IAN KEITH HARRIS

A SUMMER IDYLL

Oboe d'amore (Cor anglais) & Piano

AMORIS INTERNATIONAL
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AI SI 018

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.

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A Summer Idyll

Oboe d'amore (Cor anglais) & Piano

A SI 018

This piece was written in 2004 for oboe d'amore (cor anglais) and piano. It reflects upon the delights of life. I re-savour past joys and try to capture their essence within a transient musical interlude. It is a gentle one-movement work, which I have dedicated to Jennifer Paull.

I was inspired by one of those quiet pleasant sunny days under a cloudless blue sky so well known to us in Australia. I fancied that time was suspended as I wandered in my garden.

Eucalyptus trees do not have an autumnal loss of leaves; they are evergreen. Their leaves fall daily just as do their branches - more likely on a hot, still day than any other. Sometimes they come down, *crash*, in a high wind and are totally unlike European trees. They usually flower in summer and produce their gumnuts over the next year or so. Eucalyptus oil, more prone to burning than even pine oil, has a very distinctive smell (that I love.) I imagined this piece with the perfume of eucalyptus and the gentle cracking of the branches on a still day.

It should be played without *rubato* - strictly in *tempo*, to enable the flow of the free rhythms I have encompassed within the music.

Ian Keith Harris
2006

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

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

Autumnal Interlude *A*I SI 020

Sonatina *A*I SI 021

Tasmanian Ants *A*I SI 023

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

Reflections *A*I SI 029

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

Divertissement *A*I EN 006

A Consort of Carols *A*I EN 008

FunFare *A*I EN 009

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

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

❖❖❖

for Jennifer Paull

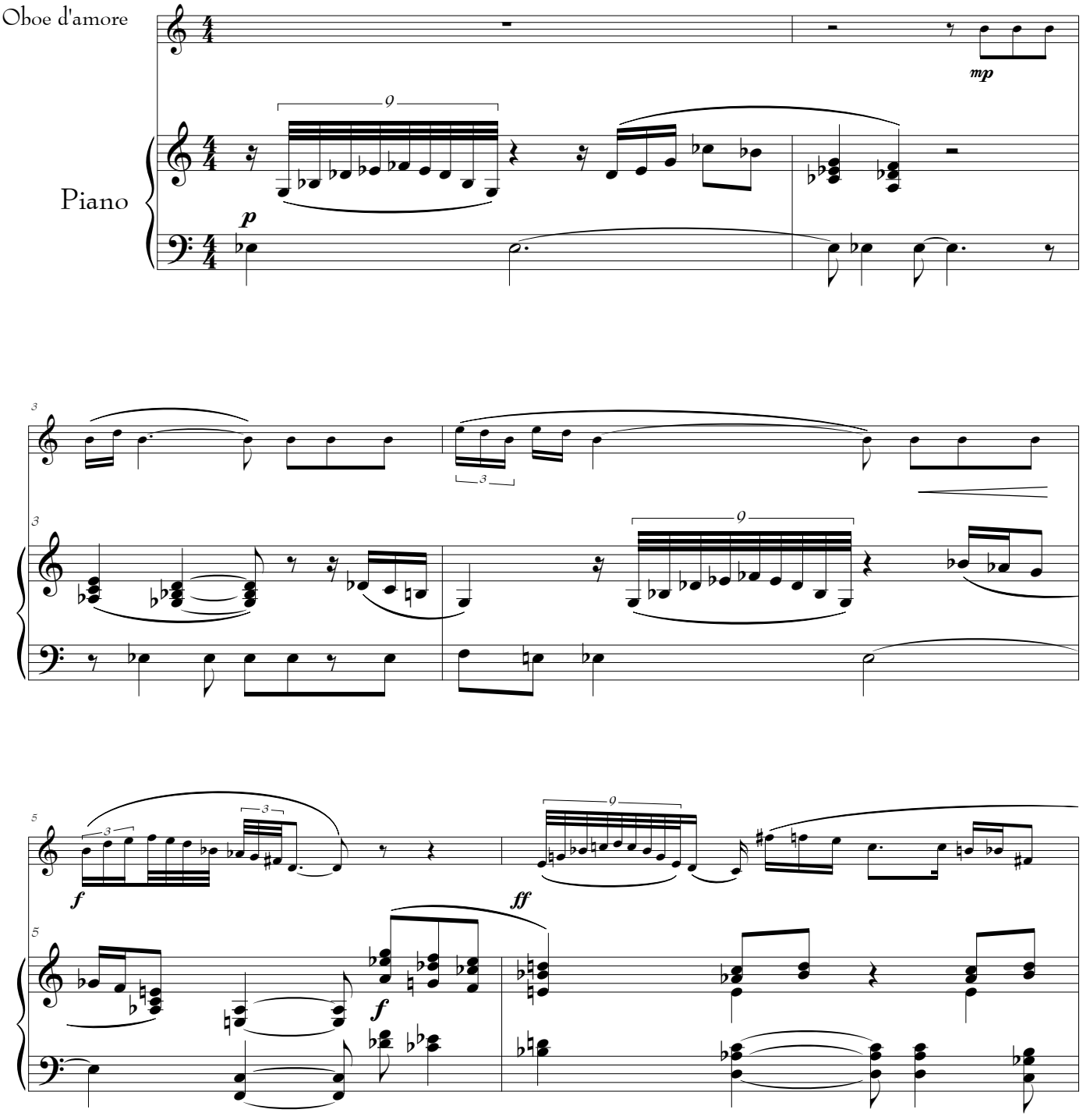
A SUMMER IDYLL

Ian Keith Harris
(b. 1935 -)

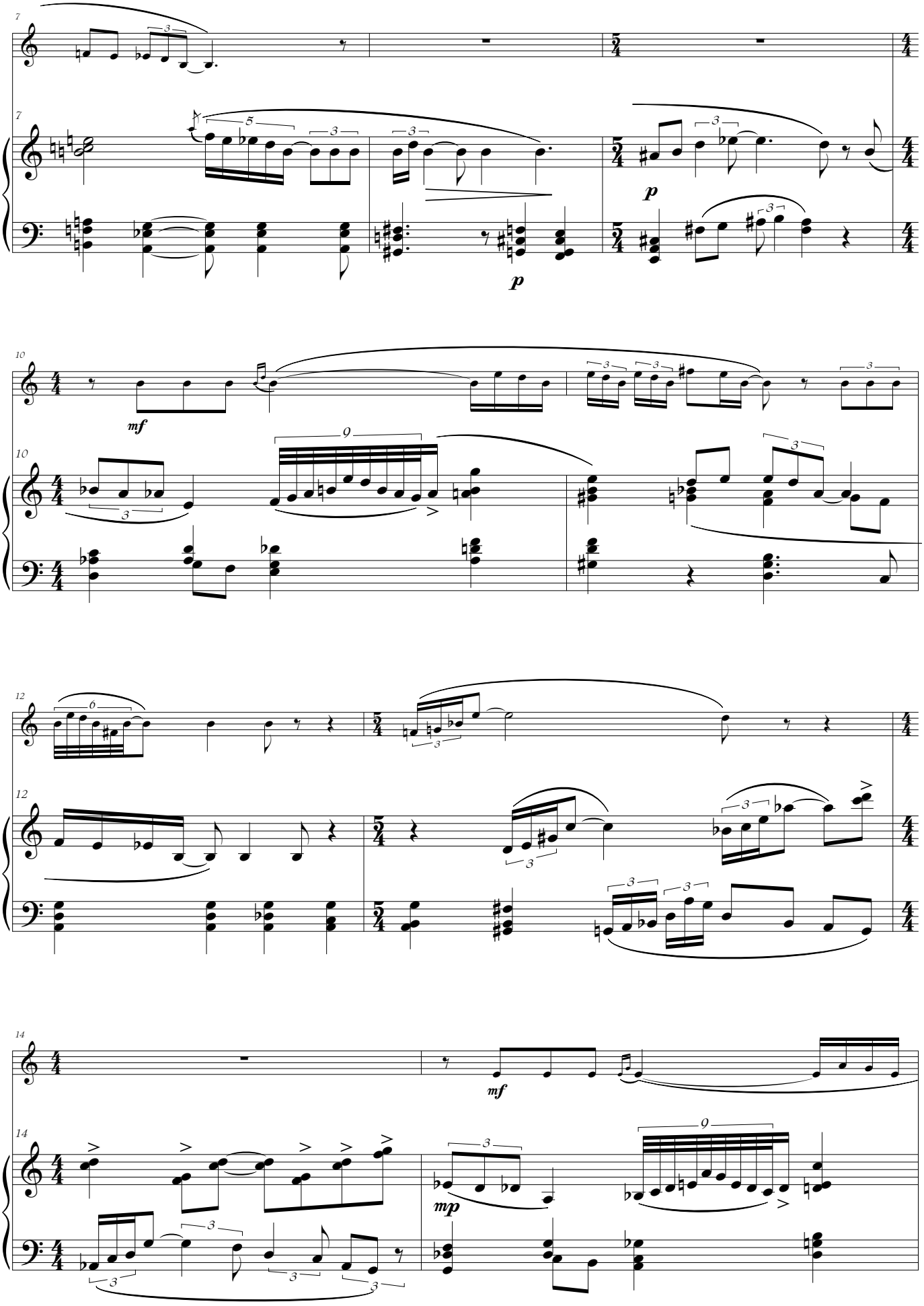
Slowly and Gently

❖ Oboe d'amore

Piano



❖ In Concert Pitch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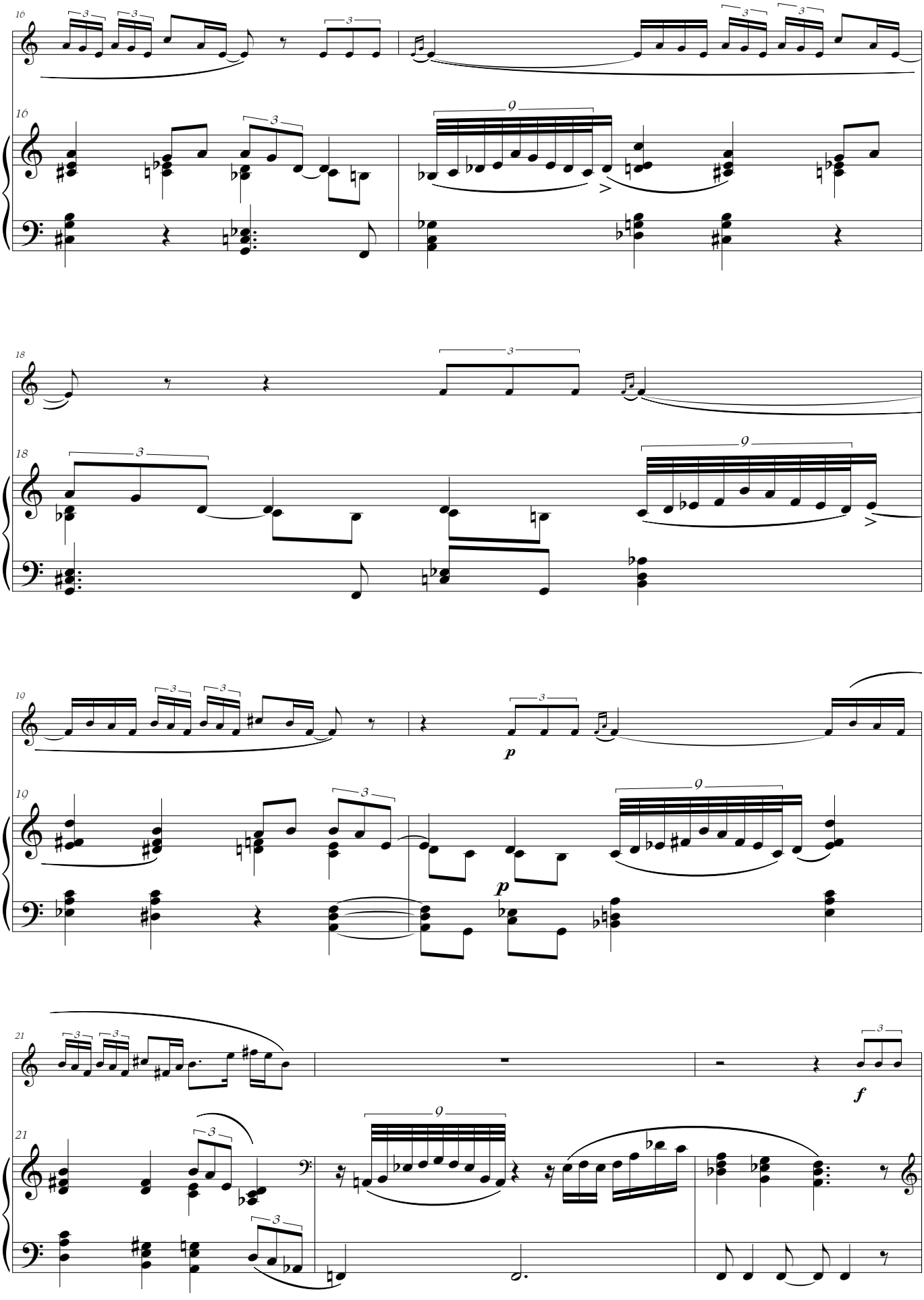

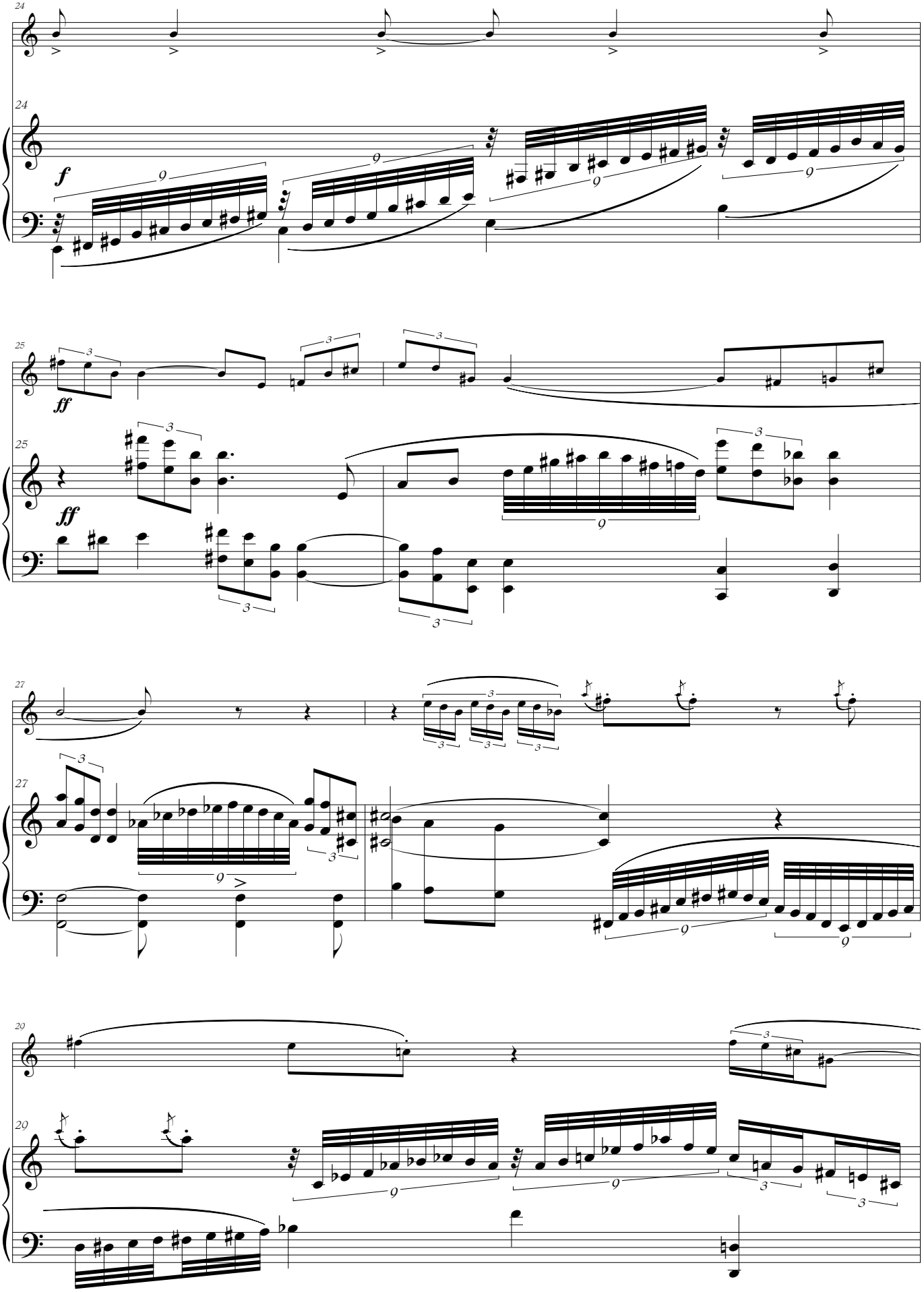
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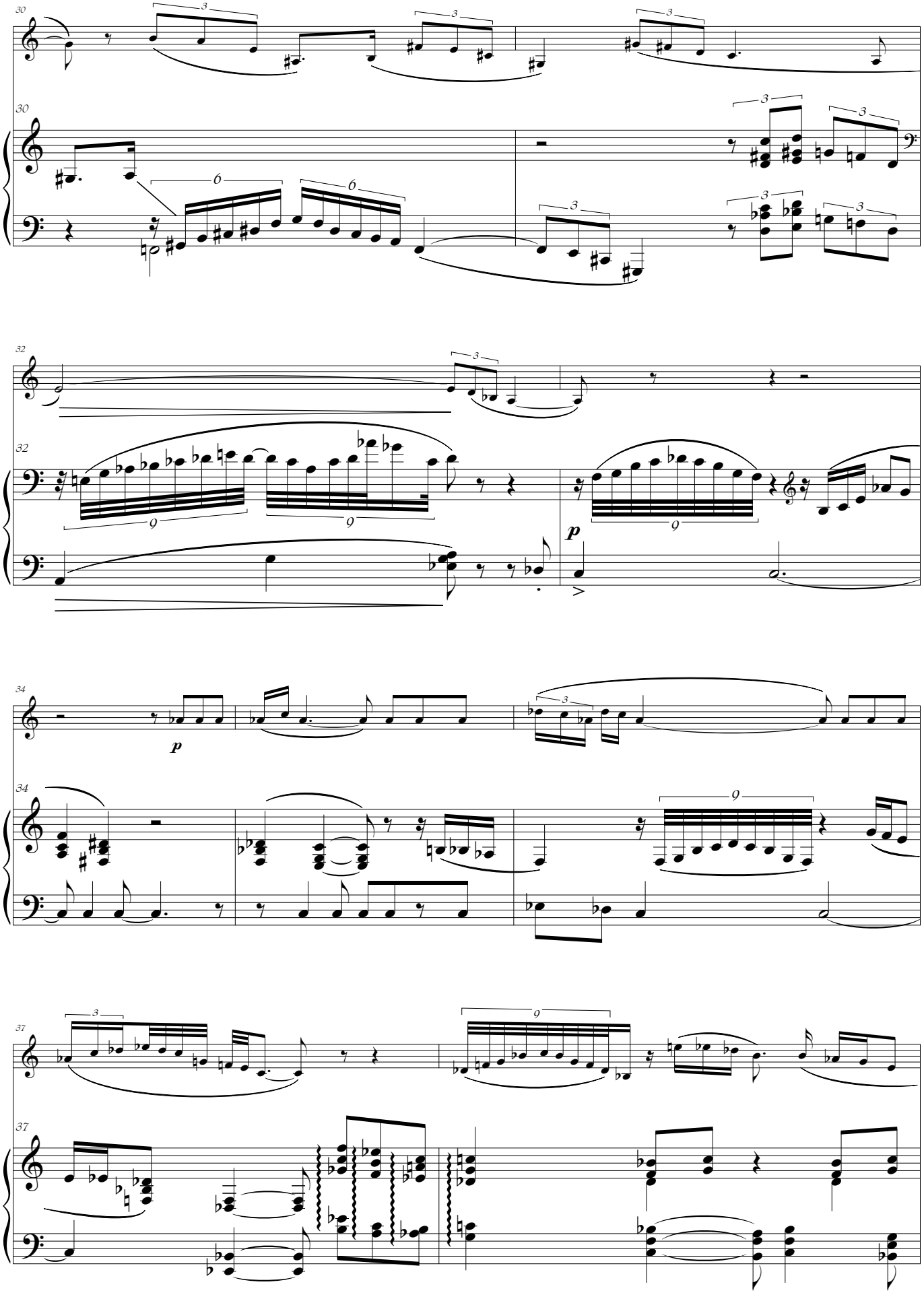

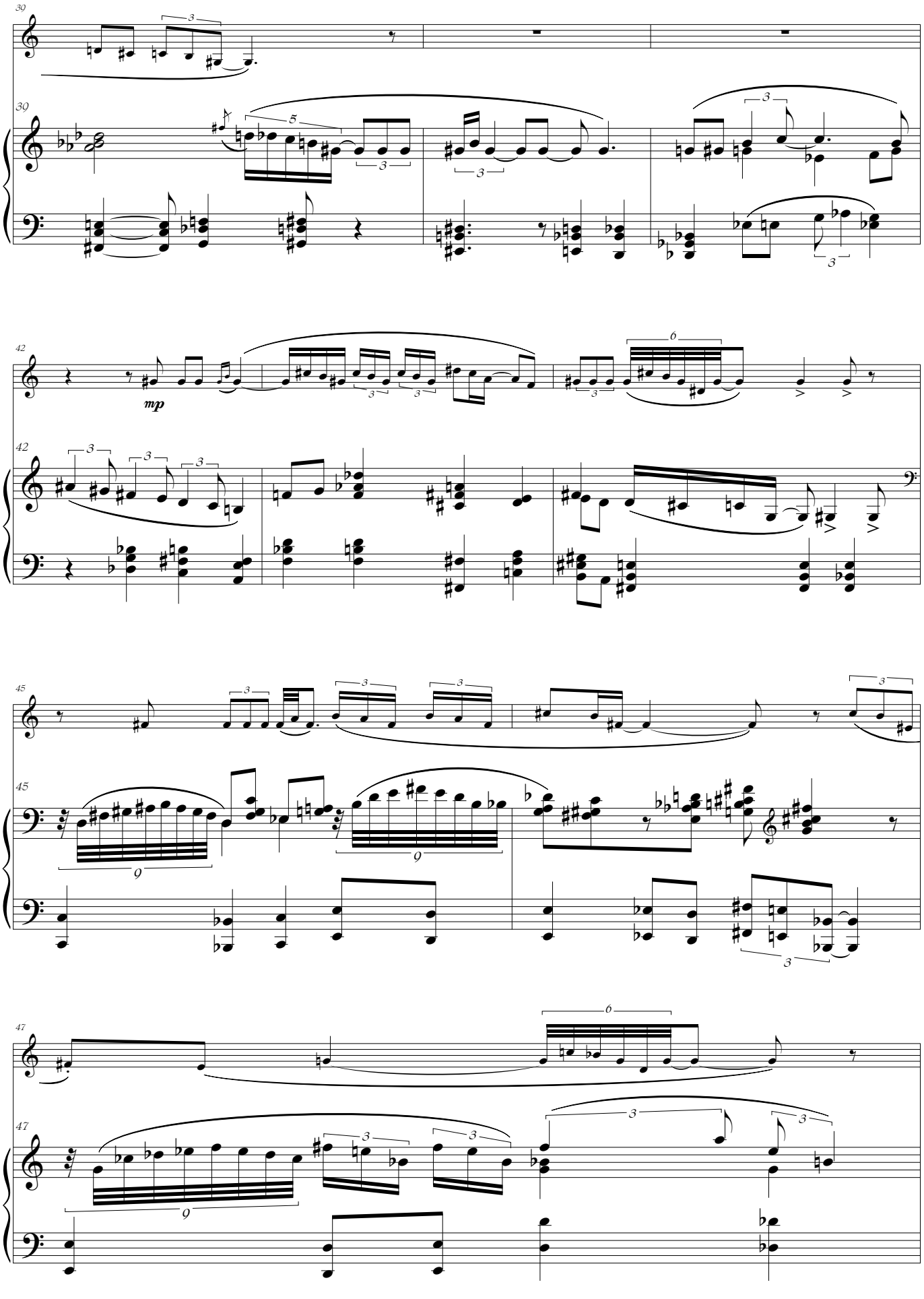
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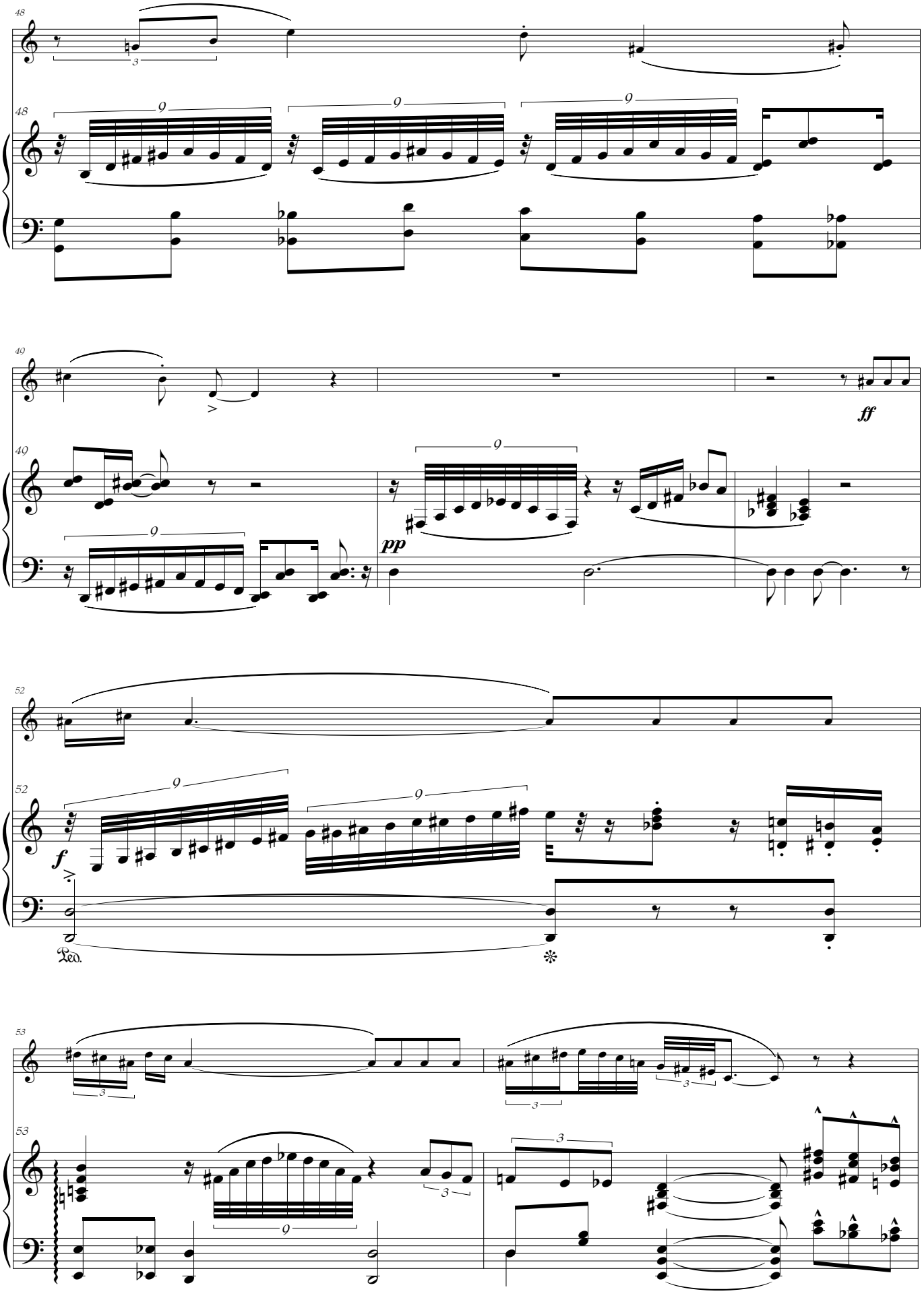
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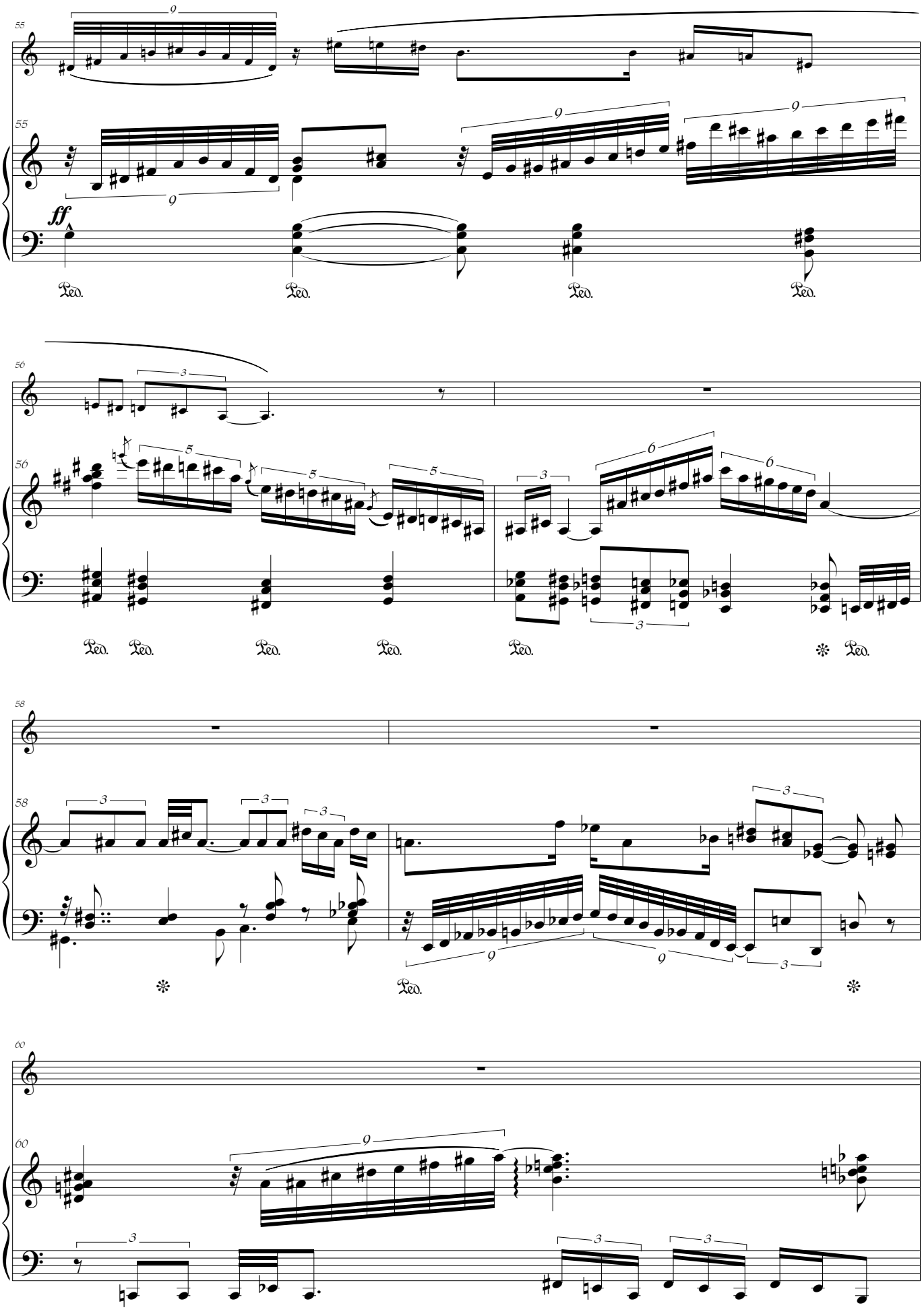
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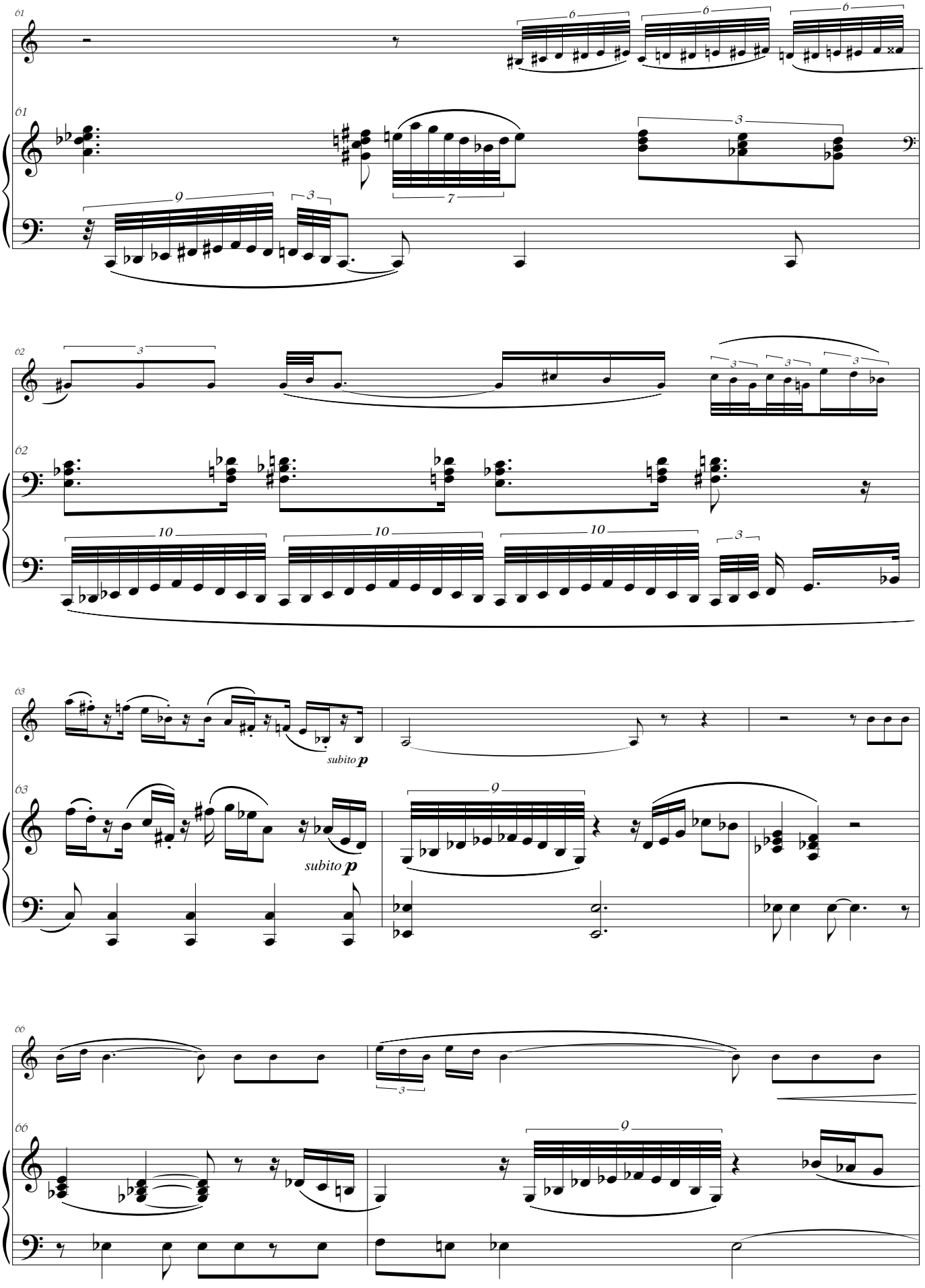
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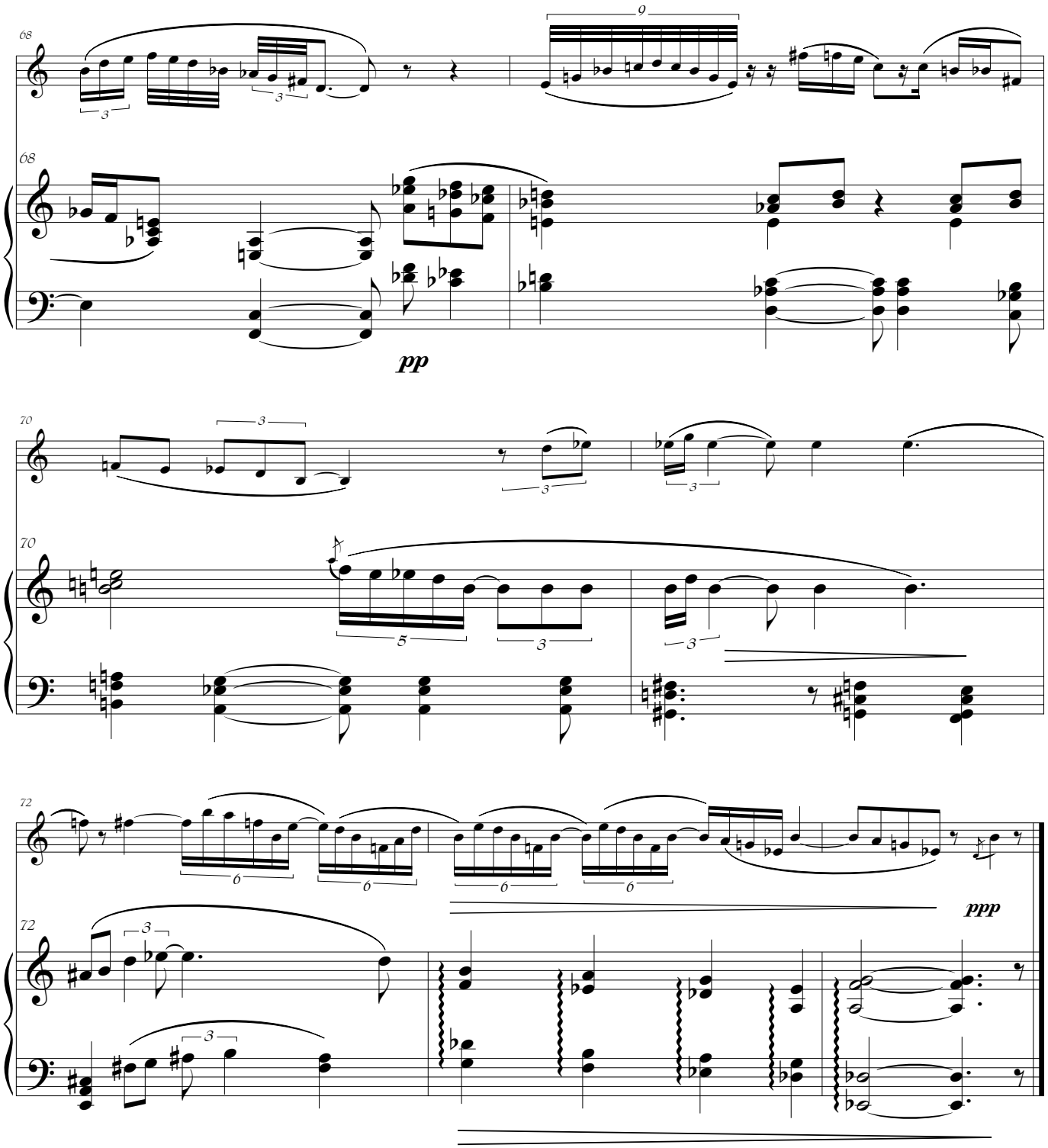
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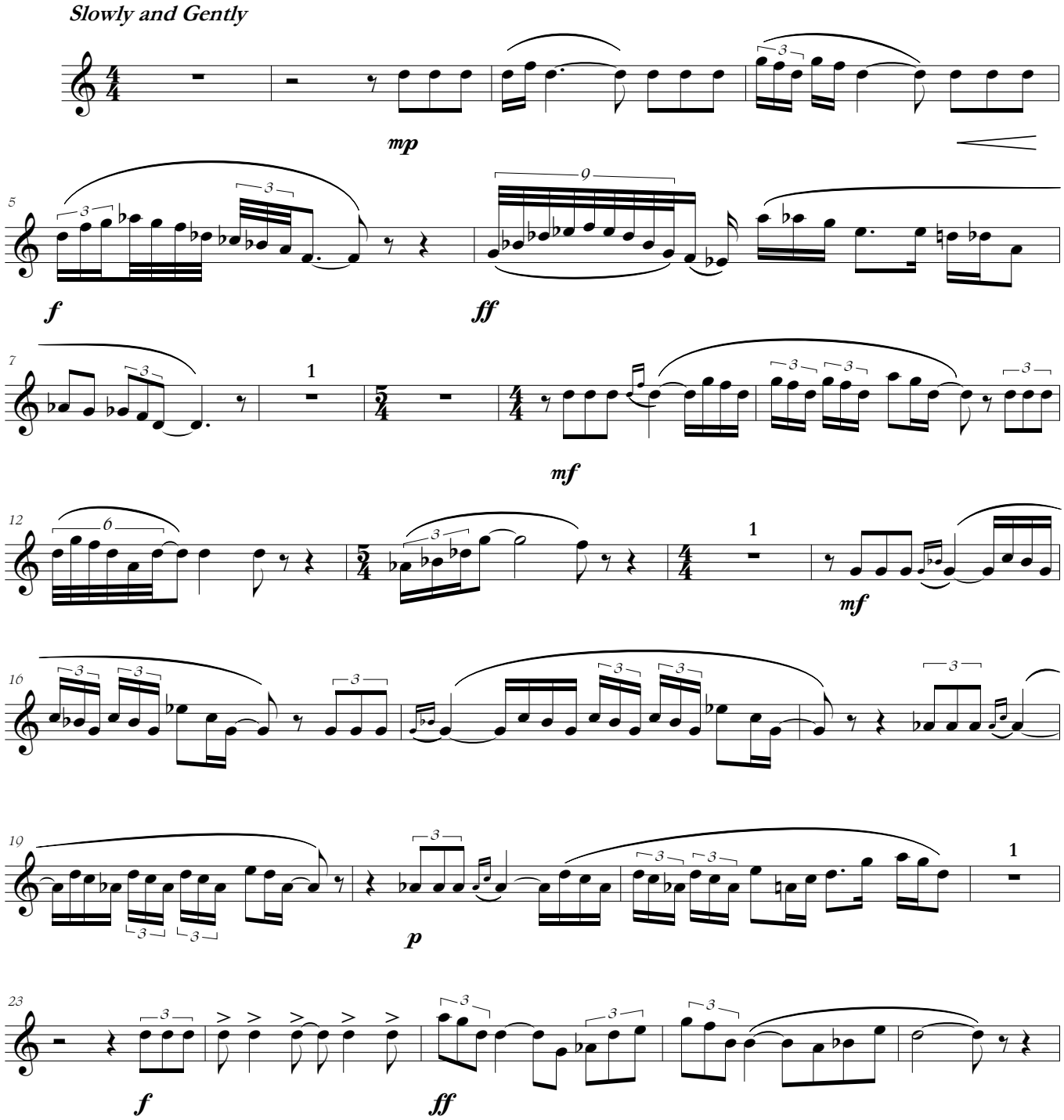
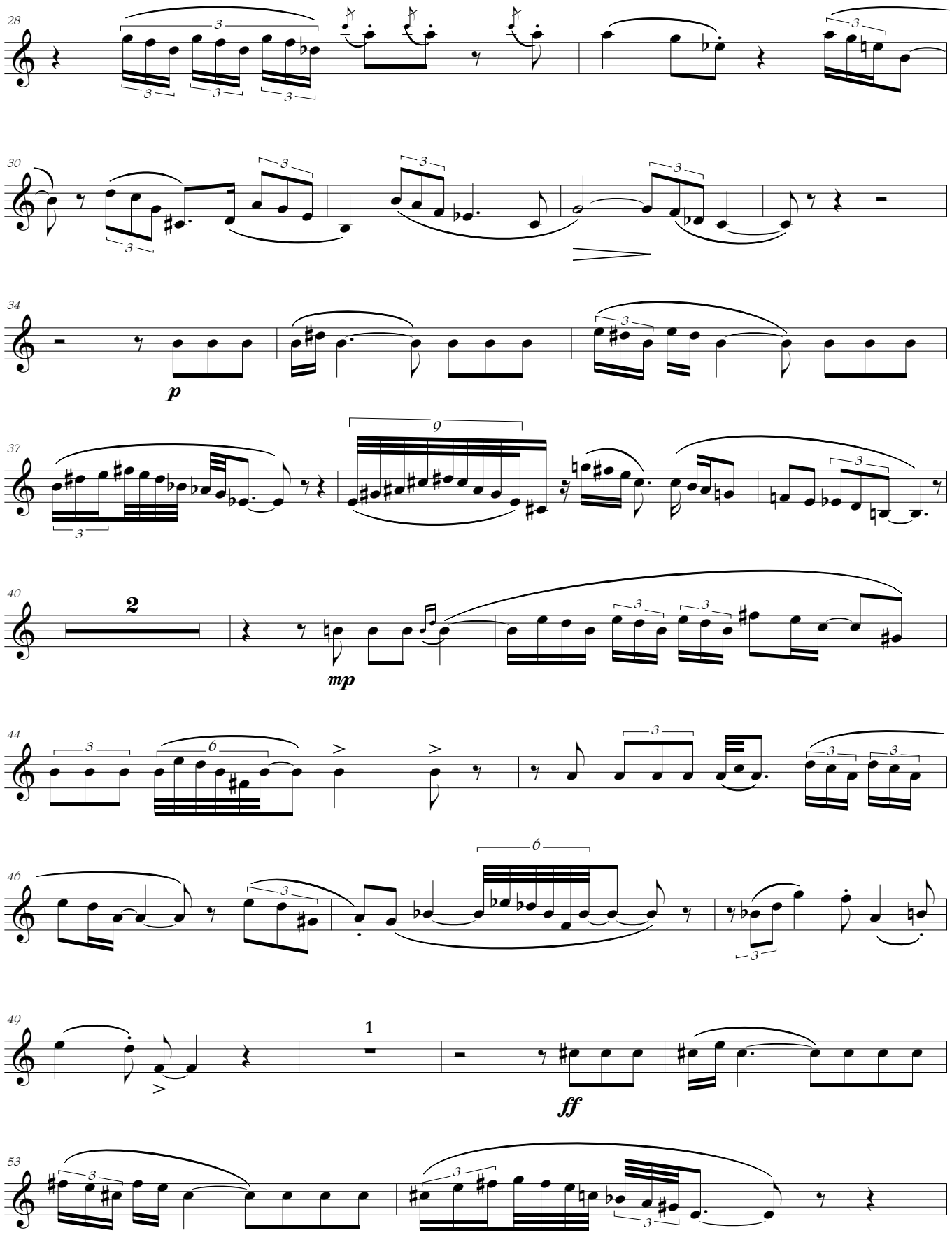
for Jennifer Paull

A SUMMER IDYLL

Oboe d'amore

Ian Keith Harris
(b. 1935 -)

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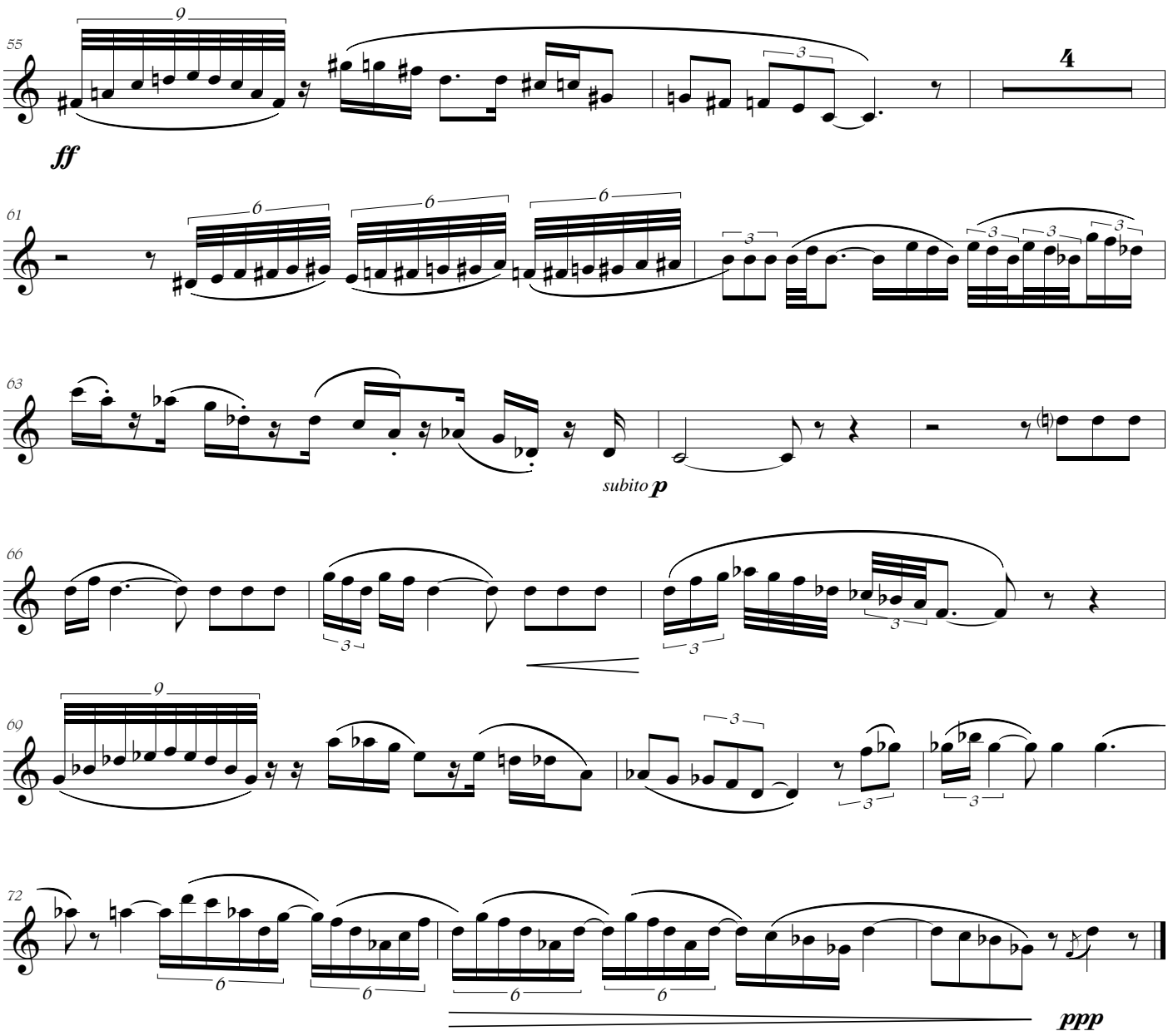
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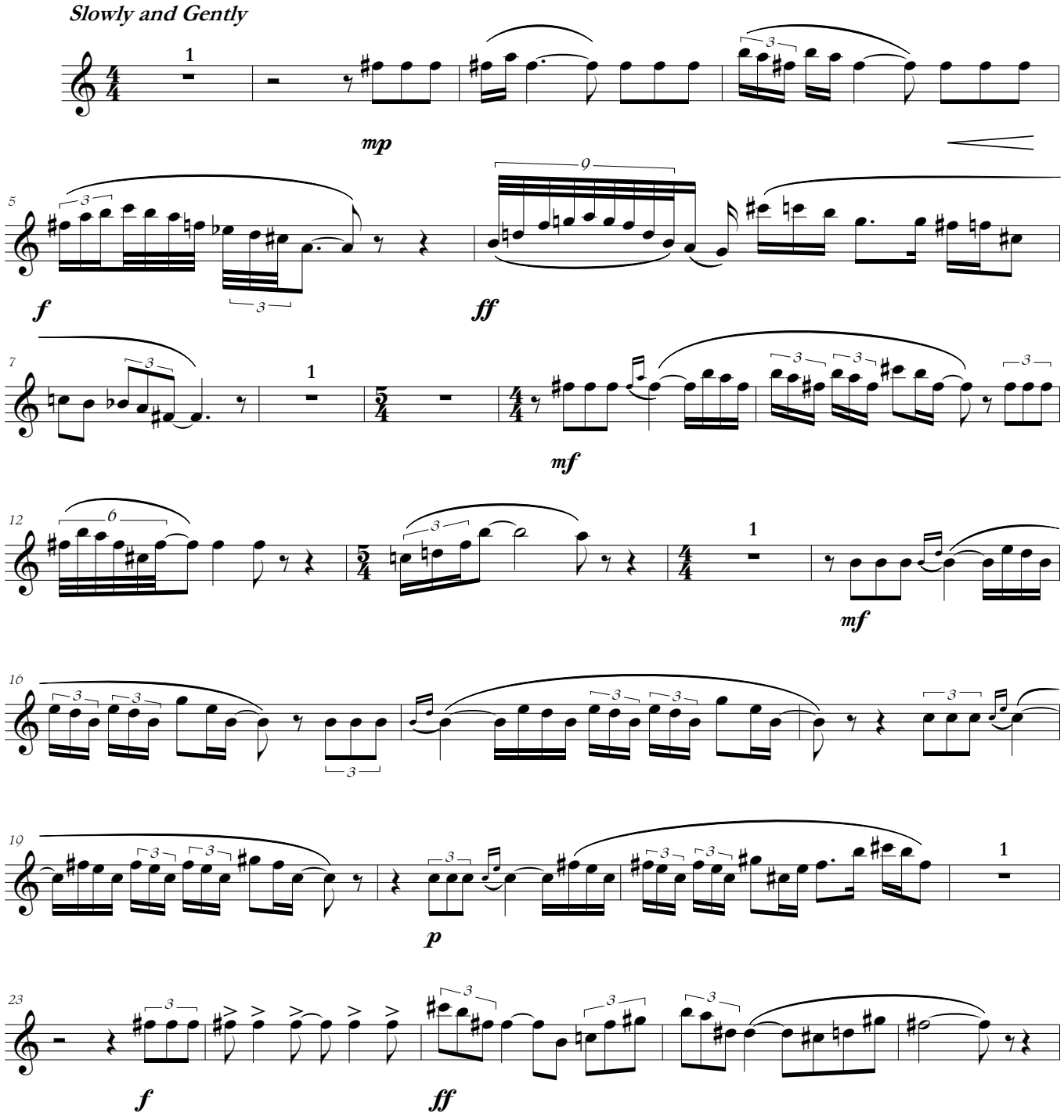
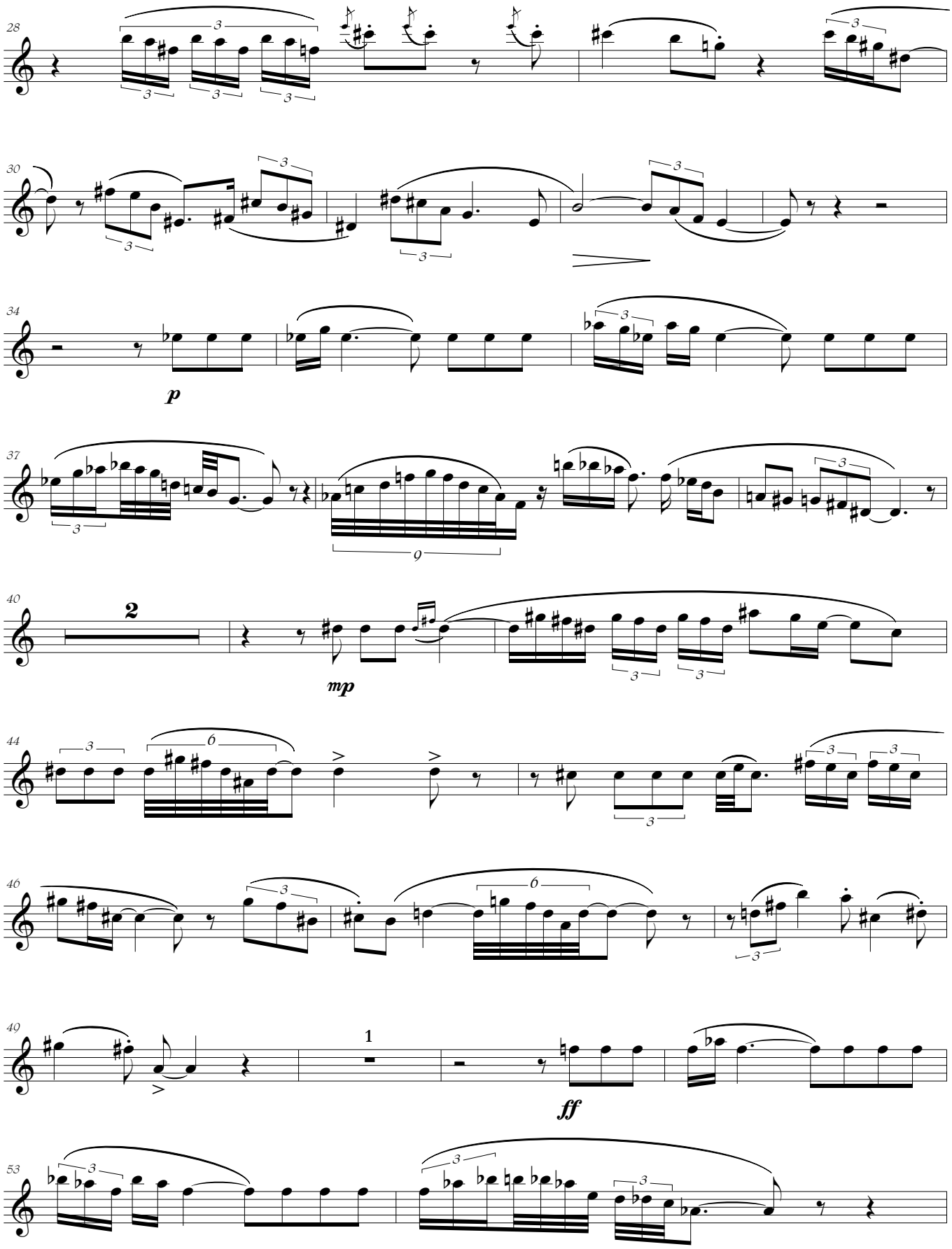
for Jennifer Paull

A SUMMER IDYLL

Cor anglais

Ian Keith Harris
(b. 1935 -)

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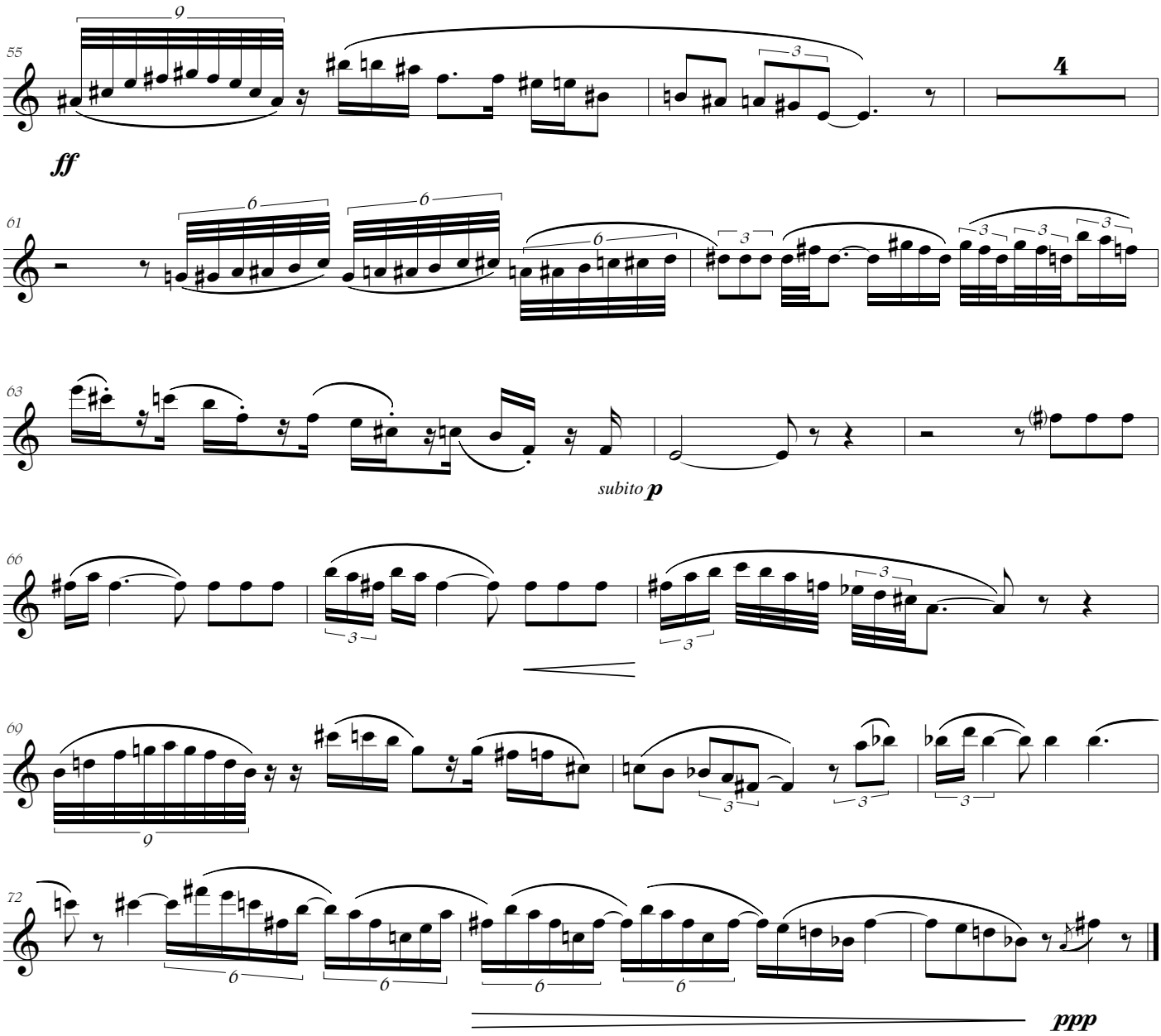
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