Gaetano Amadeo

(Porto Maurizio 1824 - Nizza 1893)

Melodie tra il sacro e il profano

Composizioni liturgiche per organo, adattate all'uso pianistico
in celebrazione del secondo centenario della nascita dell'Autore

22. Venti versetti per organo

Pubblicati a Torino presso gli editori Giudici e Strada nel 1848-1849

Versione abbassata di un semitono in ragione della differente accordatura in uso all'epoca

Parte prima: Versetti 1-10

Leonardo Massabò (1812-1886), Madonna del Rosario e Santi (particolare), 1855. Porto Maurizio, Cattedrale di S. Maurizio (da L. Ughetto - A. Zencovich, Leonardo Massabò e l'Ottocento nella Riviera Occidentale, Genova 1990)

As we approach the year which, according to the encyclopedias, should mark the second centenary of the birth of Gaetano Amadeo, it is worth pointing out that, according to some people, he was instead born in 1820. We already mentioned it twelve months ago. The supposition is based on the fact that in the parish archives of S. Maurizio there is a baptismal certificate of a certain Giuseppe Maria Gaetano Amadeo, drawn up on 4 February of that year. The birth should therefore date back to one or two days earlier (a detail not reported by the source, which mistakenly identifies the date of baptism with that of birth).

Given that the musician began his musical studies in Lucca in 1840, one might have some doubts about the fact that he only made this decision at the age of twenty and not sixteen, as his fellow citizen painter Leonardo Massabò had done fourteen years earlier, enrolling in the Roman Academy of S. Luca. Furthermore this delay, if confirmed, could represent one of the reasons that led Amadeo to declare himself younger than he was. However, the question must be considered still open and, before changing an almost century-old biographical tradition (the first volume of the Enciclopedia Italiana appeared in 1929), we must be very certain of what we are writing.

At the moment this condition does not appear to exist, as some points still remain to be clarified. We went to the State Archives of Imperia in the hope of resolving the remaining doubts, but the civil status documents from that period relating to Porto Maurizio are not present. From there they redirected us to the parish way, which we had traveled without problems more than forty years ago. But now the situation is no longer the same. The current clerk, while on the one hand complains about not having time to welcome visitors, on the other hand offers to carry out the search for us, which, according to logic, should take more time than opening the door of a room. As if to say that it is up to him to decide what the researcher should or should not discover. A truly unique methodology.

AnTAn

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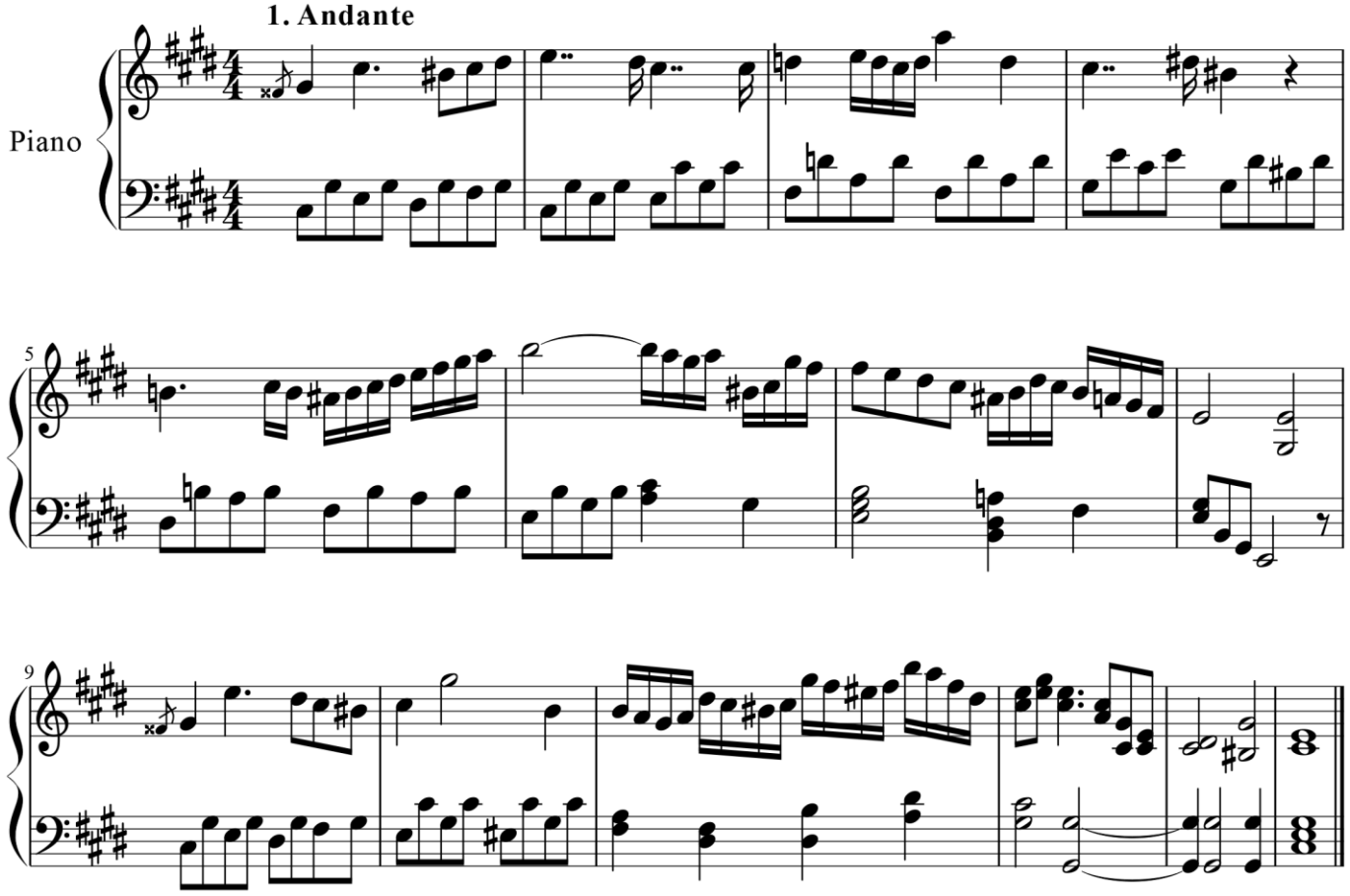
Parte prima: Versetti 1-10

Arr. An&An

1. Andante

Piano



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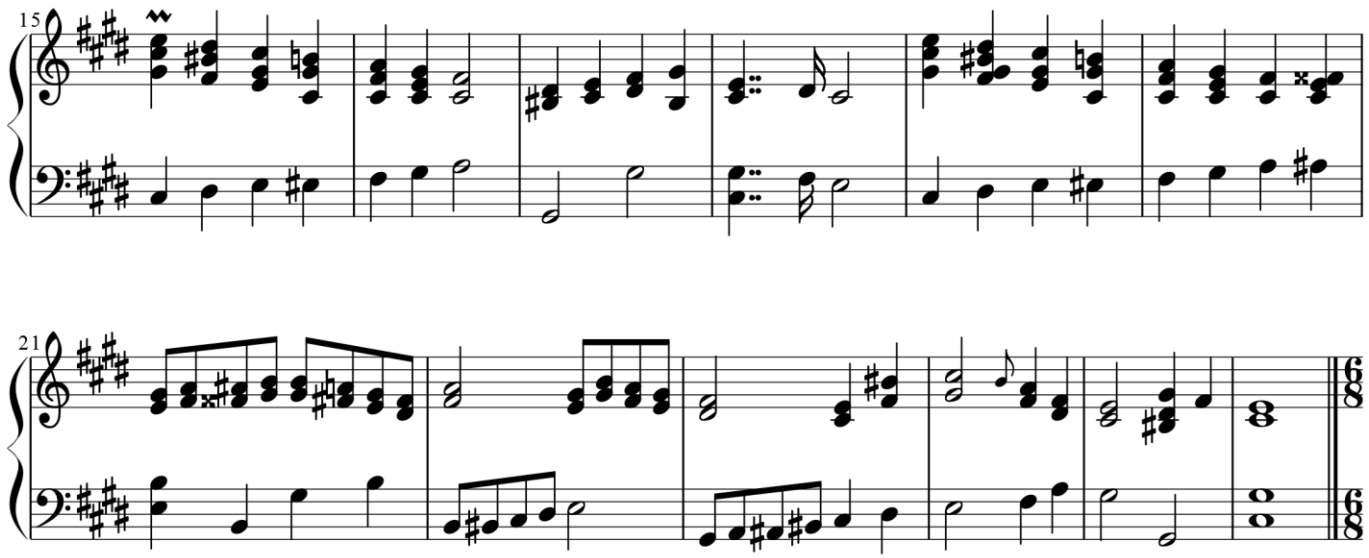

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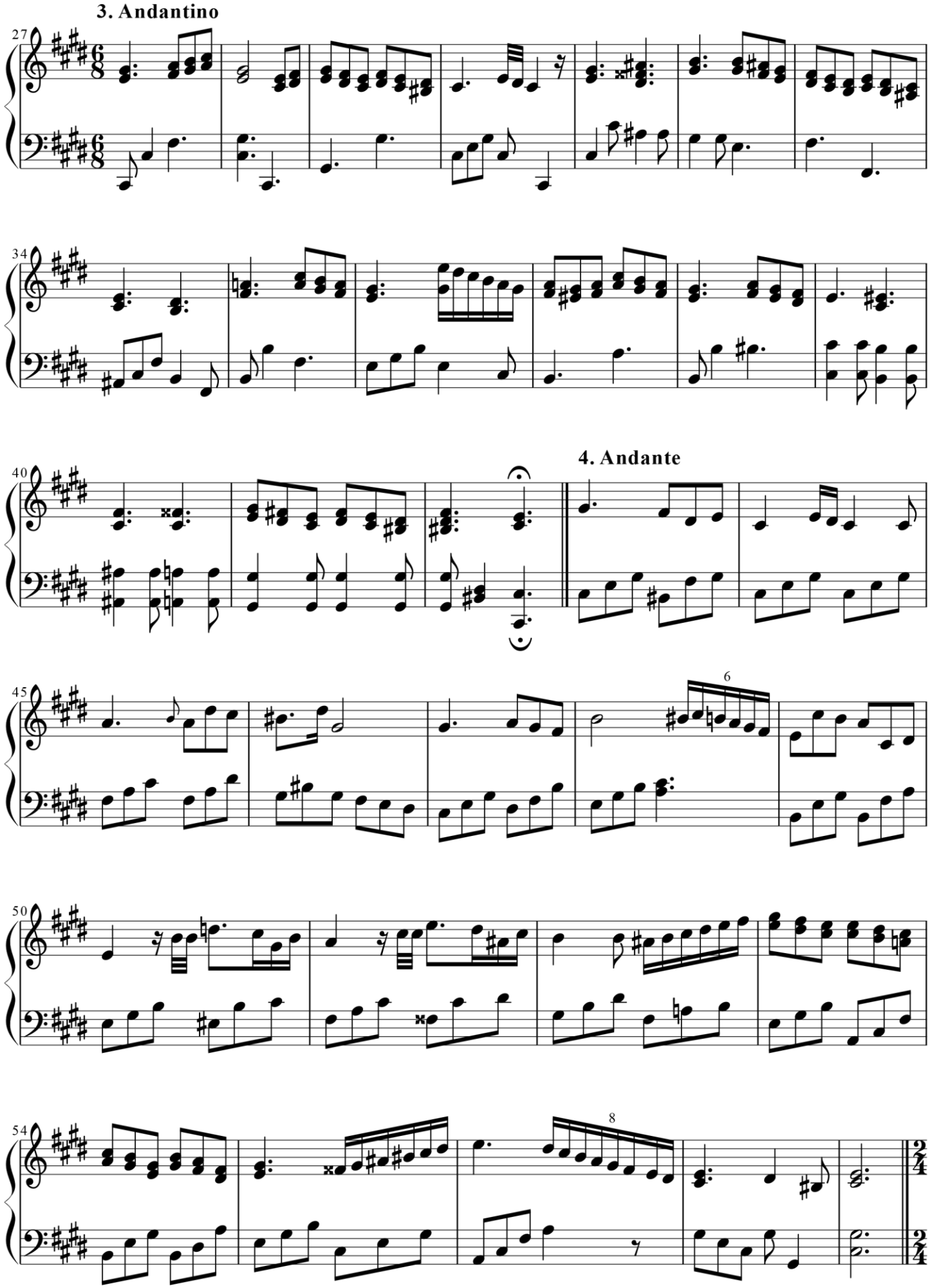

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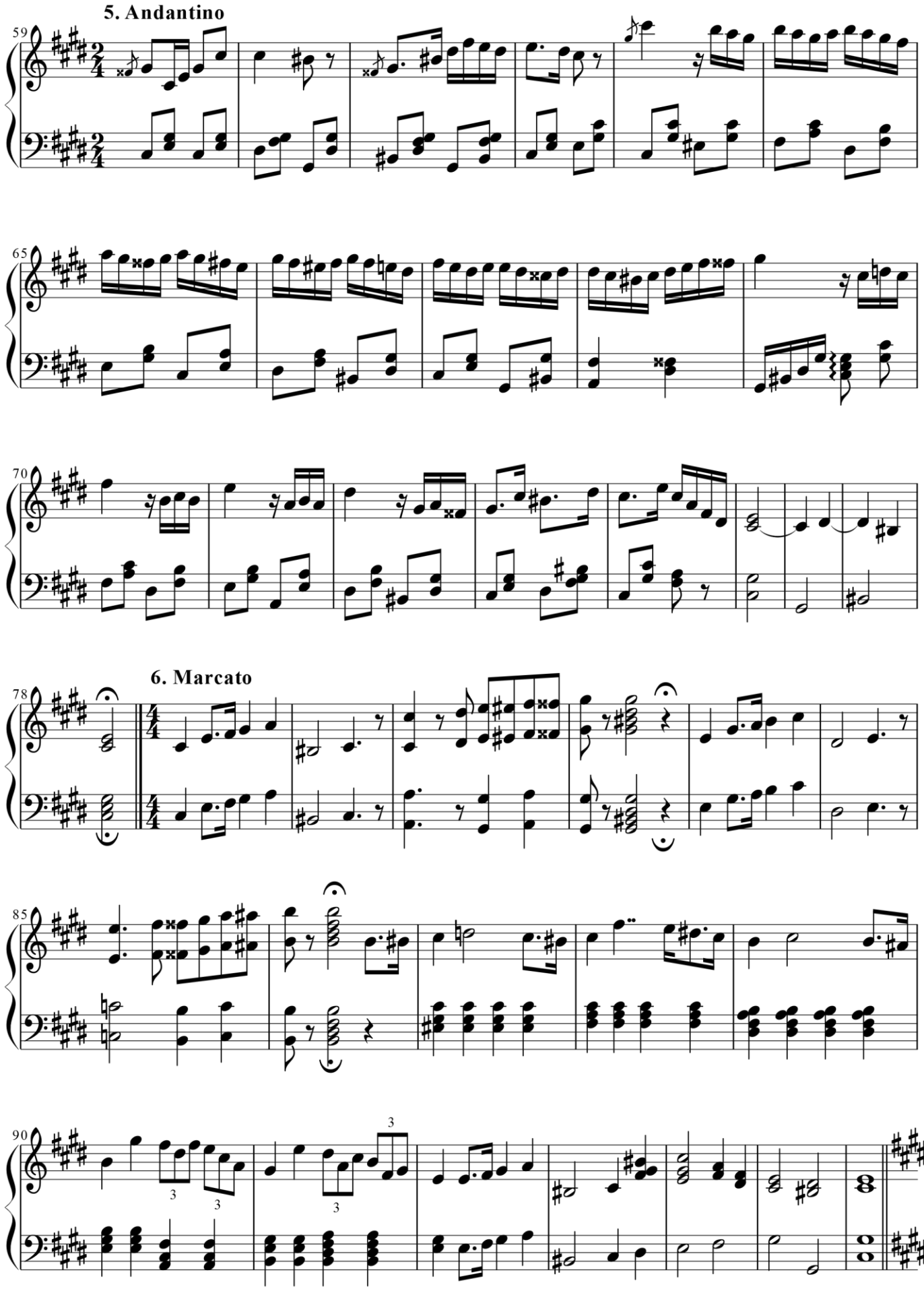

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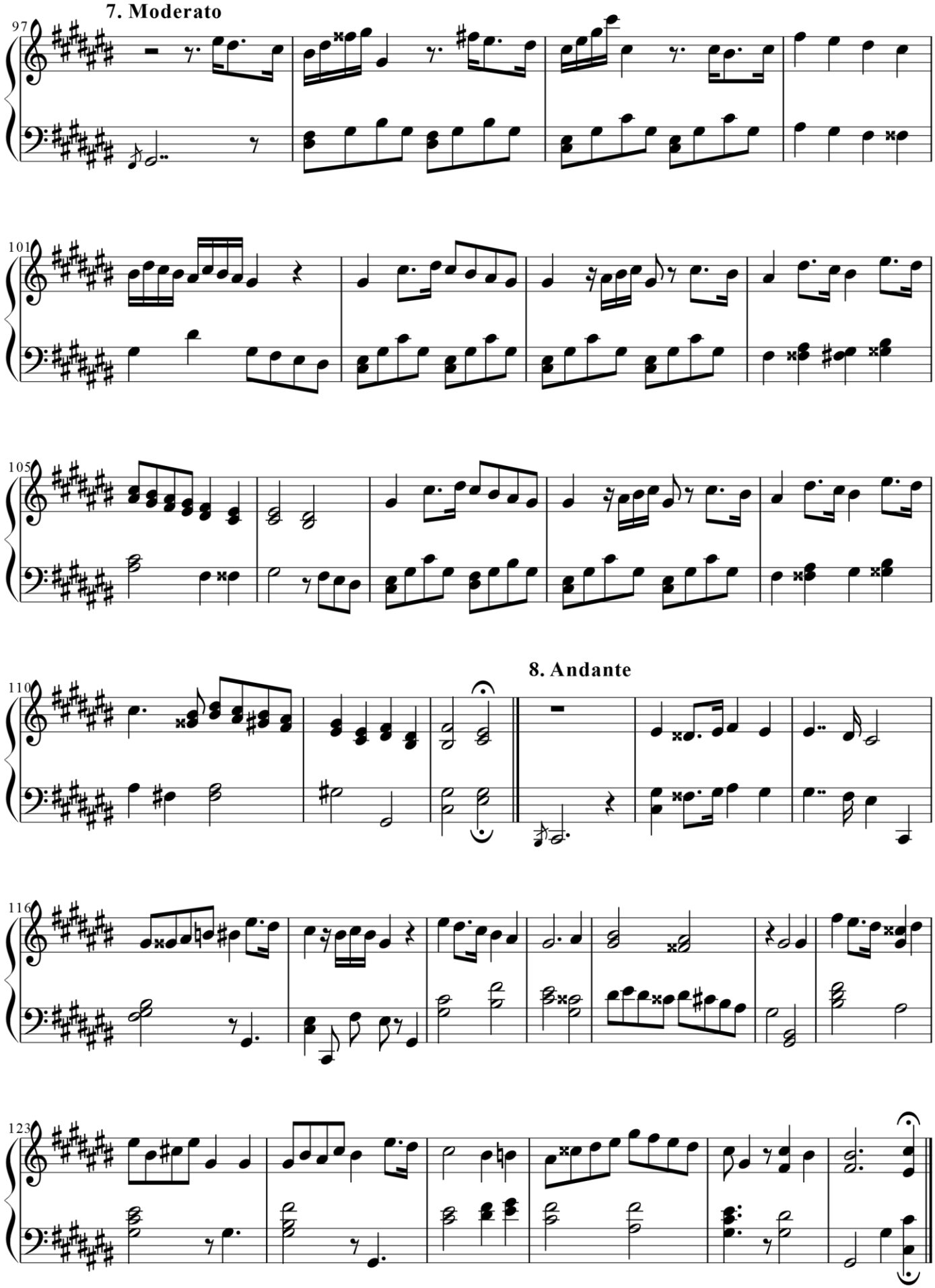

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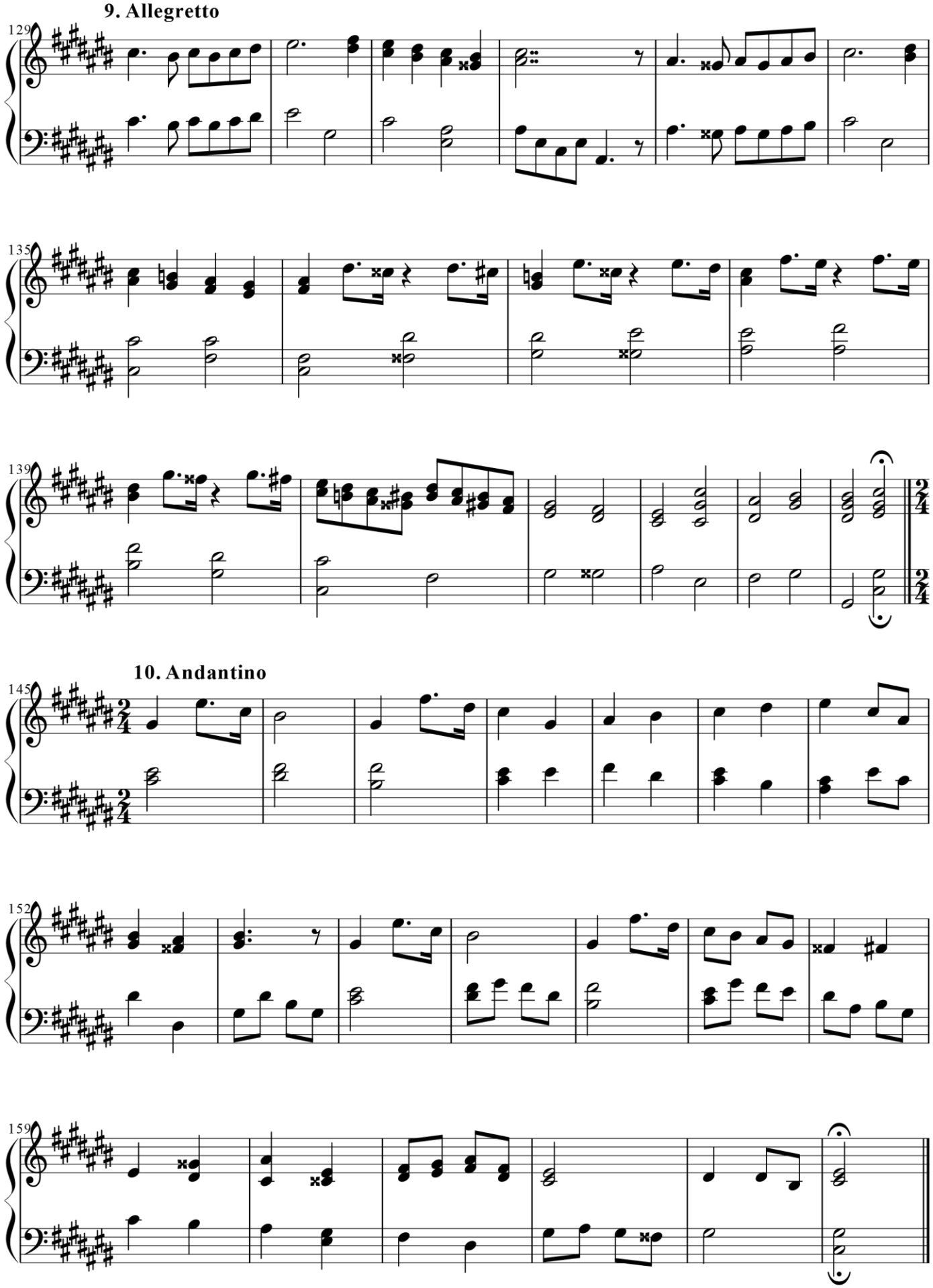

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