Love Potion

Craig Bakalian

Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Cello, Marimba, and Piano

Foreword

Love Potion is a title for this music which describes the ease as to which most Armenian immigrants blended into the United States of America. I, as a young boy, reveled in my parents and grandparents love for jazz styles and Armenian folk music and dance. My grandmother would pick grape leaves from her back yard, make dolma, and then go to Dairy Queen for ice cream. There was room for everything. The love potion was that sugary sweet treat.

This music is not intended to imitate jazz in any way. The route to the jazz sound comes from an effort to gain access to multi-tonality and multi-keyalality. Many of the major-minor chords and melodic figures are intended to enhance the strength of music expression. Don't play this music in a jazz style. At measure 6 the clarinet announces the main theme, which is further developed in measure 14 by clearly defining the unusual unpaired rhythm (3+2+3) and (3+3+2) grouping. This rhythmic grouping must be felt without hesitation or mental counting especially in a context of a standard 4/4 time signature. Dynamics and phrasing are extremely important in this music in order to clearly define the multi-tonality and multi-keyalality as a whole. A word of advise for the performers; this music requires more than one rehearsal, and I say this because too many of my contemporaries are currently attempting to bring formal music of this style to concert with little to no rehearsal. My apologies for the accidentals. I did my best effort to keep them to a minimum and keep them in the context of the changing or shifting tonality and keyality. I was constantly arguing with myself about; should it be an e natural and e flat, or a f flat and an e flat. And, performers should always have the last word in the tempi. If the written tempo of this piece is too fast, slow it down a bit, because the tempo I choose is what I audiate, not what I as a composer have to physically perform. Lastly, have fun with it. I had fun writing it!

Craig Bakalian
September 5, 2014

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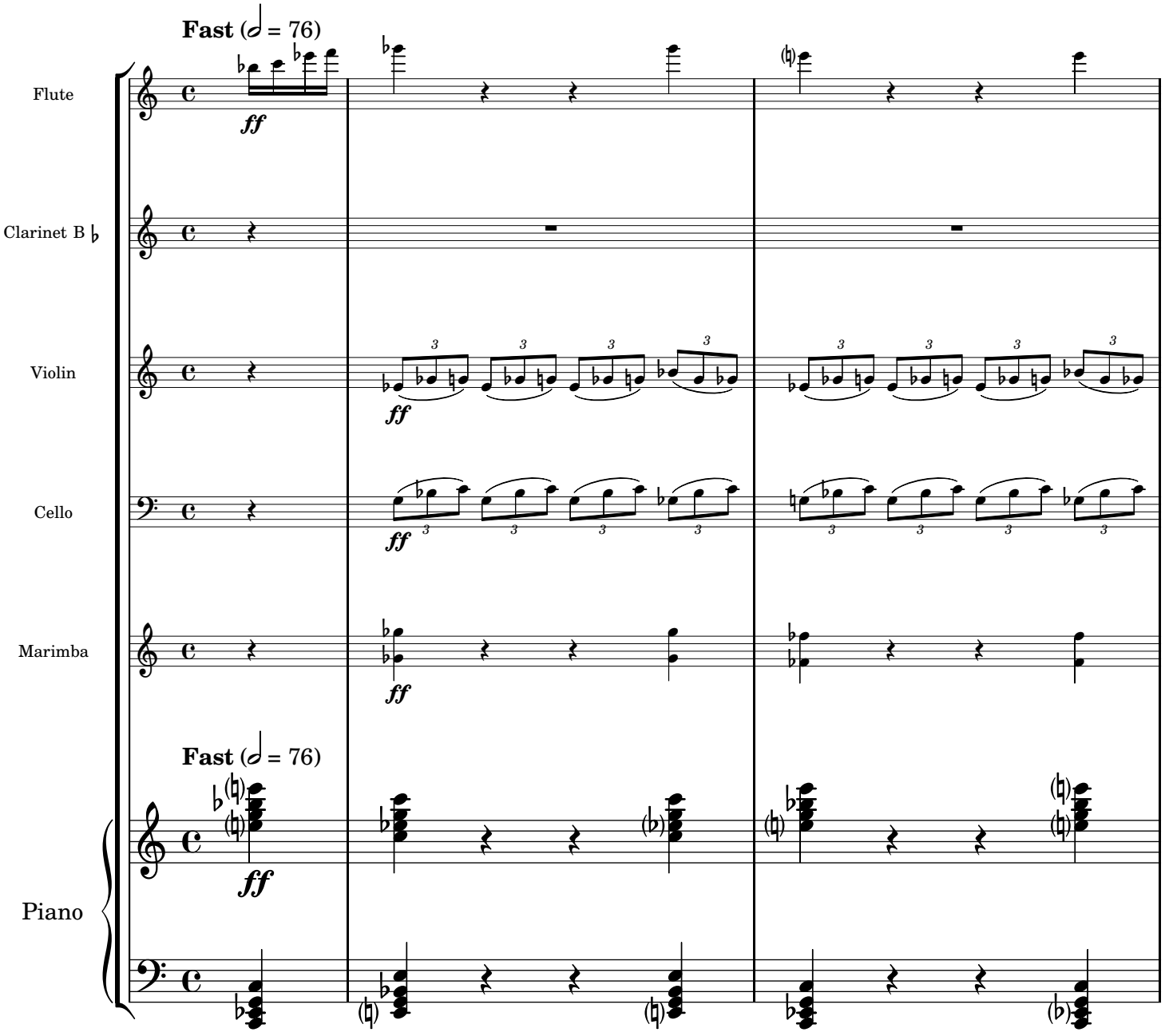

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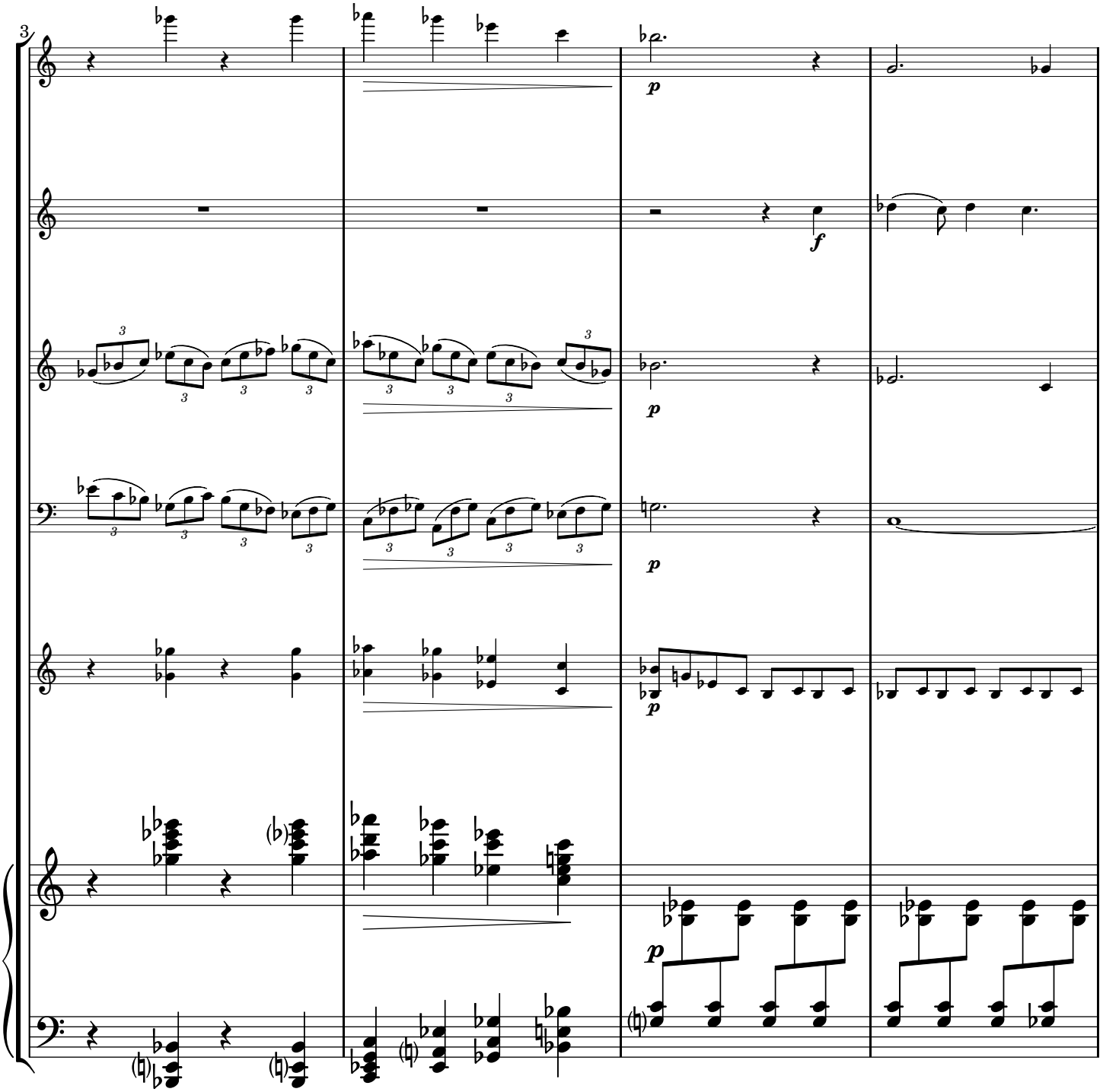
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f
p
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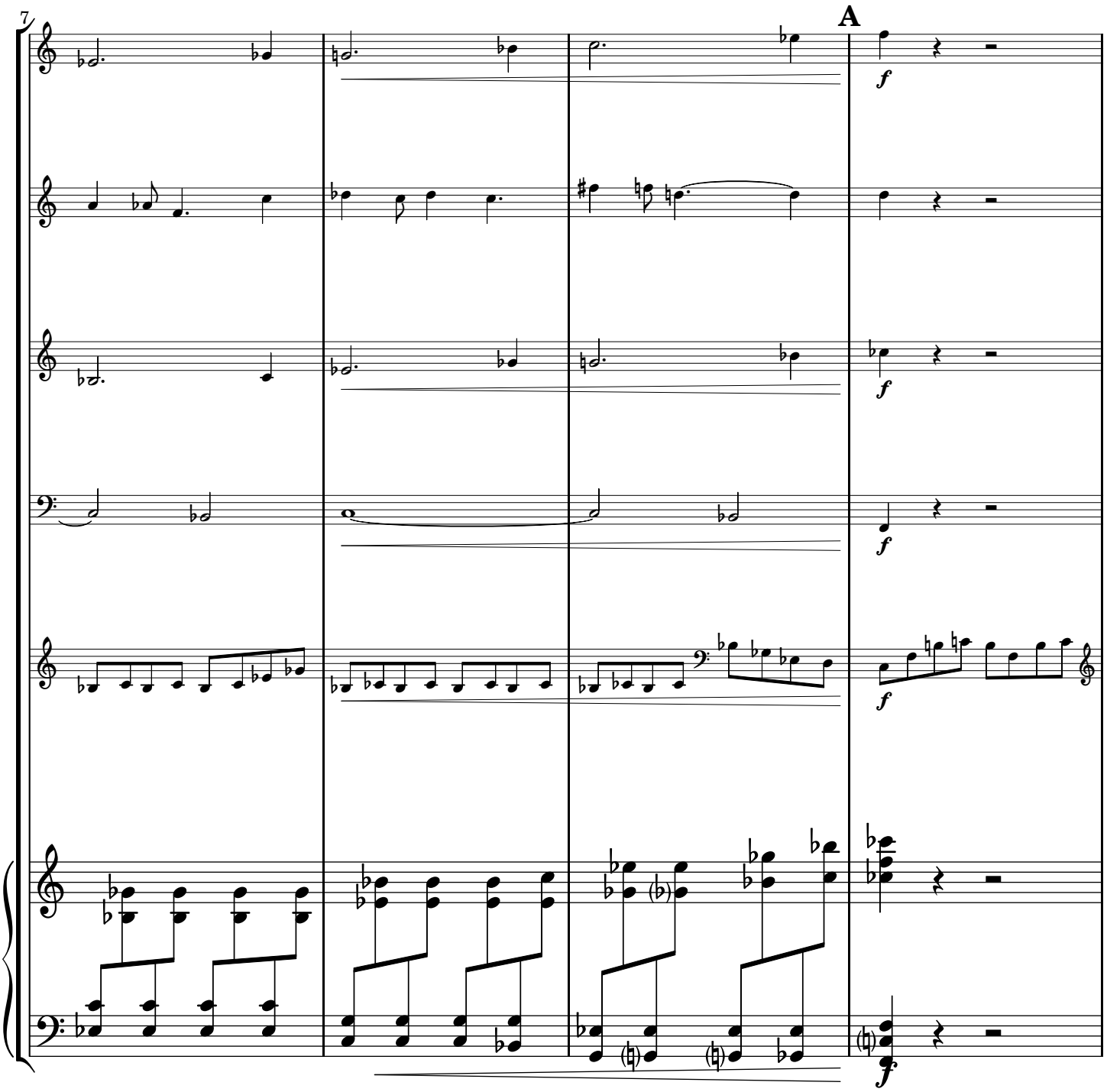
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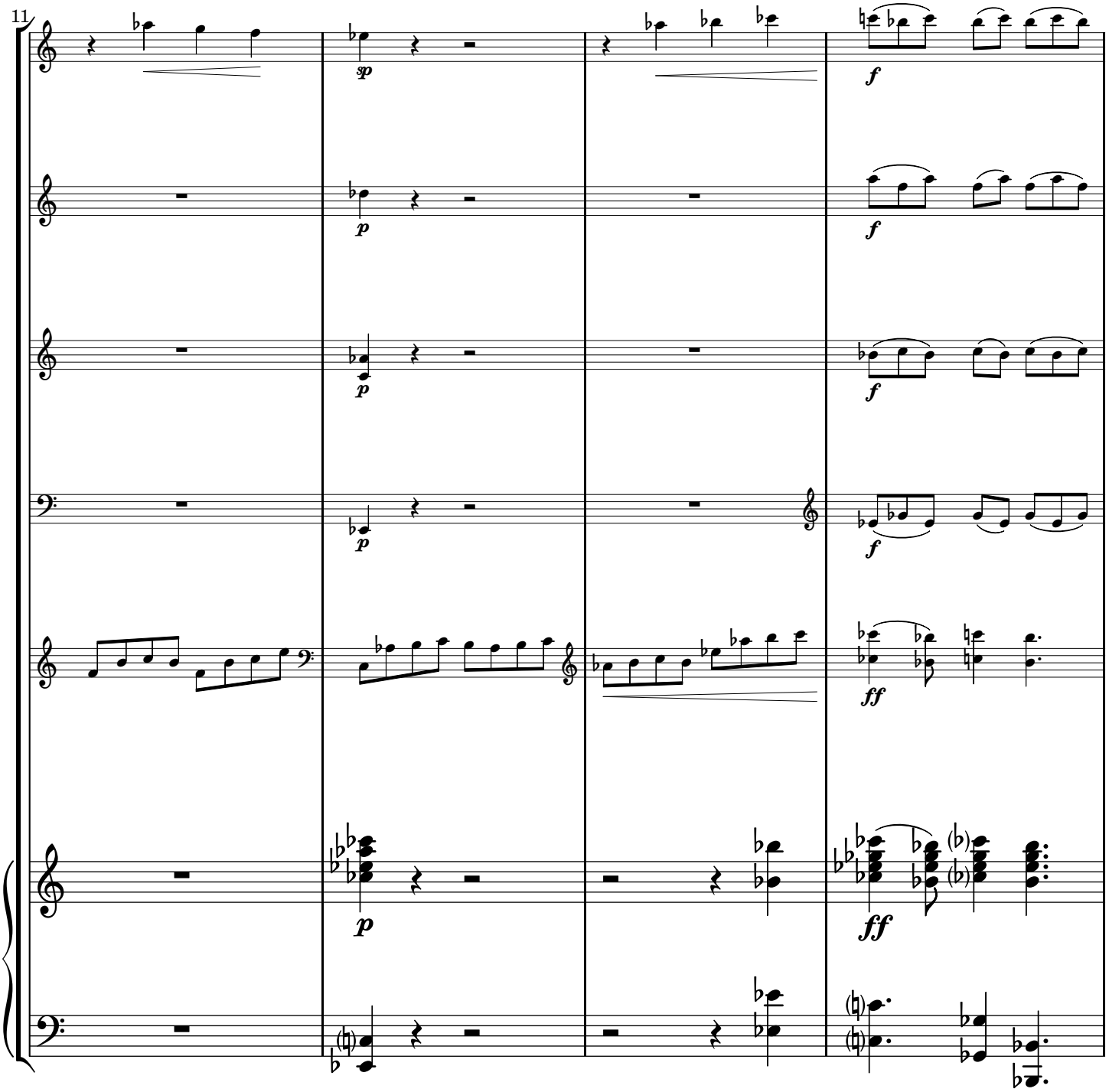
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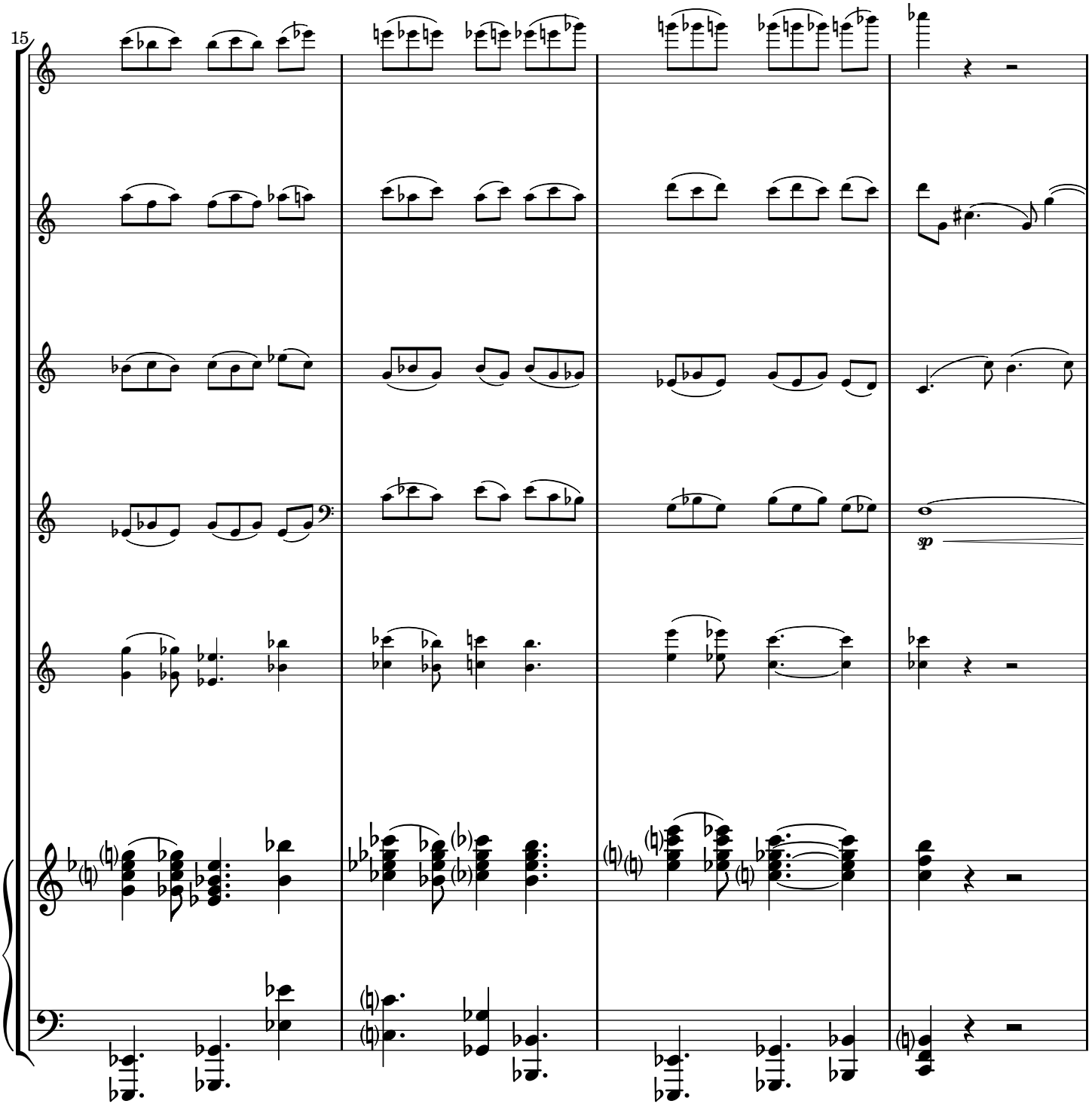
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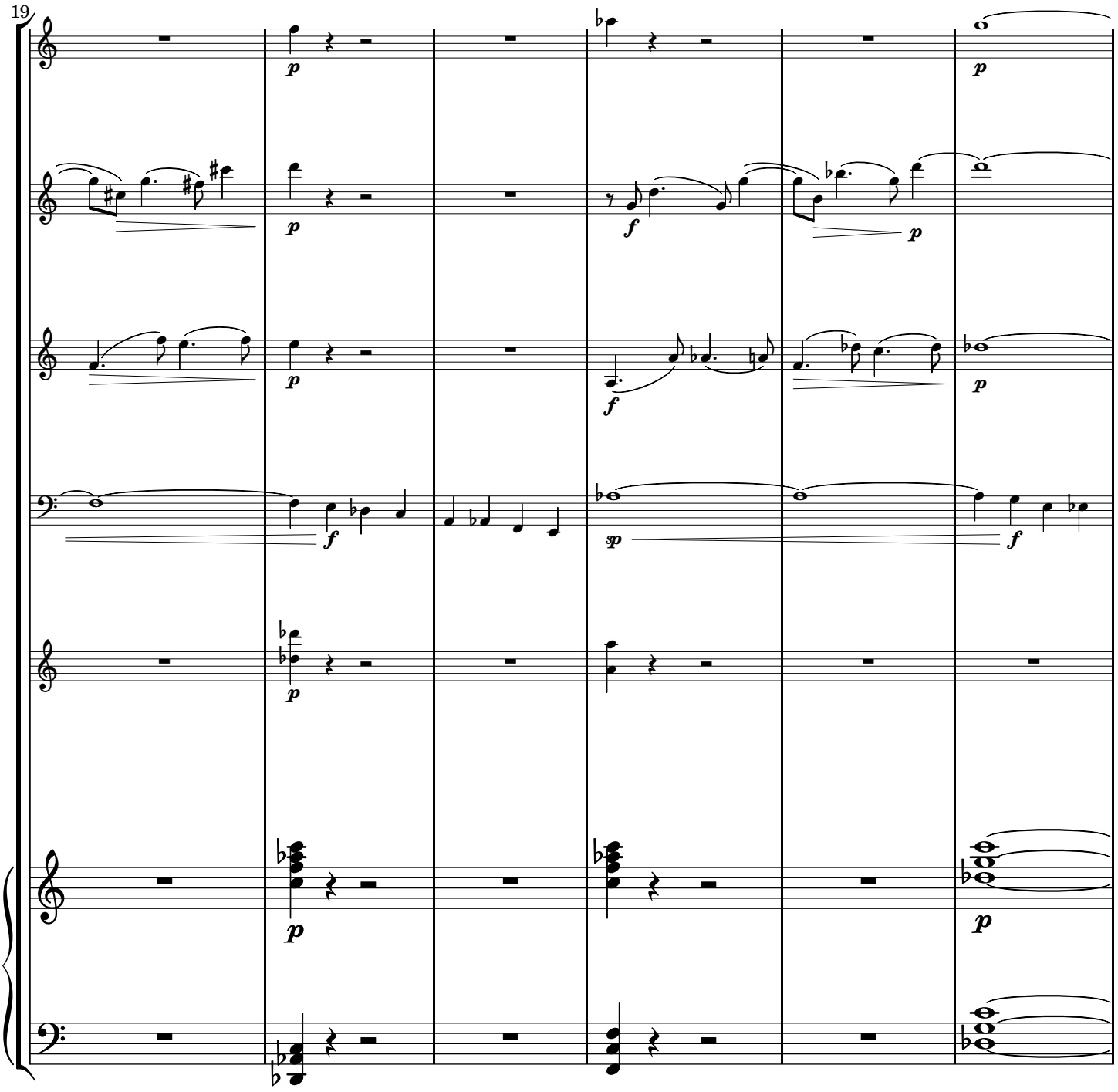
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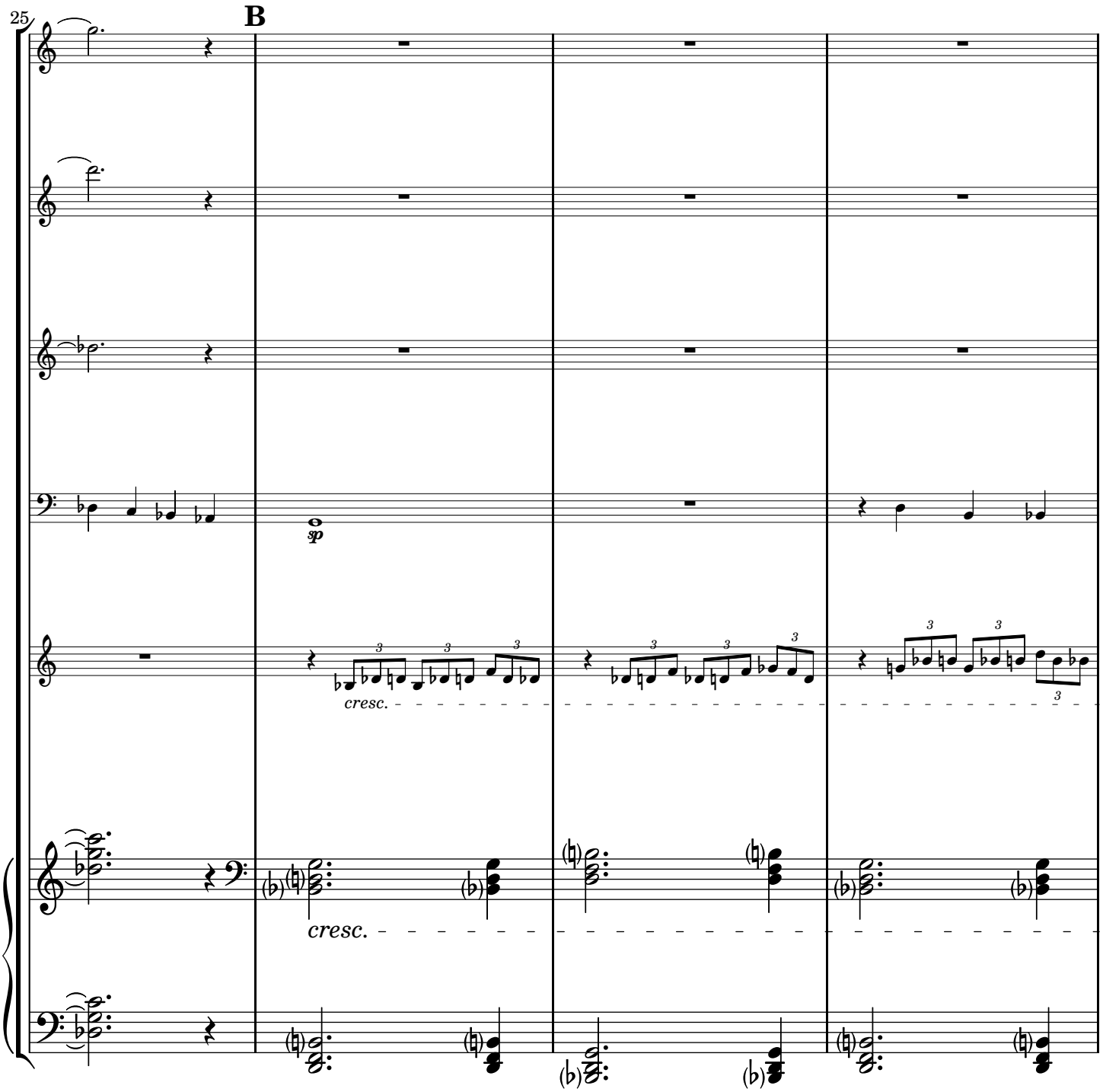
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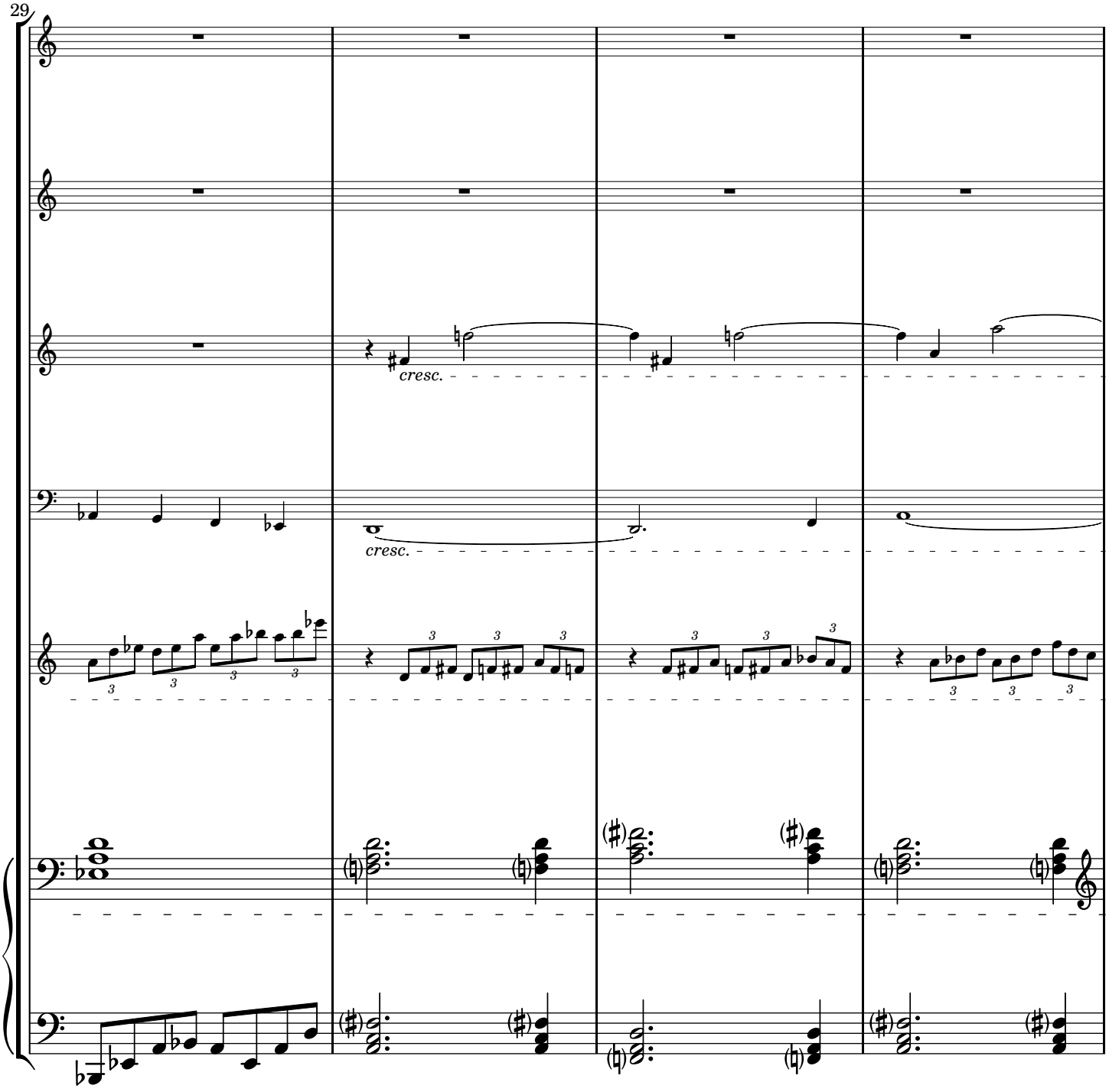
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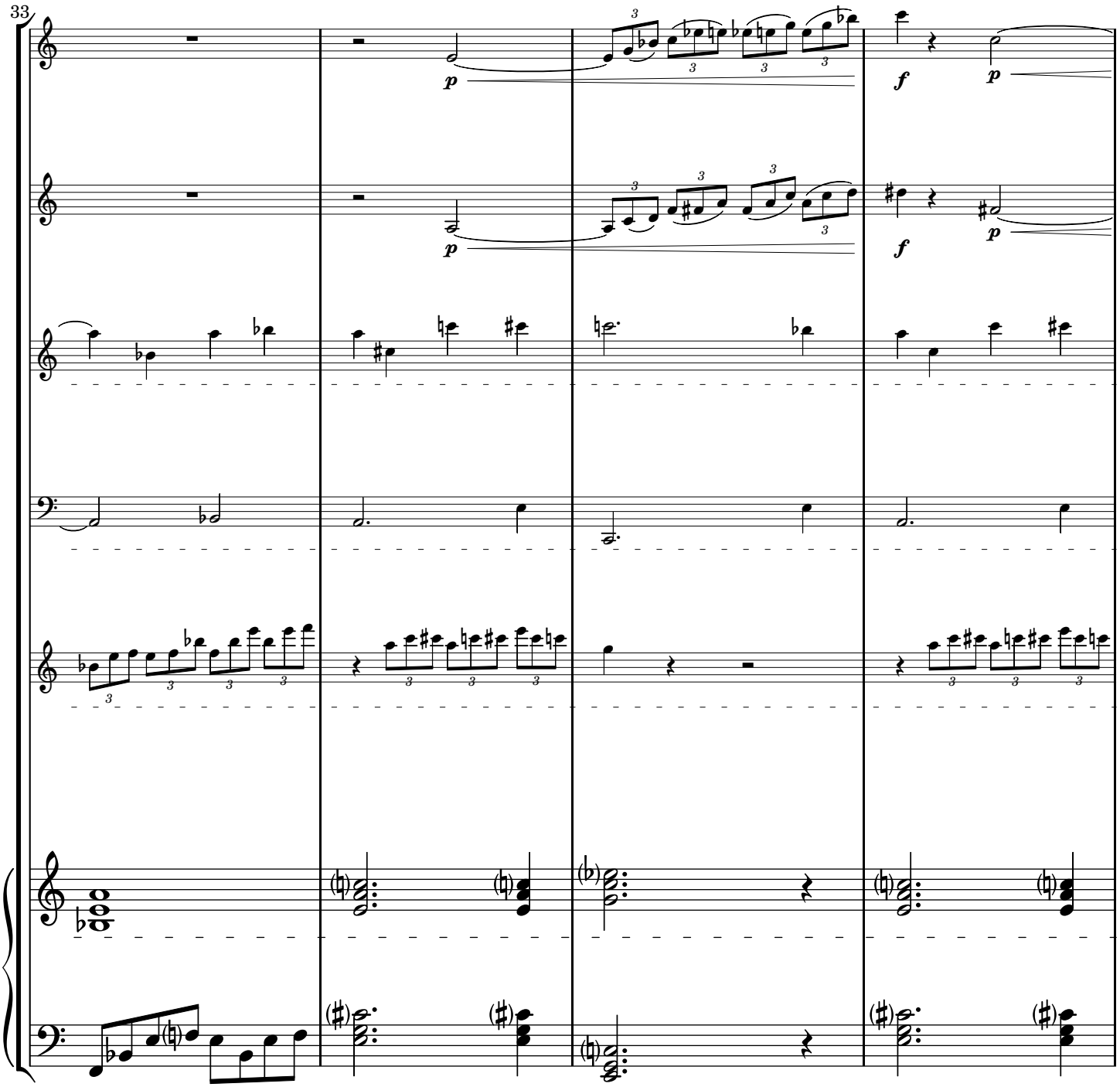
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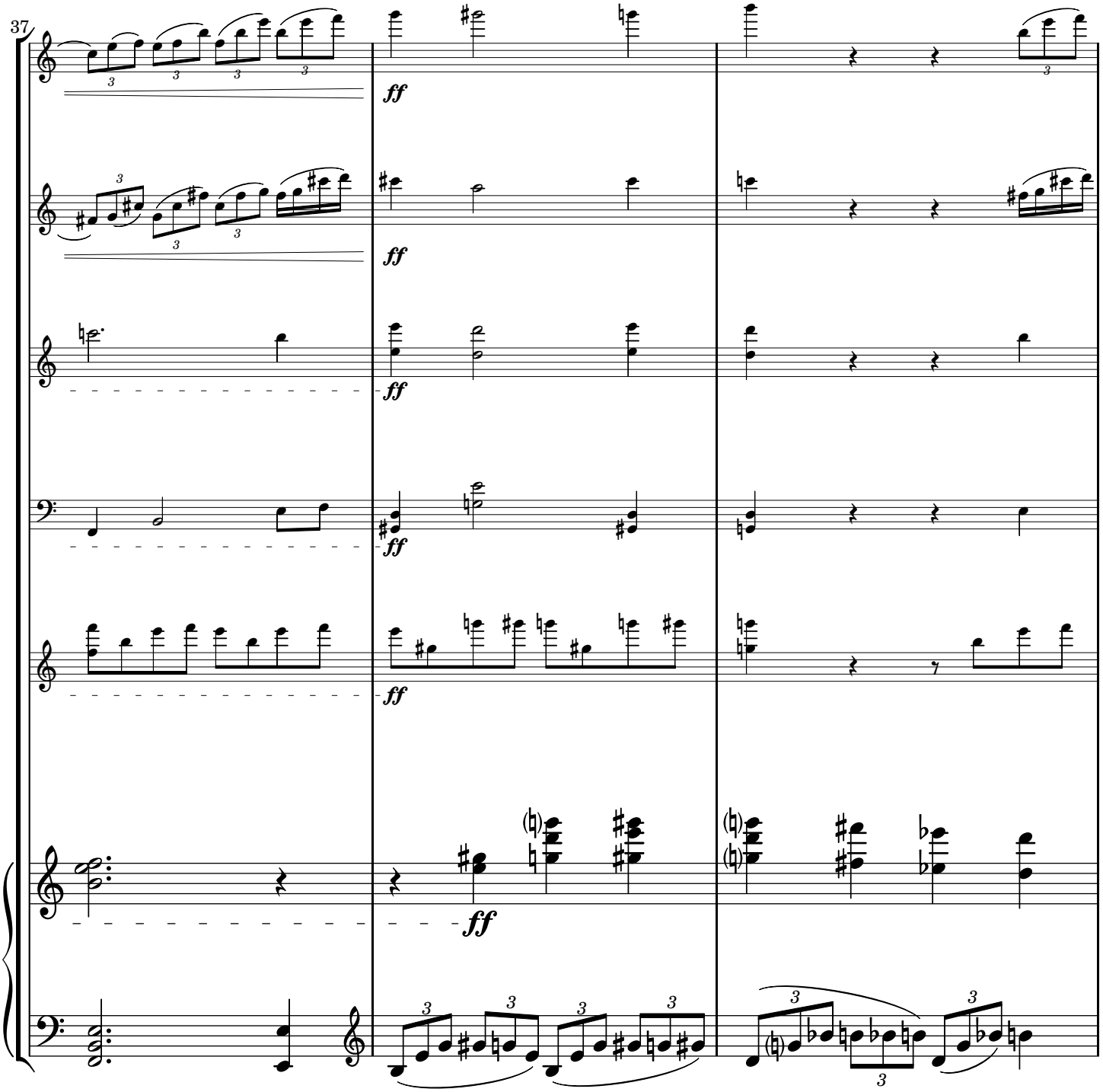
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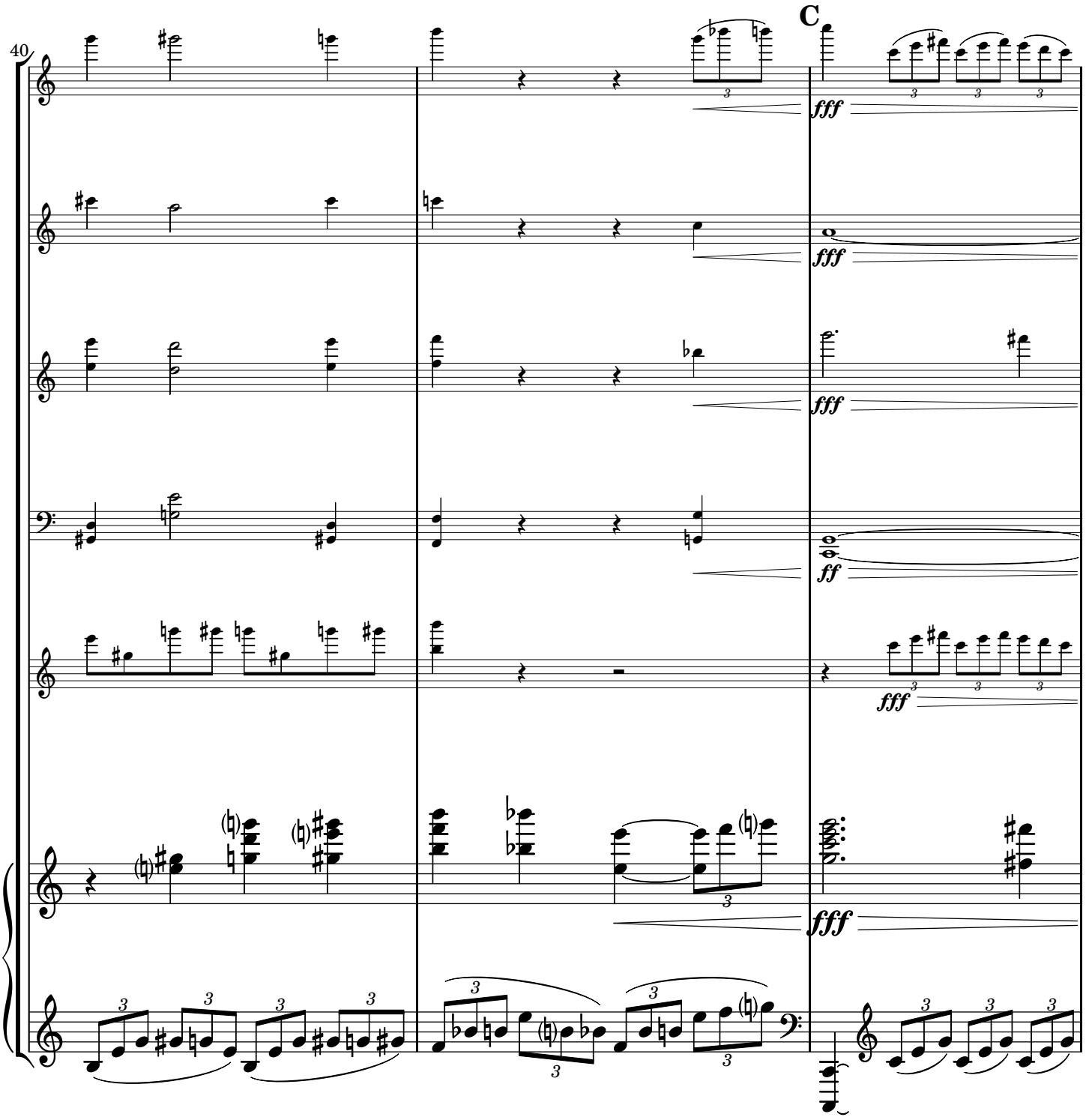
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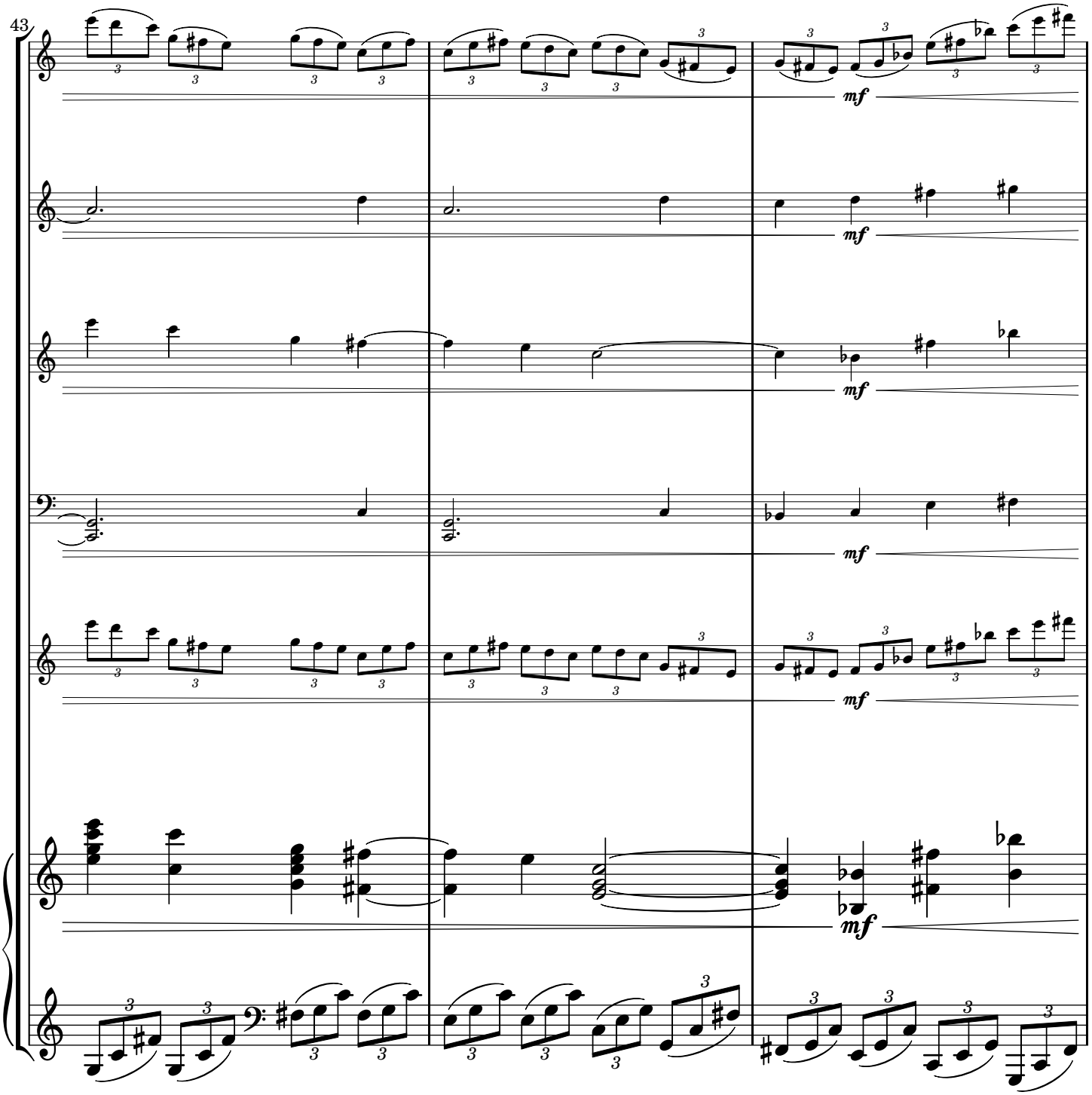
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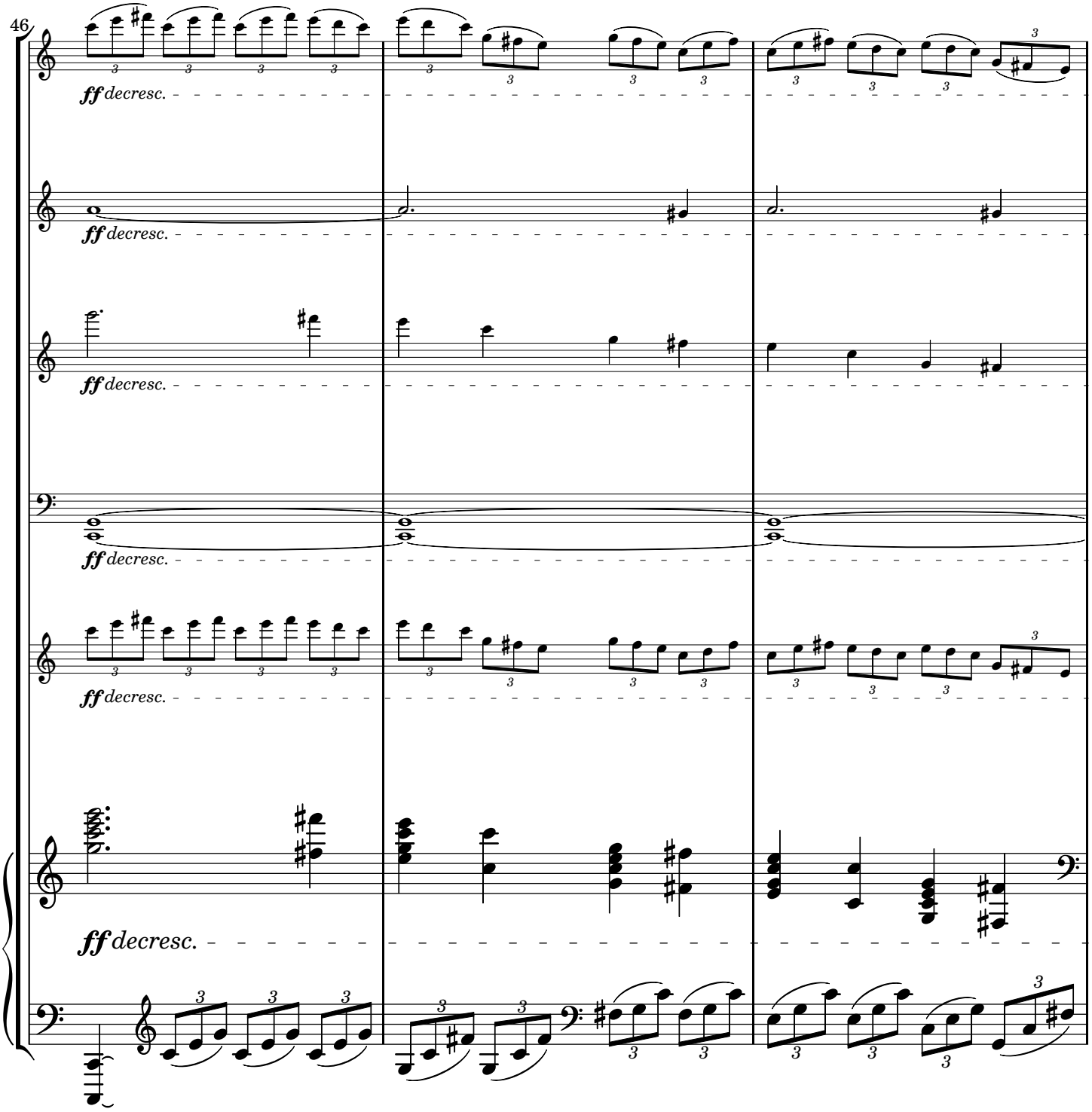
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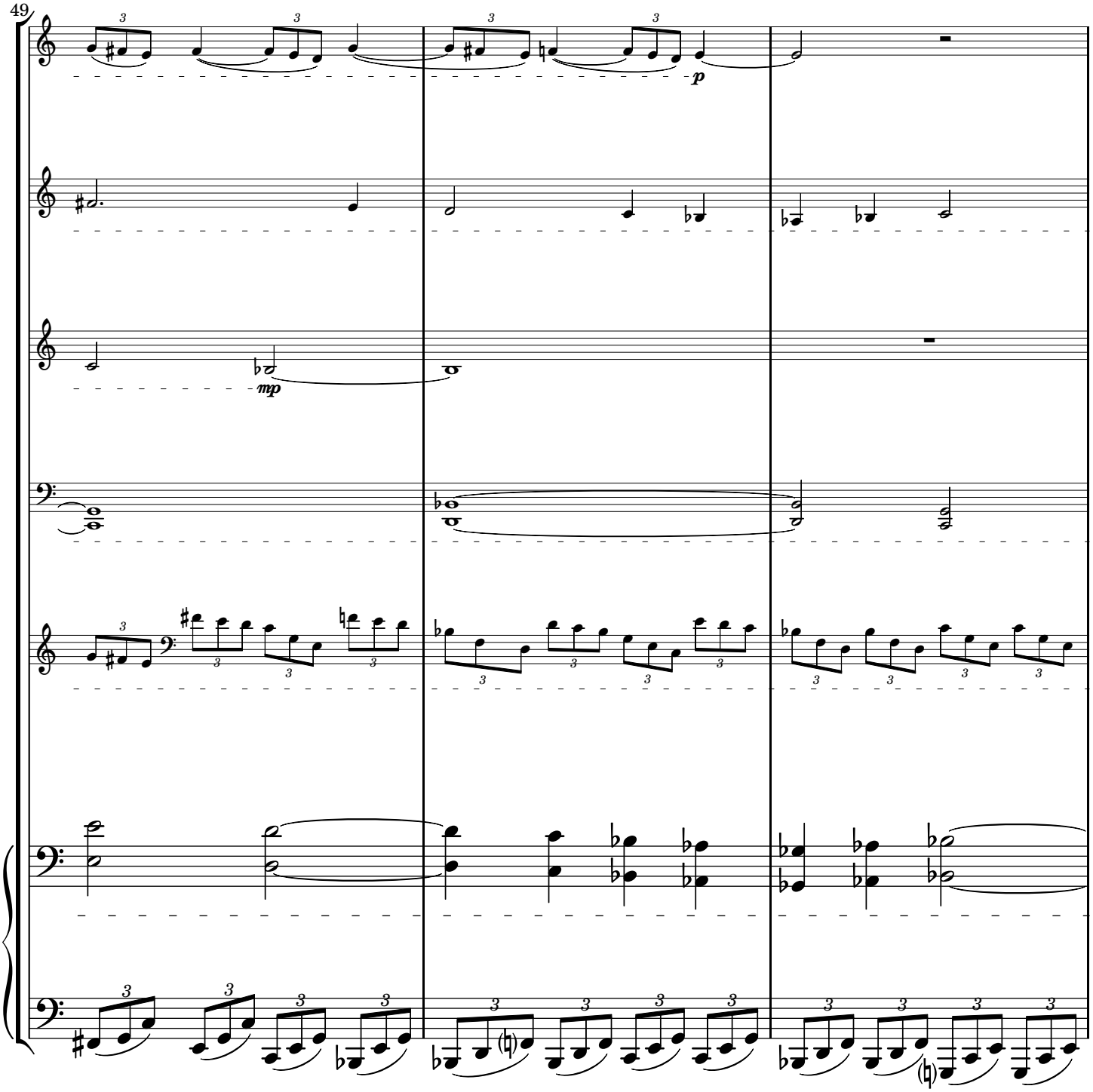
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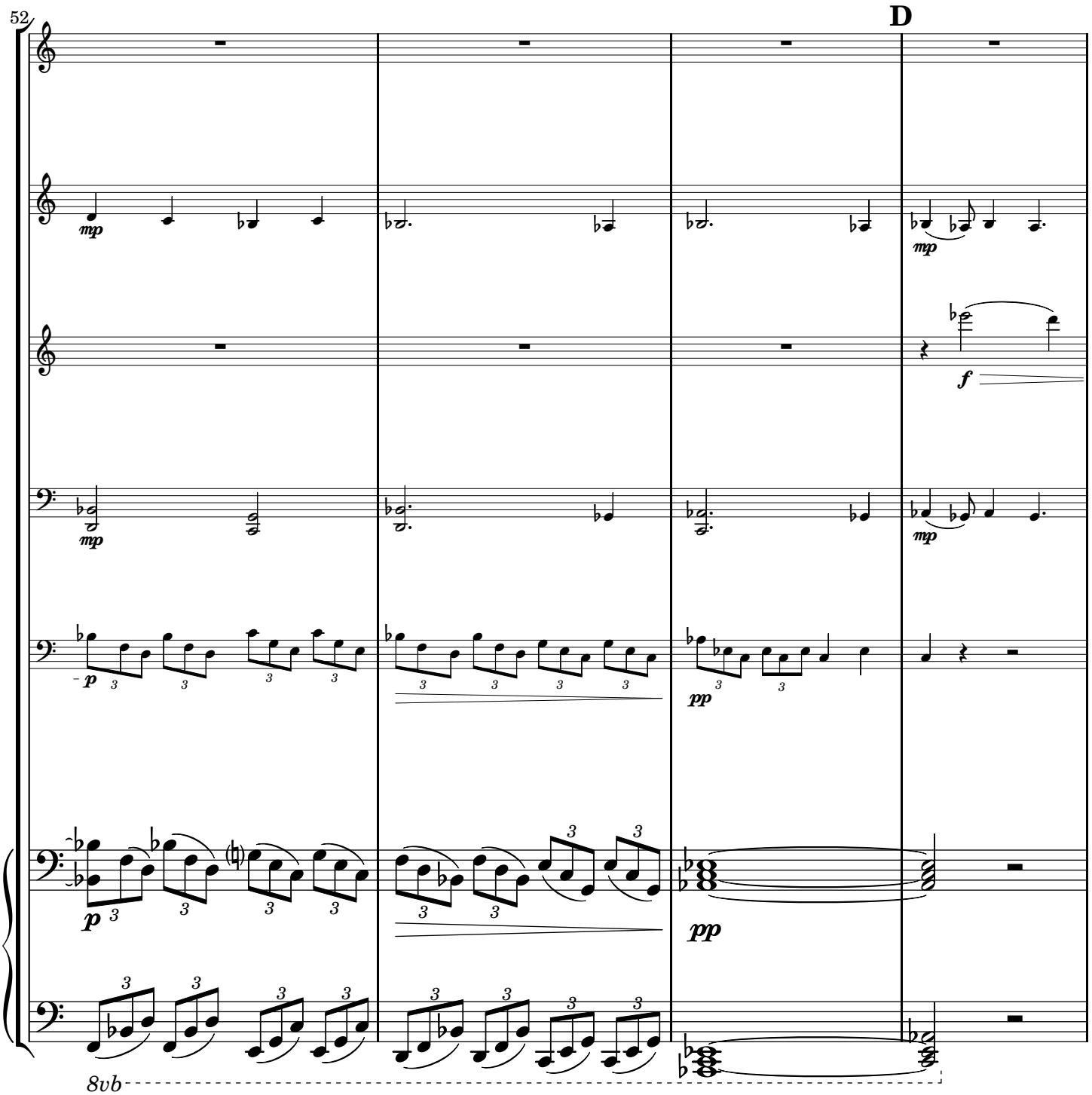
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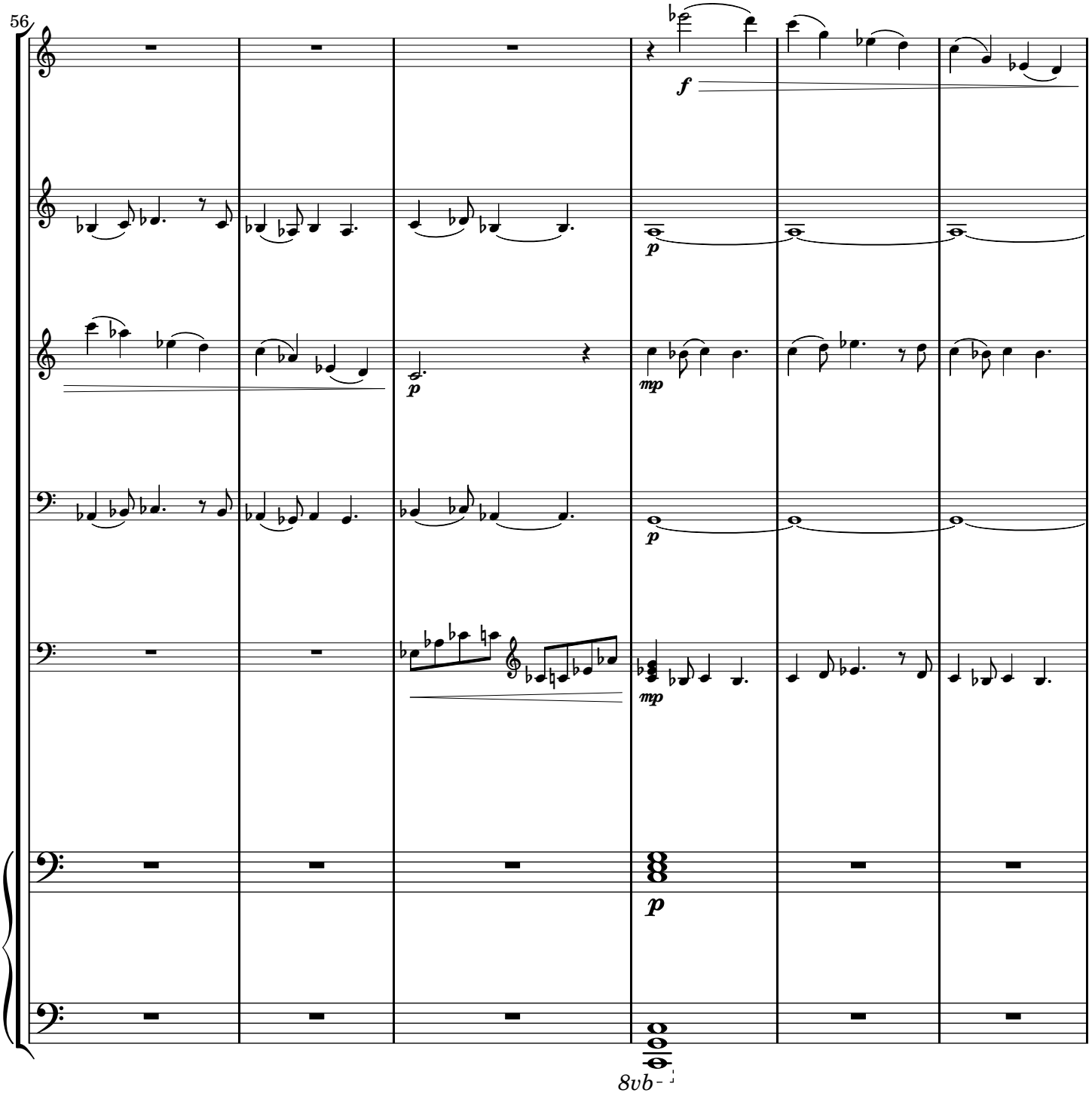
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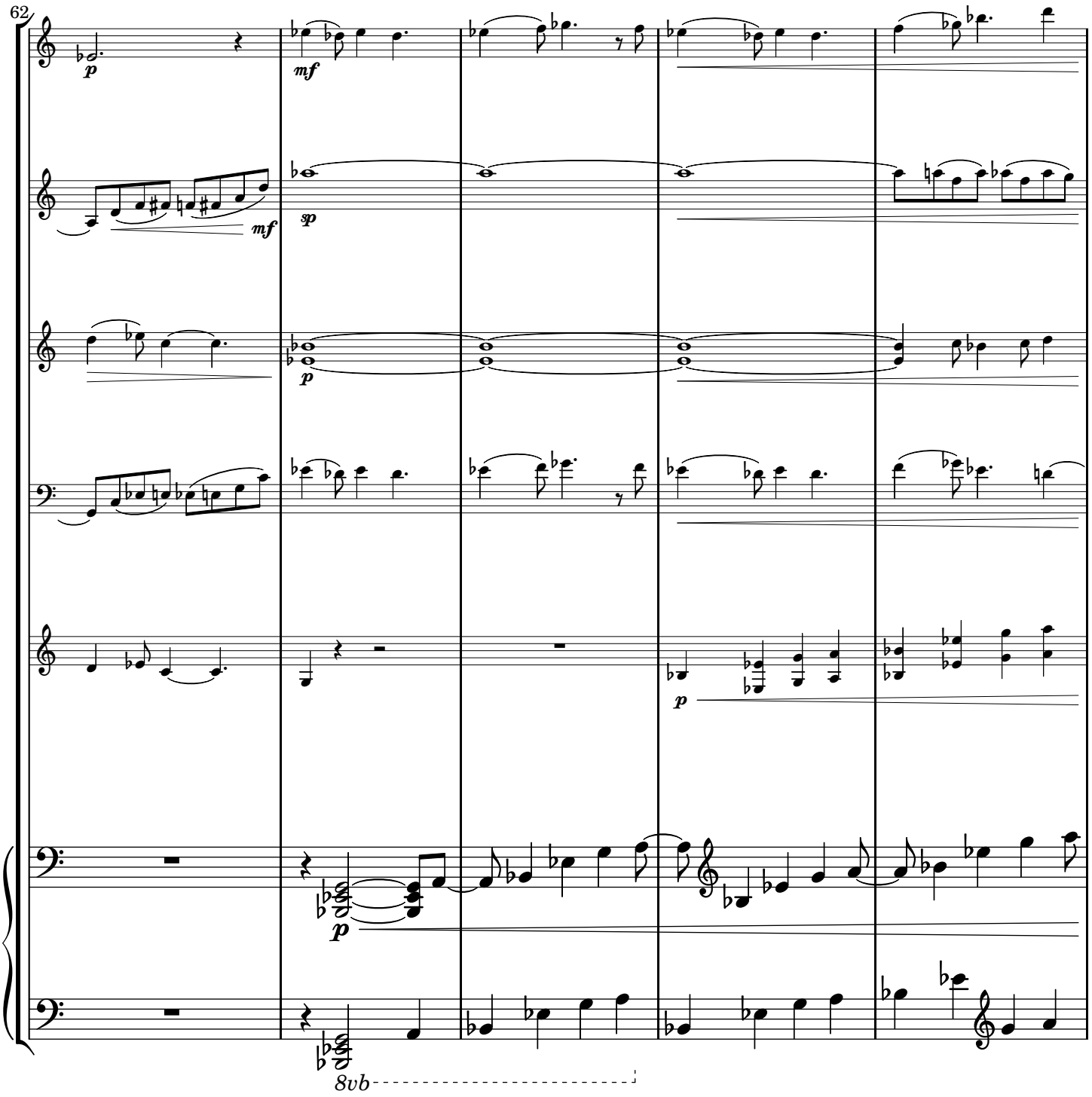
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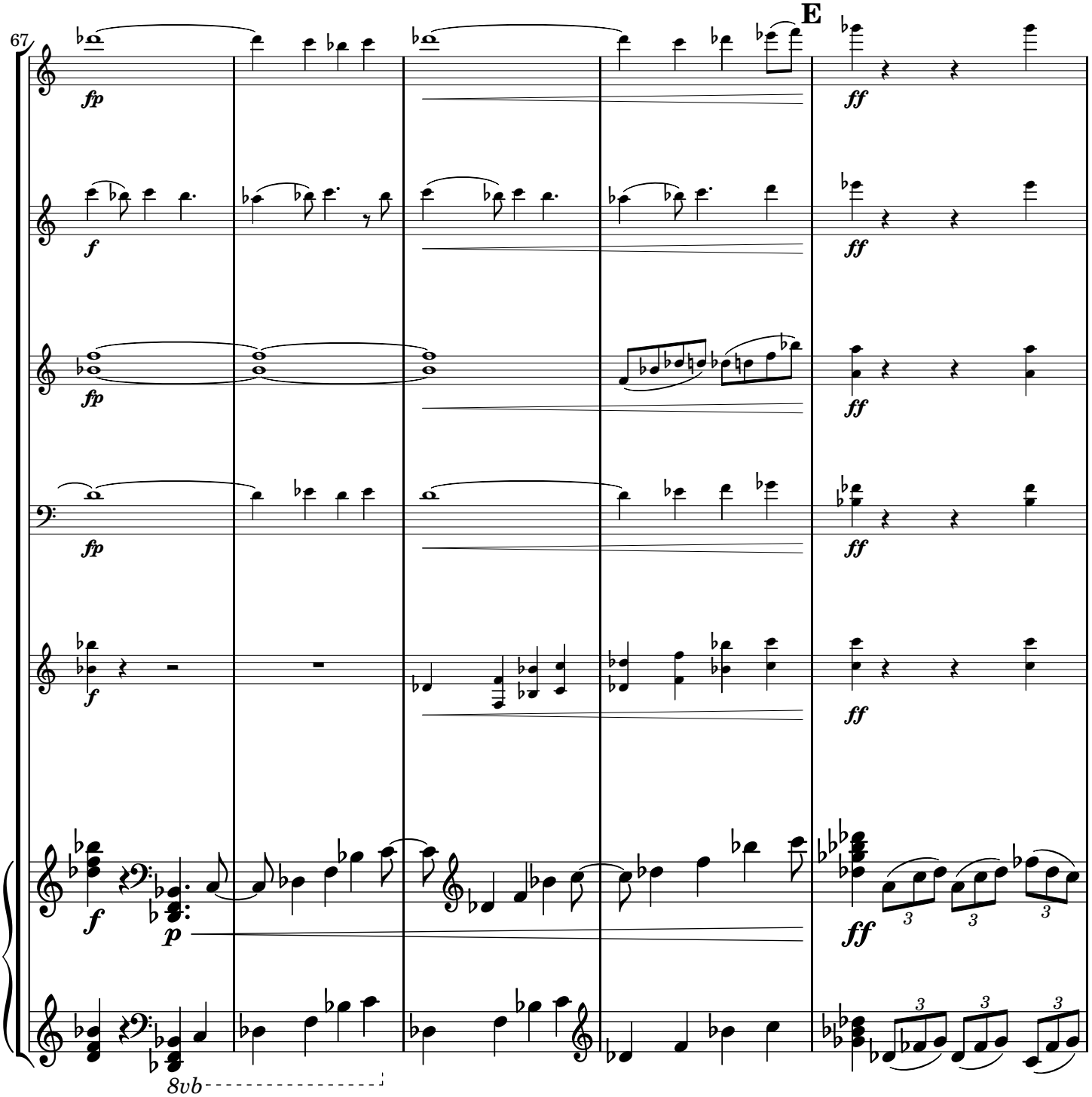
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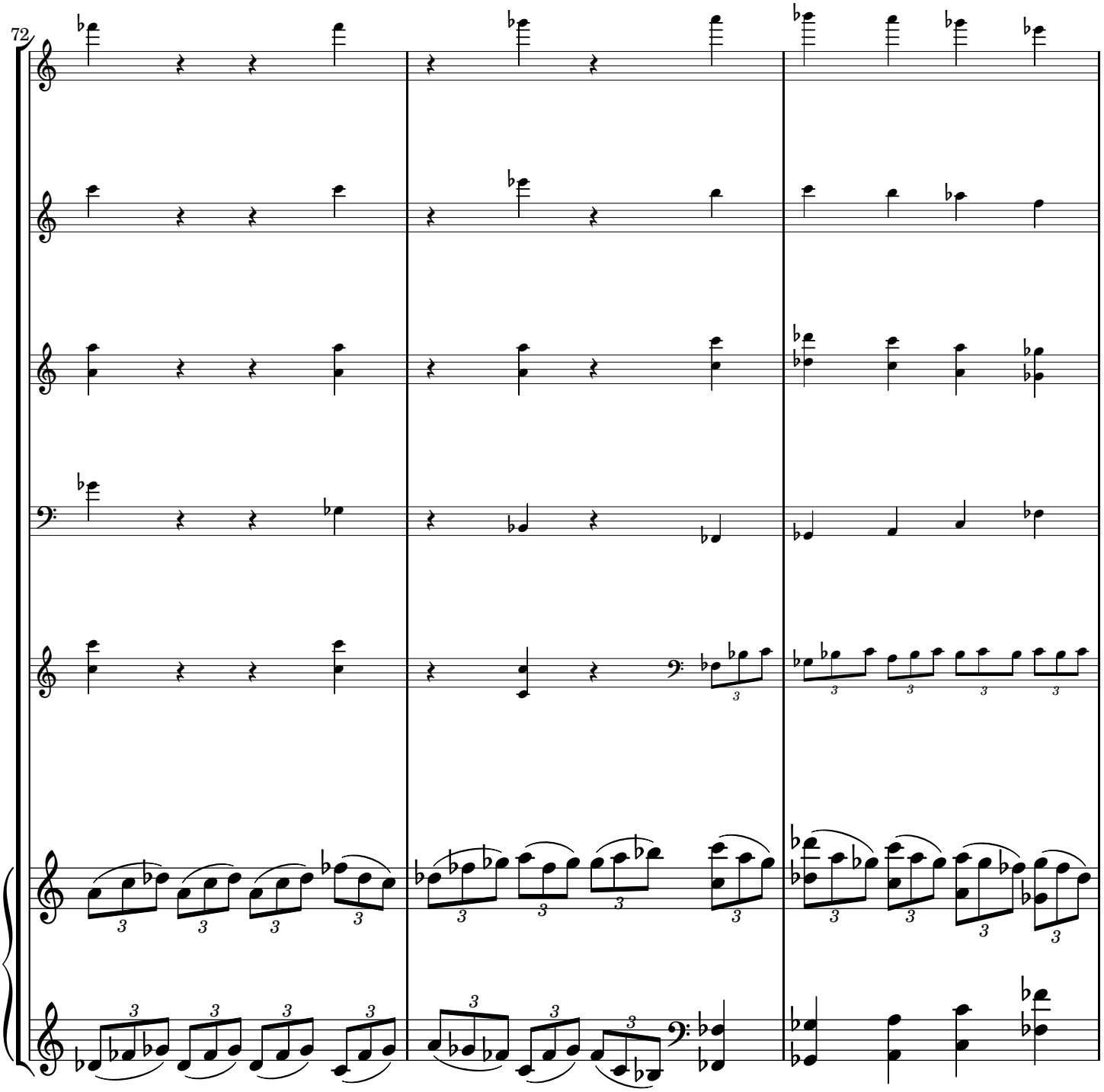
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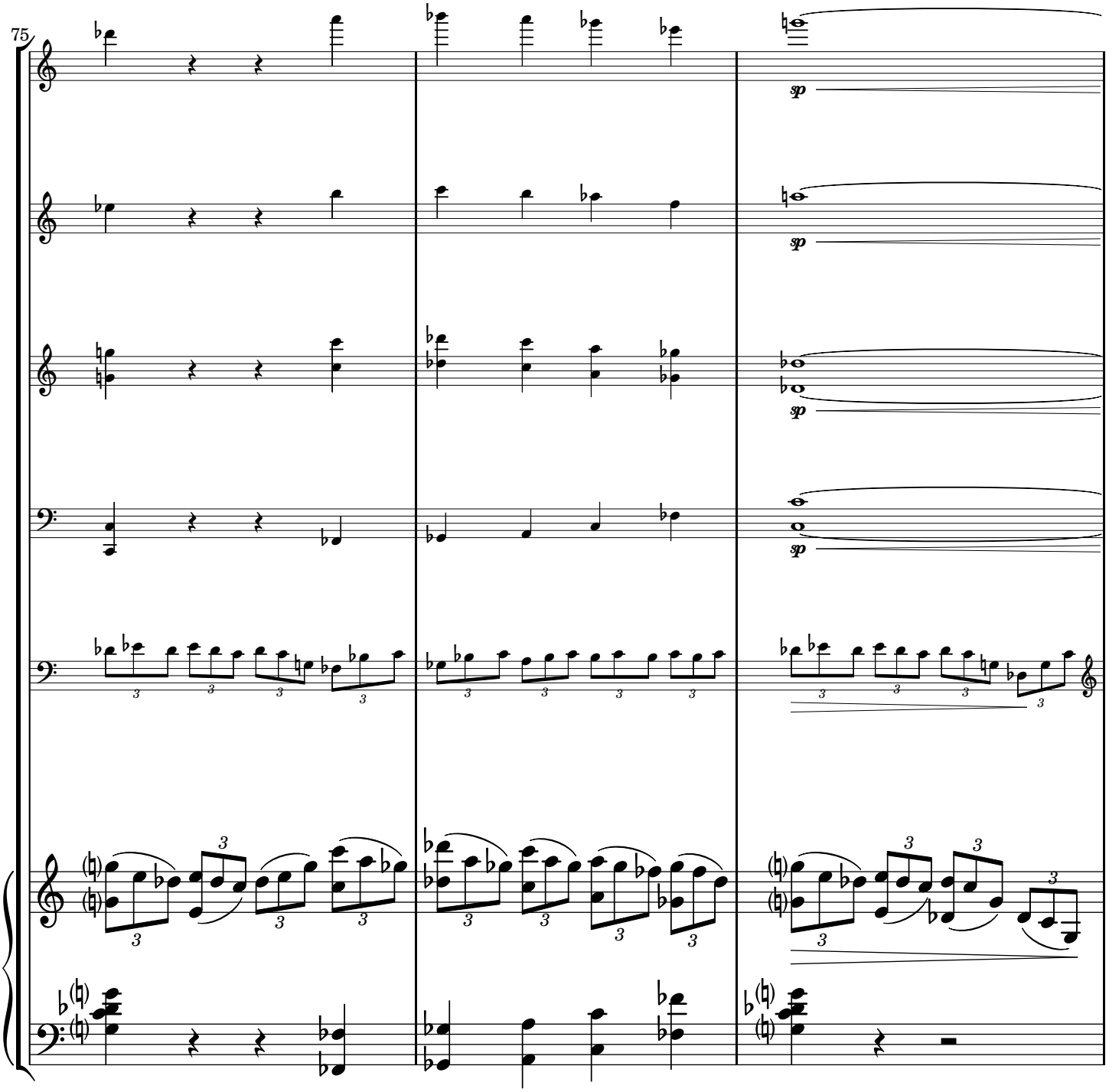
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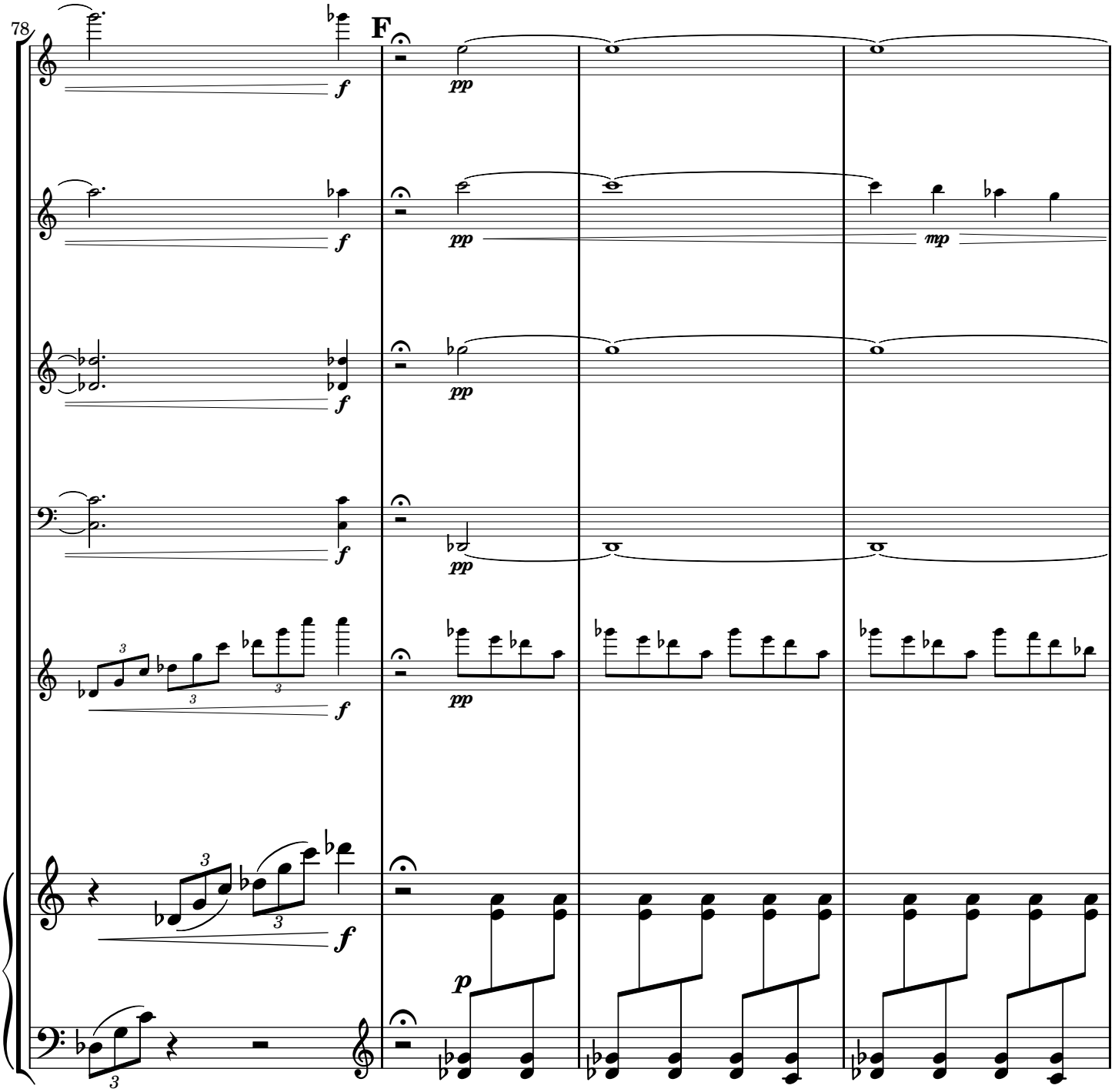
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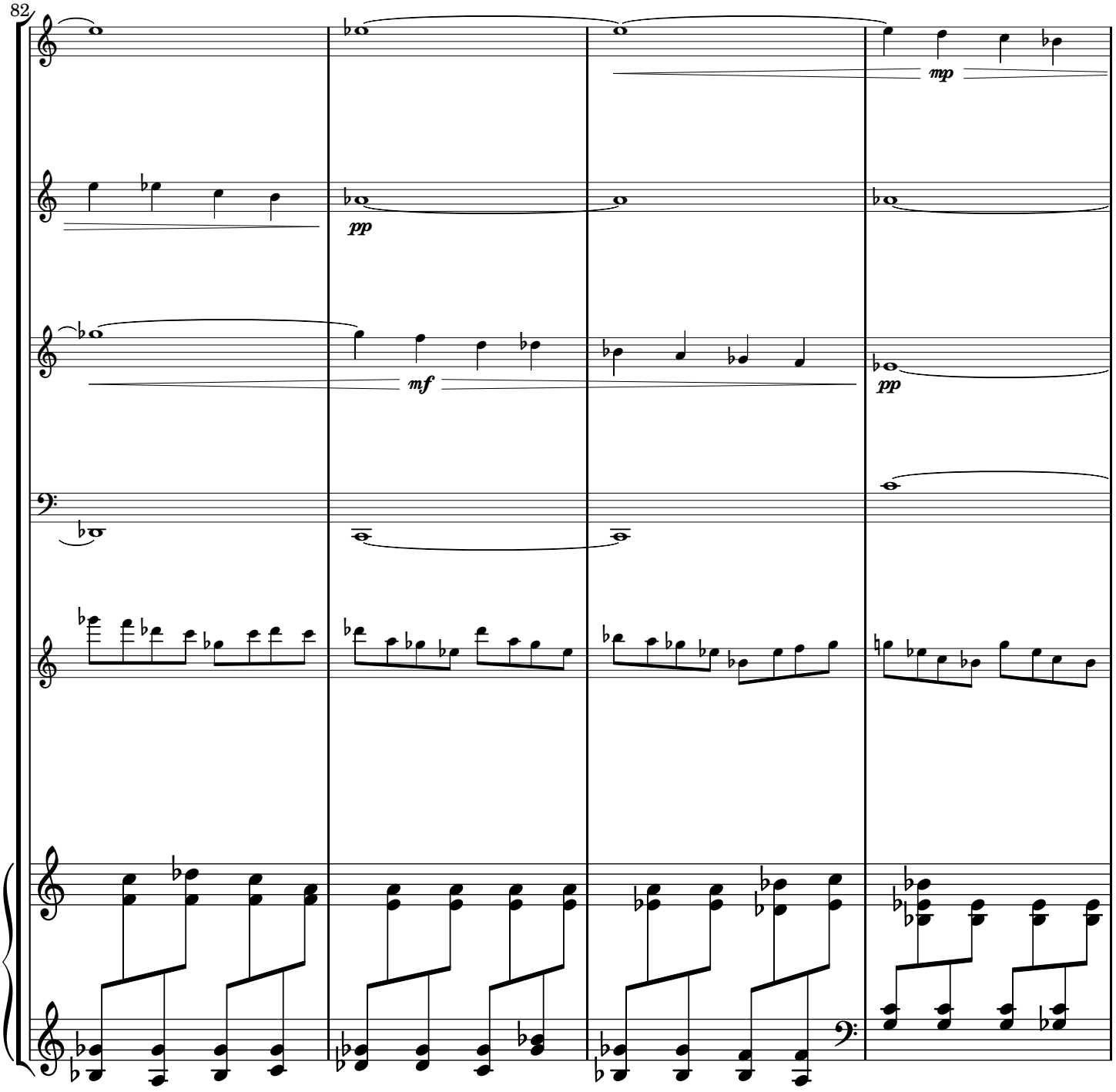
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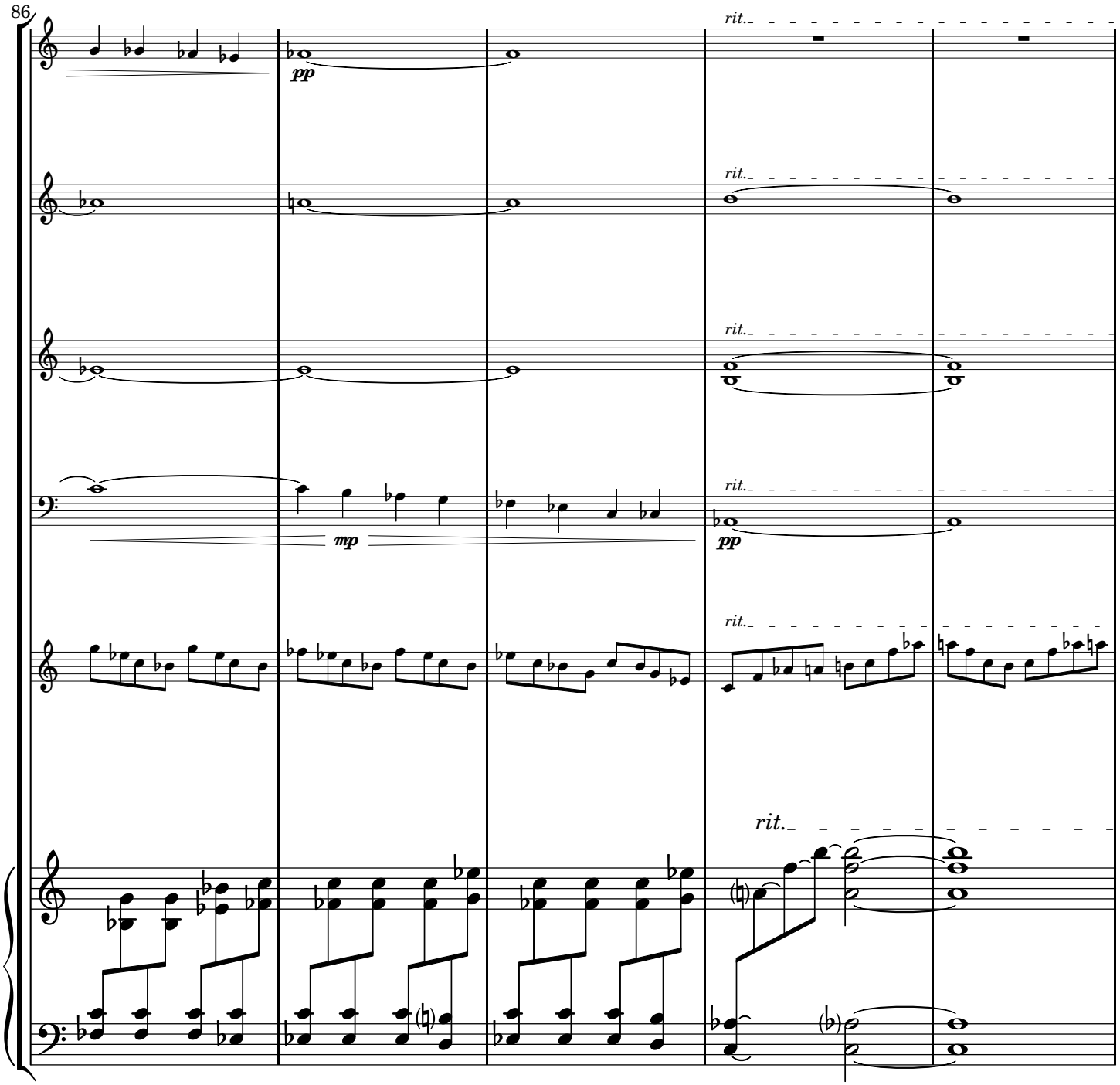
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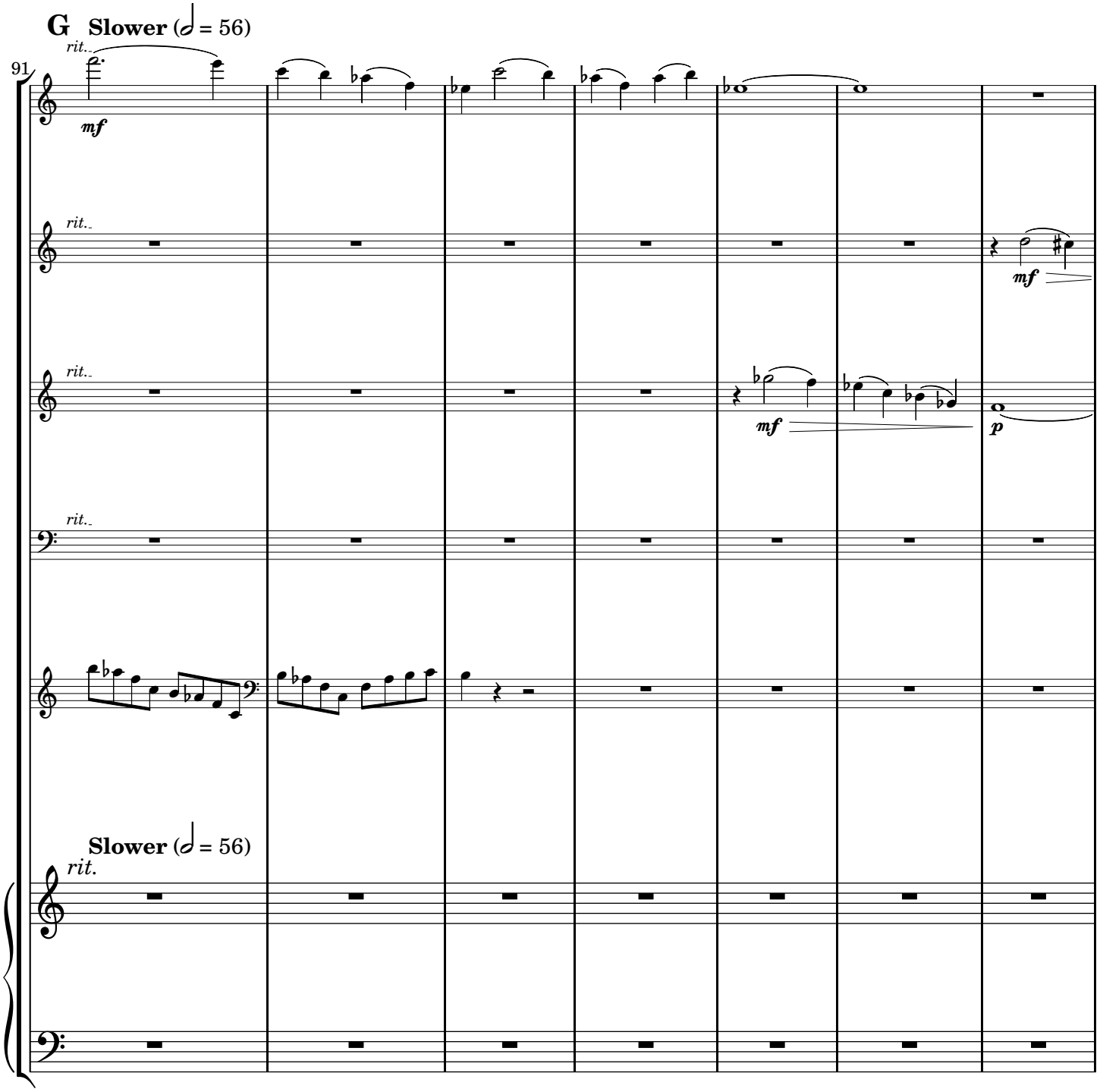
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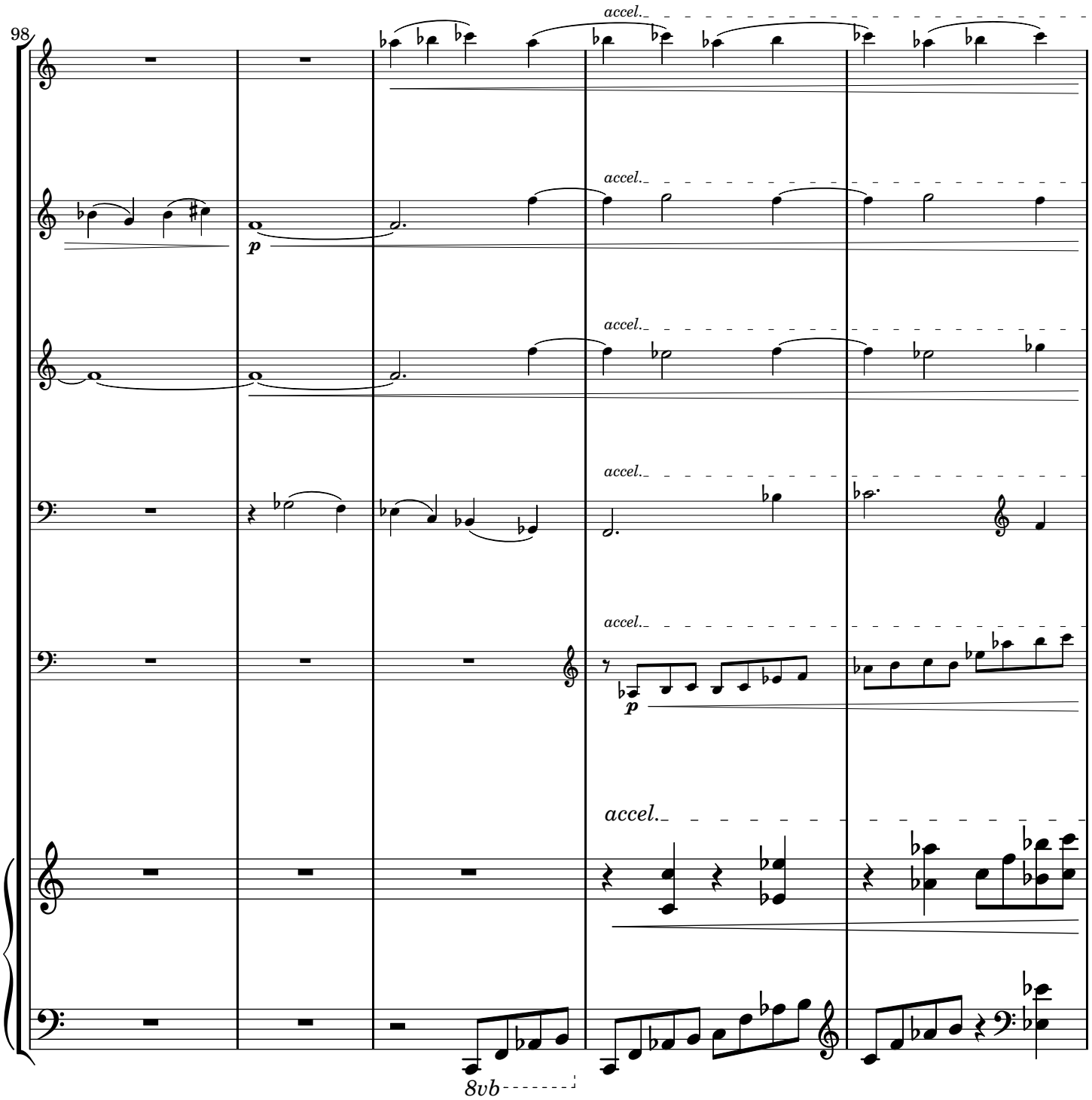
mf
rit.
mf
p
rit.
Slower (♩ = 56)
rit.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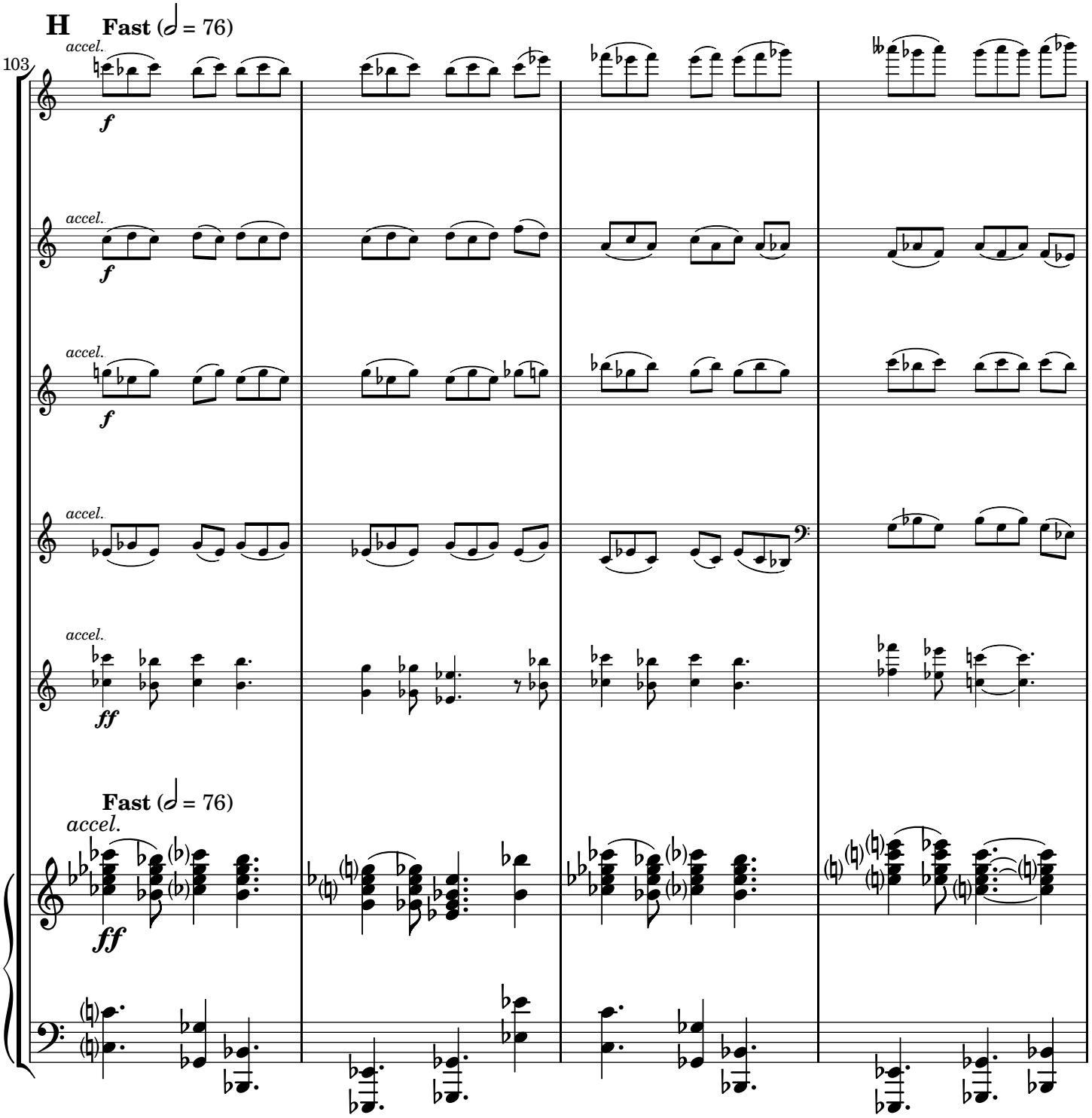
H
Fast (♩ = 76)
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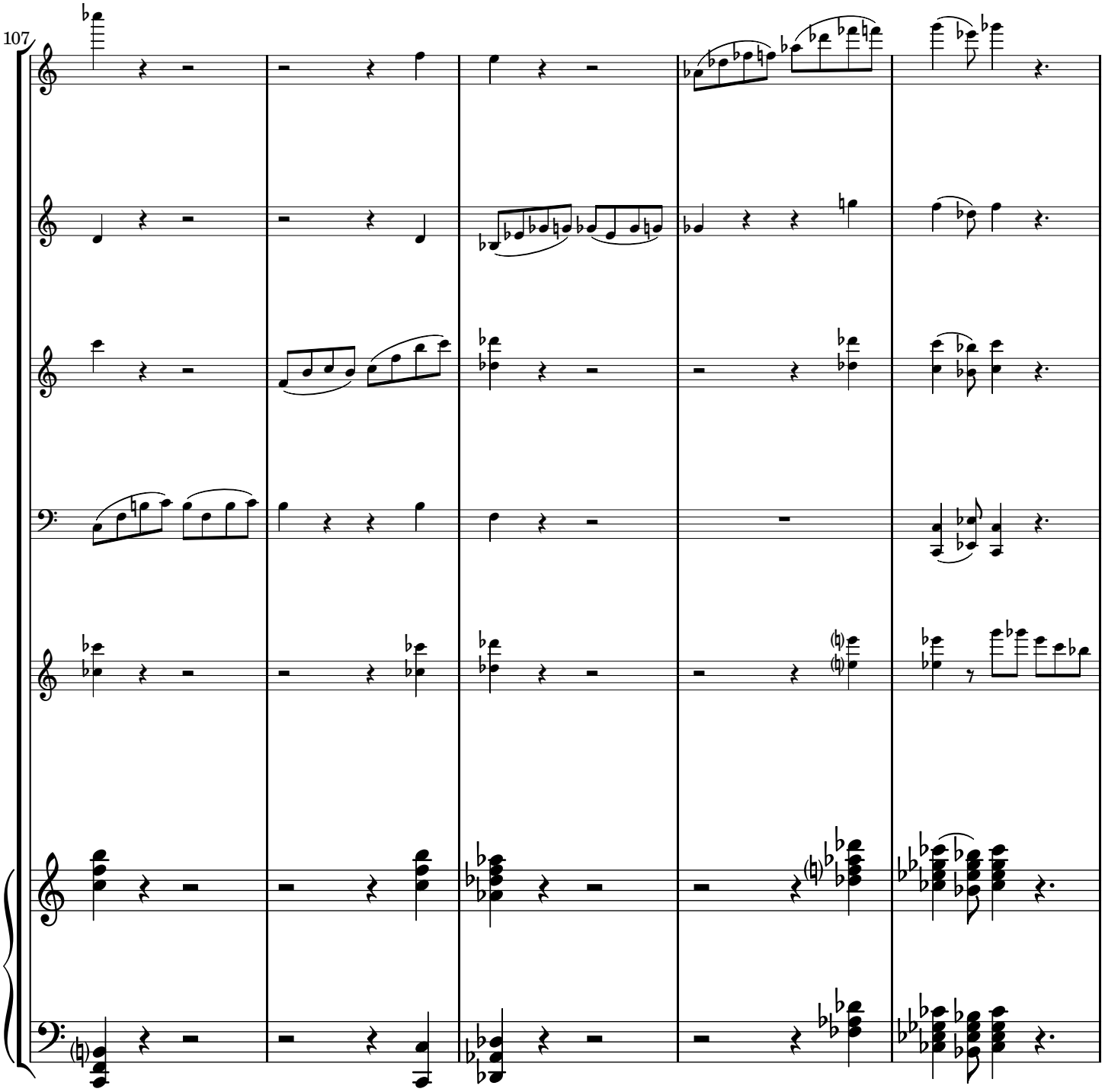
f
accel.
f
accel.
f
accel.
accel.
ff
Fast (♩ = 76)
accel.
ff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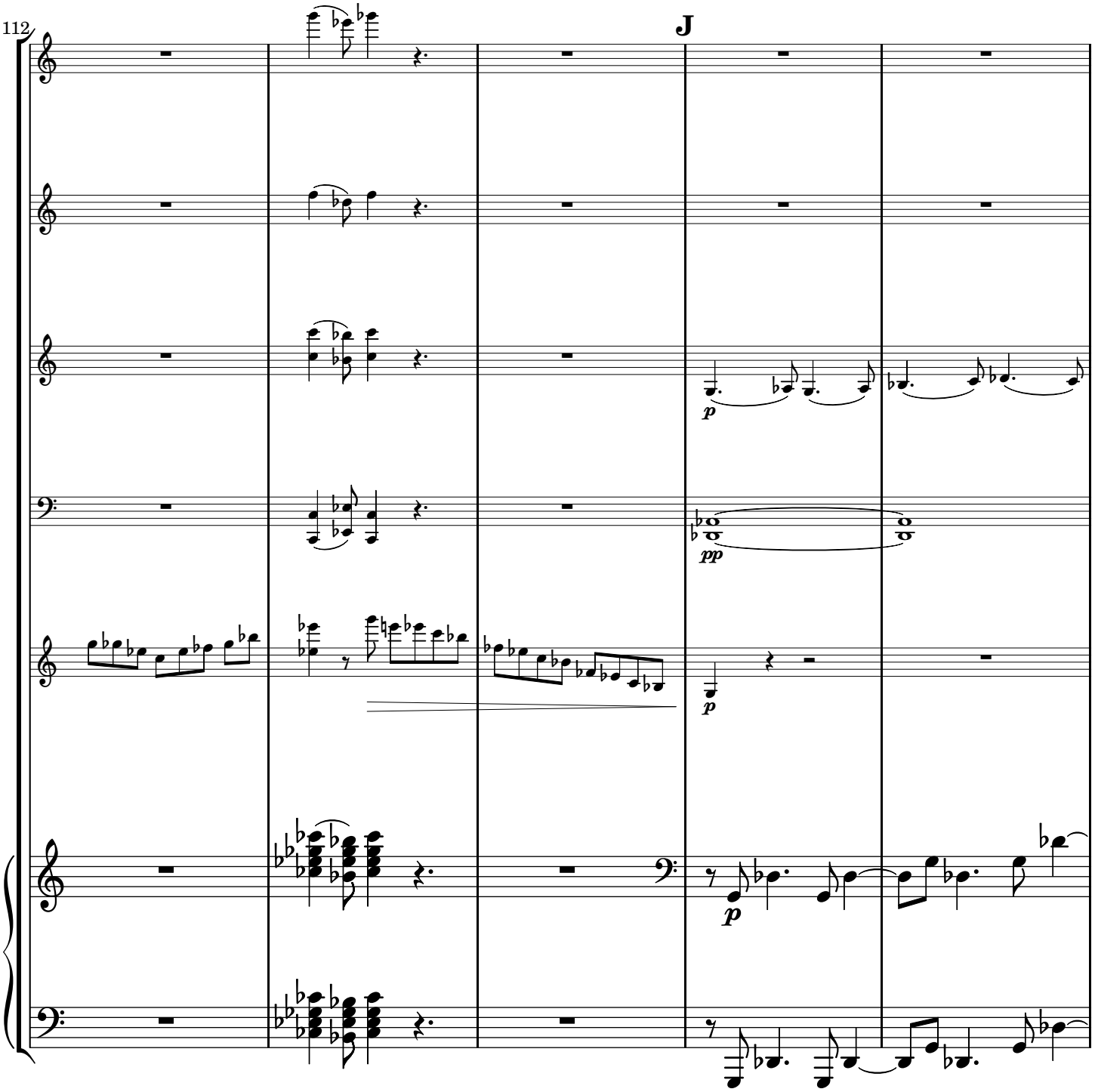
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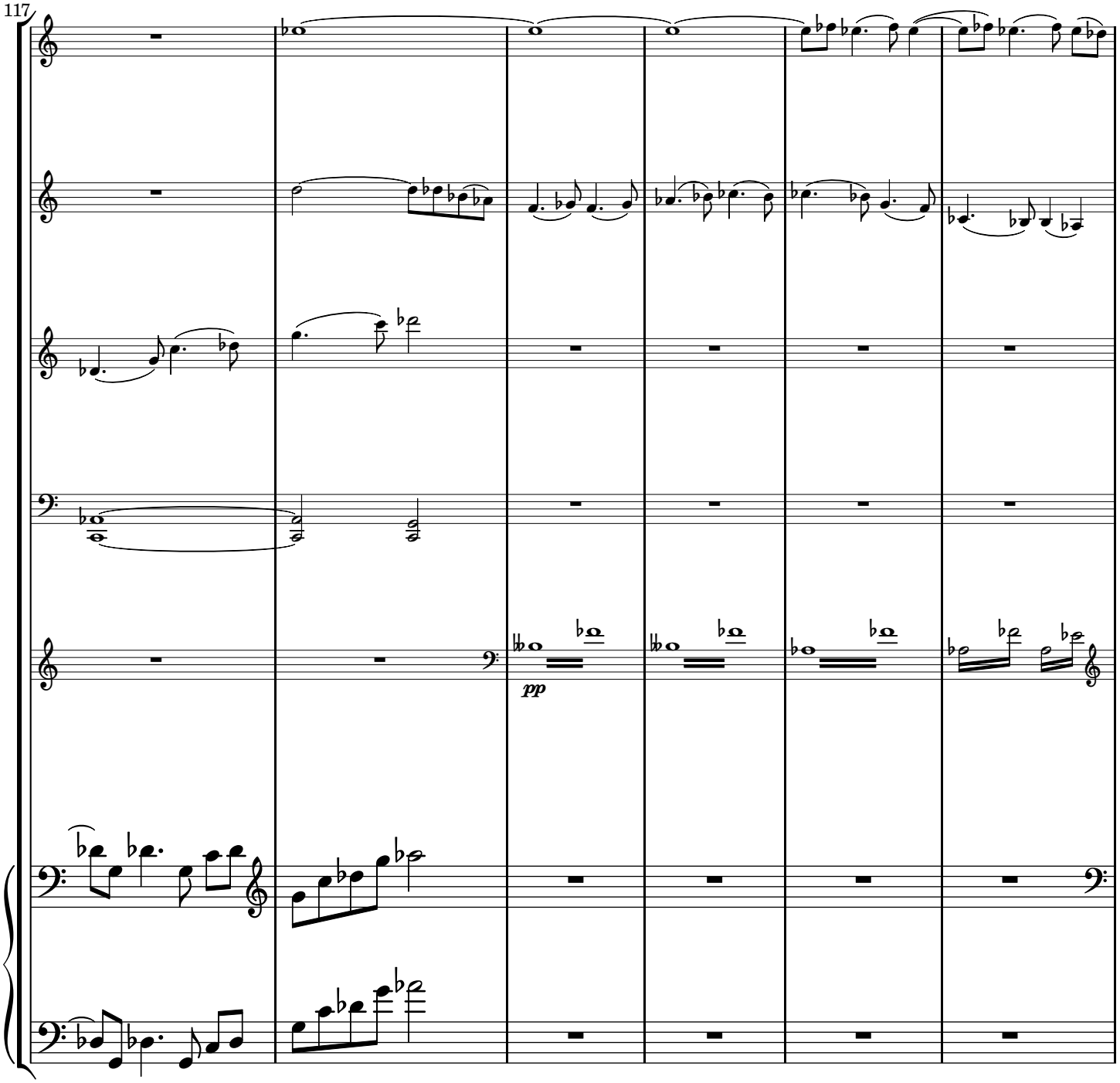
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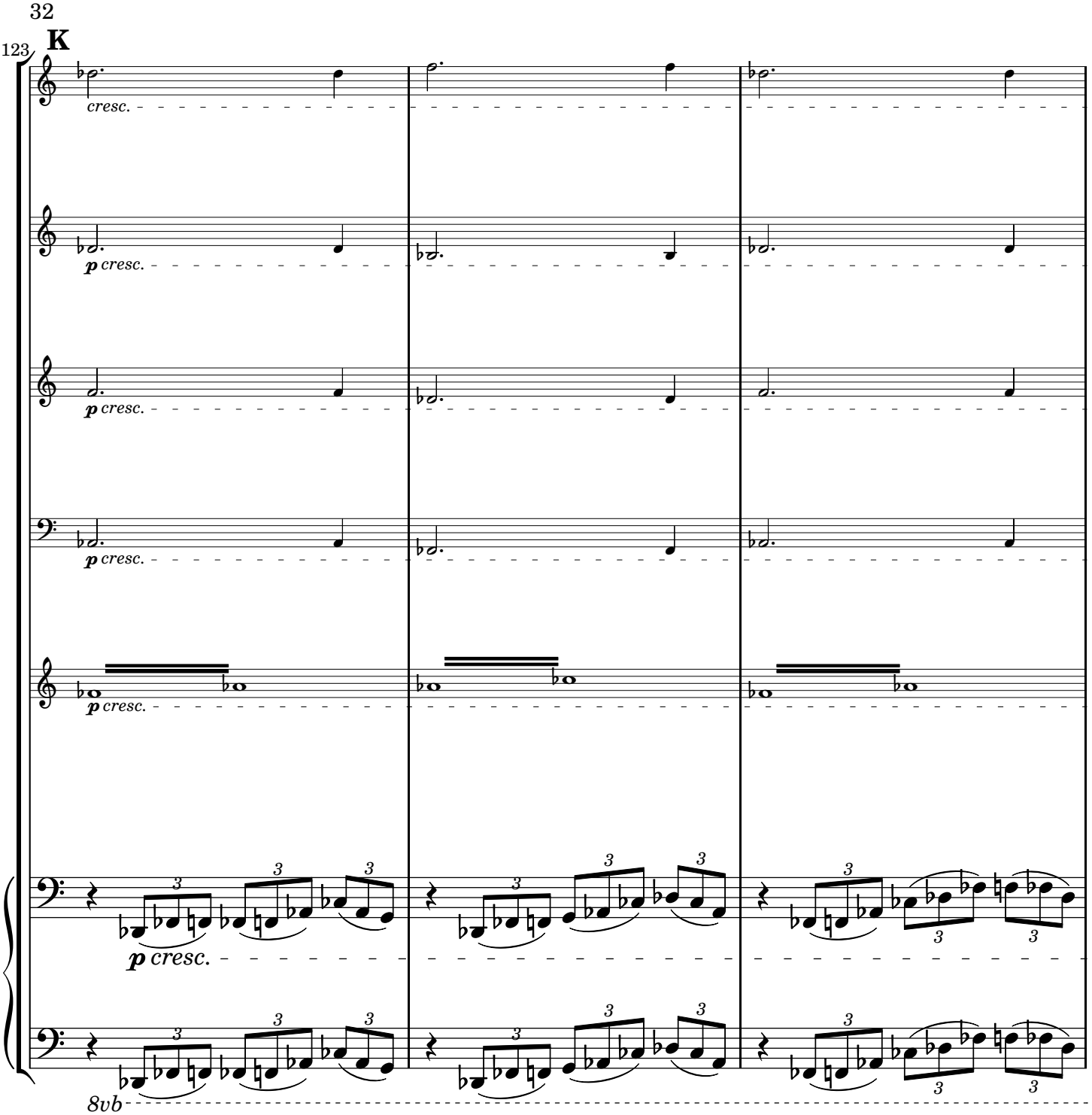
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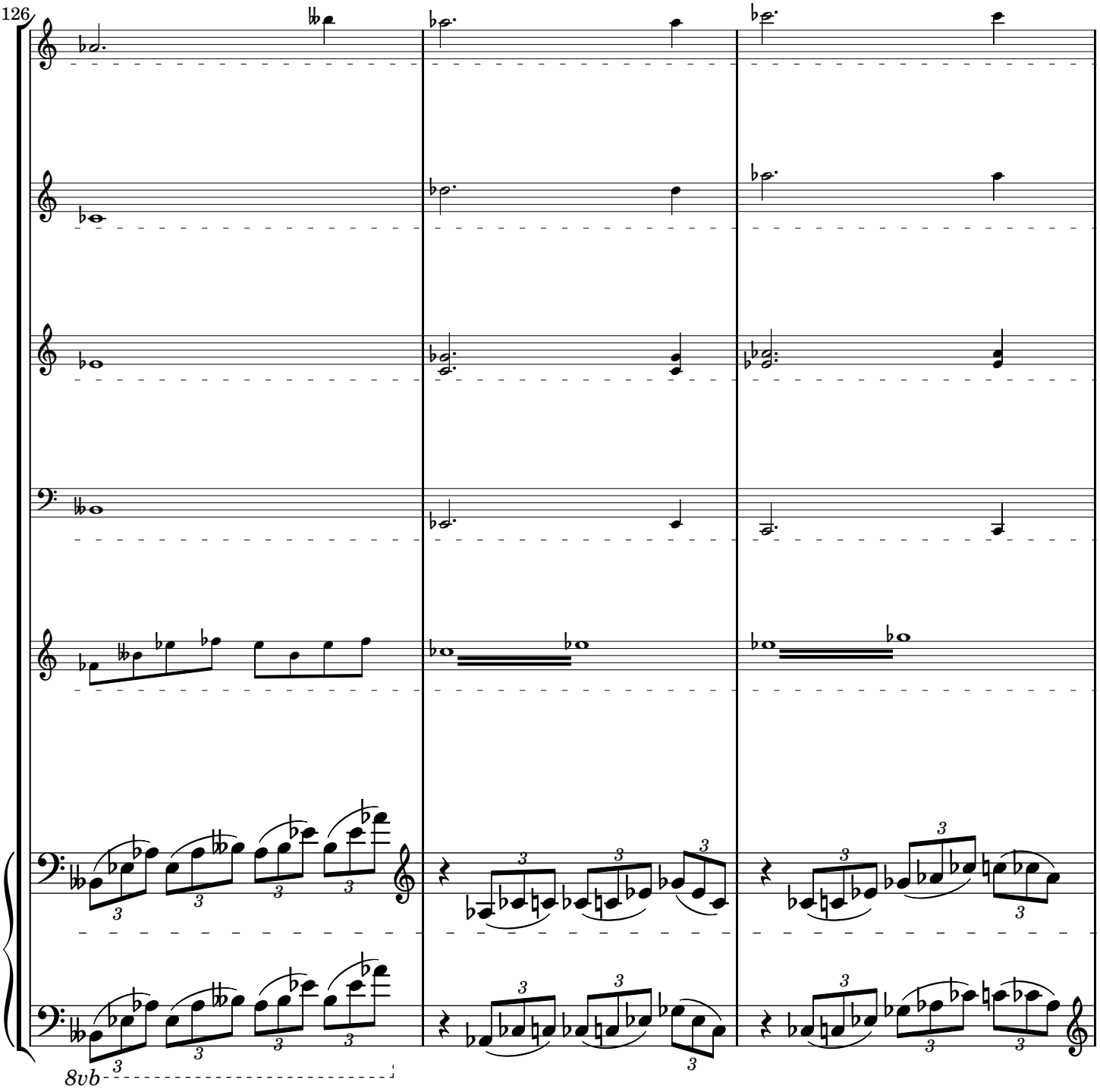
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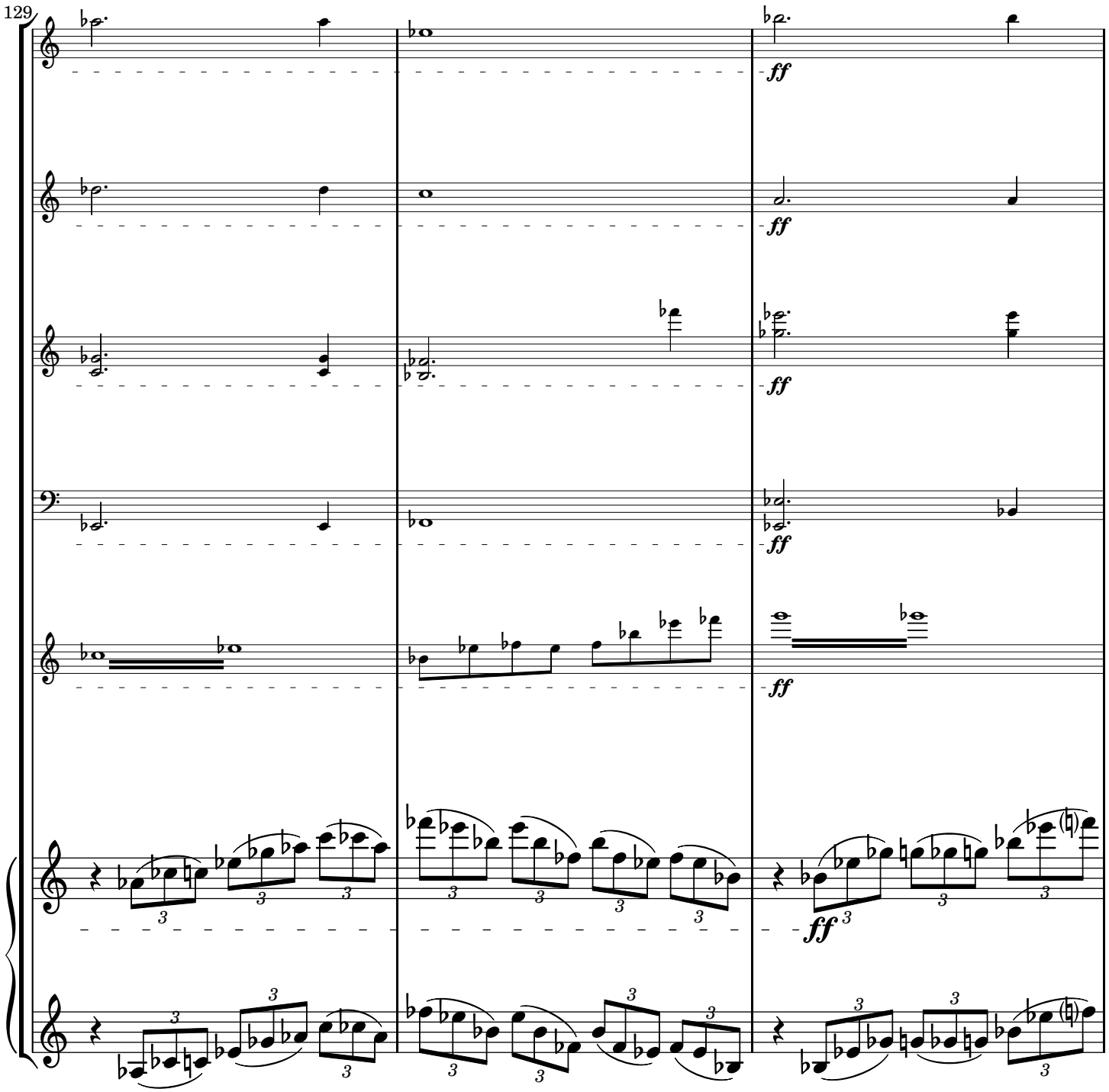
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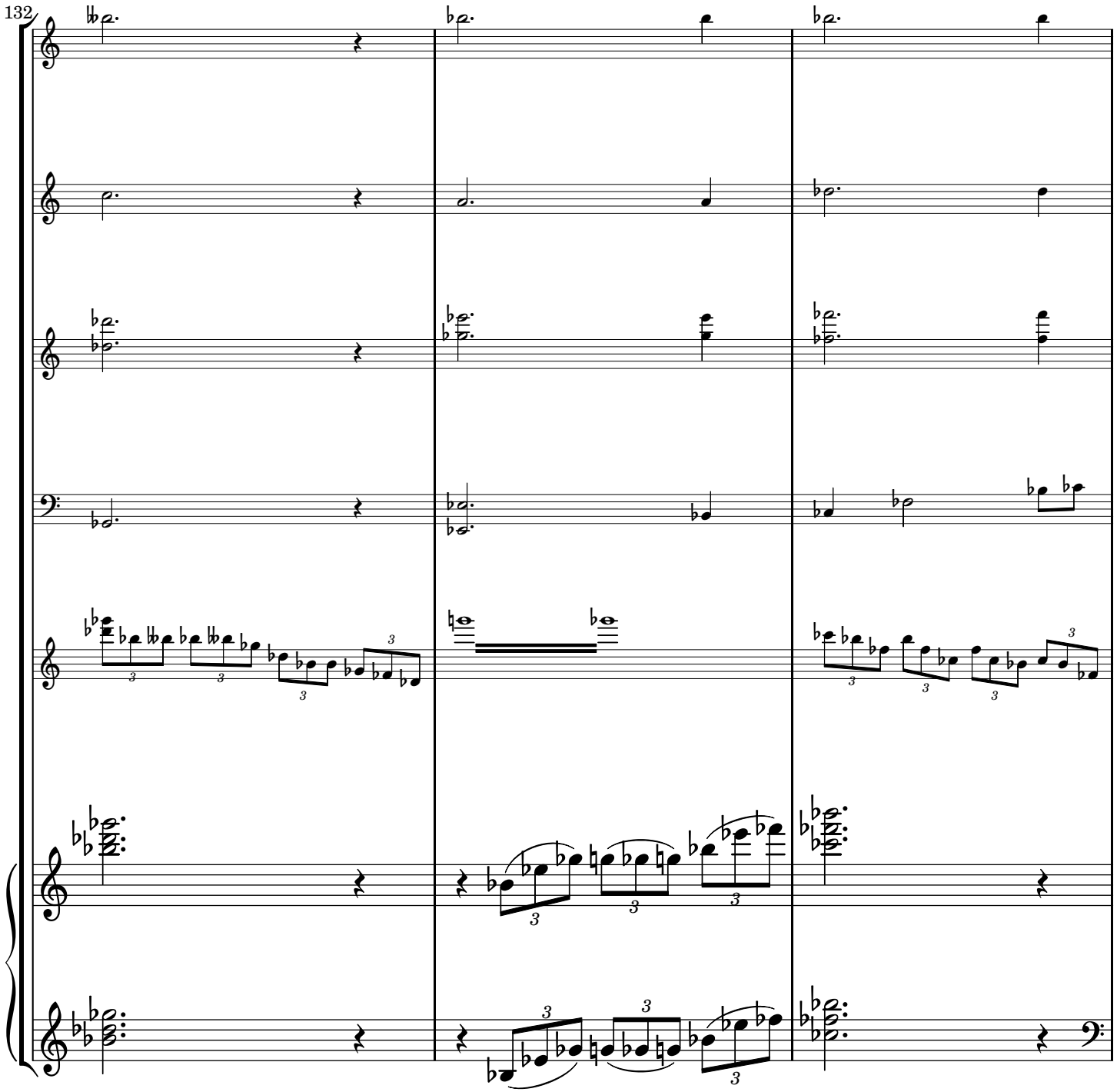
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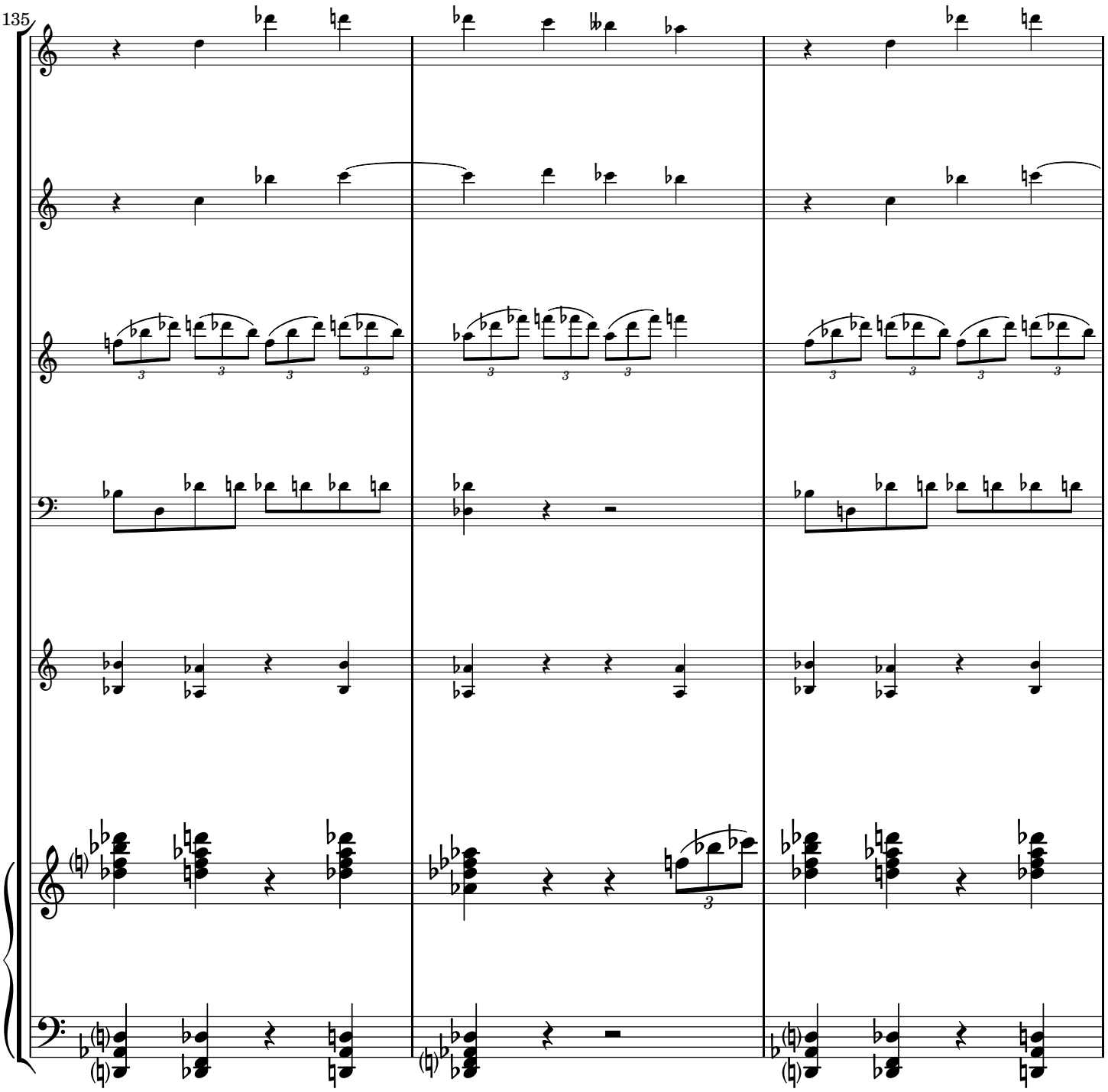
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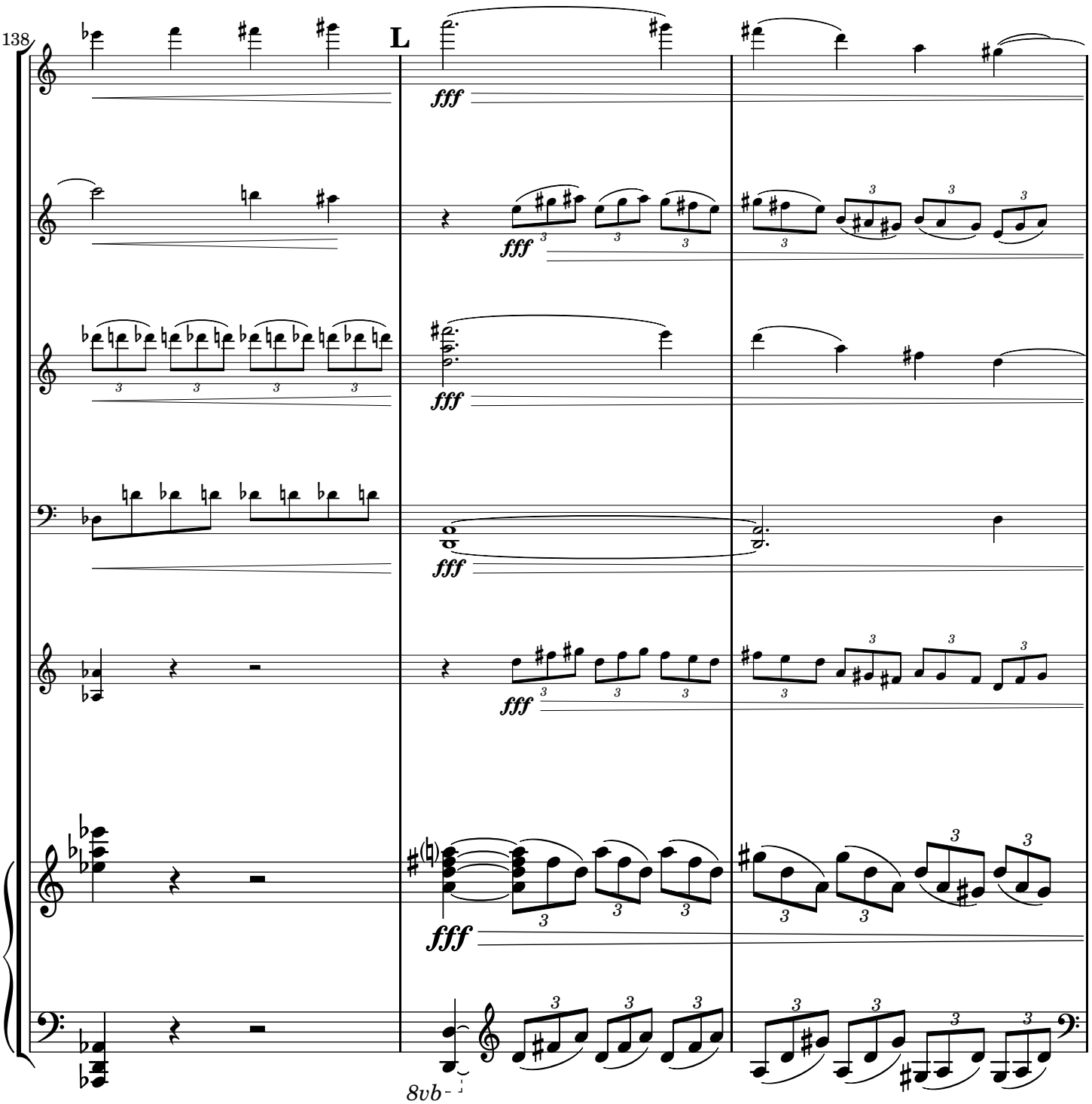
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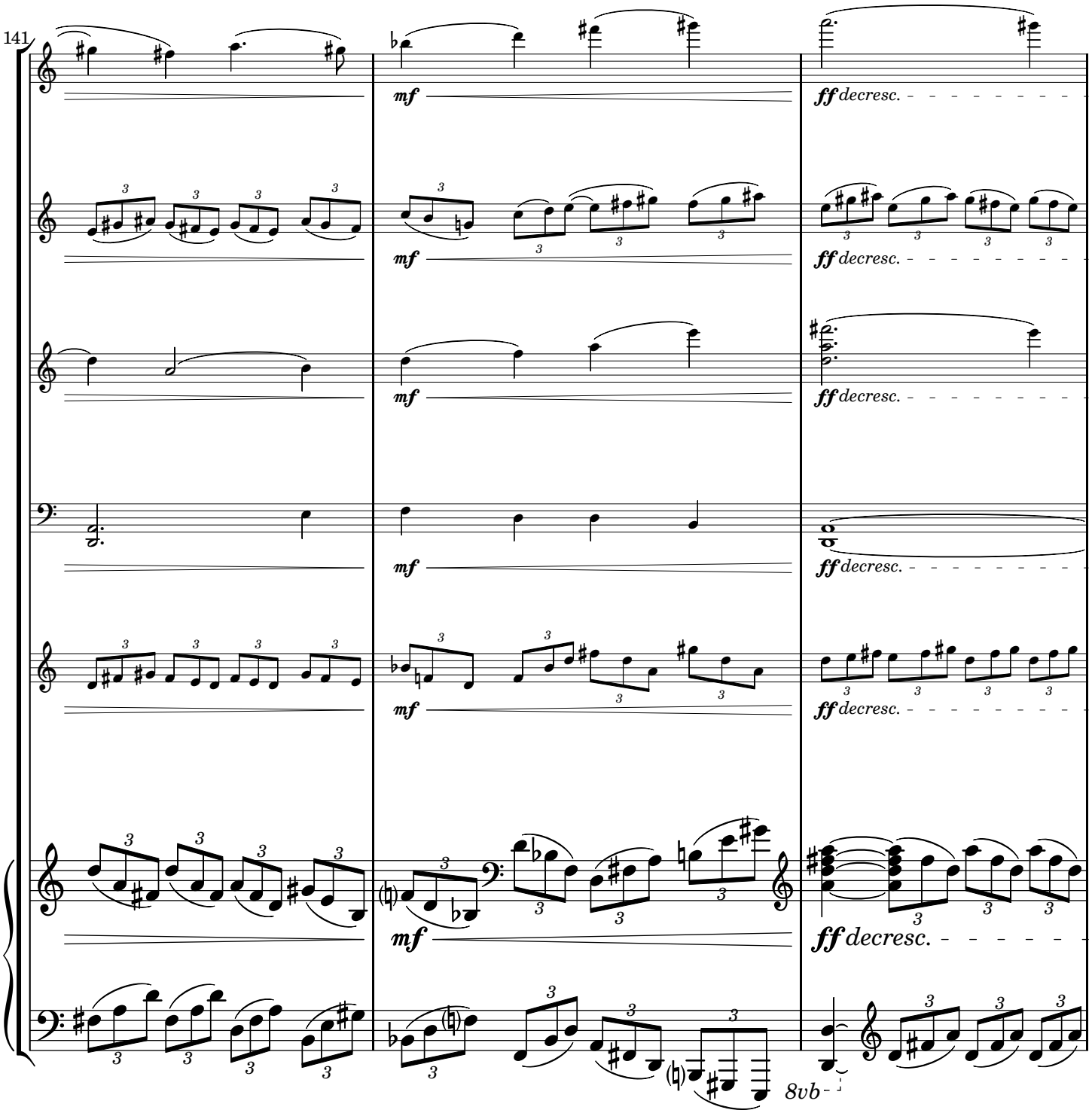
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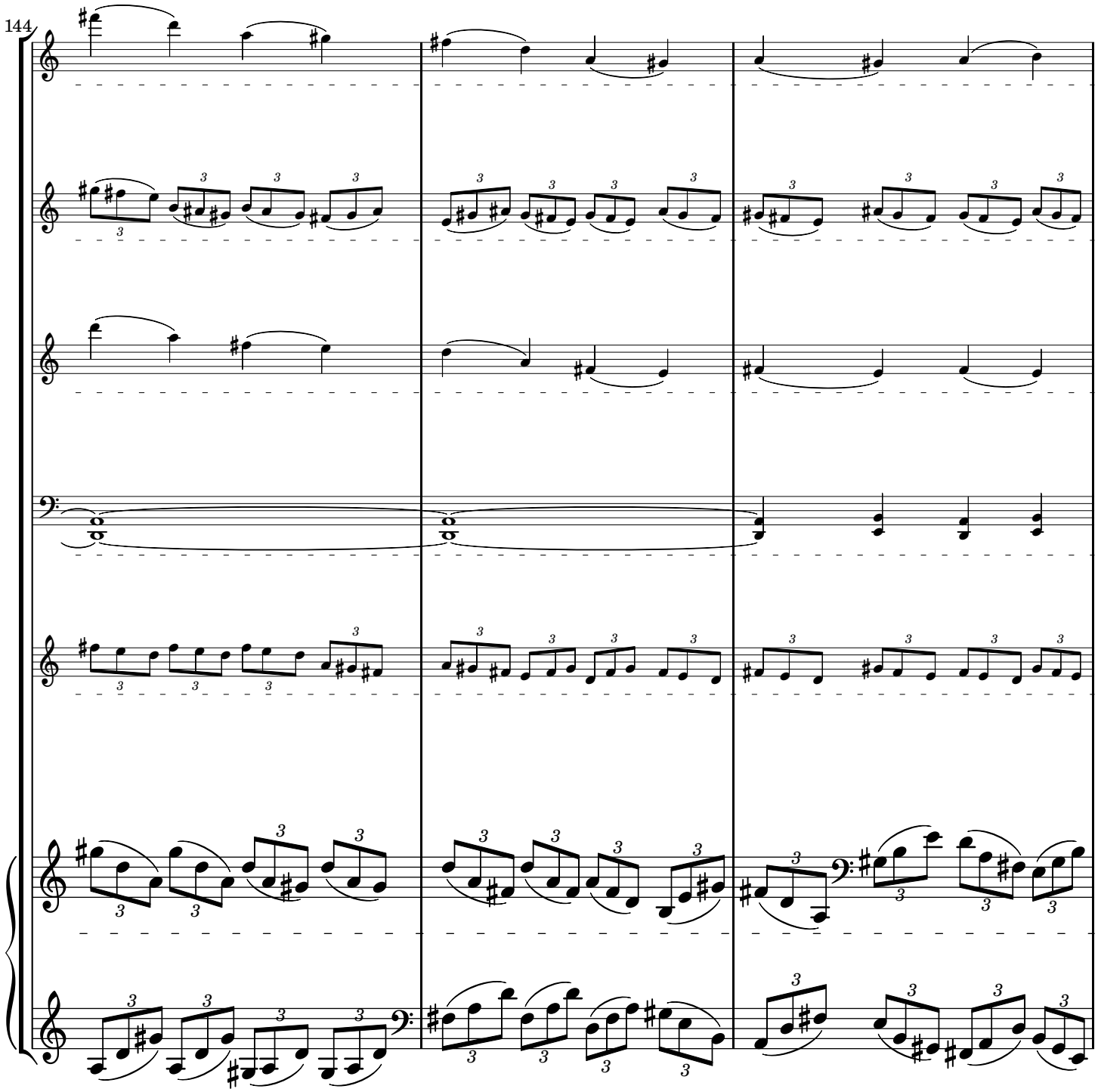
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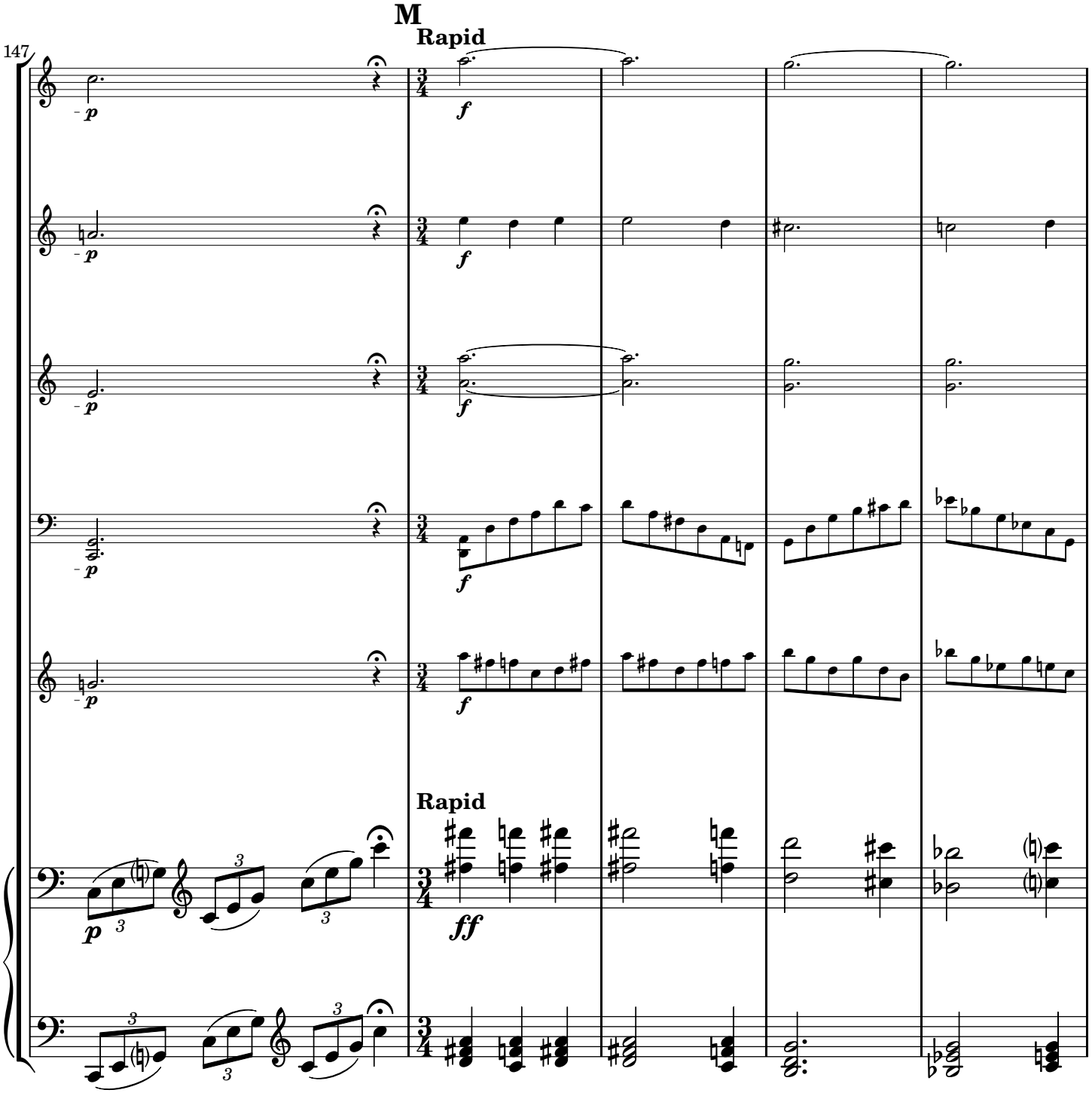
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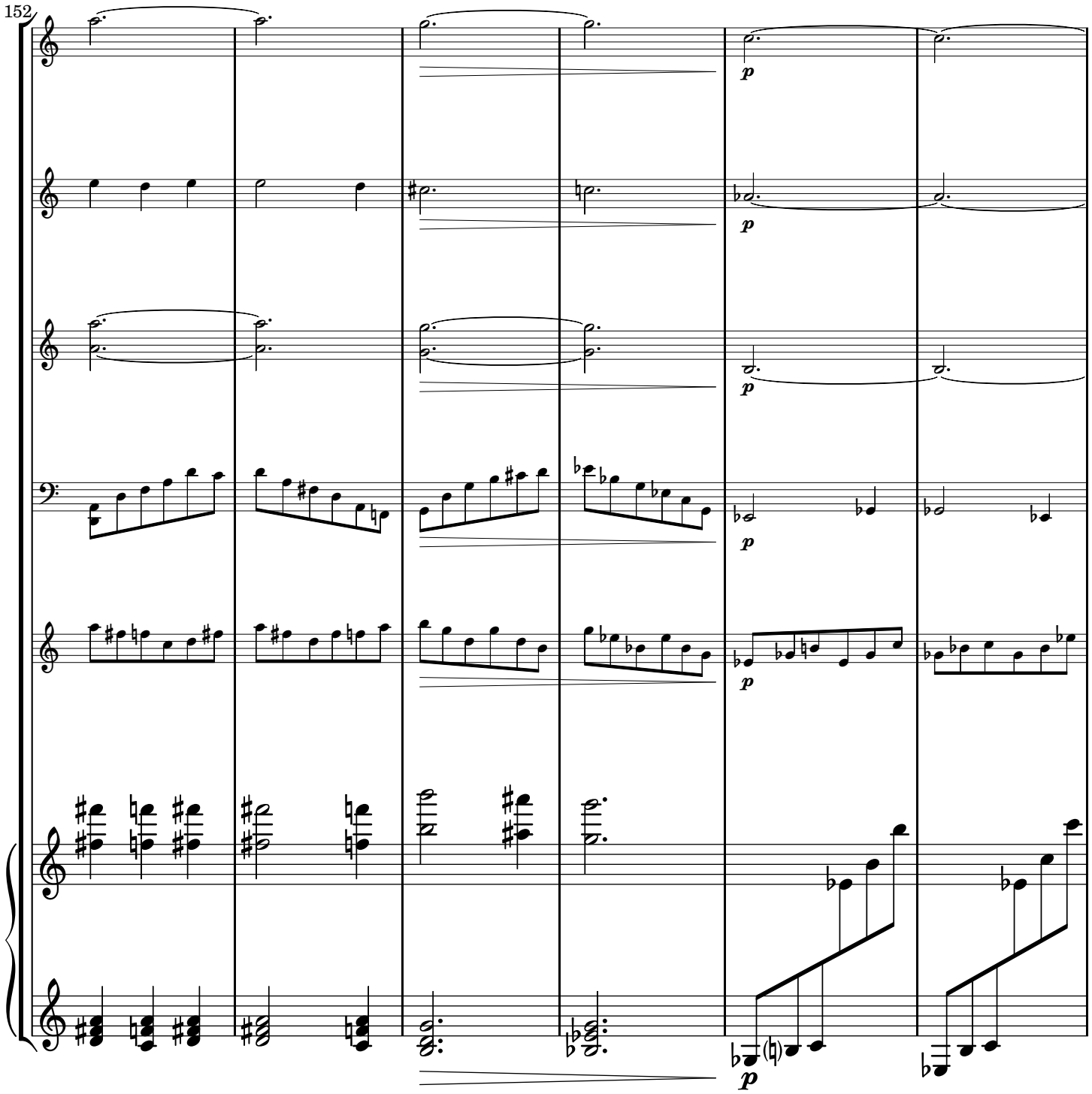
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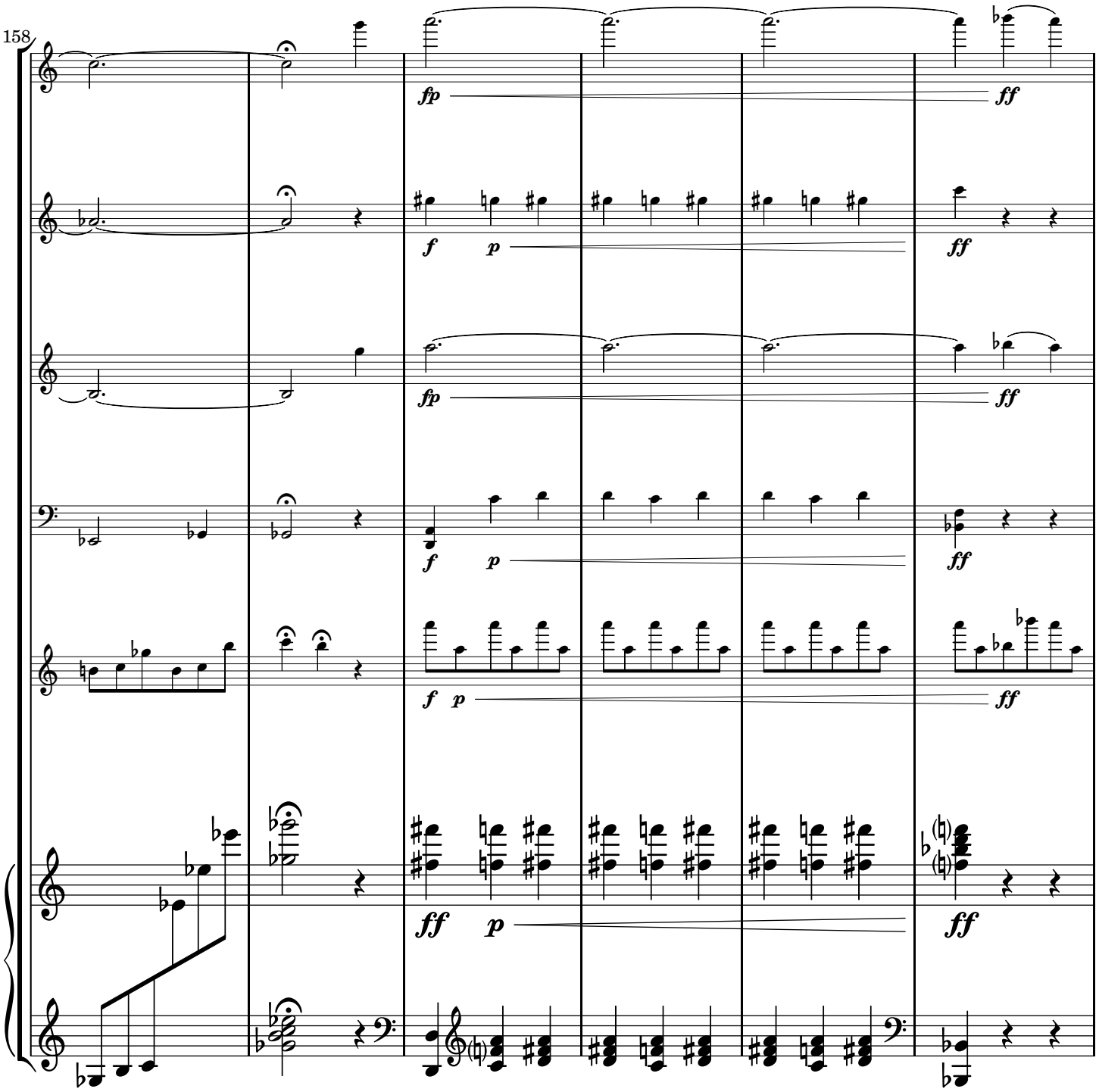
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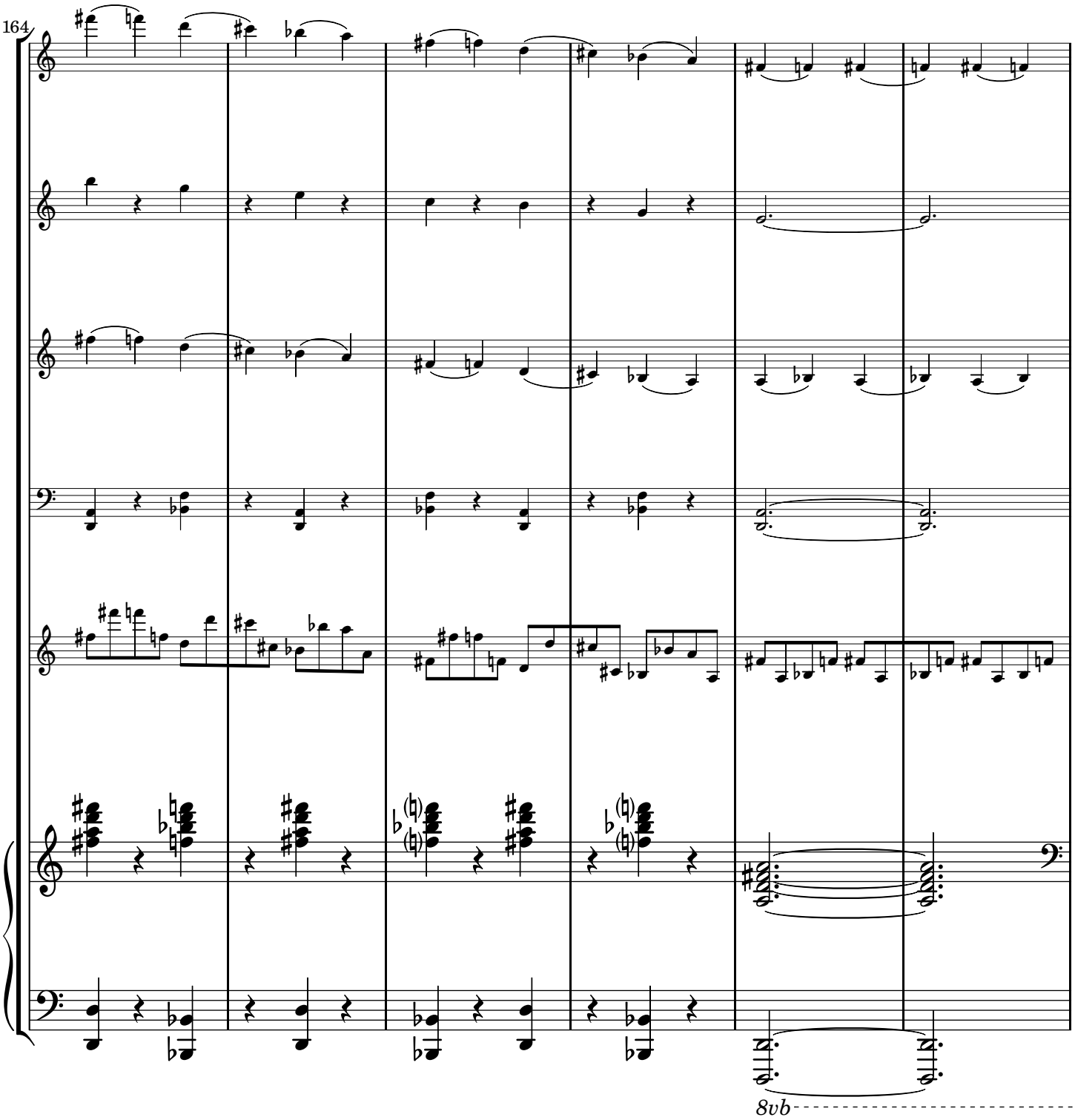
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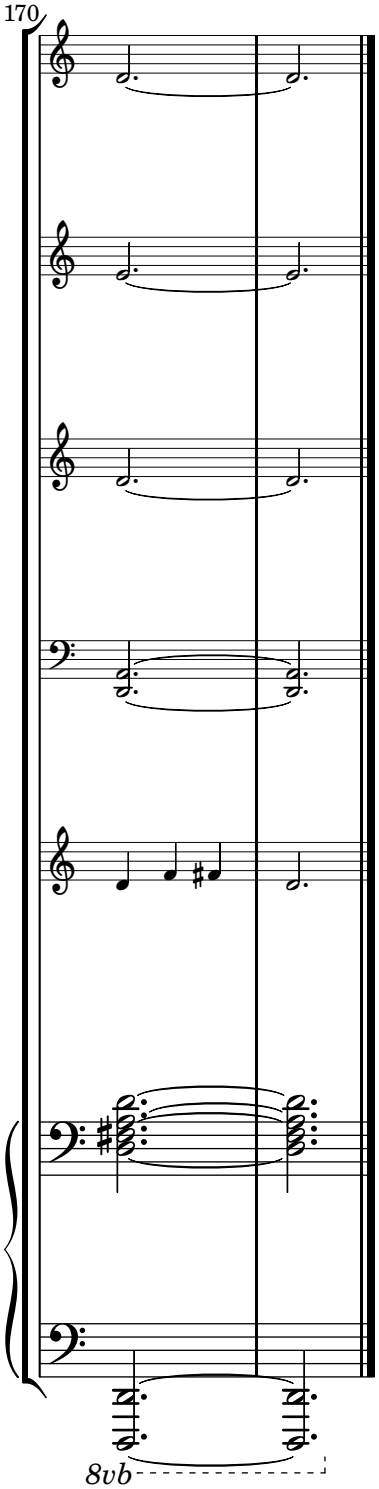
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