Derek B Scott

Suite, Op. 12

for harpsichord

Suite for Harpsichord

(1981)

I. Toccata
II. March
III. Elegy
IV. Polka
V. Air & Variations

The opening toccata was composed first, and then the march and polka. The Elegy takes its inspiration from Percy Bysshe Shelley's short poem 'On Fanny Godwin', written in 1816 after Mary Wollstonecraft's eldest daughter Fanny committed suicide in Swansea that year.

> Her voice did quiver as we parted,
> Yet knew I not that heart was broken
> From which it came, and I departed
> Heeding not the words then spoken.
> Misery—O Misery,
> This world is all too wide for thee.

The final movement is a set of variations based on the air 'The Miller of Dee'. The miller lives beside the River Dee, which has its source in Dduallt, Snowdonia, and the song is most often sung to a Welsh harp tune, *Llydaw* (Brittany). However, Chester, which was built over the River Dee, was the location known for mills and millers. The song first appeared in Isaac Bickerstaffe's play, *Love in a Village* (1762), with music arranged by Thomas Arne. The lyrics begin as follows:

> There dwelt a miller, hale and bold, beside the river Dee;
> He danced and sang from morn till night, no lark so blithe as he;
> And this the burden of his song forever used to be: -
> "I care for nobody, no not I, if nobody cares for me."

Derek B. Scott

Suite for Harpsichord

I. Toccata

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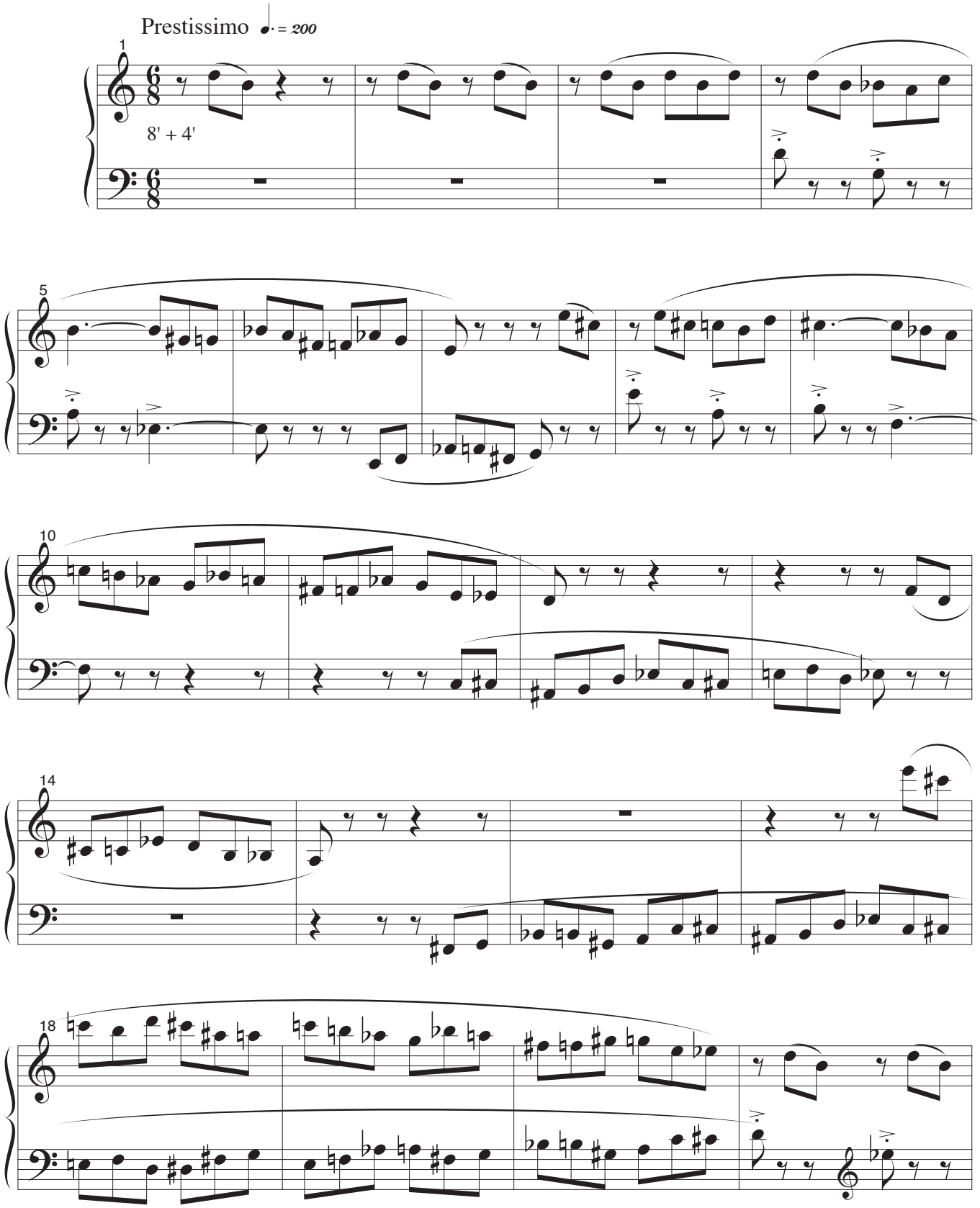
Op. 12 (1981)



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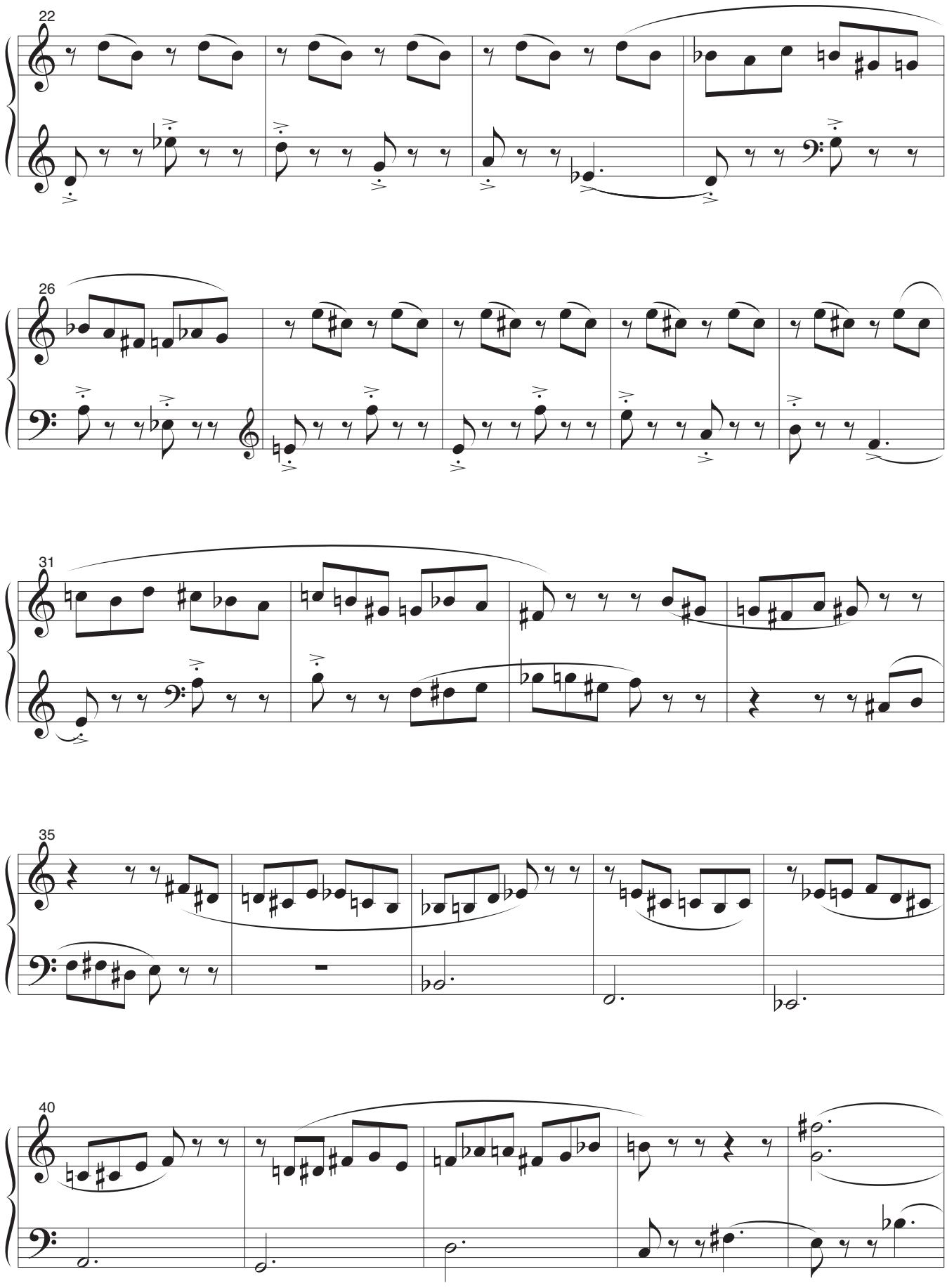
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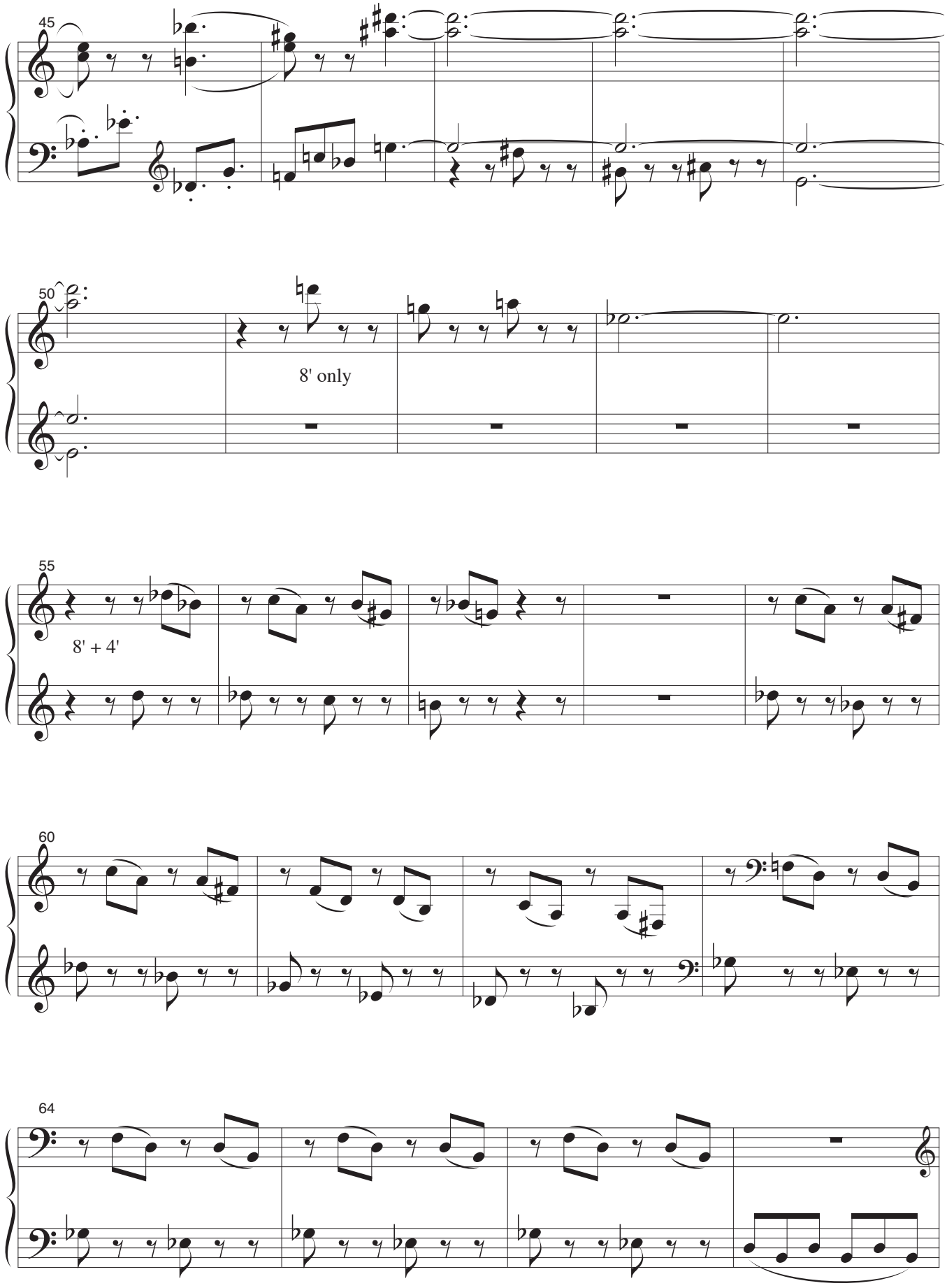
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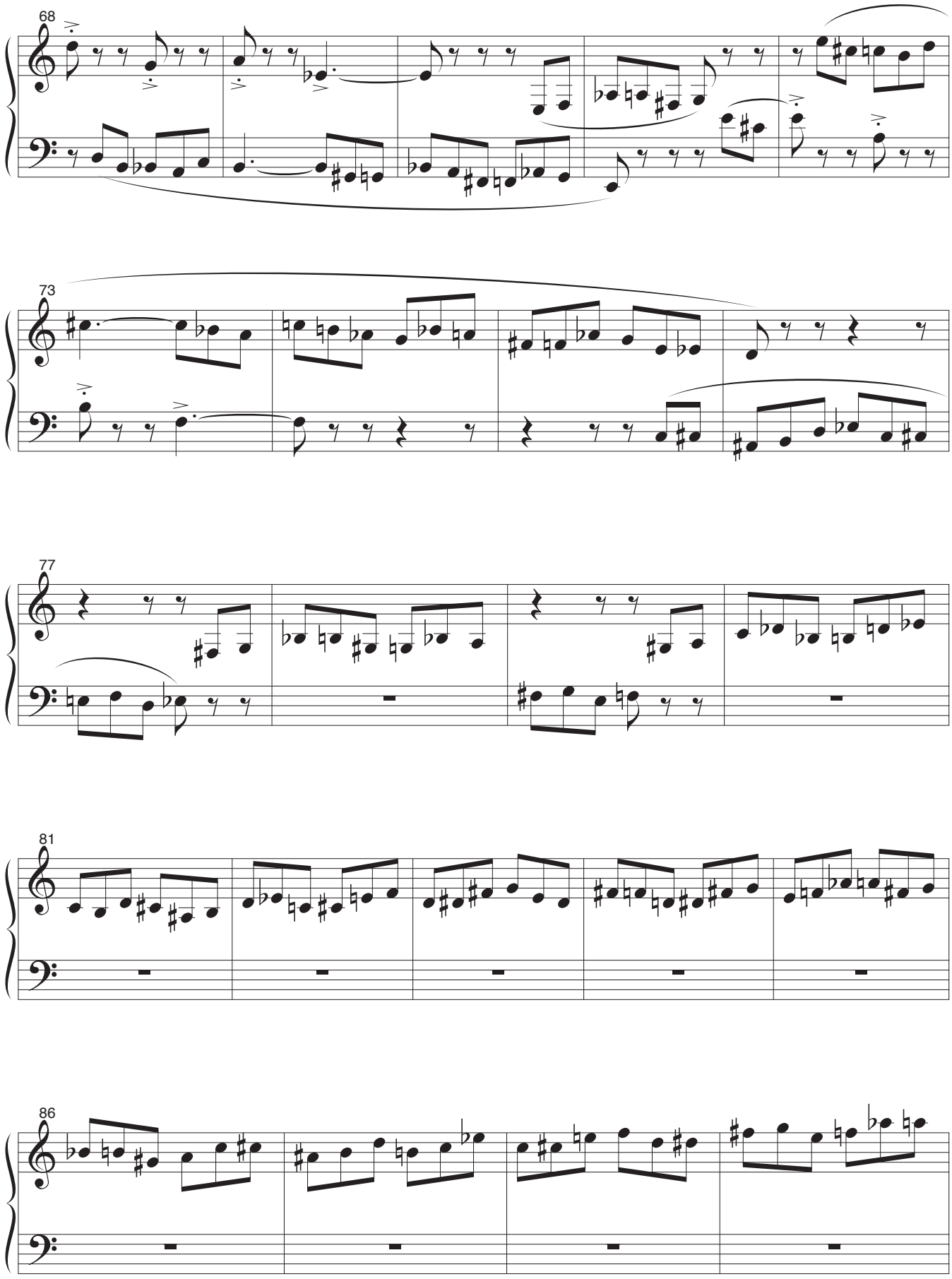
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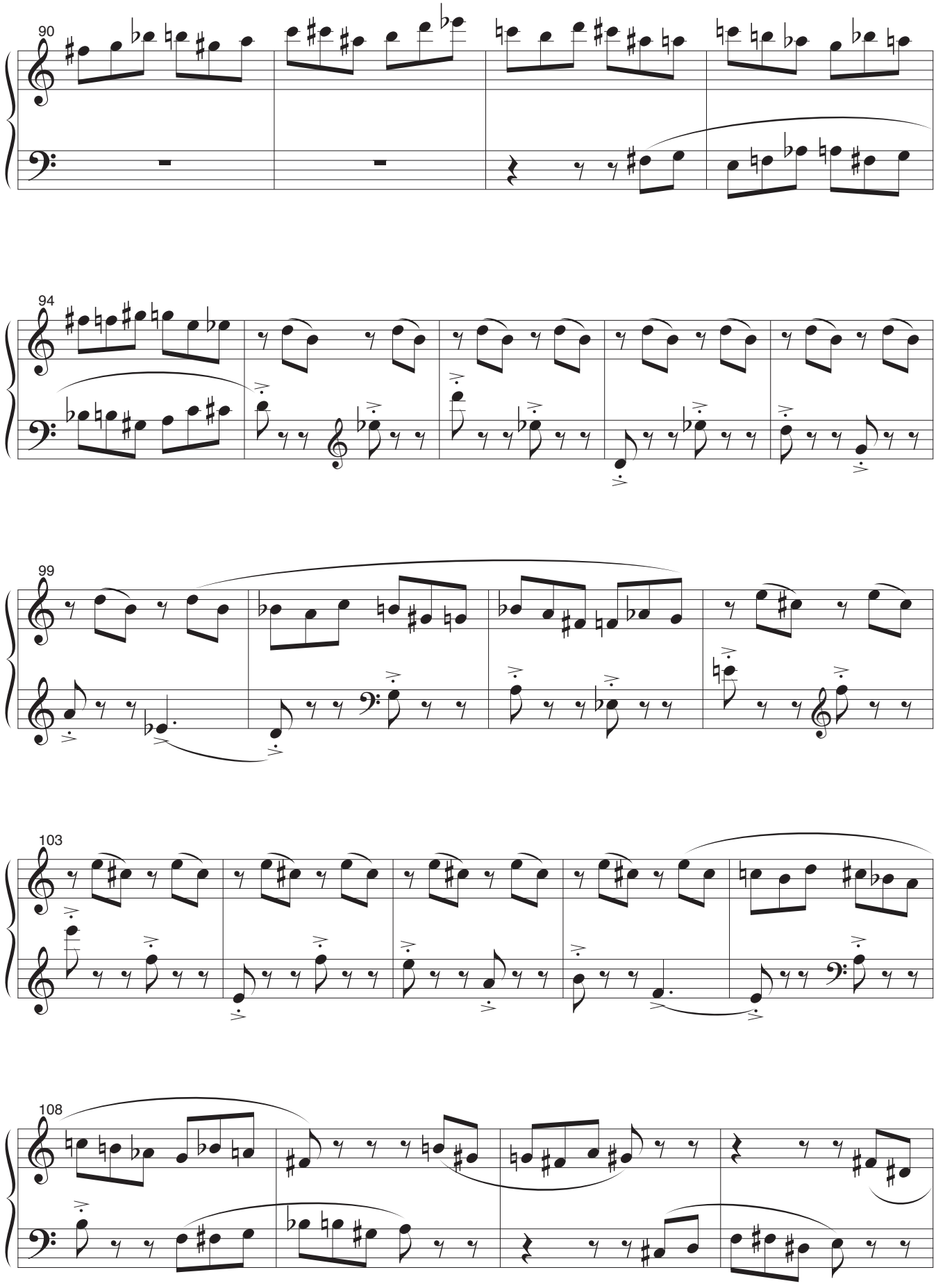
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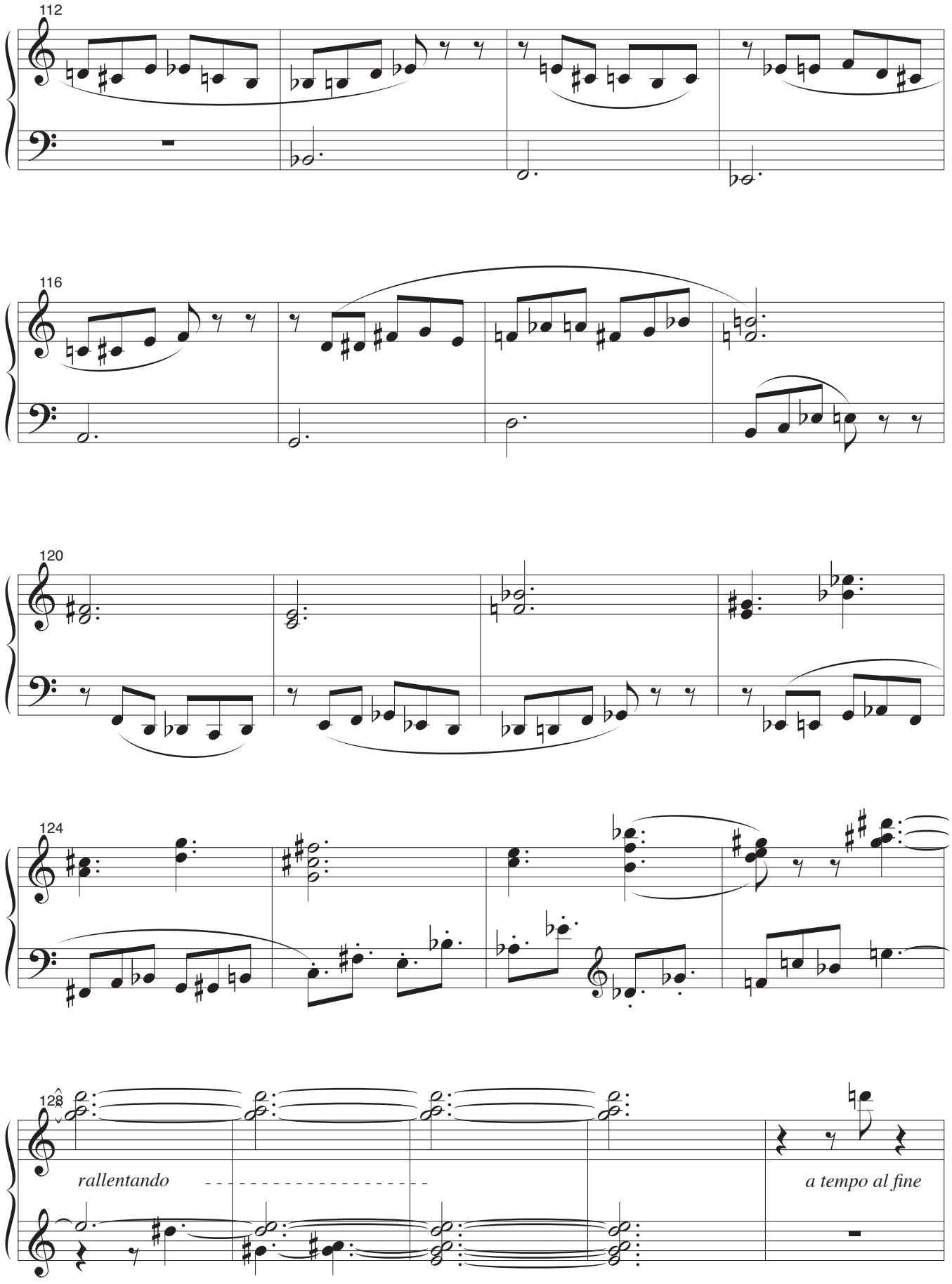
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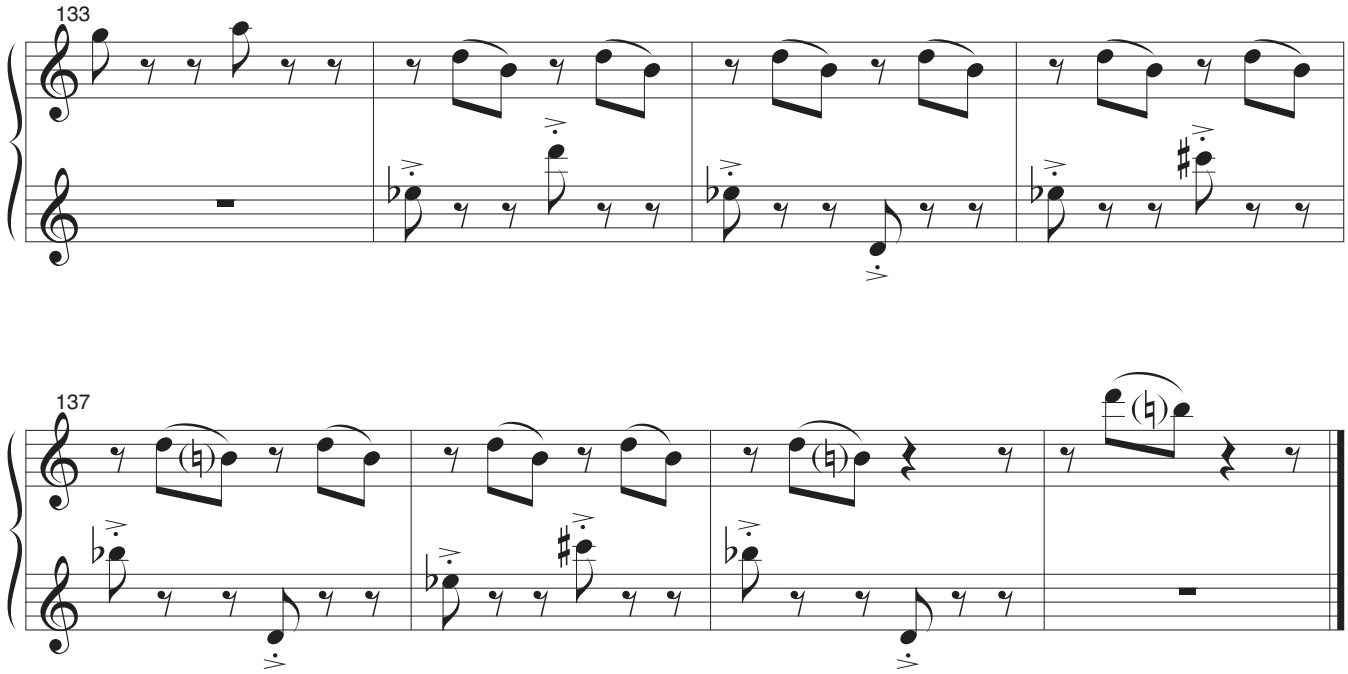
rallentando
a tempo al fine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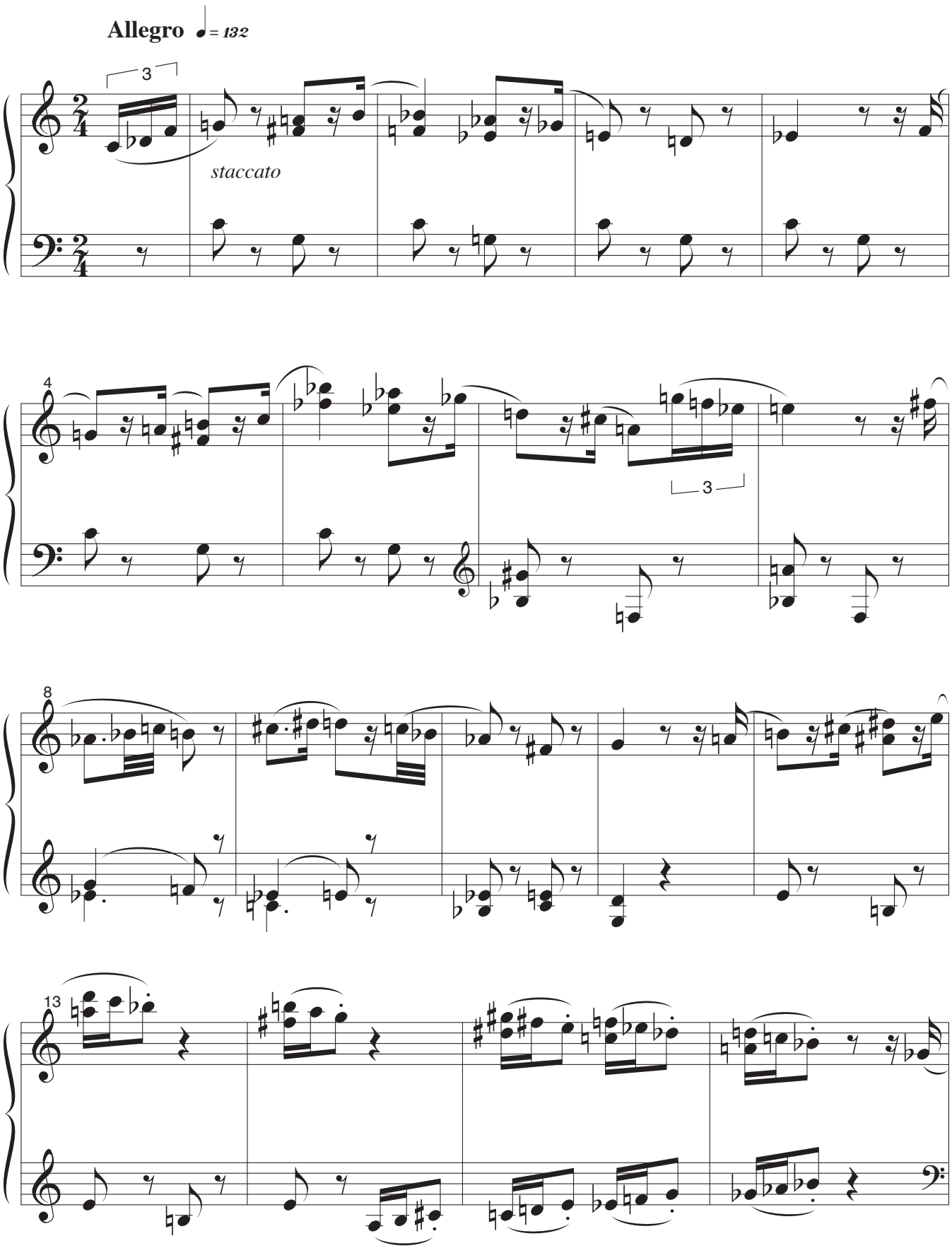

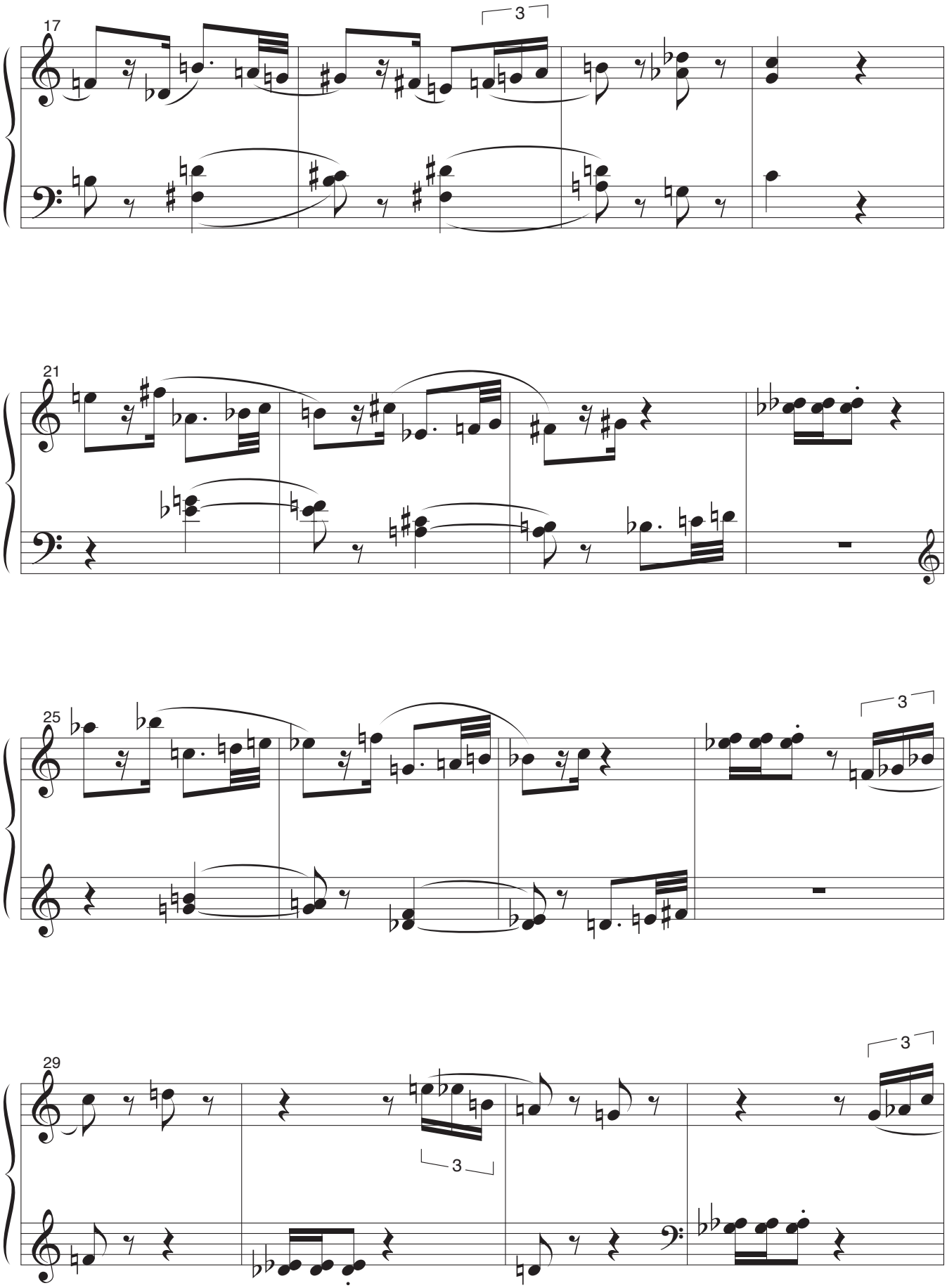
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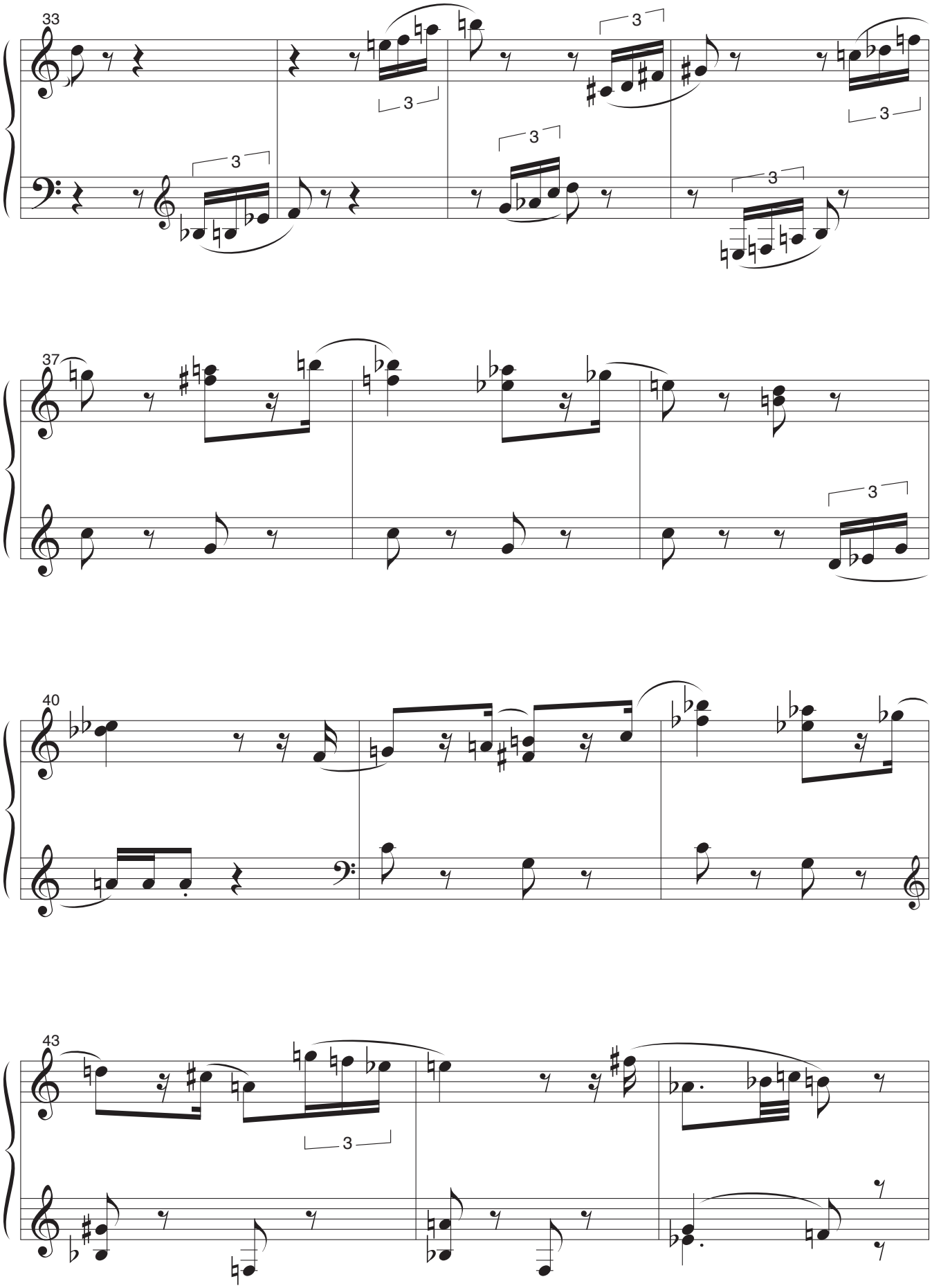
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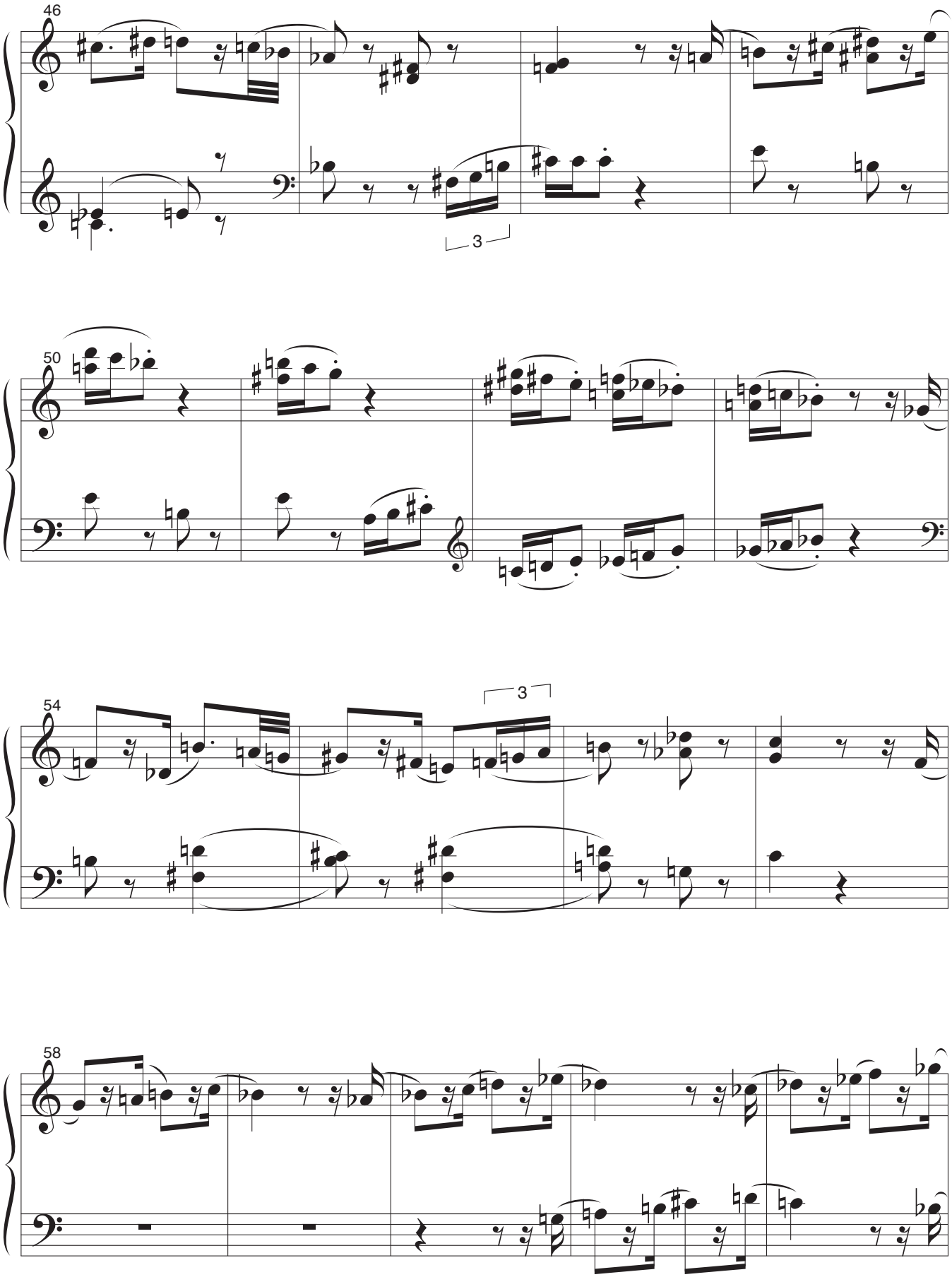
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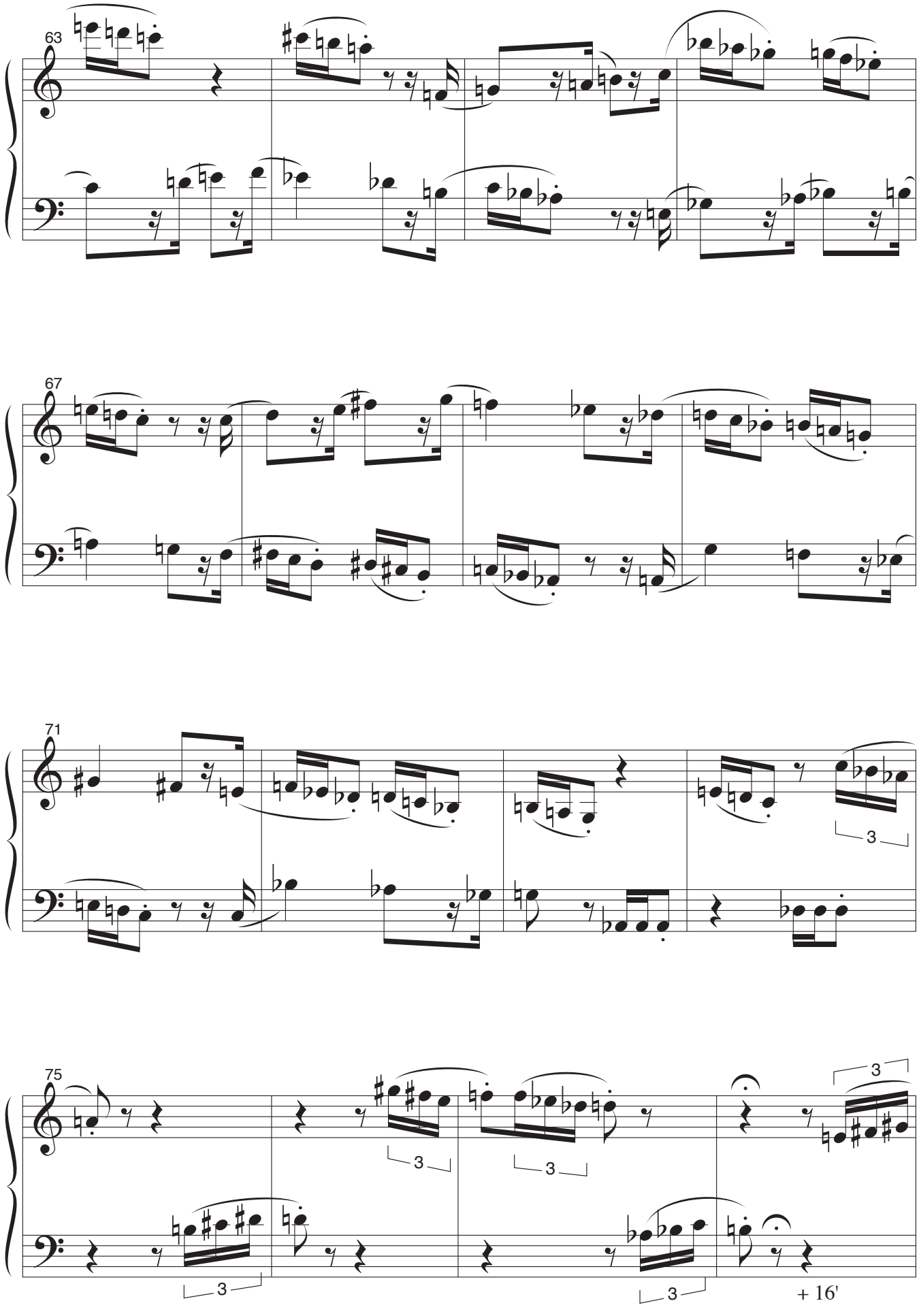
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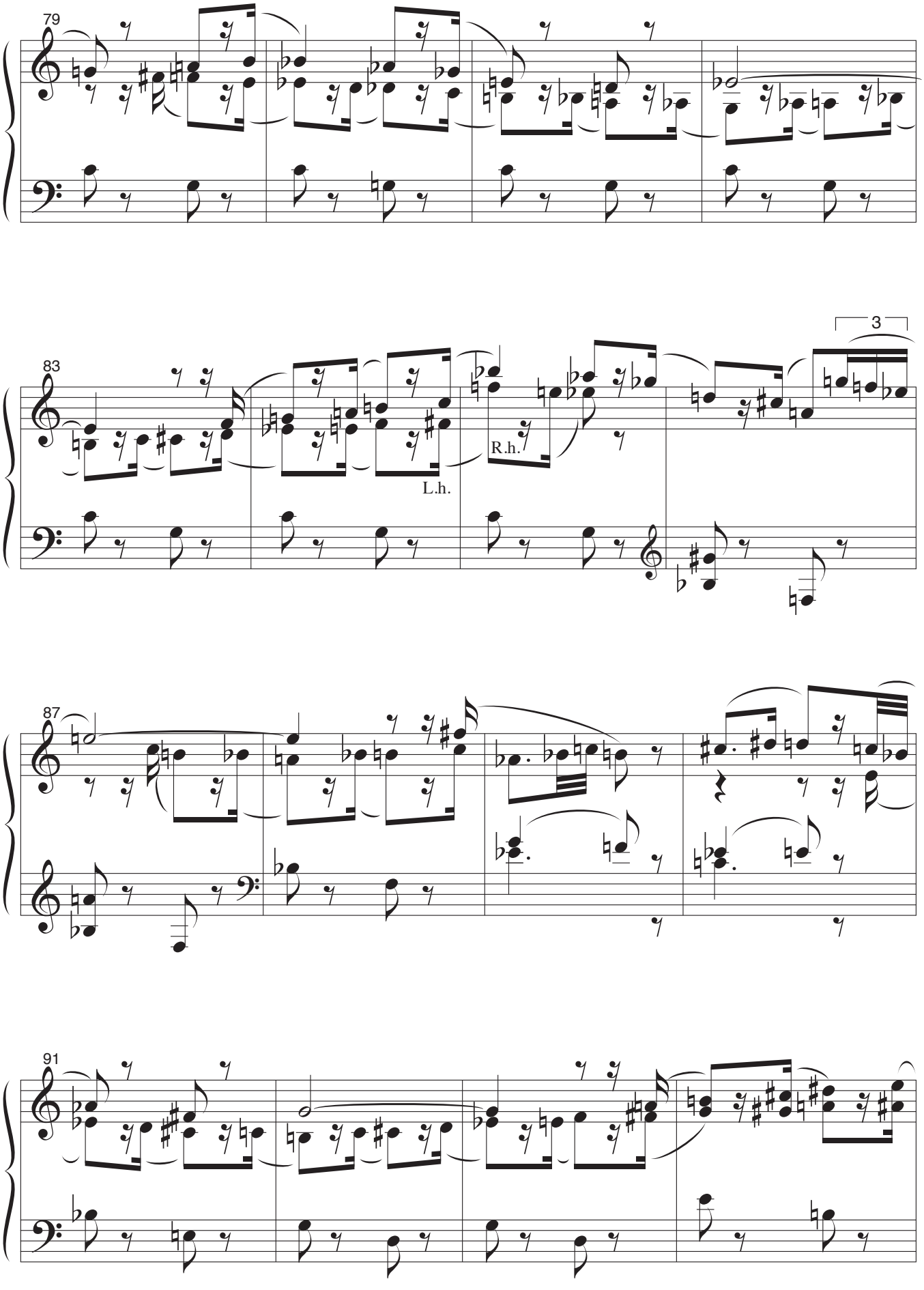
+ 16'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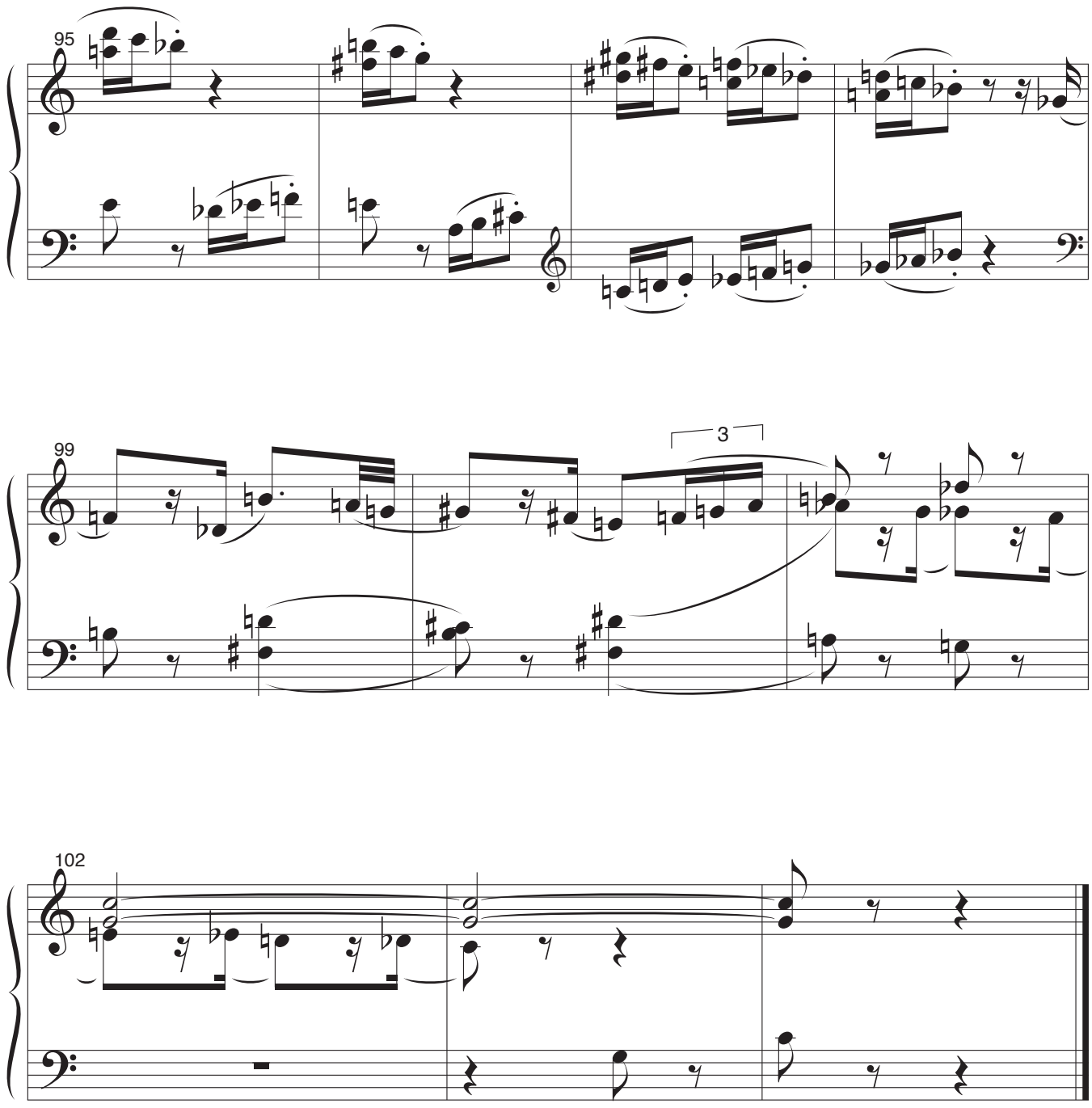
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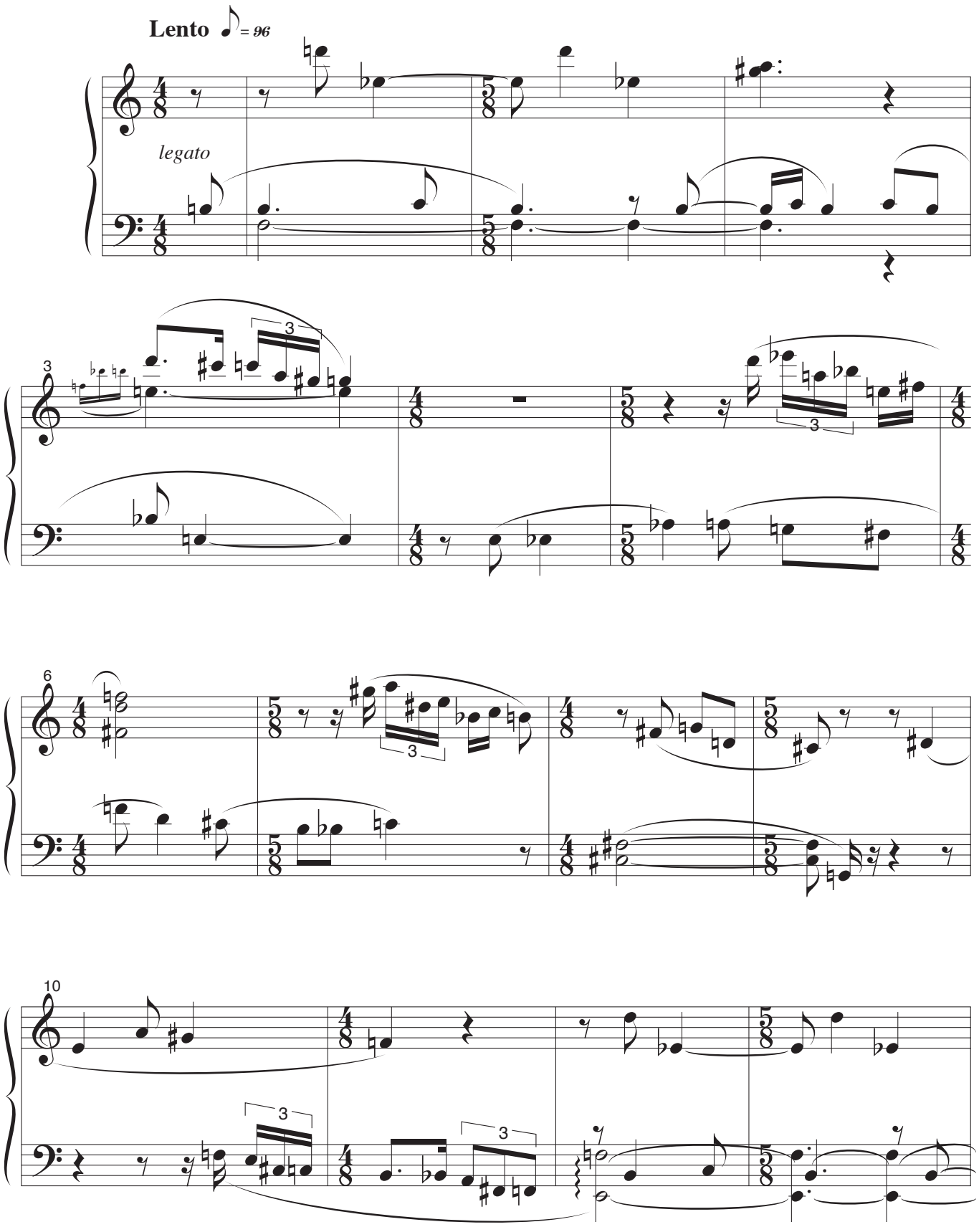
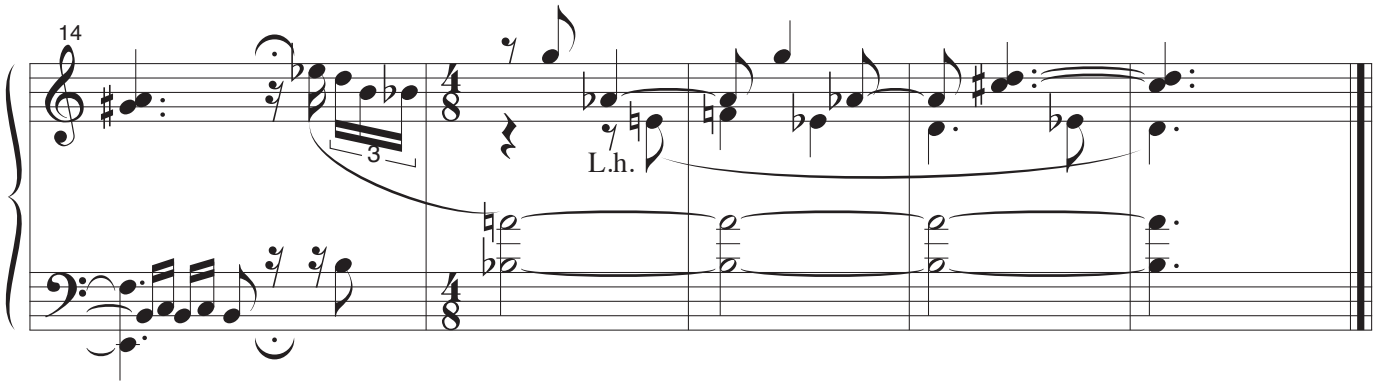
III. Elegy





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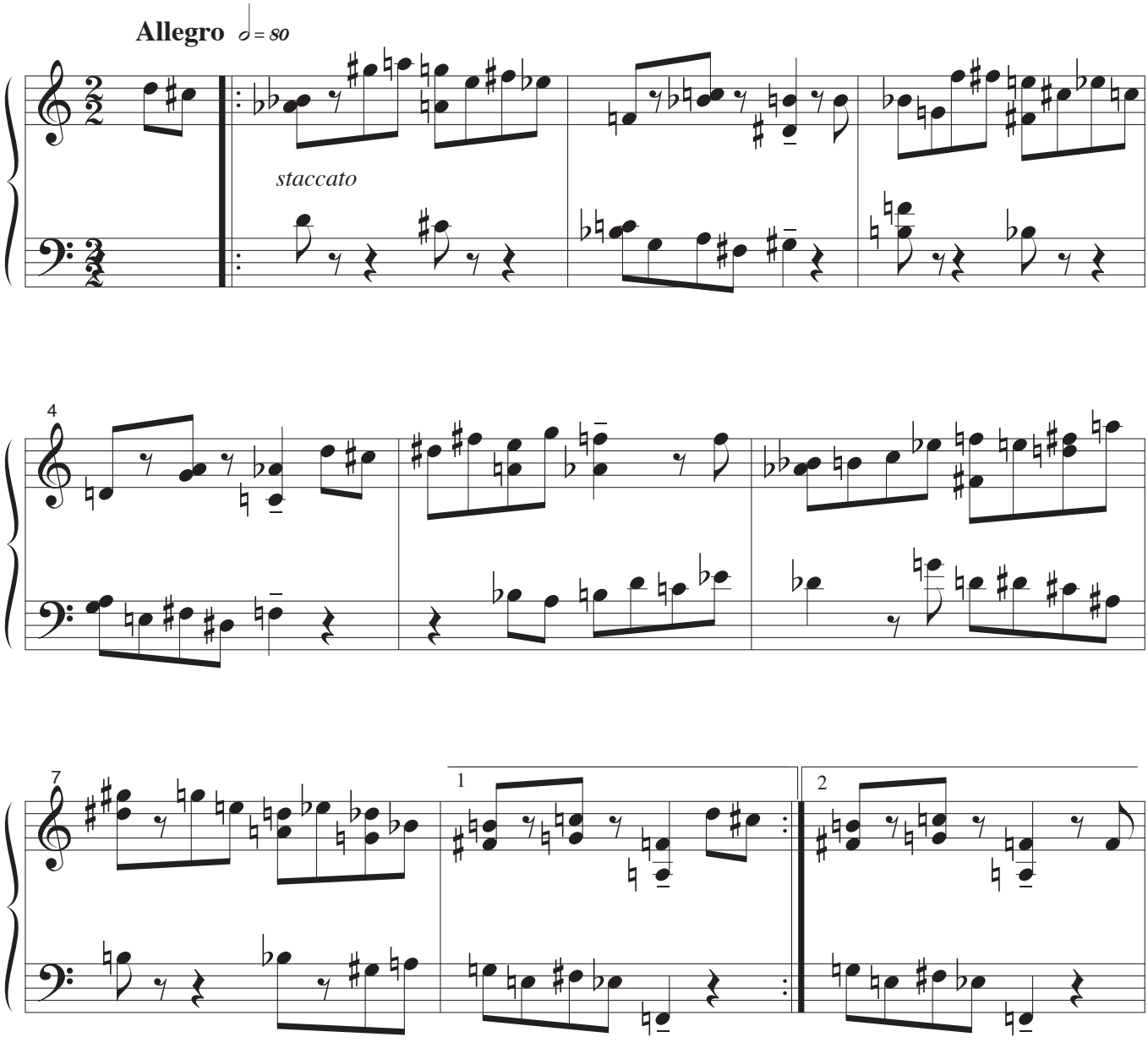

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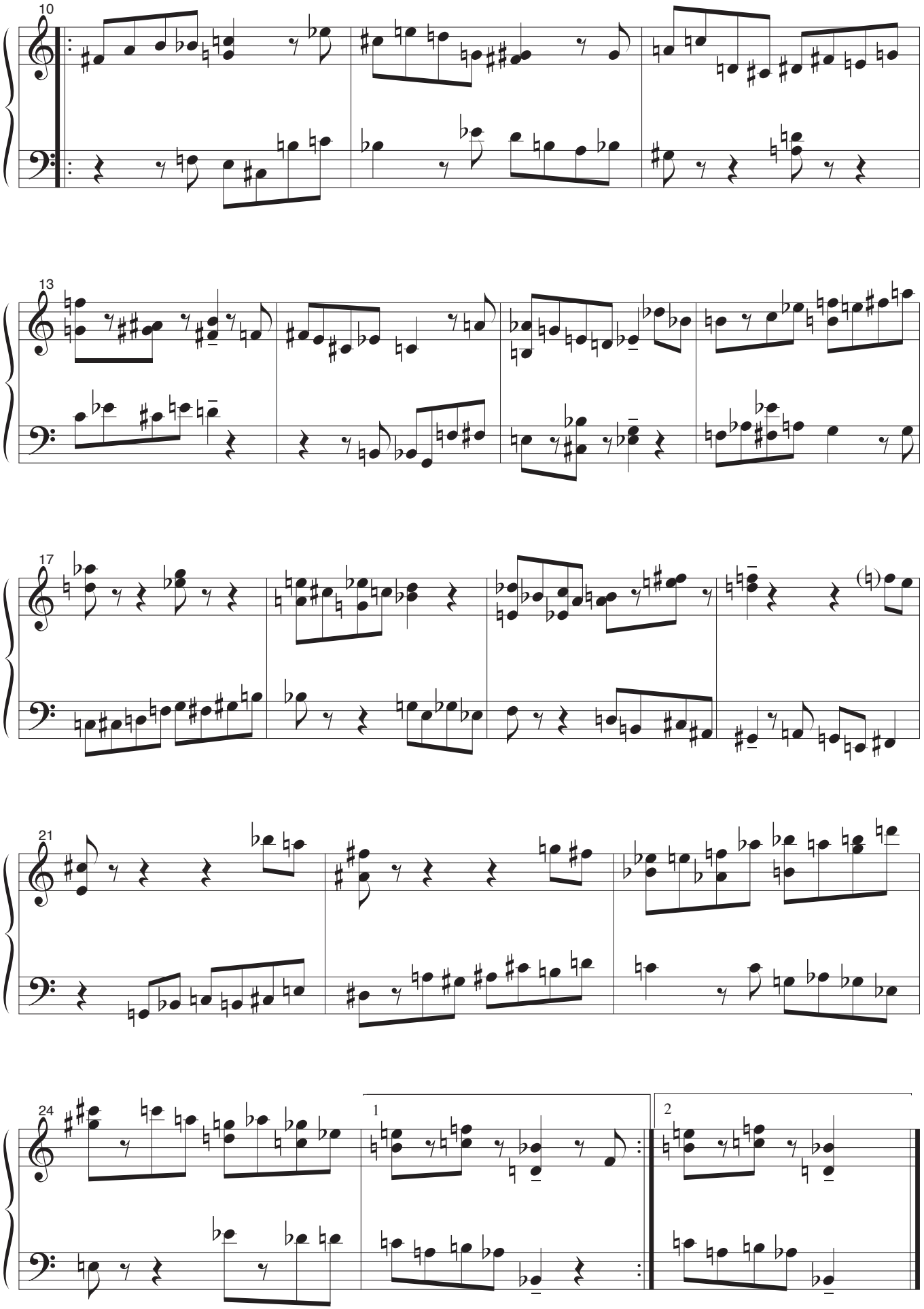
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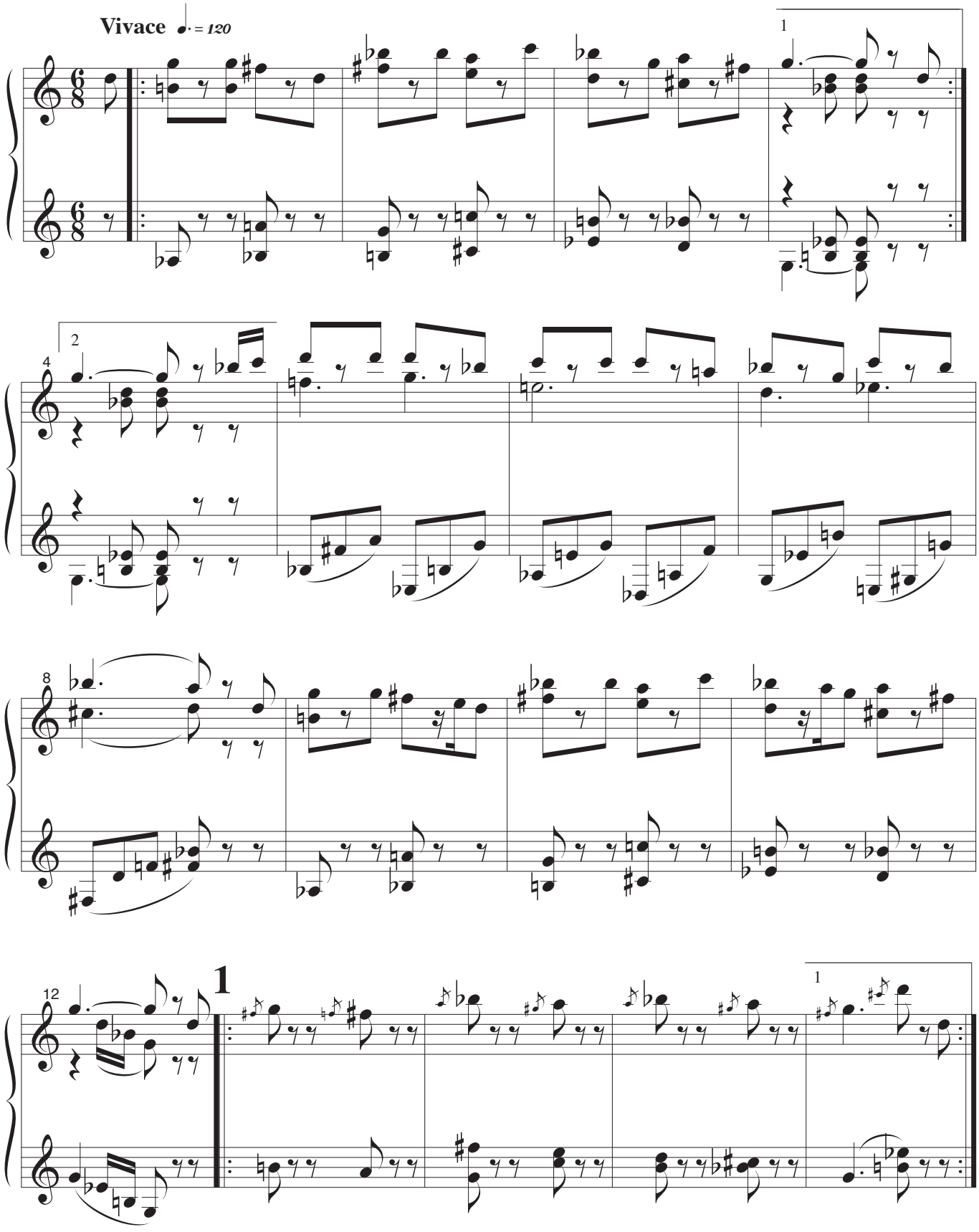
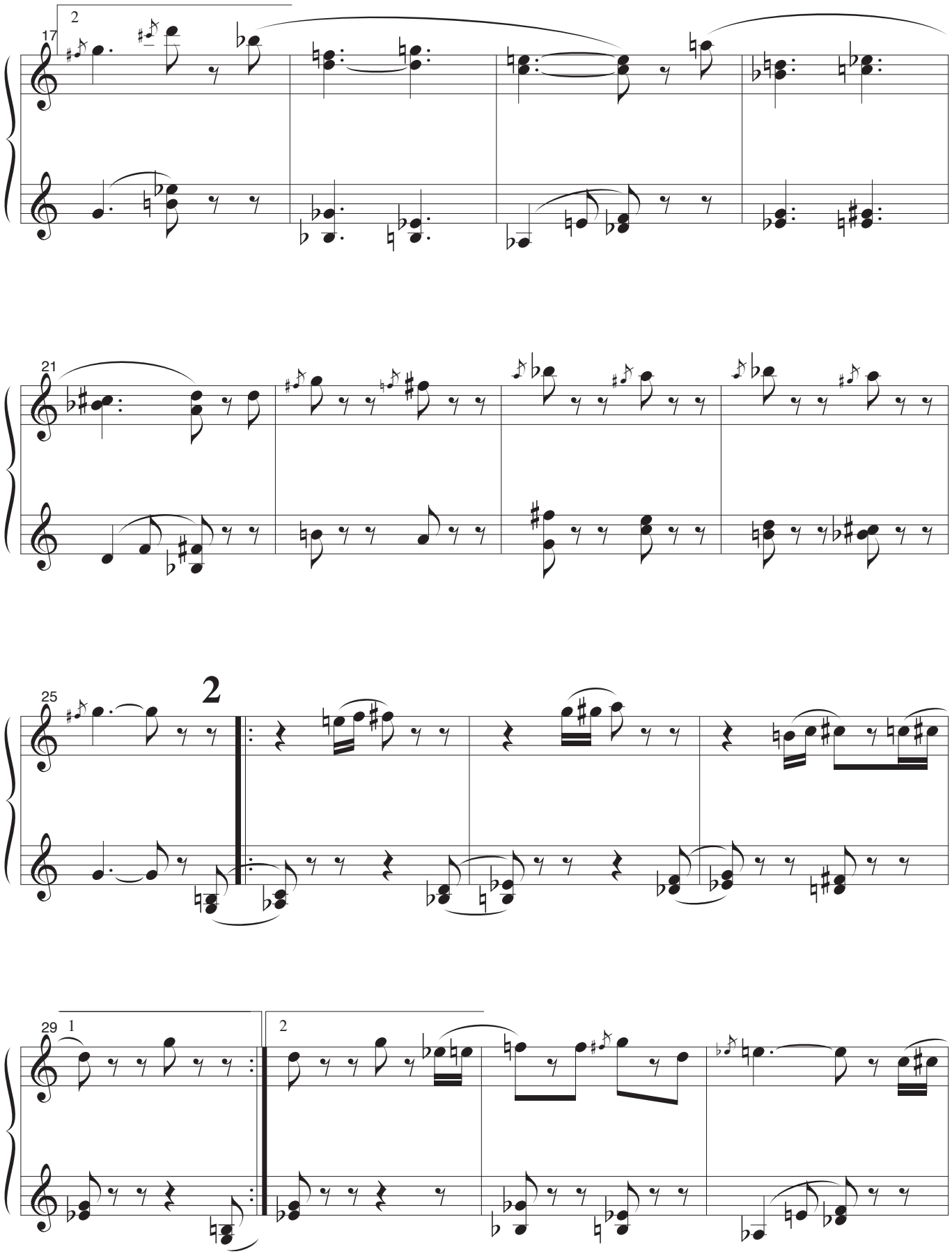
V. Air & Variations

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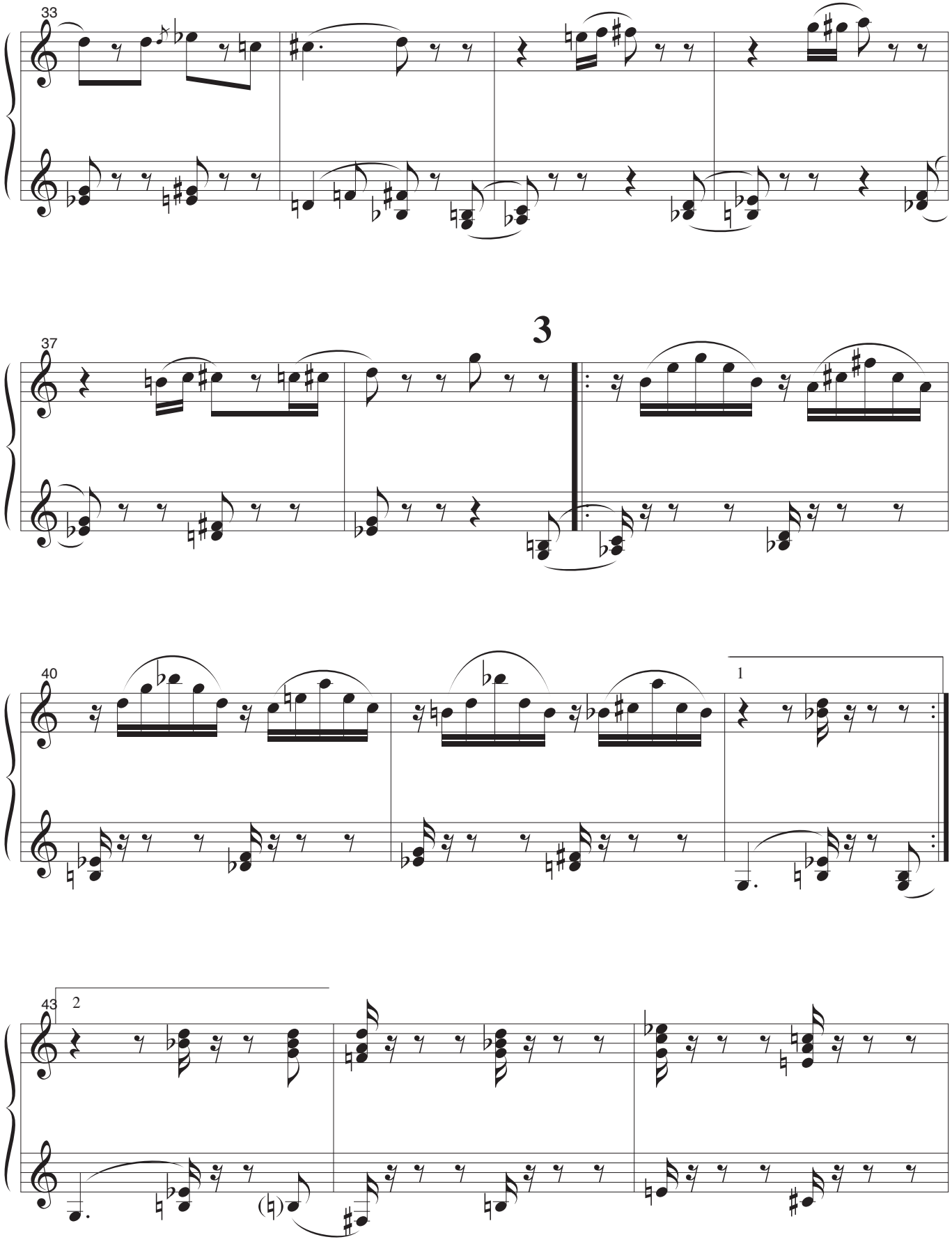
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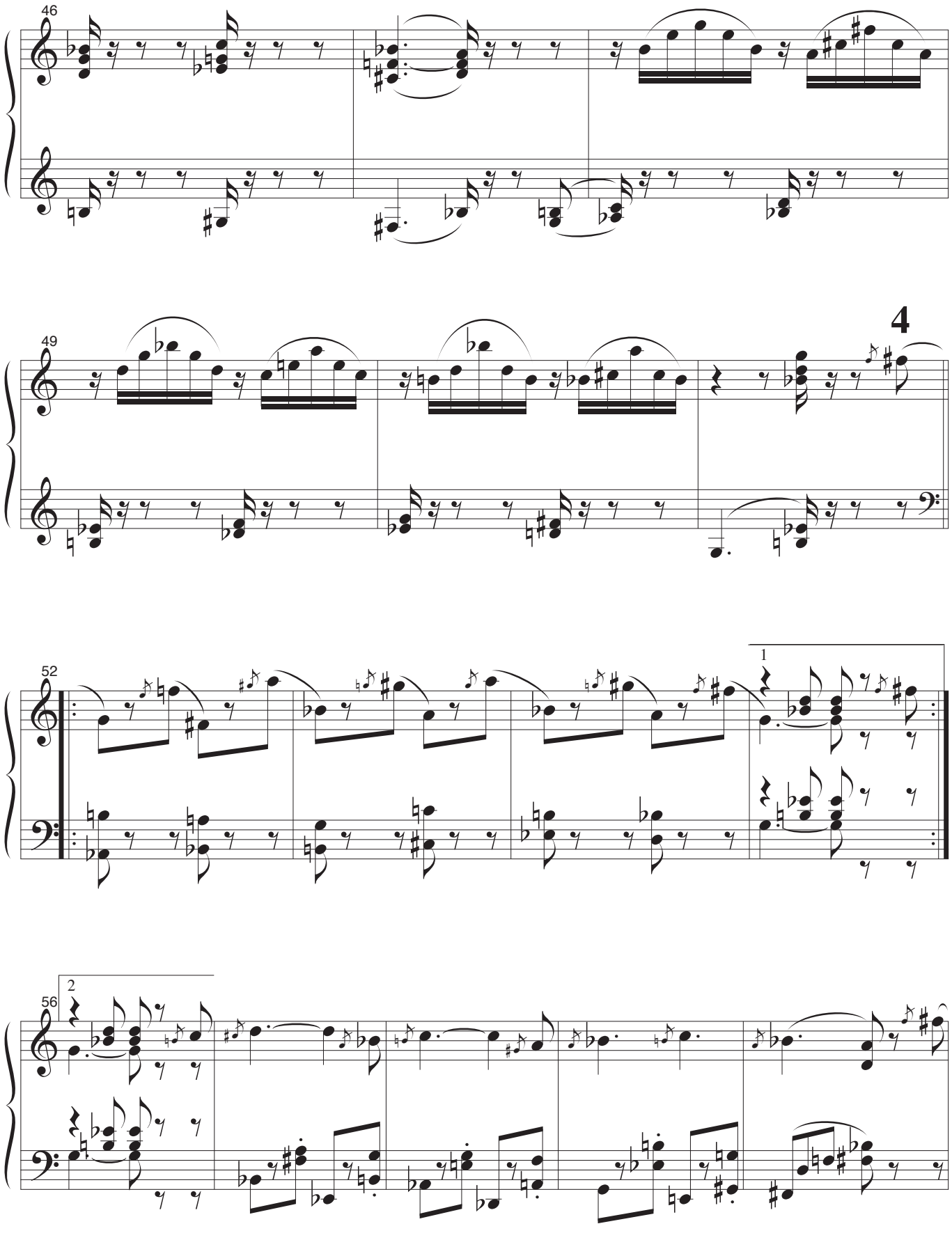
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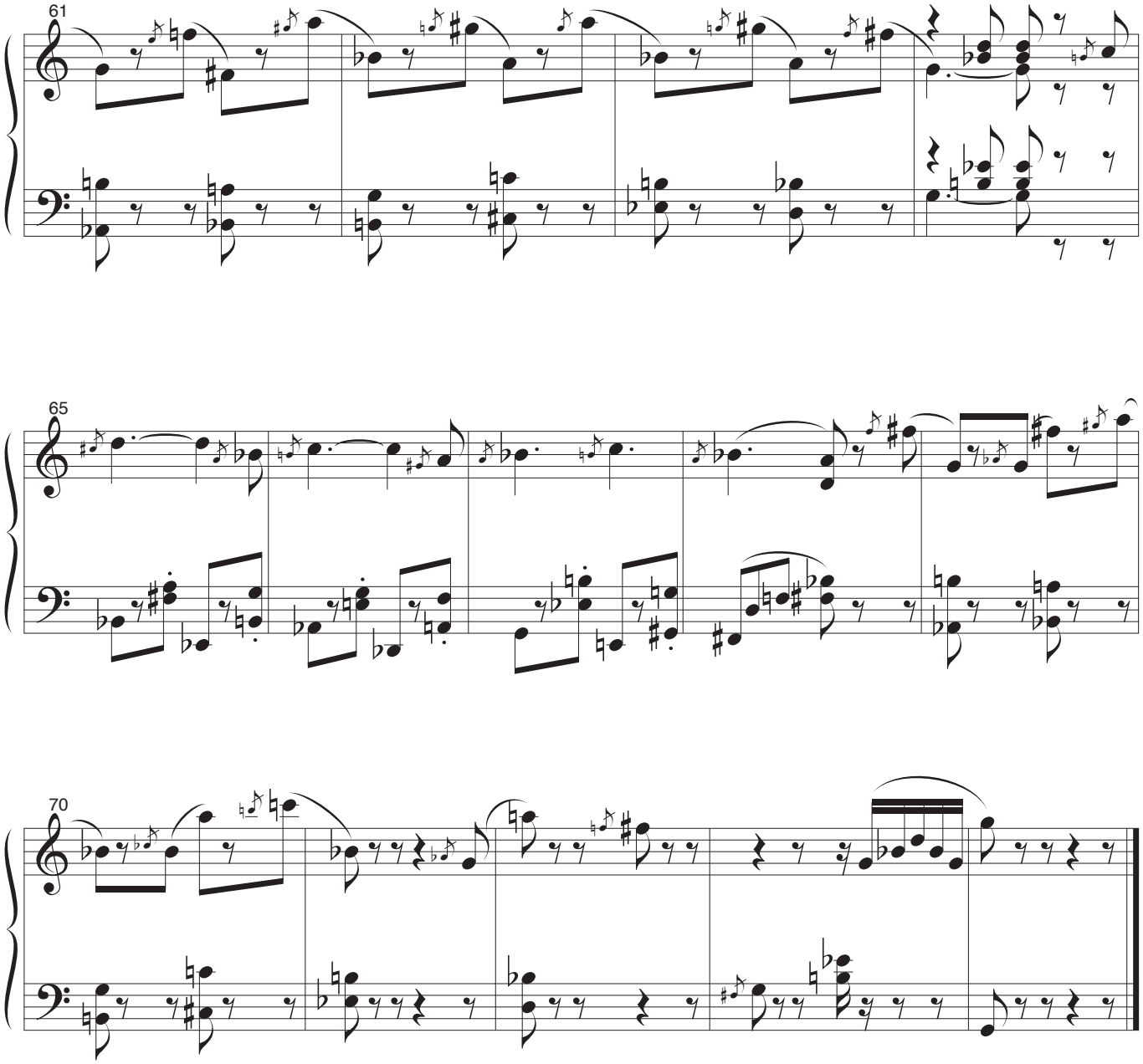
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