à Monsieur
Ch. de Bériot

Cinquième Sextuor

pour

piano, violon, deux altos, violoncelle et contrabasse

par

Henri Bertini jeune

Op. 124

Partition

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Henri Jérôme Bertini 1798–1876

Henri Jérôme Bertini was born in London on October 28, 1798, but his family returned to Paris six months later. He received his early musical education from his father and his brother, a pupil of Clementi. He was considered a child prodigy and at the age of 12 his father took him on a tour of England, Holland, Flanders, and Germany where he was enthusiastically received. After studies in composition in England and Scotland he was appointed professor of music in Brussells but returned to Paris in 1821. It is known that Bertini gave a concert with Franz Liszt in the Salons Pape on April 20, 1828. The program included a transcription by Bertini of Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 in A major for eight hands (the other pianists were Sowinsky and Schunke.) He was also admired as a chamber music performer, giving concerts with his friends Fontaine (violin) and Franchomme (cello). He remained active in and around Paris until around 1848 when he retired from the musical scene. In 1859 he moved to Meylan (near Grenoble) where he died on September 30, 1876.

Bertini concertized widely but was not as celebrated a virtuoso as either Kalkbrenner or Henri Herz. One of his contempories (Marmontel) described his playing as having Clementi's evenness and clarity in rapid passages as well as the quality of sound, the manner of phrasing, and the ability to make the instrument sing characteristic of the school of Hummel and Moschelès. Thomas Tapper, in the preface of his edition of the Études Op.100 published by Ditson, says:

> He was in his time a shining example of the most admirable qualities of an artist. Living in an age of garish virtuosity, and hailed as a brilliant executant himself, he maintained nevertheless the most rigorous standards of musicianship in his playing, in his compositions, and in the music which he appeared before the public to interpret. This is the more remarkable when one considers that his manhood was reached during the luxuriant period of French romanticism and that the extravagances of the literary outburst were reflected in the musical movements of the time. Virtuosity was subjected to sore temptations and many succumbed. Bertini stood for the sounder qualities of the artist and gradually acquired an extended and remunerative *prestige*. His life was singularly devoid of incident and official distinction, but the legacy of pedagogic works which he has left to us and his honorable activity give it every right to be called a success.

Bertini was celebrated as a teacher. Antoine Marmontel, who devoted the second chapter of his work on celebrated pianists to Bertini, writes

> He was unsurpassed as a teacher, giving his lessons with scrupulous care and the keenest interest in his pupils' progress. After he had given up teaching, a number of his pupils continued with me, and I recognized the soundness of the principles drawn from his instruction.
>
> It is above all in the special class of studies and caprices, that Bertini's immense popularity is founded. It is here that he occupied a unique position and opened the path over which the next generation of composers was to rush after him. In each of his numerous collections of studies, embracing every degree of difficulty, he has insistently given to every piece, easy or difficult, brief or extended, a character of salient melody. The technical problem to be overcome presents itself as a song; even where the study is devoted to the problem of velocity the general contour falls into a melodic curve, and this is the first and transcendent cause of the universal success of these pieces, which are, furthermore, natural in respect to rhythm and carefully thought out harmonically.

Robert Schumann, in a review of a piano trio in the *Gesammelte Schriften*, comments that Bertini writes easily flowing harmony but that the movements are too long. He continues: "With the best will in the world, we find it difficult to be angry with Bertini, yet he drives us to distraction with his perfumed Parisian phrases; all his music is as smooth as silk and satin."[1] German sentimentality has never appreciated French elegance.

Bertini is best remembered today for his piano method *Le Rudiment du pianiste,* and his 20 books of approximately 500 studies.

For more information on the life of Bertini, see *Henri Bertini pianiste virtuose, compositeur de musique* (Grenoble, 1999) by Pascal Beyls (`http://perso.wanadoo.fr/pascal.beyls/bertini/bertini.html`).

[1] from Cobbett's Cyclopedic Survey of Chamber Music, Second Edition, Volume 1, page 124.

Notes

The source for the present edition is a microfilm of the copy of the Lemoine edition, cotage 2379 Ħ, in the Bibliothèque nathionale de France, shelf location $\mathrm{Vm}^7 10523$.

Revisions

Accidentals which are implied by an accidental in the same bar but at a different octave have been added without comment. Unnecessary accidentals have been eliminated.

Movement 1:

bar 305–6, 307, 316, piano, left hand: only the upper notes are notated with an 8 under them, here interpreted as col 8^{va}.

bars 358–368, 459–482, cello: these bars were originally notated an octave higher in the treble clef.

Movement 2:

bars 9–17, cello: these bars were originally notated an octave higher in the treble clef.

Movement 4:

bar 10, violin: has a decrescendo rather than a crescendo as in the other parts.

bar 143, cello: first note is e44.

bar 164, bass: second b42 is in the middle of the bar; the "col arco" appears at the beginning of the bar.

bar 180, violin: has a decrescendo.

bar 244, piano right hand: notes are visually as in this edition but the clef changes a bar earlier.

bar 275, piano right hand: the e04 is missing.

Approximate timings without repeats:

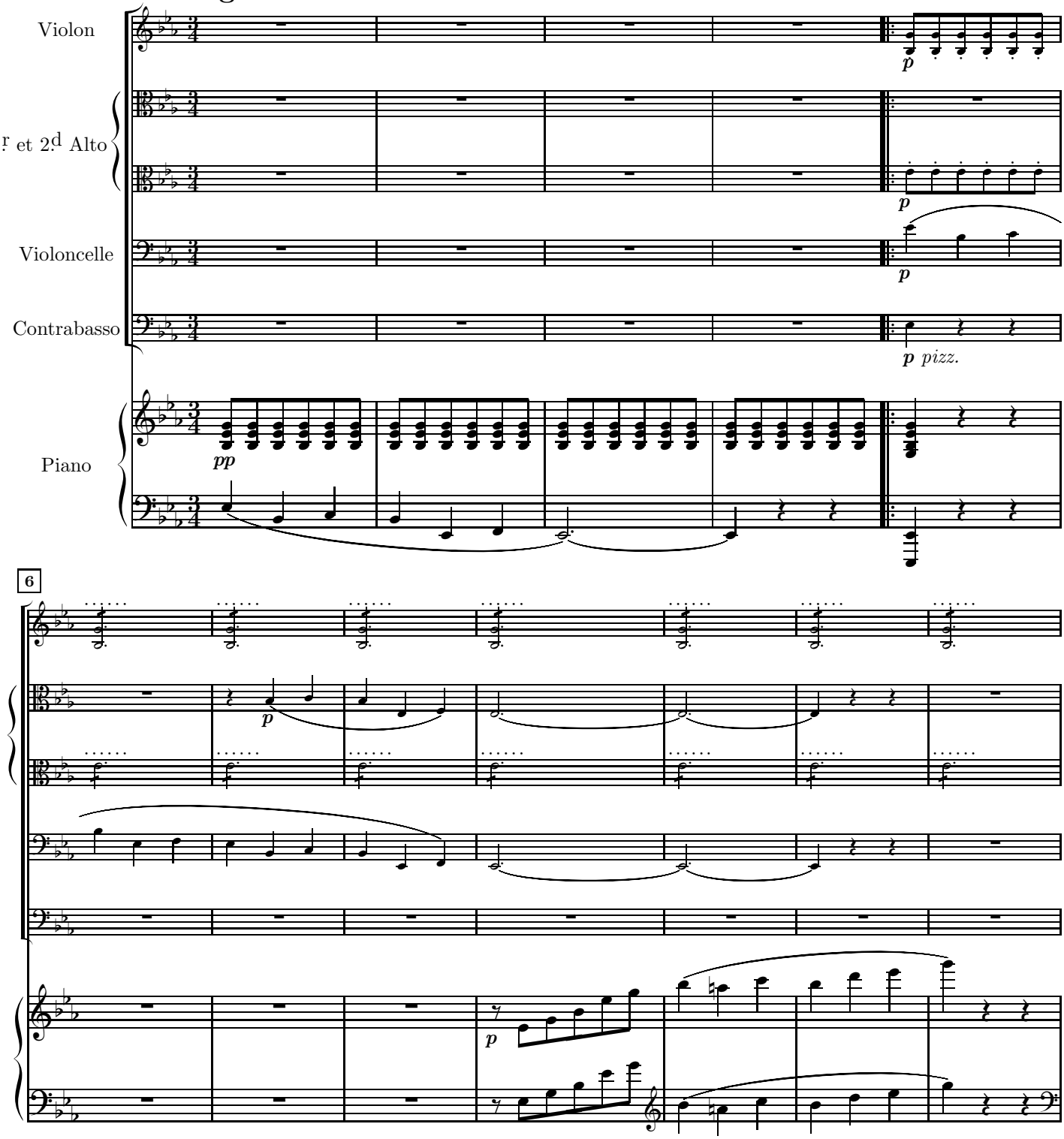
Movement 1: 10:40.
Movement 2: 8:30.
Movement 3: Menuet: 1:20.
Trio: 0:45.
Movement 4: 8:00.

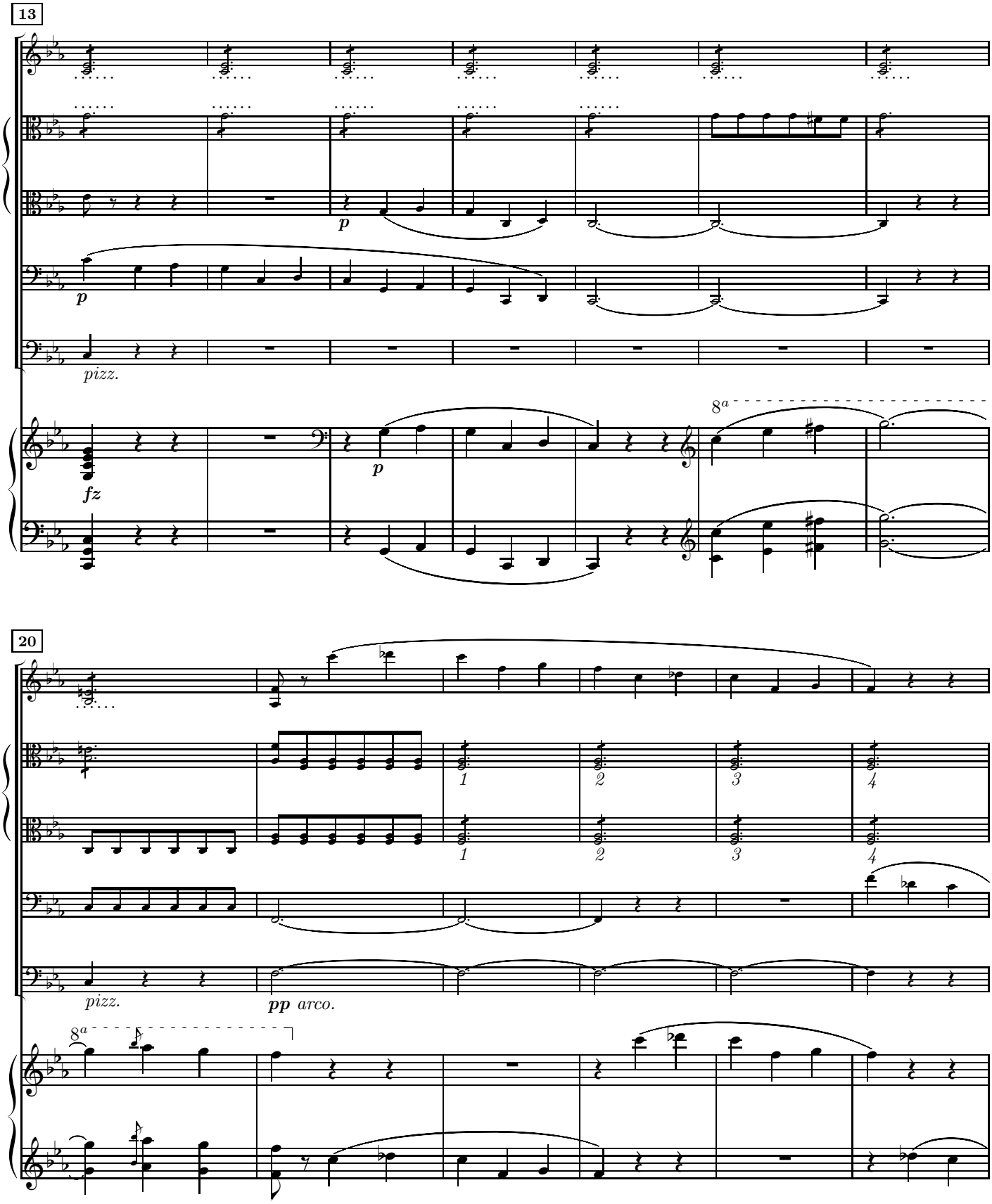
James L. Bailey
Cranbrook, BC, Canada
May 17, 2009

Grande Sextuor Op. 124

Henri Bertini jeune
1798–1876

Allegro moderato.





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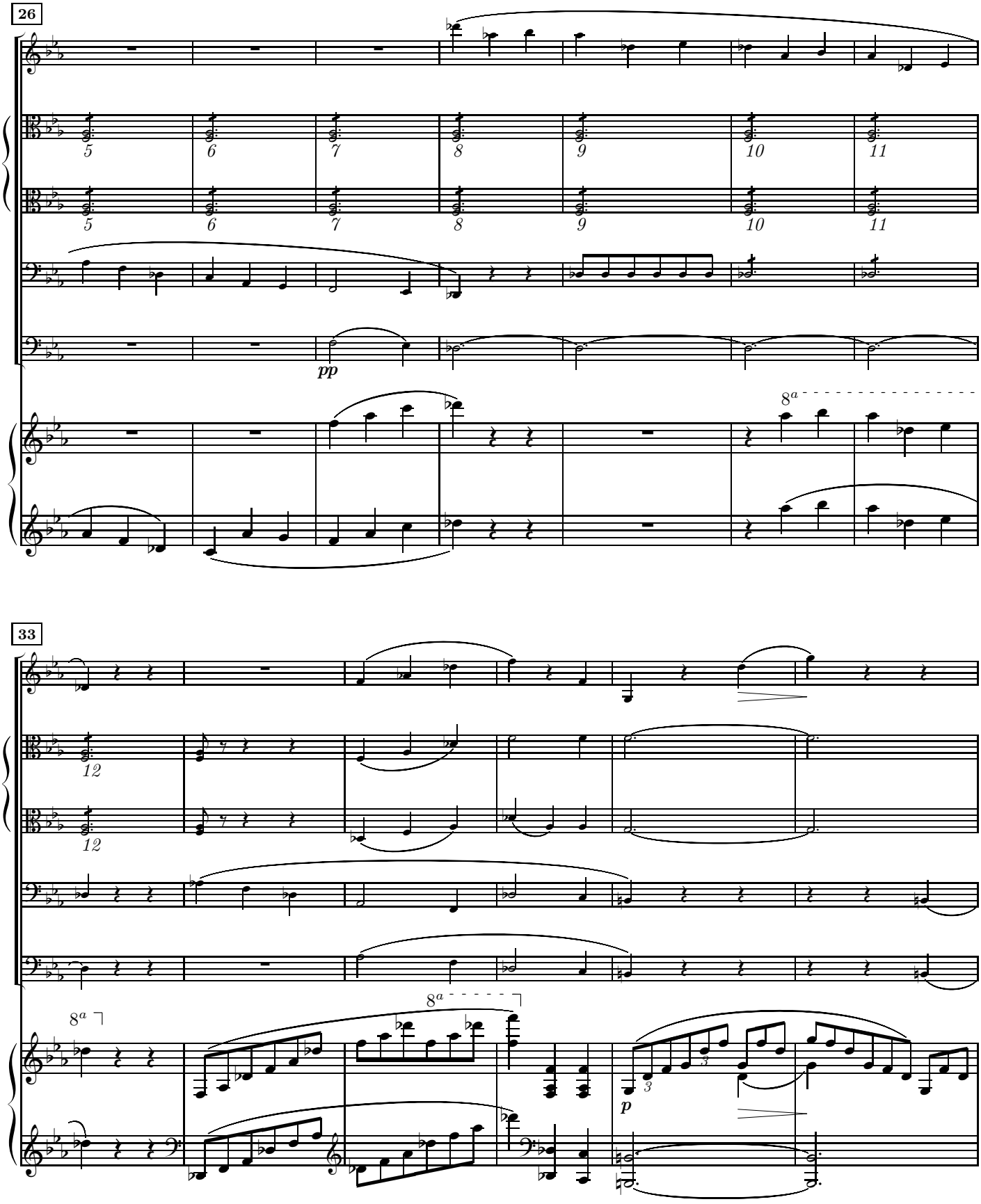
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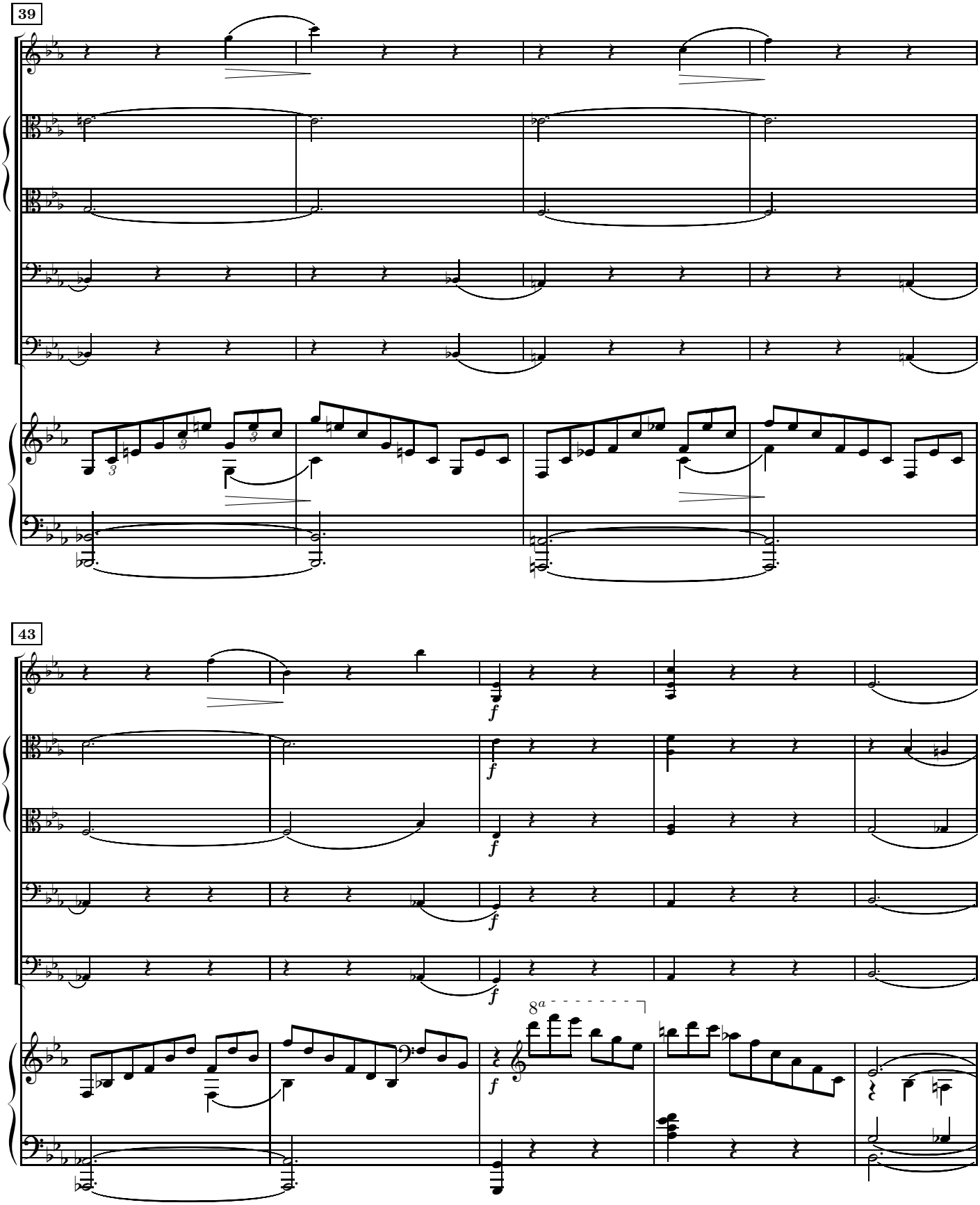

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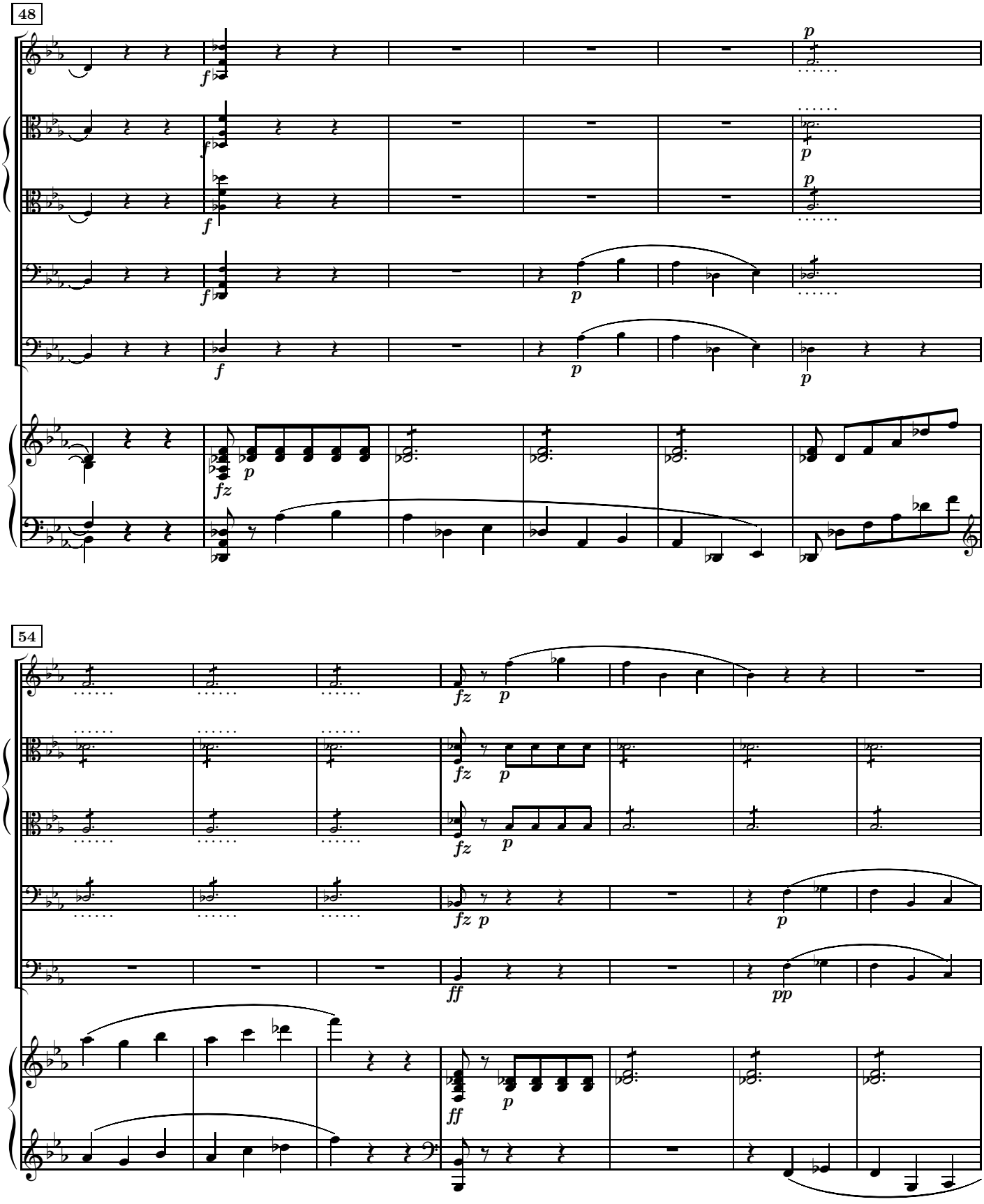
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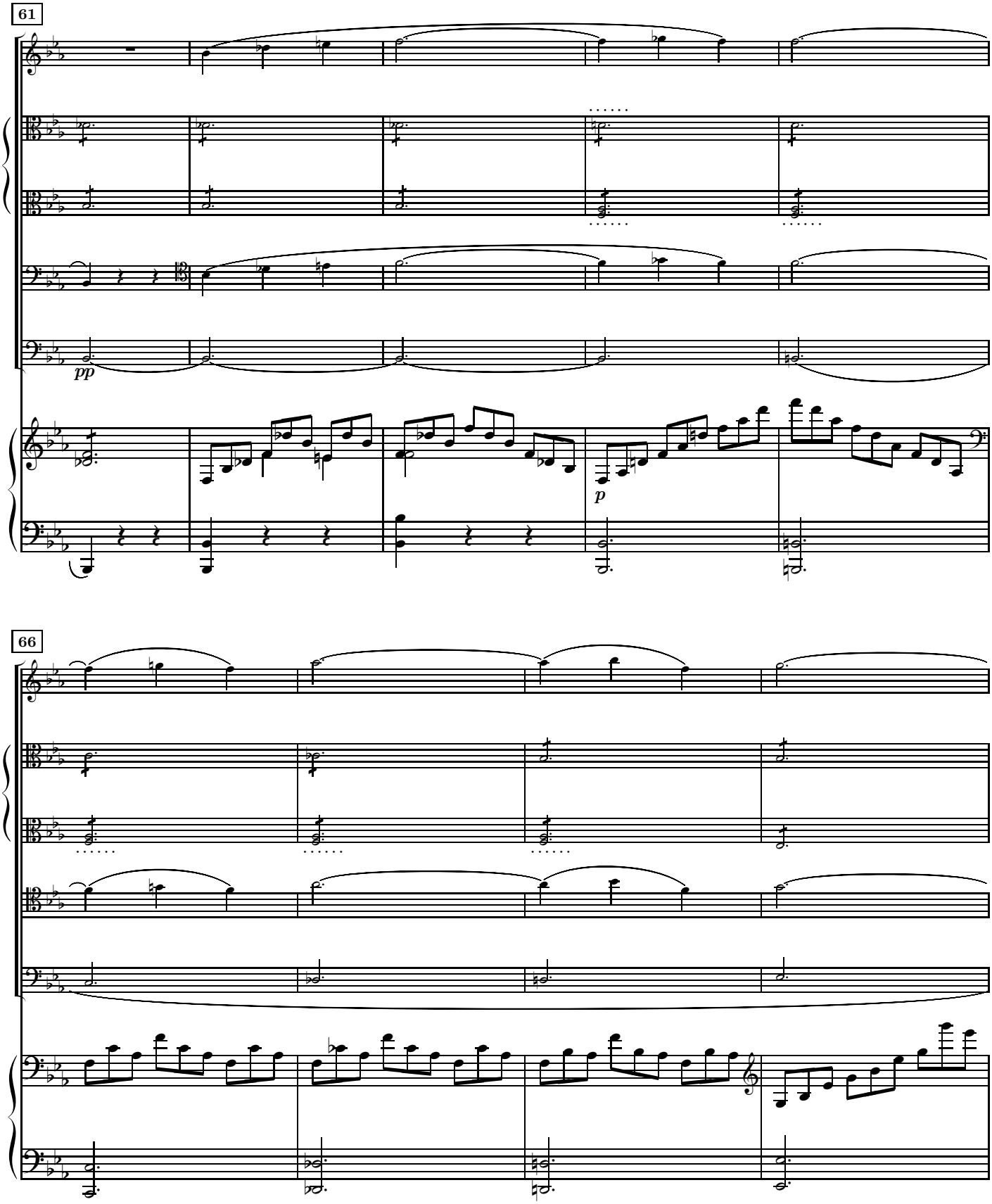

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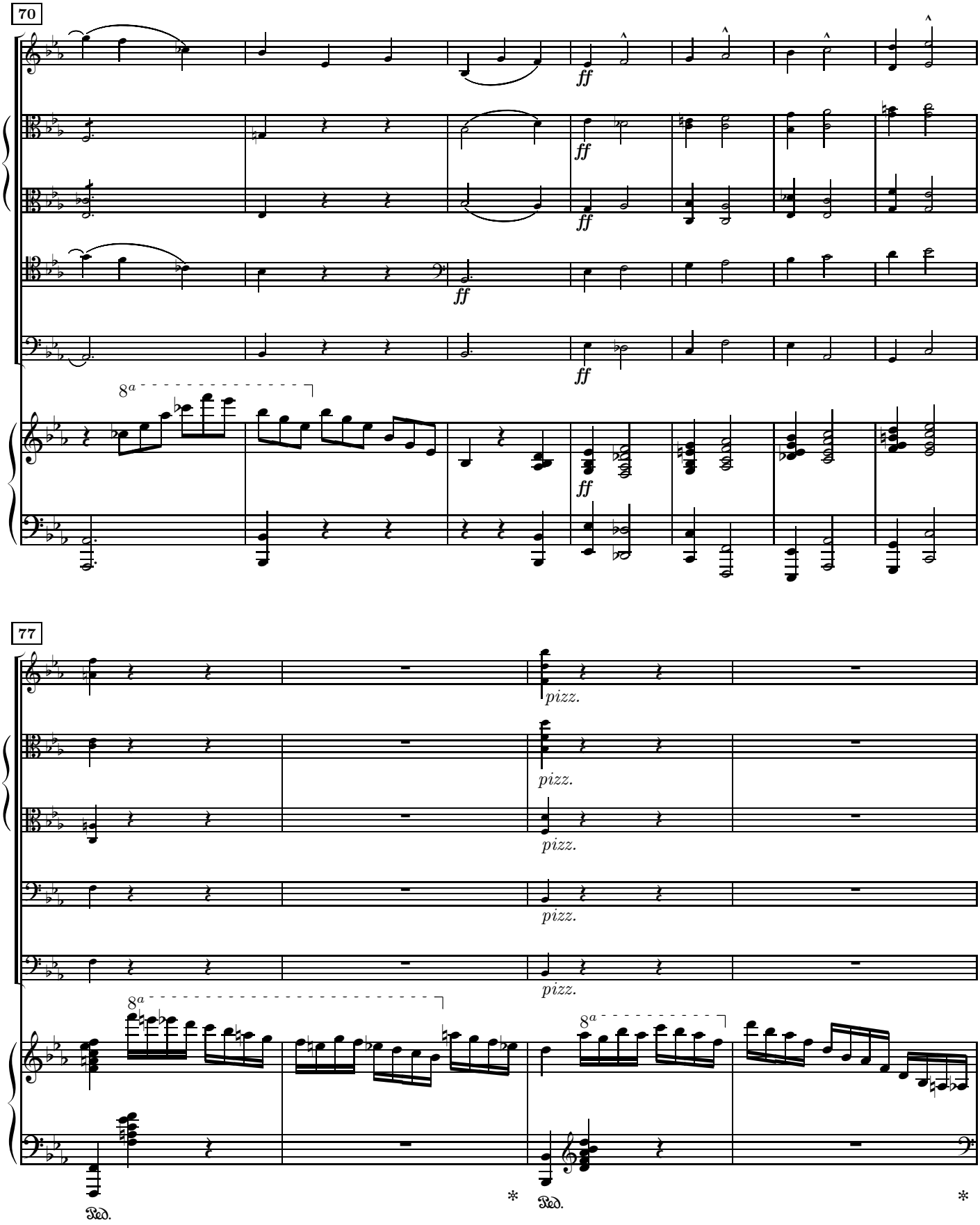
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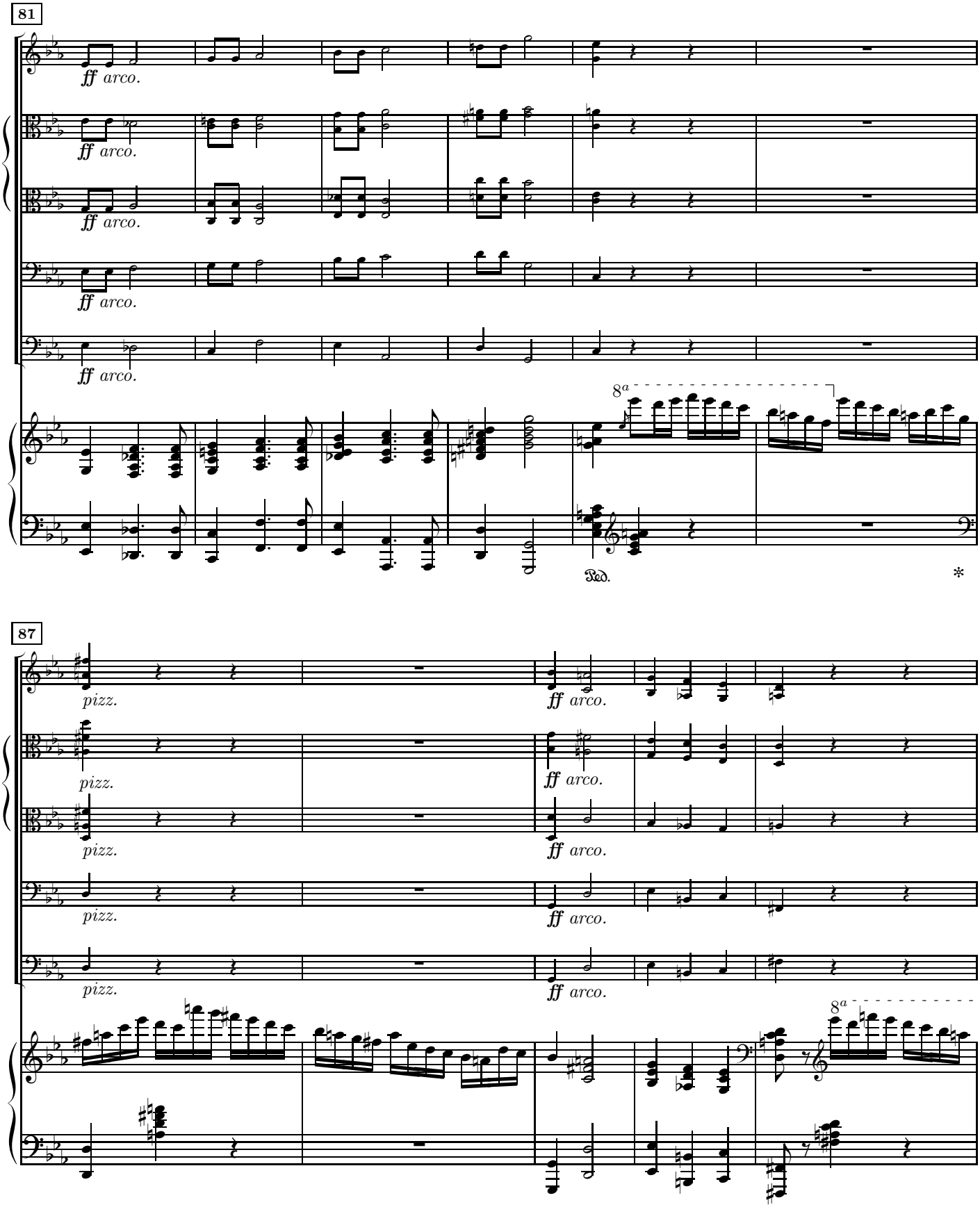

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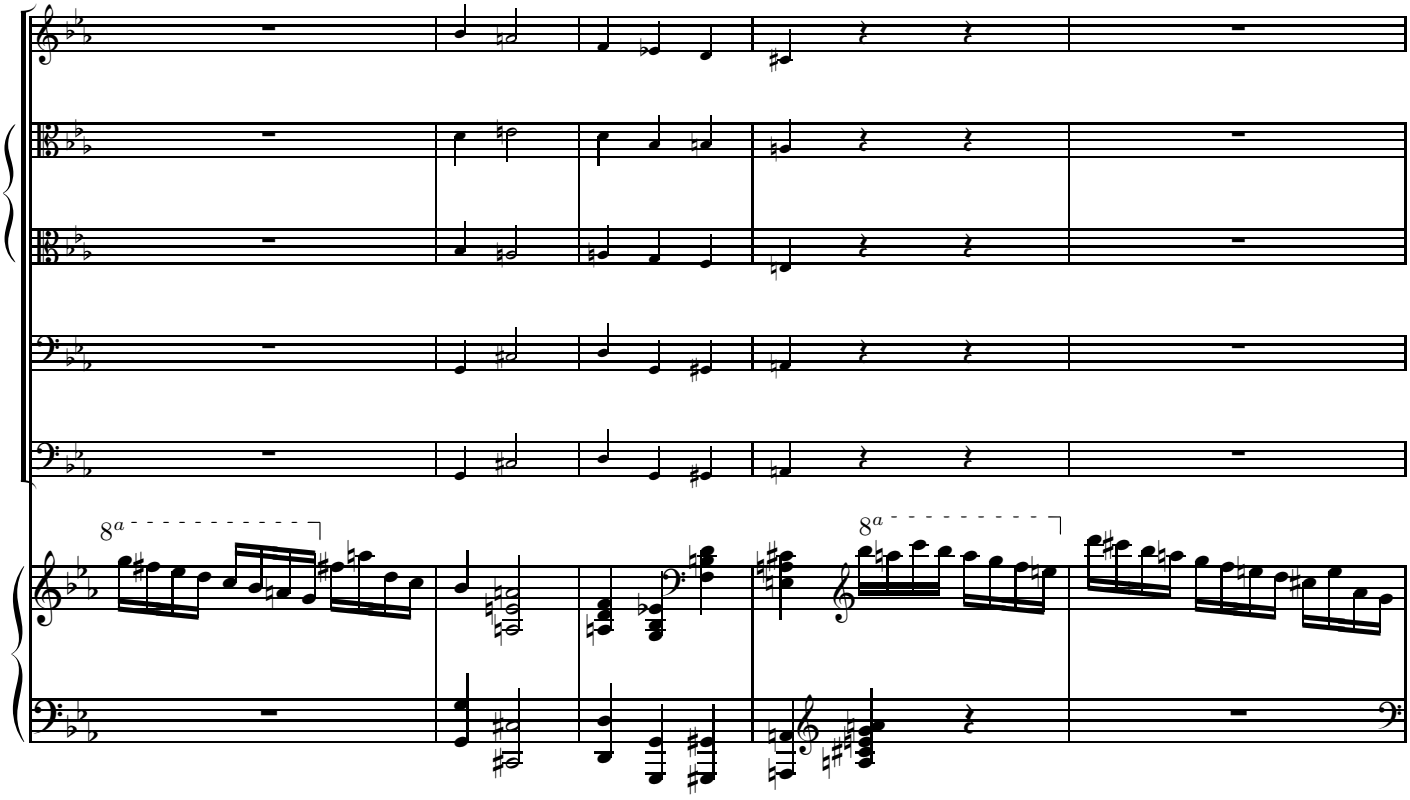

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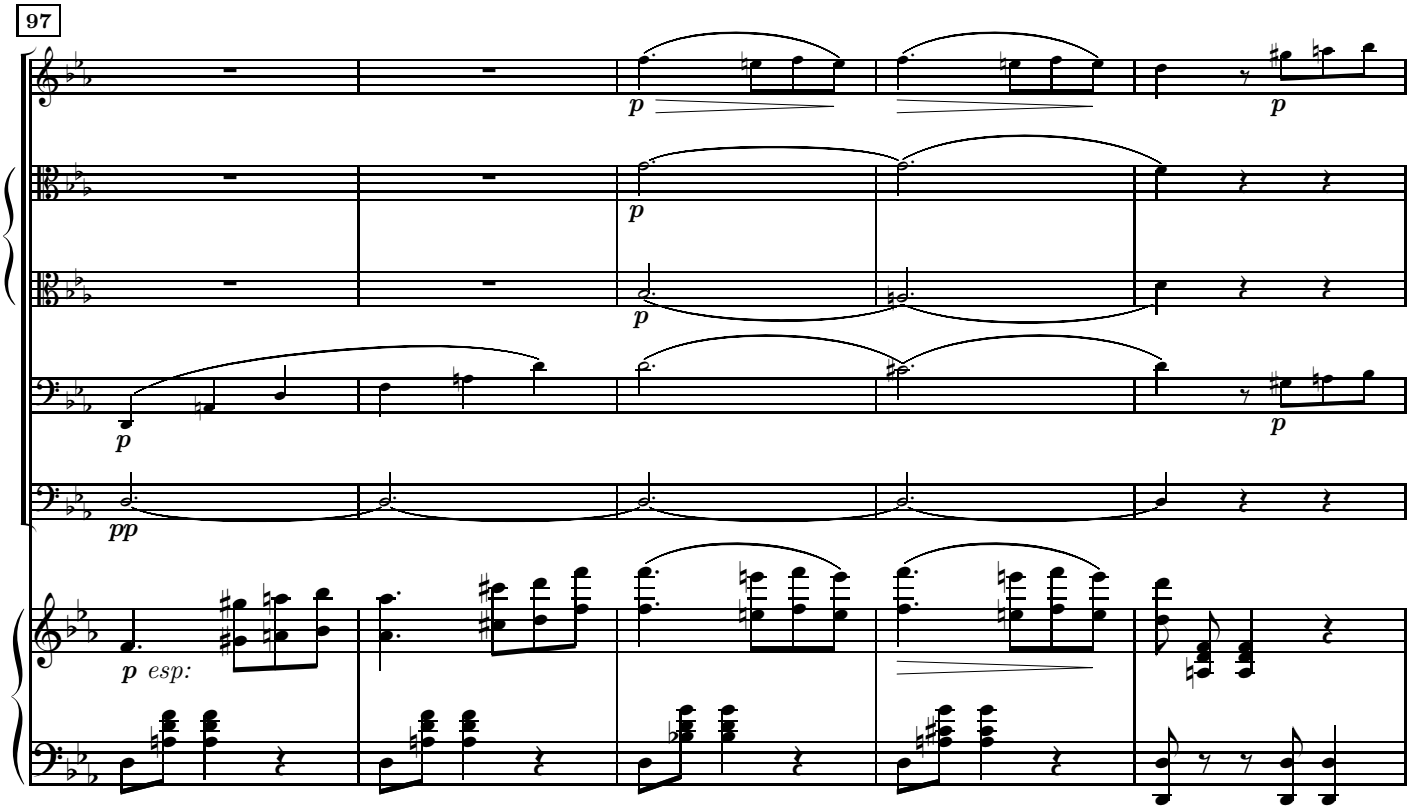

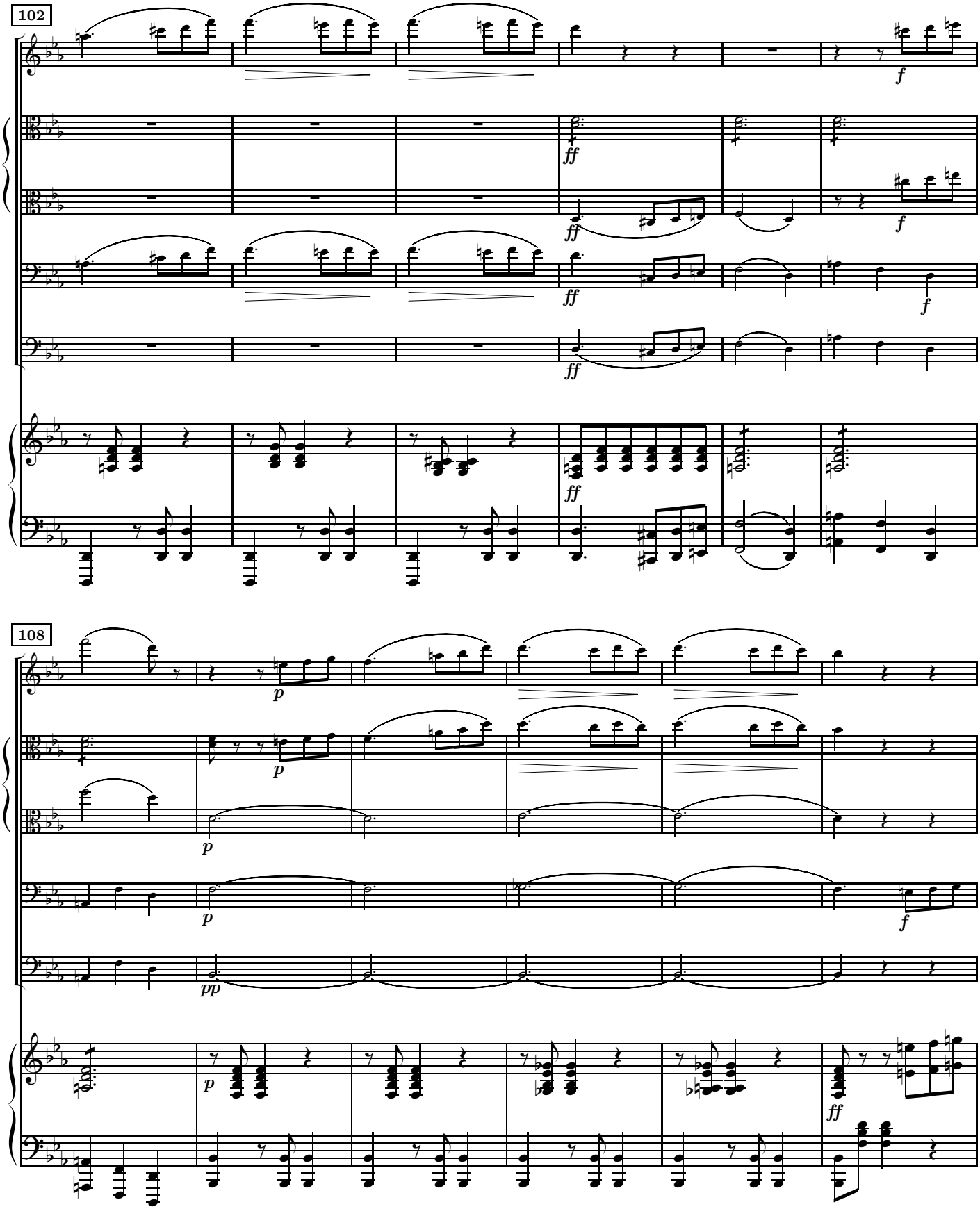

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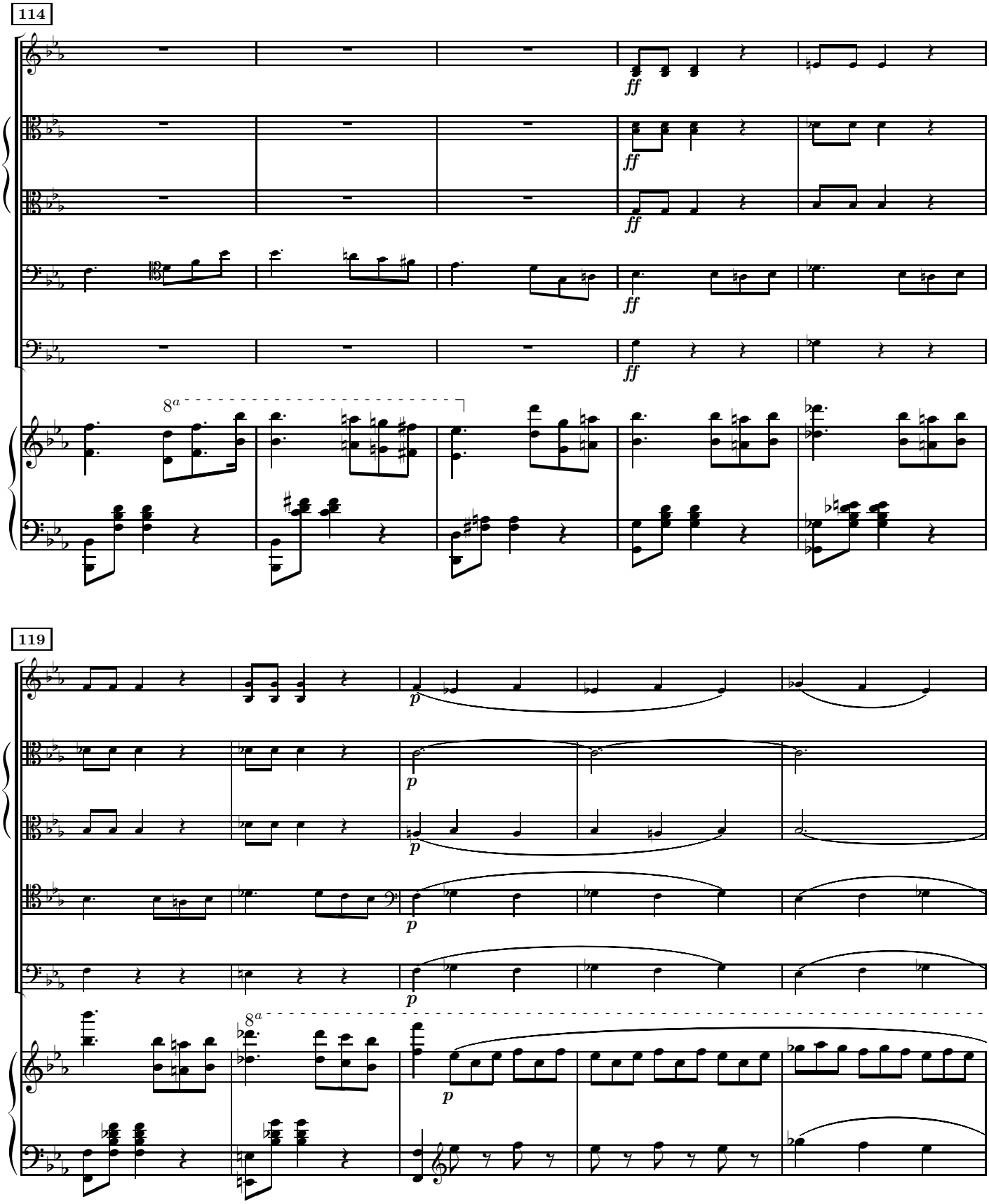
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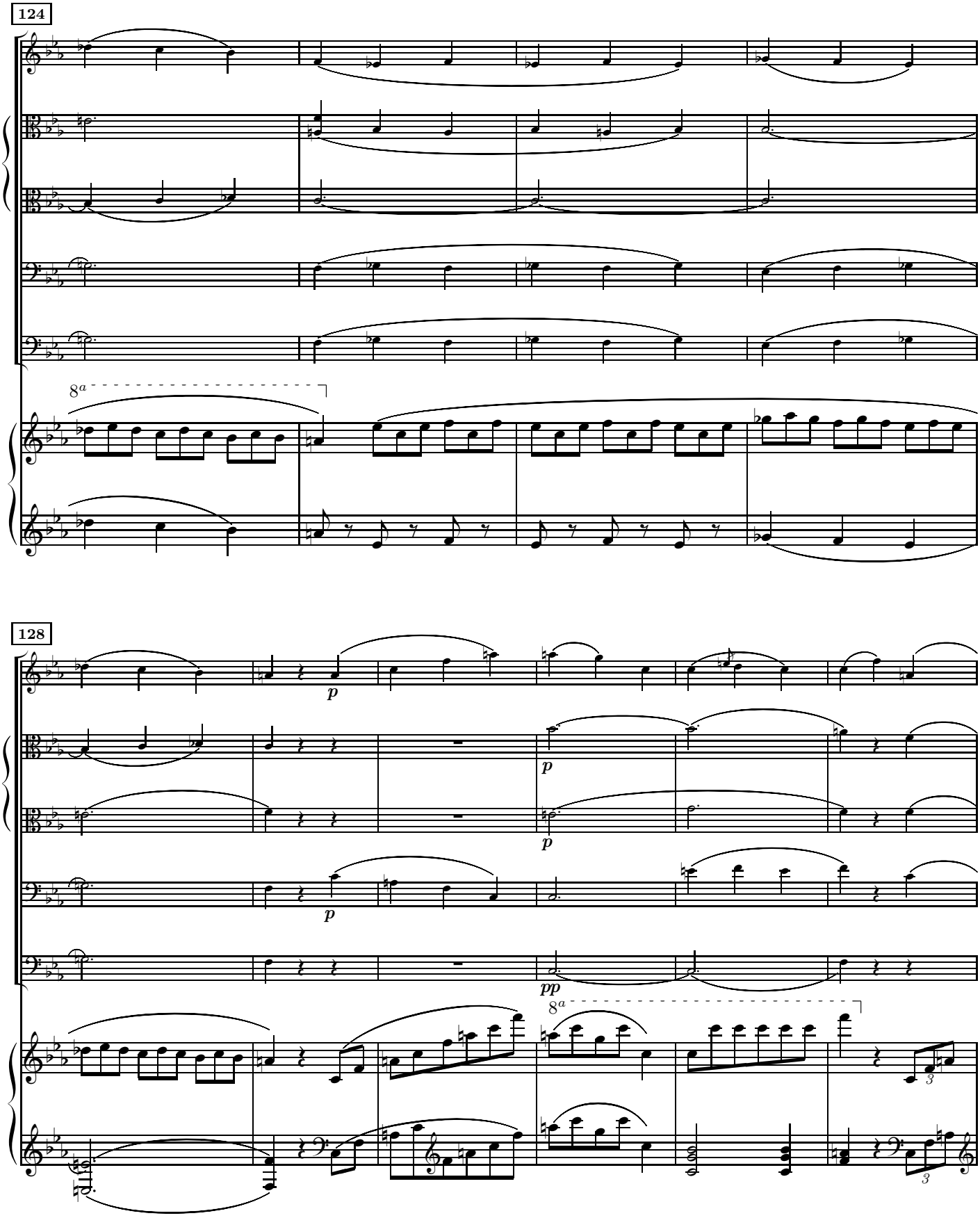

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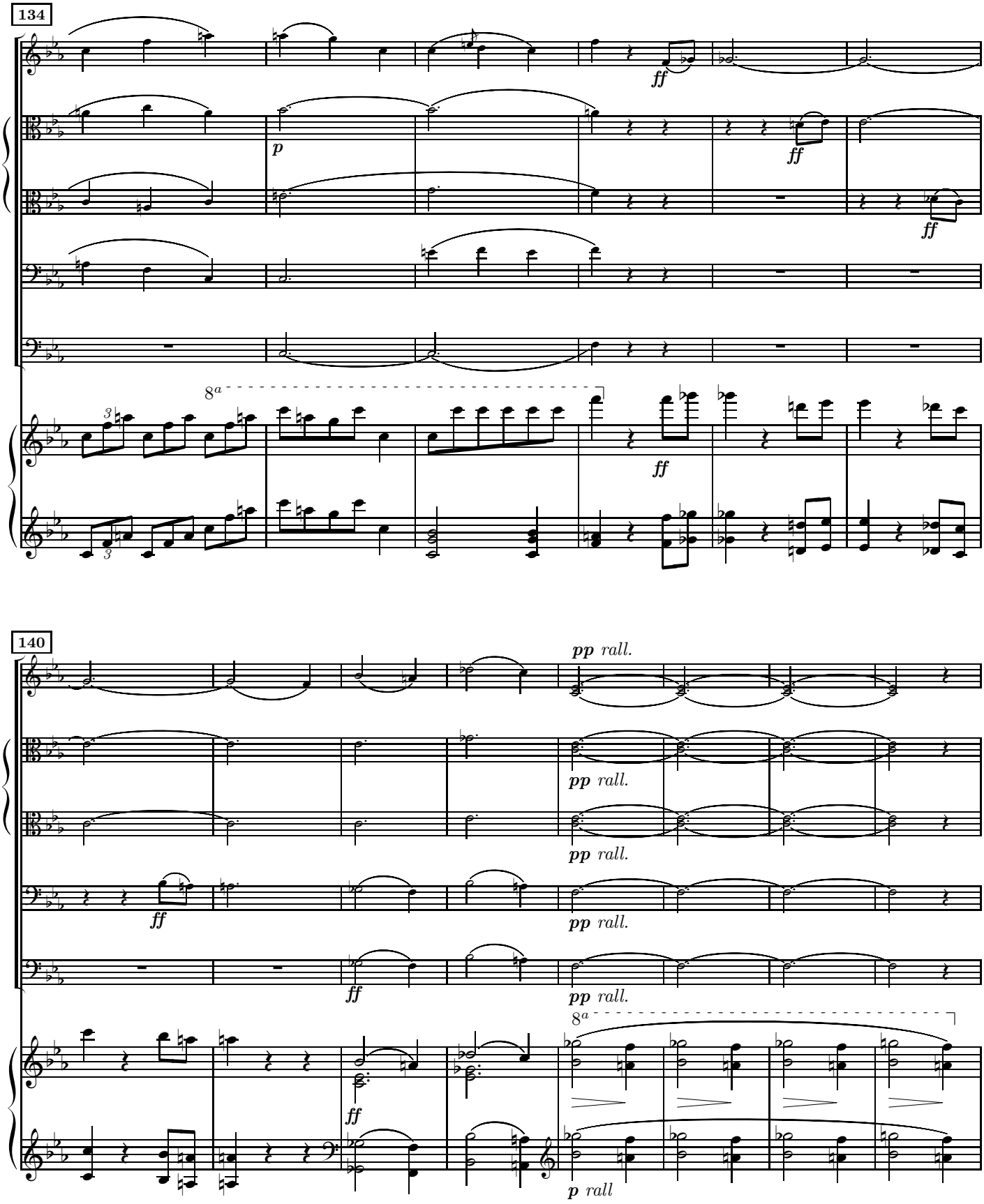
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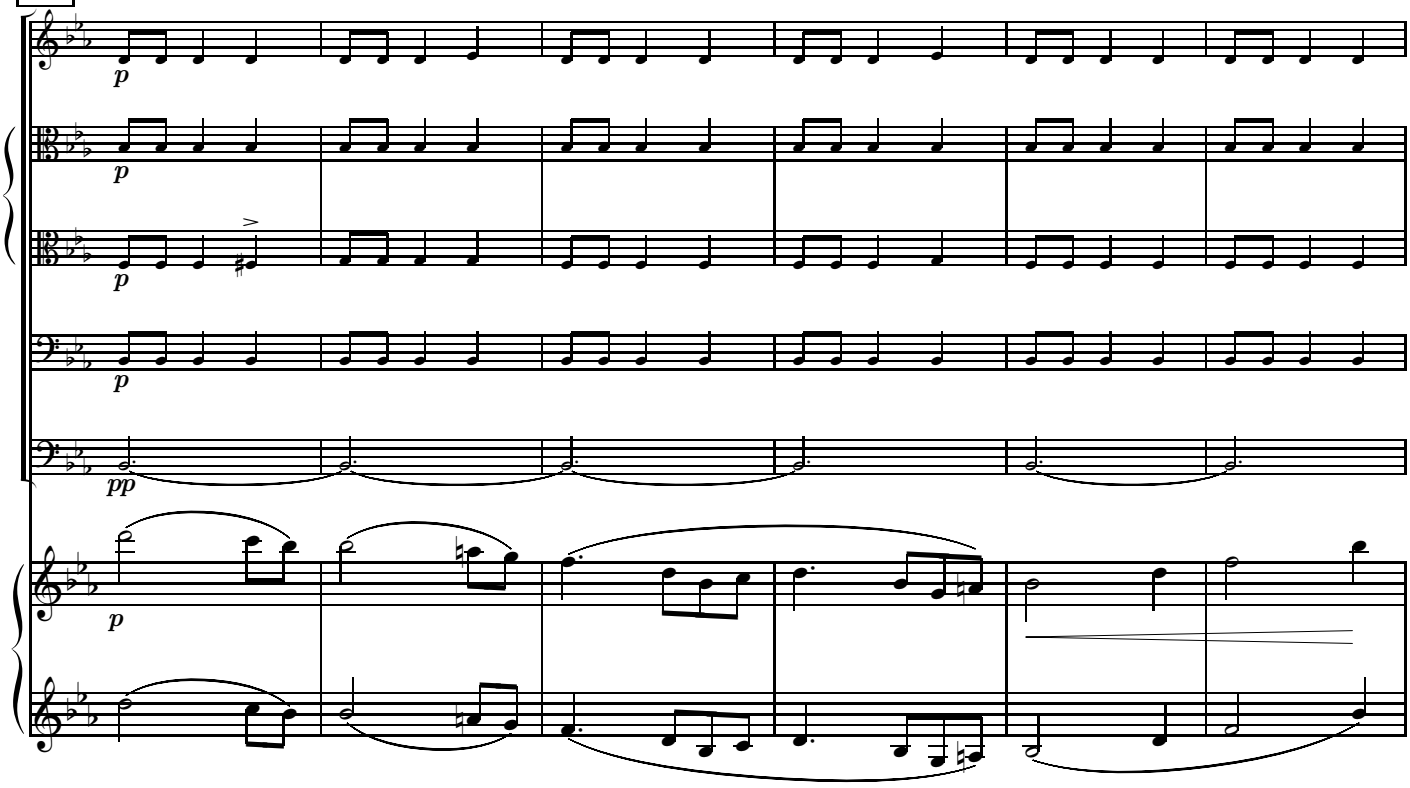

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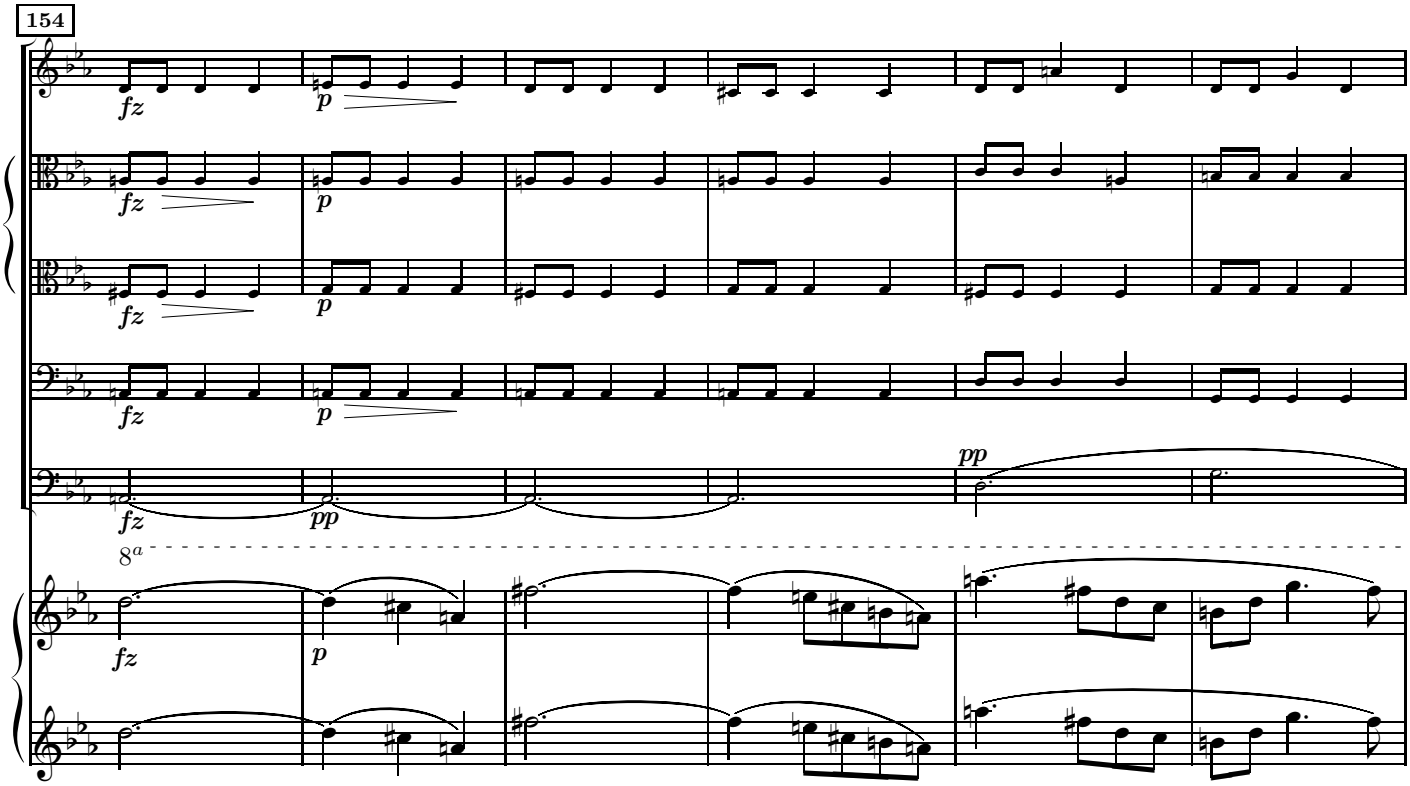

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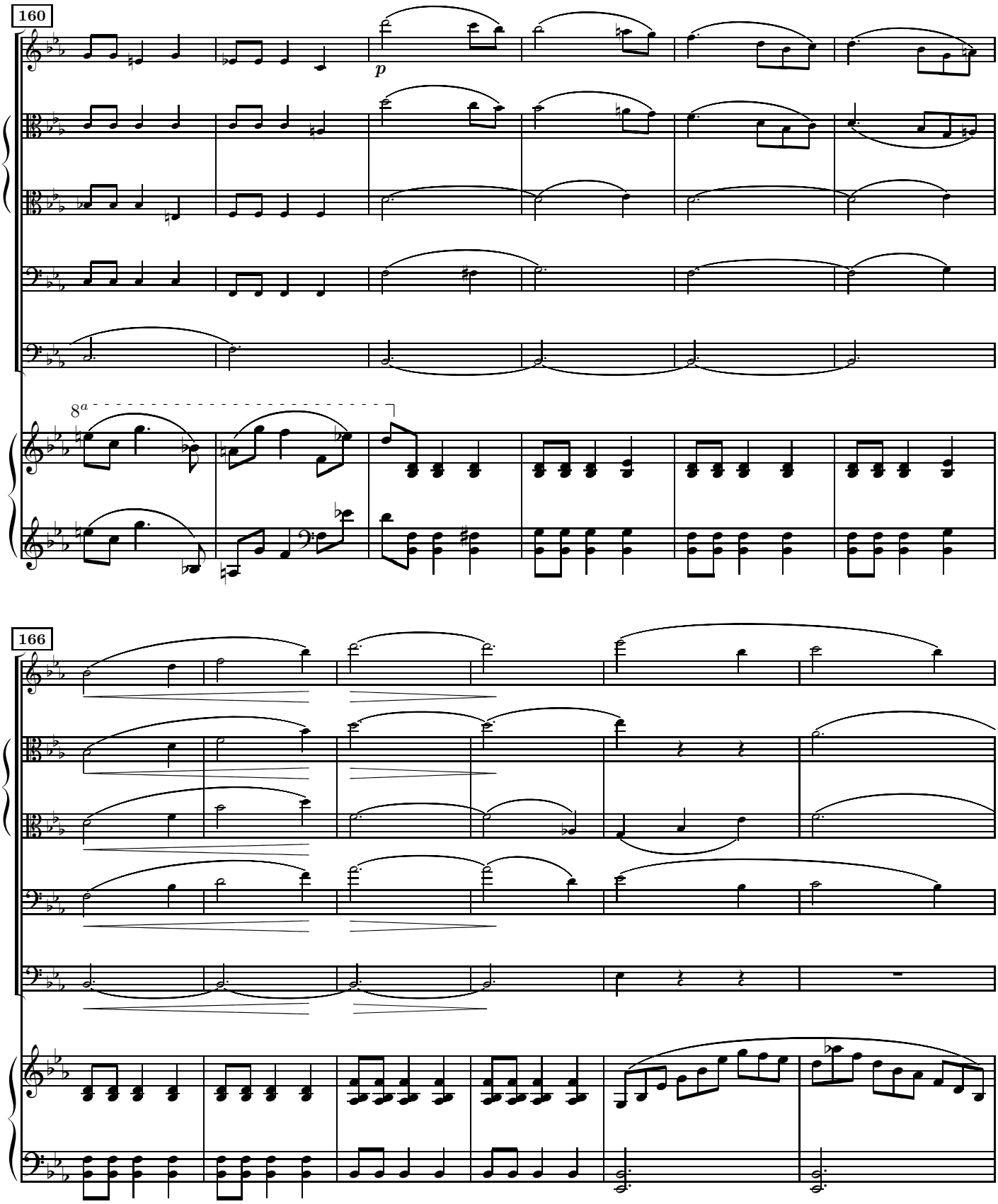
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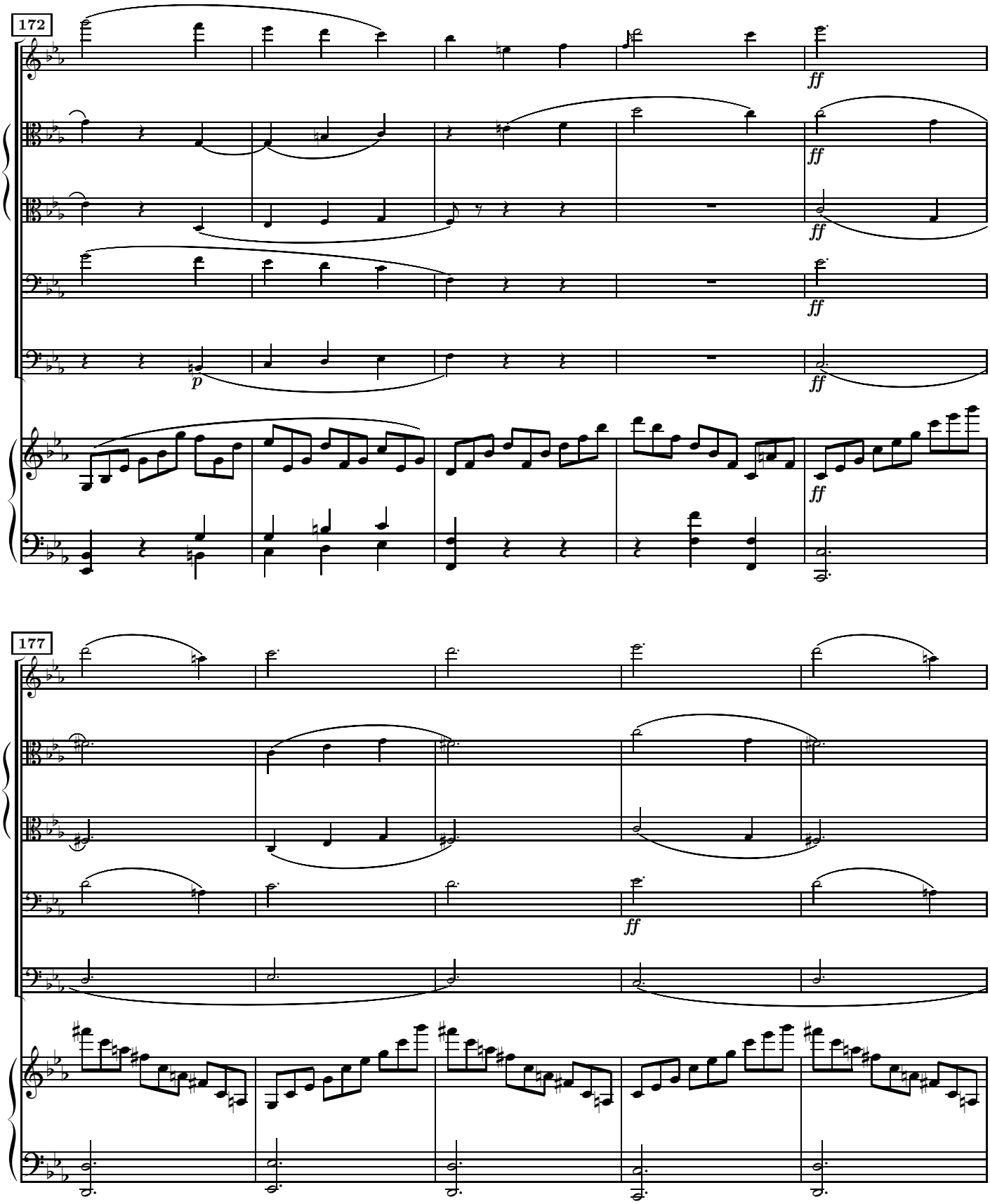

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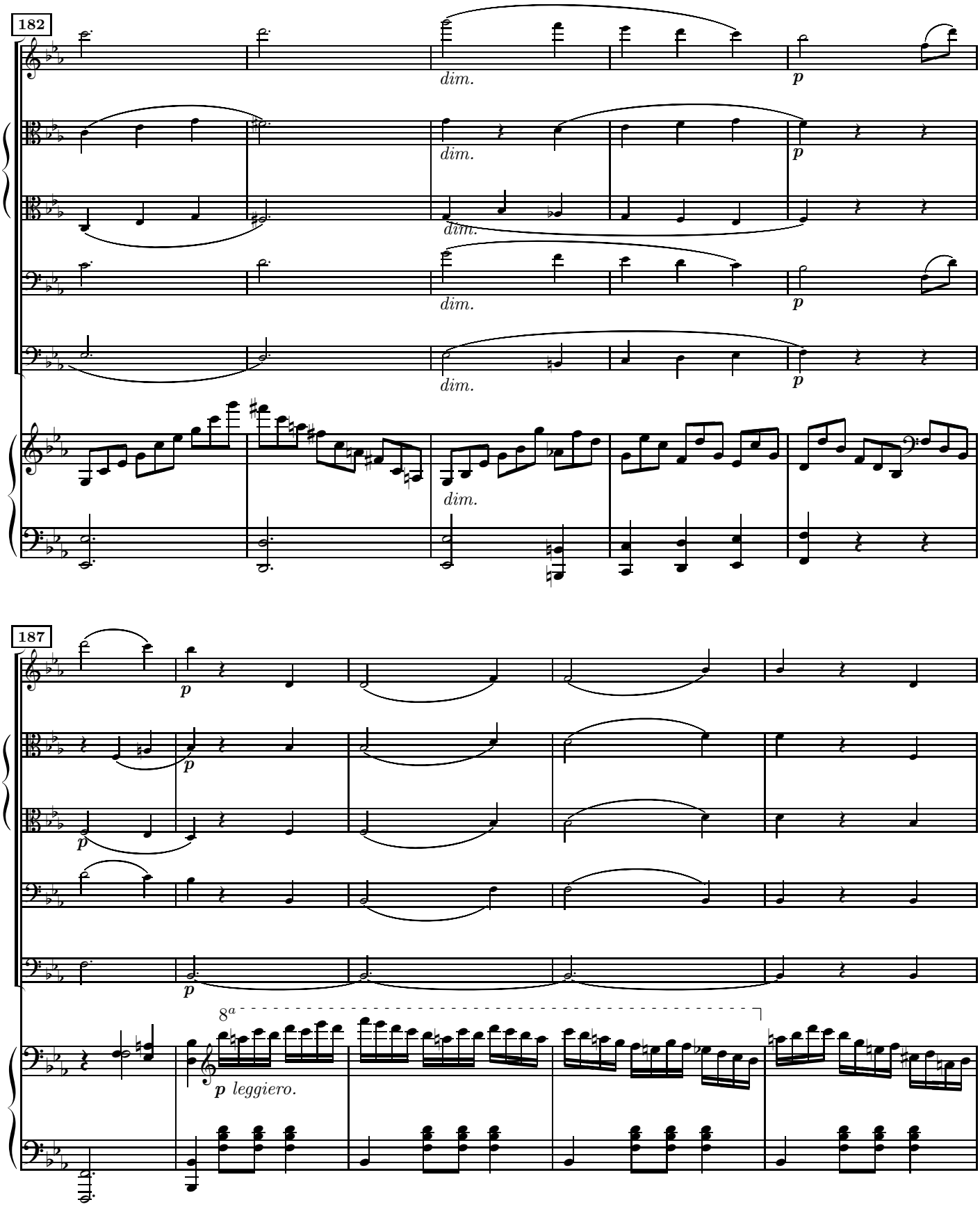
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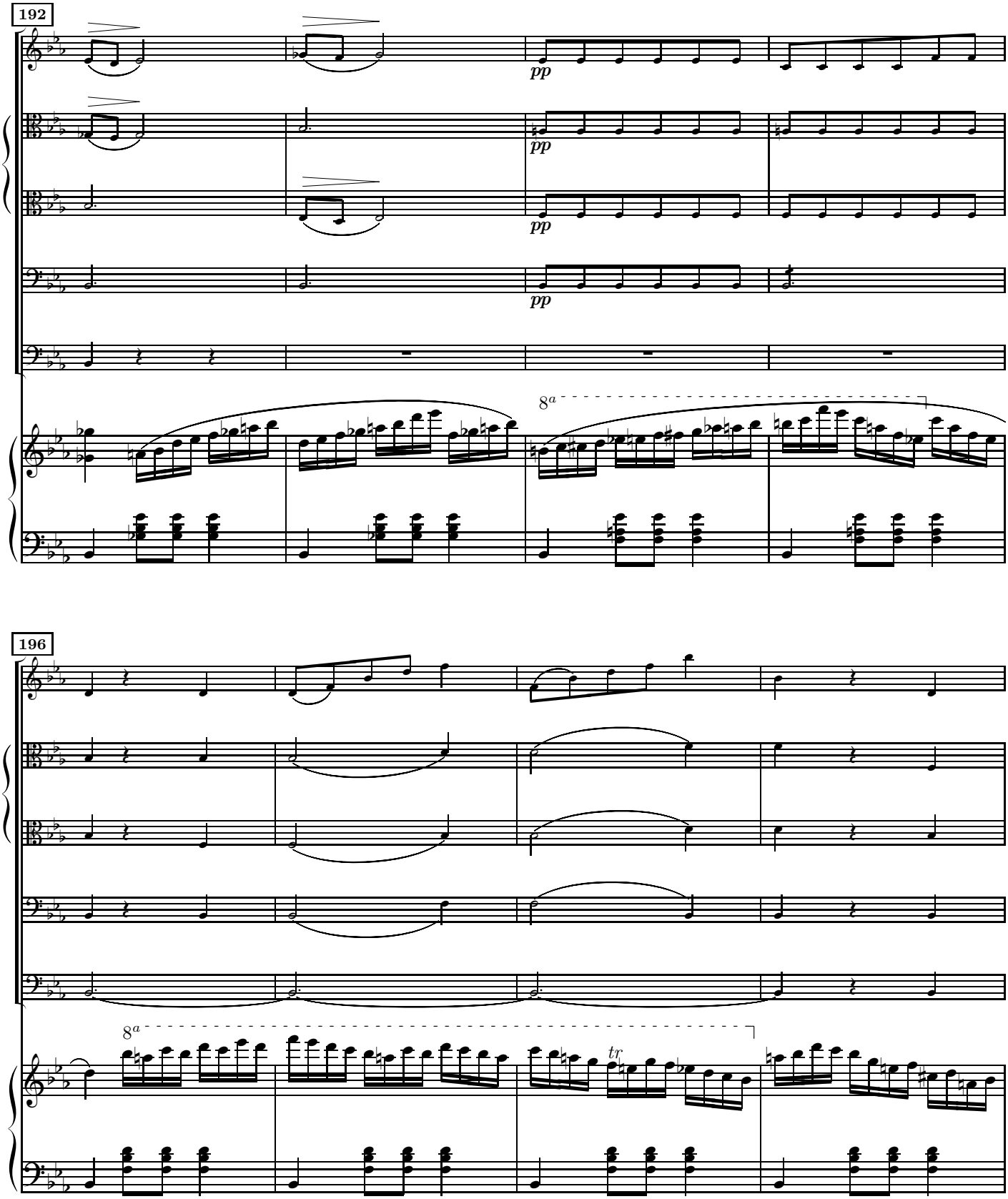

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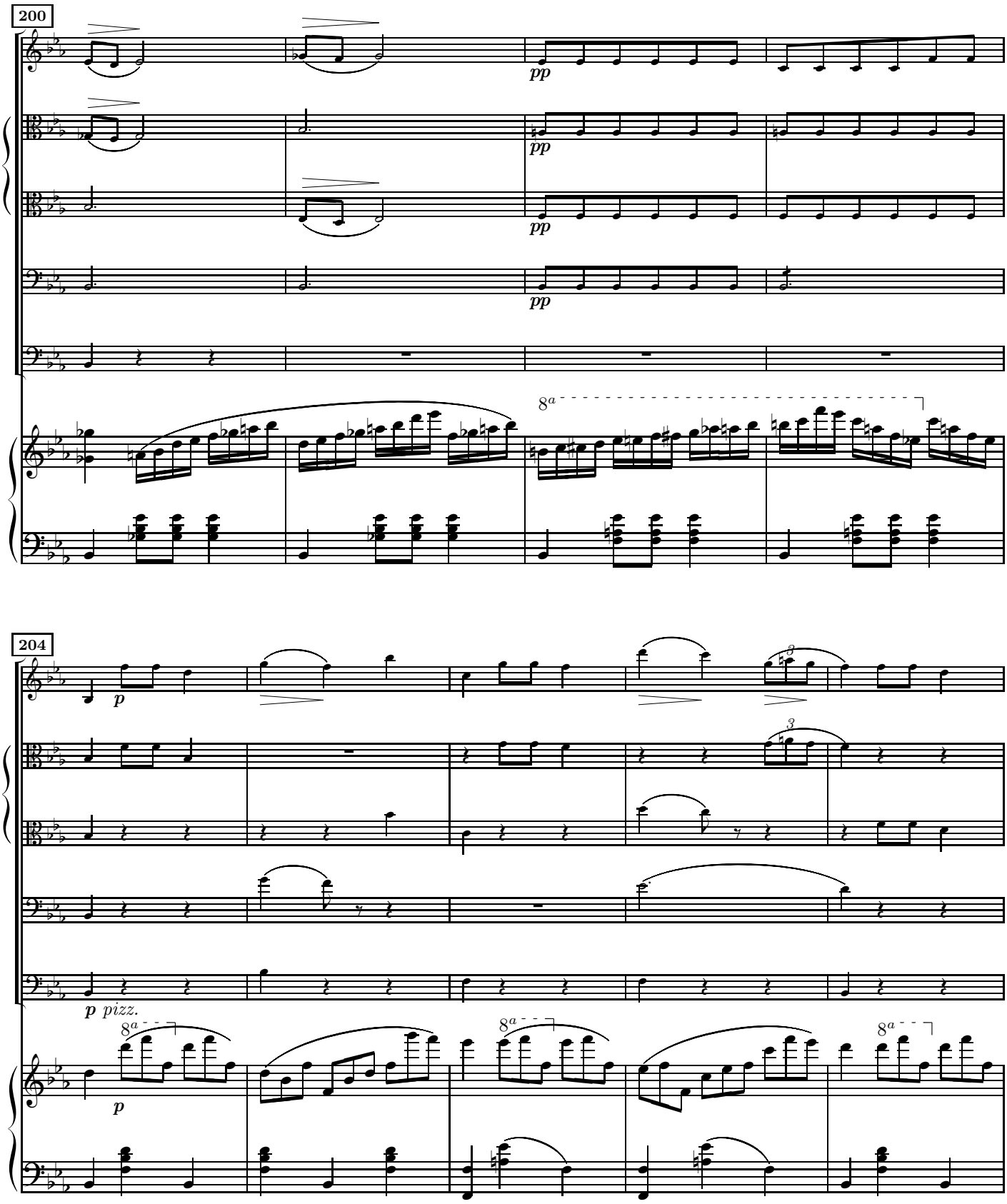
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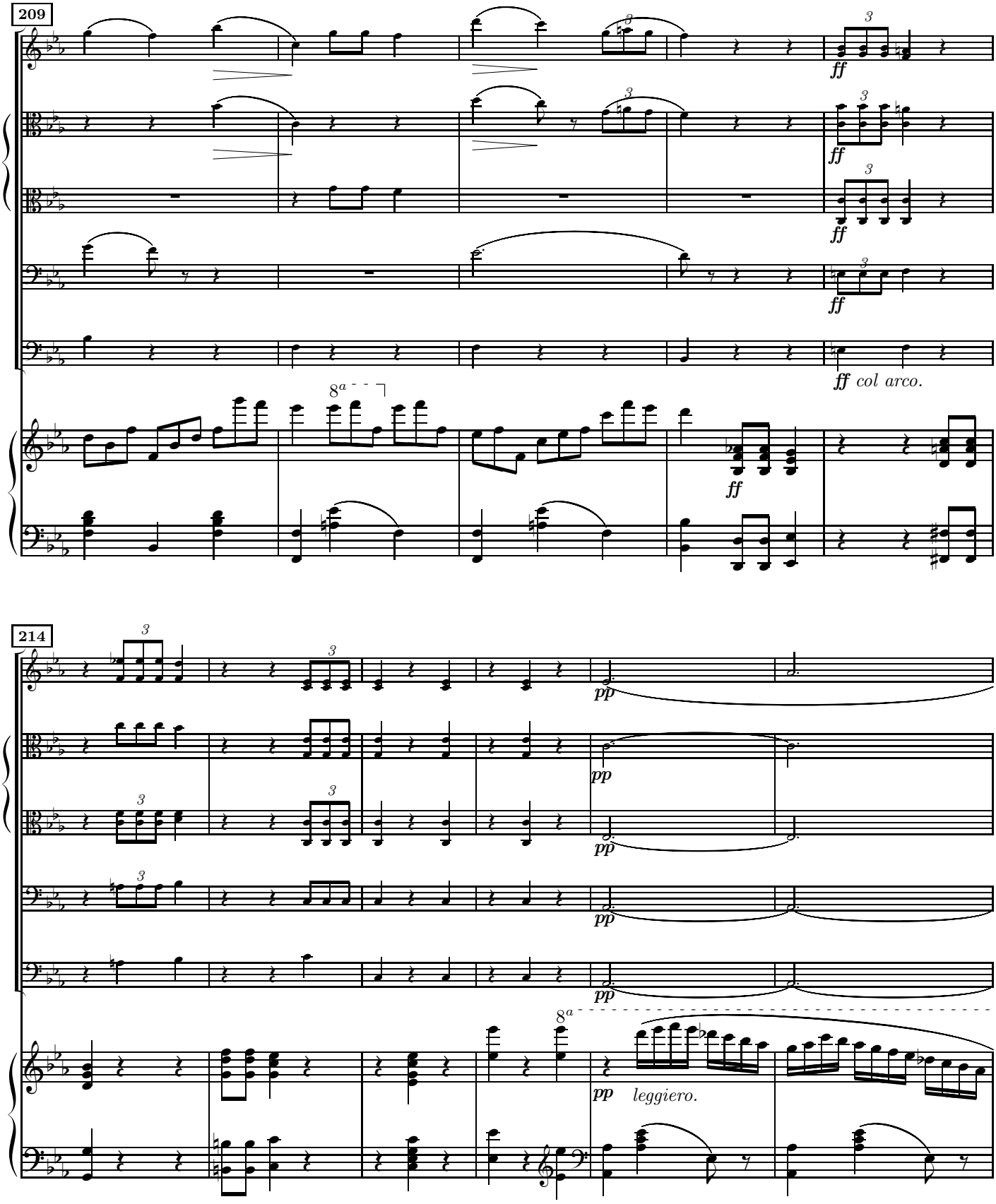

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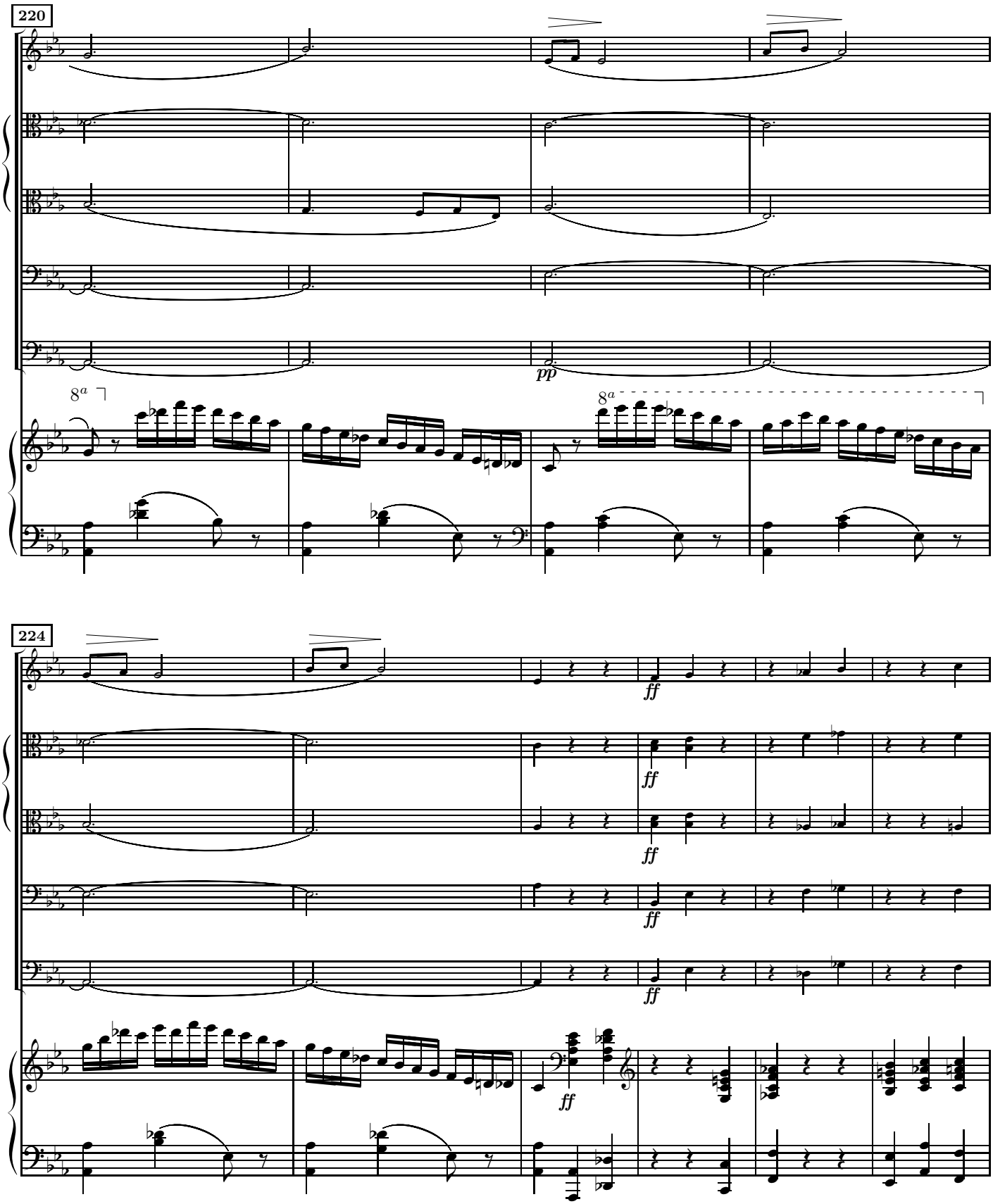
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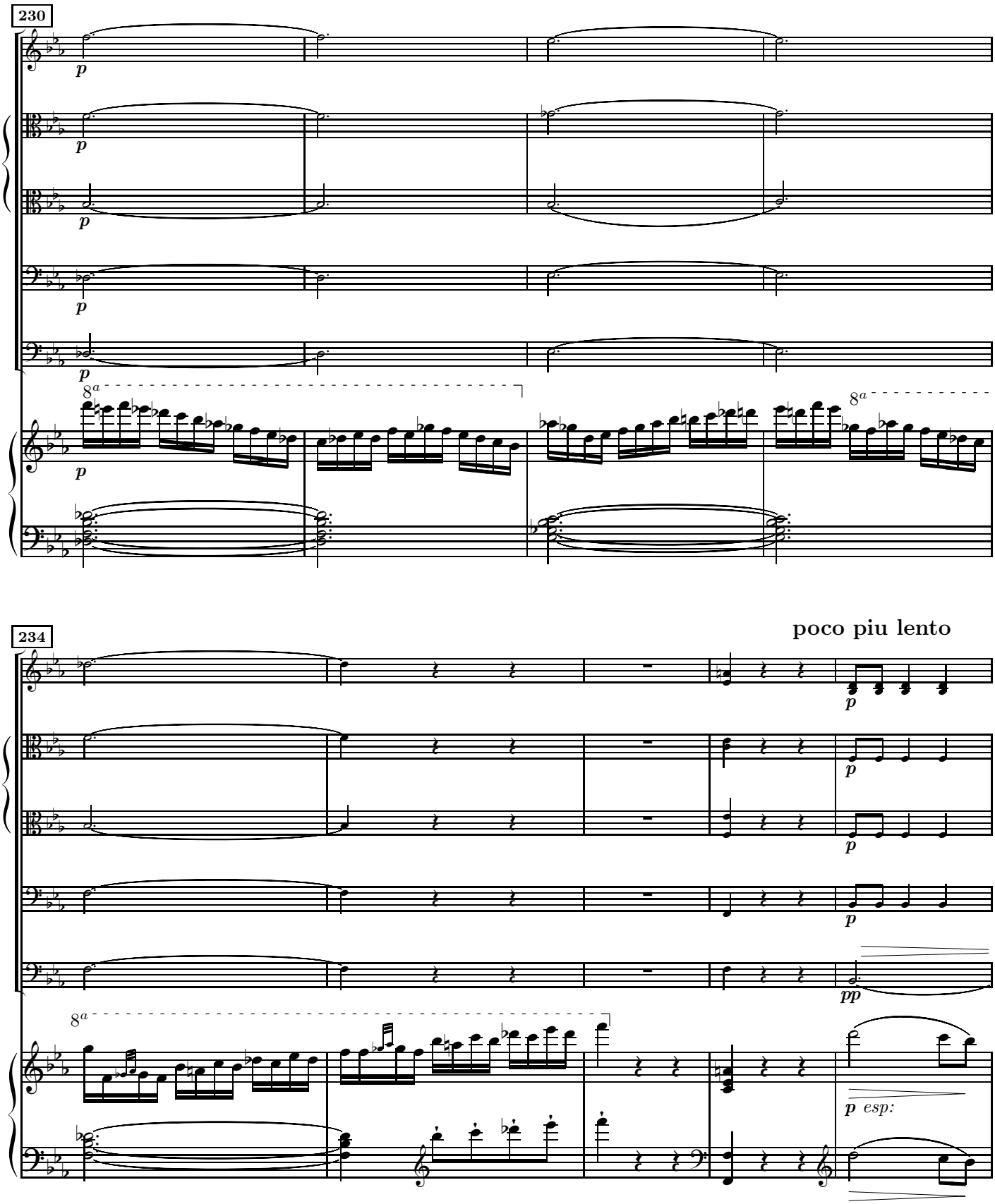

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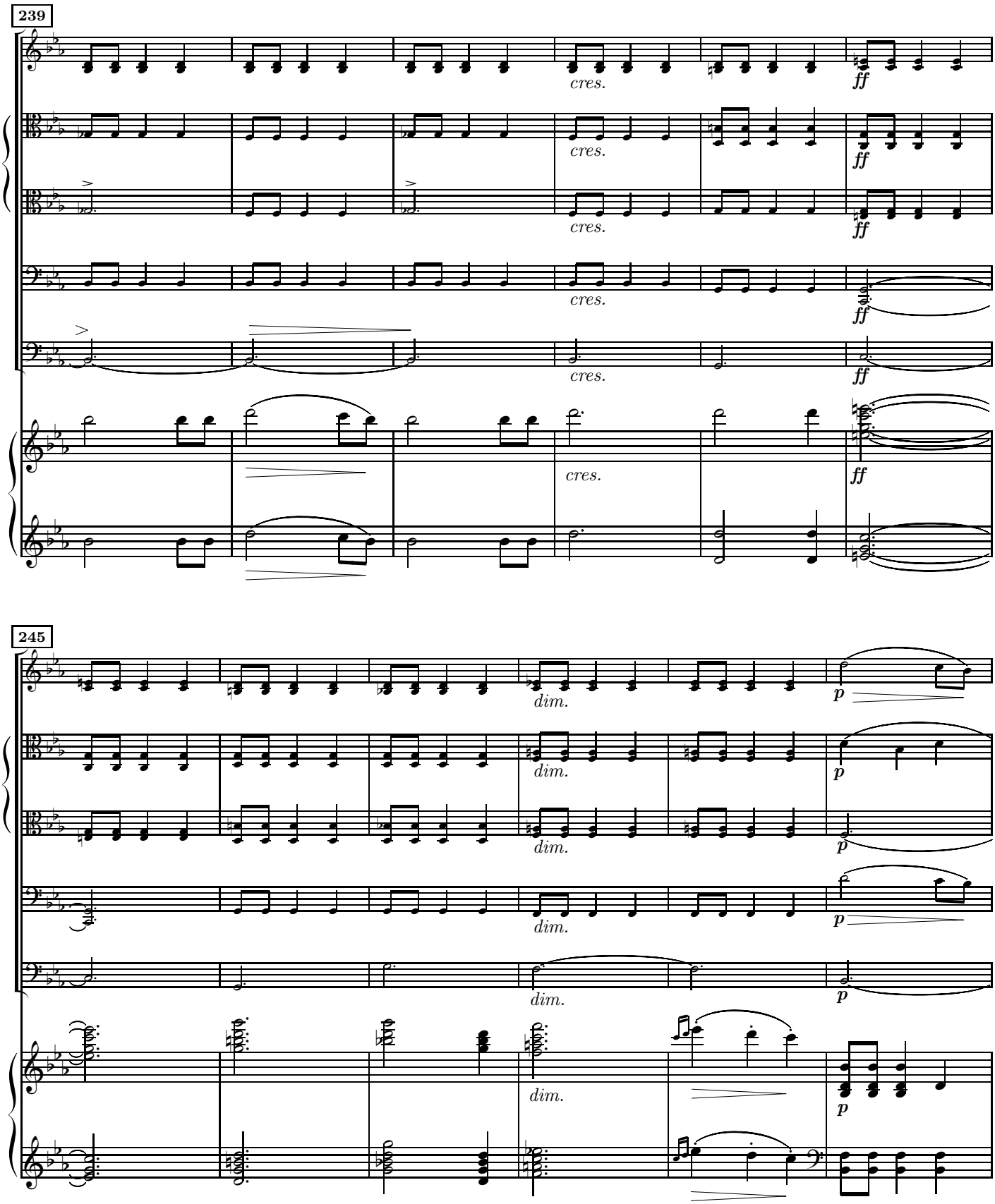
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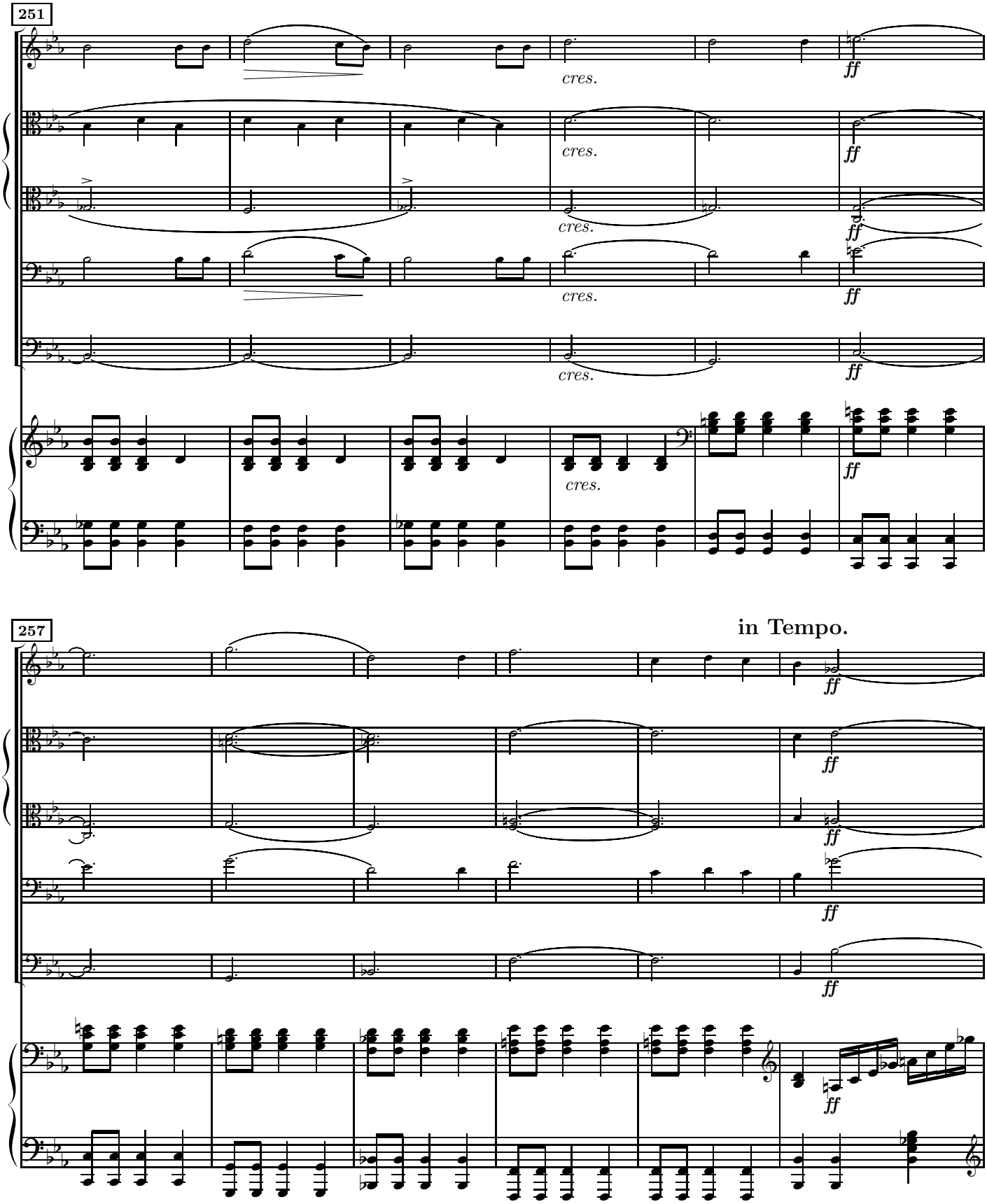

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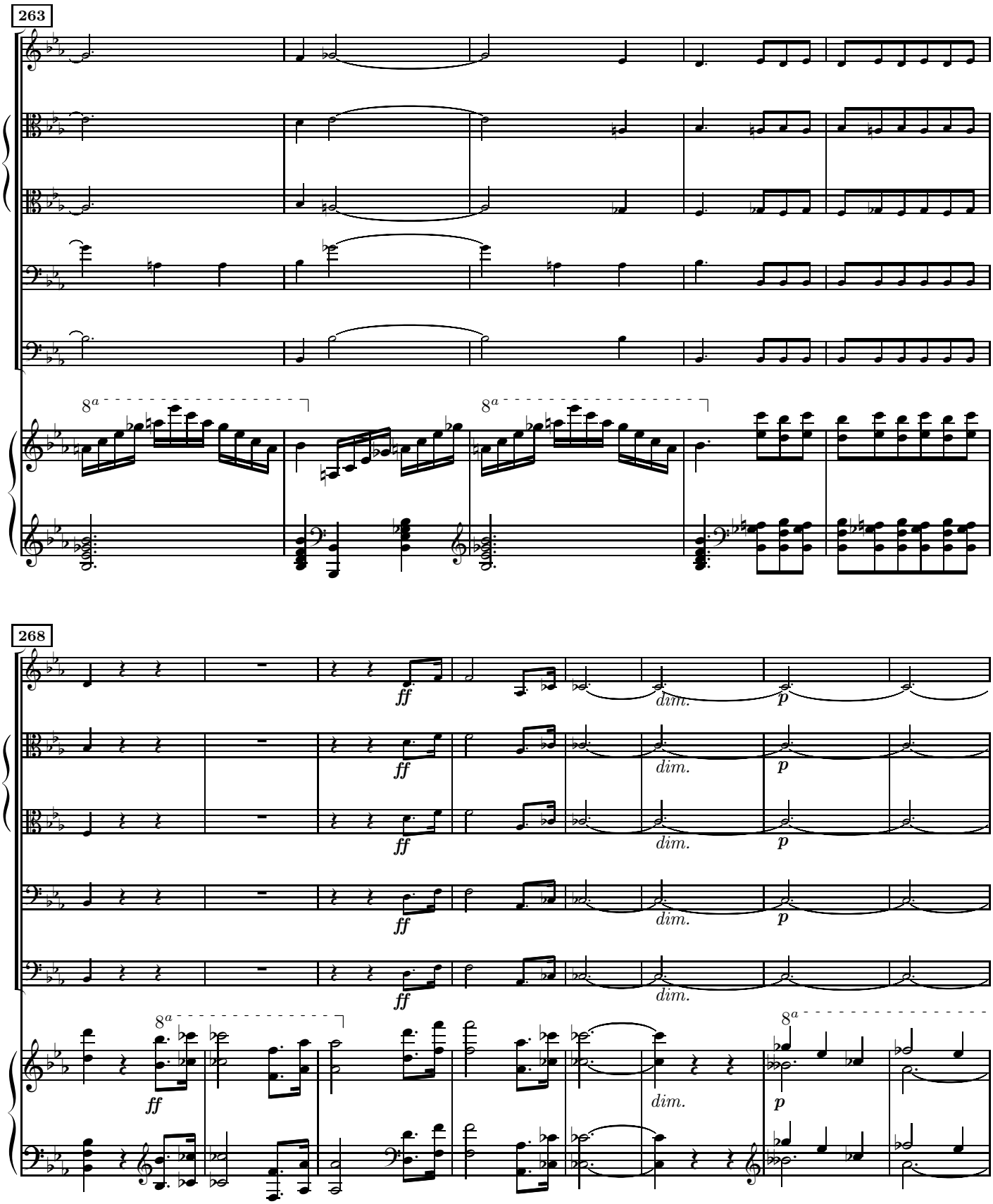
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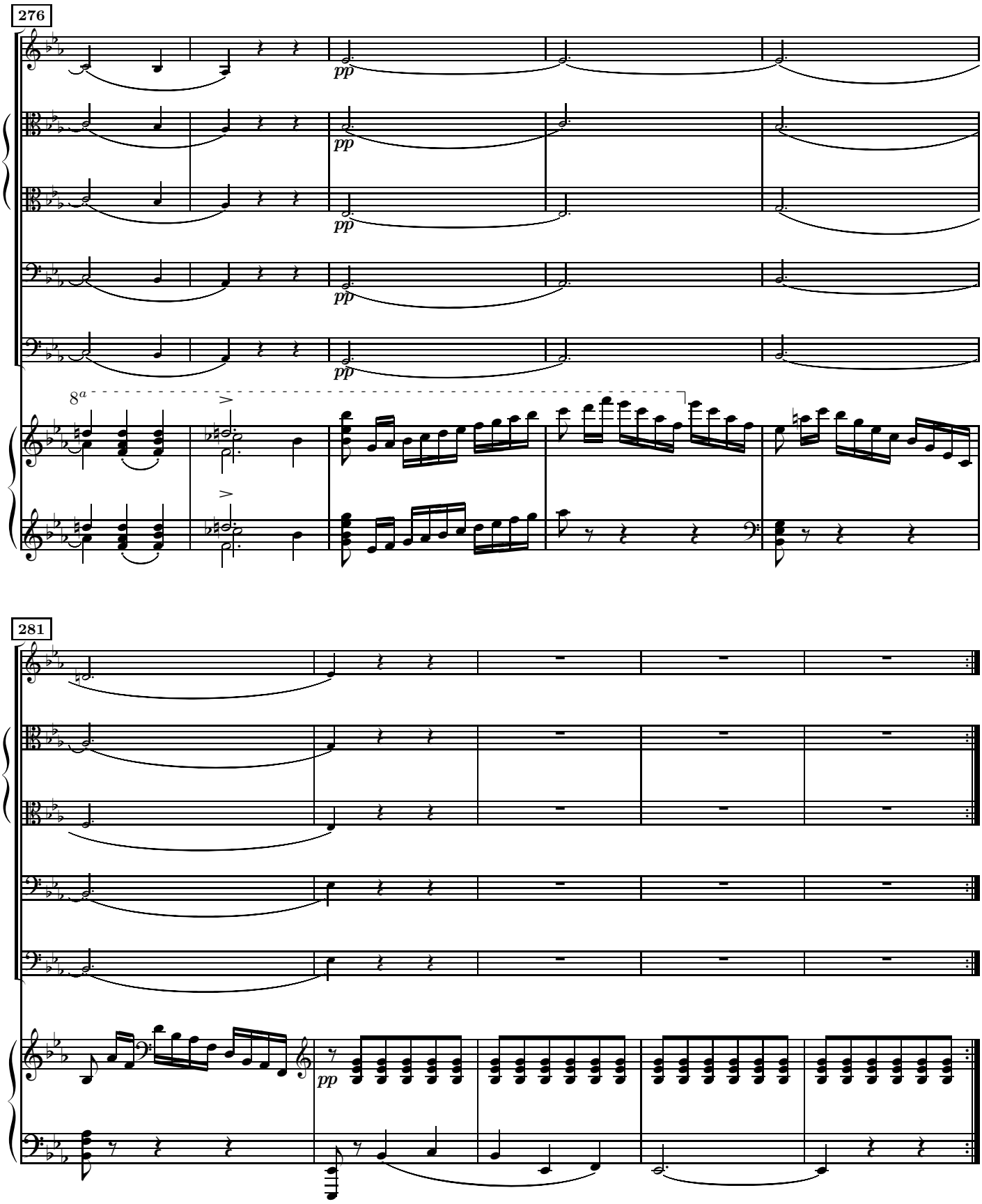

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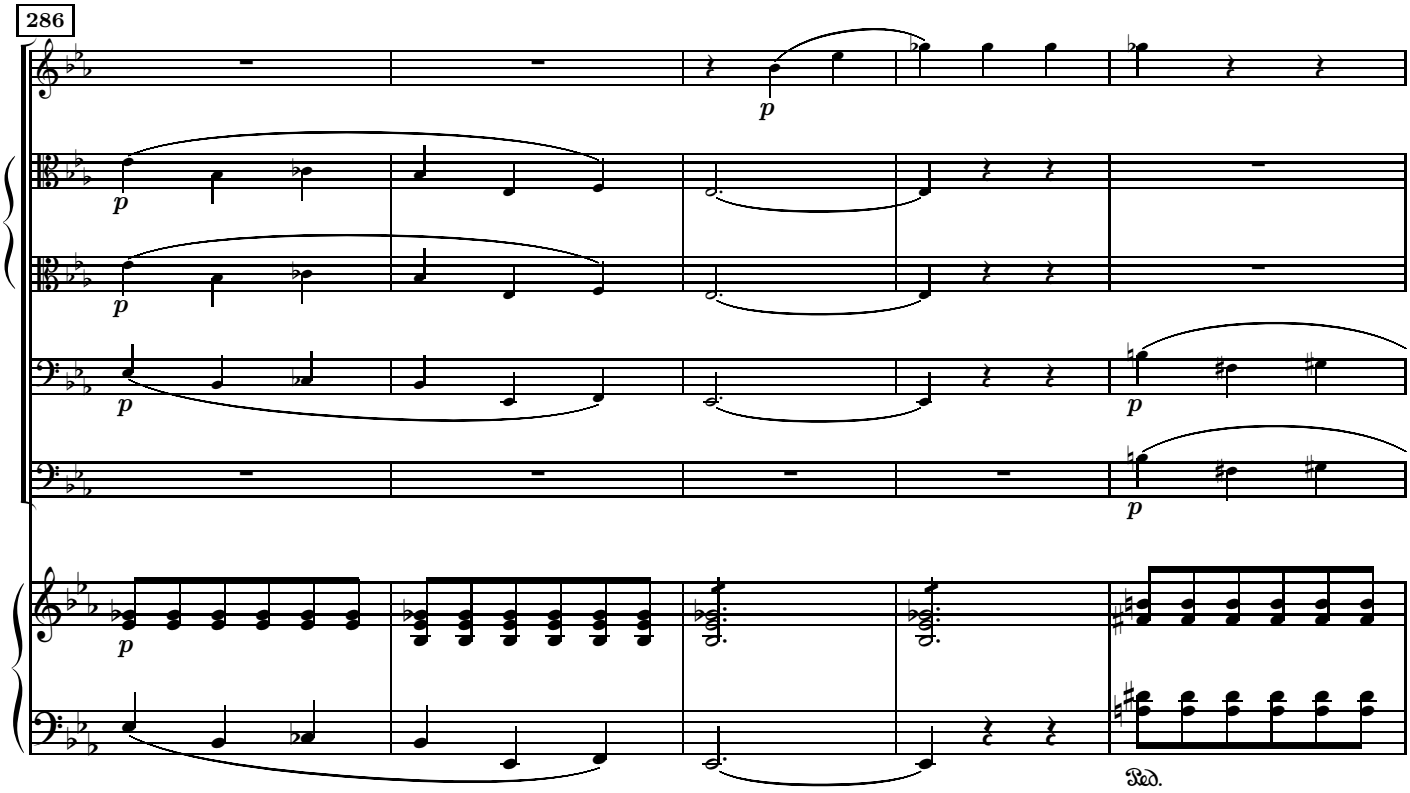
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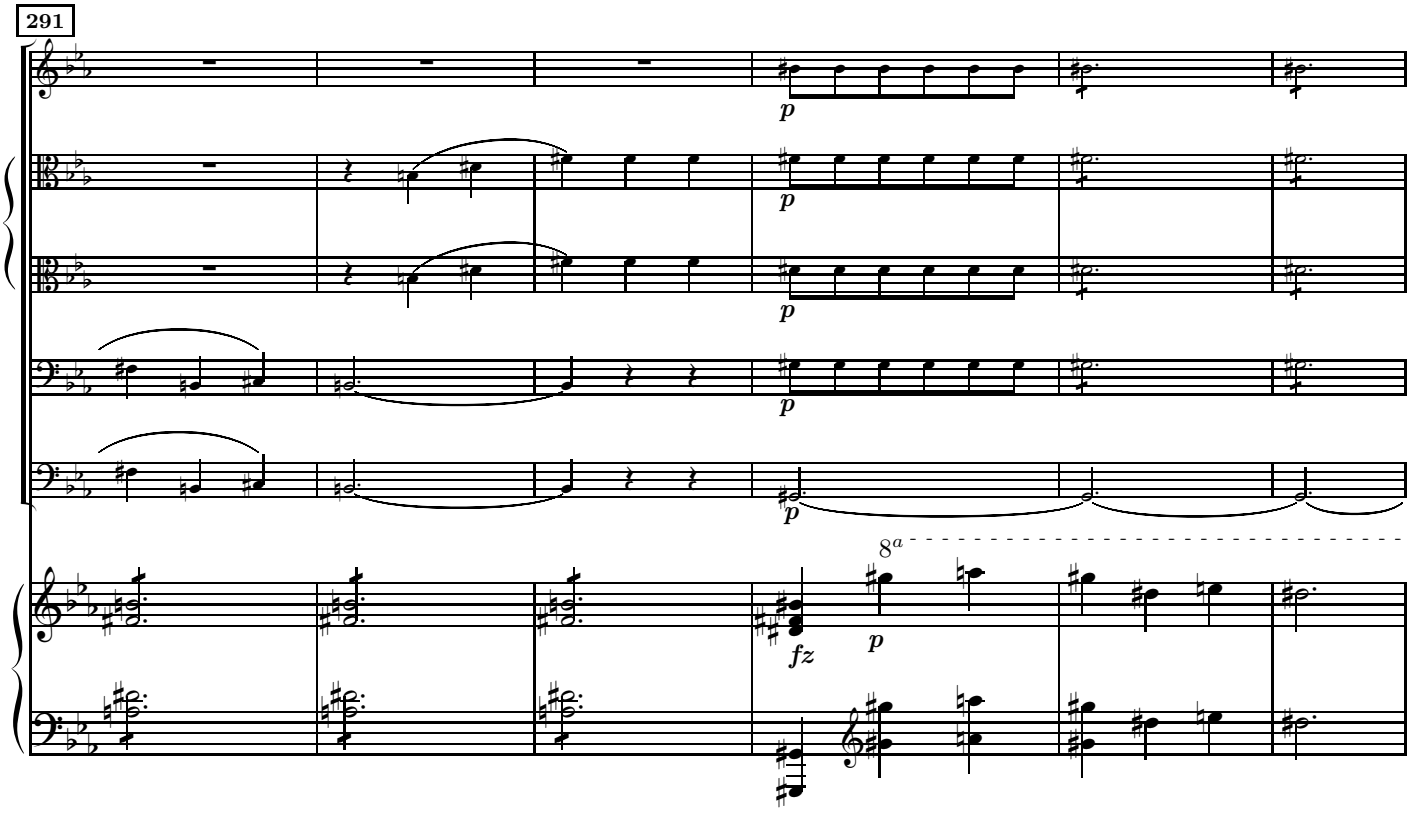
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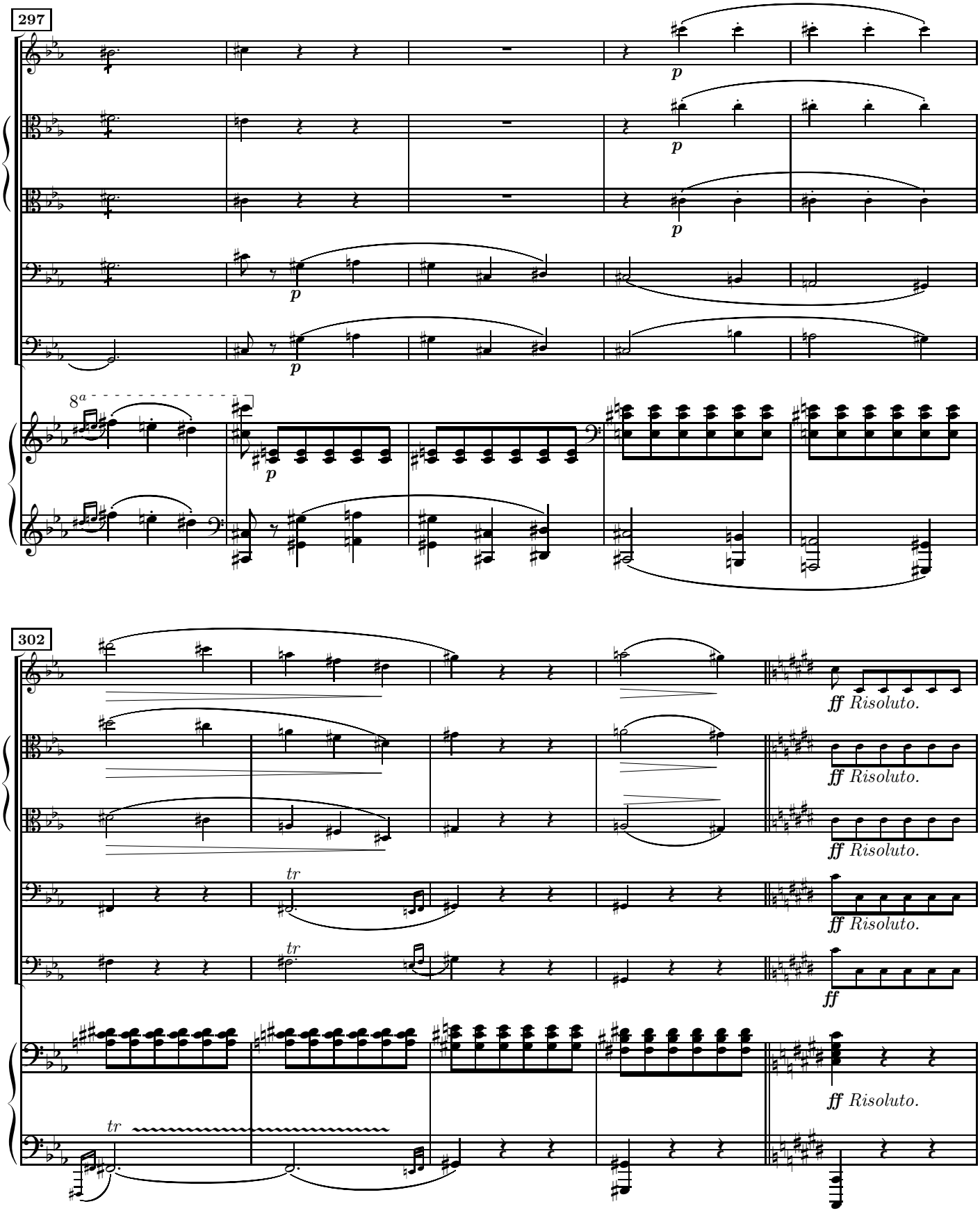

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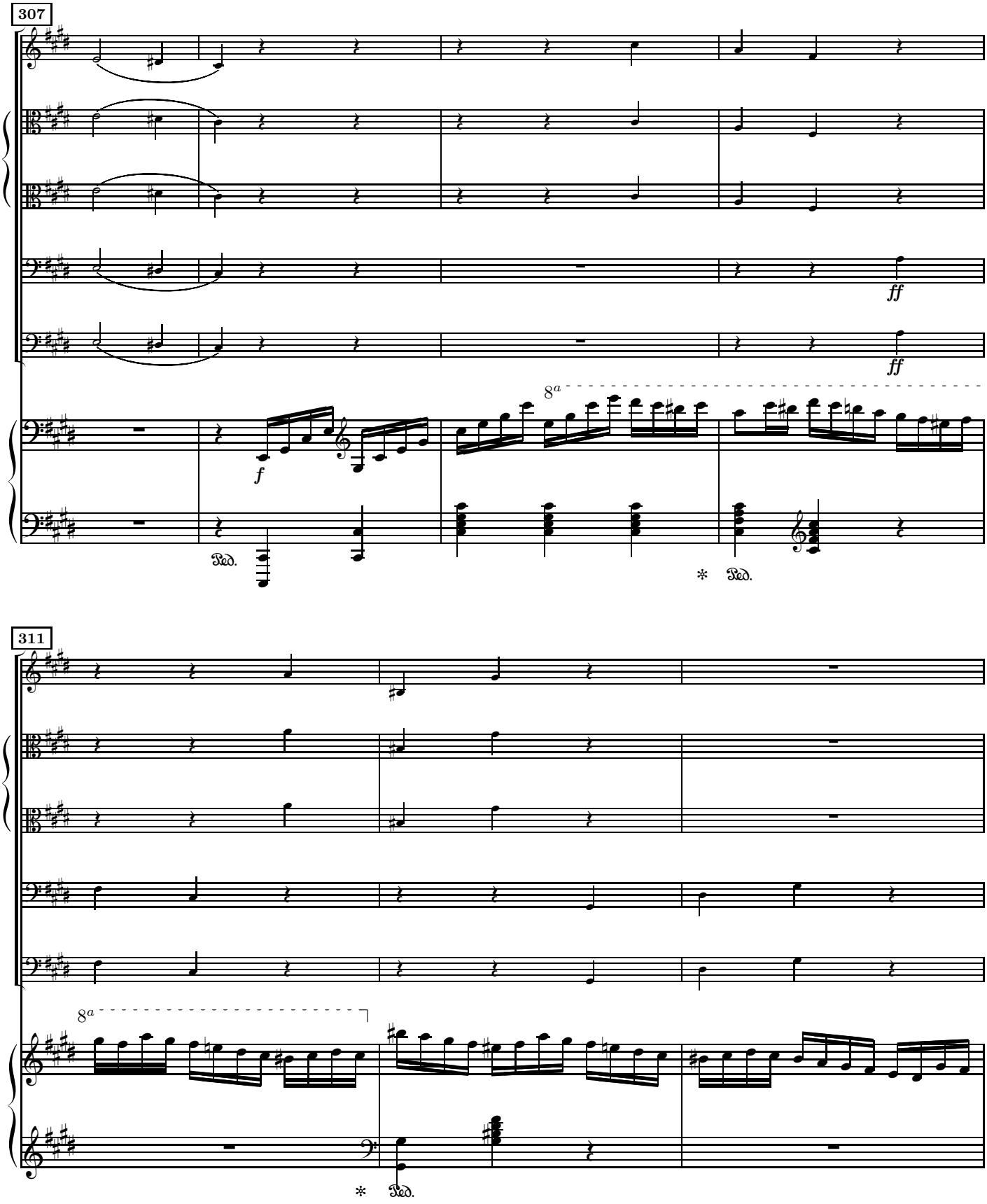
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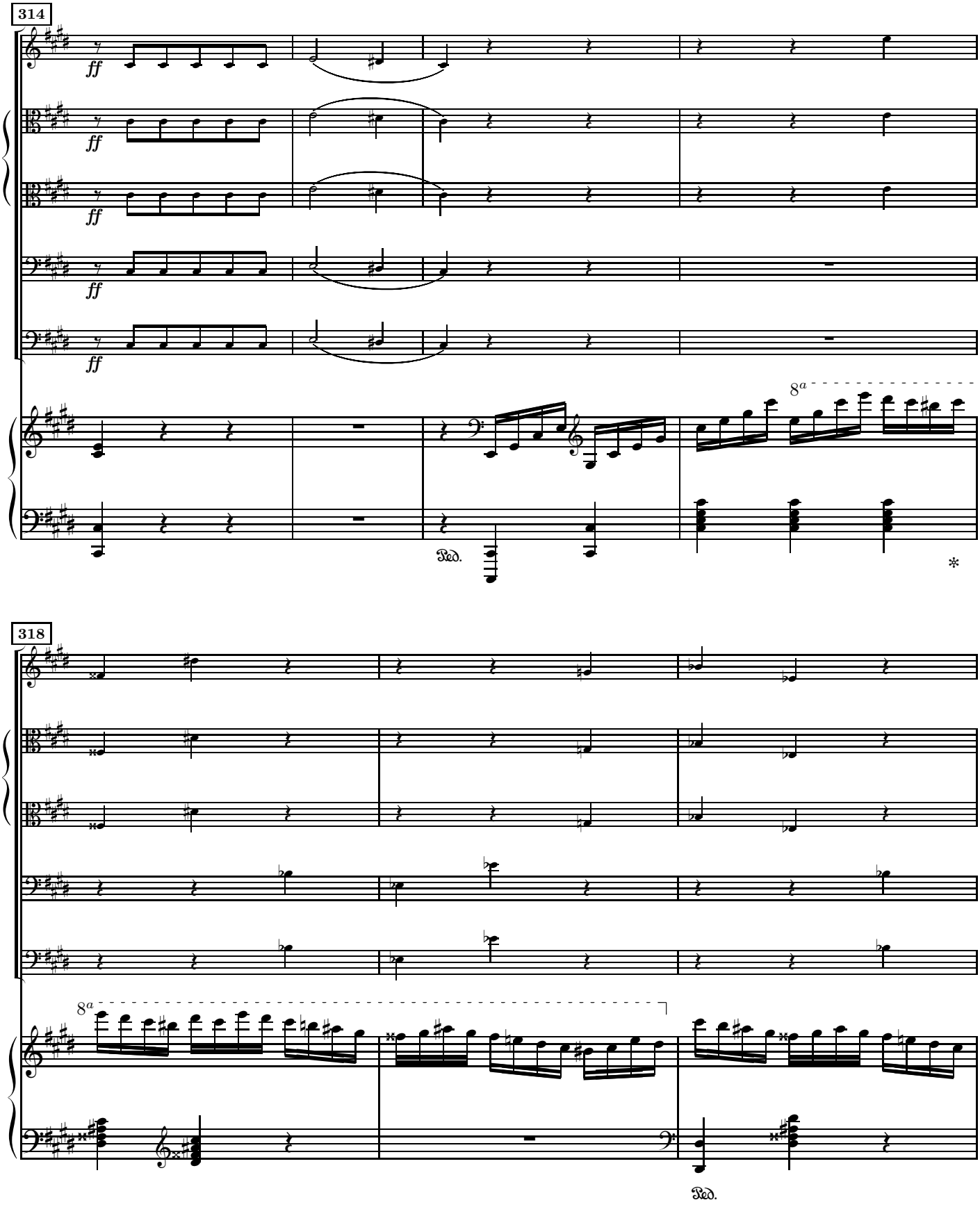

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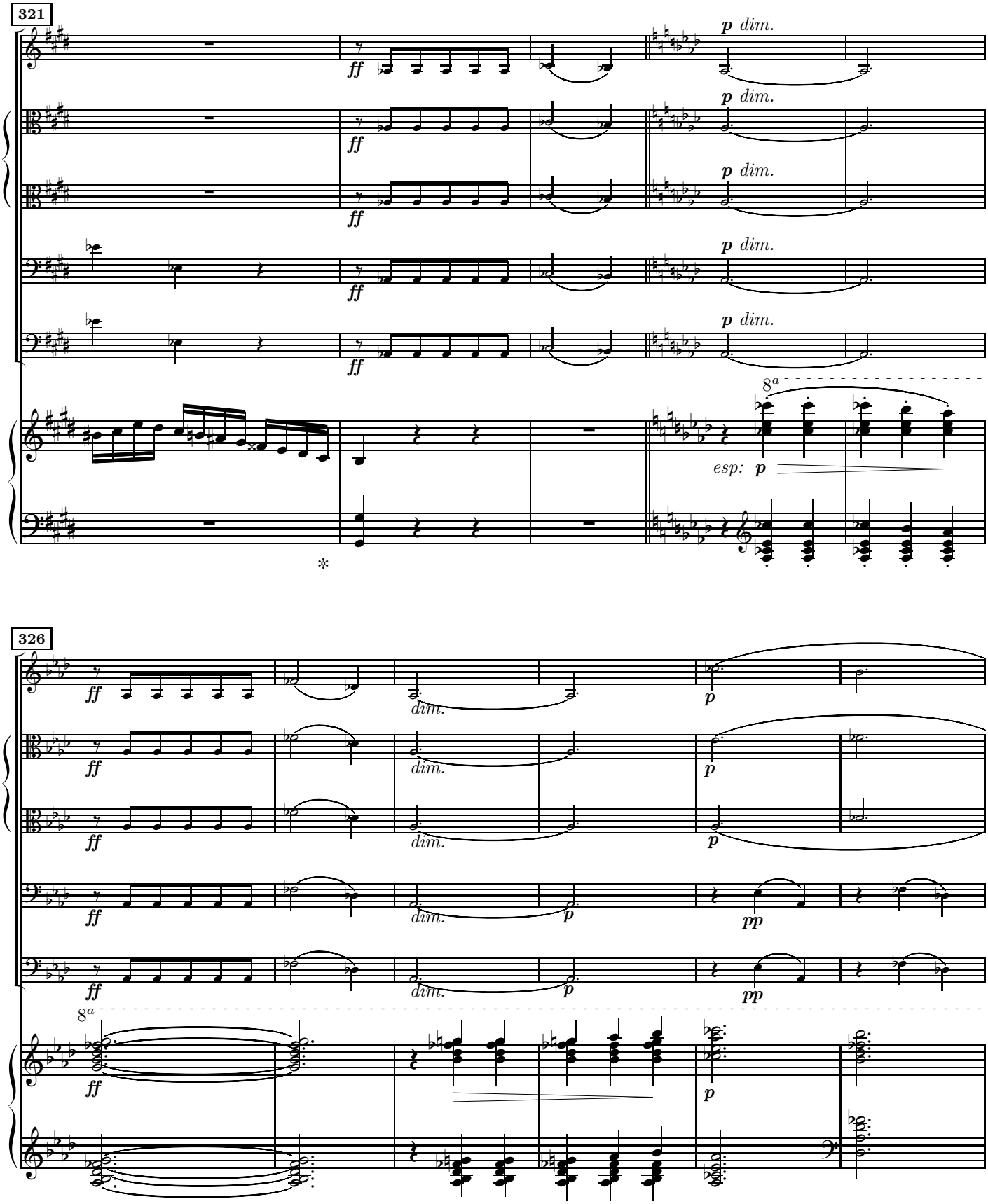
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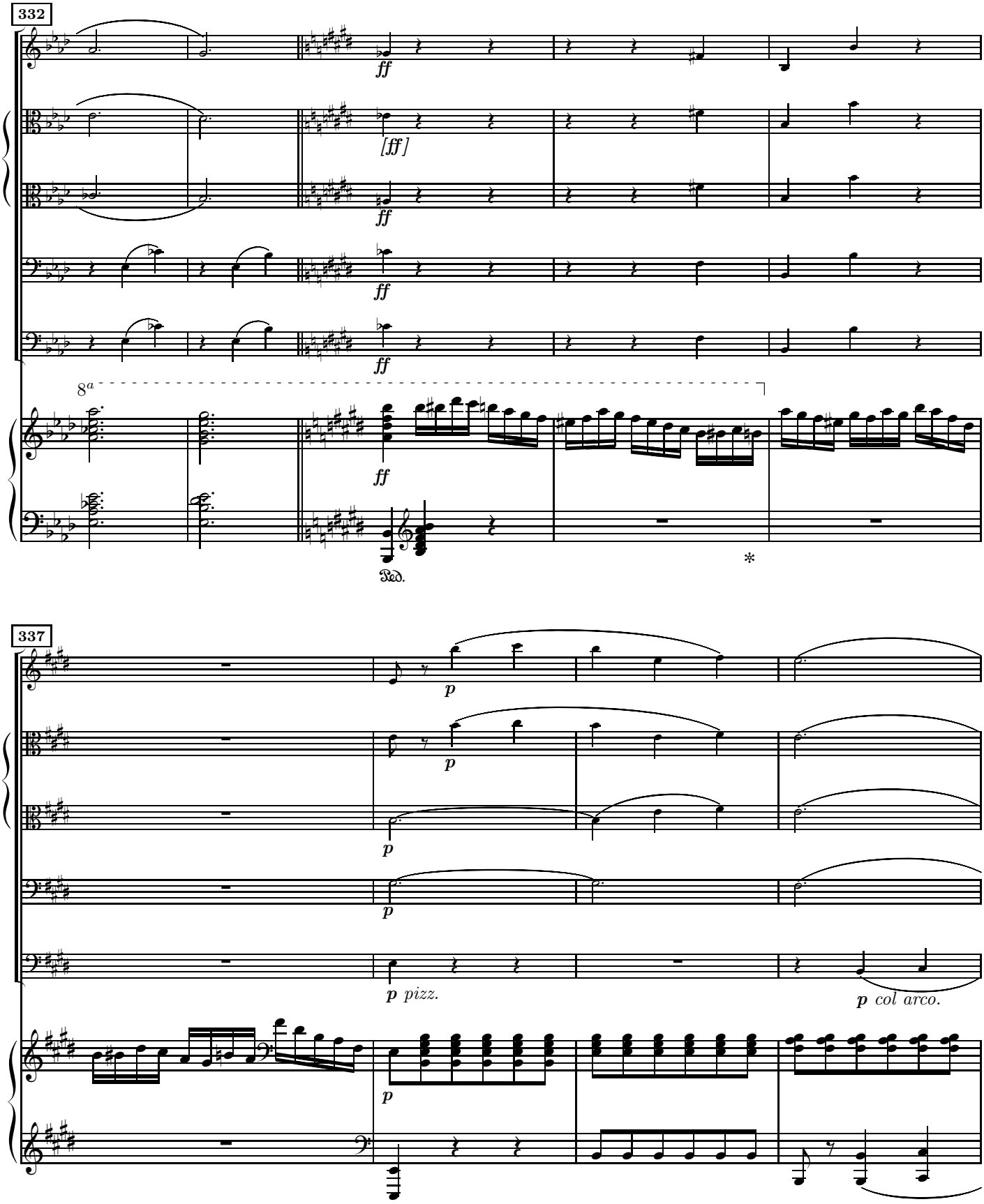

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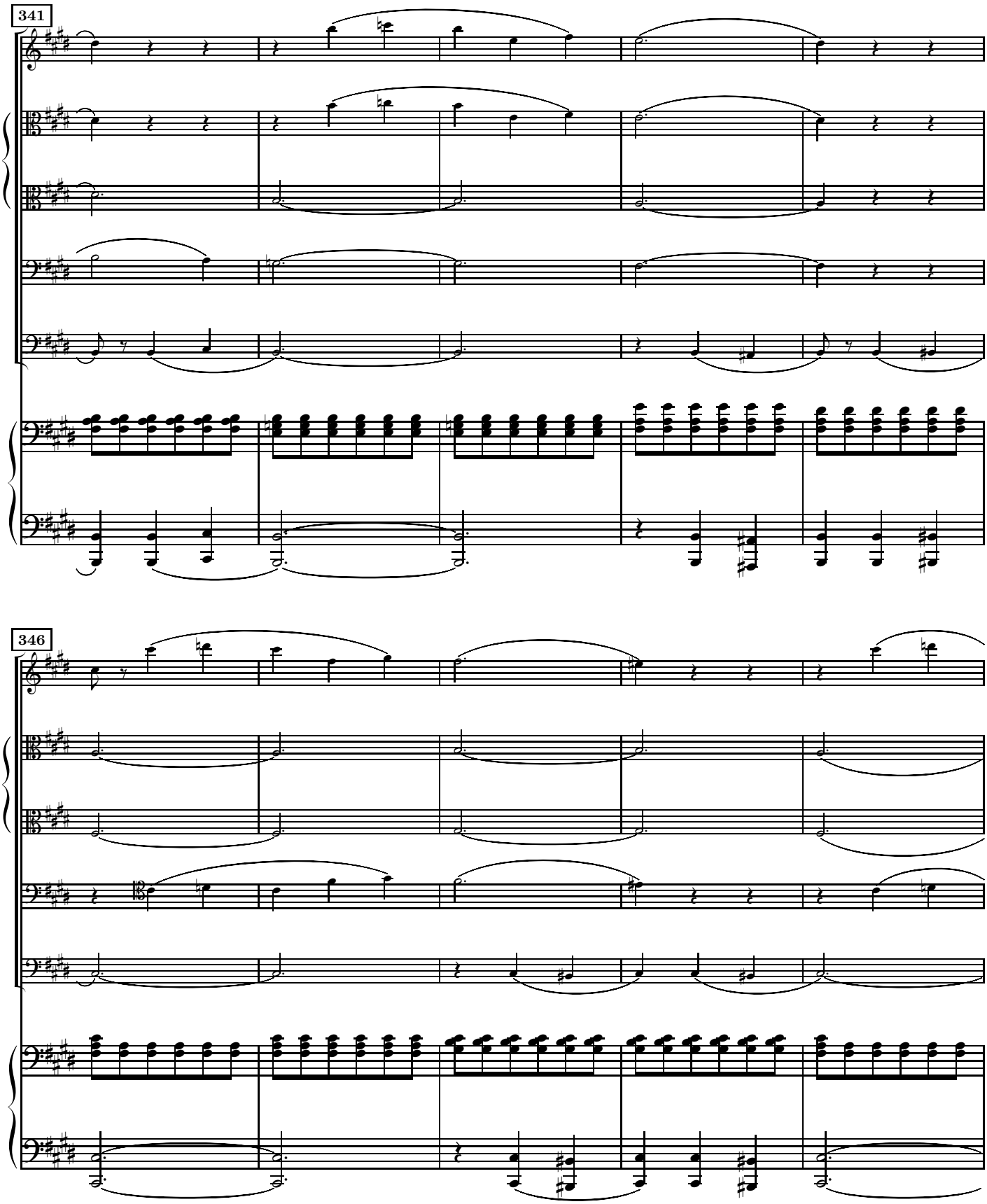
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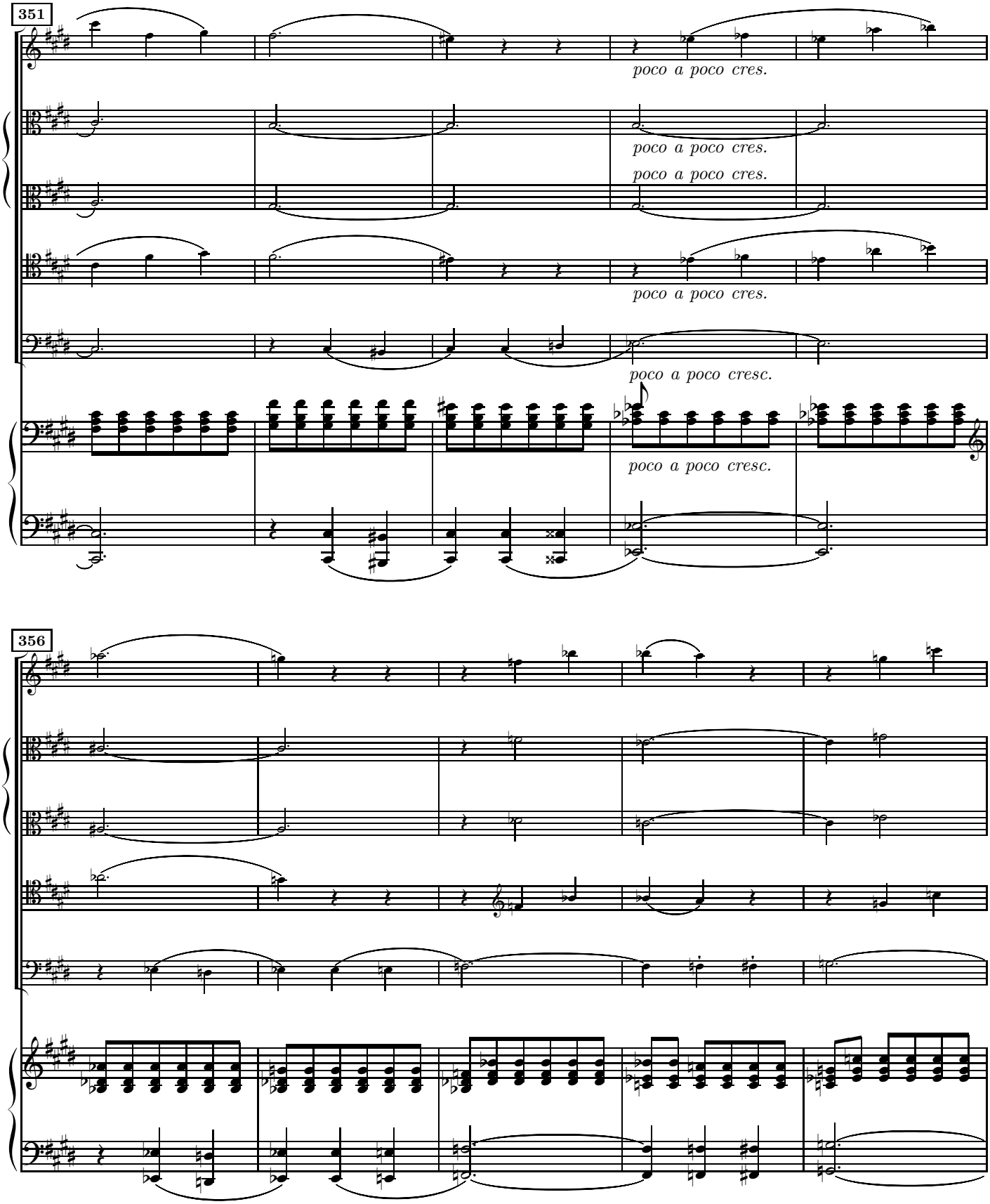

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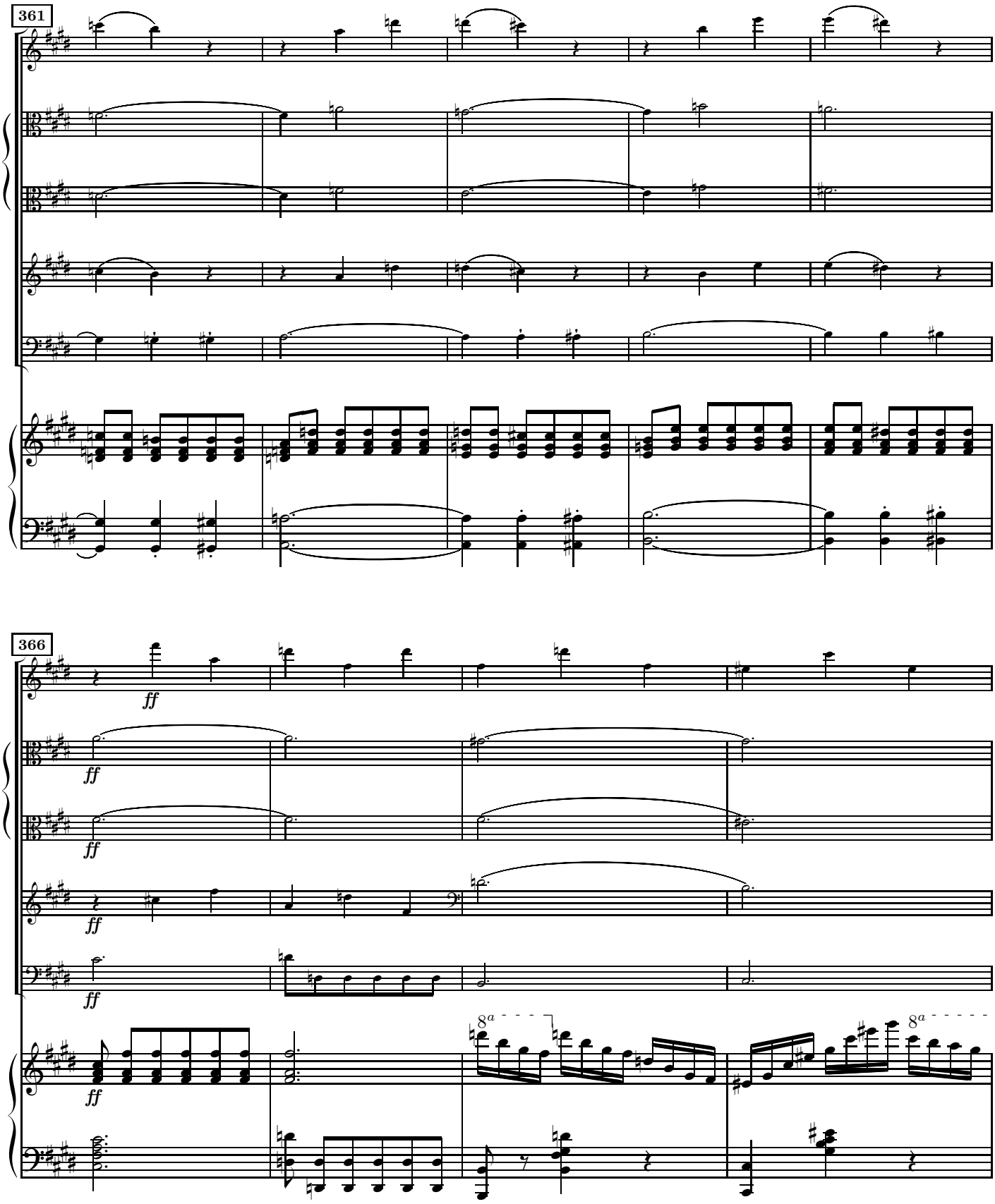
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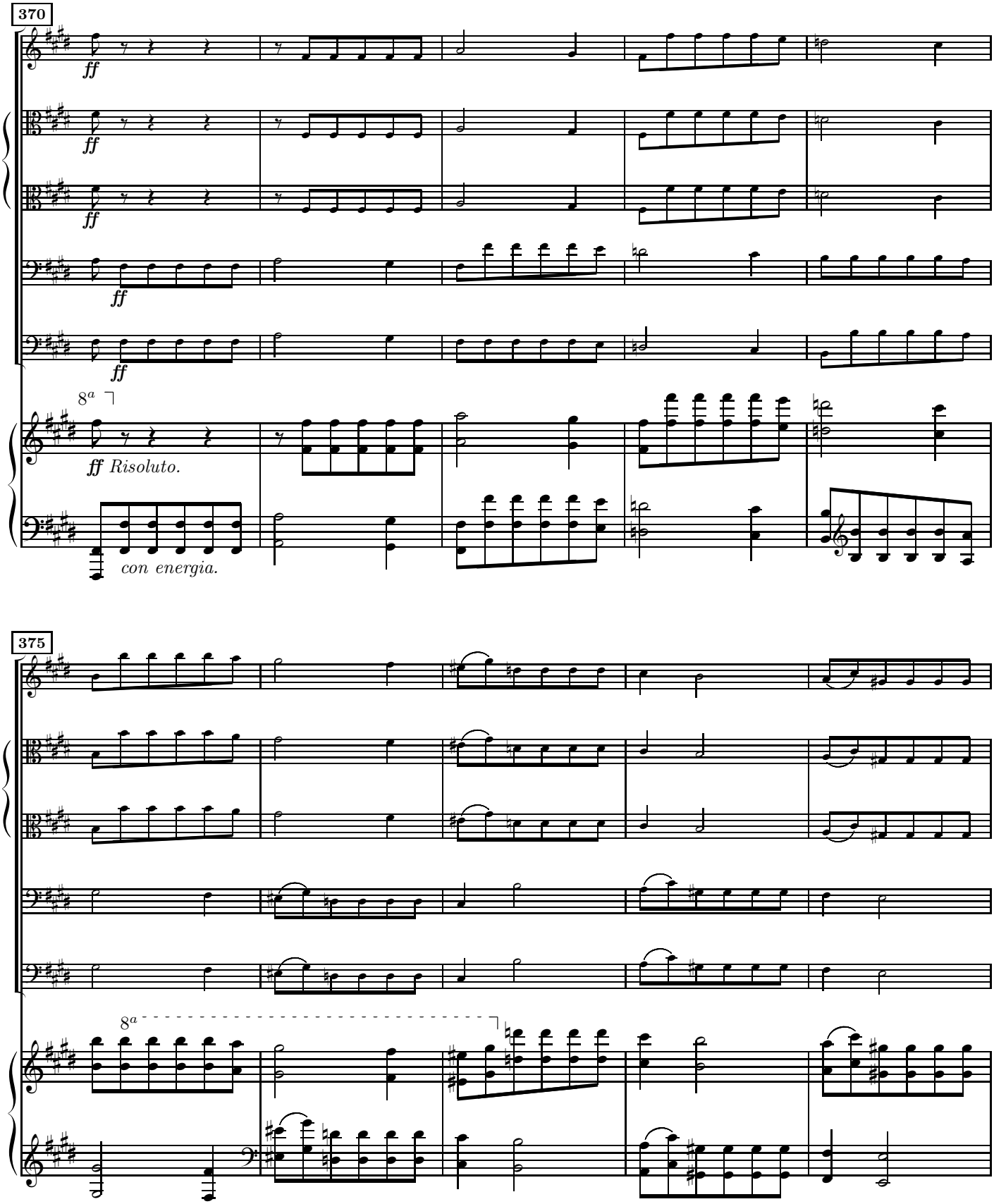

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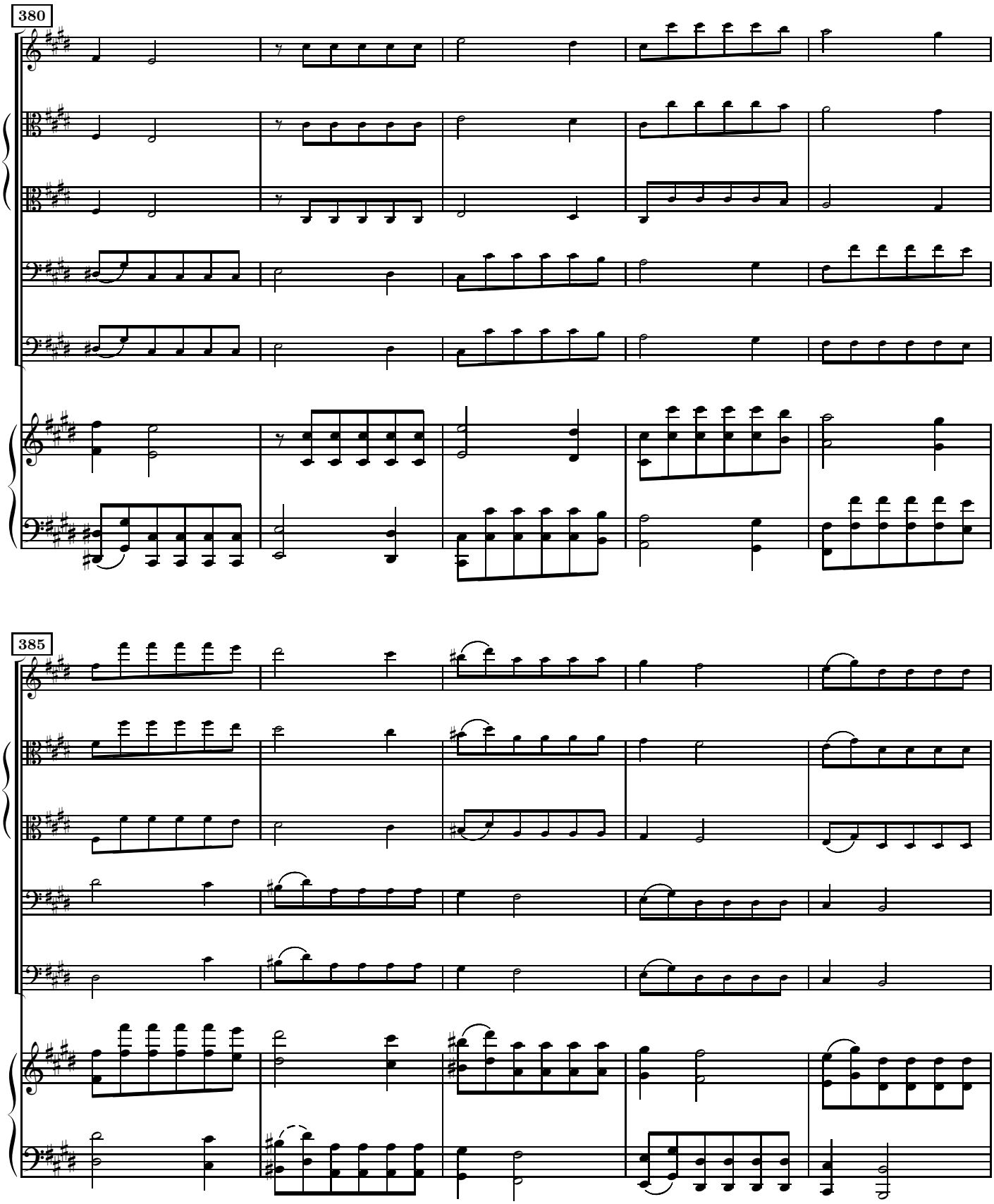
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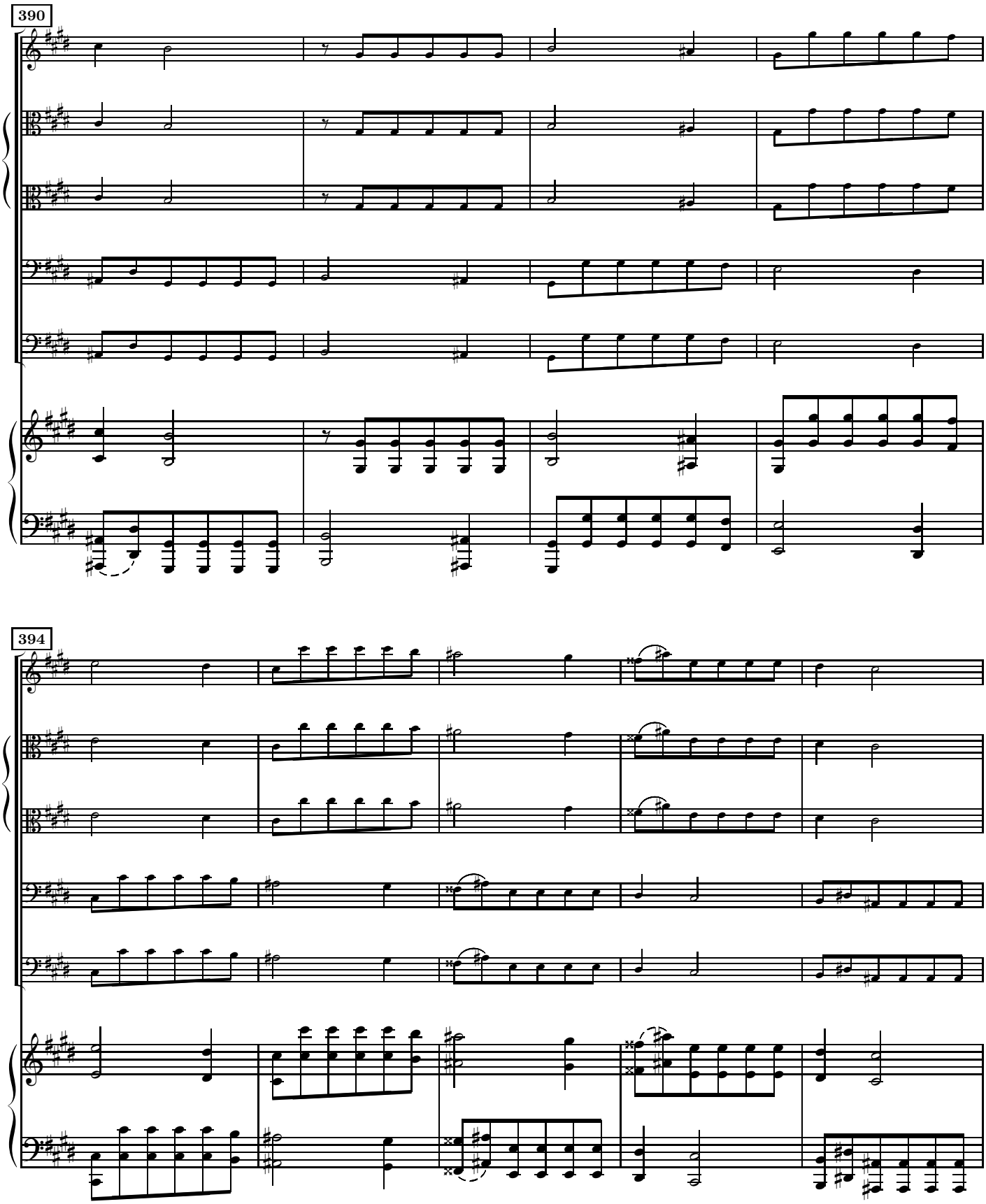

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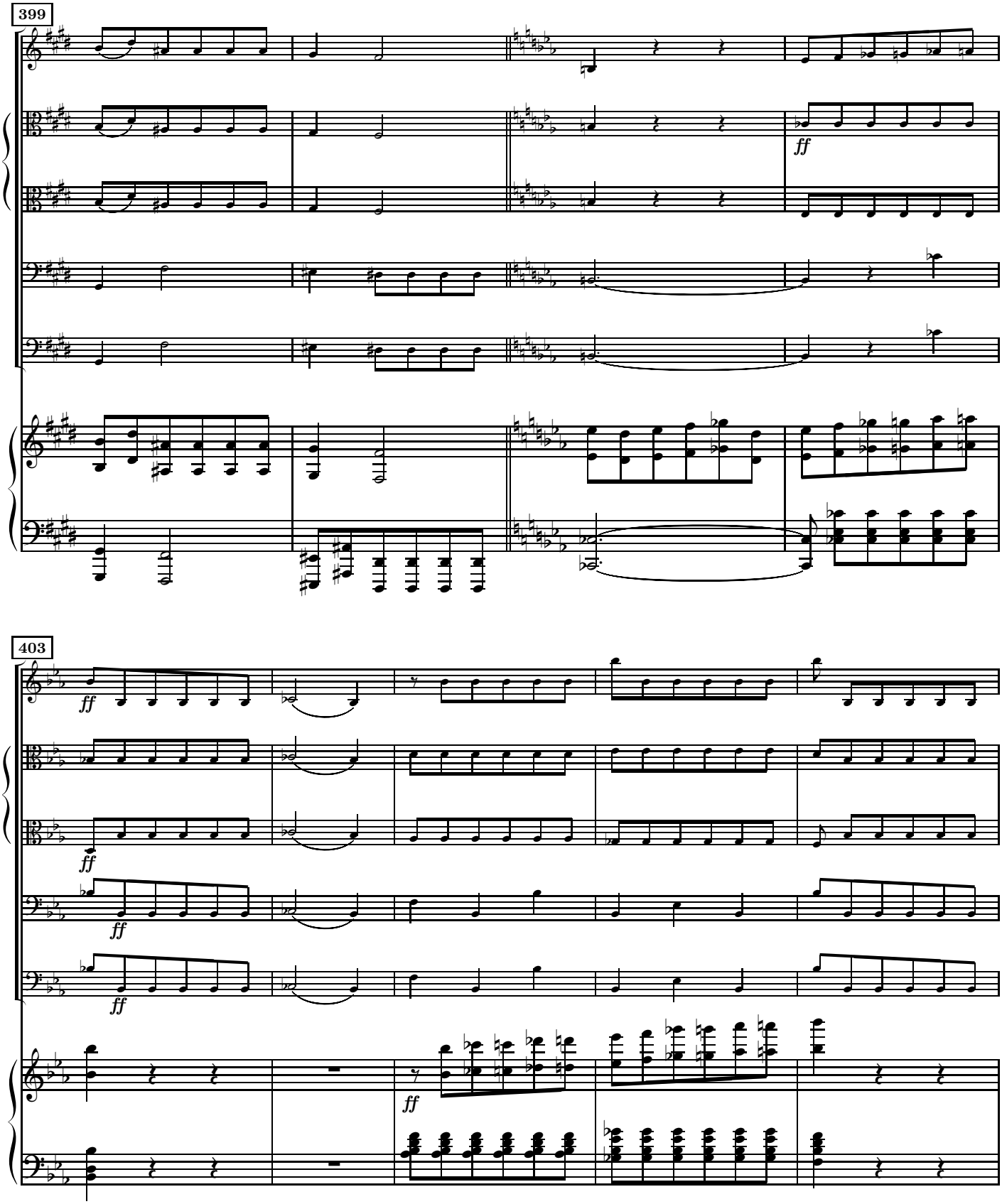
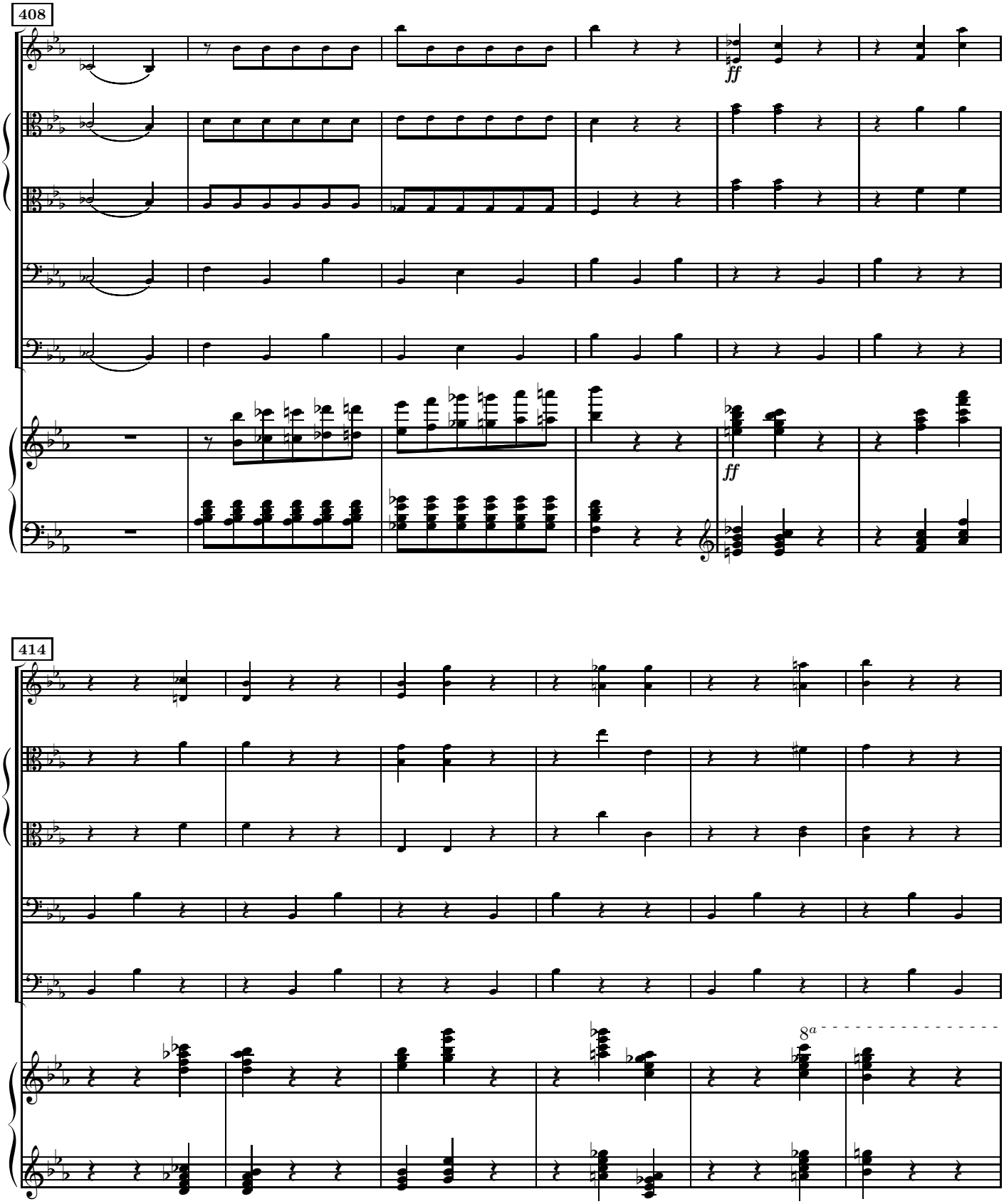

399
ff
403
ff
ff
ff
ff
ff



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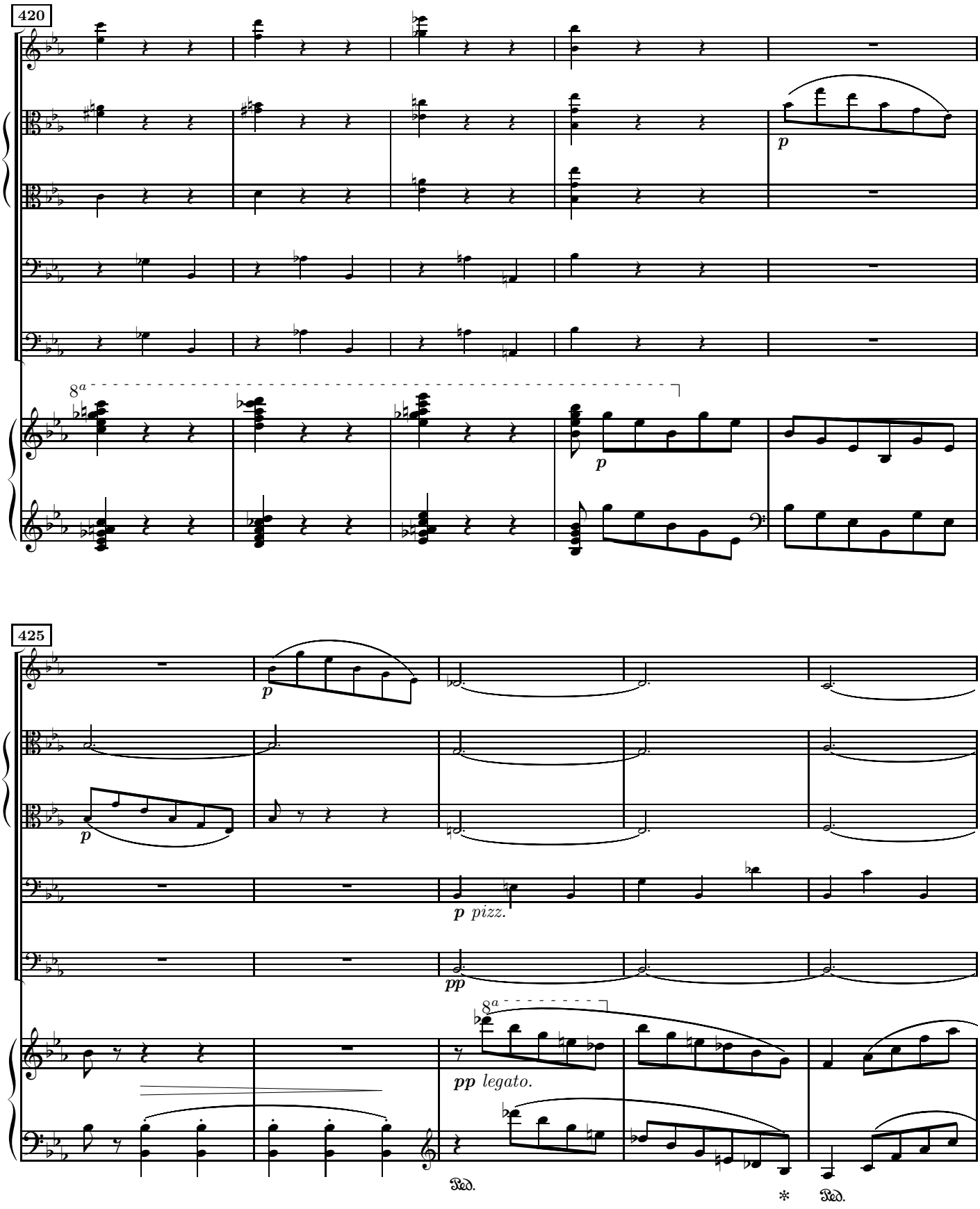
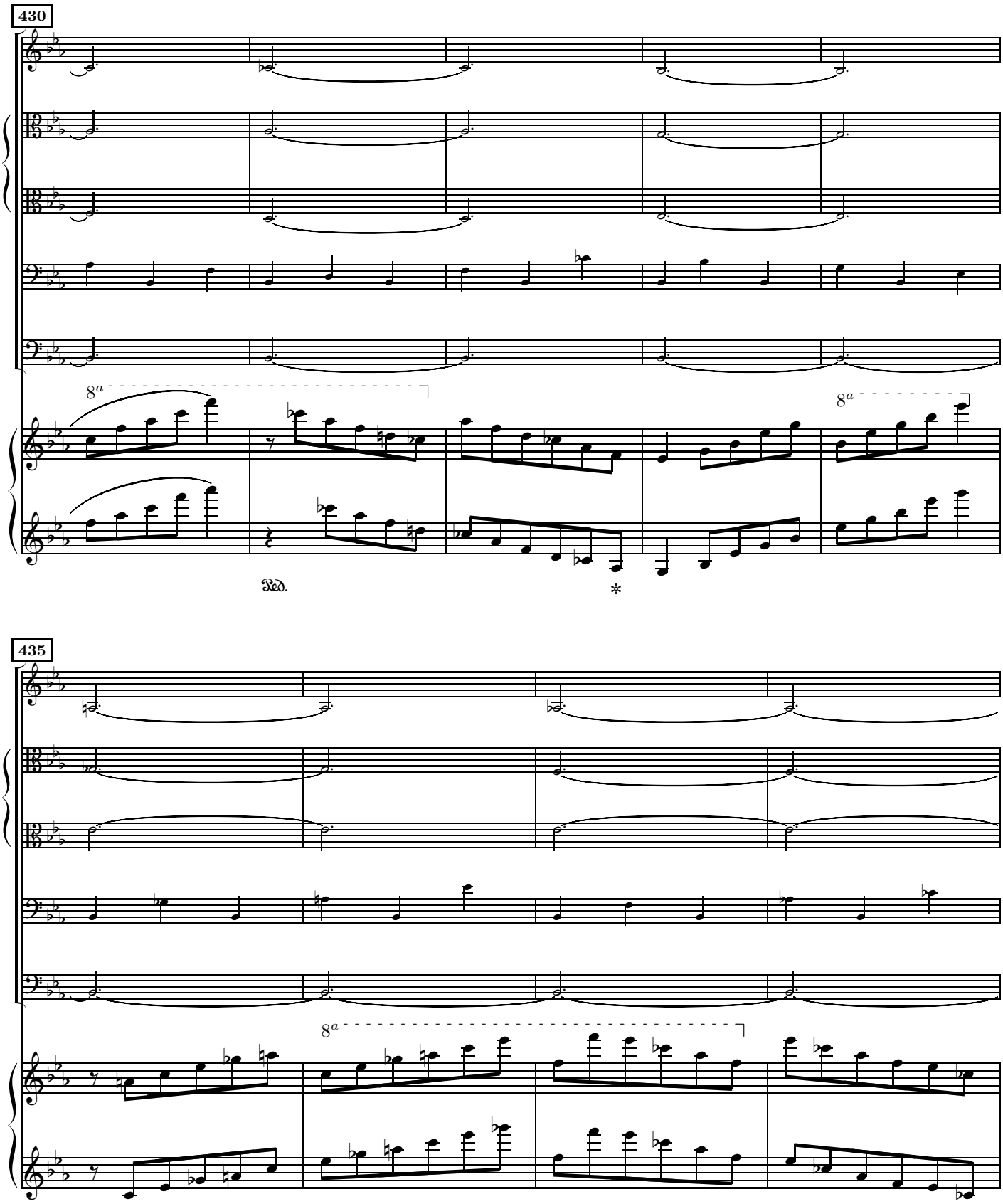

420
8a
p
425
p
p pizz.
pp
8a
pp legato.
Ped.
*
Ped.



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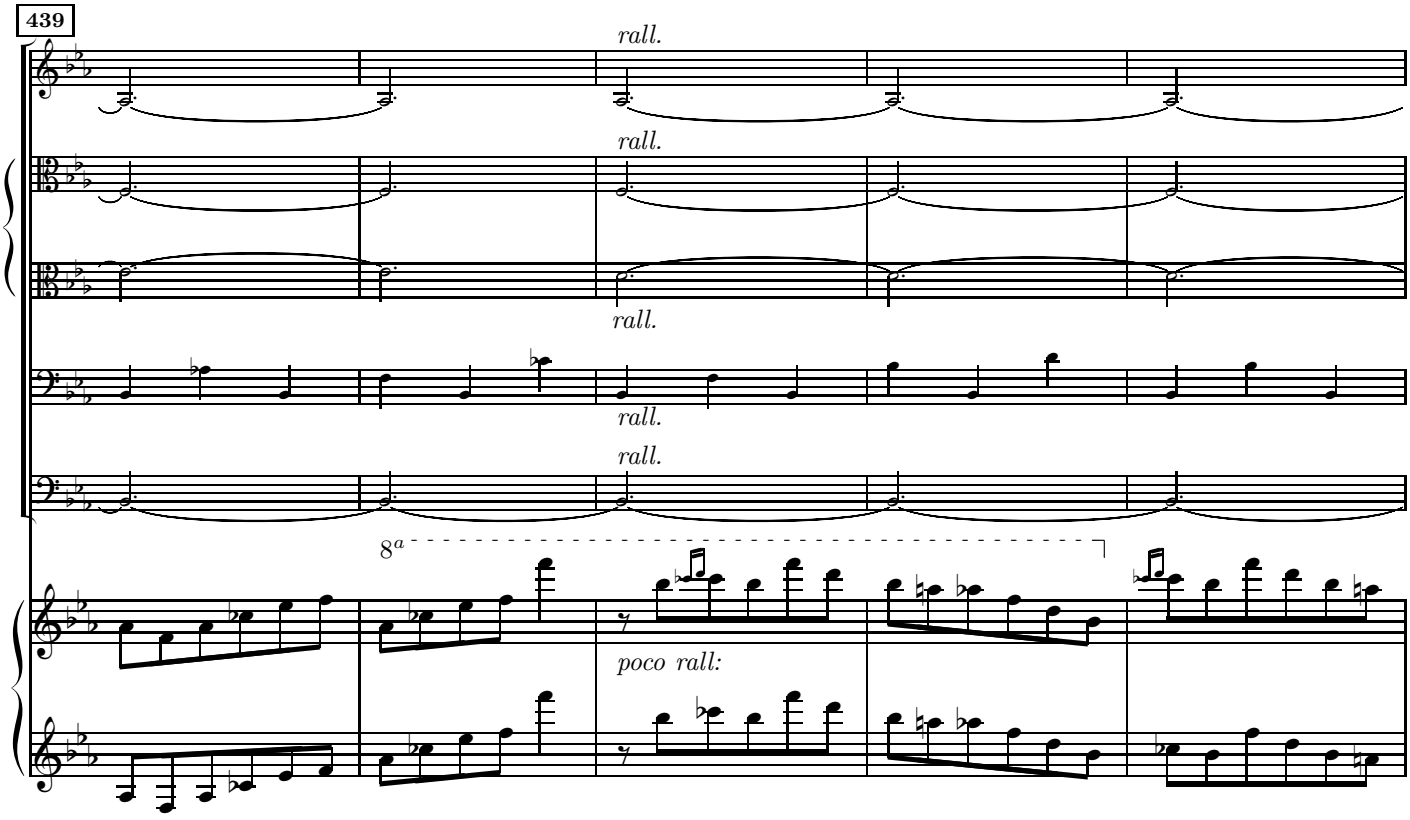
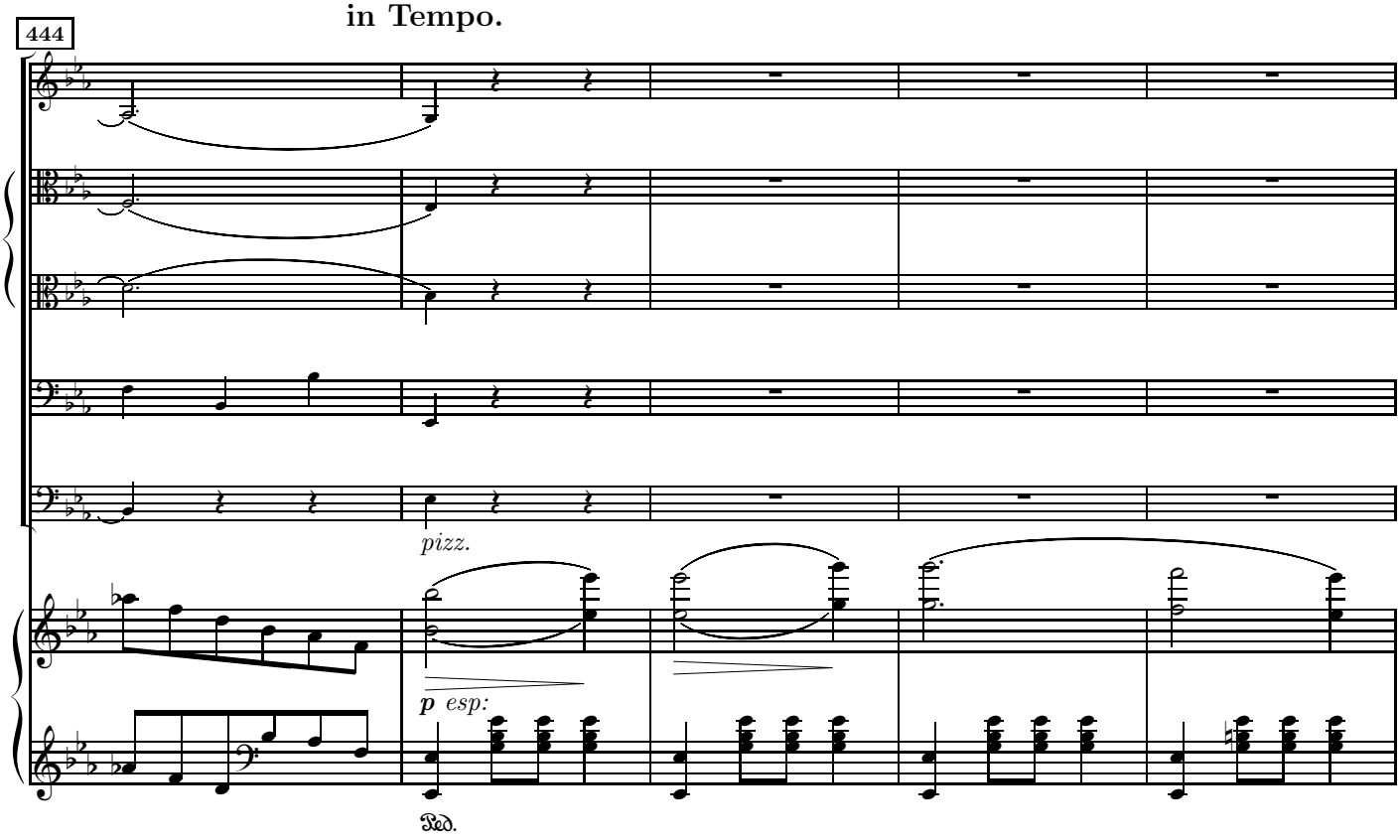
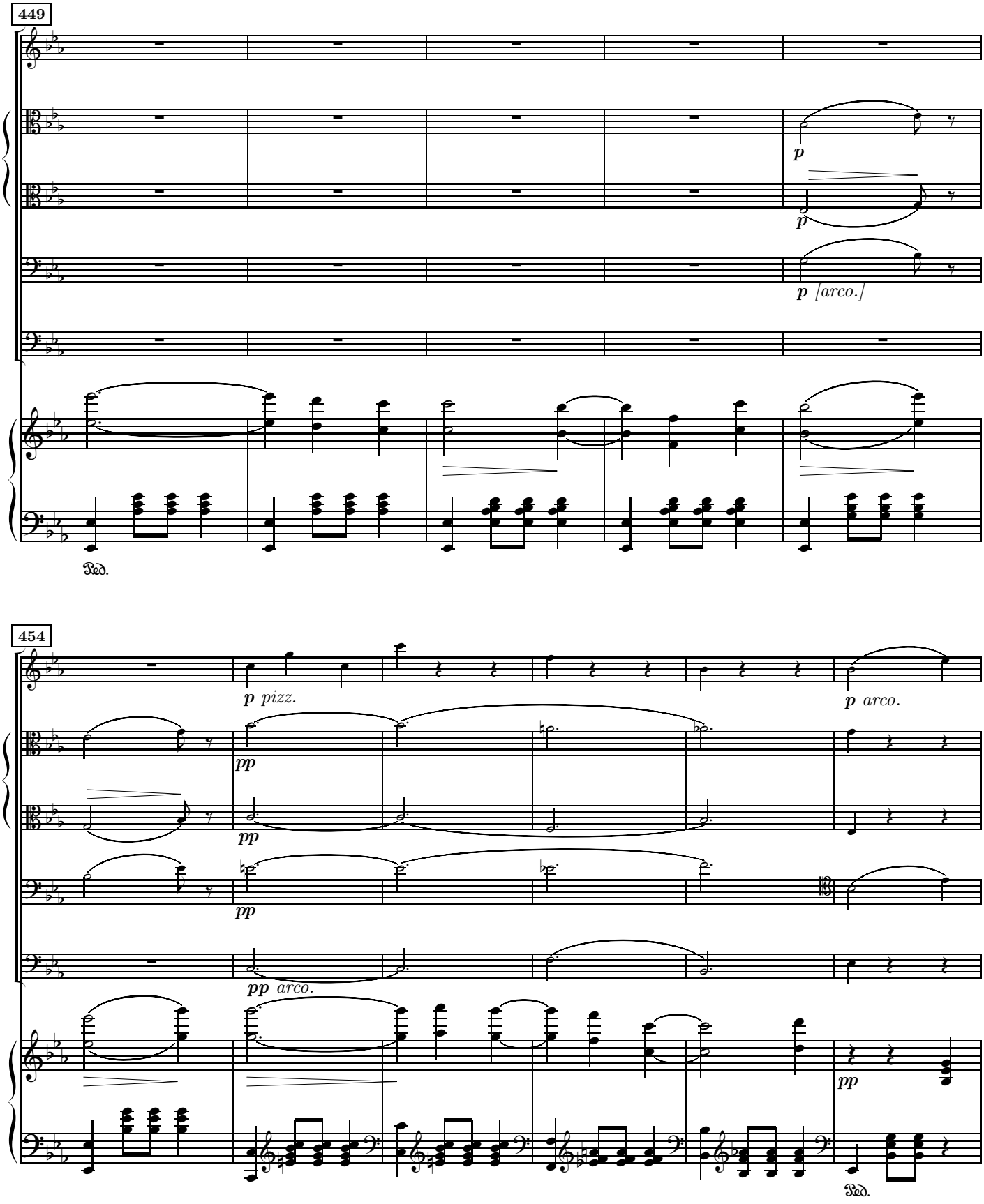


in Tempo.





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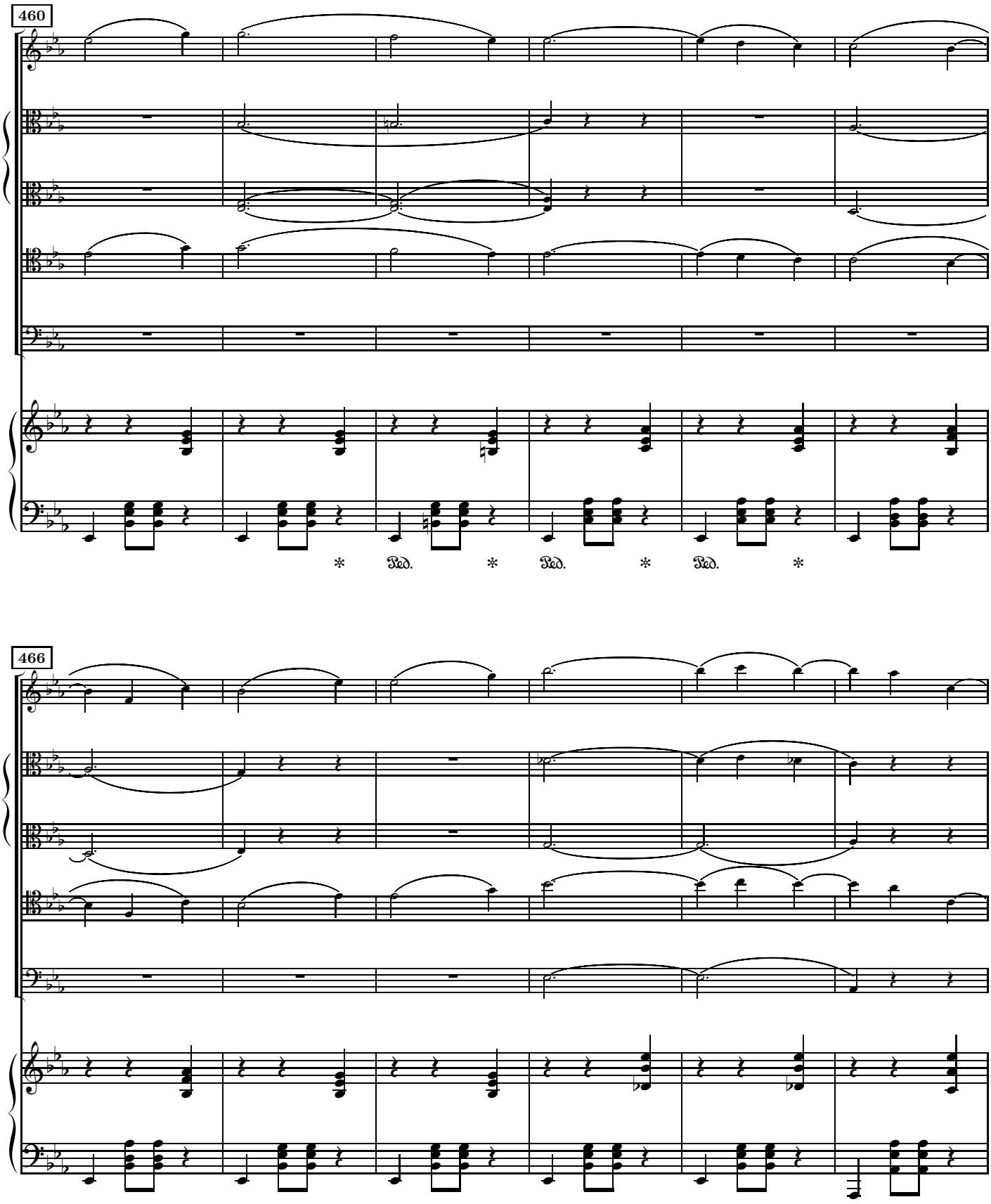
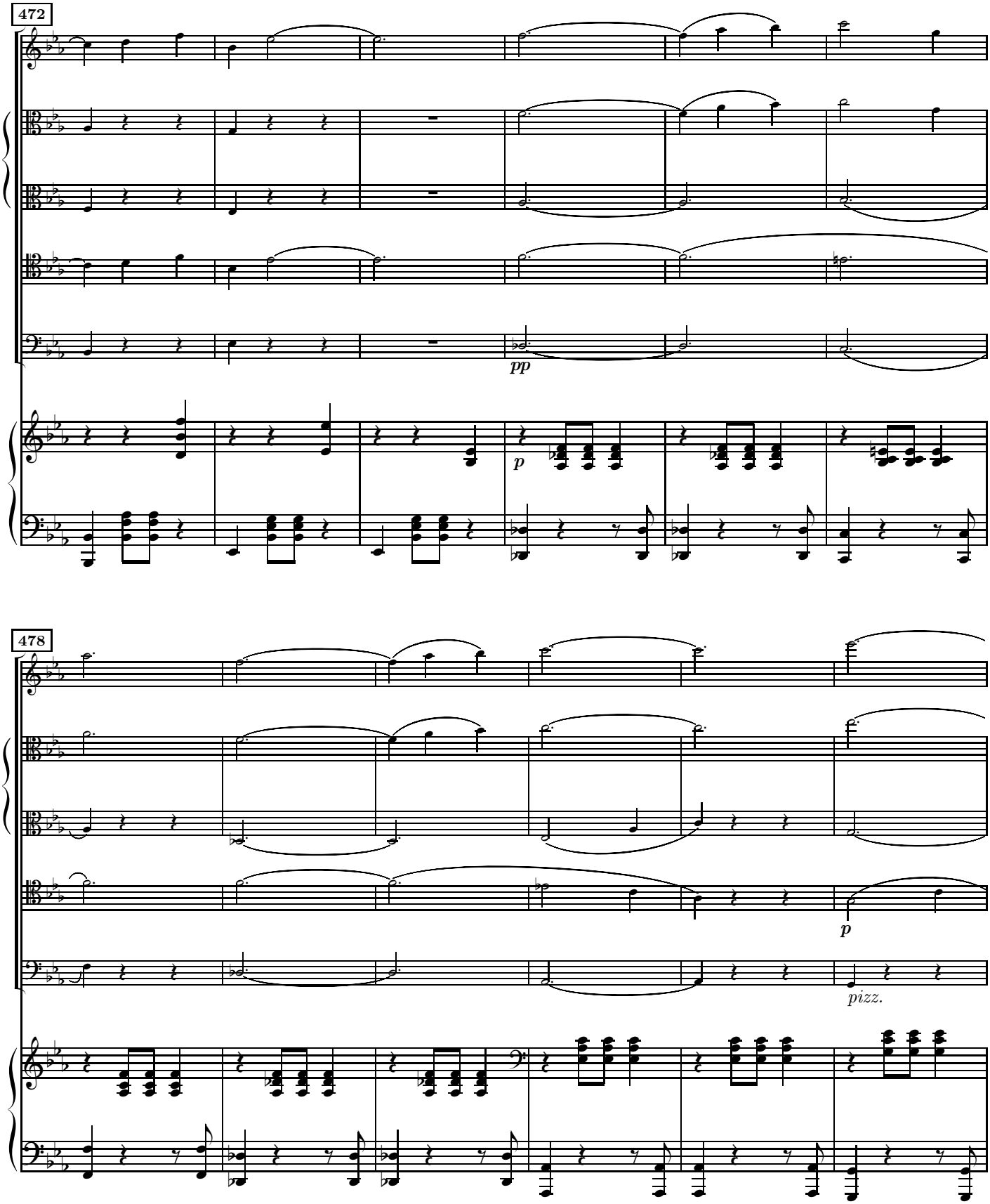

460
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
466



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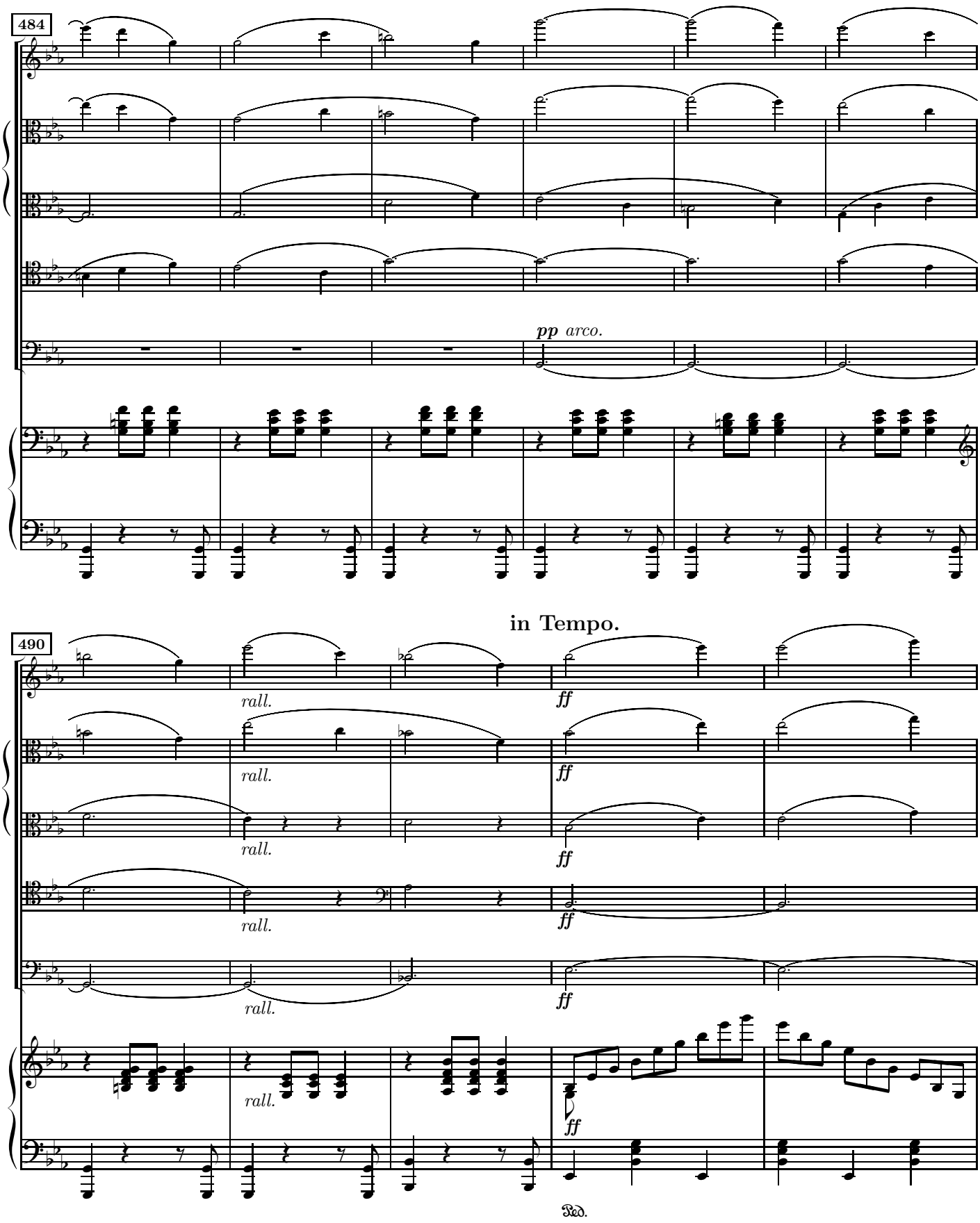
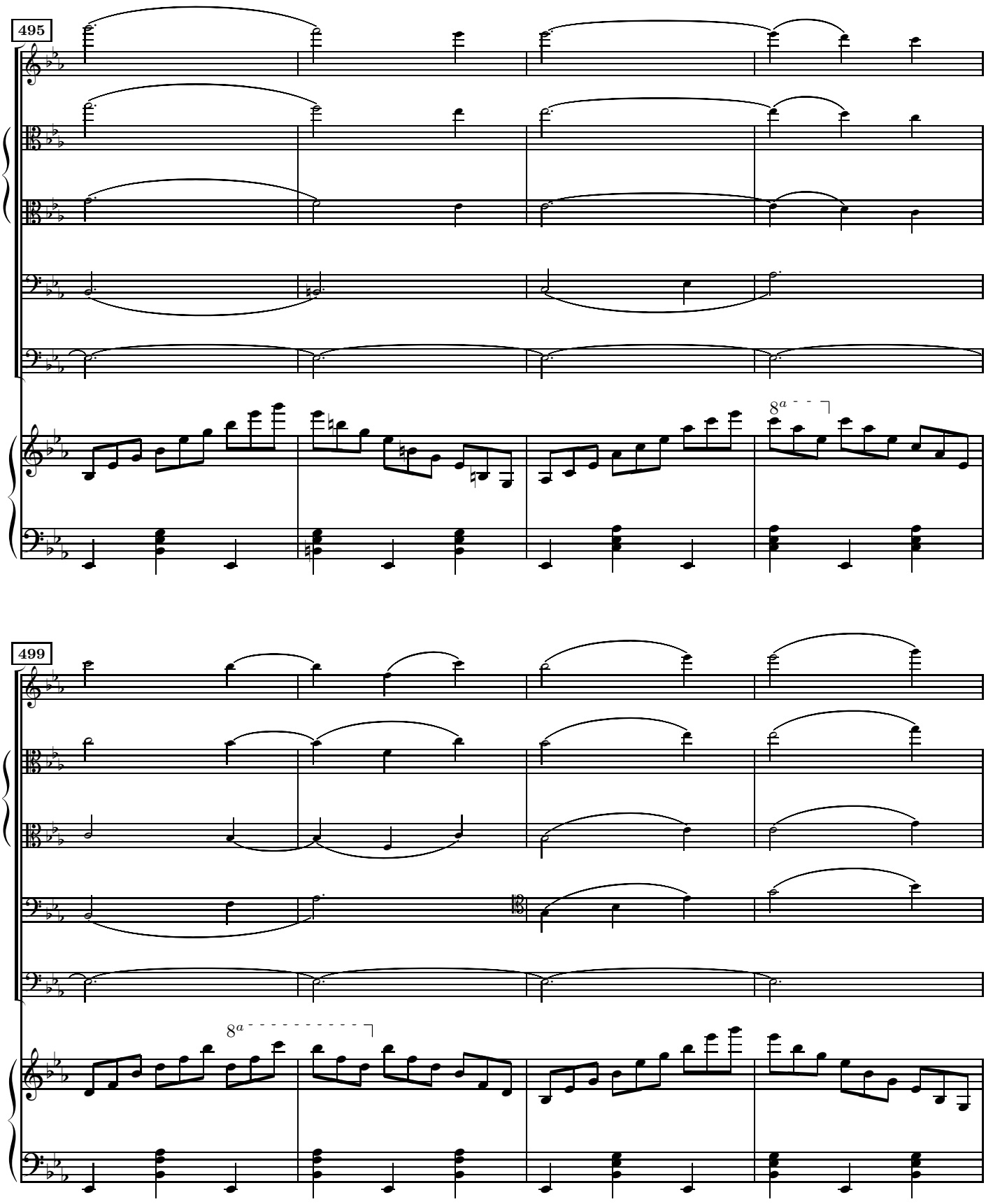

484
pp arco.
490
in Tempo.
rall.
ff
Ped.



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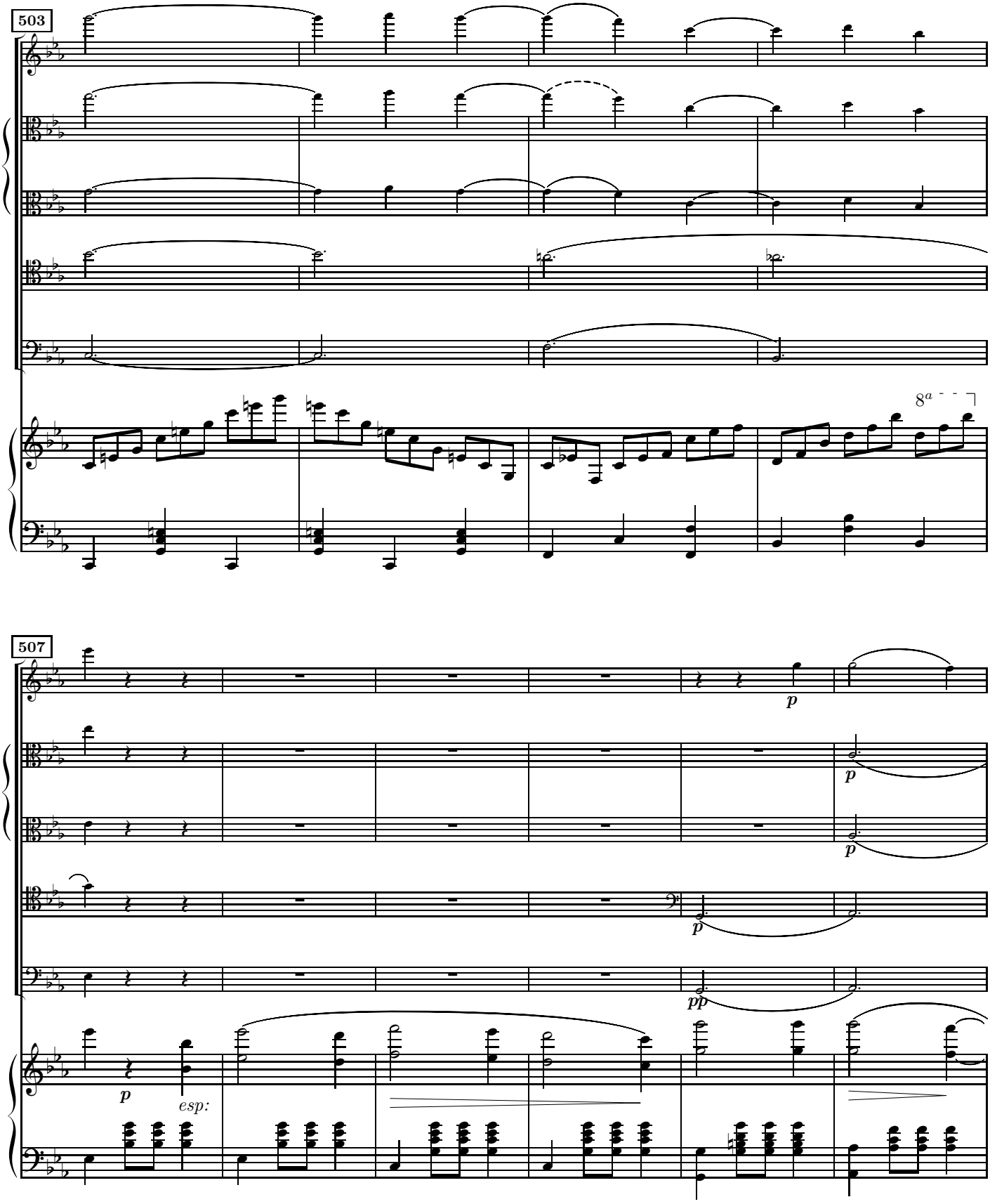
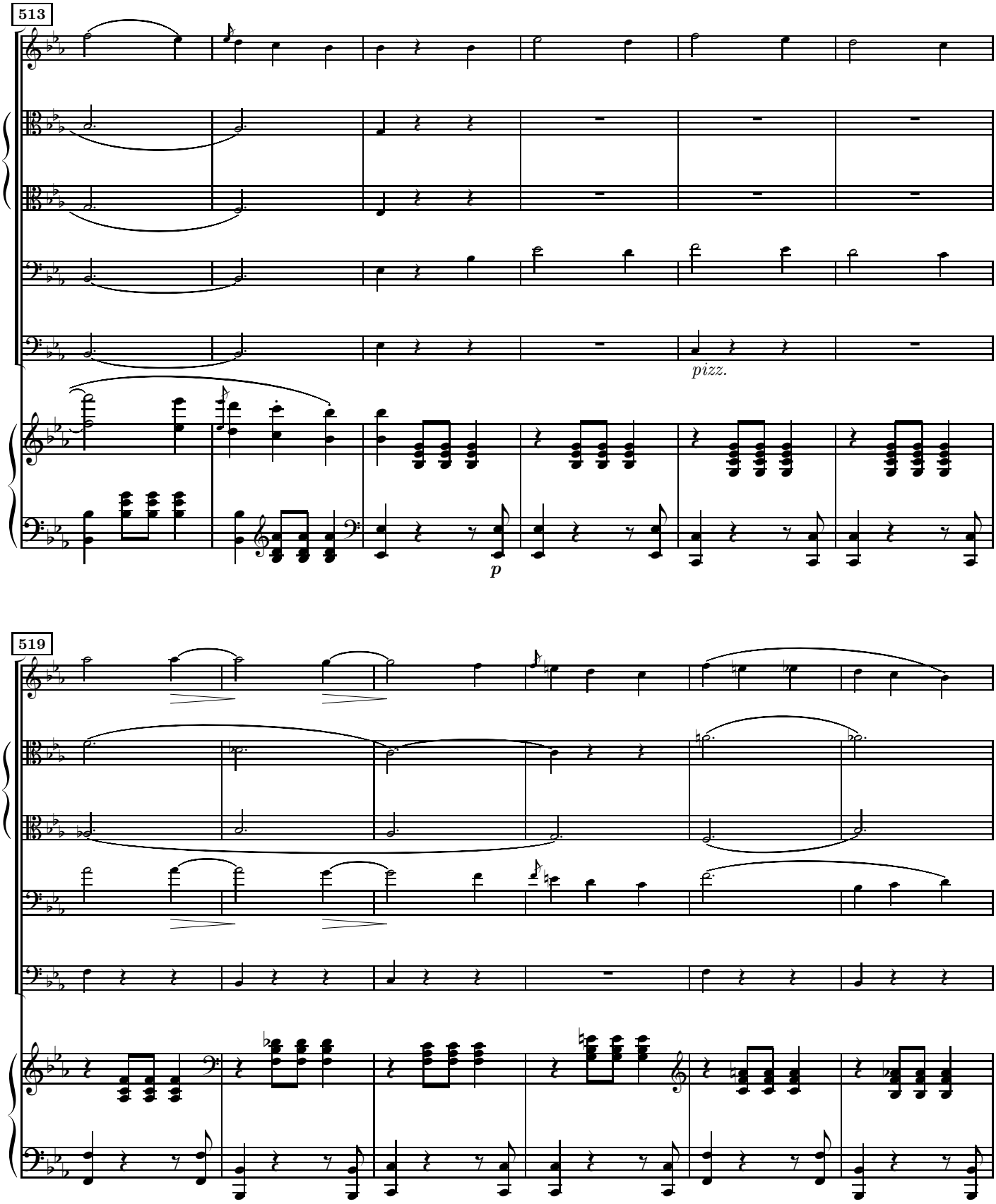

503
8a
507
p
p
p
p
pp
p
esp:



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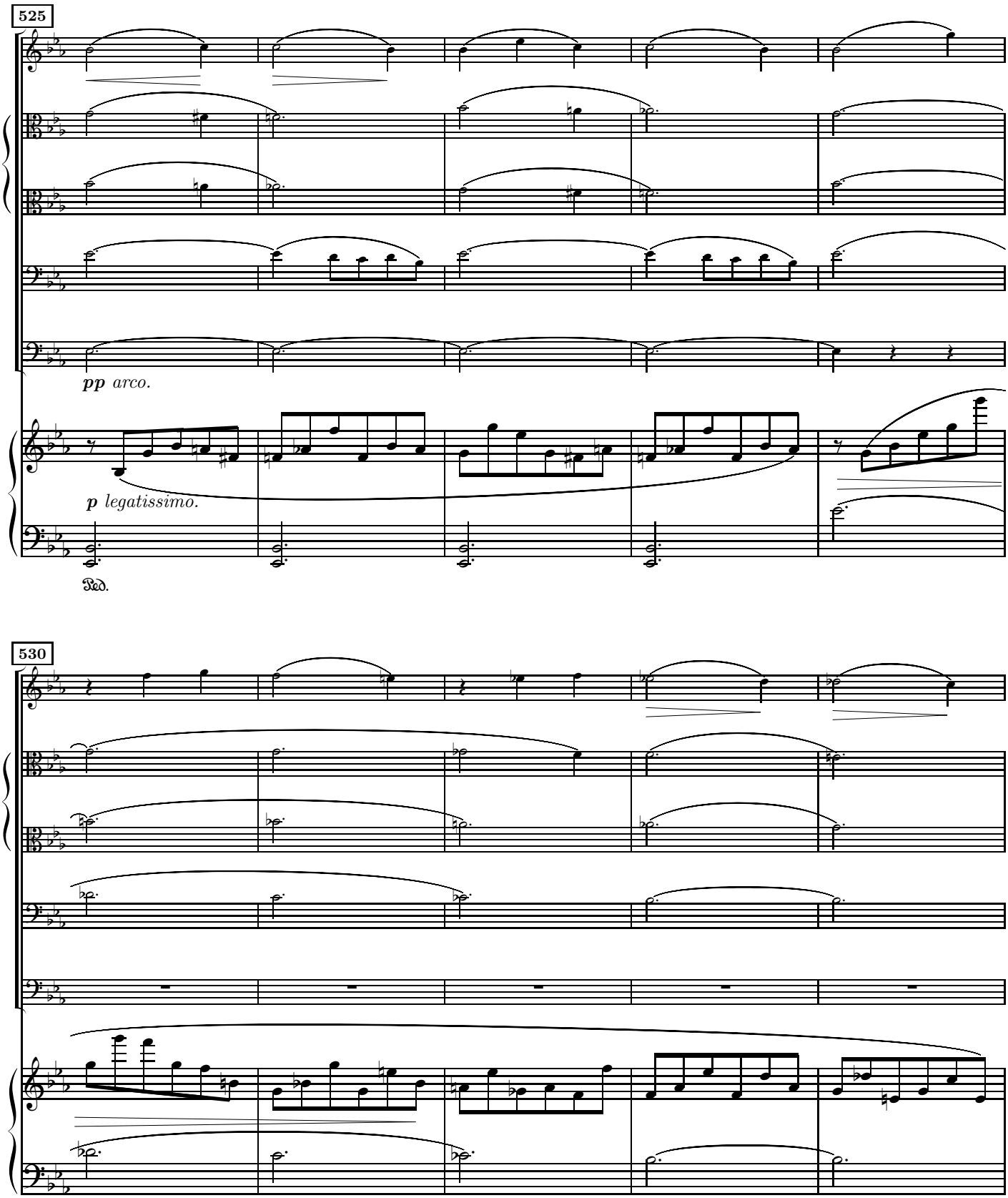
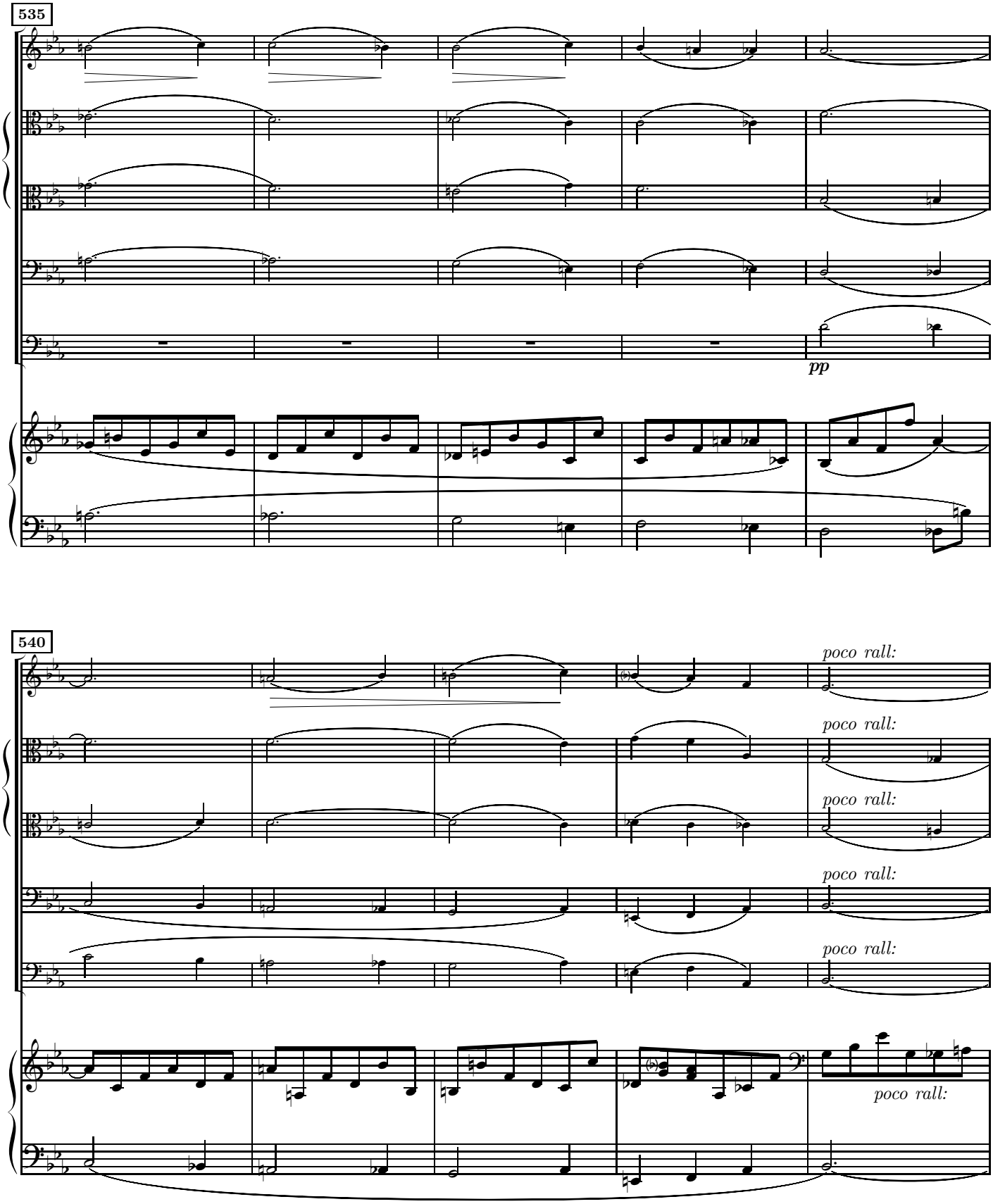

525
pp arco.
p legatissimo.
Ped.
530



Downloaded from the Werner Icking Music Archive.

in Tempo.

545

p

p

p

p *pizz.*

8a

p

leggiero Brillante.

550

p

pp *arco*

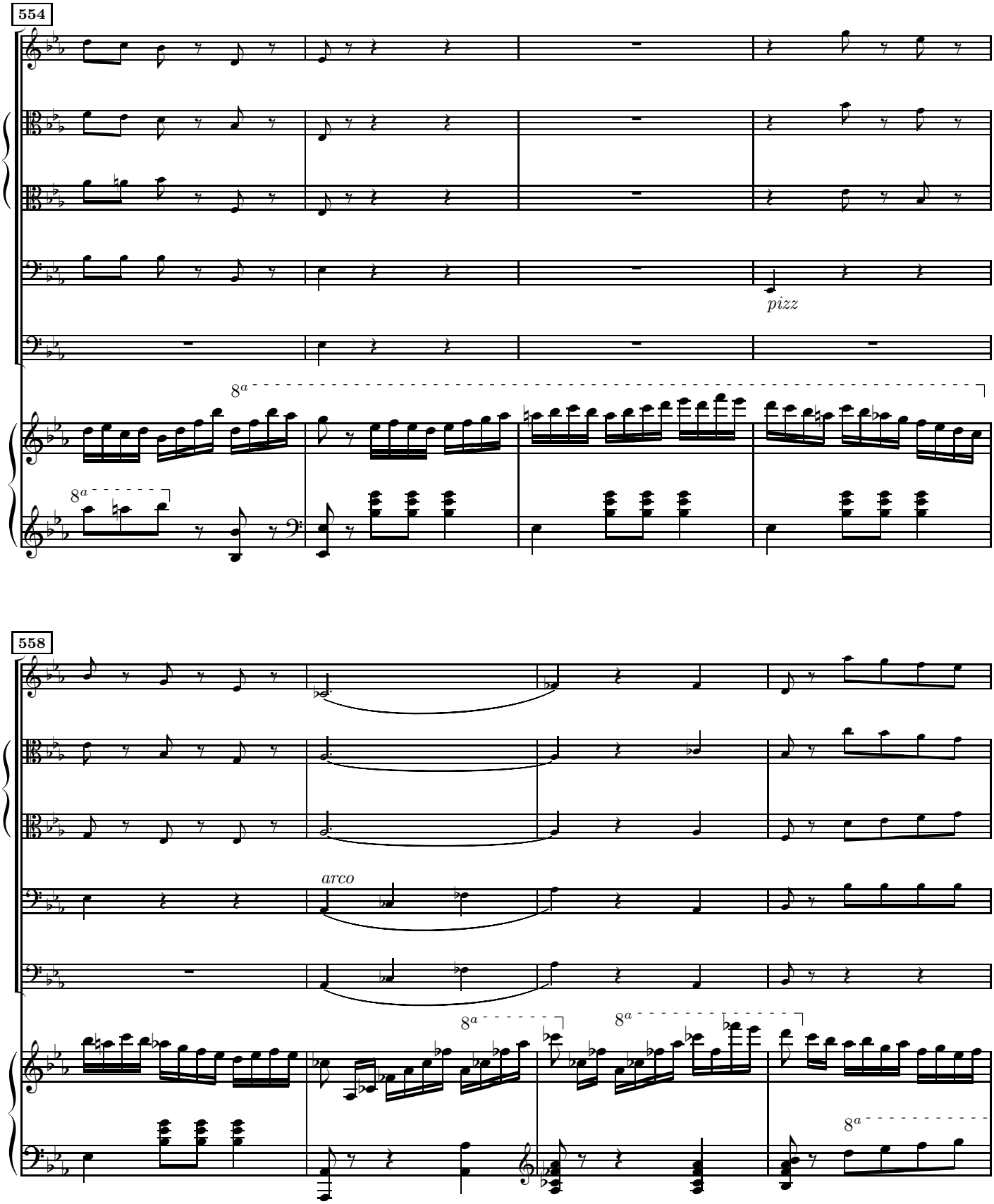
p

pp

8a

8a

8a



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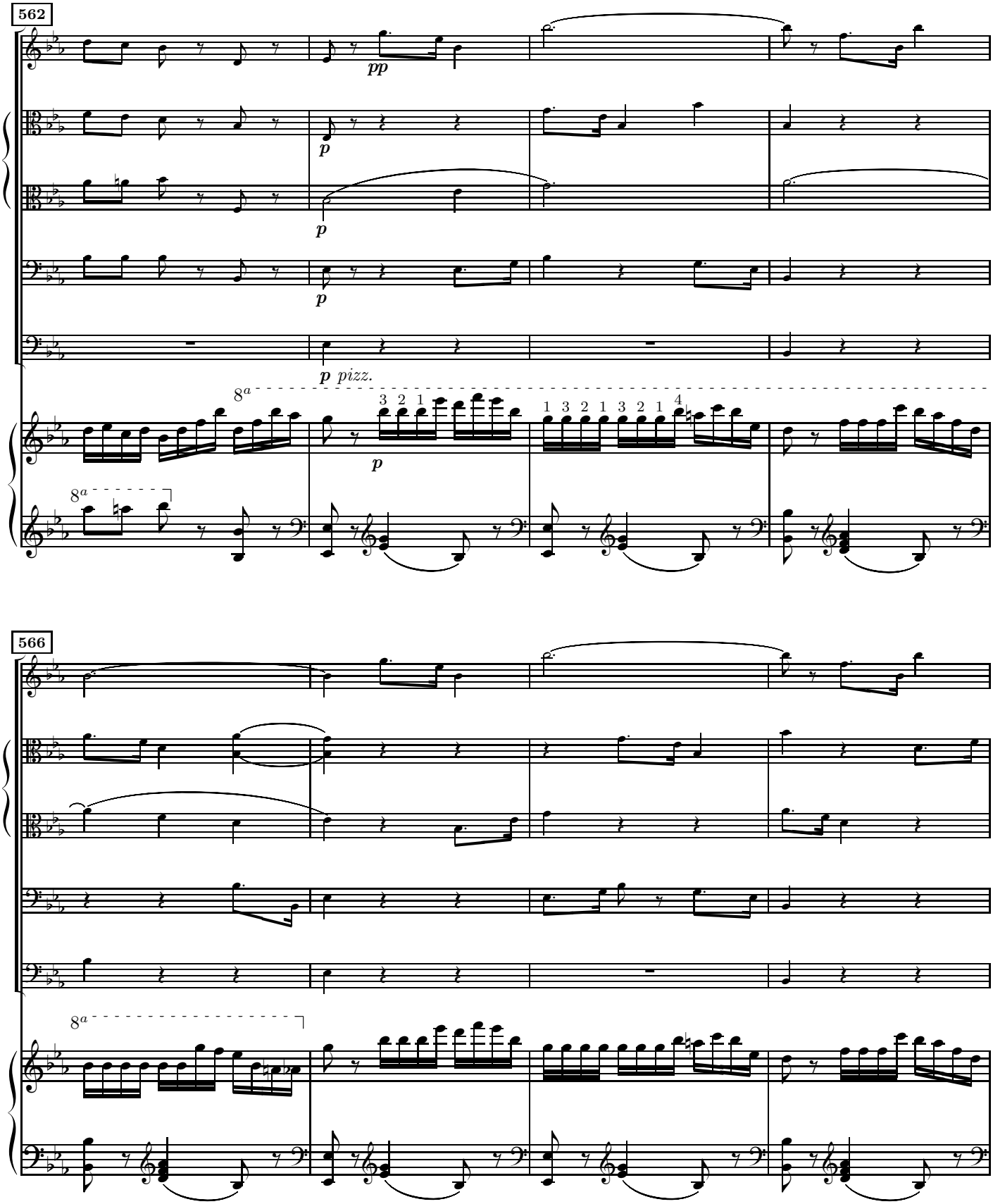
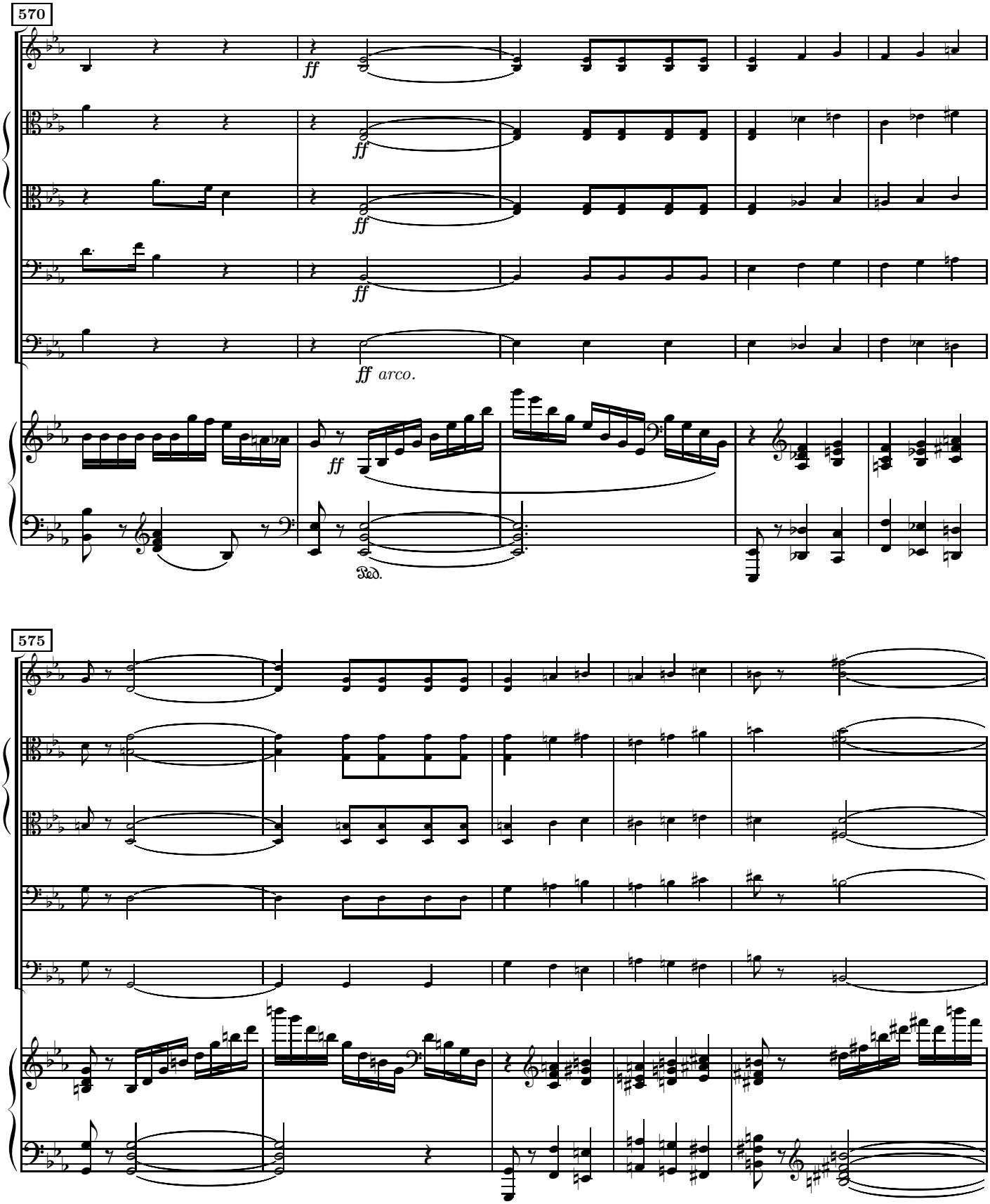

562
pp
p
p
p
p pizz.
8a
3 2 1
1 3 2 1 3 2 1 4
566
8a



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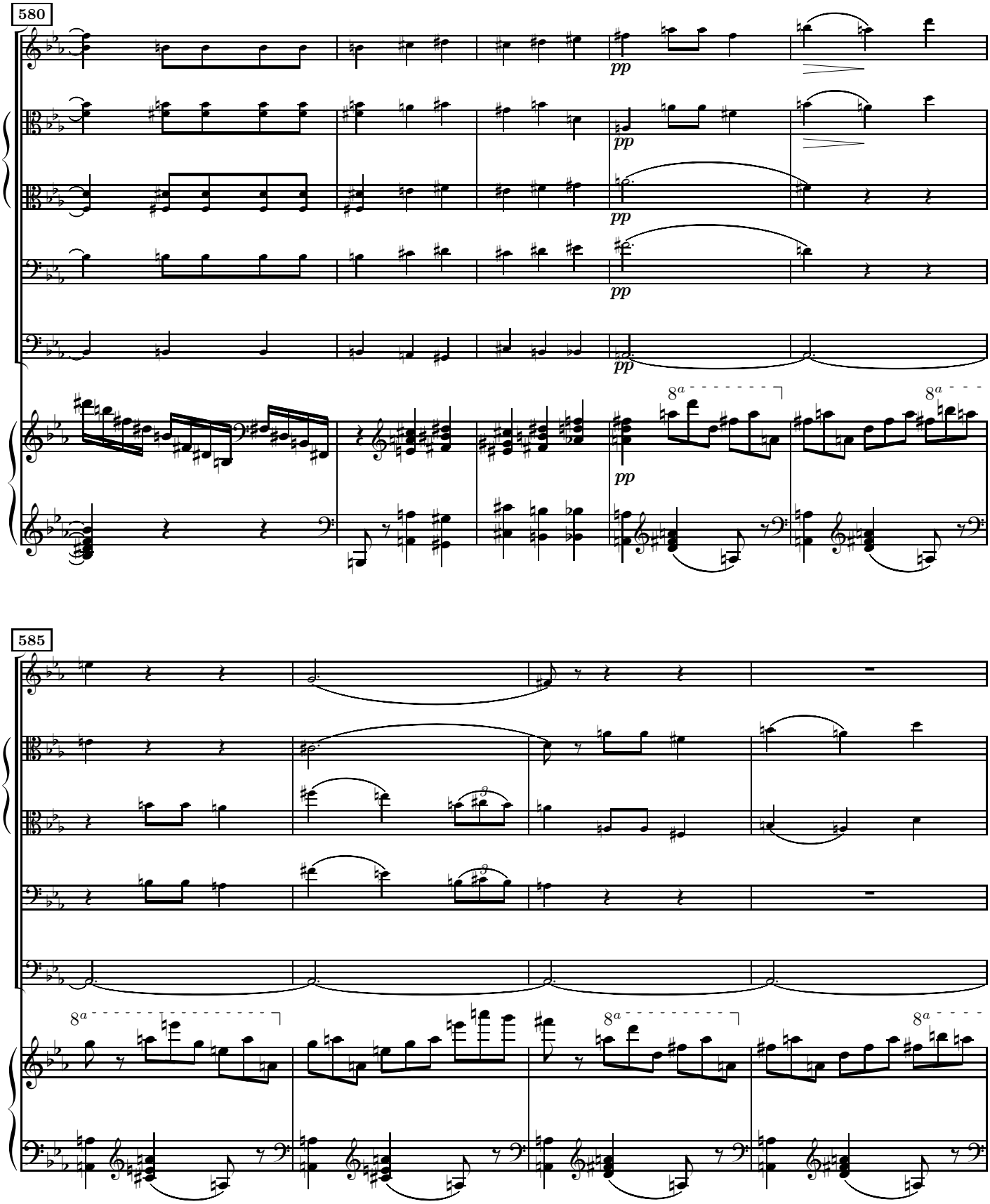
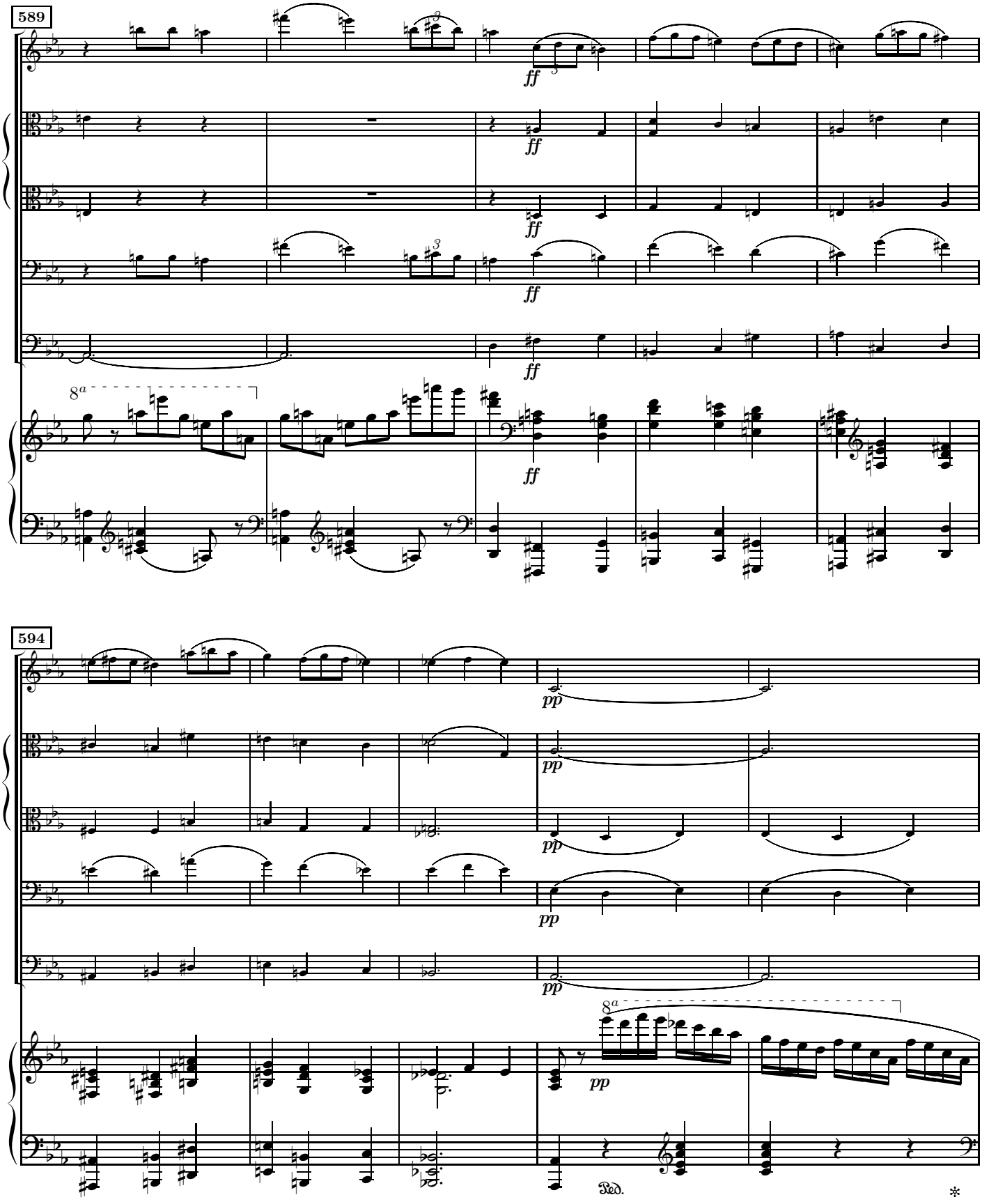

580
pp
pp
pp
pp
pp
8a
8a
585
8a
8a
8a



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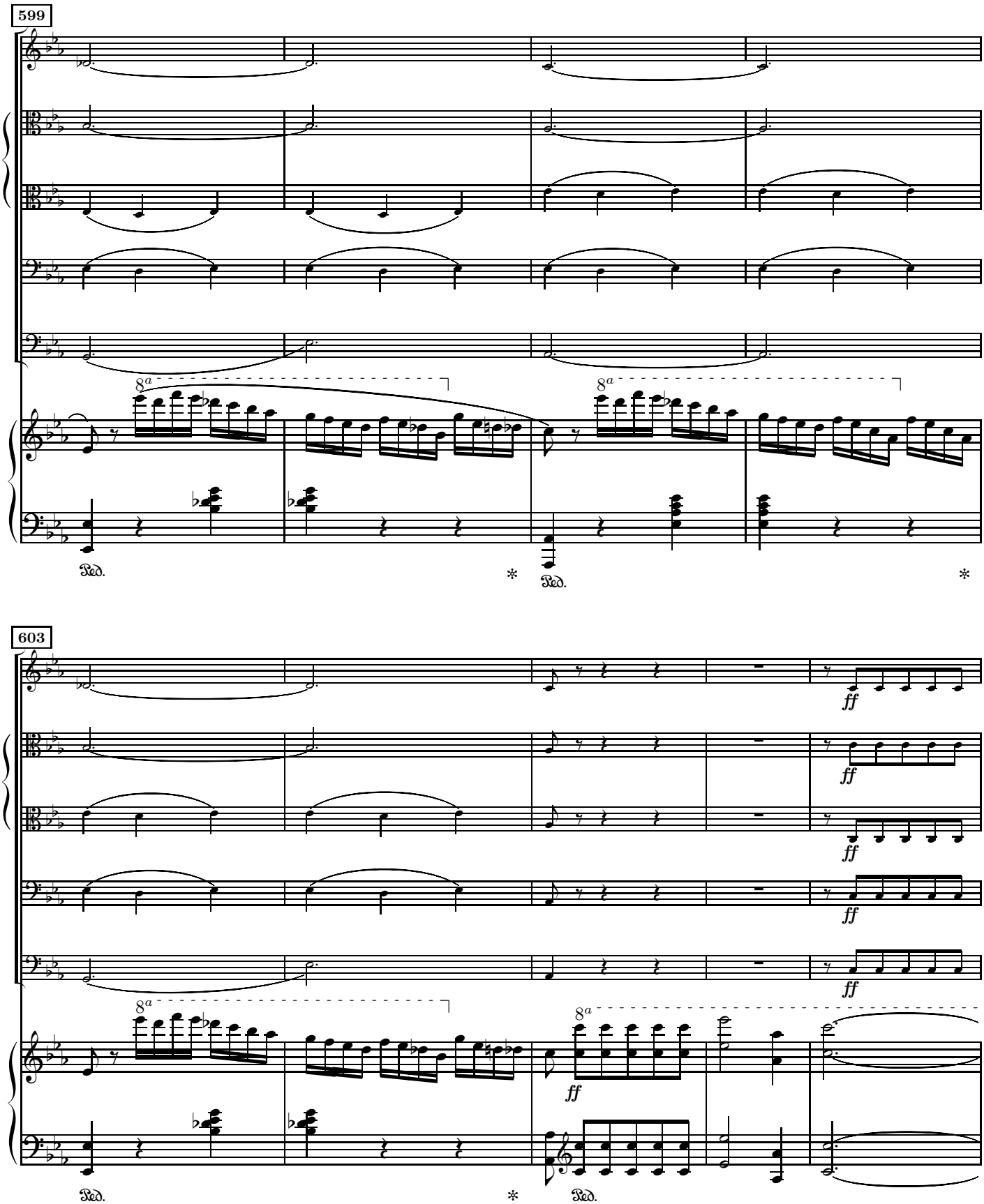
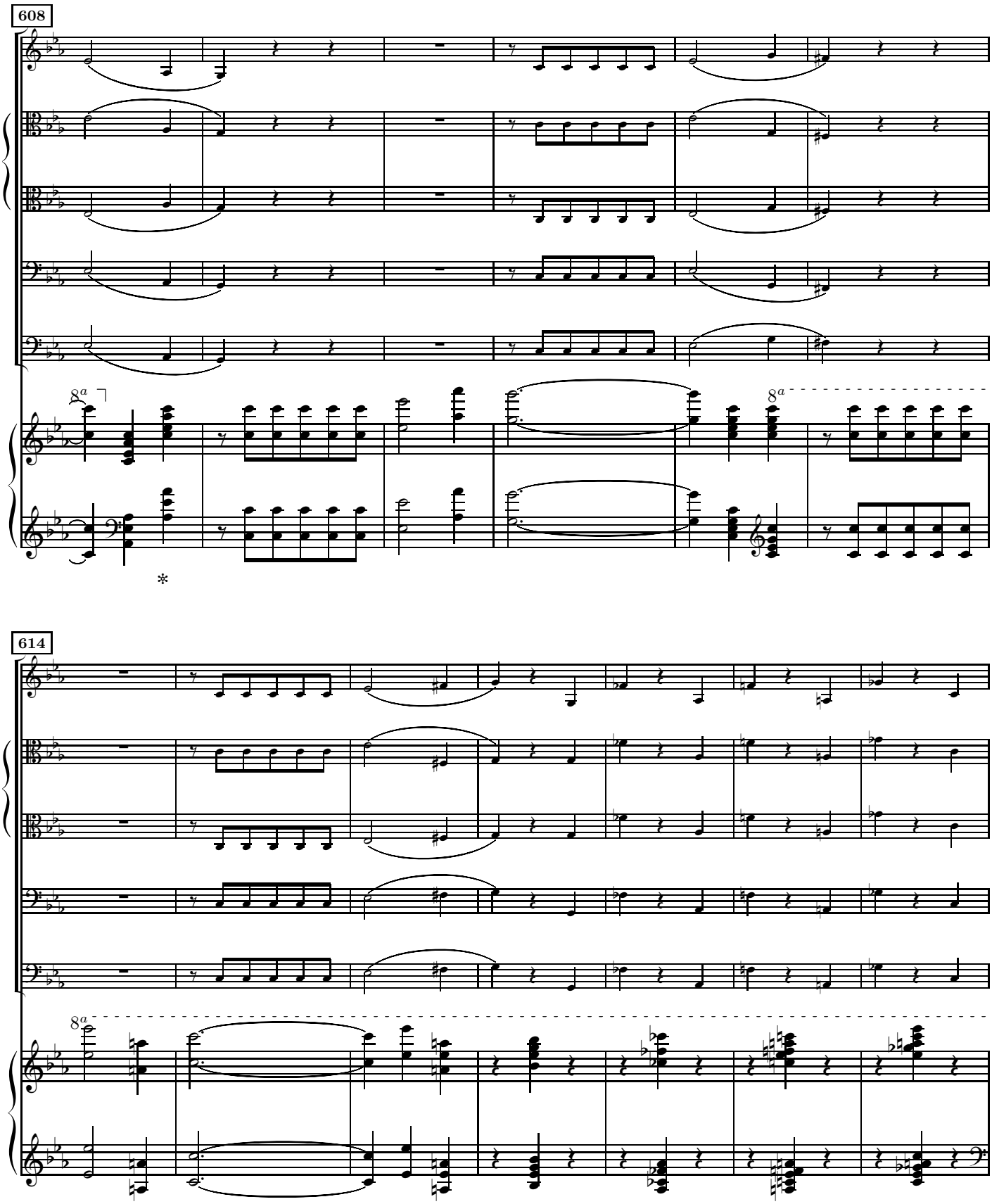

599
8a
Ped.
603
ff
8a
Ped.



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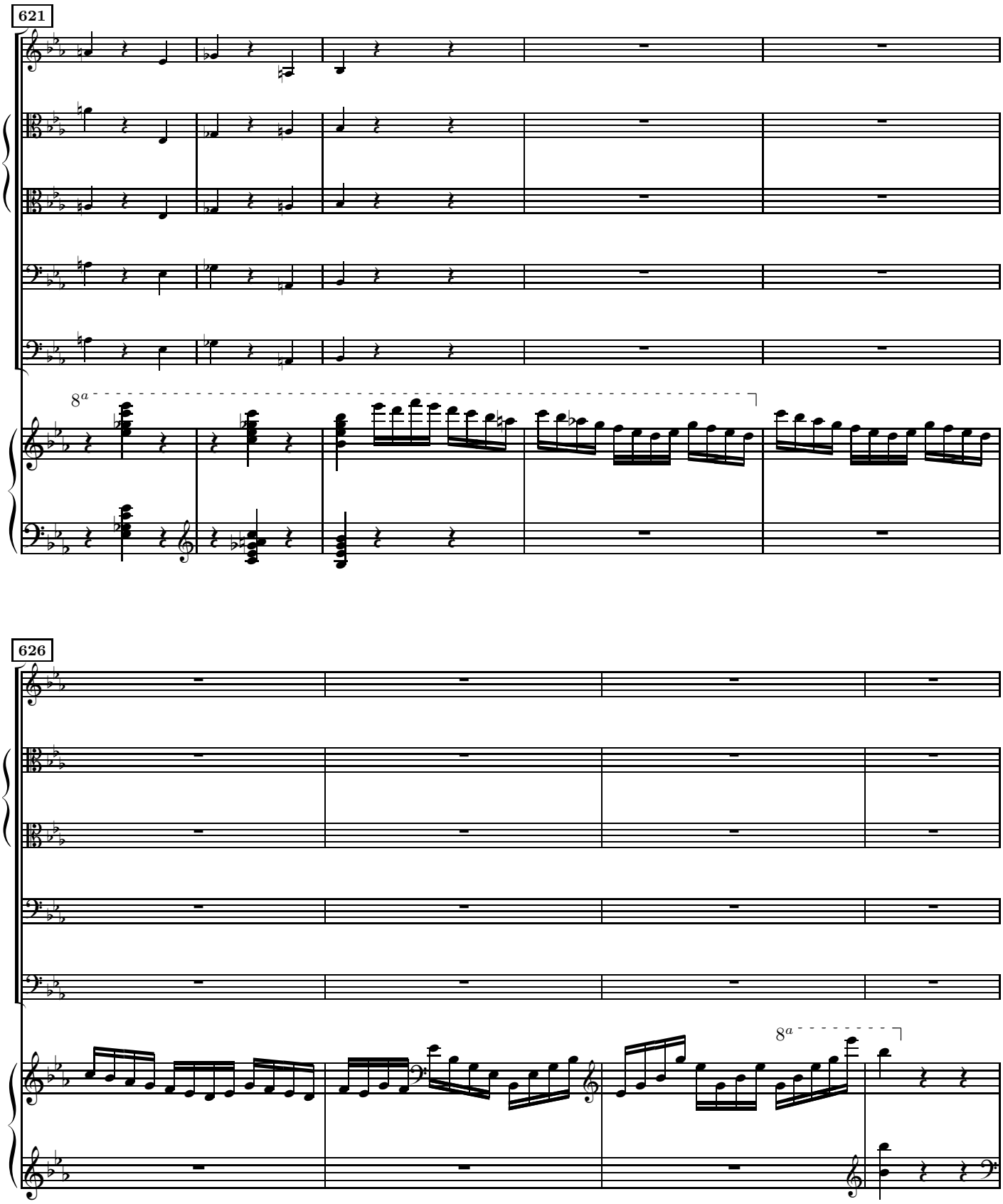
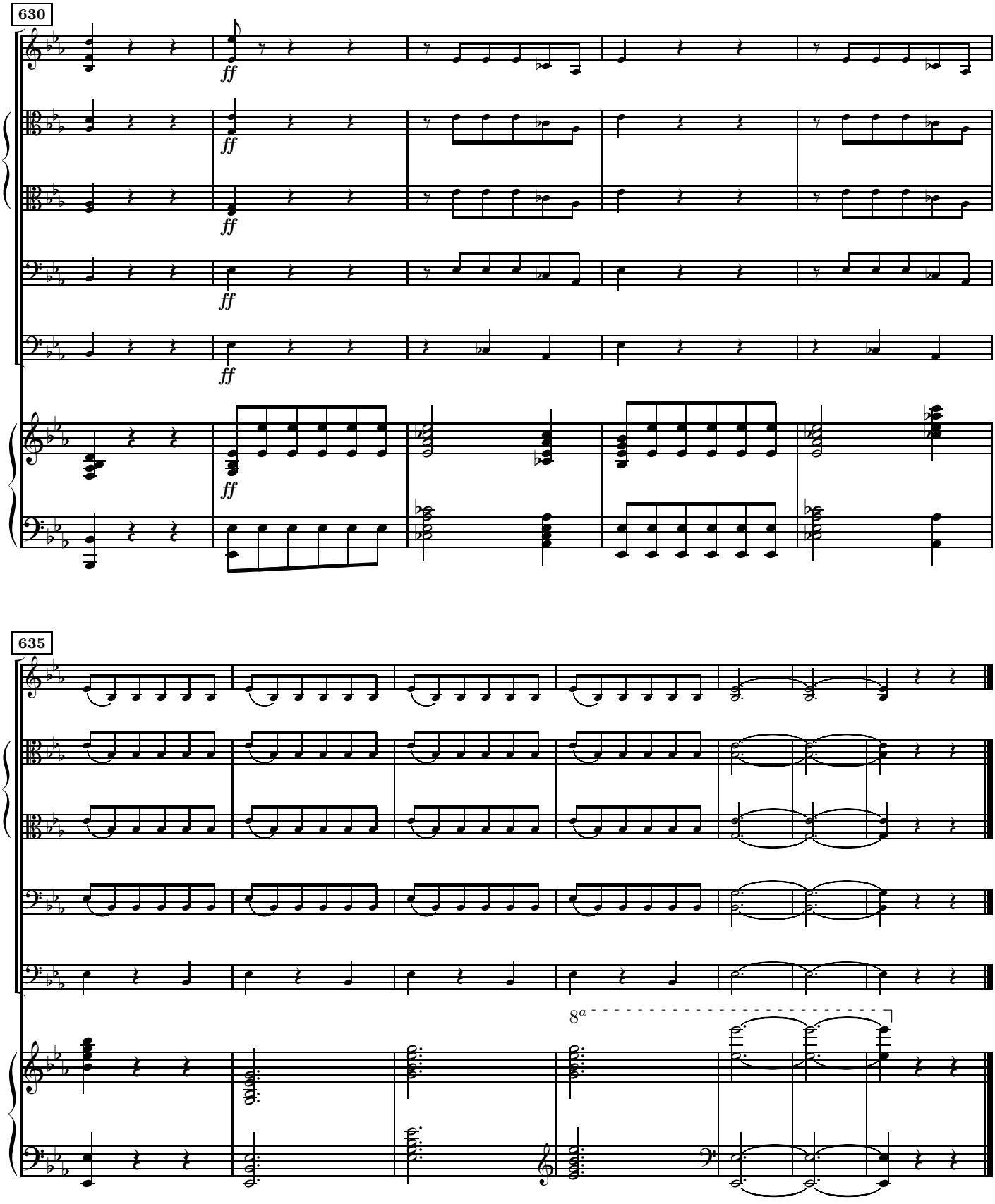

621
8a
626
8a



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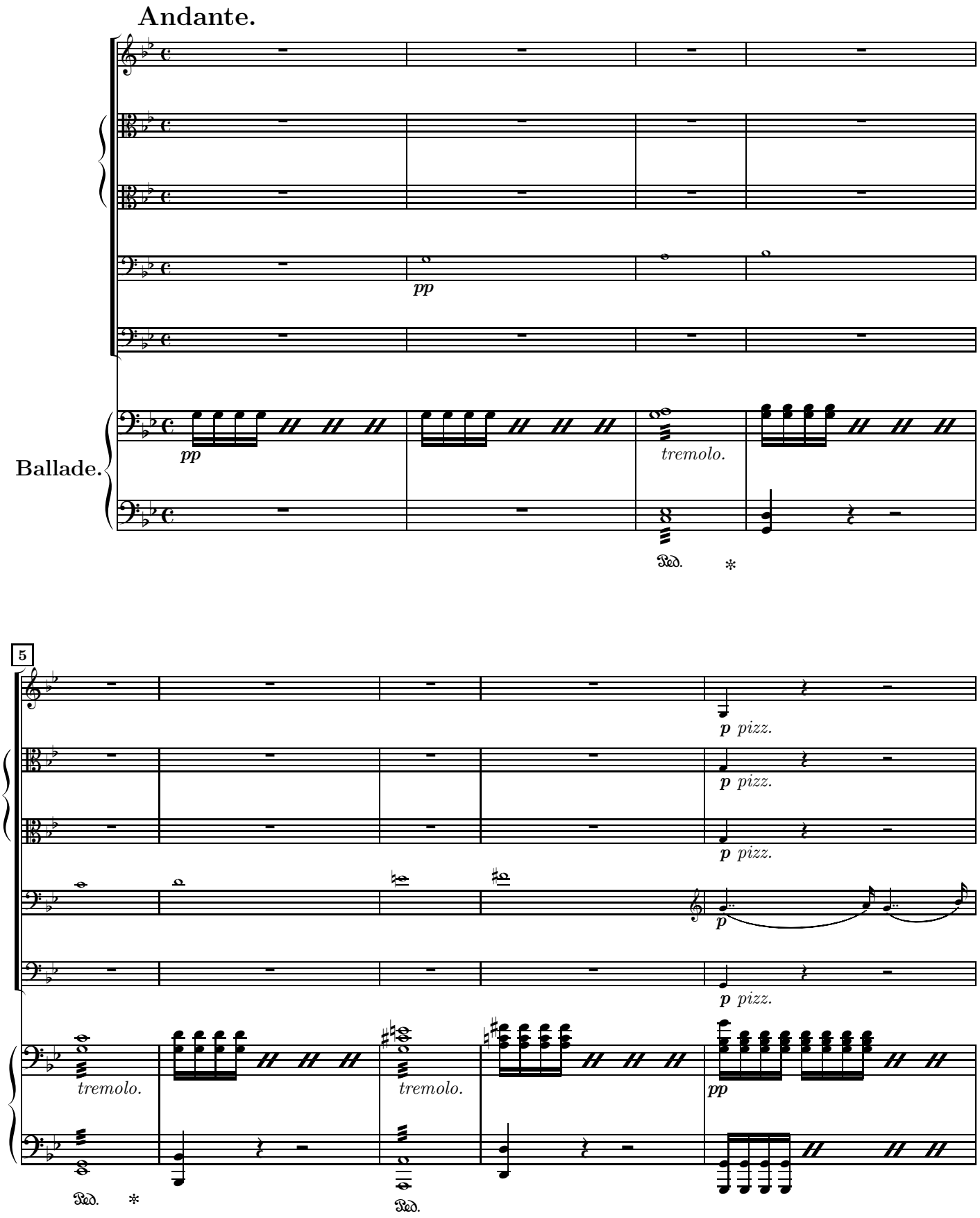
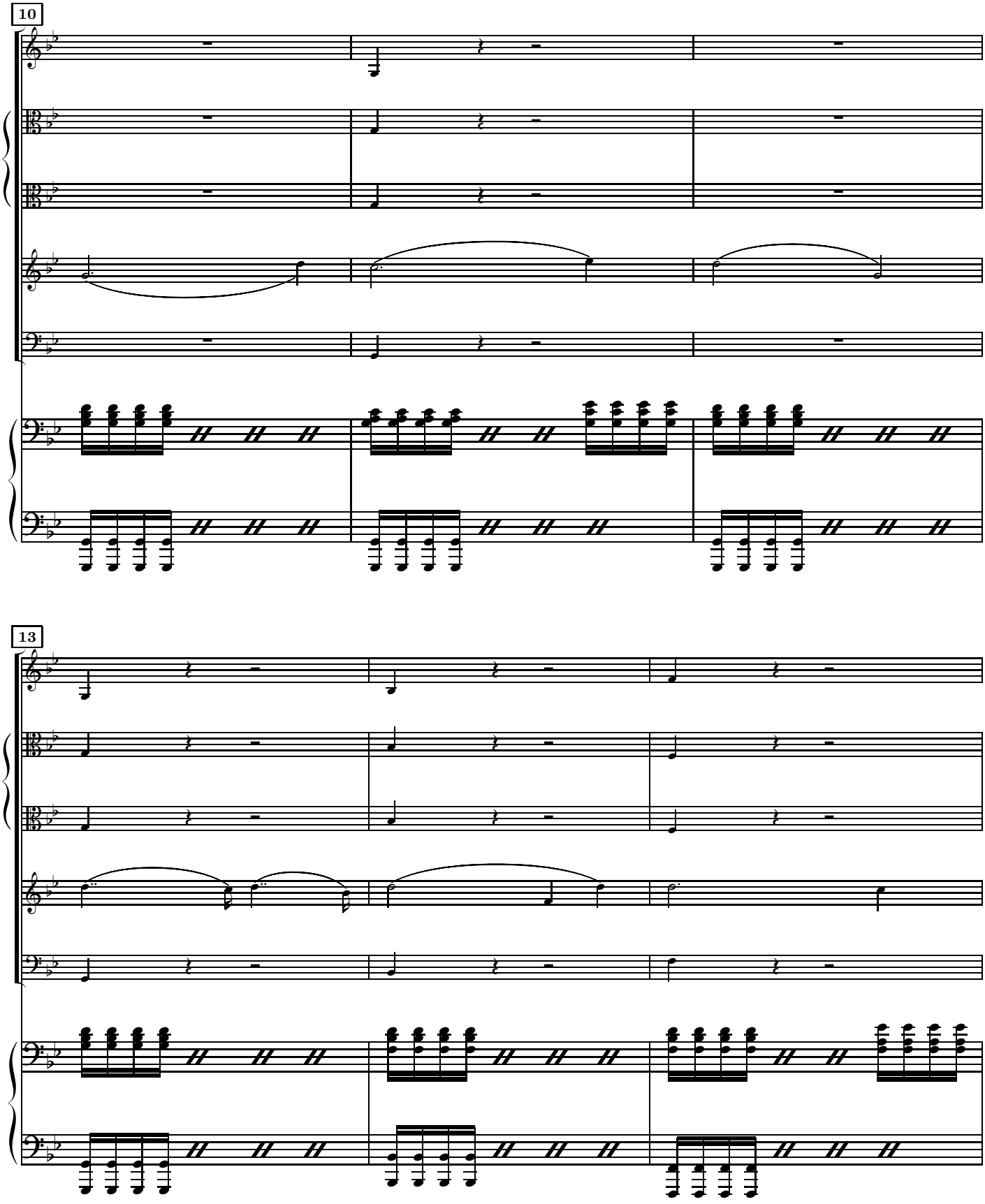

Andante.
pp
Ballade.
pp
tremolo.
Ped.
5
p pizz.
p pizz.
p pizz.
p
p pizz.
tremolo.
tremolo.
pp
Ped.
Ped.



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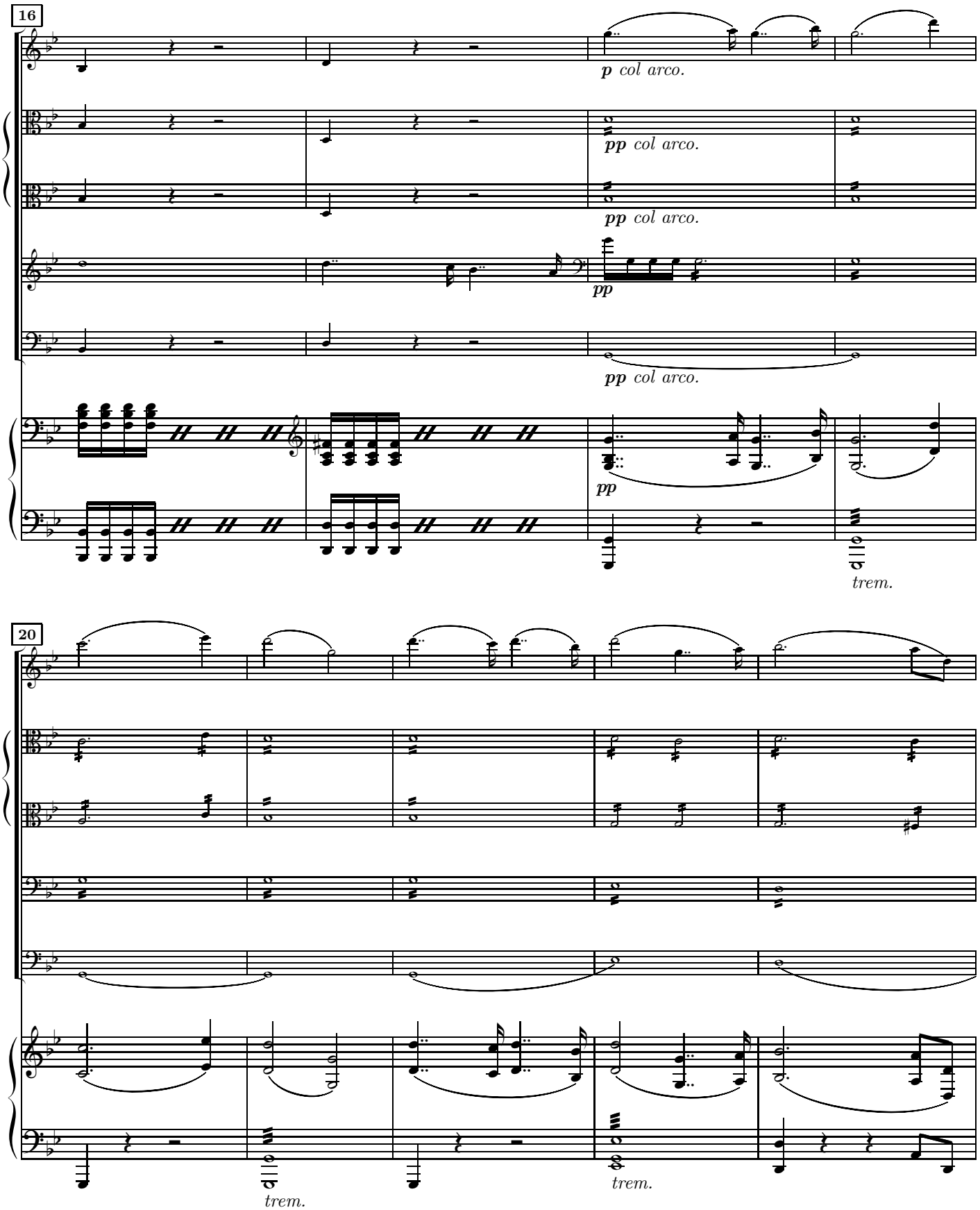
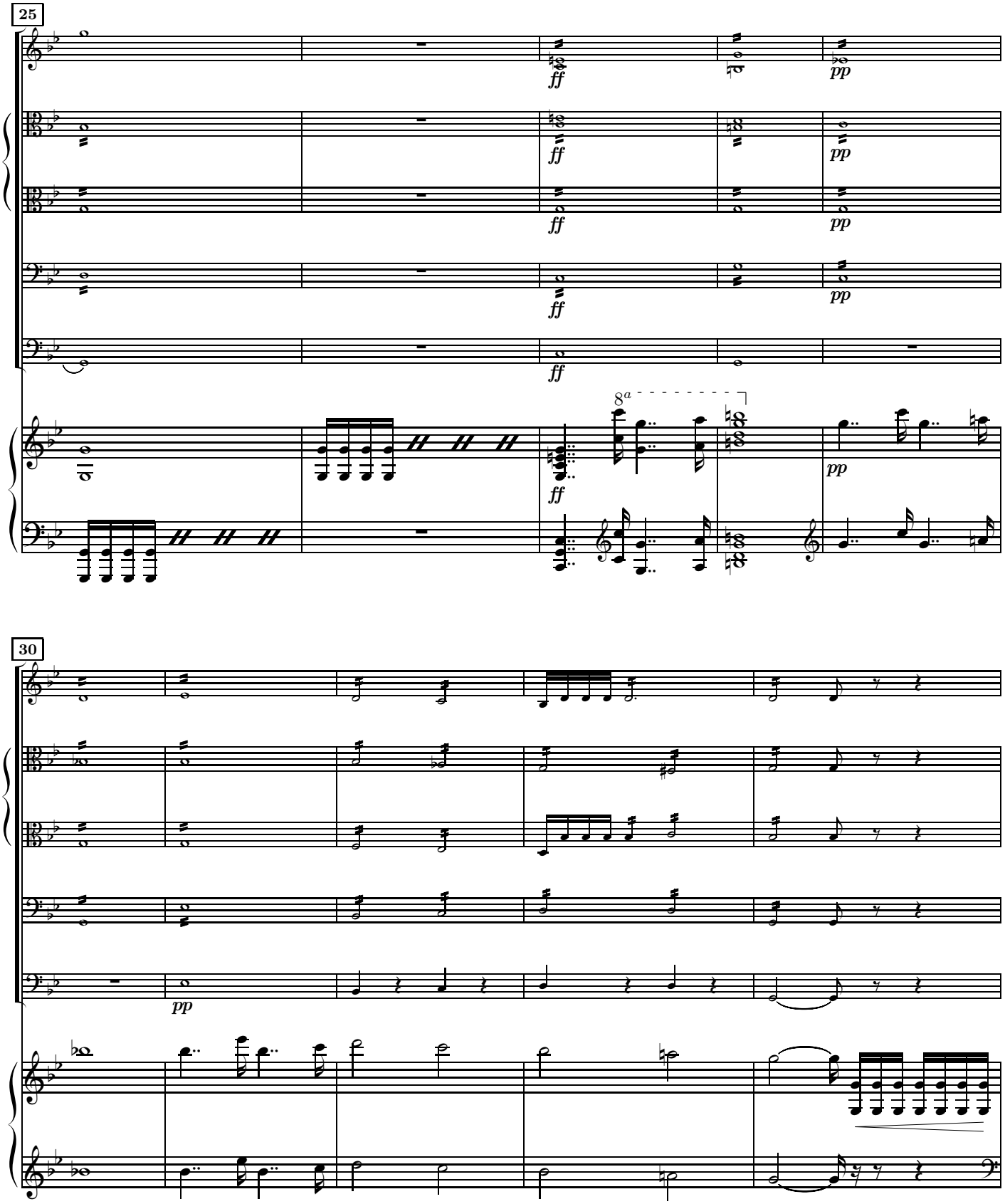

16
p col arco.
pp col arco.
pp col arco.
pp
pp col arco.
pp
trem.
20
trem.
trem.



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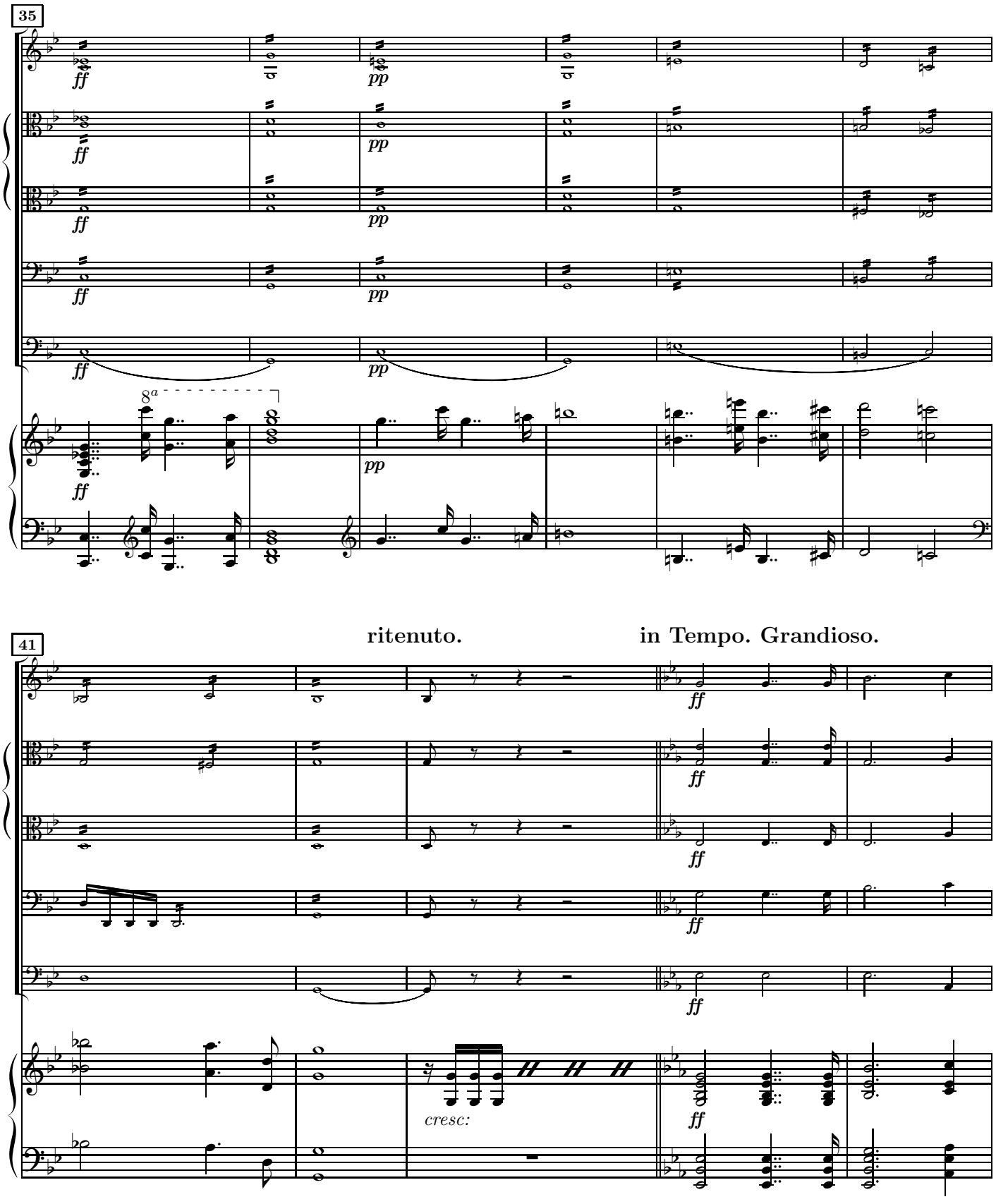
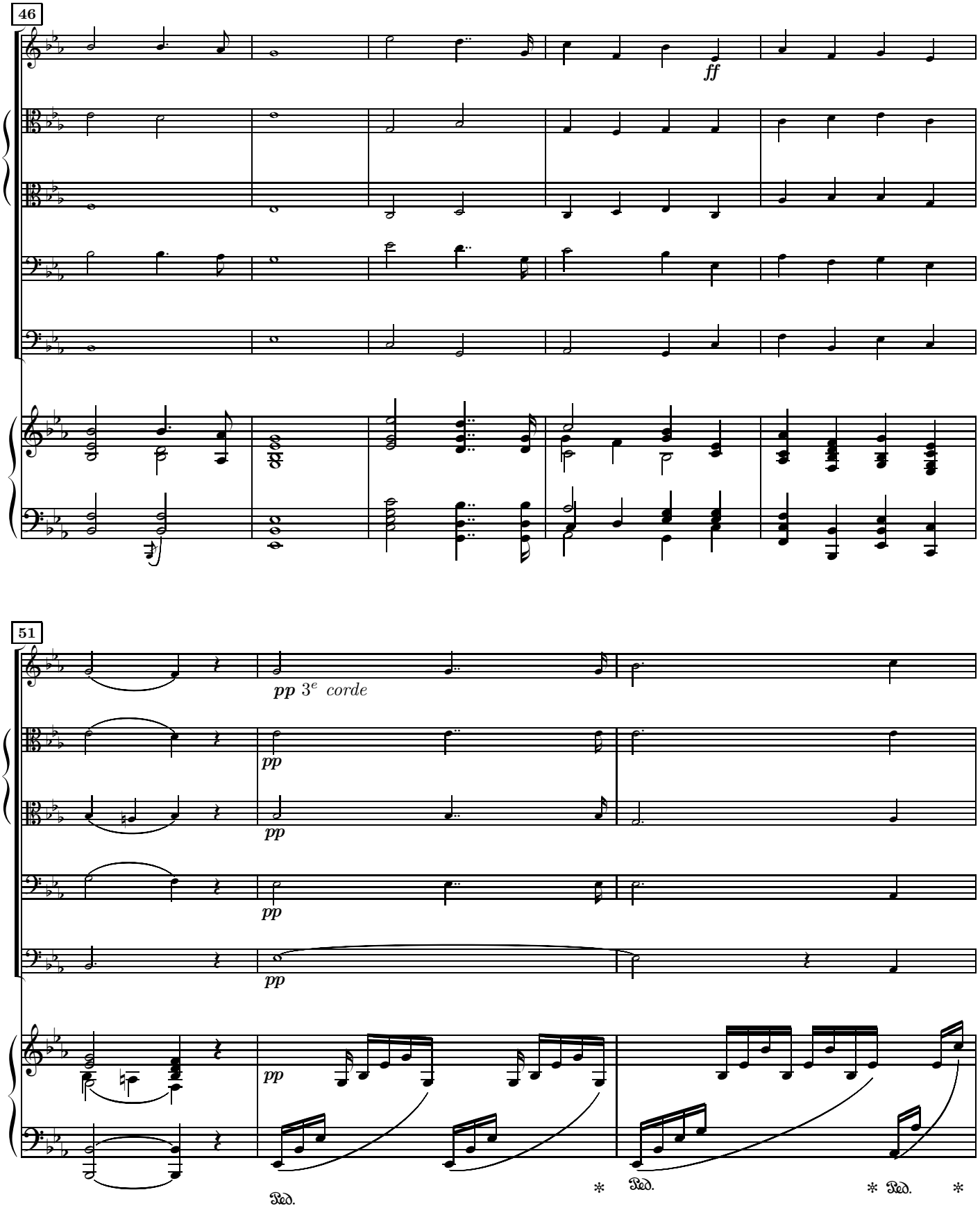

35
ff
pp
8a
41
ritenuto.
in Tempo. Grandioso.
cresc:



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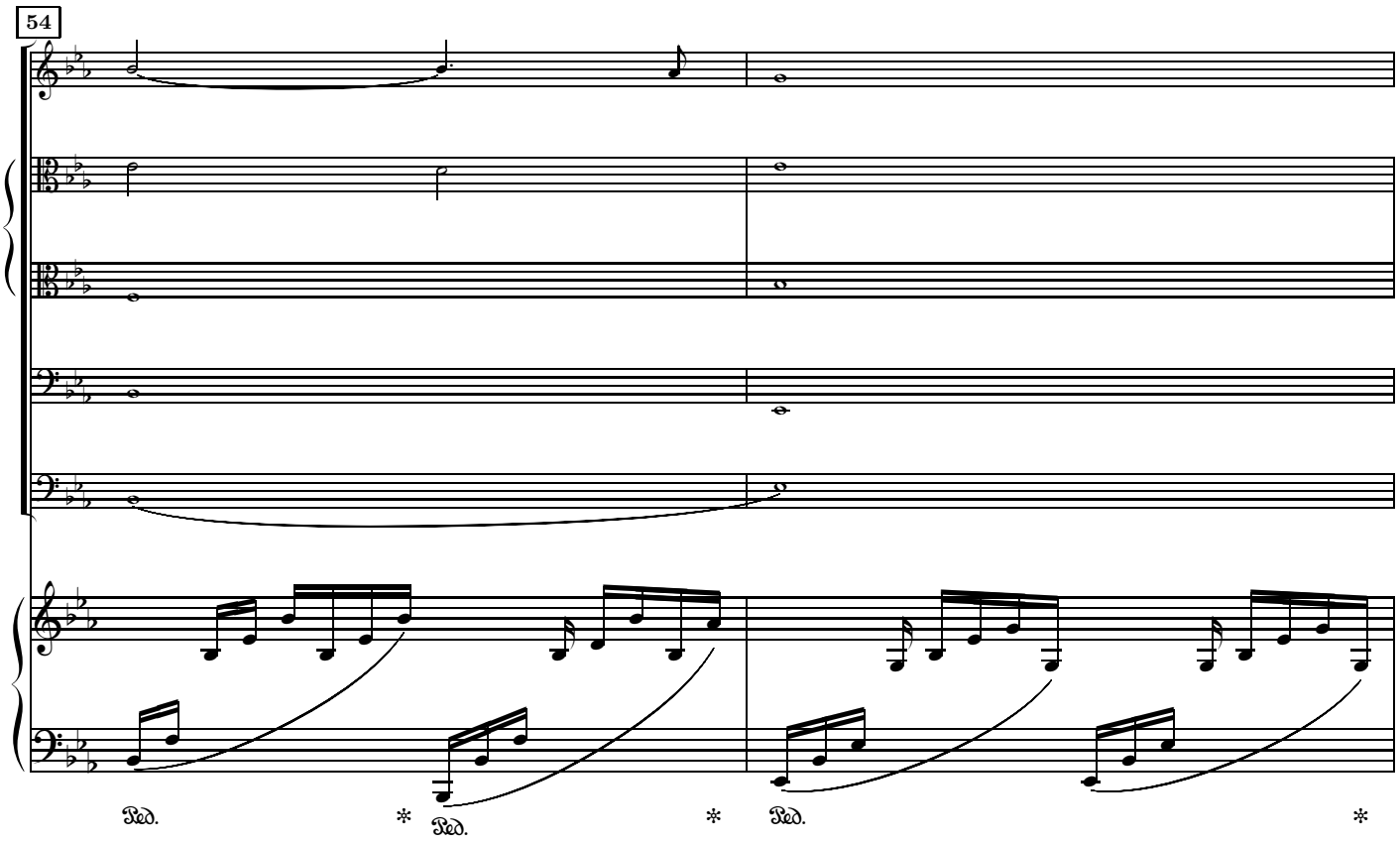
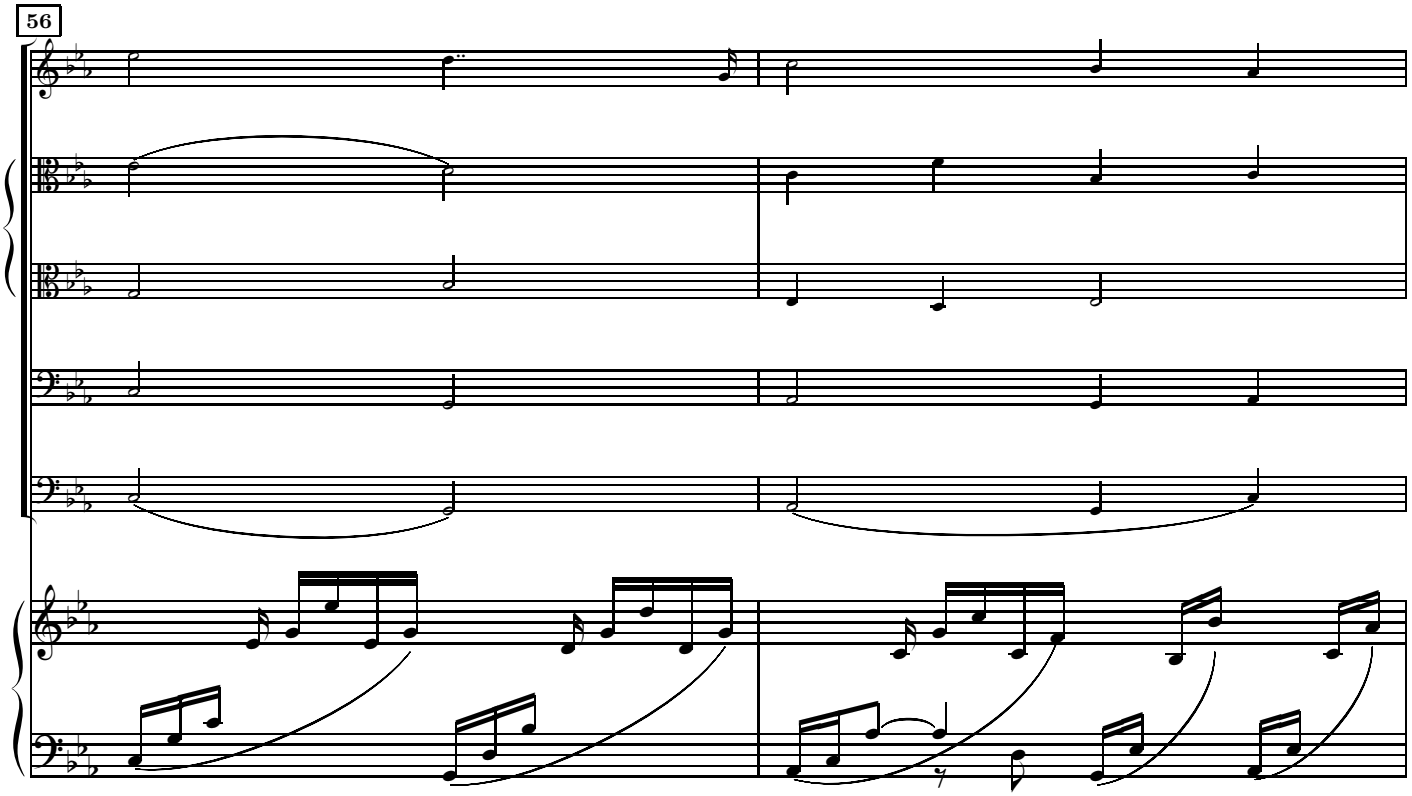
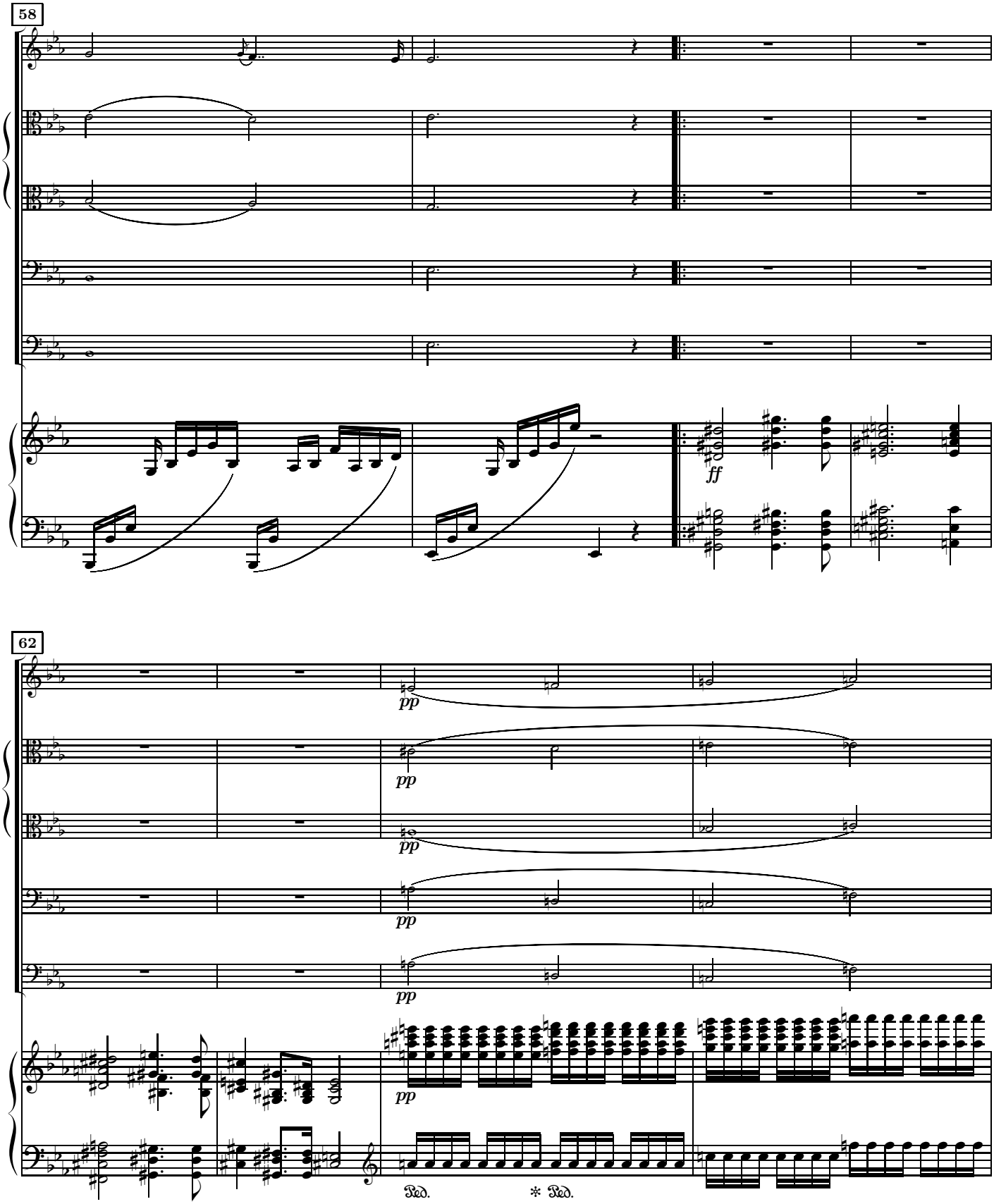

54
Ped.
*
Ped.
*
Ped.
*


56



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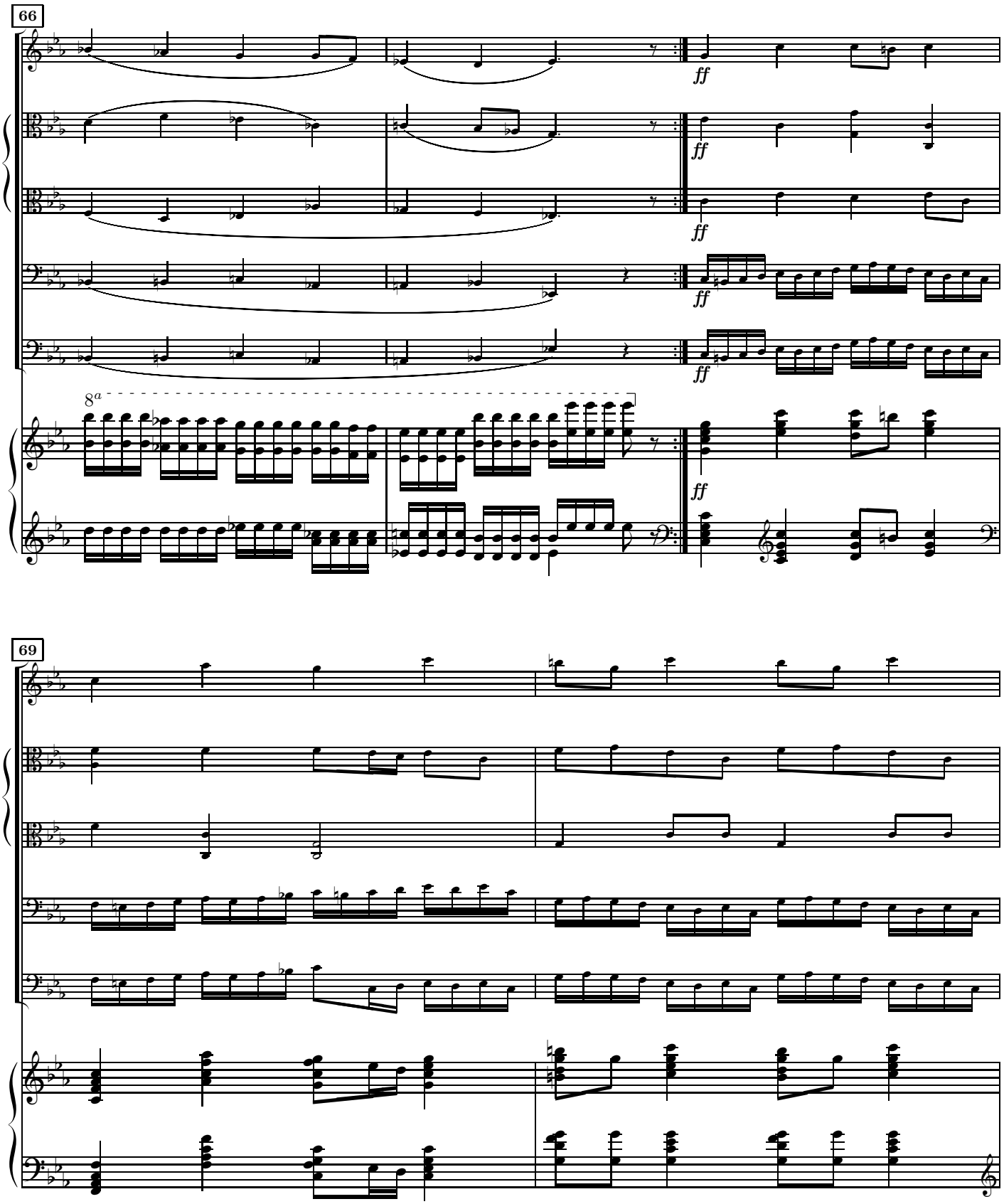
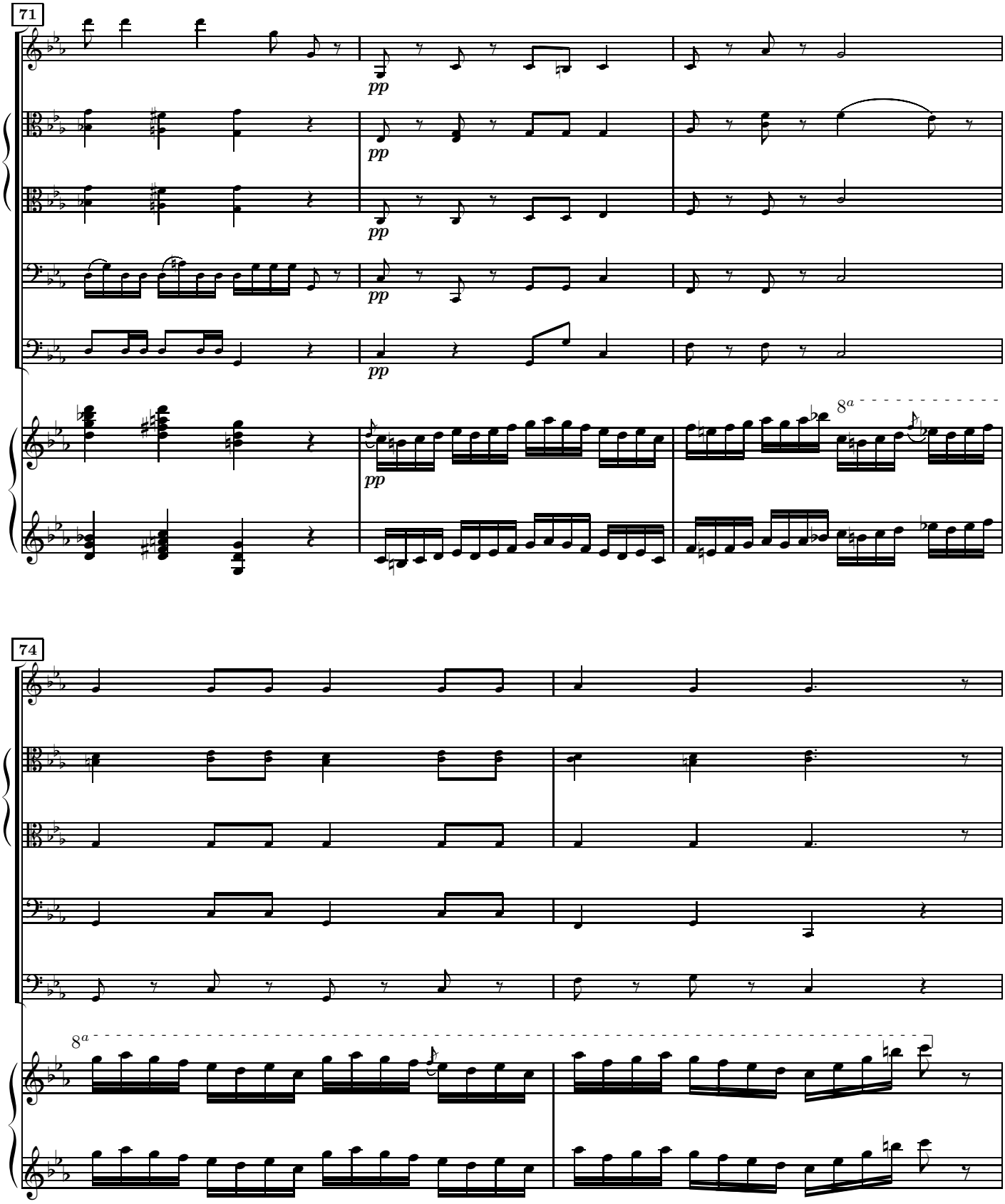

66
ff
8a
69



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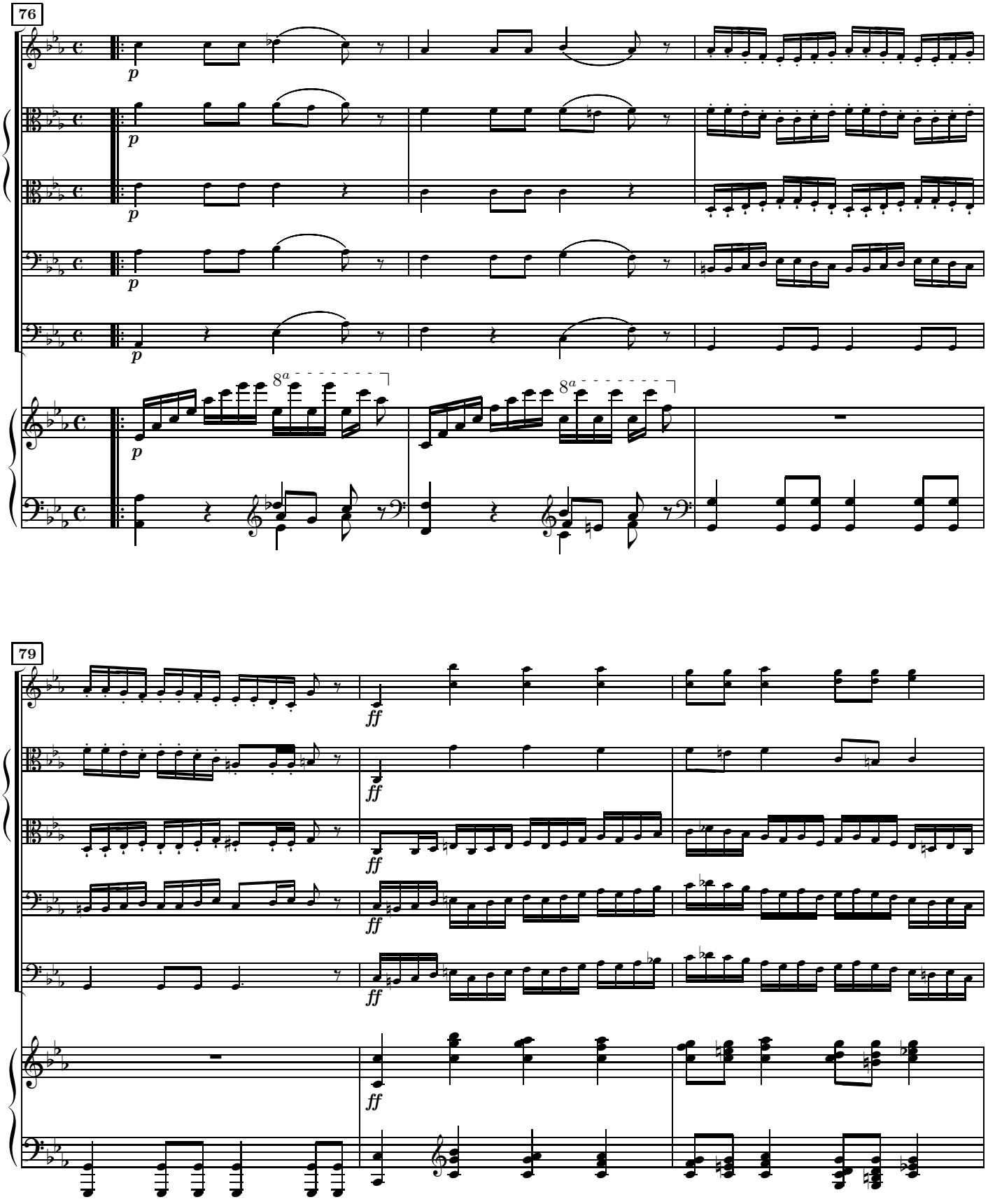
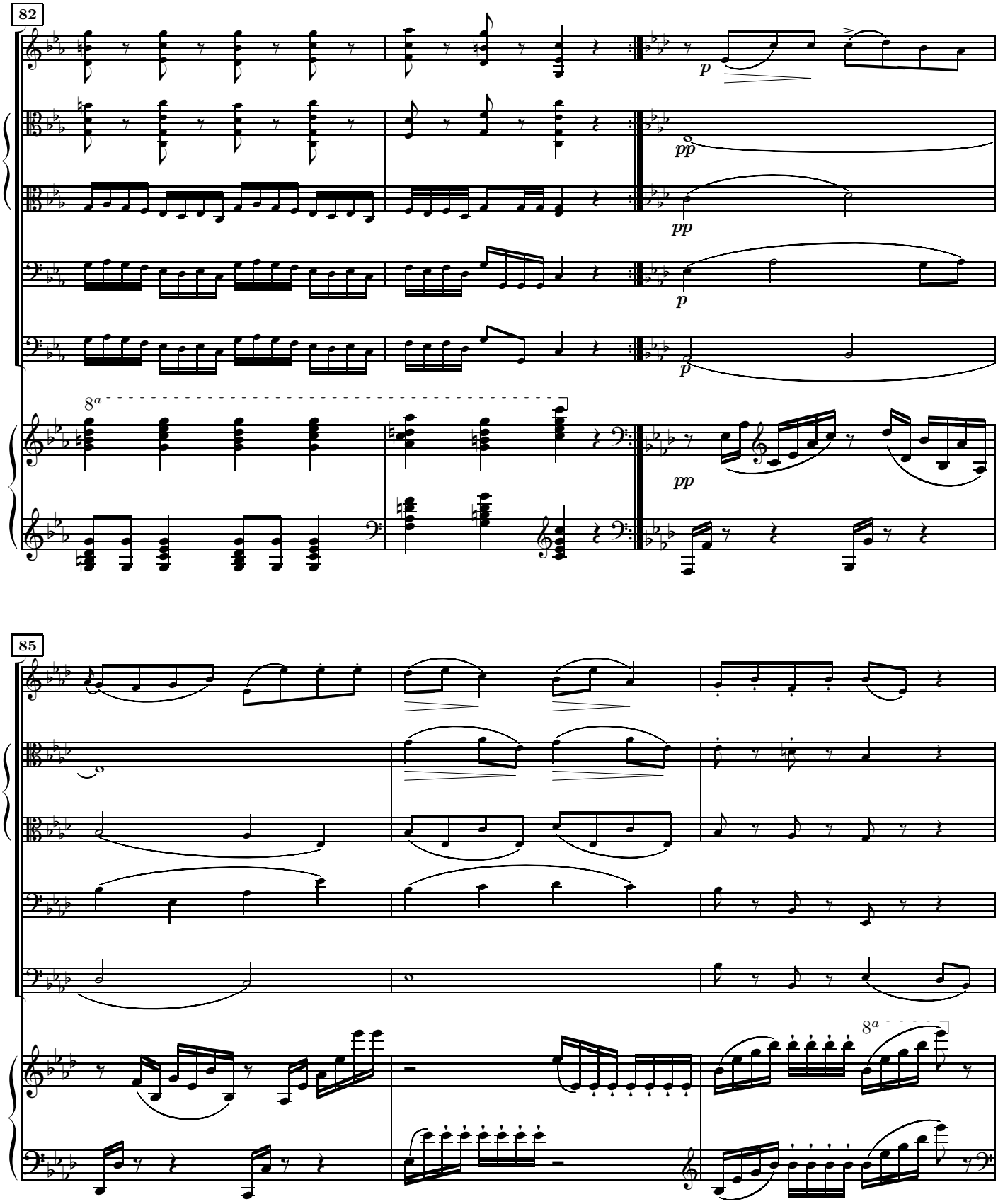

76
p
8a
79
ff



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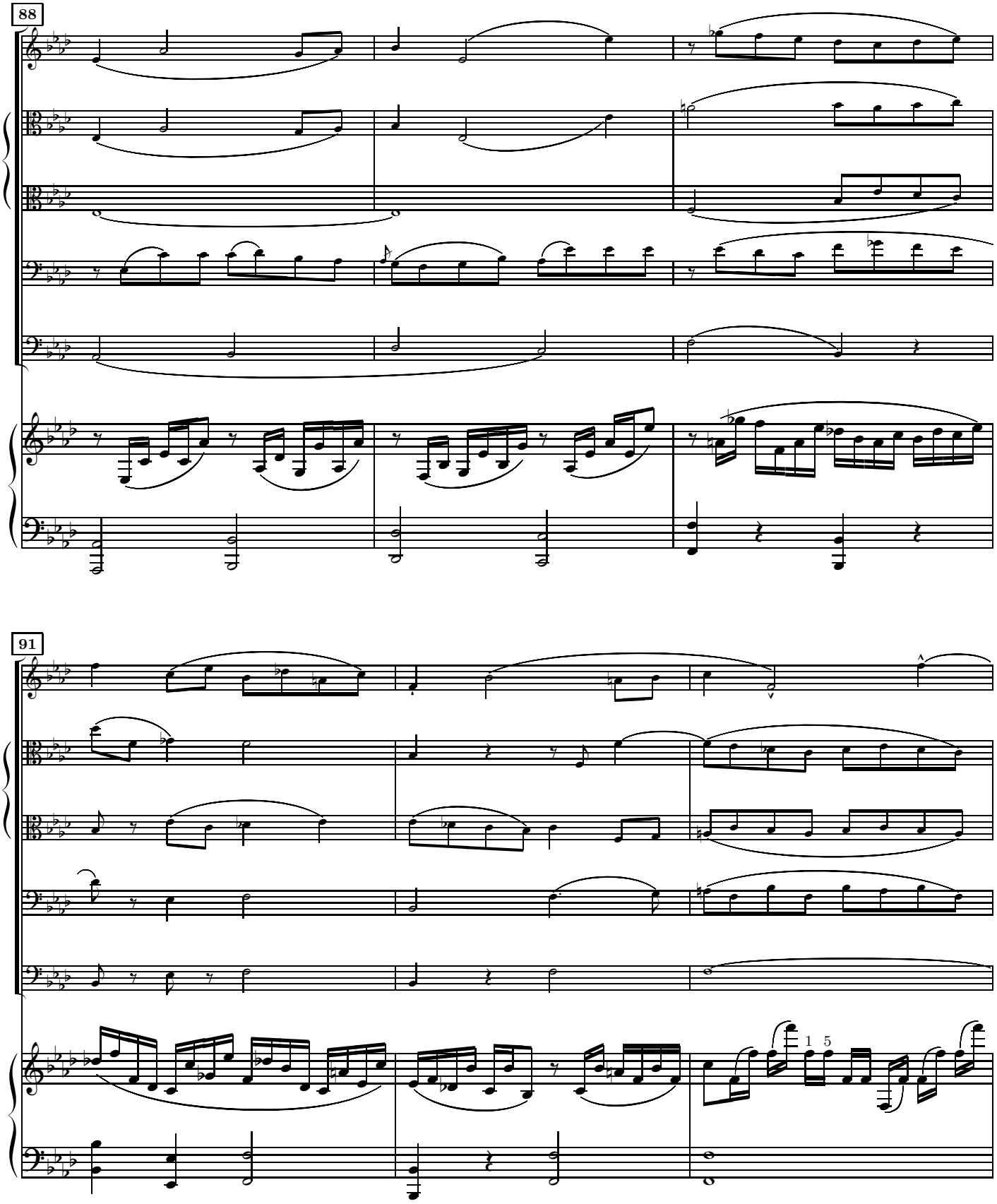
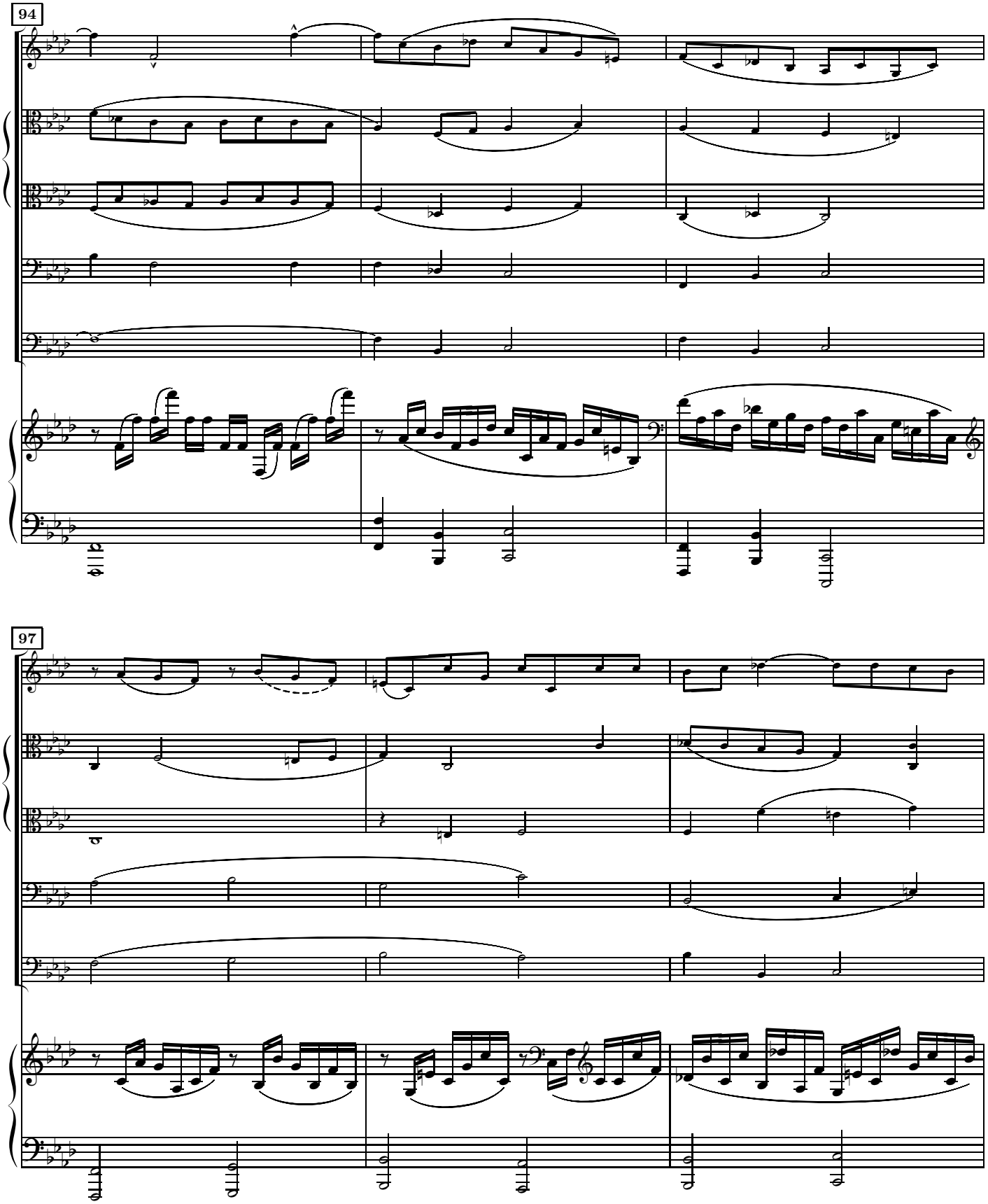

88
91
1
5



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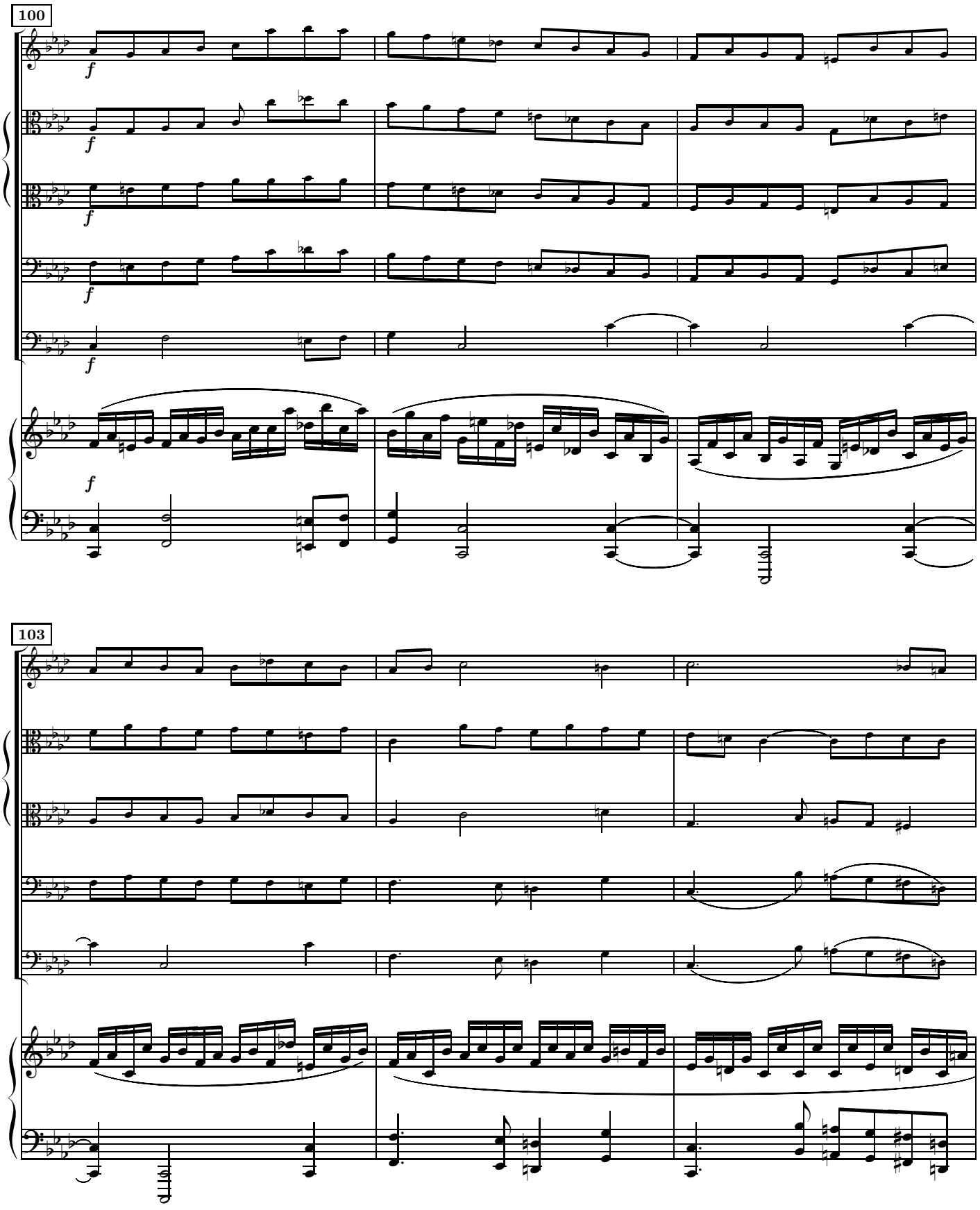
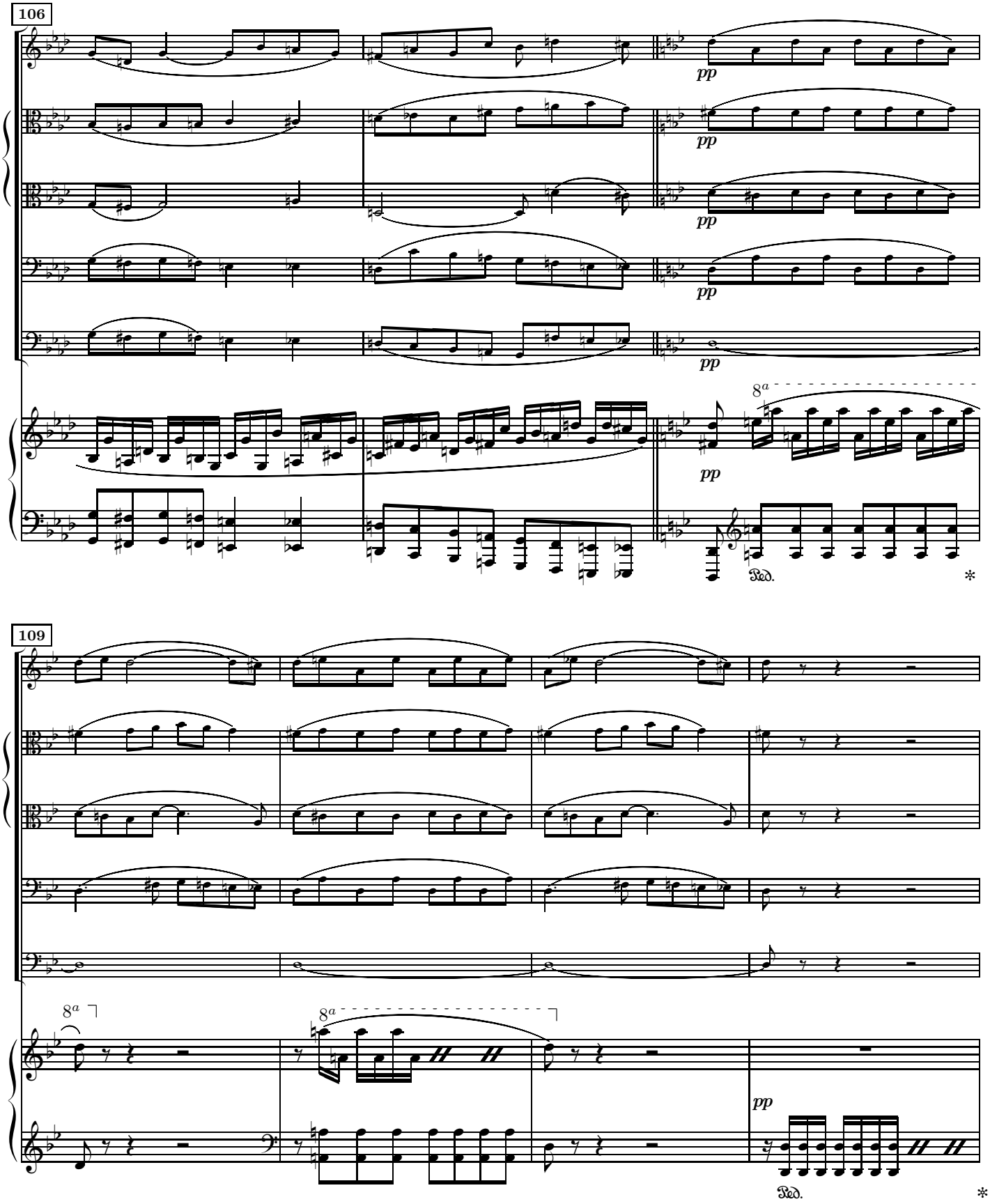

100
f
103



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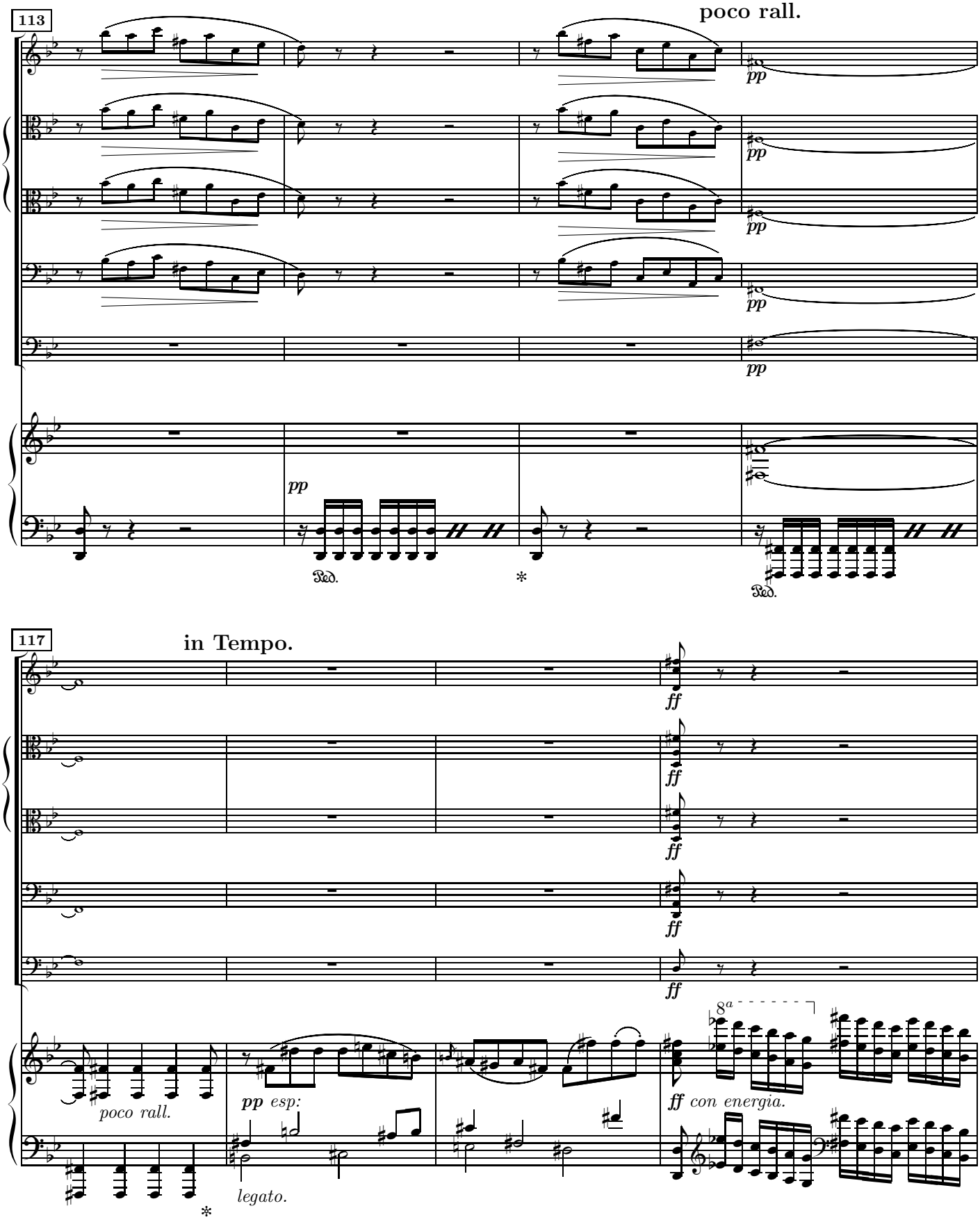
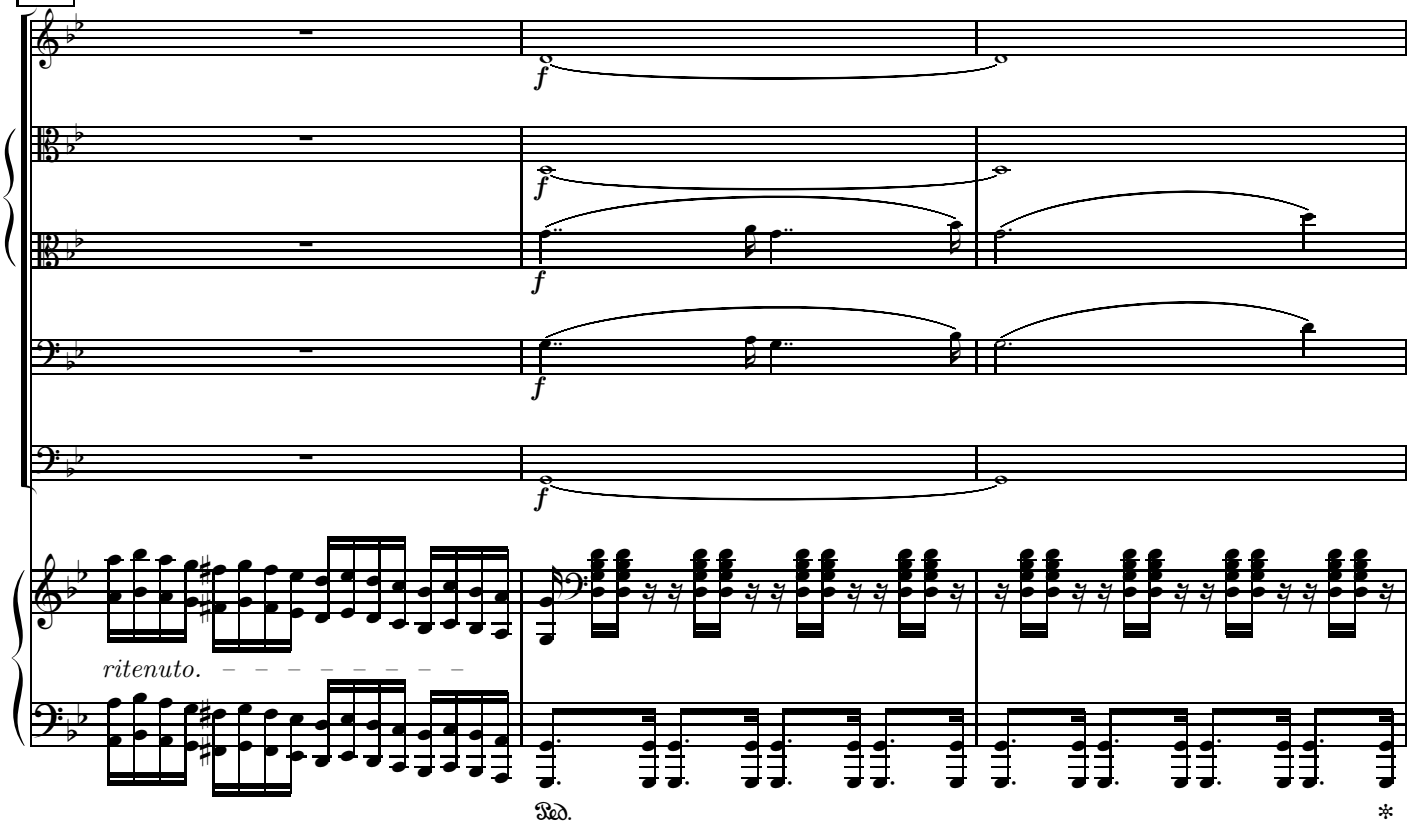
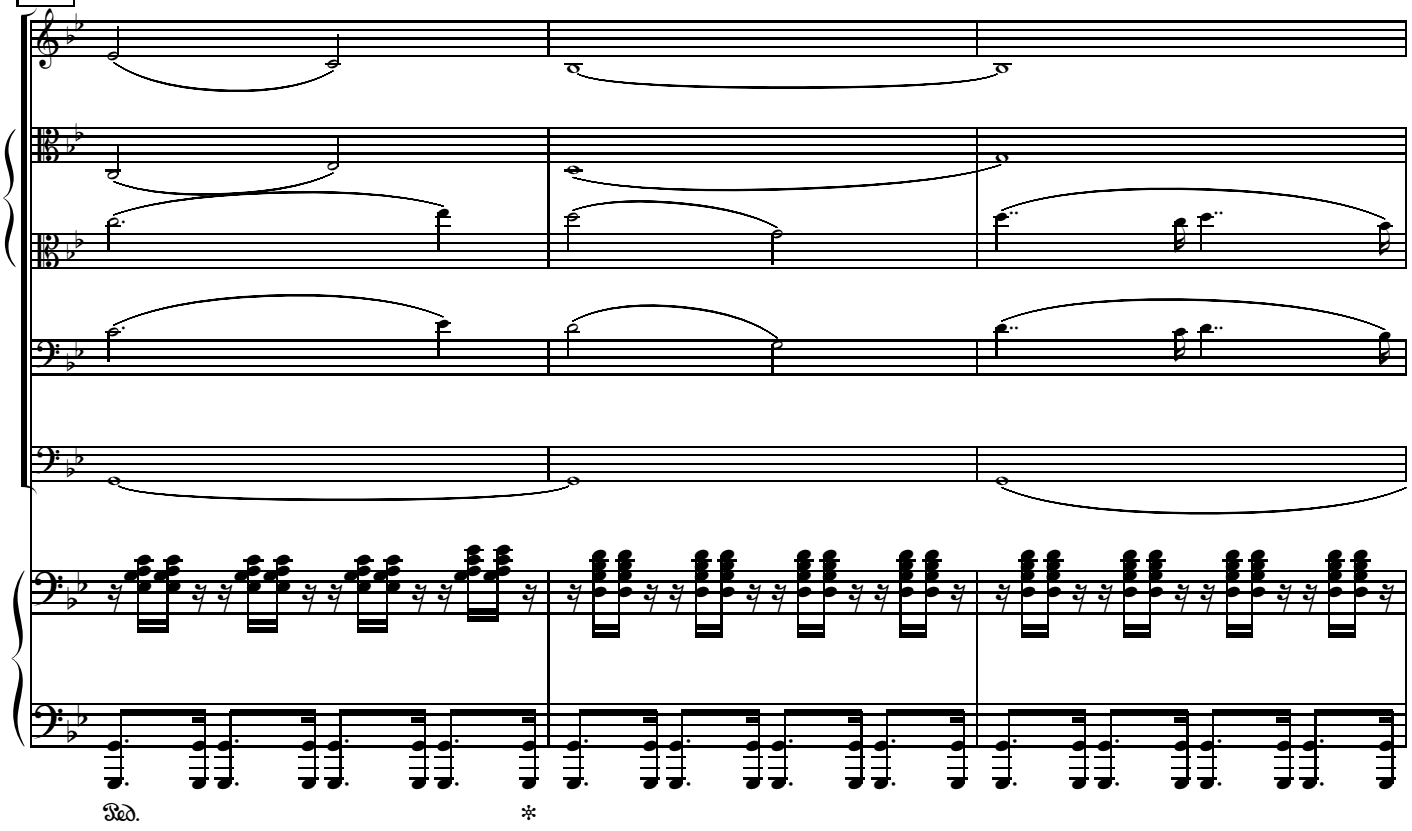

113
poco rall.
pp
Ped.
117
in Tempo.
ff
poco rall.
pp esp:
legato.
8a
ff con energia.

Tempo 1º.

121



124



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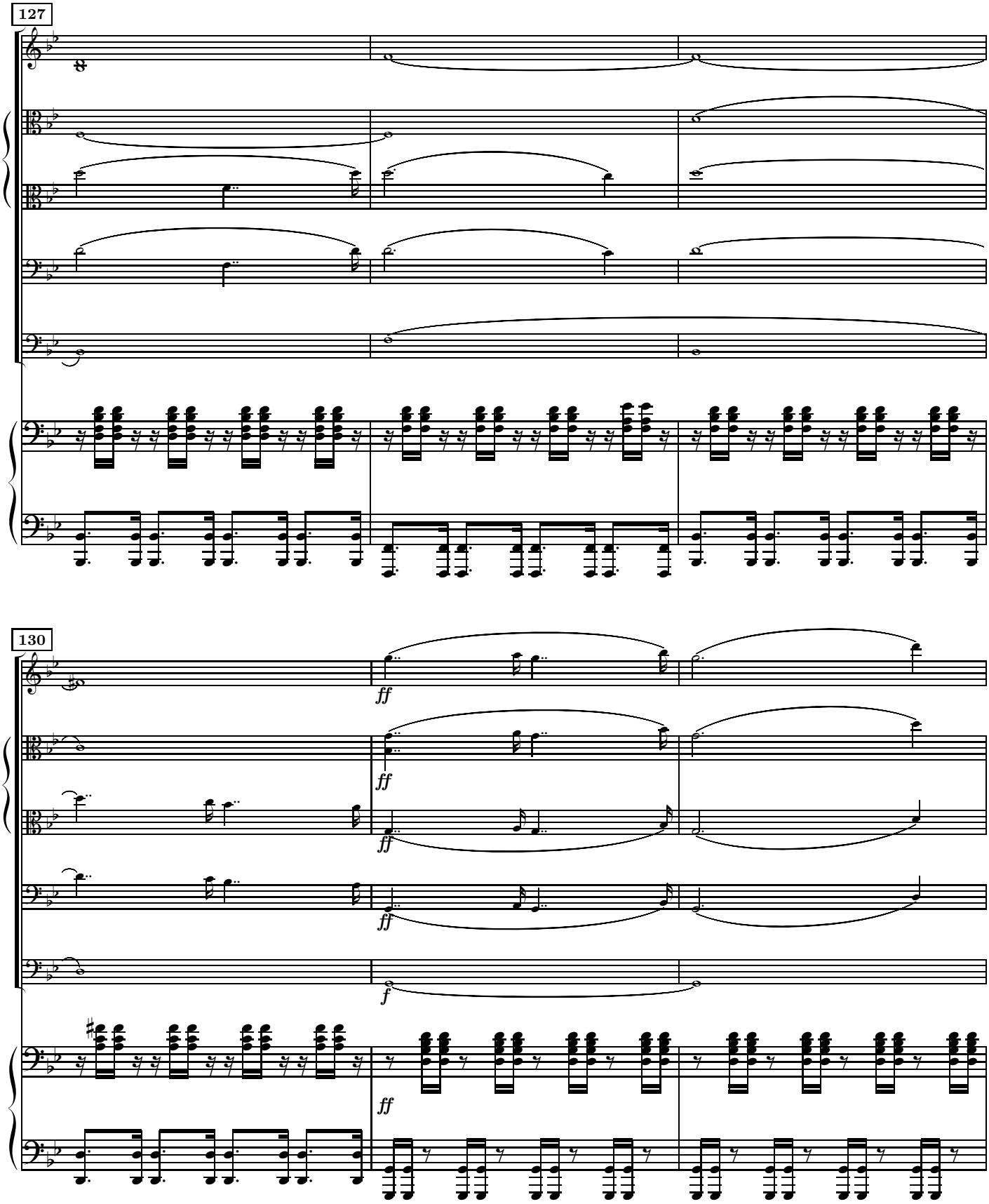
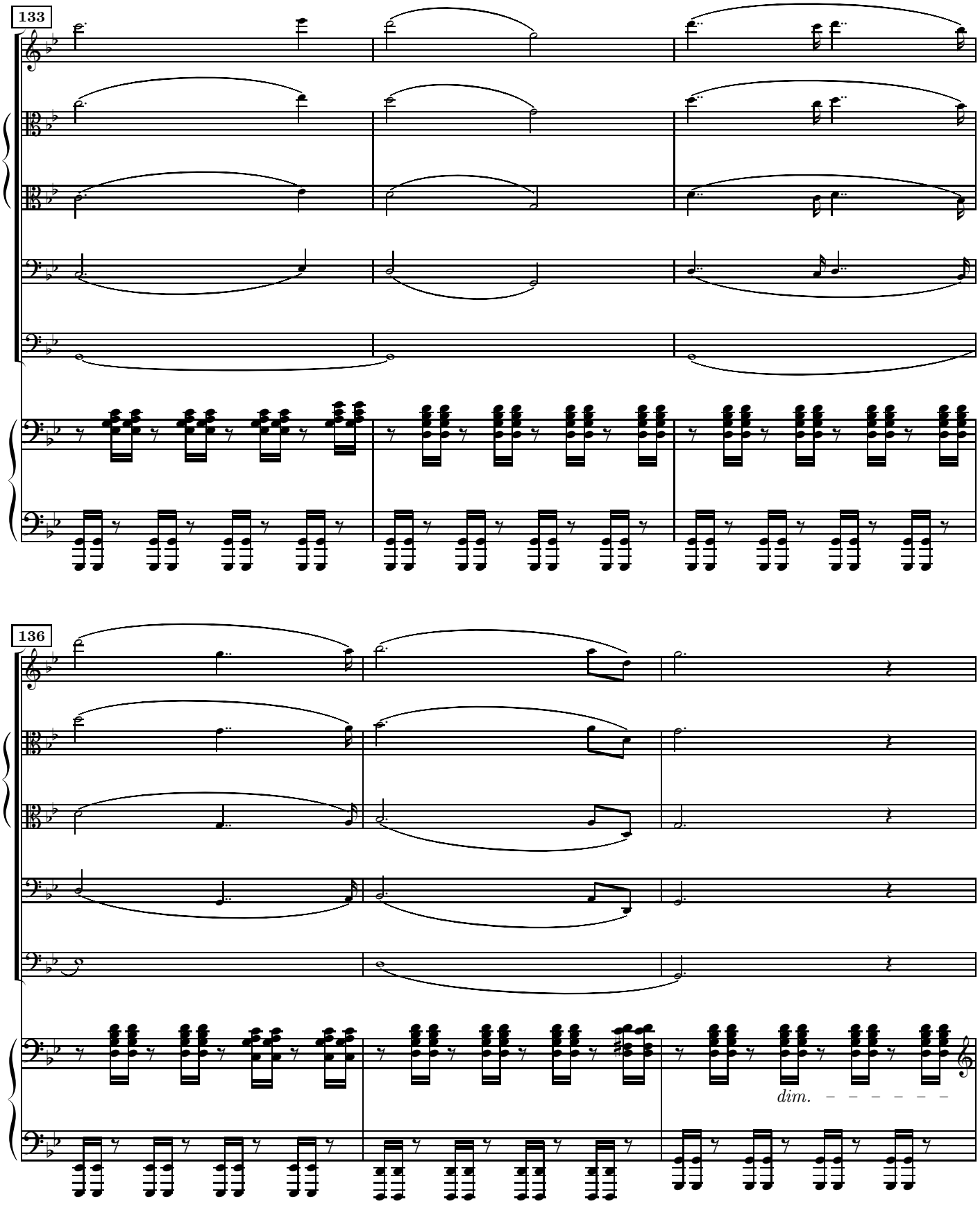

127
130
ff
ff
ff
ff
f
ff



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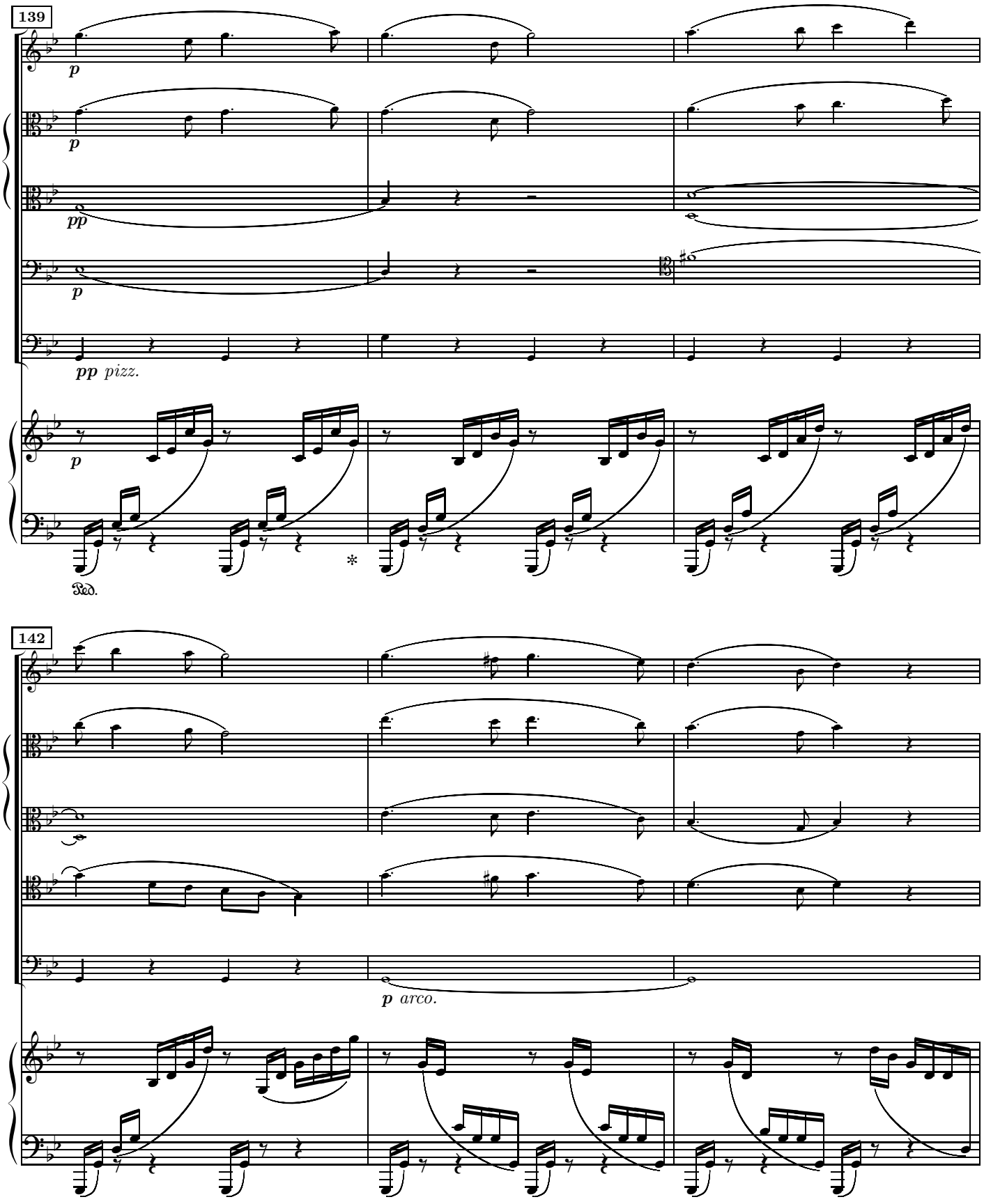
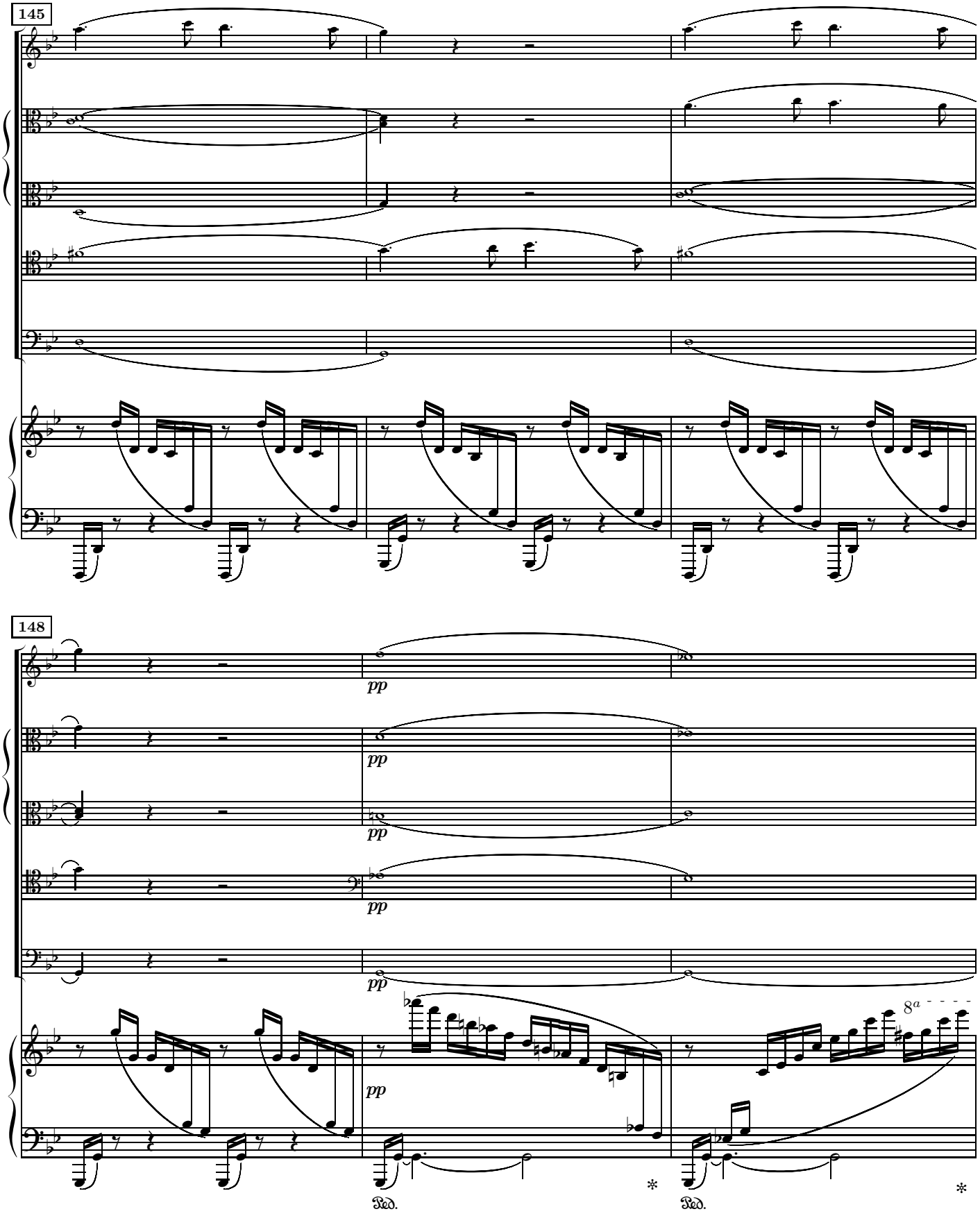

139
p
p
pp
p
pp pizz.
p
Ped.
*
142
p arco.



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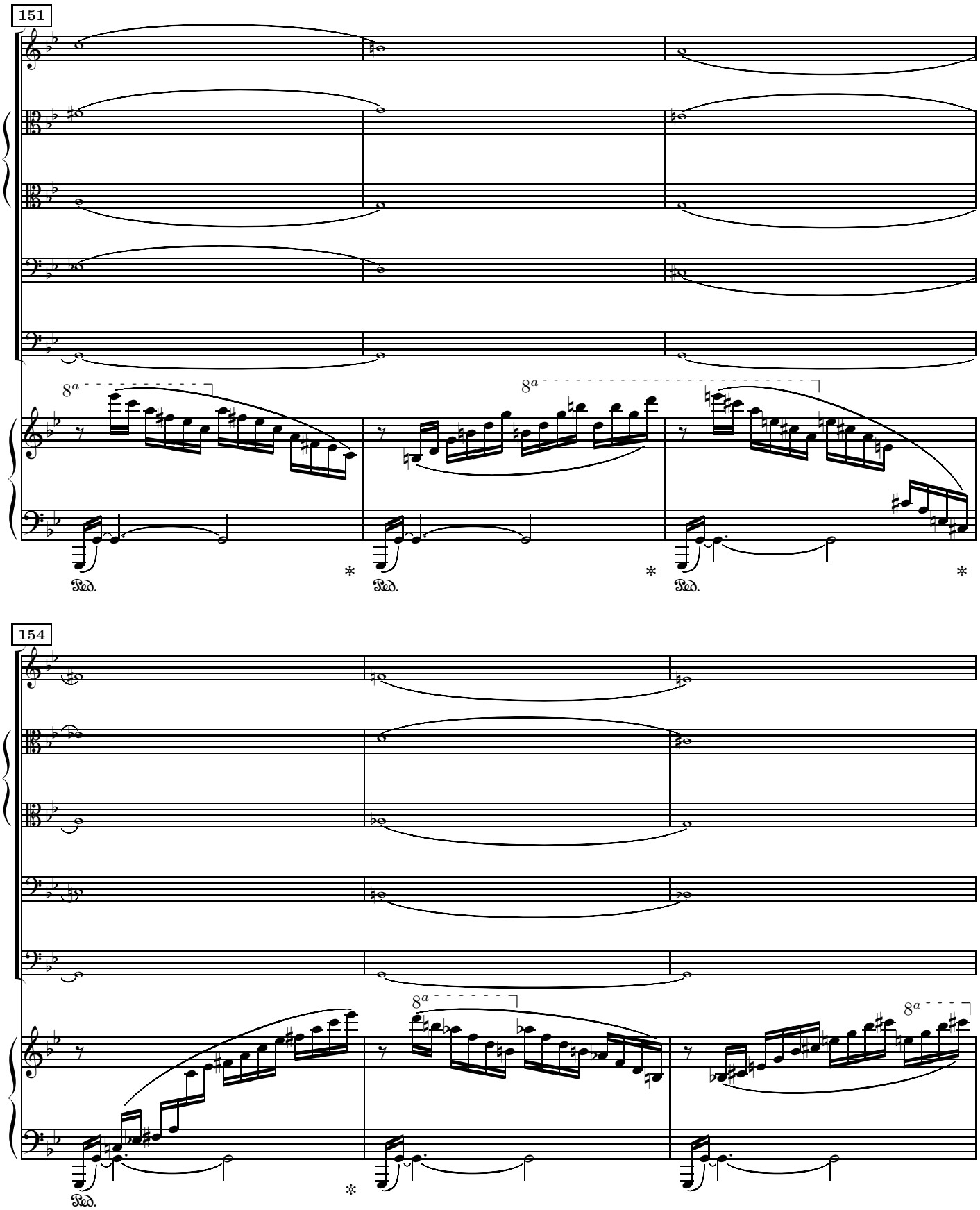
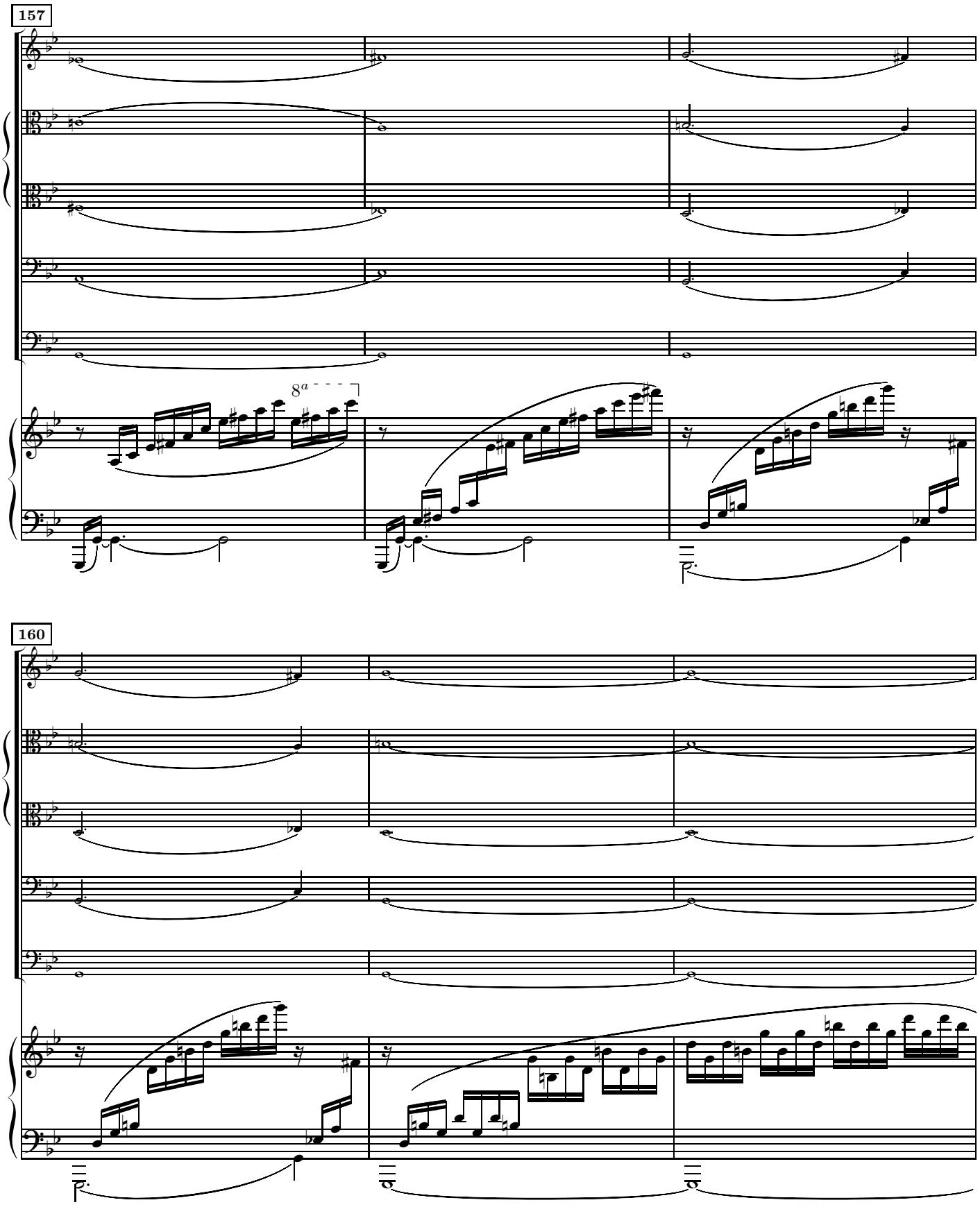

151
8a
Ped.
*
Ped.
*
Ped.
*
154
8a
8a
Ped.
*



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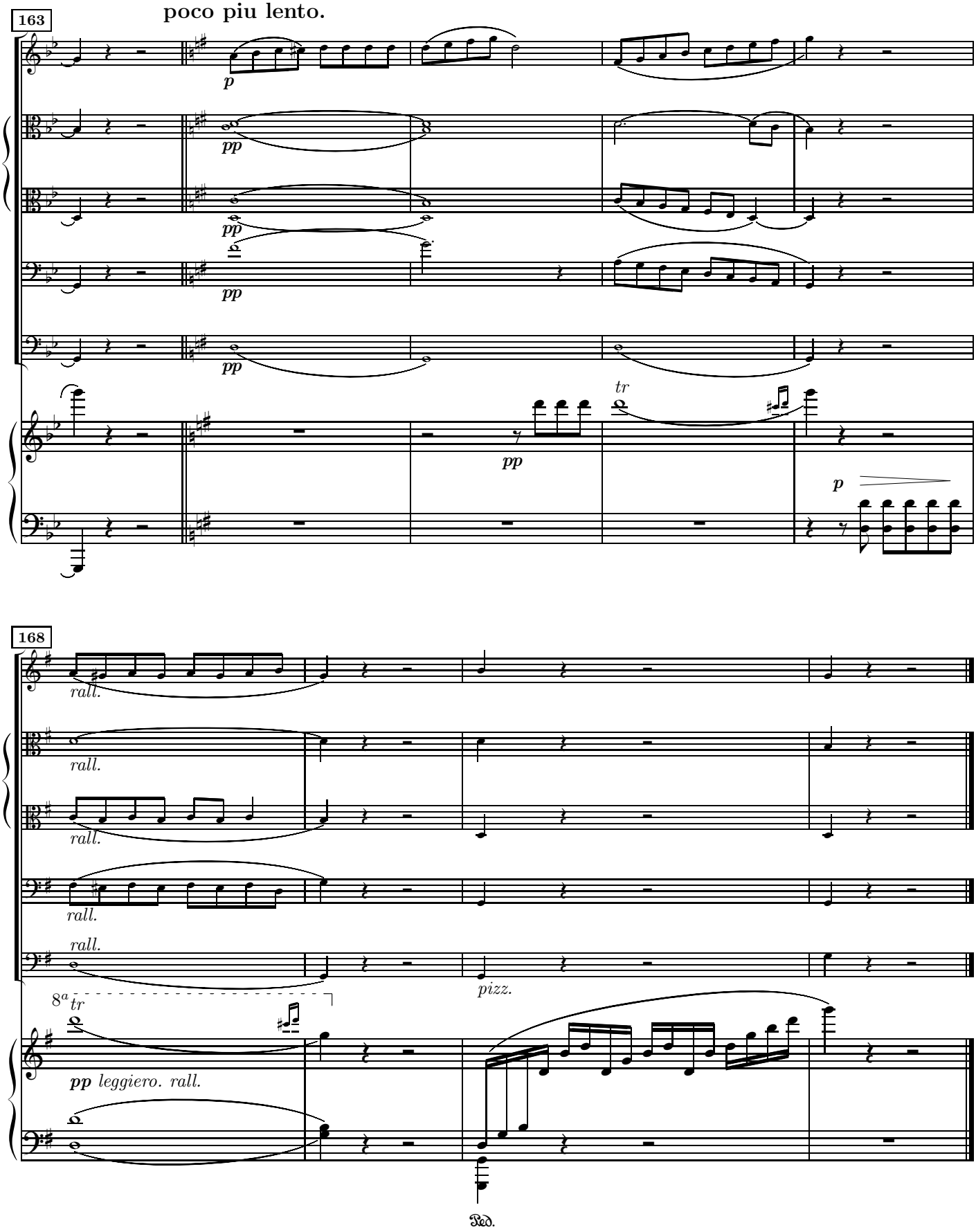
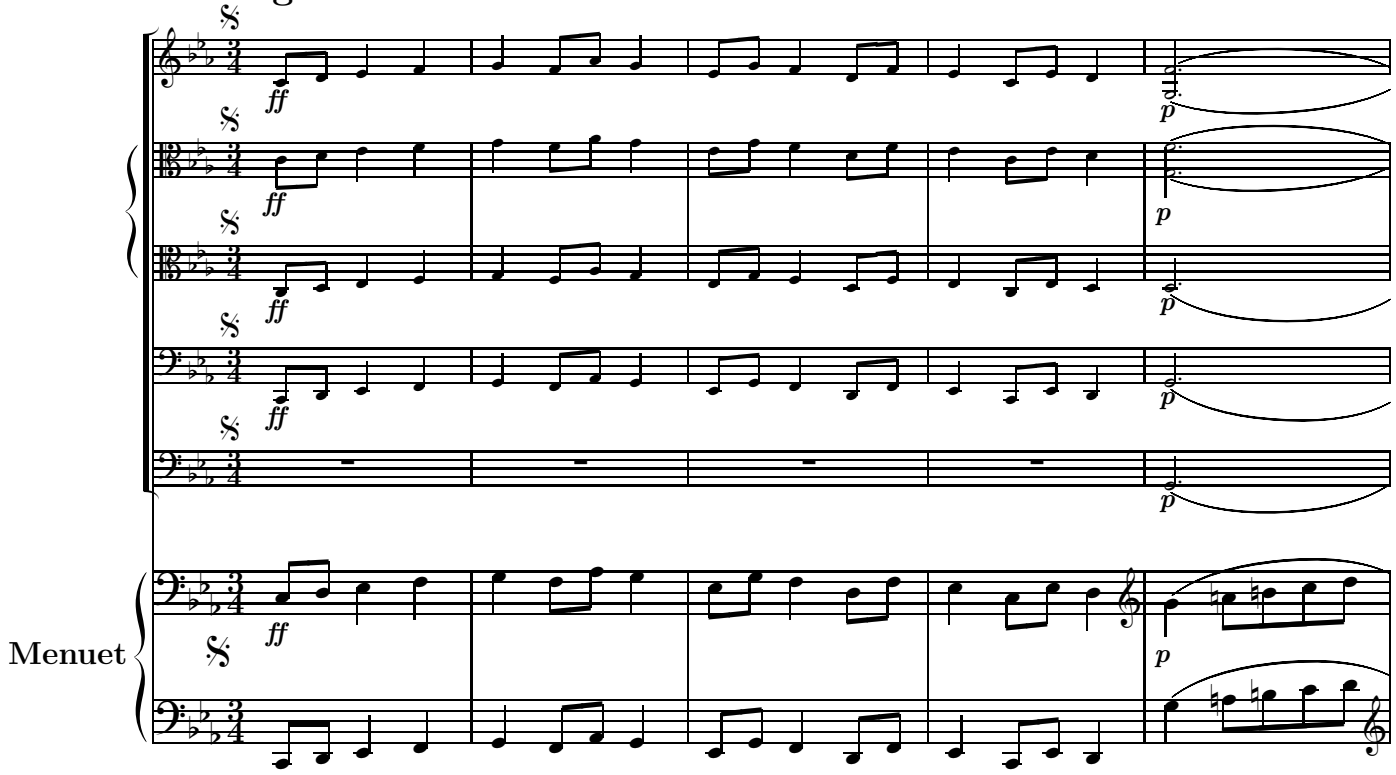
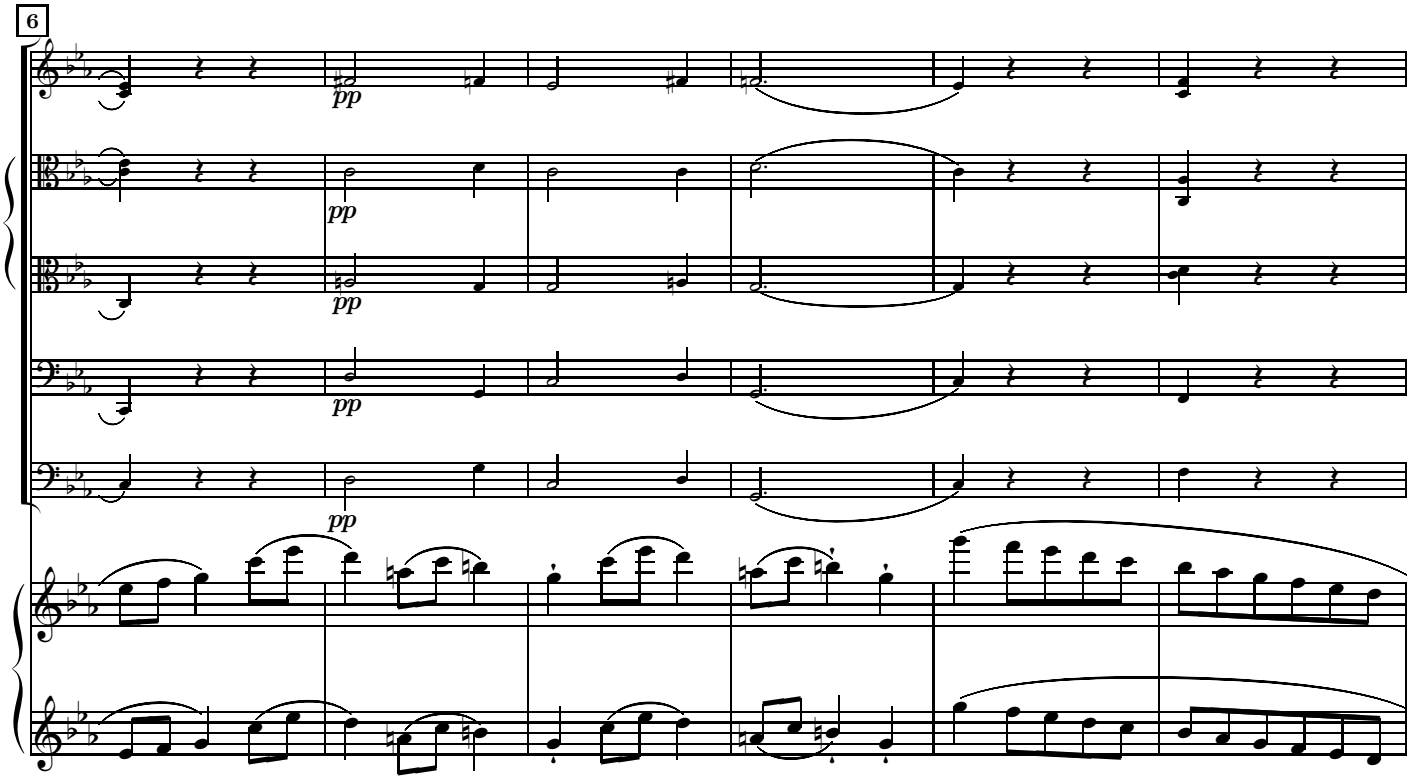

163
poco piu lento.
p
pp
pp
pp
pp
tr
pp
p
168
rall.
rall.
rall.
rall.
pizz.
8a
tr
pp leggiero. rall.
Ped.

Allegro con brio





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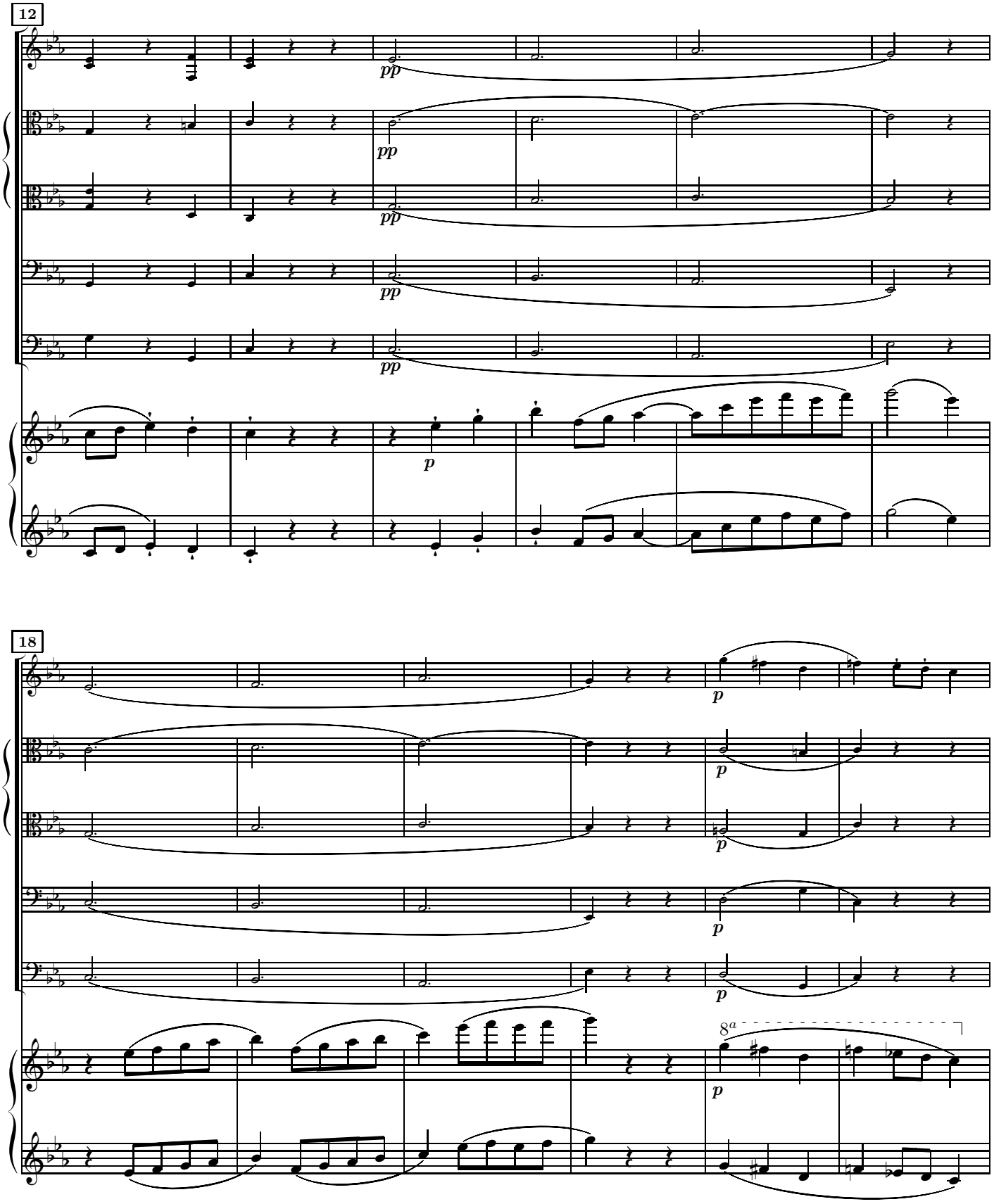
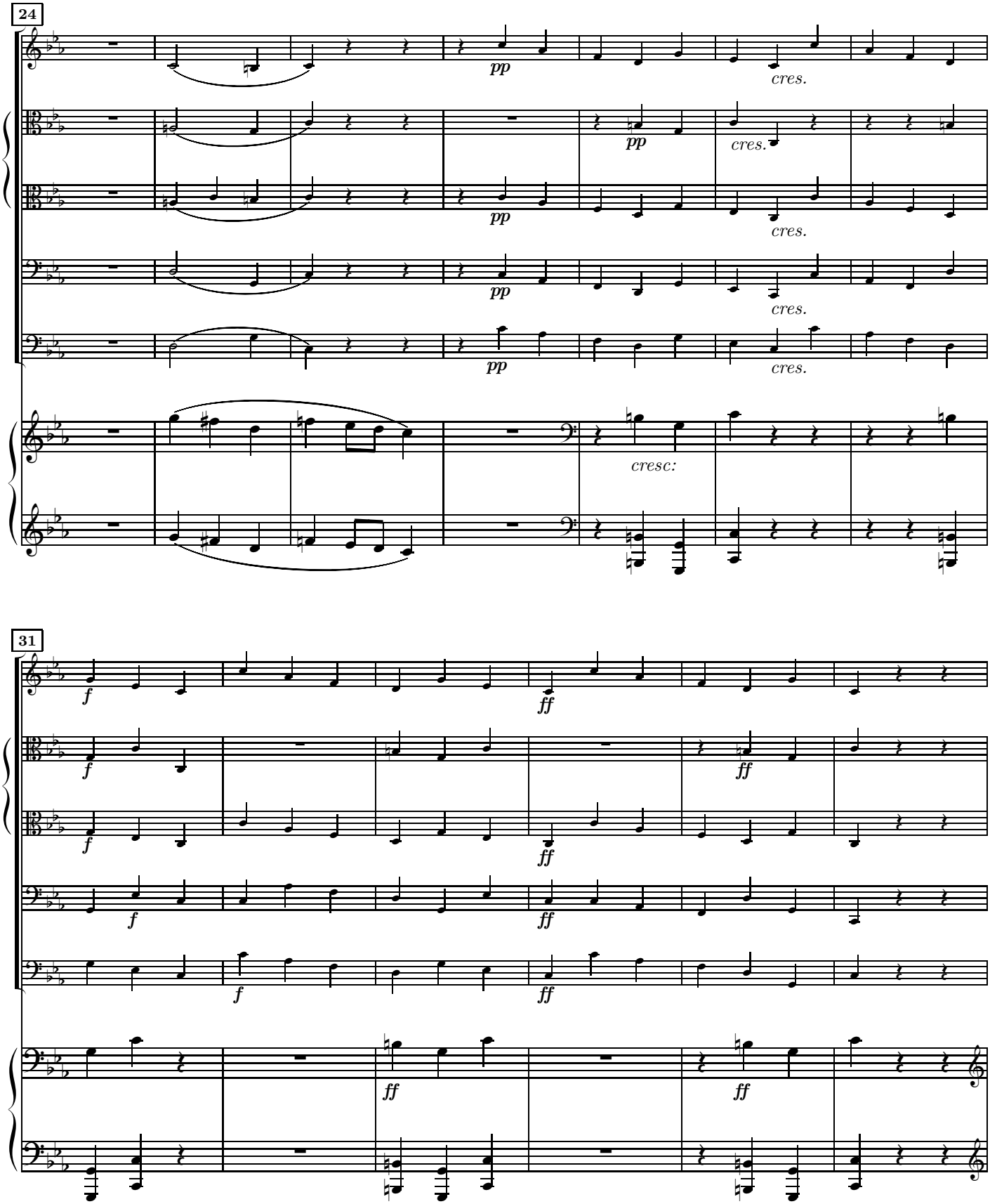

12
pp
pp
pp
pp
p
18
p
p
p
p
8a
p



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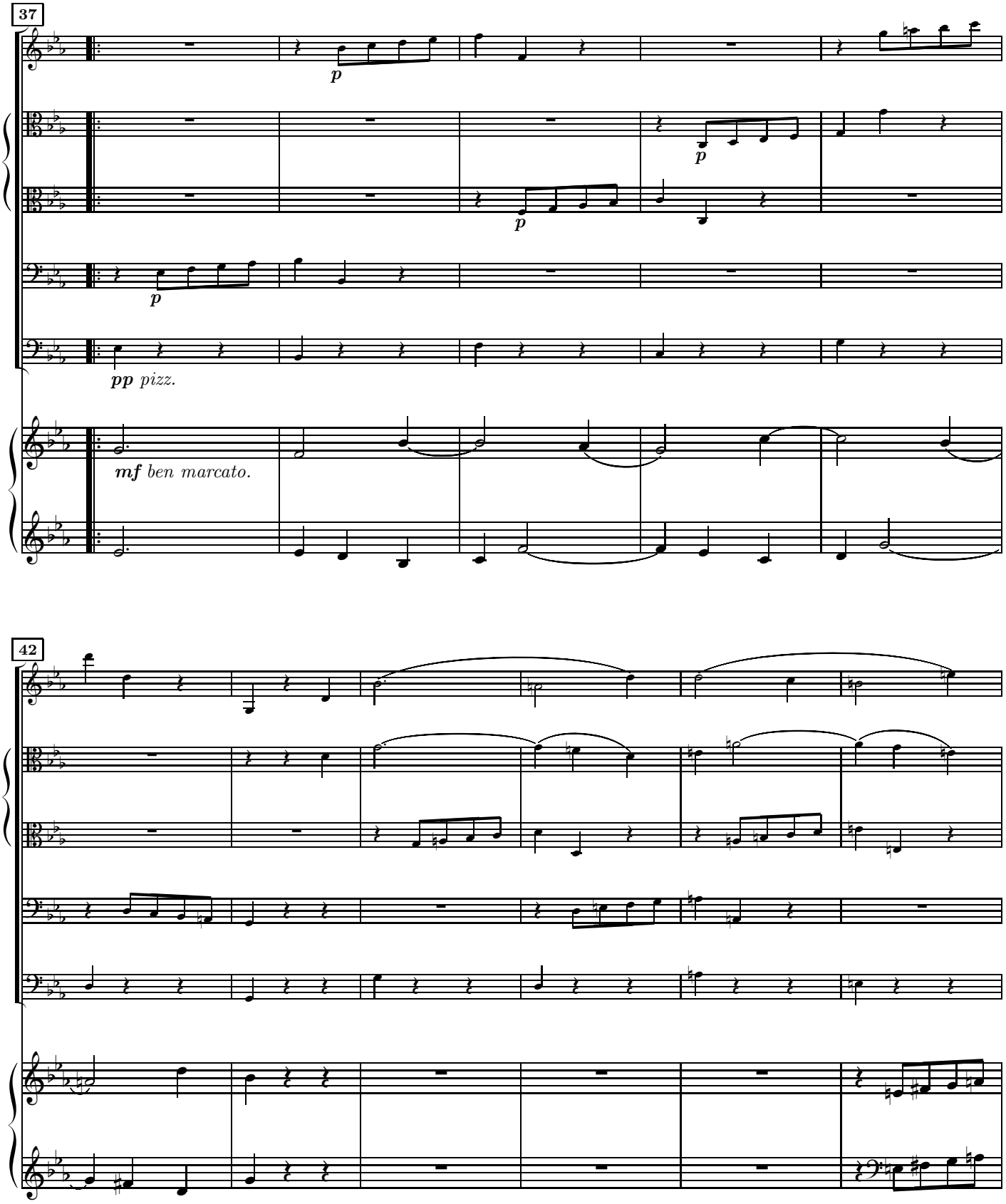
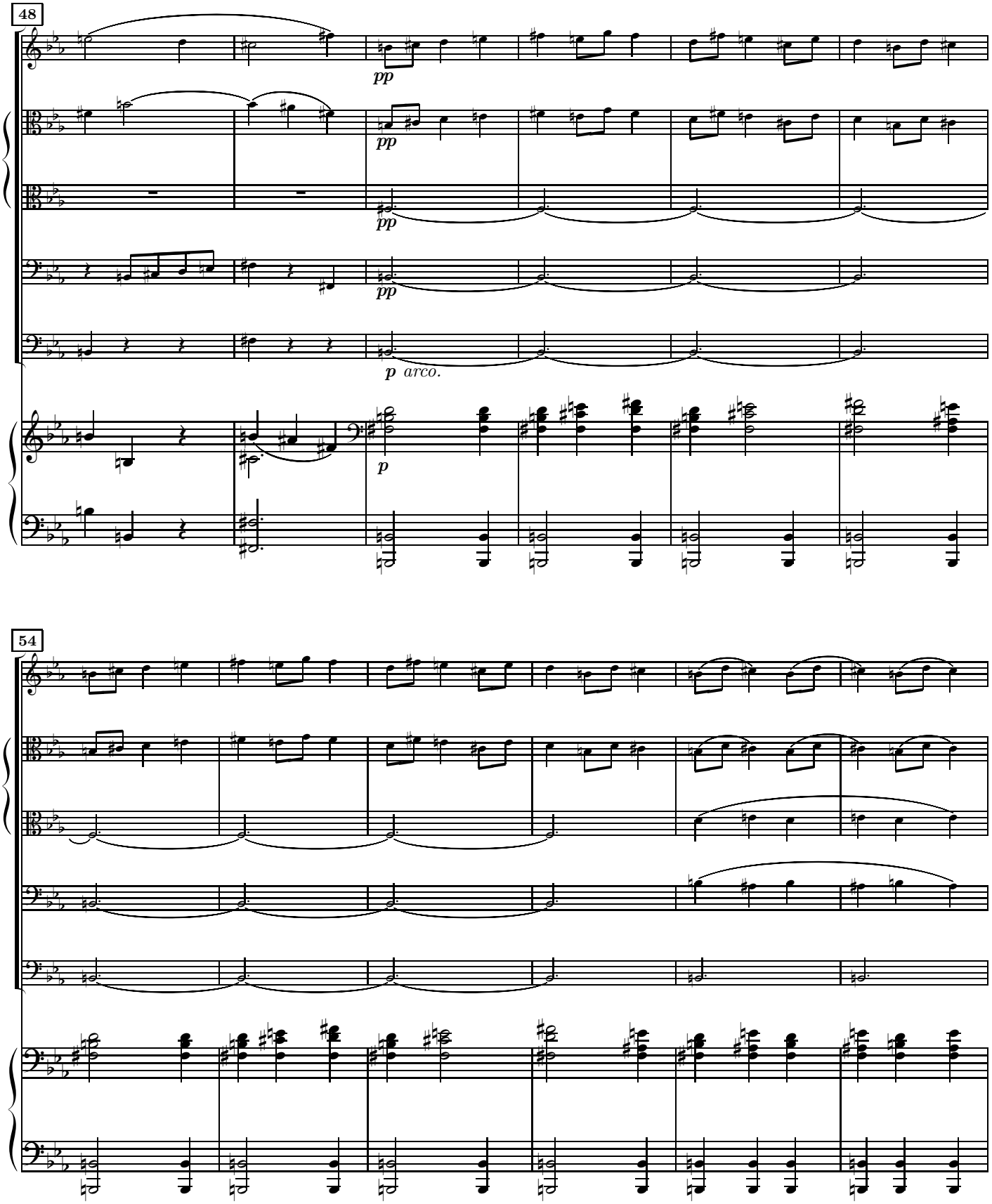

37
p
p
p
pp pizz.
mf ben marcato.
42



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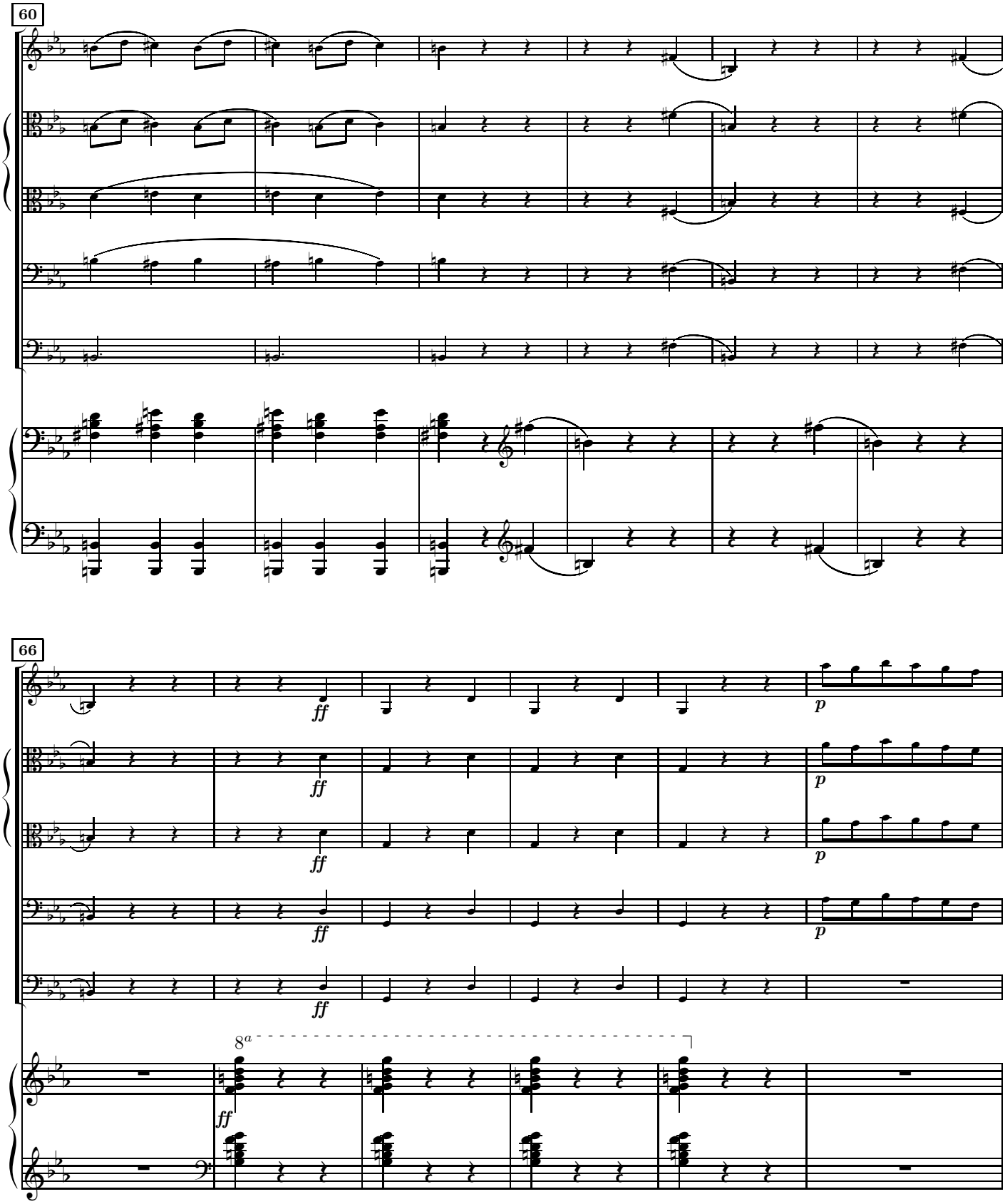
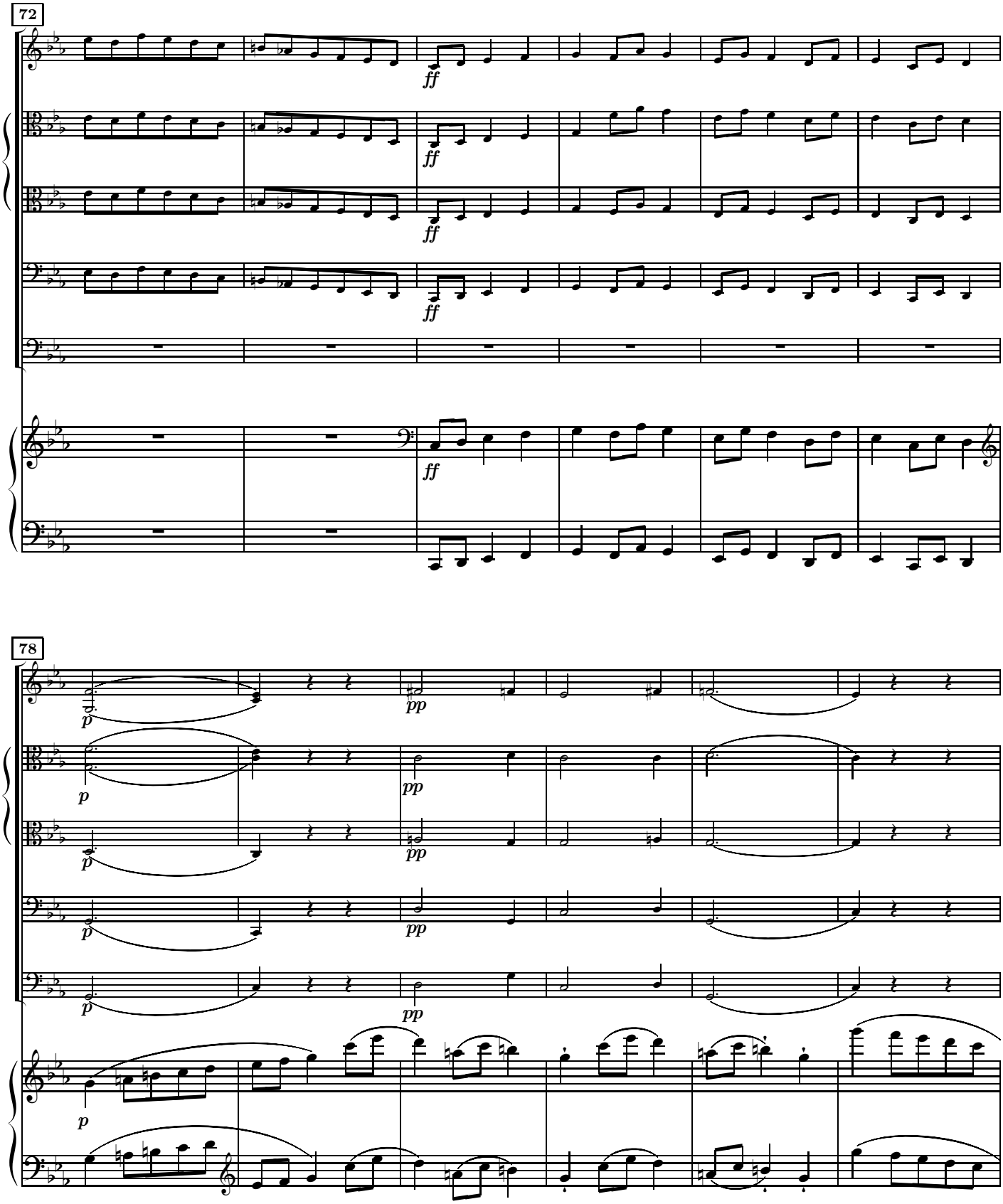

60
66
ff
p
8a



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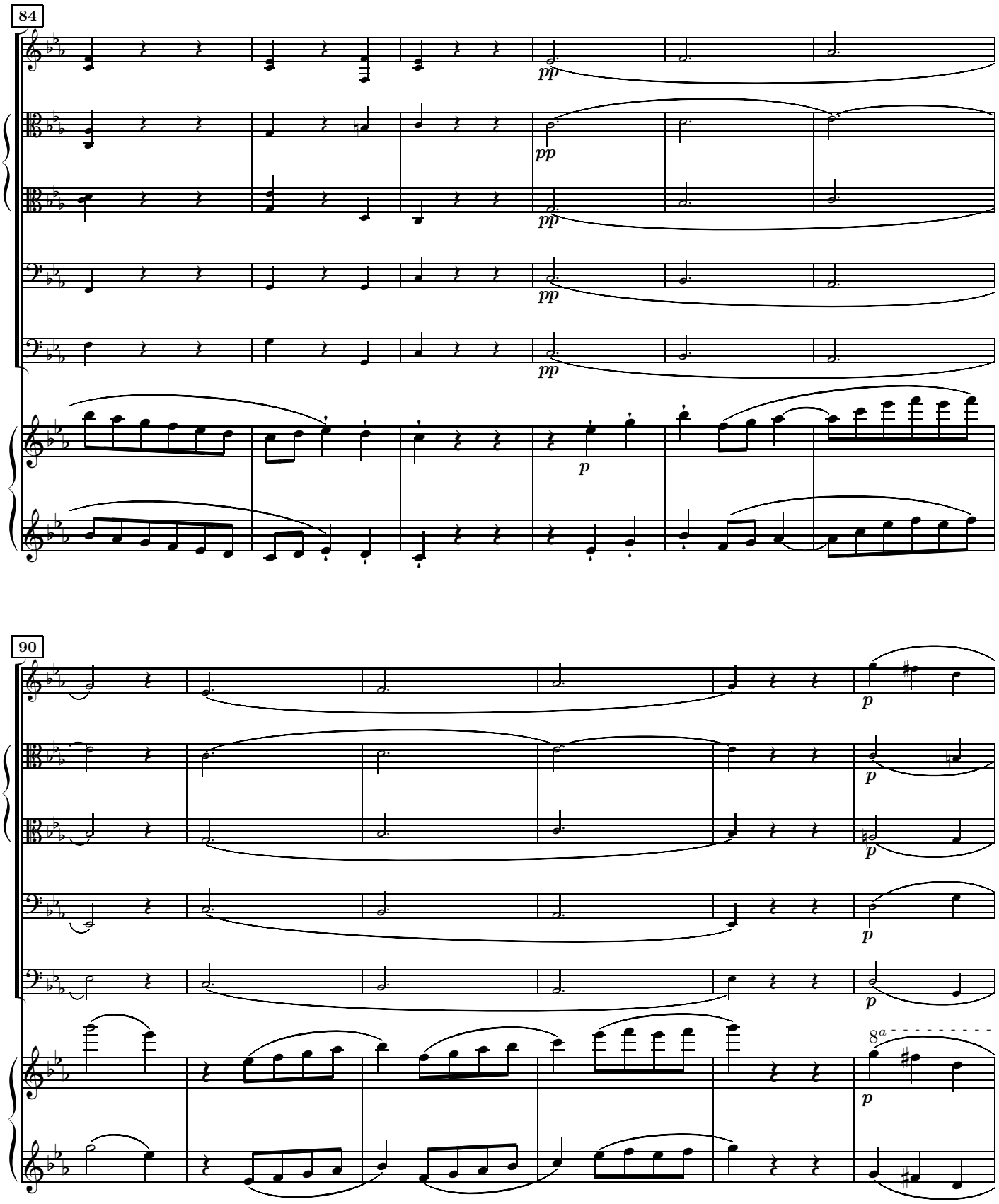
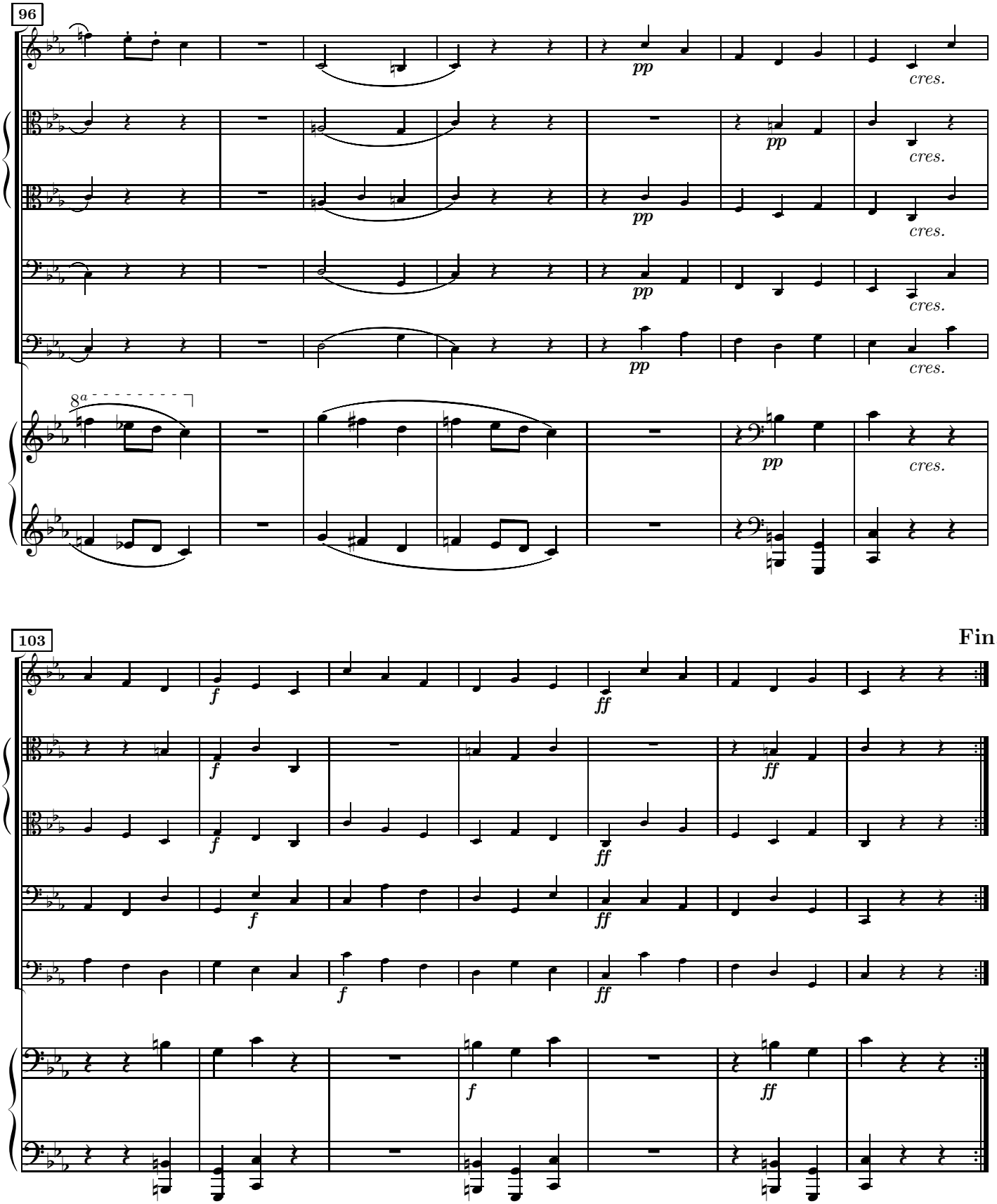

84
pp
pp
pp
pp
p
90
p
p
p
p
8a
p



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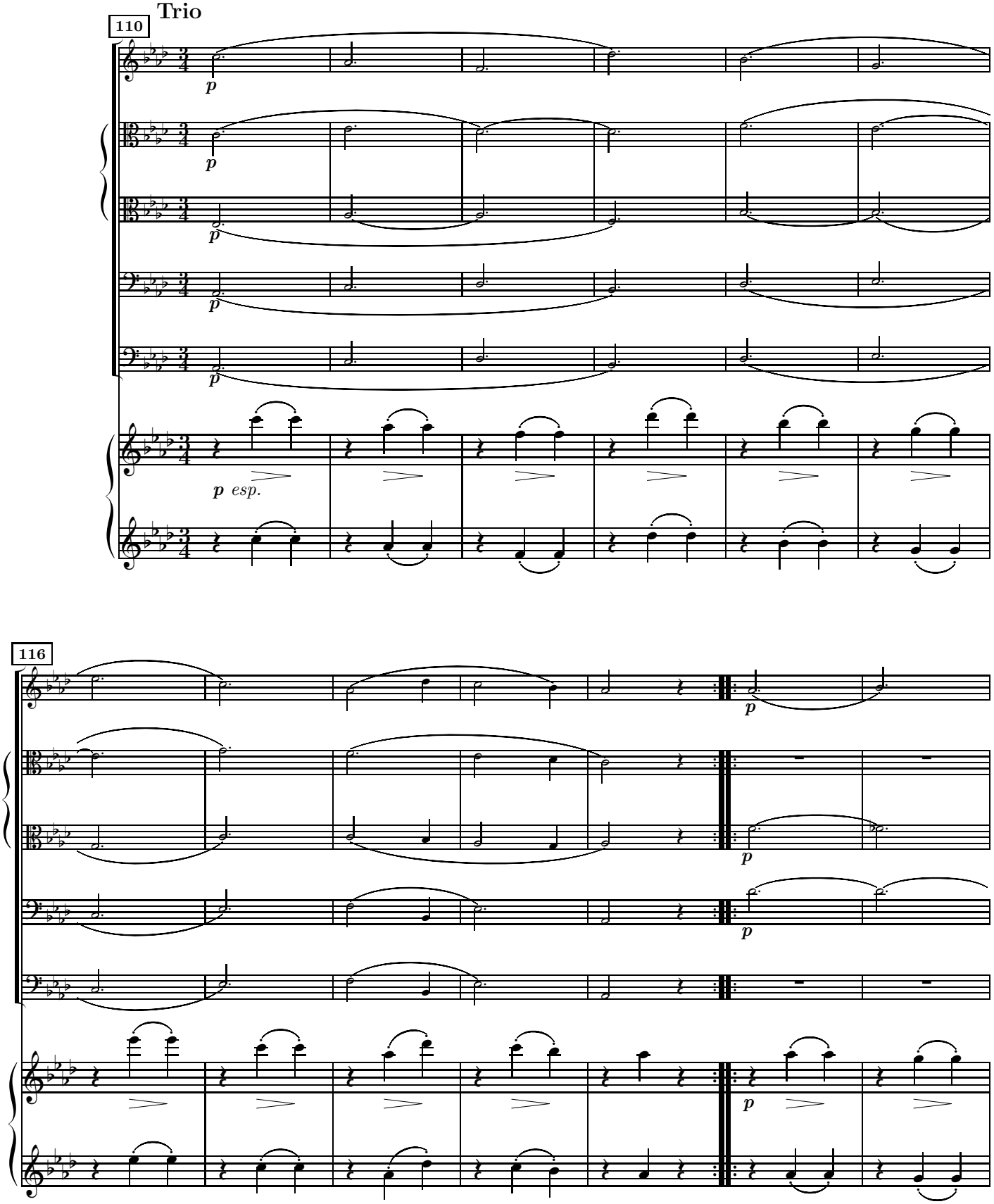
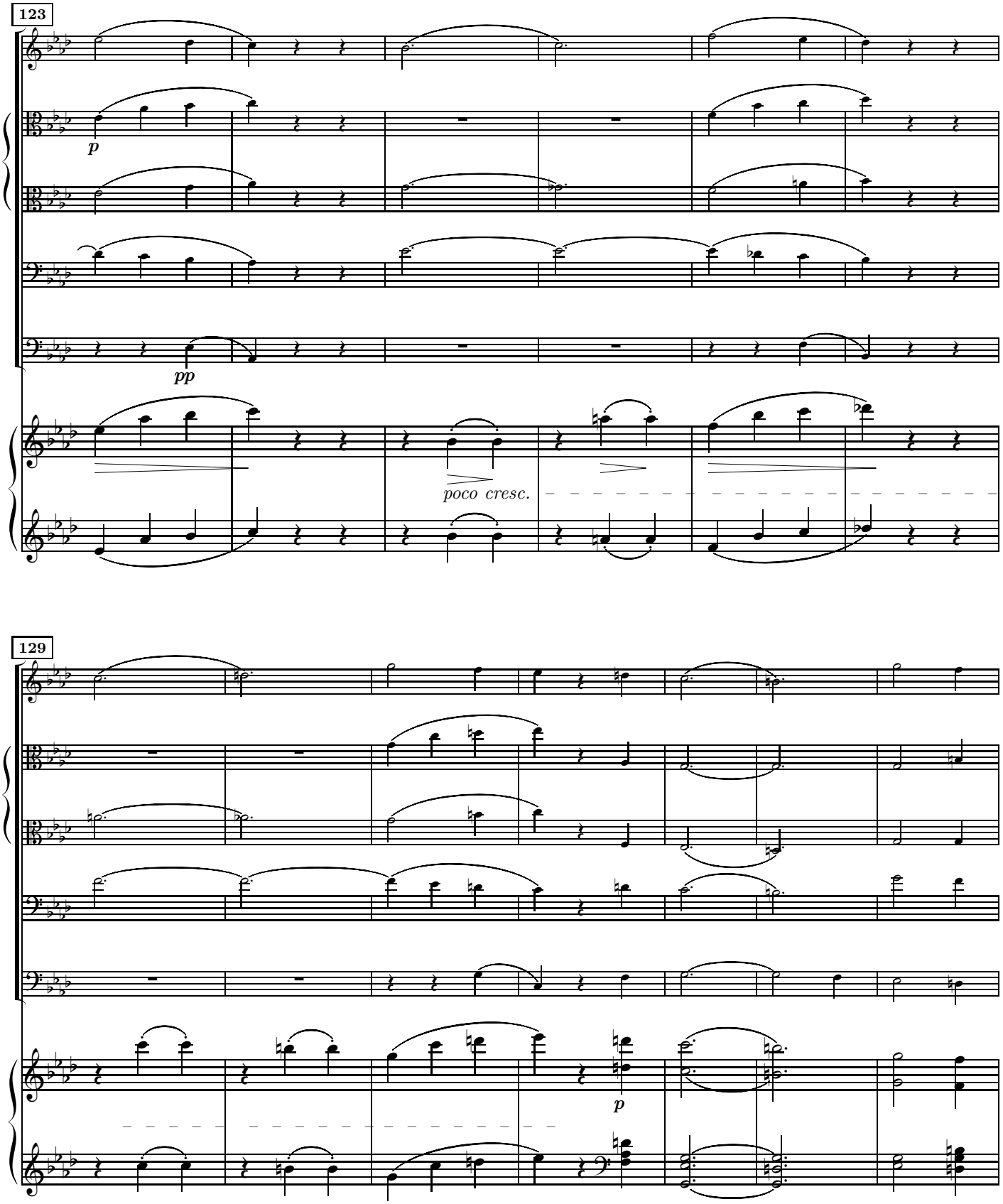
Trio





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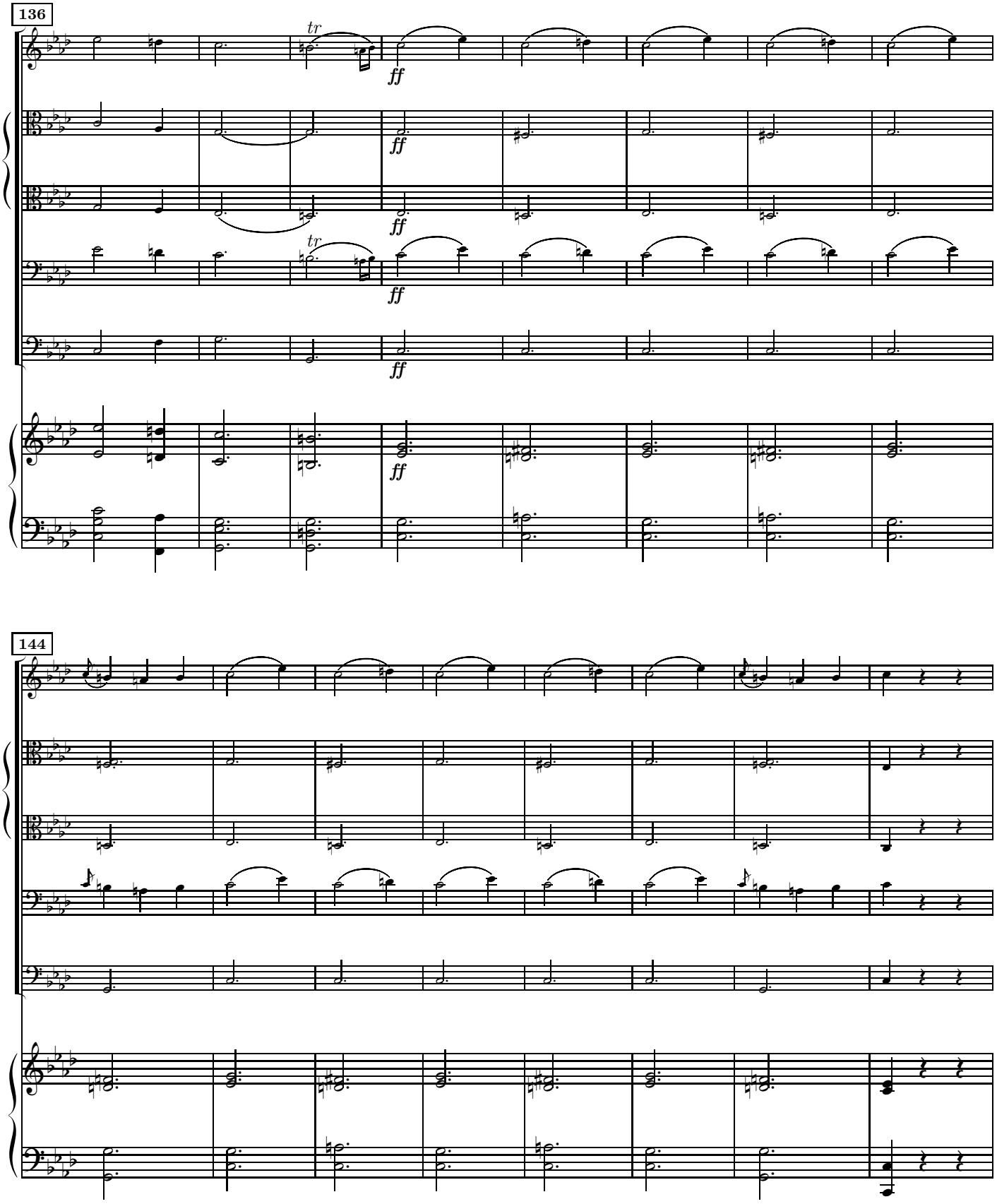
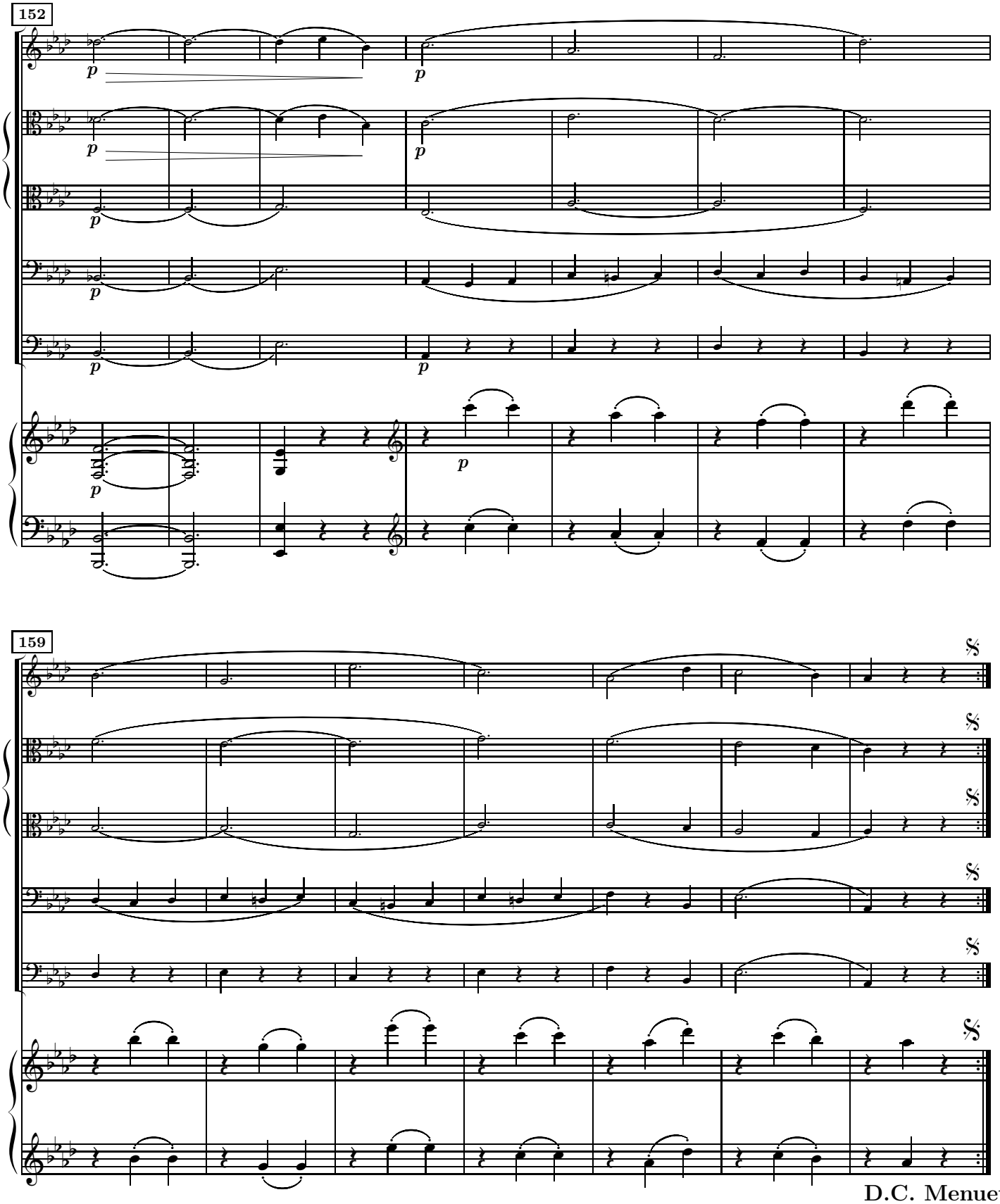

136
tr
ff
144



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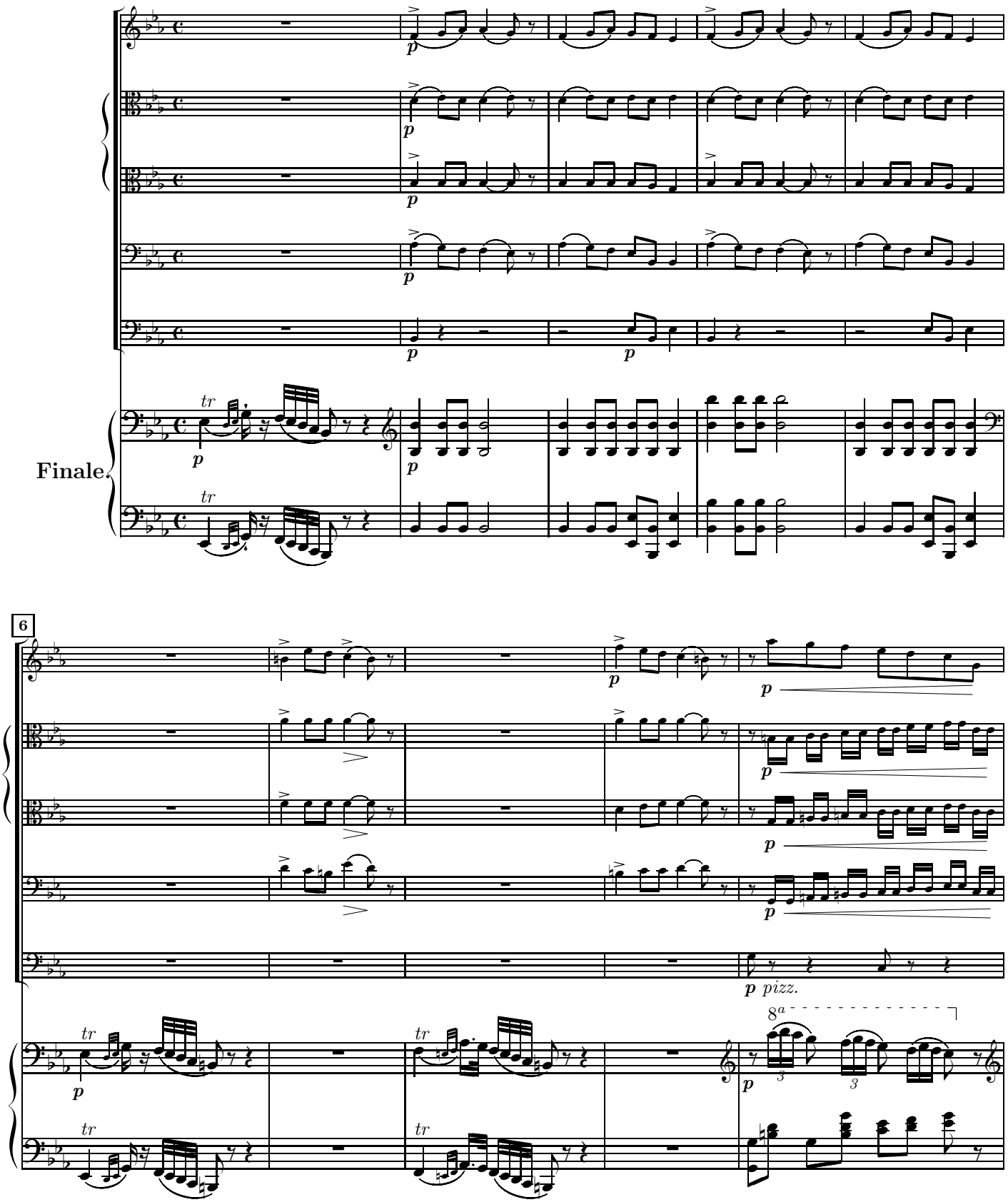
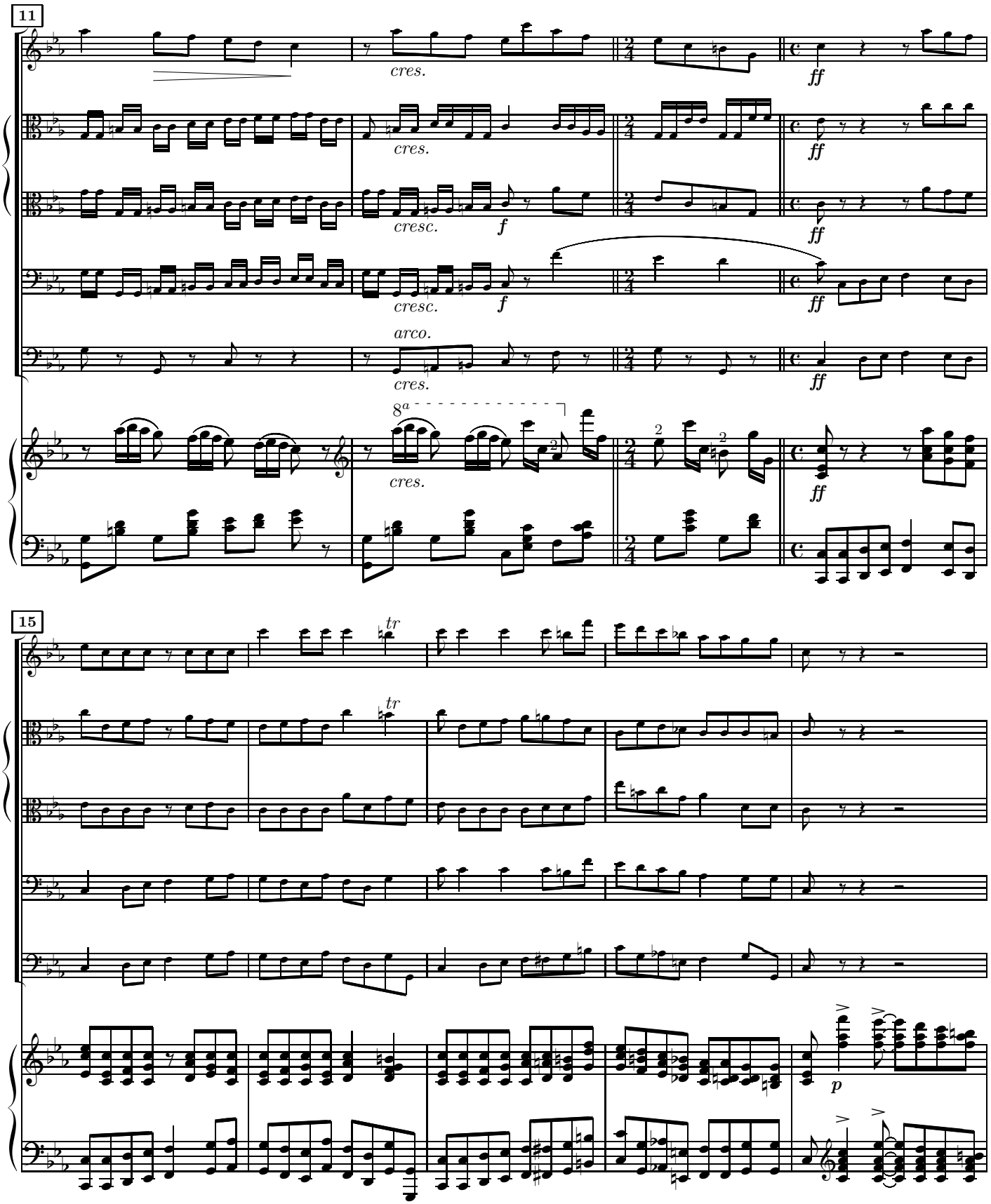
Allegro





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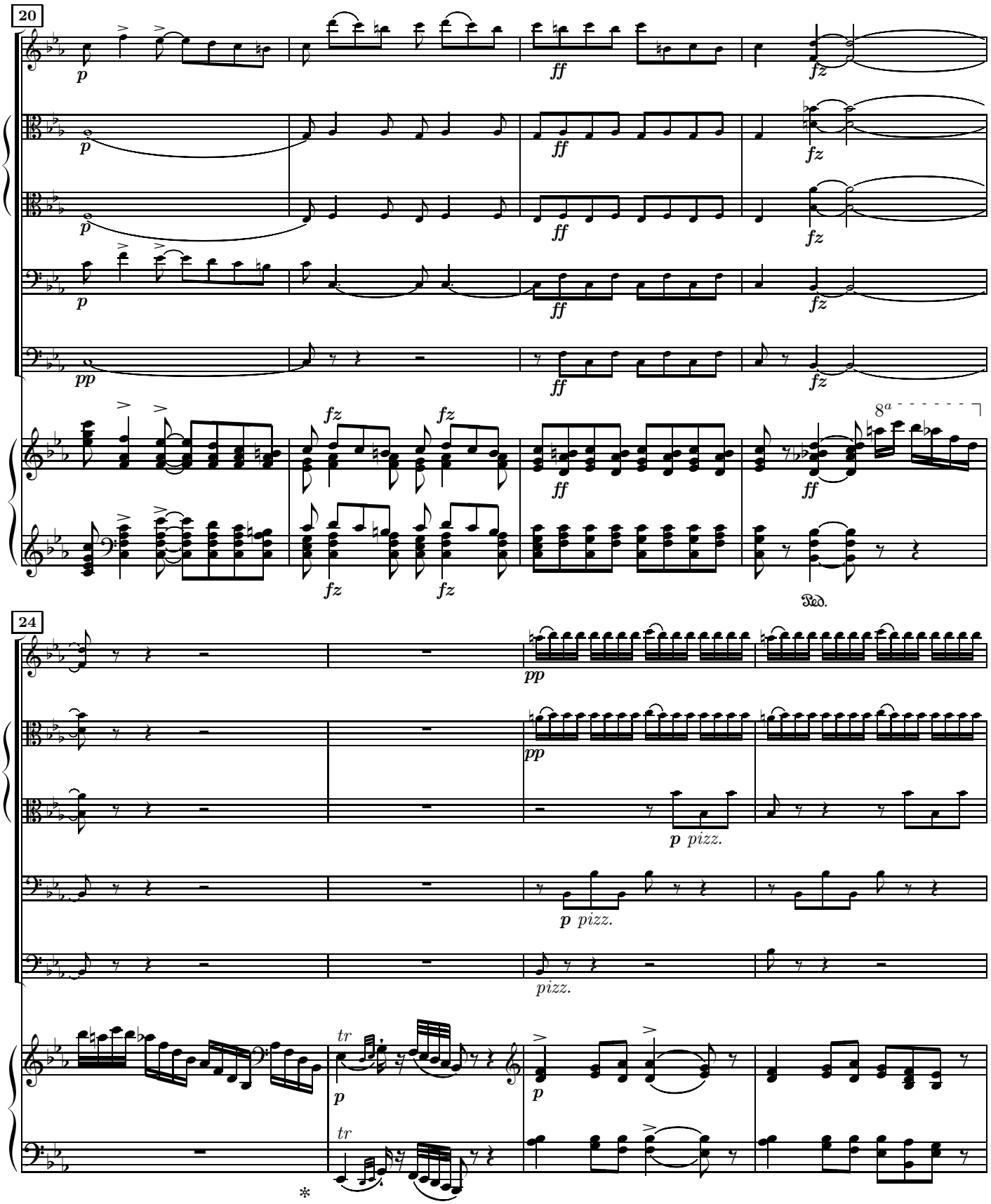
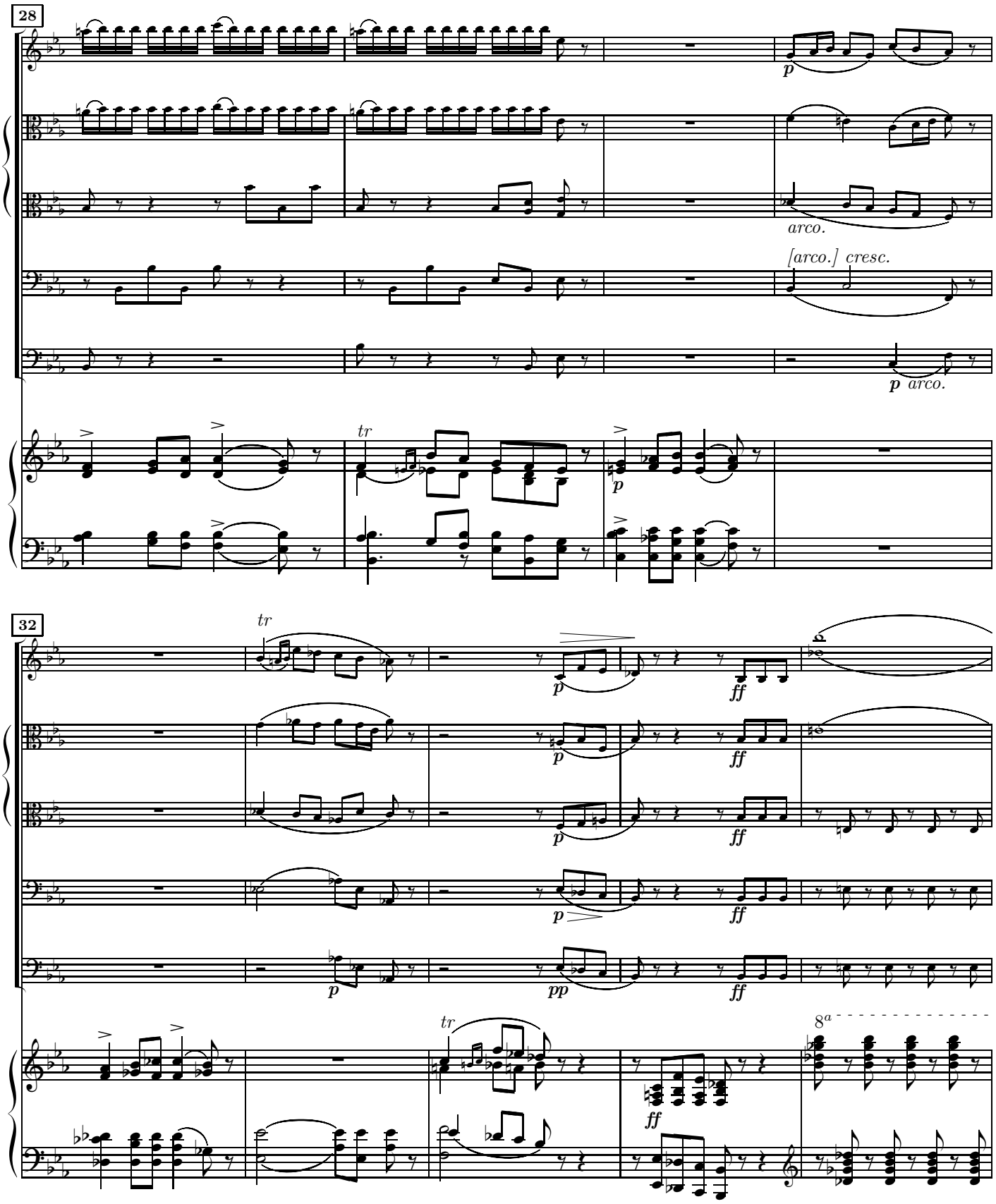

20
p
ff
fz
pp
8a
Ped.
24
pizz.
tr



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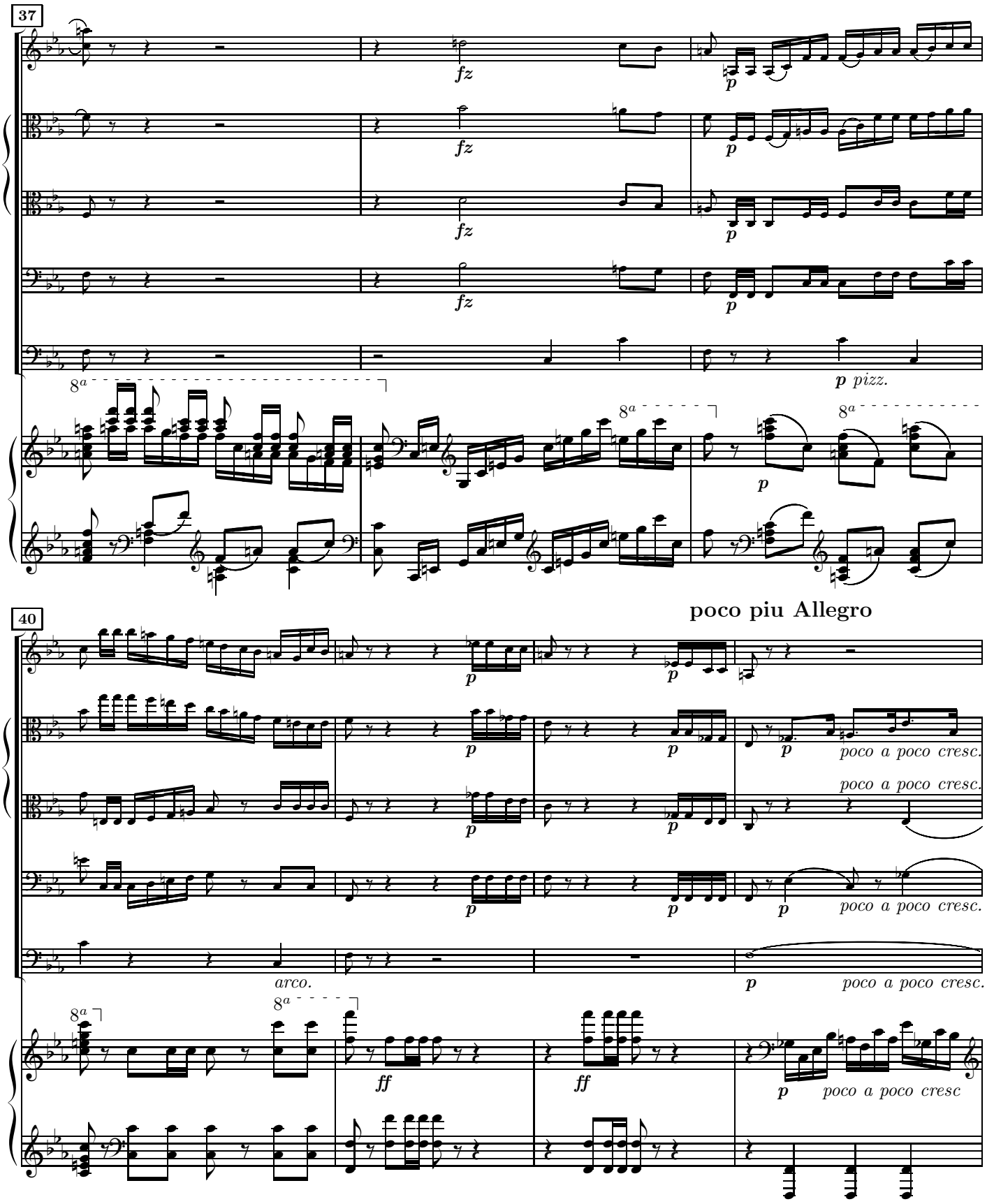
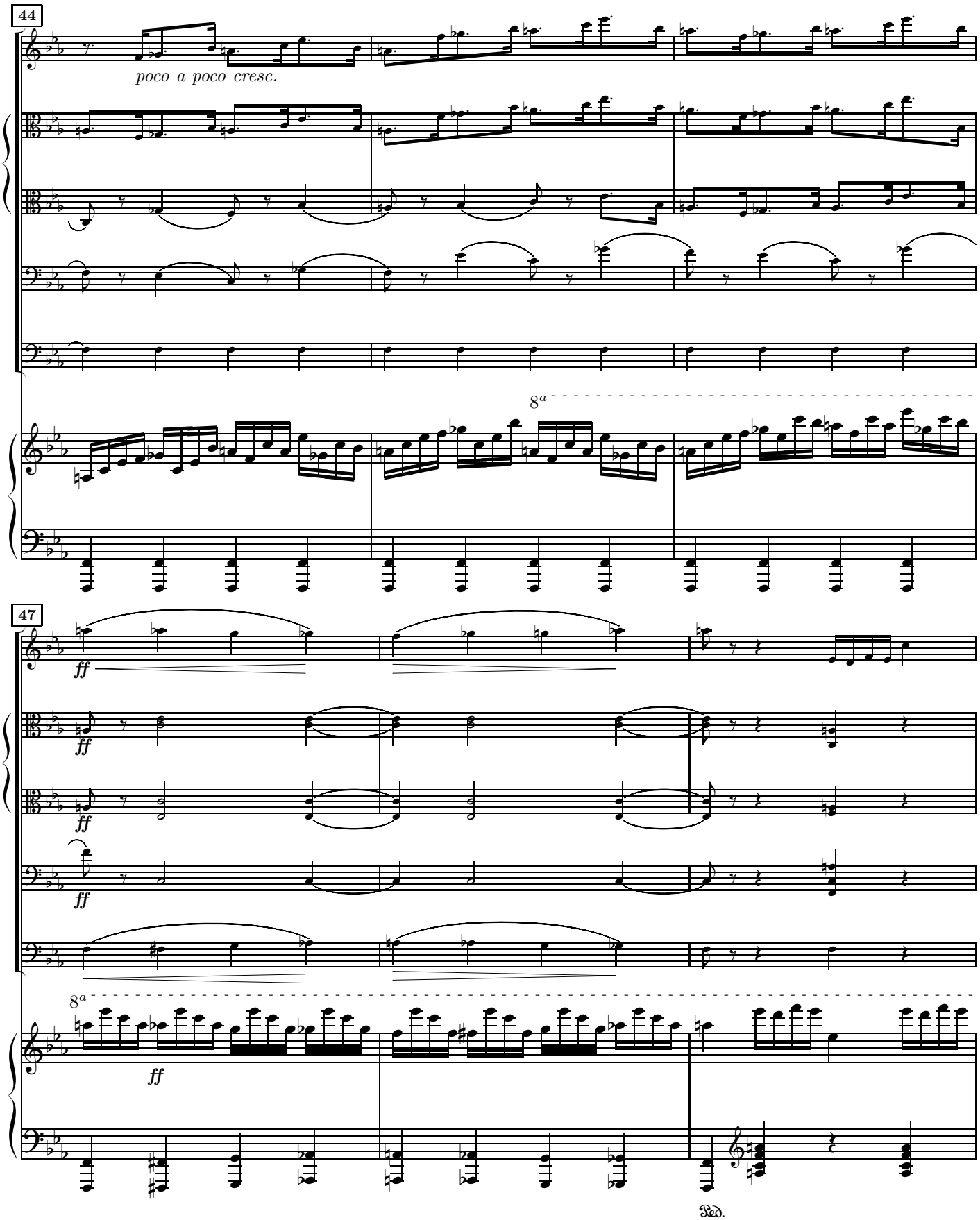

37
fz
p
p pizz.
8a
40
poco piu Allegro
poco a poco cresc.
arco.
ff
poco a poco cresc



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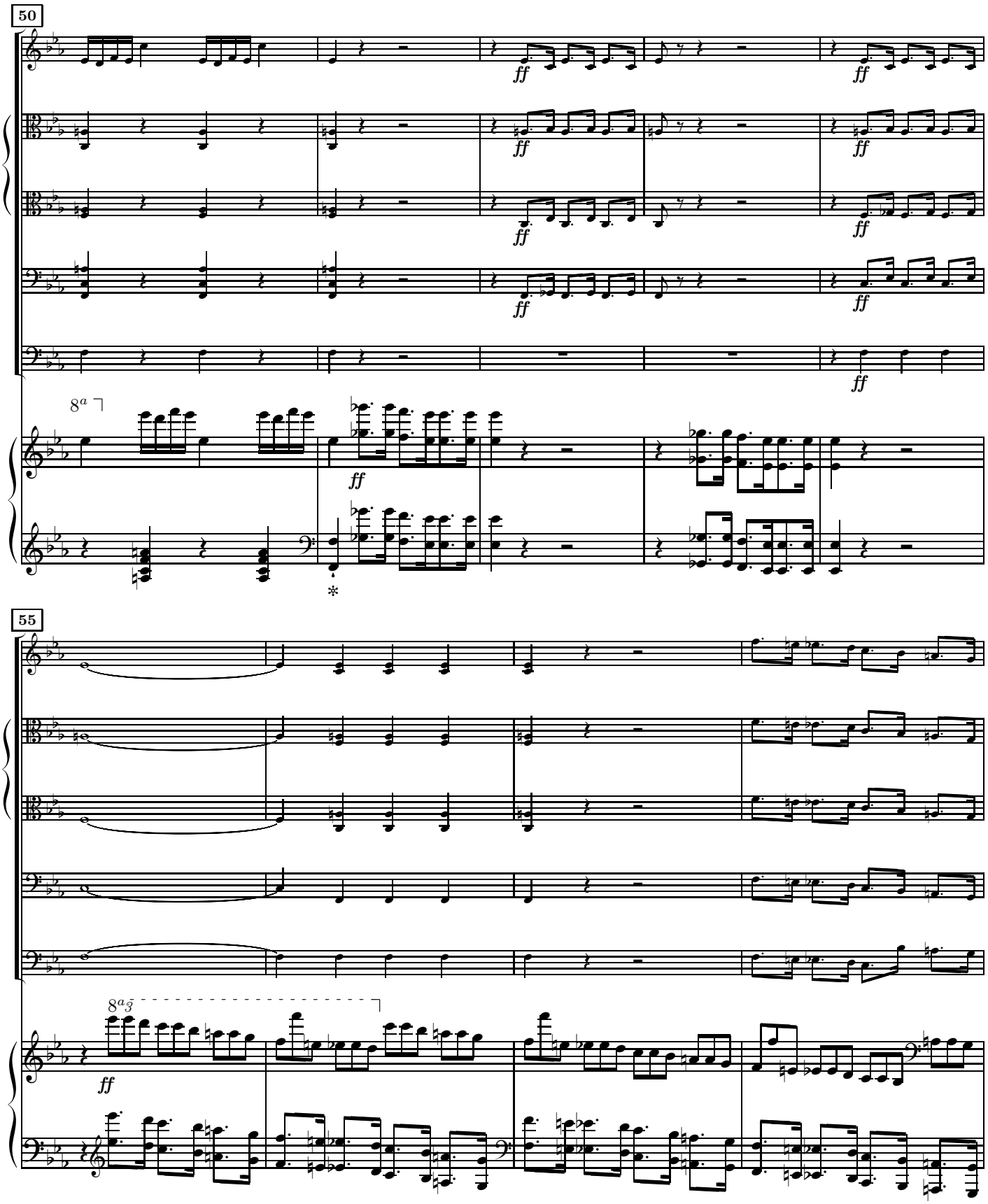
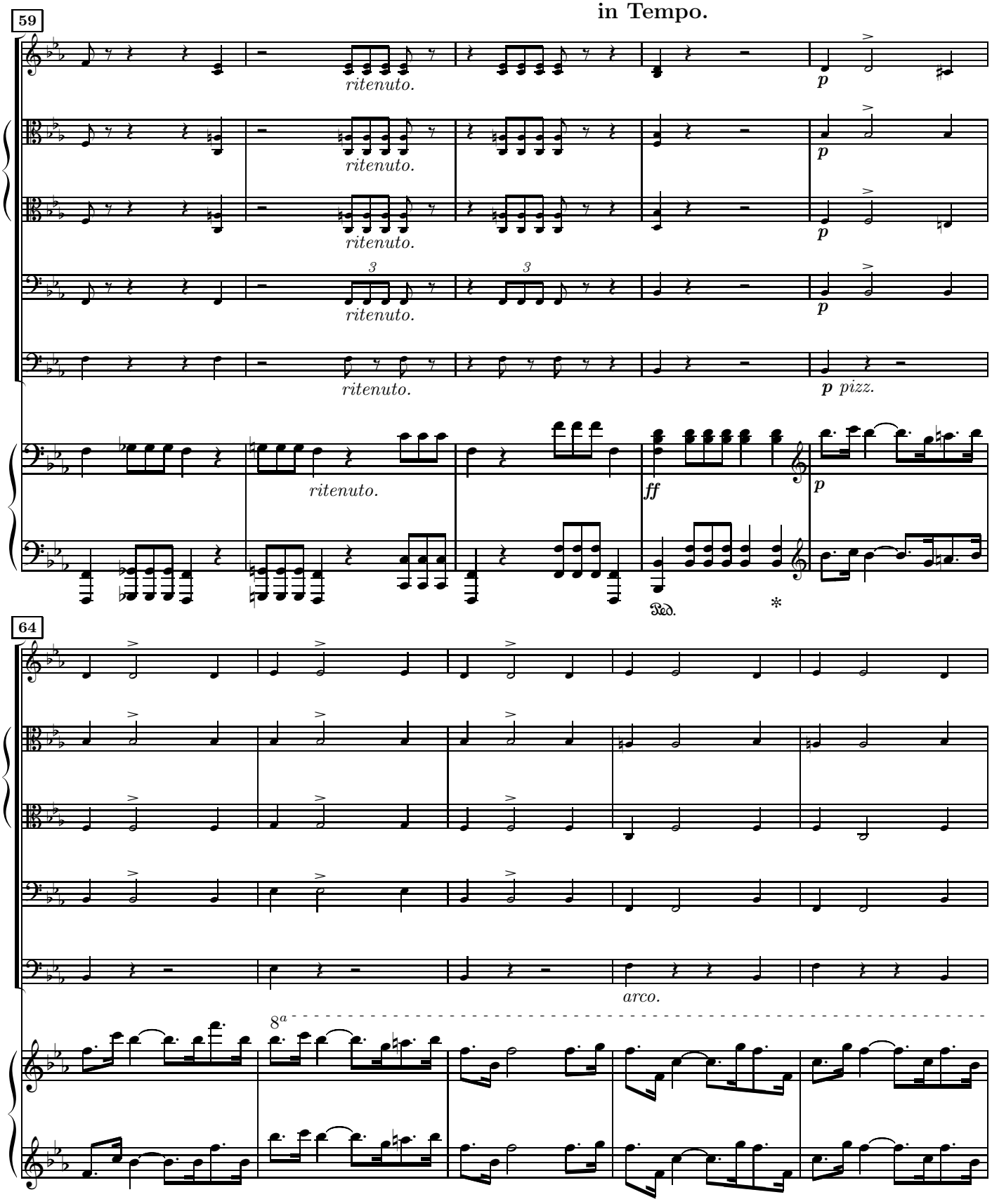

50
ff
8a
55
8a



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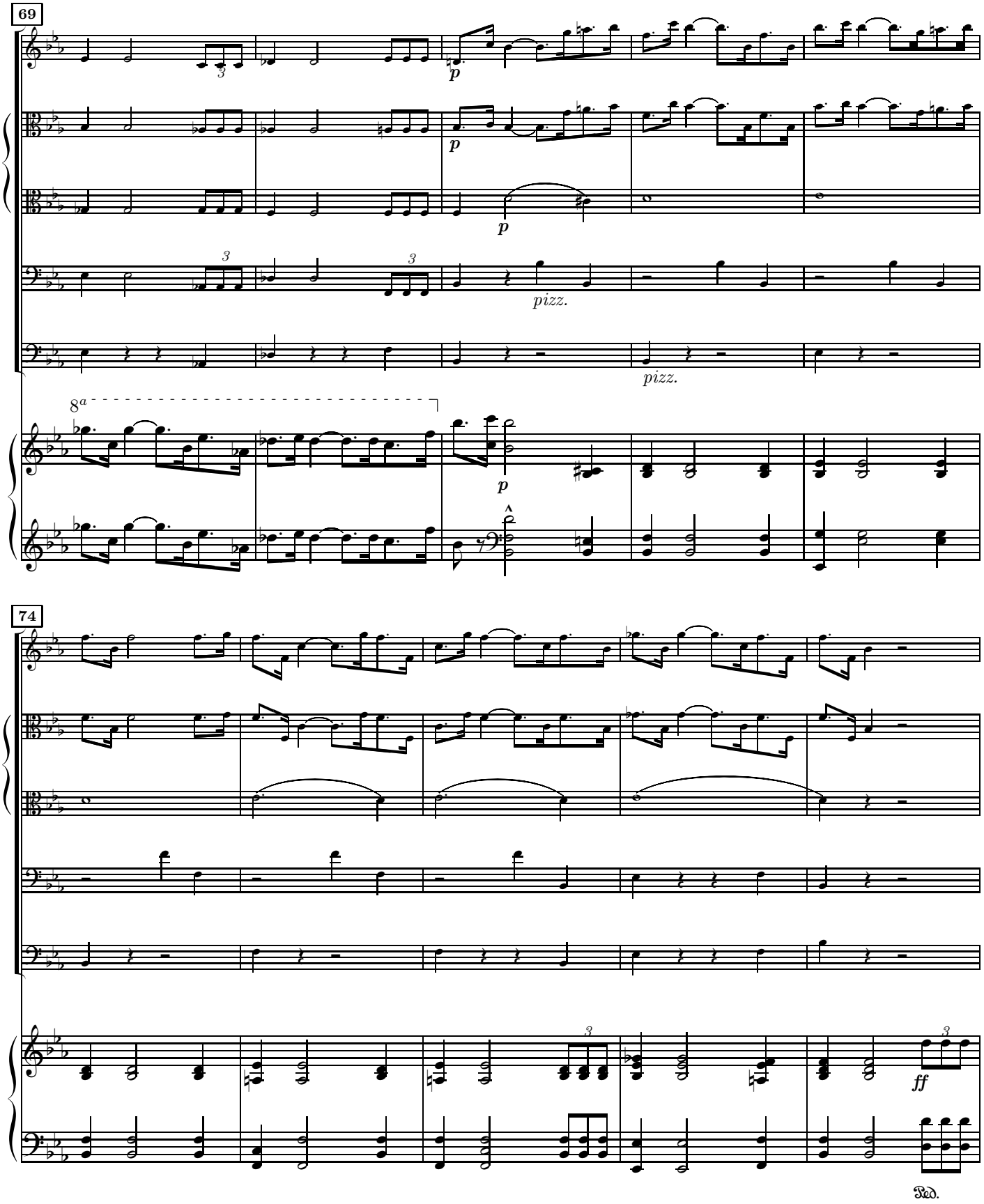
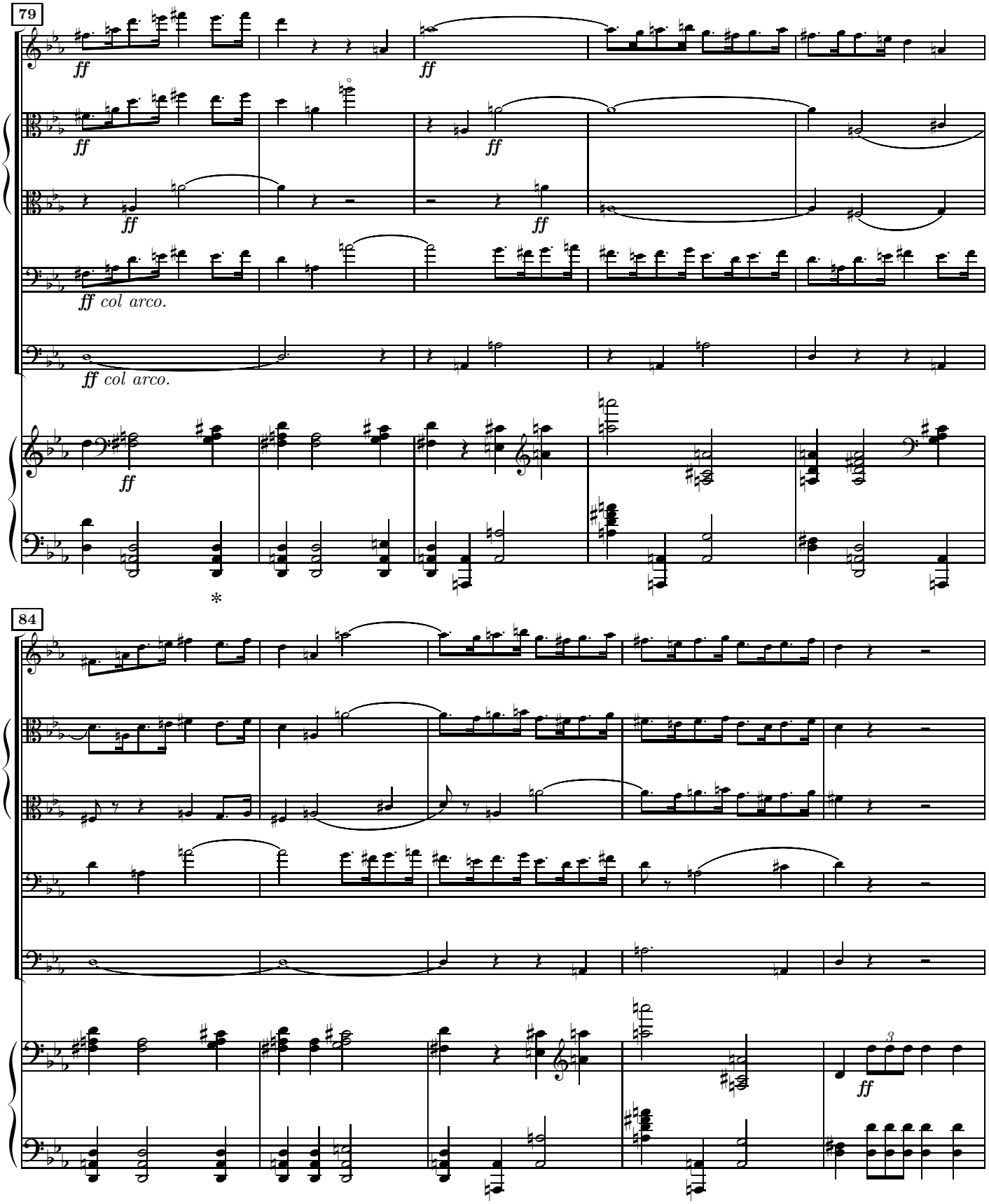

69
p
p
p
pizz.
pizz.
8a
p
74
ff
Ped.



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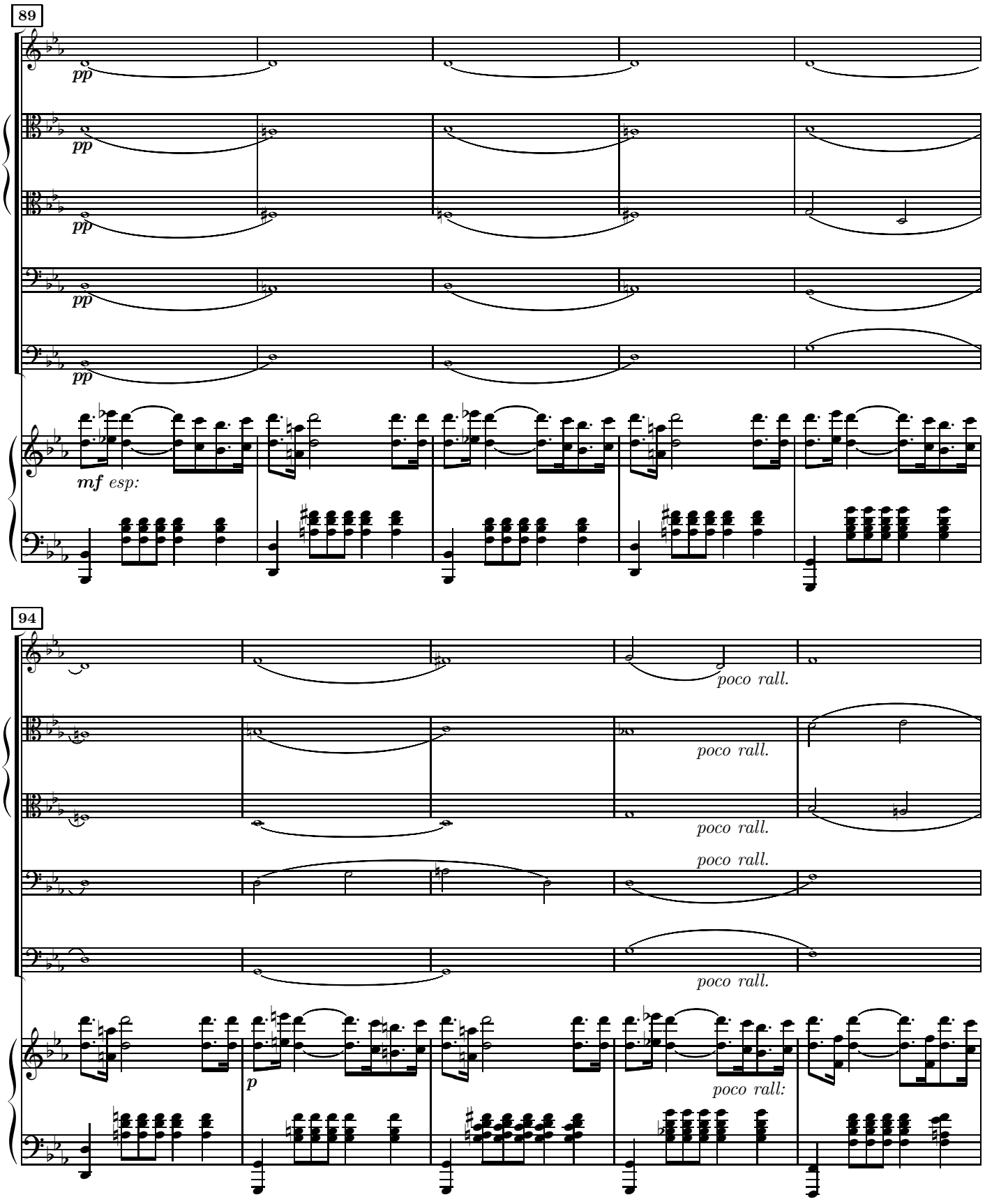
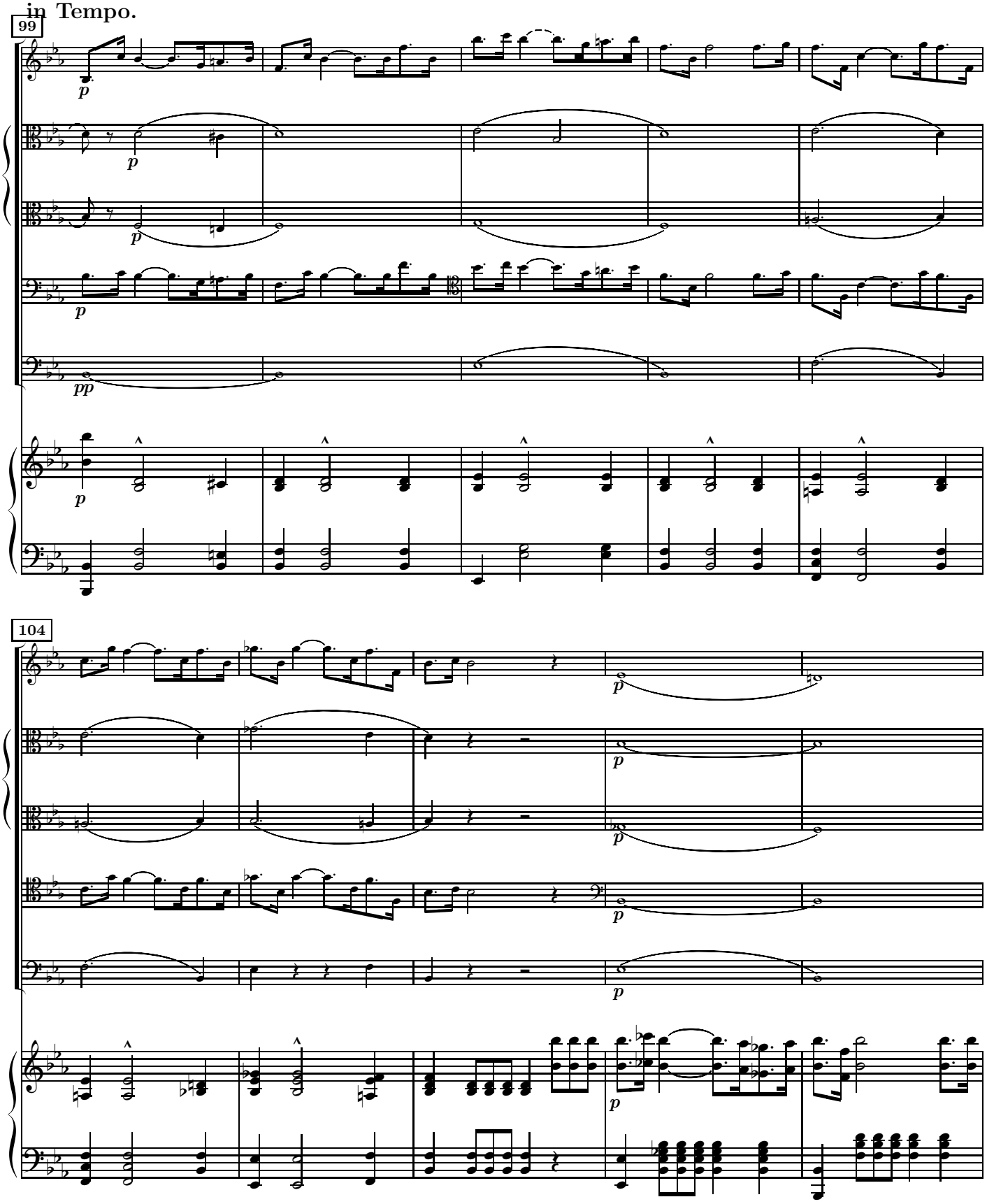

89
pp
pp
pp
pp
mf esp:
94
poco rall.
poco rall.
poco rall.
poco rall.
poco rall.
p
poco rall:

in Tempo.



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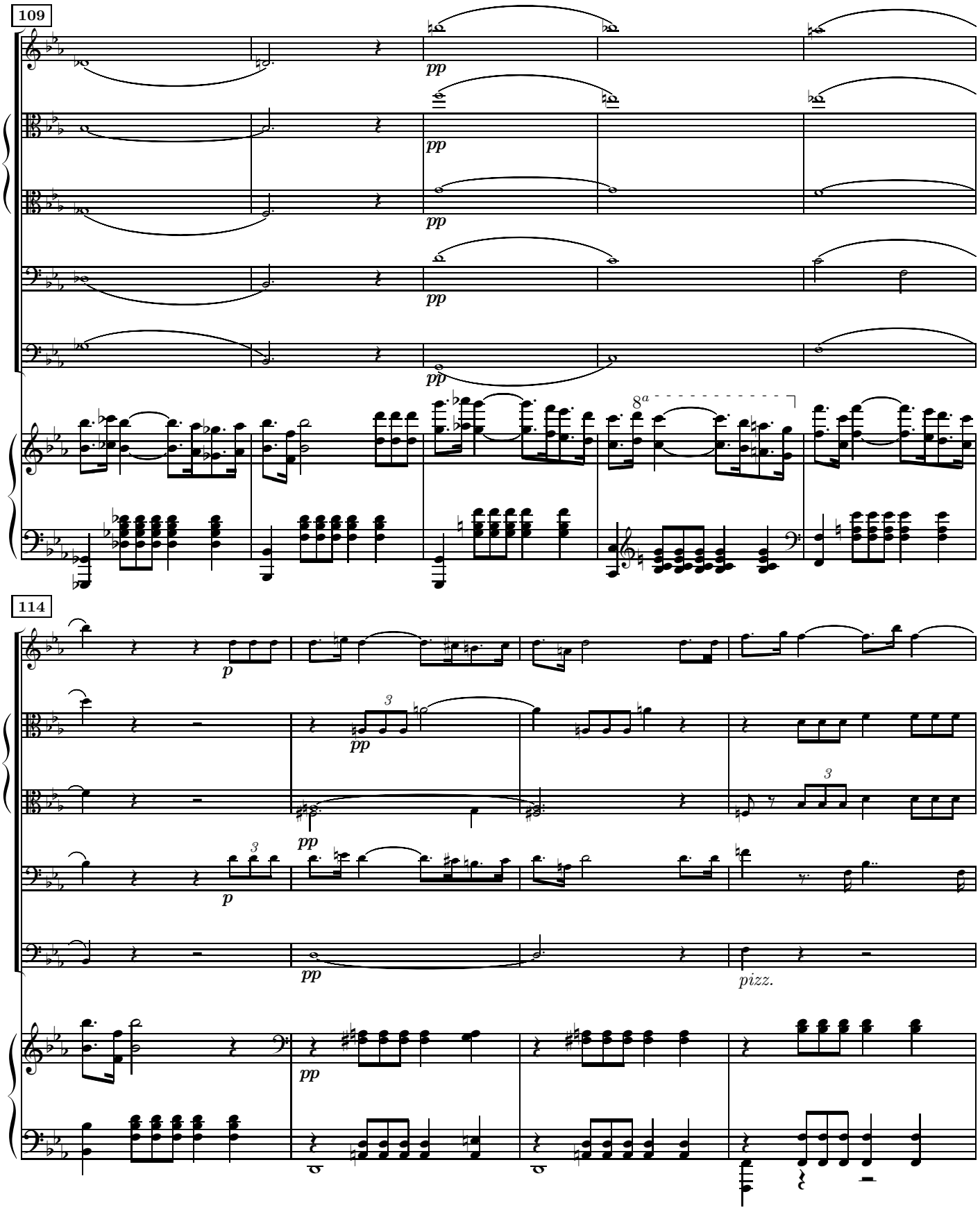
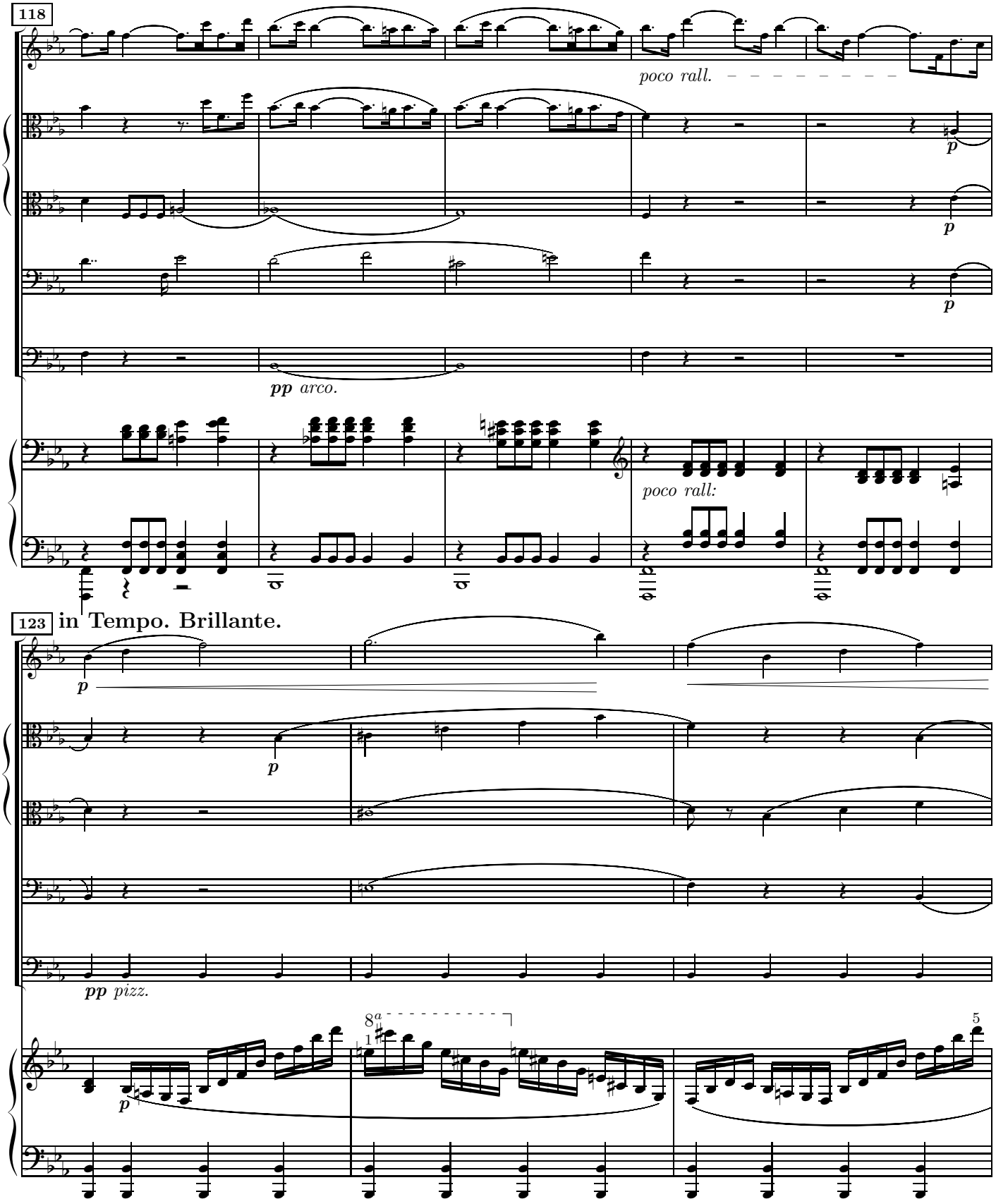

109
pp
8a
114
p
pp
3
pizz.



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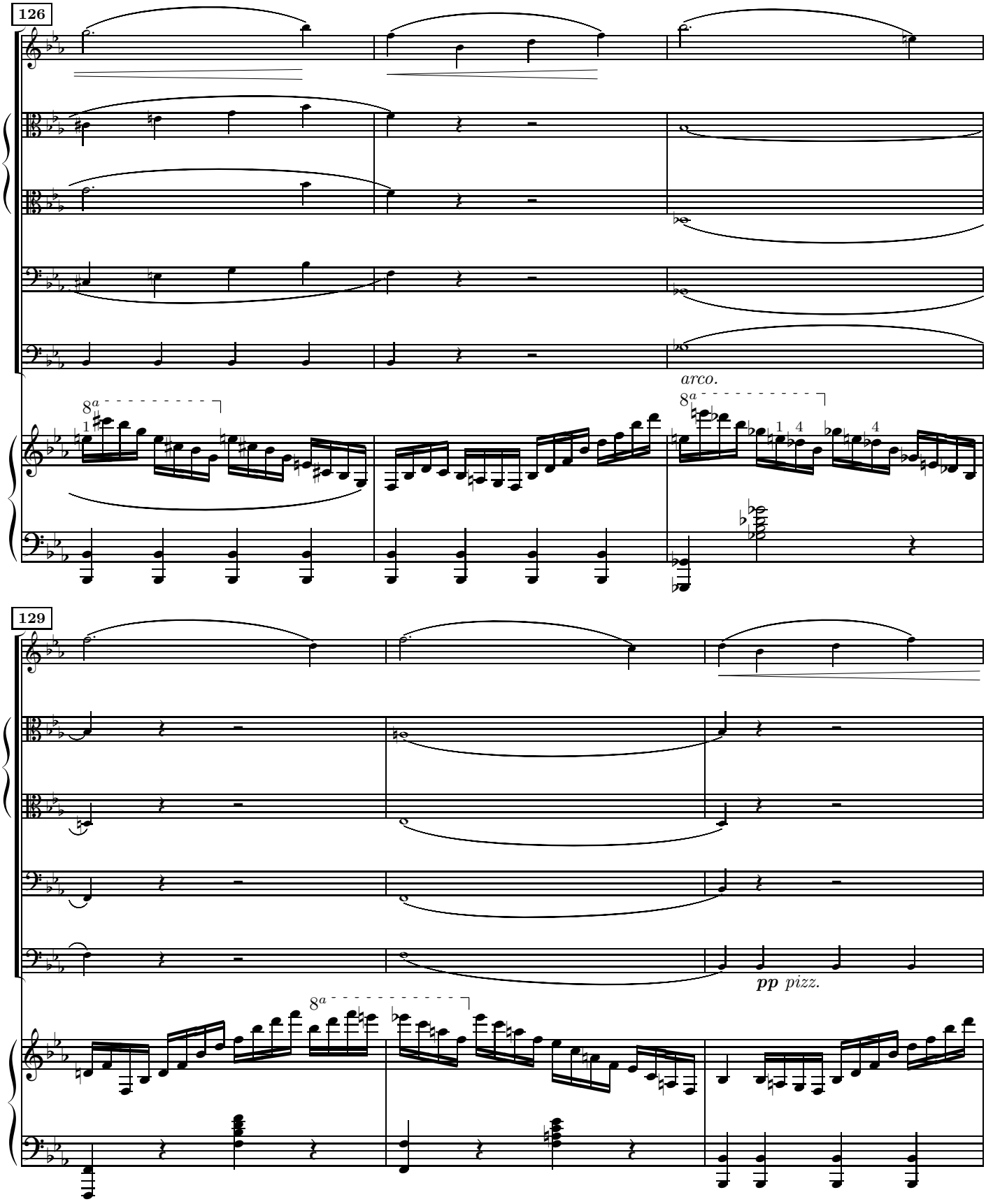
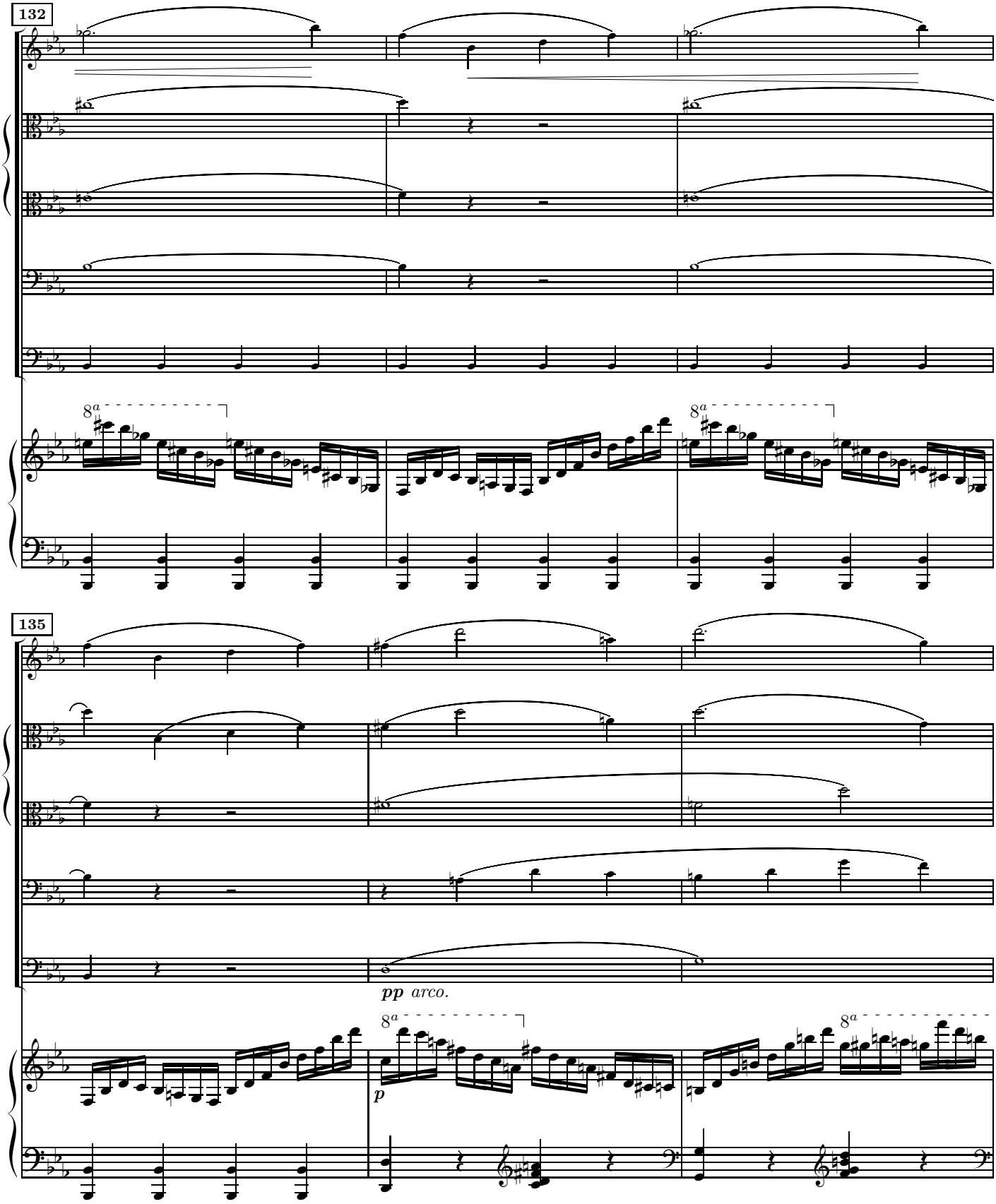

126
arco.
129
pp pizz.



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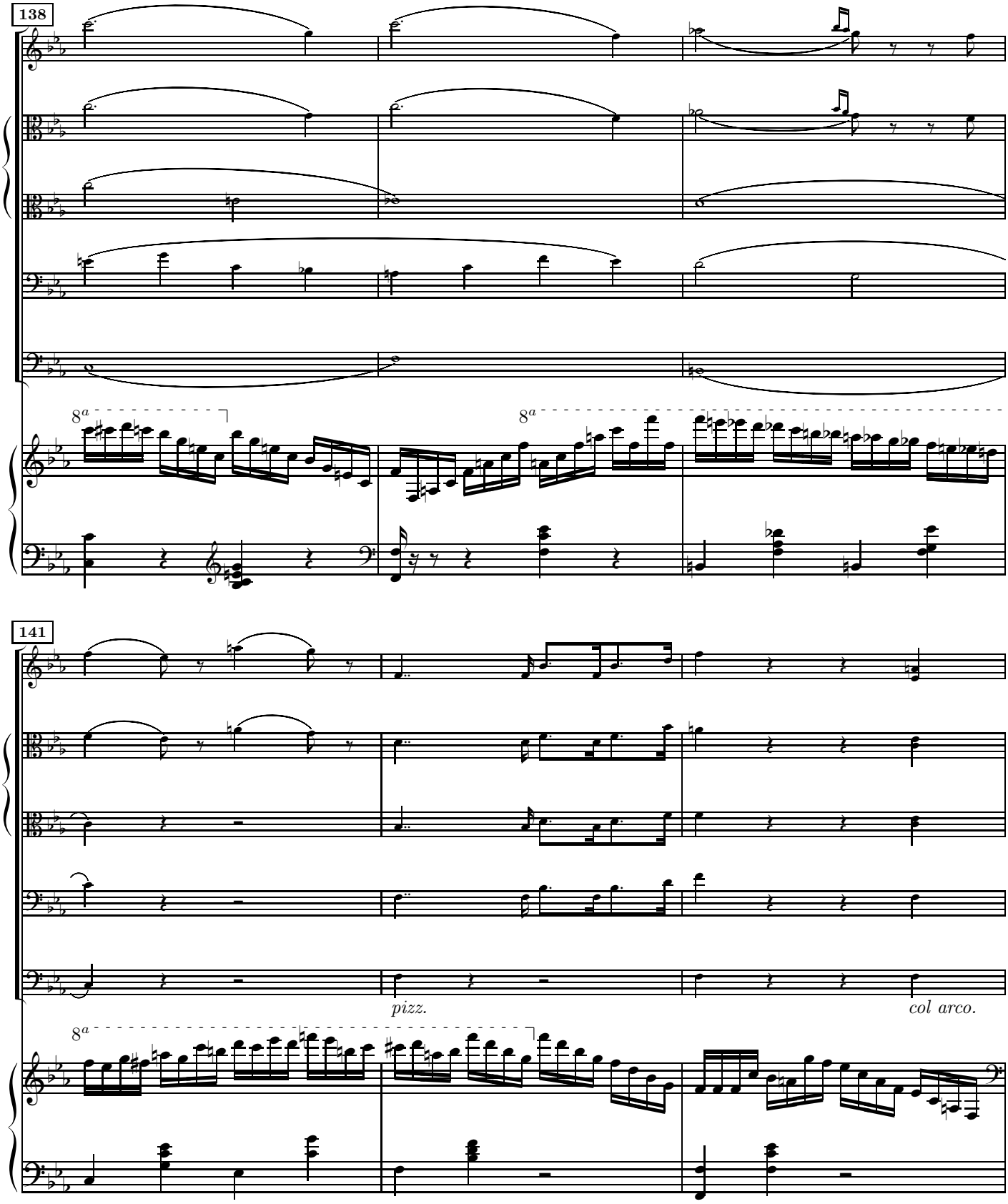
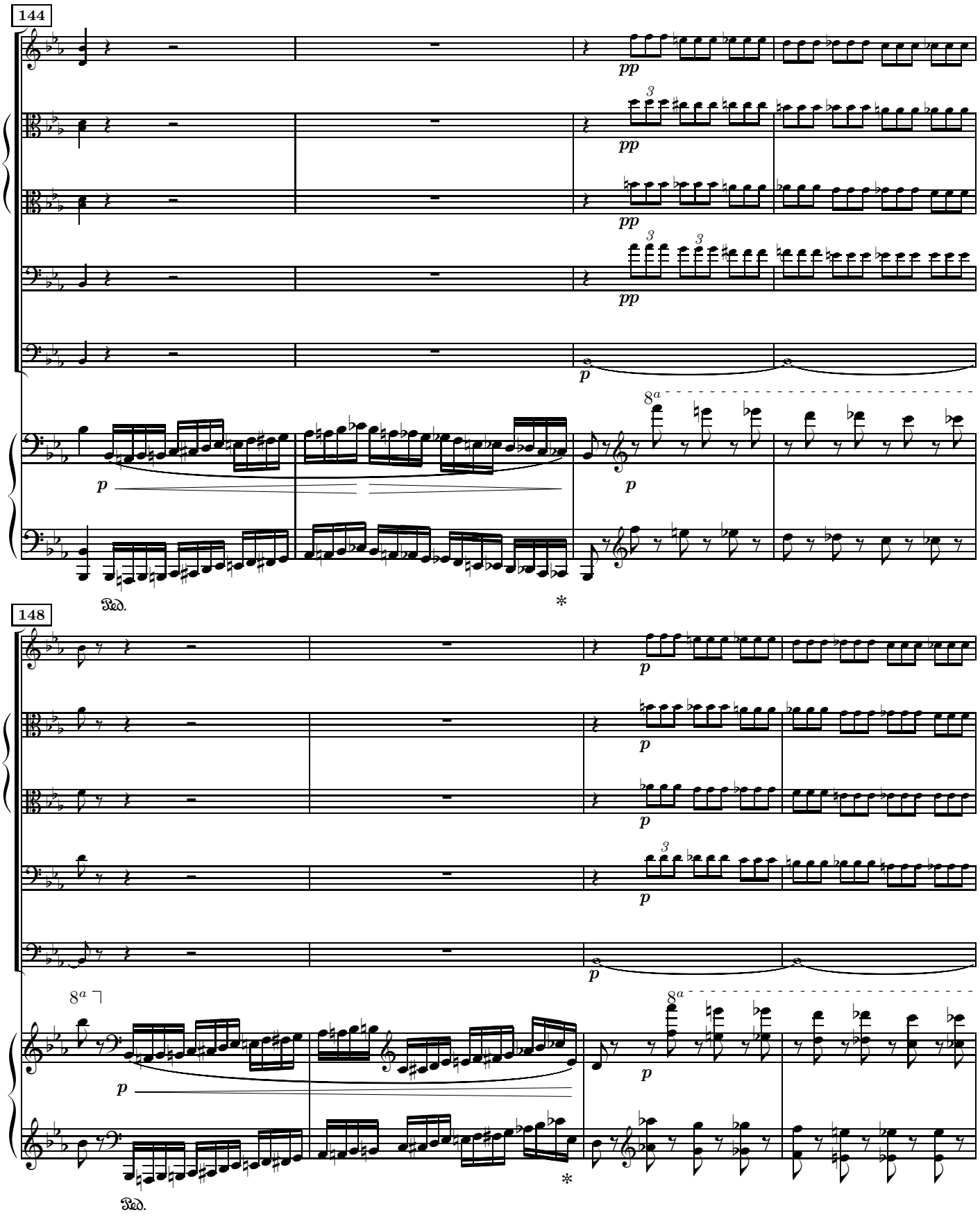

138
8a
8a
141
pizz.
col arco.
8a



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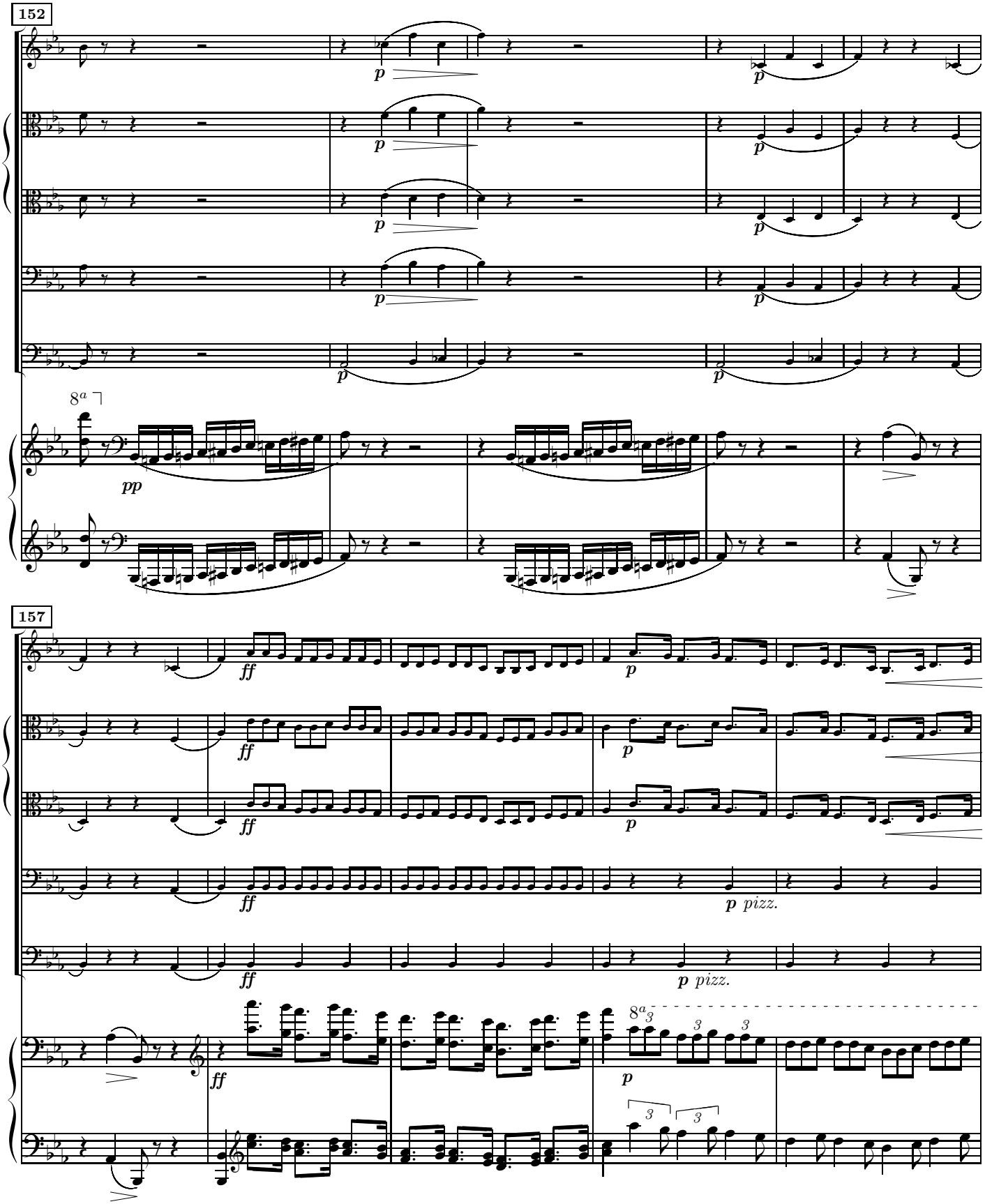
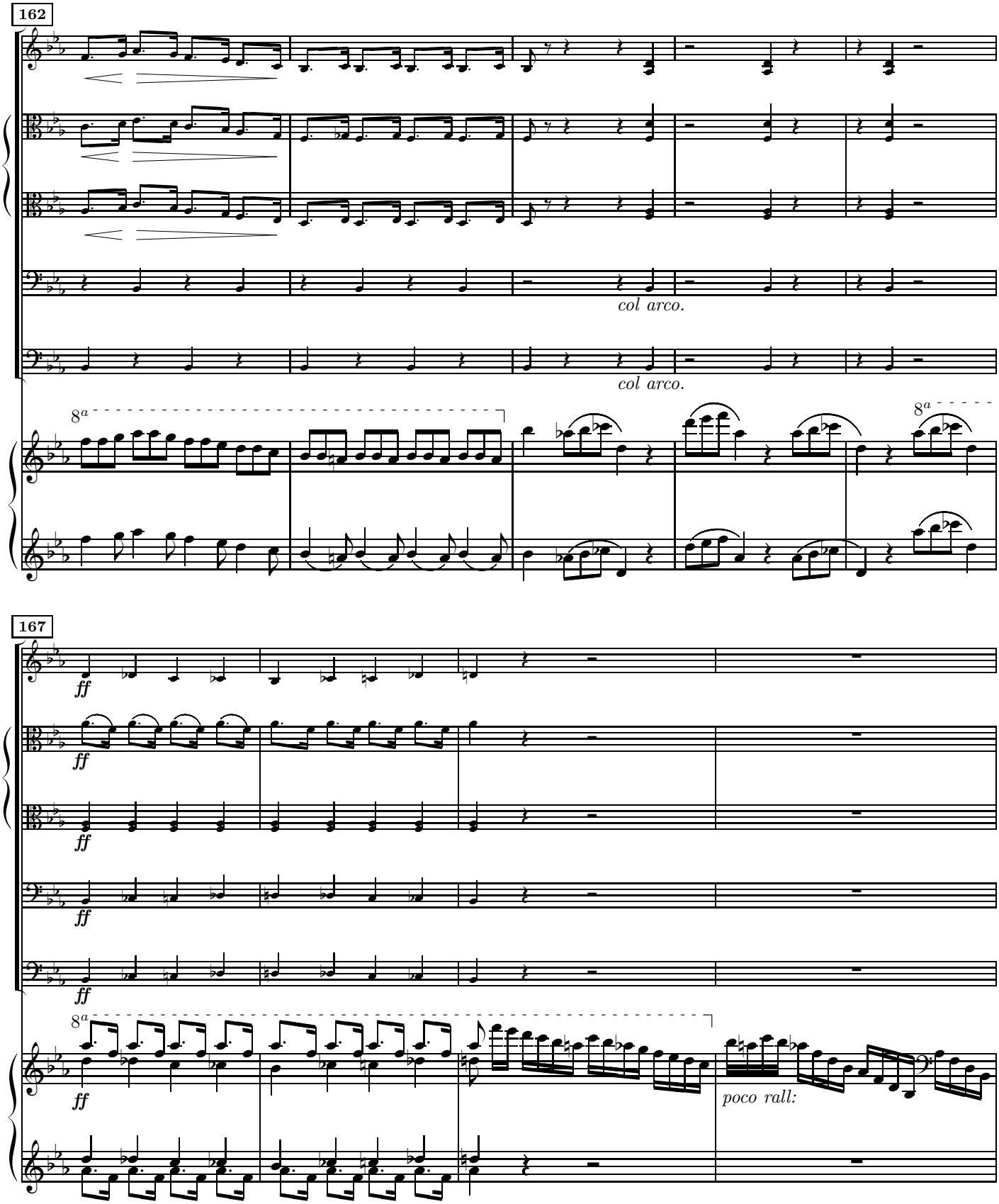

152
8a
pp
157
ff
p
pizz.
8a
3



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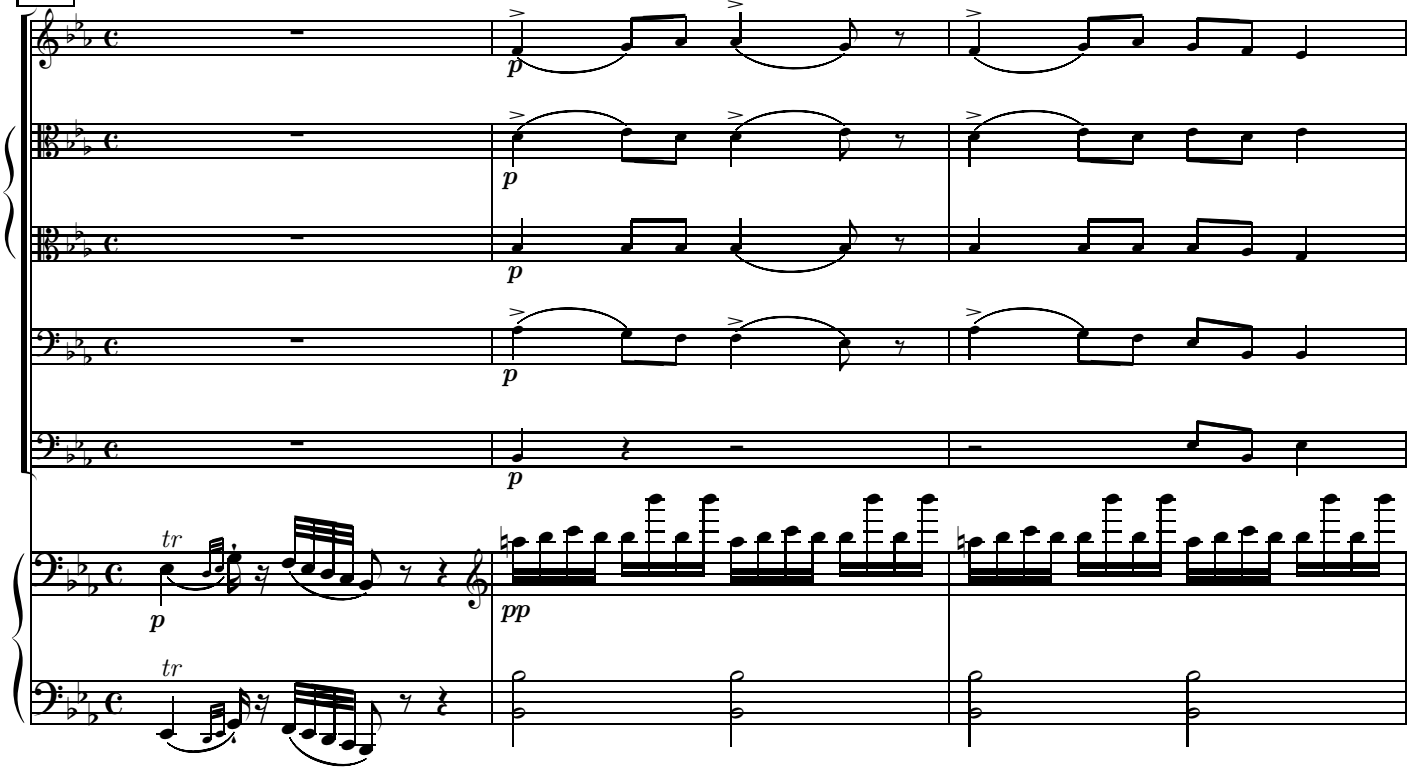
171 **Tempo 1.º**



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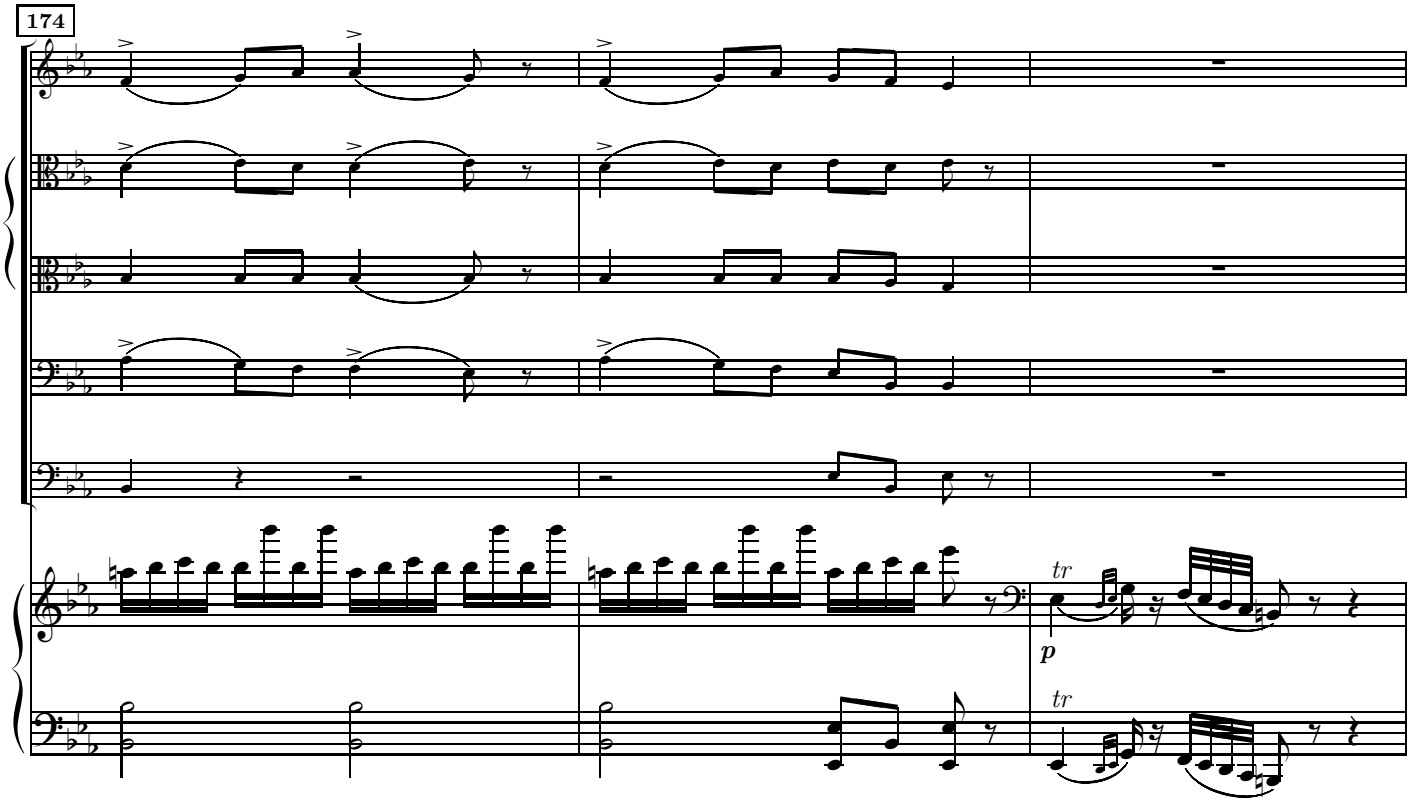

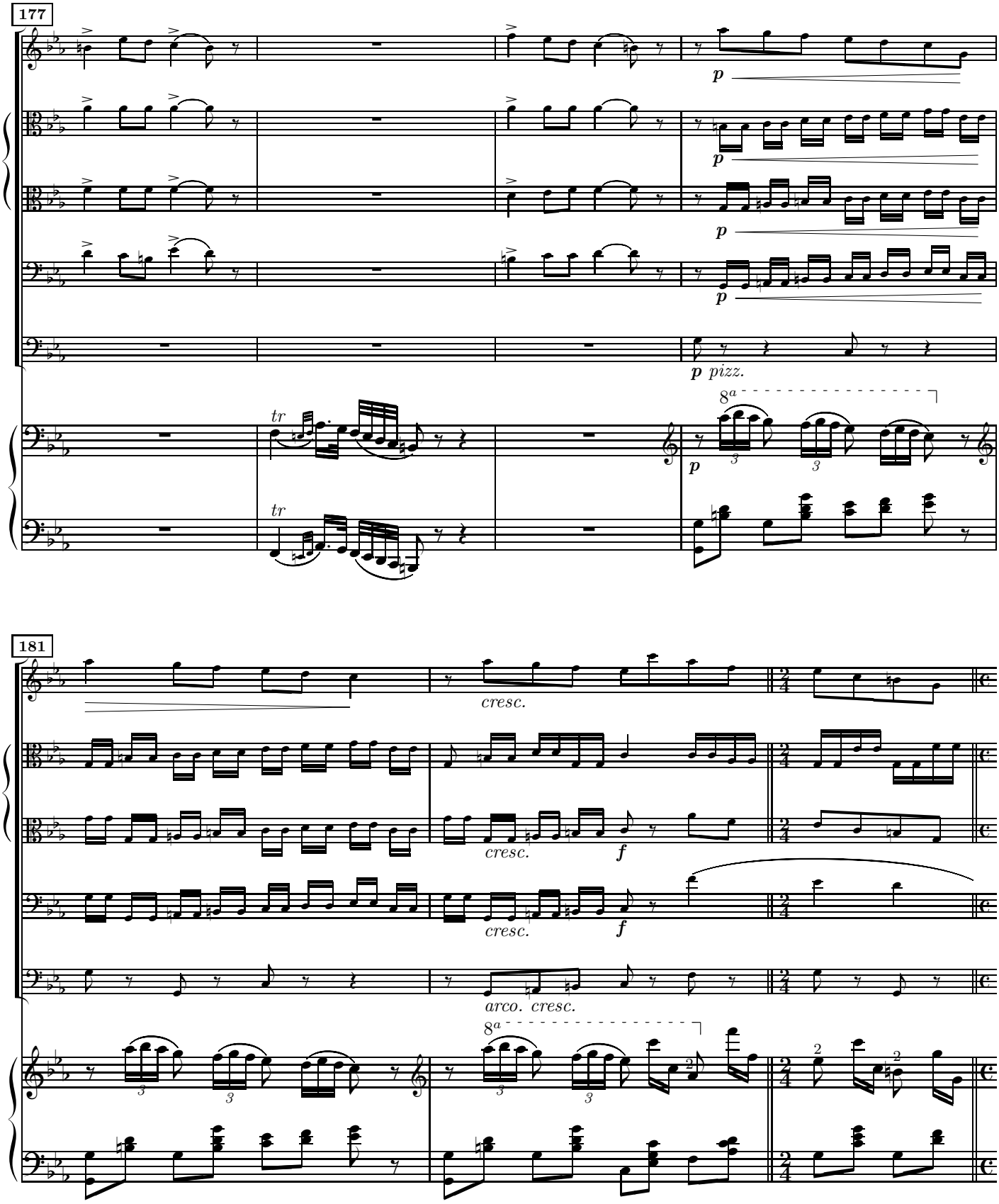

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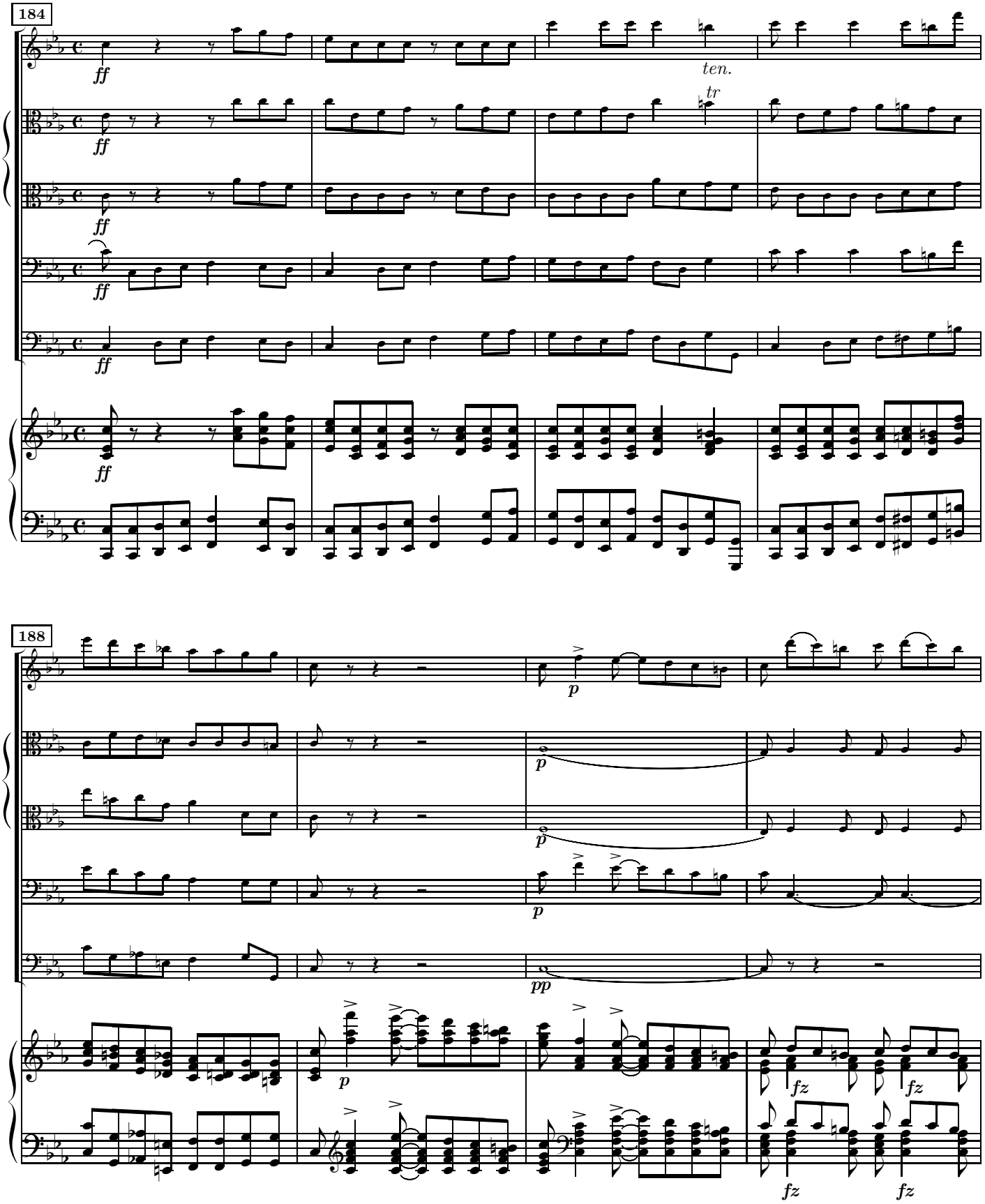
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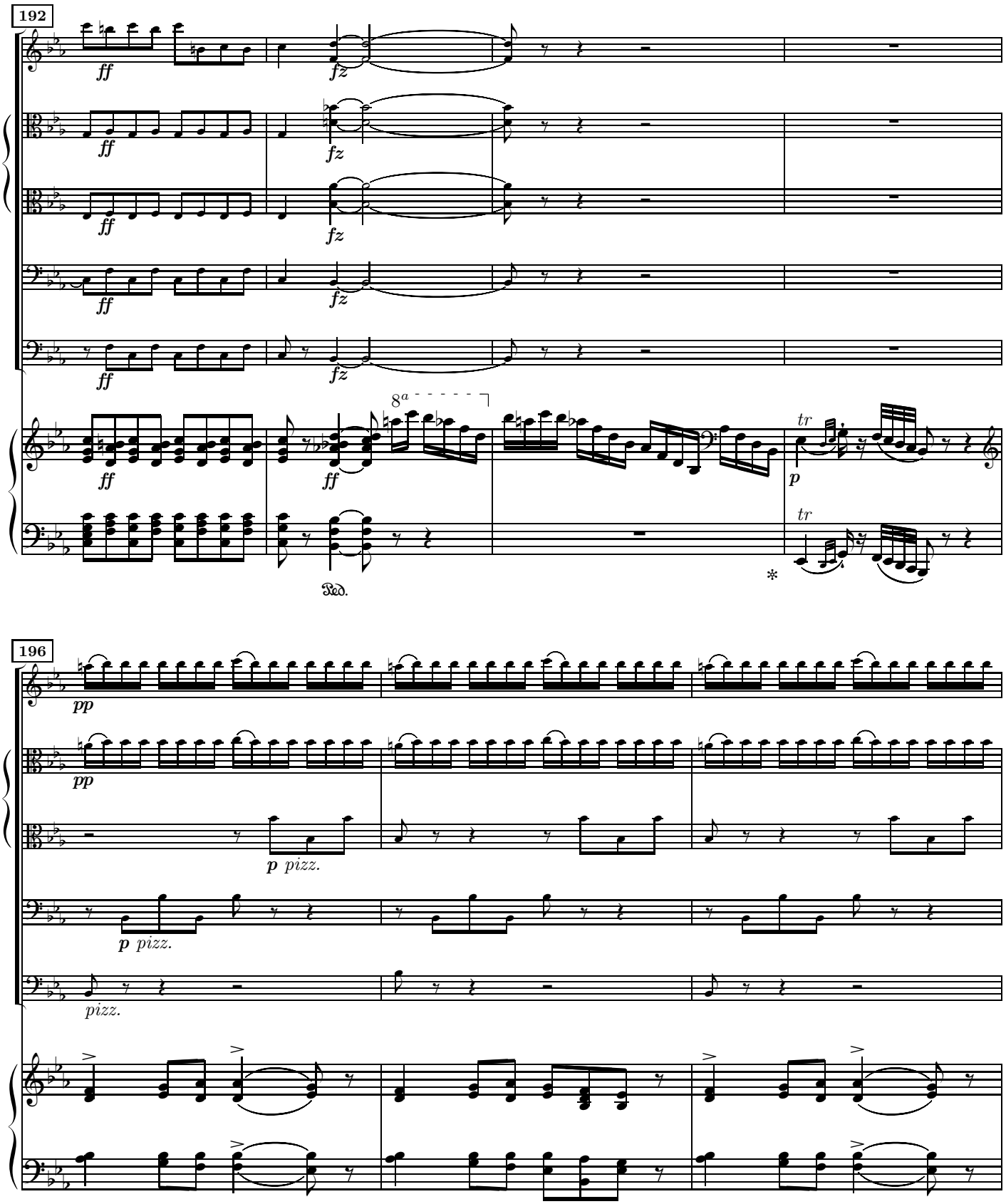
ff
ten.
tr
188
p
pp
fz



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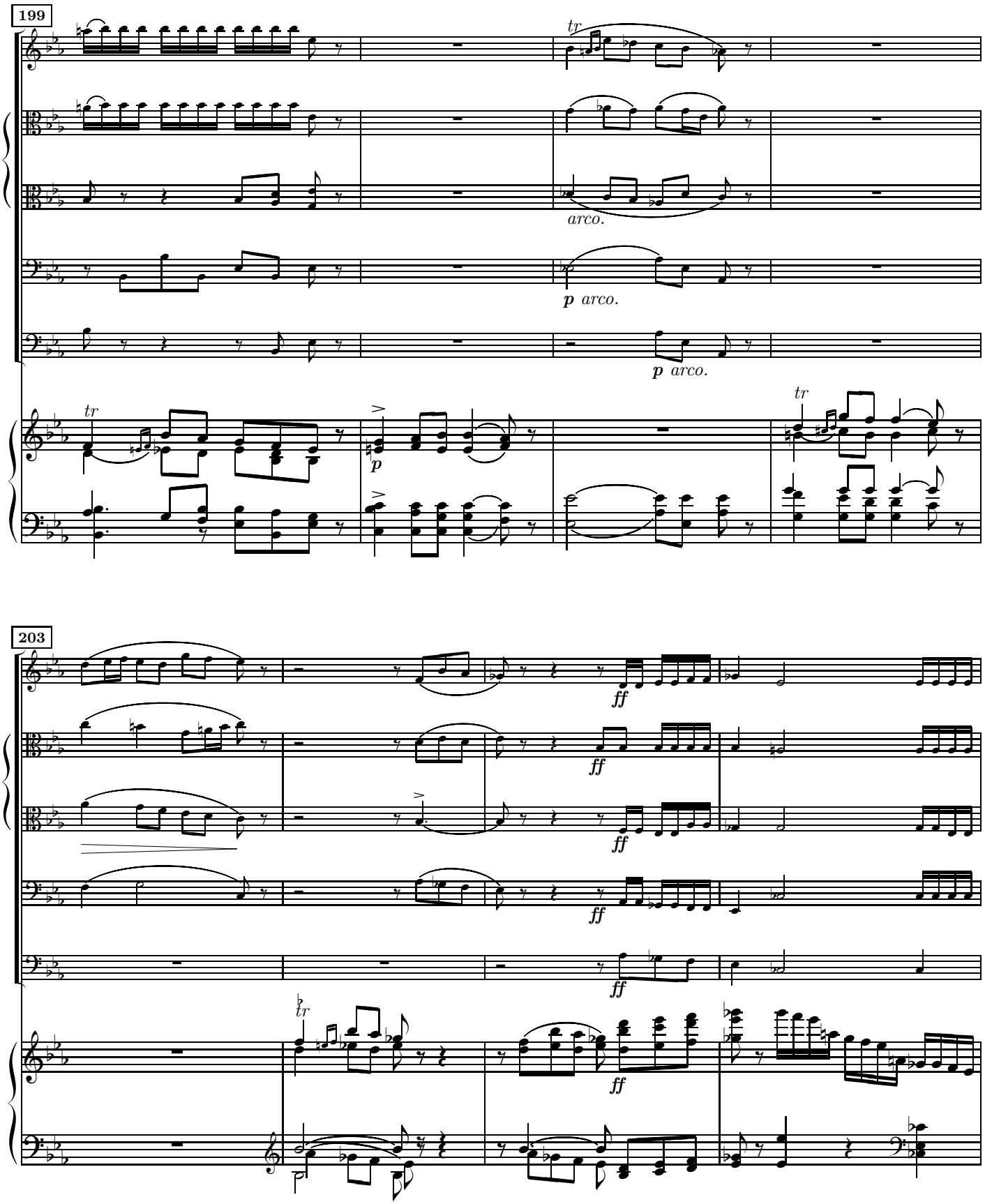
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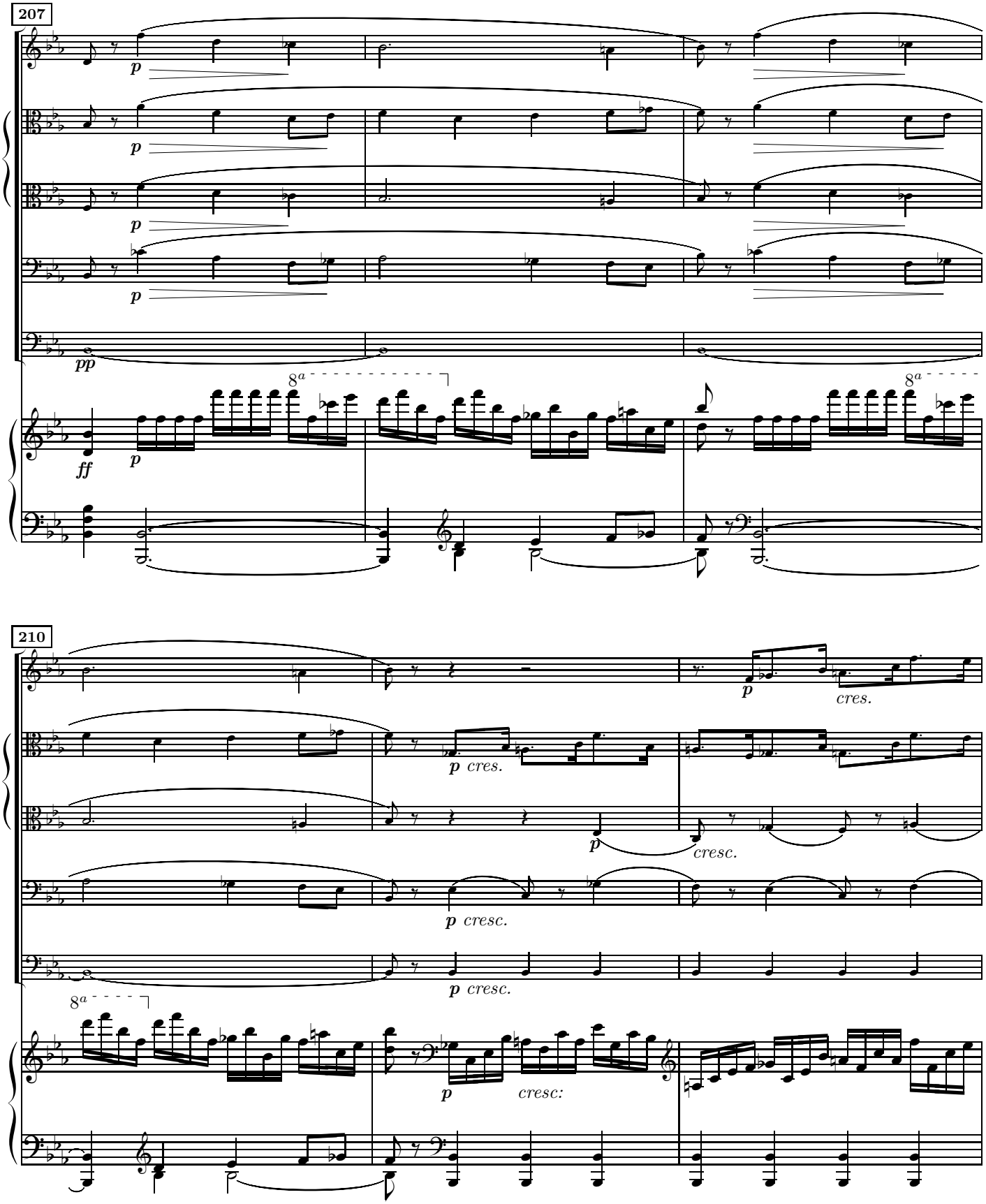
tr
arco.
p arco.
p arco.
tr
p
tr
203
ff
ff
ff
ff
tr
ff



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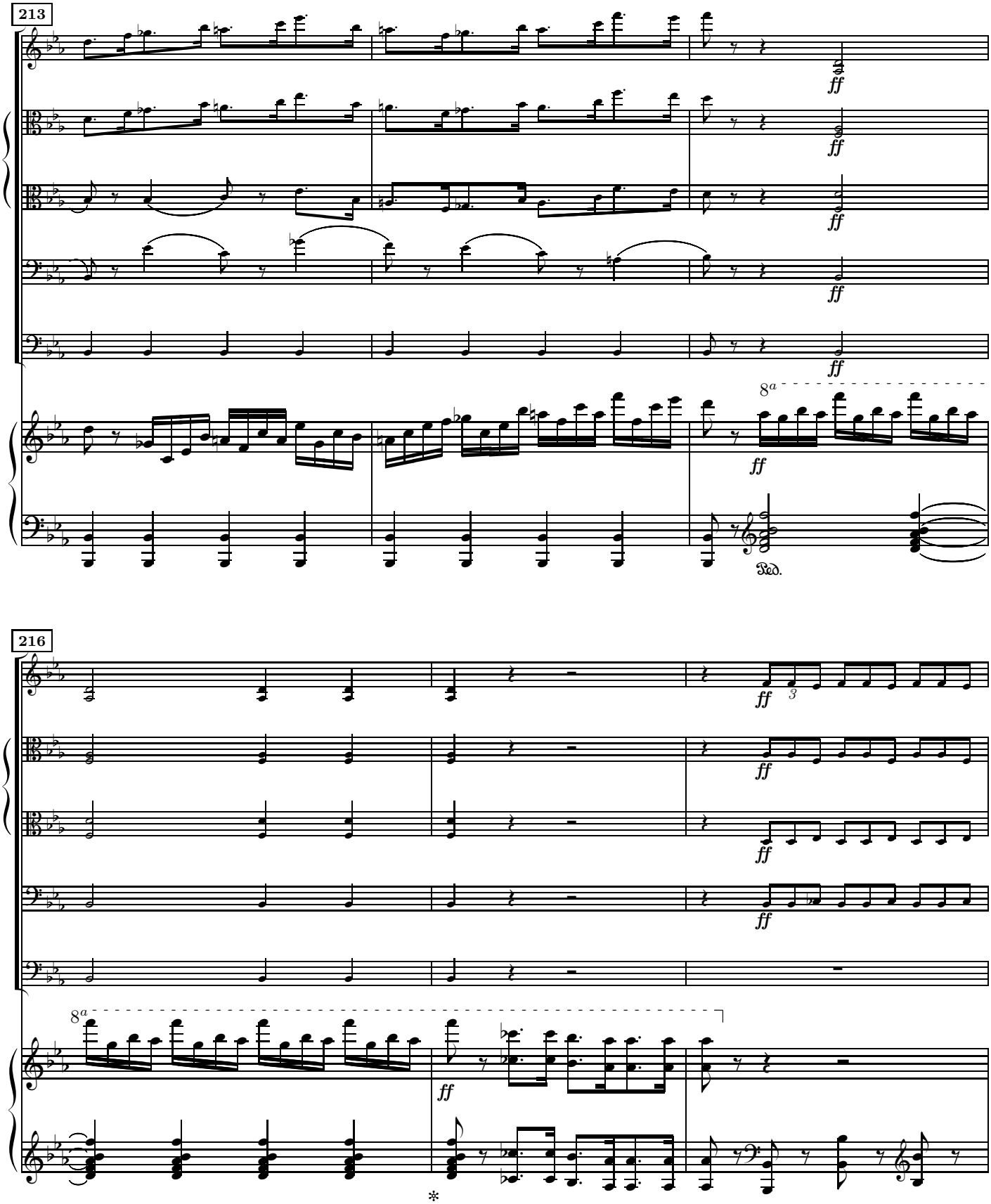
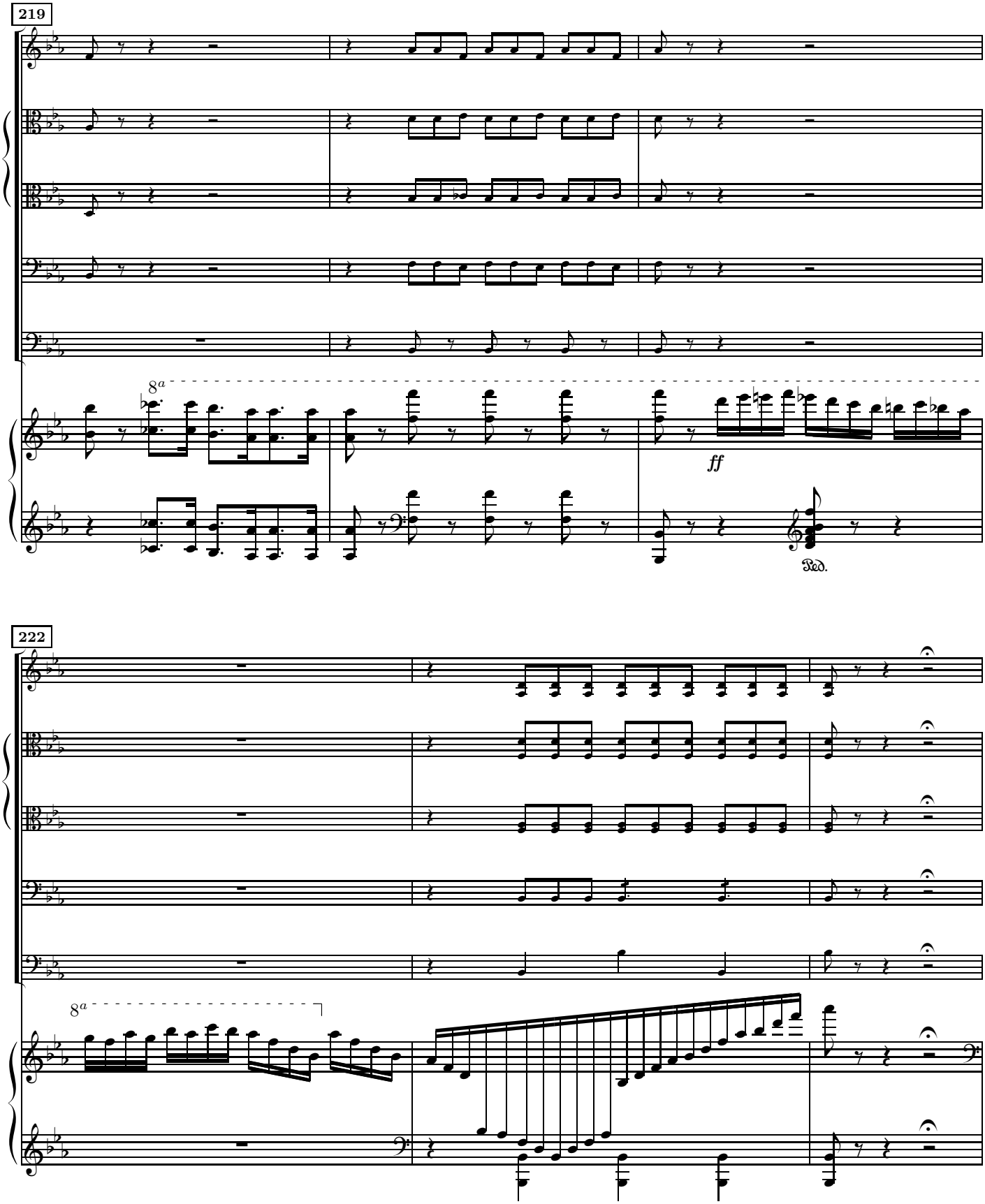

213
ff
8a
Ped.
216
ff
3
8a
*



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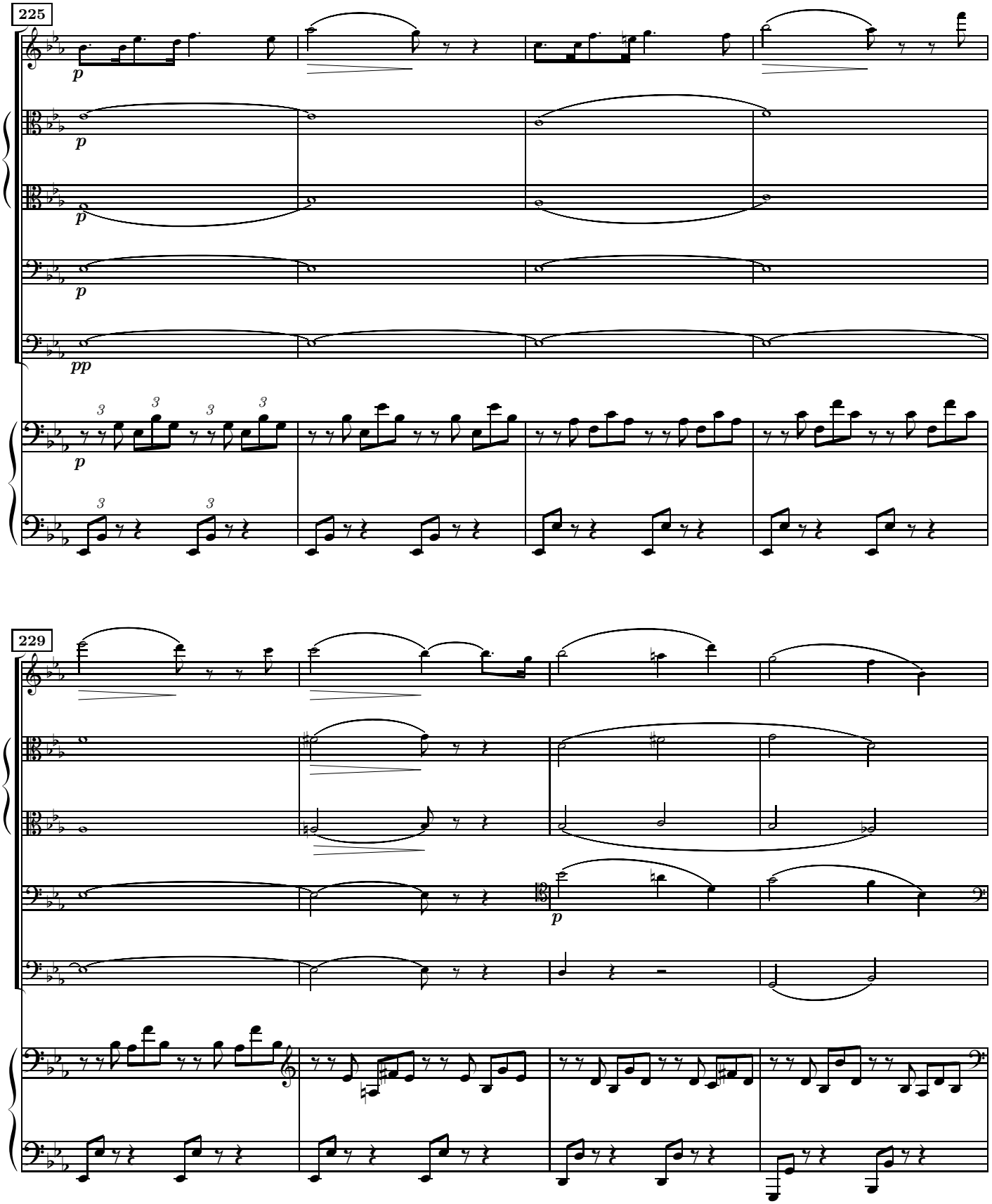
225
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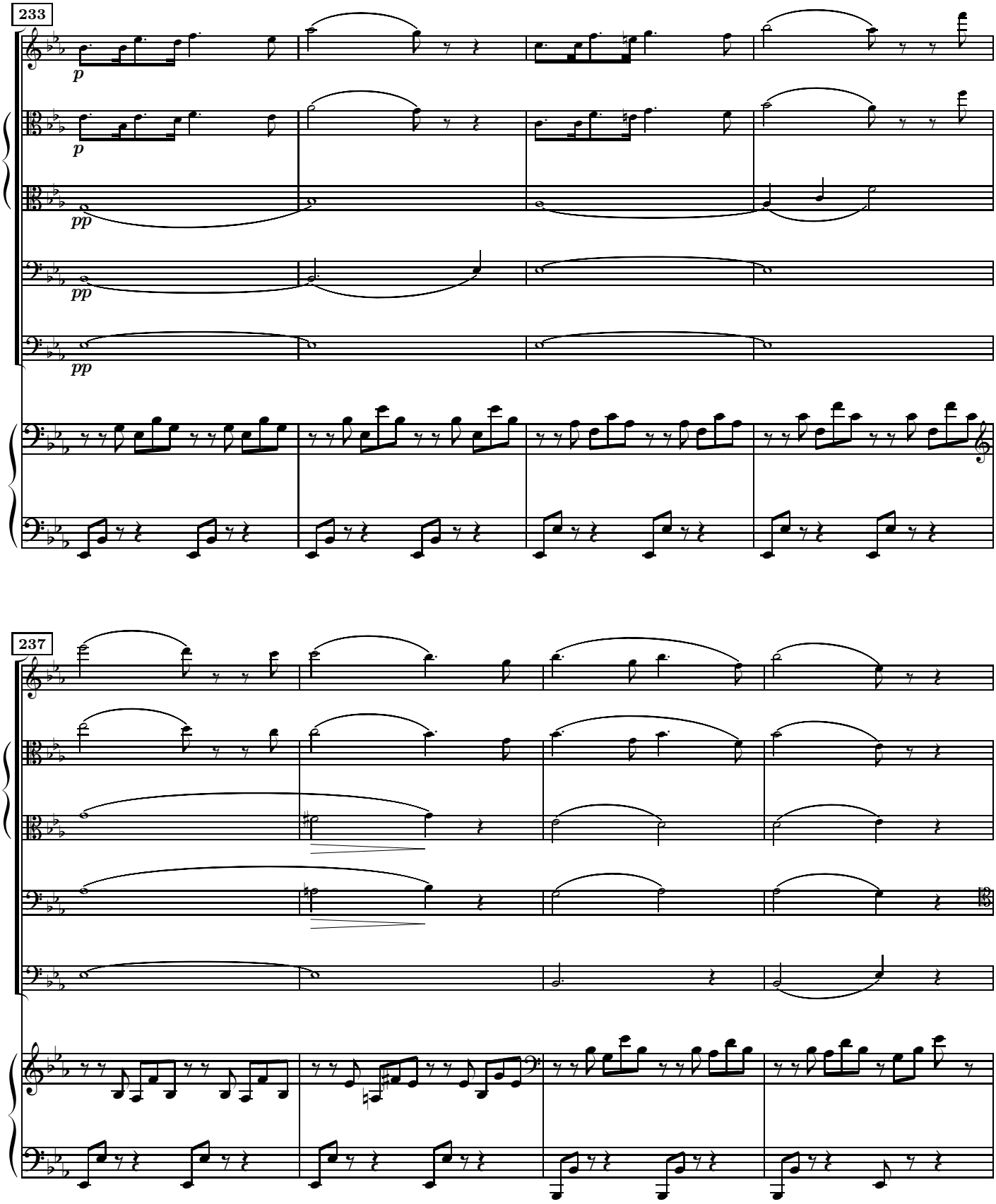
p
p
pp
p
229
p



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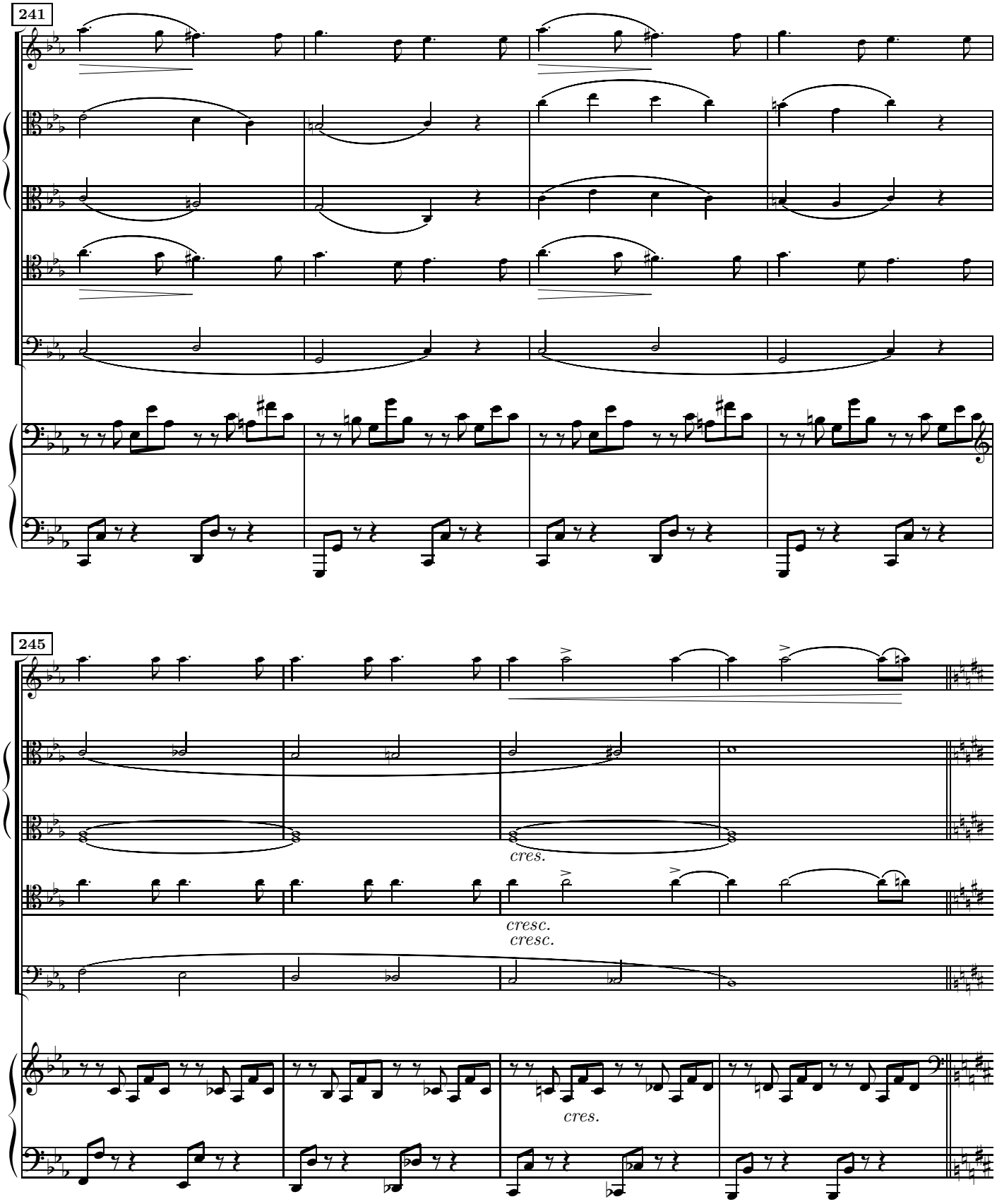
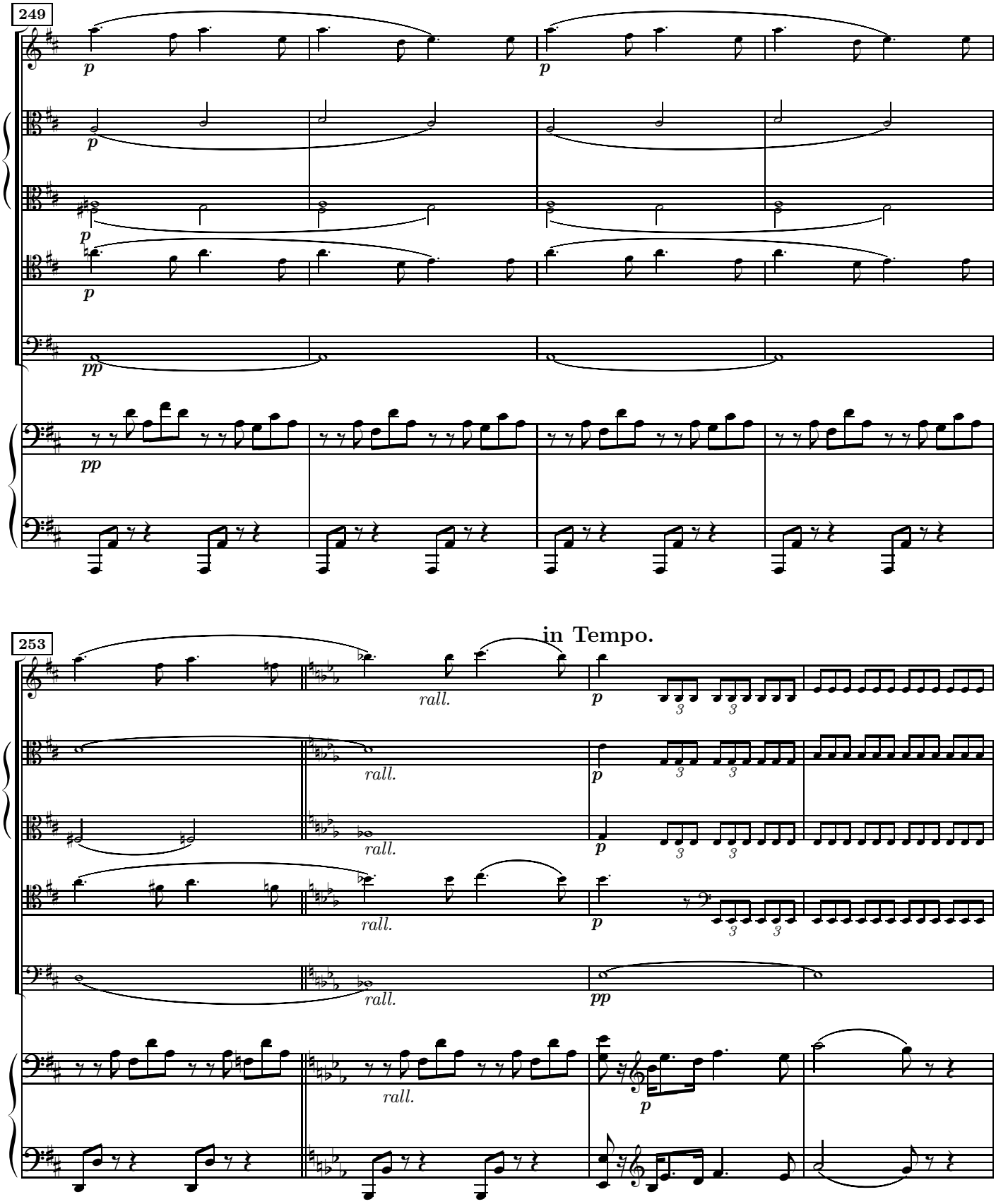

241
245
cres.
cresc.
cresc.
cres.



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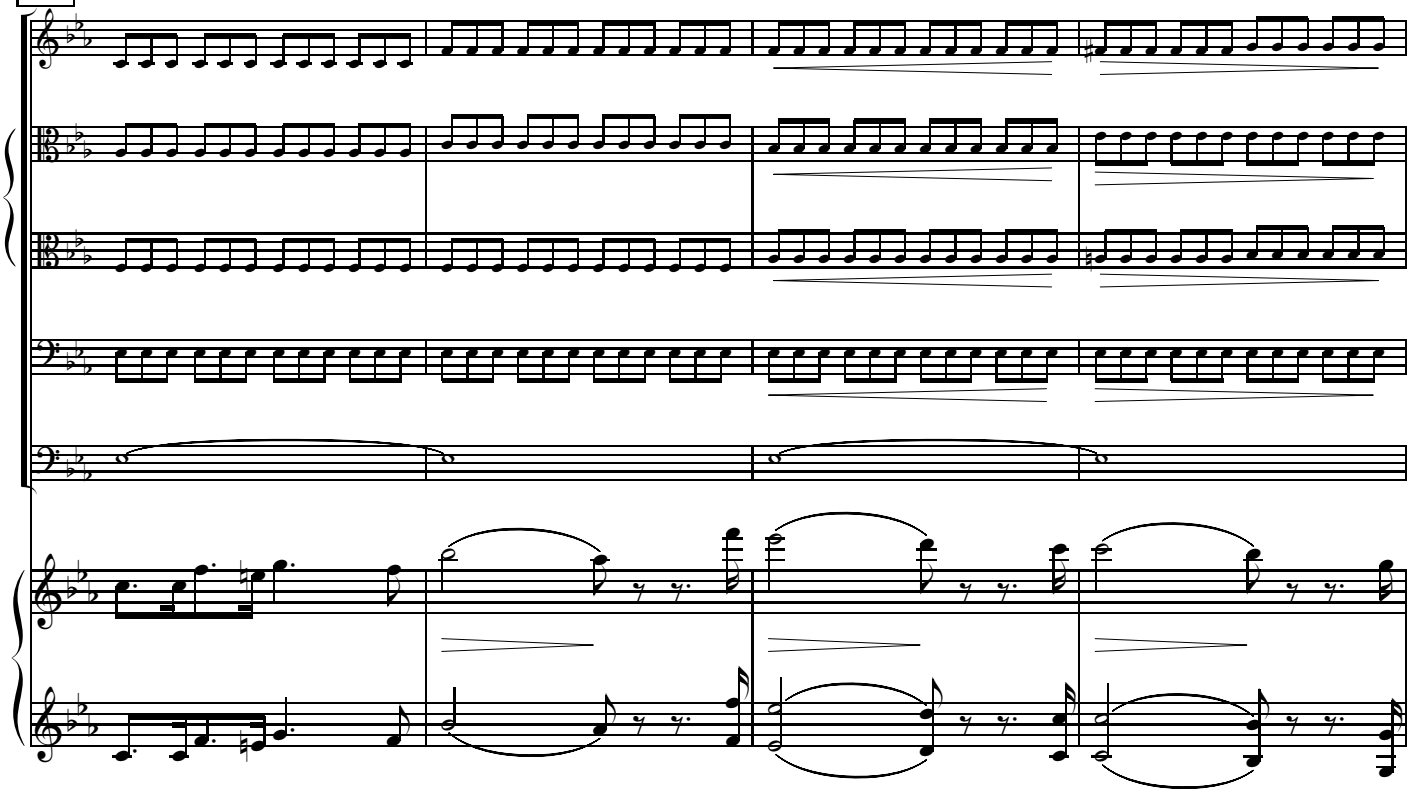
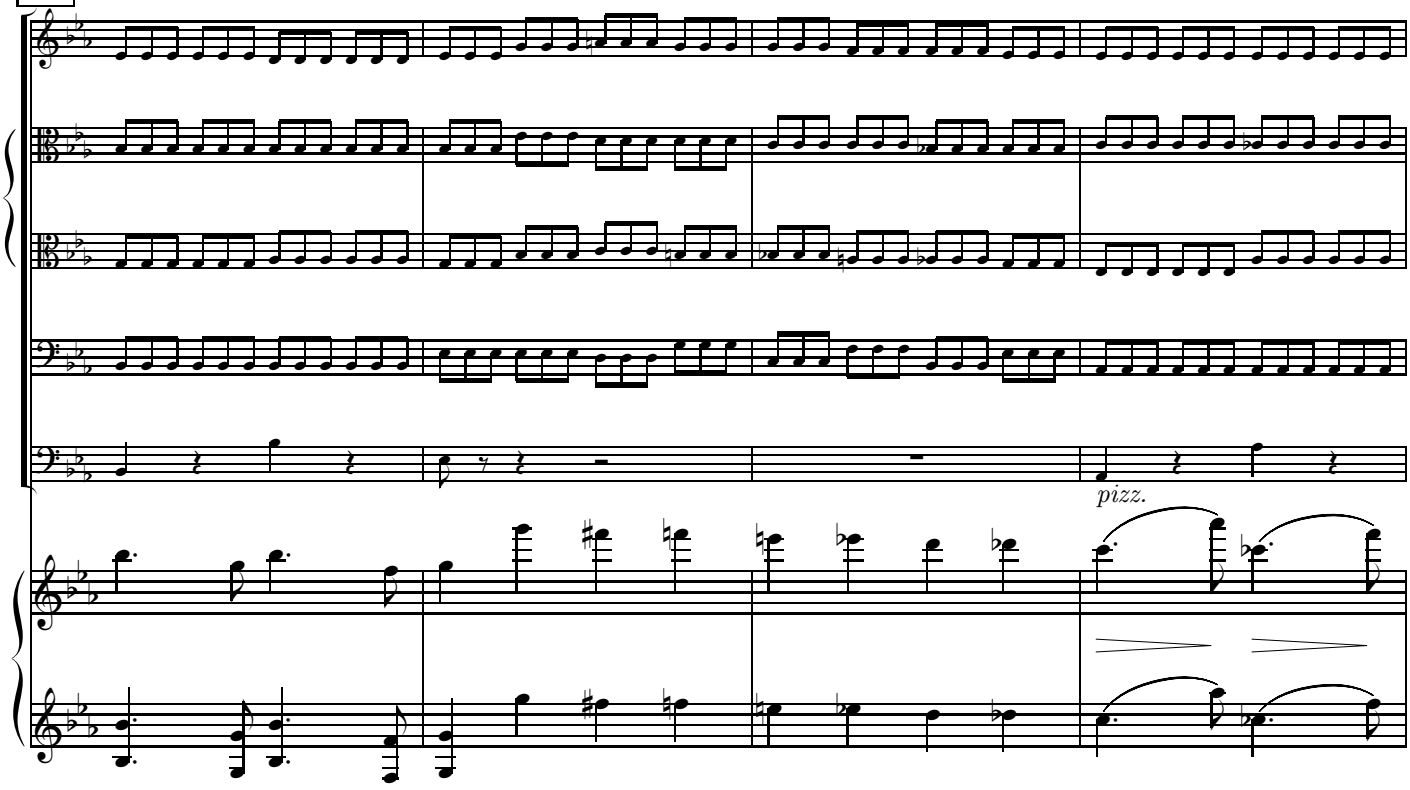
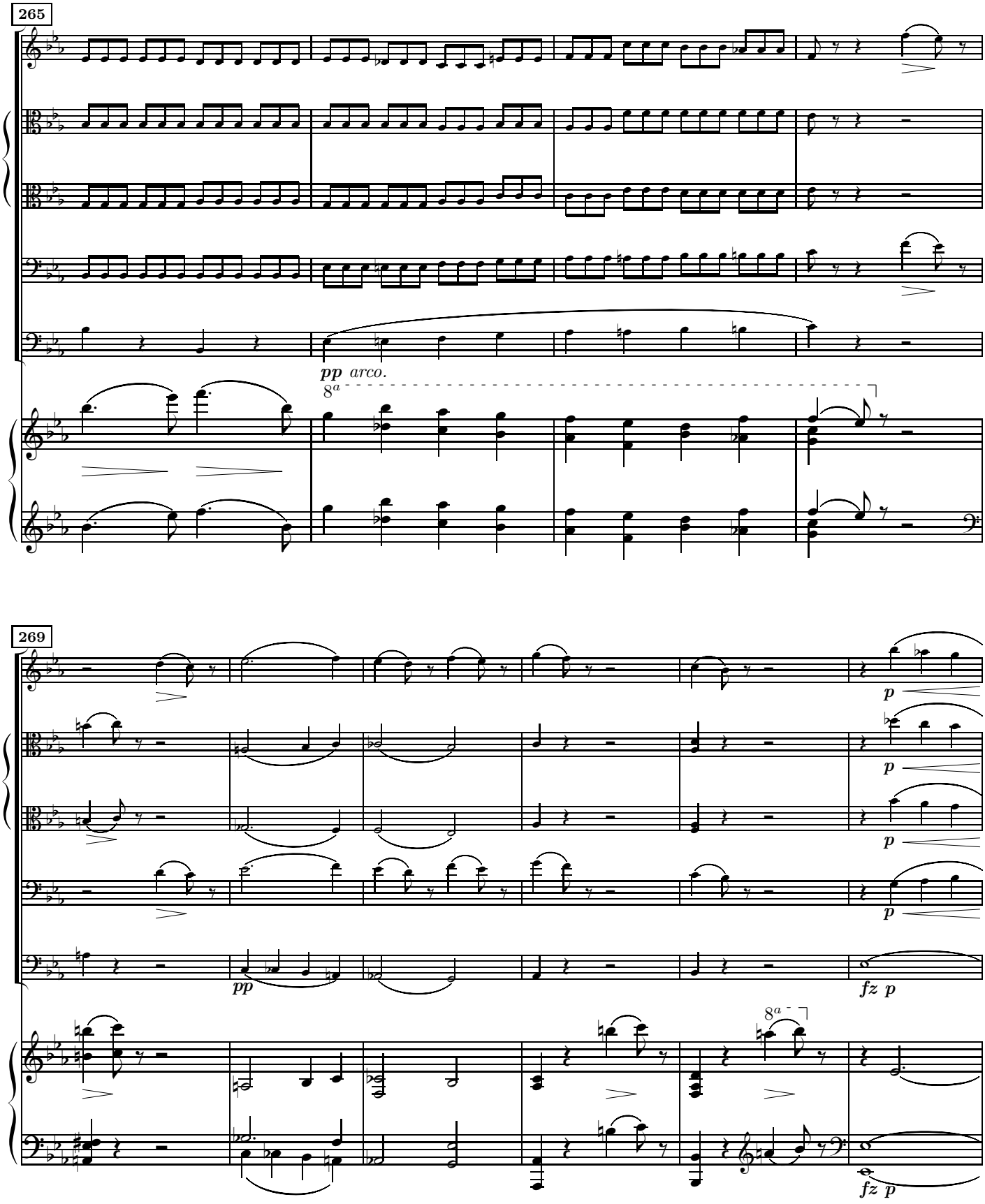


261





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275

in Tempo. Risoluto.

ff p

ff p

ff p

ff pp pizz.

8a

f Risoluto. p

279

[cres.]

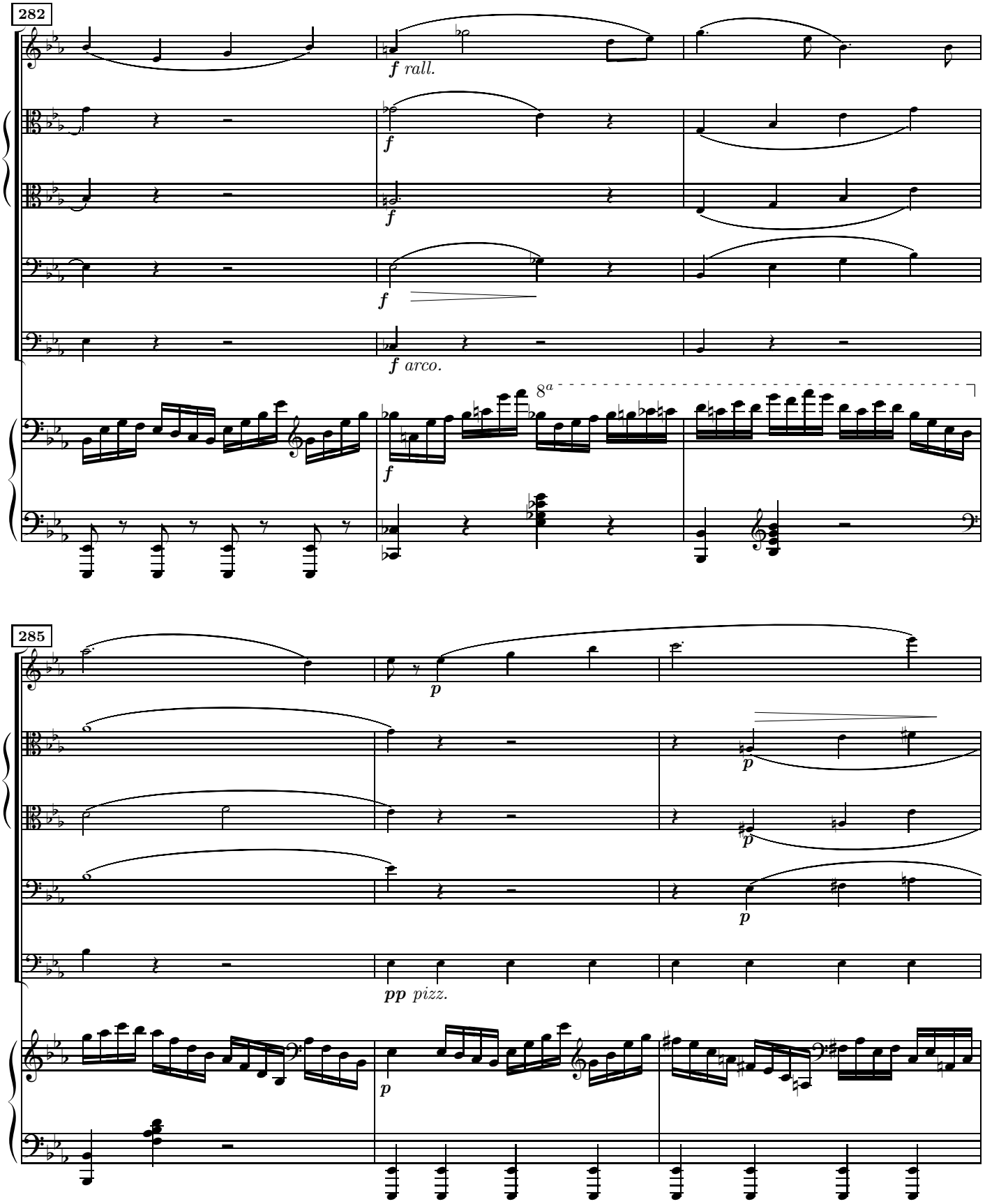
[cres.]

[cres.]

[cres.]

[cres.]

cres.



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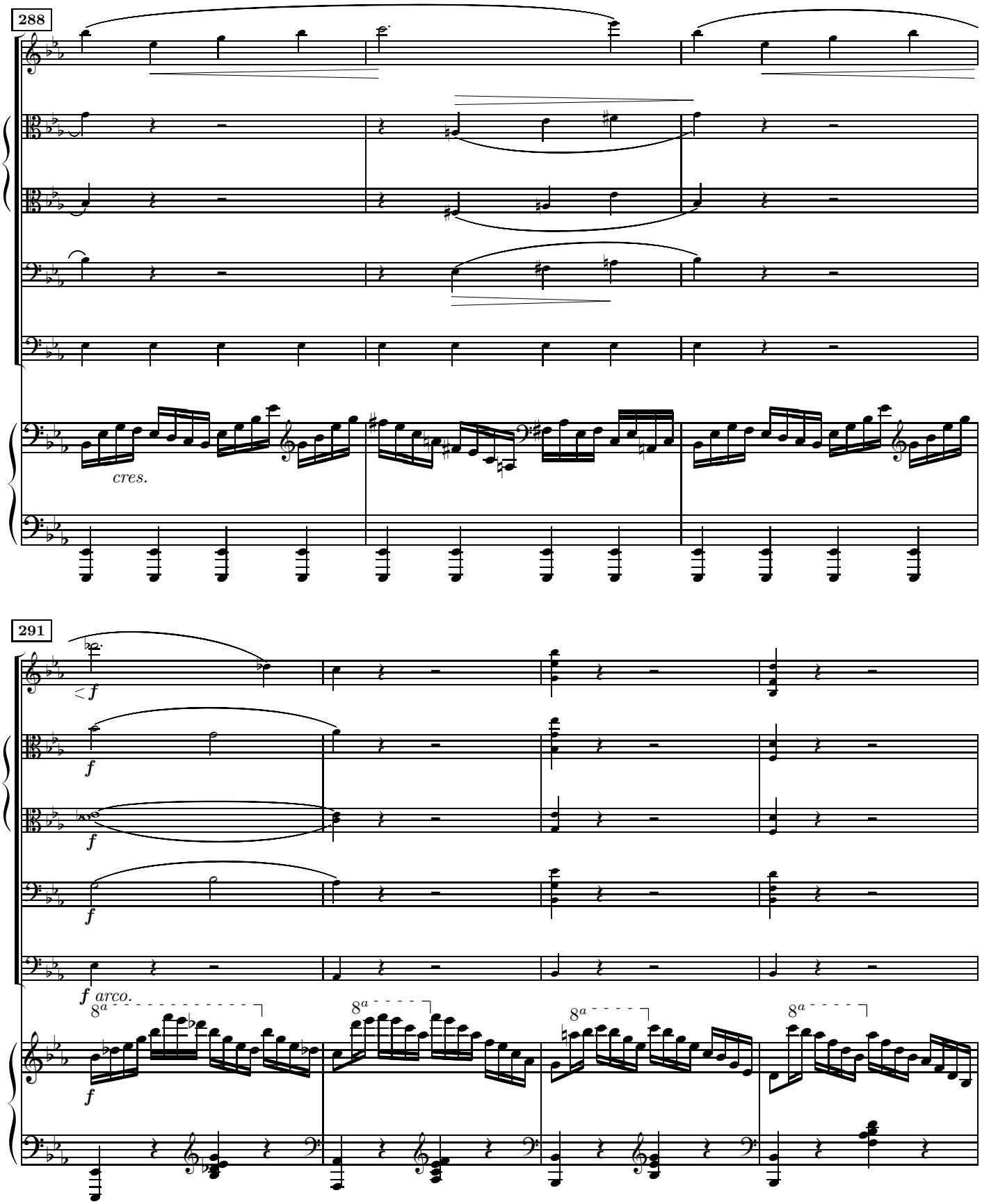
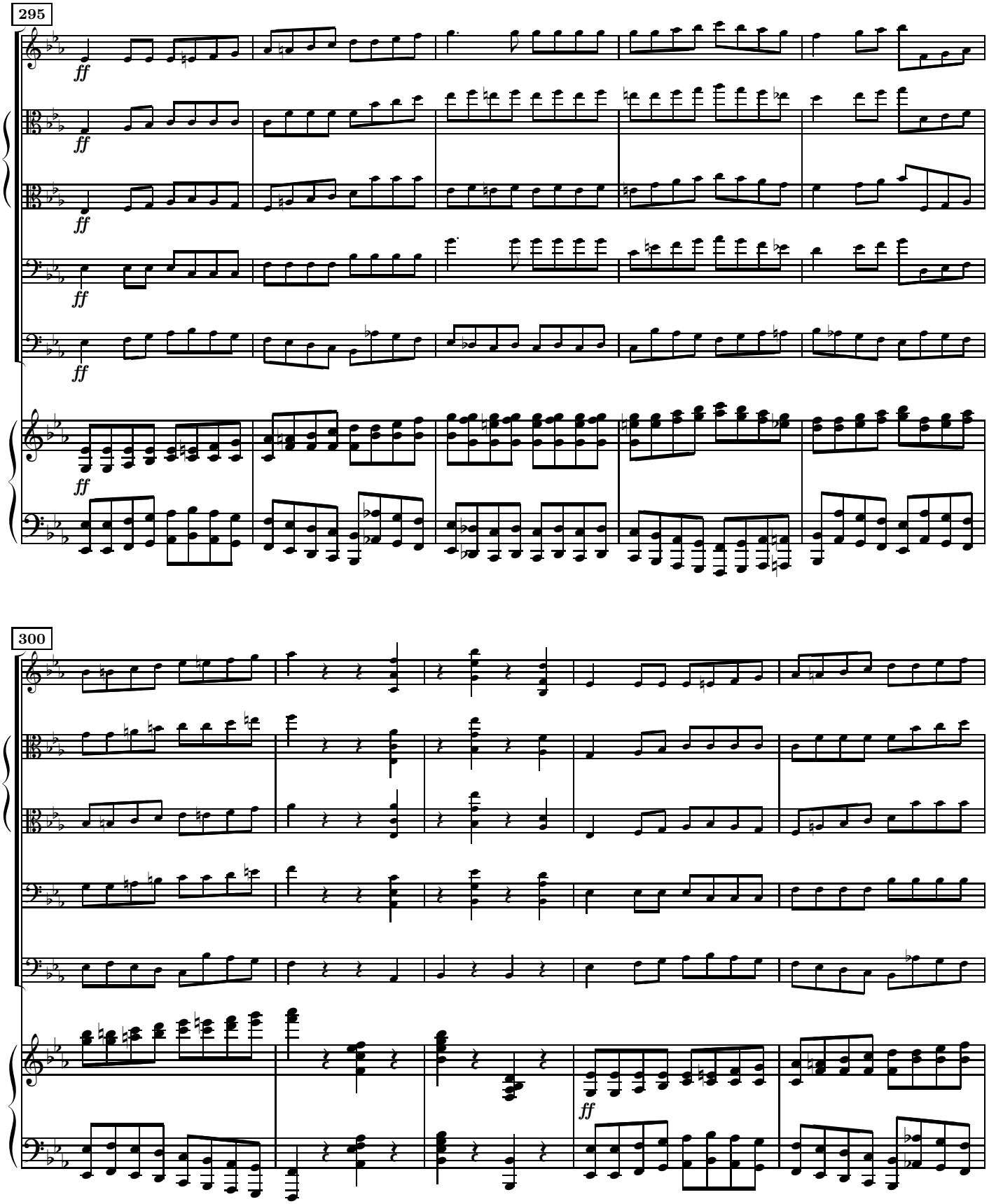

288
cres.
291
f
arco.
8a



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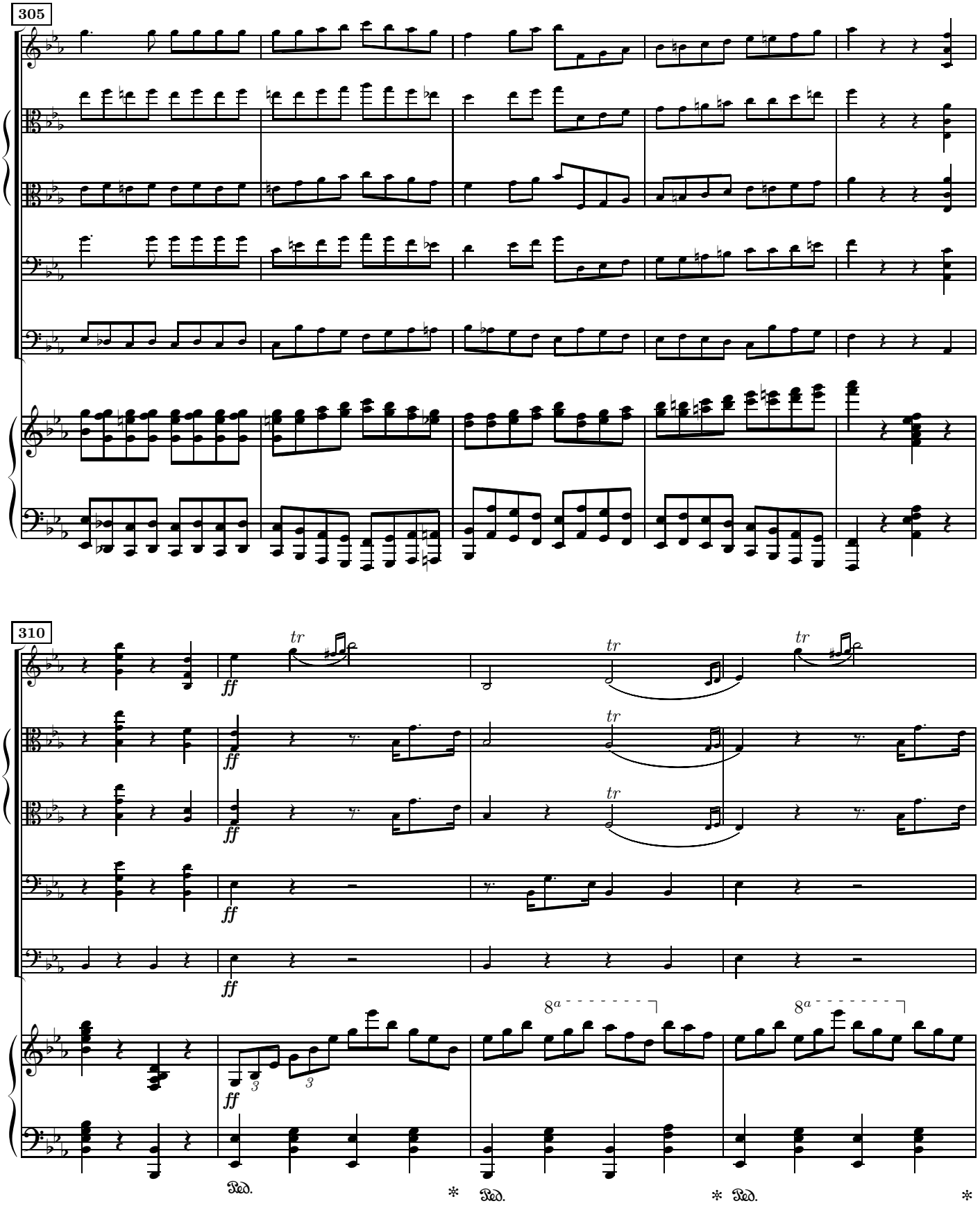
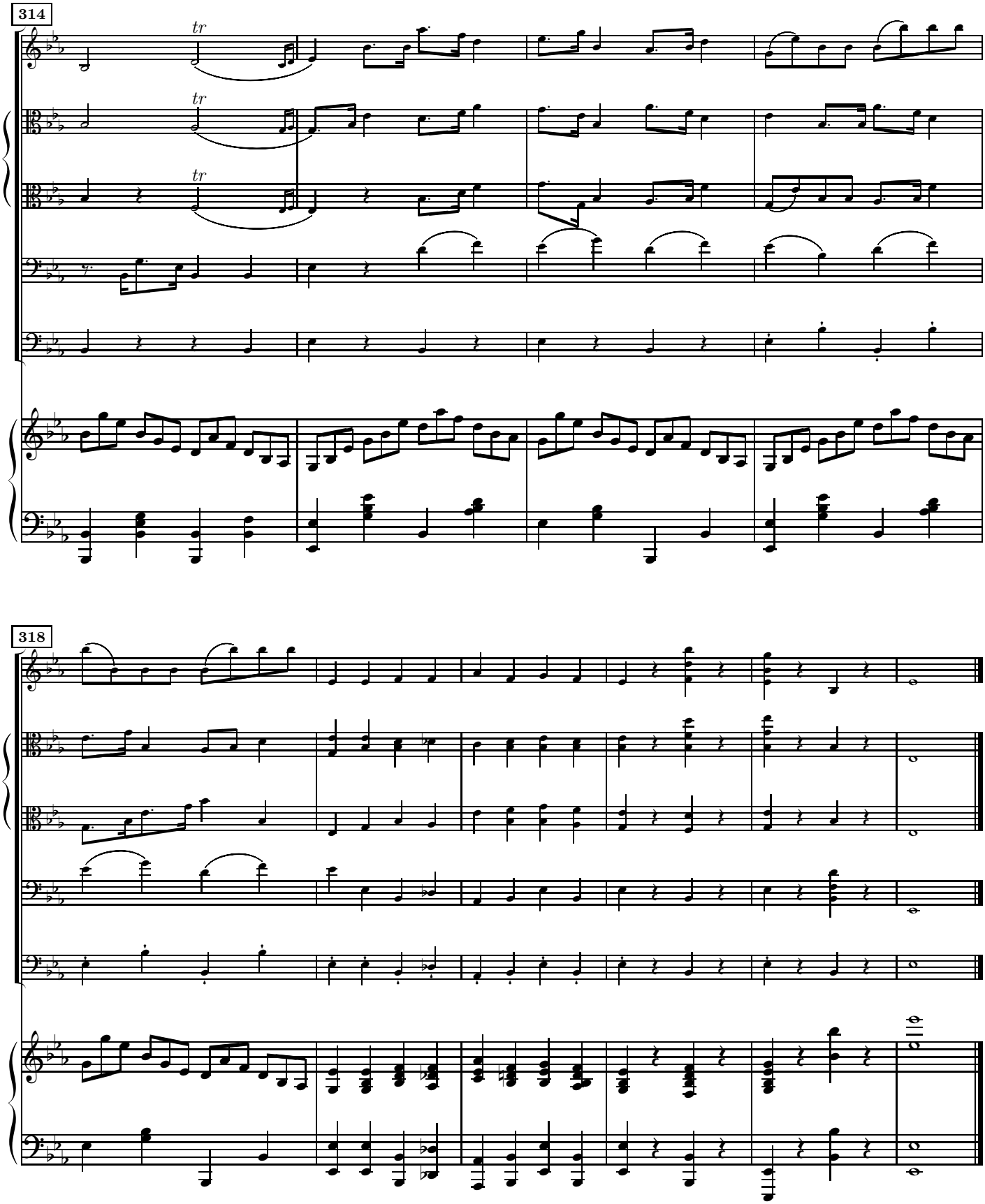

305
310
tr
ff
8a
Ped.



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