Emmanuel Chavaneau

Trois Préludes et Fugues

pour Quatuor à Cordes

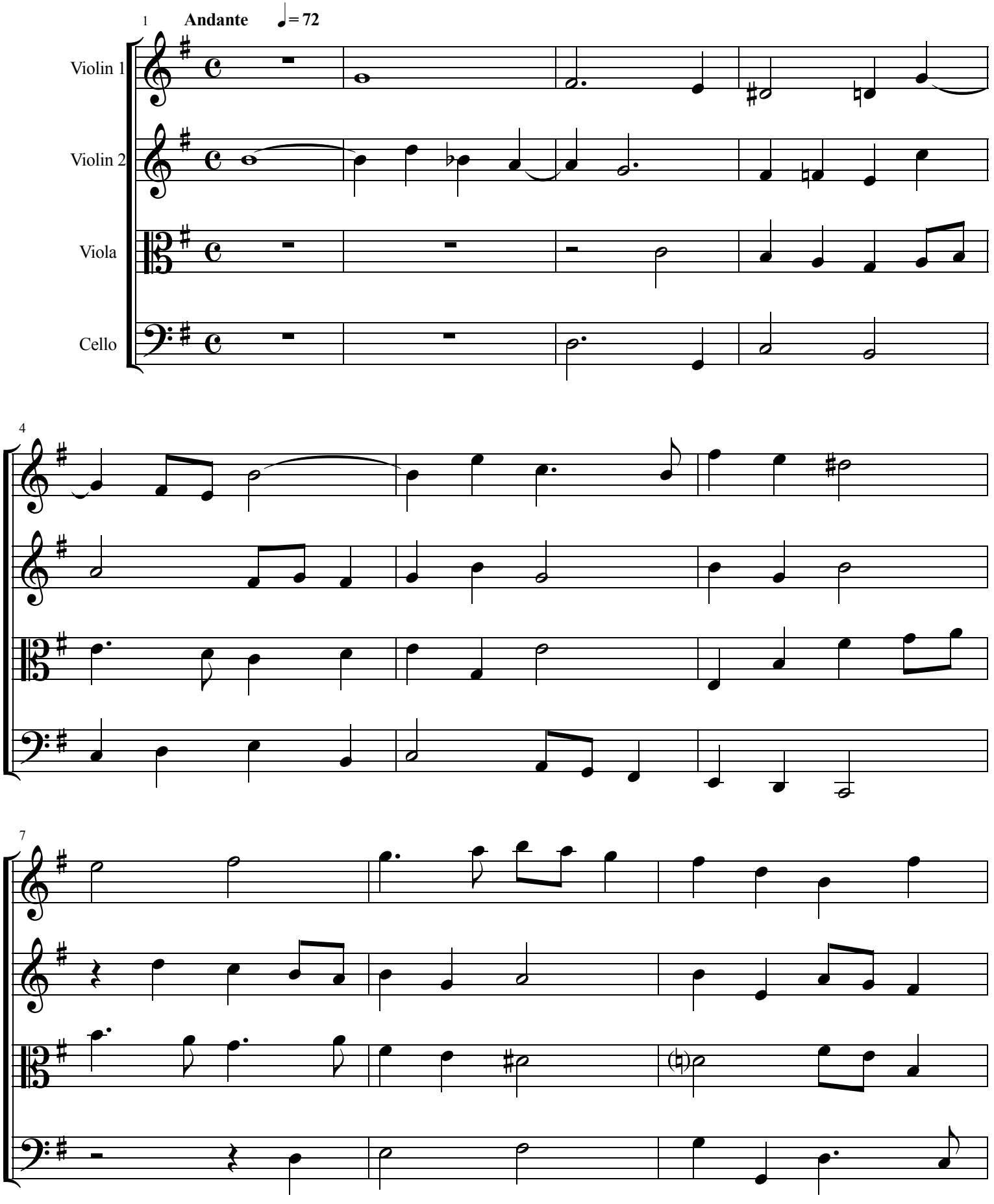
Notes sur les Préludes et Fugues

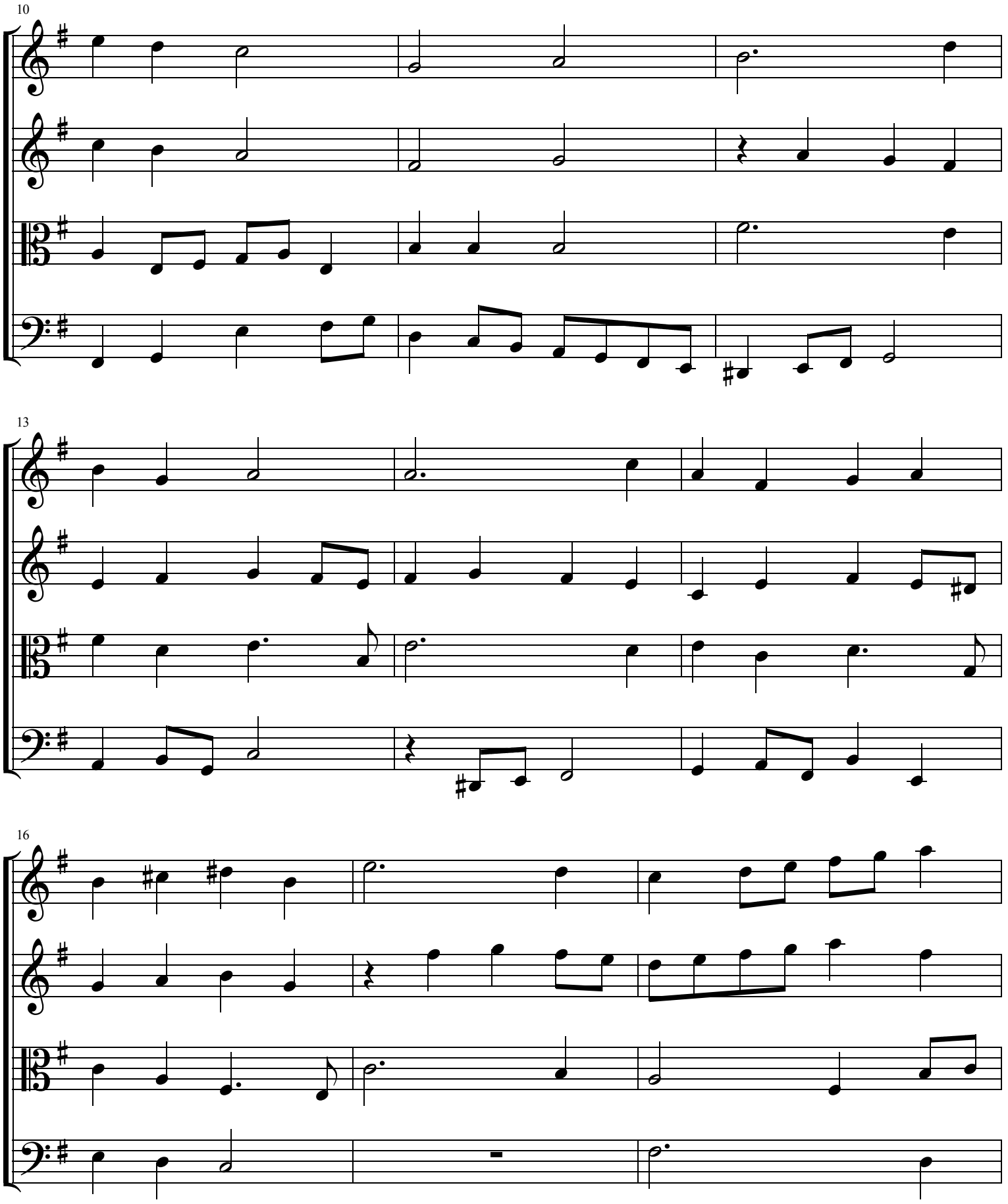
Ecrits en 2001-2002, c'étaient des exercices où je tâtonnais dans le contrepoint. A l'époque je n'écrivais que pour quatuor à cordes, cette formation me fascinait - et me fascine toujours - et puis je n'osais pas m'aventurer dans d'autres domaines, ou écrire pour des instruments que je ne connaissais pas !
Cela dit, il est possible que ces pièces - hormis peut-être le 2e prélude et fugue - puissent être joués par d'autres instruments.
Les « Fugues » ne sont d'ailleurs pas stricto sensu des Fugues, c'est un contrepoint plus proche du Ricercare - les sujets sont multiples, traités tantôt en fugue, mais le plus souvent en canon à la quarte ou à la quinte, ce qui apporte des modulations multiples ; il y a un sujet dans le 3e prélude et fugue, qui apparaît chaque mesure successivement dans les douze tonalités !

Le premier prélude et fugue comprend sans doute pas mal de maladresses d'écriture - c'est mon premier ! - il doit être joué très legato, quasi fluide, du début jusqu'à la fin. Il peut être joué bien plus rapidement que les tempi indiqués.
Le deuxième est pour moi le plus abouti et le plus personnel, sans doute le plus sombre aussi, le plus difficile techniquement, avec un prélude quasi atonal. Le sujet de la fugue était déjà présent depuis longtemps, il a d'ailleurs fait l'objet de plusieurs exercices antérieurs. Il y a des moments de fortes tensions, voire de violence, qu'il faut faire ressortir.
Le troisième est le plus baroque de tous ; il doit être joué dans ce style, très légèrement, frivole même, avec très peu de vibrato.

J'ai eu la chance de rencontrer le quatuor à cordes depuis mon adolescence ; le fait de jouer de l'alto a fait que je me suis trouvé très tôt inclus dans le quatuor des professeurs de l'école de musique, ce furent de sacrées expériences ! Pendant mes études je n'ai cessé de jouer en quatuor à cordes - principalement à l'alto - avec des amis, notamment Jonathan Bass, nous avions formé un quatuor franco anglais nommé « N°4 de Channel » ! Une des plus belles expériences a été le quatuor que nous avons formé dans les années 90 au stage d'Amboise avec Agnès (devenue altiste professionnelle), Christophe et Jean-Philippe. Il y a eu « Ad libitum » aussi avec des musiciennes et amies d'Allemagne (Eve-Marie), Suisse (Marie-Paule) et Ecosse (Louise), où nous avons exploré un répertoire ambitieux, inhabituel aux amateurs, et souvent méconnu. Et puis, dans les années 2000, Cordes en Accord, avec mon regretté ami John. J'ai joué après dans d'autres formations, mais je n'ai pratiquement plus fait de quatuor depuis Cordes en Accord.

Emmanuel CHAVANEAU

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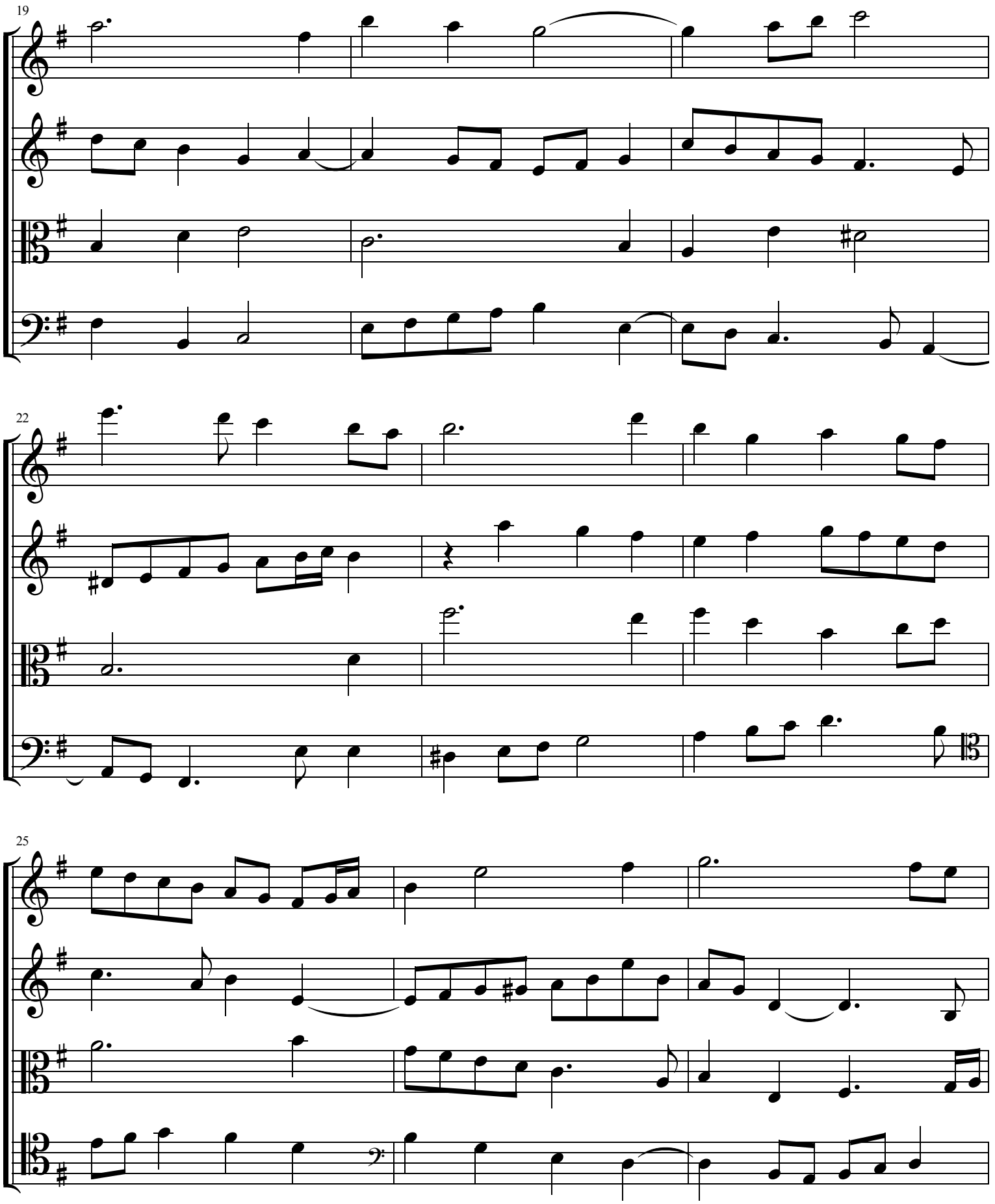
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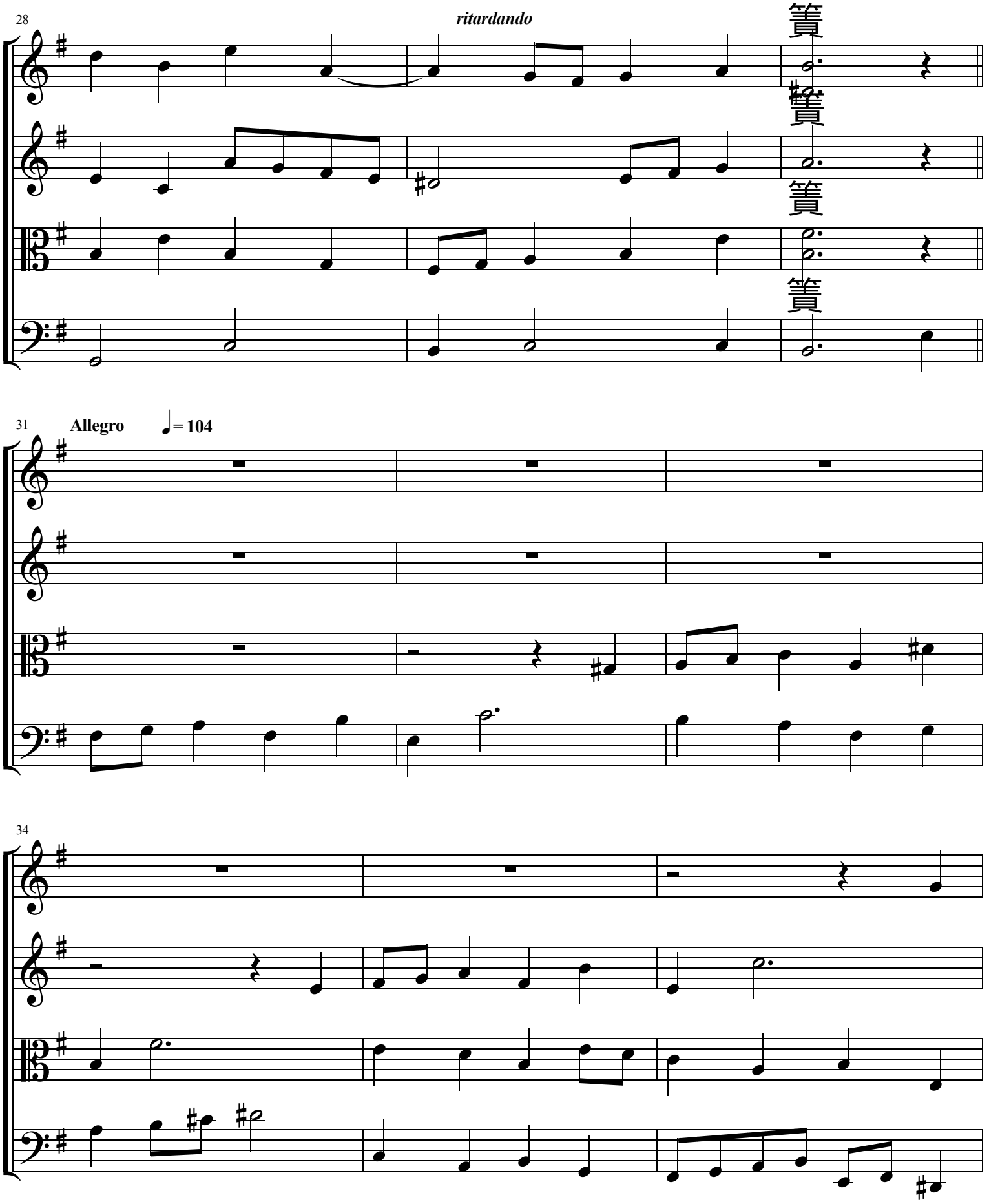
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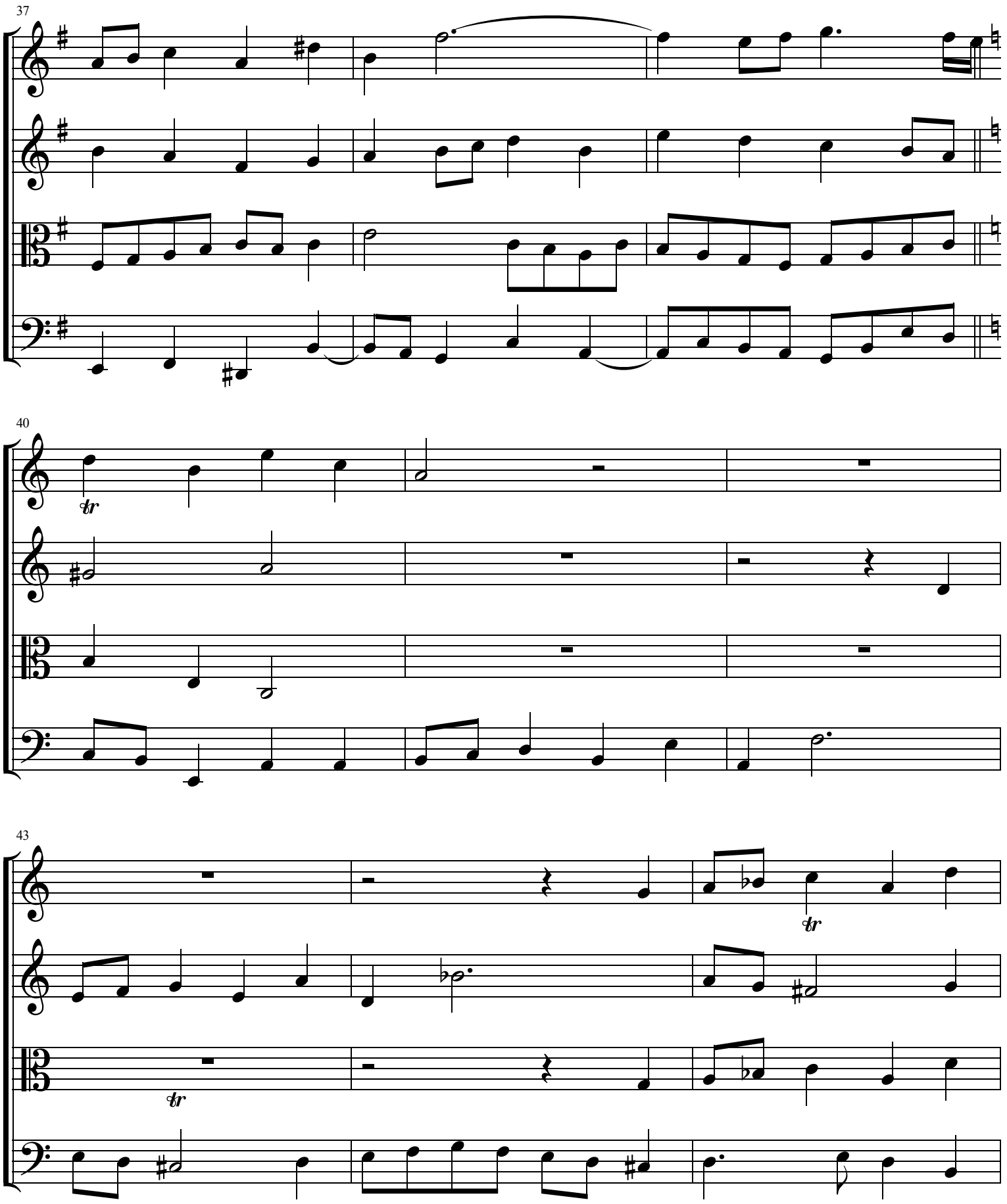
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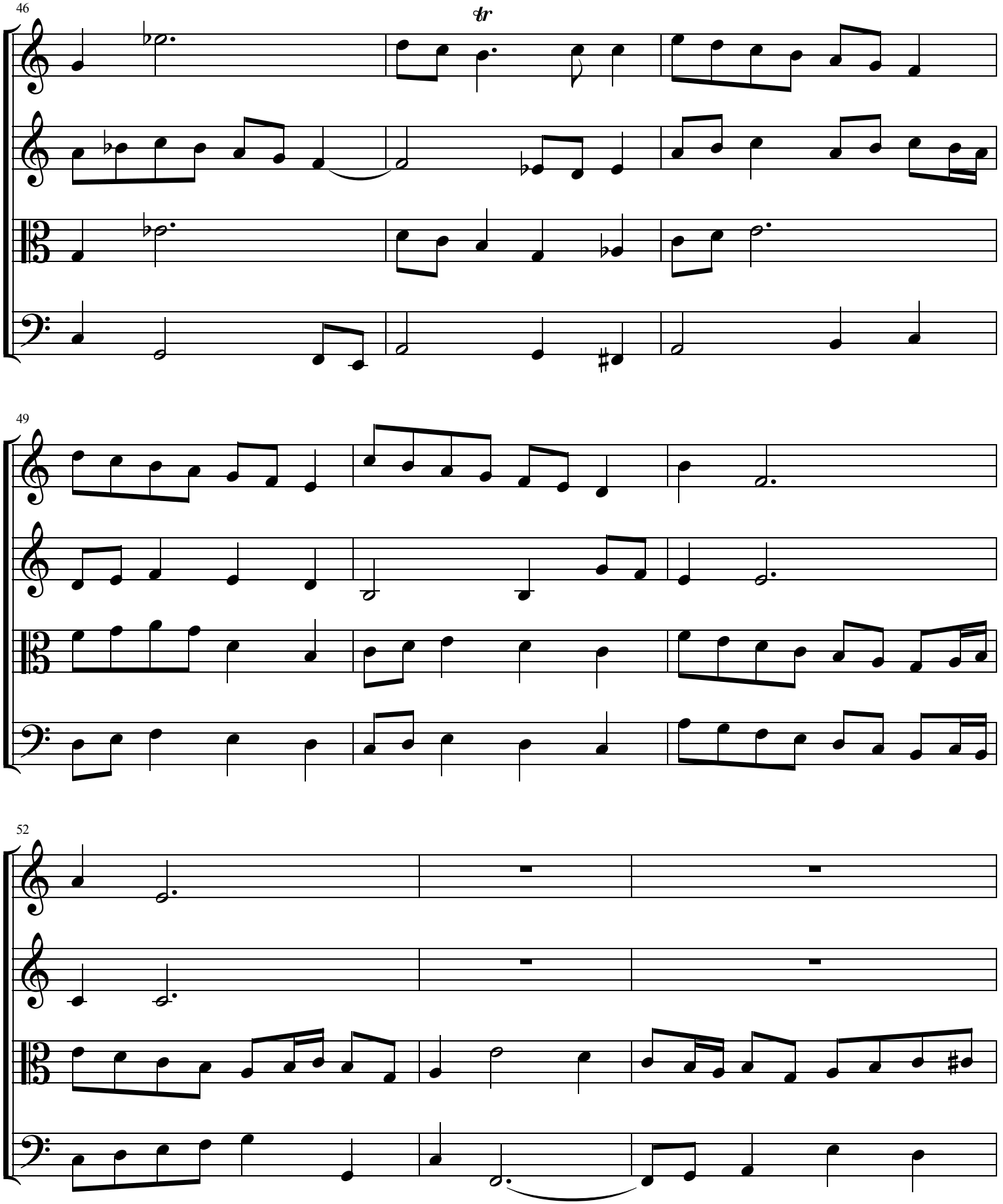
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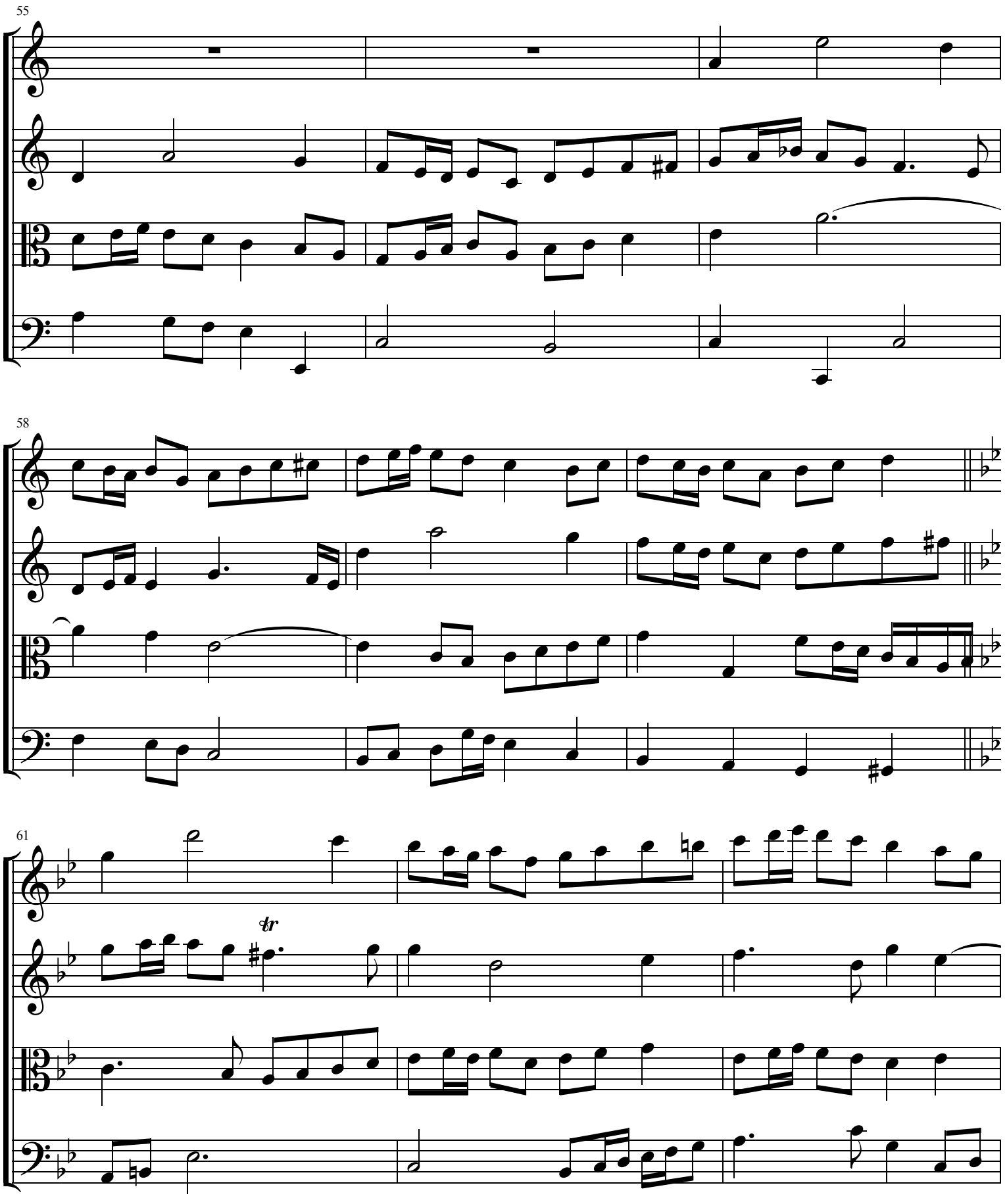
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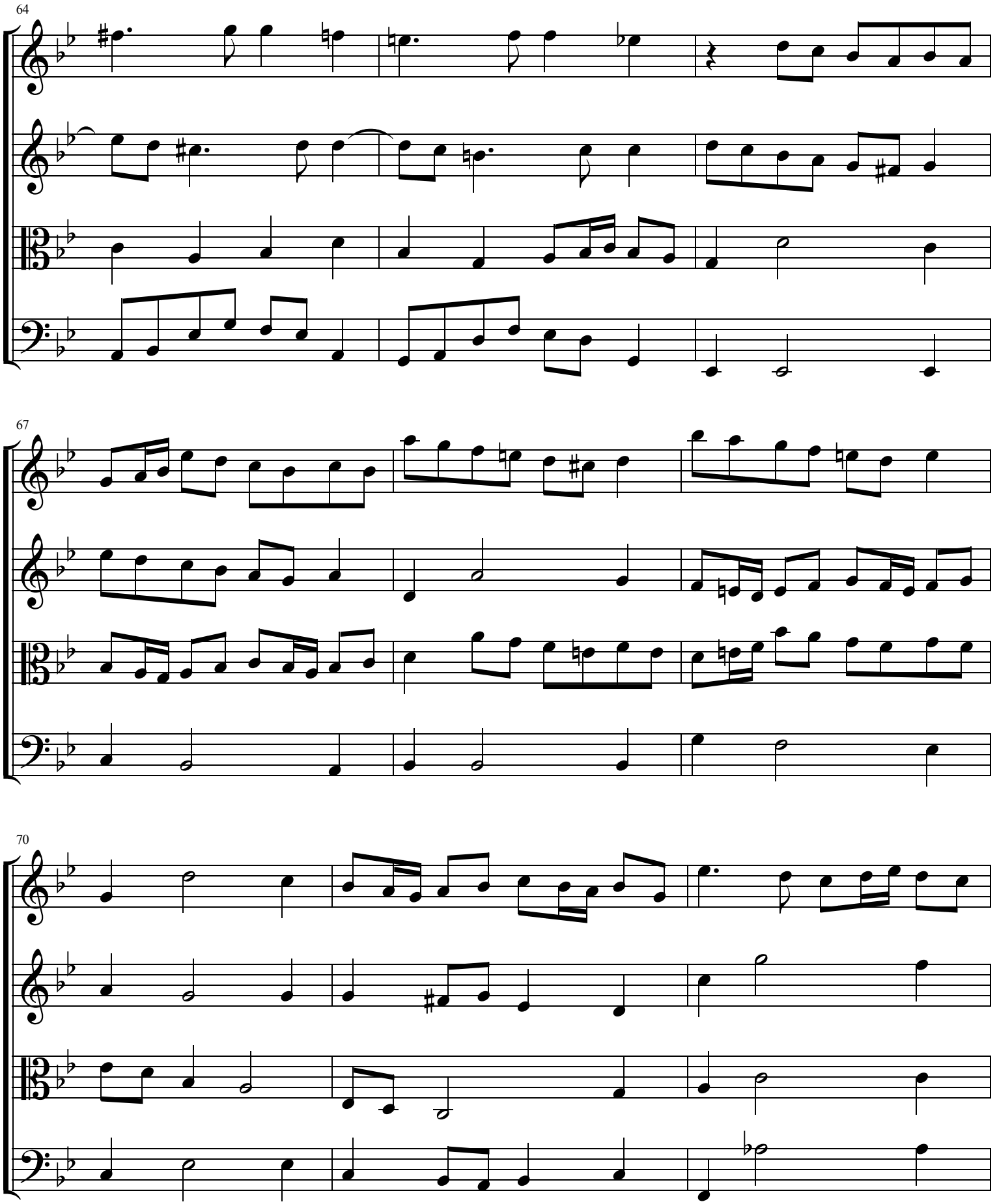
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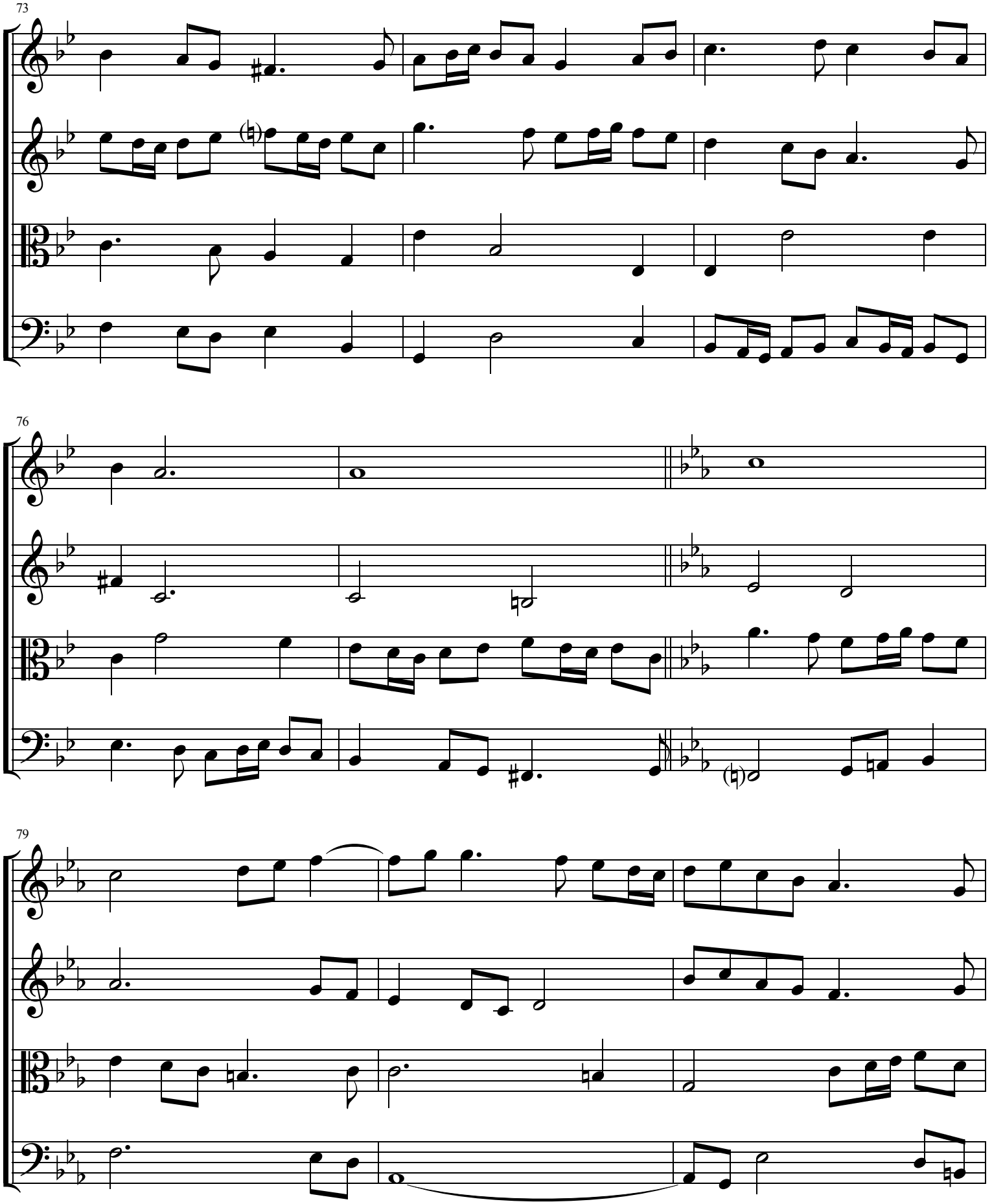
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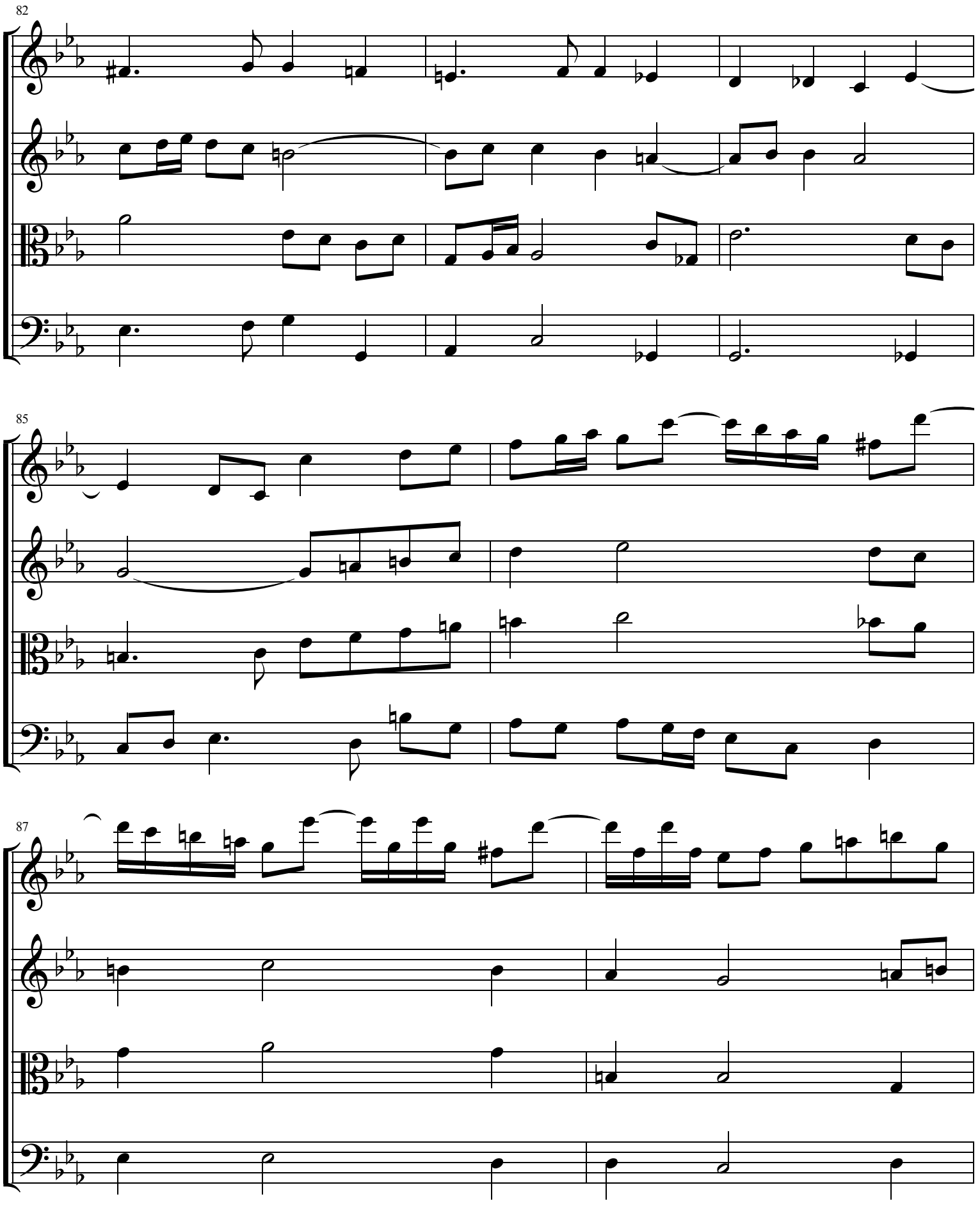
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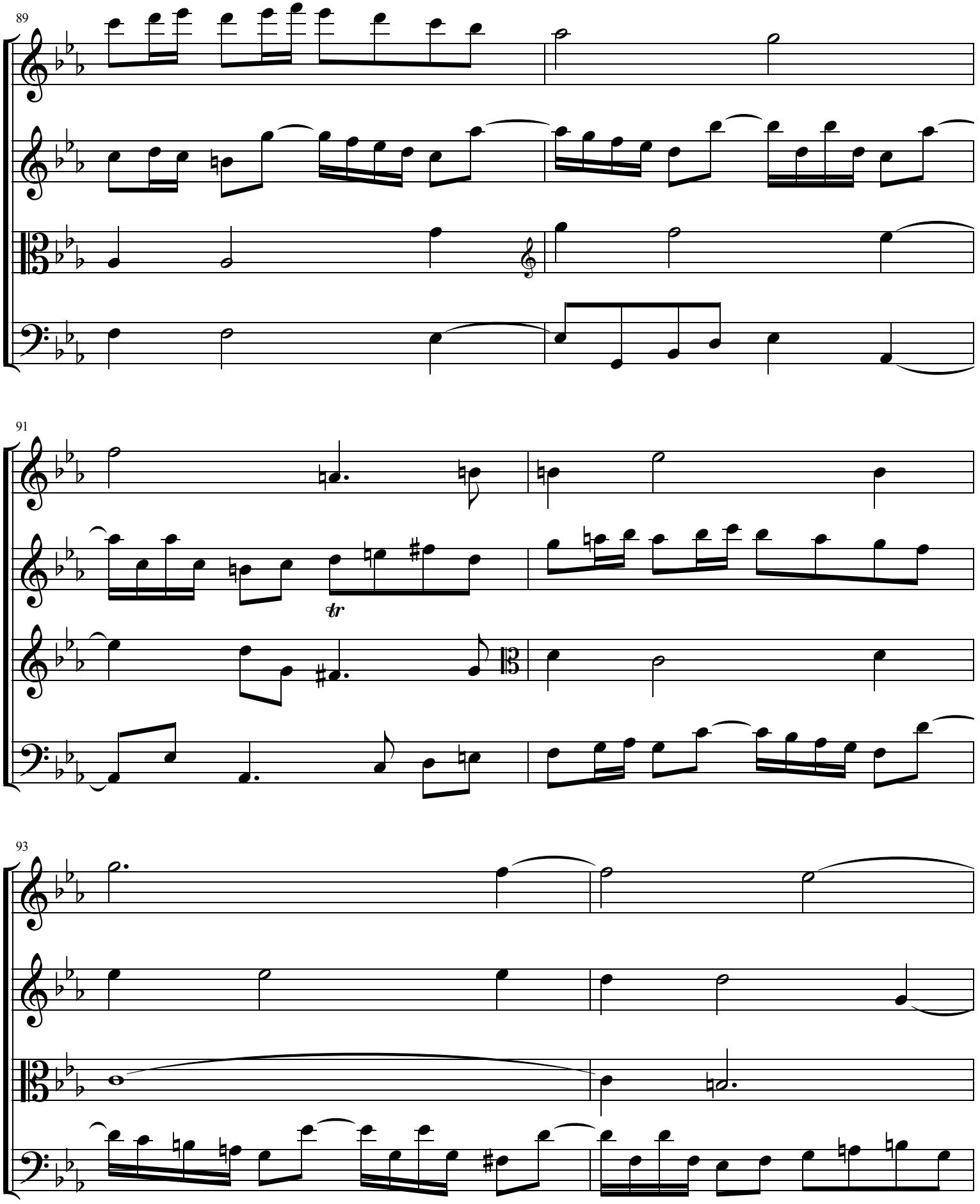
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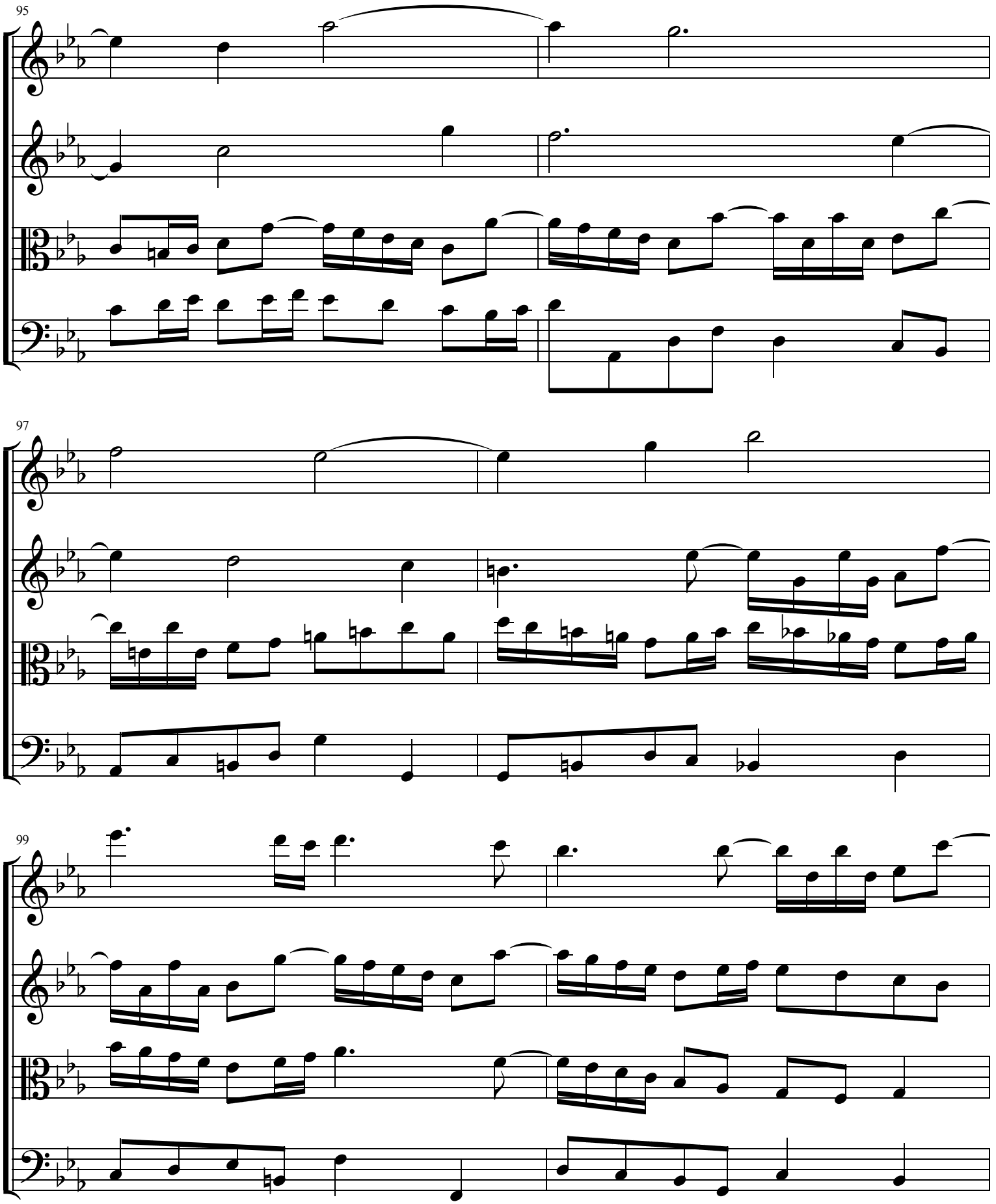
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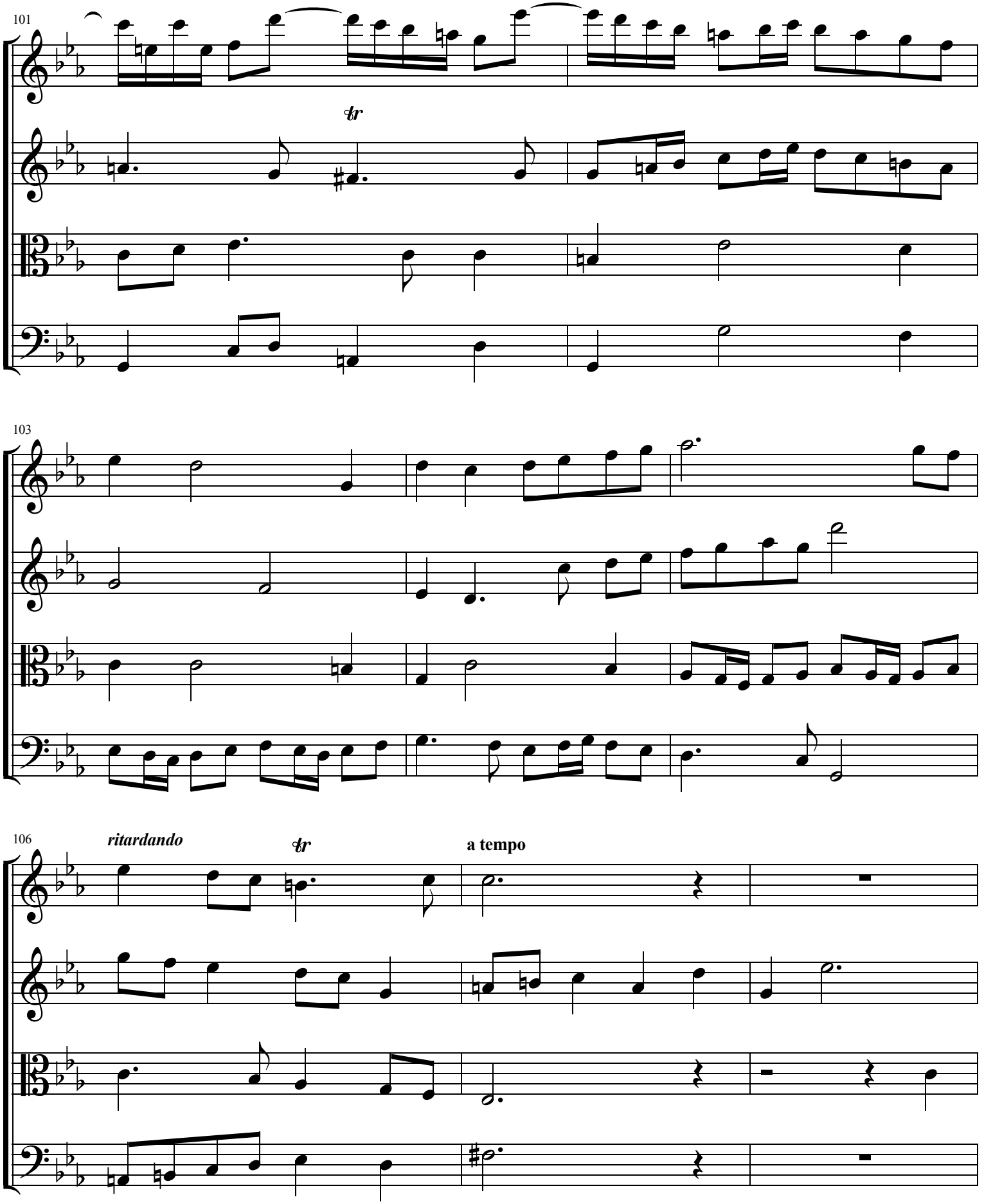
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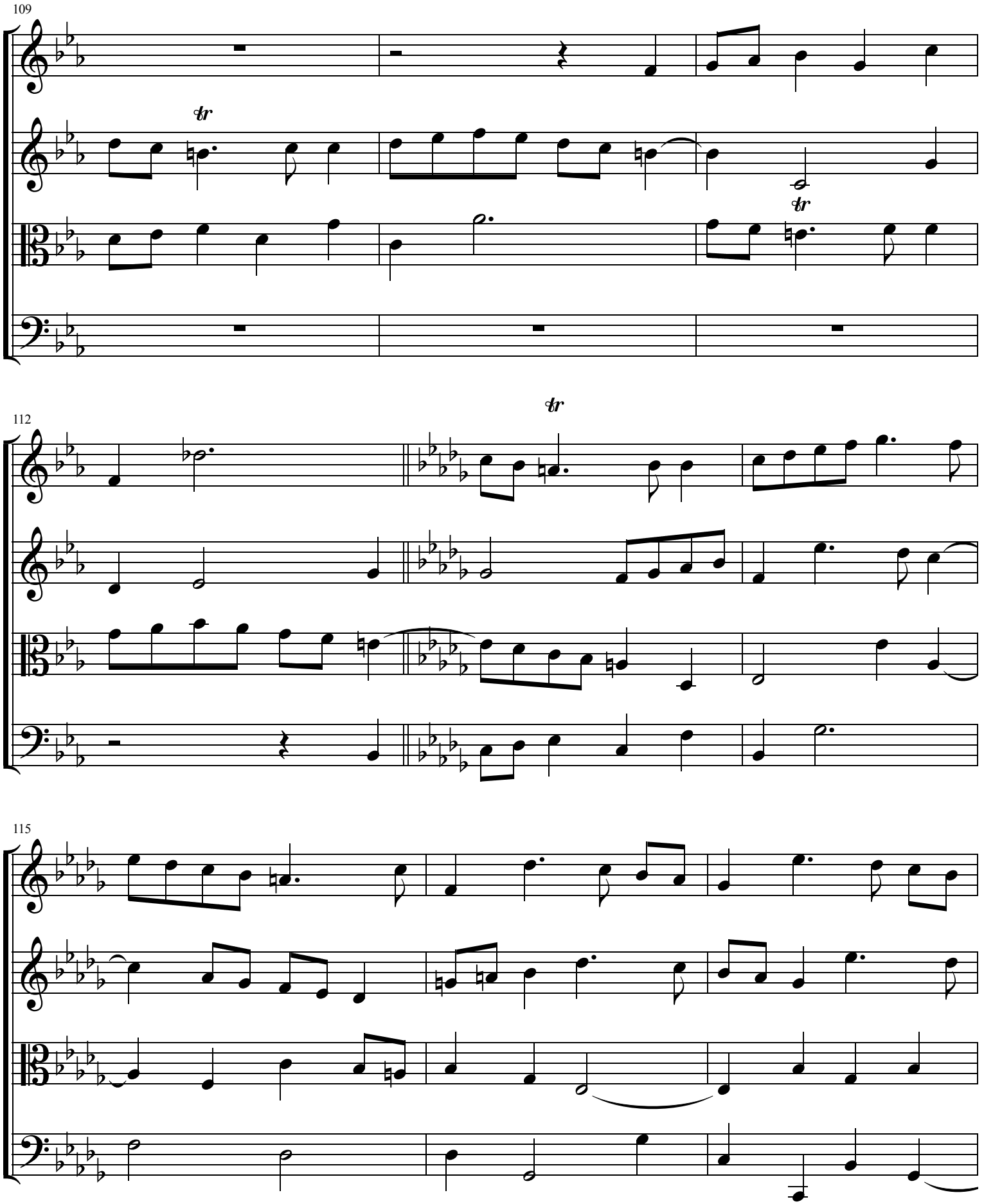
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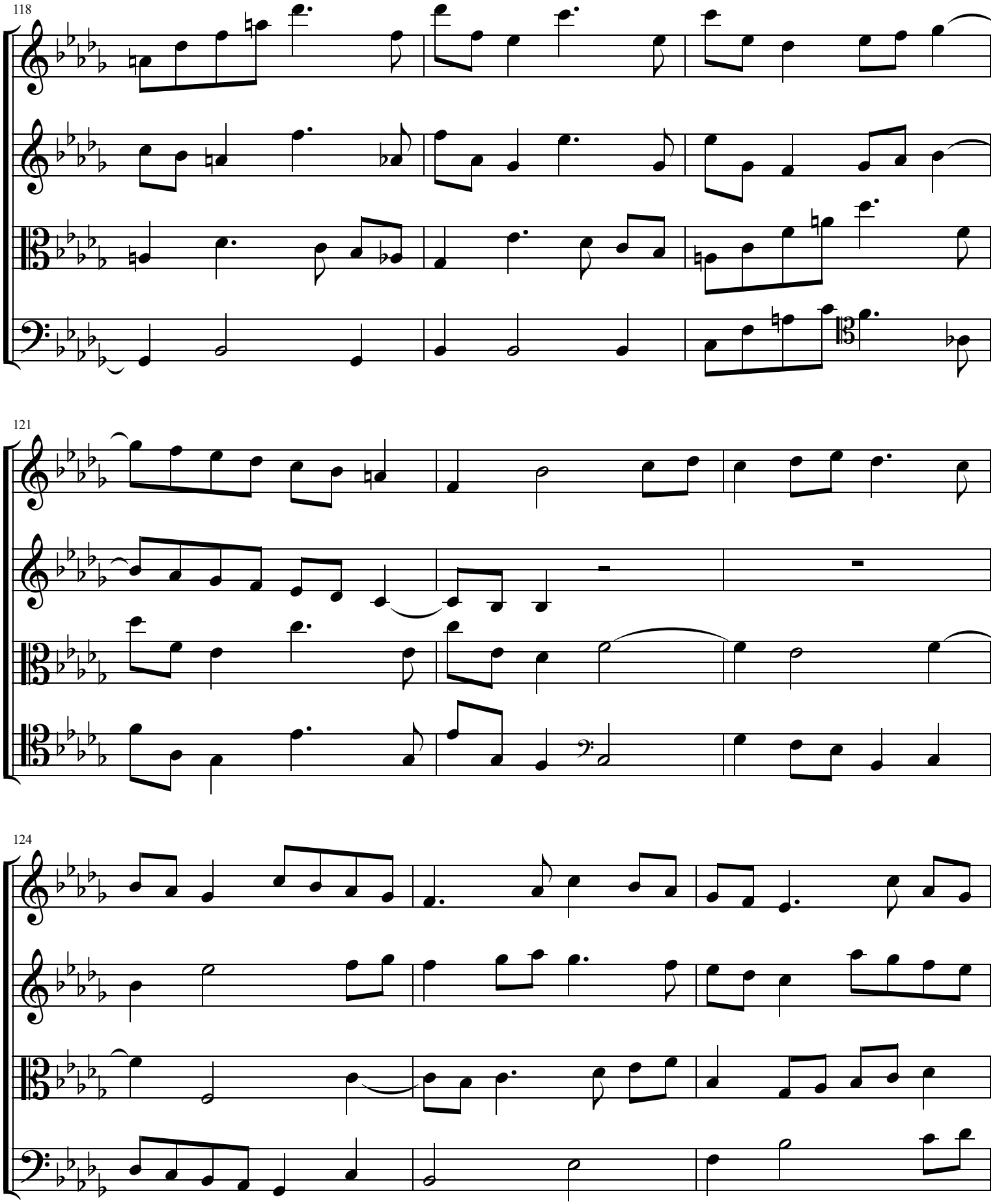
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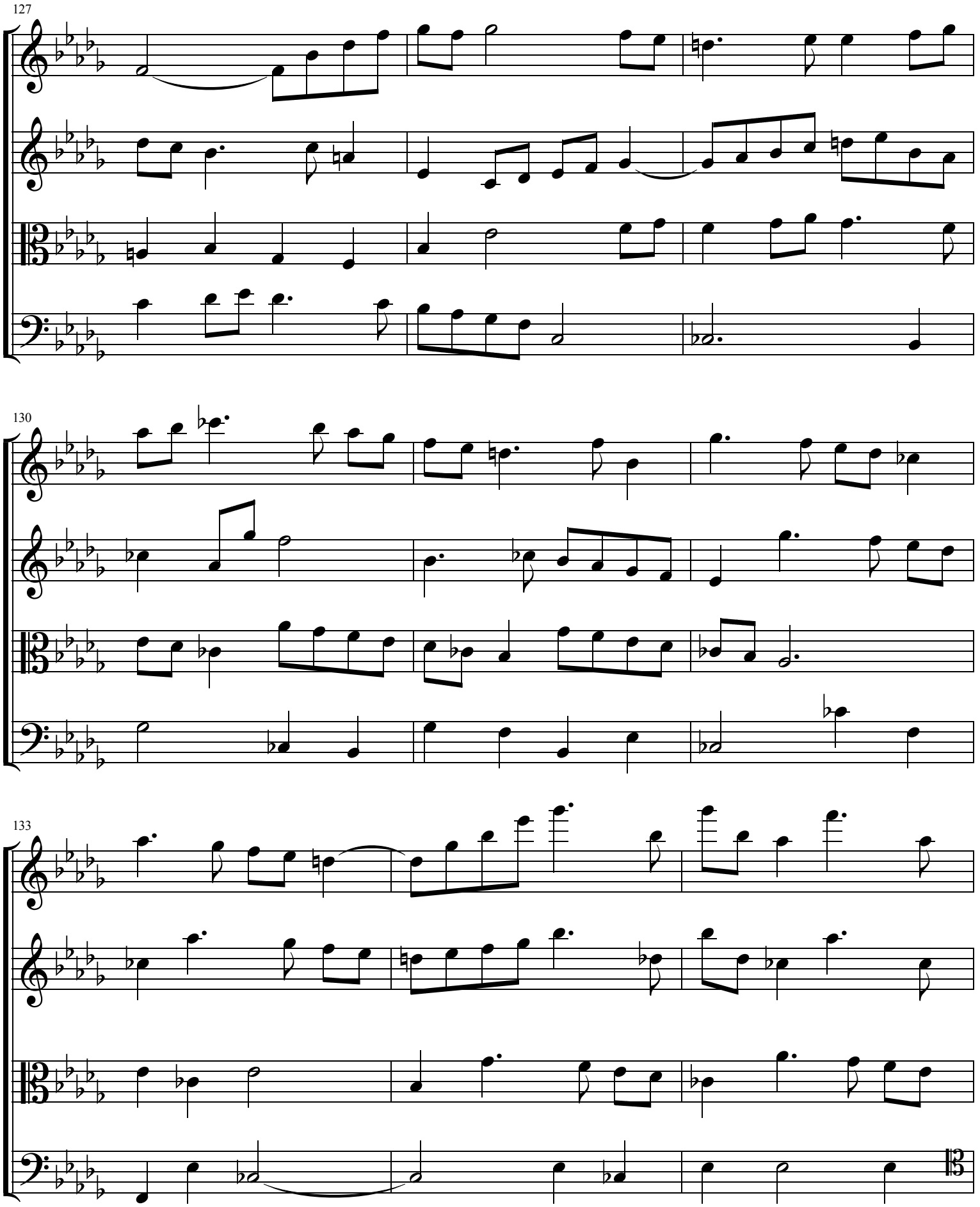
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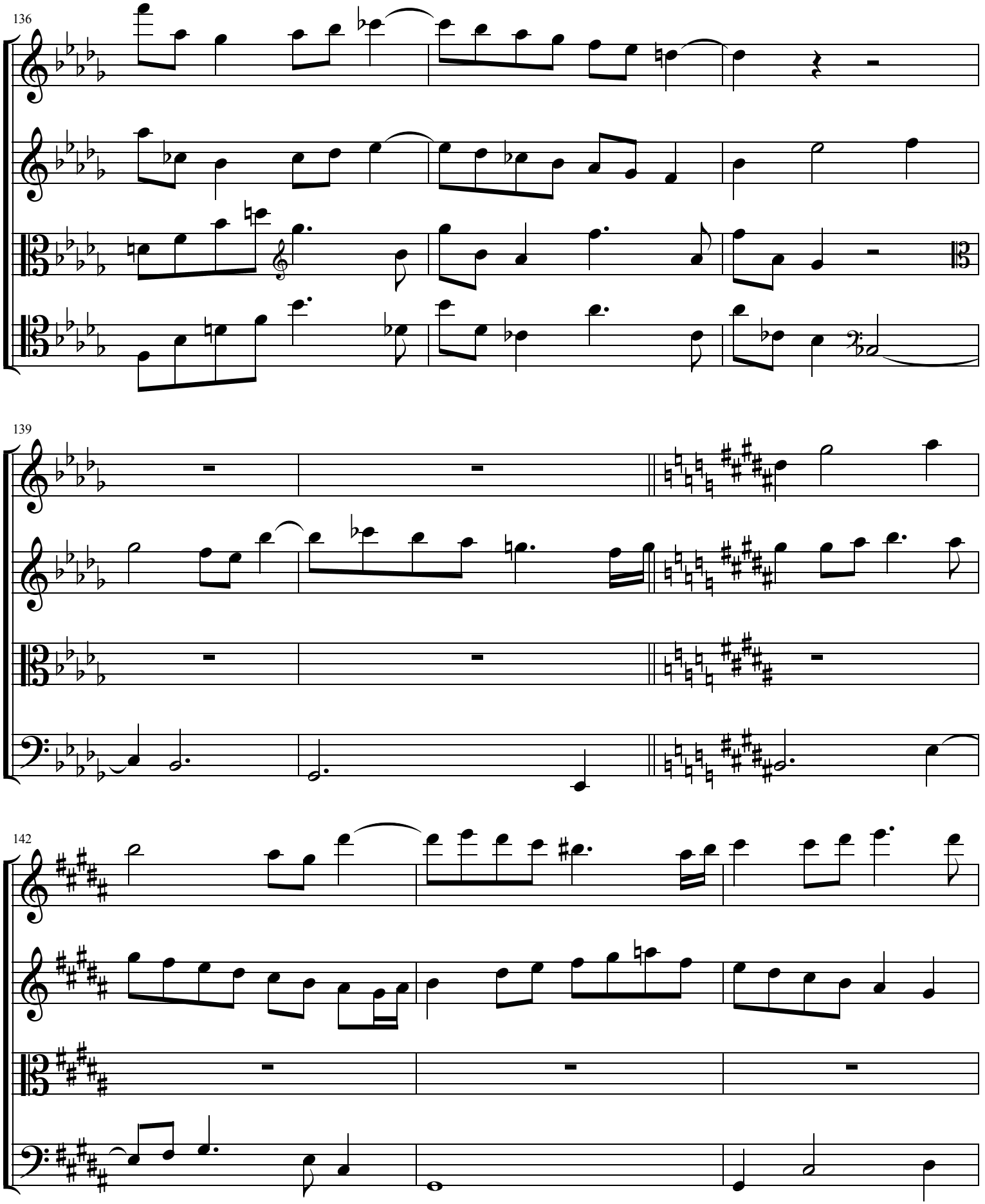
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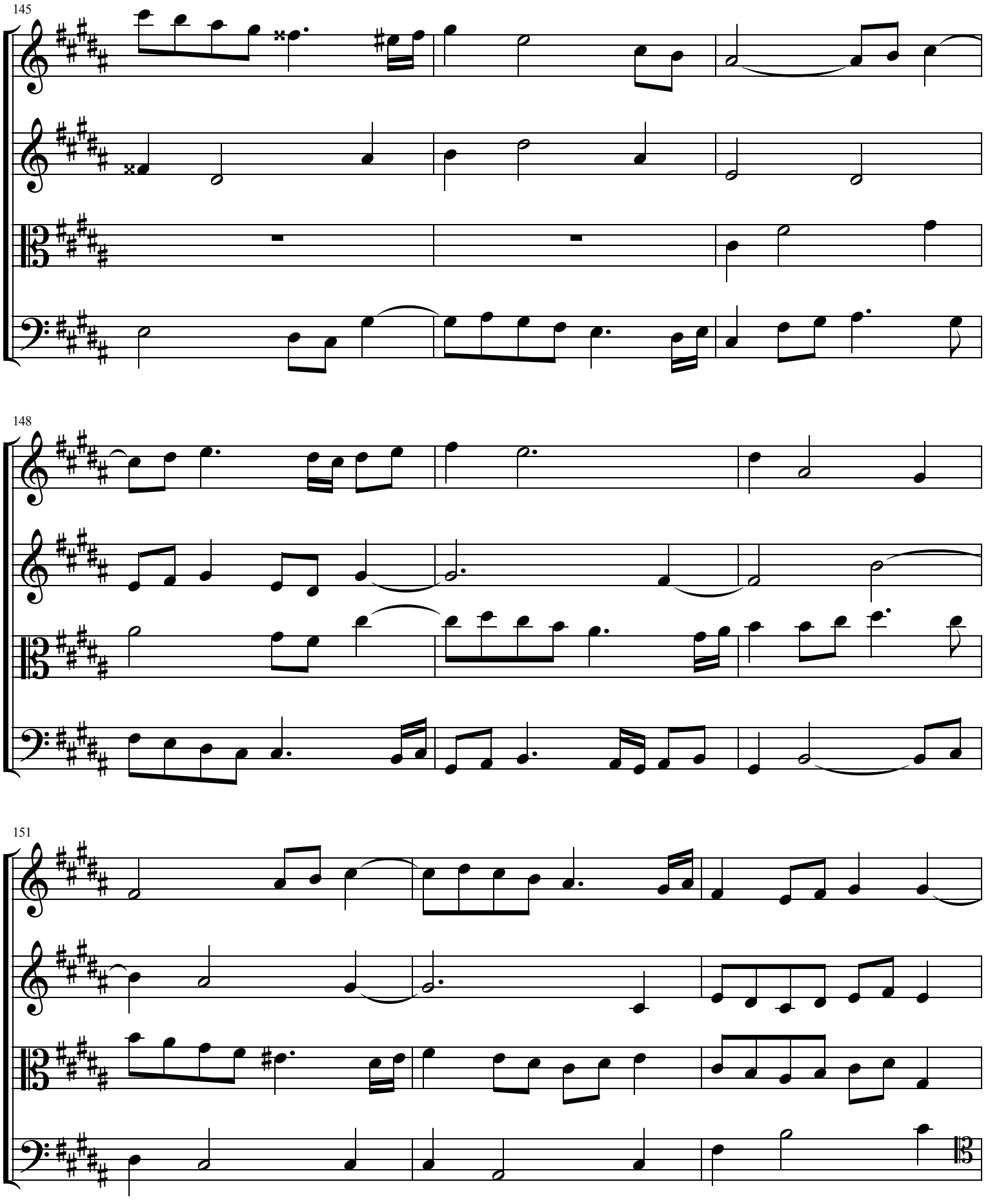
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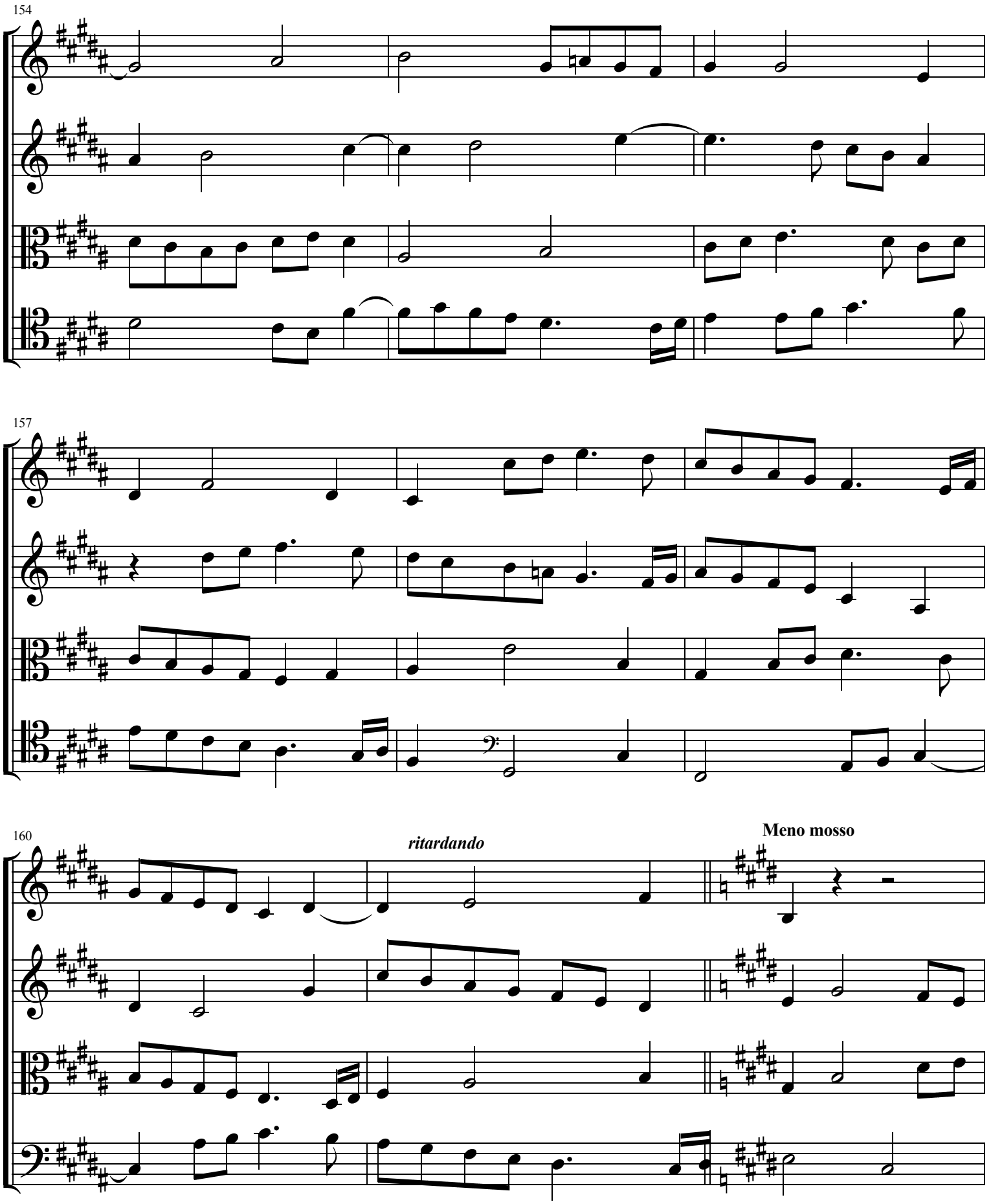
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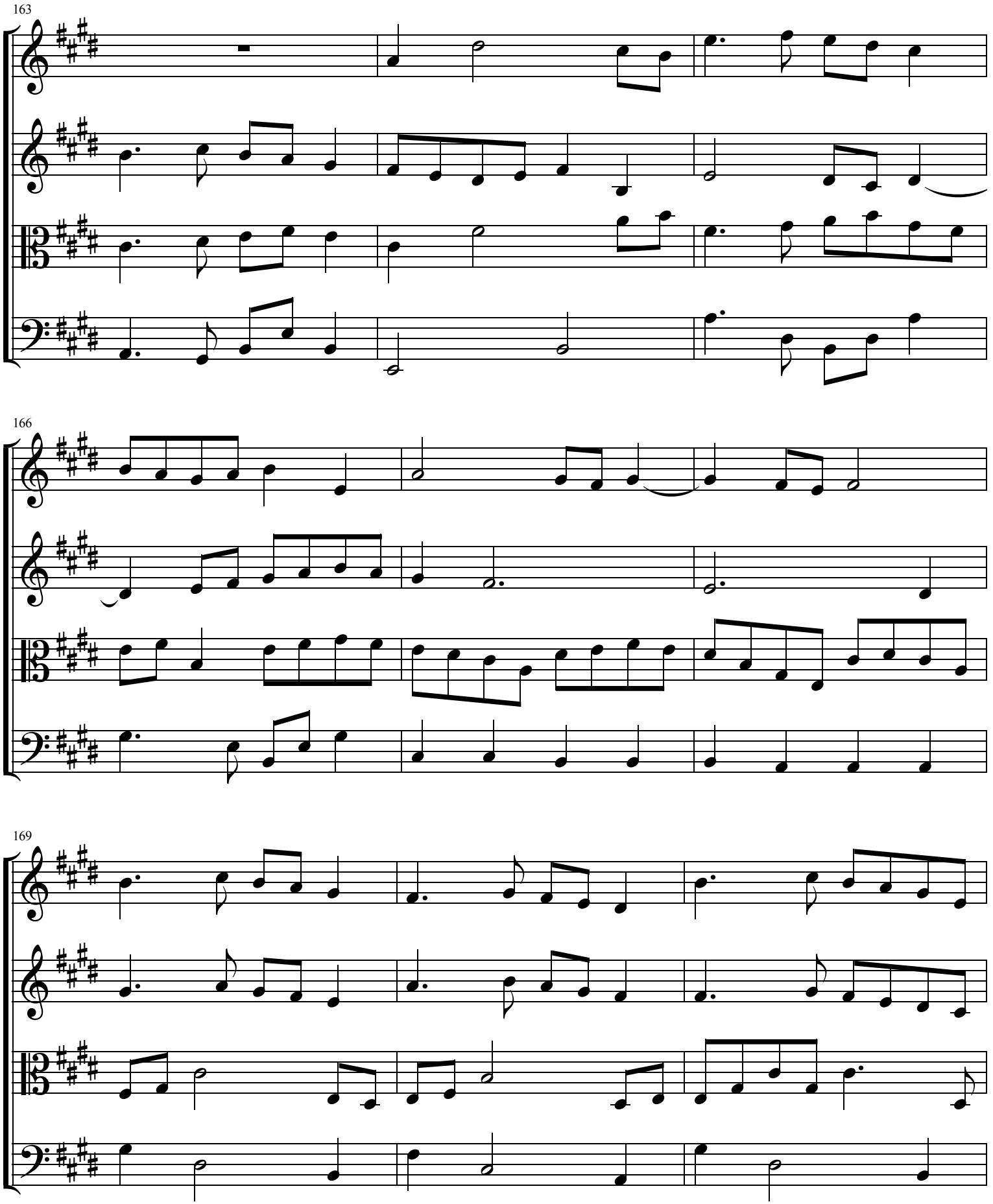
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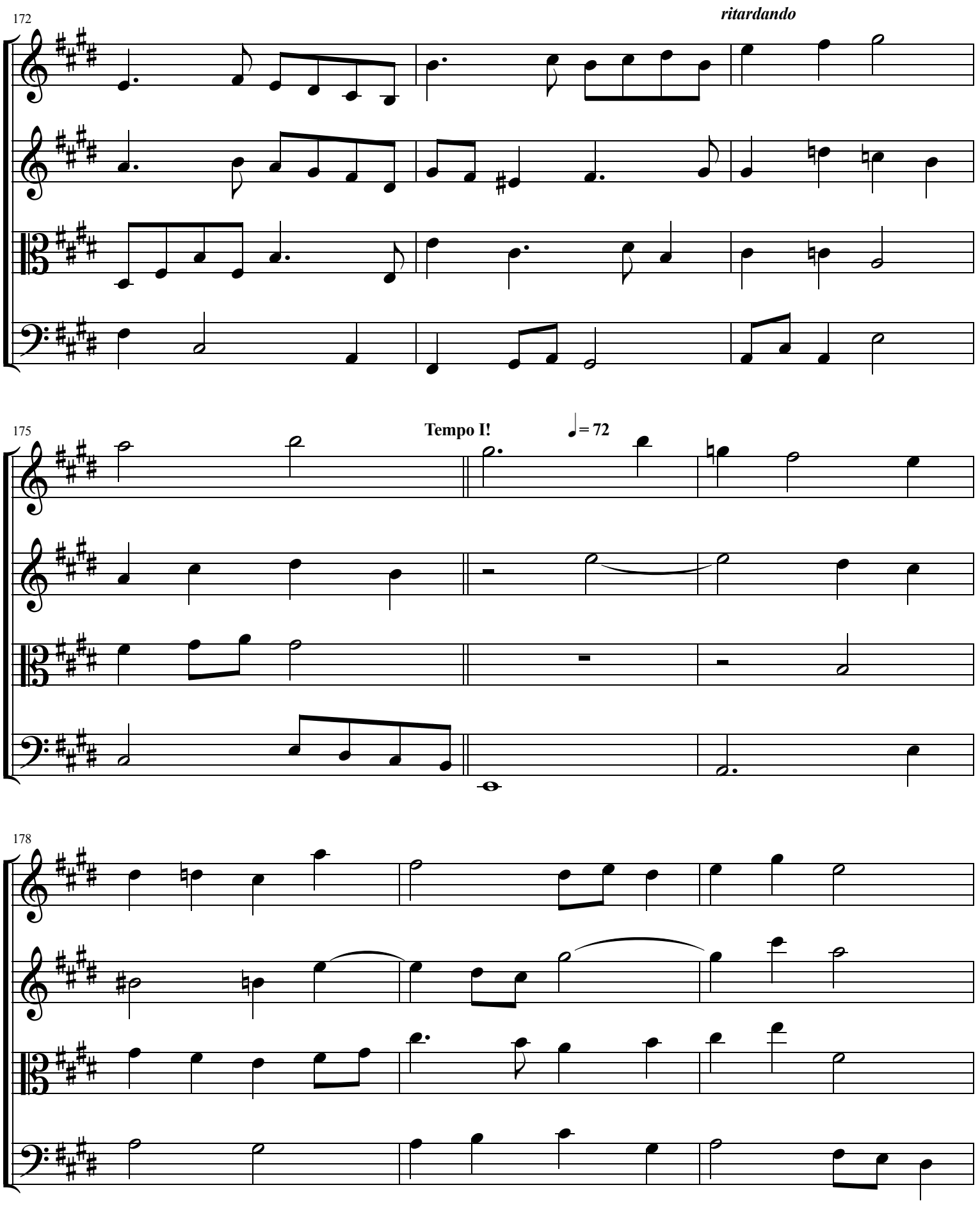
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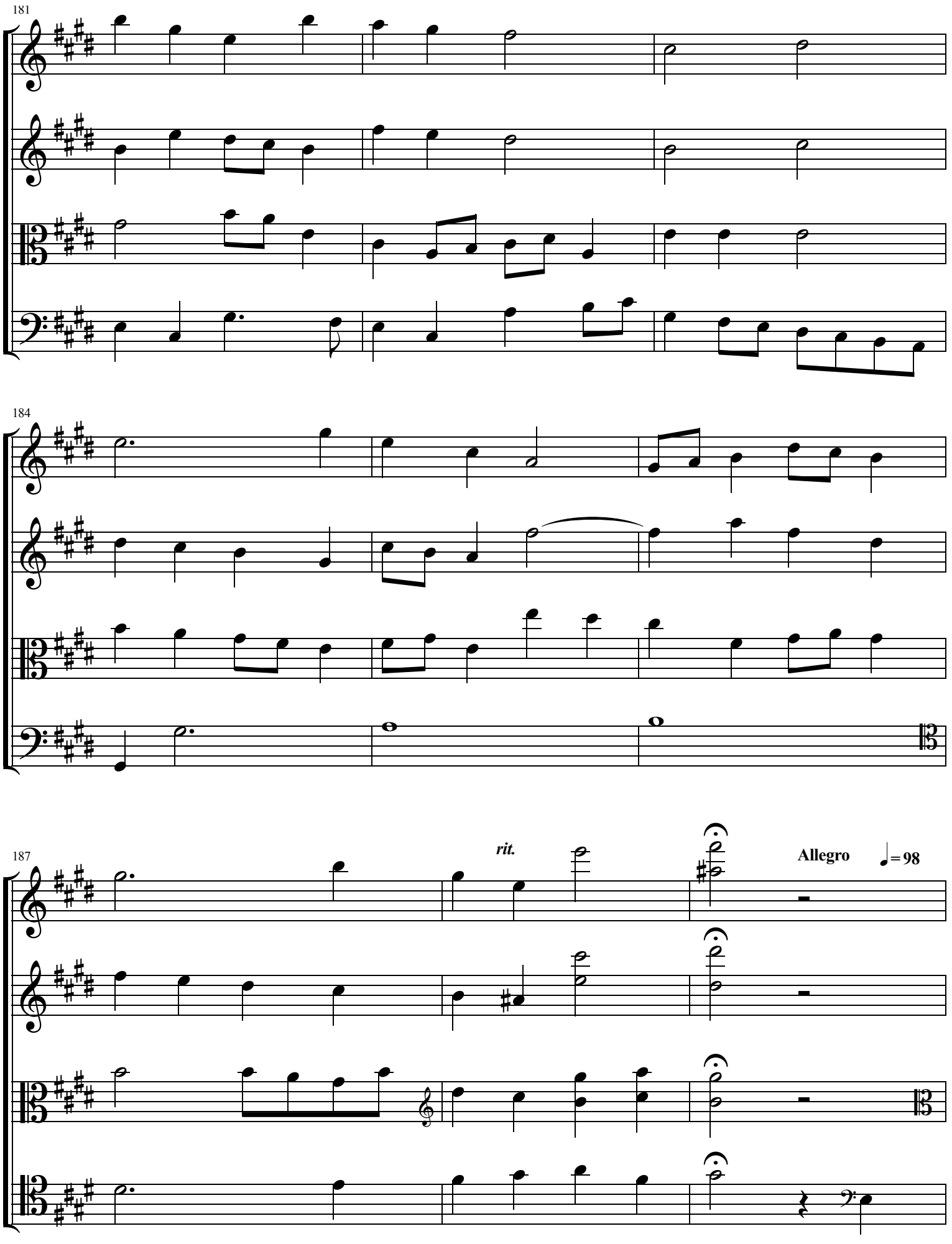
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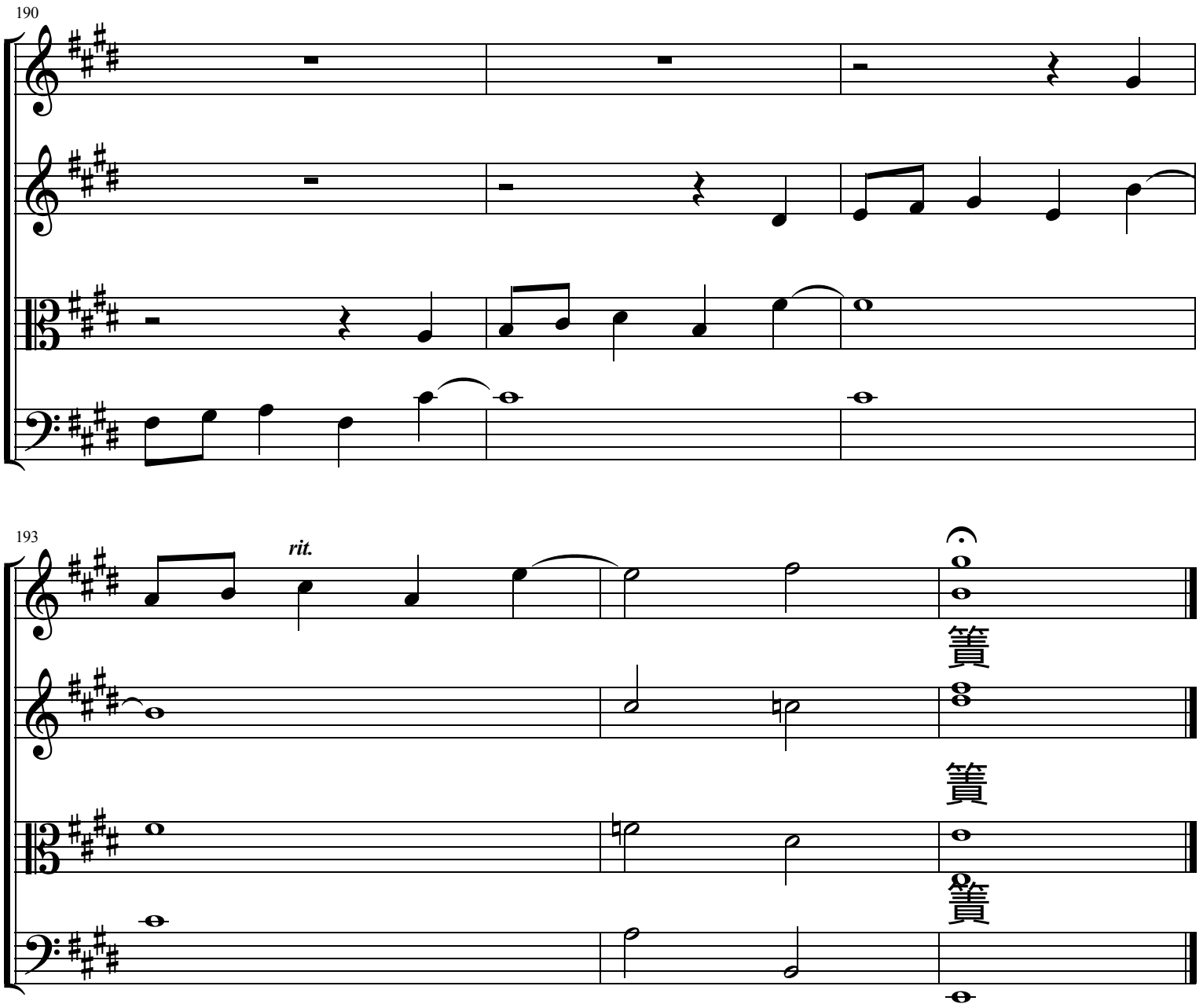
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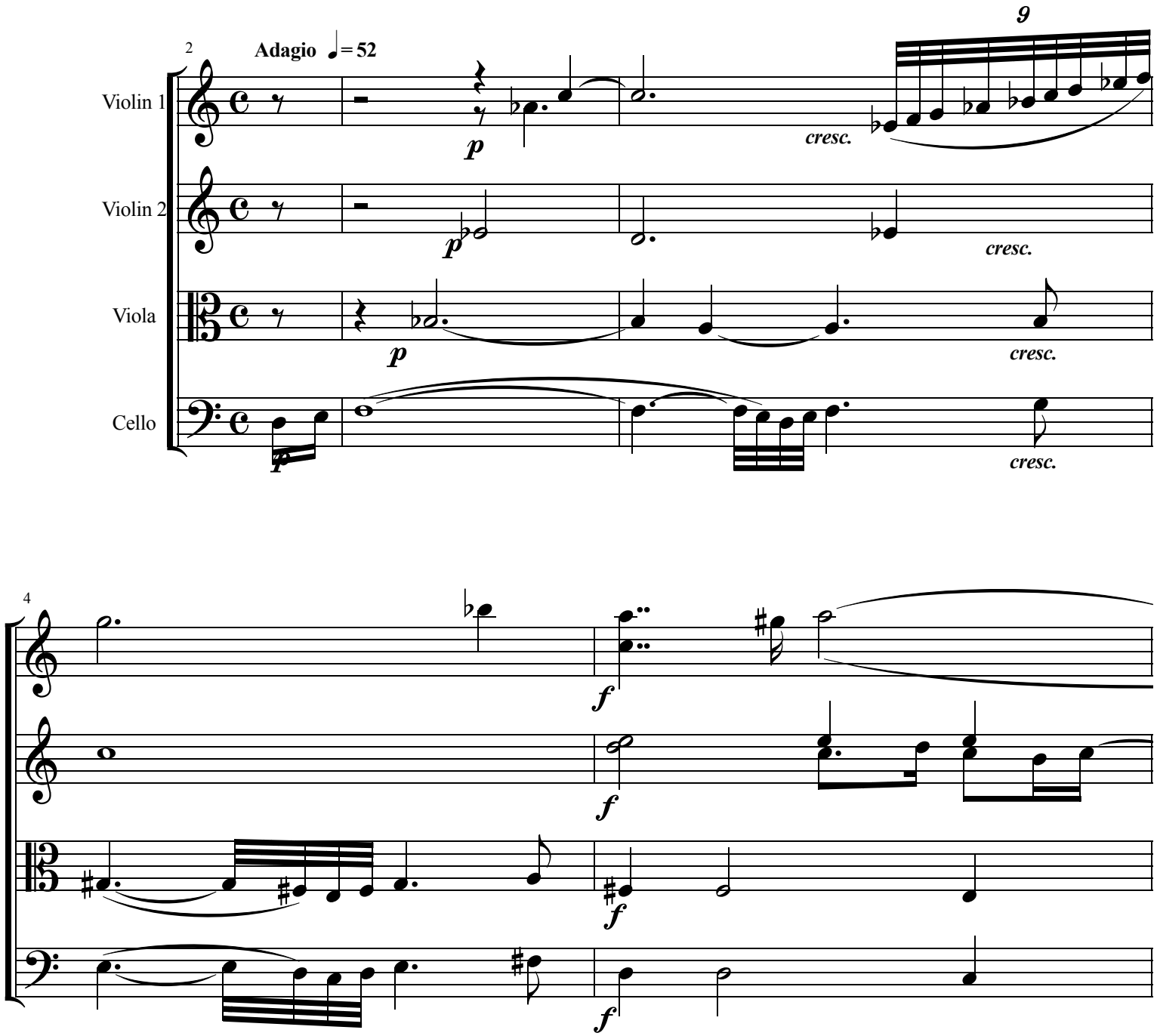

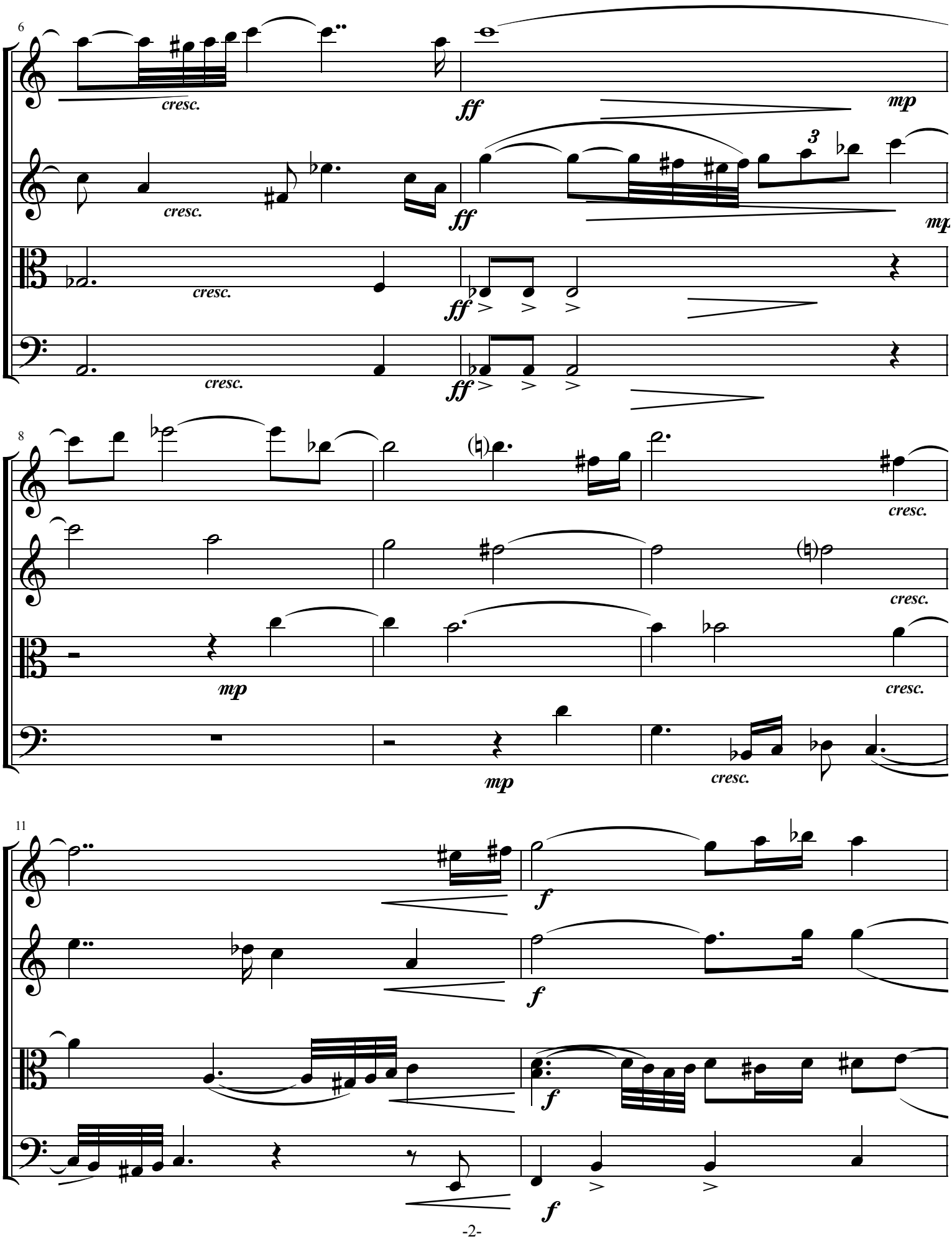
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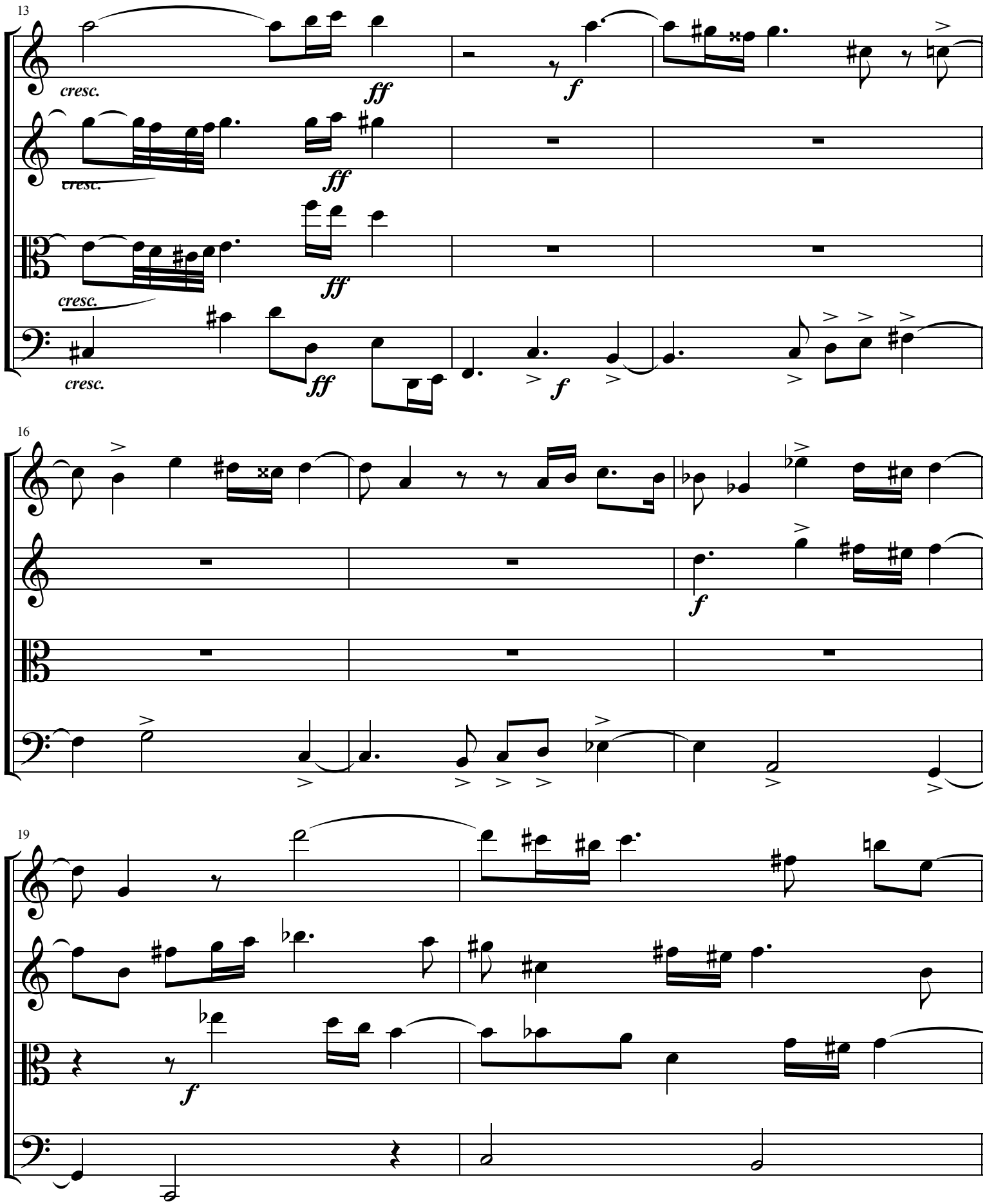
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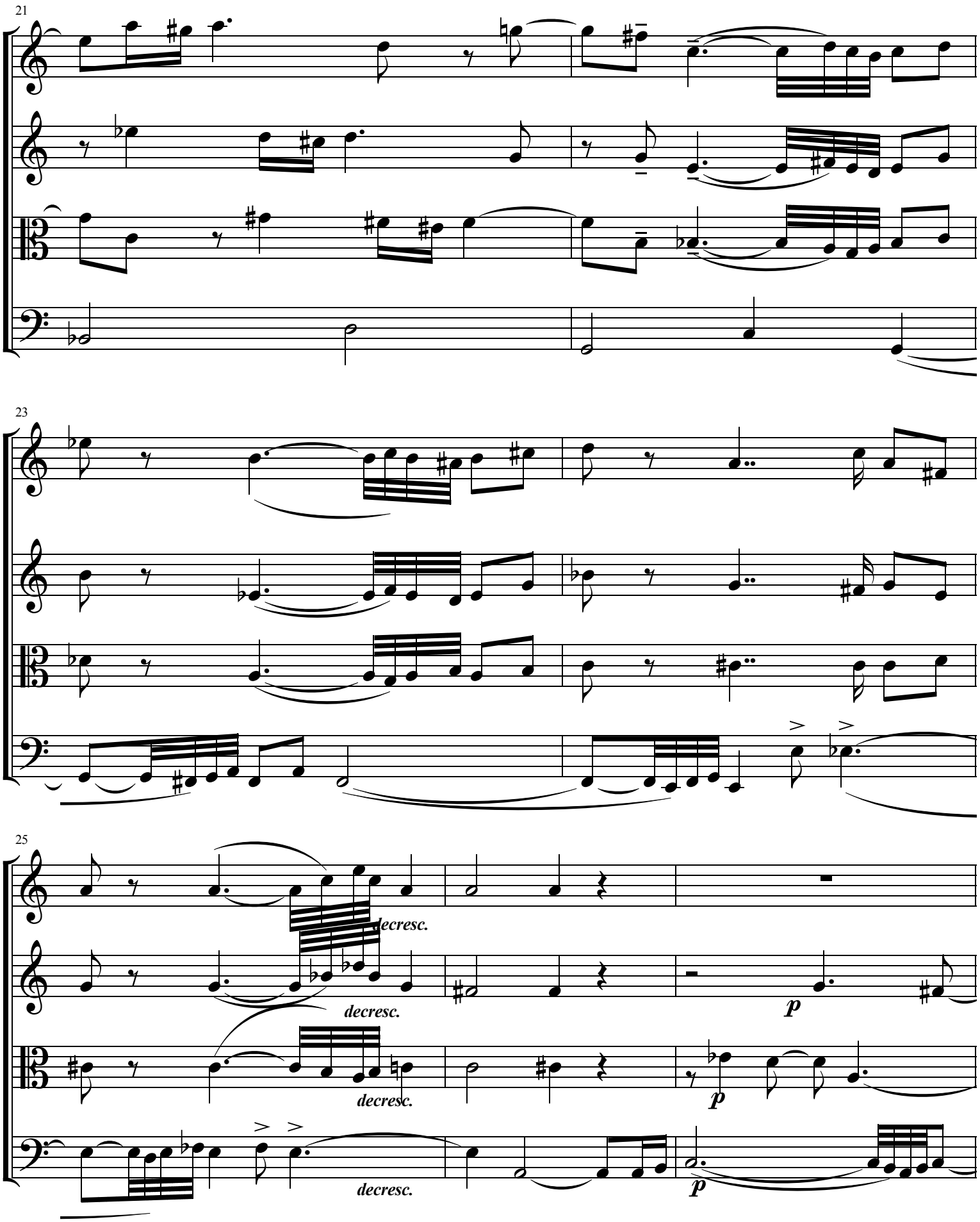
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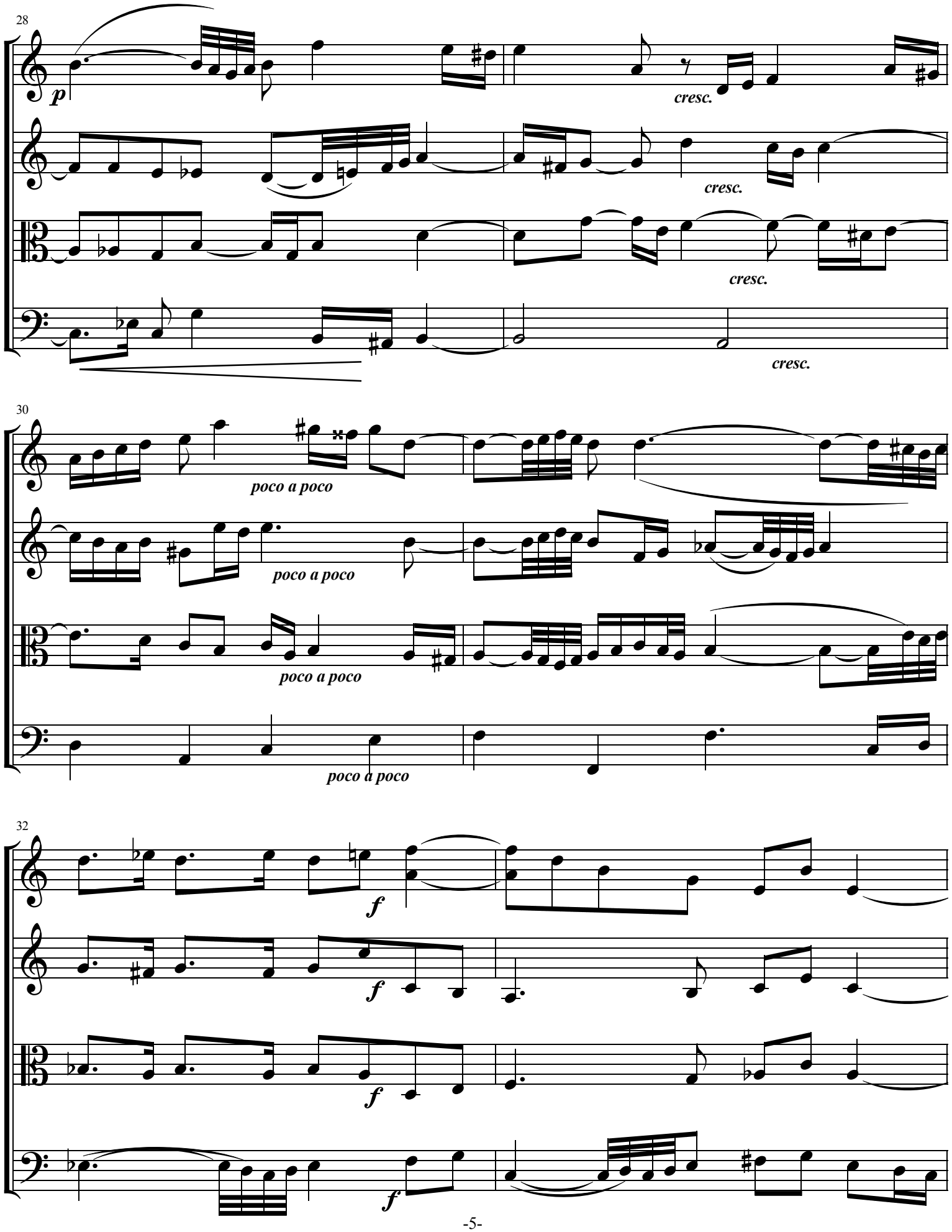
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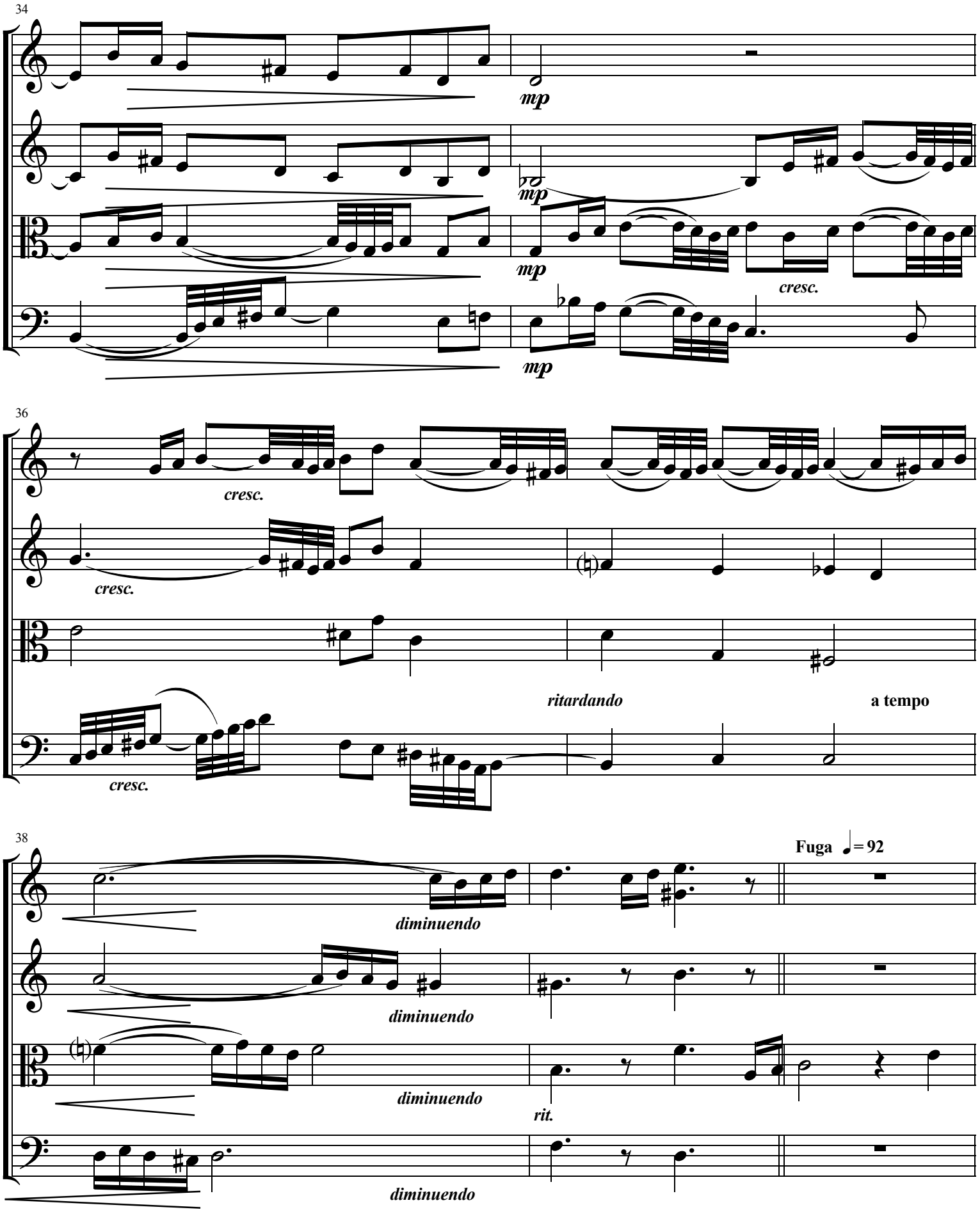
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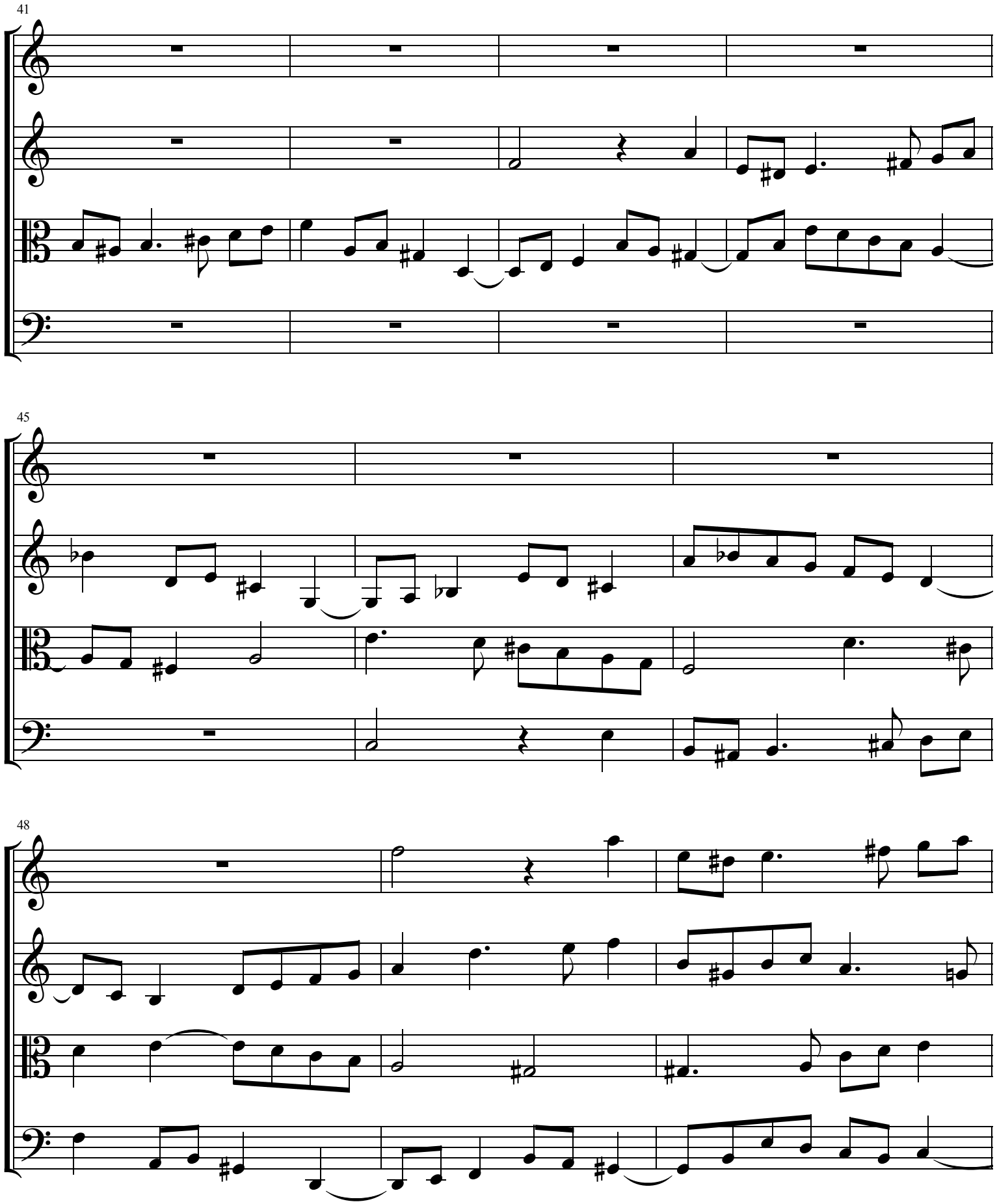
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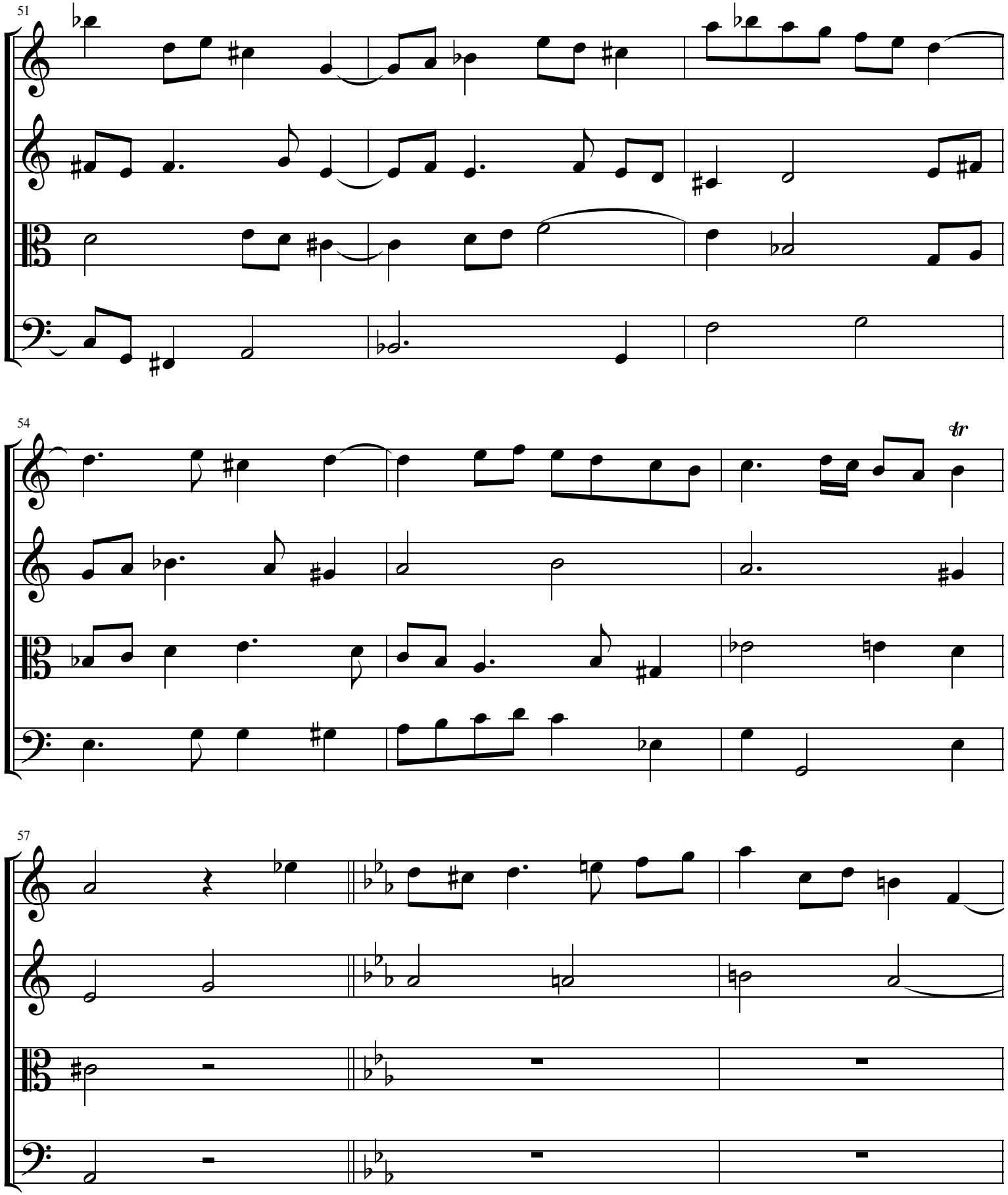
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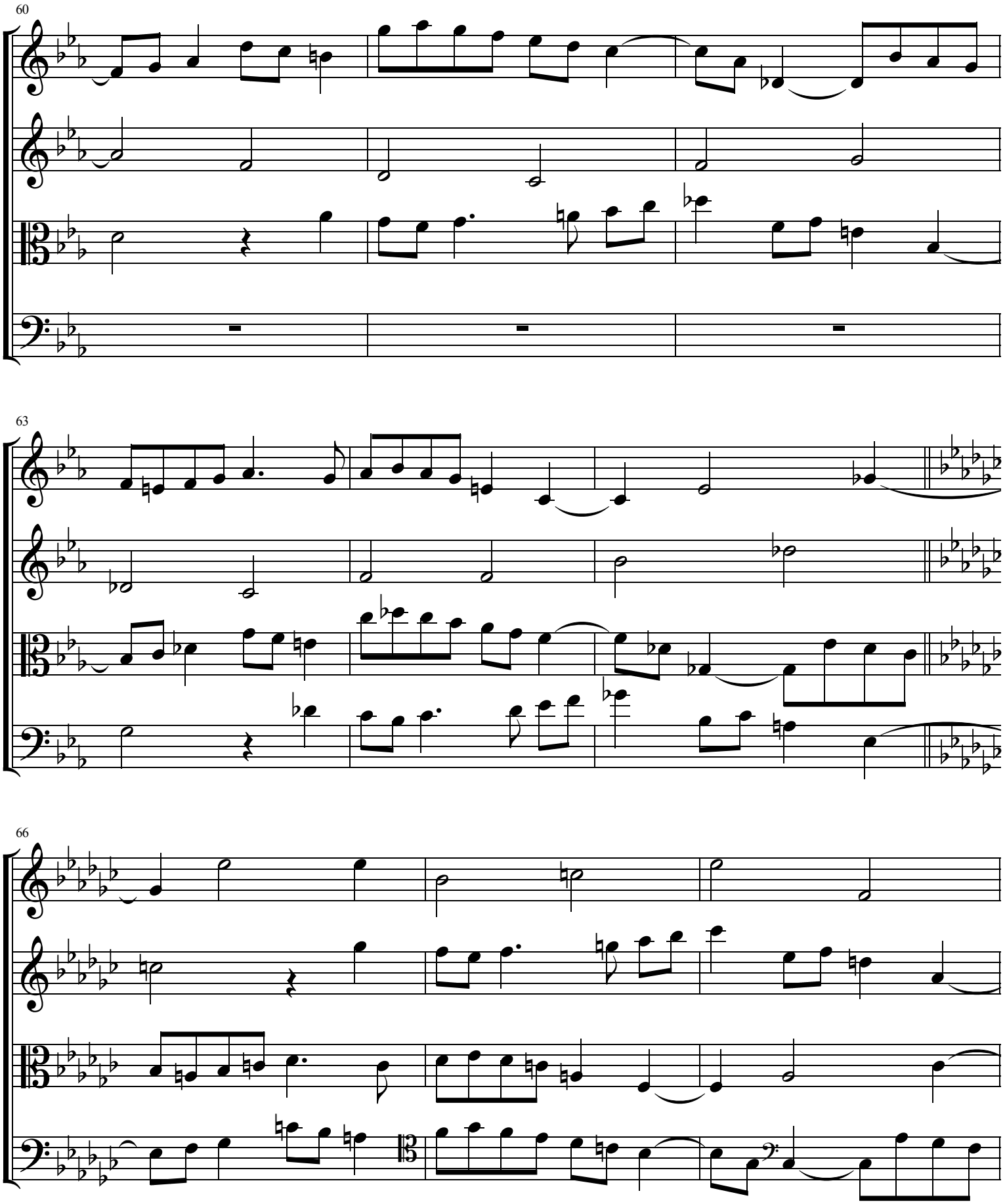
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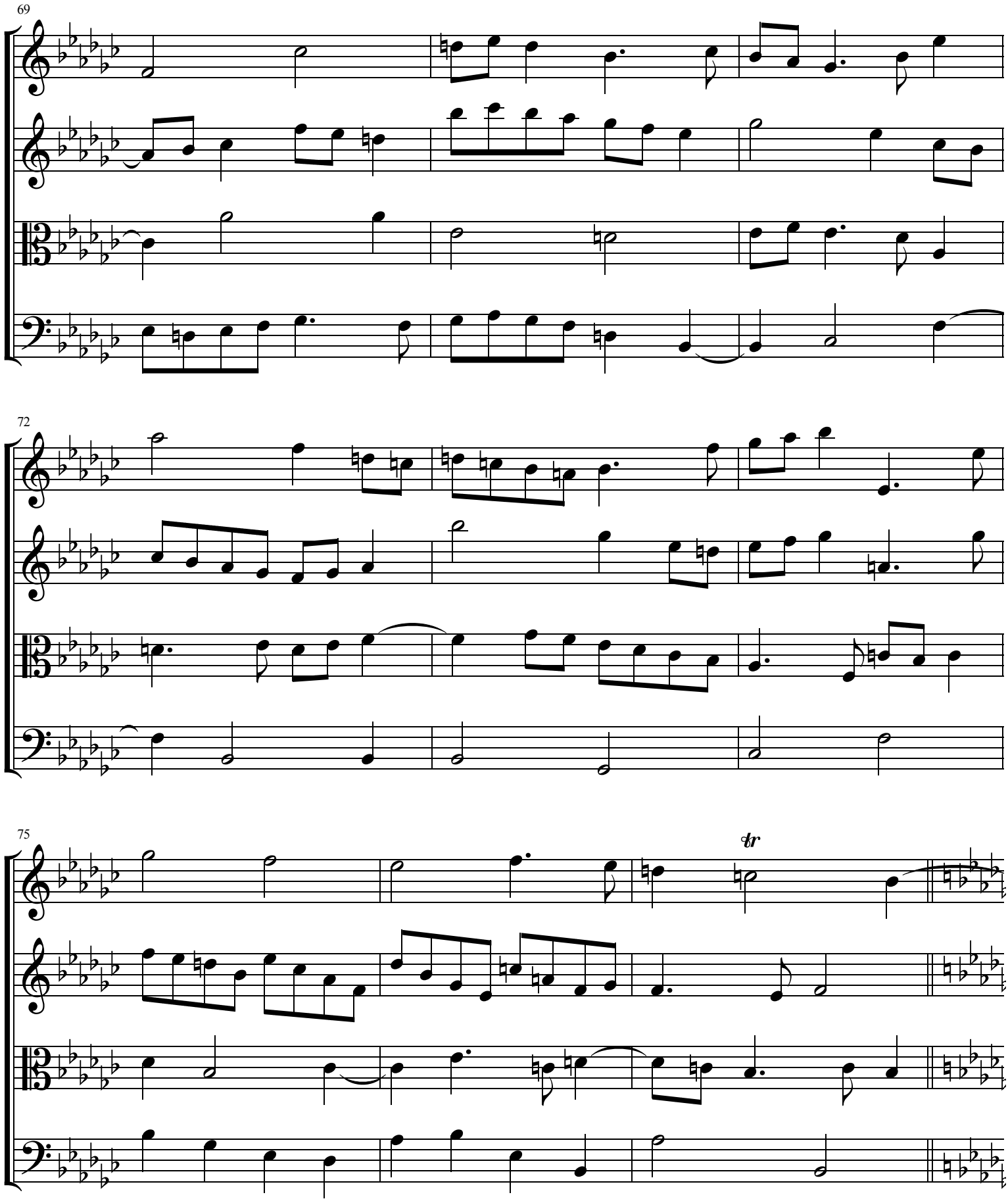
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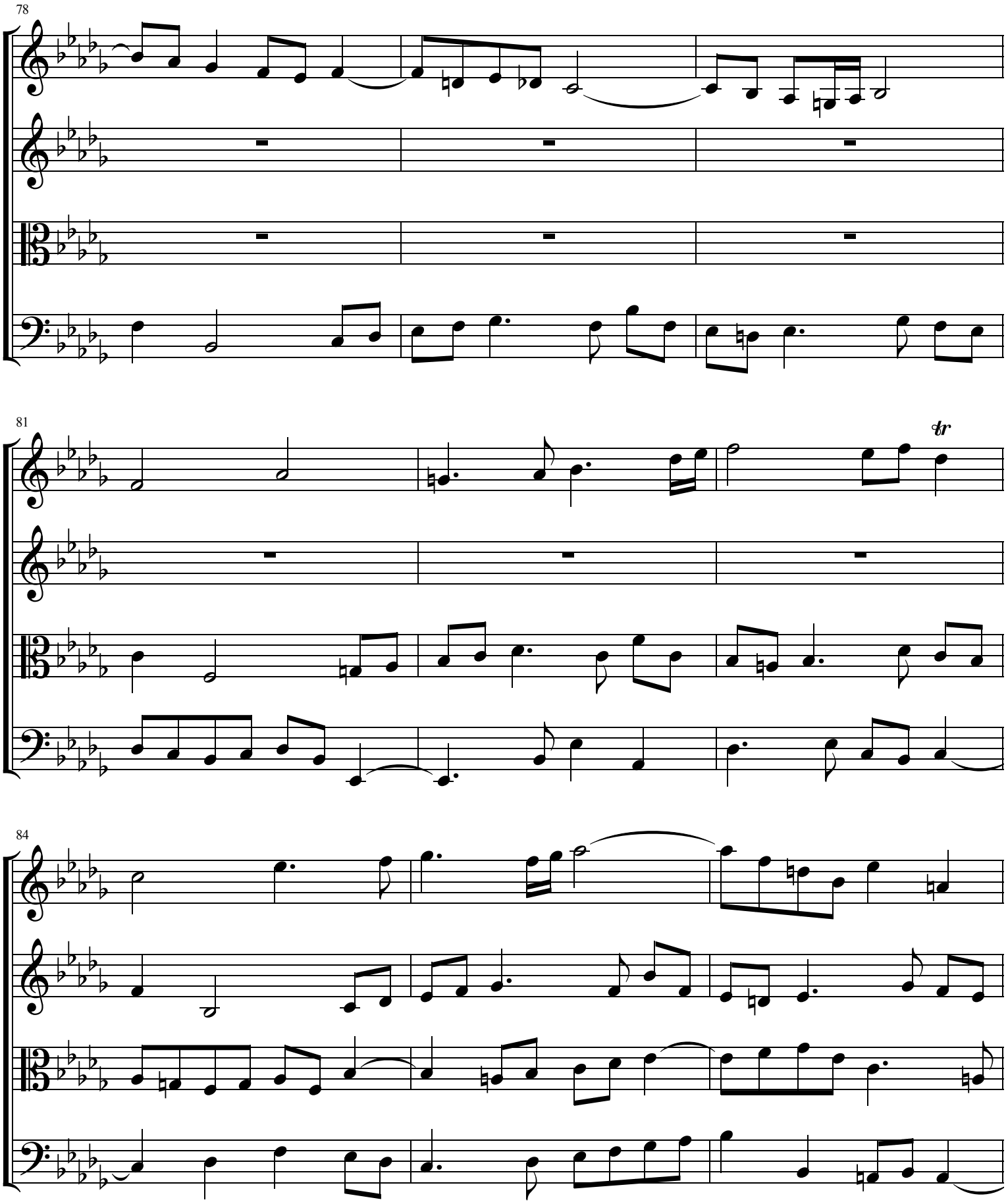
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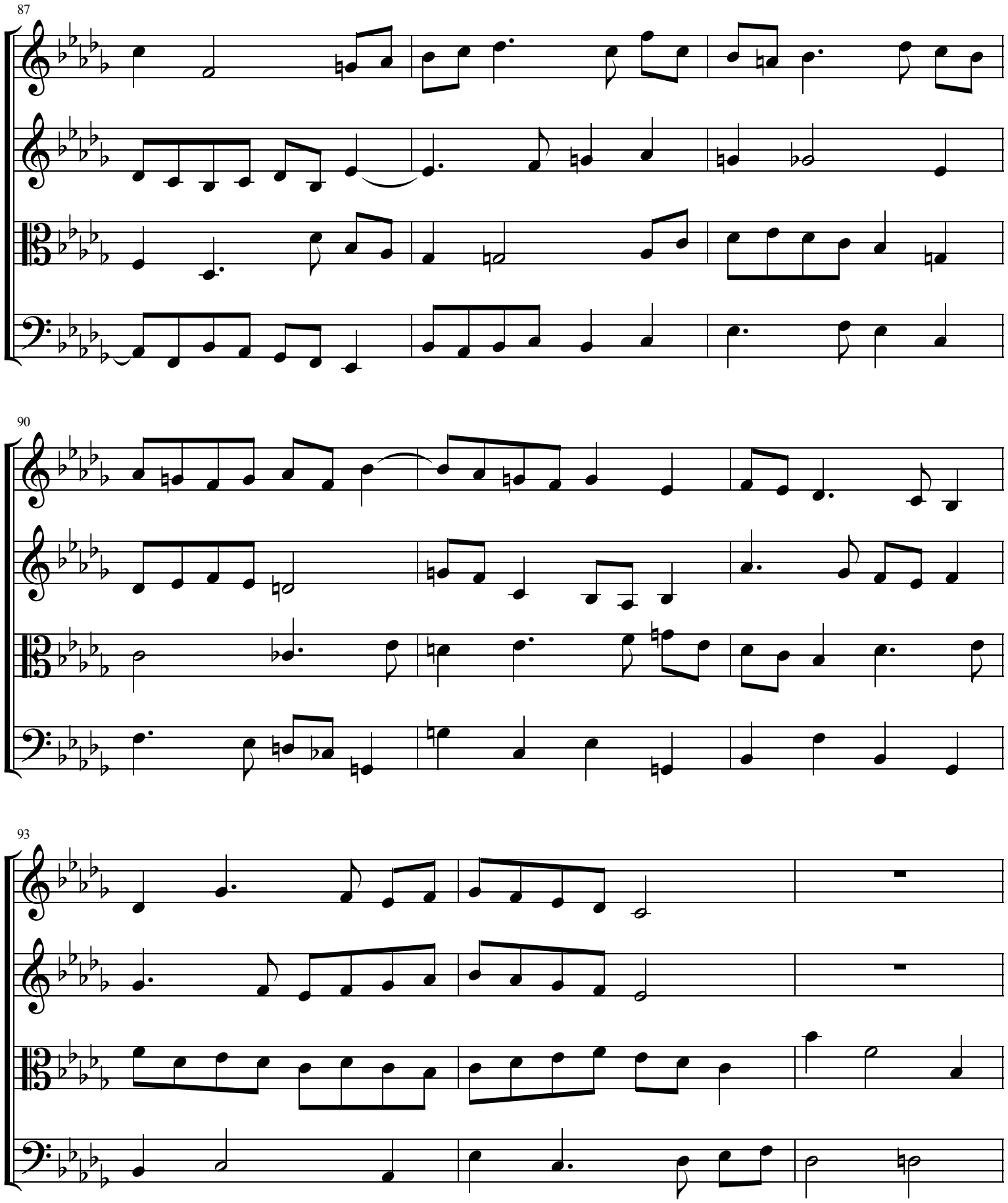
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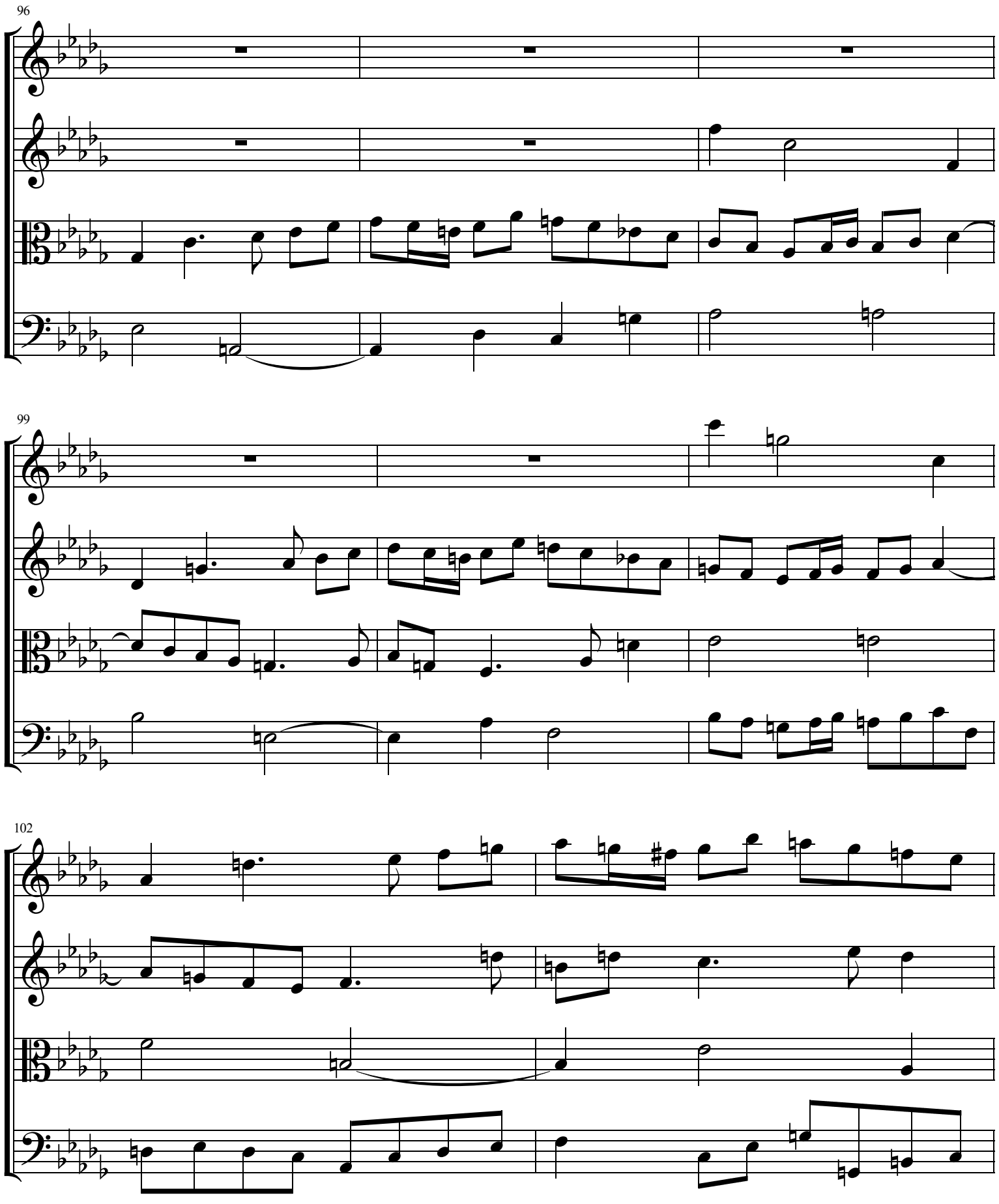
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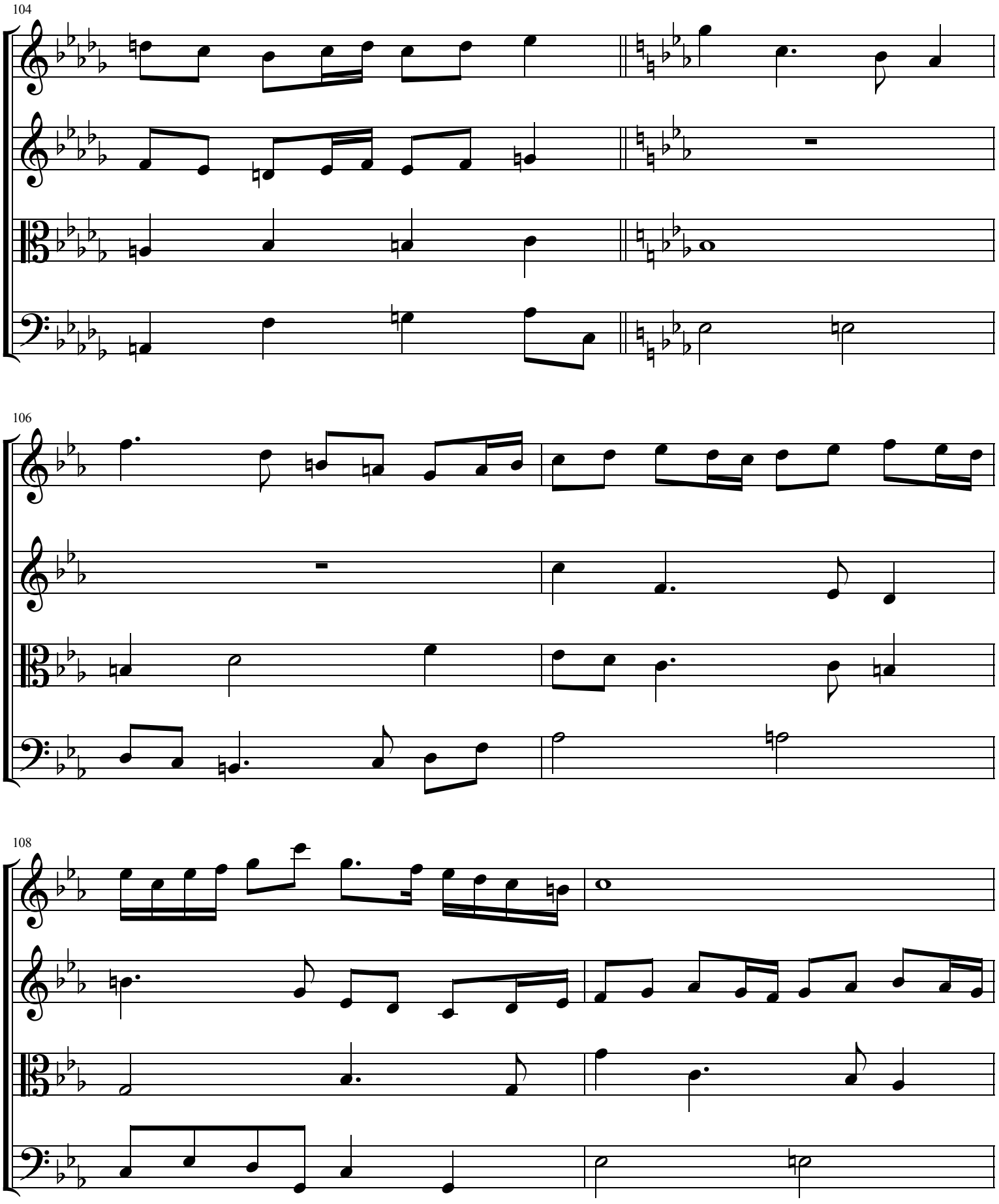
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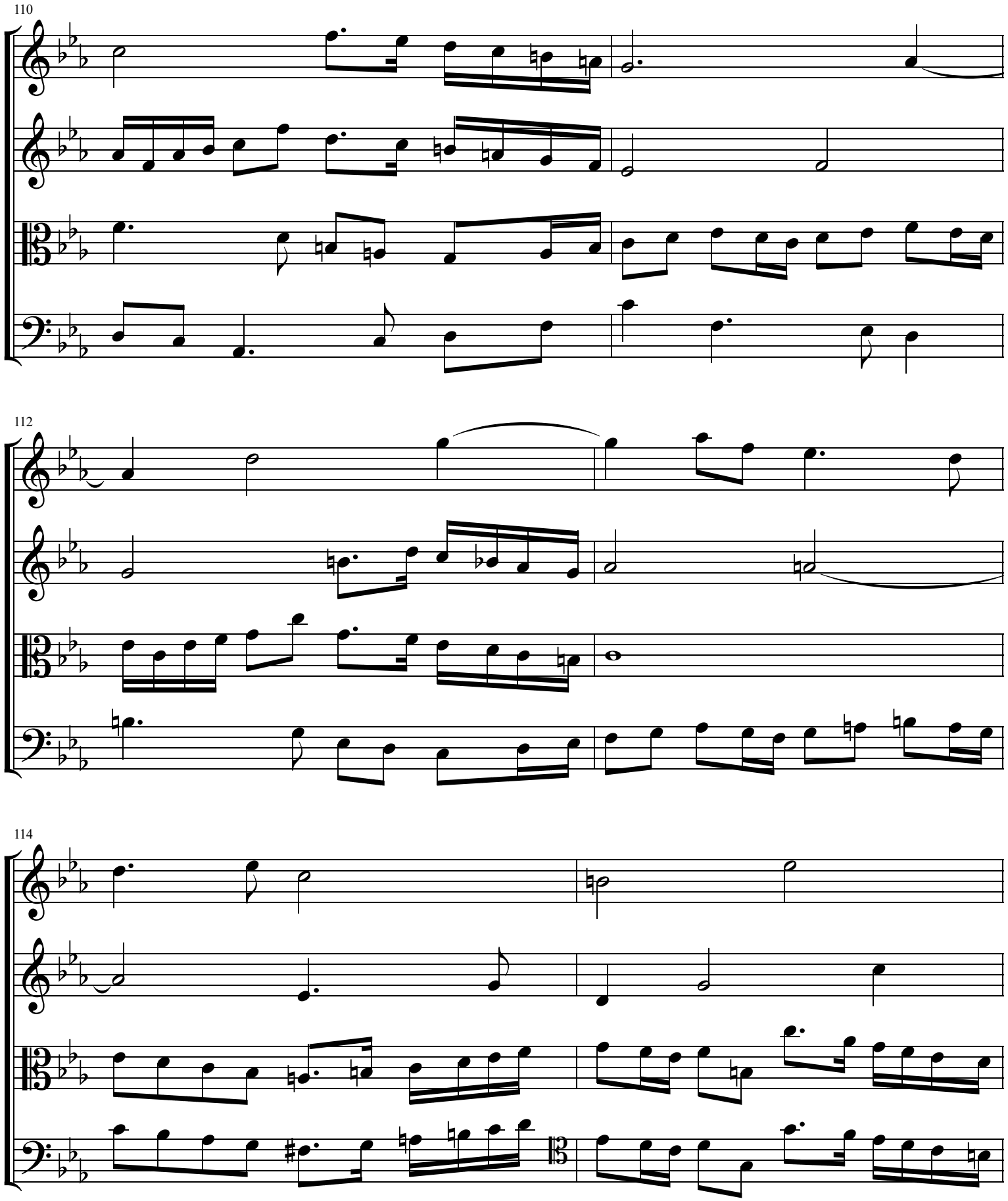
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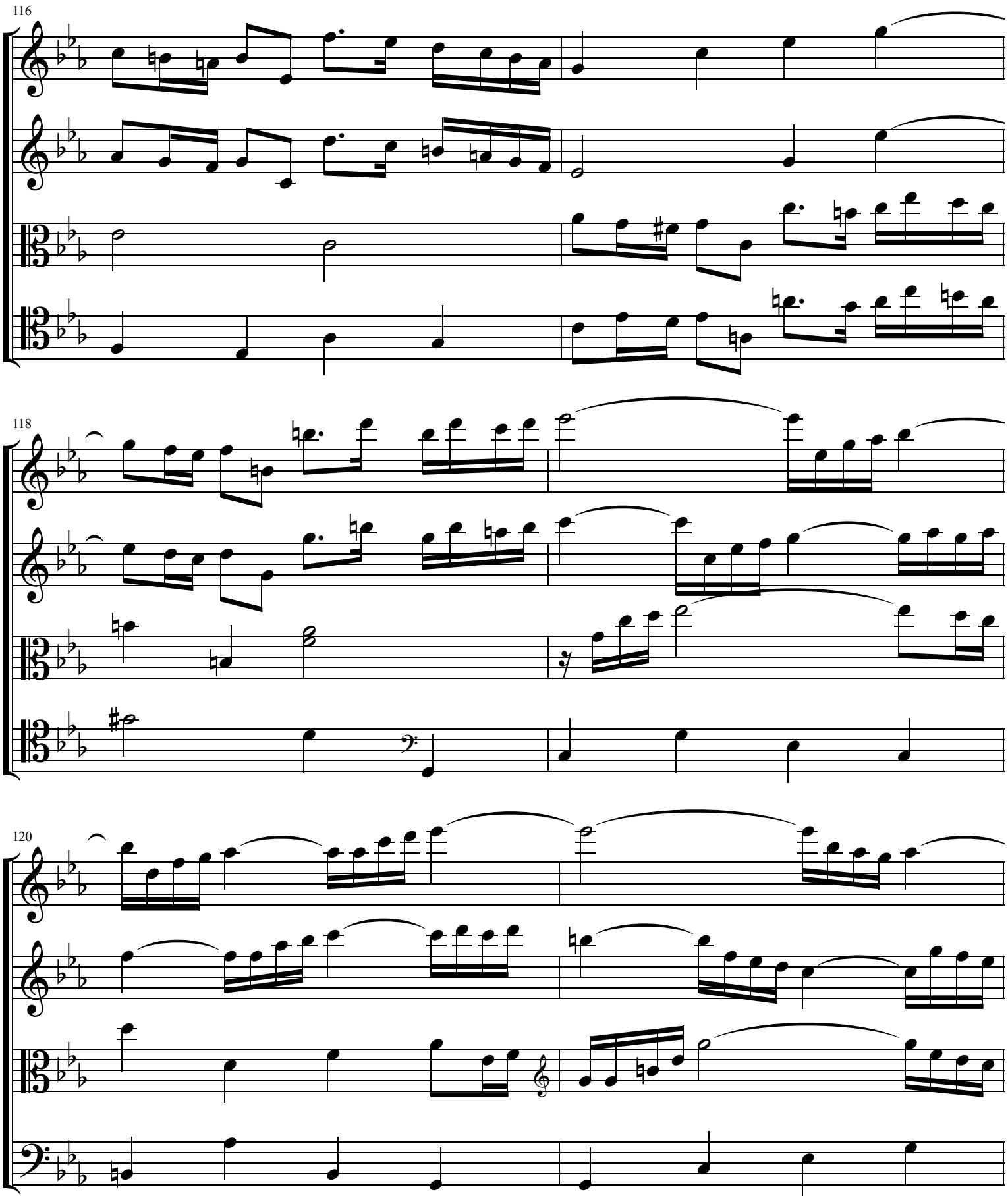
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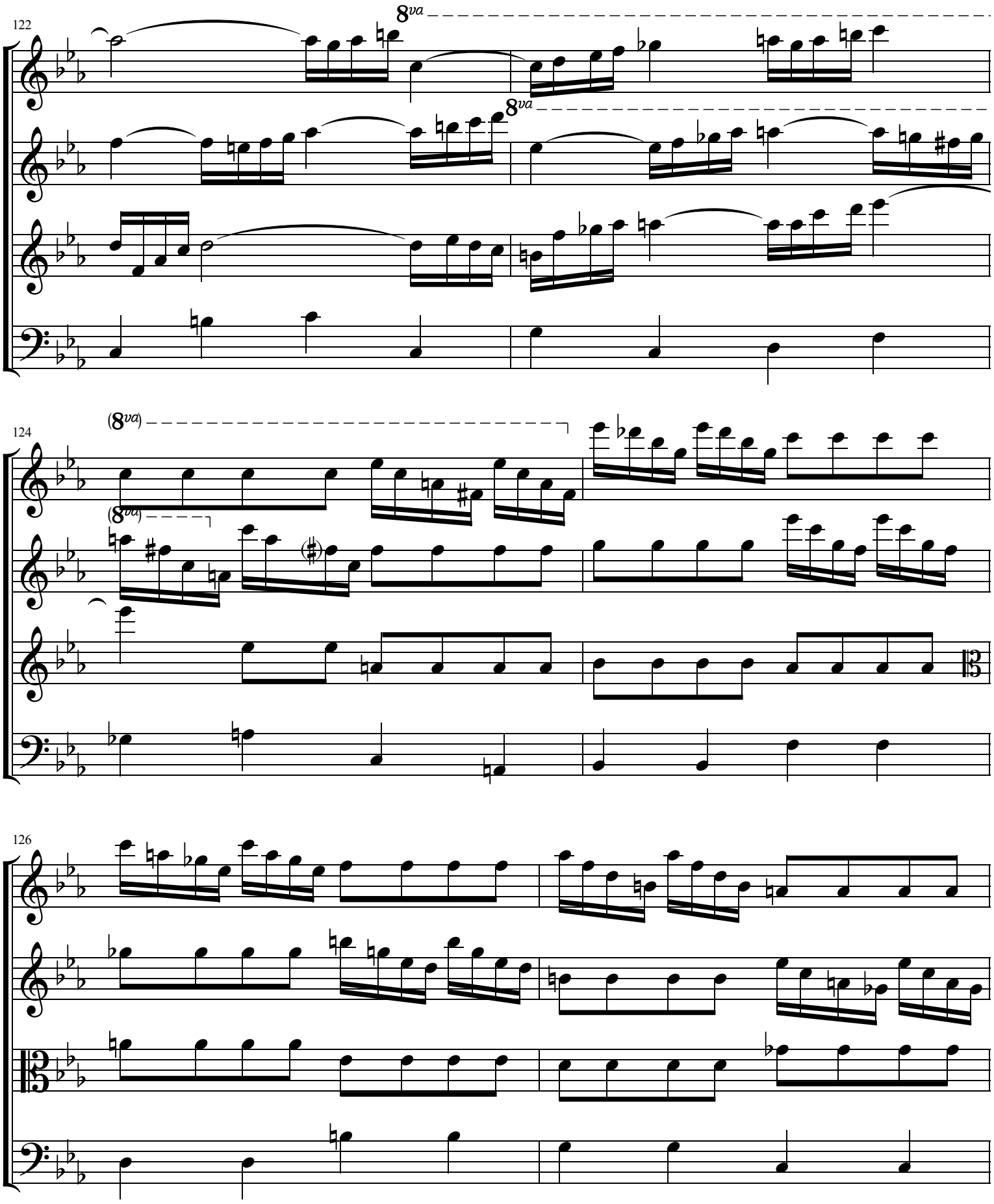
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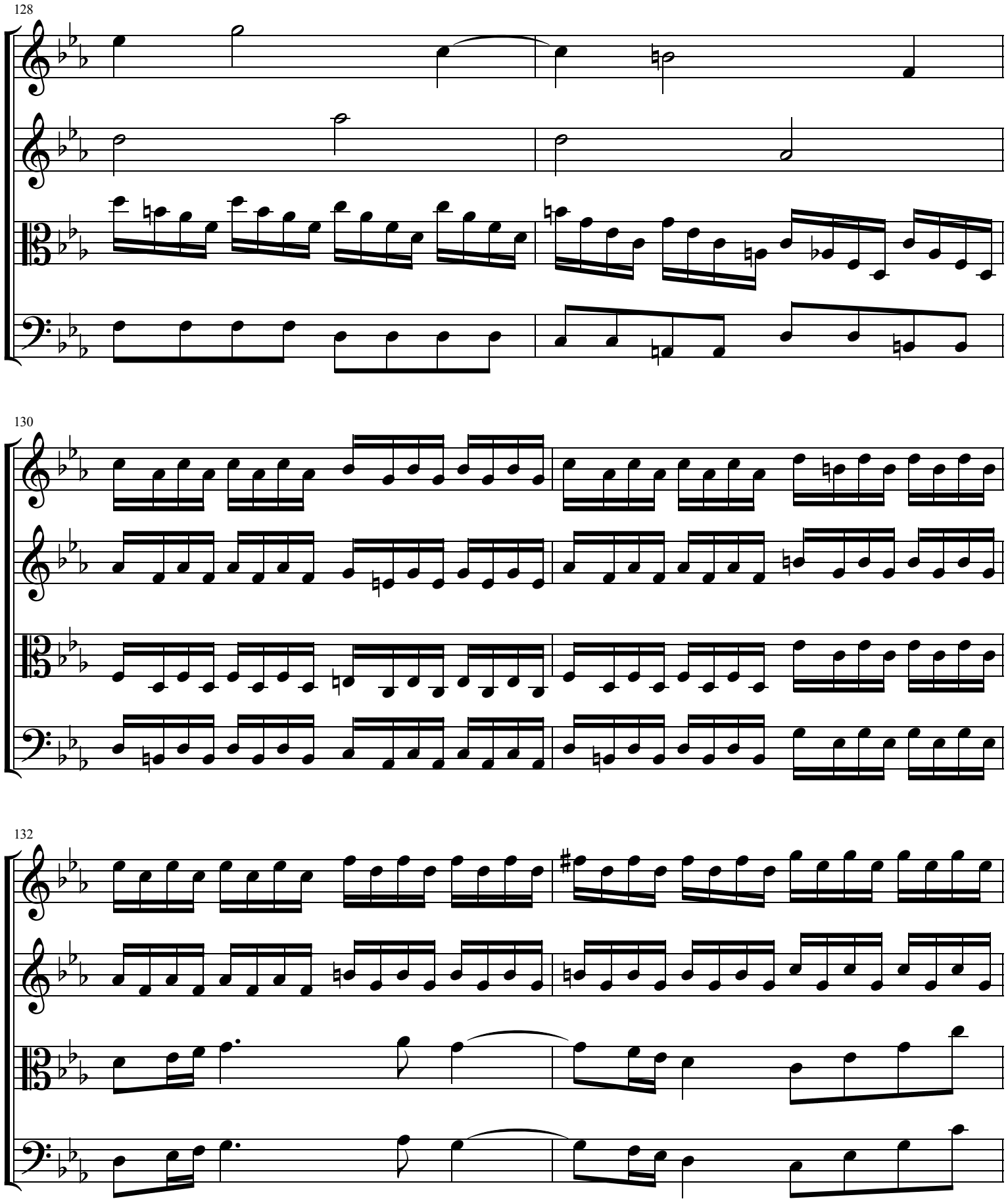
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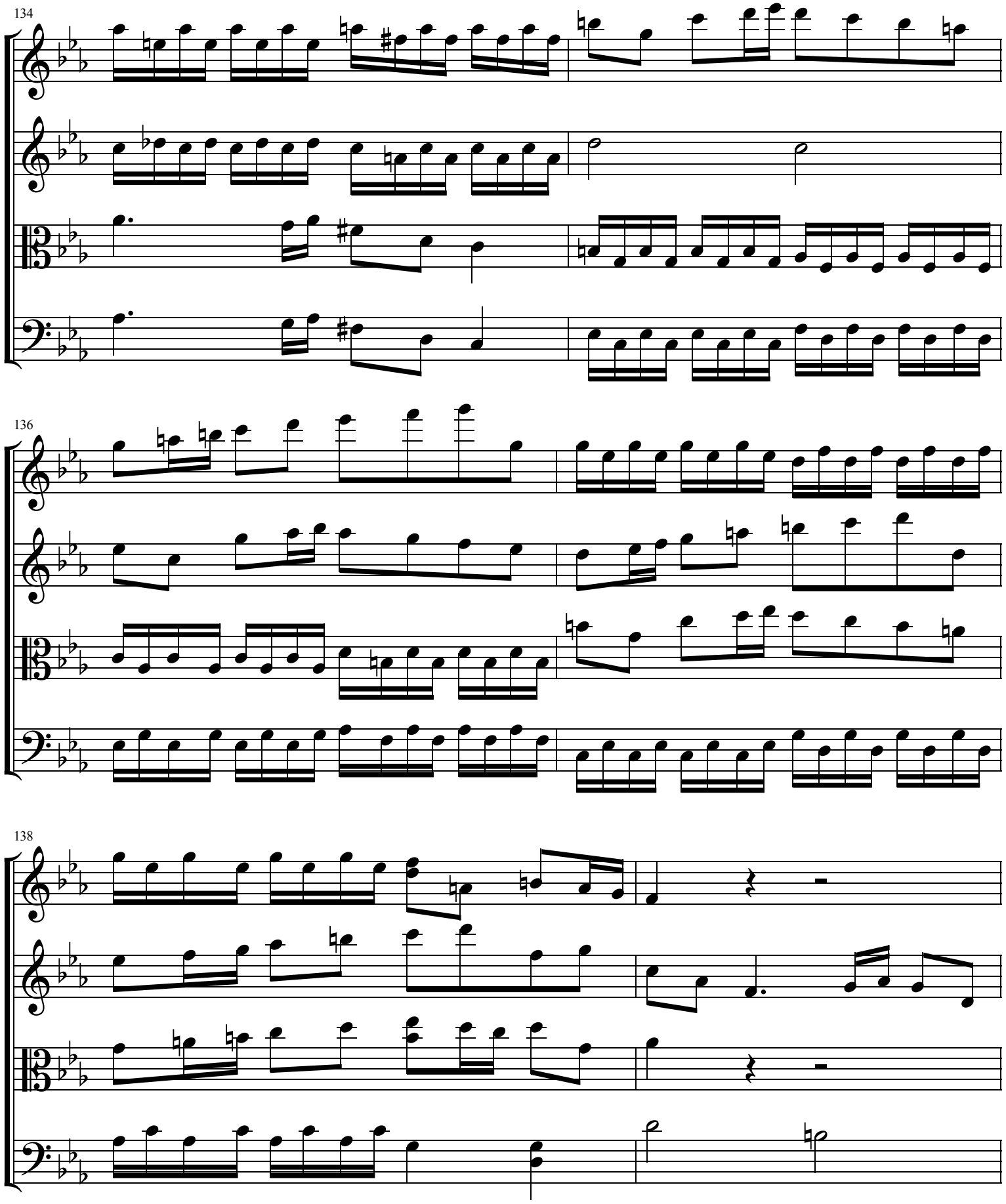
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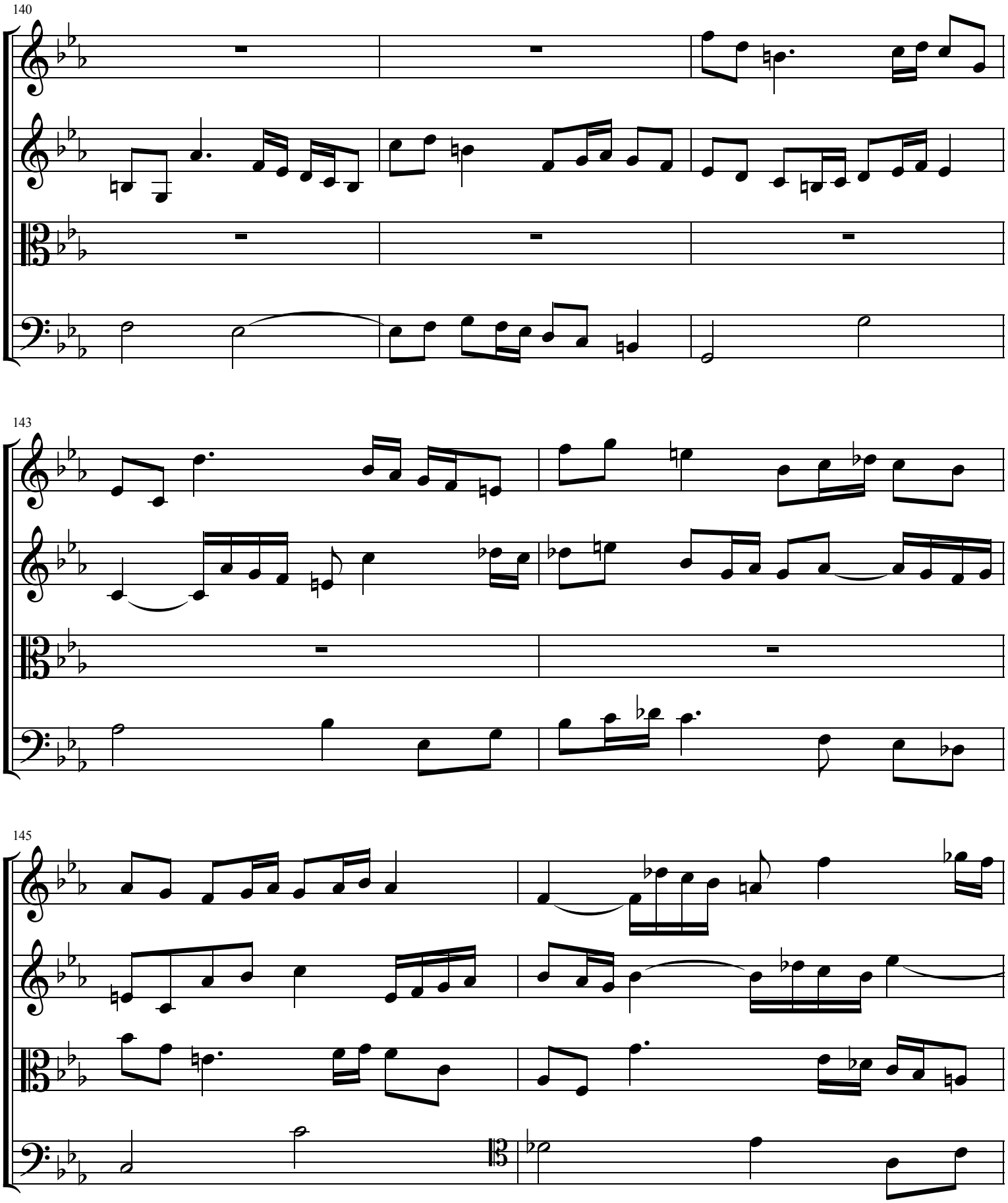
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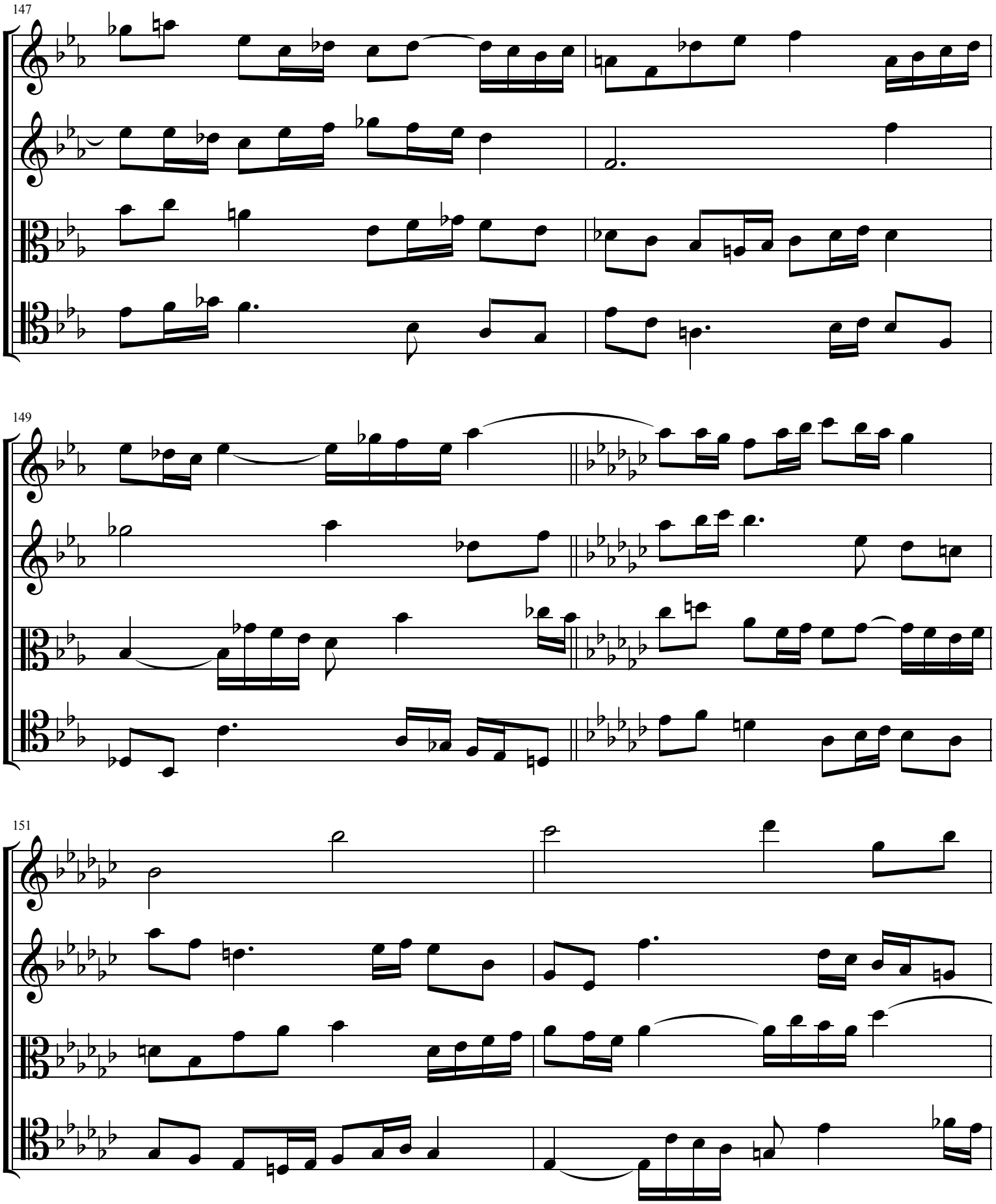
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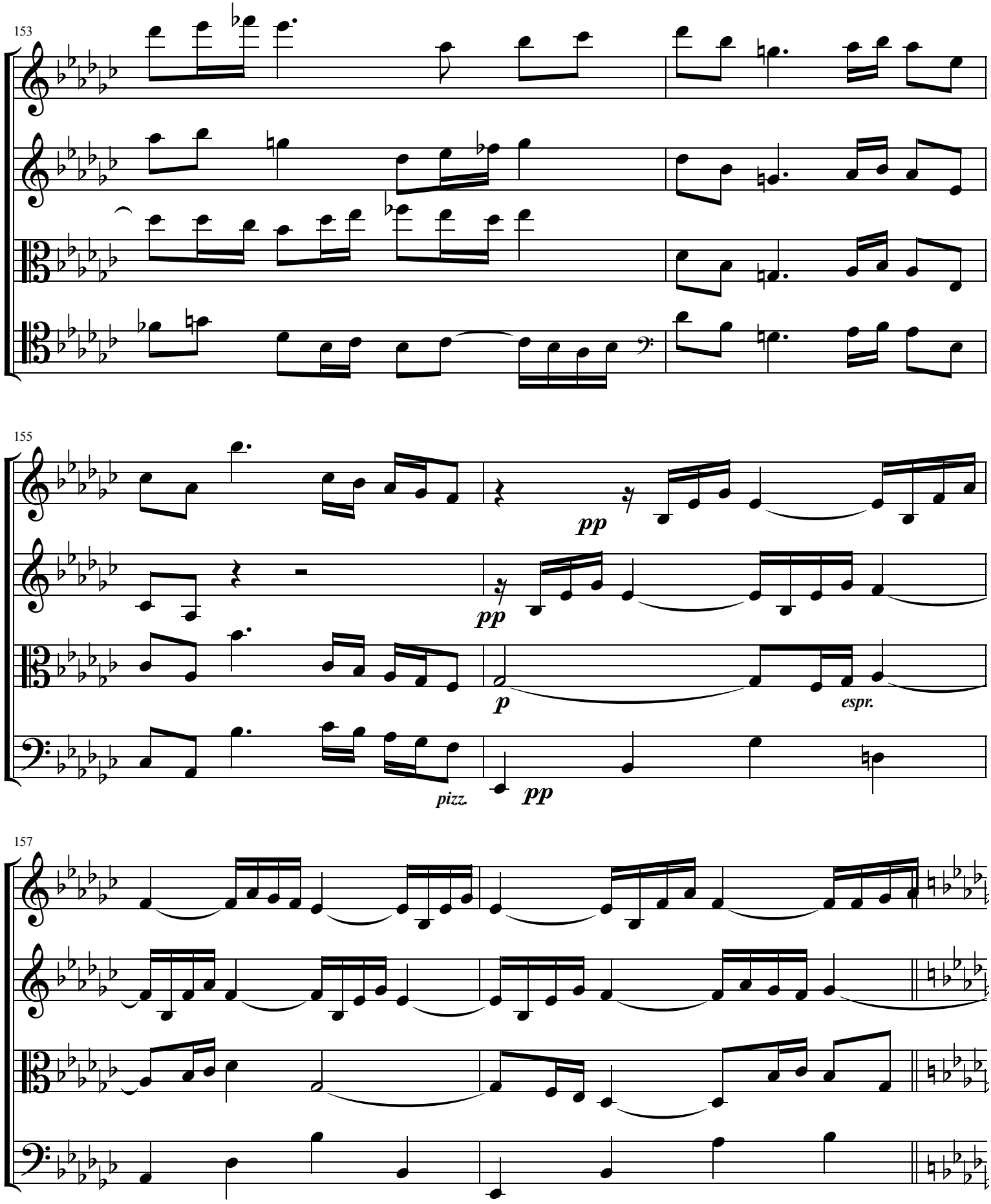
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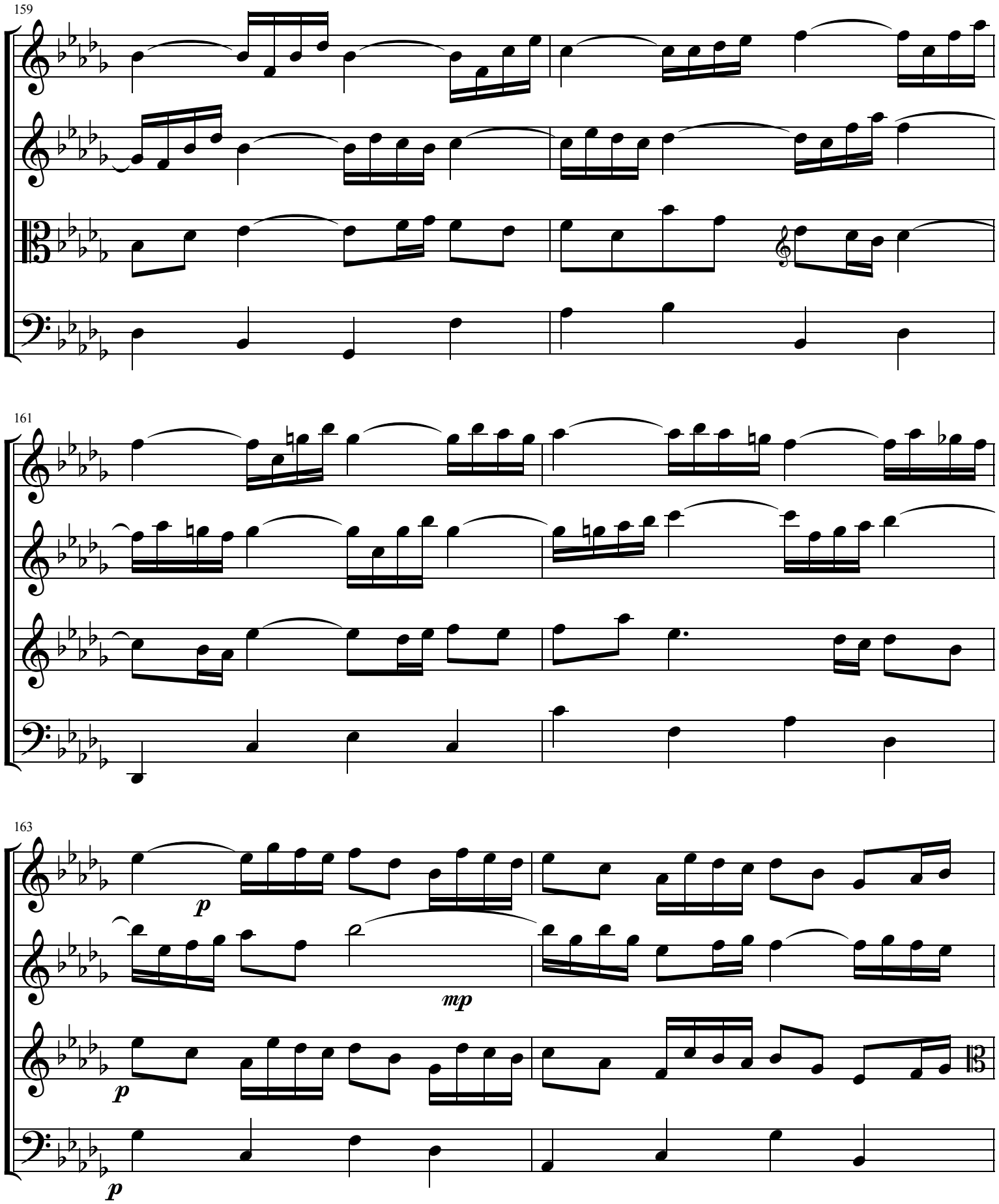
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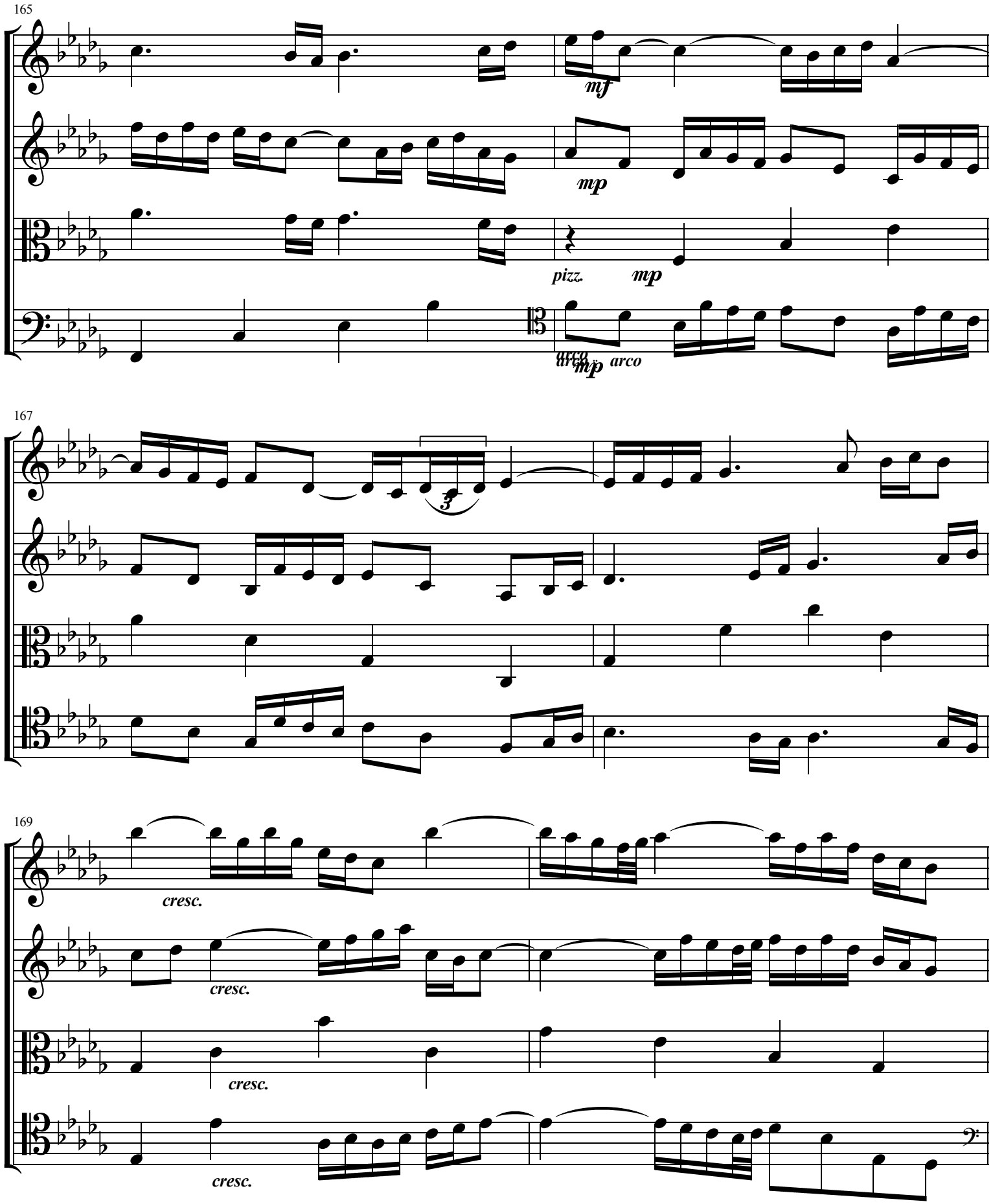
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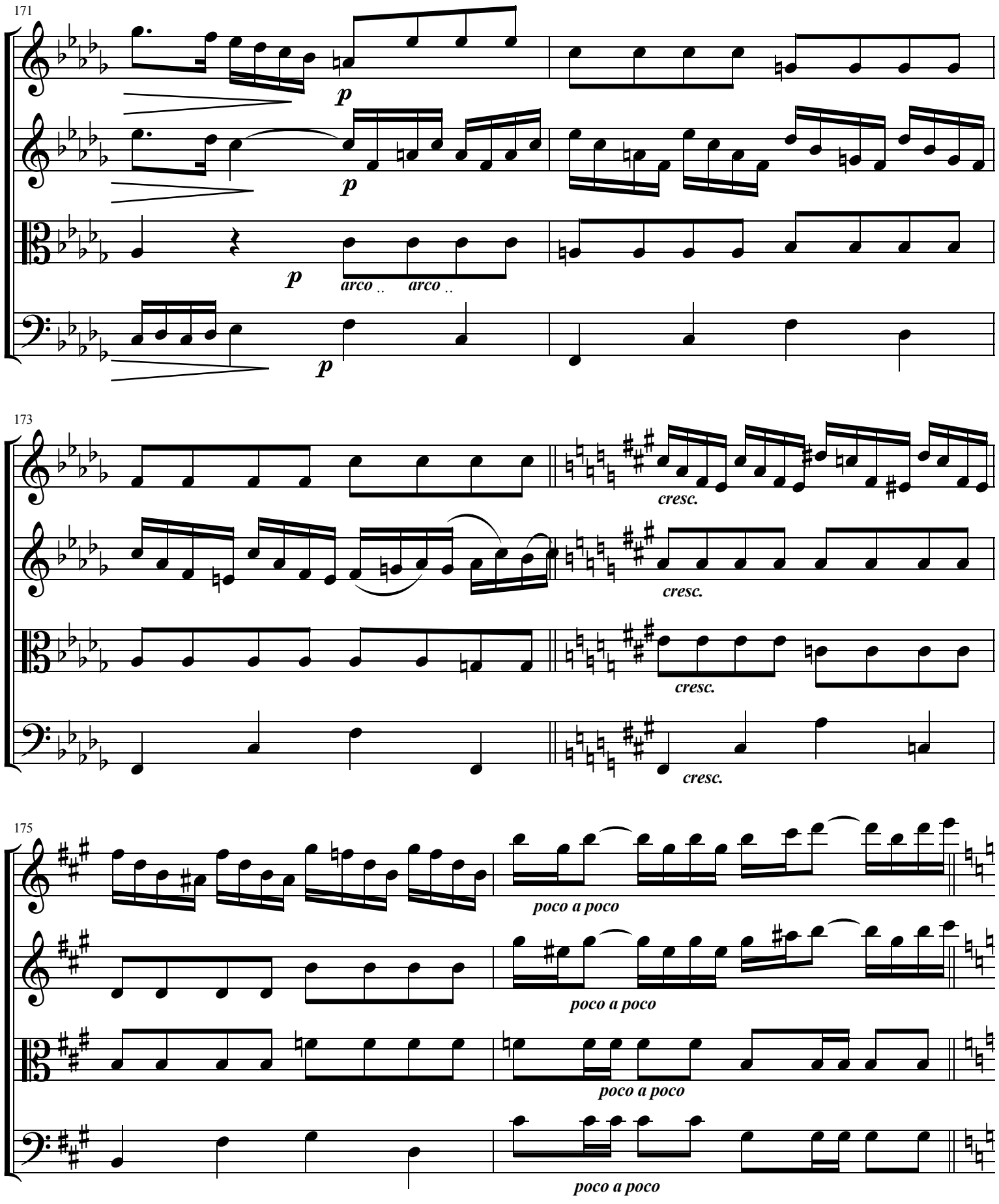
cresc.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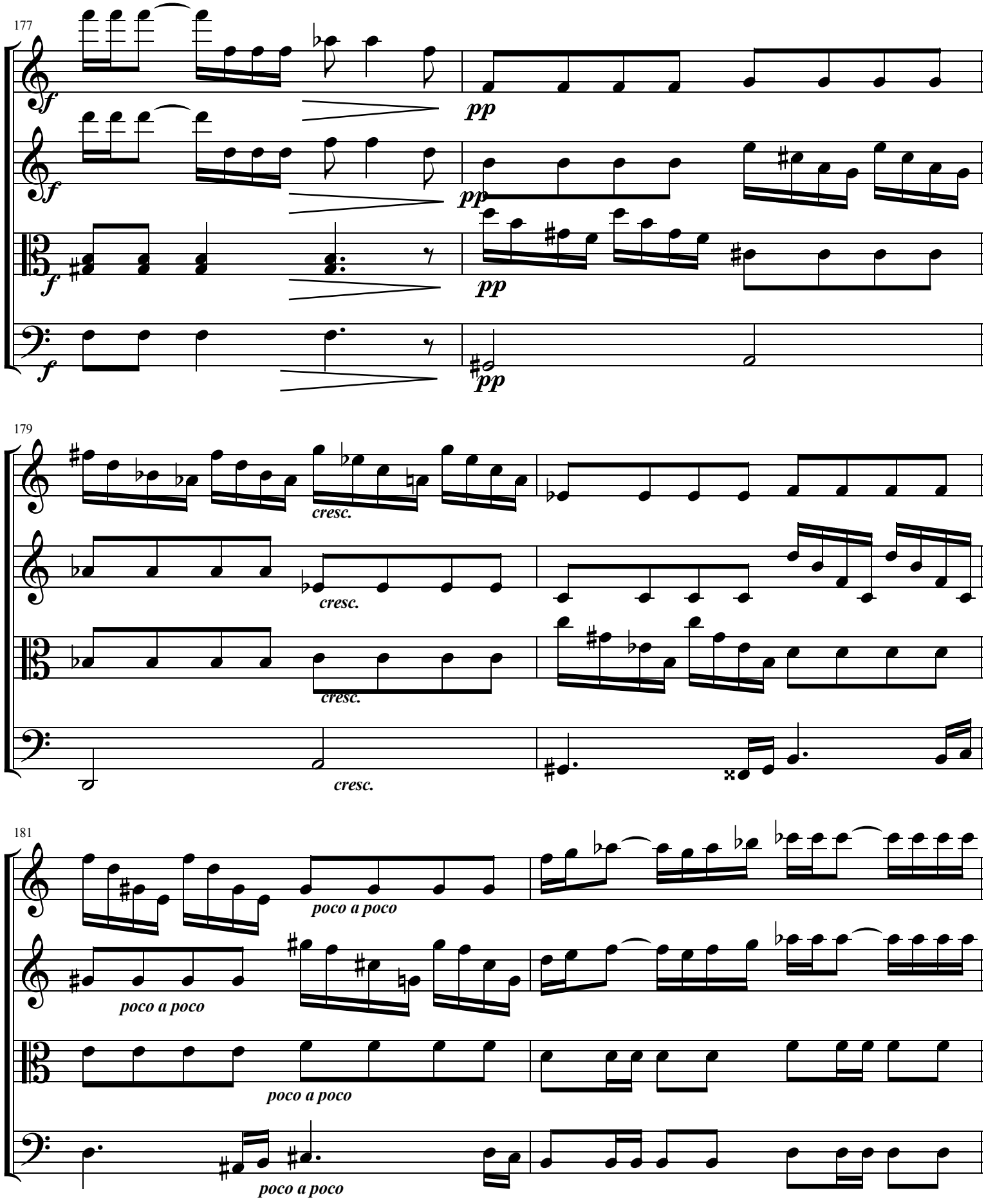
poco a poco
poco a poco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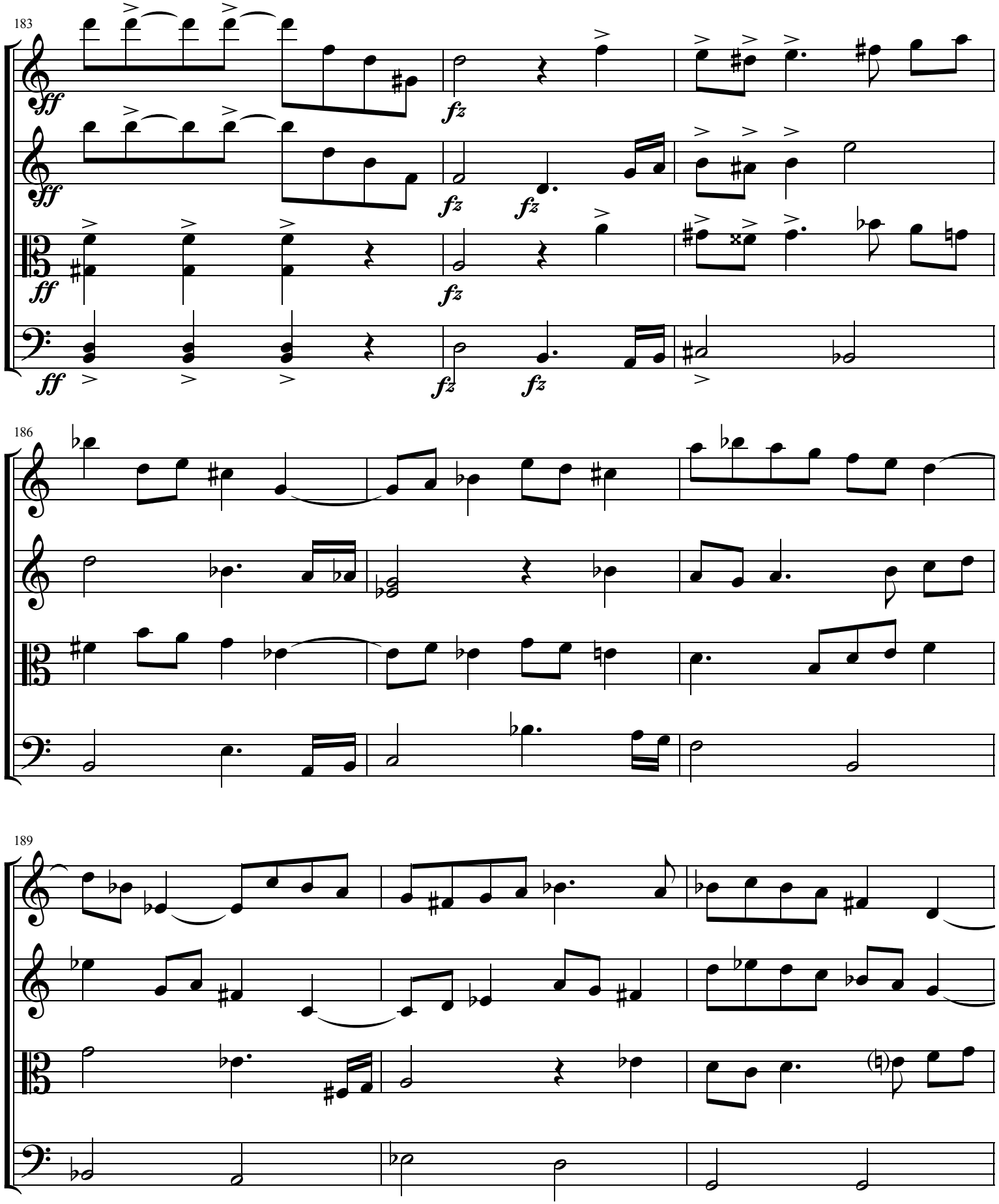
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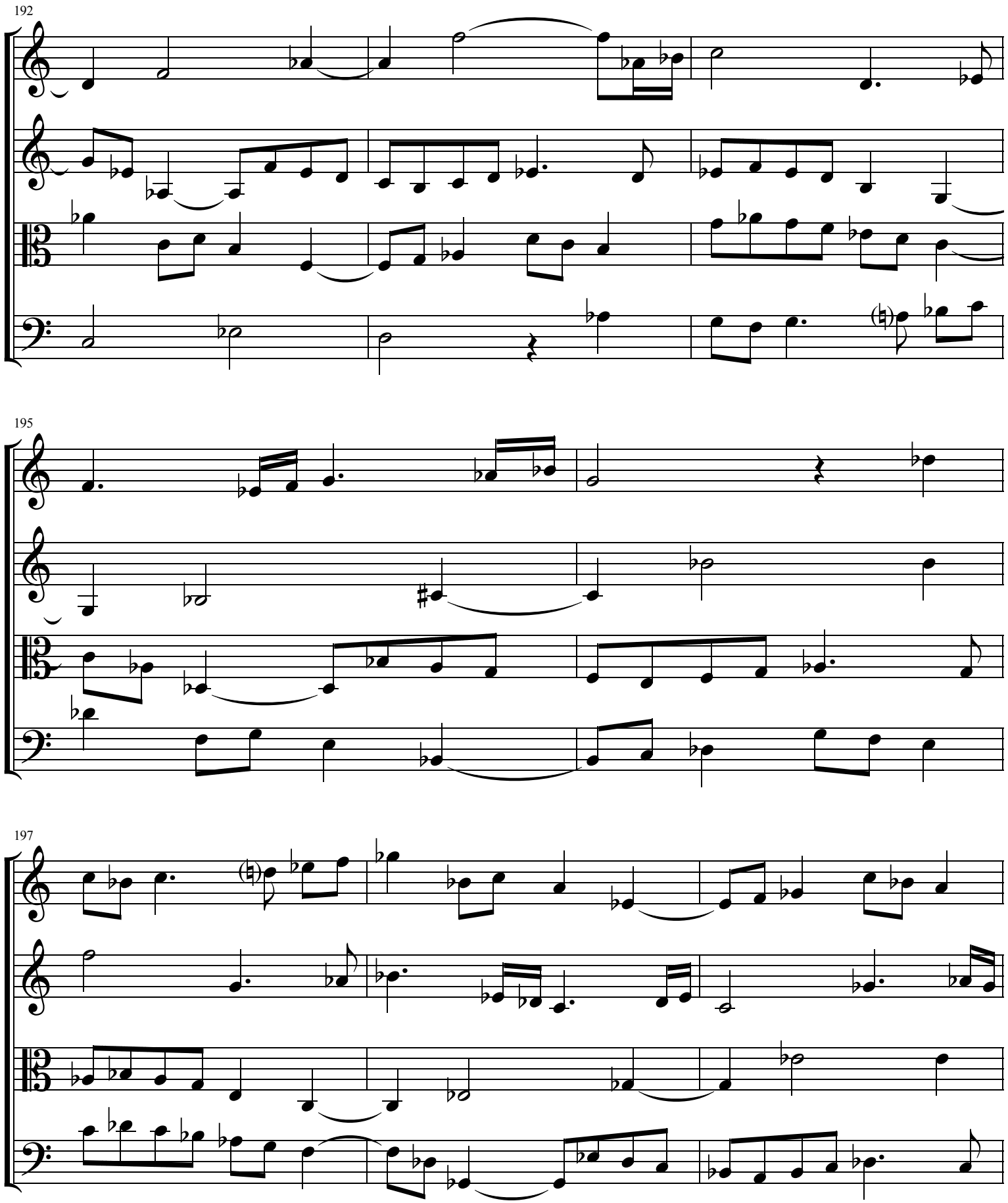
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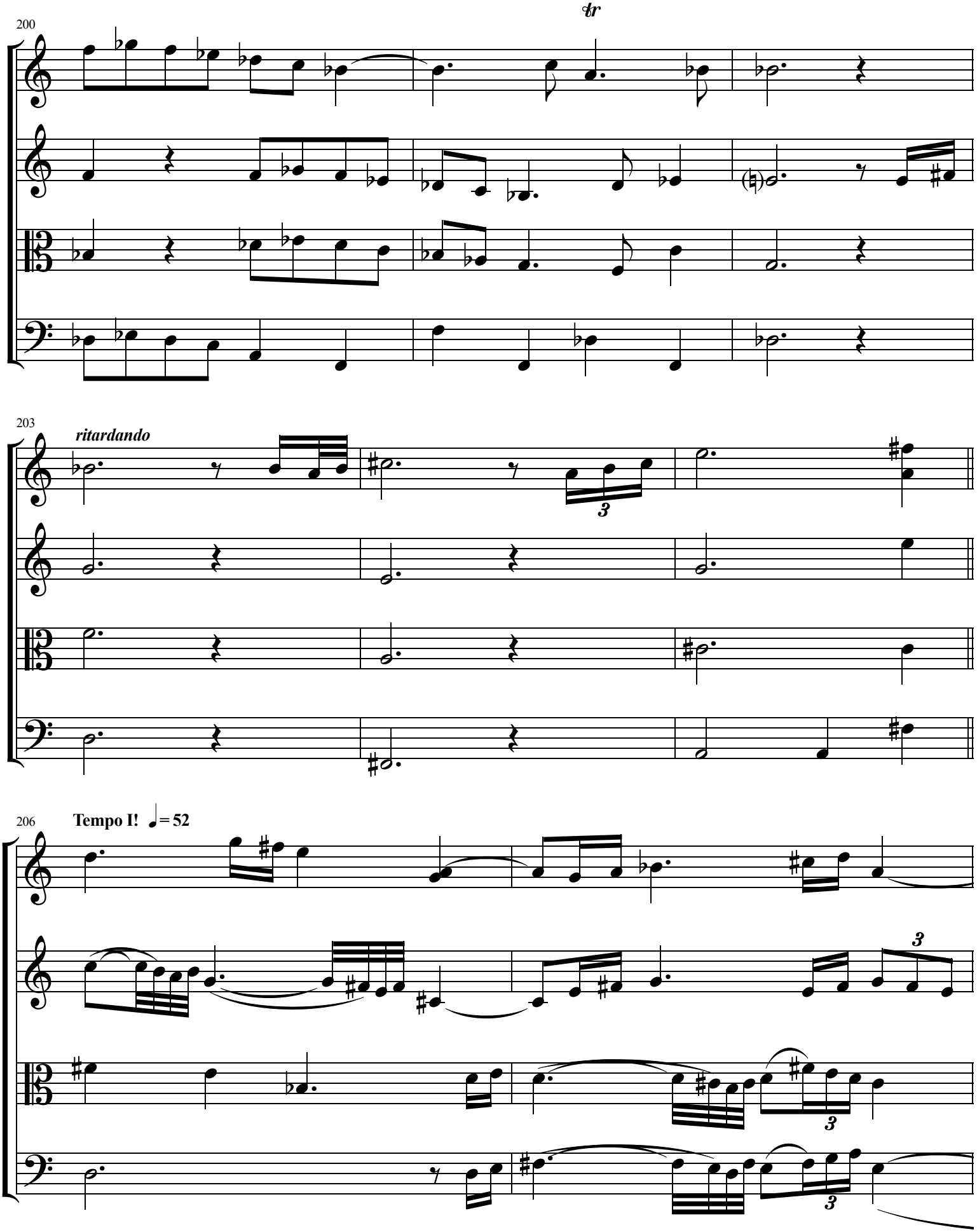
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206
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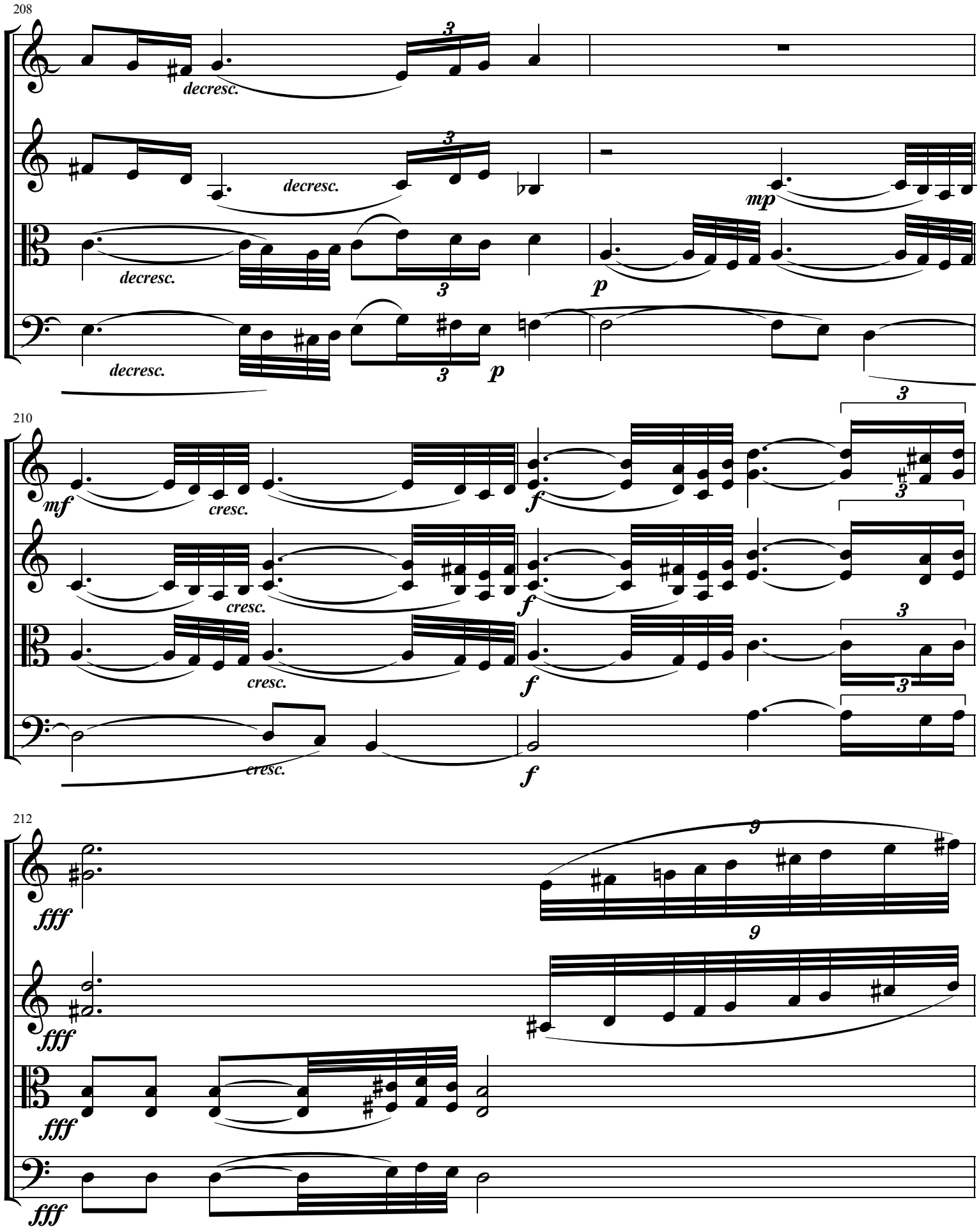
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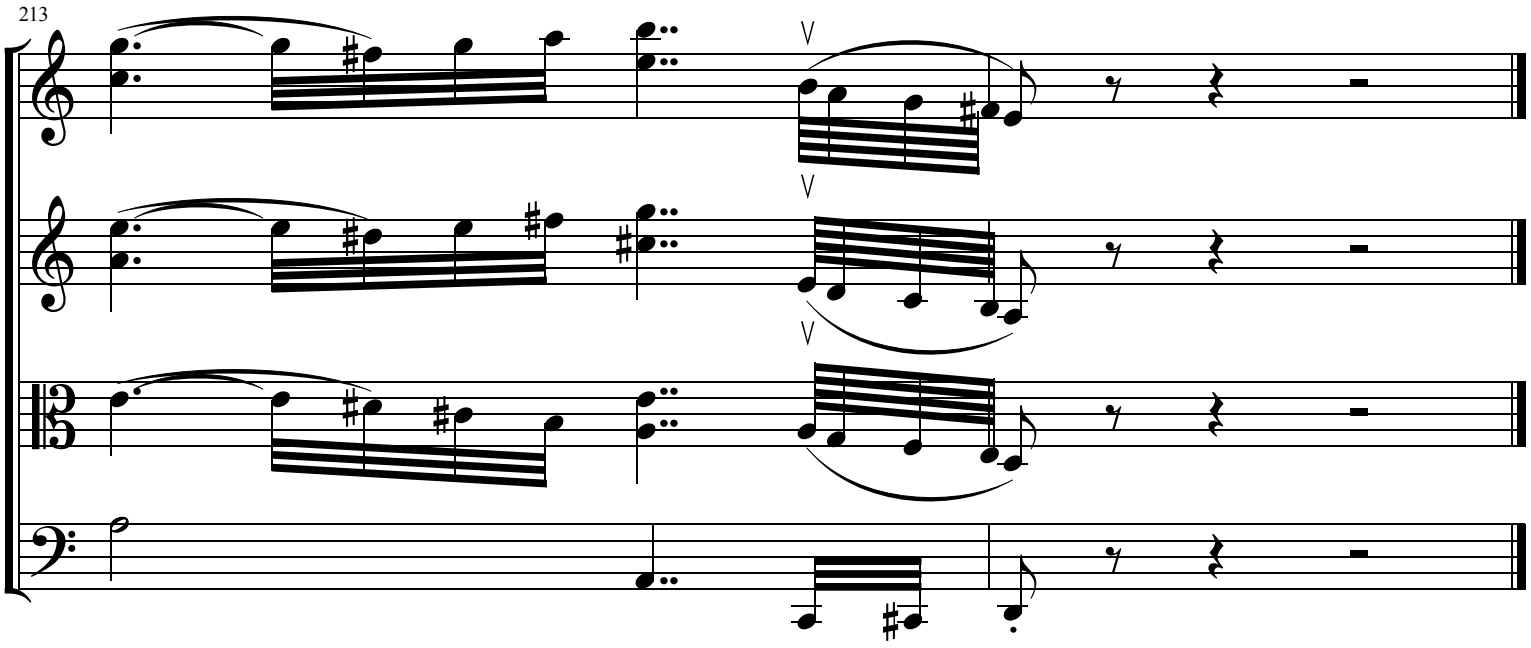
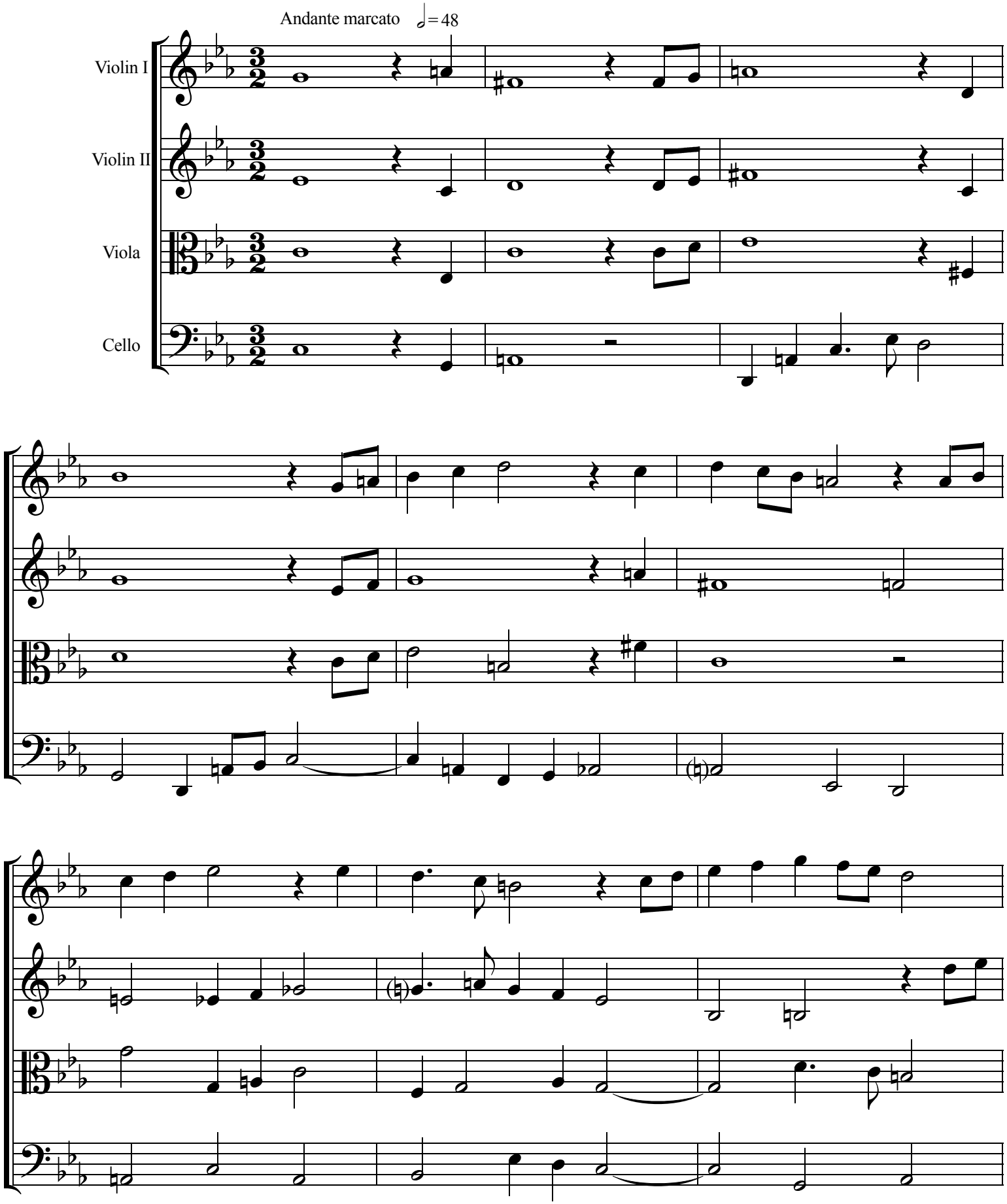
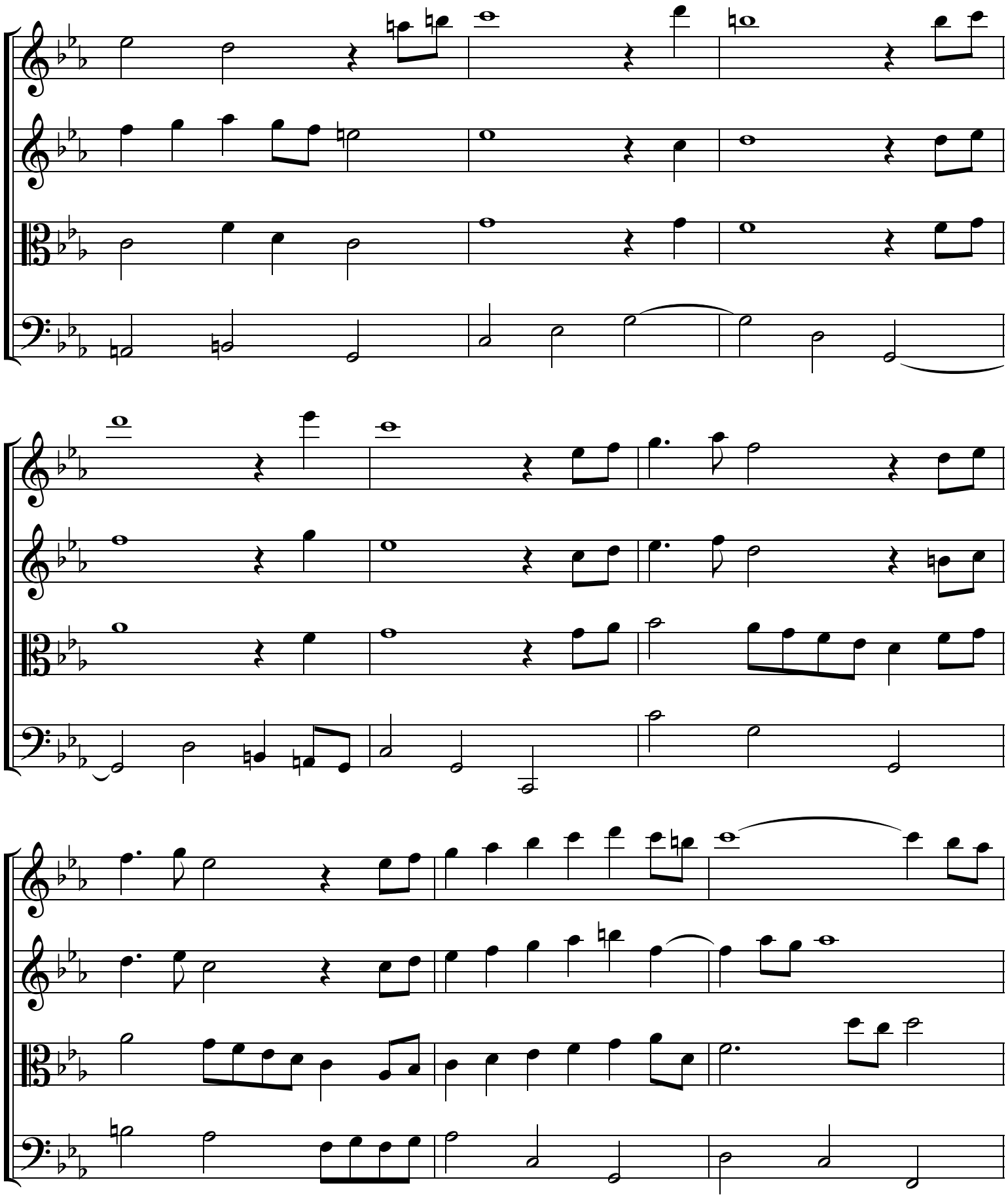
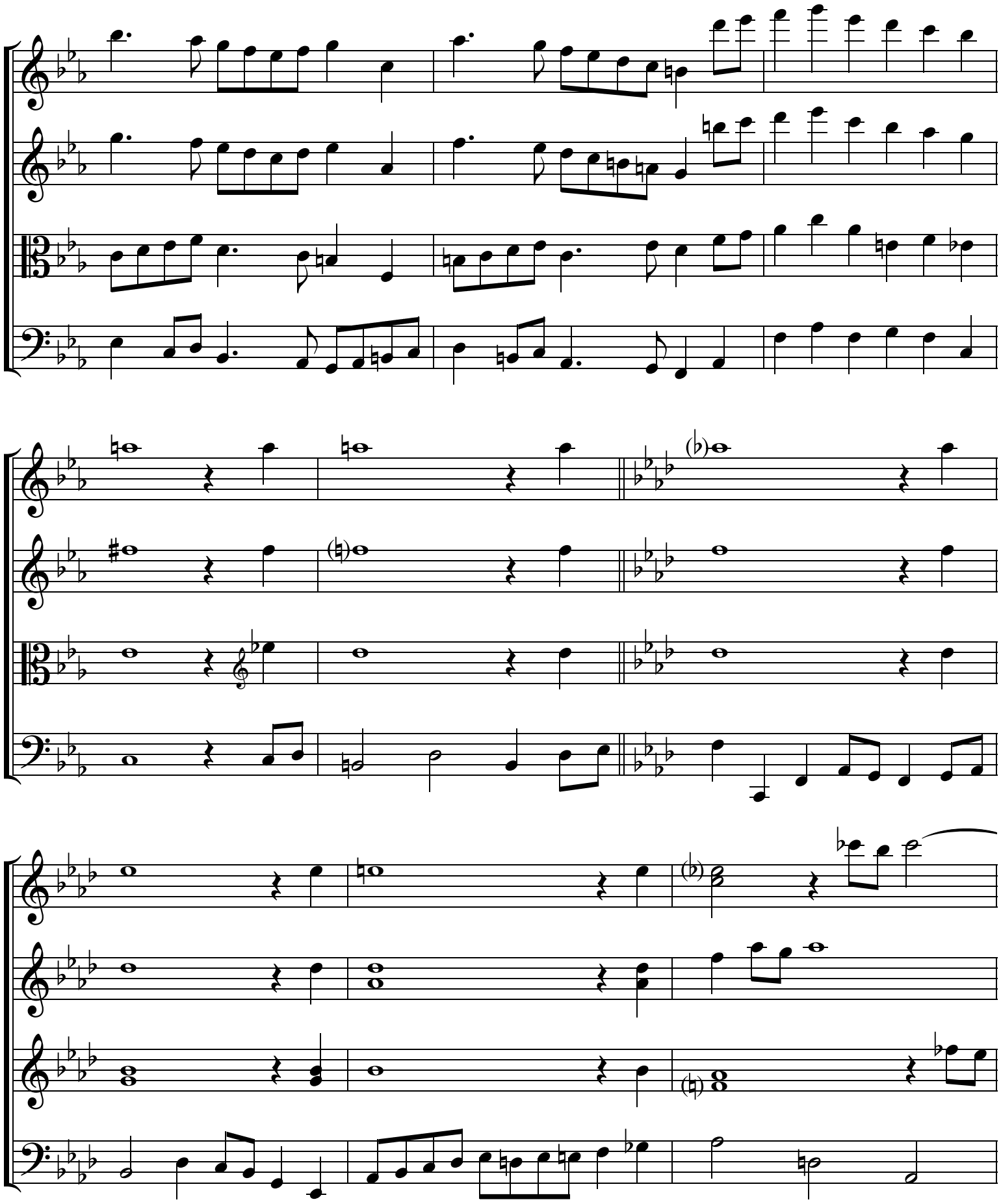
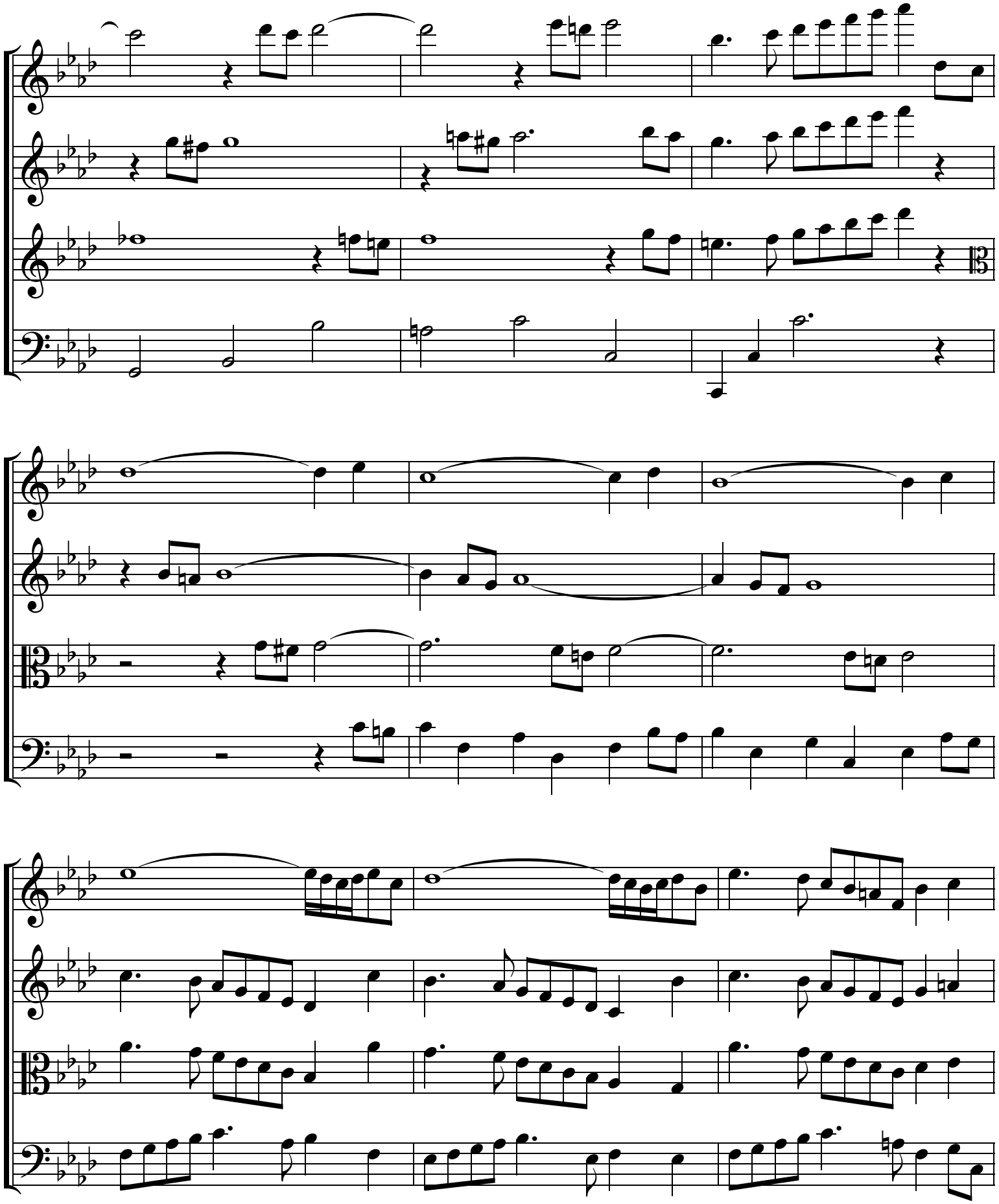

213

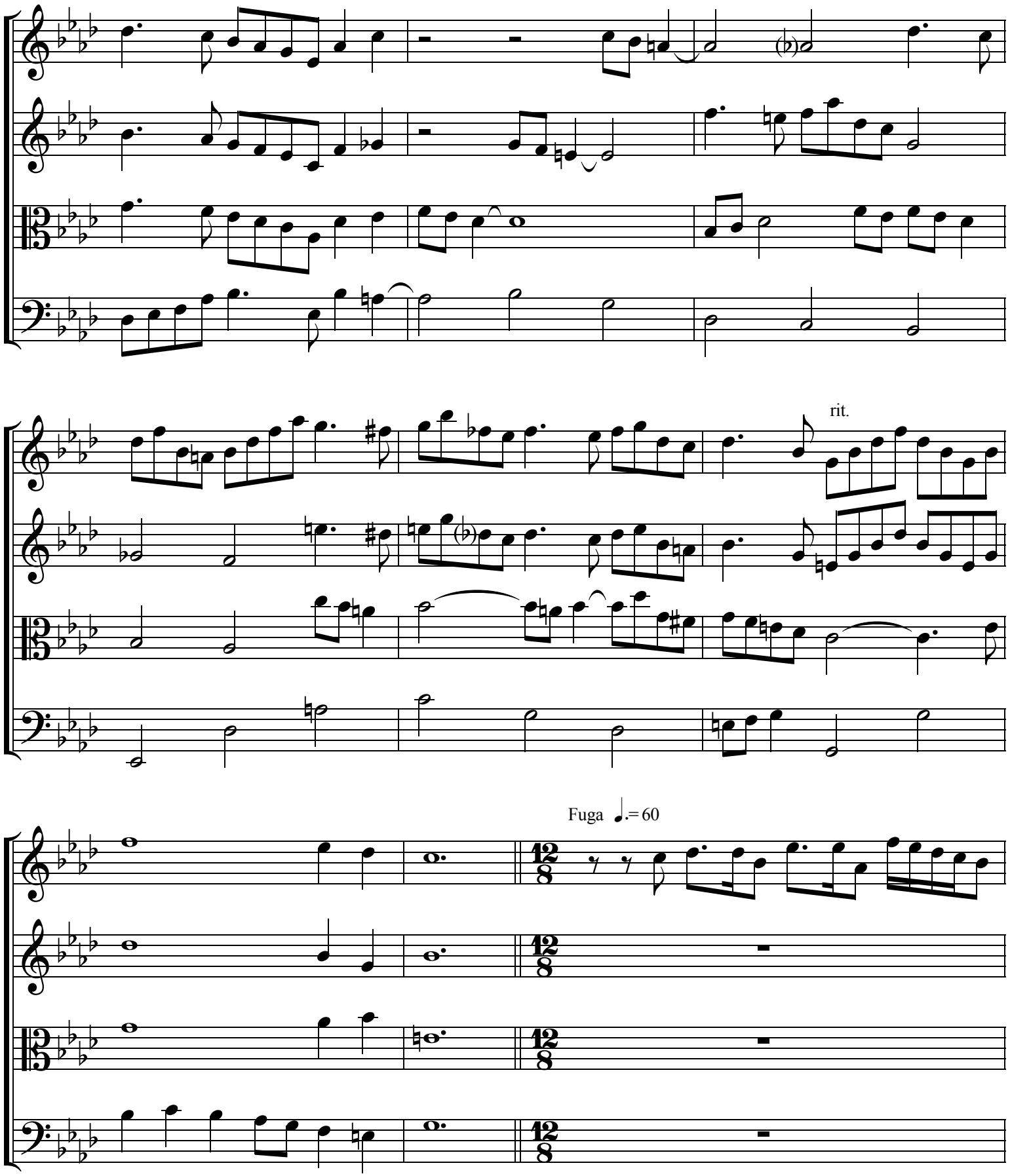
Emmanuel CHAVANEAU
2002







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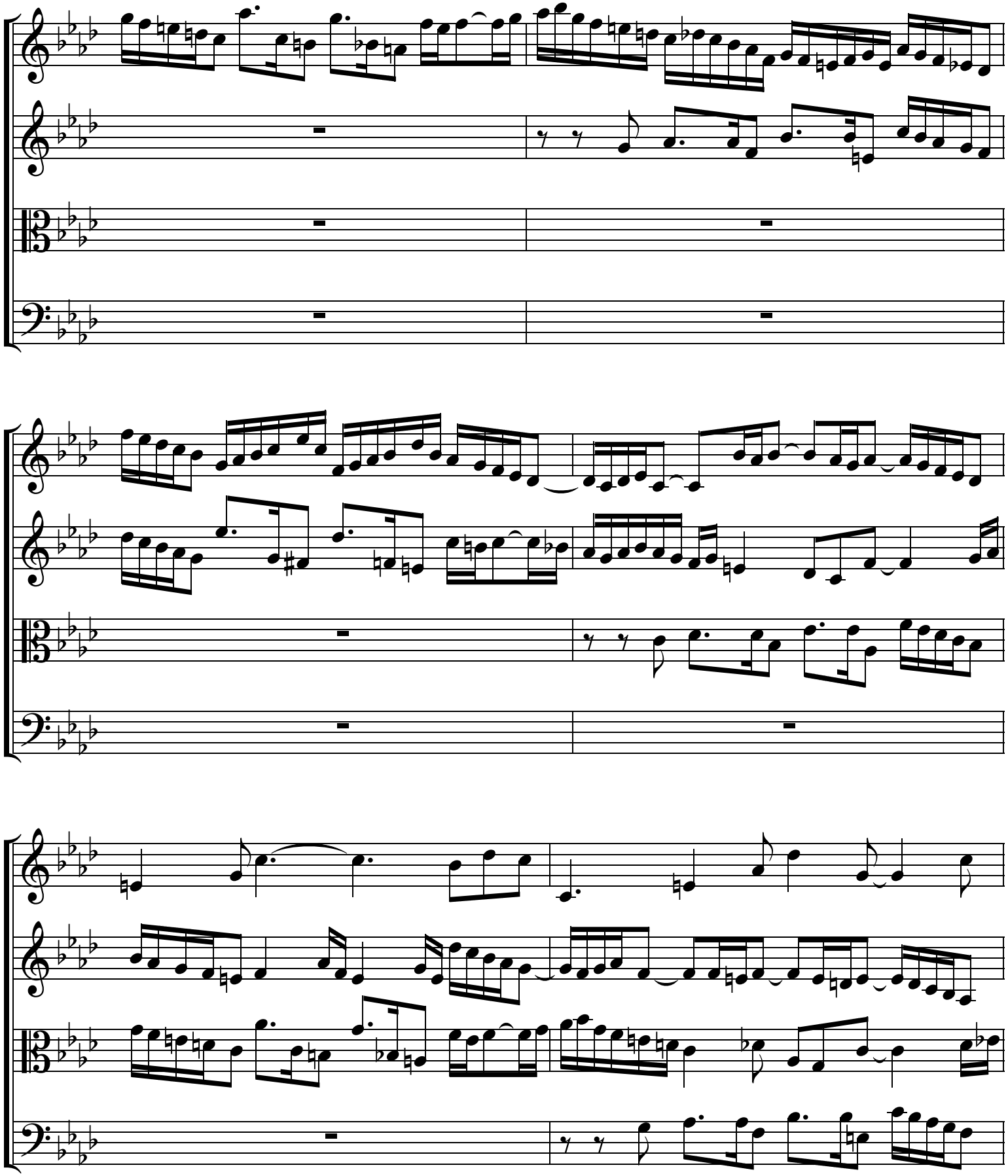
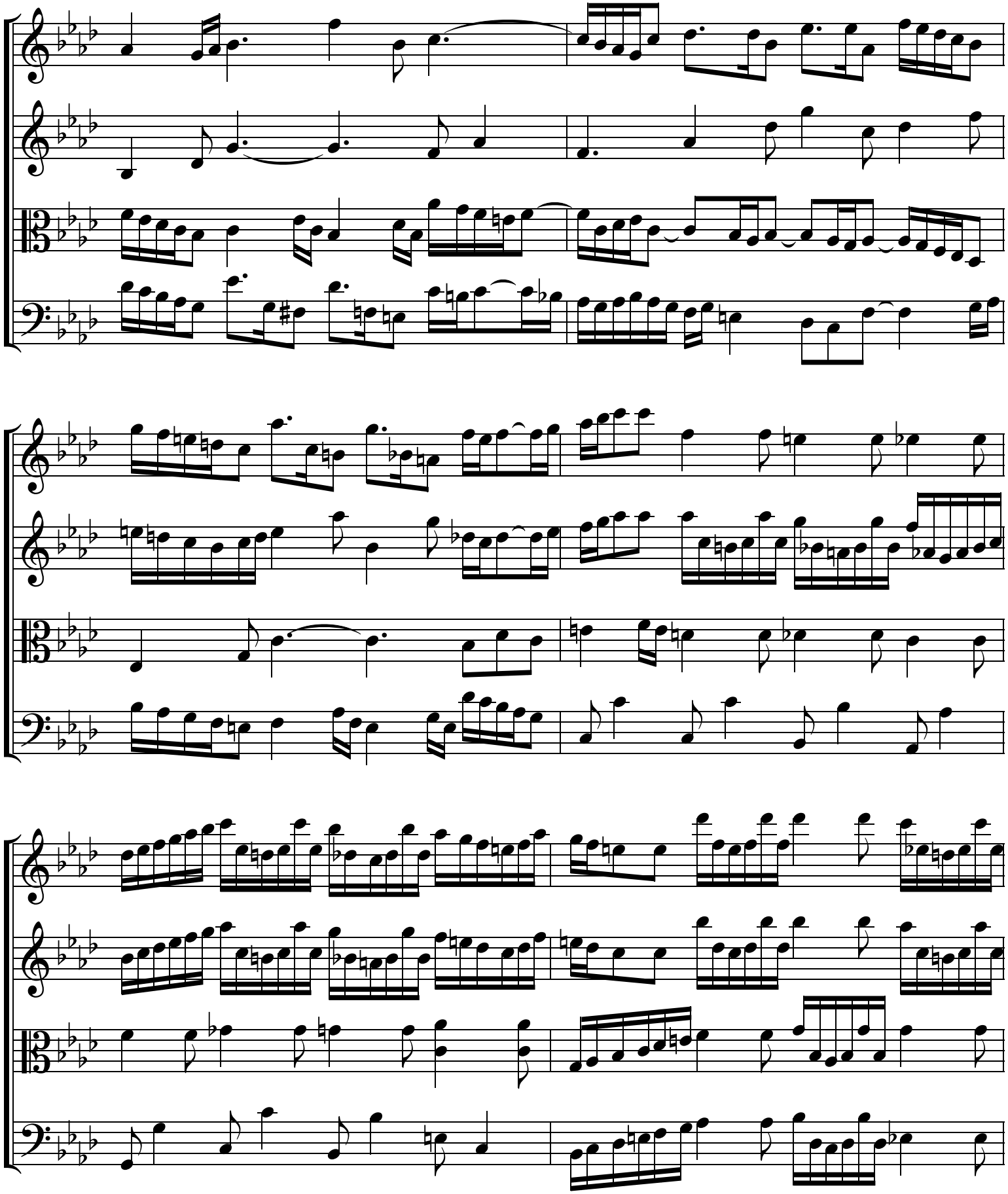
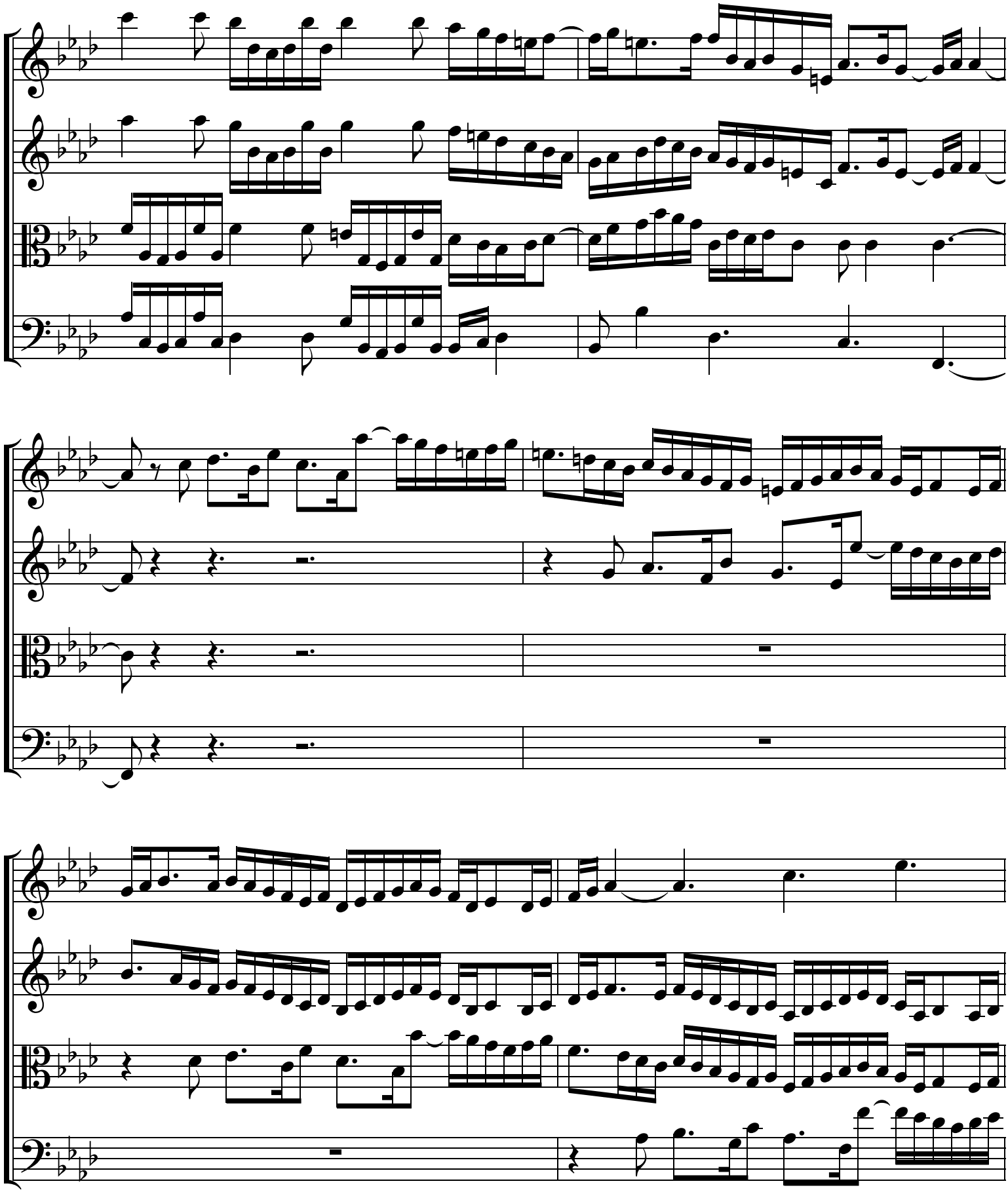
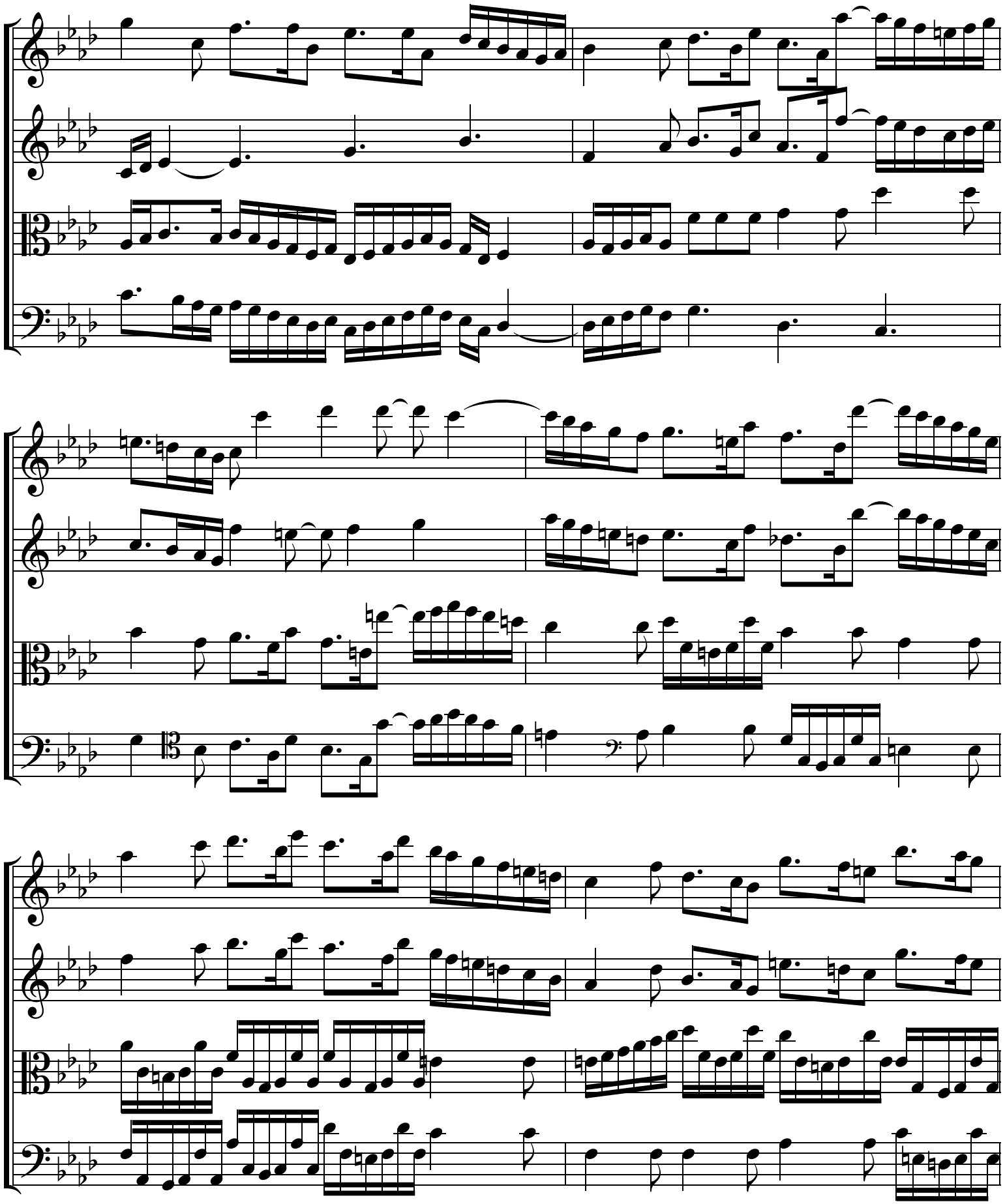
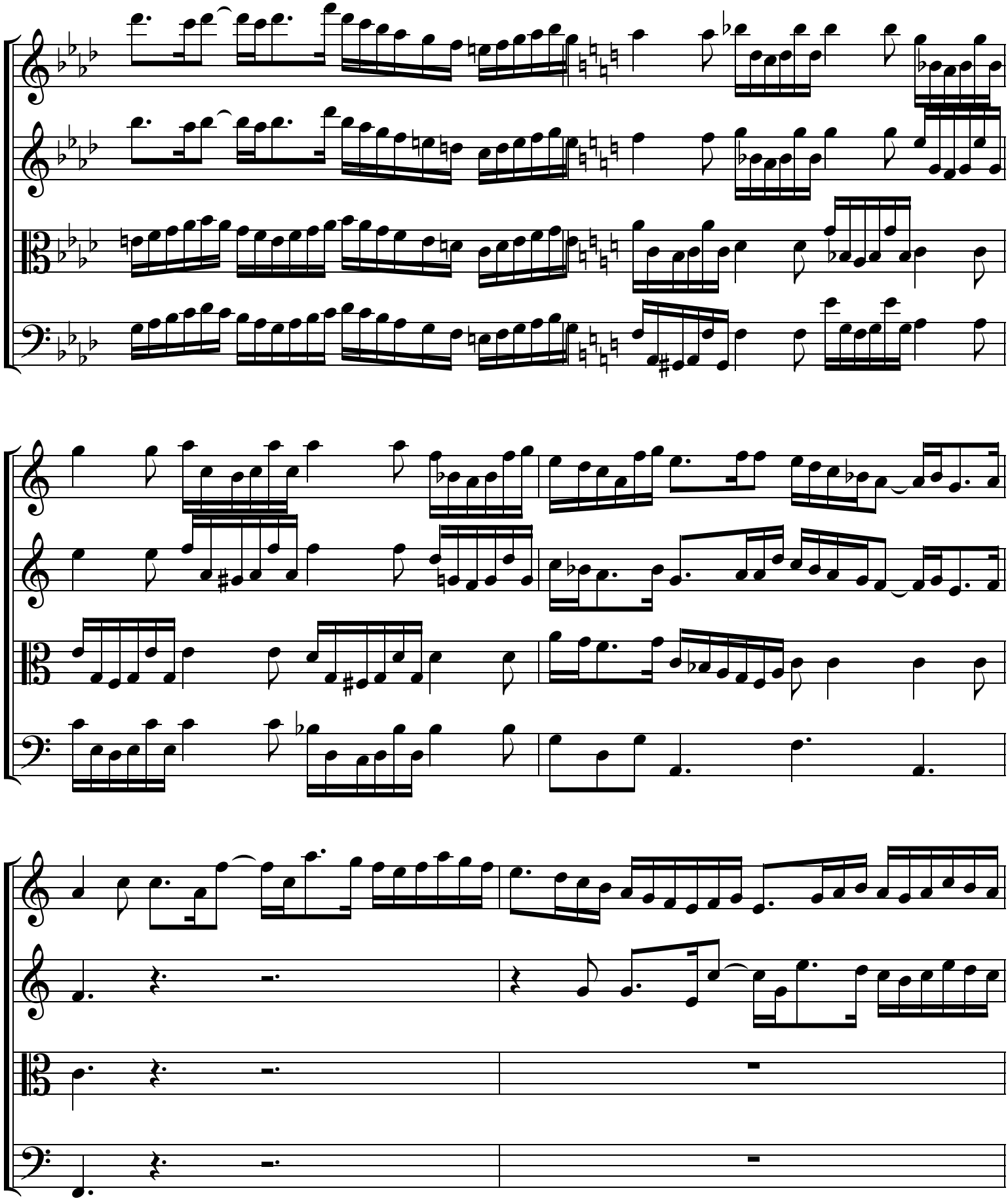
Fuga ♩.= 60

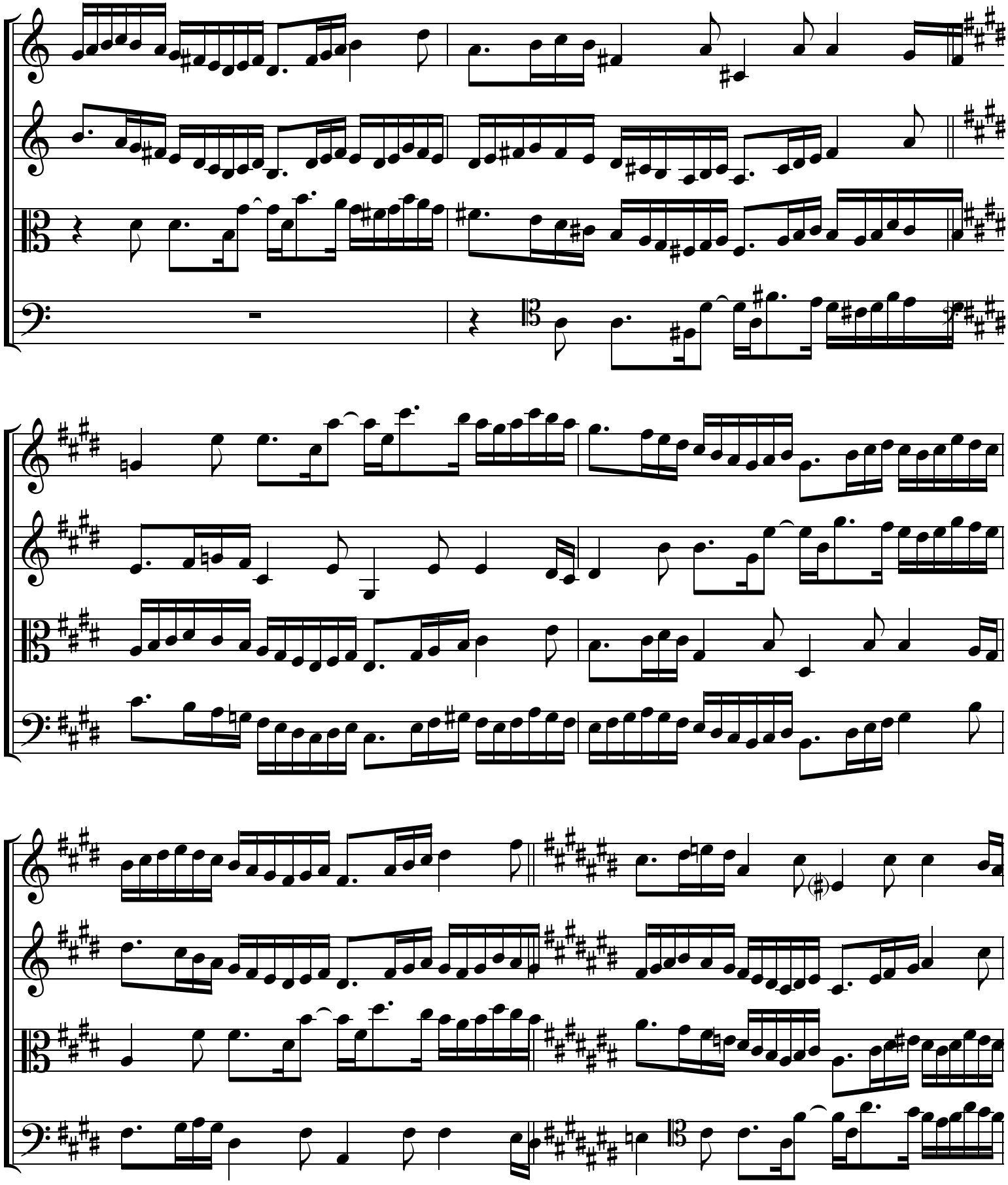


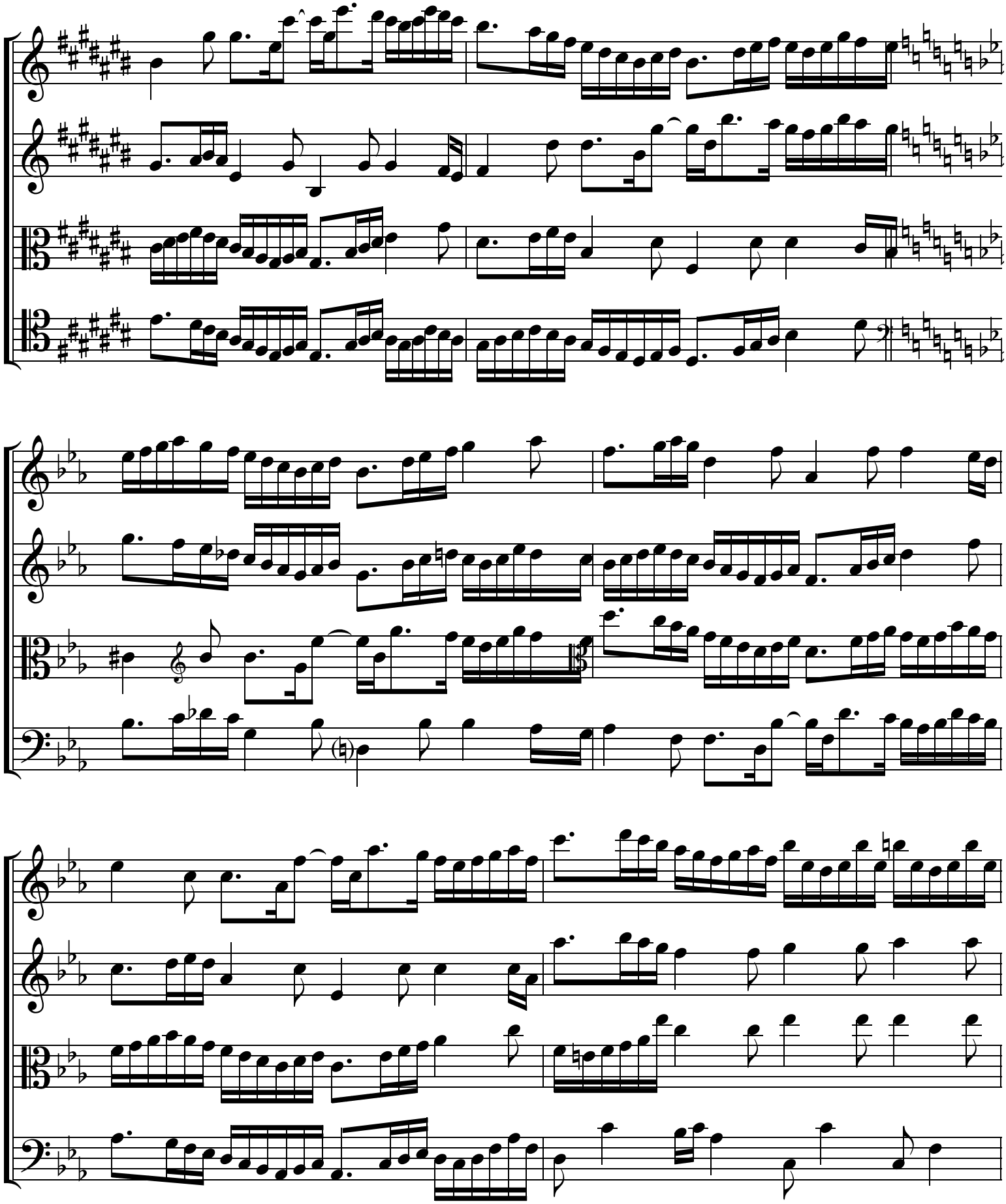


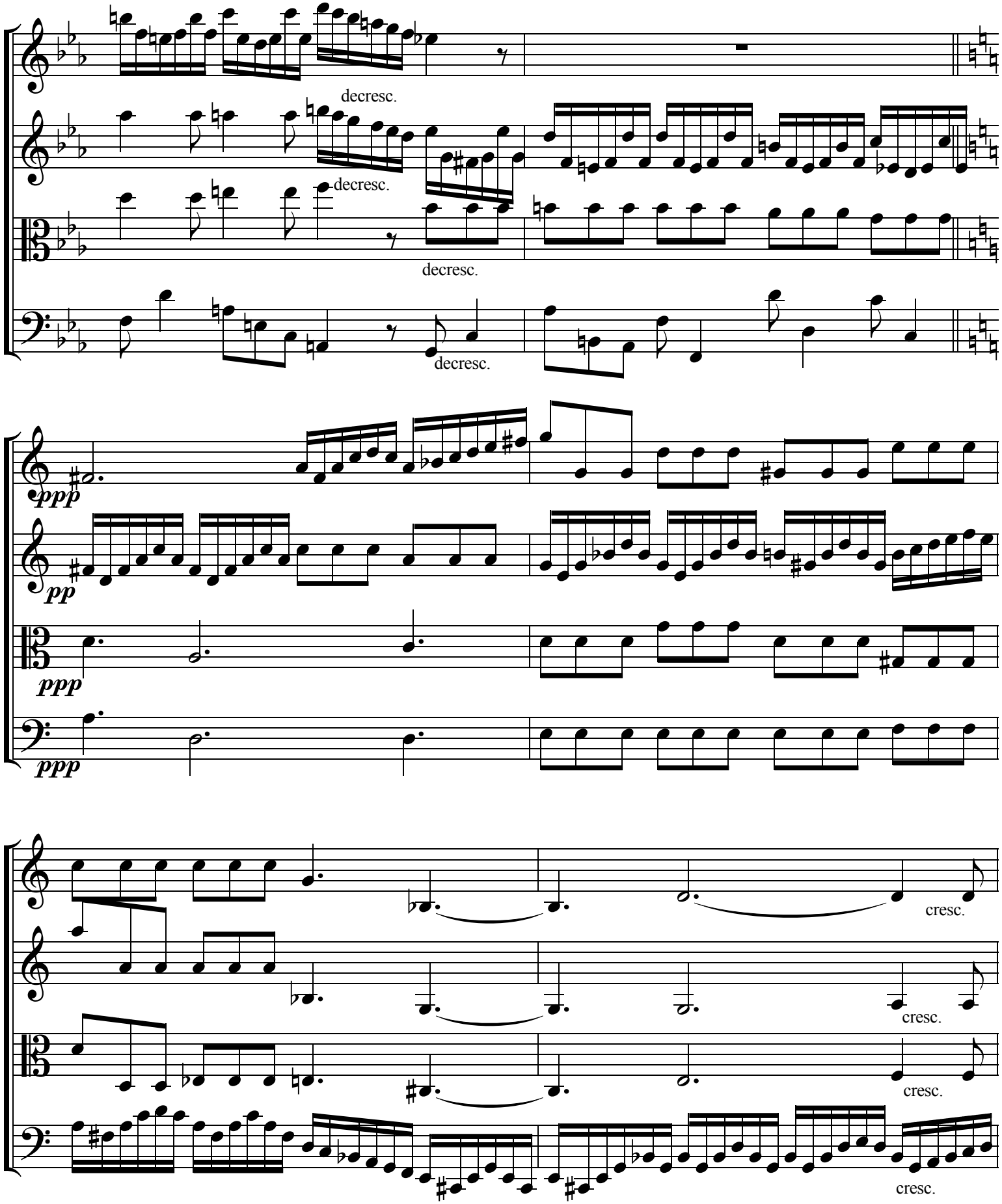








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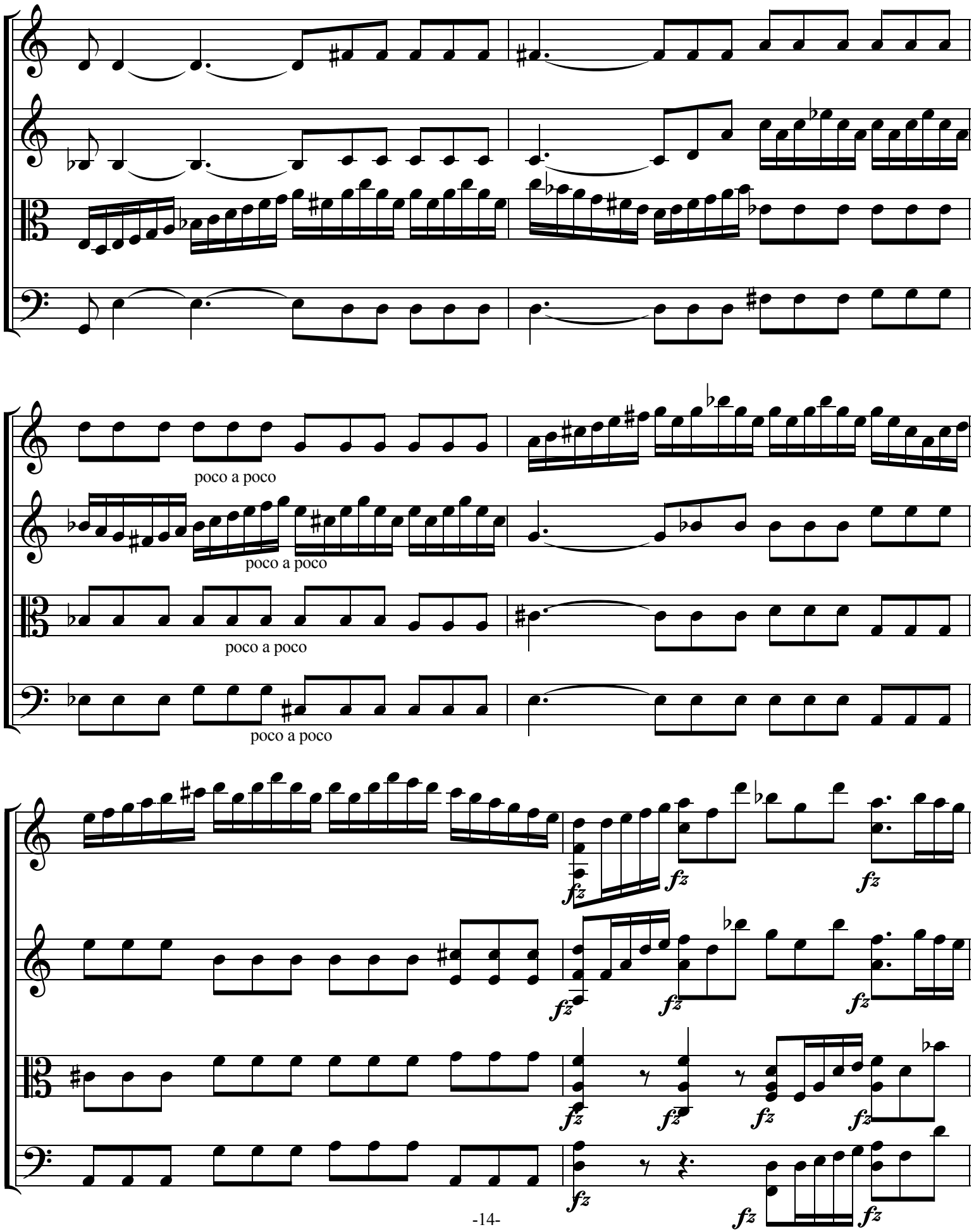
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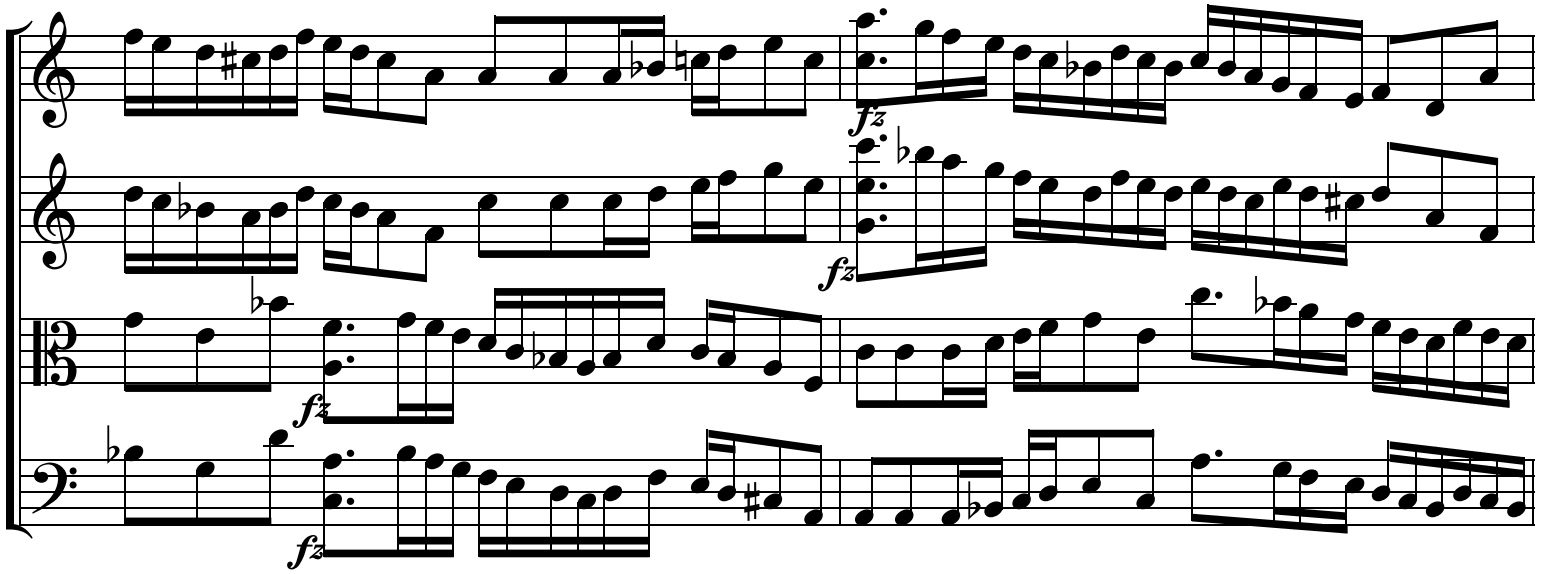
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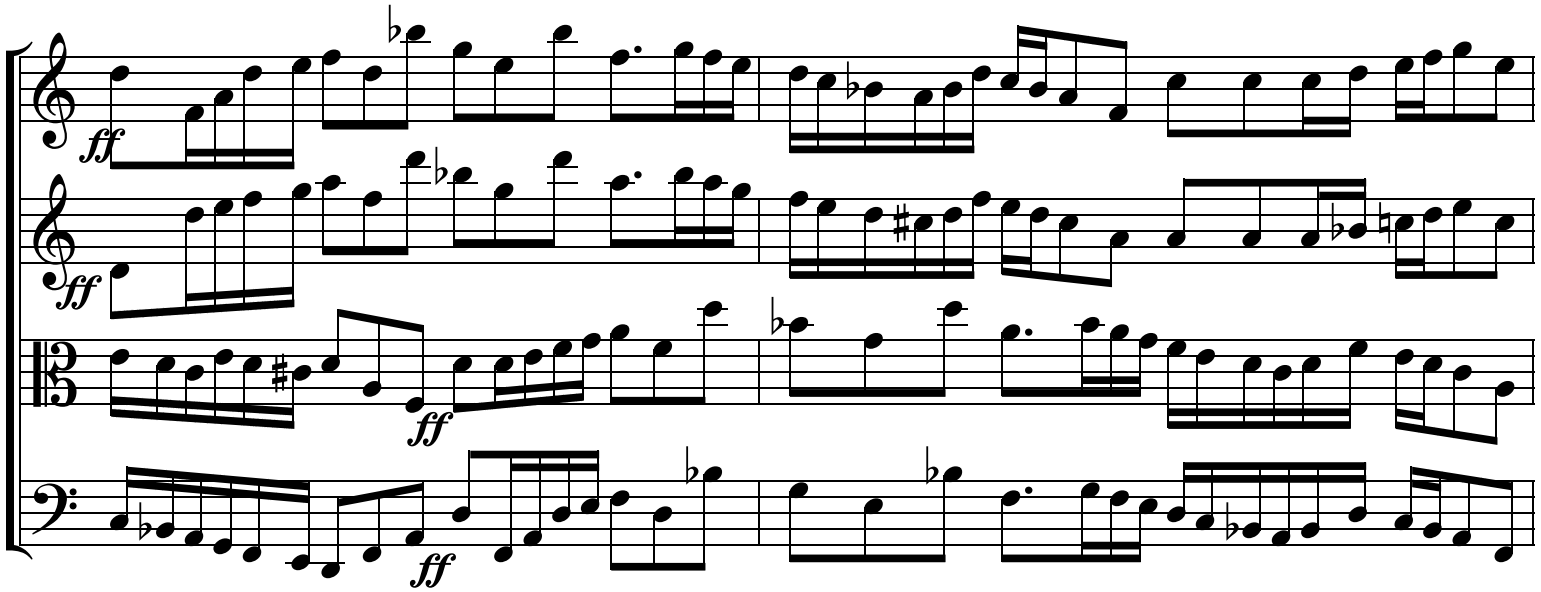
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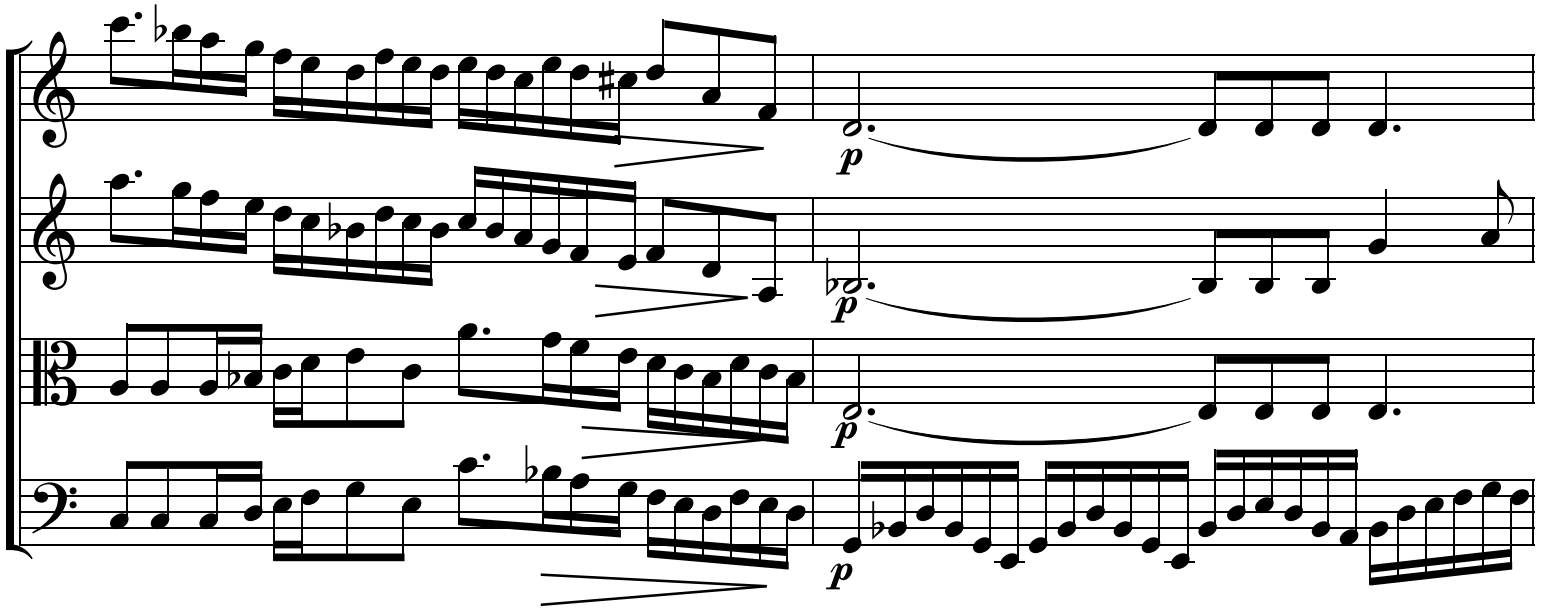
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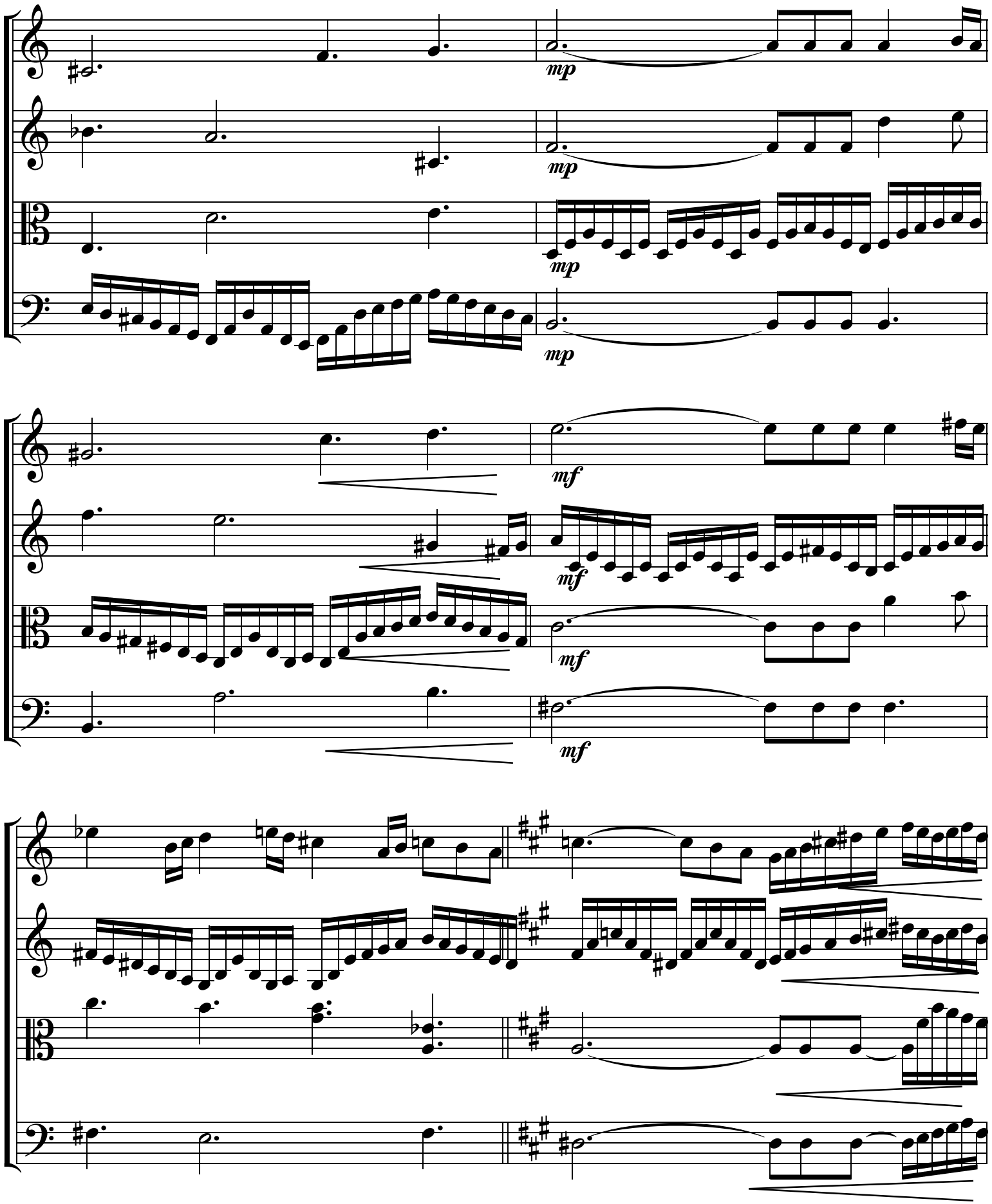
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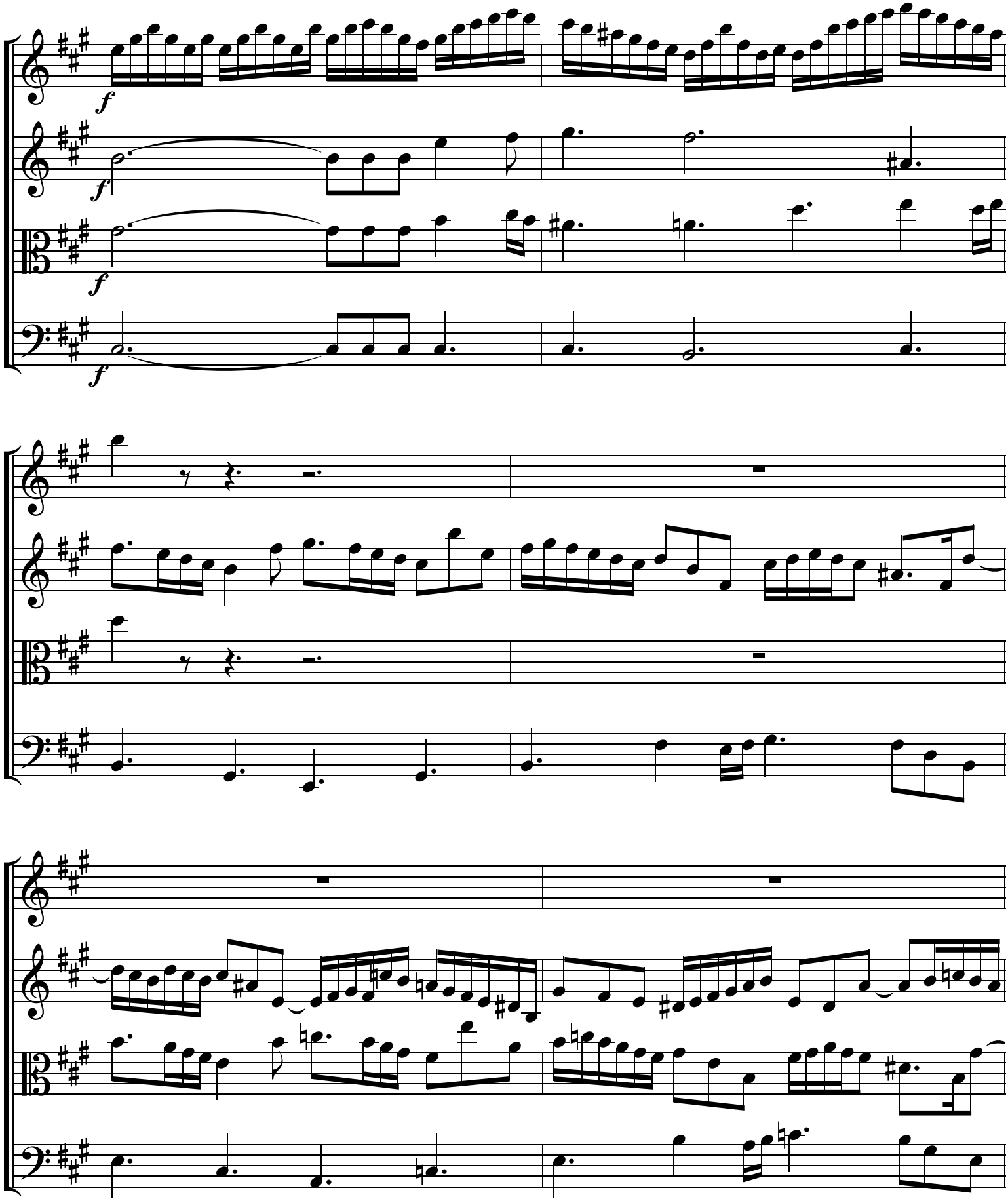

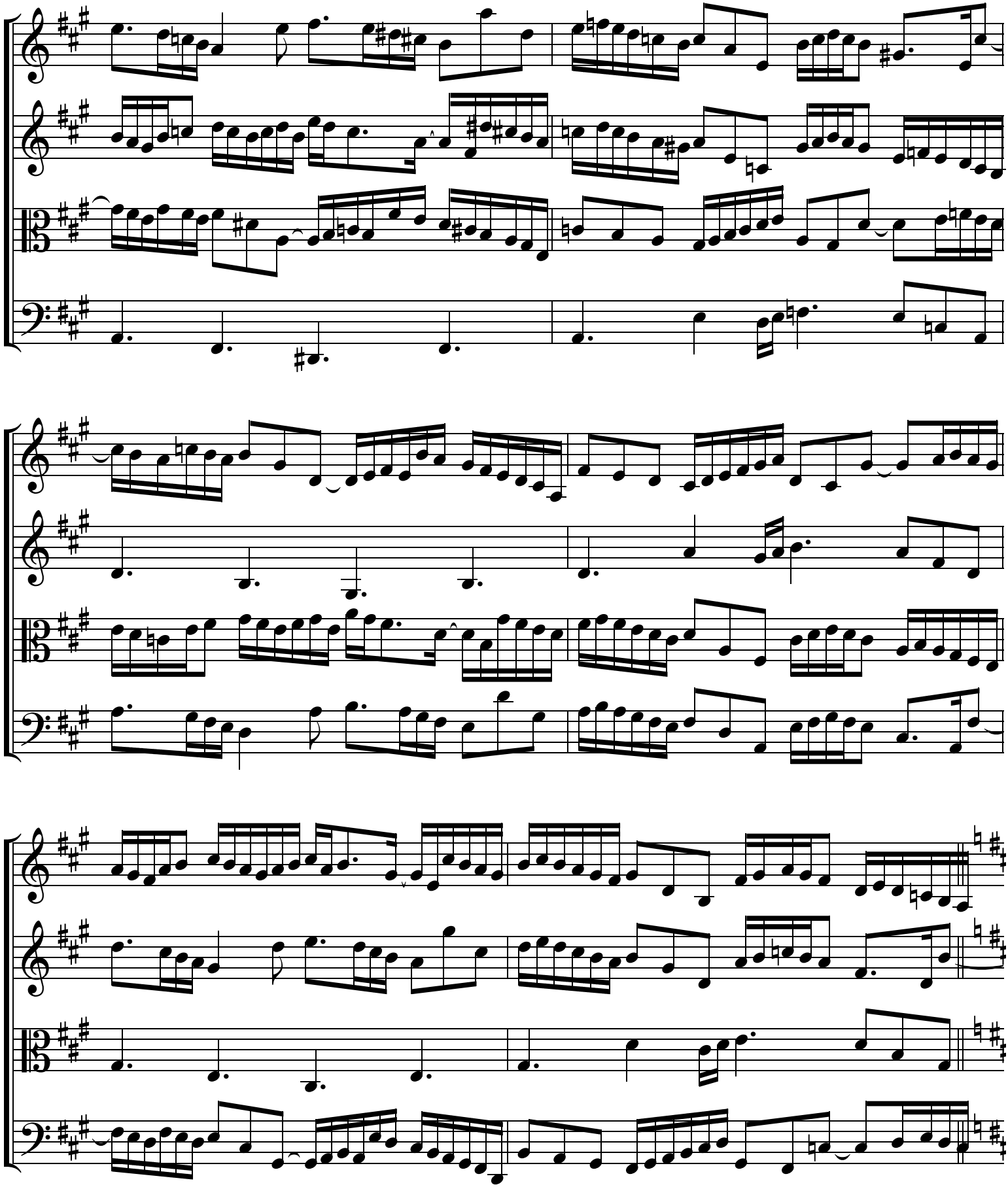

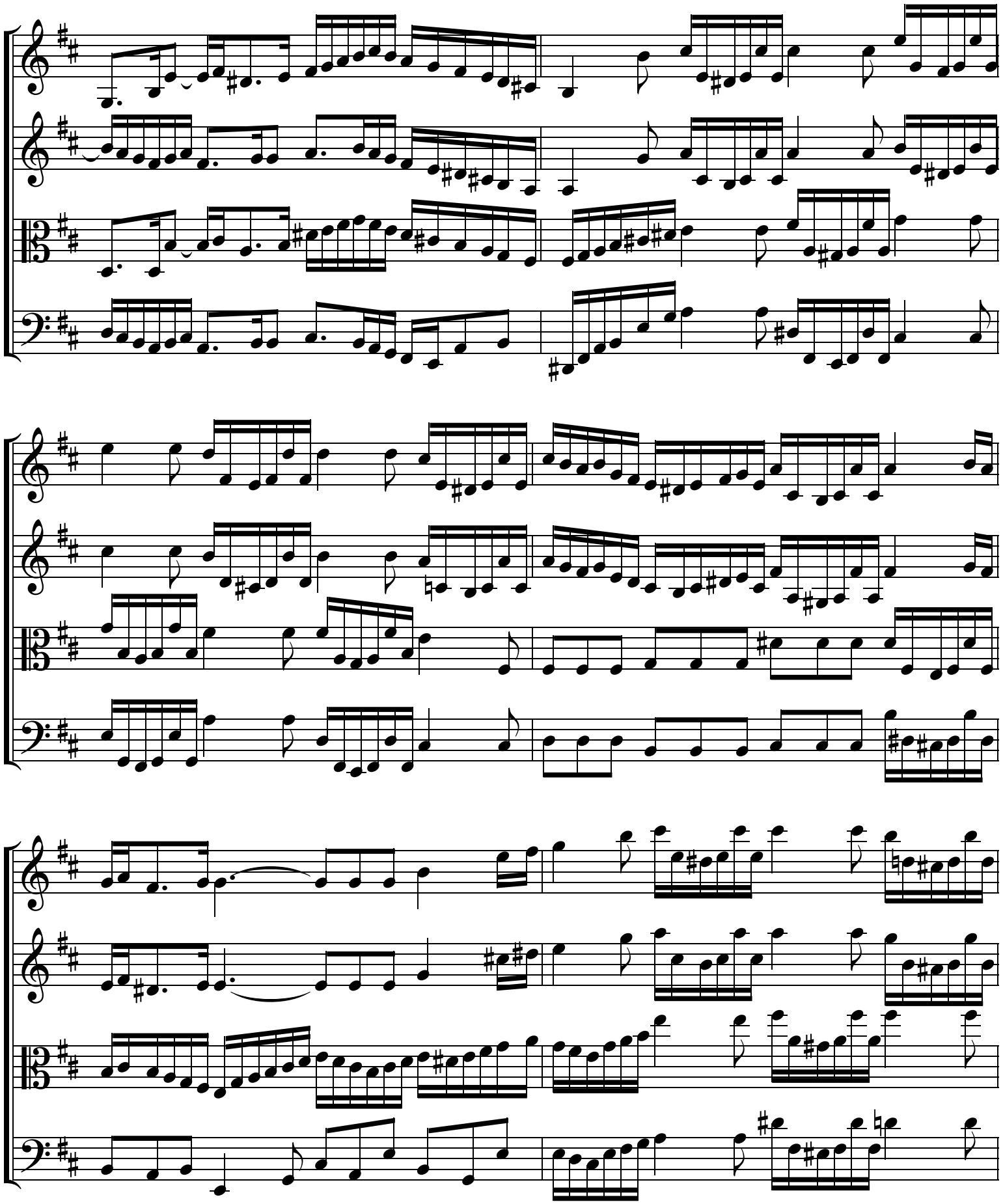

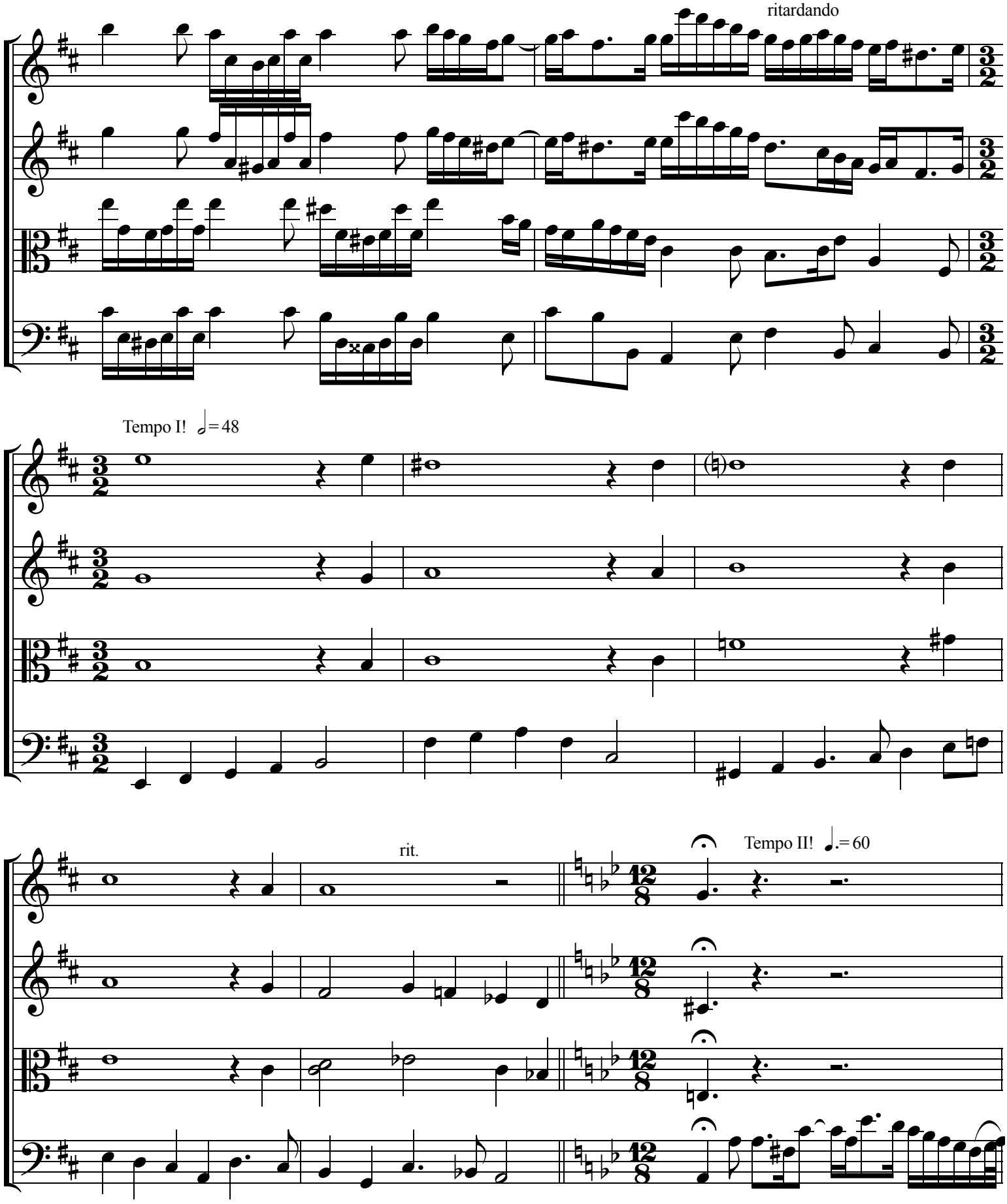
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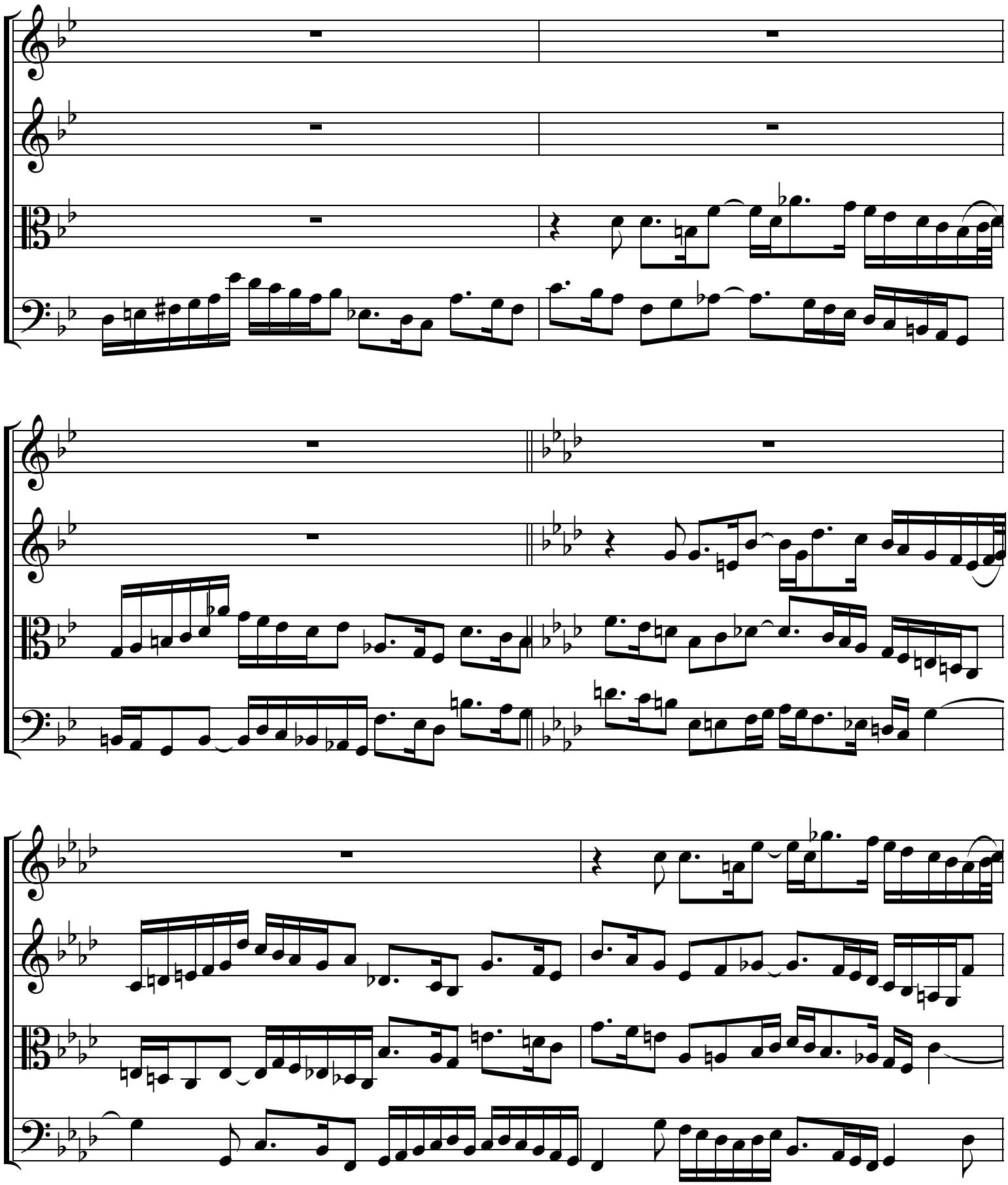
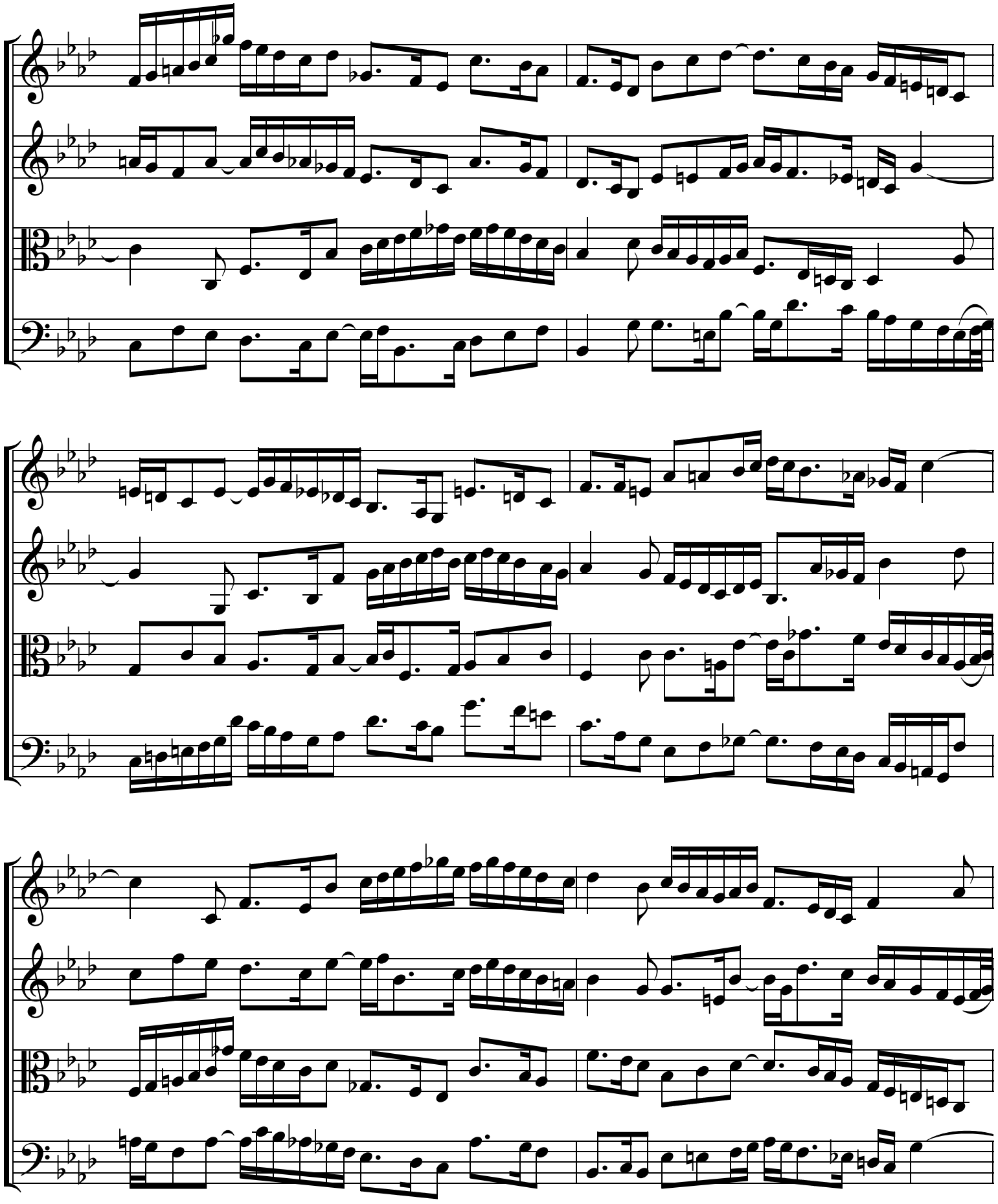
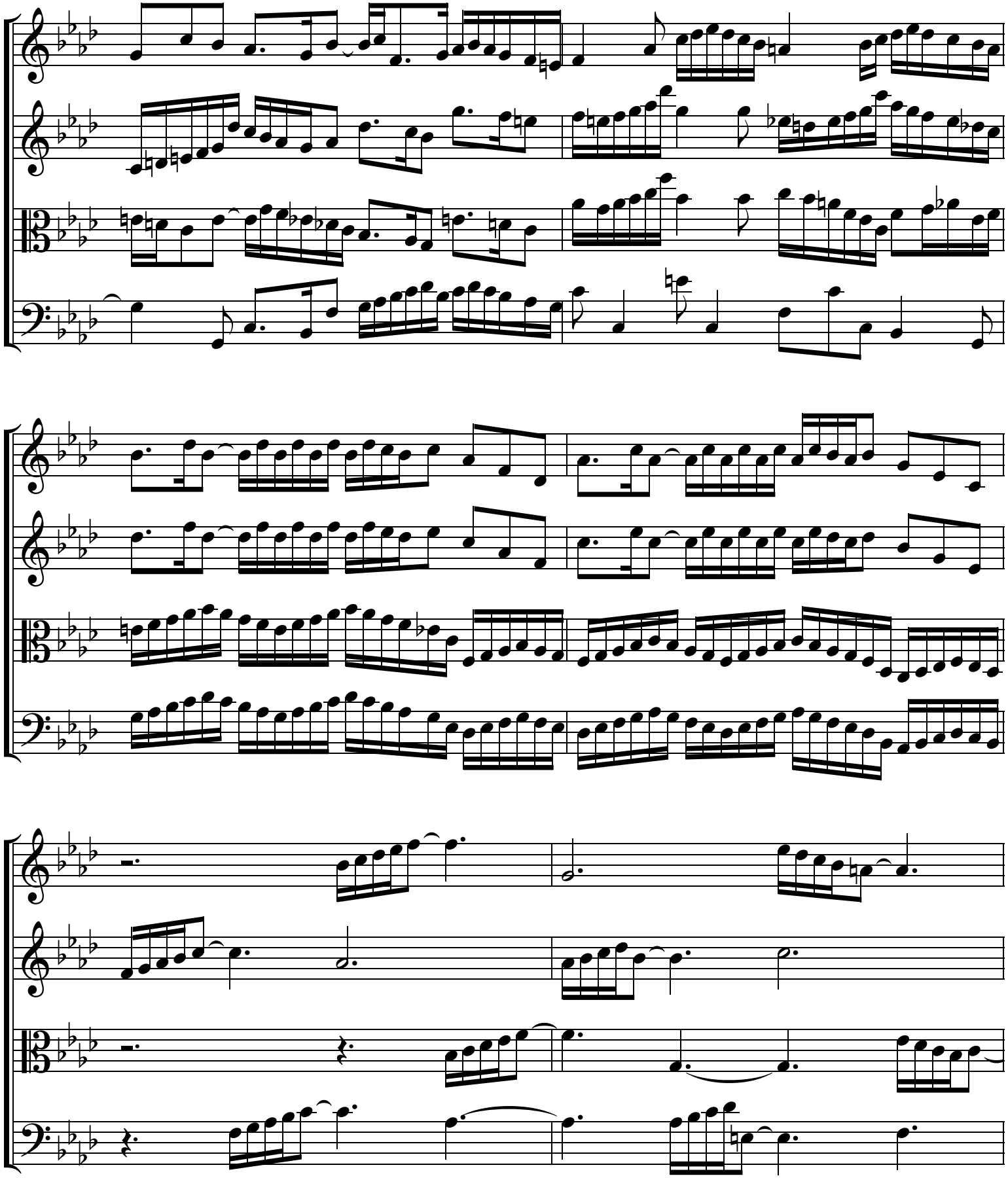
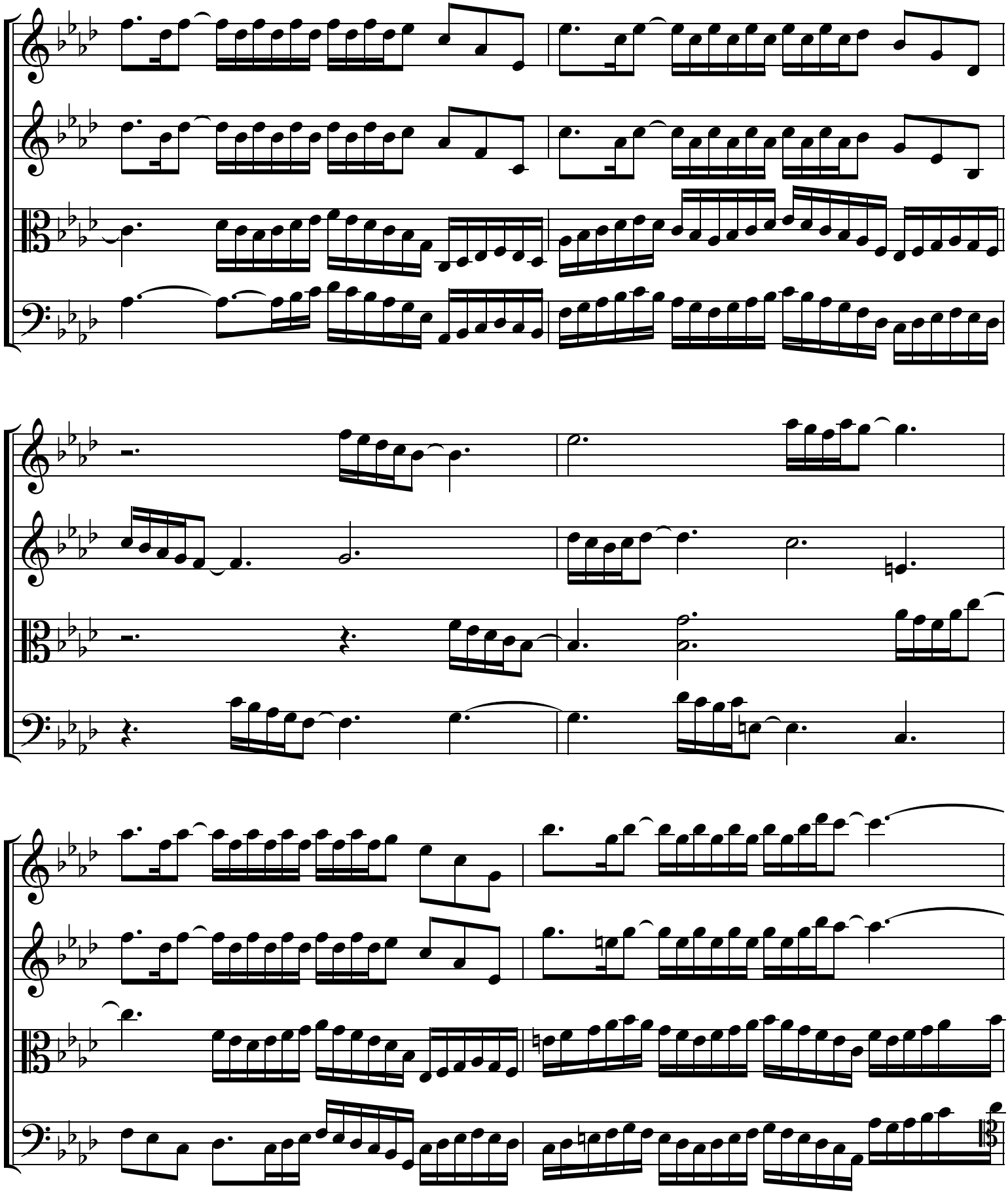
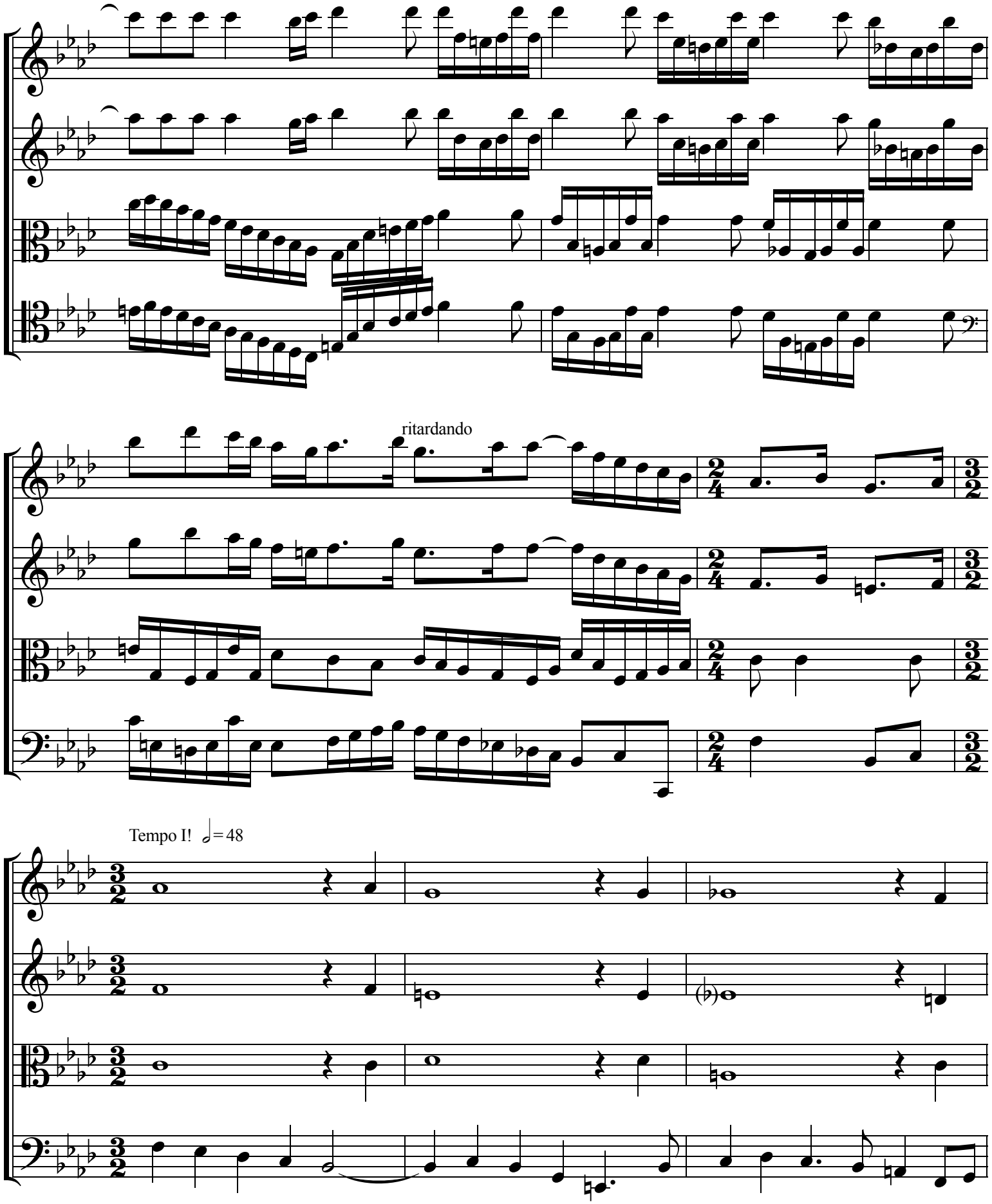
Tempo I! 𝅗𝅥 = 48
rit.
Tempo II! 𝅗𝅥. = 60







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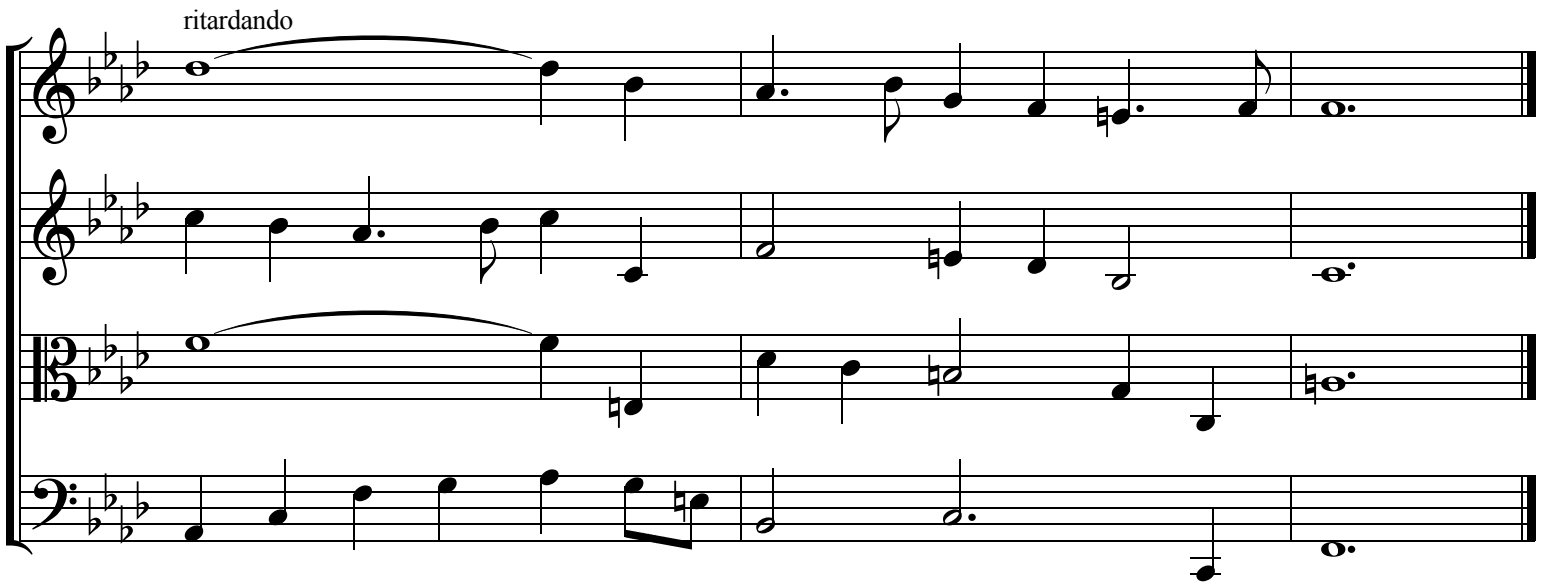
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