Two Pieces
for
Solo Piano

Chopinhauer

&

Nocturne

Music by
Vanessa McClintock

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Two Pieces
for Solo Piano

NOTES

Chopinhauer (March, 1974; c. 1'50")

The title suggests a pun on the Polish pianist/composer Frédéric Chopin, and the 19th century German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer.

The work is not at all an adherent or homage to Shopenhauer's philosophical pessimism; I just like the sound of the title, "Chopinhauer," and I like puns. Nevertheless, there is a sense of Brahms lurking within the harmonic textures.

That said, pianists have at least two choices in their interpretation: to play as they would a work of Chopin: gracefully and with a sense of rhythmic freedom and emotional abandonment, or with a rather Germanic approach, even though there was no conscious influence by Brahms at the time. Or Chopin.

Nocturne (1974, revisions in February-March, 2019 and April, 2020; c. 10'10")

The entire work is based on the very first four single notes. This simple motif then passes through extensive and evolutionary permutations, before a development section, which leads to a rapid and conclusive climax.

One likely will hear the influence of Béla Bartók, Frank Martin, and even a touch of Leoš Janáček. This was not intentional, although the work certainly was influenced strongly at the time by the work of Bartók.

The "flavor" of the piece is due in part by intermittent use of extensive chromaticism, bi-tonality, cross (relationship)-harmonies, and 1/2 tone–whole tone scales. The work does not consider traditional major and minor keys, but tonal centricities: e.g., a section might draw focus to a single note, such as "G," but not necessarily its associated harmony (chords: G major or g minor). "Dissonance to Resolution" has become "dissidence to agreement."

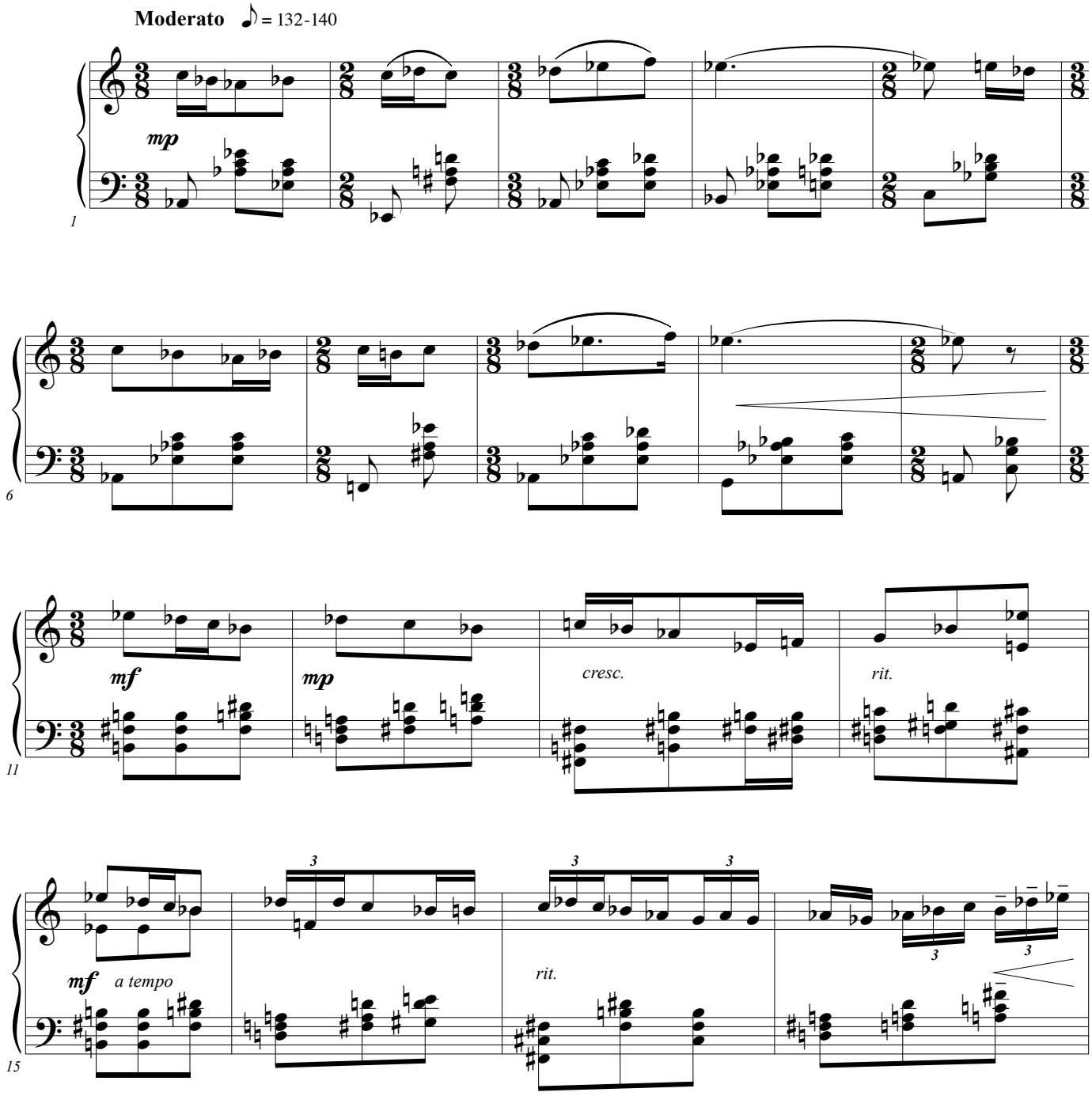
As with all my music, I encourage the musician(s) to at all times play from their heart, guided by the spirit of the music, and by their experience.

Vanessa McClintock
June 20, 2022
Roseville, California, U.S.A.

Chopinhauer

for piano solo

Vanessa McClintock



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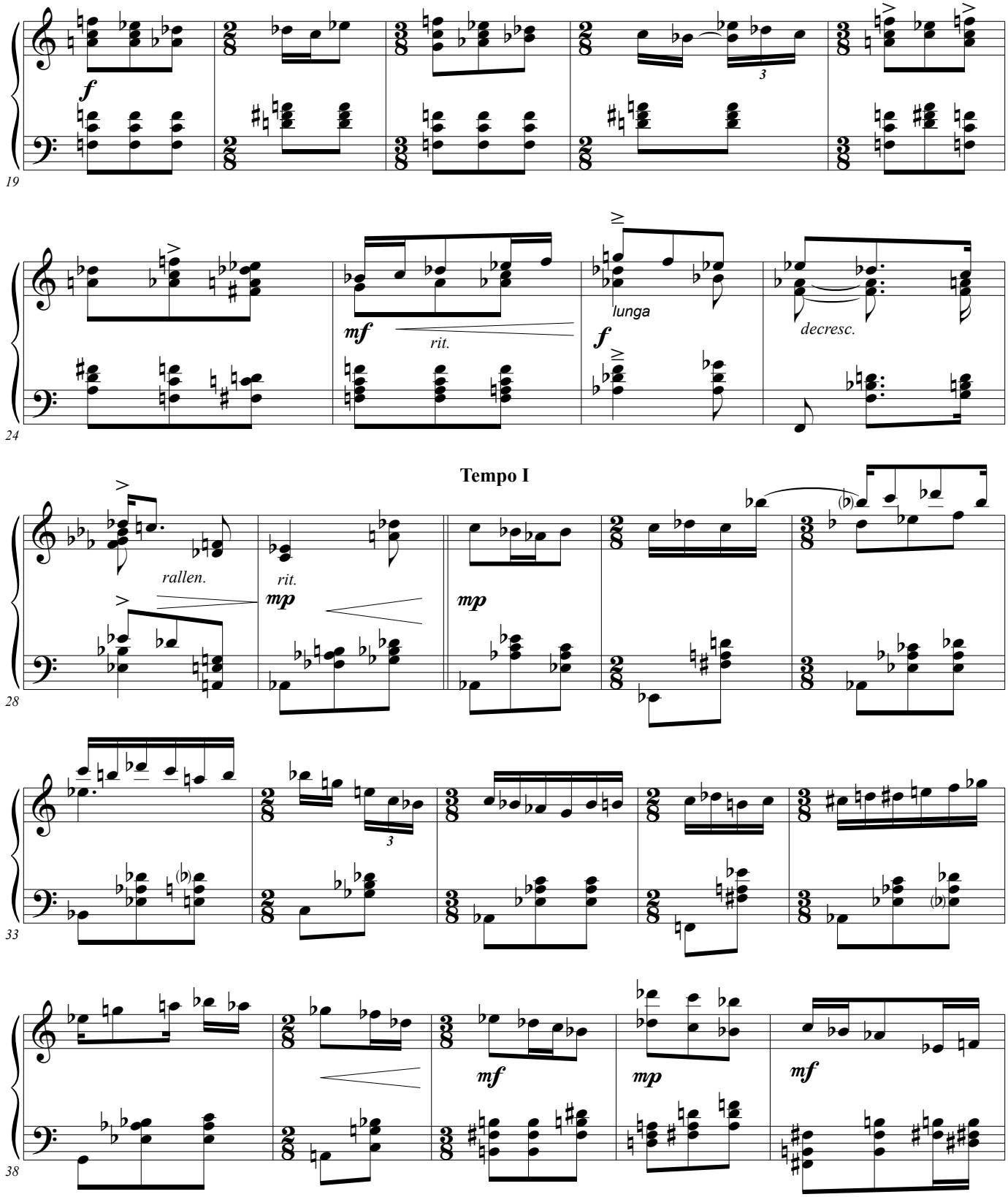
Broadly, quasi marcato

(meno ♪ = 116-126)



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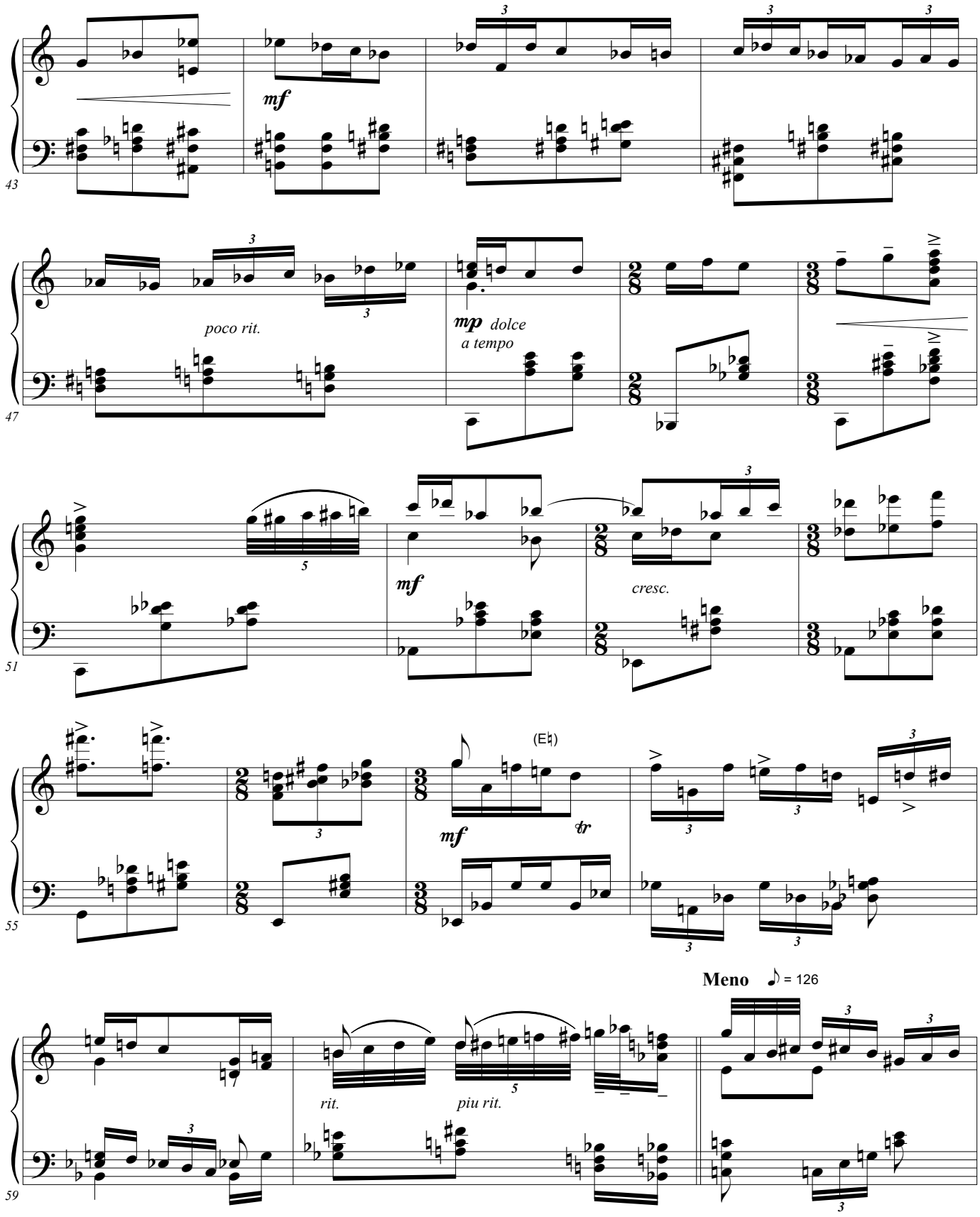

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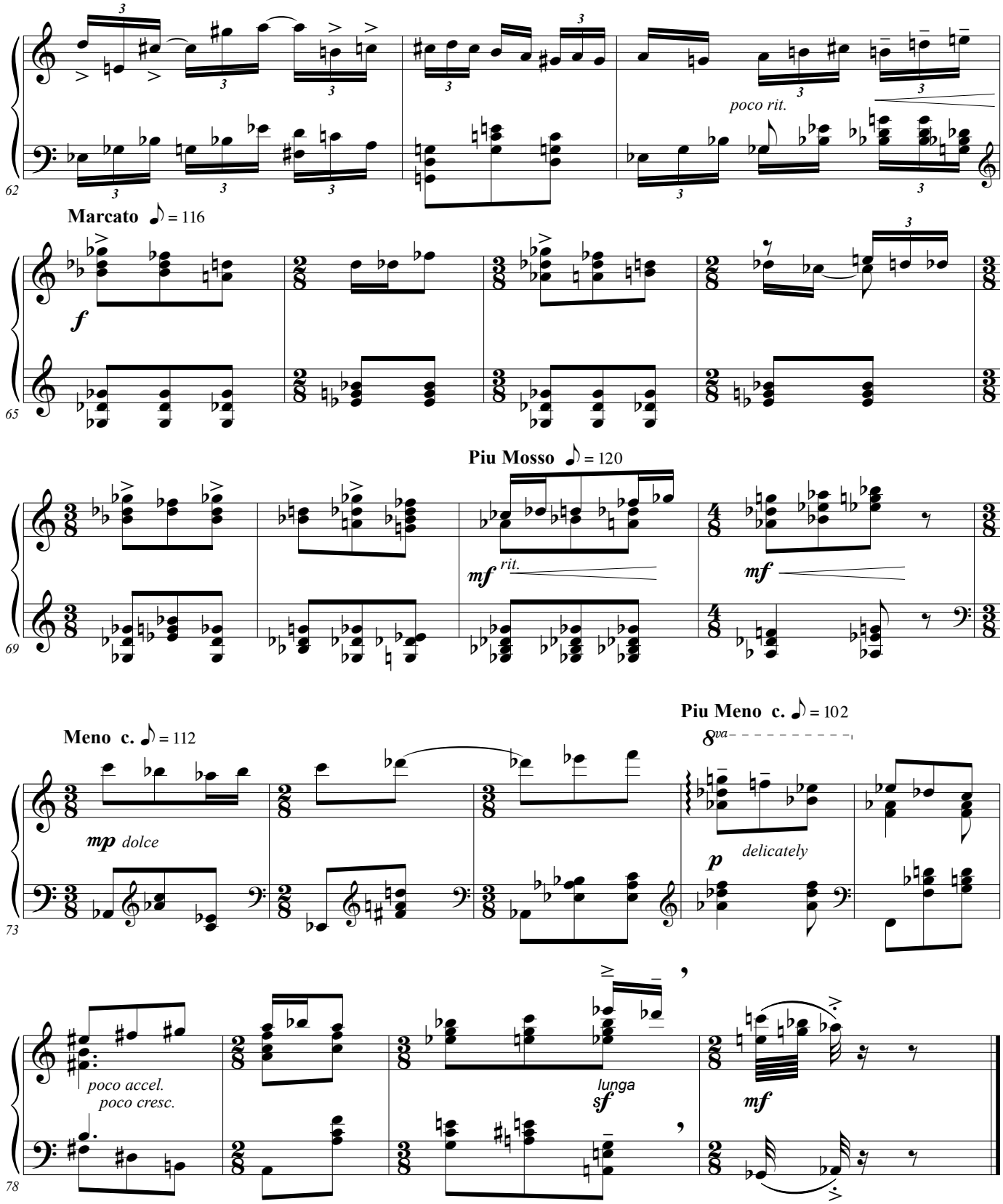

Composed August 09, 1974.

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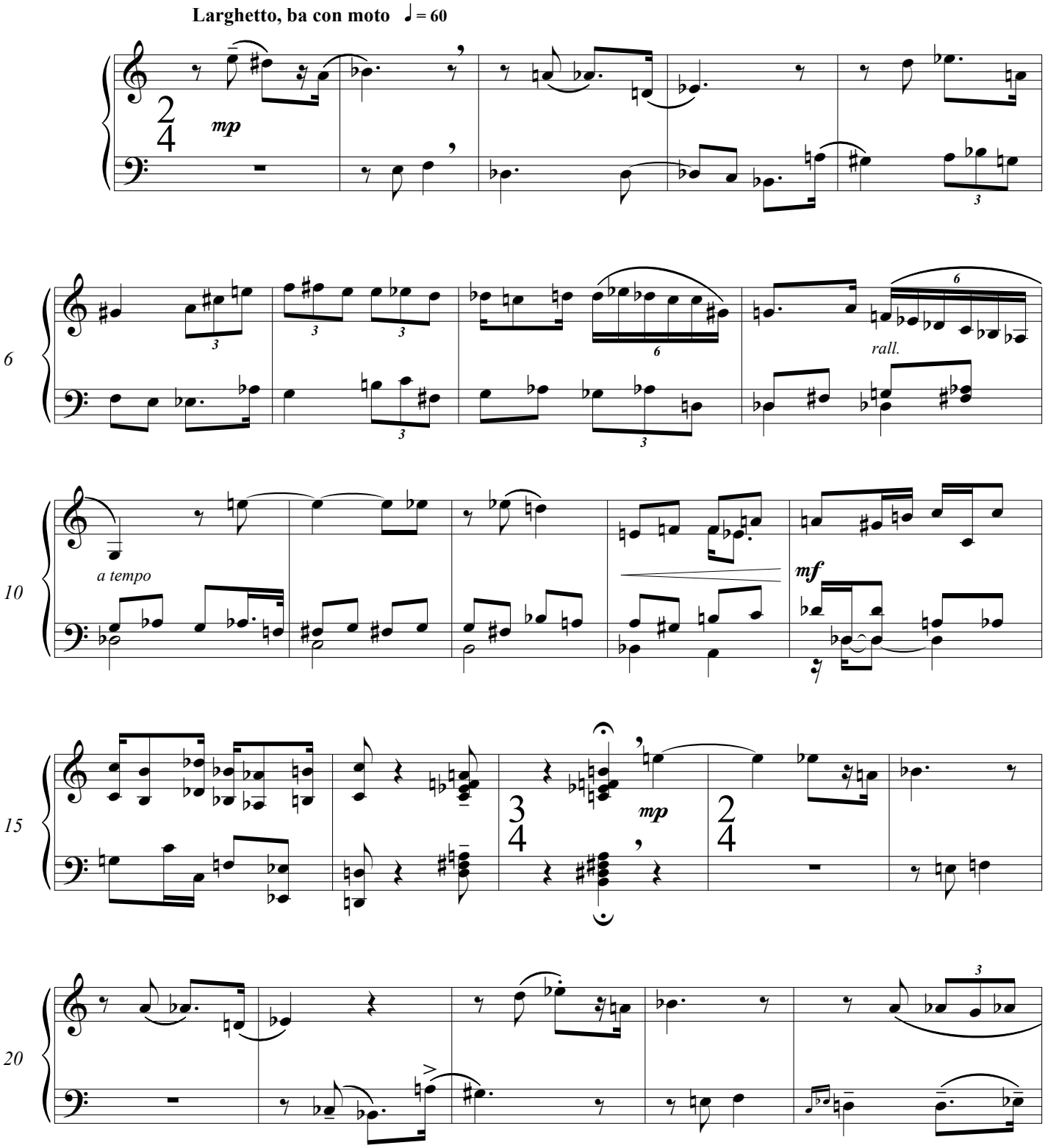
Nocturne

for pianoforte

Vanessa McClintock



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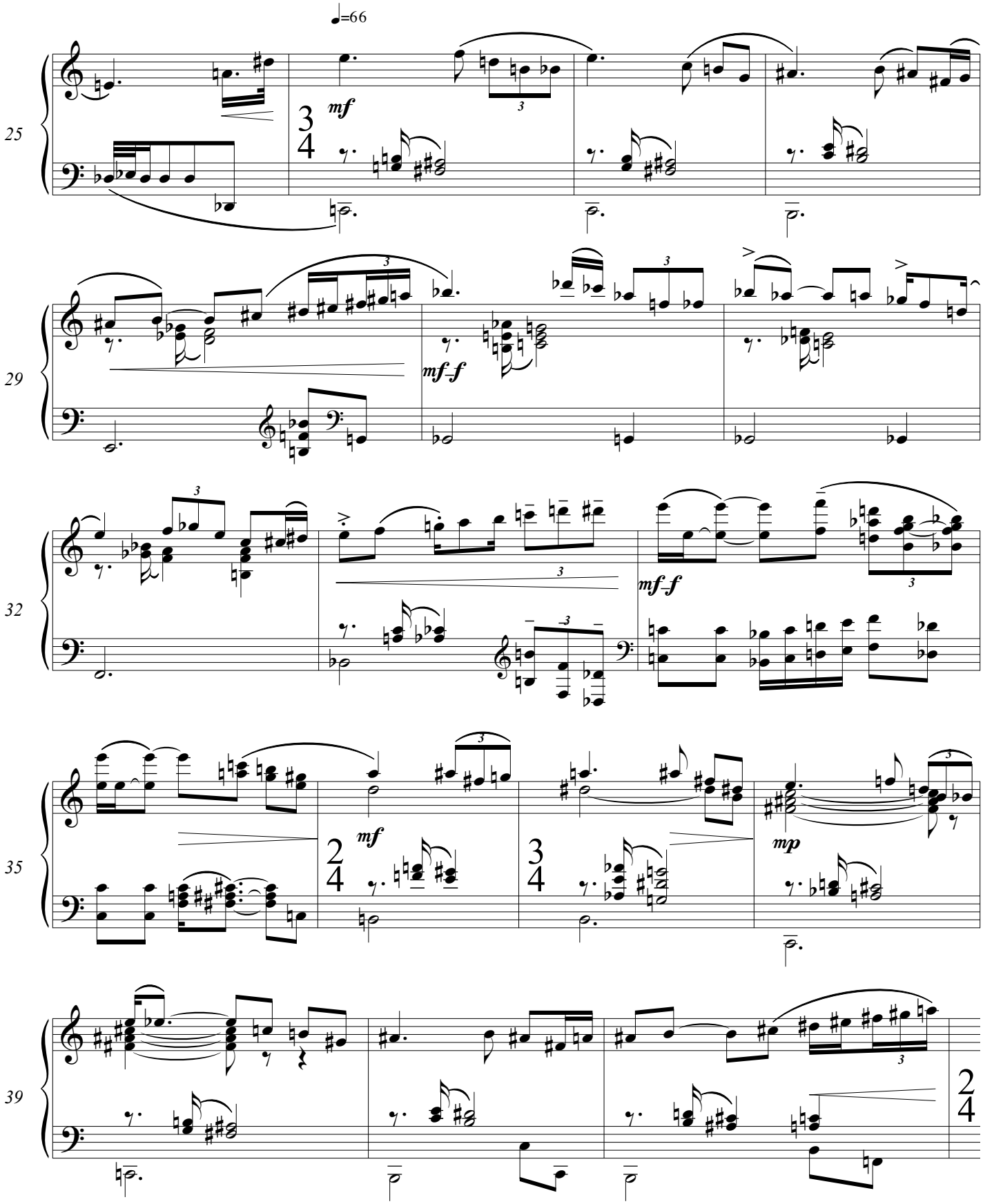

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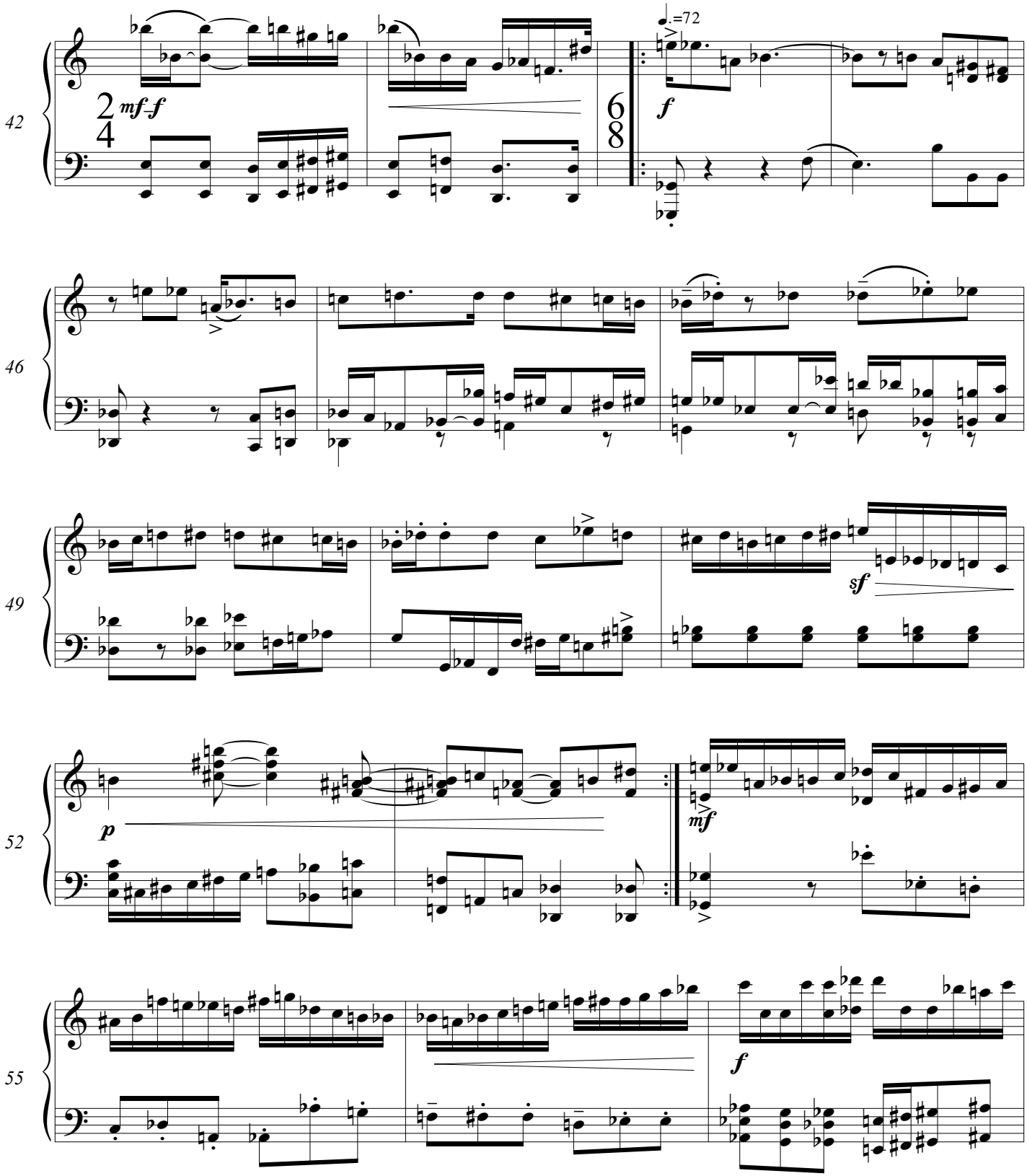

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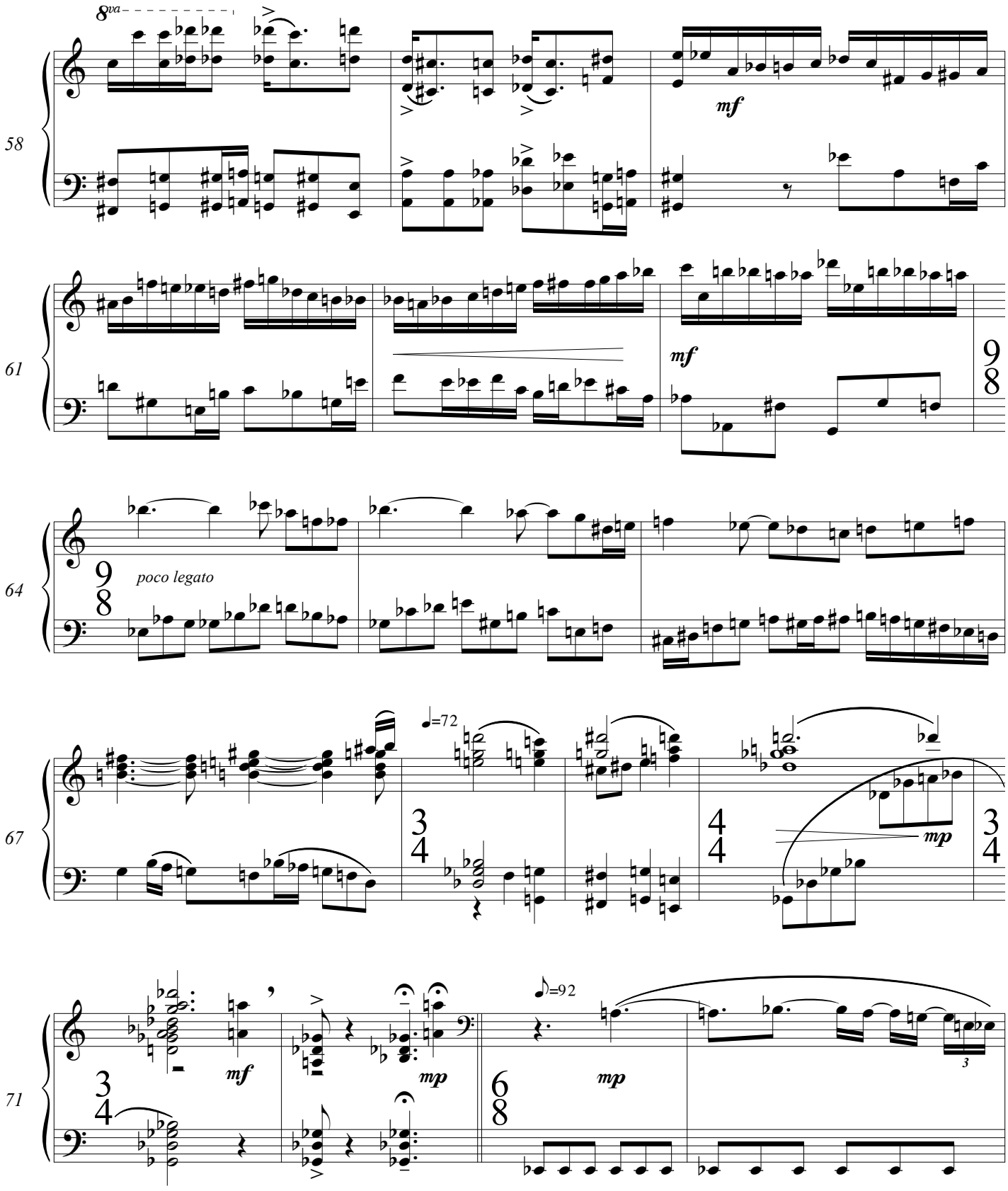

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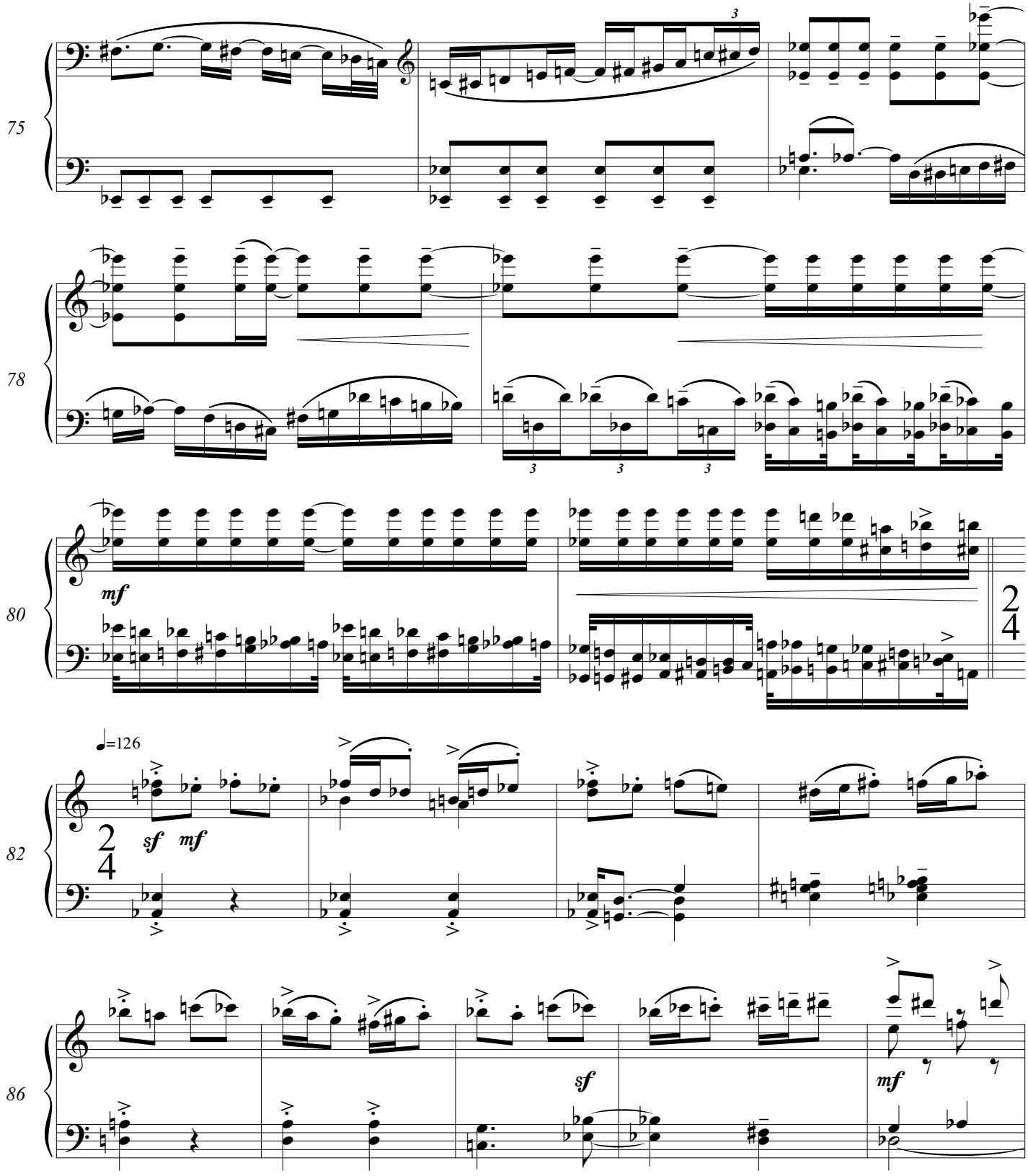

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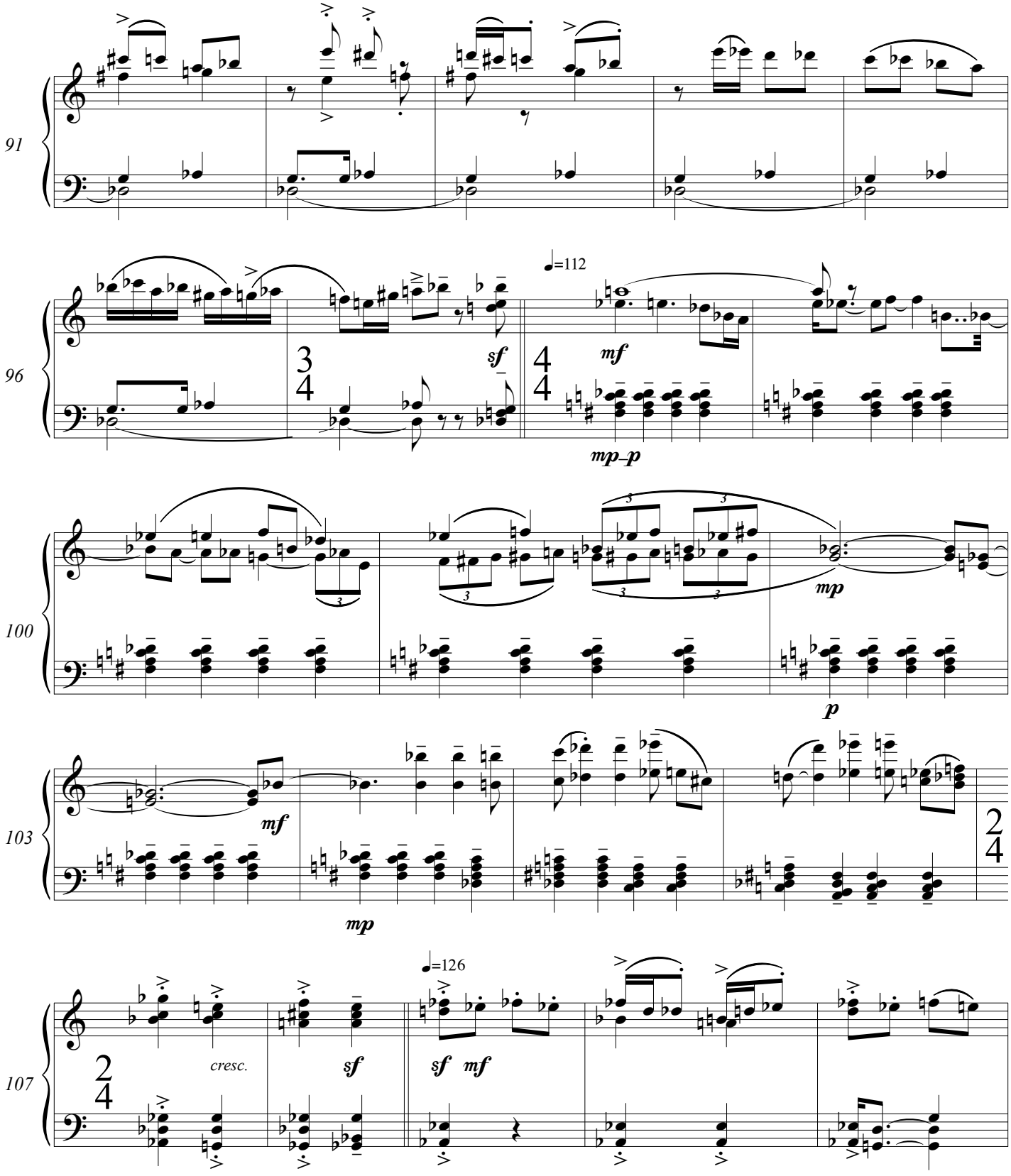

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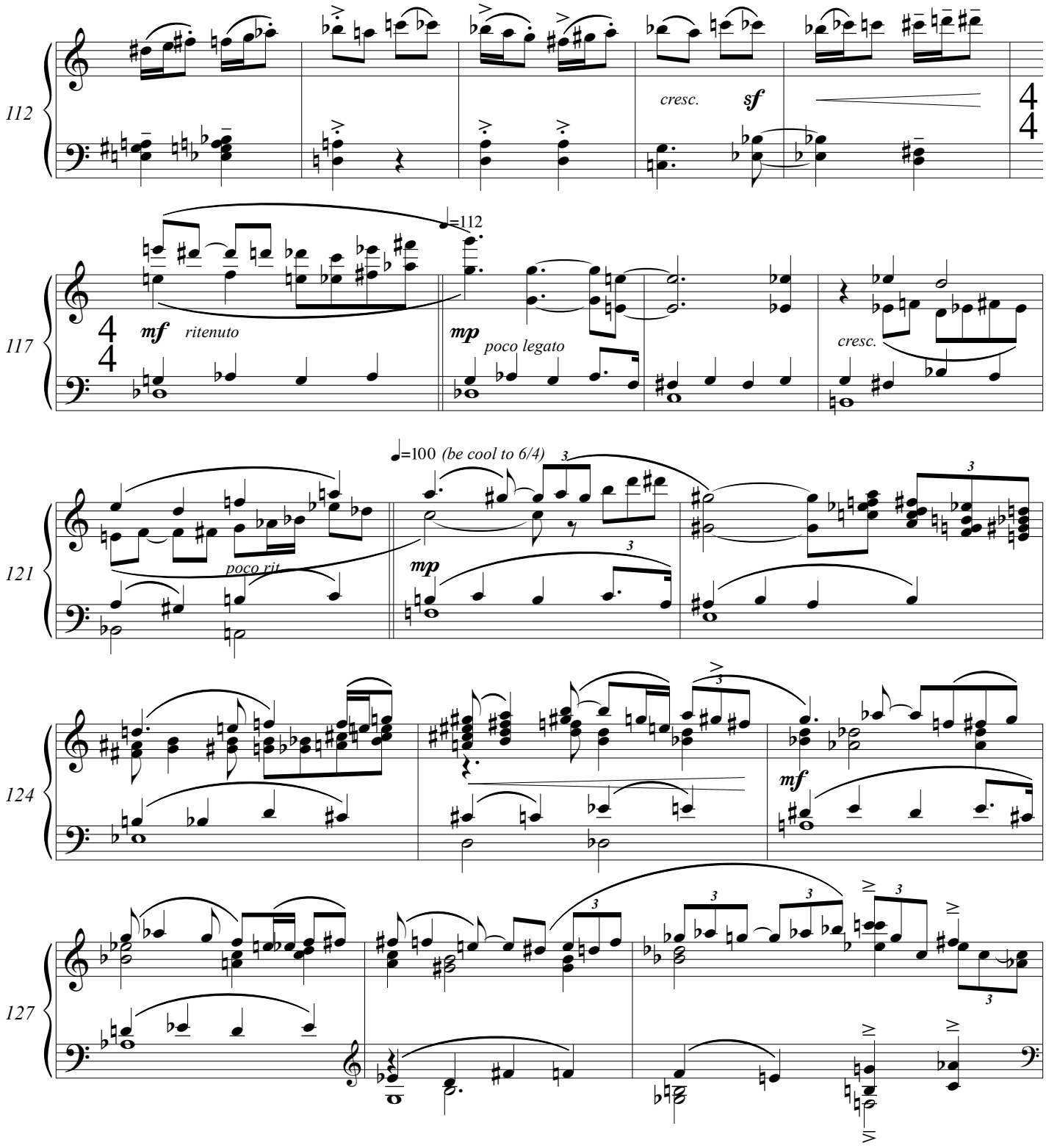

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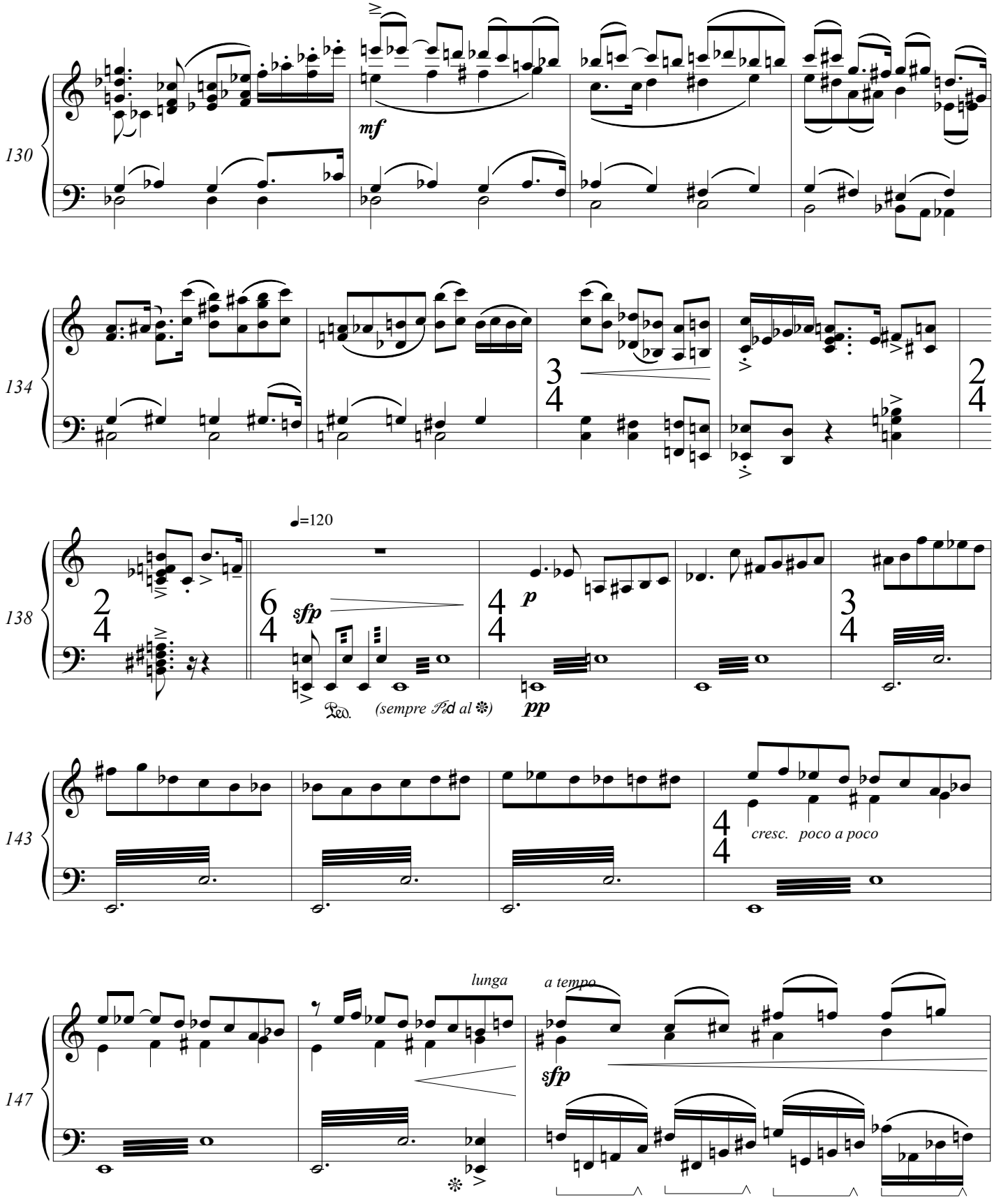

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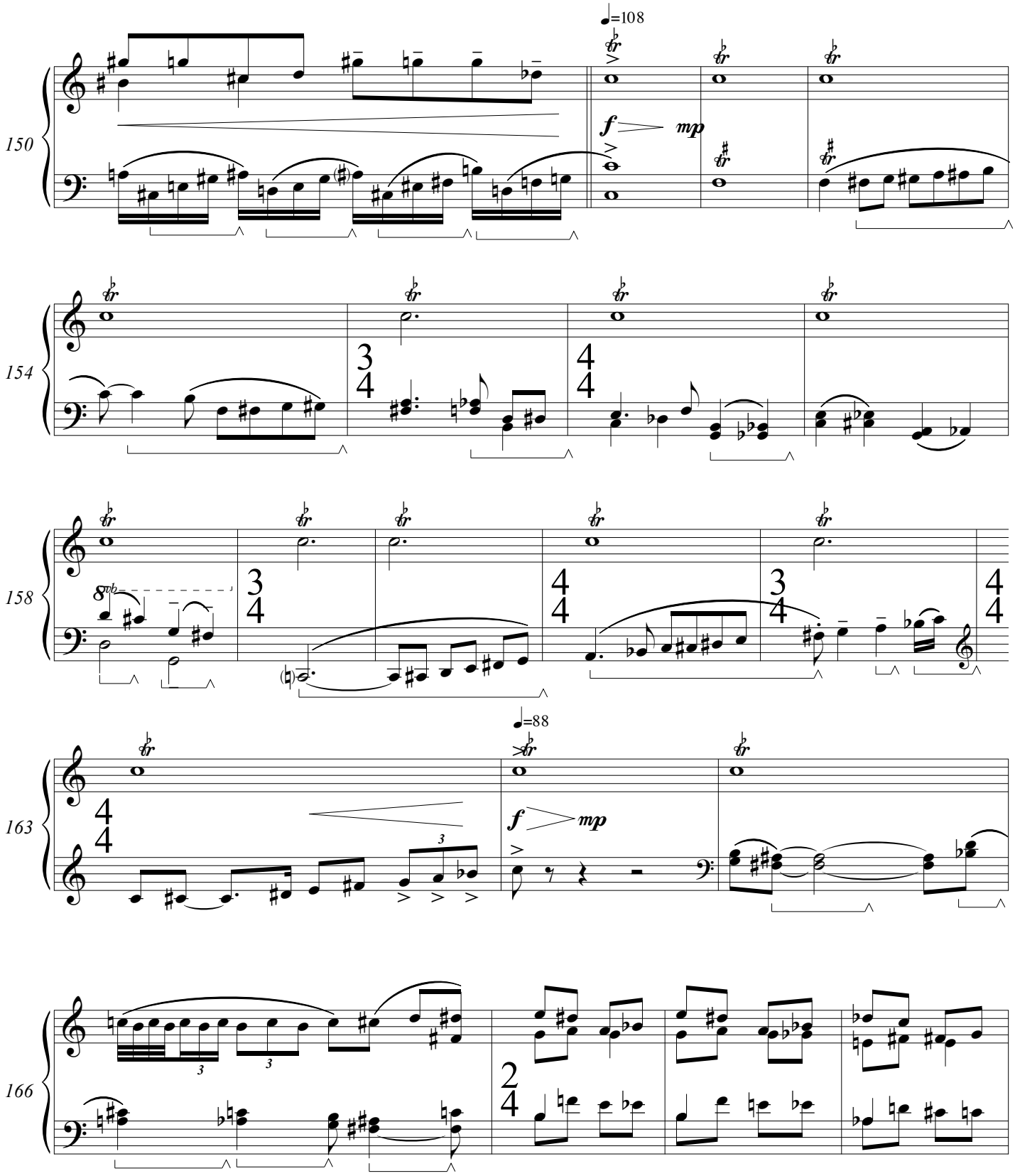

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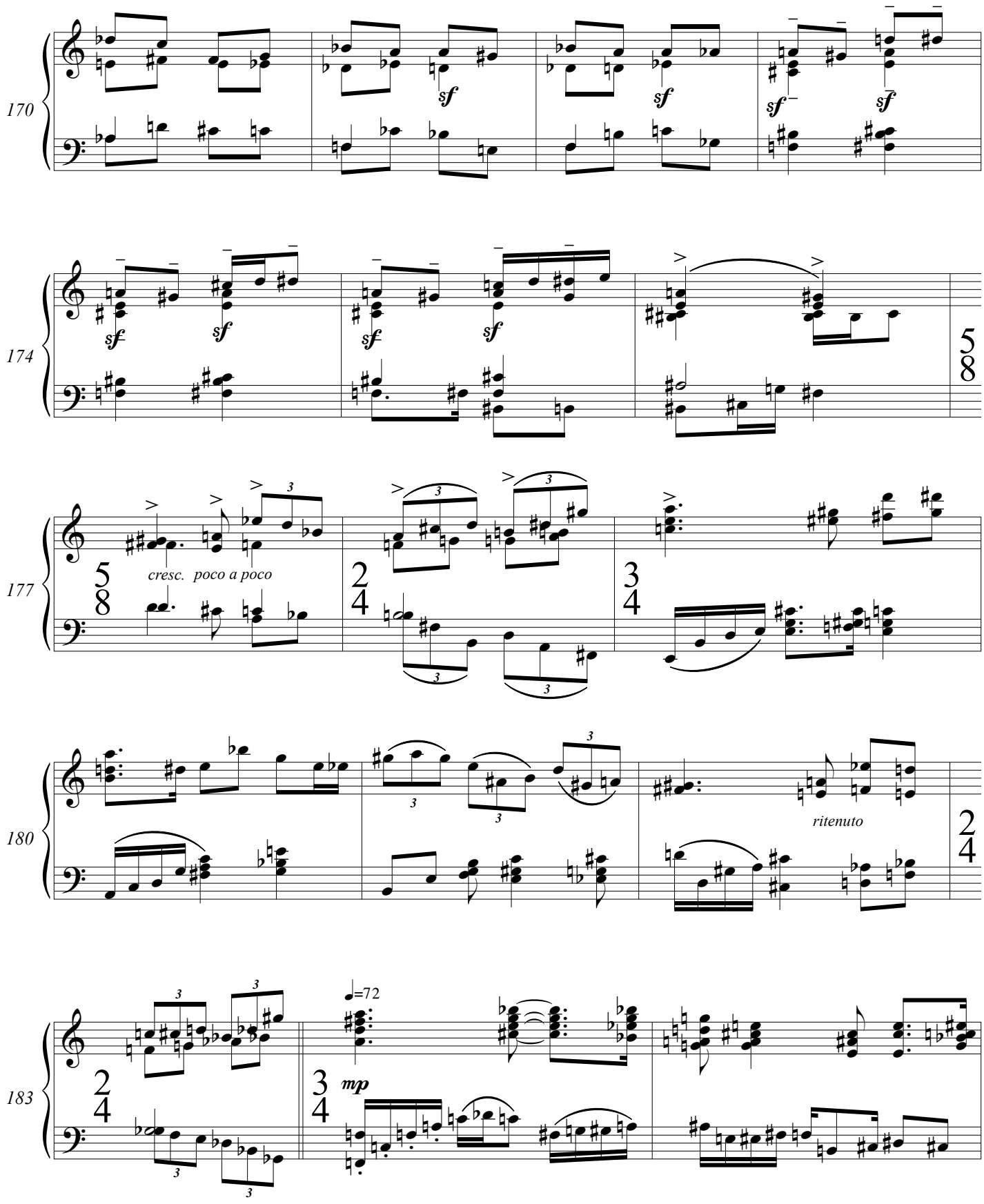

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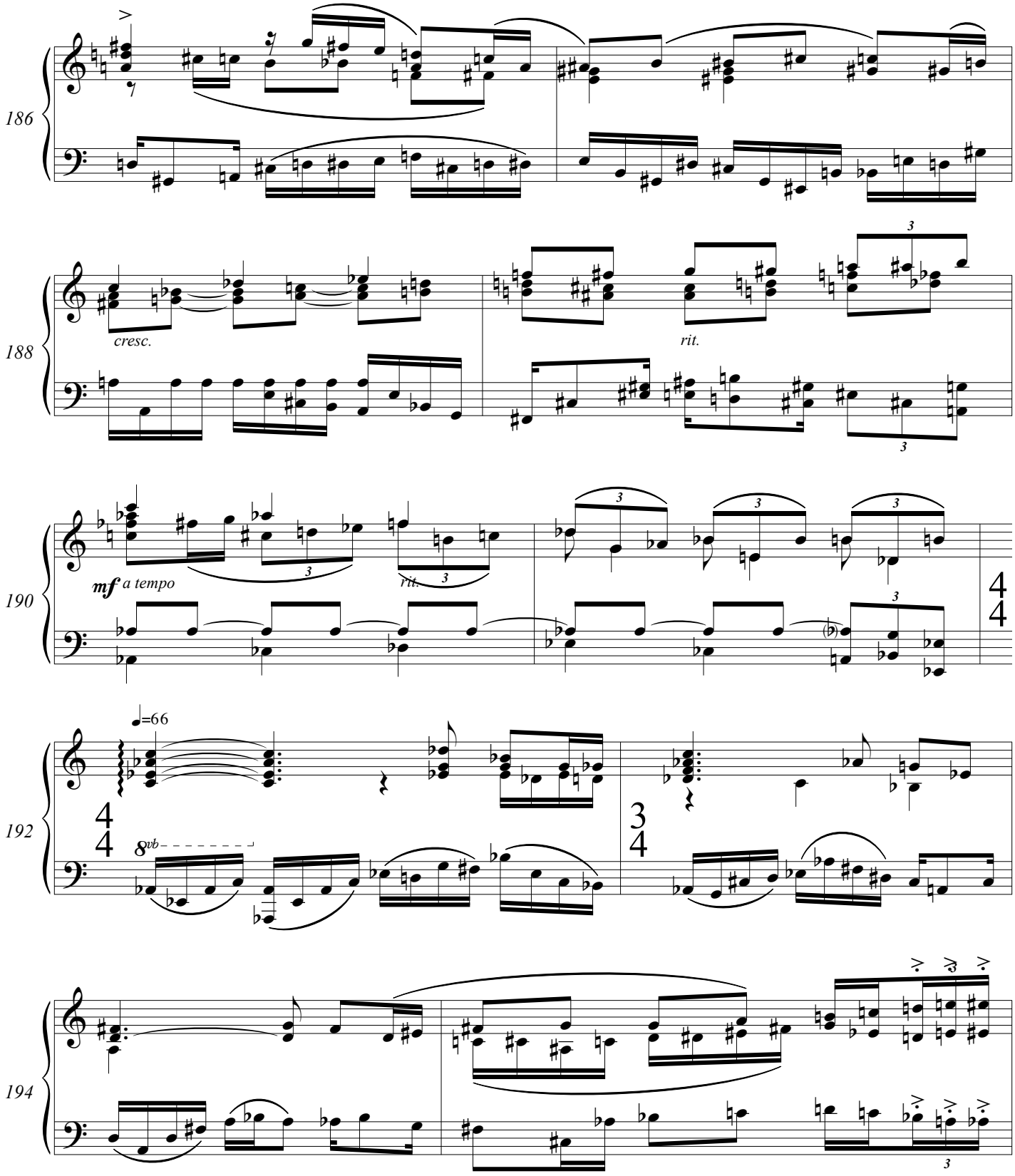

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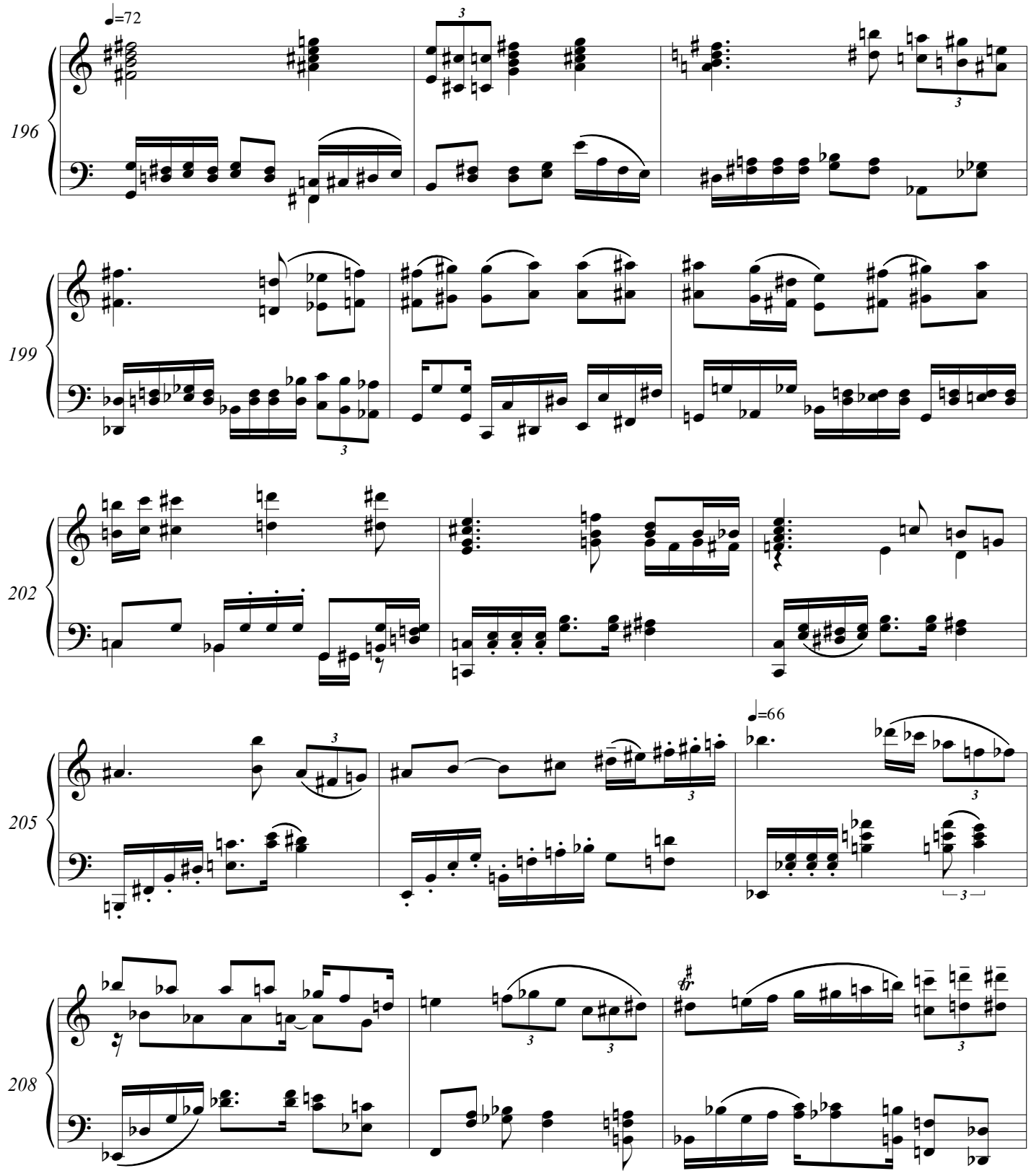

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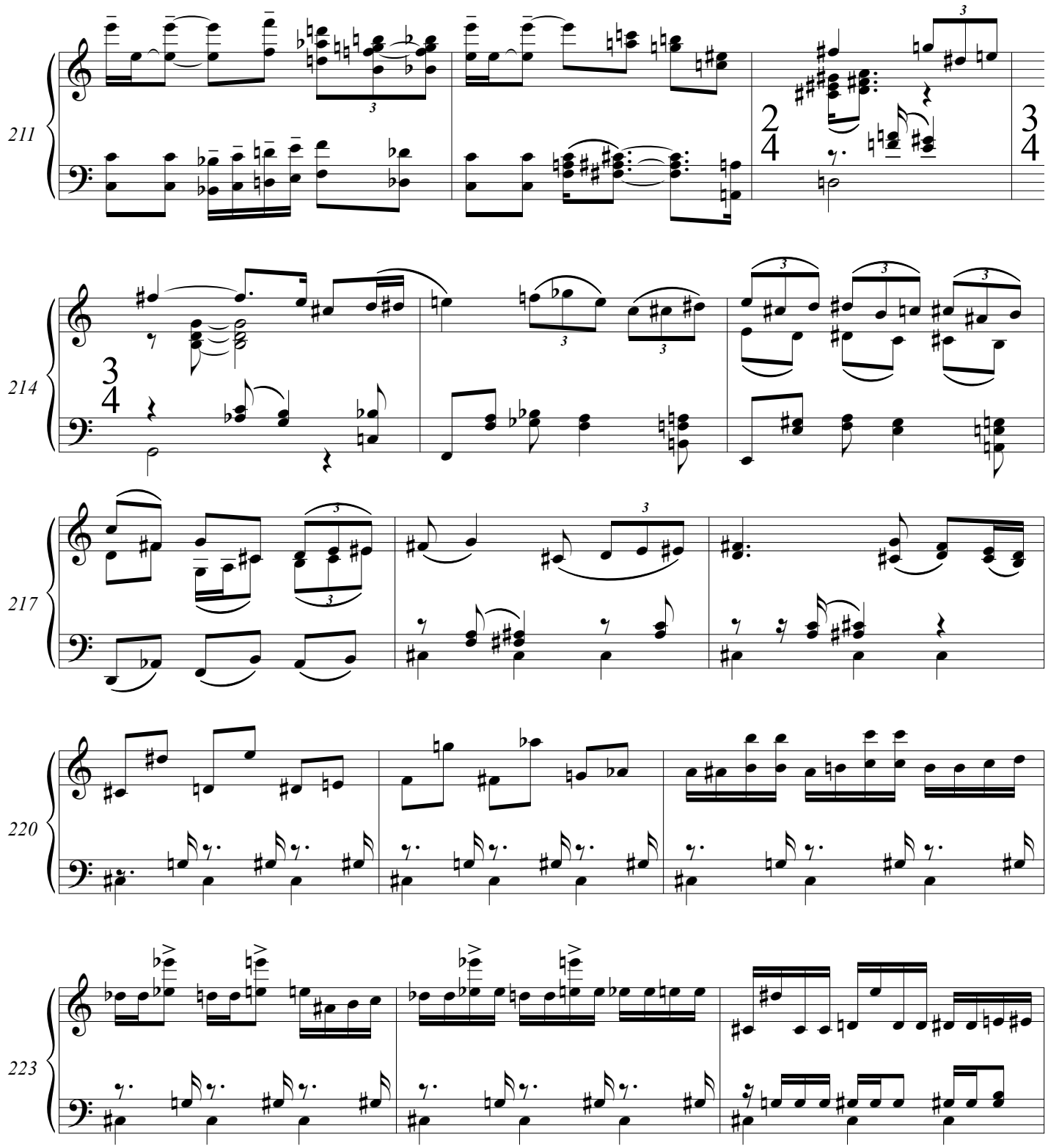

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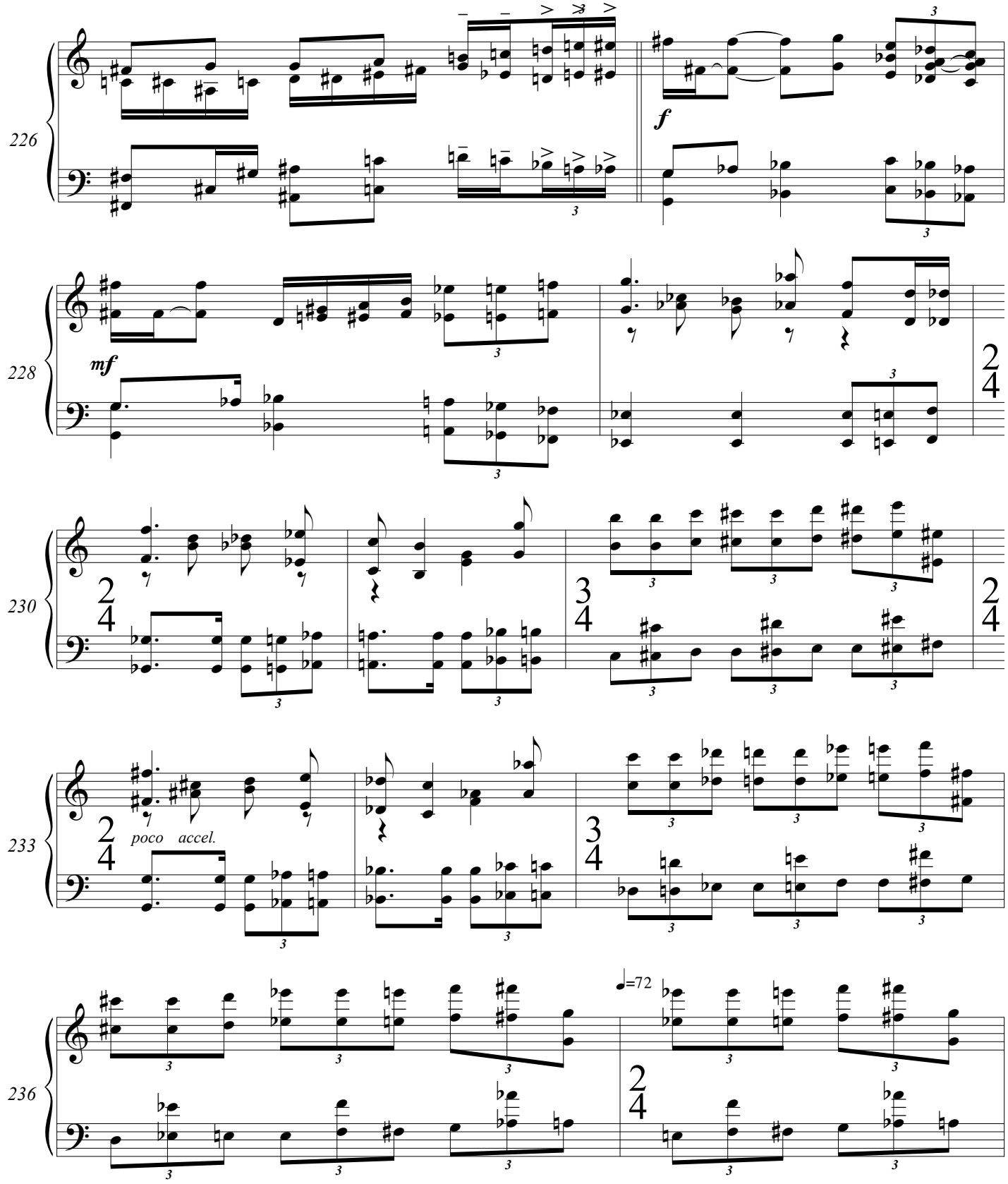

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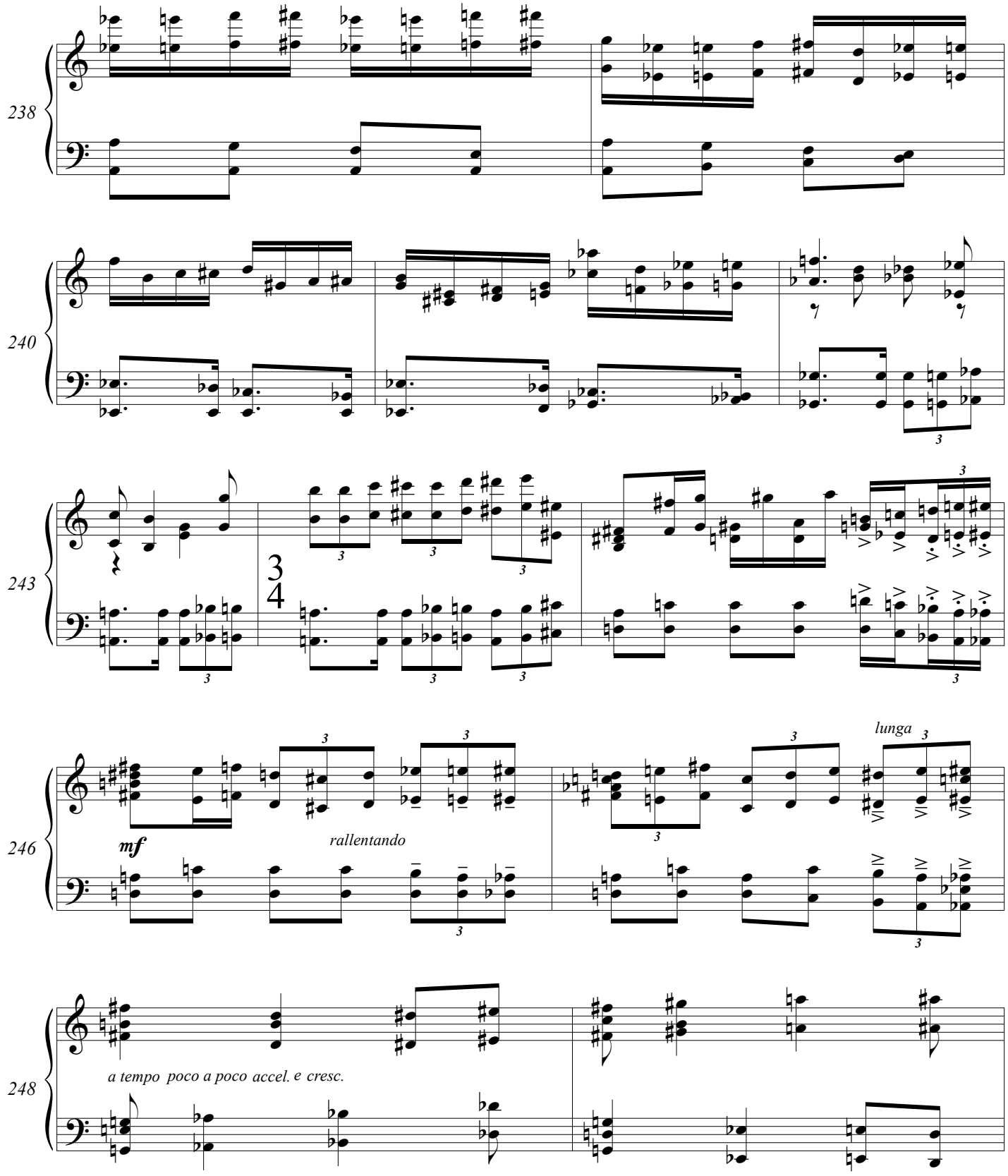

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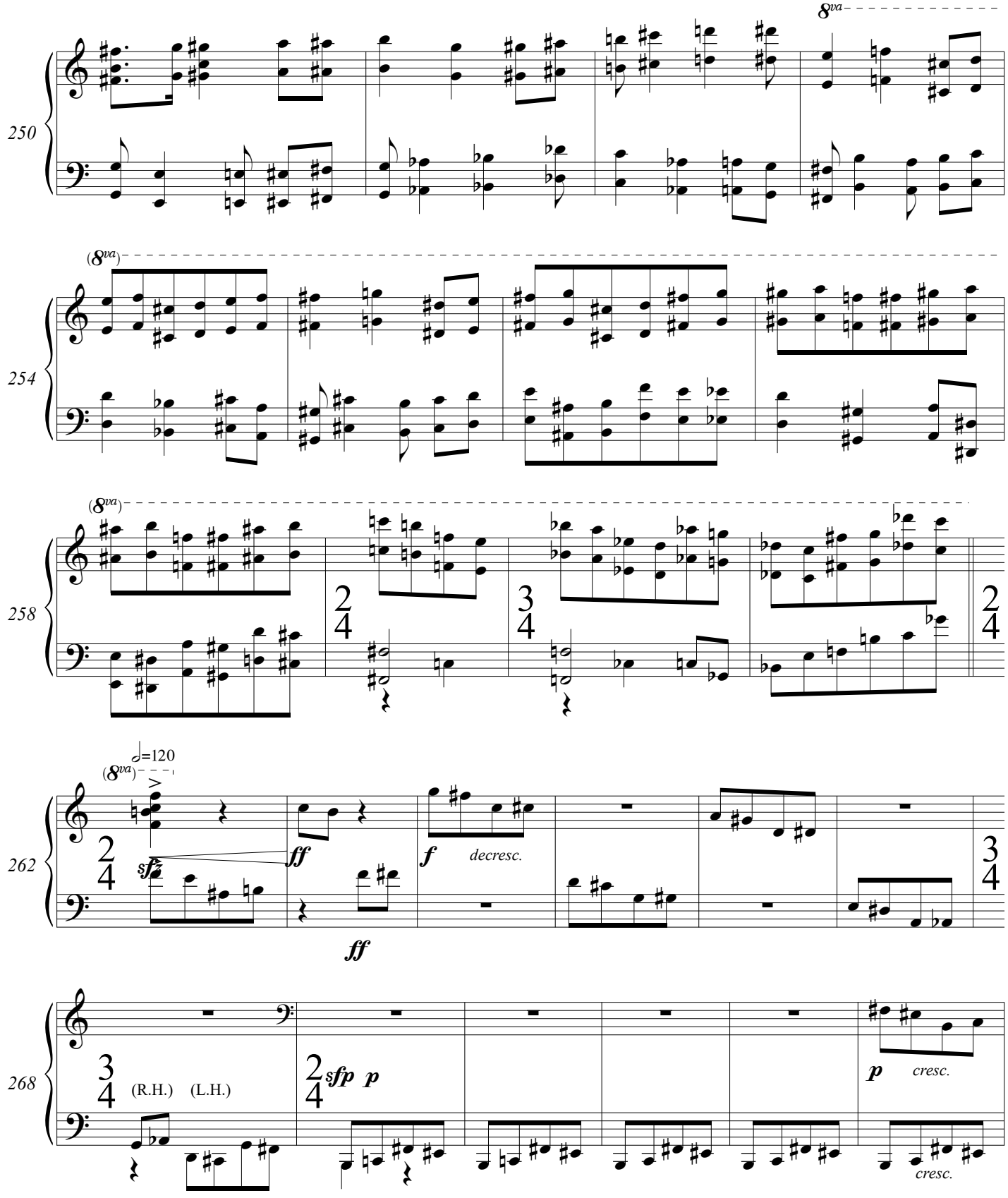

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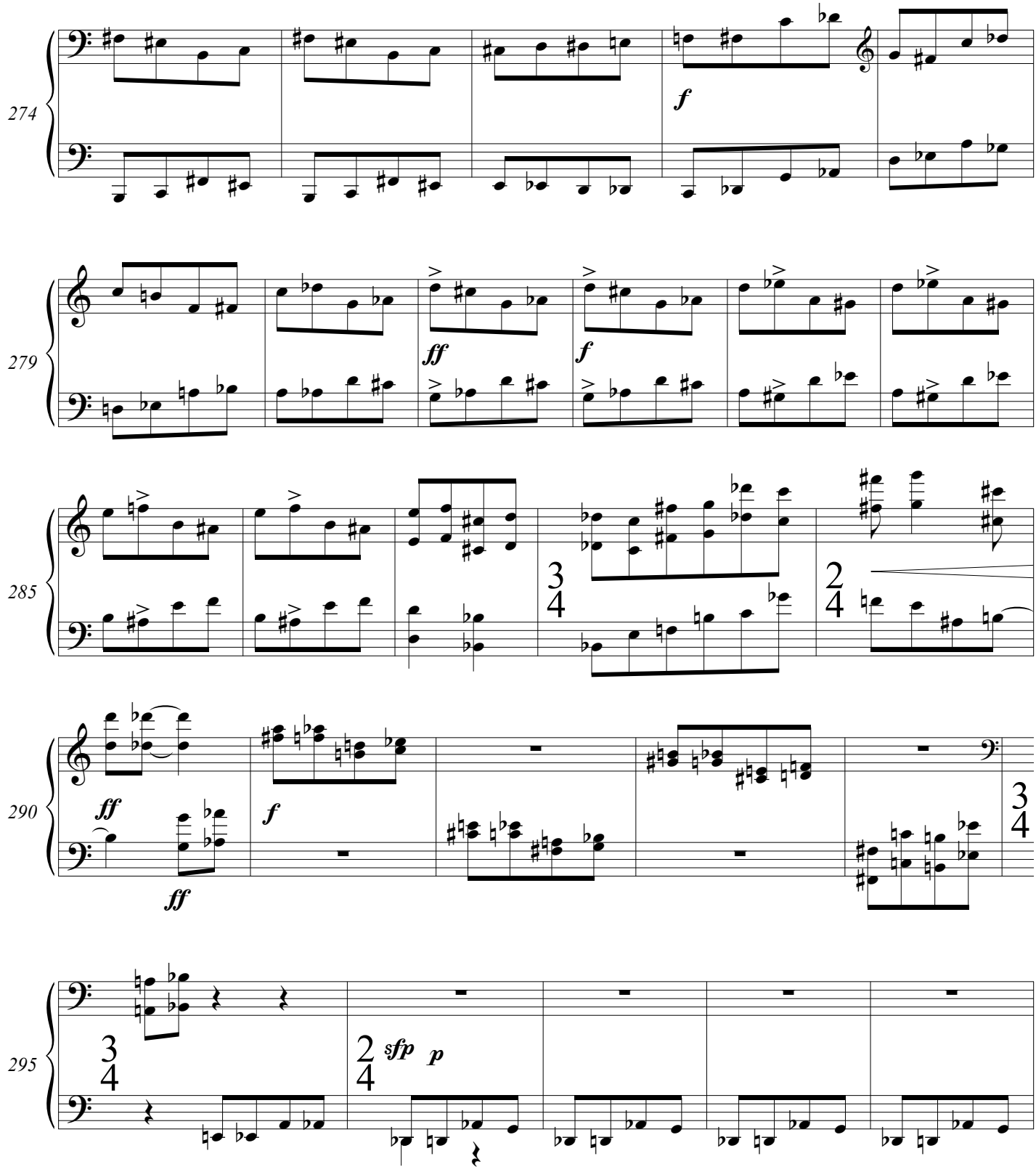

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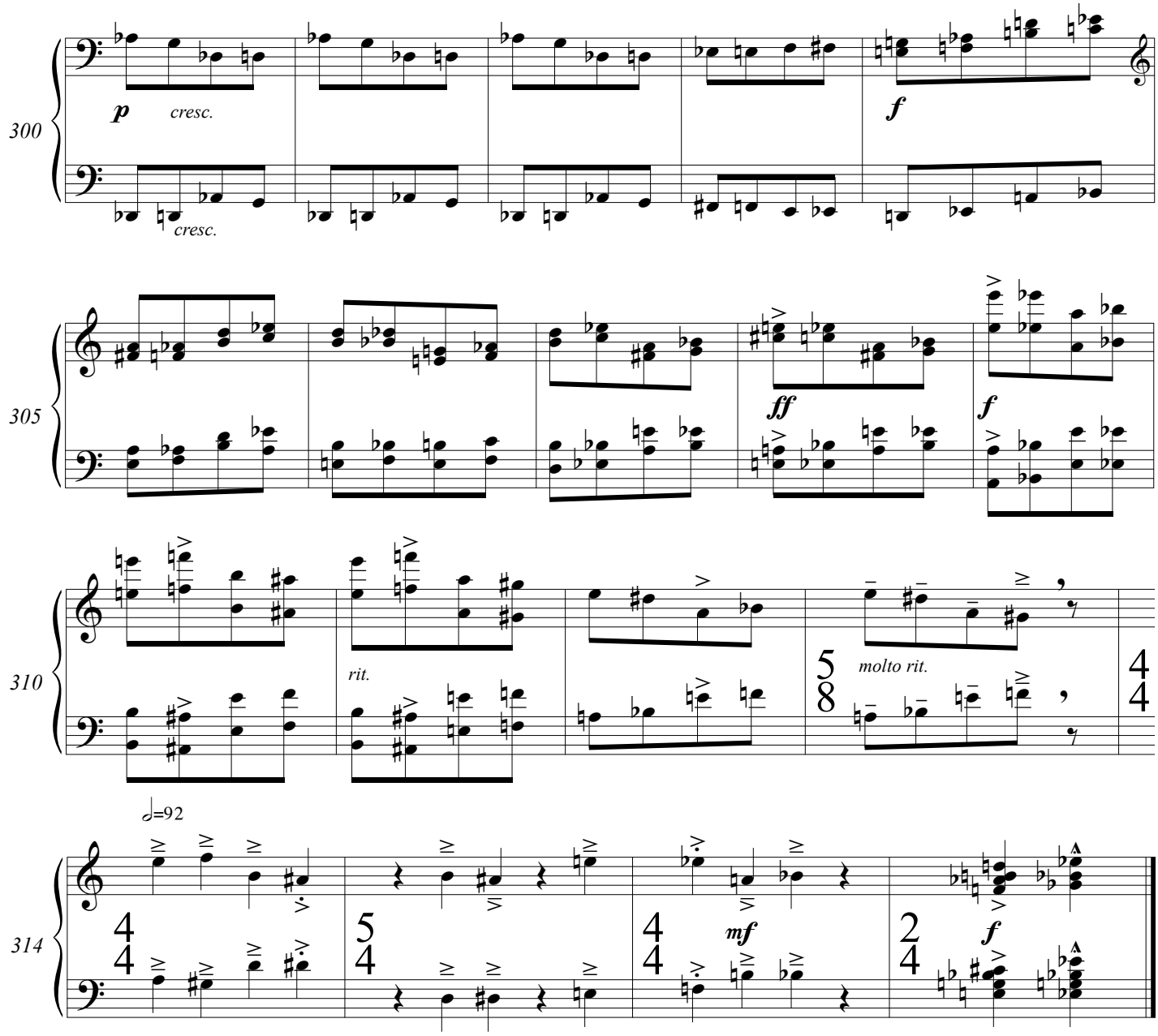

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