LEONARD SALZEDO

CUATRO CANCIONES ESPAÑOLAS

Oboe d'amore or Alternative Double Reed Instrument and Piano

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ASI 011

Leonard Salzedo

(1921-2000)

Leonard Salzedo, the most Spanish of British composers, was born in London in 1921. He began the violin at the age of six and started to compose when he was twelve.

He was awarded the Cobbett Prize (1942) after only two years as a student at the Royal College of Music (London) for his first string quartet: he would eventually compose ten. Again, during his studies, he was commissioned to write the score for a ballet, *The Fugitive* (1944), which was performed more than four hundred times by Ballet Rambert.

The most renowned of Salzedo's seventeen ballet scores, *The Witch Boy*, received its première in Amsterdam (1956). Since then, ballet companies around the world have given in excess of three thousand performances in more than thirty-three countries. *The Witch Boy* has featured on television in many of these including Germany, Japan and New Zealand.

From 1947 - 1950 Leonard Salzedo was a member of the London Philharmonic Orchestra. He then moved to the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (until 1966). Its illustrious conductor, Sir Thomas Beecham, gave the premières of two of Salzedo's compositions at the Royal Festival Hall. As well as playing violin in the orchestra, Leonard Salzedo became his assistant conductor. In 1964 he joined the London Soloists Ensemble and composed *Concerto Fervido* especially for it.

In 1967, Salzedo abandoned the violin to become Musical Director of Ballet Rambert (now the Rambert Dance Company), a post he held until 1972. The same year, he moved to Scottish Ballet as their Principal Conductor (-1974). He was later to become Music Director of London City Ballet (1982 -1986).

Thereafter, until his death in May 2000, Leonard Salzedo devoted himself almost entirely to prolific composition. Although performing continuously for many years, he composed more than 160 works including two symphonies.

The opening six bar fanfare of his *Divertimento for Three Trumpets and Three Trombones* (1959) was used by the BBC as the theme music for all Open University educational programmes broadcast on radio and television (1970s -1990s). He composed eighteen film scores including Hammer's *The Revenge of Frankenstein* (1959).

Leonard Salzedo was a wine connoisseur and member of the *Confrèrie des Chevaliers du Sacavin*, a Loire-based wine brotherhood with a London Chapter. For many years he was their *Chef des Beaux Arts* and wrote fanfares, which were performed at dinners and inductions.

Cuatro canciones españolas

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This work, one of his few without opus number, was completed around the time of Leonard Salzedo's birthday in late September 1997. During the many years that we were friends he wrote six works for me, of which this and Iberian Improvisations were Leonard Salzedo's final two compositions. He left the following paragraph about the piece.

'The *Canción de trilla* is a threshing song and comes from Palma de Mallorca. The *Tonada de folias* originated in Salinas. A *tonada* is a melody. This one has no connection with the well-known Portuguese tune *La Folia*. *Soy de Mieres* (my family originated in Mieres) comes from Asturias, as does the *Ronda y contraronda*. A *ronda* is a children's song, which has alternating solo and choral sections. I have researched and set these four original folk songs for oboe d'amore or other double reed instrument and piano. It is the timbre of the double reed that I wish to use to portray these traditional melodies.'

Jennifer Paull
2001

for Jennifer Paull

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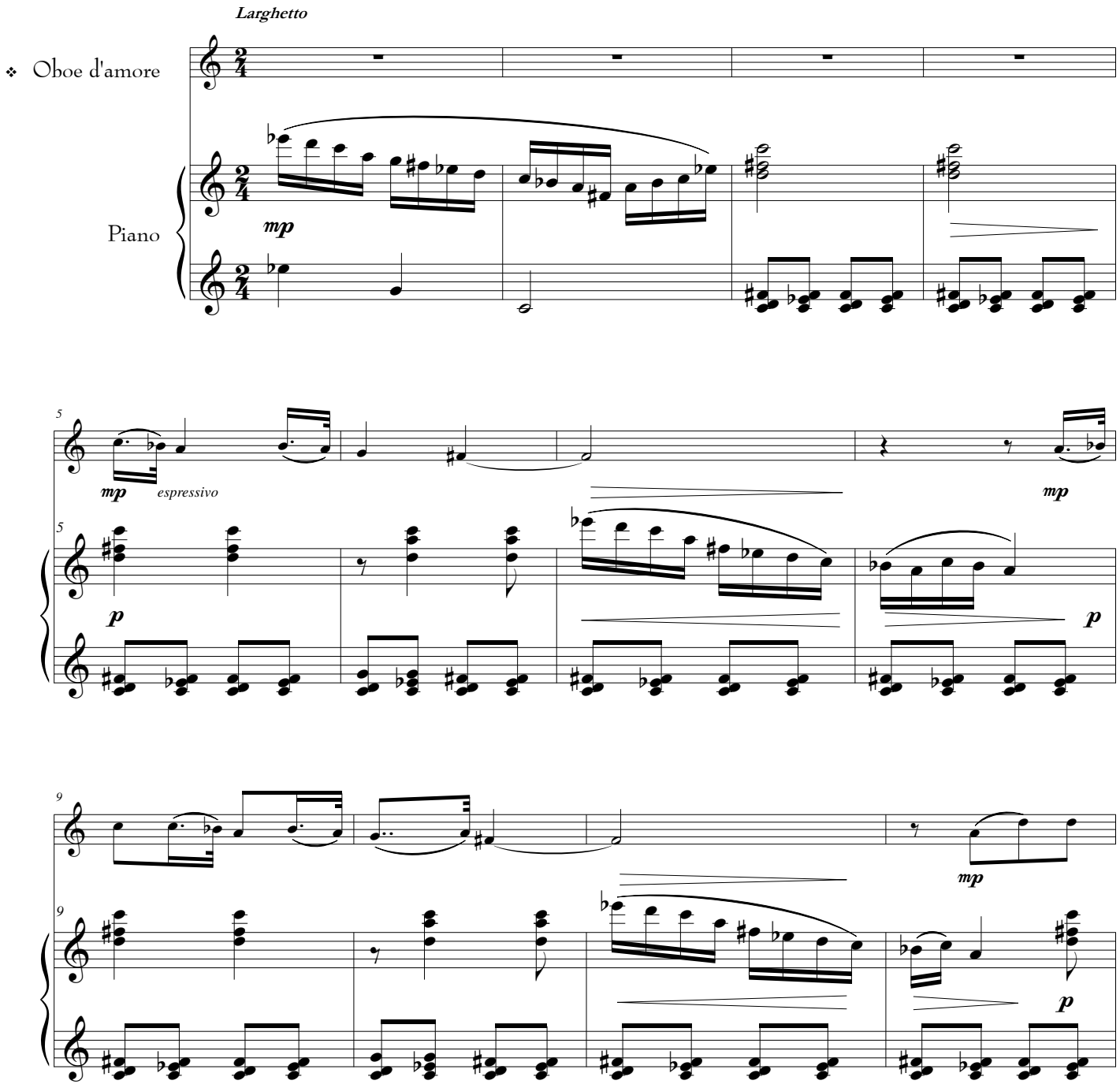
(1921 - 2000)

I. Canción de trilla



❖ In Concert Pitch

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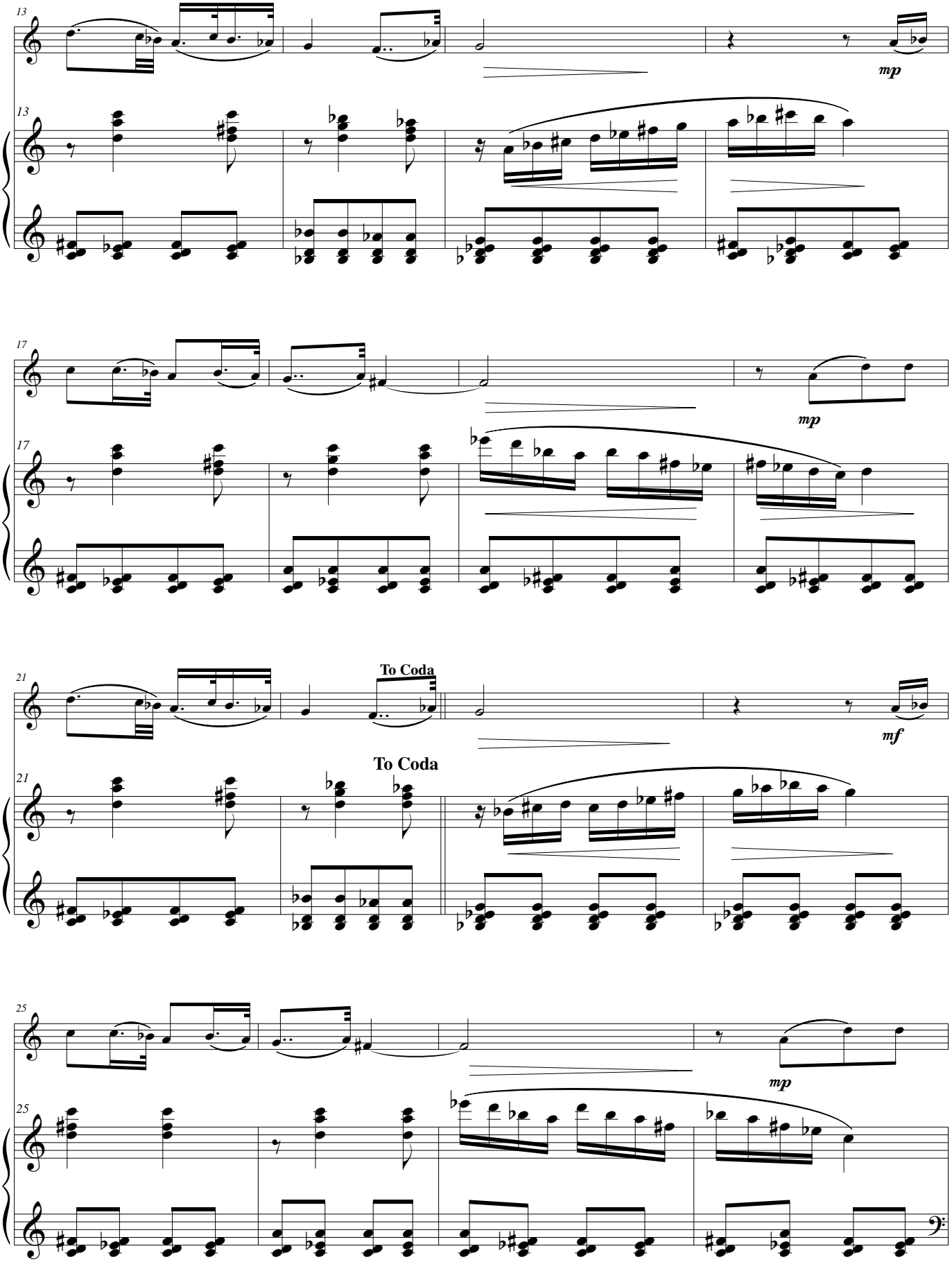
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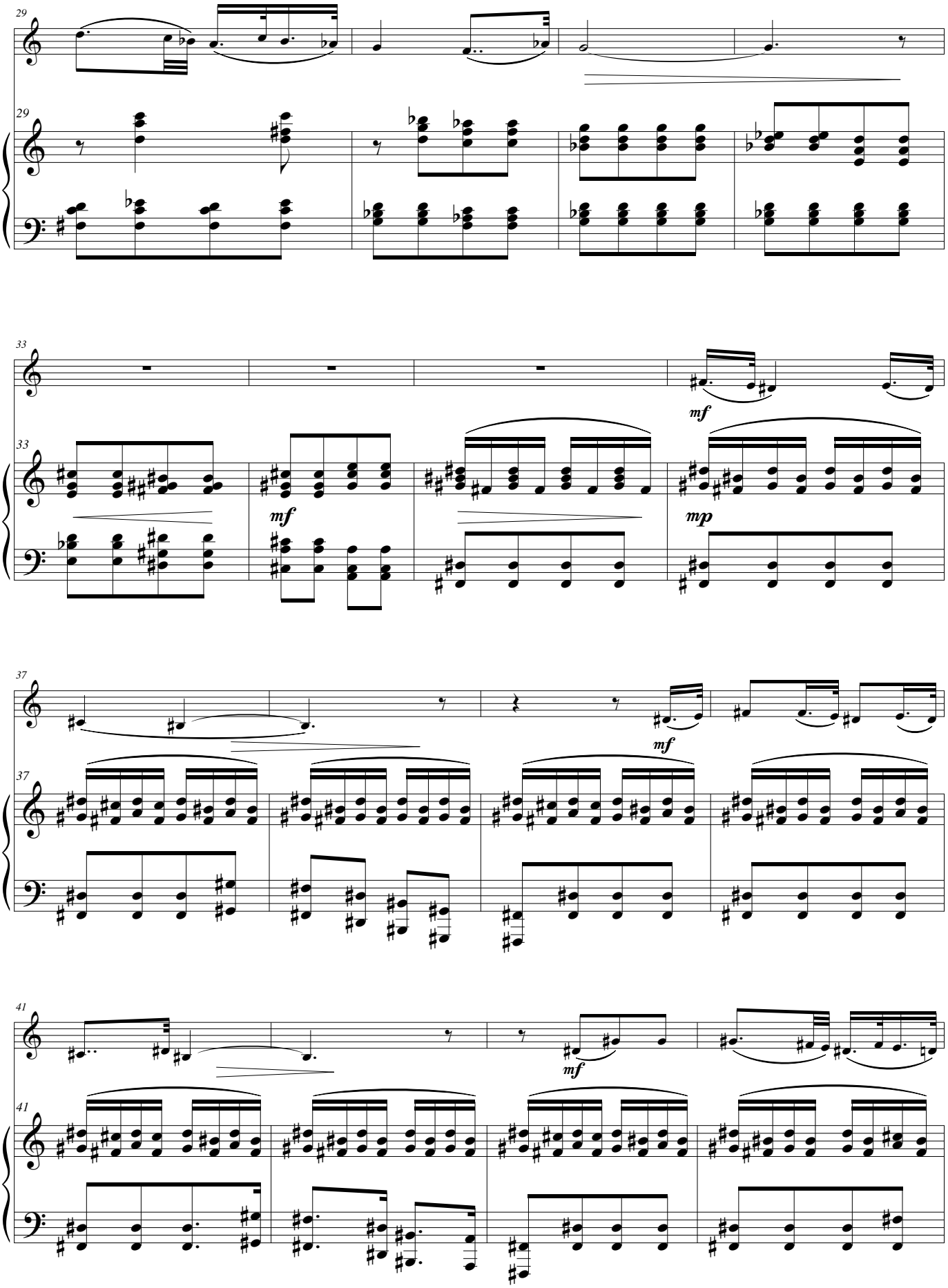
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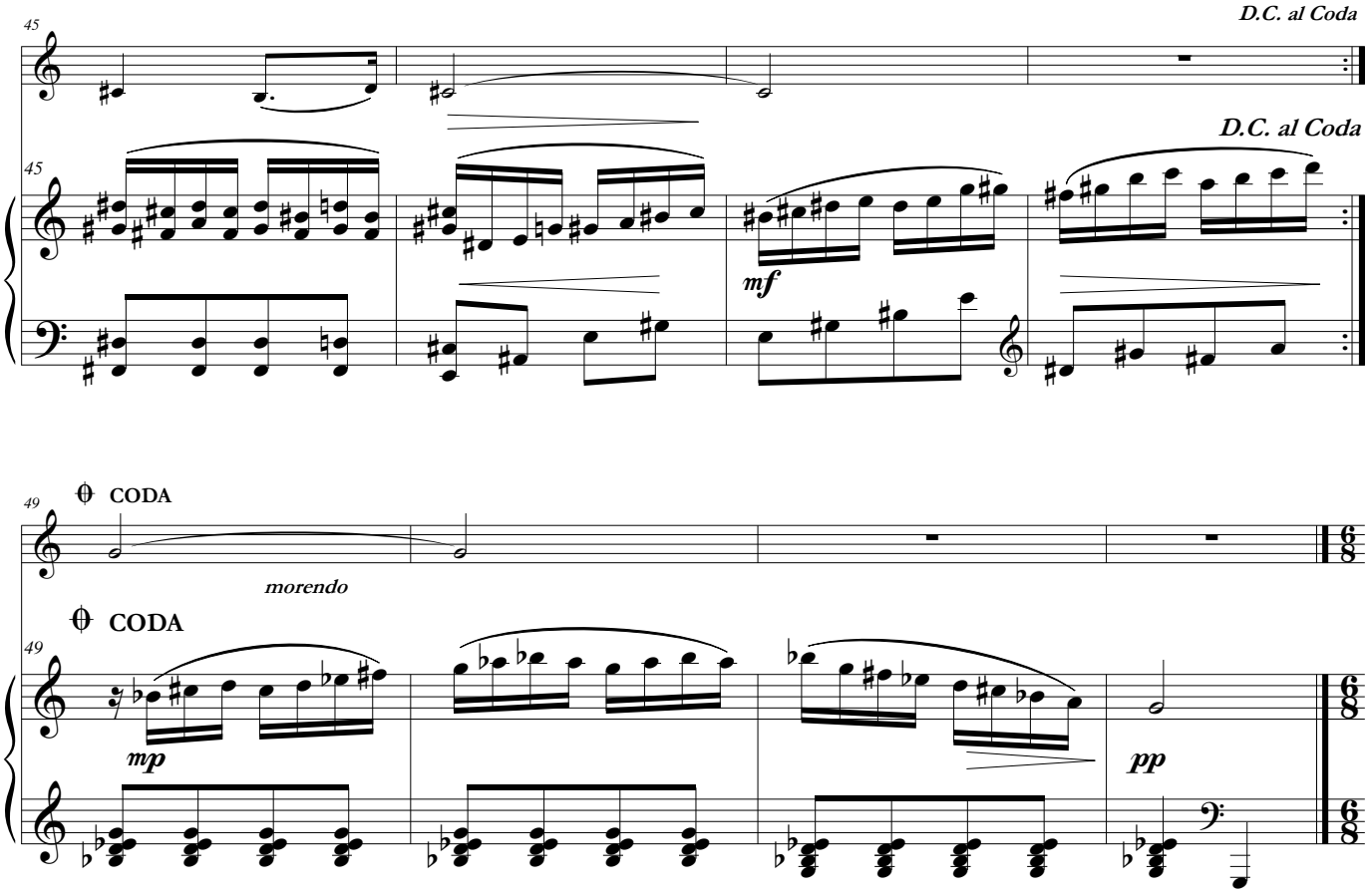

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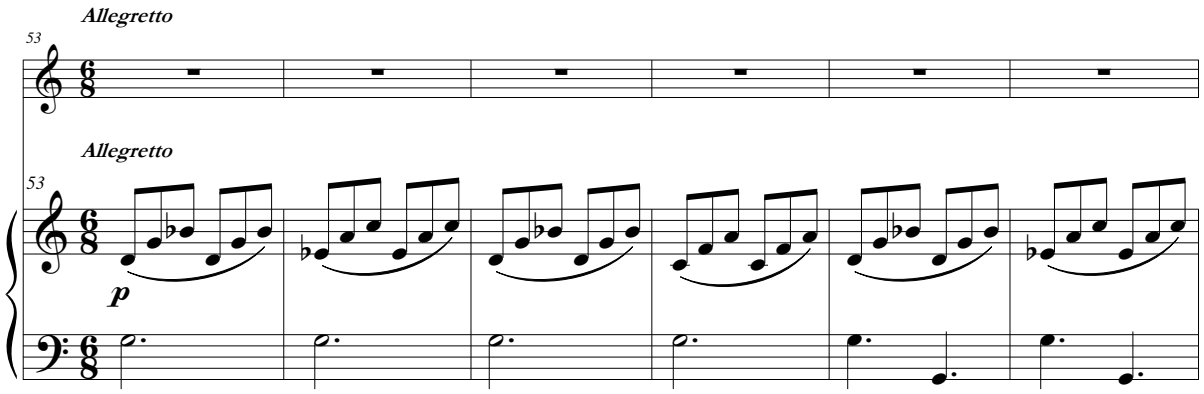

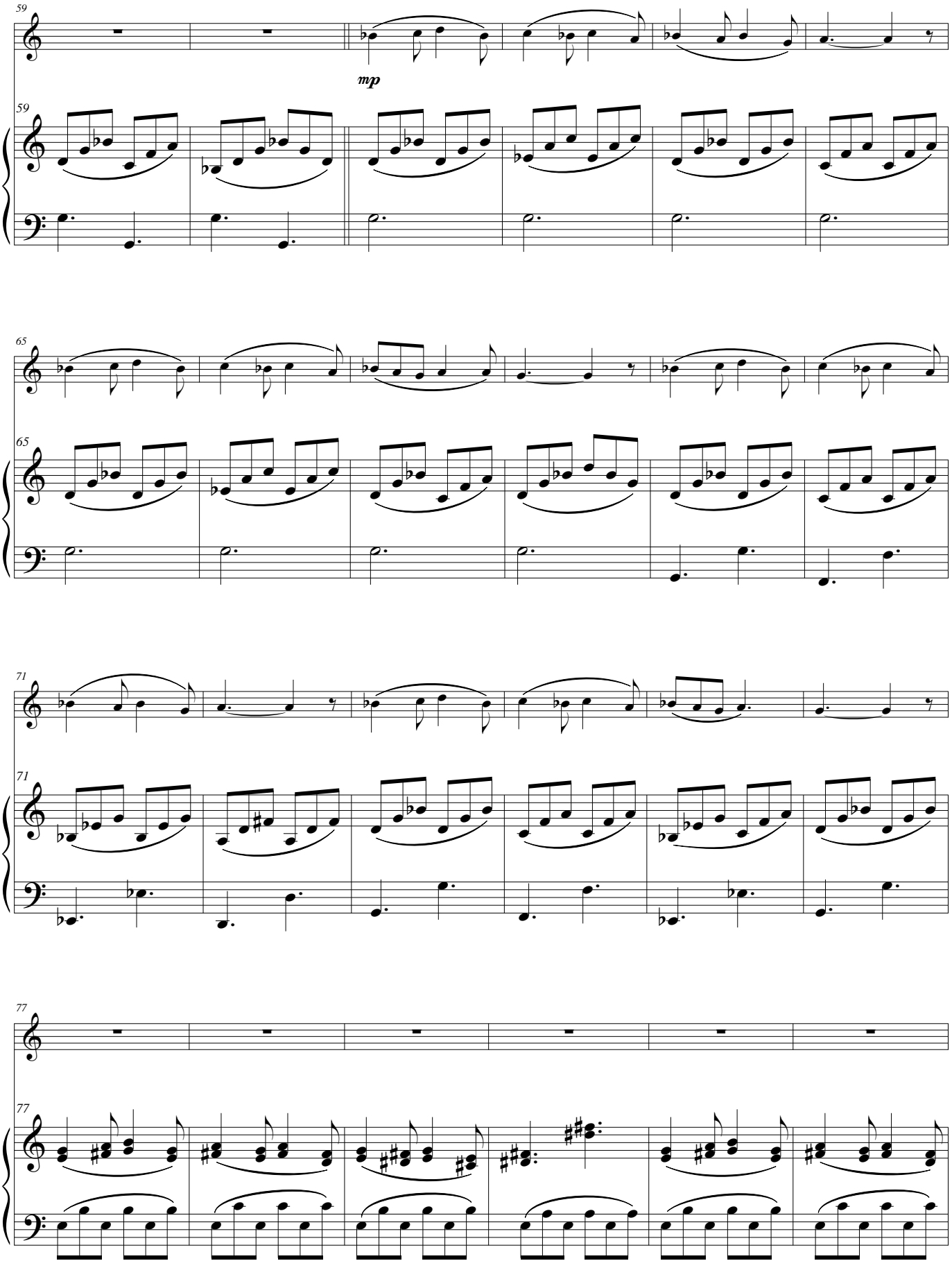
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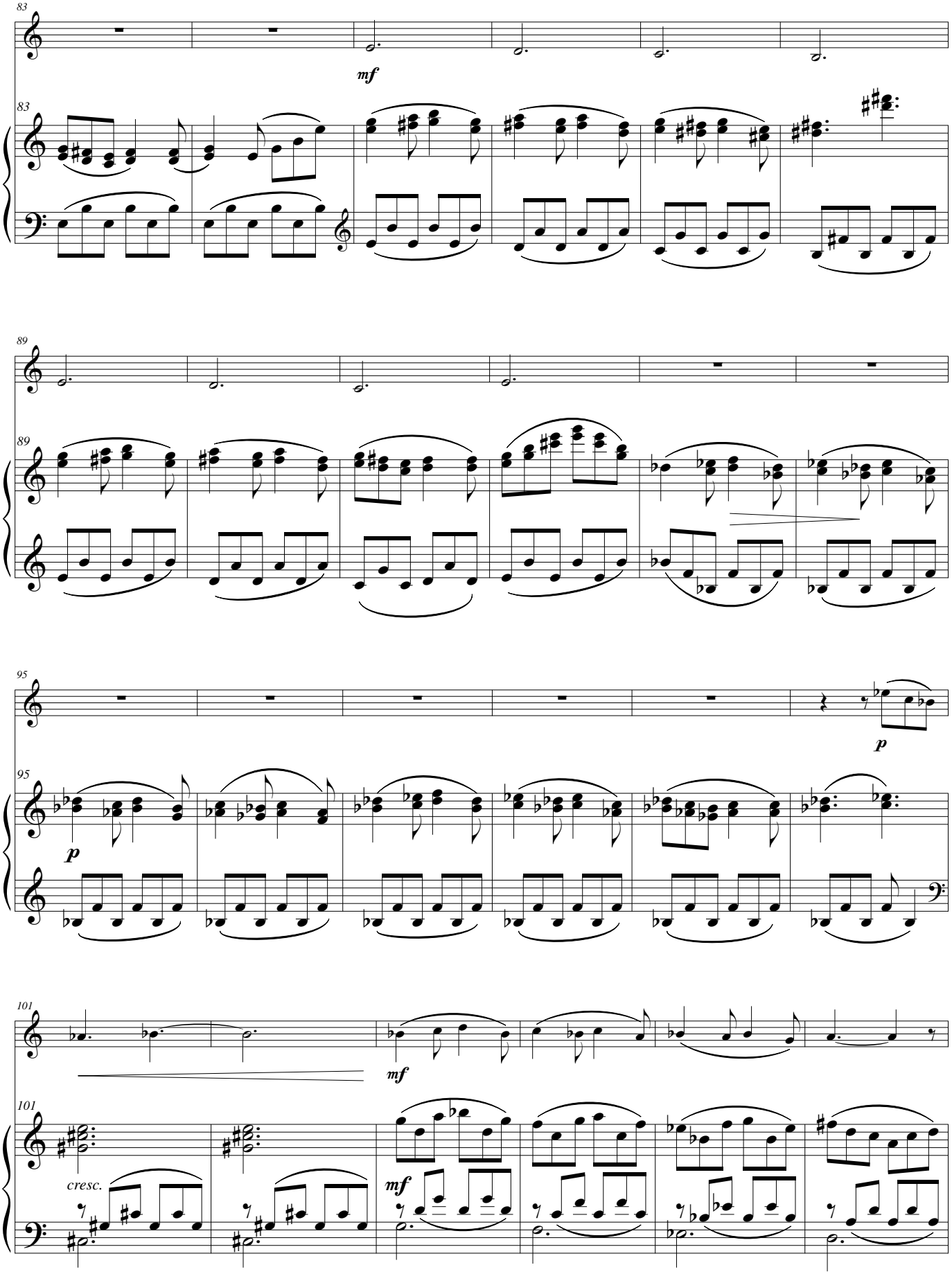
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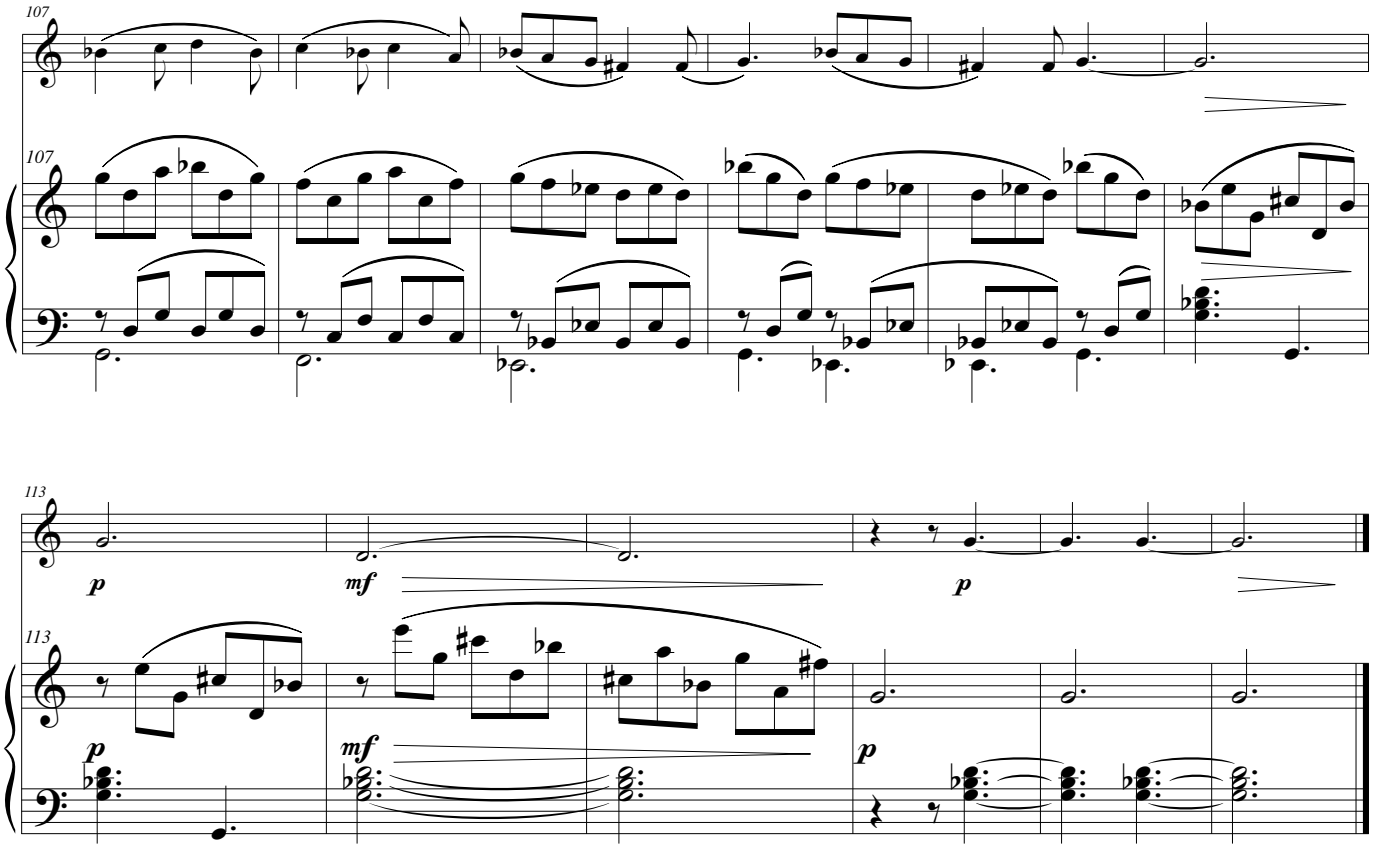

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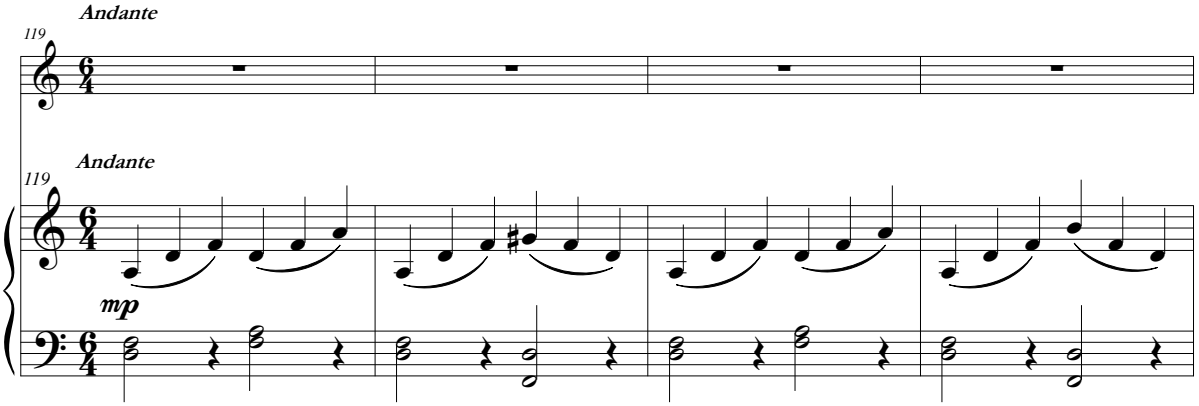

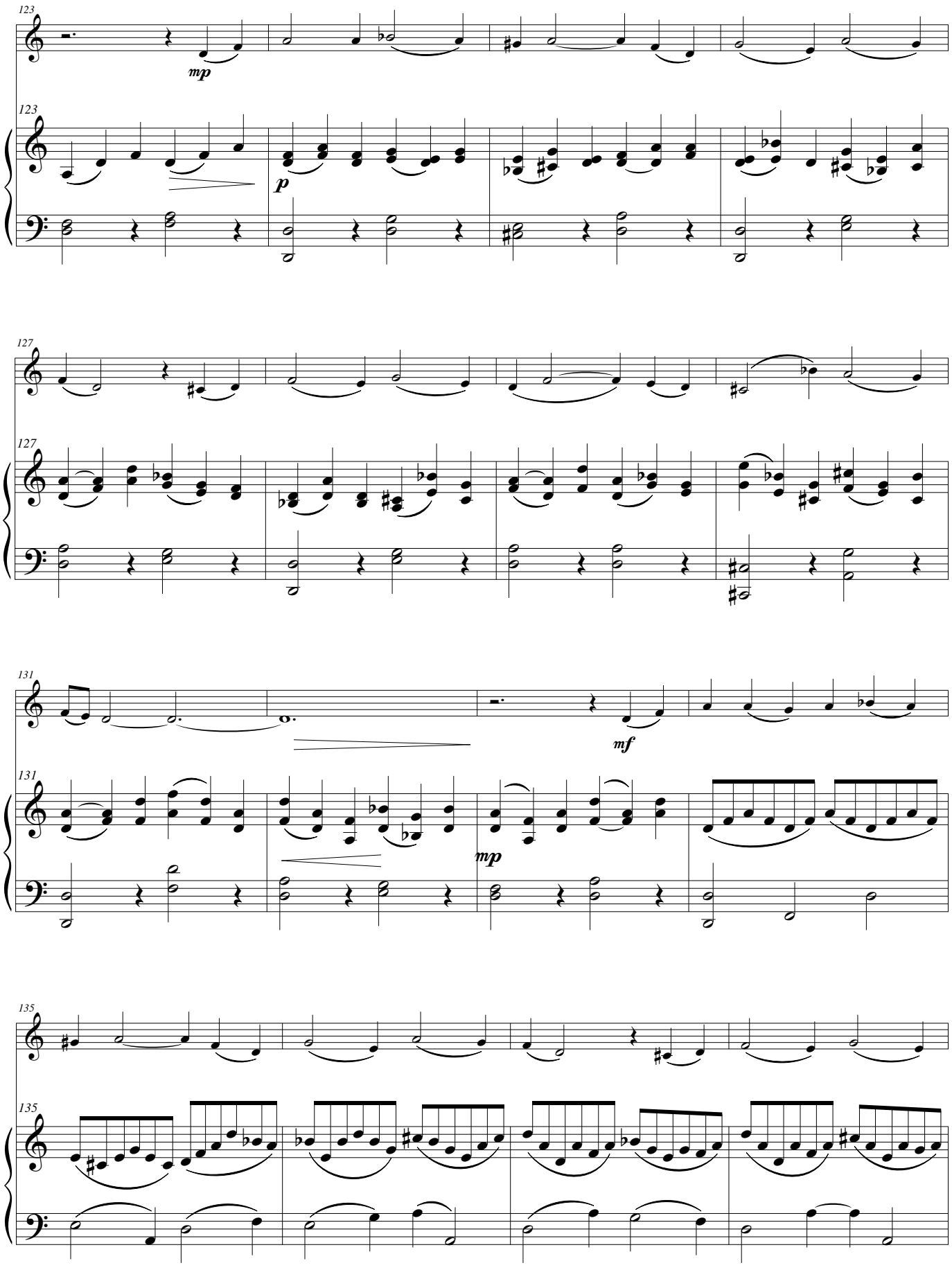
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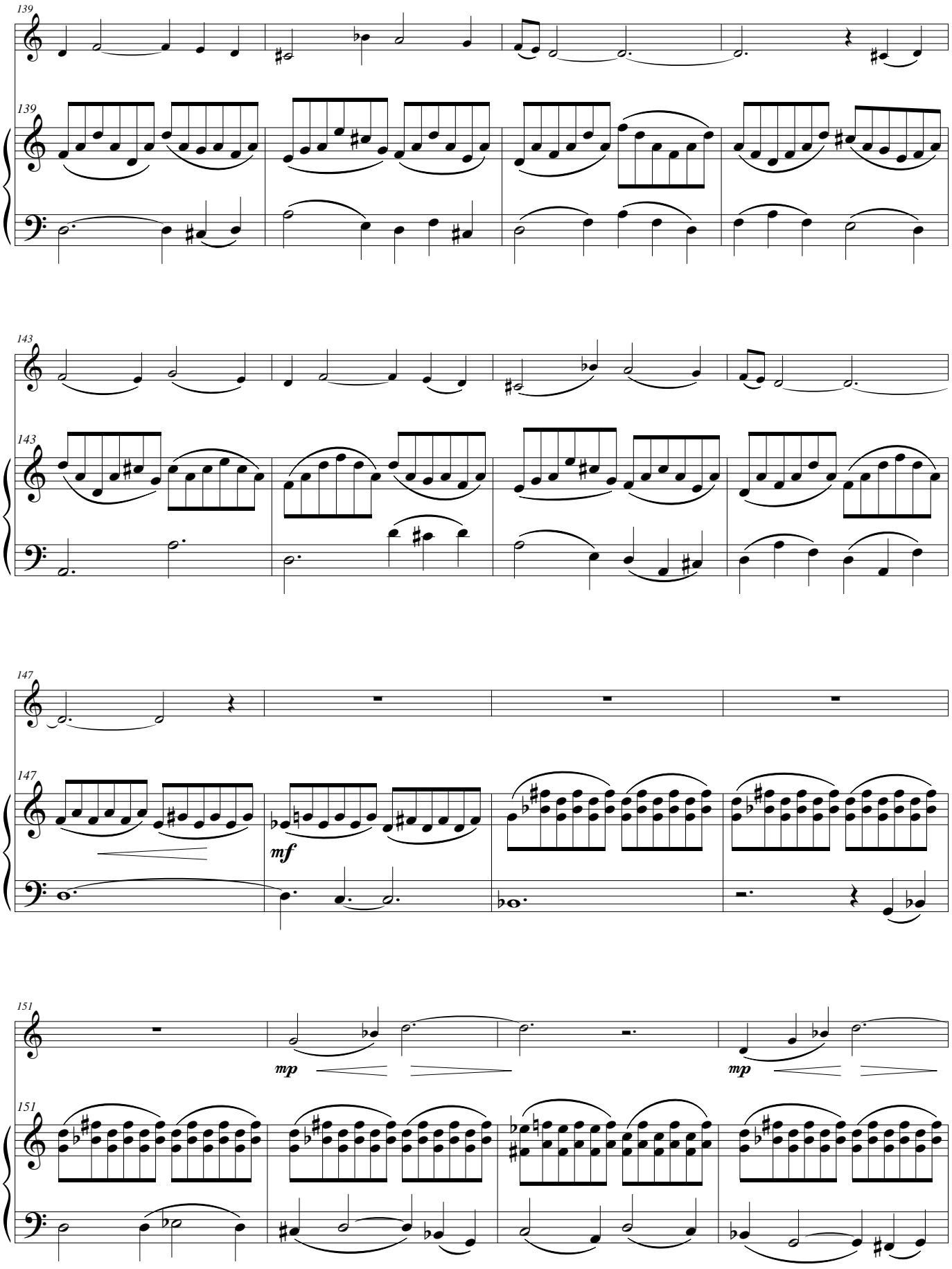
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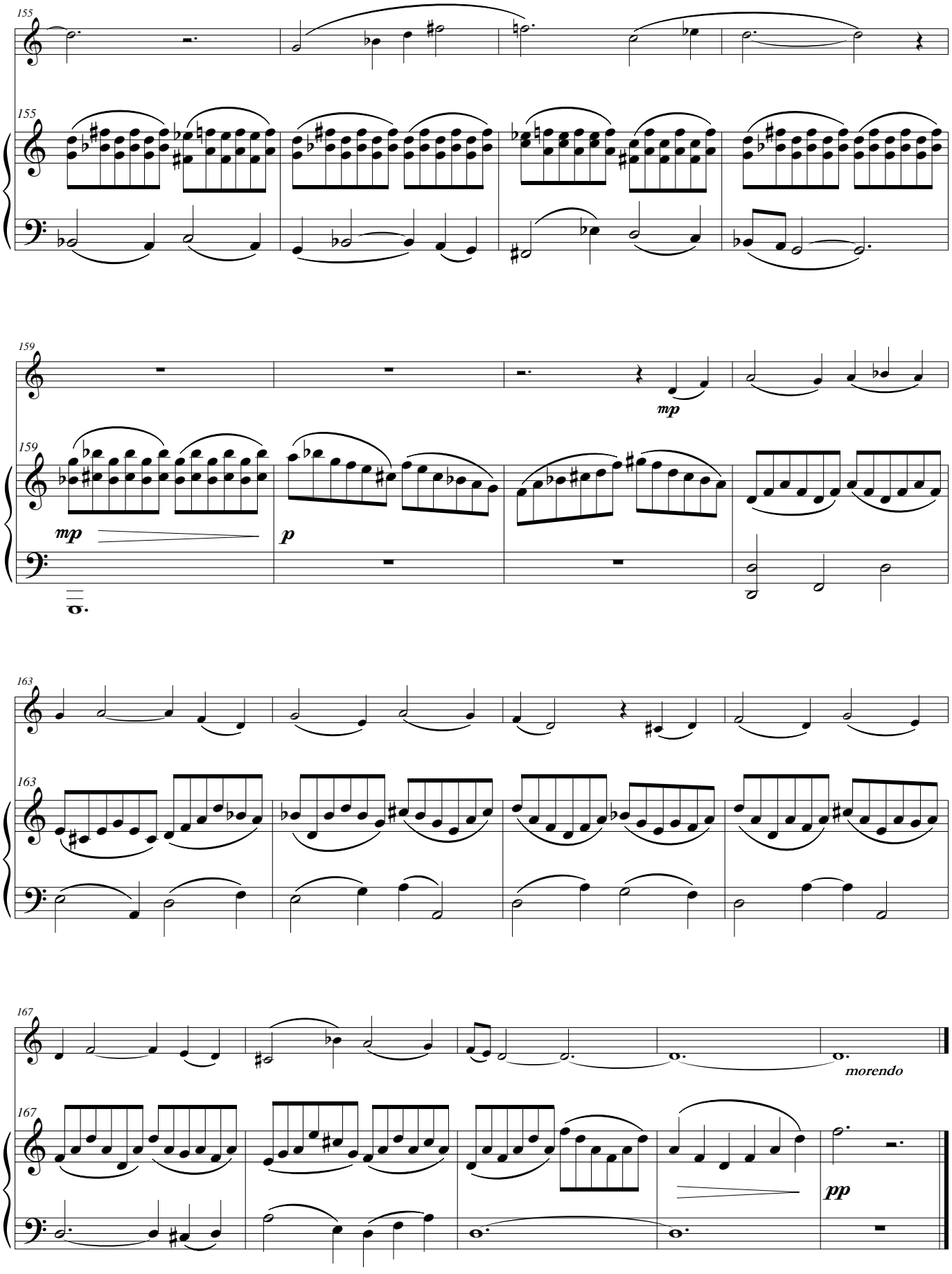
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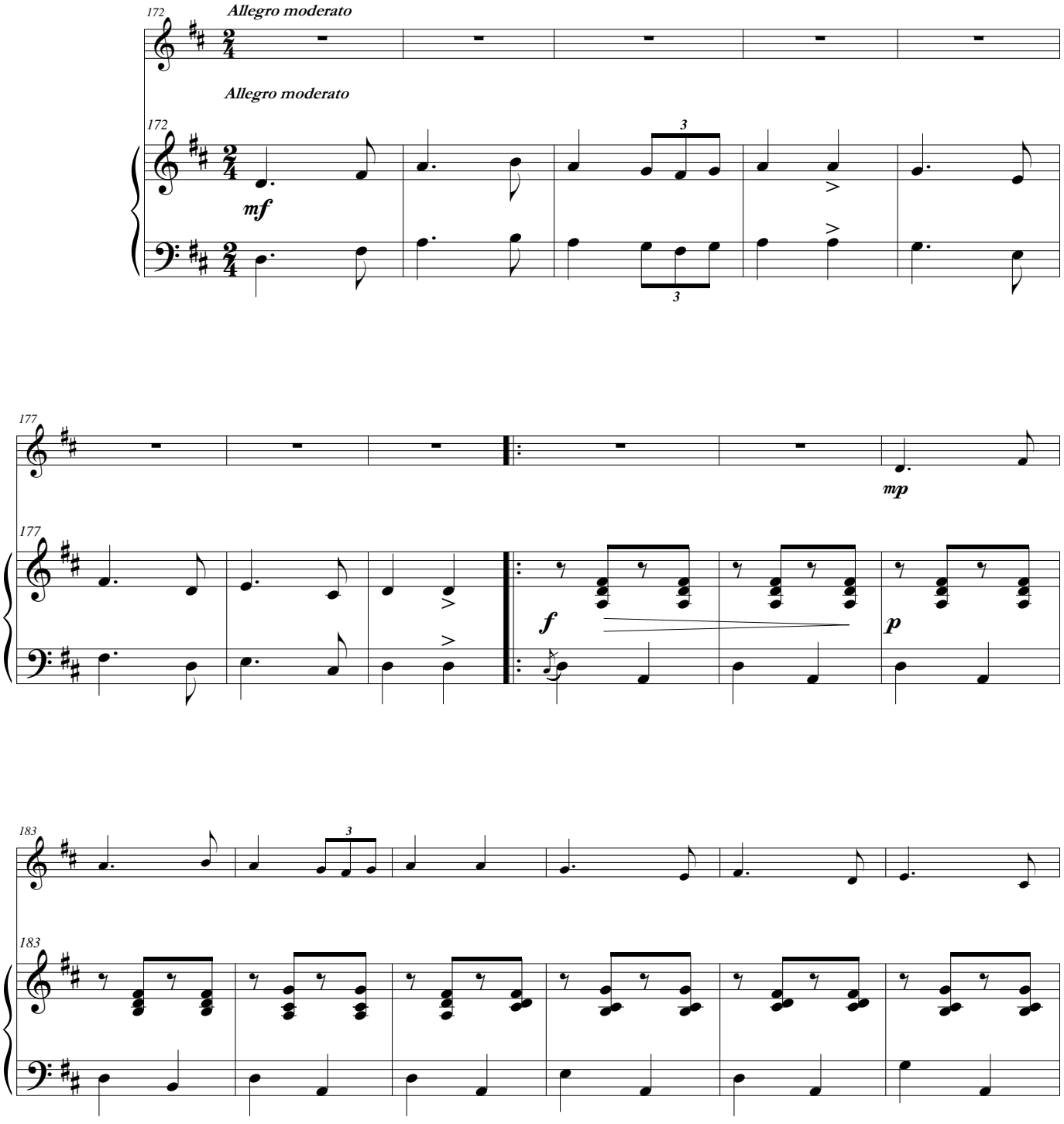

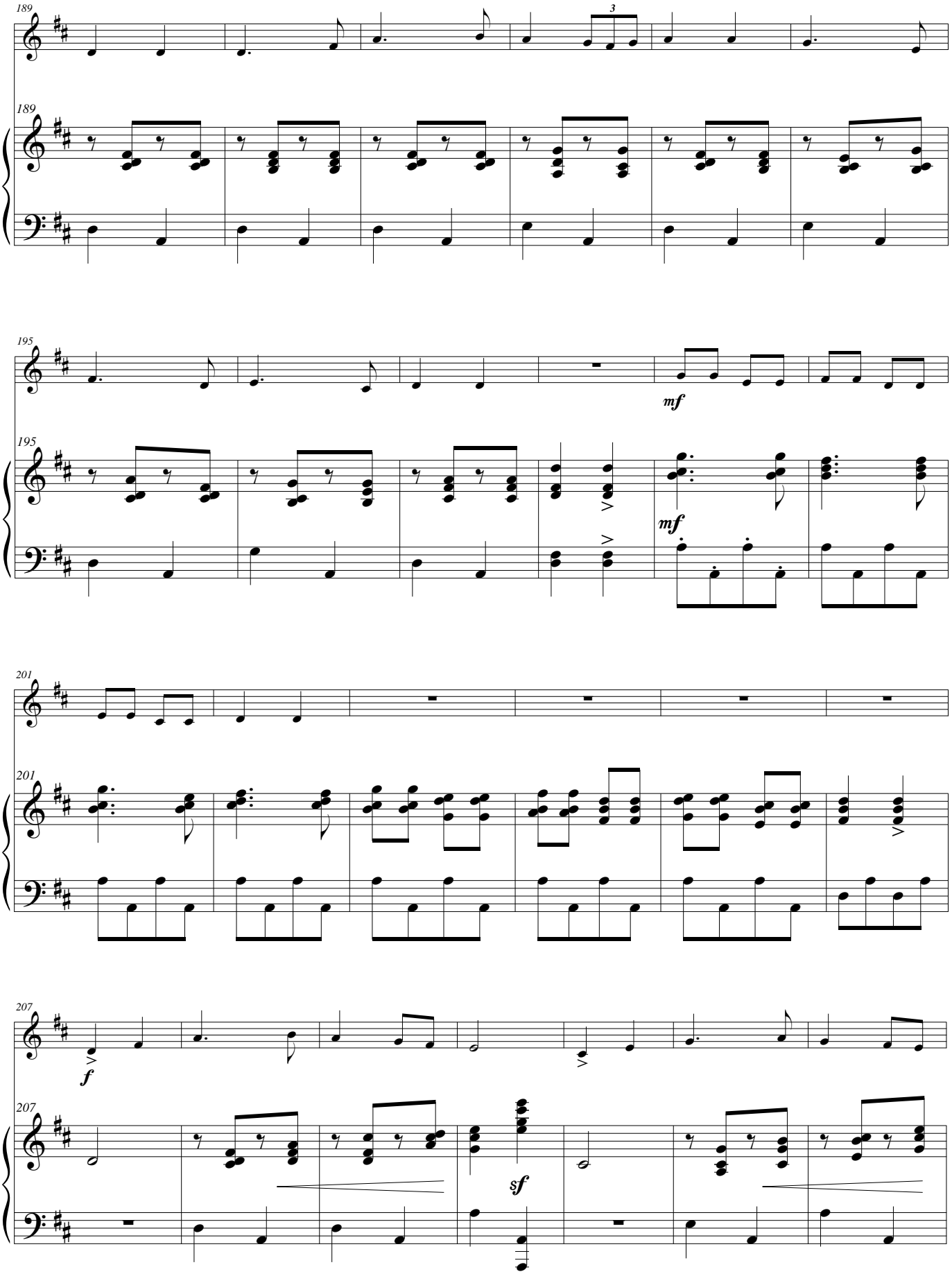
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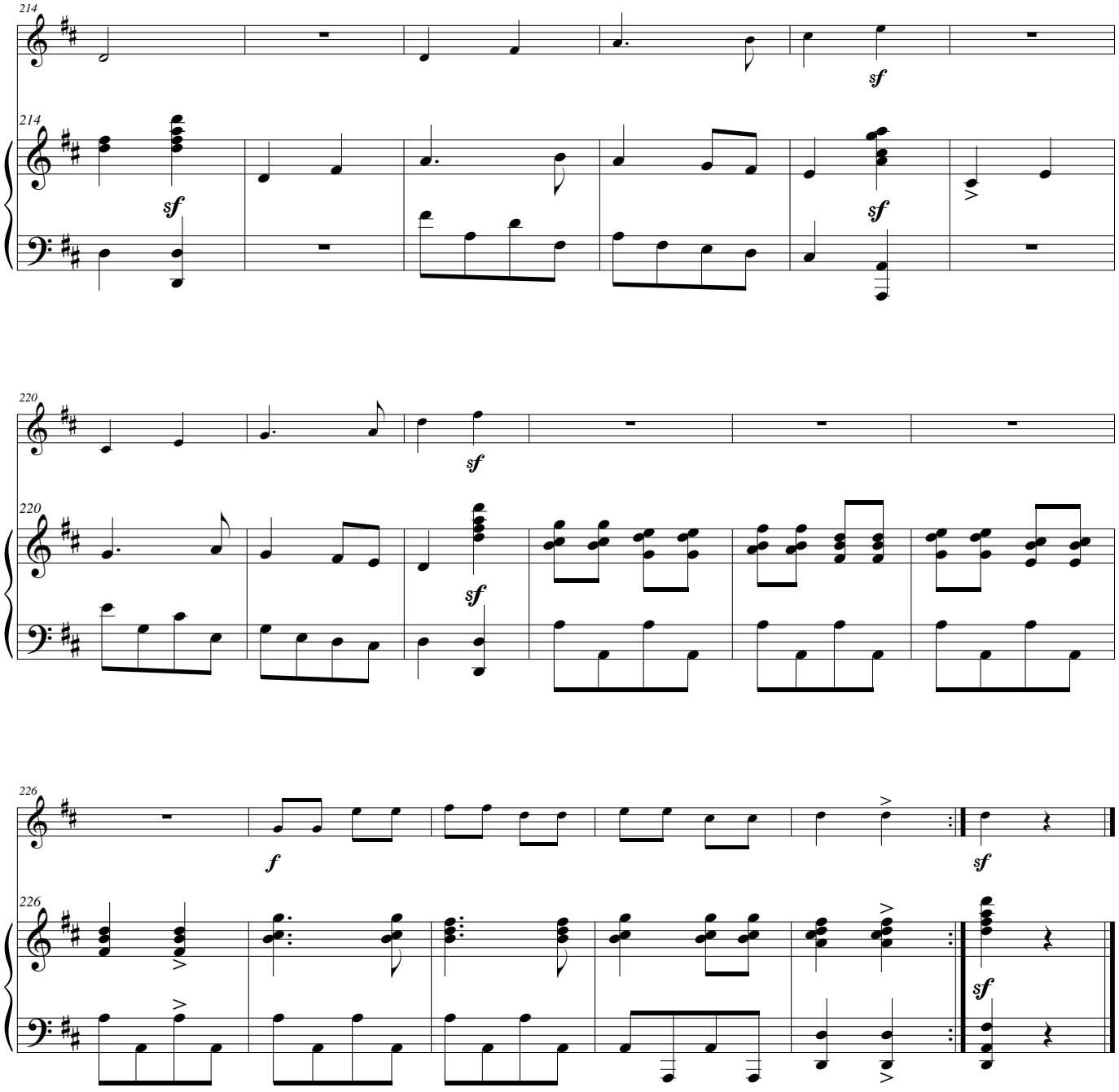
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for Jennifer Paull

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Oboe d'amore

Leonard Salzedo
(1921 - 2000)

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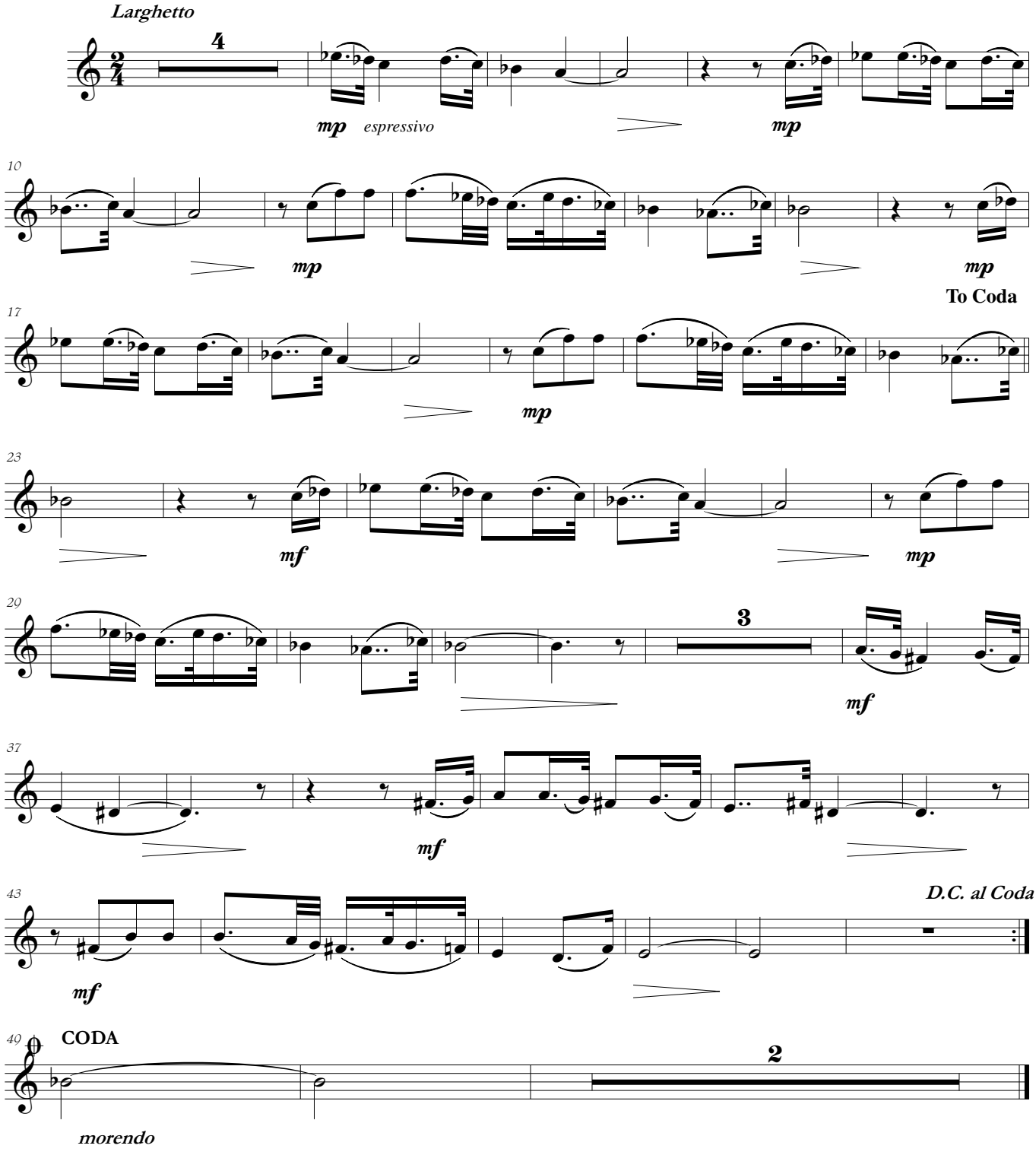

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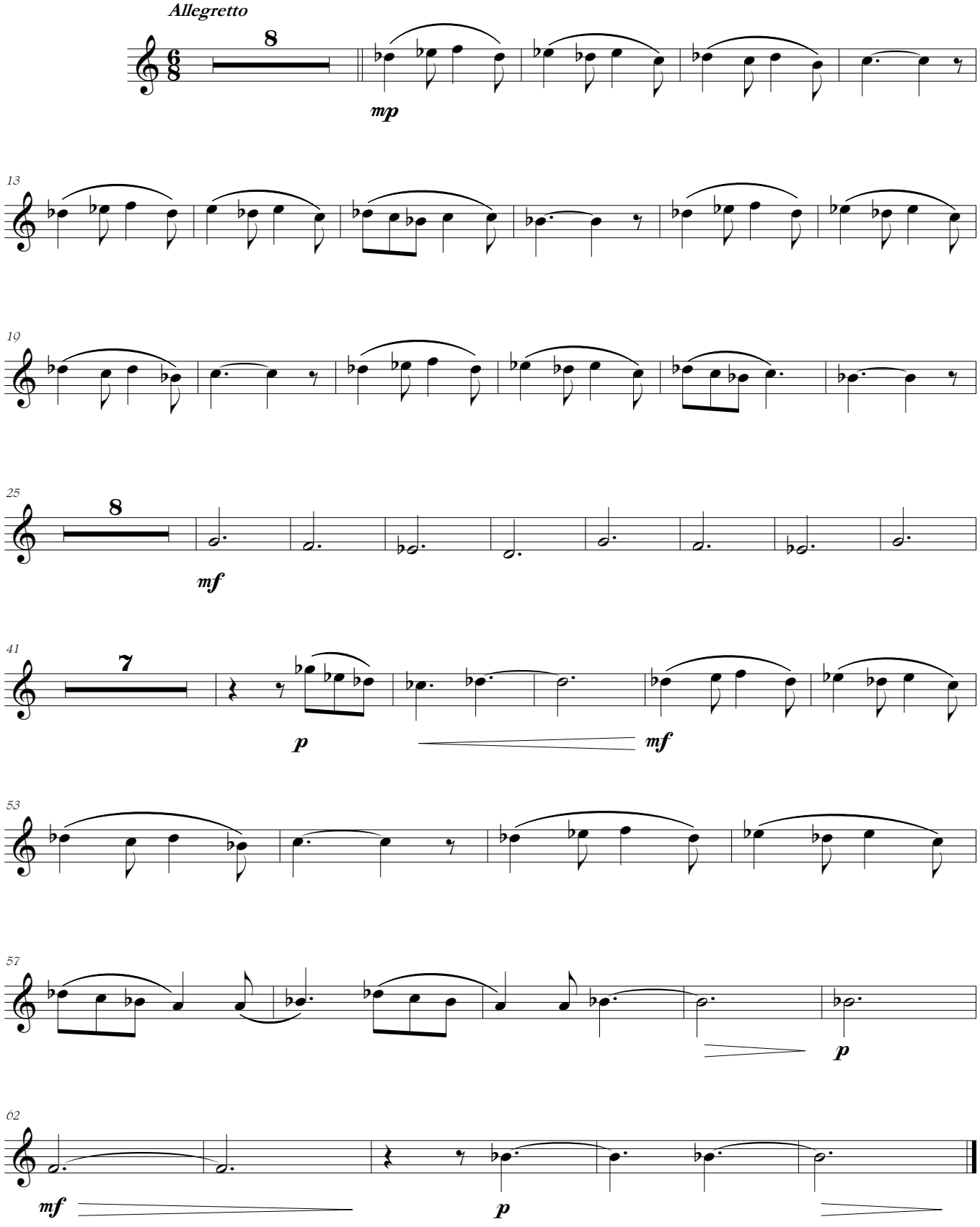
II. Tonada de folias



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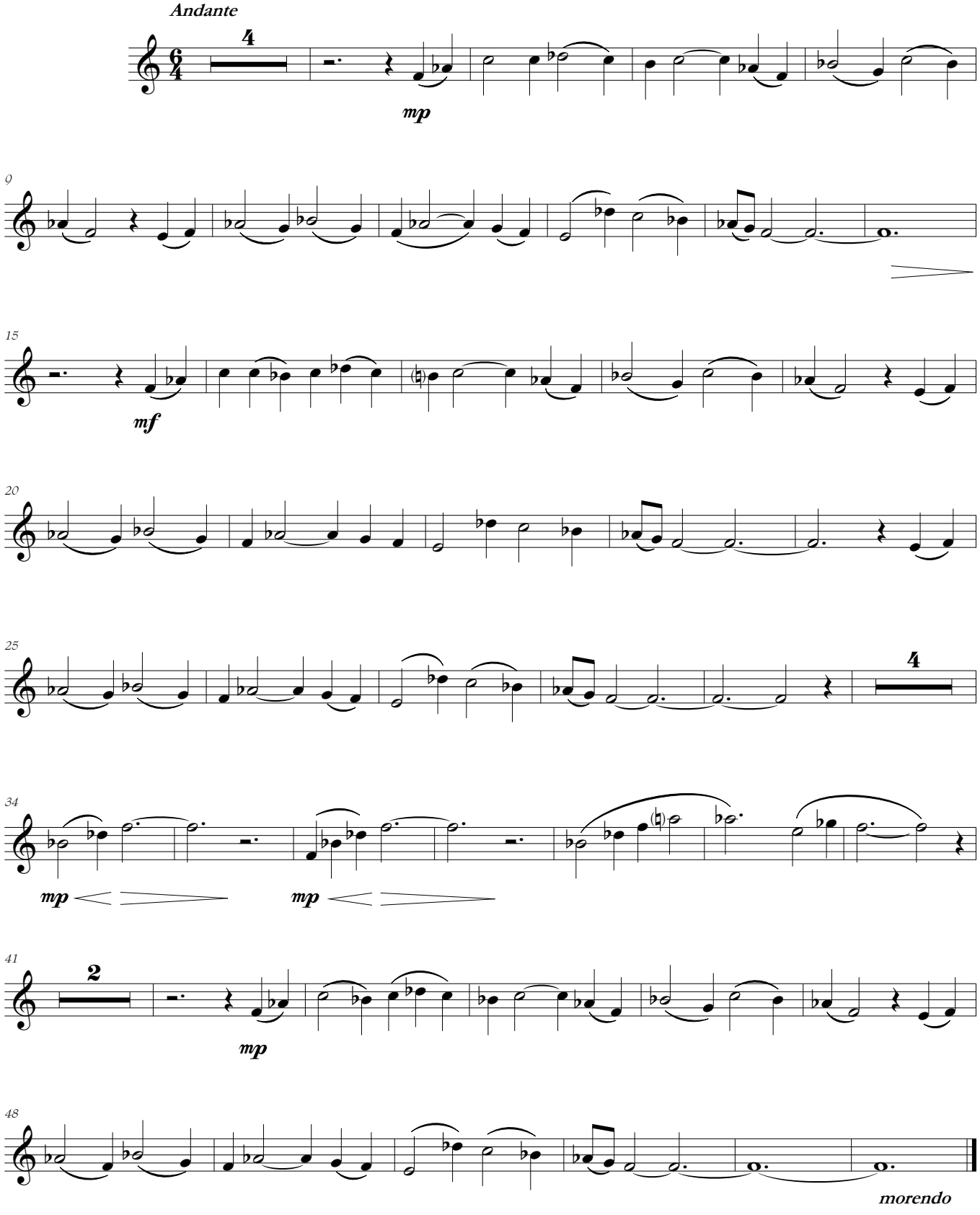

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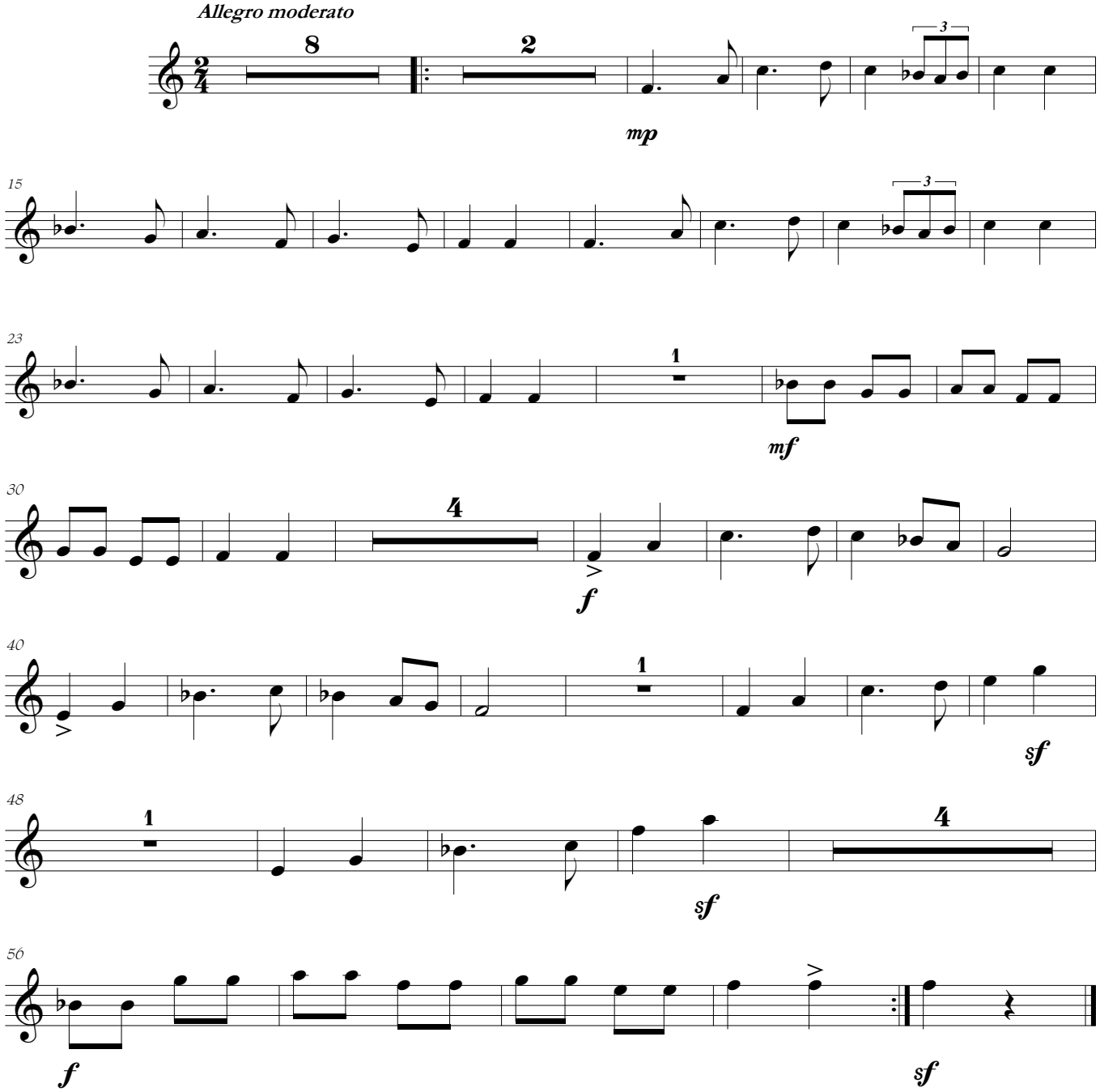

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Cor anglais

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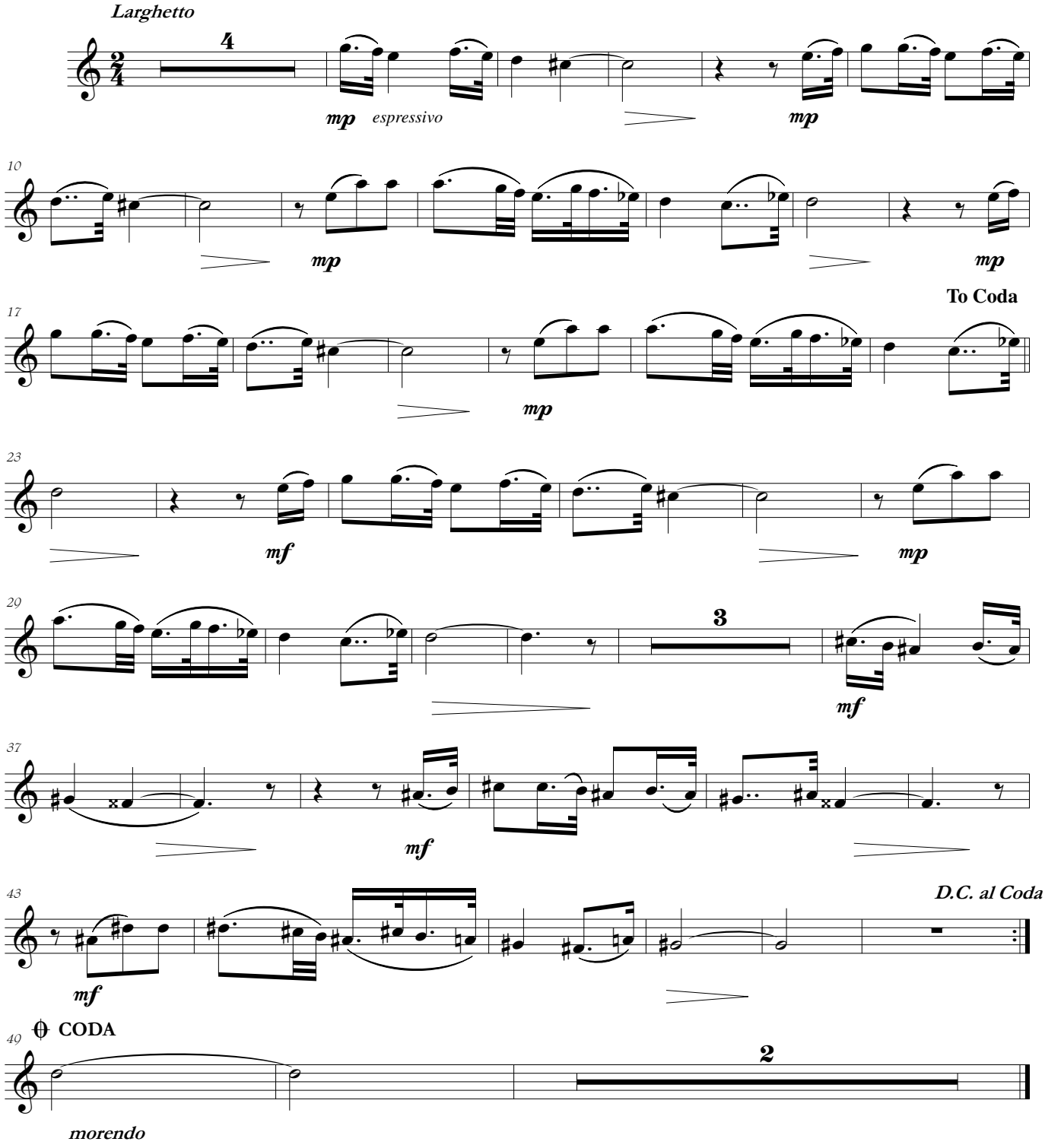

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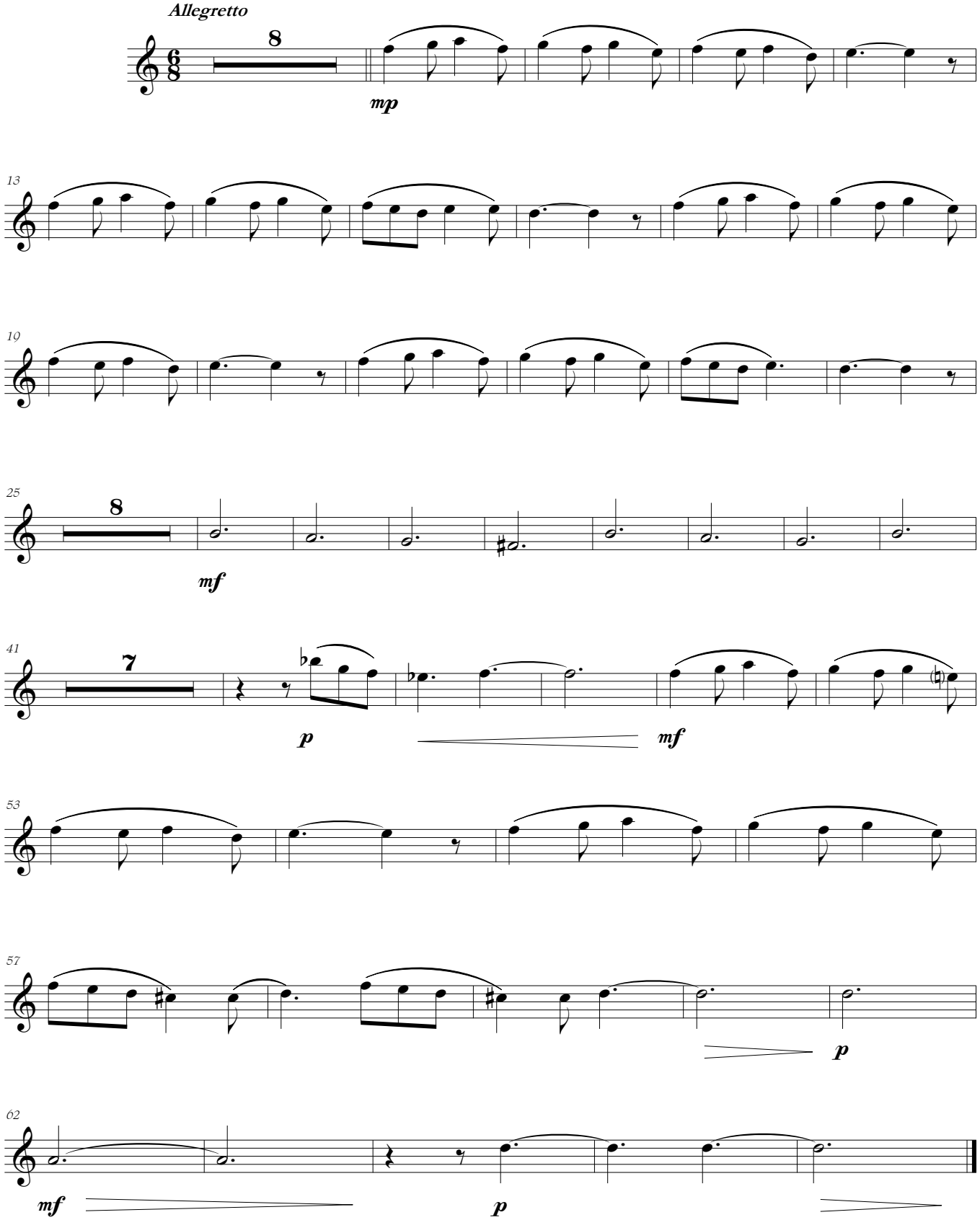

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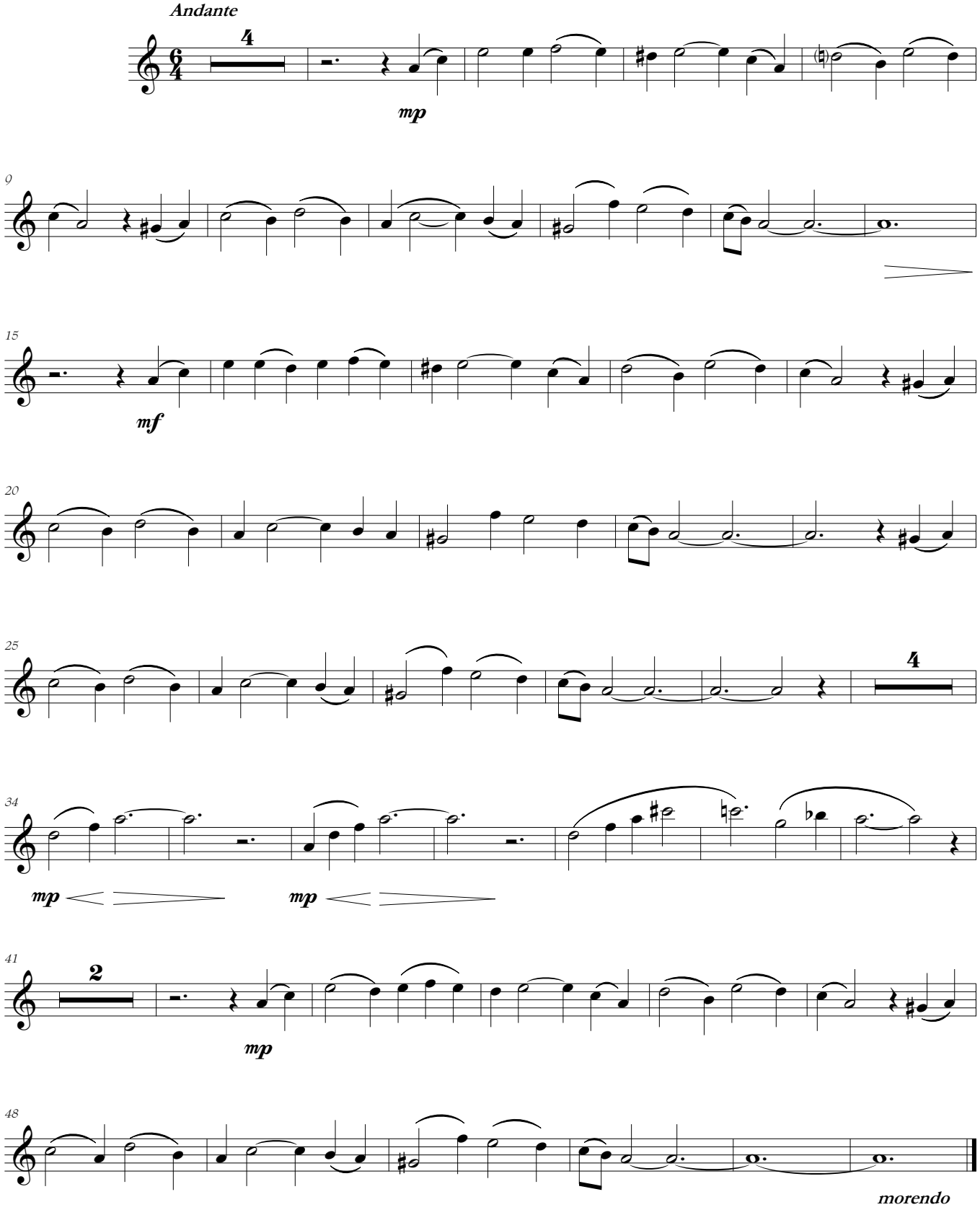
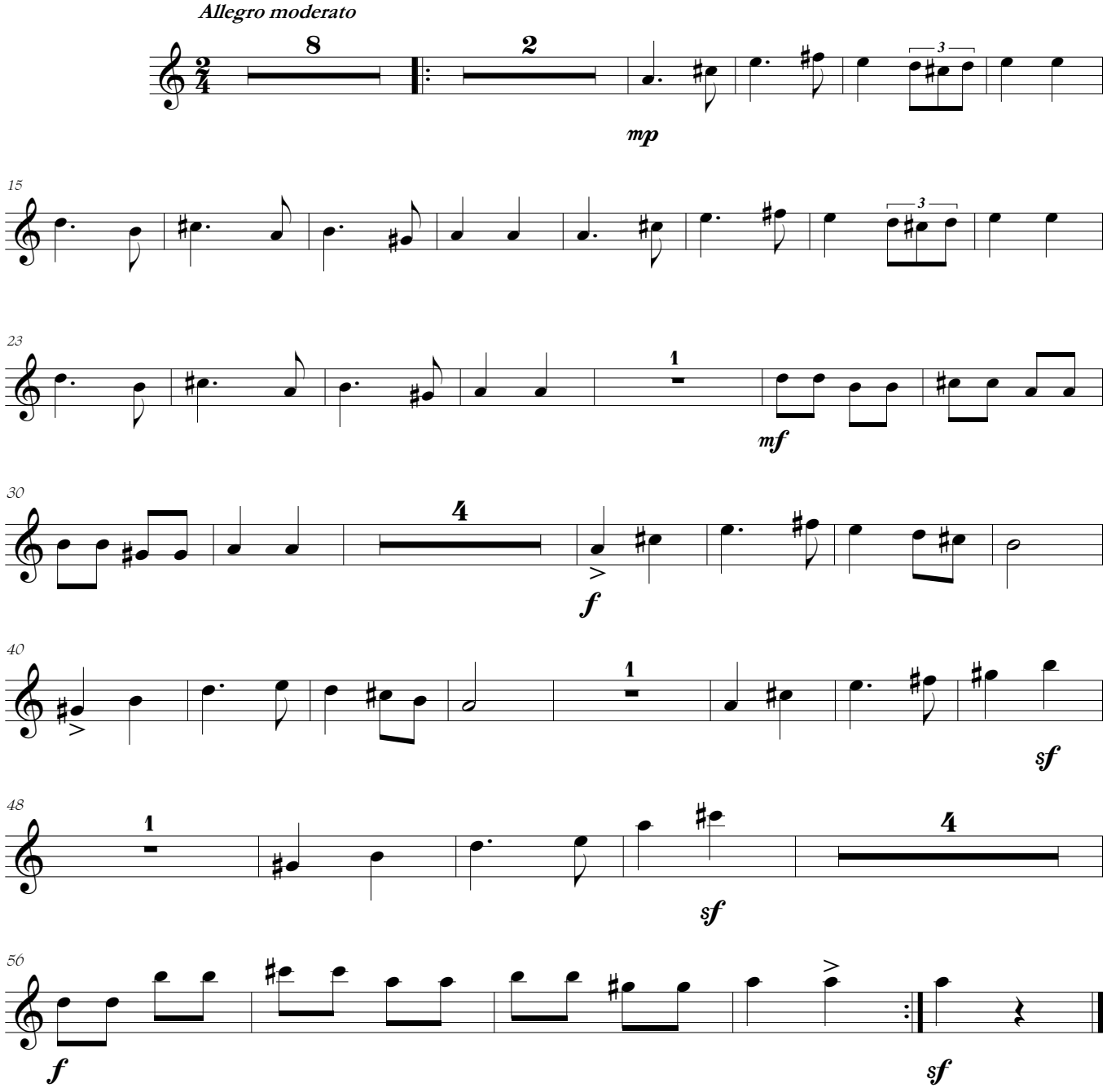
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