My Favorite Classics
Piano Book

Thirty-One Classical Piano Pieces
From The Devotional Series
Psalms: Lessons In Prayer

Eric Elder

My Favorite Classics: Piano Book
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Introduction

I love playing the piano, and I especially love playing the classics, those songs written in the 17- and 1800s. They are truly "classics."

When I married Lana and began looking through some of the piano books she had played since childhood, I was in heaven. To find so many songs, many of which I had only heard but never played before, it was like opening one Christmas gift after another after another.

A few years ago, when I was considering writing a series of devotional messages based on the psalms from the Bible and Lana was going to read and record those psalms for the series, I thought it would be nice to pair each Scripture reading with one of the classics from her special collection.

So after choosing thirty-one psalms that I wanted to use for the series, and having Lana record them in her beautiful reading voice, I worked my way through hundreds of classics, finding those which best fit the mood, tone, and length of each Scripture reading. While some of the songs had to be shortened a bit to fit the readings, and others had to be extended somewhat by repeating a few measures or stanzas, the songs generally fit quite well as they were originally written.

When notating these songs for this book, which my family and I used for recording each of the songs in this project, I kept any musical direction to a minimum. As such, I left the timing, phrasing, and interpretation of the songs up to each individual pianist.

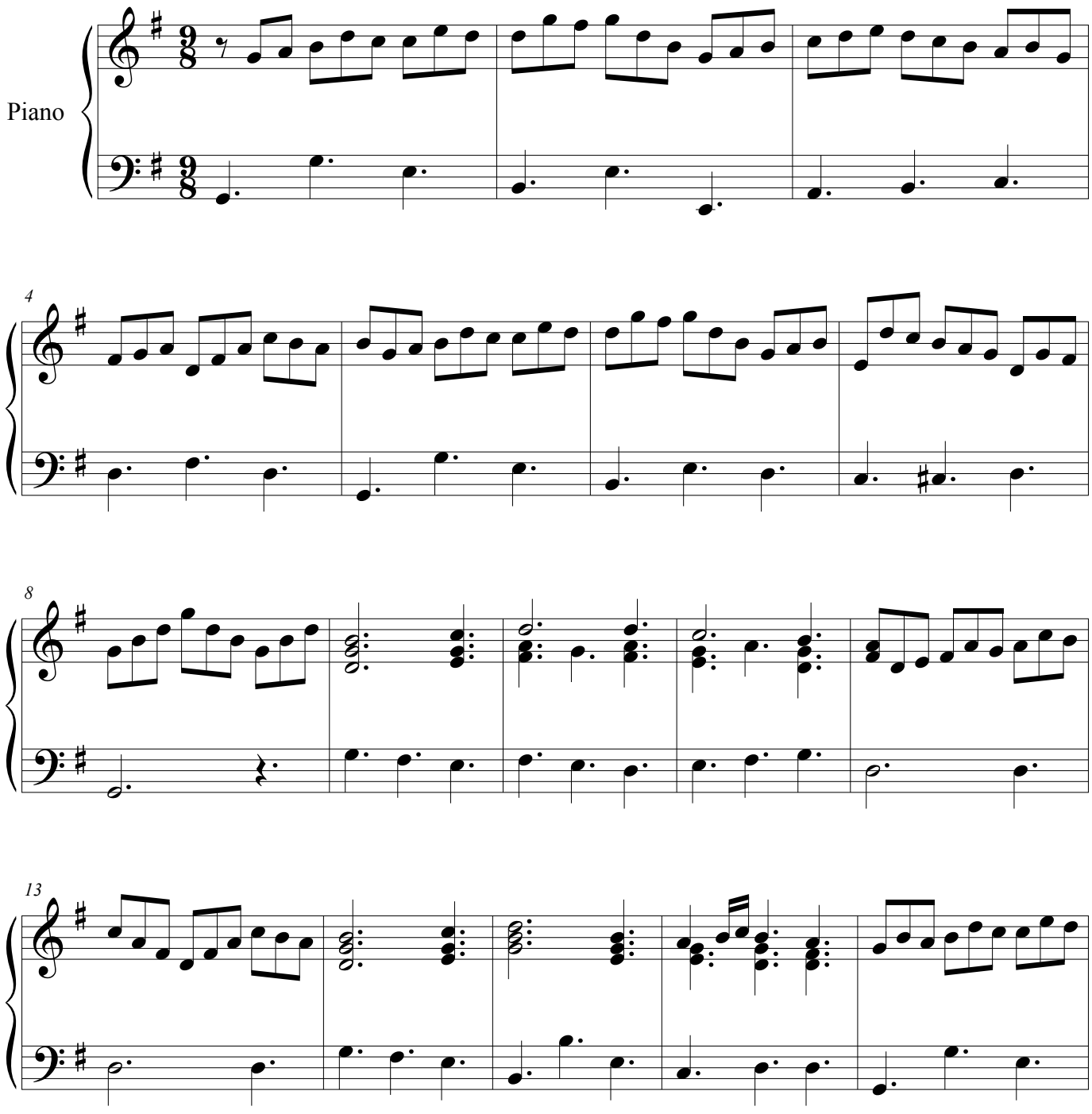
I hope you'll enjoy playing these classics as much my family and I have enjoyed playing them during the recording of this series. I'm confident each composer would be pleased to know that their songs are still bringing joy to pianists and listeners alike—even after all these years.

Enjoy!

Eric Elder

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Johann Sebastian Bach



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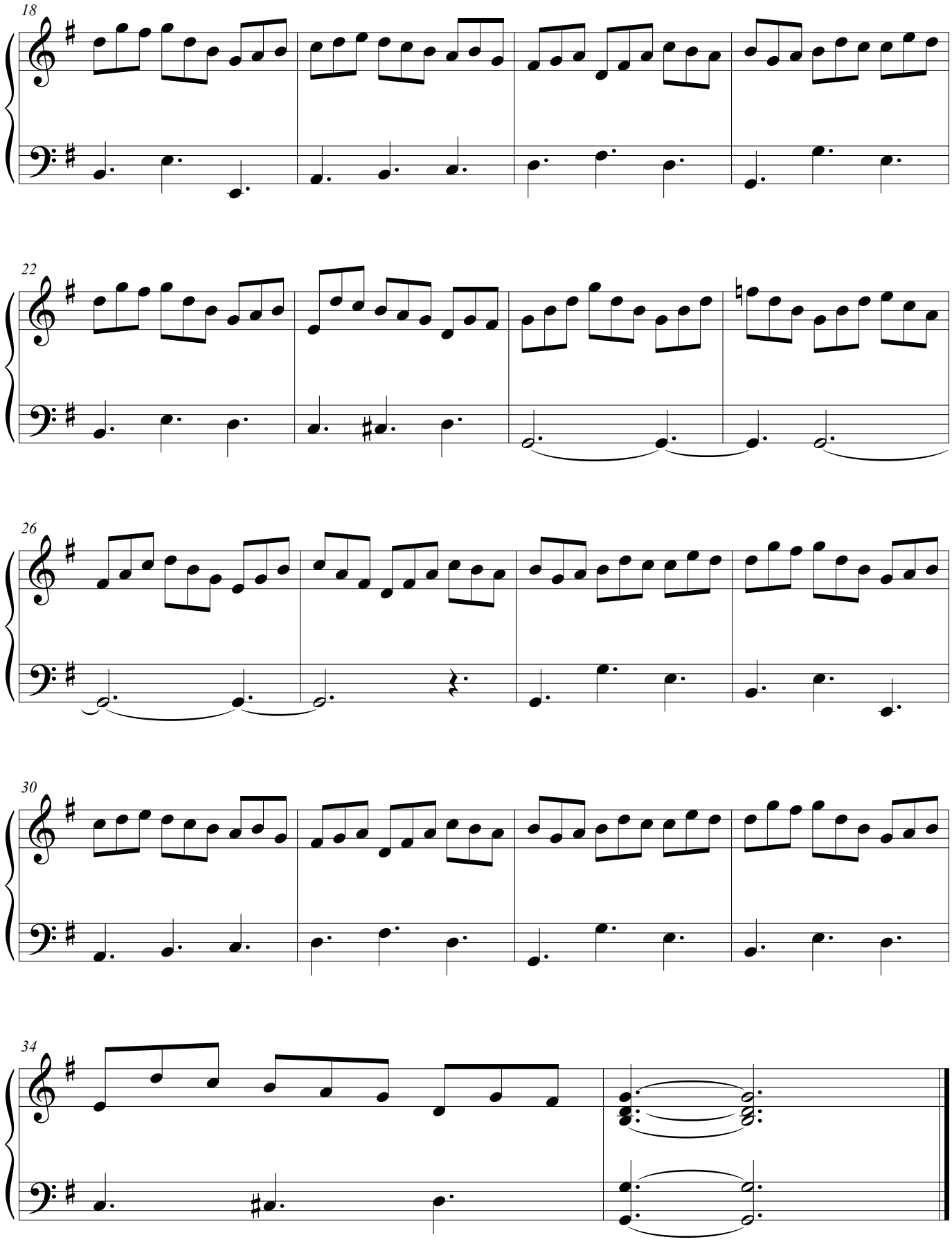
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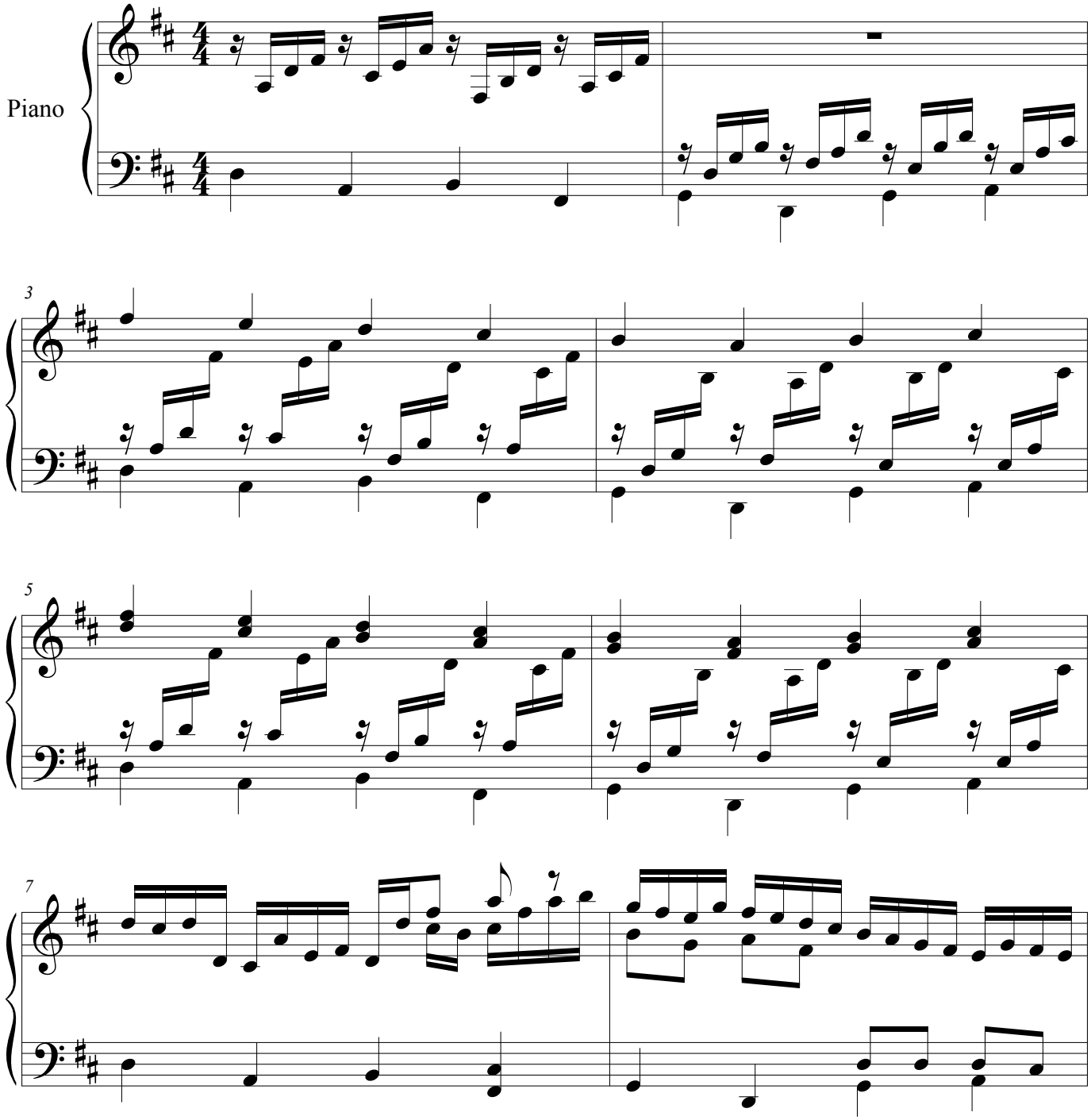
Canon in D

Johann Pachelbel



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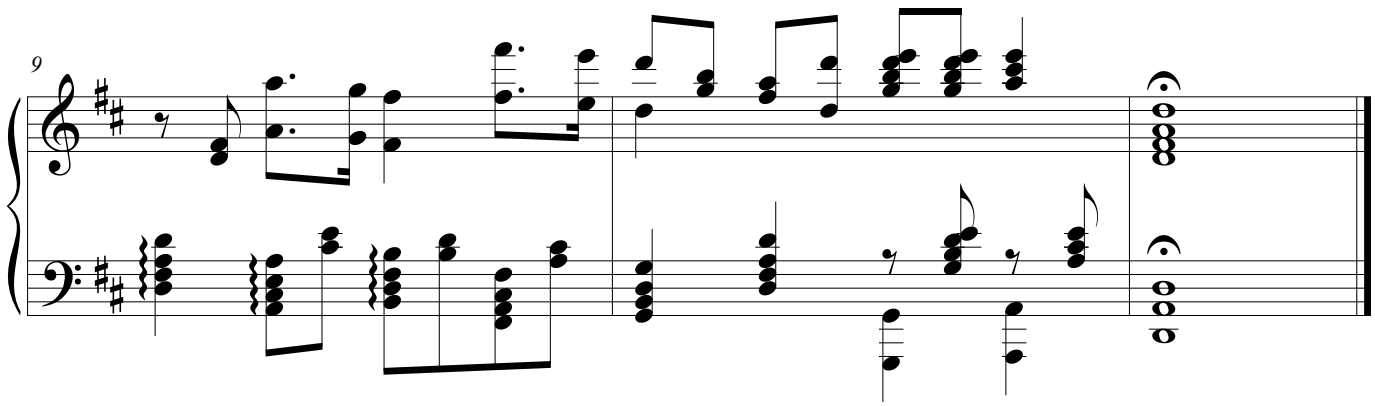
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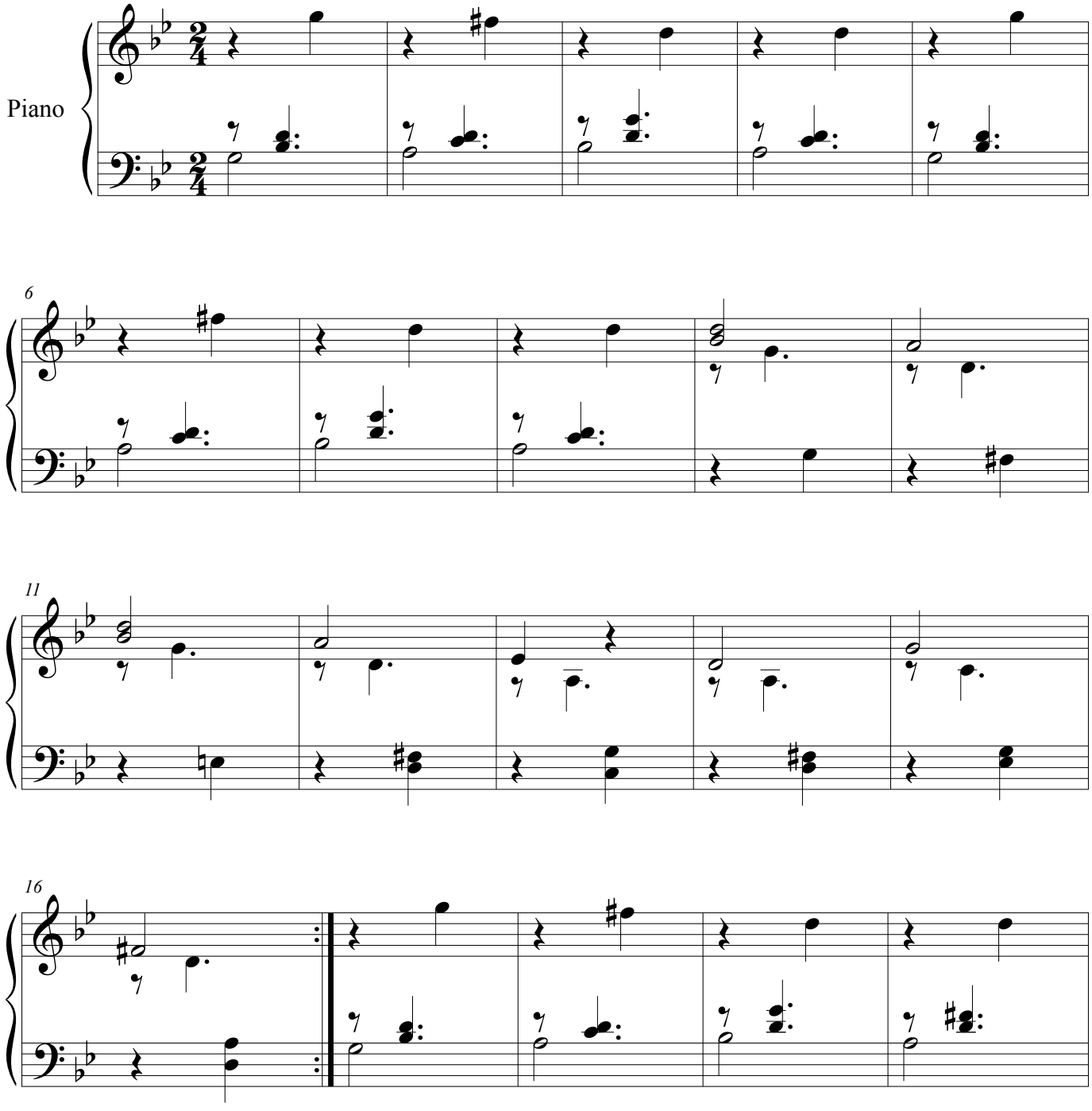
The Sick Doll

Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky



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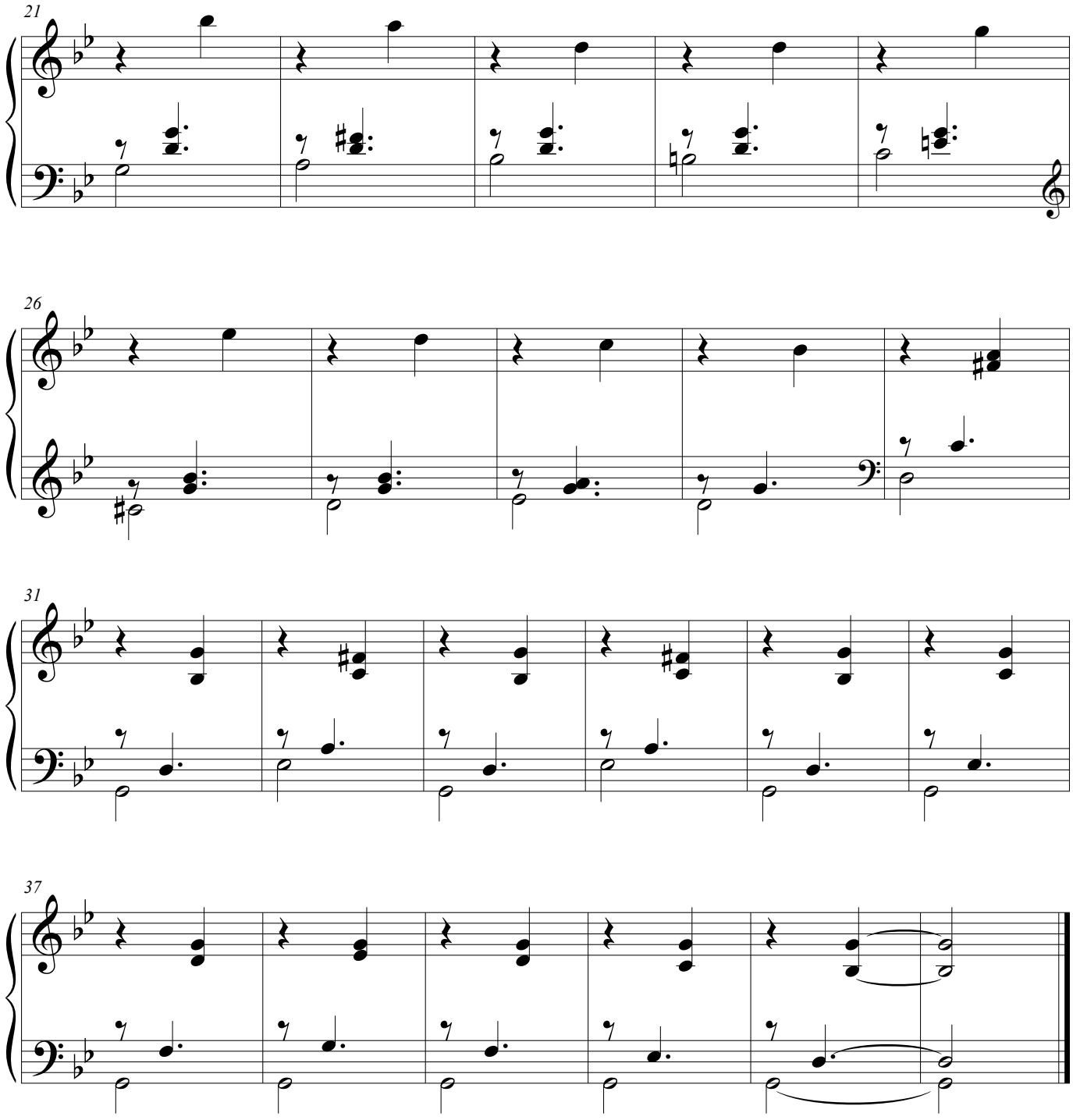
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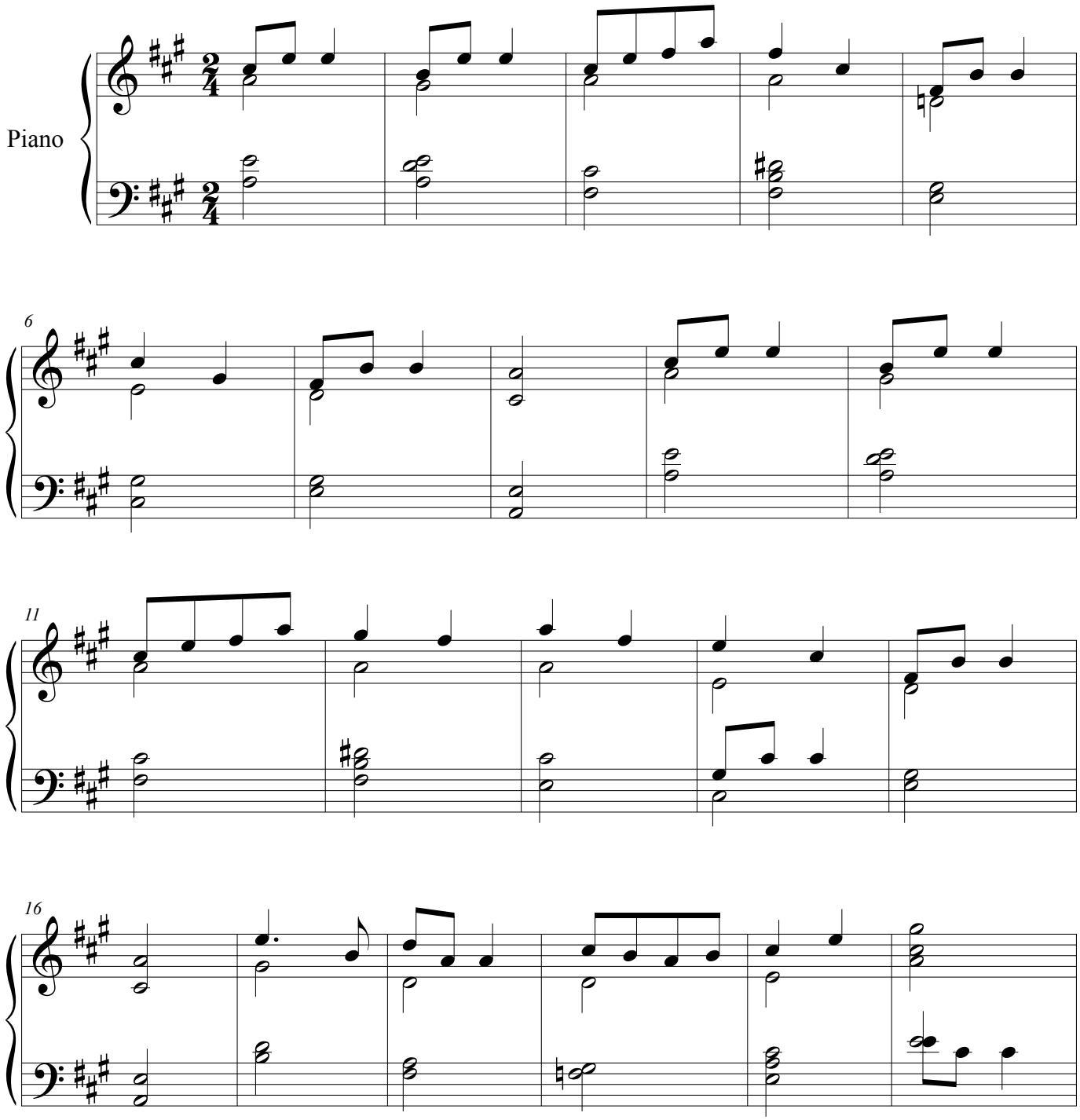
To A Wild Rose

Edward MacDowell



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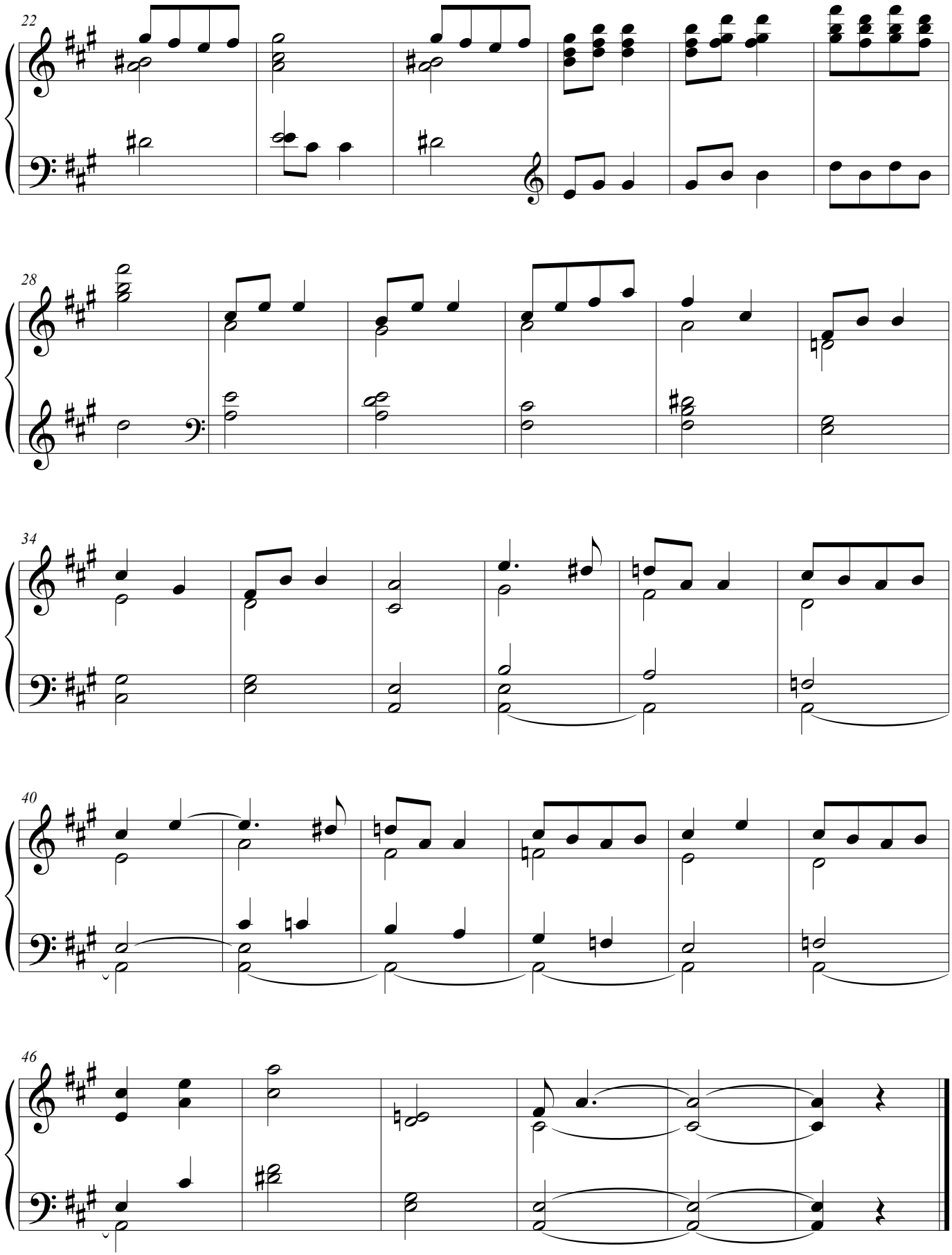
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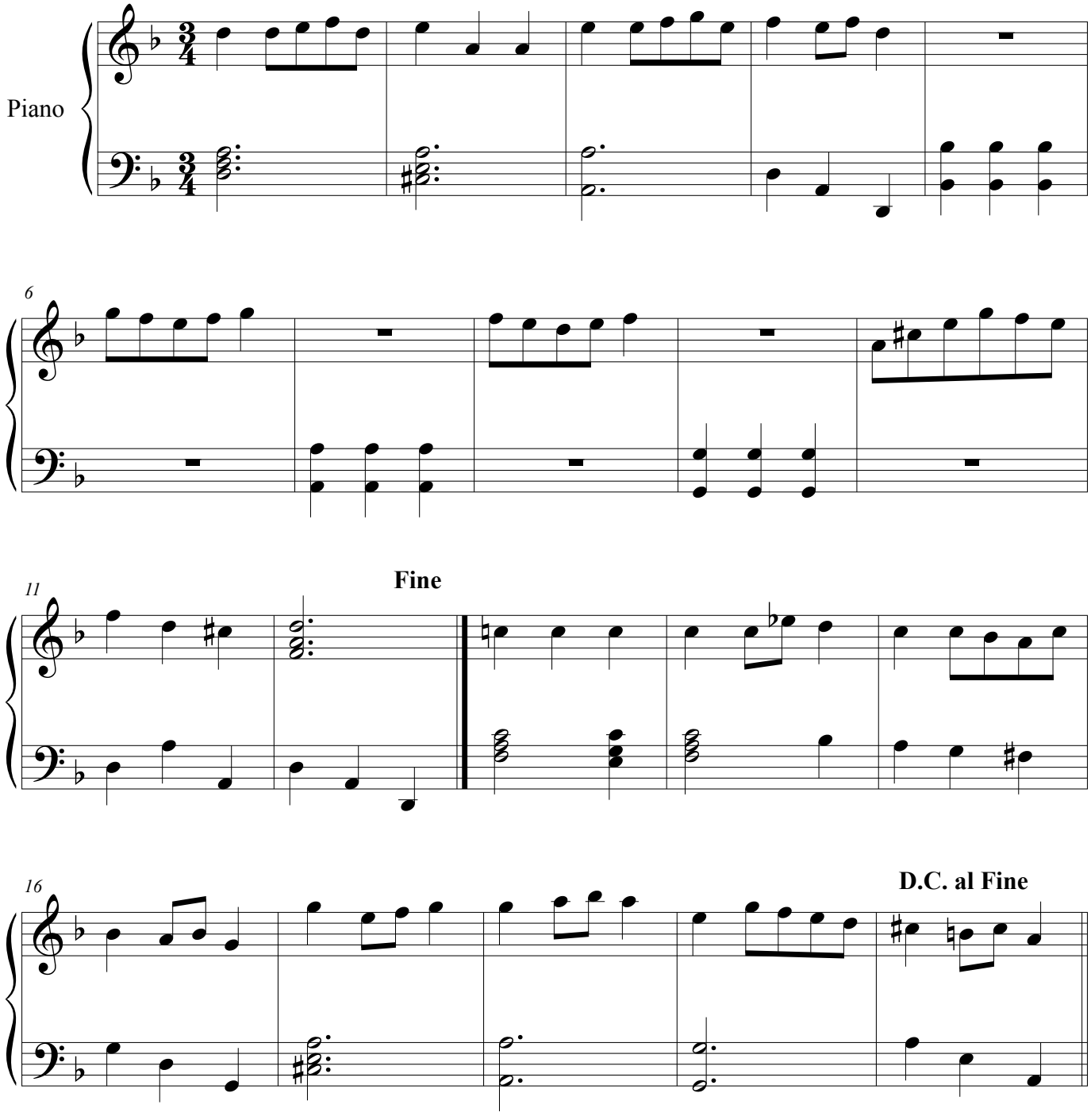
Minuet

Leopold Mozart



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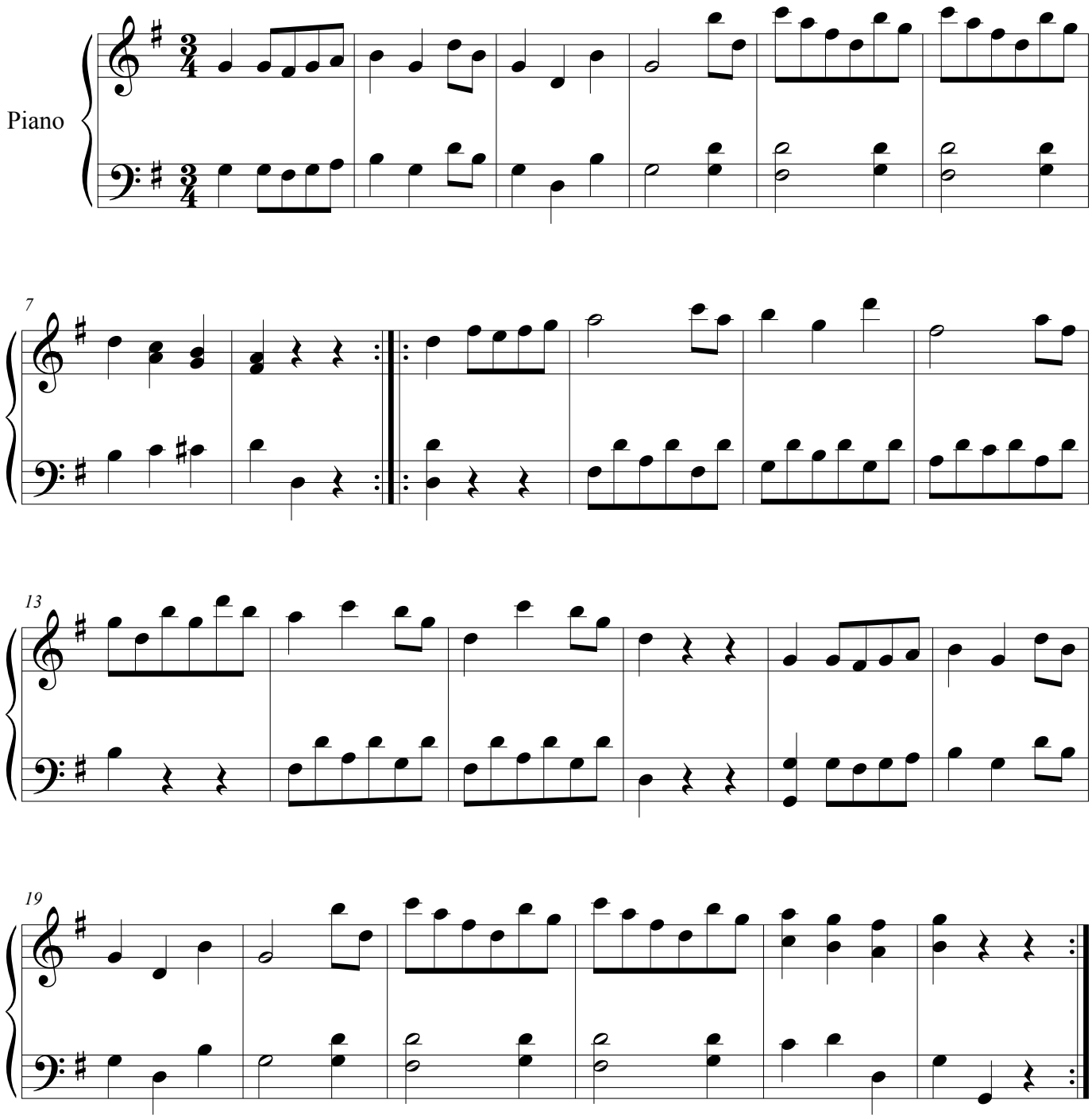
Country Minuet

Franz Joseph Haydn



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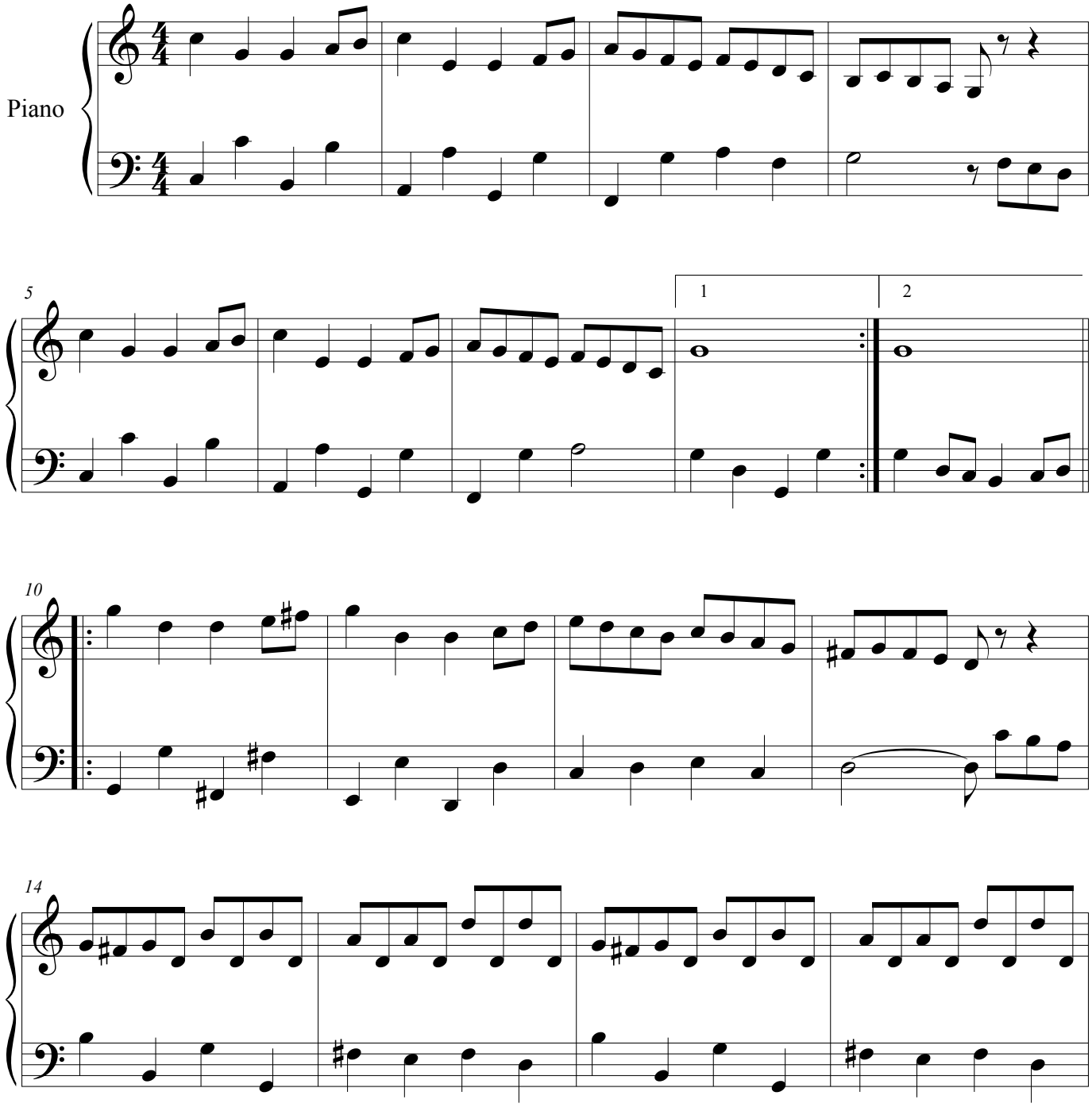
Intrada

Christoph Graupner



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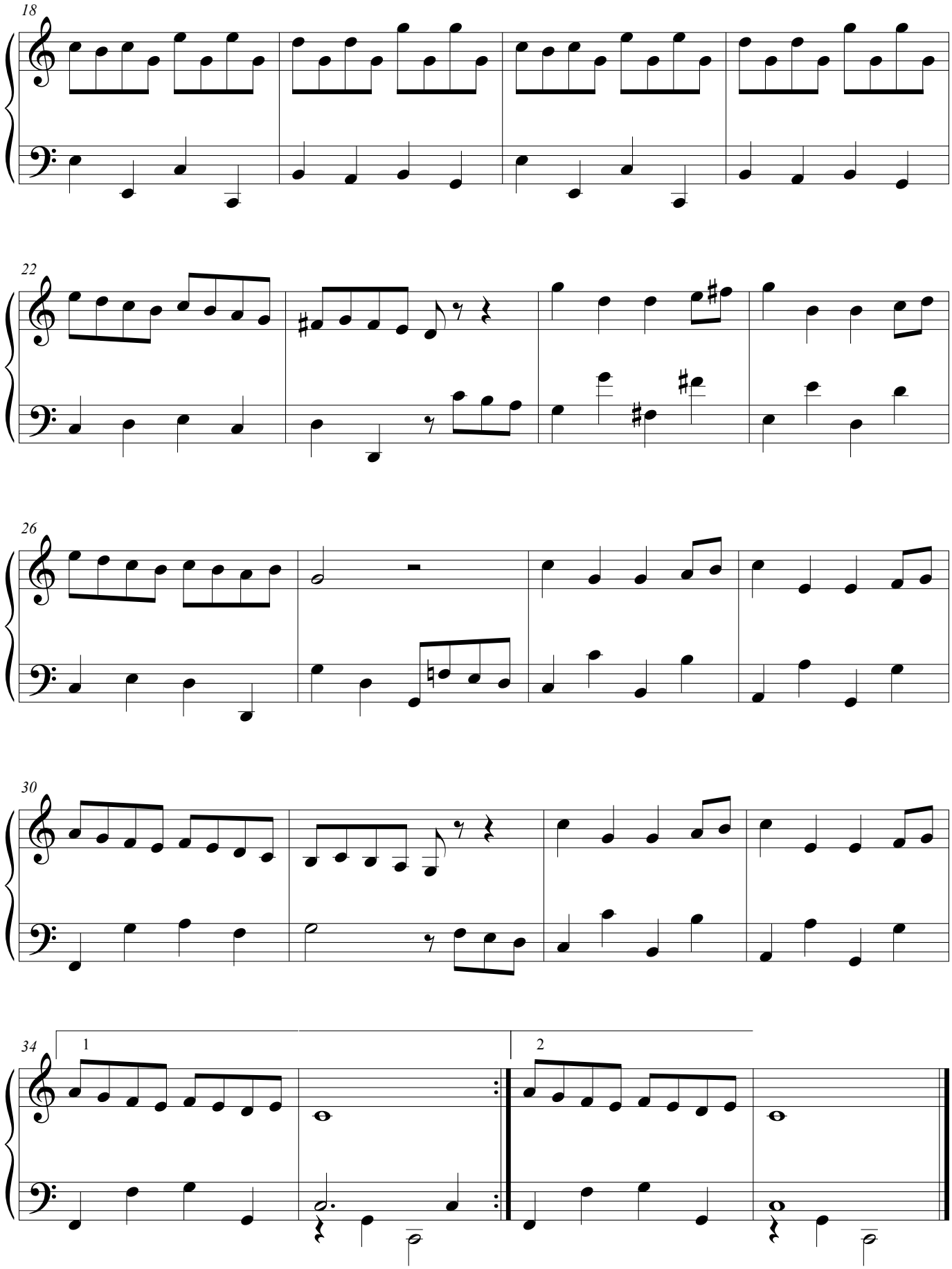
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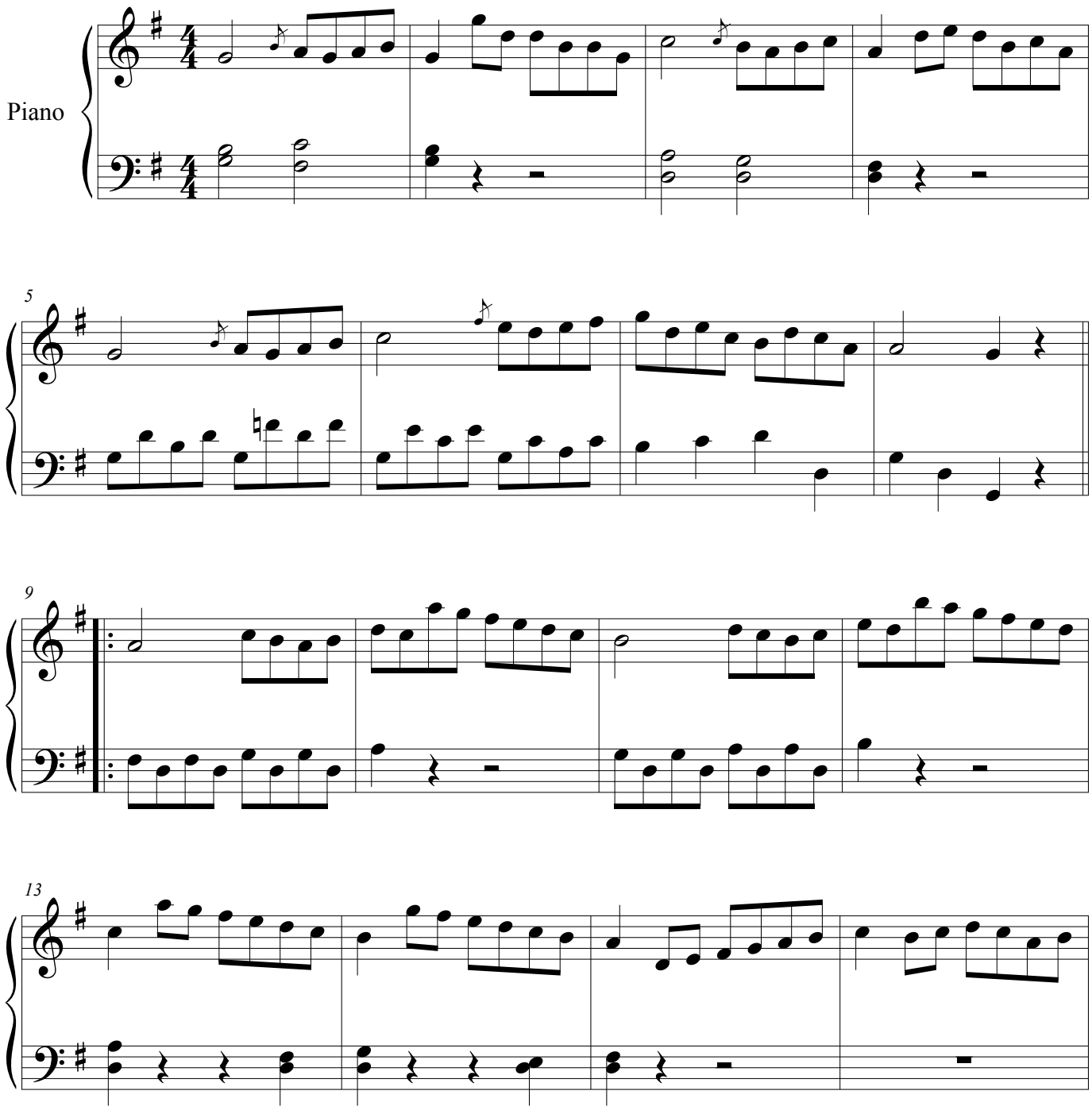
Sonatina

Ludwig van Beethoven



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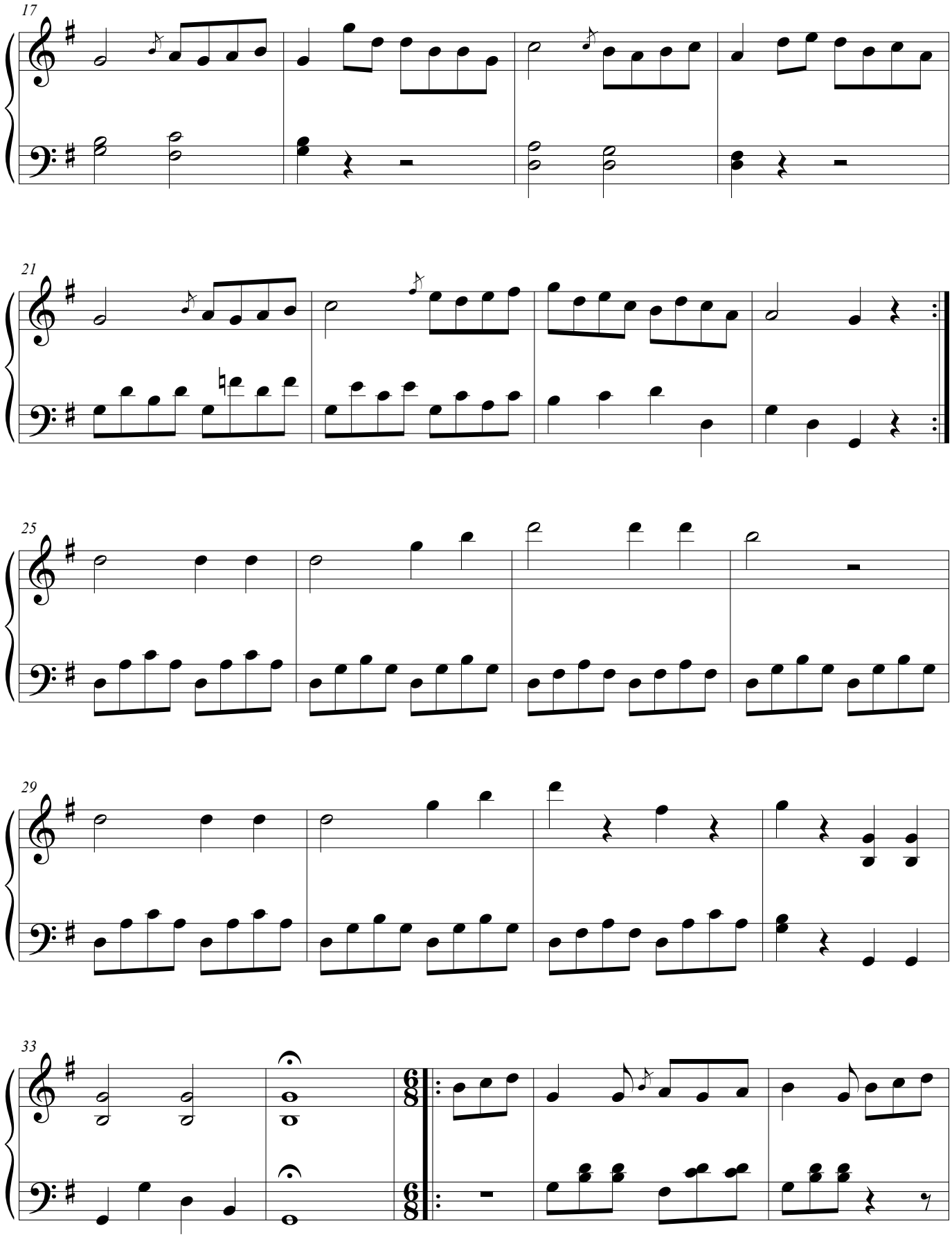
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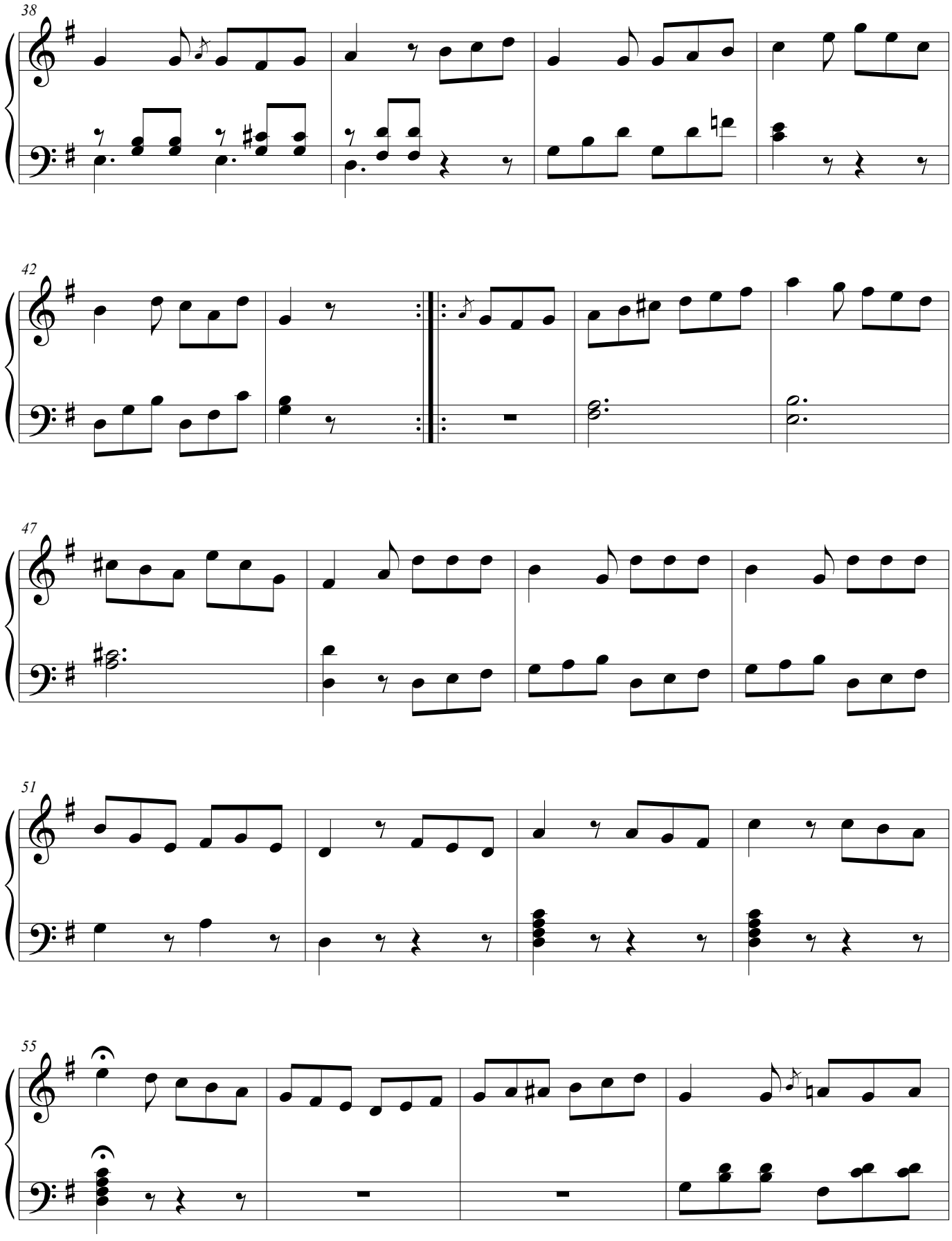
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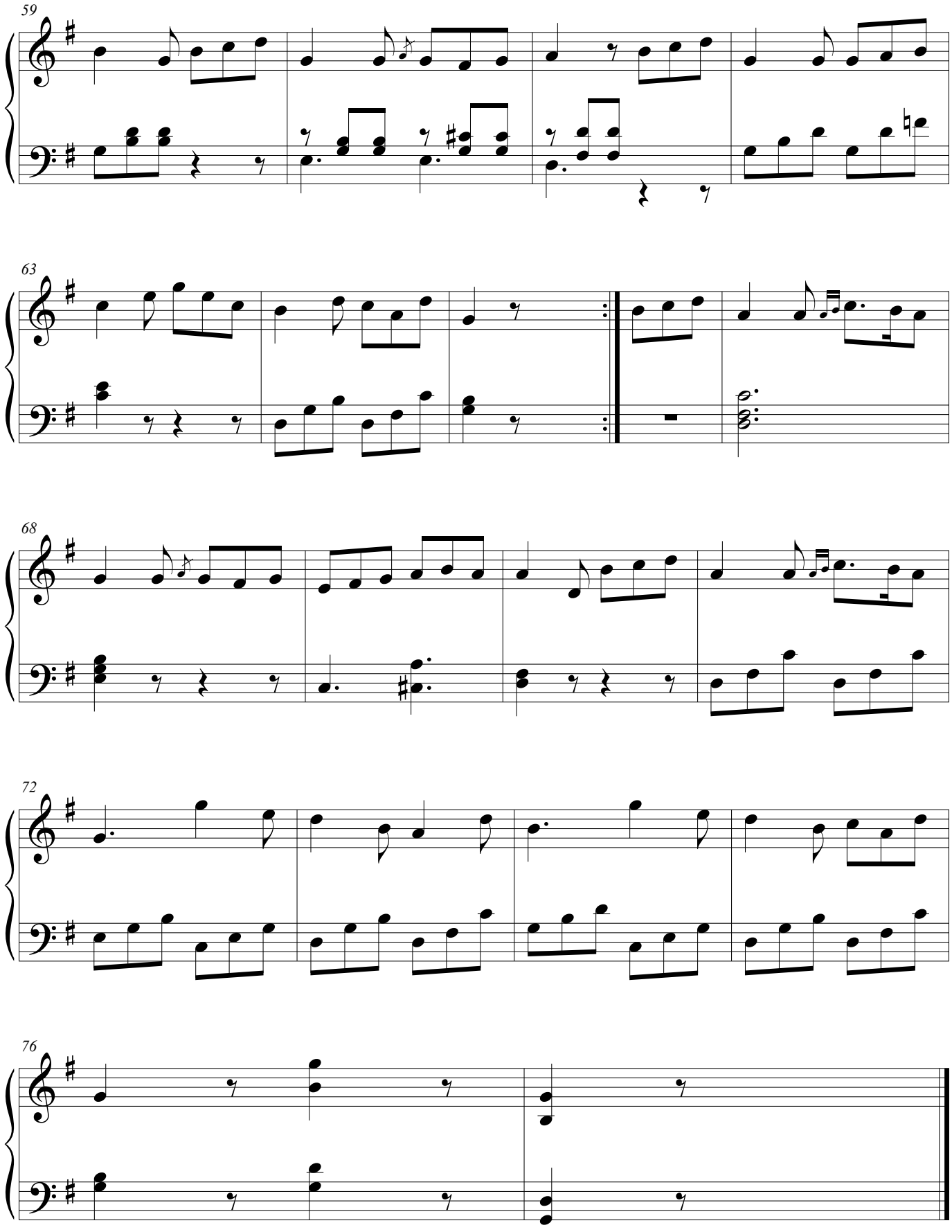
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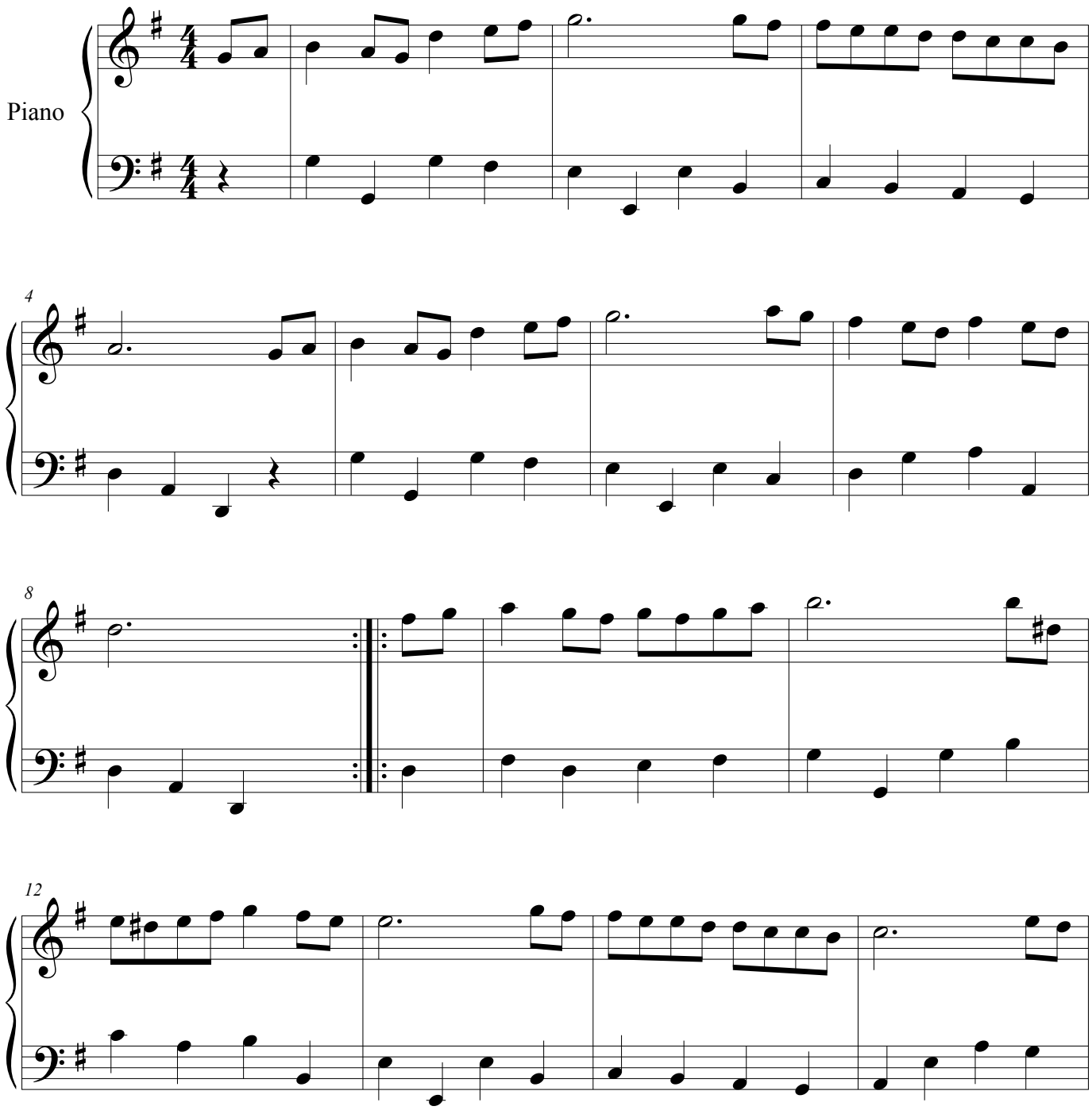
Rigaudon

George Frideric Handel



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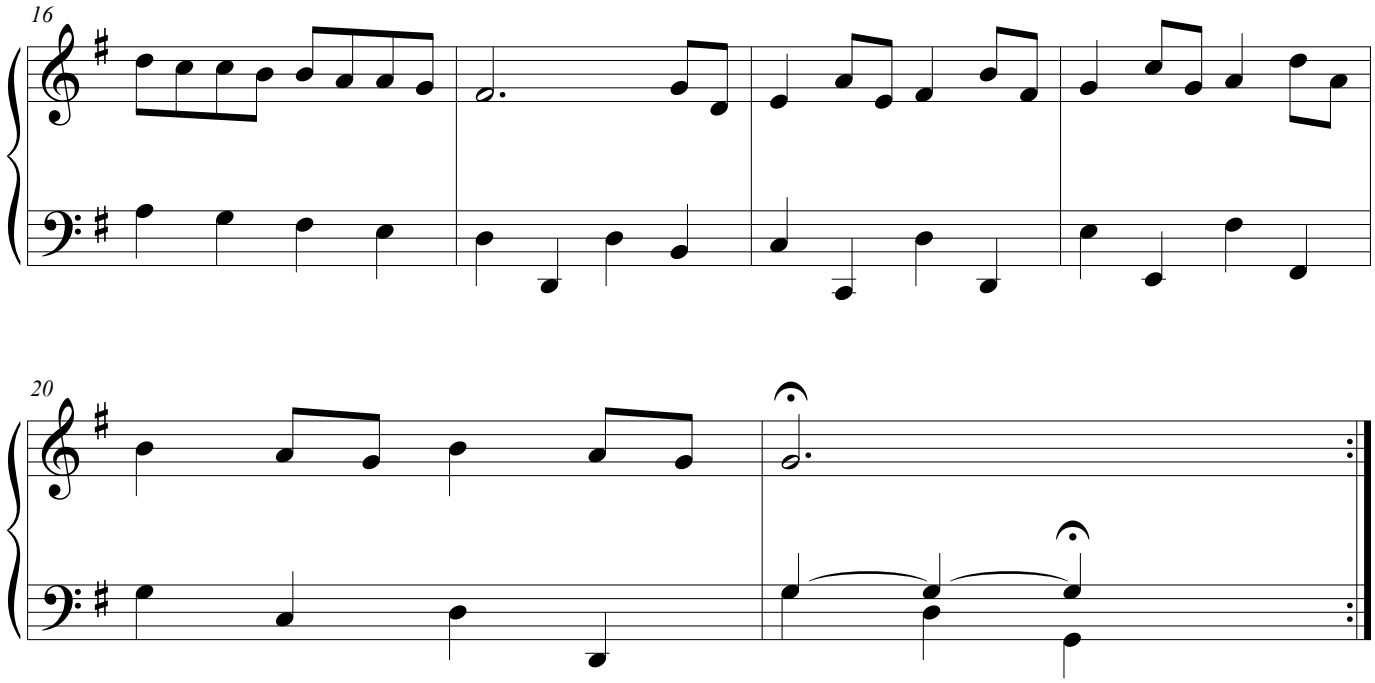
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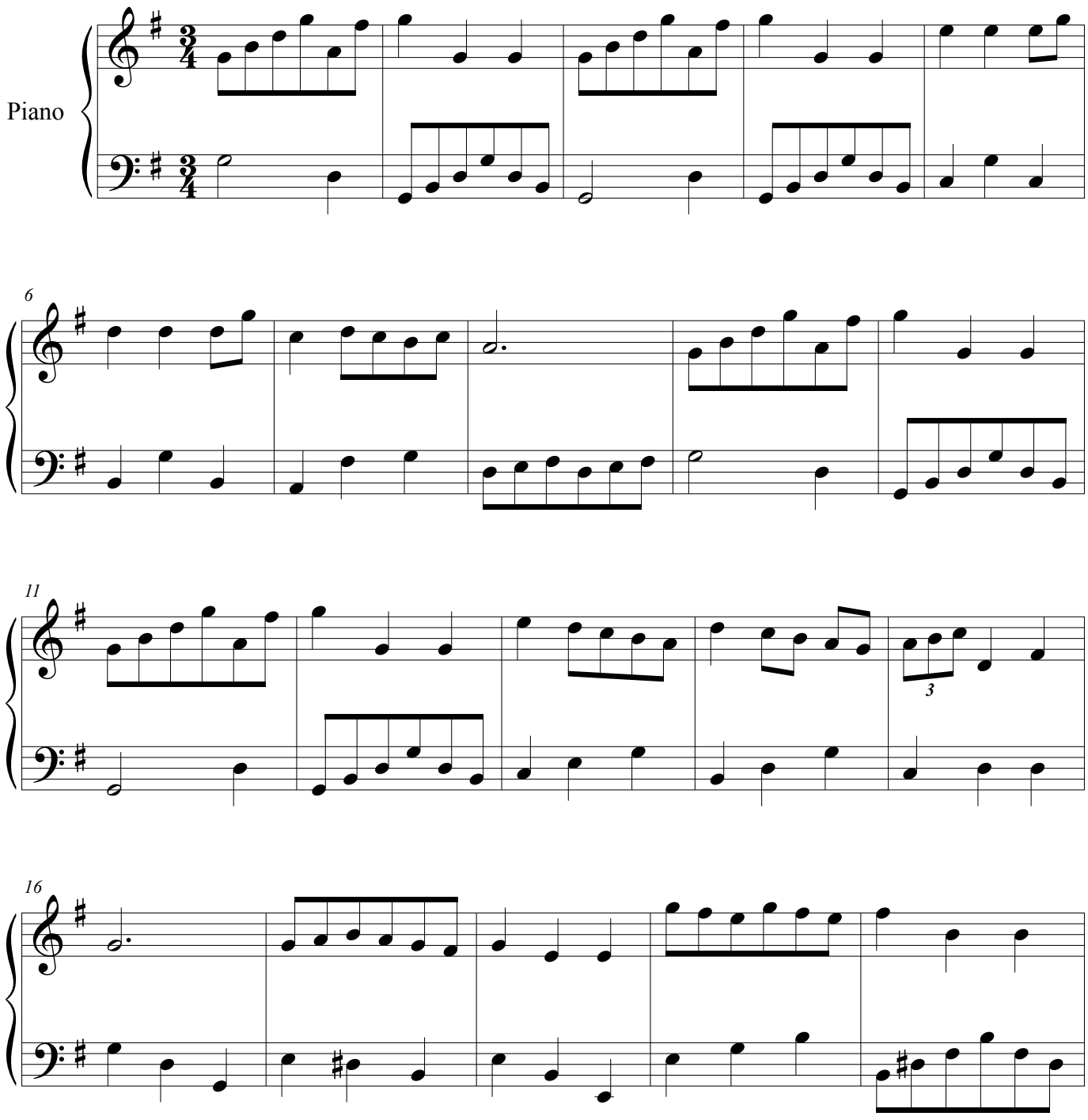
Minuet in G

Christian Petzold/Johann Sebastian Bach



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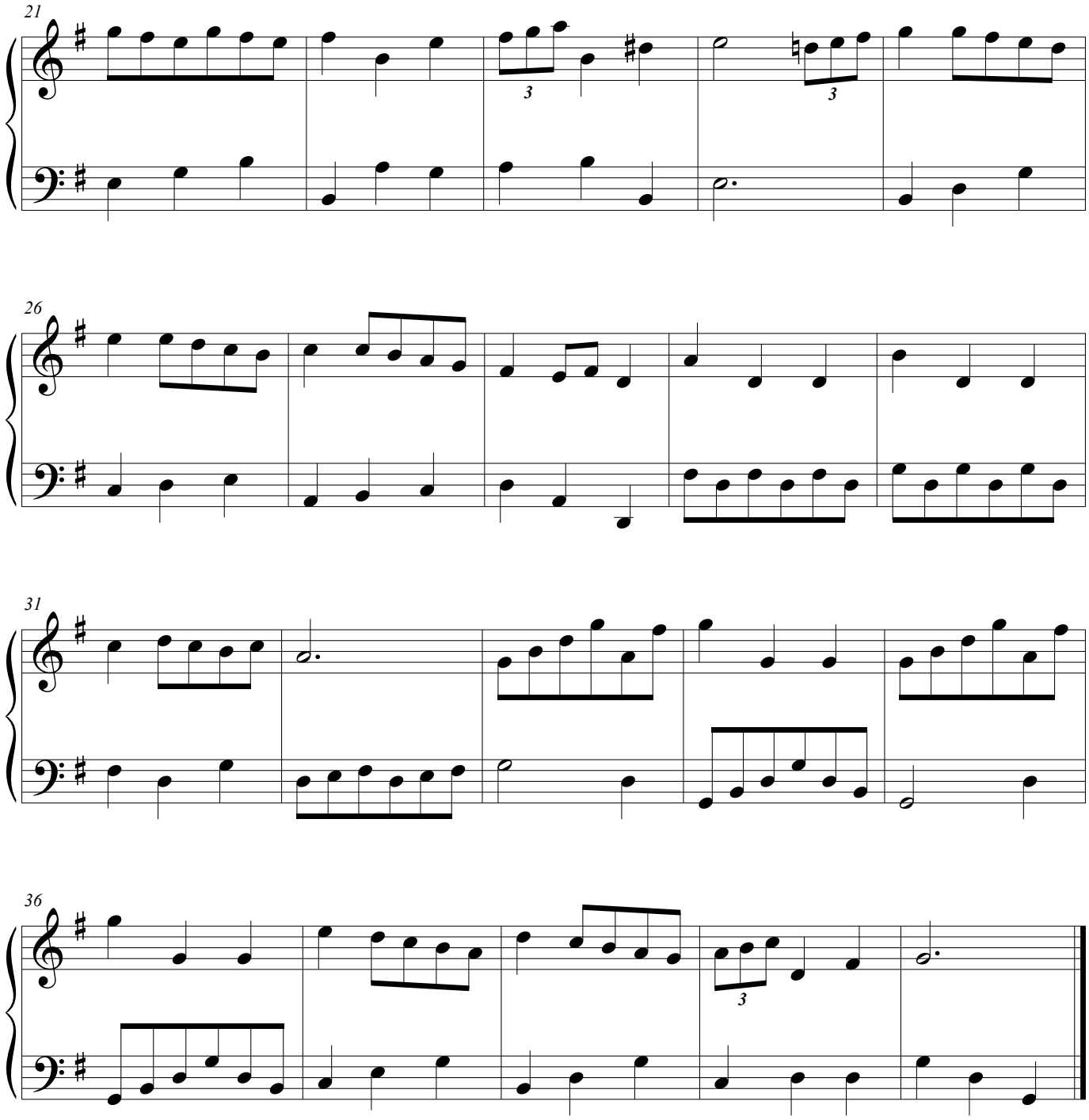
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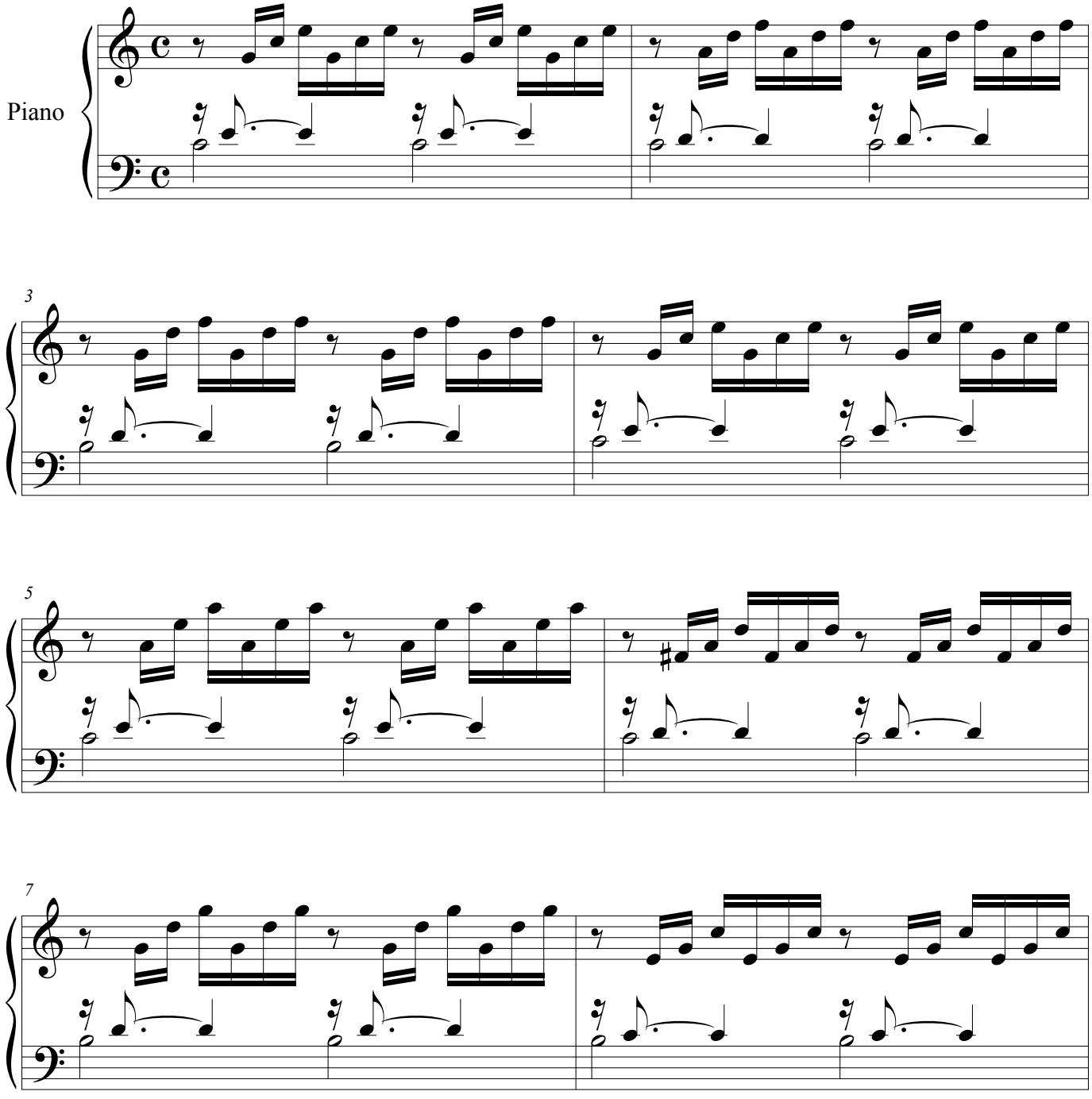
Prelude in C

Johann Sebastian Bach



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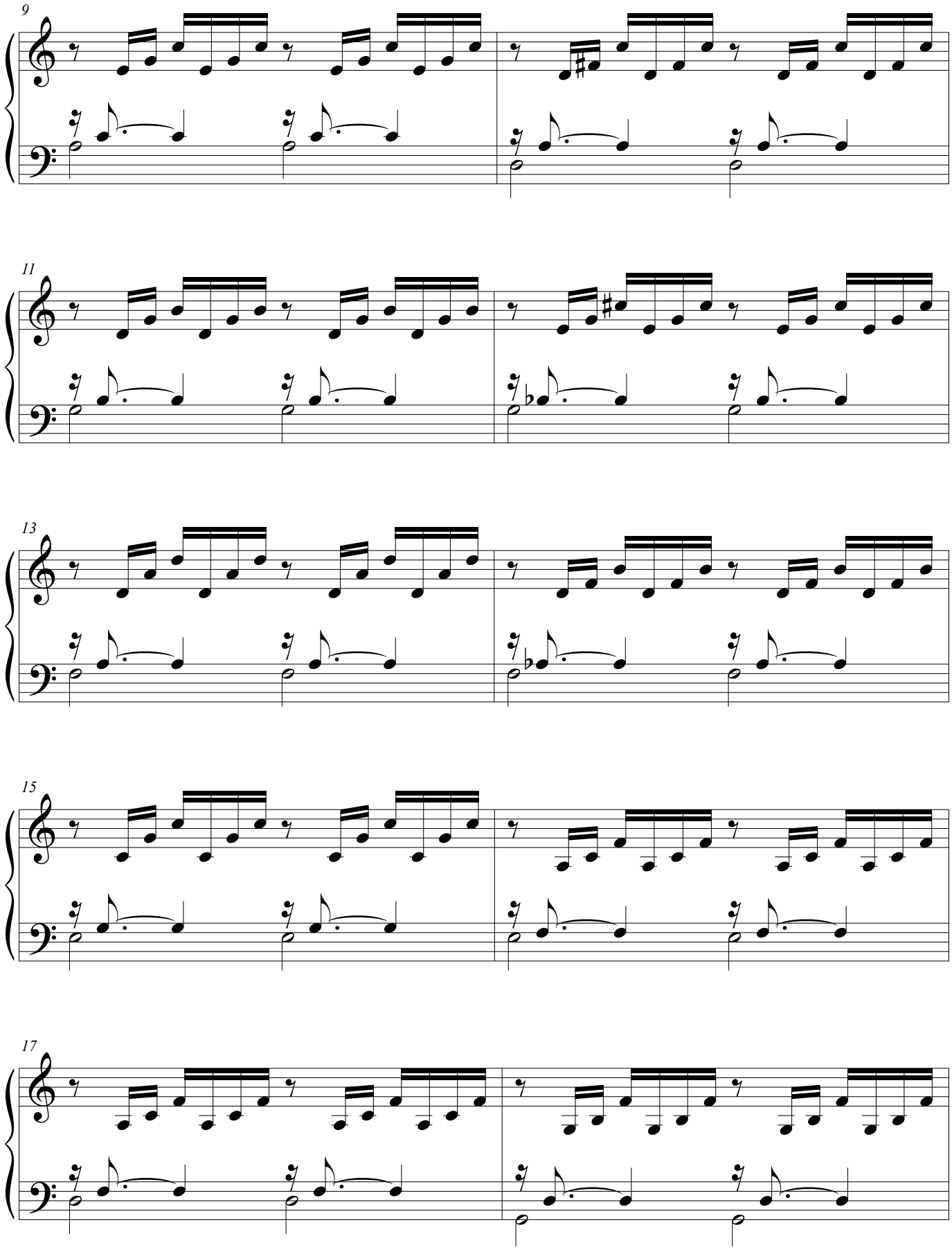
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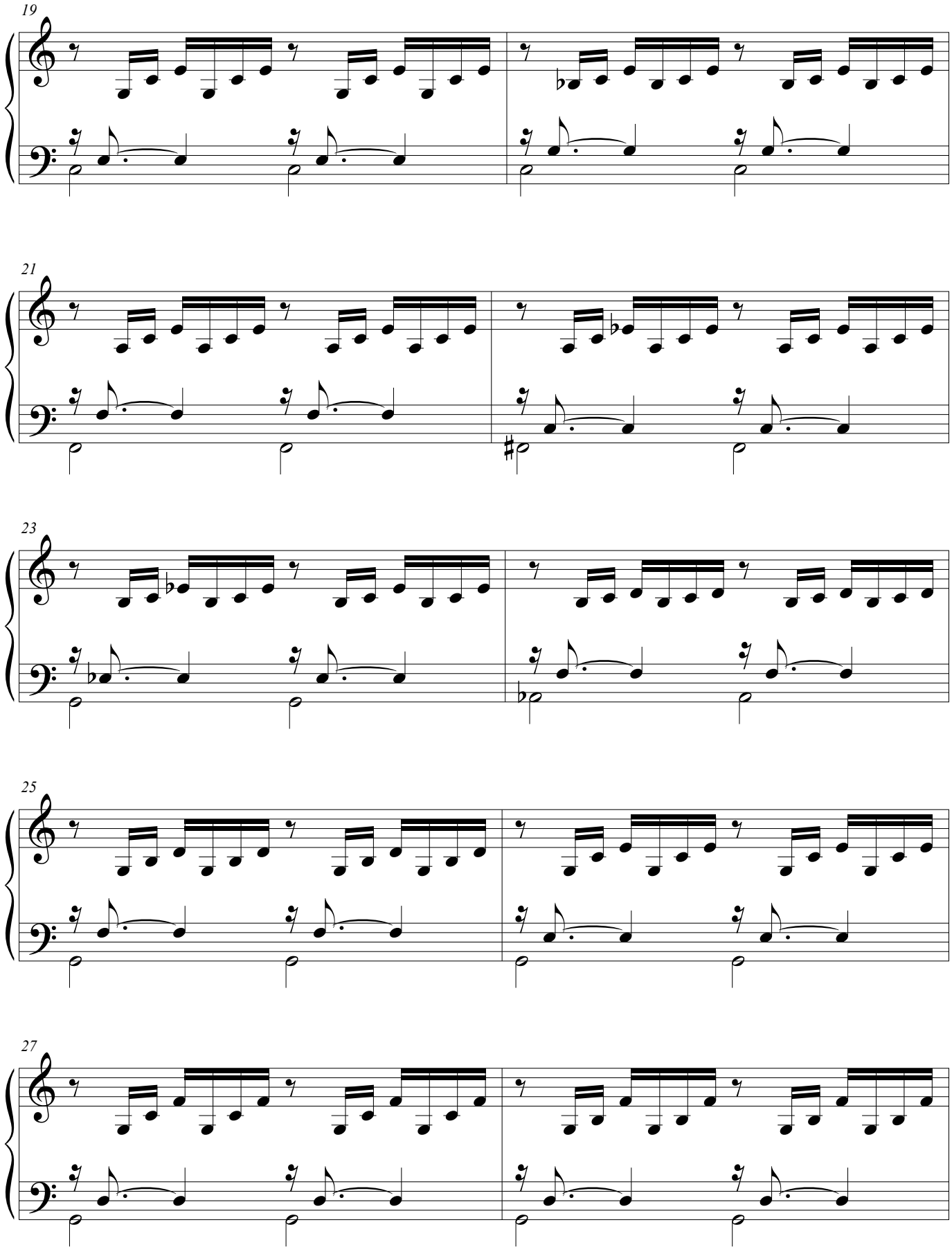
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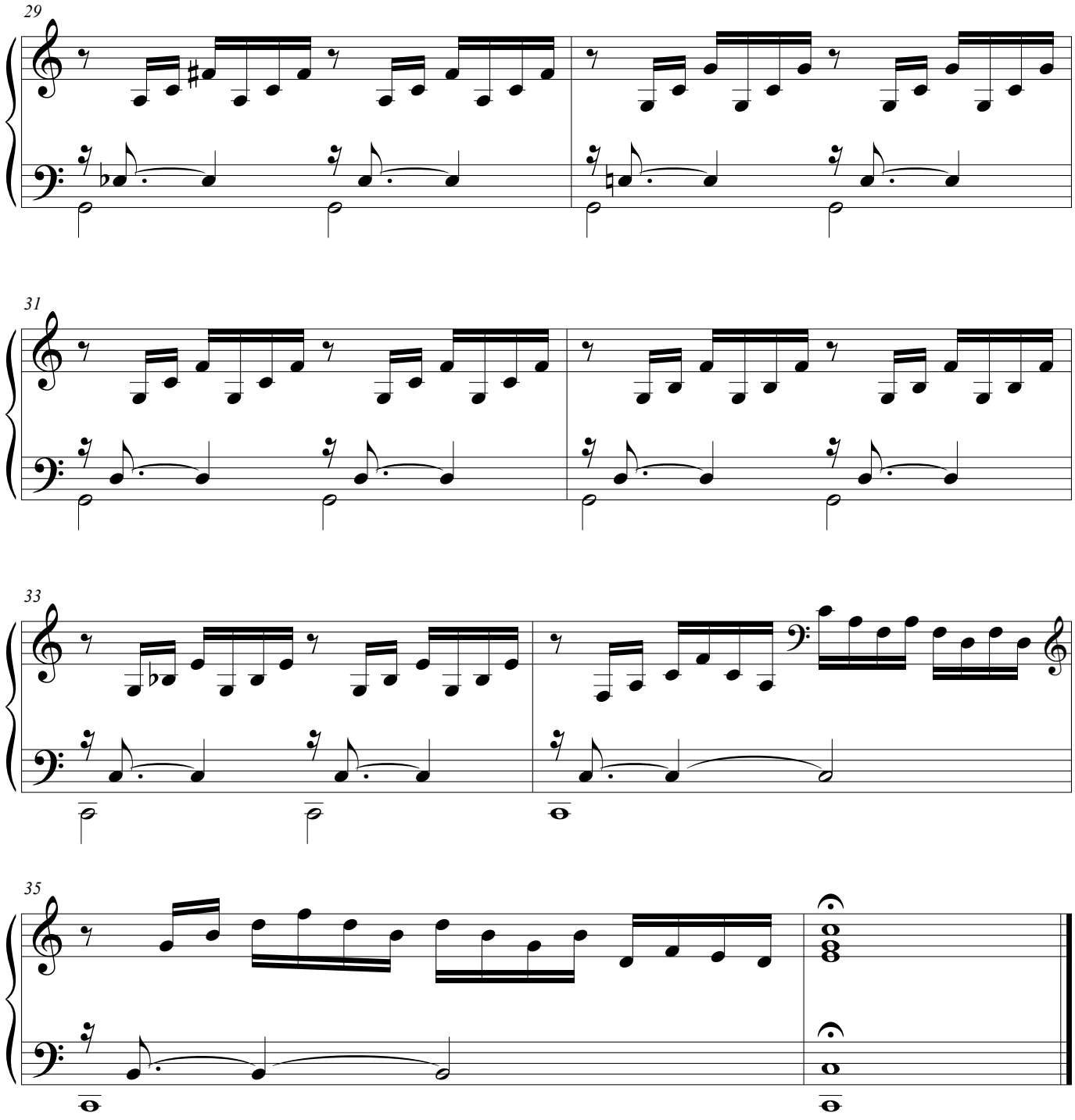
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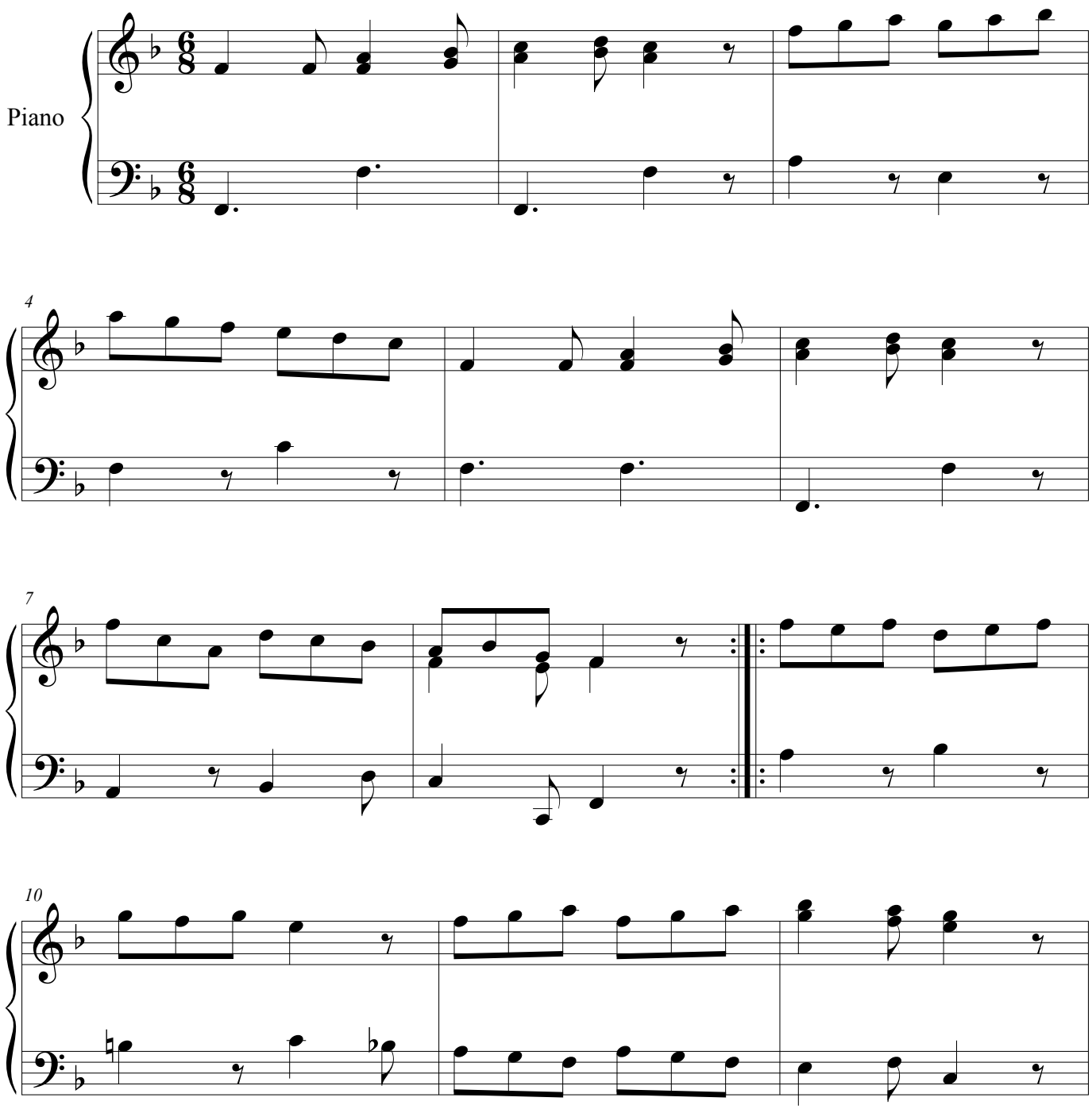
Anglaise

Johann Christoph Friedrich Bach



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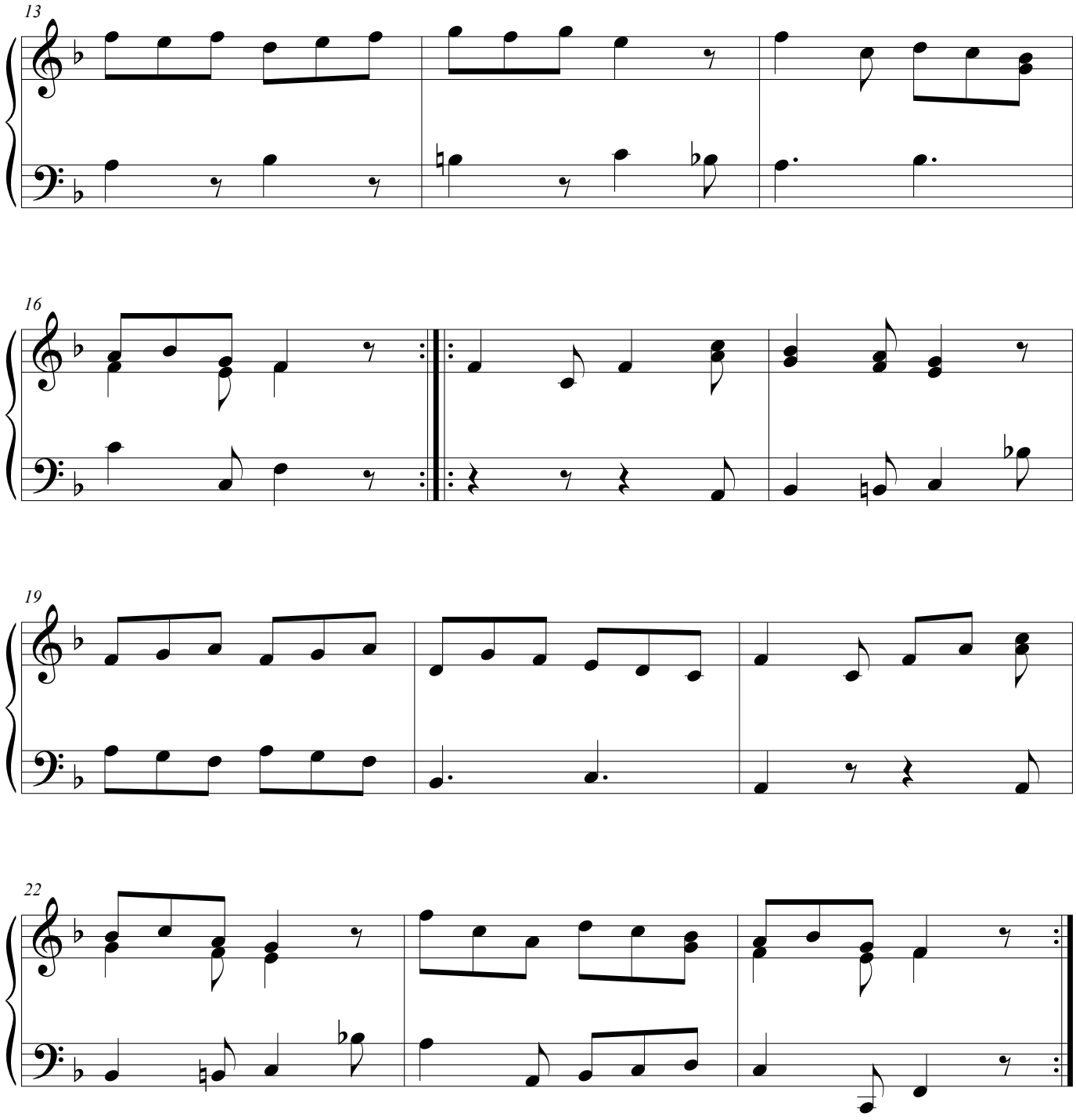
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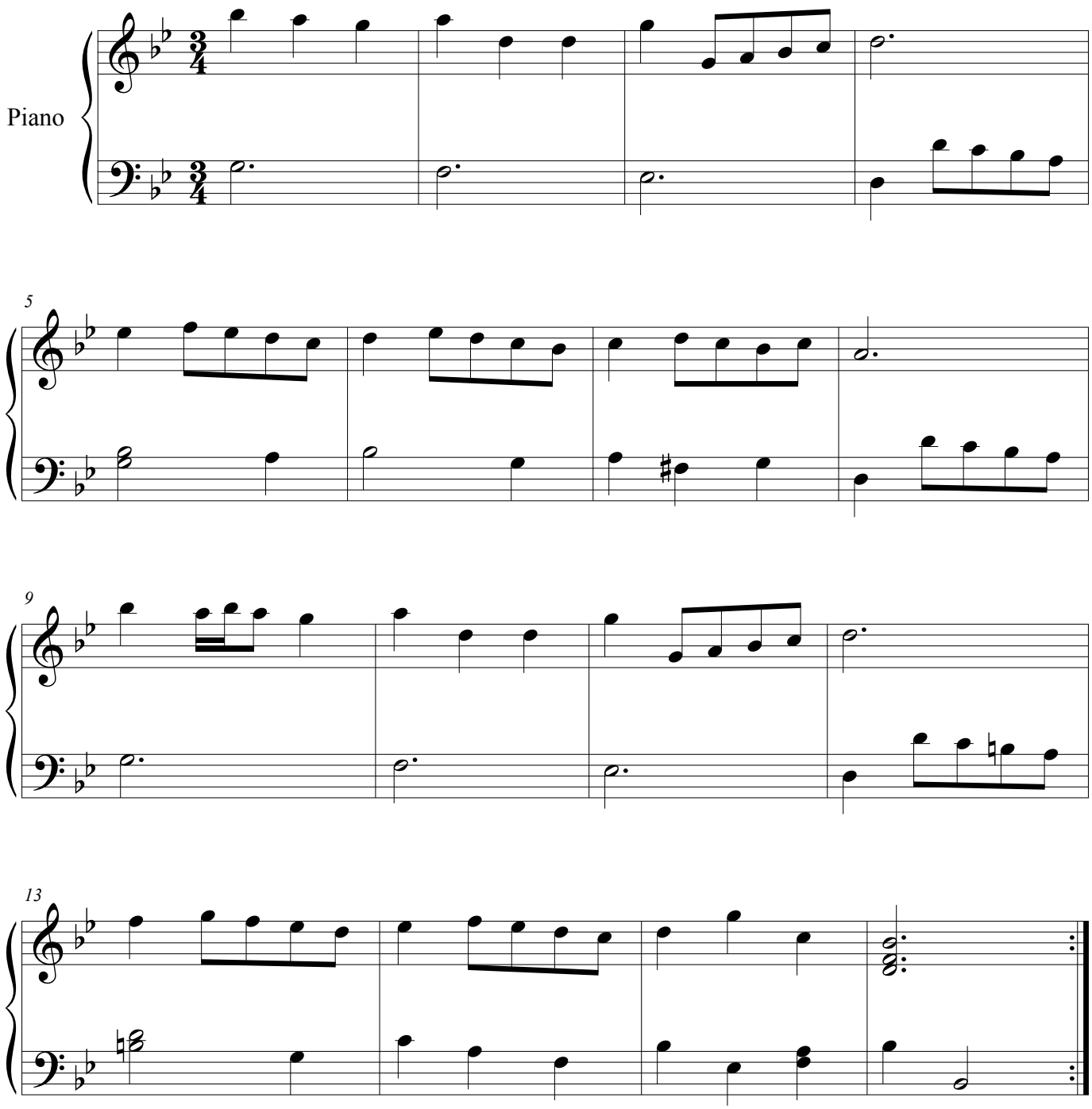
Minuet in G Minor

Christian Petzold/Johann Sebastian Bach



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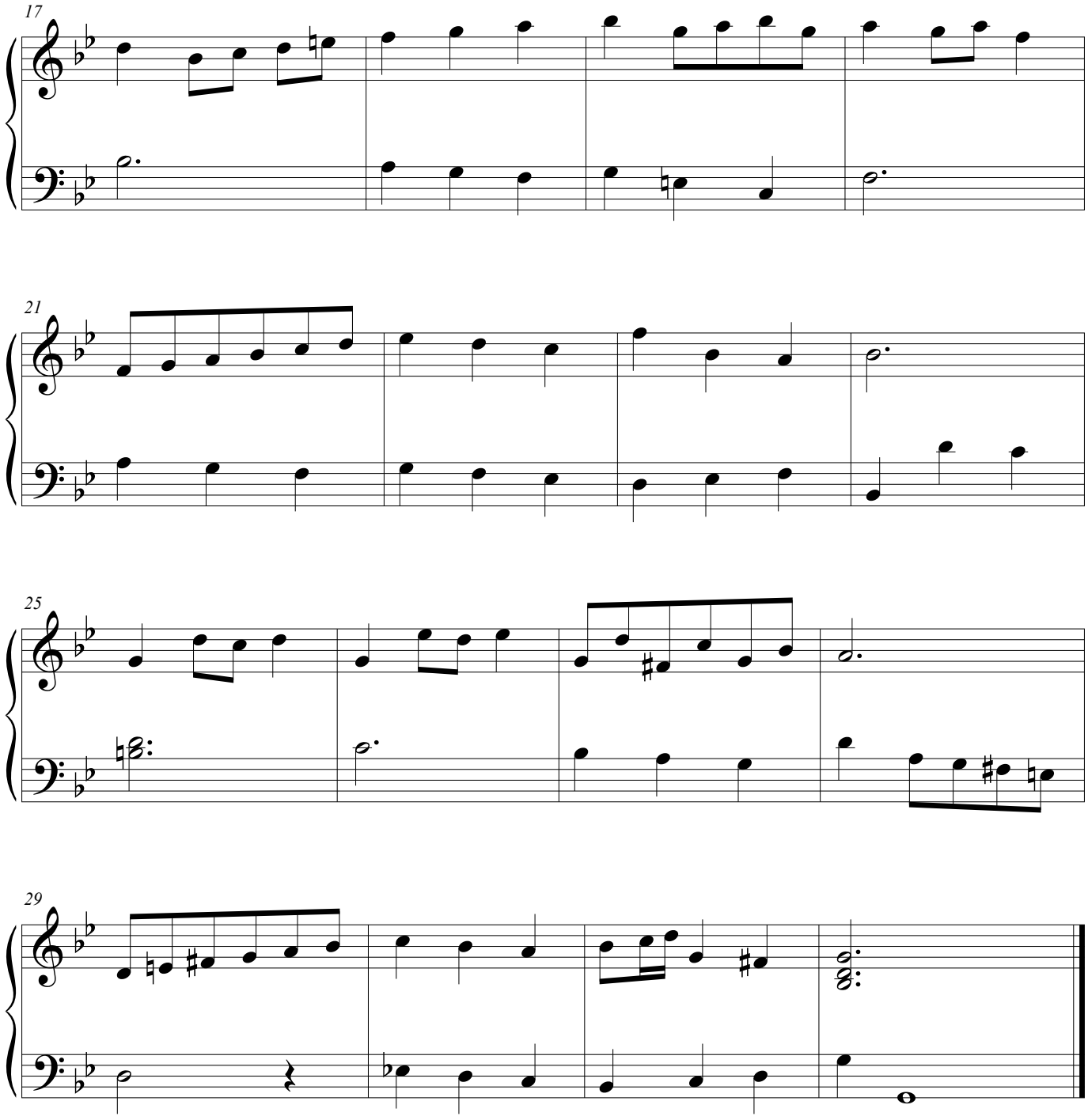
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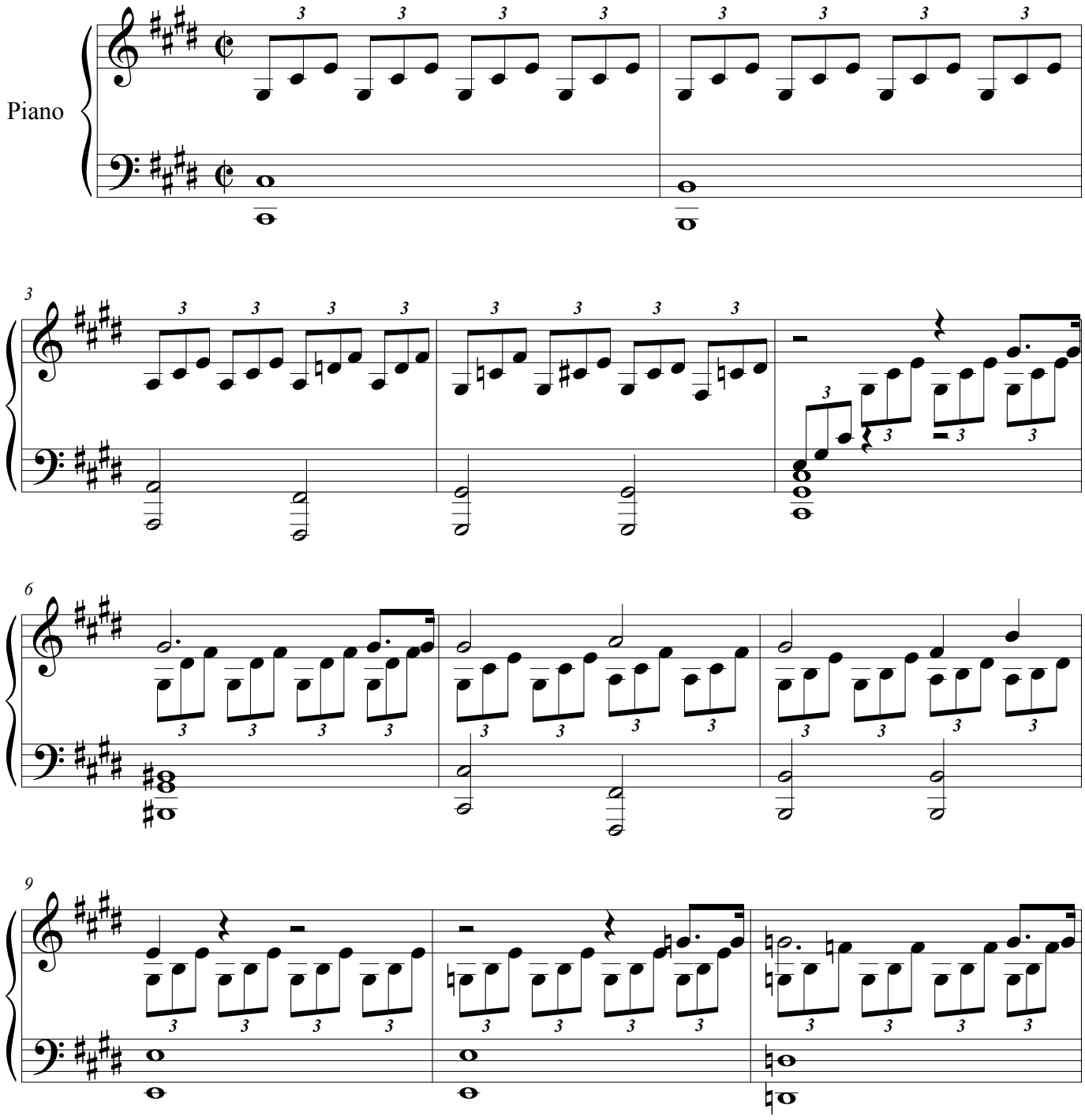
Moonlight Sonata

Ludwig van Beethoven



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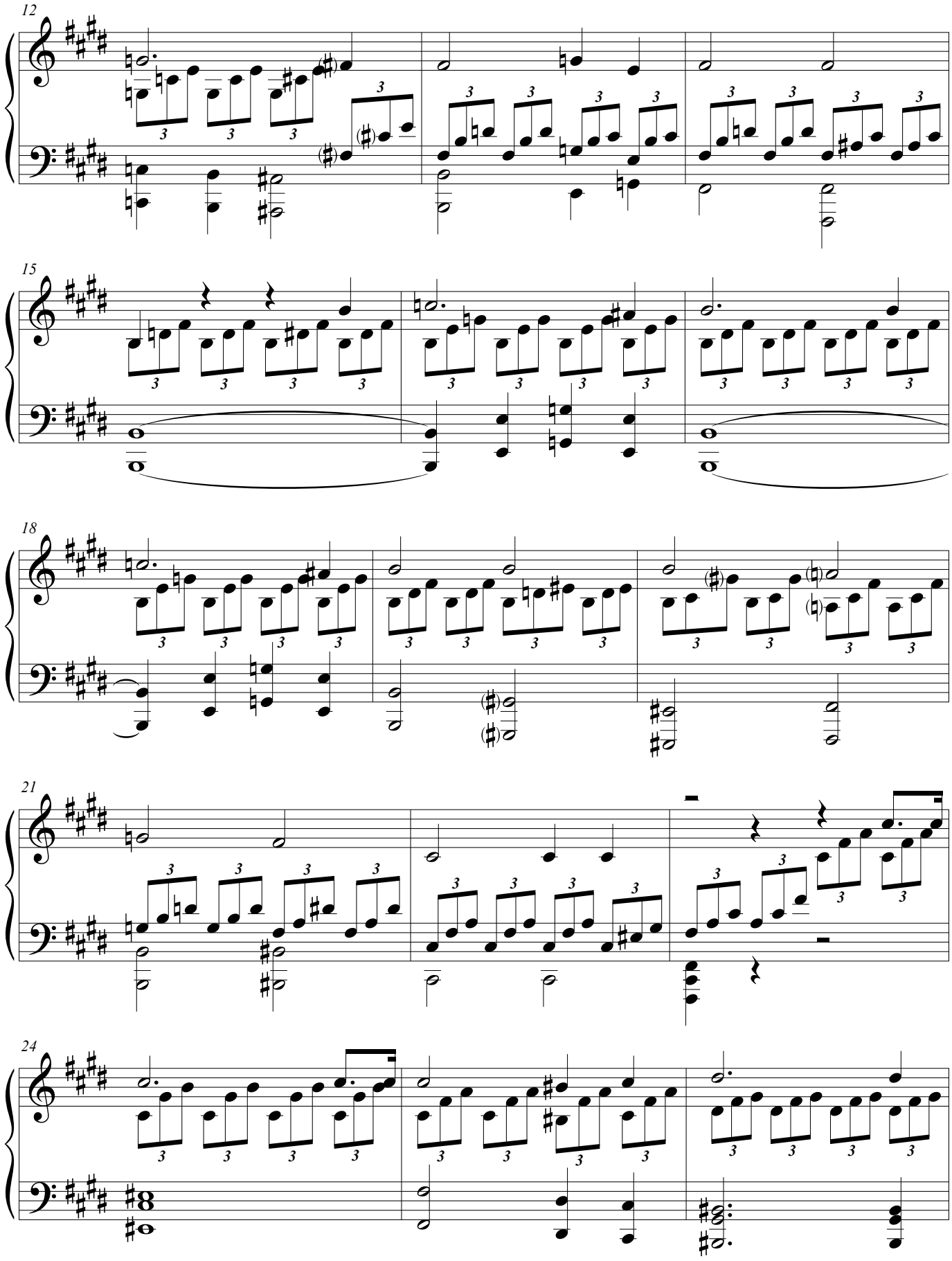
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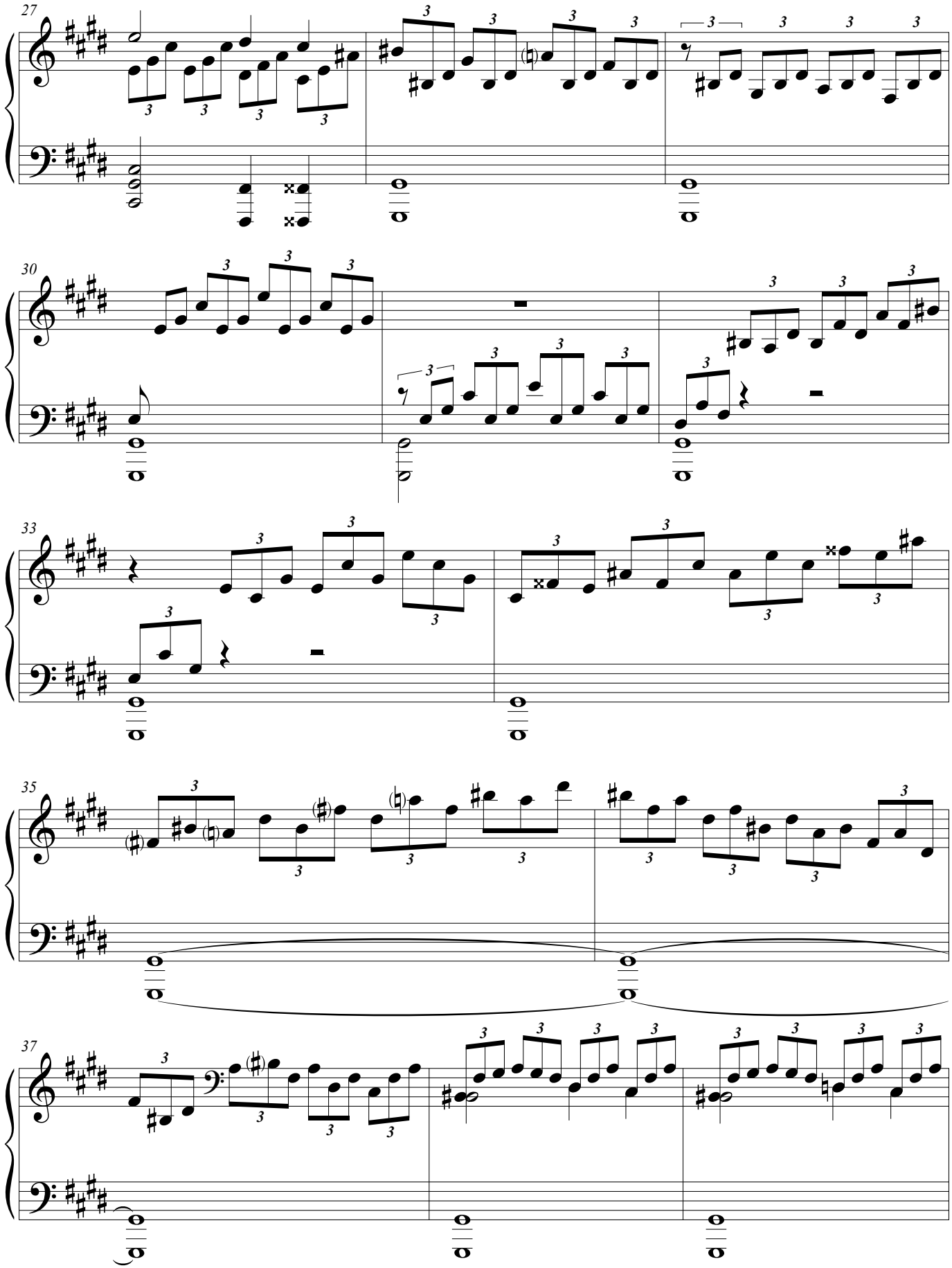
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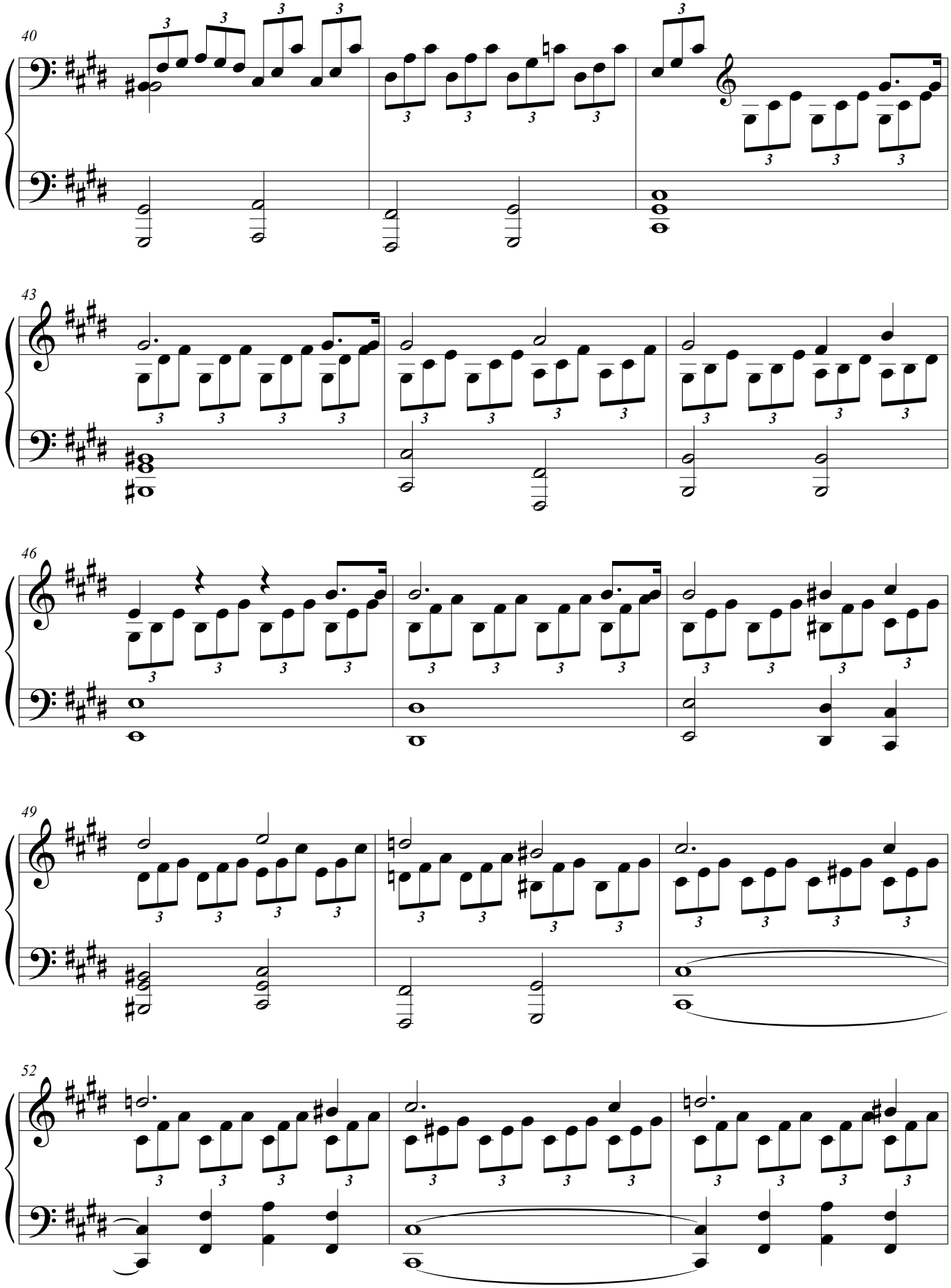
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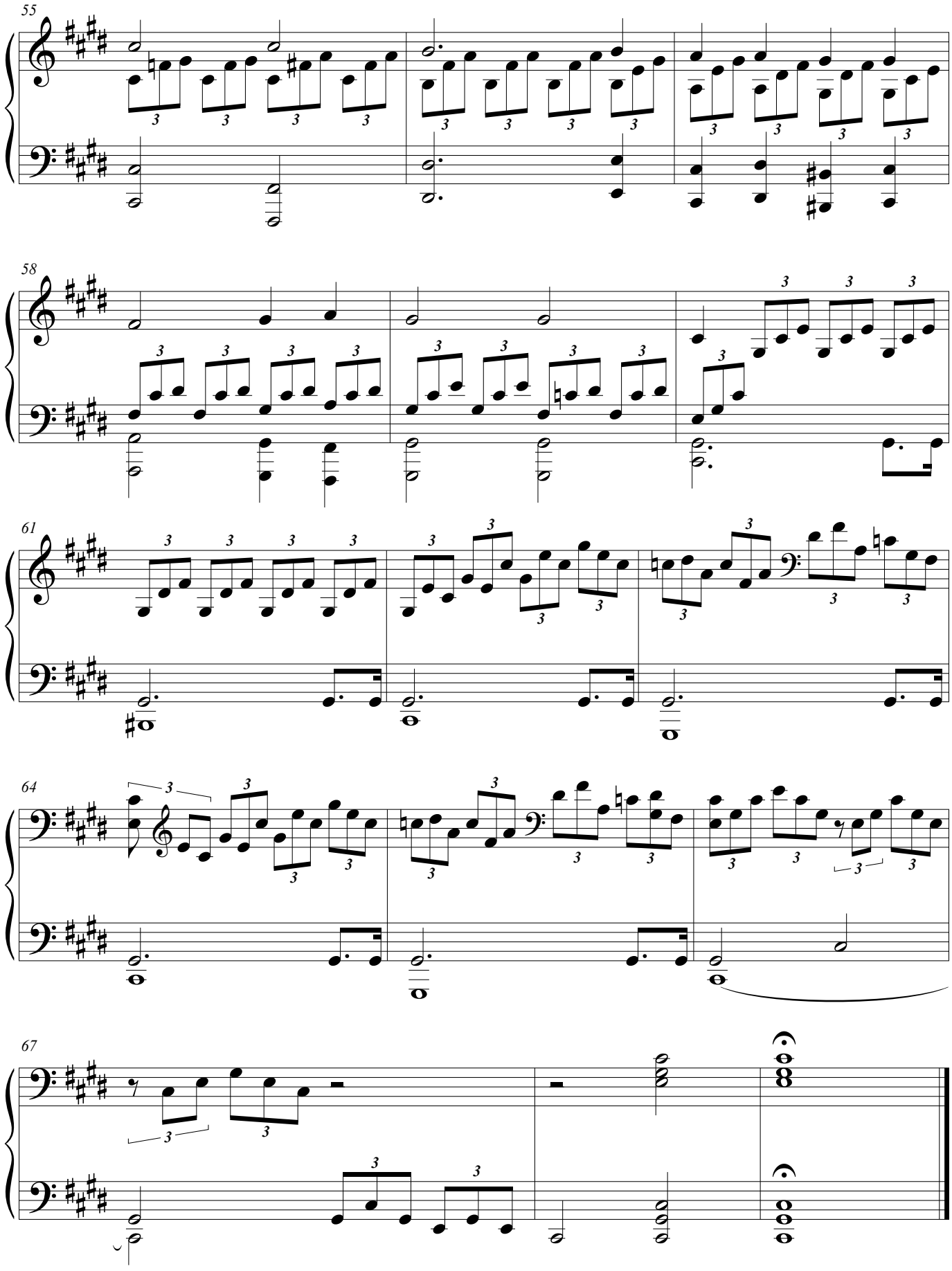
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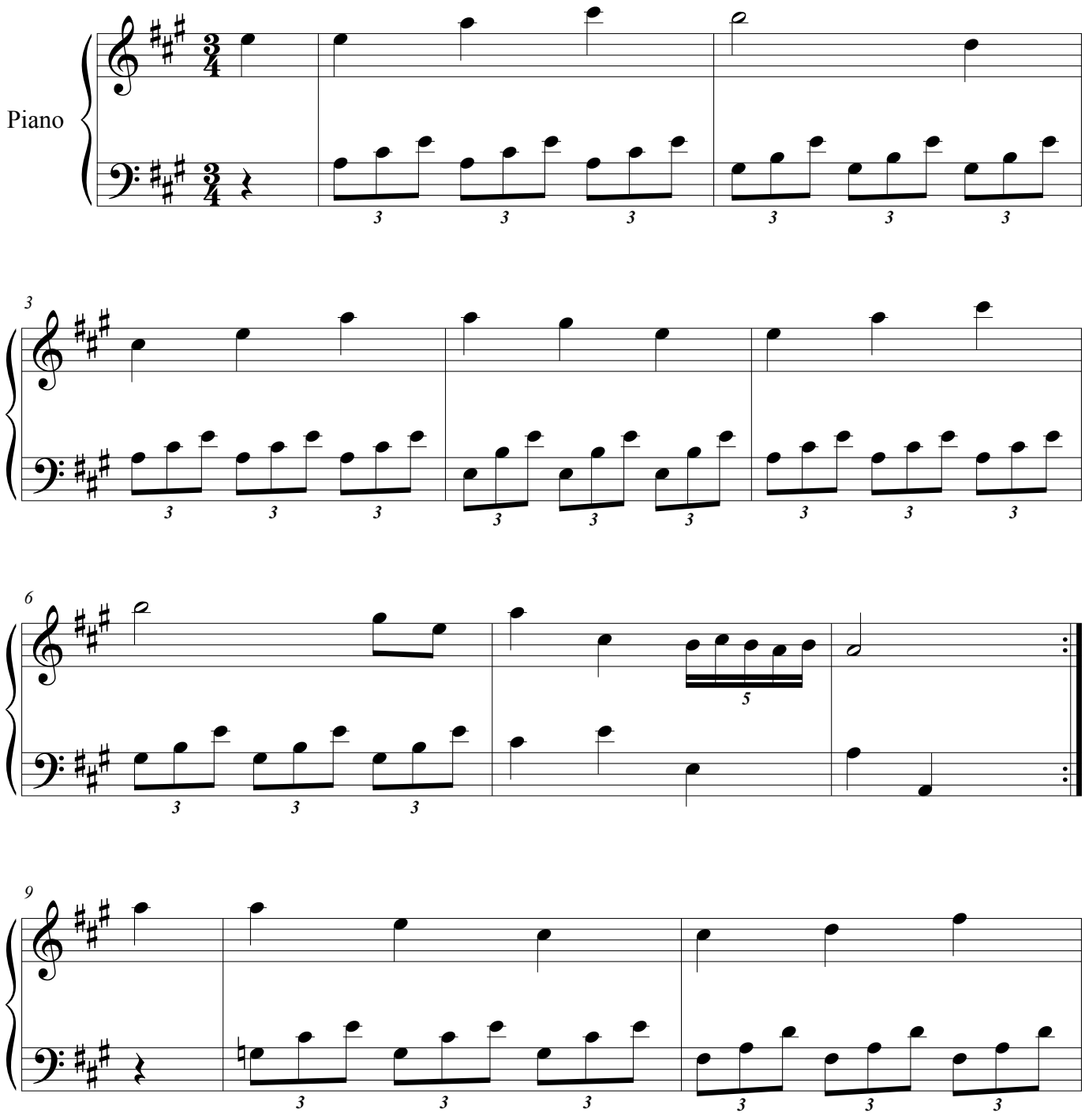
Arietta in A

Franz Joseph Haydn



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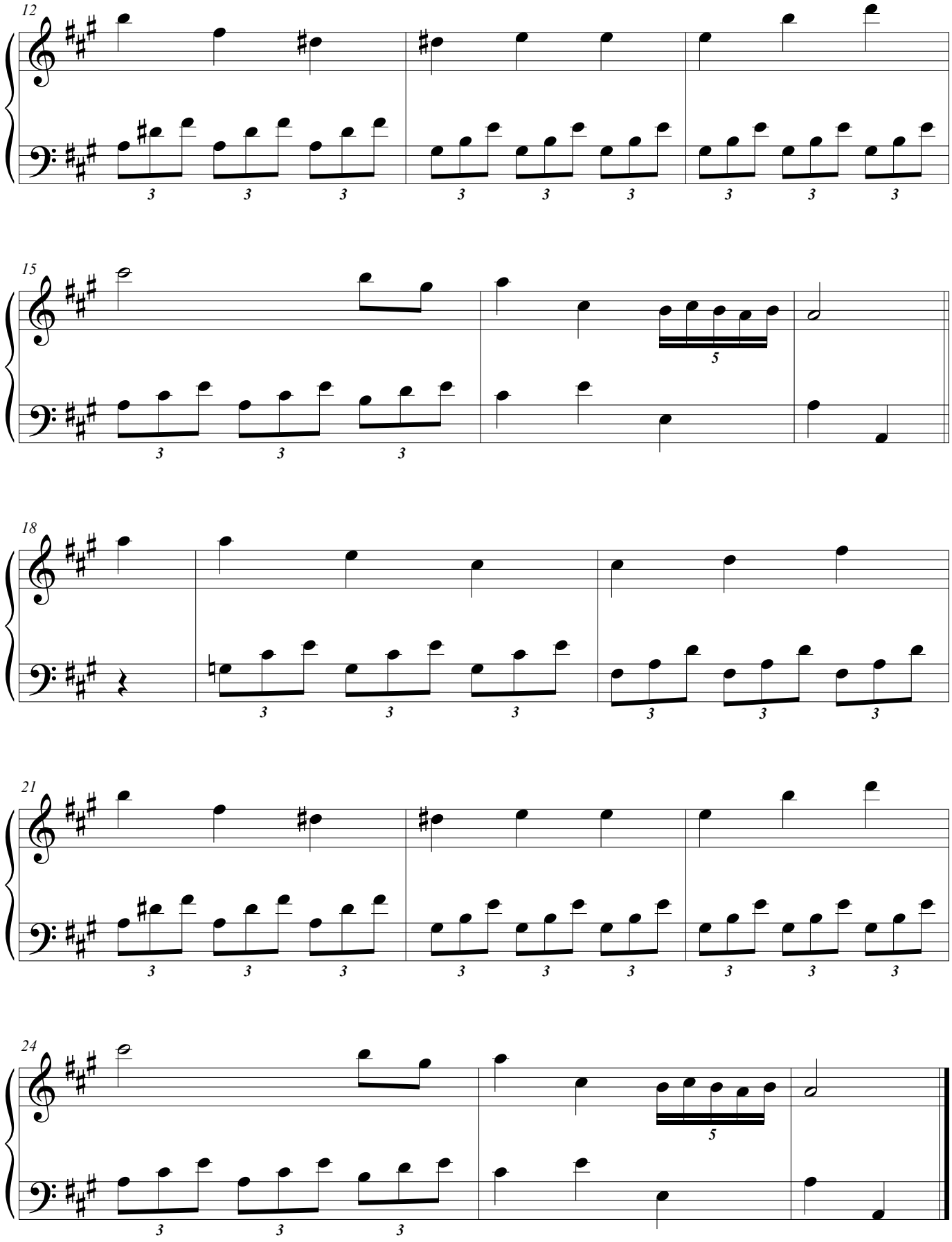
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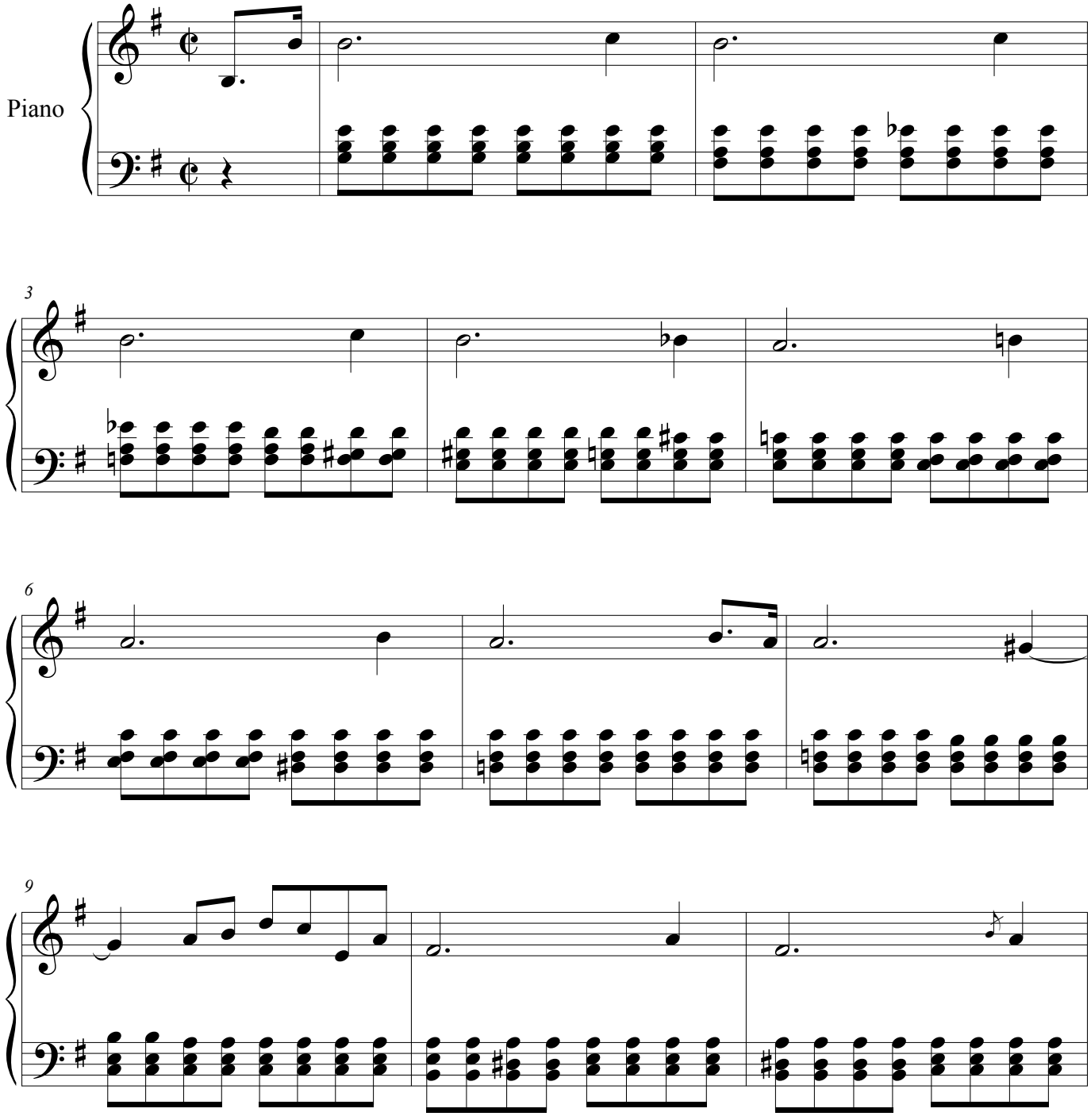
Prelude in E Minor, Op. 28, No. 4

Frédéric Chopin



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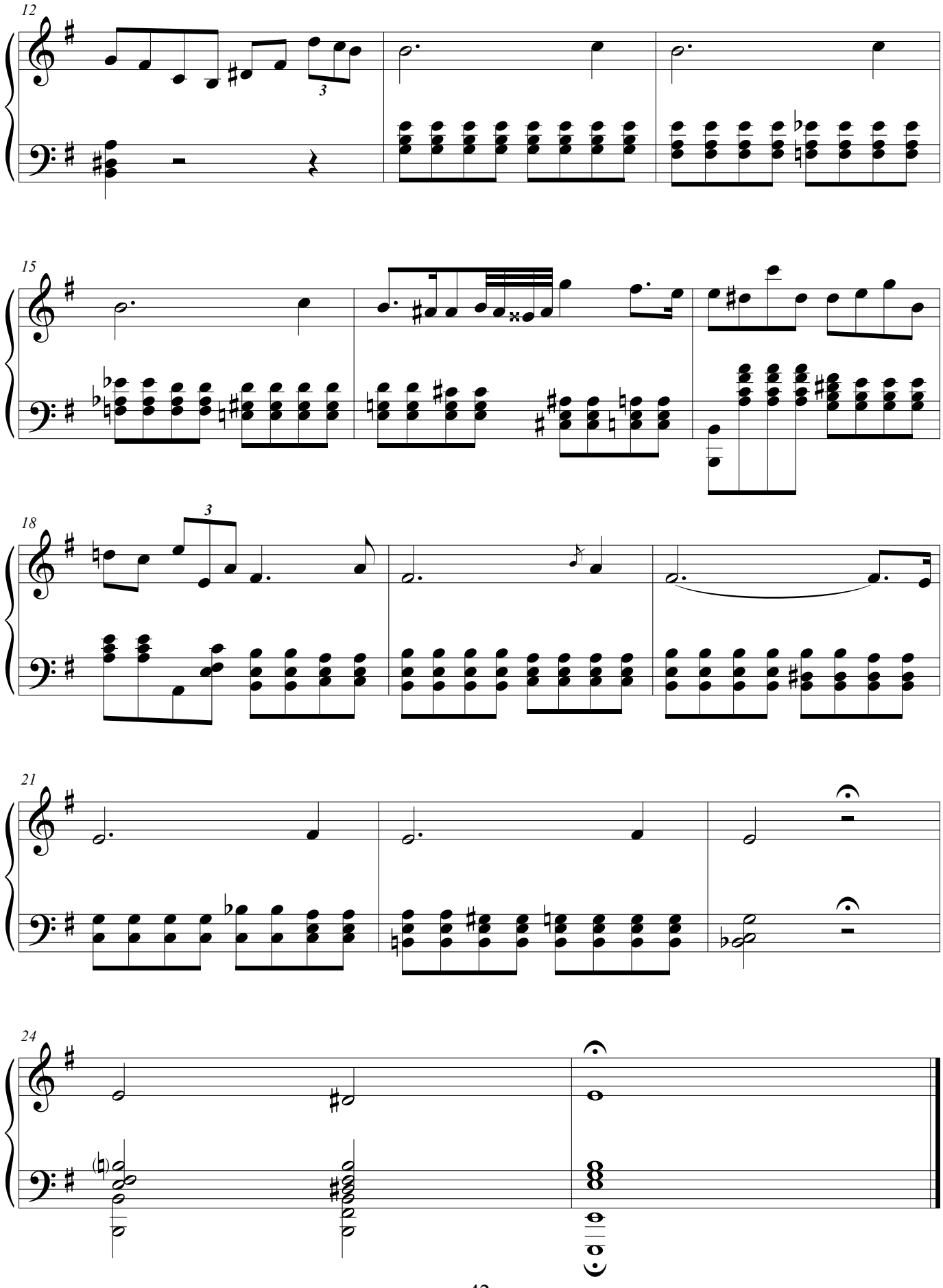
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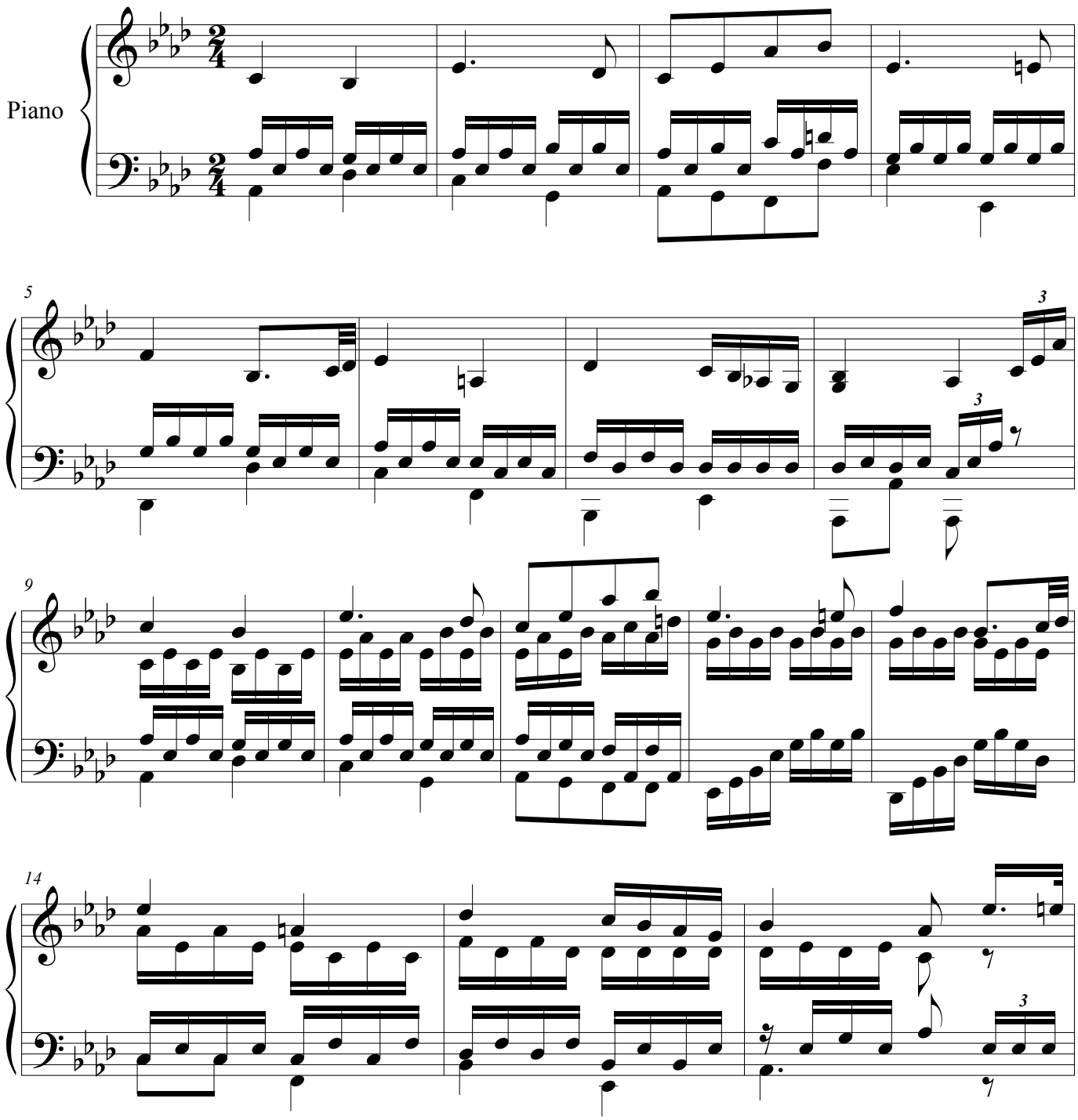
Sonata Pathétique

Ludwig van Beethoven



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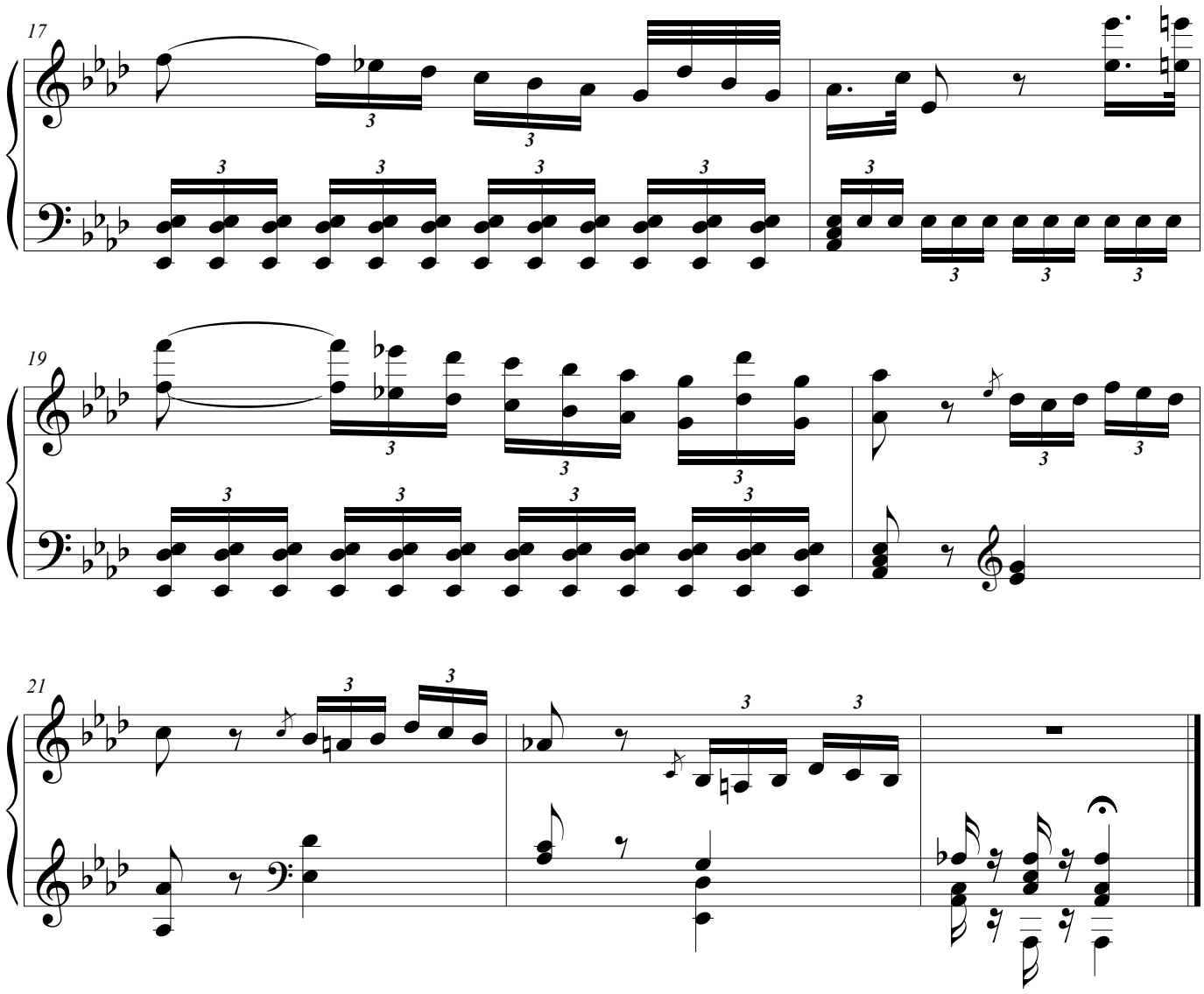
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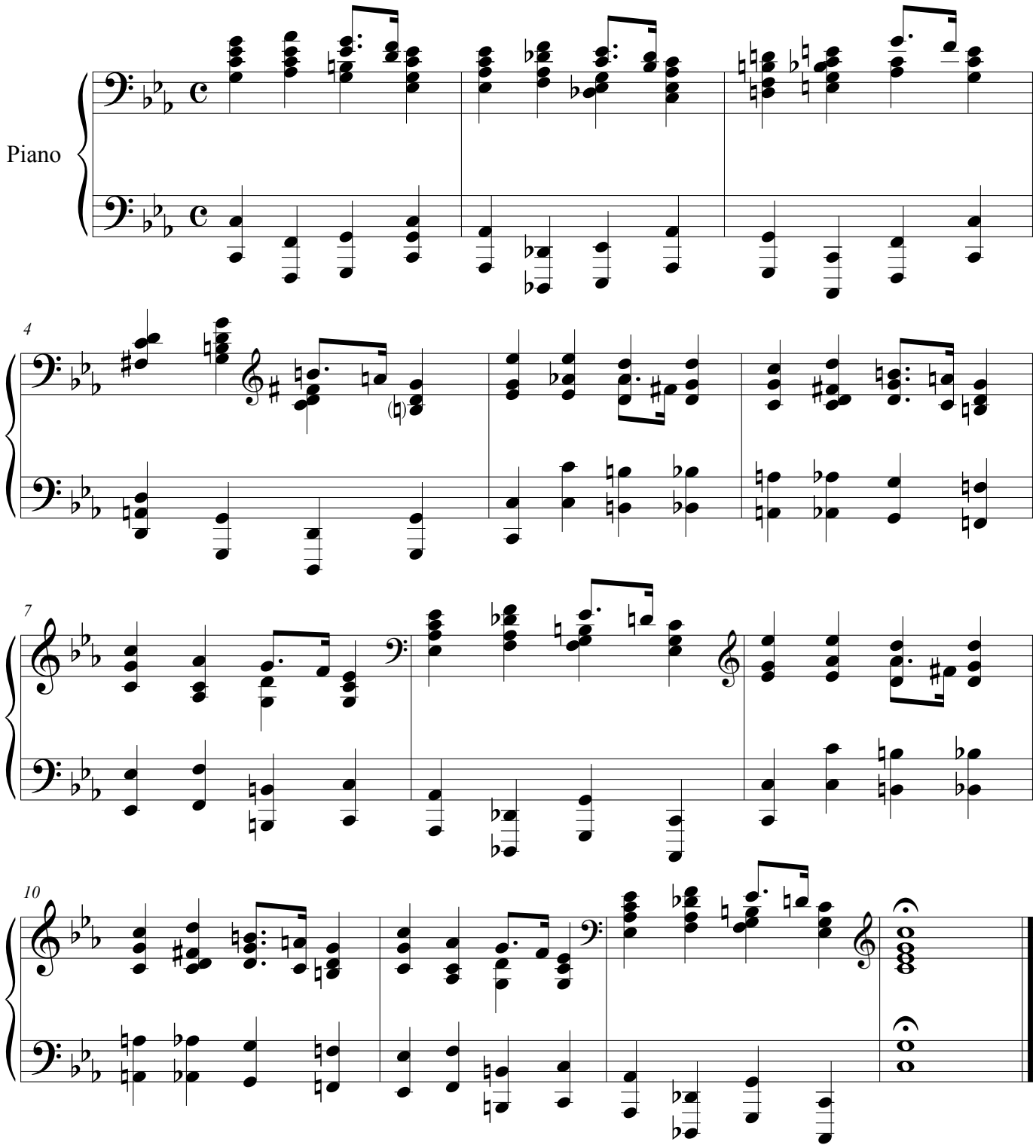
Psalm 88

Prelude in C Minor, Op. 28, No. 20

Frédéric Chopin



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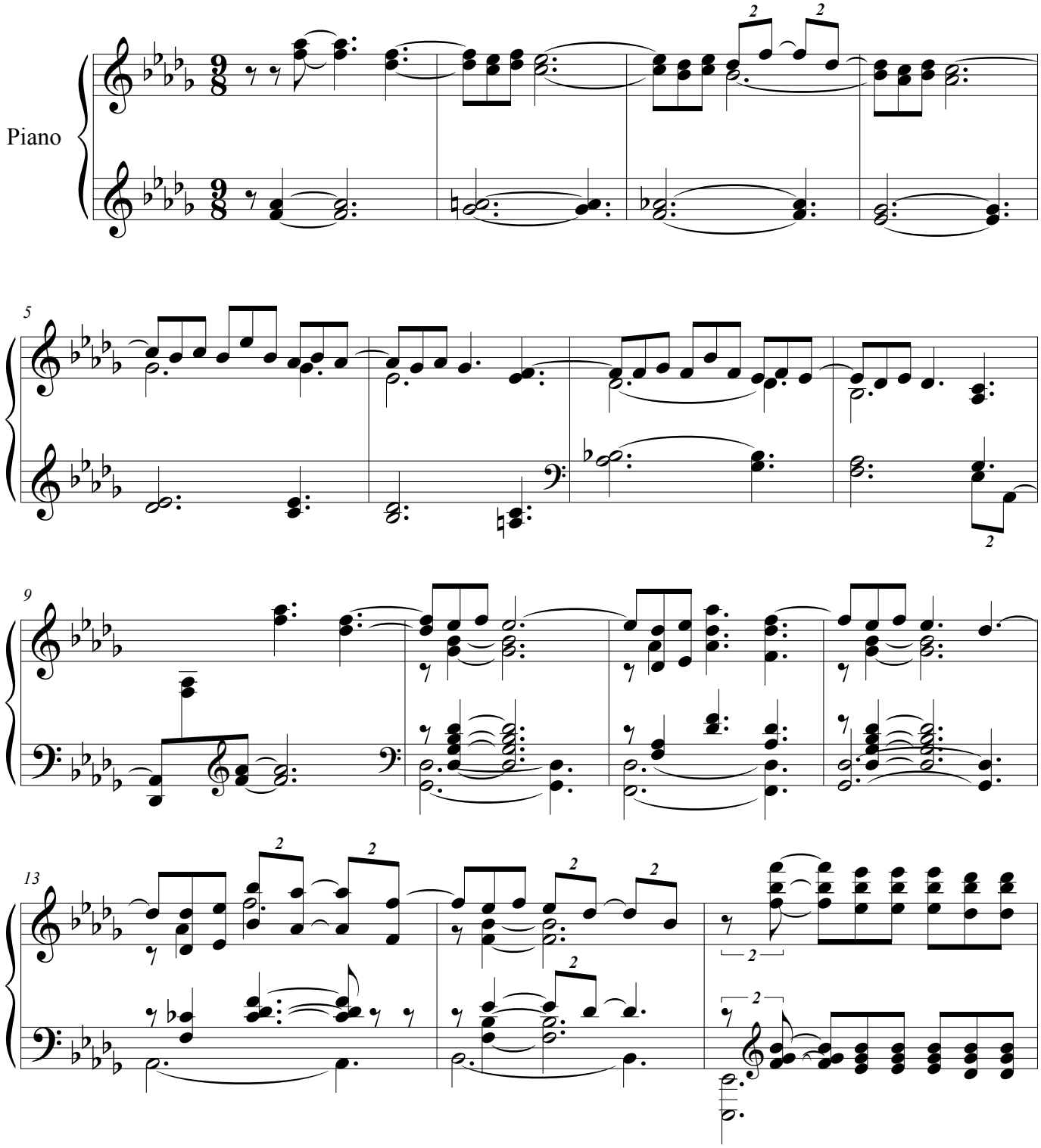
Clair de Lune

Claude Debussy



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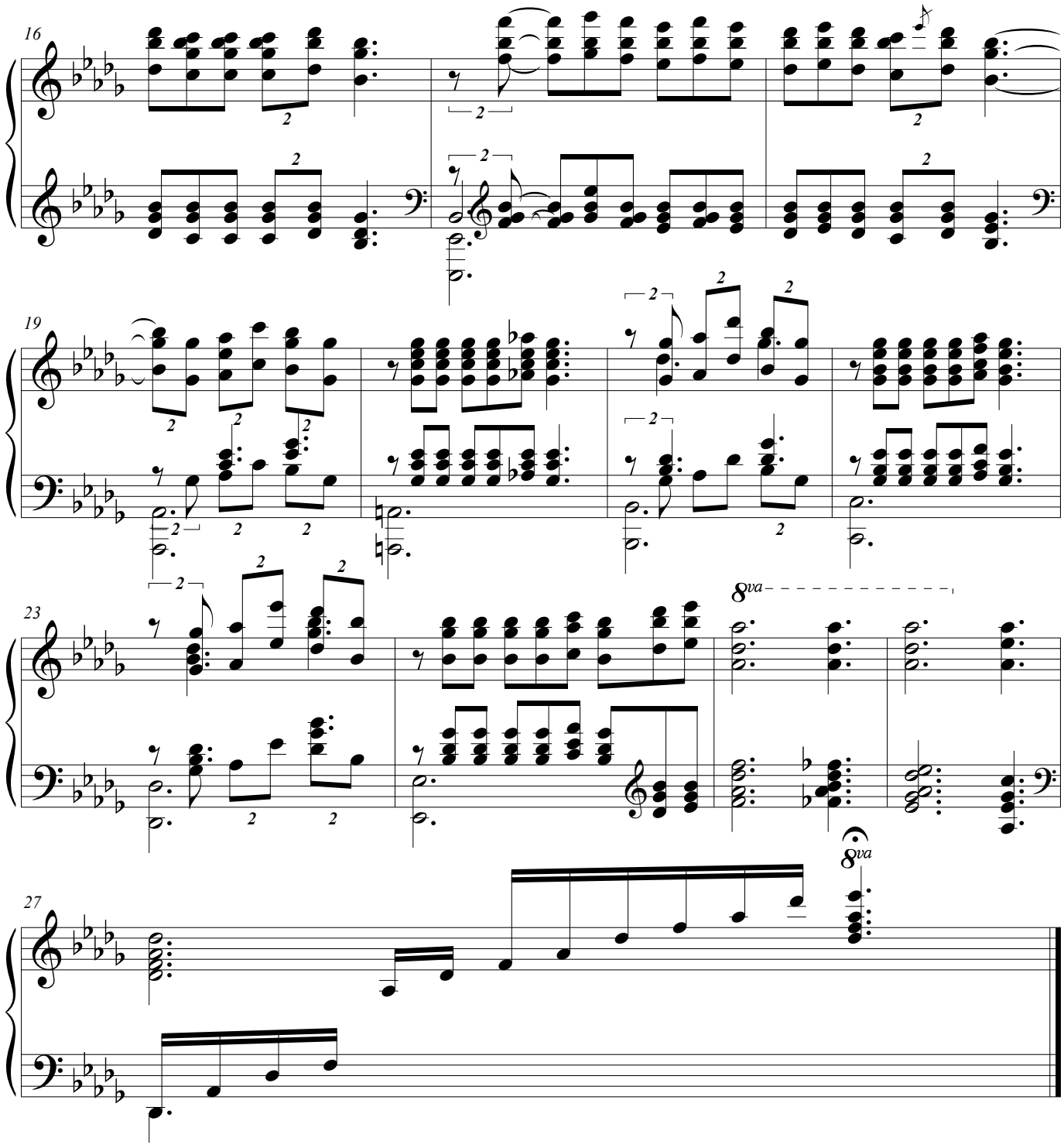
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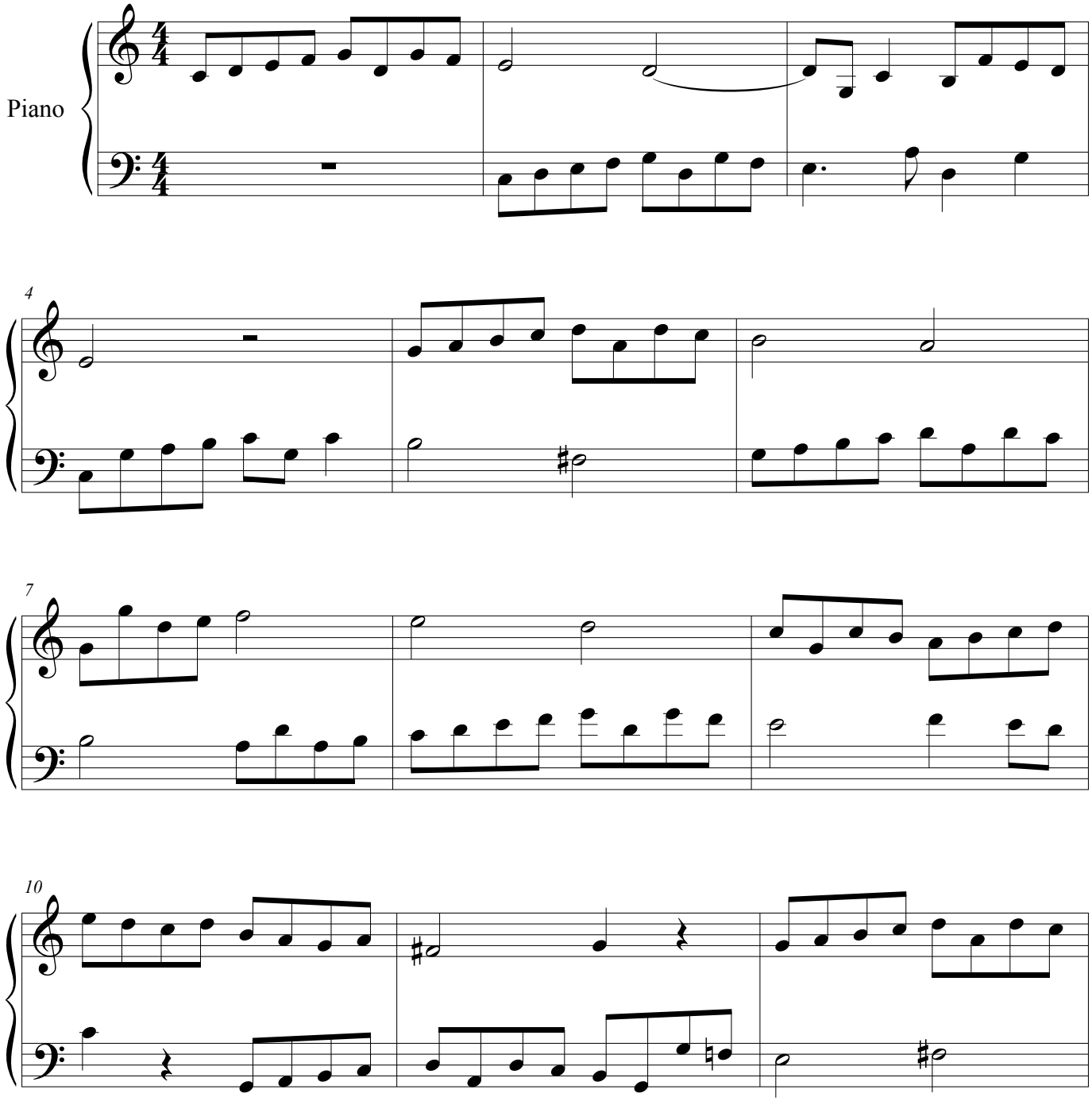
Fughetta

Johann Pachelbel



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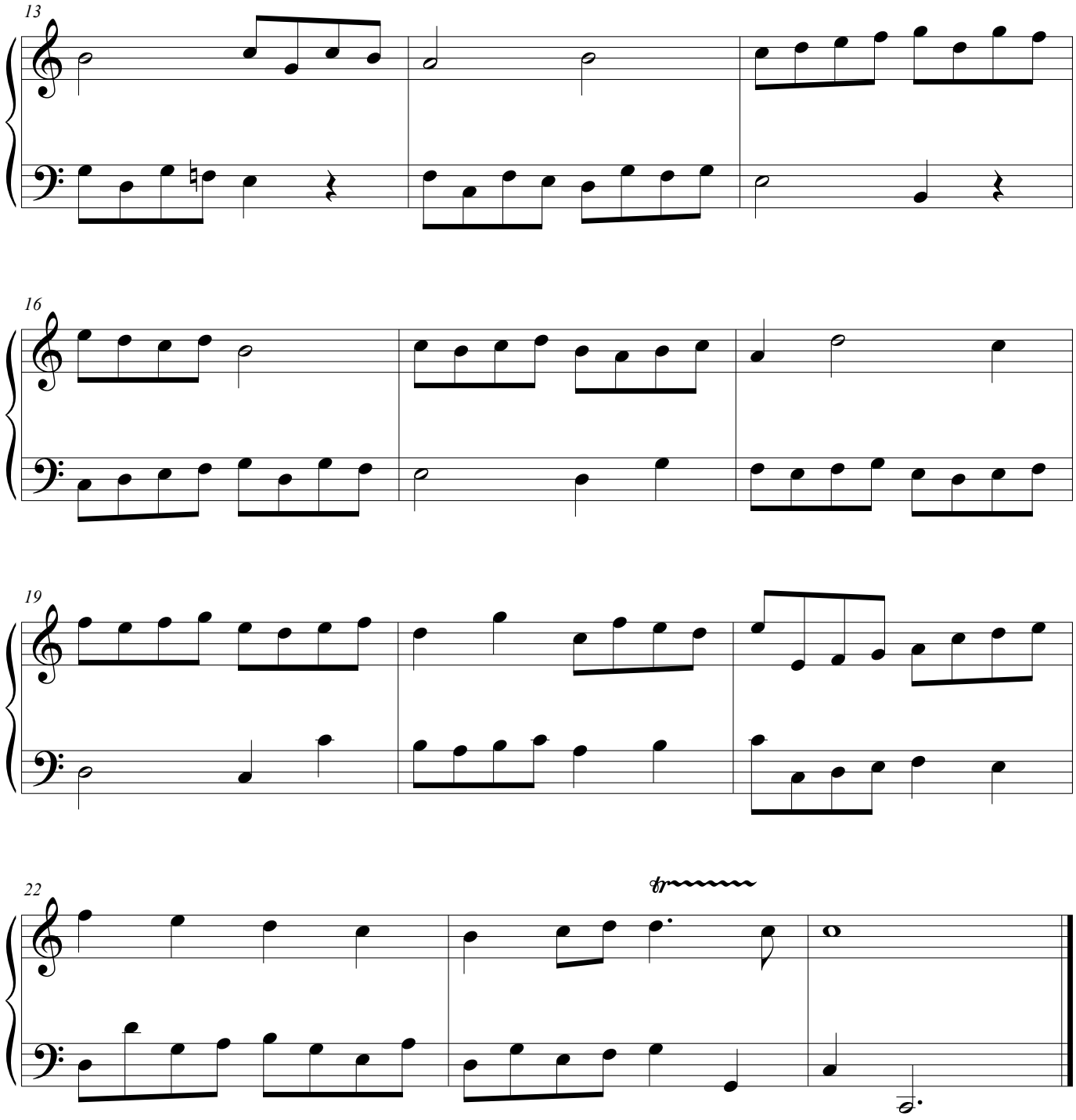
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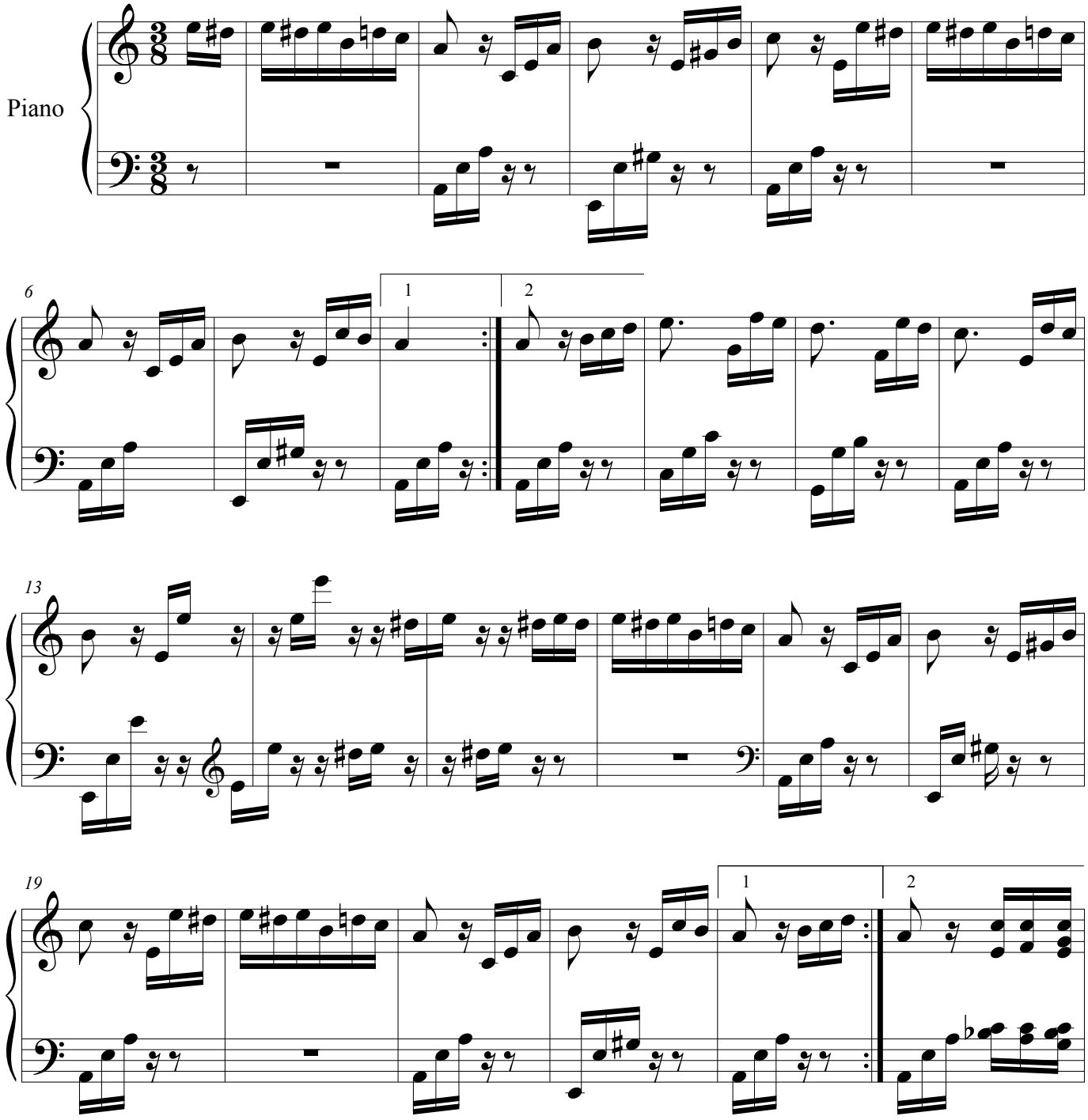
Für Elise

Ludwig van Beethoven



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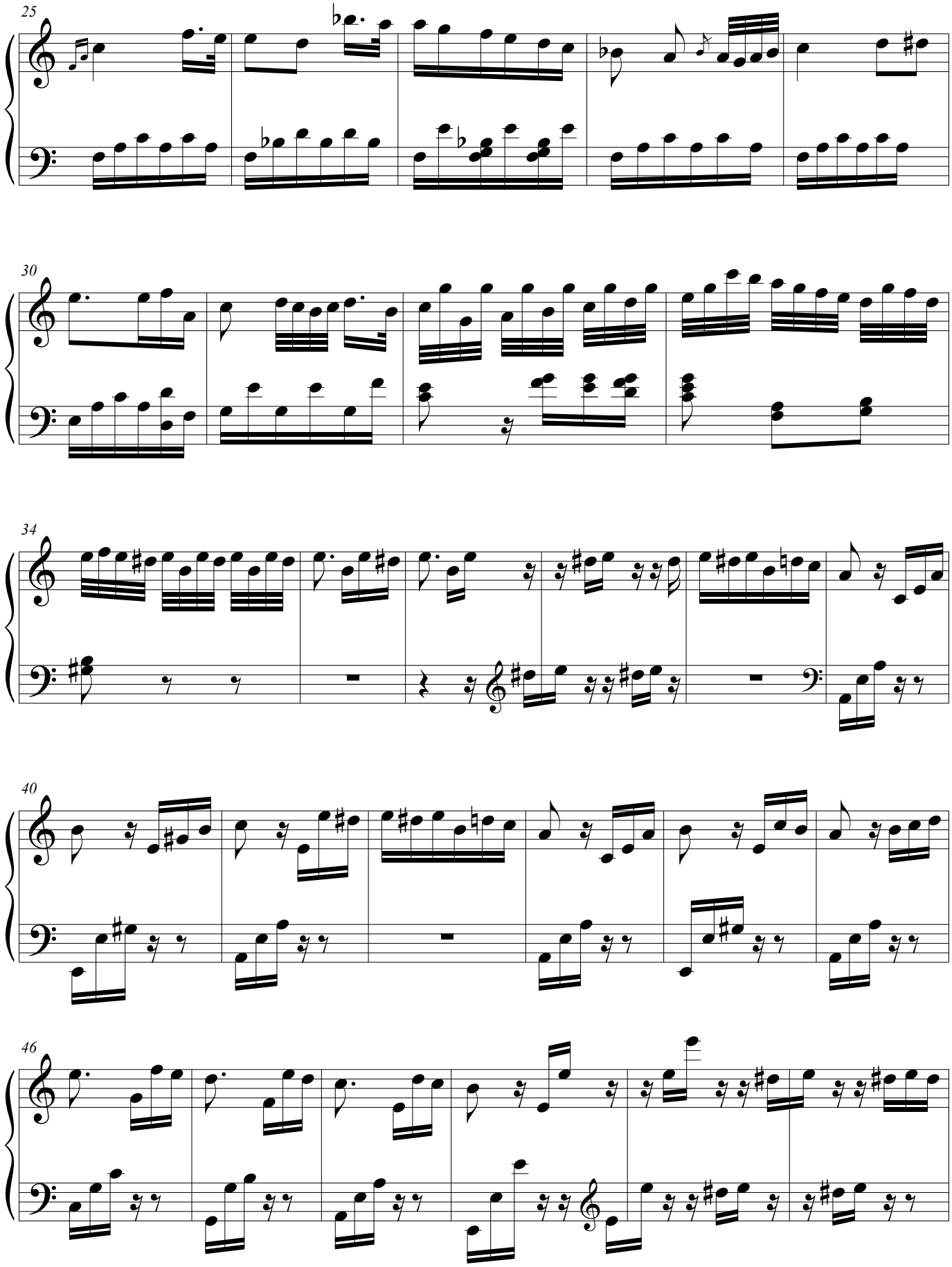
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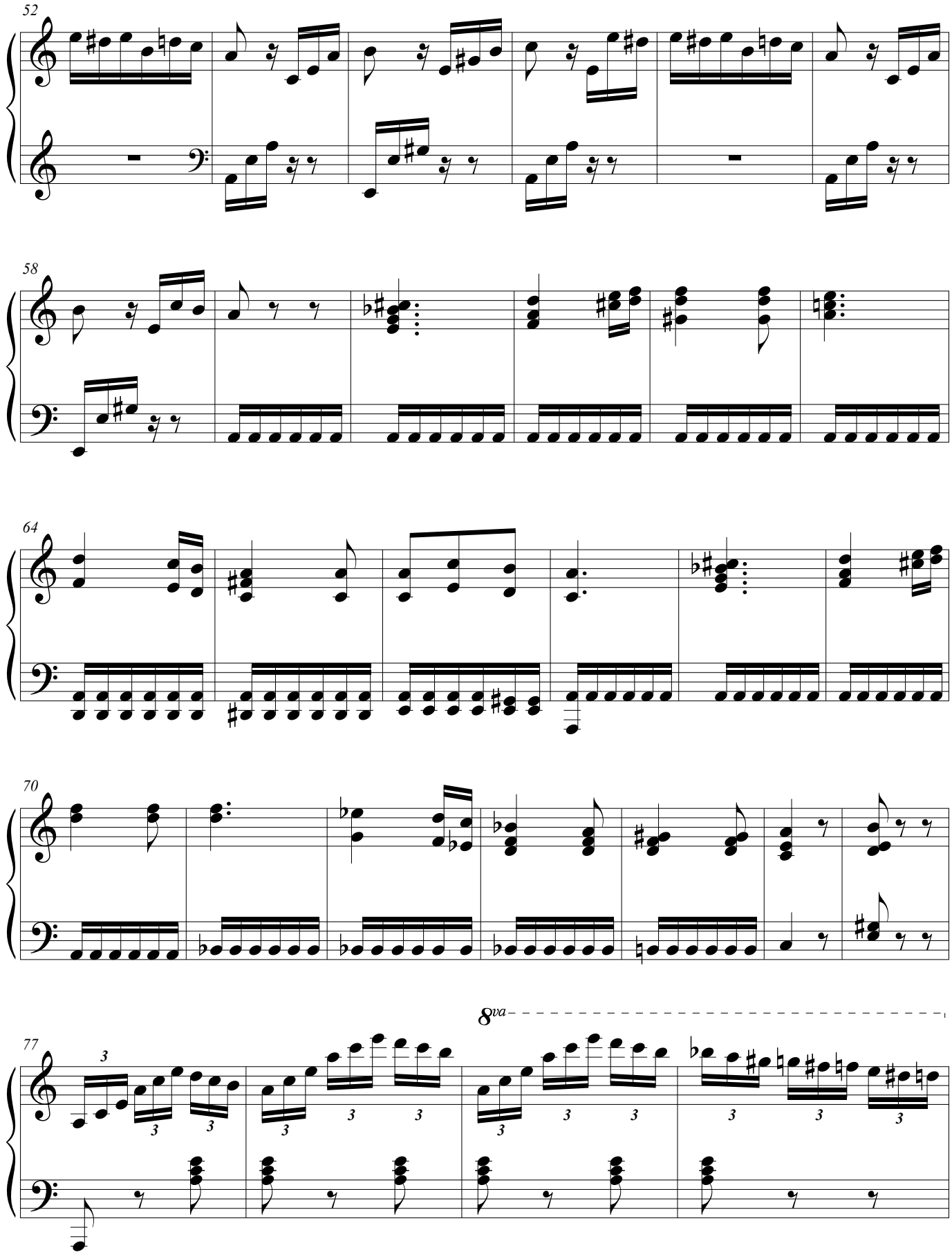
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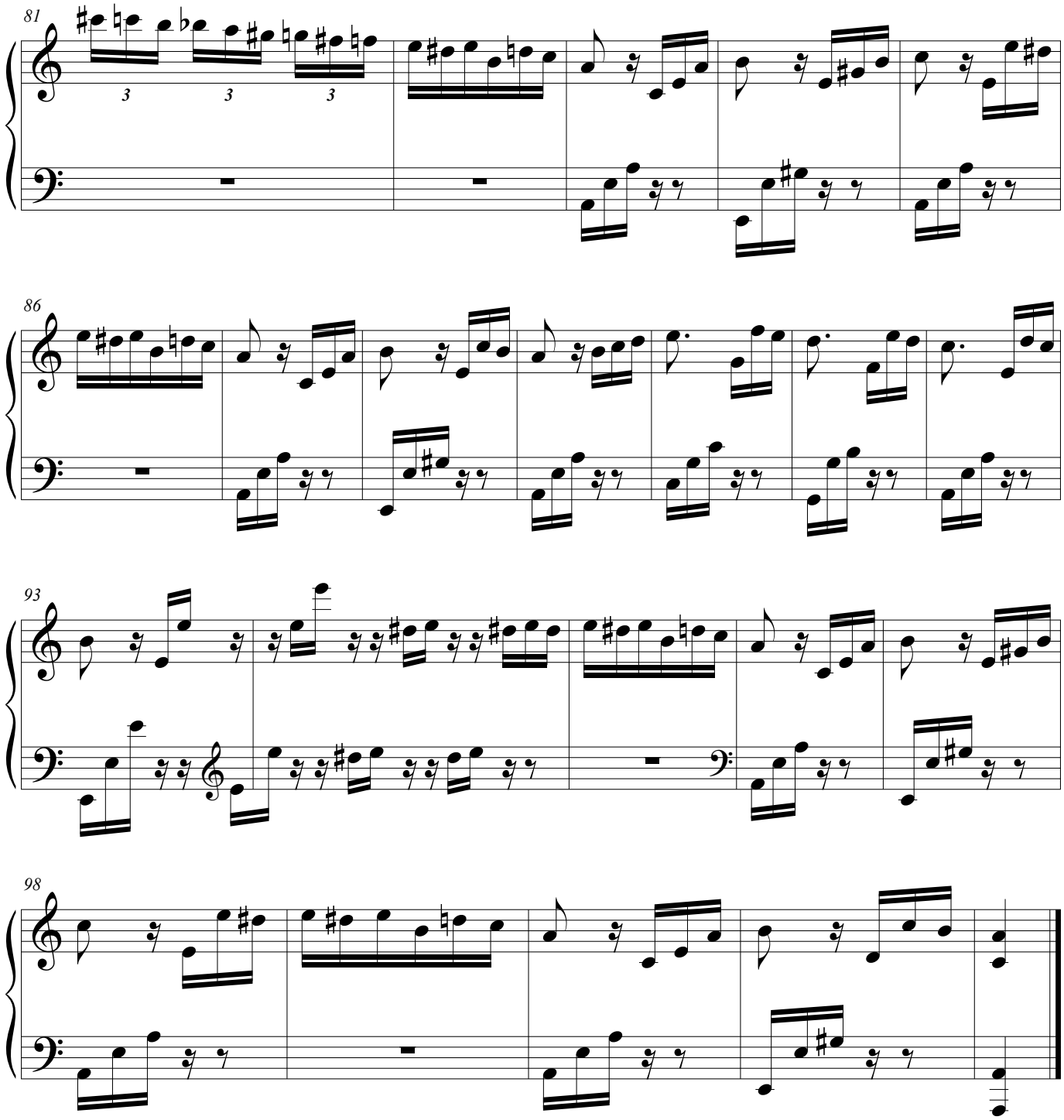
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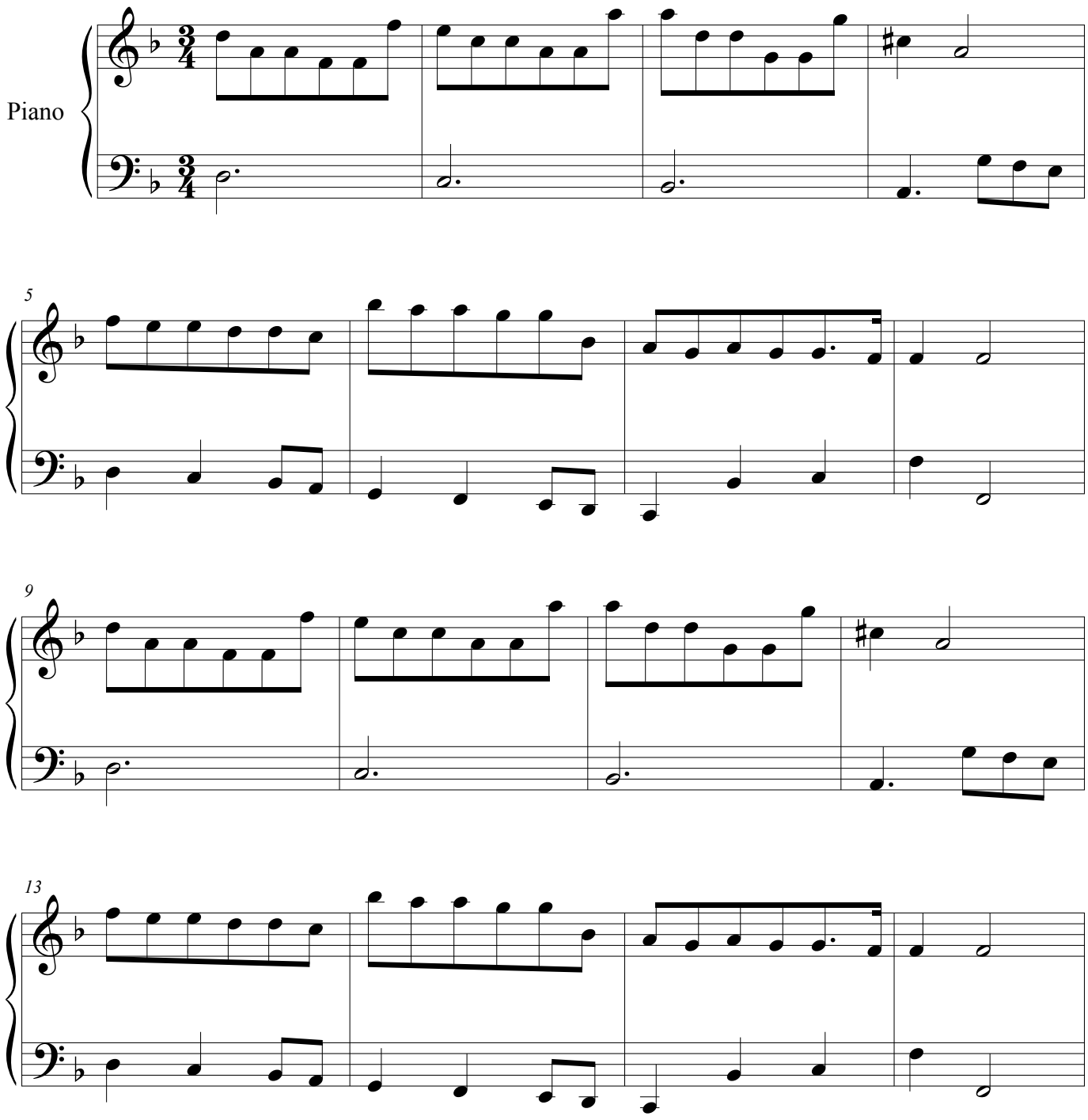
Sarabande

George Frideric Handel



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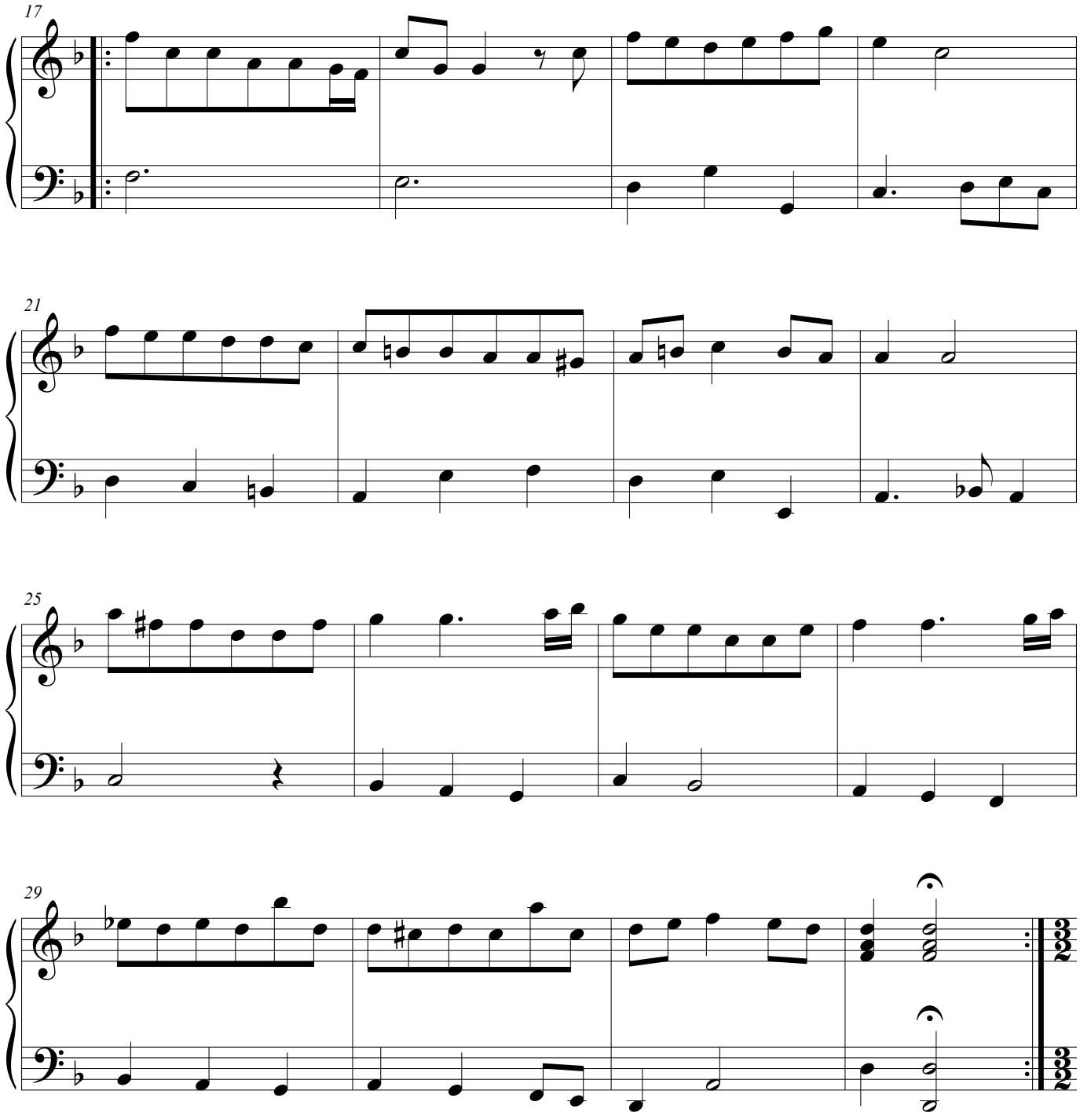
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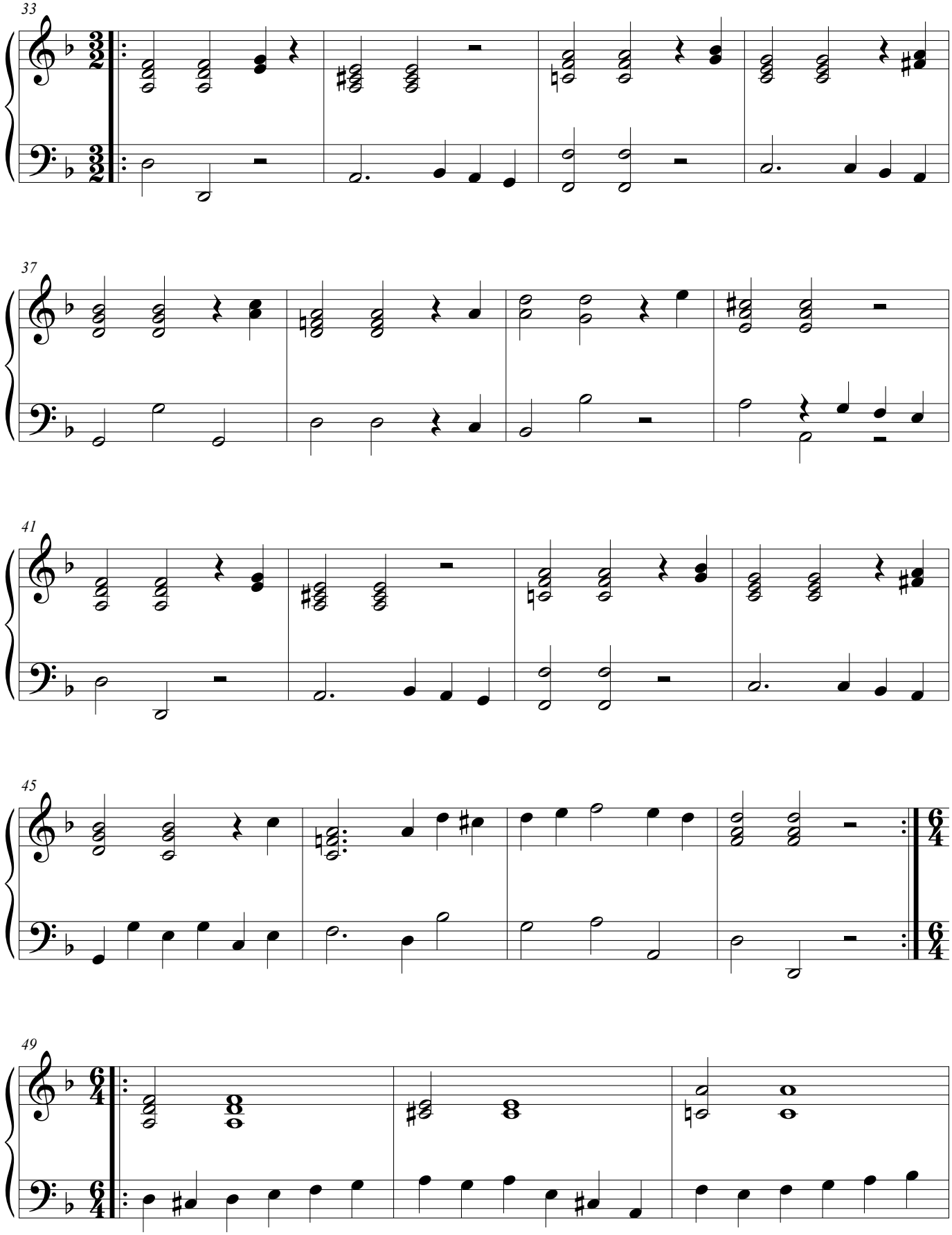
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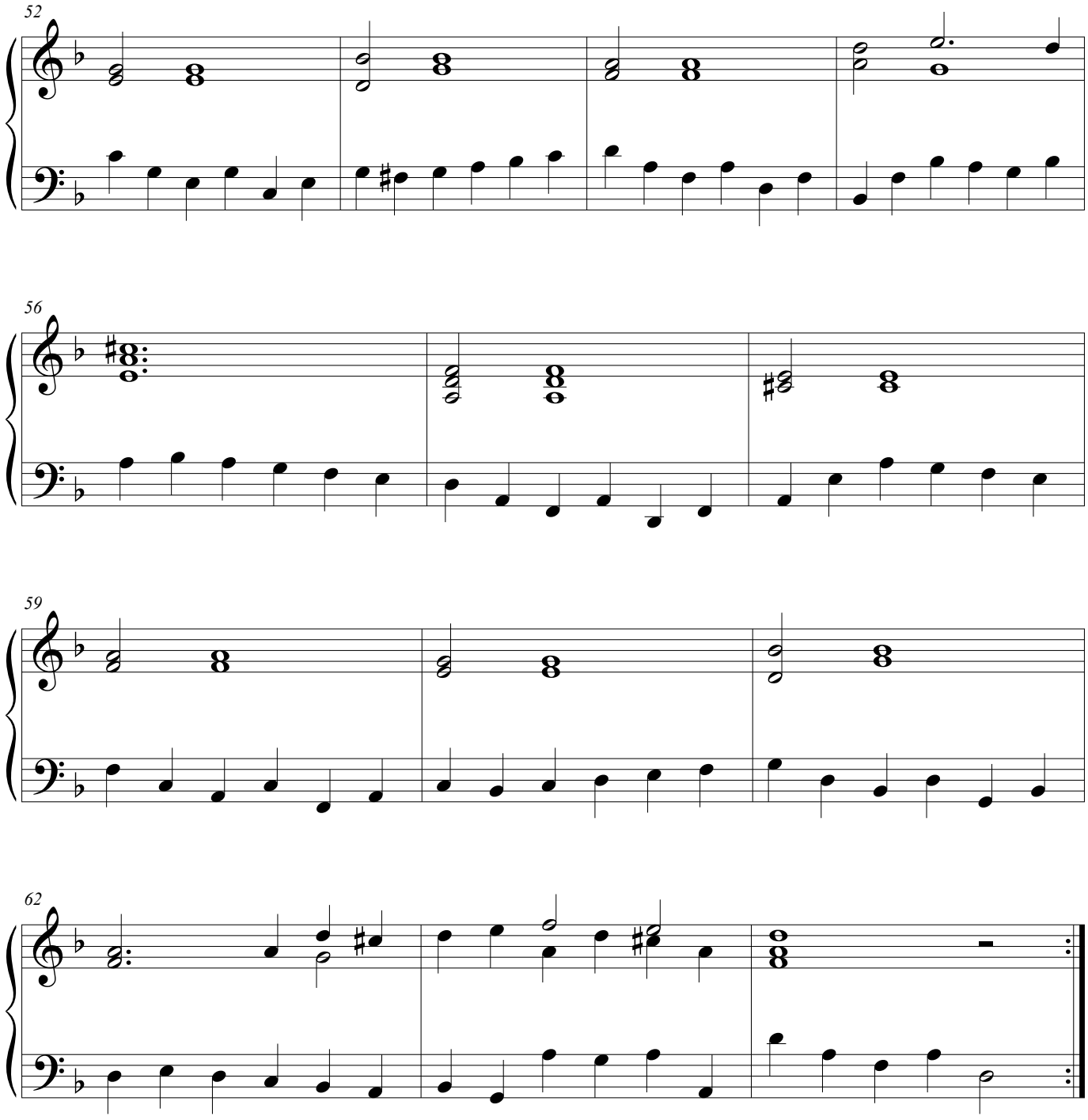
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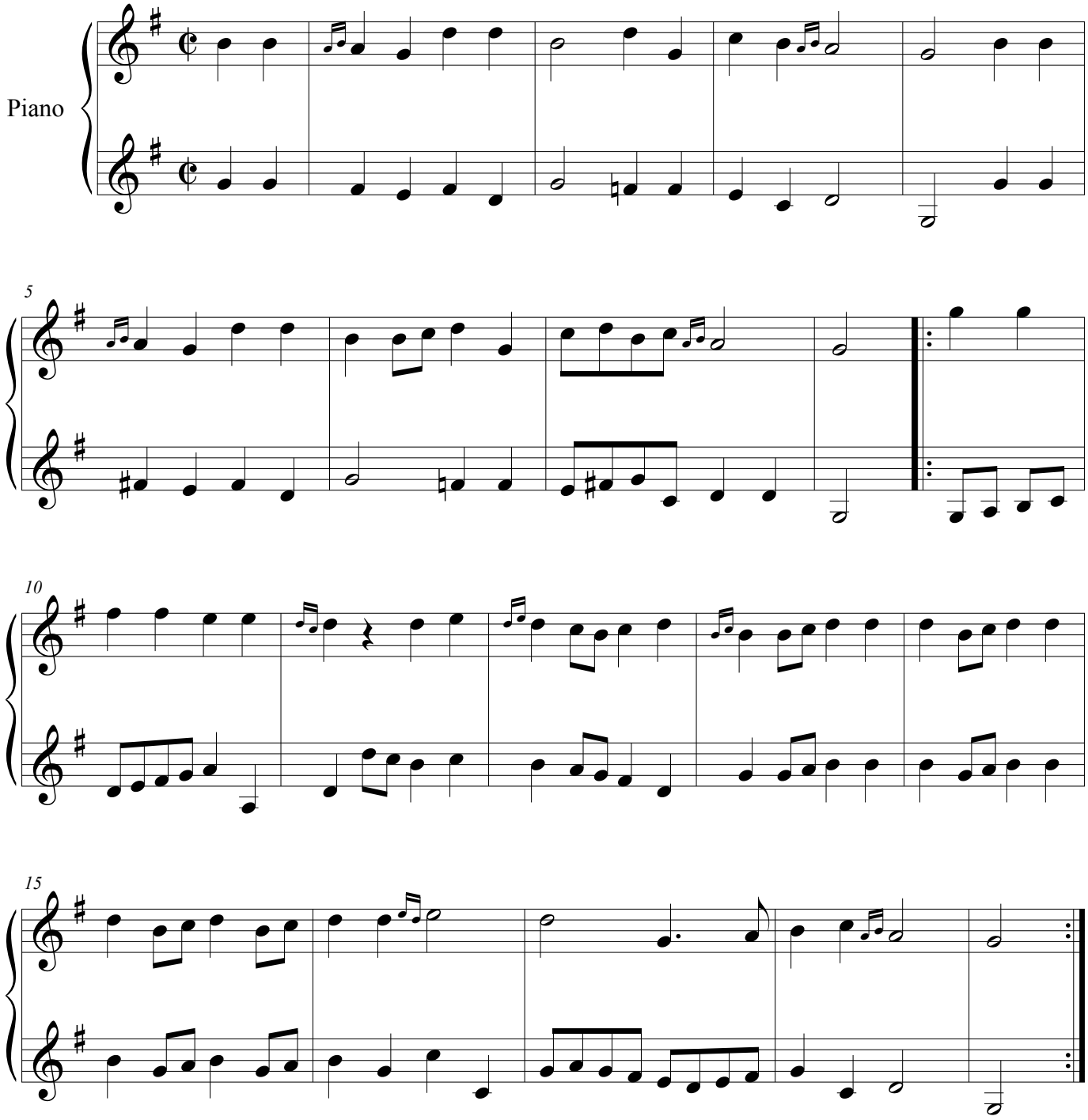
Noël

Louis-Claude Daquin



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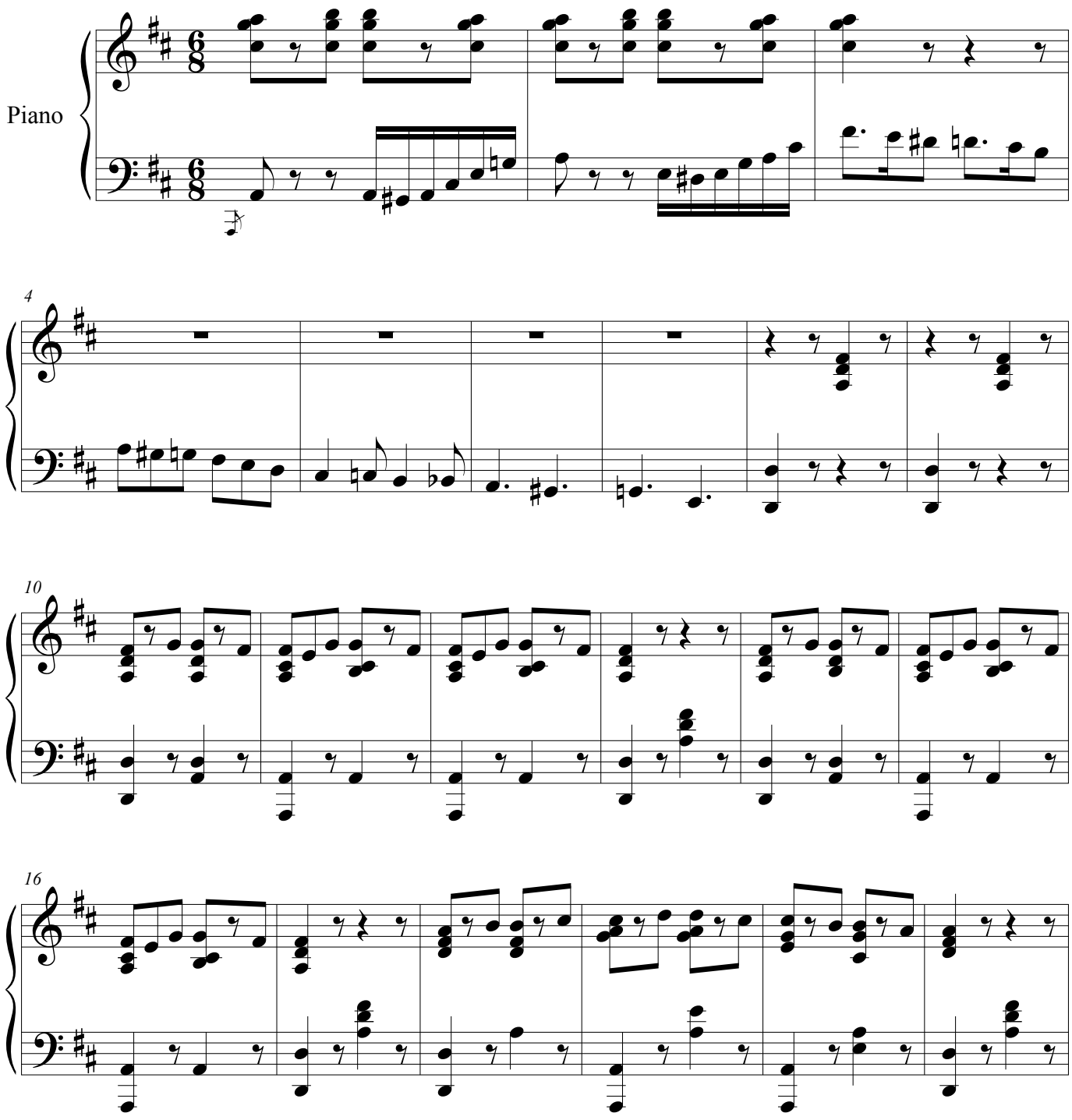
Barcarolle

Jacques Offenbach



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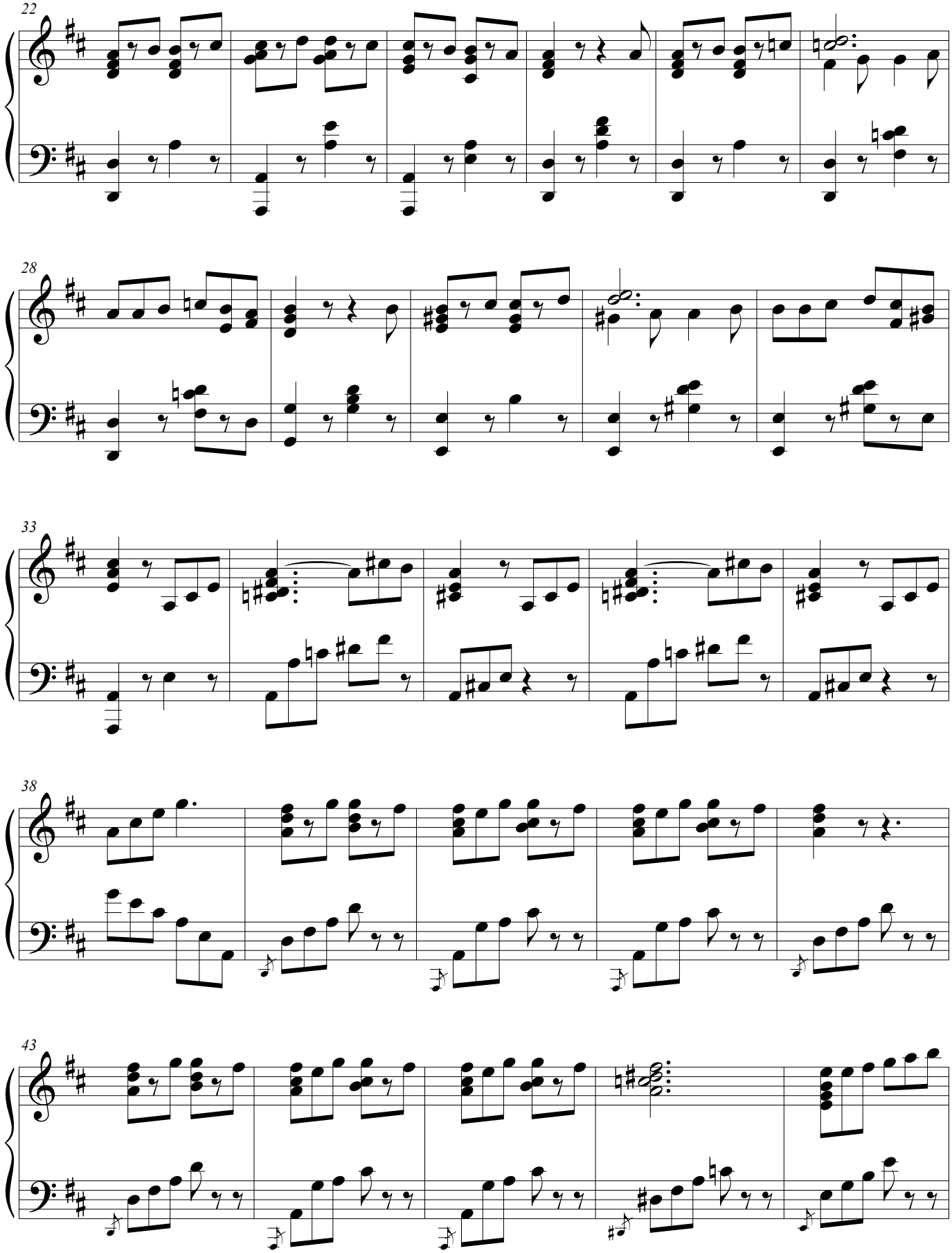
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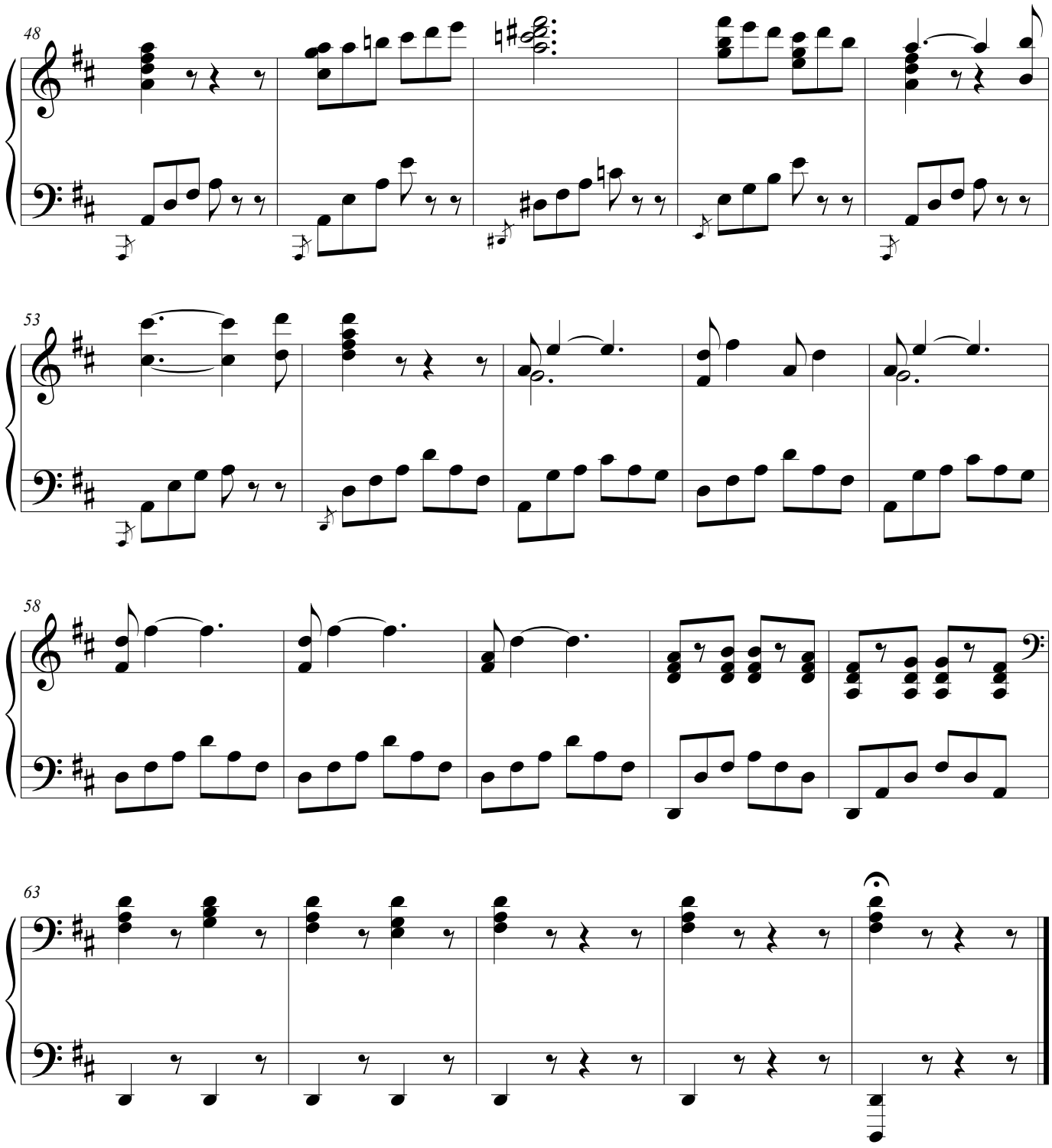
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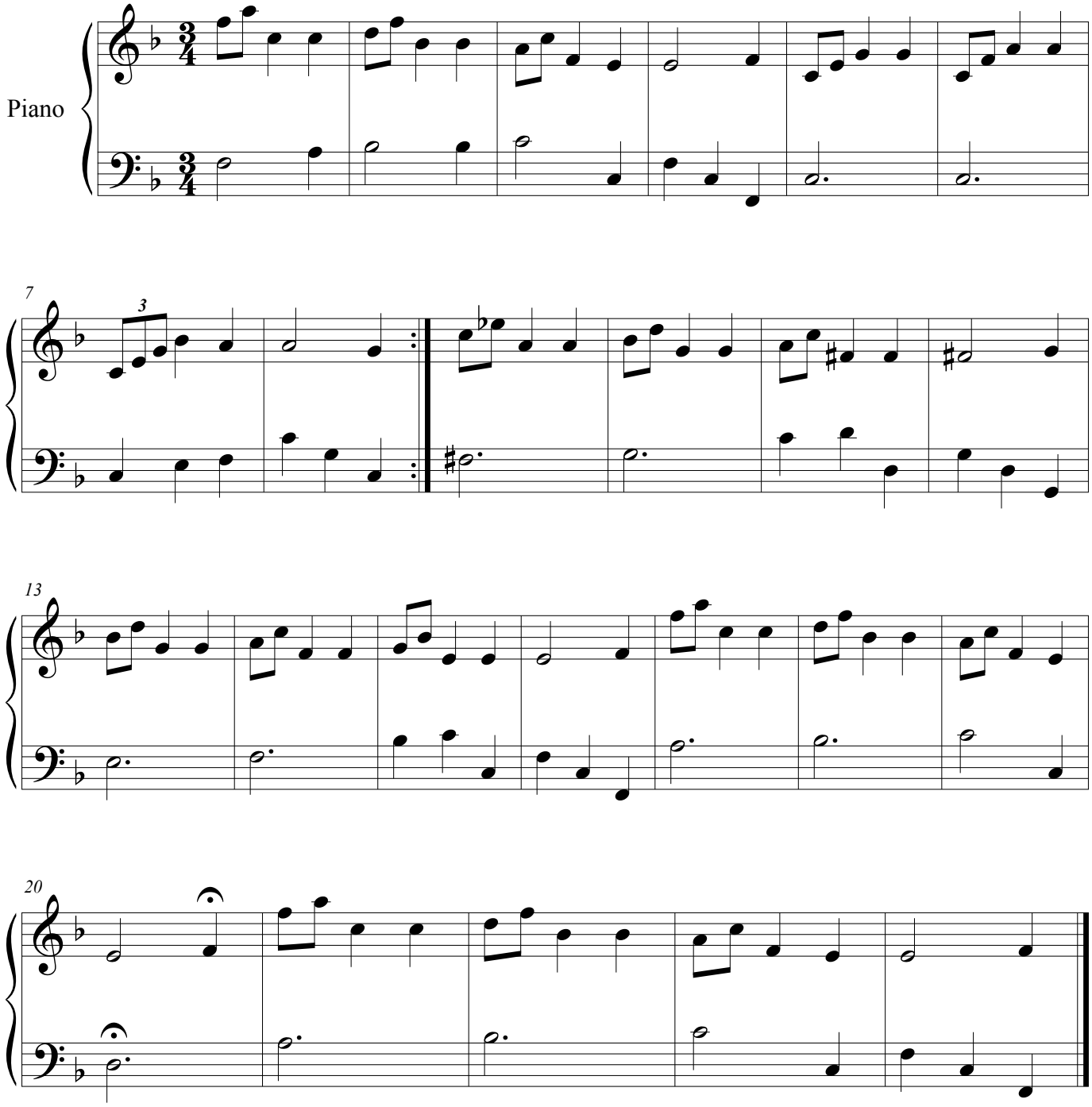
Minuet in F

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



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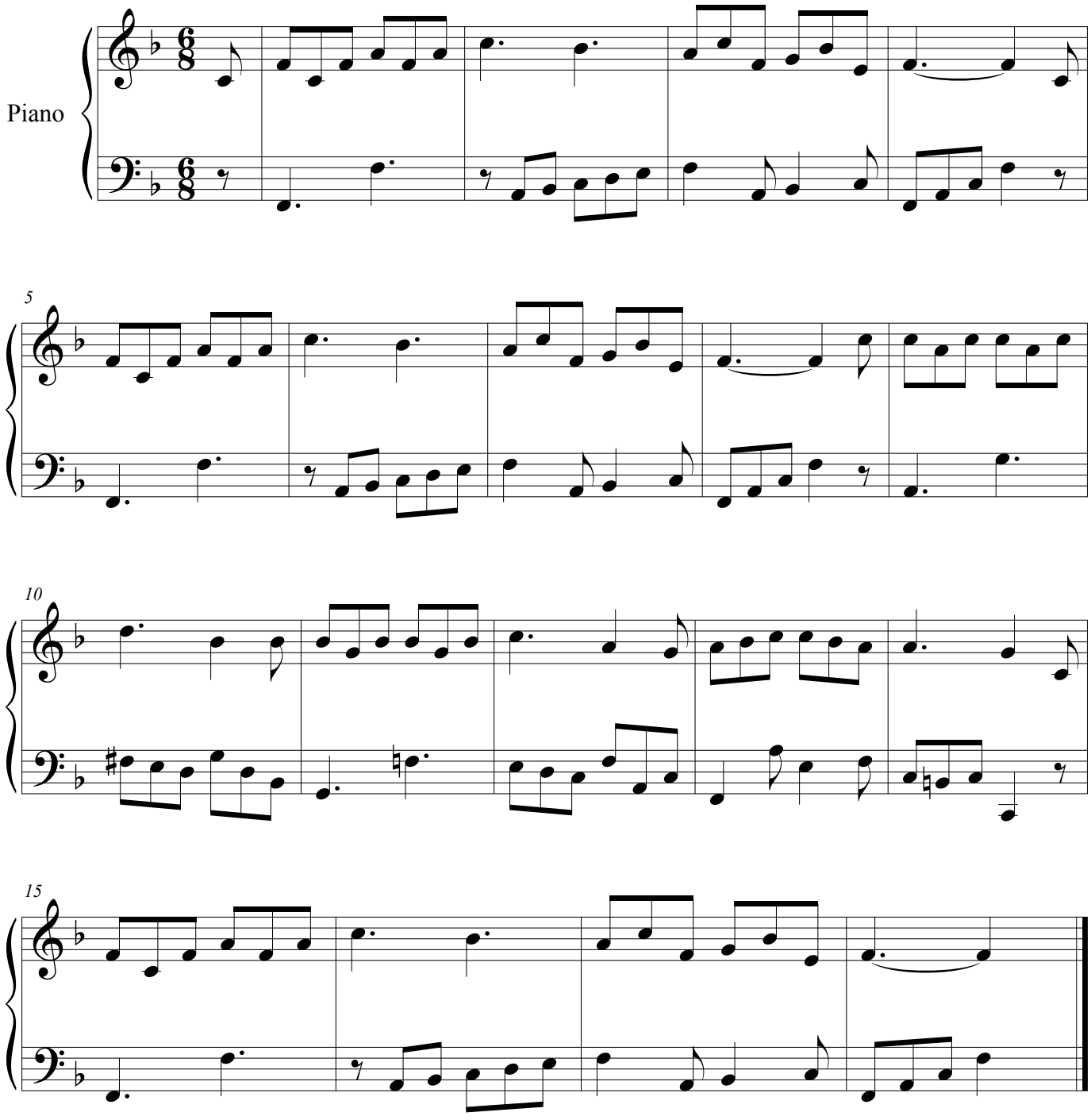
Psalm 127

Lullaby

Johann Philipp Kirnberger



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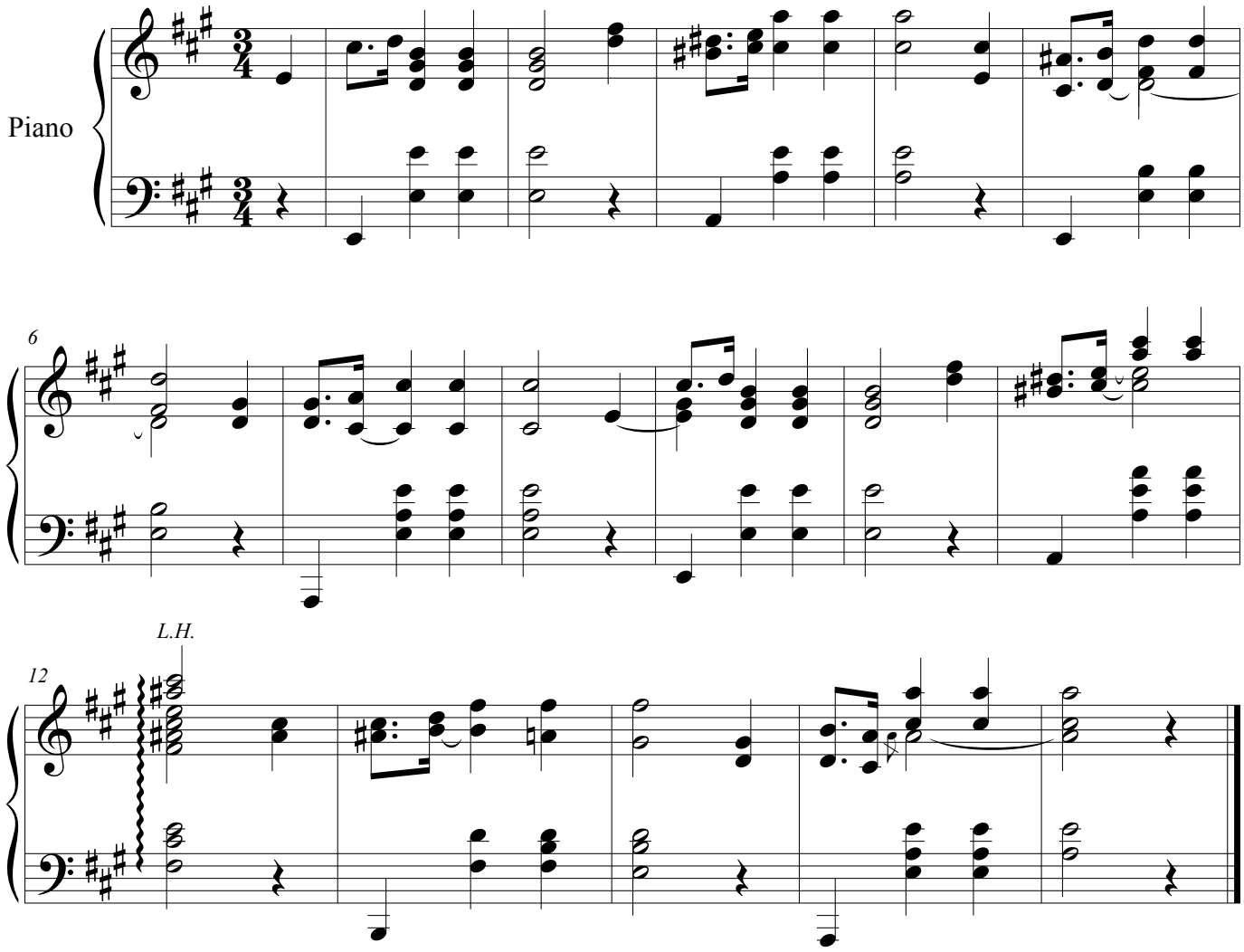
Prelude in A

Frédéric Chopin



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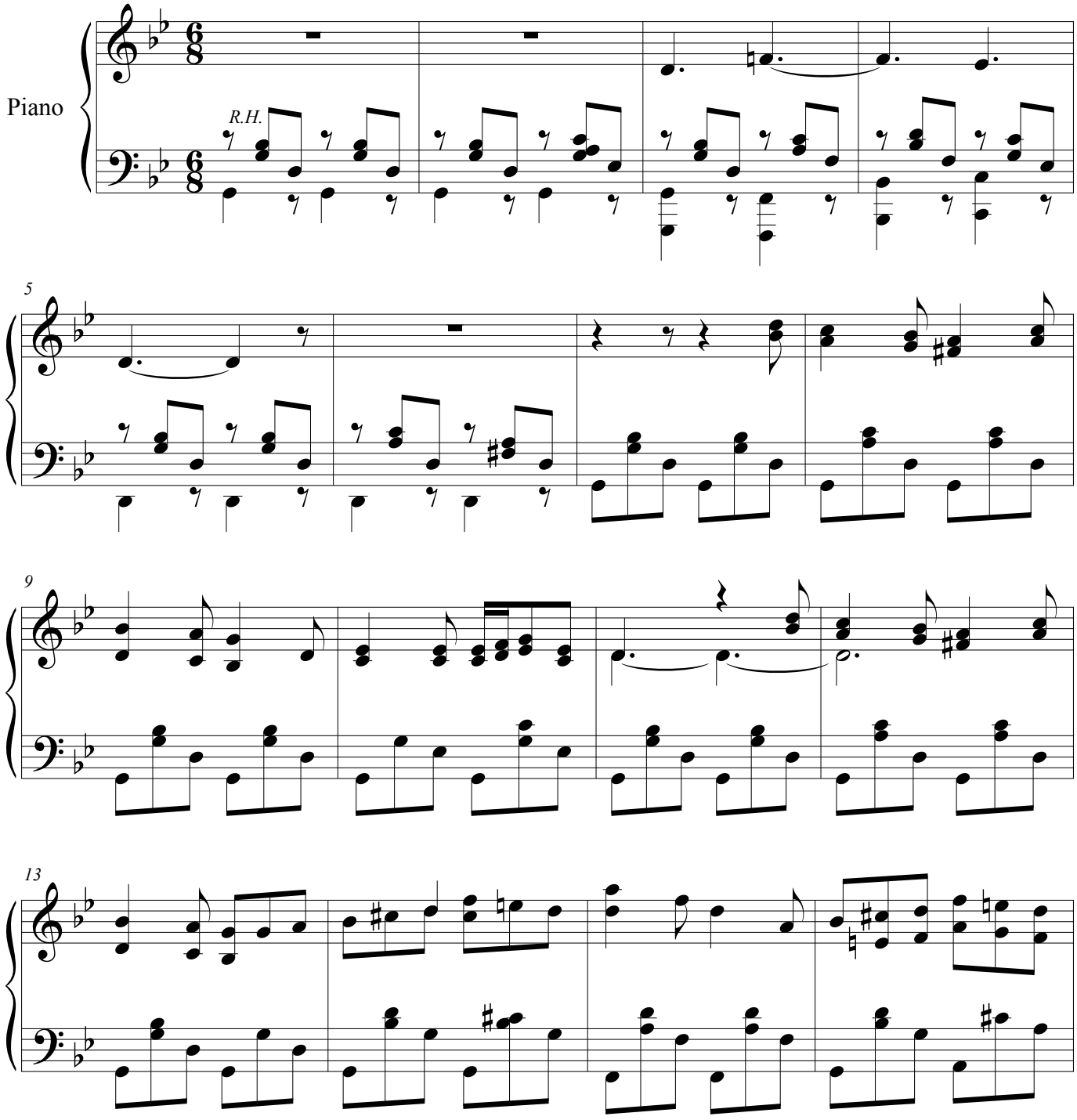
Venetian Boat Song

Felix Mendelssohn



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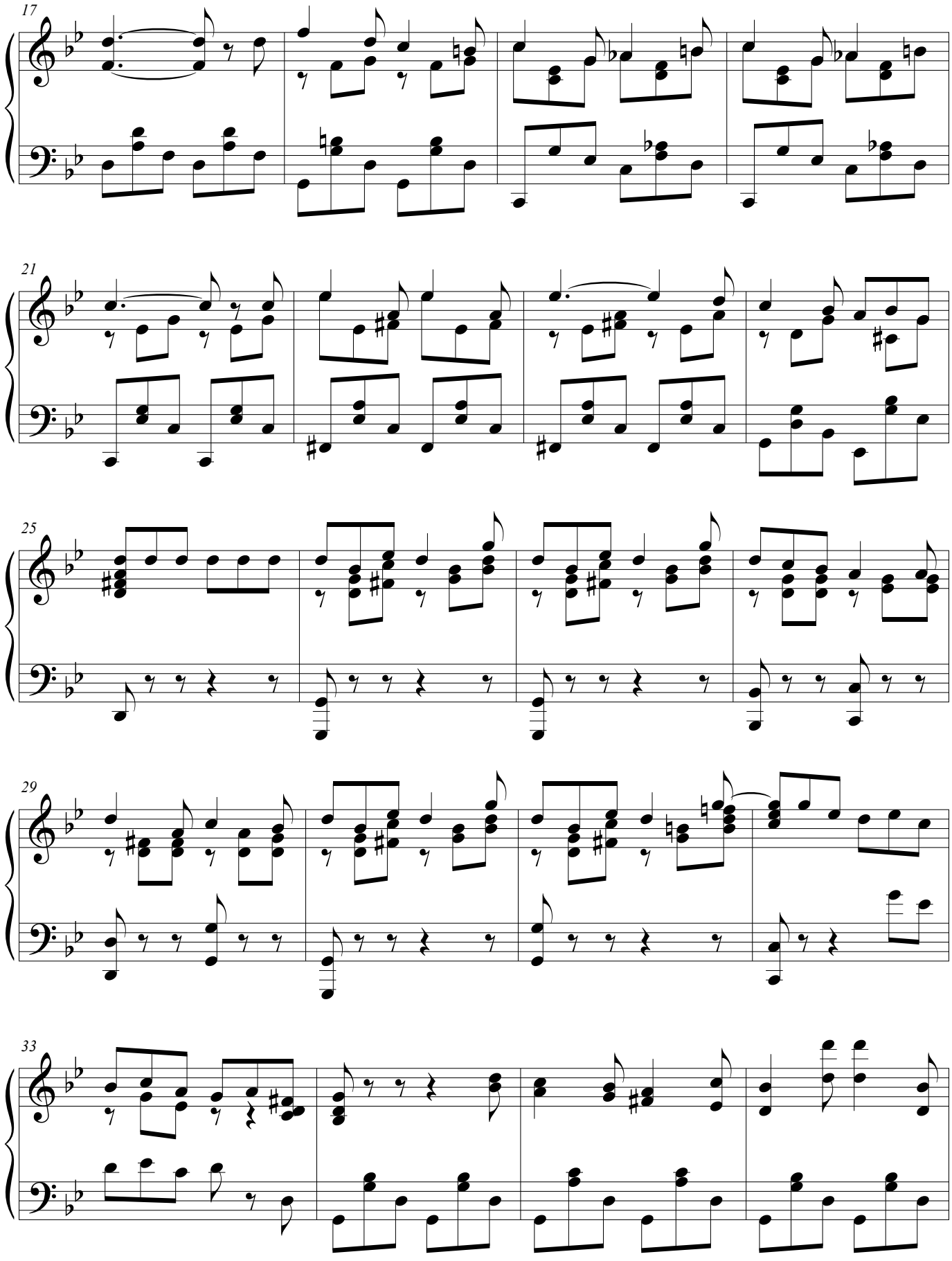
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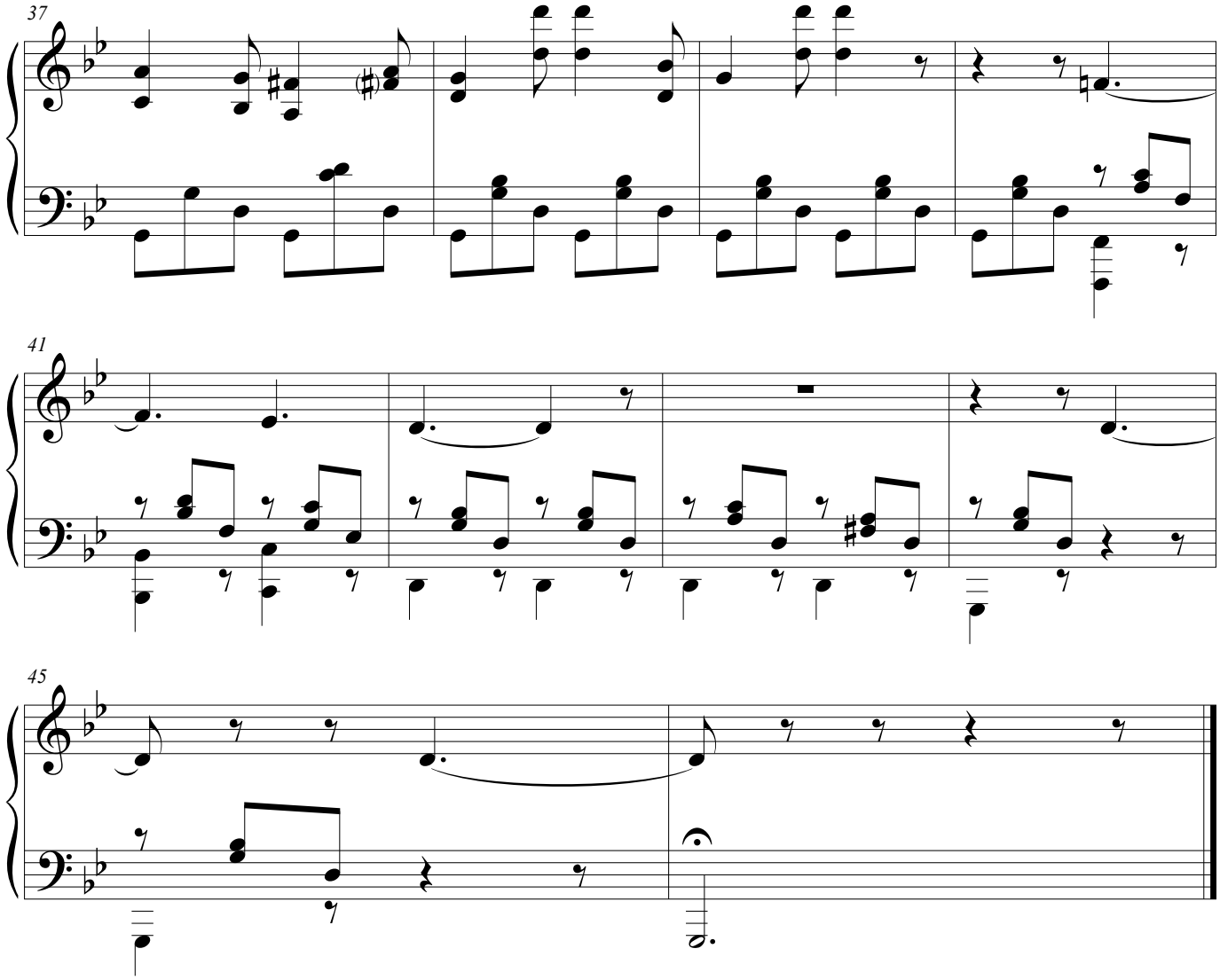
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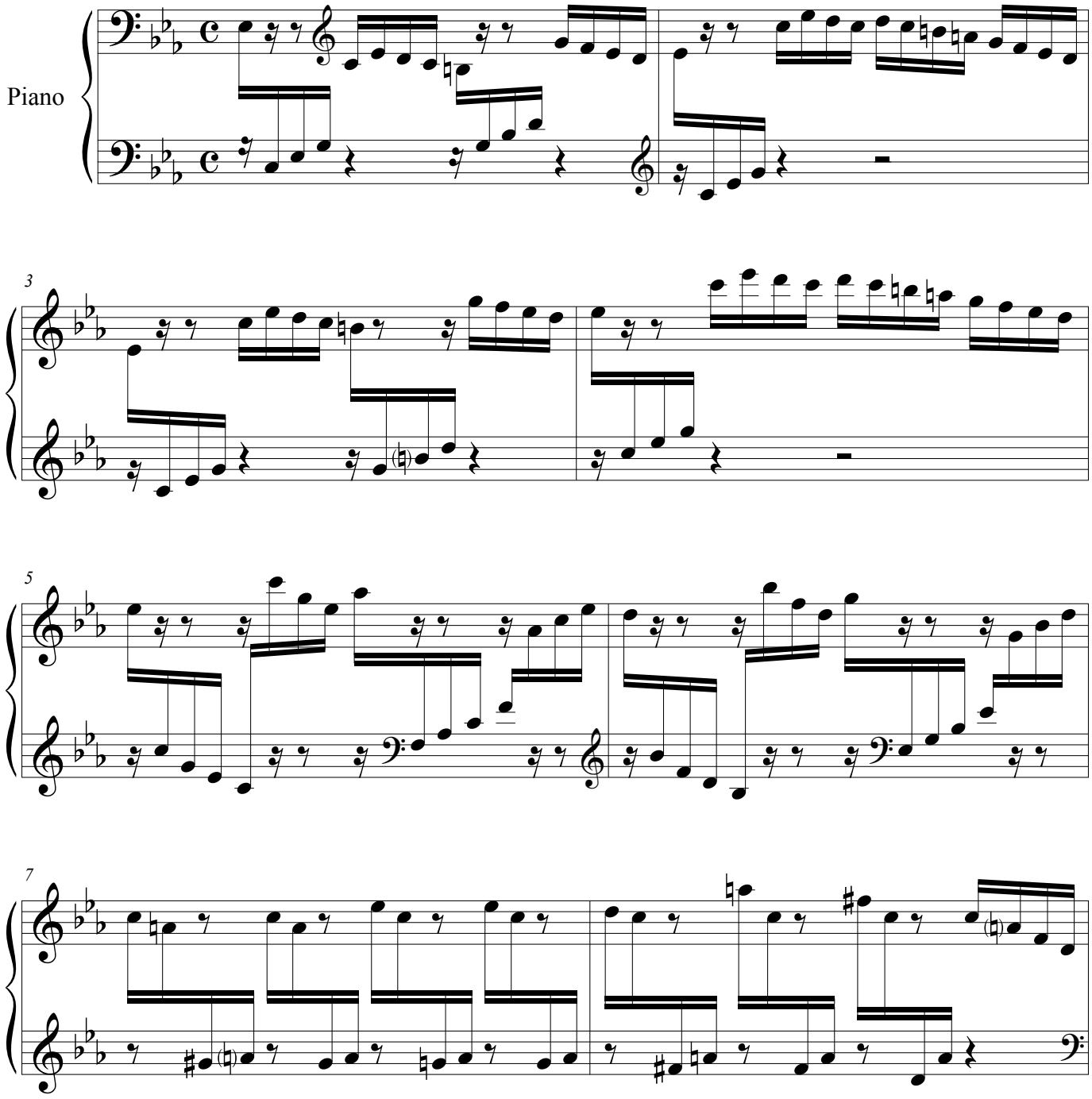
Solfeggietto

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach



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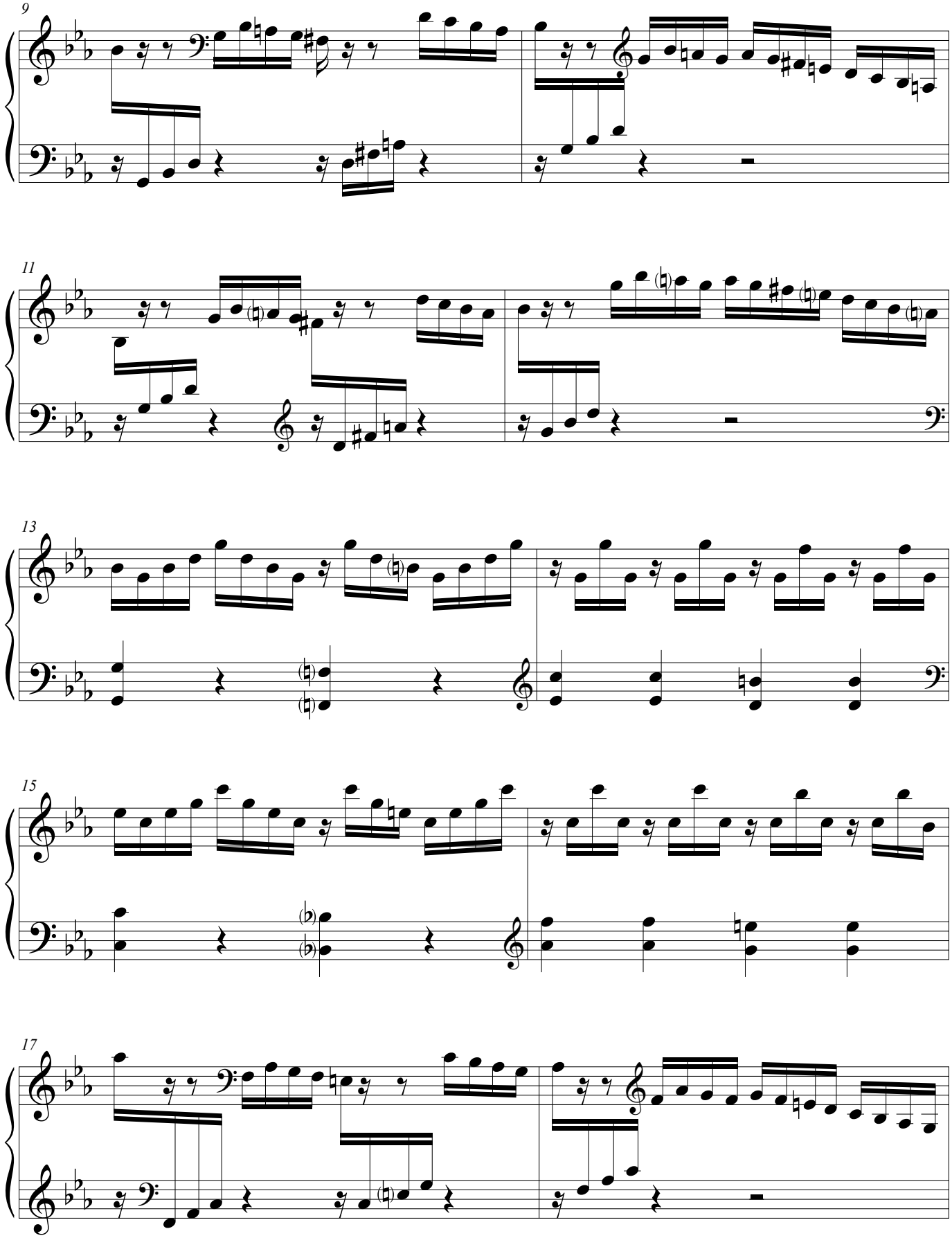
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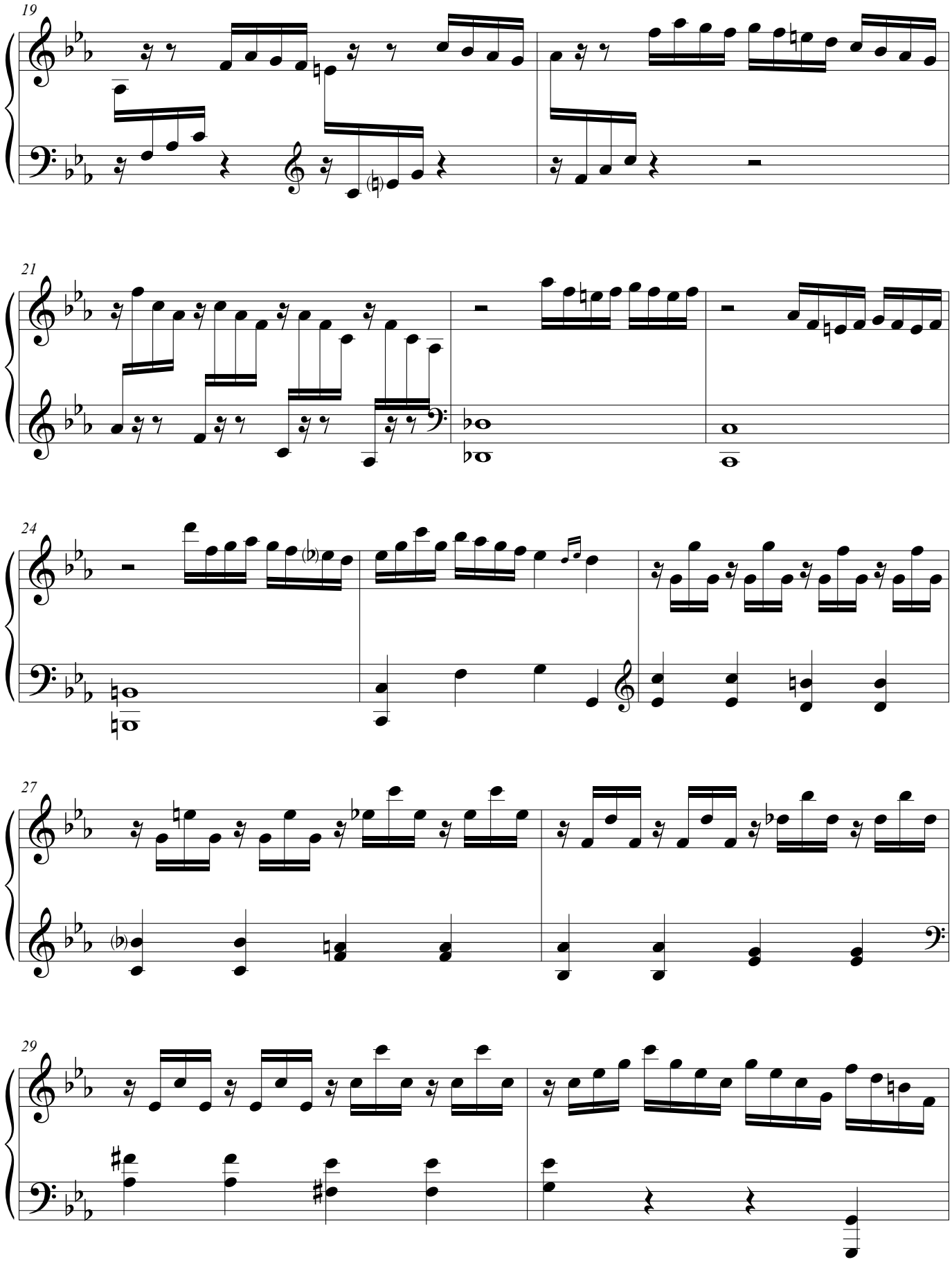
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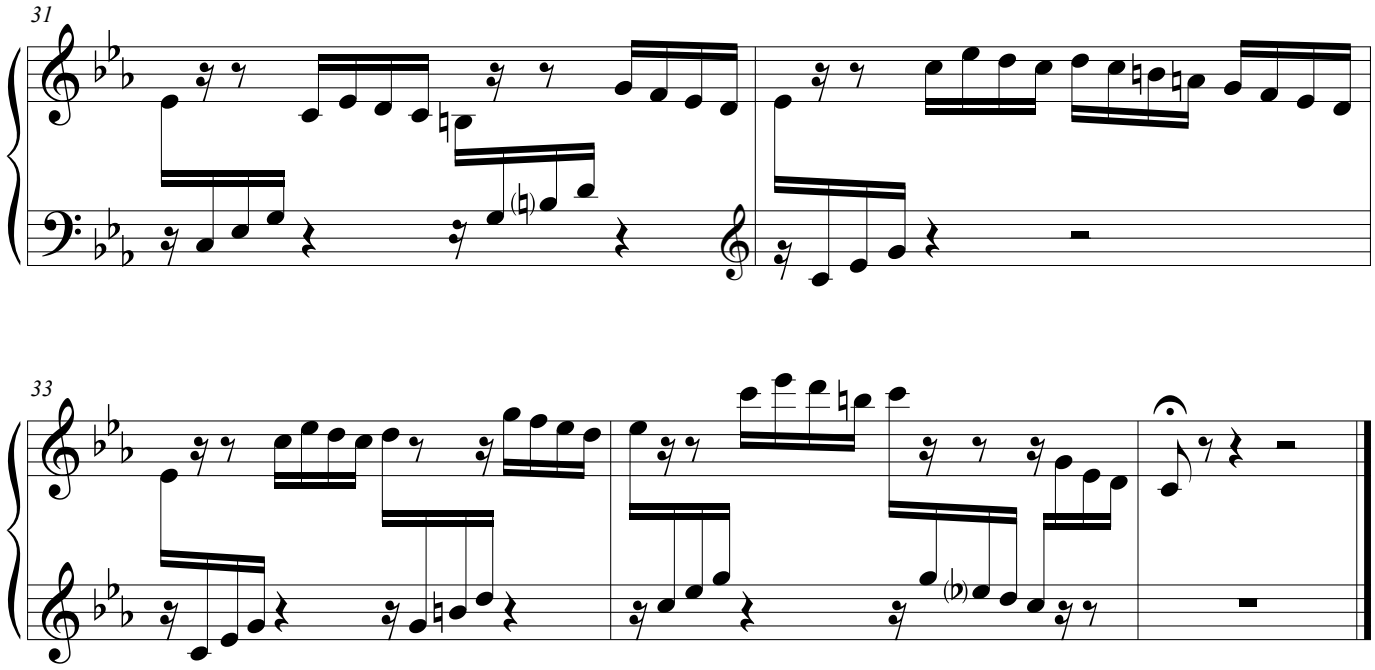
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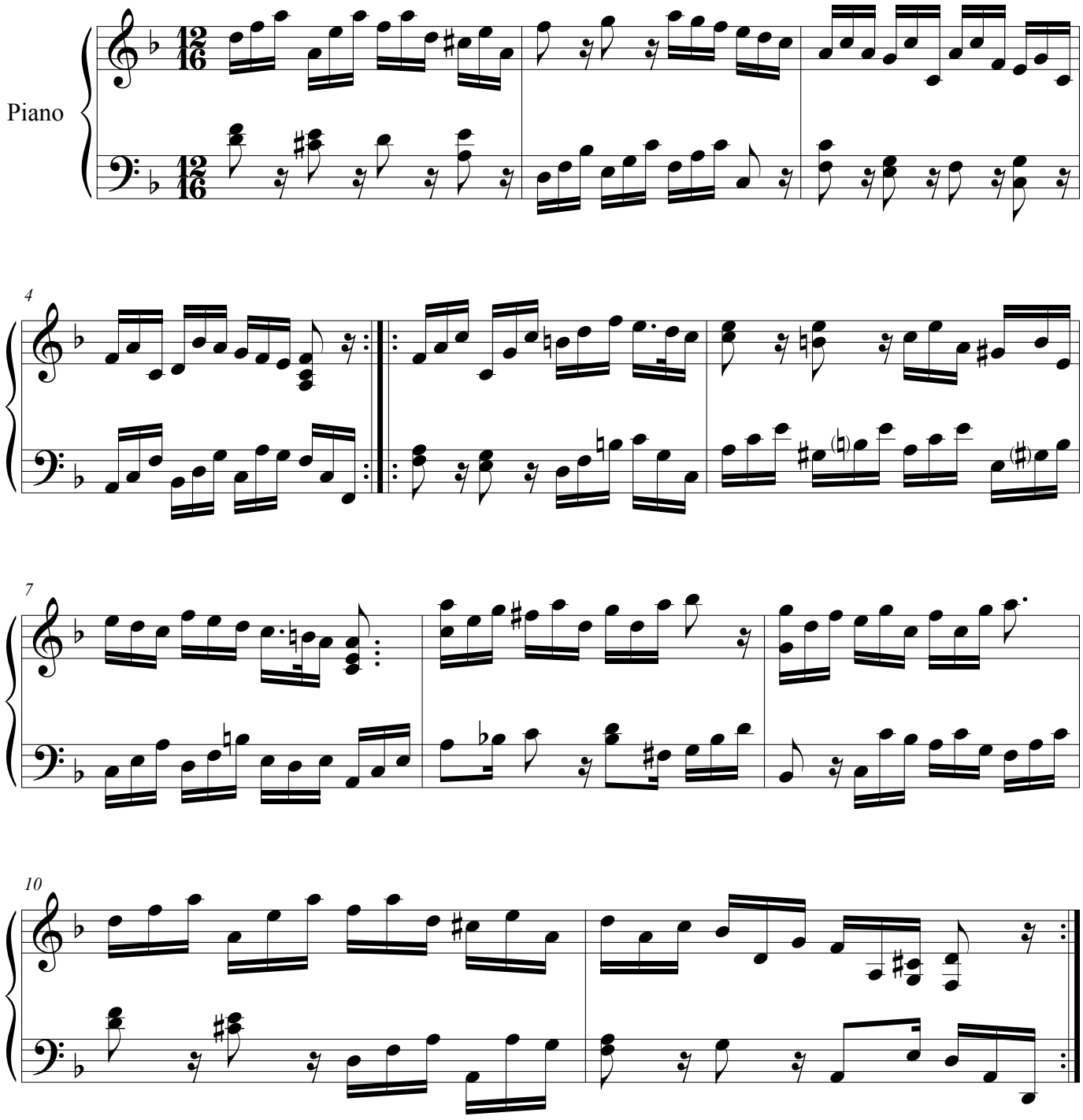
Gigue

George Frideric Handel



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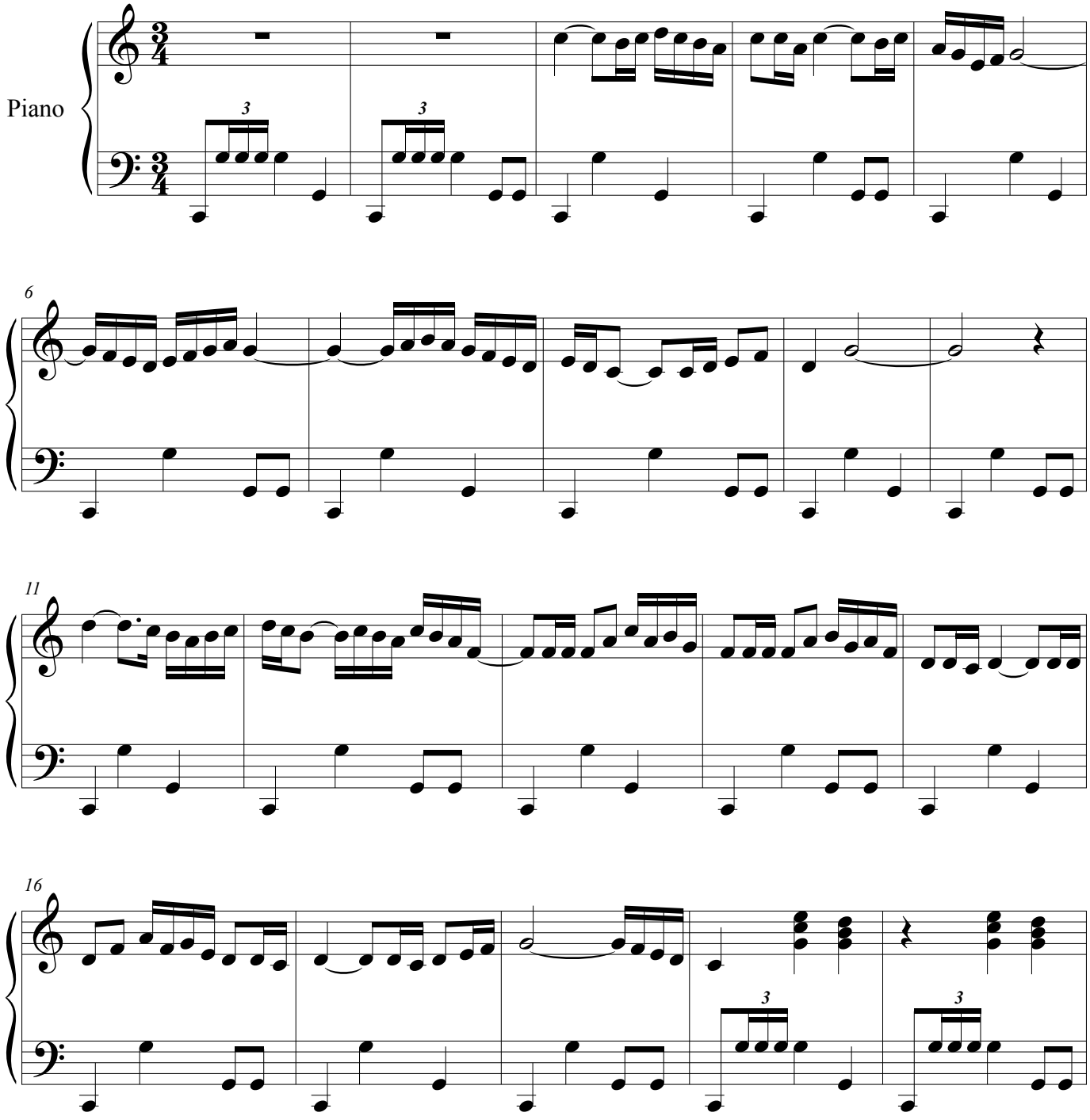
Boléro

Maurice Ravel



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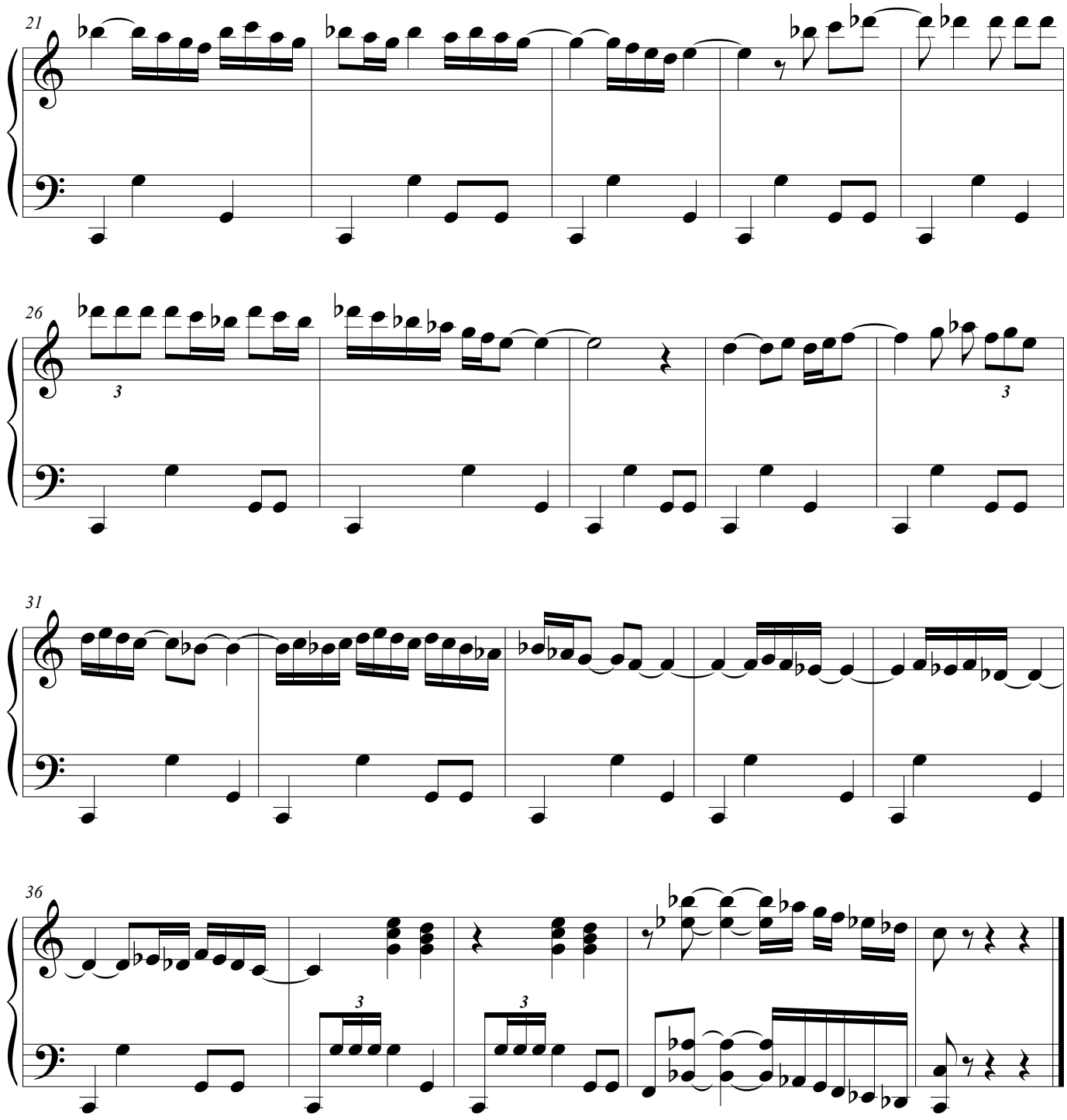
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