Paul Frehner

Slowdown

For Piano Six Hands

Slowdown was commissioned by CBC radio for pianists Kyoko Hashimoto, Sara Laimon and Richard Raymond who gave its premiere April 2, 2004 in Pollack Hall, McGill University.

Performance Notes

The first pianist's part should be played an octave higher than notated.

Accidentals function in the traditional manner. However, cautionary accidentals are used extensively

In general, the damper pedal should be used throughout, although sparingly.

Use of the sostenuto pedal might be desirable when bass notes and harmonies need to be sustained while other parts need to be clearly articulated.

Duration: 7 minutes, approximately

Program Notes

The instrumentation of this piece presents a rather irregular opposition between the expanded musical possibilities inherent in writing for three pianists and the spatial limitations that arise due to the fact that they play on one piano: dividing the keyboard into three more or less equal parts yields a range of but twenty-nine to thirty notes per player. Thus, since musical ideas in the piece often move rapidly between registers one particular challenge was to orchestrate them with smooth transitions from one player to another. The title refers to the temporal language of the piece, which explores a disparate relationship between a series of tempi that become increasingly faster over time and a surface rhythm, which at times tends to slow the music down.

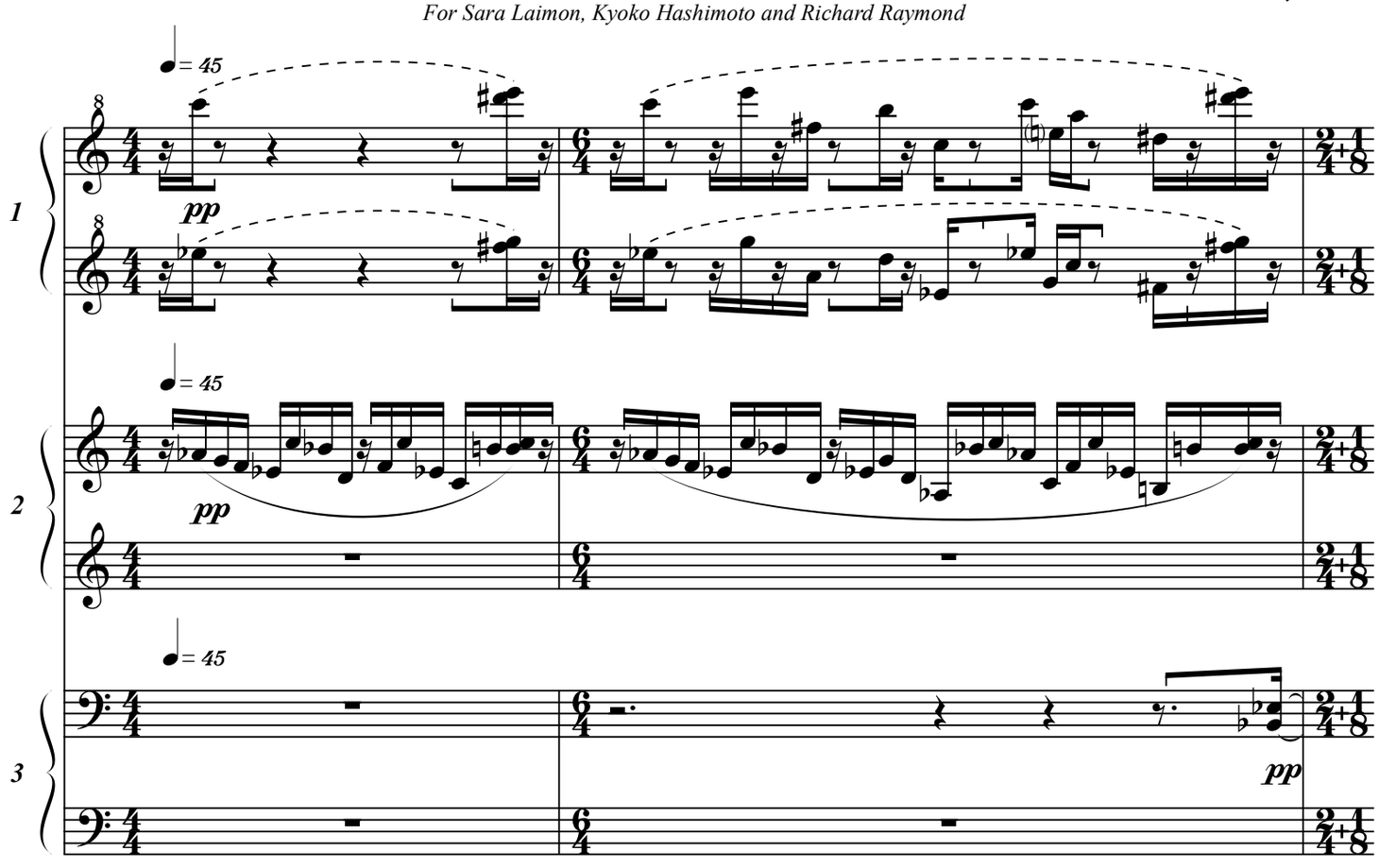
Slowdown

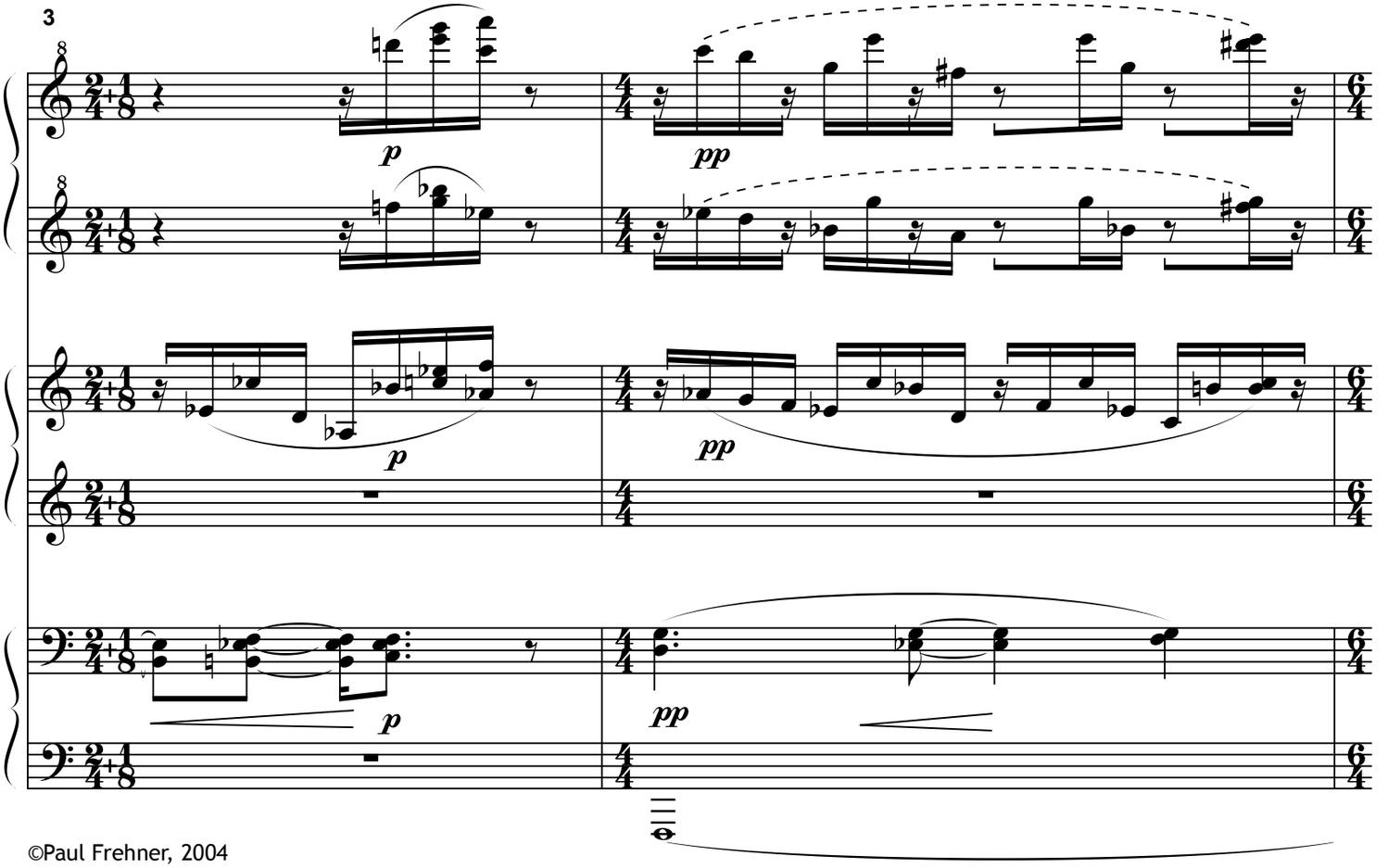
for piano 6 hands

Commissioned by CBC Radio

For Sara Laimon, Kyoko Hashimoto and Richard Raymond

Paul Frehner, 2004





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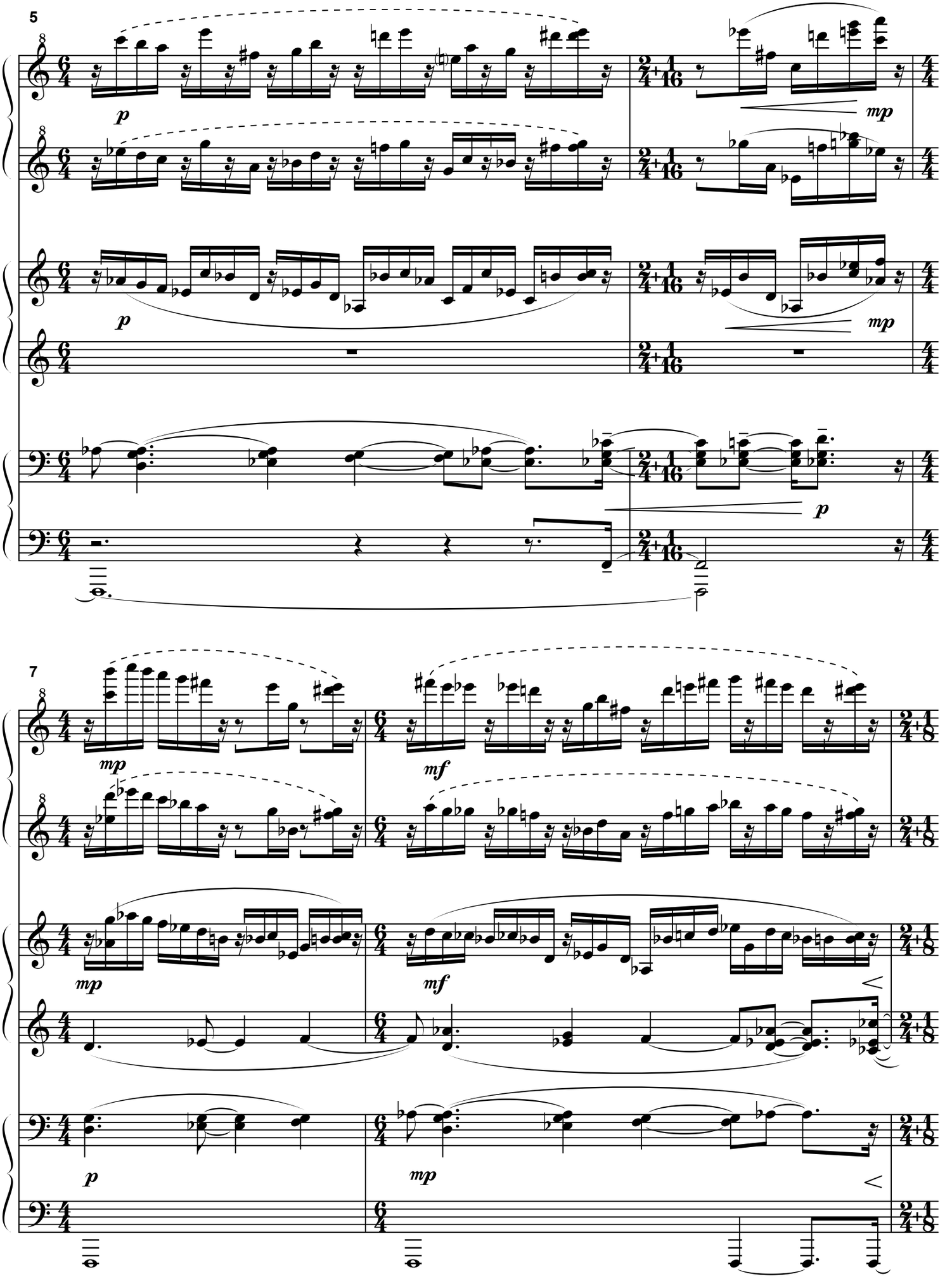
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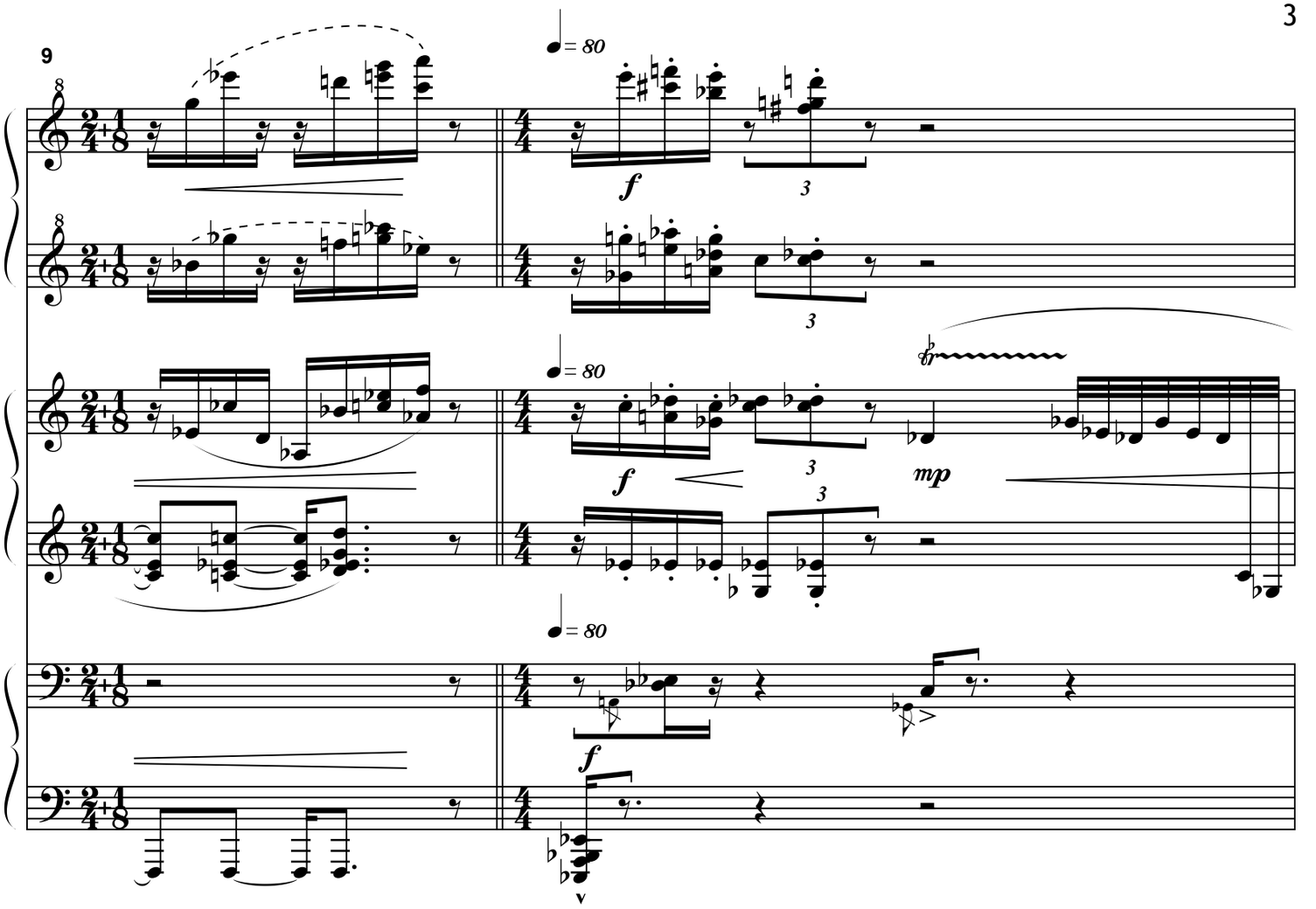
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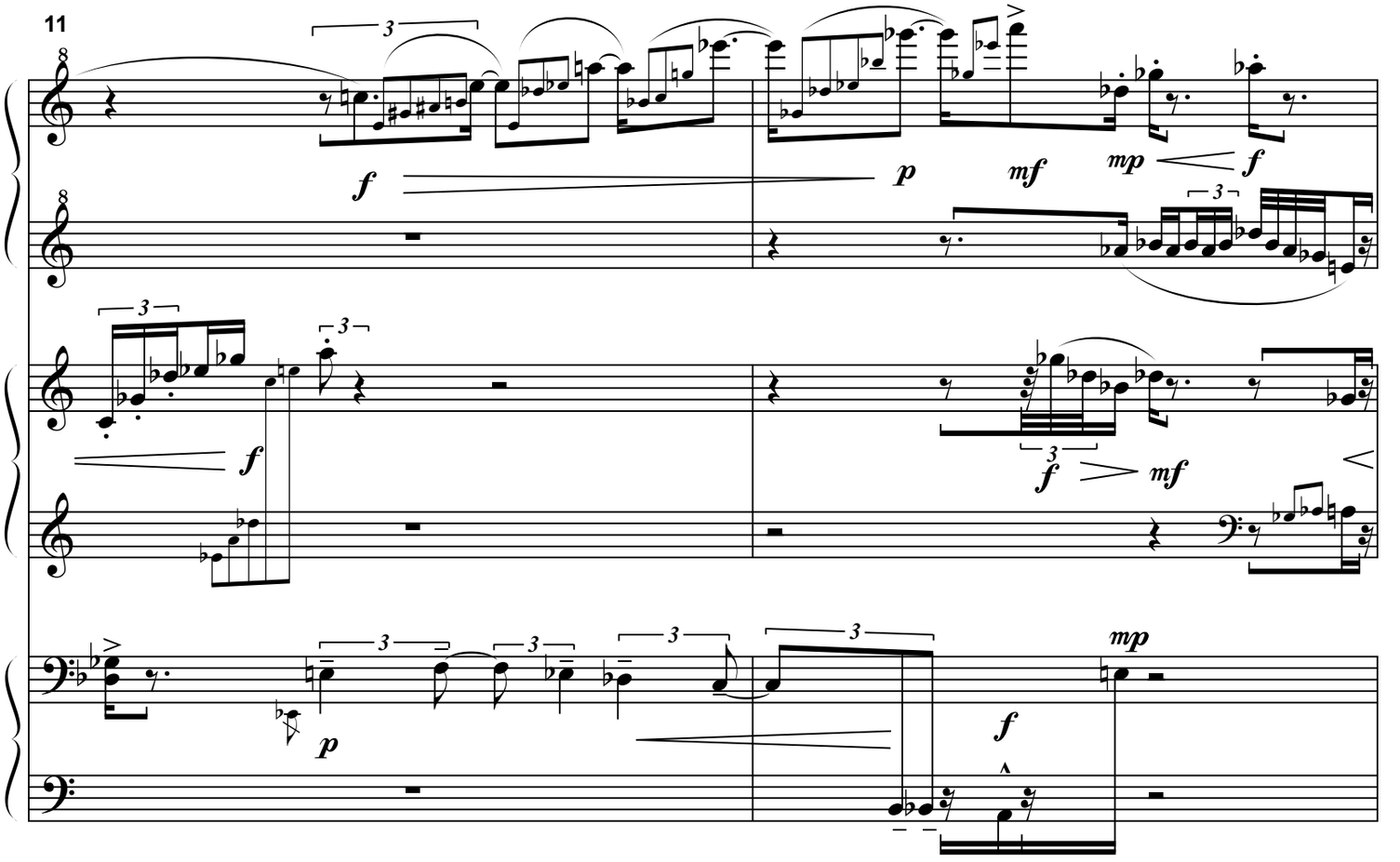
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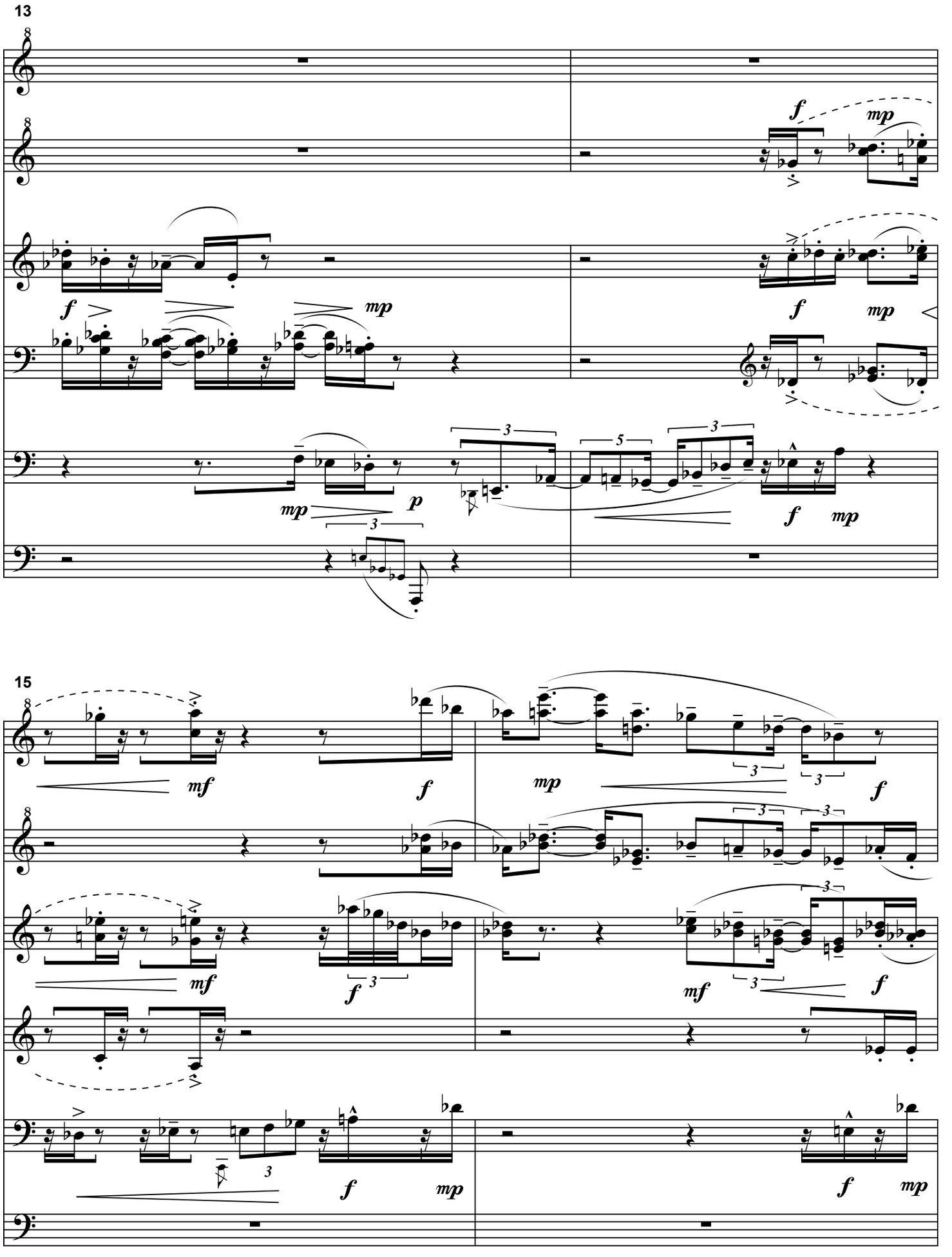
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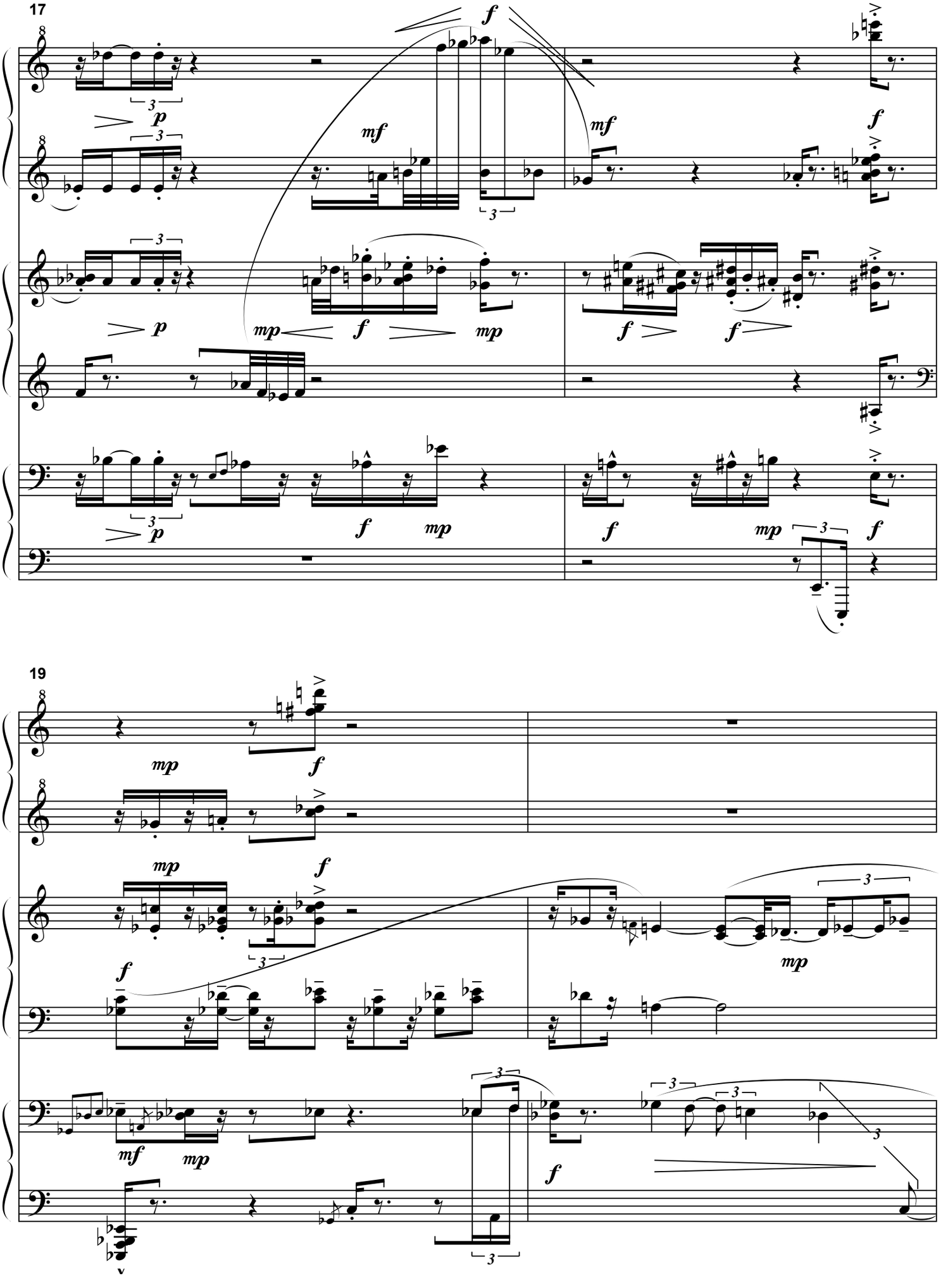
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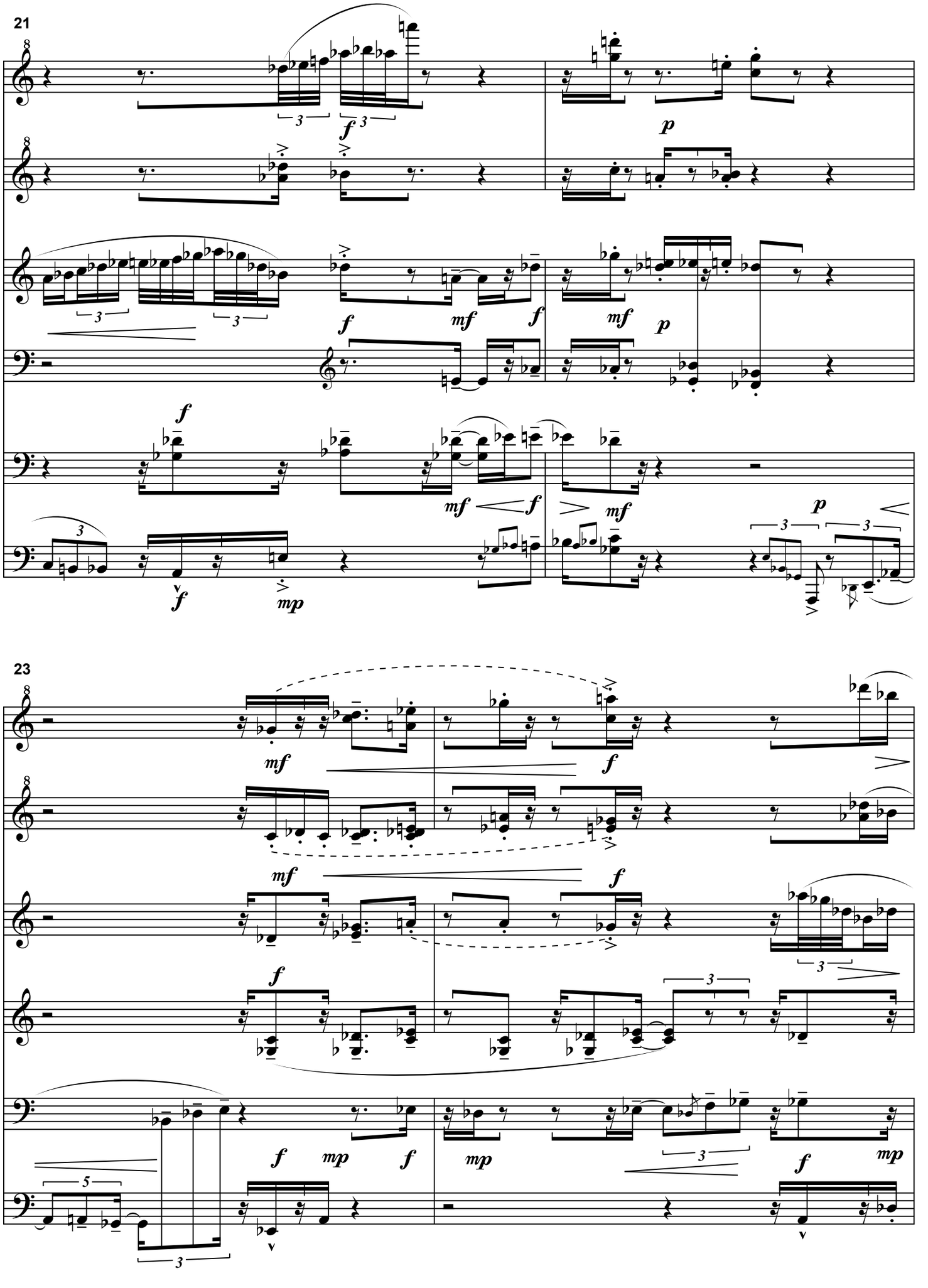
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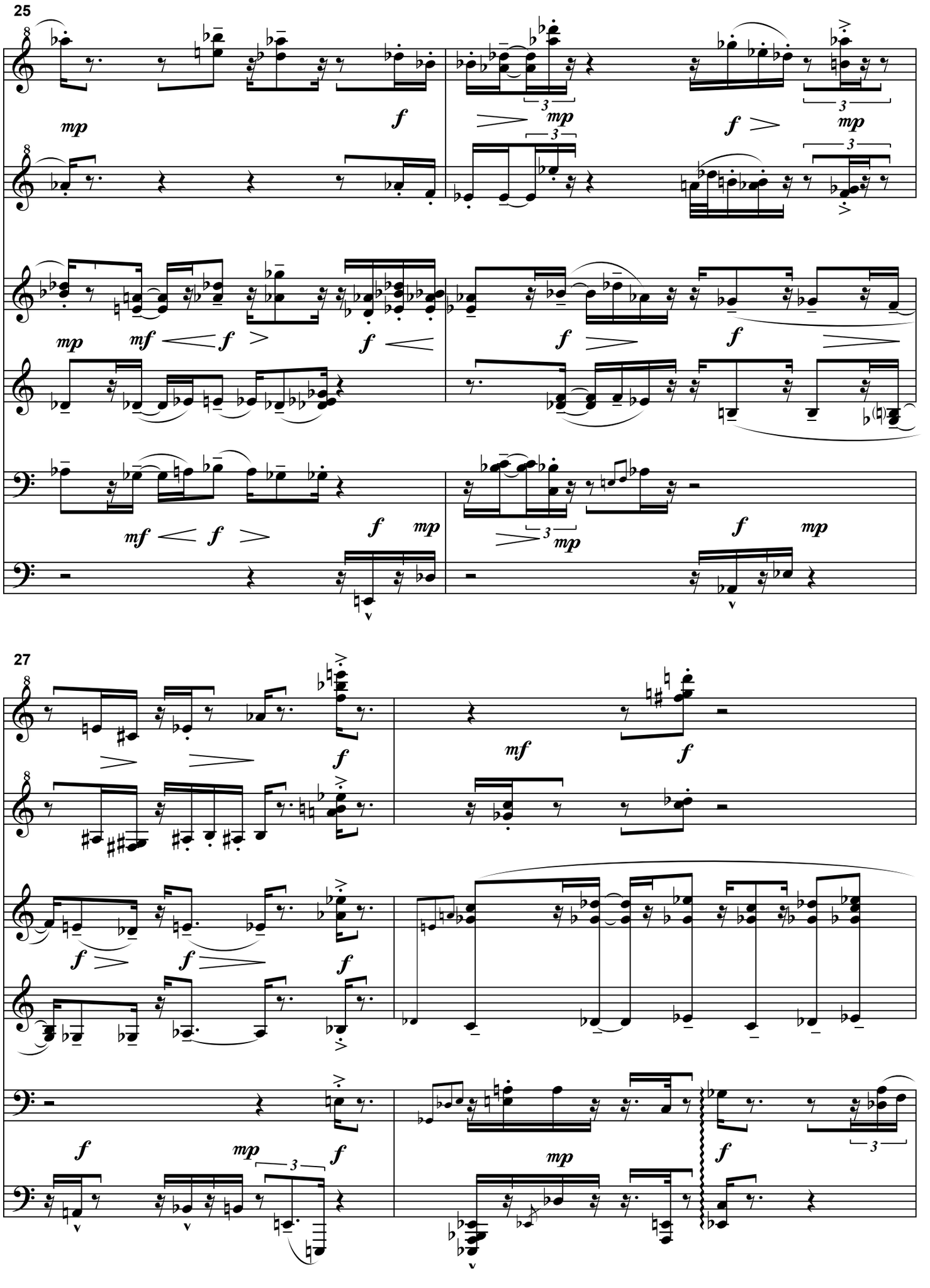
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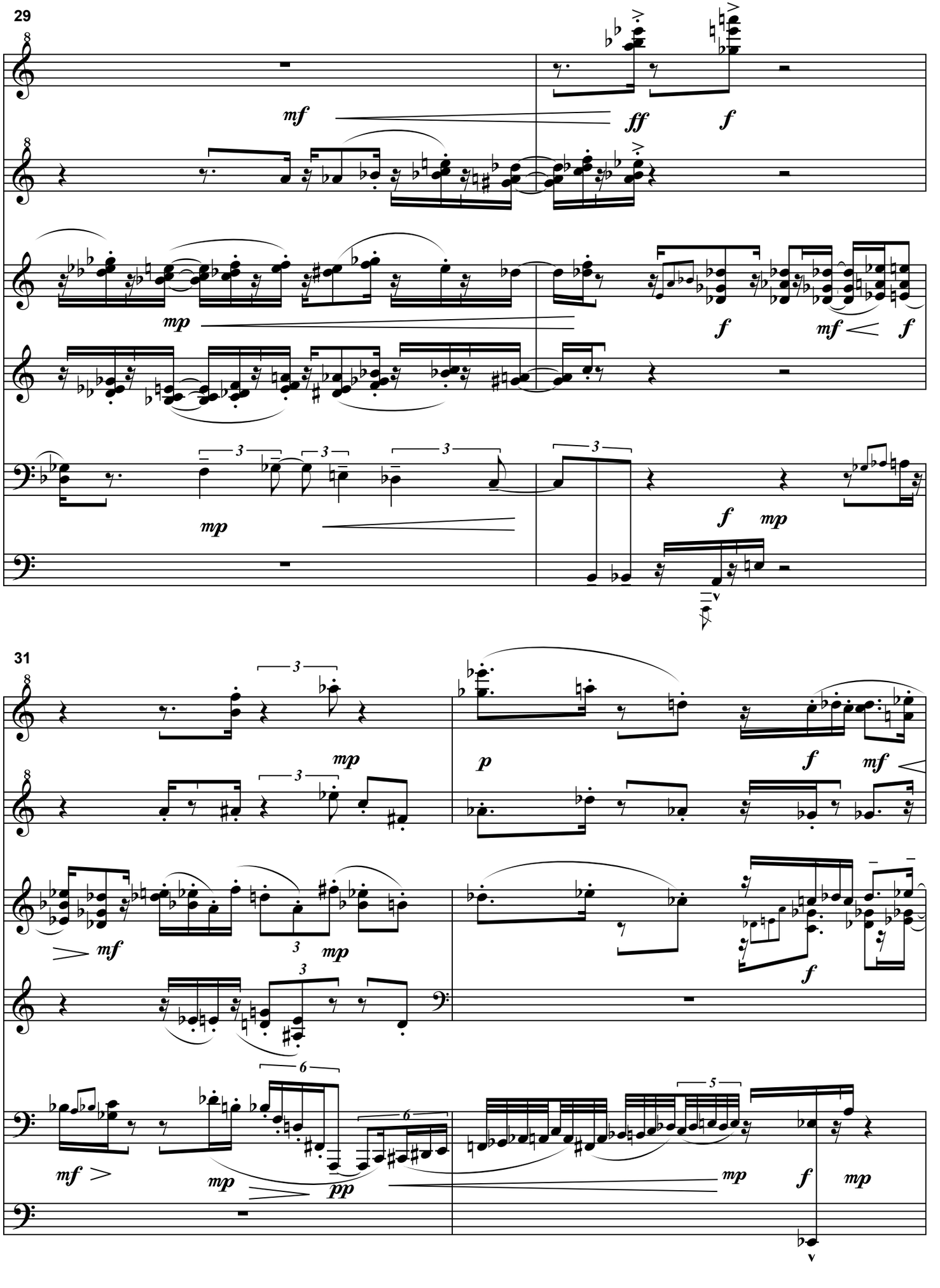
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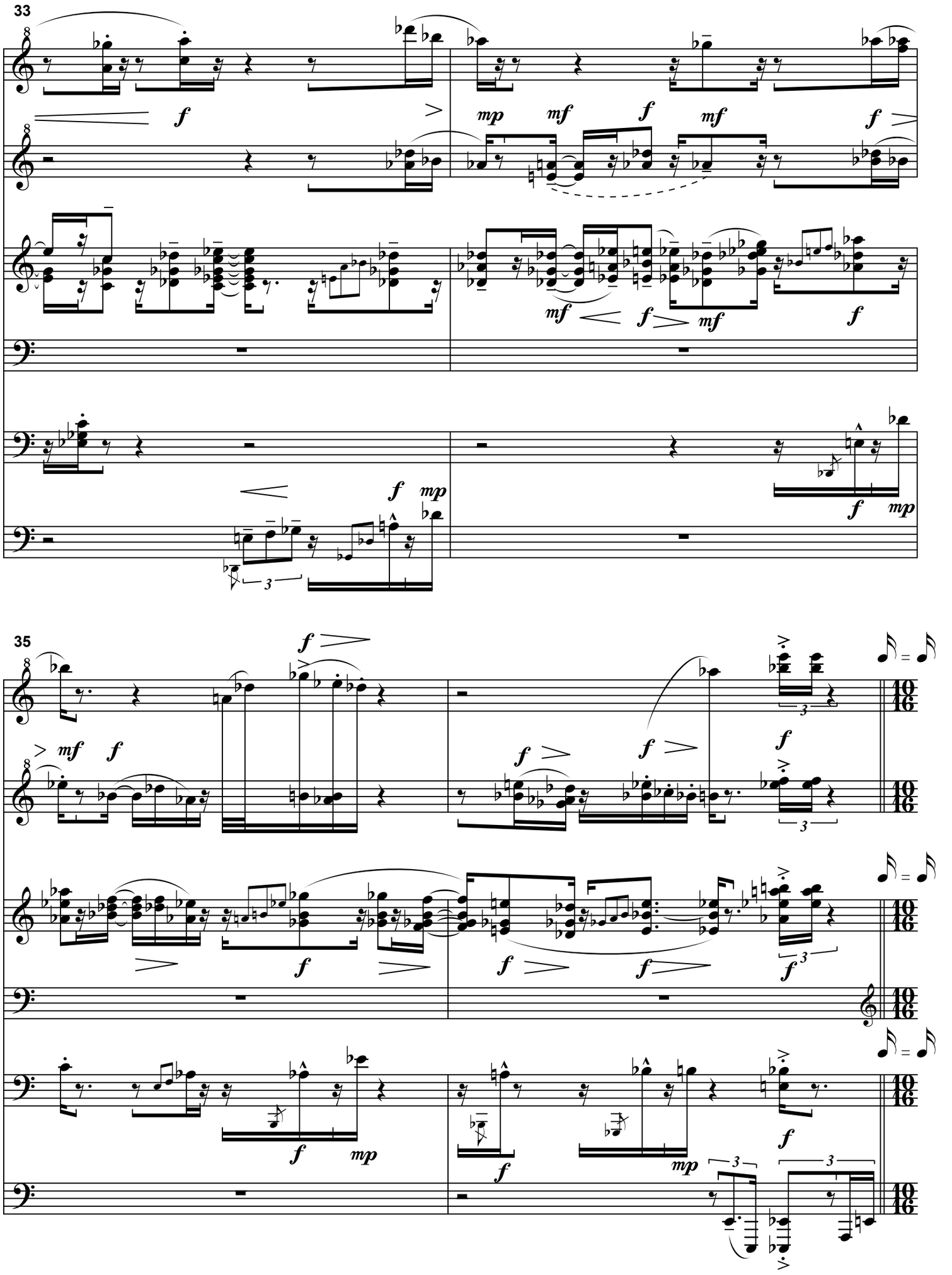
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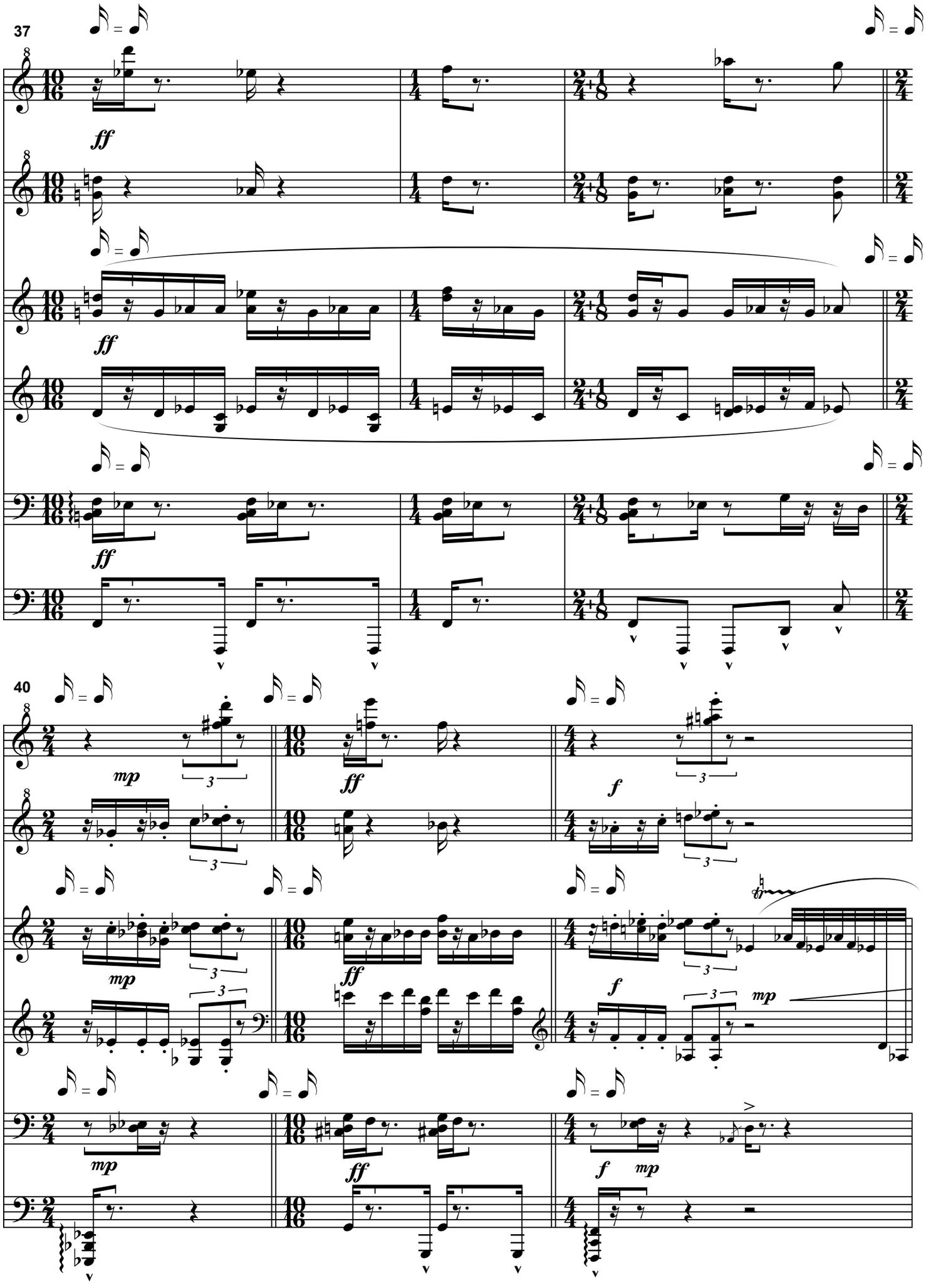
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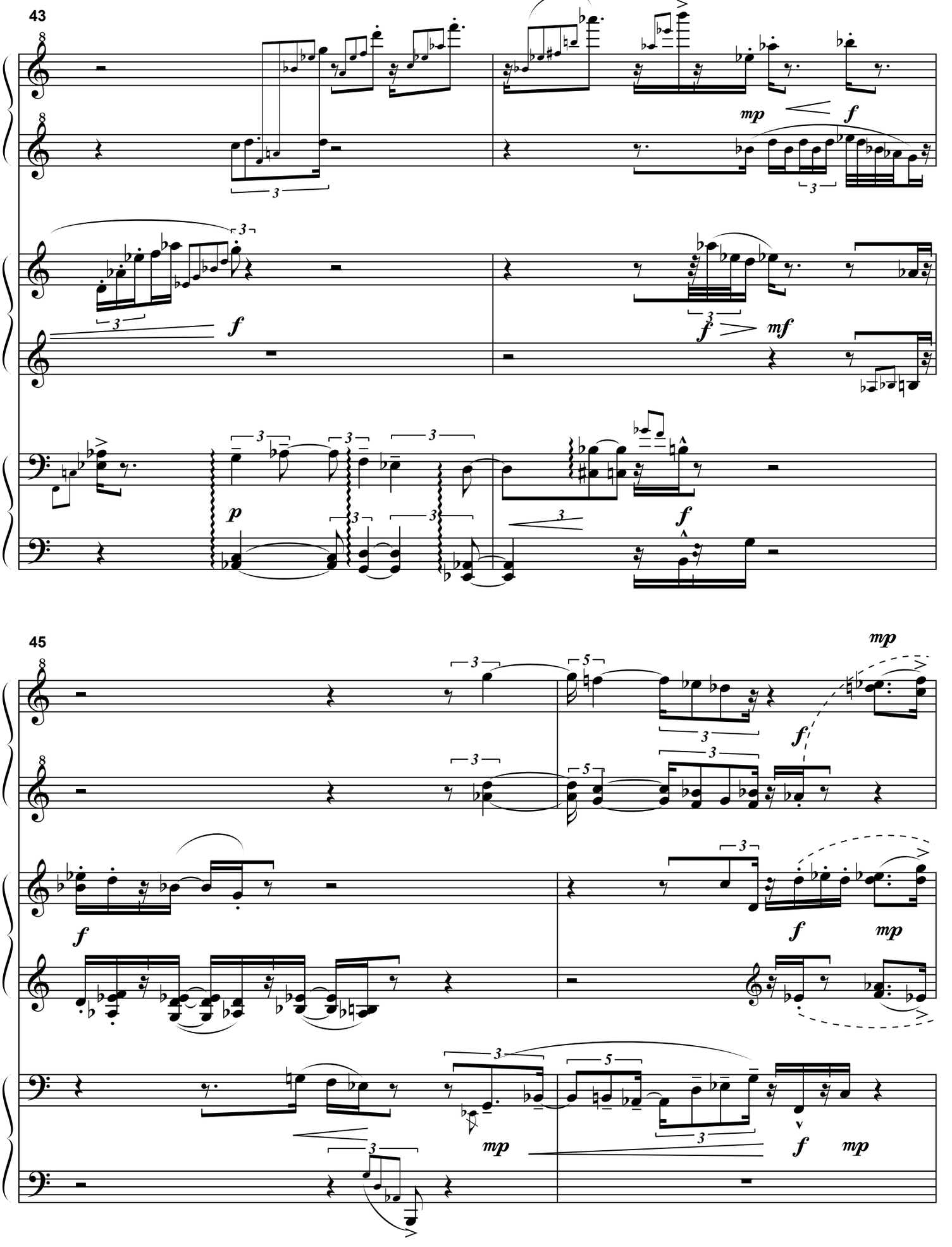
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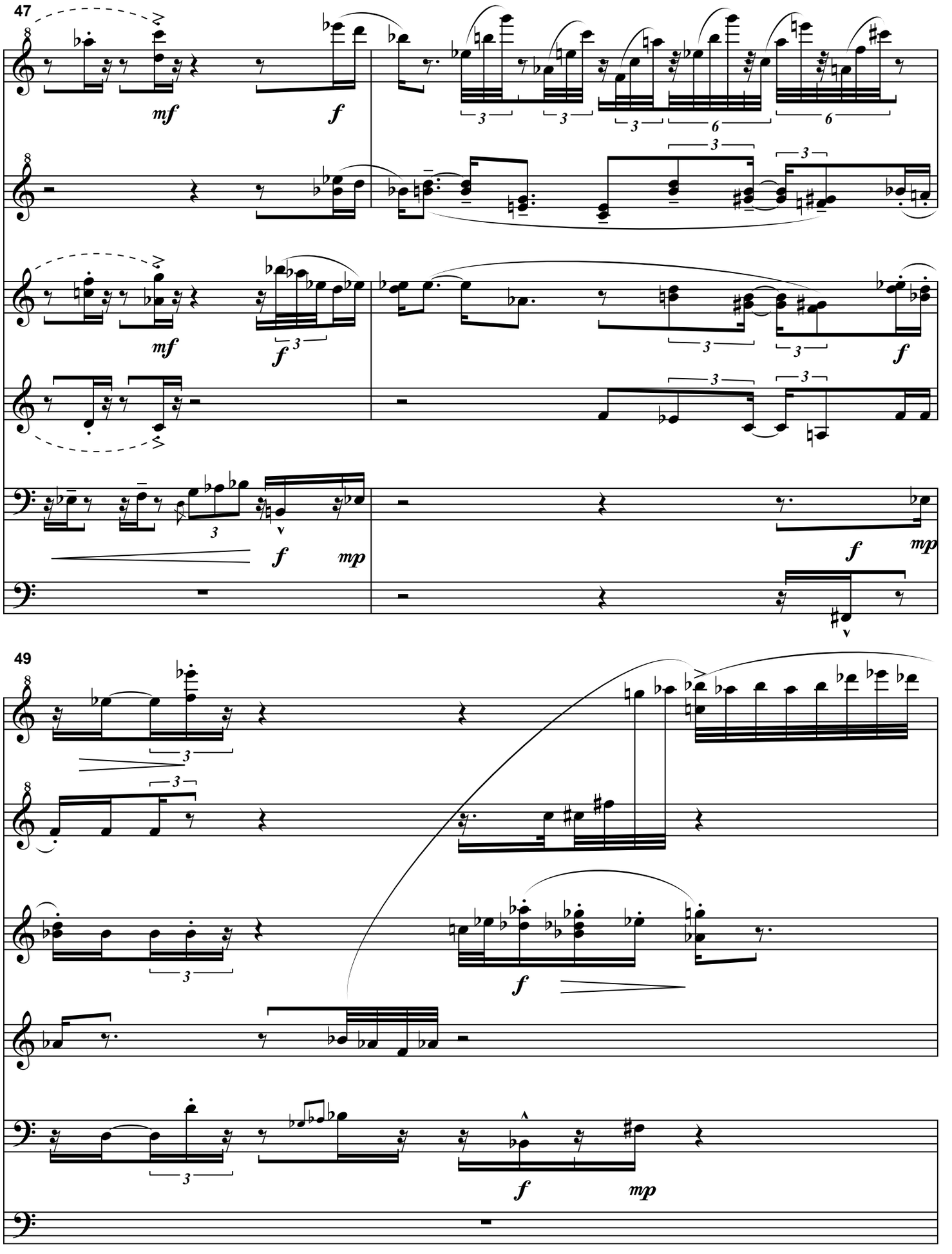
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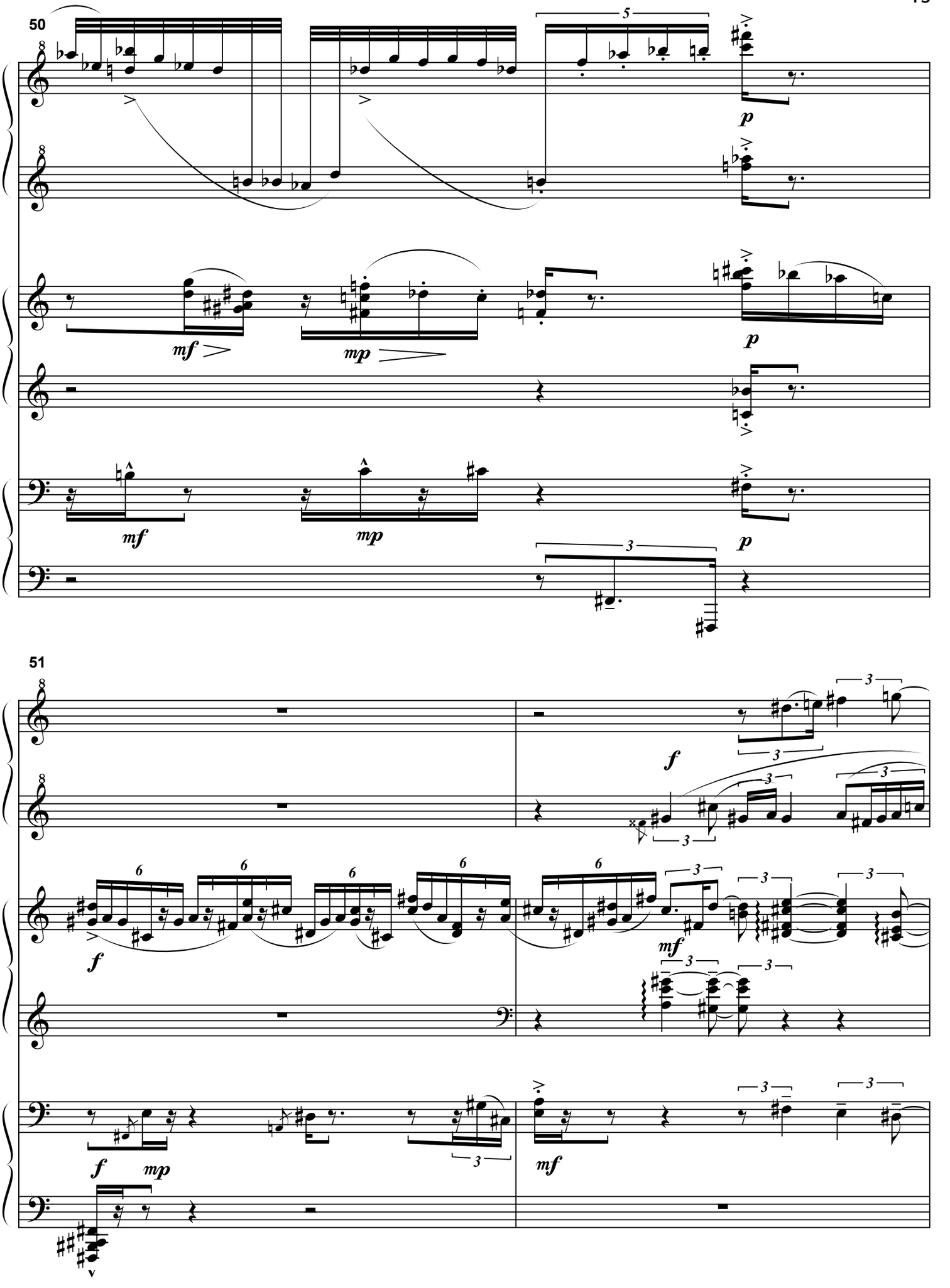
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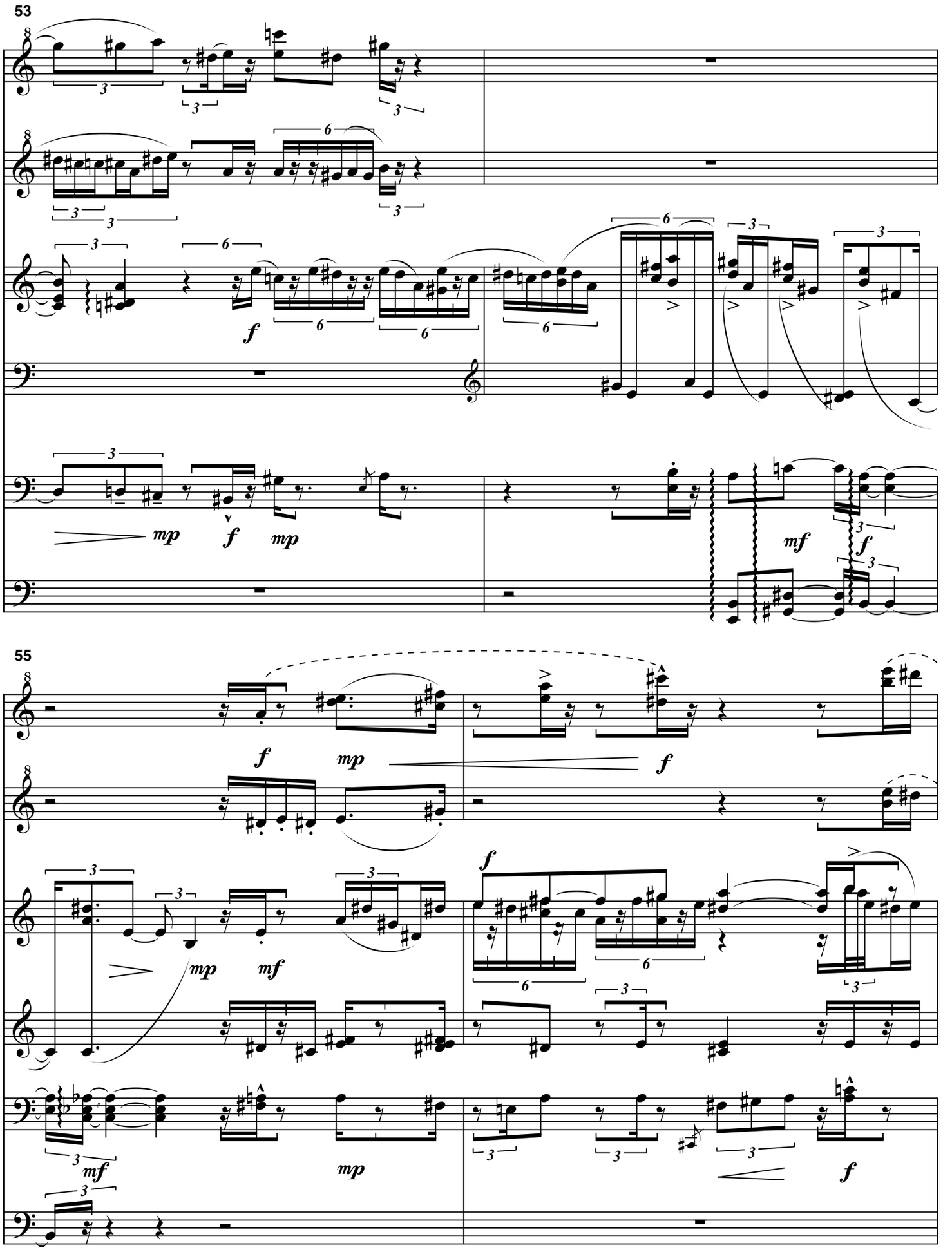
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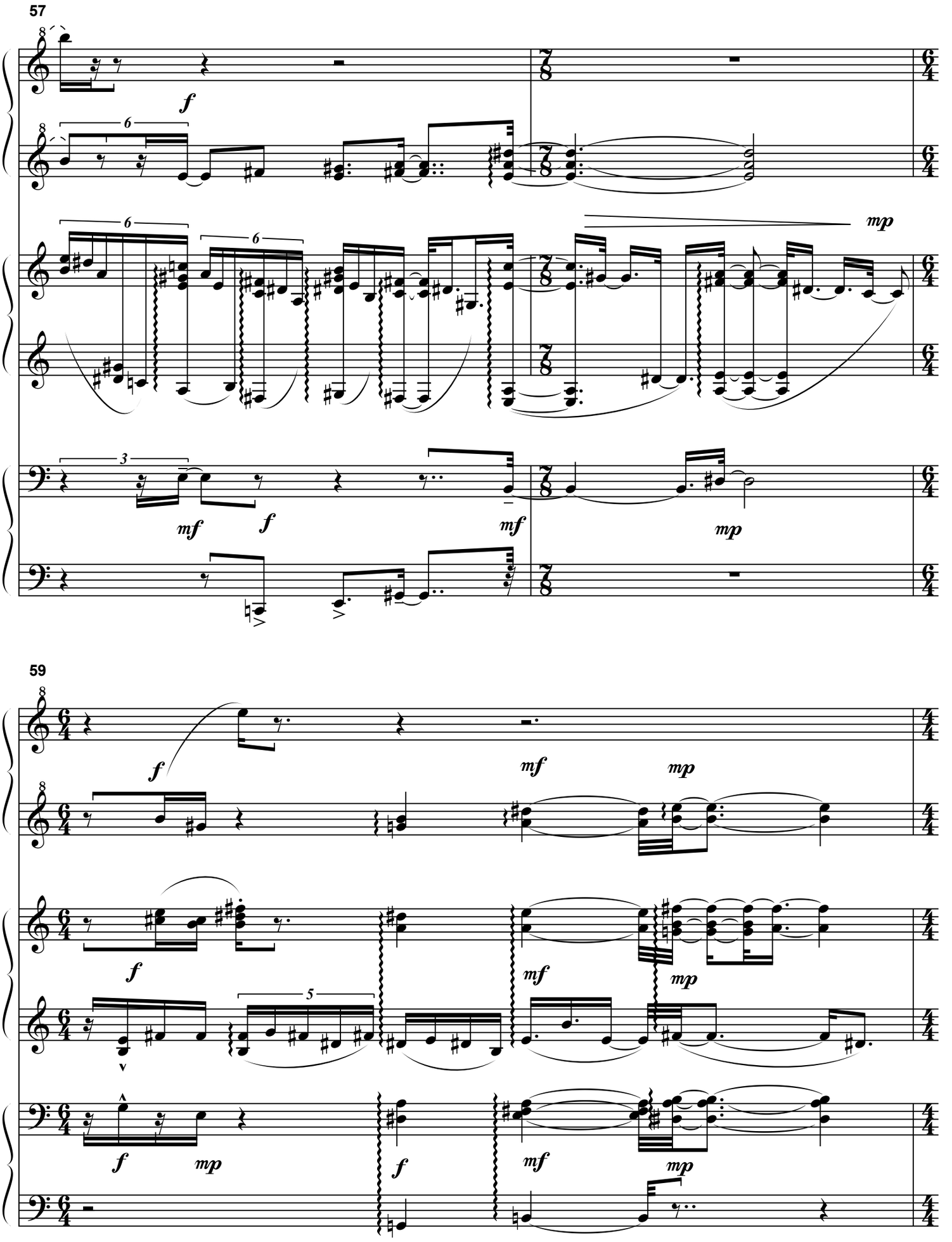
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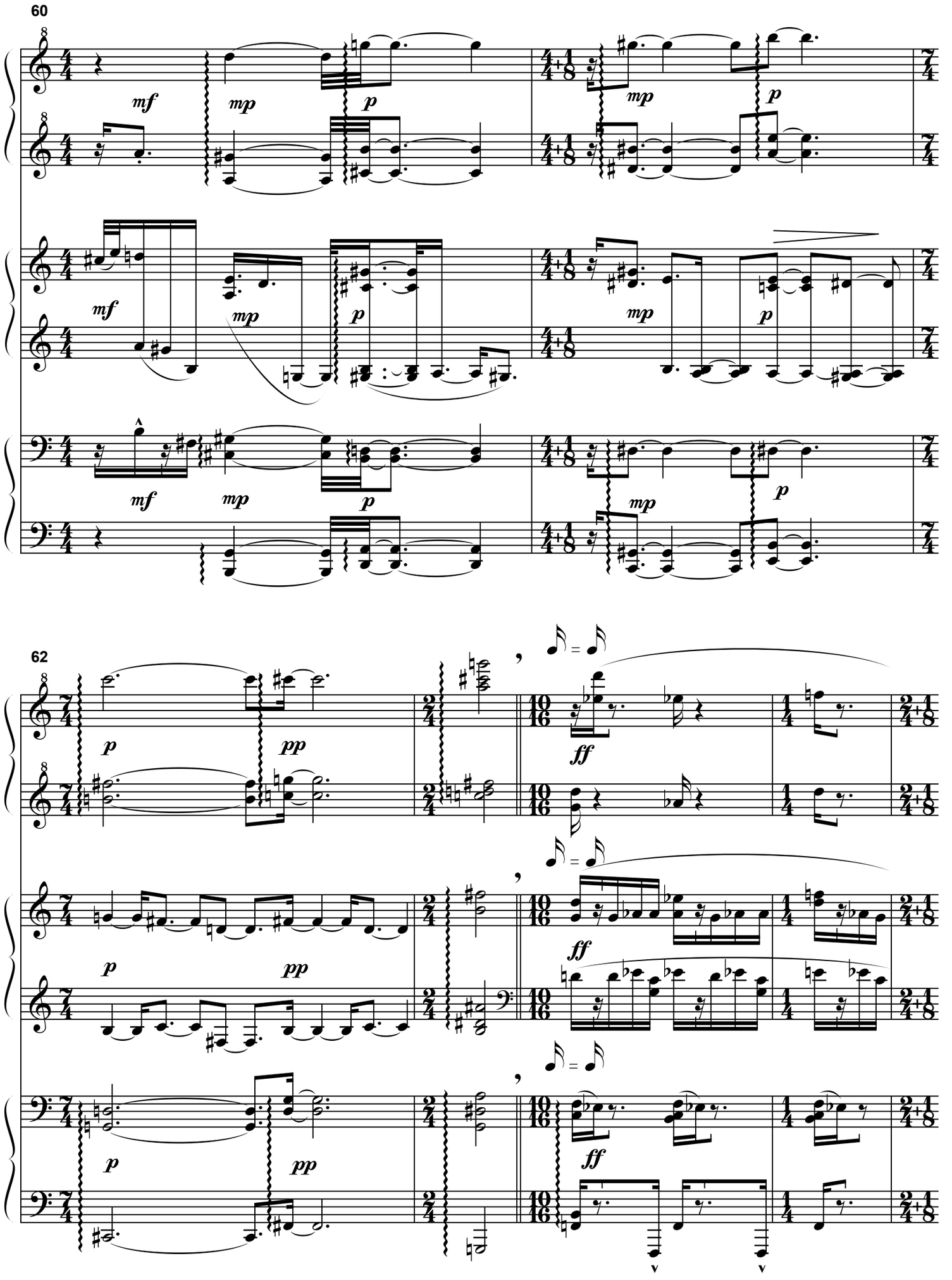
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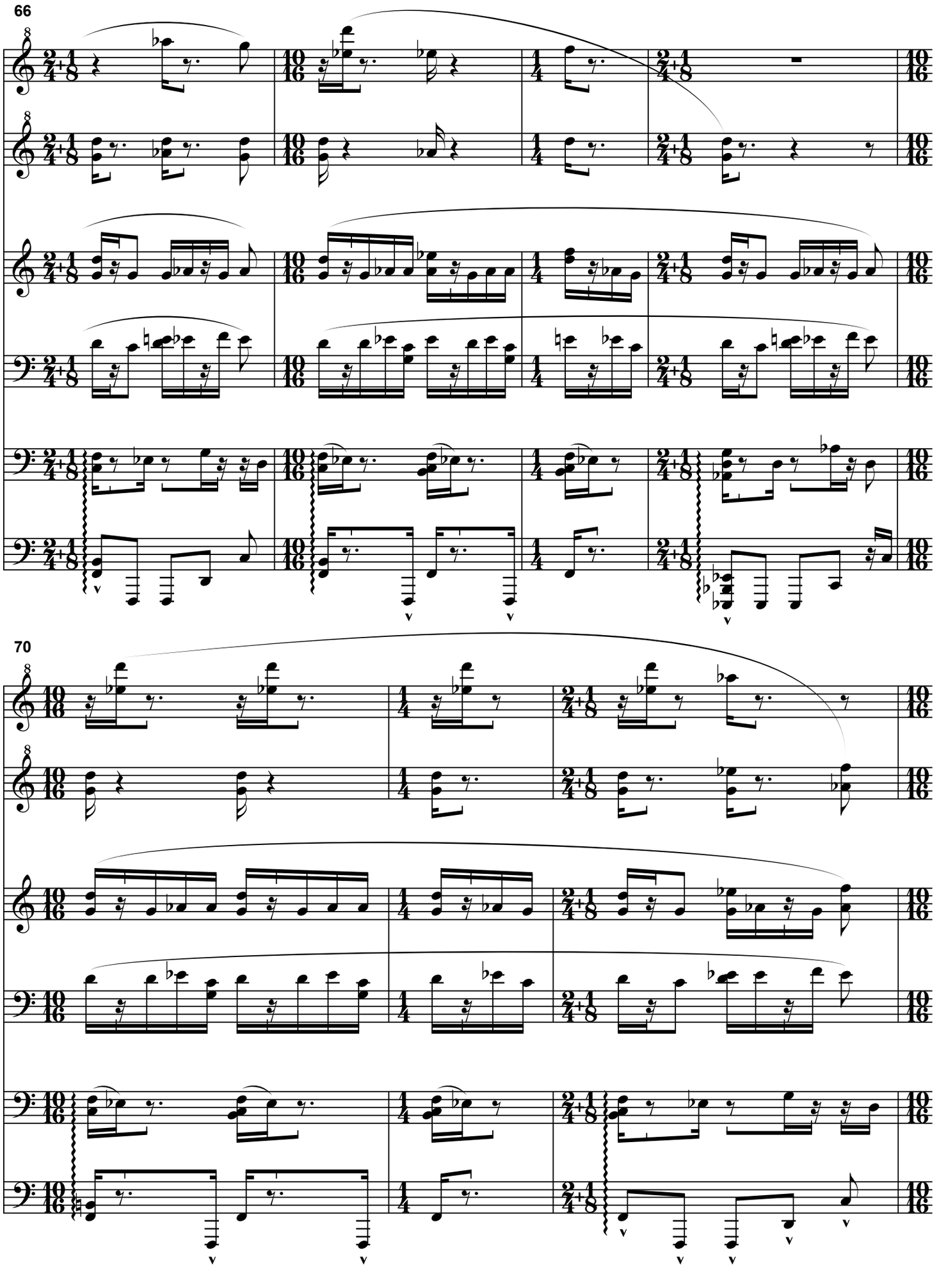
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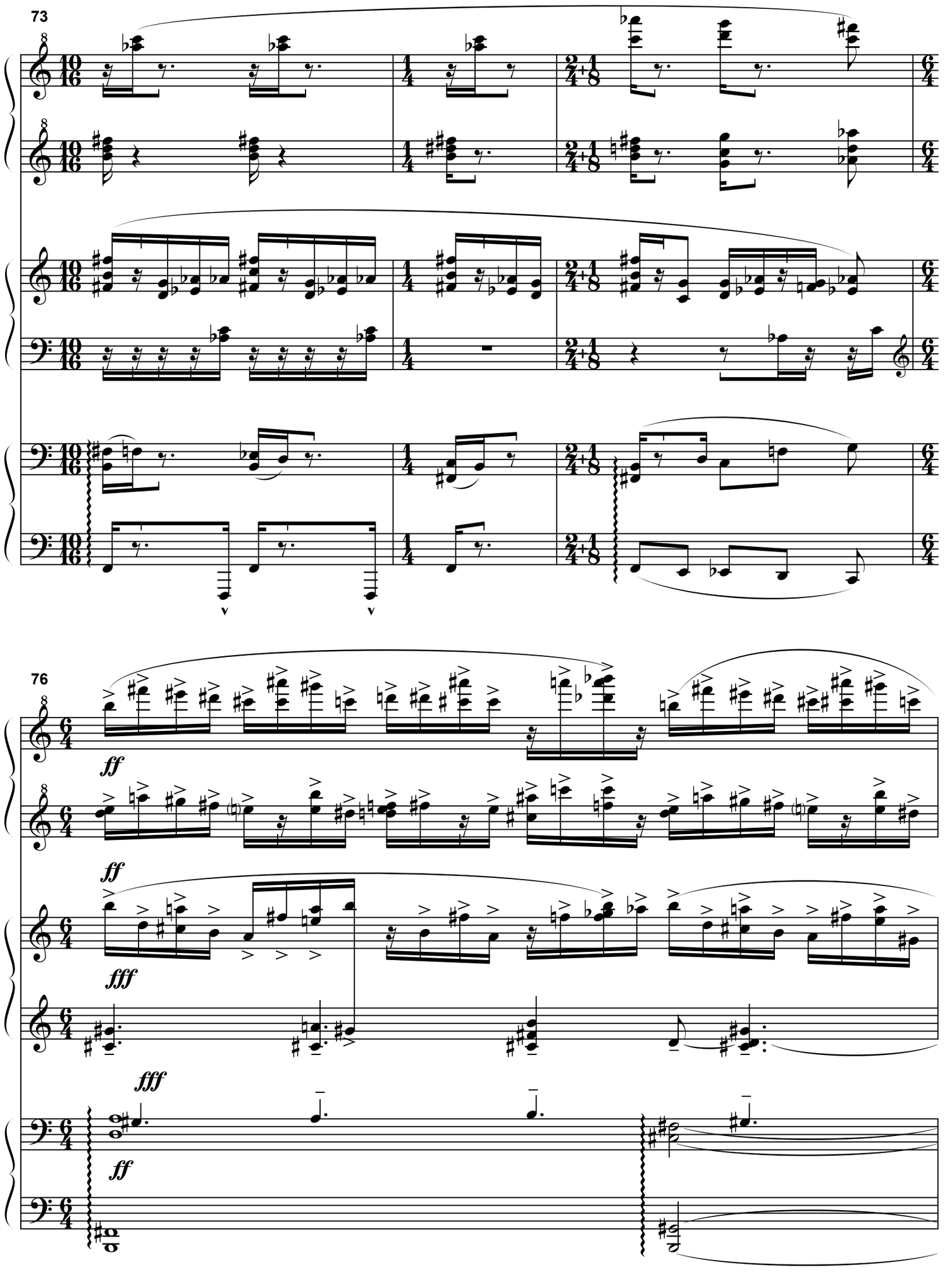
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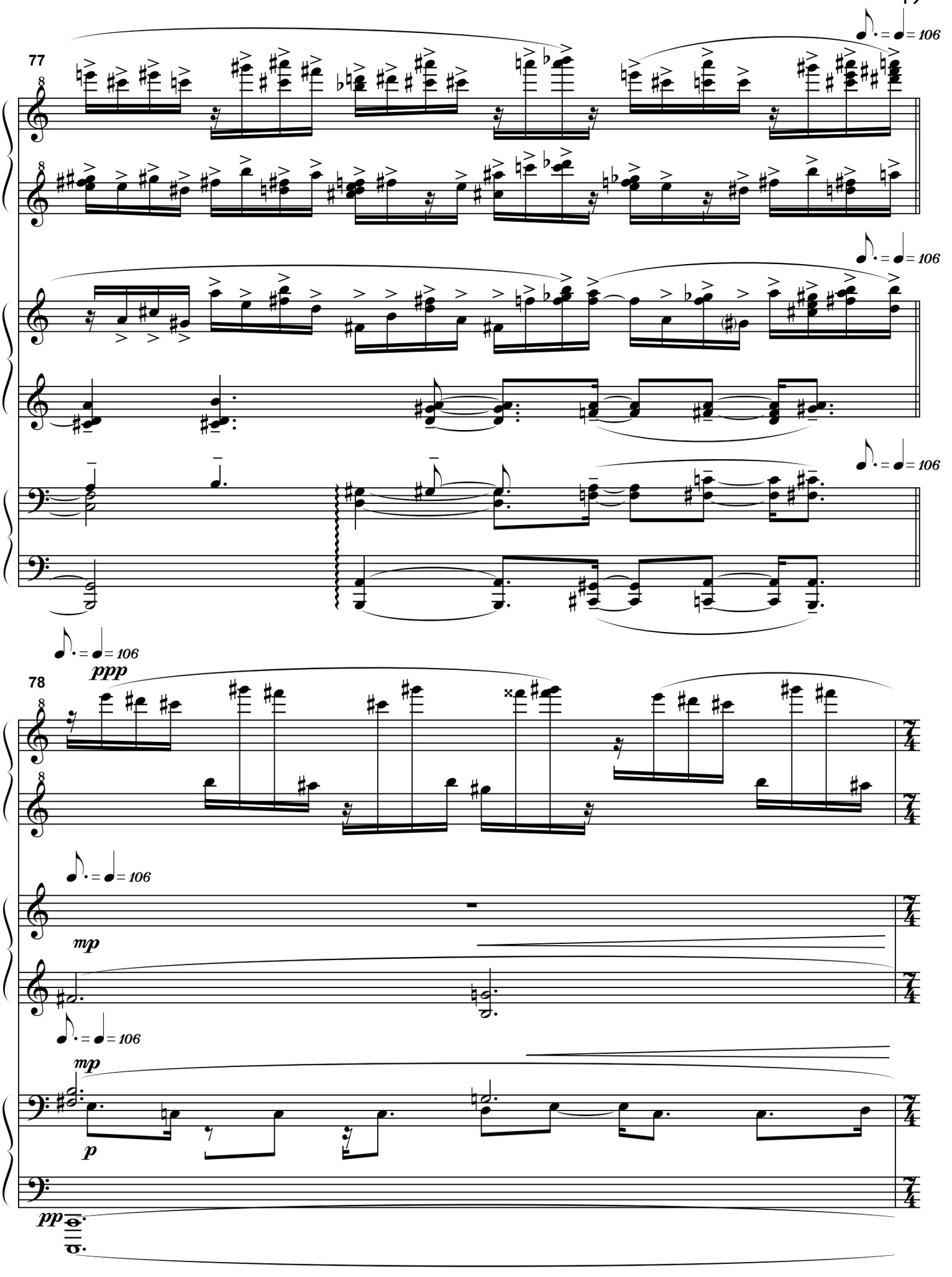
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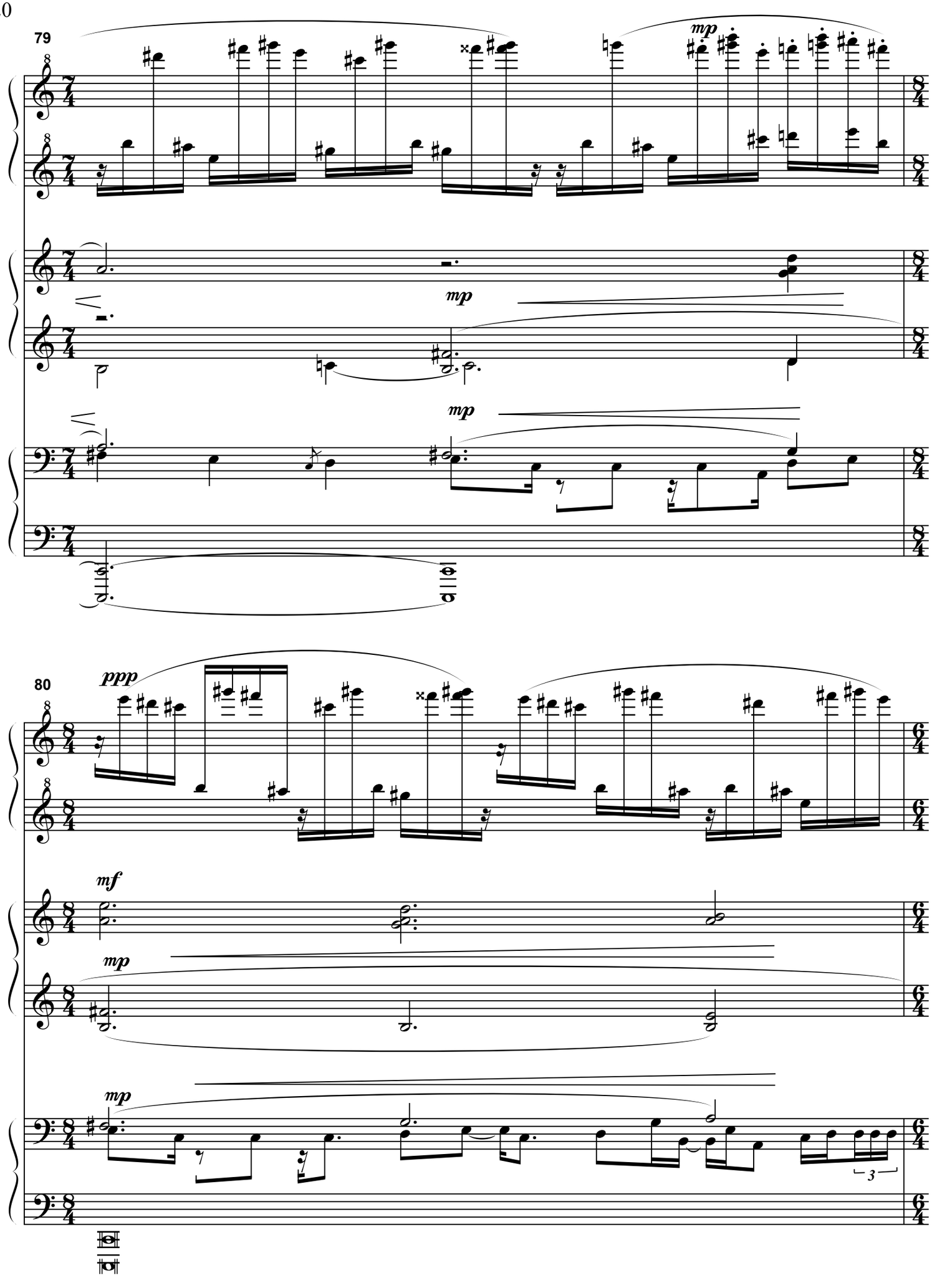
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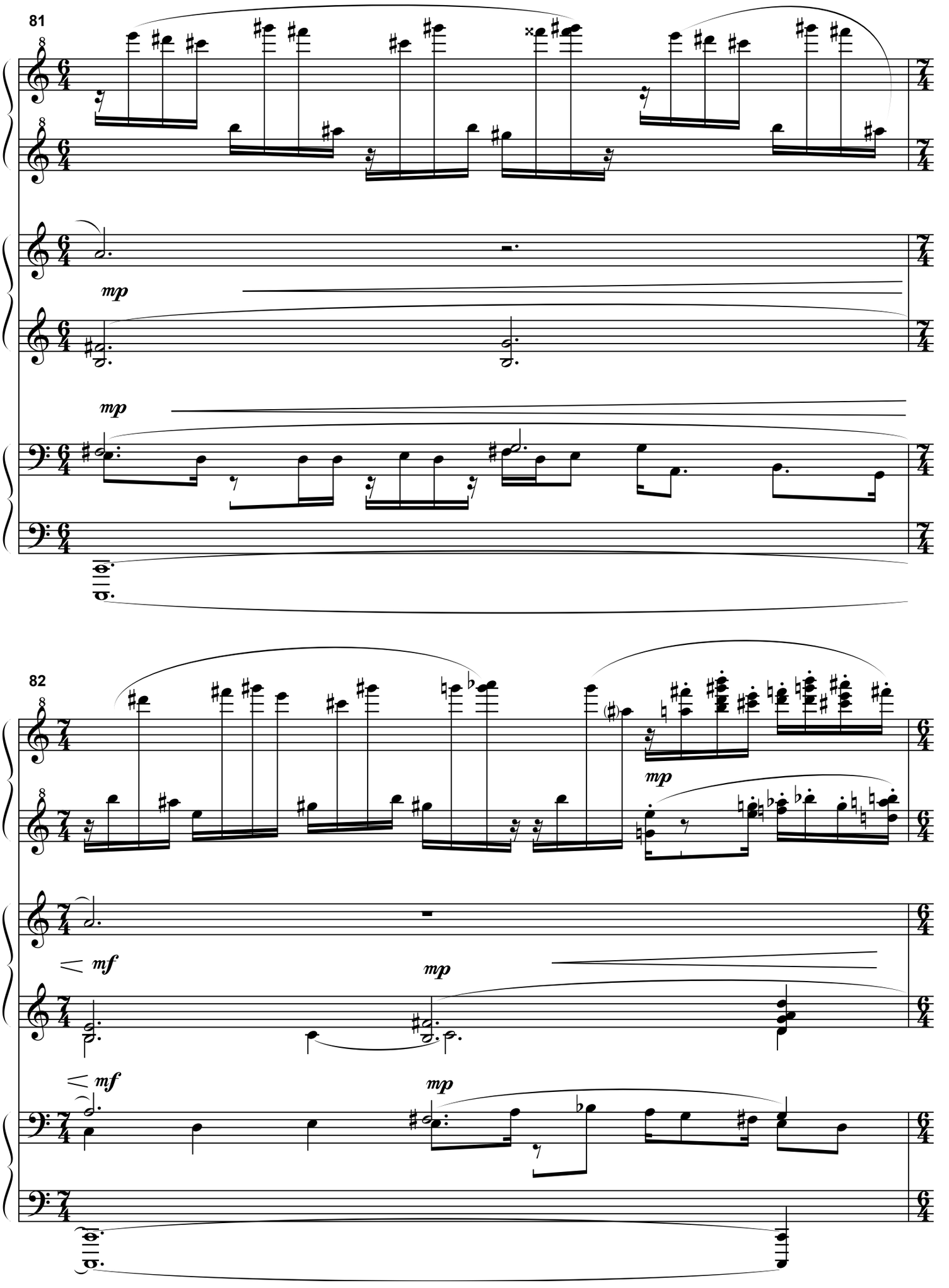
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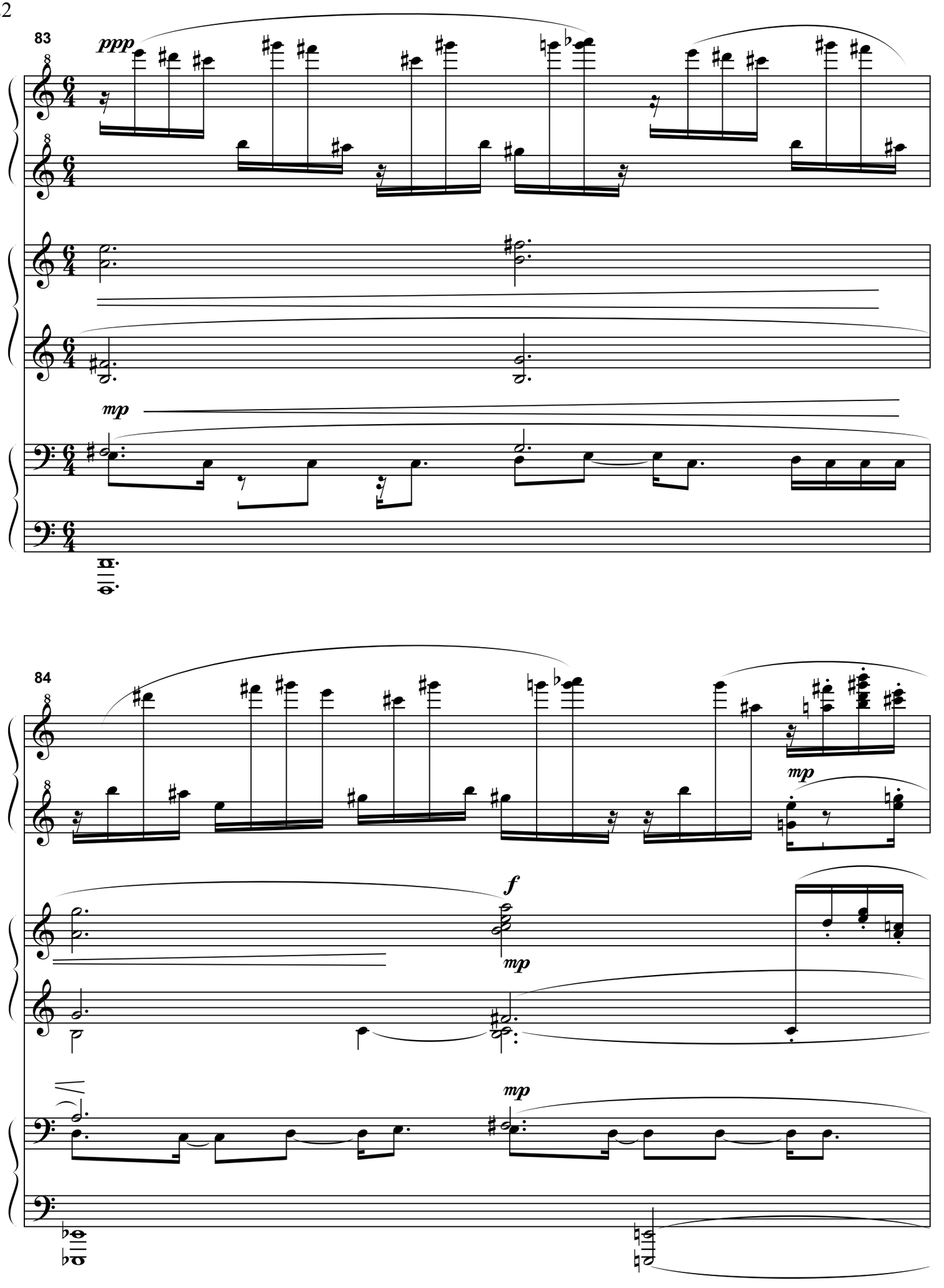
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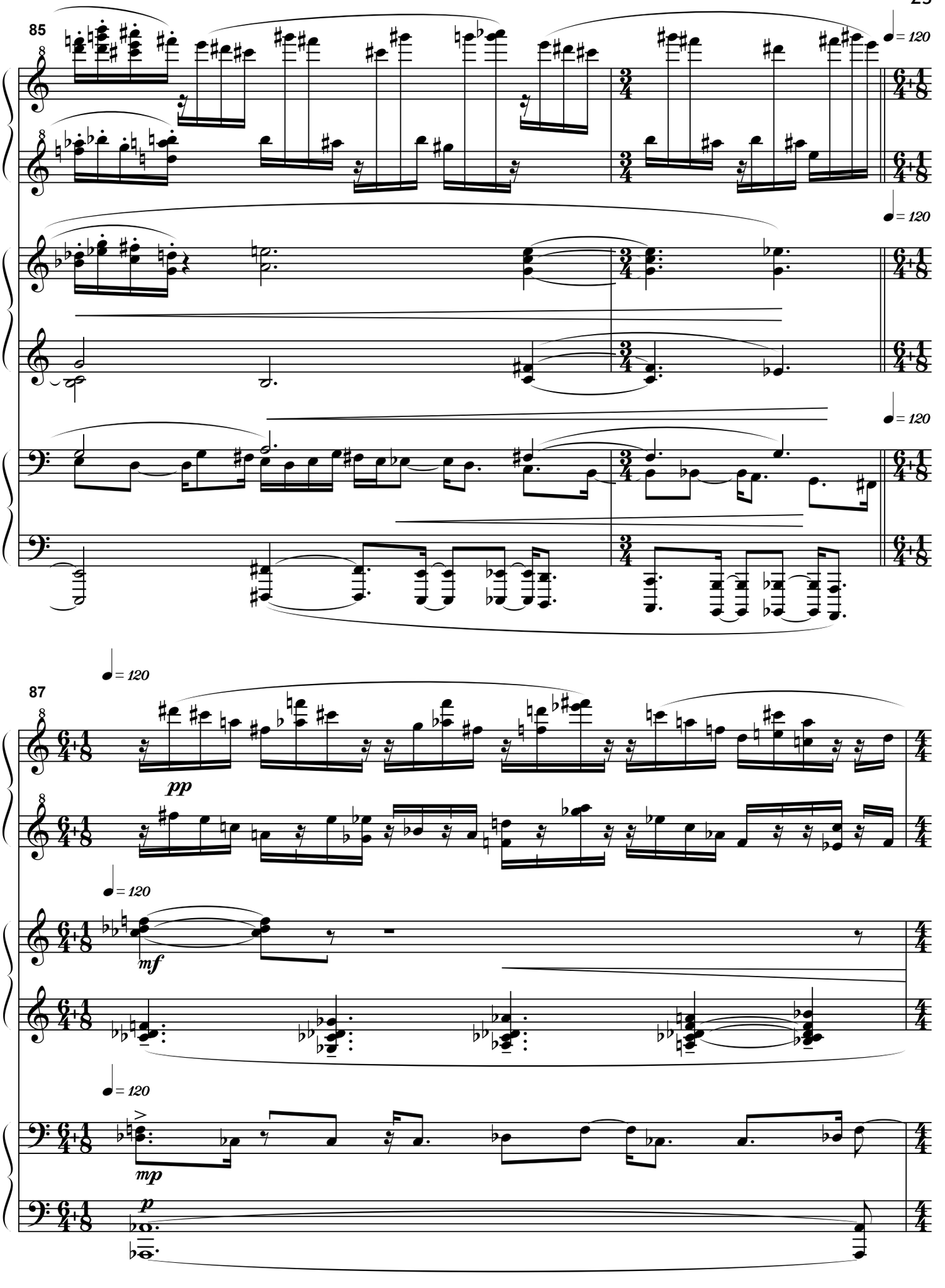
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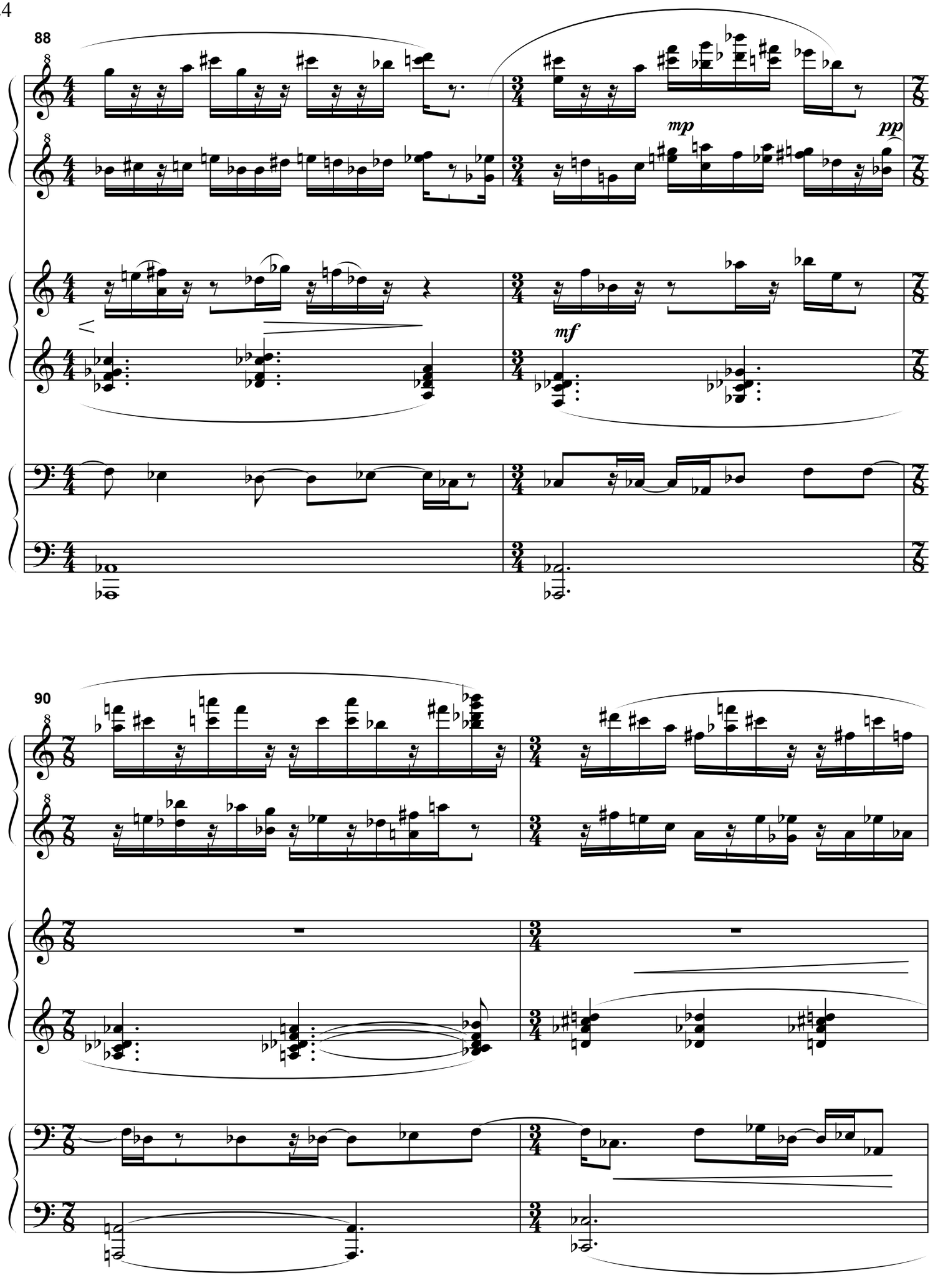
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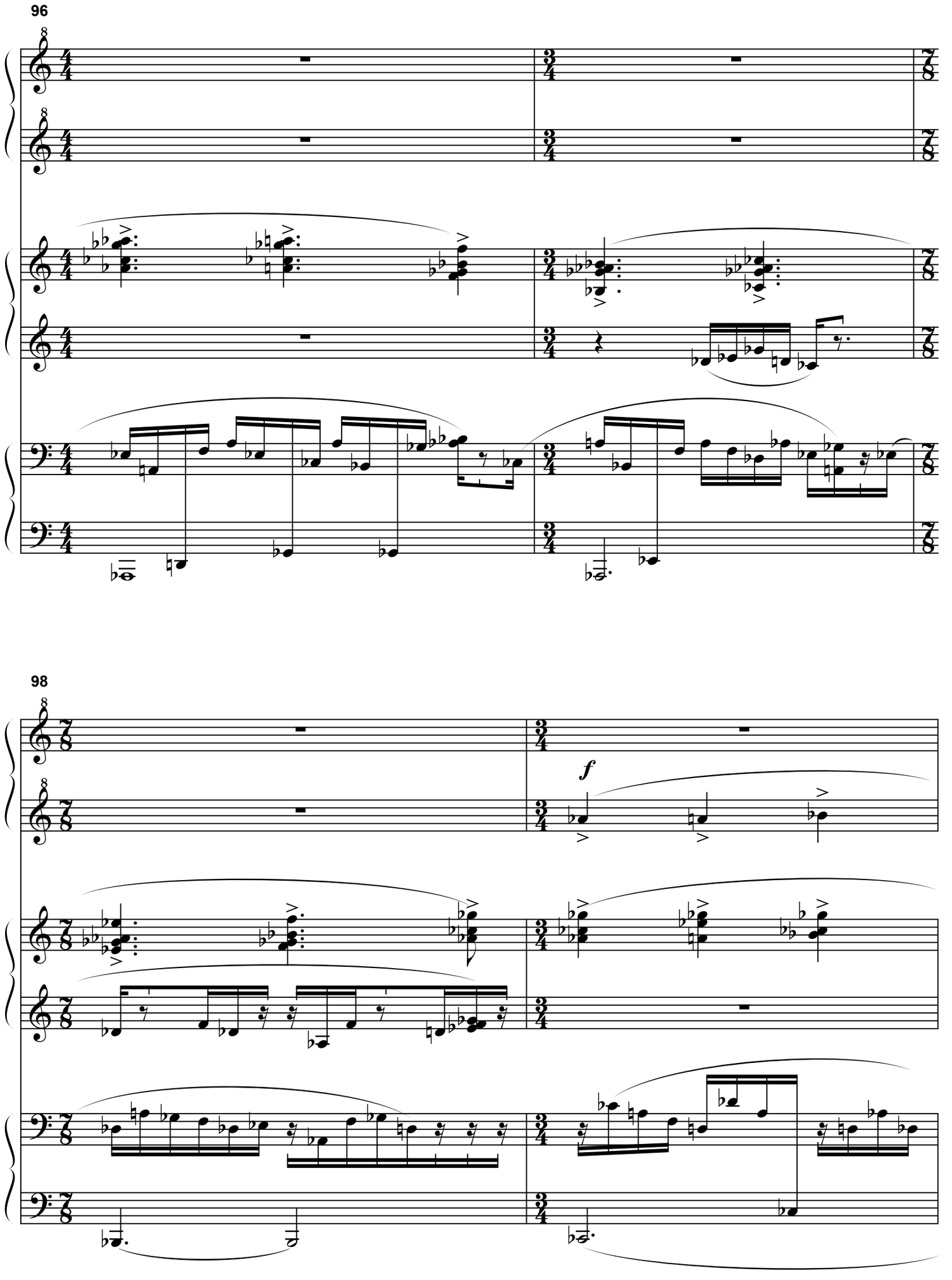
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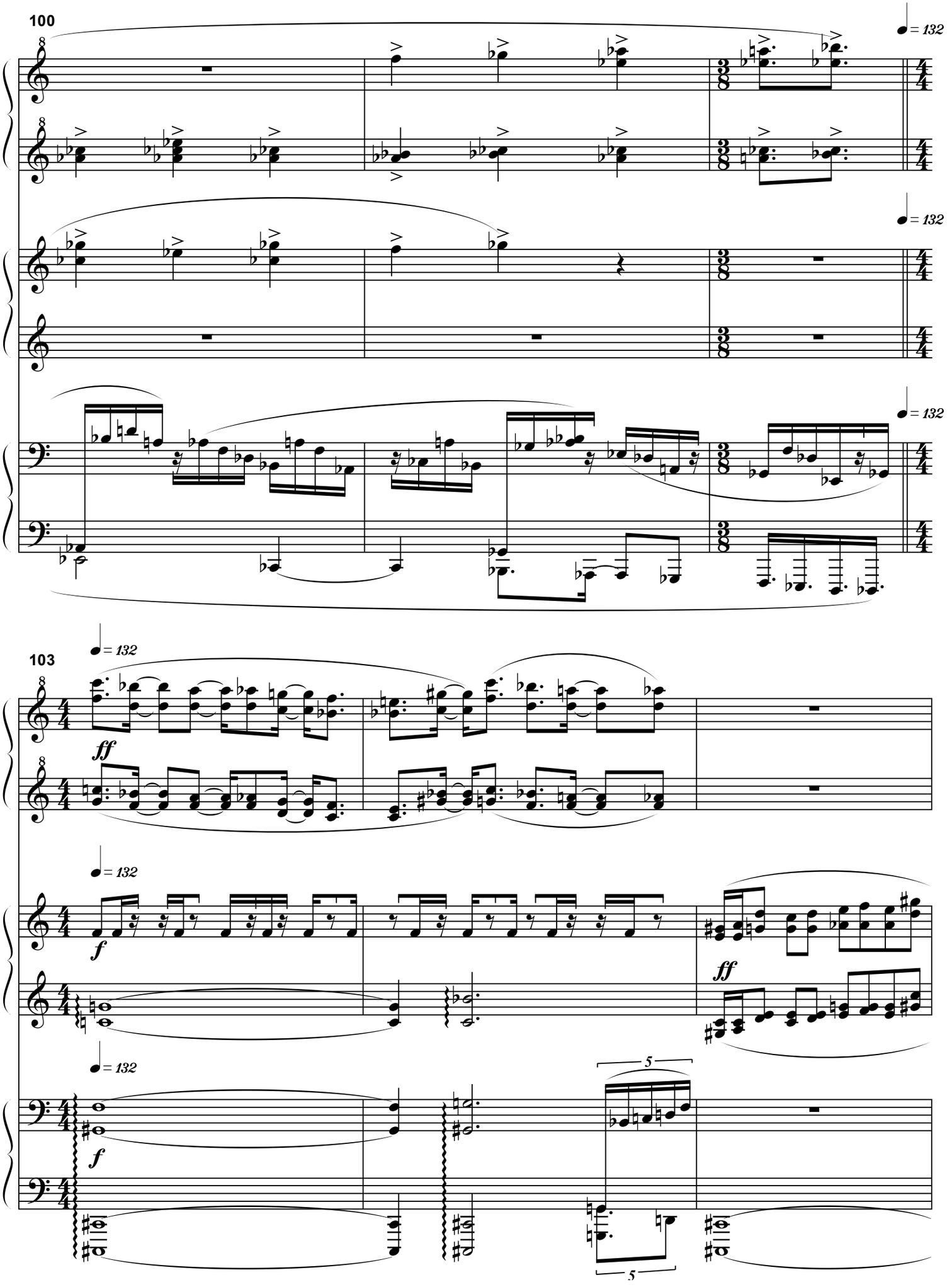
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