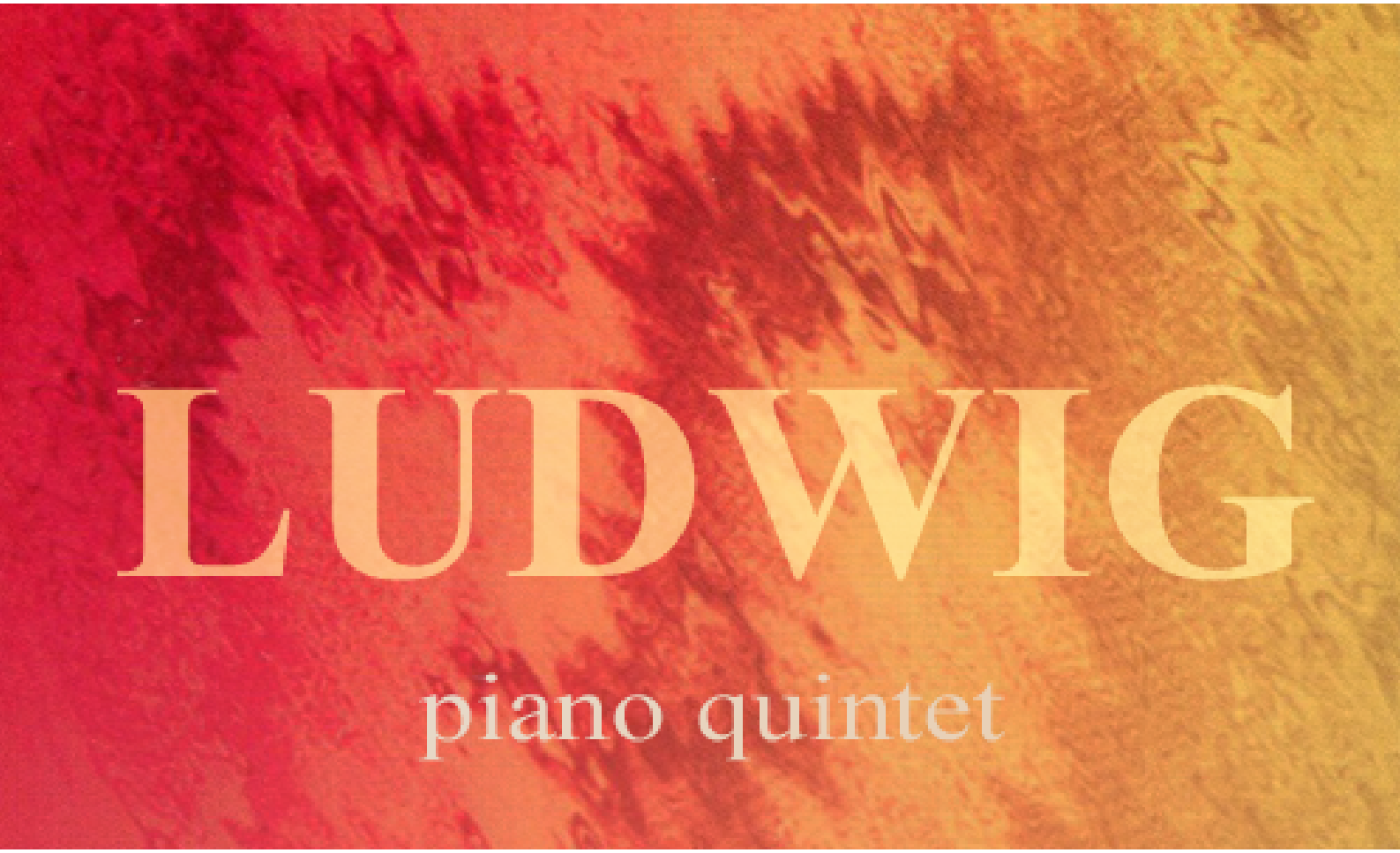
Piano

Charlie Barber



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Instrumentation:

Piano
String Quartet (2 Violins, Viola and Cello)

Duration: c. 11 minutes

Programme note:

1 Allegro con brio
2 Adagio sostenuto: delicatissimamente
3 Allegro vivace

LUDWIG is a piano quintet in three movements that pays tribute to Beethoven by re-imagining key elements from three of his most iconic works. Rather than quoting directly, the music reshapes and re-contextualizes fragments of Beethoven's material, casting them in a new, contemporary light while retaining their dramatic essence.

The opening movement, *Allegro con brio*, is a compressed reworking of the first movement of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7 in A major, Op. 92*. The familiar ascending scales and low sustained pedal points are restructured and interwoven with vibrant, dance-like rhythms, infused with colours drawn from Latin American musical traditions. The result is both a tribute and a transformation—energized, rhythmically dynamic, and fresh in character.

The second movement, *Adagio sostenuto: delicatissimamente*, takes its starting point from the opening bars of the *"Moonlight" Sonata (Piano Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp minor, Op. 27 No. 2)*. The well-known quaver-triplet figure becomes the basis for a delicately layered texture, first appearing as an interlocking pattern in the piano, then taken up and expanded by the strings. The atmosphere is hushed, introspective and gently luminous.

The final movement, *Allegro vivace*, draws inspiration from Beethoven's *Fidelio Overture*, particularly its passages of dramatic tension and harmonic ambiguity. The movement opens with a subdued, subterranean energy that gradually builds, propelled by sudden dynamic bursts and unresolved harmonic shifts. As in Beethoven's overture, the music moves with urgency—driven by the search for resolution, culminating in a cathartic, if ambiguous, close.

LUDWIG is a conversation across time—a creative engagement with Beethoven's music that refracts his voice through the lens of contemporary language, colour and form.

Charlie Barber, August 2019

LUDWIG

for Piano Quintet

1. Allegro con brio

♩ = 190

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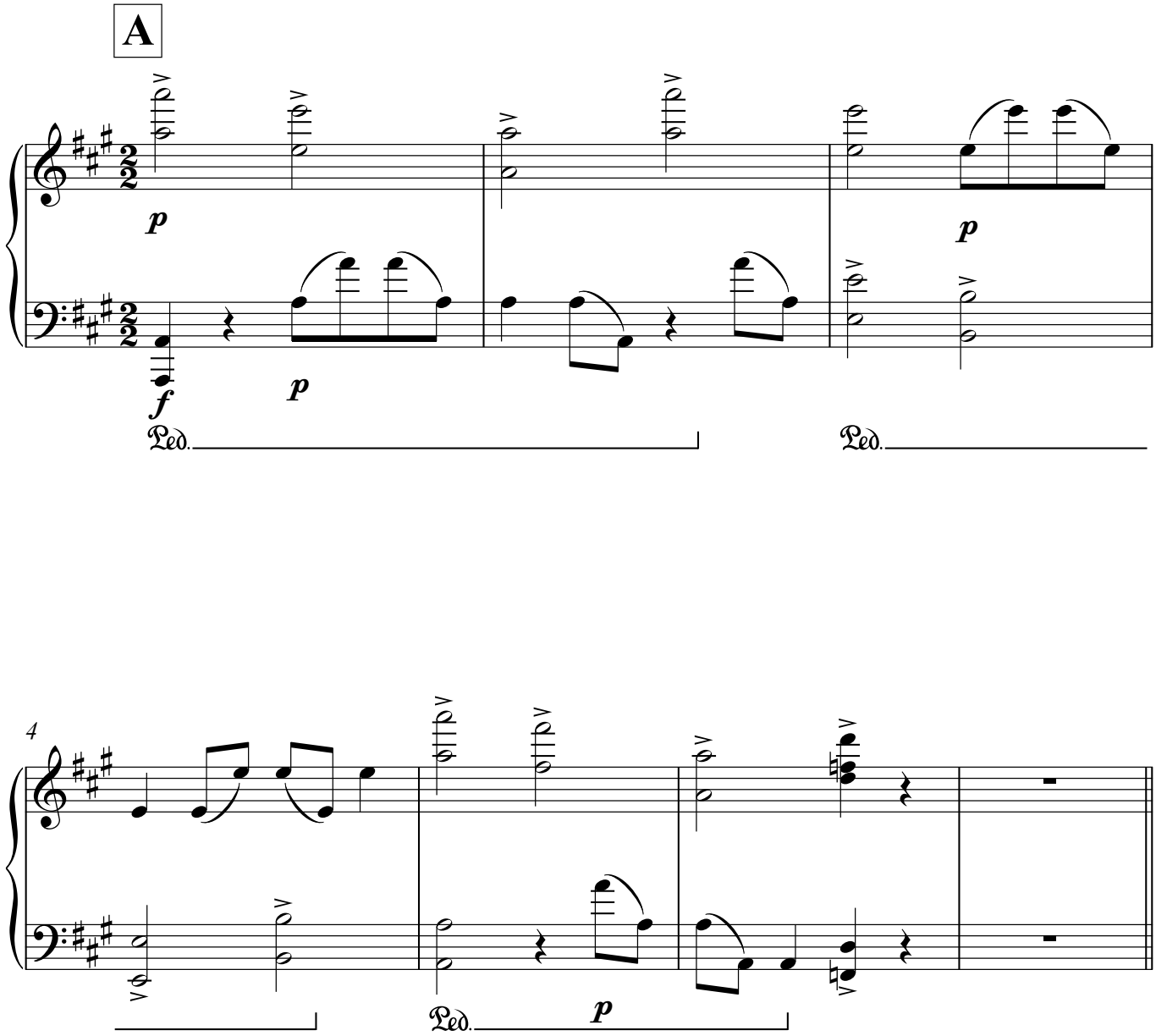
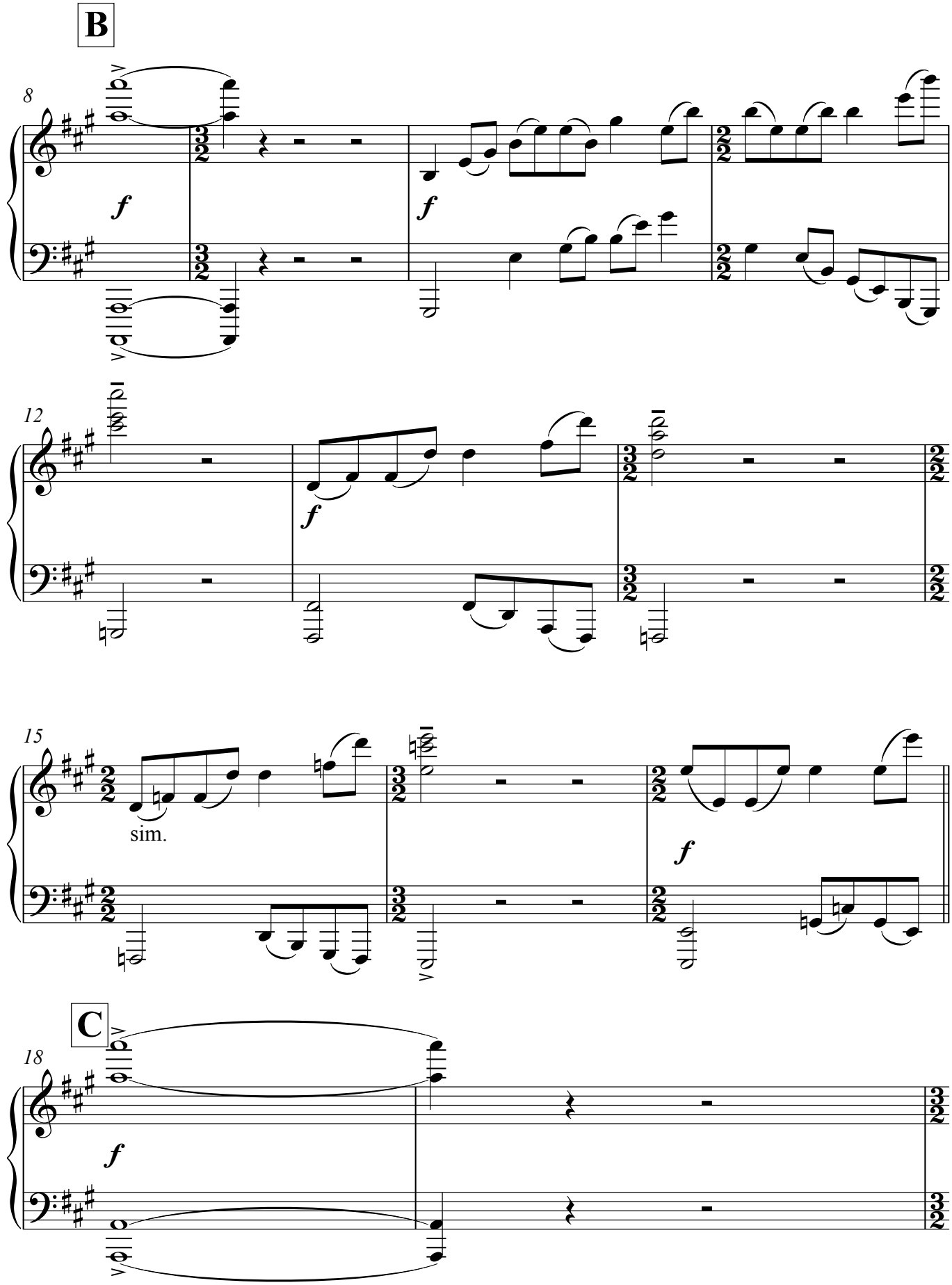
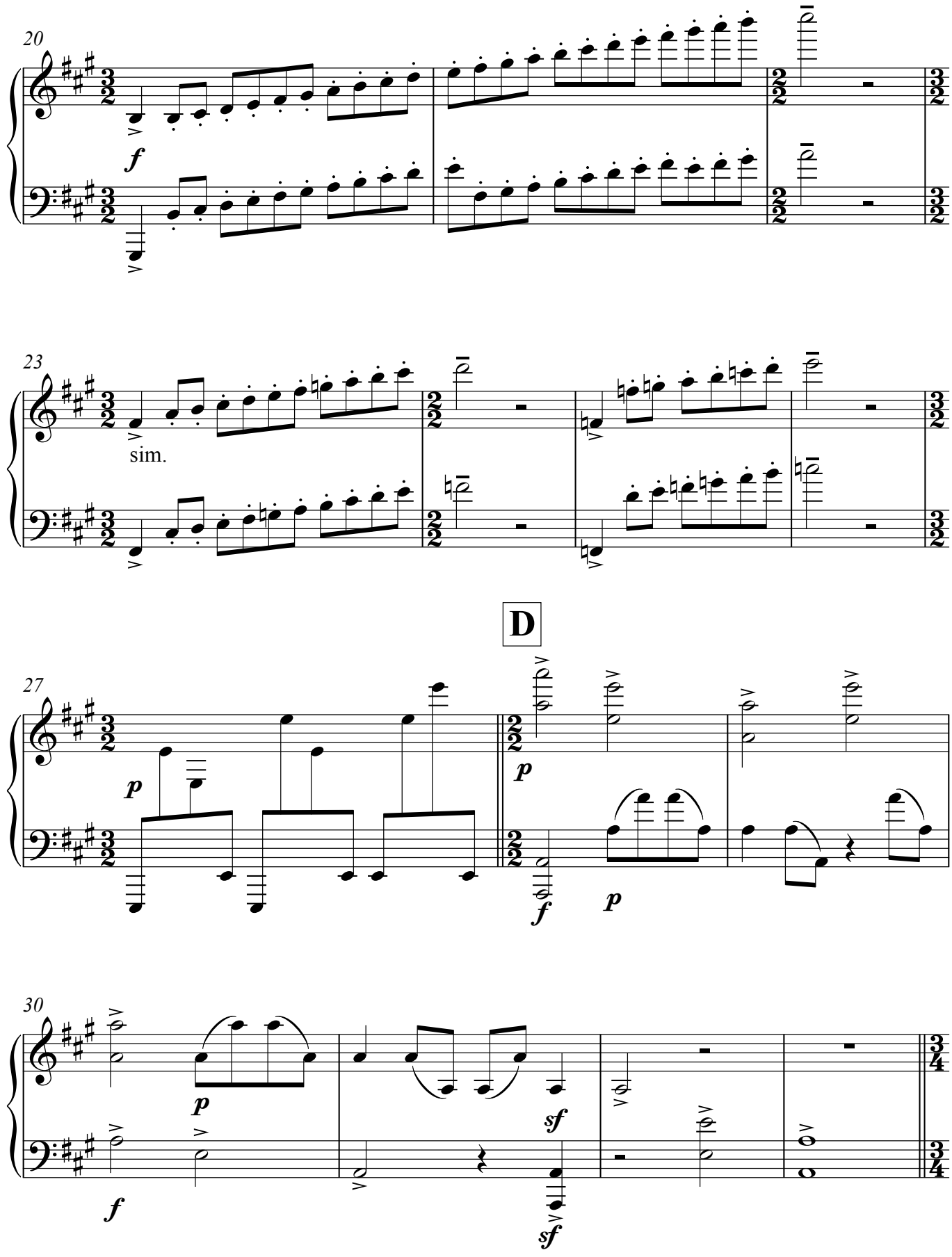
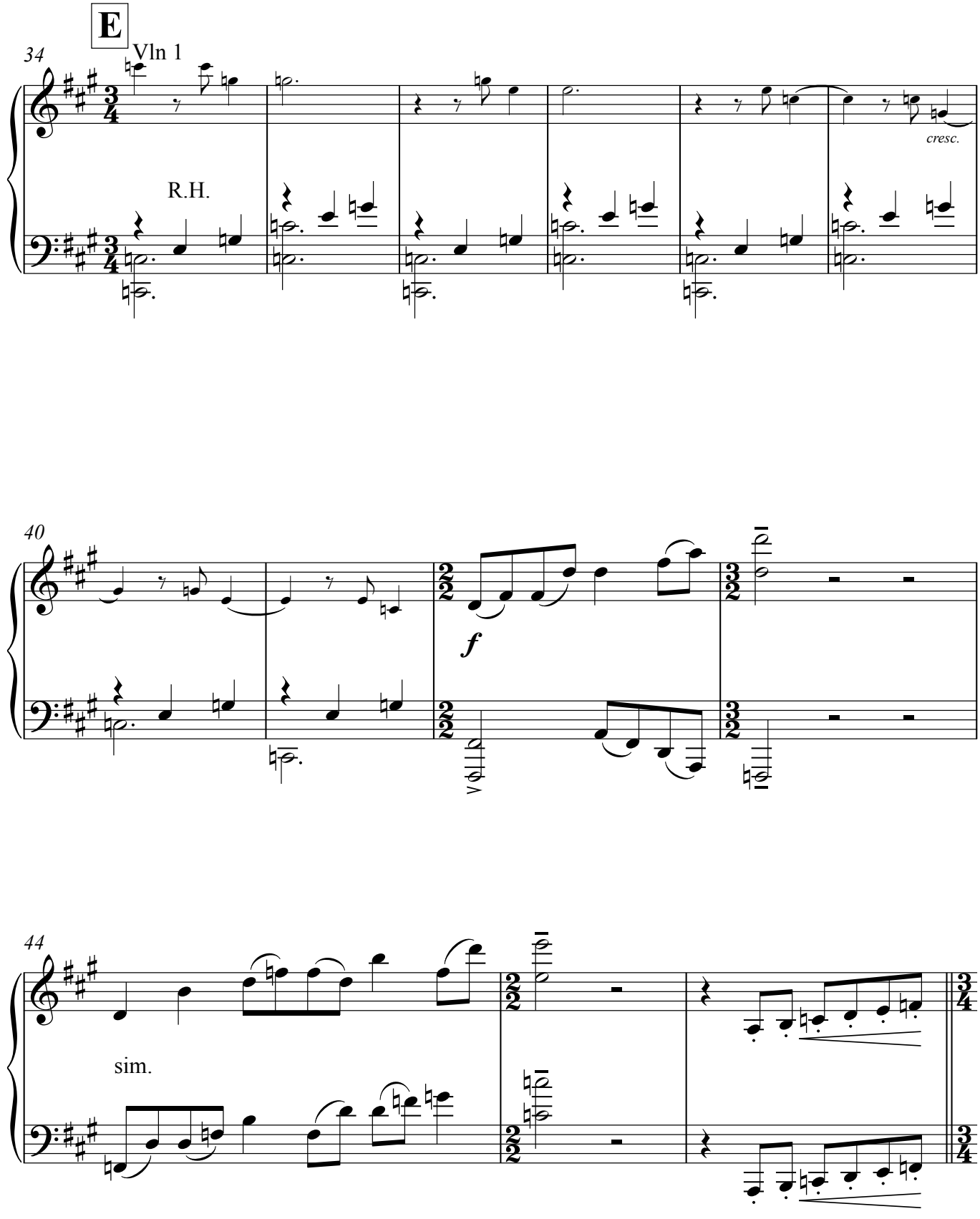



B
8
f
f
12
f
15
sim.
f
C
18
f

Charlie Barber - LUDWIG (piano quintet)

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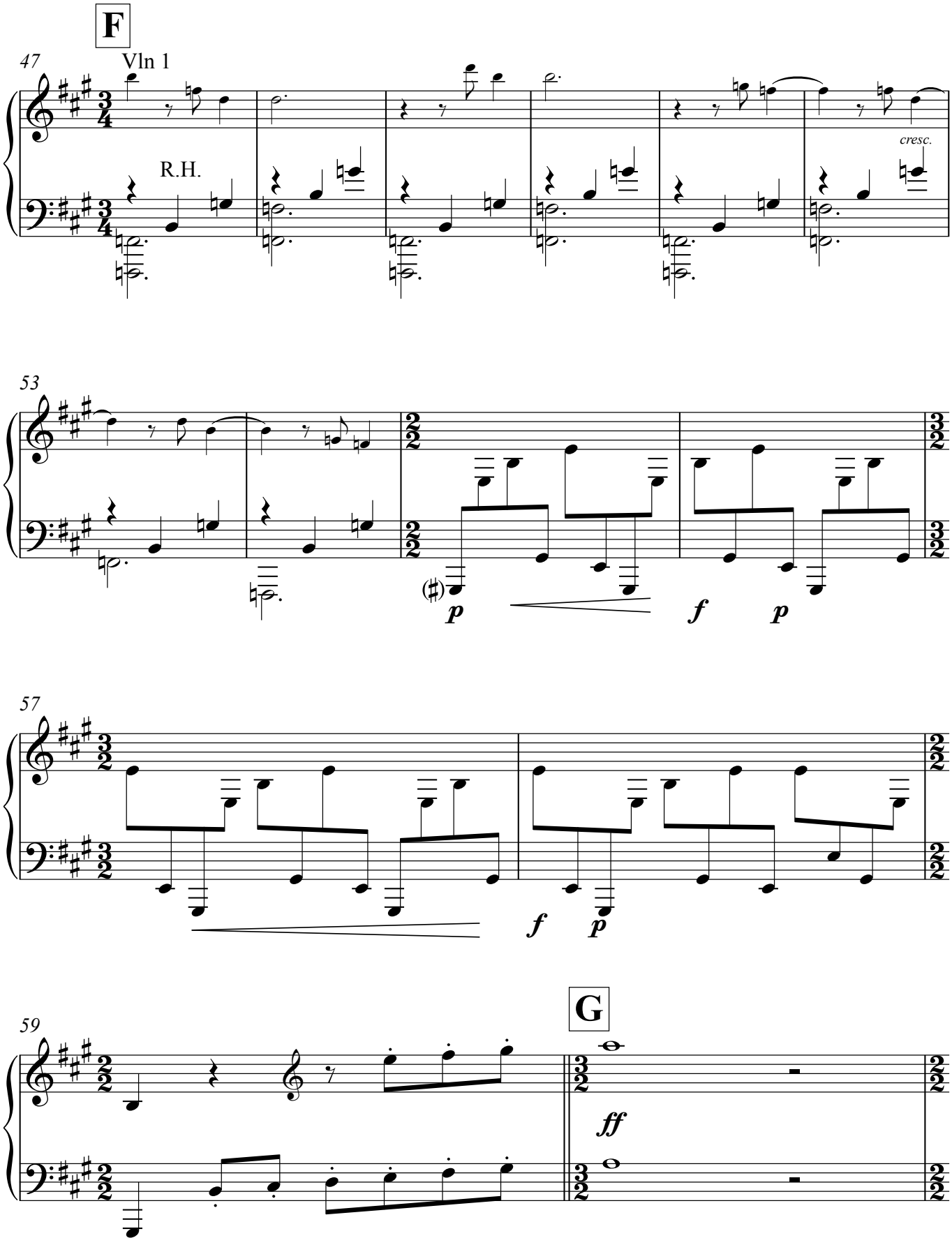
Vln 1
34
R.H.
cresc.
40
f
44
sim.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cresc.
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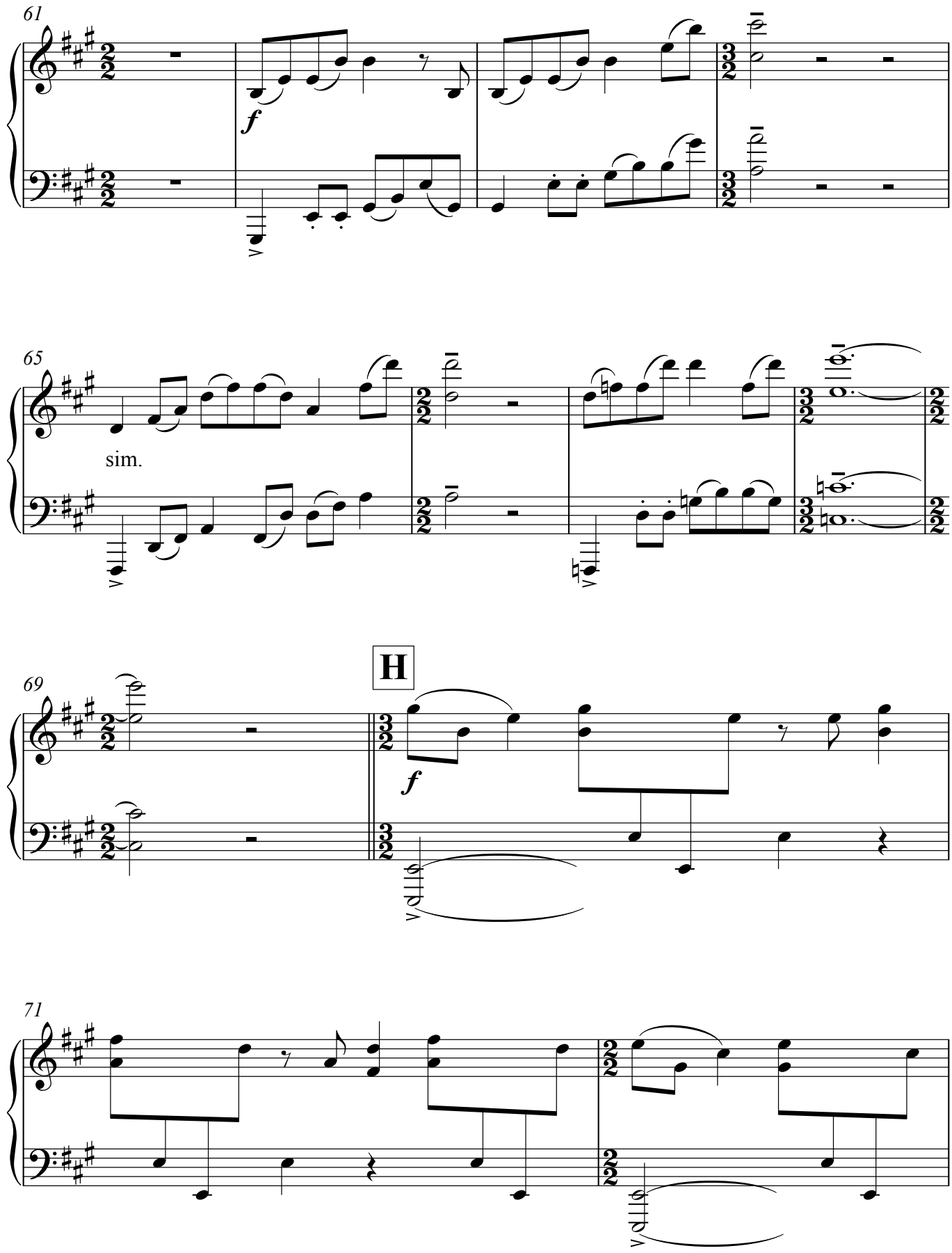
p
f
p
57
f
p
G
59
ff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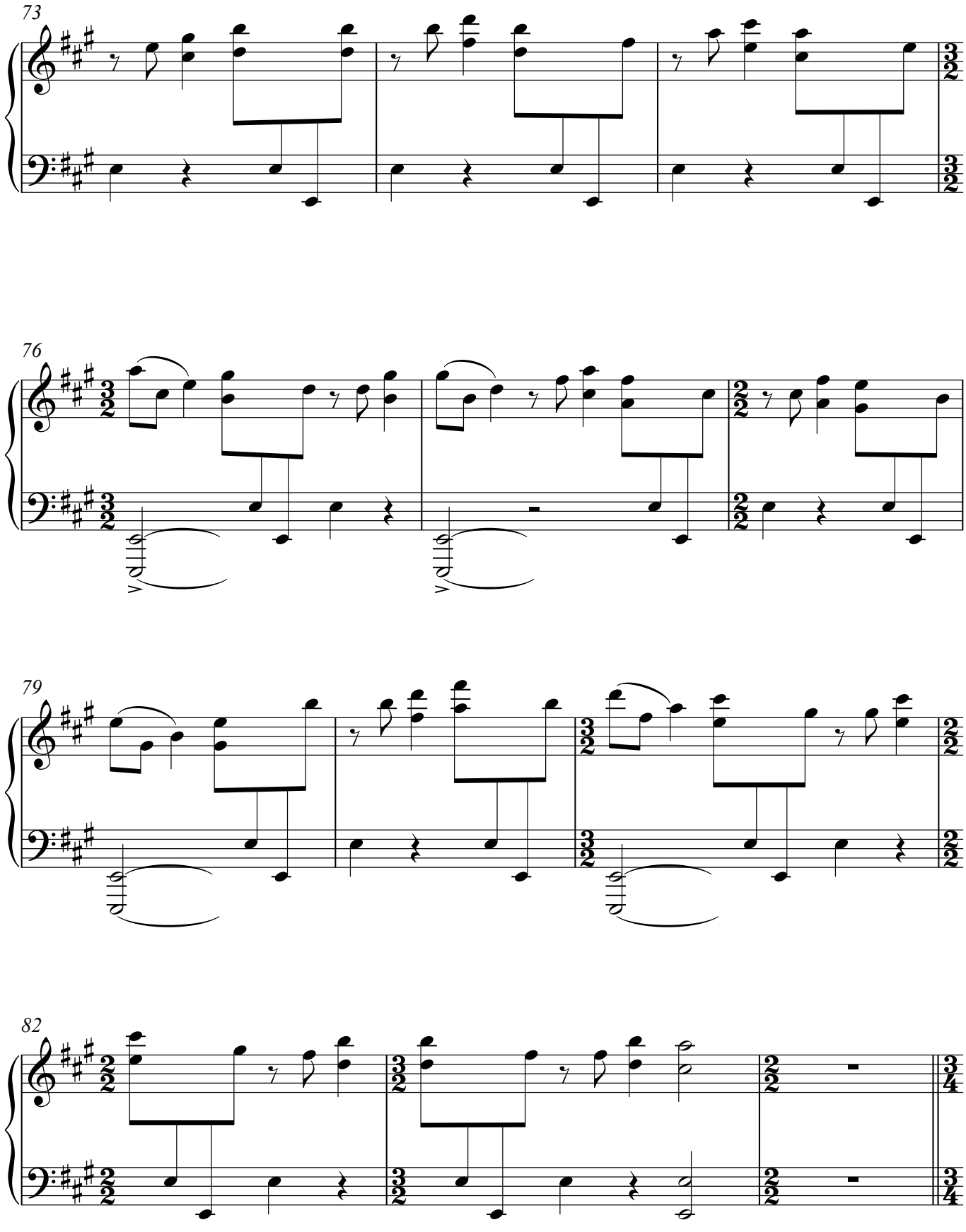
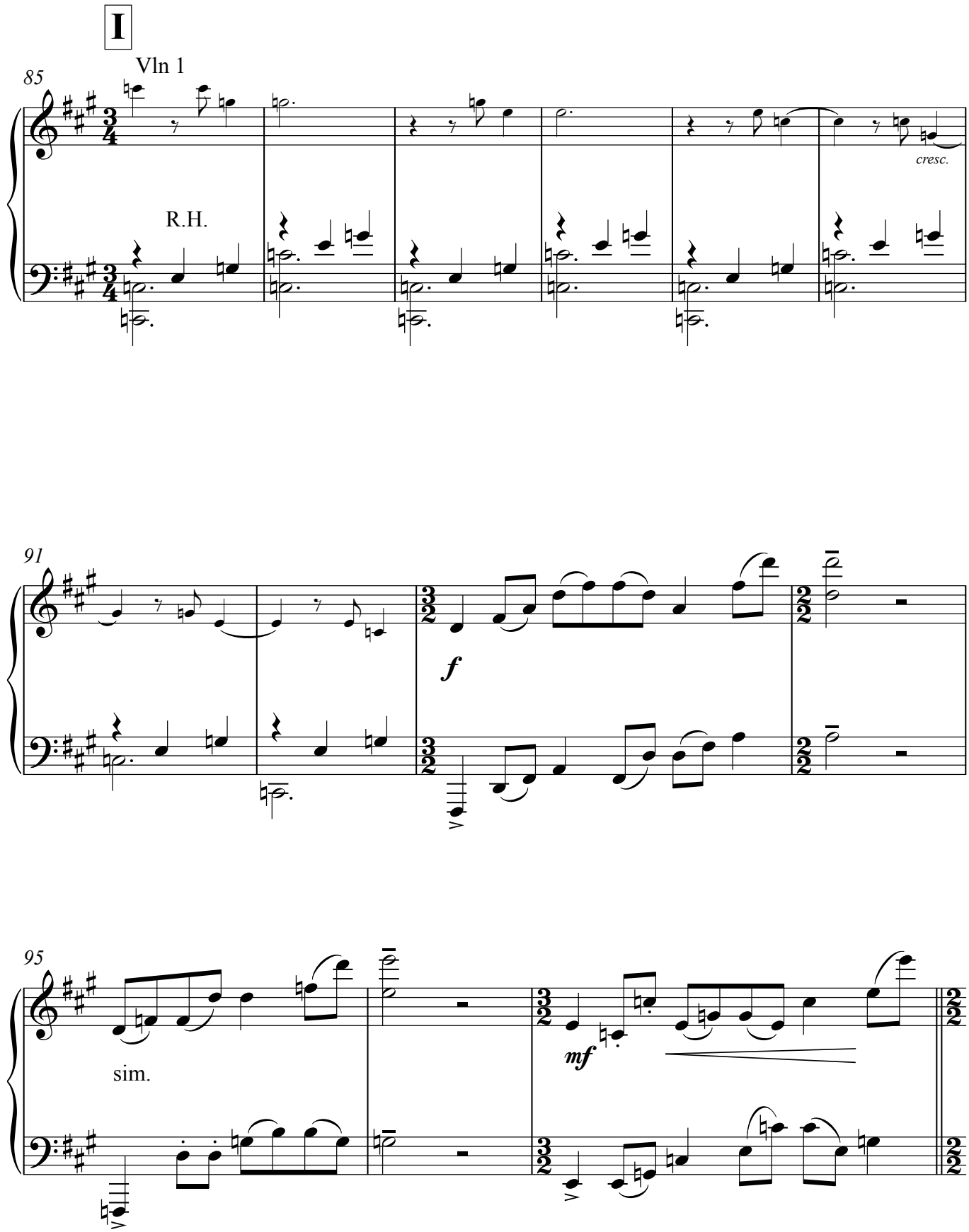
f
65
sim.
69
H
f
71

Charlie Barber - LUDWIG (piano quintet)

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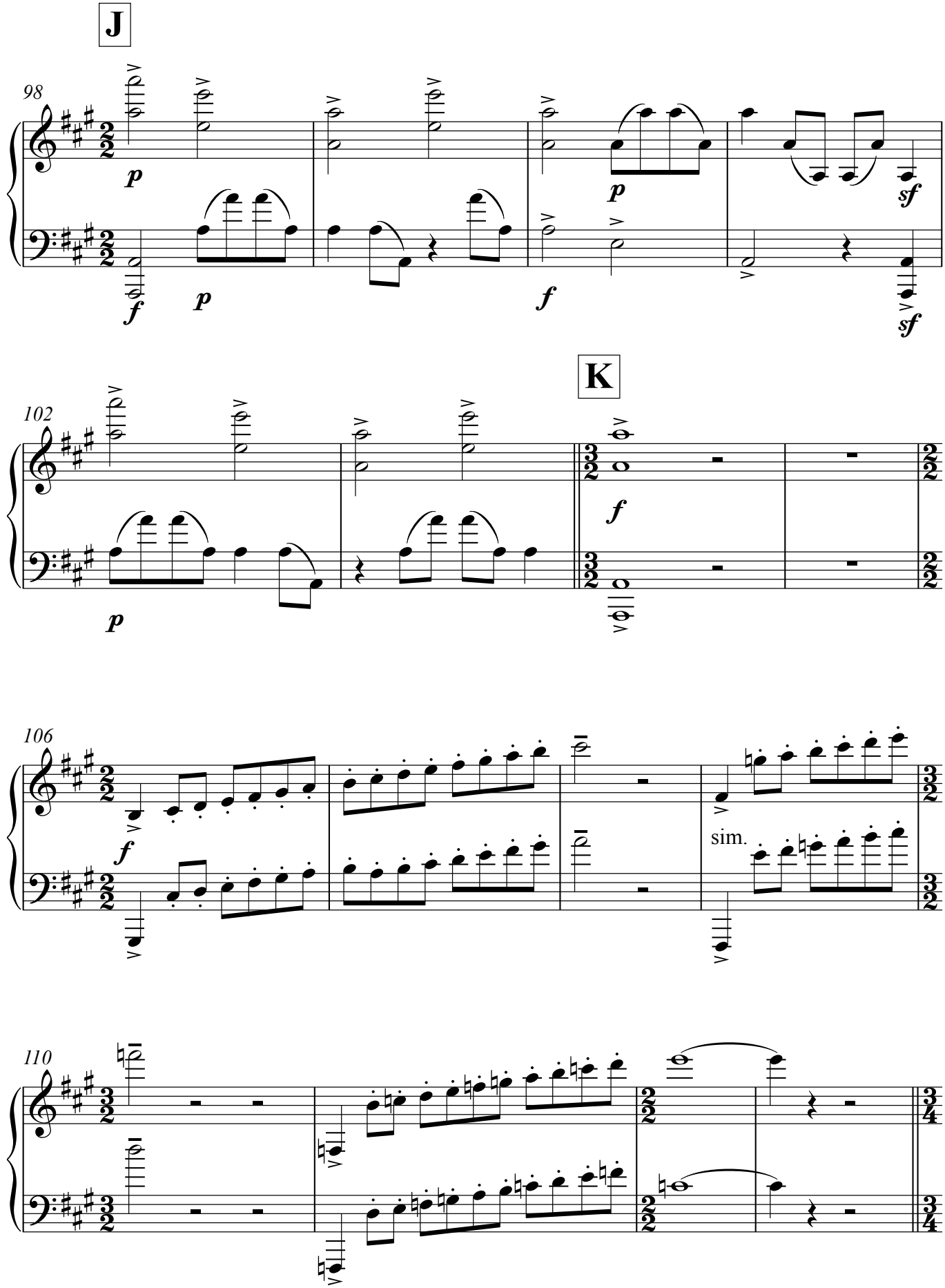
R.H.
cresc.
91
f
95
sim.
mf


J
98
p
f
p
p
f
sf
sf
K
102
p
f
106
f
sim.
110

Piano

Charlie Barber - LUDWIG (piano quintet)

L

Vln 1

114

R.H.

118

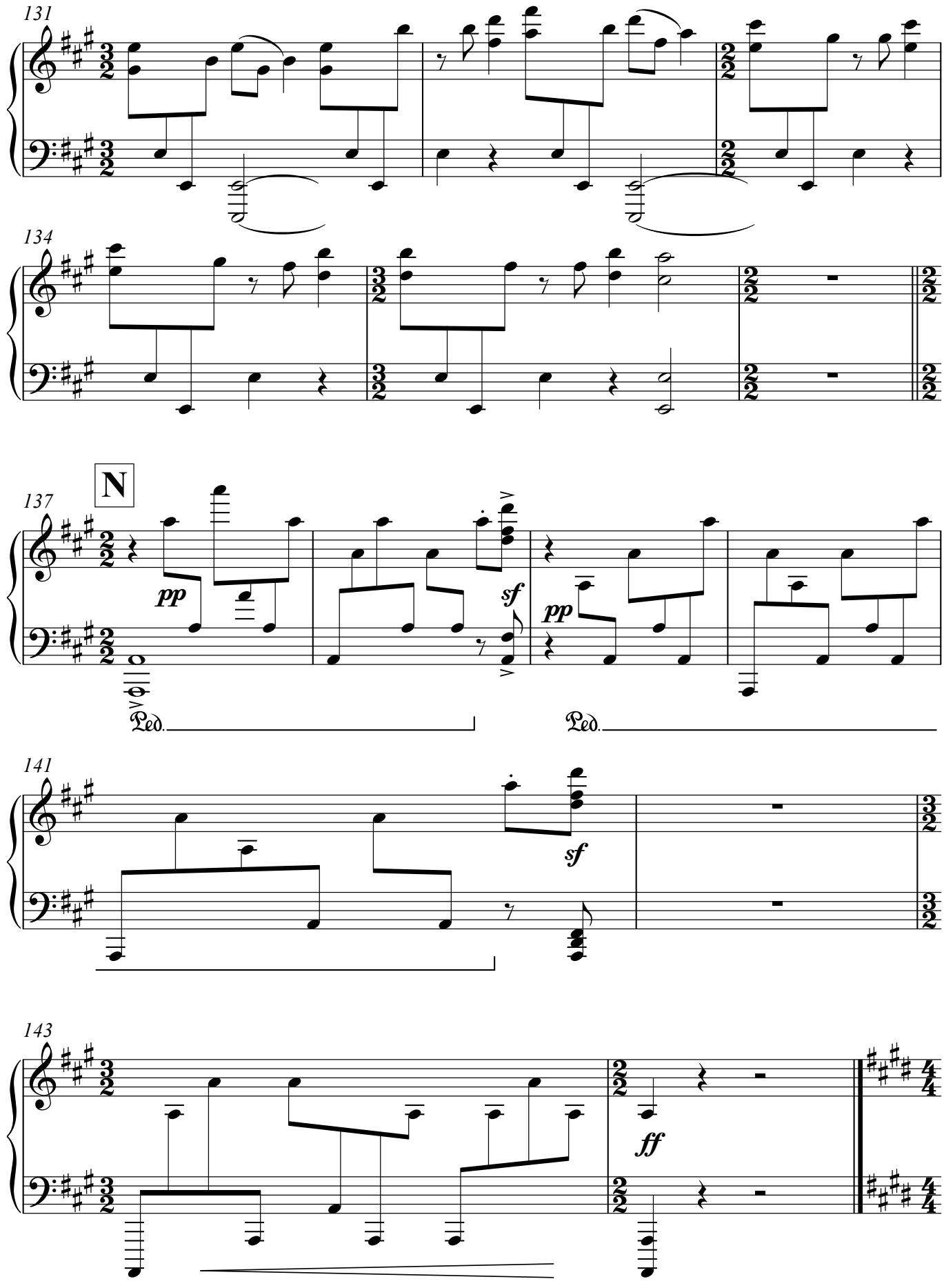
cresc.

M

122

125

128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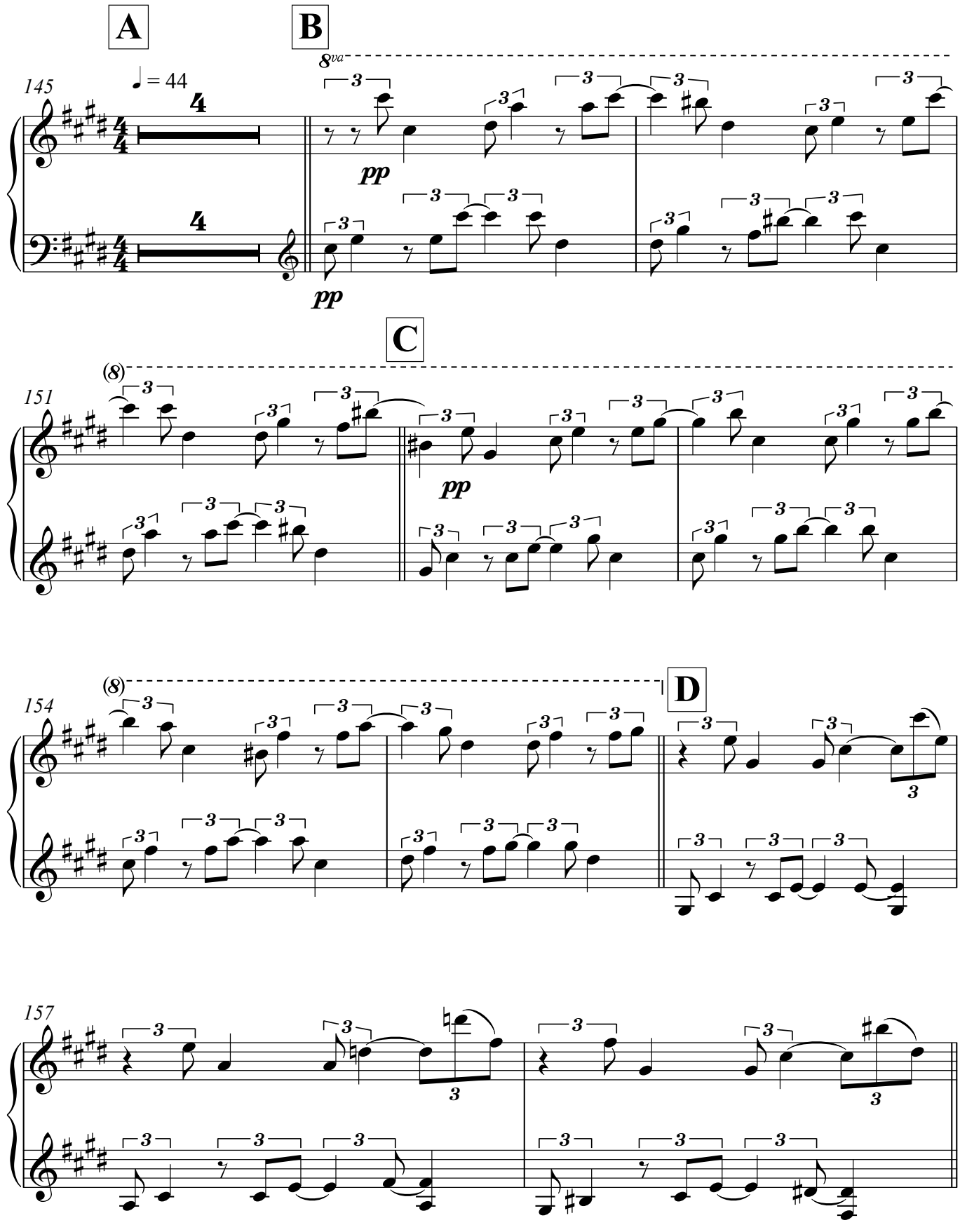
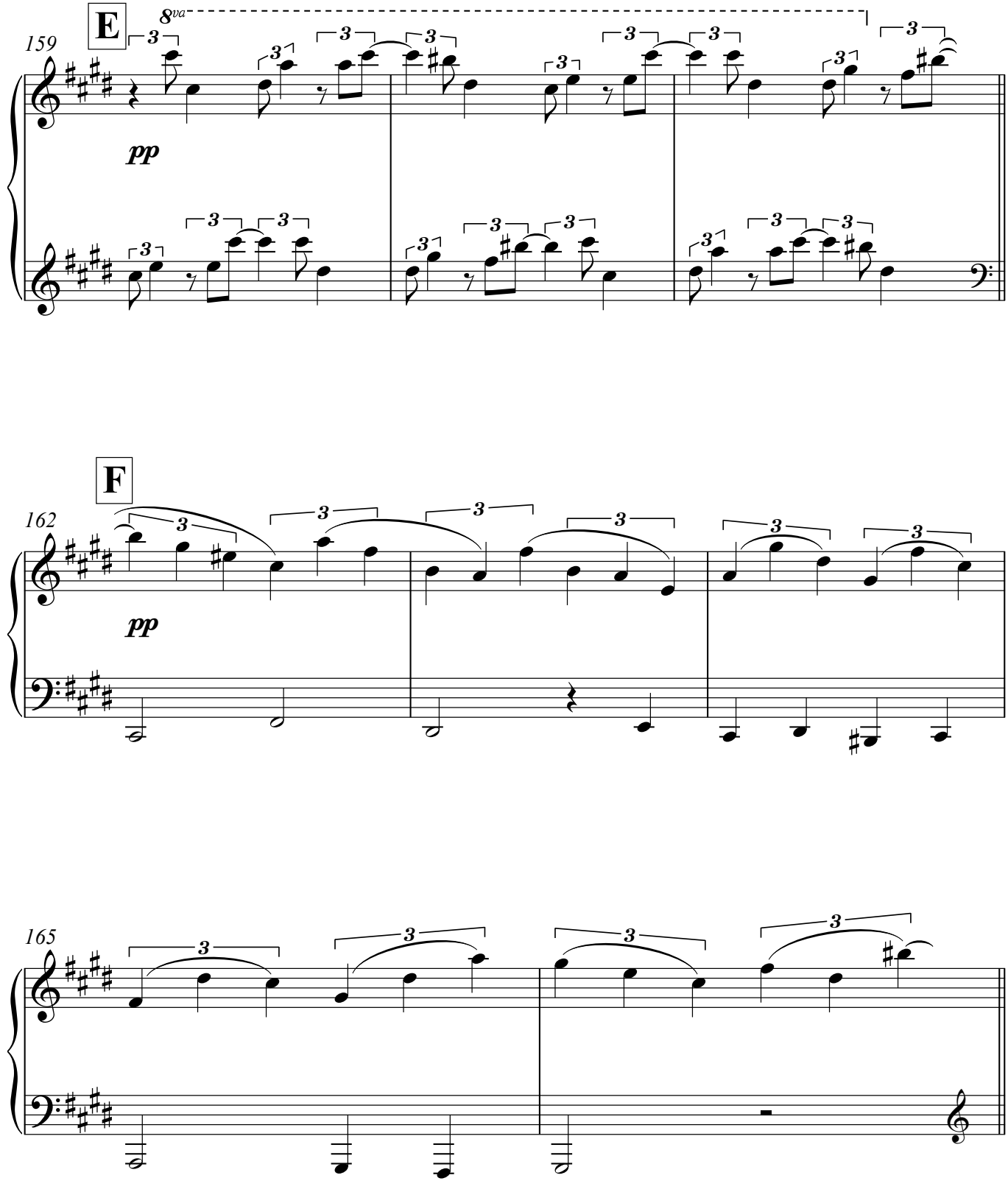
134
N
137
pp
sf
pp
Ped.
Ped.
141
sf
143
ff

2. Adagio sostenuto: delicatissimamente

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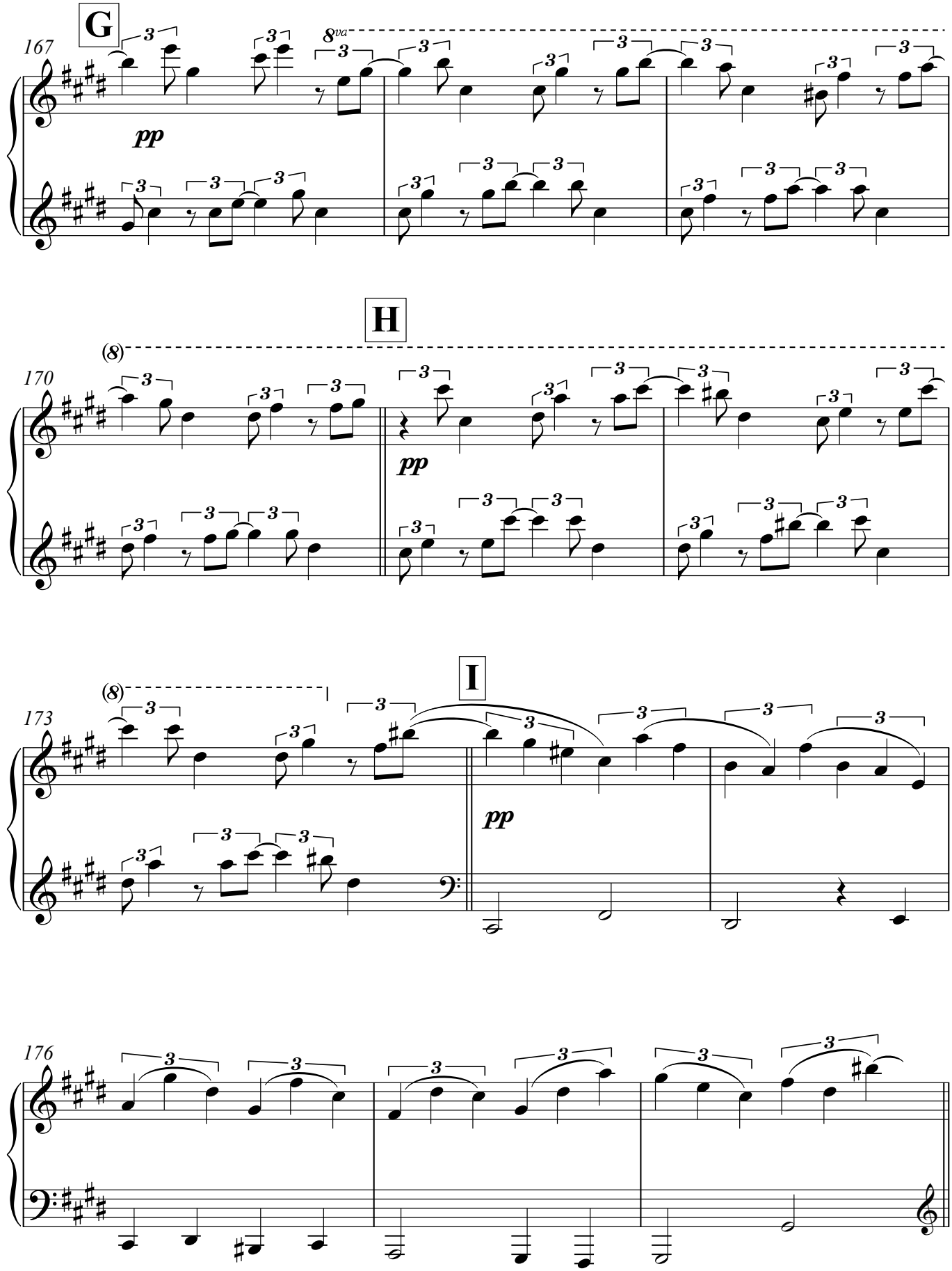
E
8va
pp
162
F
pp
165


G
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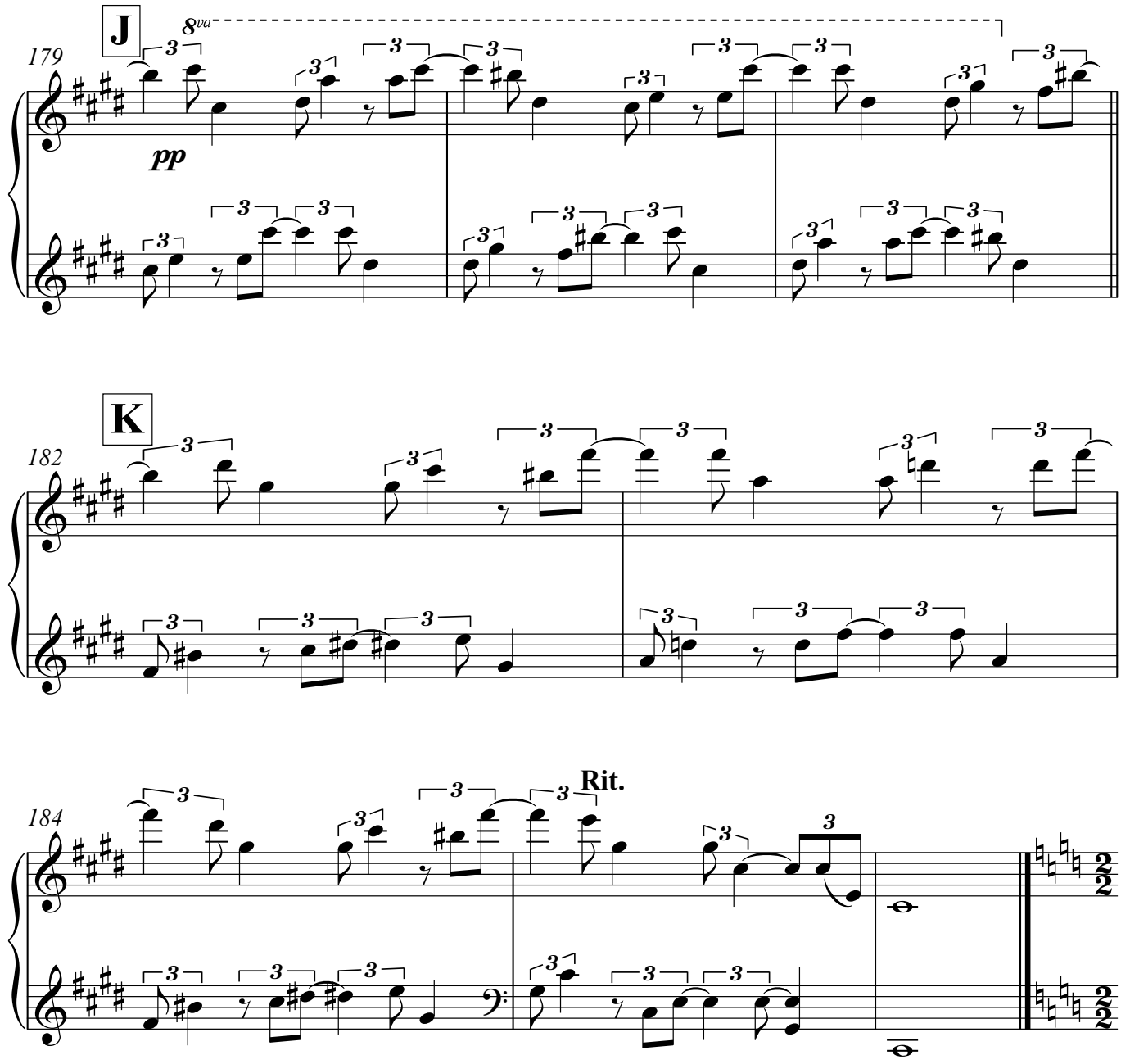
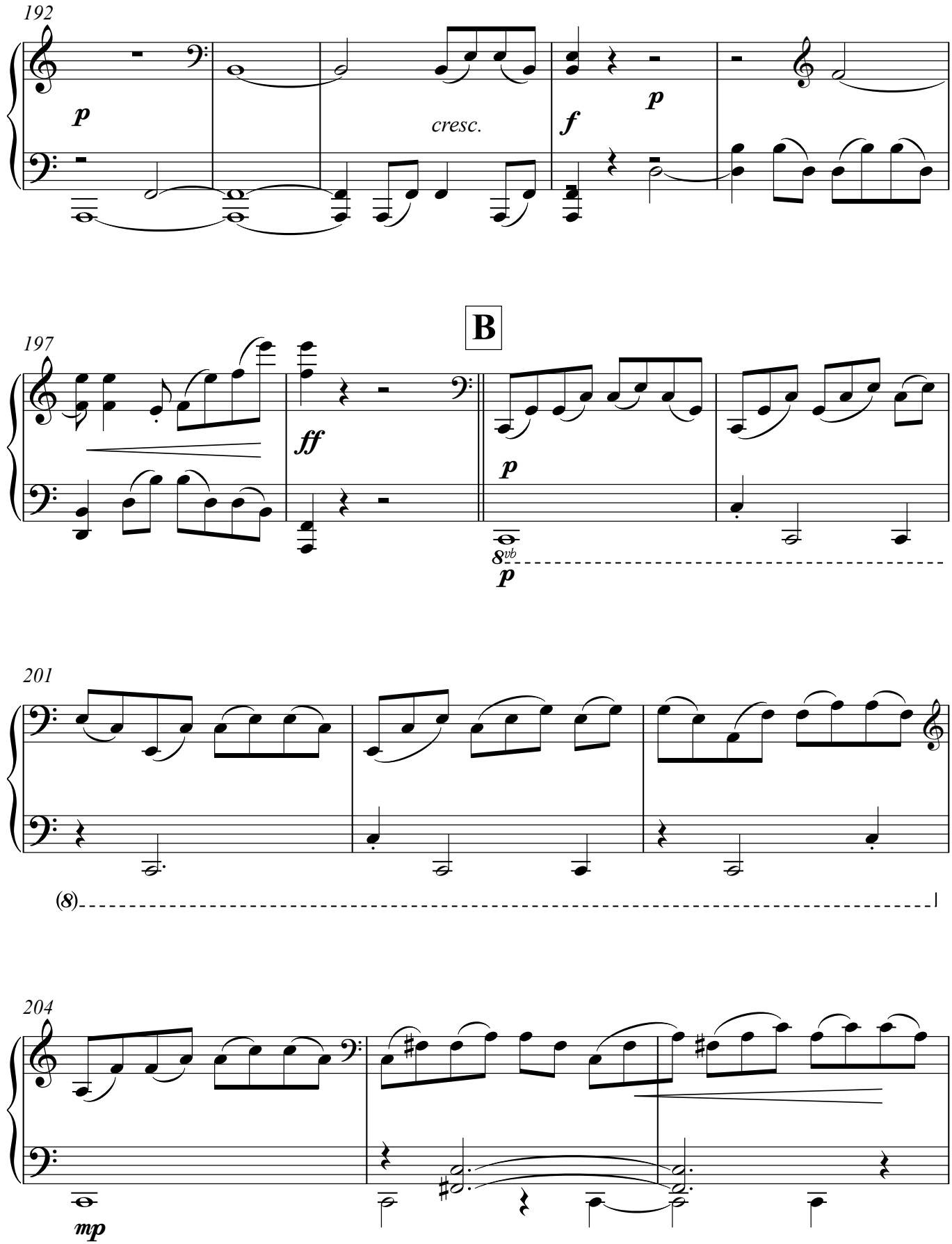
8va
pp
H
(8)
170
pp
I
(8)
173
pp
176



3. Allegro vivace

♩ = 198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B
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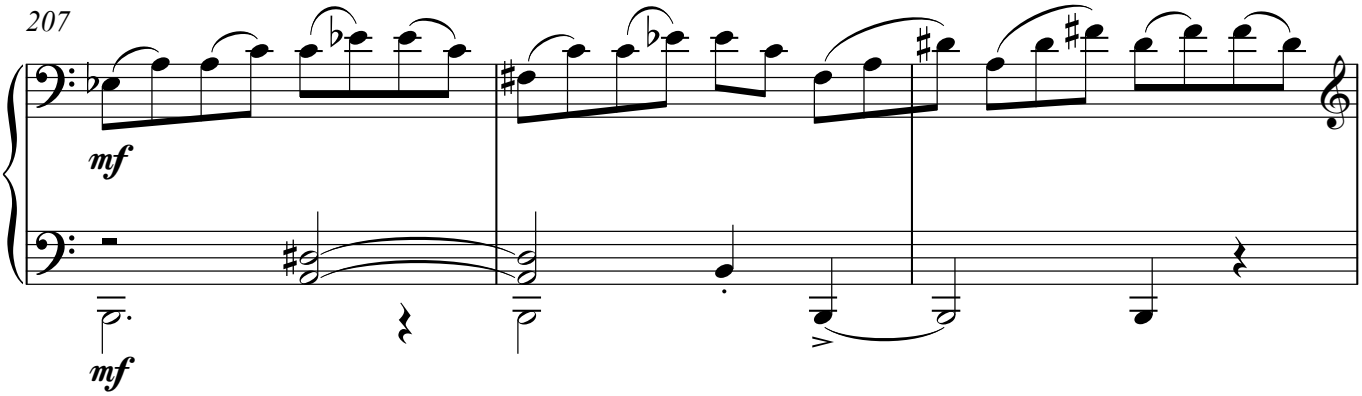
204
mp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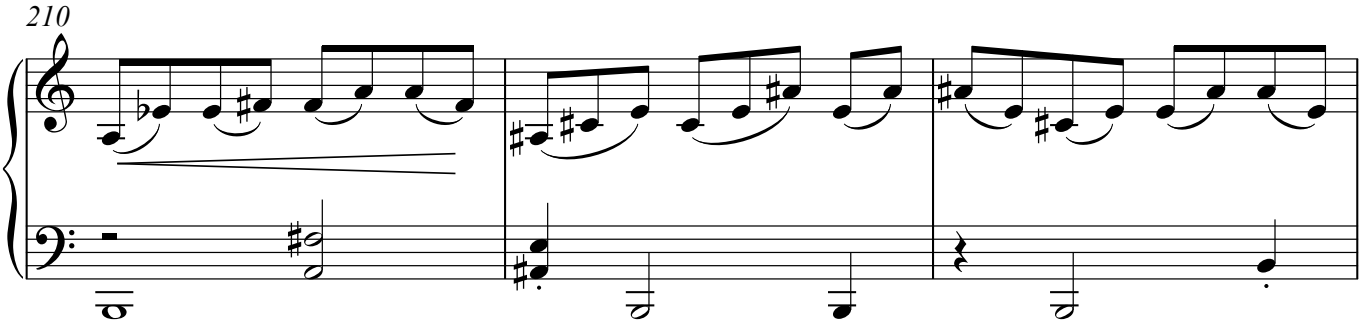
mf
mf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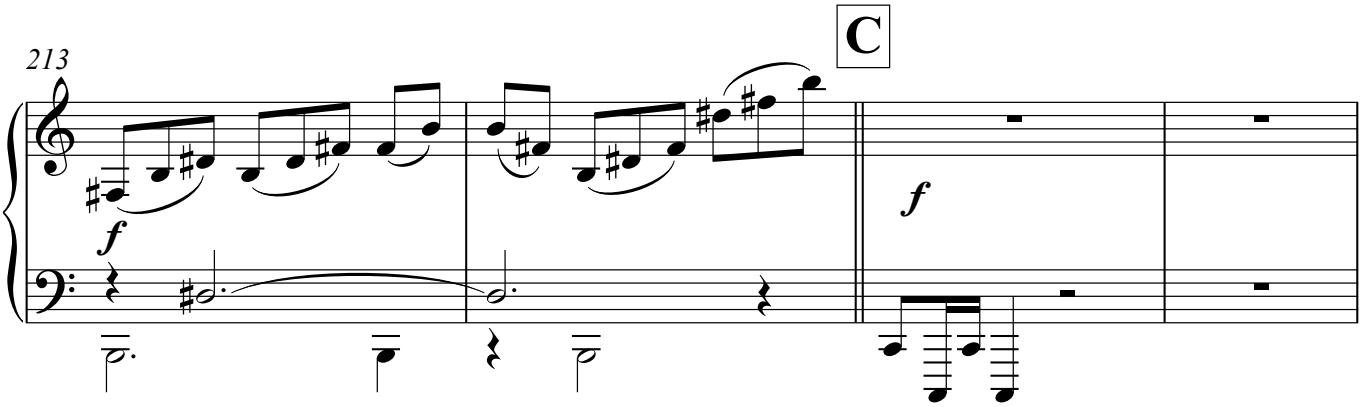
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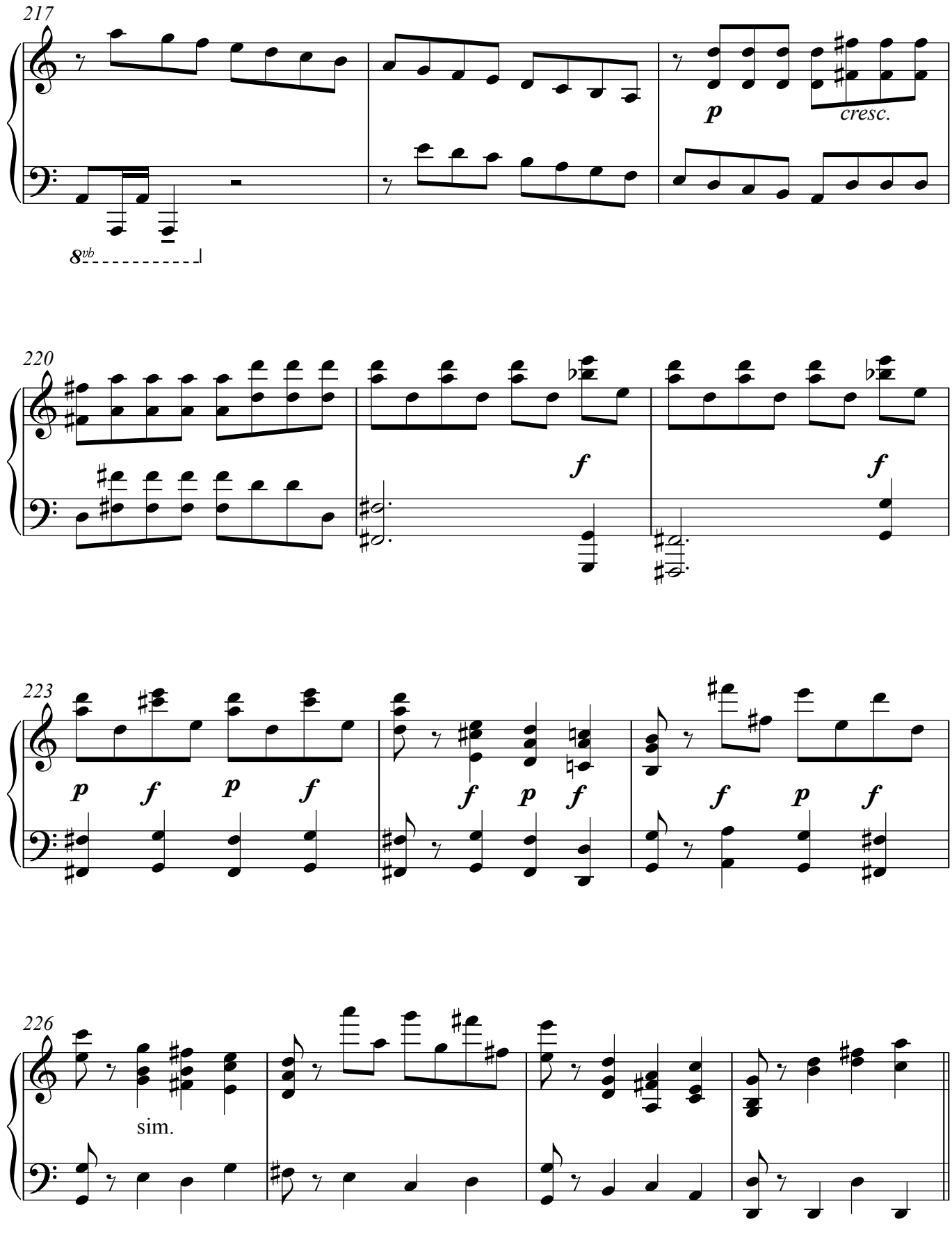
C
f
f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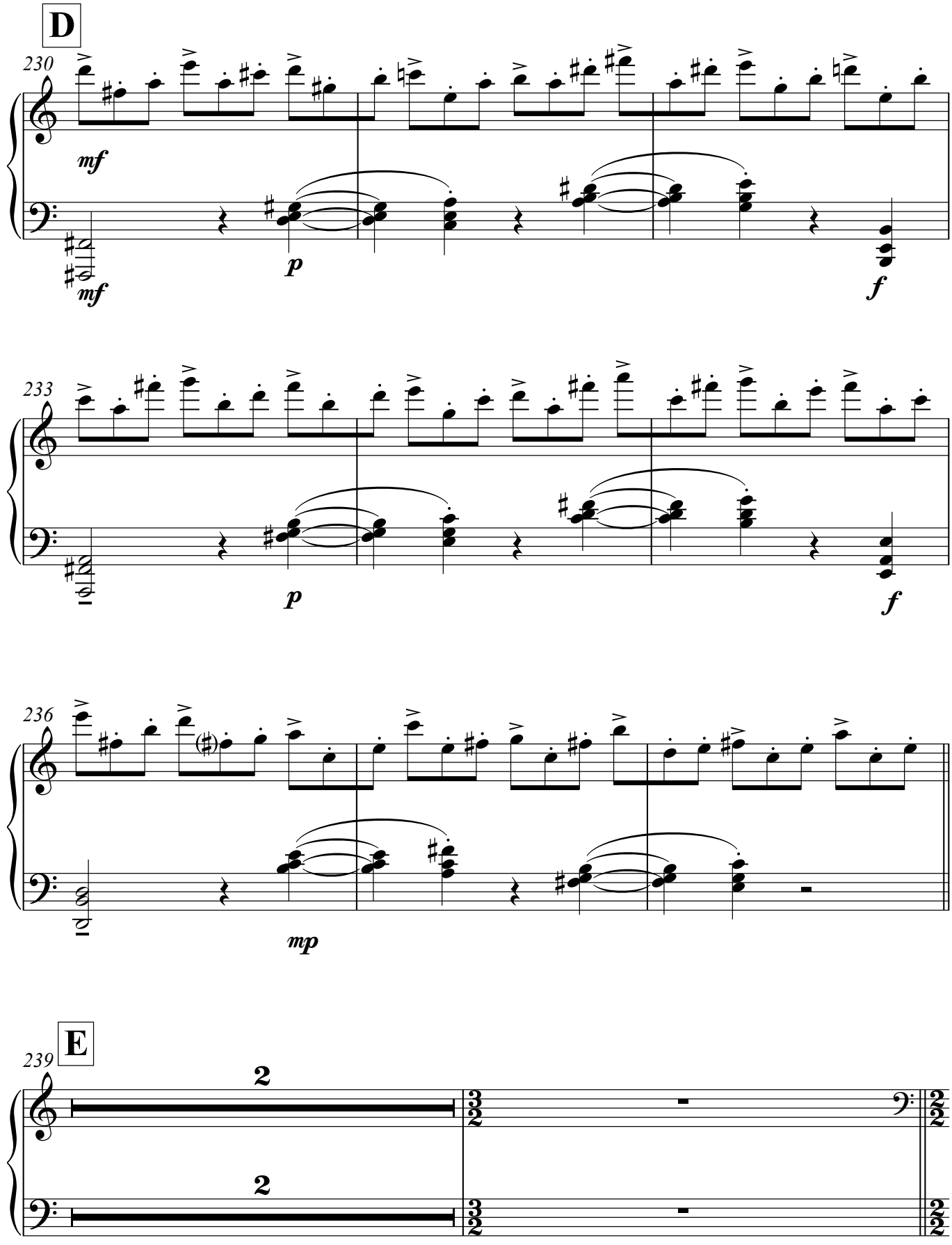
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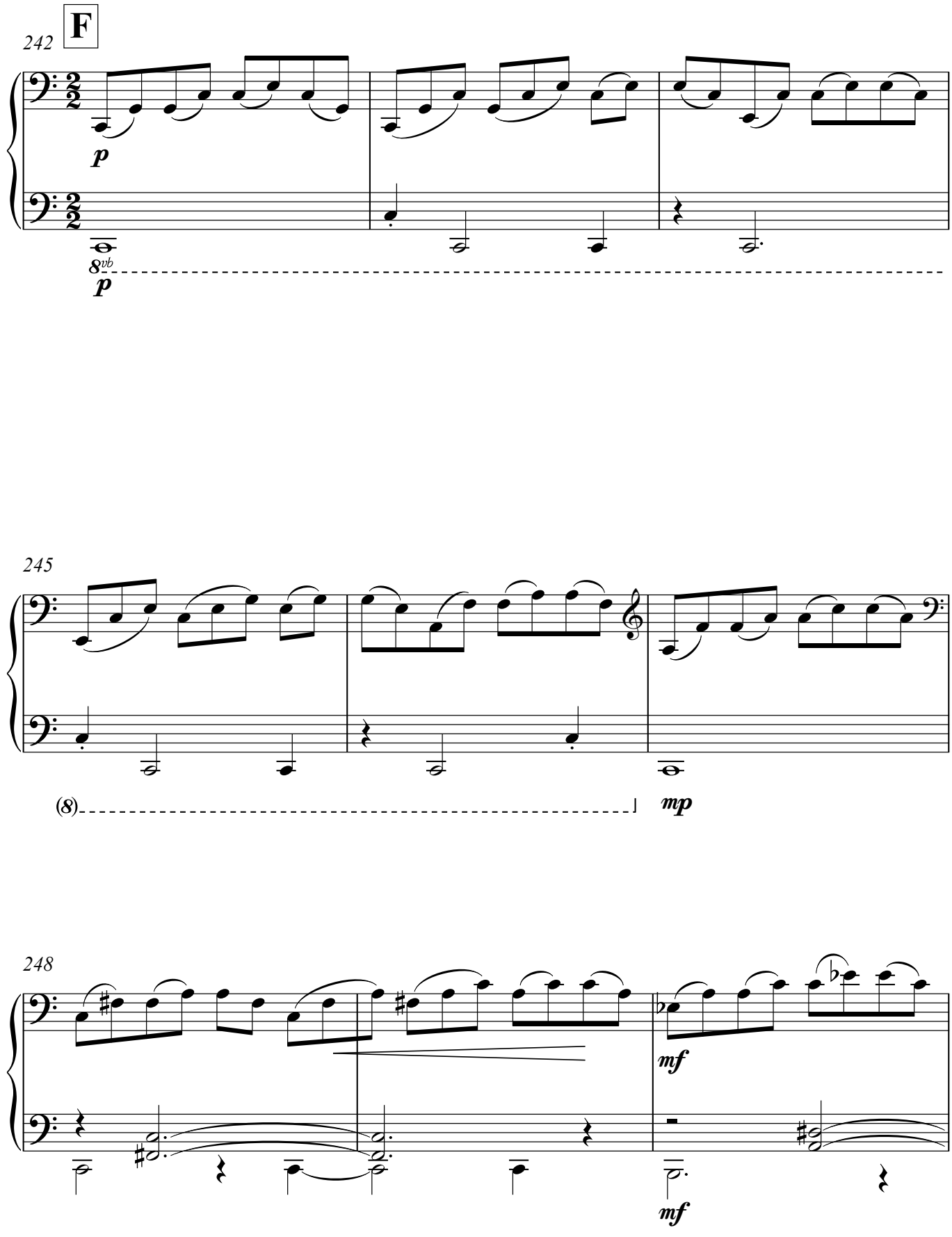
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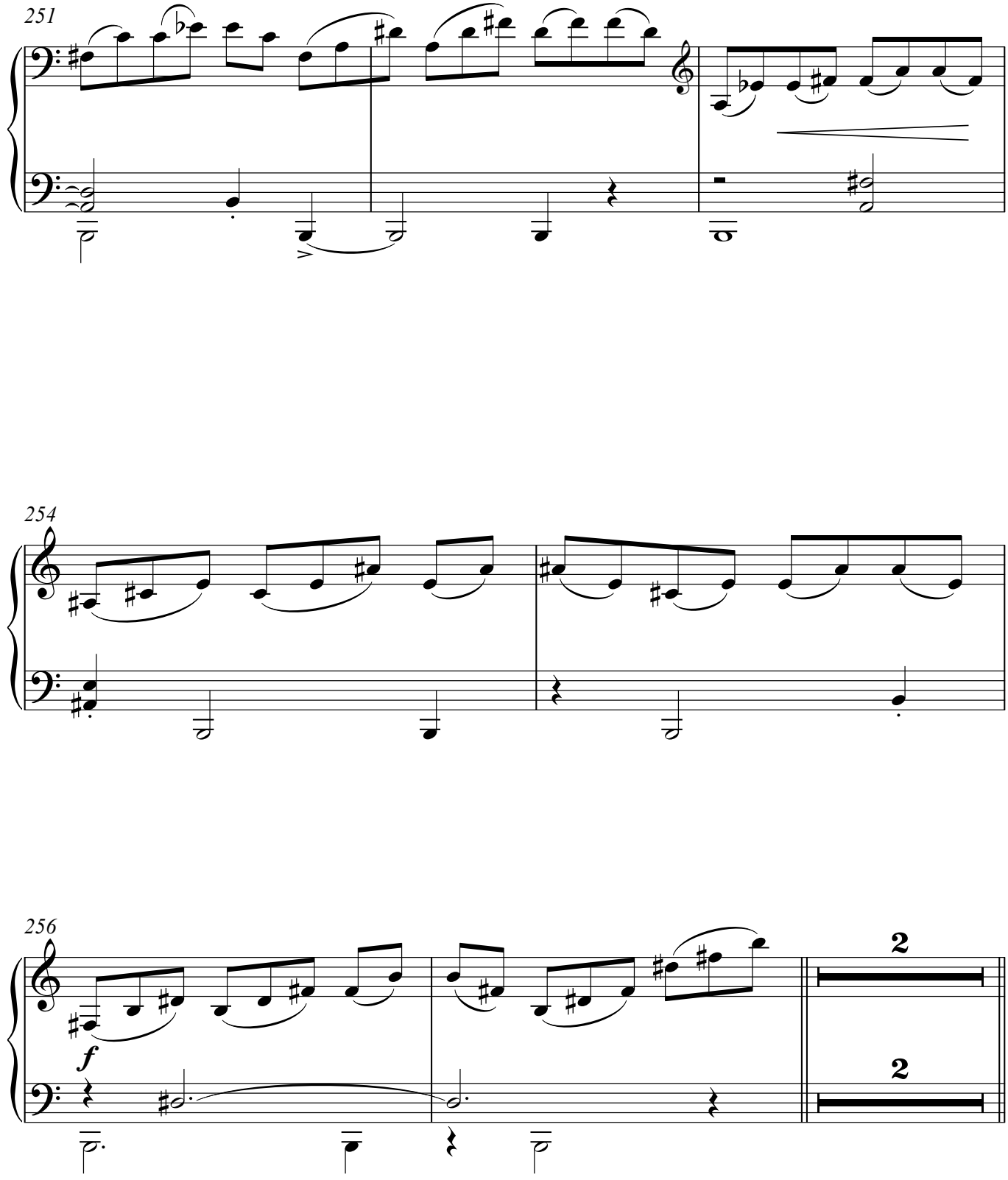
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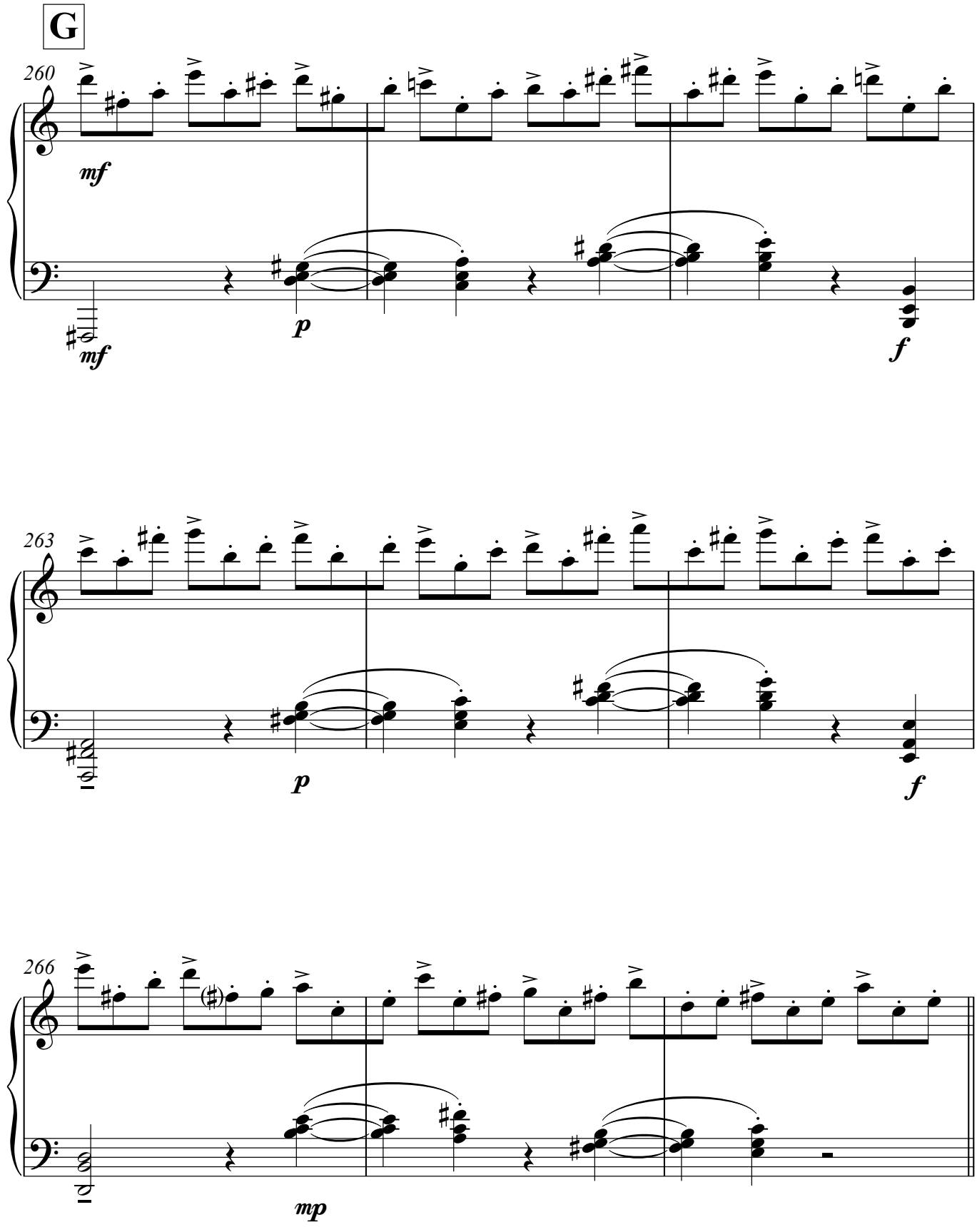
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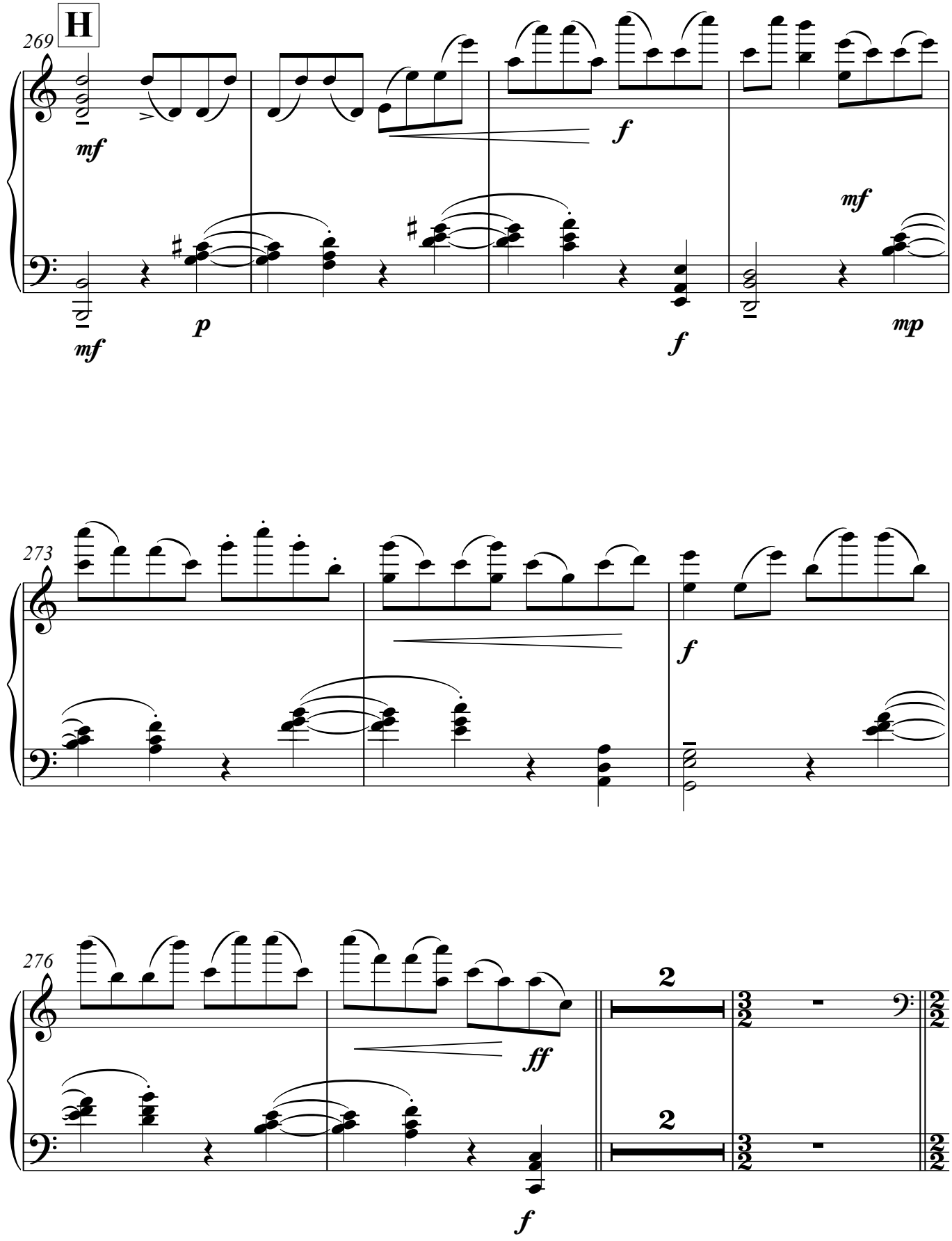
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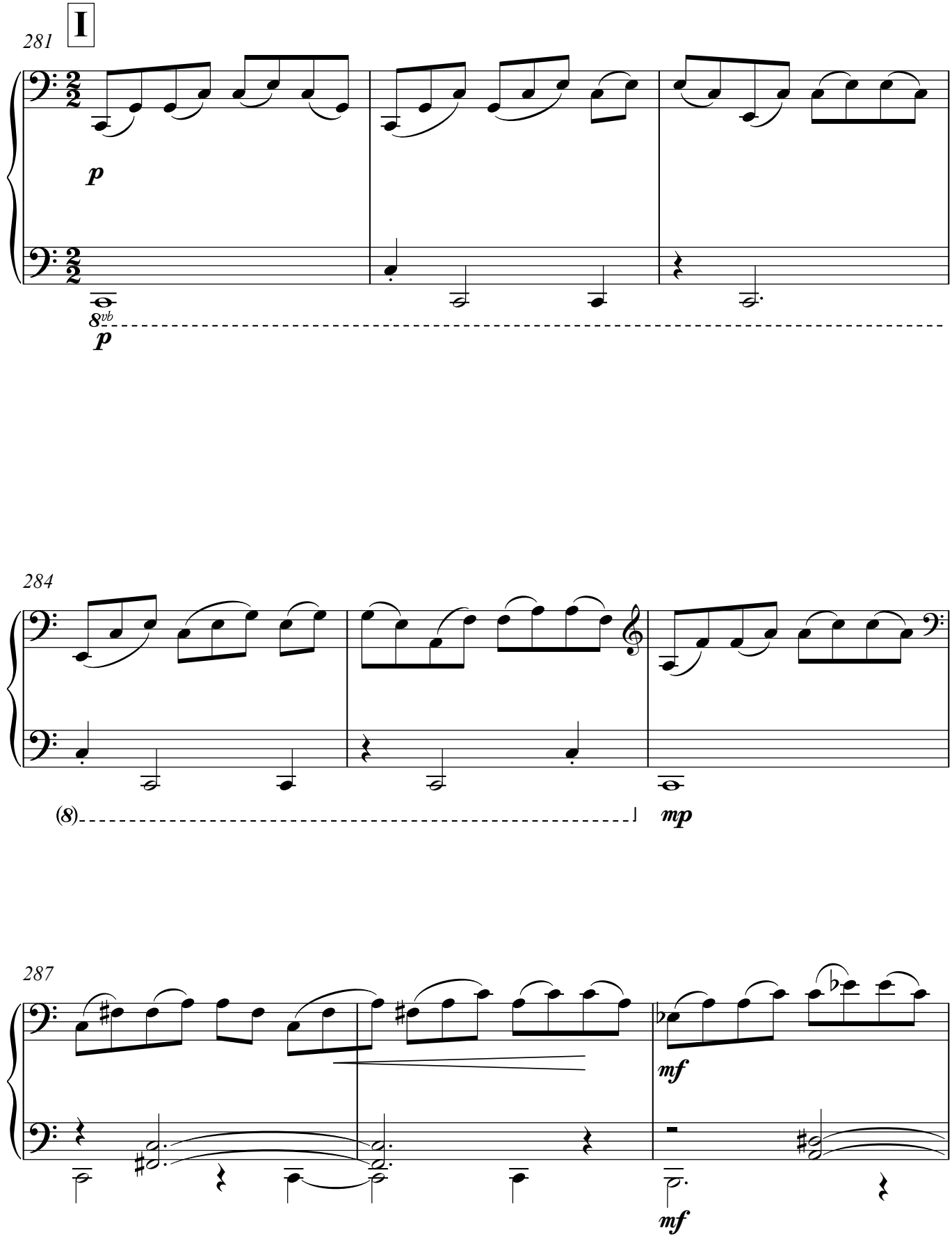
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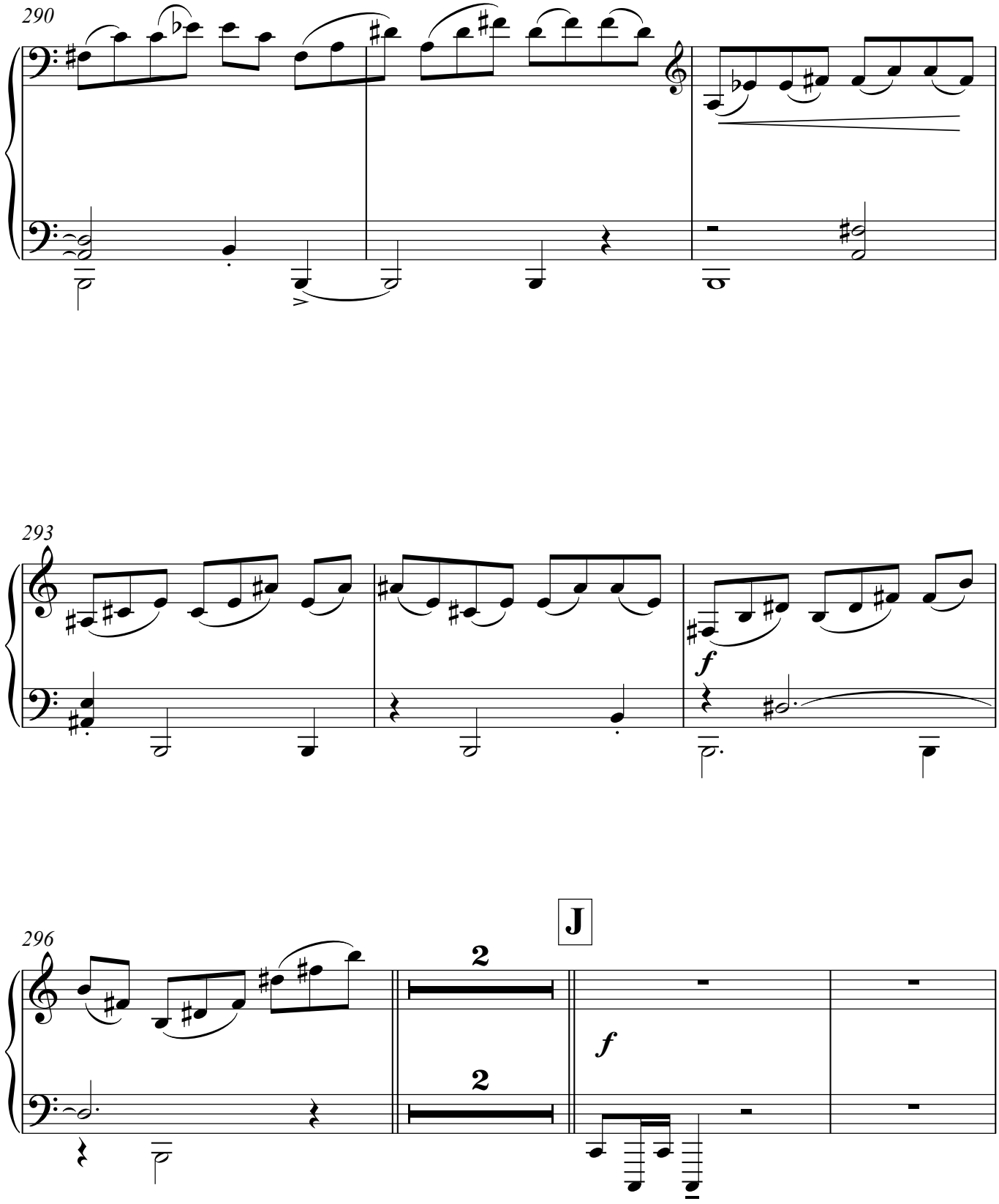
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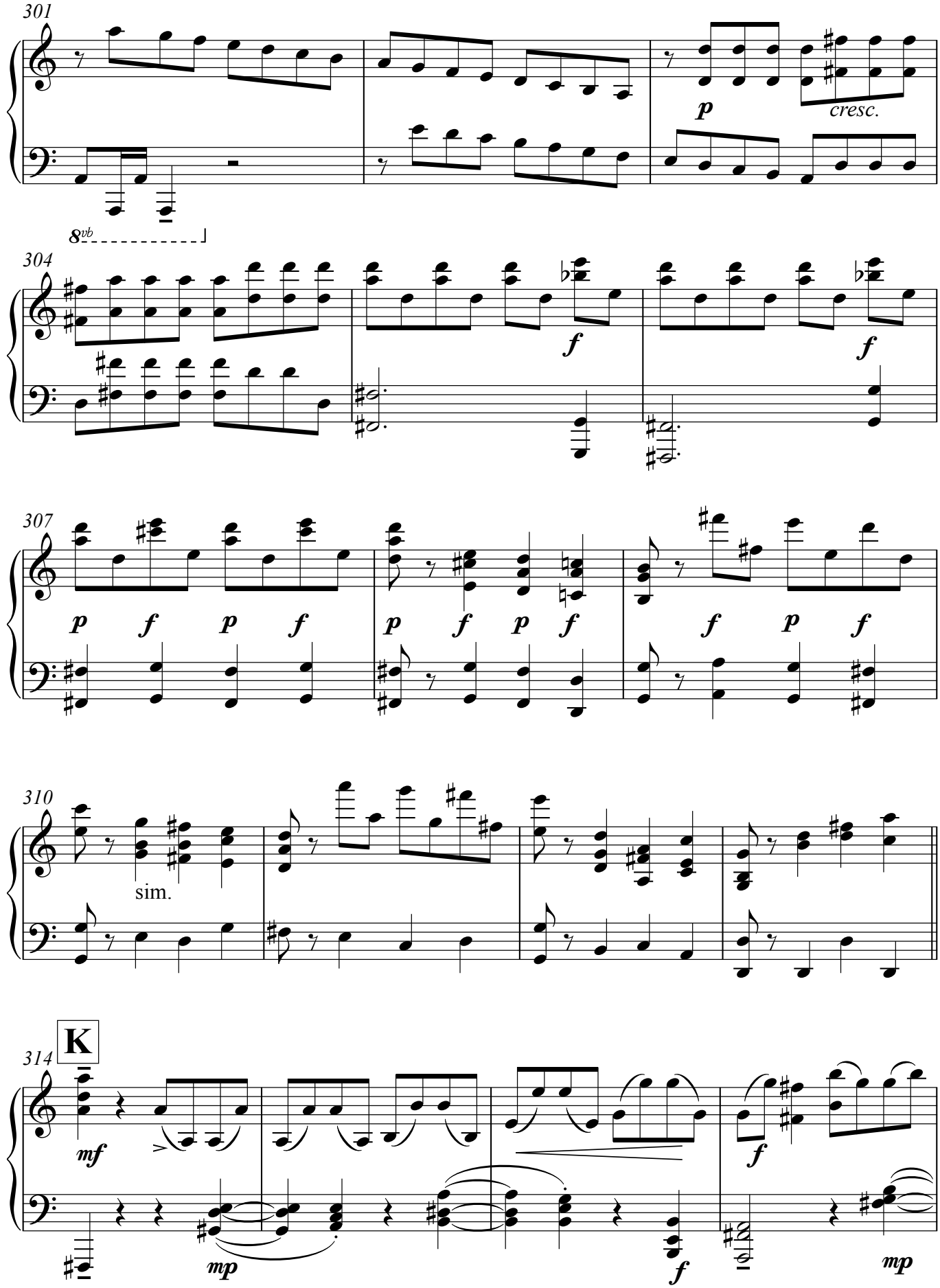
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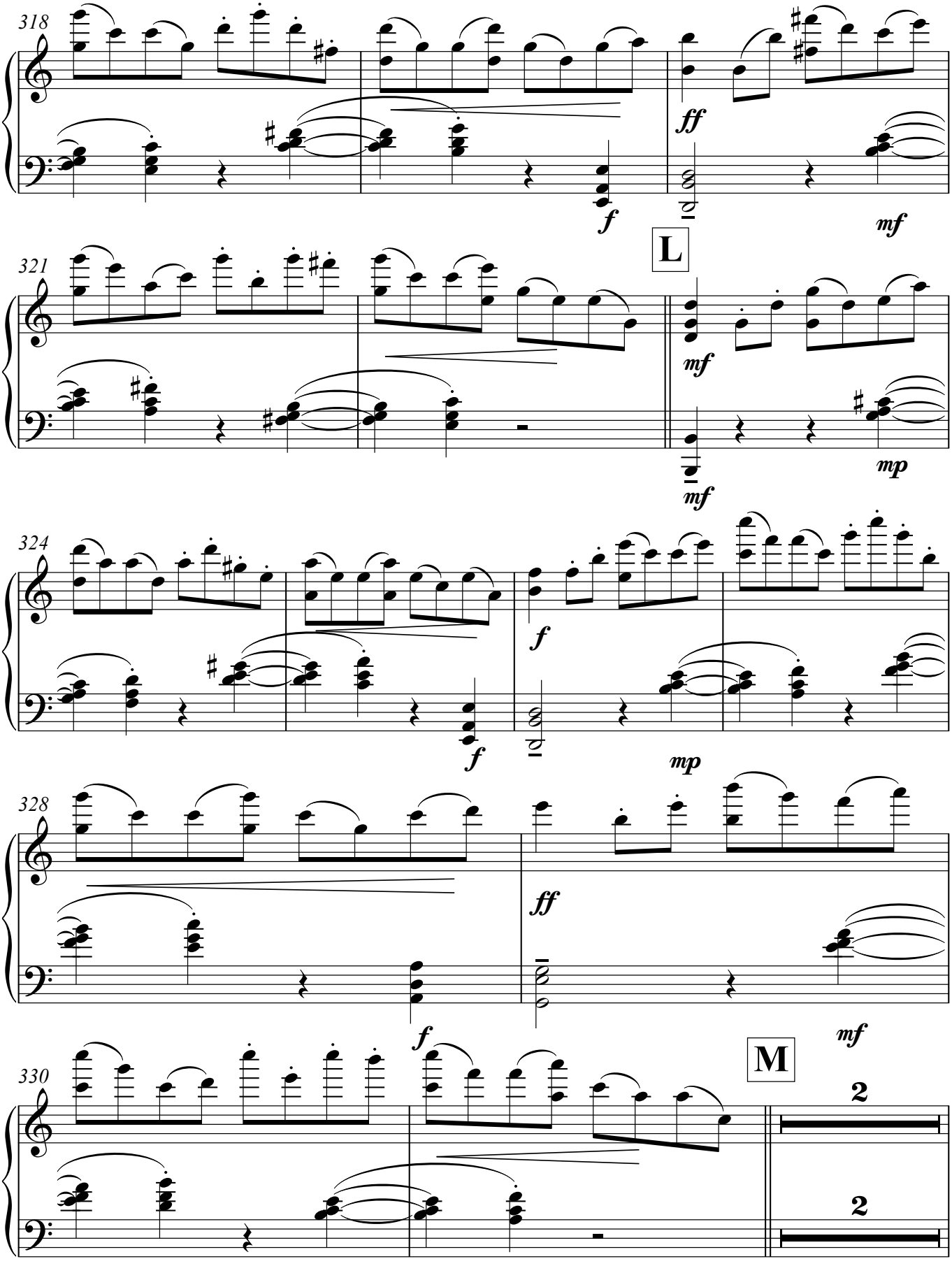
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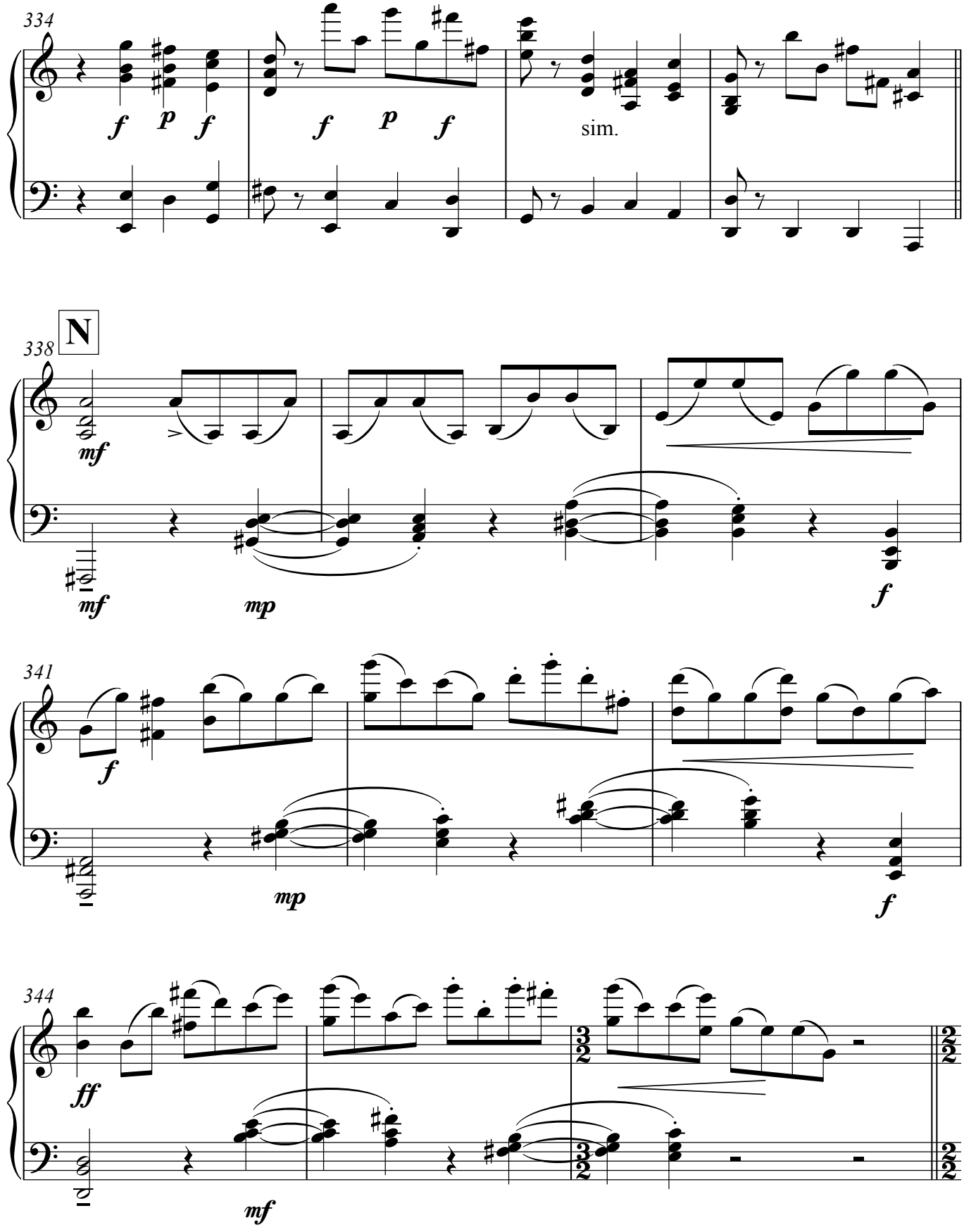
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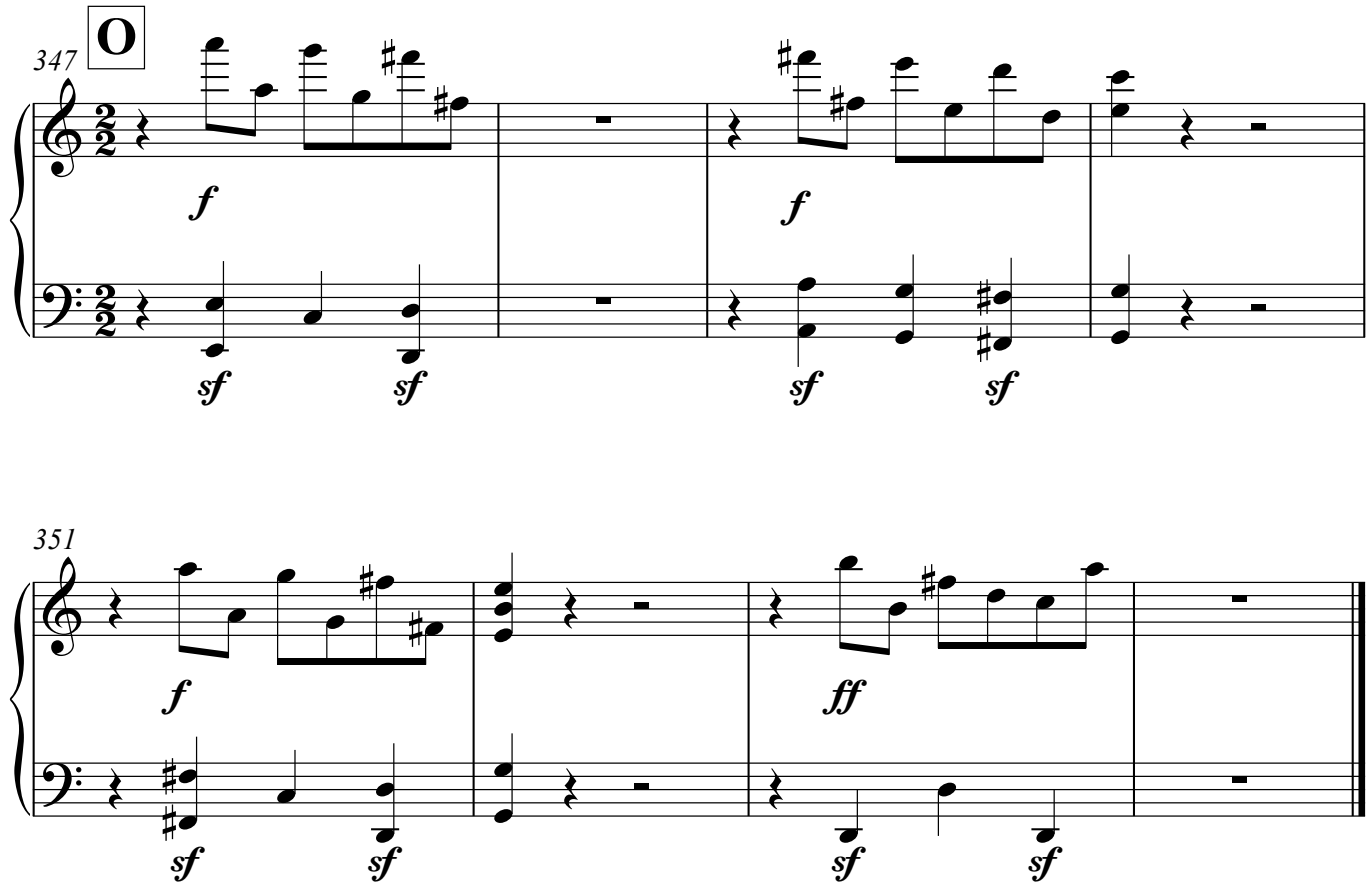
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