Johann Christoph Friedrich Bach

Sonate pour le Clavecin a quatre mains

Harpsichord sonata for four hands

Transcription by

Alessandro Rispoli

Prefazione

Johann Christoph Friedrich, detto il "*Bach di Bückenburg"*, nacque a Lipsia il 21 giugno 1732. Fu il sedicesimo dei figli di Johann Sebastian e nono figlio del matrimonio con Anna Magdalena. Educato alla musica dal padre, frequentò la *Thomasschule zu Leipzig* dove con grande probabilità imparò a suonare l'organo, il clavicembalo e la composizione. Anche un lontano cugino Johann Elias Bach (1705 -1755) di Schweinfurt potrebbe aver contribuito alla sua educazione musicale, poiché dal 1737 al 1742 era assistente personale di Johann Sebastian.
Nel 1749 iniziò a frequentare la facoltà di Legge dell'Università di Lipsia, che poco prima della morte del padre dovette abbandonare per cercare un impiego retribuito come musicista. Tra la fine del 1749 e l'inizio del 1750 fu nominato clavicembalista alla corte di Guglielmo conte di Schaumburg-Lippe a Bückenburg, infatti, il 3 gennaio del 1750 Johann Christoph Friedrich apparve ufficialmente nei registri di Bückenburg, con uno stipendio di 25 talleri. Nell'agosto del 1750 dopo la morte del padre venne nominato *Kammermusicus.* Pochi anni dopo, nel 1755, sposò Lucia Elisabeth Münchausen dalla quale ebbe otto figli, sebbene solo tre figlie e un figlio sopravvissero all'infanzia. Nel 1759 divenne *Konzertmeister* al posto dei due italiani Angelo Colonna e Giovanni Battista Serini che nel 1756 abbandonarono l'incarico di corte per ignoti motivi. Seguendo lo spirito dell'epoca, dal 1770 Johann Christoph Friedrich mutò il suo stile da tipicamente di gusto italiano, al più moderno *Empfindsamer Stil,* che oramai aveva raggiunto tutte le corti europee anche grazie al lavoro dei suoi fratelli Carl Philipp Emanuel, Wilhelm Friedemann e Johann Christian. La nomina di Johann Gottfried Herder (1744-1803) a predicatore di corte e consigliere concistoriale a Bückenburg nel 1771 portò all'amicizia e alla fruttuosa collaborazione tra il poeta e il compositore. Infatti da quel periodo in poi J.C.F. scrisse oratori, cantate e opere serie[1]. All'inizio dell'estate del 1778 visitò il fratello Johann Christian ad Amburgo e poi proseguì per Londra per lasciare il figlio Wilhelm Friedrich Ernst a proseguire la sua educazione musicale. Il "*Bach di Bückenburg"* è sempre stato ispirato dalla musica del fratello Johann Christian, infatti è chiaramente evidente in tutte le sue composizioni, specialmente quelle da camera e per tastiera scritte dopo il 1778. Oltre all'influenza del fratello probabilmente scoprì anche la musica di Mozart e Gluck. Nel 1782 Forkel classificò l'orchestra di Bückenberg guidata da Johann Christoph Friedrich, come la quarta migliore della Germania. Continuò la sua vita a Bückenberg fino alla sua scomparsa il 26 gennaio del 1795 data da una forte febbre toracica. Fu sepolto nel cimitero di Jatenburg a Bückenberg.

[1] Die Kindheit Jesu (1773), Die Auferweckung des Lazarus (1773), Brutus (1774).

Fonti

La presente sonata qui pubblicata è stata trascritta dal manoscritto autografo datato 1786-1790 circa scritto a Bückenberg e conservato alla **Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin** con collocazione: **Mus. ms. Bach P 329**.

Note alla presente edizione

La presente edizione manoscritta si è presentata agevole nella trascrizione salvo alcune correzioni autografe di alcune battute. Per criterio filologico si è trascritto la parte con le correzioni. Per ulteriori chiarimenti vedere le note alla fine.

A cura di

Alessandro Rispoli

Preface

Johann Christoph Friedrich, known as the *"Bach of Bückenburg"*, was born in Leipzig on 21 June 1732. He was the sixteenth of Johann Sebastian's children and the ninth child of his marriage to Anna Magdalena. Educated in music by his father, he attended the *Thomasschule zu Leipzig* where he most likely learned to play the organ, the harpsichord and composition. A distant cousin Johann Elias Bach (1705-1755) of Schweinfurt may also have contributed to his musical education, as he was Johann Sebastian's personal assistant from 1737 to 1742.
In 1749 he began attending the Faculty of Law at the University of Leipzig, which shortly before his father's death he had to leave to seek a paid job as a musician. Between the end of 1749 and the beginning of 1750 he was appointed harpsichordist at the court of William Count of Schaumburg-Lippe in Bückenburg, in fact, on January 3, 1750 Johann Christoph Friedrich officially appeared in the Bückenburg registers, with a salary of 25 thalers. In August 1750, after the death of his father, he was appointed *Kammermusicus*. A few years later, in 1755, he married Lucia Elisabeth Münchausen with whom he had eight children, although only three daughters and one son survived the infancy. In 1759 he became *Konzertmeister* in place of the two Italians Angelo Colonna and Giovanni Battista Serini who in 1756 abandoned the office of court for unknown reasons. Following the spirit of the time, from 1770 Johann Christoph Friedrich changed his style from typically Italian taste, to the more modern Empfindsamer Stil, which by now had reached all European courts also thanks to the work of his brothers Carl Philipp Emanuel, Wilhelm Friedemann and Johann Christian. The appointment of Johann Gottfried Herder (1744-1803) as court preacher and consistorial councilor in Bückenburg in 1771 led to friendship and fruitful collaboration between the poet and the composer. In fact, from that period onwards J.C.F. he wrote oratorios, cantatas and serious works[2]. In the early summer of 1778 he visited his brother Johann Christian in Hamburg and then went on to London to leave his son Wilhelm Friedrich Ernst to continue his musical education. The *"Bach of Bückenburg"* has always been inspired by the music of his brother Johann Christian, in fact it is clearly evident in all his compositions, especially those for chamber and keyboard written after 1778. In addition to his brother's influence, he probably also discovered music by Mozart and Gluck. In 1782 Forkel ranked the Bückenberg orchestra led by Johann Christoph Friedrich as the fourth best in Germany. He continued his life in Bückenberg until his death on January 26, 1795 due to a severe chest fever. He was buried in the Jatenburg cemetery in Bückenberg.

[2] Die Kindheit Jesu (1773), Die Auferweckung des Lazarus (1773), Brutus (1774).

Sources

This sonata published here was transcribed from the autograph manuscript dated around 1786-1790 written in Bückenberg and kept at the **Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin** with collocation: **Mus. ms. Bach P 329**.

Note to this edition

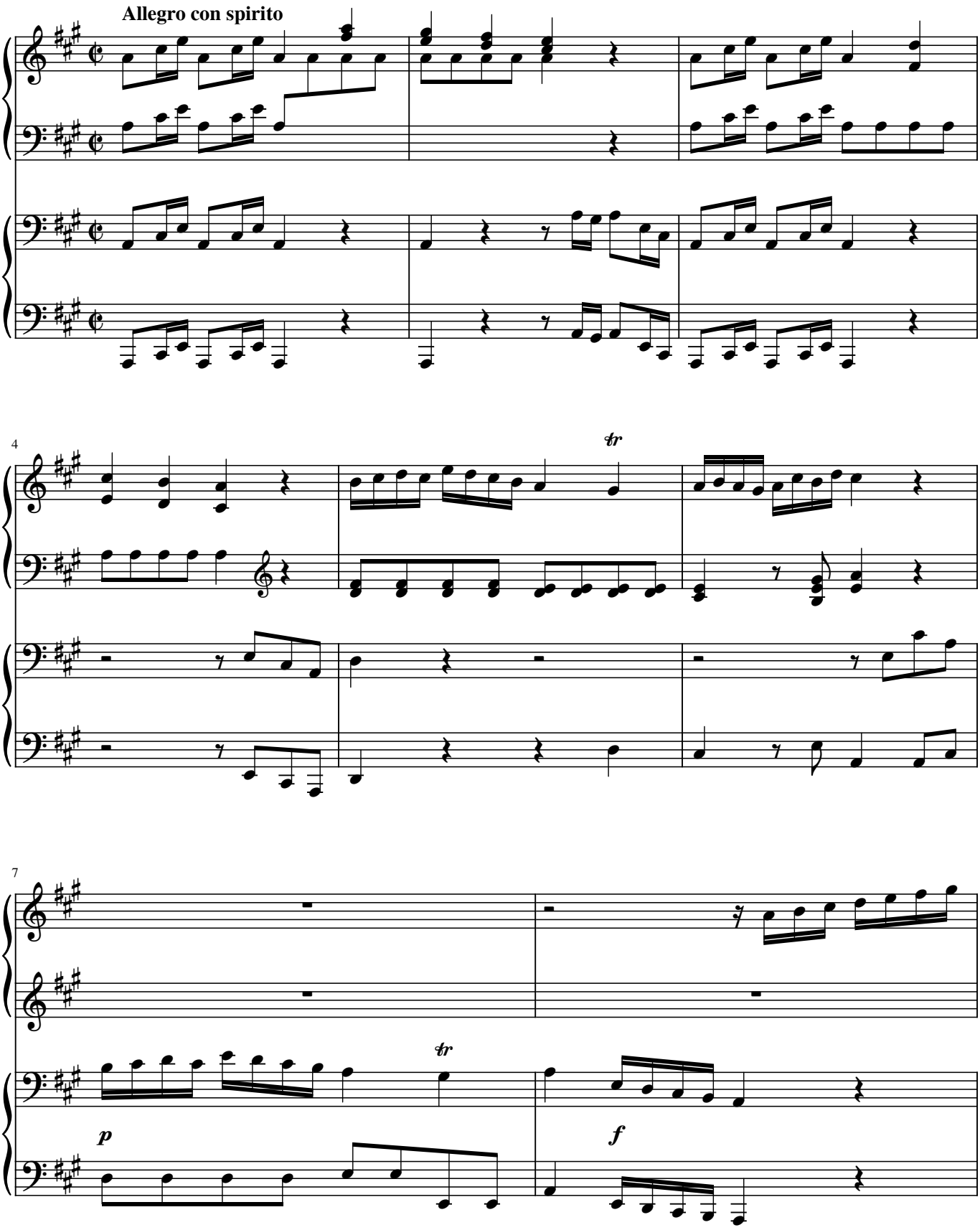
The present handwritten edition was easy to transcribe except for some autograph corrections of some lines. For philological criteria the part with the corrections was transcribed. For further clarification see the notes at the end.

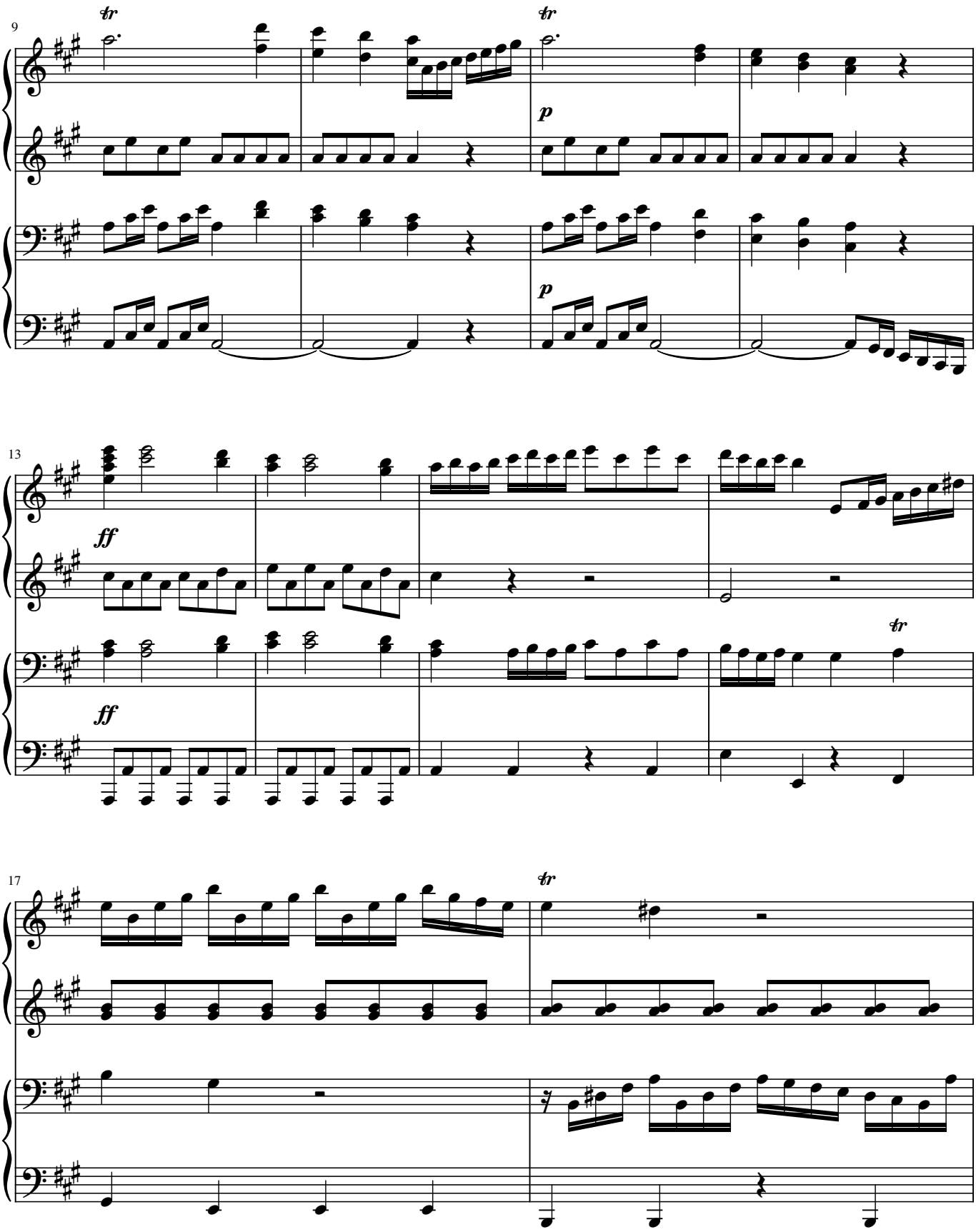
Edited By

Alessandro Rispoli

Sonata in A-Dur

Johann Christoph Friederich Bach

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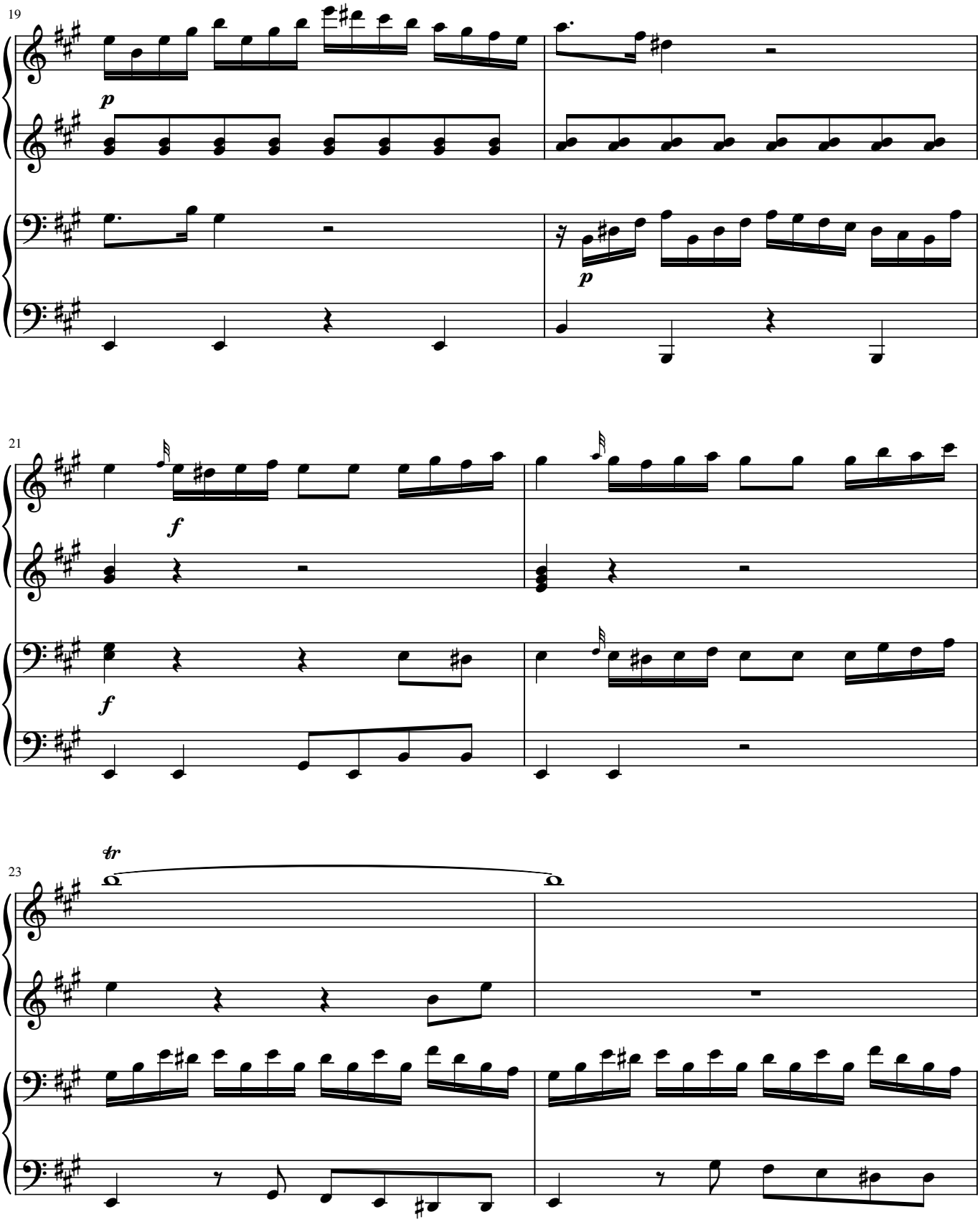
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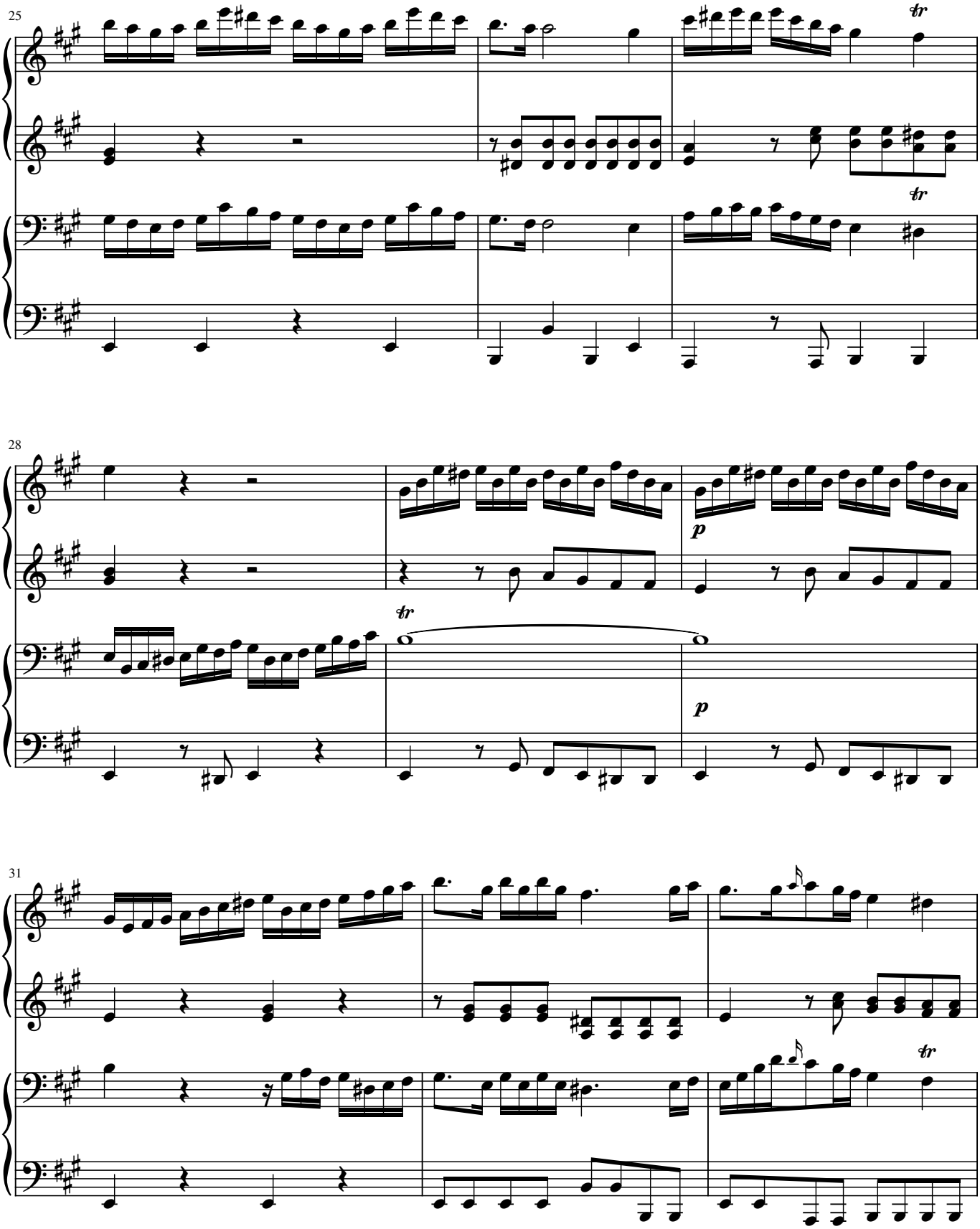
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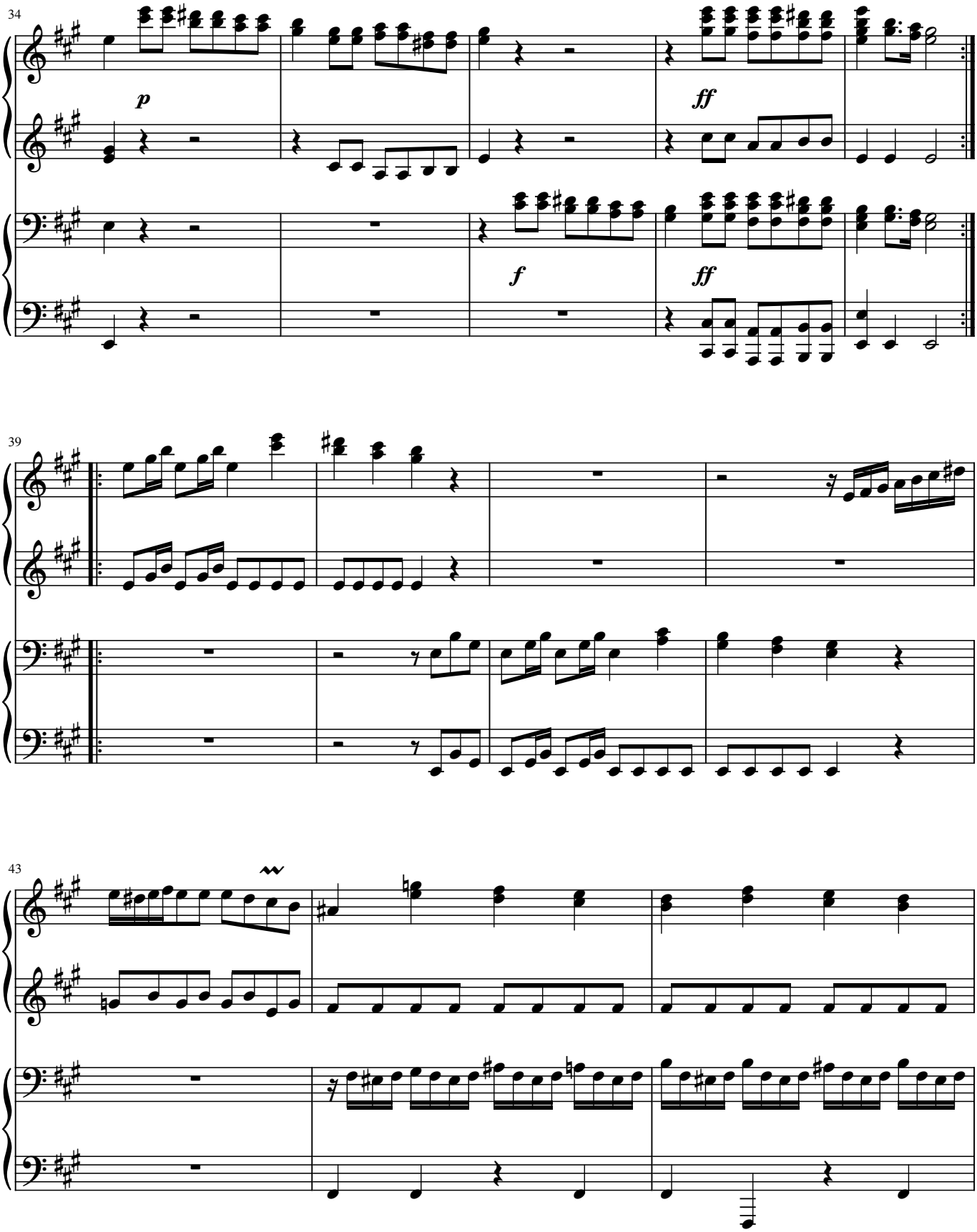
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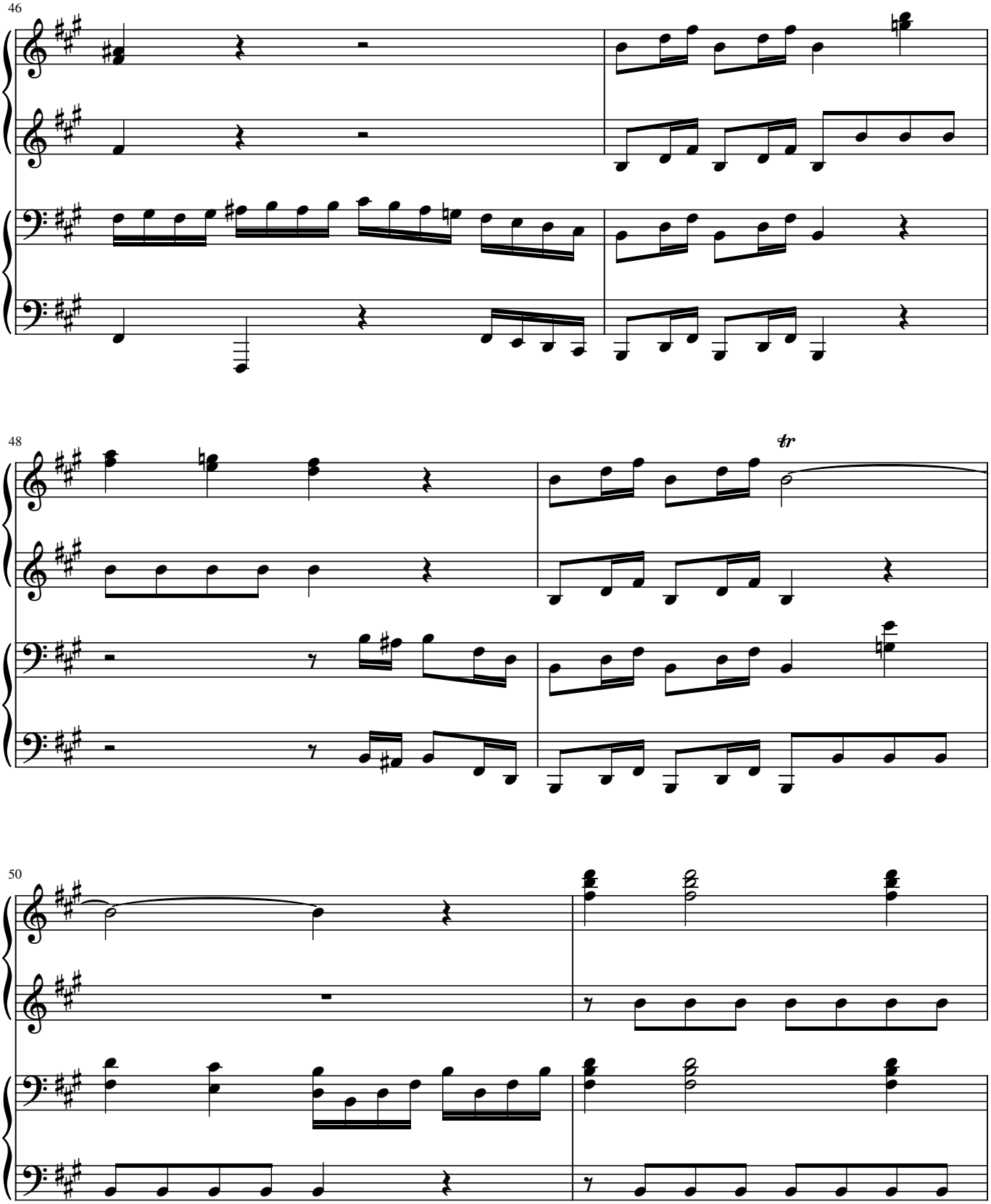
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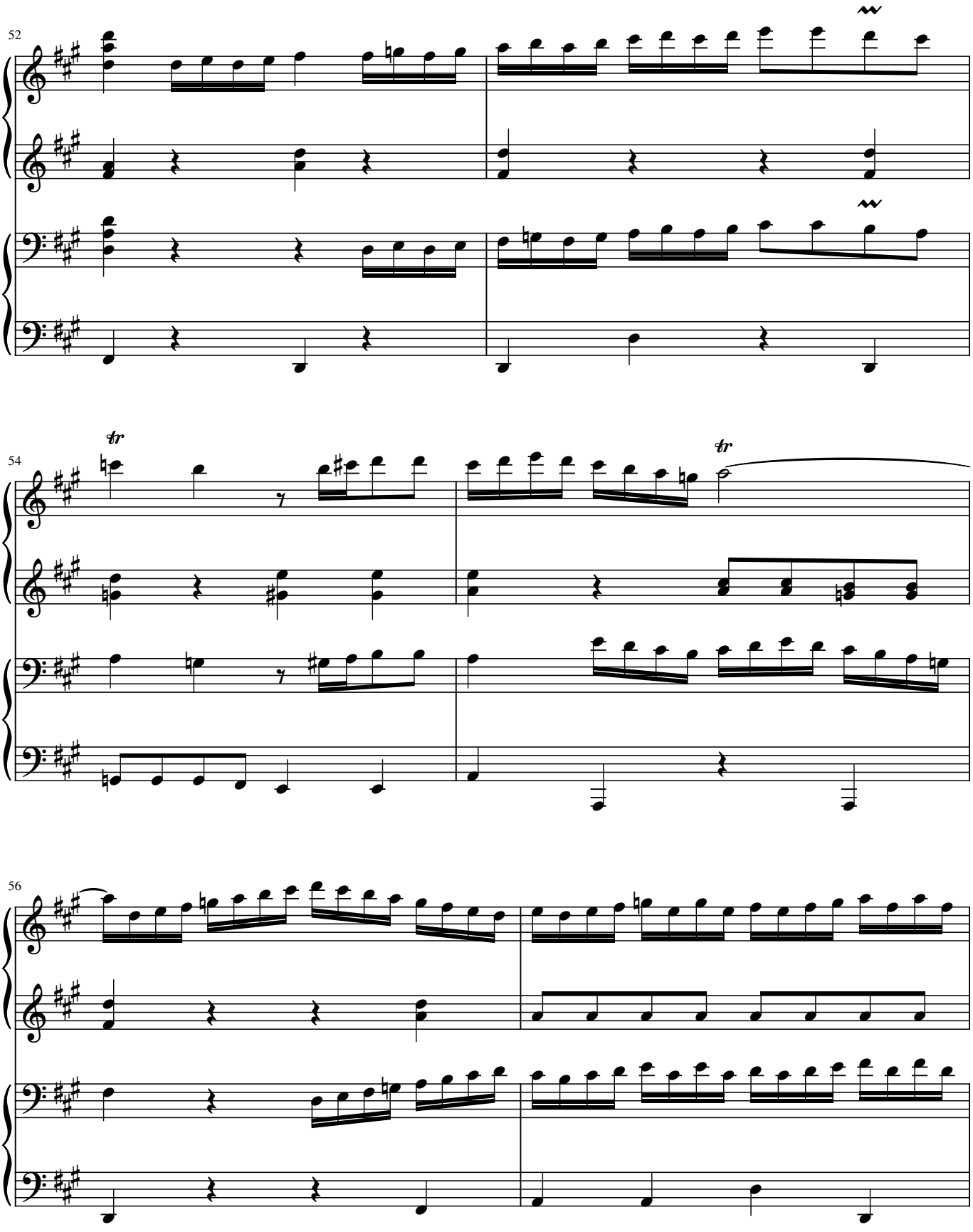
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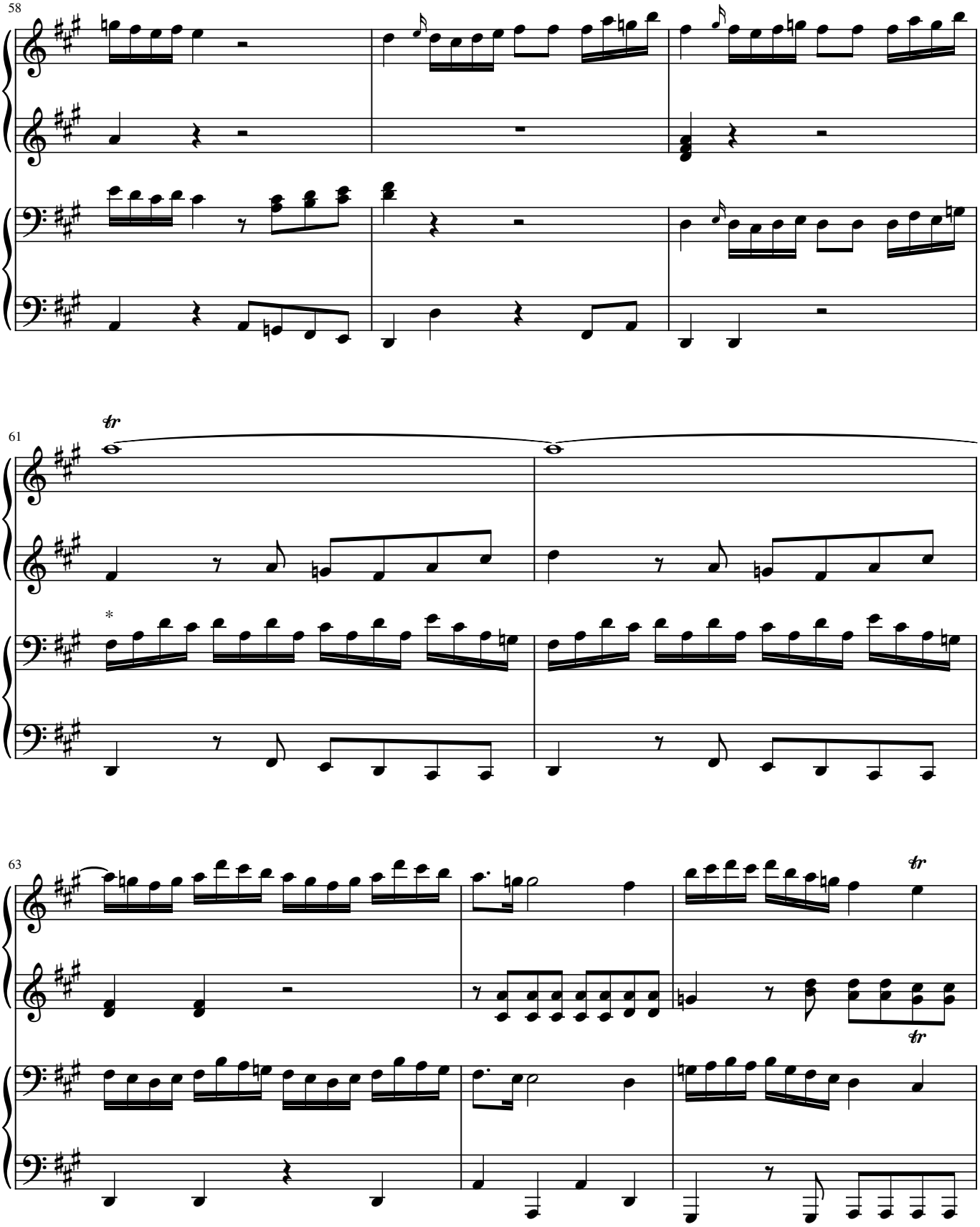
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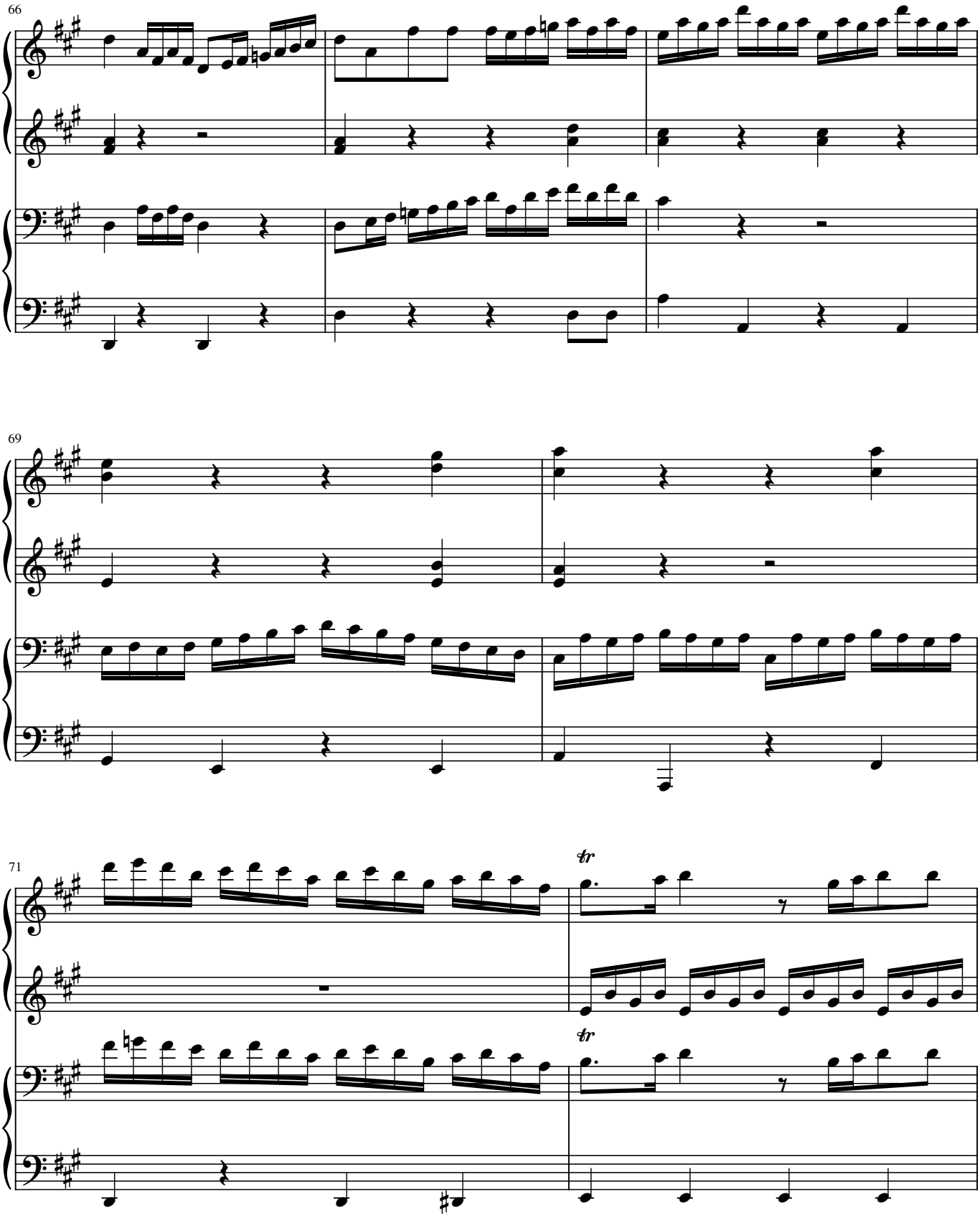
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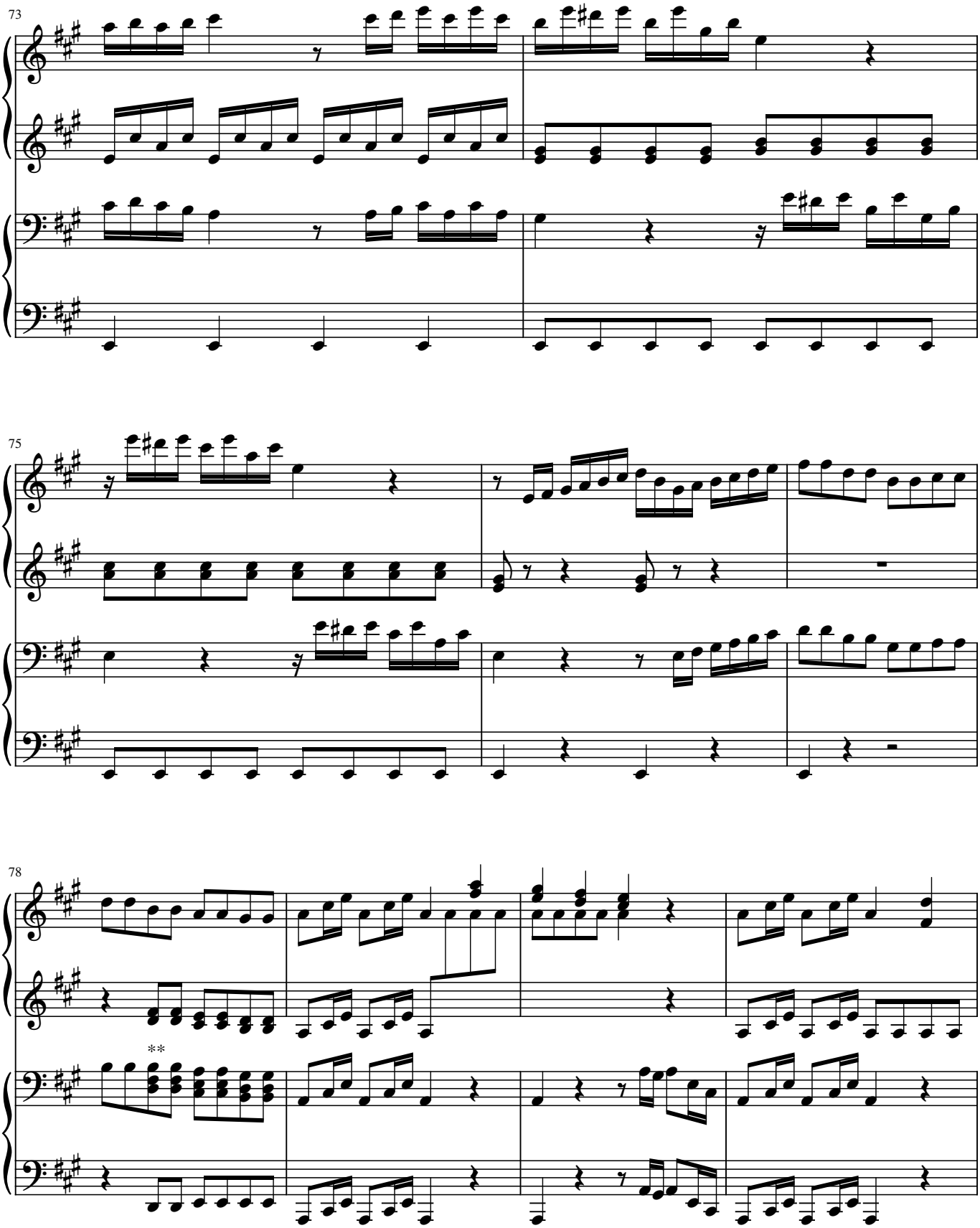
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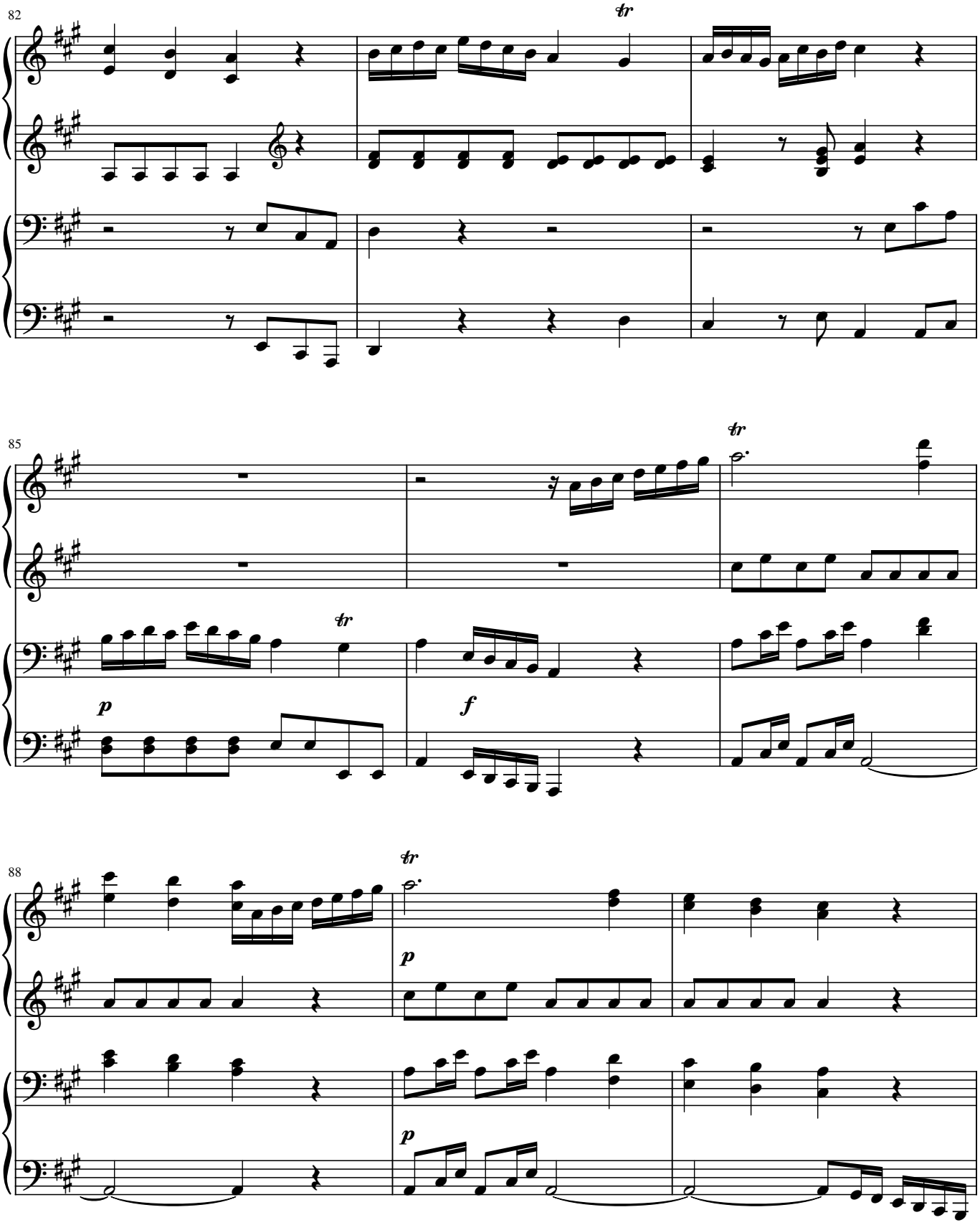
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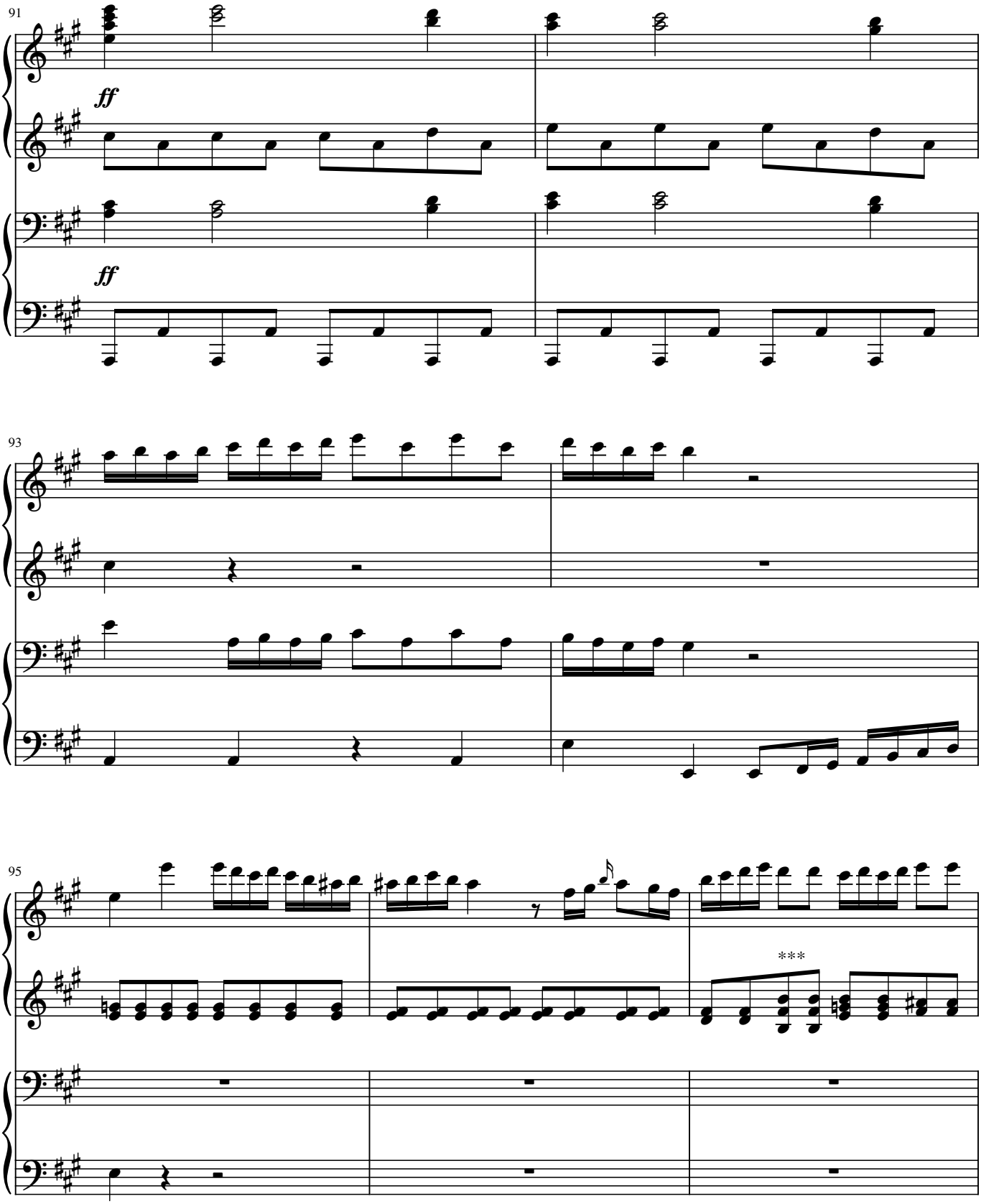
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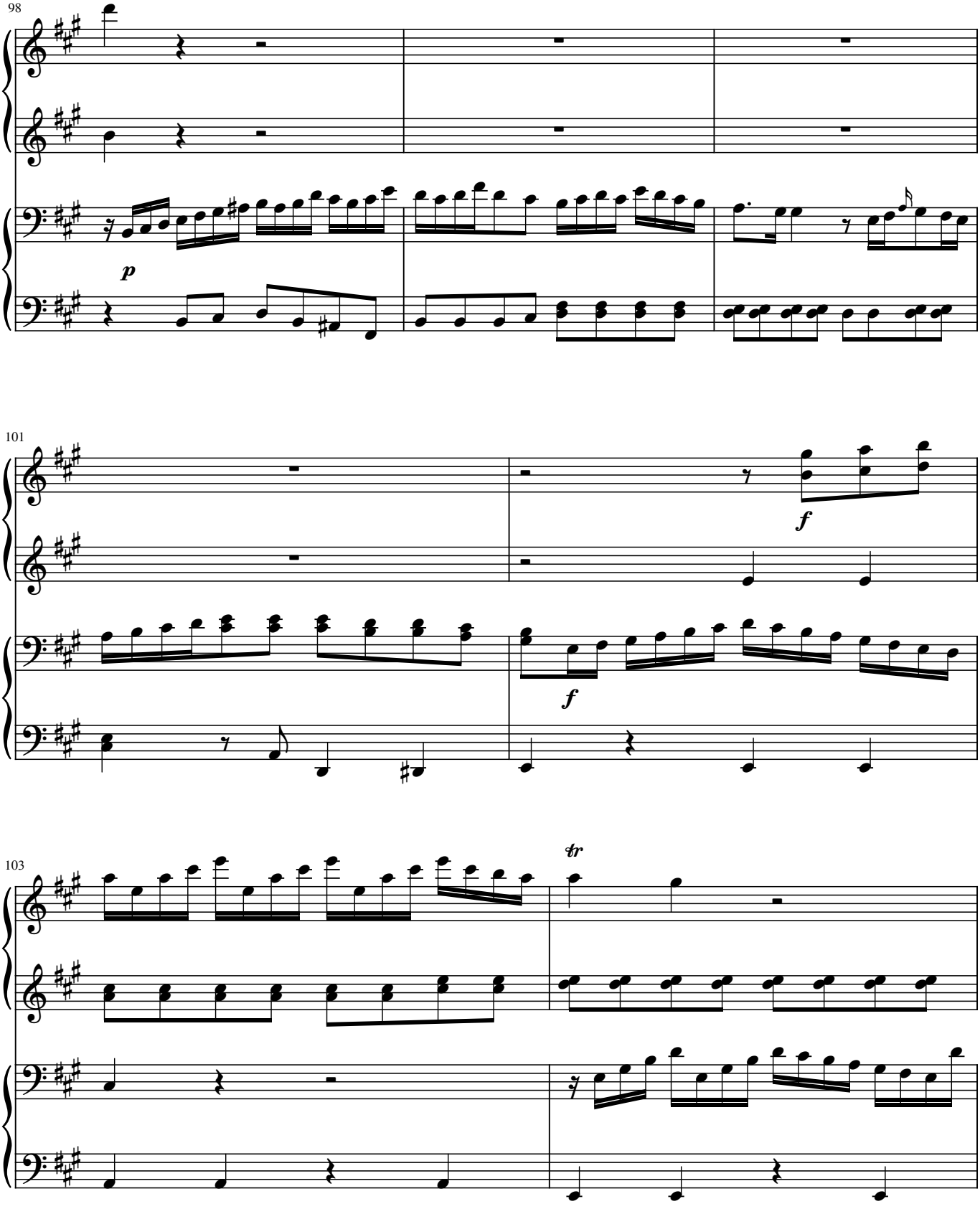
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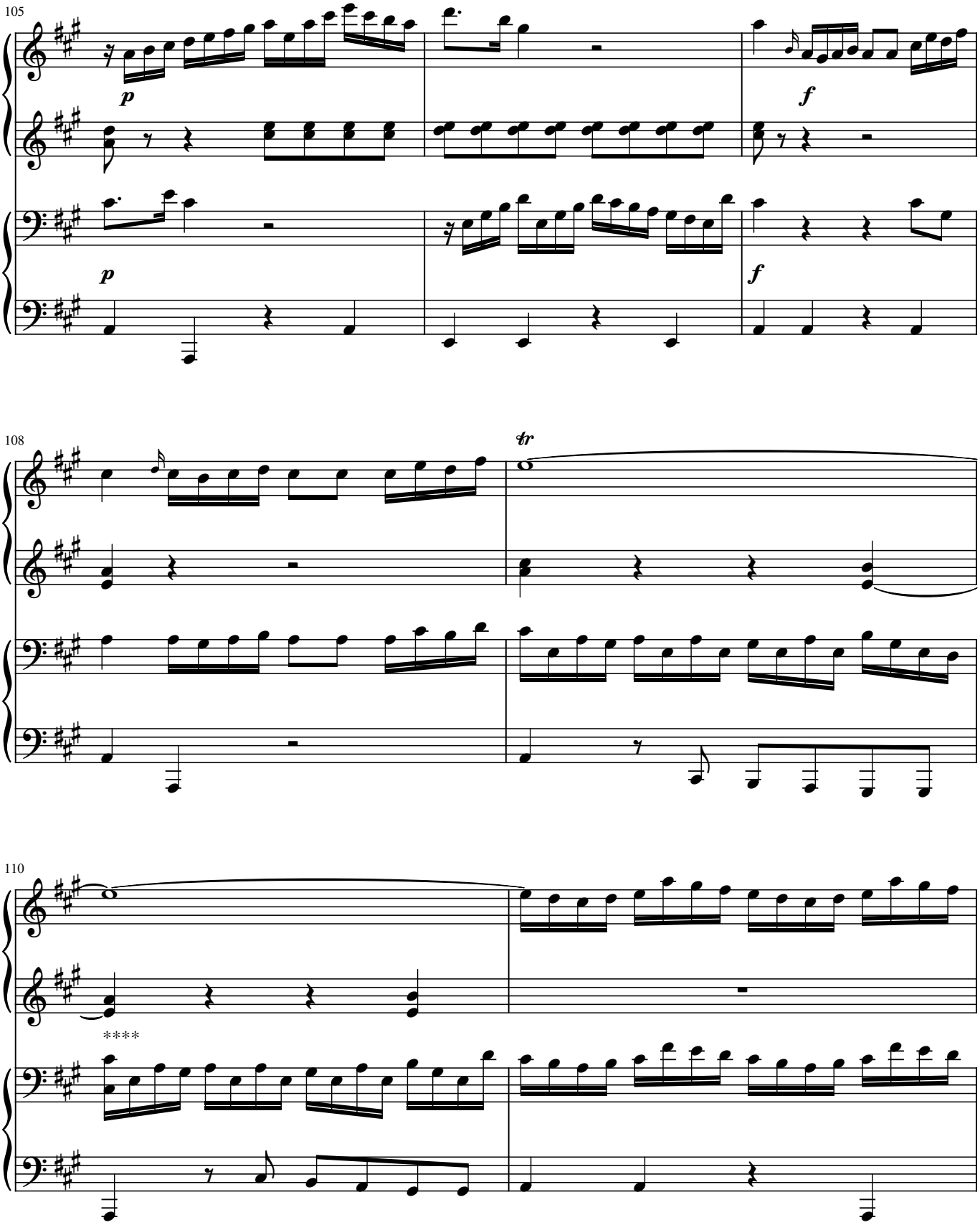
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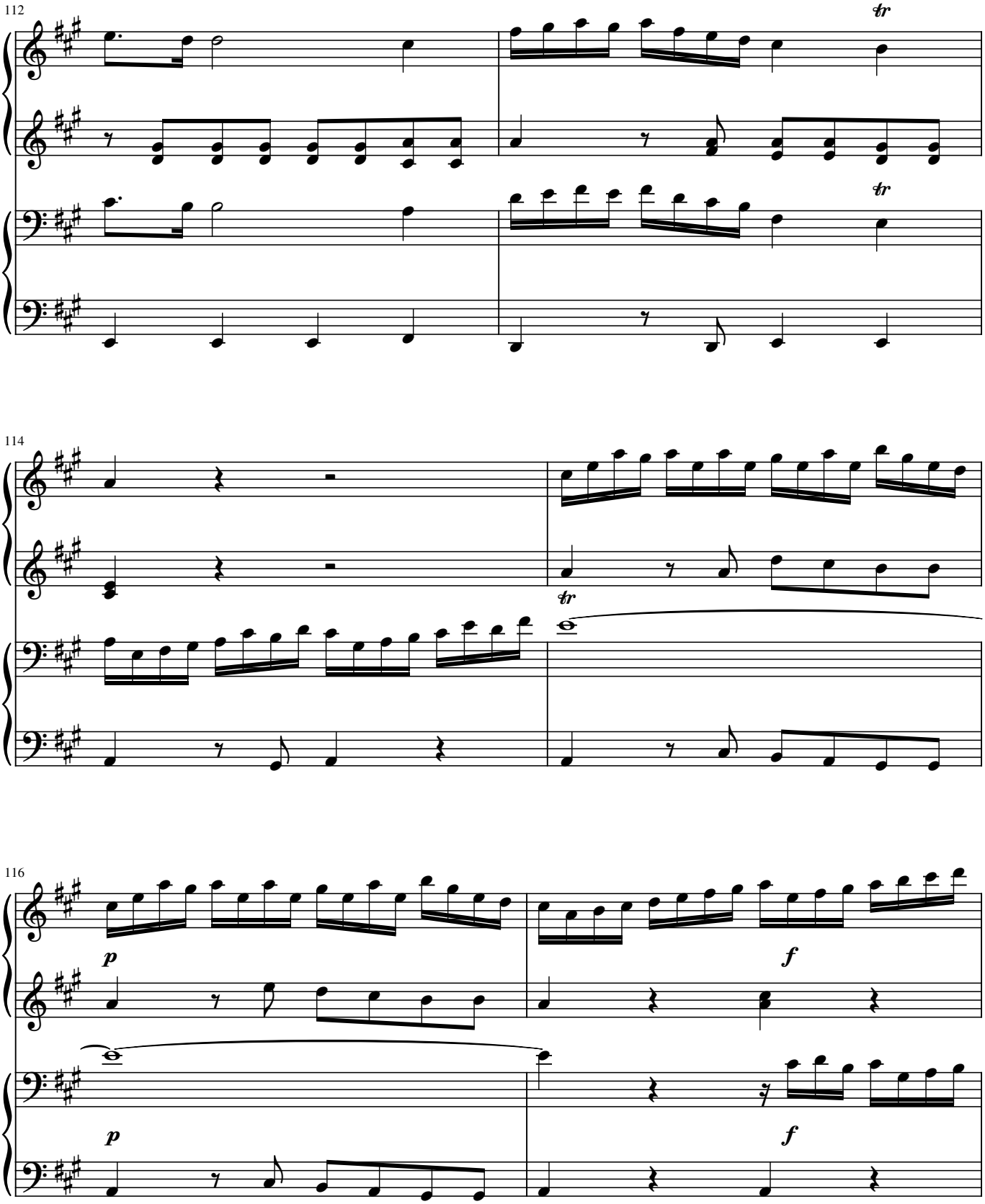
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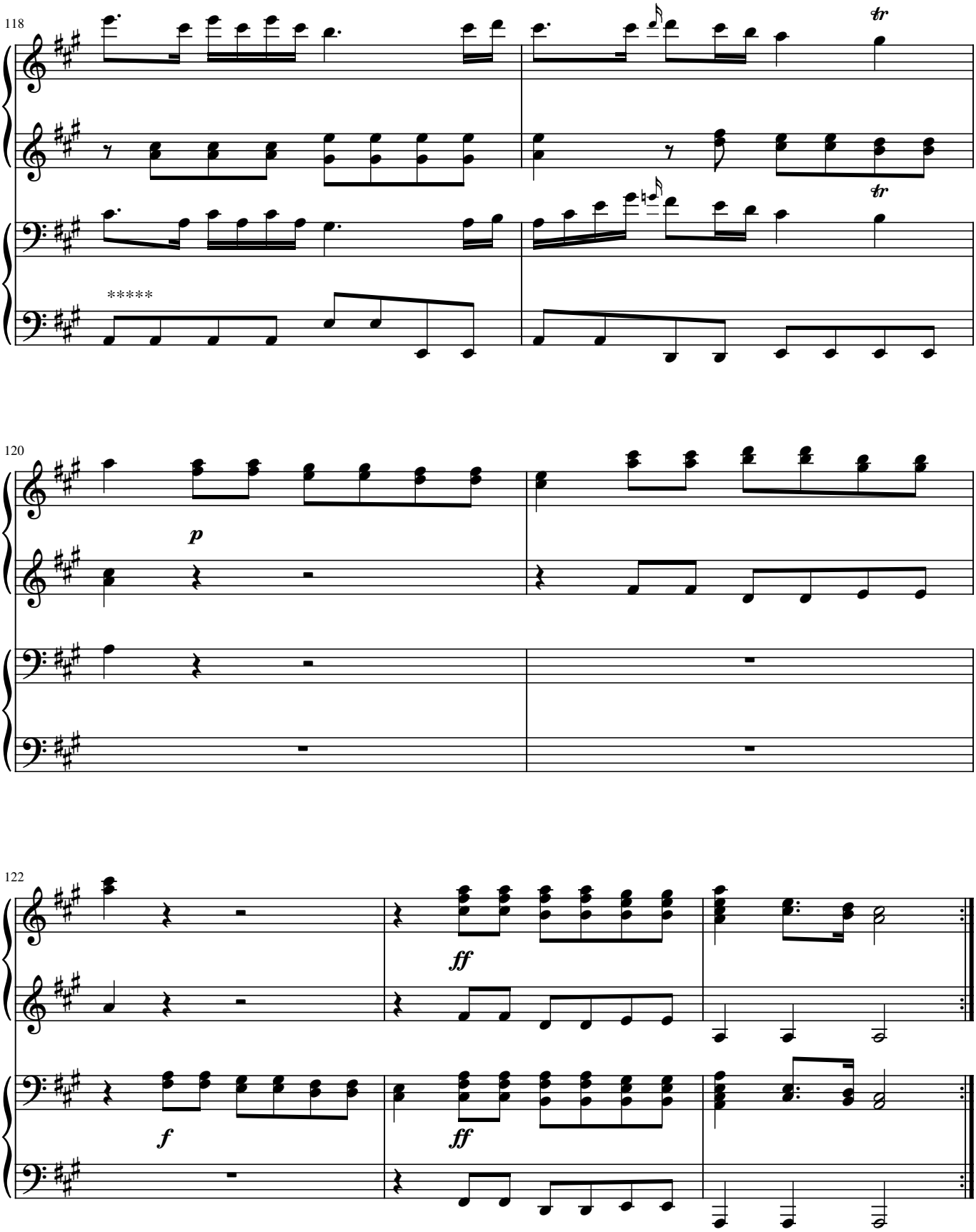
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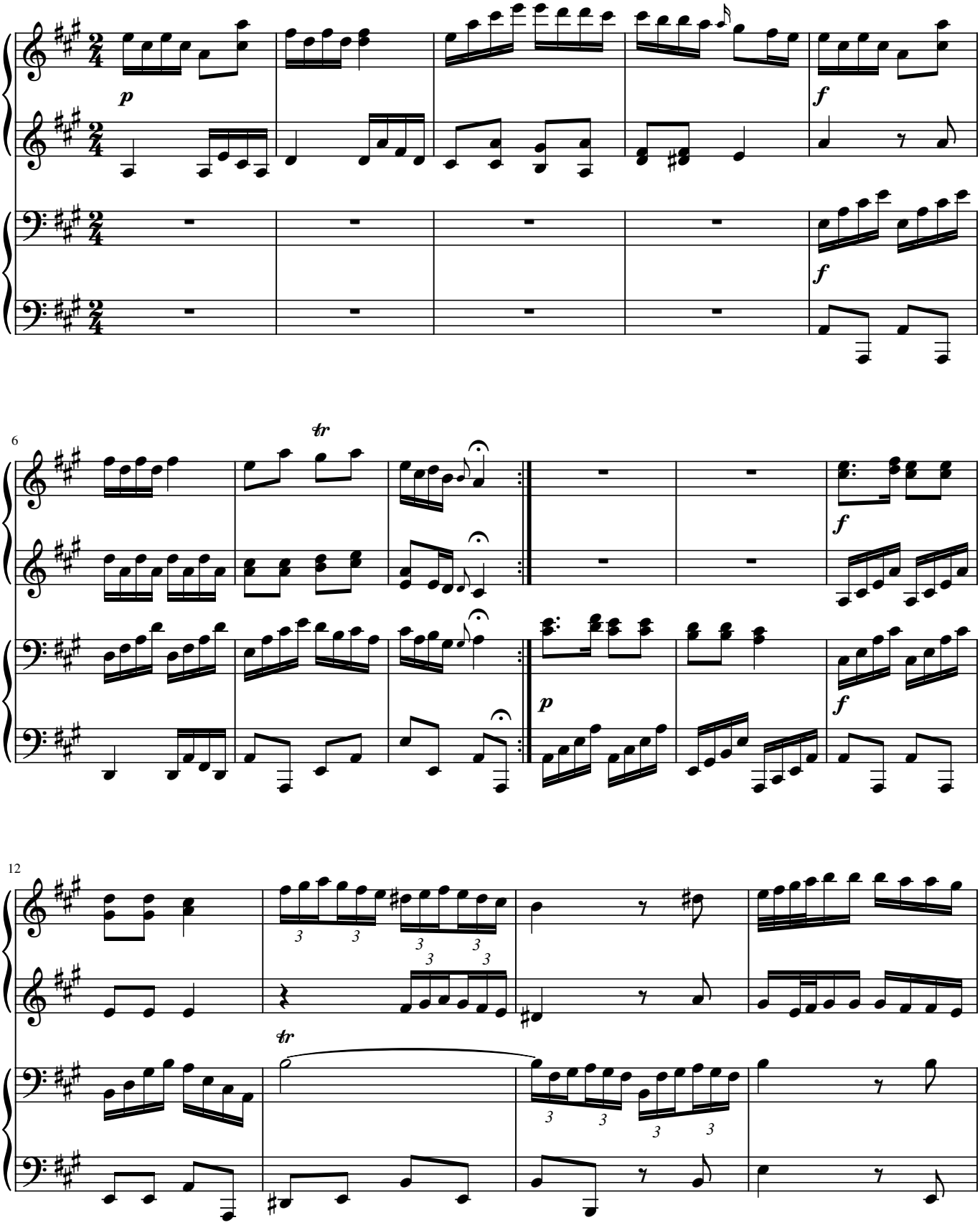
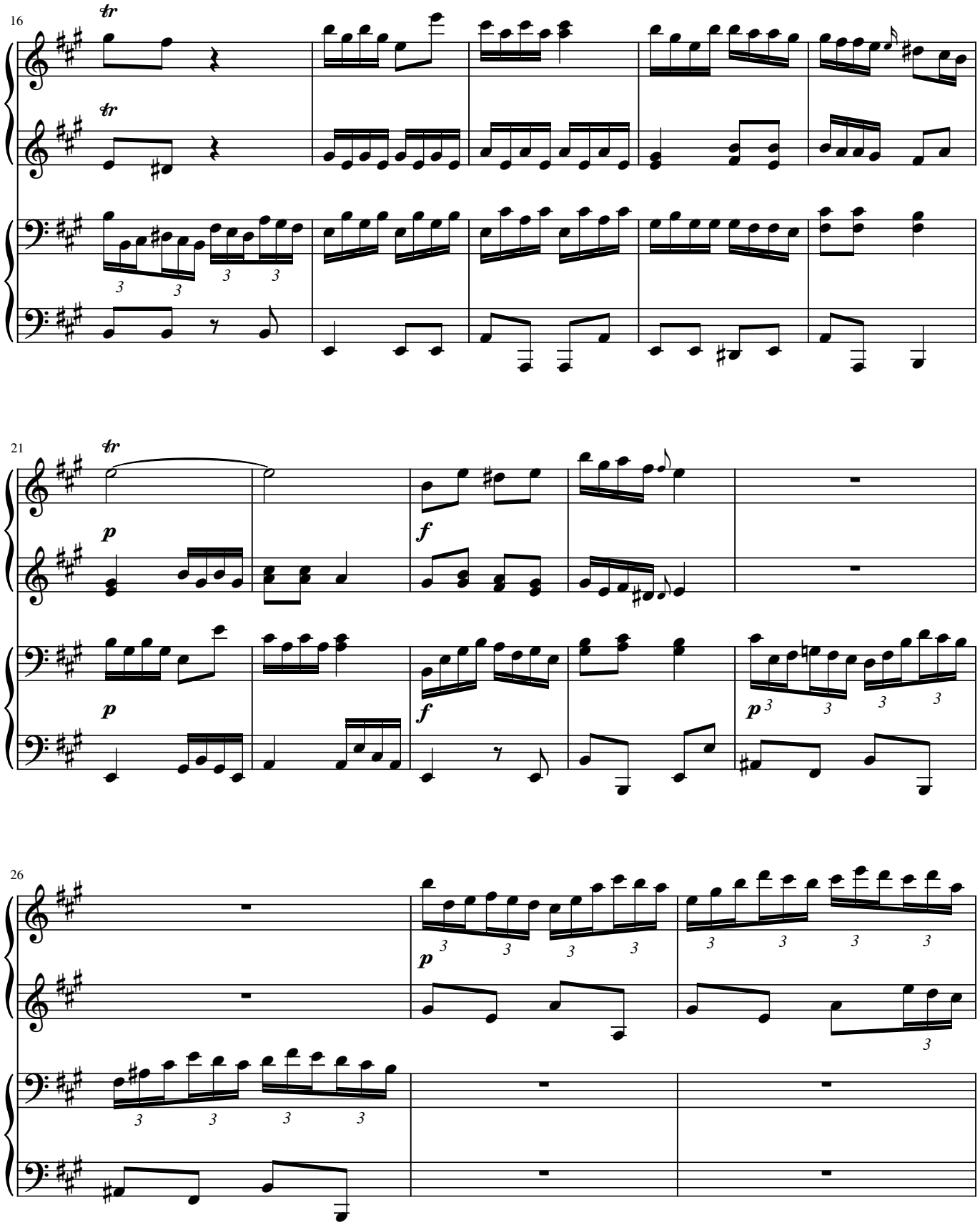
Allegretto Rondò

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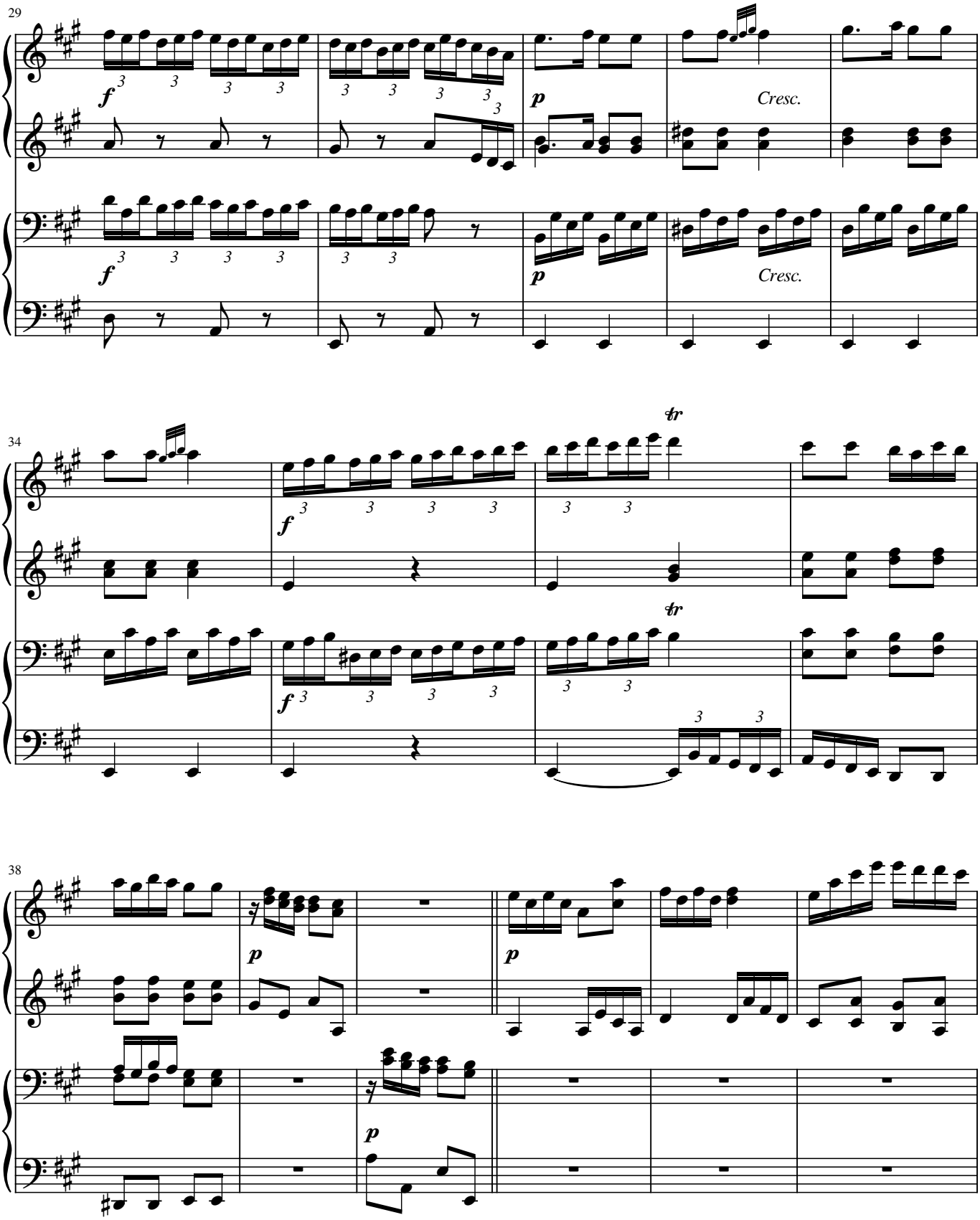
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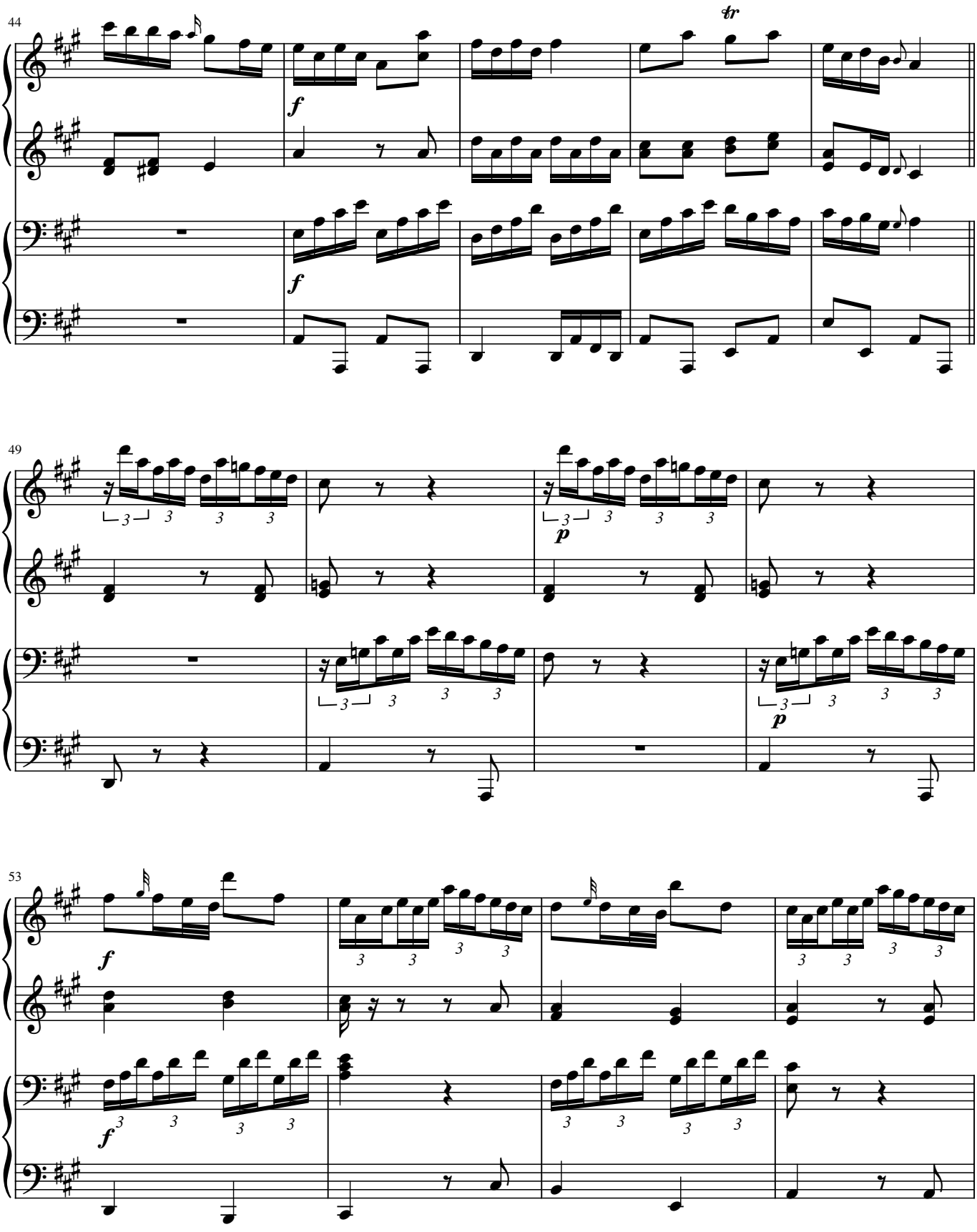
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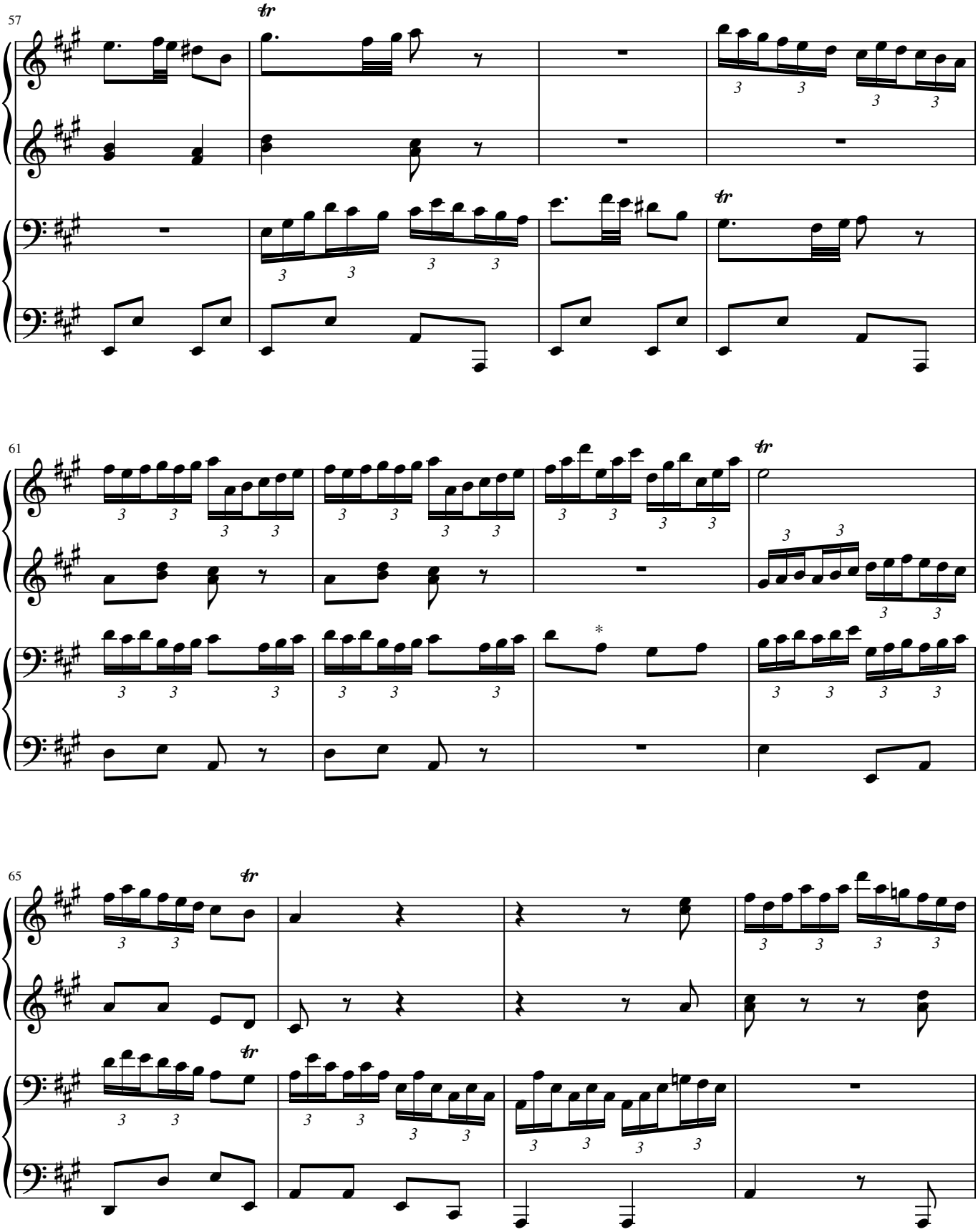
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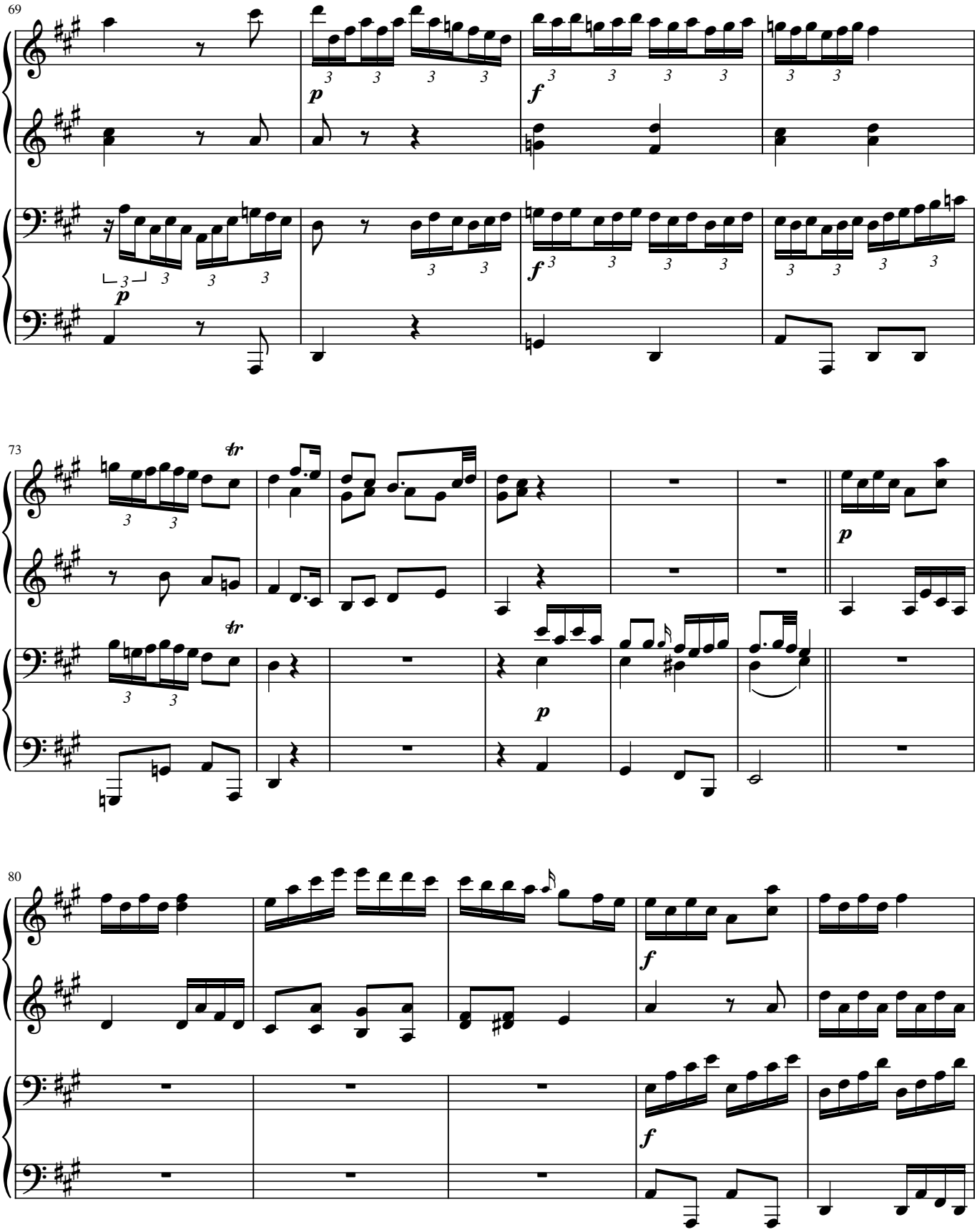
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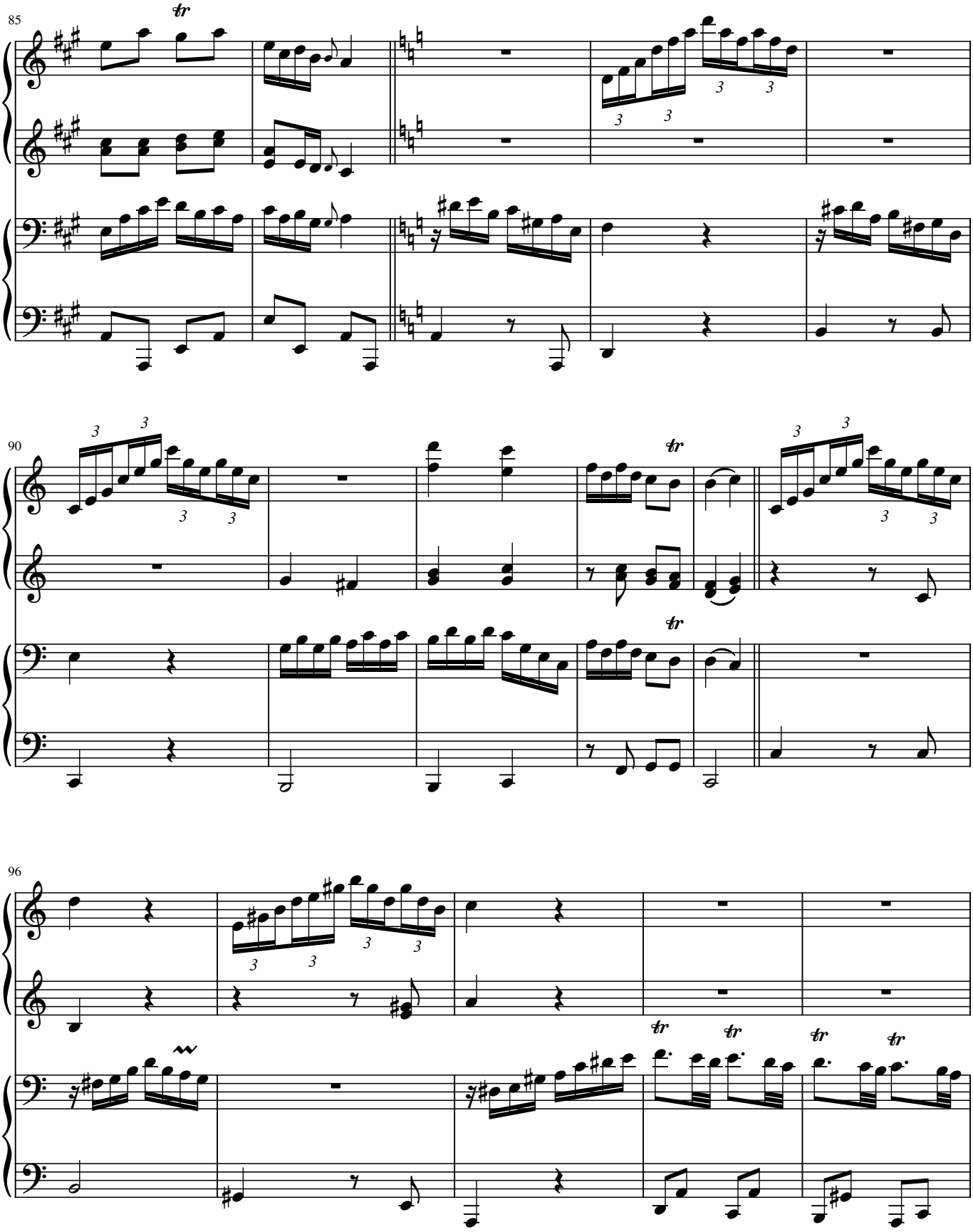
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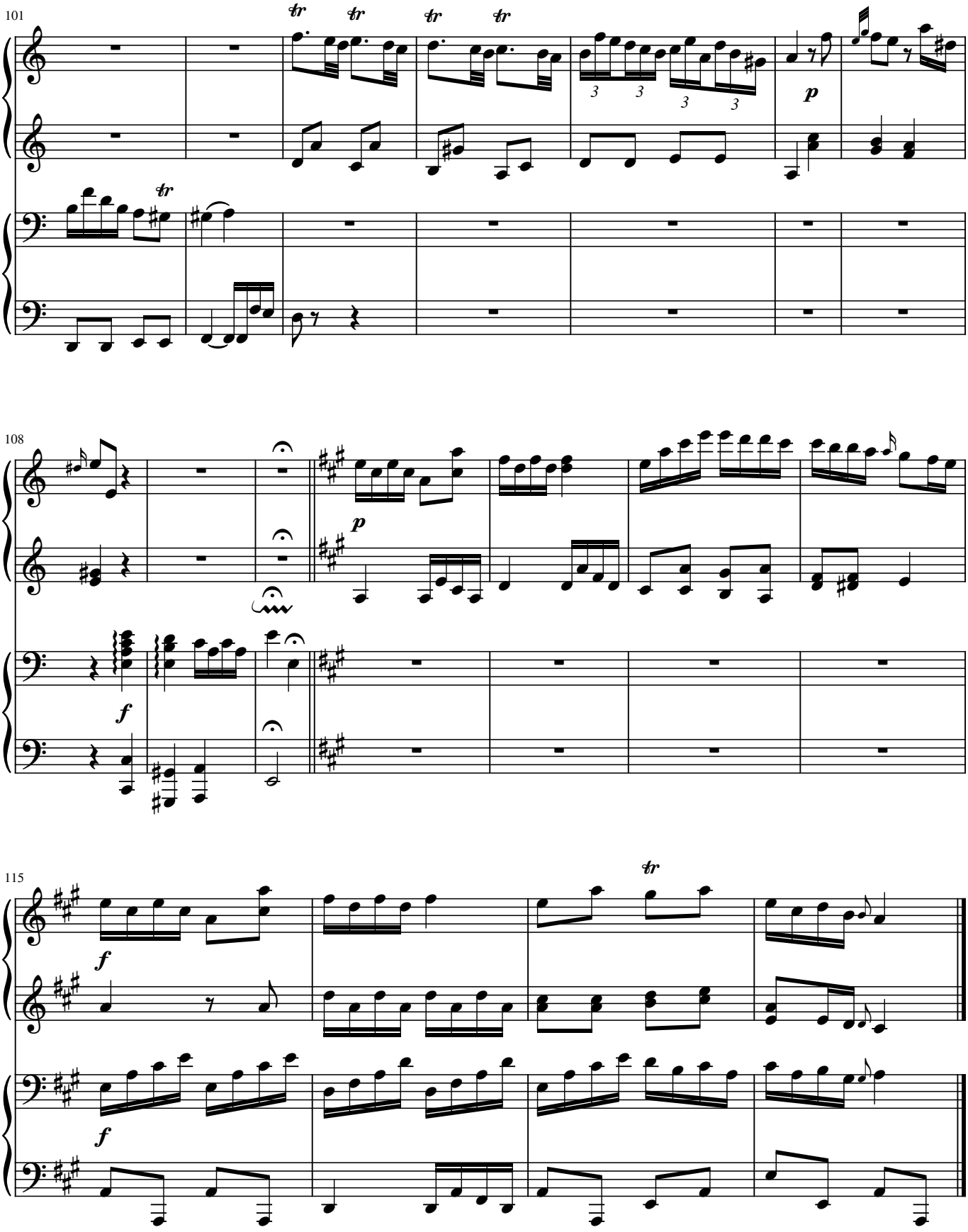
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108
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115
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Note

Allegro con spirito

batt. 61:
Le quattro quartine della destra del secondo erano originariamente scritte per la sinistra del primo.

*** batt. 78:***
Gli accordi di croma erano originariamente di semiminima.

**** batt. 97:***
Aggiunte due crome di fa e sol naturale nell'accordo.

***** batt. 110:***
Vedi nota *

****** batt. 118:***
Sostituita la pausa di semiminima con due crome di la.

Allegretto Rondò

*** batt. 63:***
In origine do

Notes

Allegro con spirito

**** measure n° 61:***
The four quatrains of the second player's right right hand were originally written for the first player's left hand.

***** measure n° 78:***
The quaver chords were originally quarter notes.

****** measure n° 97:***
Added two eighth notes of f and g natural in the chord.

******* measure n° 110:***
See note *

******** measure n° 118:***
Replaced the quarter note rest with two eighth notes A.

Allegretto Rondò

**** Measure n° 63:***
Originally c.