Mountain Dance Suite

for clarinet, violin, and piano

Charles Nichols

Commissioned by the Headwaters Dance Company
and Montana State Music Teachers Association,
and written for the Sapphire Trio,
at the Ucross Artist Retreat

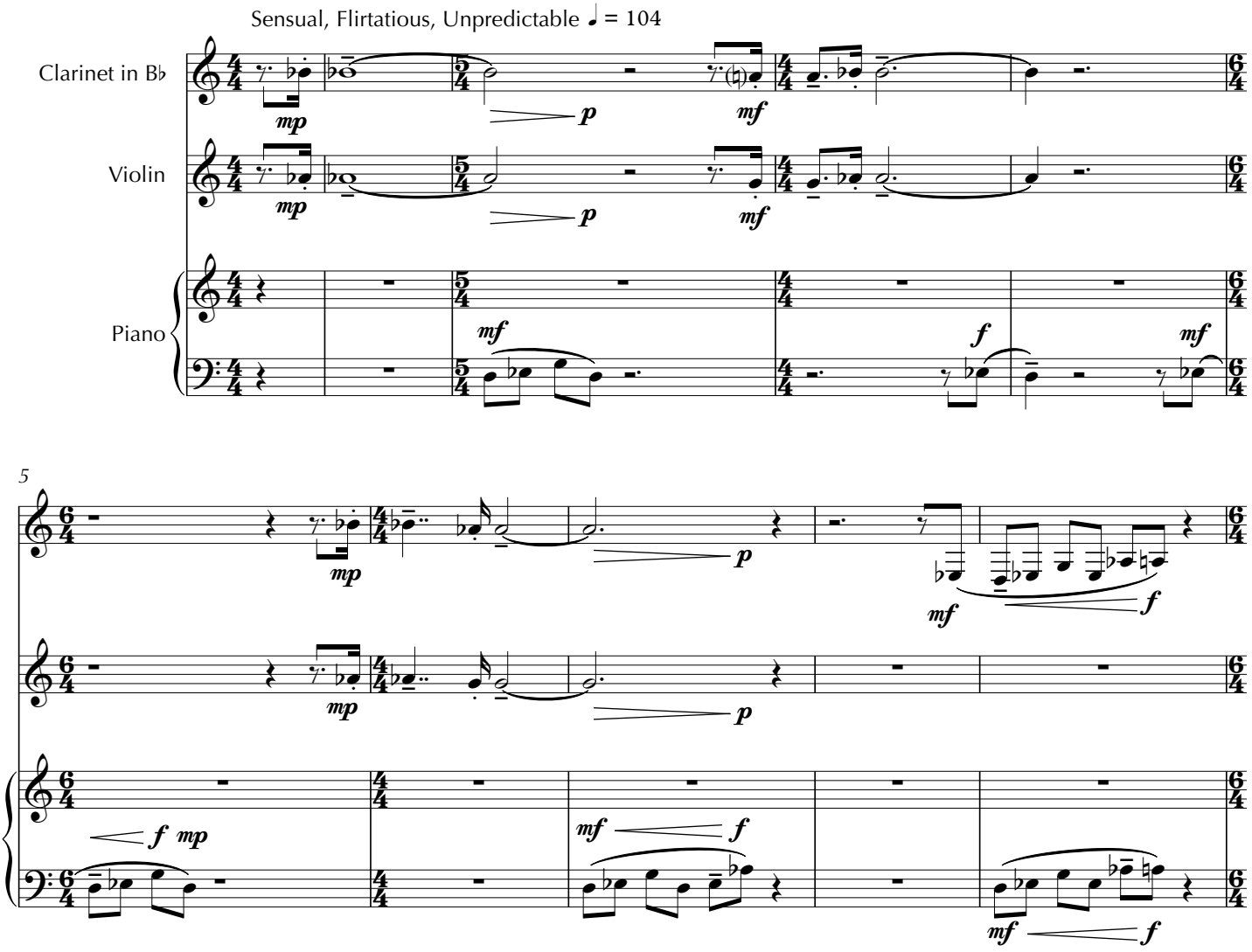
Mountain Dance Suite explores different genres of dance performed throughout history in the mountain regions of the United States. The first movement, *I. Step-Dancing at the M&M*, was a collaboration with choreographer Jane Comfort, and was premiered by the Sapphire Trio and Headwaters Dance Company, who commissioned the work. The second movement, *II. Tango at the Downtown Dance Collective* was commissioned by the Montana State Music Teachers Association, and written at the Ucross Artist Retreat for the Sapphire Trio.

Composer, violinist, and computer music researcher **Charles Nichols** (www.charlesnichols.com) explores the expressive potential of instrumental ensembles, computer music systems, and combinations of the two, for the concert stage, and collaborations with dance, video, and installation art. He teaches Composition and Creative Technologies for the School of Performing Arts and is a Faculty Affiliate at the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology at Virginia Tech, and previously taught at the University of Montana. He has earned degrees from the Eastman School of Music, Yale University, and Stanford University, where he studied composition with Samuel Adler, Martin Bresnick, Jacob Druckman, and Jonathan Harvey, and computer music with Jonathan Berger, Chris Chafe, Max Mathews, and Jean-Claude Risset. He has received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, National Science Foundation, and New Music USA, and commissions from the Third Angle Ensemble, Headwaters Dance Company, Montana Transport Company, Prop Foundation, Montana Institute on Ecosystems, Montana State Music Teachers Association, Myrna Loy Center for the Performing and Media Arts, Missoula Art Museum, Association of American Medical Colleges, Institute of Medicine and Humanities, Montana Public Radio, Virginia Tech, Drake University, University of Oregon, University of Montana, and Temple University. He has worked with ensembles including the Beo String Quartet, FLUX Quartet, Third Angle Ensemble, Namaste Ensemble, Sapphire Trio, Cascade String Quartet, and the Missoula Symphony Orchestra, and has received recognition from the National Academy of Music, La Fundación Destellos, the Institut International de Musique Electroacoustique de Bourges, ASCAP, and the Montana Arts Council. His compositions, including acoustic and electroacoustic music, for large and chamber ensembles, and fixed media, accompanying dance and animation, have been presented at conferences and festivals in the US, Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Cuba, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Northern Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, and South Korea, and his research, including data sonification, telematic musical performance, haptic musical human-computer interface design, and wavelet audio analysis and resynthesis, has been presented at conferences in the US, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, South Korea, and Sweden. His recent premieres include *Il Prete Rosso*, for amplified violin, motion sensor, and computer, that controls audio effects with a wireless motion sensor on the bow hand of the violinist, *Sound of Rivers: Stone Drum*, a multimedia collaboration, with sonified data, electric violin, and computer music, accompanying narrated poetry, dance, animation, and processed video, based on scientific research into the sound of rivers, and *Nicolo, Jimi, and John*, a three movement concerto, for amplified viola, orchestra, and computer, inspired by the virtuosity of Paganini, Hendrix, and Coltrane.

Commissioned by the Montana State Music Teachers Association
and written for the Sapphire Trio
at the Ucross Foundation Artist Retreat

II. Tango at the Downtown Dance Collective

score in C



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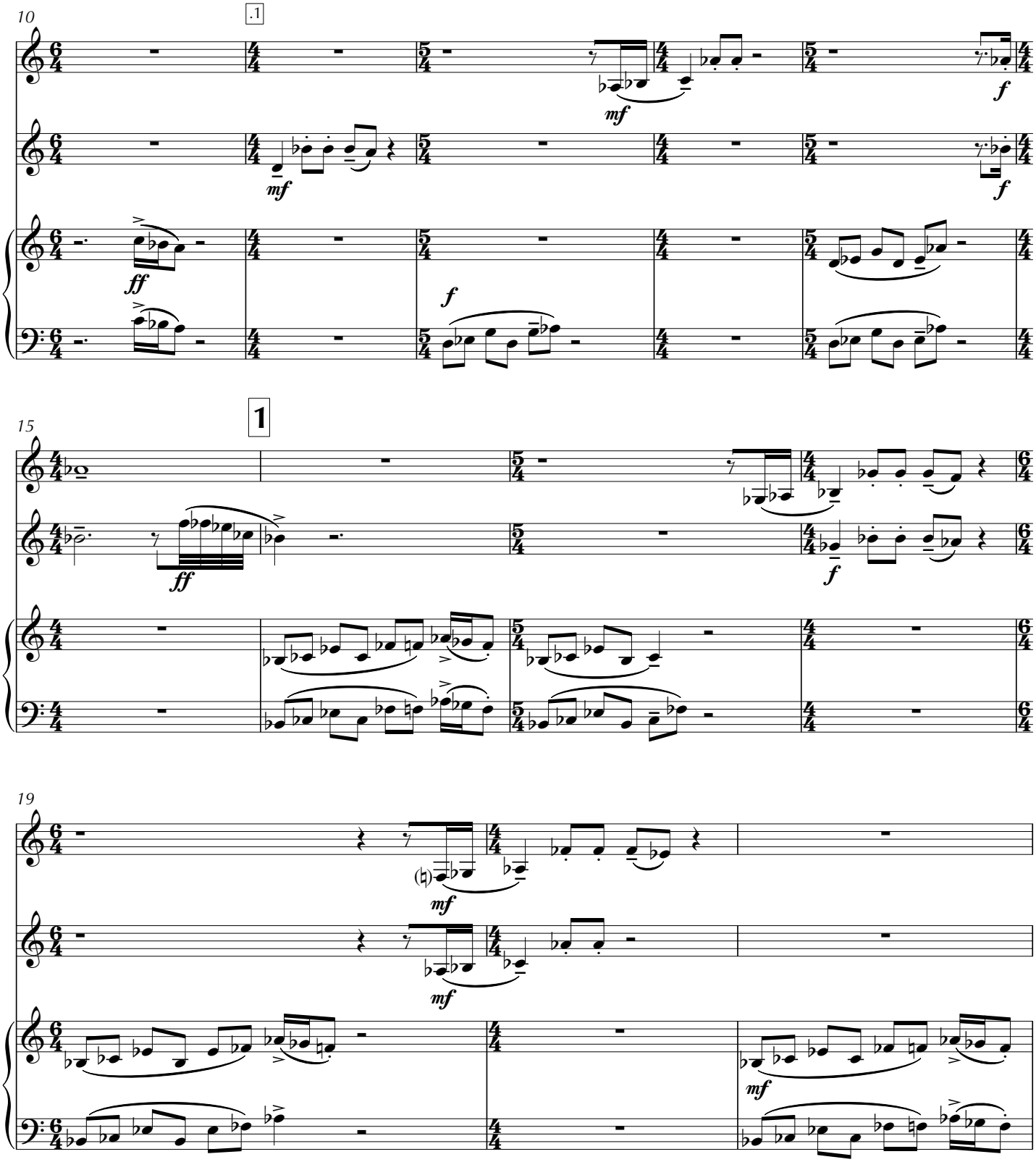
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f
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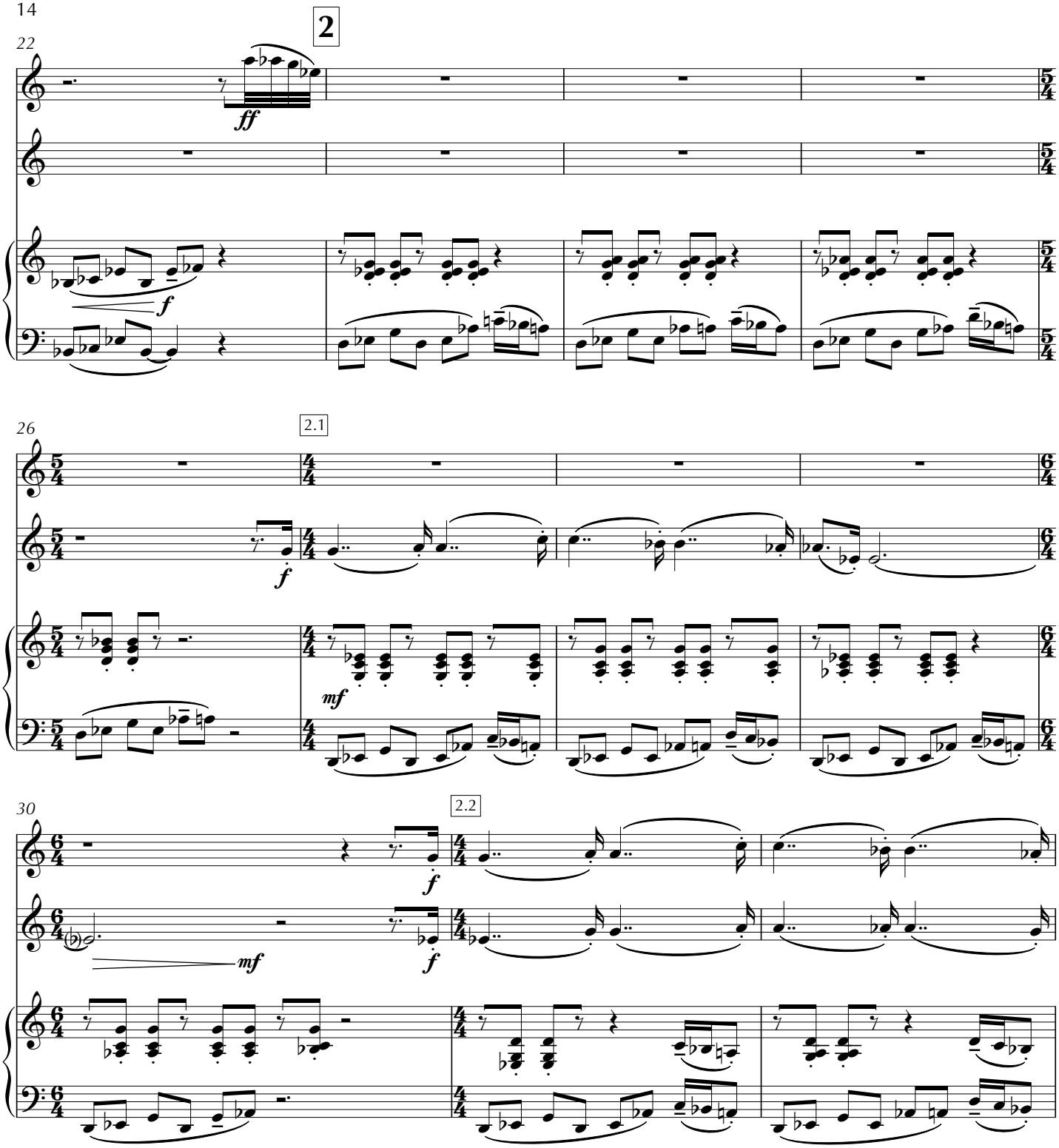
mf
mf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f
mf
30
2.2
f
mf
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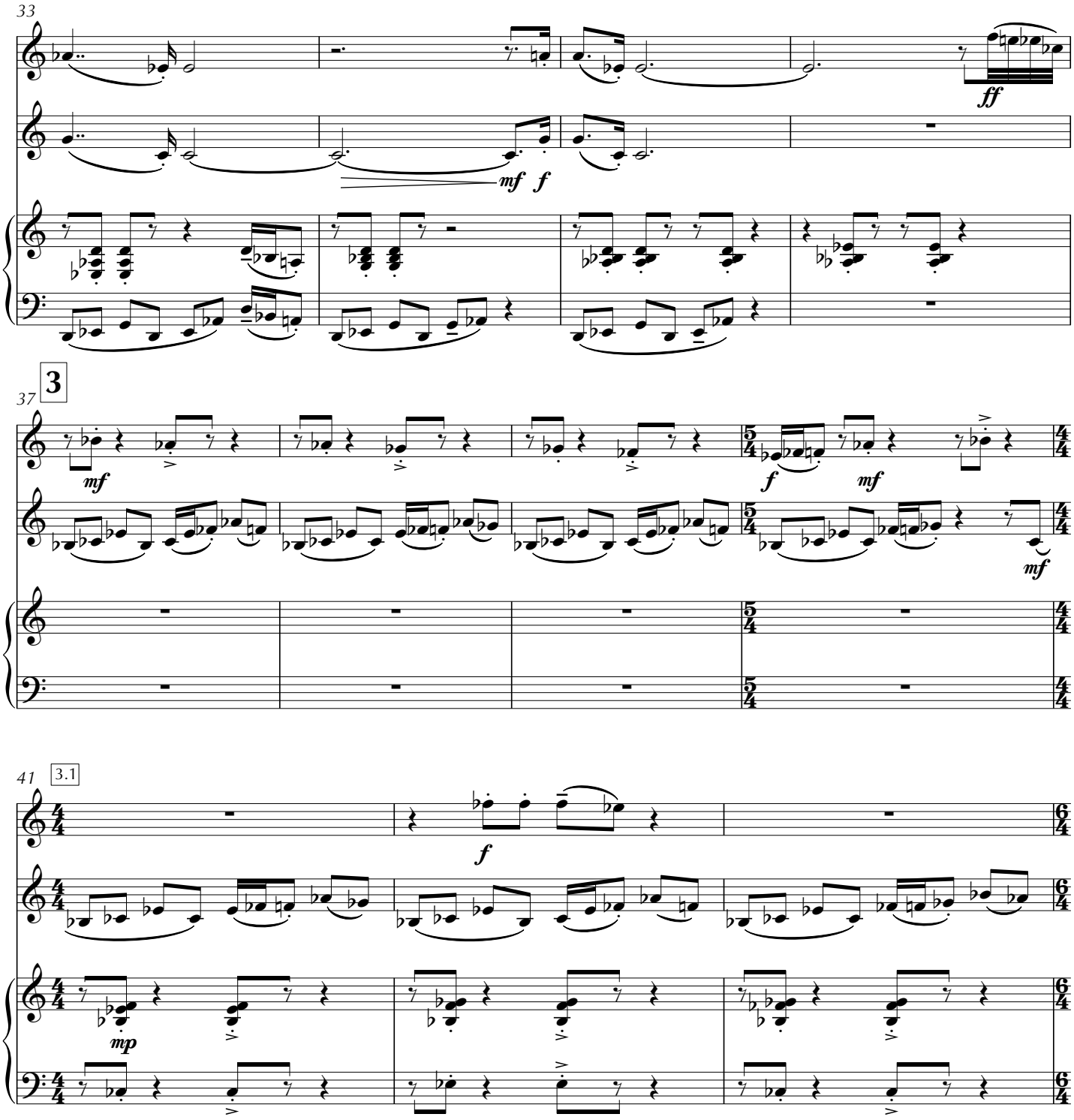
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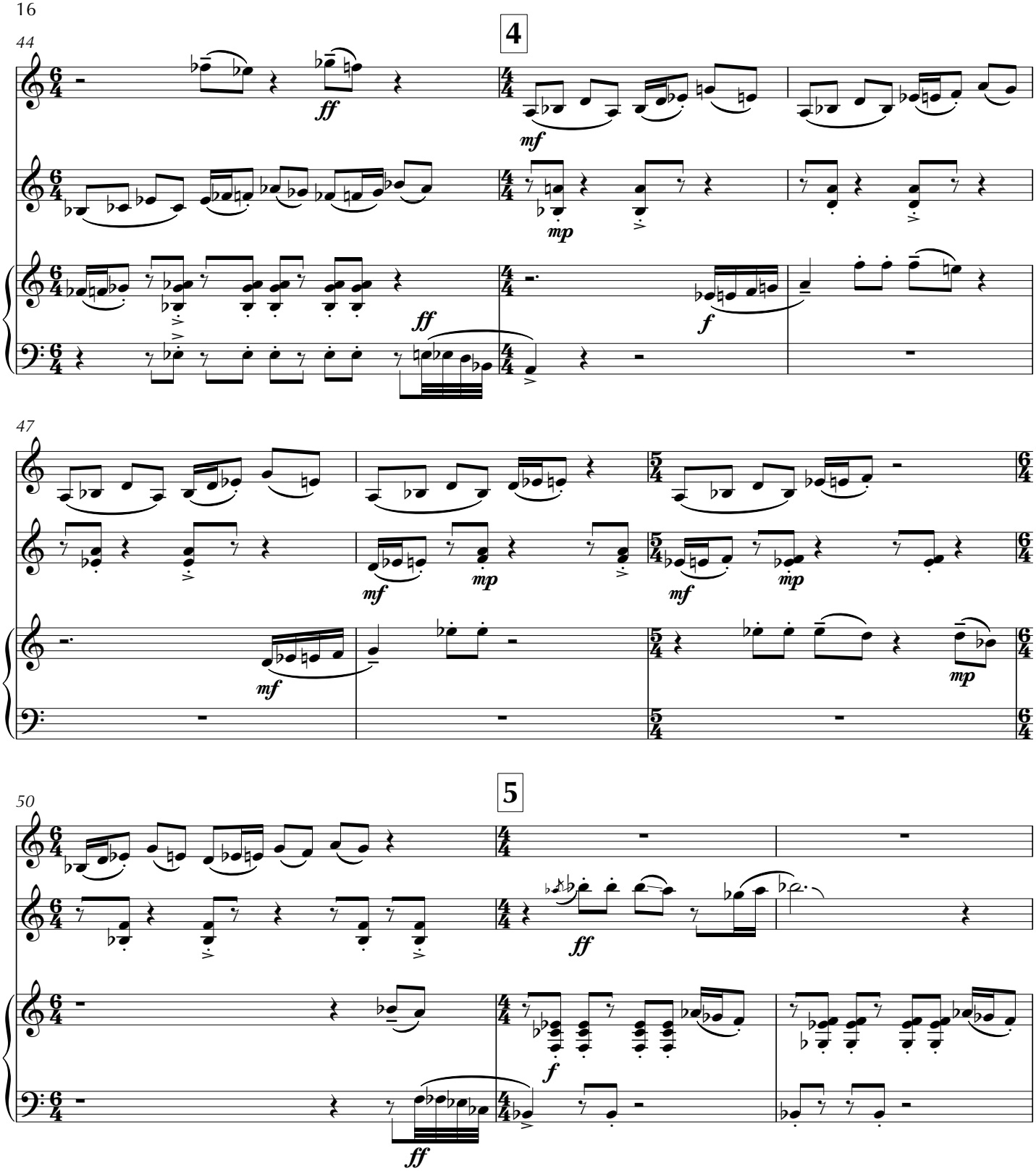
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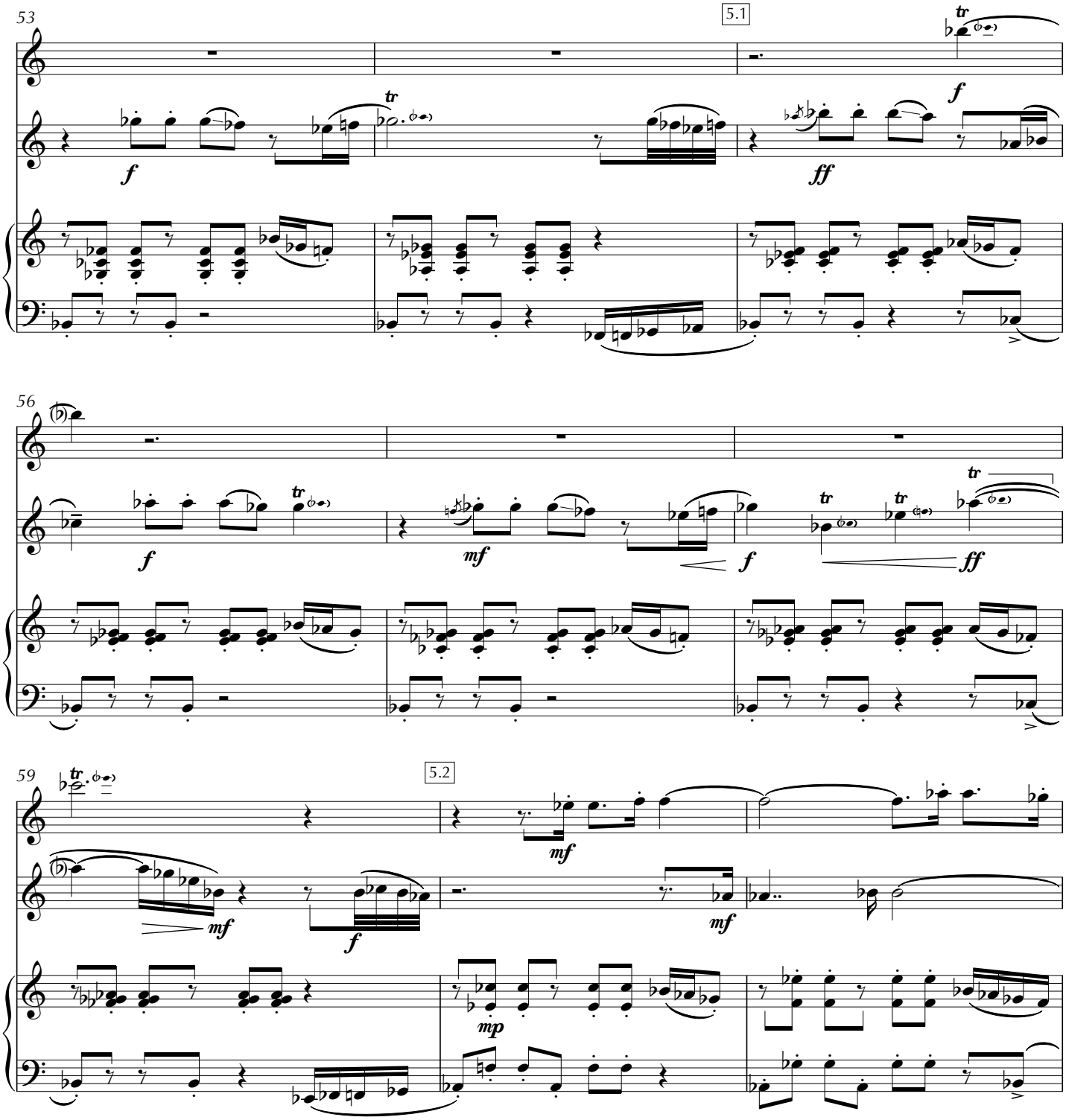
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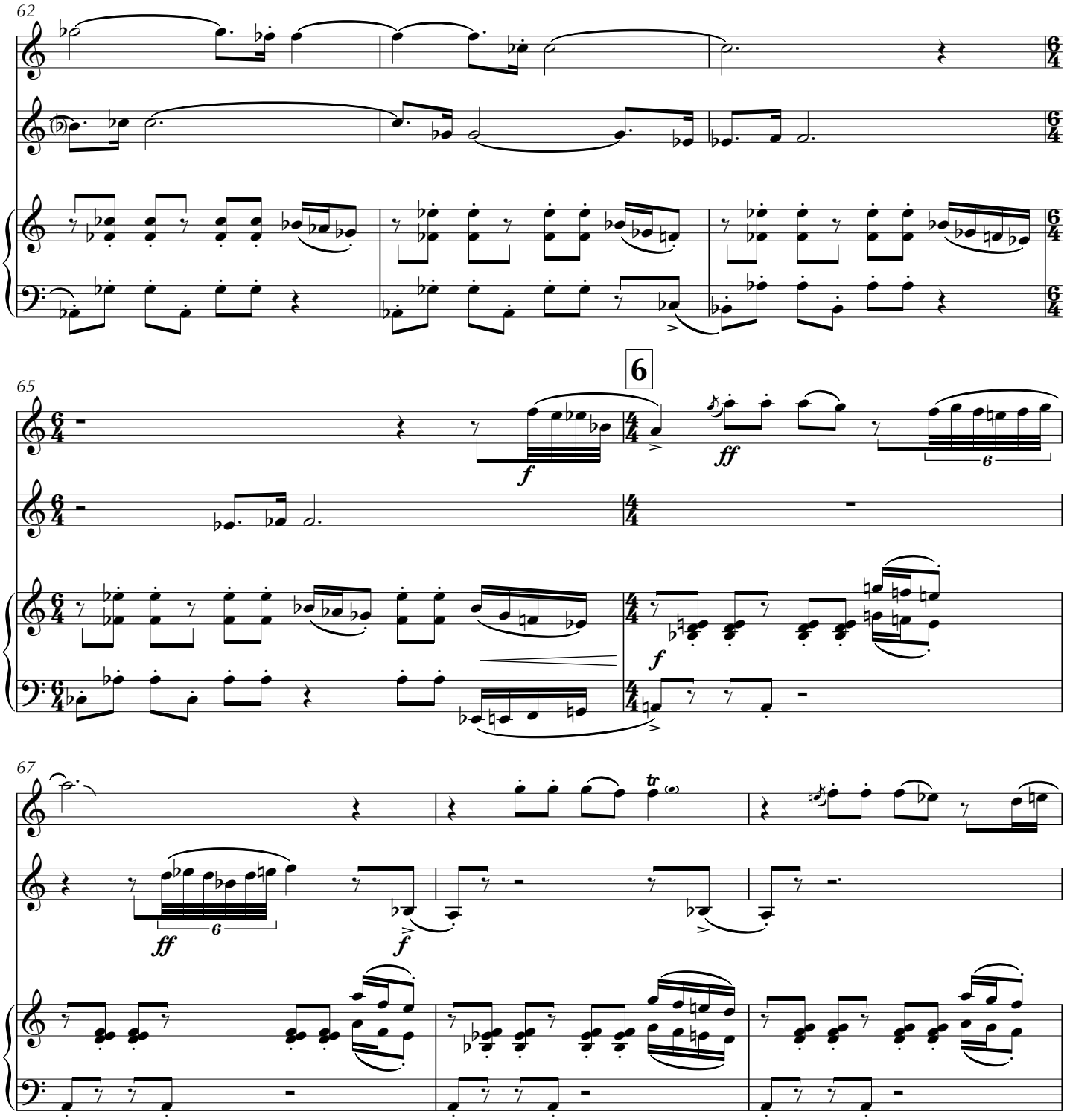
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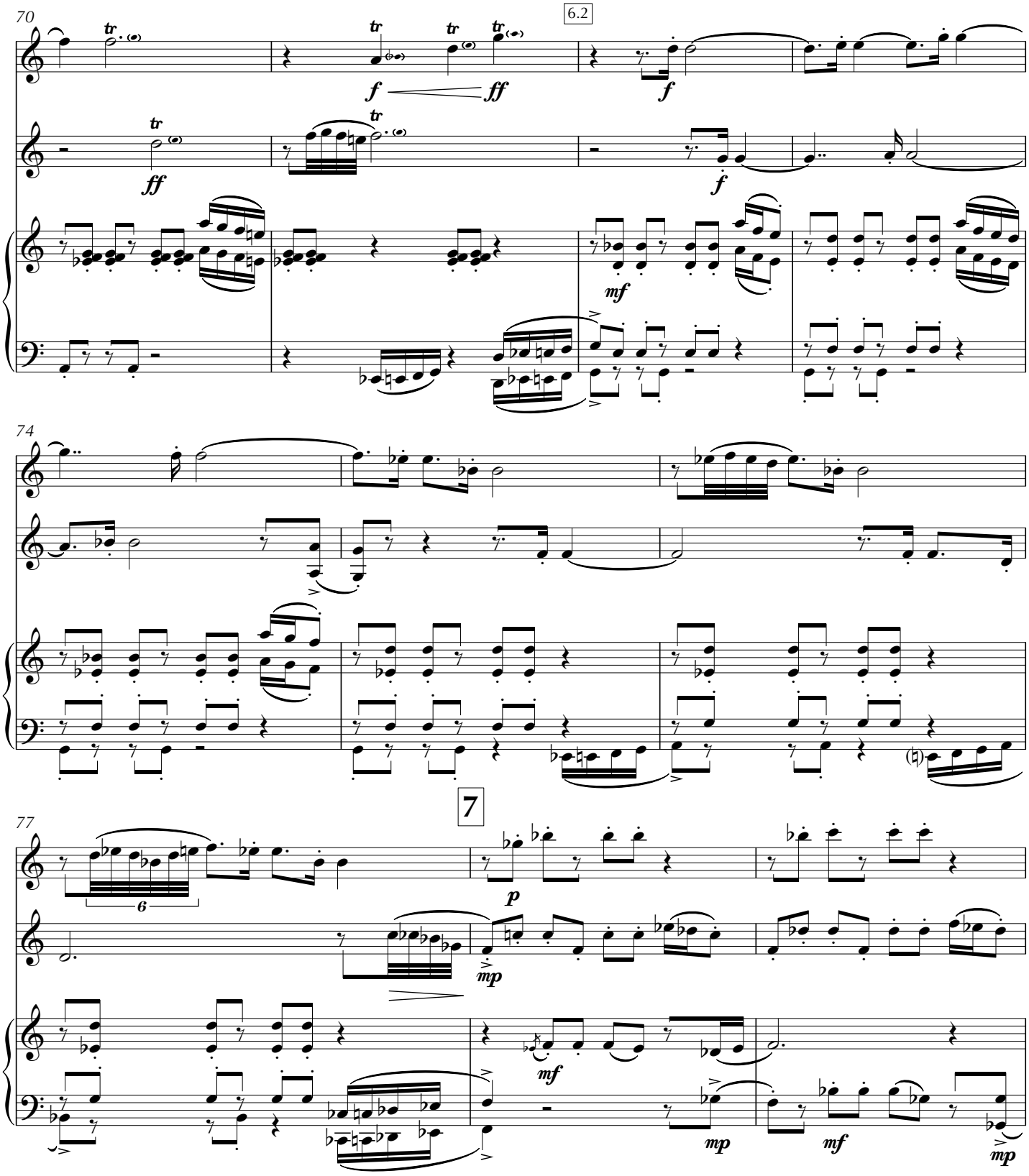
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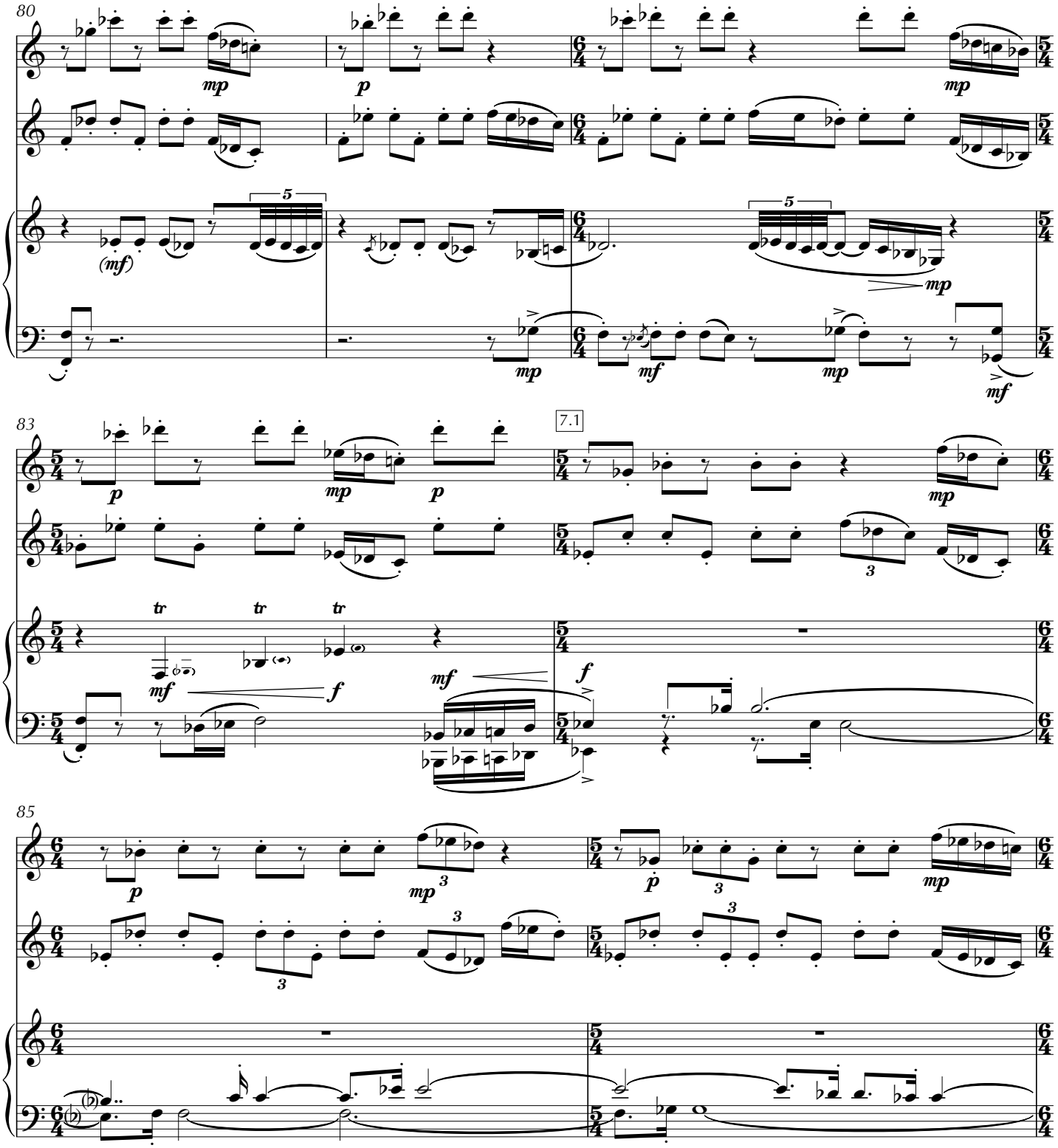
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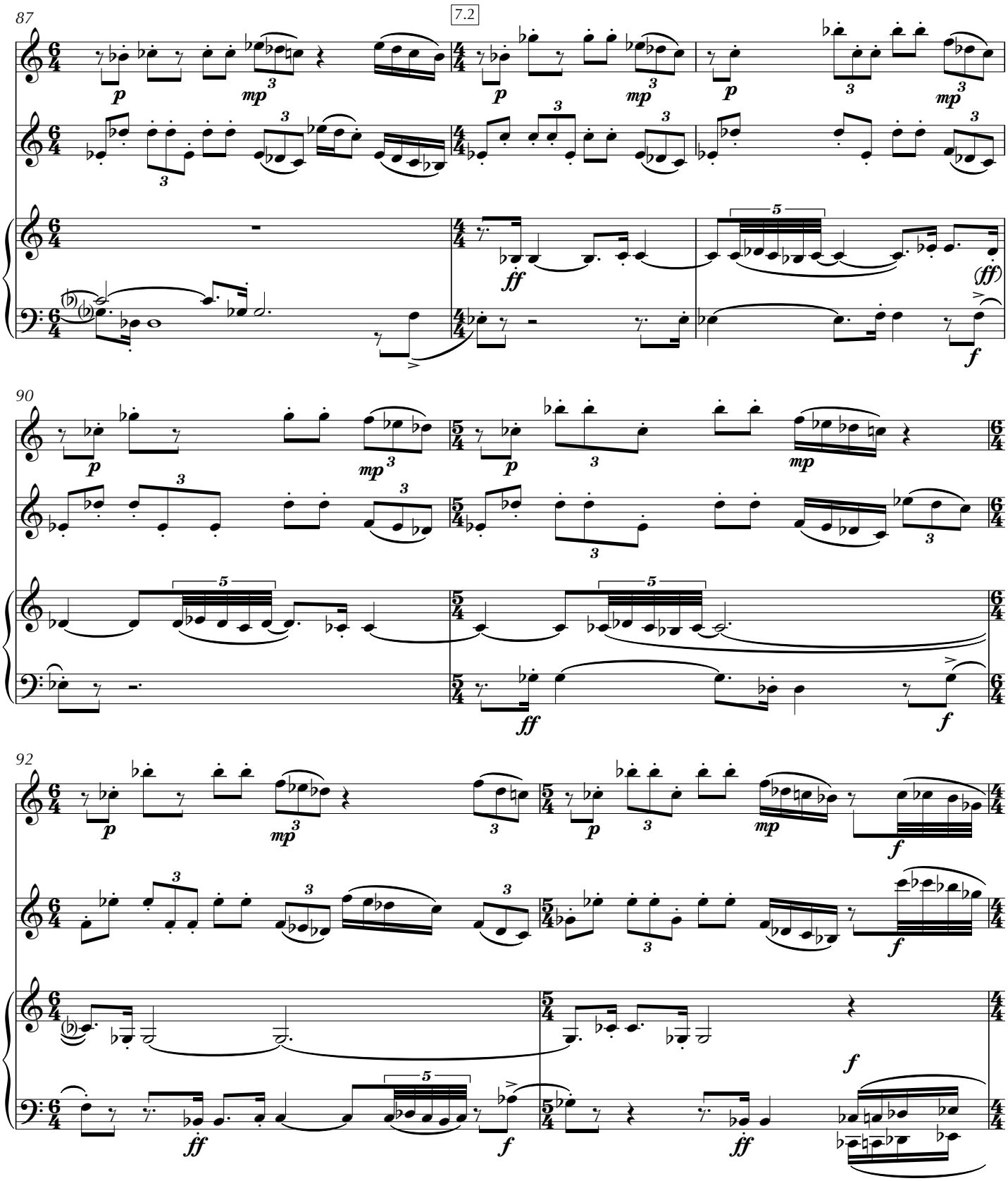
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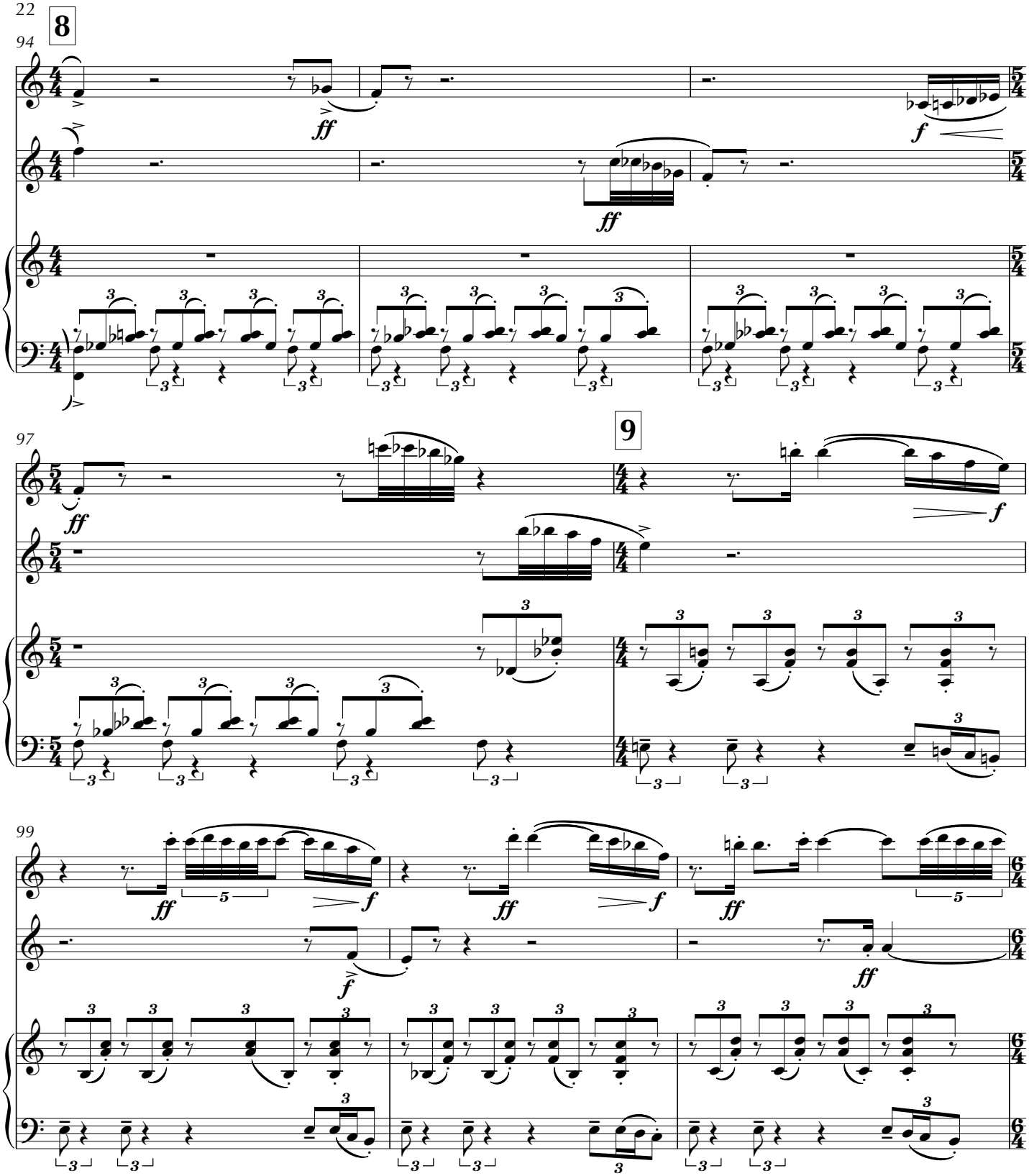
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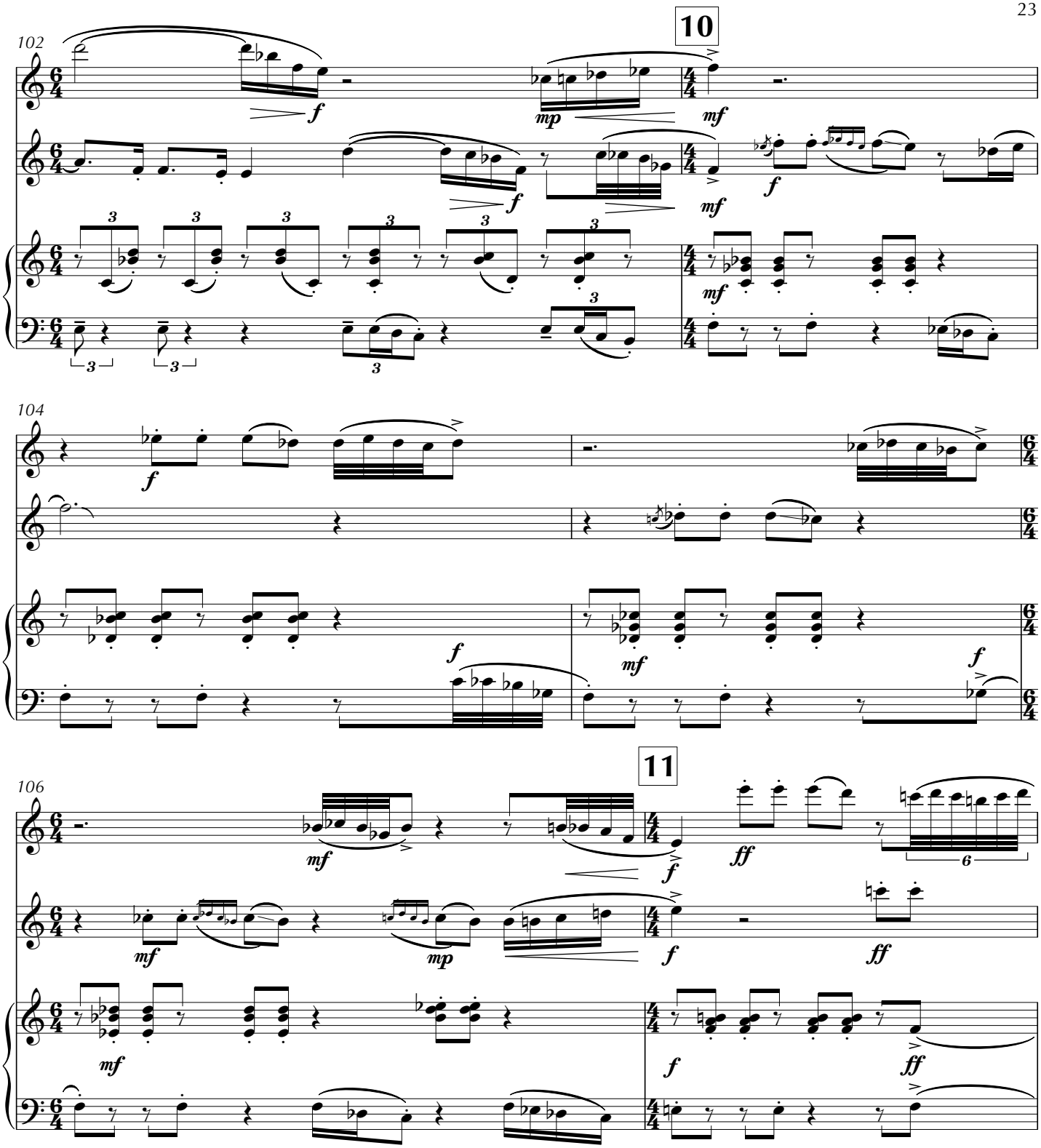
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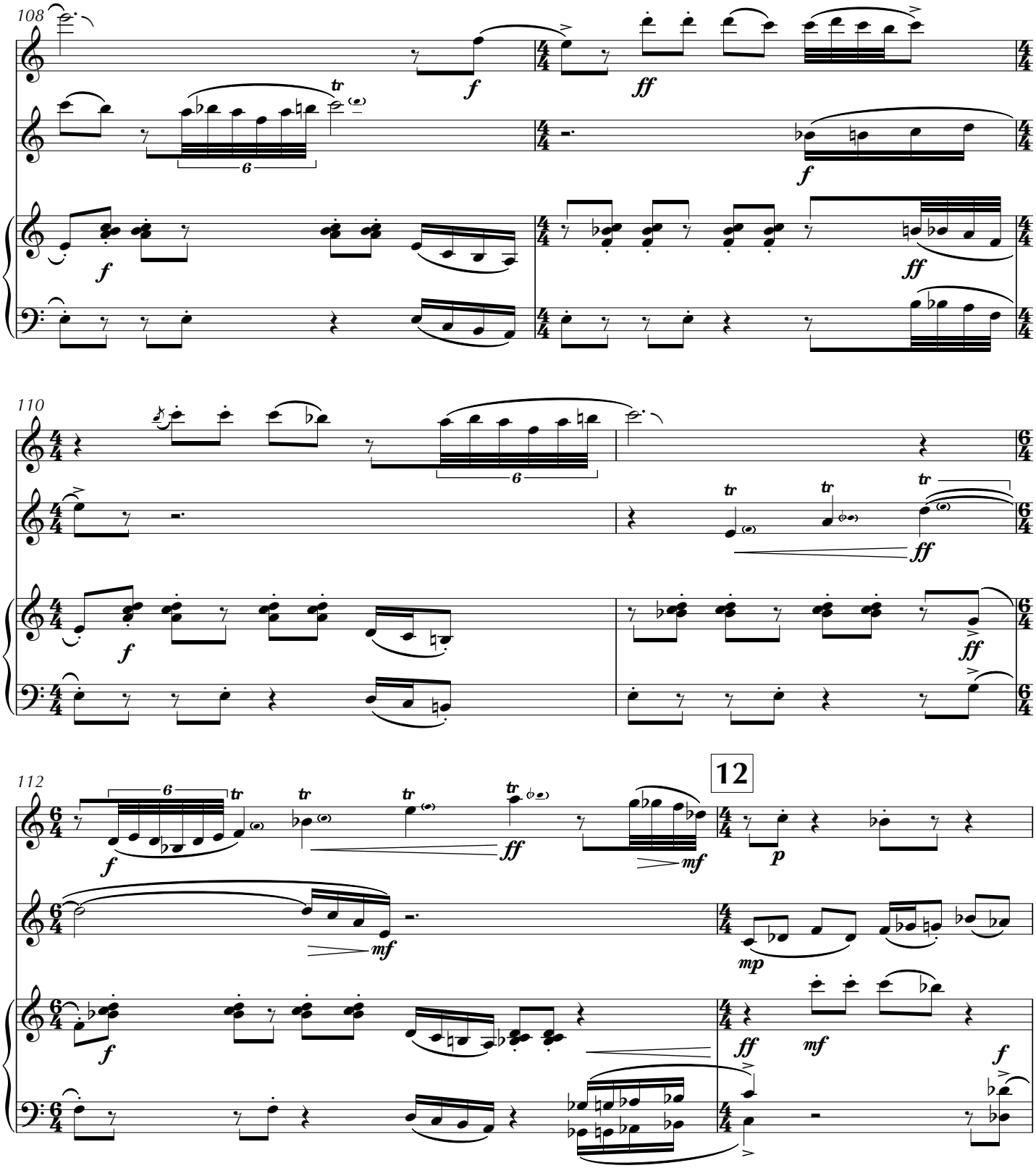
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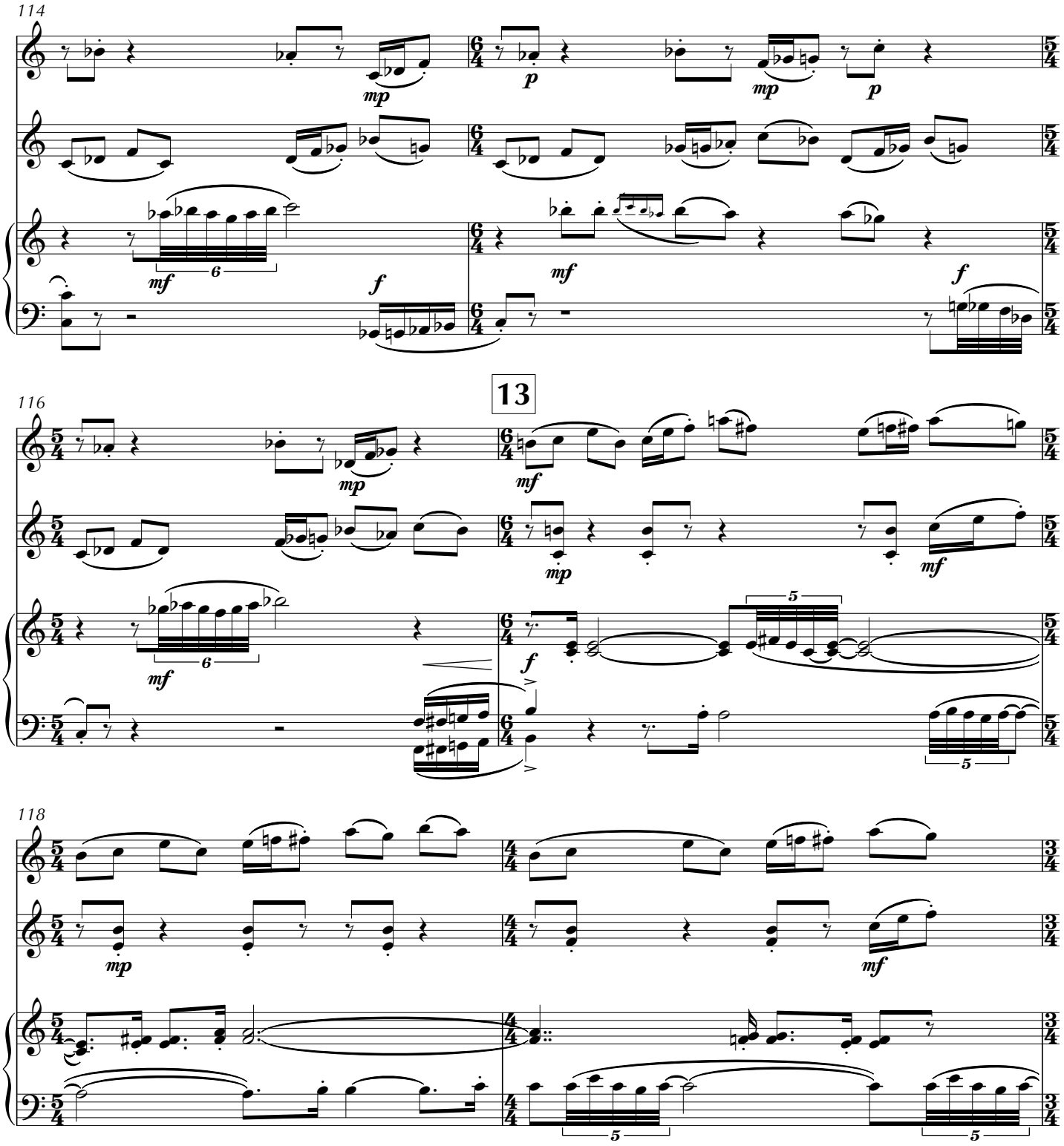
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mf
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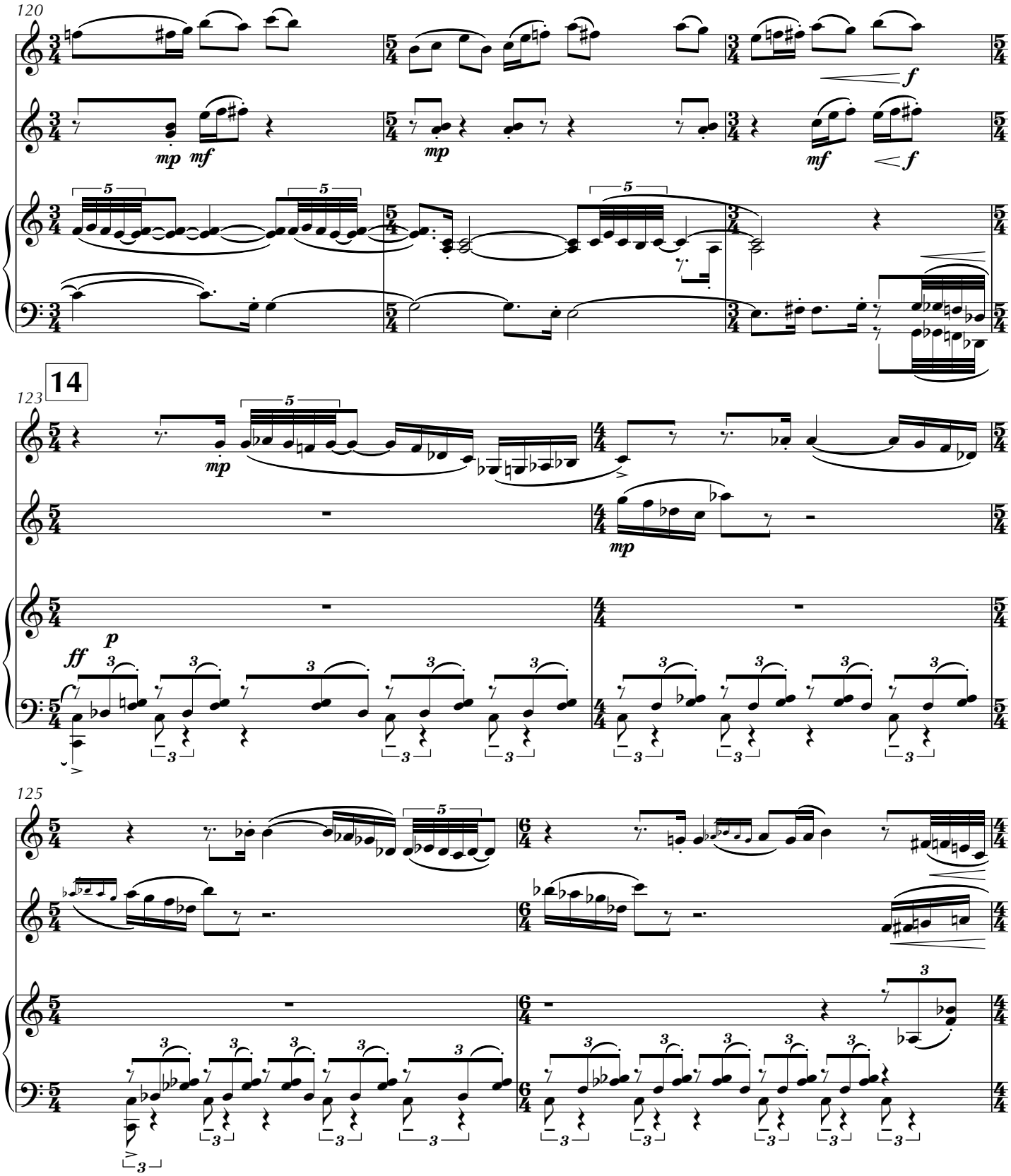
5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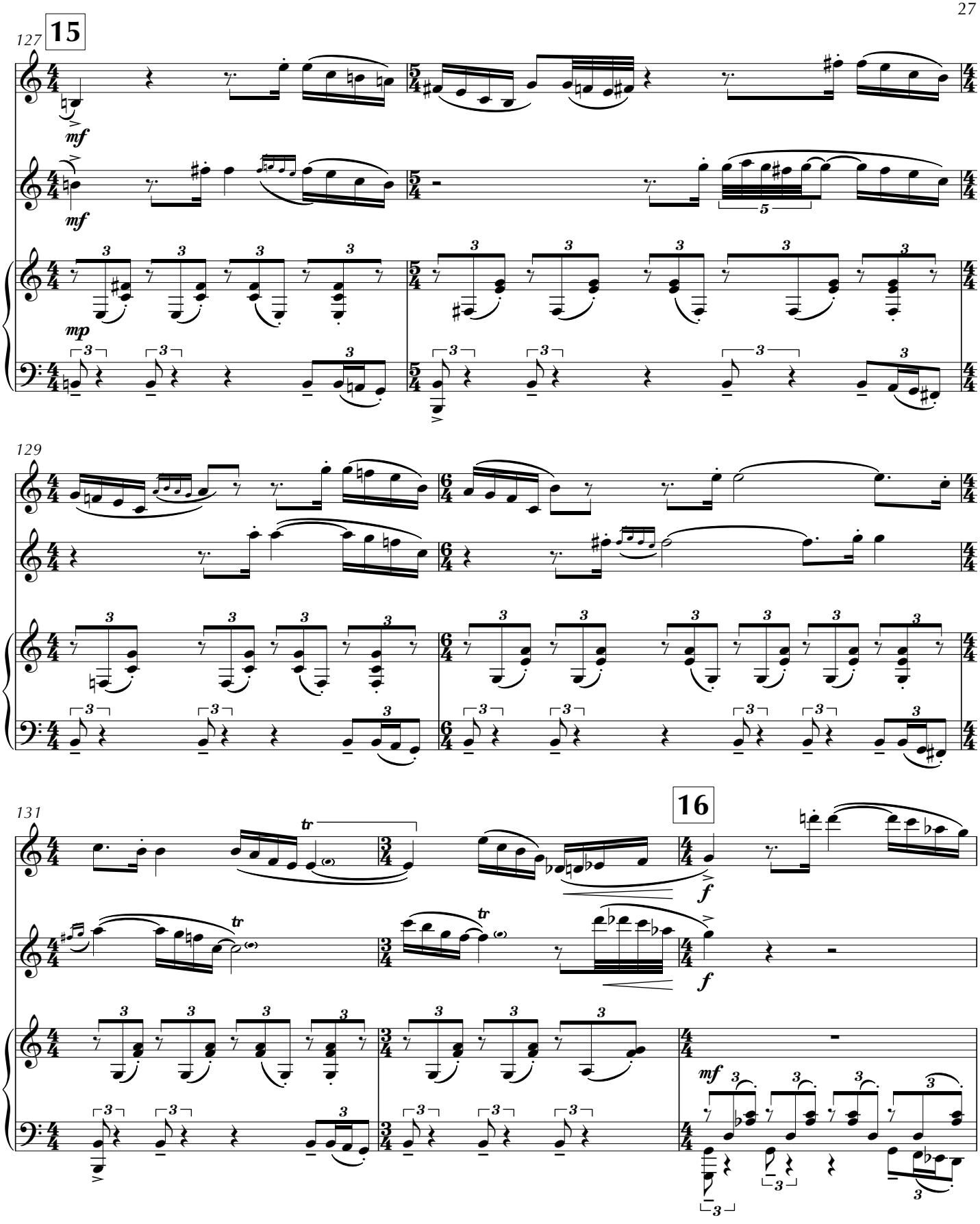
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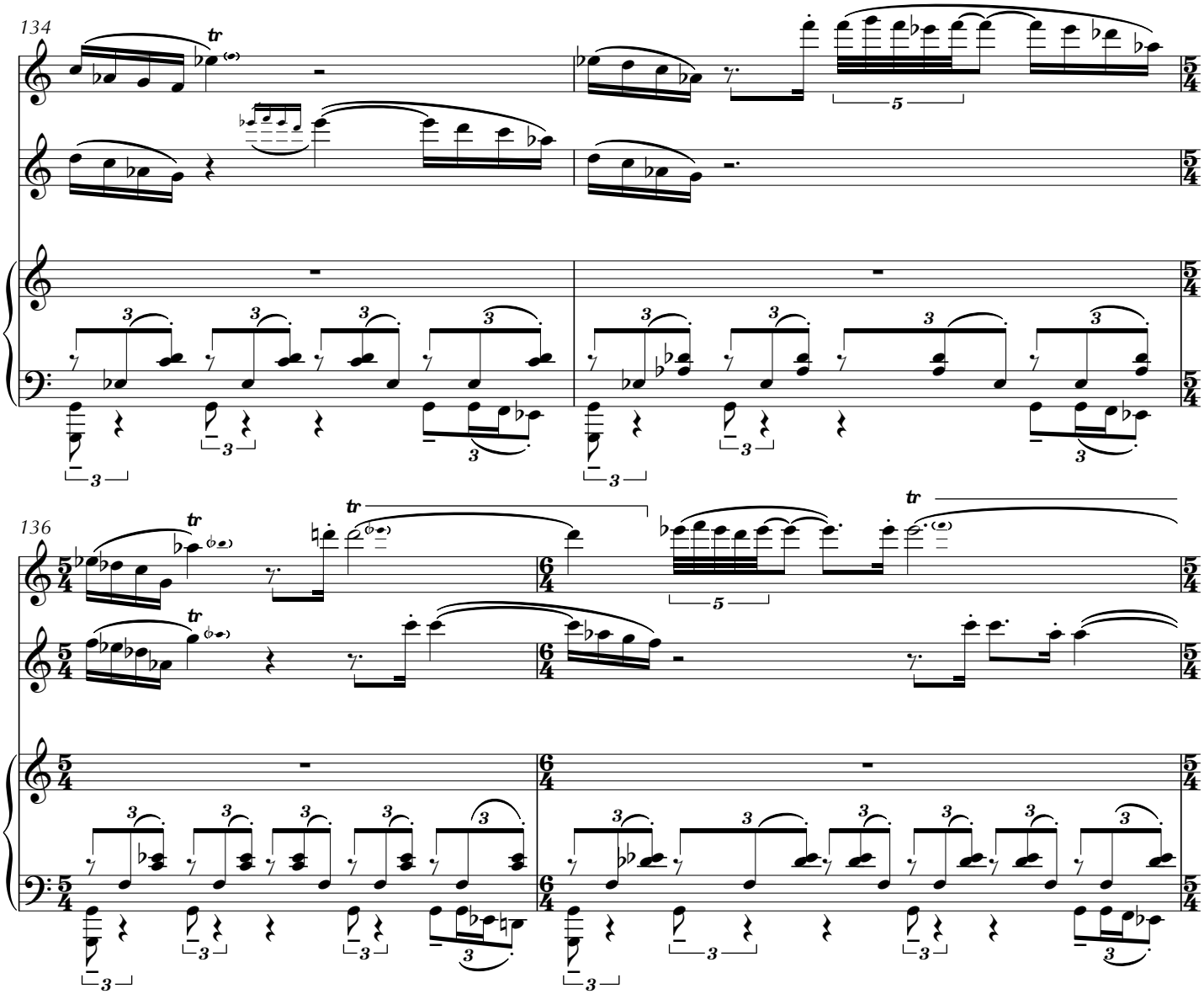
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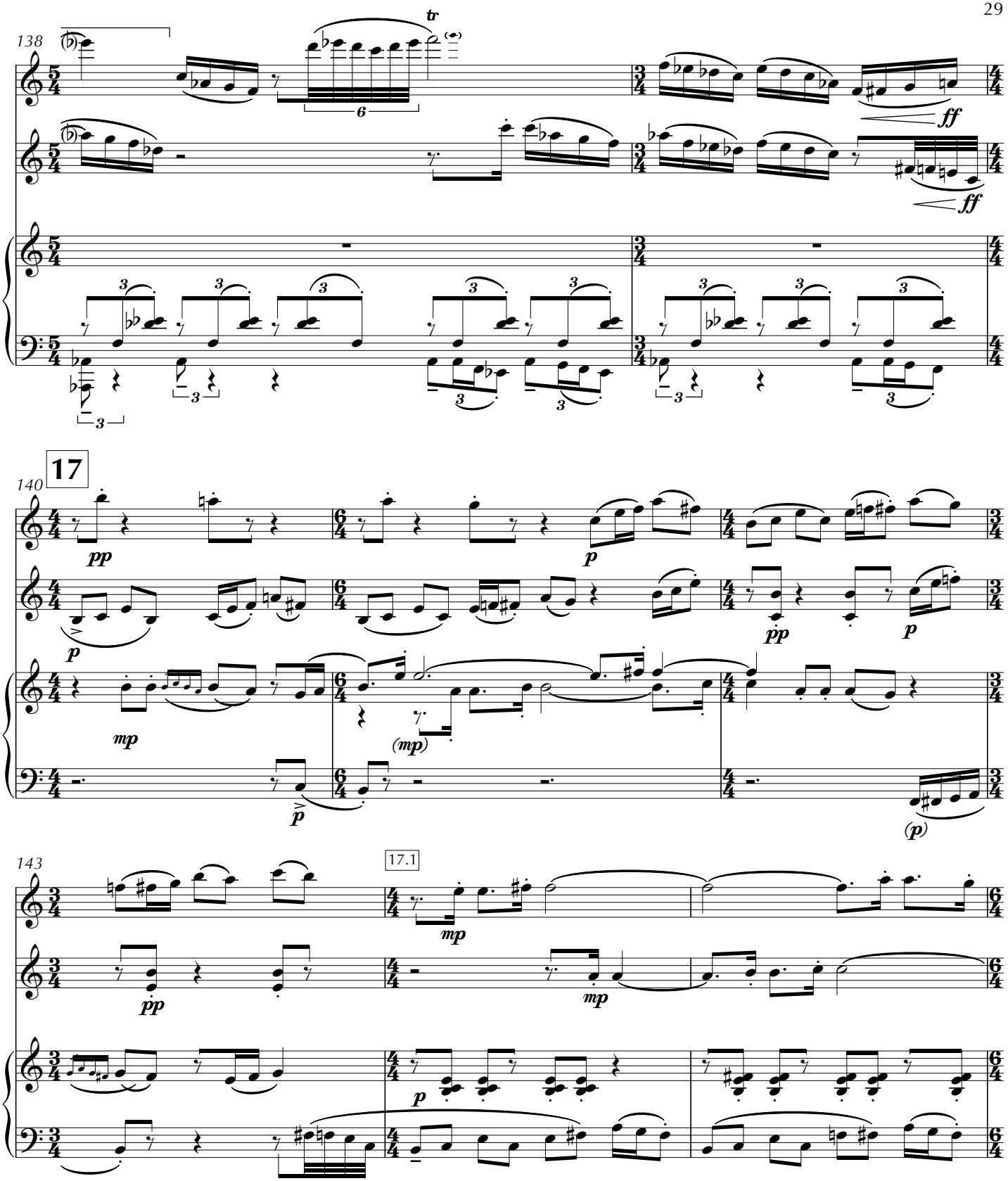
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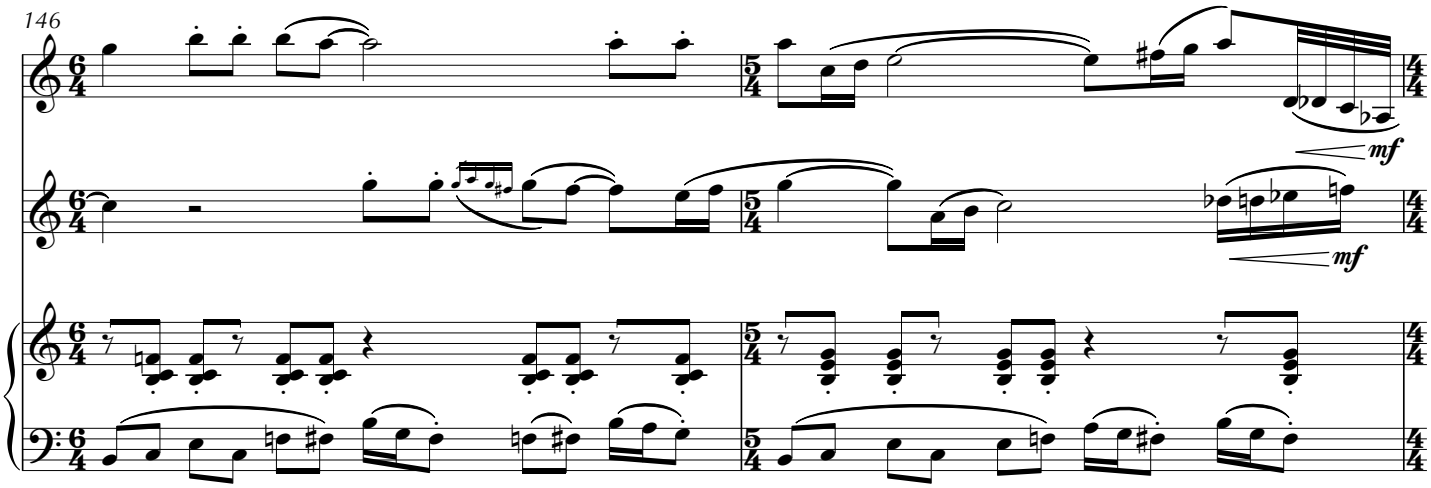

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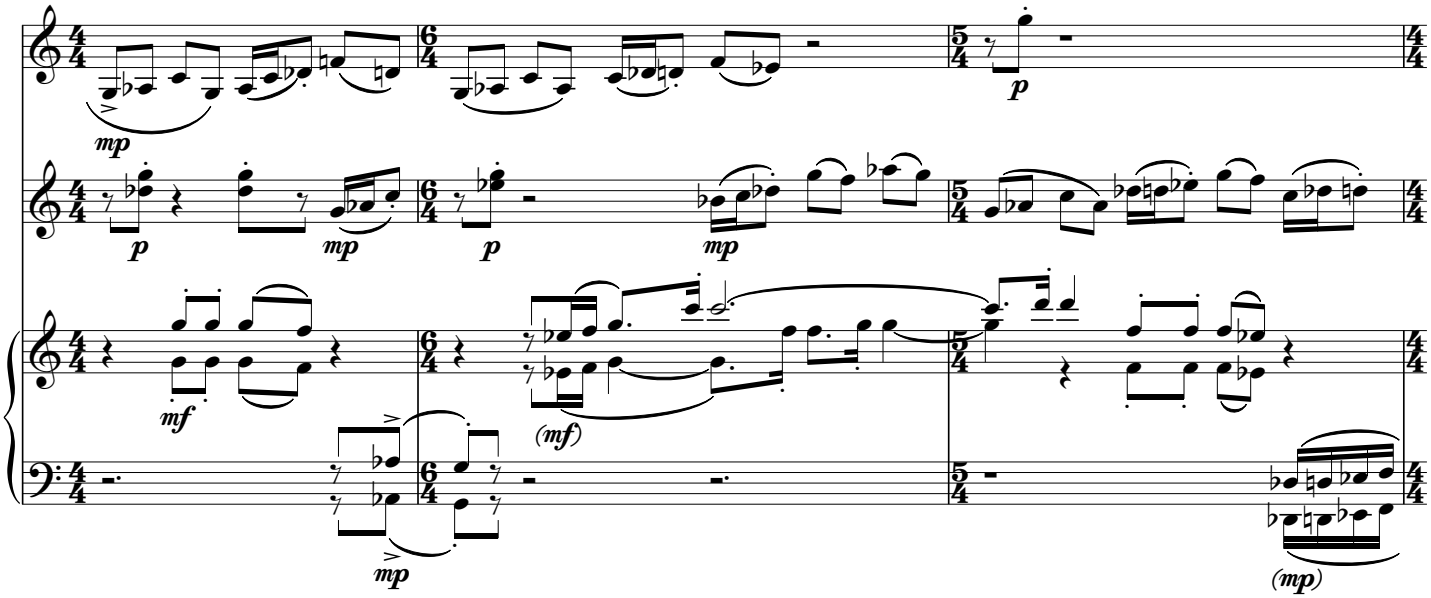

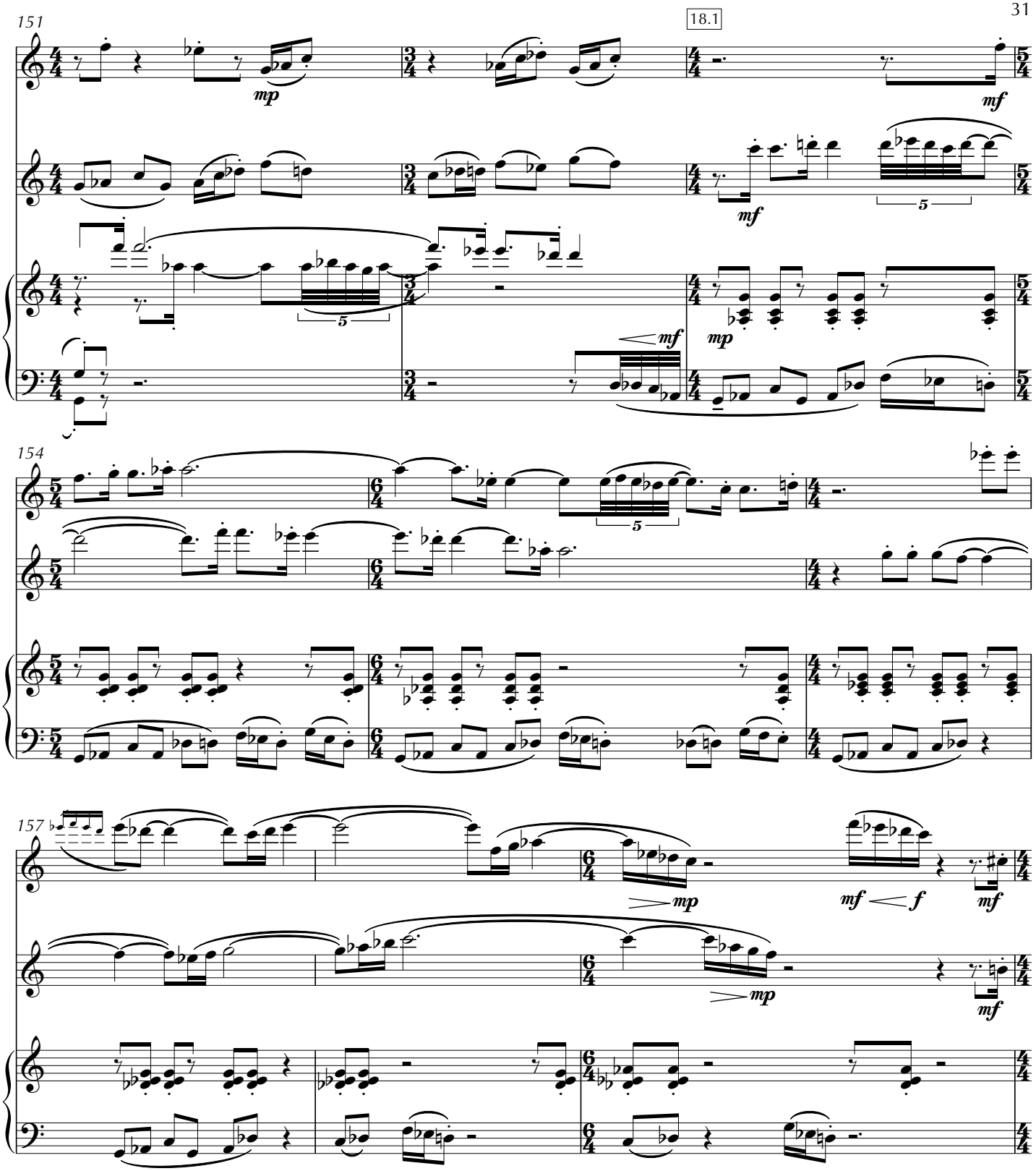
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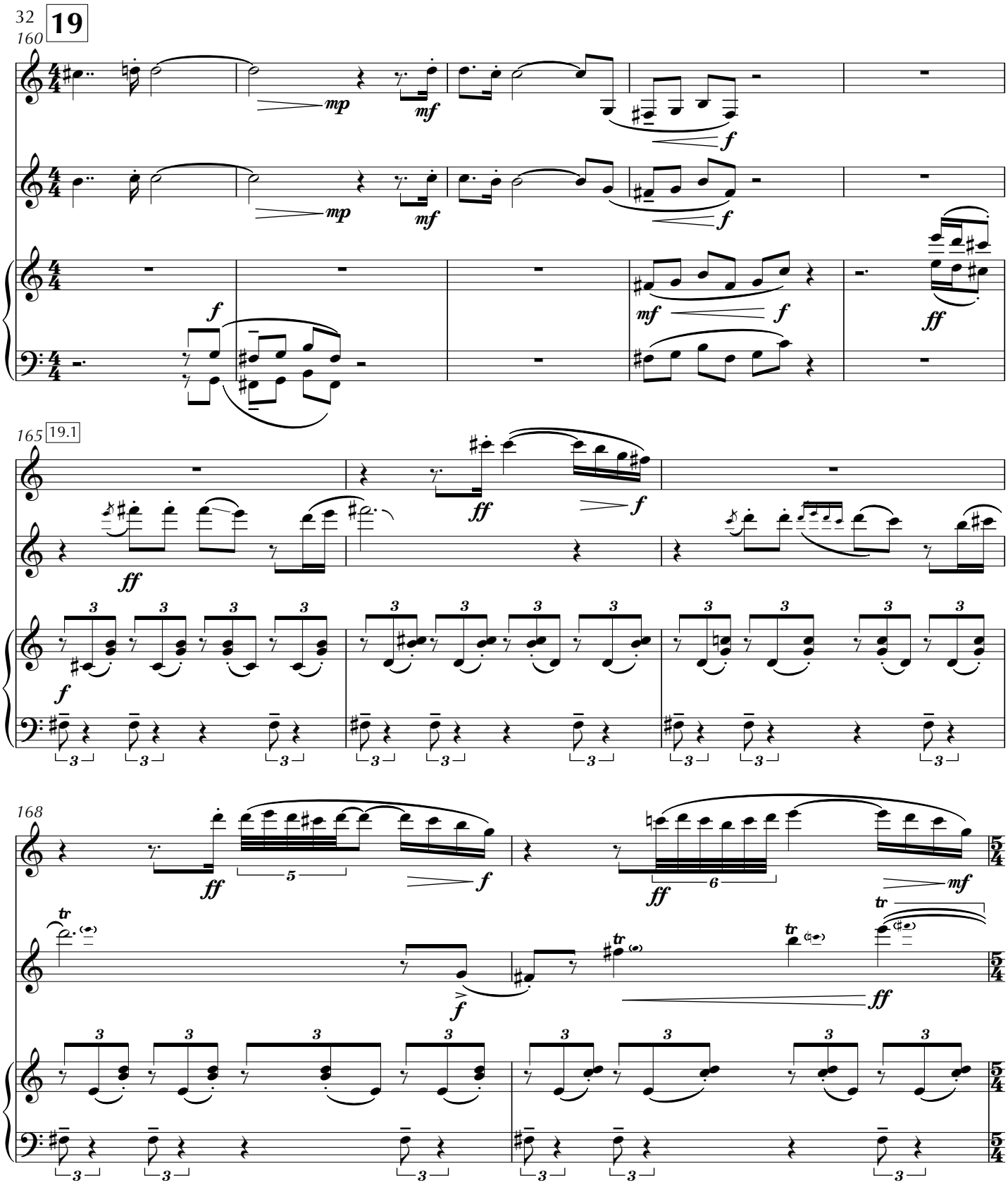
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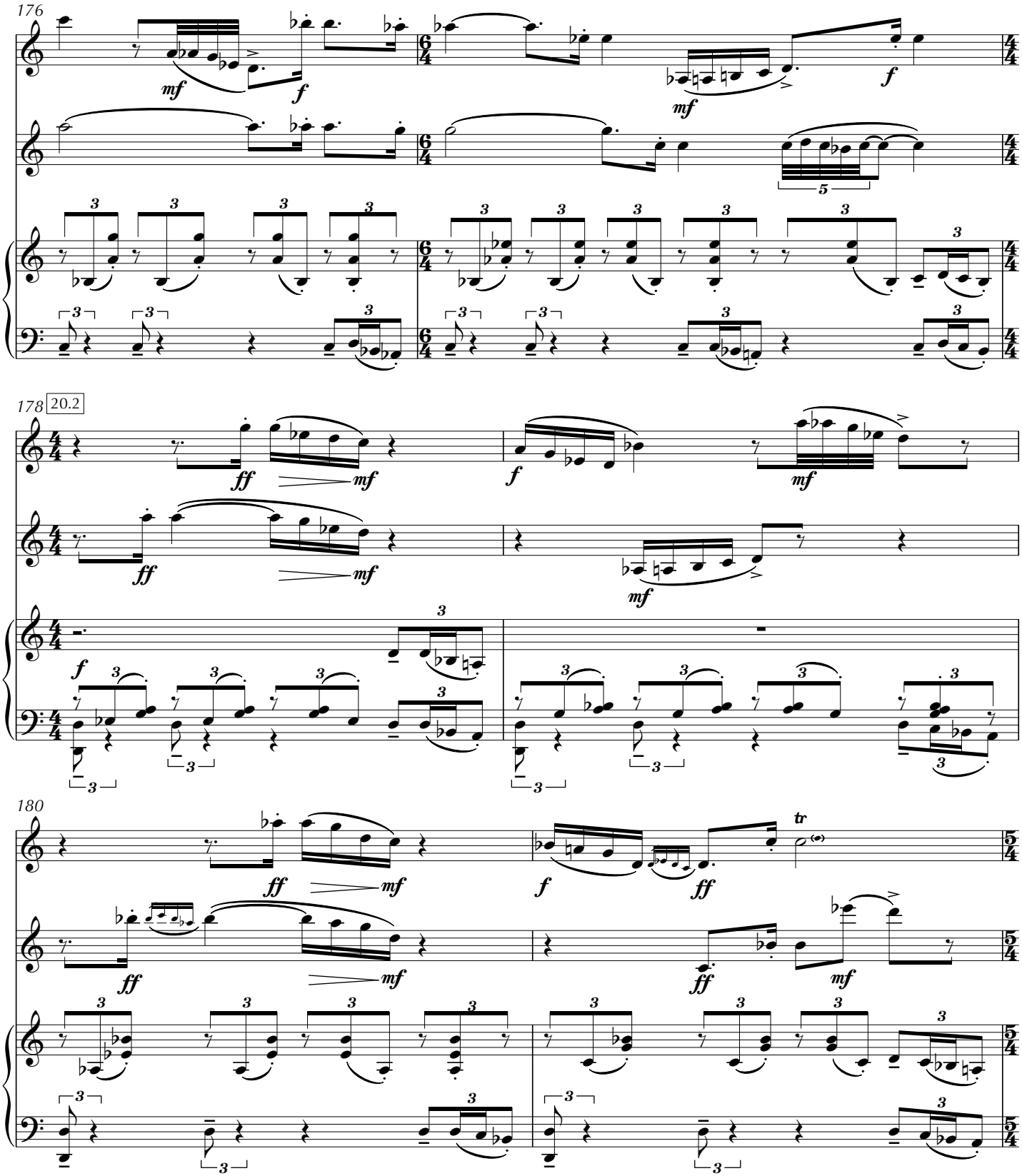
20.1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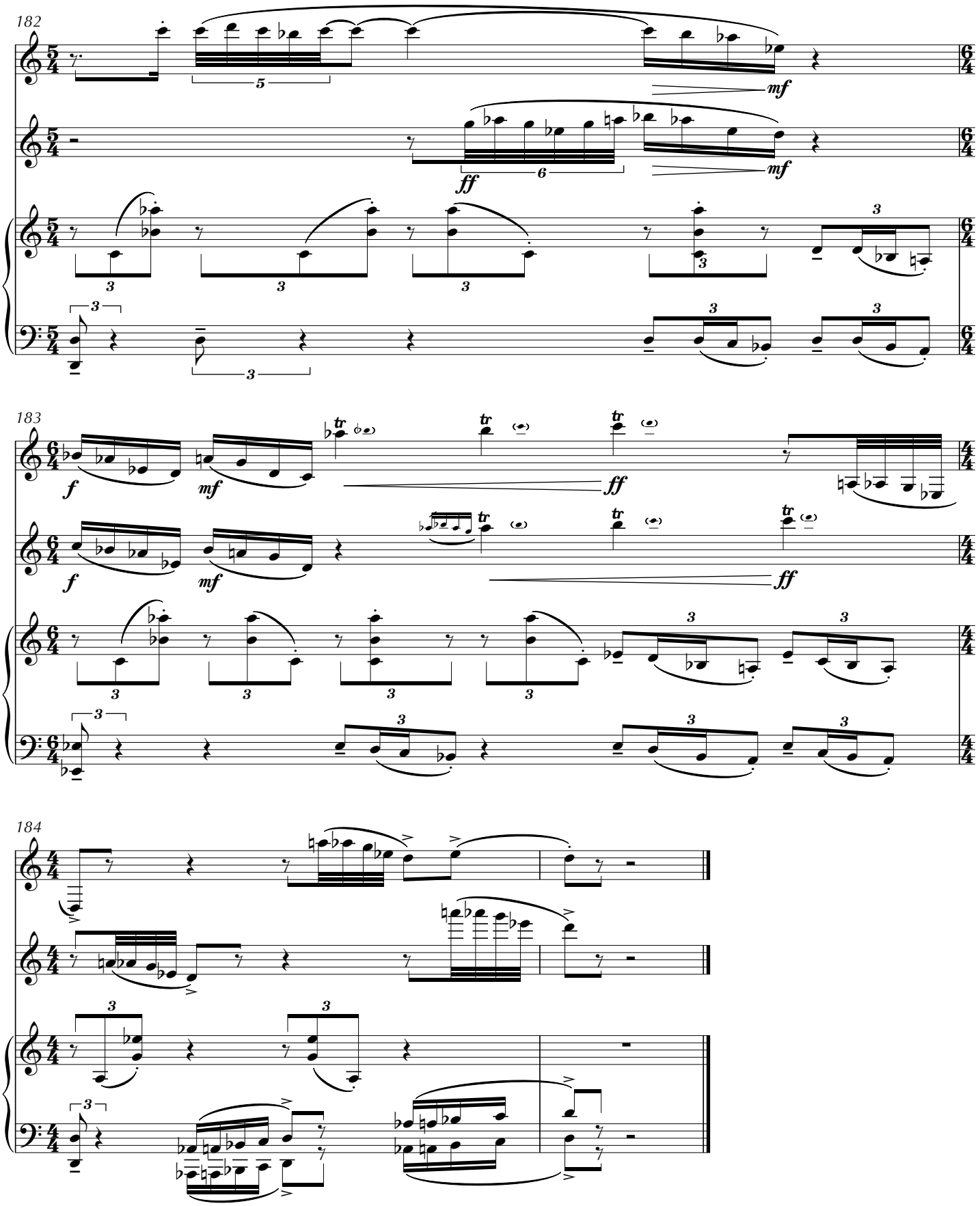
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