21st CENTURY CLASSICAL ORATORIO

—

THE BEATITUDES

By

PROGRESS GABRIEL AKPABIO

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(ACCOMPANIMENT ONLY)

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21ST CENTURY CLASSICAL MUSIC – THE BEATITIDES

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to Jesus Christ the son of God who sent me and was my only helper and strength throughout the period of the execution of the work. Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power be unto him; Amen.

PREFACE

Beatitudes is the sermon of comfort and joy that Jesus preached on top of the mountain to his disciples and the multitudes. In the sermon, Jesus assured all his followers who labour for him and face varying challenges in this life because of their faithfulness to him of the coming kingdom of God where they will be freed from all their troubles and be rewarded for their righteousness/ faithfulness.

The choice of this theme – "The Beatitudes" in this oratorio work was therefore meant to preach this message of consolation to the broken-hearted, and encouragement to all true Christians who face different challenges in this life, assuring them of a better time coming very soon when The Lord will take away all their troubles and restore unto them everything they lost/ lacked in their course of following the master, Jesus Christ.

The work is divided into two parts (part 1 and part 2). Part 1 consists of the eight beatitudes, while part 2 consists of the beatitudes extra. In this work, each of the beatitudes (or blessings) is a piece on its own. The entire work has sixteen pieces (vocals and instrumentals) – ten pieces in part 1, and 6 pieces in part 2 with a total duration of 1 hour 50 minutes. The work begins with an overture titled "Ascending Overture". As the title implies, it is meant to be an accompaniment to the Lord as he ascends (walks) to the top of the mountain to go and sit down and begin his teaching. The oratorio ends with exhortation calling on all those who want to enter the kingdom of God and enjoy the bliss to be steadfast and diligent in their service, and remove hypocrisy from their lives so that they will be able to enter.

The work has been registered with The Nigerian Copyright Commission.

HISTORY

Worried by the disappearance of classical music composers in my generation who would do what Mozart, Beethoven, Handel, Bach, etc. did in their own generations for Jesus the Messiah, I decided to take up the responsibility lest the Lord's work should die in our hands. But Satan whom many people do not believe that he is still present on this earth and hates Jesus rose up furiously and opposed me just as he did to Mozart, Saint Cecilia, and other great classical music composers, and even as he did to The Lord's Apostles who were the initiators of Christianity. These compositions were done amidst serious (deadly) persecutions, disheartening trials, disappointments, and (spiritual) sabotage which caused undue delay in the execution and completion of the work. But in spite of all these, I encouraged myself in the Lord who was my only help and forged ahead. As a non-professional in music, I had sought for collaborations from among the professionals/ scholars in music so that they can give a professional touch to the music especially in the area of harmonization. But sadly, none of the contacted persons showed any interest or willingness in collaborating with me, while the only one that consented at first later disappointed me without making any little contribution to the music. This was yet another setback in my dream of producing a befitting classical work for my Lord. But however, not willing to abandon my Lord's work, I locked myself inside my closet and laboured for Christ. I lost the original compositions of three of these pieces (precisely, Blessed Are the Peacemakers, and the two Instrumentals) in the robbery incidence that occurred to me during the execution of this work and I had to recompose them again later after my recovery. Today something fairly is available for presentation; to God be the glory. This is my maiden classical oratorio work; subsequent compositions, God willing, promise to be an improvement to this maiden one.

THE BEATITUDES

PART 1

1.01 OVERTURE

1.02 RECITATIVE (Soprano)

Matthew 5:1-2
And seeing the multitudes, he went up onto a mountain; and when he had sat down, his disciples came unto him. And he opened his mouth and taught them saying:

1.03 CHORUS

Matthew 5:3
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

1.04 DUET (Soprano and Alto)

Matthew 5:4
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

1.05 AIR (Tenor)

Matthew 5:5
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

1.06 AIR (Alto)

Matthew 5:6
Blessed are they that hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

1.07 AIR (Bass)

Matthew 5:7
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

1.08 AIR (Alto)

Matthew 5:8
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

1.09 AIR (Soprano)

Matthew 5:9
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

1.10 AIR (Tenor)

Matthew 5:10
Blessed are they that are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

PART 2

2.11 SYMFONI

2.12 DUET (Soprano and Tenor)

Matthew 5:11
Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

2.13 CHORUS

Matthew 5:12
Rejoice, and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so persecuted they the prophets who were before you.

2.14 TRIO

Matthew 5:13-15
Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt hast lost its taste, how can its saltness be restored? it is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out, and trampled under foot by men. Ye are the light of the world, a city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do men light a lamb, and put it under the bushel, but on the lamb stand; and it gives light to everyone in the house.

2.15 CHORUS

Matthew 5:16
Let your light so shine before men, that

they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

2.16 CHORUS

Matthew 5:20
For I say unto you, except your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no wise enter the kingdom of heaven.

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Part 1

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1.06	Blessed Are The Hungry	Air for Alto	10:09	31
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NOTE: Page Numbers are at the top right corners of the pages

PART 1

Ascending Overture

THE BEATITUDES 1.01 (Overture)

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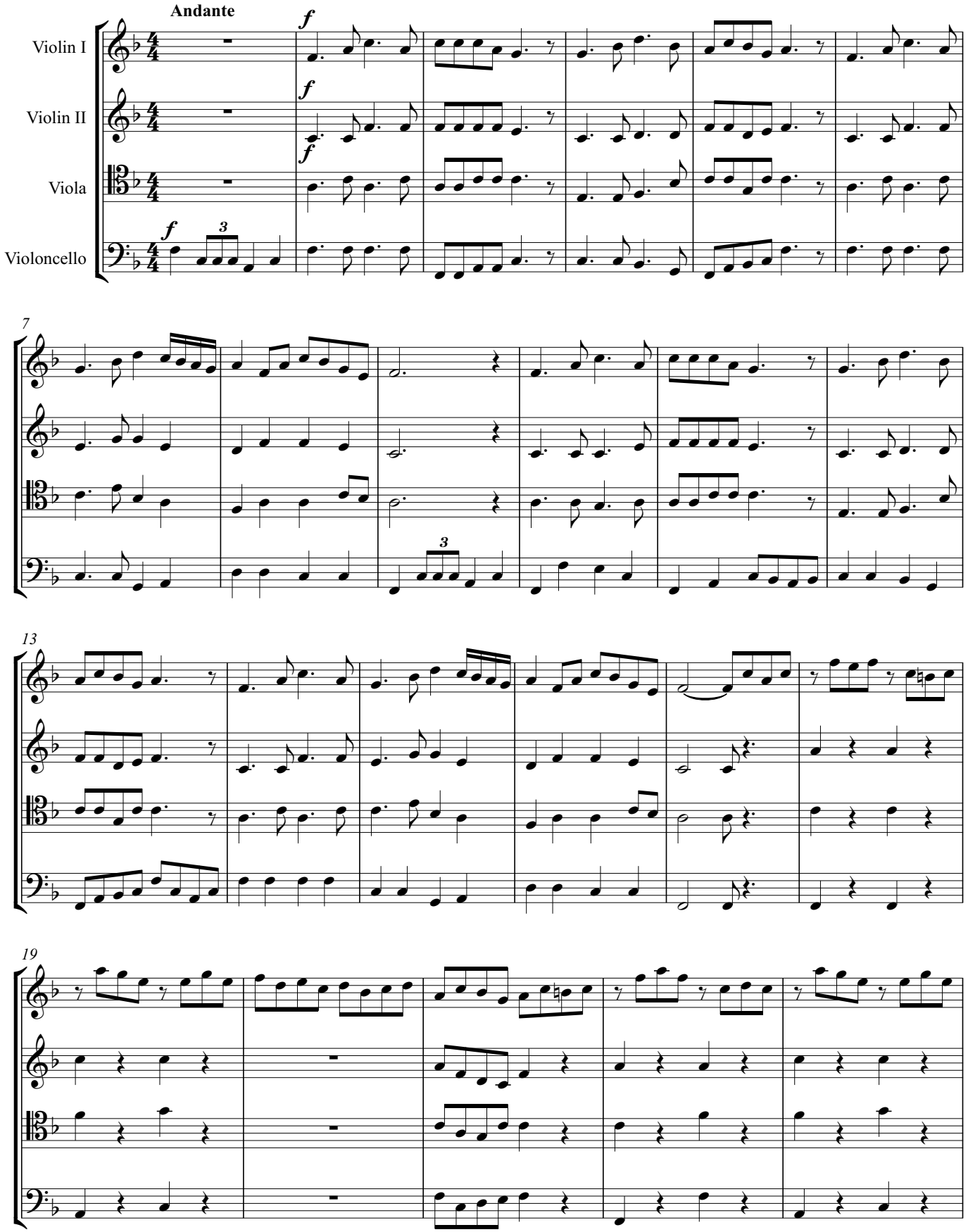

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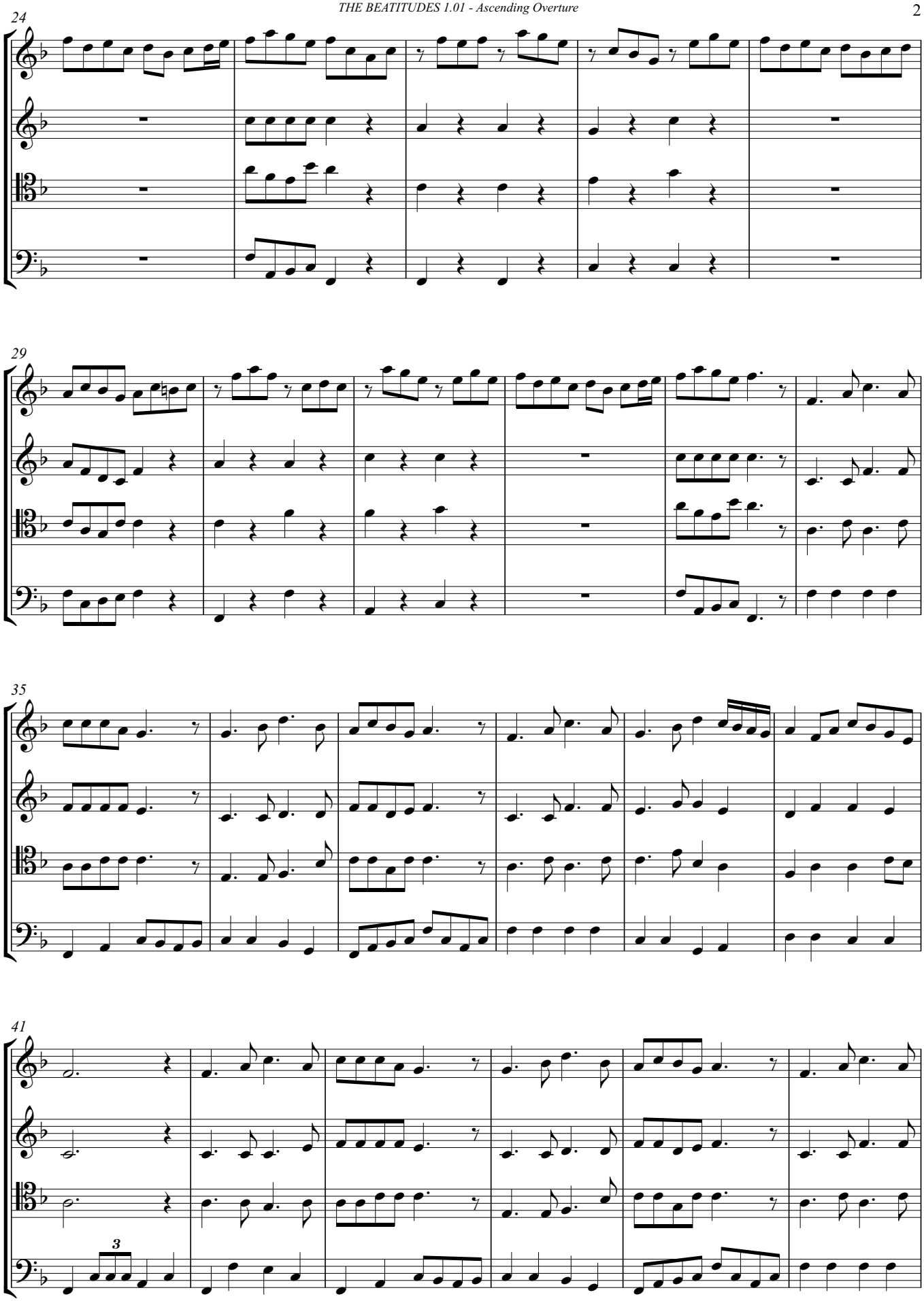

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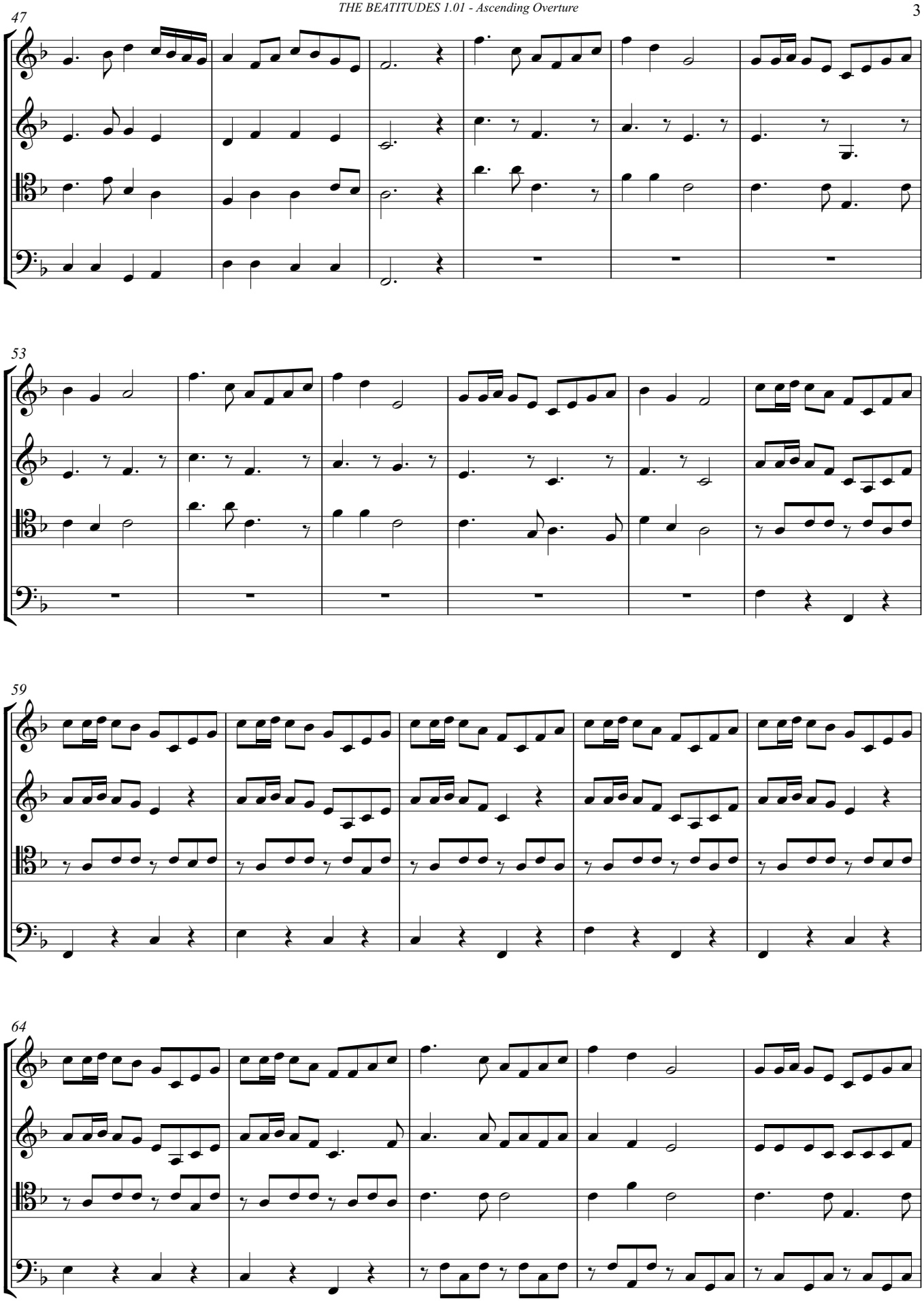

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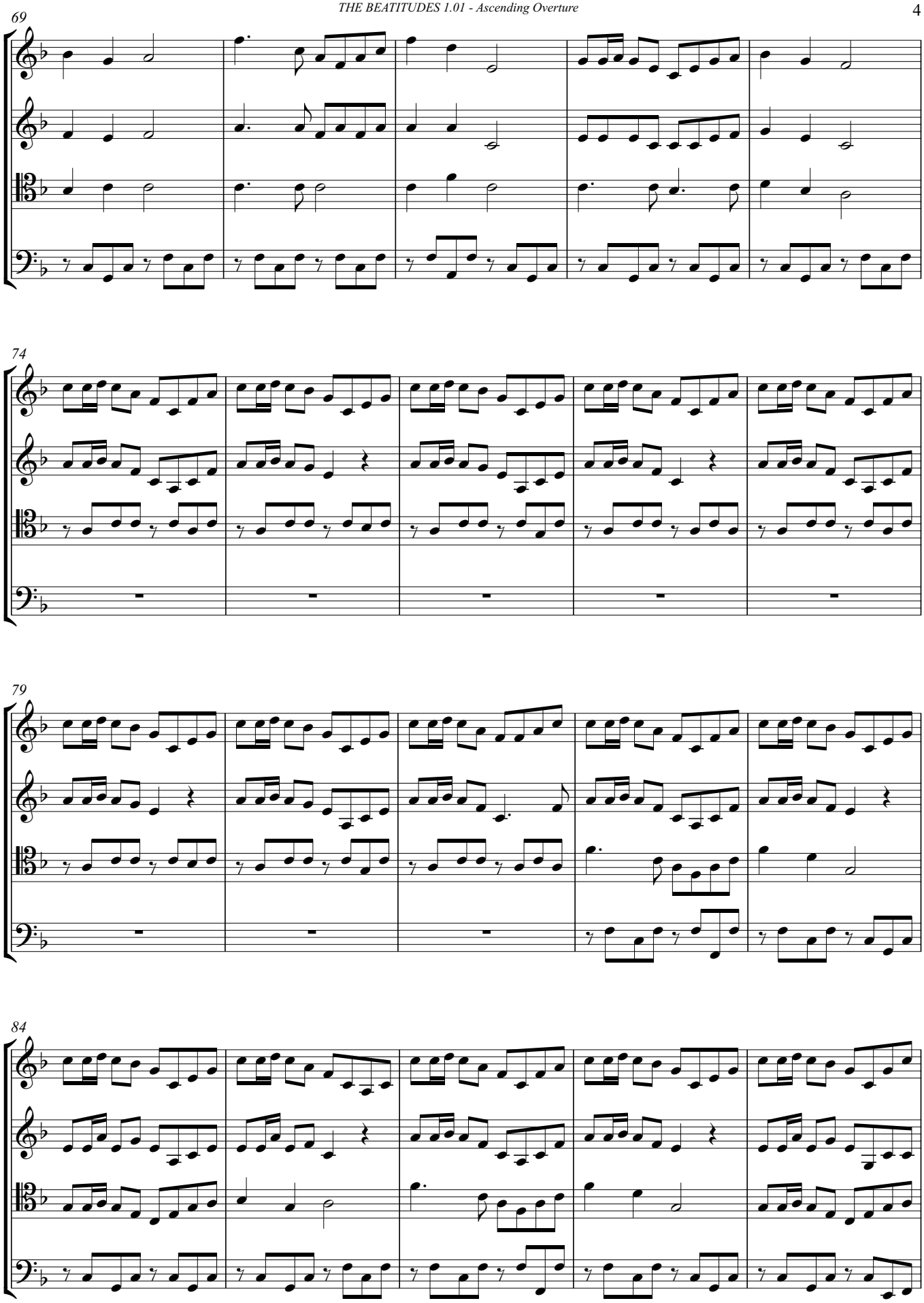

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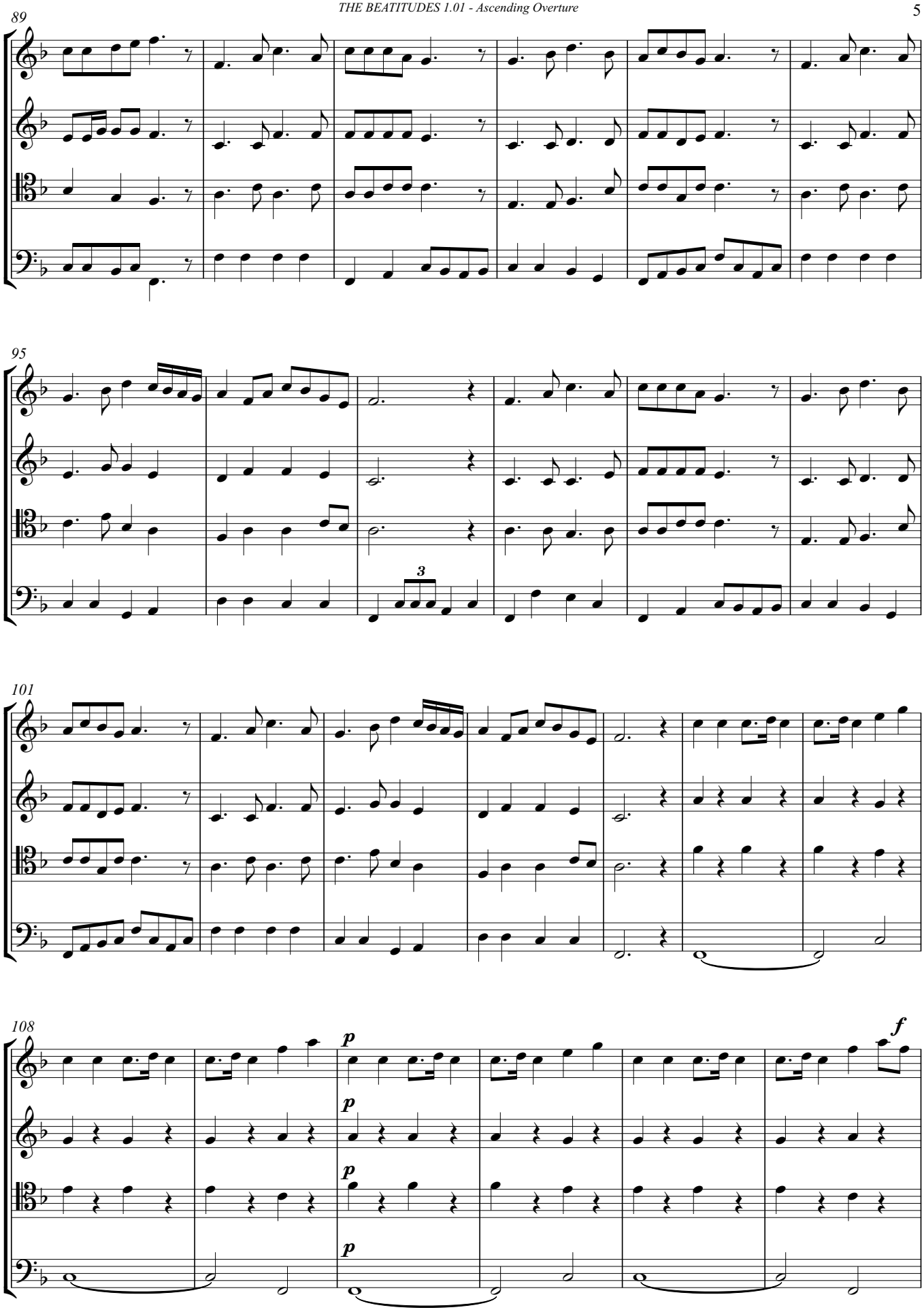

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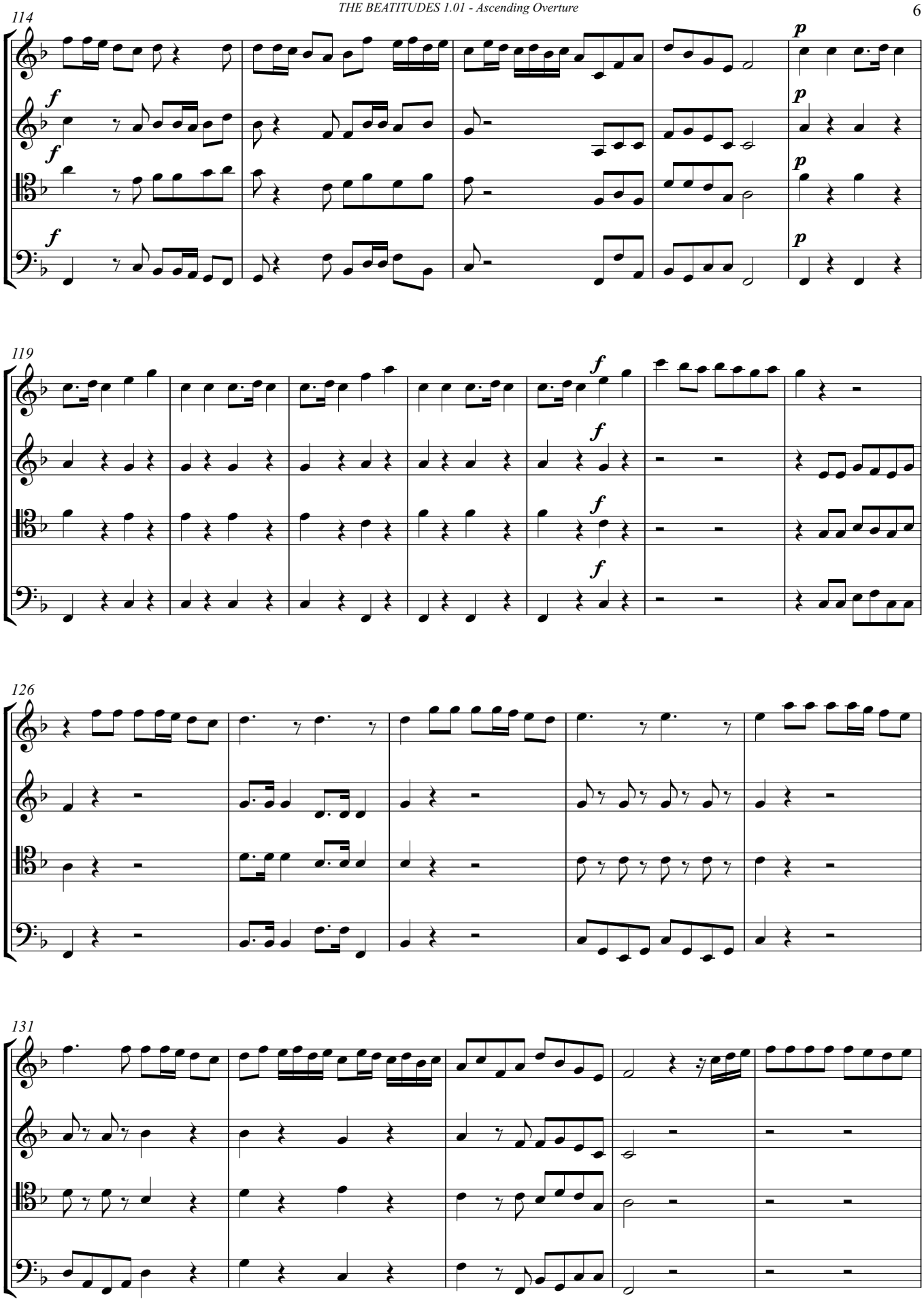

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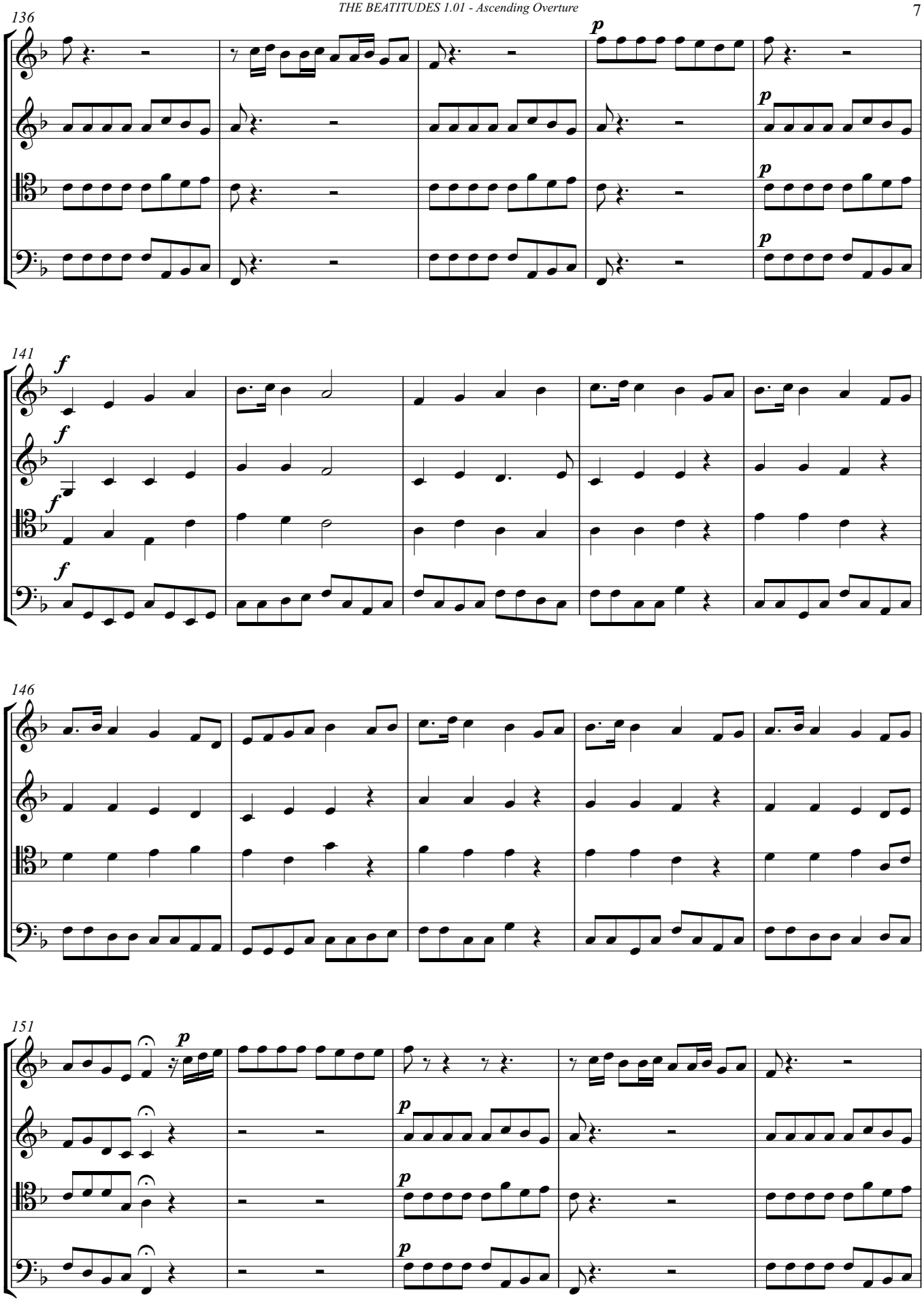

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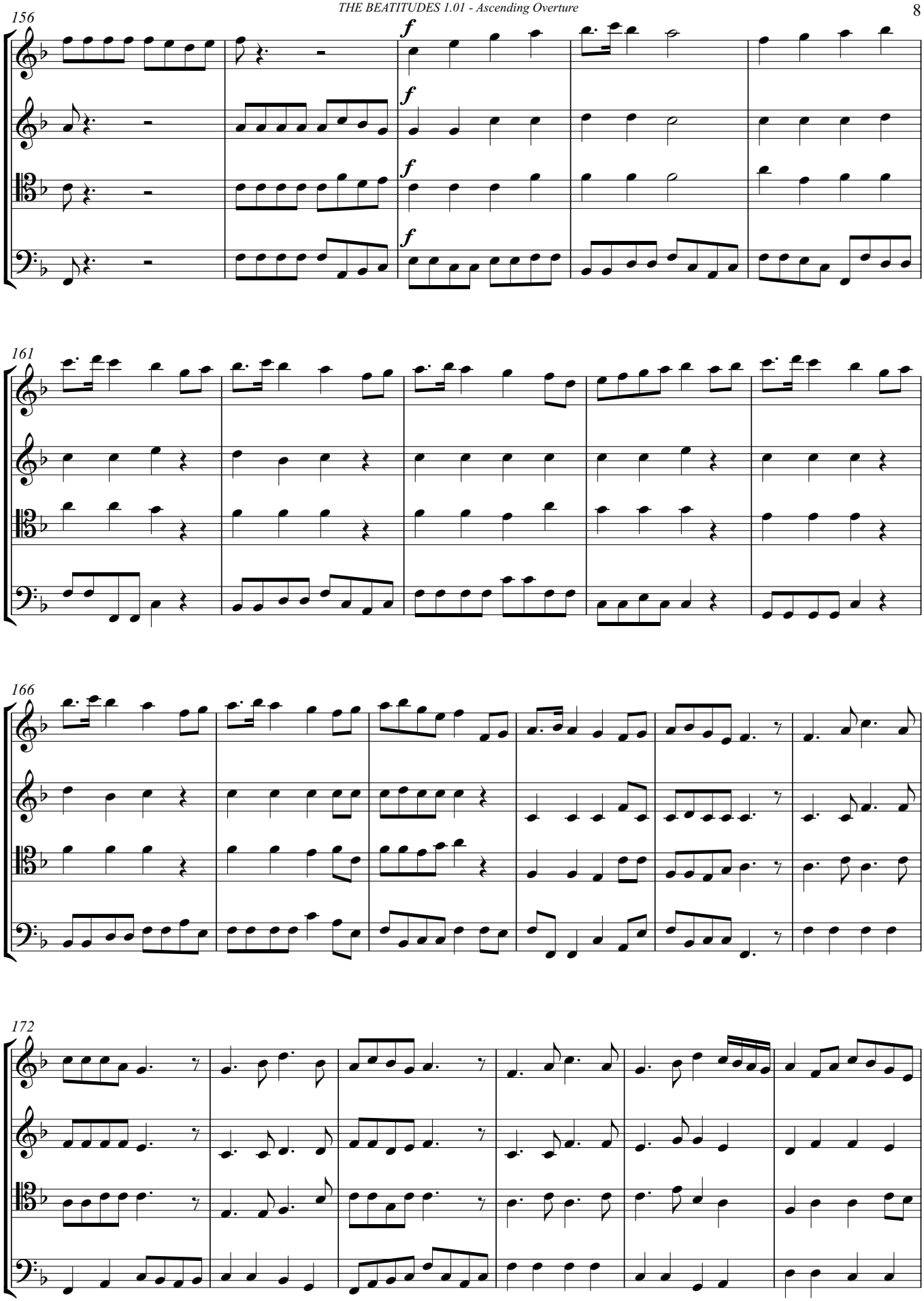

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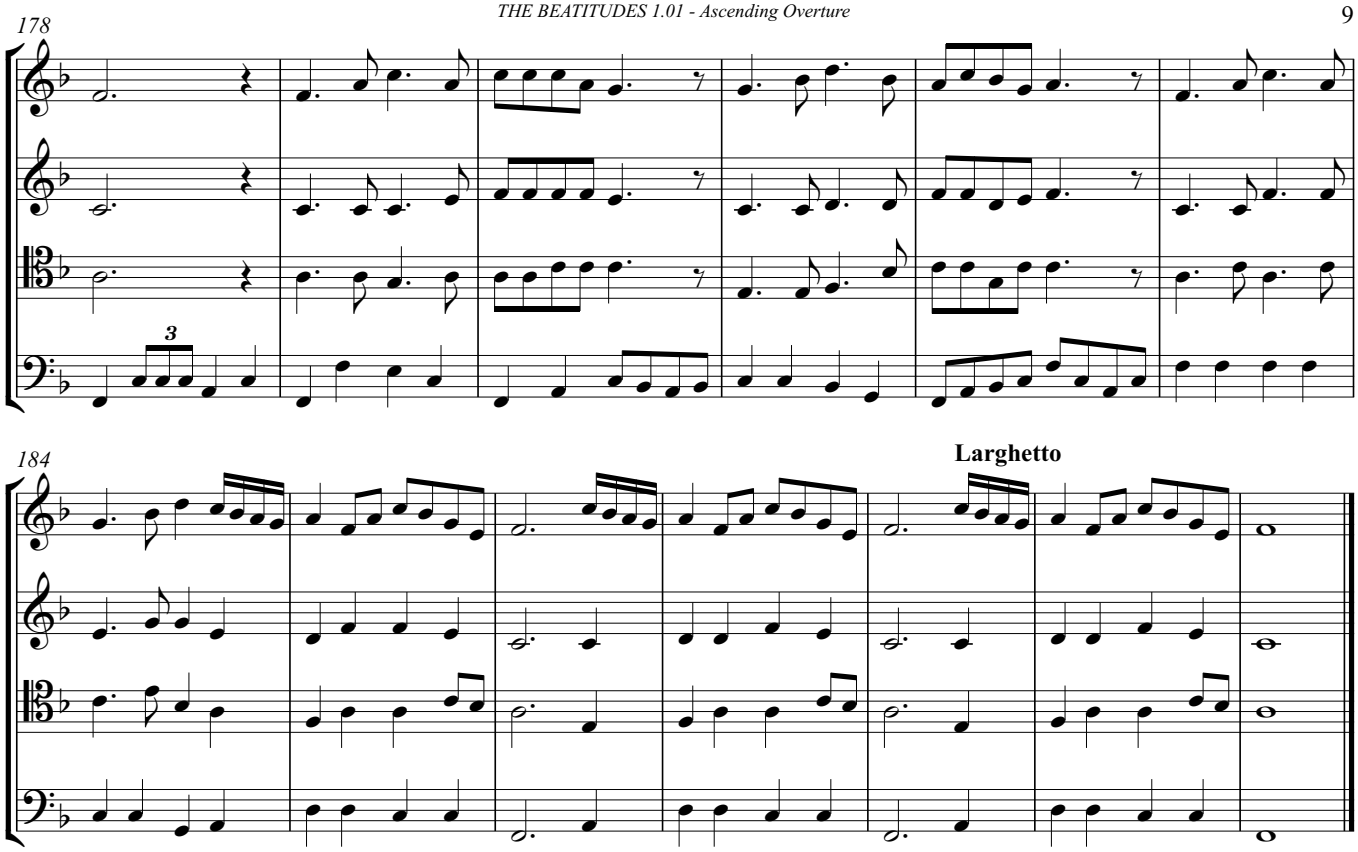

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And Seeing The Multitudes

THE BEATITUDES 1.02 (Recitative For Soprano)

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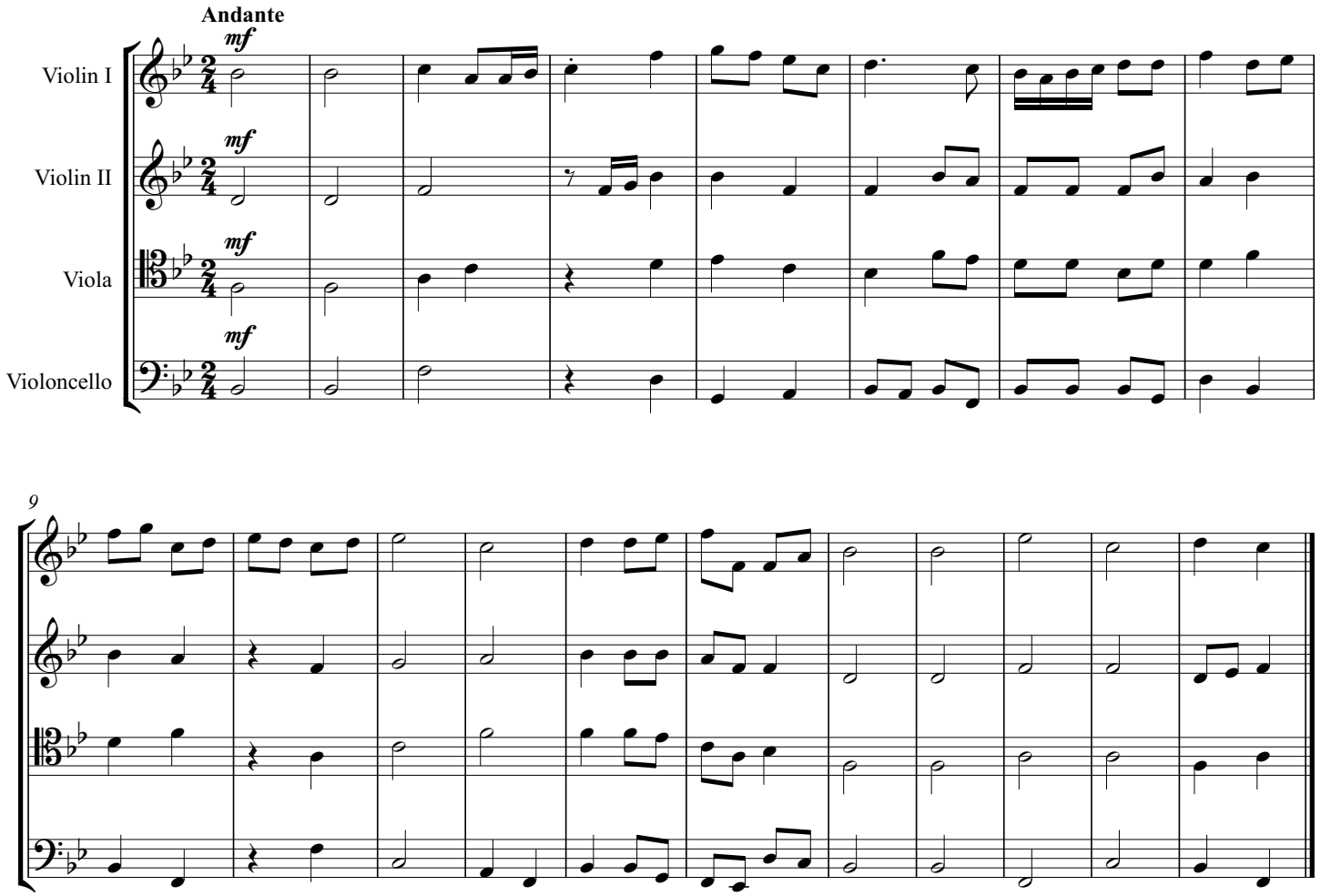

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Blessed Are The Poor in Spirit

THE BEATITUDES 1.03 (Chorus)

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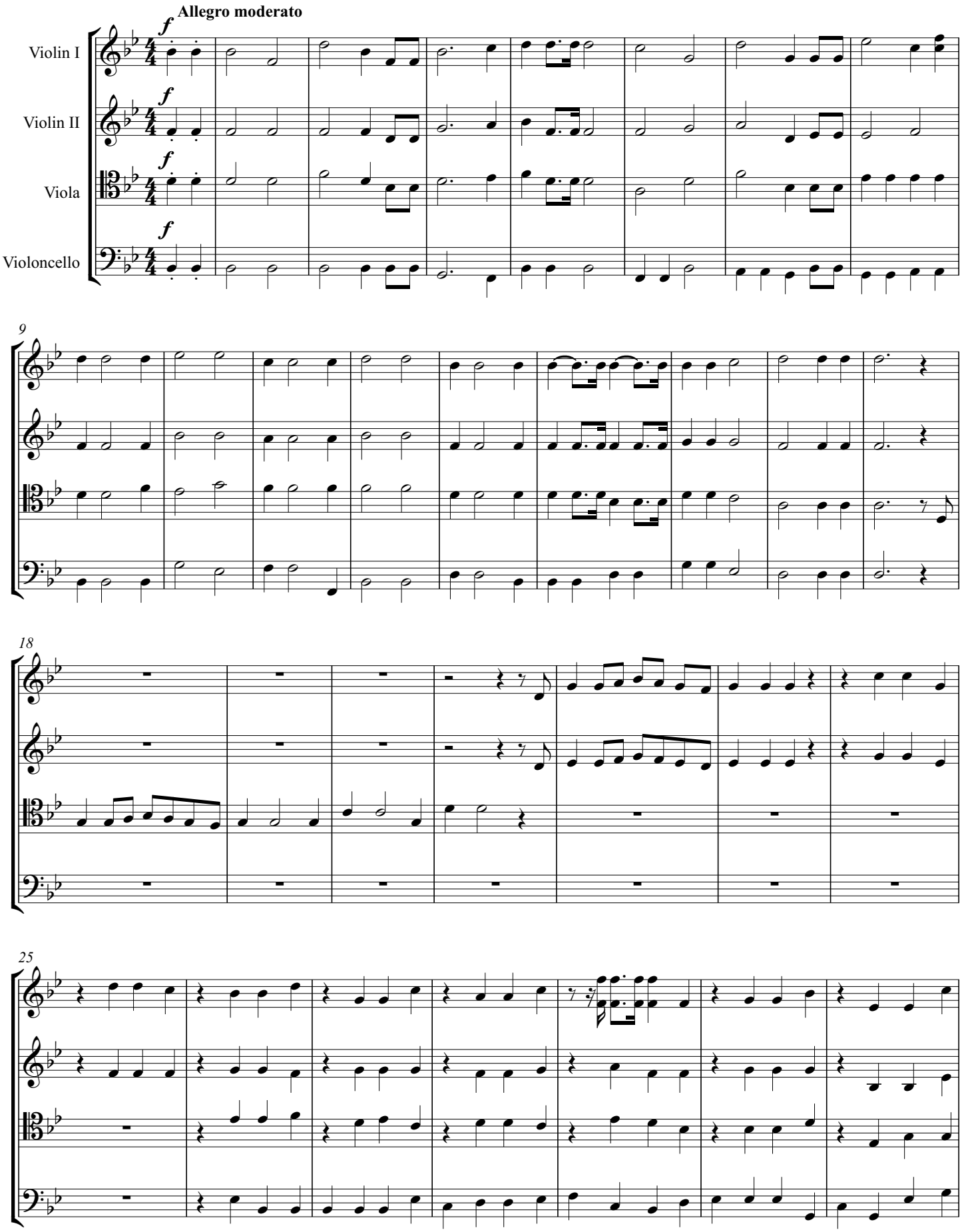

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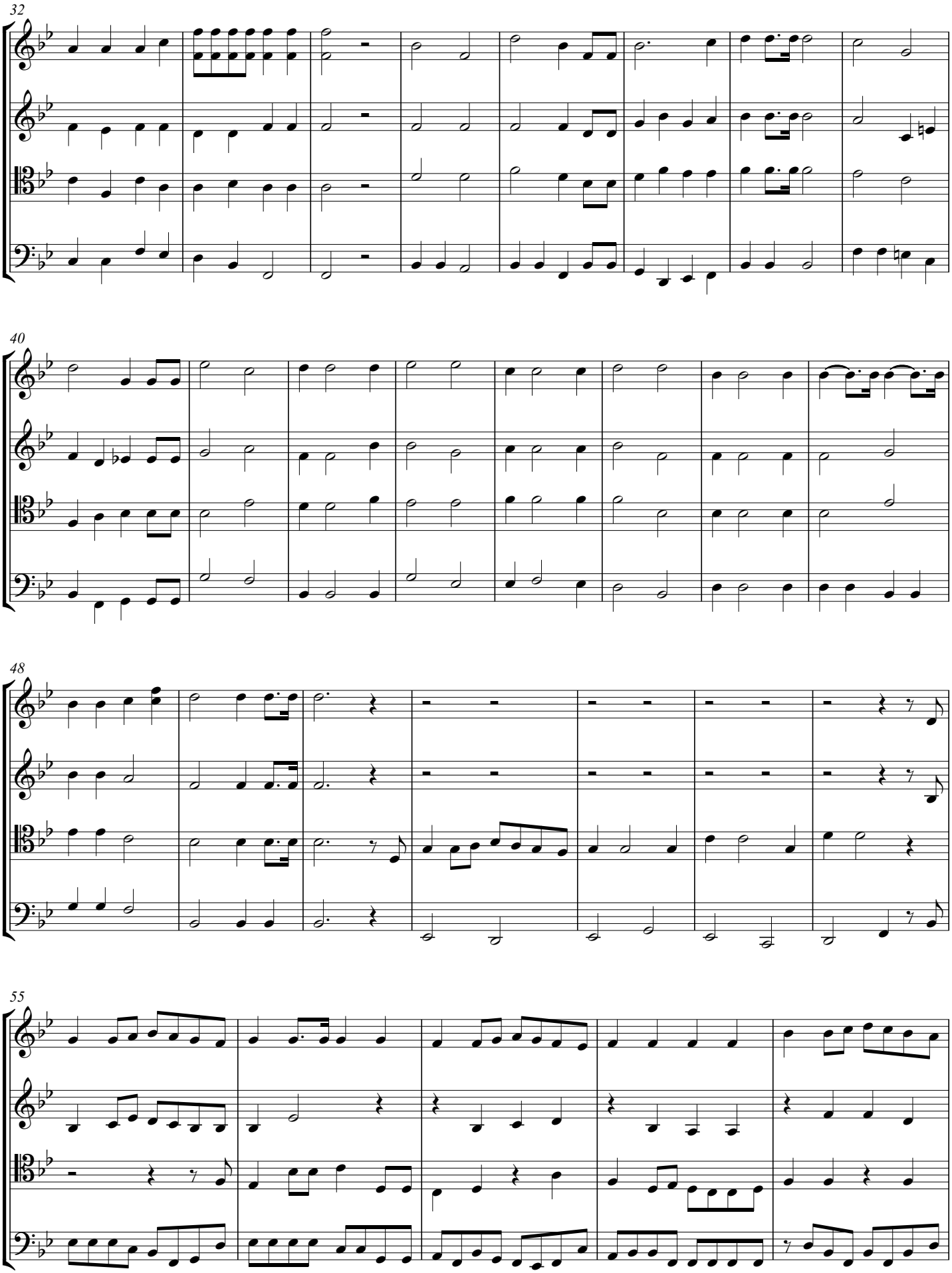

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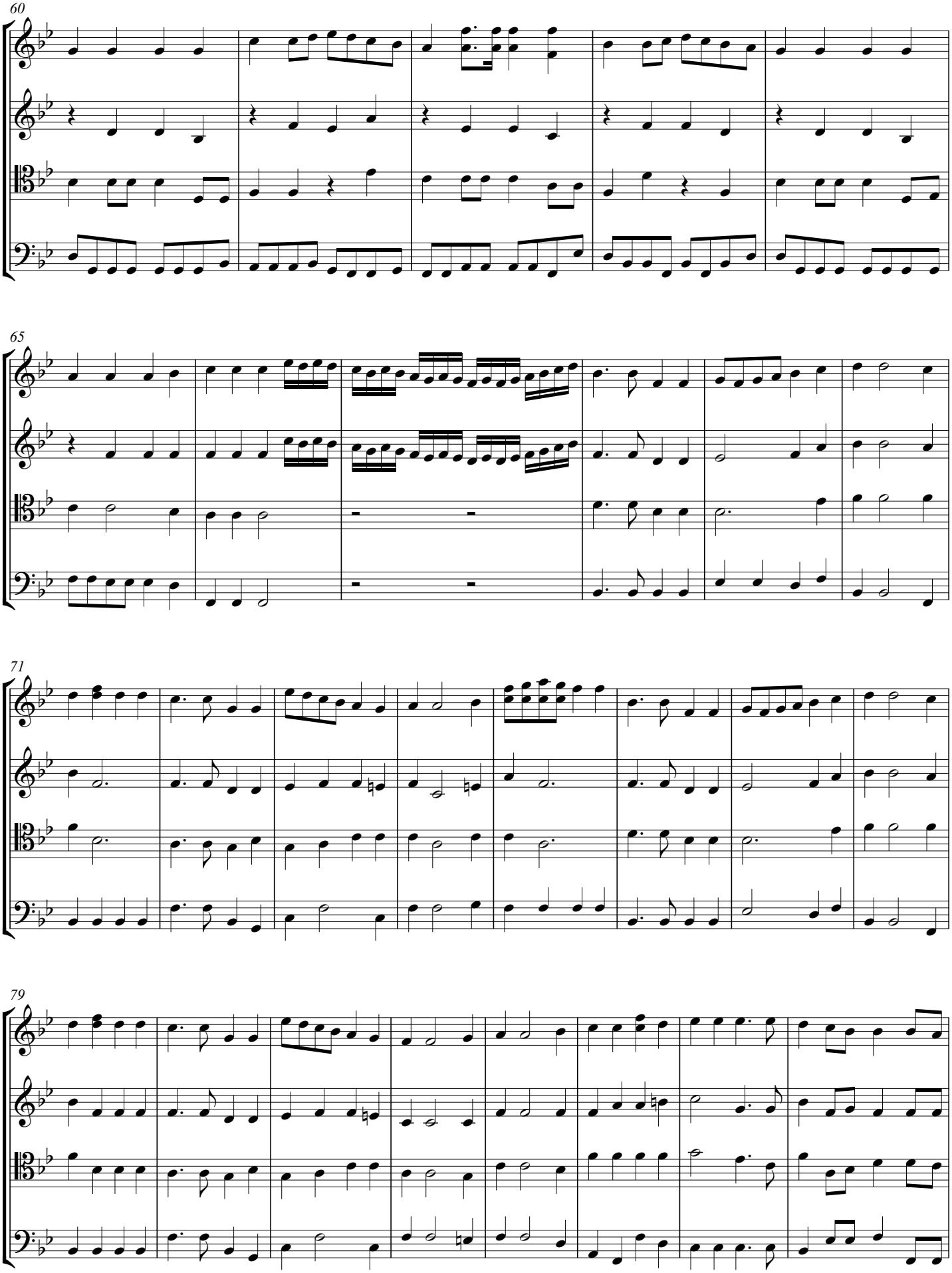

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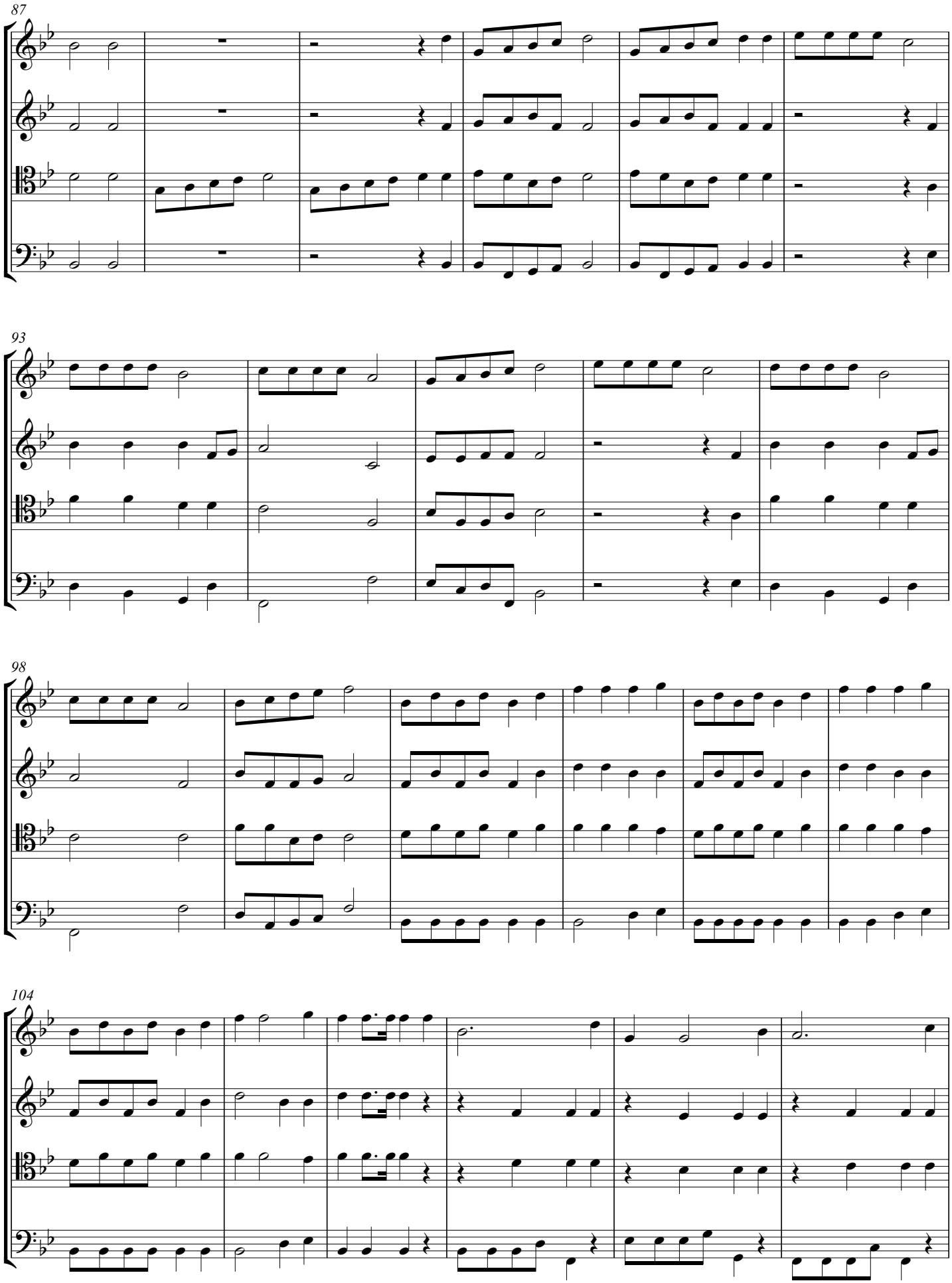

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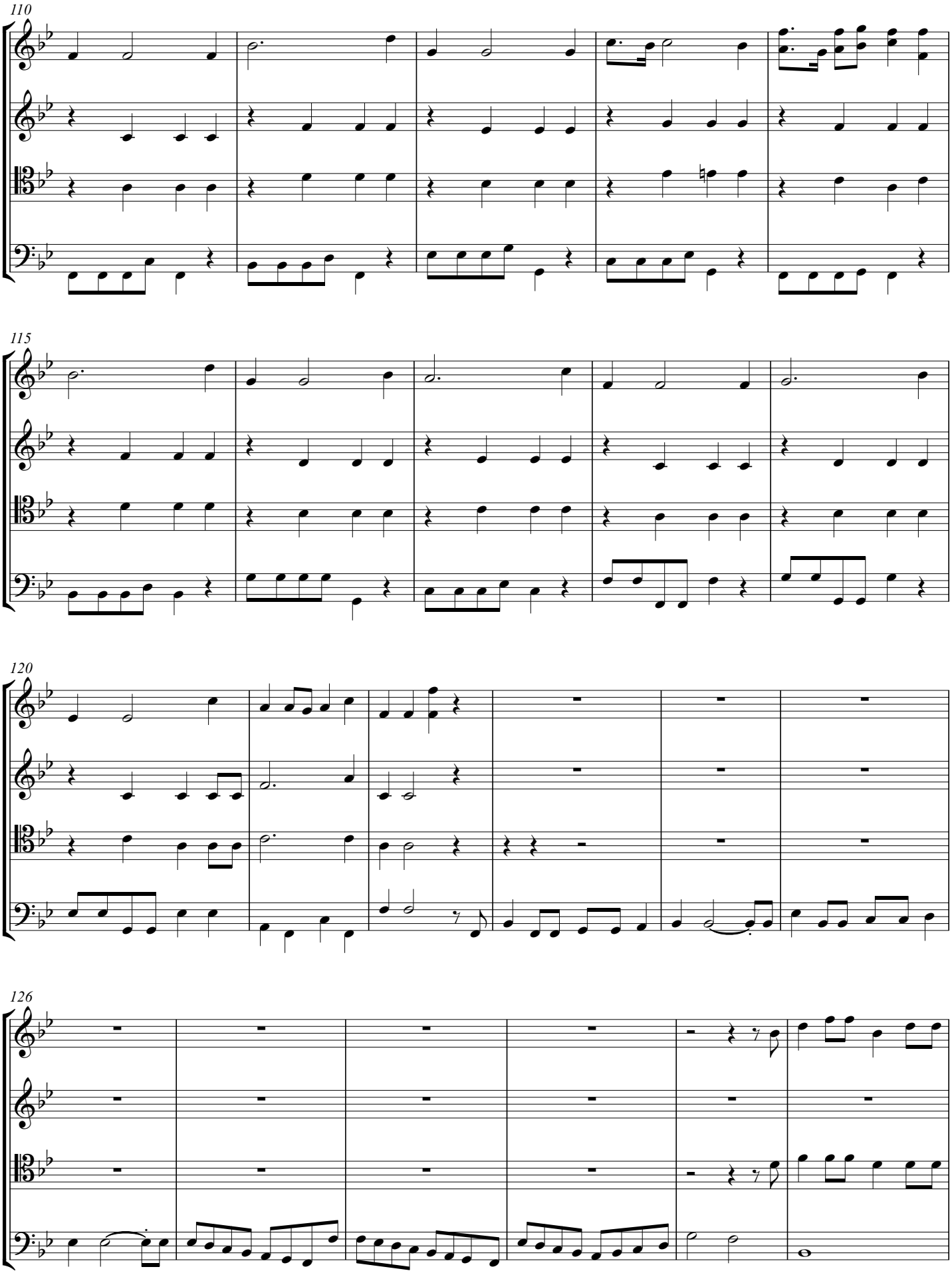

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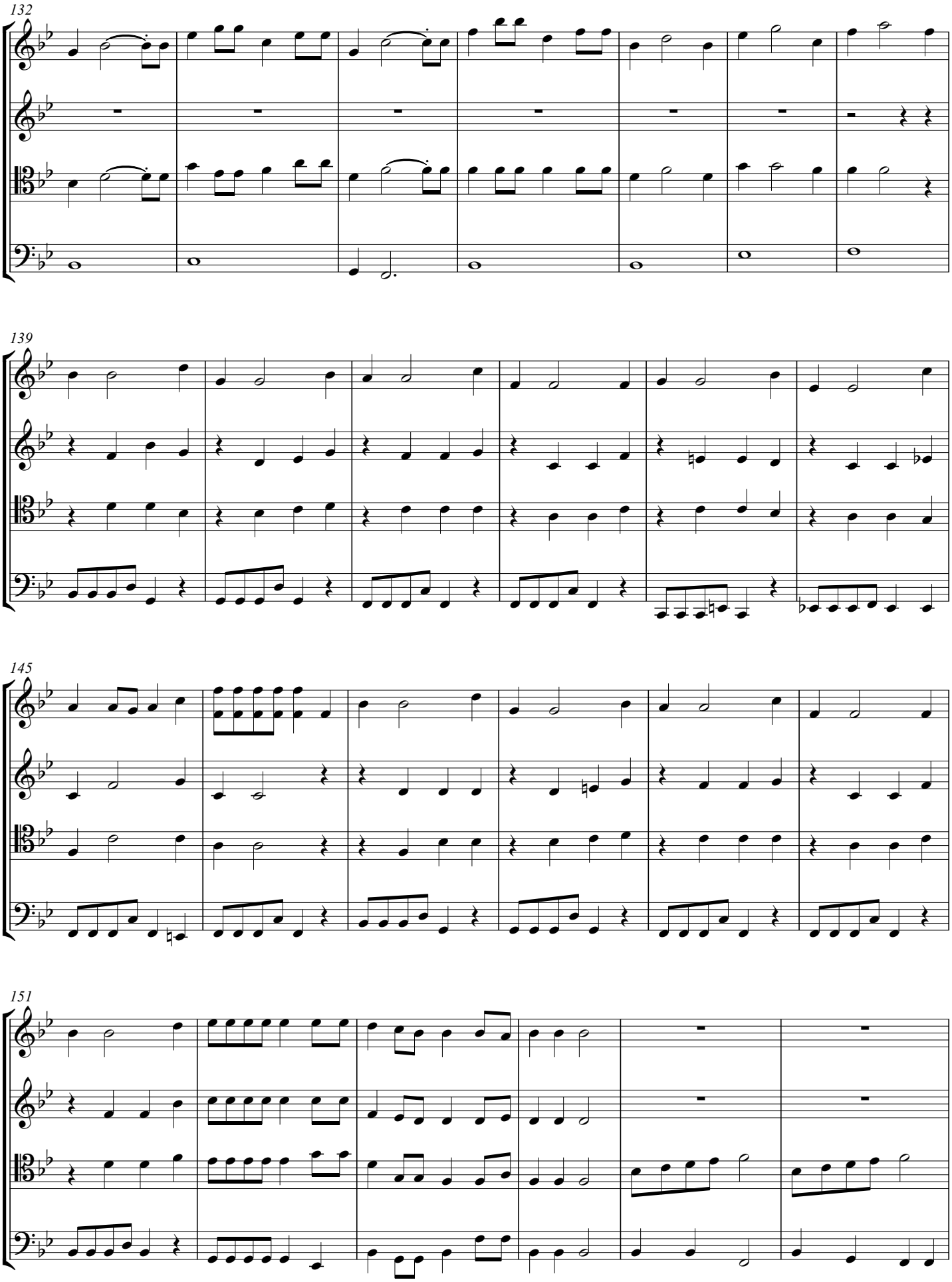

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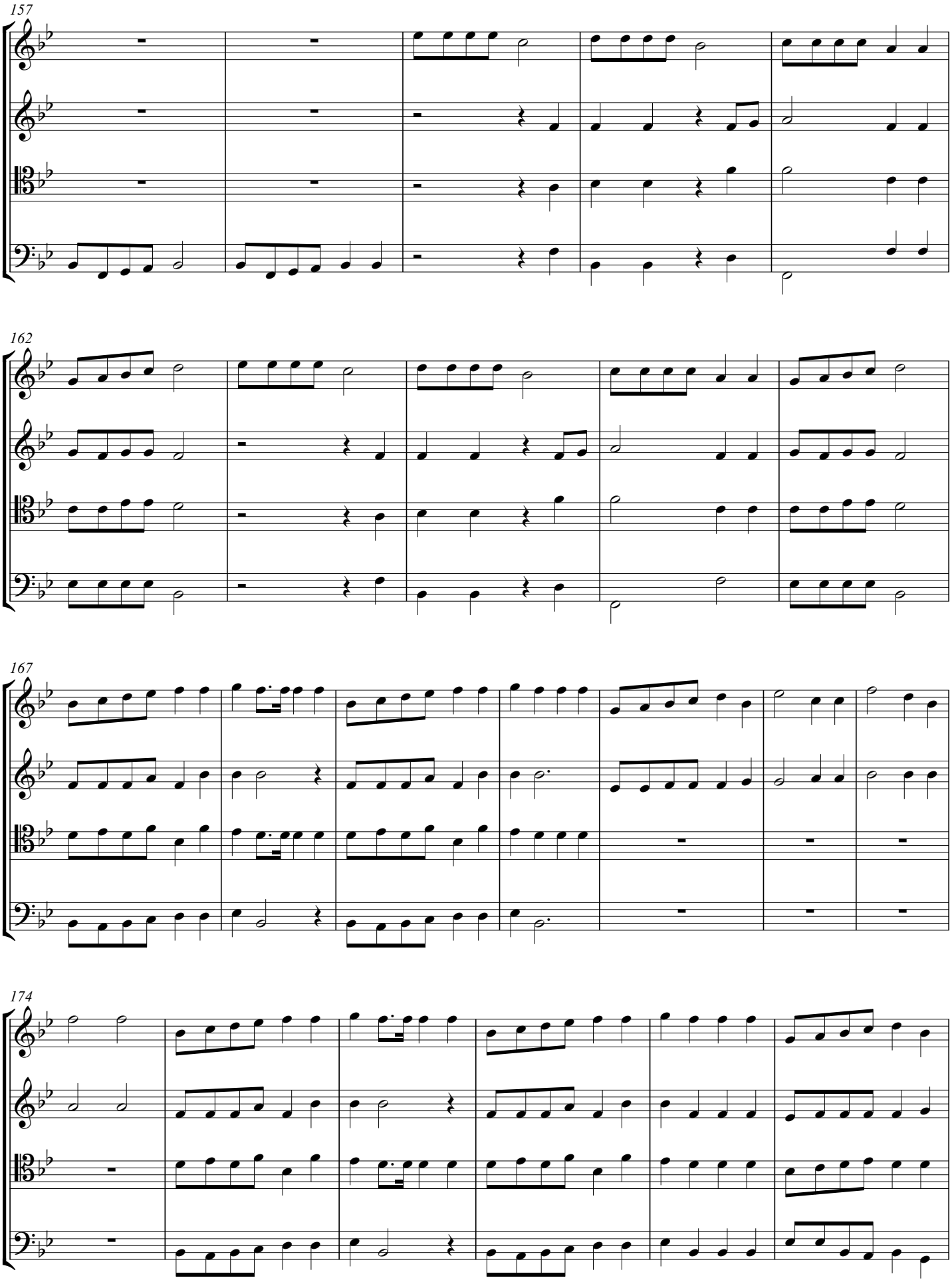

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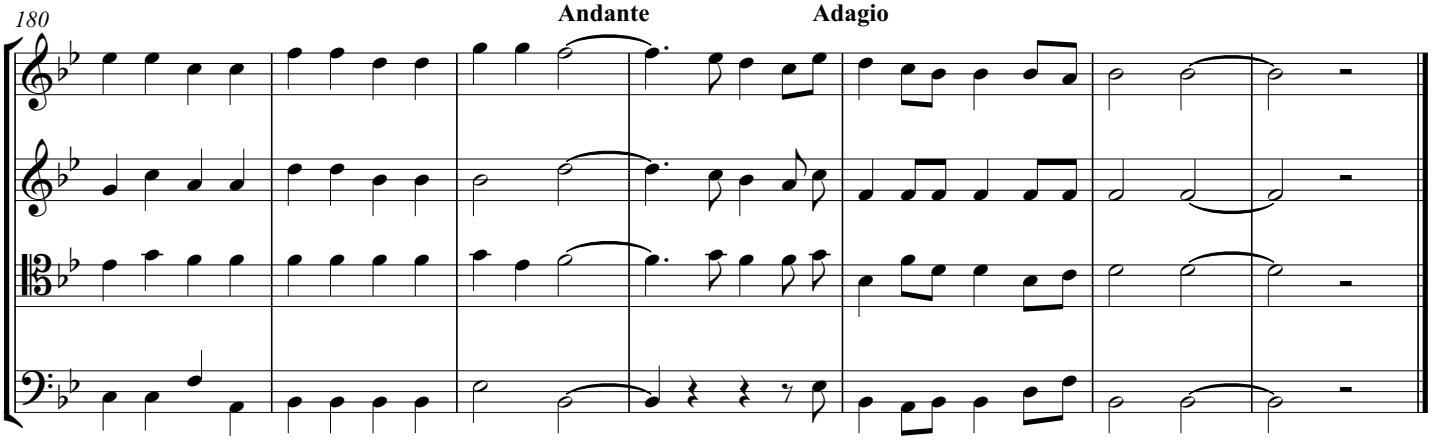

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Blessed Are Those Who Mourn

THE BEATITUDES 1.04 (Duet For Soprano And Alto)

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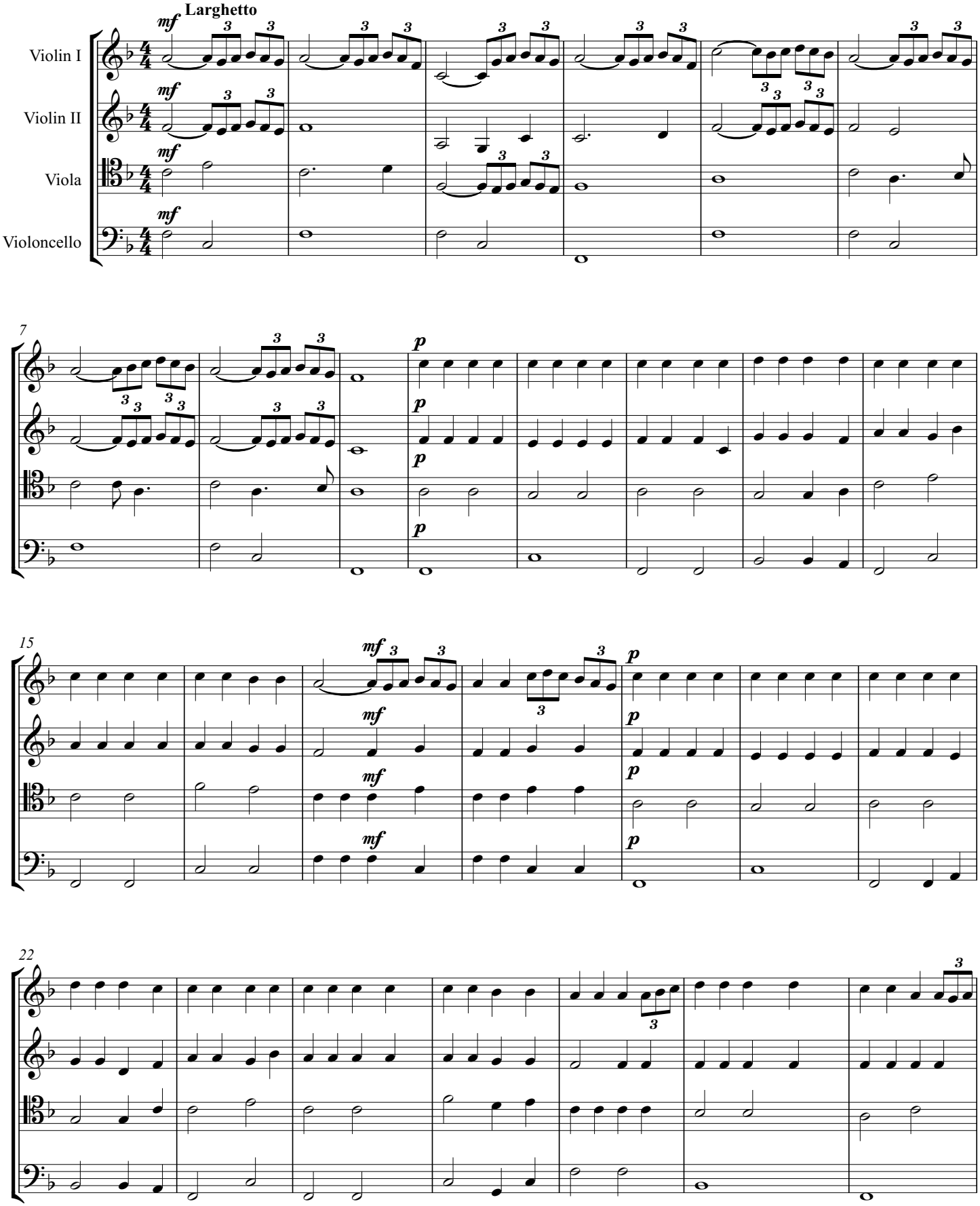

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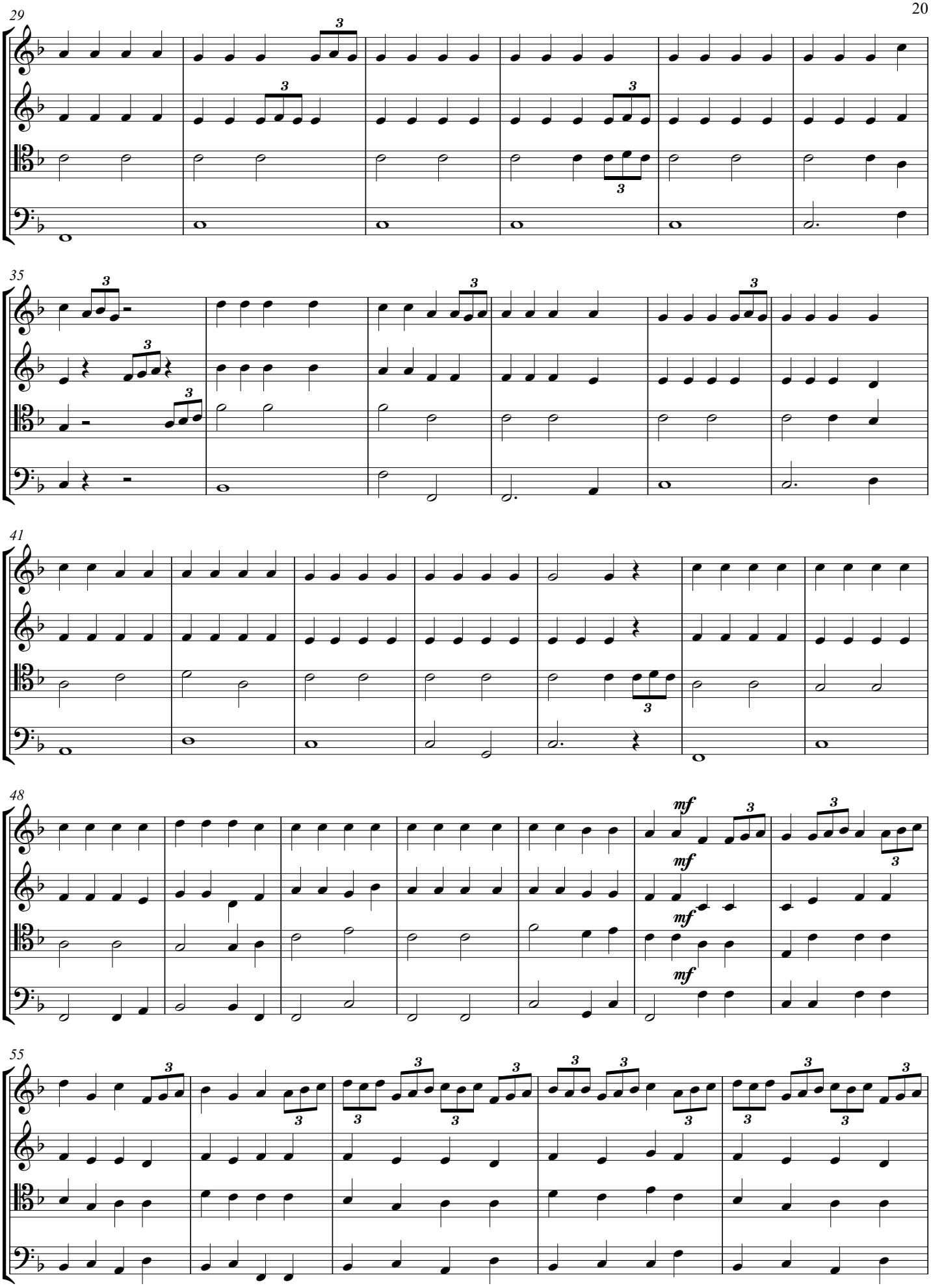

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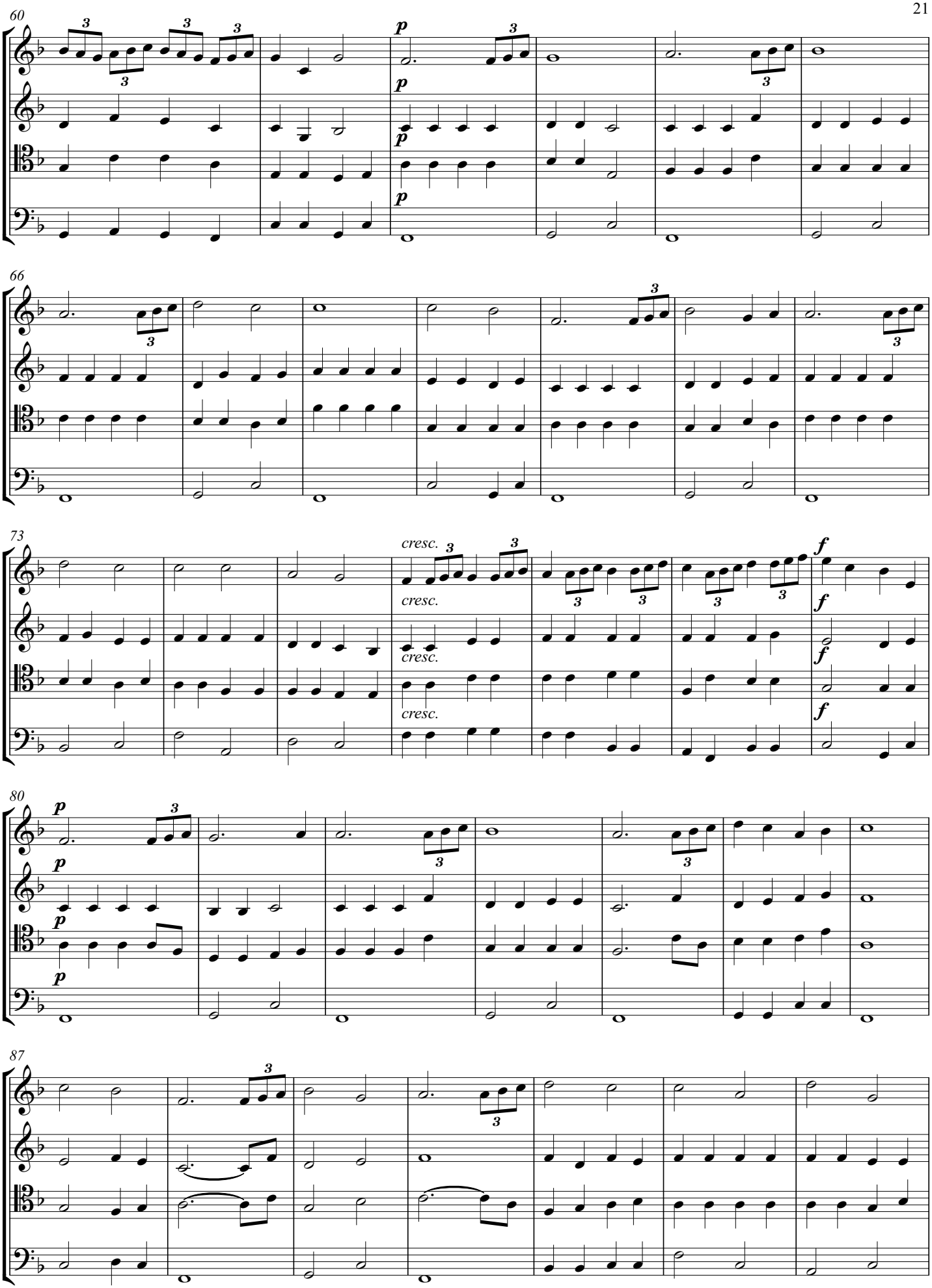

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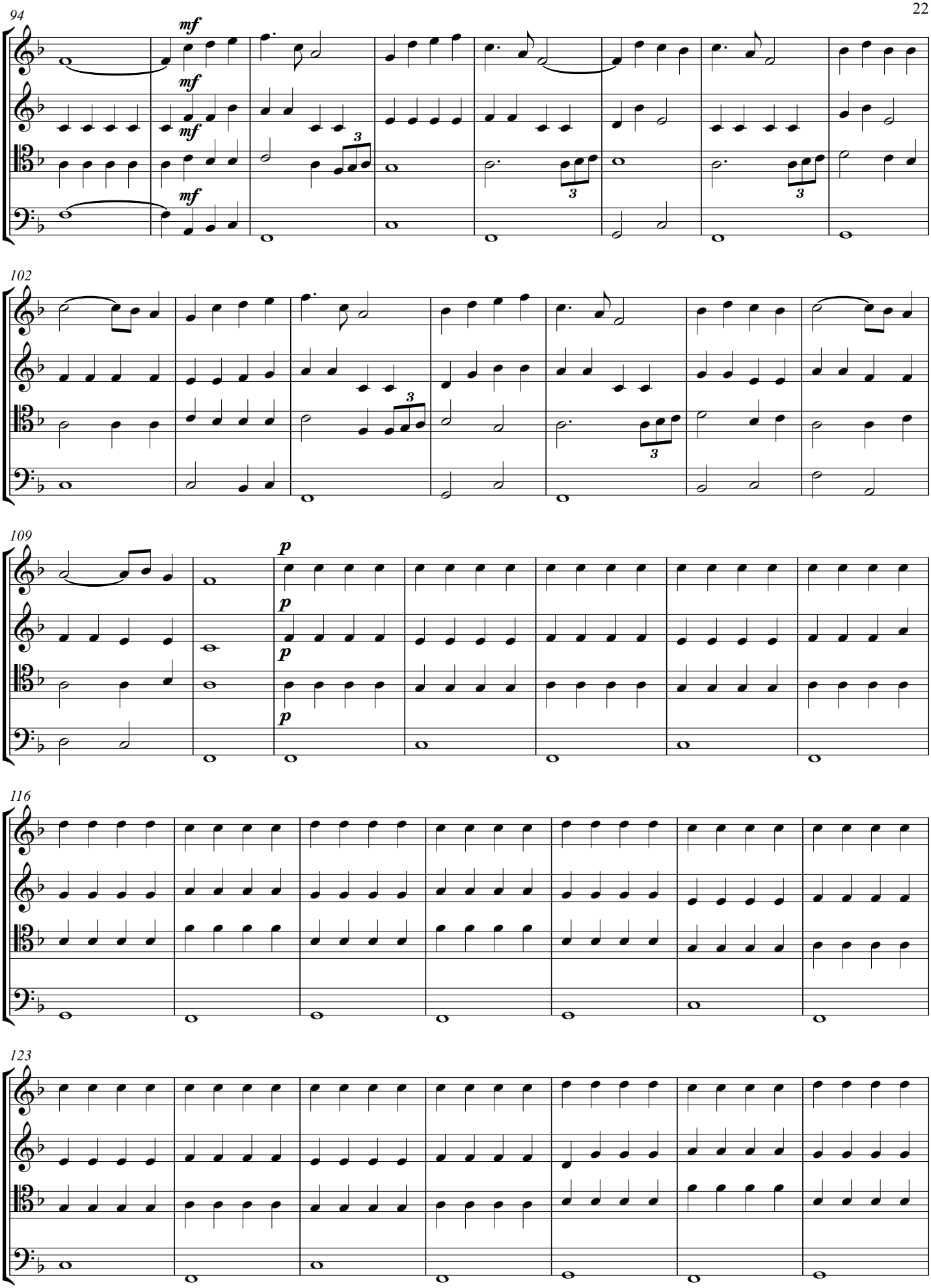

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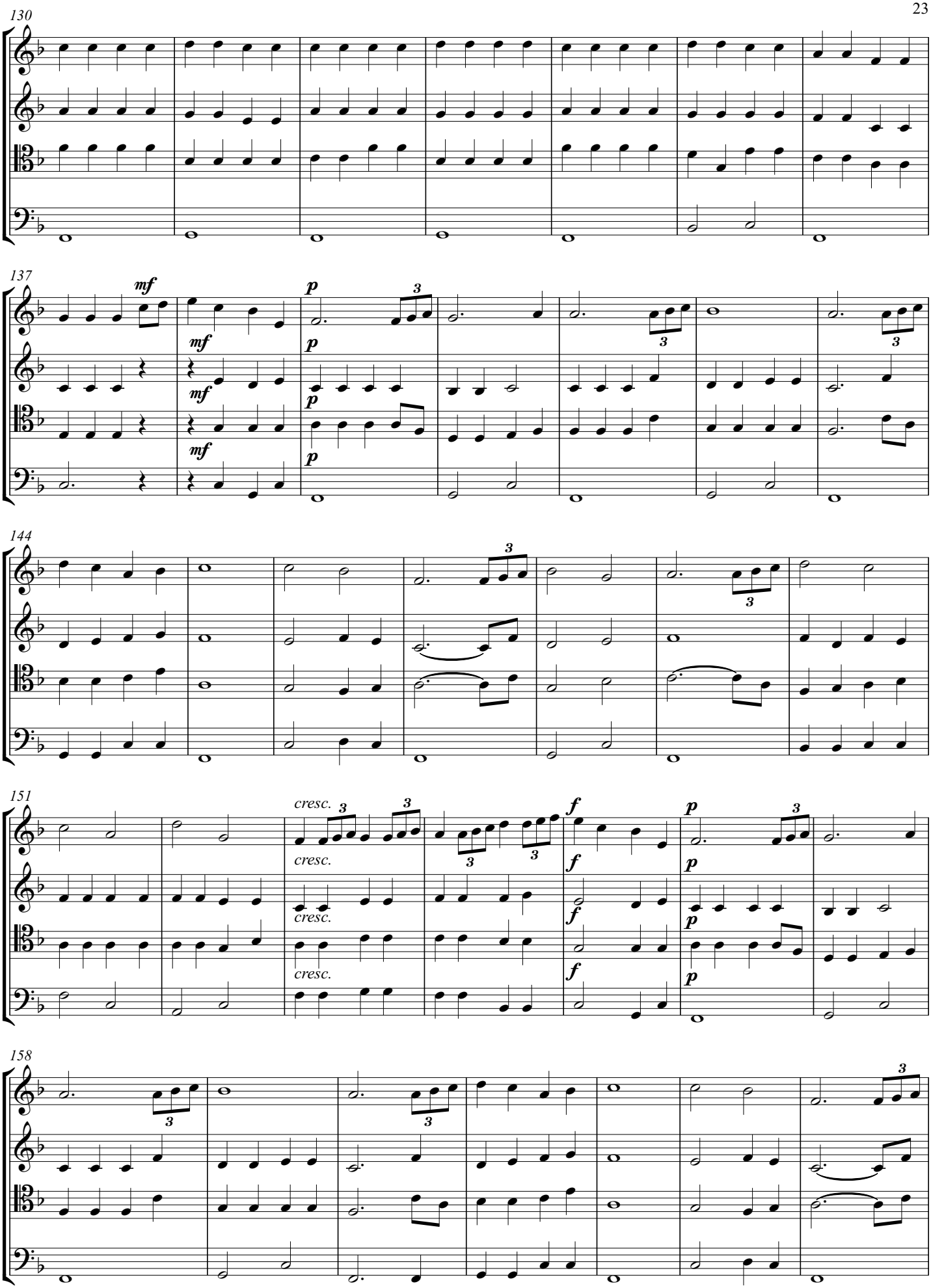

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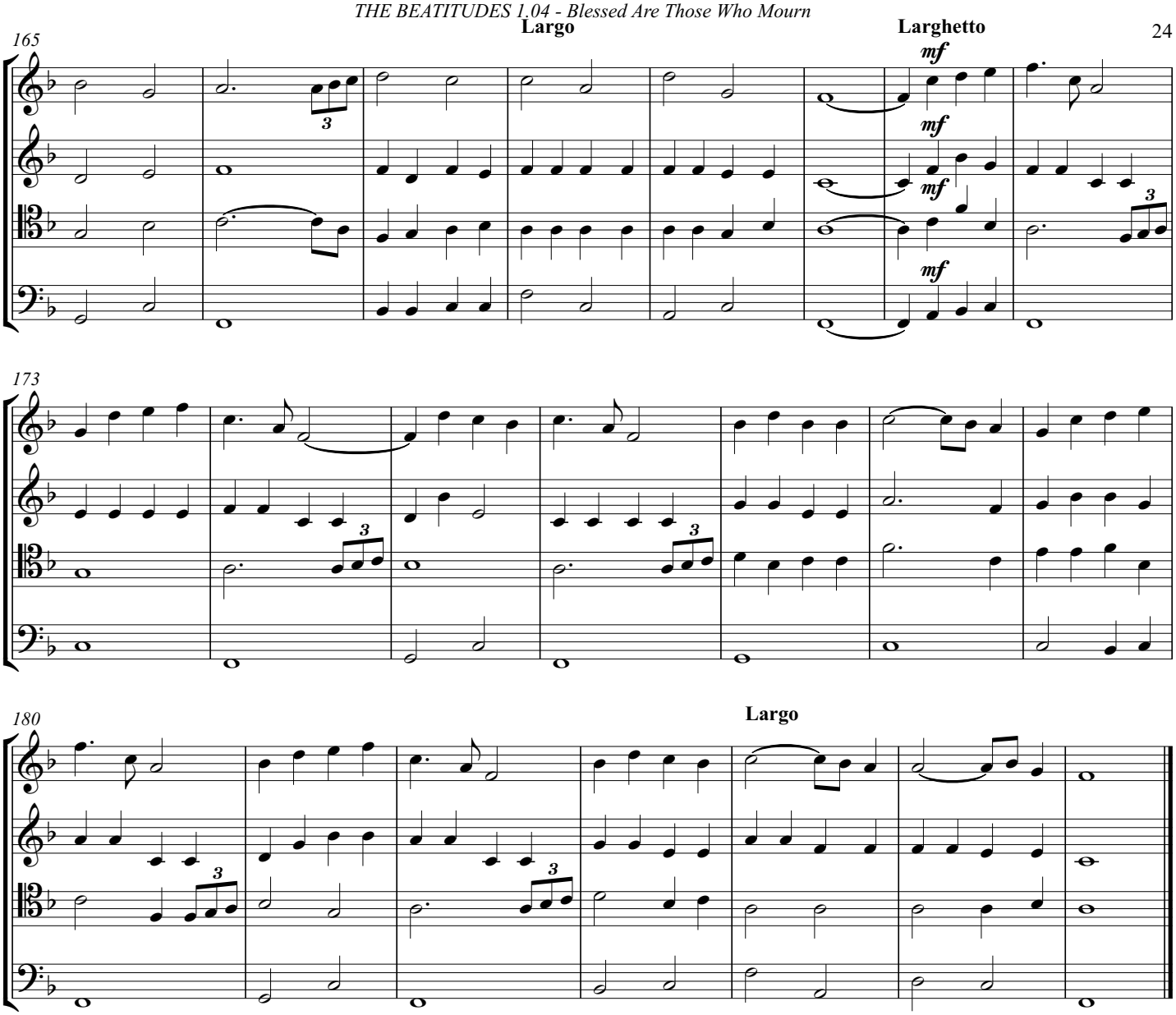

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Blessed Are The Meek

THE BEATITUDES 1.05 (Air For Tenor)

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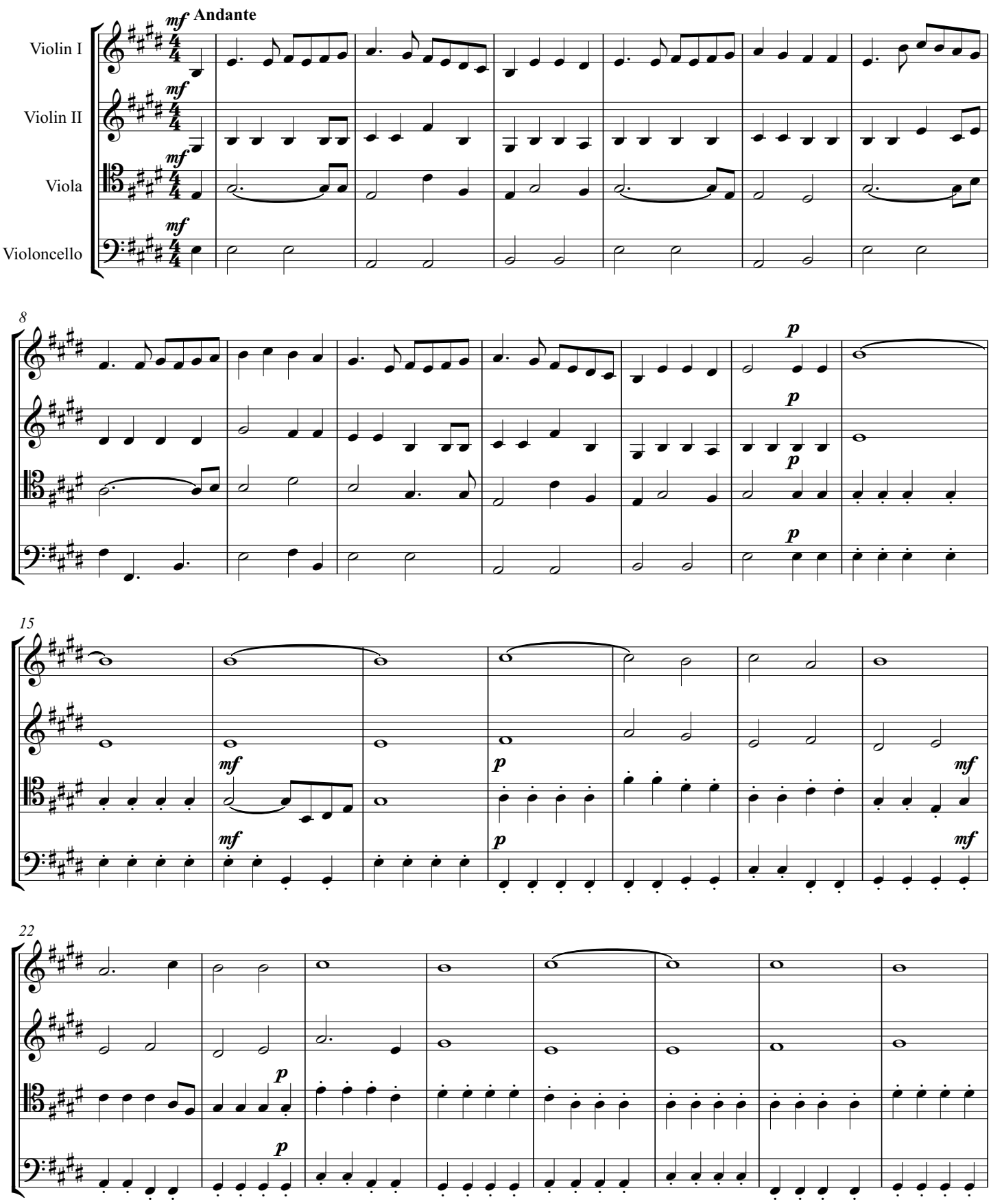

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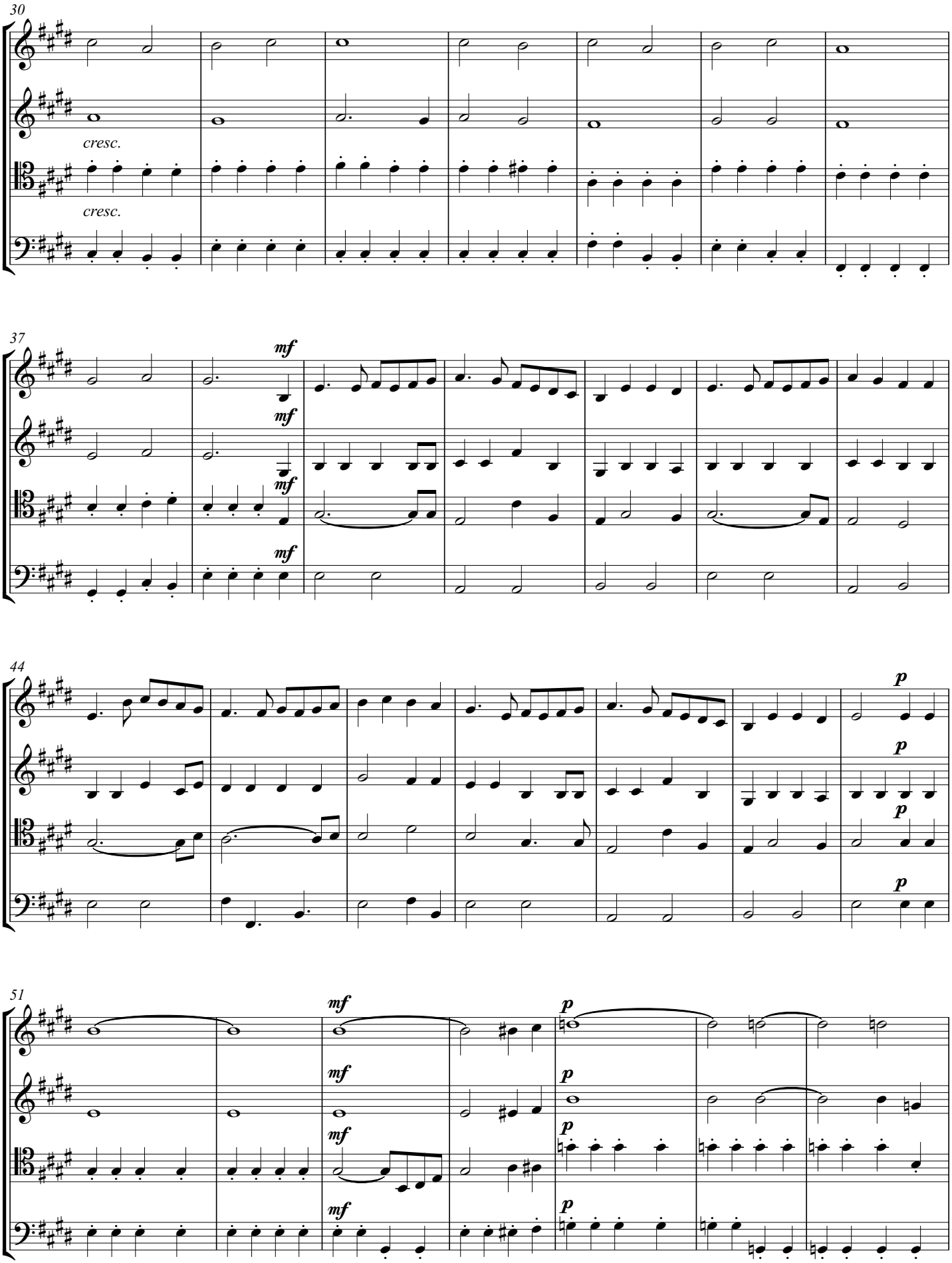

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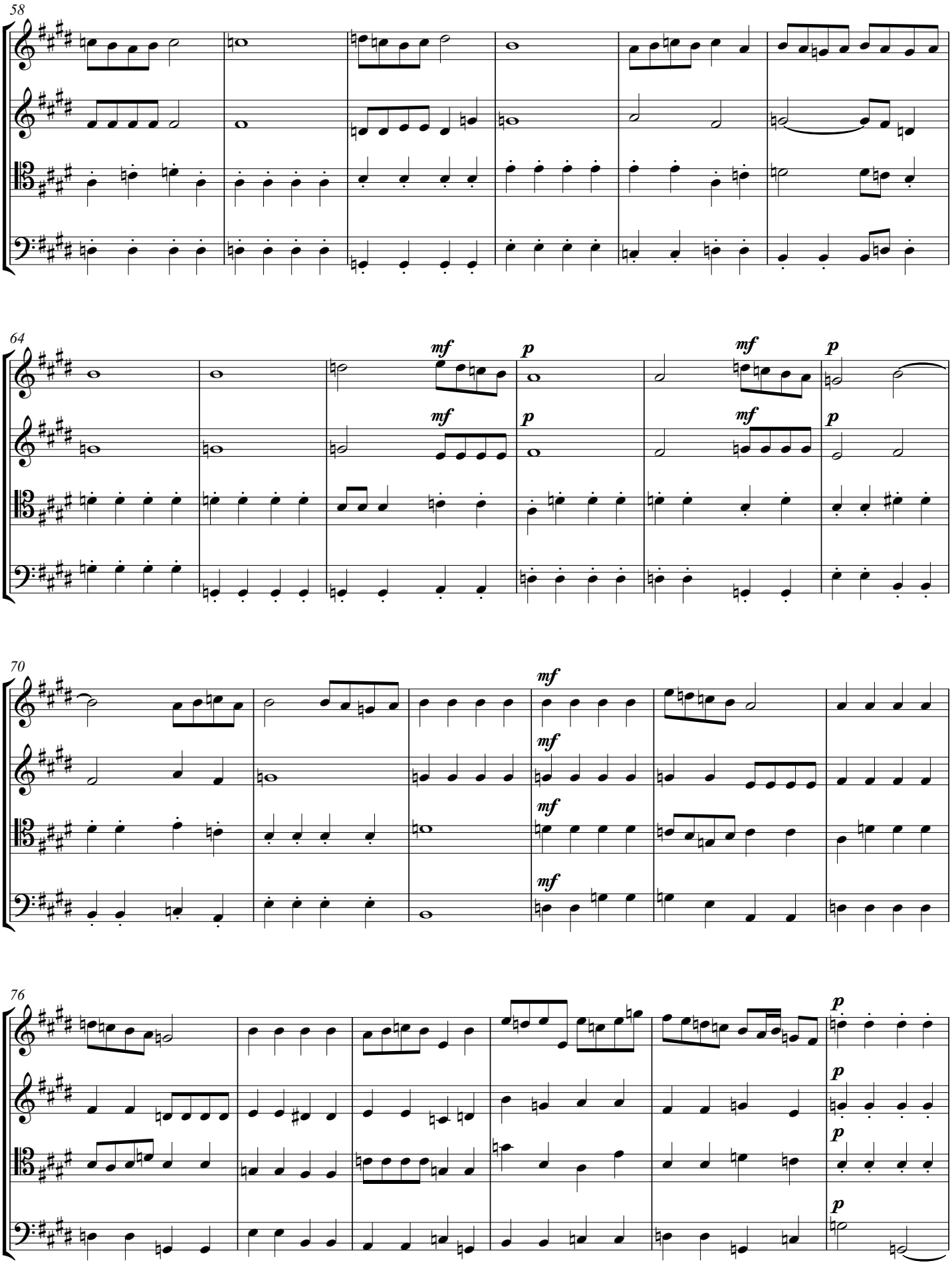

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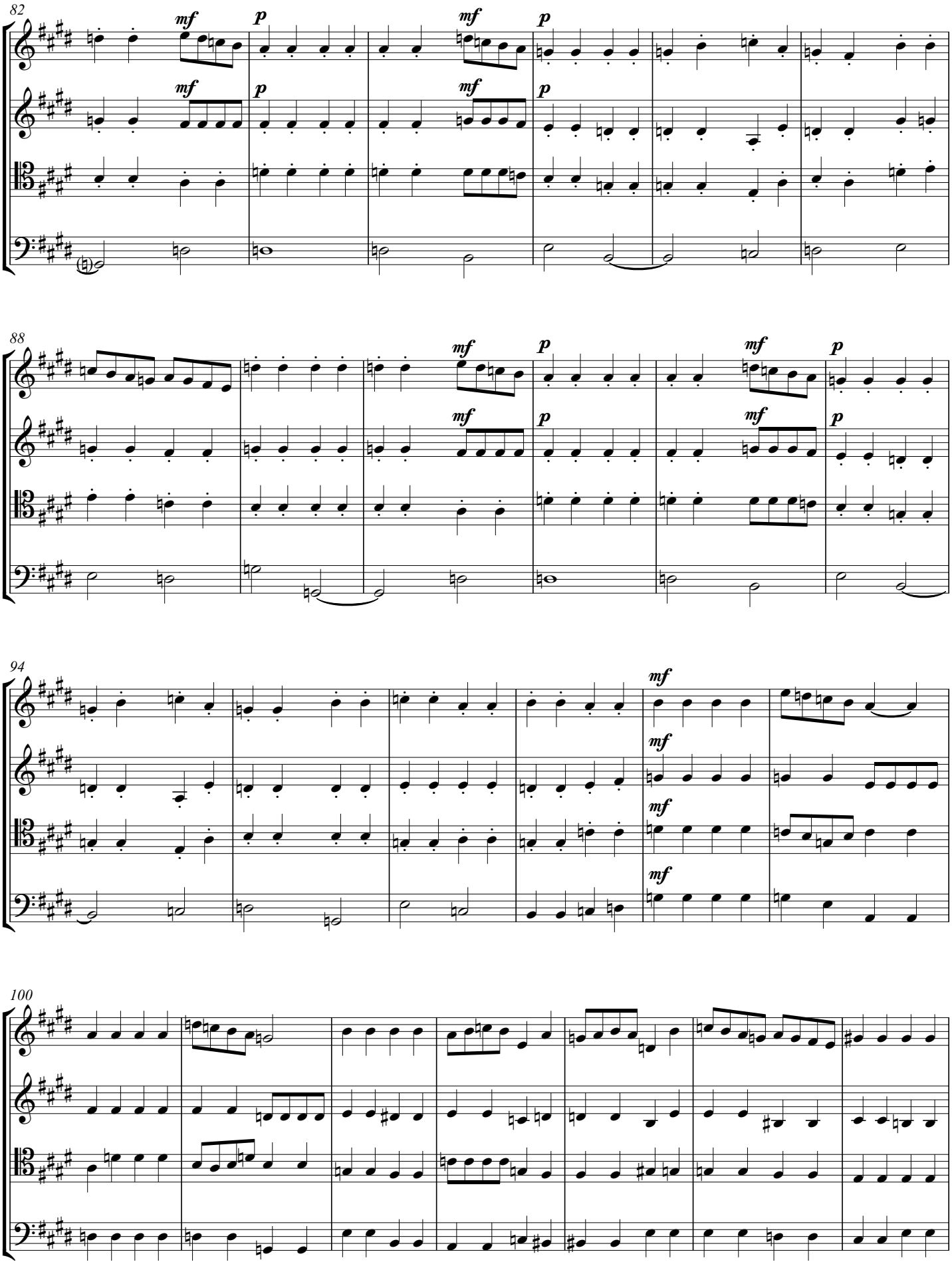

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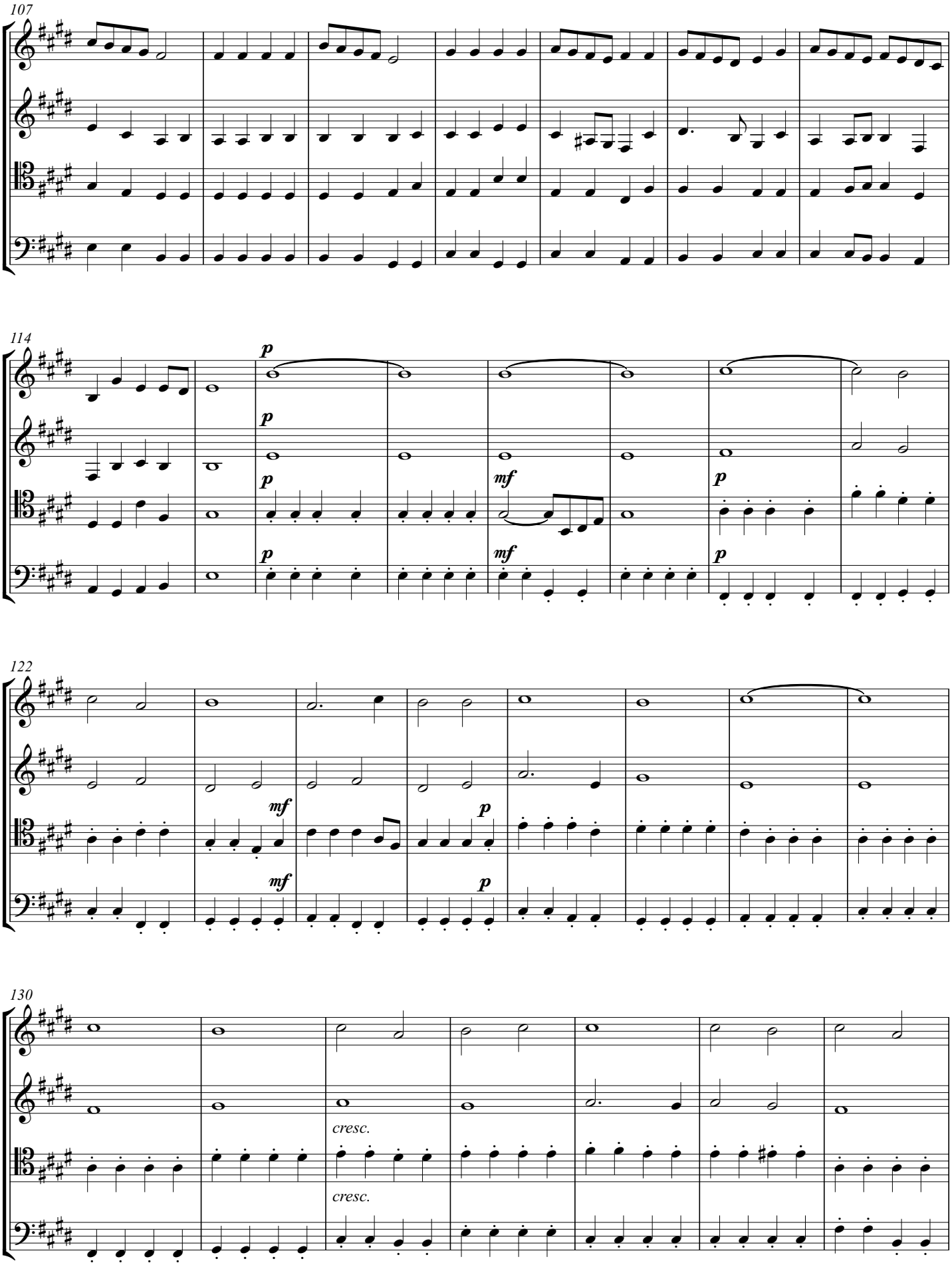

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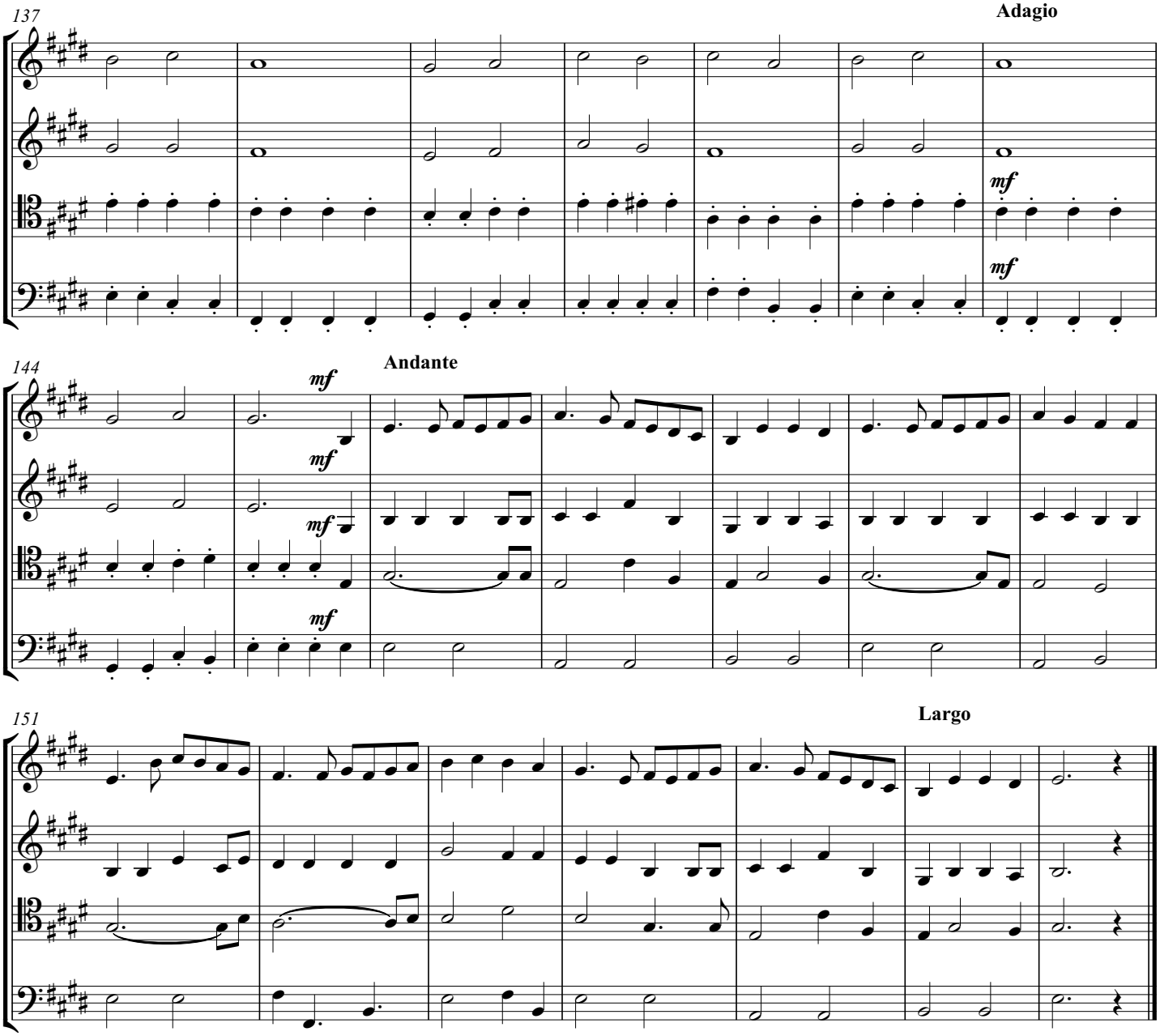

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Blessed Are The Hungry

THE BEATITUDES 1.06 (Air For Alto)

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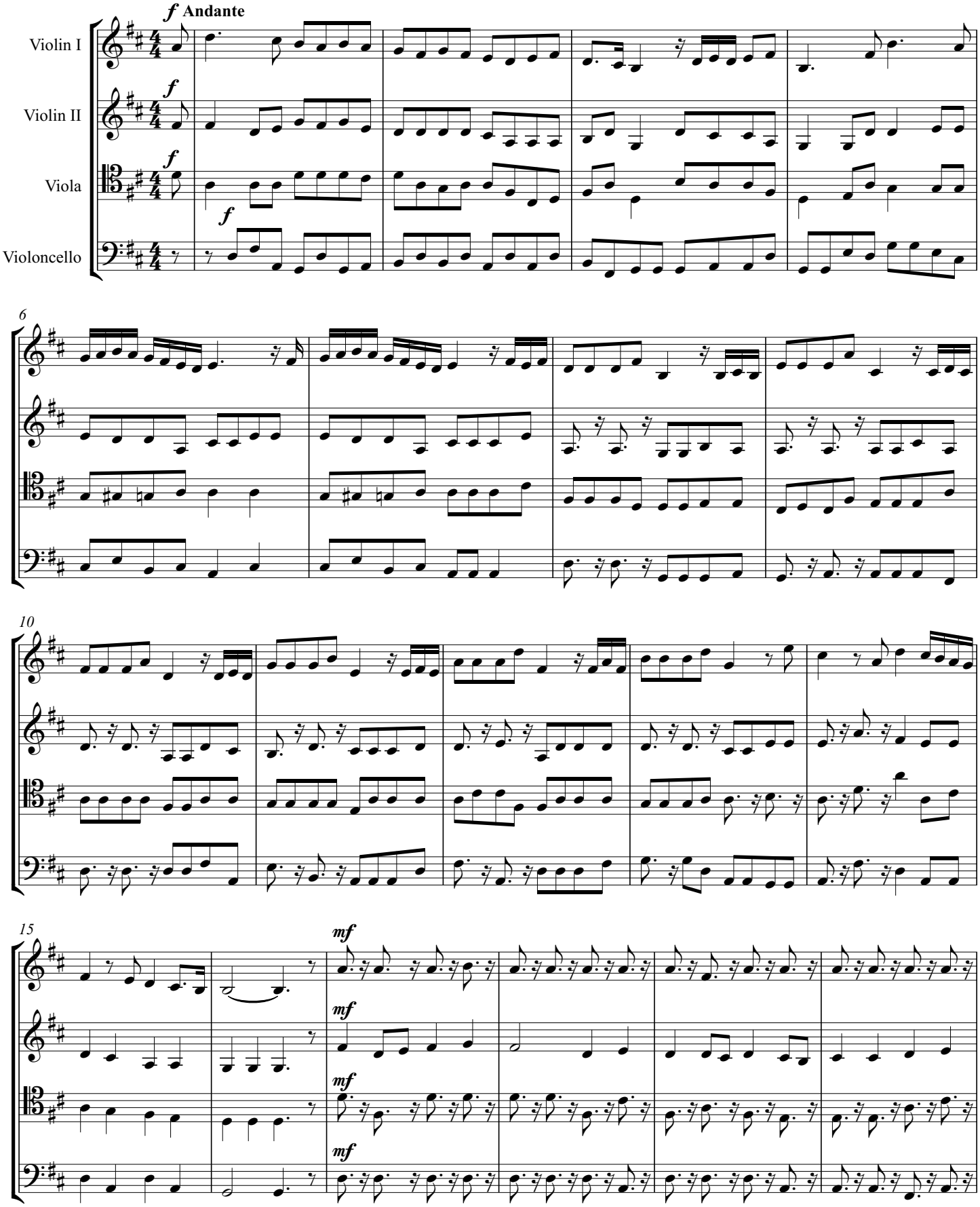

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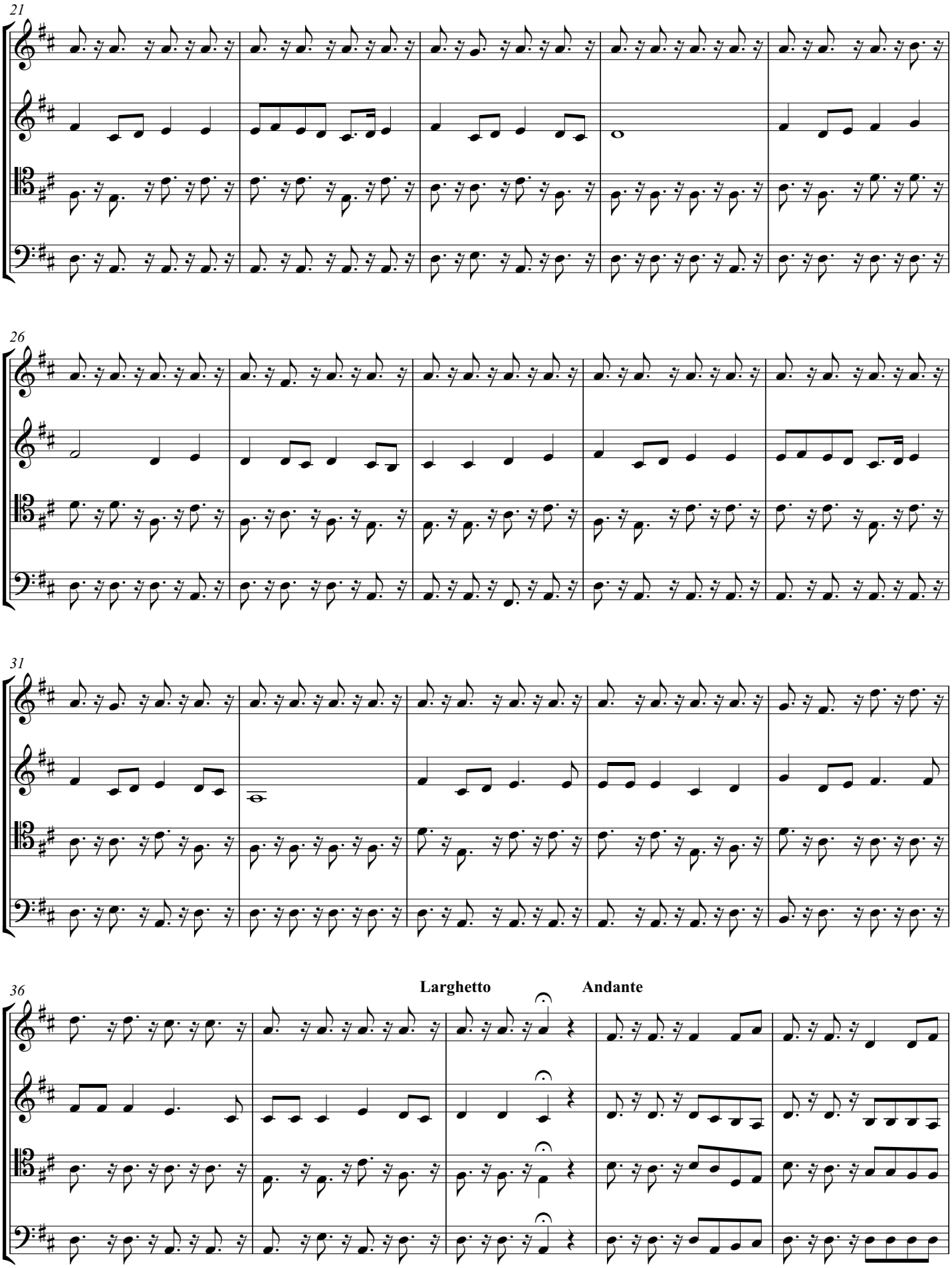

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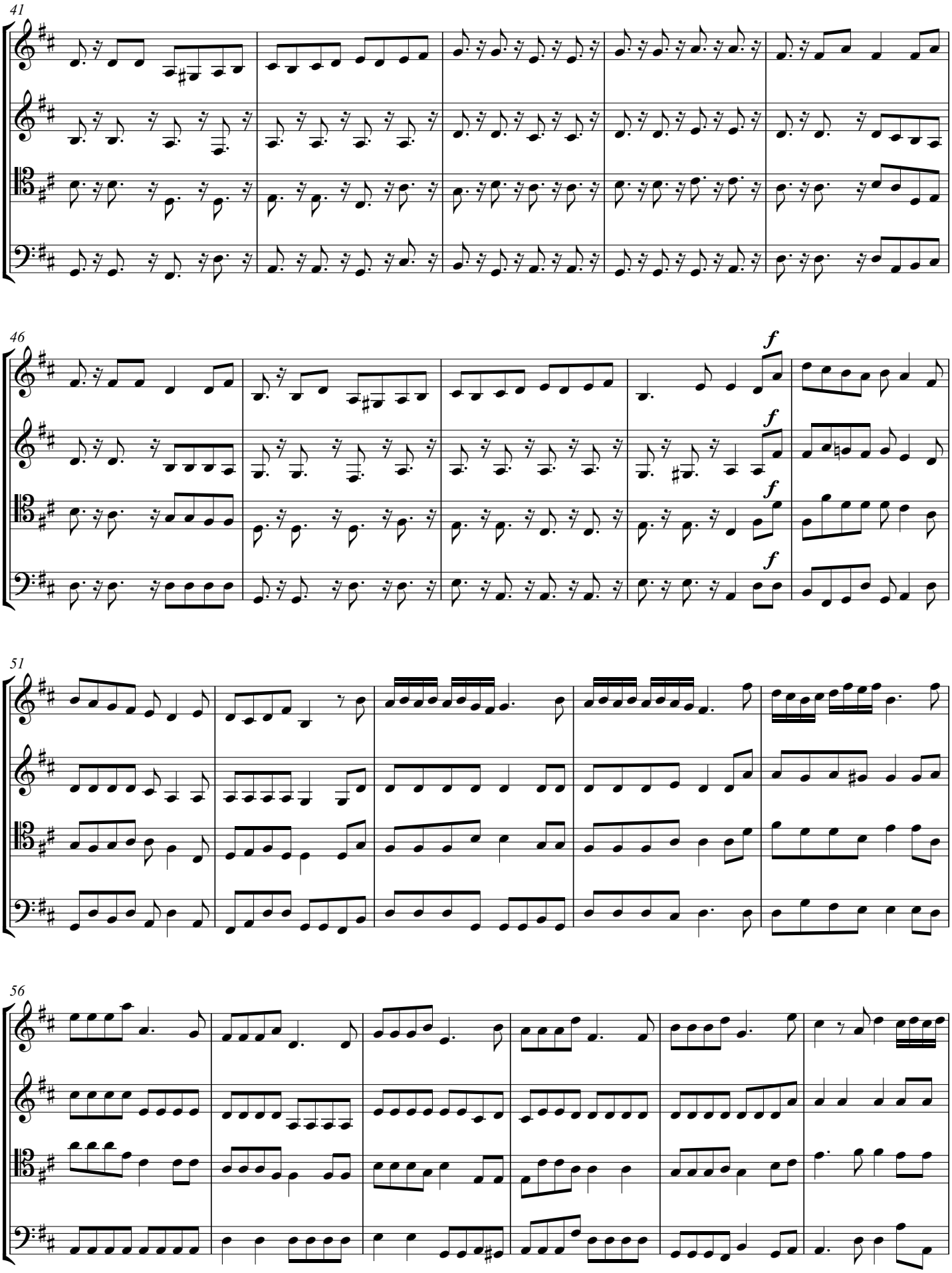

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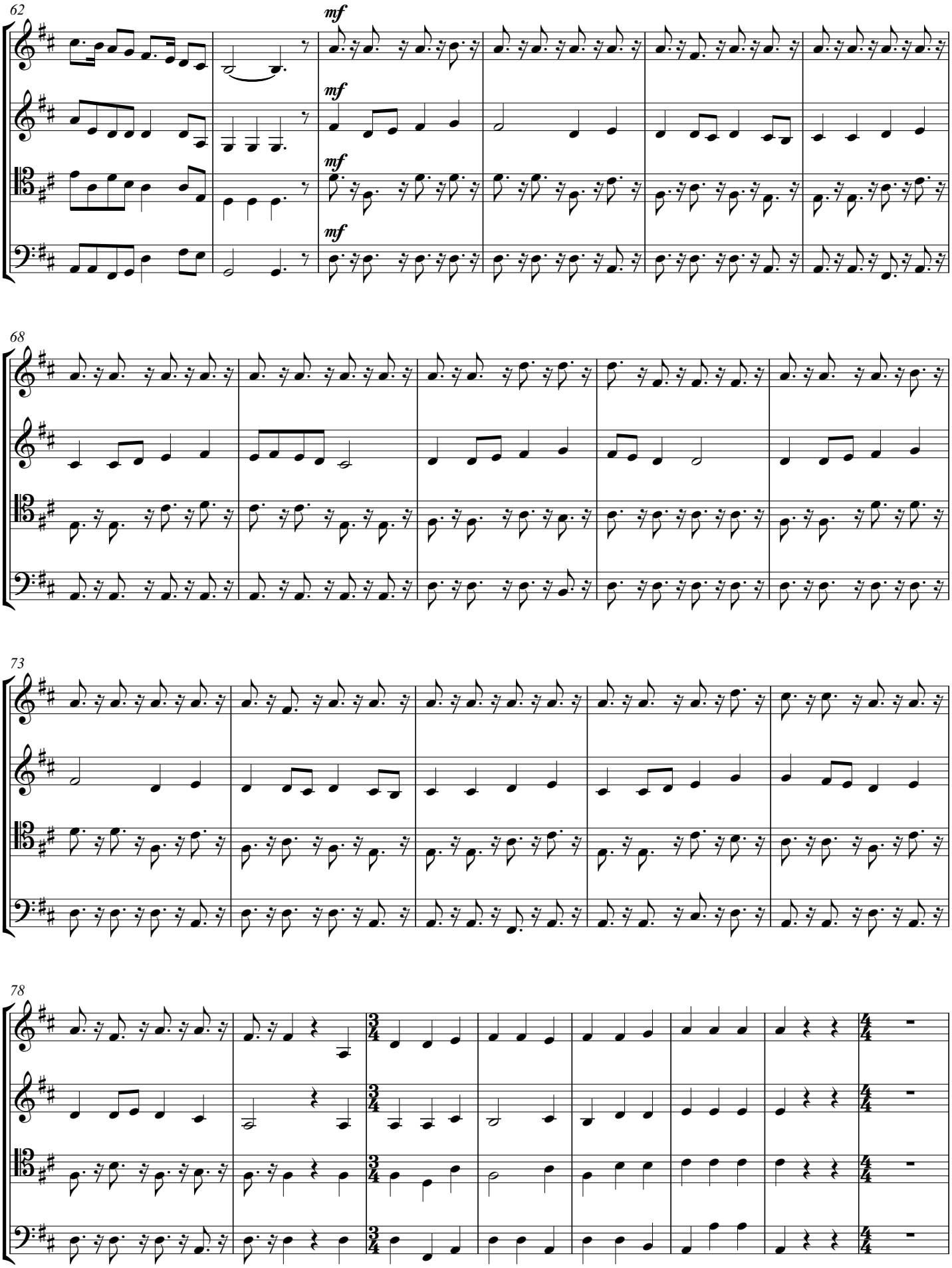

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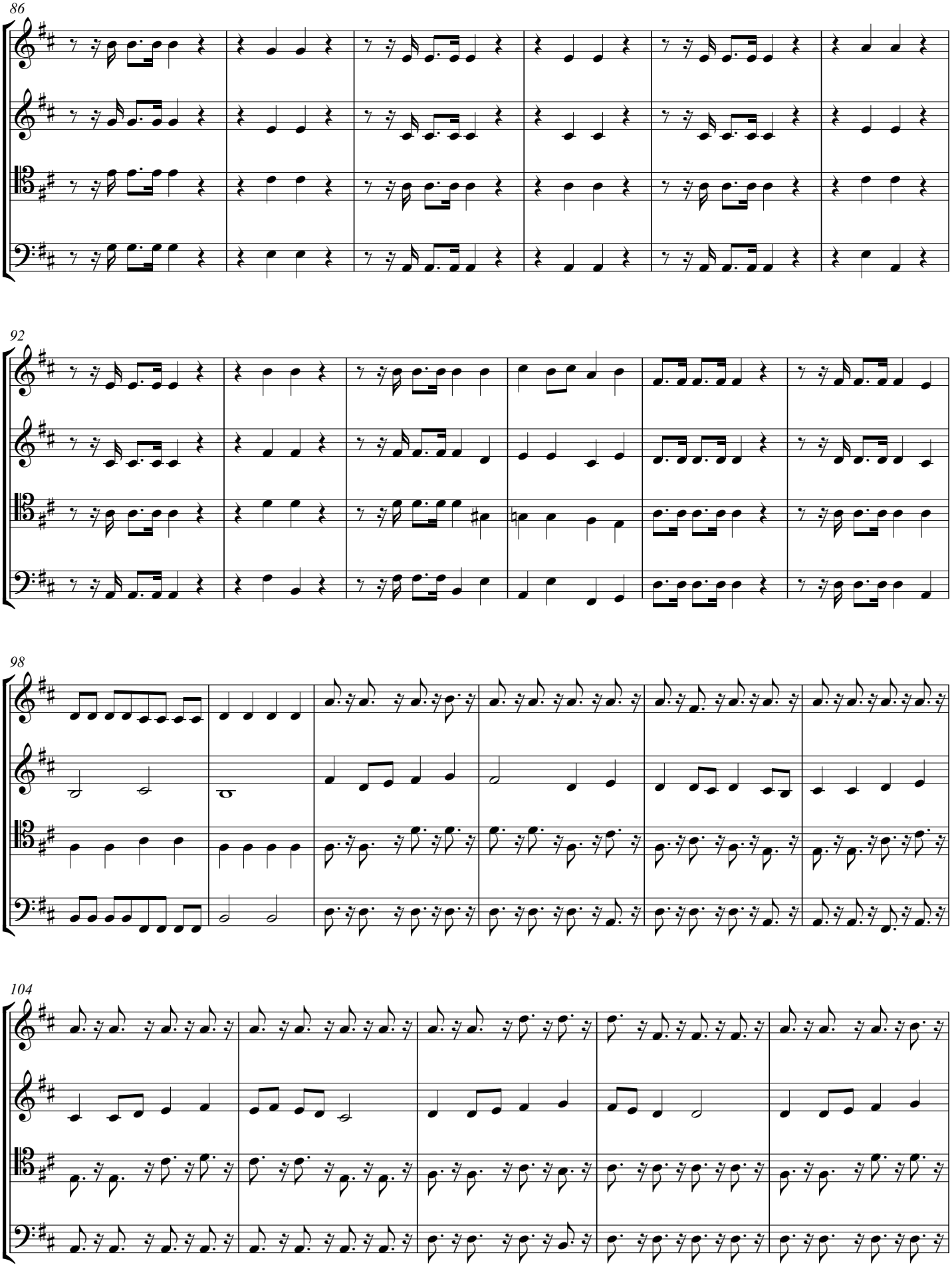

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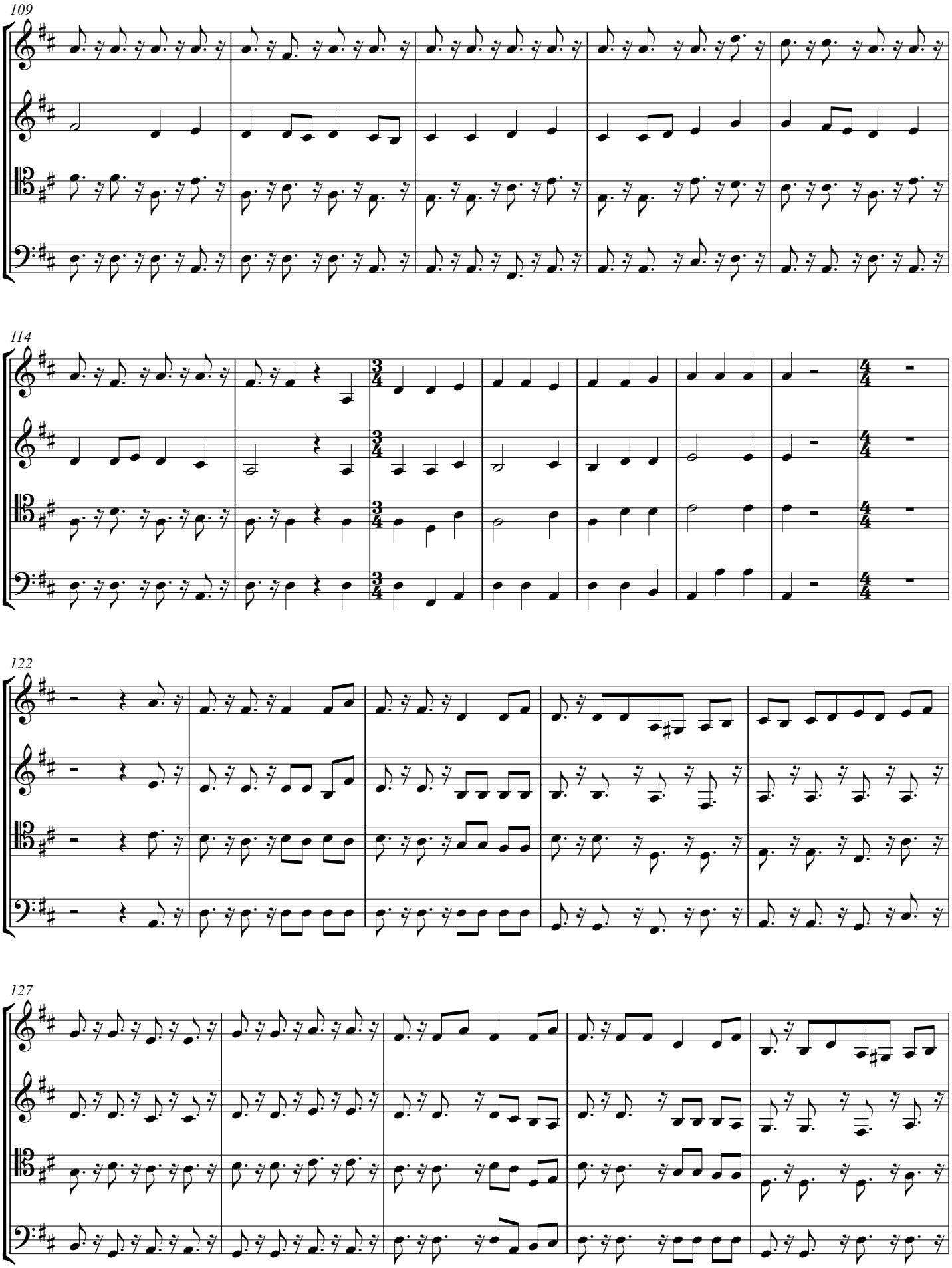

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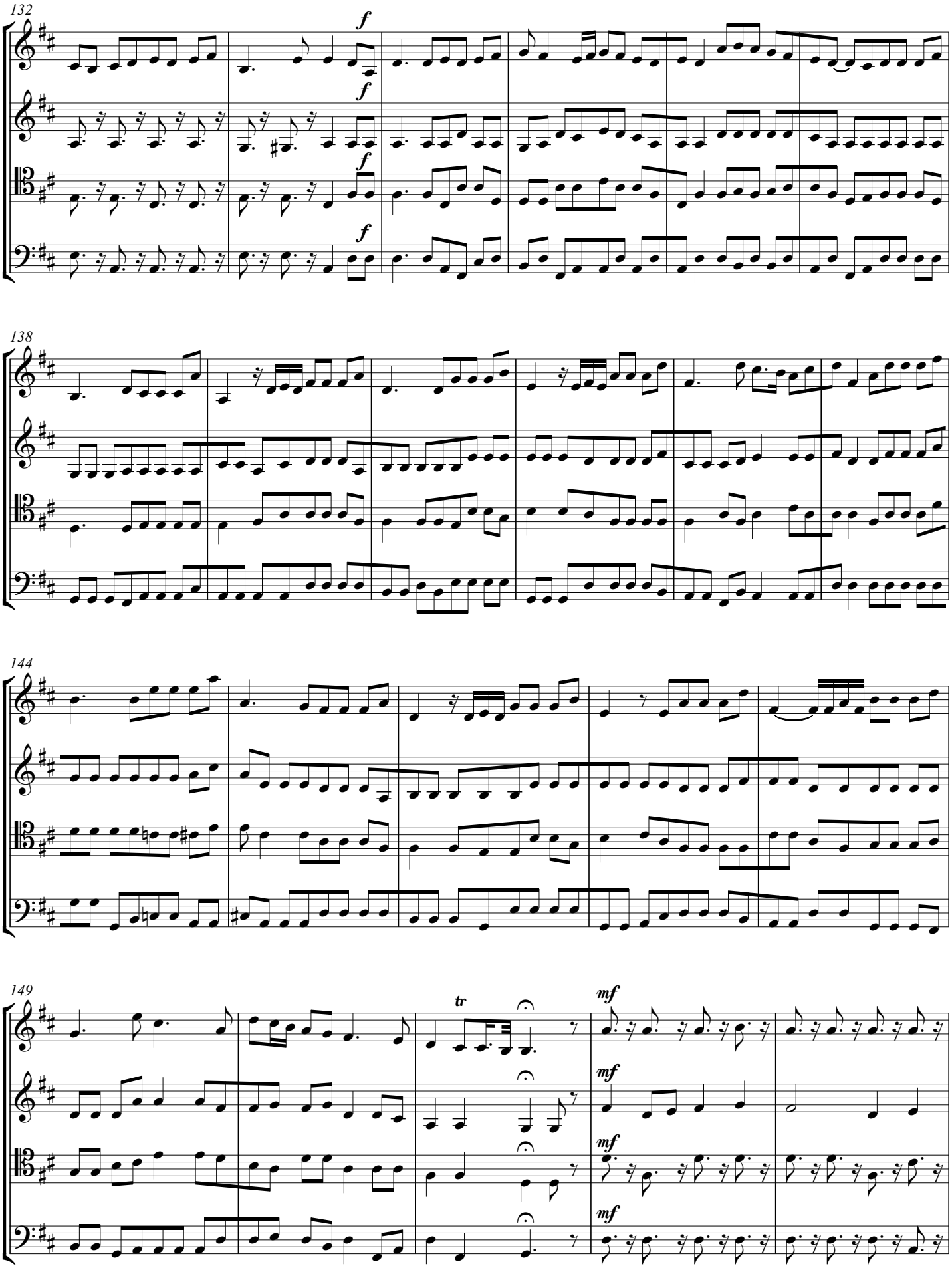

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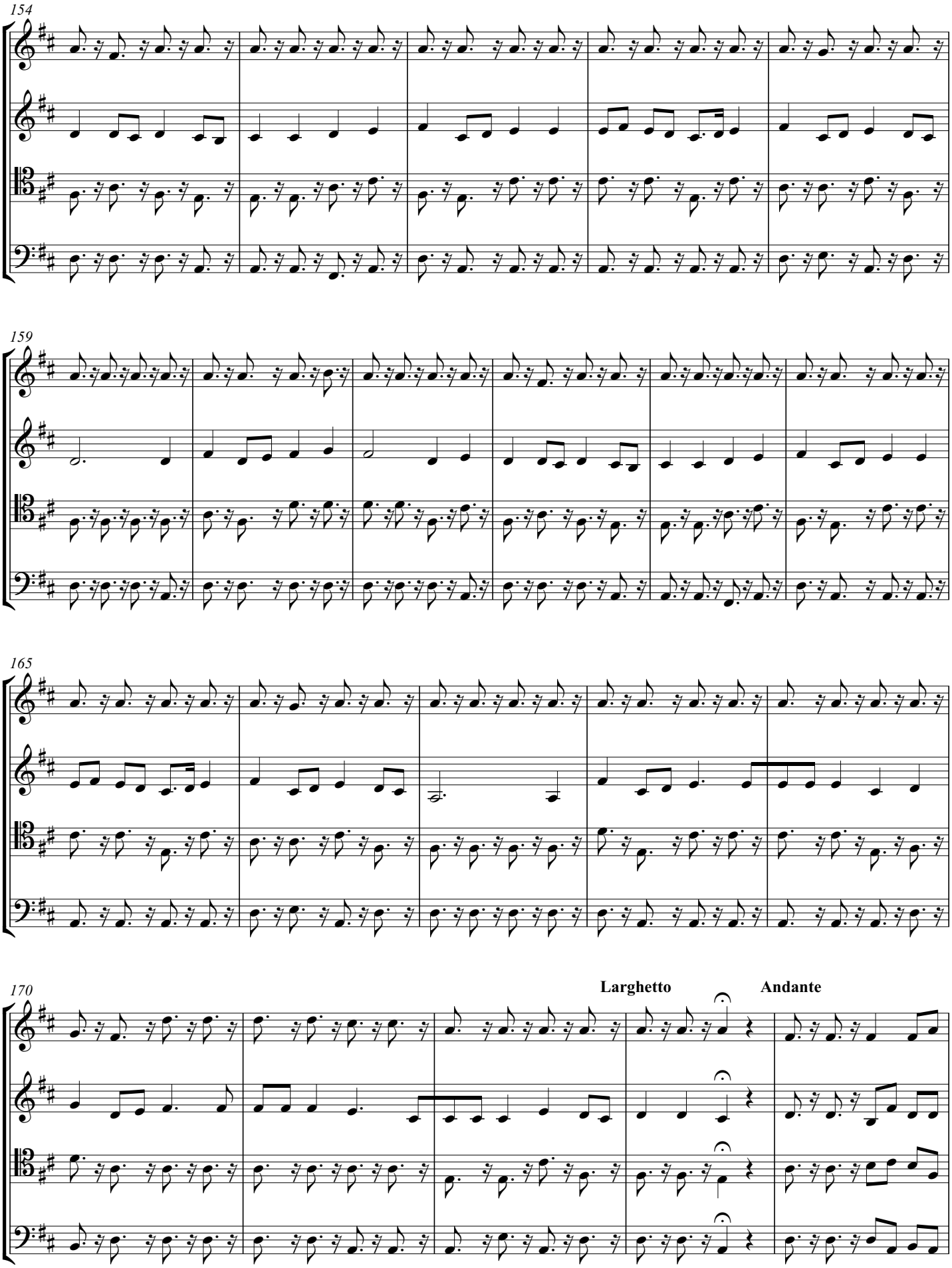

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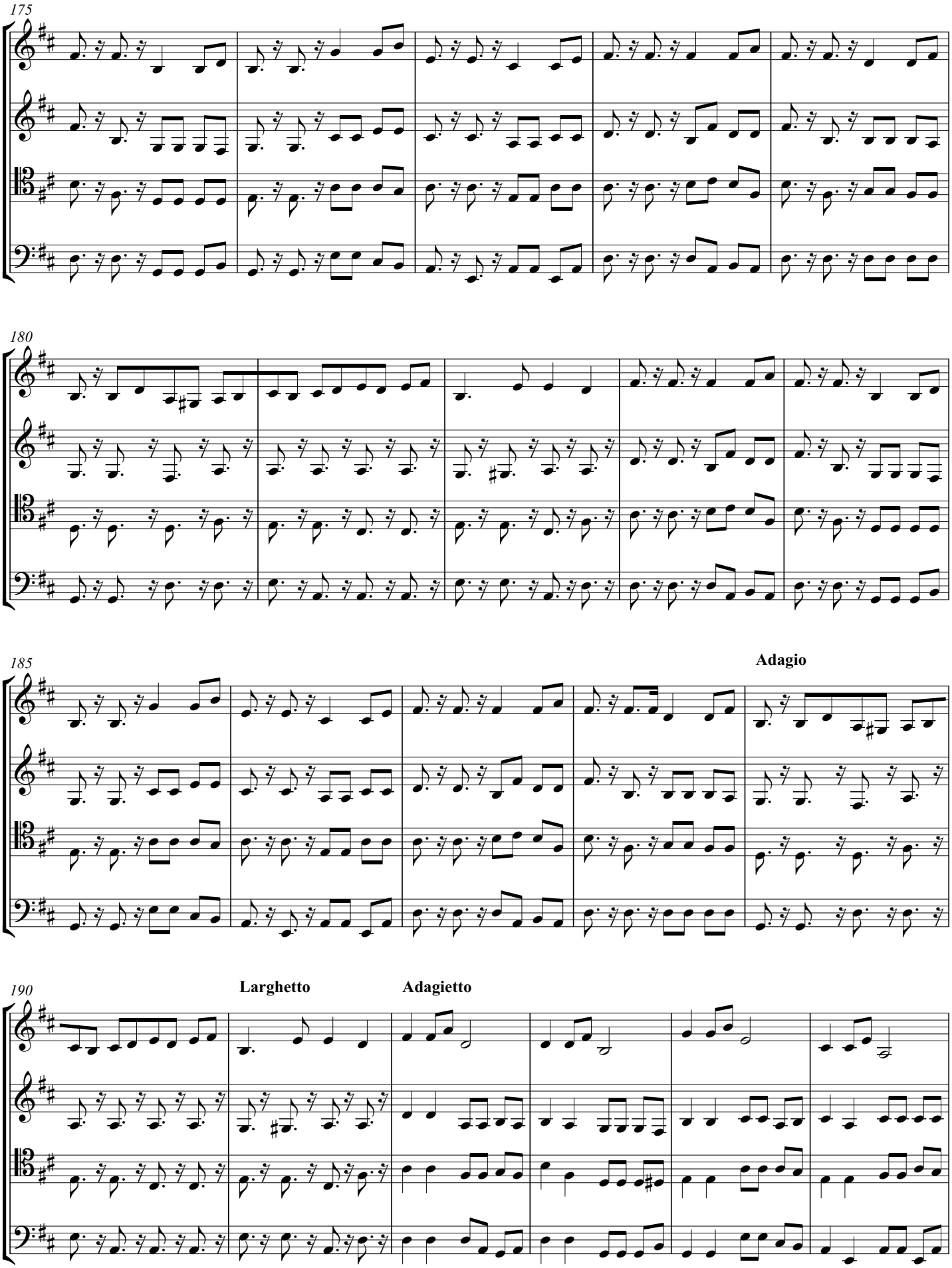

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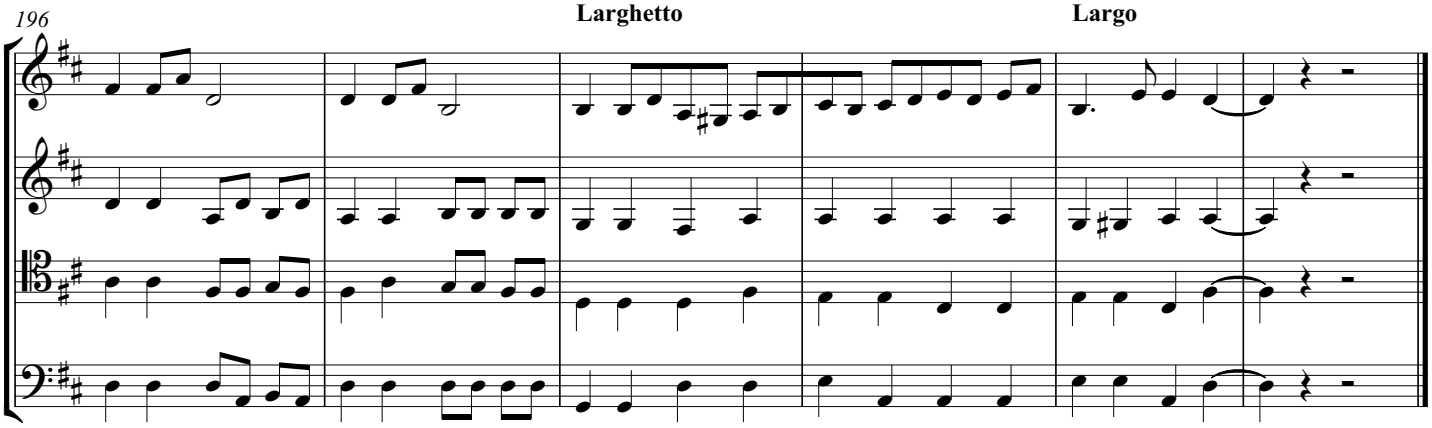

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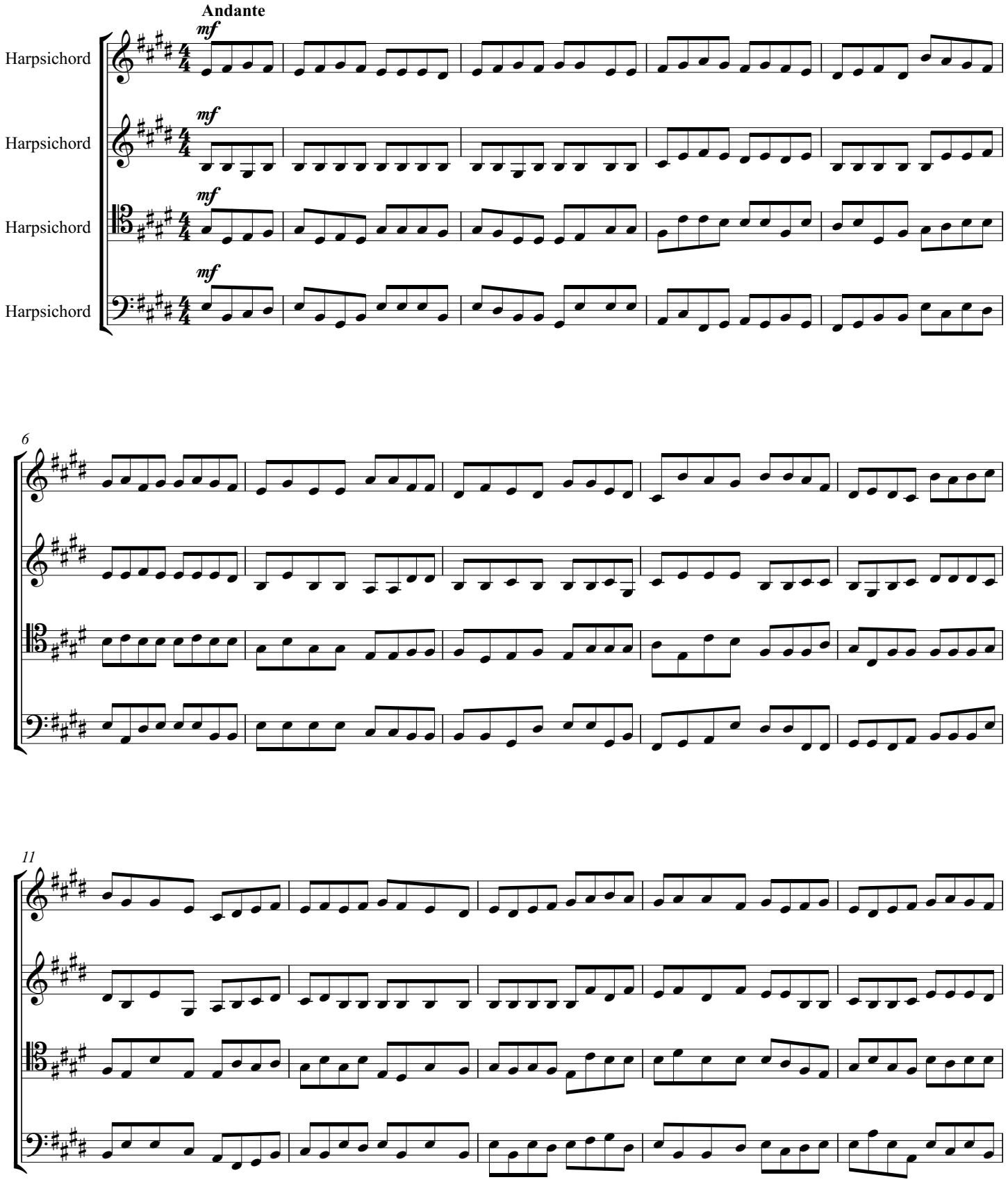
Blessed Are The Merciful

THE BEATITUDES 1.07 (Air For Bass)

Progress Gabriel Akpabio



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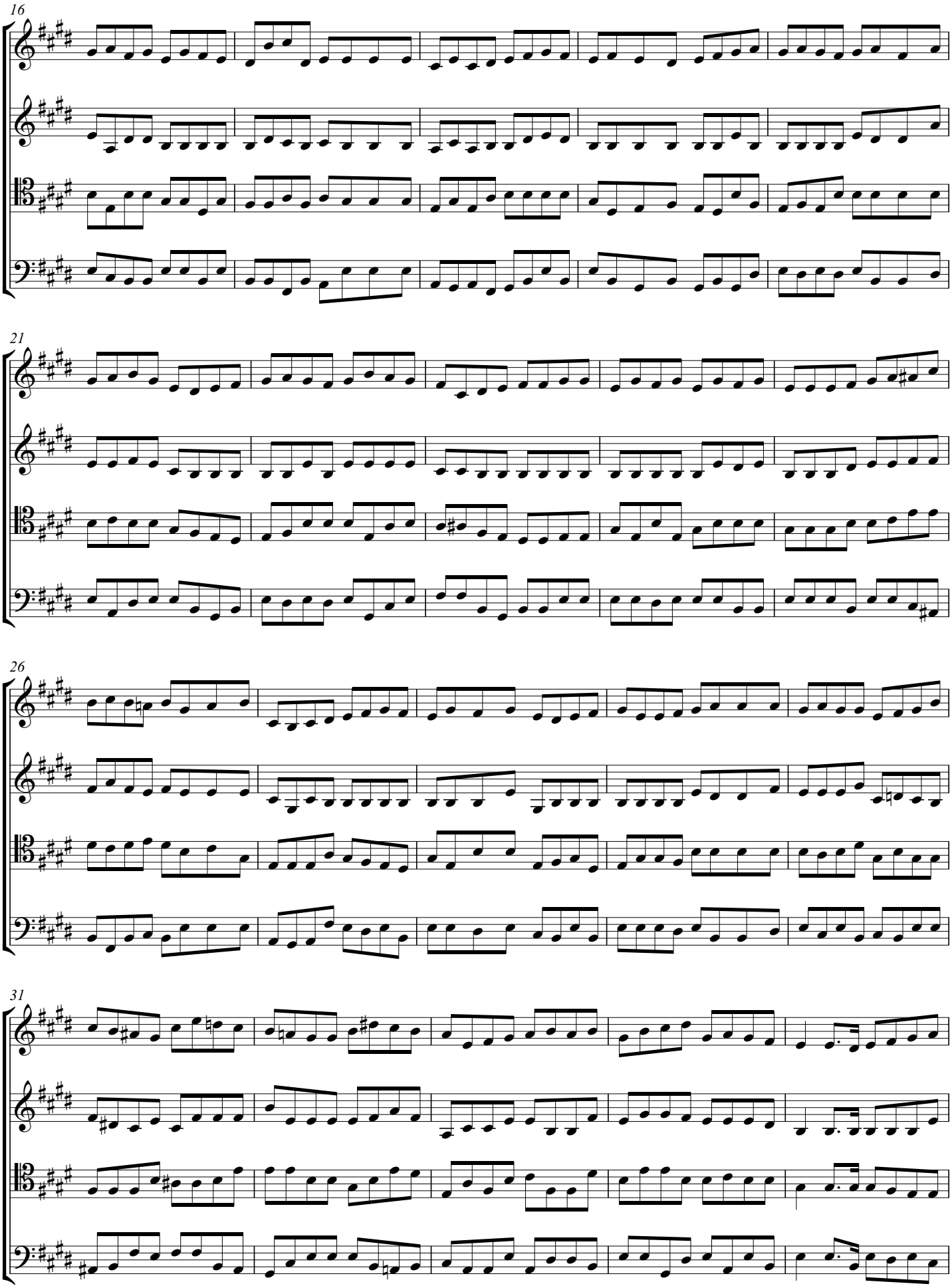

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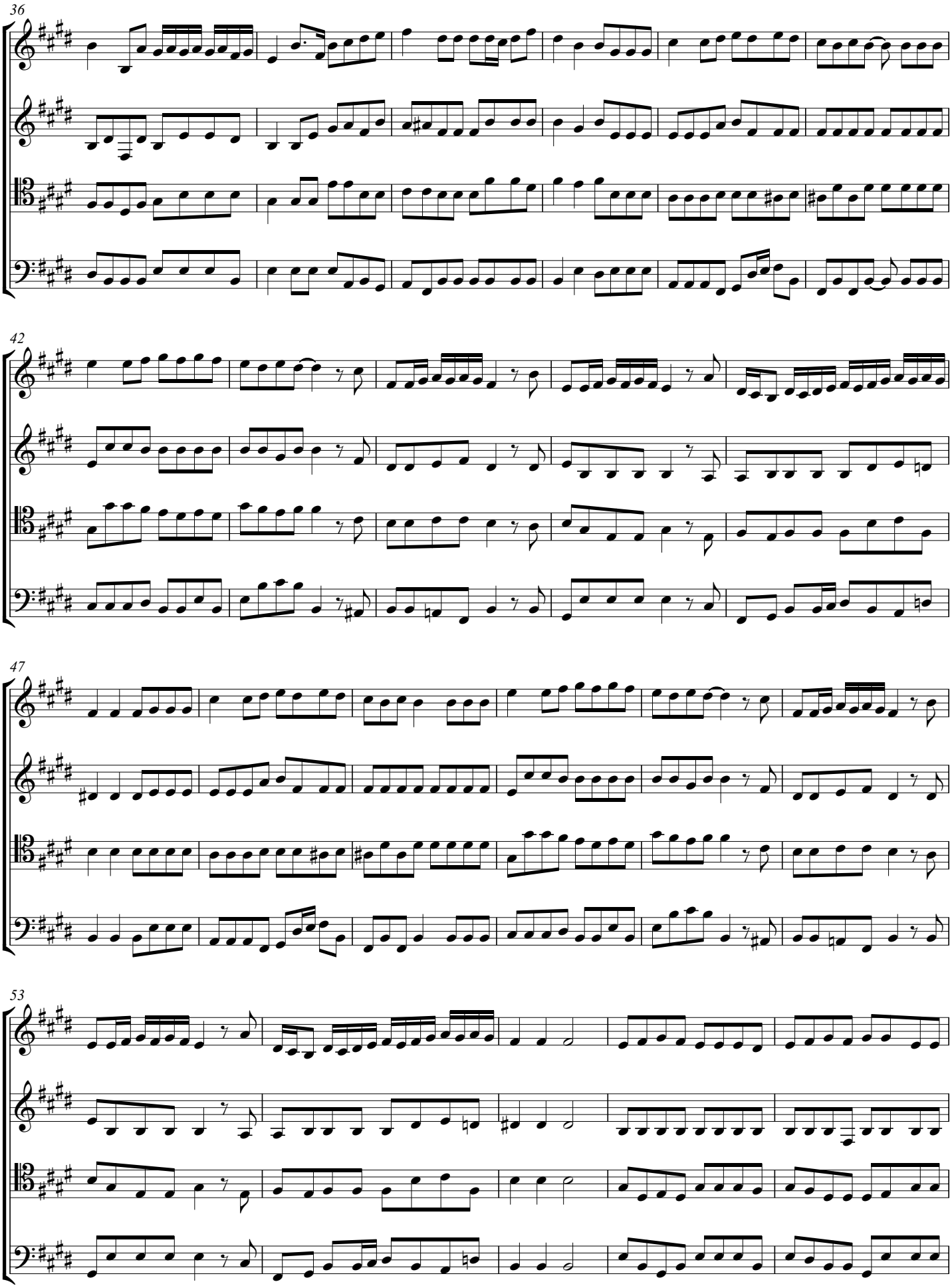

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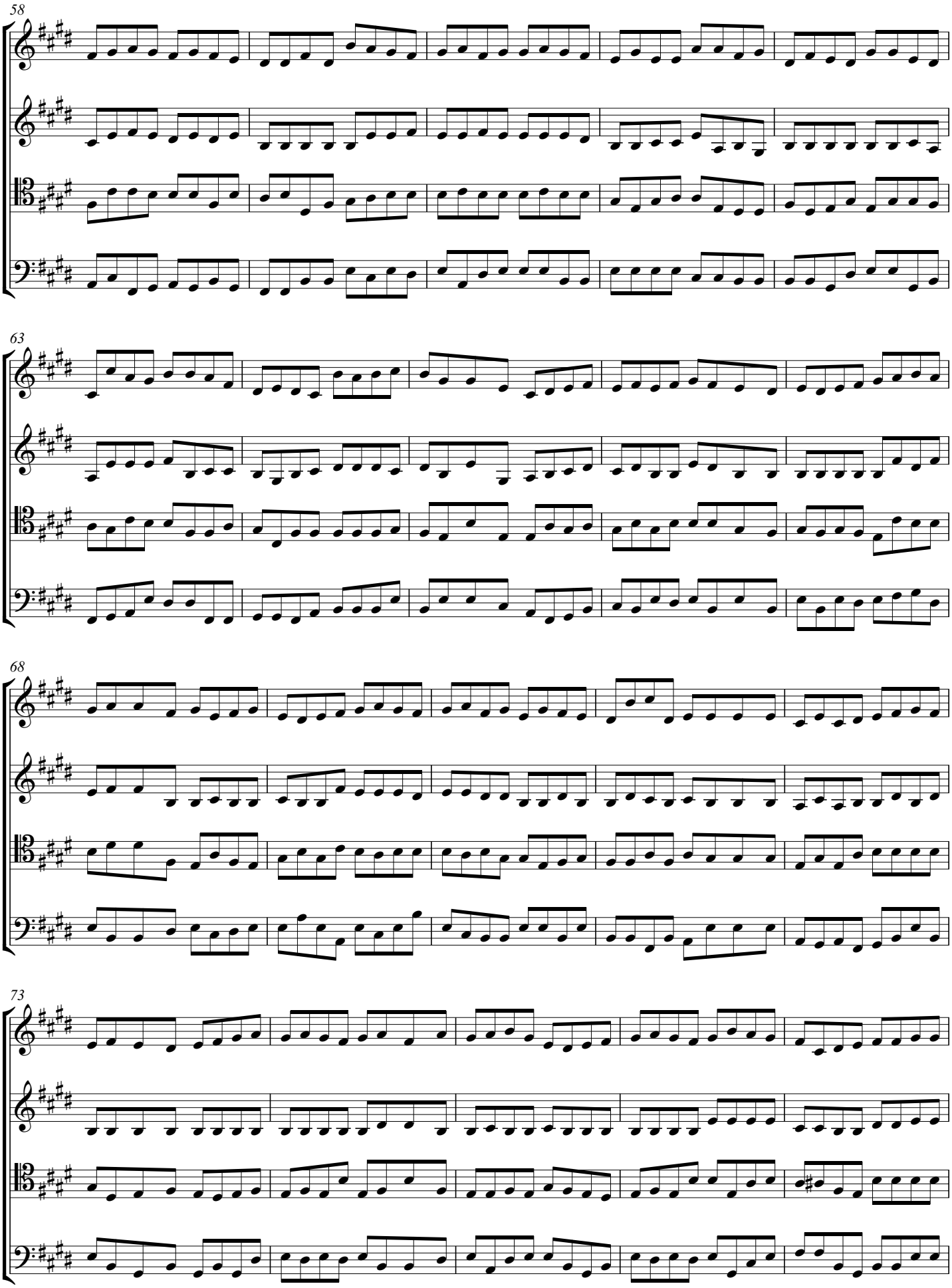

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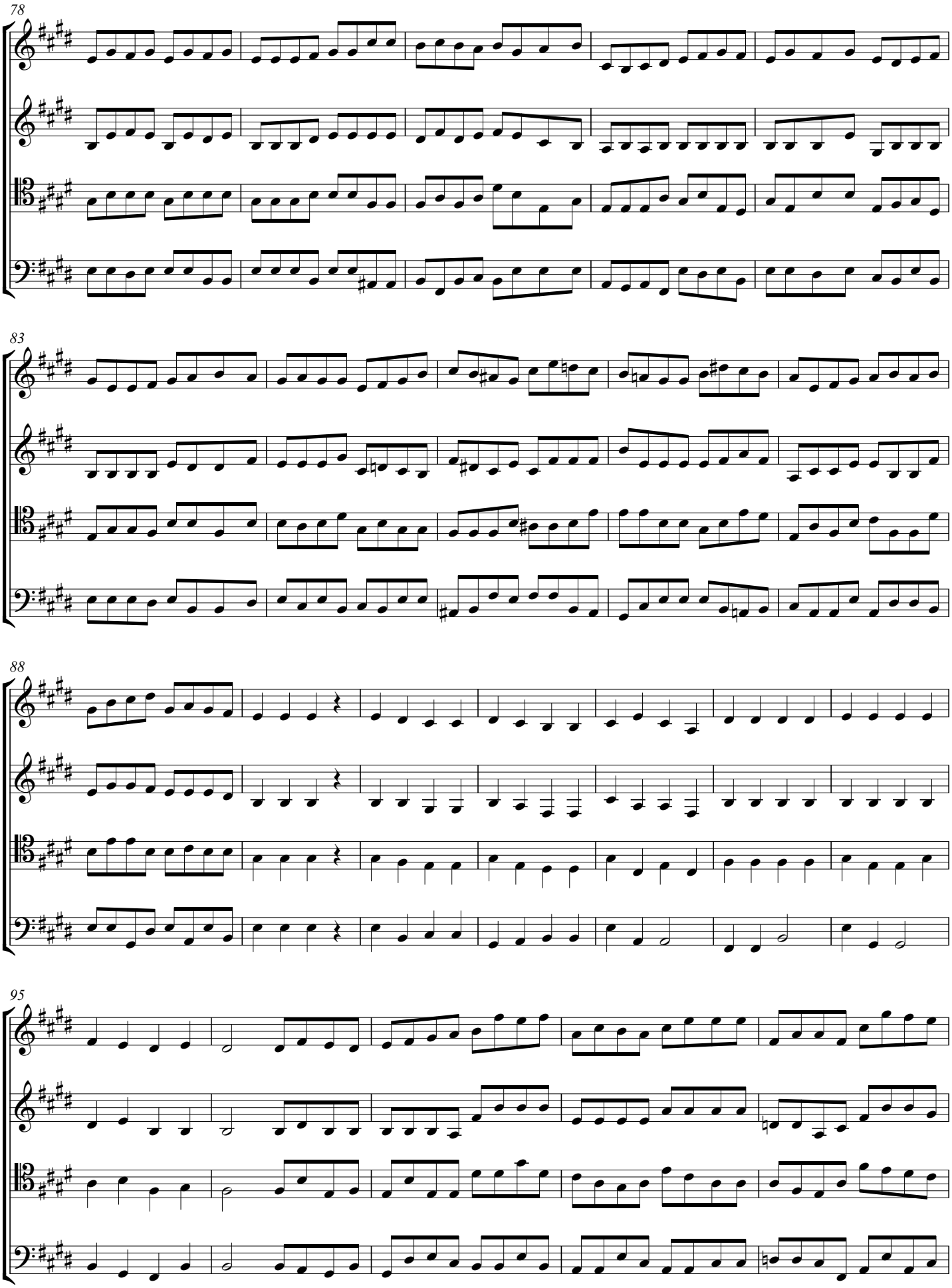

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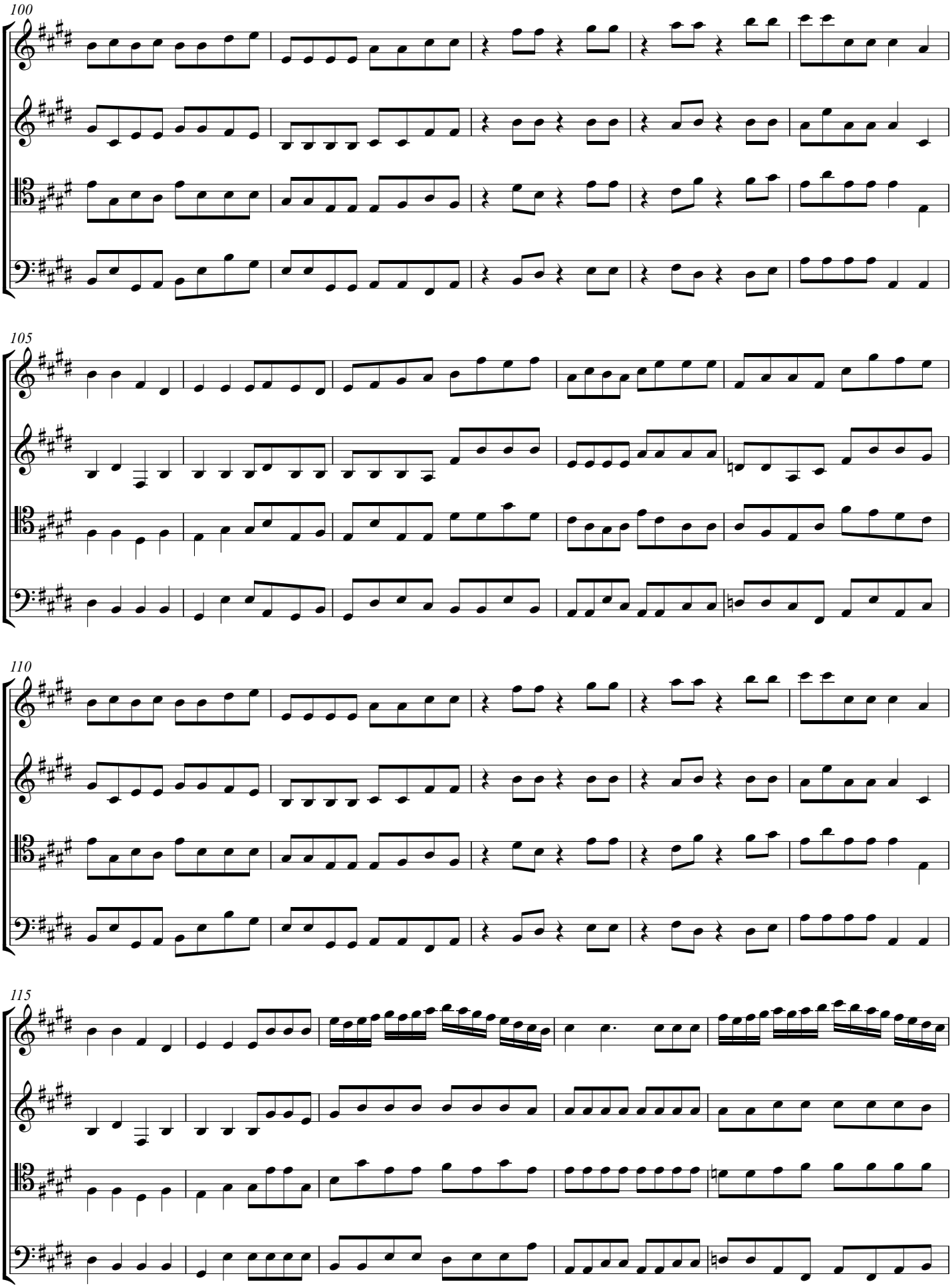

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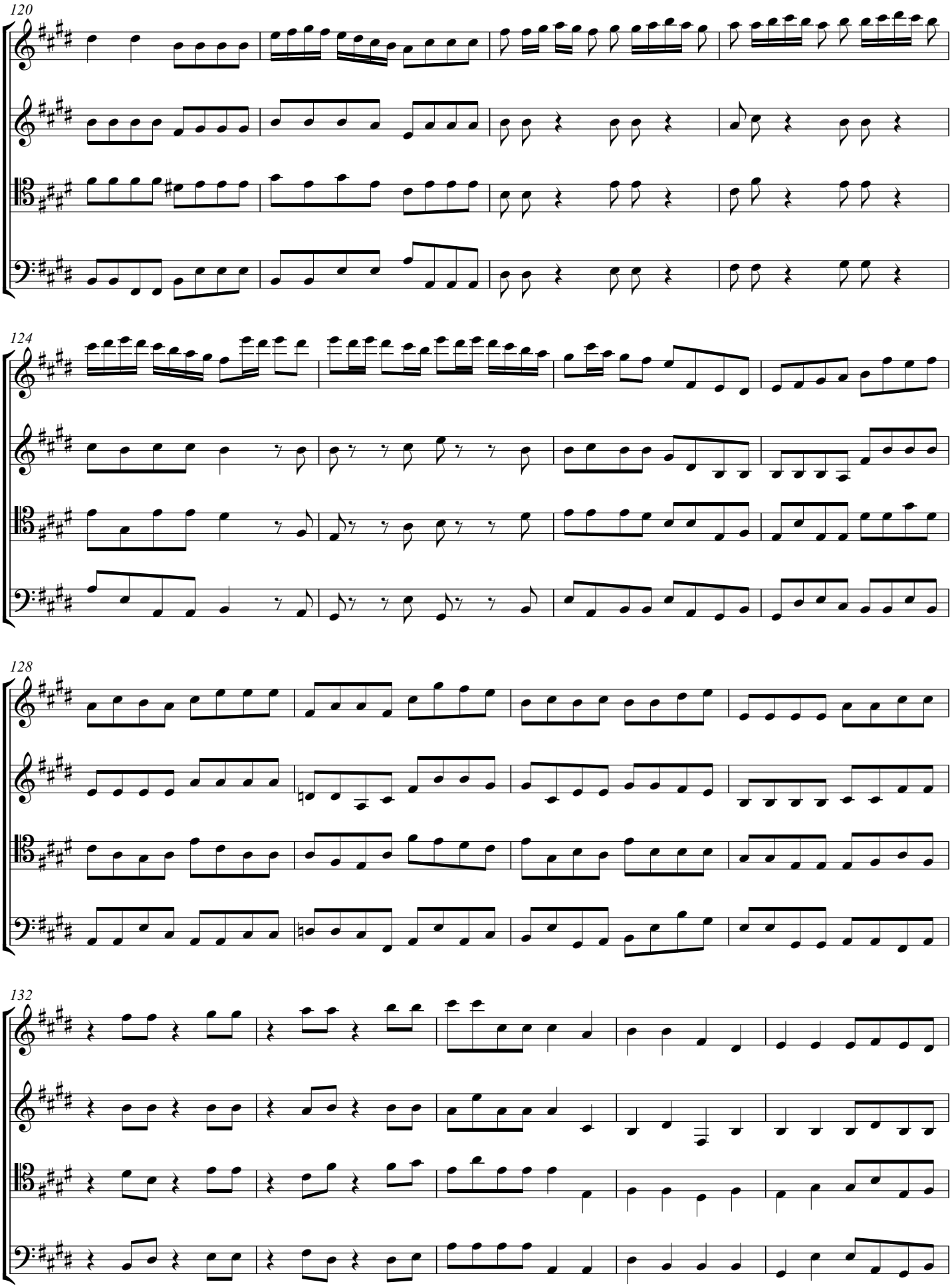

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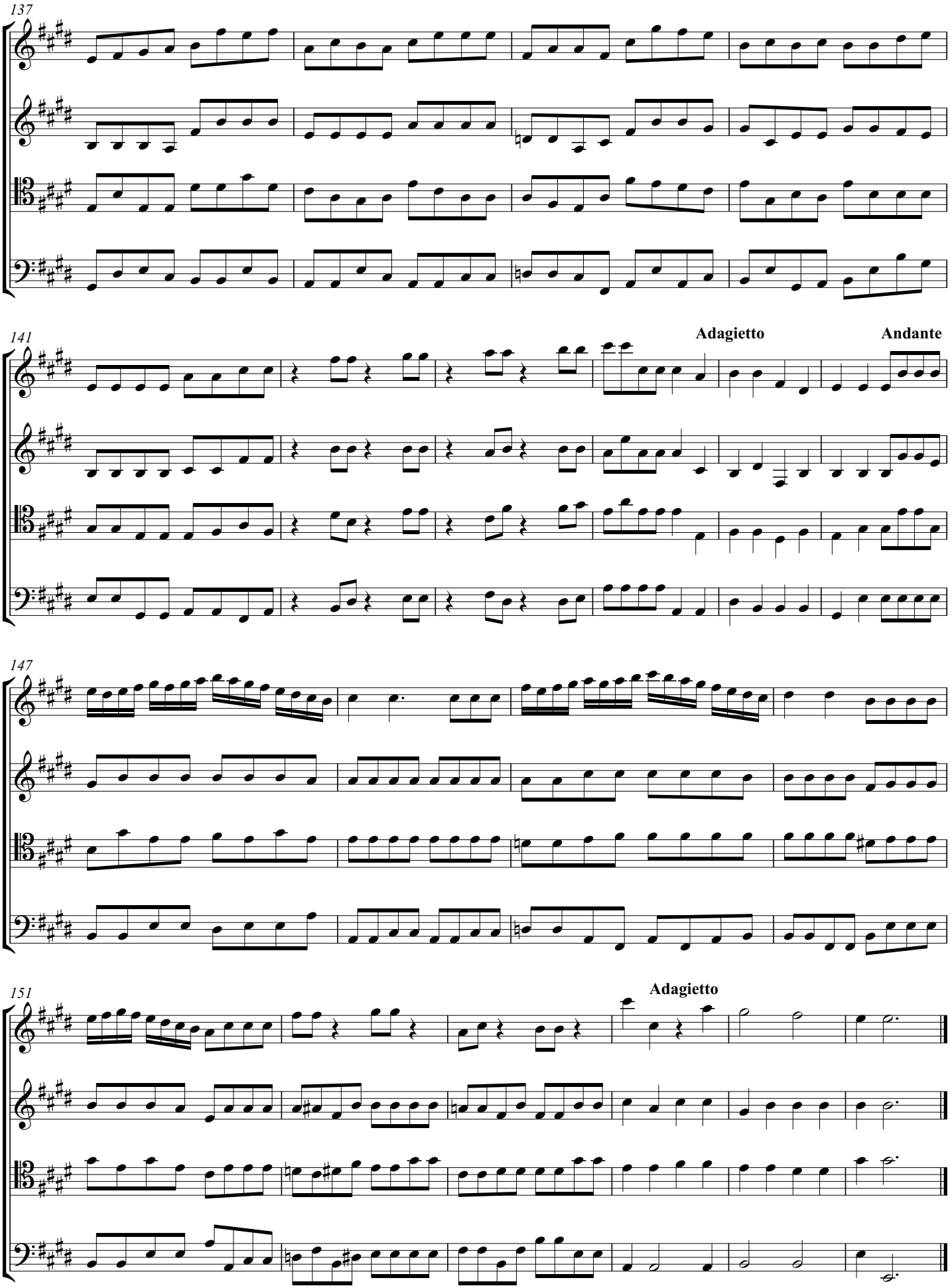

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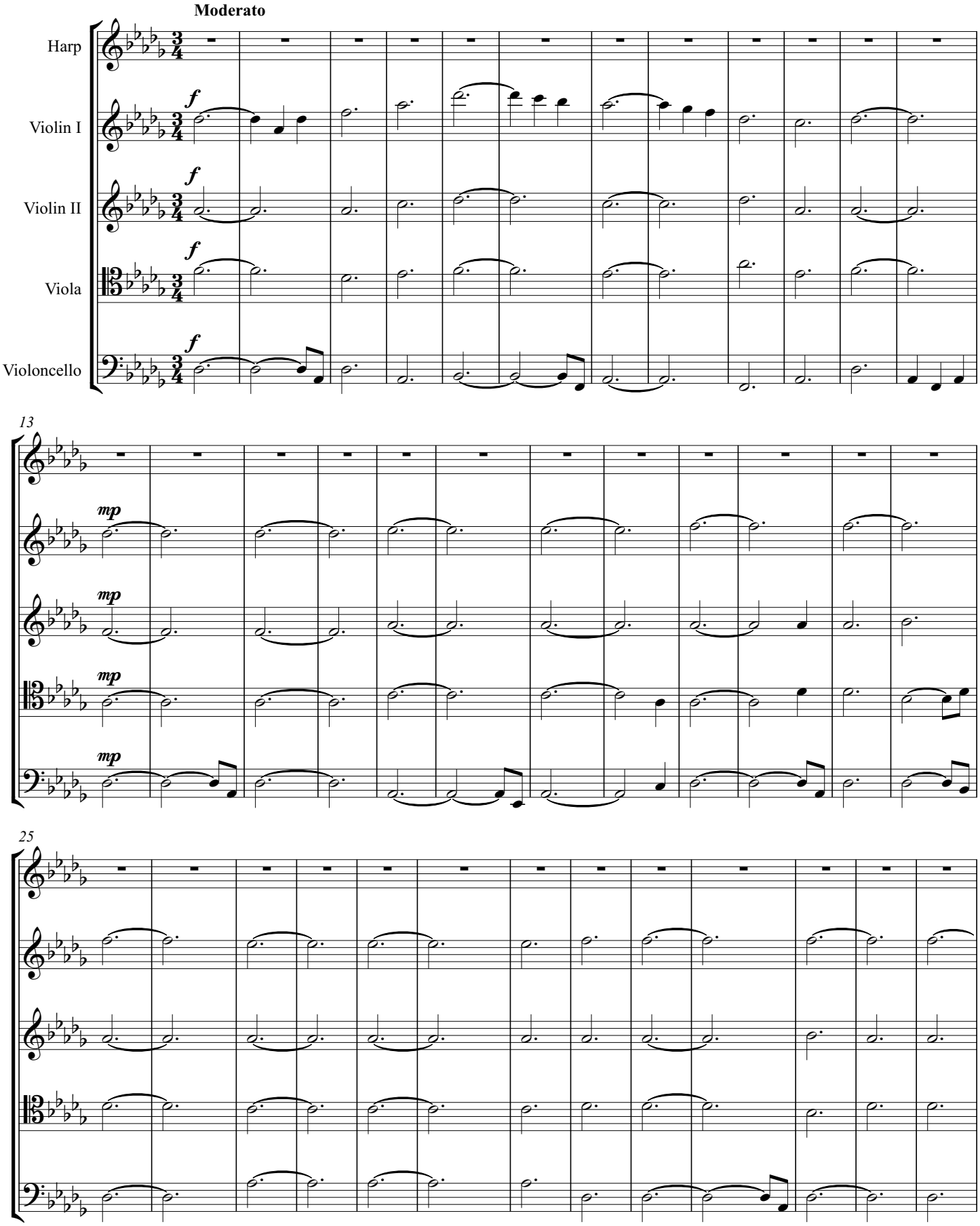
Blessed Are The Pure In Heart

THE BEATITUDES 1.08 (Air For Alto)

Progress Gabriel Akpabio



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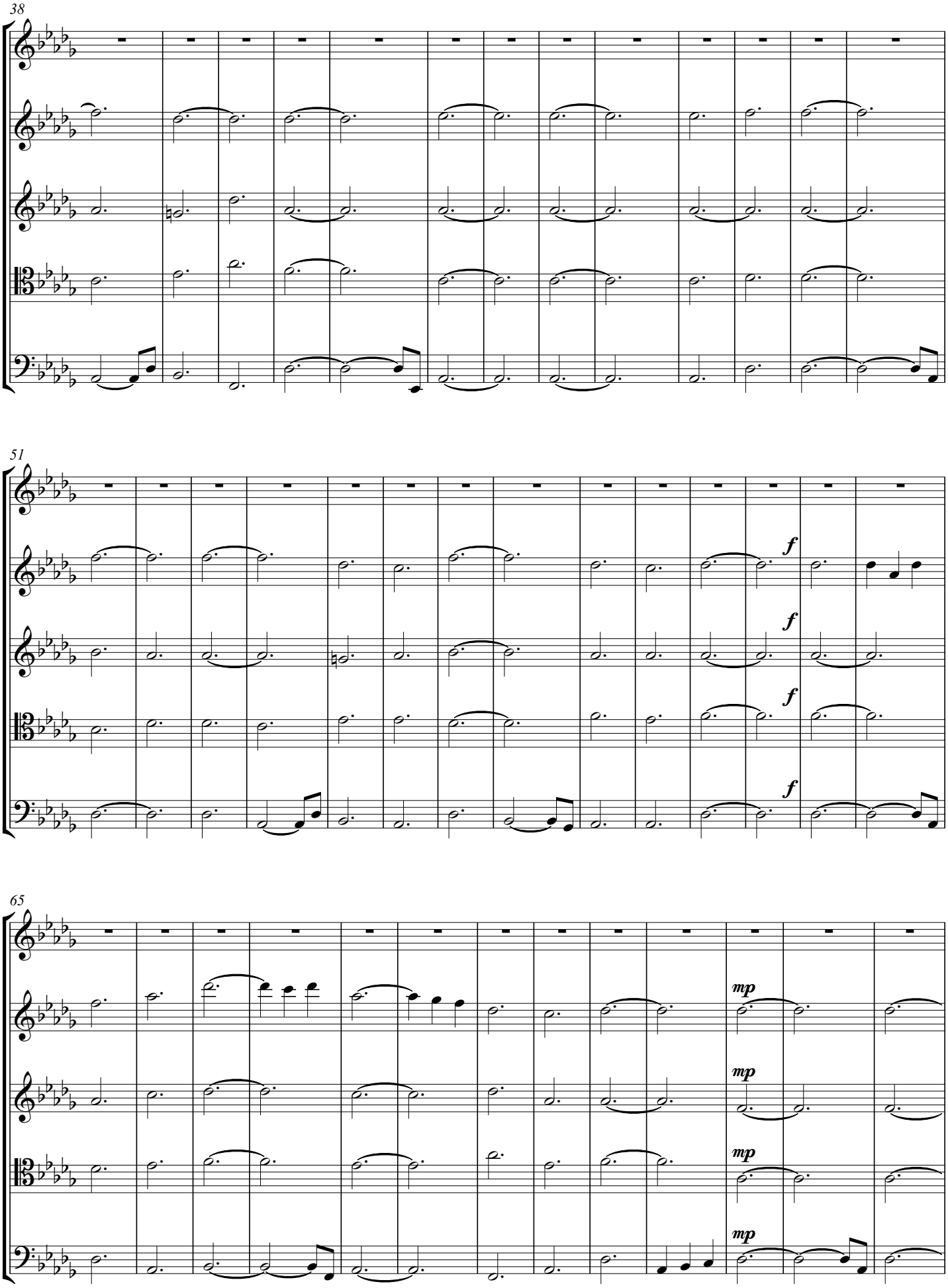

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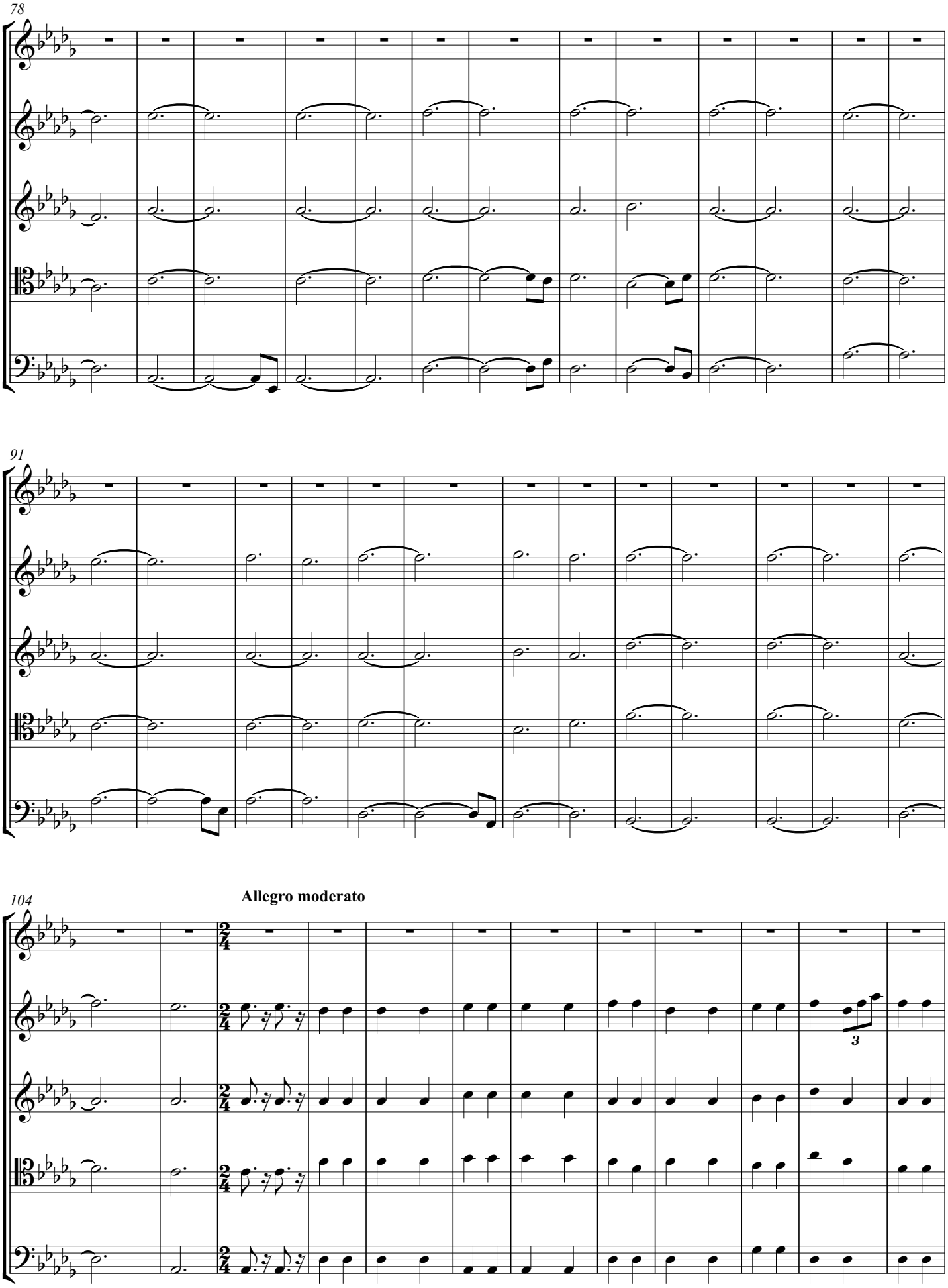

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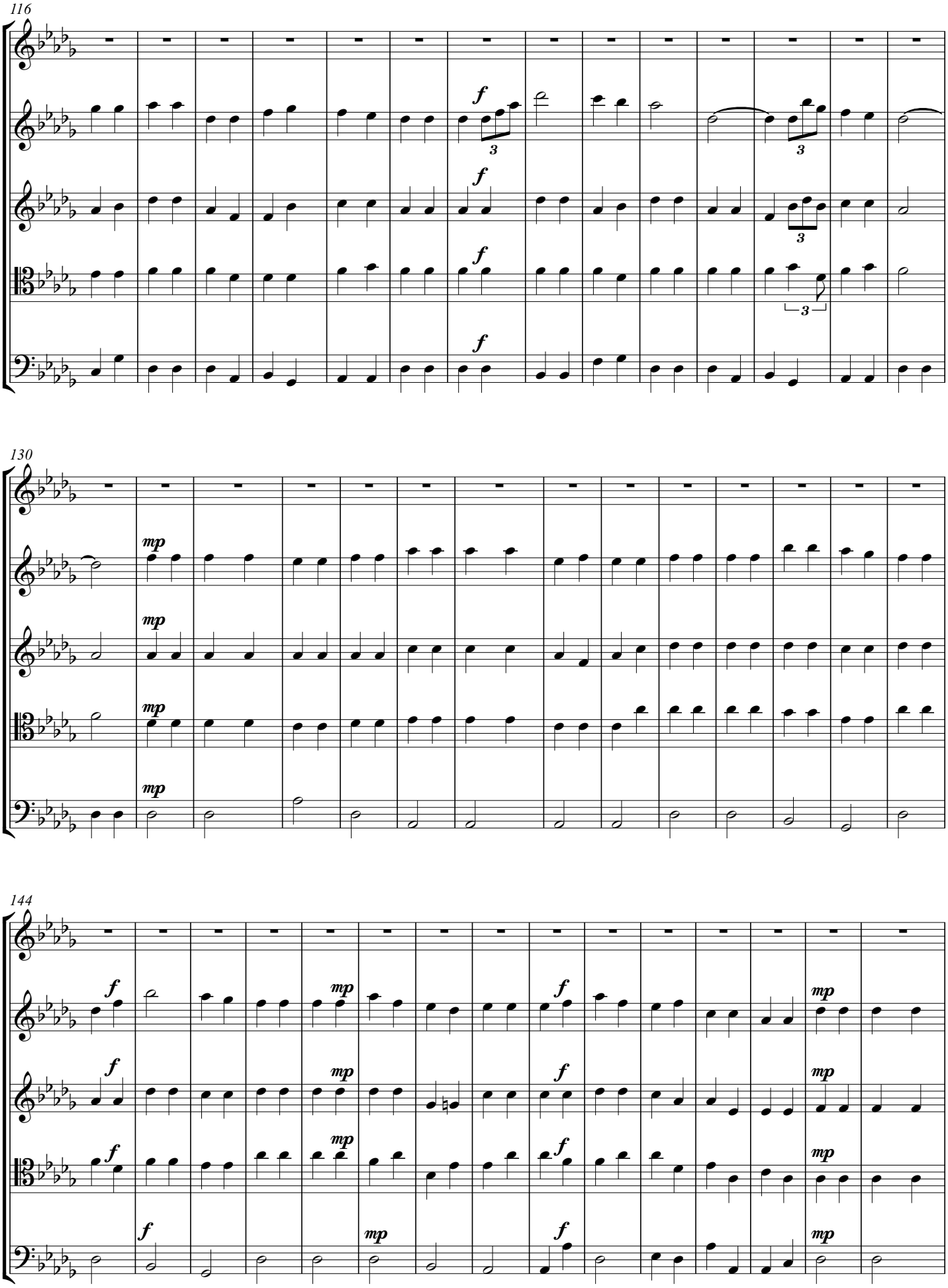

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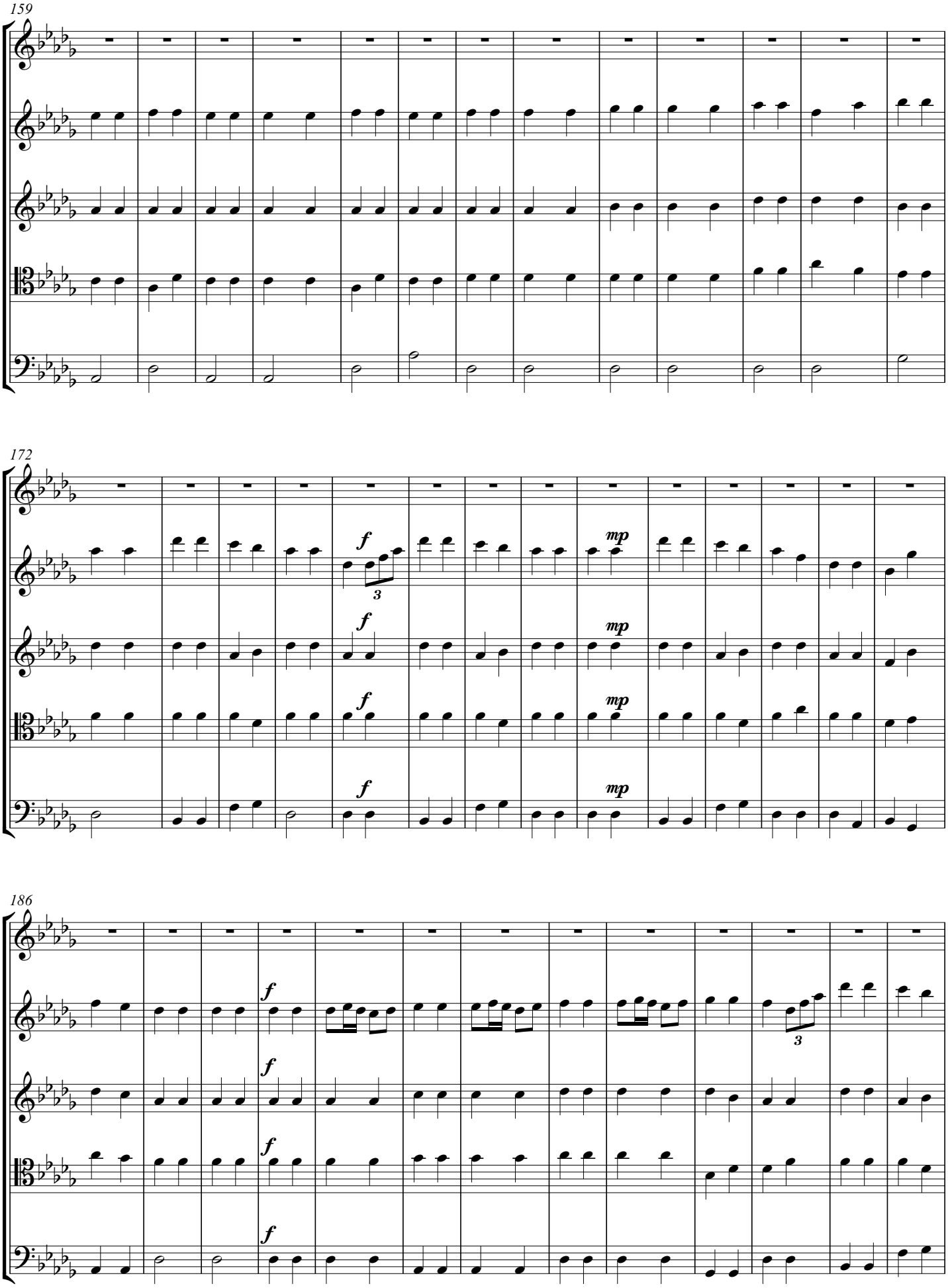

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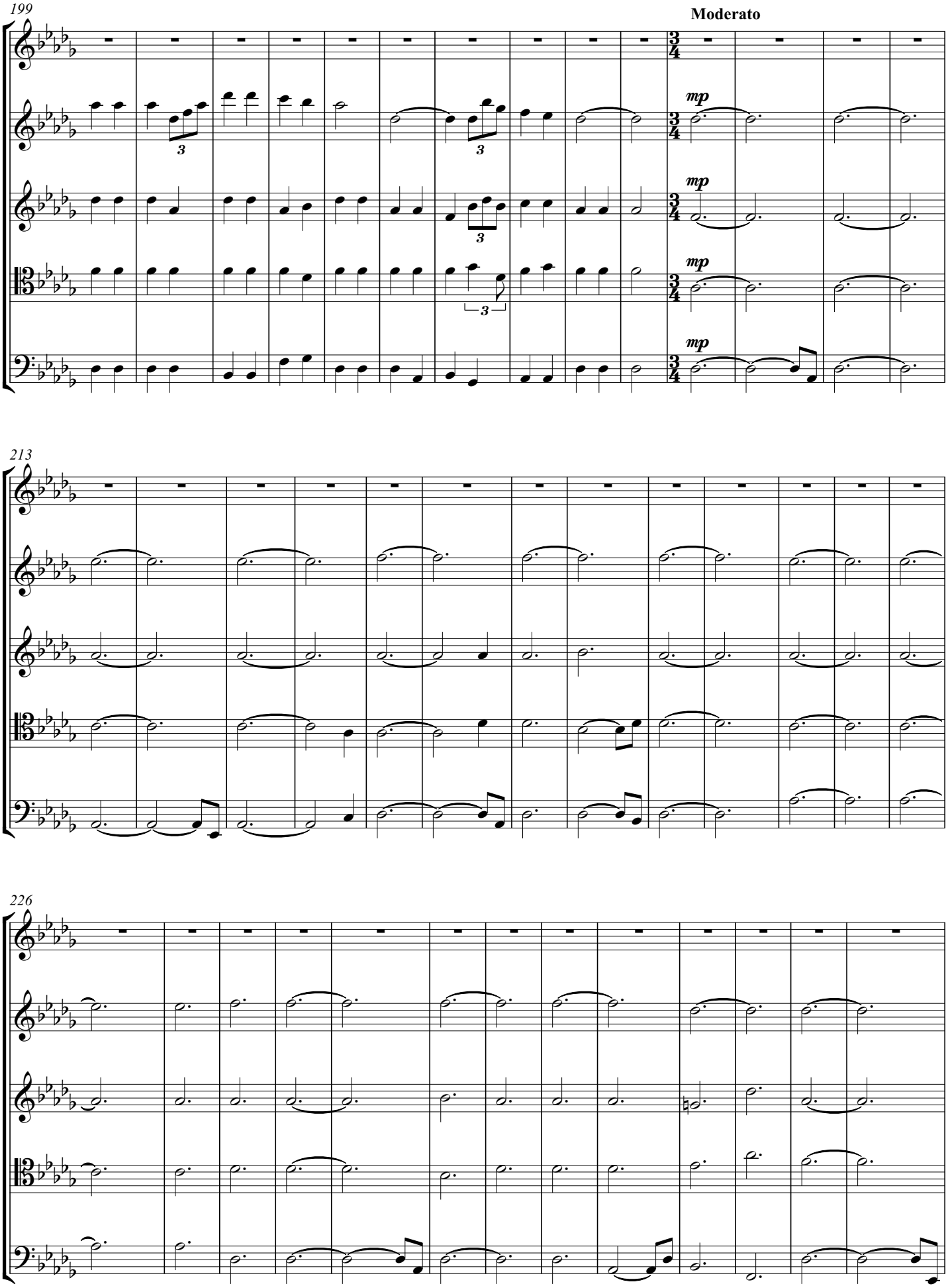

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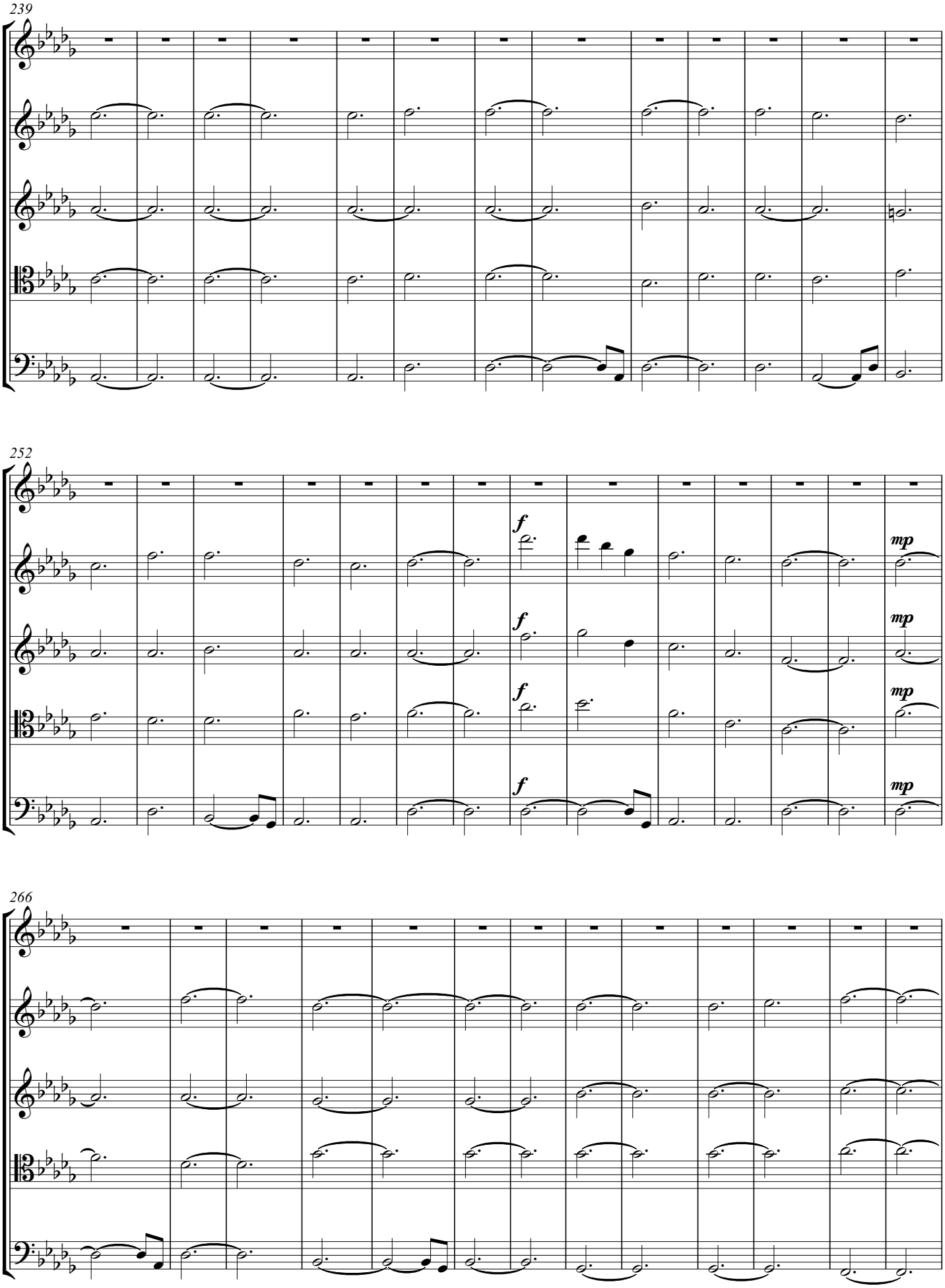

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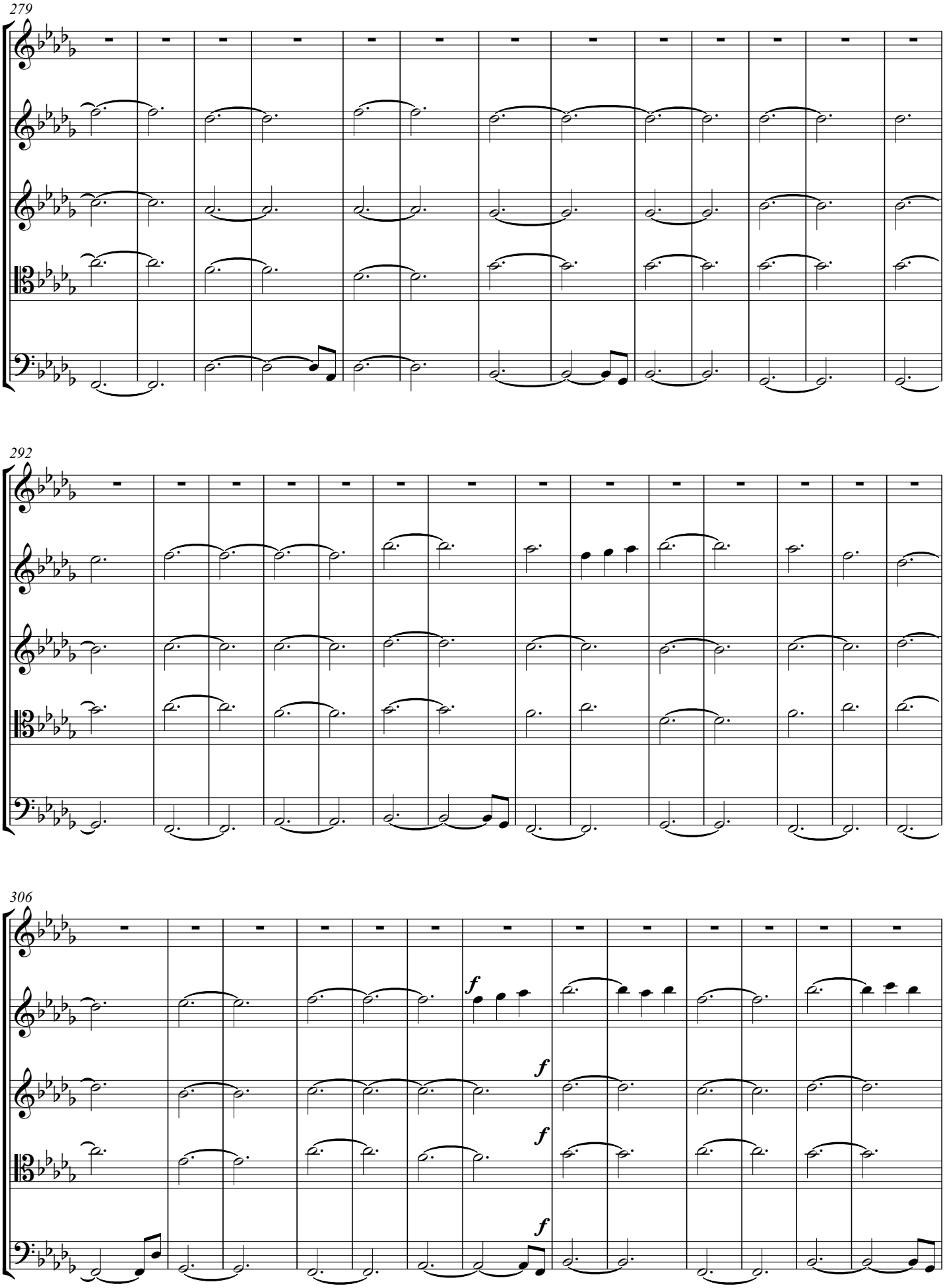

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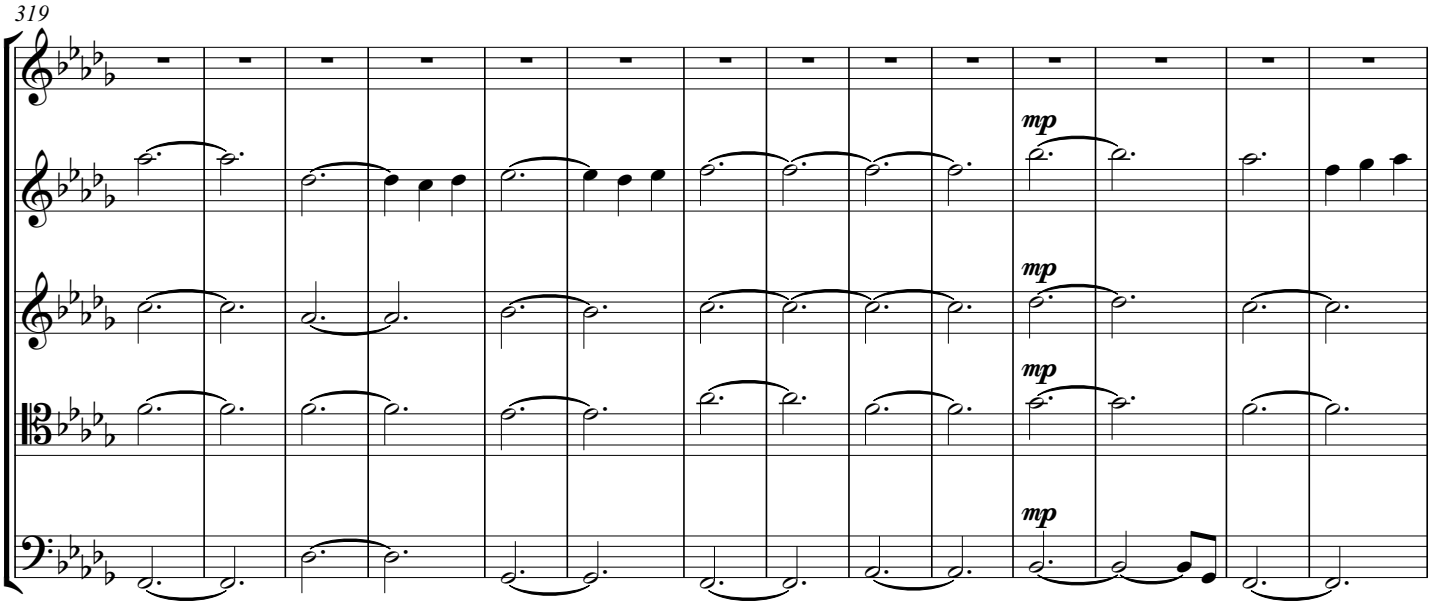

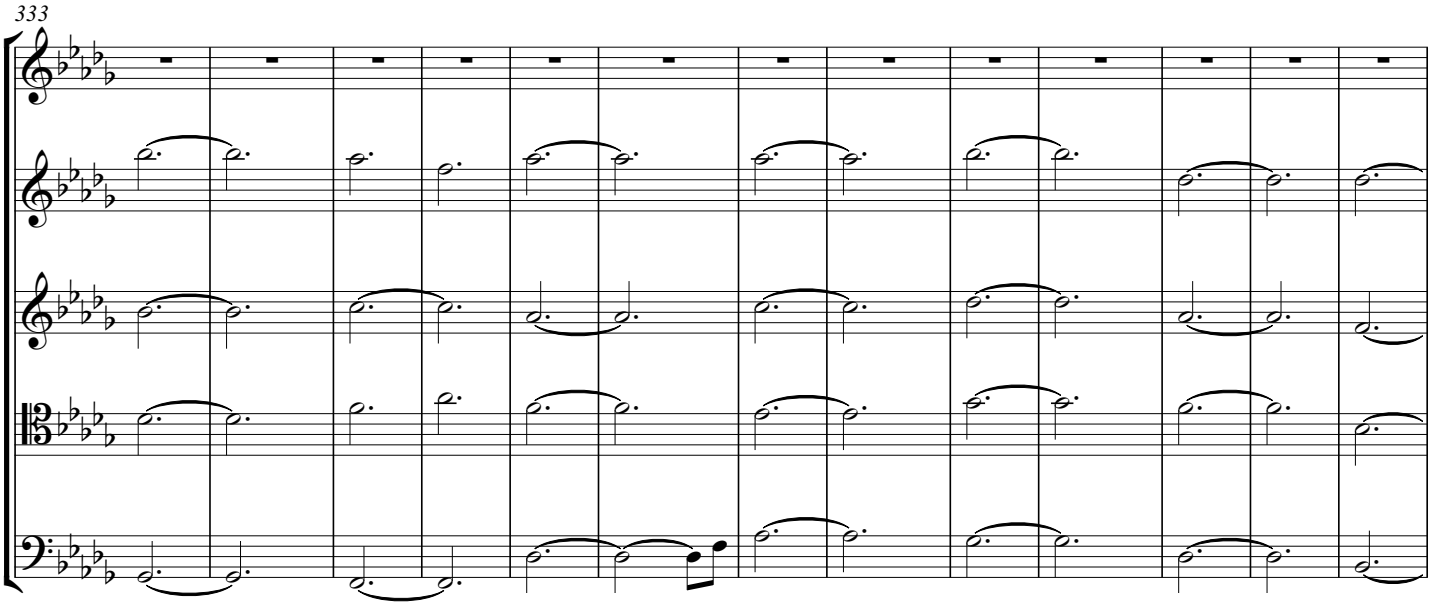

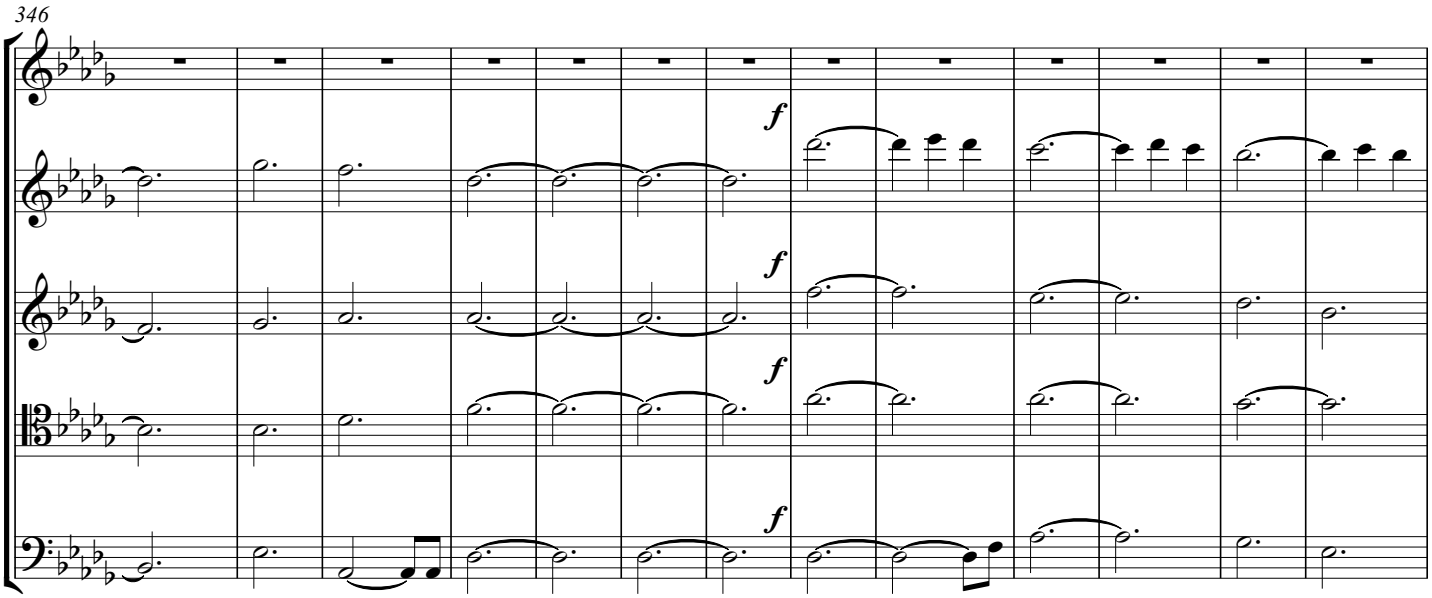

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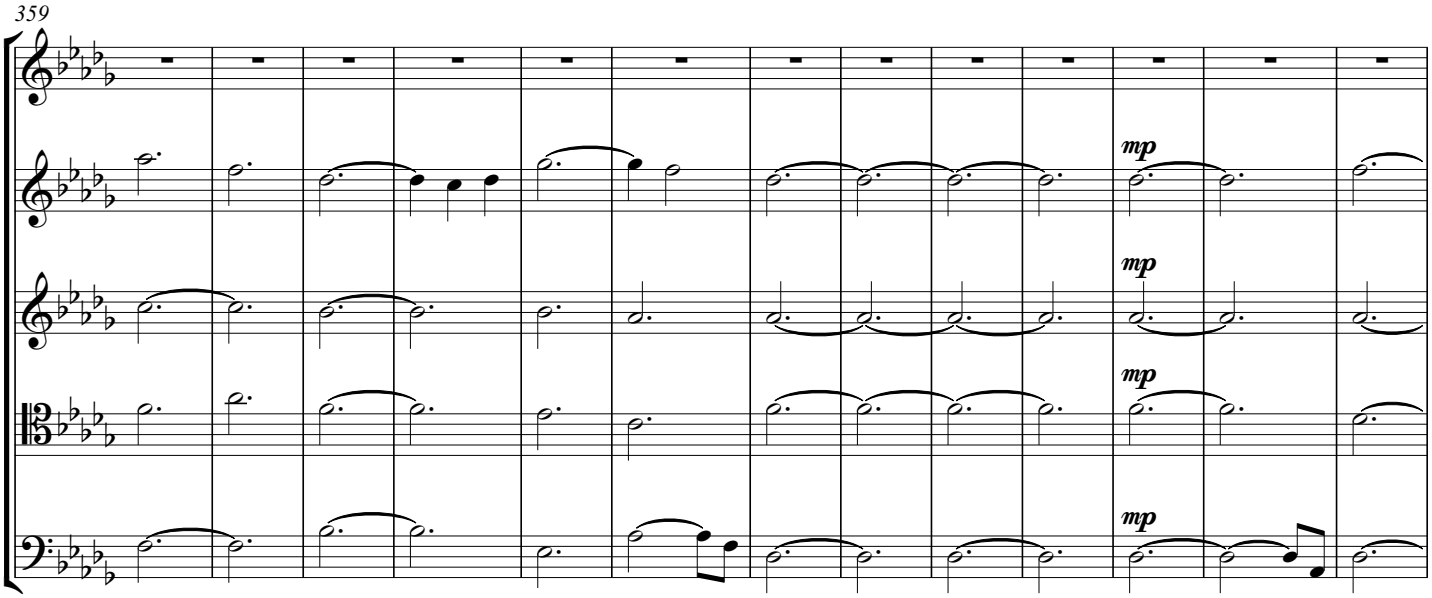

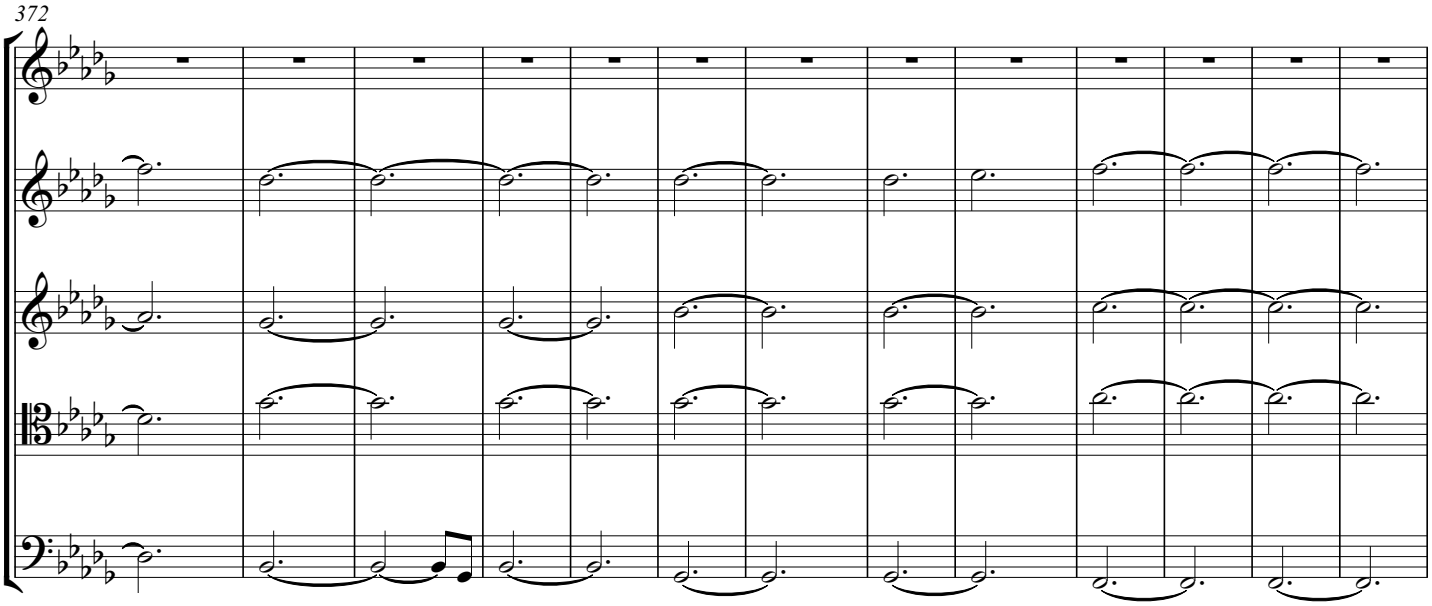

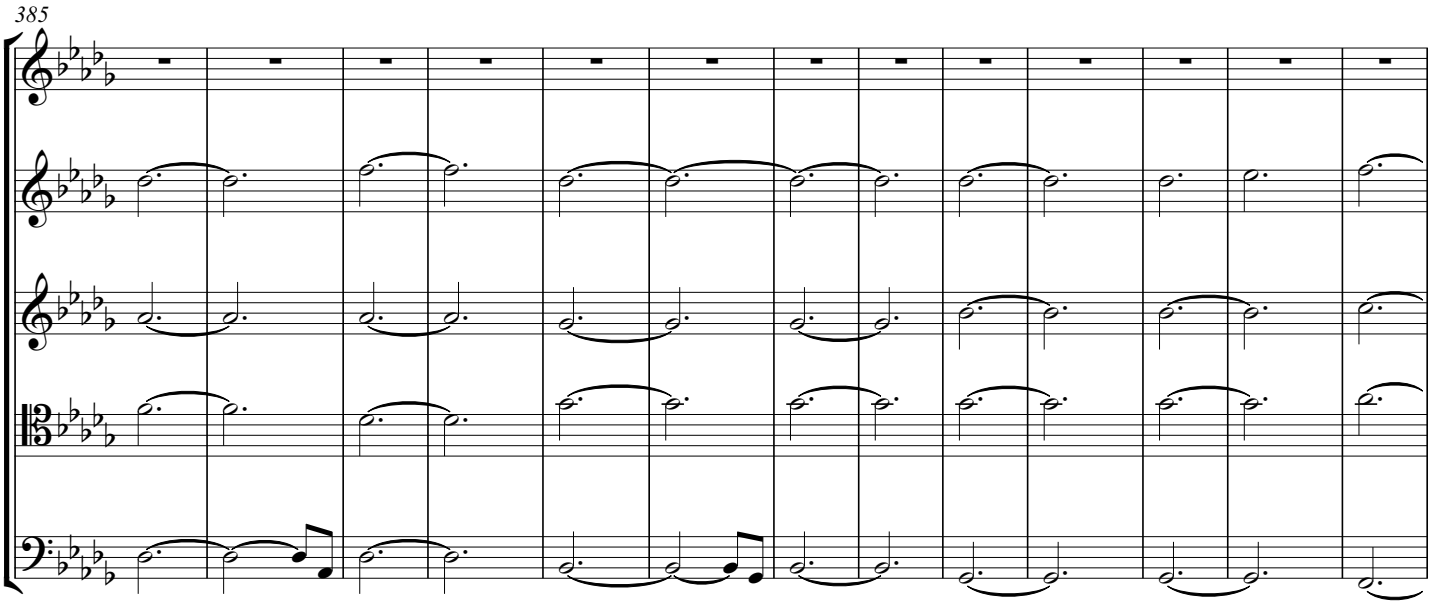

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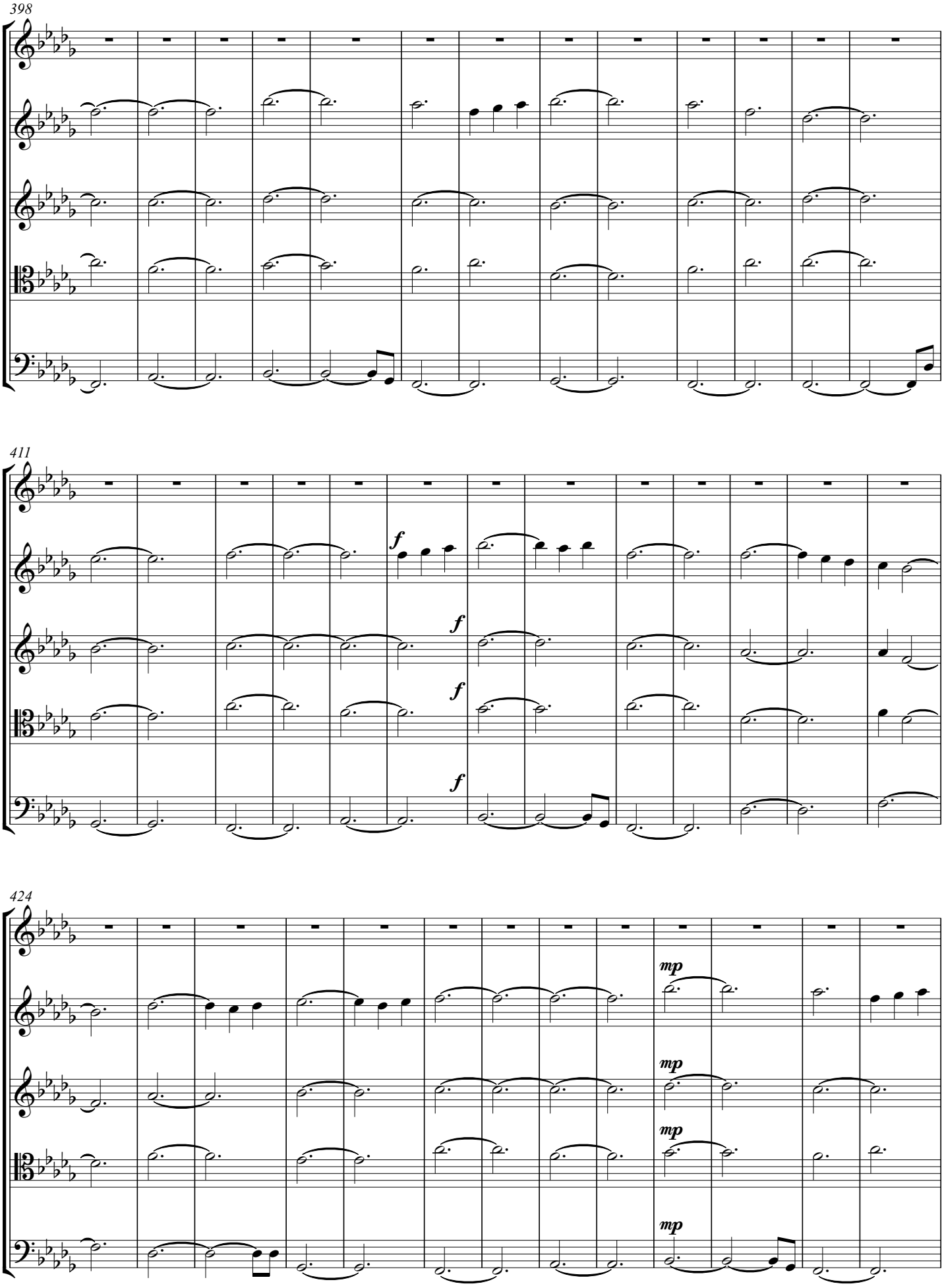

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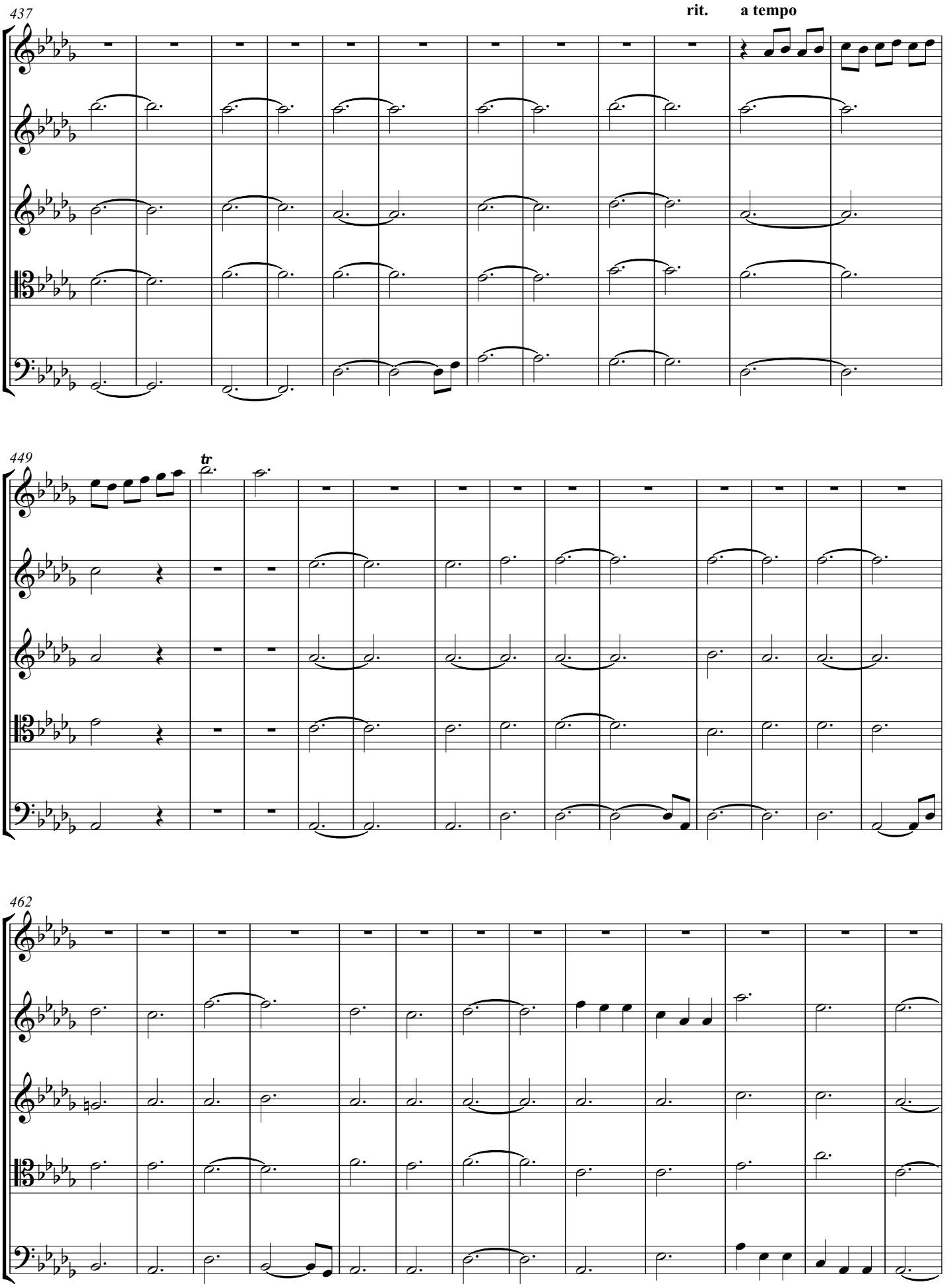

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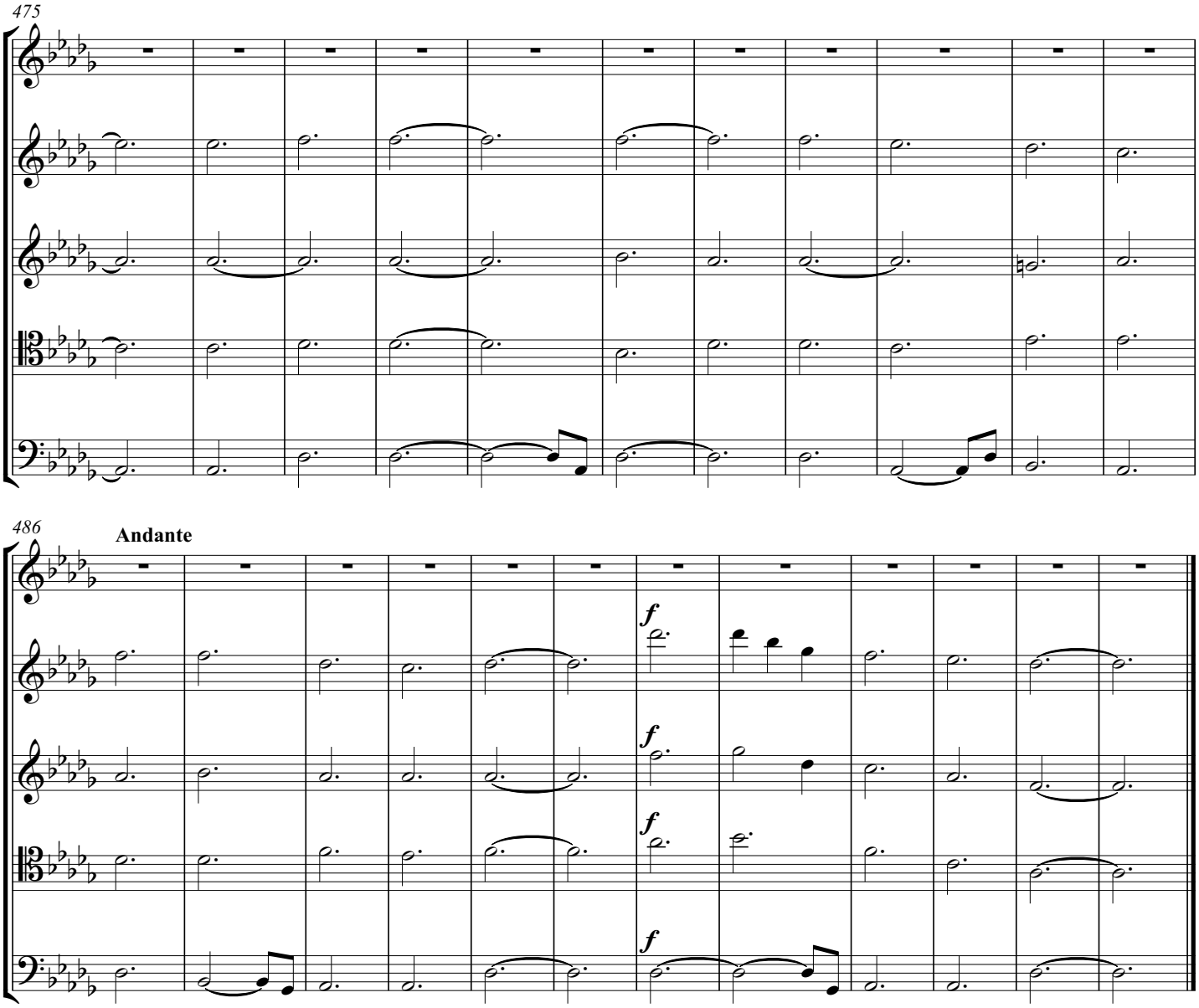

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Blessed Are The Peacemakers

THE BEATITUDES 1.09 (Air For Soprano)

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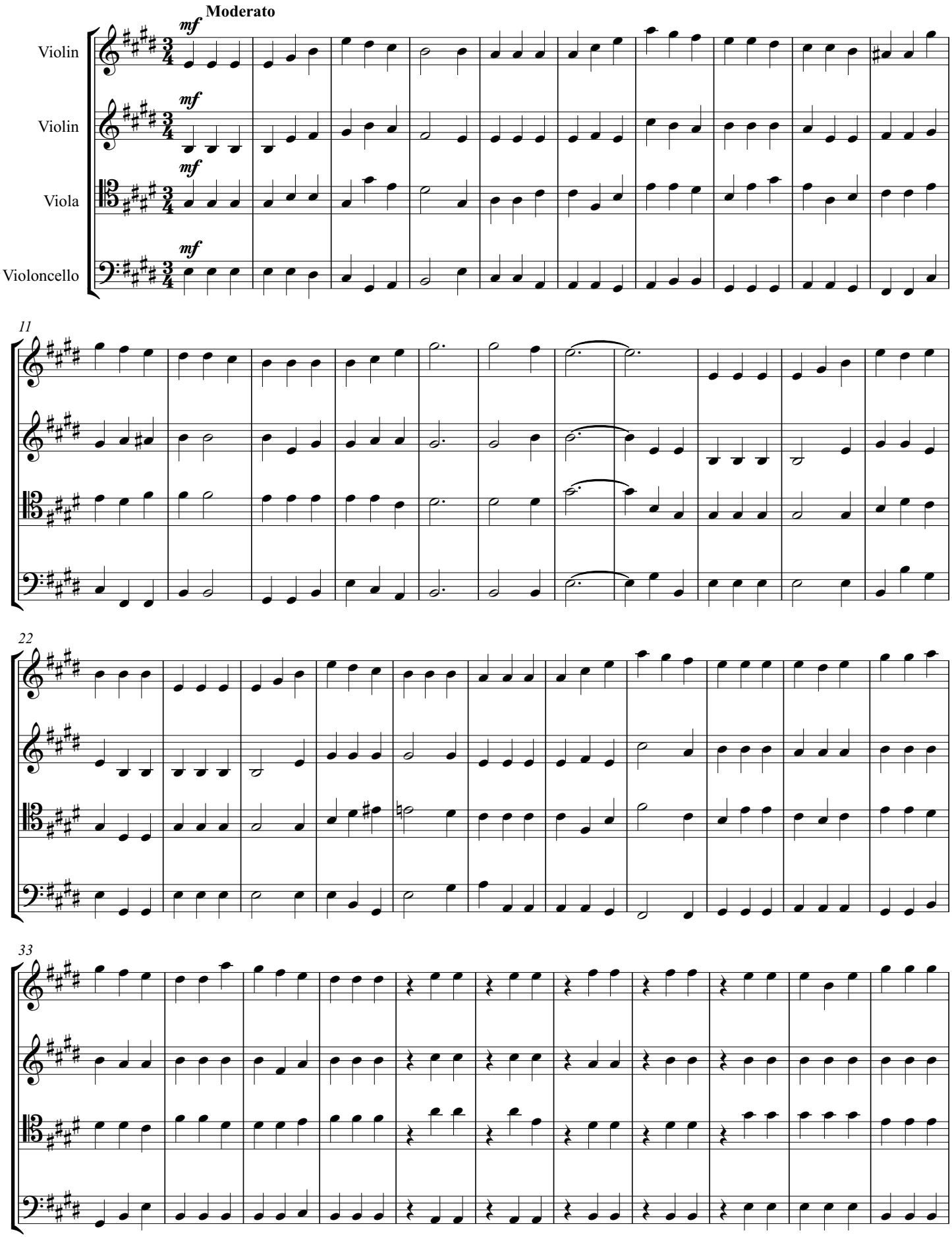

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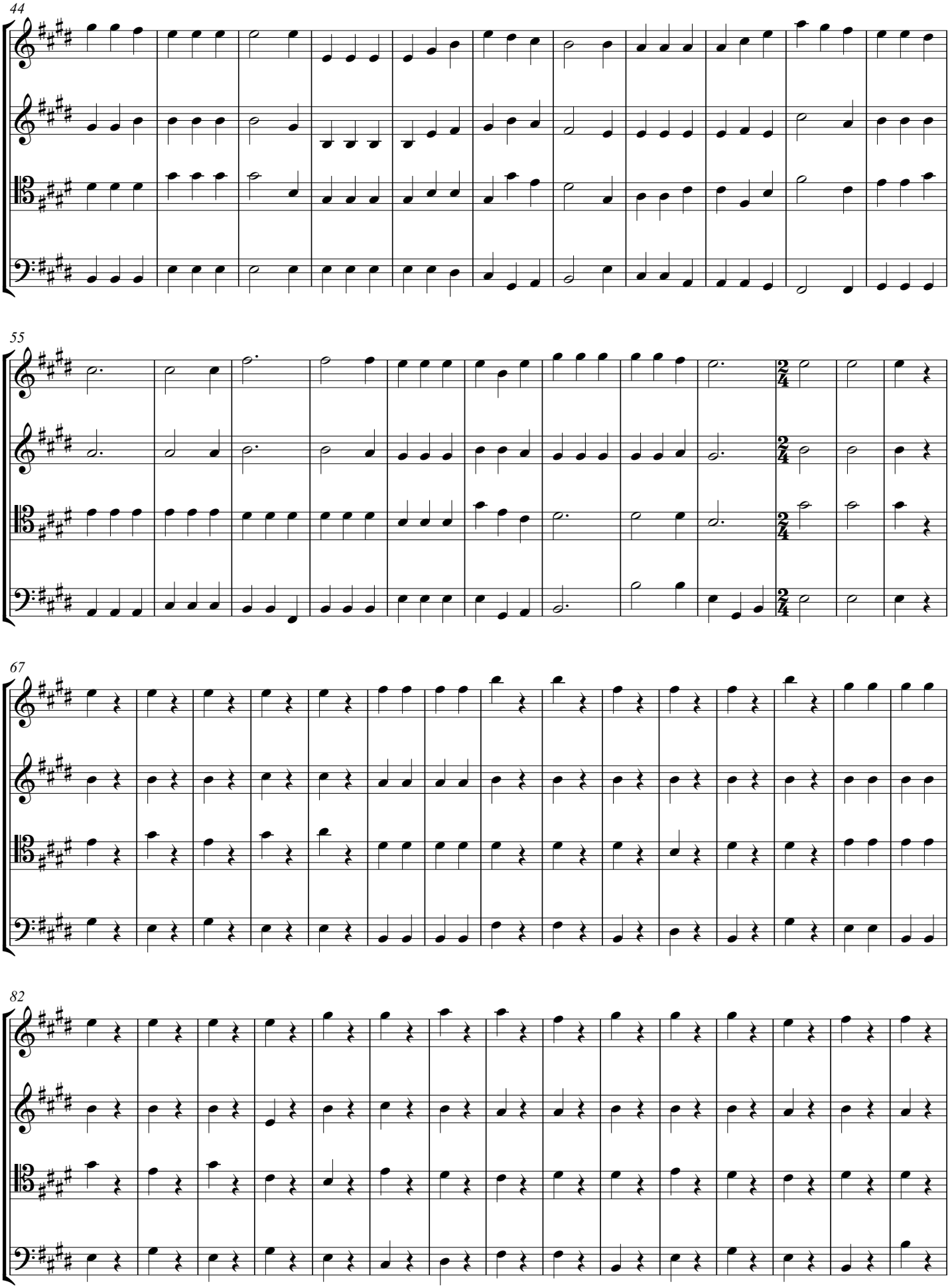

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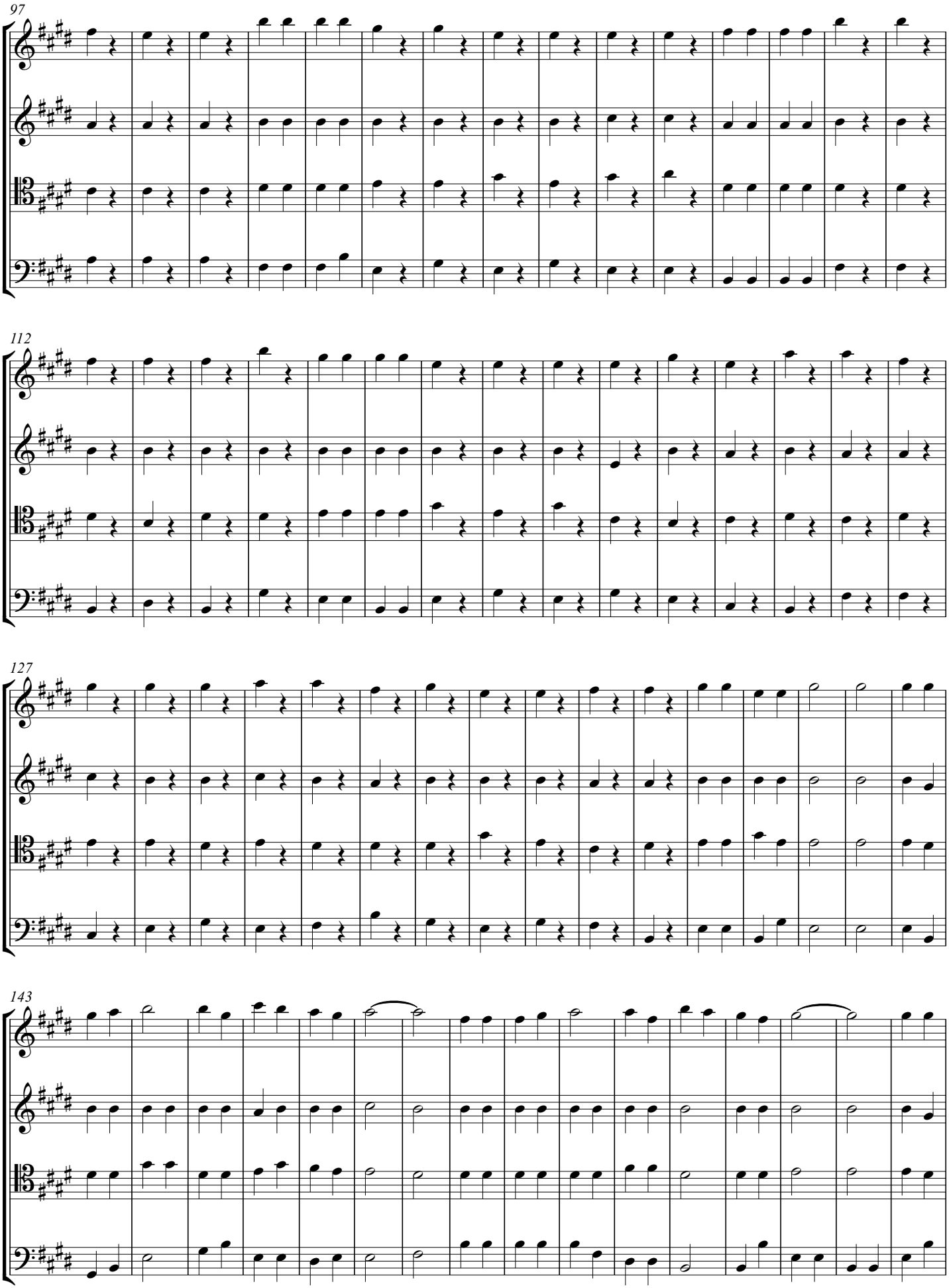

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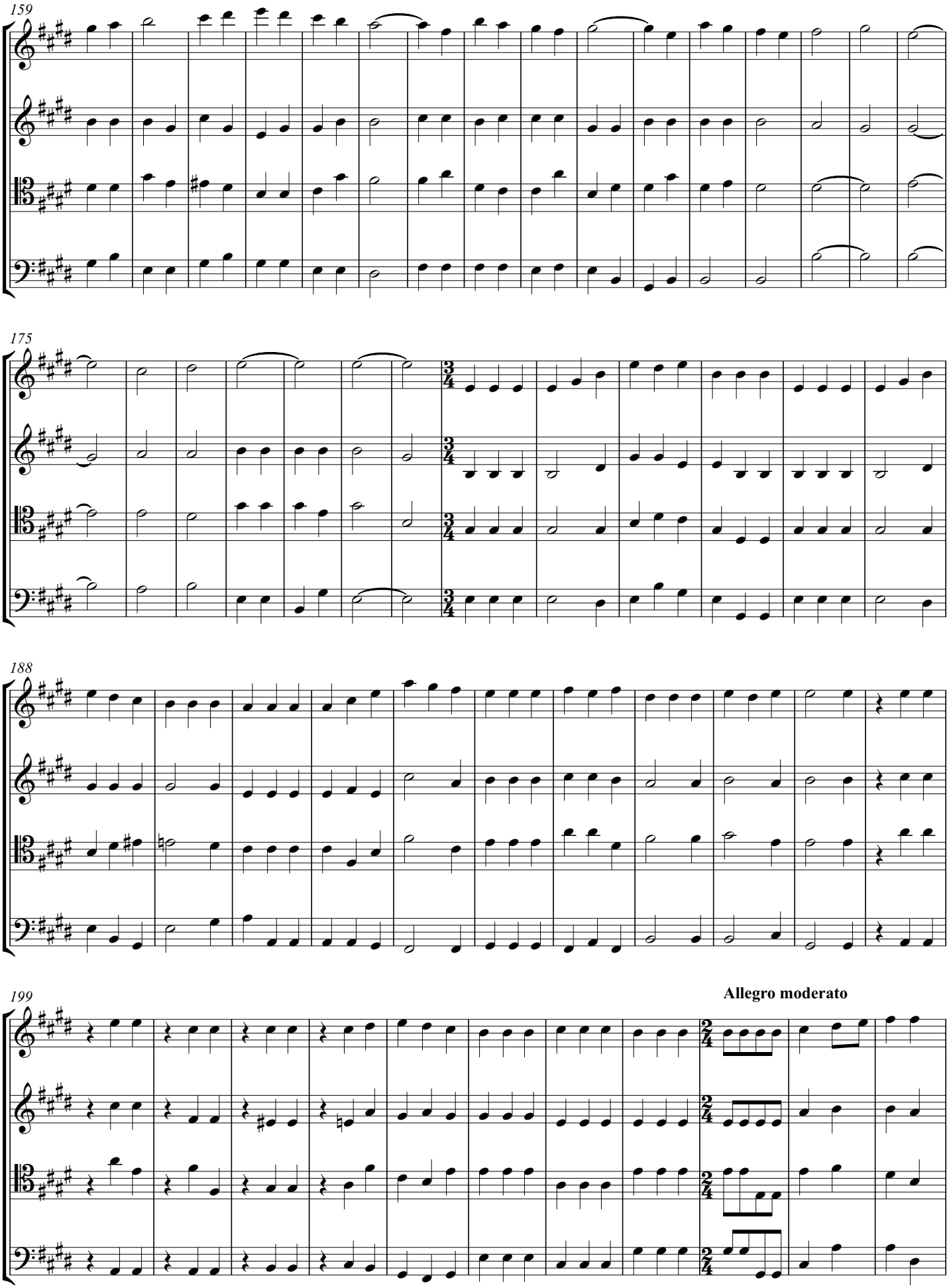

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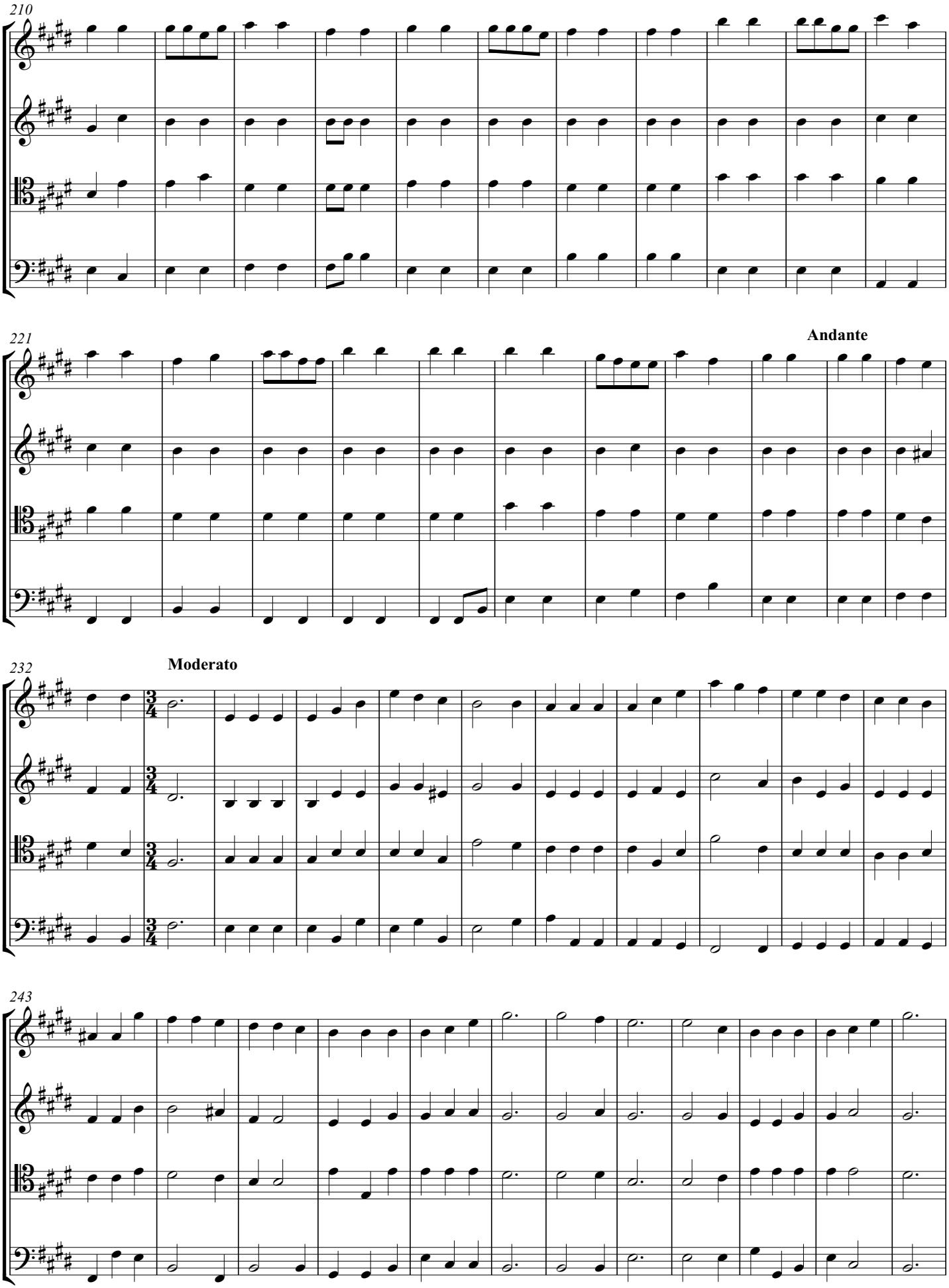
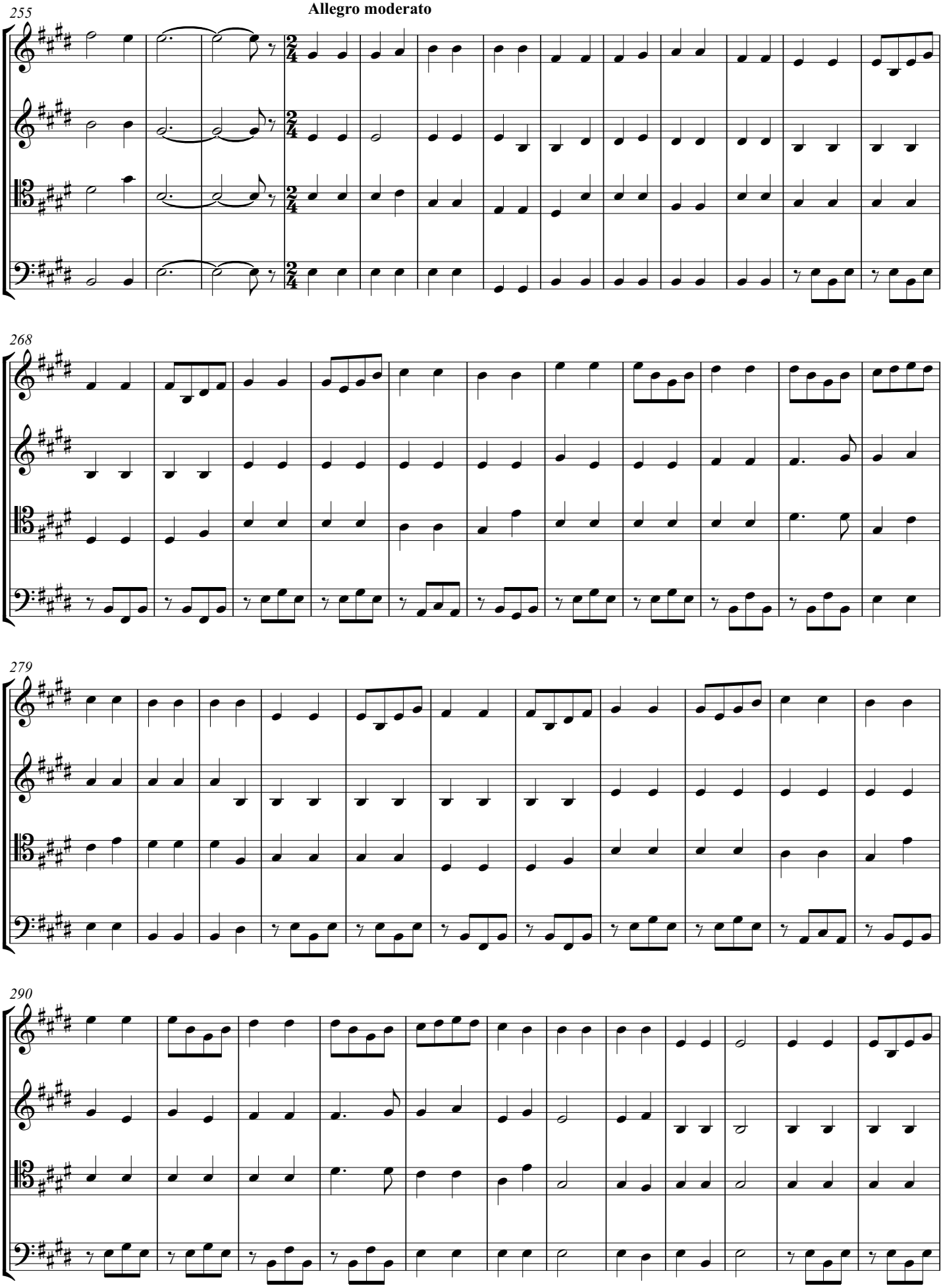


Email: composer4classic@gmail.com

Allegro moderato



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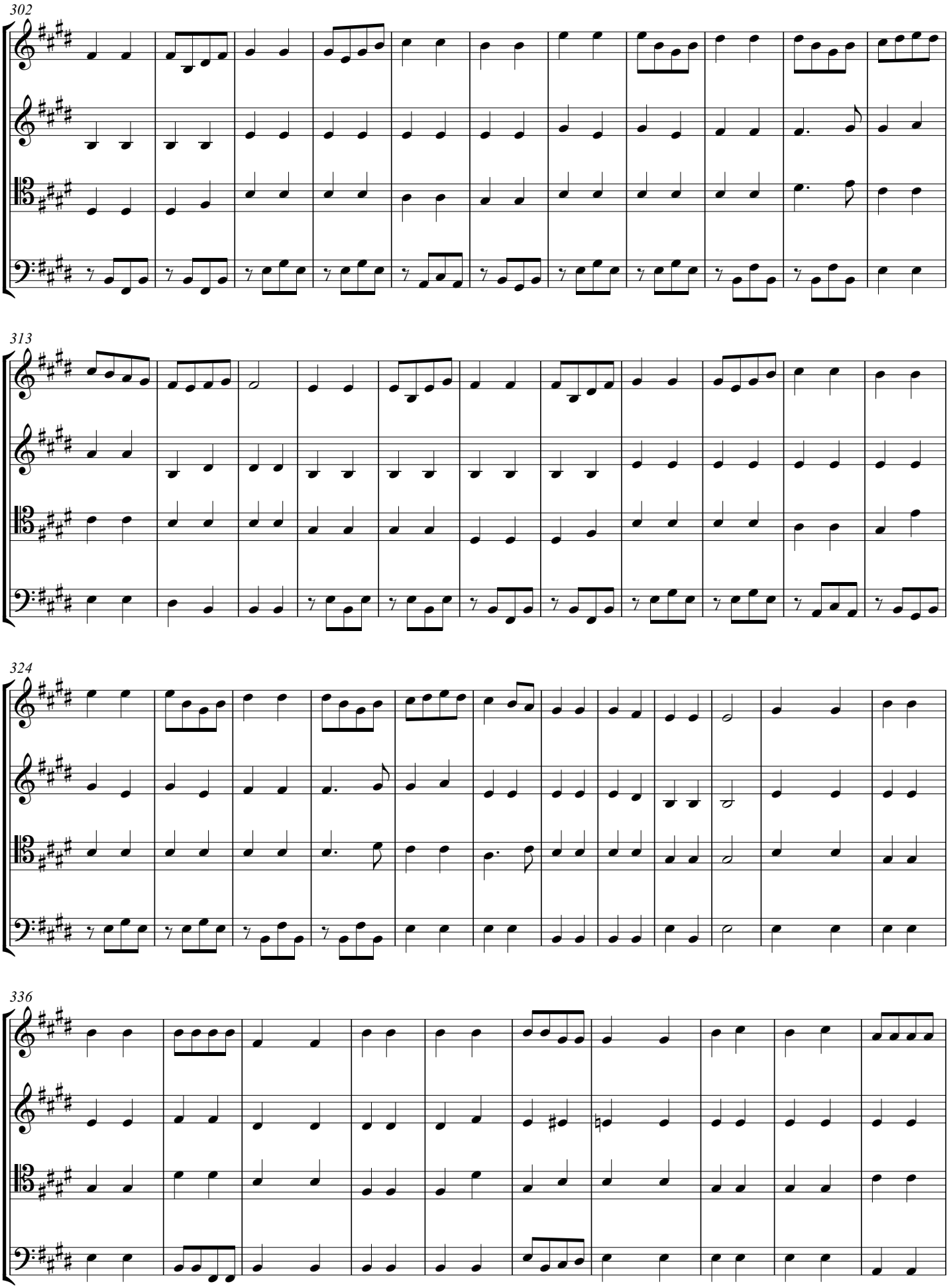

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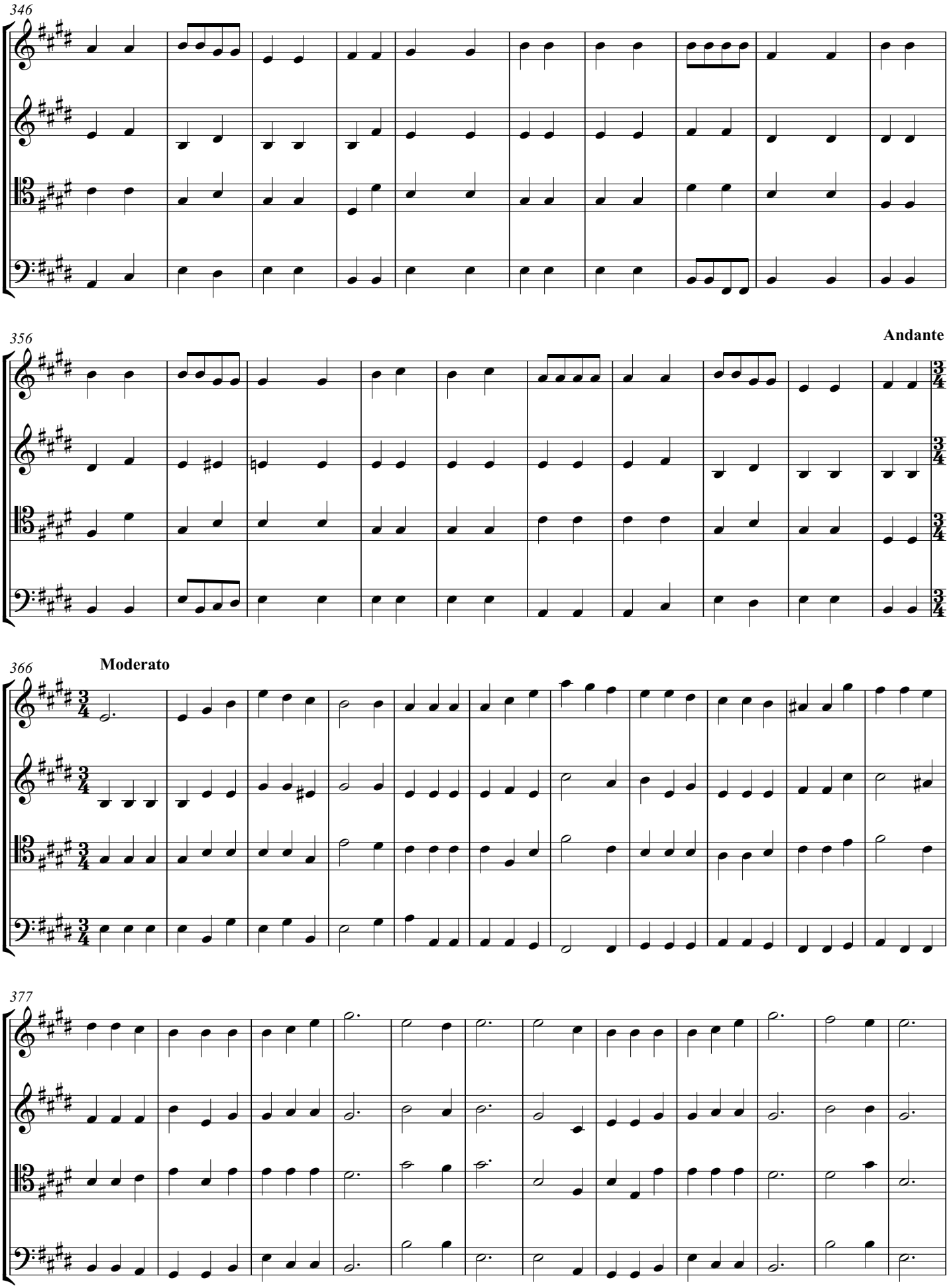

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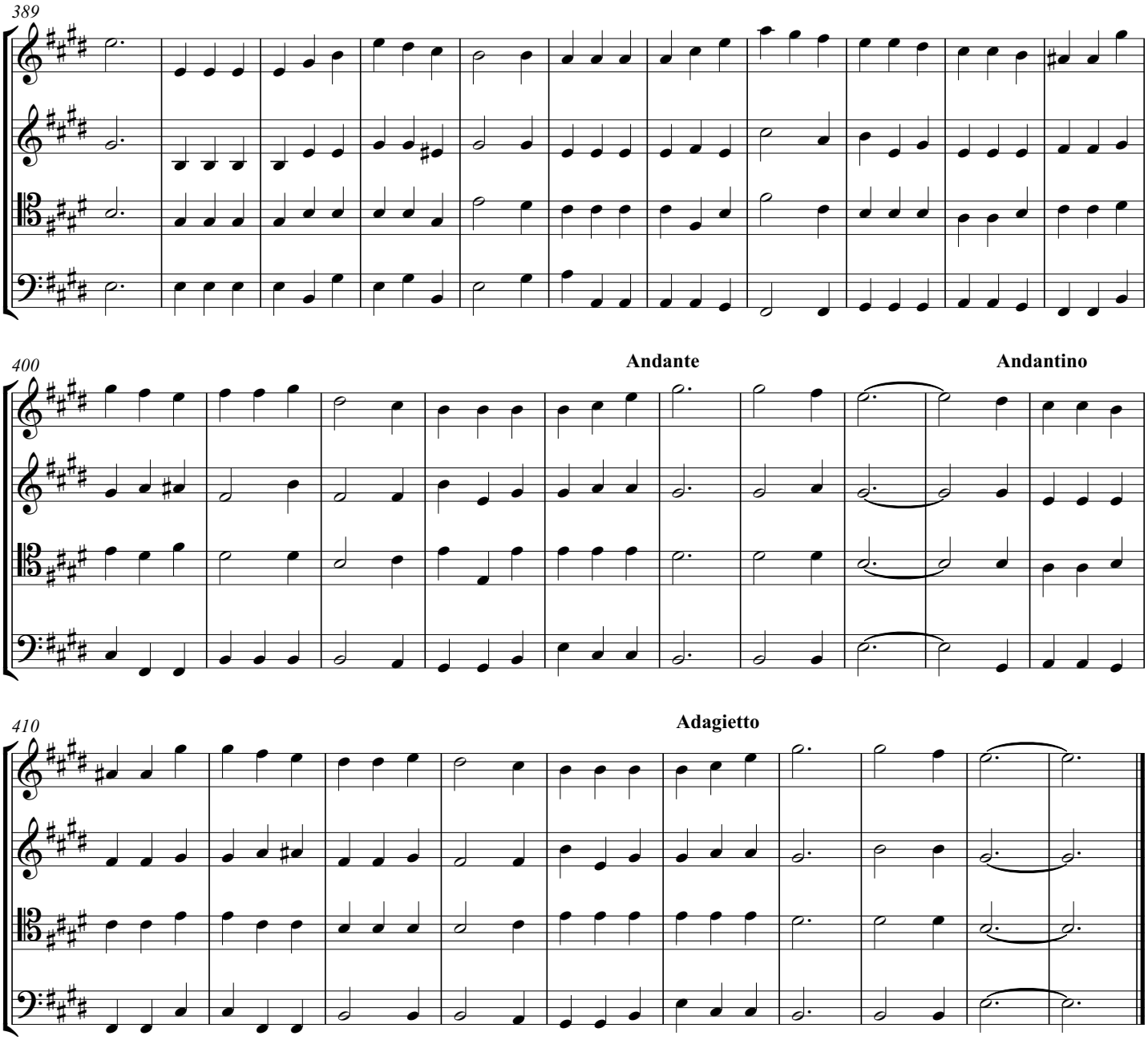

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Blessed Are The Persecuted

THE BEATITUDES 1.10 (Air For Tenor)

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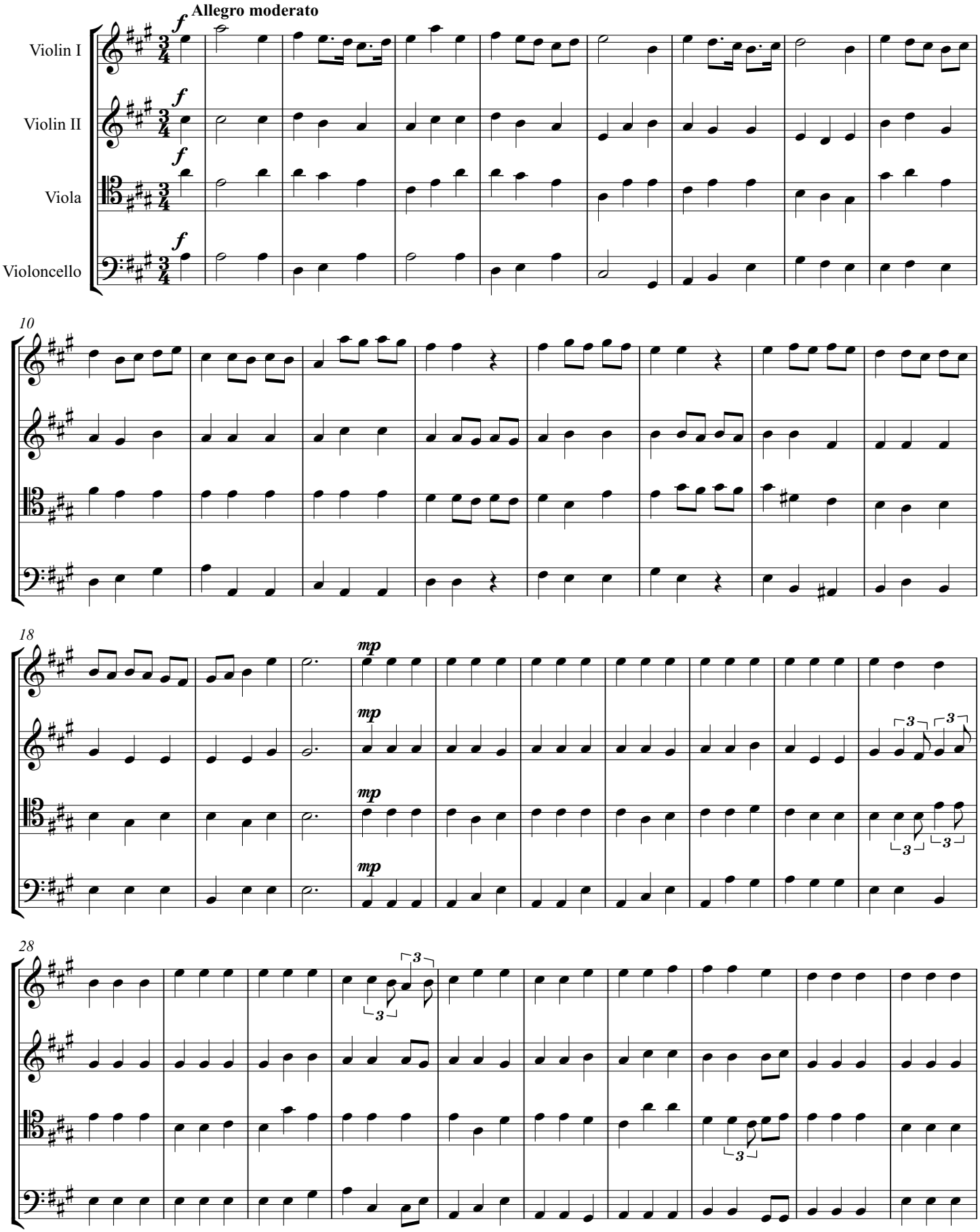

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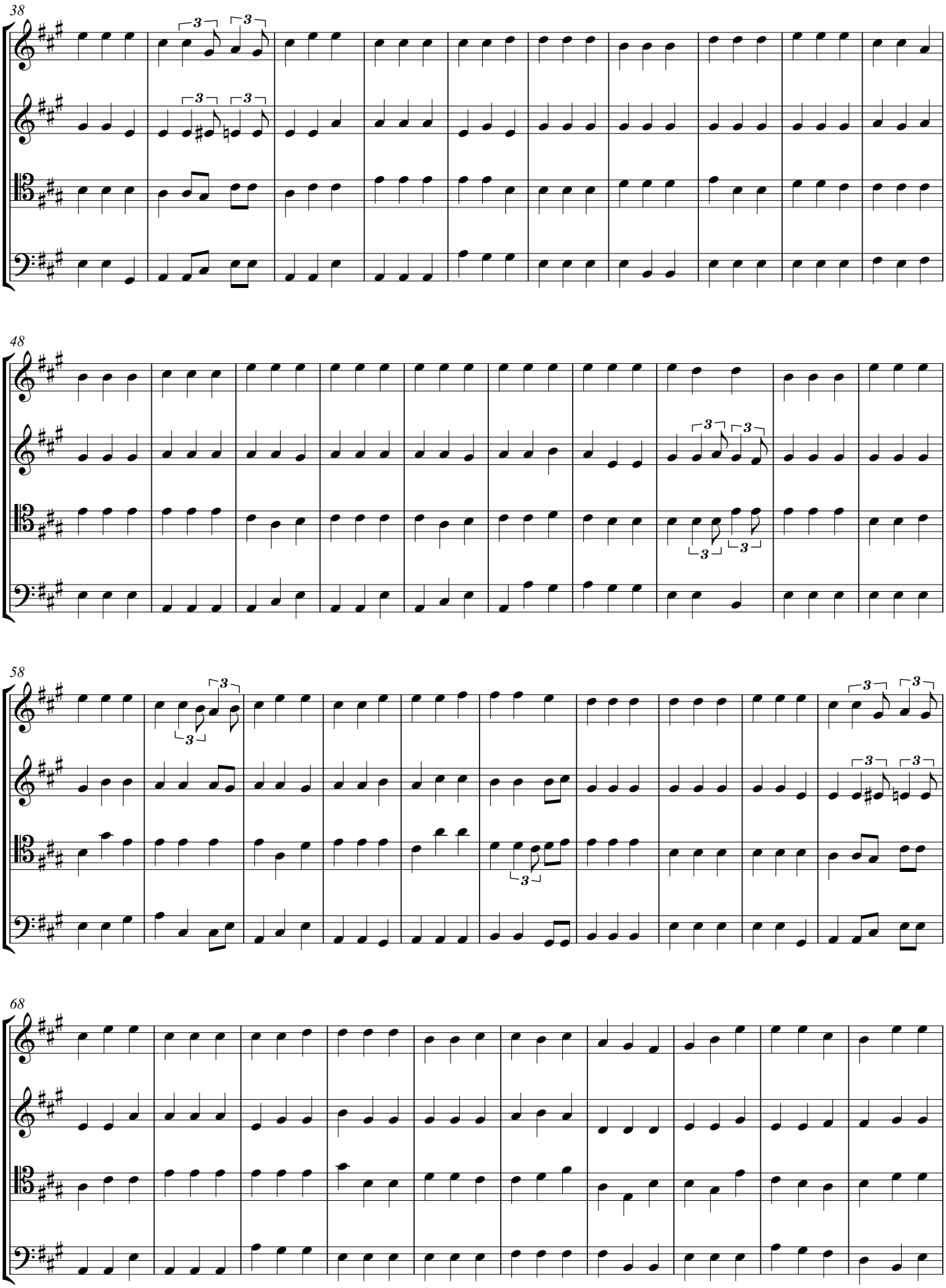

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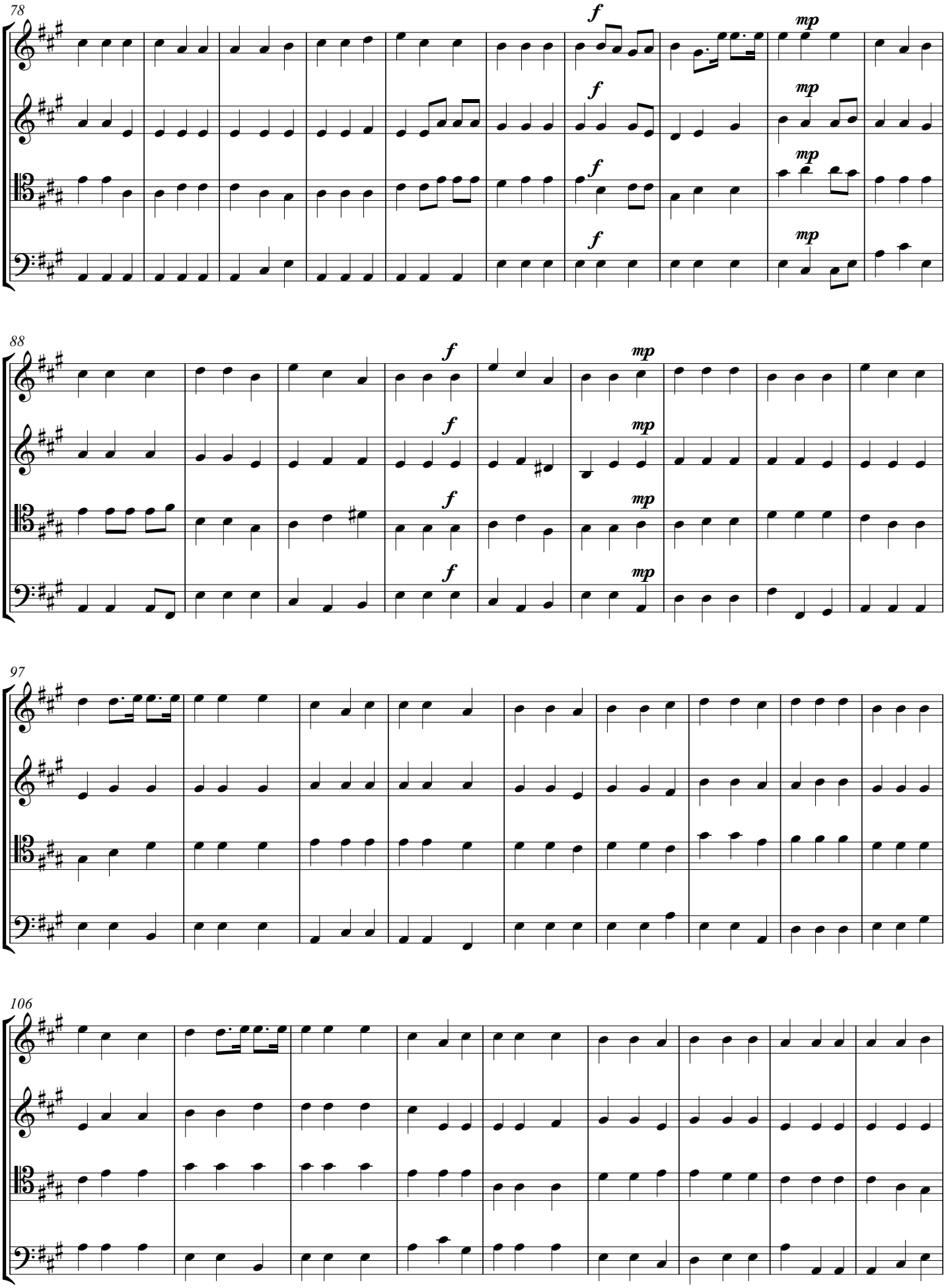

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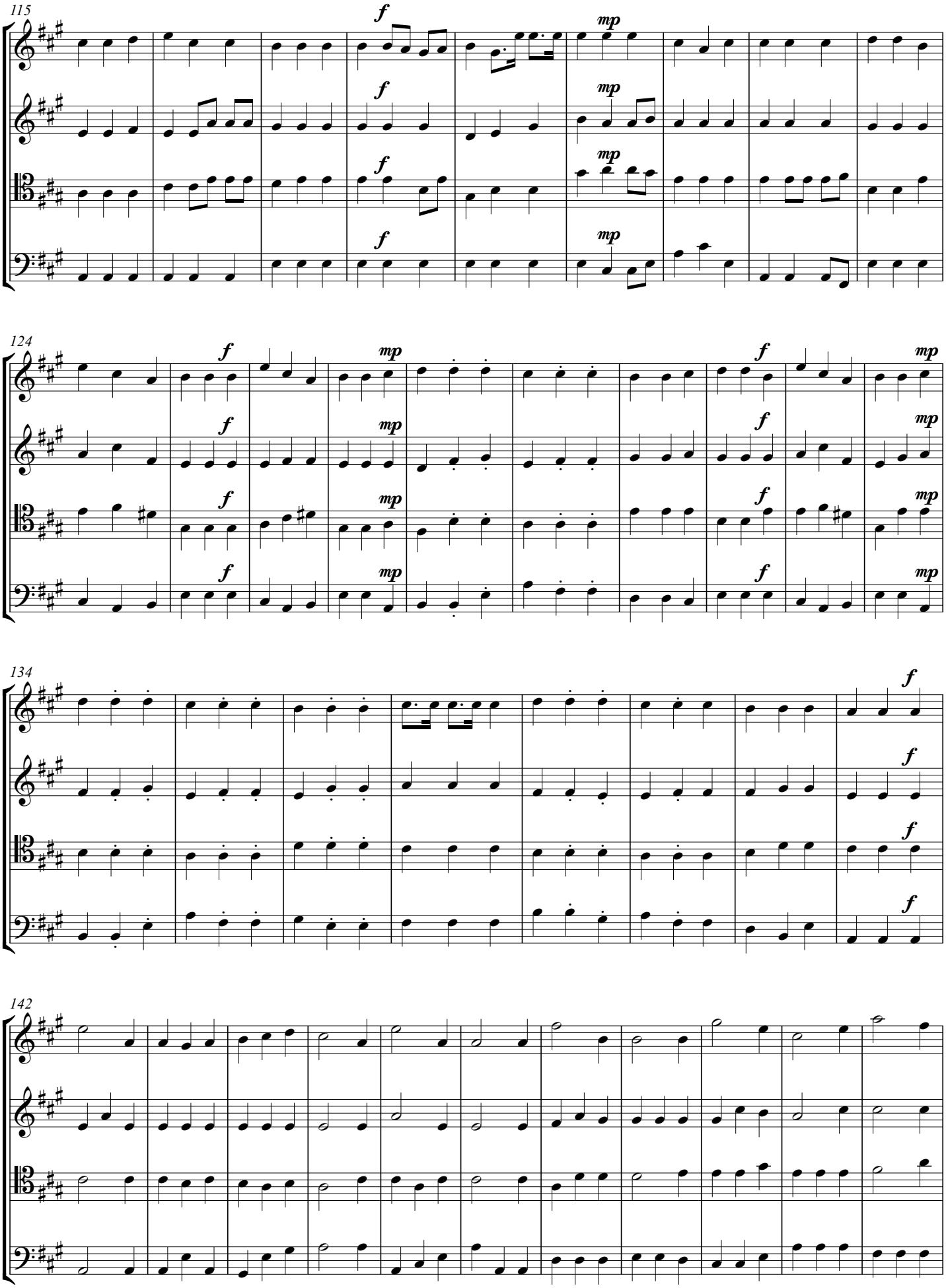

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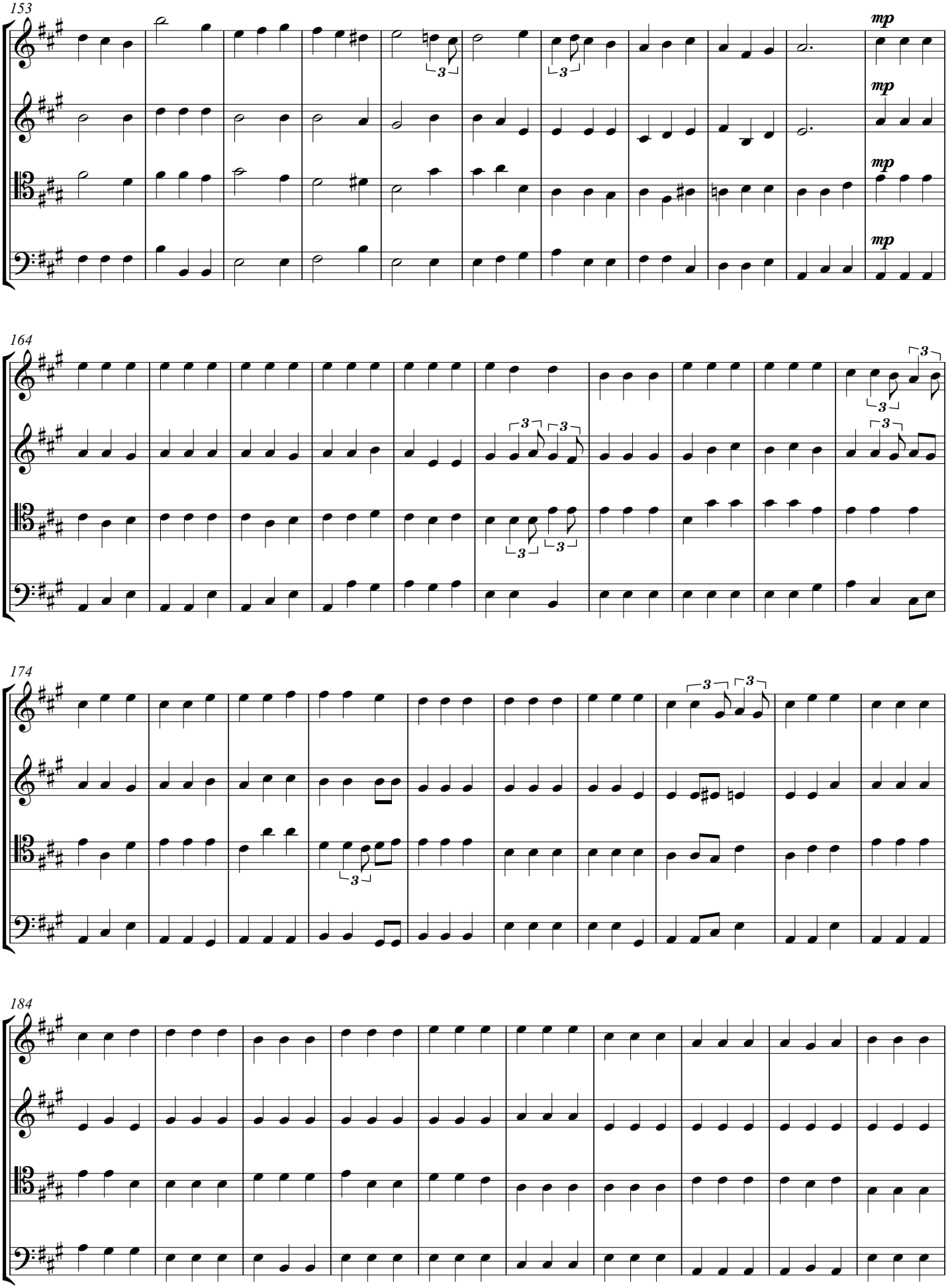

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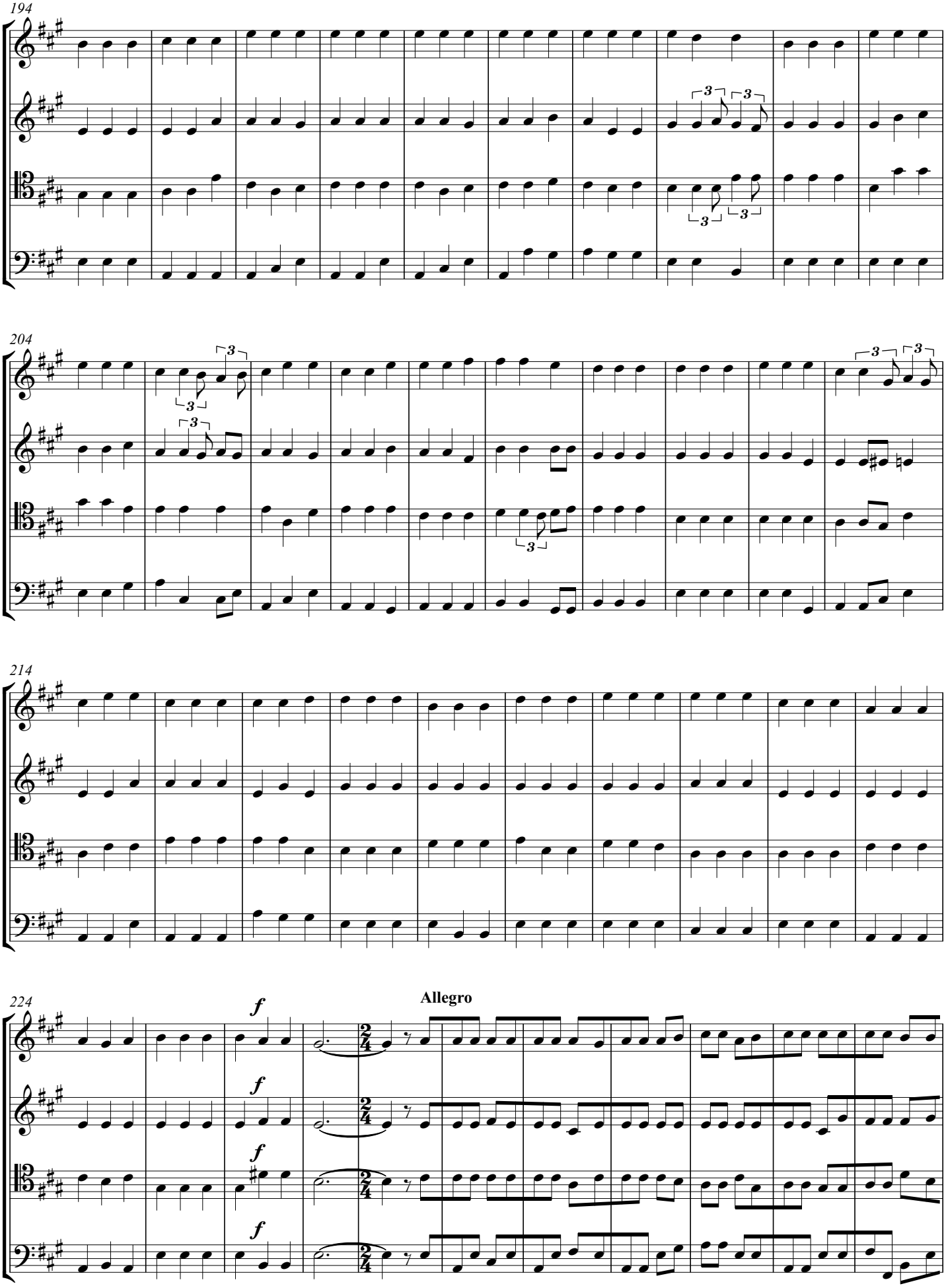

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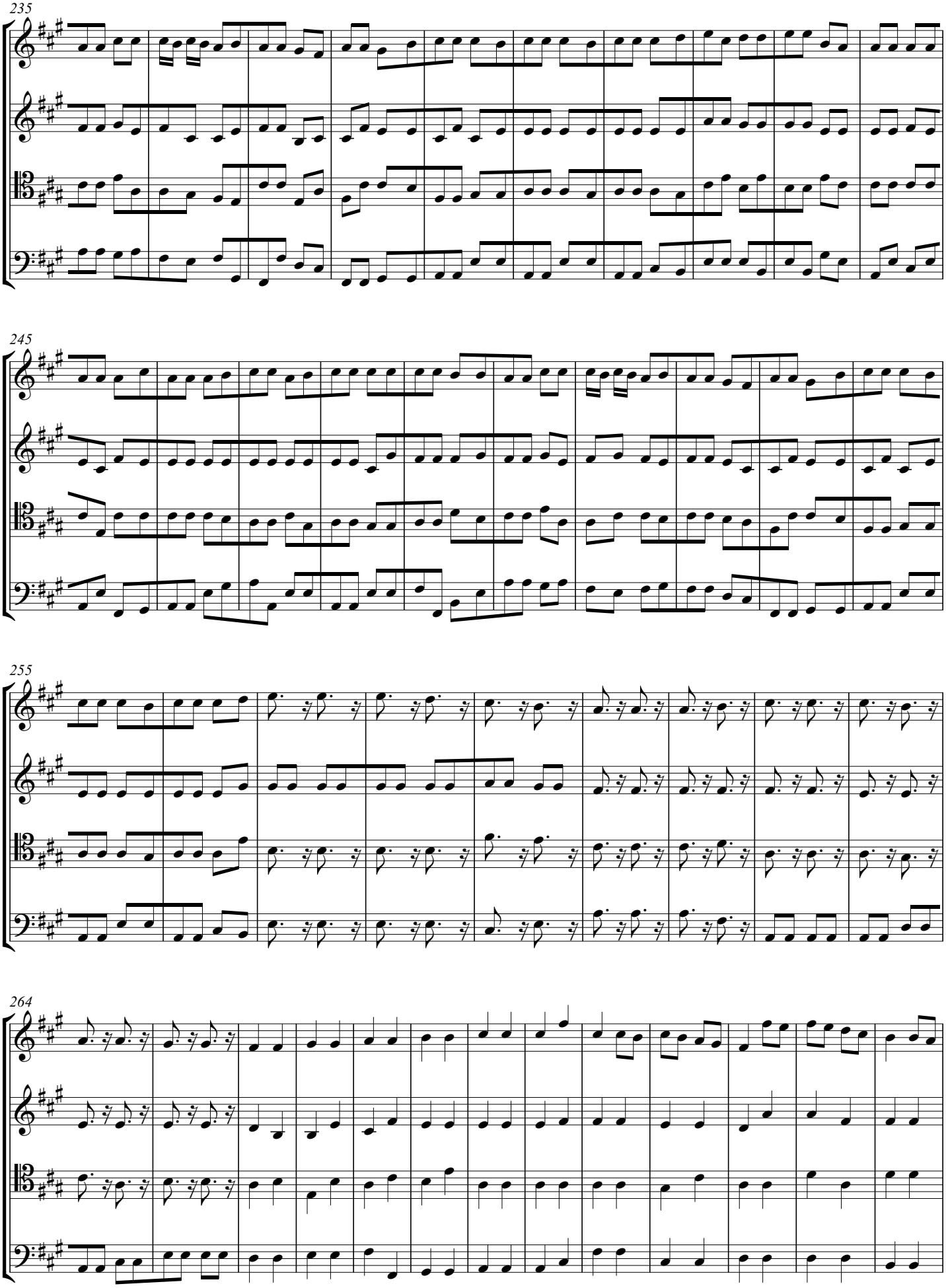

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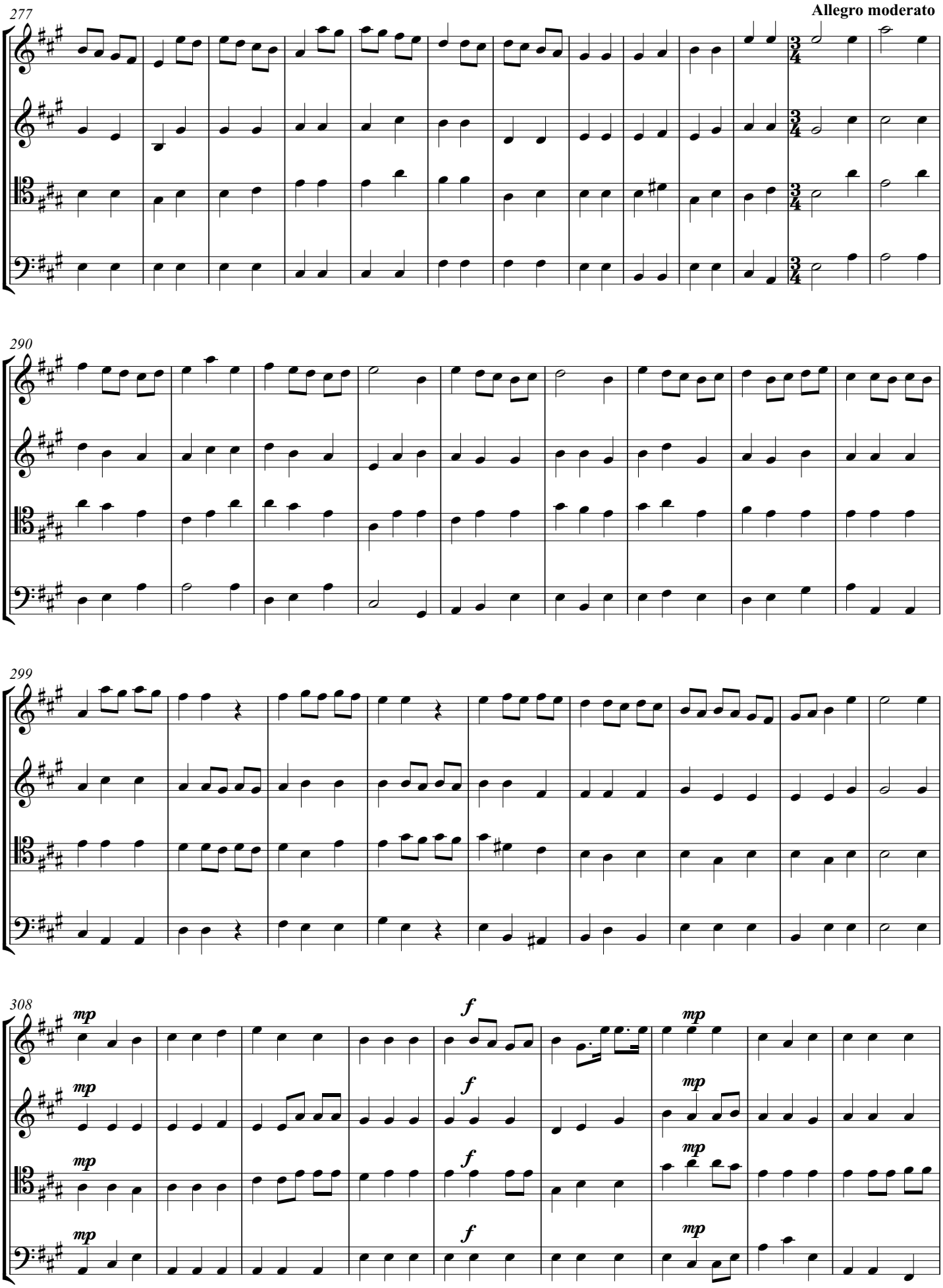

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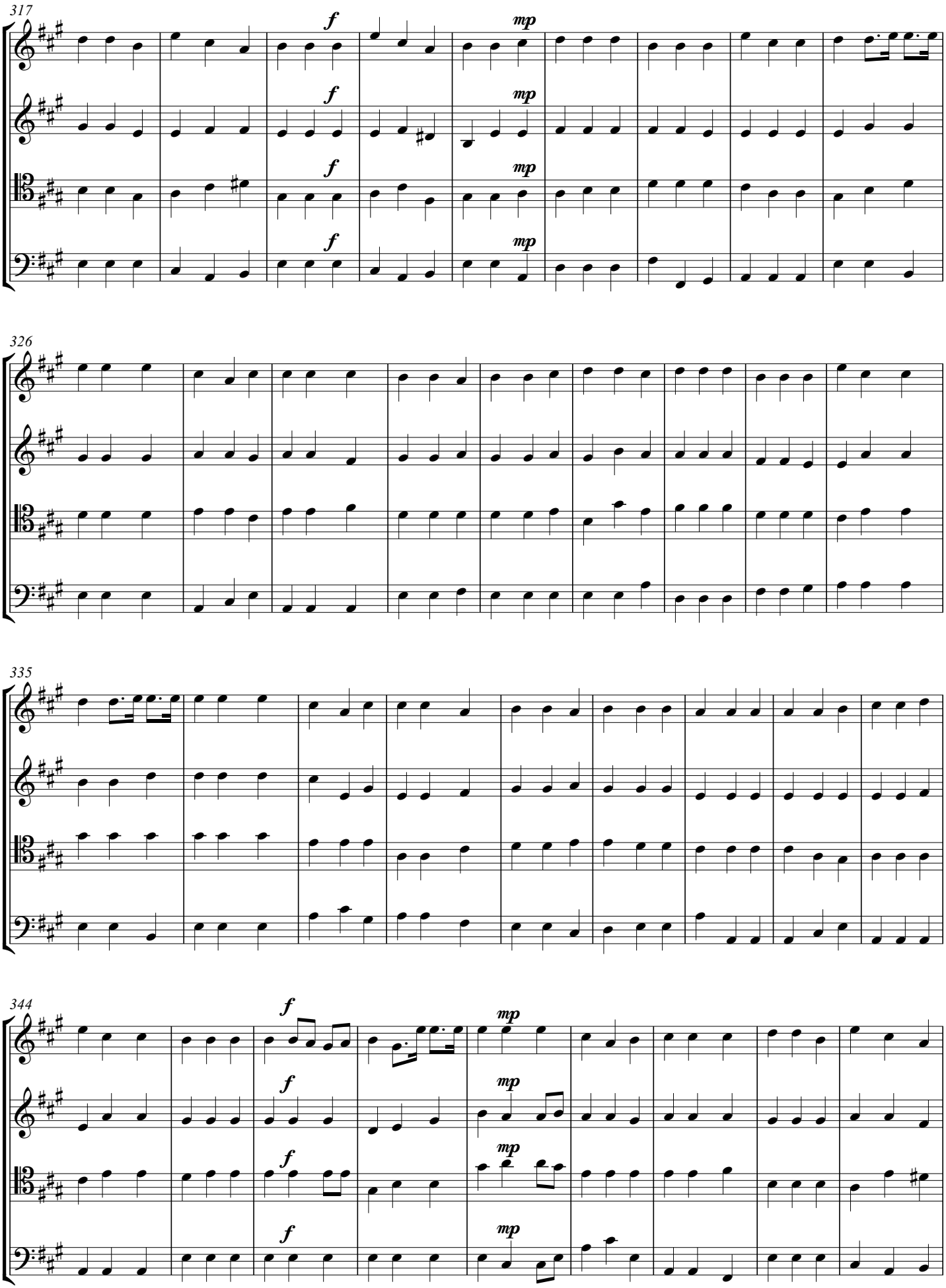

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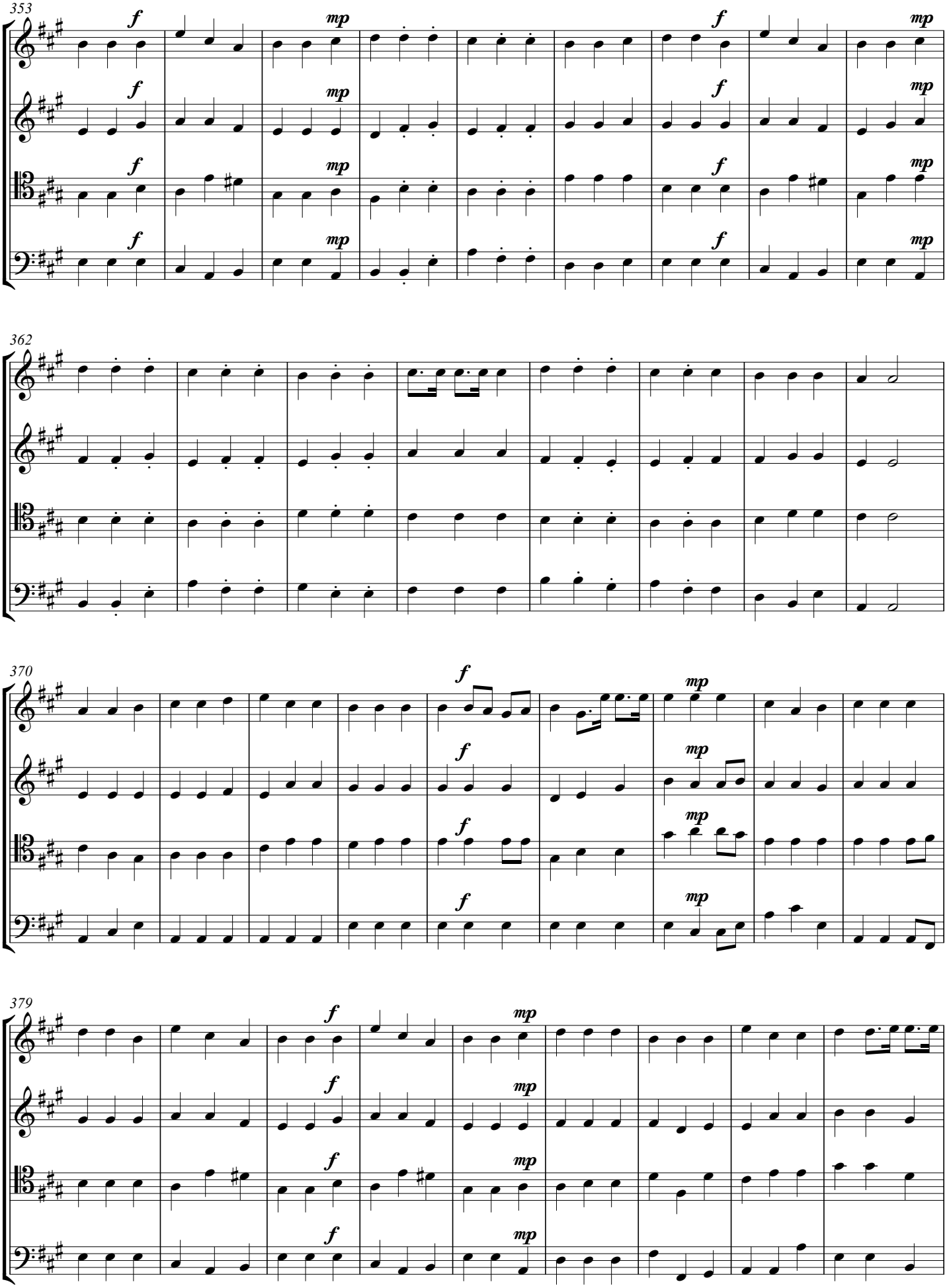

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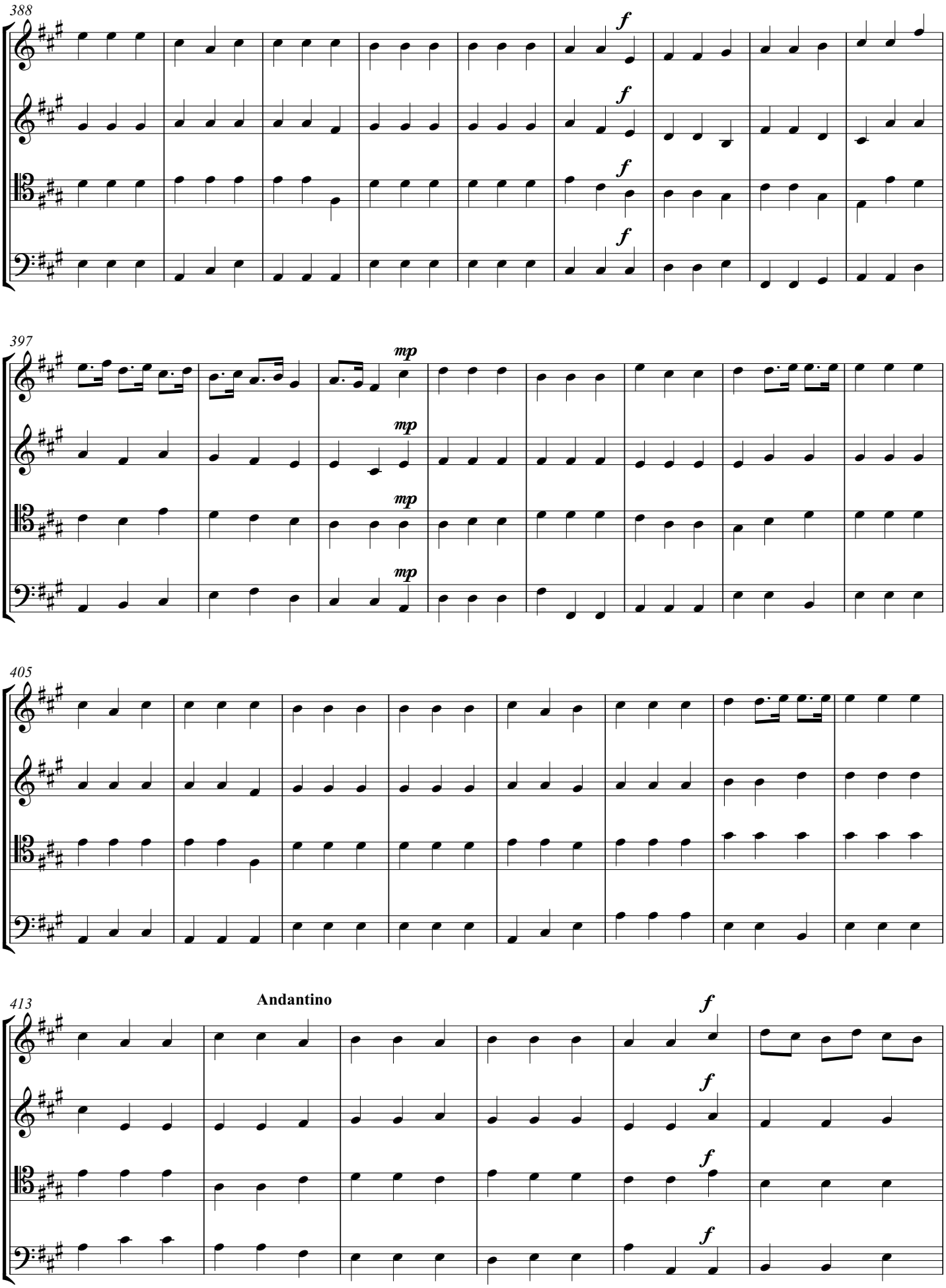

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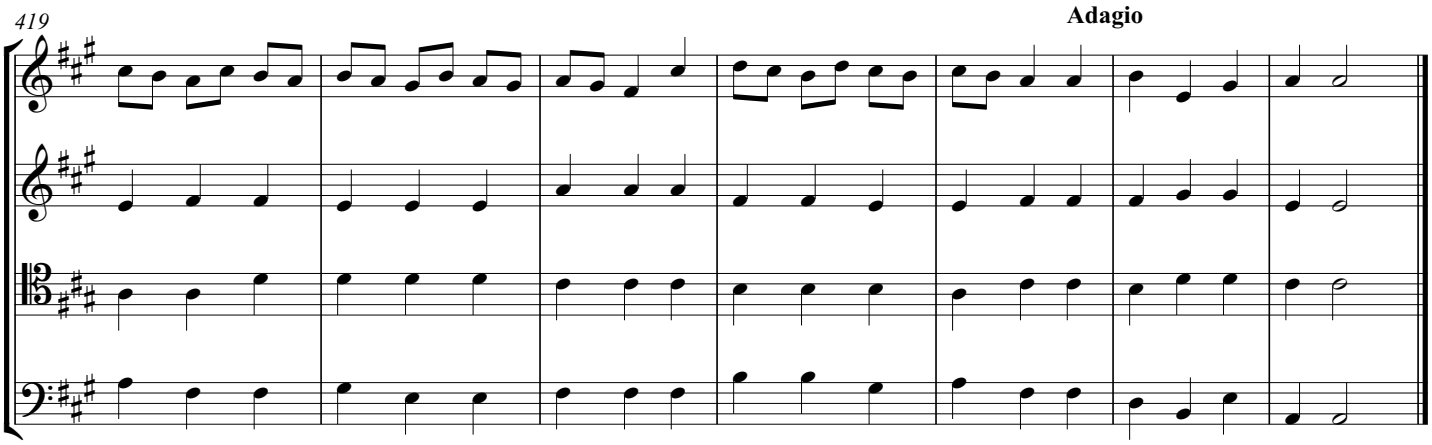

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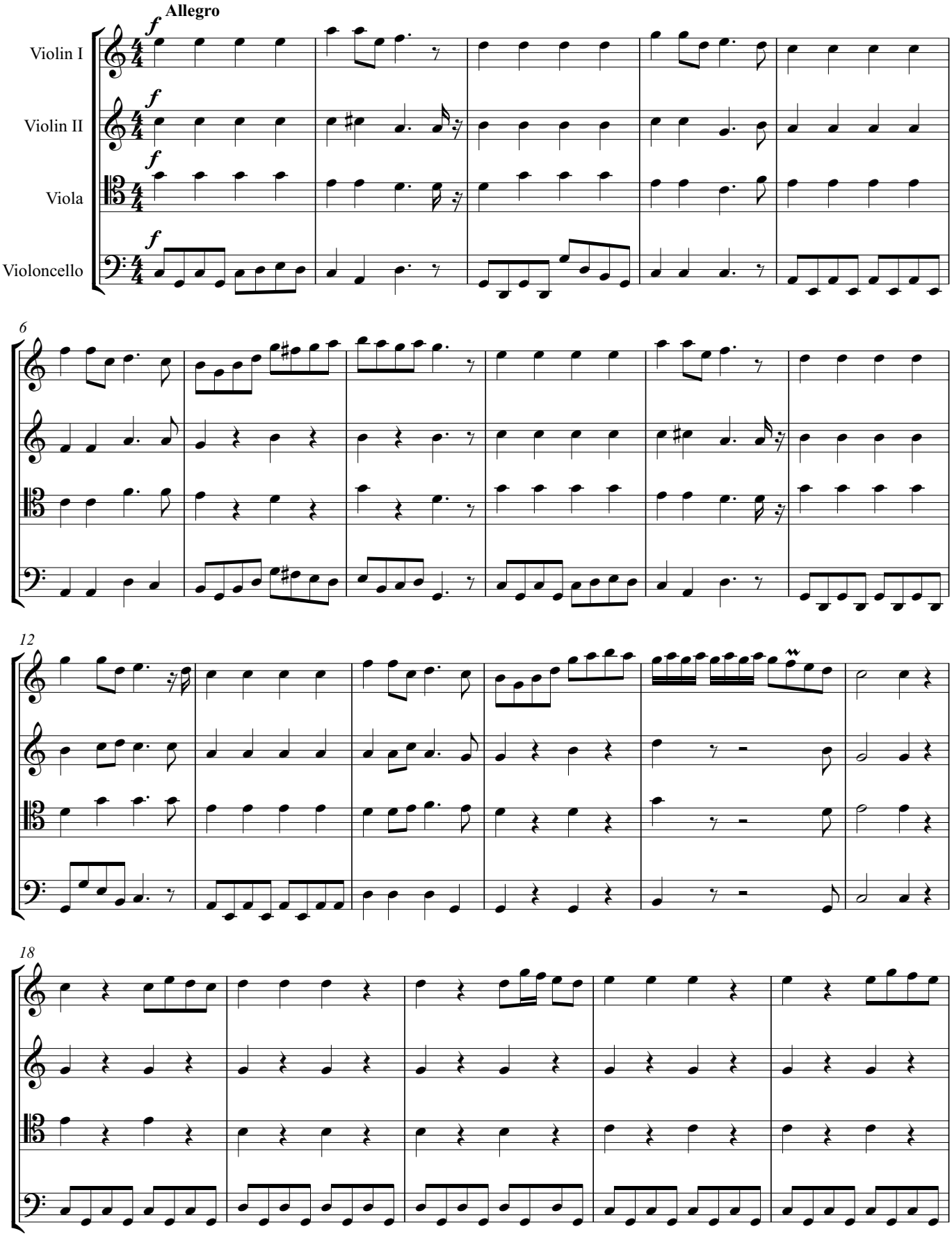
END OF PART 1

PART 2

KINGDOM BLISS

THE BEATITUDES 2.11 (Symfoni)

Progress Gabriel Akpabio



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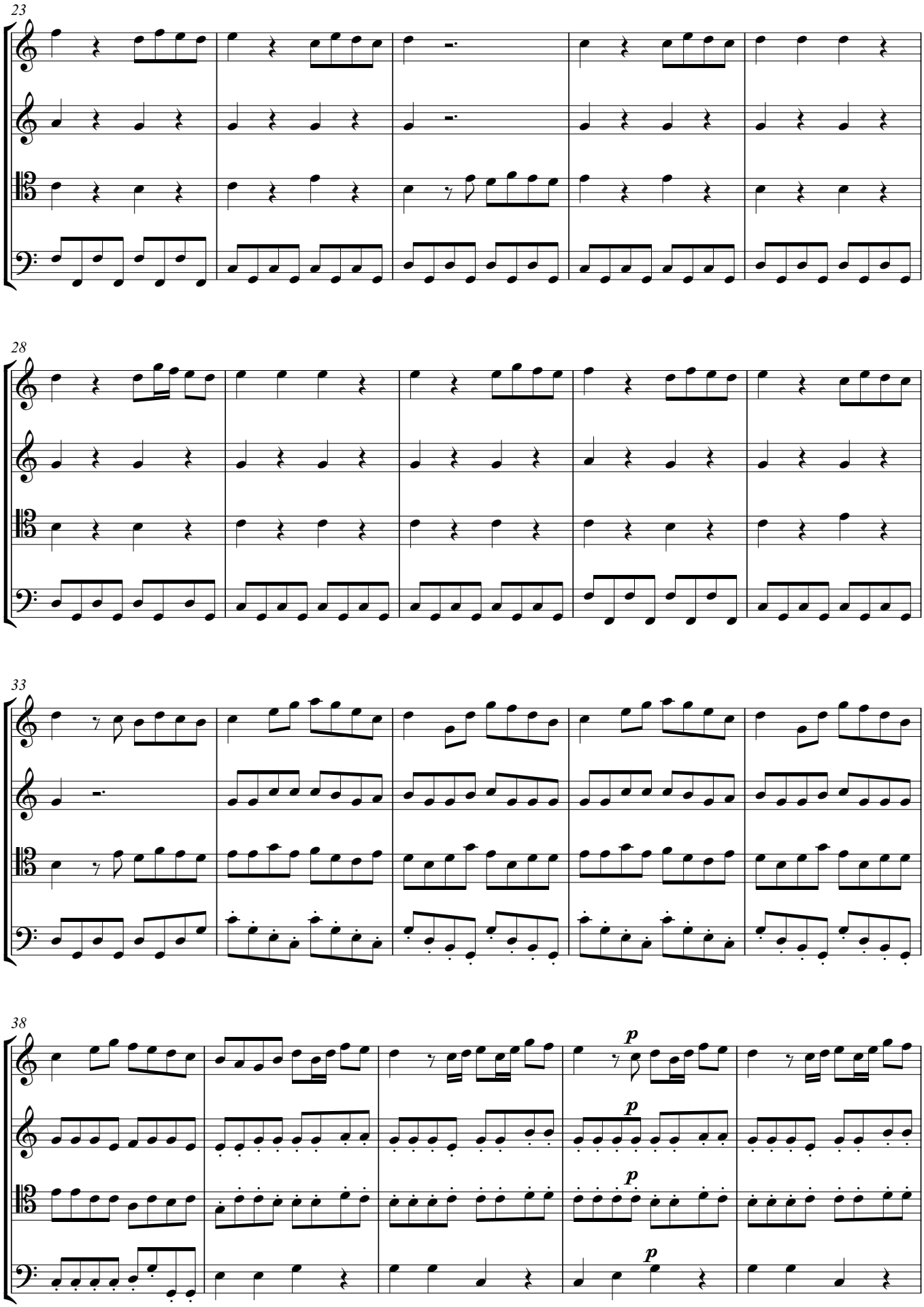

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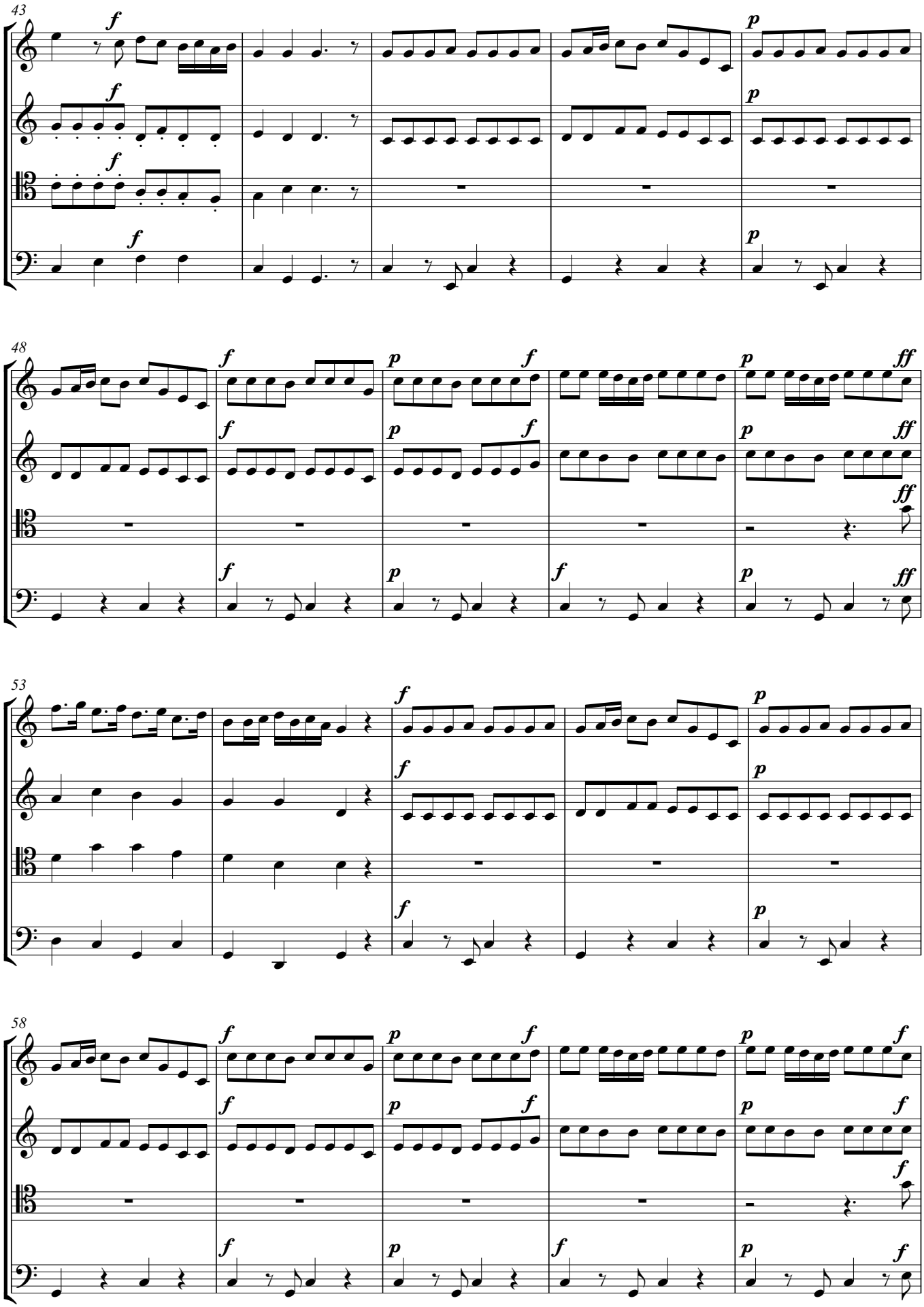

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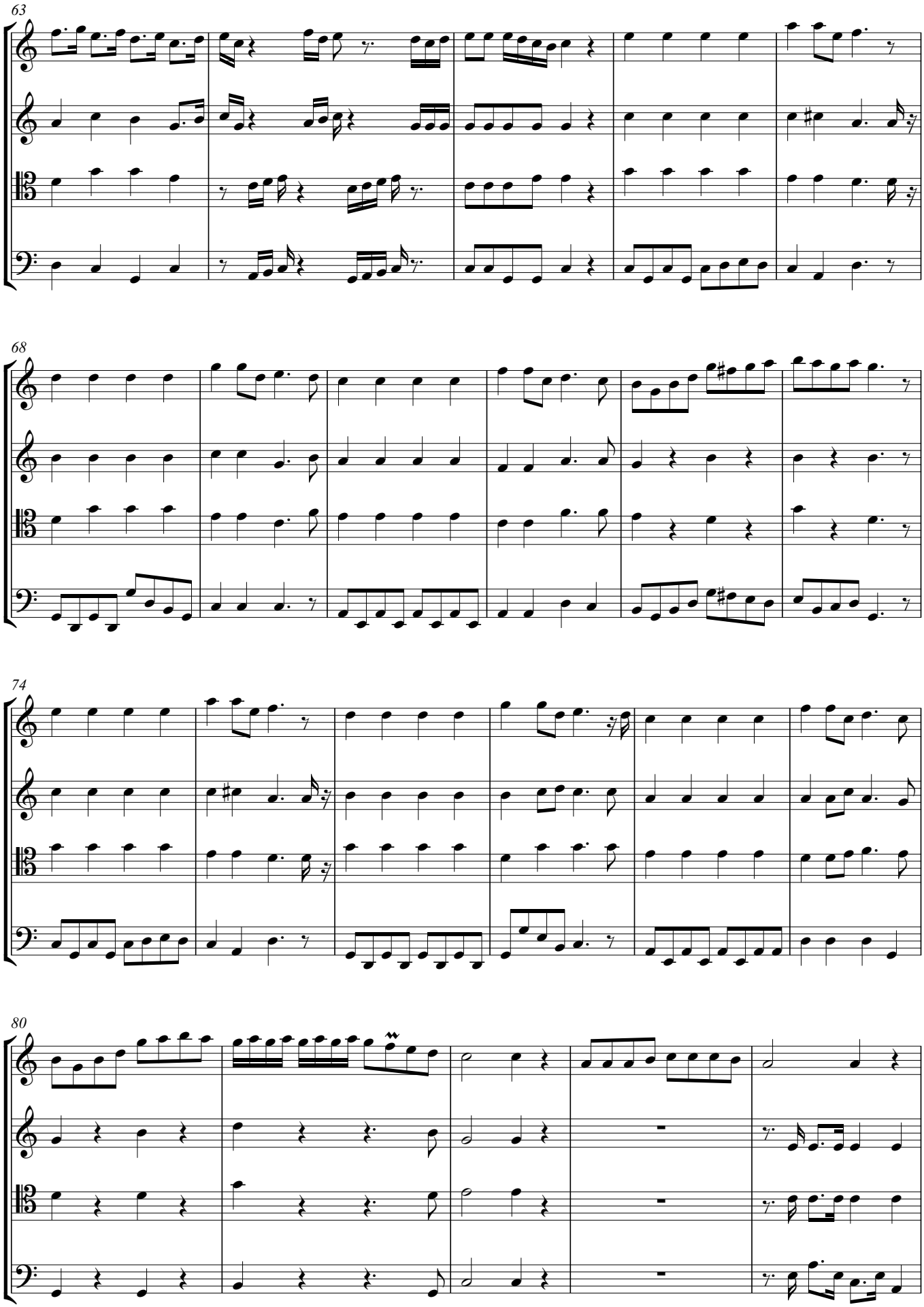

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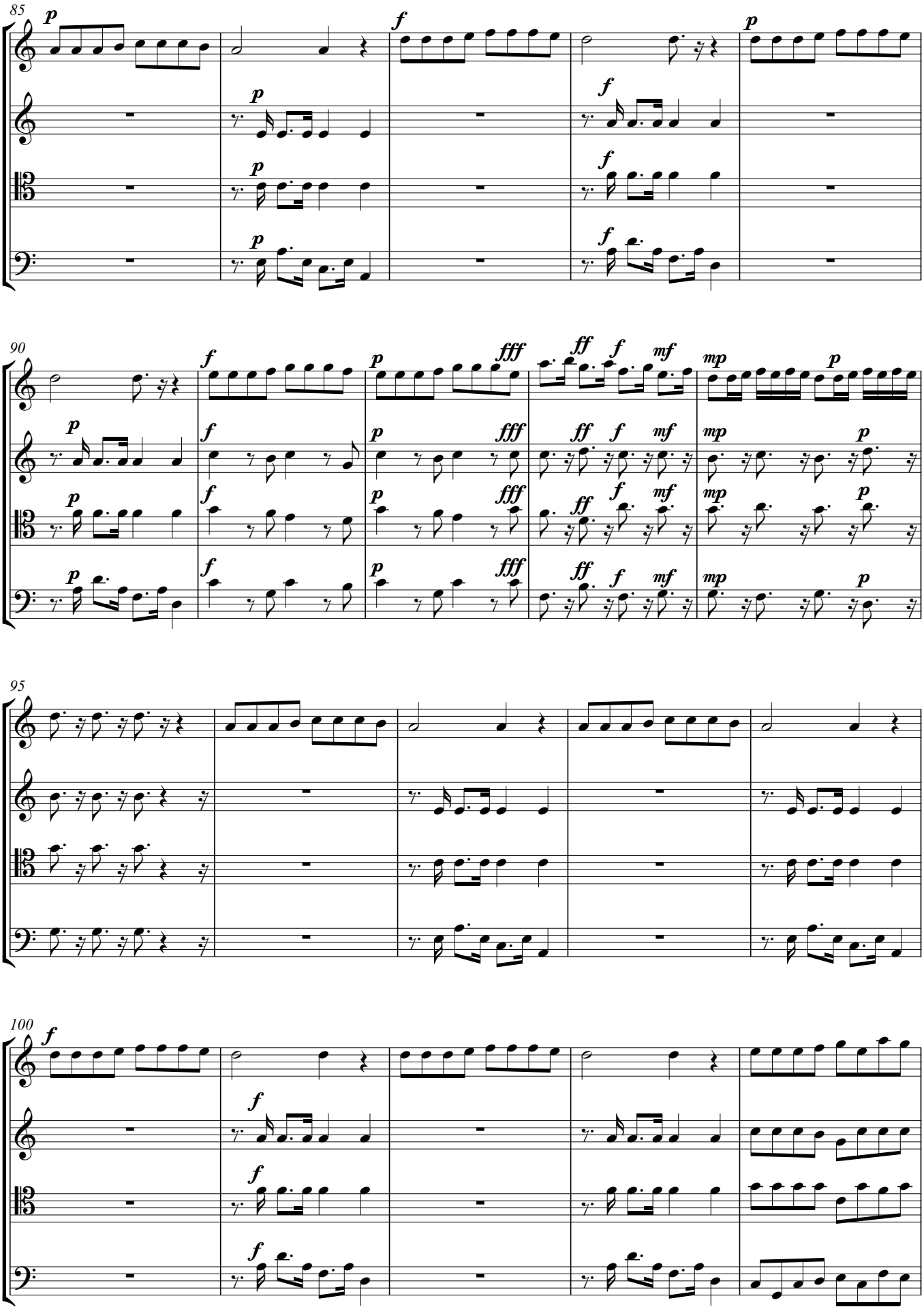

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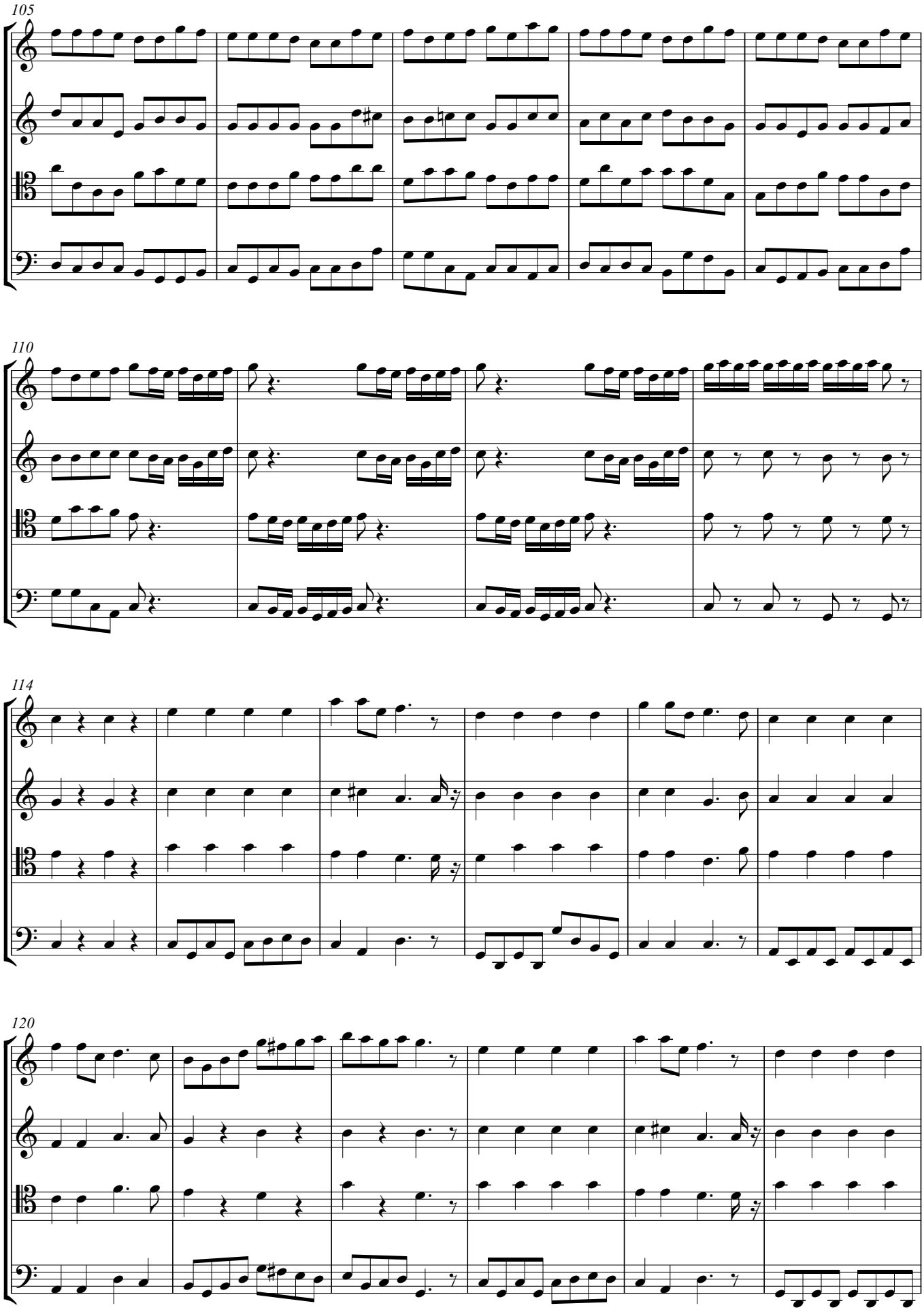

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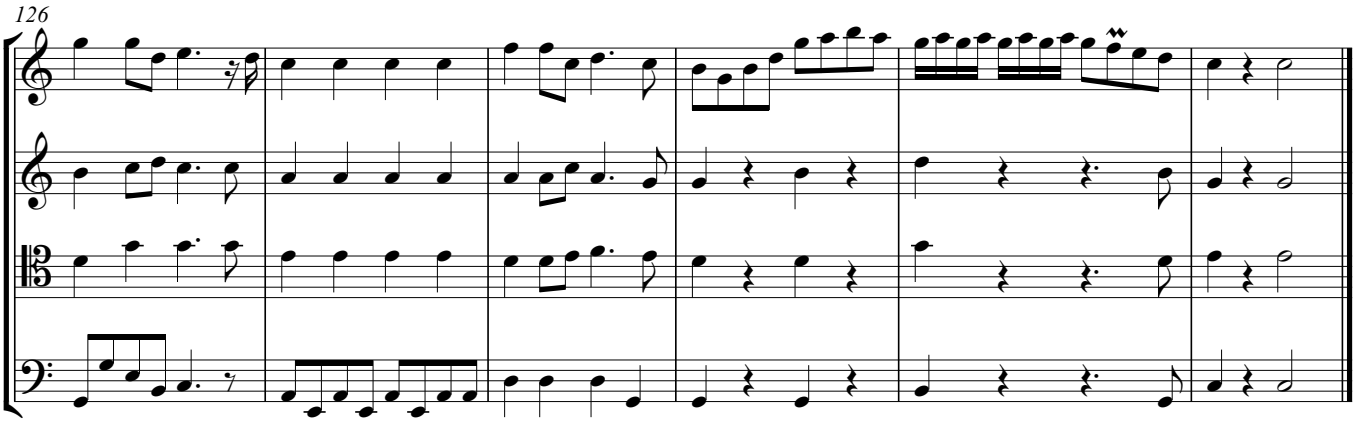

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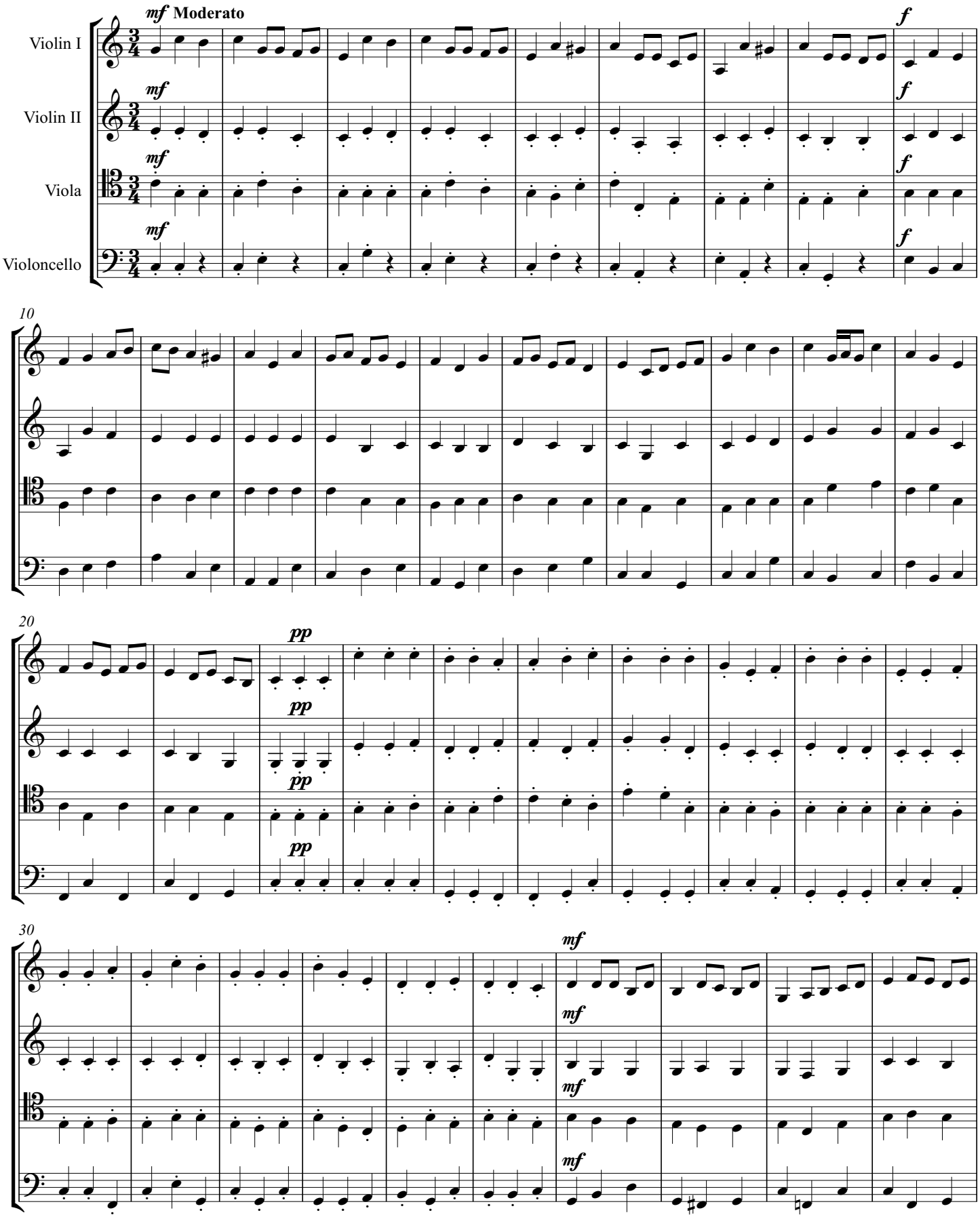
Blessed Are The Reviled

THE BEATITUDES 2.12 (Duet For Soprano And Tenor)

Progress Gabriel Akpabio



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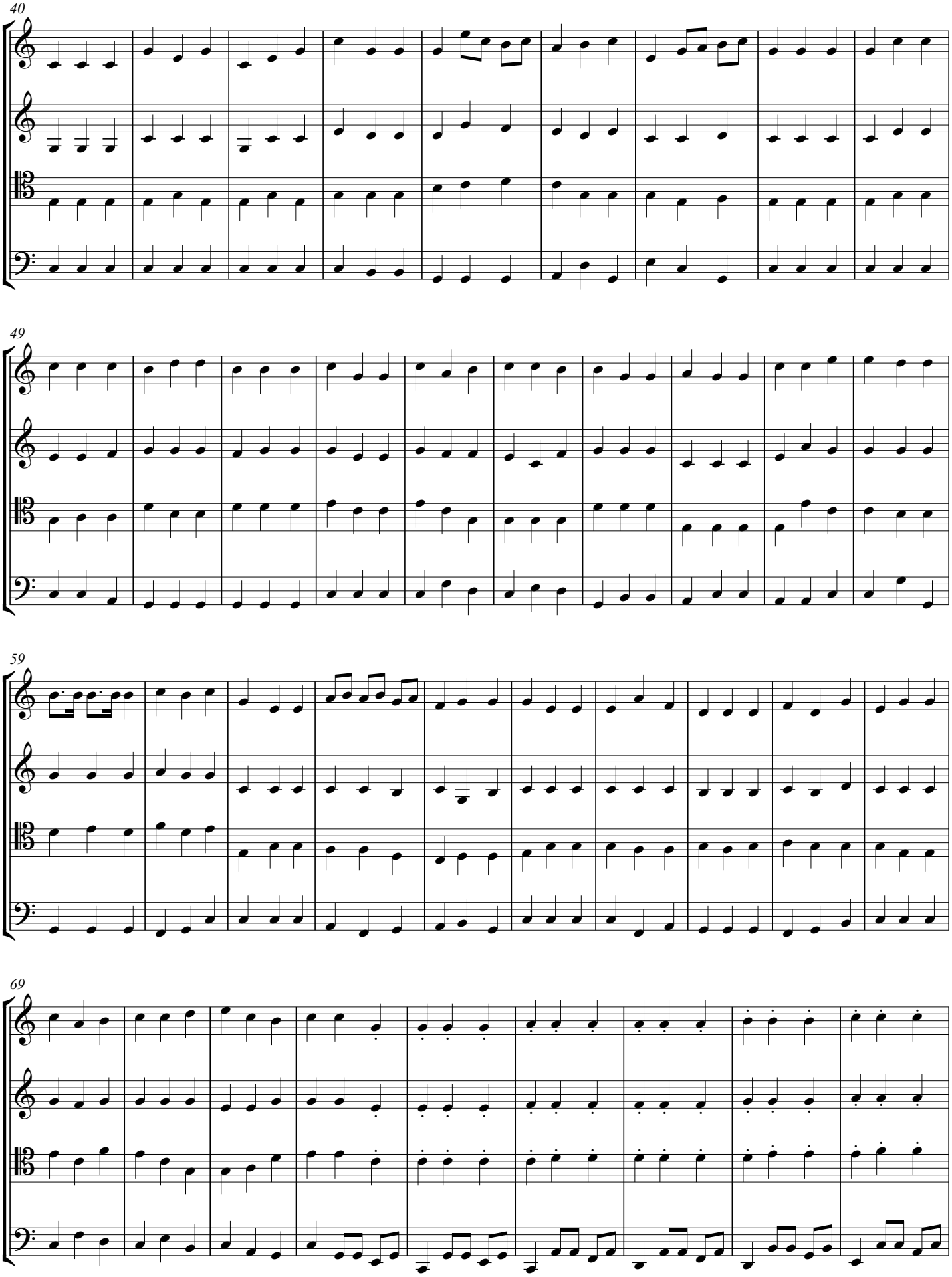

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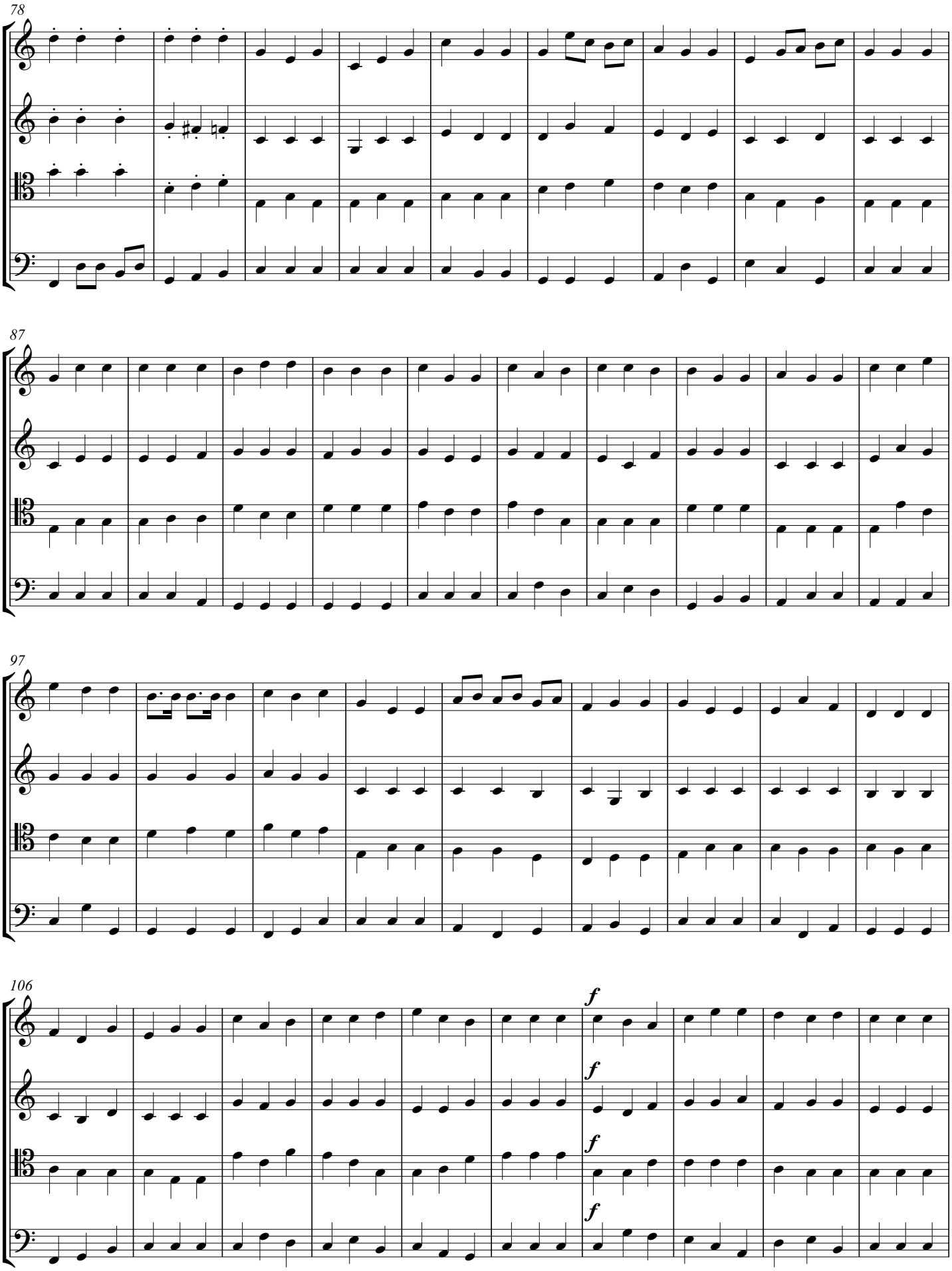

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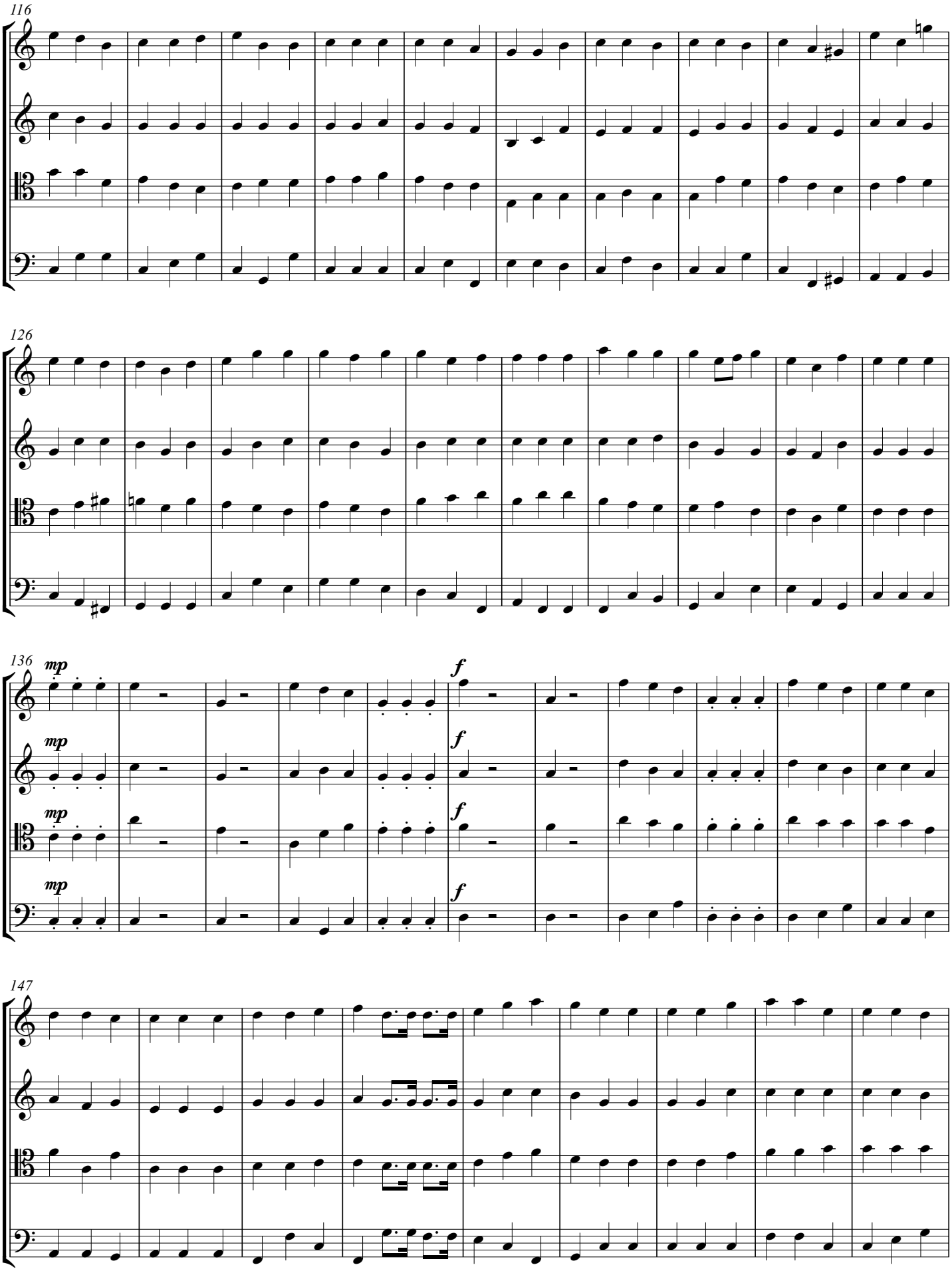

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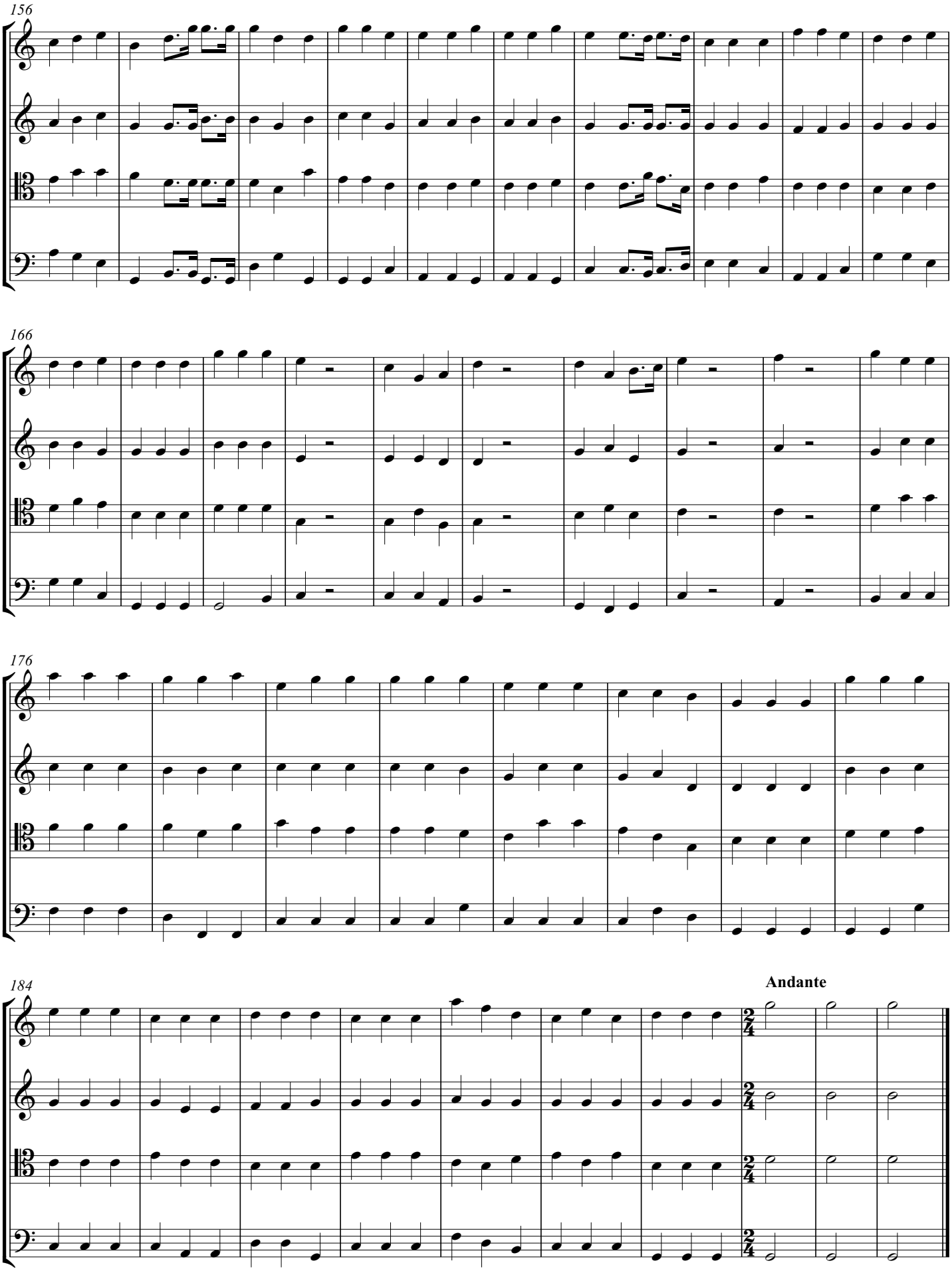

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Rejoice and Be Exceedingly Glad

THE BEATITUDES 2.13 (Chorus)

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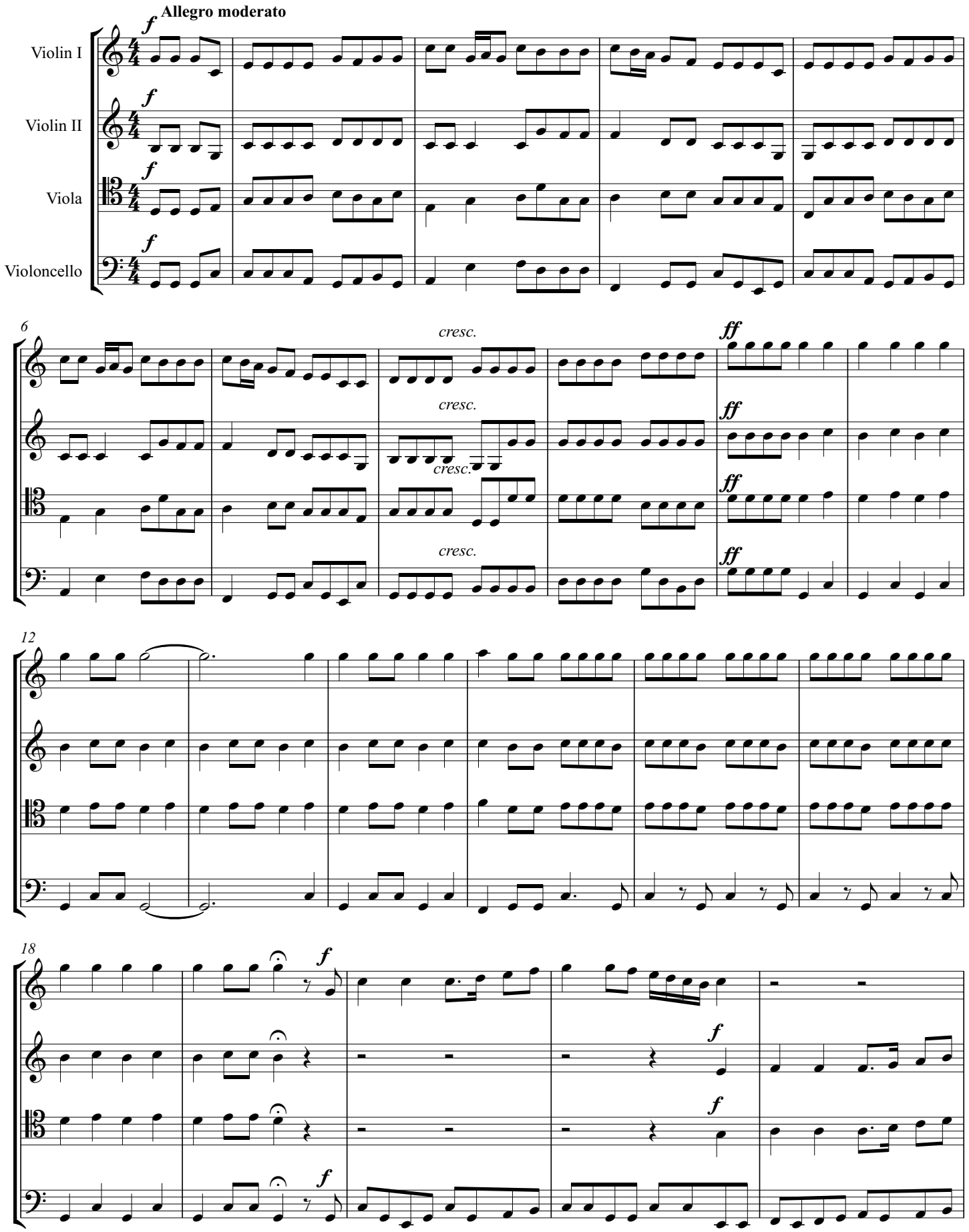

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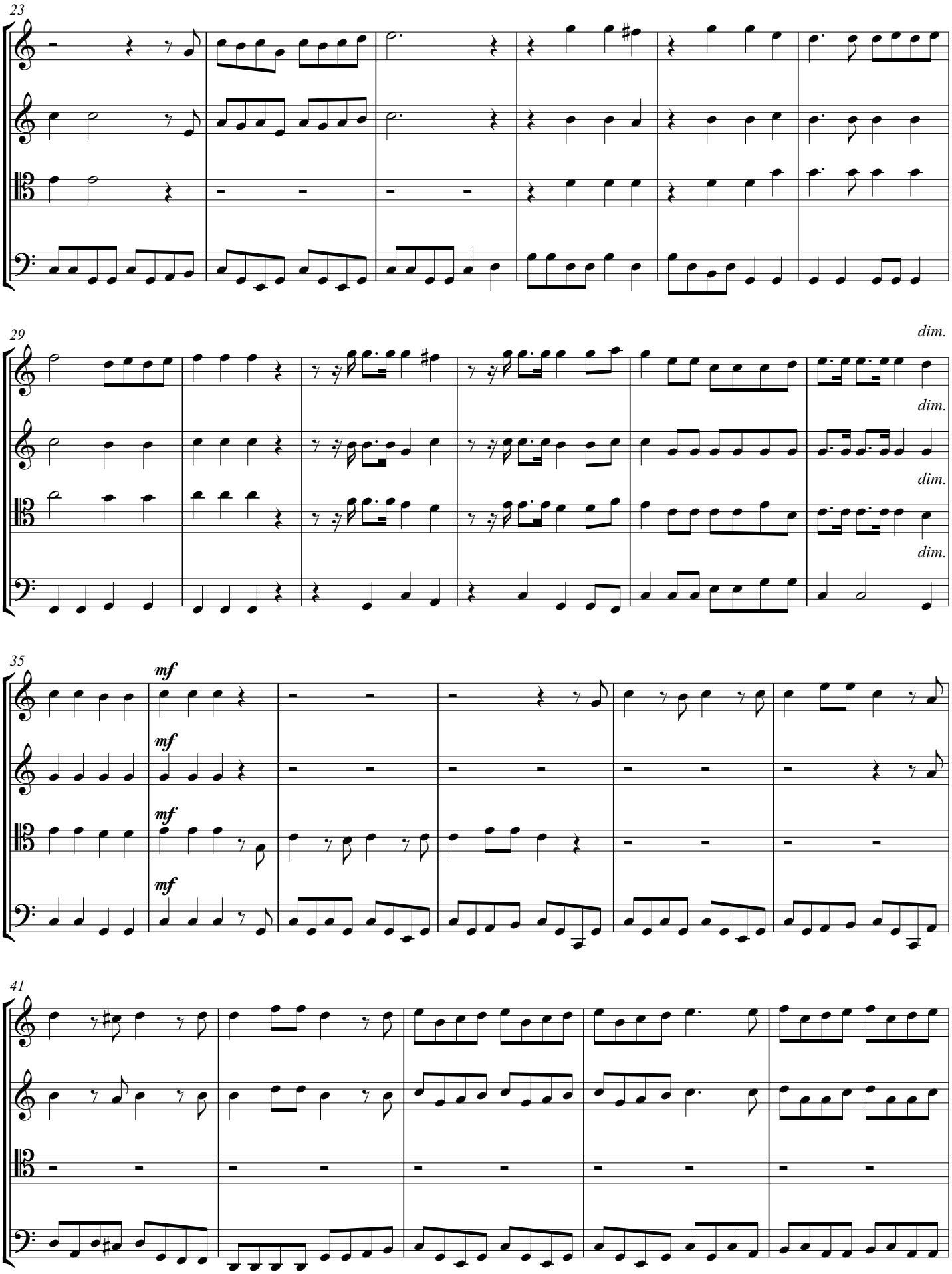

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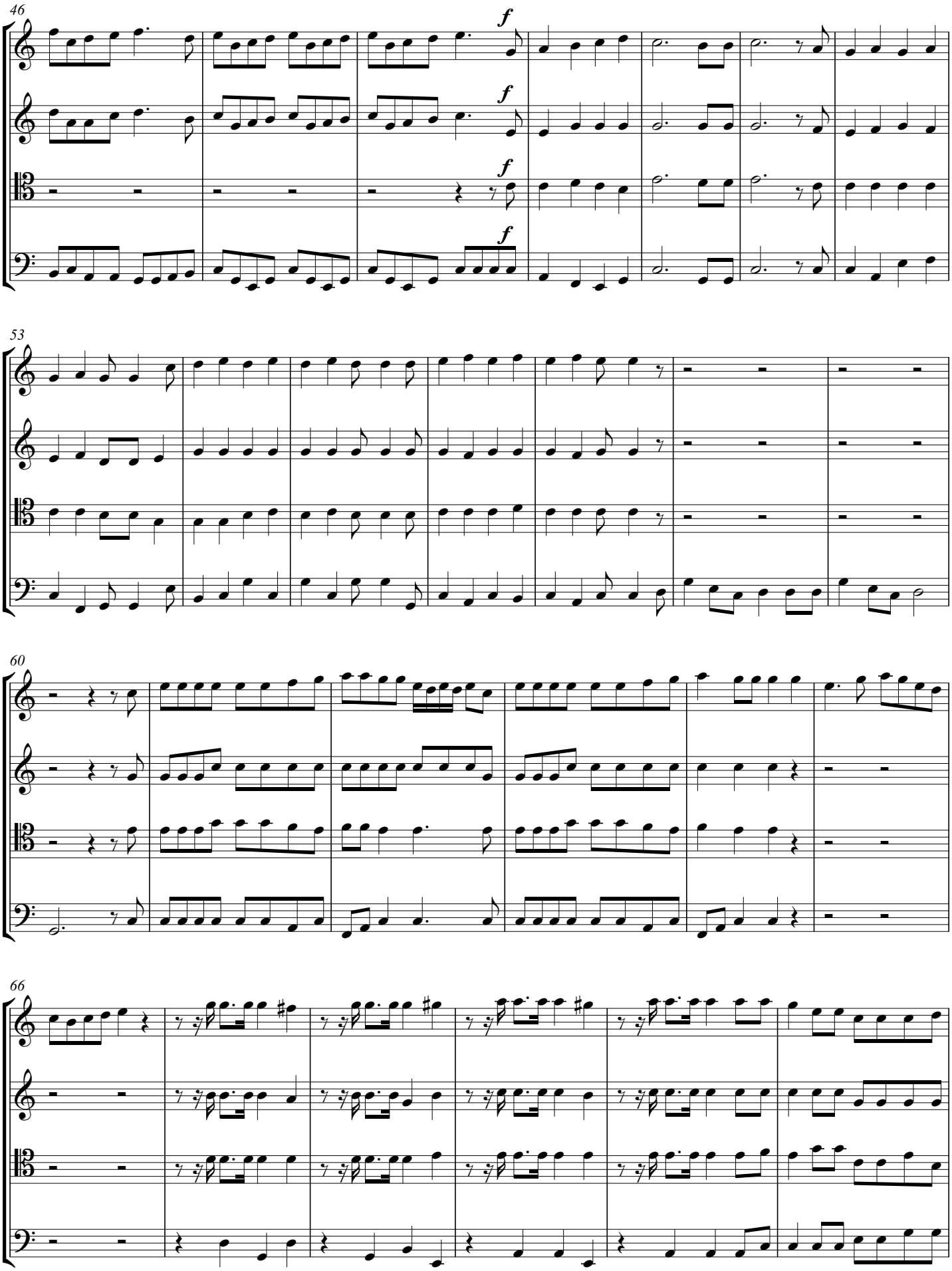

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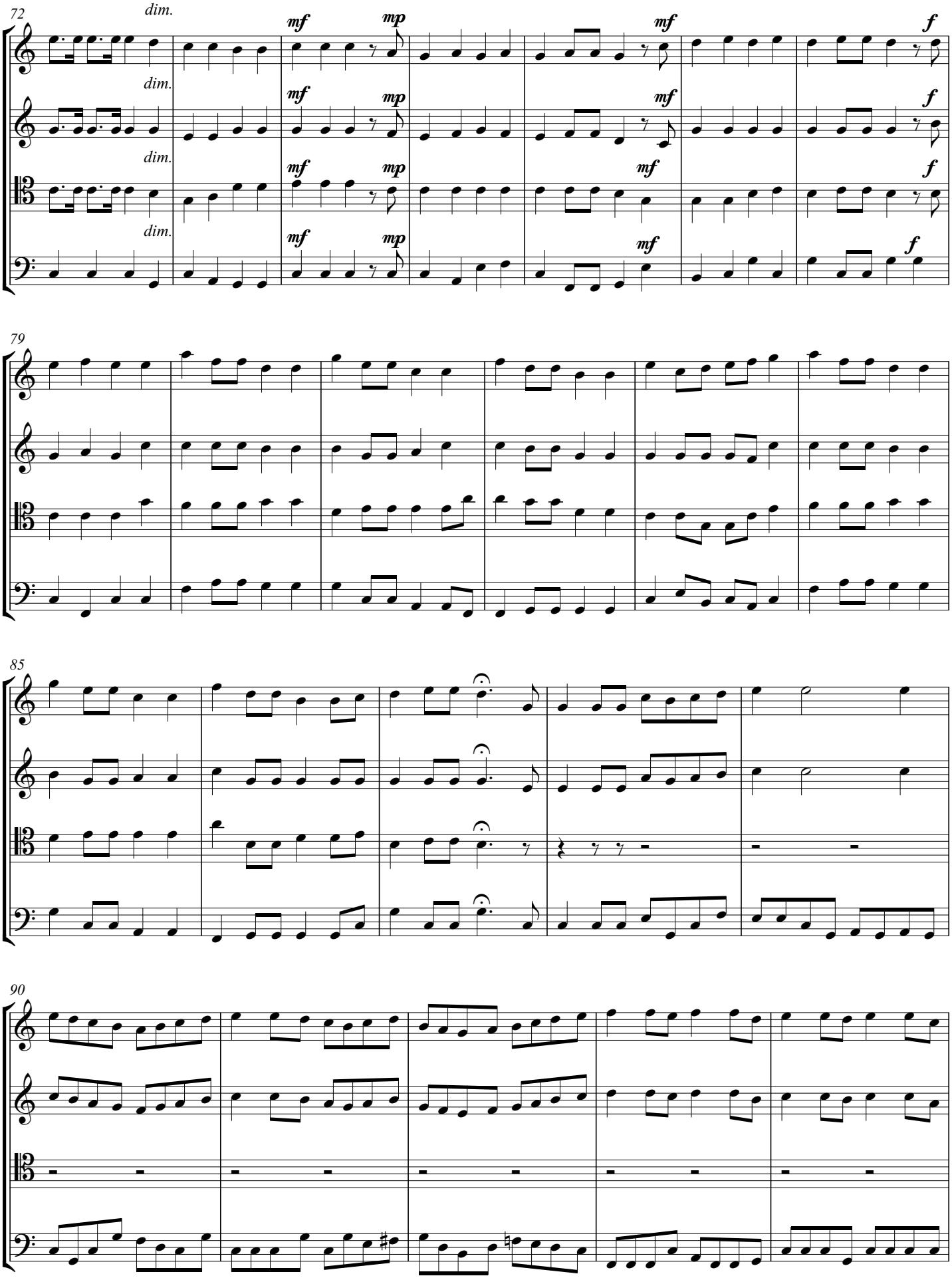

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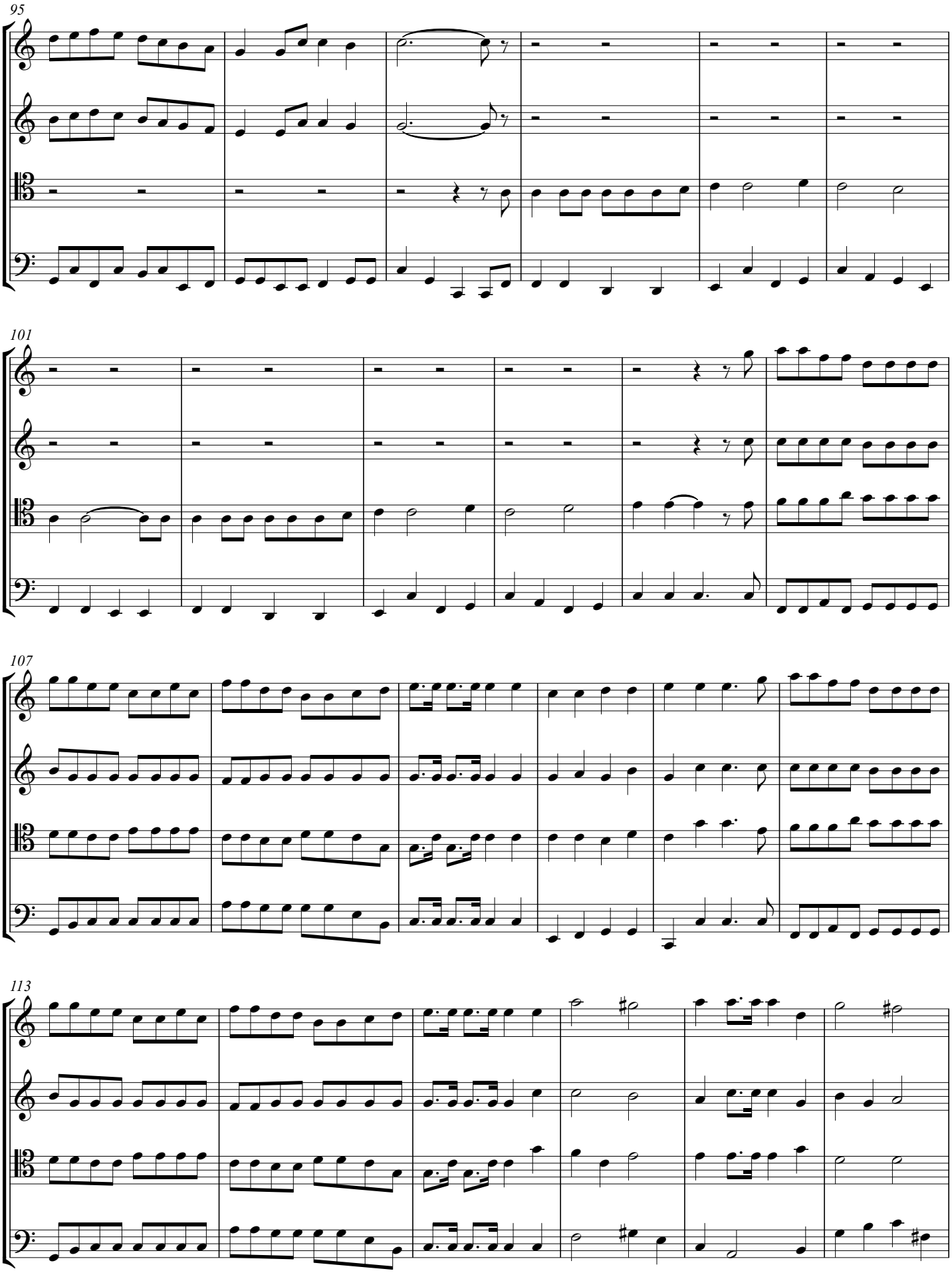

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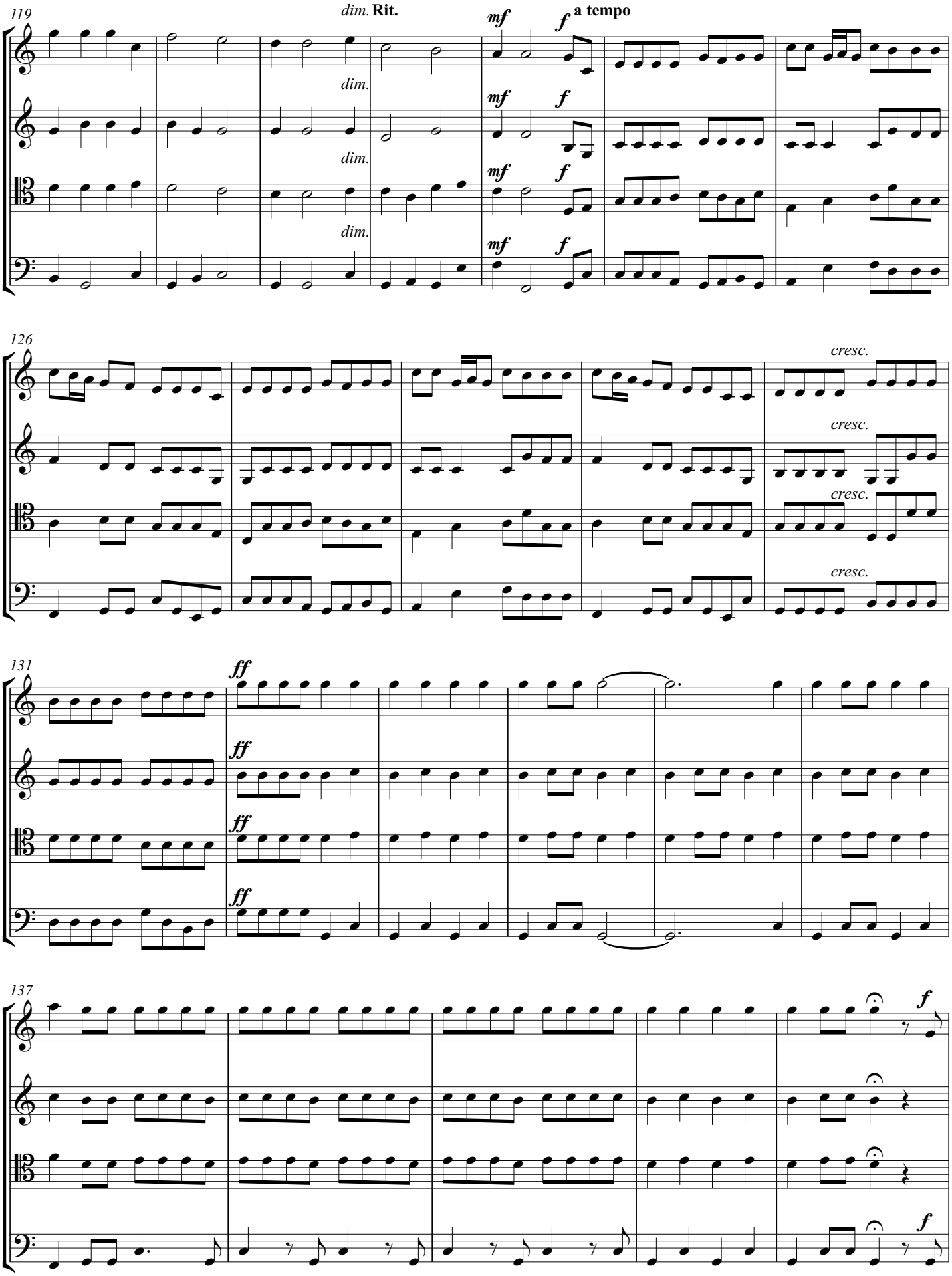

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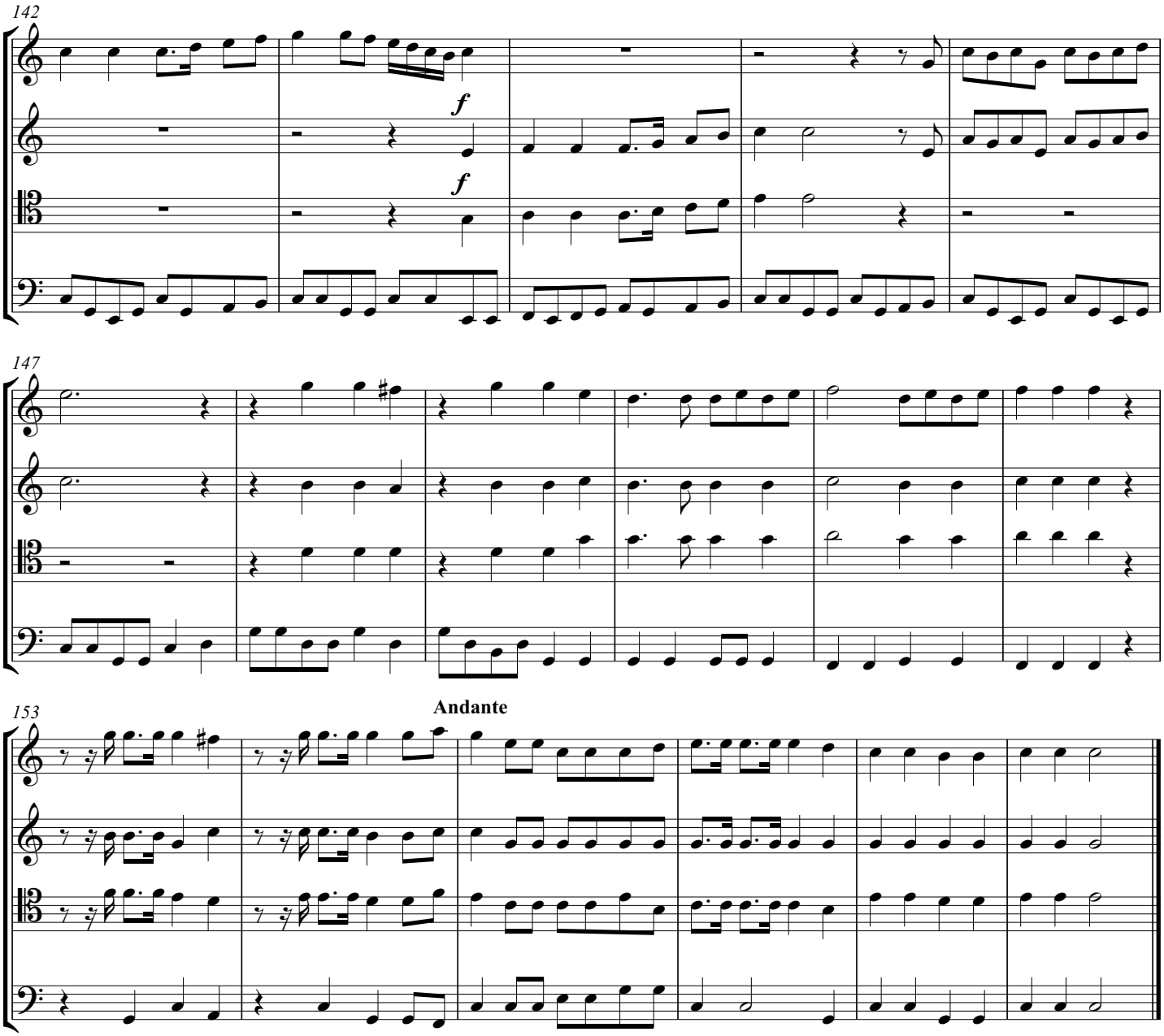

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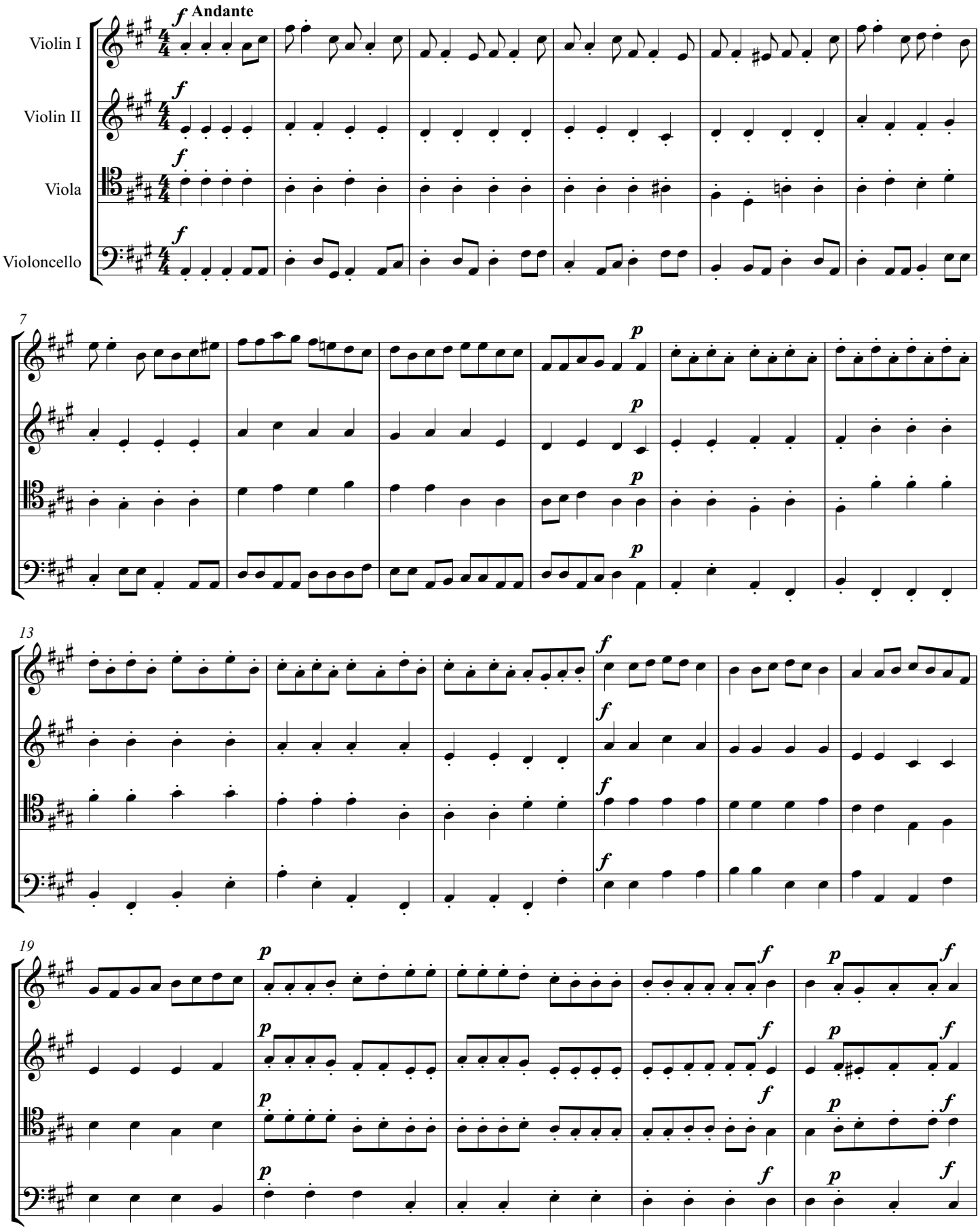
Ye Are The Salt Of The Earth

THE BEATITUDES 2.14 (Trio For Soprano, Alto And Tenor)

Progress Gabriel Akpabio



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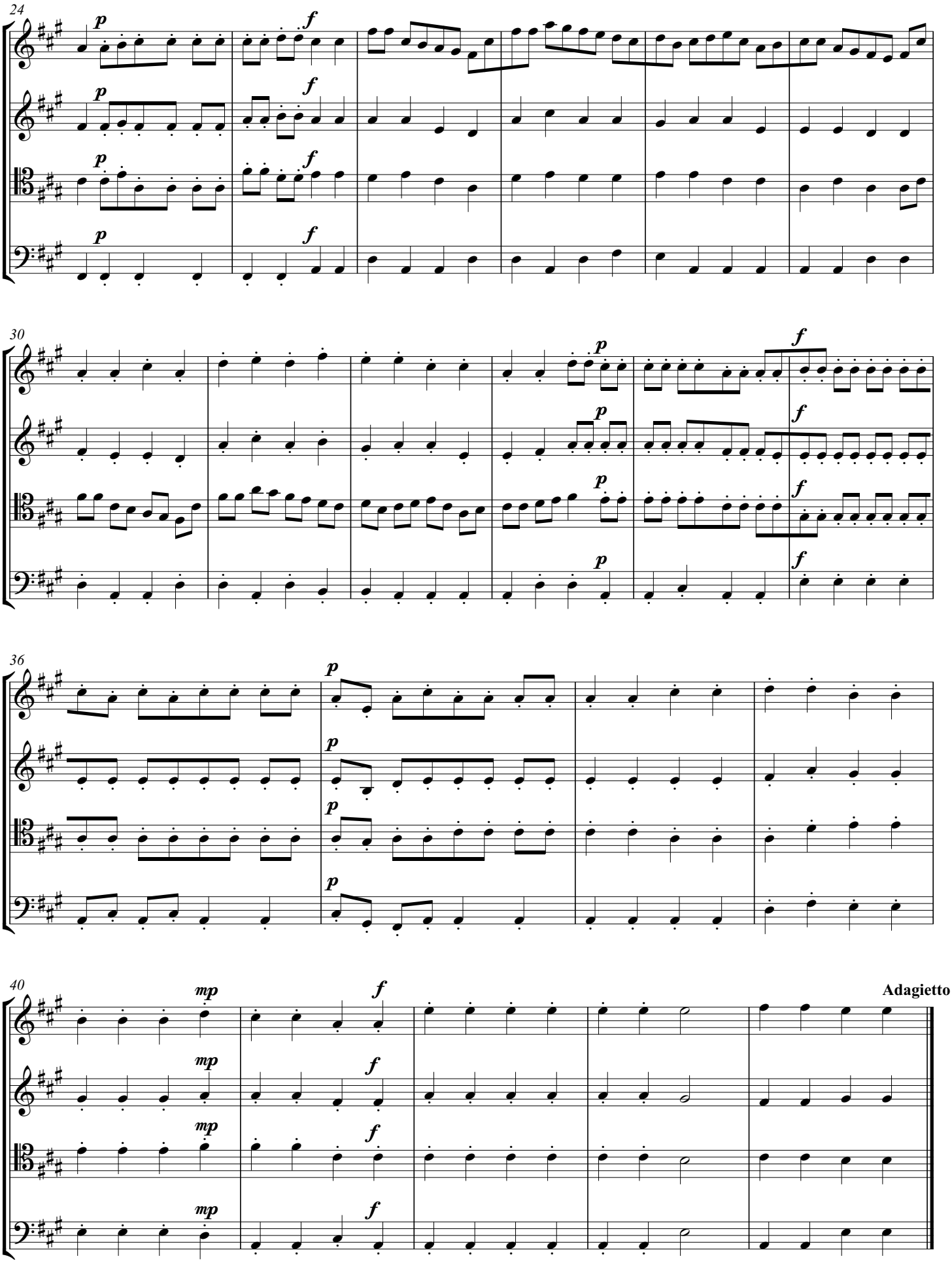

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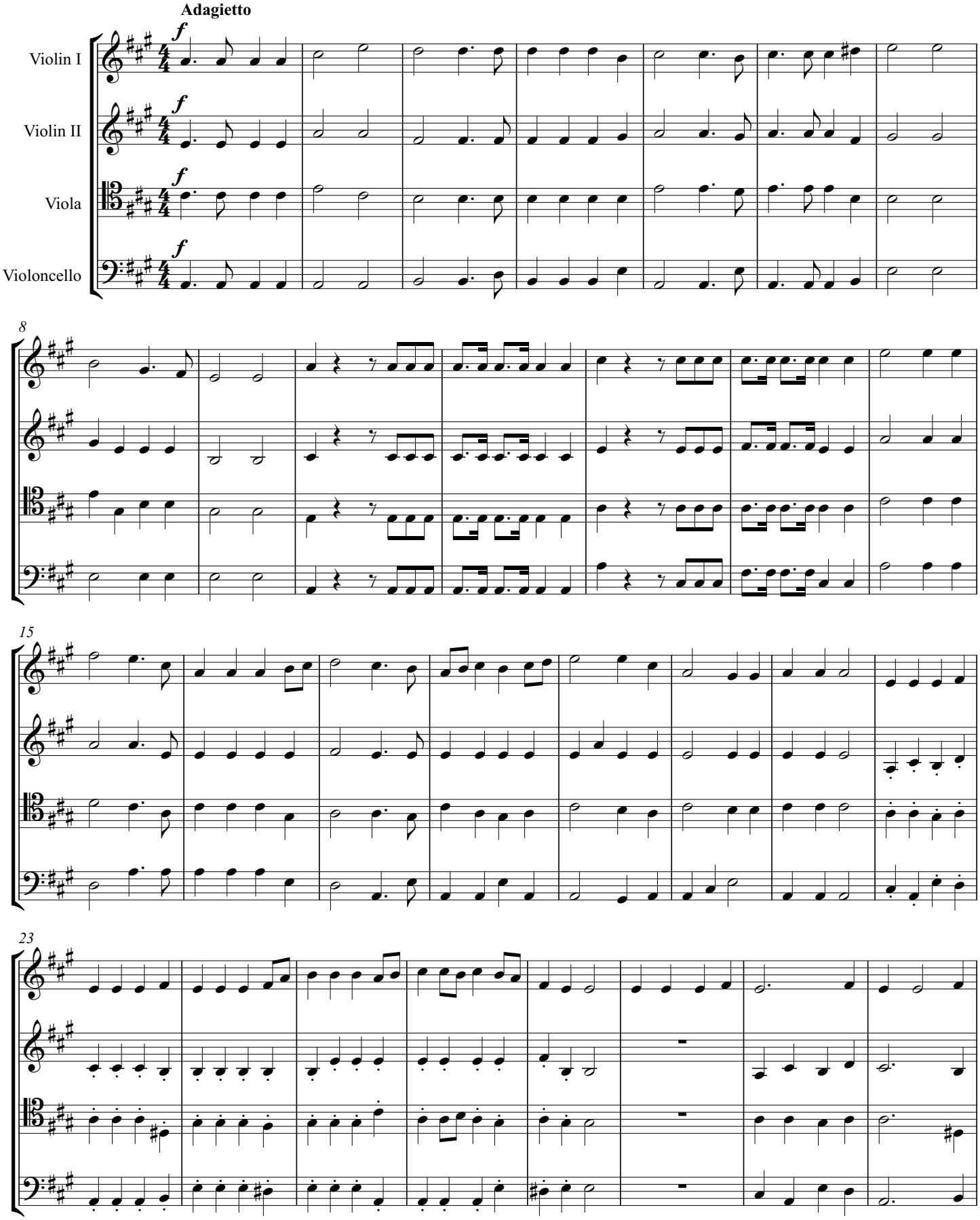
Let Your Light So Shine Before Men

THE BEATITUDES 2.15 (Chorus)

Progress Gabriel Akpabio



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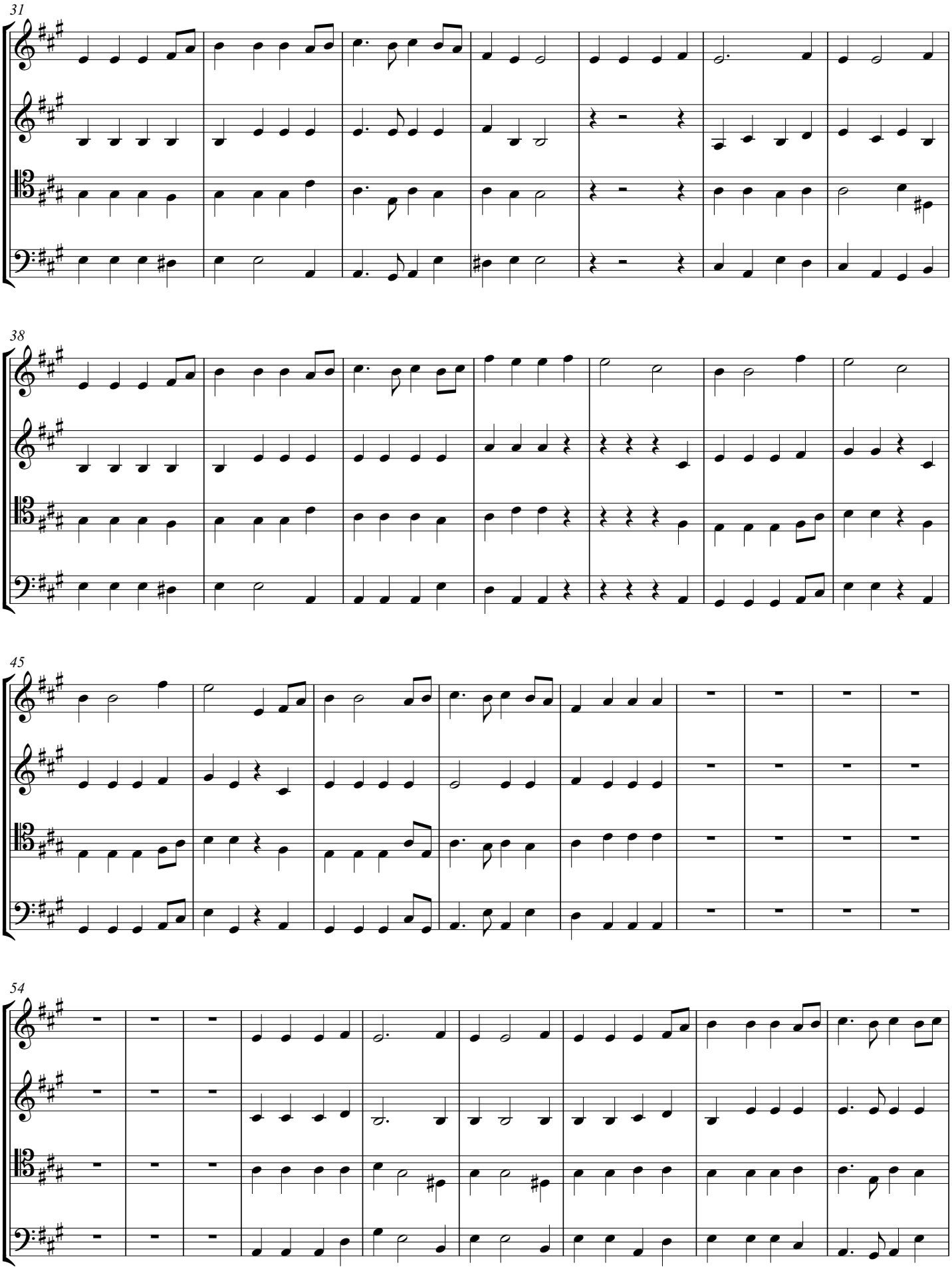

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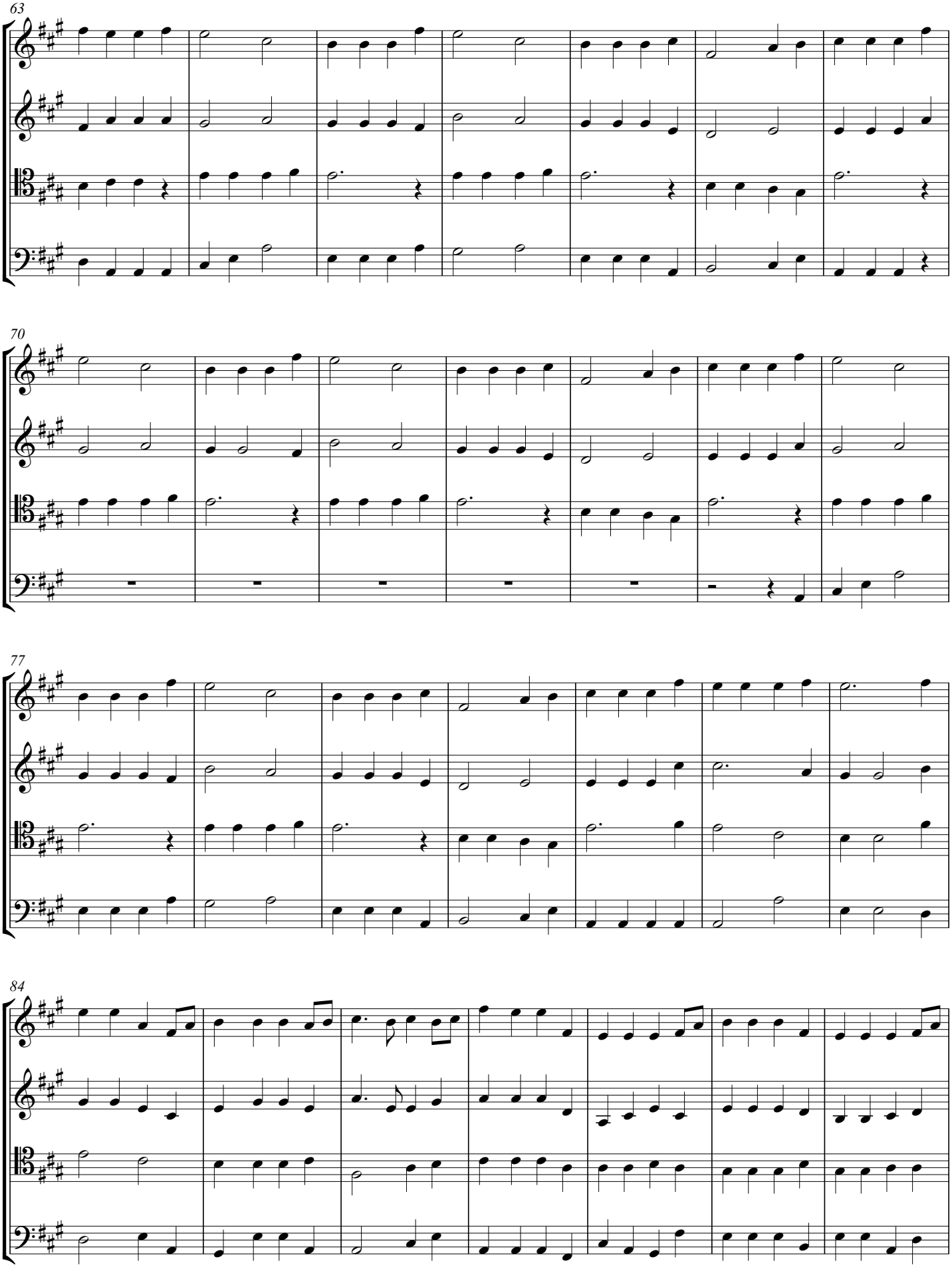

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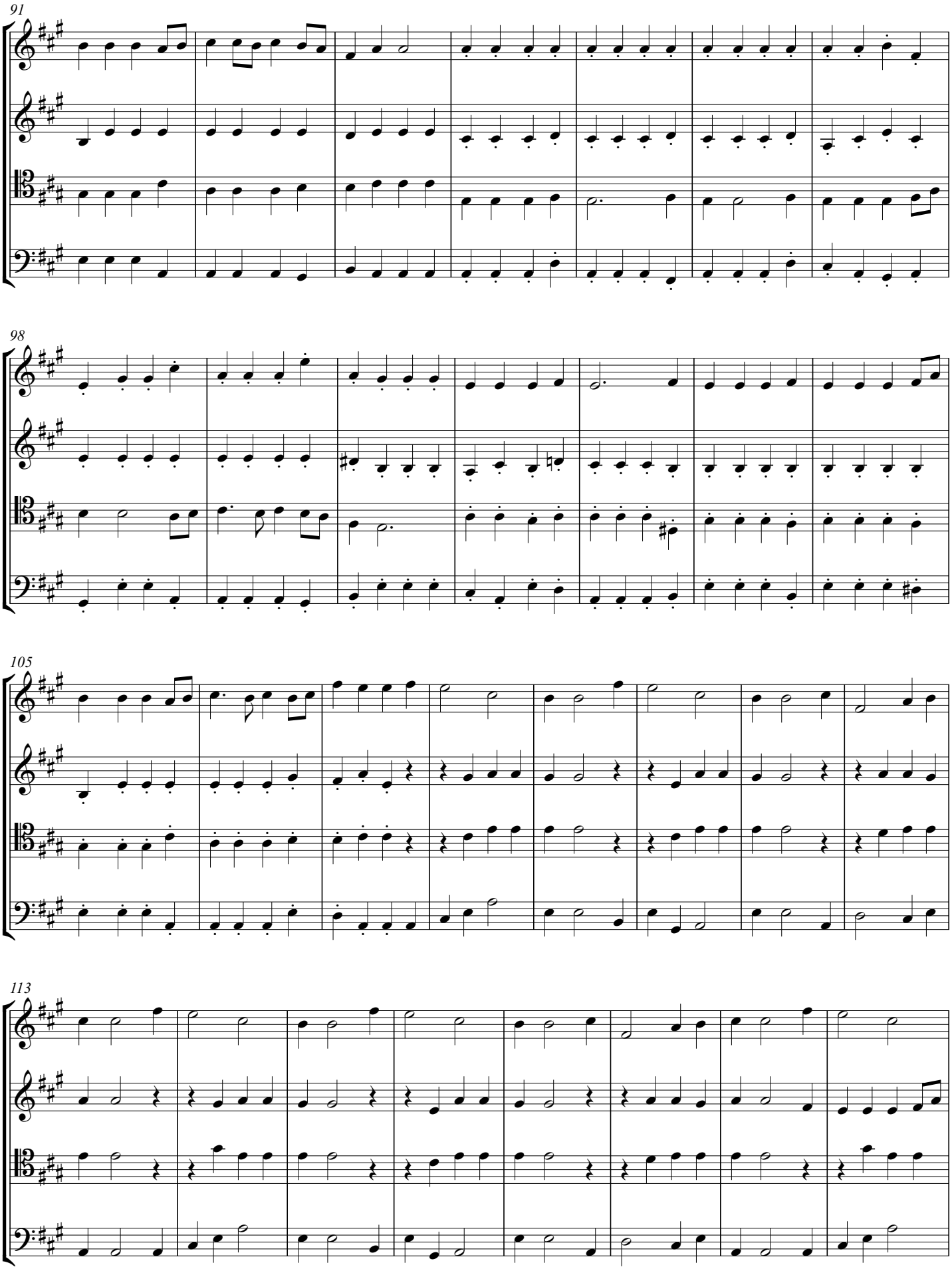

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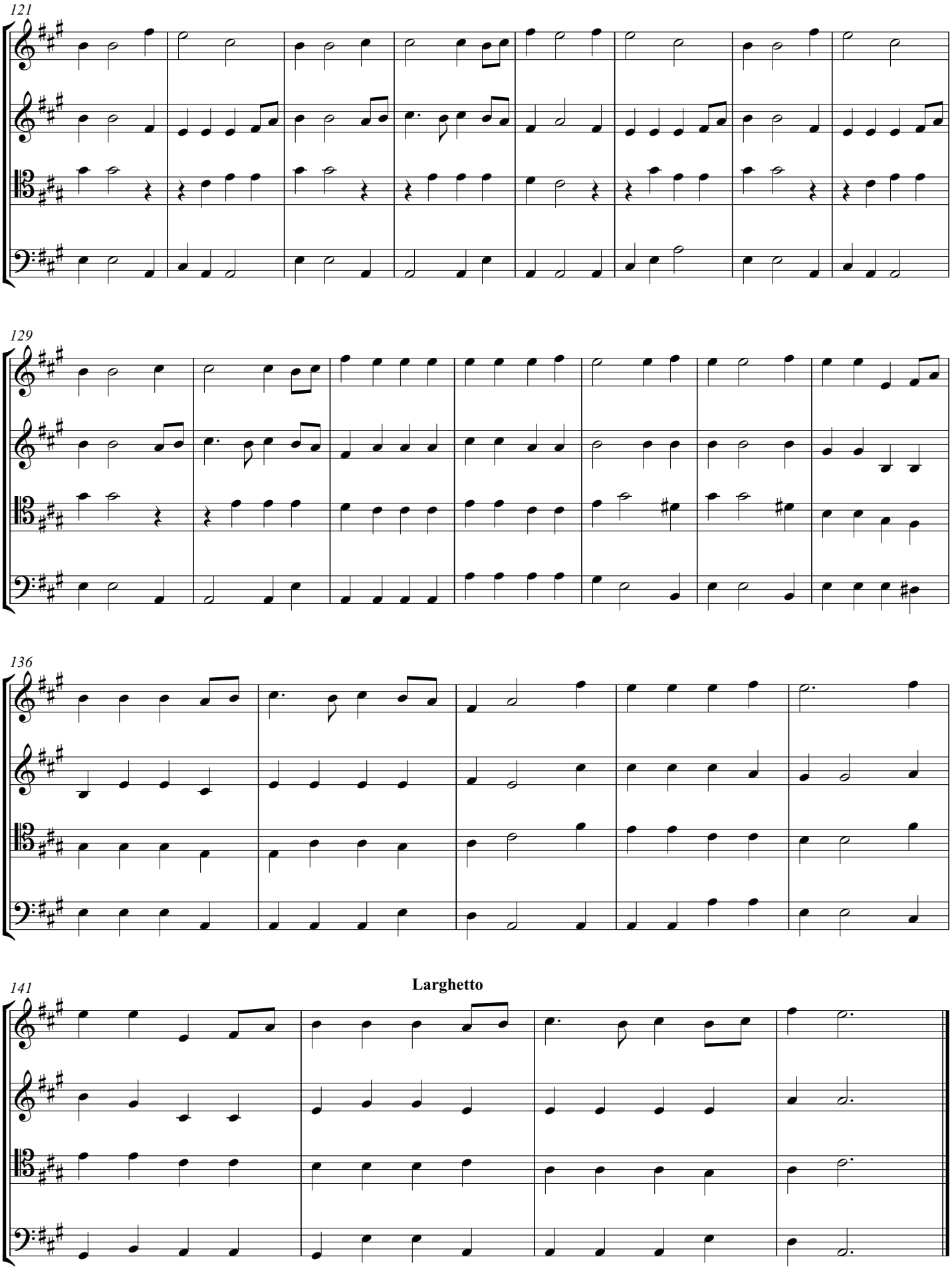

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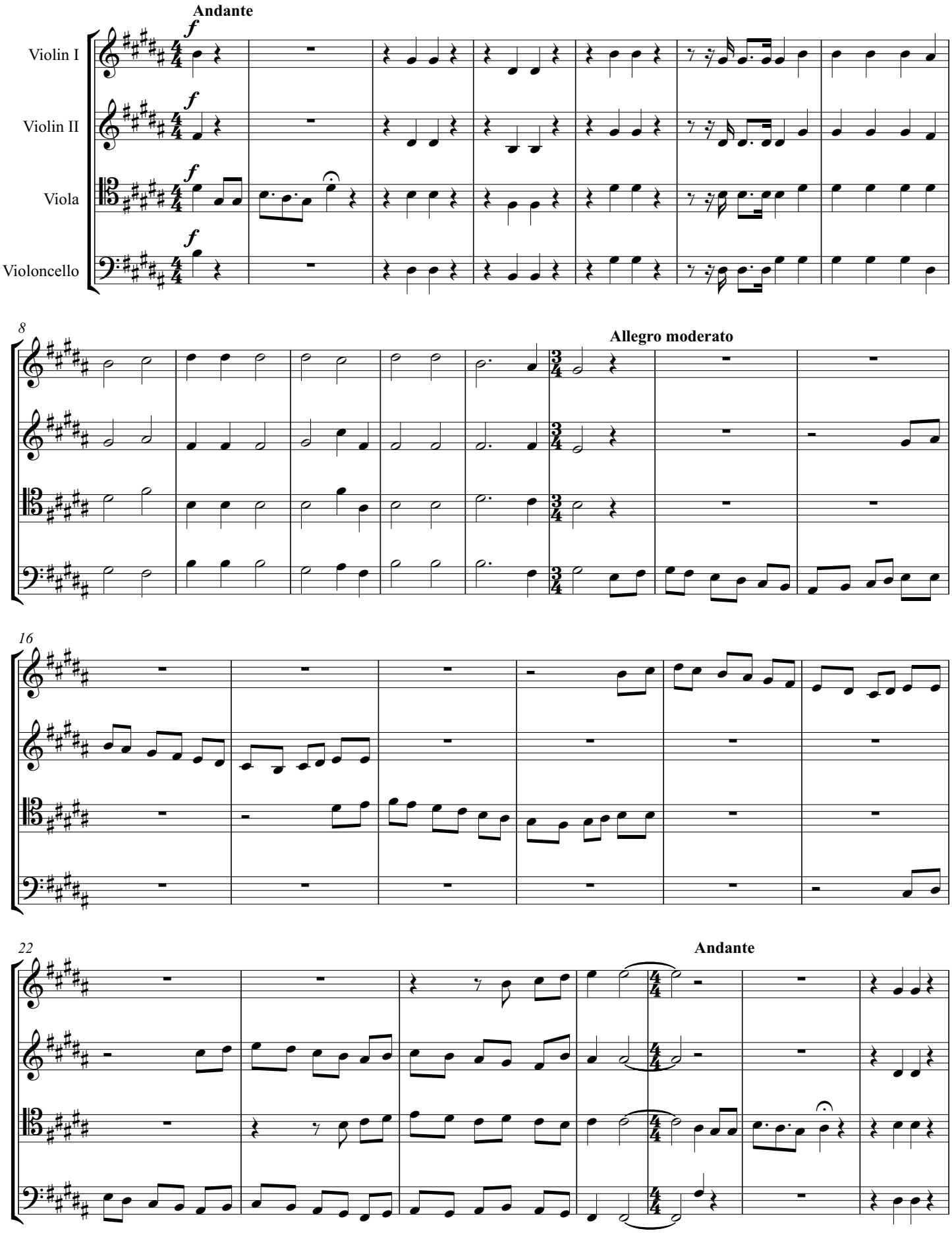
Except Your Righteousness Exceeds

THE BEATITUDES 2.16 (Chorus)

Progress Gabriel Akpabio



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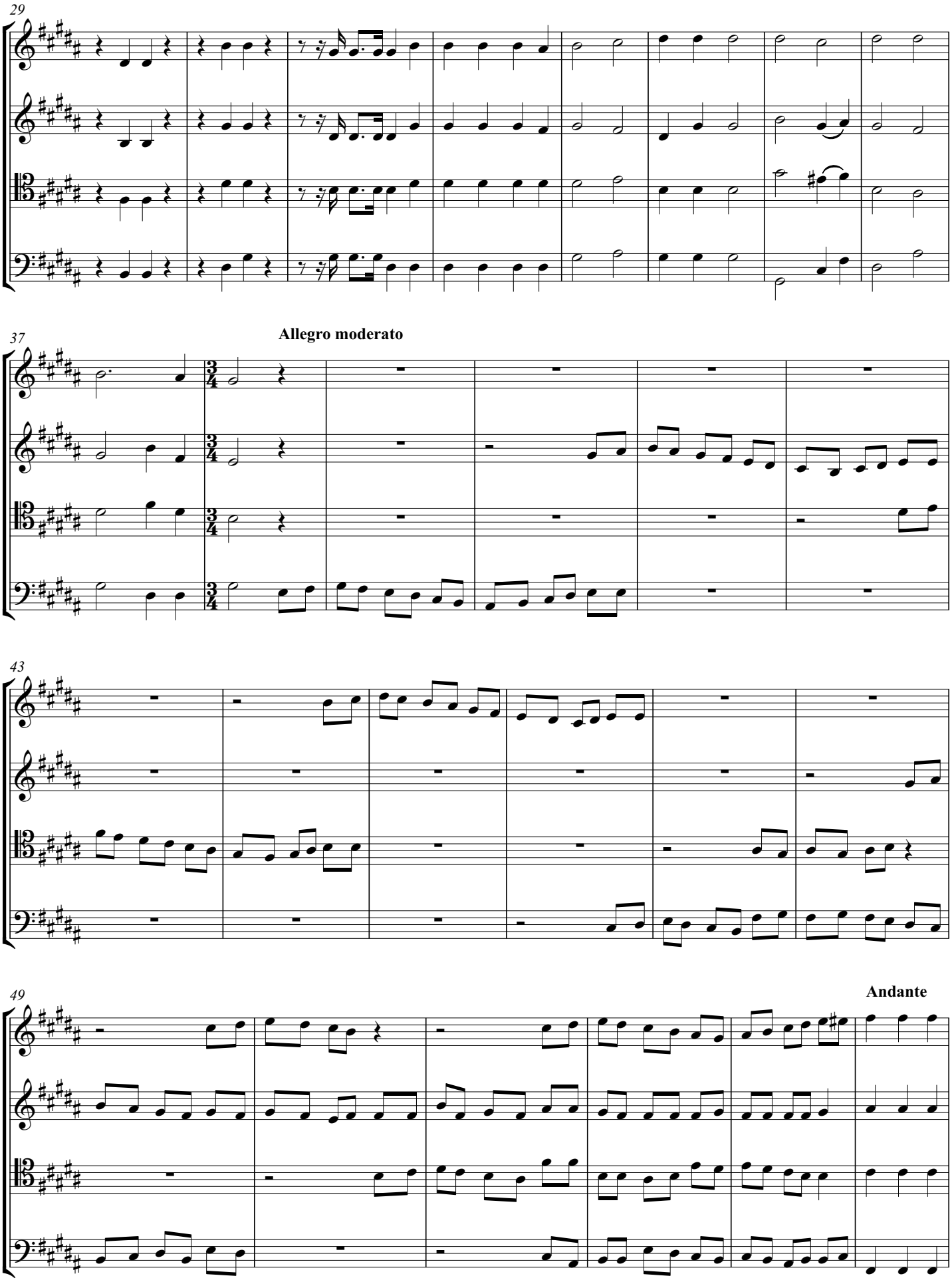

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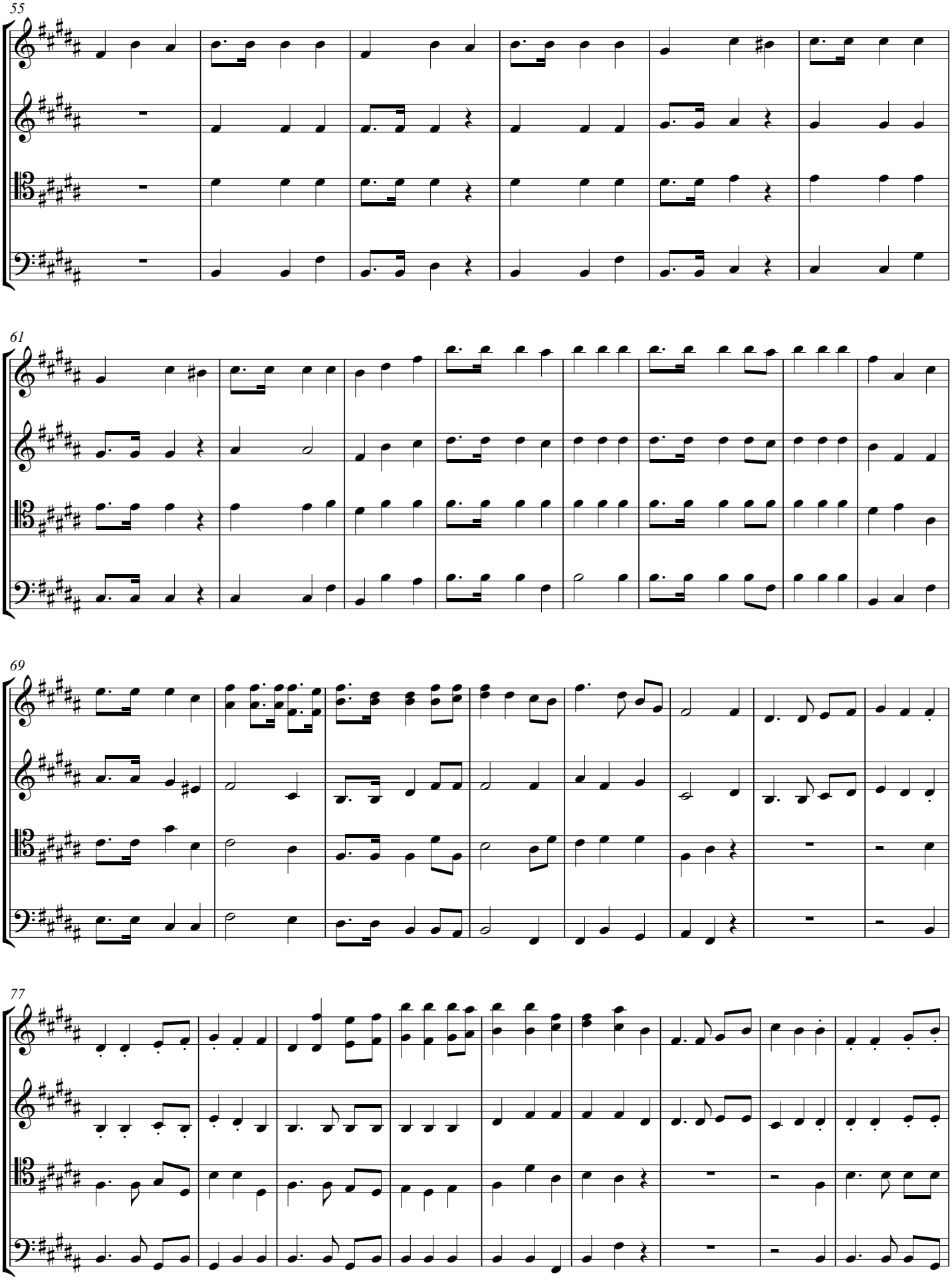

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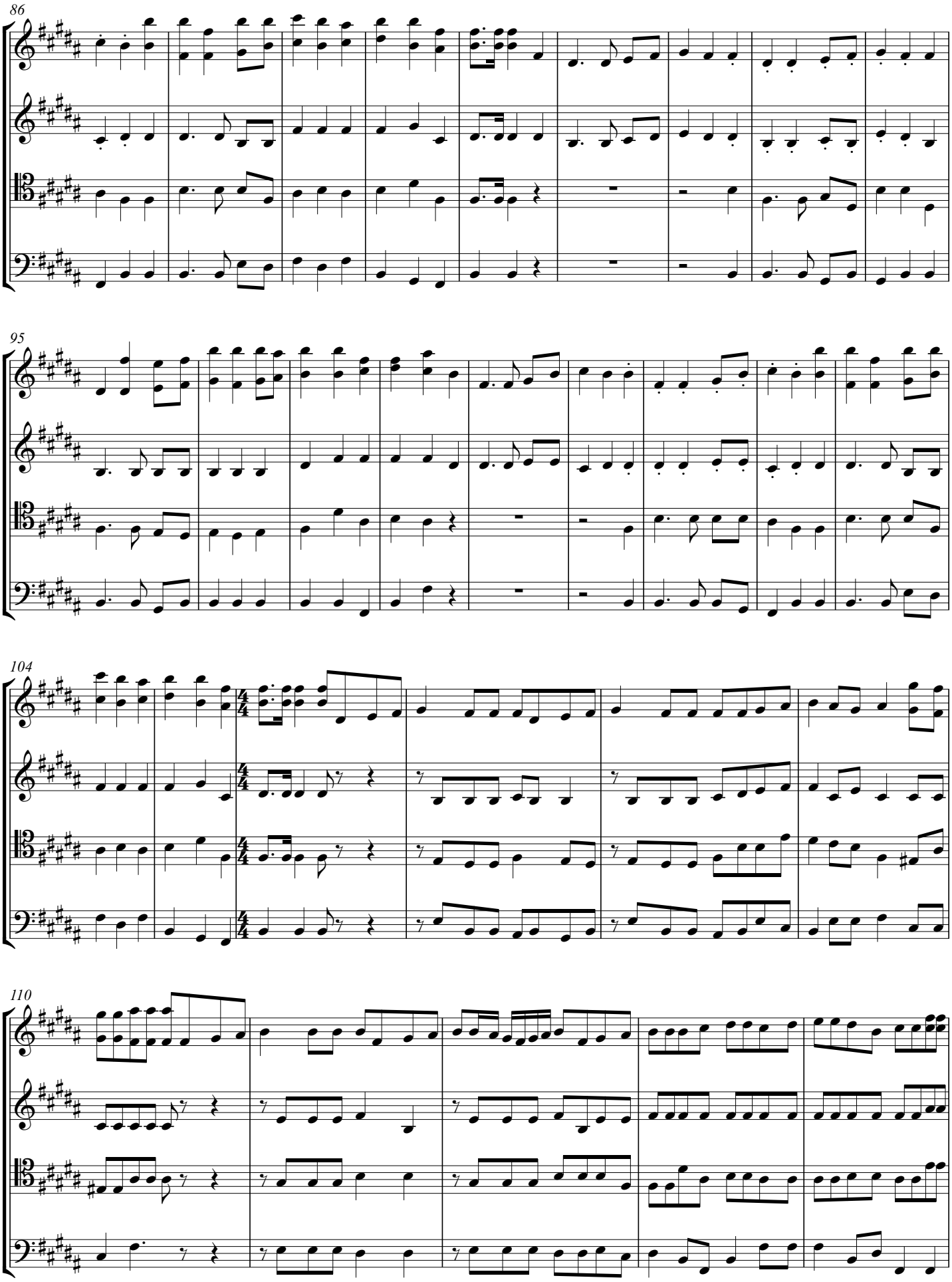

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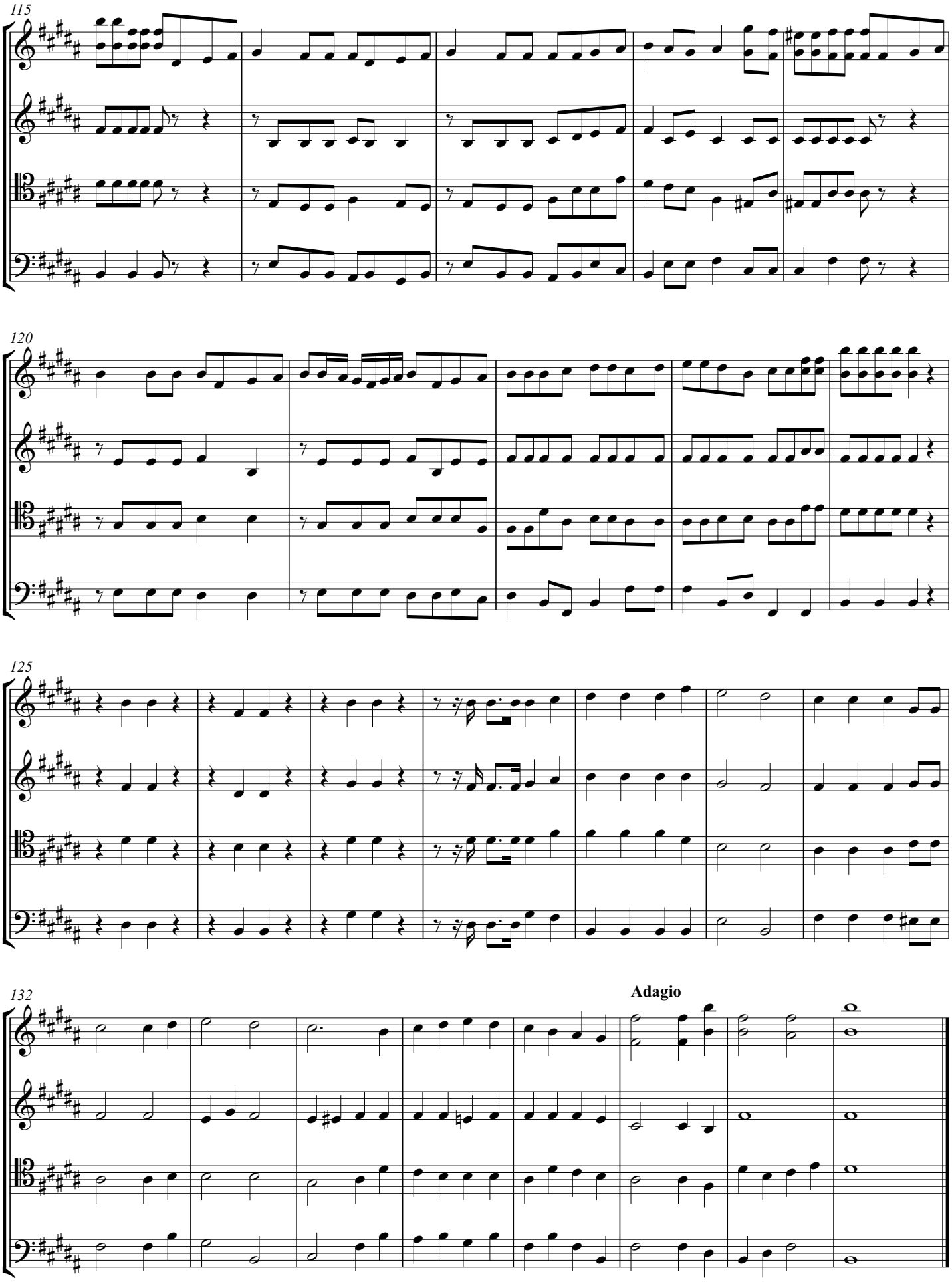

Email: composer4classic@gmail.com

THE END

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Progress is a native of Ekom Iman, in Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria. His original (native) name is "**Uforo**" which means "Progress". He is the third son of late Pastor Gabriel Udo Akpabio of Ekom Iman. He is not a professional musician, but gifted in Christian music composition. He is a lover of Classical music, Christian hymns, and other melodious (Christian) songs. His father was a pastor, composer, and choir master at different branches of Qua Iboe Church that he served. His mother "Grace Gabriel Akpabio" was one of his father's devoted choristers. All his siblings are choristers/ musicians, some of whom have gone to read music as a course in the university and have become professionals in it. Though persecution has forced him out of regular choir activities for some time now, the blood of music in him is still very active. His other musical work for now is "CHRIST'S BIRTH CAROLS" – a 21st century Christmas Carols work comprising eleven excellent Christmas hymns/ Choir pieces, "SWEETER THAN HONEY" – a 12-track Gospel Country album, "GOD WILL MAKE A WAY" – an inspirational Choral music, and many Christian Choruses/ praises. He is also a writer of Christian books.

He is a PGD holder.