"Tubular Bells"
Mike Oldfield

An analysis of "Tubular Bells" by David Bedford.
Side One.
1. Tune A: repetitive figure, 7/8, 7/8, 7/8, 9/8=30 quavers.
2. Tune B: bass figure, 3/4, 4/4, 3/4, 5/4=15 crochets (30 quavers).
3. Tune C: A transformed into 3/4 with descending chords.
4. Tune D: A plus B plus C.
5. Tune E: A plus B plus C plus new tune . . .
6. Tune F: crescendo, introducing . . .
7. Tune G.
8. Tune A plus new tune.
9. Transition section: introduction of rhythm for. . .
10. Tune H on electric guitar.
11. Tune I on bass guitar (4/4).
12. Chord sequence with I superimposed (in 4/3), crescendo to . . .
13. Tune G repeated.
14. Tune A with G on bass guitar.
15. Tune G slowly with chords and tubular bells (and new counter melody). Coda A.
16. New 6/8 tune with version of A as accompaniment.
17. Syncopated chord sequence.
18. Development of last bass phrase.
19. Transition, with tubular bells.
20. Tune J: new melody leading to . . .
21. Repeated bass riff.
22. Tune K: Grand piano and announcements of instruments one by one. Climax with chimes, dying away.
23. Acoustic guitar ends with major version of Tune A.
Side Two.
1. Tune L: 6/8 repeated figure in four parts with different number of beats in each part so they coincide differently each time.
2. L moves from 6/8 to 3/4. Top tune of 1. continues. Piano assumes importance with Coda.
3. Tune M: solo organ, with acoustic guitar.
4. Tune N: romantic bit with mandolin and voices.
5. Tune O: timpani, 'Scottish' tune in parallel fifths, big climax.
6. Tune P: rock song with 'caveman' voice.
7. Tune Q: long repeated chord sequence with solo guitars, with ground bass. Changes from minor to major.
8. Tune R: hornpipe.

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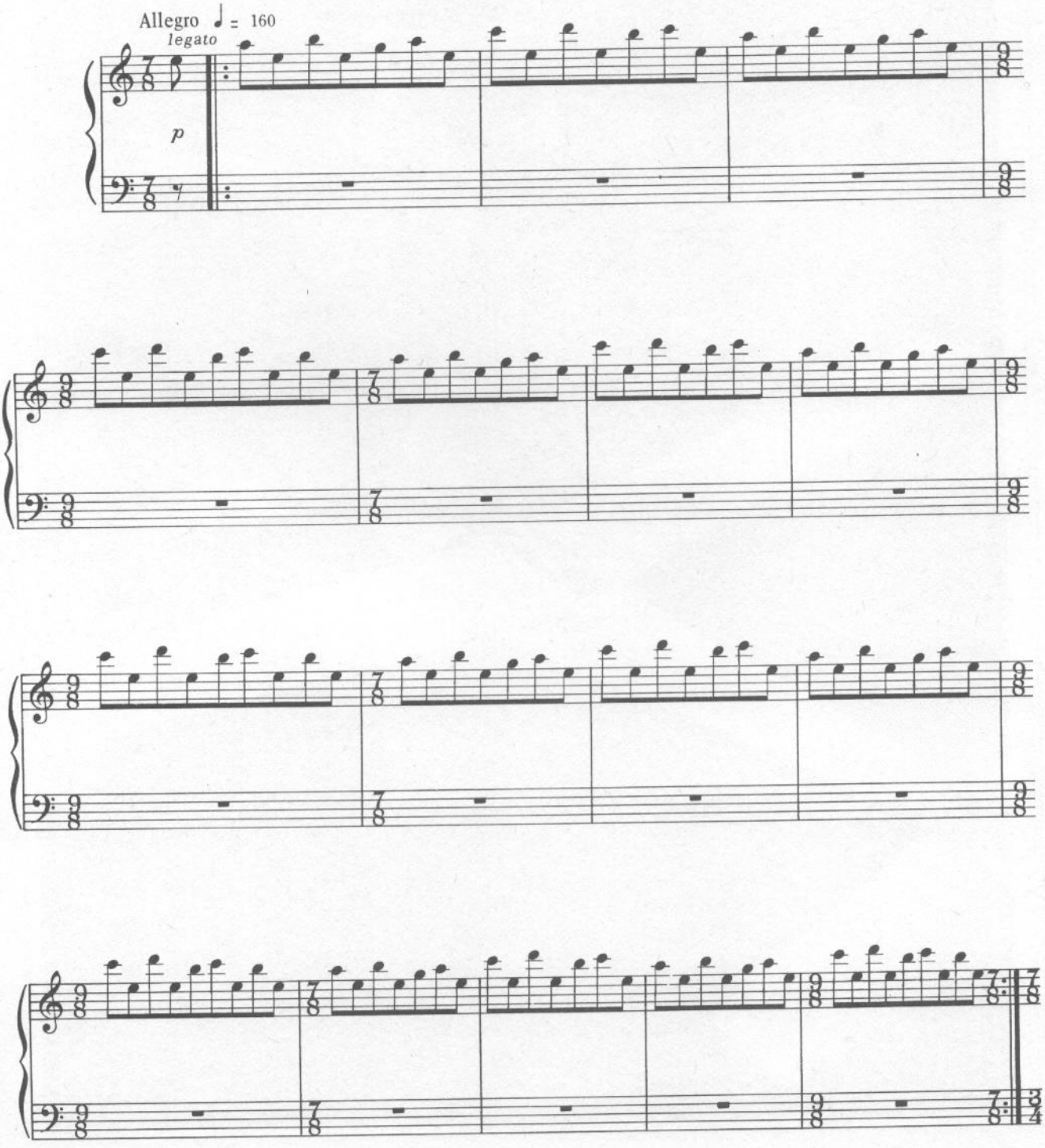

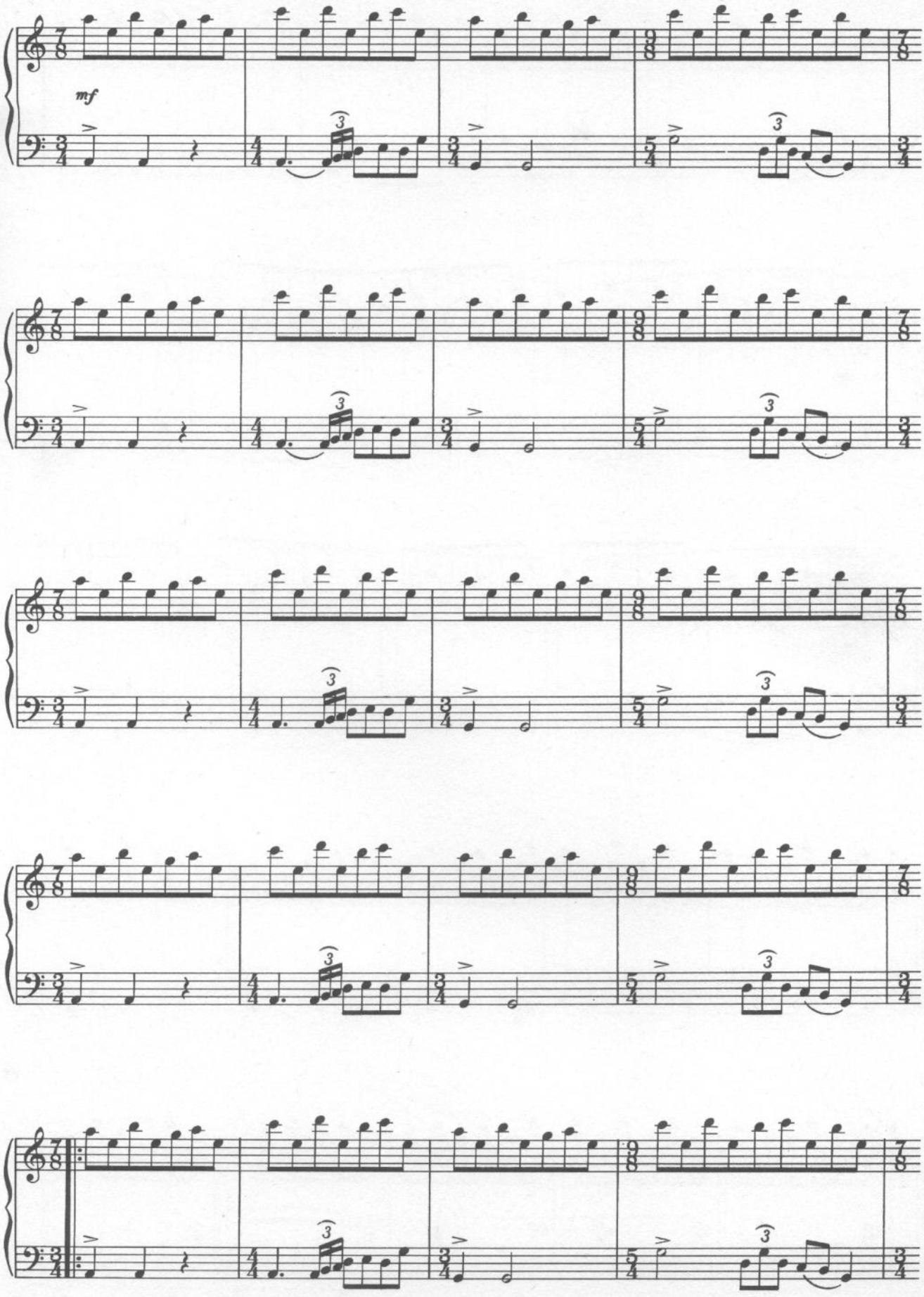
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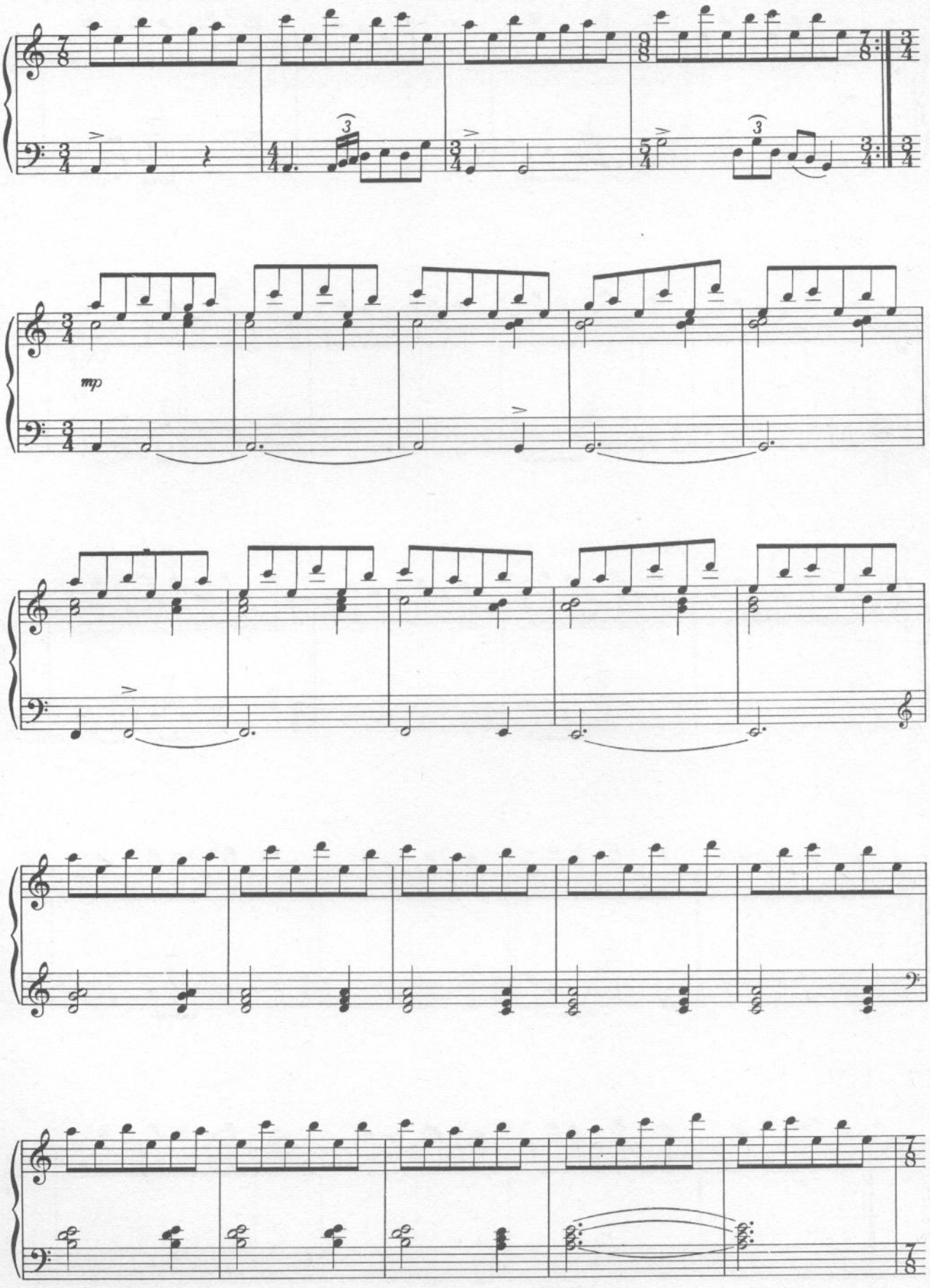
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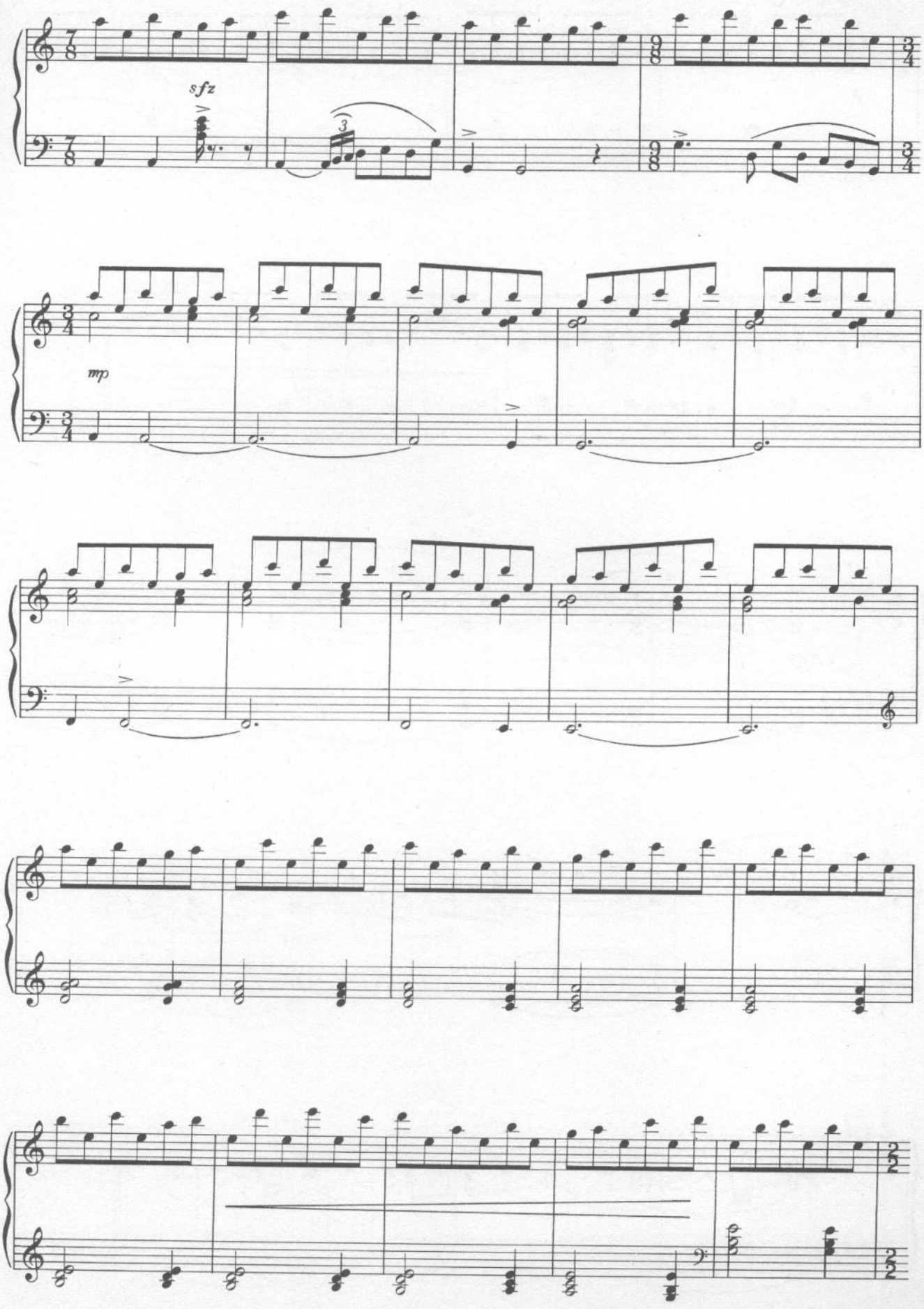
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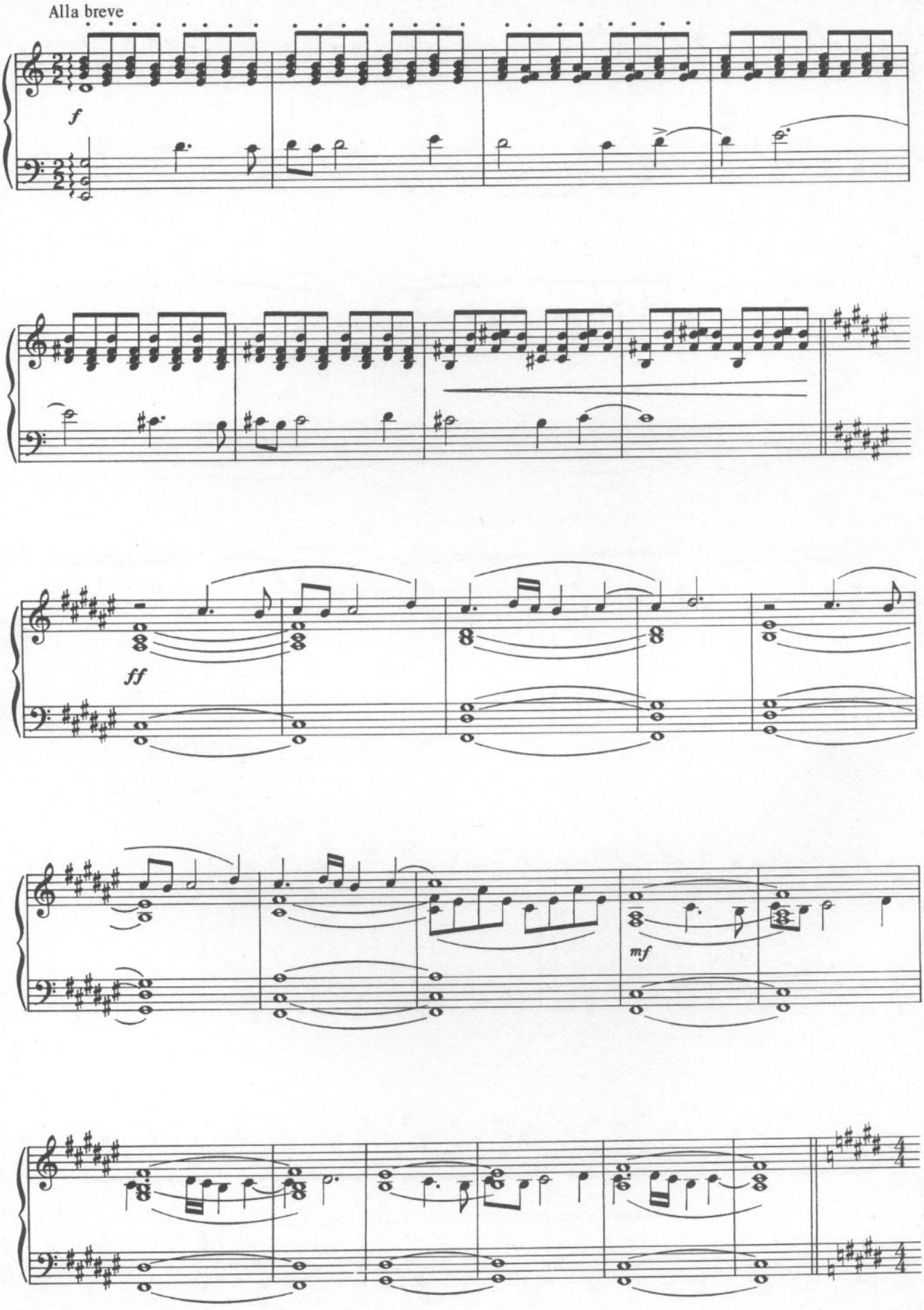
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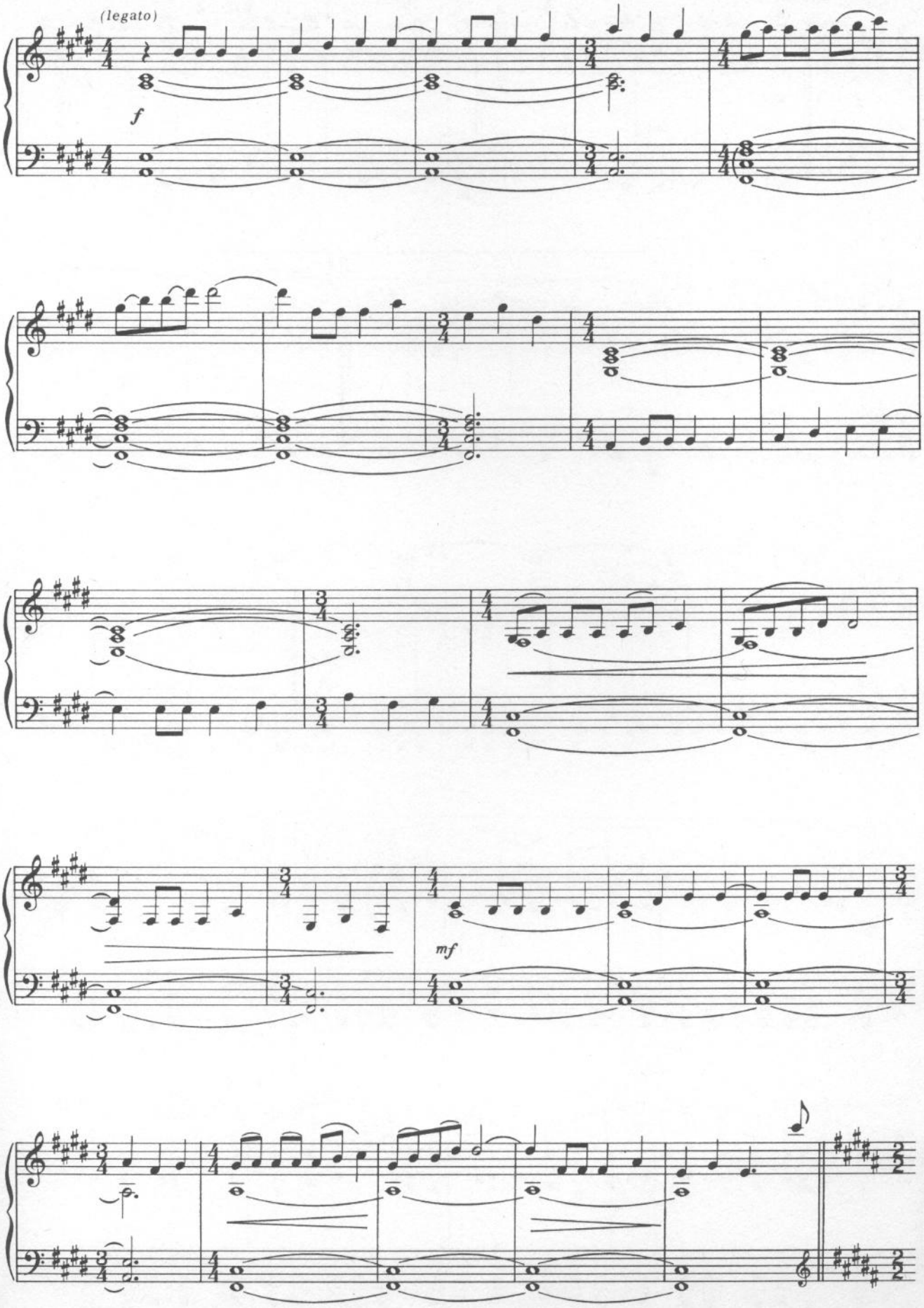
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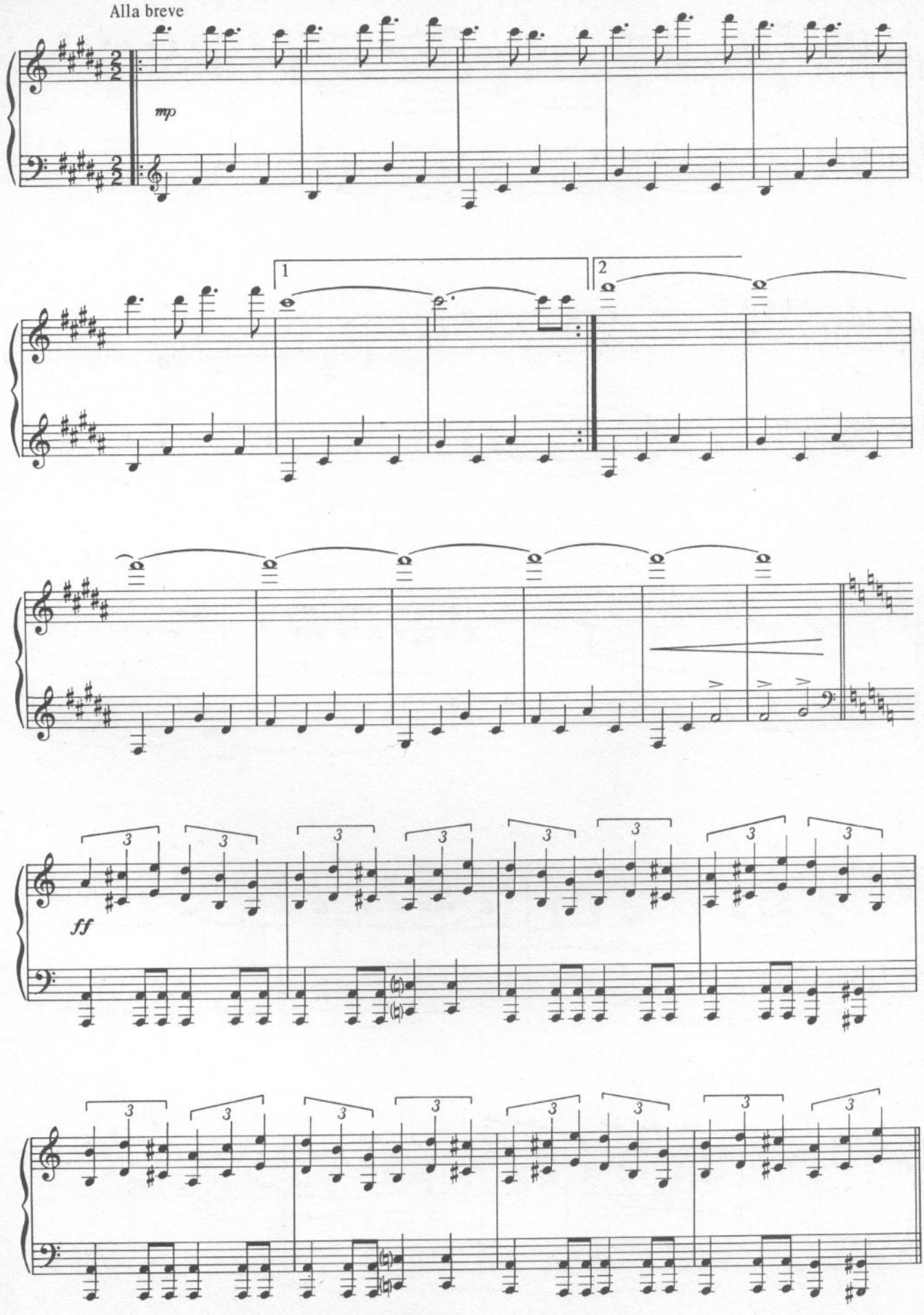
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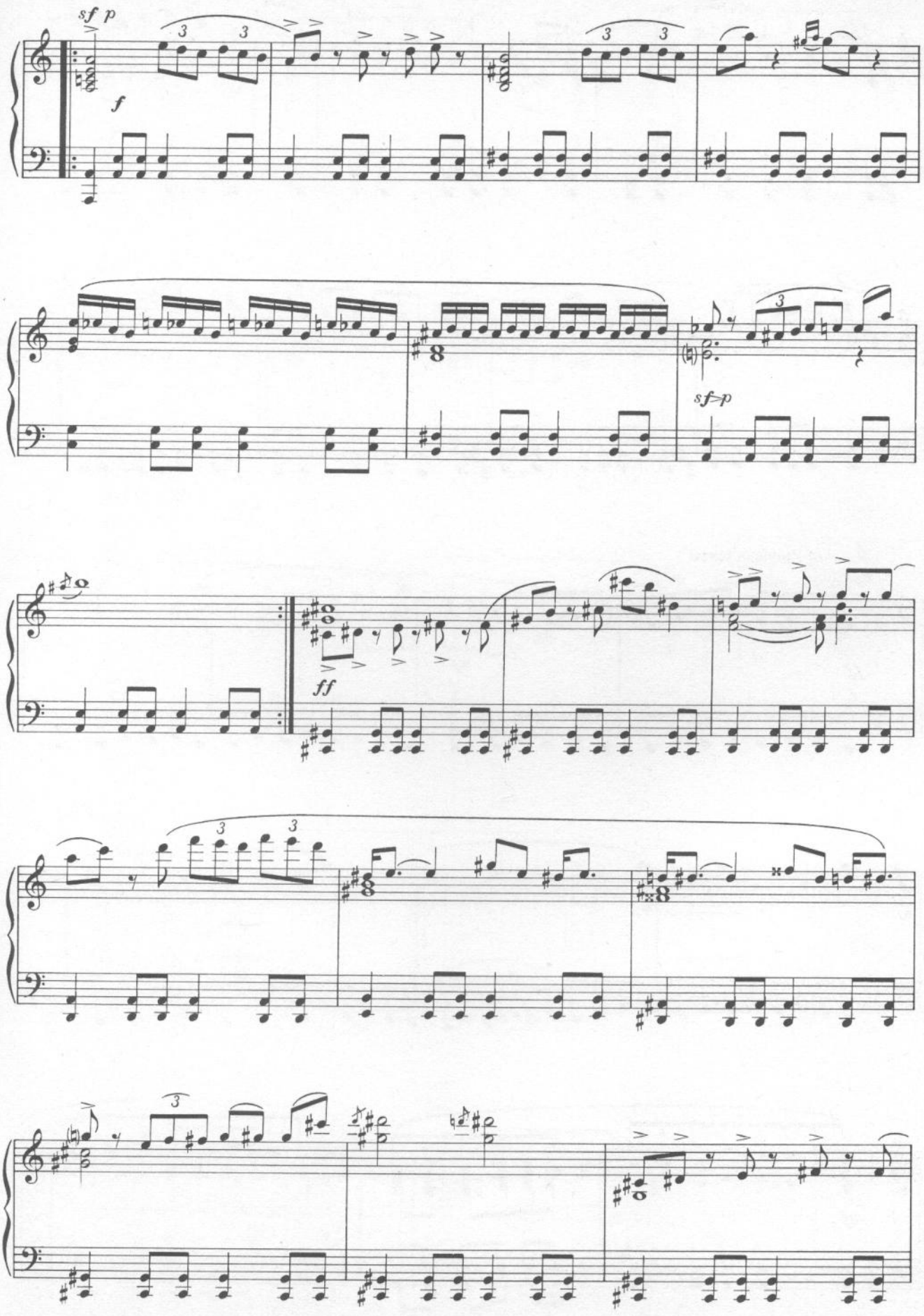
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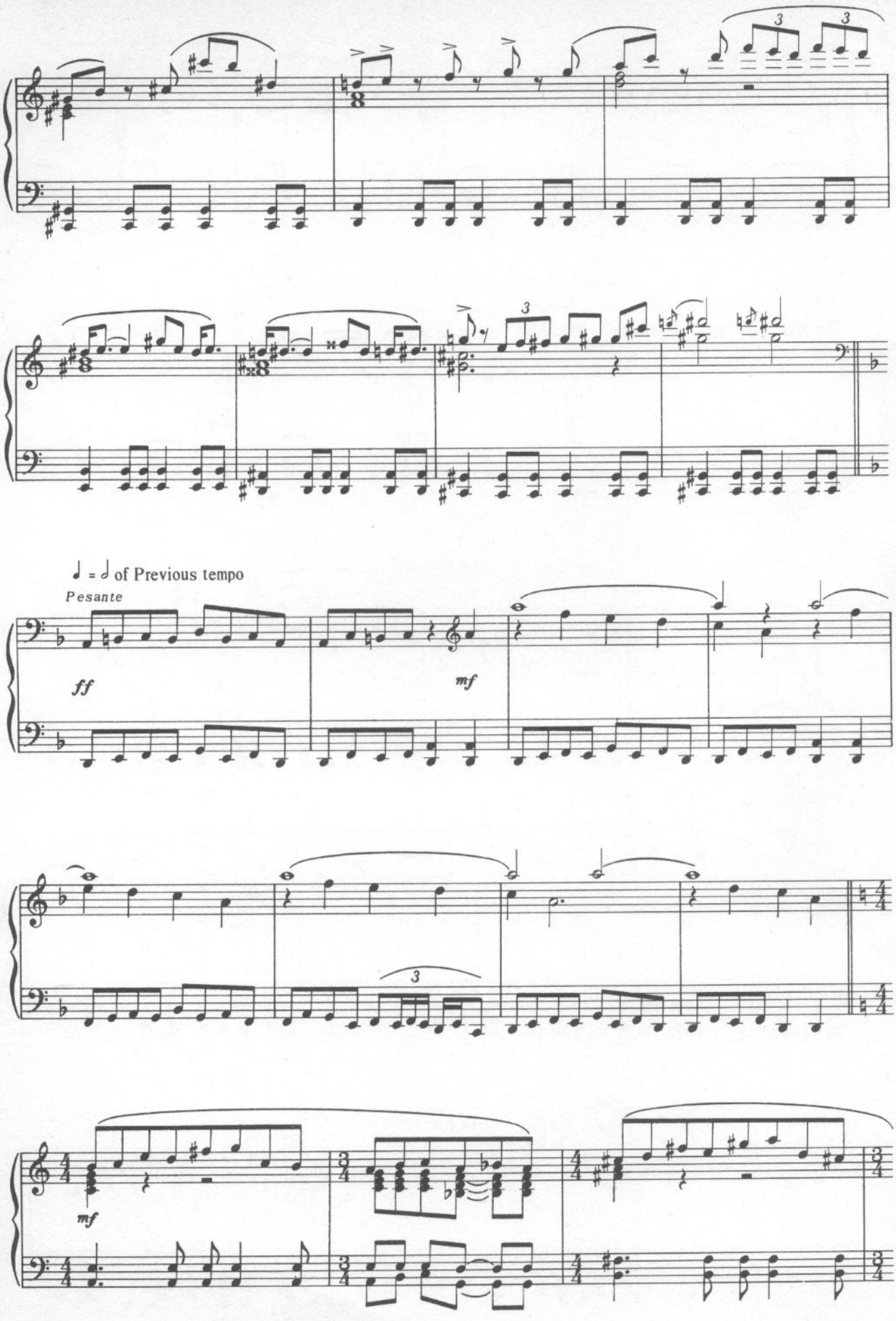
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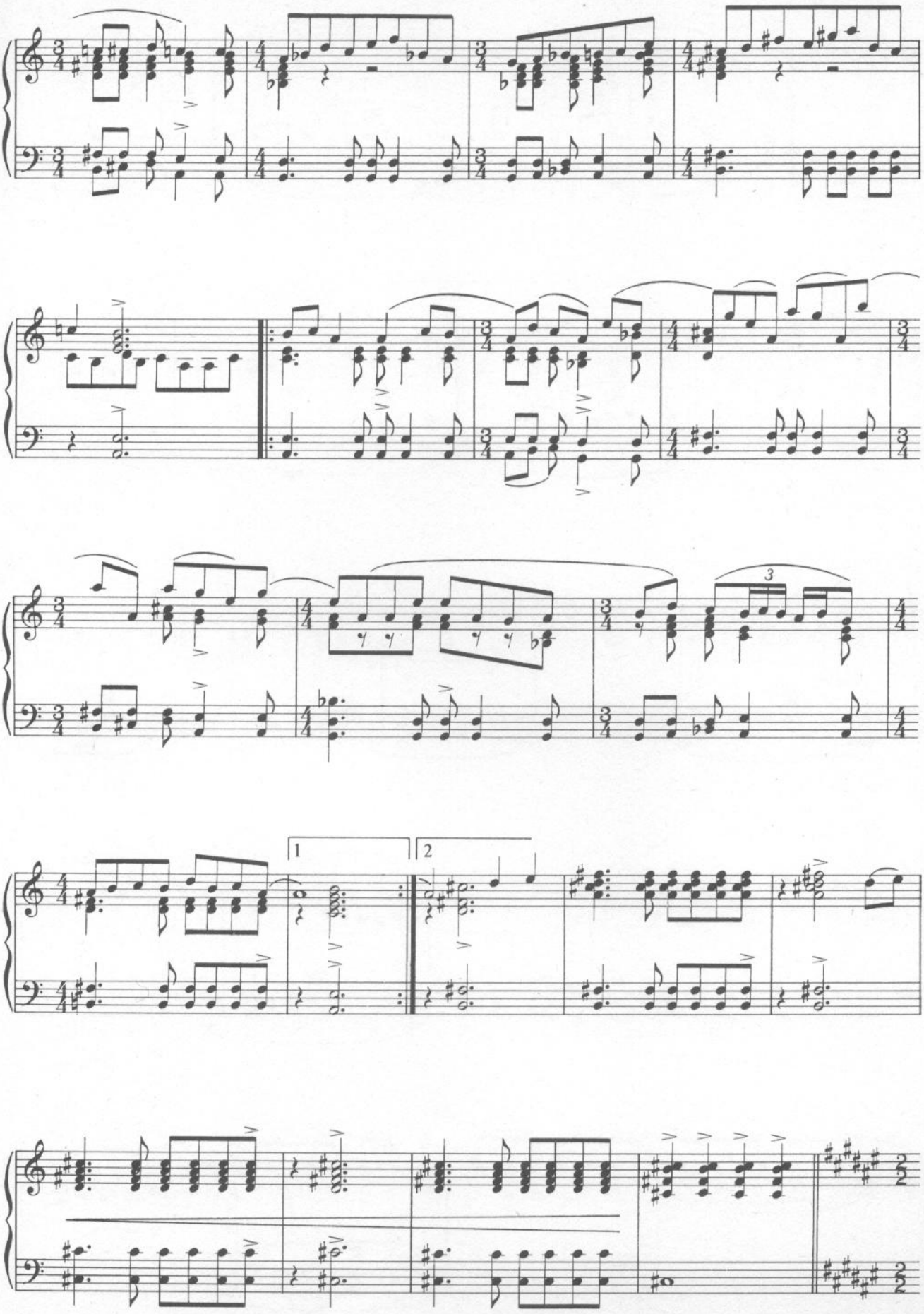

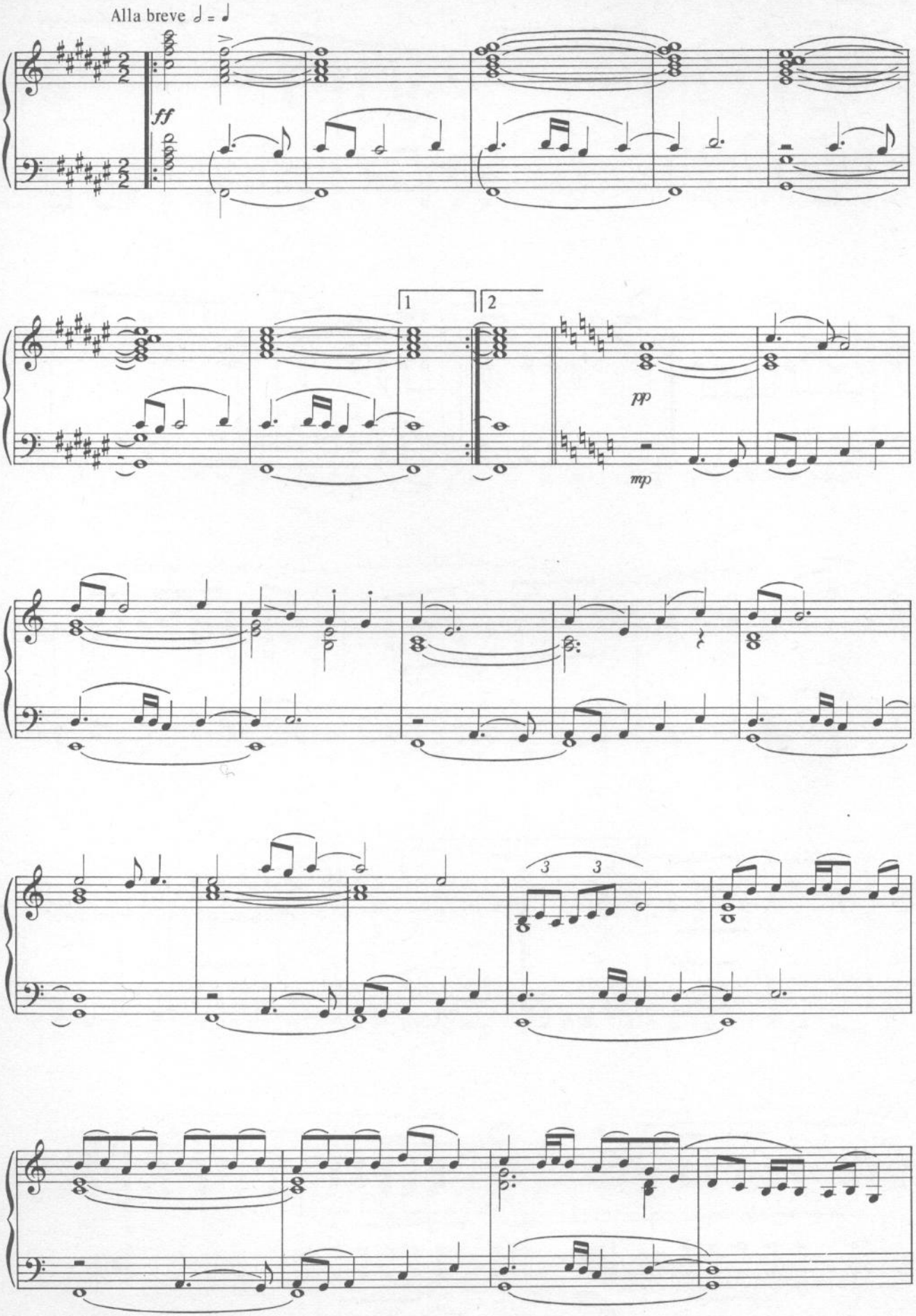
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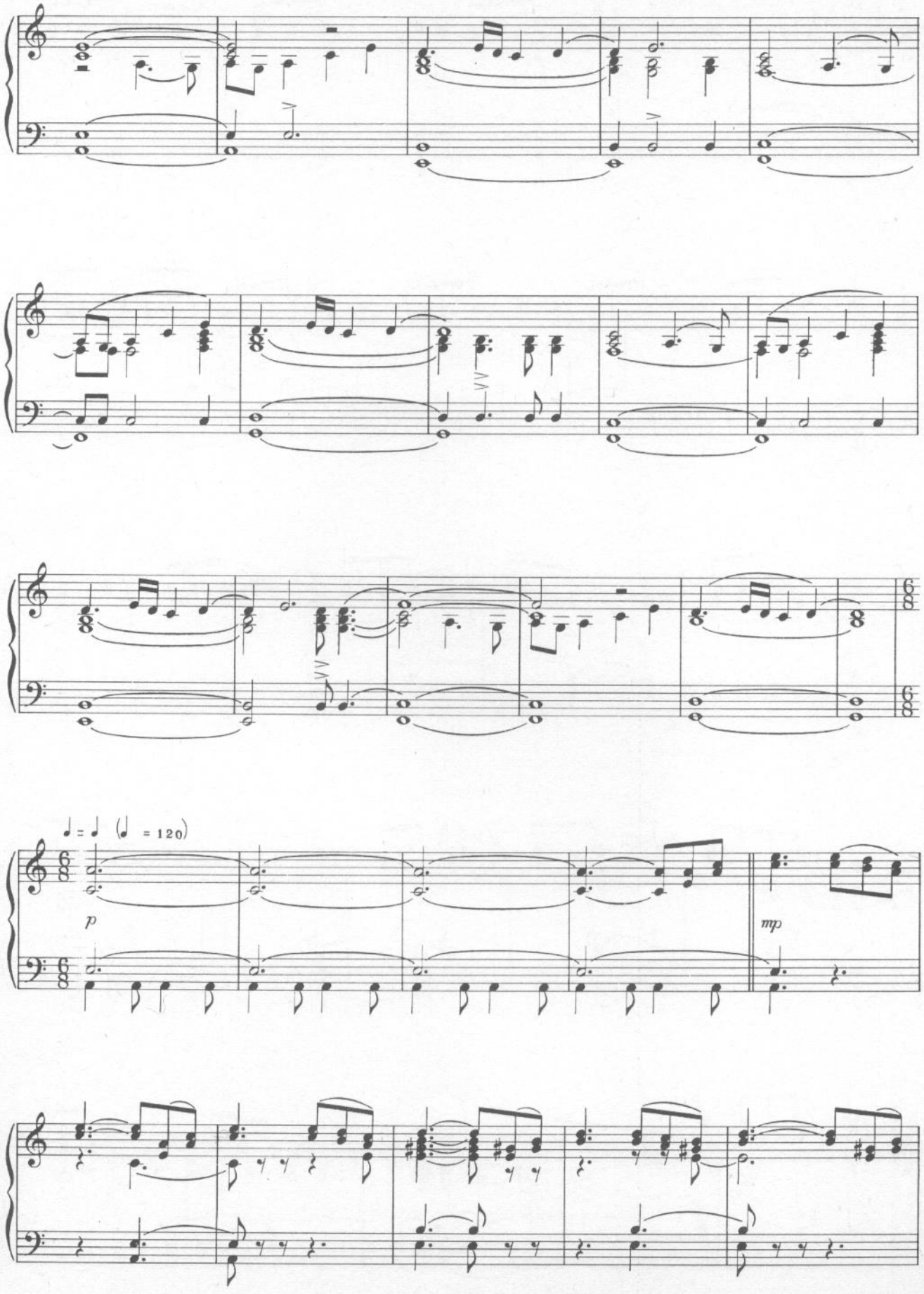
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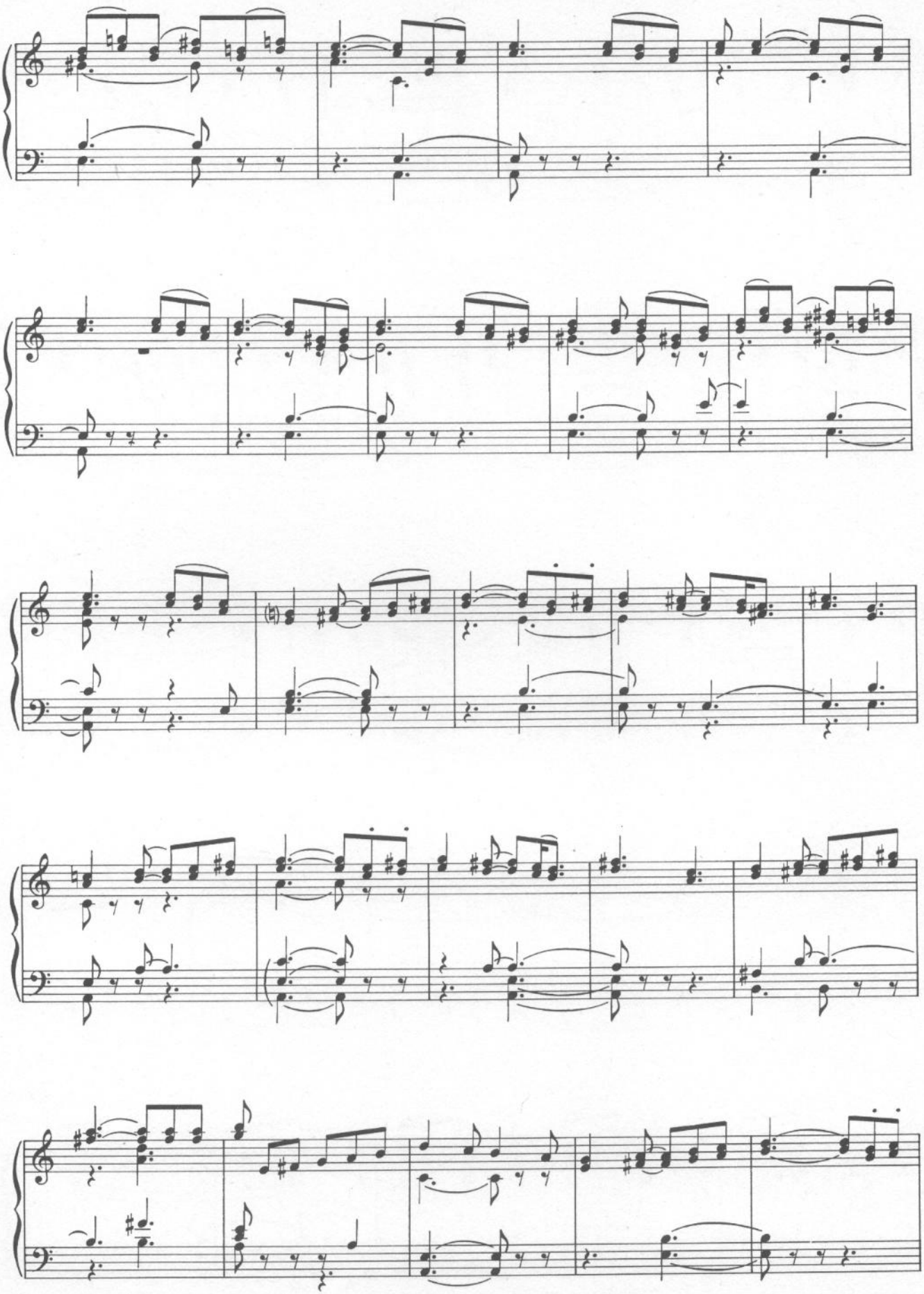

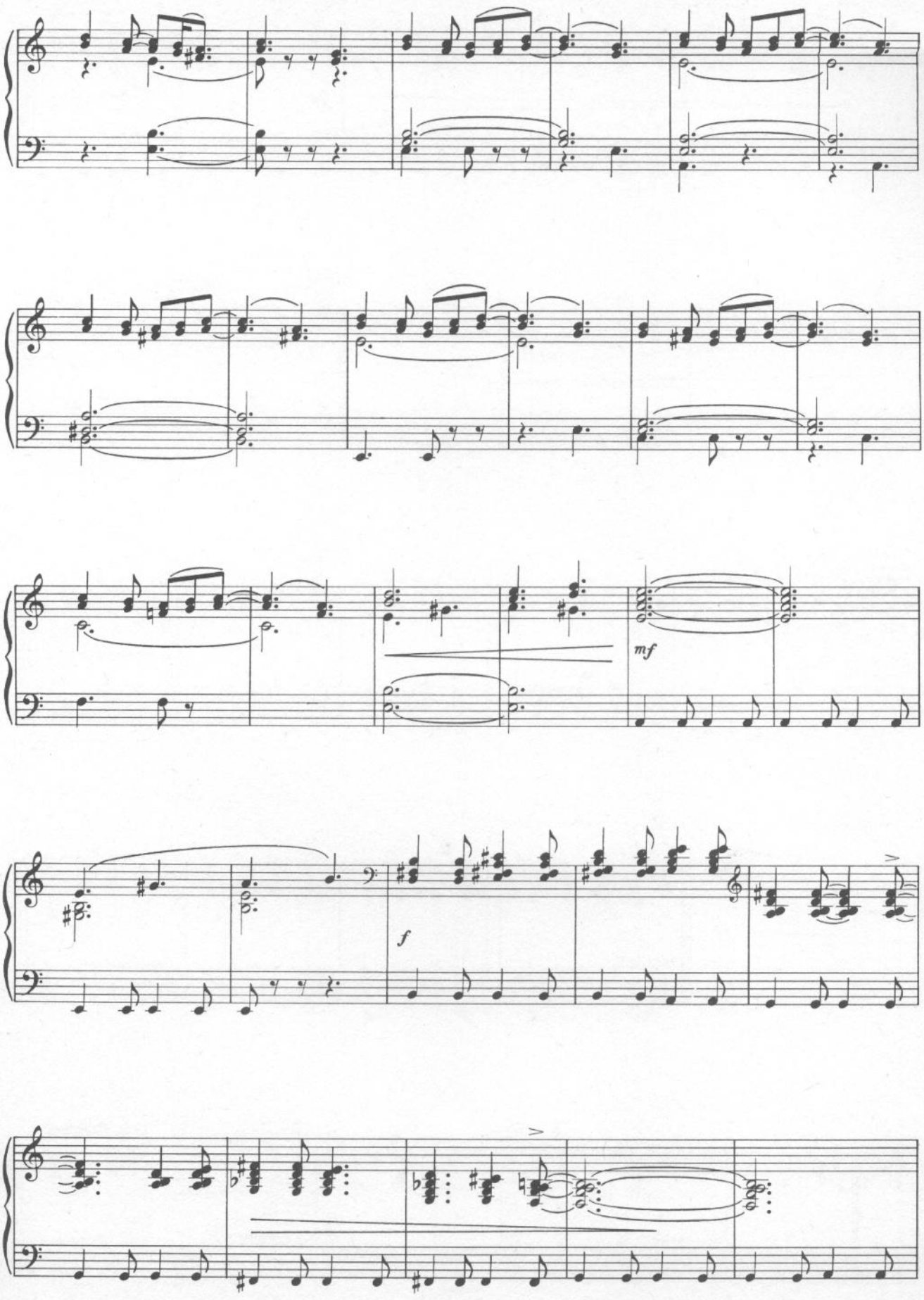
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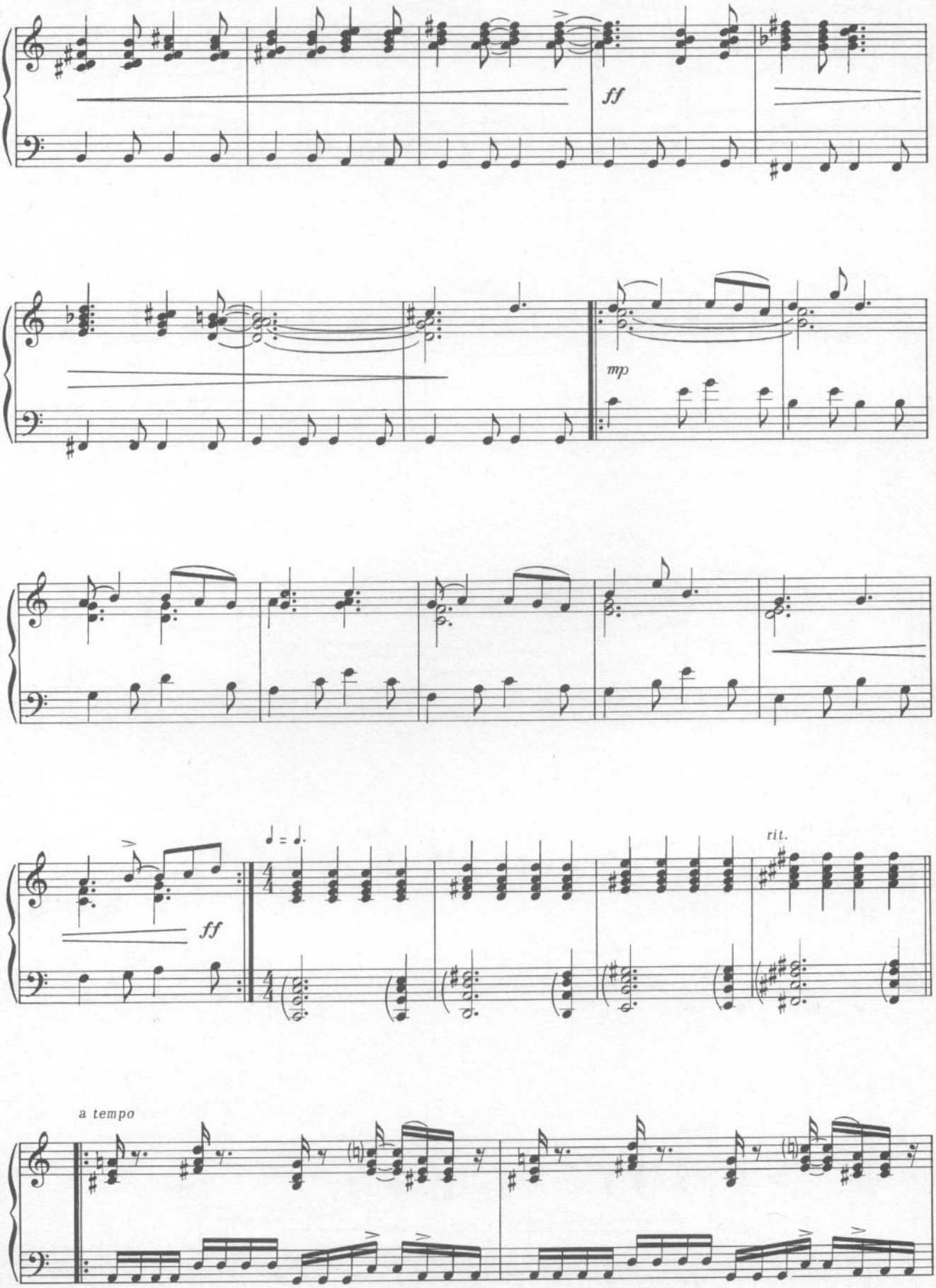
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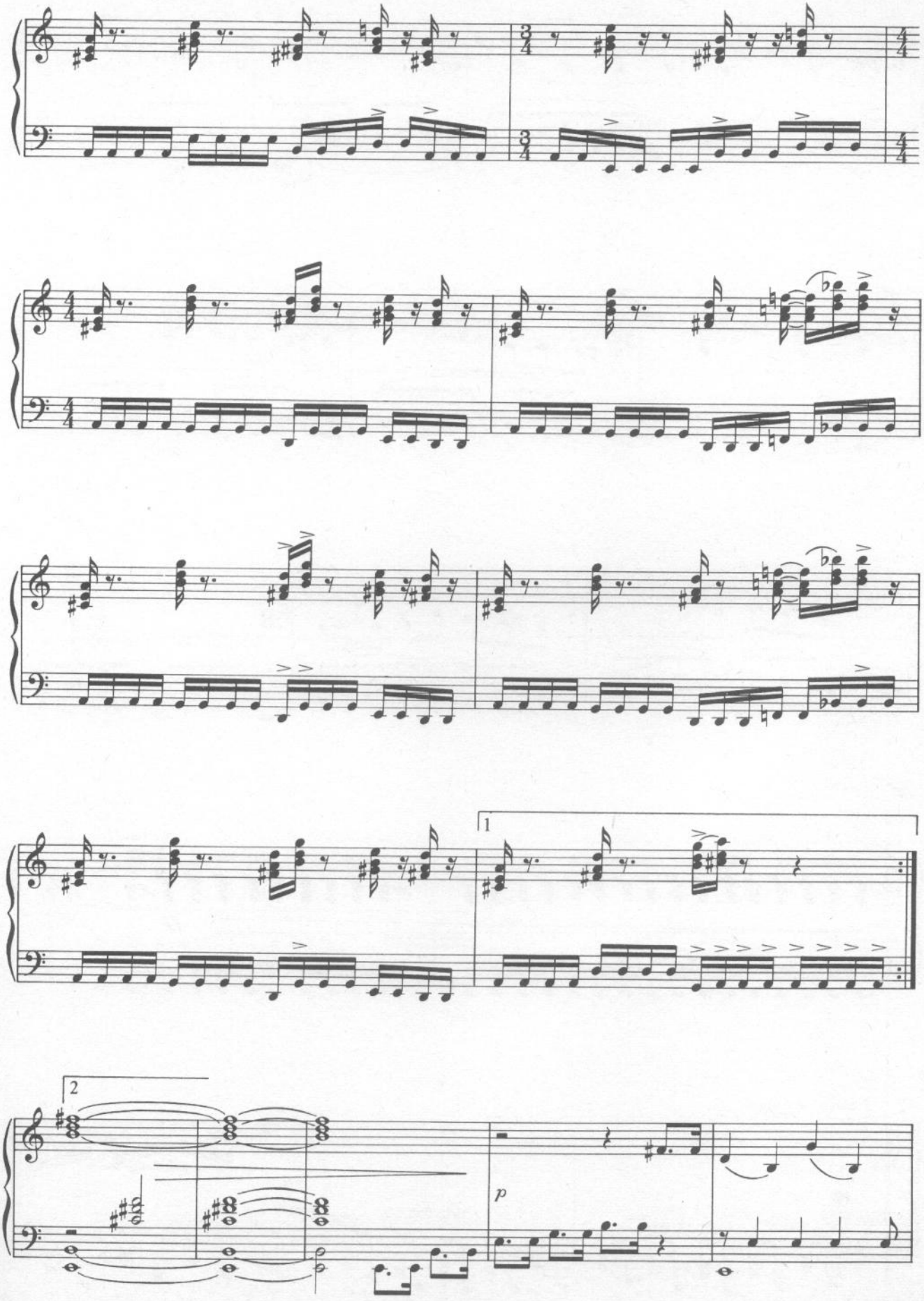
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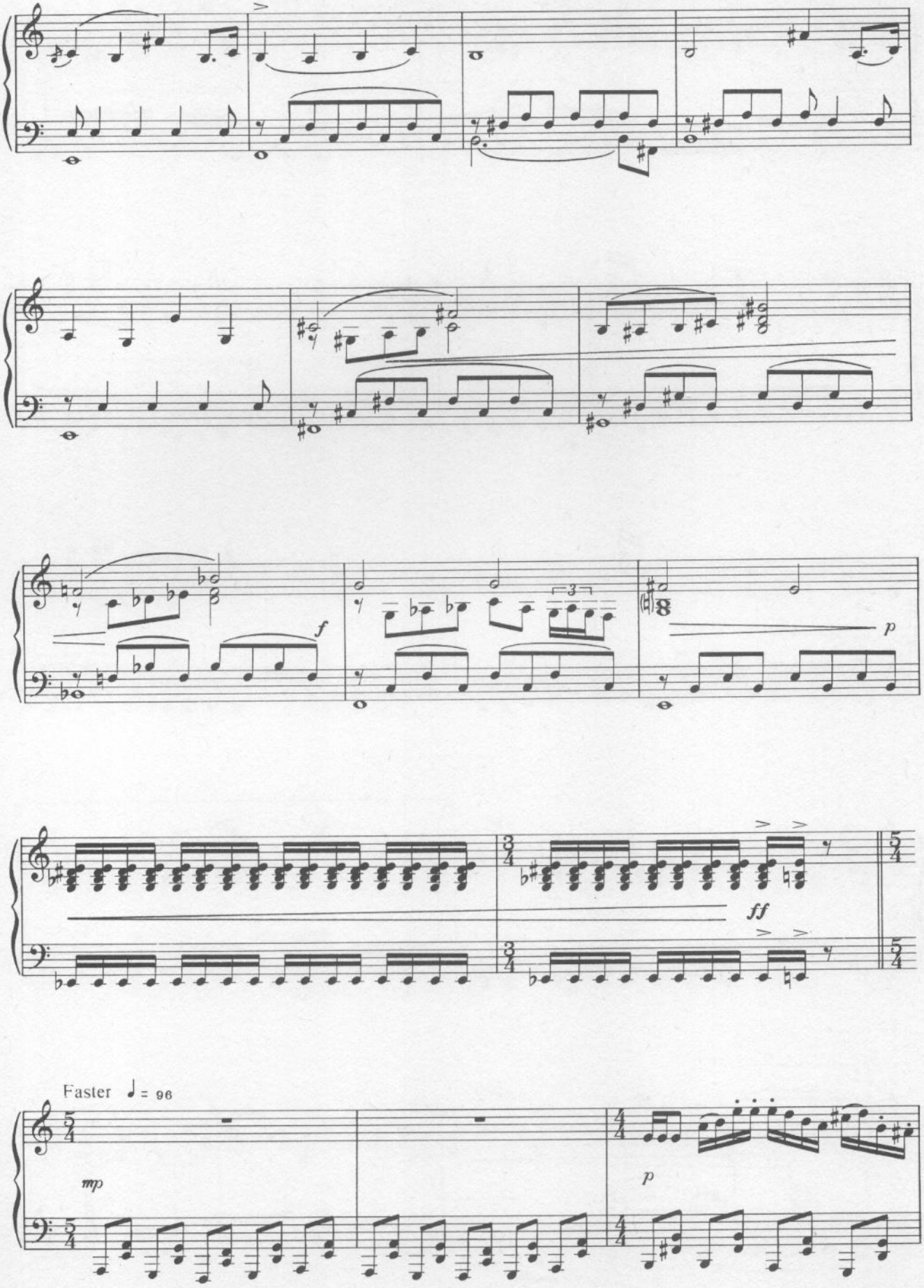
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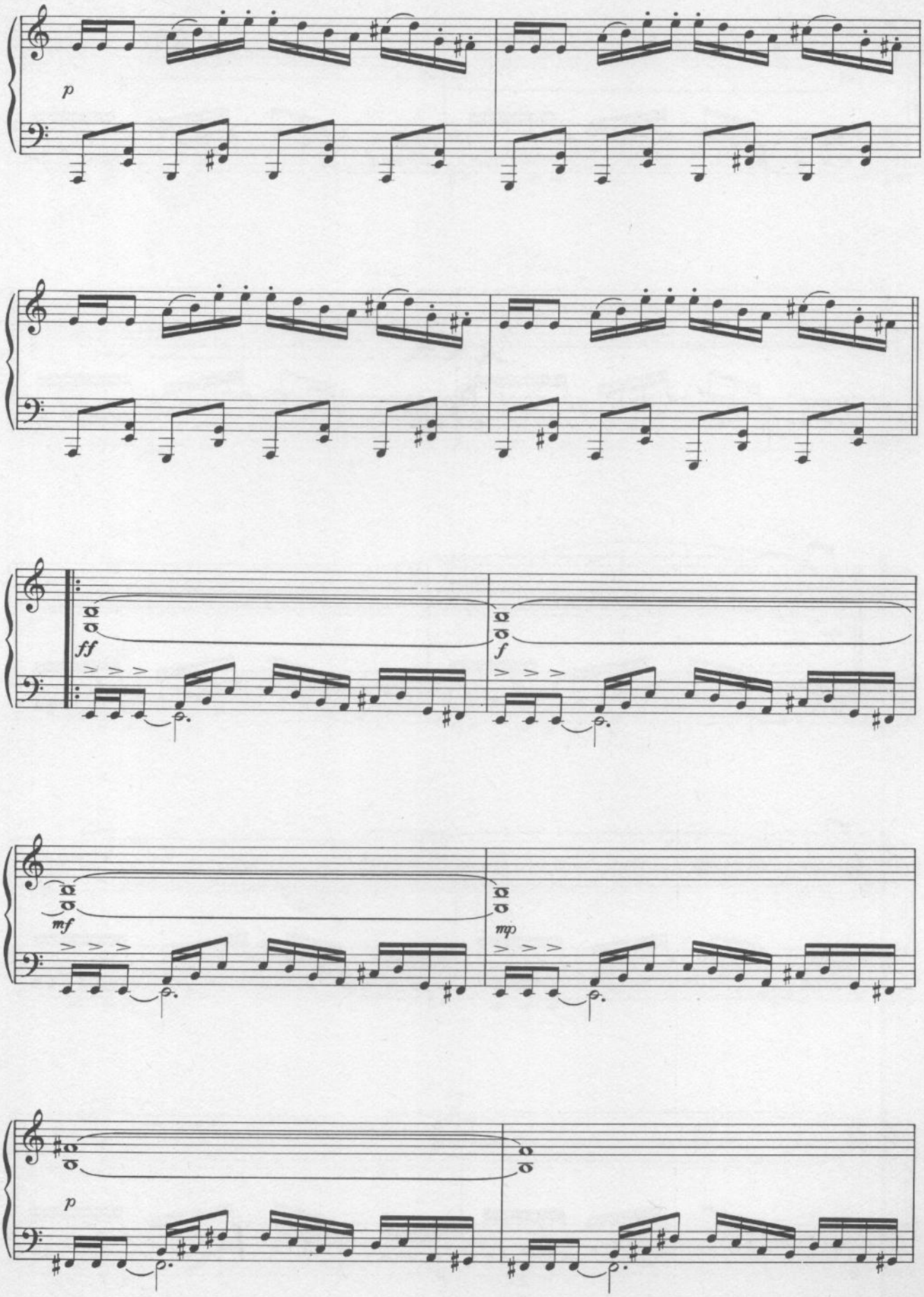
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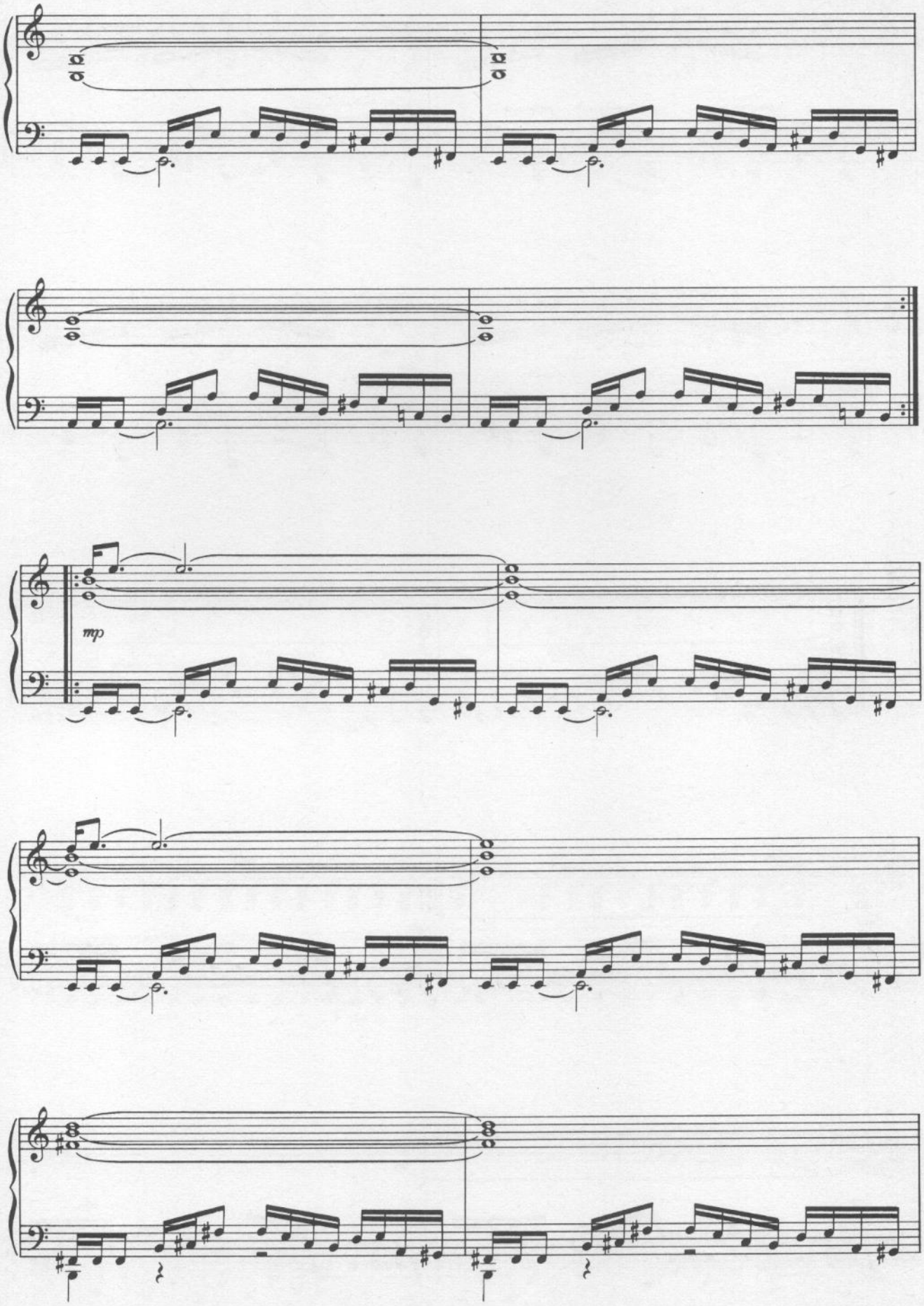
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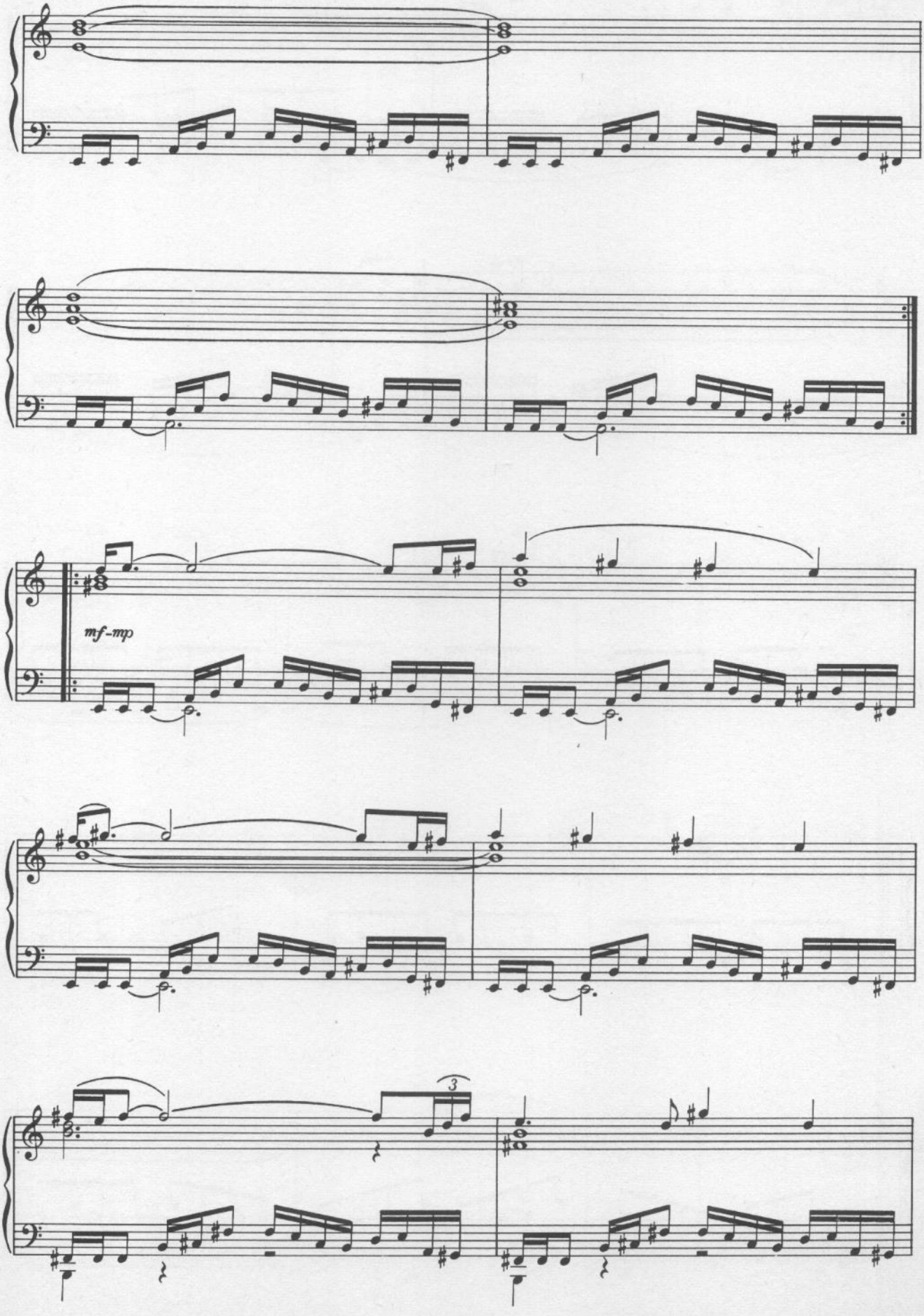
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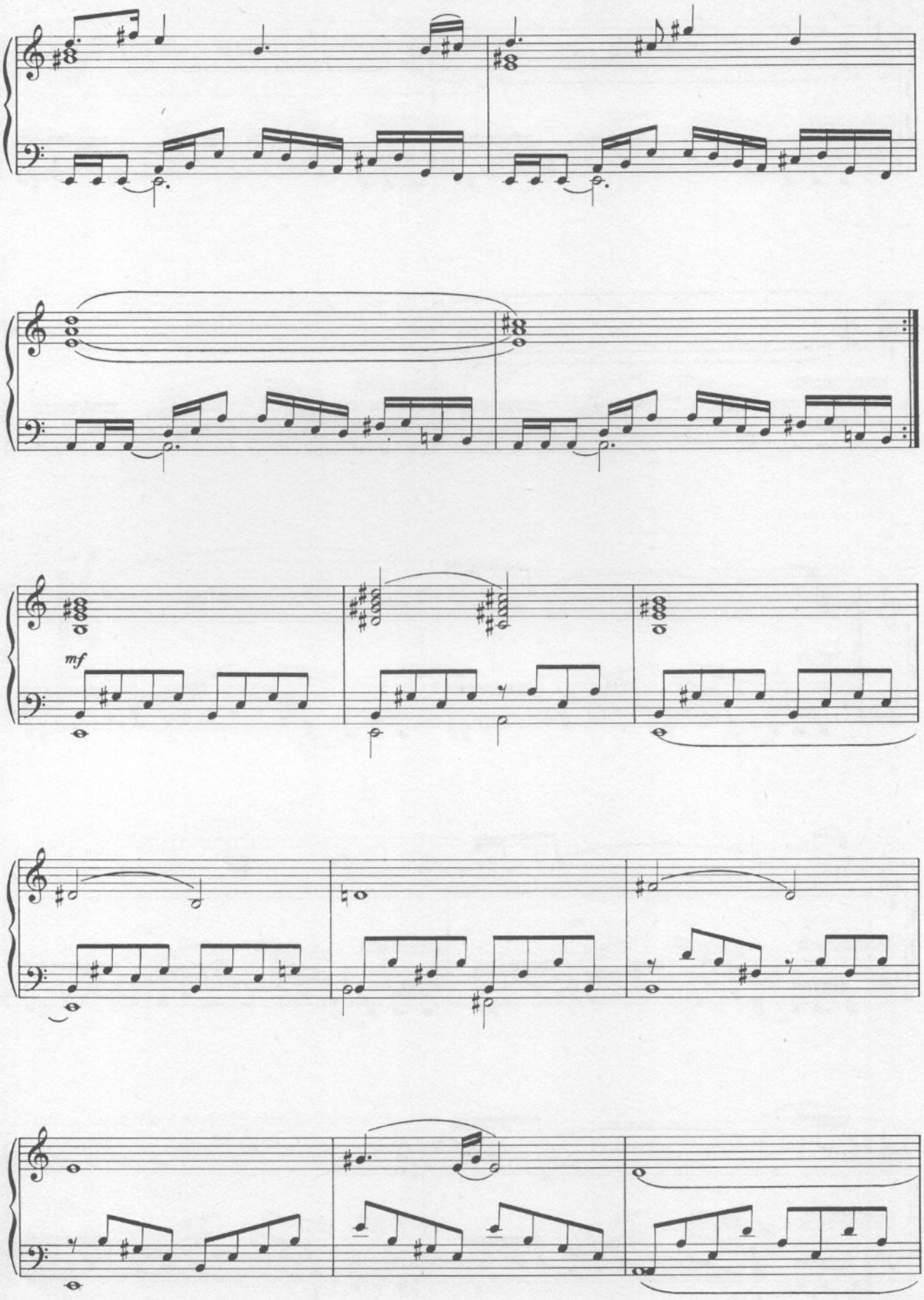
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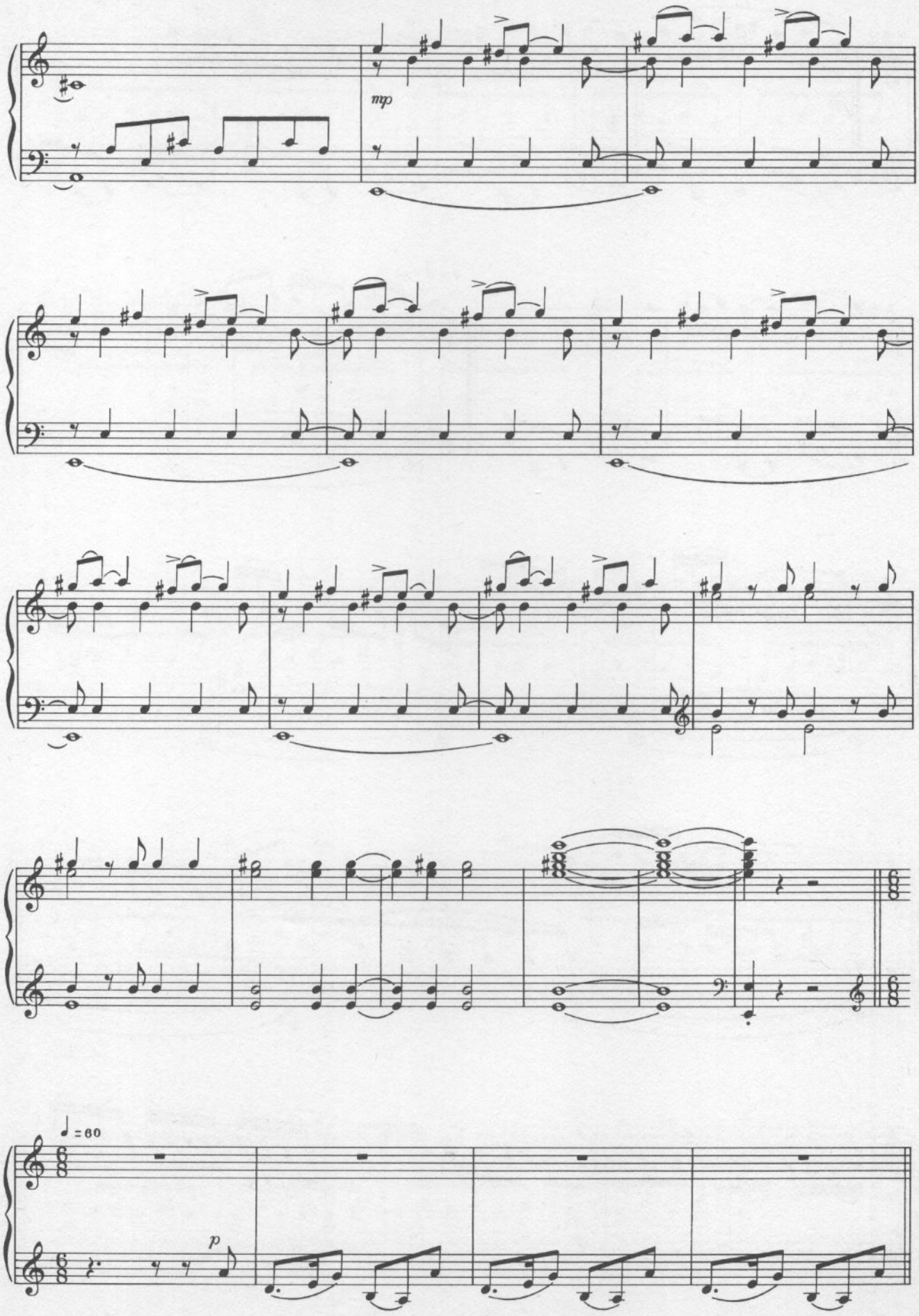
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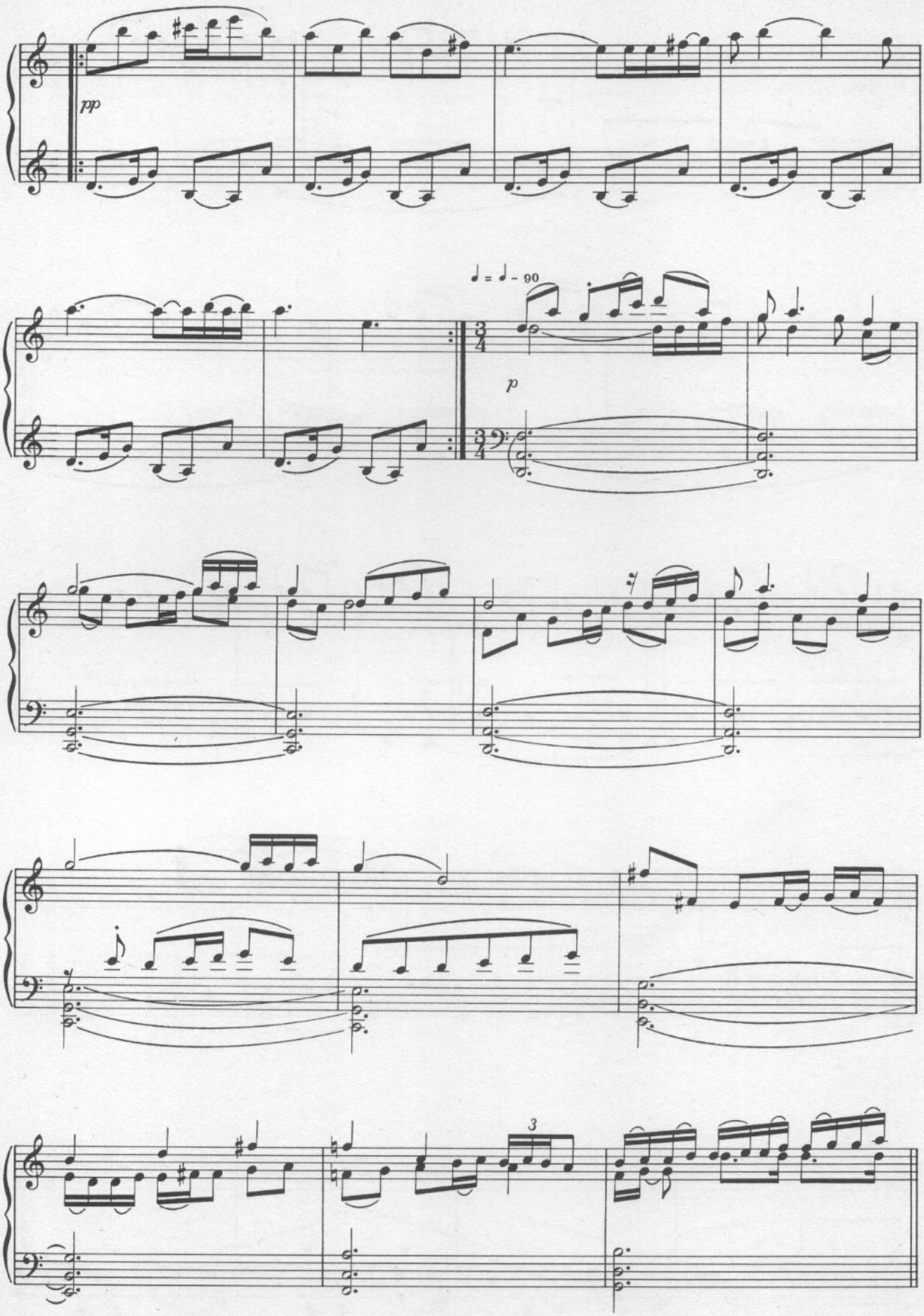
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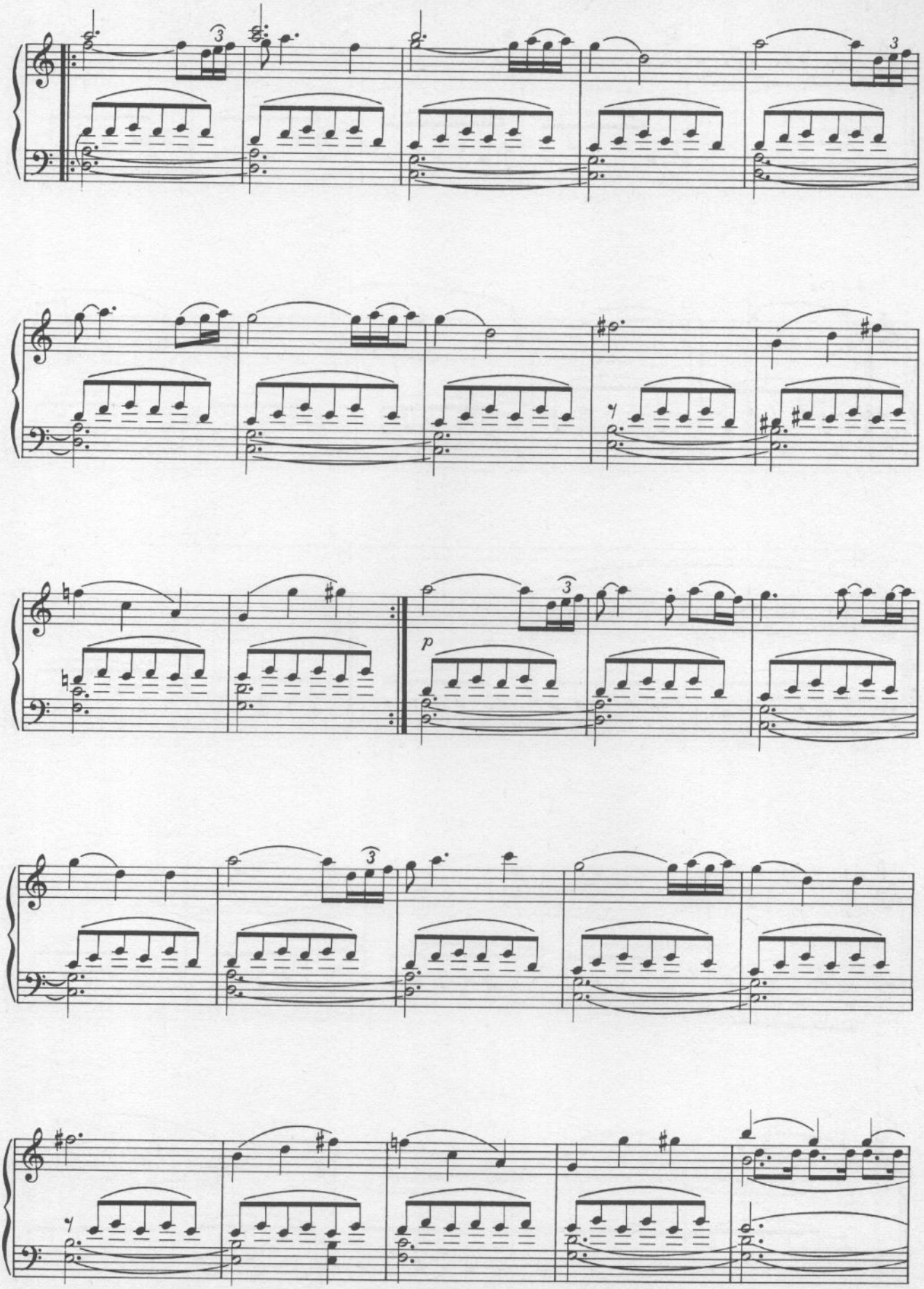
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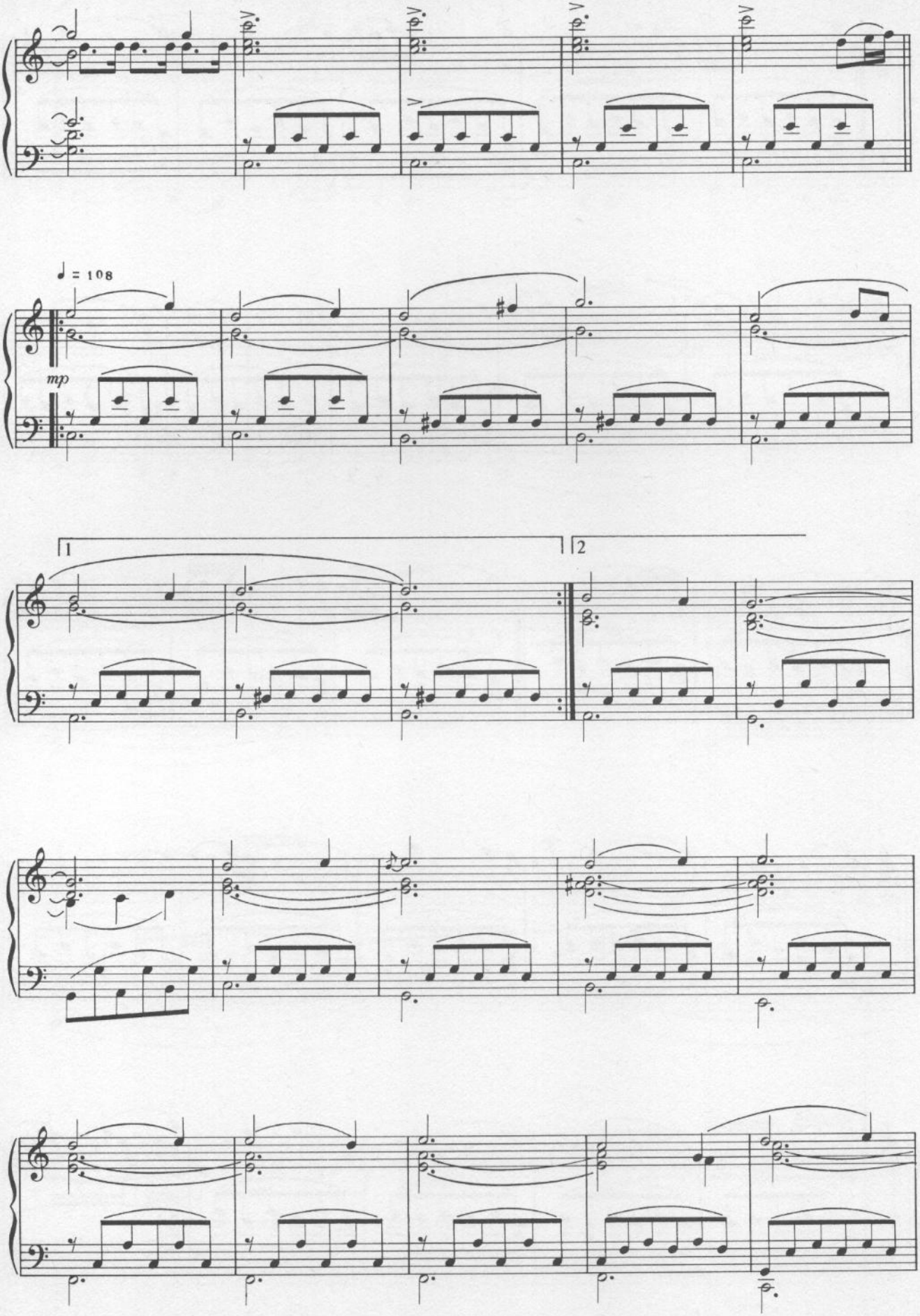
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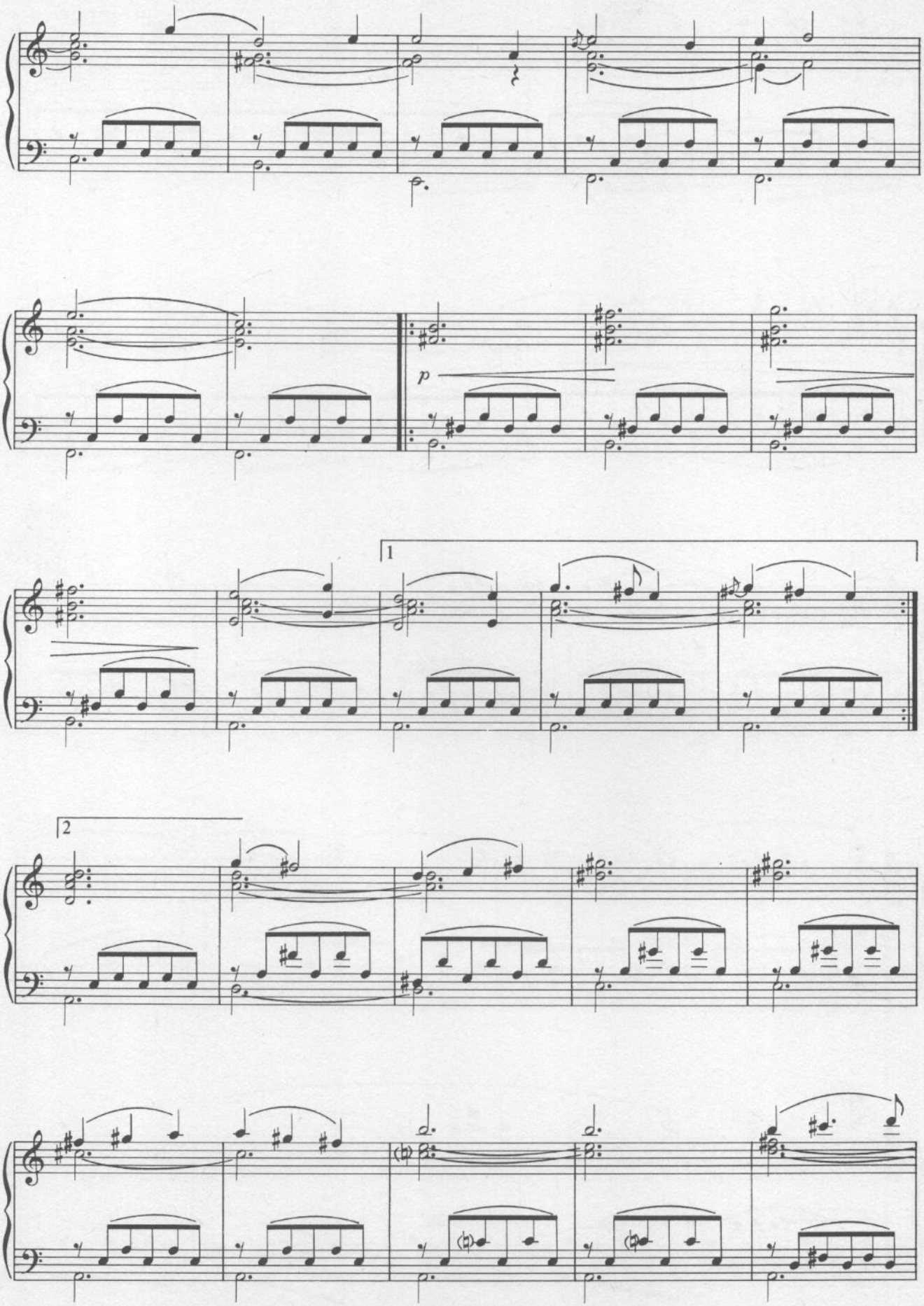
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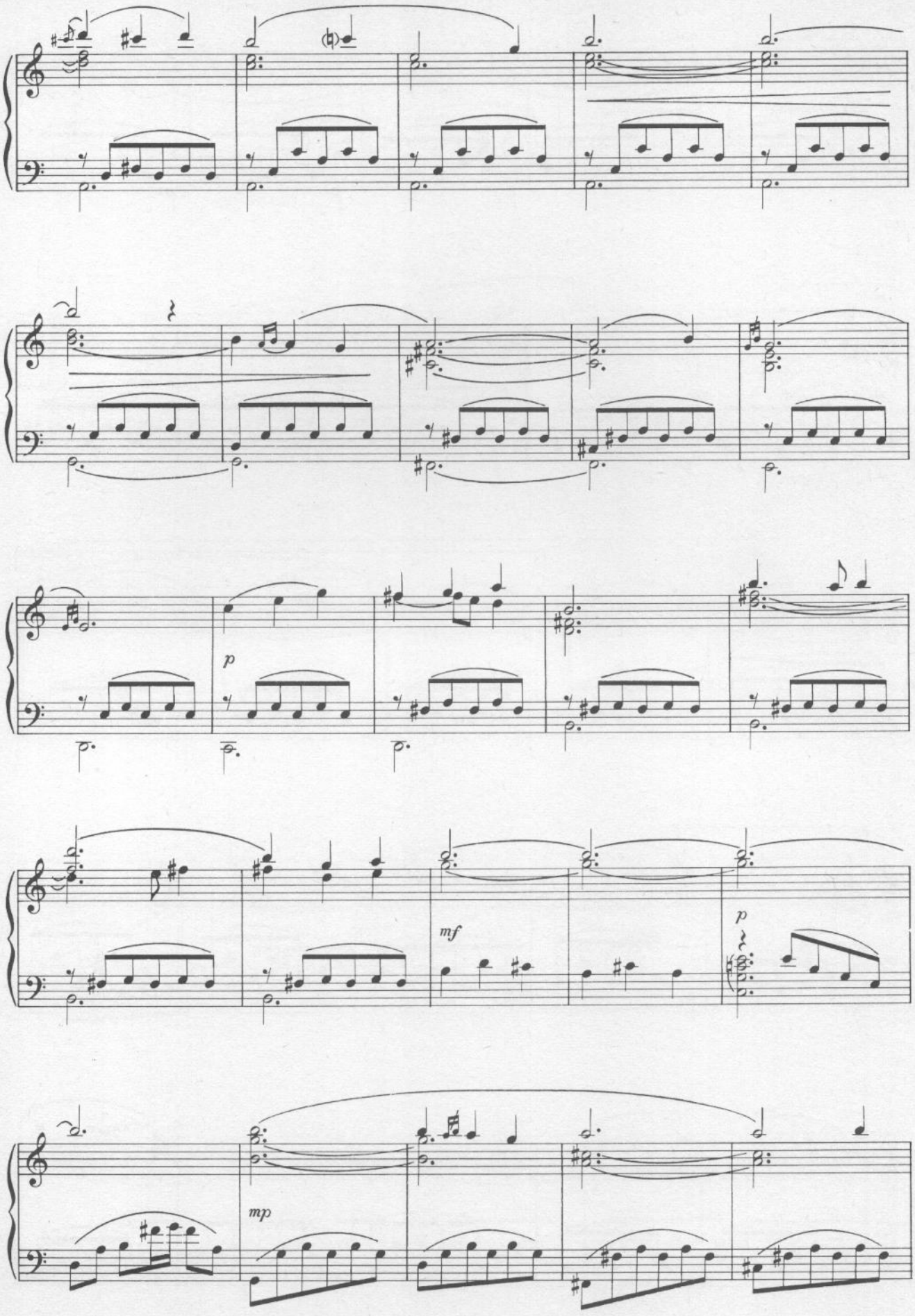
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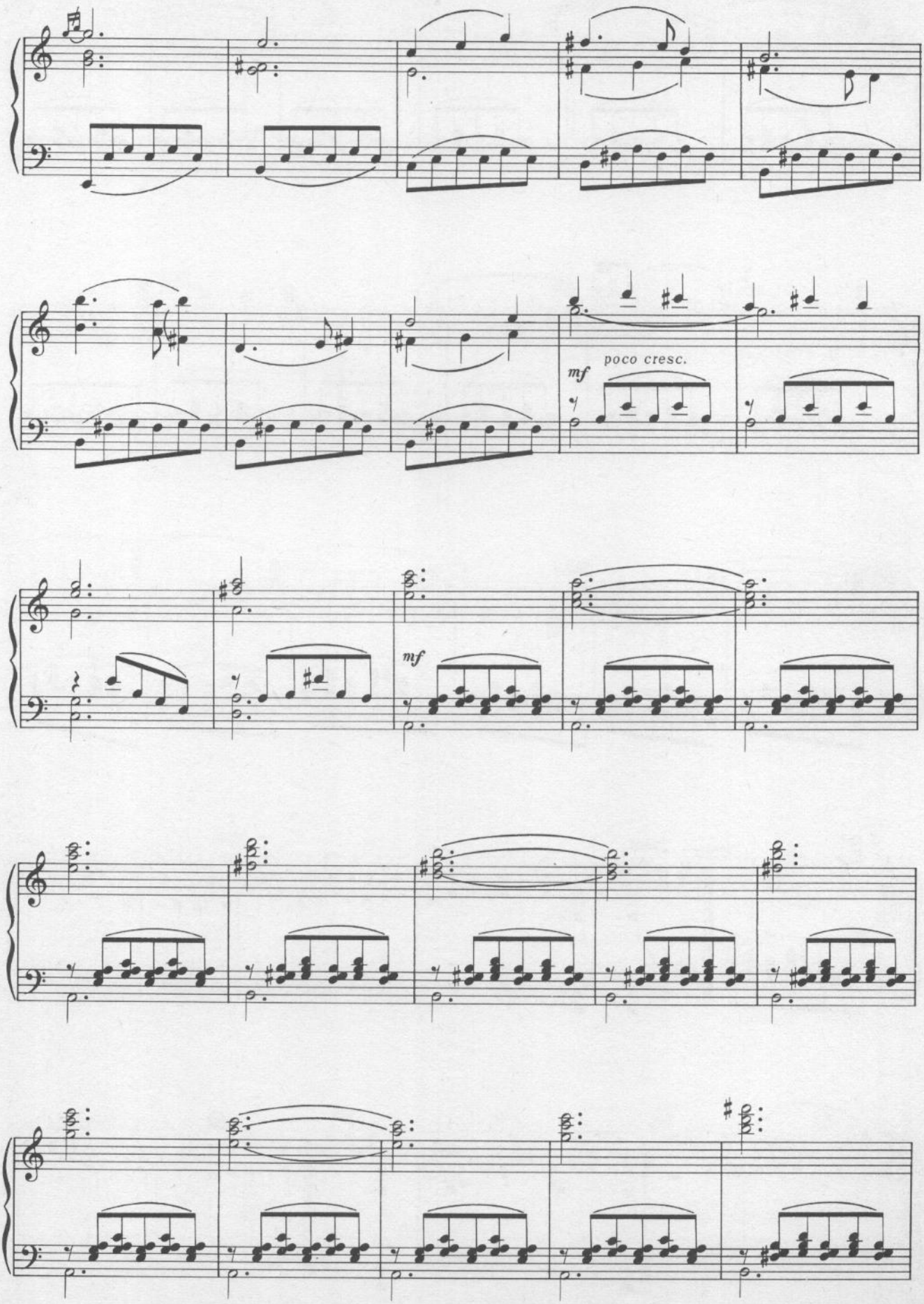
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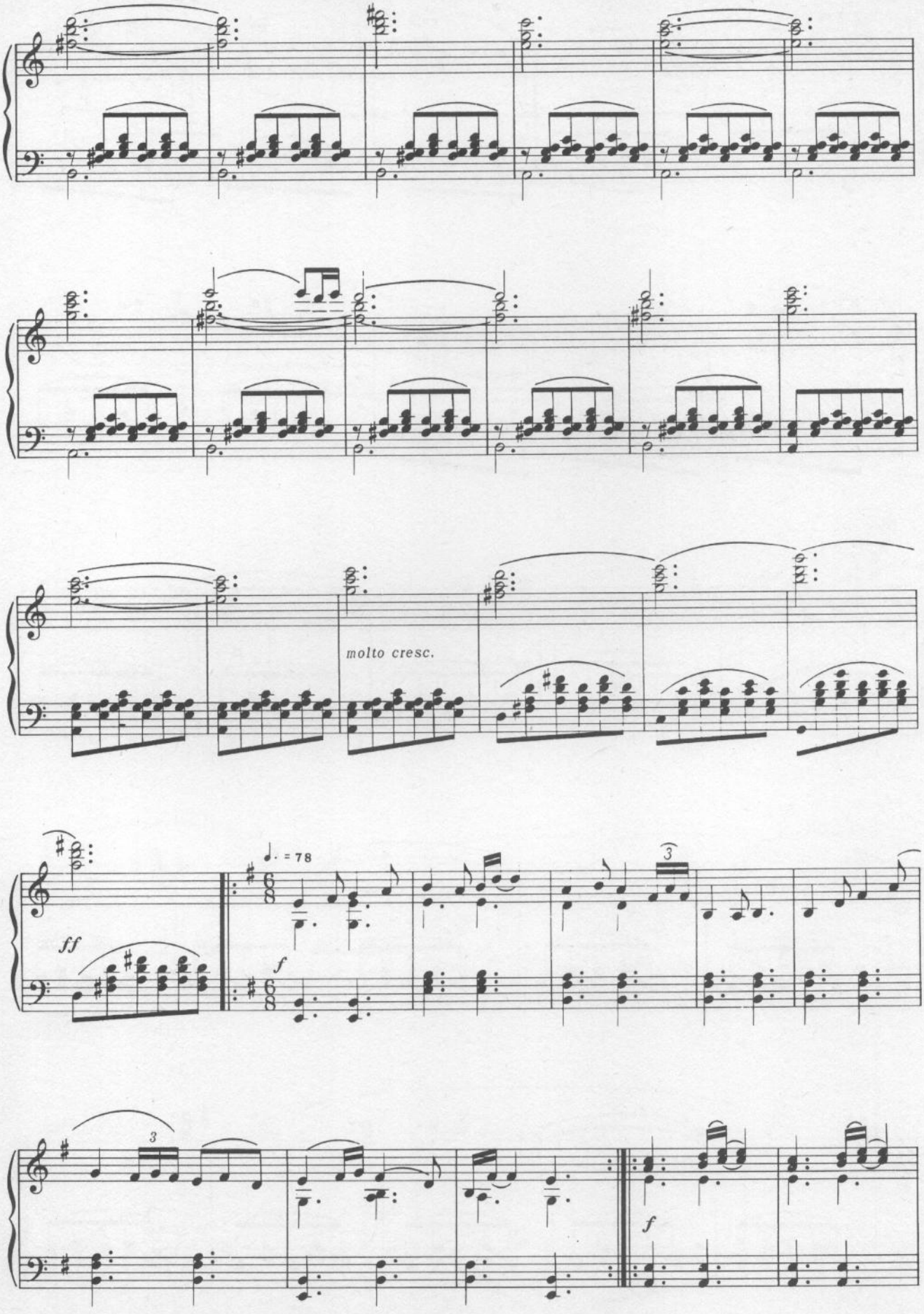
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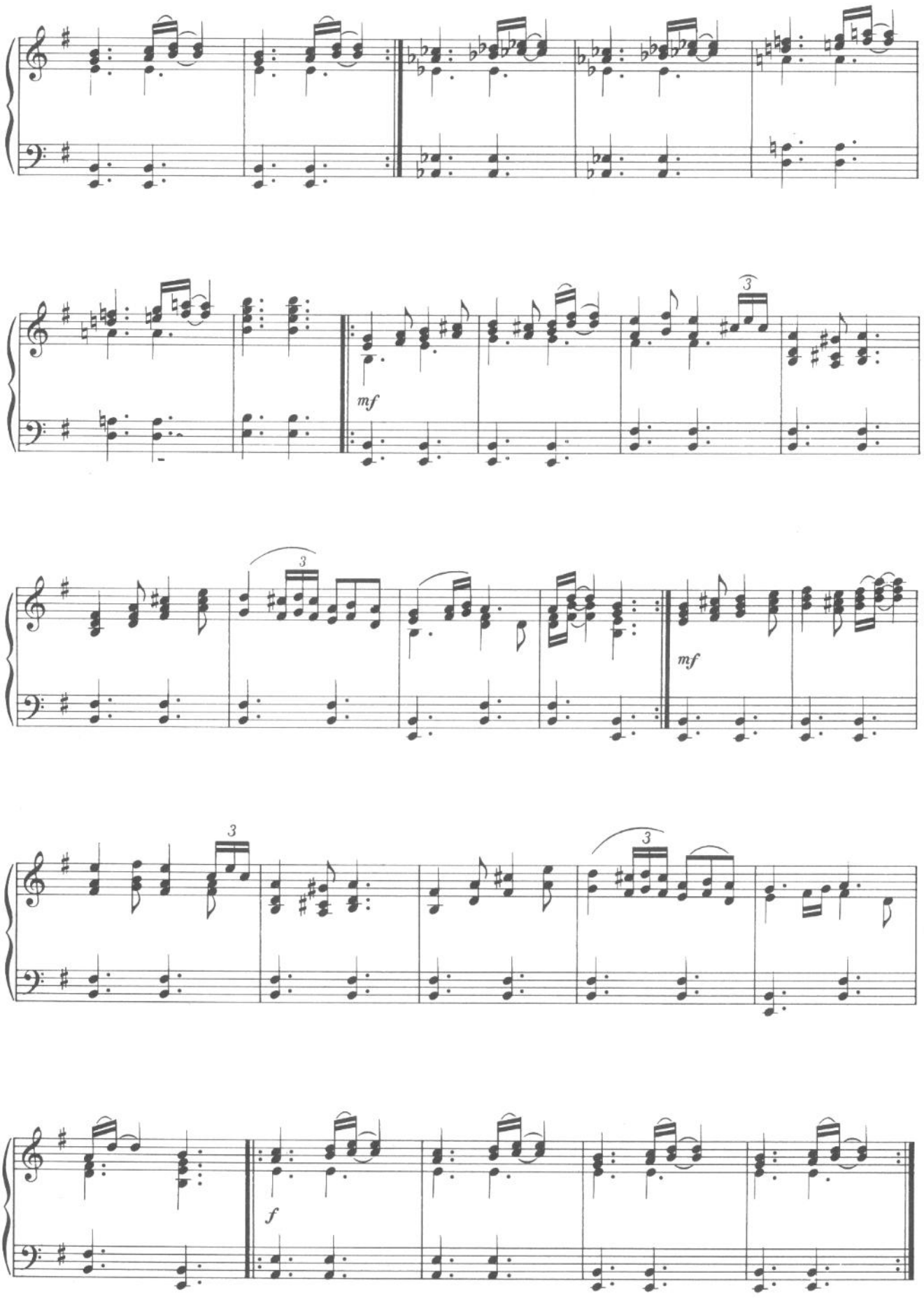
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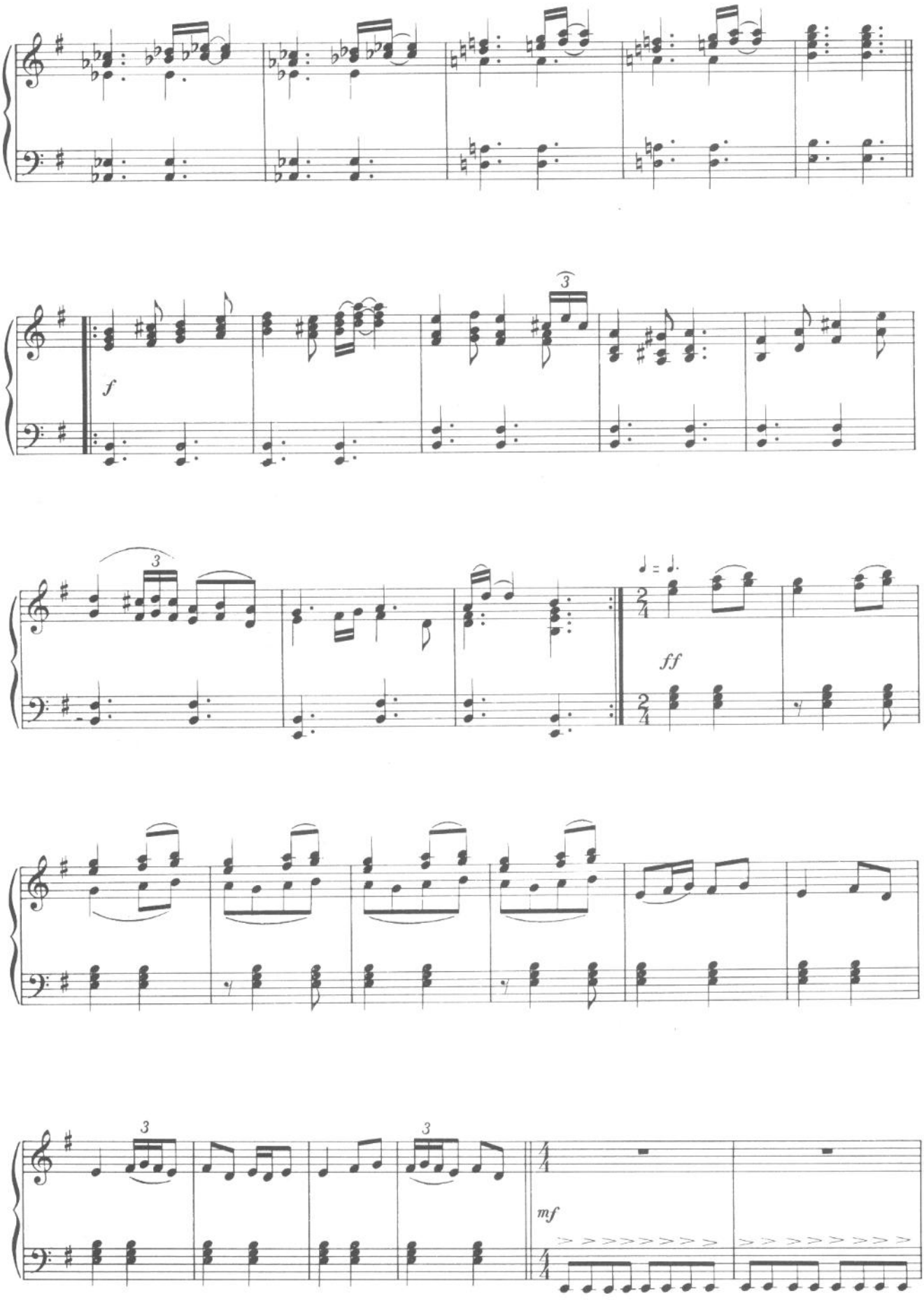
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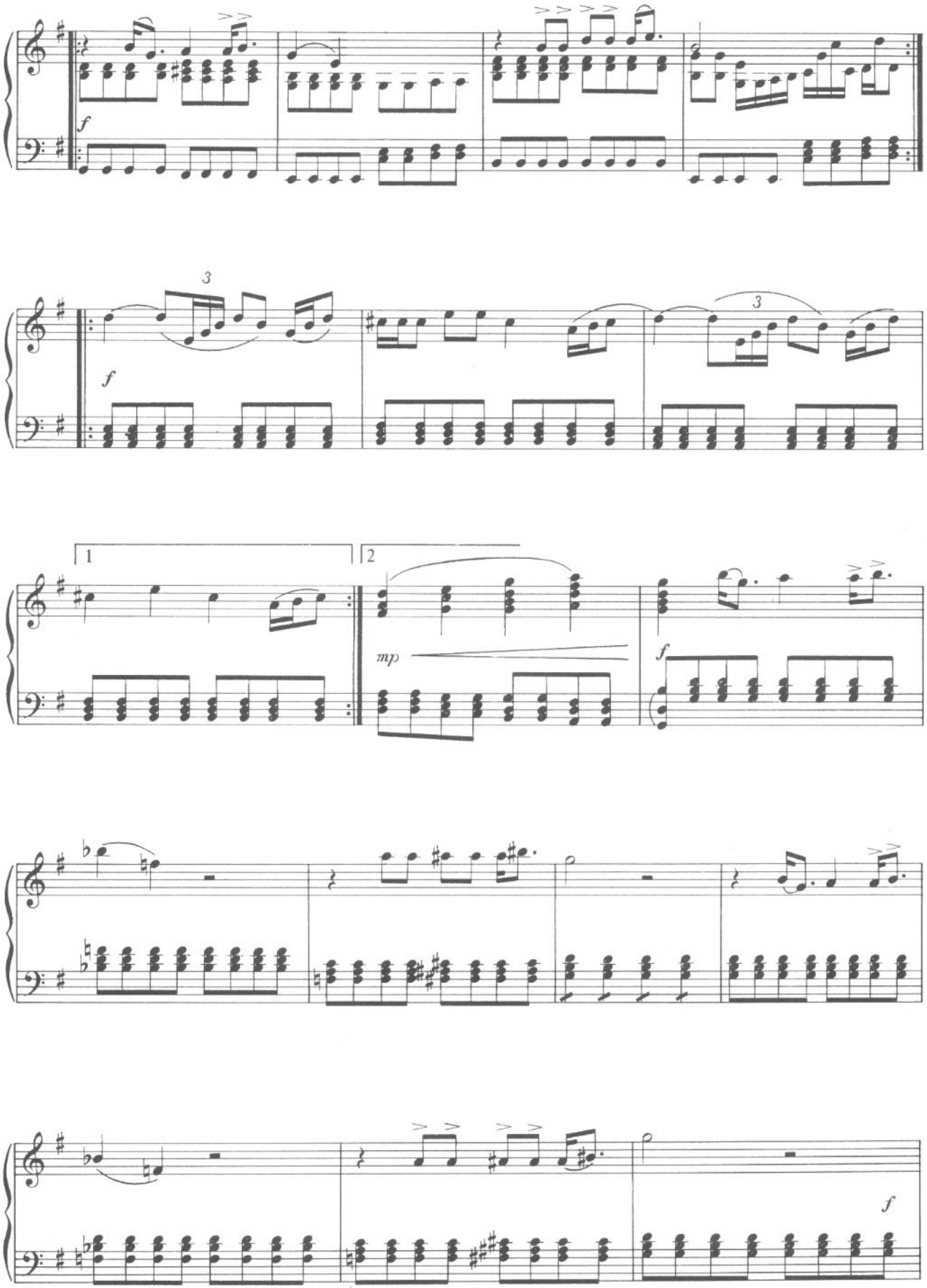
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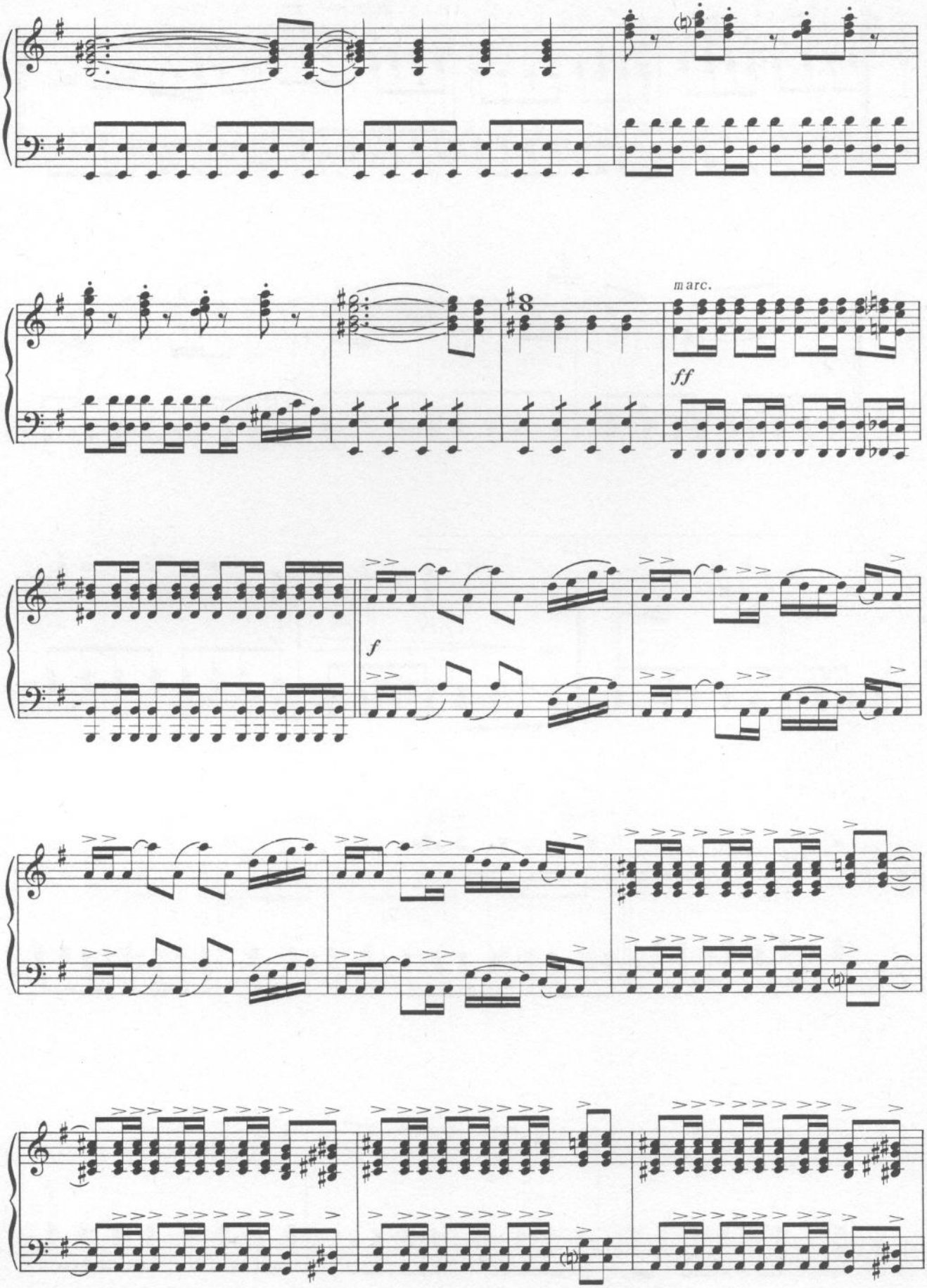
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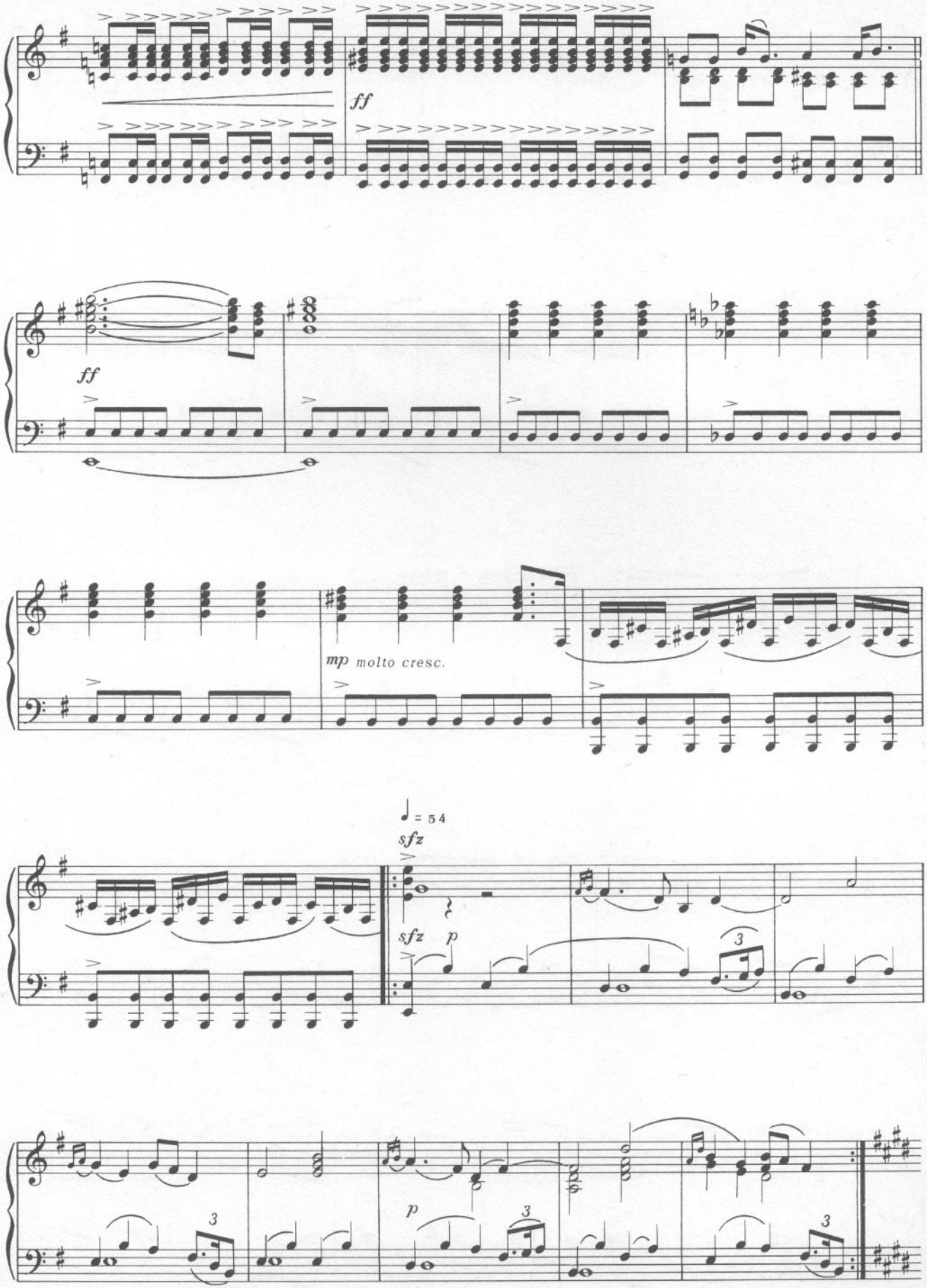
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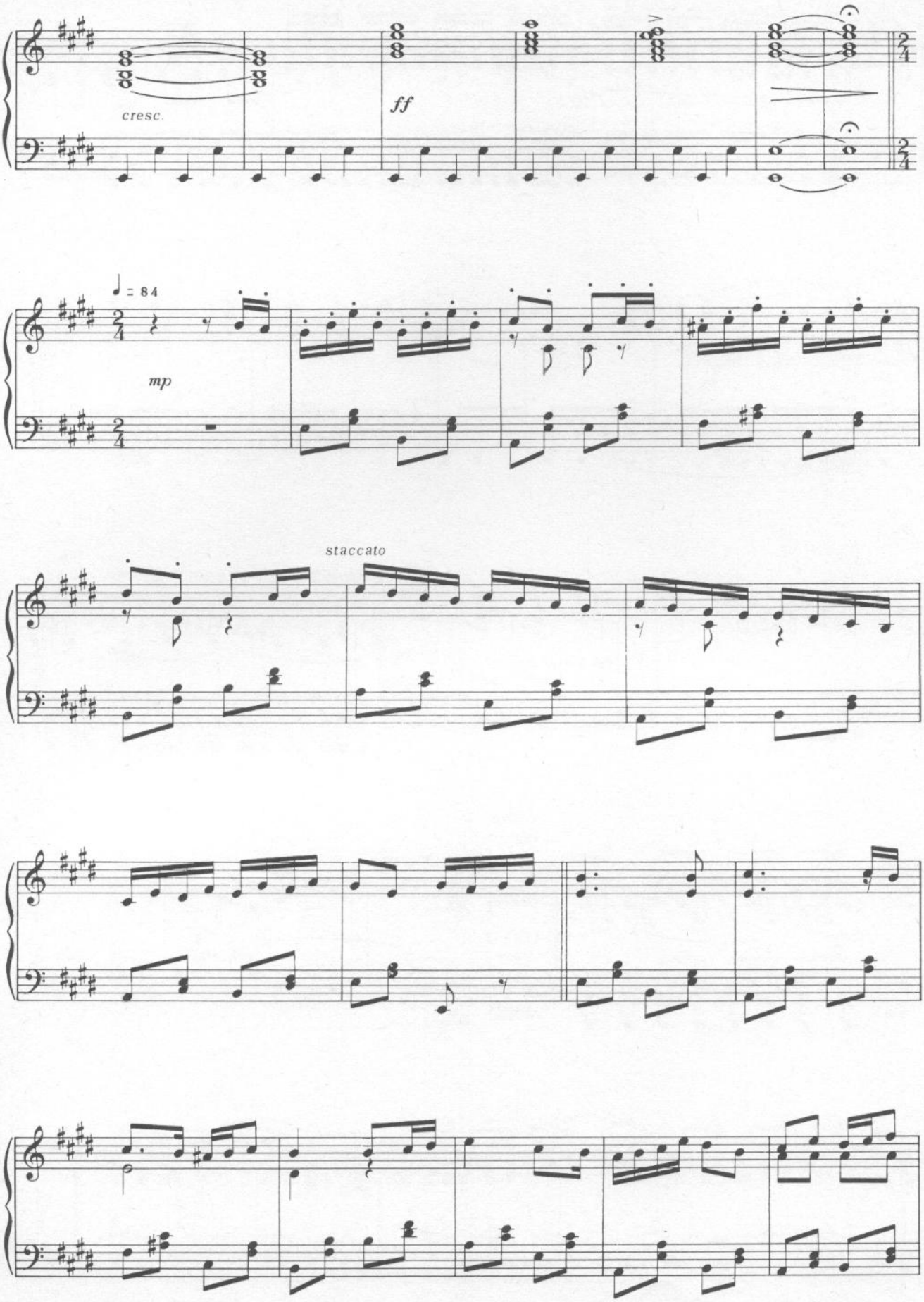
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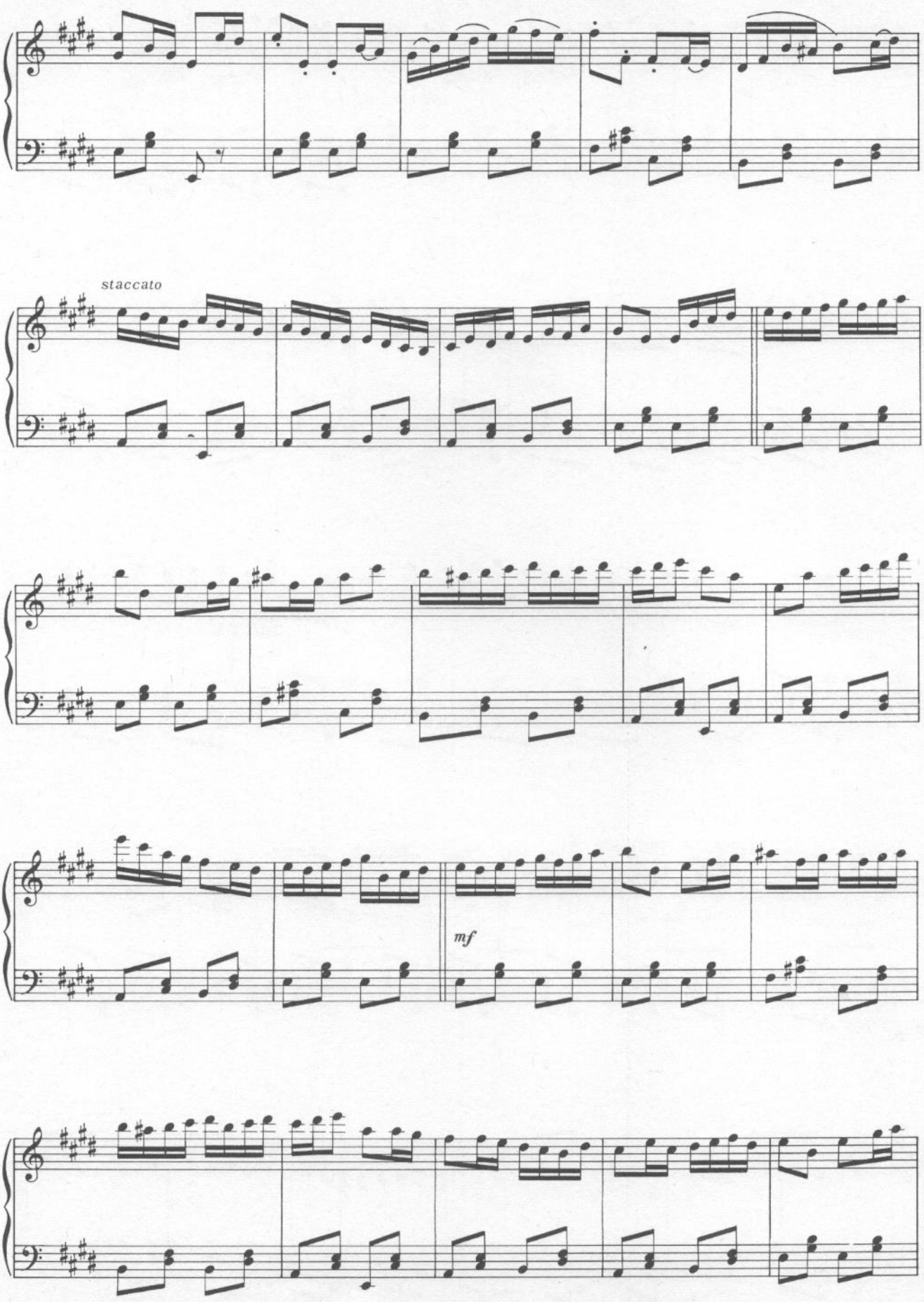
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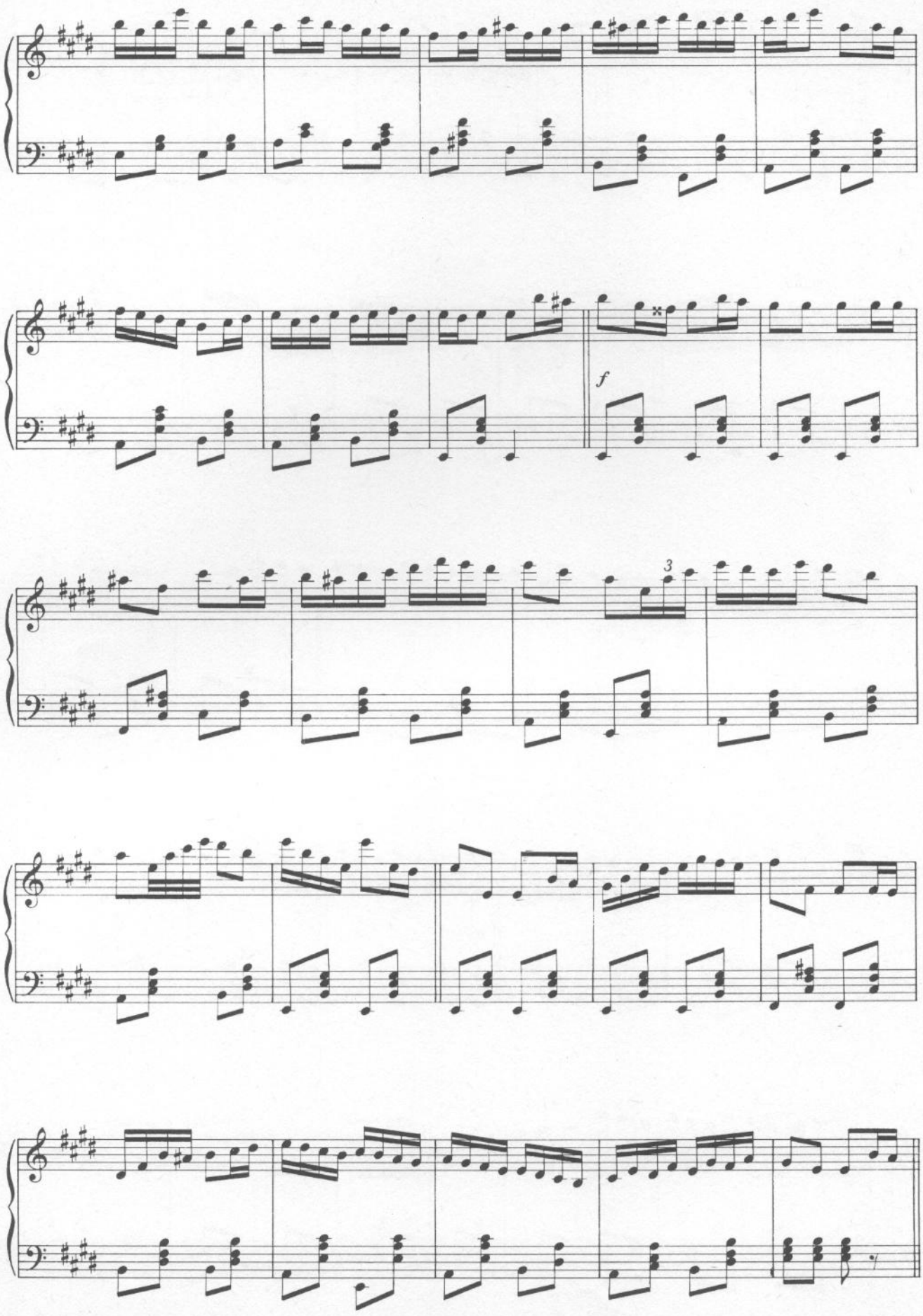
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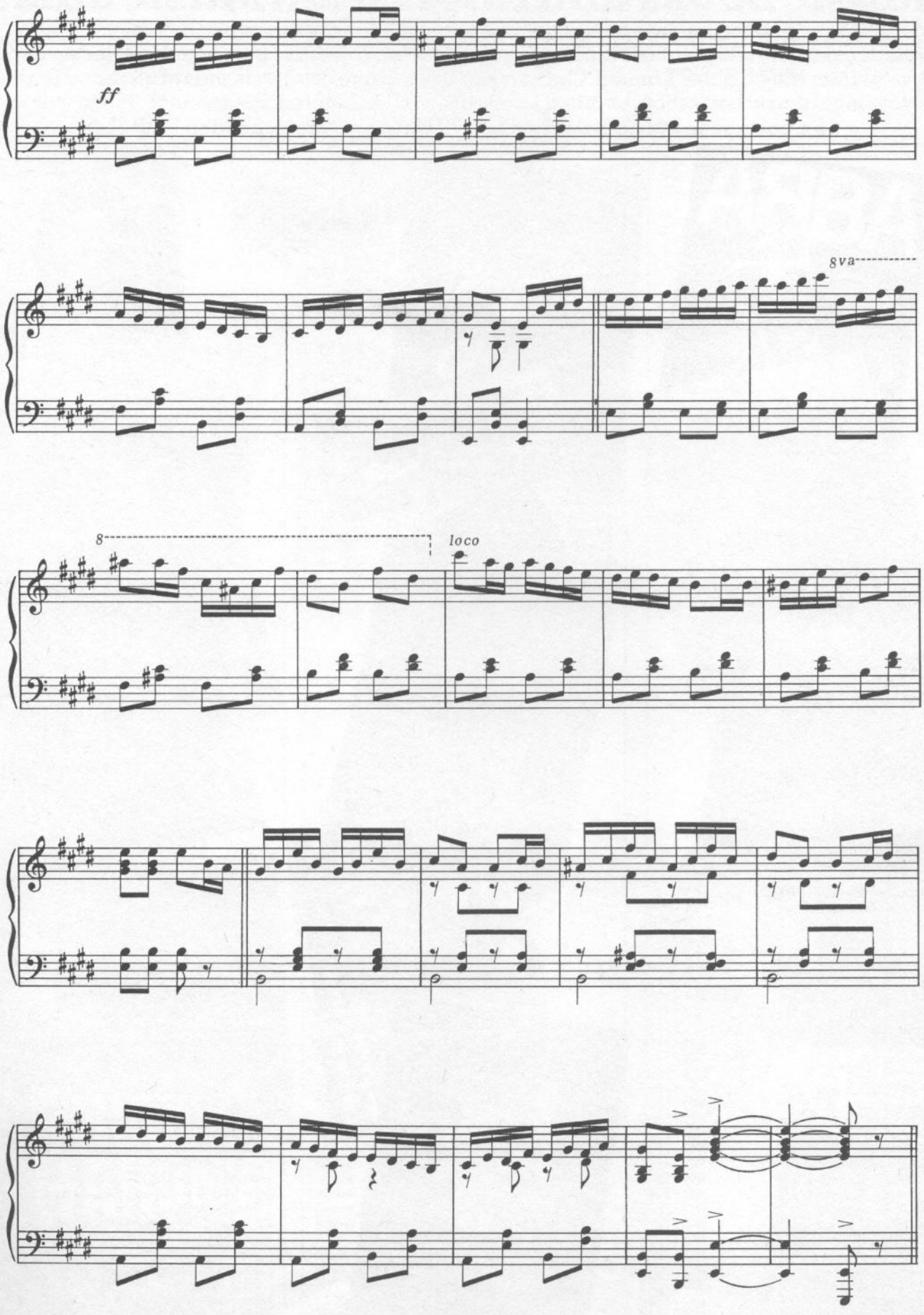
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"Tubular Bells" by Mike Oldfield.

A special arrangement of this sensationally successful rock symphony. Here, the complex musical structure of this modern masterpiece has been simplified, making it playable on piano or guitar.
Alongside the thirty-nine pages of music is an introduction by Karl Dallas to Mike Oldfield and his work, an analysis of "Tubular Bells" by composer David Bedford, together with many portraits of Oldfield by David Bailey and other leading photographers.

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