stanley grill

# Aphorisms II

viola & piano

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## VOCAL MUSIC

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| The Snow Begins (W.C. Williams) | 1975 | soprano, piano | 3 min |
| Earth and Sea (Eskimo texts) | 1975 | soprano, piano | 3 min |
| Prelude (T.S. Eliot) | 1978 | soprano, violin, cello | 10 min |
| 6 Songs (W.B. Yeats) | 1983 | soprano, piano | 15 min |
| To a Child (W.B. Yeats) | 1987 | soprano, string quartet | 20 min |
| Crazy Jane Sings (W.B. Yeats) | 1999 | soprano, fl, vn, va, vc, pn | 25 min |
| Vignettes/Flowers (W.C. Williams | 2002 | SATB, cello | 18 min |
| Love Poems (W.C. Williams) | 2003 | SSAA | 10 min |
| Vignettes/Trees (W.C. Williams) | 2004 | sop, mezz sop, 2 cellos | 15 min |
| Thinking of You (John MacKenzie) | 2005 | soprano, cello, harp | 7 min |
| Ariettas Without Words | 2005 | soprano, cello, harp | 9 min |
| Scetate (Ferdinando Russo) | 2005 | SSATTBB | 6 min |
| In Their Flight (Mark Doty) | 2006 | sop, mezzo, violin, cello | 6 min |
| 5 Rilke Songs | 2009 | soprano, viola d'amore, cello | 15 min |
| 4 Songs to Poems by Hart Crane | 2010 | tenor, piano | 35 min |
| Seasons (W.C. Williams) | 2010 | SATB | 11 min |
| Sonnets to Orpheus (R.M. Rilke) | 2012 | tenor, piano | 35 min |
| Songs of Loss and Remembering (R.M. Rilke) | 2012 | soprano, viola d'amore, viola, cello | 12 min |
| Rozmowa z kamieniem (W. Szymborska) | 2013 | soprano, 2 violins, cello | 15 min |
| 2 Love Songs (H. Heine) | 2015 | countertenor, va, vc, theorbo | 4 min |
| A Collection of Songs (C.F. Cilliers) | 2017 | soprano, piano | 18 min |
| The Violin Sings in a Common Language | 2017 | soprano, violin | 13 min |
| The Waking (T. Roethke) | 2017 | SATB | 5 min |
| Roses? (H. Stanbrough) | 2017 | SATB | 3 min |
| Mad Girl's Love Song (Sylvia Plath) | 2018 | SA | 5 min |
| The Home on the Hill (E.A. Robinson) | 2018 | SATB | 3 min |
| Der Februar (Erich Kastner) | 2018 | soprano, viola d'amore | 4 min |
| Vier Gedichte (Inborg Hoflehner) | 2018 | mezzo soprano, viola d'amore | 6 min |
| La Lay de Plour (Guillaume Machut) | 2018 | contralto, fl, vn, vc, piano | 40 min |
| Selections from Les Roses (R.M. Rilke) | 2019 | soprano, cornetto, chamber organ | 9 min |

## MUSIC FOR STRINGS ALONE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6 Contrapuntal Pieces | 1986 | string quartet | 20 min |
| For Laura | 1987 | string quartet | 25 min |
| The Beckoning Stars | 2001 | string quartet | 13 min |
| Imaginary Dances | 2001 | violin solo | 18 min |
| Short Stories | 2003 | vn, va, vc, db | 18 min |
| Passion (a love duet) | 2003 | viola, cello | 9 min |
| Pavanne (for a world without war) | 2005 | string orchestra | 8 min |
| Meditations | 2006 | string orchestra | 8 min |
| American Landscapes | 2007 | string quartet | 24 min |
| Motet | 2008 | string orchestra | 7 min |
| Ecstasy | 2009 | viola solo | 9 min |
| Transformations | 2009 | viola da gamba | 12 min |
| Sonatine | 2010 | 3 violins | 9 min |
| Lieder ohne Worte | 2011 | 2 va, vc, theorbo | 12 min |
| Middle Ground | 2012 | vn, 2 va, vc | 25 min |
| O mystery! | 2012 | cello solo | 5 min |
| Music for Viol Consort | 2013 | 6 viols | 20 min |
| Afterwards, there were no more wars | 2013 | string quartet | 21 min |
| At the Center of All Things | 2013 | string quartet | 17 min |
| 4 Nocturnes | 2013 | violin, viola | 19 min |
| Lonely Voices | 2013 | string quartet | 26 min |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Trance Music | 2014 | string orchestra | 22 min |
| The Time is Past | 2016 | string quartet | 15 min |
| Dreaming of a Better World | 2016 | string quartet | 15 min |
| Trio Sonata | 2017 | vn, va d'amore, cello | 10 min |
| Transfiguration | 2017 | viola quartet | 14 min |
| Duets | 2018 | 2 viola d'amore | 7 min |
| Aphorisms, Book 1 | 2019 | string quartet | 15 min |

## CHAMBER MUSIC

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Three for Three | 1992 | violin, cello, piano | 16 min |
| Civil War Songs | 1992 | viola, piano | 18 min |
| Take Five | 1993 | piano quintet | 25 min |
| Serenade | 1999 | fl, vn, va, vc | 11 min |
| Distant Music | 2000 | cl, vn/va, vc, pn | 20 min |
| Driven by the Wind | 2001 | flute, cello, piano | 25 min |
| Nonet (for New York) | 2002 | fl, ob, cl, hn, bn, string quartet | 35 min |
| A Little Sweet | 2003 | flute, cello | 10 min |
| On the Edge of Sleep & Dreaming | 2003 | horn, cello, harp | 31 min |
| 5 Pastoral Scenes | 2004 | ob, bn, vn, va, vc | 30 min |
| I was dreaming of the sea... | 2004 | vn (or fl), vc, pn | 7 min |
| Little Tales of Mirth & Woe | 2004 | vn (or fl), vc, pn | 6 min |
| An Ode to the Possibility of Piece | 2005 | clarinet, violin, cello | 15 min |
| Elements | 2006 | fl, ob, cl, hn, bn | 11 min |
| Motet for Brass Instruments | 2006 | 2 tp, hn, tb, tu | 7 min |
| 4 Caprices | 2014 | violin, piano | 14 min |
| Melville's Dream | 2017 | alto flute, viola, cello | 12 min |
| Music for Loud Band | 2018 | 2 cornettos & 2 tenor sackbuts | 5 min |
| Fanfare | 2018 | 4 sackbuts (or tenor trombones) | 3 min |
| the children are crying | 2018 | saxophone quartet | 6 min |
| the children are still crying | 2018 | saxophone quartet | 6 min |
| Aphorisms, Book 2 | 2019 | viola & piano | 21 min |

## ORCHESTRAL MUSIC

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Morning Music | 2001 | clarinet, string orchestra | 22 min |
| Two Sad Songs (W.B. Yeats) | 2002 | soprano, string orchestra | 15 min |
| Invisible Ballet | 2003 | string orchestra & diverse instruments | 33 min |
| Dark Matter (Pluto) | 2005 | orchestra | 15 min |
| Ophelia Songs (Shakespeare) | 2005 | soprano, harp, string orchestra | 12 min |
| Love's Little Pleasures (various poets) | 2008 | soprano, string orchestra | 15 min |
| The Four Elements | 2009 | viola, string orchestra | 22 min |
| Mystical Songs (Fernando Rielo) | 2009 | soprano, viola, string orchestra | 18 min |
| In Praise of Reason | 2012 | cello, 2 horns, string orchestra | 13 min |
| Against War | 2018 | soprano, orchestra | 23 min |
| Season of Rain | 2018 | orchestra | 38 min |
| Summer | 2018 | orchestra | 43 min |
| Declaration of Peace | 2019 | chamber orchestra | 12 min |

## PIANO MUSIC

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Simple Sketches | 2015 | piano | 12 min |
| Skirmishes | 2016 | piano 4 hands | 10 min |
| Preludes for Piano, 1-6 | 2016 | piano | 10 min |
| Preludes for Piano, 7-12 | 2017 | piano | 10 min |

# Aphorisms II

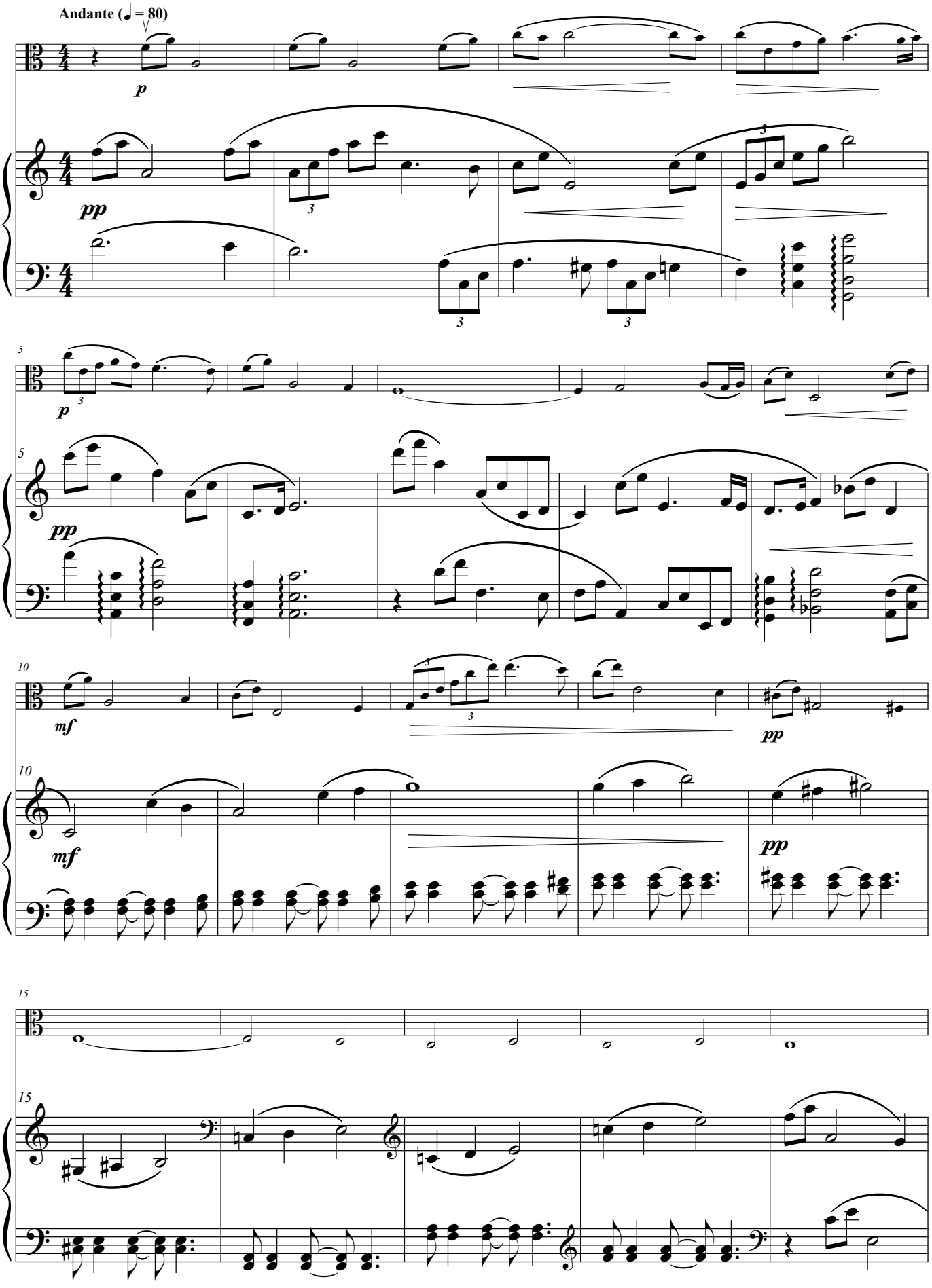
## (for viola & piano)

"a terse statement of a truth or sentiment"

Many authors and thinkers have written aphorisms, but few excelled at this art. The ability to capture a complex thought in a simple, pithy phrase is harder than it looks! Recently reading through a few volumes of aphorisms by François La Rochefoucauld, Franz Kafka and Oscar Wilde, and finding that while the format of these books, in places, has some semblance of order, mostly each maxim or aphorism stands on its own. This arrangement intrigued me for music, as such a method of organization runs so contrary to how music is usually structured – and I wanted to experiment with a piece that flowed from one brief idea to another, without interruption or development. I employed this first in a string quartet, Aphorisms I, and then followed that shortly thereafter with this work for viola & piano.

Stanley Grill
Haworth, NJ

April, 2019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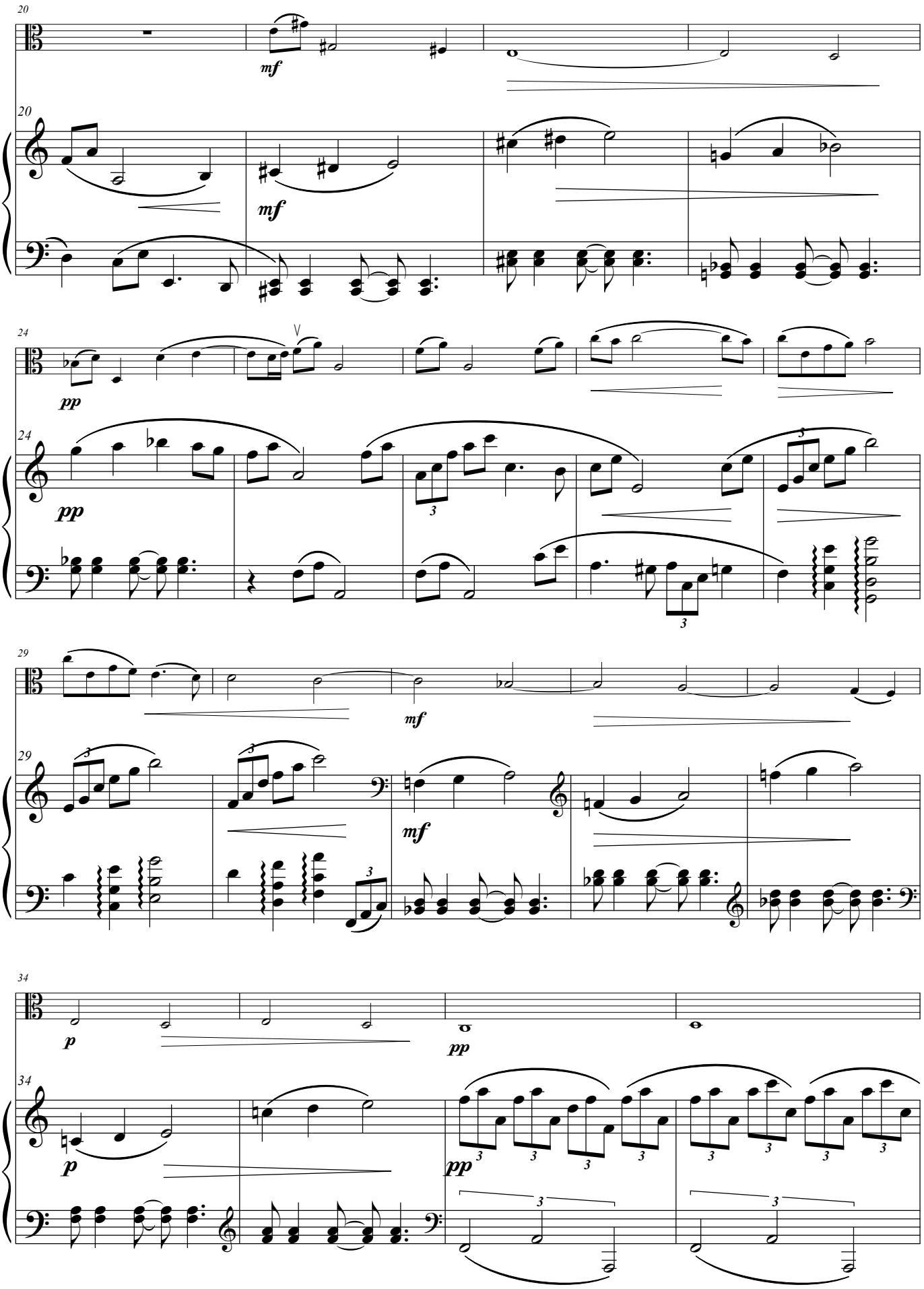
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24
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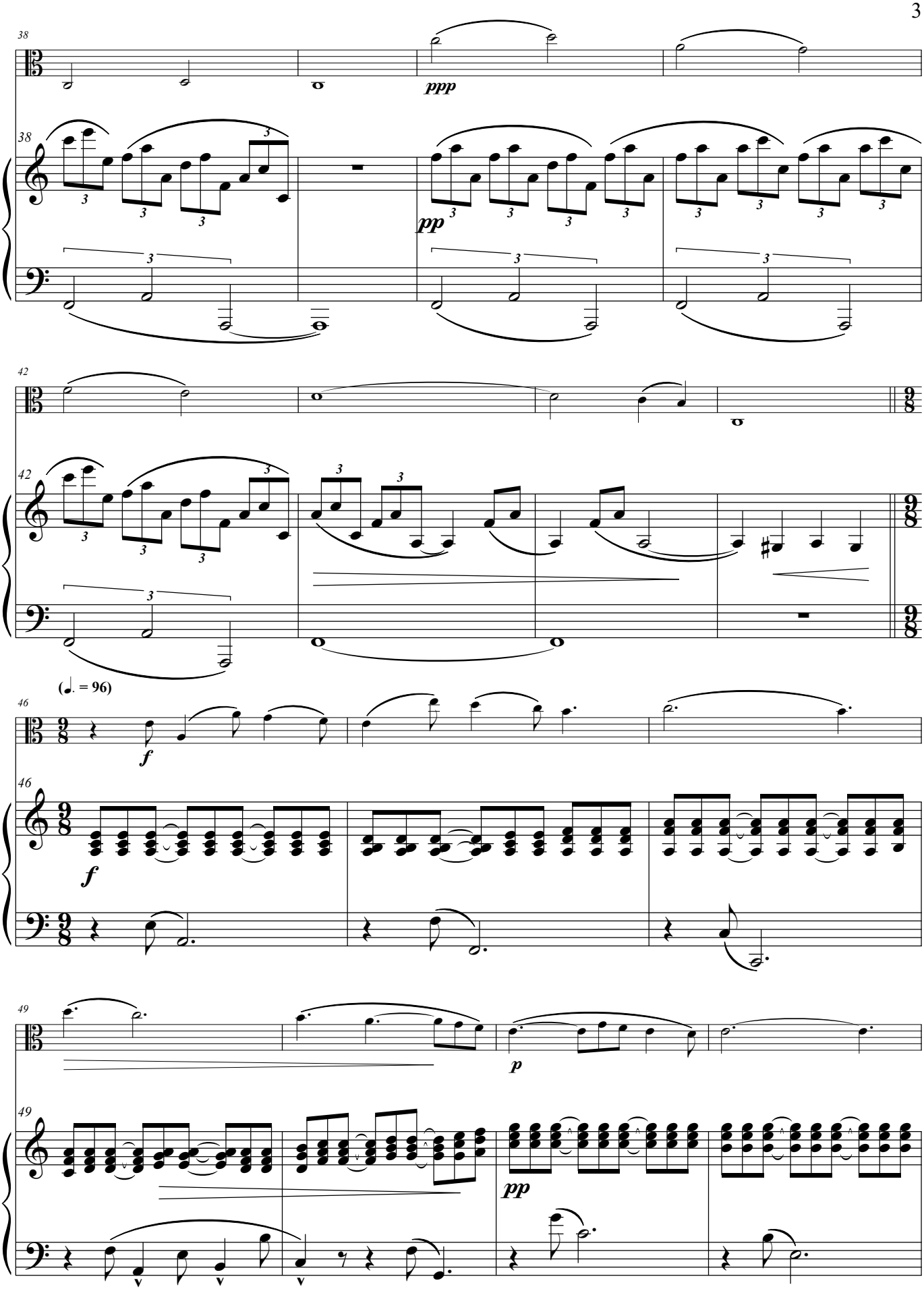
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46
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49
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49
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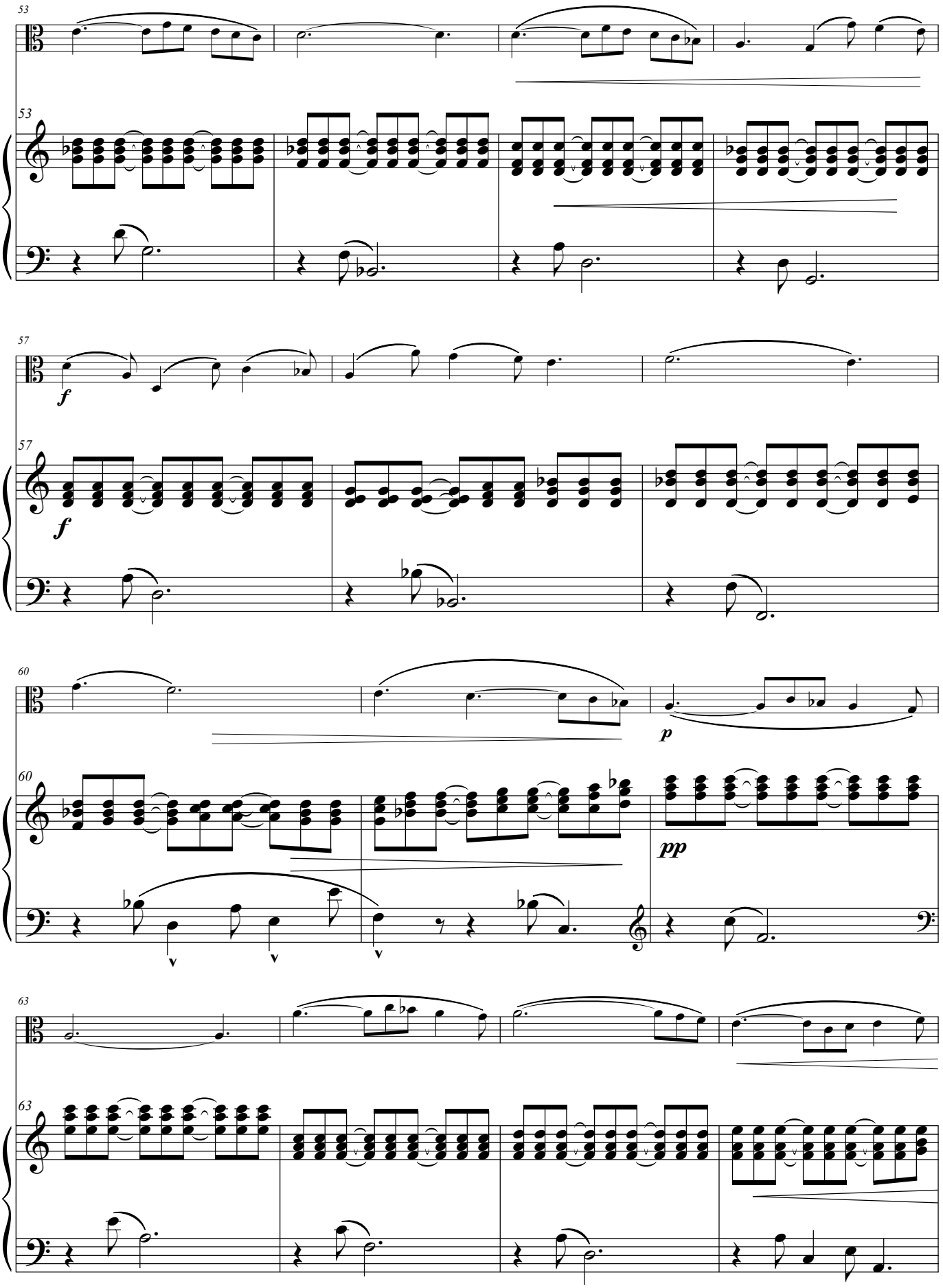
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60
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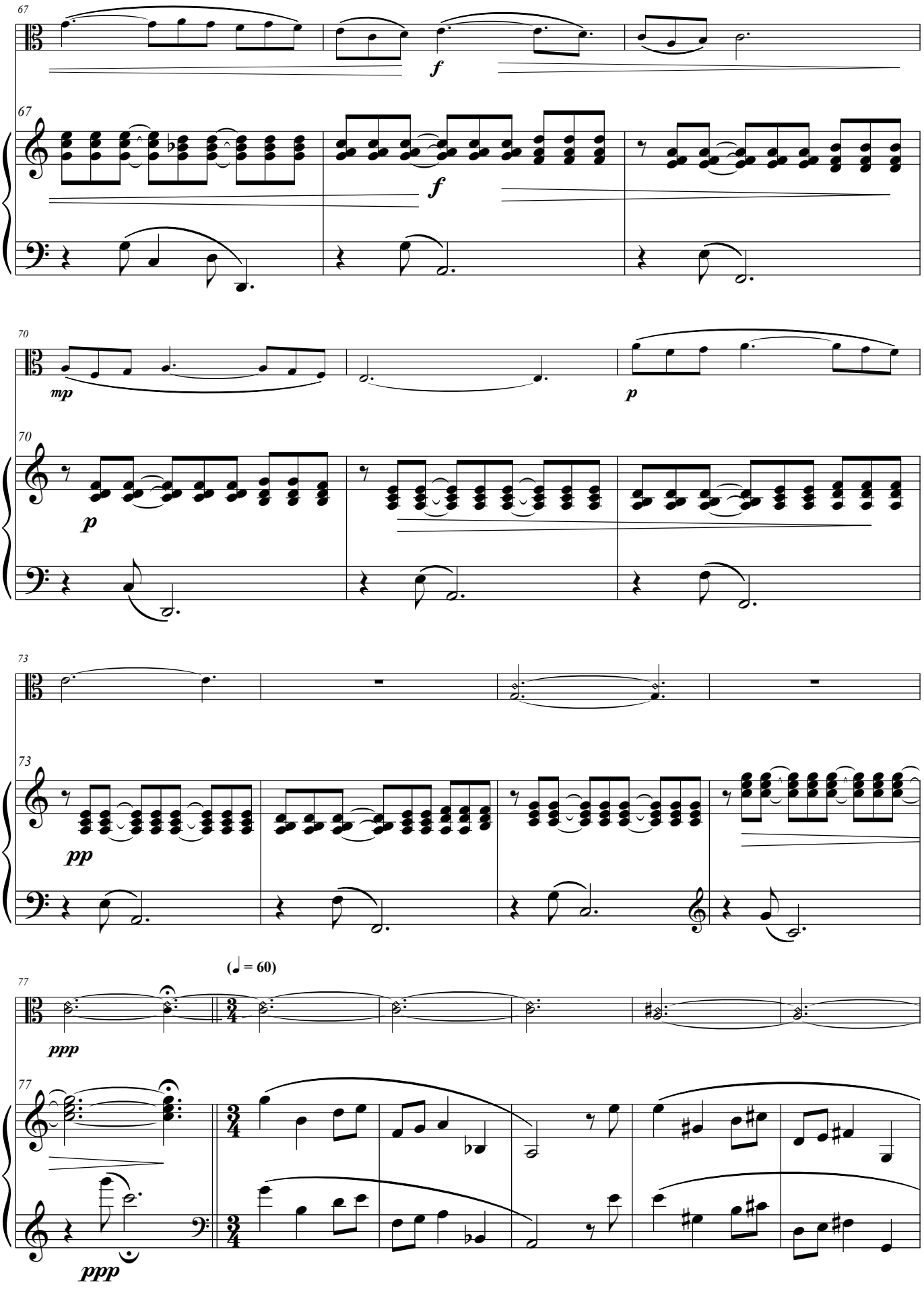
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67
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70
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70
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73
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73
(♩ = 60)
77
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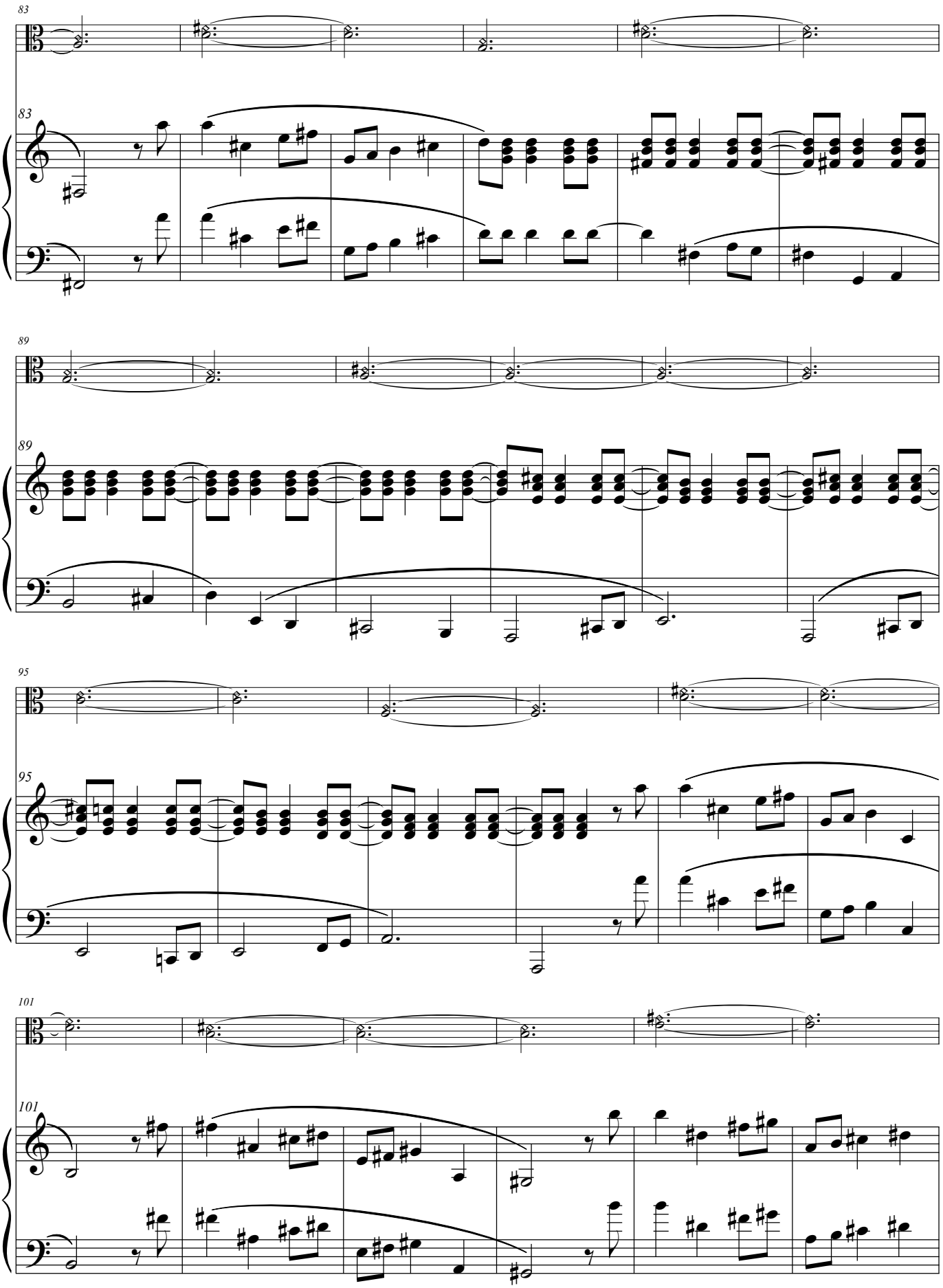
77
ppp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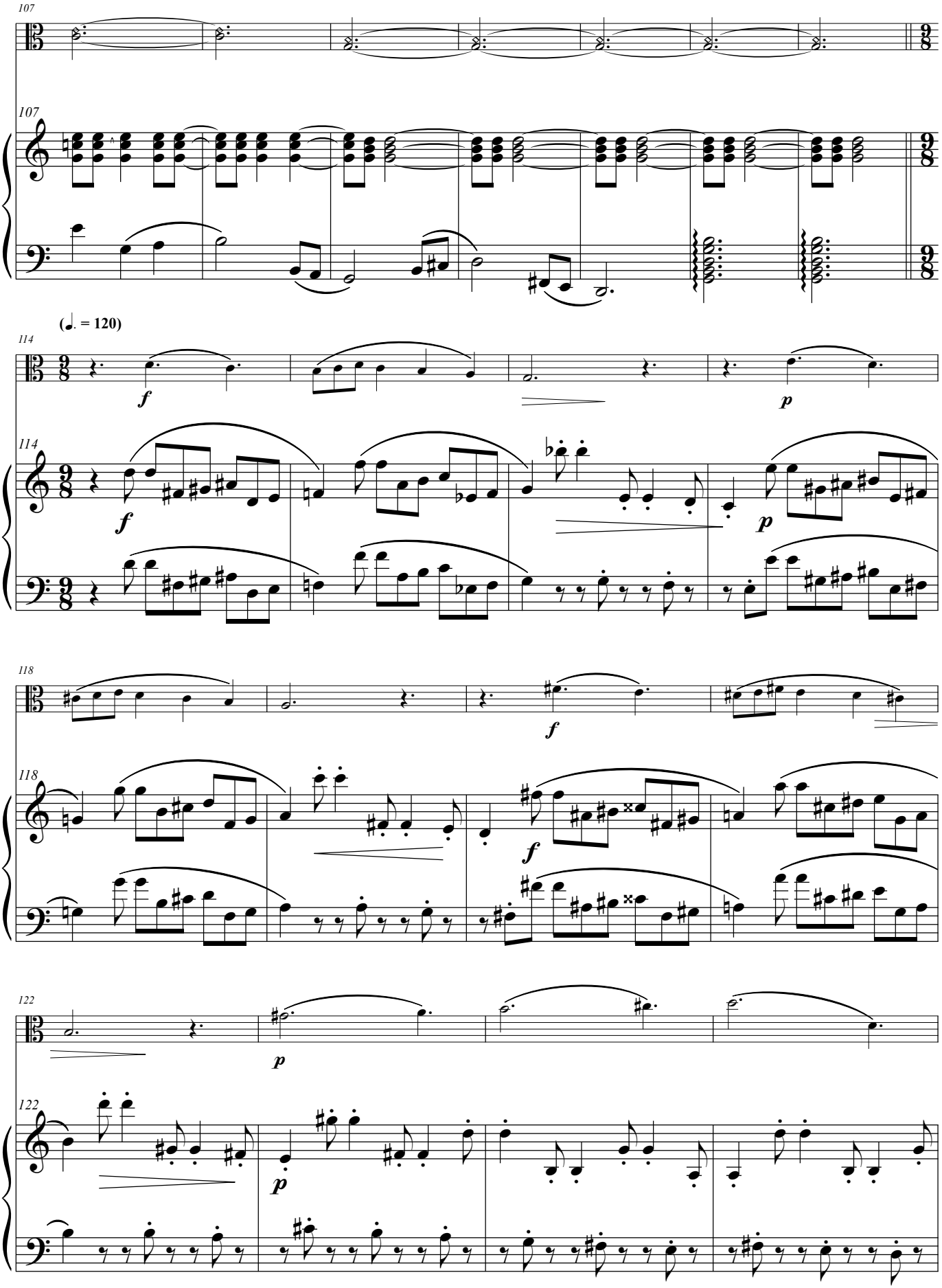
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118
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122
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122
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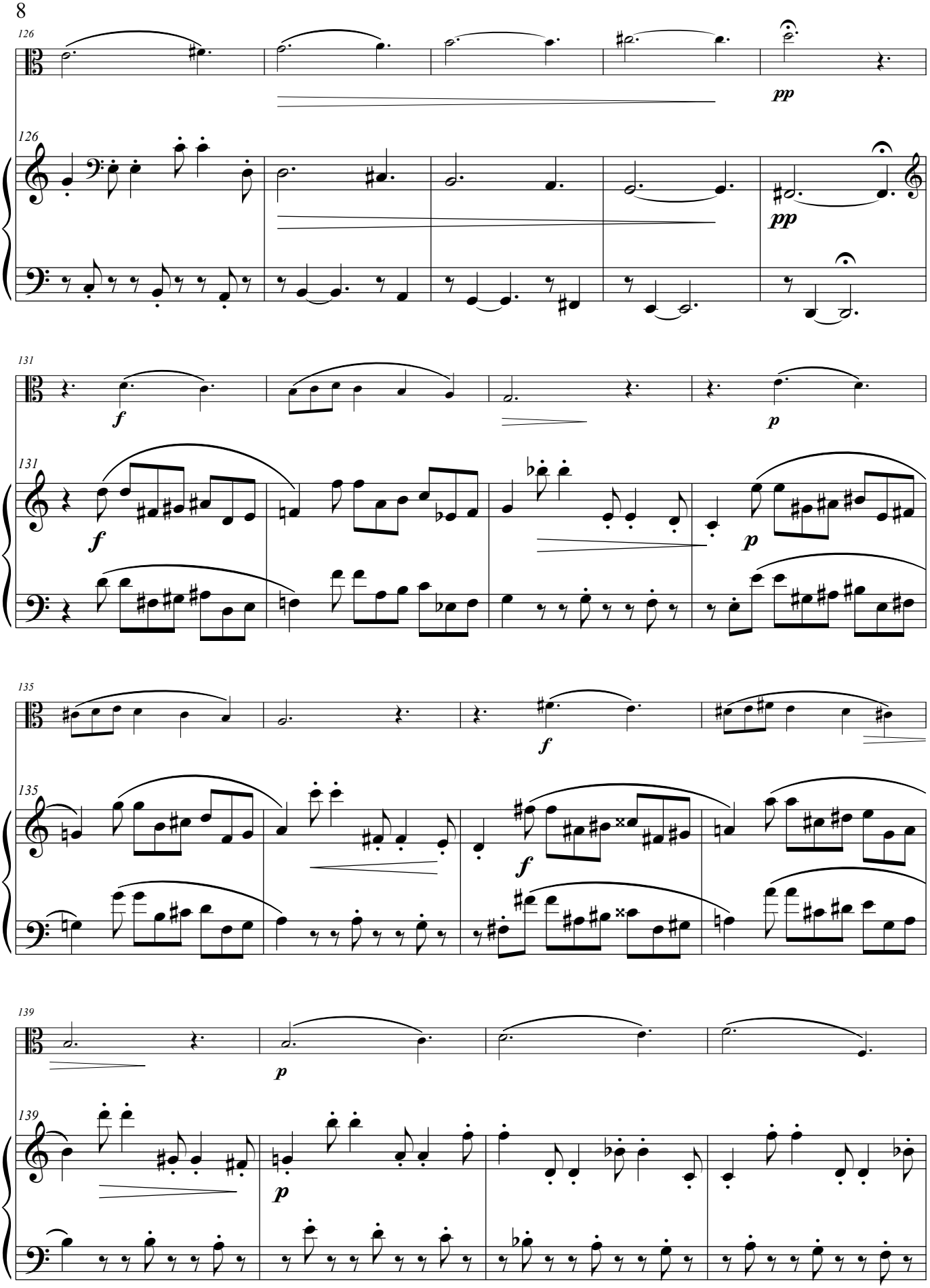
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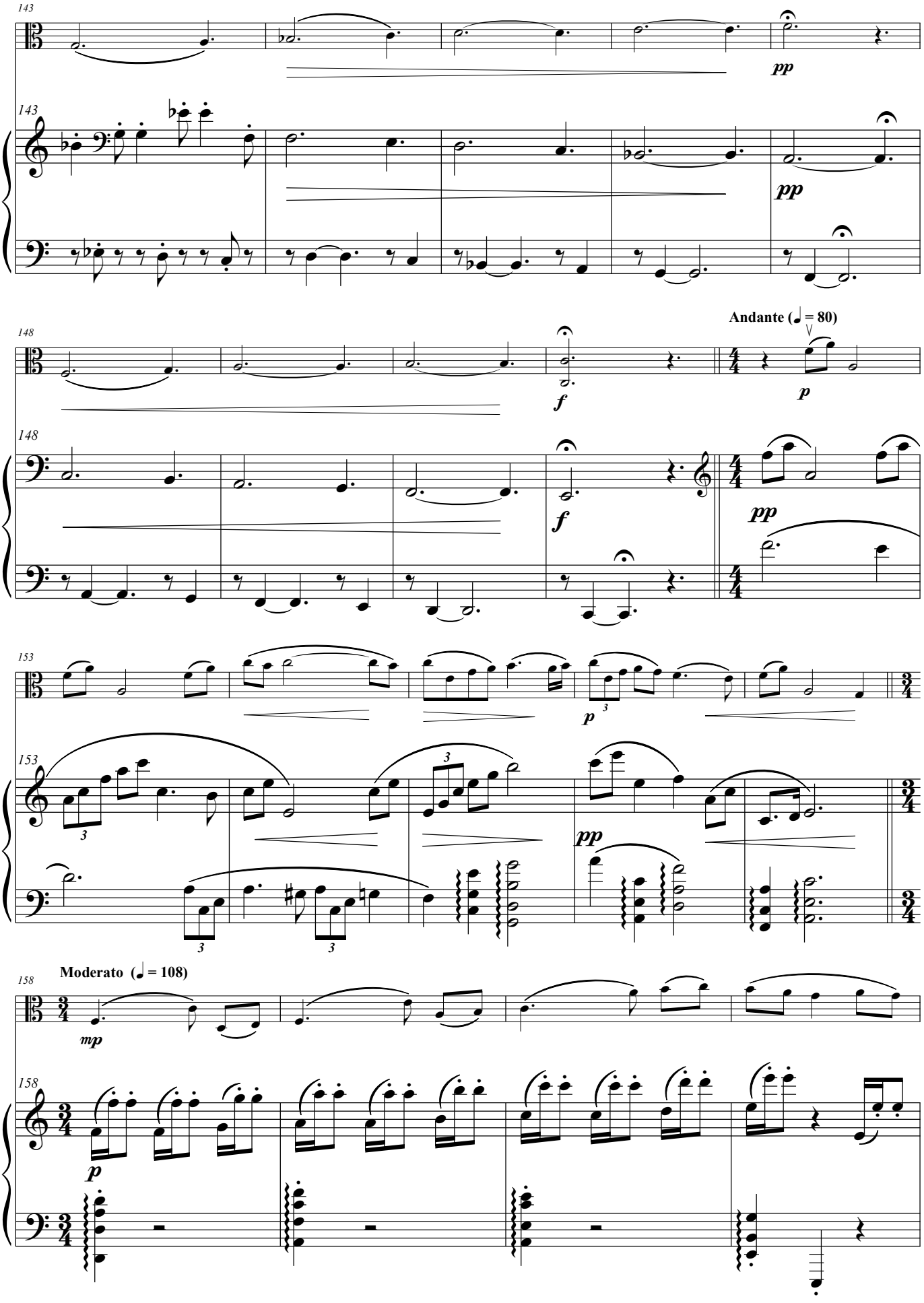
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158
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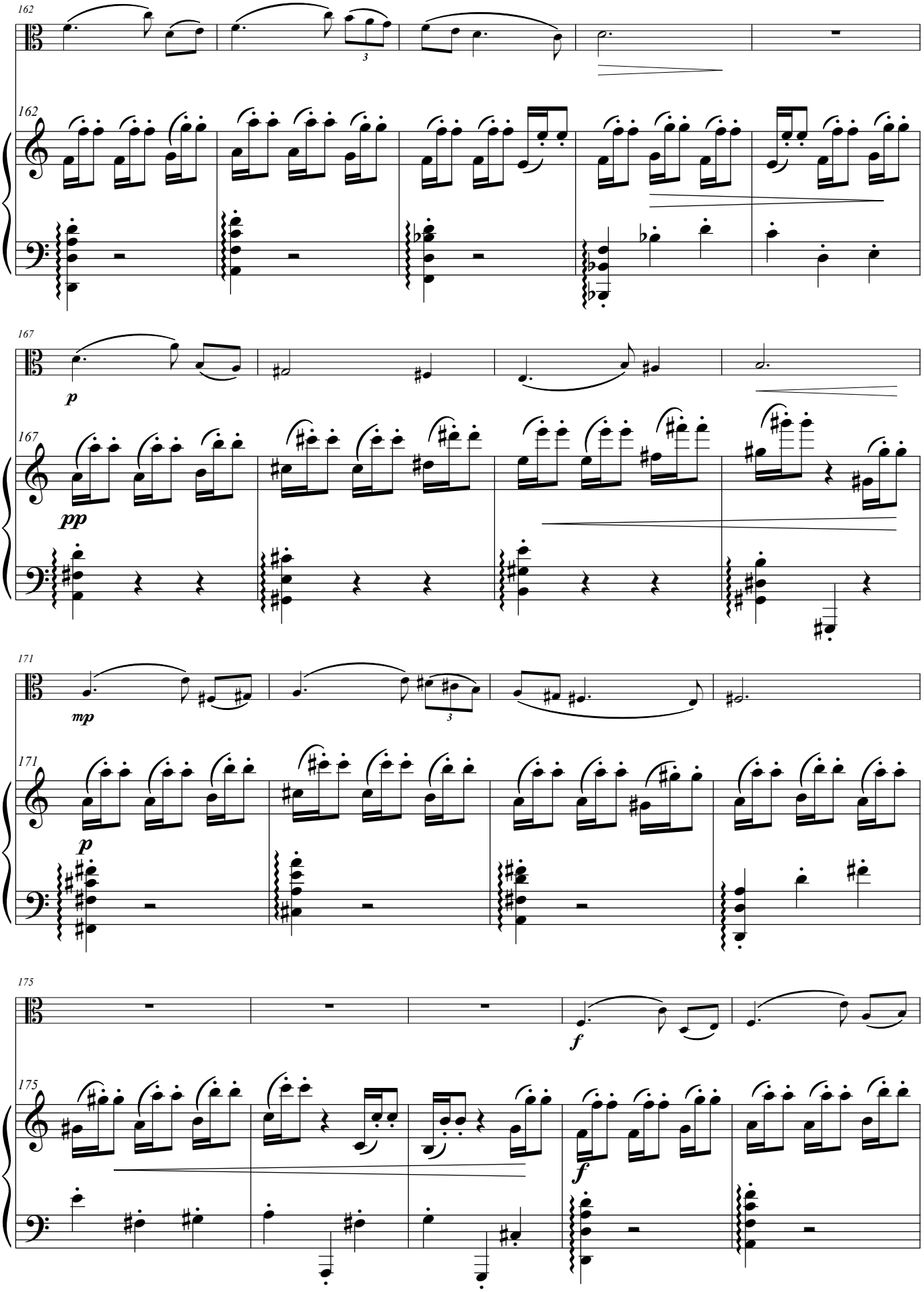
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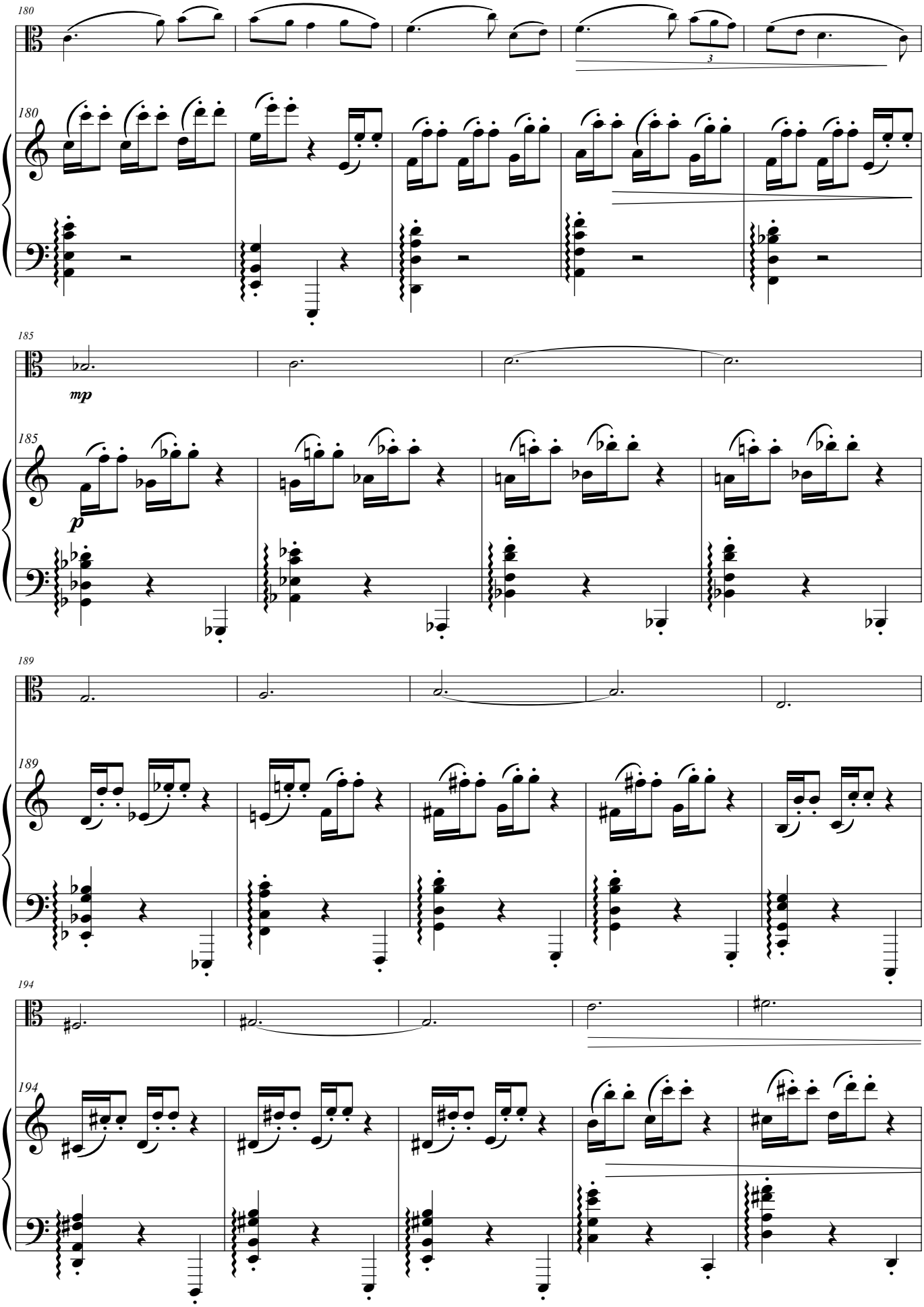
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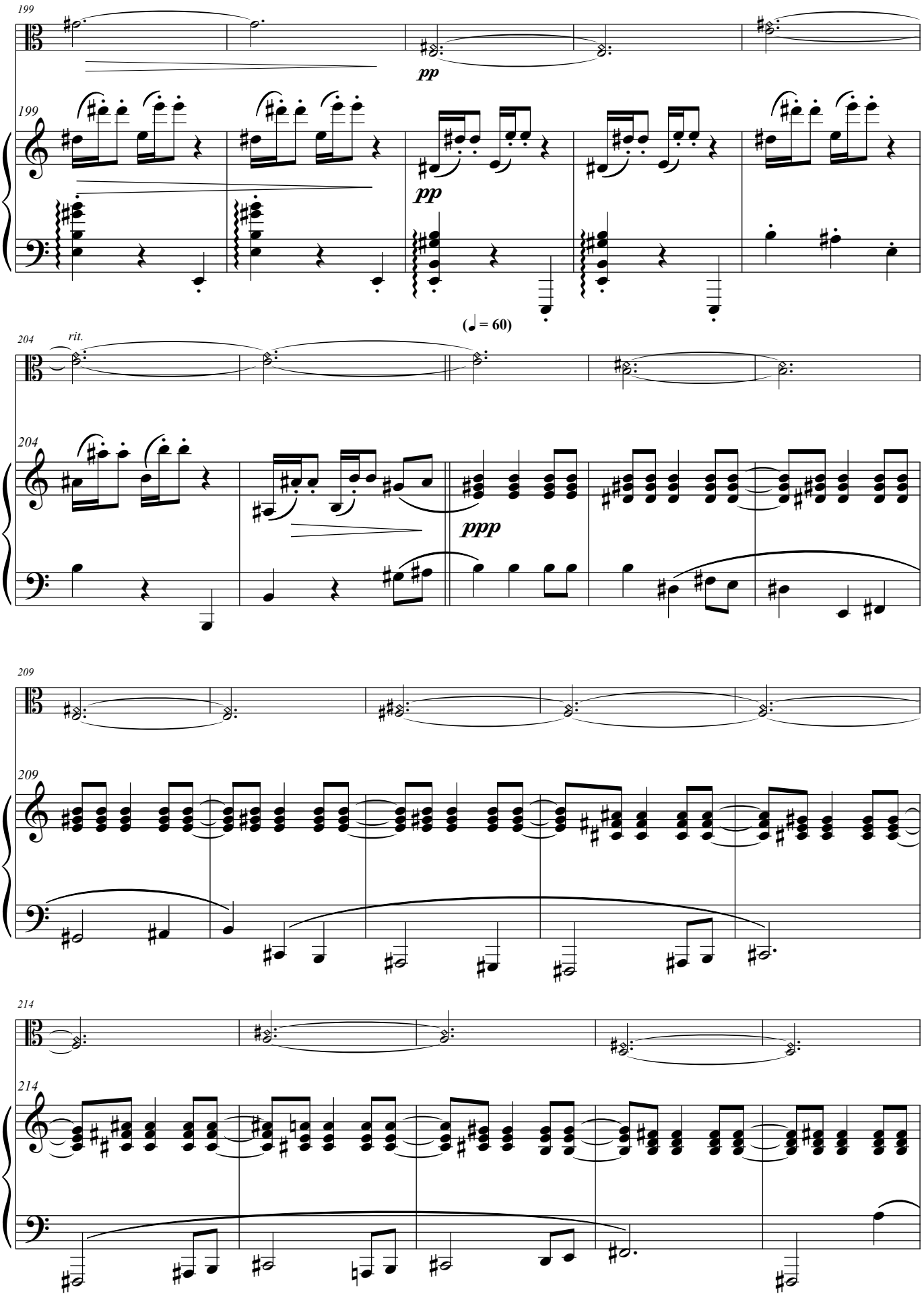
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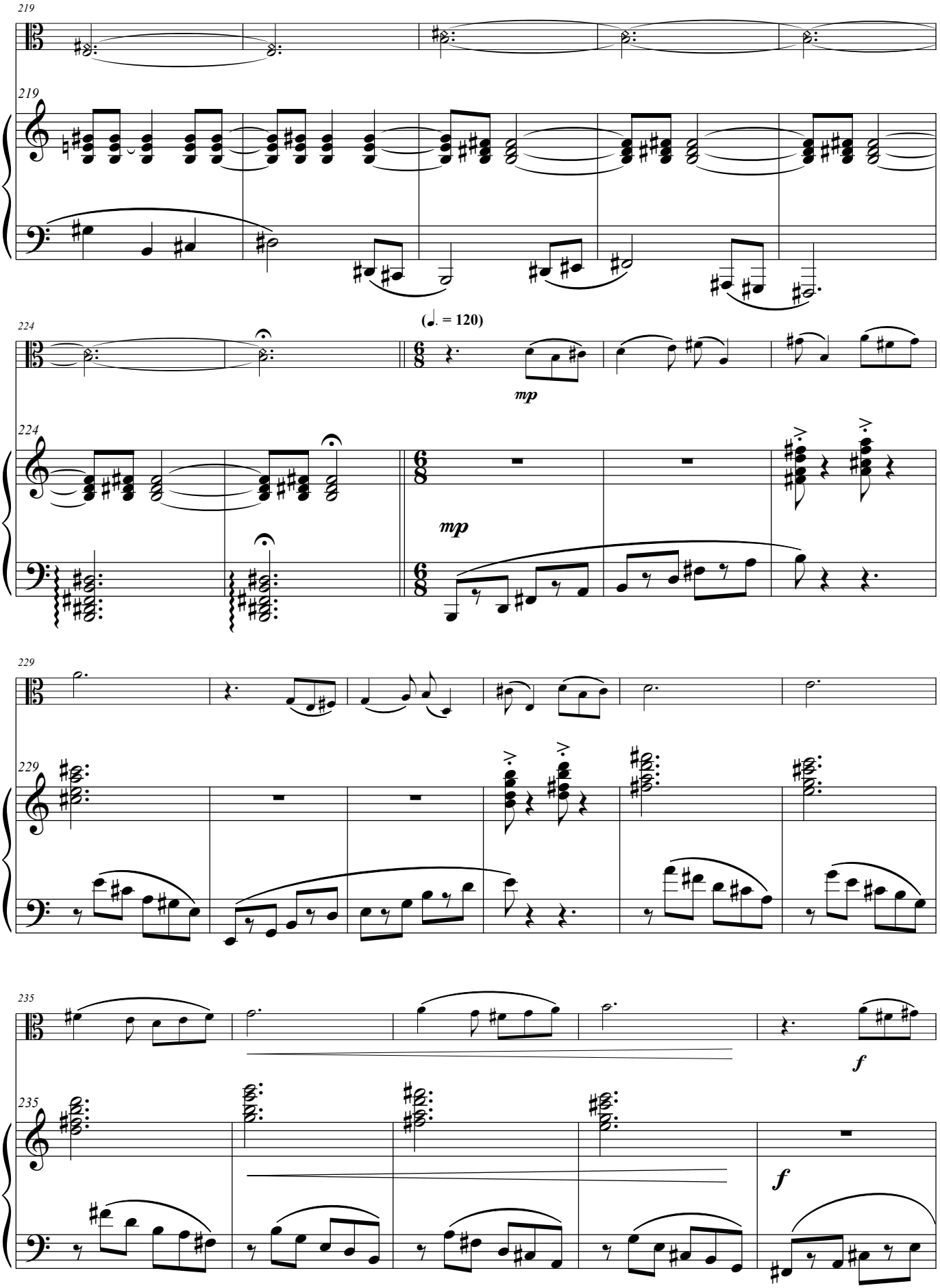
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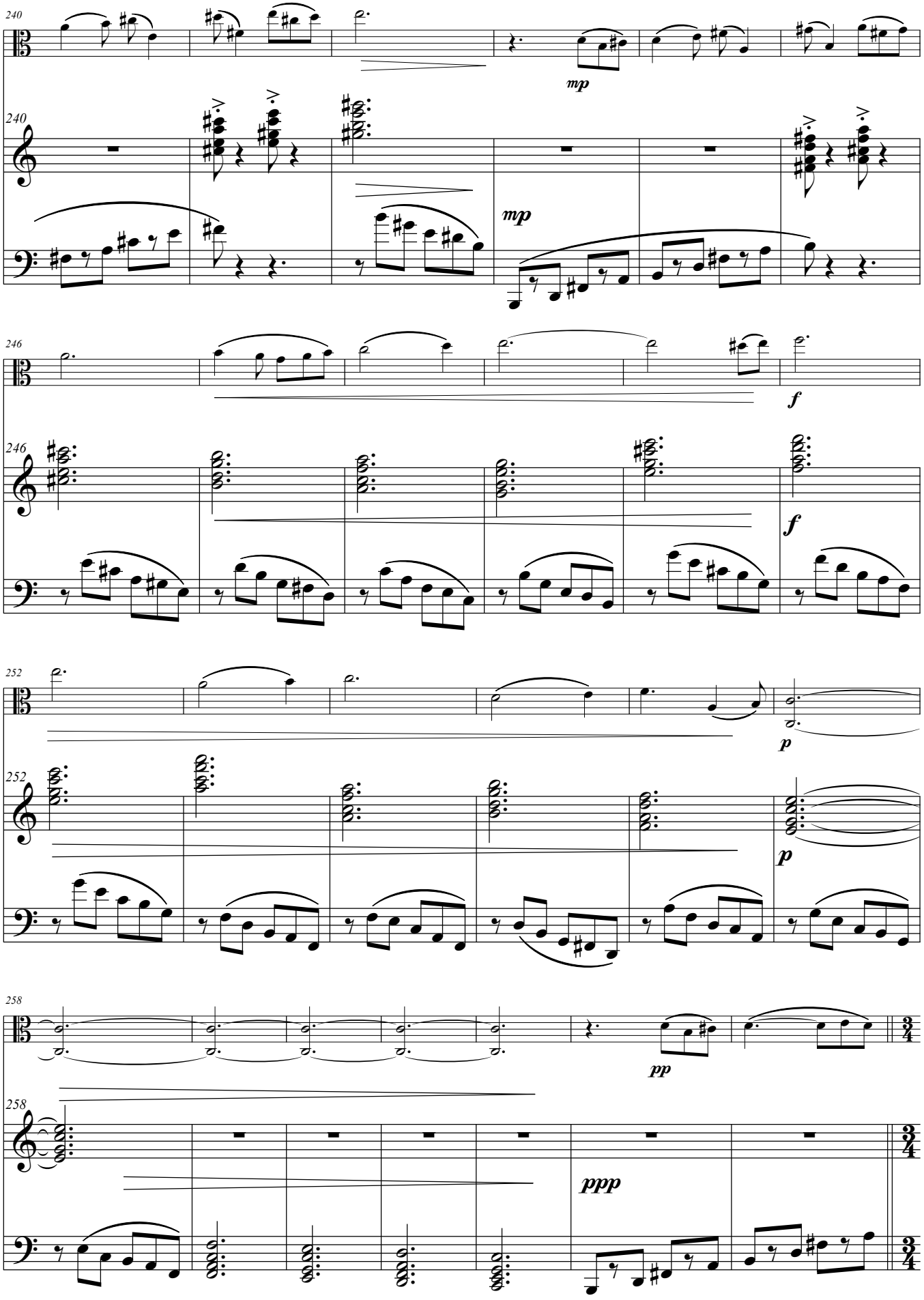
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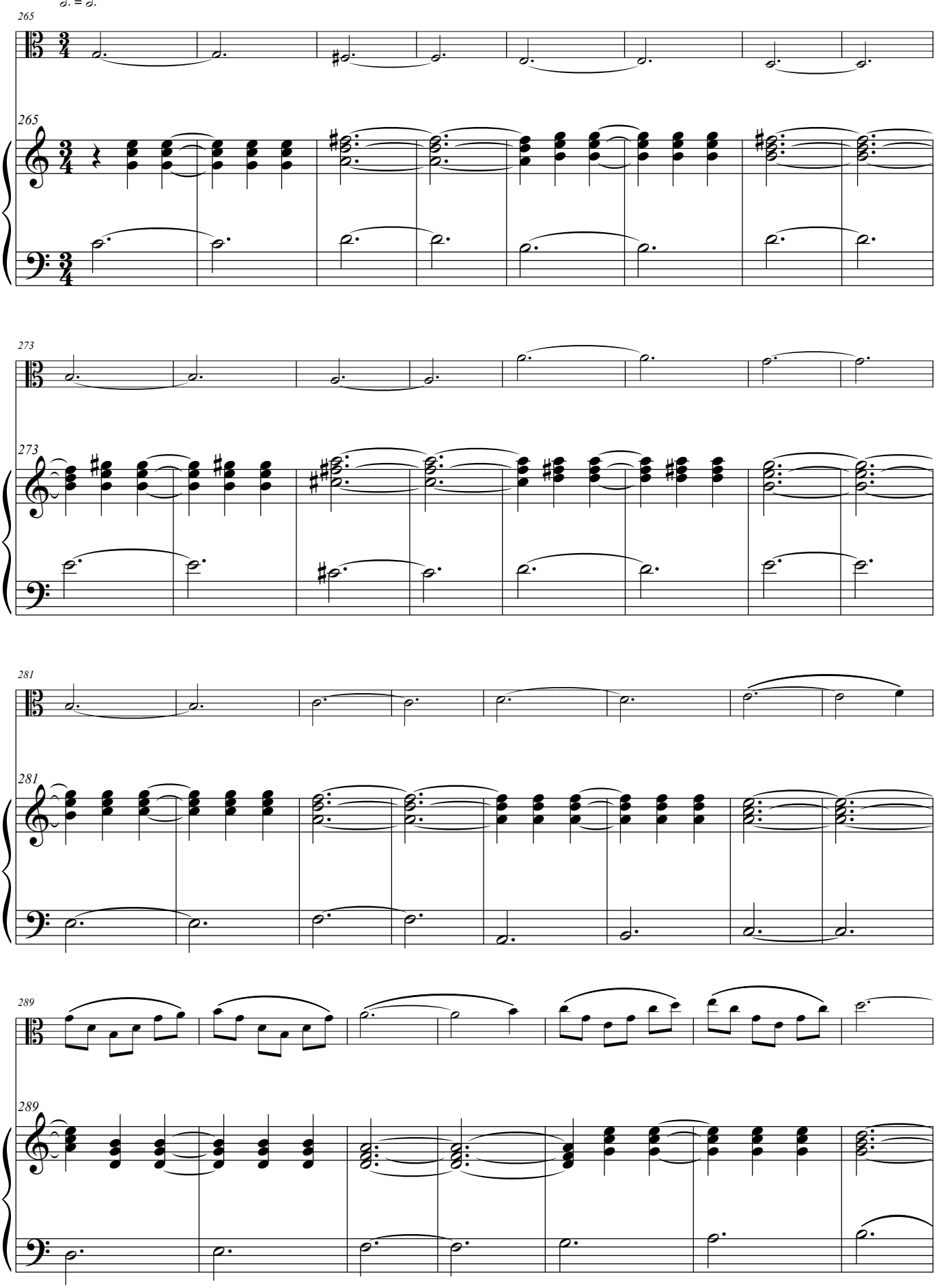
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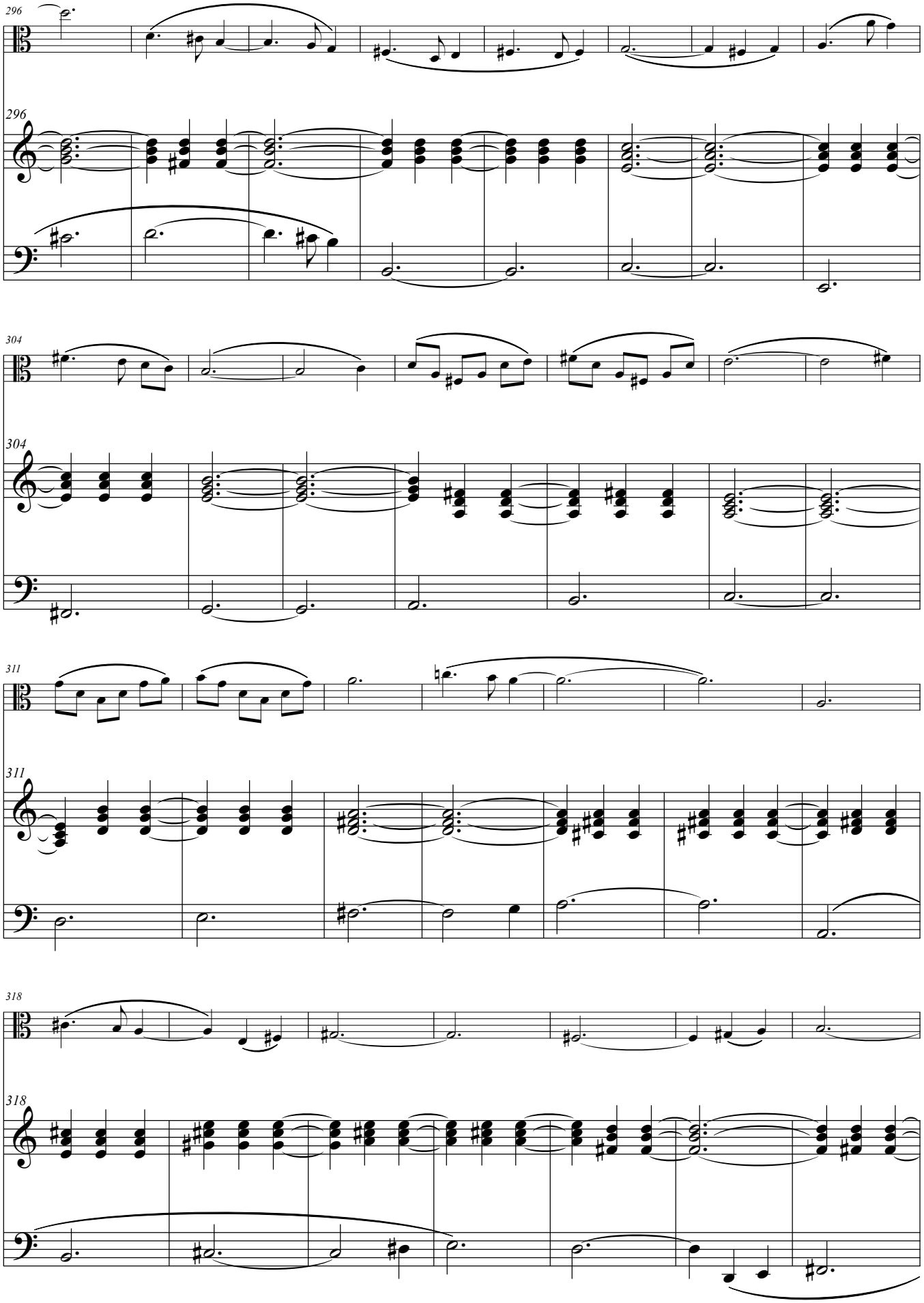
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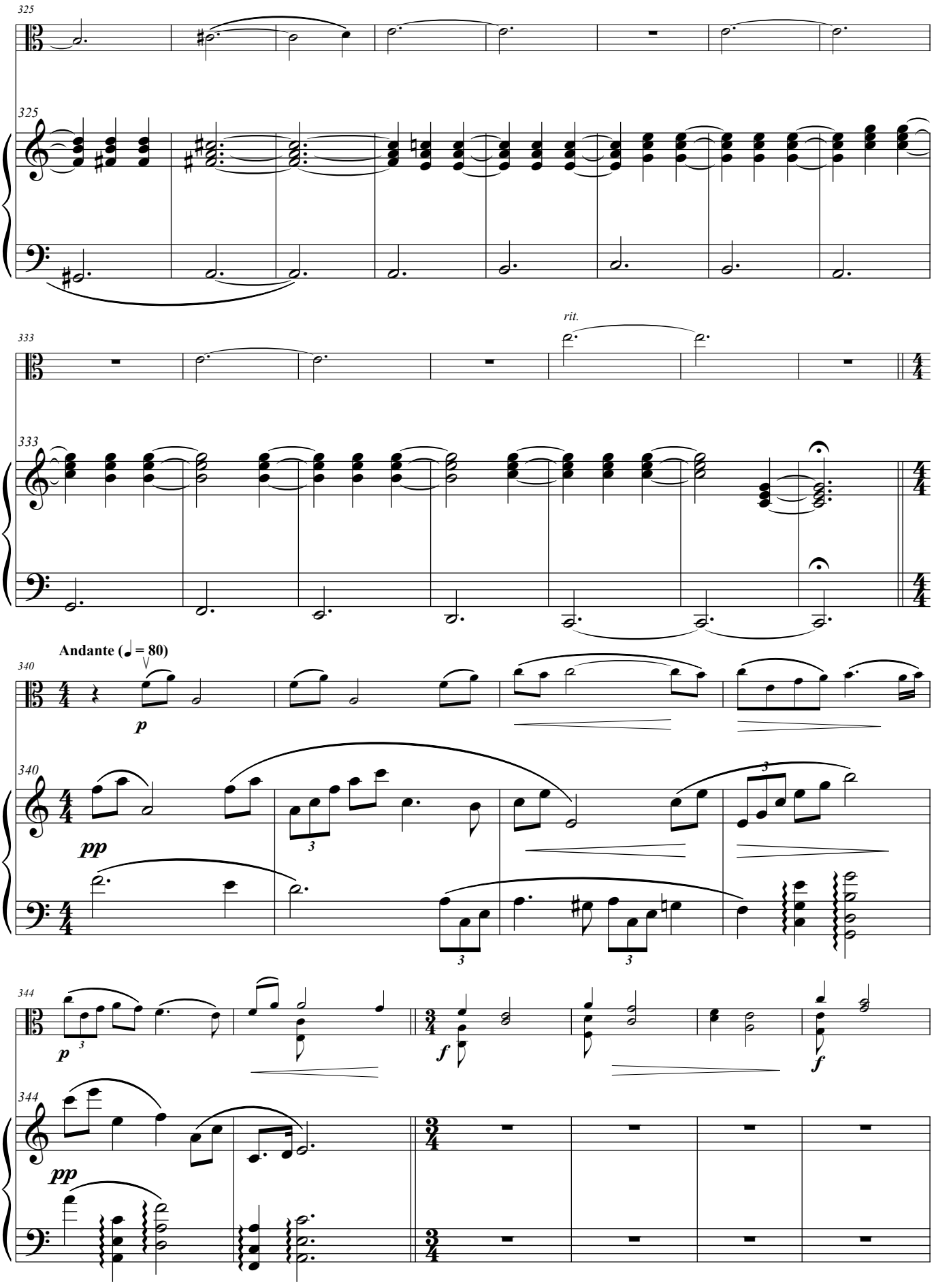
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Andante (♩ = 80)
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344
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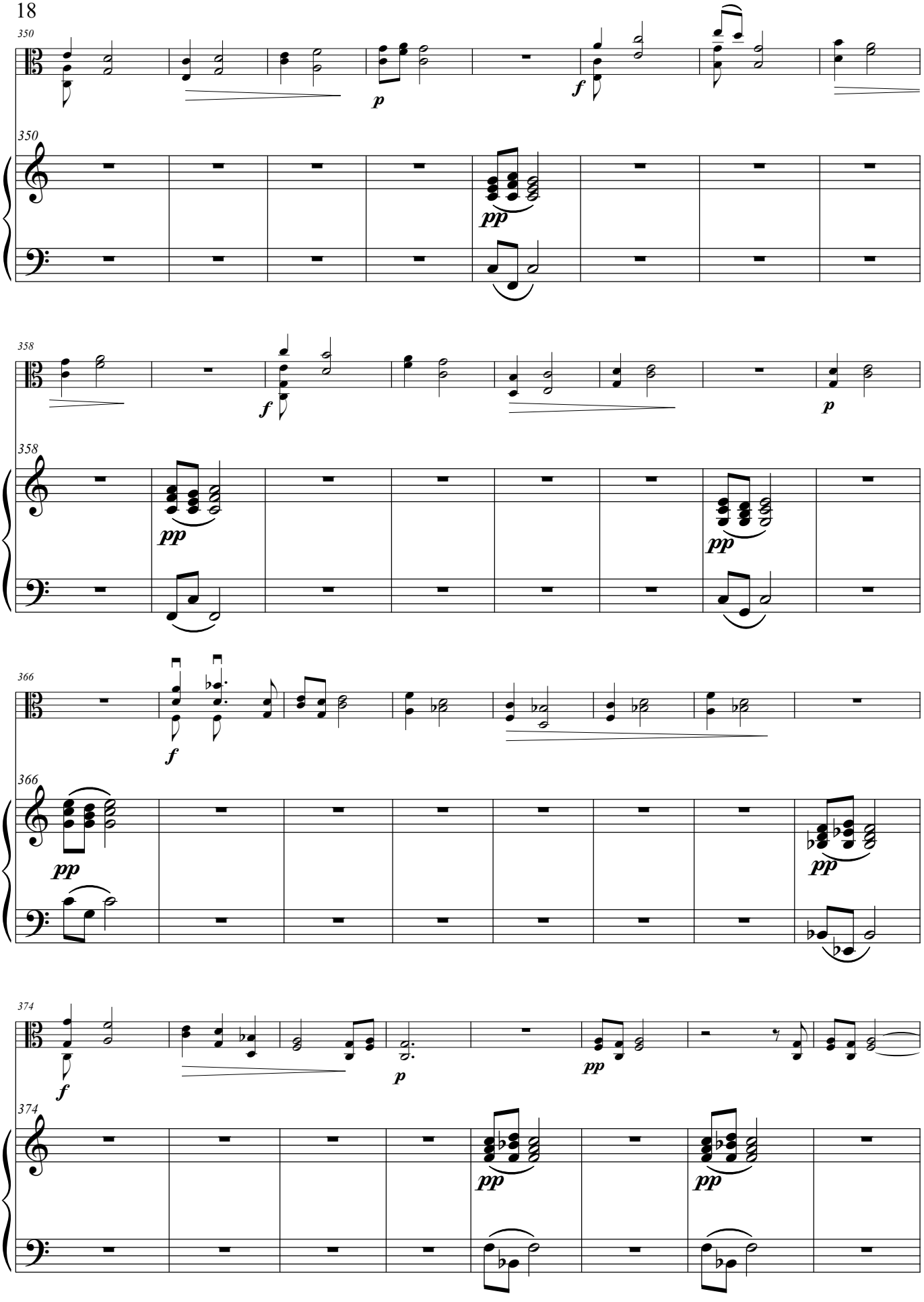
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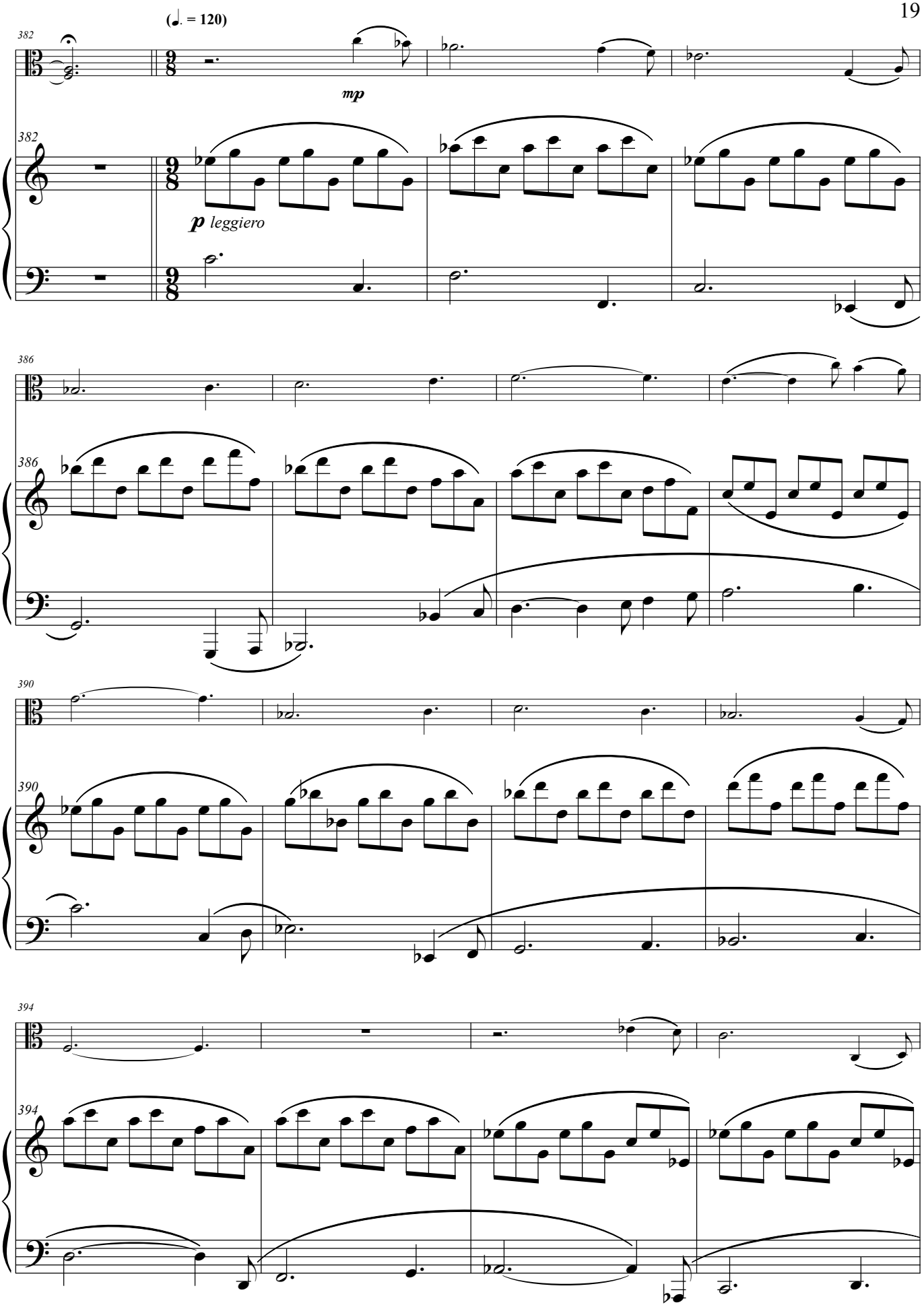
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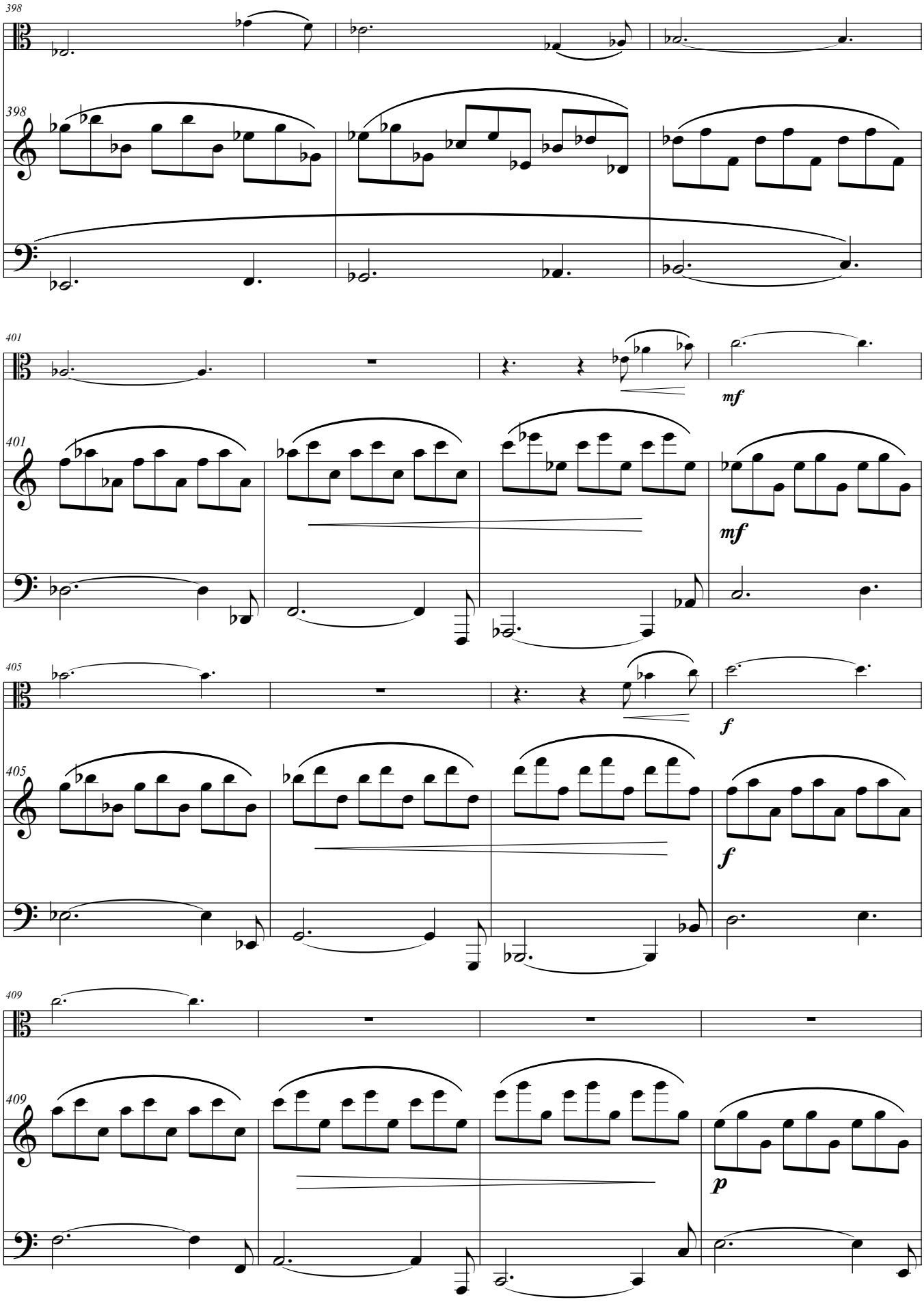
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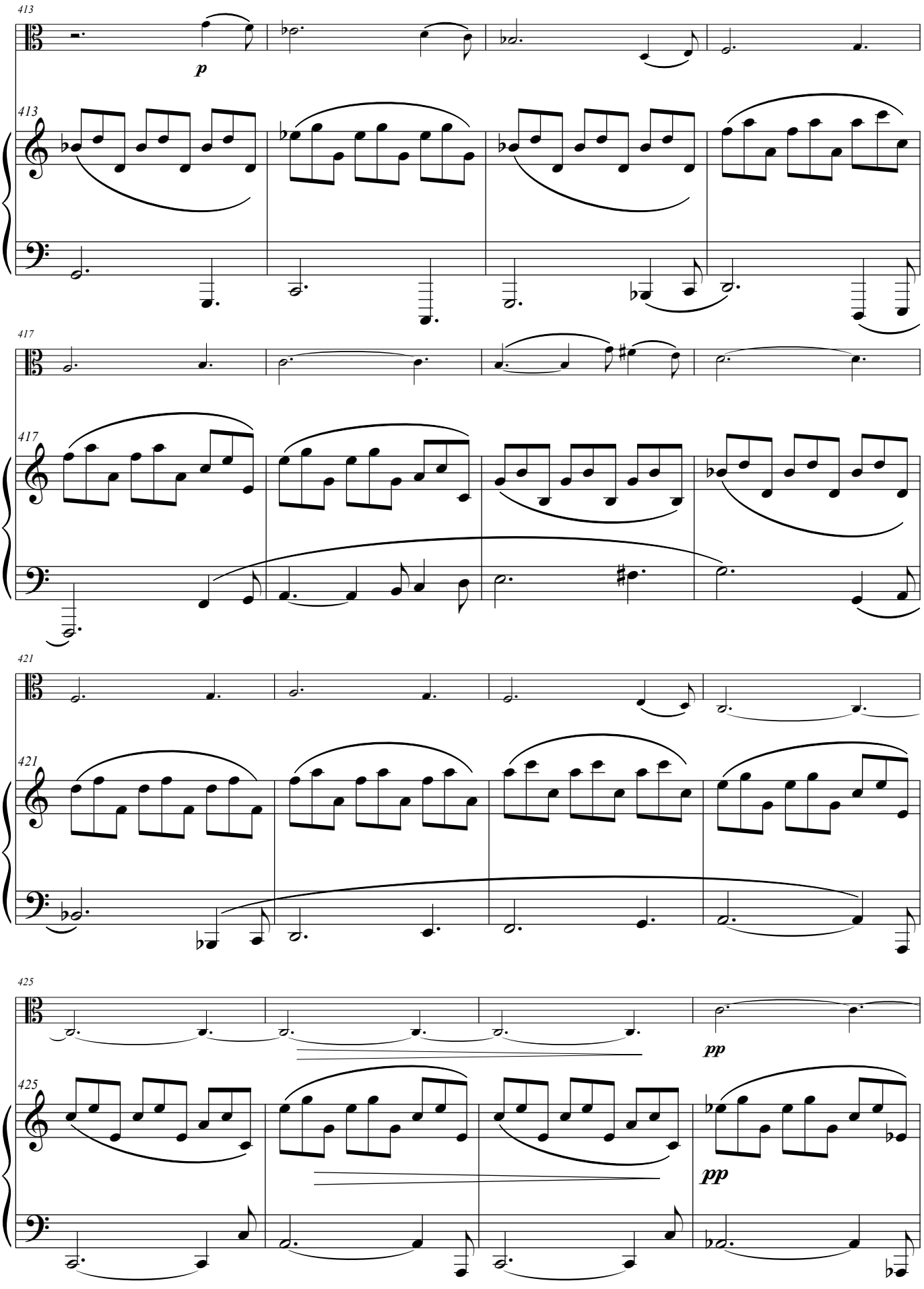
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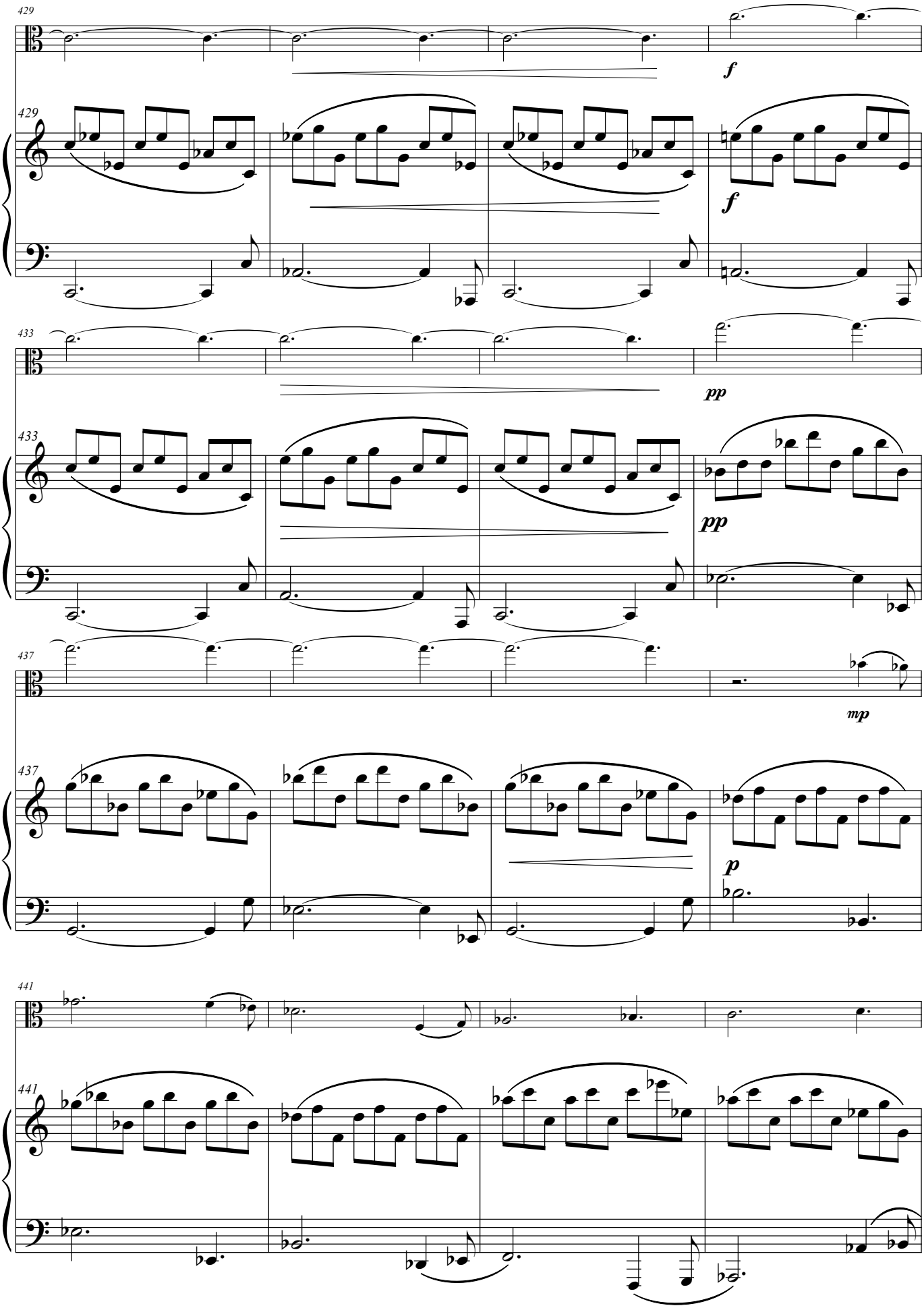
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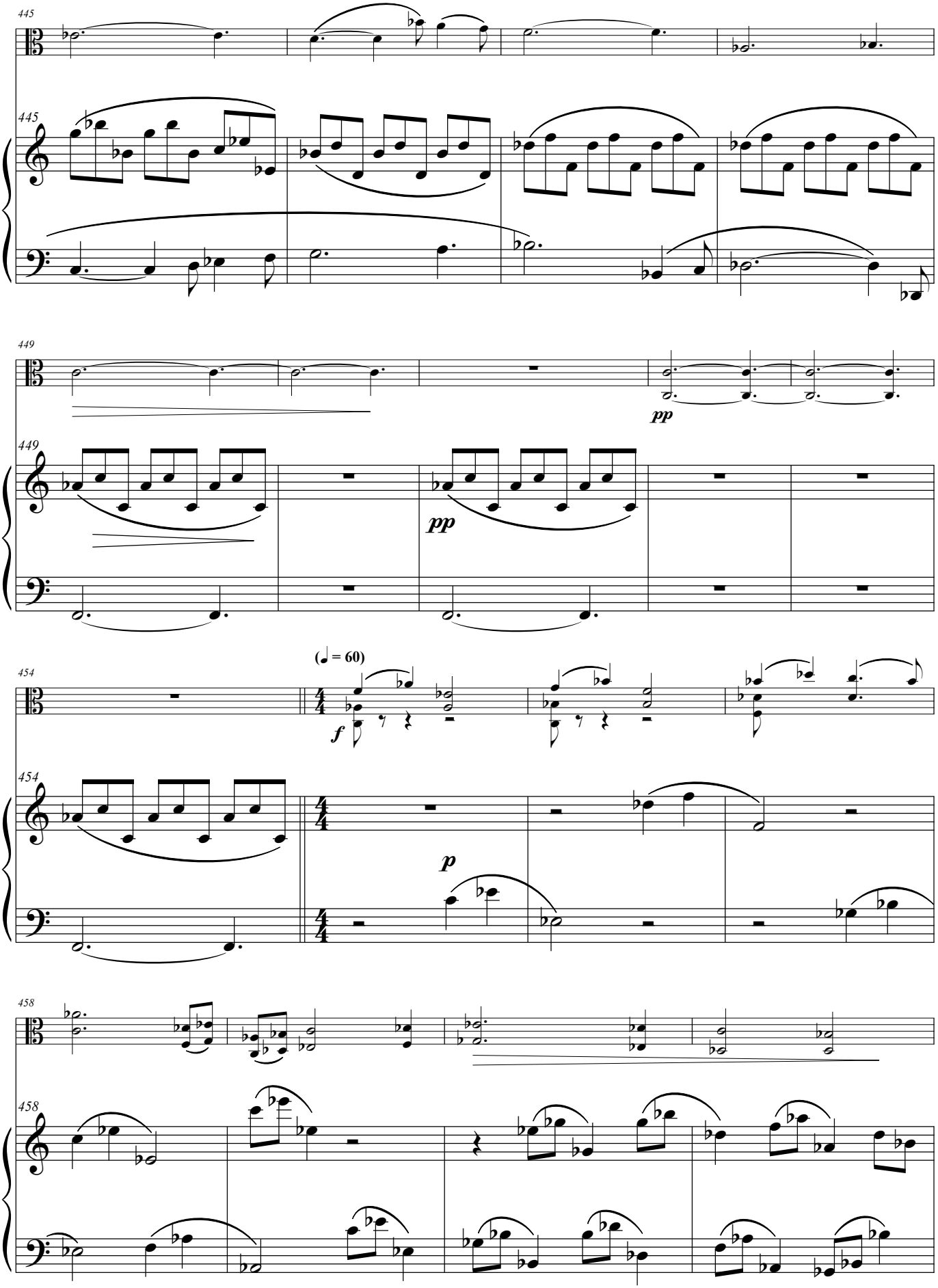
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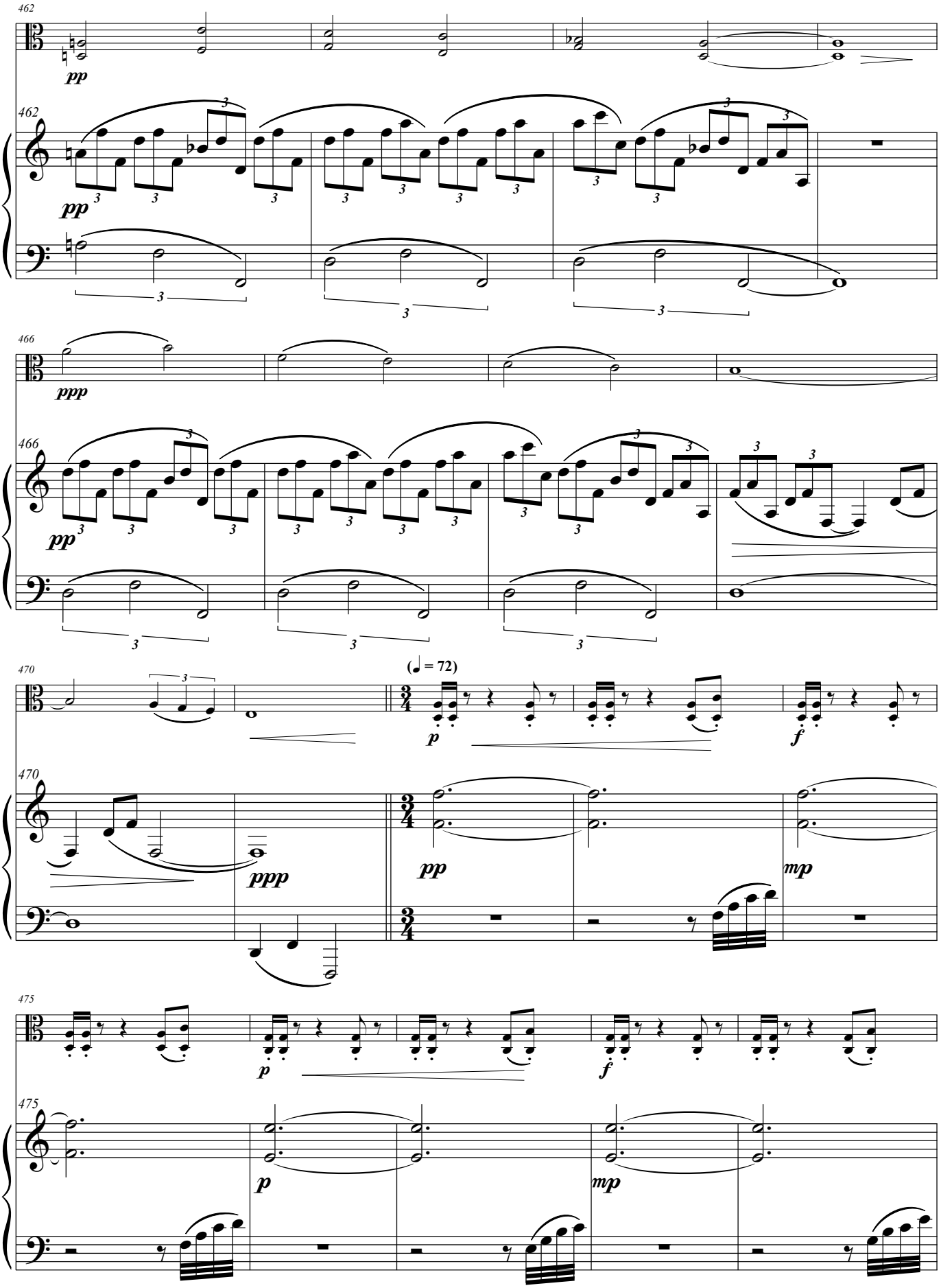
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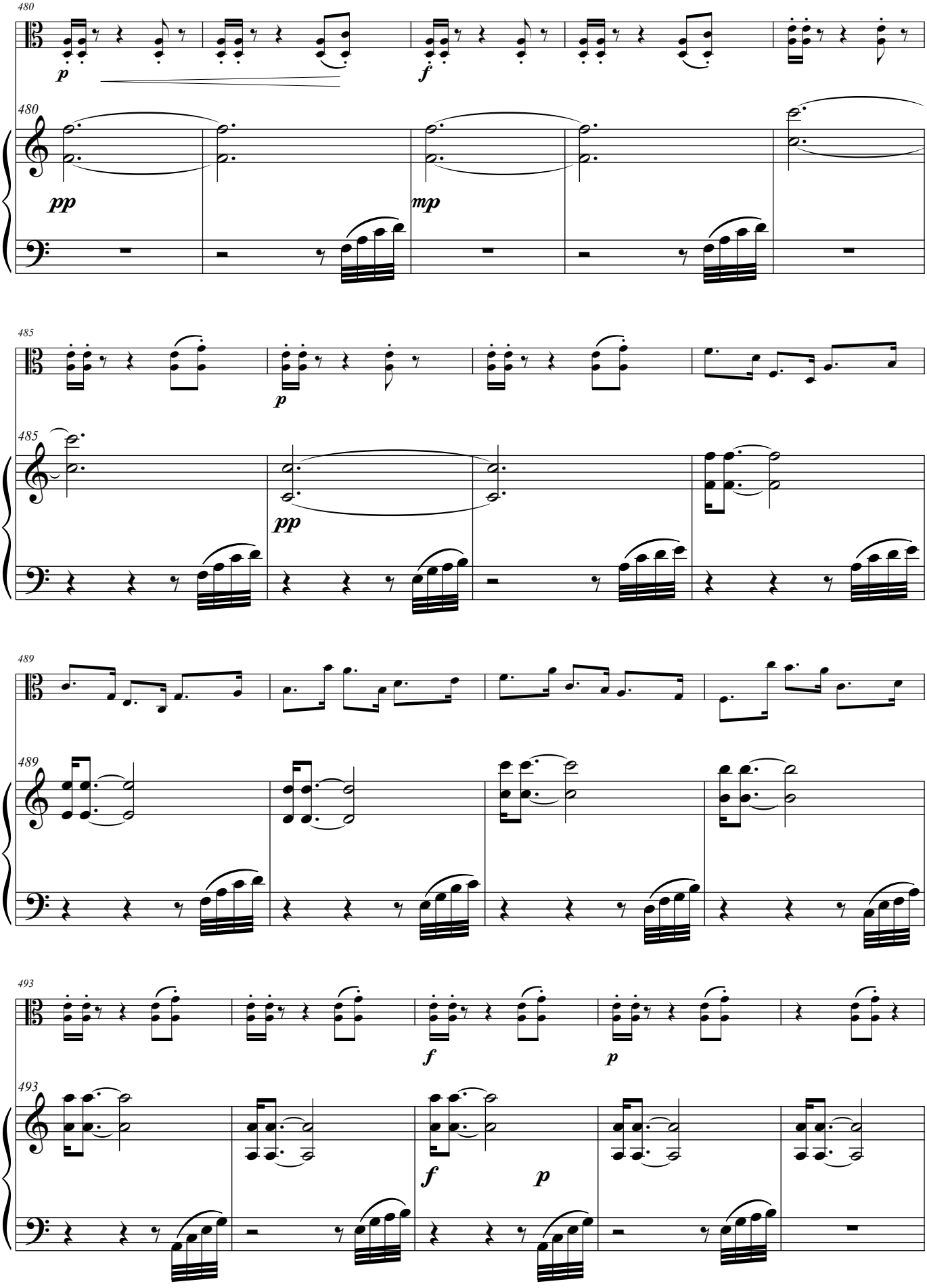
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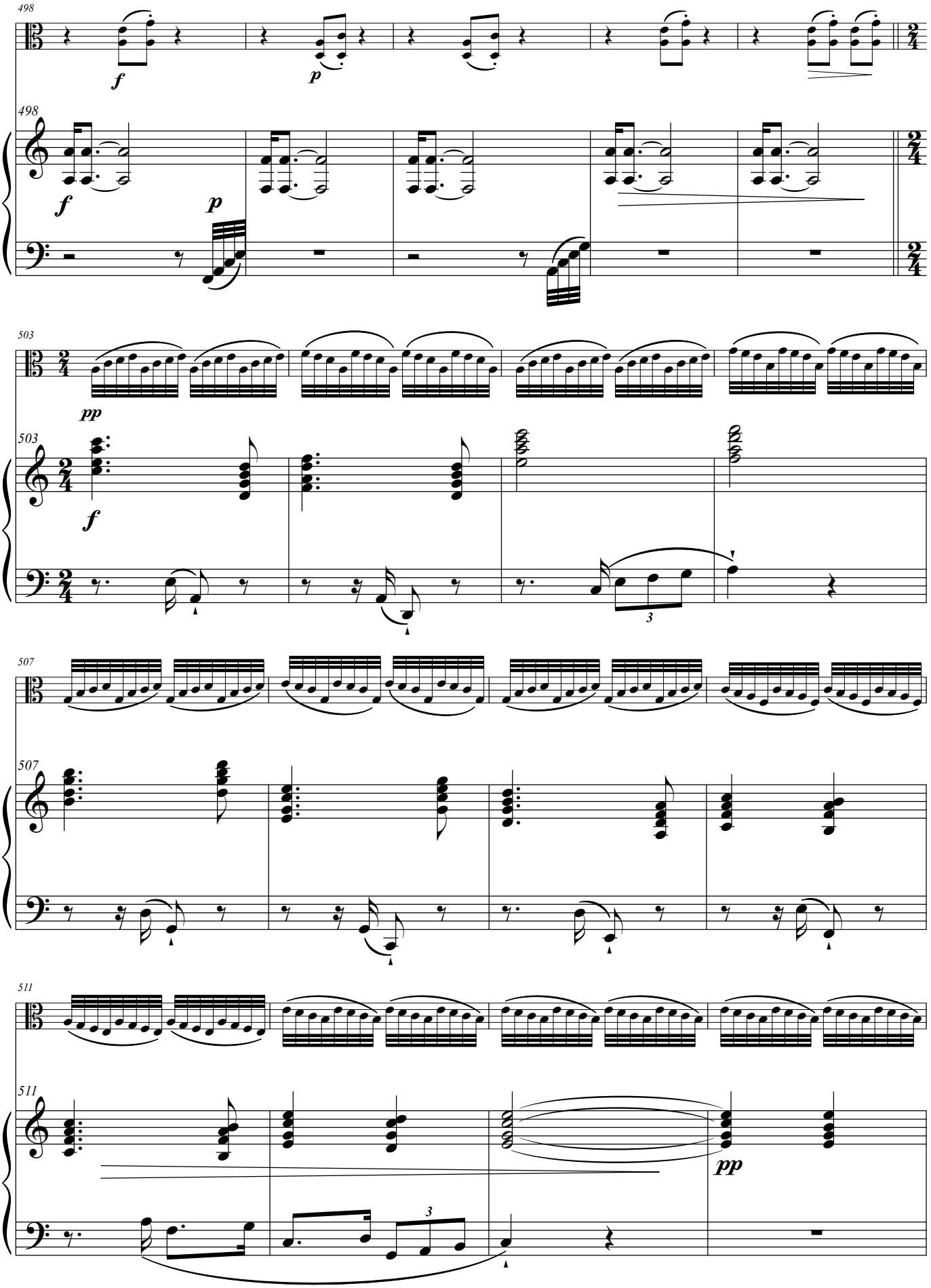
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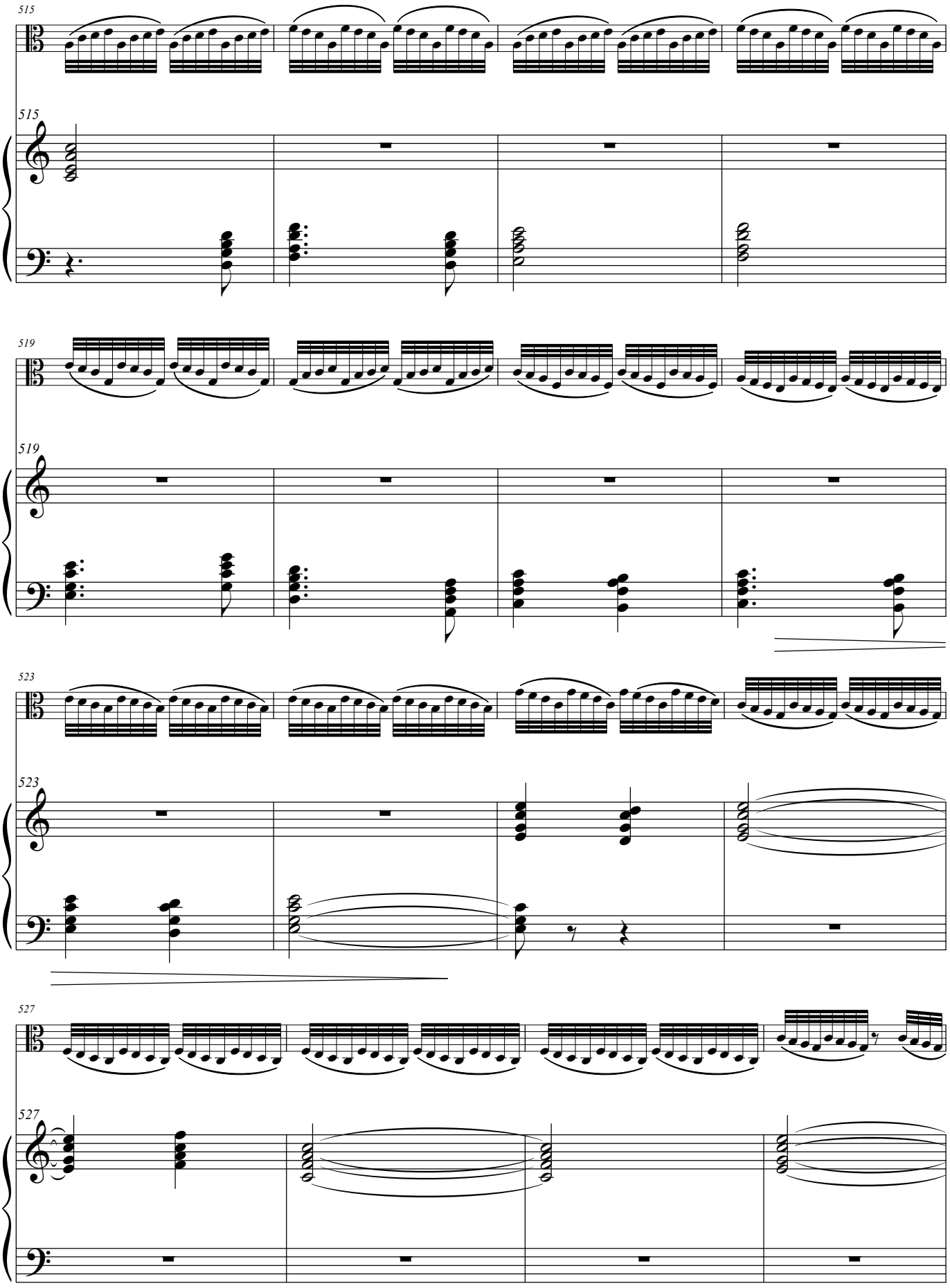
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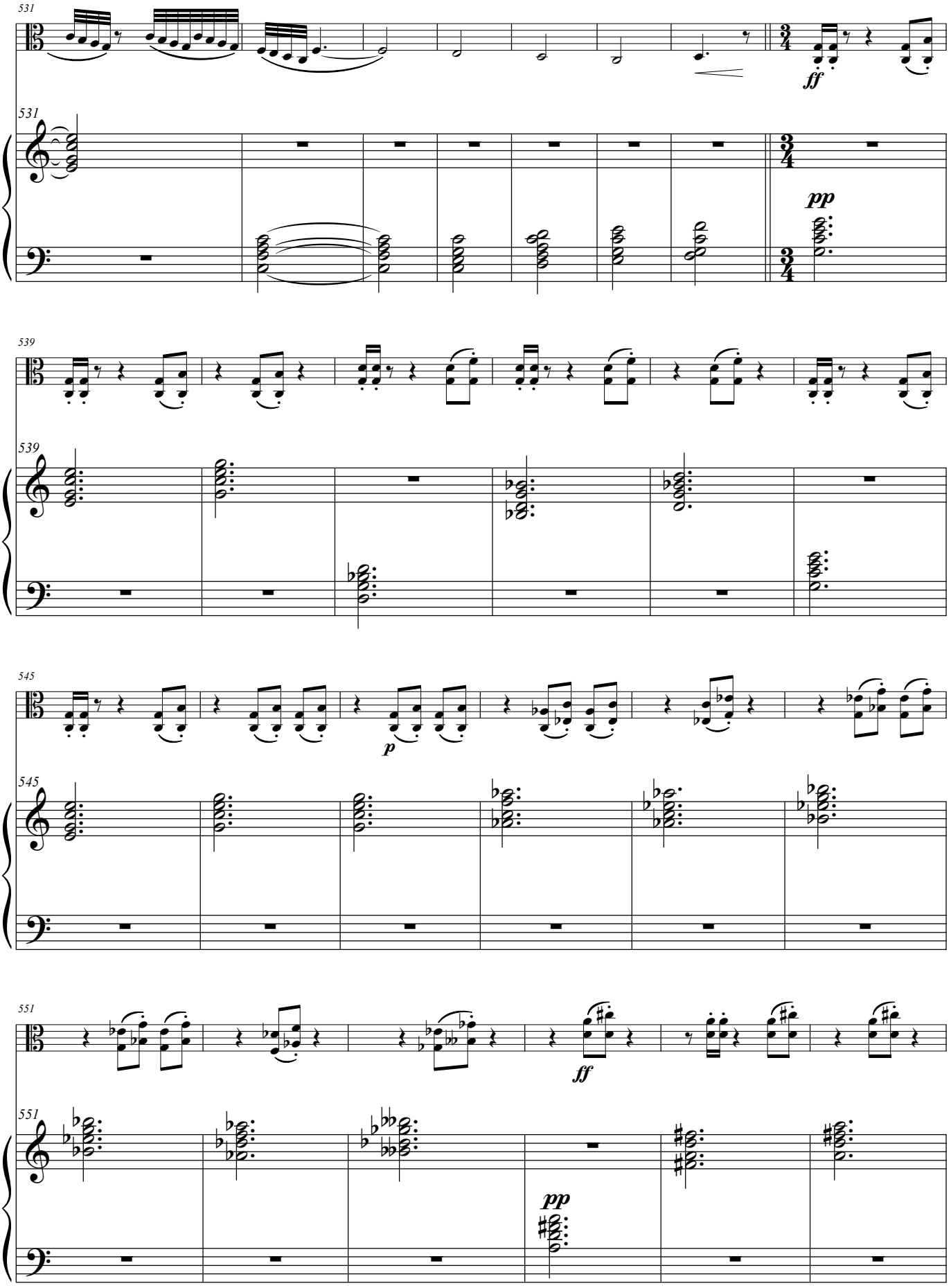
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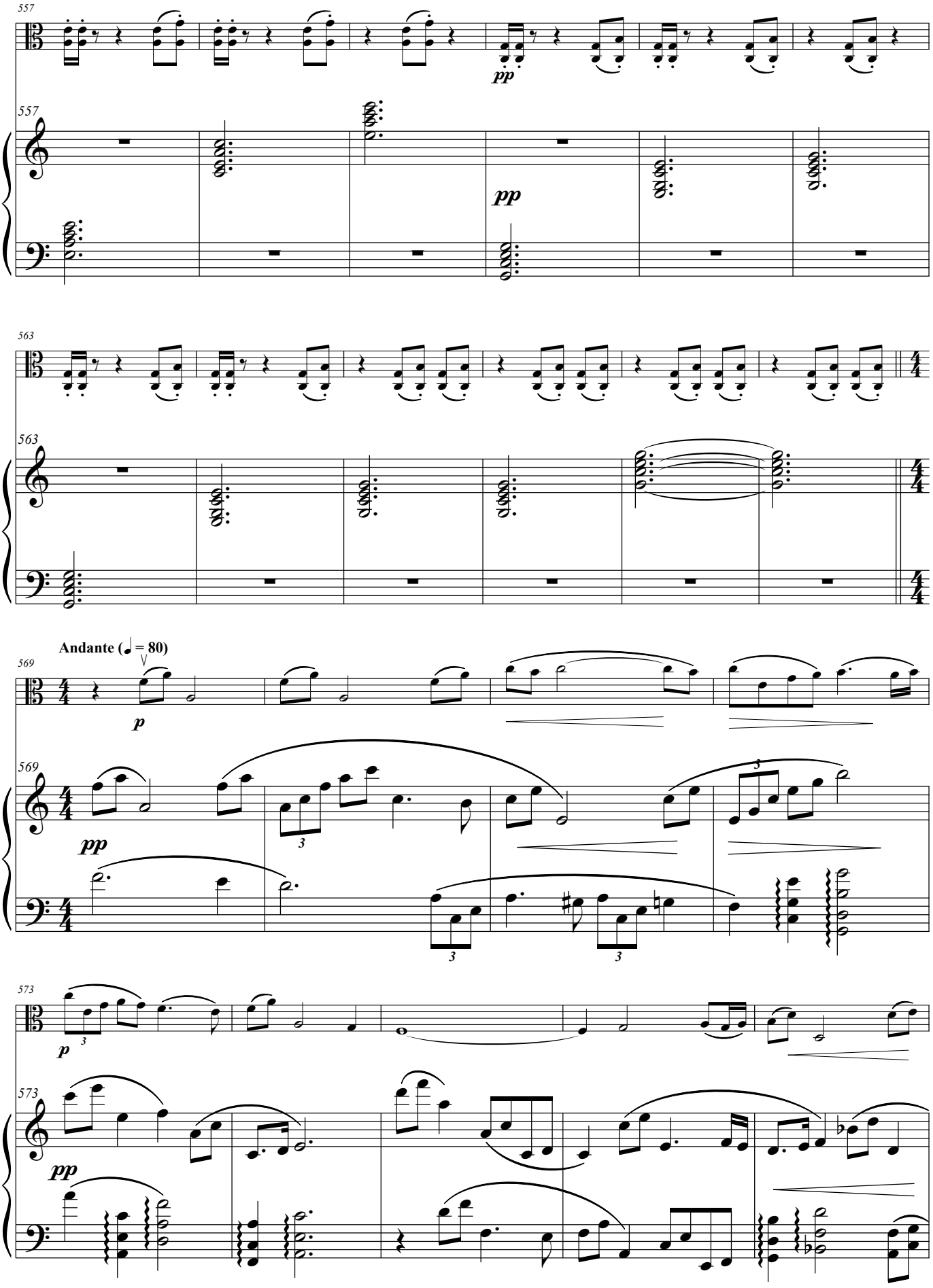
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pp
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Andante (♩ = 80)
569
p
pp
573
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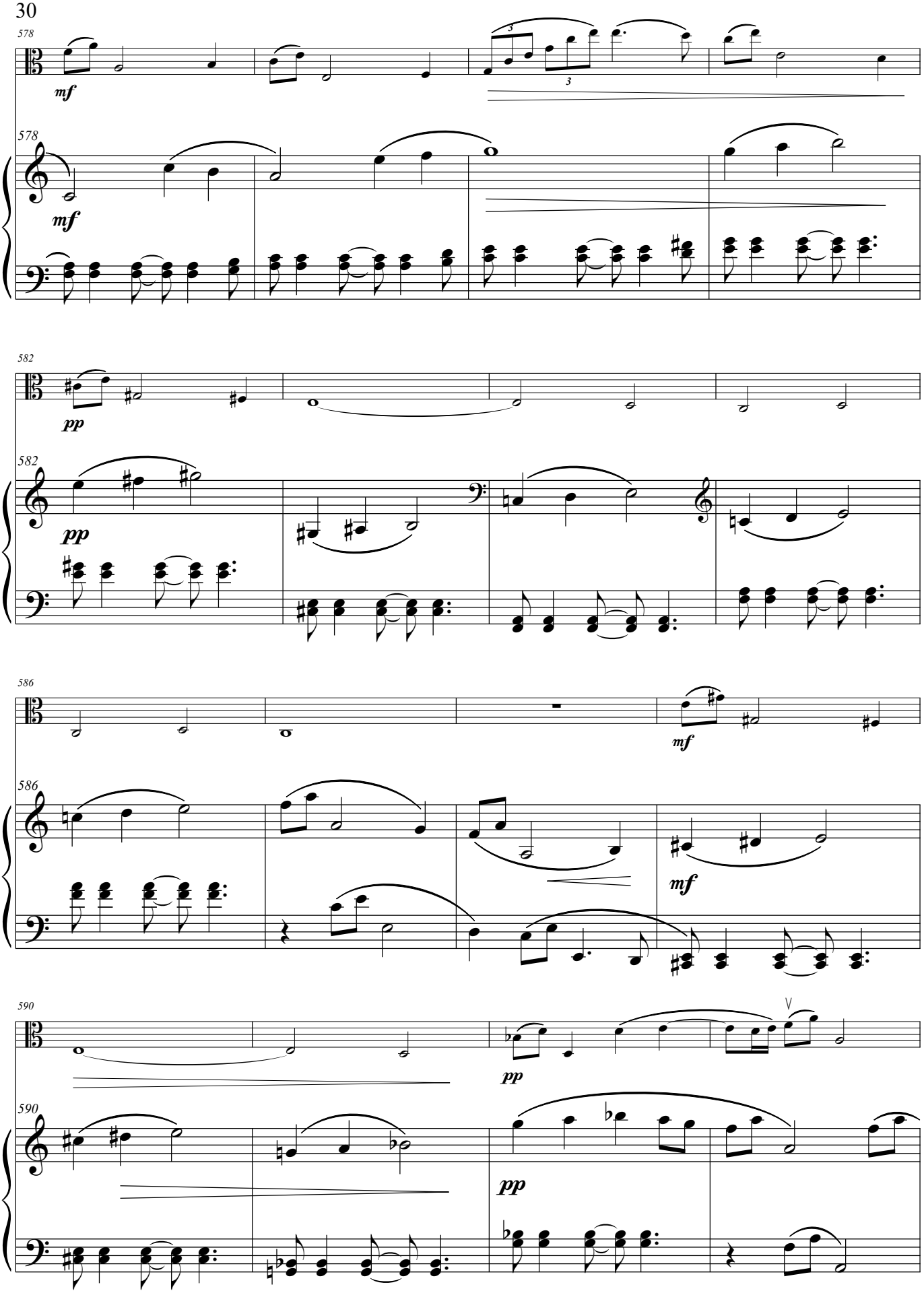
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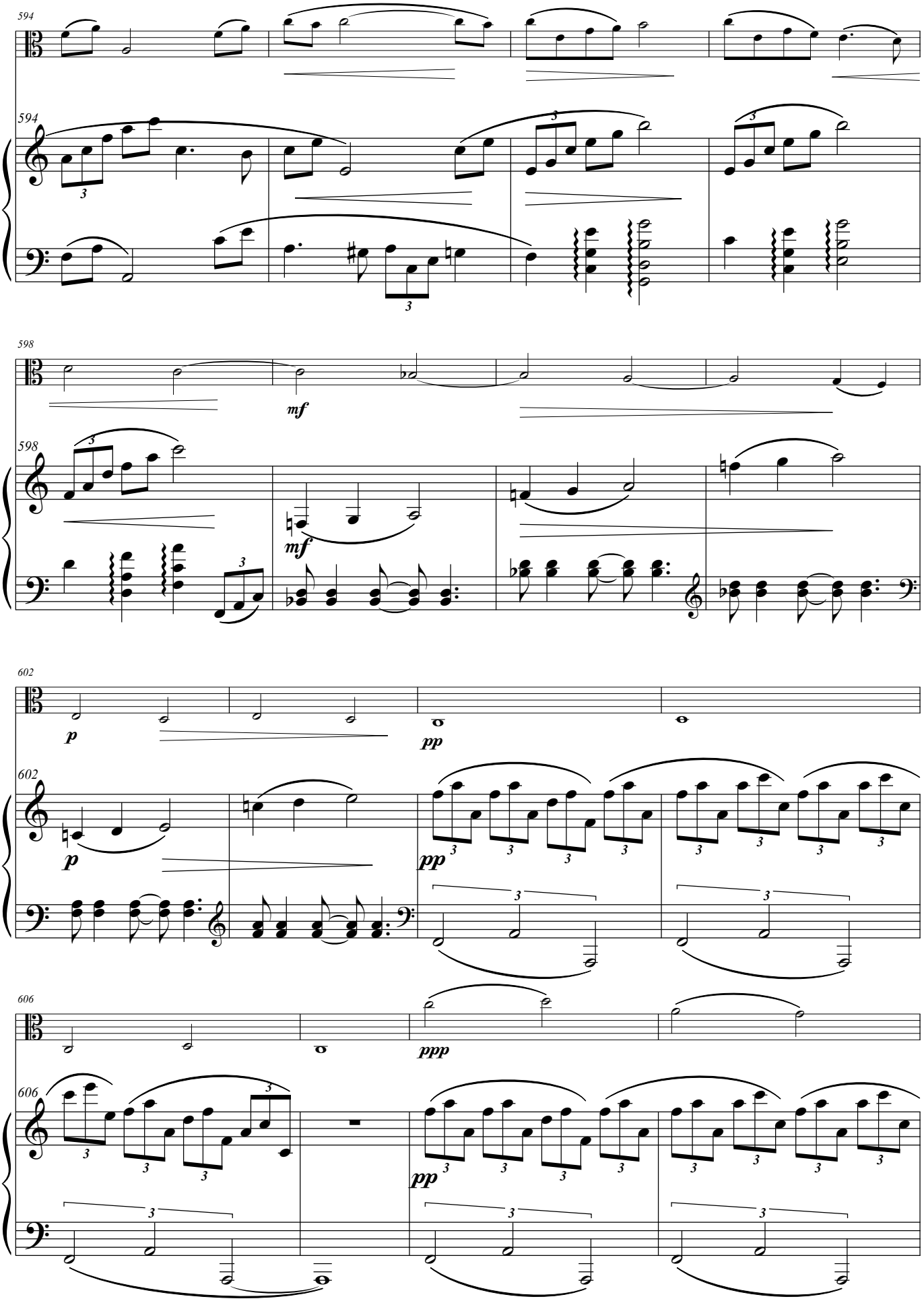
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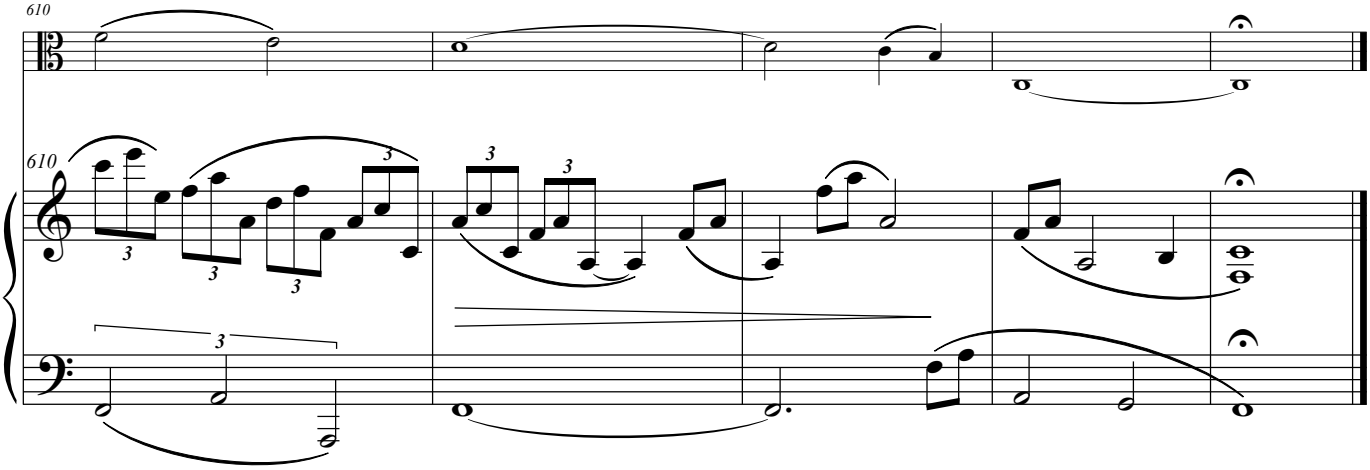
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# A few words about (and by) the composer

Stan Grill was raised in the Bronx, studied at the Bronx House School of Music, and later graduated from the Manhattan School of Music with undergrad and graduate degrees in music theory. He studied piano with Robert Helps and Leon Kushner and composition with Ursula Mamlok and Joseph Prostakoff. Major works include music for string orchestra and various solo instruments, a cello concerto, ten string quartets, a nonet for winds and strings, and numerous song cycles for mixed voices and chamber ensemble. Performances have been produced by the composer, as well as presented by the Composers Guild of New Jersey, the St. Paul's Church Festival of the Arts, the Leonia Chamber Players, the New York Composers Circle, the Northern New Jersey Camerata, One World Symphony, the Bronx Arts Ensemble, the Tokyo based Duo + Ensemble, the Pandolfis Consort, the Diderot Quartet and Camerata Philadelphia.

*"As I see it, as much as we strive to find reason and purpose in our having been born into this amazing, mysterious and awe-inspiring universe, that attempt is largely futile. It is however, the best part of our nature that obliges us to make the attempt, though the most we can hope for is to gain some small degree of understanding of the world around us, and, more importantly, of ourselves. To achieve this, we each approach the problem in our own way, uniquely shaped by our cultural background, innate talents and abilities, education and so on. For some, science may be the window through which they best perceive and interpret the world, for others, religion. For those to whom the world seems to express itself most clearly and beautifully through sound, music is the voice that speaks to us and through which we, in turn, best express ourselves. Now, I can write notes that will make pretty music because I've been trained to do so – but the best of my music has arrived, rather inexplicably, as part of a personal effort to understand the world and myself. It is, in a way, an act of translation. The world says something, I try to understand it, and then translate it into musical language. The particular musical language which I speak, is, of course, a product of my conservatory training and personal musical tastes, but hopefully, the outcome, imperfect a translation as it may be, will convey to others something of its original intent."*

Stan's music is melodic, modal, contrapuntal, characterized by extended, interweaving lines. His musical influences span the centuries, and include Machaut, Josquin, Palestrina, Monteverdi, Lassus, Britten, Ives, Vaughn Williams and Shostakovich. Two main themes permeate many of the pieces - music intended to influence the minds and hearts of those who hear it in such a way as to encourage thoughts about the possibility of world peace - and music composed in an attempt to translate something about the nature of the physical world.

Complete scores are available at **www.stangrillcomposer.com**. Stan Grill is a member of ASCAP.

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