IAN KEITH HARRIS

REFLECTIONS

Oboe d'amore (Cor anglais) & Piano

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AI SI 029

Ian Keith Harris

(1935-)

Australian composer, arranger, oboist, music educator, critic and eclectic musician, Ian Harris, was born in Melbourne in 1935, living there for the first 26 years of his life. He started the piano at the age of five and three years later was playing cornet in his school band. He took up the violin shortly after this, playing for several years, but relinquished it when he became his school pianist at thirteen. The oboe came next, and in 1953, he began his Bachelor of Music degree at Melbourne University Conservatorium of Music taking piano as chief study and oboe as second. National Service in the Army intervened and, this time, Ian Harris played the trombone in the University Regiment. The same year, he changed to oboe as his chief study. The trombone did not impress Jiři Tancibudek, his professor! This time, the piano was his second study and composition (Arthur Nickson) crept in too.

Not surprisingly he was soon in demand as a free-lance orchestral musician, arranger and copyist, working in a very eclectic mix of musical spheres from arranging for Eartha Kitt (television and various theatrical shows), to playing in opera, ballet, chamber music and symphony orchestras. He was a founding member of the *Glendenian Trio*, (flute, oboe, bassoon), which gave regular broadcasts over several years. The trio was another area in which his skills at arrangement were frequently employed.

Ian Harris moved to Hobart, Tasmania, in 1961 (Tasmanian Orchestra), was seconded to the Sydney Symphony Orchestra (cor anglais) for several months, returned to Tasmania only to be seconded again, this time to the Victorian Symphony Orchestra (oboe).

Back again in Tasmania, his next move was to Wellington, New Zealand (1965-1974) to join NZBCSO (the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation Symphony Orchestra) as Principal Cor anglais. During this time, in which he yo-yoed across Australasia, Harris tutored at the universities of Tasmania, Melbourne, and the Victoria University of Wellington. It was at the latter that he completed his degree in composition (with David Farquhar) in 1969. He was to return yet again to Tasmania at the end of 1974.

However, this time, he embraced a new career as a music educator with his move. His wealth of instrumental and orchestral experience was invaluable to his students. He also conducted the Tasmanian Junior Youth Orchestra for several years.

Harris was a dedicated member of policy committees, especially in Education and the Arts. A great listener to music and musicians, he served as music critic for *The Mercury,* Hobart's daily newspaper, for several years.

His *oeuvre* consists mainly of chamber music, much of which has been performed and broadcast: *Microsymphony for Cor anglais Quartet* (cor anglais, string trio), *Oboe Quartet* (oboe, string trio), *Essay for Bassoon and Strings*, *Sonata for Viola and Piano*, amongst many other pieces and numerous arrangements for broadcasts and concerts.

His sense of fun has shown in many of his compositions including, *A Piece with Strawberry Jam*, *The Little Dog's Day* (Rupert Brooke), *'Paw de trois'- Three Dances for Canines* (for Woodwind Quintet, with movements dedicated to his dogs by name), *The Whitebait Fishers* –

> *"**A sort of Donizetti-like spoof for harpsichord, string quartet and small choir, for which the producer of the hour-long national radio show penned the libretto for this, a special anniversary broadcast of the programme**."*

Harris orchestrated songs for symphony concerts, including a version of *The Last Rose of Summer* for Rita Streich (1920-1987). He also wrote, directed and even performed in advertising jingles, playing celesta, oboe, cor anglais or whatever was required.

Ian Harris moved back to Sydney definitively in 2000 and has since devoted himself to composition and a considerable *entourage* of cats (10) and dogs (5). He is a keen gardener and chef and a passionate enthusiast of the oboe d'amore. A close friend of Jennifer Paull, he has written many works for her.

❖❖❖

Reflections

Oboe d'amore (Cor anglais) & Piano

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I composed this piece in 2010 after having reflected upon memories of the many dearly beloved canine companions at my side throughout my life. The realisation of numerous similarities struck me and I set about describing them in music.

There appear to have been four separate stages in their lives, presenting me with four movements for this piece. Firstly, the sweet innocence of the puppy; secondly, the excited dashing about of the young dog; thirdly, the sedate maturity of middle age; and, lastly, a return to an often intermittent and sometimes desperate urgency in the

older dog's finally revisiting the serenity of puppyhood. I understood that this comparison had become a mirror through which I could glimpse the pattern of my own life.

The structural and technical aspects of the music follow these reflections. Thematic simplicity and innocence is expressed in the first movement. The velocity of the second, in which I used both a serial technique and, for the greater part, the mirror image of a palindrome, implies that every choice made carries within its unavoidable consequences. The third and longest movement is rather languid in mood and intended to be the warmest. The fourth rushes along purposefully up to the point at which the initial thematic gesture of the work ushers in a cyclic re-statement from the first movement, reflecting that the end is as the beginning.

Although this work's genesis was the remembrance of my many departed companions, it seemed to me that it had now developed into more general 'Reflections', which became its title.

Ian K. Harris
2010

❖❖❖

Works by Ian Keith Harris published by ***Amoris International*** *include the following*

A Summer Idyll *A* SI 018

An Album of Aquarelles *A* SI 019
Syrinx and Pan
Aurora Australis
West of The Winter Wind

Autumnal Interlude *A* SI 020

Sonatina *A* SI 021

Tasmanian Ants *A* SI 023

The Dark Tower - *Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came* *A* SI 028

Sonata *'Les Amours'* *A* CM 007

Divertissement *A* EN 006

A Consort of Carols *A* EN 008

FunFare *A* EN 009

'Paw de trois' - Three Dances for Canines *A* EN 010

The White Rose *A* OR 003 (String Orchestra etc.) & *A* EN 007 (String Quartet etc.)

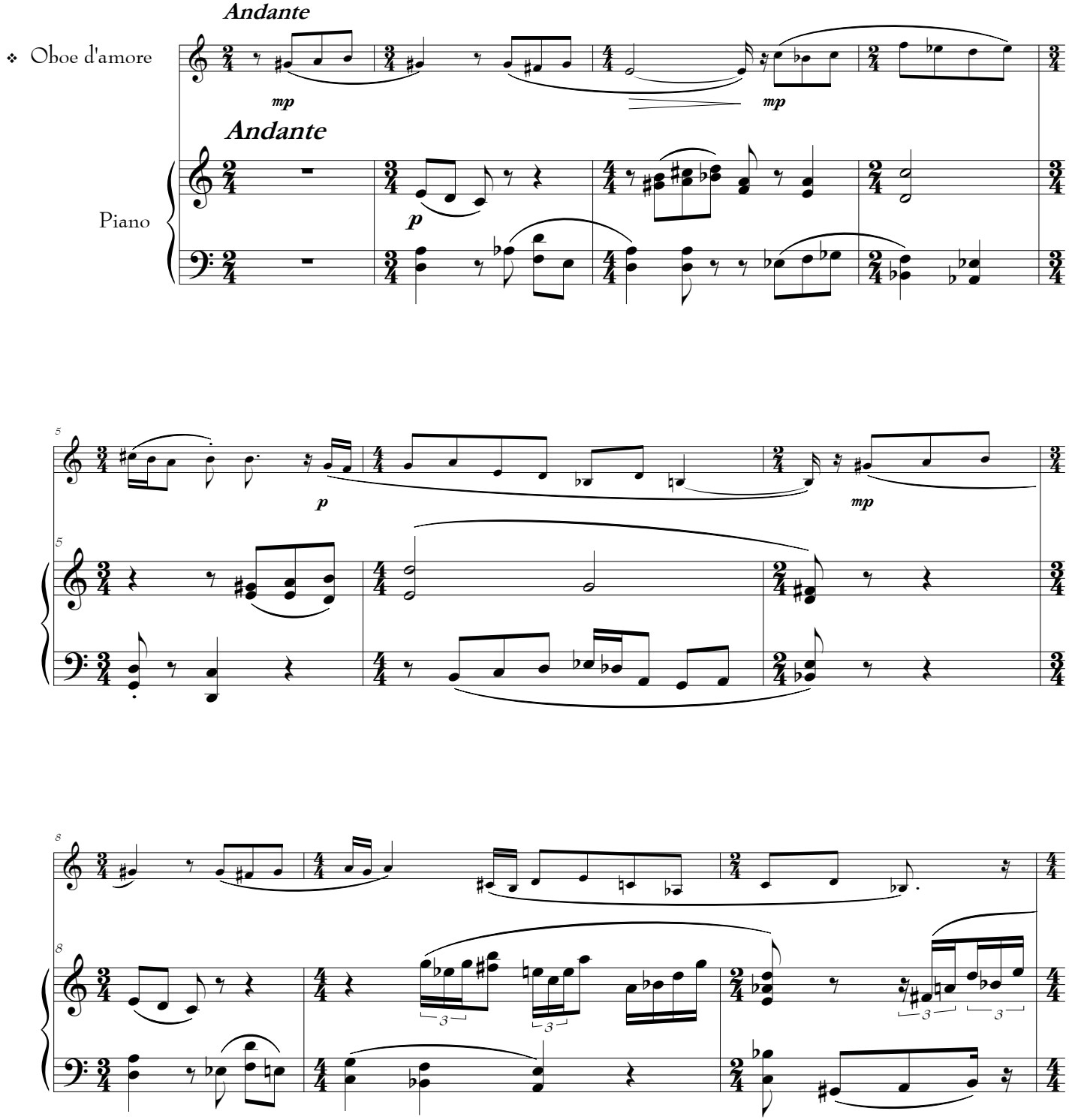
❖❖❖

for Jennifer Paull

REFLECTIONS

I

Ian Keith Harris
(b. 1935)



❖ In Concert Pitch

AI SI 029

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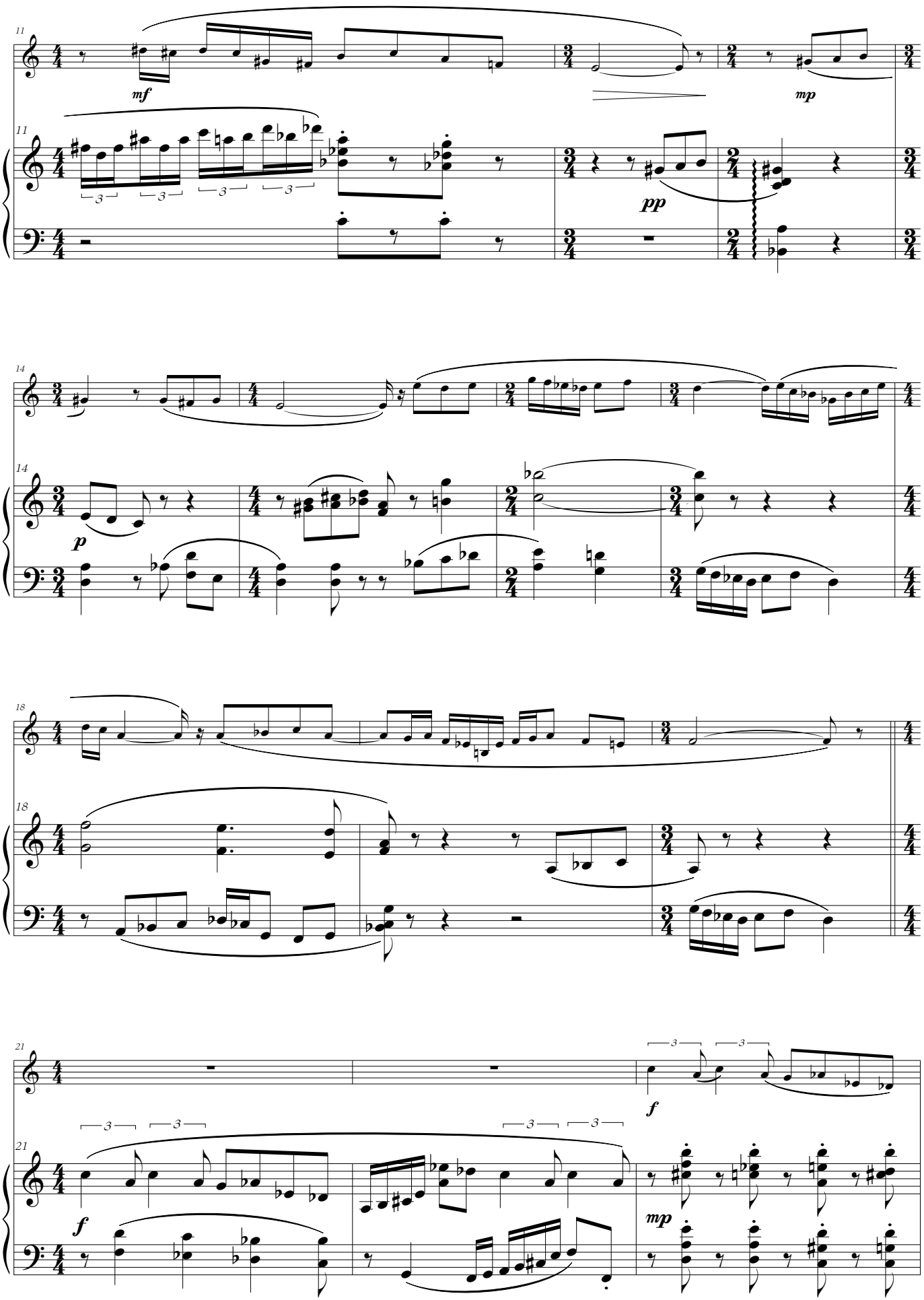
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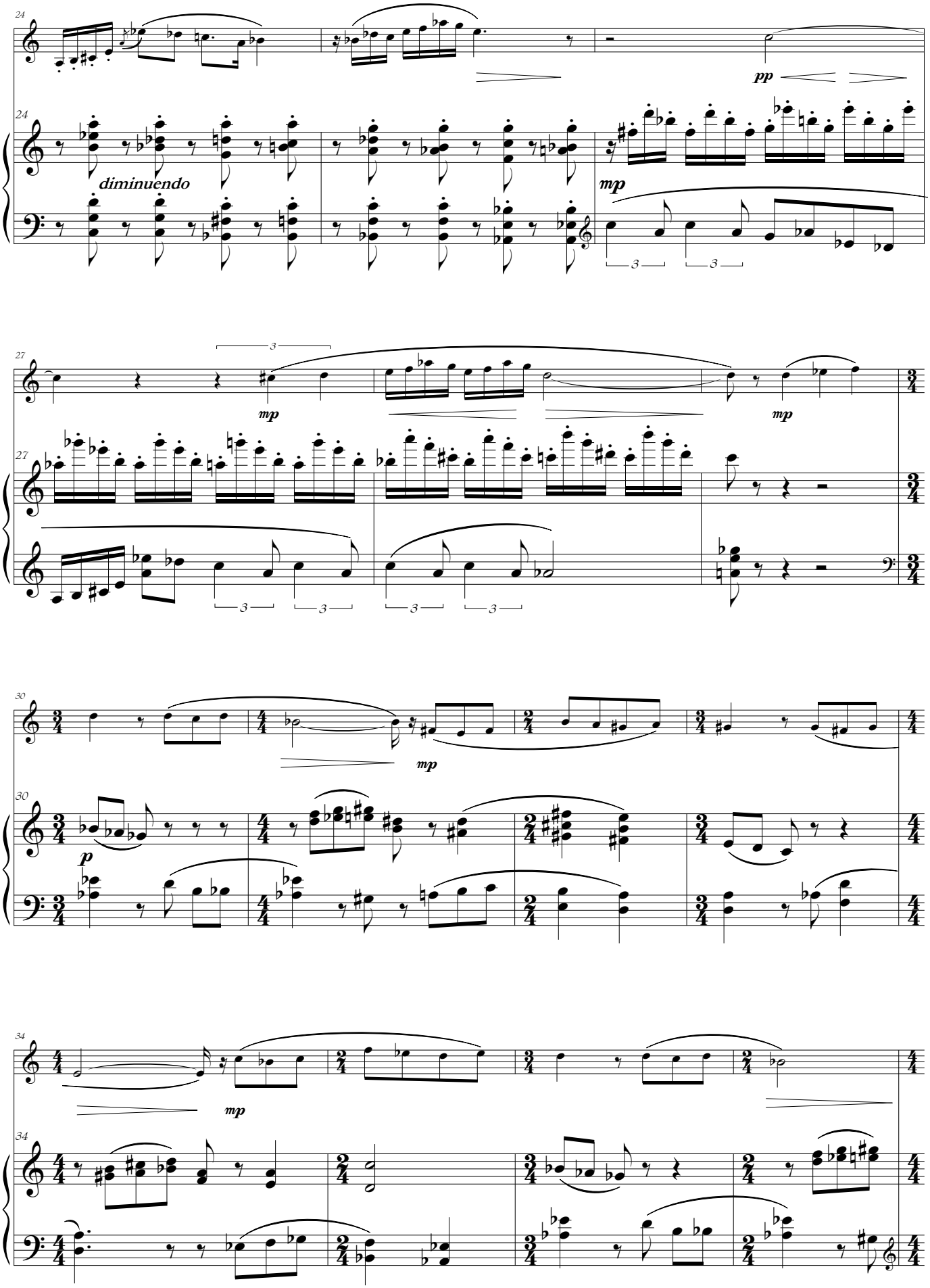
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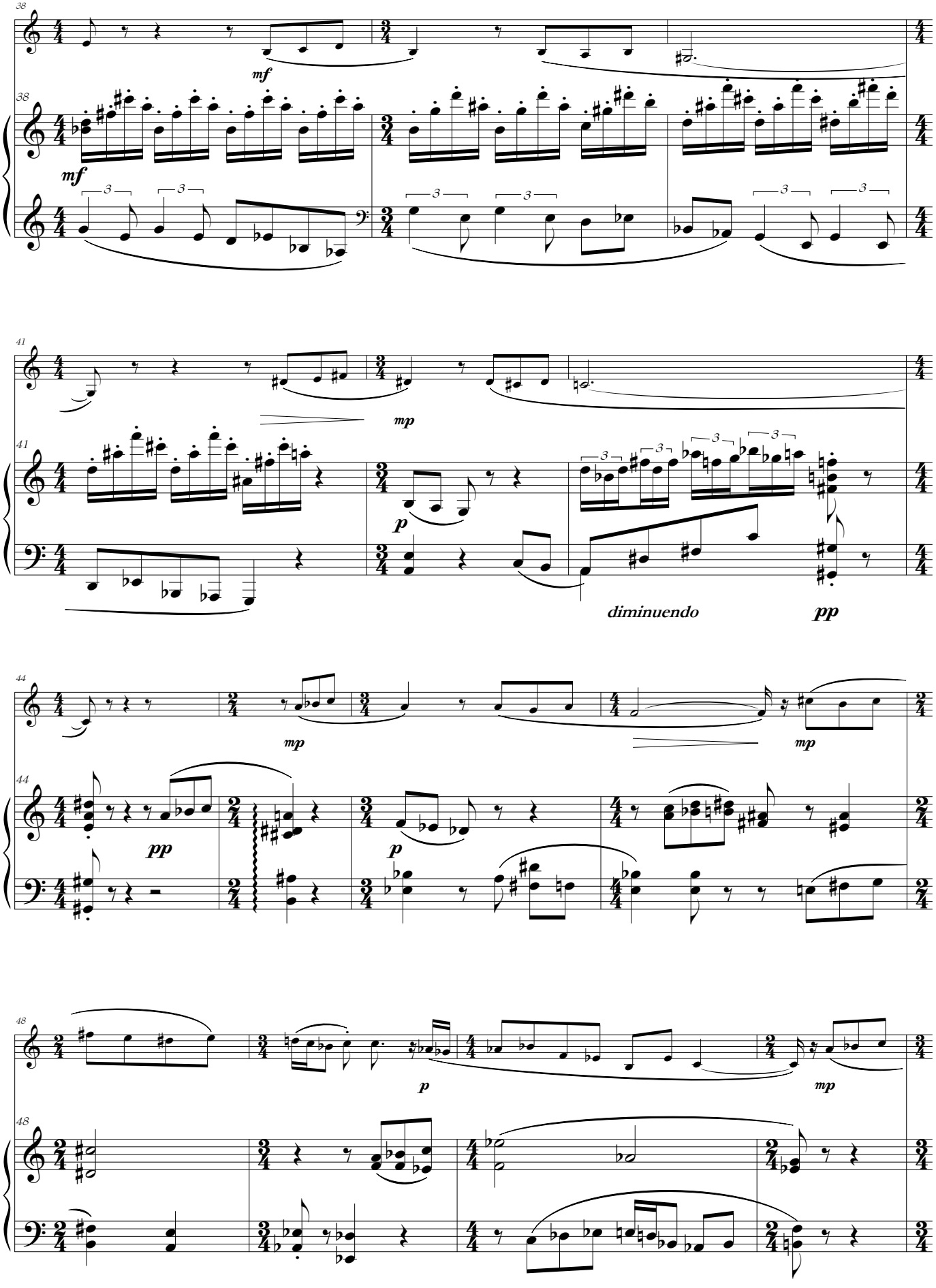
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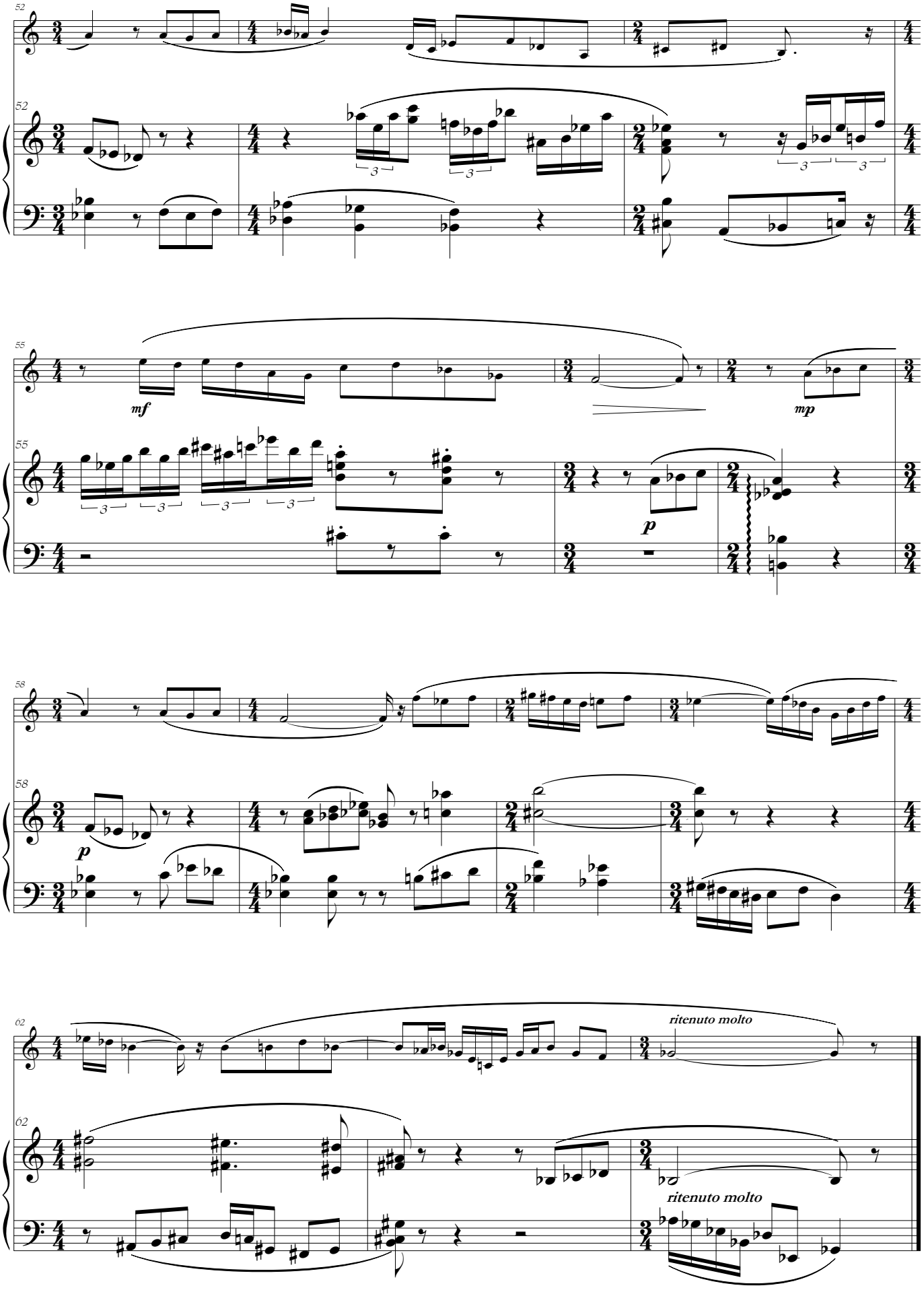
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ritenuto molto

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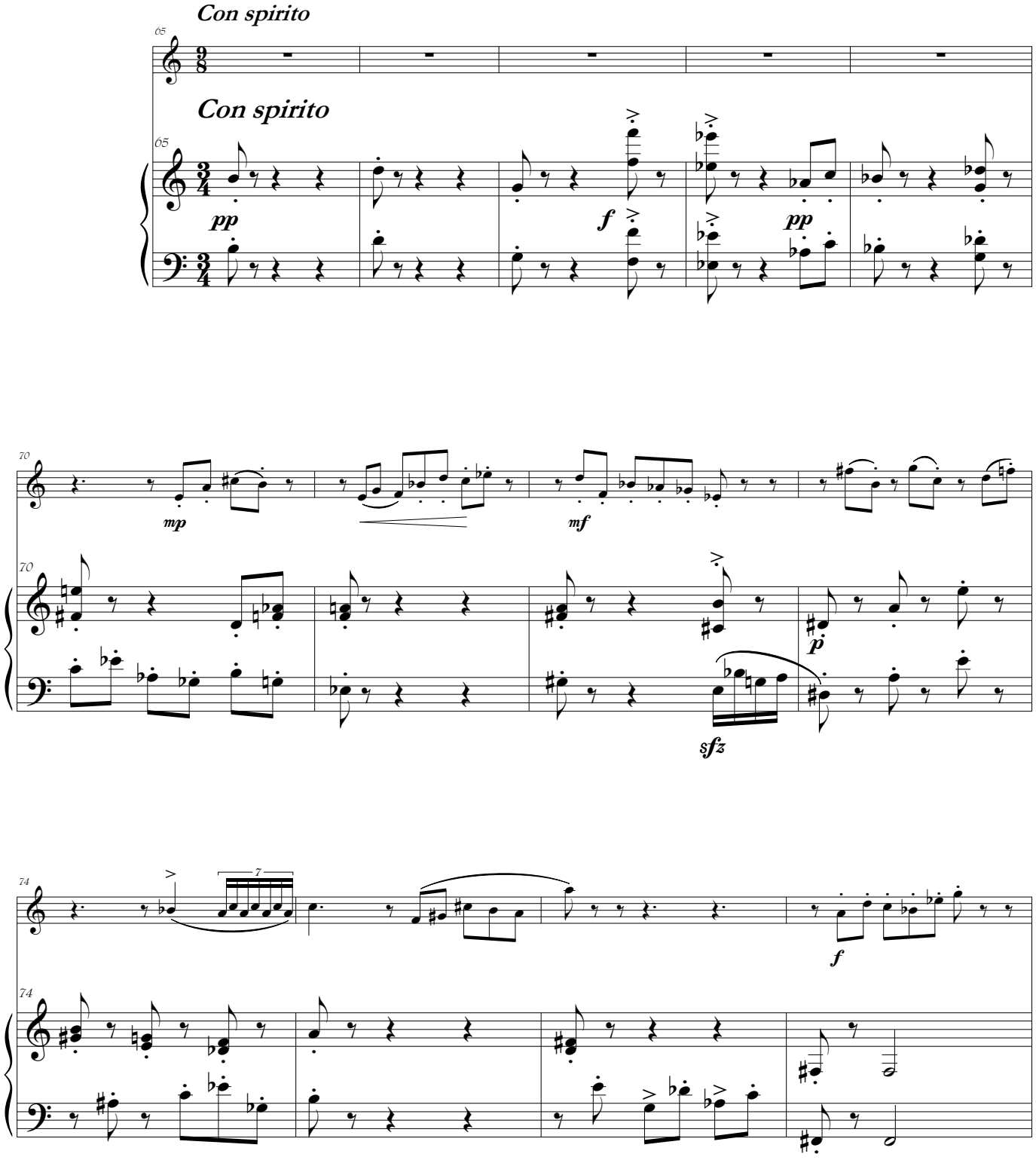

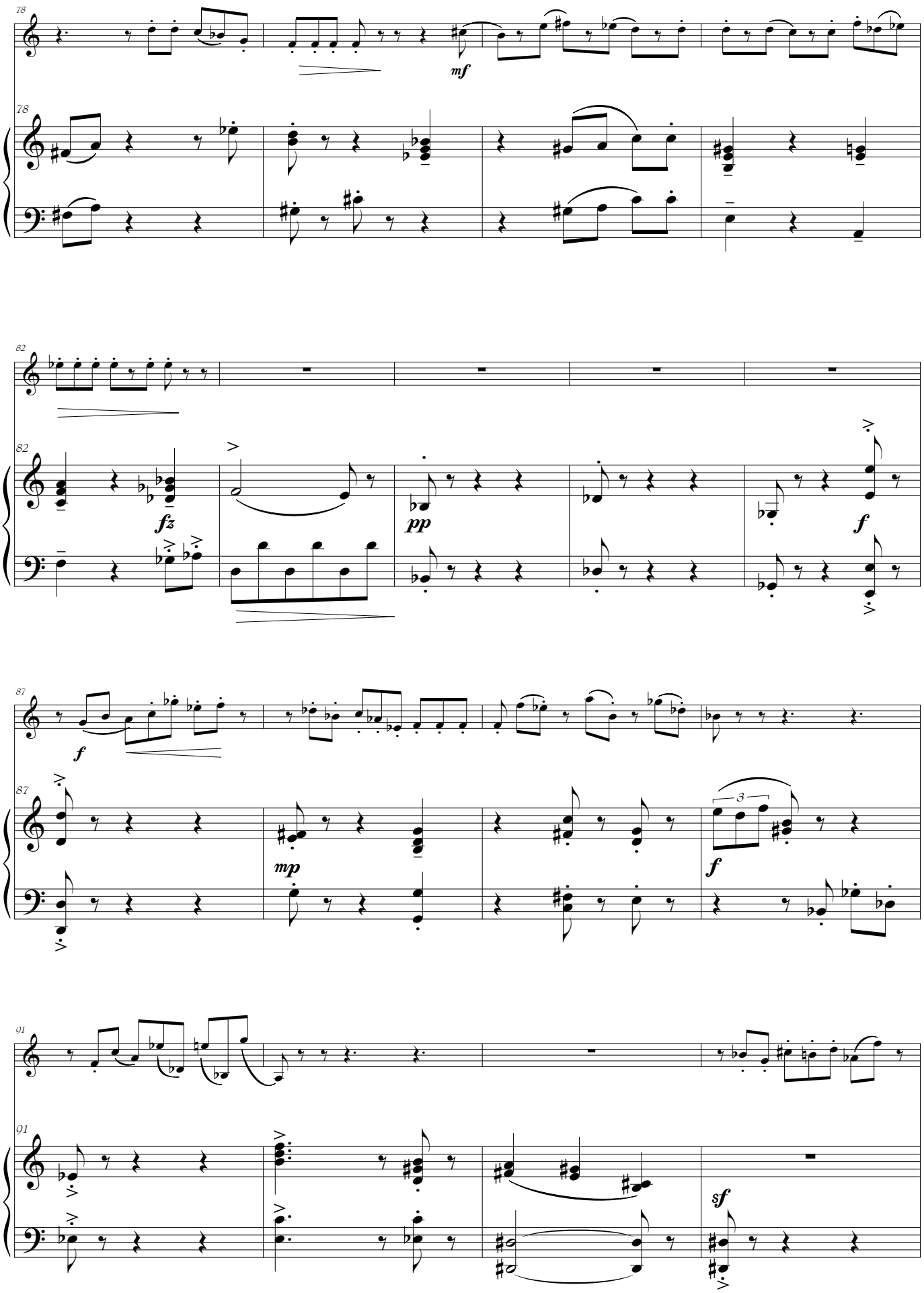
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01
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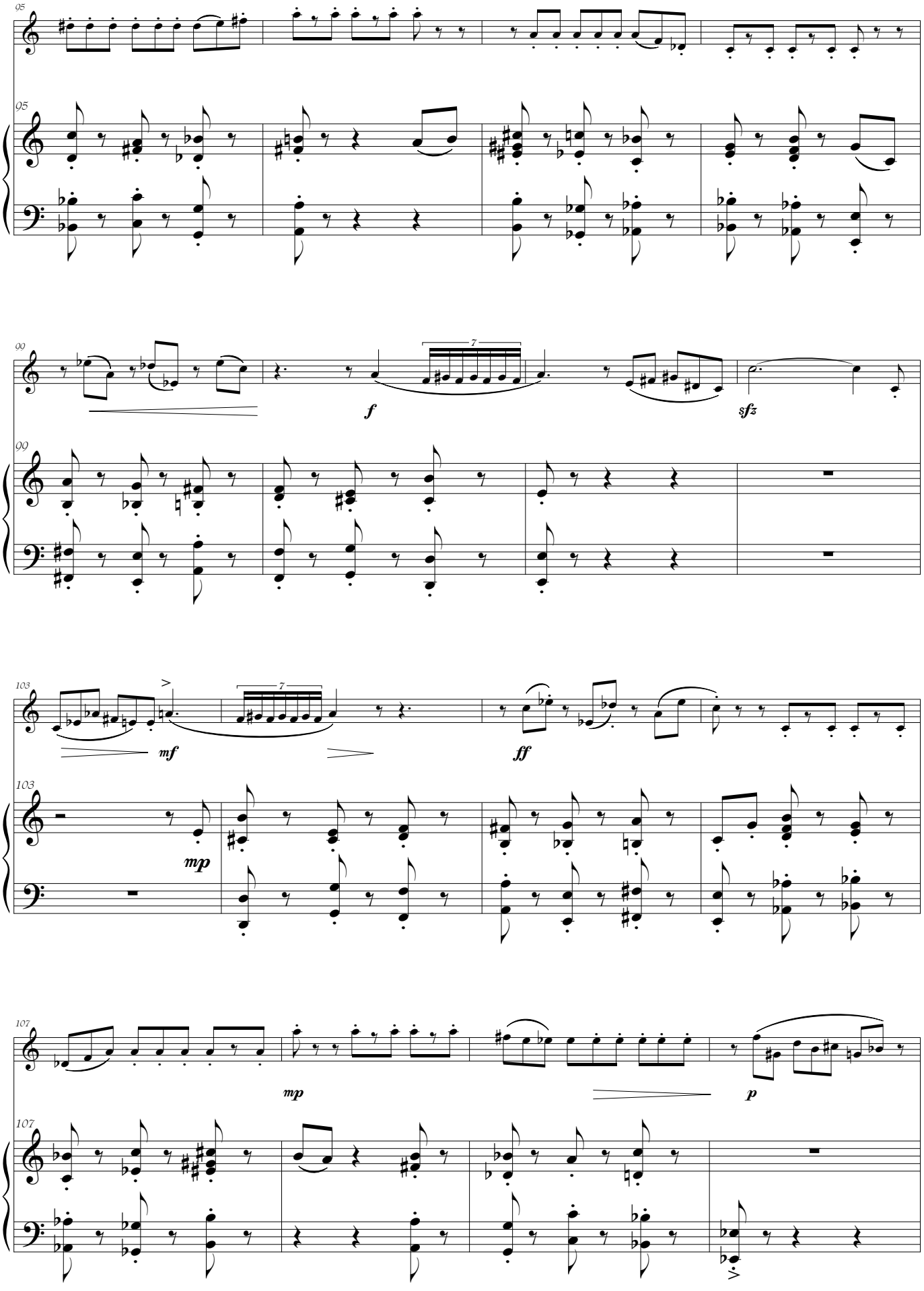
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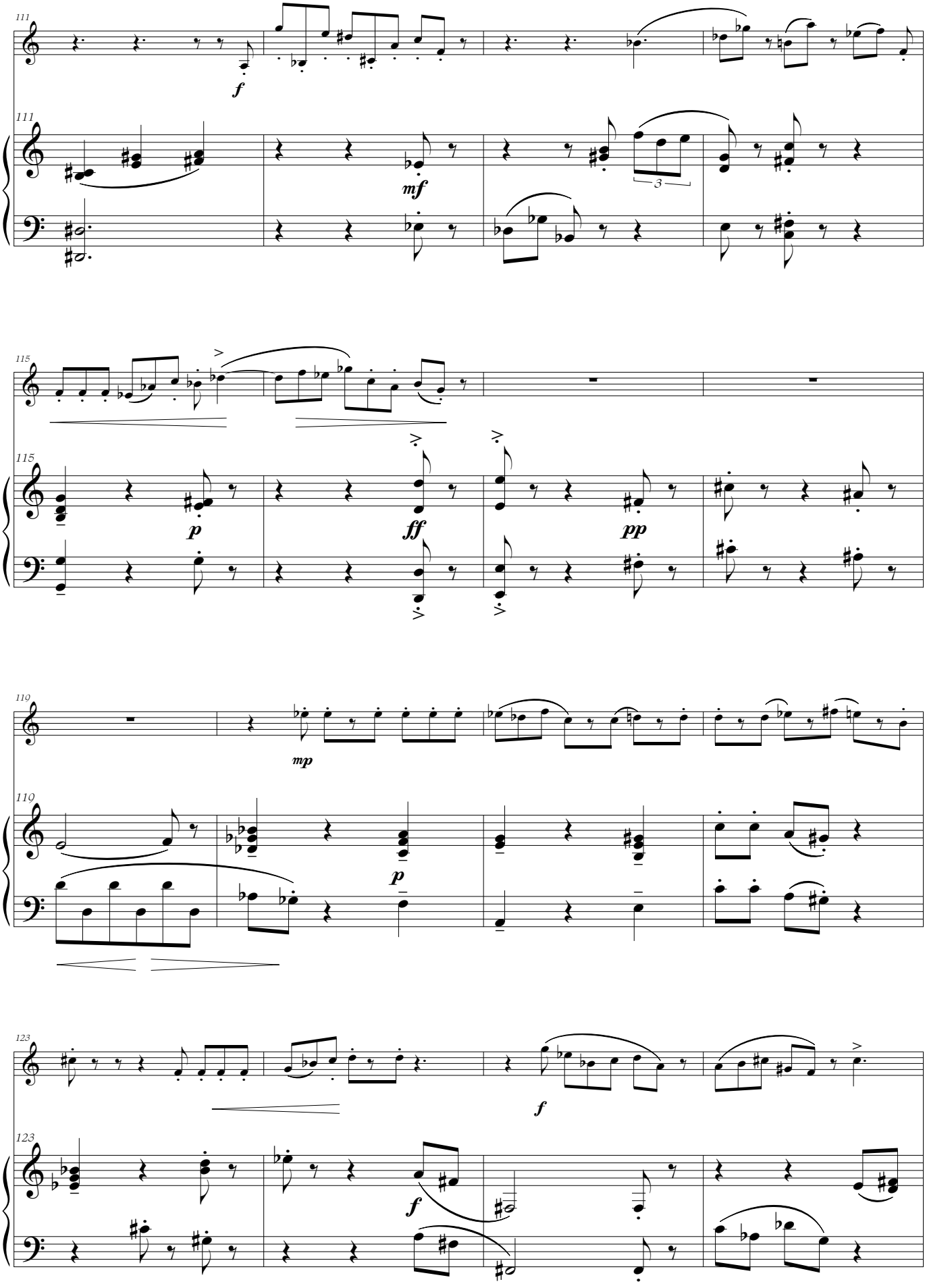
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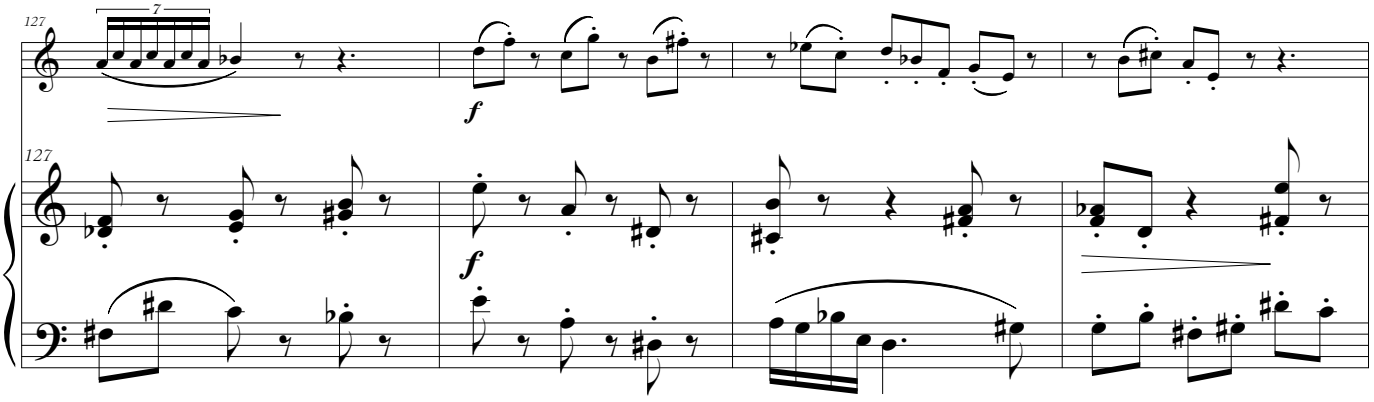

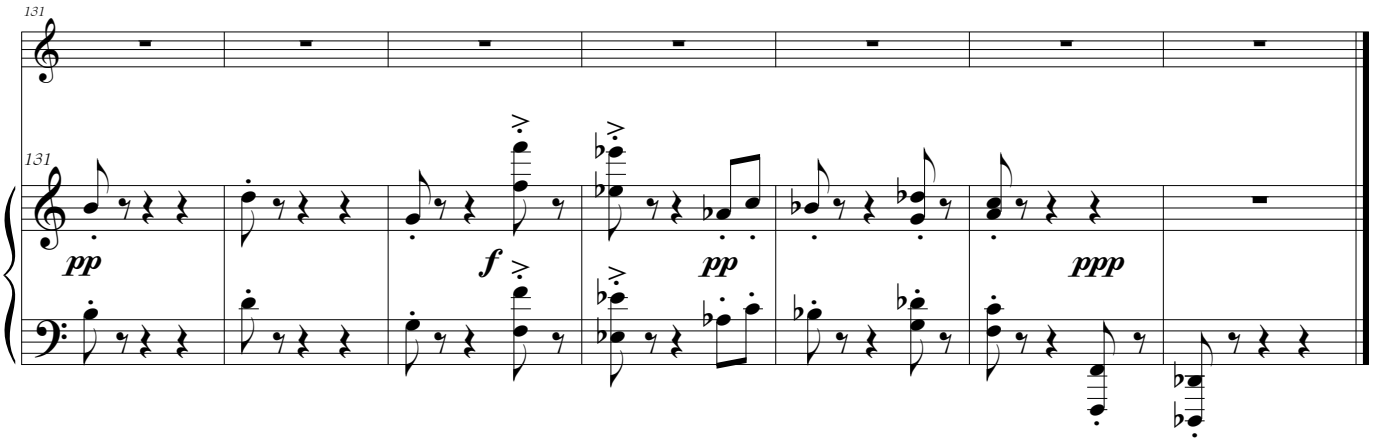

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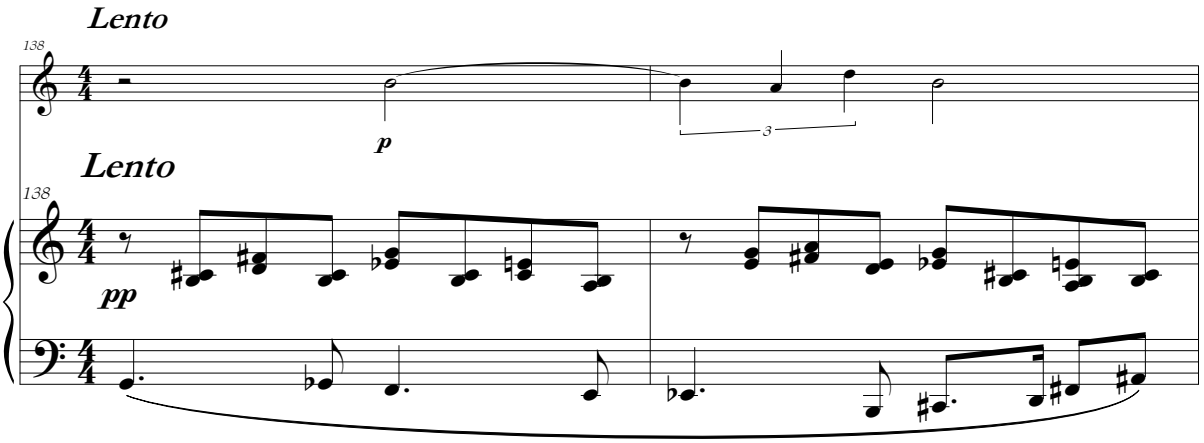

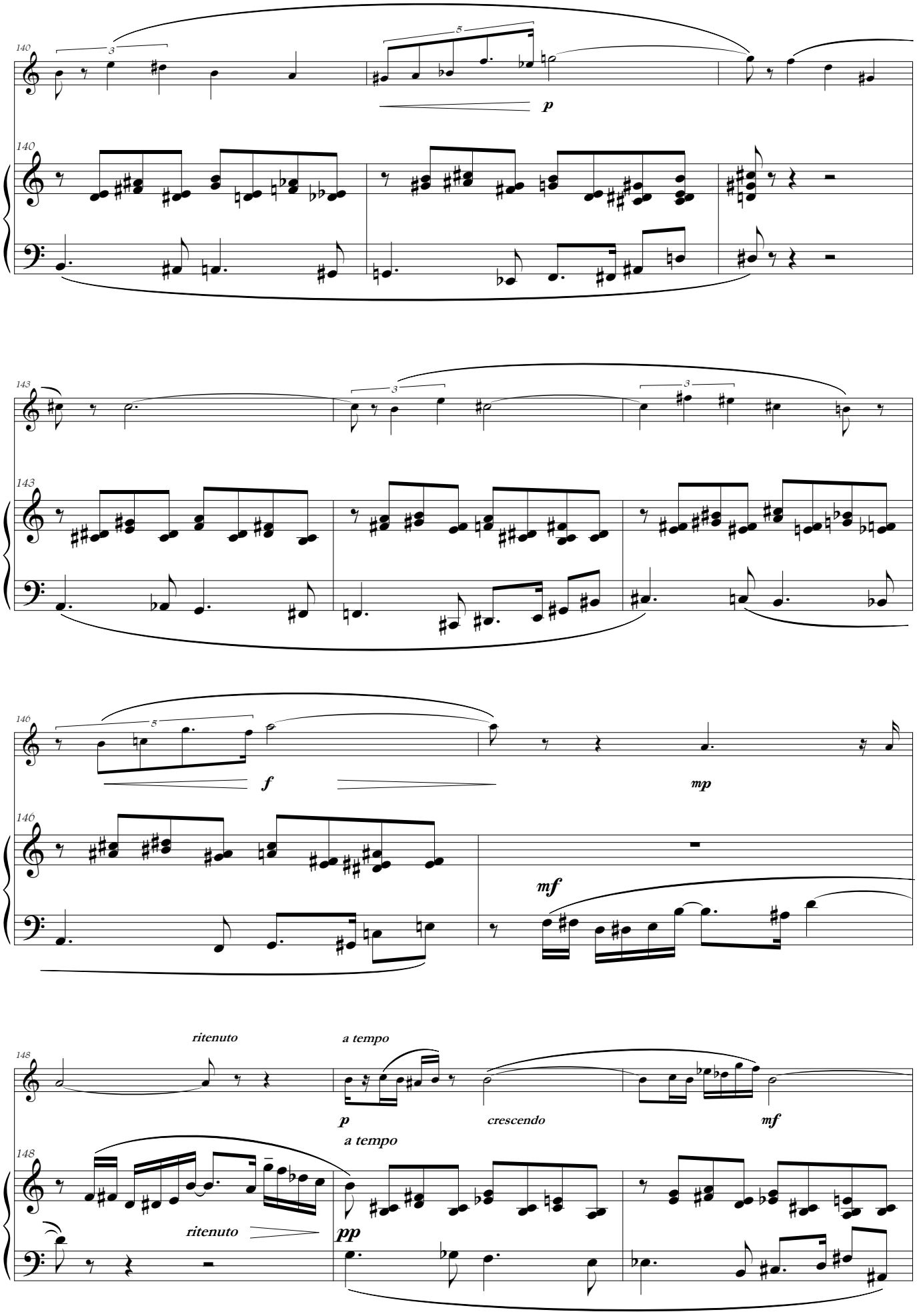
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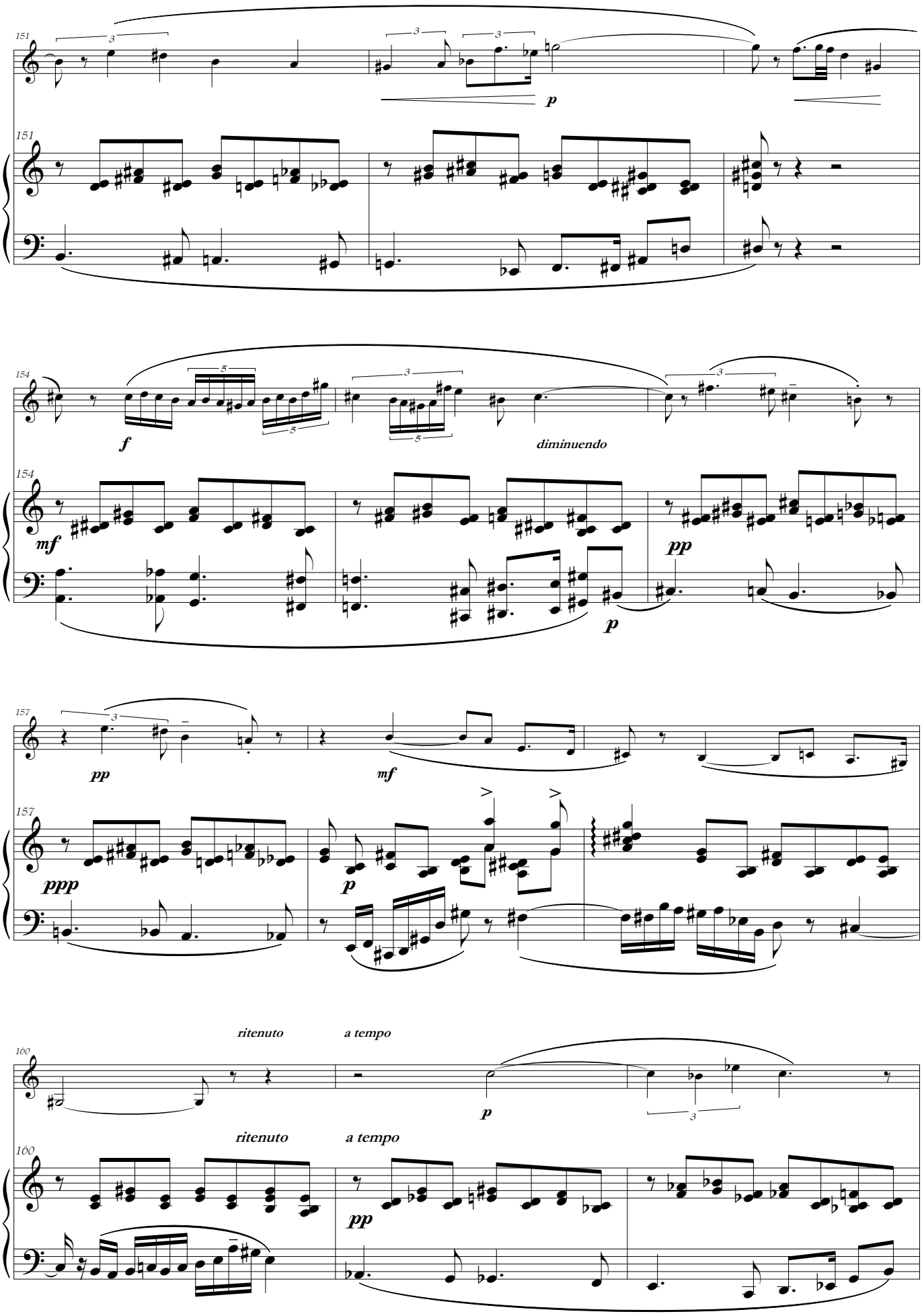
mf
a tempo
148
ritenuto
pp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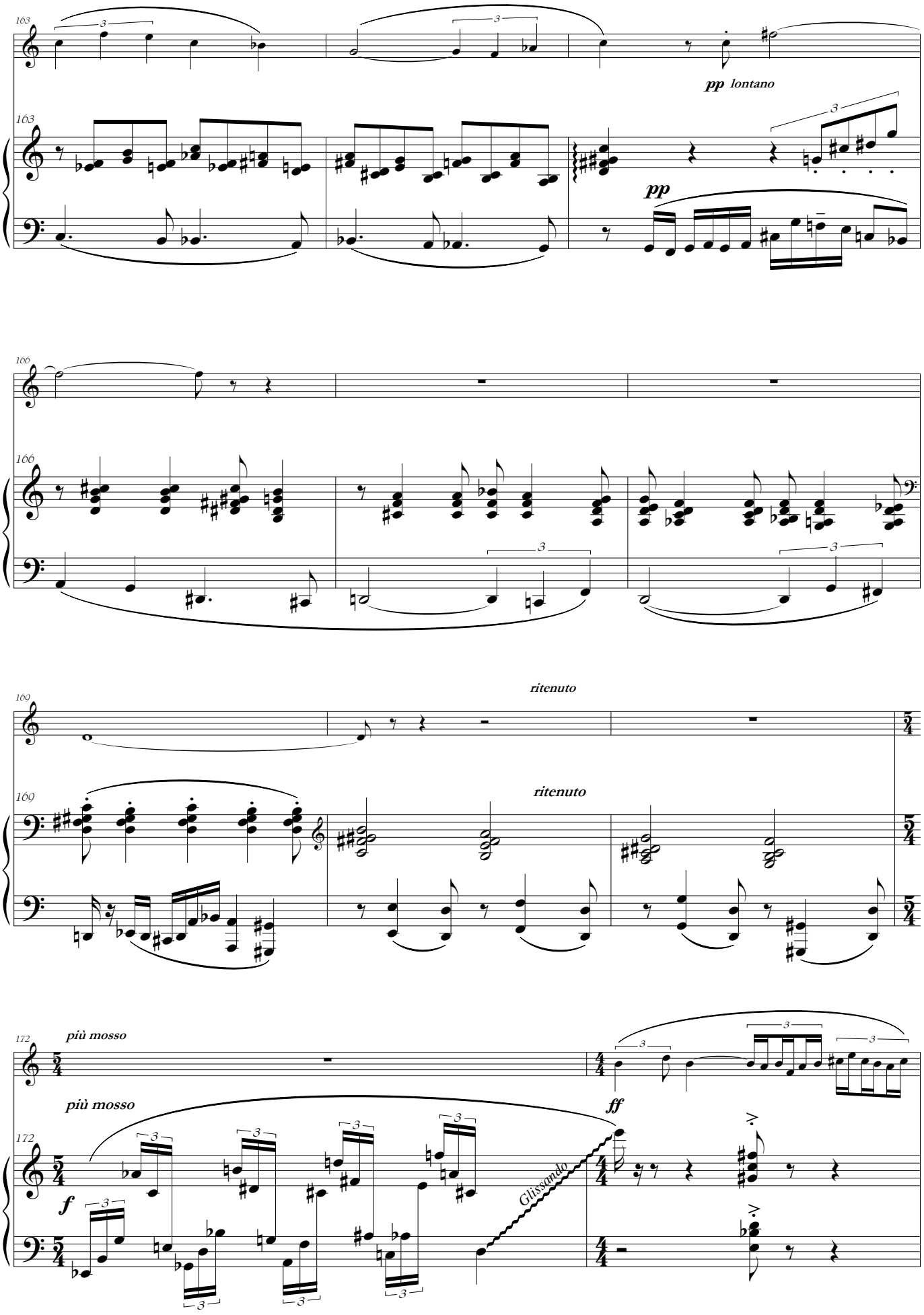
ritenuto
a tempo
pp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ritenuto
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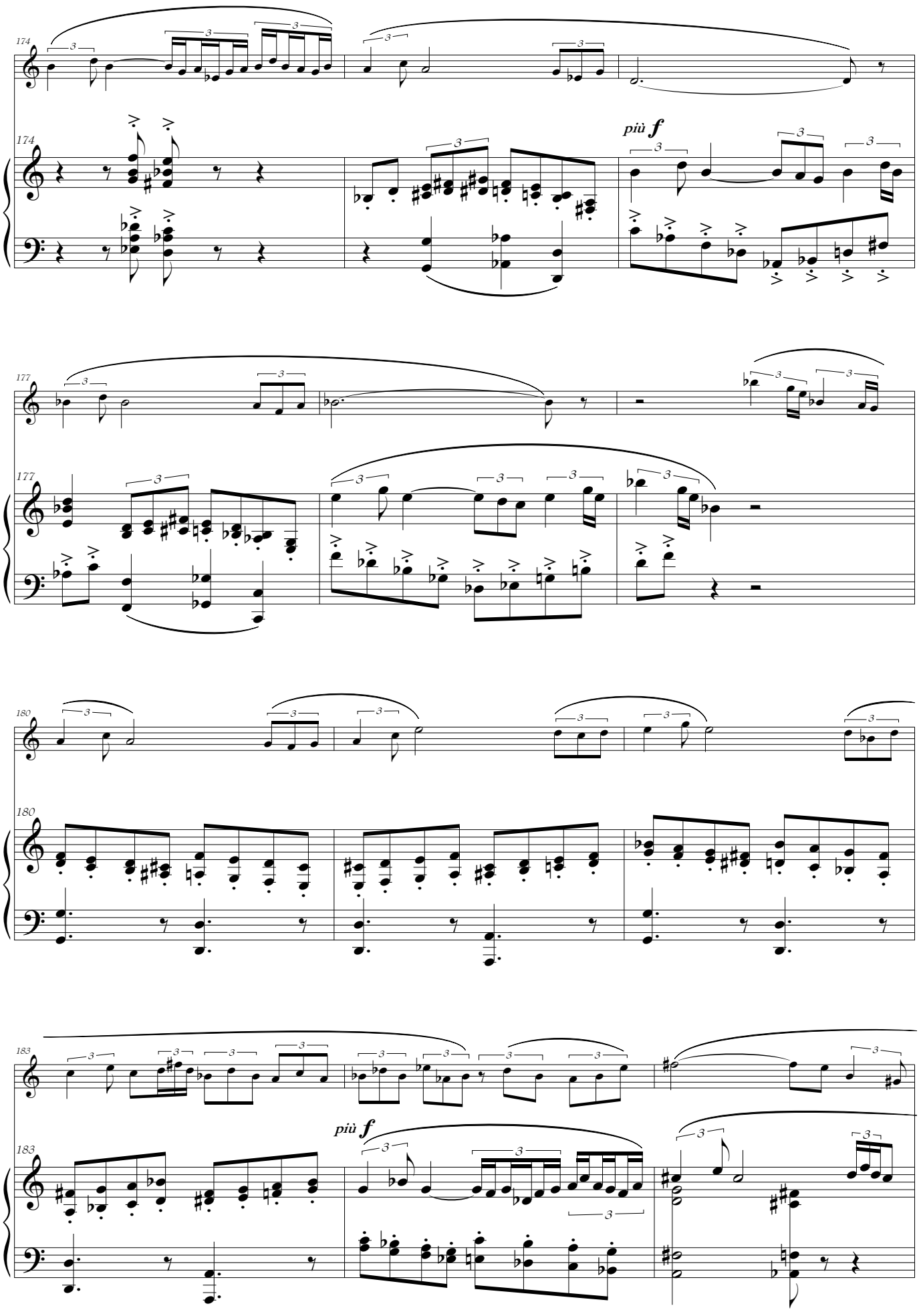
più mosso
f
ff
Glissando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183
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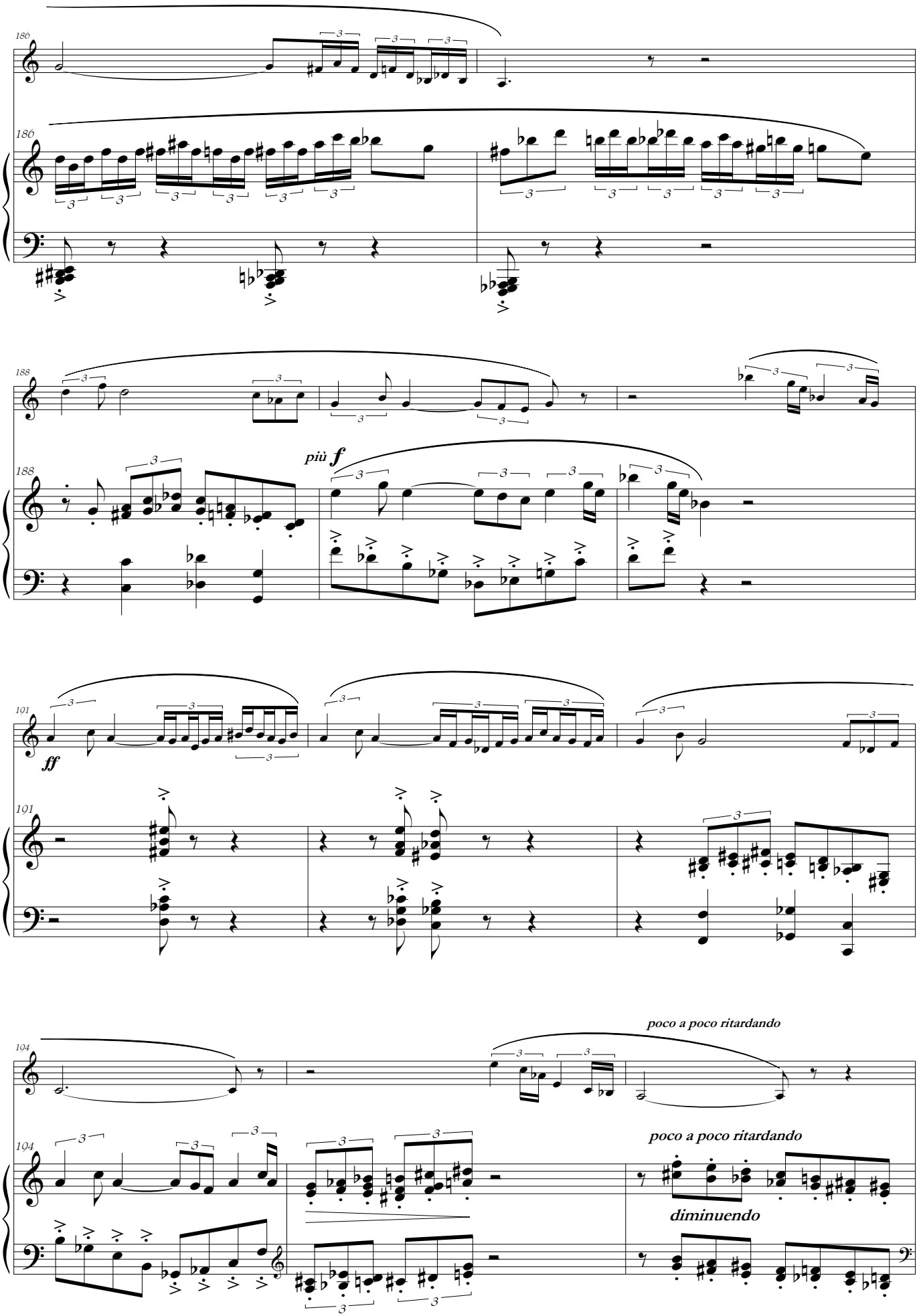
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101
ff
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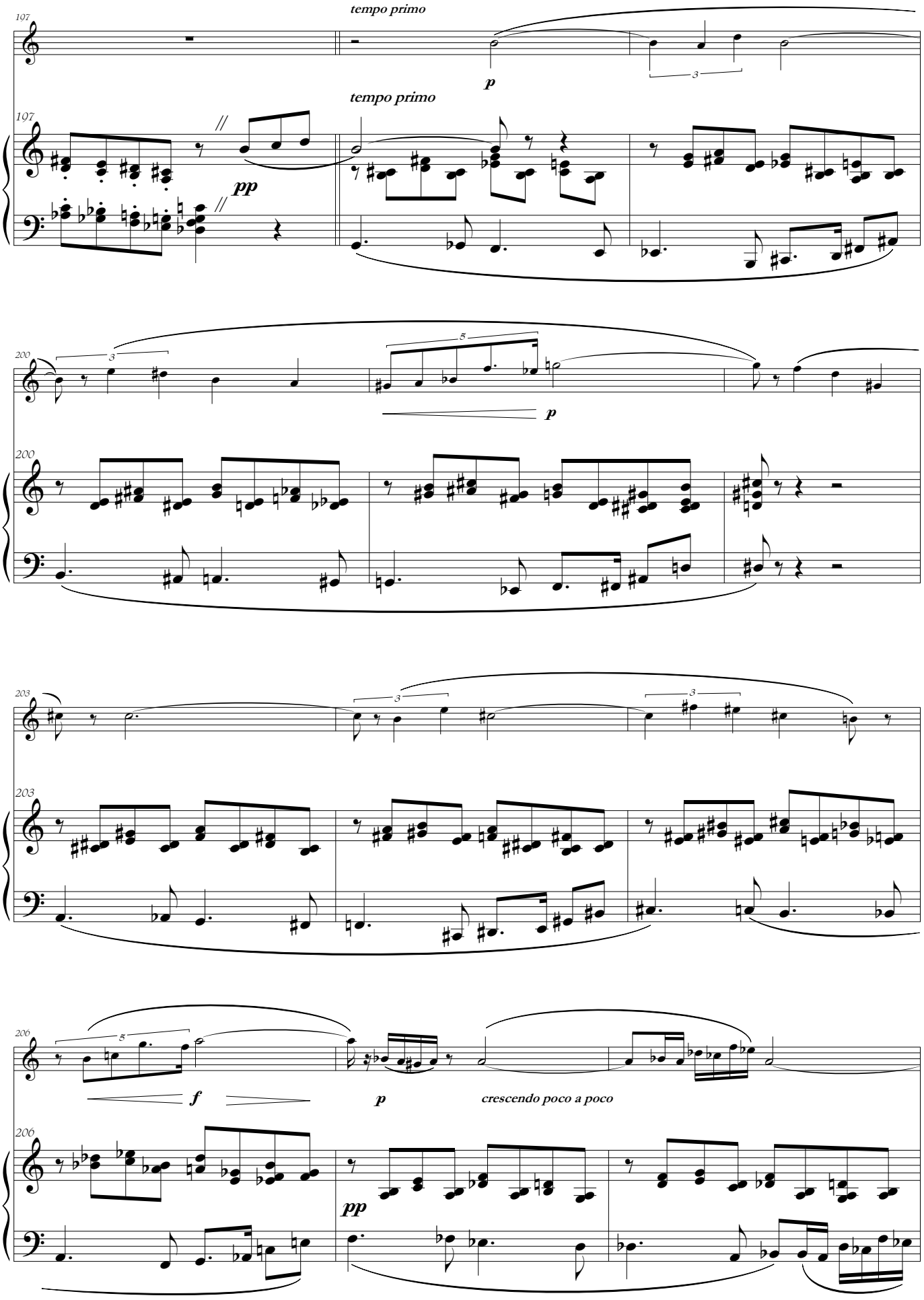
poco a poco ritardando
104
poco a poco ritardando
104
diminuendo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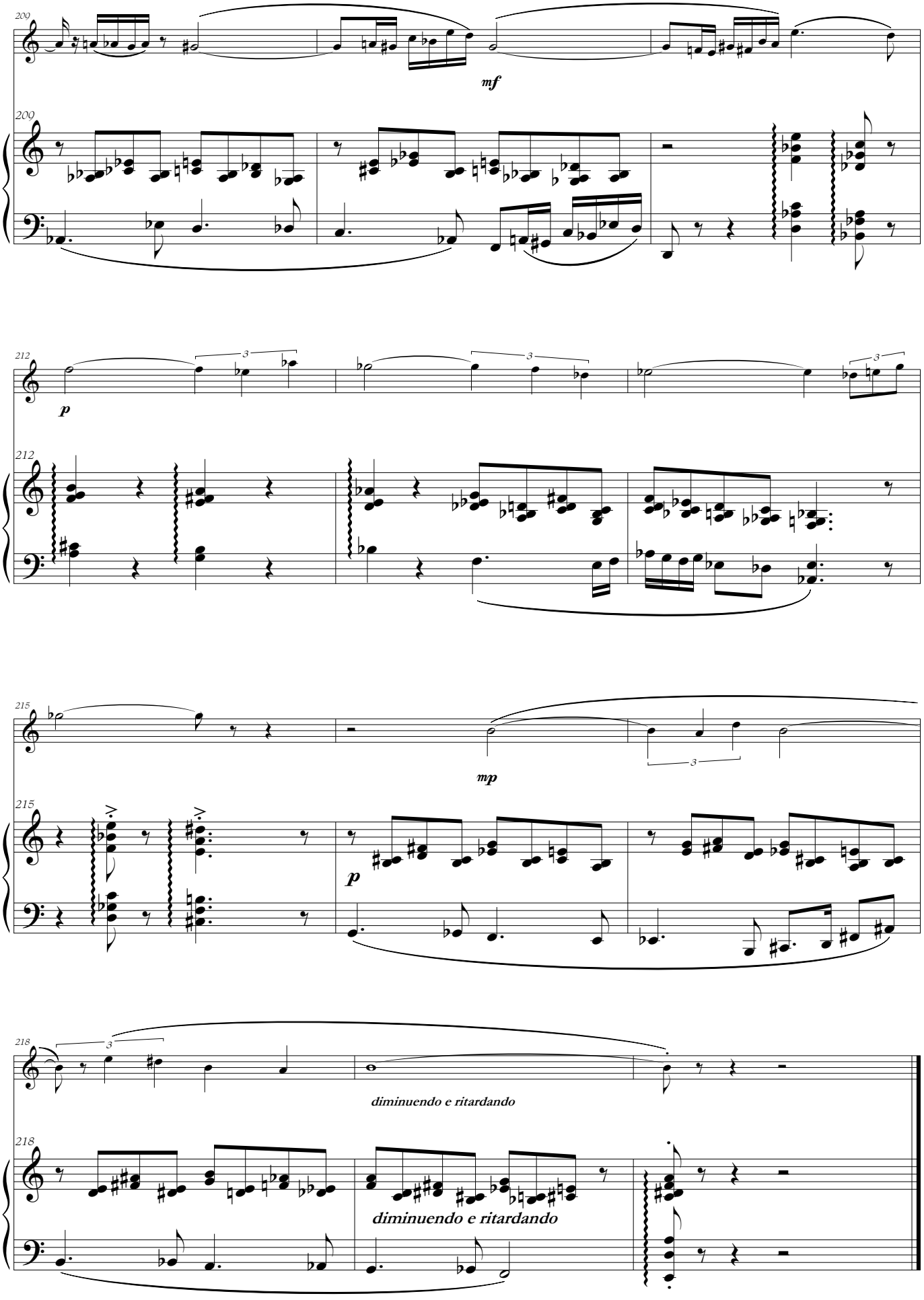
p
tempo primo
pp
f
p
crescendo poco a poco
pp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p
212
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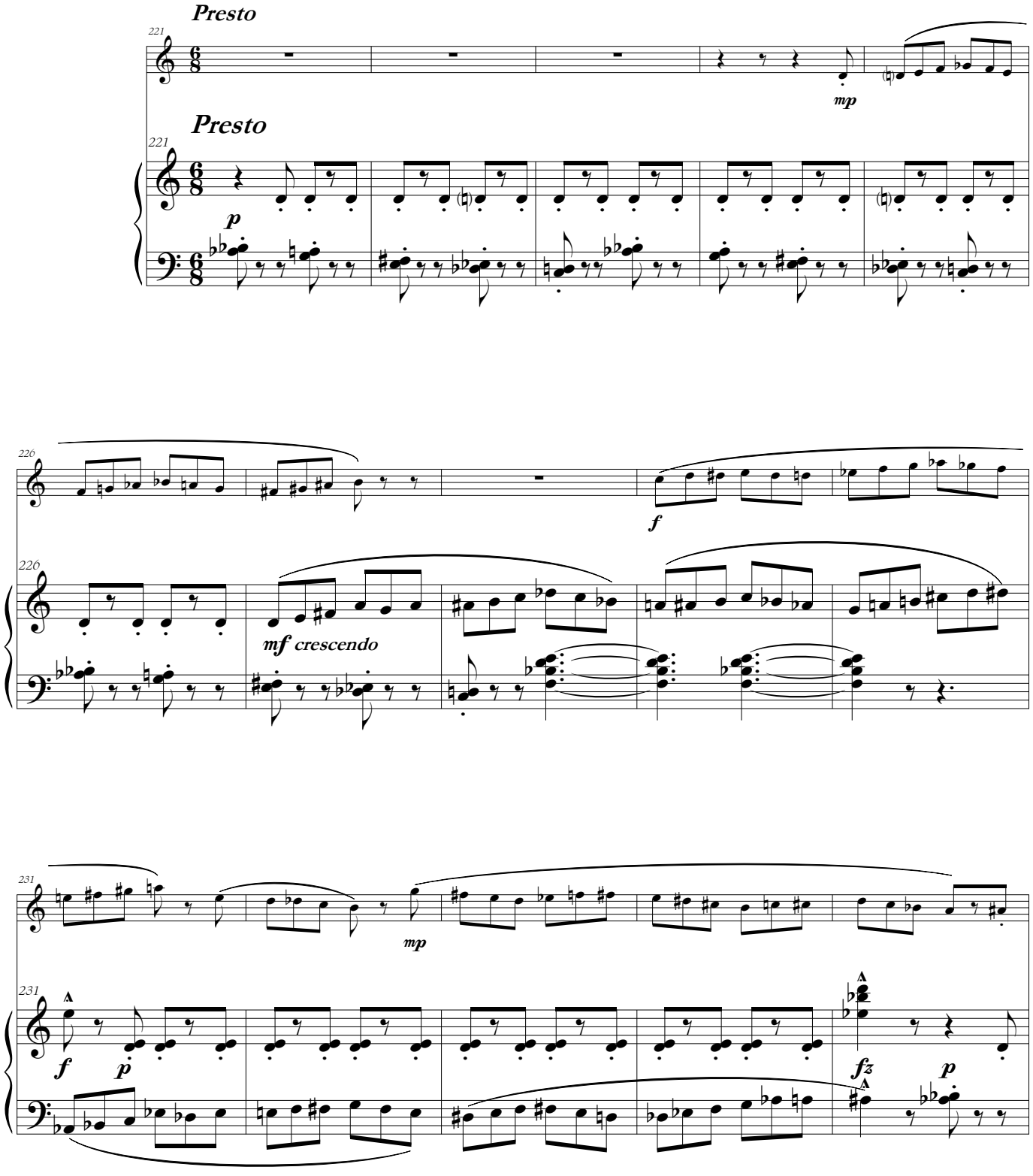
mp
215
p
218
diminuendo e ritardando
218
diminuendo e ritardando

IV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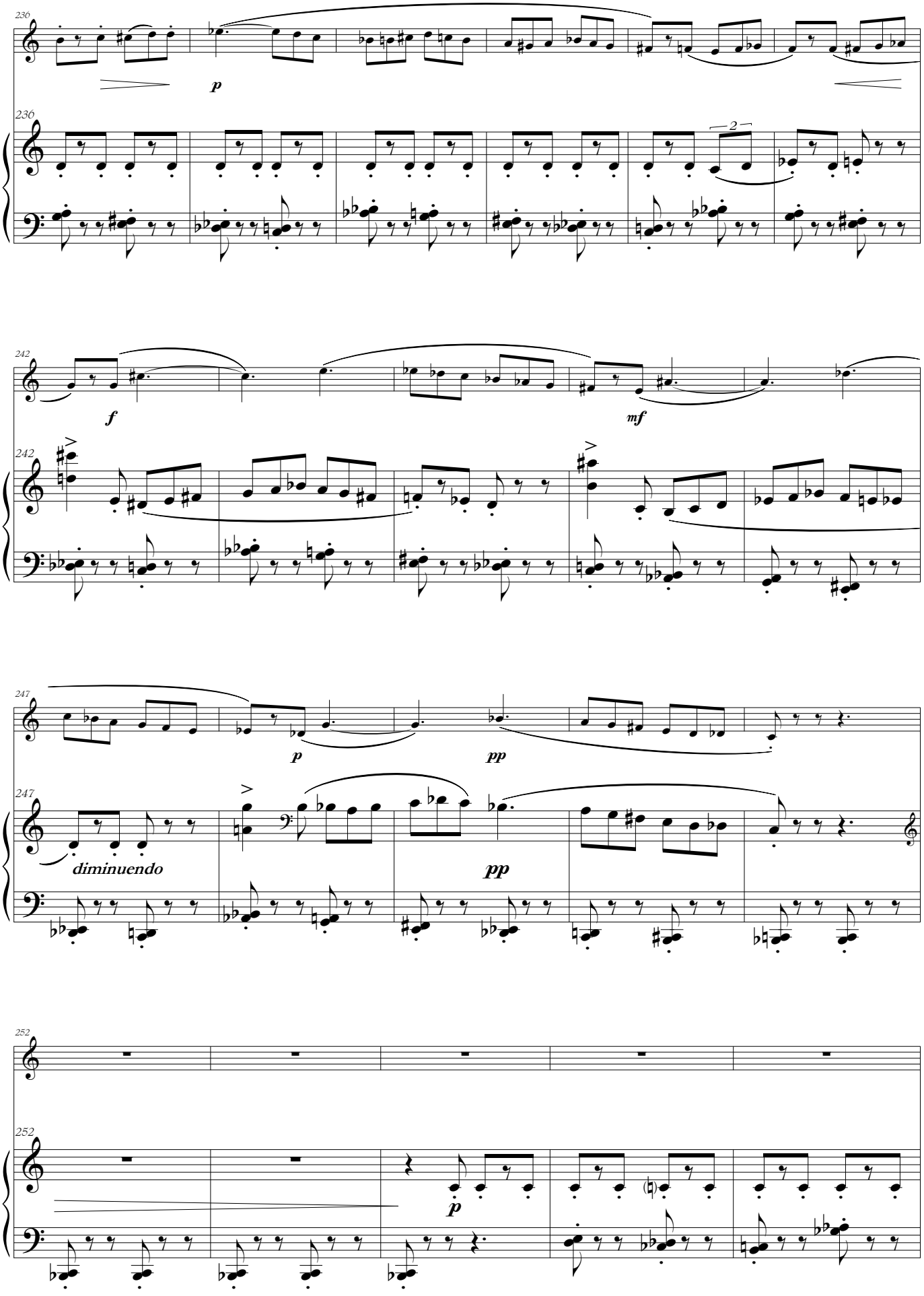
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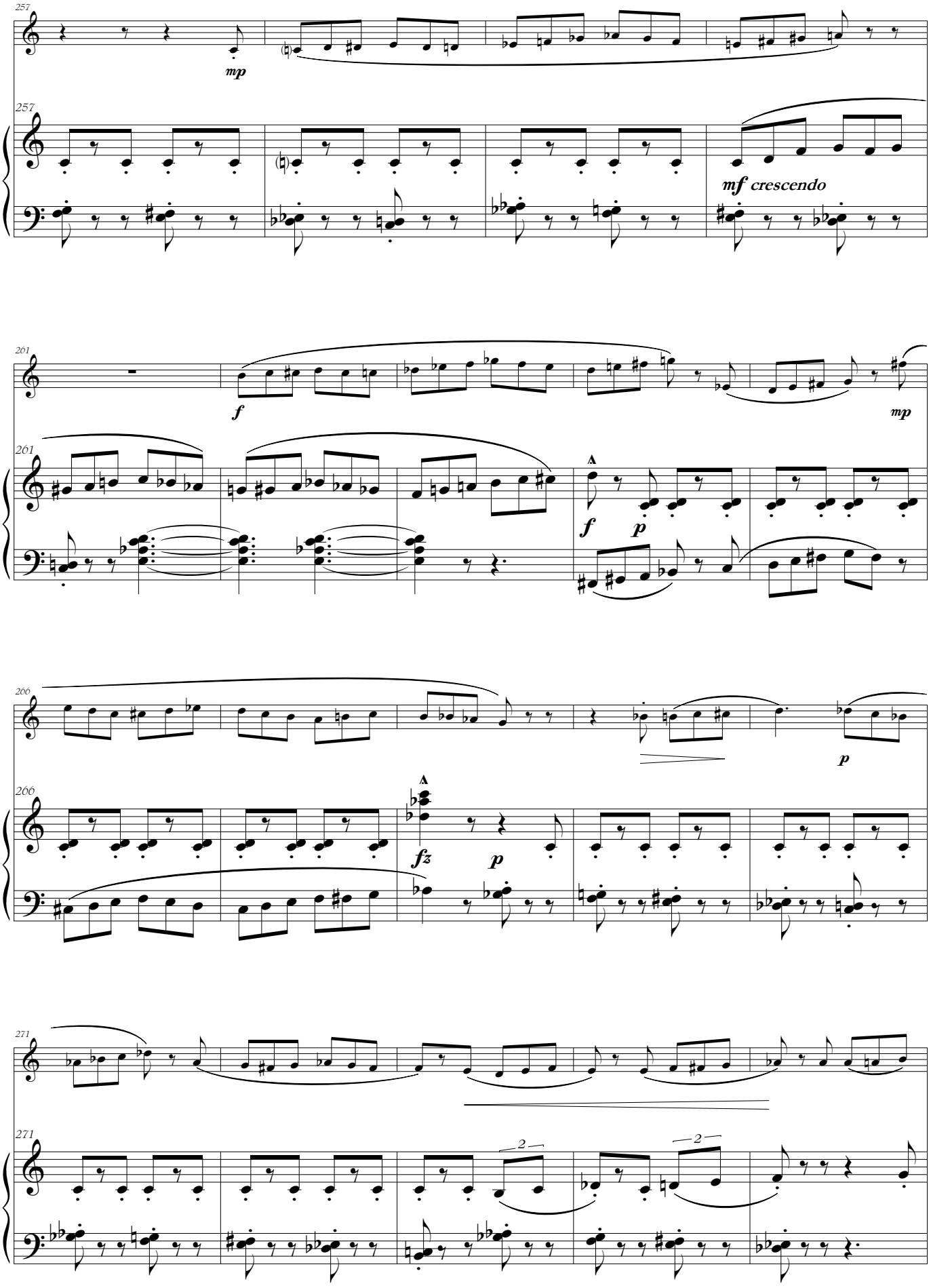
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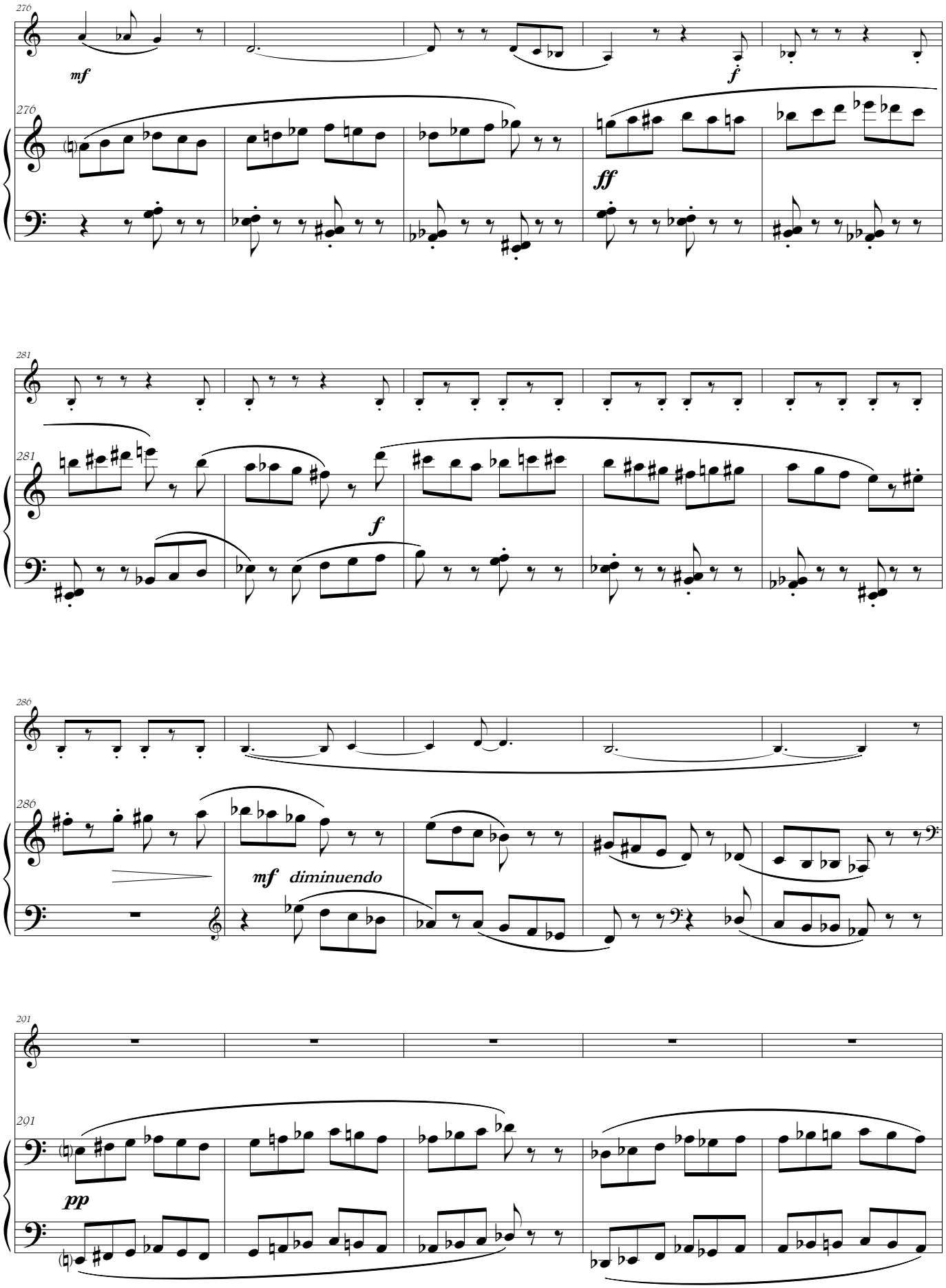
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201
201
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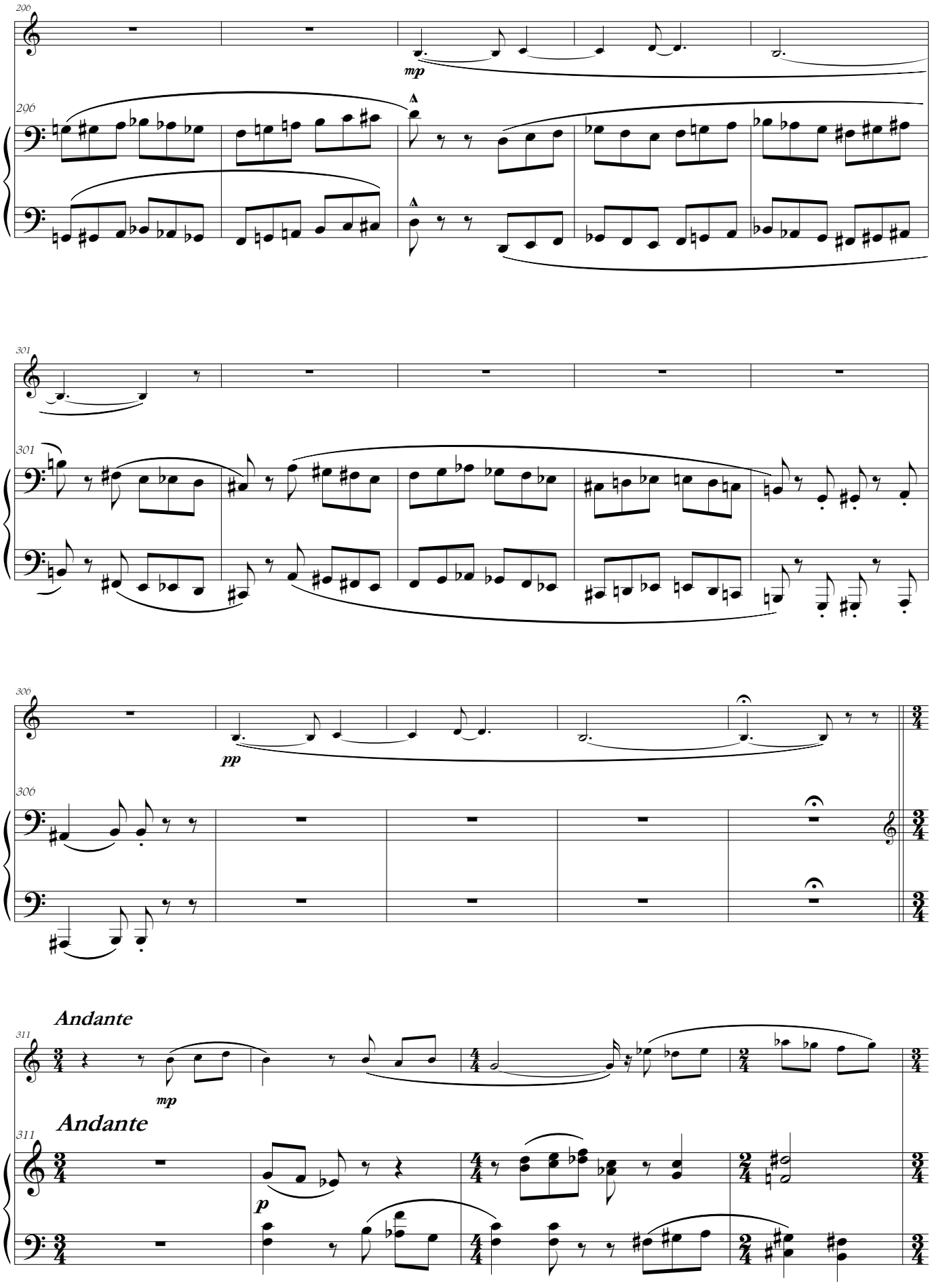
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Andante
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mp
Andante
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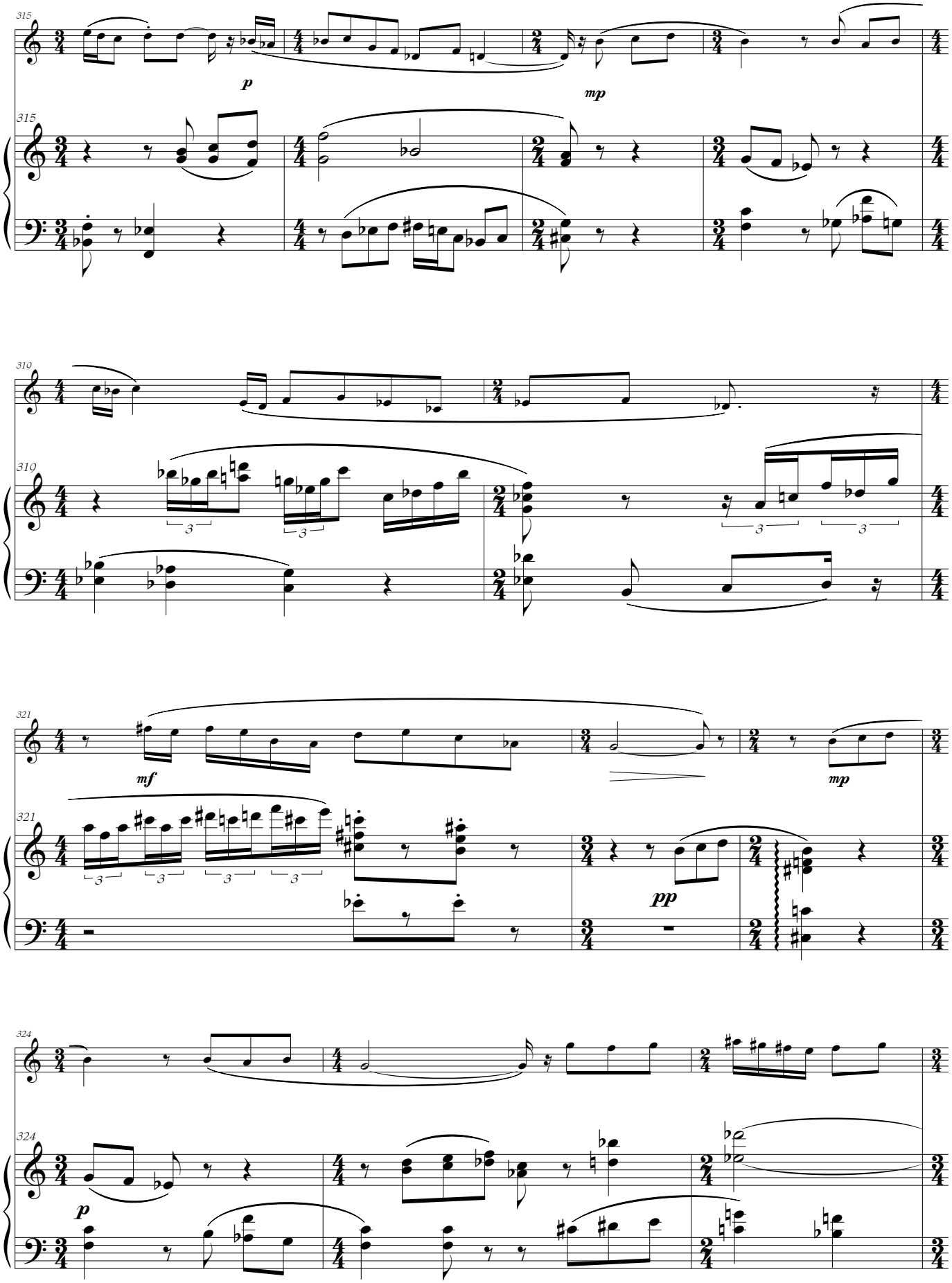
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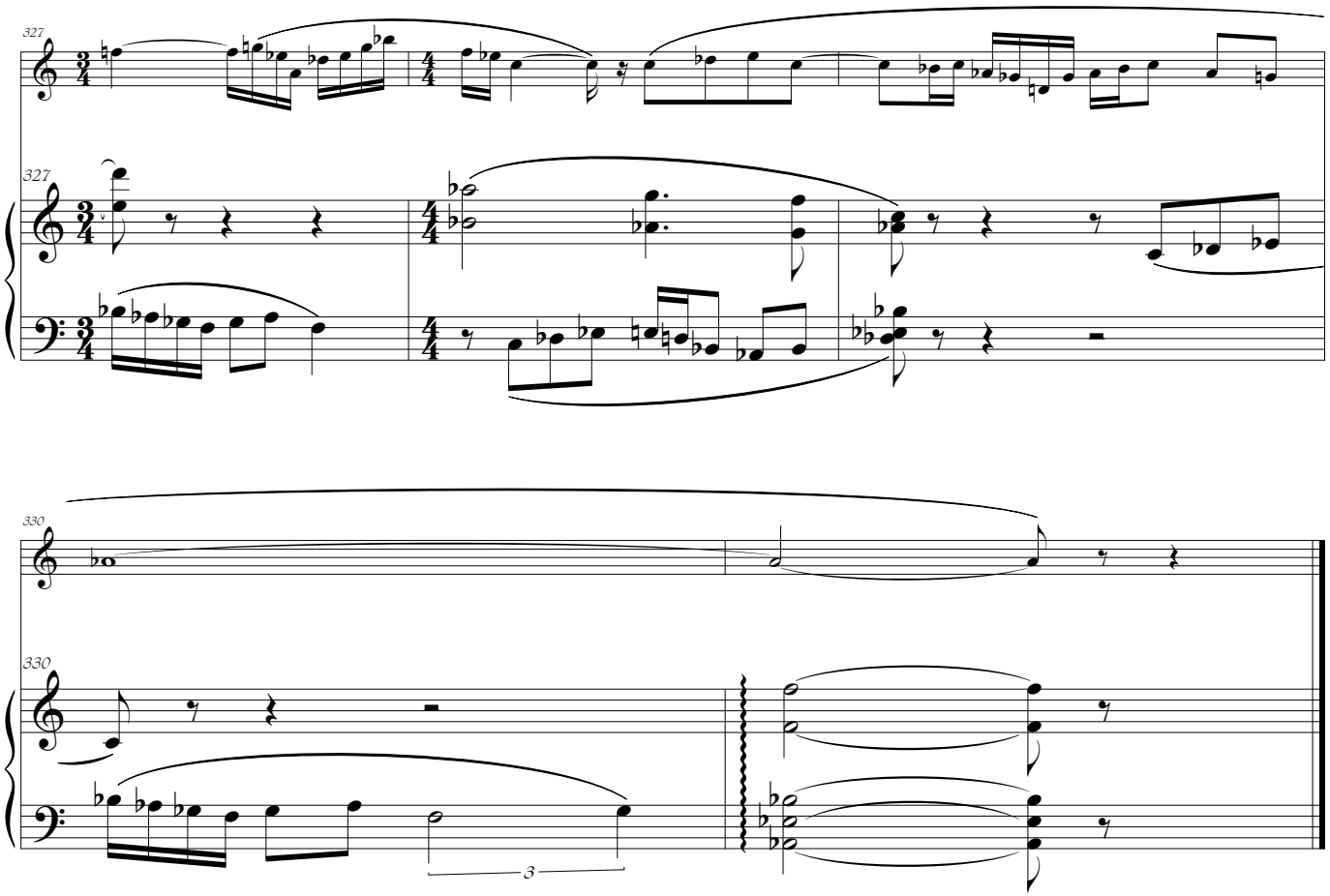
327
327
330
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3

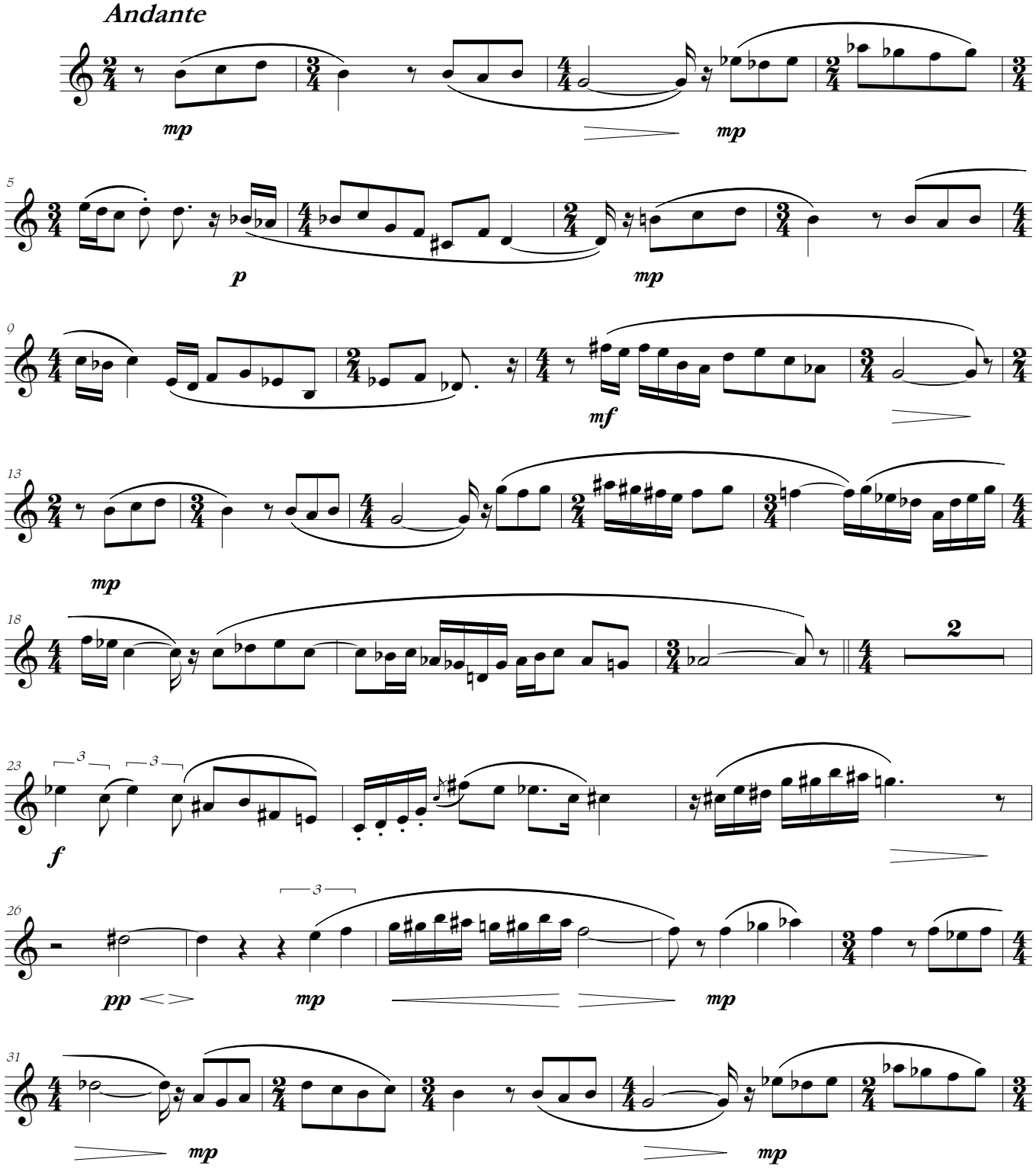
for Jennifer Paull

REFLECTIONS

I

Oboe d'amore

Ian Keith Harris
(b. 1935)



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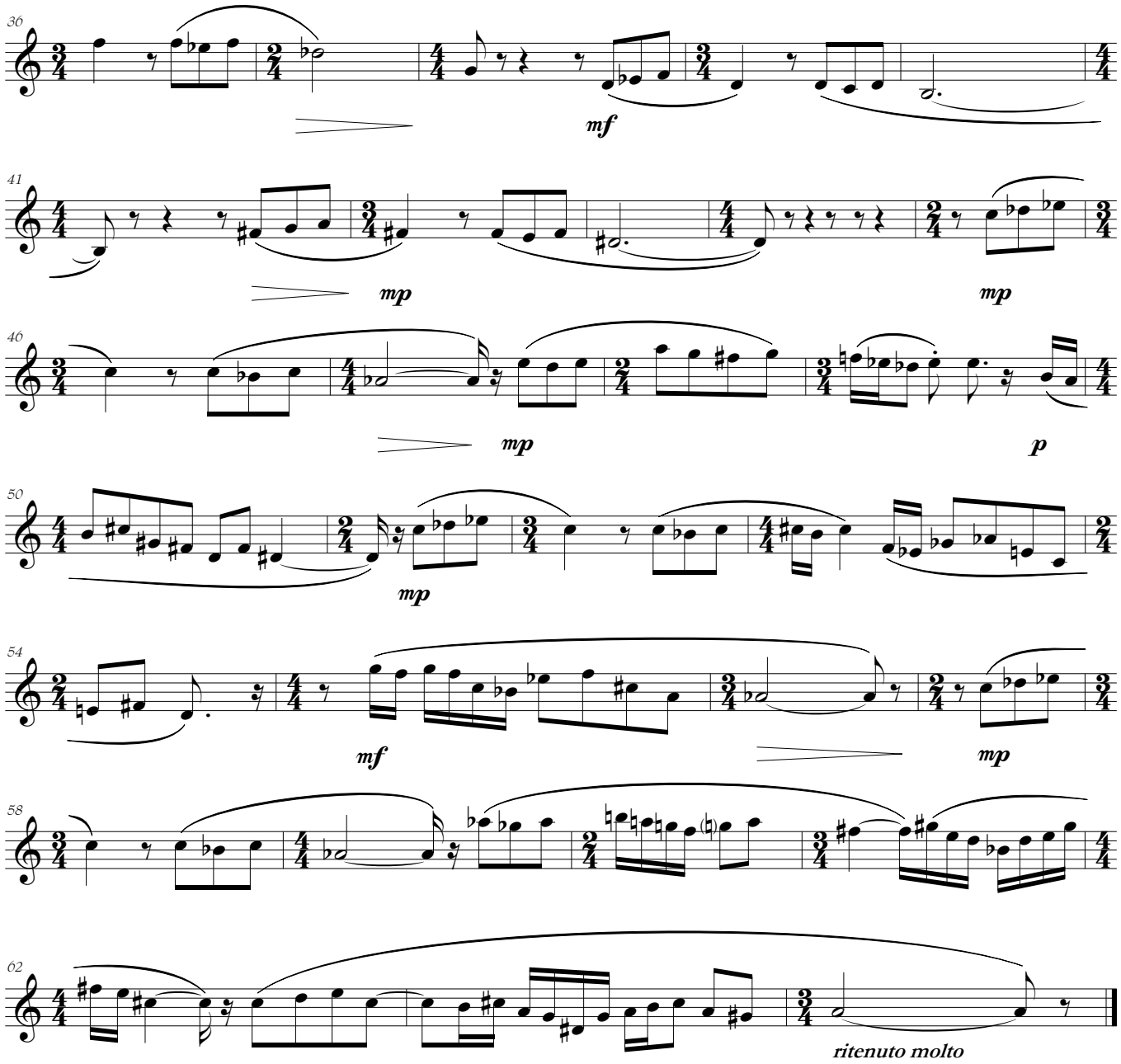
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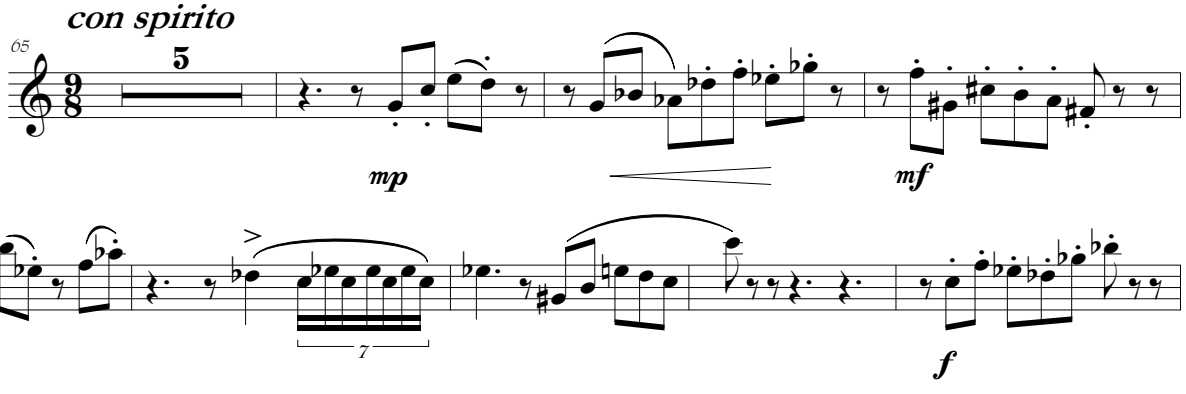
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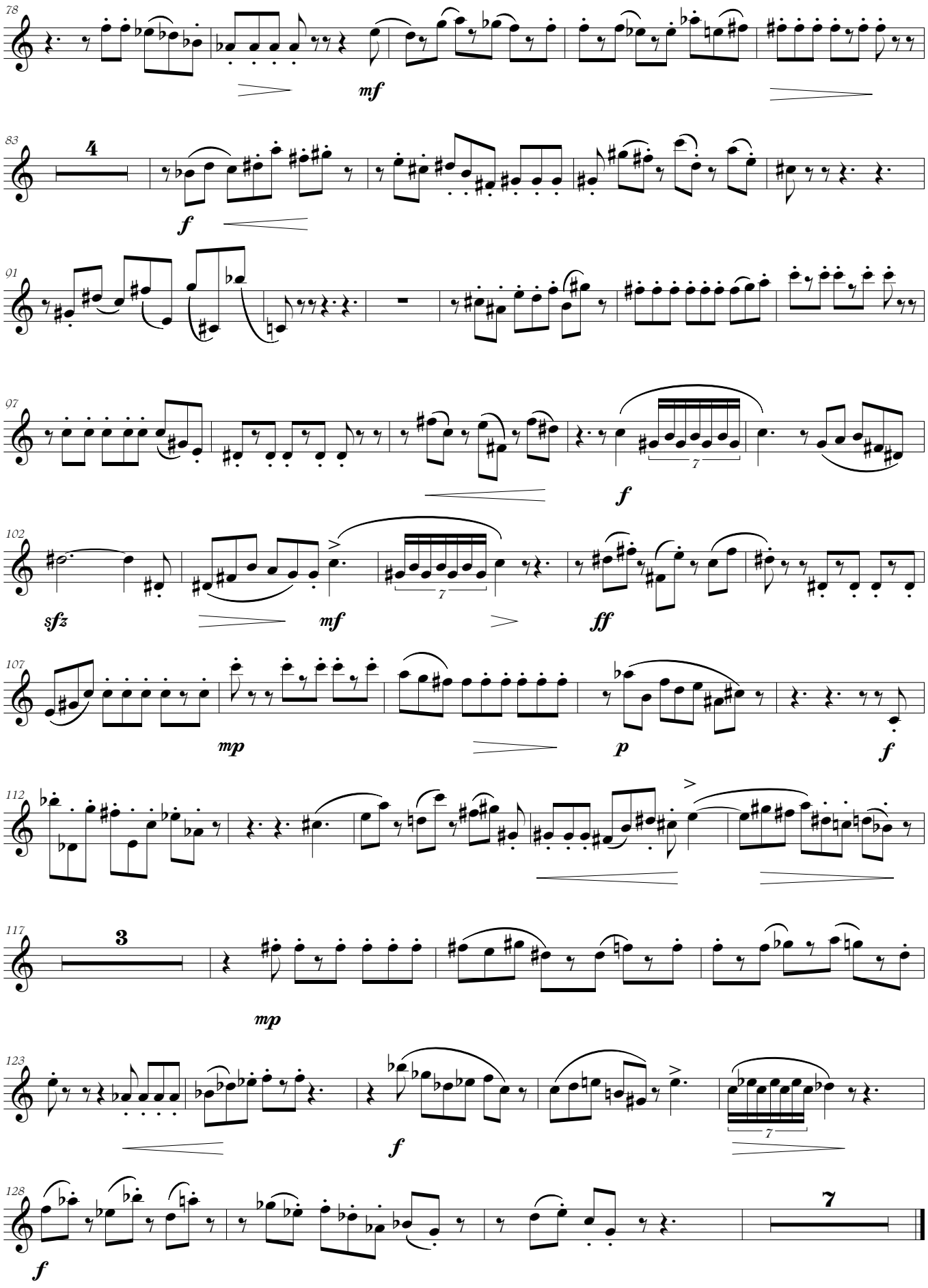
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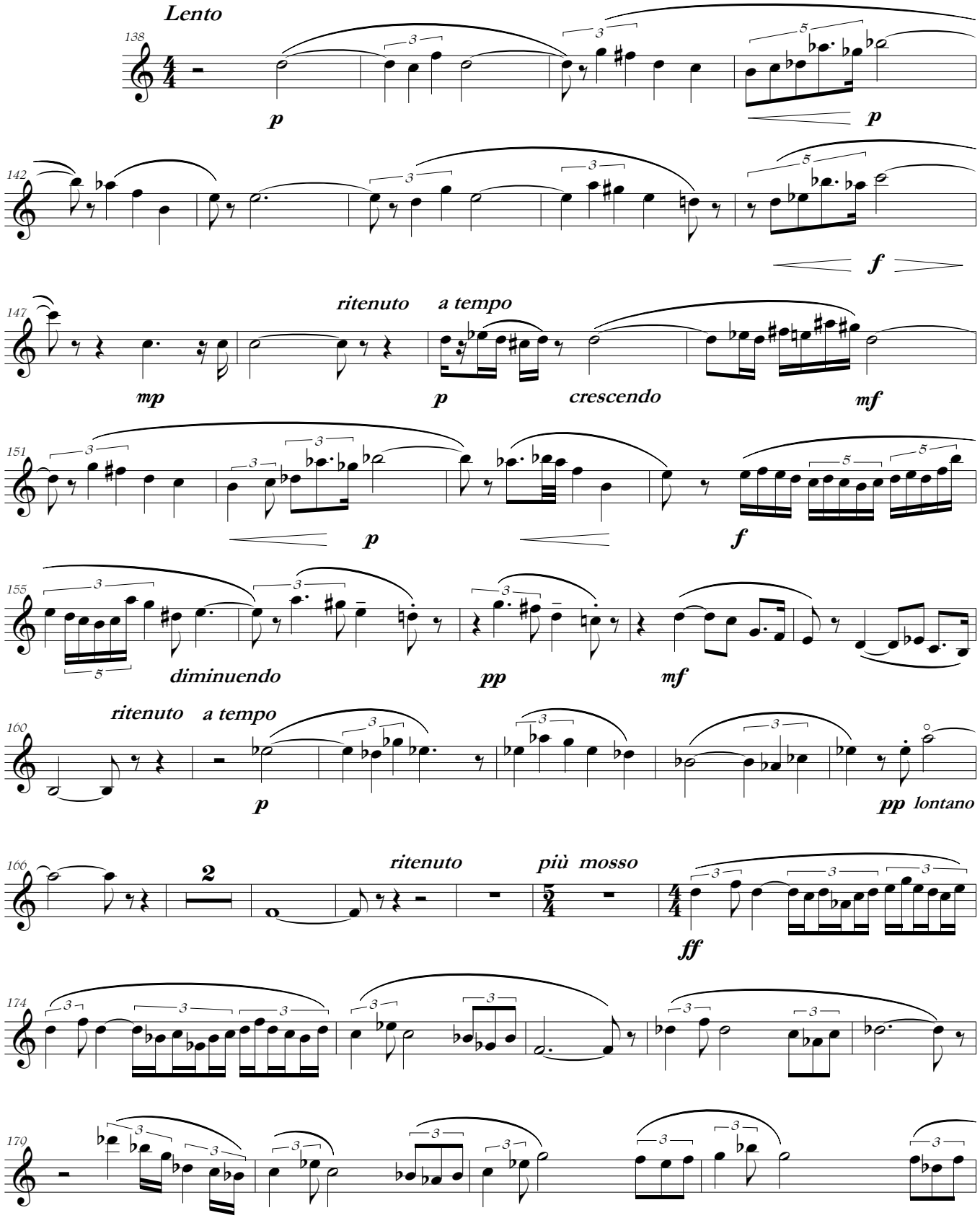
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p
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f
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a tempo
mp
p
crescendo
mf
151
p
f
155
diminuendo
pp
mf
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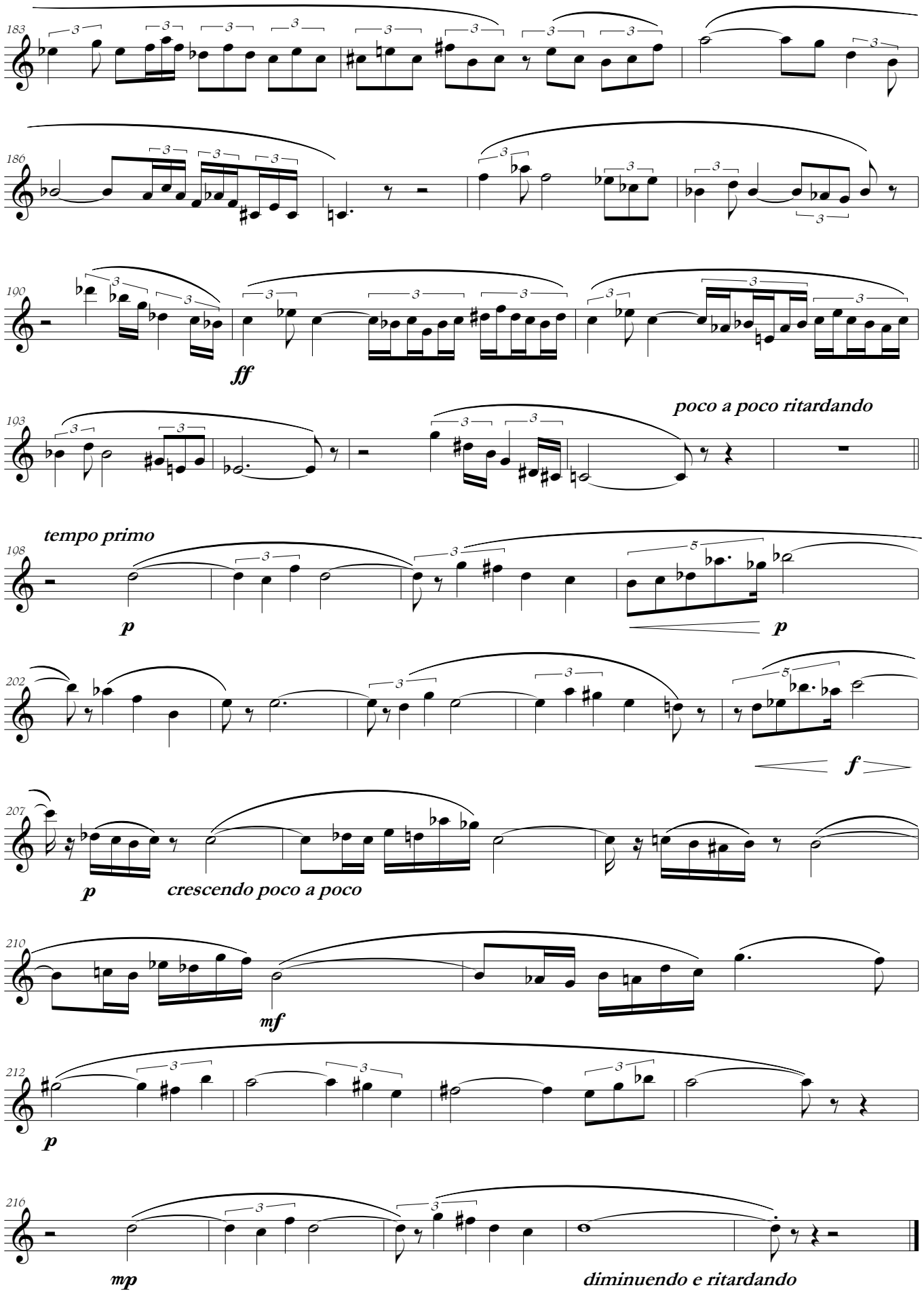
ritenuto
a tempo
p
pp
lontano
166
2
ritenuto
più mosso
ff
174
170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p
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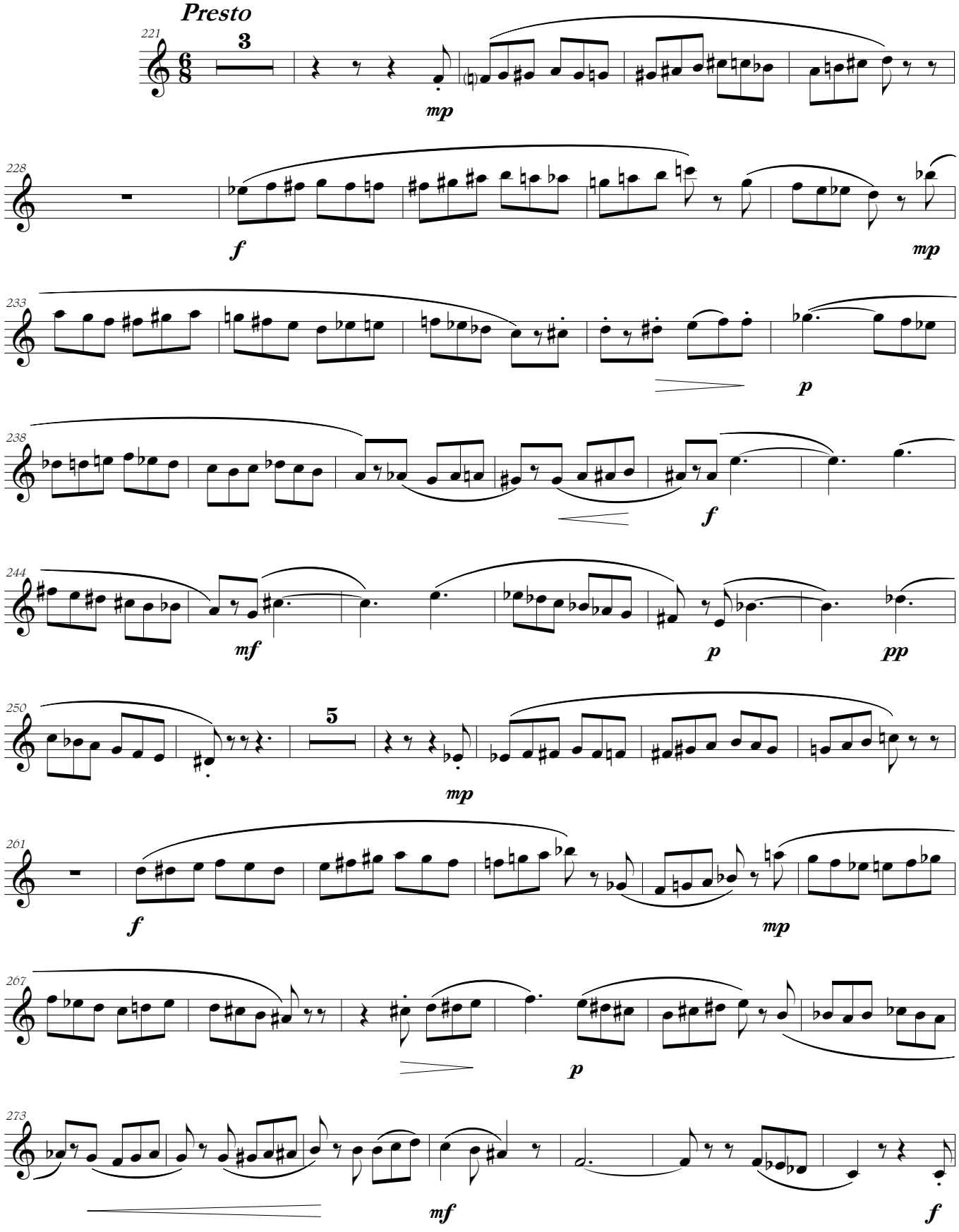
mp
diminuendo e ritardando

IV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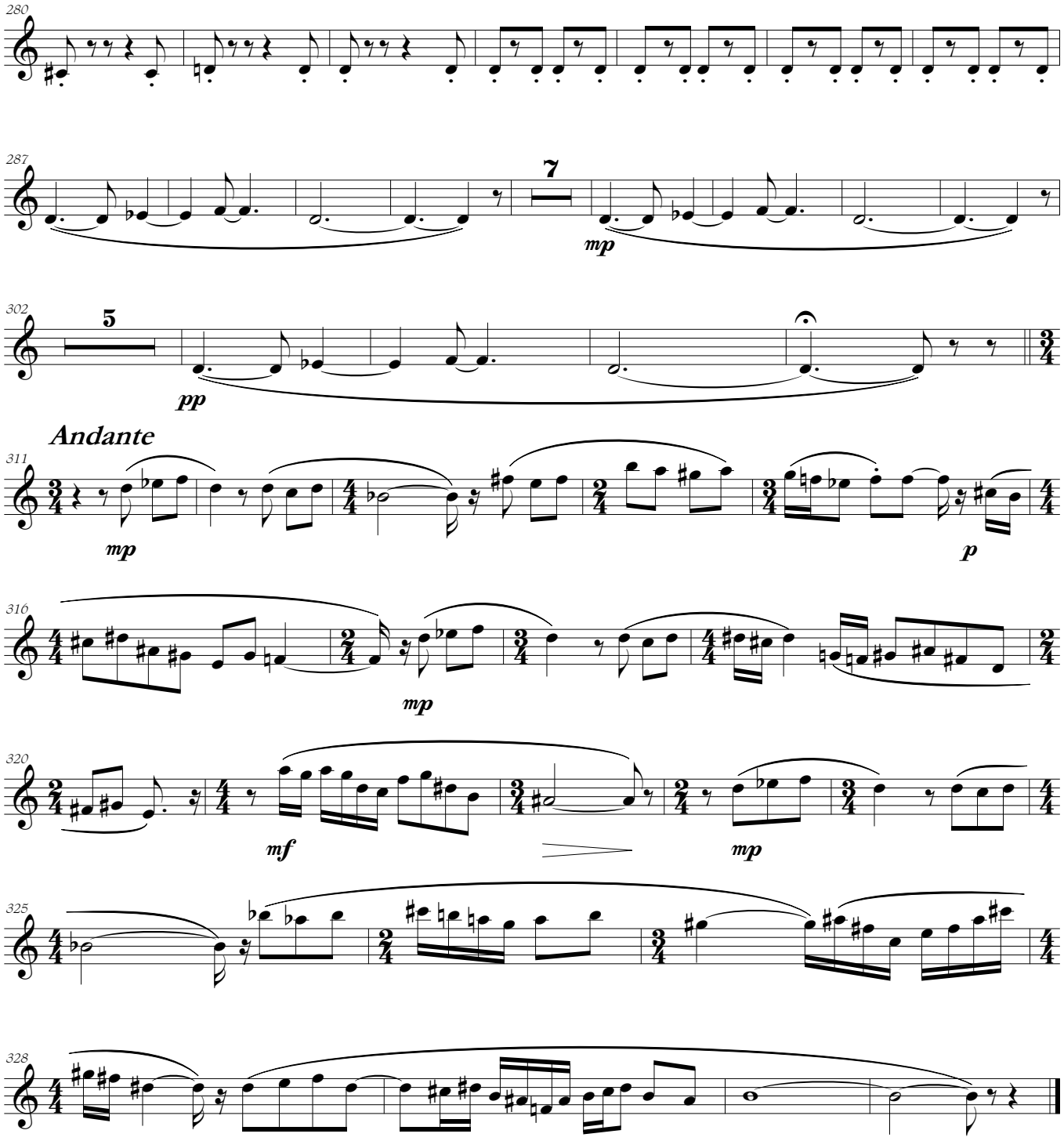
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287
7
mp
302
5
pp
Andante
311
mp
p
316
mp
320
mf
mp
325
328

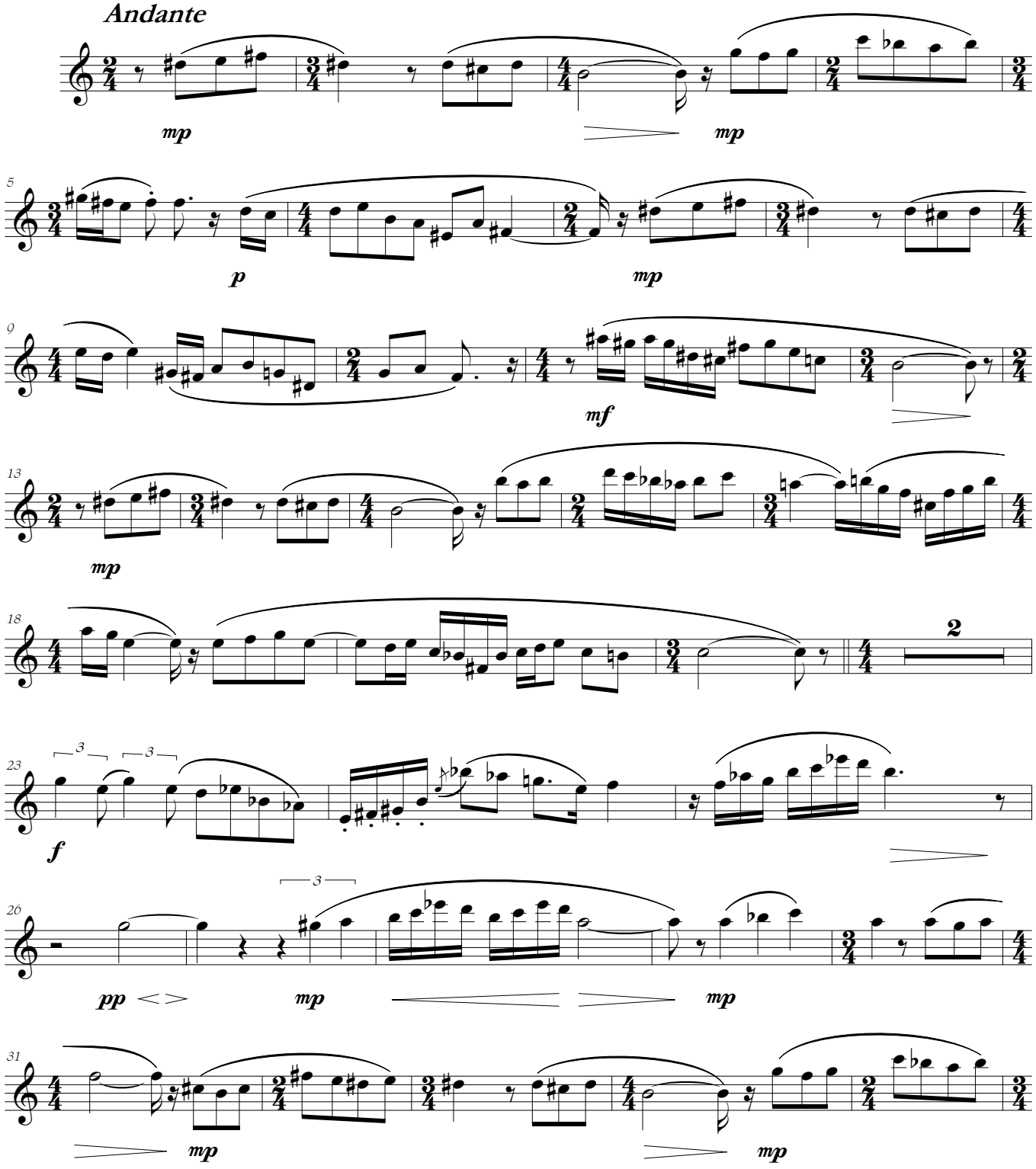
for Jennifer Paull

REFLECTIONS

I

Cor anglais

Ian Keith Harris
(b. 1935)



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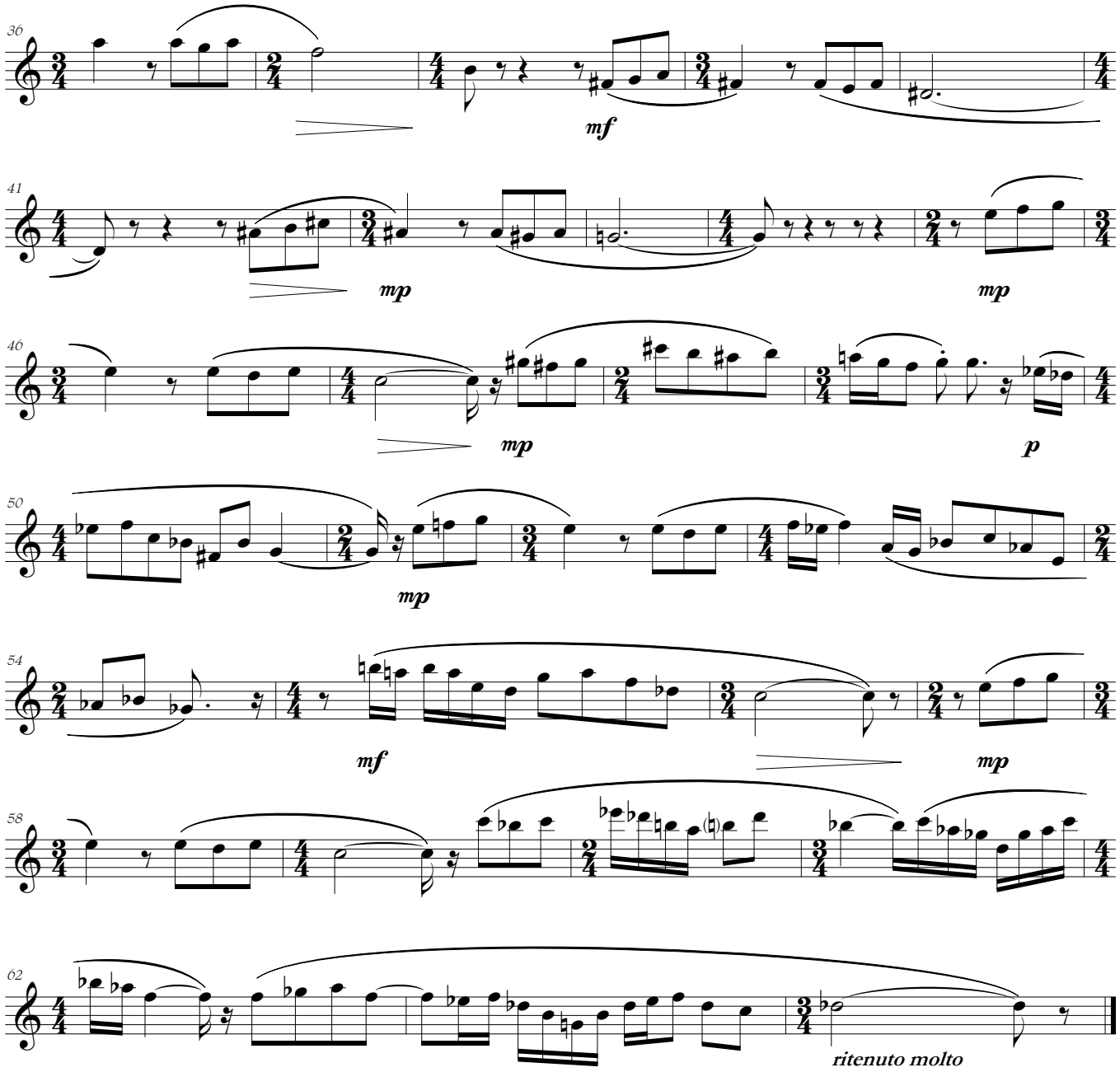
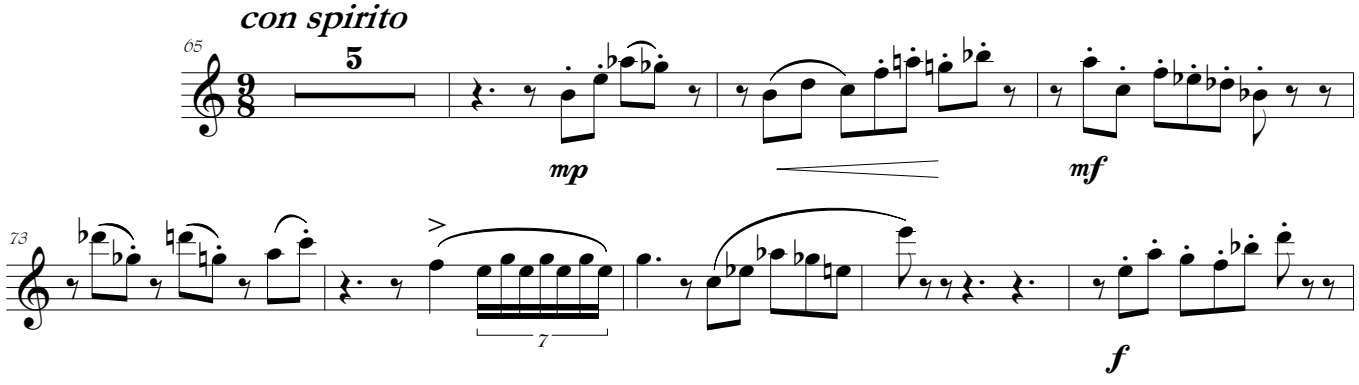
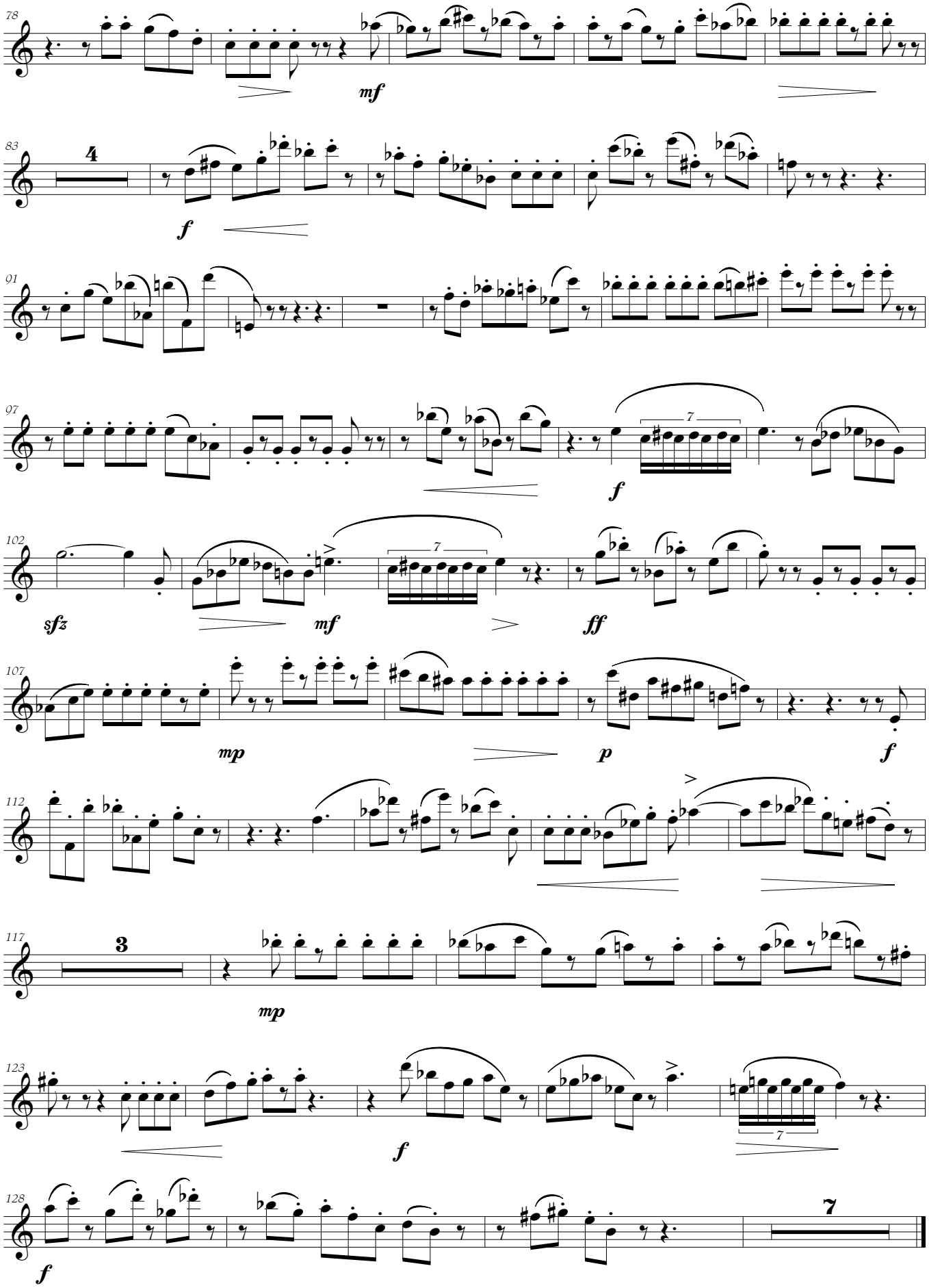
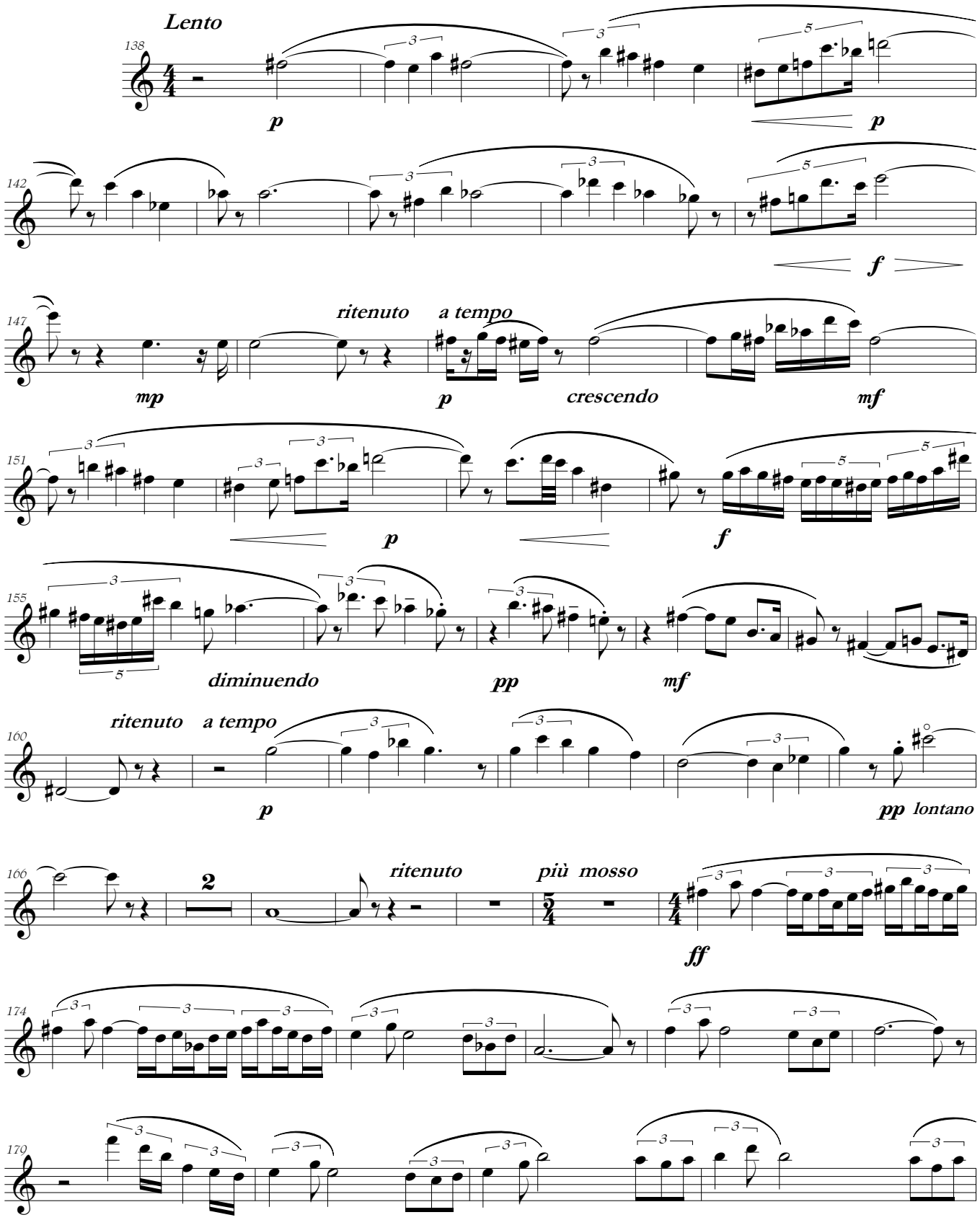

36
mf
41
mp
mp
46
mp
p
50
mp
54
mf
mp
58
62
ritenuto molto

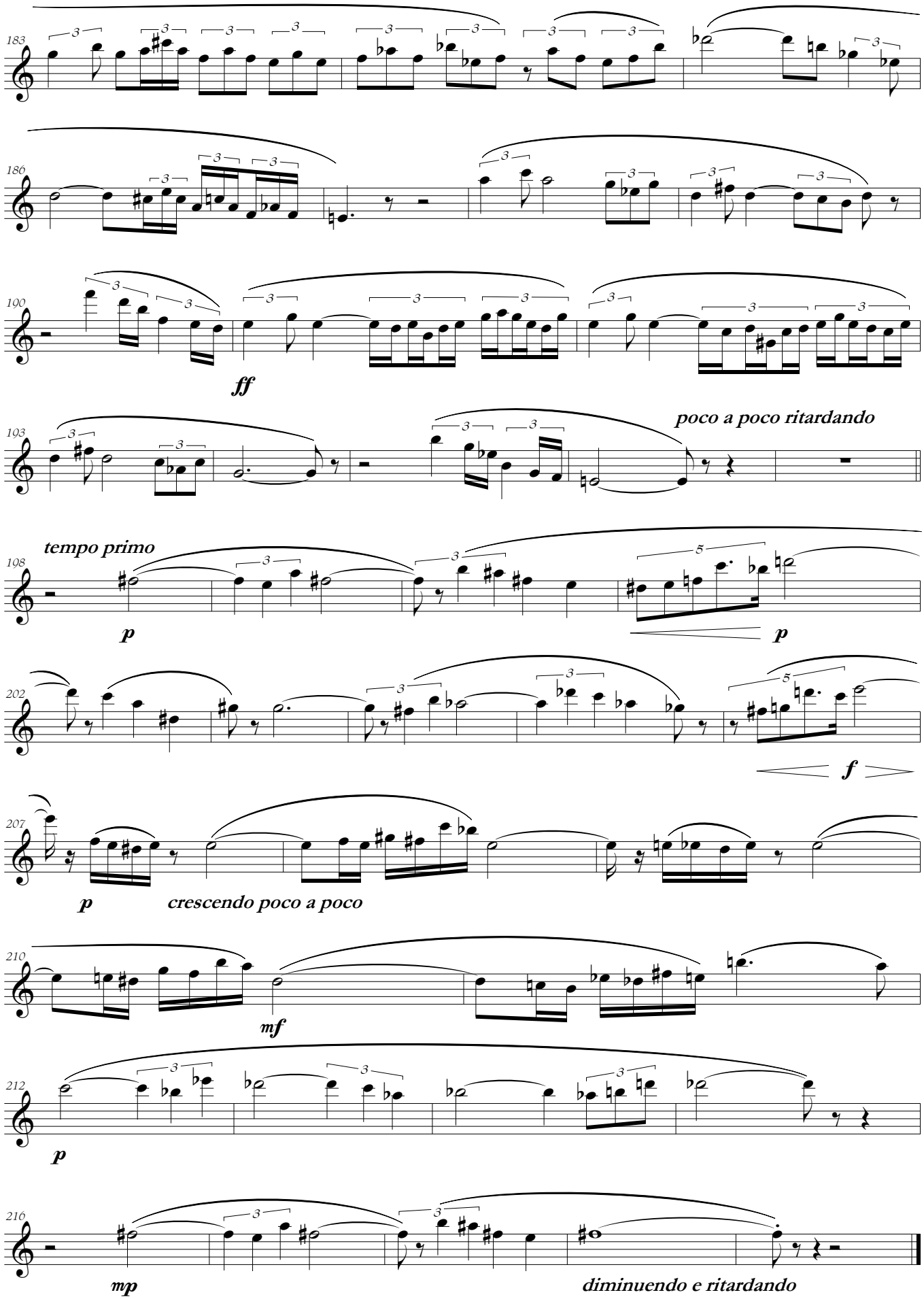
II


con spirito
65
5
mp
mf
73
7
f

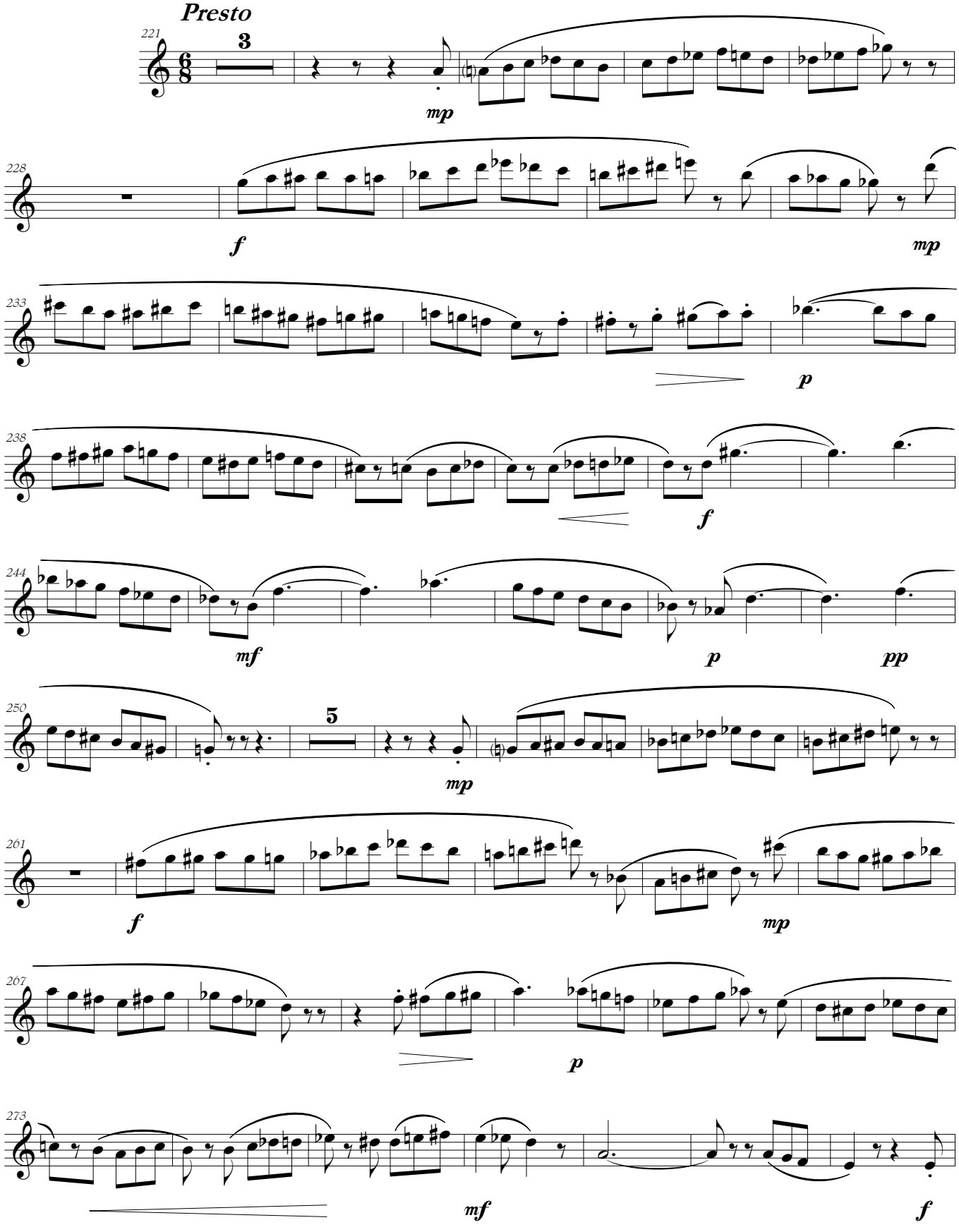

78
mf
83
4
f
91
97
7
f
102
sfz
mf
7
ff
107
mp
p
f
112
117
3
mp
123
f
7
128
f
7

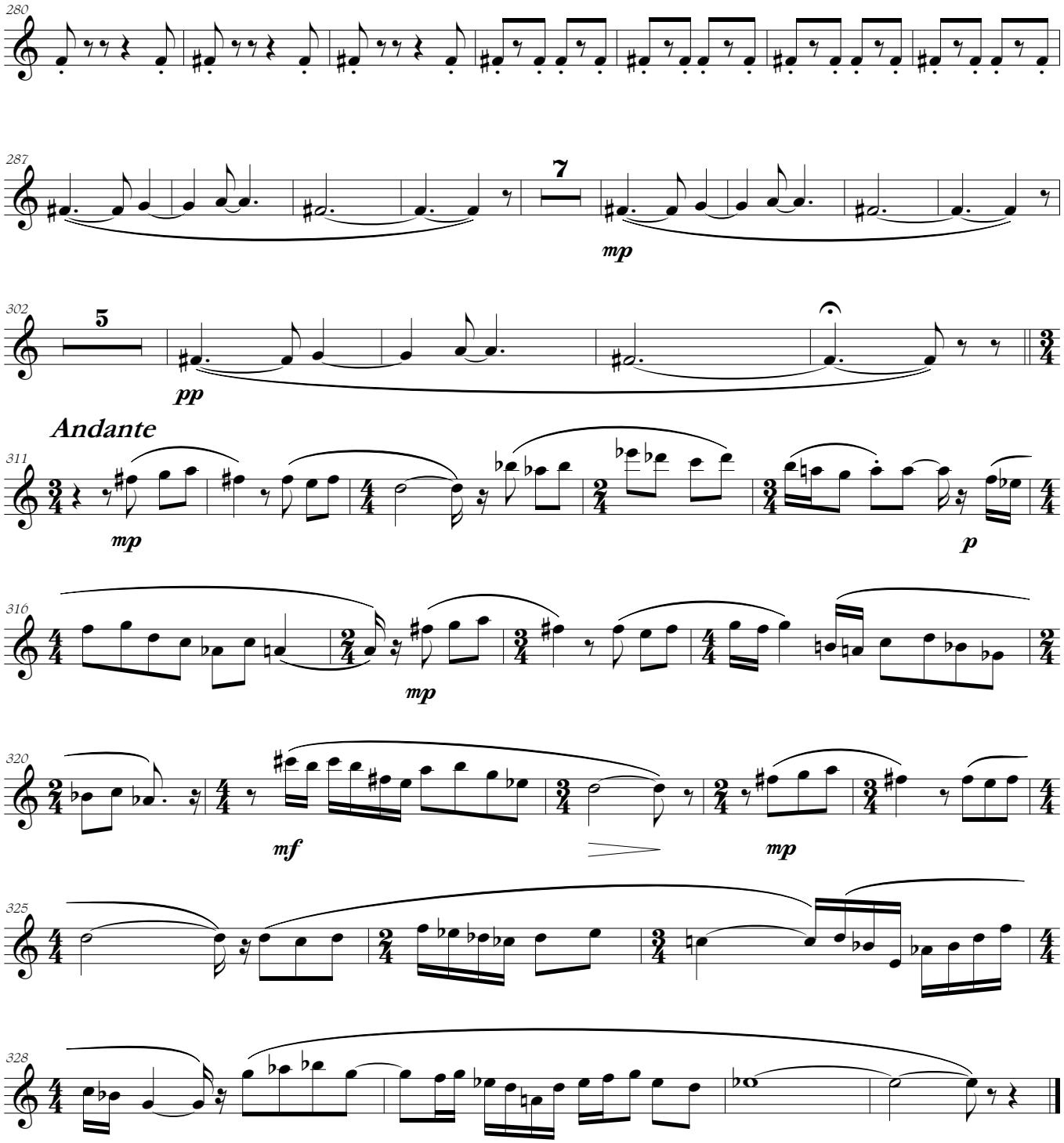
III


Lento
138
p
p
142
f
147
ritenuto
a tempo
mp
p
crescendo
mf
151
p
f
155
diminuendo
pp
mf
160
ritenuto
a tempo
p
pp lontano
166
2
ritenuto
più mosso
ff
174
170


183
186
190
ff
193
poco a poco ritardando
tempo primo
198
p
p
202
f
207
p
crescendo poco a poco
210
mf
212
p
216
mp
diminuendo e ritardando

IV


Presto
221
3
mp
228
f
mp
233
p
238
f
244
mf
p
pp
250
5
mp
201
f
mp
207
p
273
mf
f


280
287
7
mp
302
5
pp
Andante
311
mp
p
316
mp
320
mf
mp
325
328