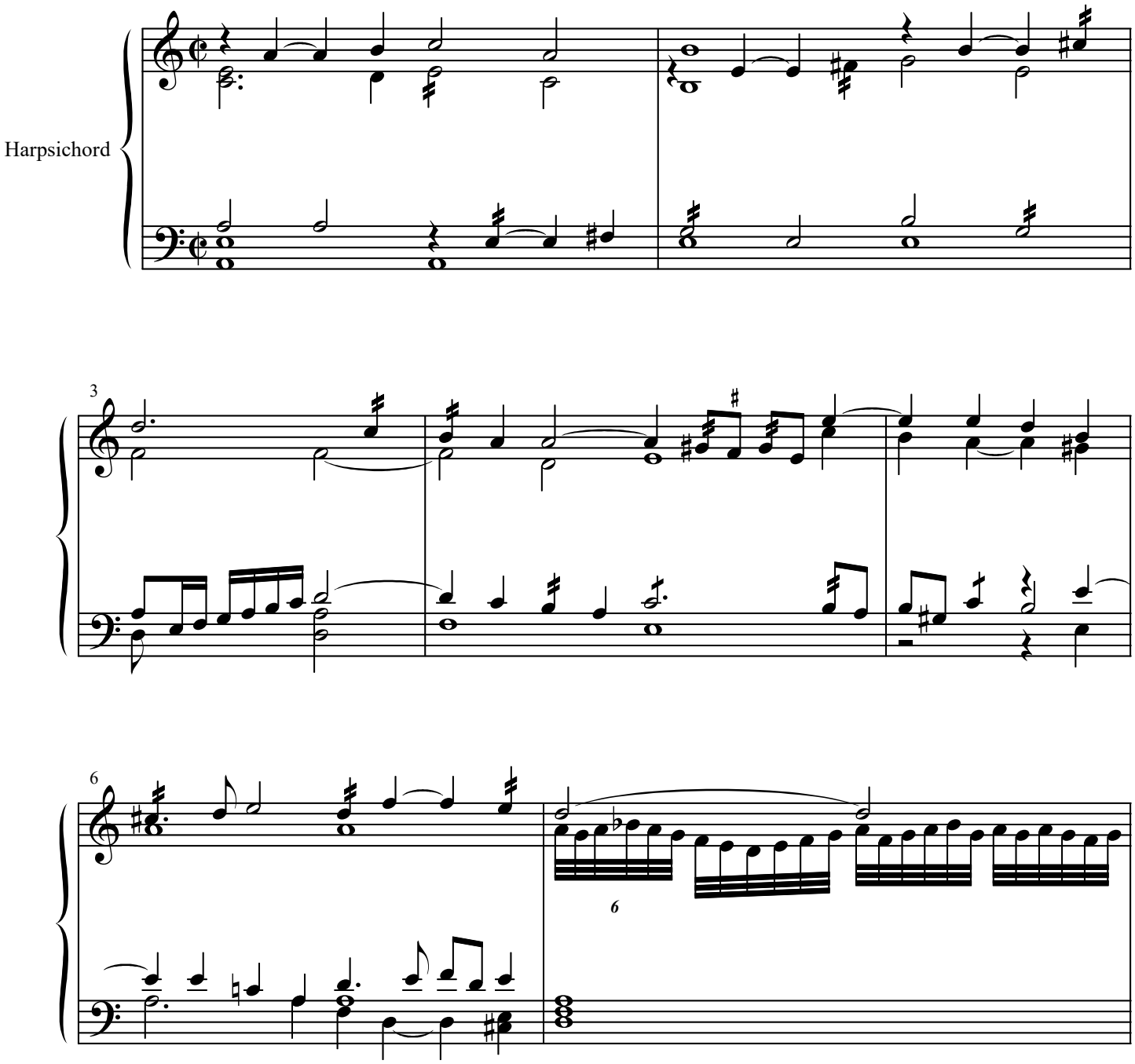
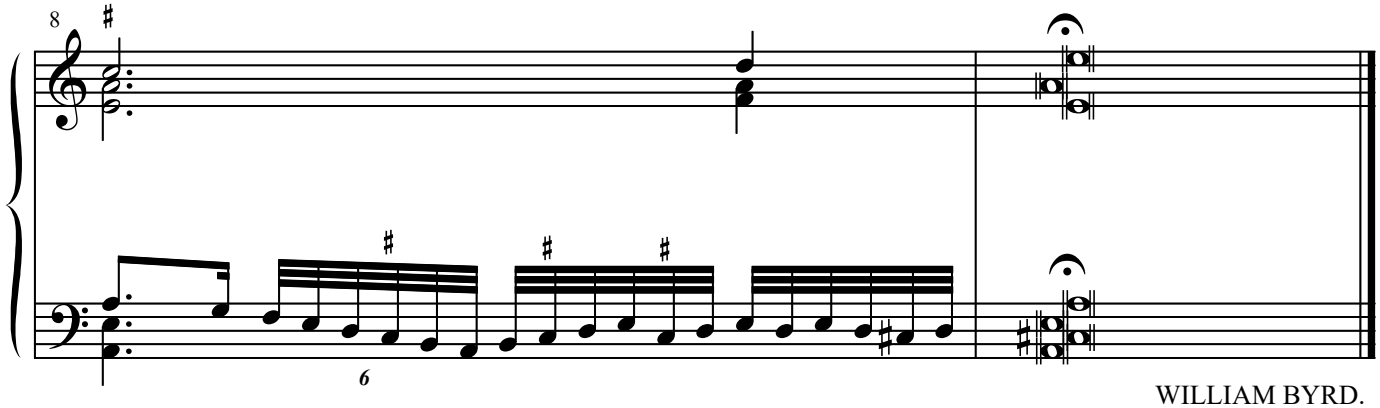
Praeludium to ye Fancie (Fantasia FVB 52)

William Byrd
(1539/40-1623)

FVB 100

The Fitzwilliam Virginal Book, vol. 1





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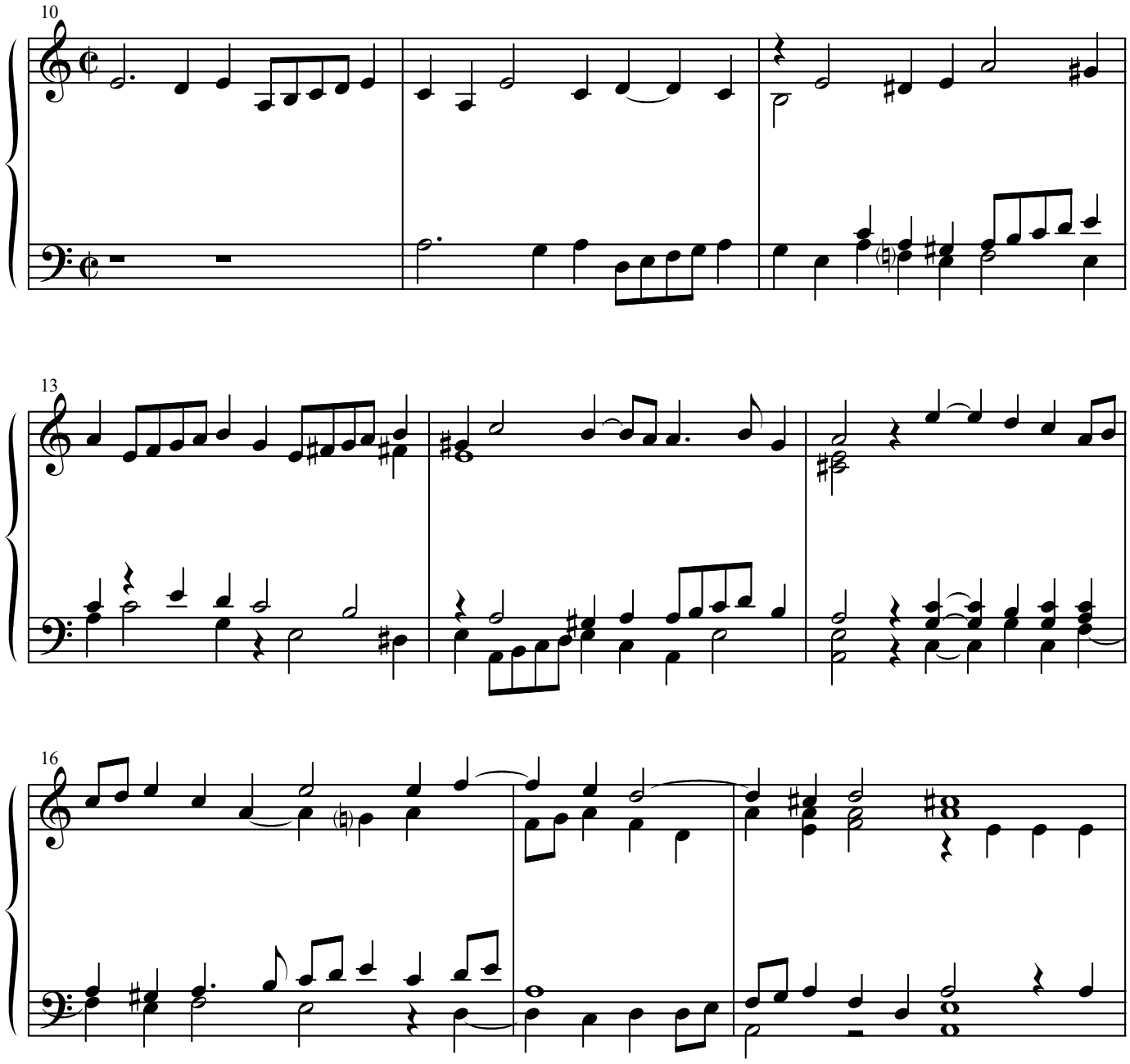
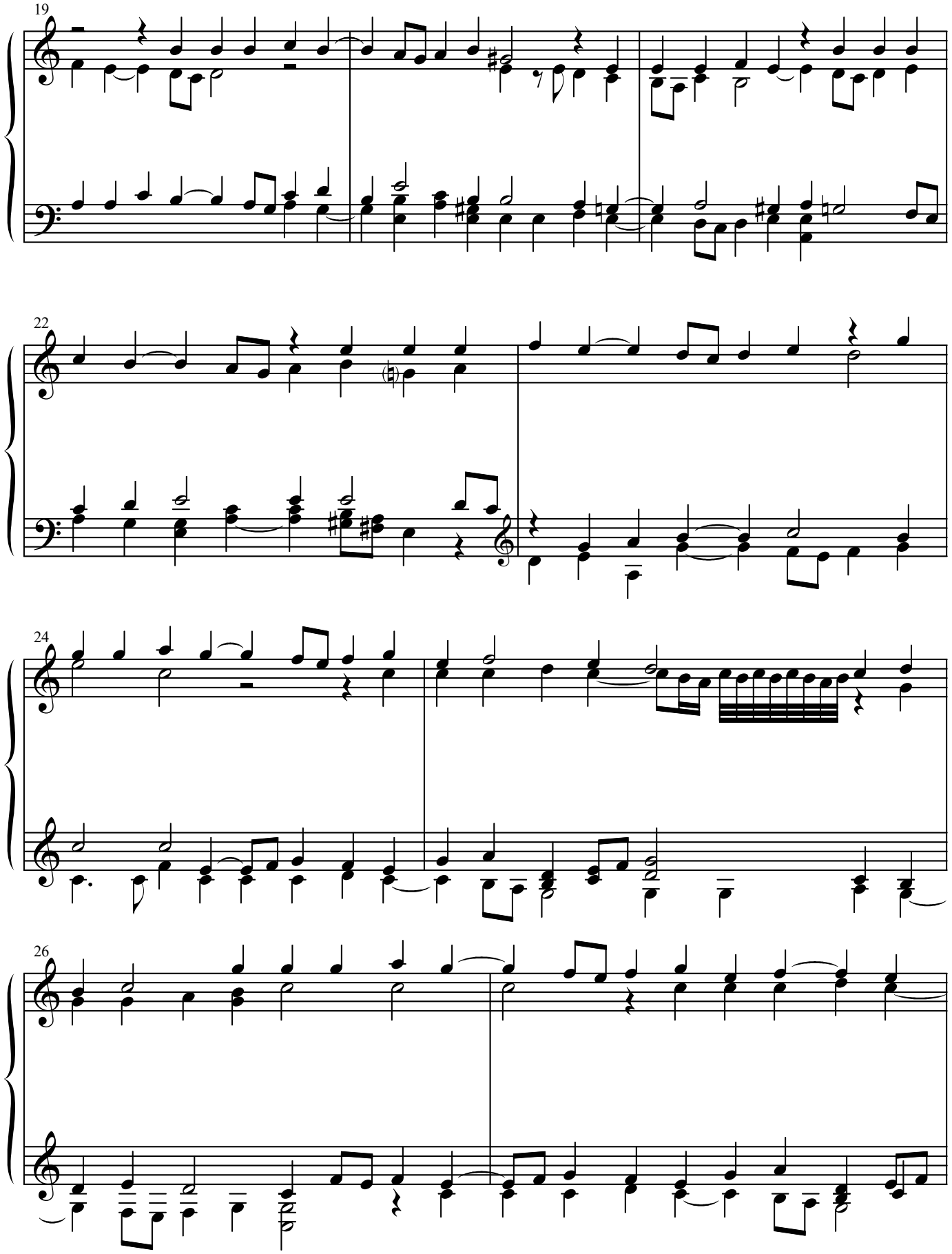
Fantasia. FVB 52

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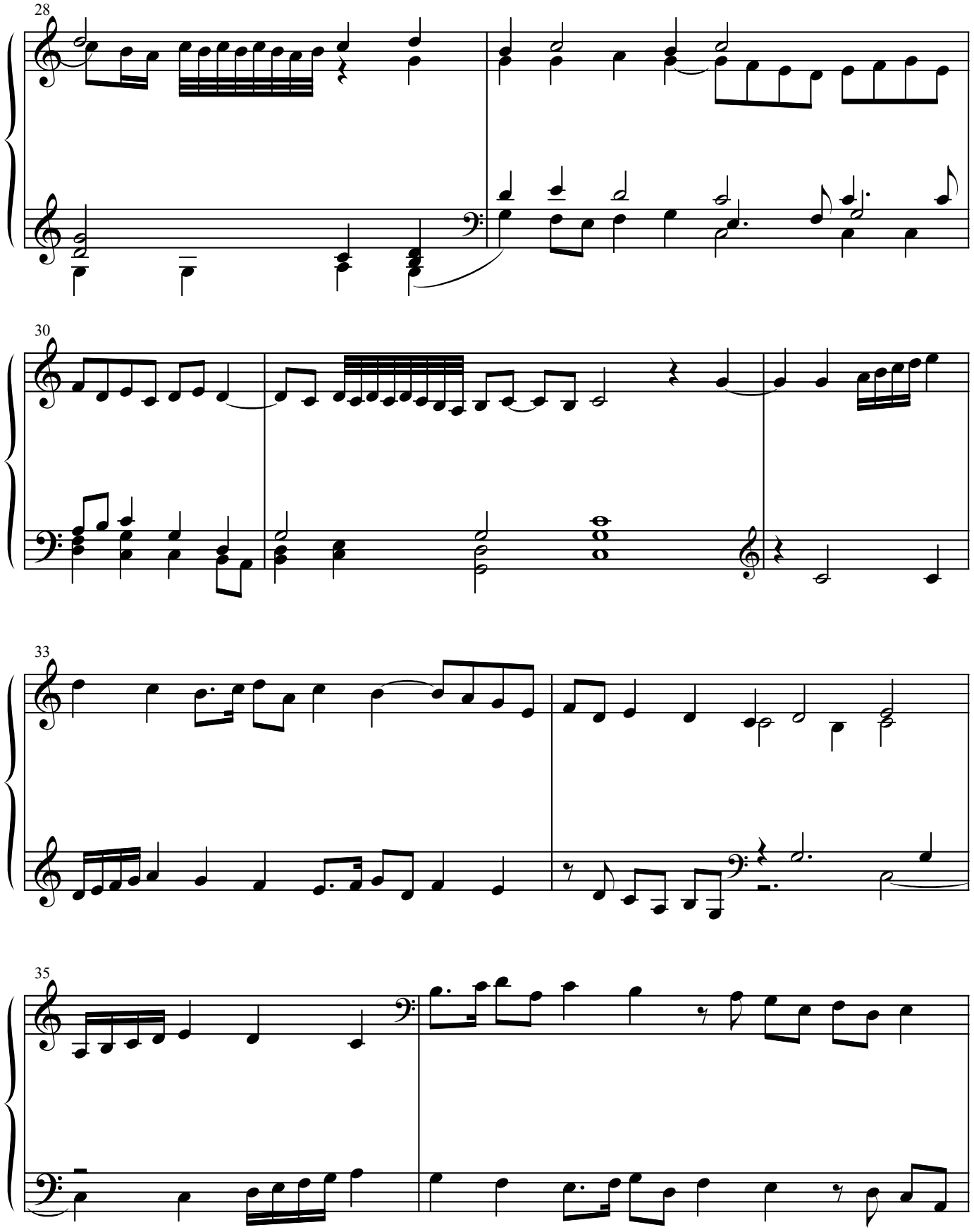
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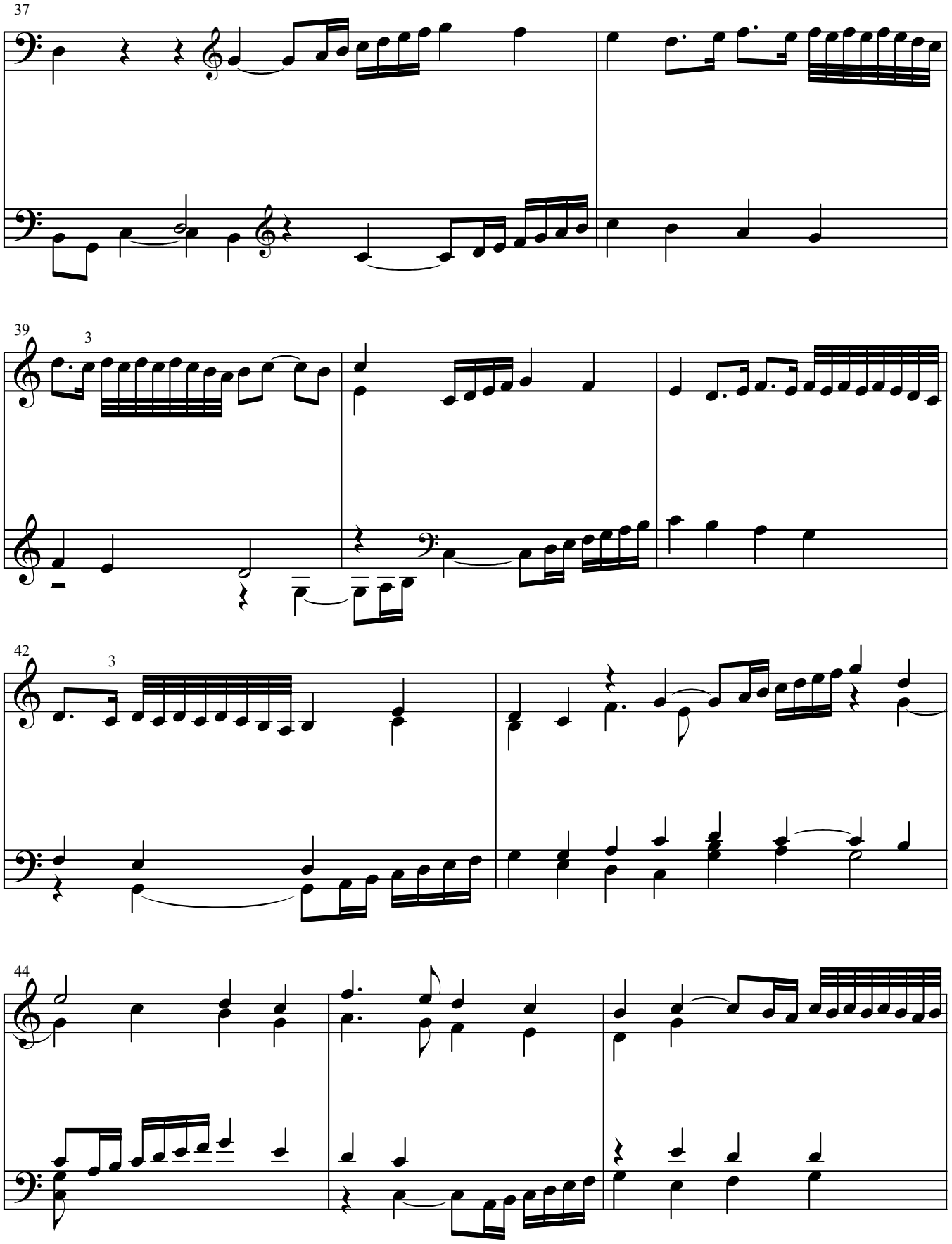
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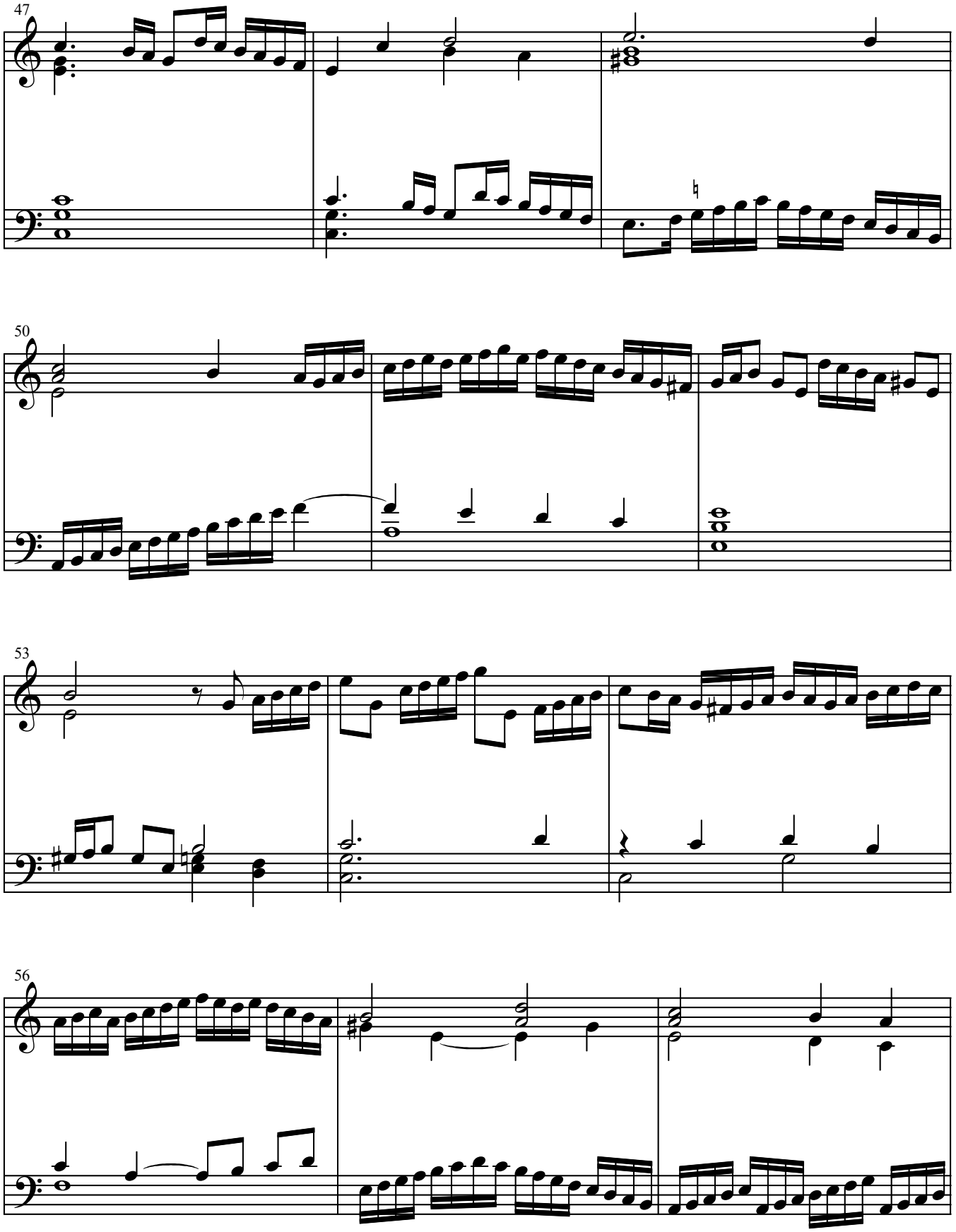
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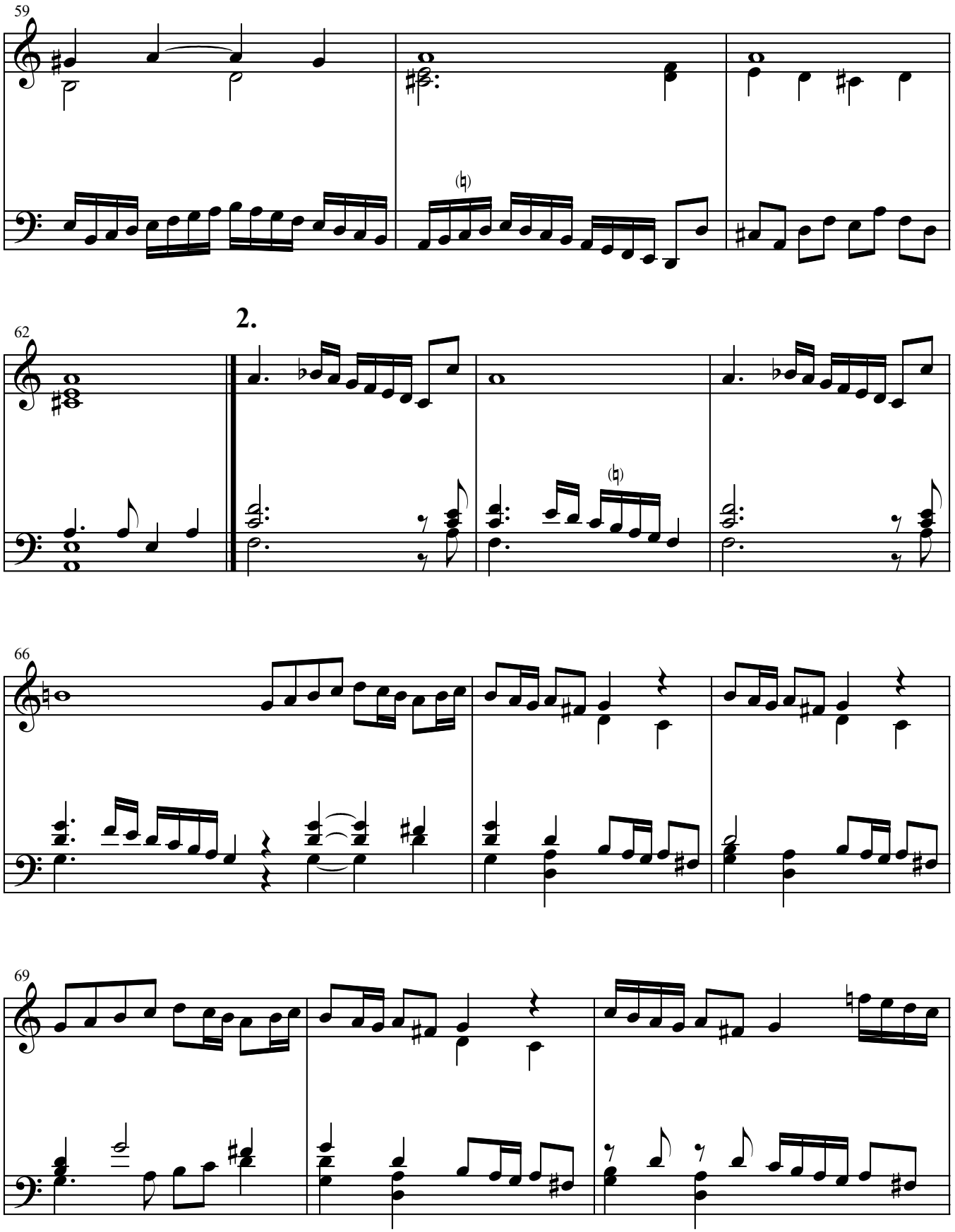
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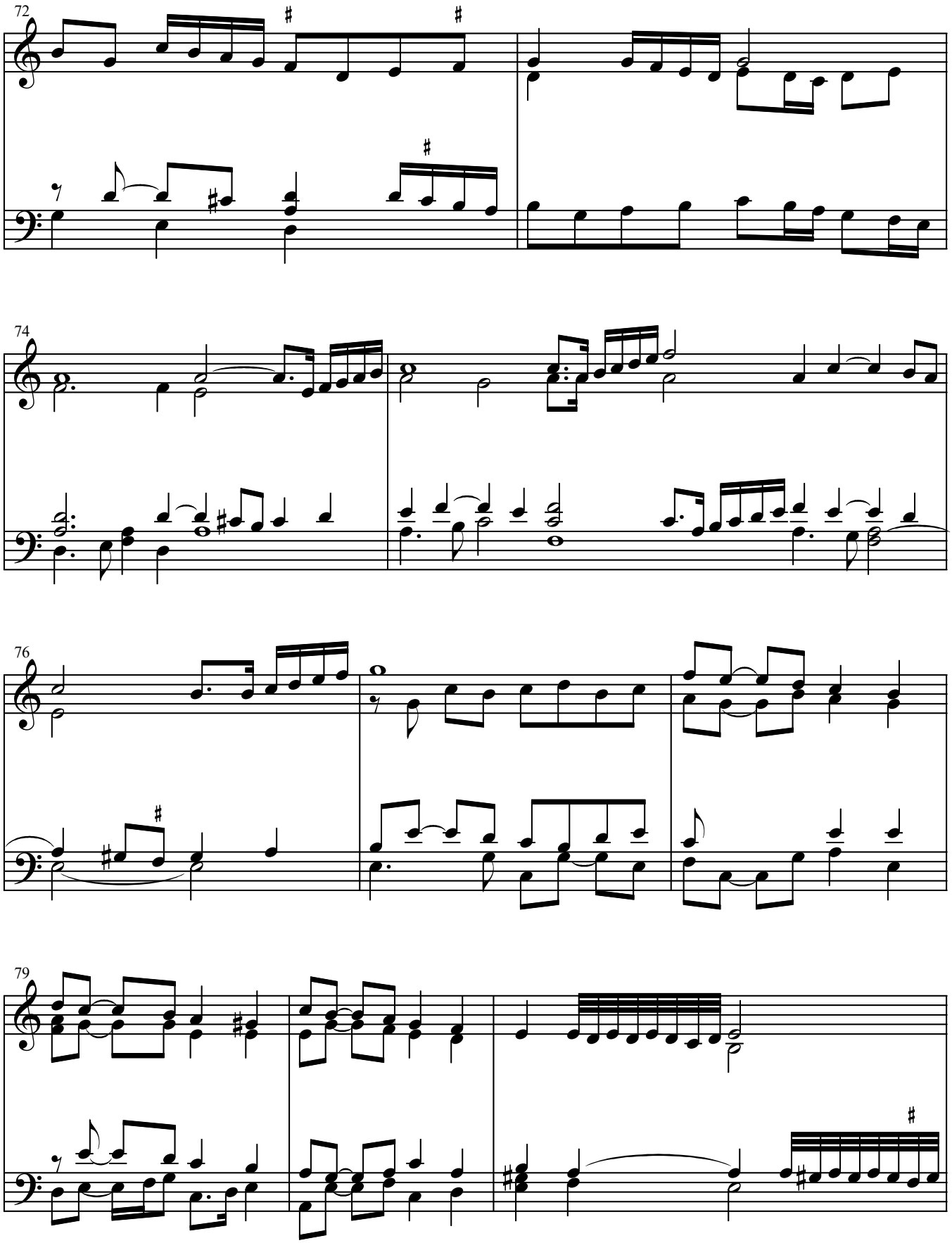
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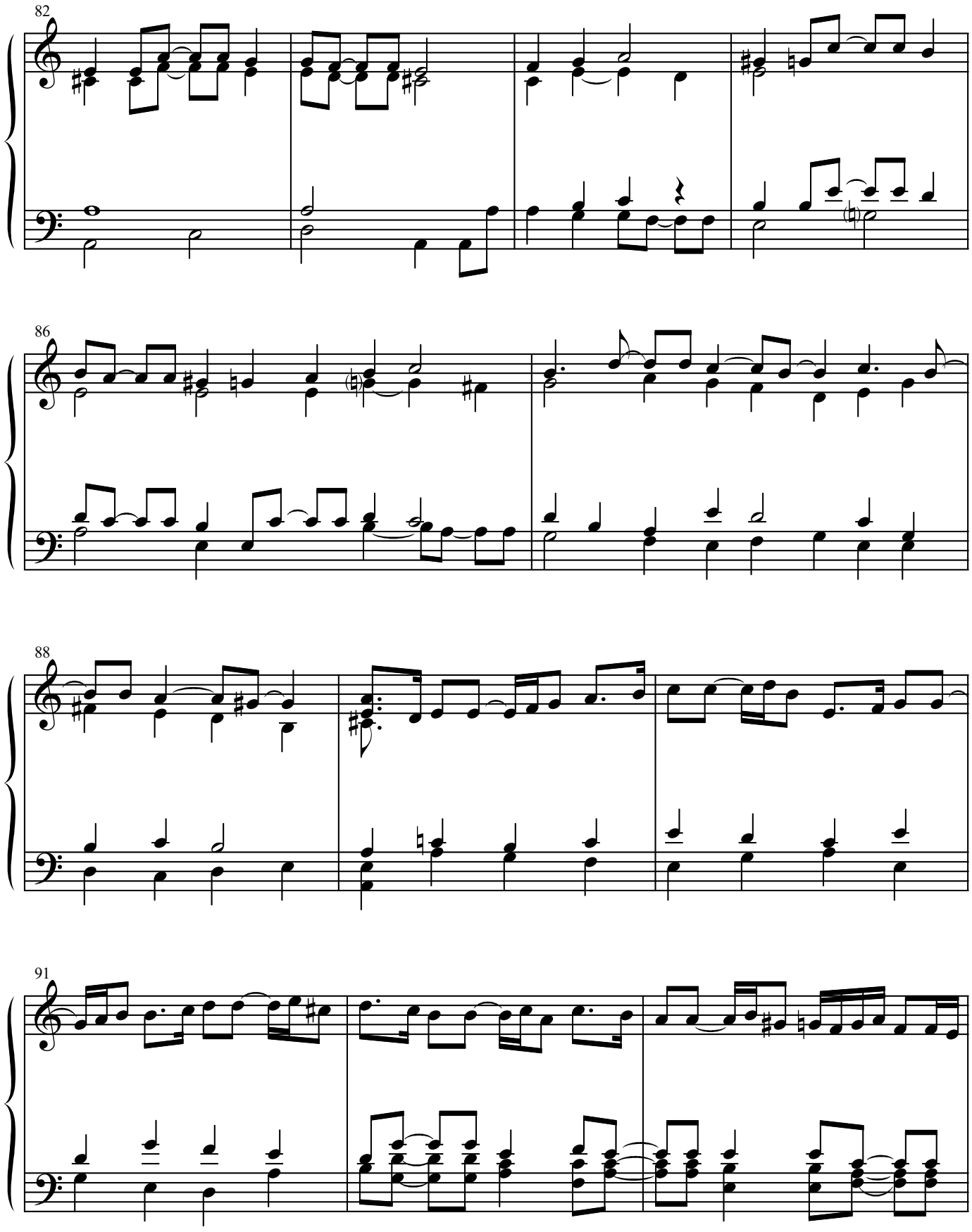
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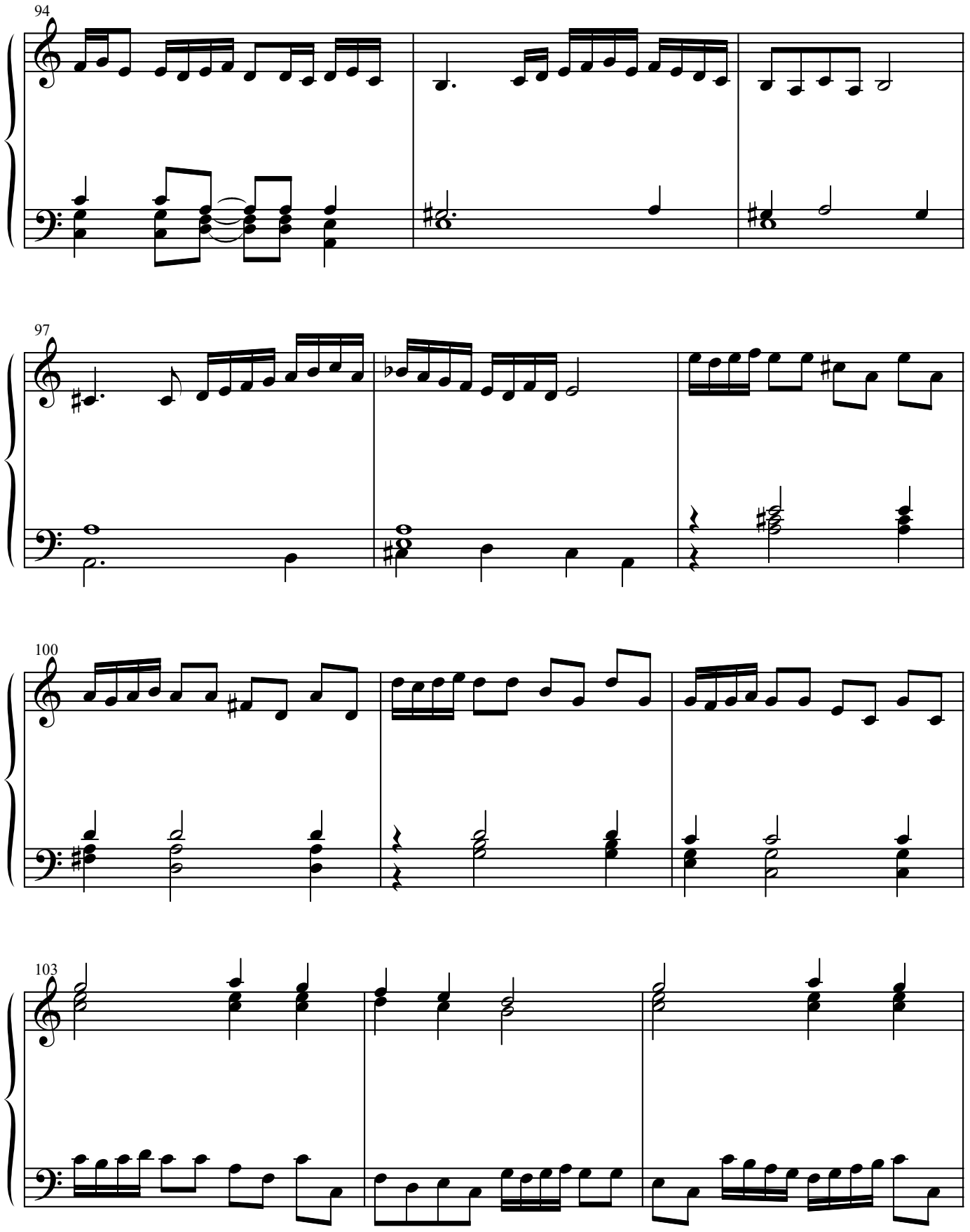
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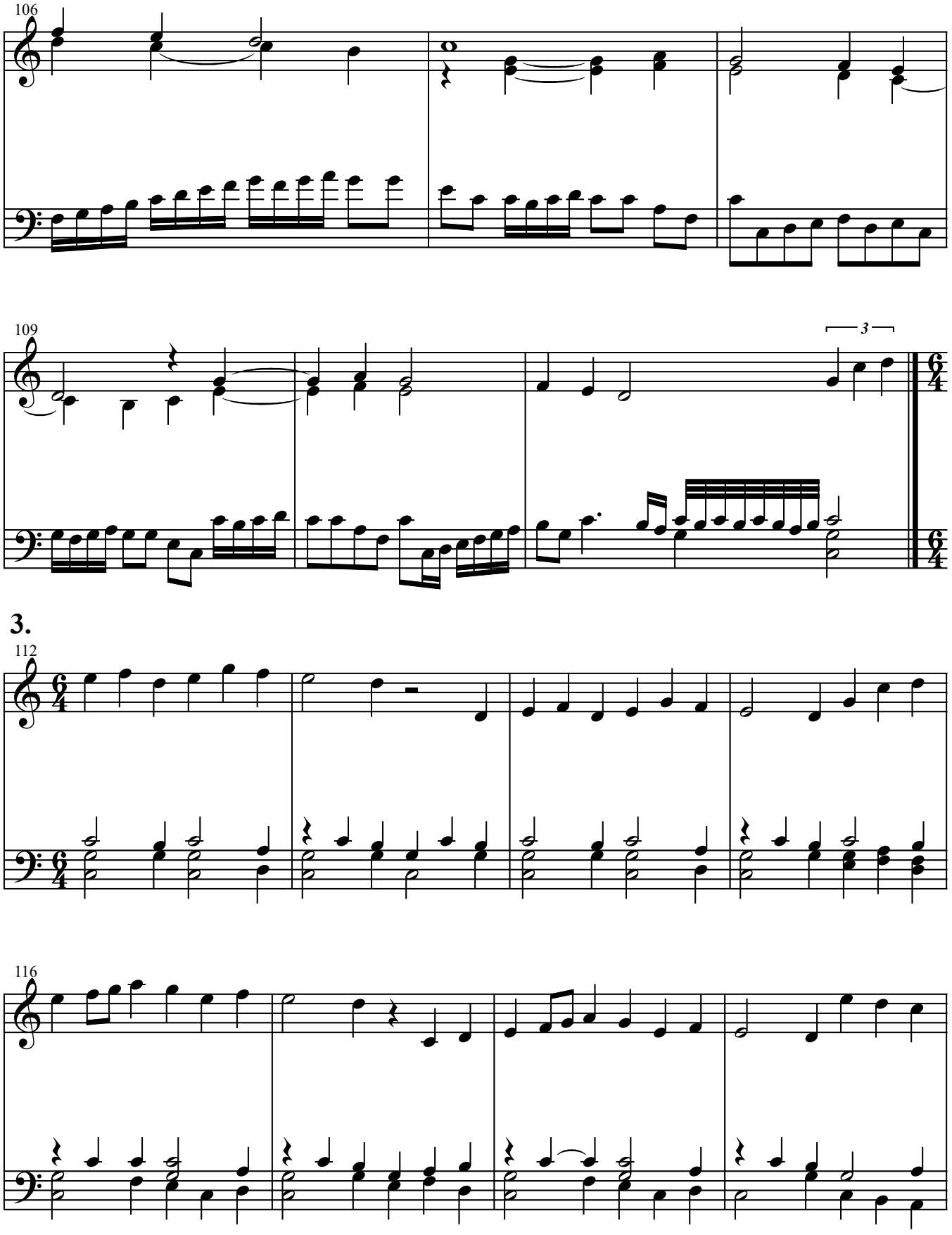
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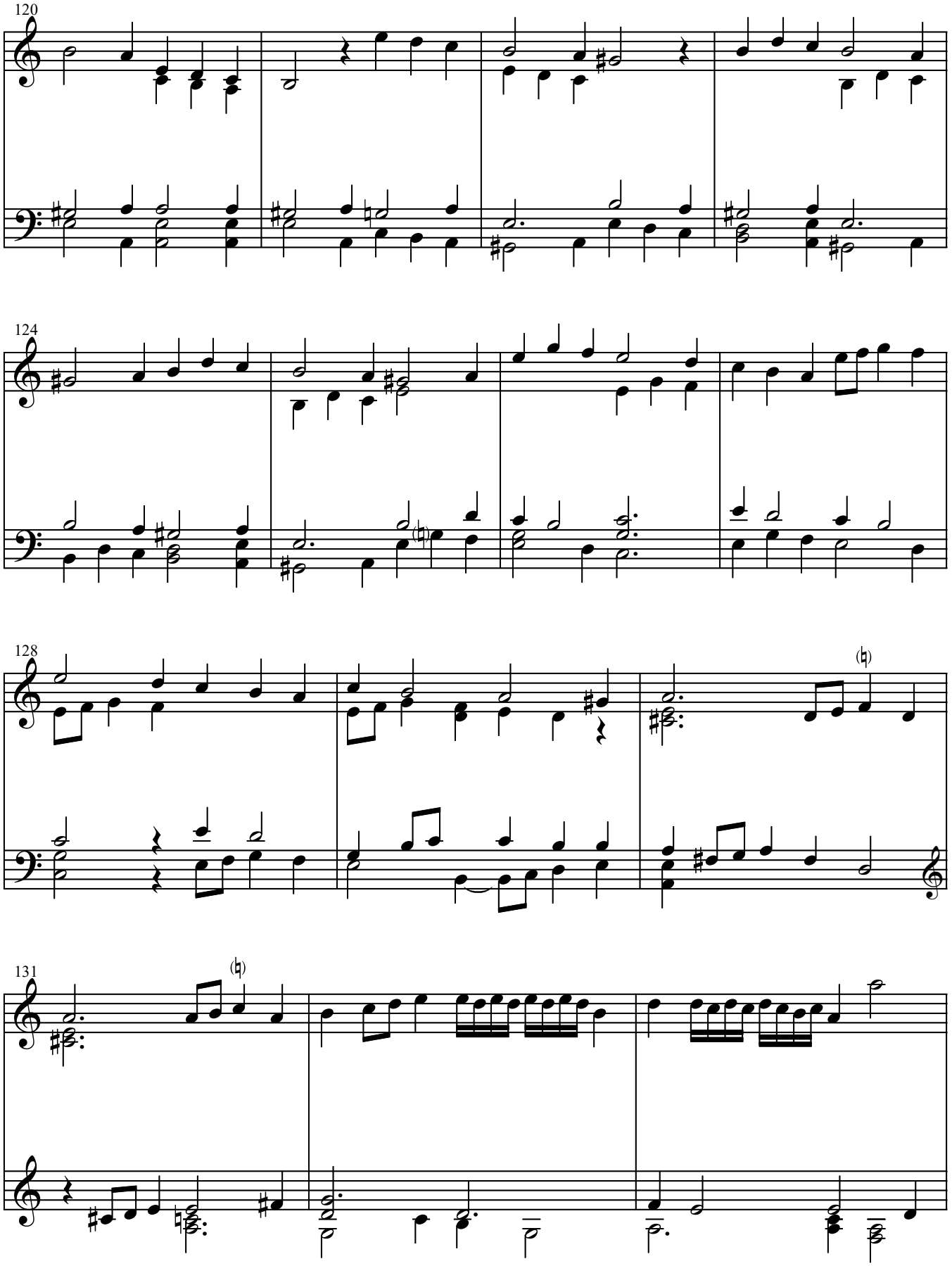
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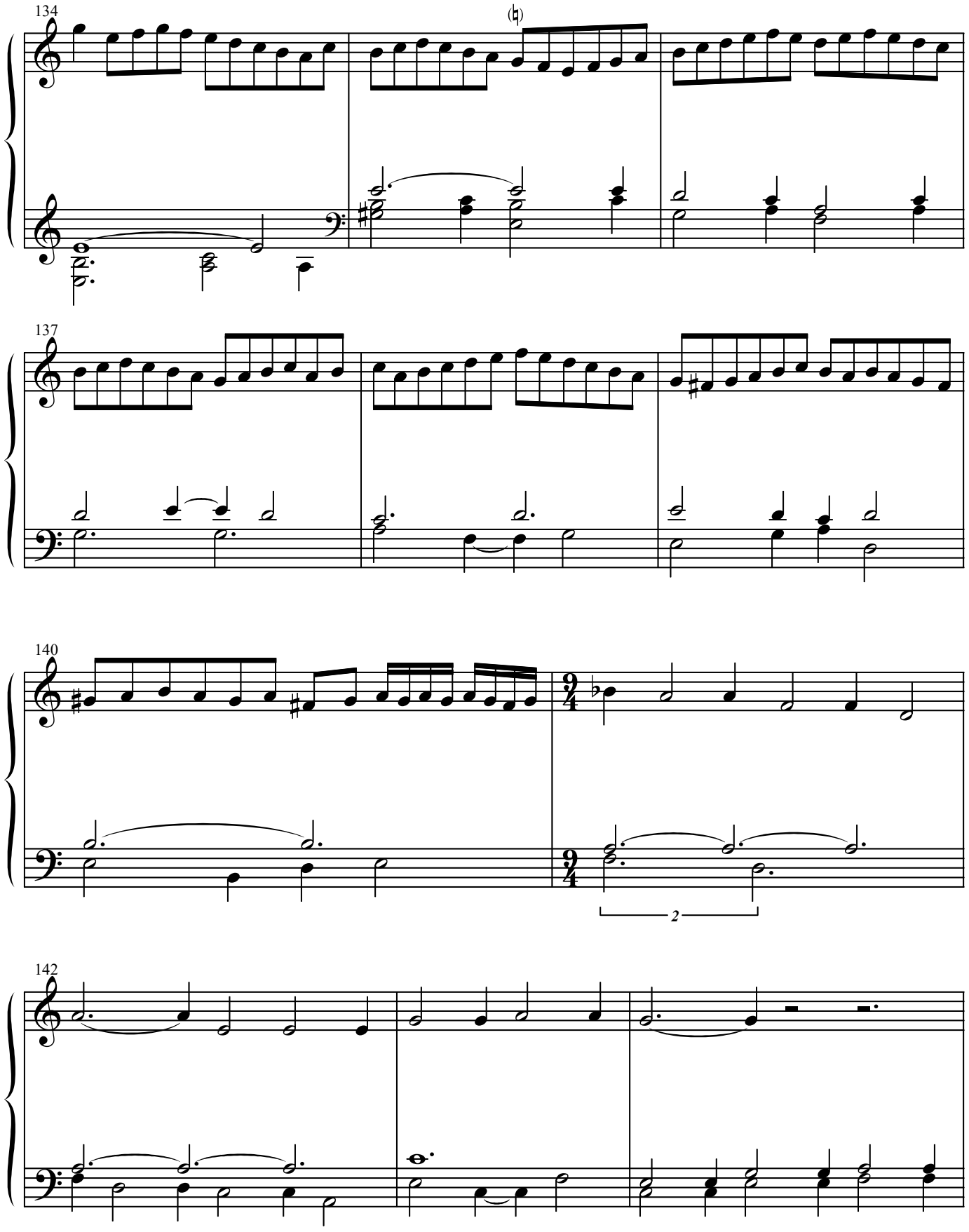
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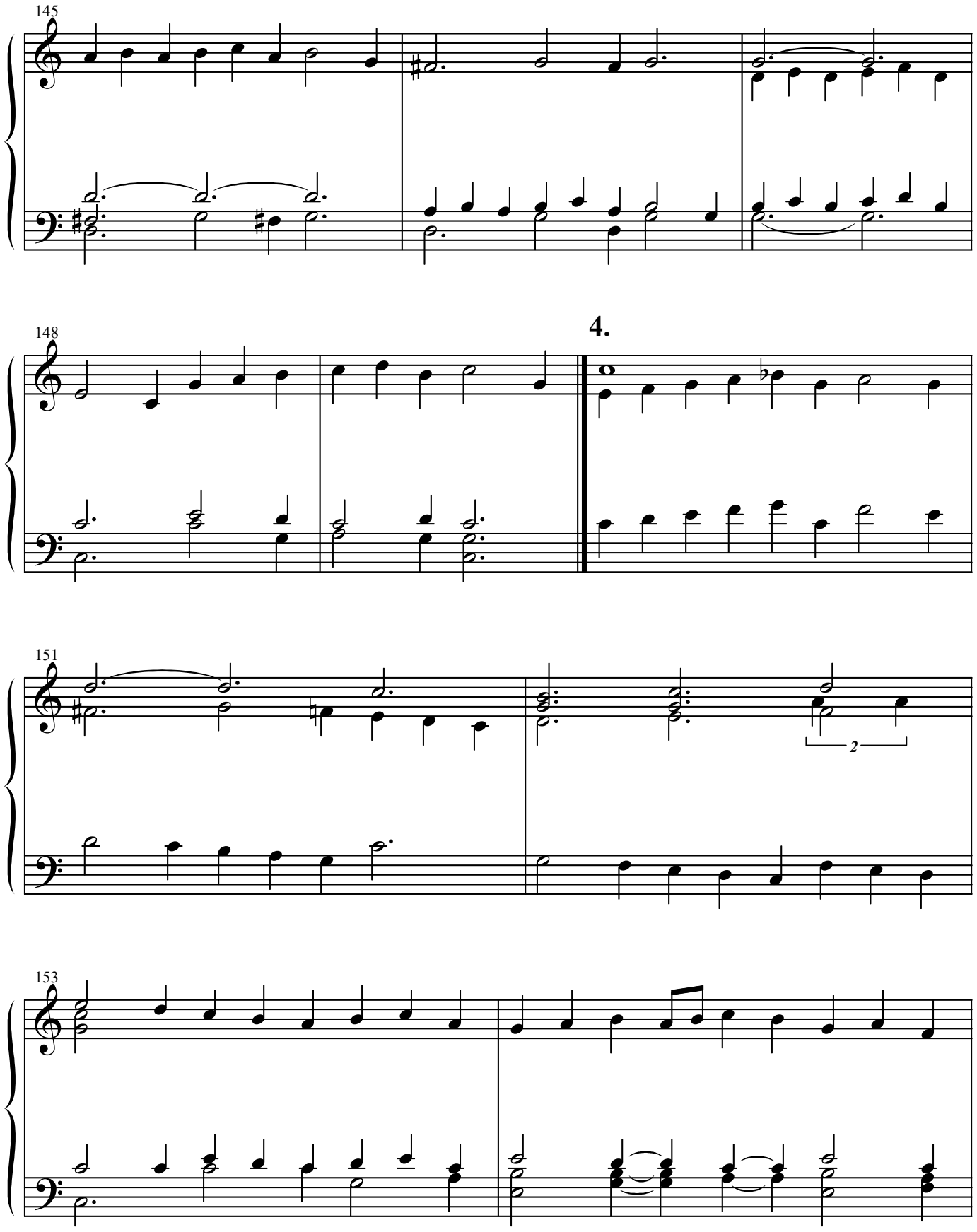
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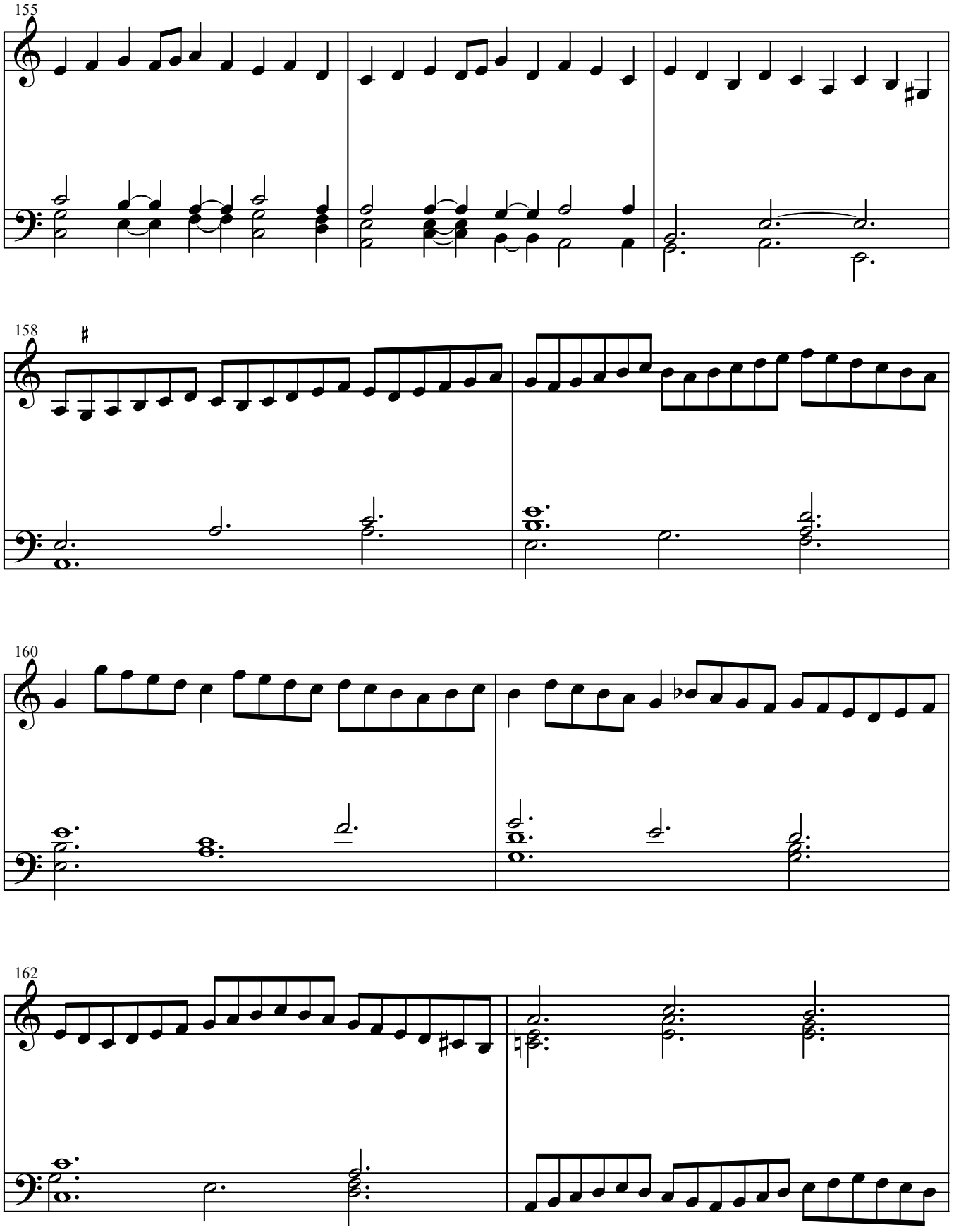
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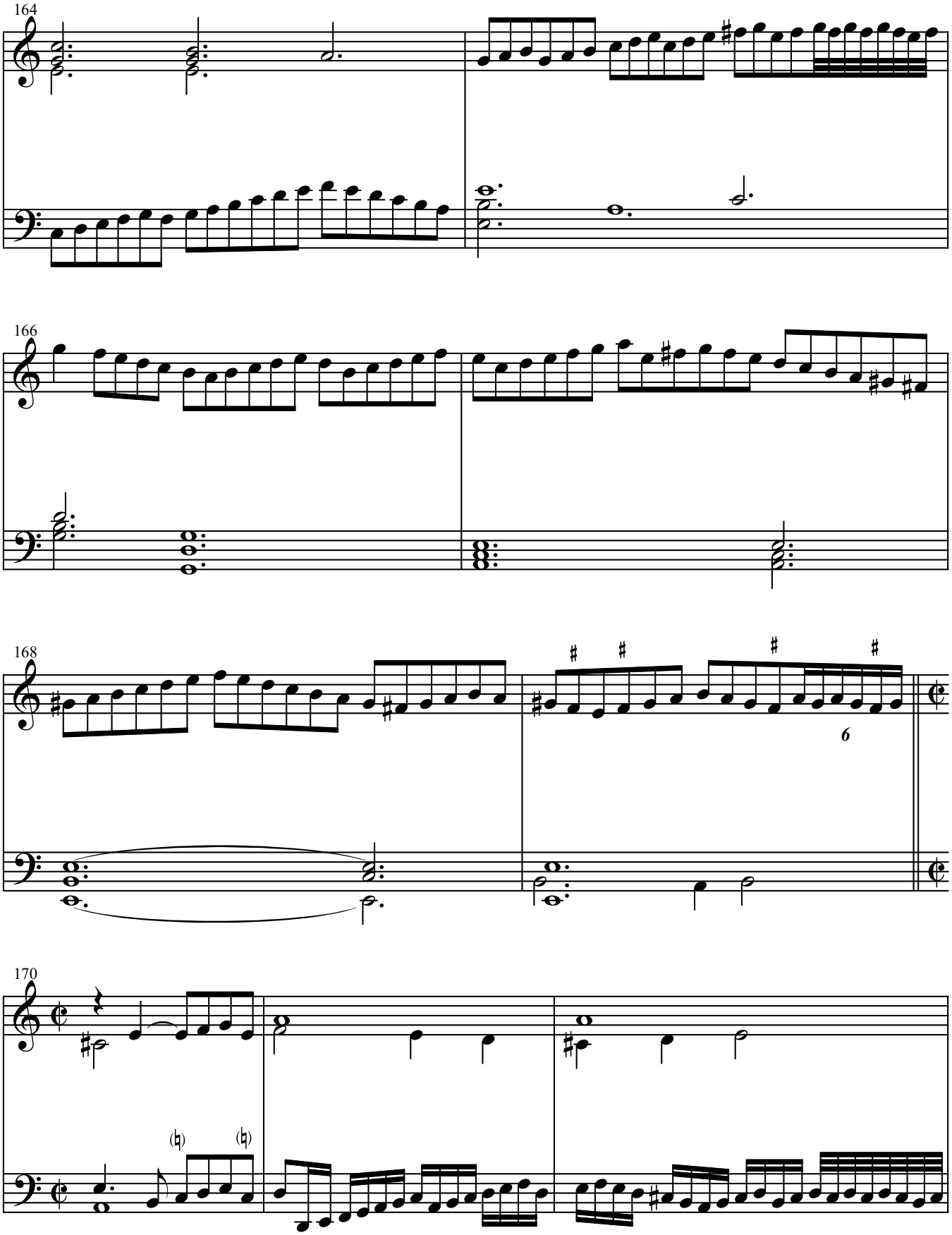
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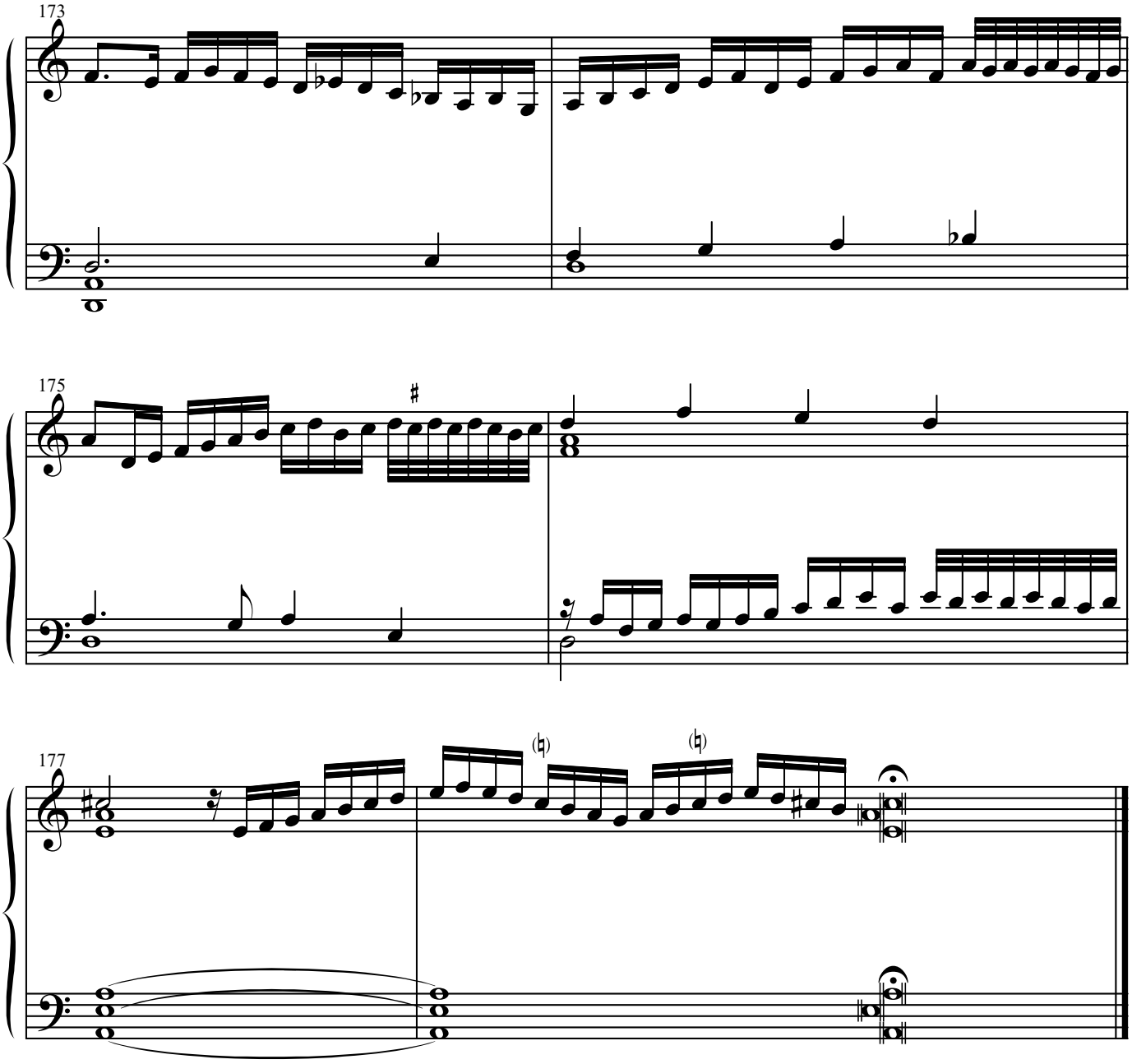

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The fingering ins measures 39 and 42 is in the manuscript.

The manuscript presents *Praeludium FVB 100* as belonging with the *Fancie FVB 52*, but no other source mentions it. However, these two pieces sound well, and are often played together in concert.

Composed between 1563 and 1570, the "Fancie" (Fantasia) is a brilliant example of a piece in free form. The work opens in the style of a contrapuntal fantasia for viols, but the form is expanded gradually by surprising modulations and metrical and textural changes; rhythmical tricks thus appear, and reach an unheard-of complexity for keyboard music of the time. The piece draws to a close in a grand coda where each hand in turn tries to outdo the other in virtuosity.

Required piece for the International Competition for Early Music YAMANASHI.