IAN KEITH HARRIS

AN ALBUM OF AQUARELLES

Oboe d'amore (Oboe) & Harp (Piano)

AMORIS INTERNATIONAL
www.amoris.com

AI SI 019

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.

❖❖❖

An Album of Aquarelles

Oboe d'amore (Oboe) & Harp (Piano)

AI SI 019

This album of *aquarelles* is for oboe d'amore (oboe) and harp (piano). All three (2006) were written for and dedicated to Jennifer Paull. The title for this album was her suggestion. It describes the blending of the delicate timbres of the instruments for which they were conceived. Both instruments share equally in the music, melding and contrasting their subtle tone colours. The three separate compositions are intended to stand alone, although they can be performed consecutively.

AQUARELLE I

Syrinx and Pan

This is the first of my three *aquarelles*, or watercolours in sound. I was inspired by the painting 'Pan and Syrinx' by Jean-Francois de Troy (1679-1752), the French artist and tapestry designer. I hoped one day to set the story it portrays to music. I had discovered his work initially on the cover of one of Jennifer Paull's CDs❖ and, enjoying its style, looked further into his works.

I have tried to interpret the fate of these two figures of Greek mythology. Pan, who is in love with her, pursues Syrinx. The characters are portrayed by two contrasting musical ideas. The first, with its tritone gestures, defines a poignant question over a cascading harp (piano) accompaniment recalling the scintillating rays of the summer sun reflecting upon the waters to which Syrinx runs. She seeks assistance from the water nymphs. The harp (piano) depicts the ripples of the water and the sunlight glinting upon the sparkling cascades.

Her plea is her undoing and she is transformed into hollow water reeds. When Pan's frustrated breath blew across them they made a haunting sound. I found this most fitting for the timbre colours of the oboe d'amore (oboe).

There follows a reassuring waltz. In this, the second subject, the two instruments are warmly painted in affable accord, as if the waltz of time could accord the warm glow of peace and resolution to the lovers' pain. Pan imagines holding the Syrinx he had loved in his arms and dancing with her by the water's edge. All he can do is to cut the reeds and make them into a set of panpipes, to be immortalised by the name of his love. They will be known henceforth as a *syrinx* and he will carry her with him in his heart.

❖ **The Oboe d'amore Collection Volume I** (*A* SC VI)

AQUARELLE II

Aurora Australis

The Aurora Australis is also known as the Southern Lights, and is a phenomenon which has its counterpart in the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights in the northern hemisphere. Although auroras appear in many forms such as pillars, streaks, wisps, and haloes of vibrating colour, they are most beautifully magical when they emerge in the form of pale curtains floating upon a breeze of light. These amazing displays and formations are produced by the solar wind. A stream of electrons and protons comes

from the sun colliding with gases in the upper atmosphere. Earth's magnetic field channels these electrical discharges towards the poles, releasing the various scintillating shows of coloured light visible in the night skies. In modern times, with the cities in both hemispheres so flooded by electric lighting, the auroras tend to be lost from view.

This, the second of my *aquarelles*, refers to a particularly happy earlier time for me in Hobart, Tasmania. The future looked bright and everything seemed to be perfect. My wife and I watched the Southern Lights together in the twilight, and felt at peace with the world.

AQUARELLE III

West of The Winter Wind

The third of my *aquarelles* portrays the rainsqualls of winter. I have brushed the sound picture of driving sheets beating upon my Tasmanian iron roof: of rain running relentlessly into the windowpanes and slithering down the glass to disappear into the parched earth. The wind bends the iron-strong eucalyptus; its gusts break off battered leaves from twisting limbs and sends dried branches crashing down from the top of the giant Tasmanian Bluegum trees. The expressions of havoc and hurry permeate everything in the fury of the elements.

Ian Keith Harris
2006

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

A Summer Idyll AI SI 018
Autumnal Interlude AI SI 020
Sonatina AI SI 021
Tasmanian Ants AI SI 023
Reflections AI SI 029
Sonata '*Les Amours*' AI CM 007
Divertissement AI EN 006
A Consort of Carols AI EN 008
FunFare AI EN 009
'Paw de trois' – Three Dances for Canines AI EN 010
The White Rose AI OR 003 (String Orchestra etc.) & AI EN 007 (String Quartet etc.)

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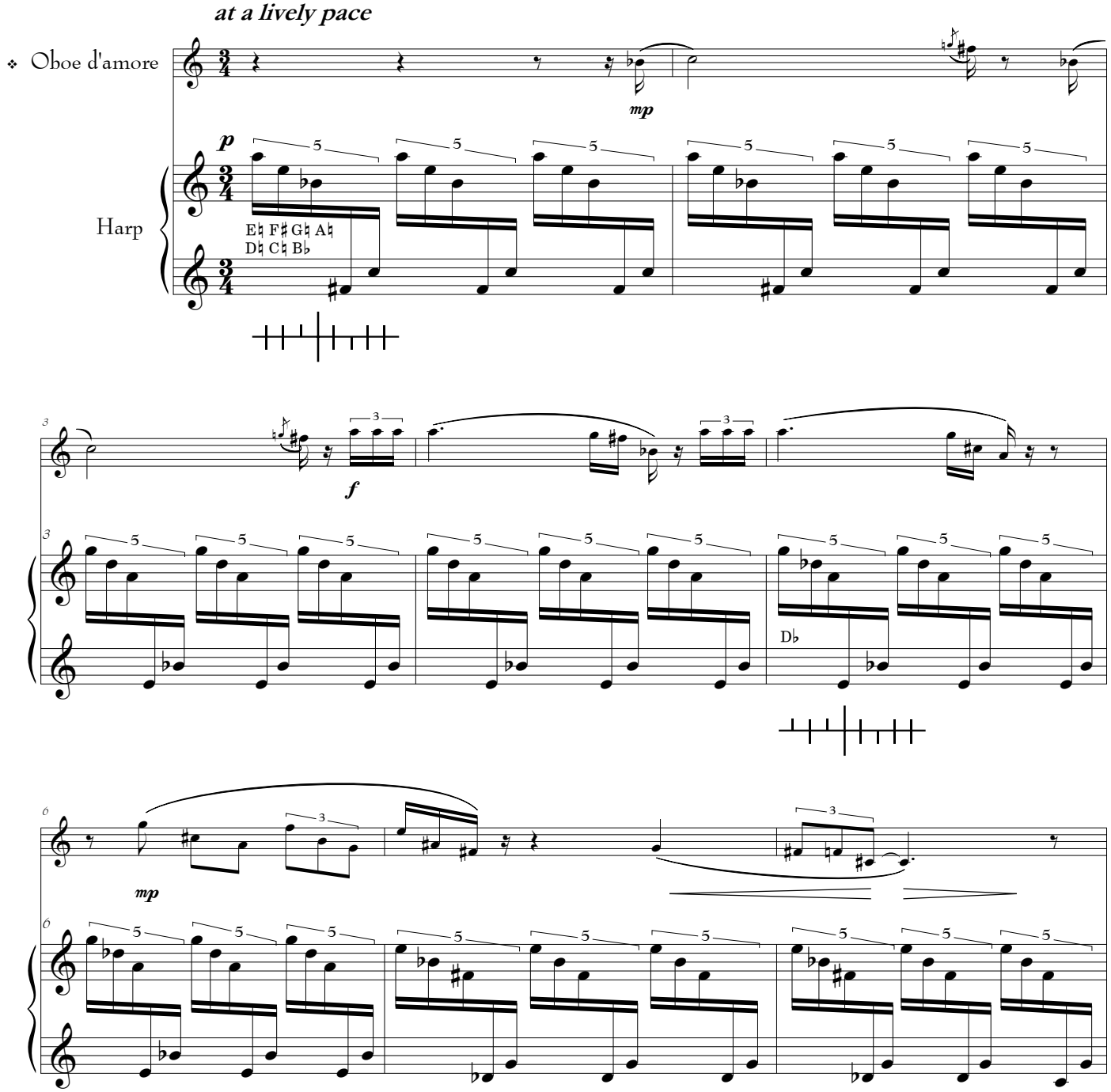
for Jennifer Paull

AN ALBUM OF AQUARELLES

I Syrinx & Pan

Harp

Ian Keith Harris
(1935 -)



❖ In Concert Pitch

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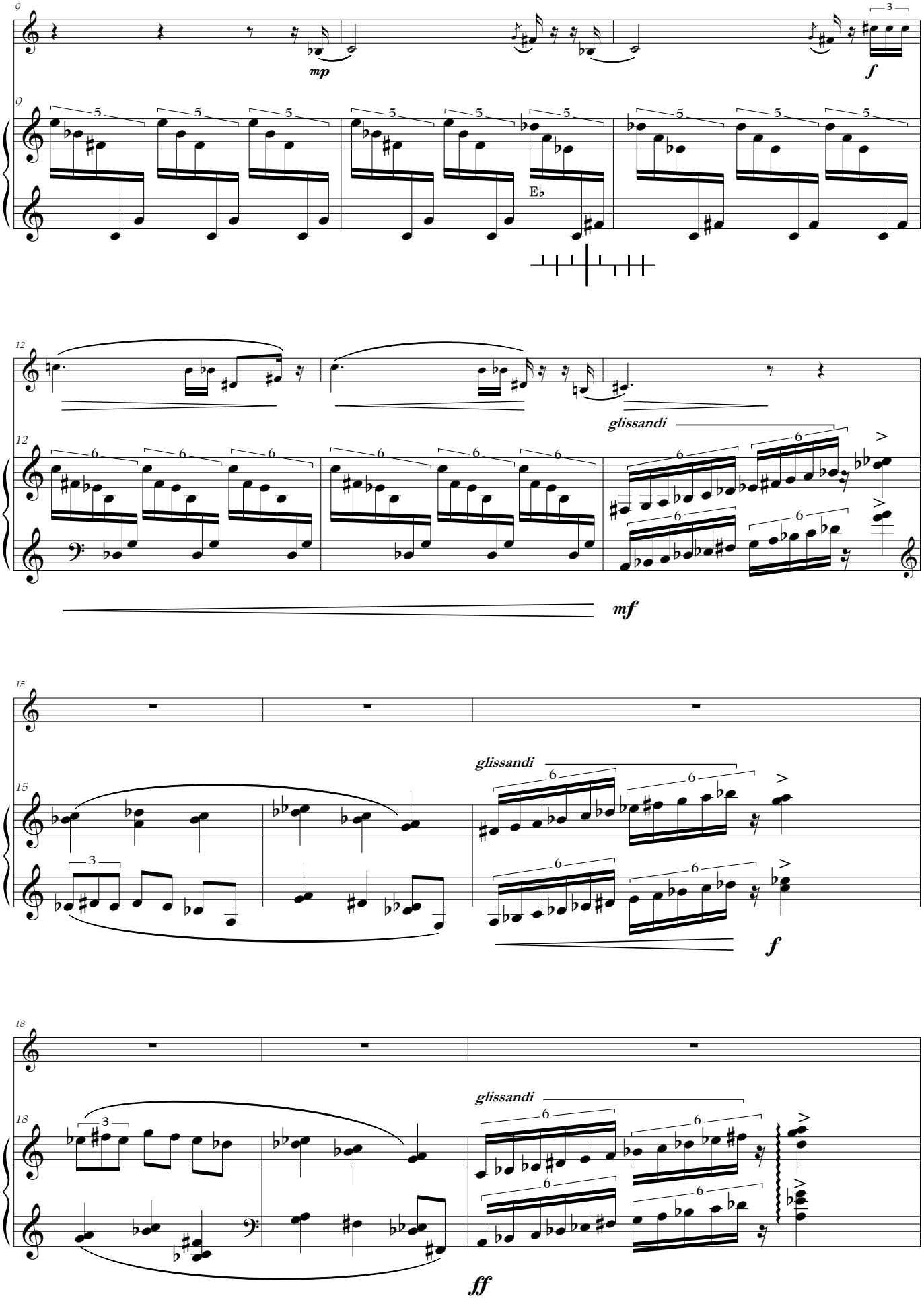
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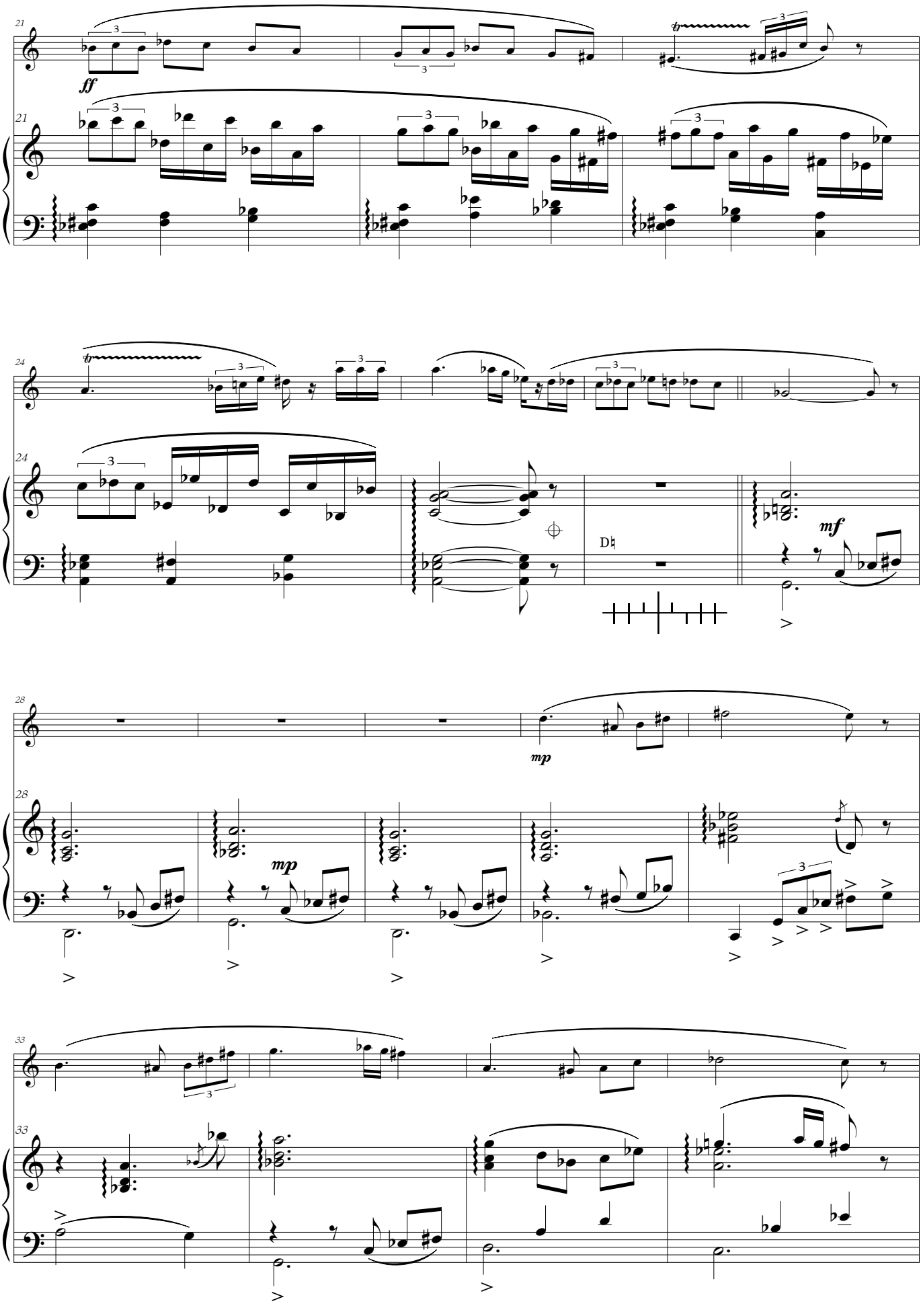
mf
glissandi
f
glissandi
ff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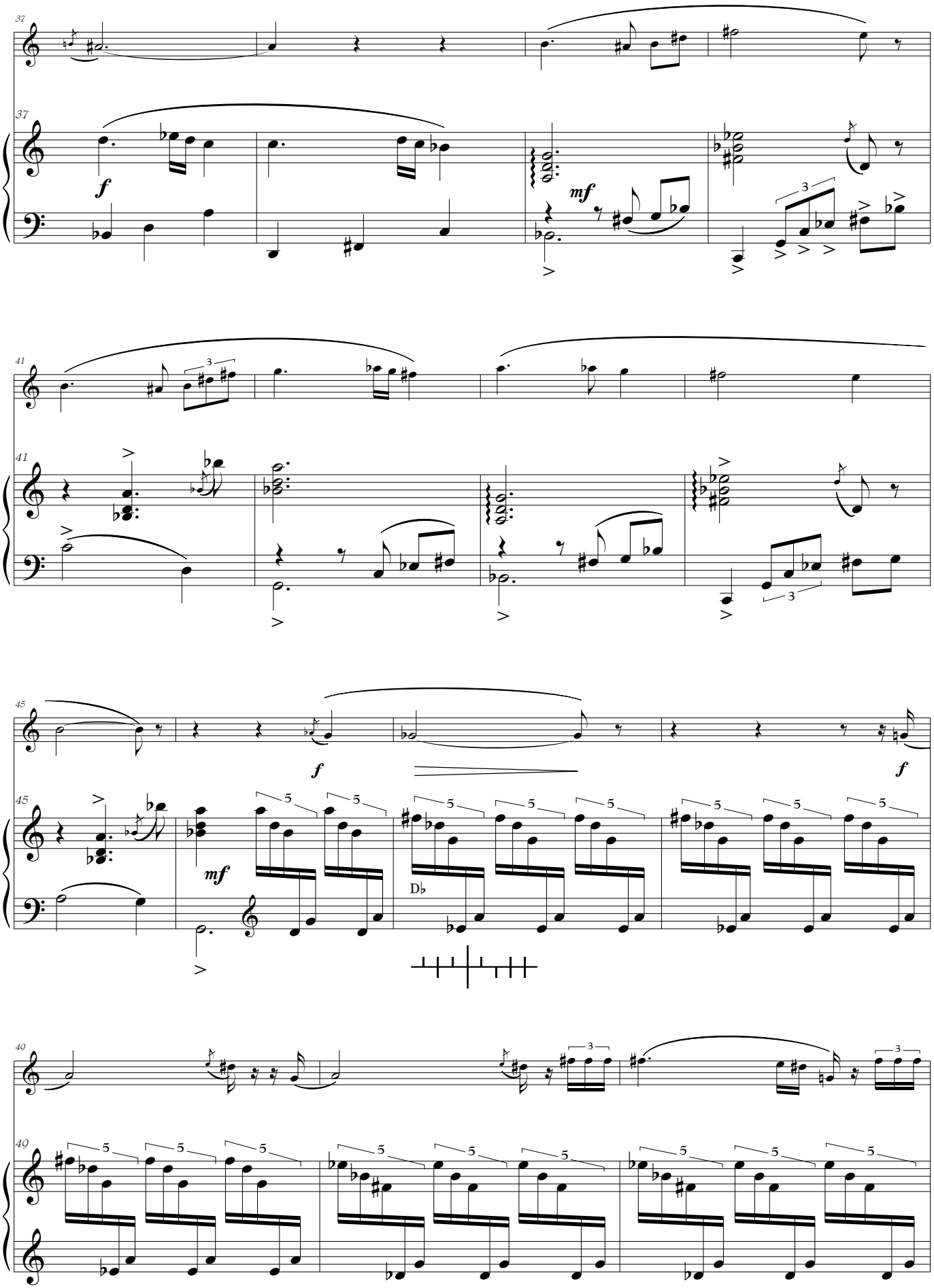
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mf
41
45
f
mf
Db
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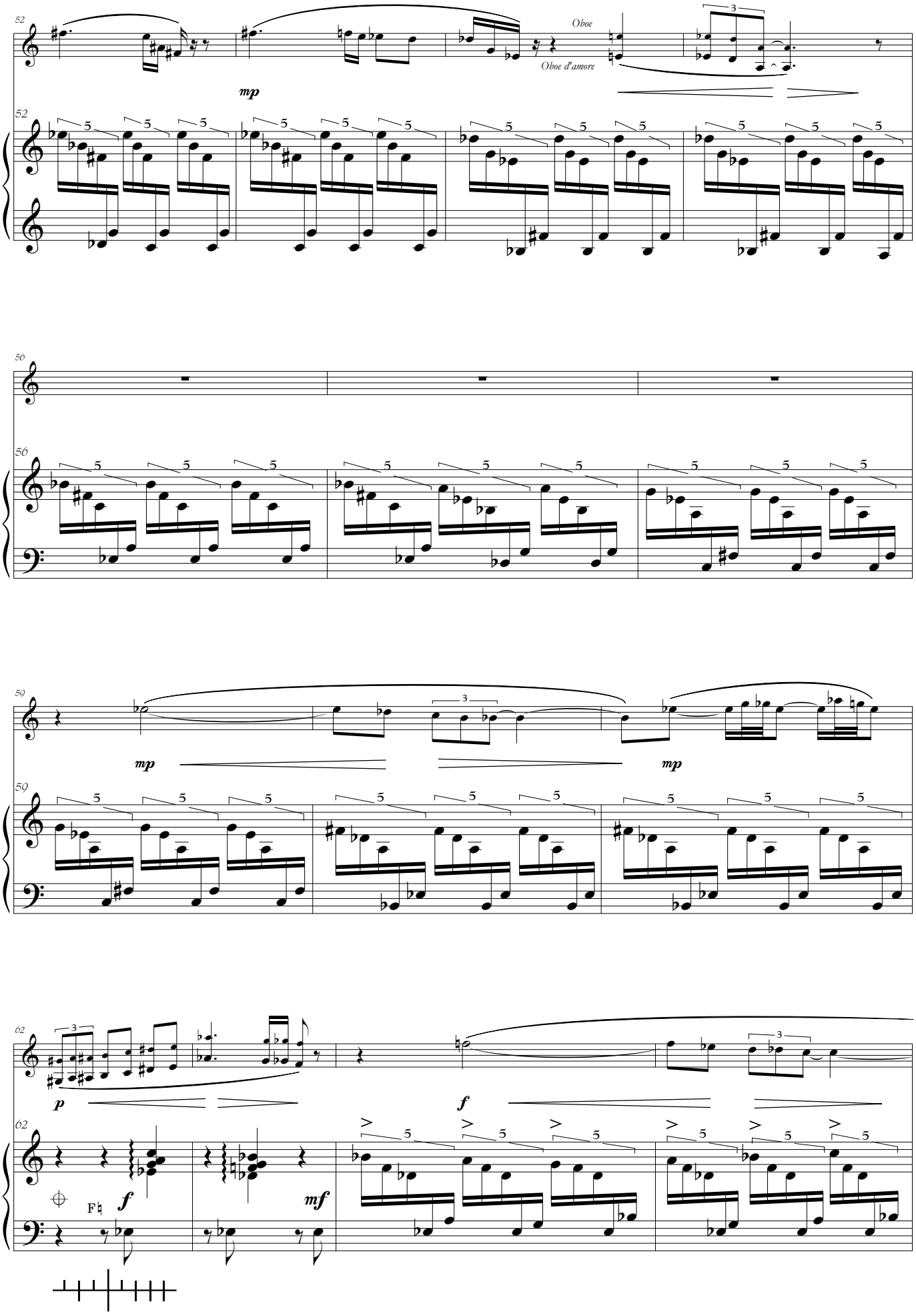
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Oboe
Oboe d'amore
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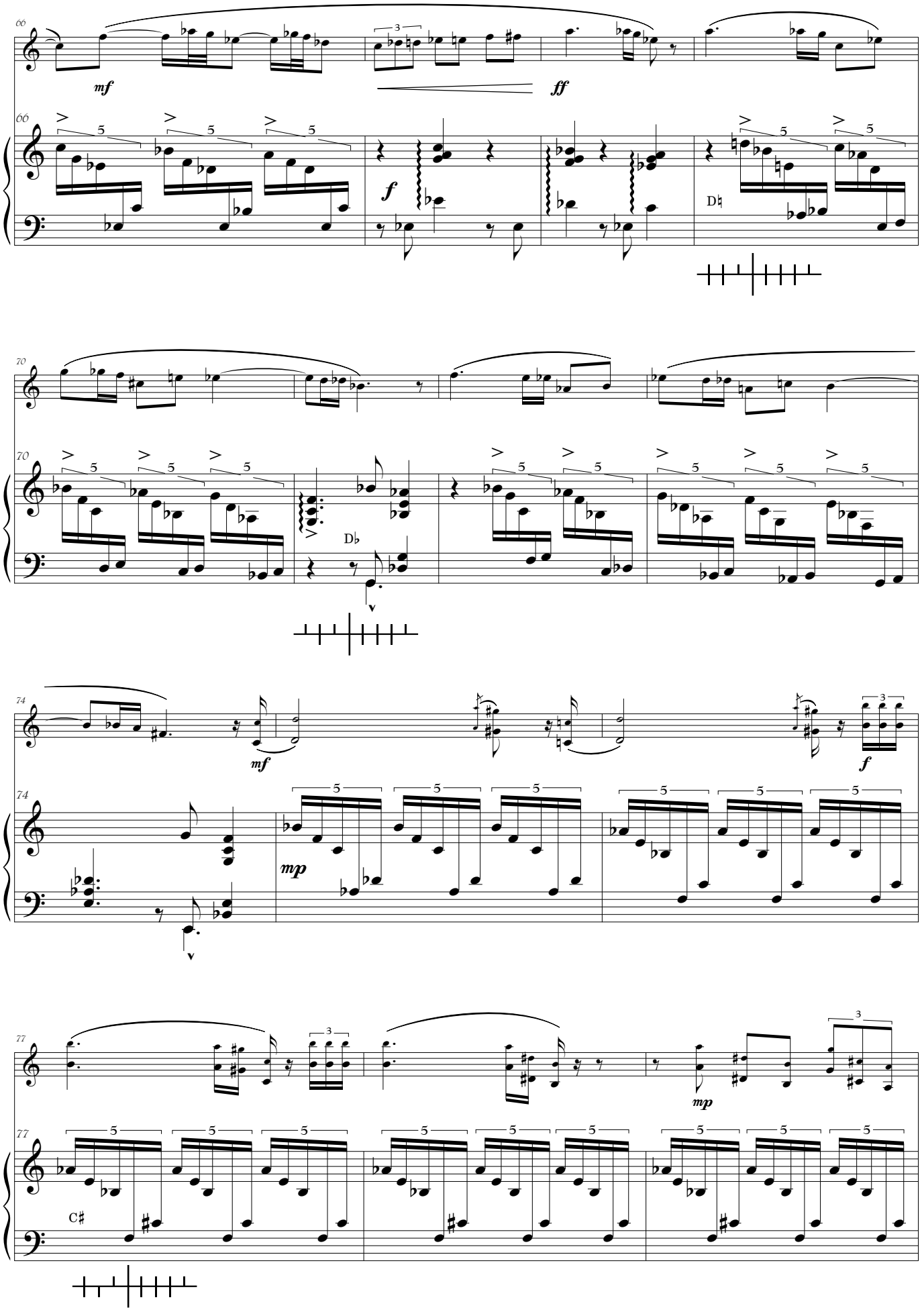
56
50
mp
mp
62
p
f
f
mf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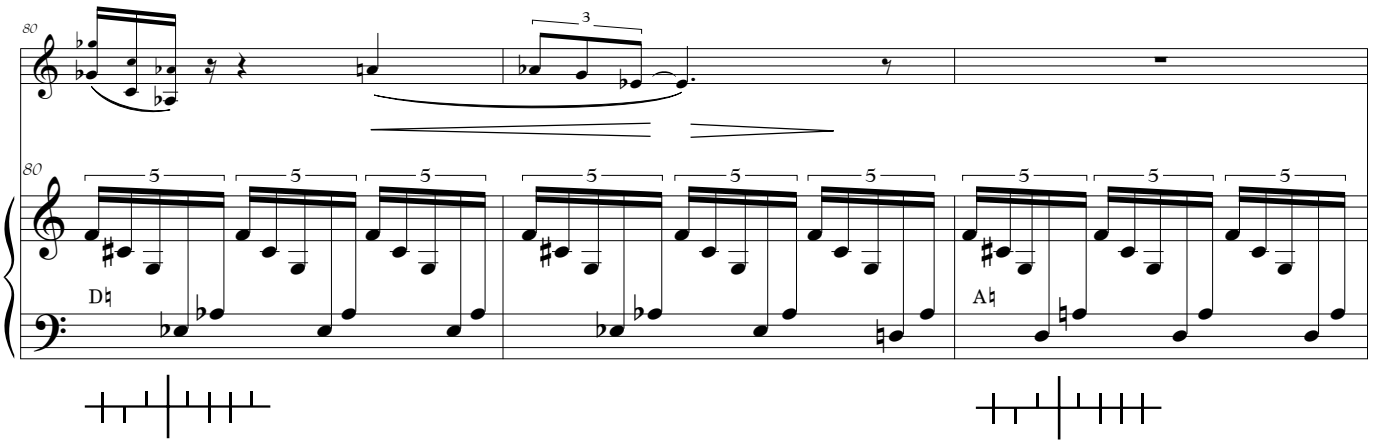
C♯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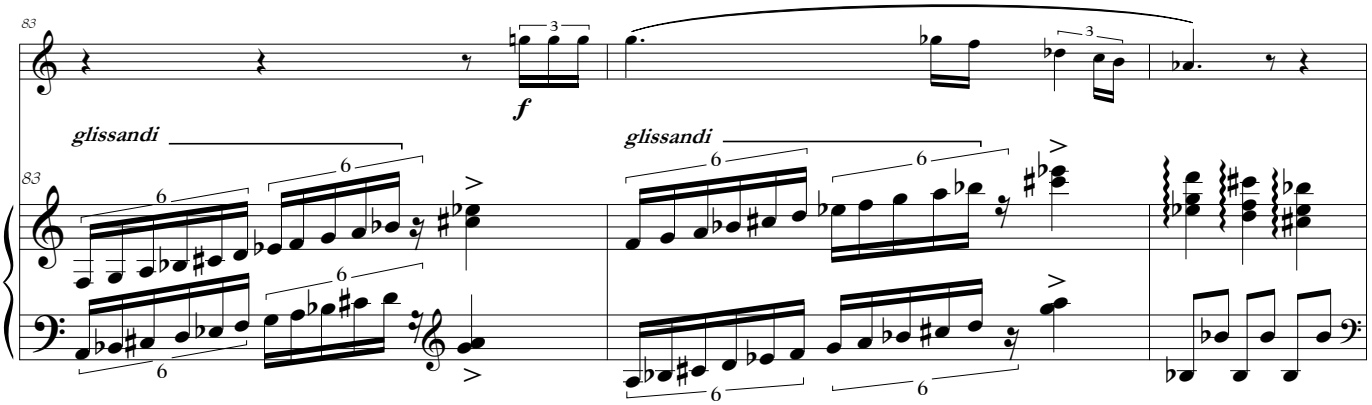
D♮
A♮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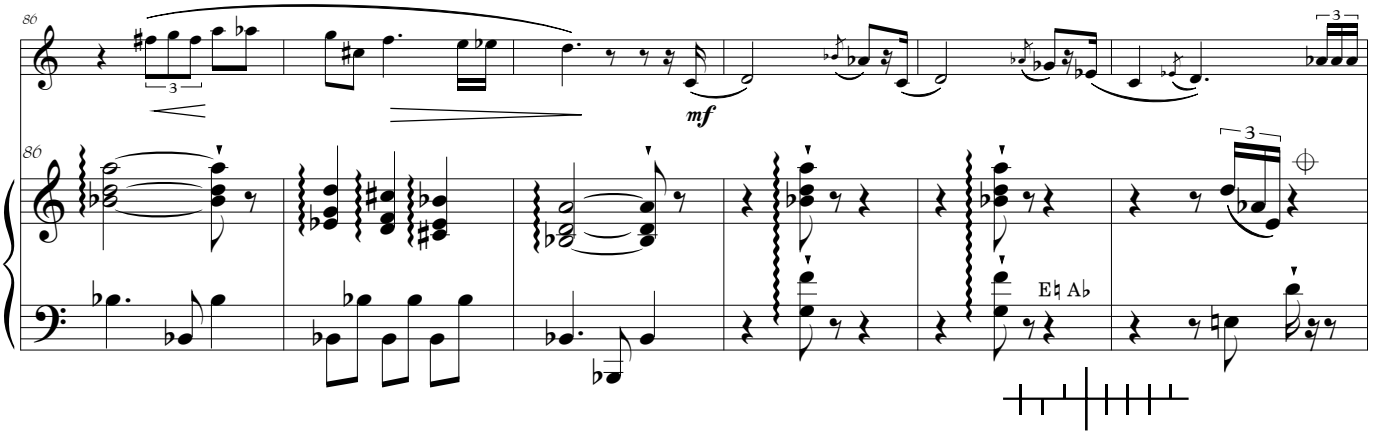
f
glissandi
glissandi
83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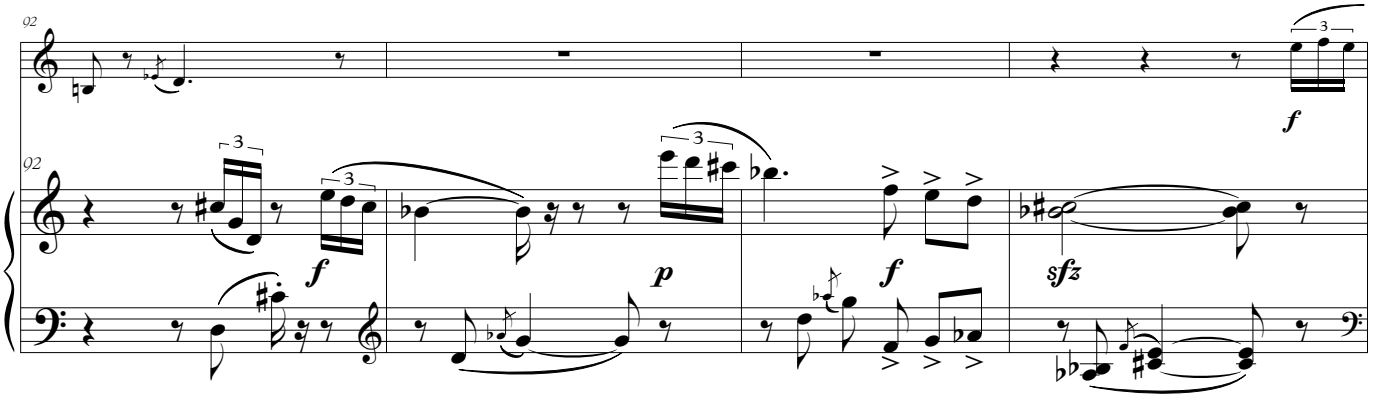
86
E♮ A♭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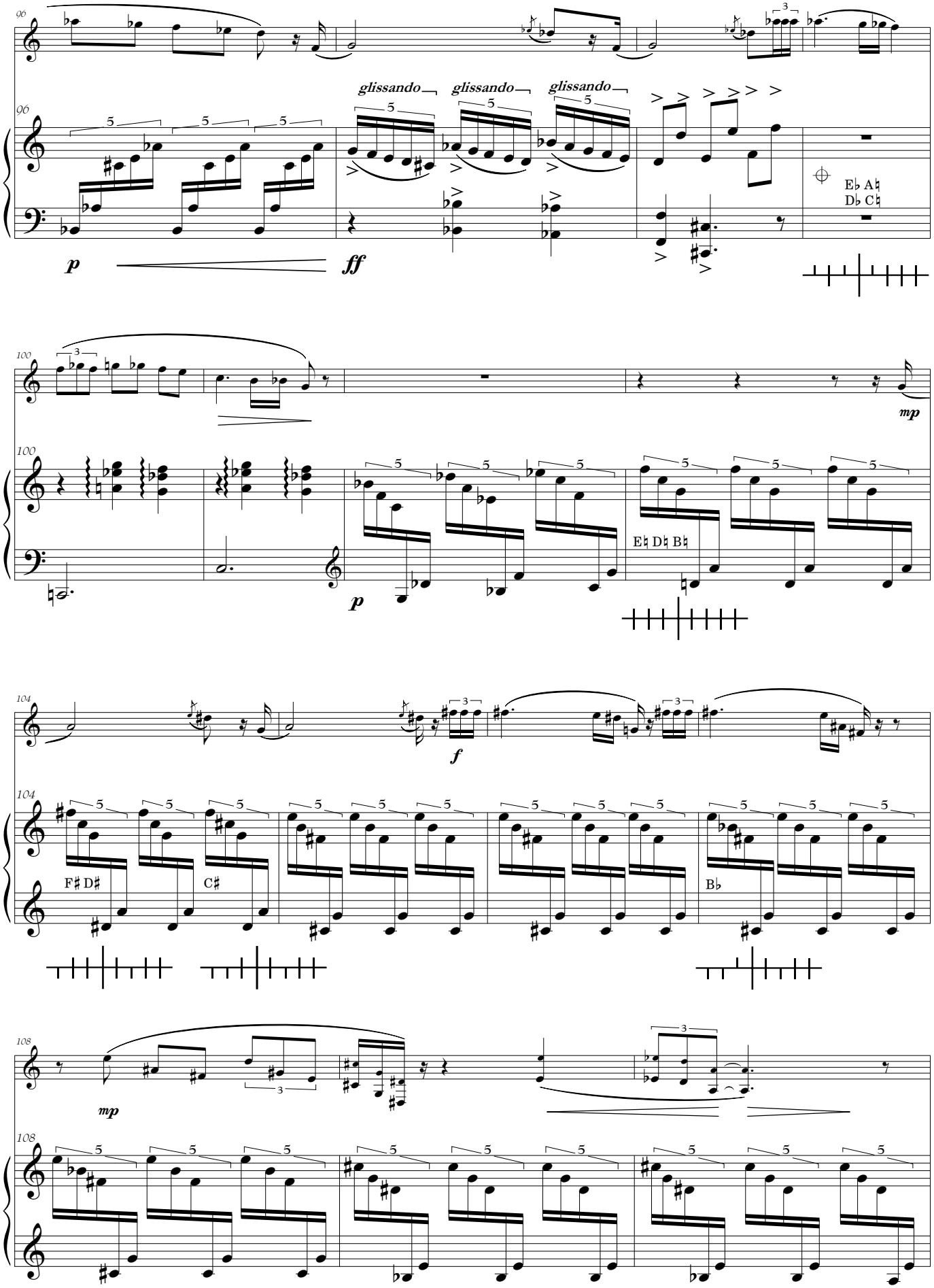
f
02
f
p
f
sfz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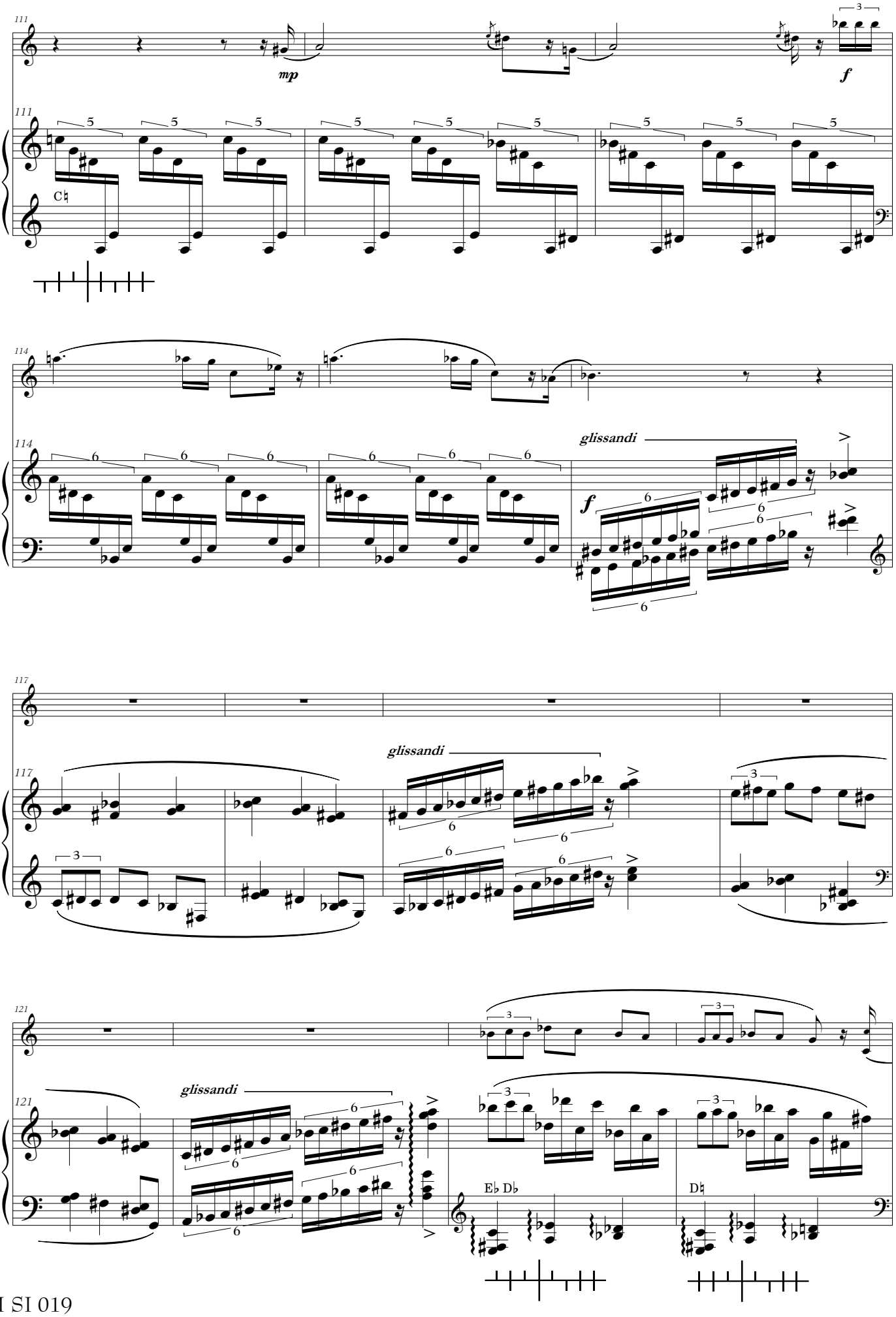
glissando
glissando
glissando
E♭ A♮
D♭ C♮
p
ff
100
mp
E♮ D♮ B♮
p
104
f
F♯ D♯
C♯
B♭
108
mp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C♮
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f
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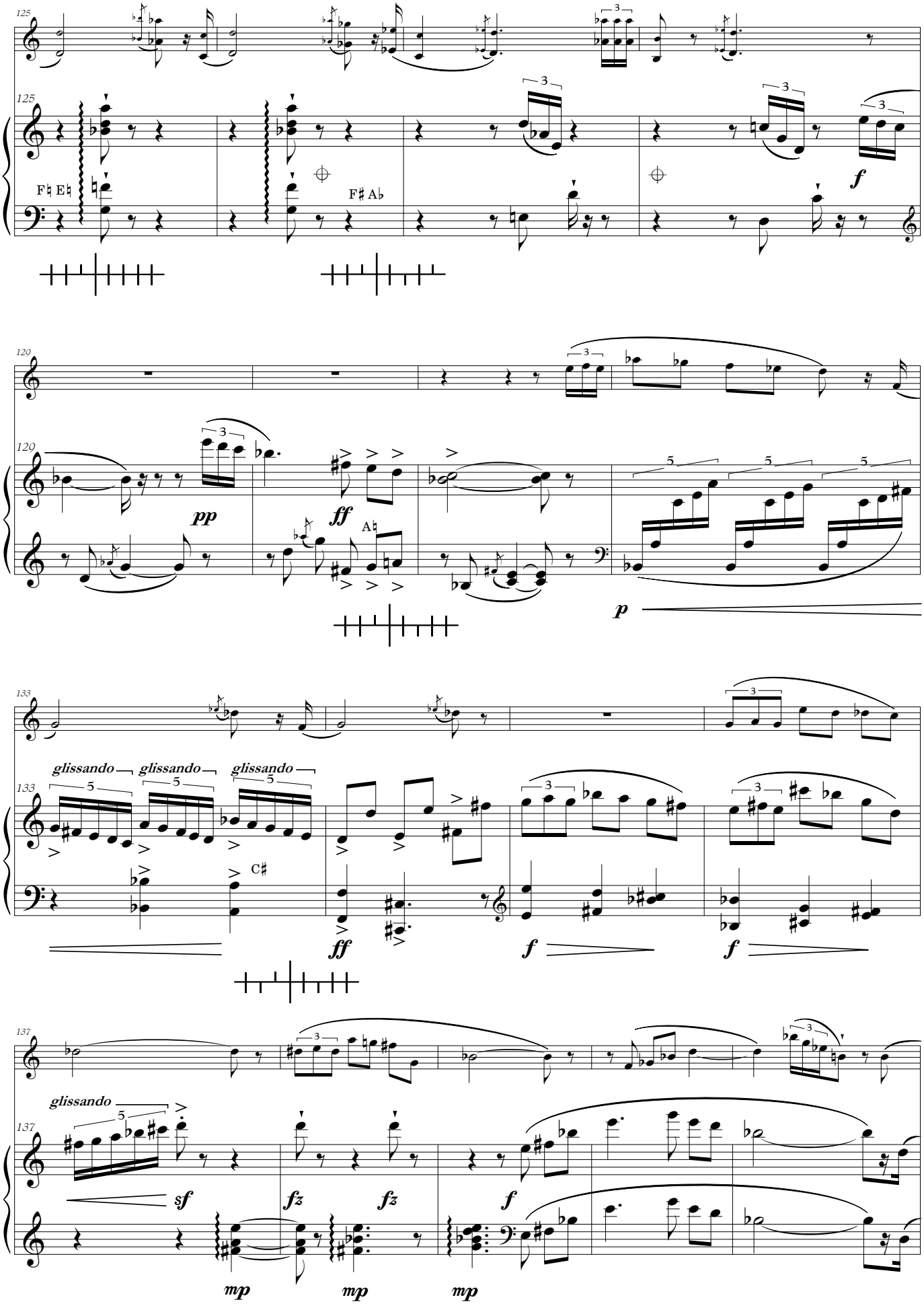
E♭ D♭
D♮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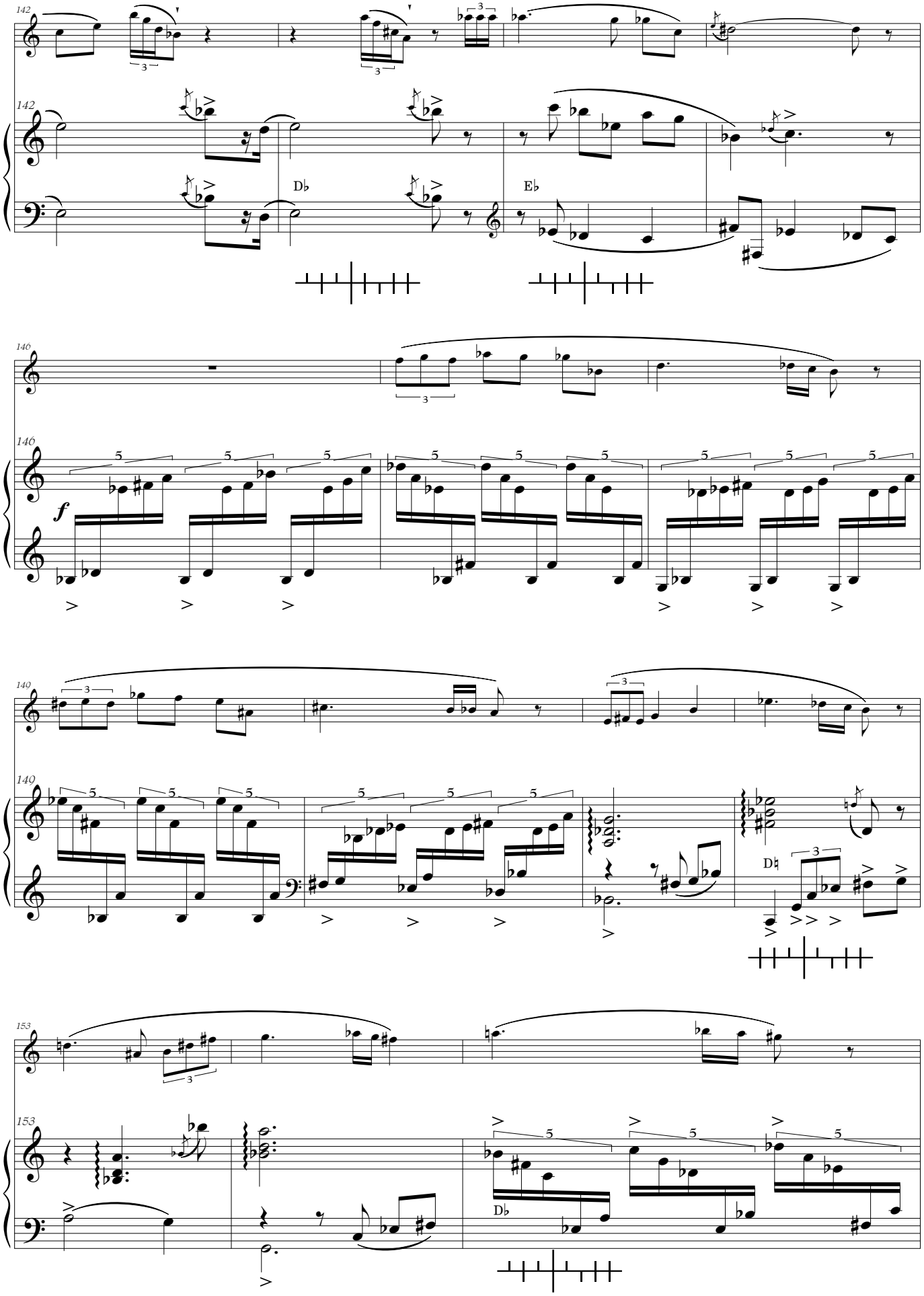
F♮ E♮
F♯ A♭
f
120
pp
ff
A♮
p
133
glissando
glissando
glissando
C♯
ff
f
f
137
glissando
sf
fz
fz
f
mp
mp
mp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E♭
146
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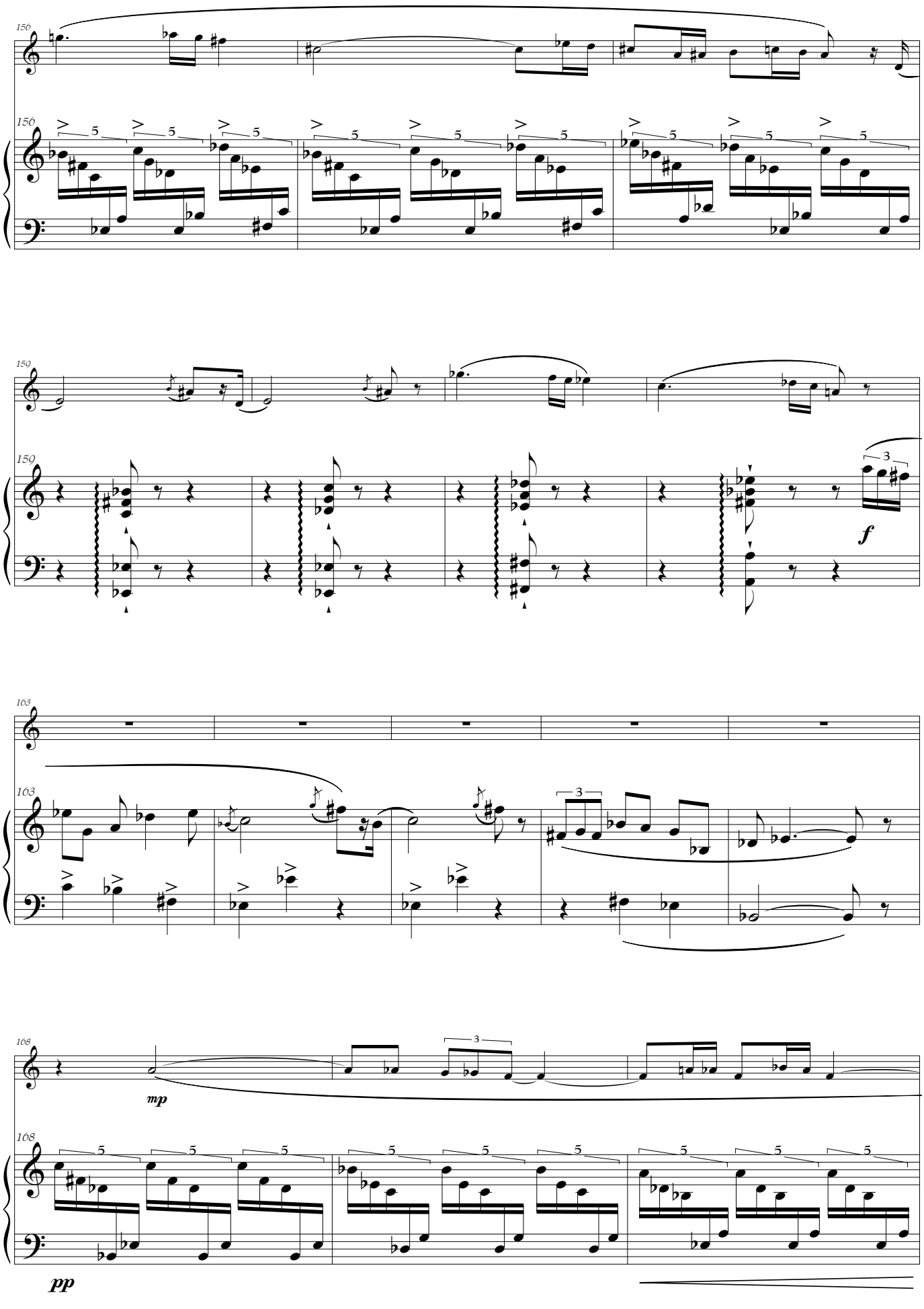
140
140
D♮
153
153
D♭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f
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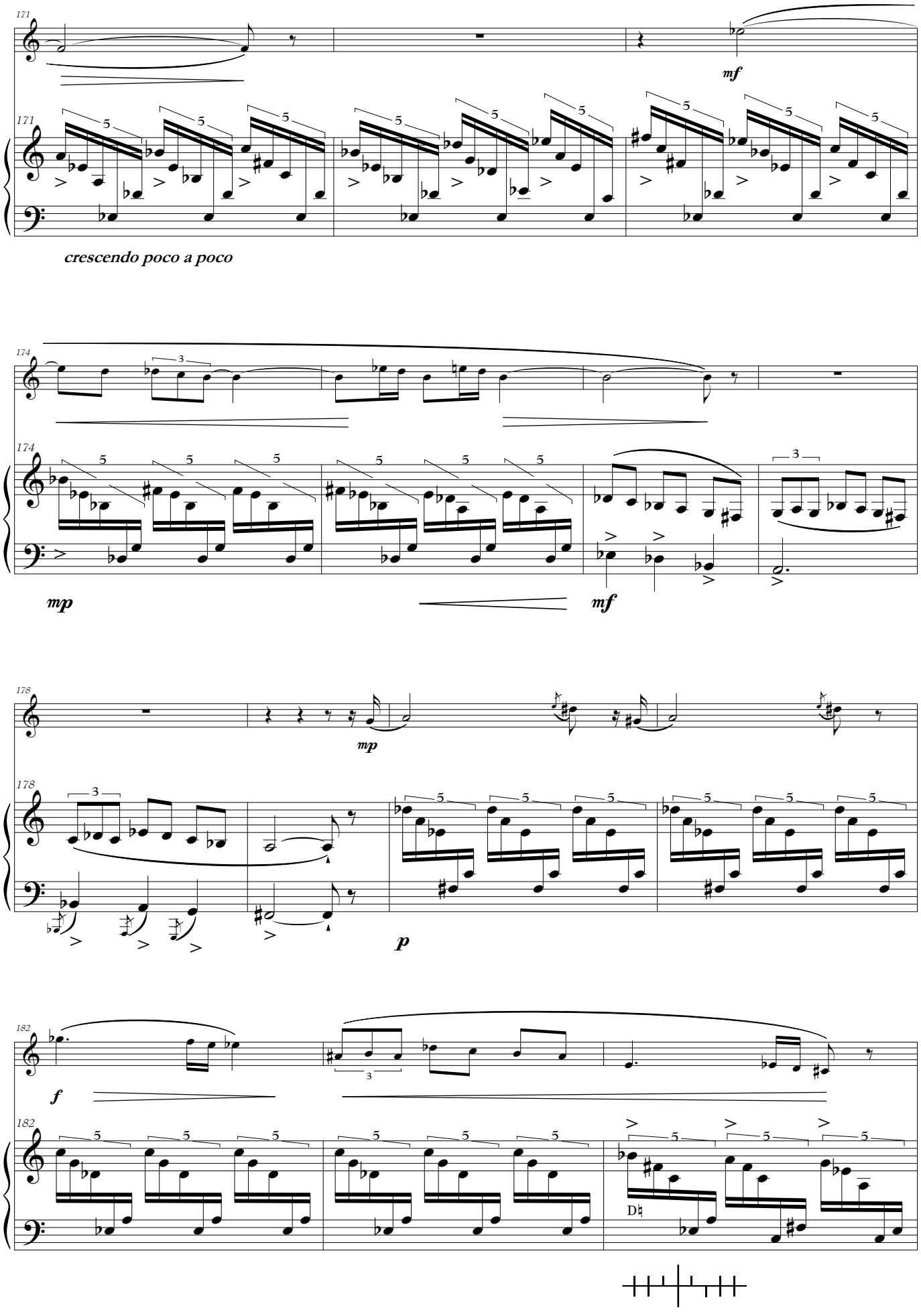
mp
168
pp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mf
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mp
p
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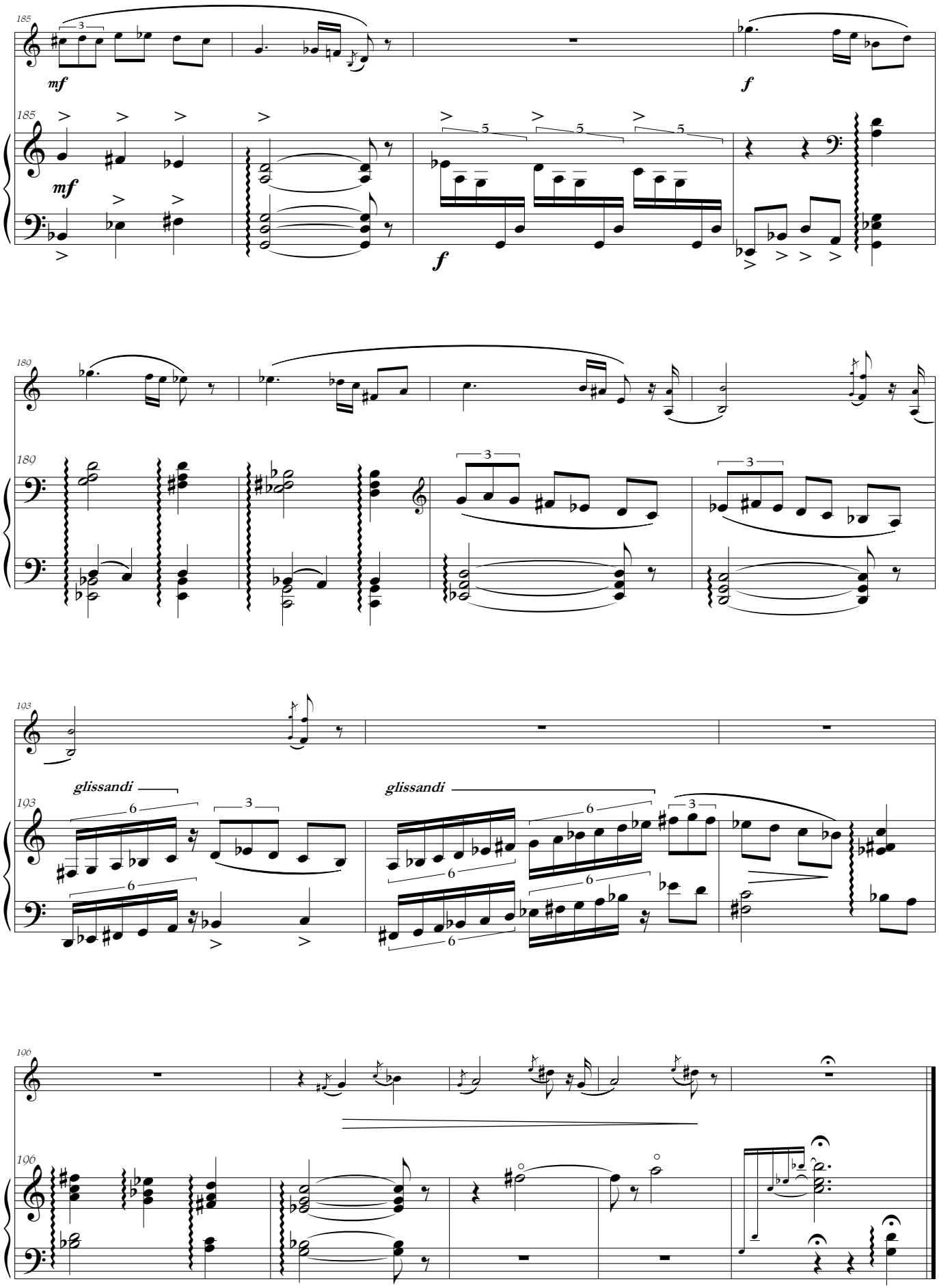
f
D♮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mf
f
185
mf
f
189
189
193
glissandi
glissandi
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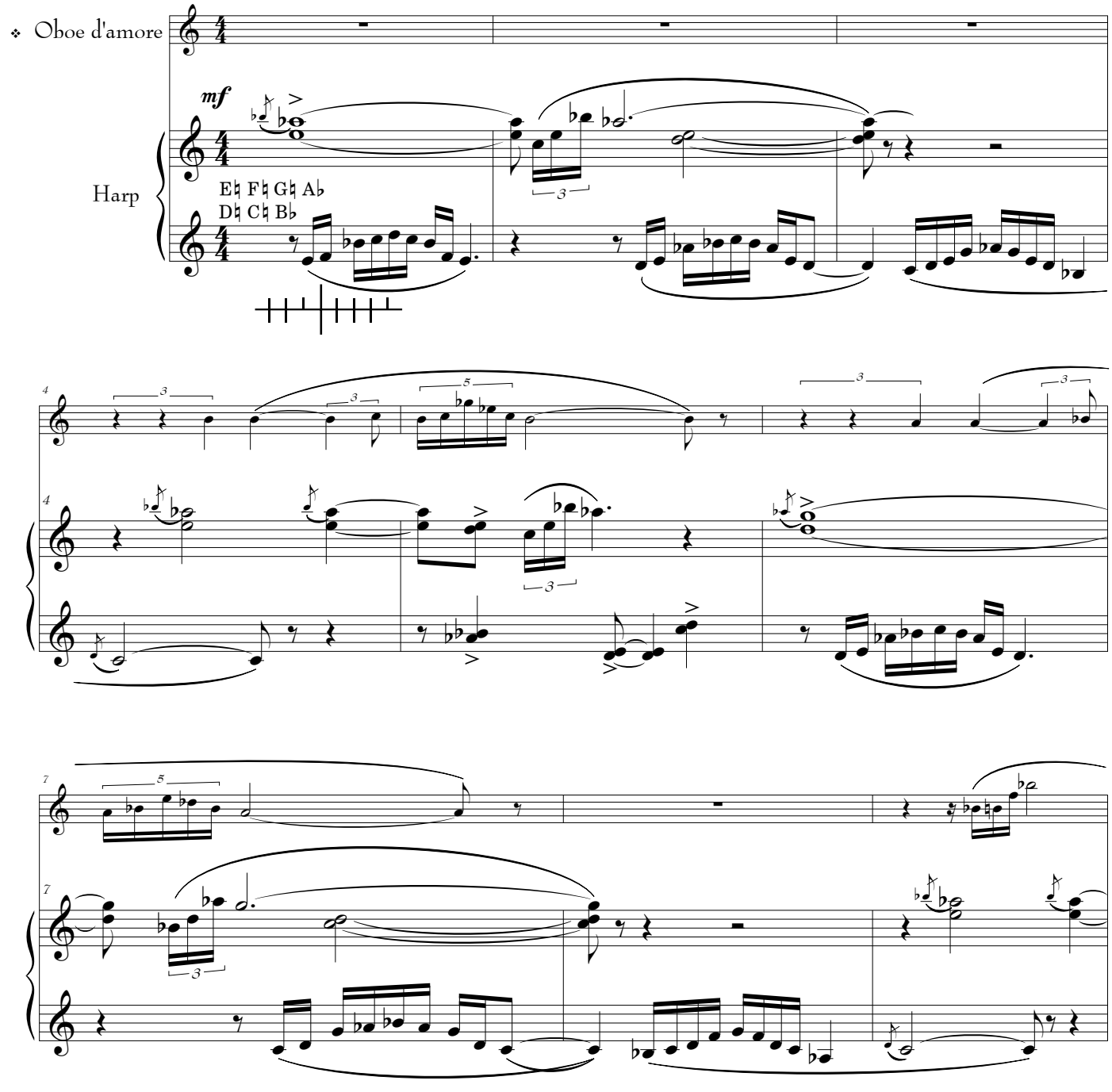
196
196

II Aurora Australis

Harp

Ian Keith Harris
(1935 -)

moderately and with flexibility



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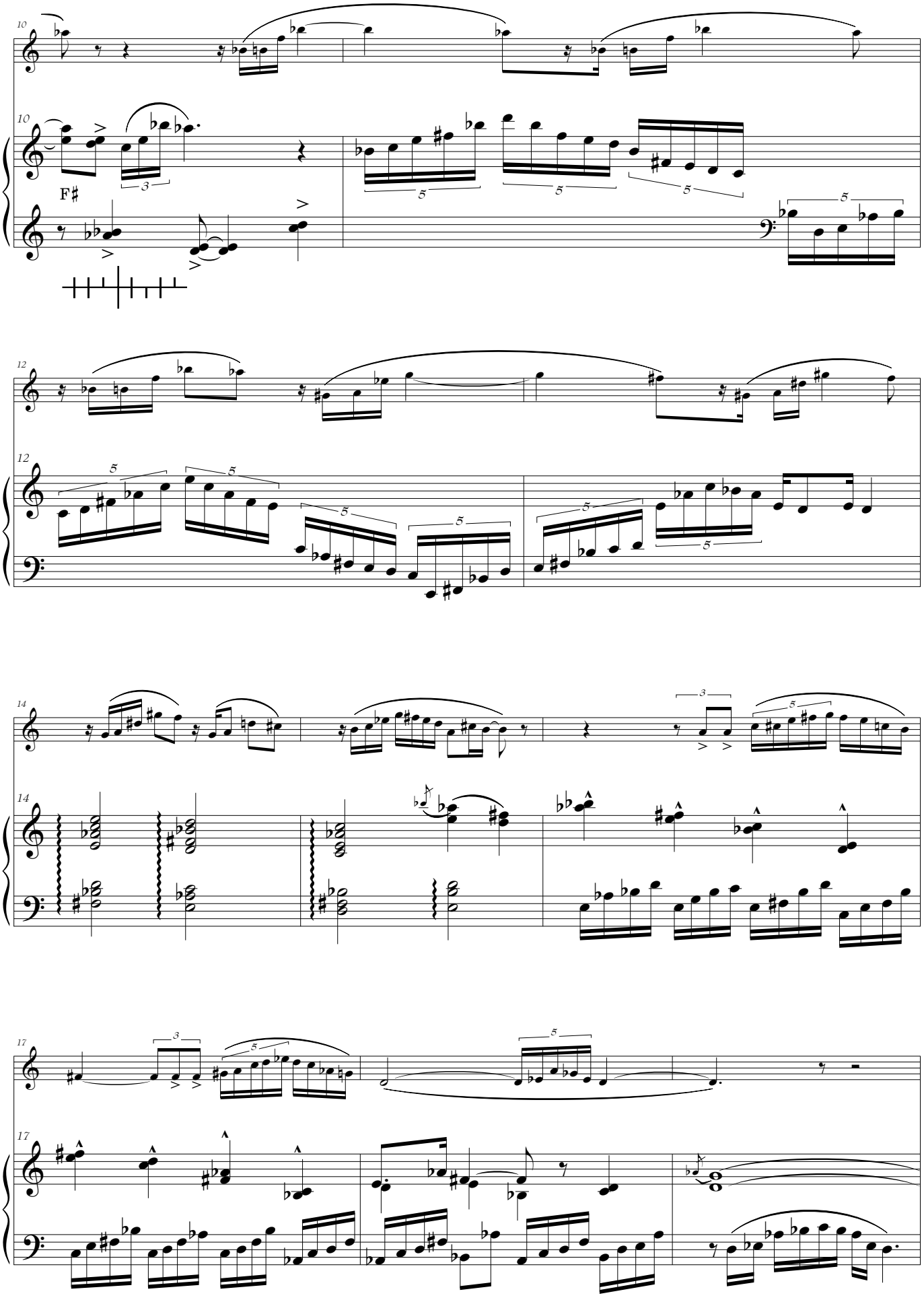

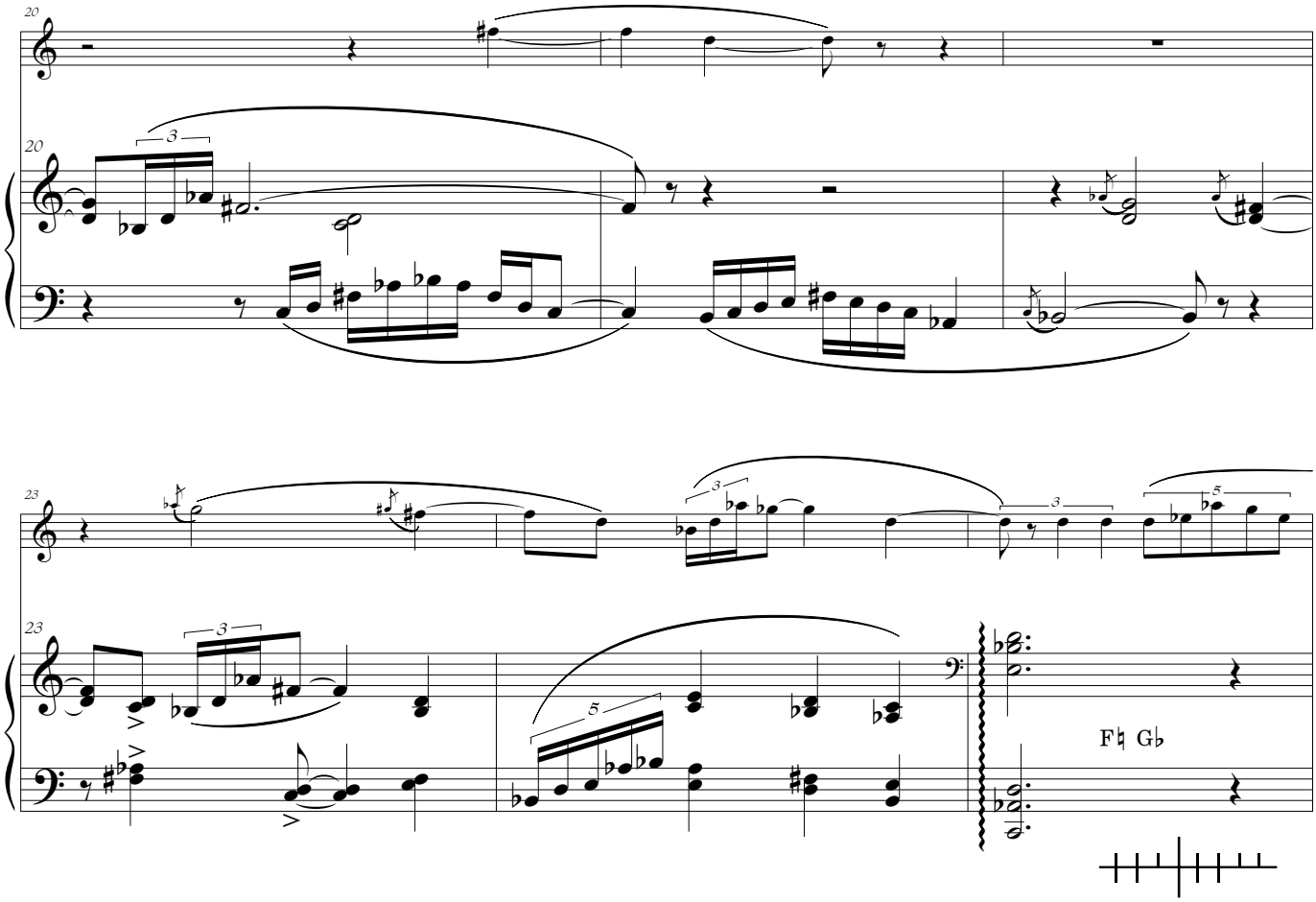
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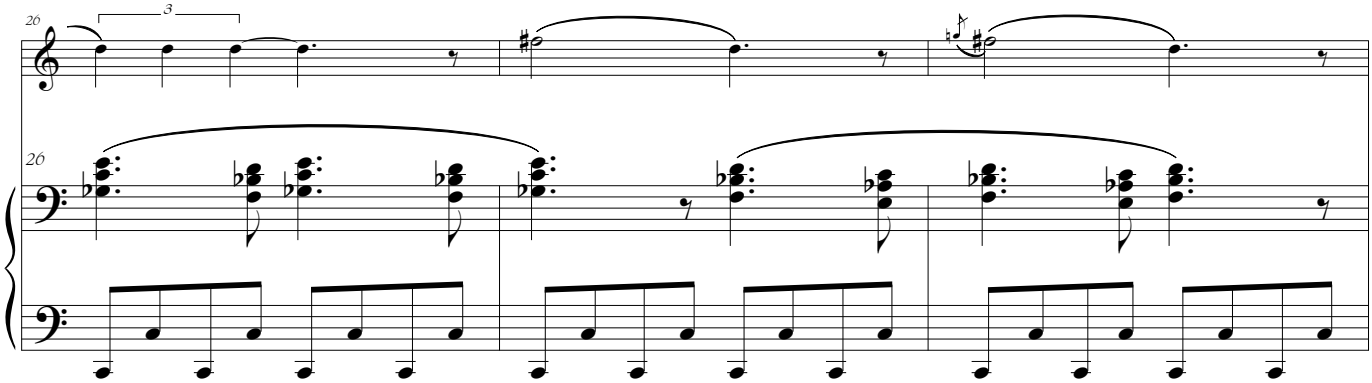
3
5
F♮ G♭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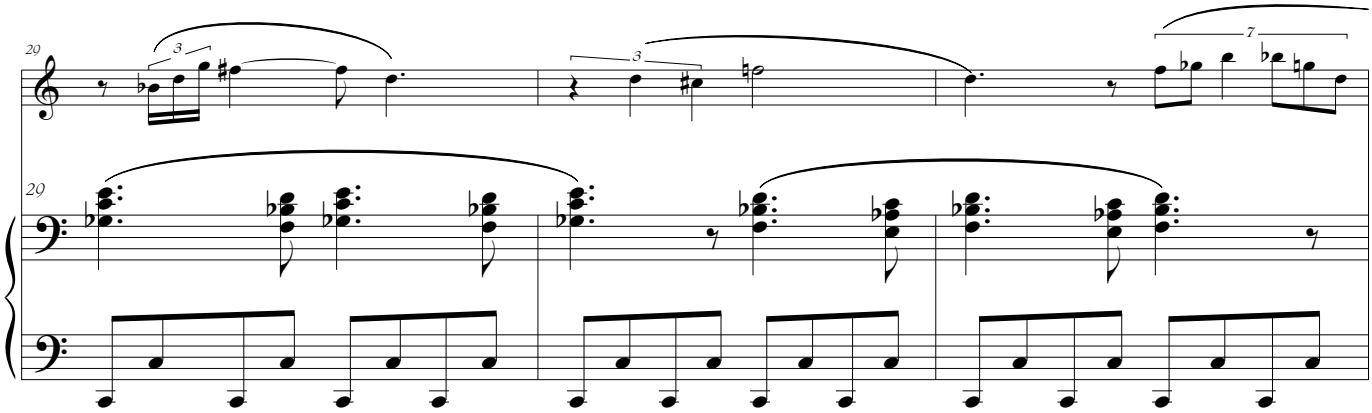
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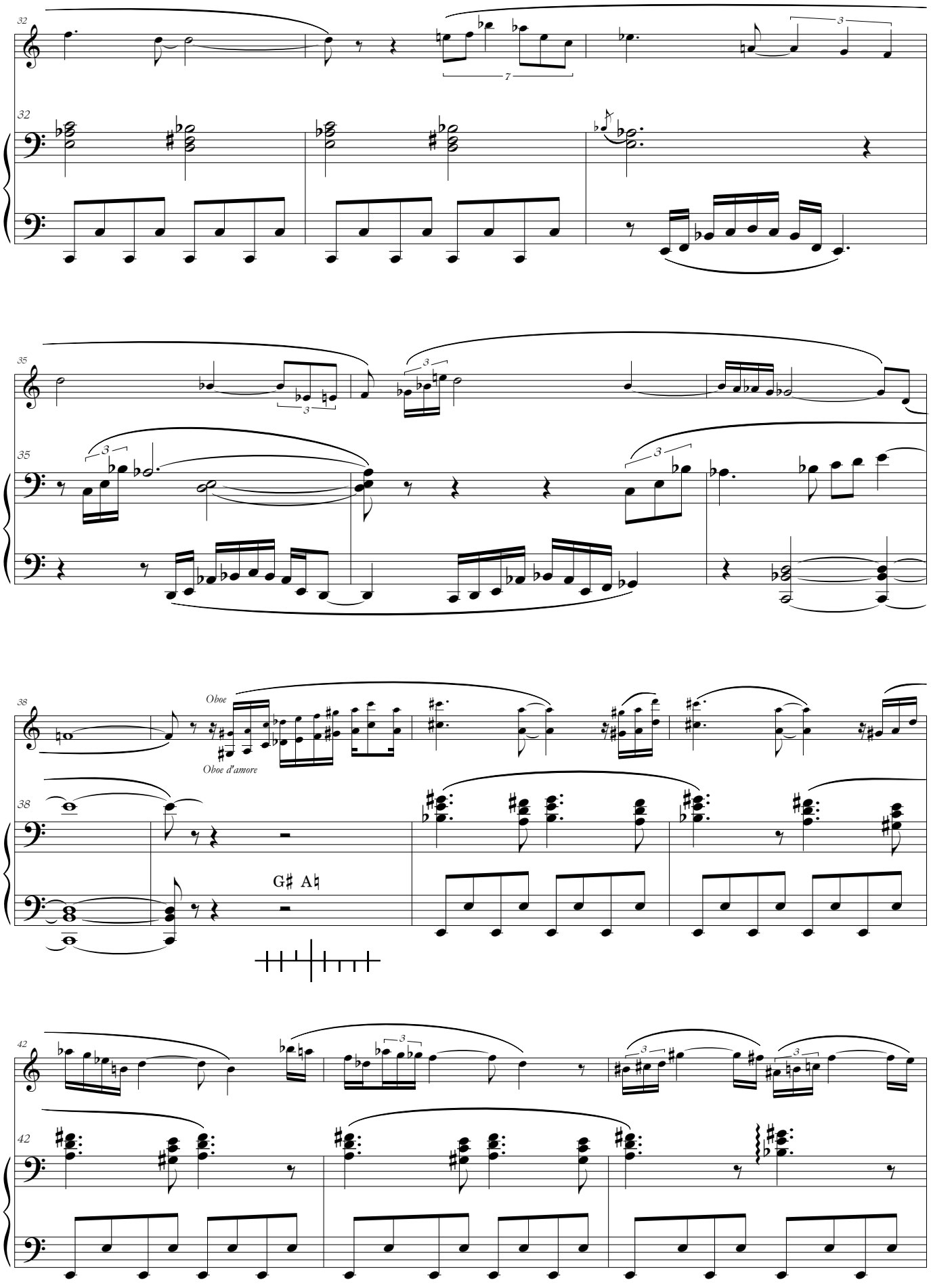
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Oboe
Oboe d'amore
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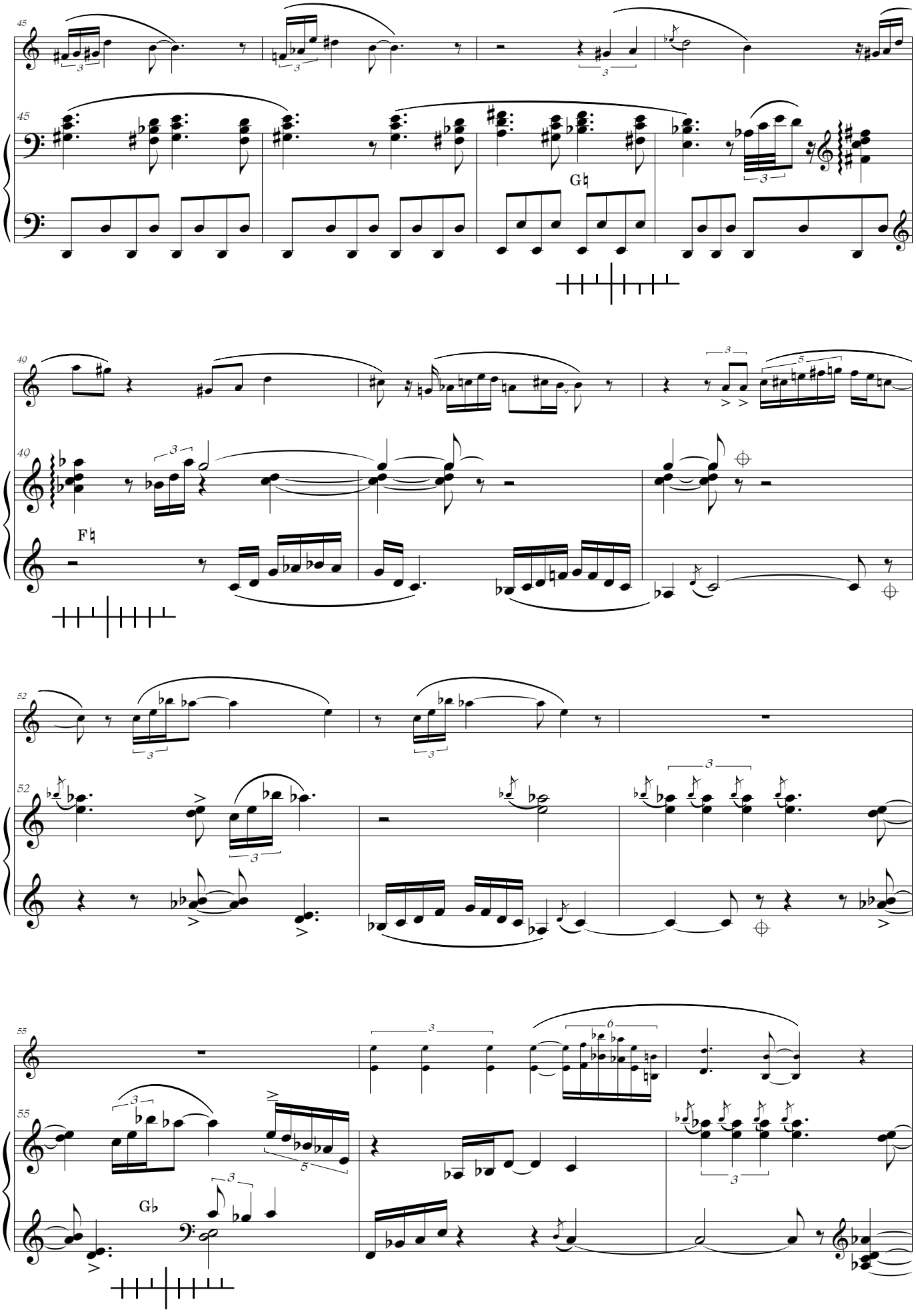
G♯ A♮
42
42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G♮
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F♮
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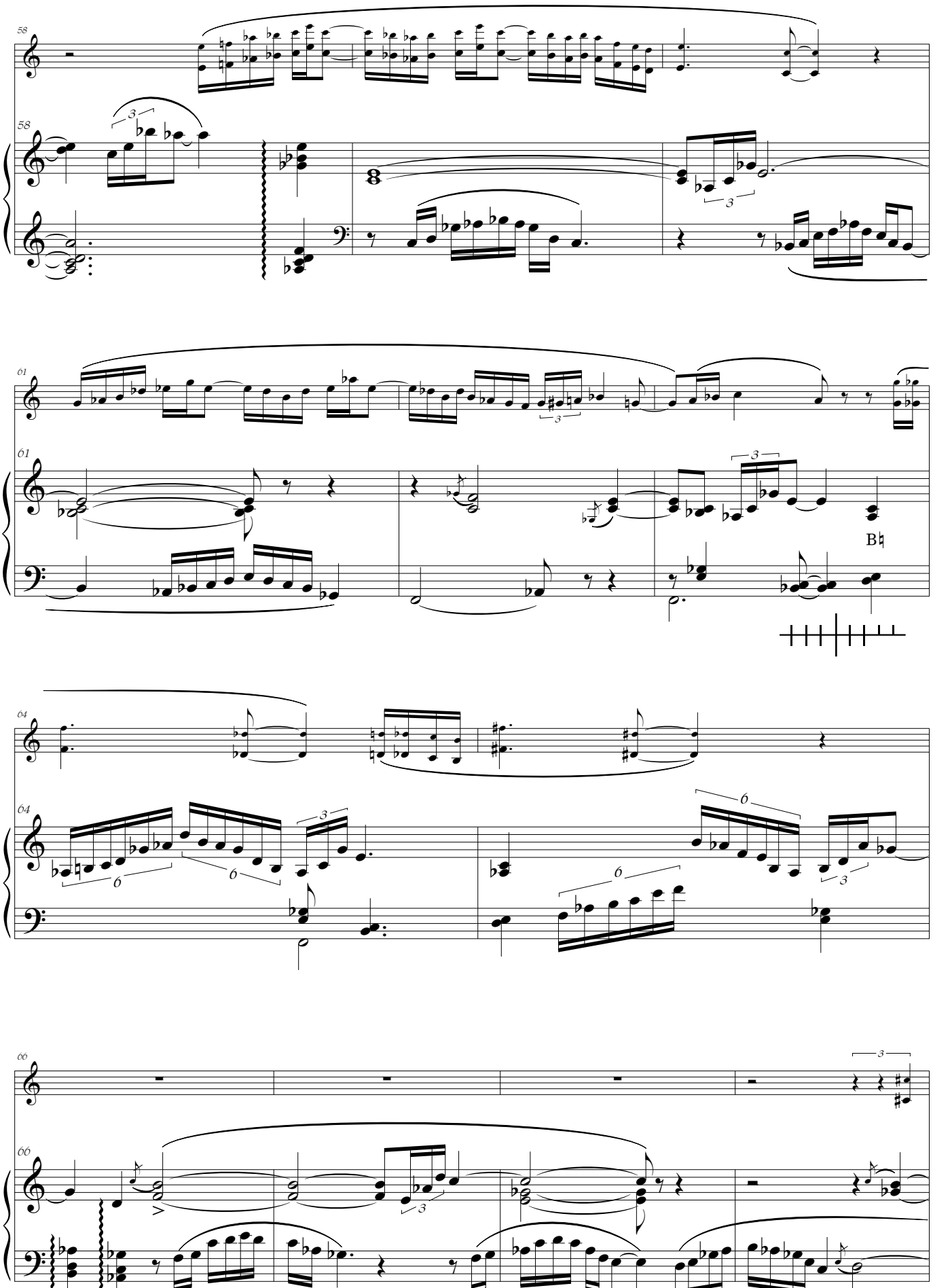
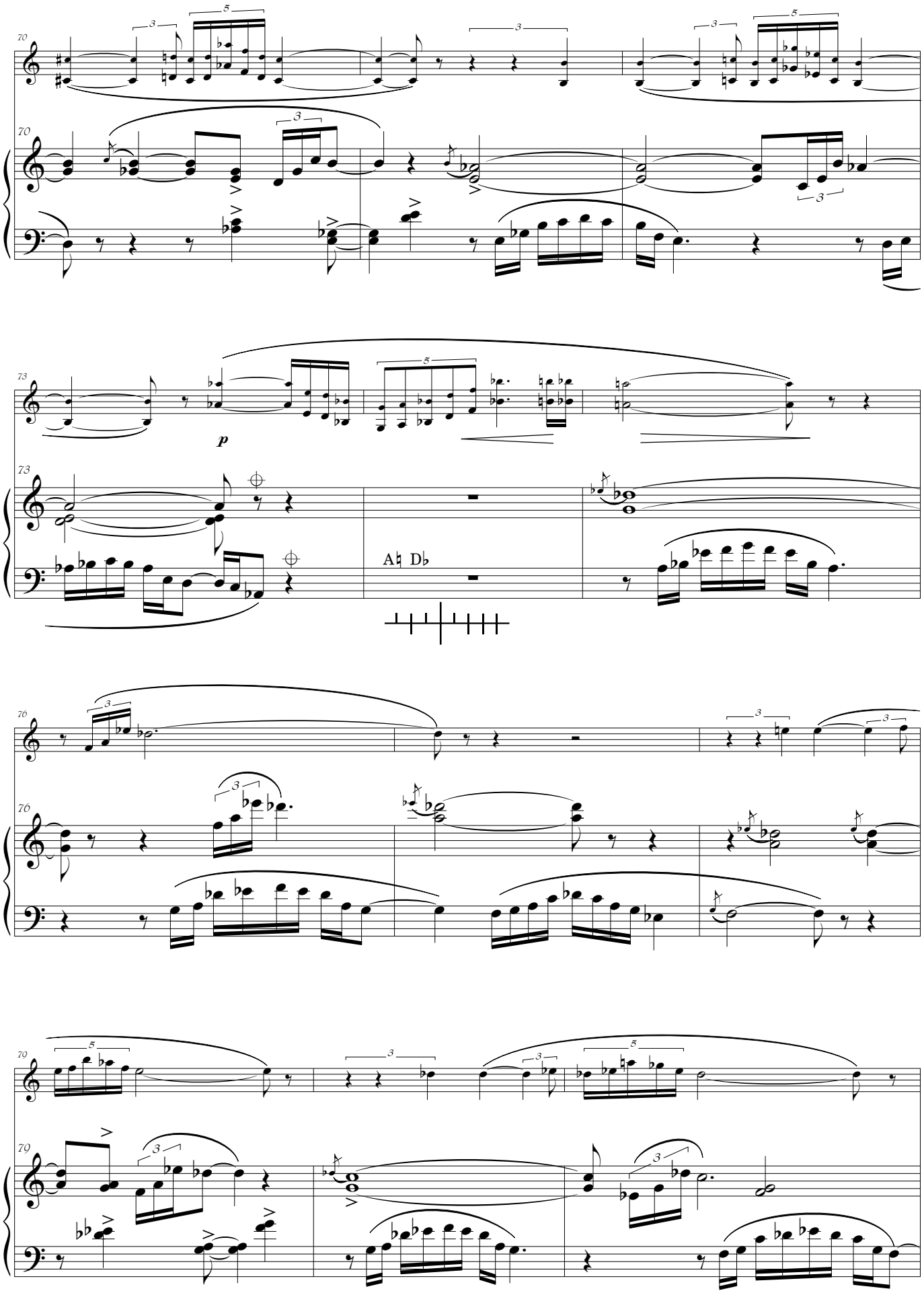
52
55
55
G♭

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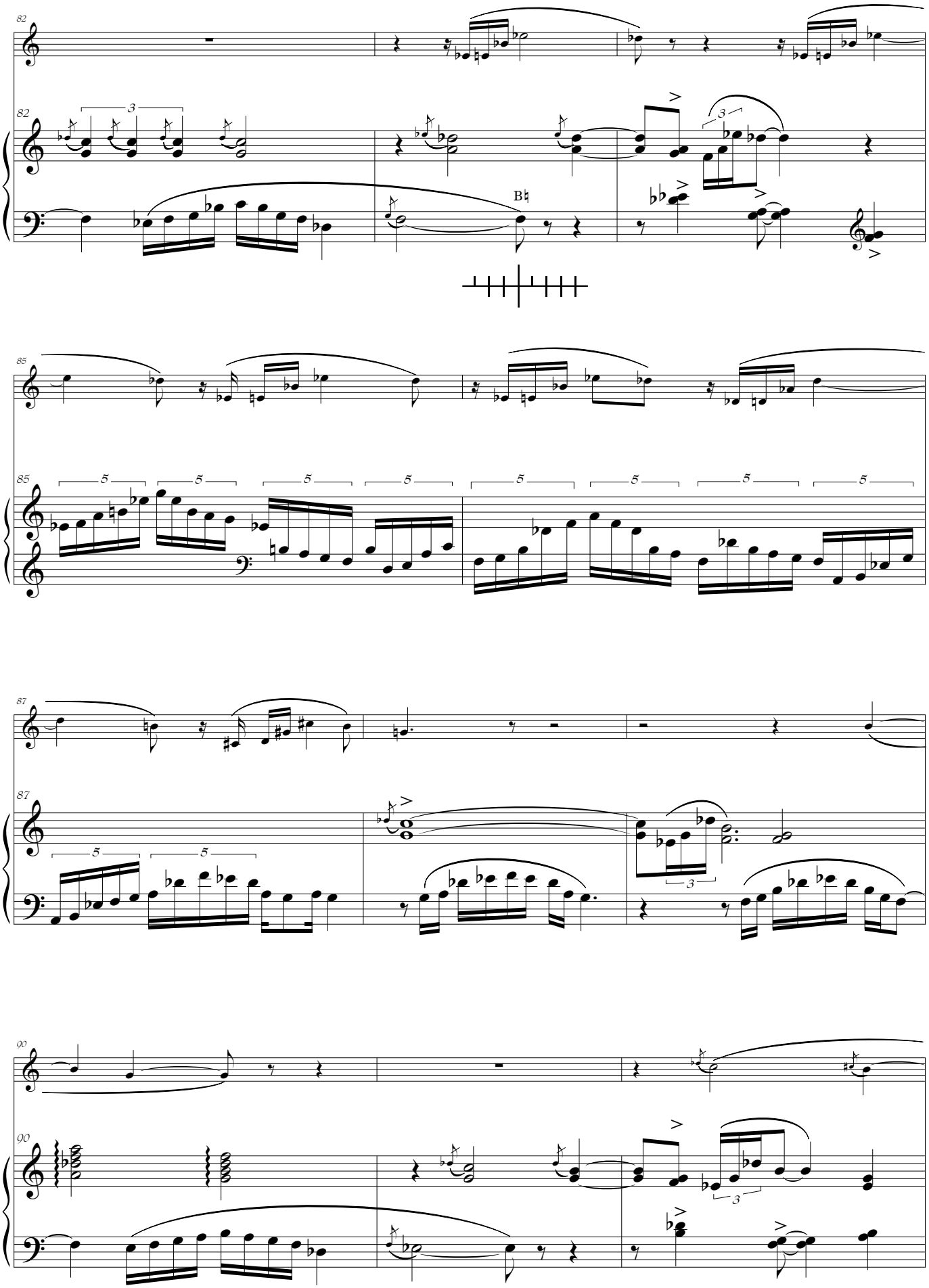
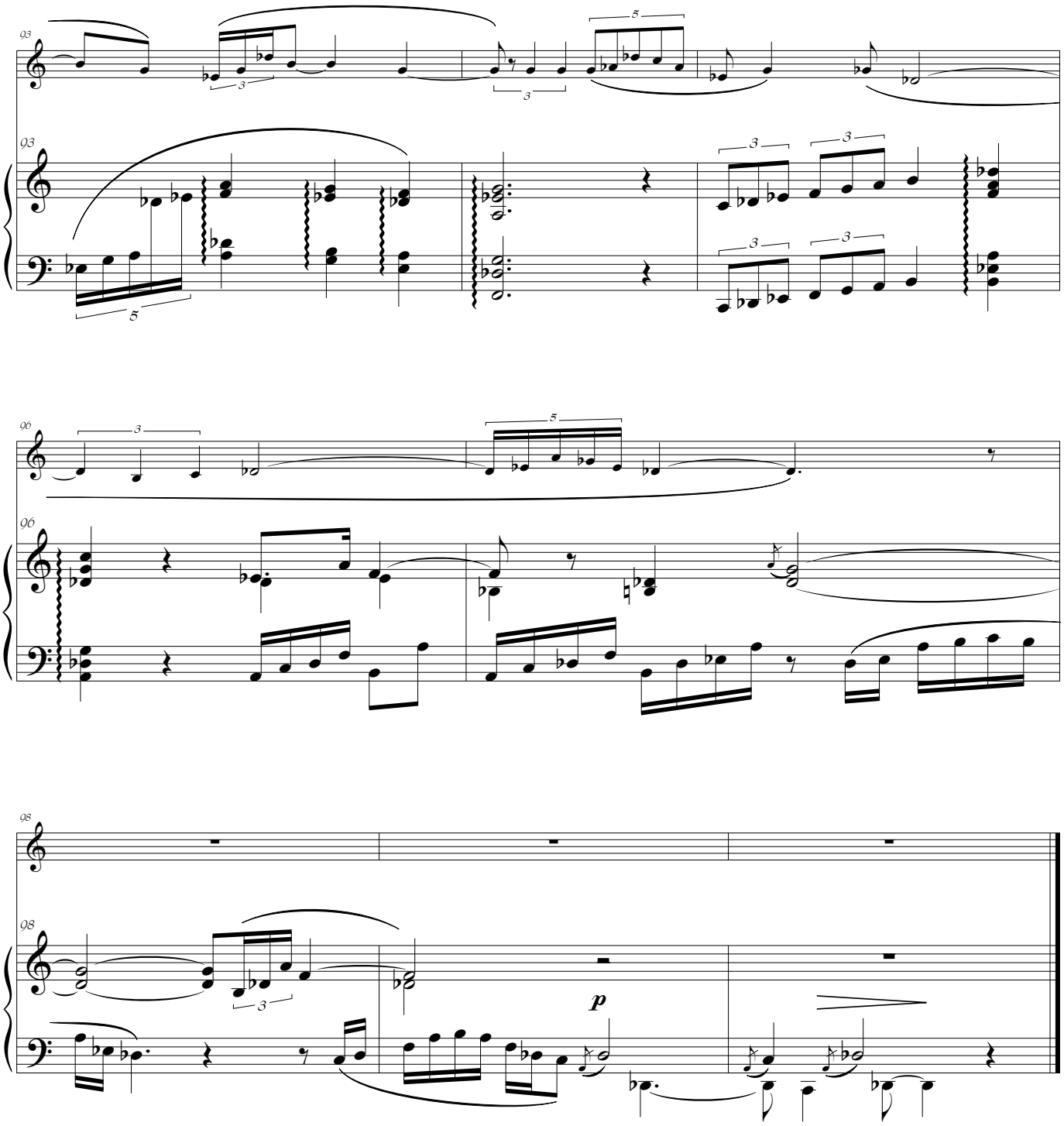
p
73
A♮ D♭
76
76
79
79




03
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06
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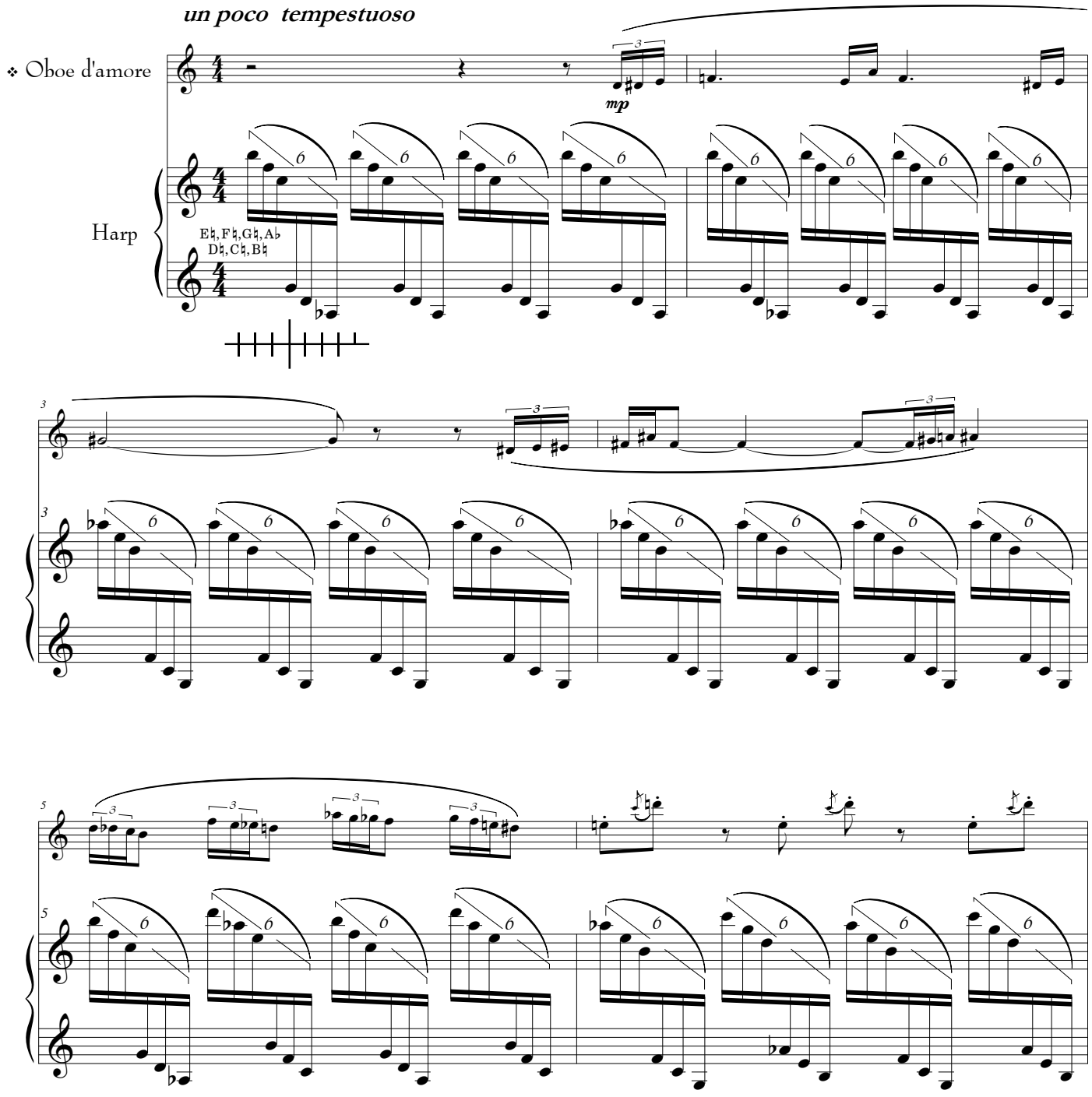
08
p

III West of the Winter Wind

Harp

Ian Keith Harris
(1935 -)



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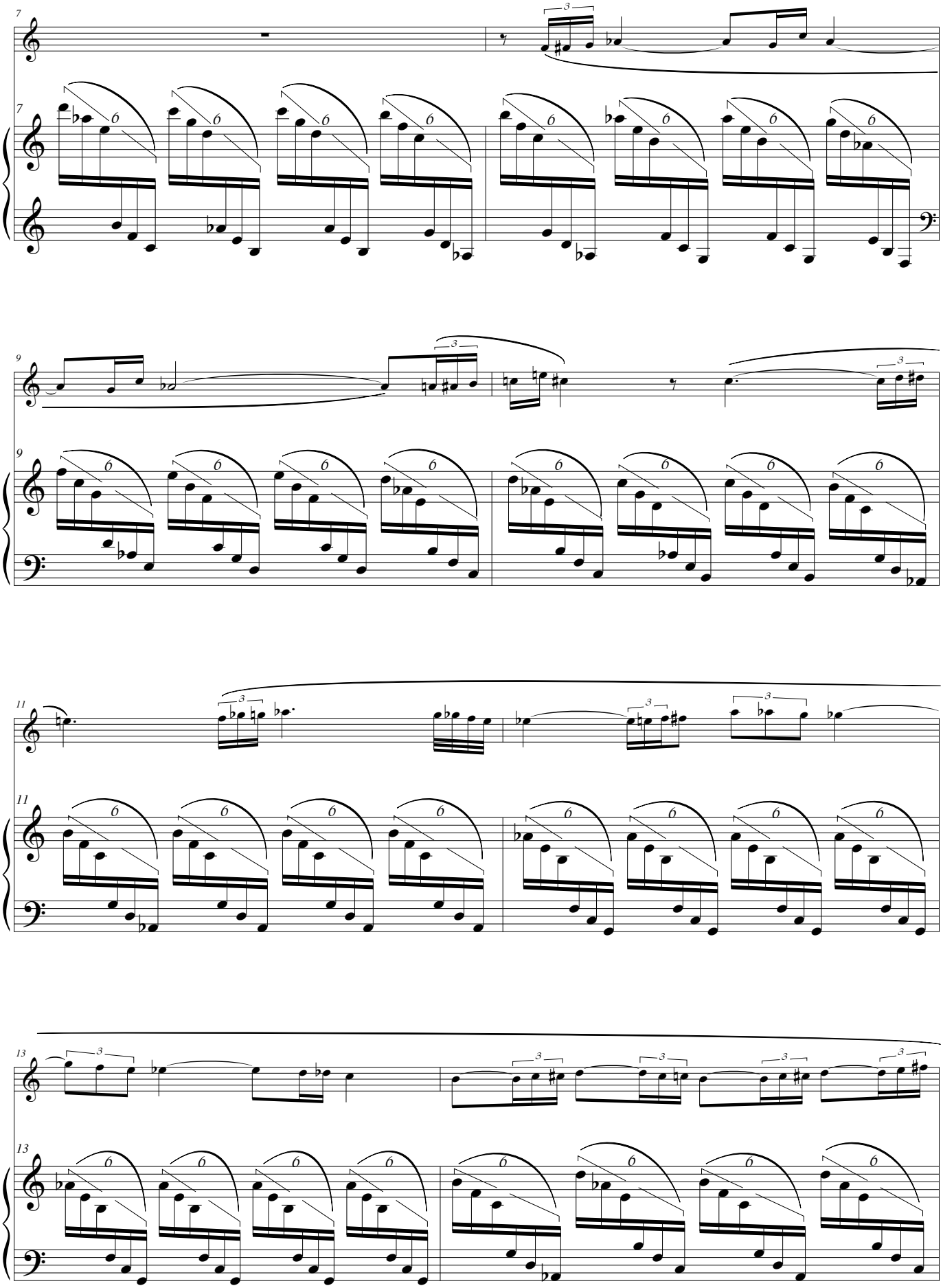

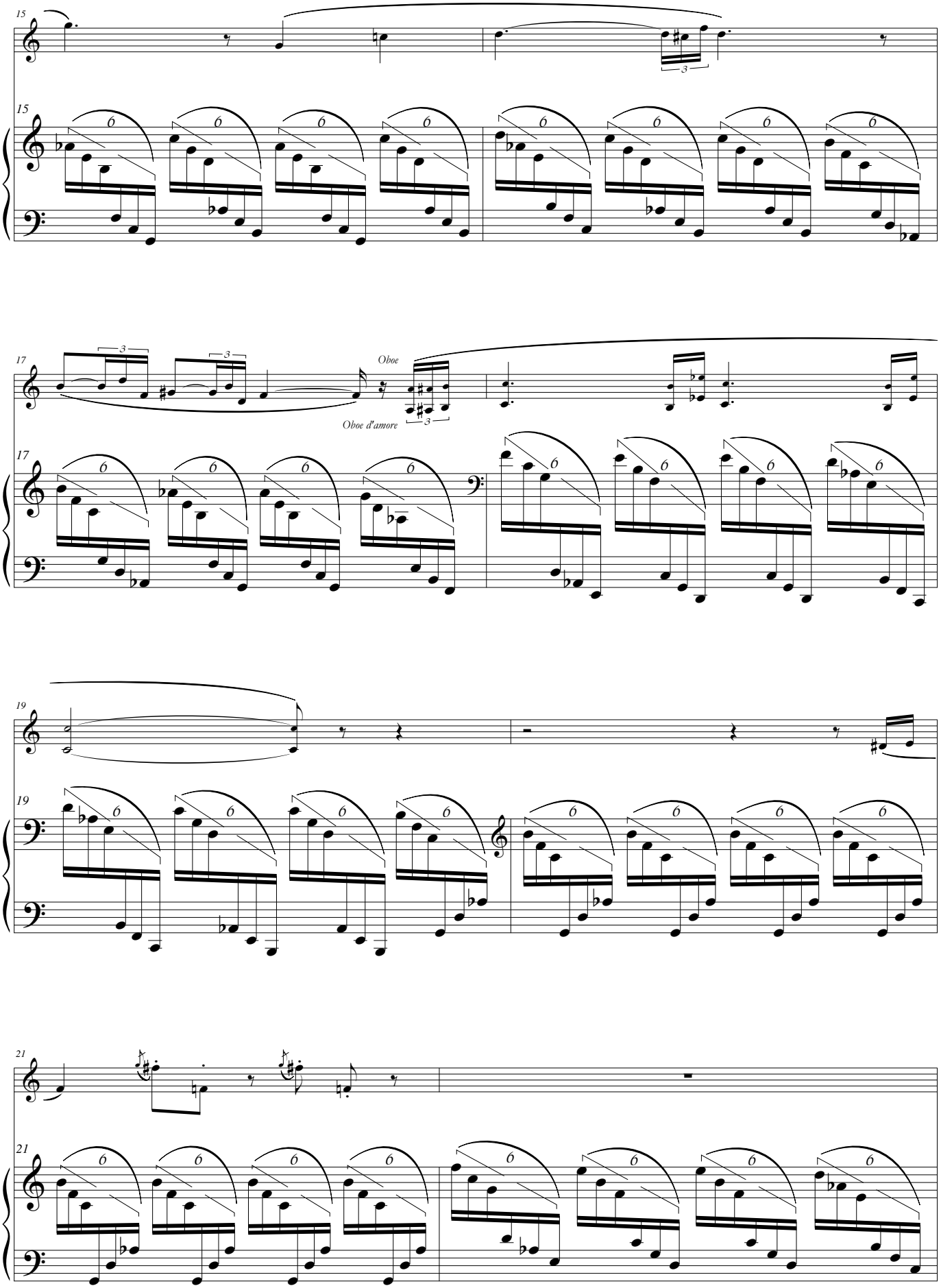
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Oboe
Oboe d'amore
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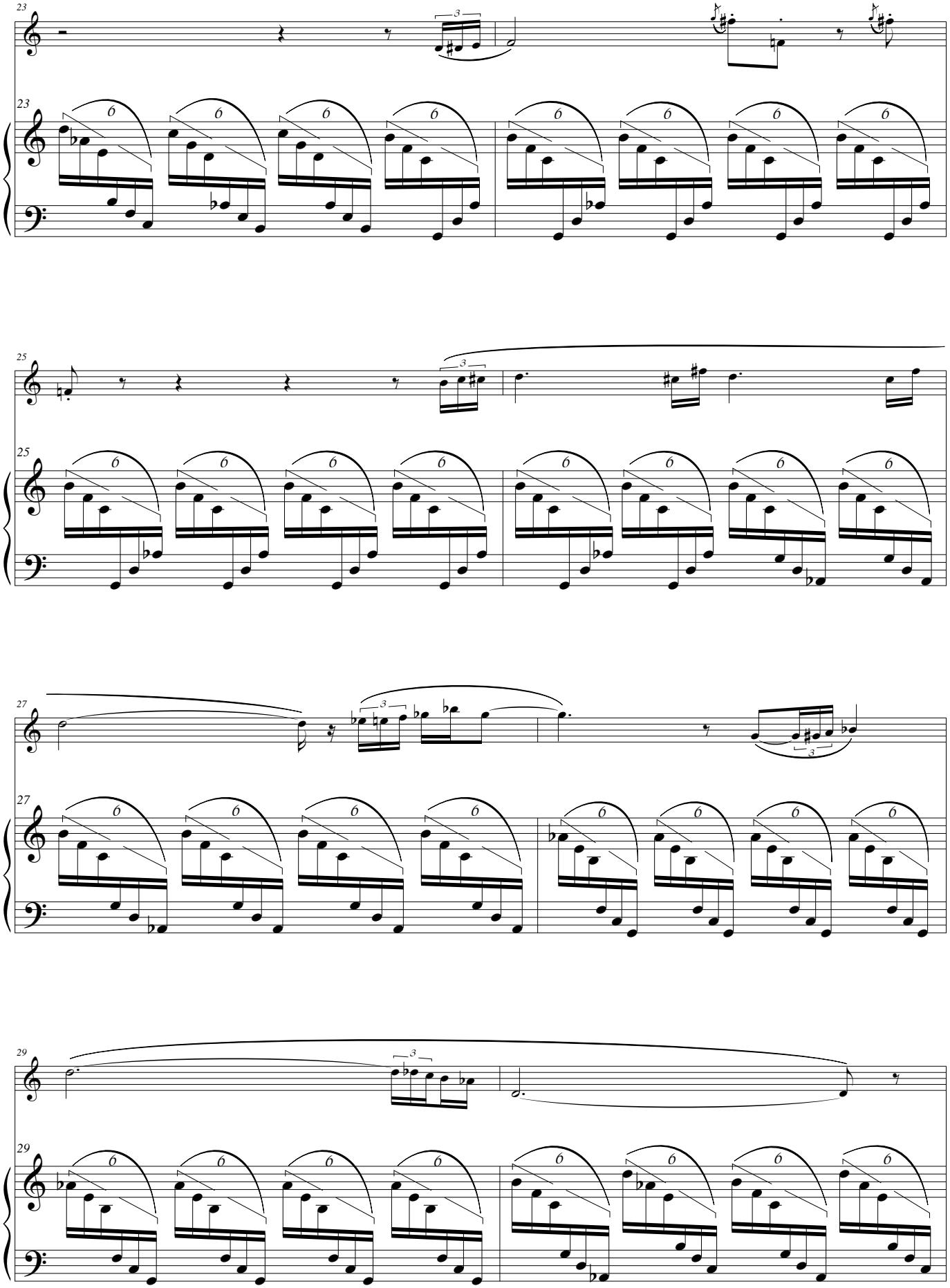

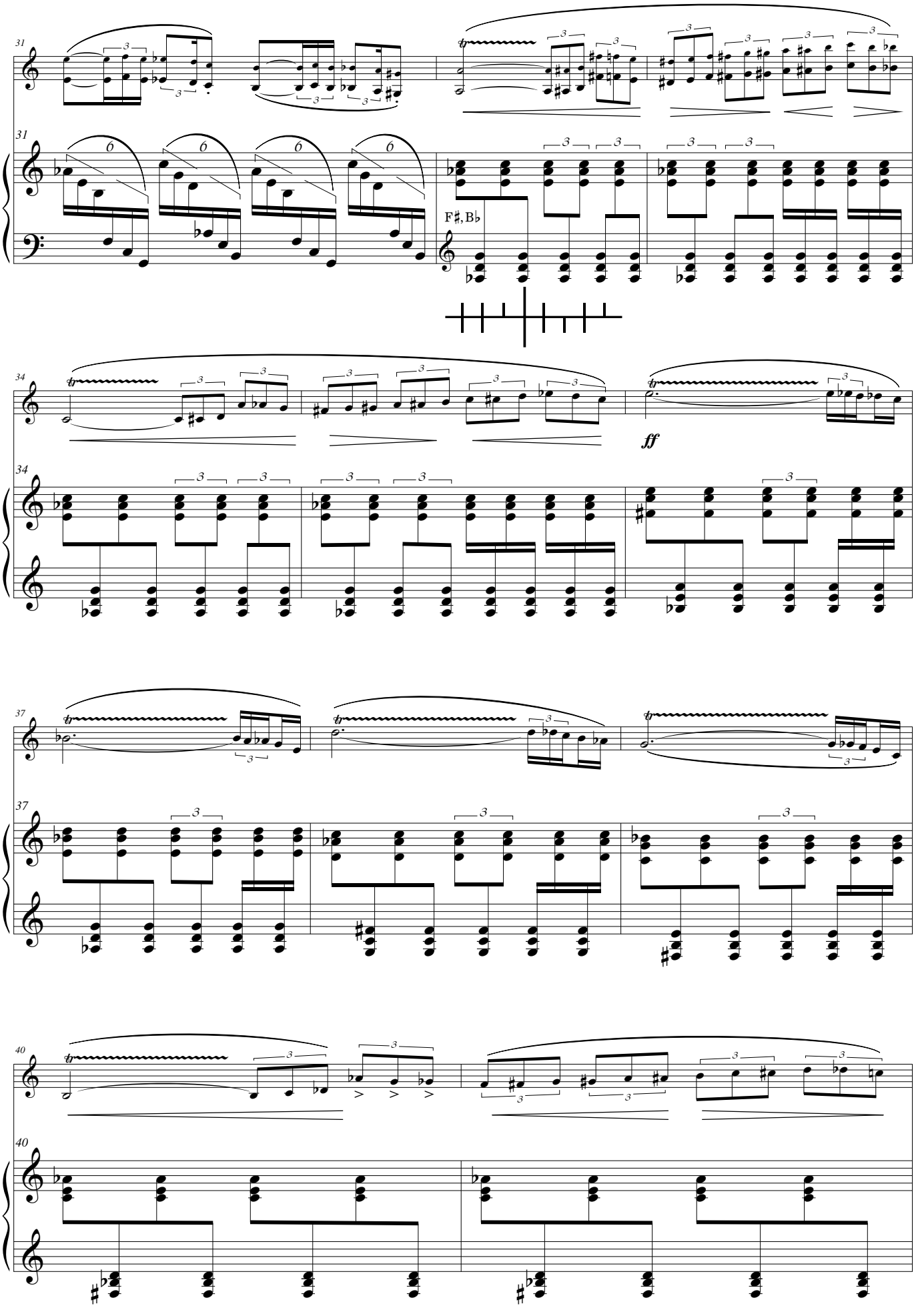
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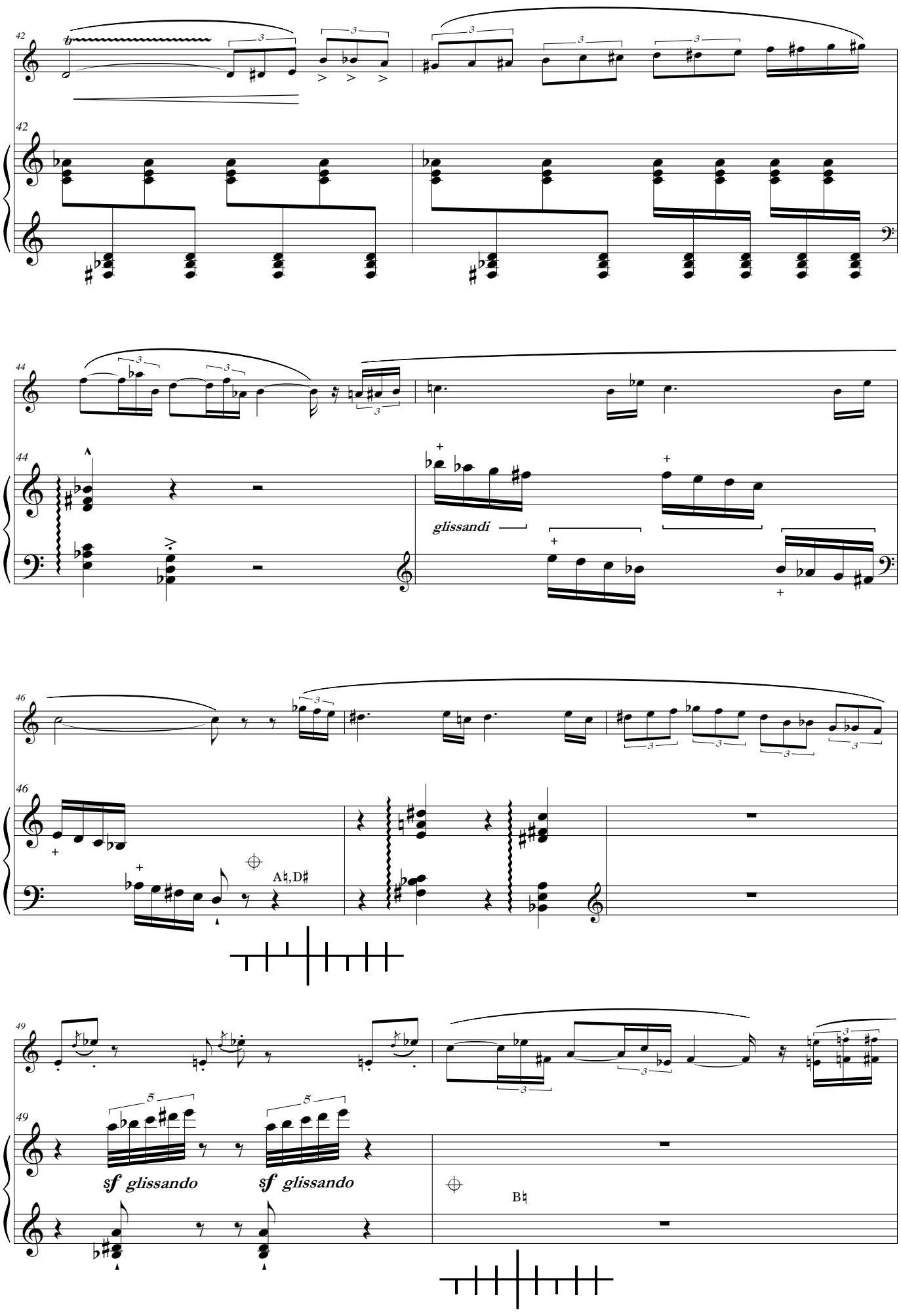
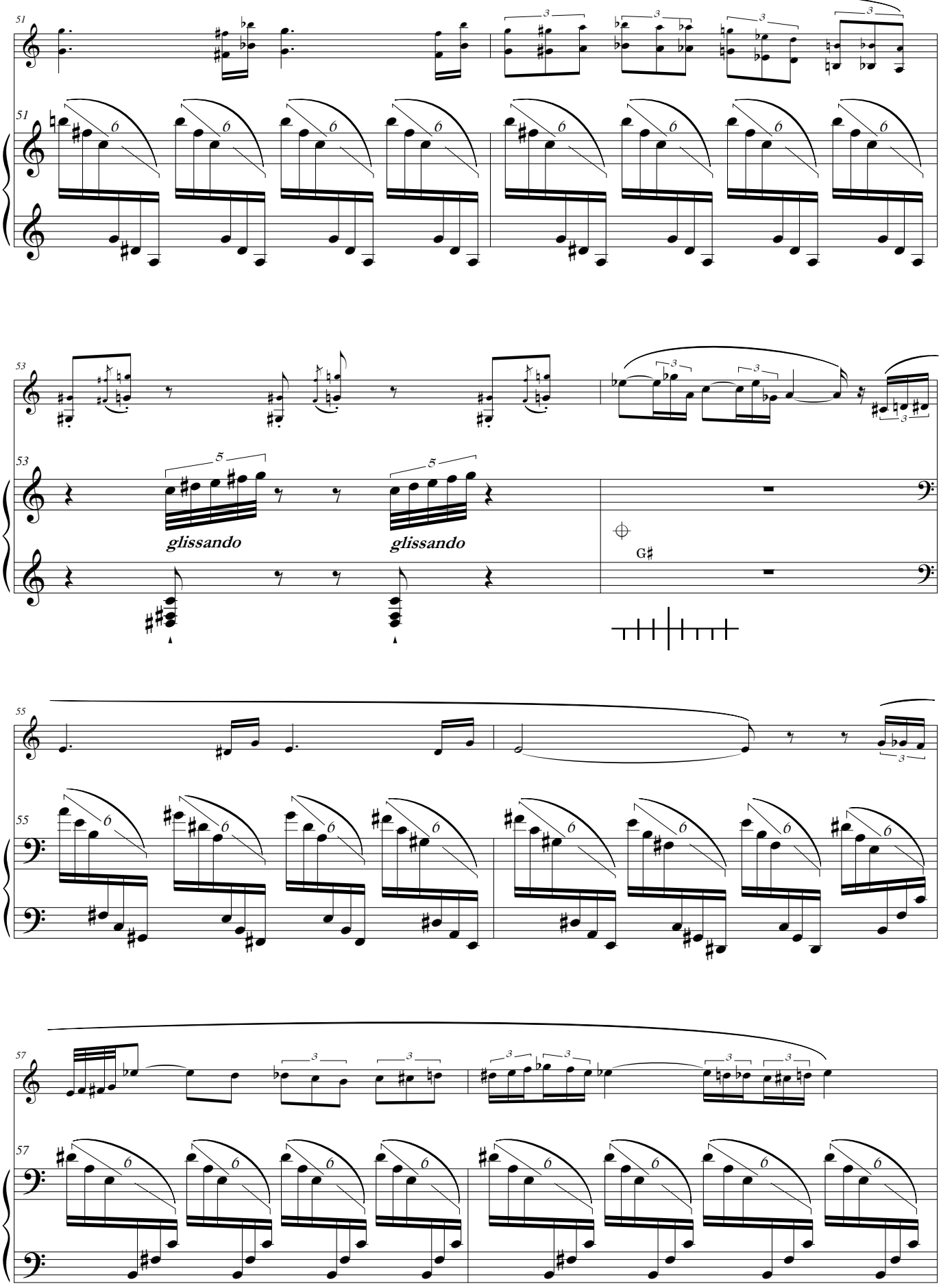
ff
37
40


42
42
44
44
glissandi
46
46
A♮, D♯
49
49
sf glissando
sf glissando
B♮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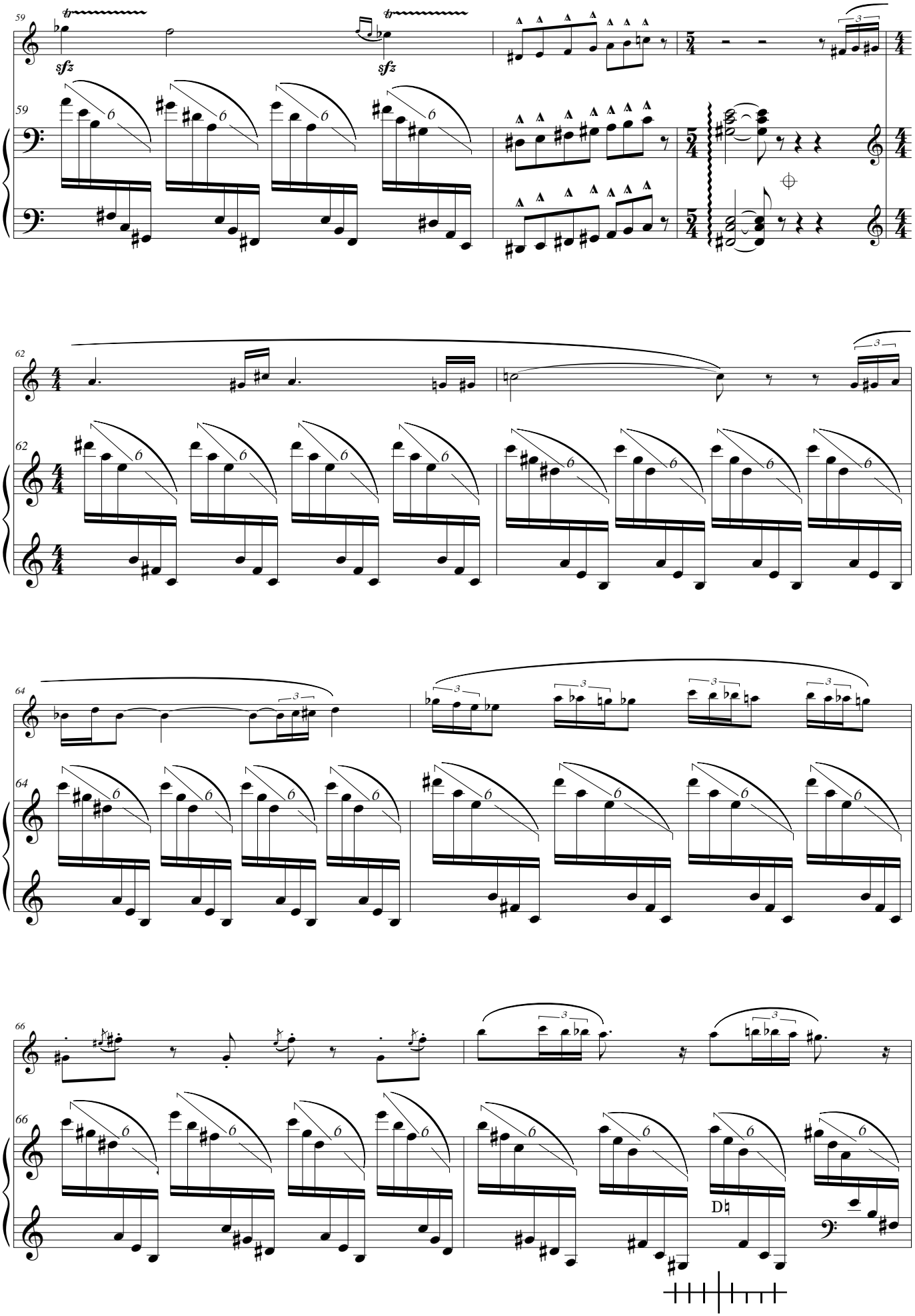
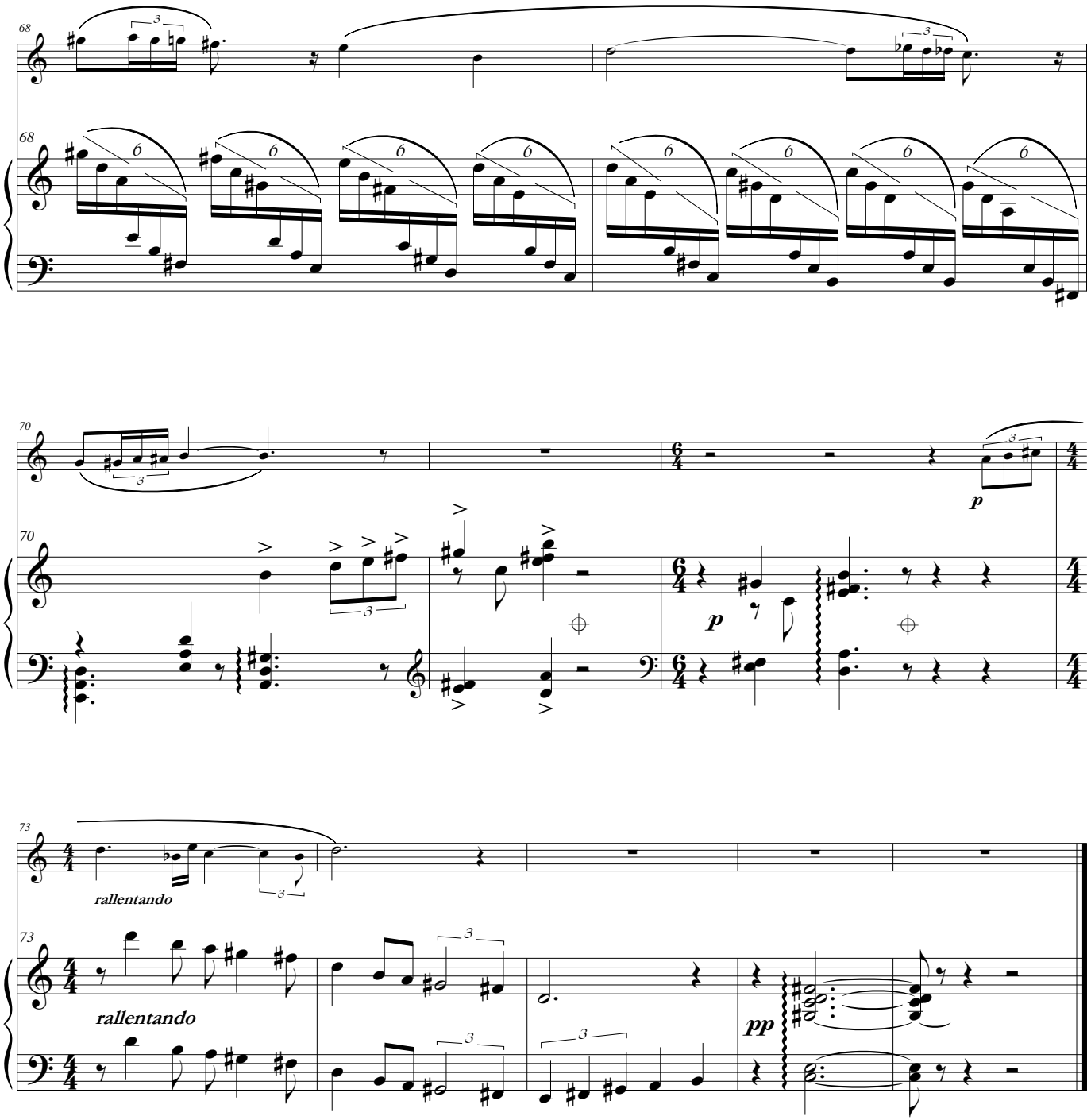
53
53
glissando
glissando
G♯
55
55
57
57


59
sfz
sfz
62
64
66
D♮


68
68
70
70
p
p
73
rallentando
73
rallentando
pp

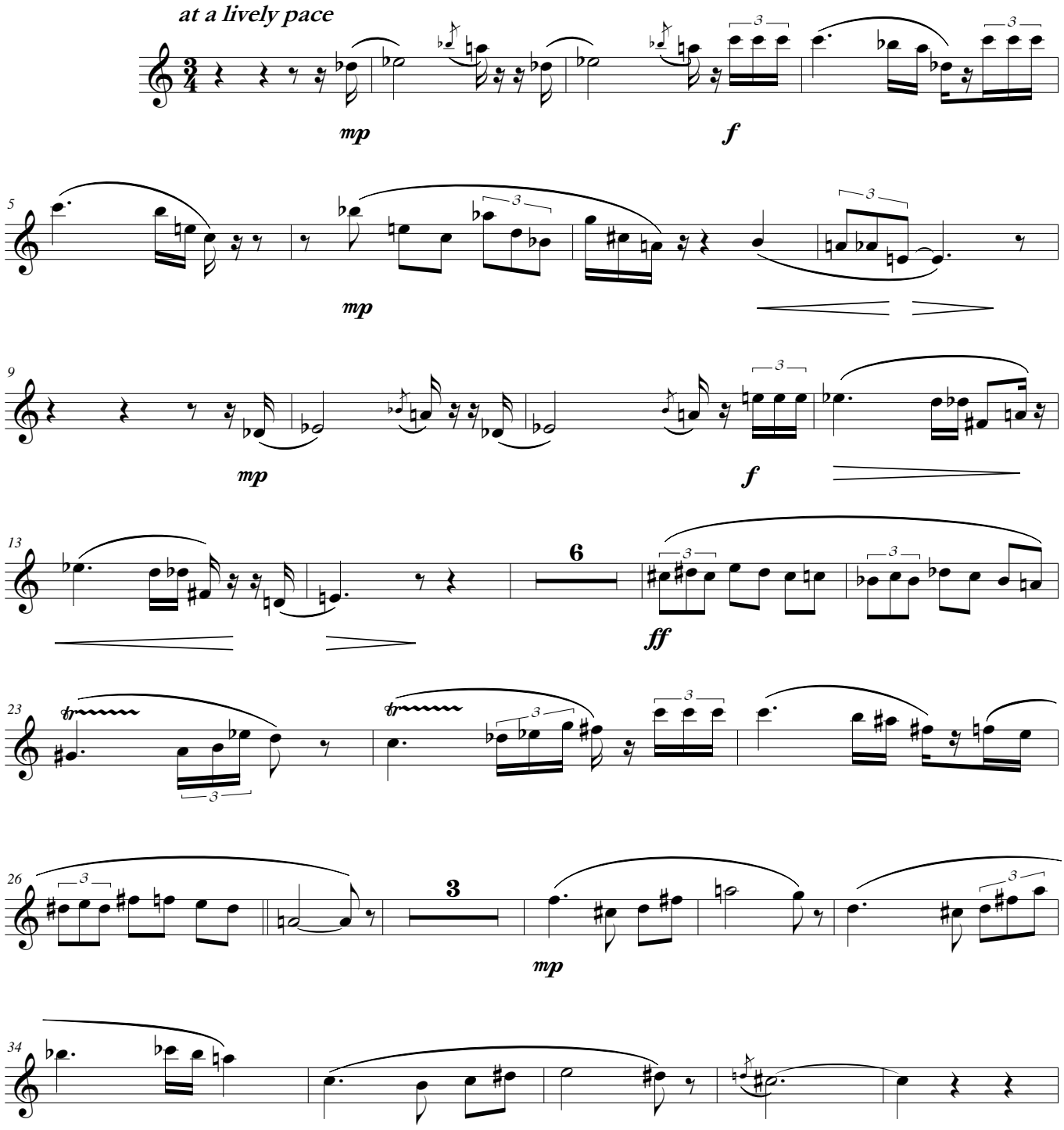
for Jennifer Paull

AN ALBUM OF AQUARELLES

I Syrinx & Pan

Oboe d'amore

Ian Keith Harris
(1935 -)



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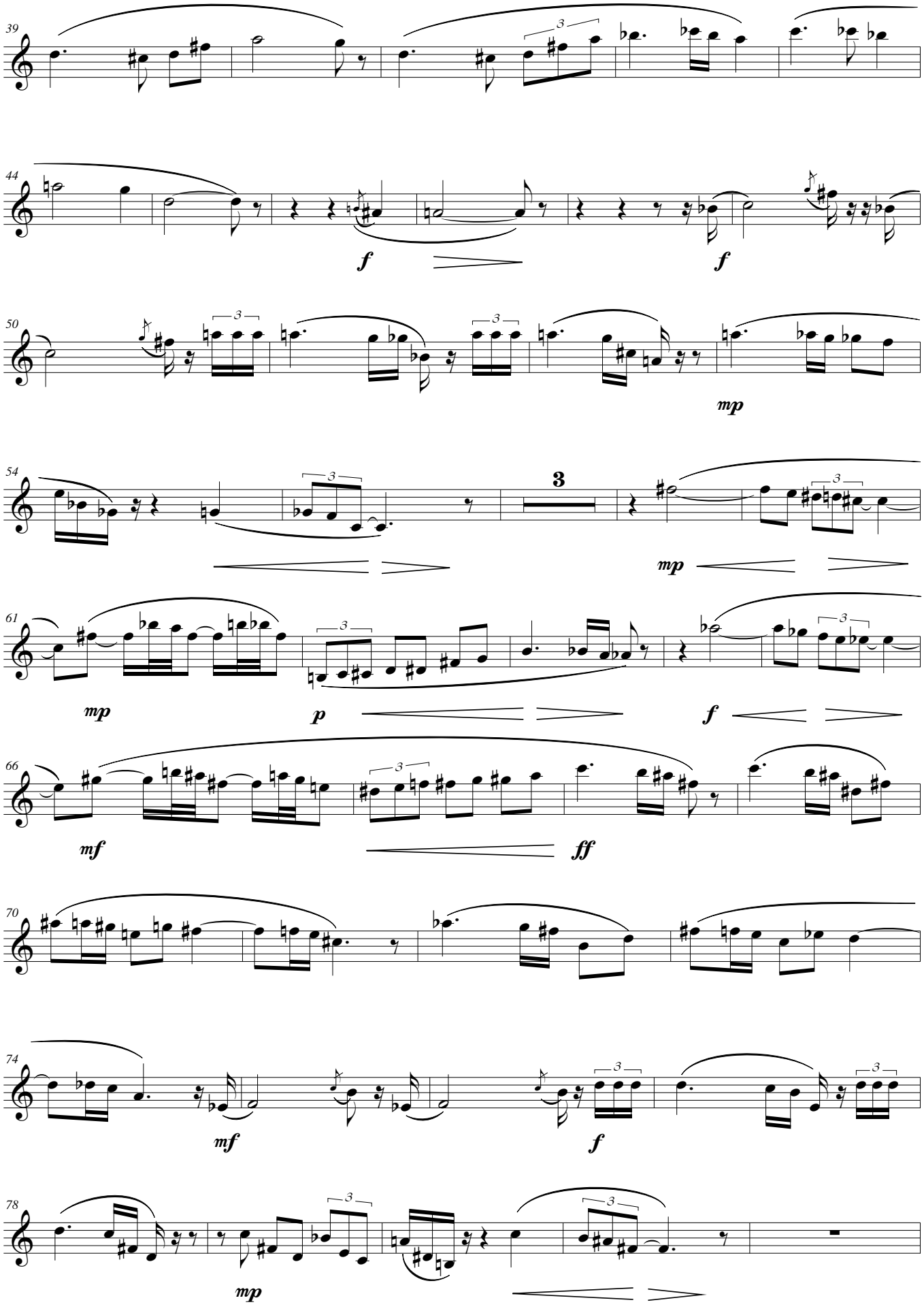
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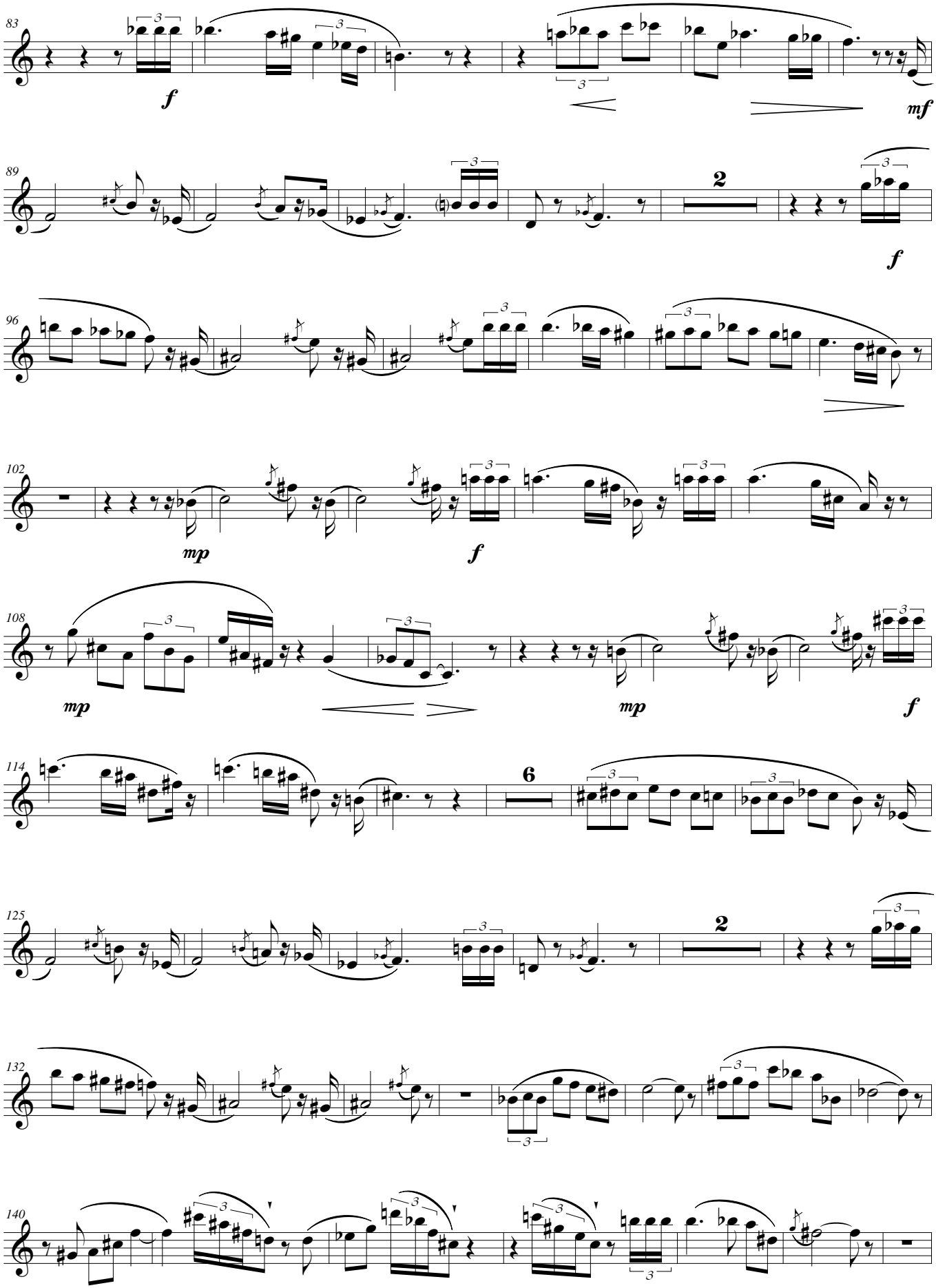
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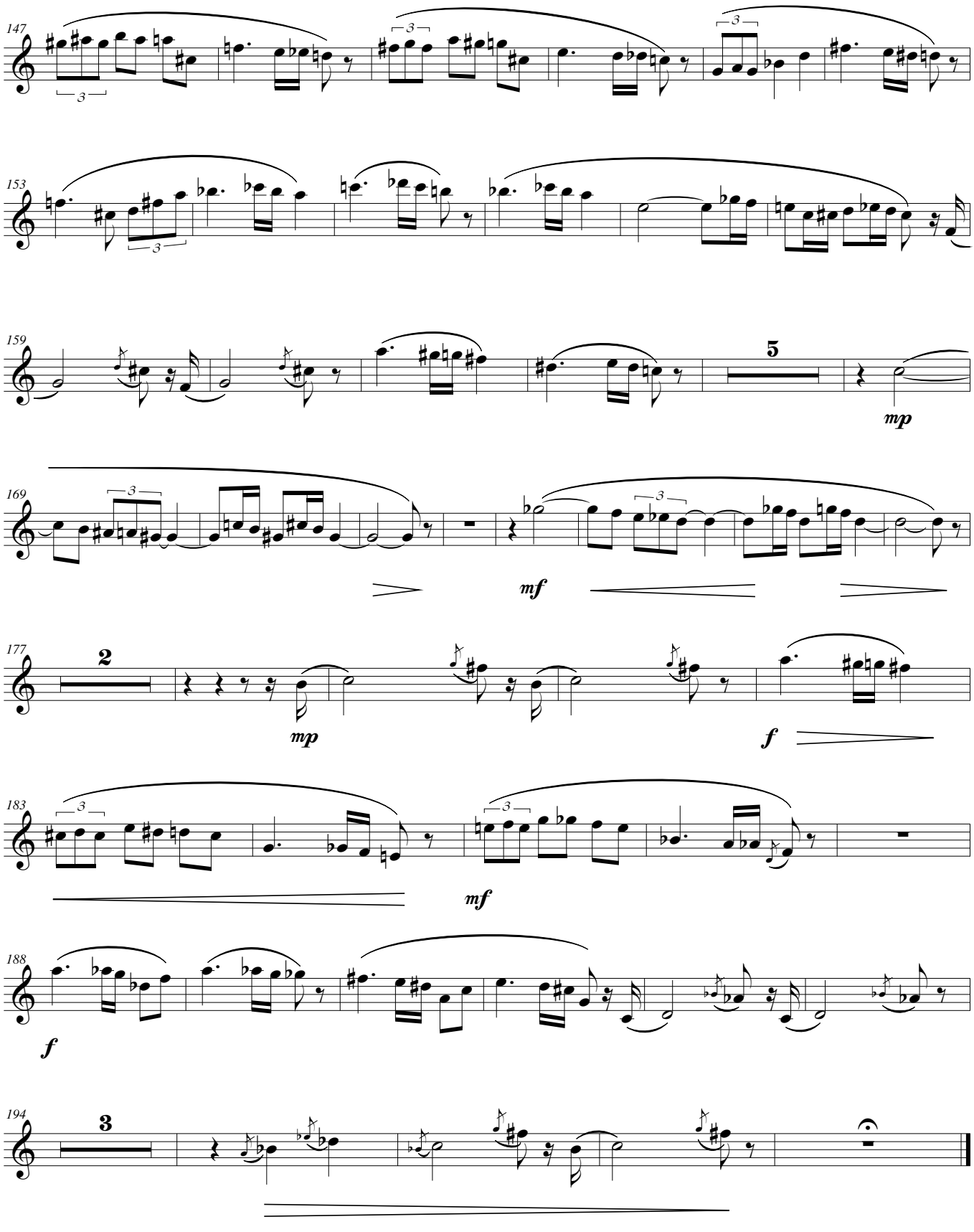
147
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183
mf
188
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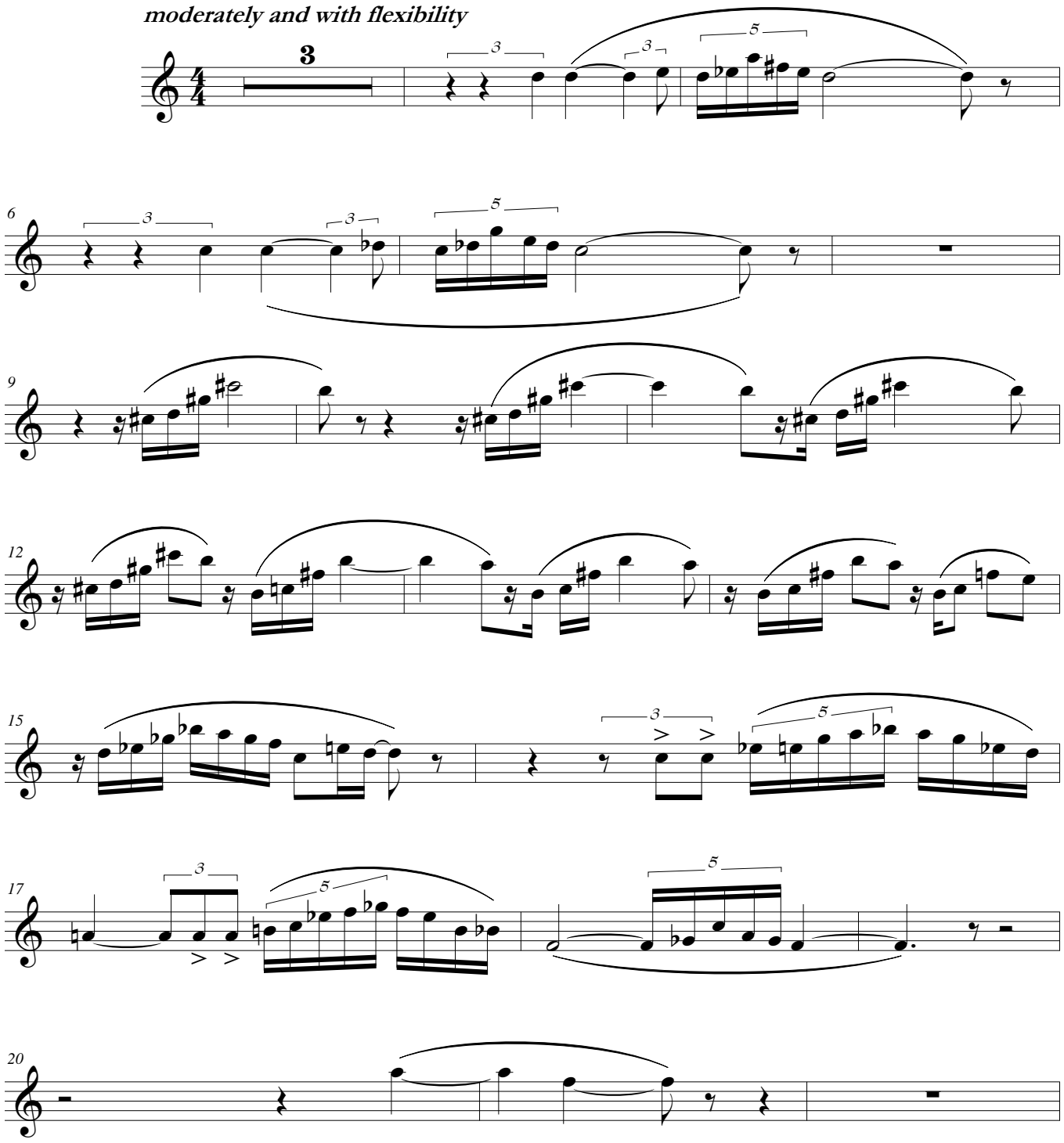
194
3

II Aurora Australis

Oboe d'amore

Ian Keith Harris
(1935 -)



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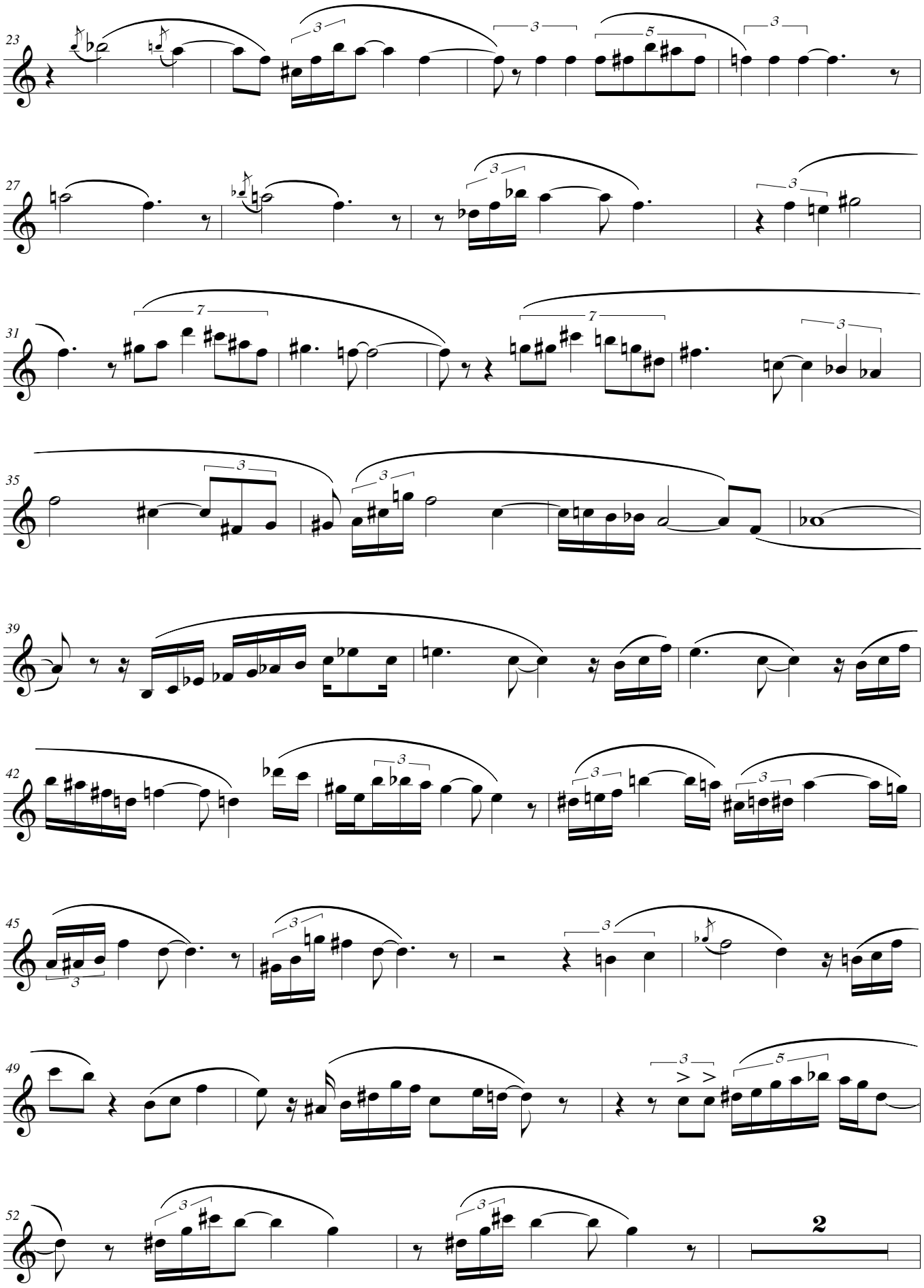

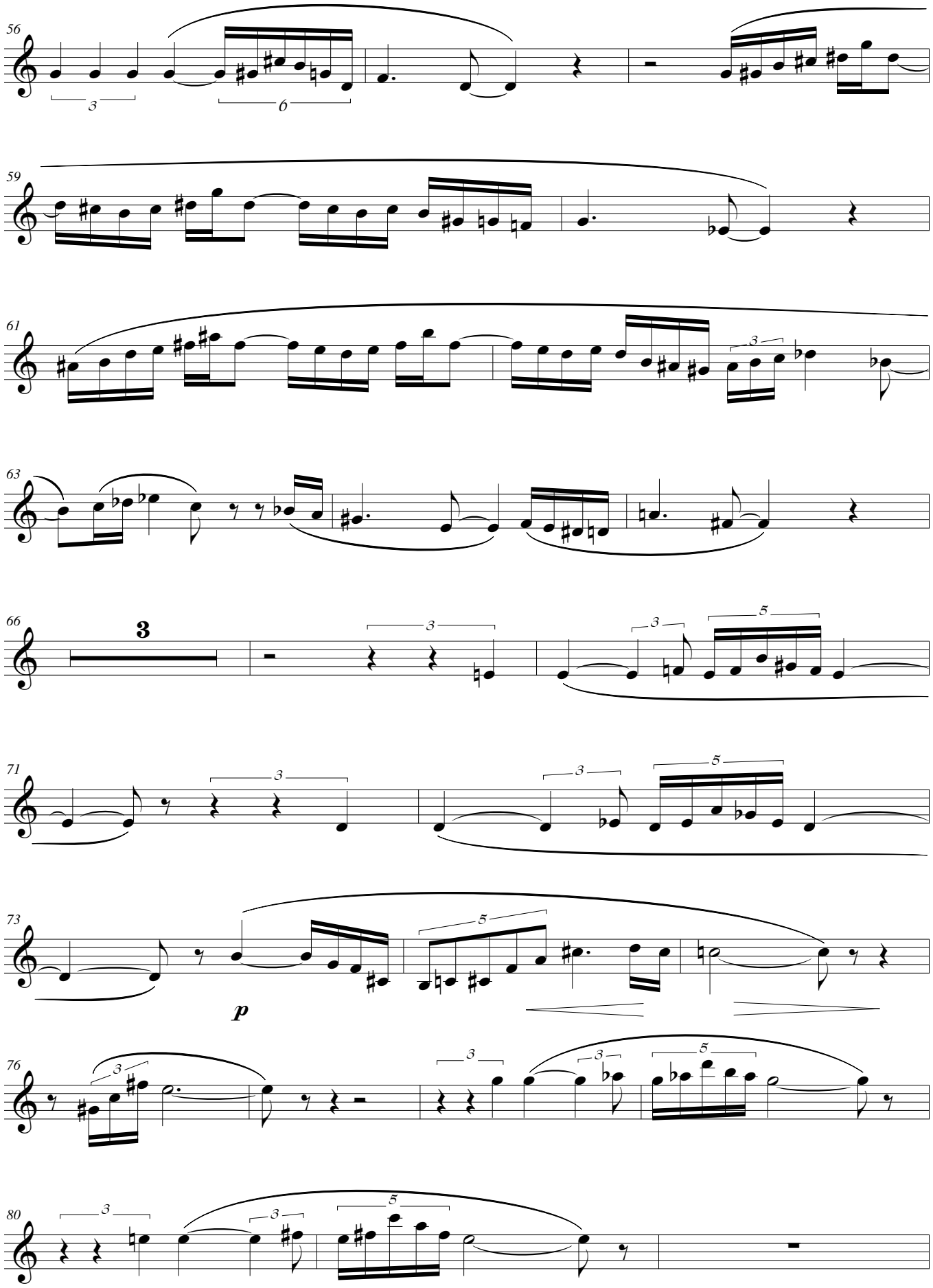
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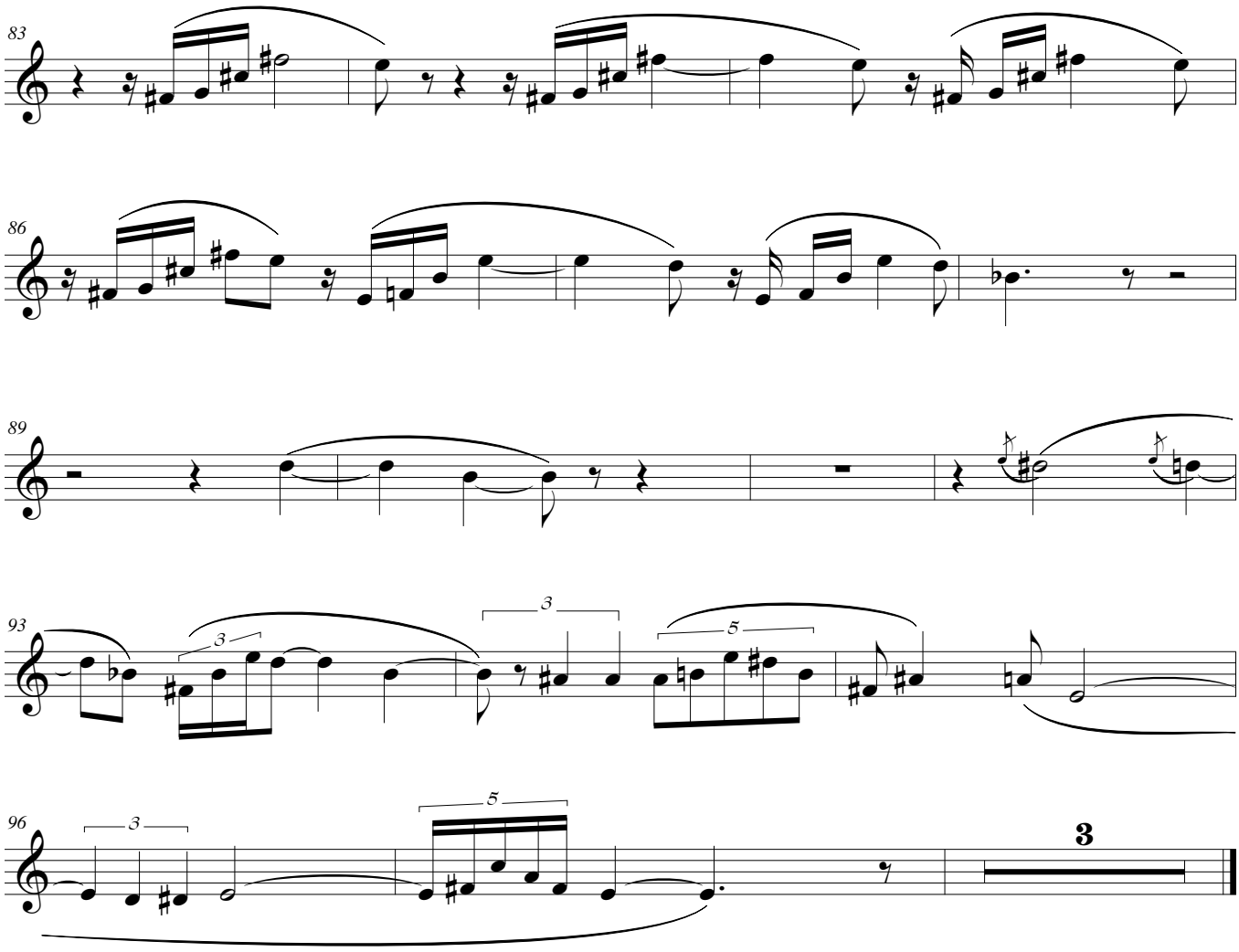
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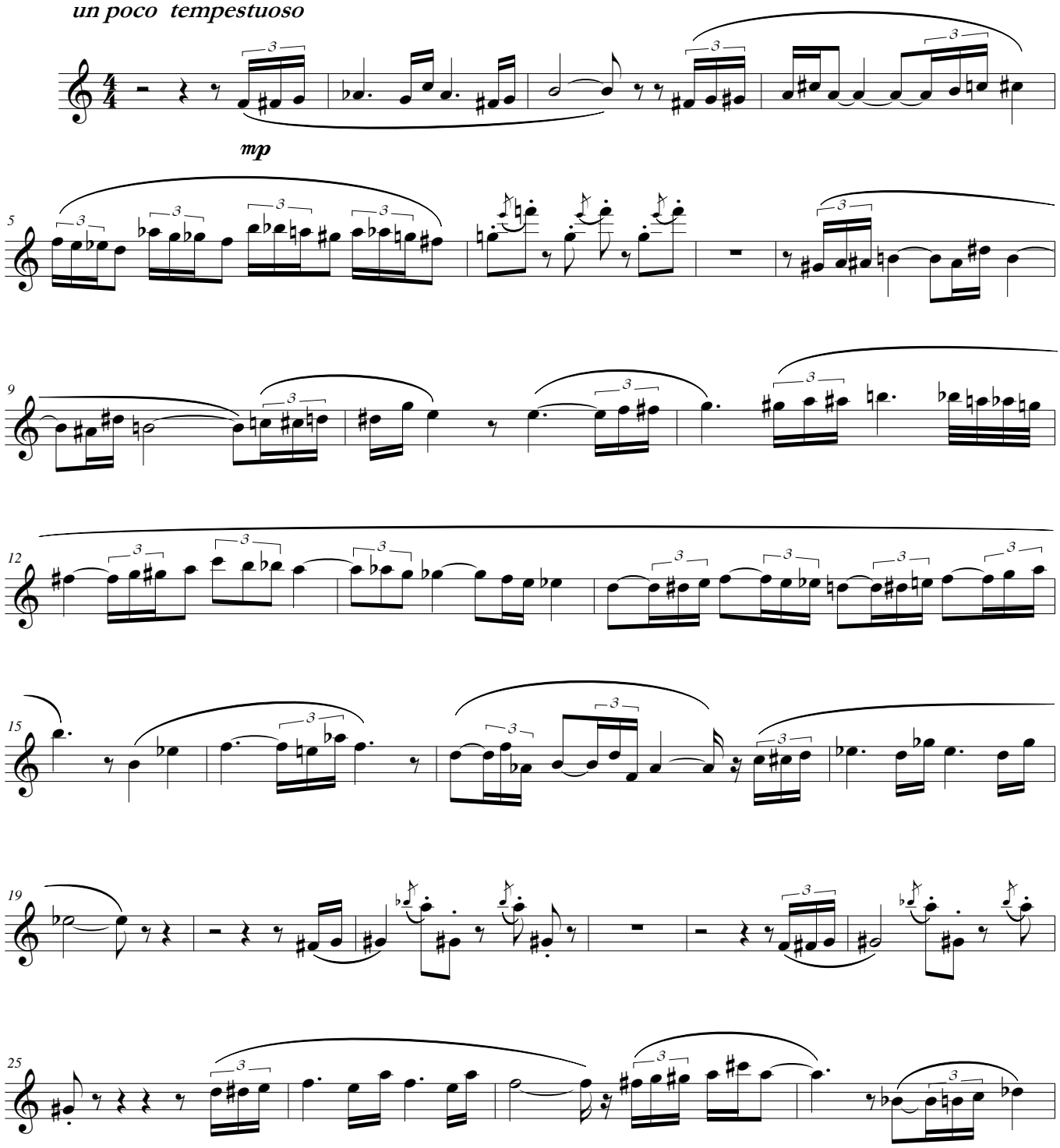
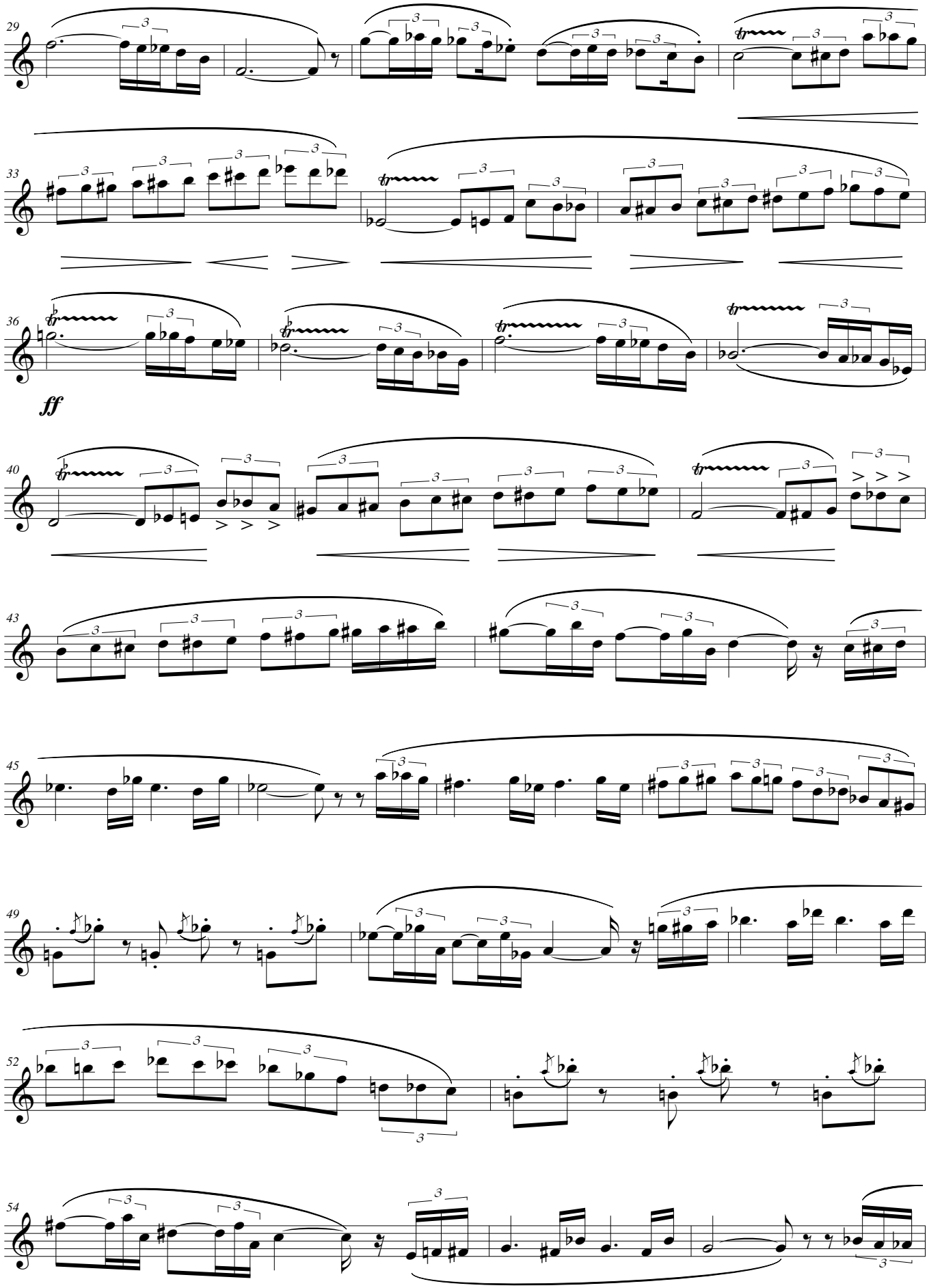
III West of the Winter Wind

Oboe d'amore

Ian Keith Harris
(1935 -)

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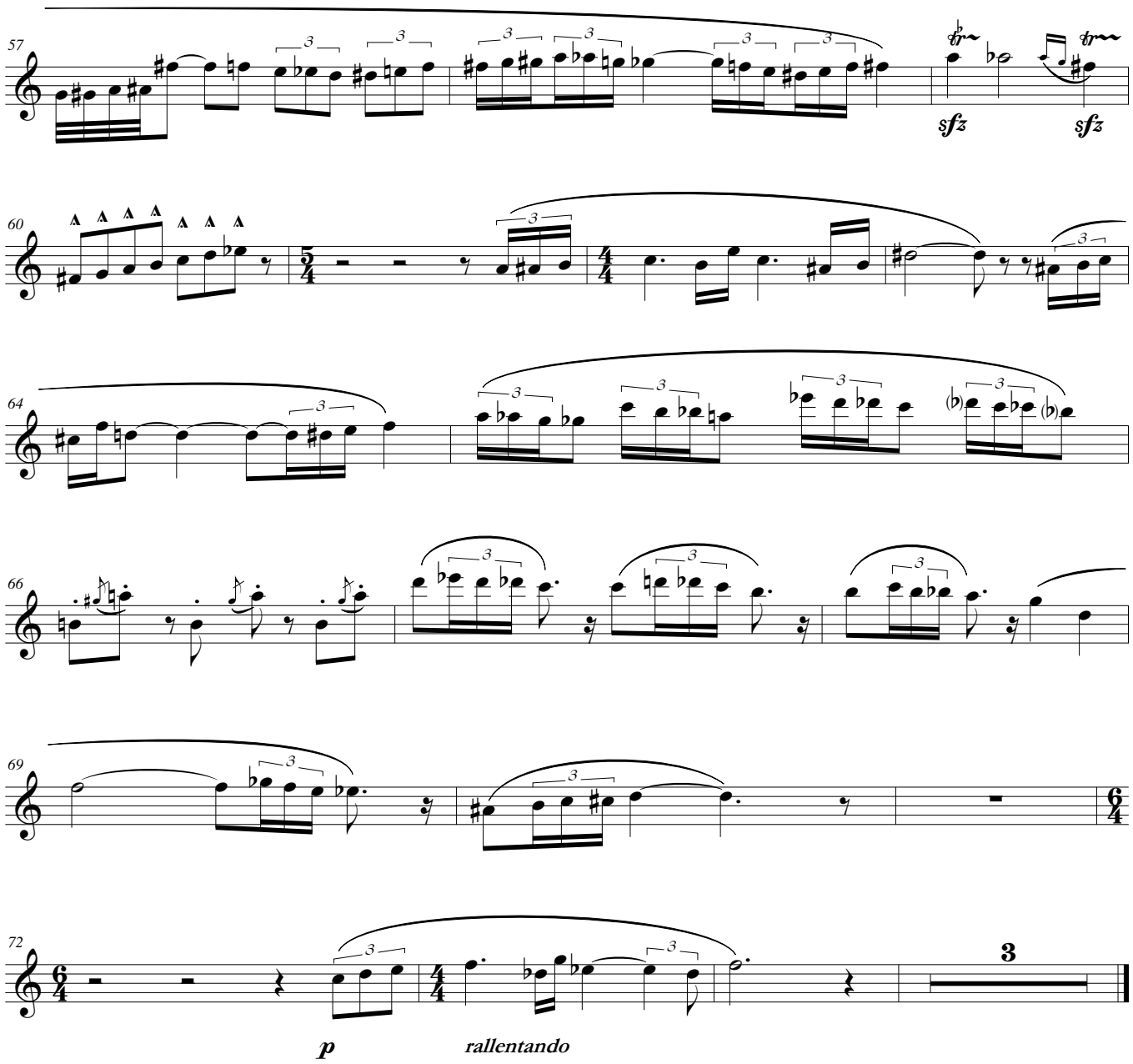

57
sfz
sfz
60
64
66
69
72
3
p
rallentando

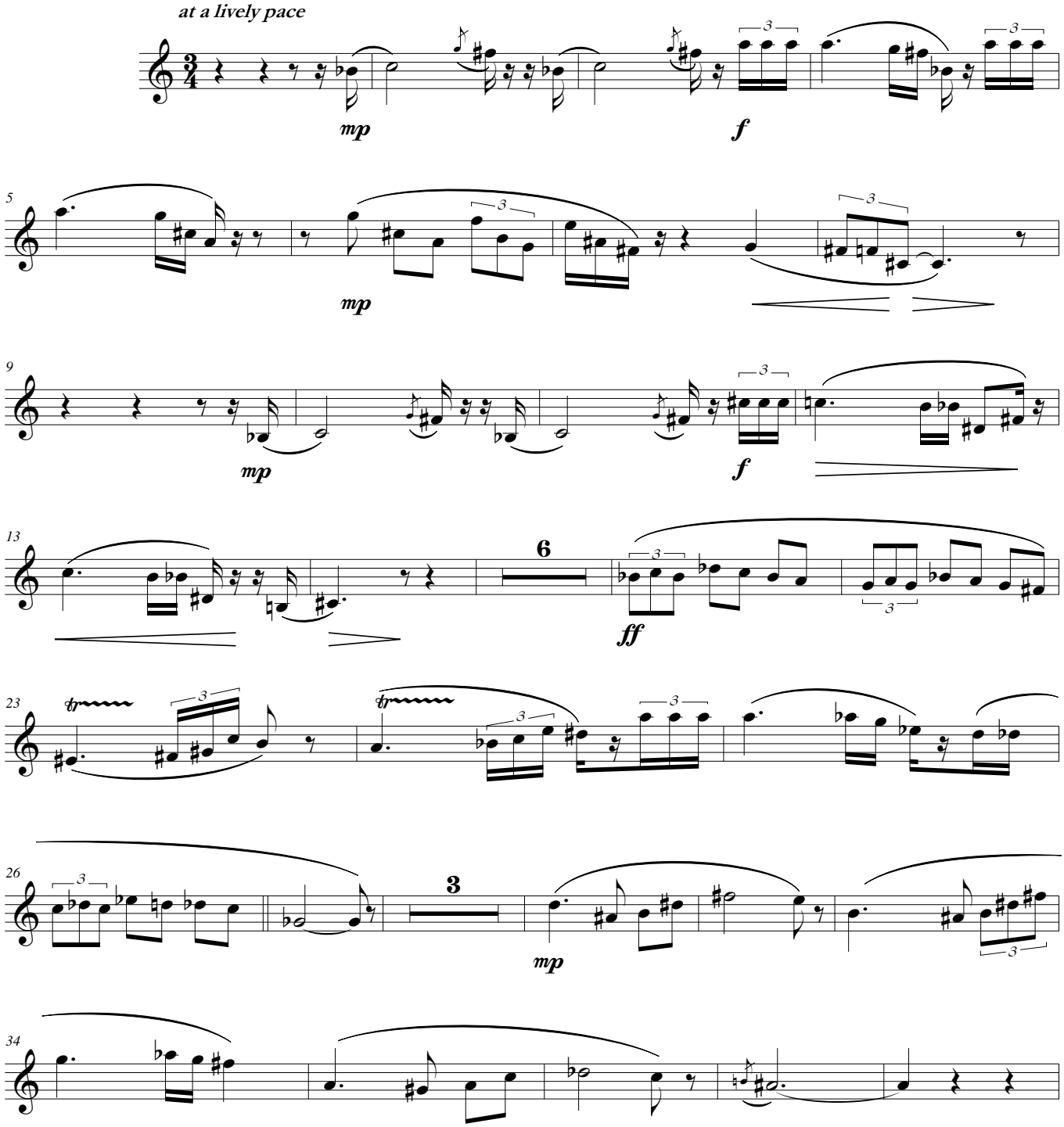
for Jennifer Paull

AN ALBUM OF AQUARELLES

I Syrinx & Pan

Oboe

Ian Keith Harris
(1935 -)



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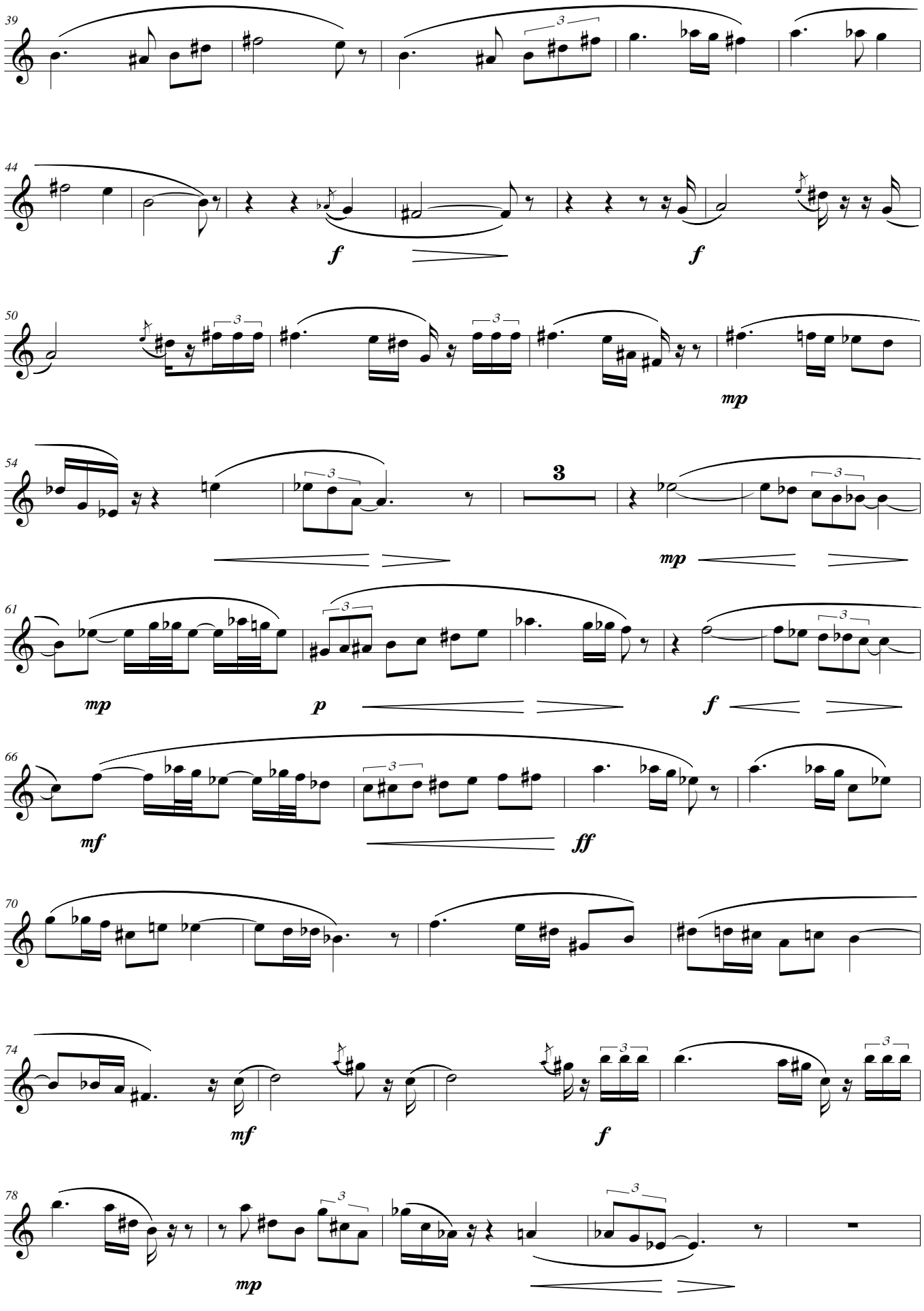
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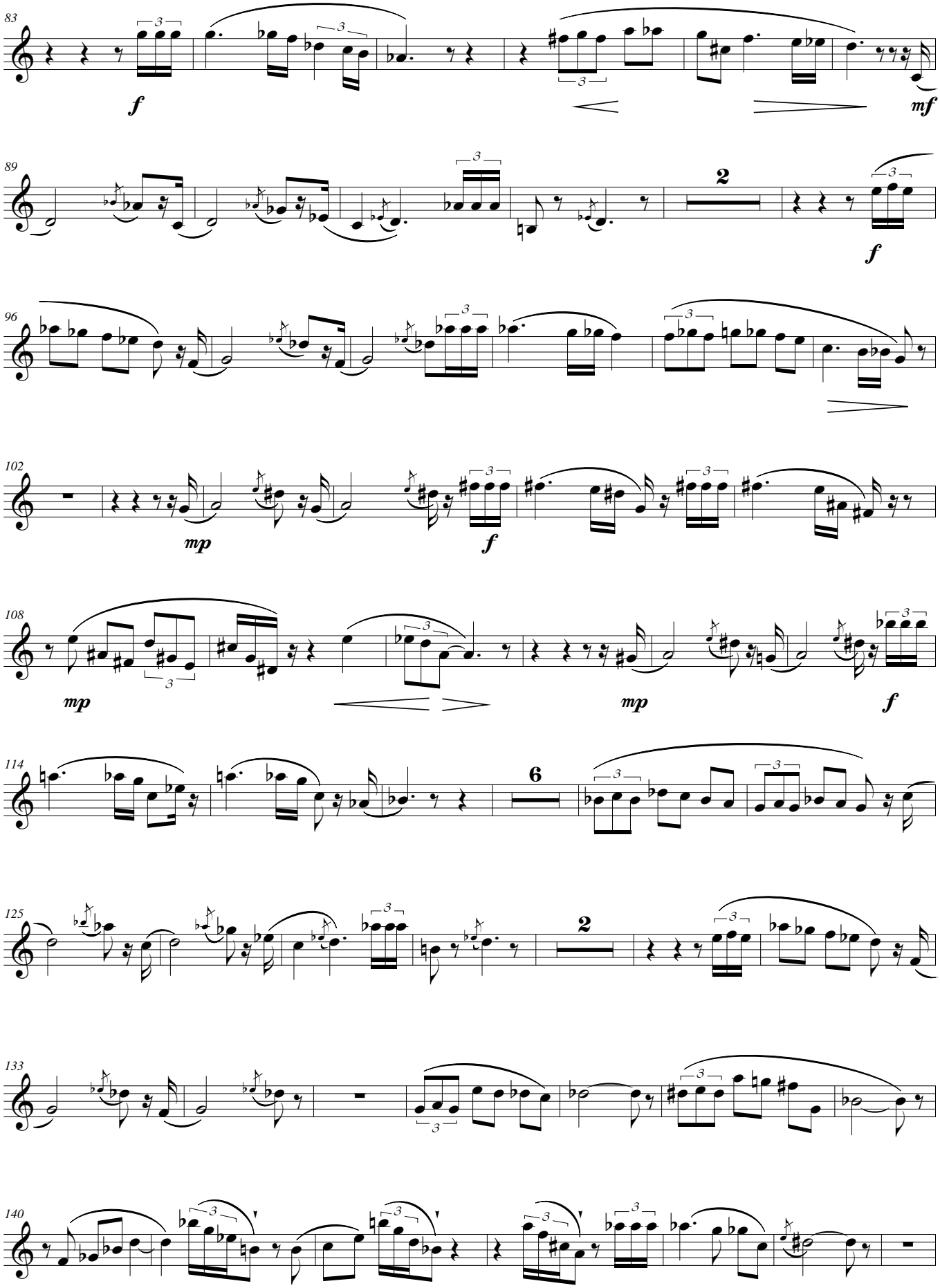
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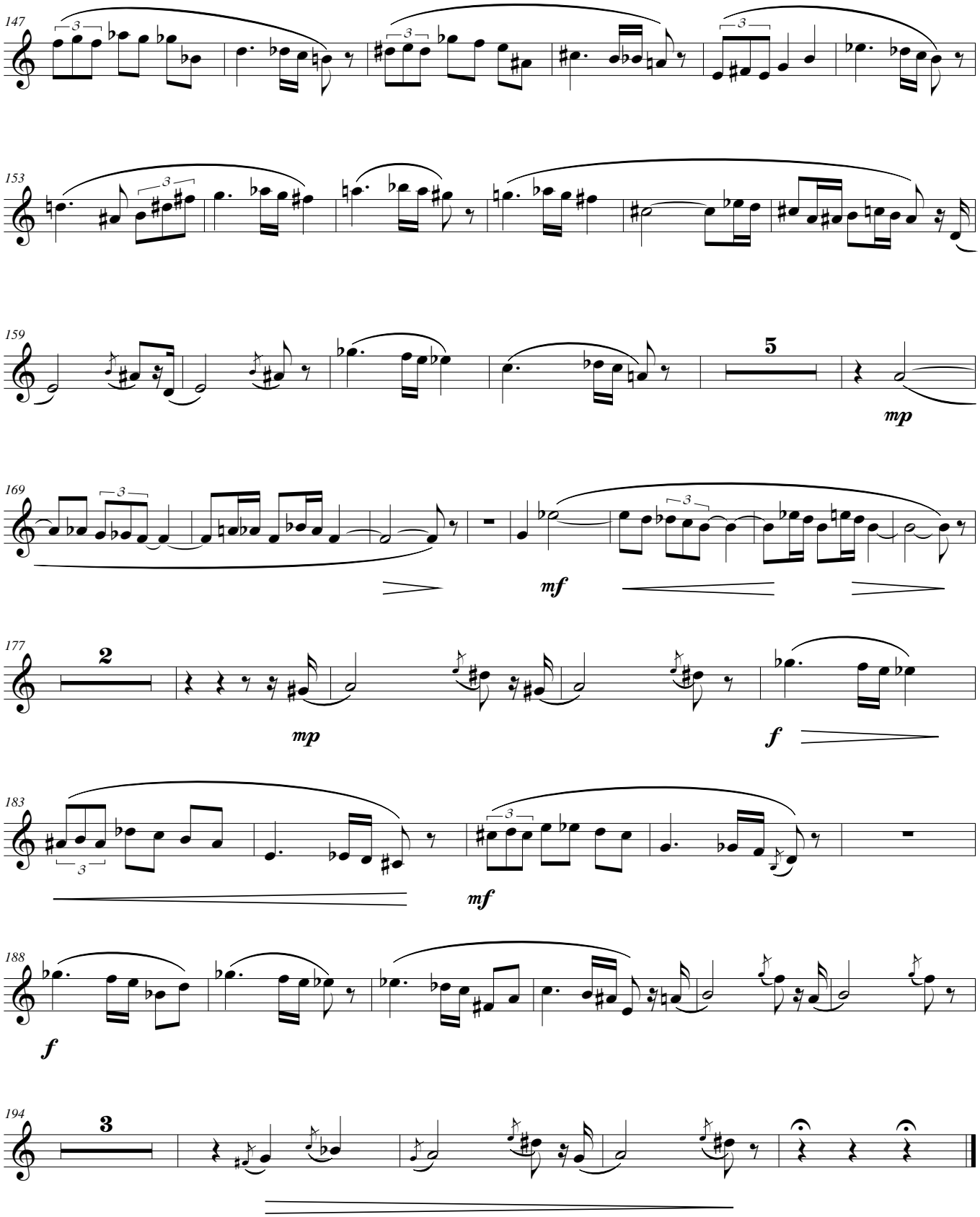
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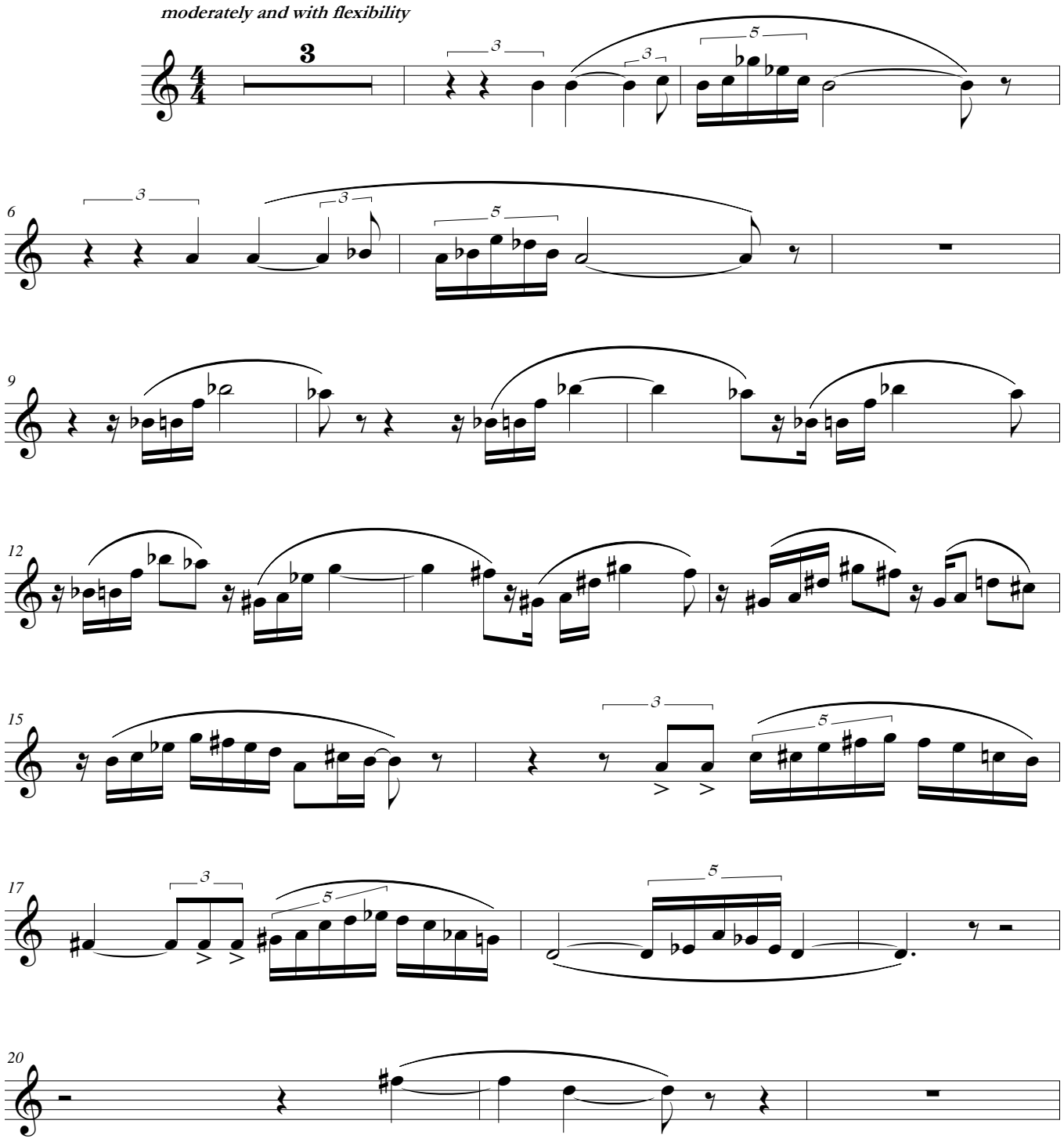
II Aurora Australis

Oboe

Ian Keith Harris
(1935 -)



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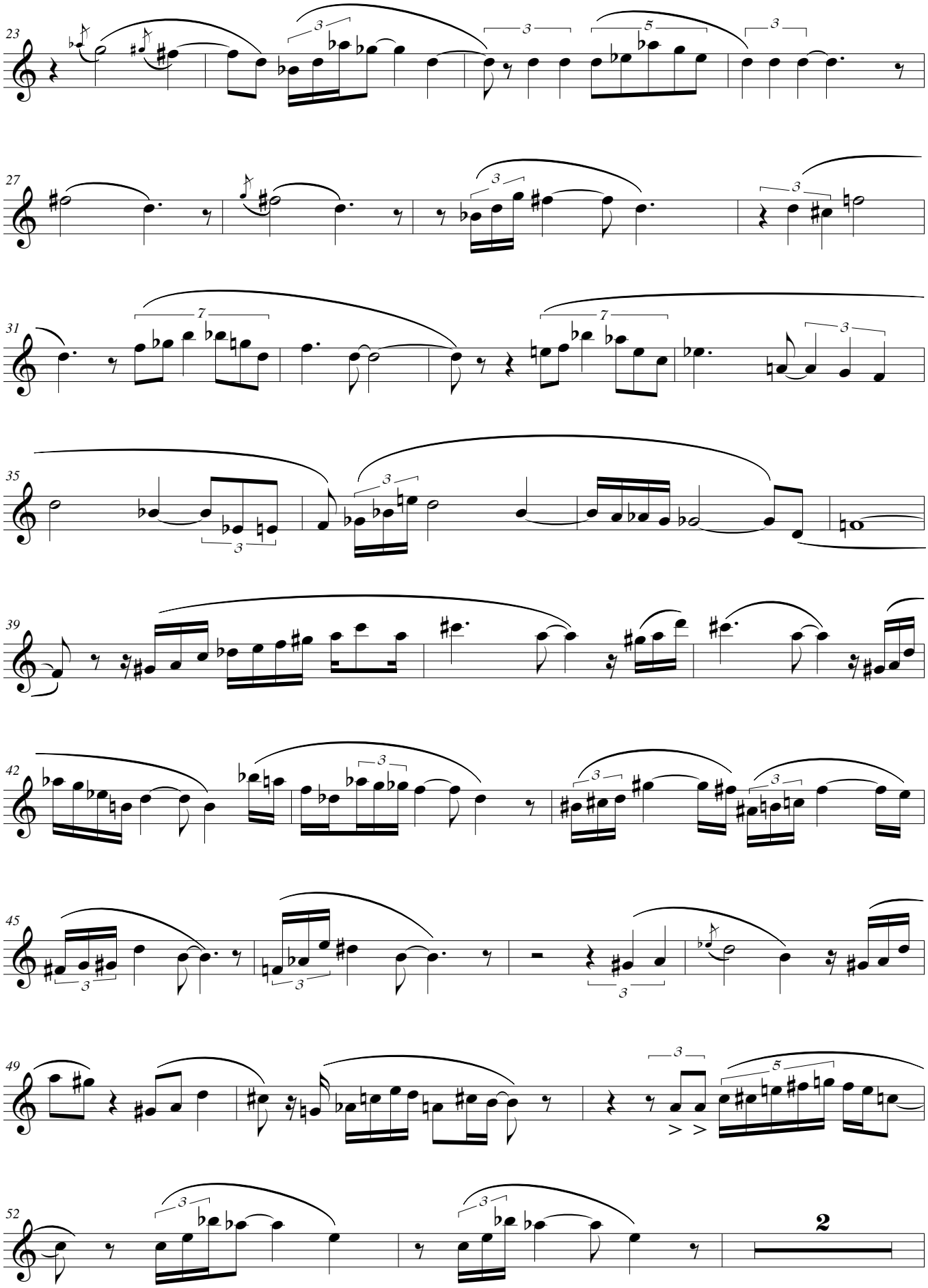

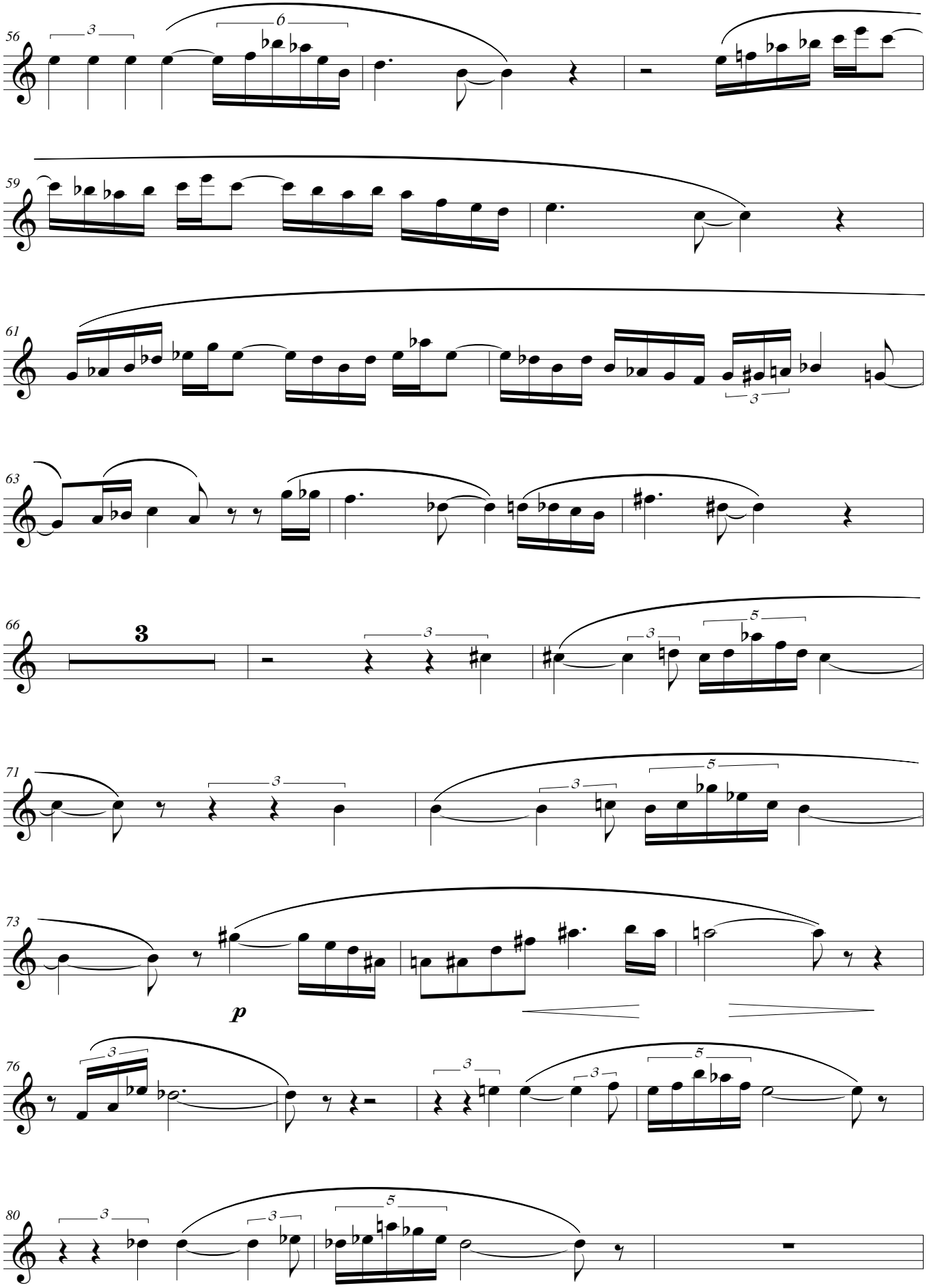
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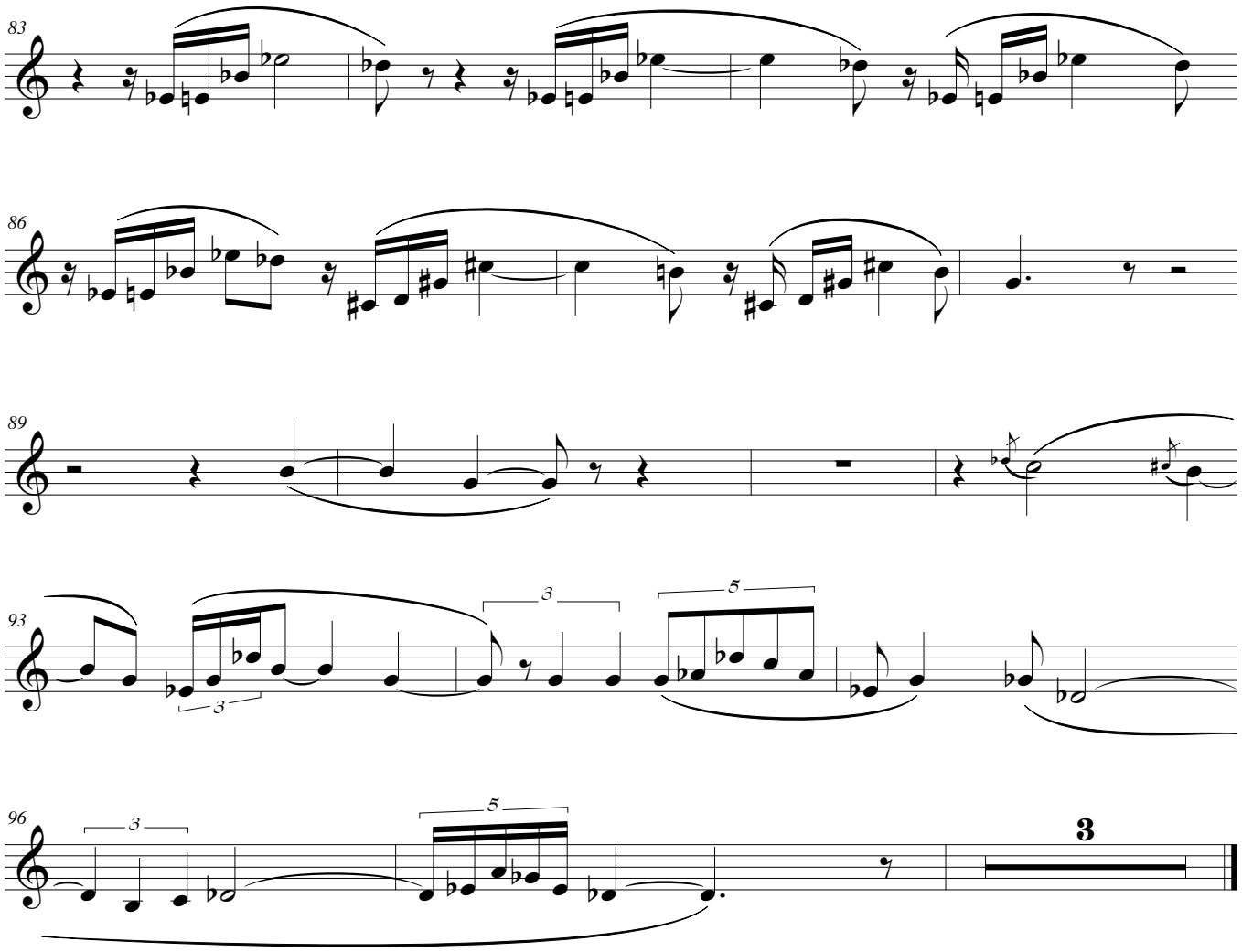
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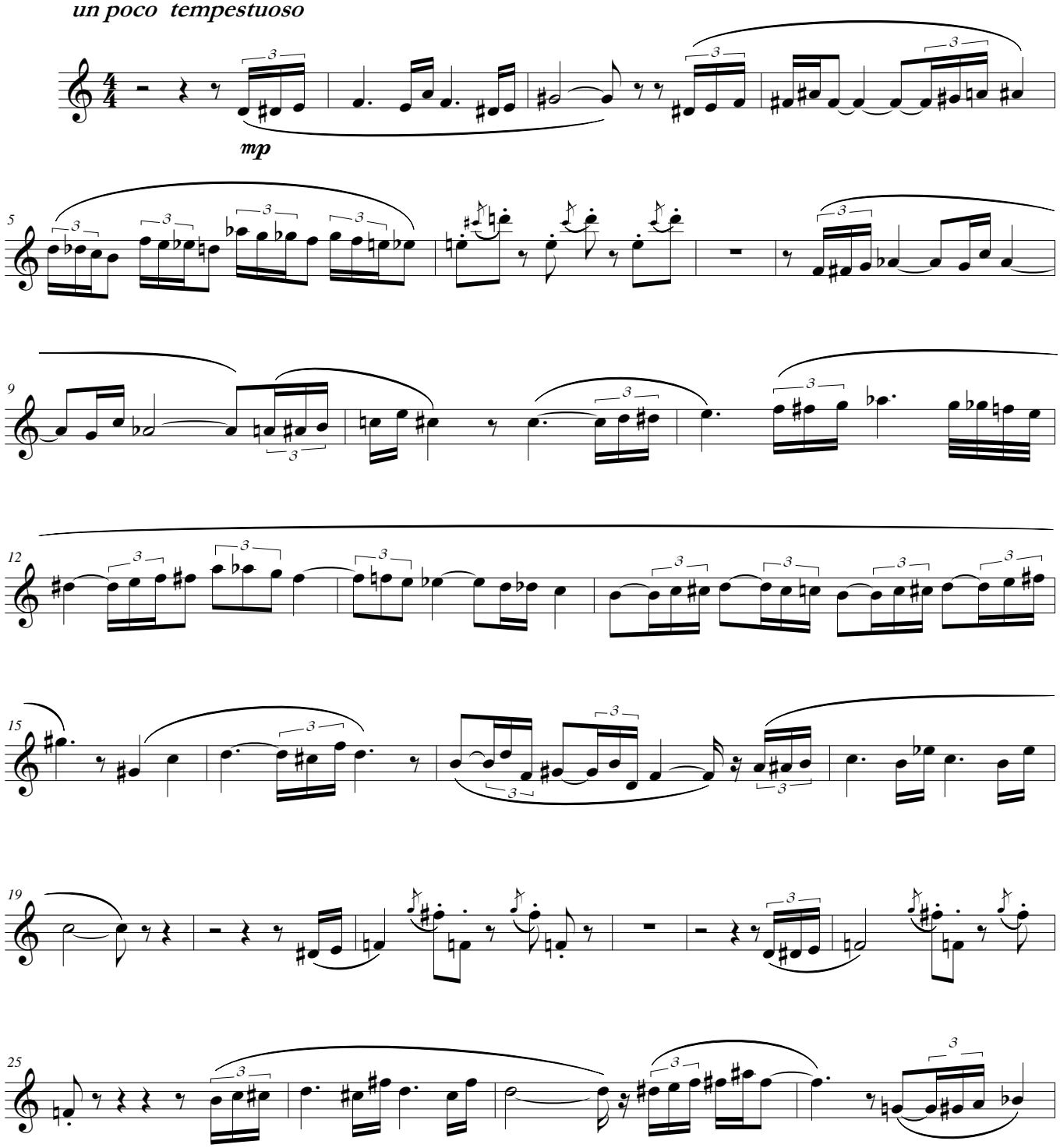
III West of the Winter Wind

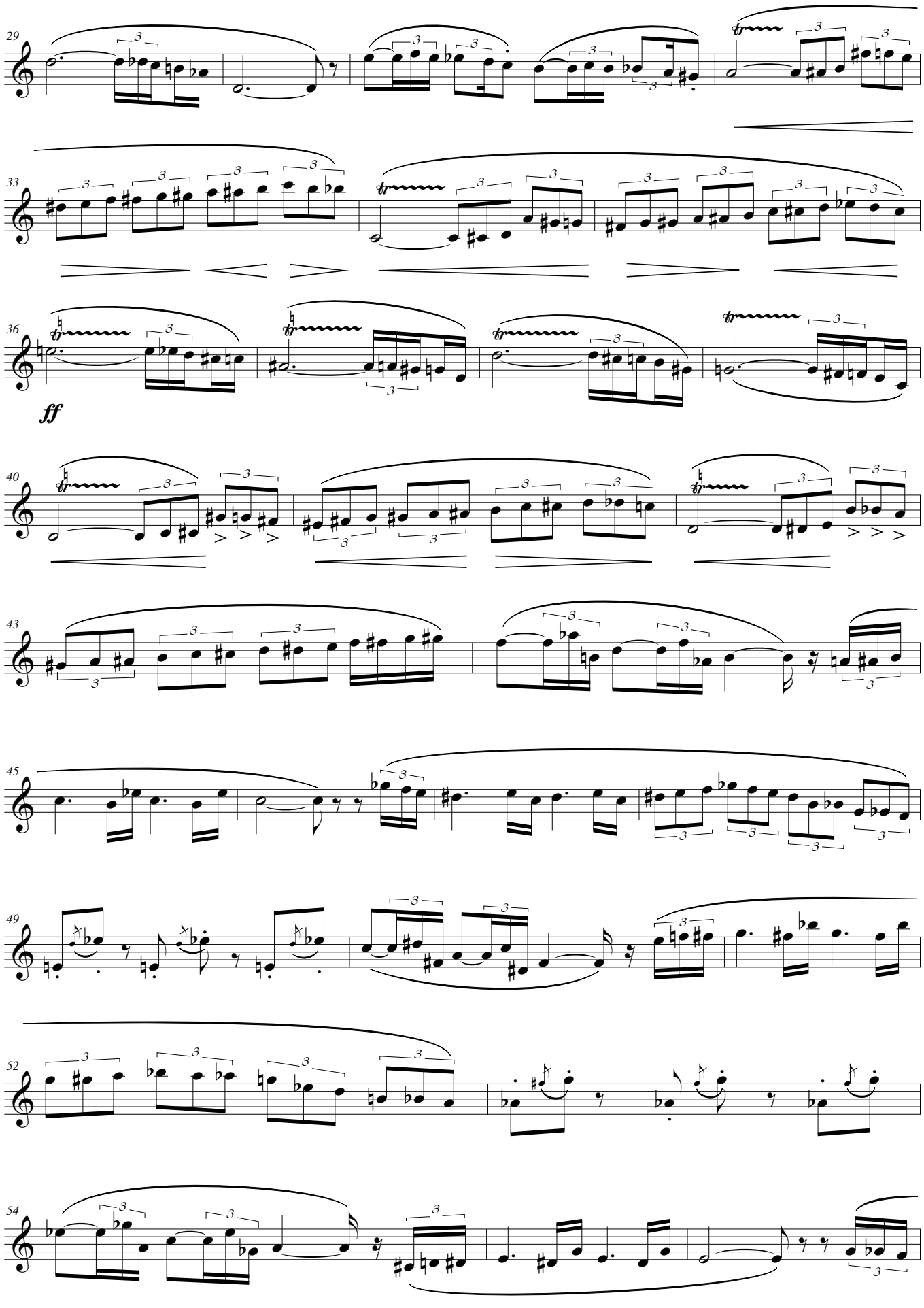
Oboe

Ian Keith Harris
(1935 -)

un poco tempestuoso

mp

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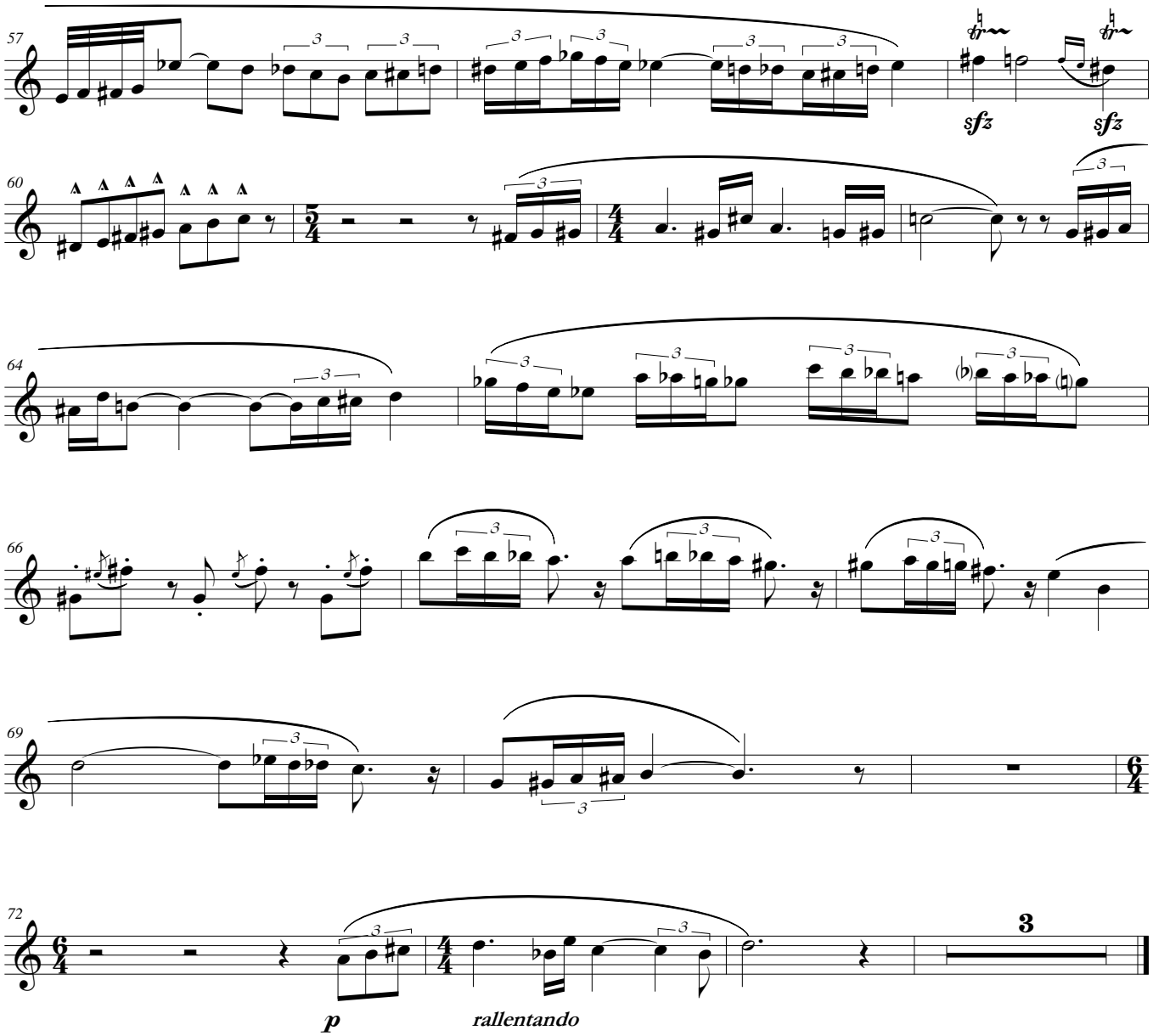
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rallentando