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Waiting For The Dawn

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Publication Date
2020

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TATEV AMIRYAN

Waiting For The Dawn

for solo piano

Duration: 9 min.

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Program notes

The piece is inspired by the poem *Unceasing Belfry (Անդադար Զանգակատուն)* by 20th century Armenian poet Paruyr Sevak. The poem features the life of remarkable Armenian composer Komitas who suffered a psychotic breakdown after witnessing the Armenian Genocide in 1915 and spent the rest of his life in psychiatric hospital in Paris. In the poem, Komitas represents the always ringing church bells as a symbol of the anguished Armenian people.

In her piece, the composer has chosen a somewhat different approach to building the image of Komitas. Contrary to the expected sentiment for a martyr of 20th century's first Genocide, here the lyrical character rises high above the pain as a true beacon of light, not dissimilar to the toll of a time-defying belfry, thereby reminding us of the Armenian people's most archetypal features: perseverance, strong belief and an optimistic approach to life - strong qualities without which the survival of this ancient people would not have been guaranteed through the many hardships and tragedies of centuries past.

A quotation from Komitas's well-known song *Anduni* (*Անուն*ի - Homeless), heard in the piece, builds a bridge to Komitas's own compositional language and the traditions, musical and otherwise, within which he lived and created.

Waiting For The Dawn was premiered in 2011 by the composer at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. Later it was also performed in London, in Yerevan, Armenia and in different parts of the Unites States by the composer, as well as in Poland, Warsaw, Brussels, Belgium and Halle, Germany by Armenian pianist Hayk Melikyan, and in Tokyo, Japan by Japanese pianist Yuko Yoshioka. The piece was also included in Hayk Melikyan's album of Armenian piano music "Echoes of Altar" released by the Ministry of Diaspora of Armenia, in 2014, in commemoration of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide.

Waiting for the Dawn

for solo piano

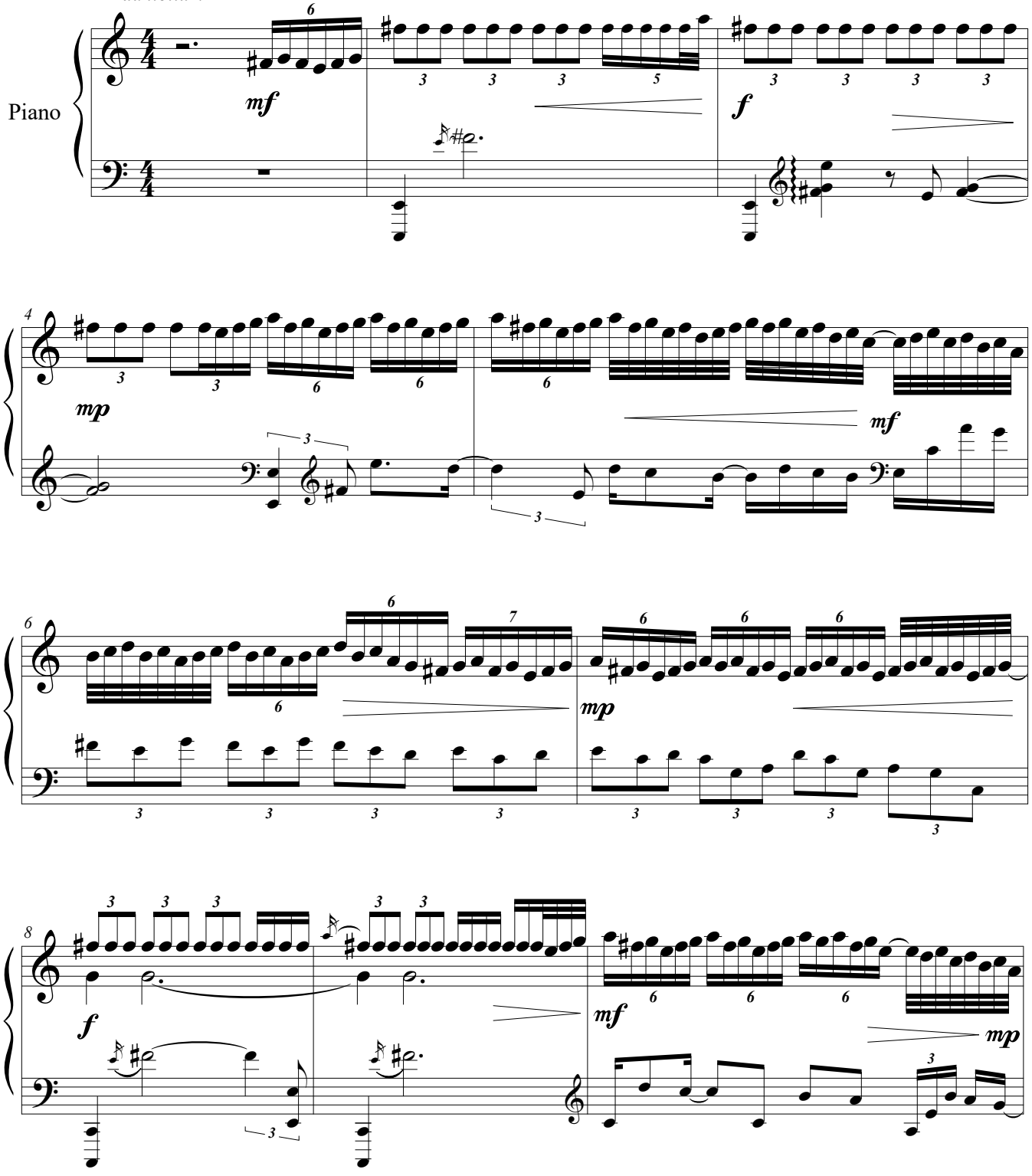
2011

Adagio, Maestoso ♩ = 70

In a flexible improvisatory manner

ad libitum

TATEV AMIRYAN



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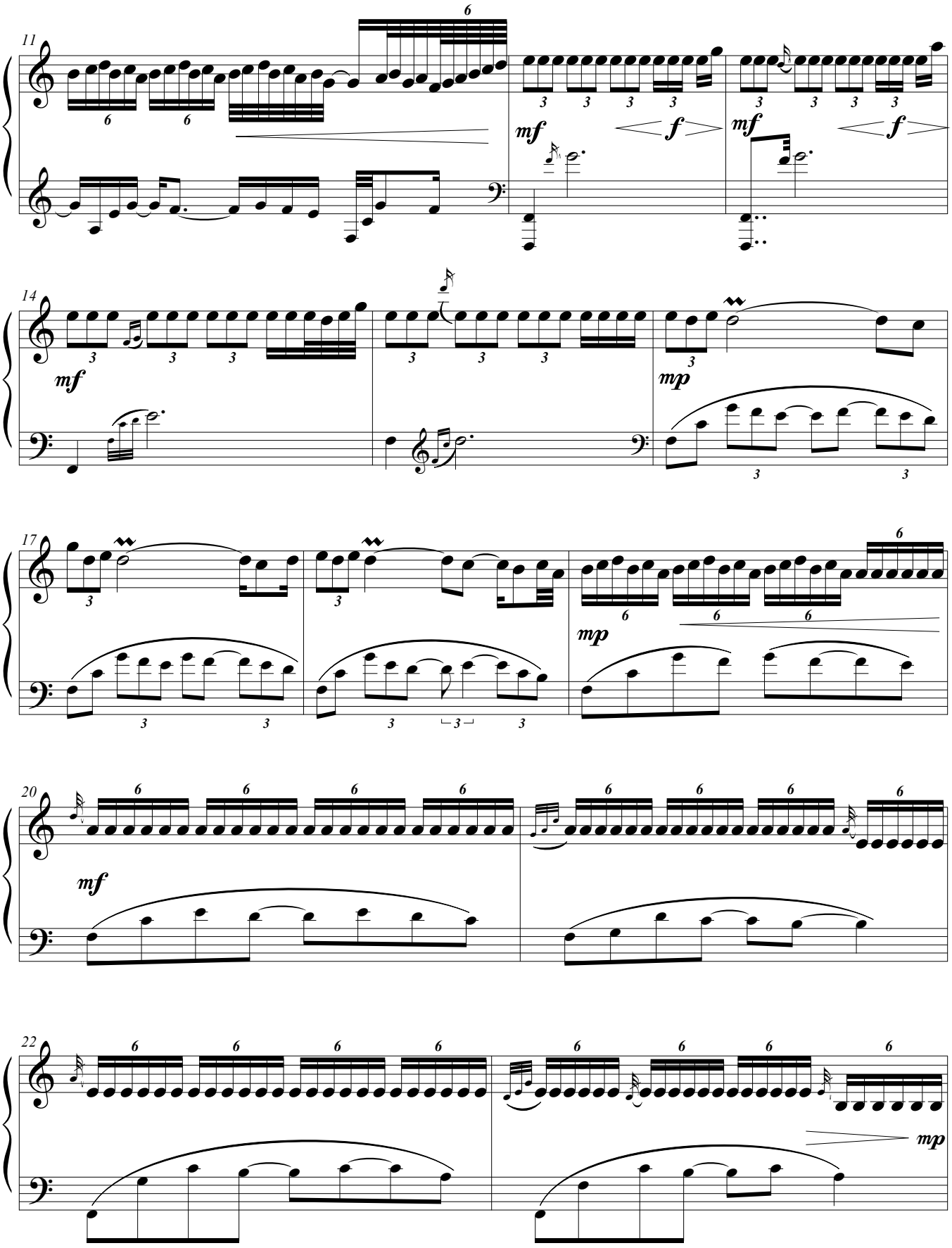

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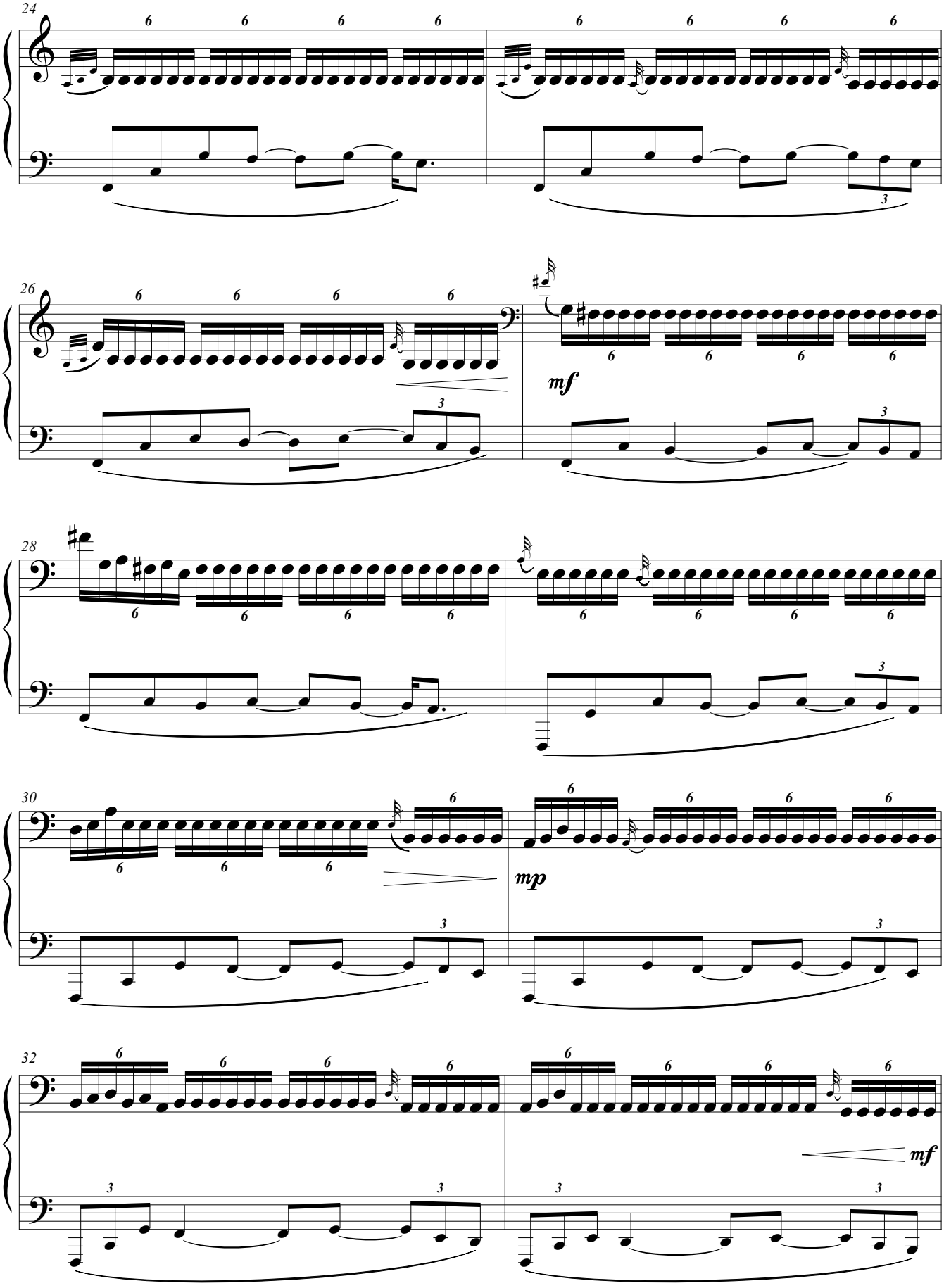

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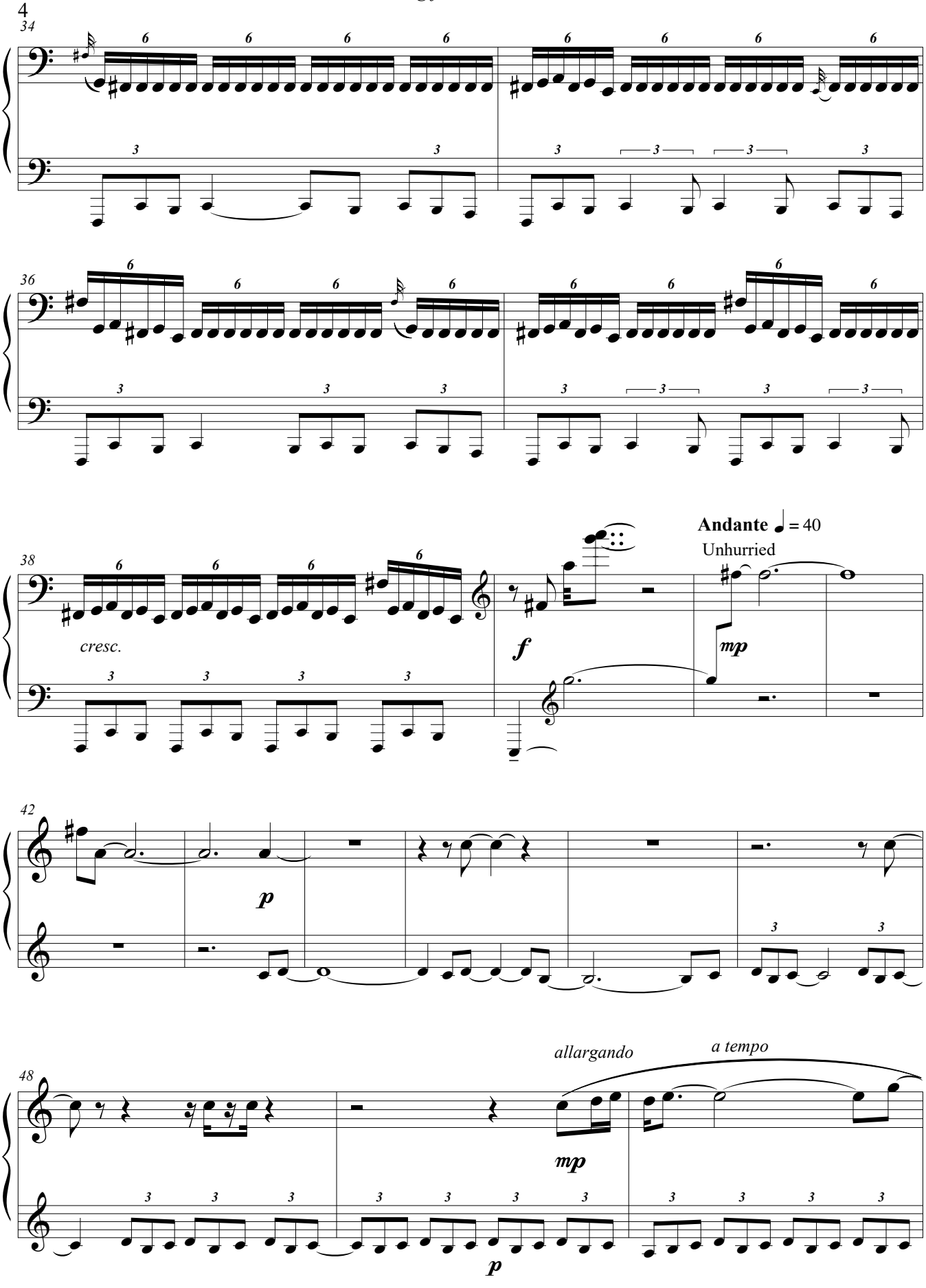

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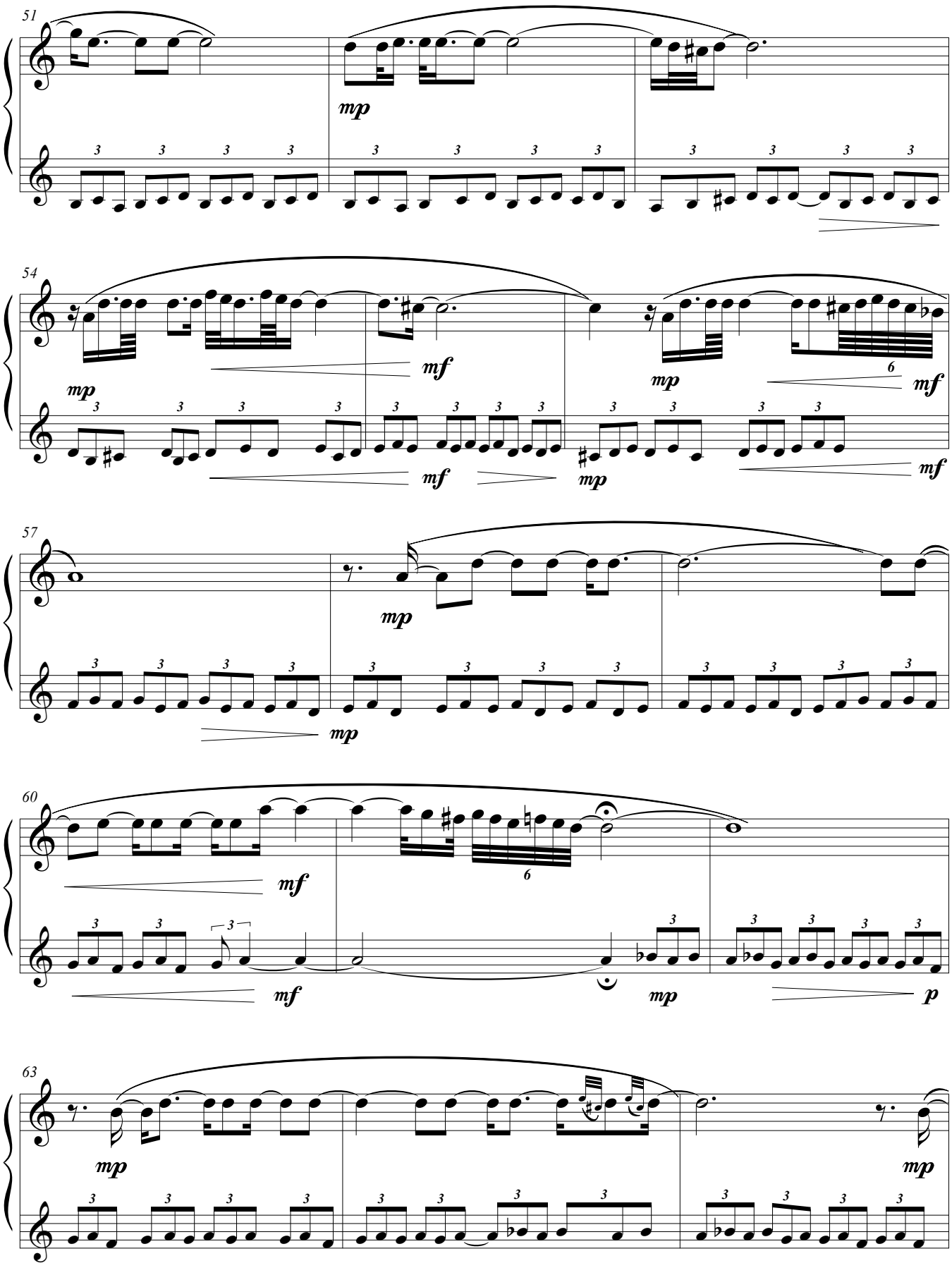

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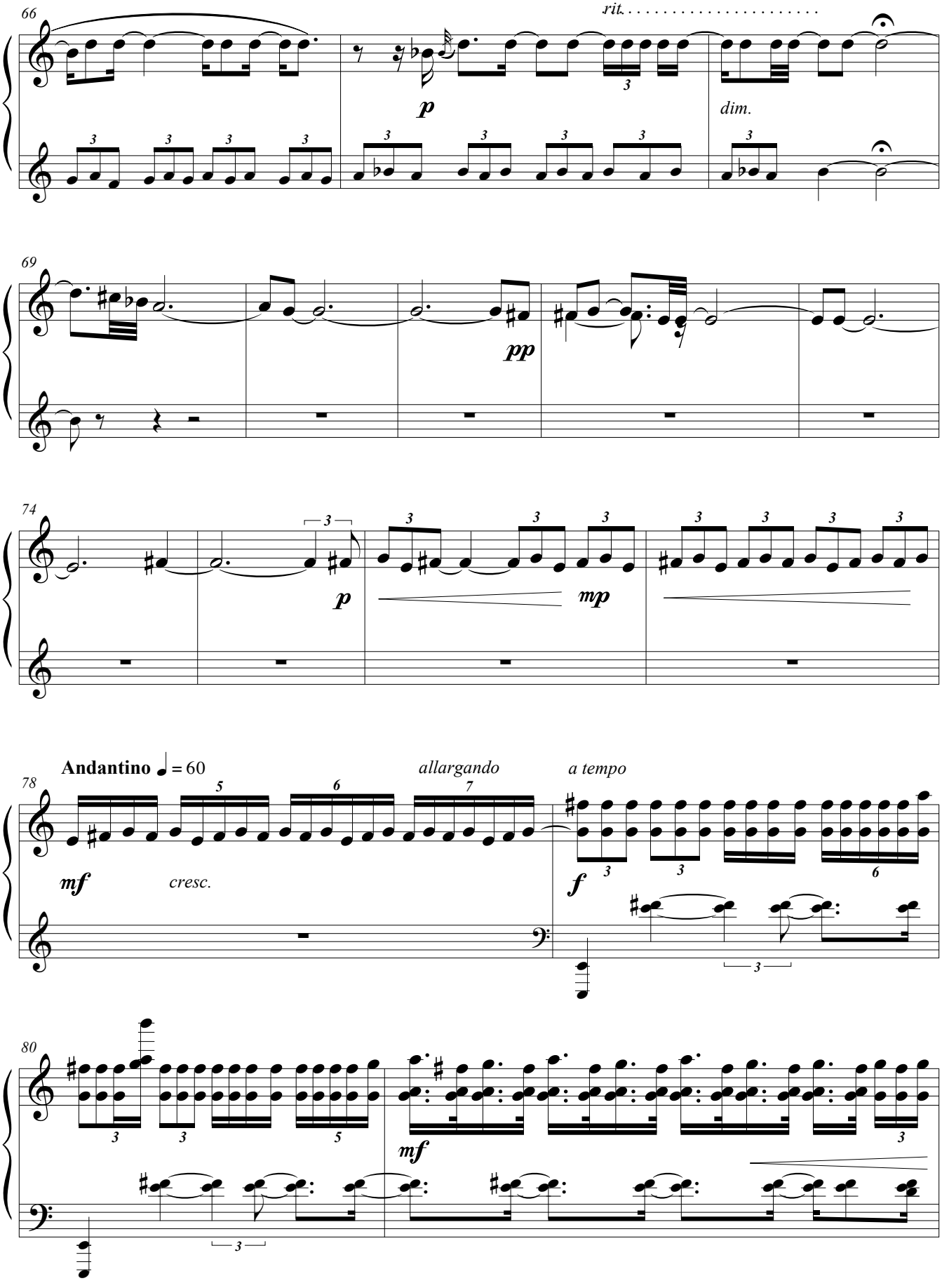

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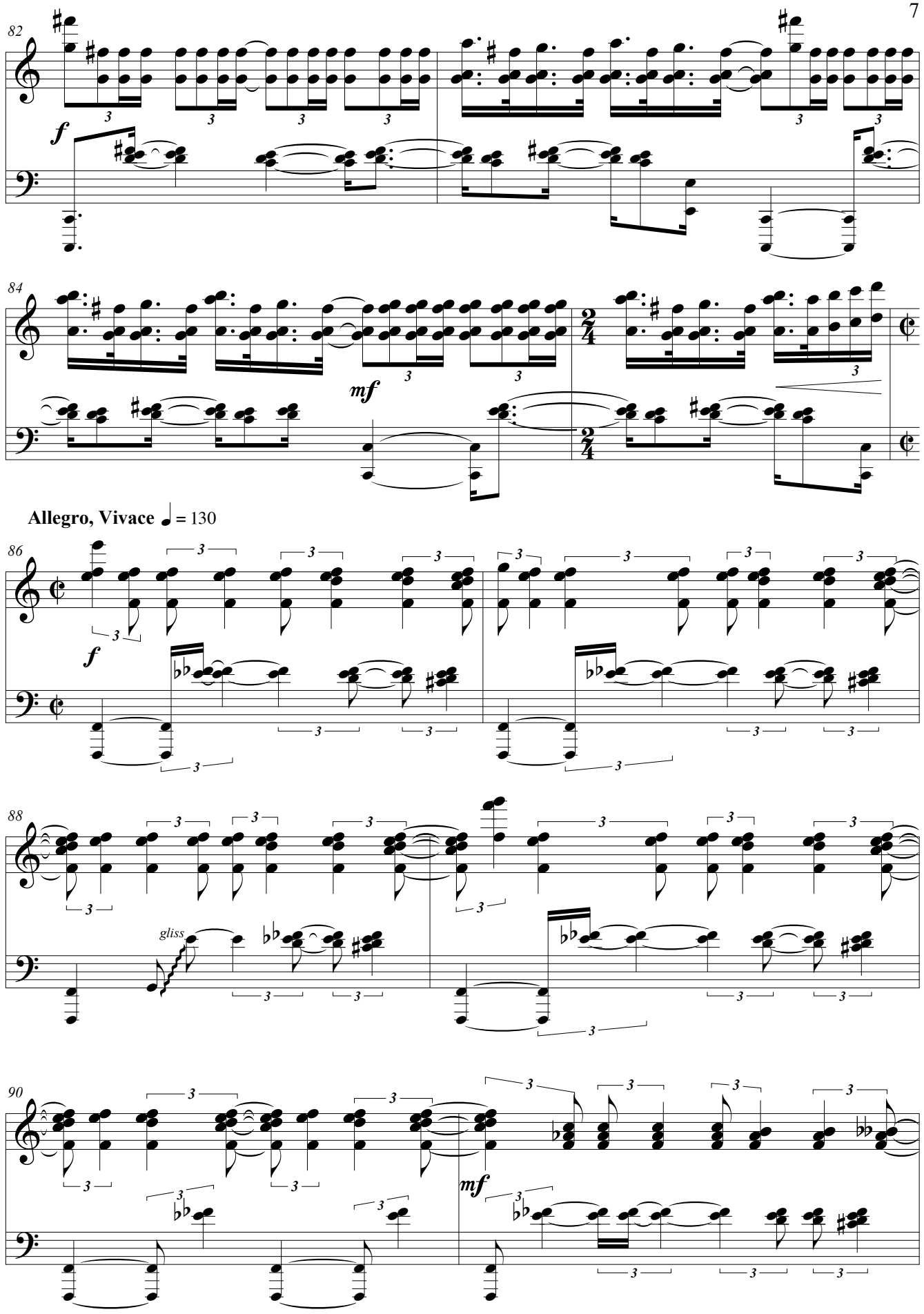

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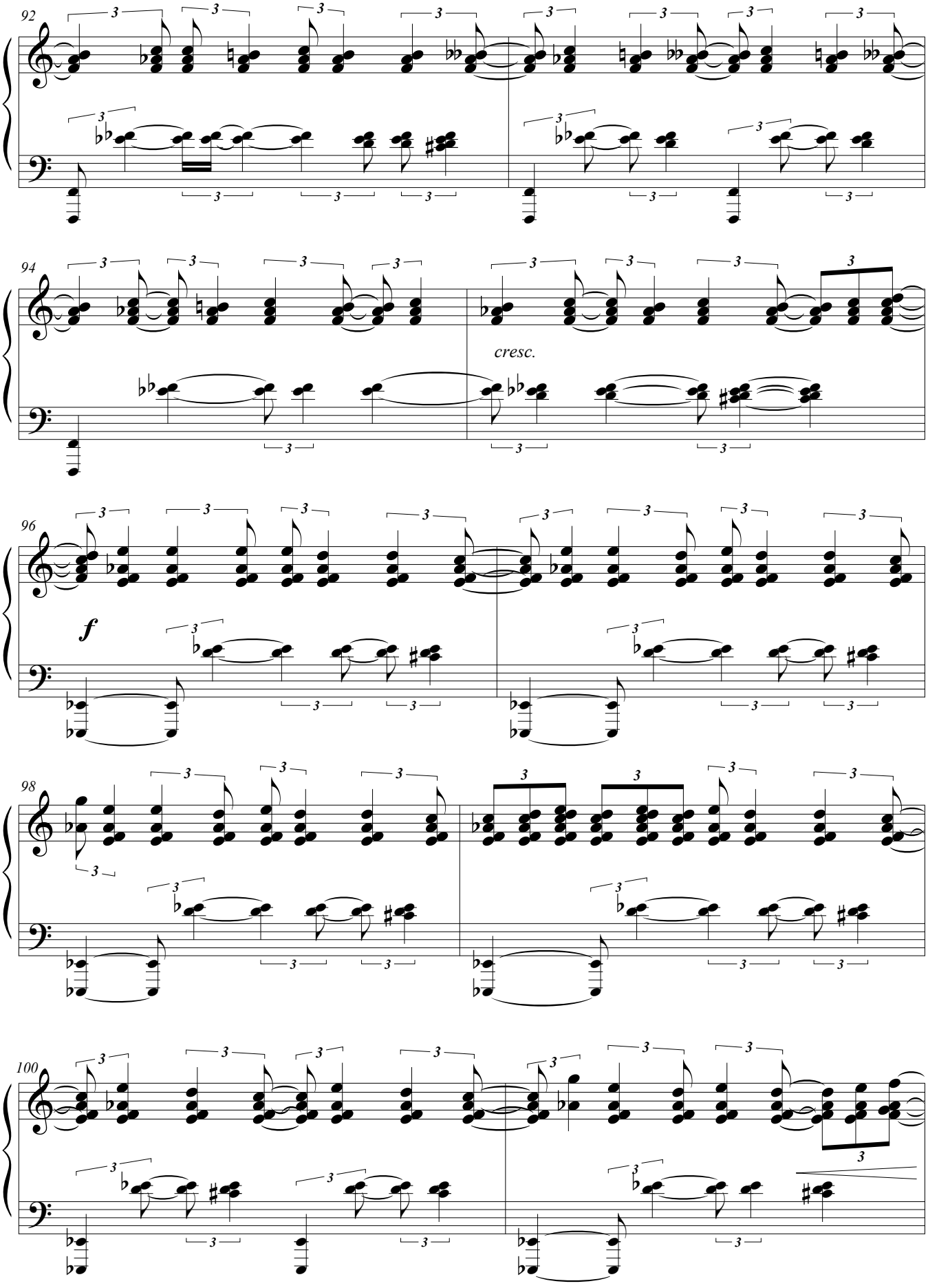

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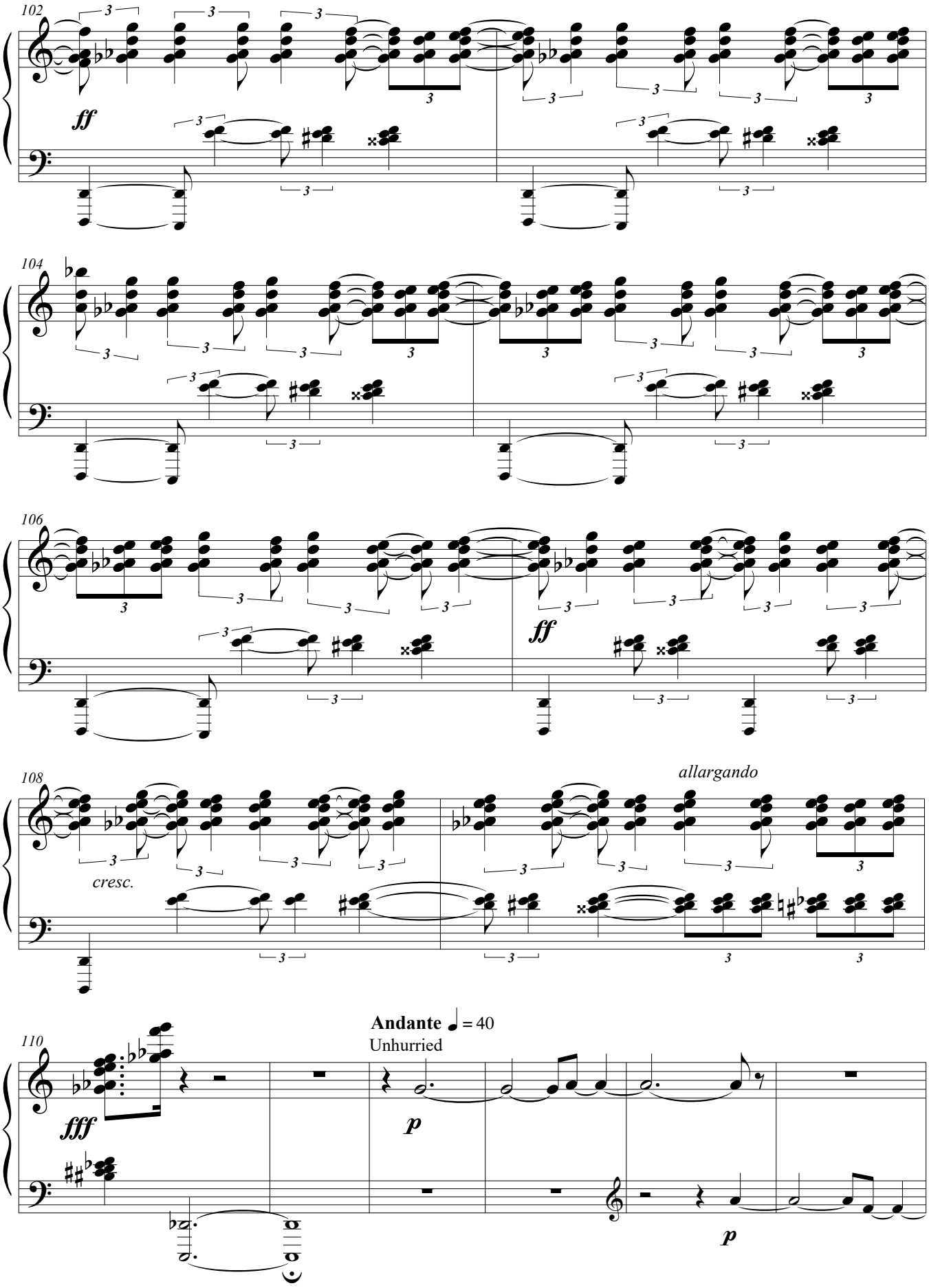

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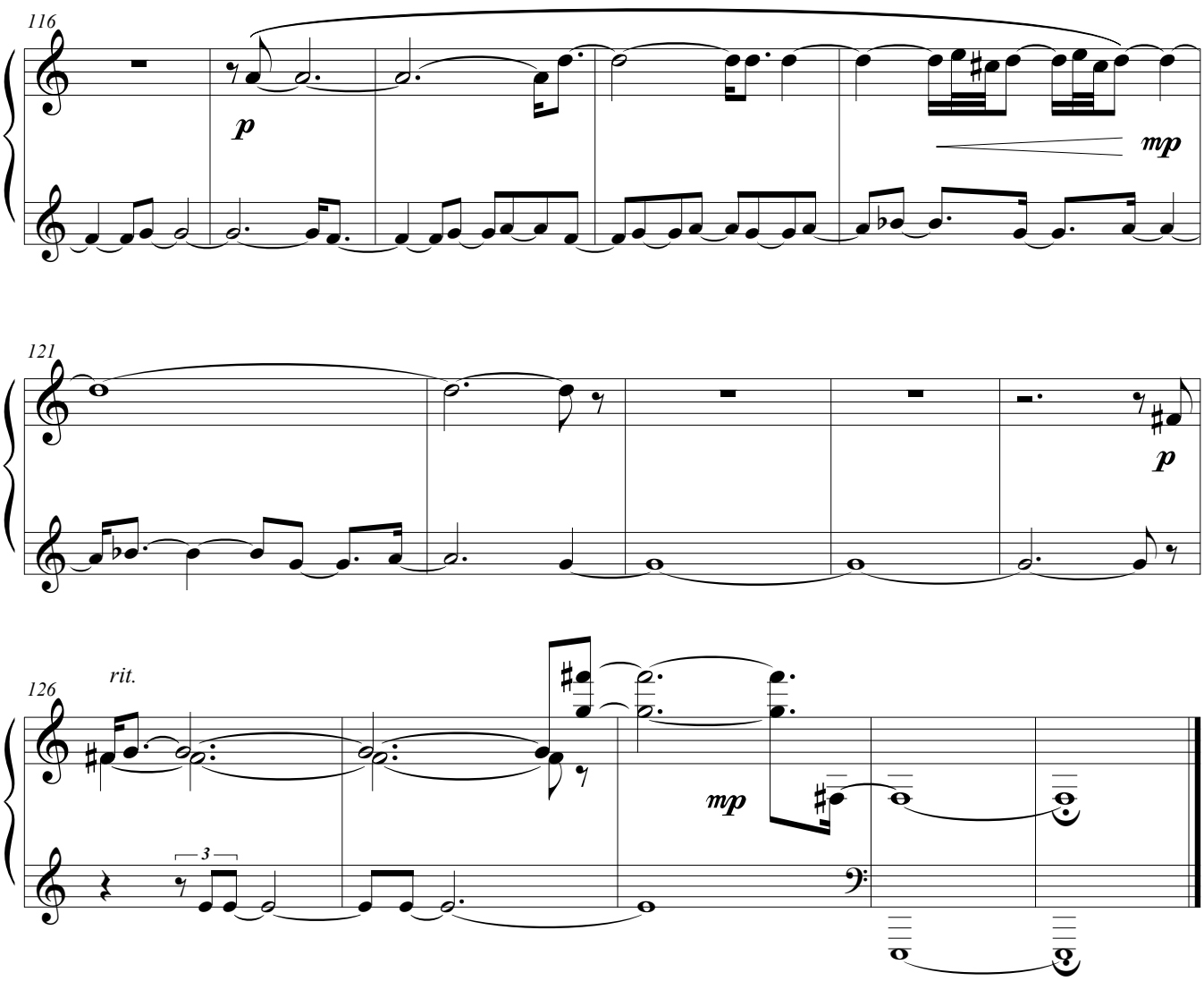

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