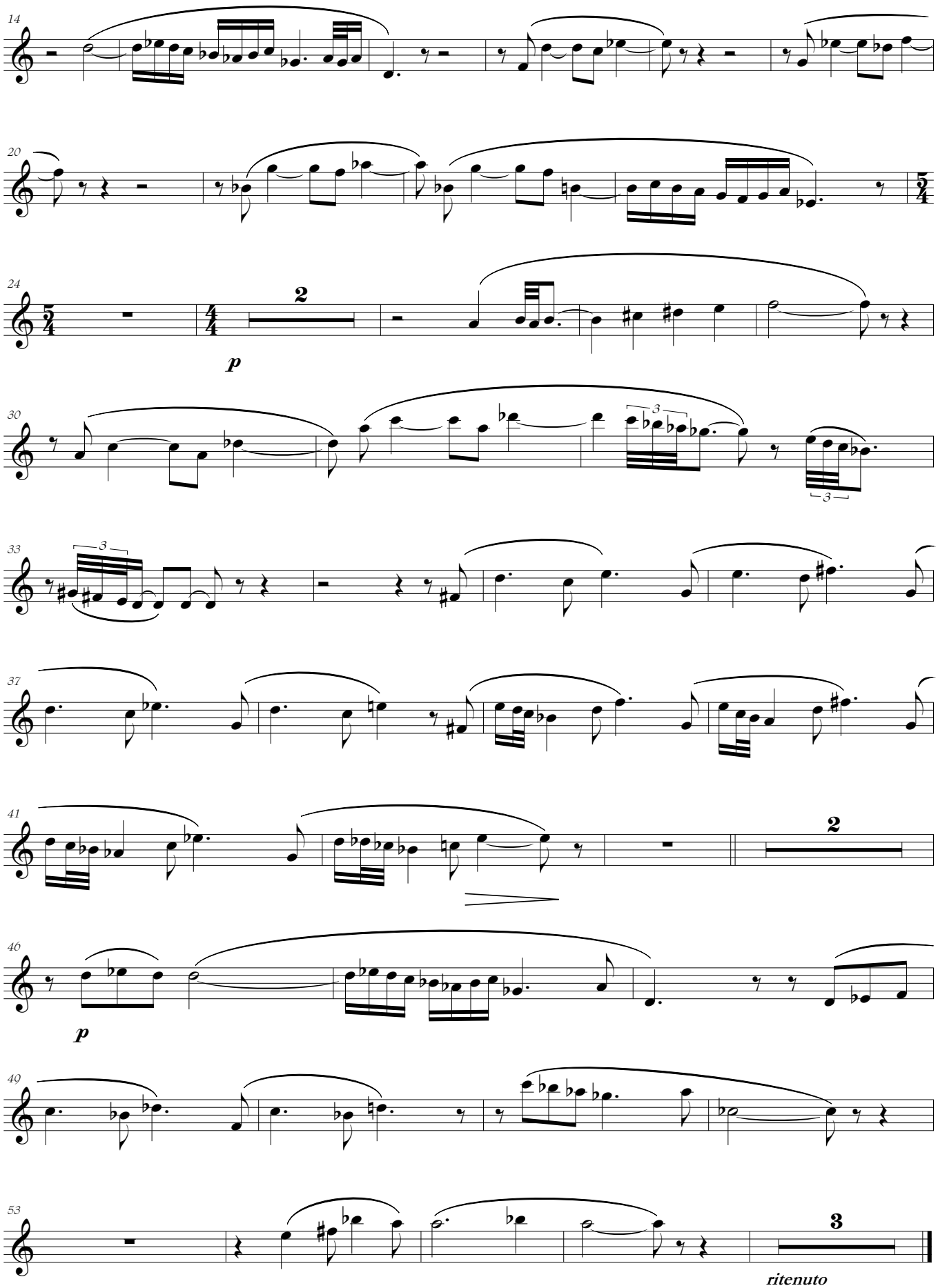
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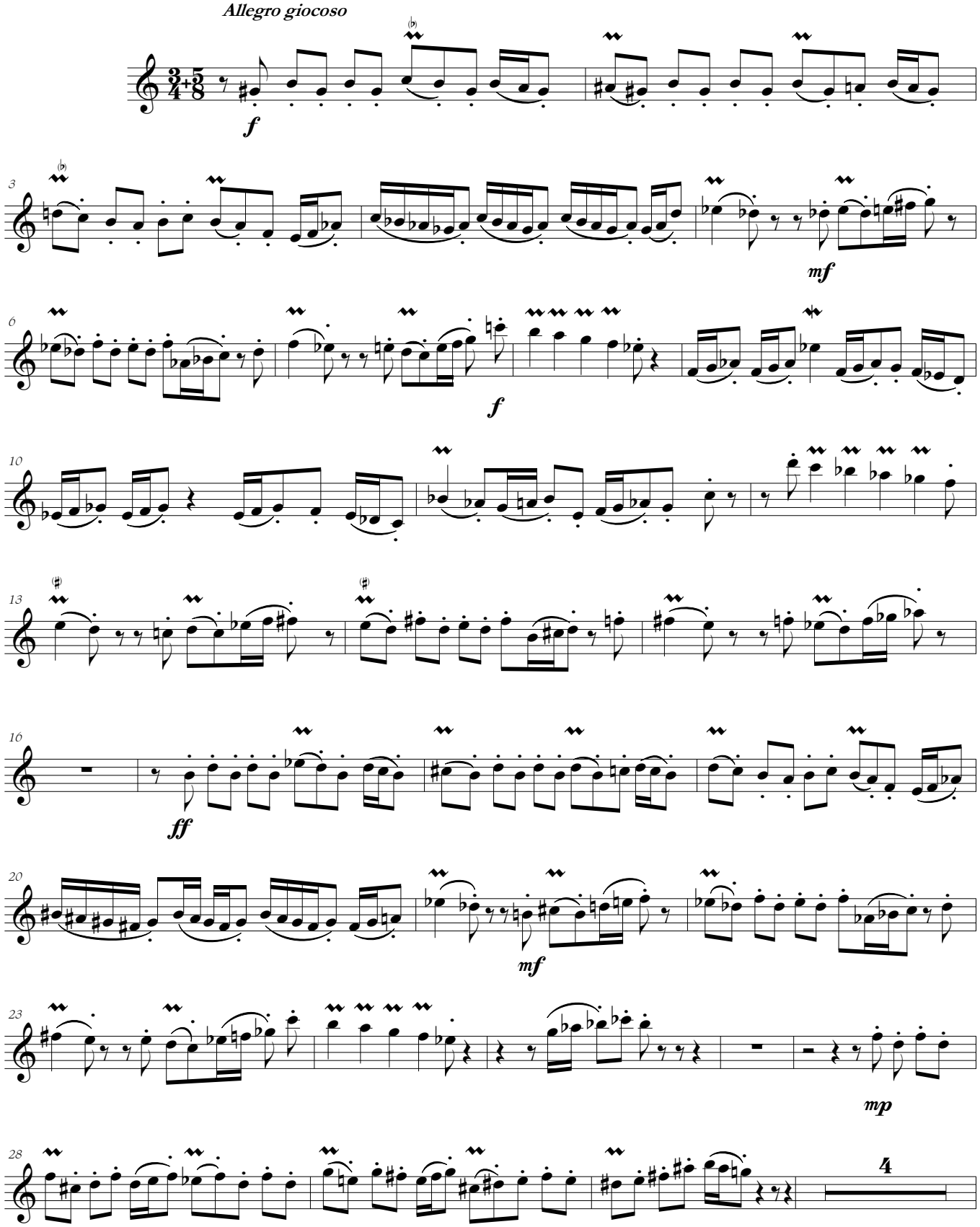

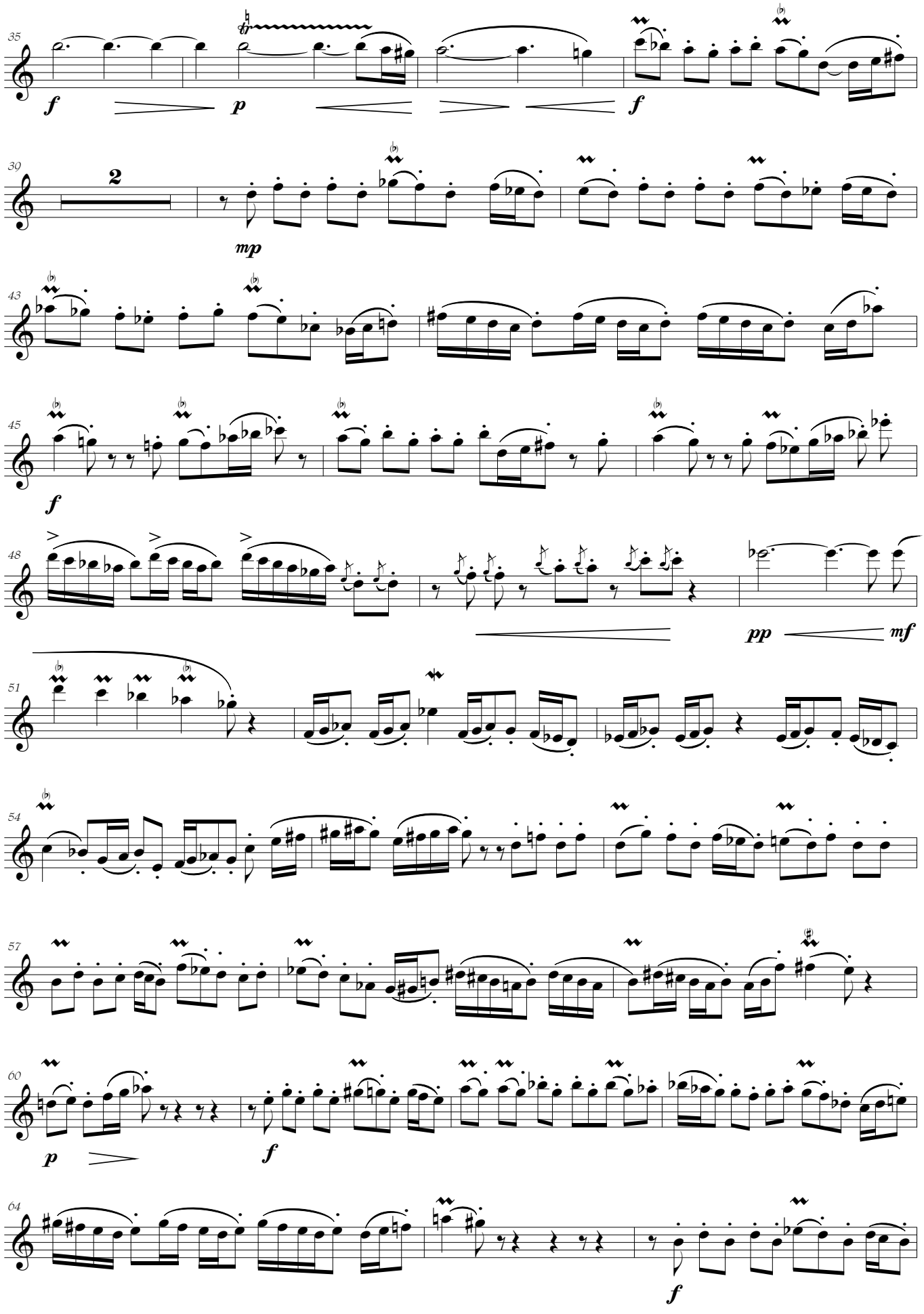
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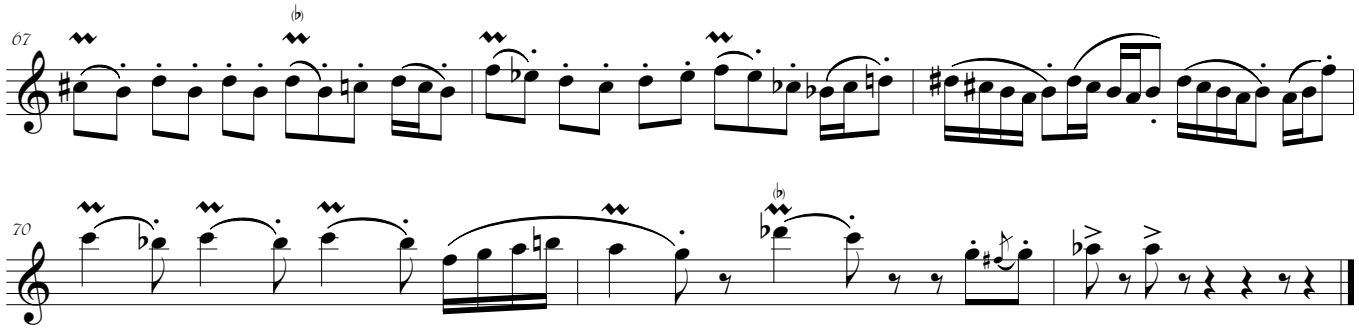
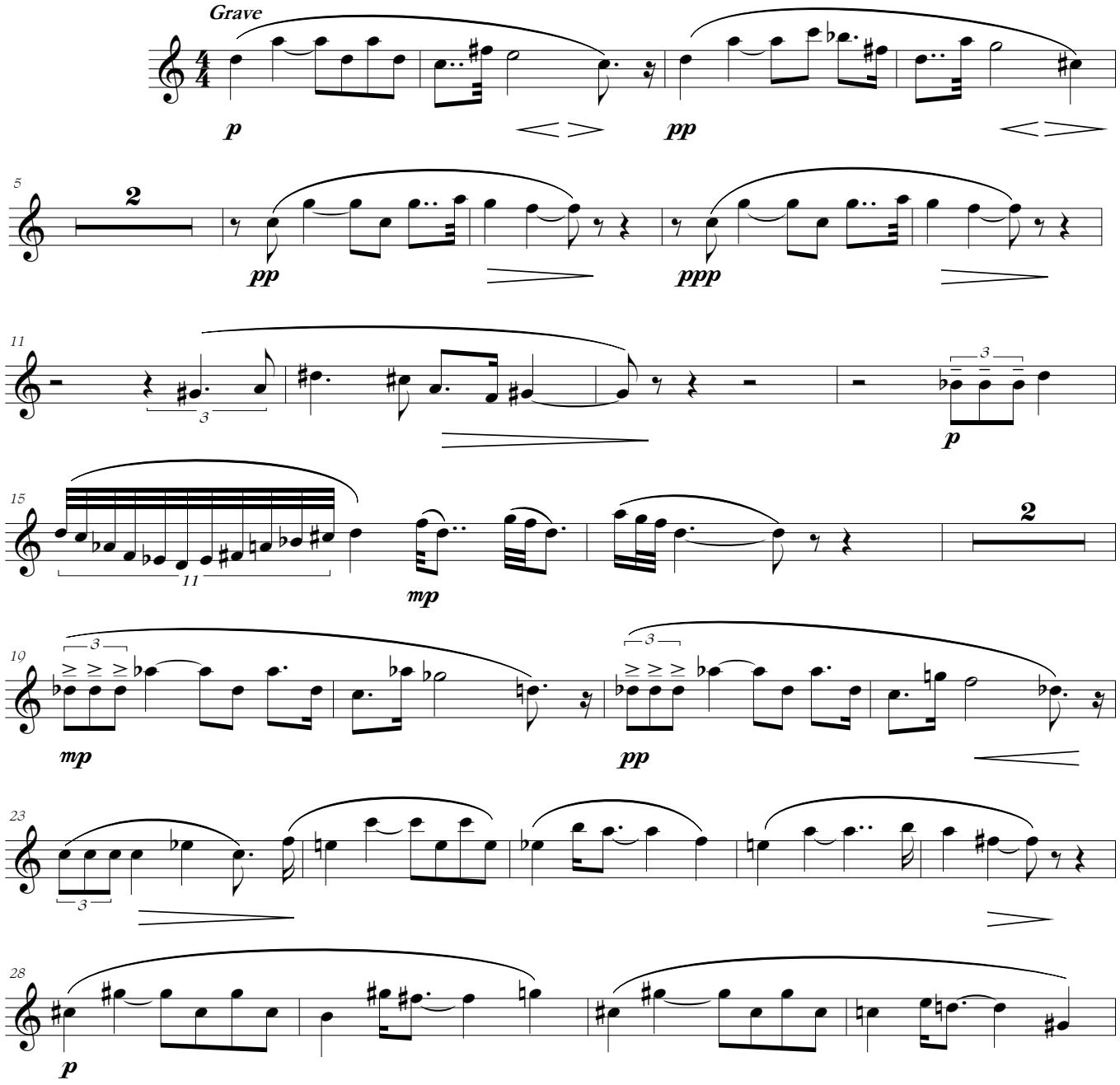
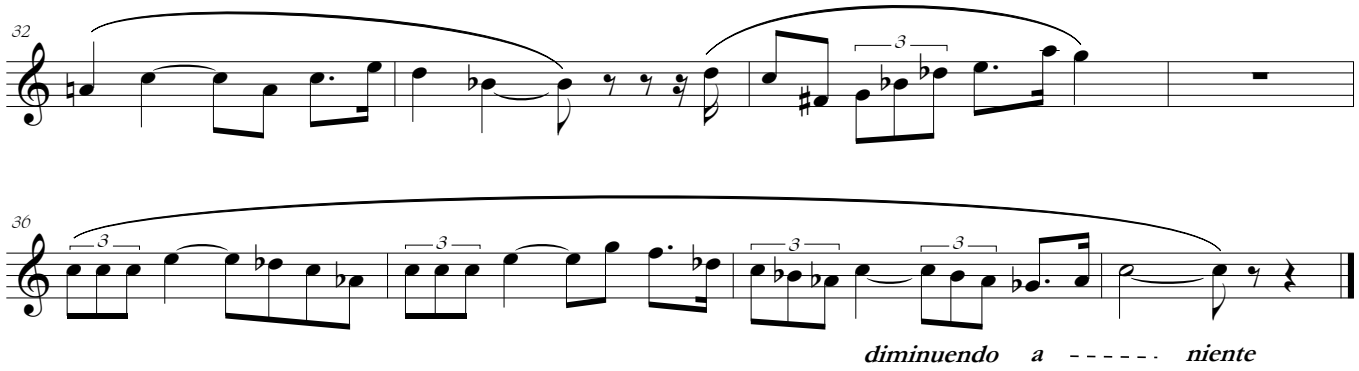


Apotheosis

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for Jennifer Paull

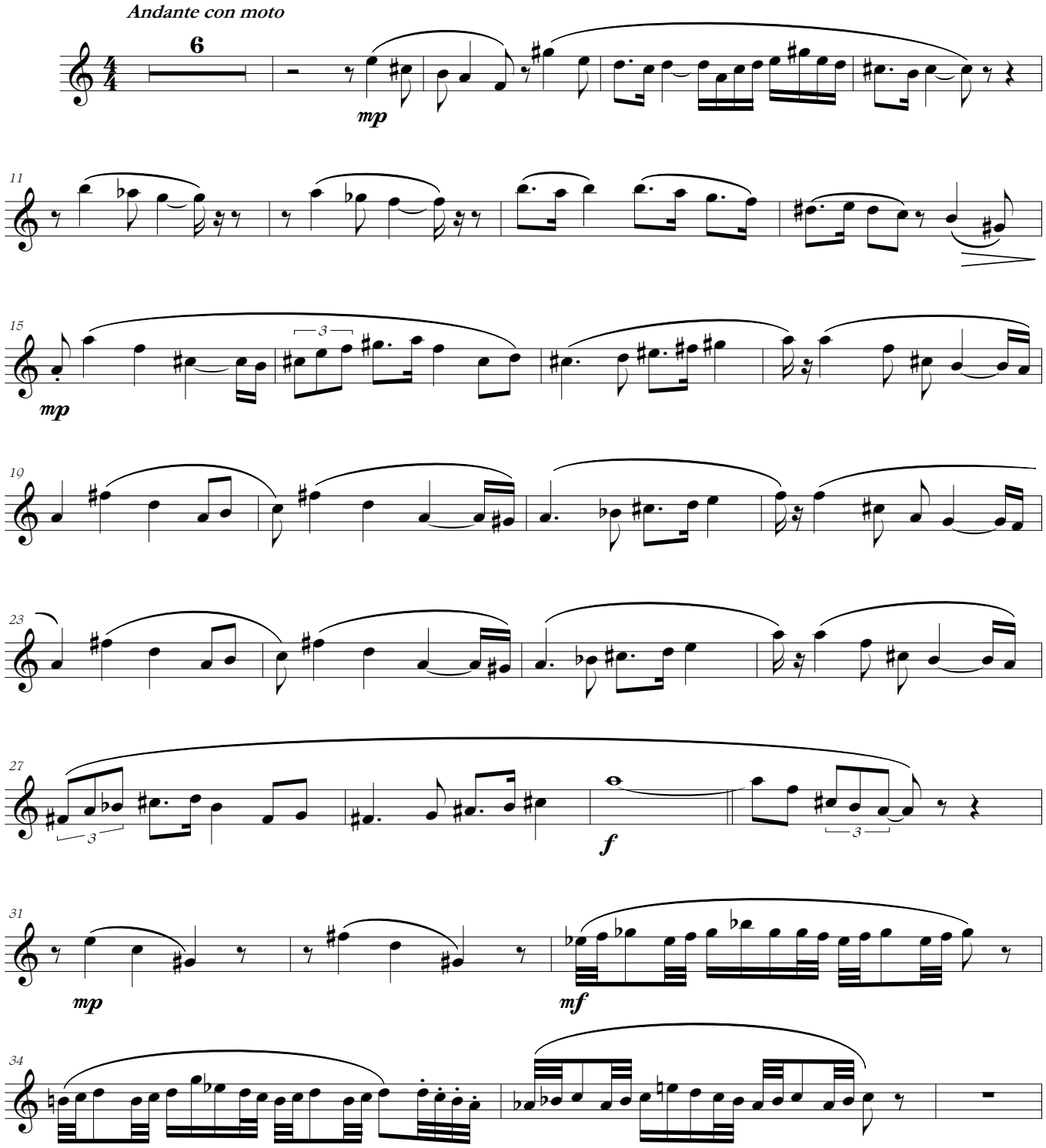
SONATA

' LES AMOURS '

I

Oboe I

Ian Keith Harris
(1935 -)



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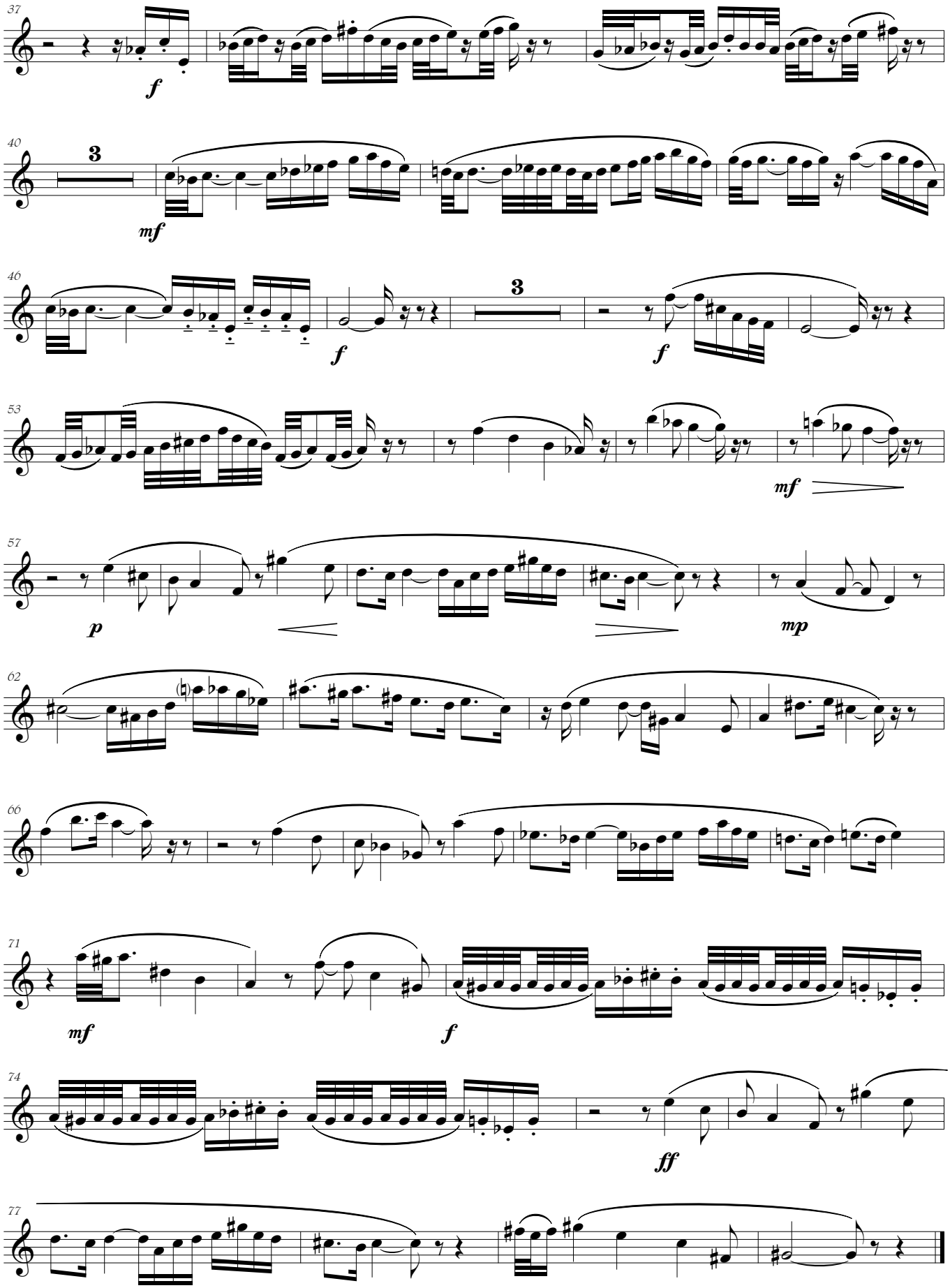
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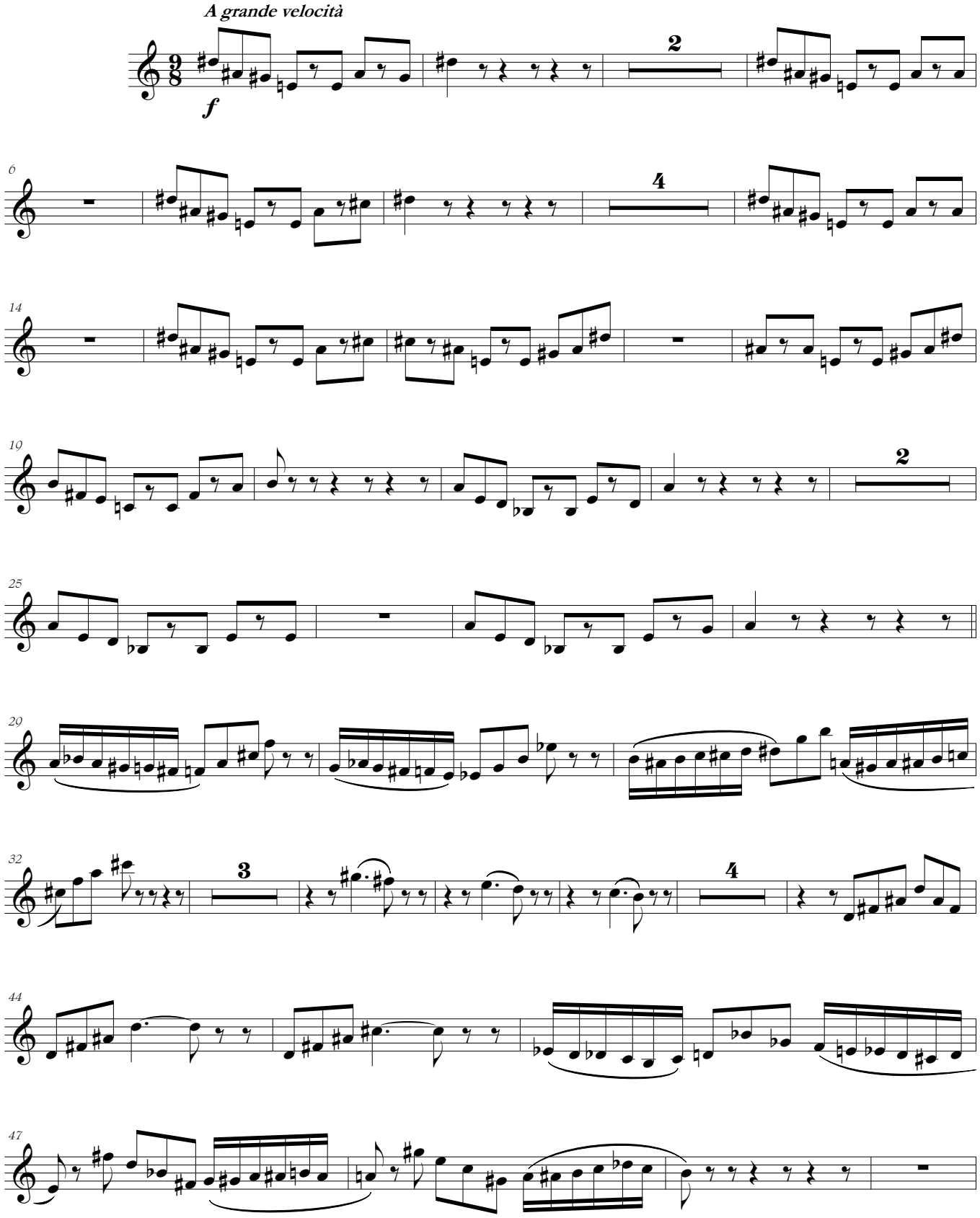

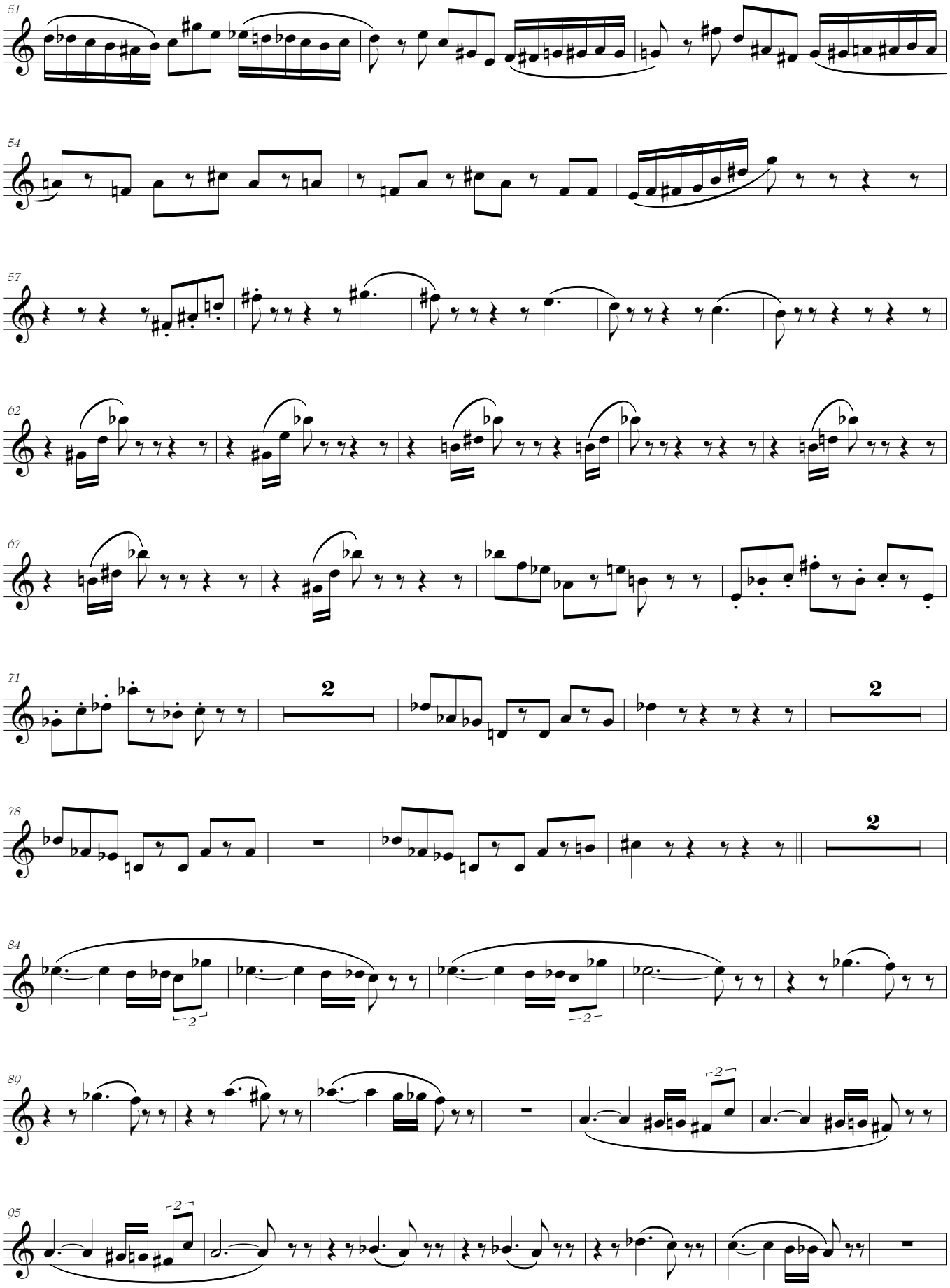

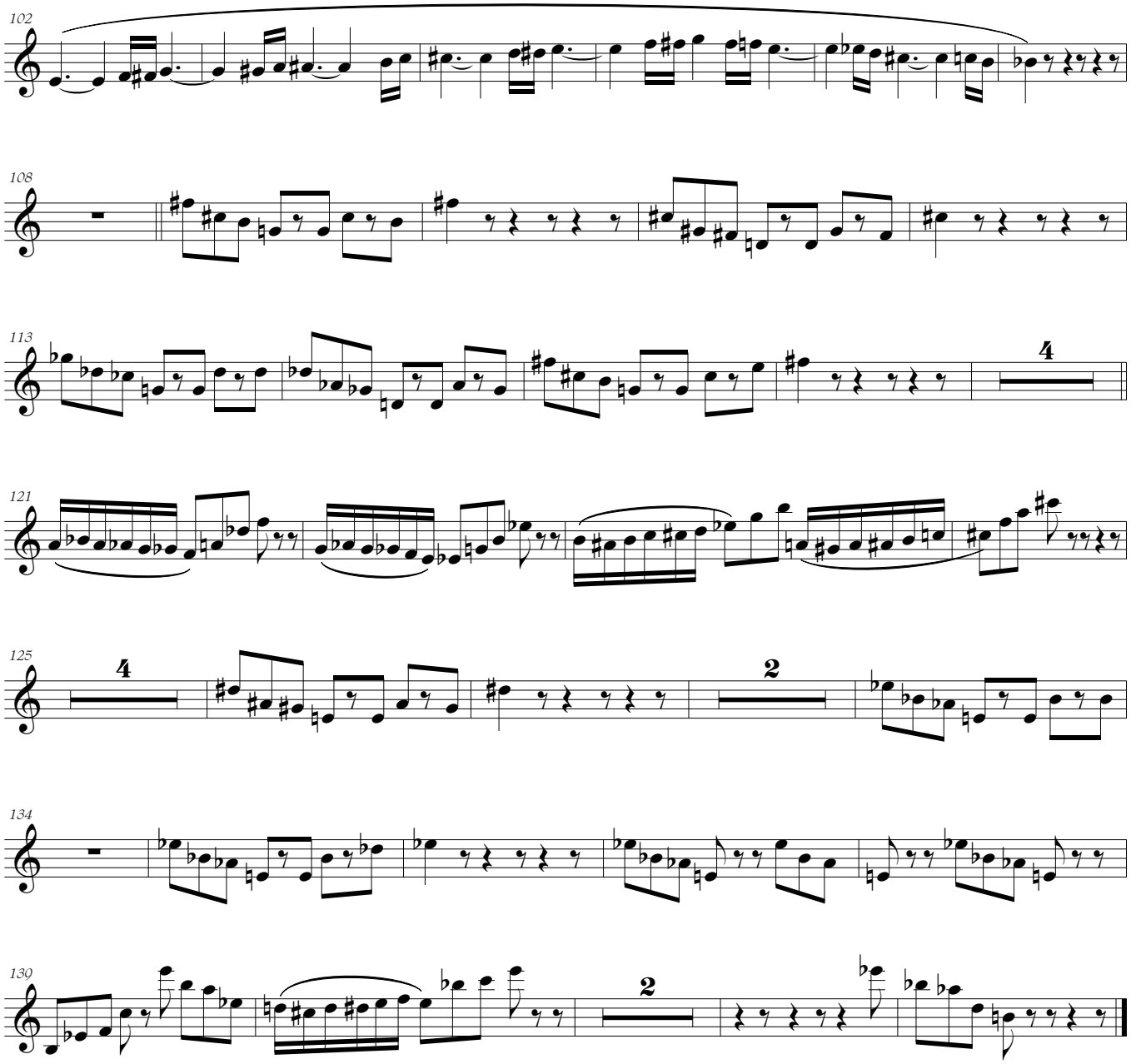

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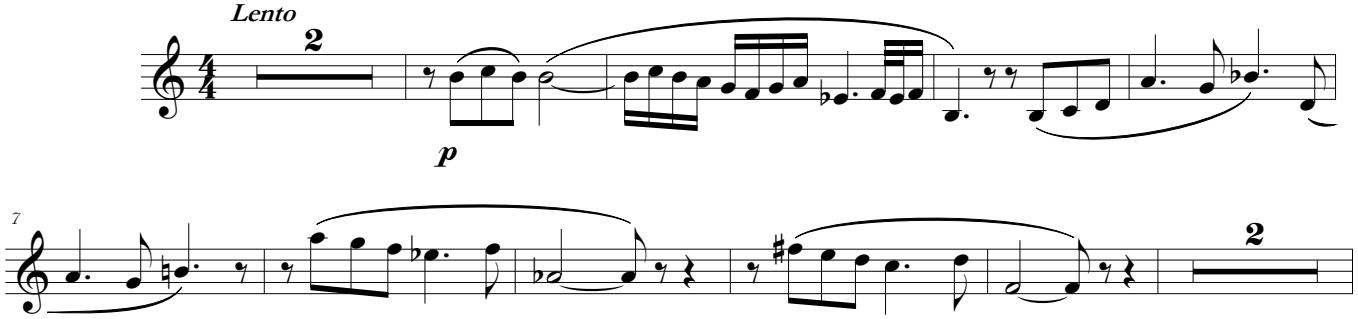

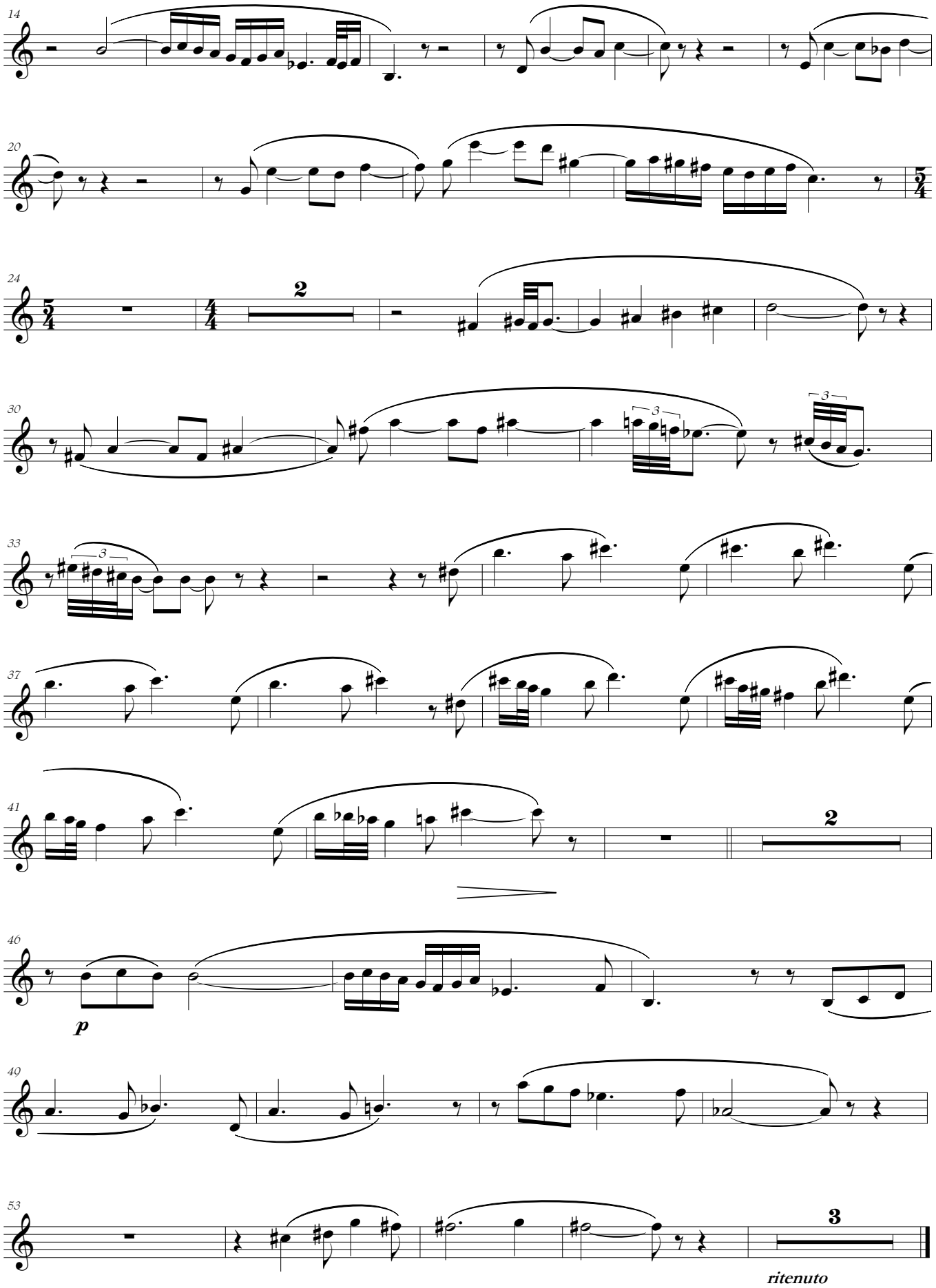
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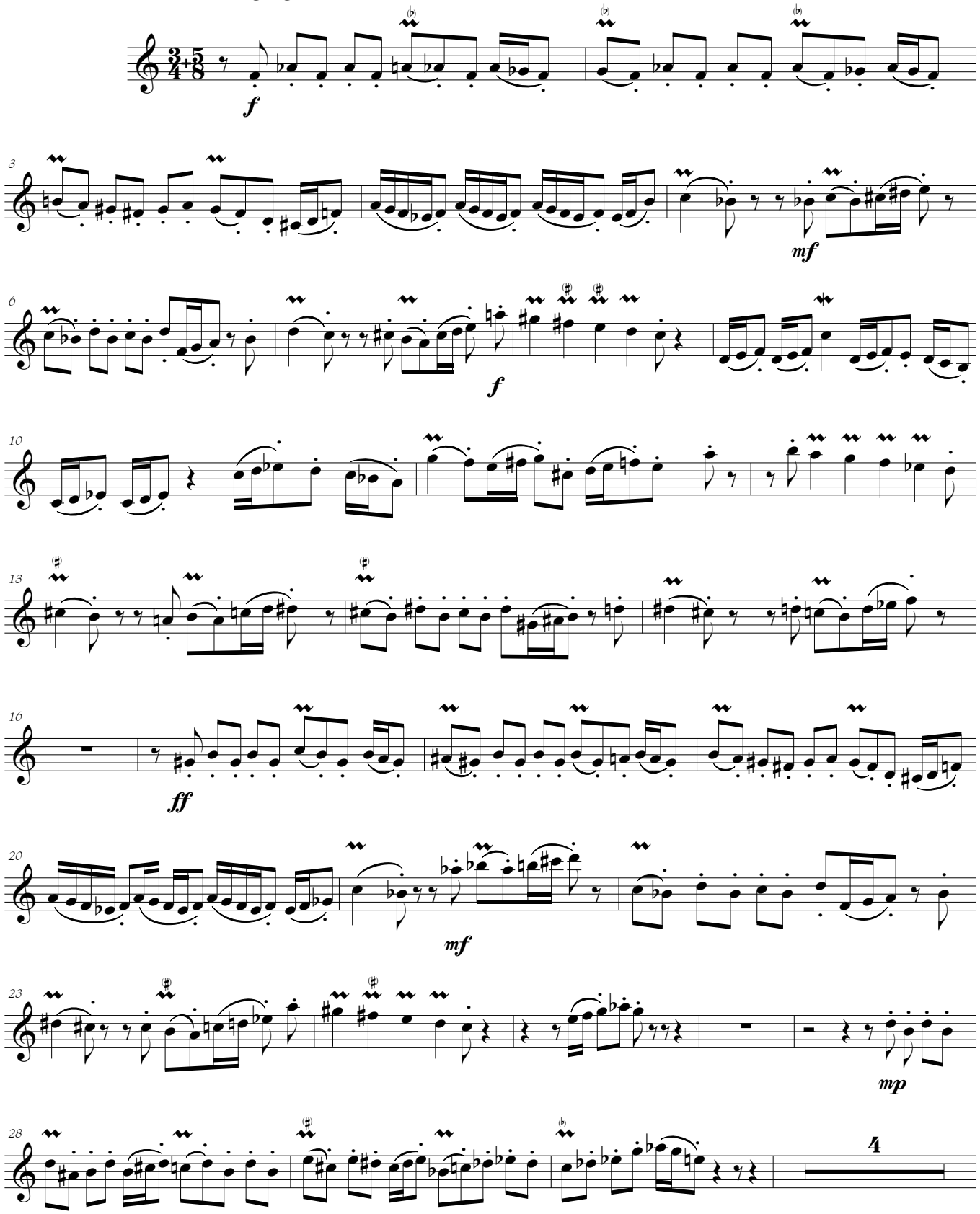

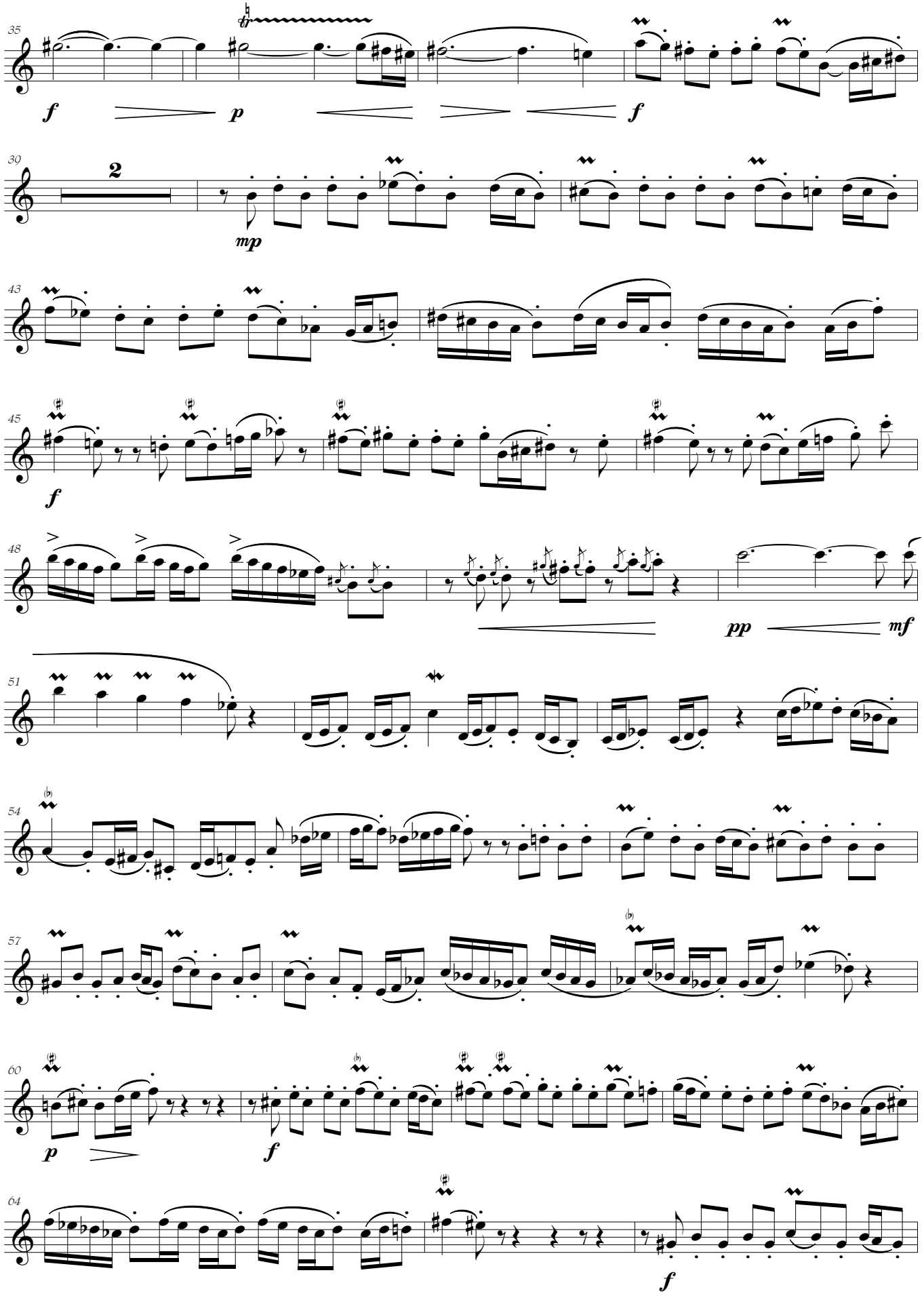
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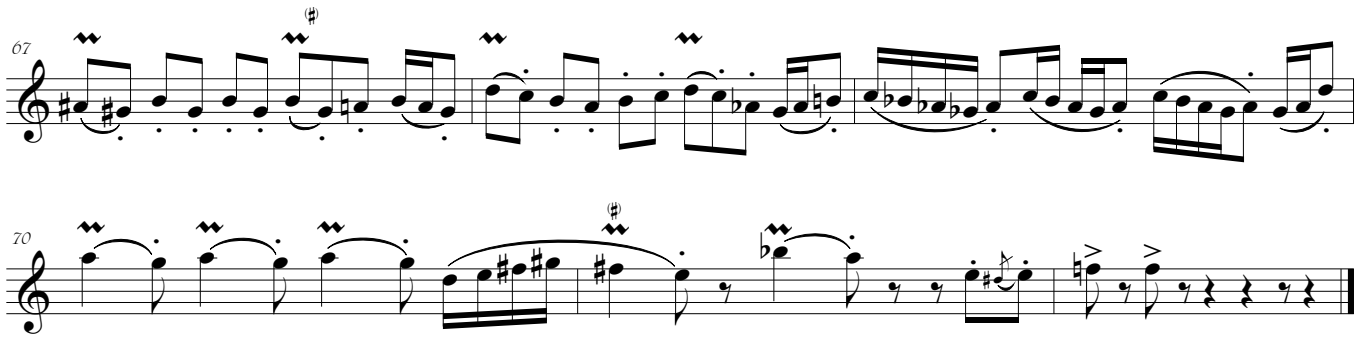
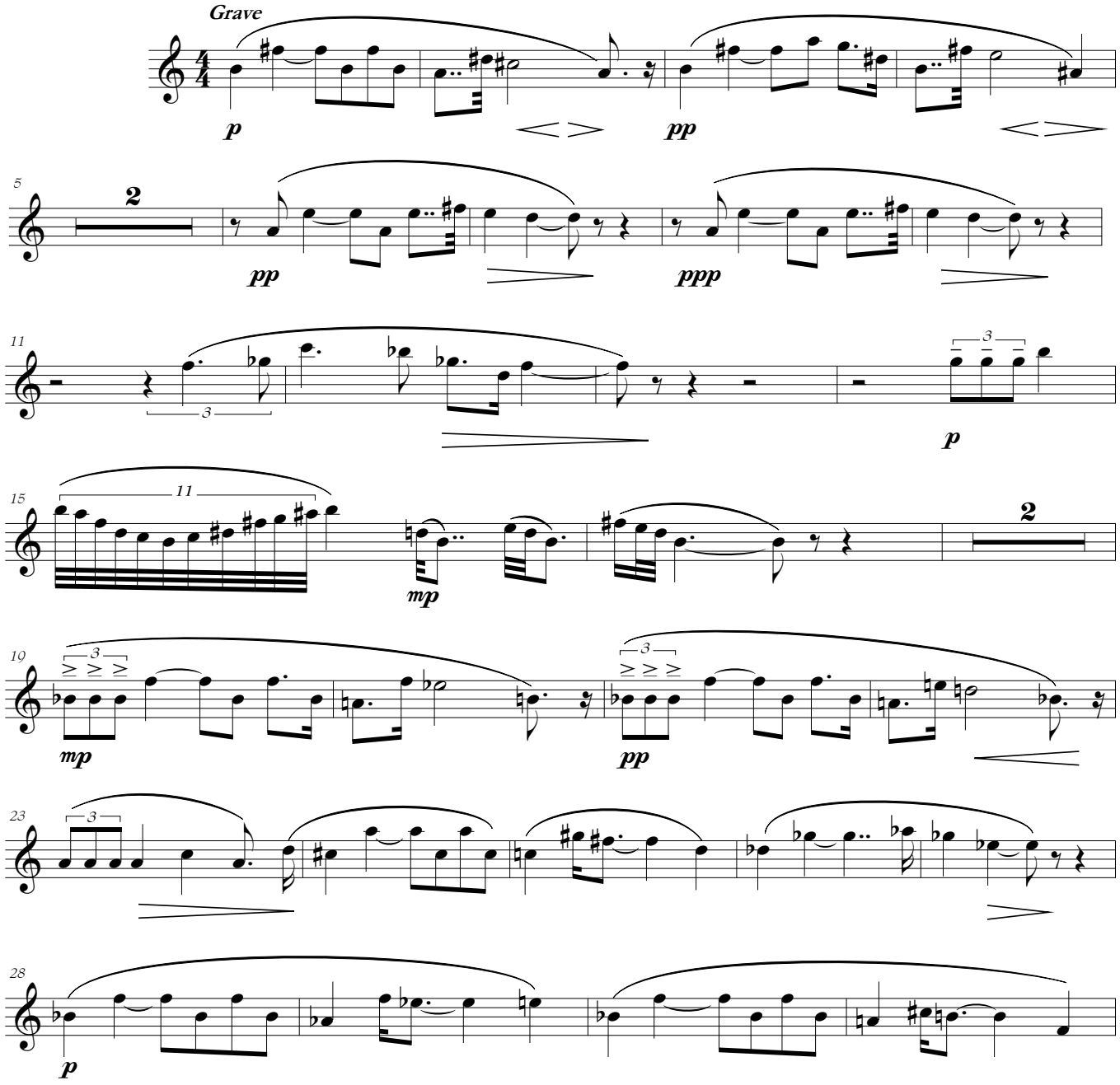
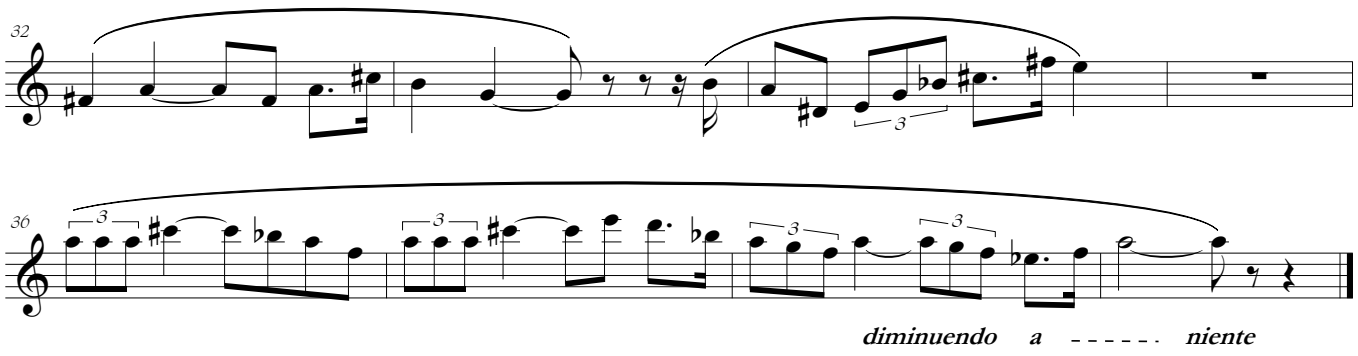


Apotheosis

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for Jennifer Paull

SONATA

' LES AMOURS '

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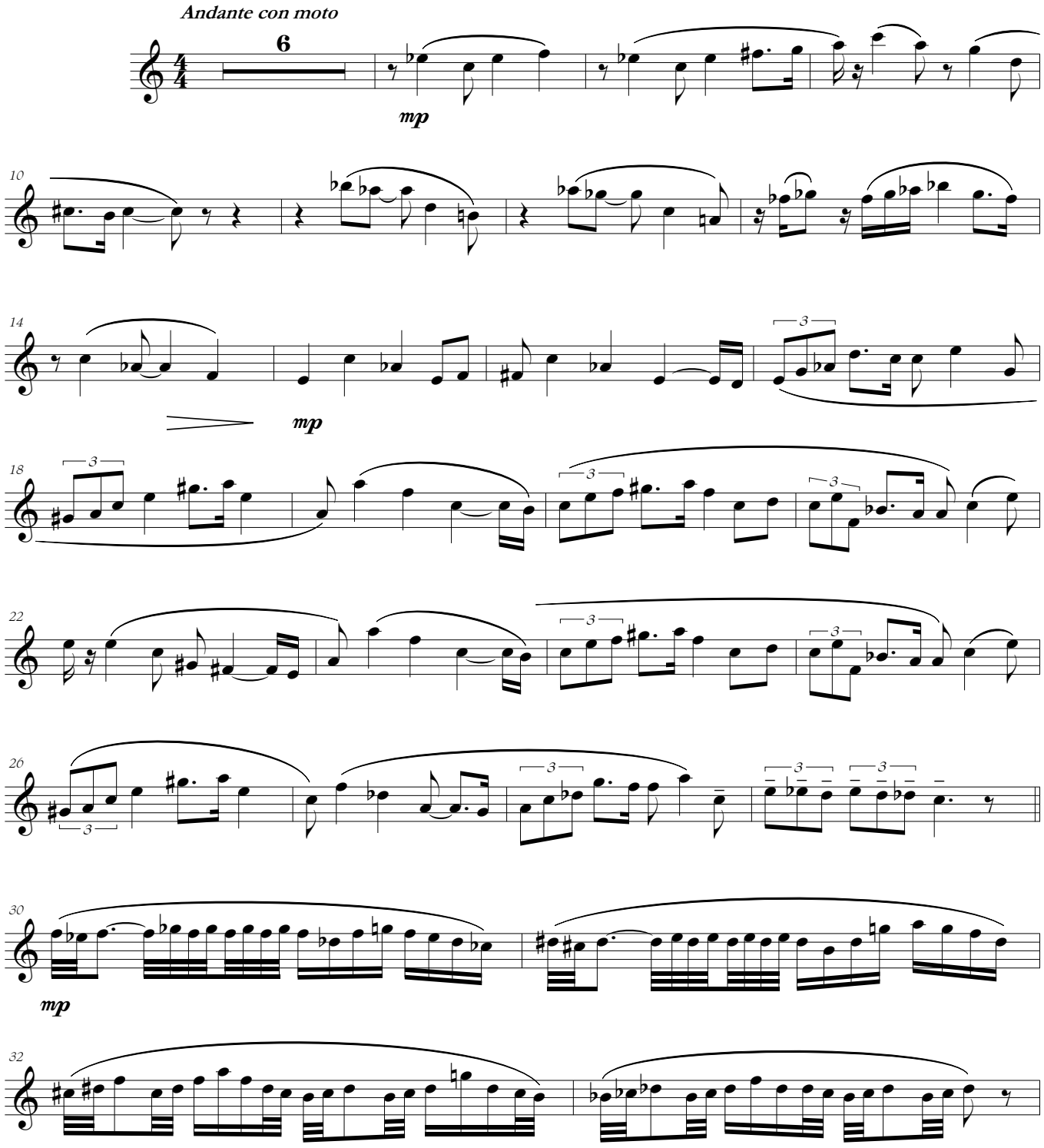
Oboe d'amore II

Ian Keith Harris
(1935 -)



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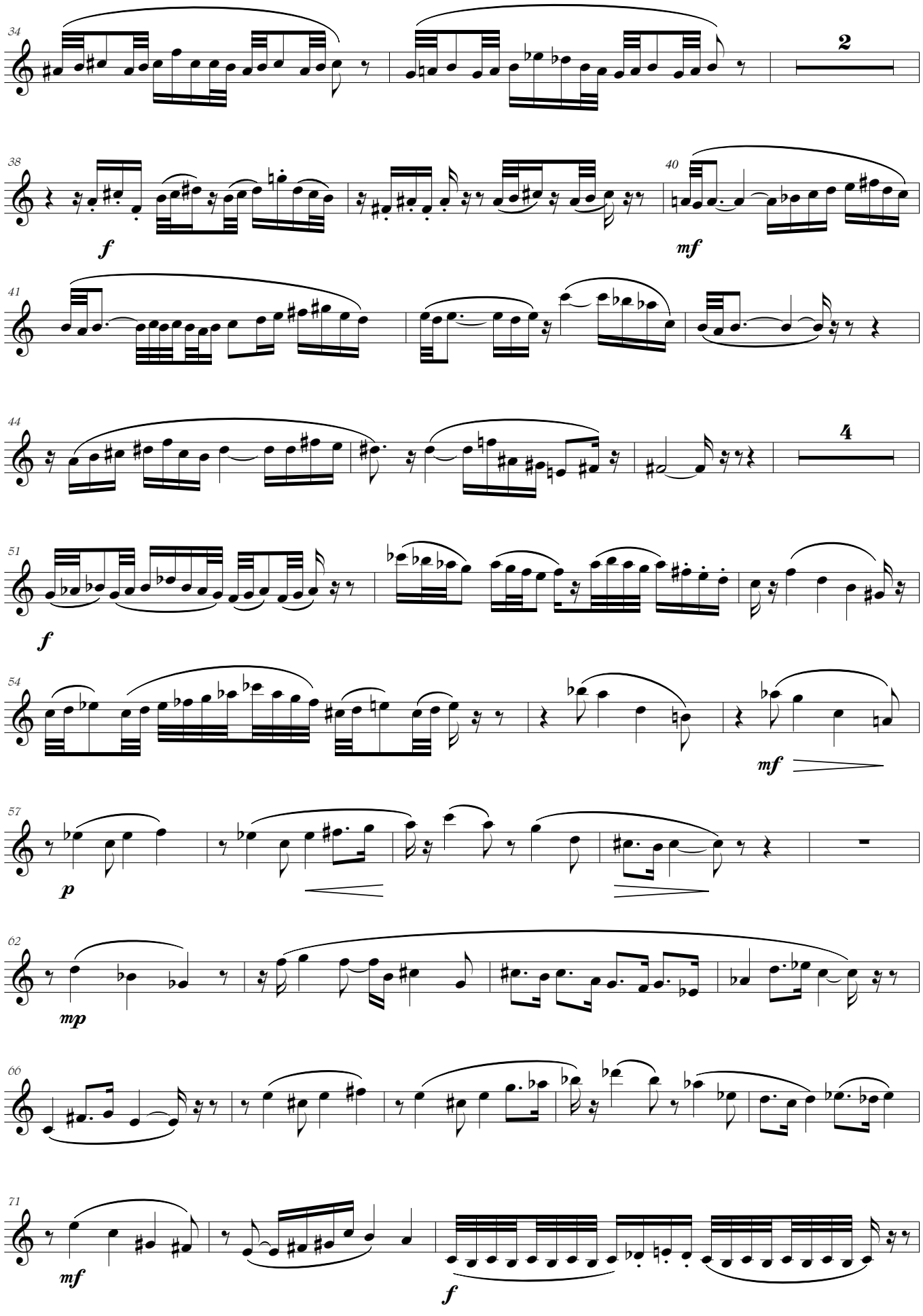
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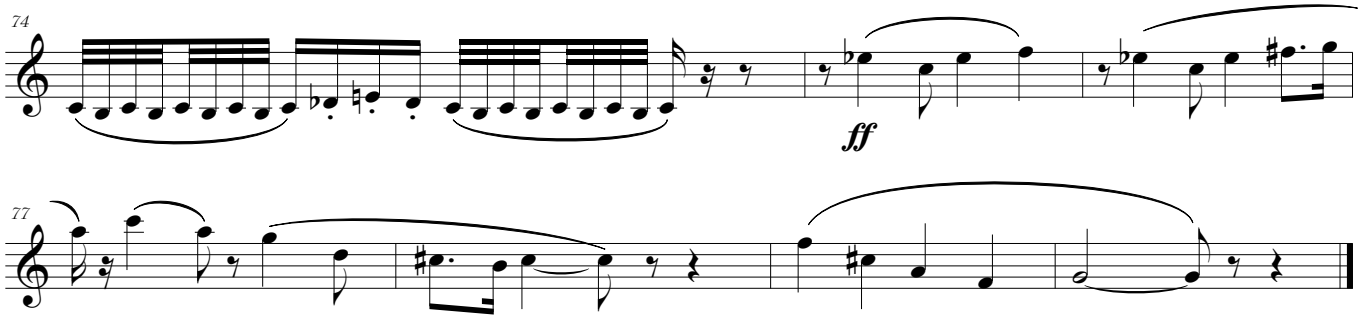

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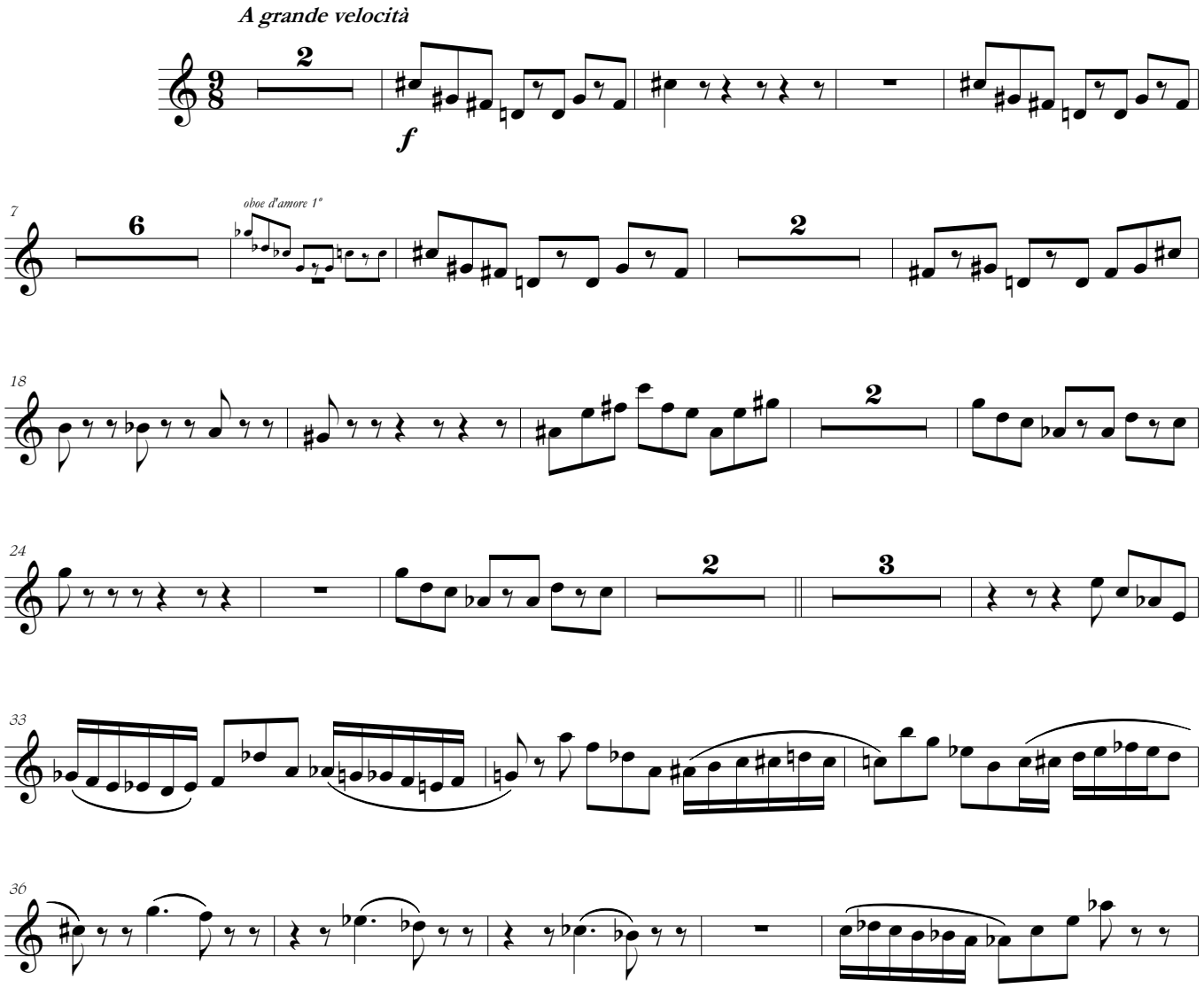

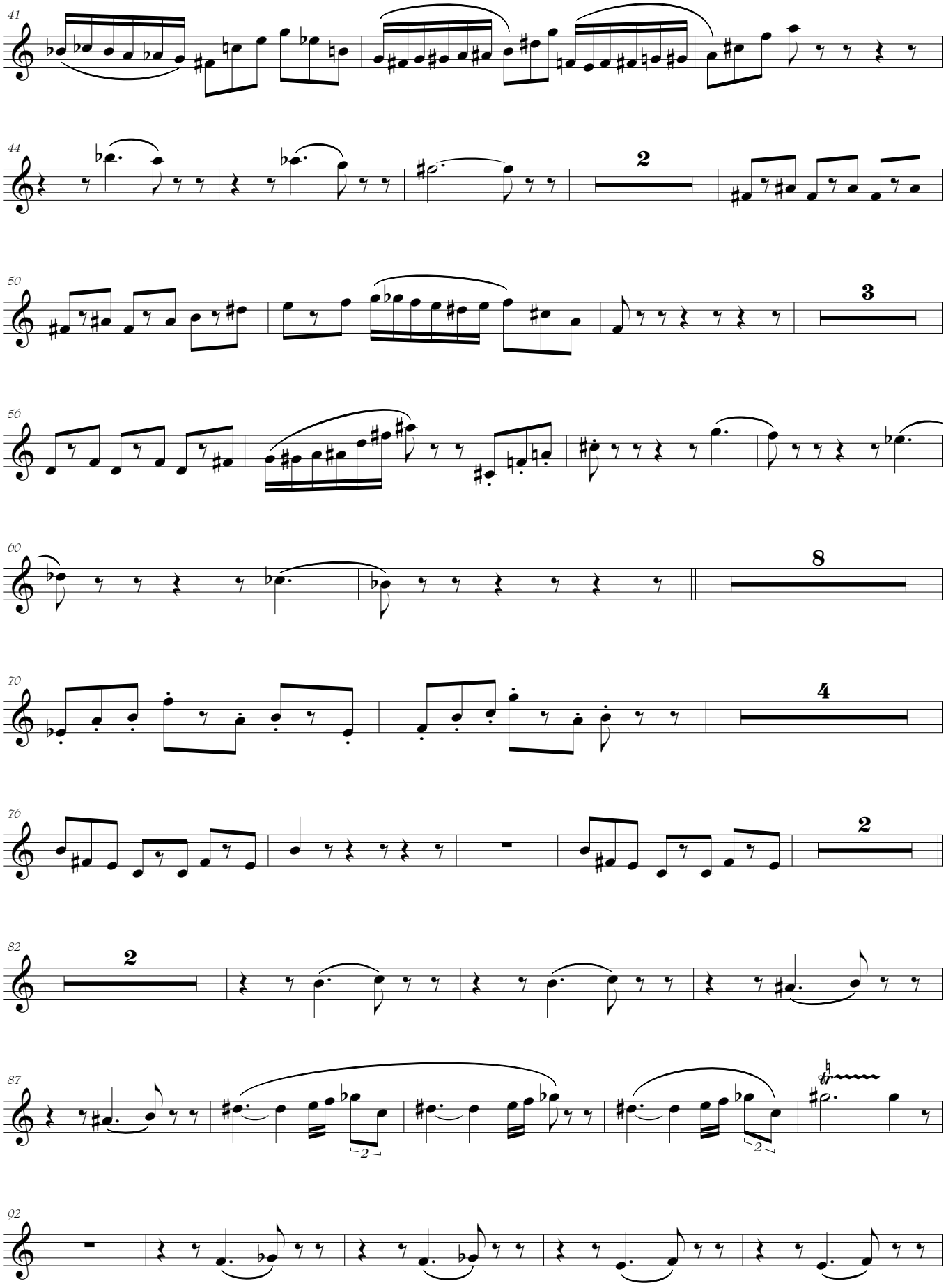
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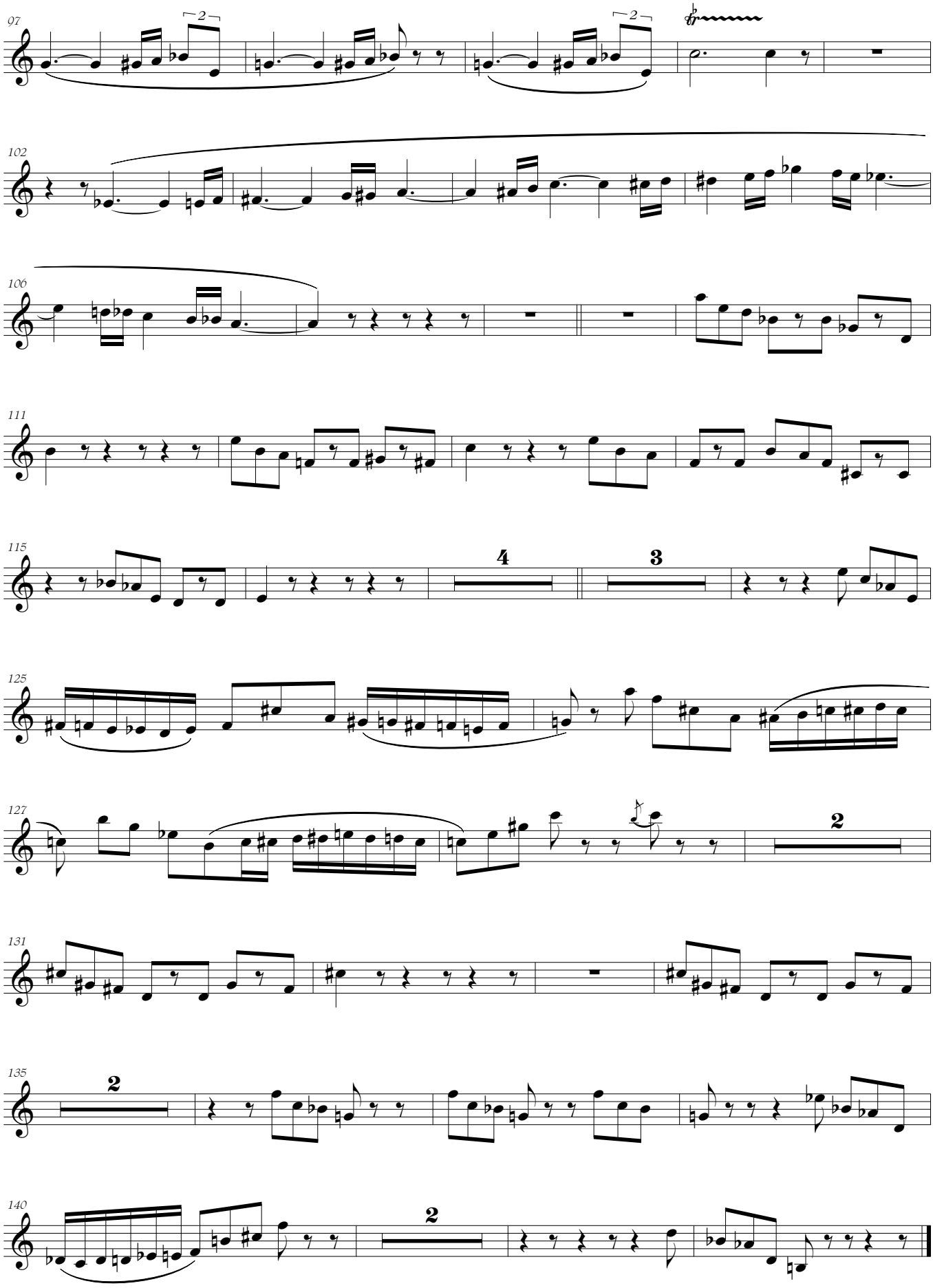

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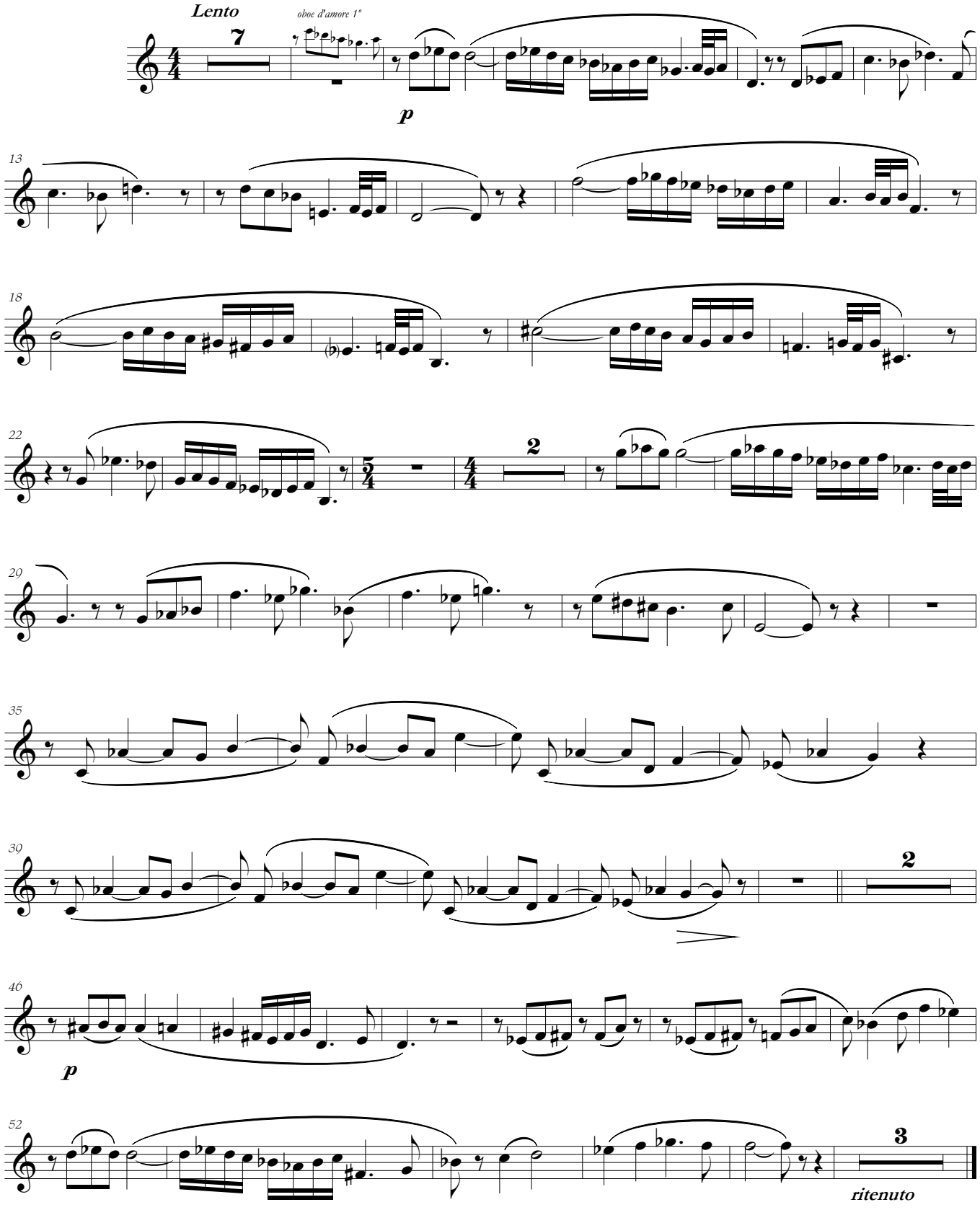

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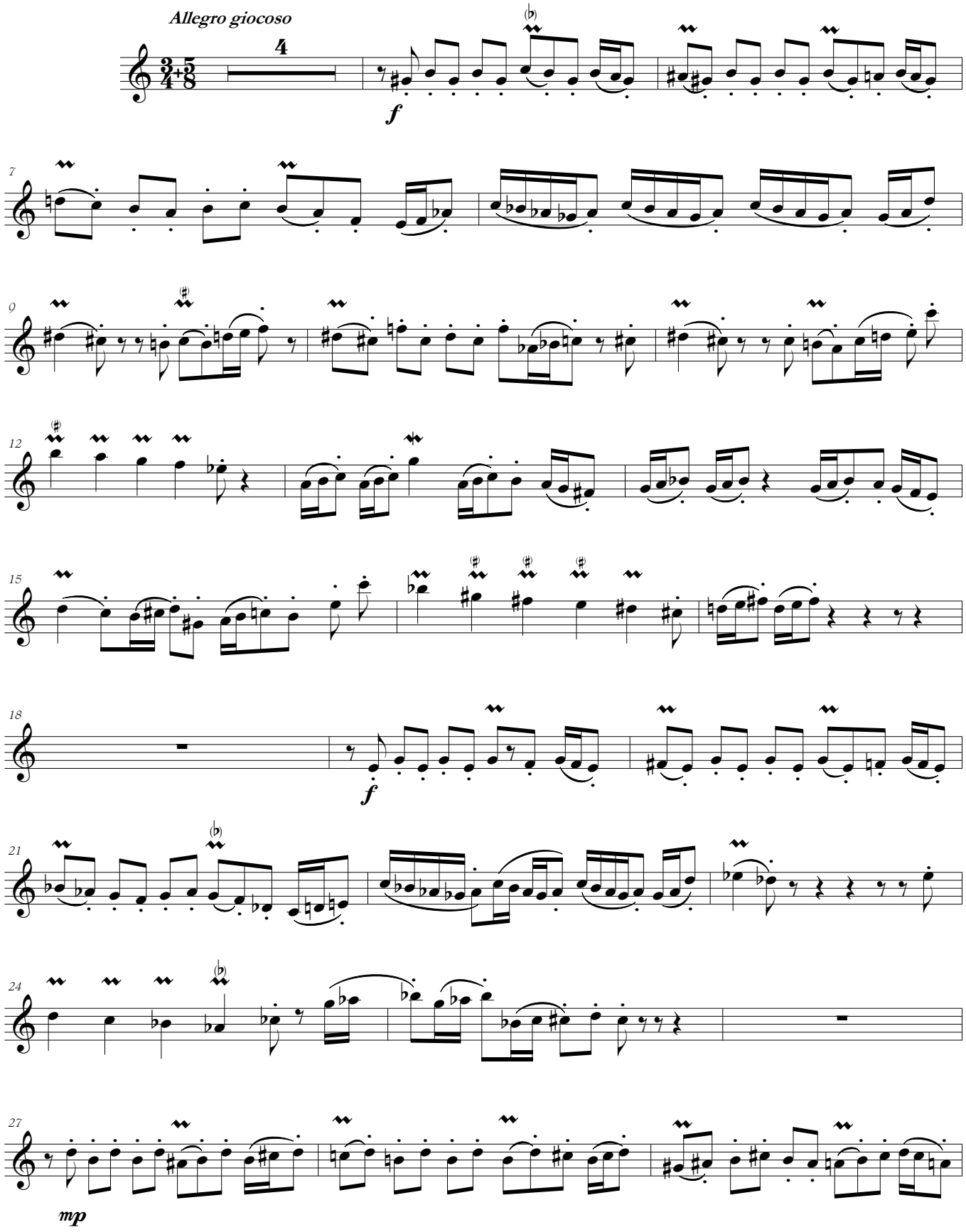

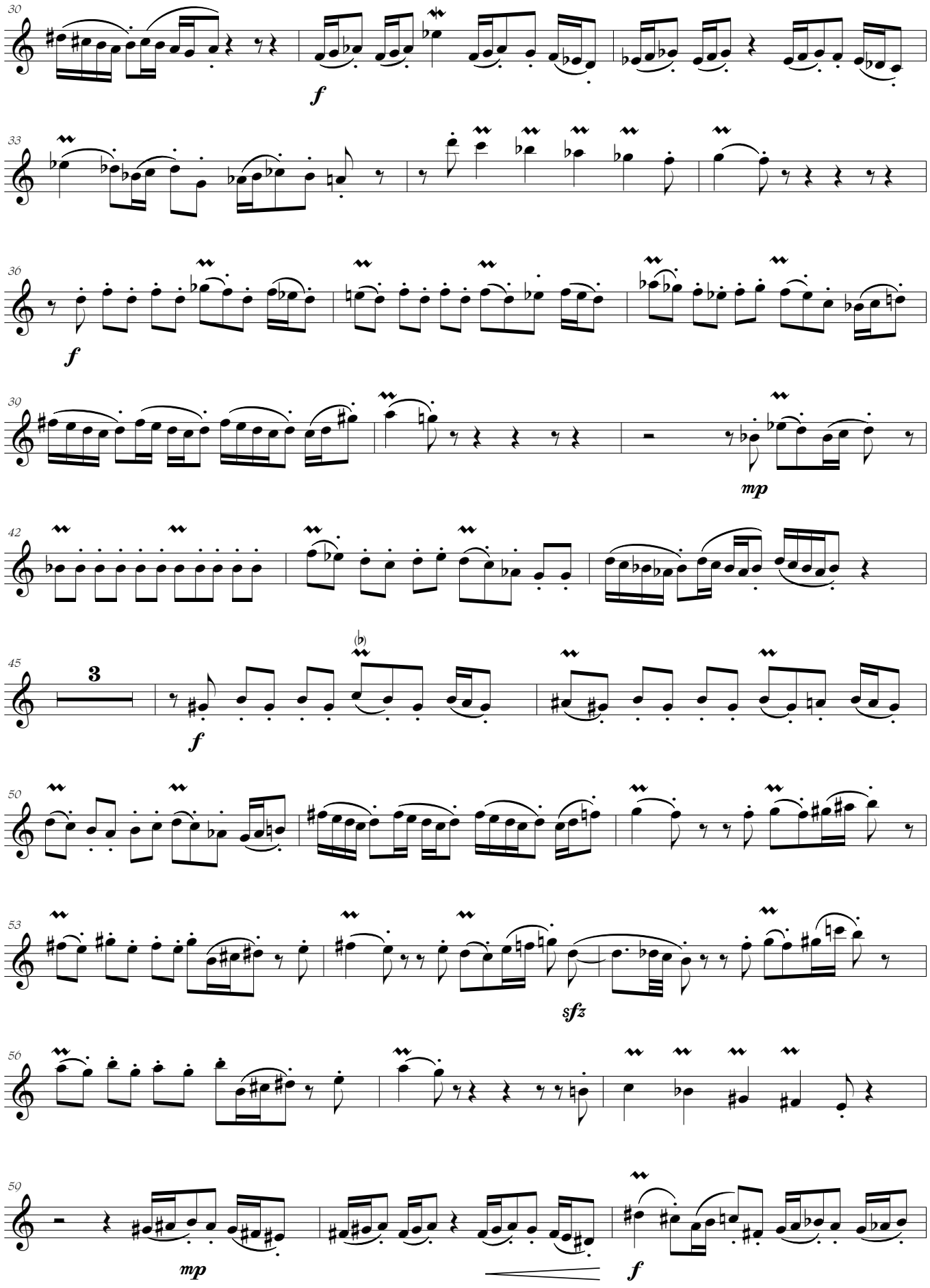
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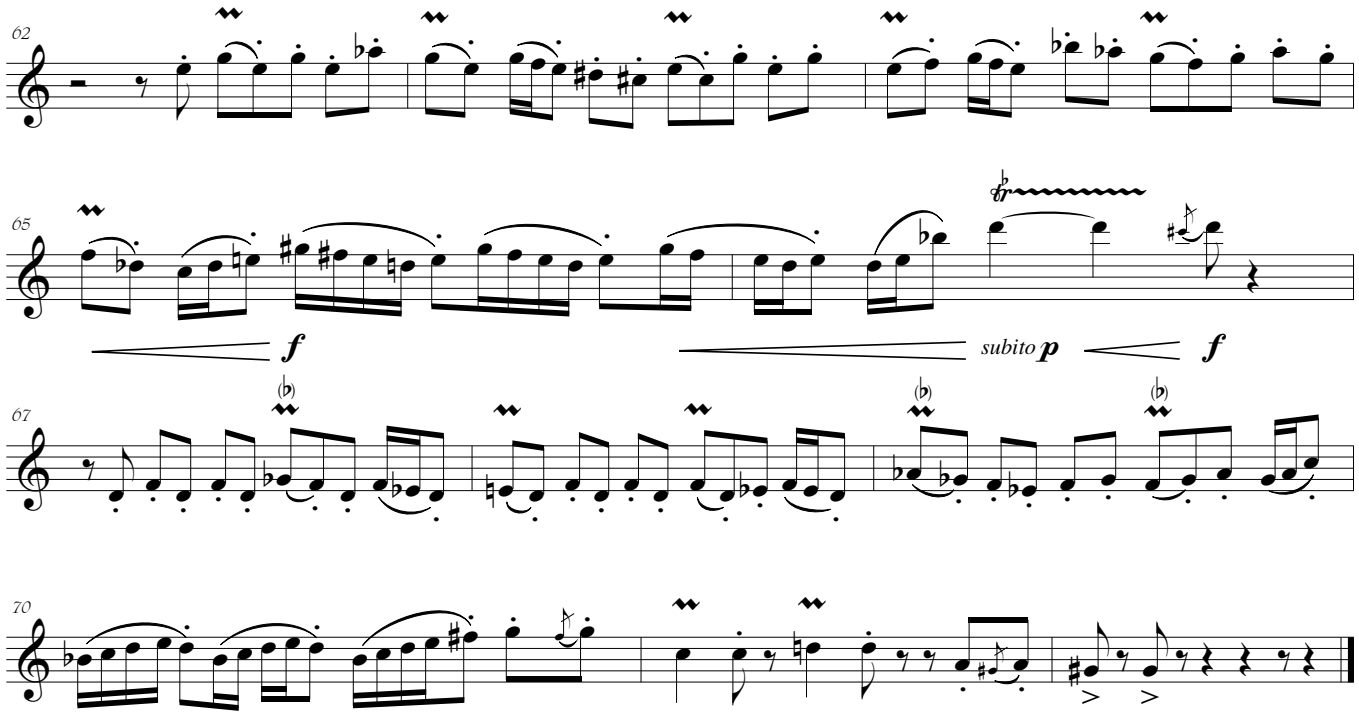
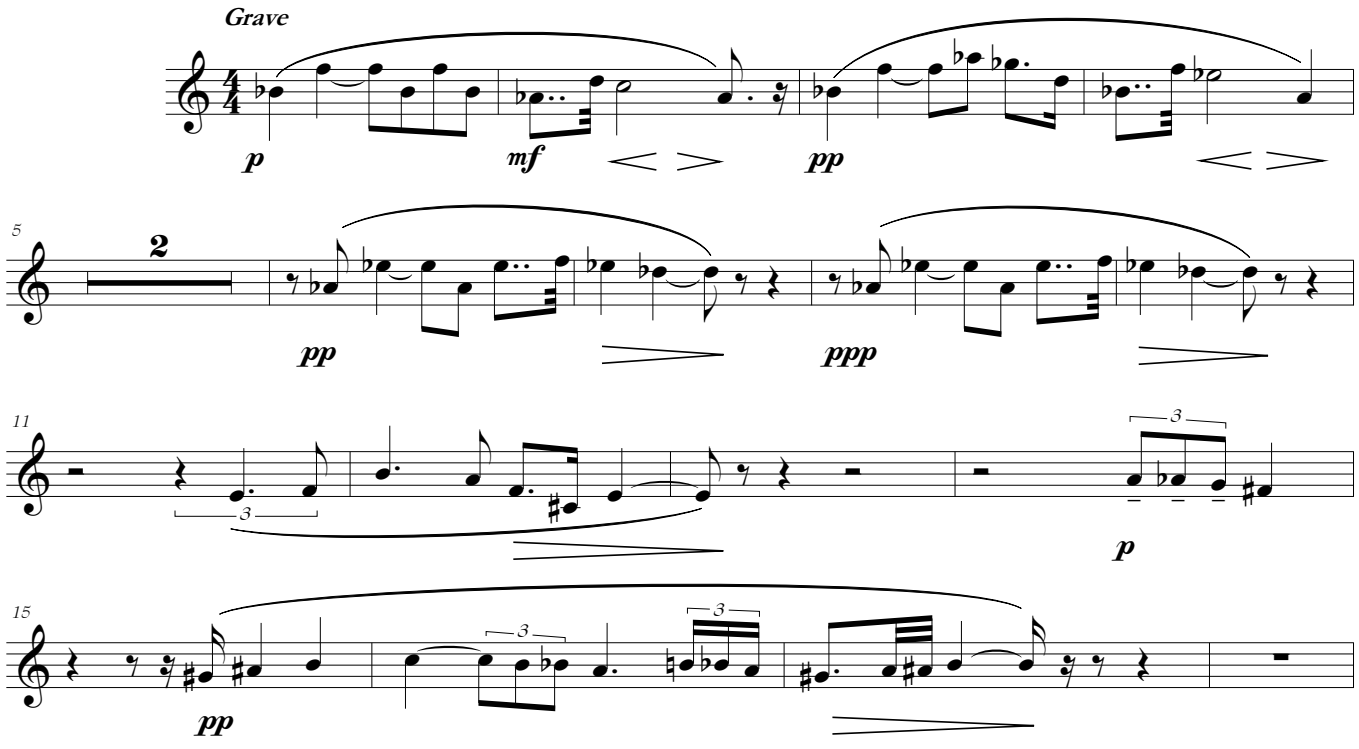
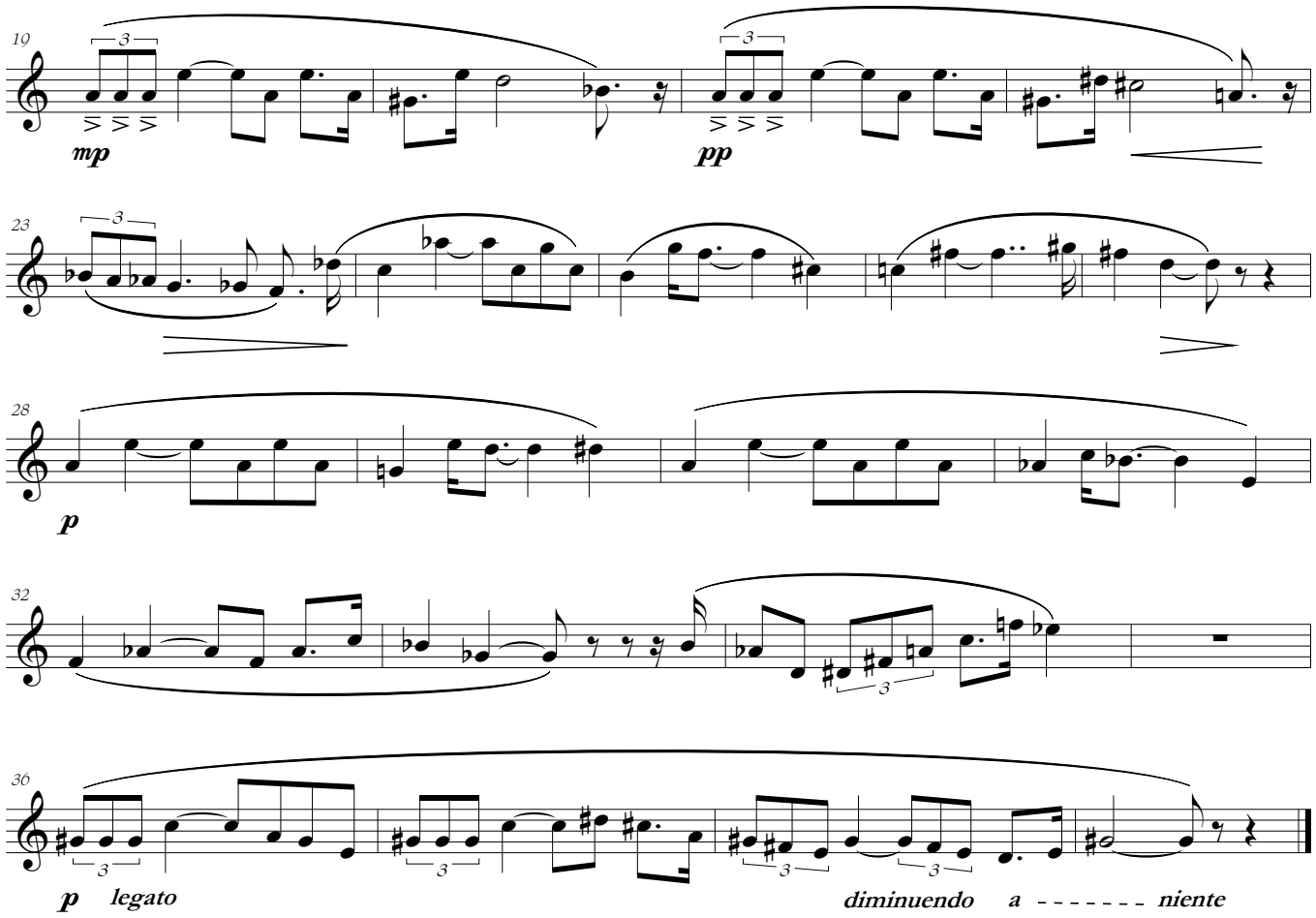


Apotheosis

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for Jennifer Paull

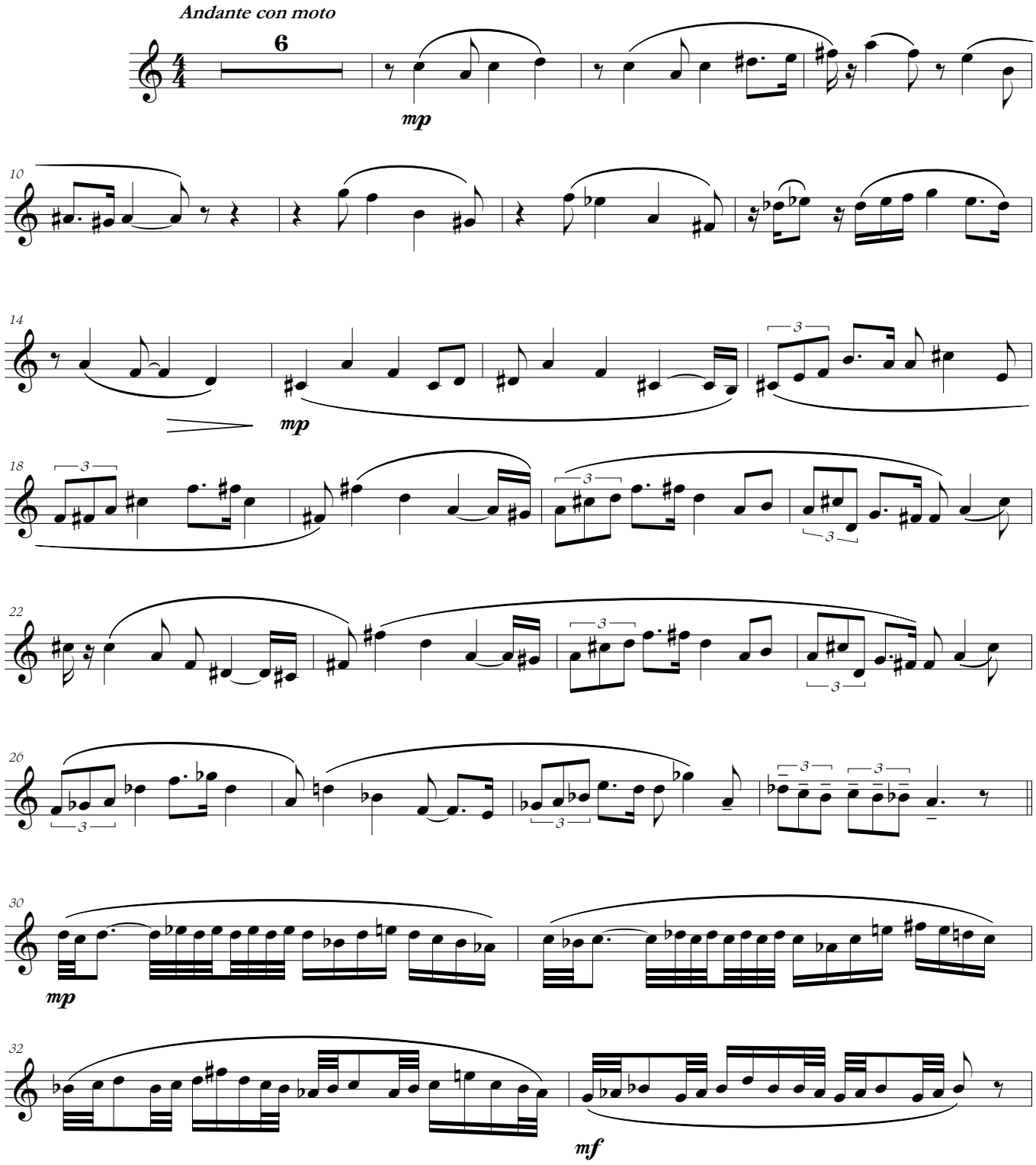
SONATA

' LES AMOURS '

I

Oboe II

Ian Keith Harris
(1935 -)



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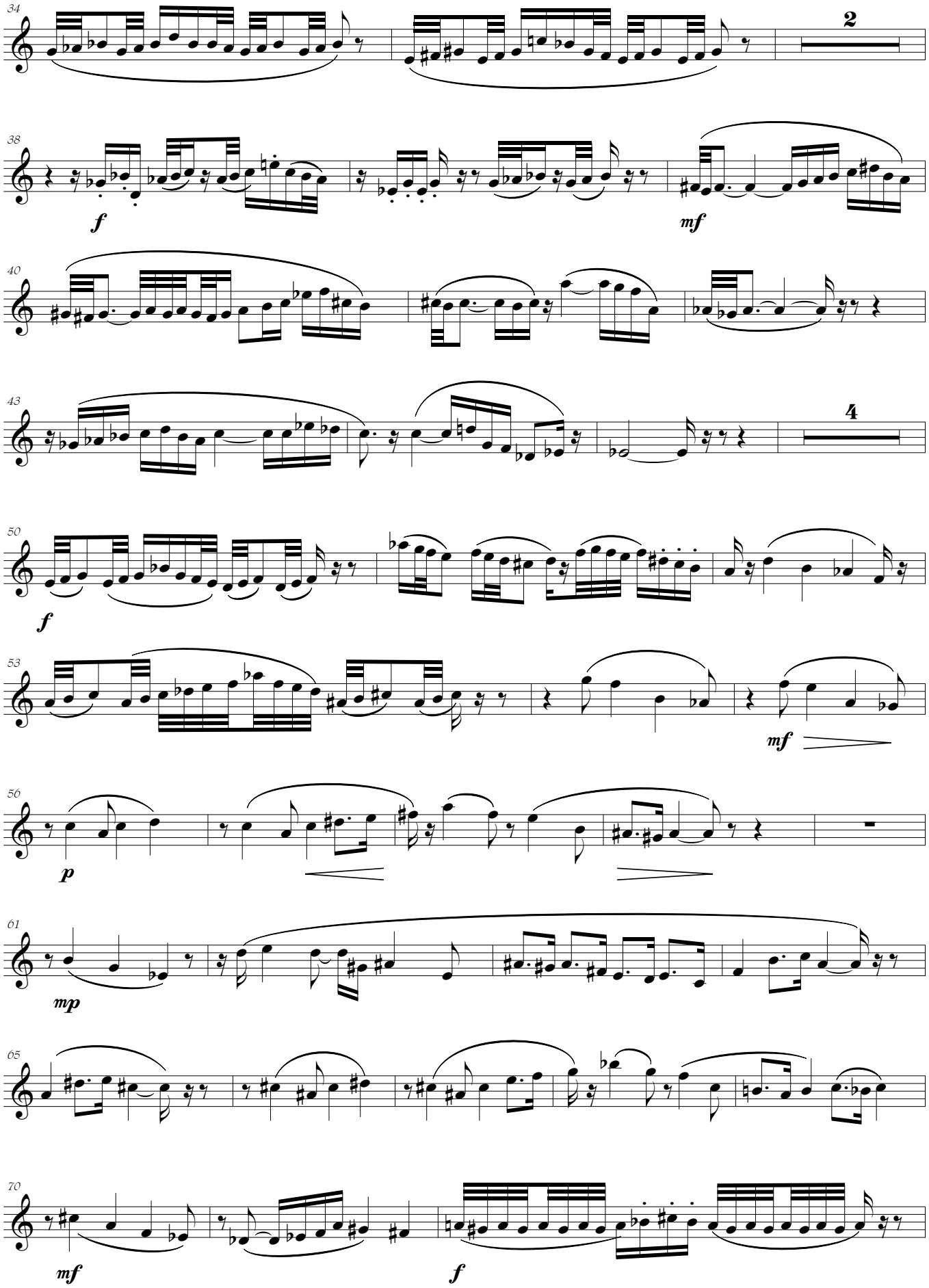
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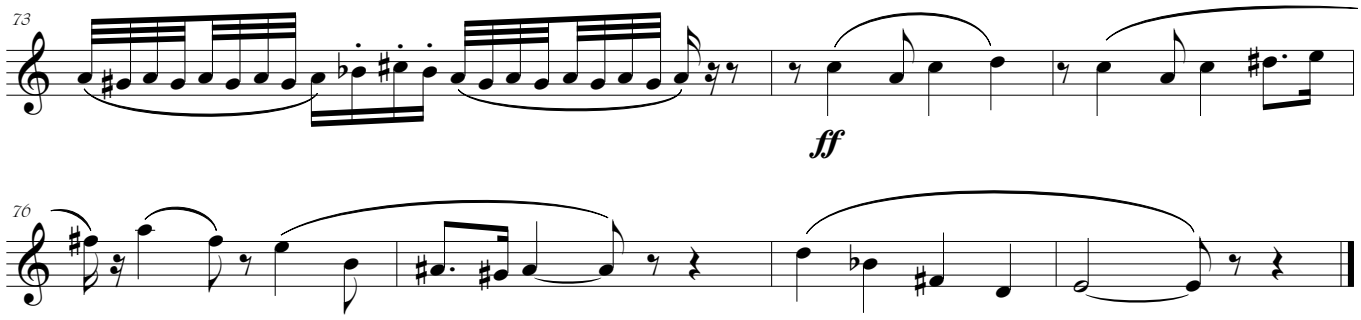

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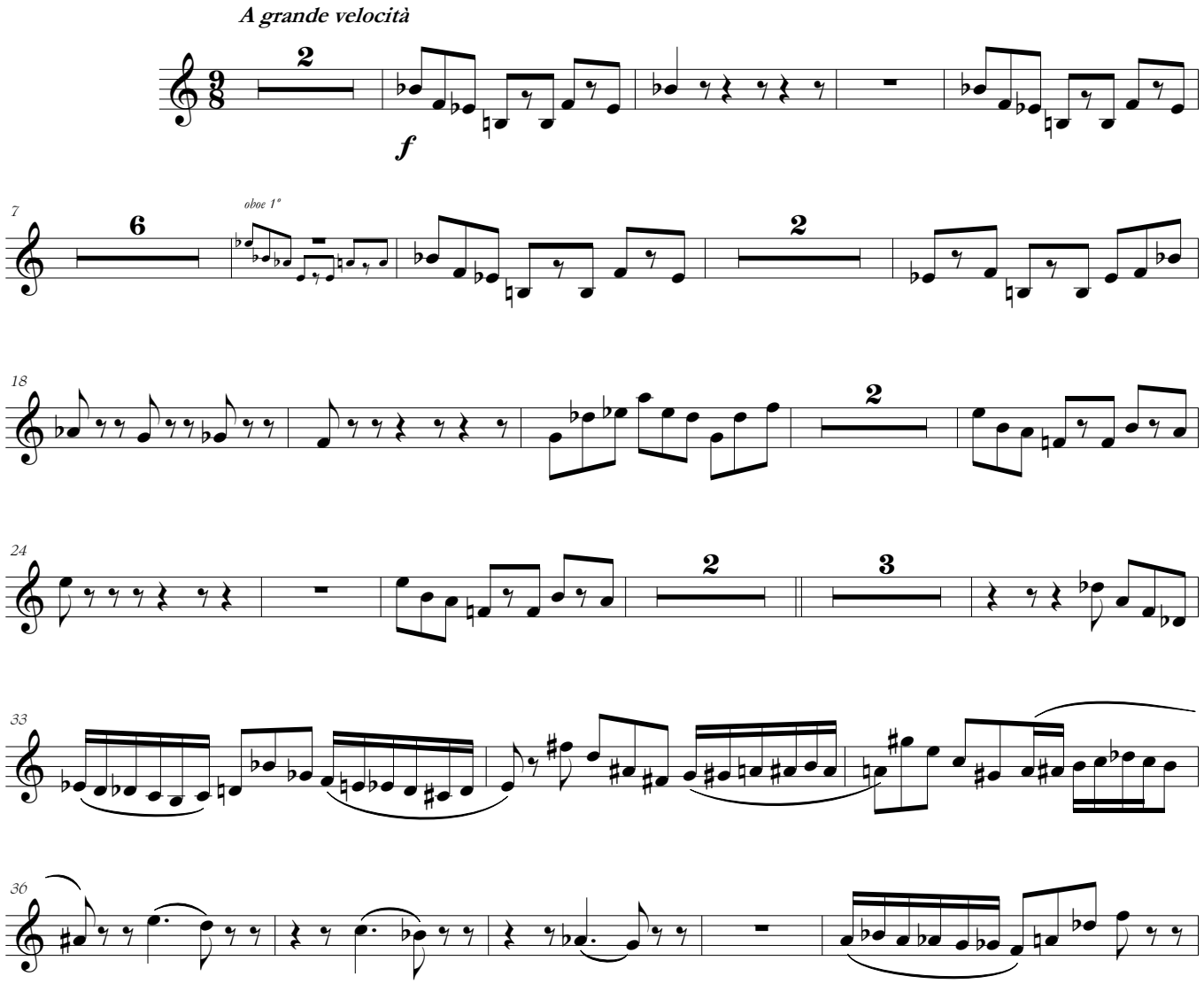

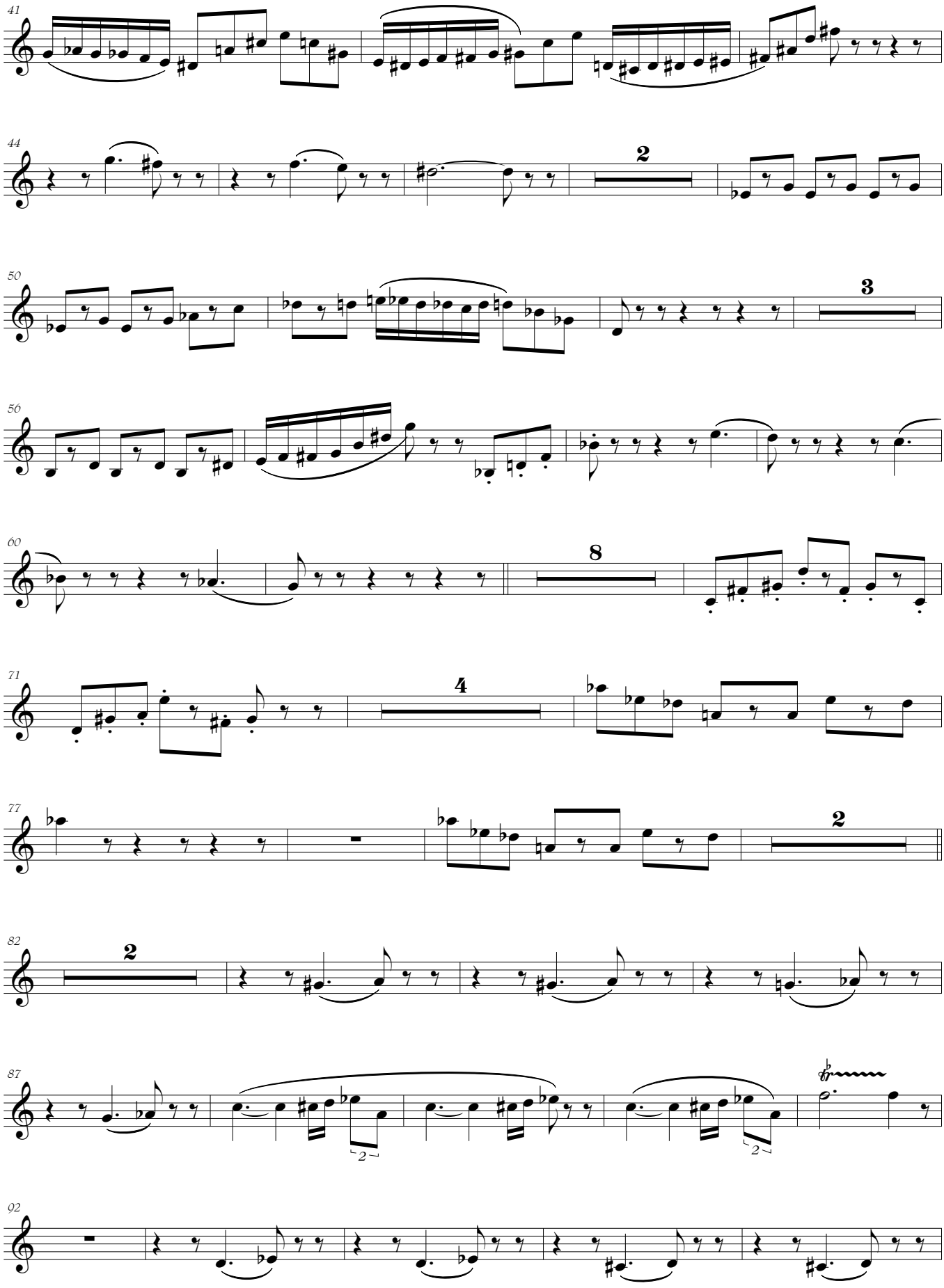

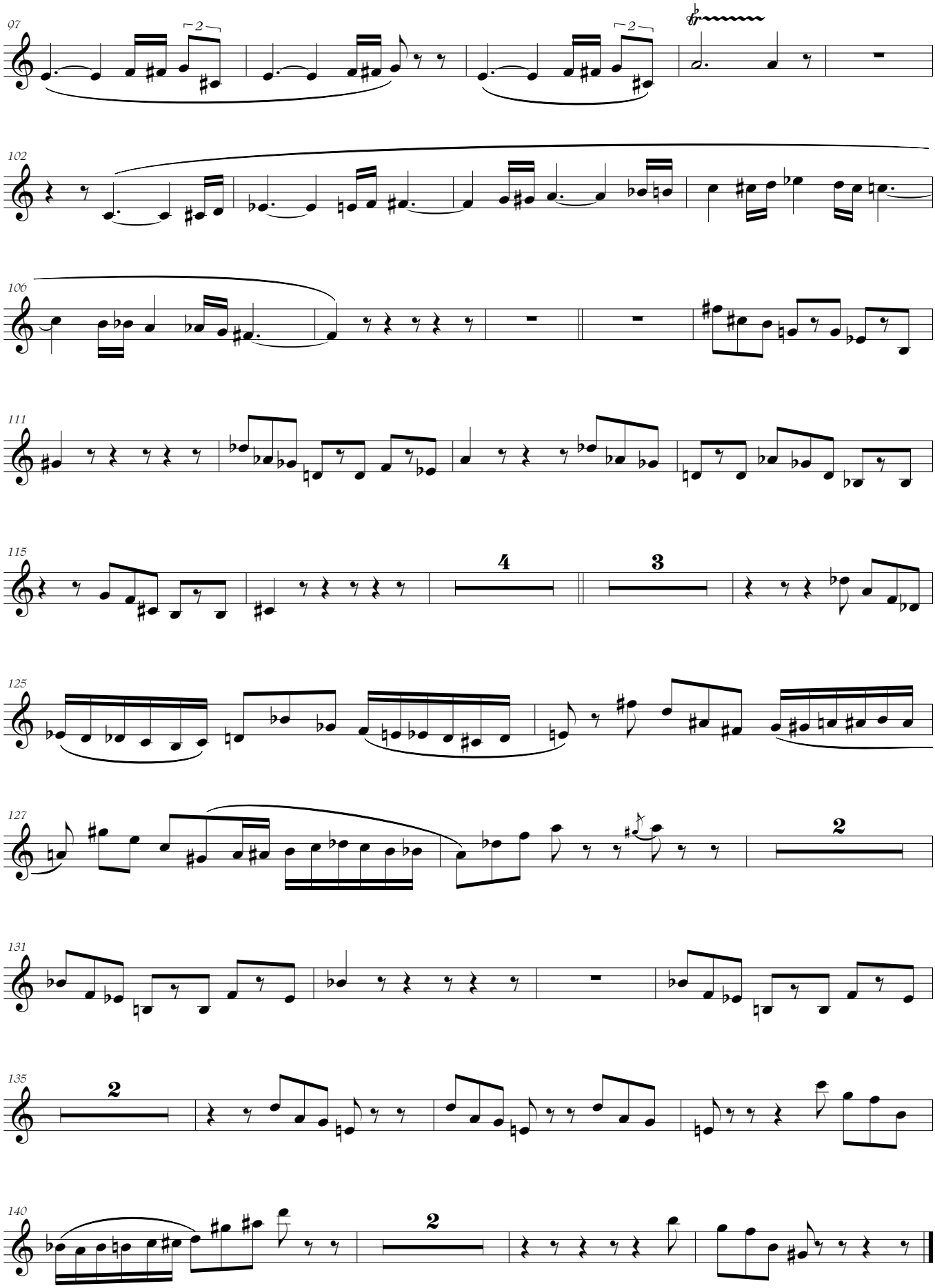

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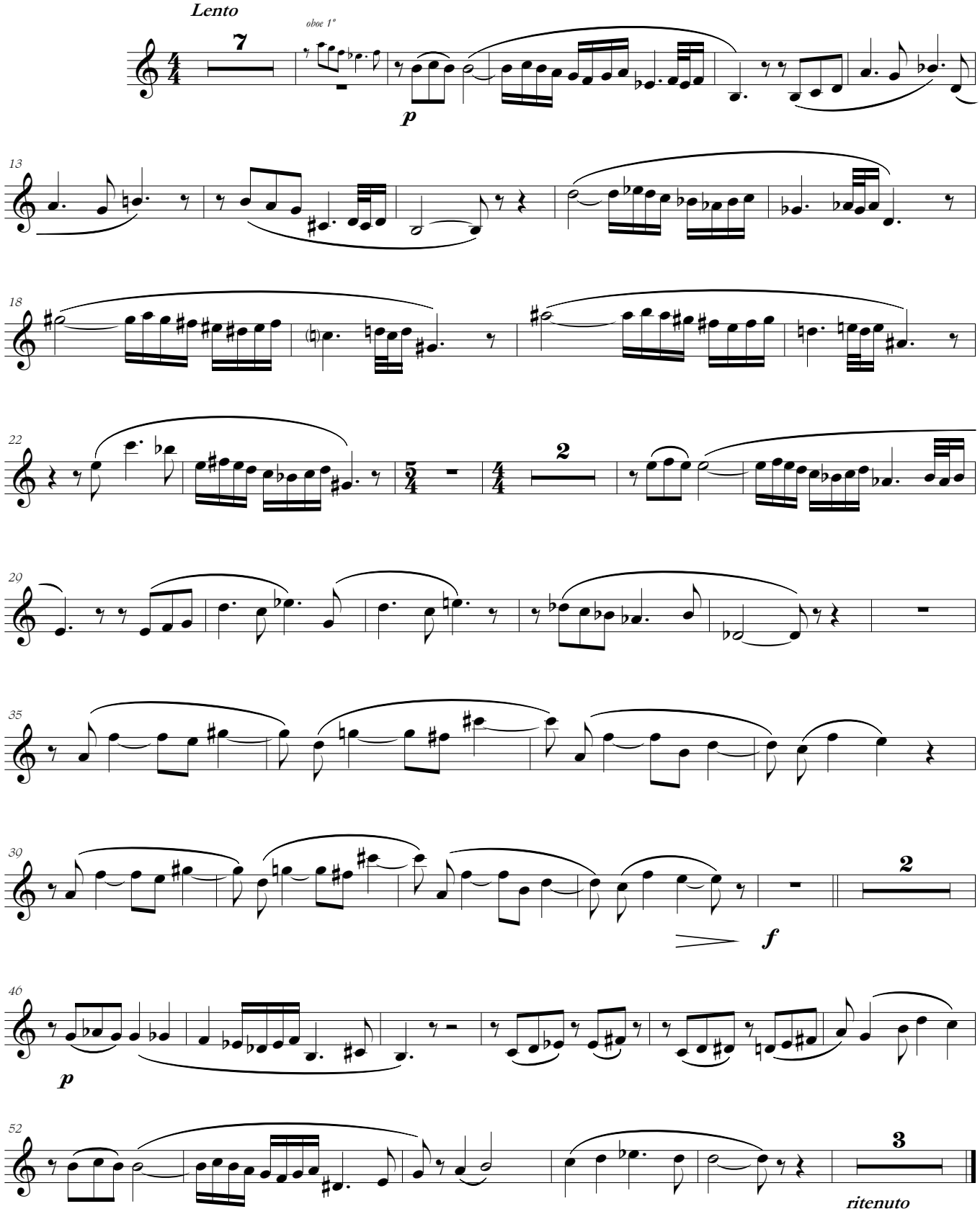

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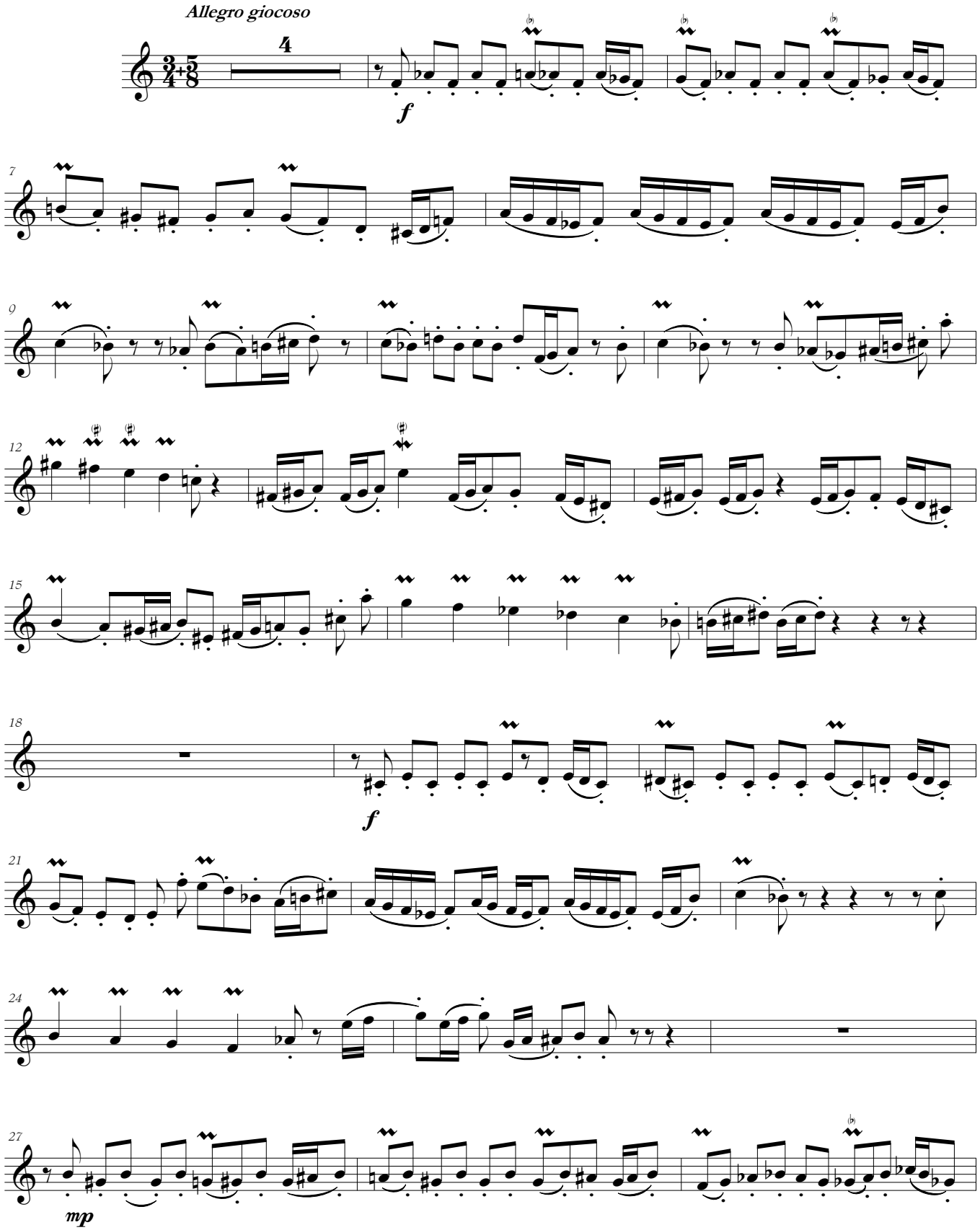

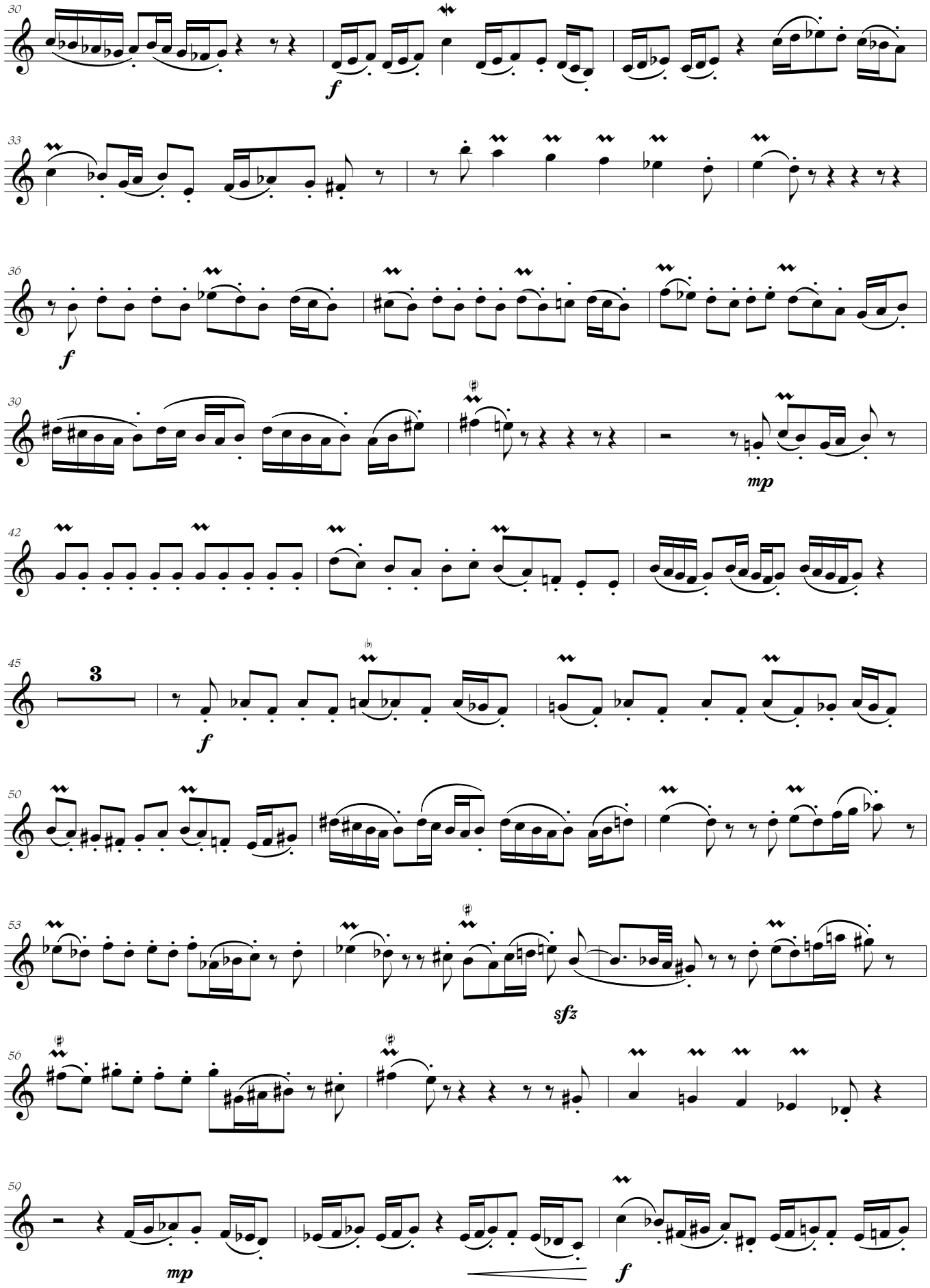
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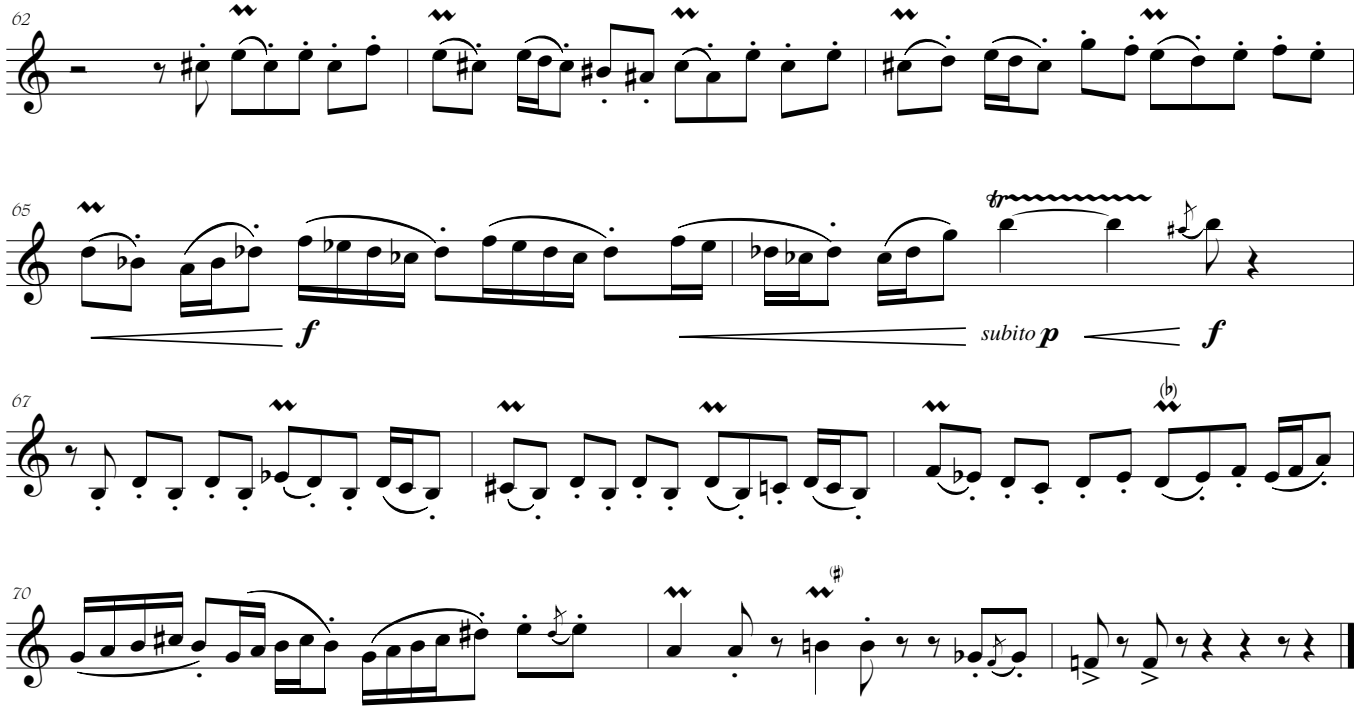

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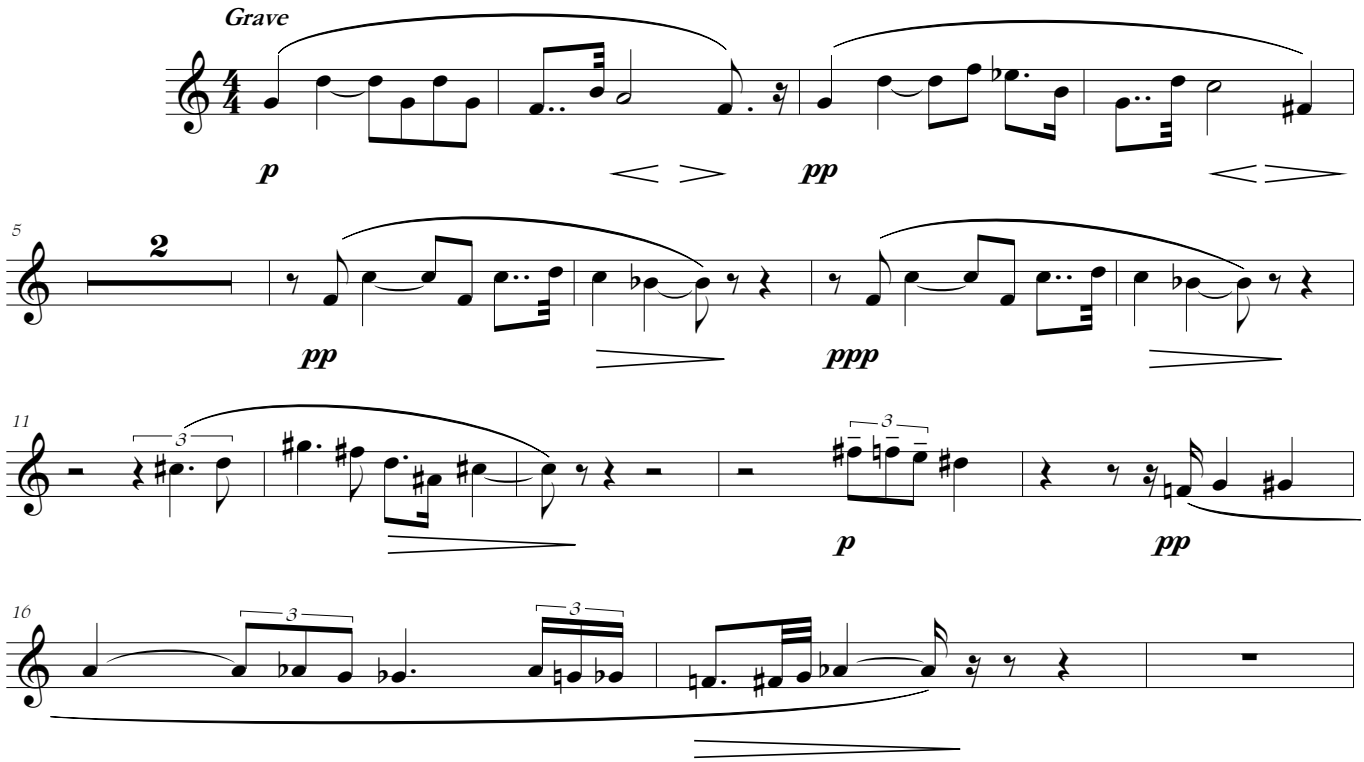

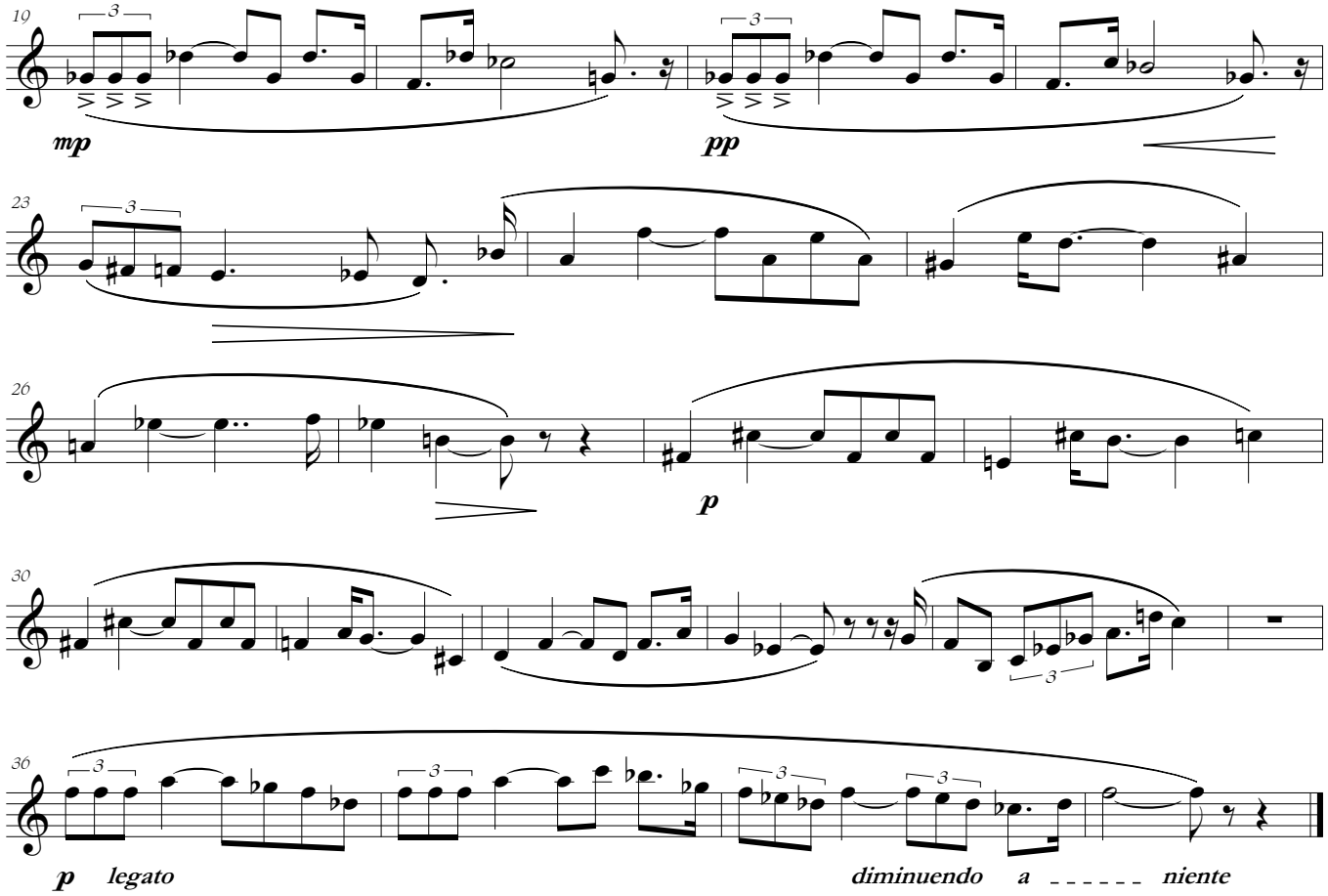
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