Sergei RACHMANINOV

MOMENTS MUSICAUX

Opus 16 N° 2 E♭ minor

original (1896) and
revised (1940) versions

Piano Practical Editions
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Musical Health Warning : please be aware that these editions are definitely not urtext and should be consulted together with a traditional version. They have been devised purely to help solve musical and technical problems at the piano.

Please send comments and error reports to
Ray Alston contact@pianopracticaleditions.com

Sergei RACHMANINOV

1873 - 1943

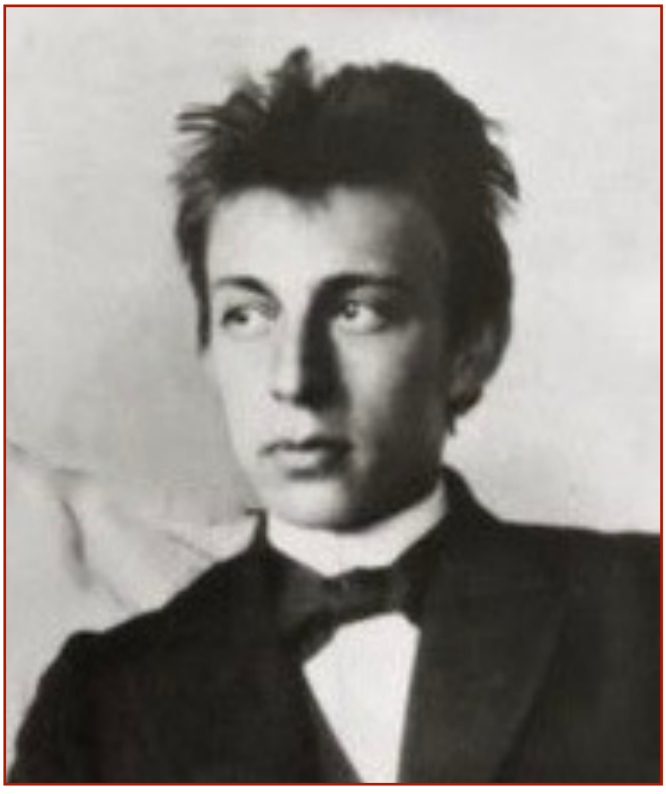
MOMENTS MUSICAUX

Opus 16 N° 2 E♭minor

original and revised versions

Inspired by Schubert's 1828 set of six pieces with the same title, Rachmaninov was laying the foundations for a new personal language that he would explore in the Preludes and Études Tableaux. Composed between October and December 1896, the second piece, in the style of an étude, is strangely hypnotic, an effect prolonged by the central section perpetuating a similar bewitching mood. Deliciously pianistic and original, this work is quite a gem.

During his long and successful career, Rachmaninov did not hide his distaste for contemporary trends and it is possible that these "musical moments" captured his vision of piano repertoire from a former glorious era.



The complete set was dedicated to Aleksandr Zatayevich, a collector of Kazakh music, who also wrote three *Moments Musicaux* of his own.

In March 1940, three years before his death, Rachmaninov revised three early works* dating from 1892-93 plus this *Moment Musical*. This particular piece must have been a special favourite and after a gap of some 44 years it is fascinating to see how Rachmaninov looked back at this youthful composition, tinkering with the text and rectifying a few awkward corners. There is more detail, and flamboyant dynamics (***fff ppp sff***) have been sagely replaced. The short coda has been reduced by one bar.

For probably the first time the two versions are published together, identical page and bar numbers making it easy to compare. Intriguing differences in the tempo (the metronome speed has been removed), dynamics and agogic markings will be observed.

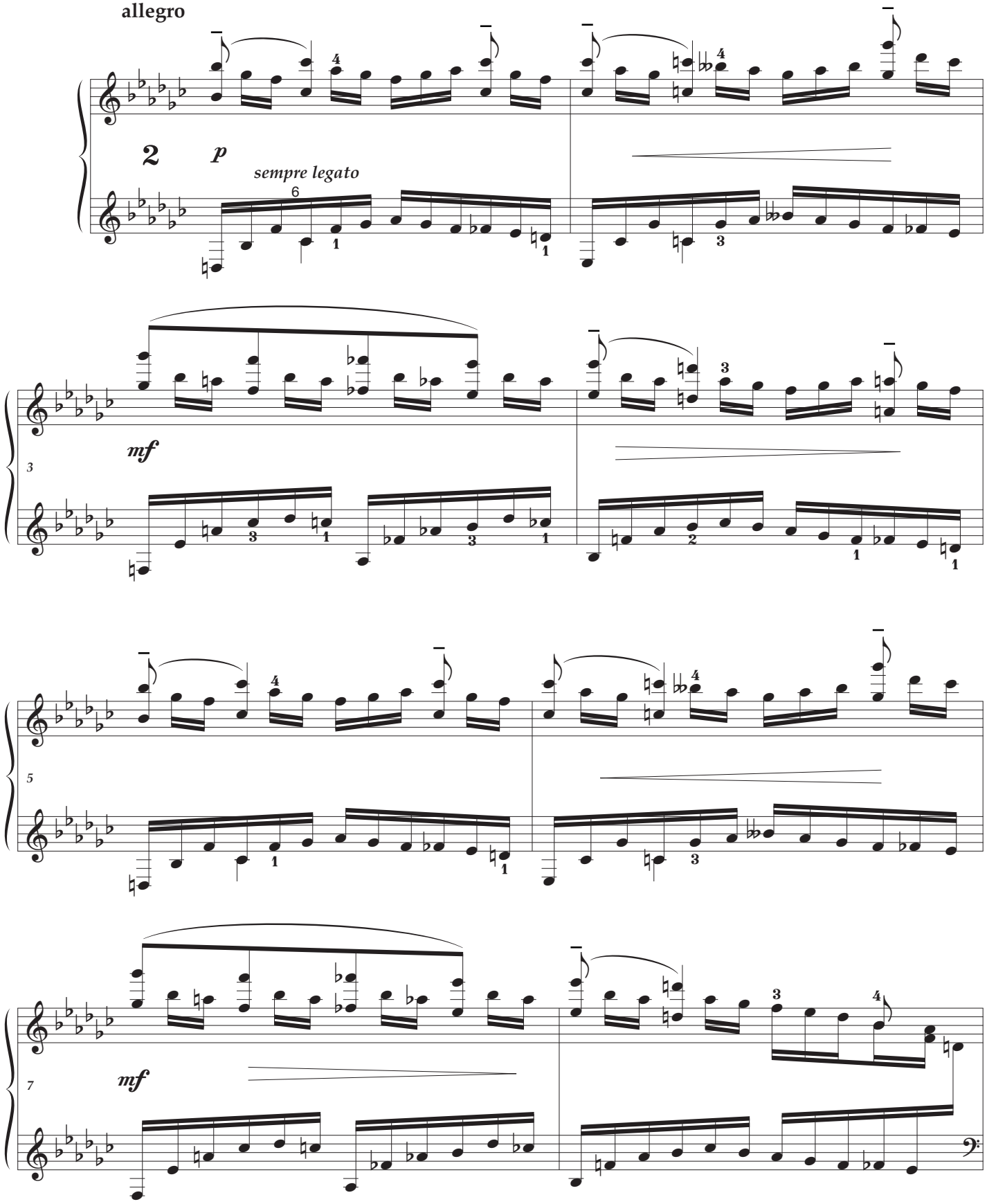
Given that the composer was born in 1873, an age of great artistic individuality, it is not surprising that he typically performed without wholly respecting the score. Some of the phrasing, dynamics and agogic markings have been sometimes modified; a zealous student will need to consult other sources.

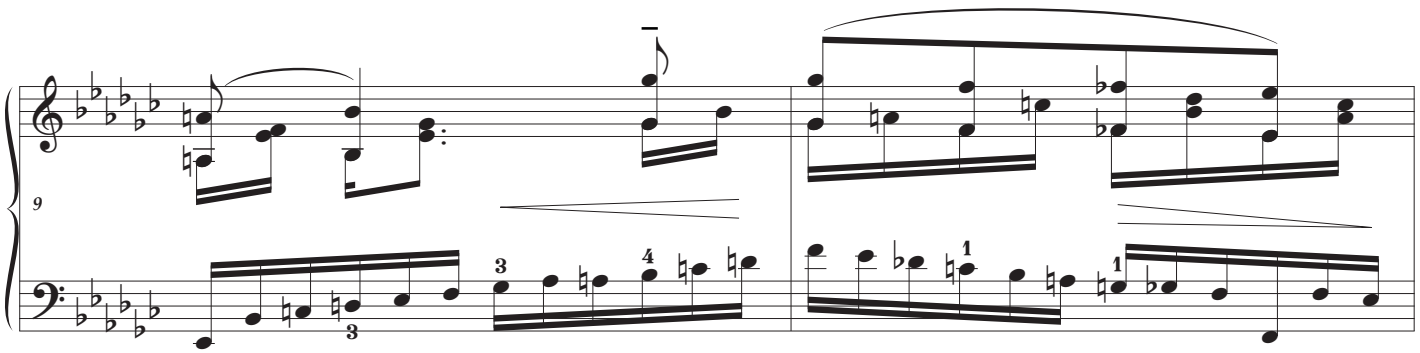
* Op 3 *Mélodie* in E major, *Serenade*
Op 10 *Humoresque* in G

MOMENTS MUSICAUX

Op 16 Nº 2

revised version 1940

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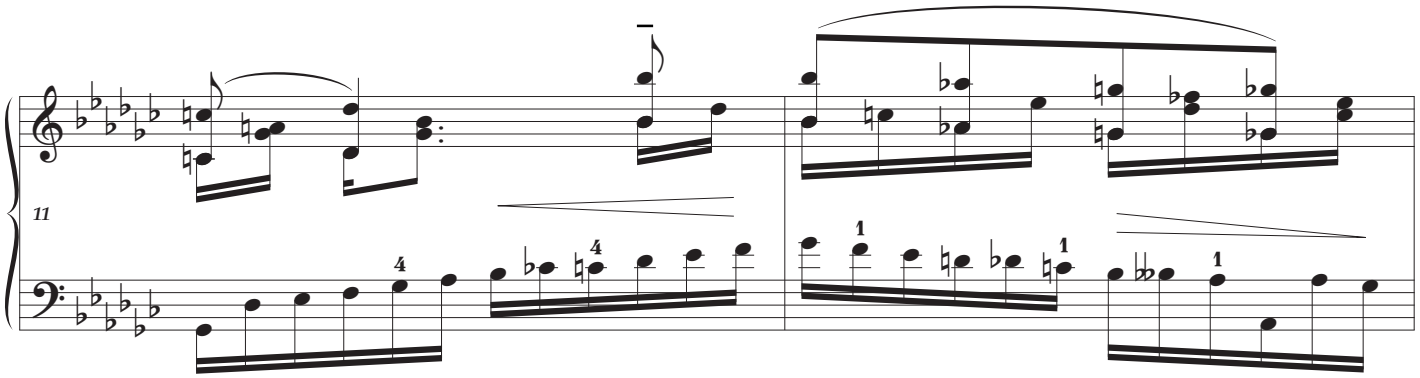
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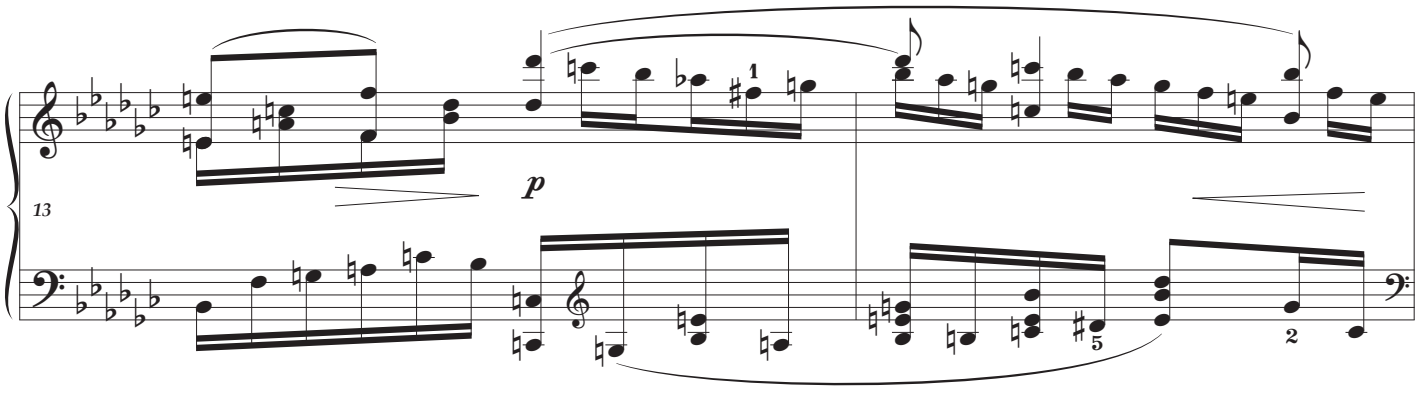
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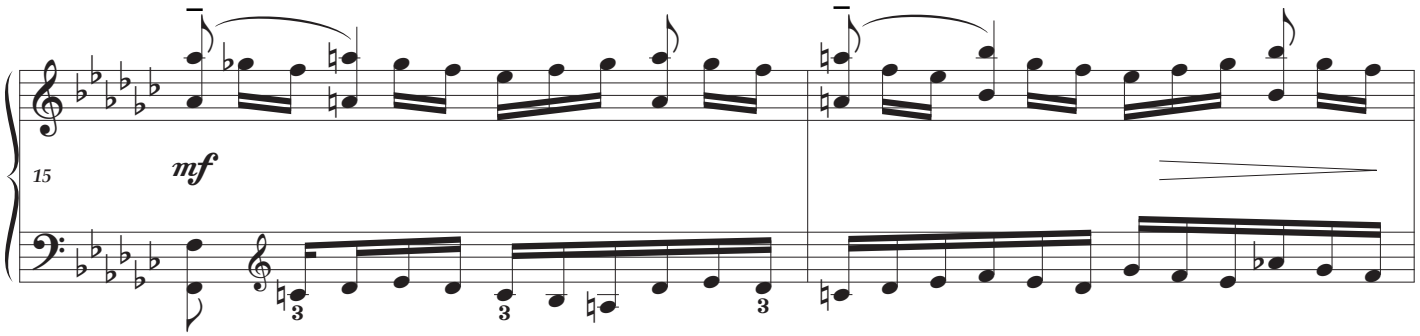
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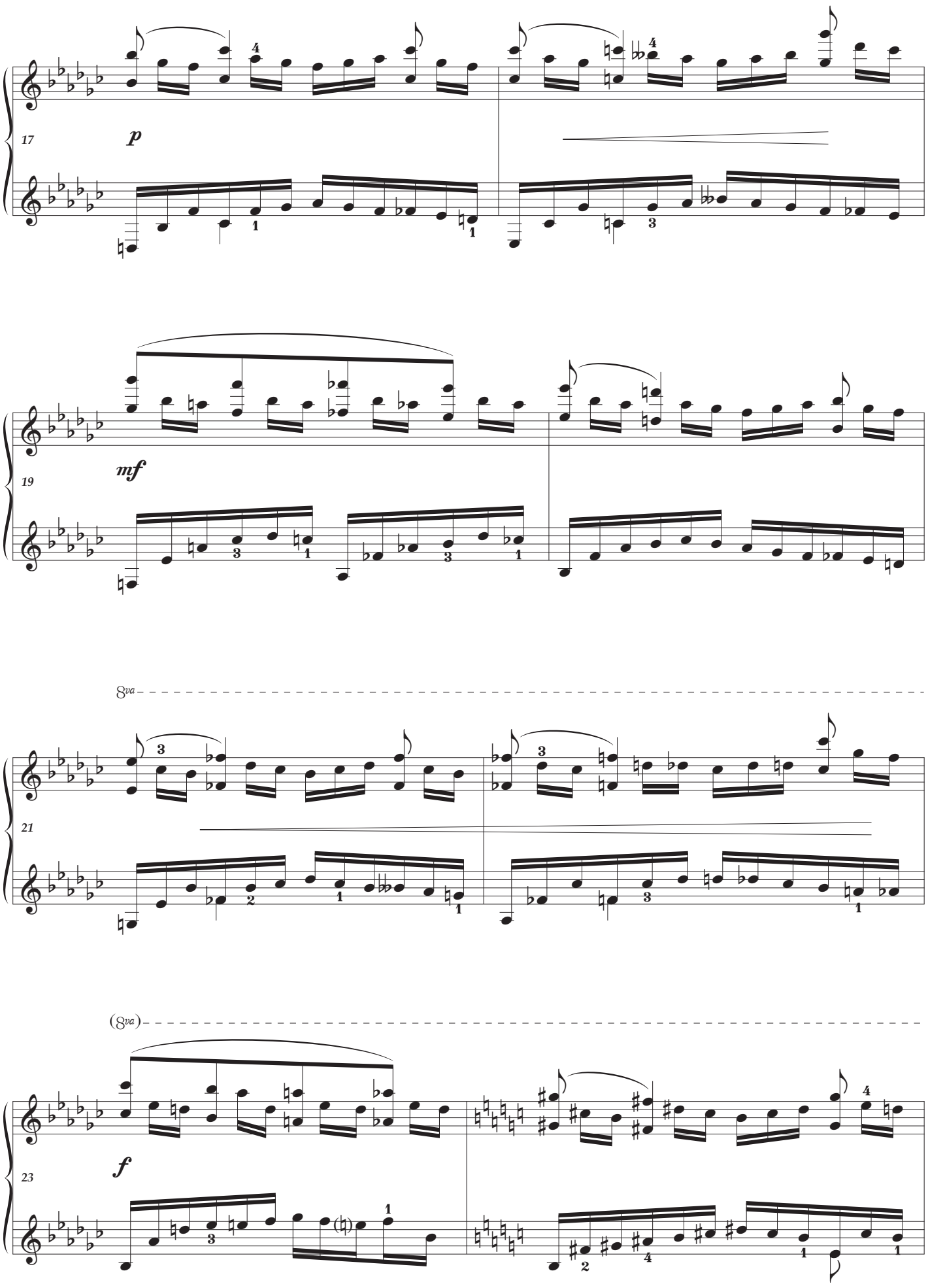
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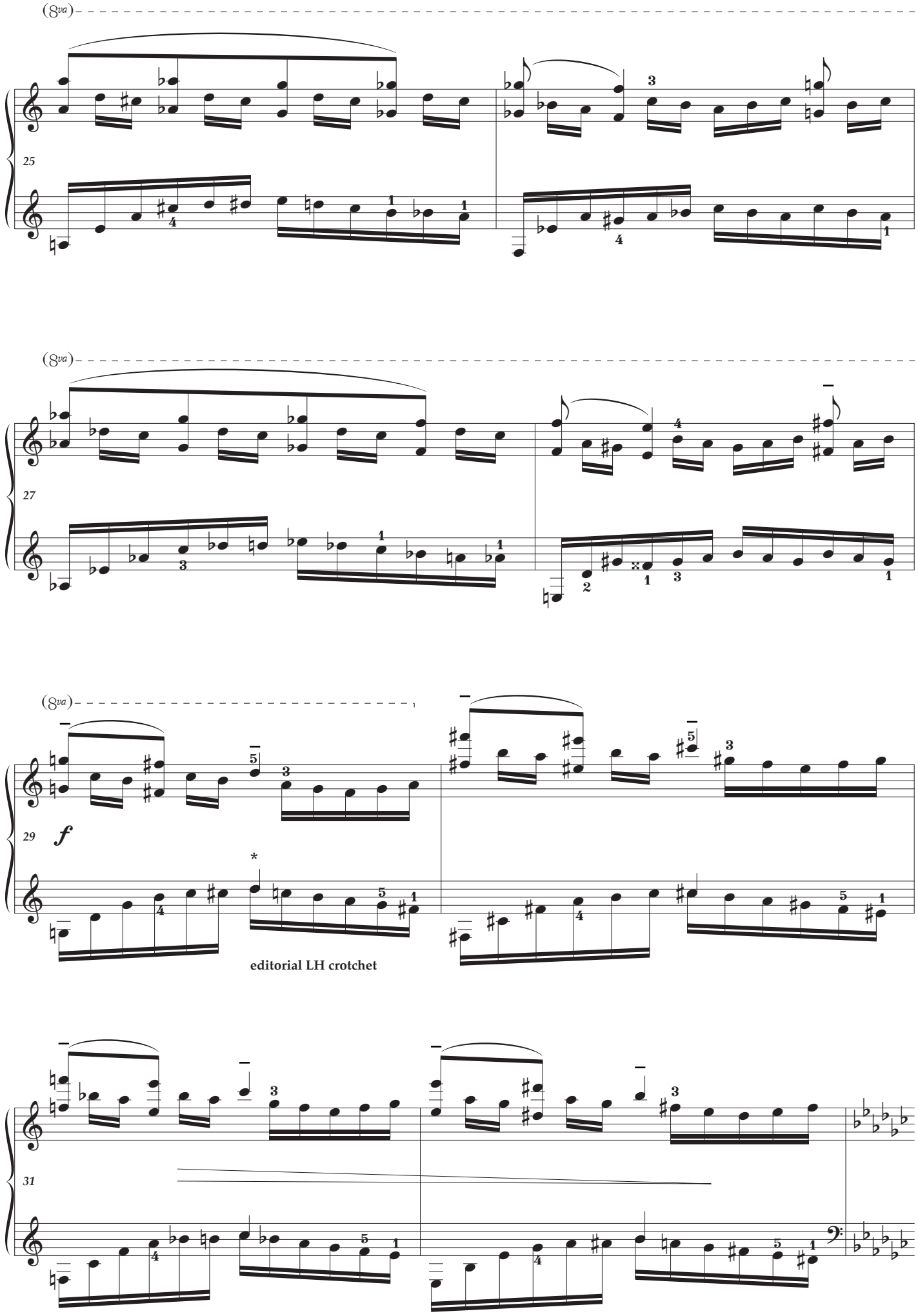
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(8va)
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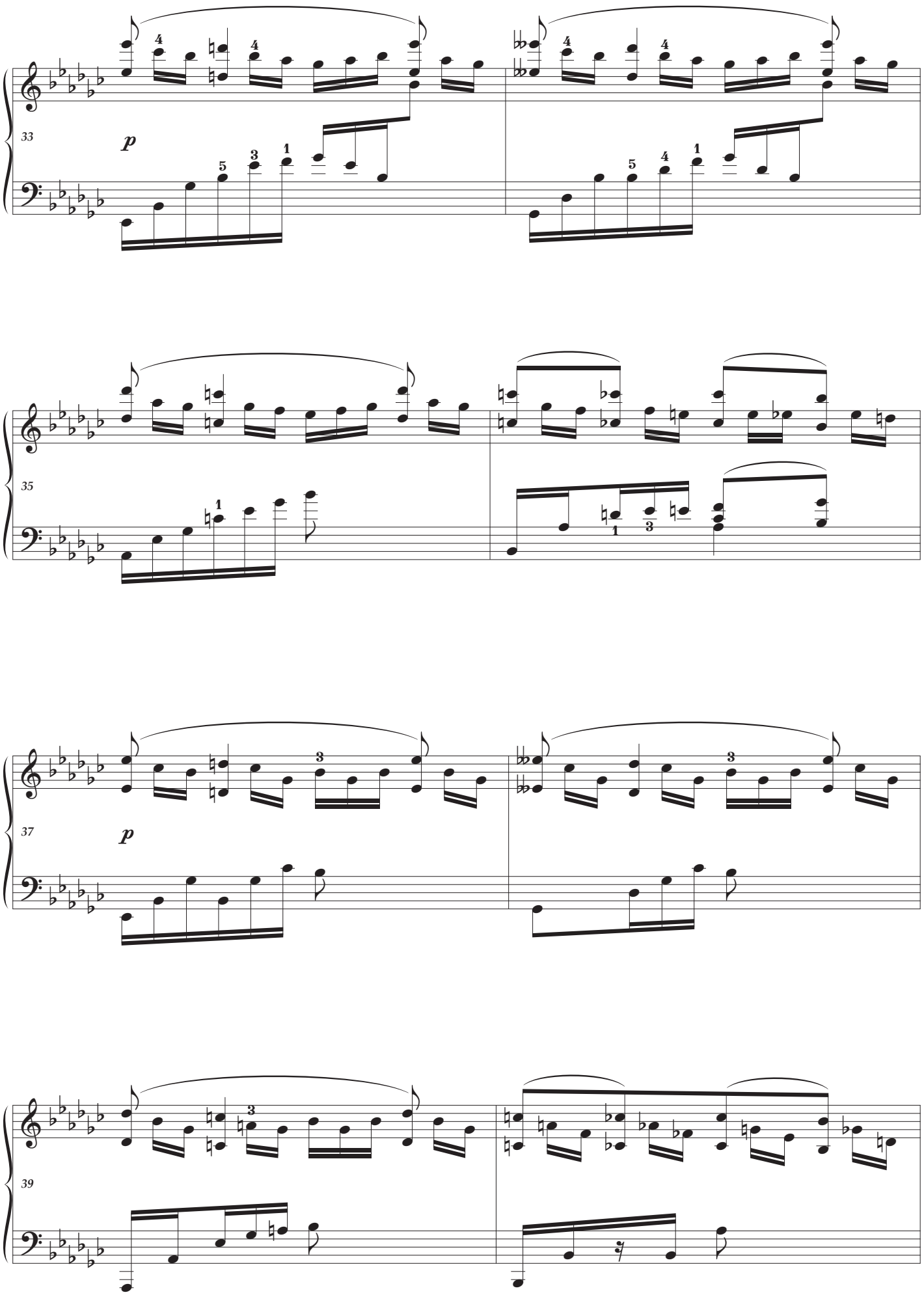
editorial LH crotchet
31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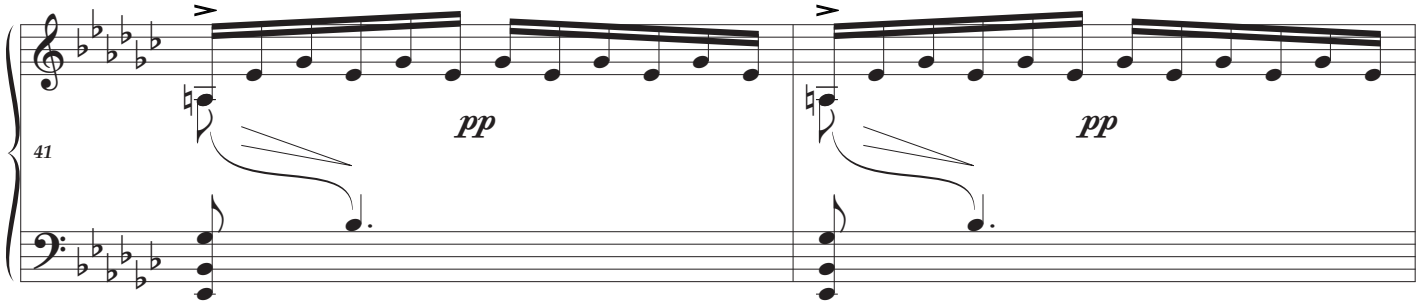
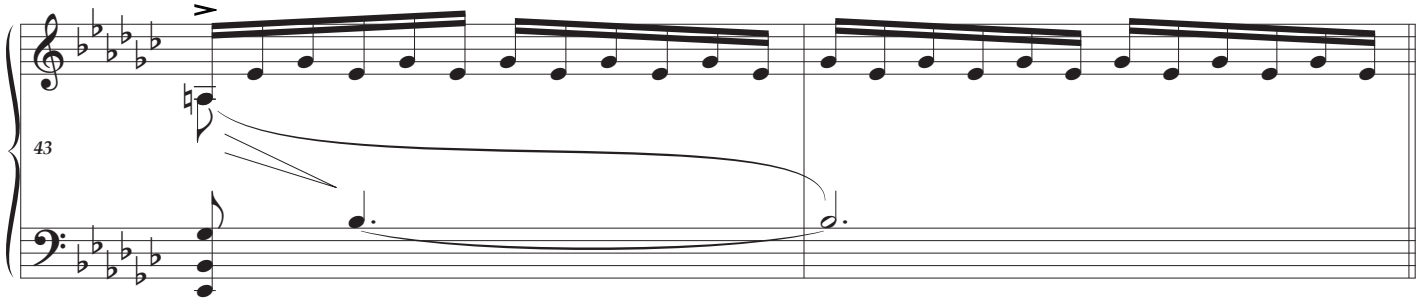
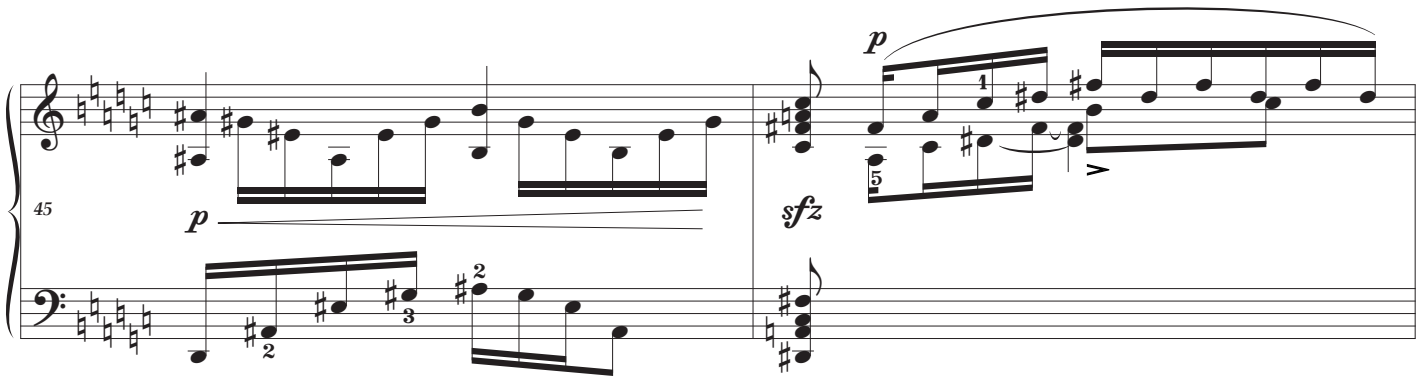
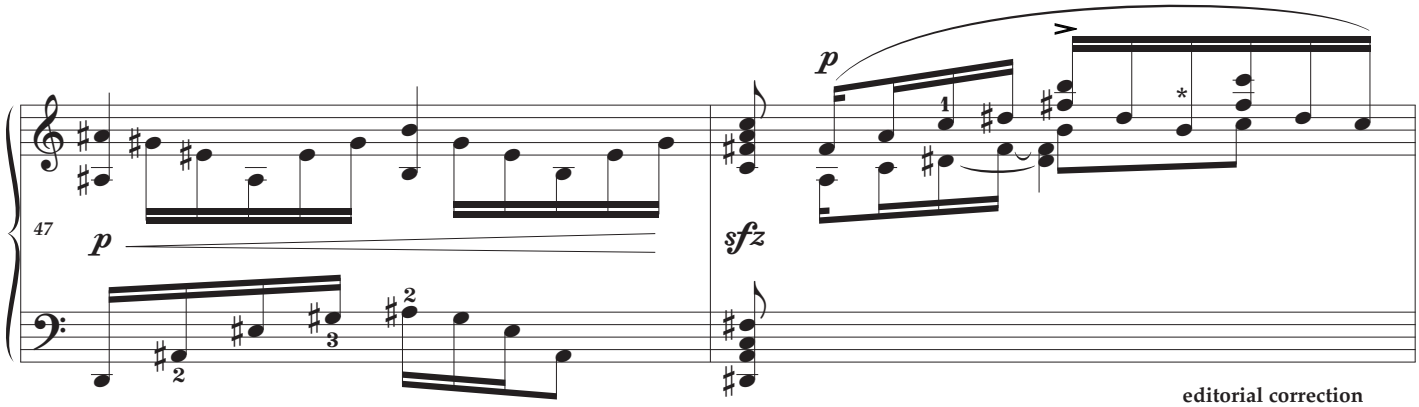
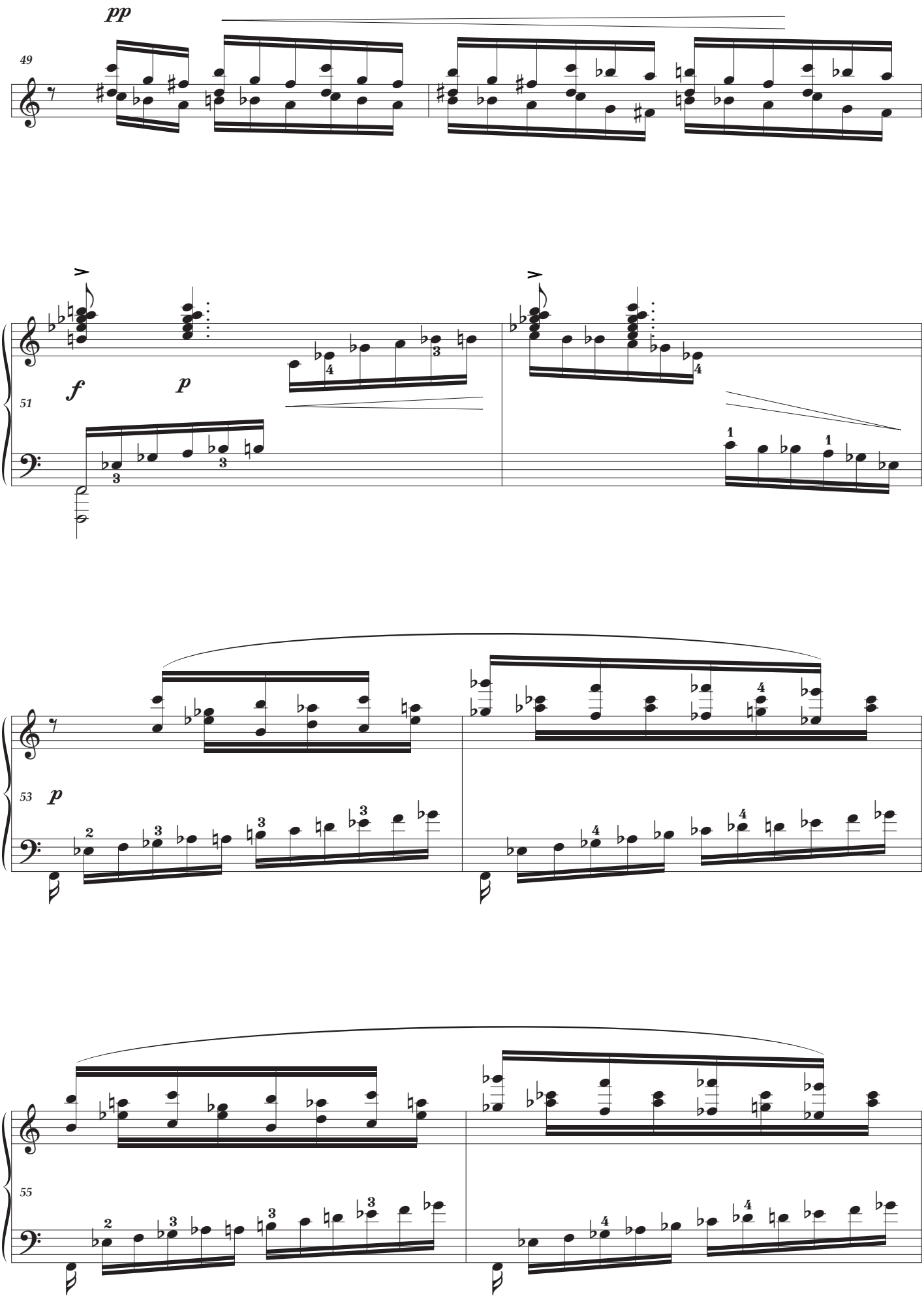








editorial correction of a possible misprint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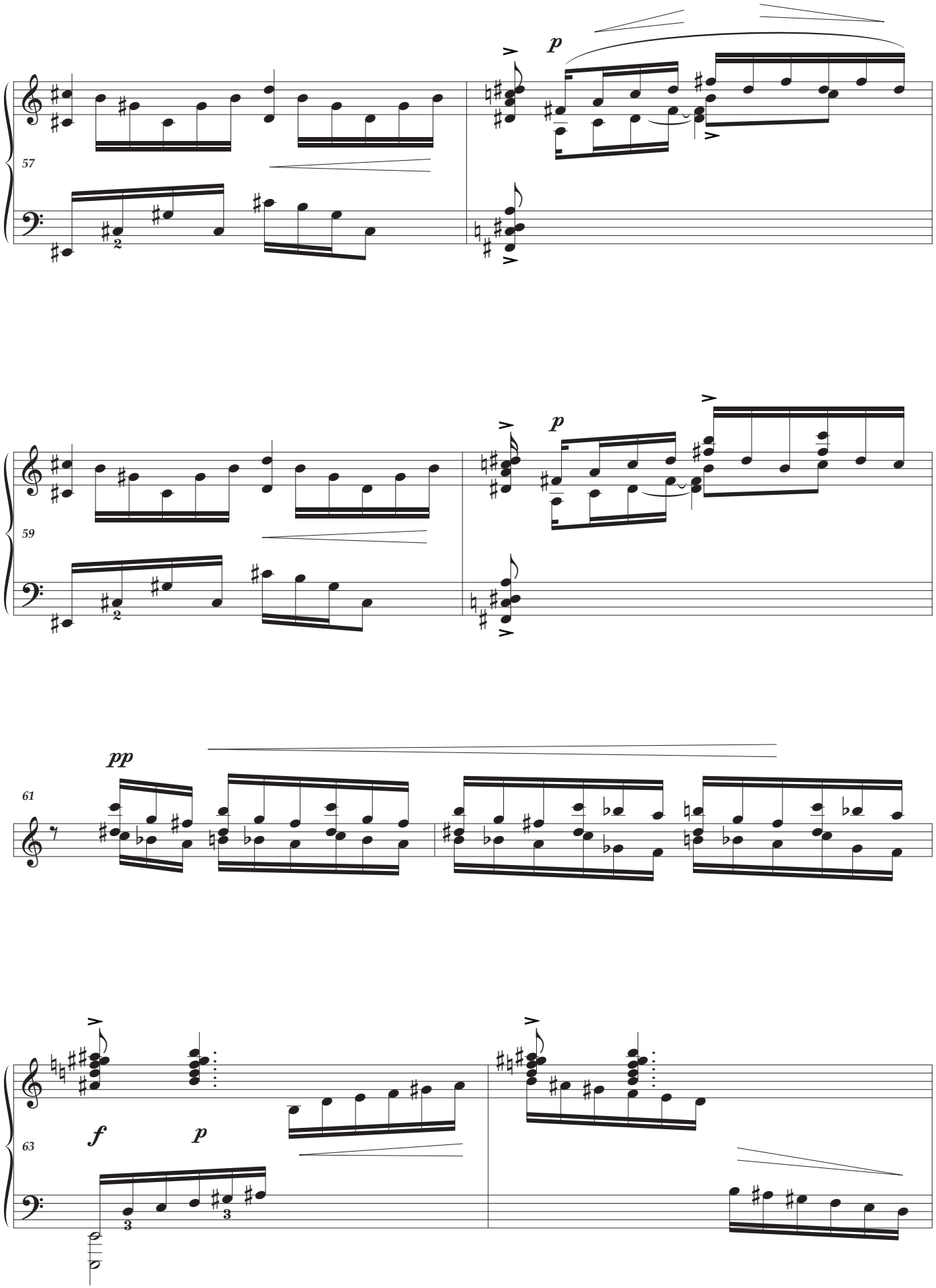
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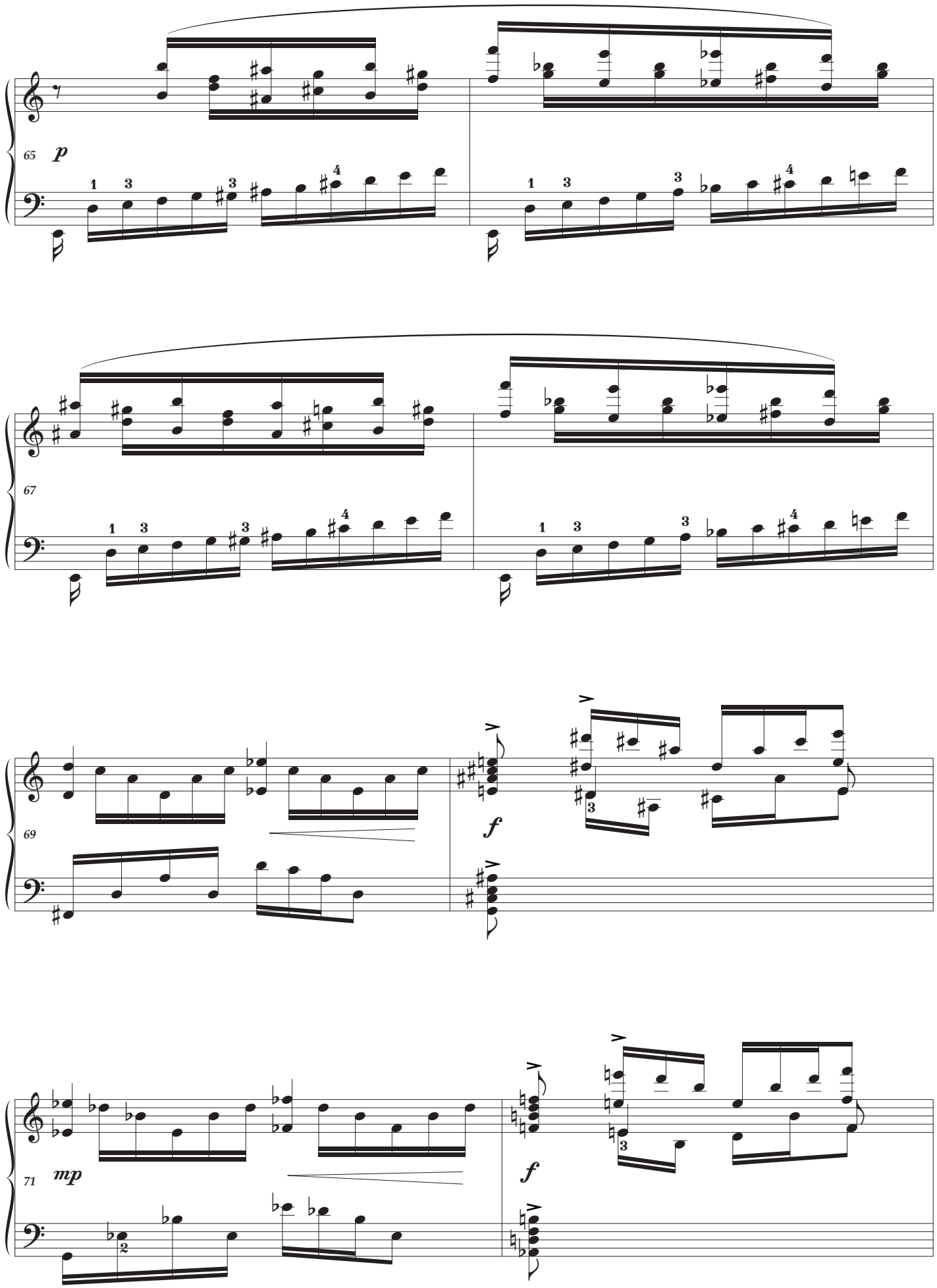
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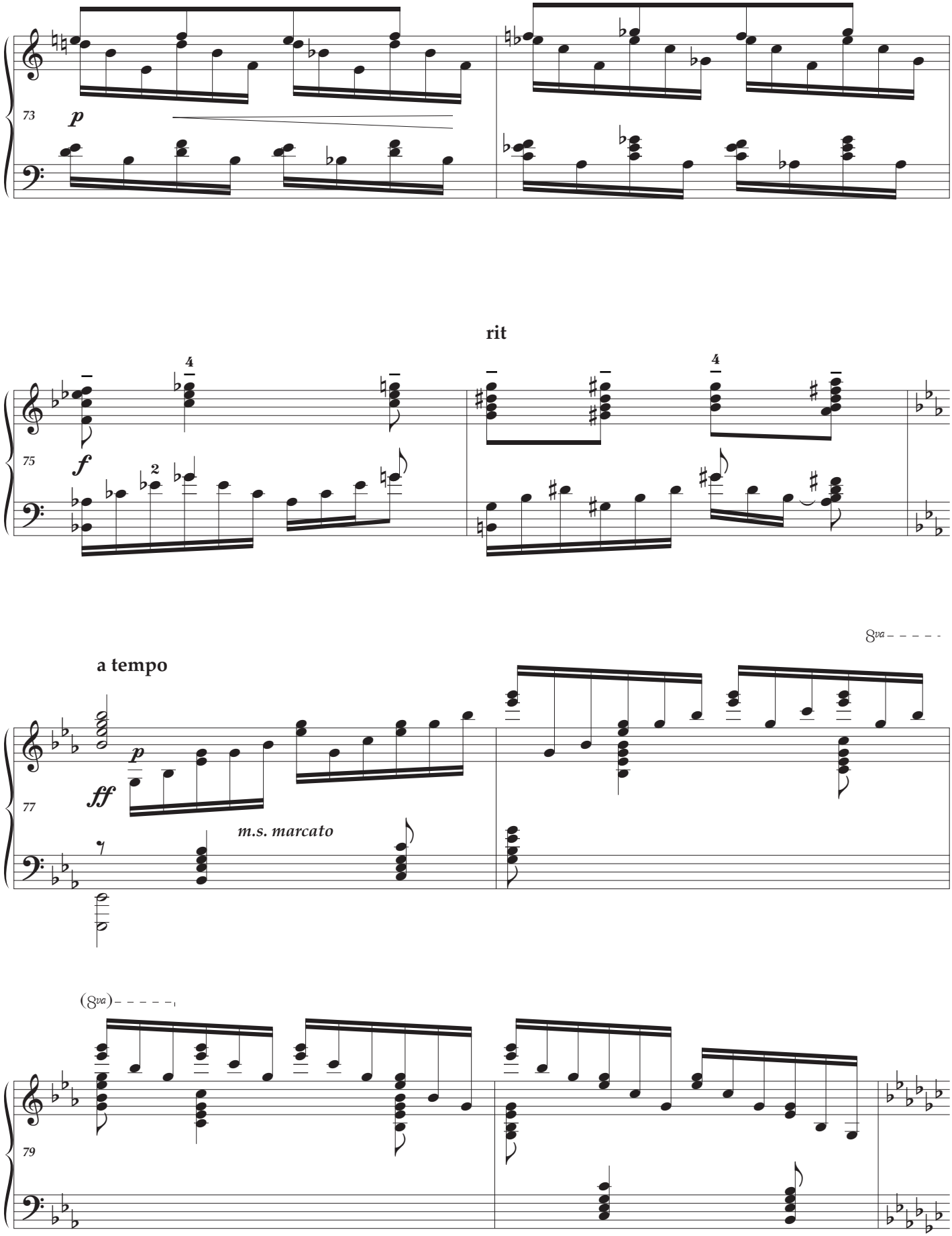
73
p
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4
2
a tempo
8va
77
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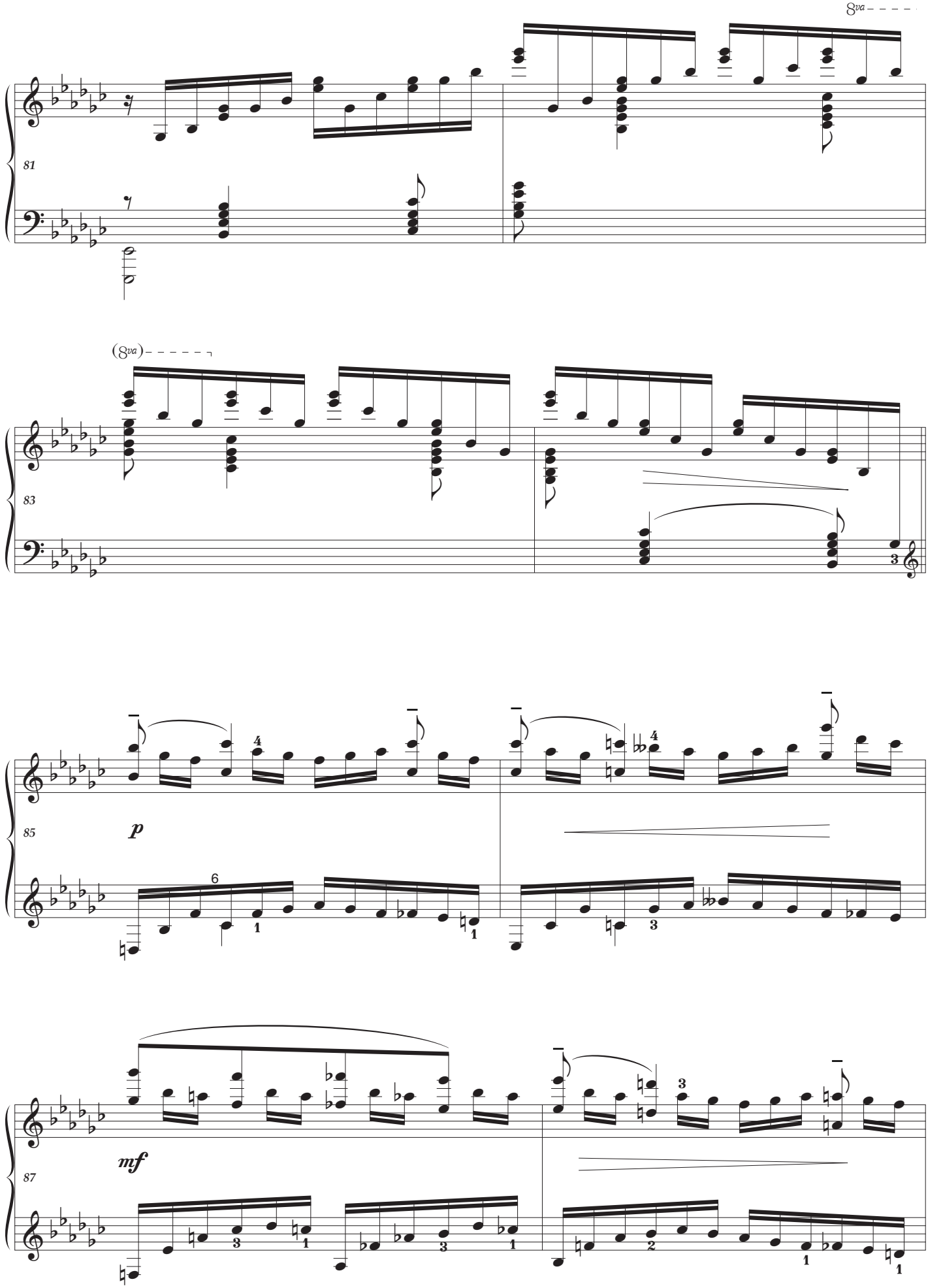
m.s. marcato
(8va)
79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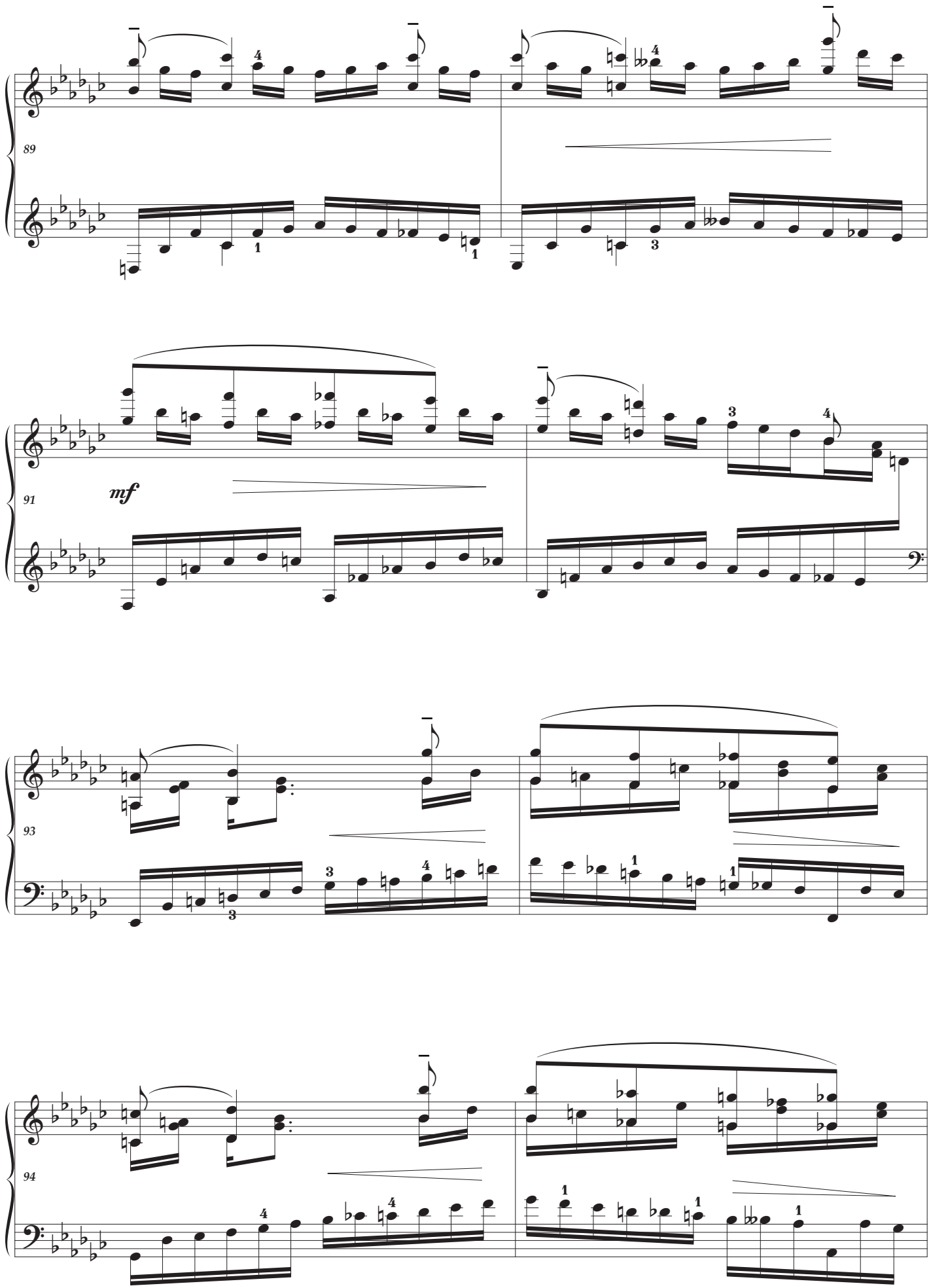
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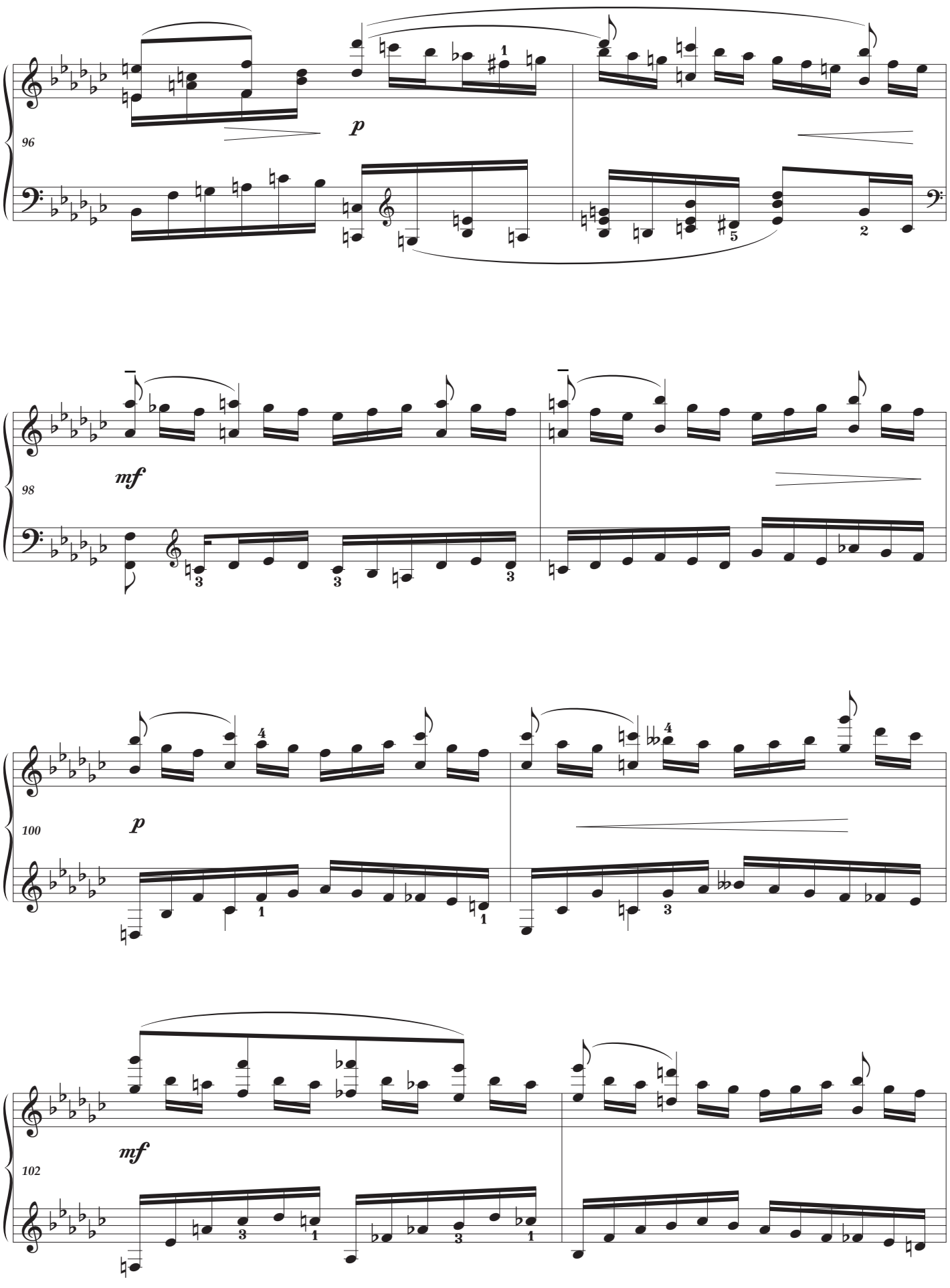
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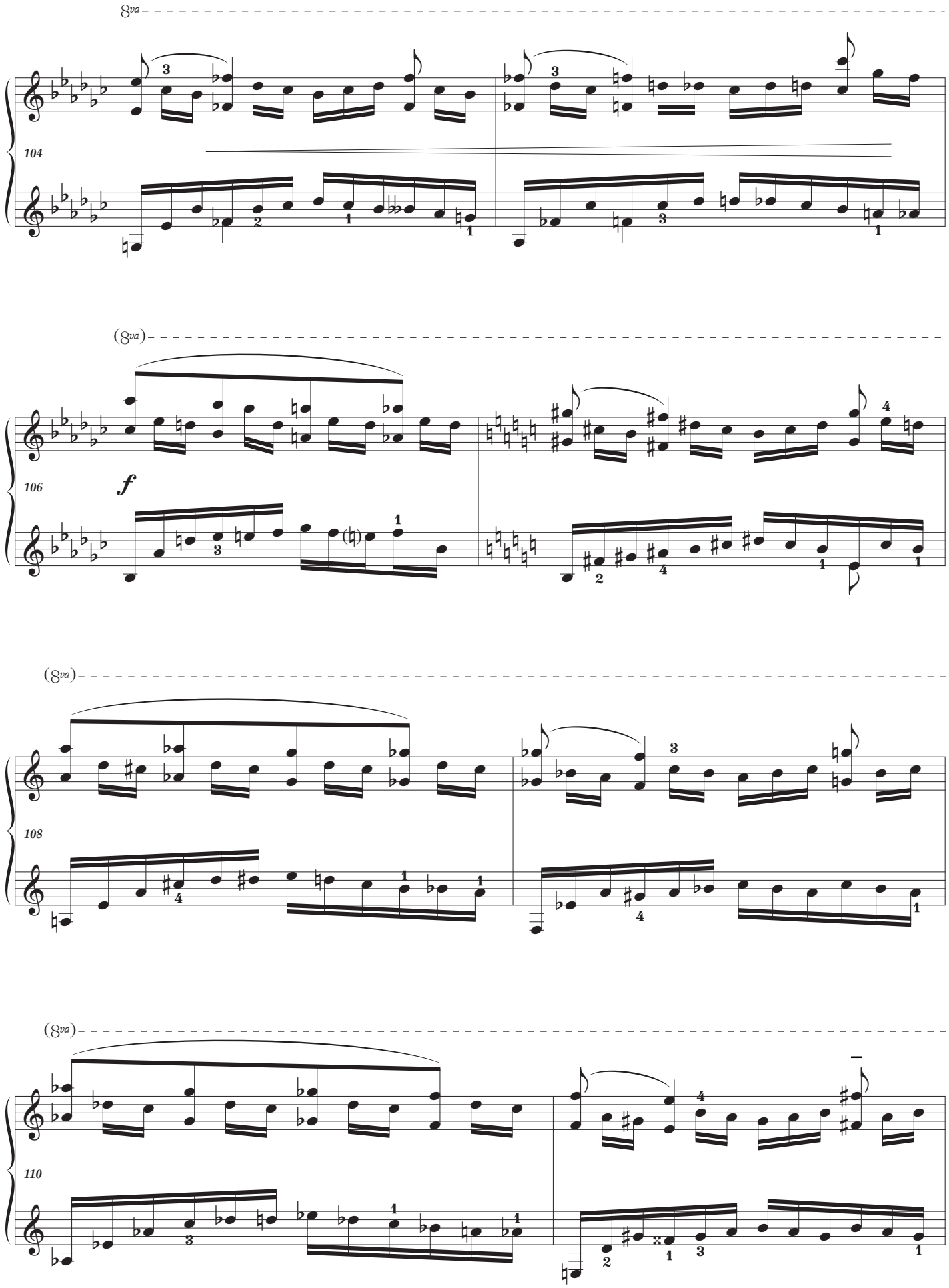
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f
(8va)
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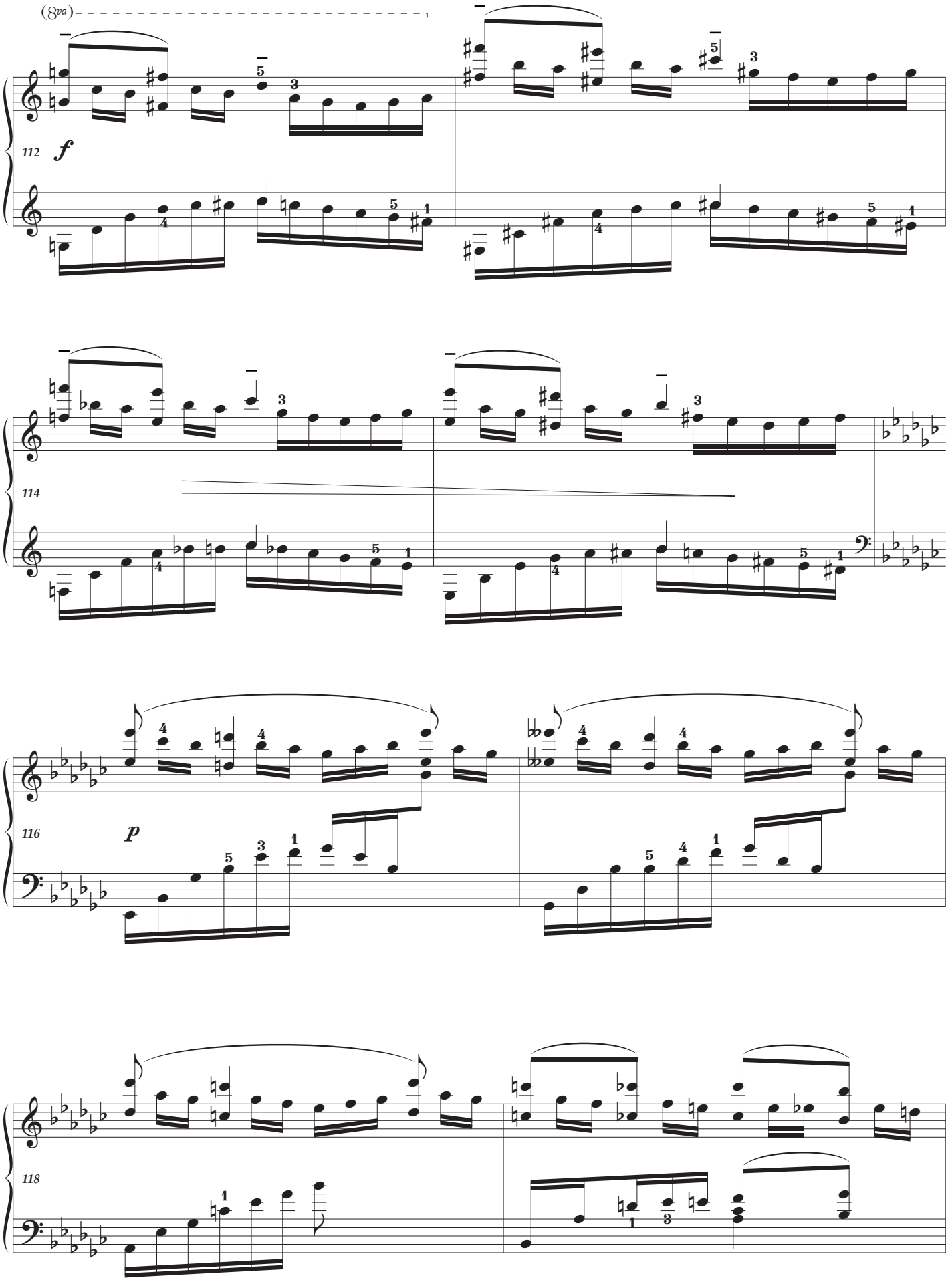
(8va)
110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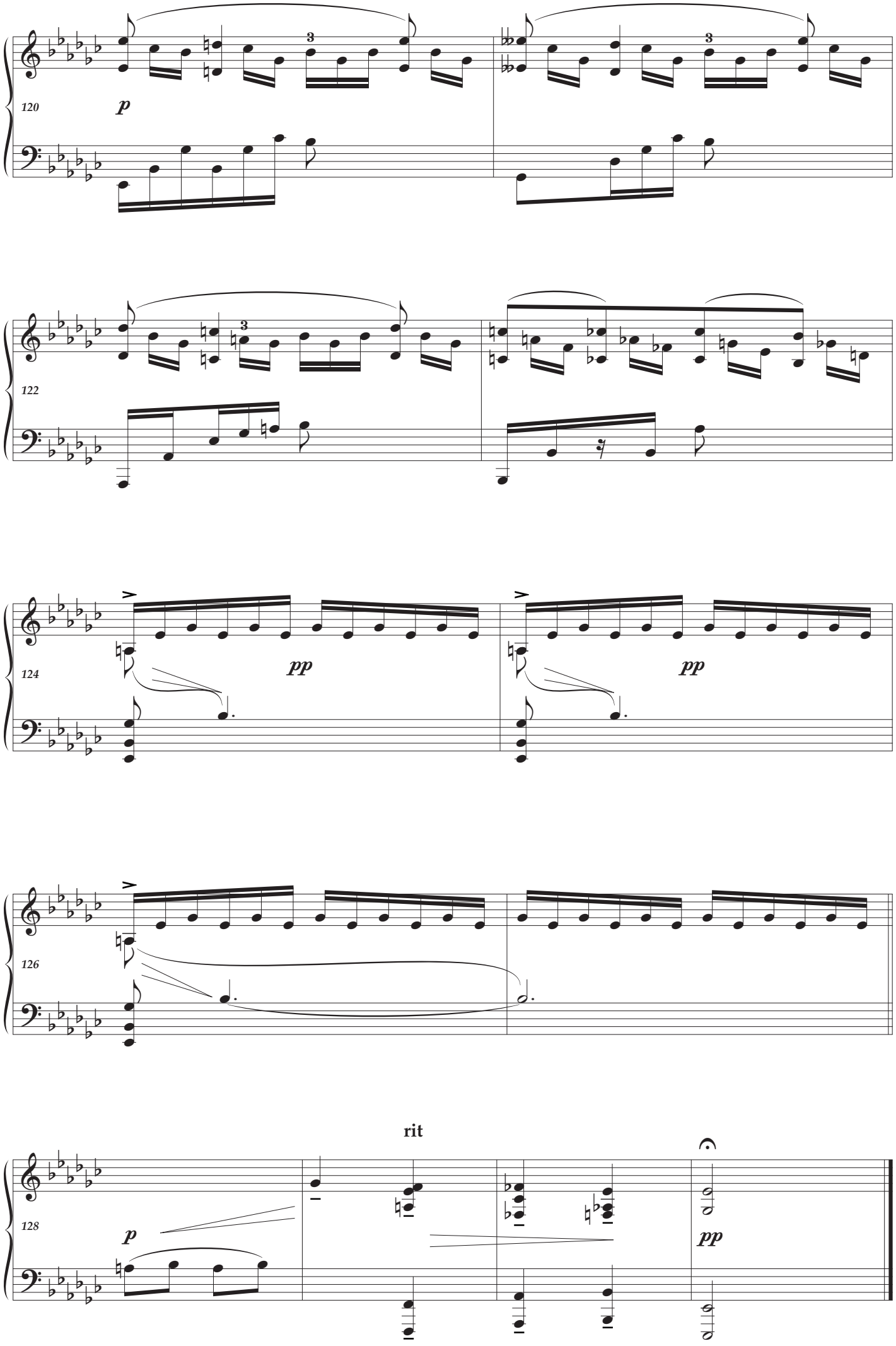
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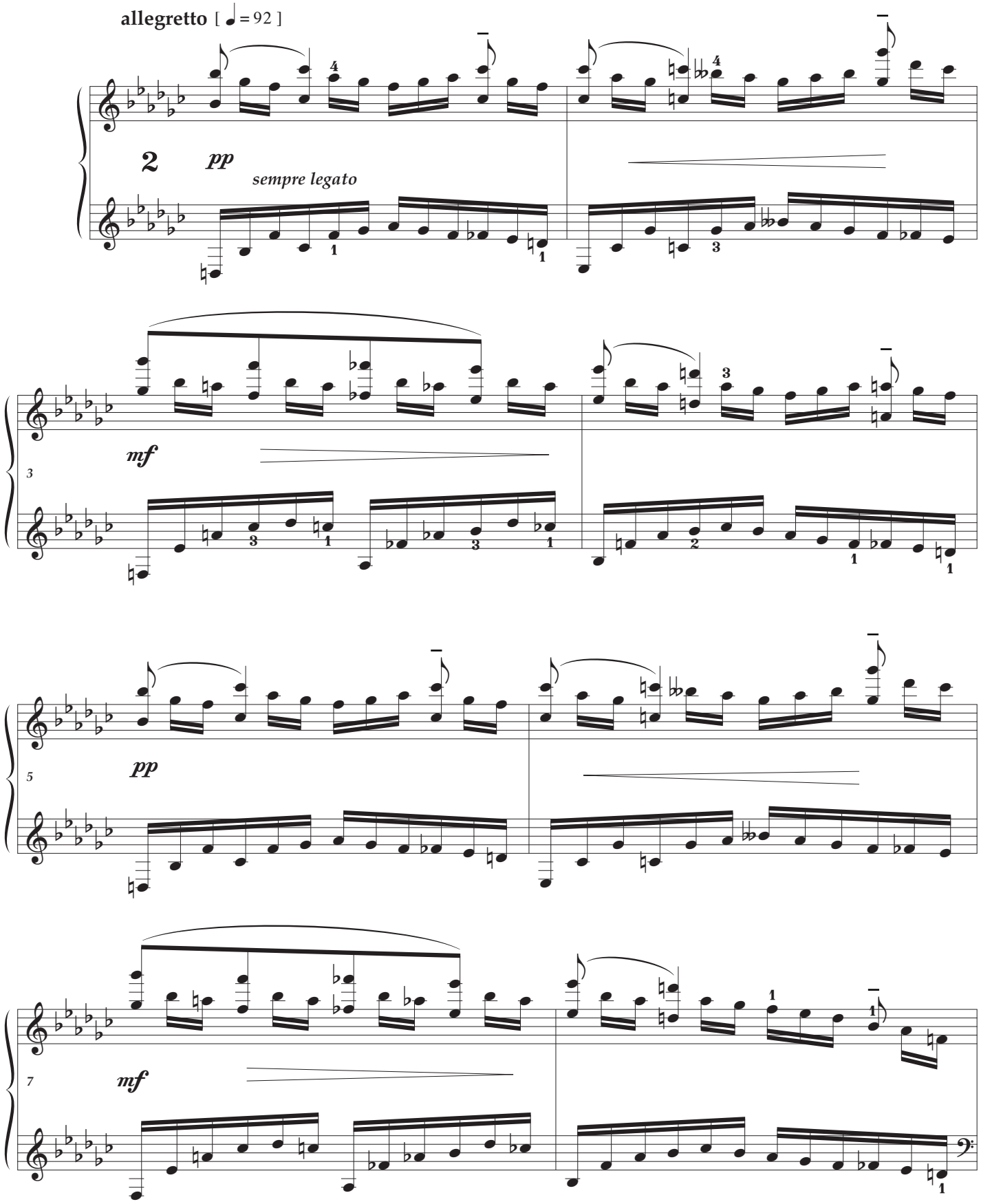
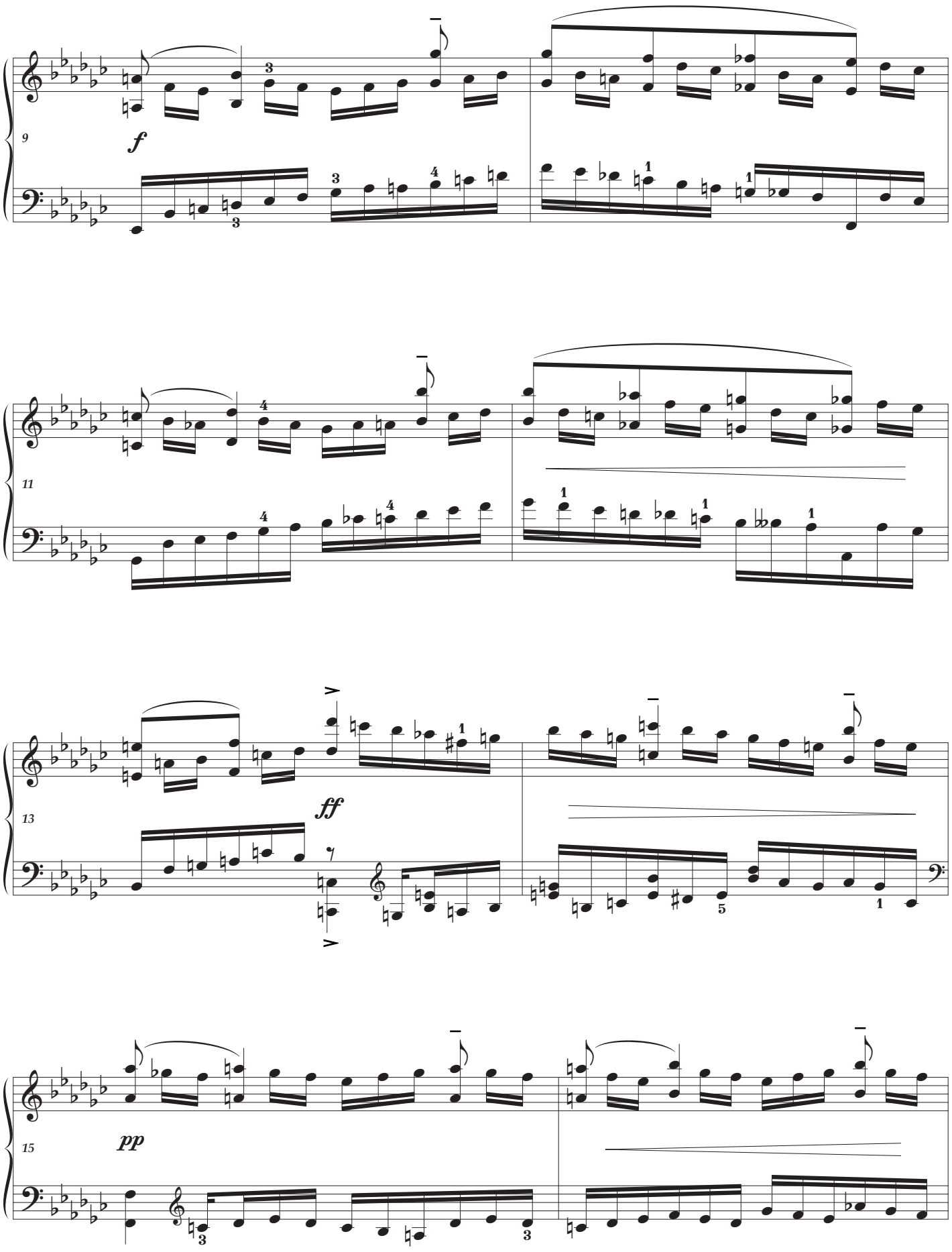
MOMENTS MUSICAUX

Op 16 Nº 2

original version

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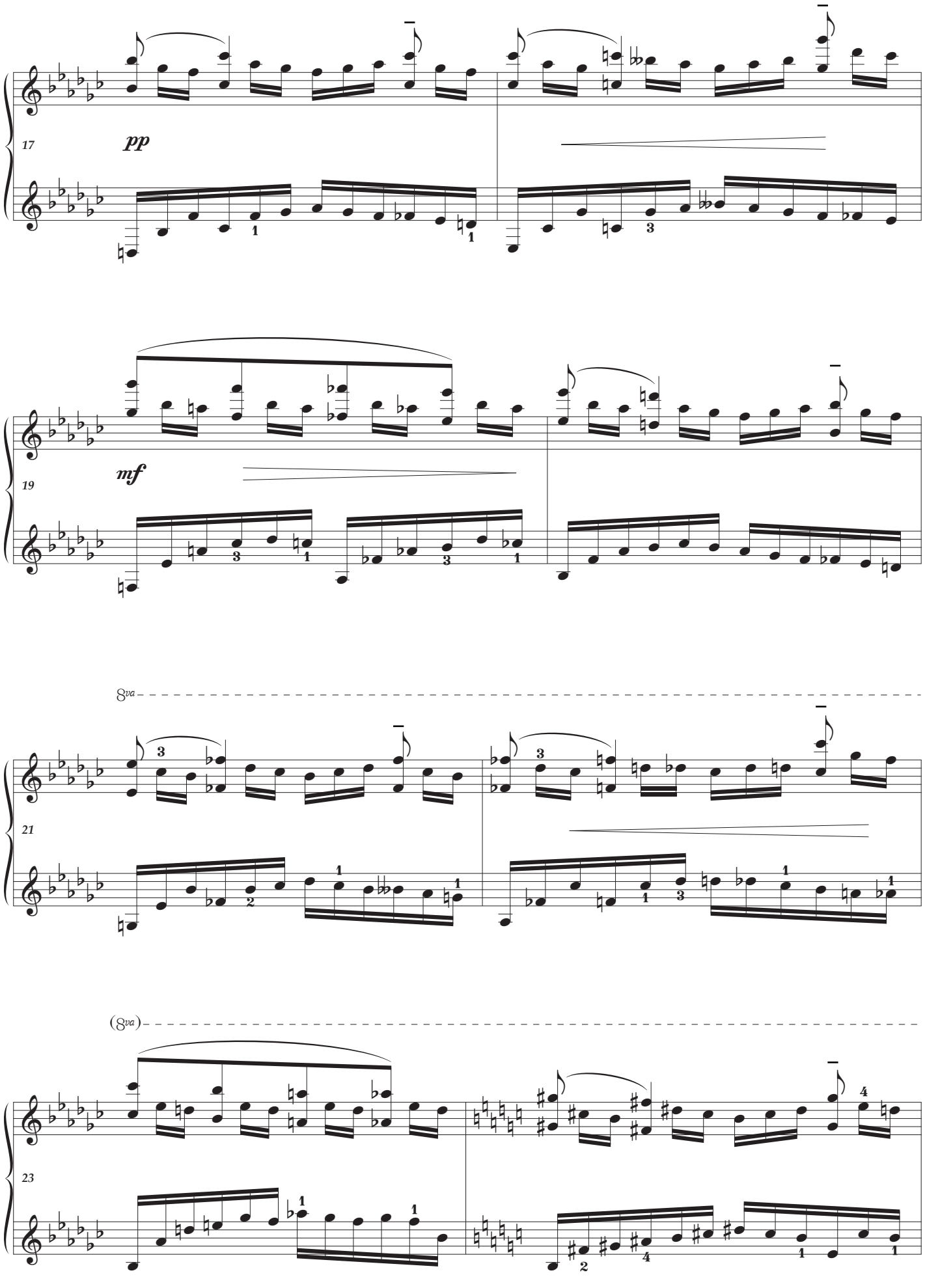
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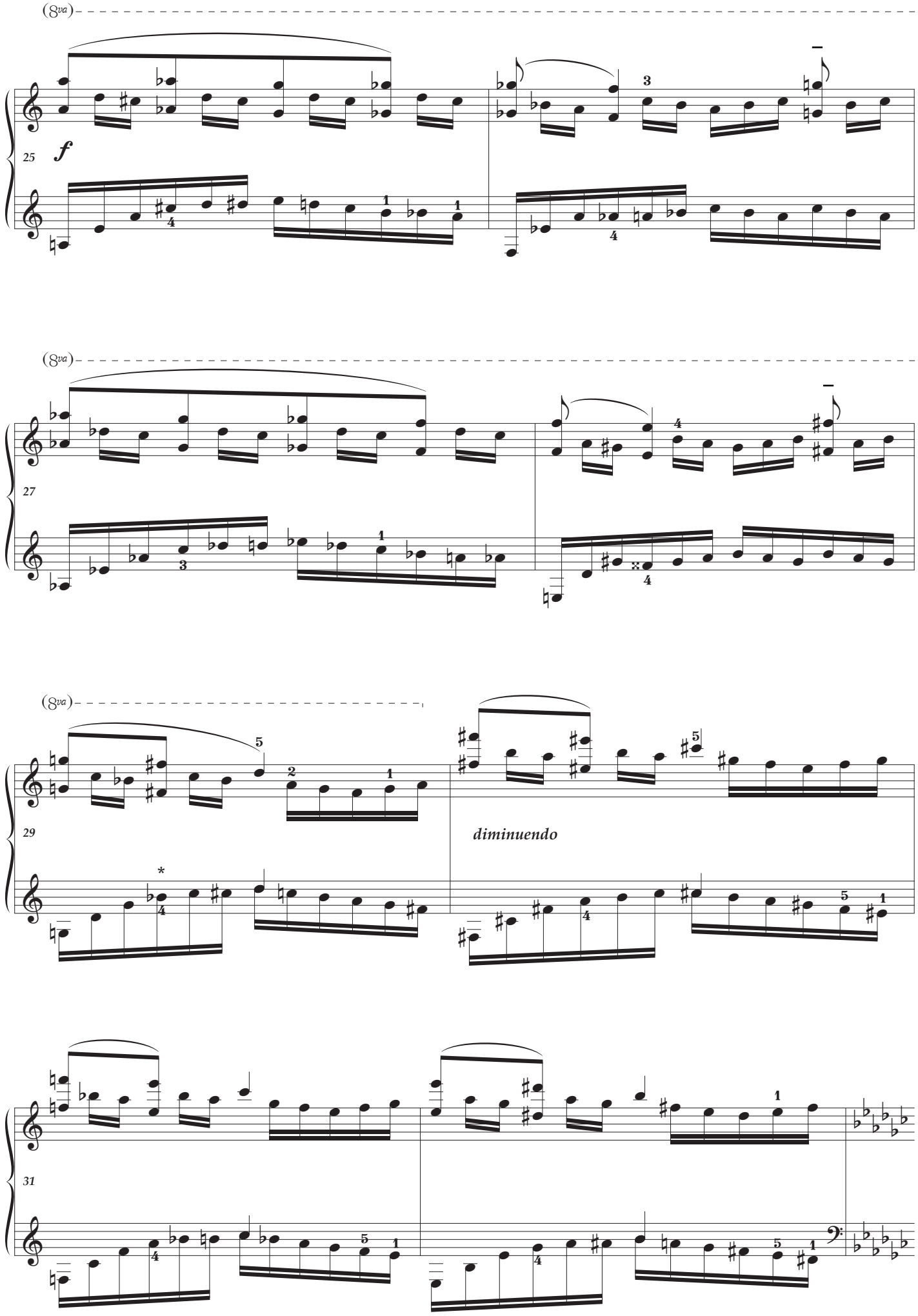
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(8va)
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(8va)
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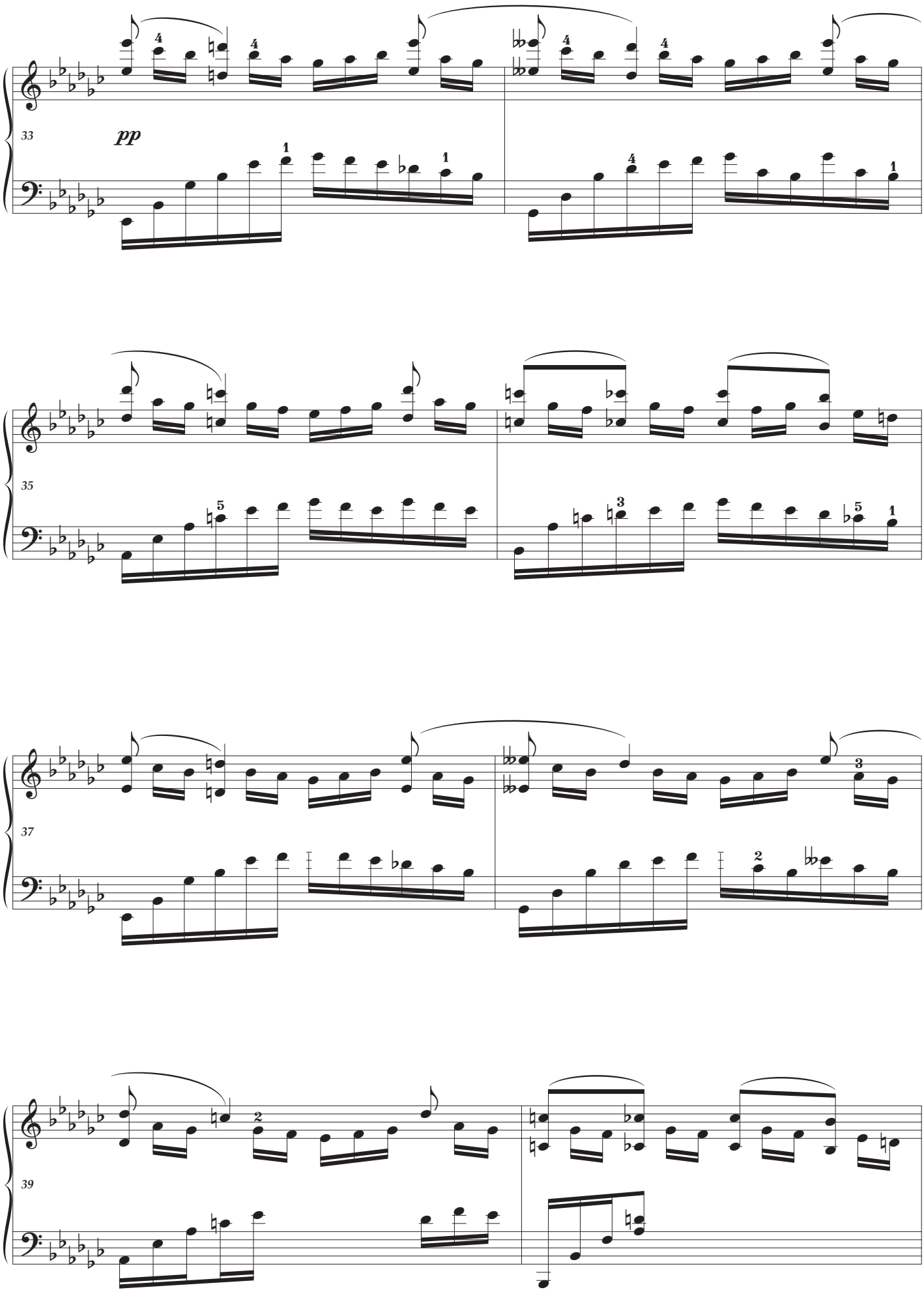
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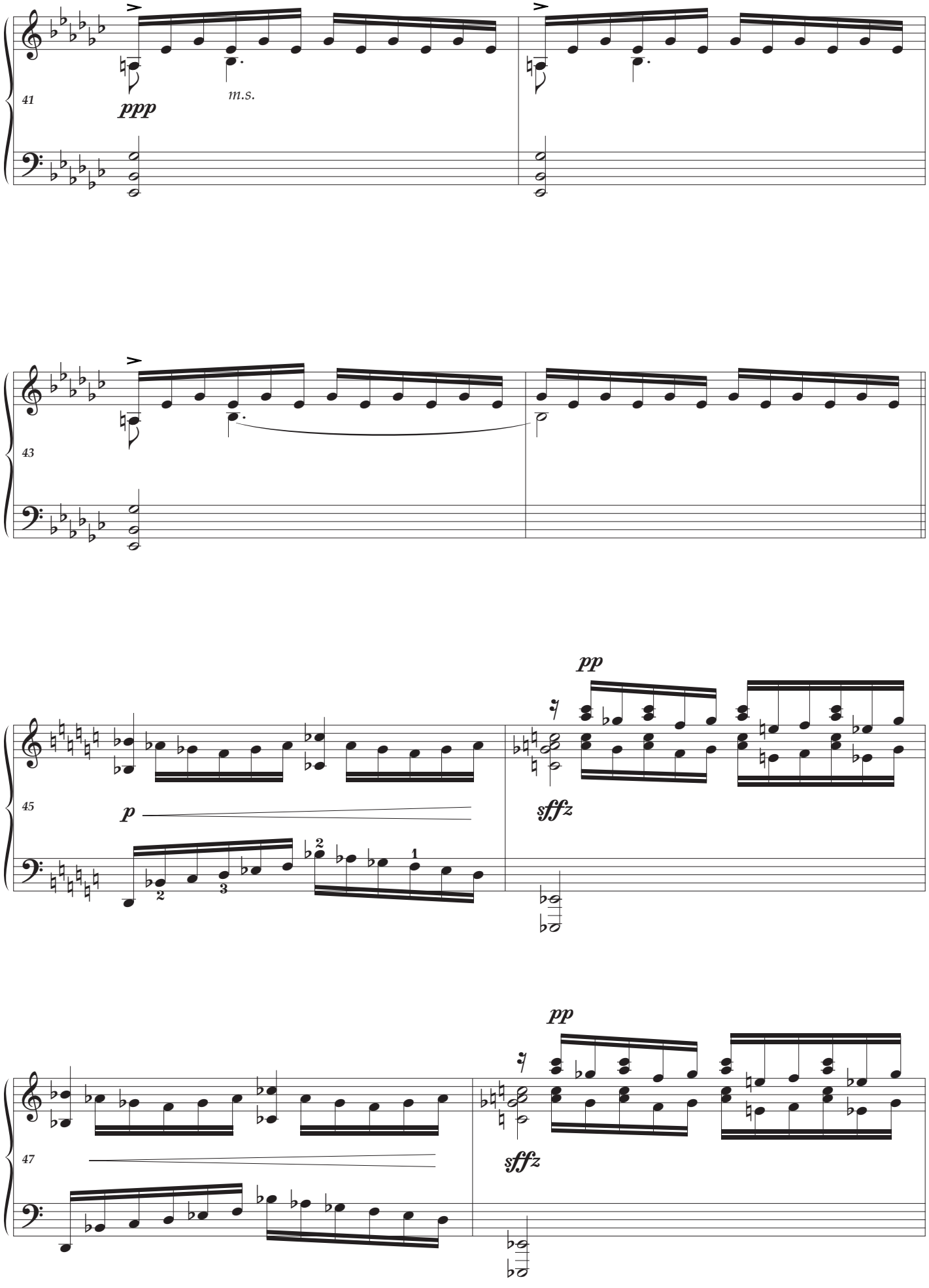
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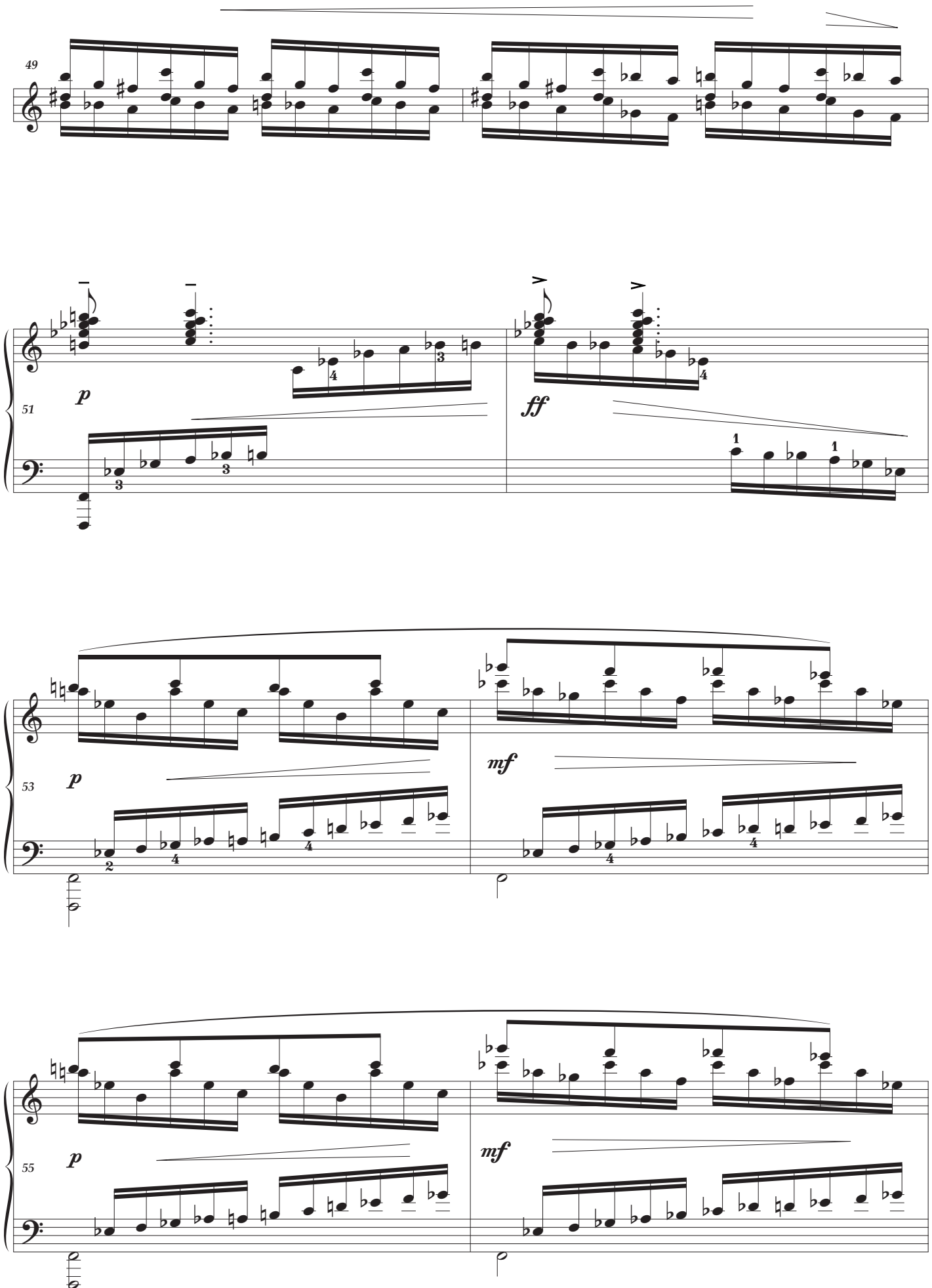
sffz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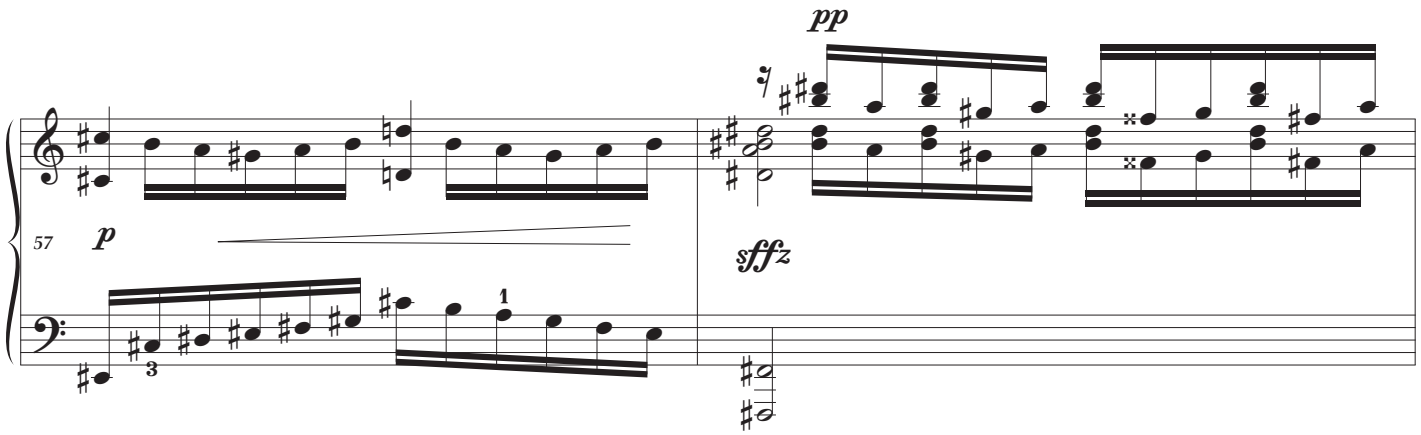
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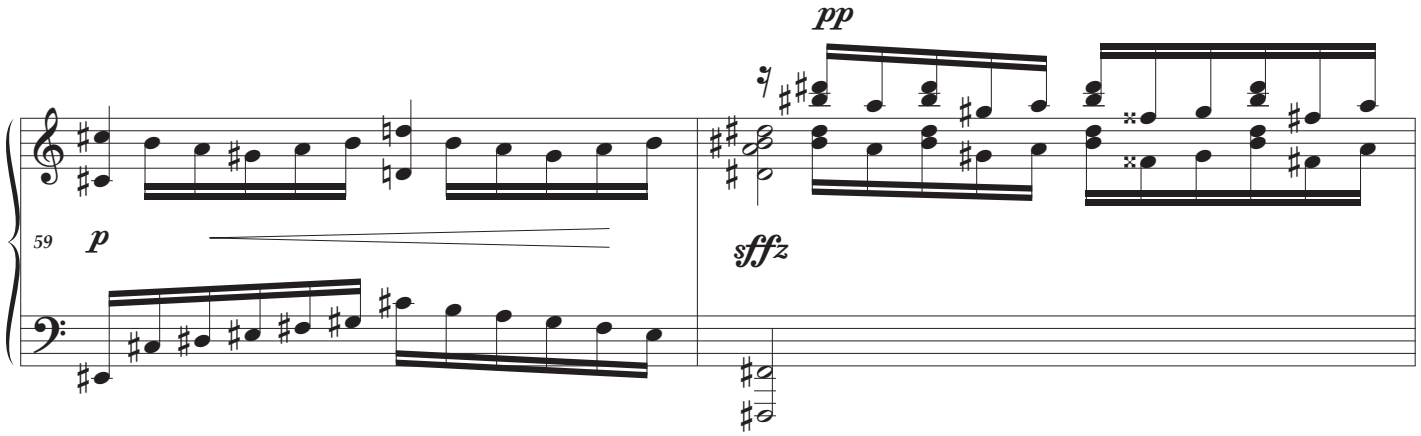
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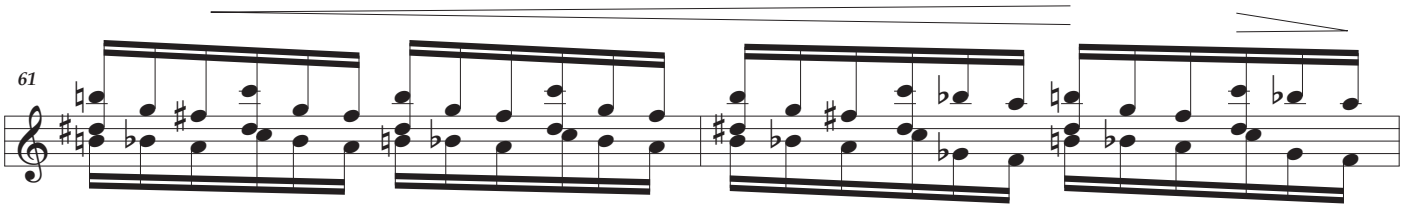
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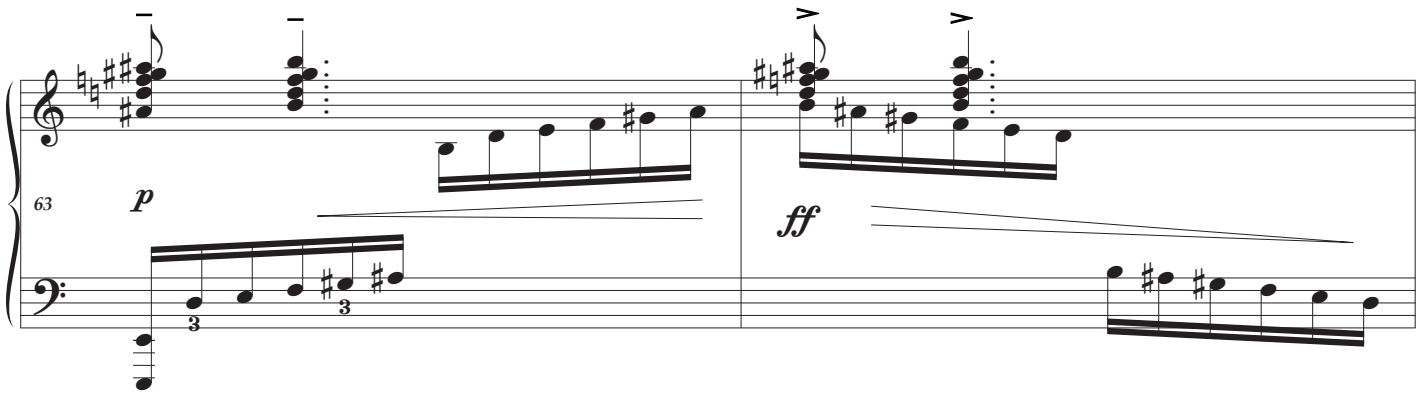
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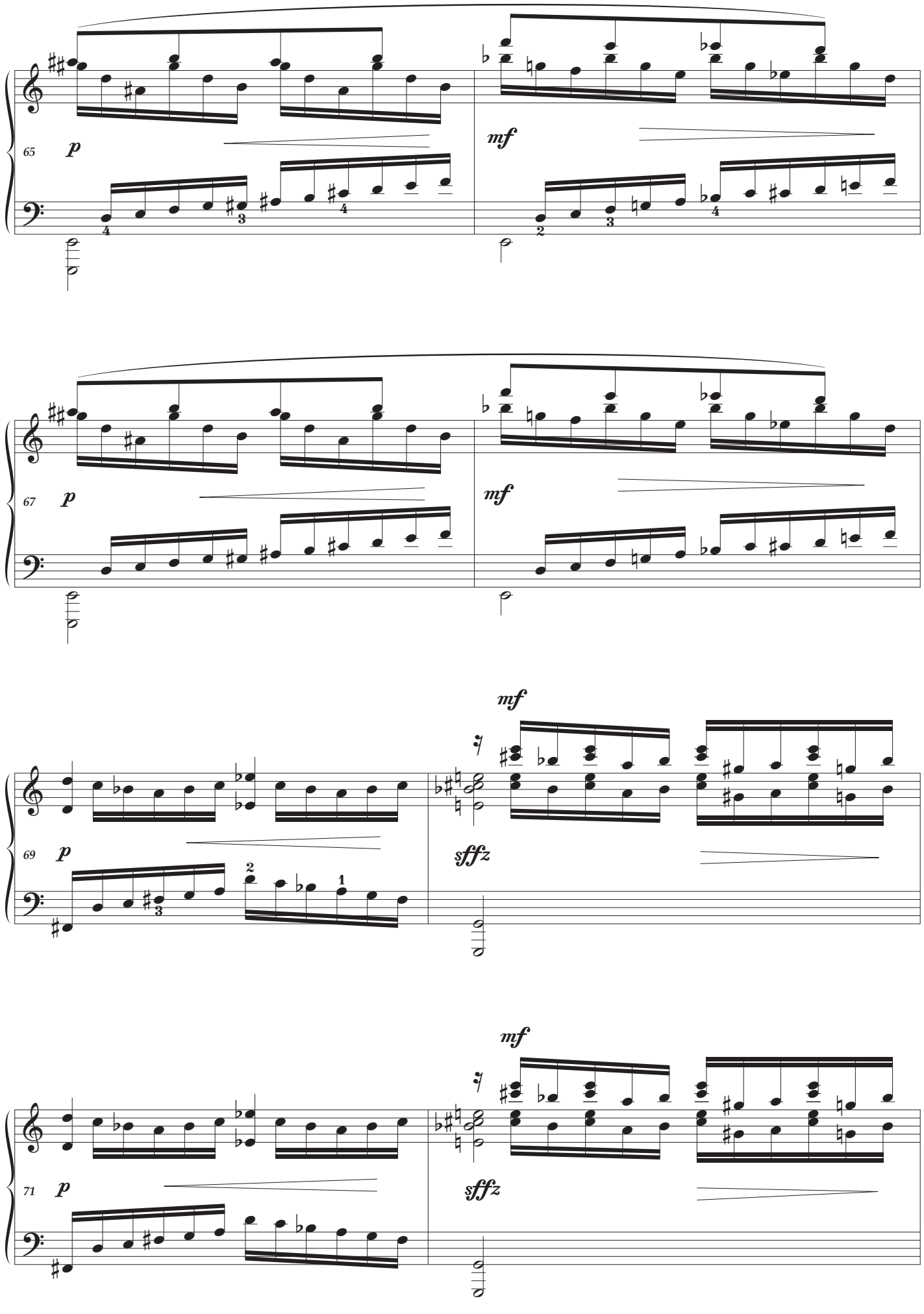
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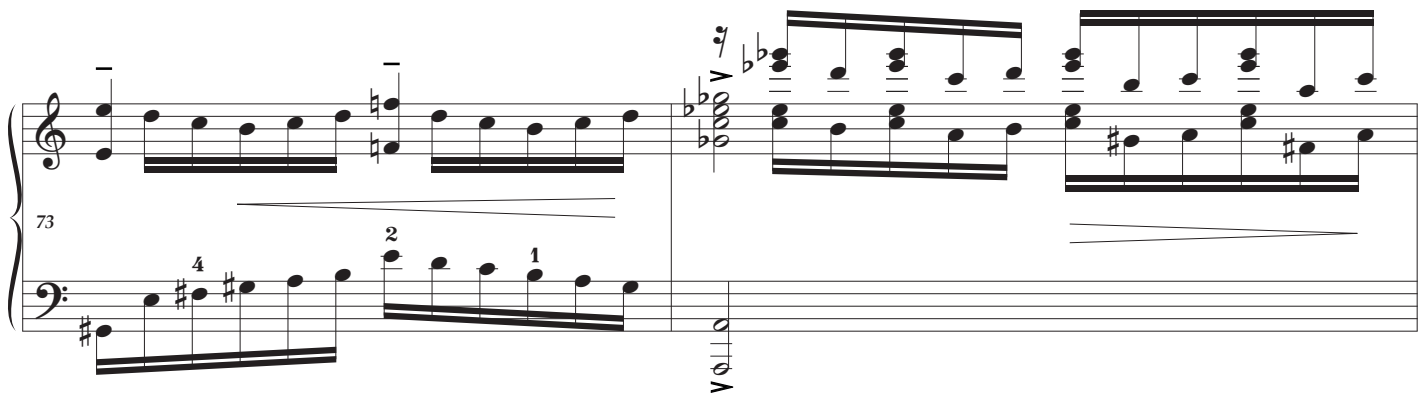
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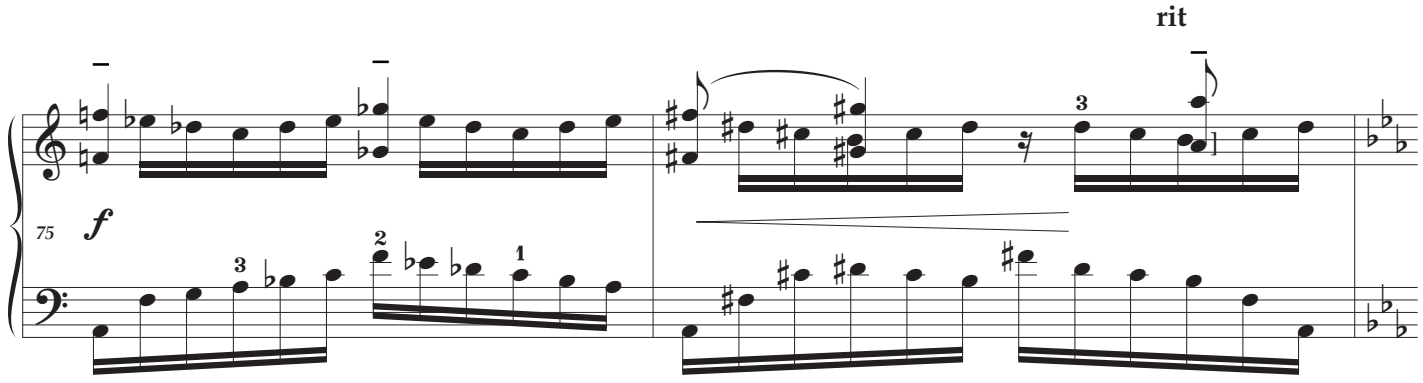
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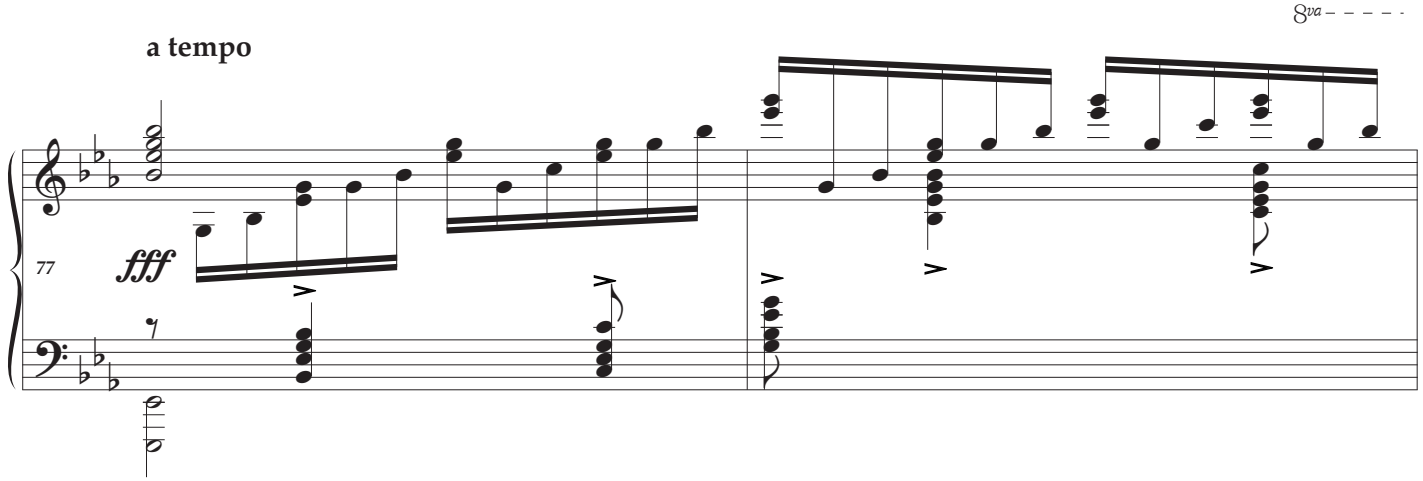
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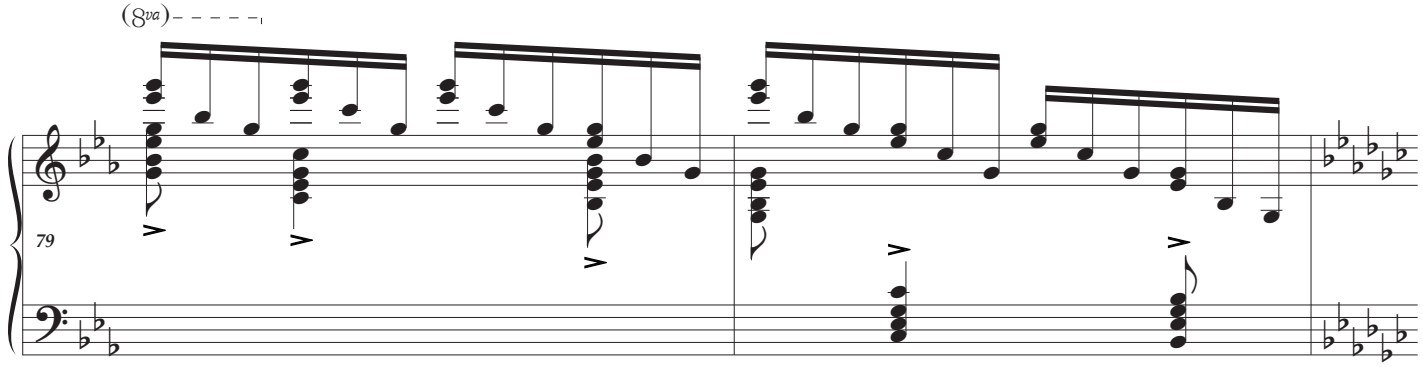
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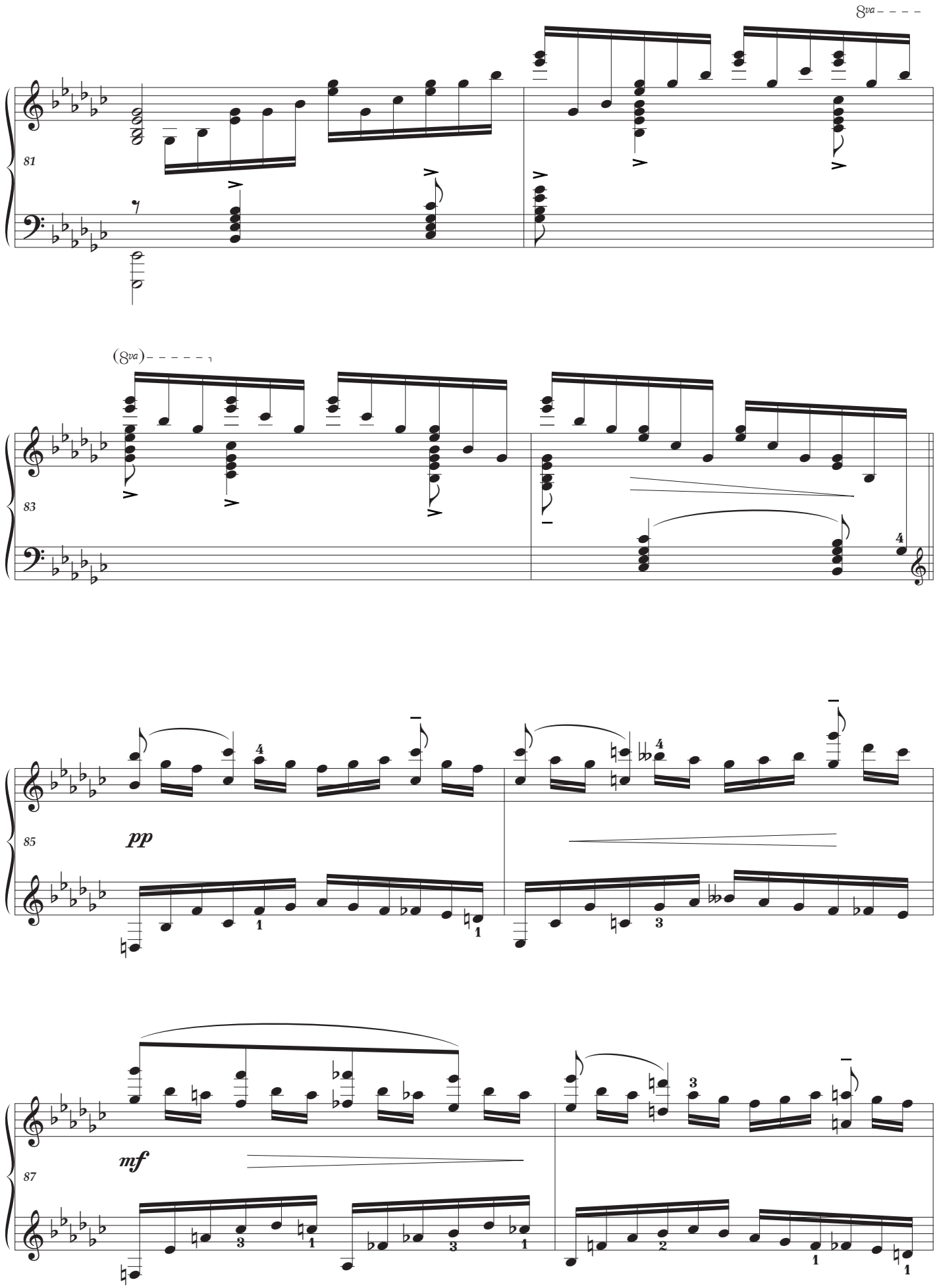
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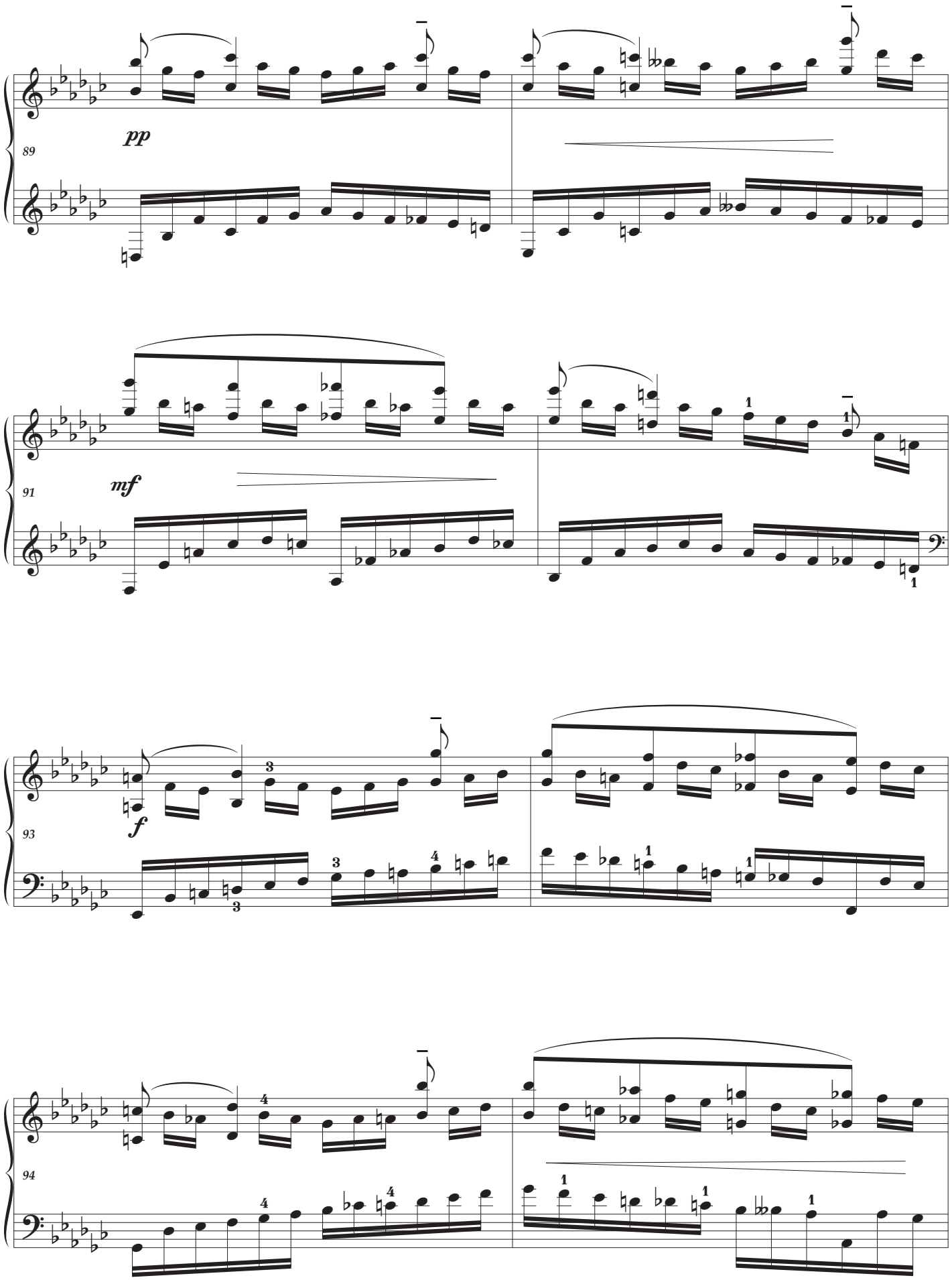
81
(8va)
83
85
pp
87
mf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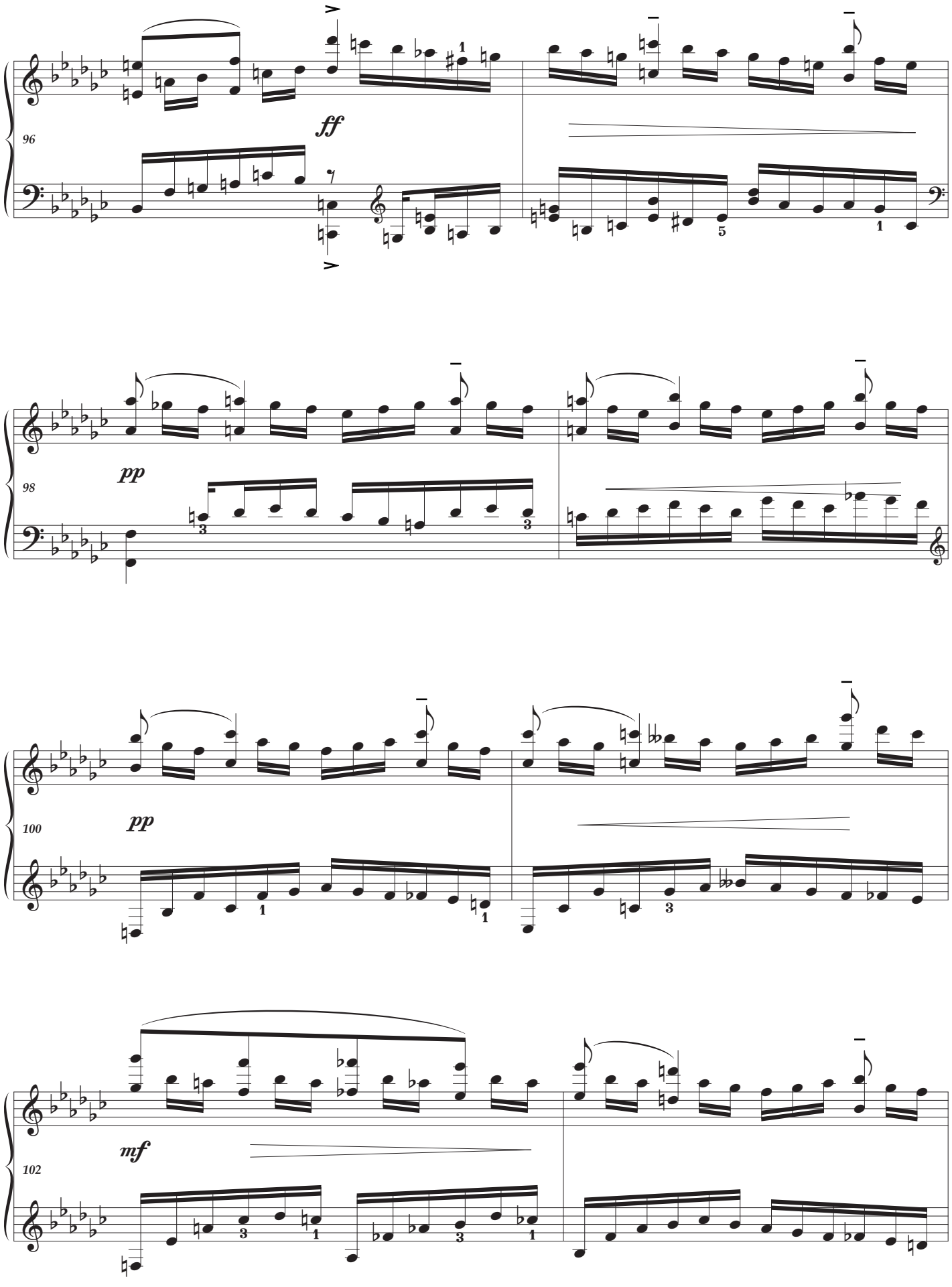
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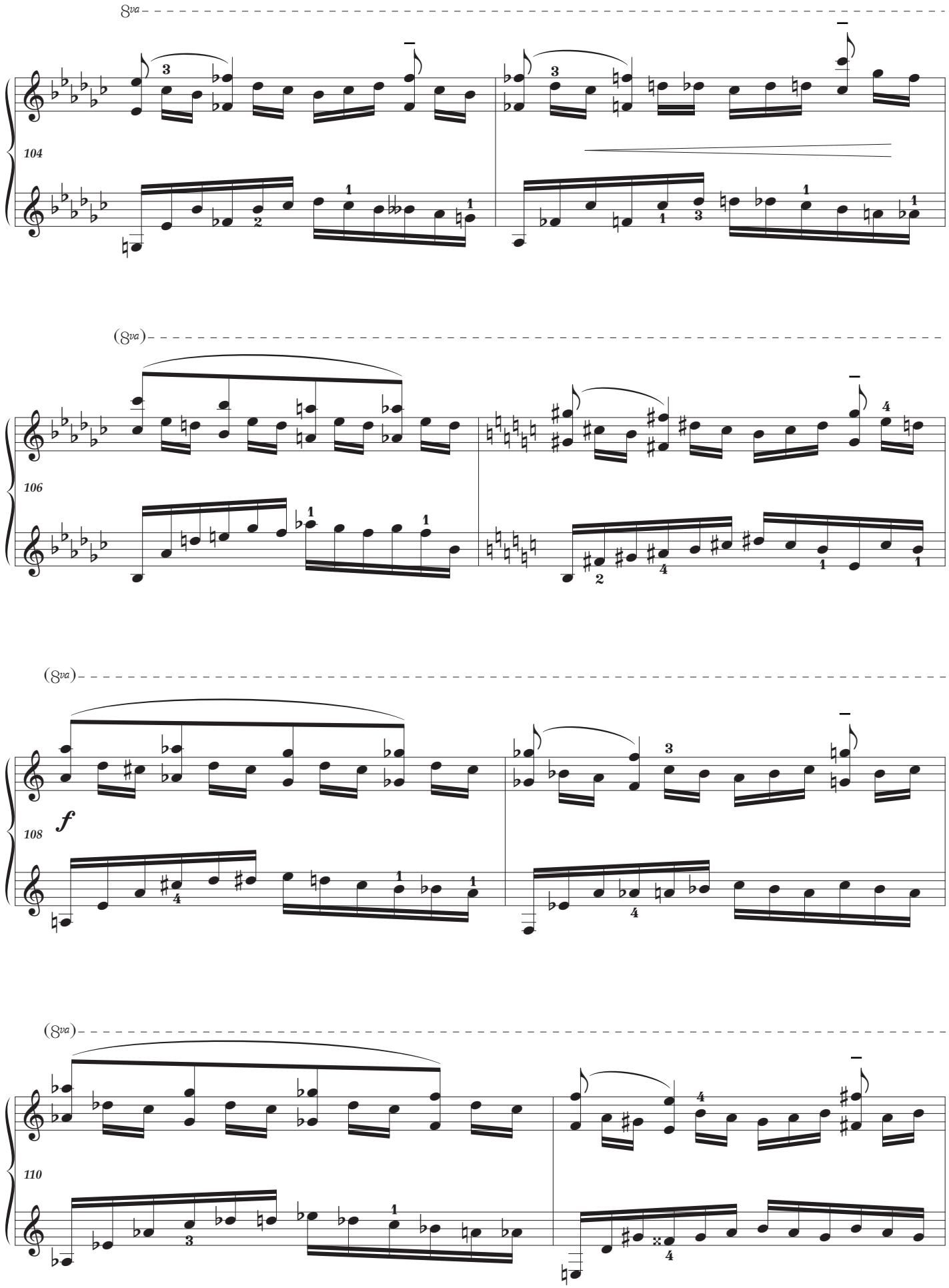
100
pp
102
mf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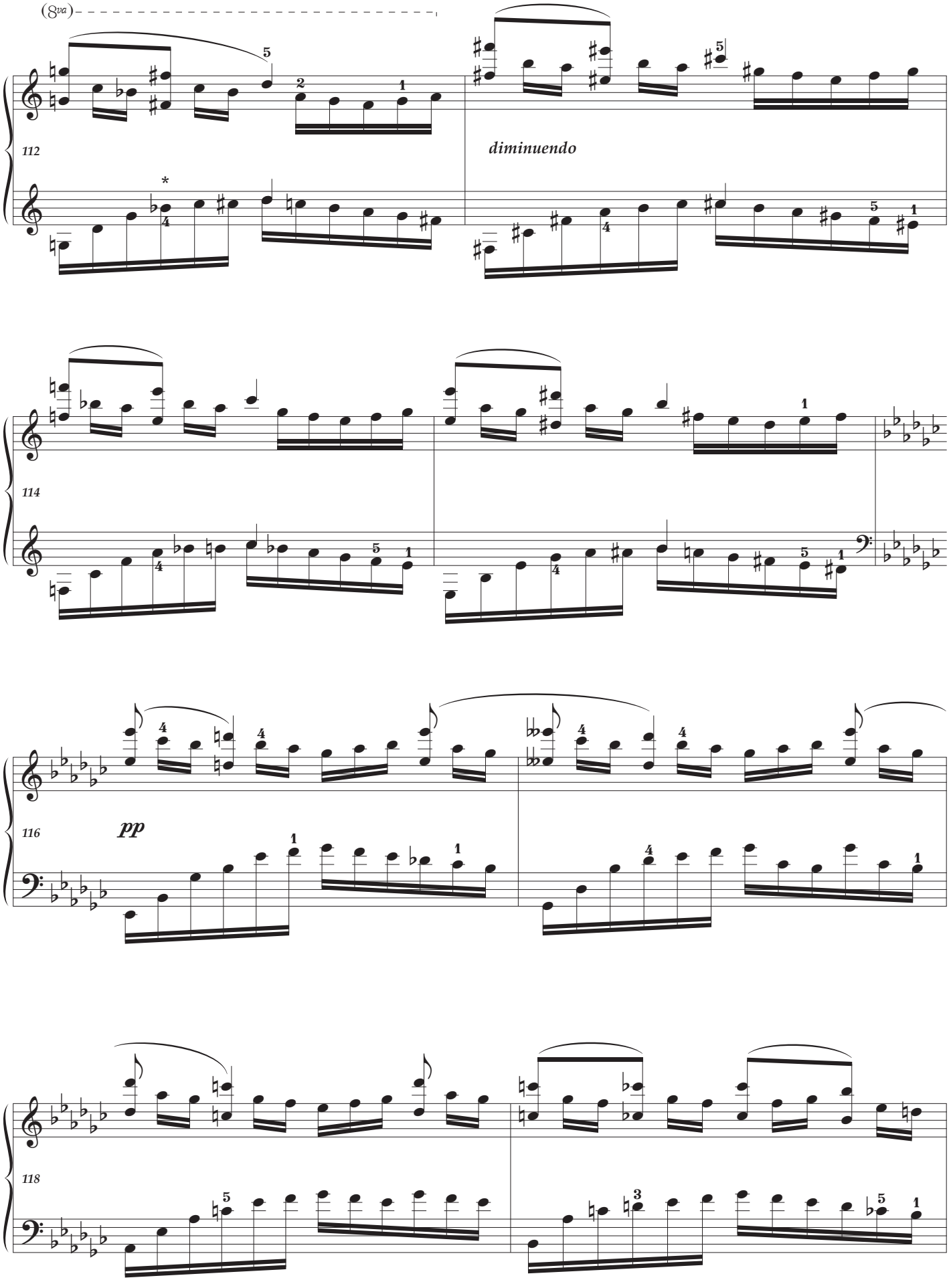
(8va)
106
(8va)
f
108
(8va)
110


(8va)
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114
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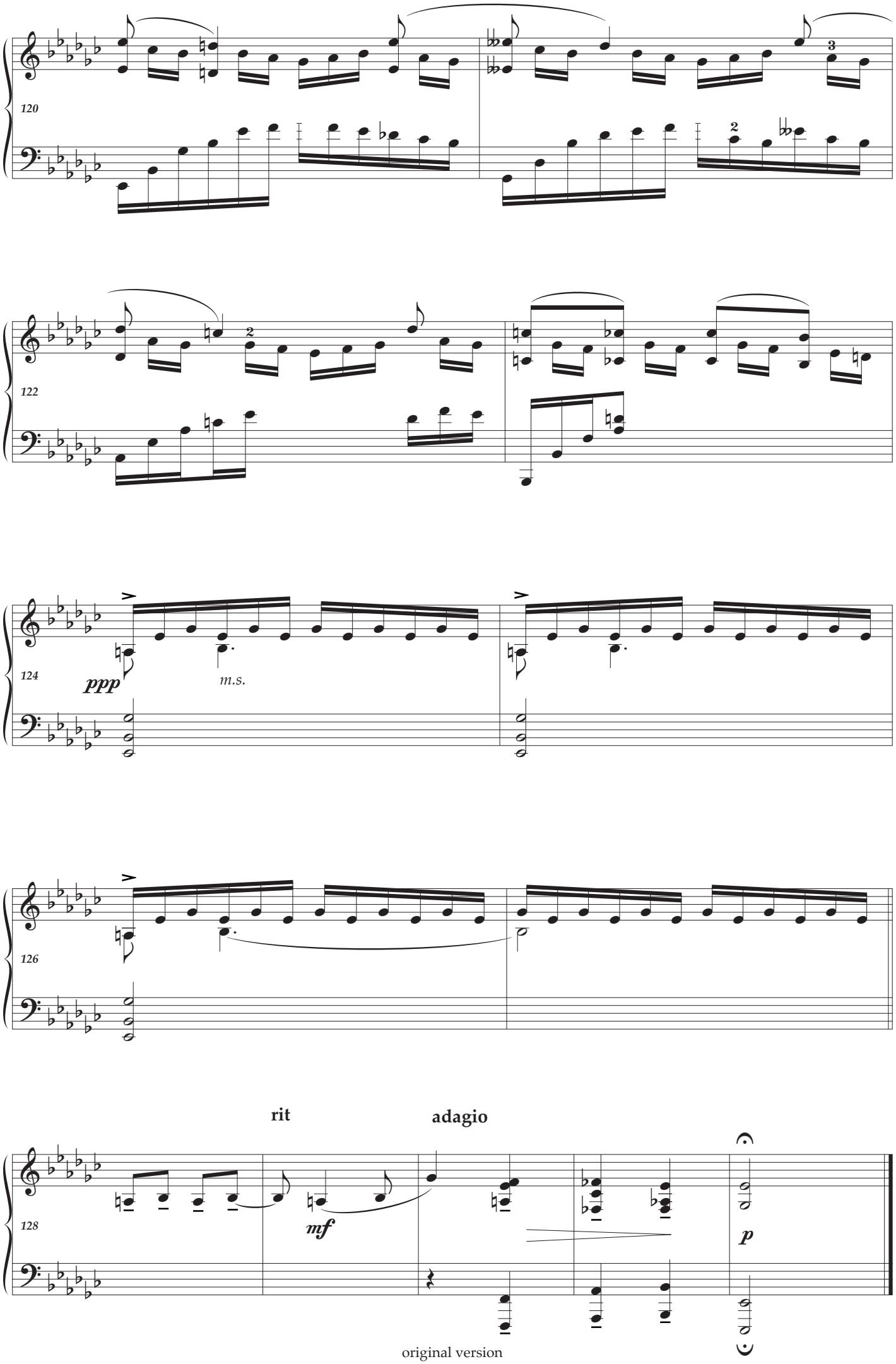
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ppp
m.s.
126
rit
adagio
128
mf
p

RACHMANINOV

MOMENTS MUSICAUX

Opus 16 N° 2 E flat minor

published September 2020

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