[SCORE]

Plus belle encor votre chère beauté

For Piano Quartet

by Mason Kistler

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Plus belle encor votre chère beauté

[Your dear beauty lovelier still]

For Piano Quartet

By Mason Kistler

Duration

c. 6:08

INSTRUMENTATION

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

Pianoforte

ABOUT THE WORK

Written in 2026, *Plus belle encor votre chère beauté* is a work for piano quartet that evokes summer and the experience of love. It was composed for the "2026 Summer Competition" hosted by The Young Composers Music Forum and is inspired by Paul Verlaine's poem "Donc, ce sera par un clair jour d'été," whose opening line may be translated as: "So, on a bright summer day it shall be." The poem is number nineteen in Verlaine's collection *La Bonne Chanson (The Good Song),* and the French text and an English translation appear below:

XIX.	19.
Donc, ce sera par un clair jour d'été	*So, on a bright summer day it shall be:*
Le grand soleil, complice de ma joie,	*The great sun, my partner in joy,*
Fera, parmi le satin et la soie,	*Shall make, amid the satin and the silk,*
Plus belle encor votre chère beauté ;	*Your dear beauty lovelier still;*
Le ciel tout bleu, comme une haute tente,	*The sky, all blue, like a tall canopy,*
Frissonnera somptueux à longs plis	*Shall quiver sumptuously in the long folds*
Sur nos deux fronts heureux qu'auront pâlis	*Above our two happy brows, grown pale*
L'émotion du bonheur et l'attente ;	*With pleasure and expectancy;*
Et quand le soir viendra, l'air sera doux	*And when evening comes, the breeze shall be soft*
Qui se jouera, caressant, dans vos voiles,	*And play caressingly about your veils,*
Et les regards paisibles des étoiles	*And the peaceful stars looking down*
Bienveillamment souriront aux époux	*Shall smile benevolently on man and wife.*

The title of this work is drawn directly from the French text and has similar inspiration as the Gabriel Fauré song from his op. 61 bearing the same name as the Verlaine poem. However, this work takes the title from the fourth line of text, and unlike Fauré, this work is late-romantic in style. The musical inspiration came from two places: Tchaikovsky and his Nutcracker ballet, and a spell of improvisation at the piano. This work was created in late July and early August 2026, and during that time, I was experimenting with modal improvisation, and felt drawn to G-lydian. Specifically, the iv^{ø}7 chord you can build and find in Tchaikovsky's music. It was also around this time I was listening to parts of the Nutcracker, where I felt drawn to the idea of harp-writing, and thus, during a period of improvisation, the foundation of this work came to be.

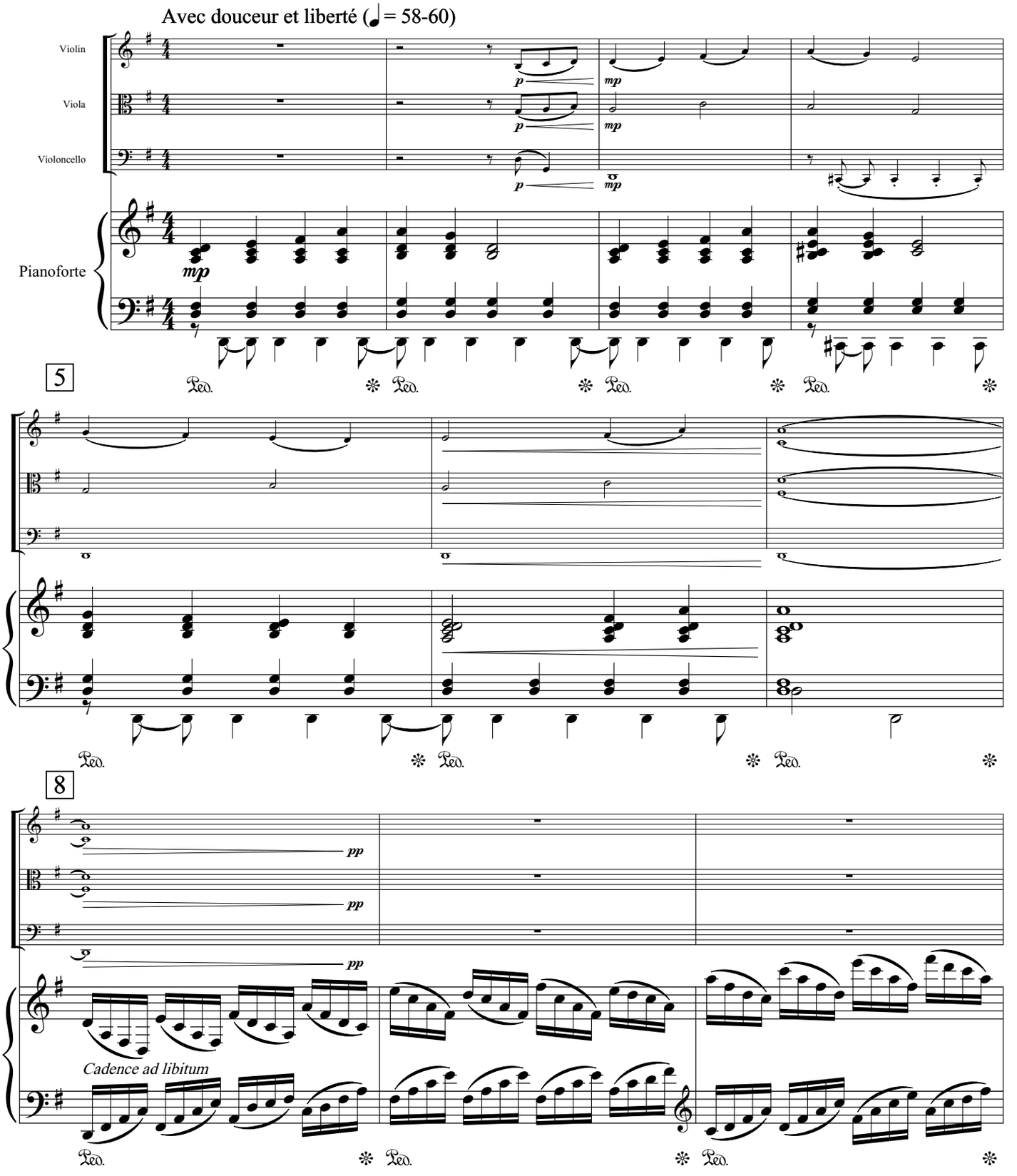
With structure, Plus belle encor votre chère beauté is in ternary (A-B-A') form and includes an intro and coda. The B-section acts as our development while the outer A-sections are comprised of a smaller AABA form. The principal theme stated in the A-section occurs throughout the work, where it can be heard in the introduction, coda and within the development where the piano states the principal theme in inversion. Lastly, I composed this work following the end of a relationship. In short, this work evokes those unspoken emotions I harbored and the romance I long to have one day. A day where I too can say "Your dear beauty."

Plus belle encor votre chère beauté

SCORE

For Piano Quartet

Mason Kistler
(ASCAP)



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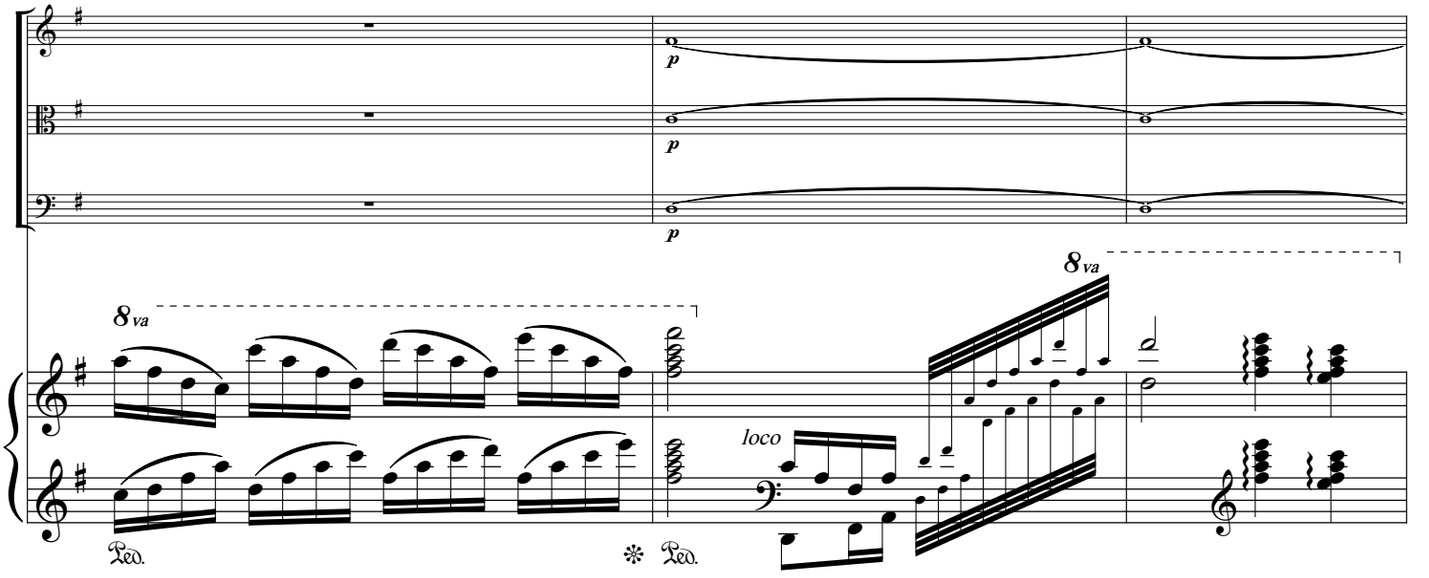

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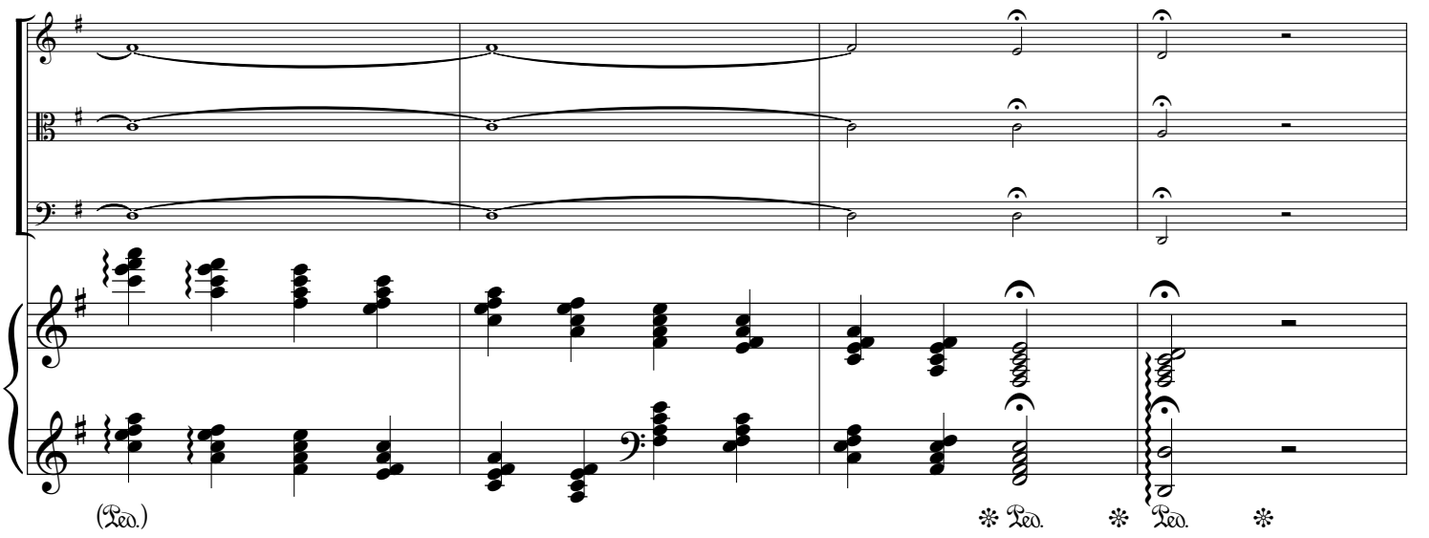

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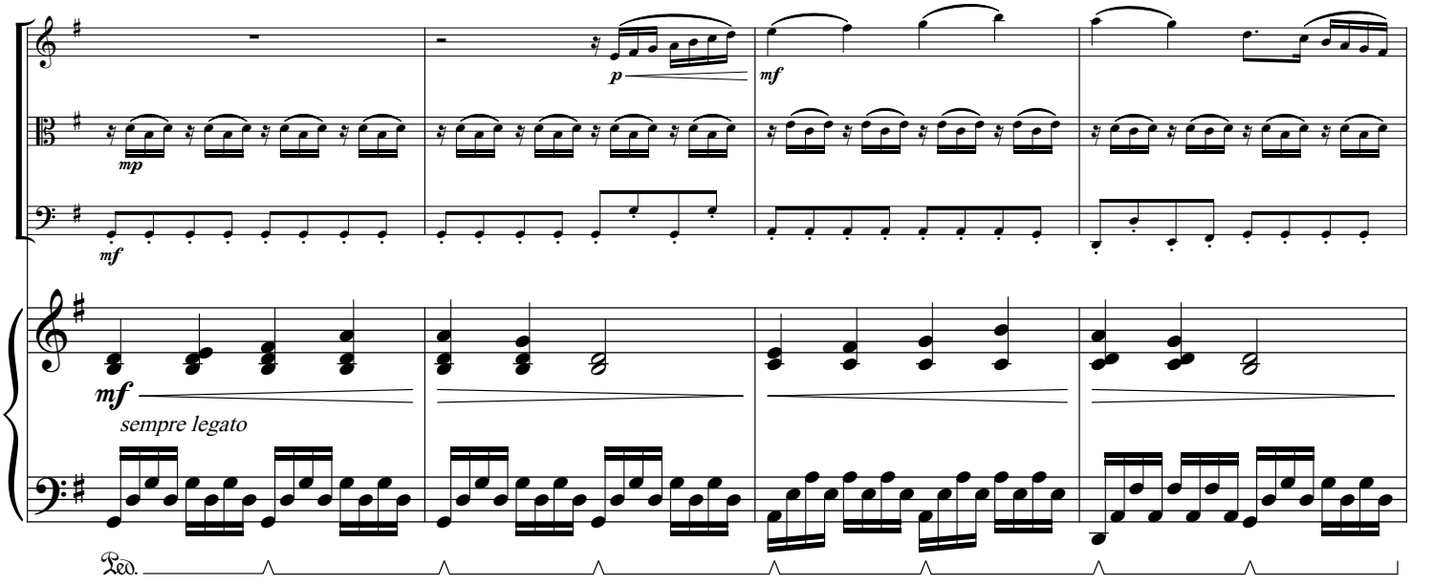

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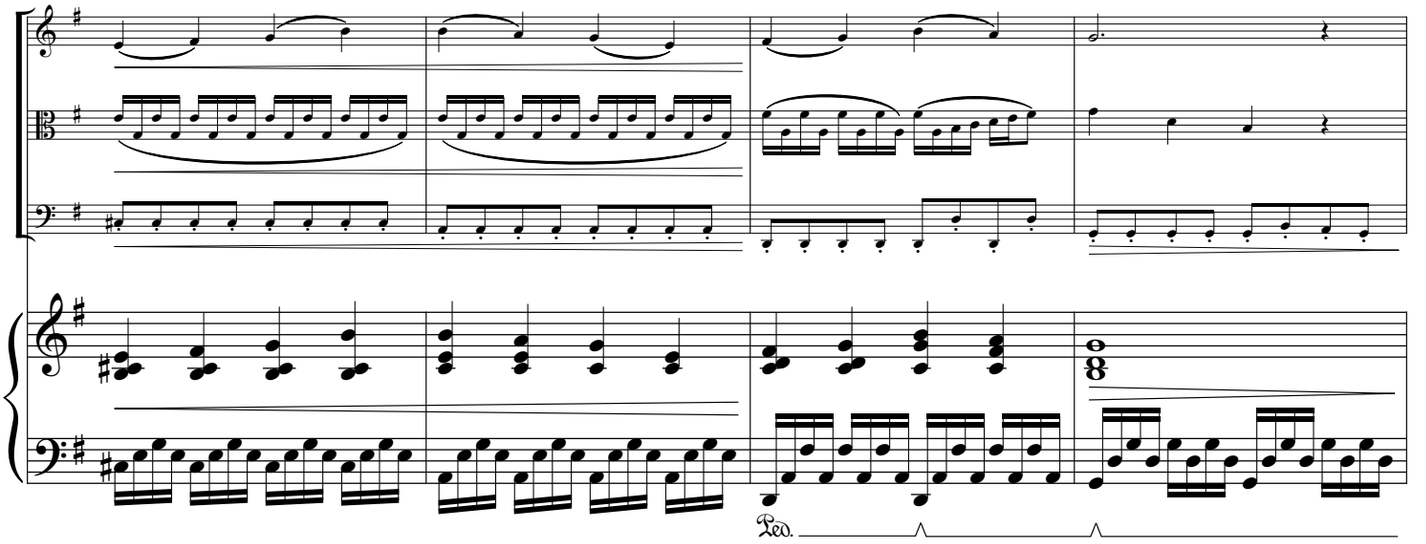

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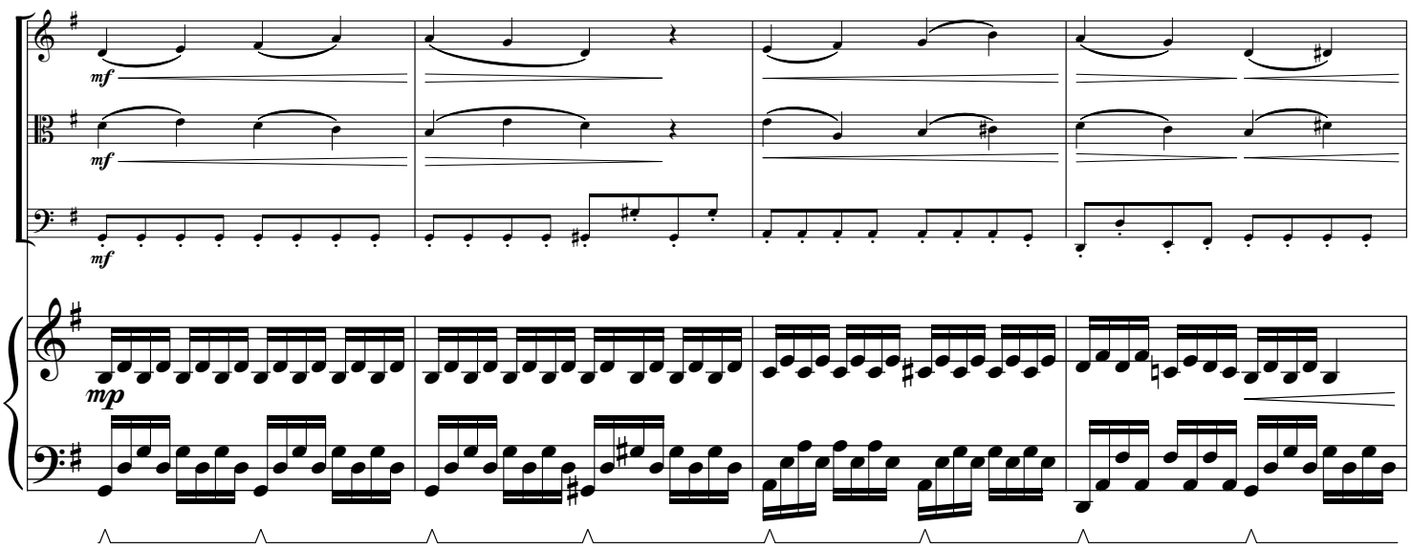

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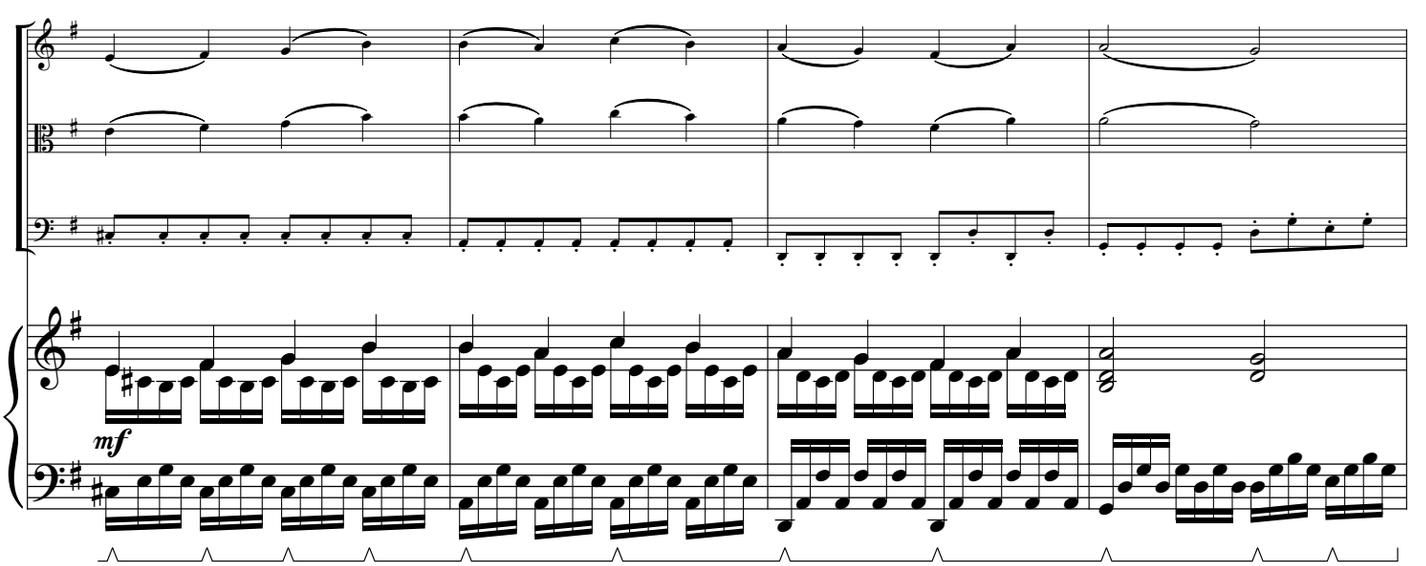

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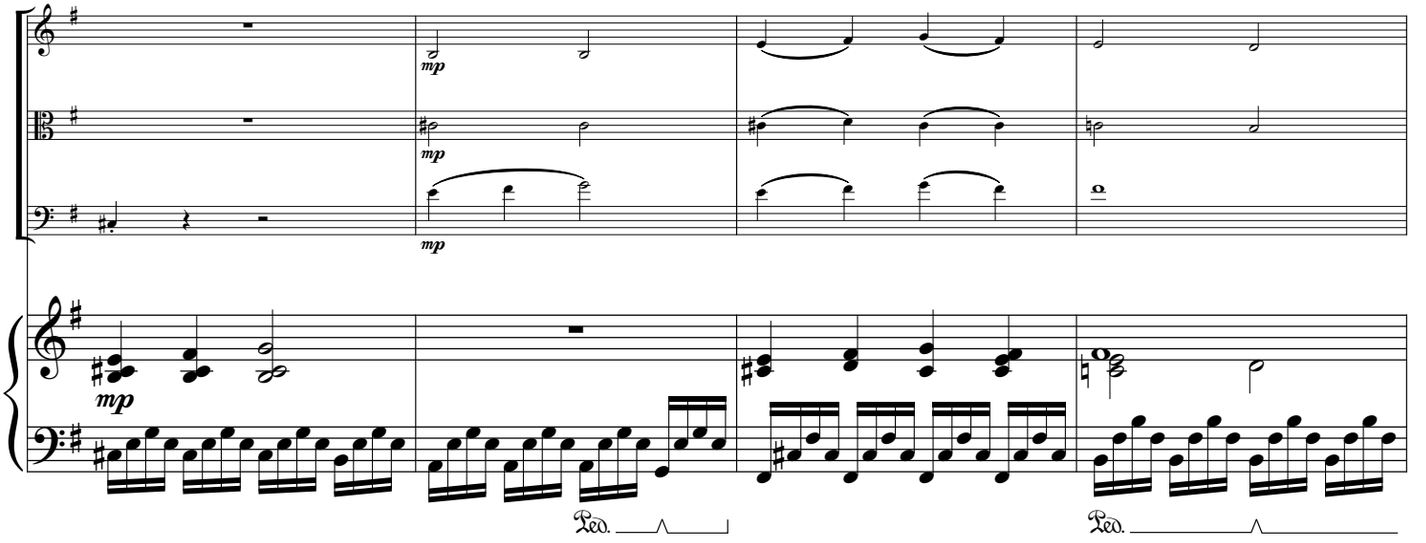

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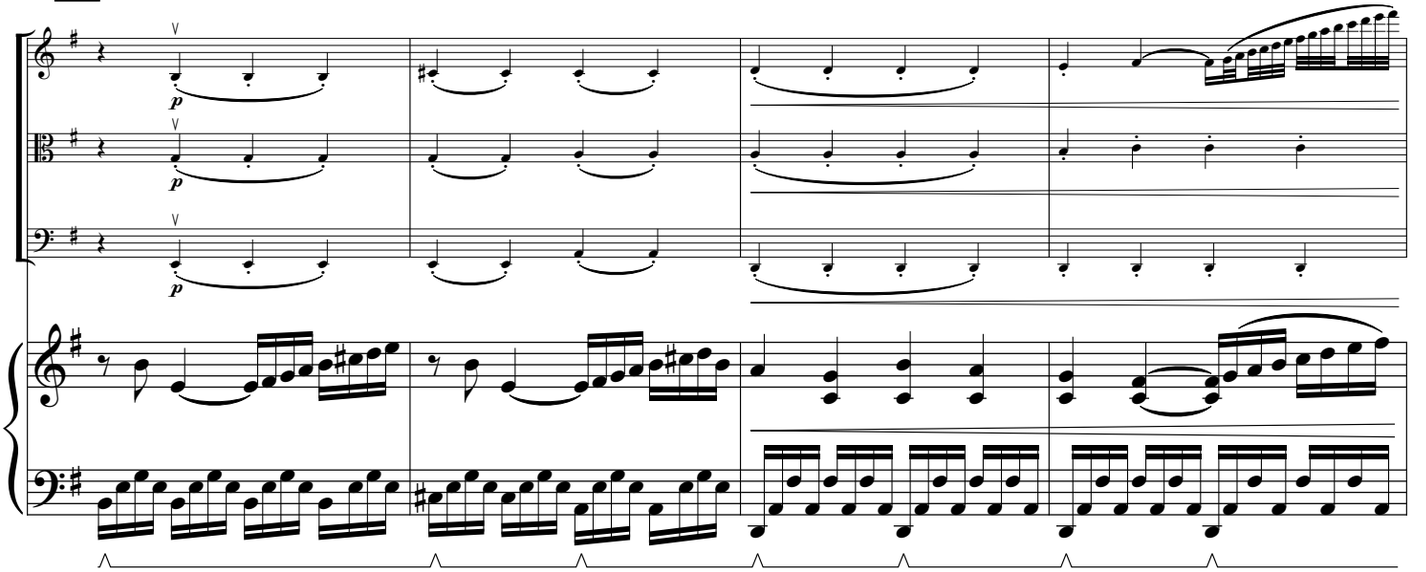

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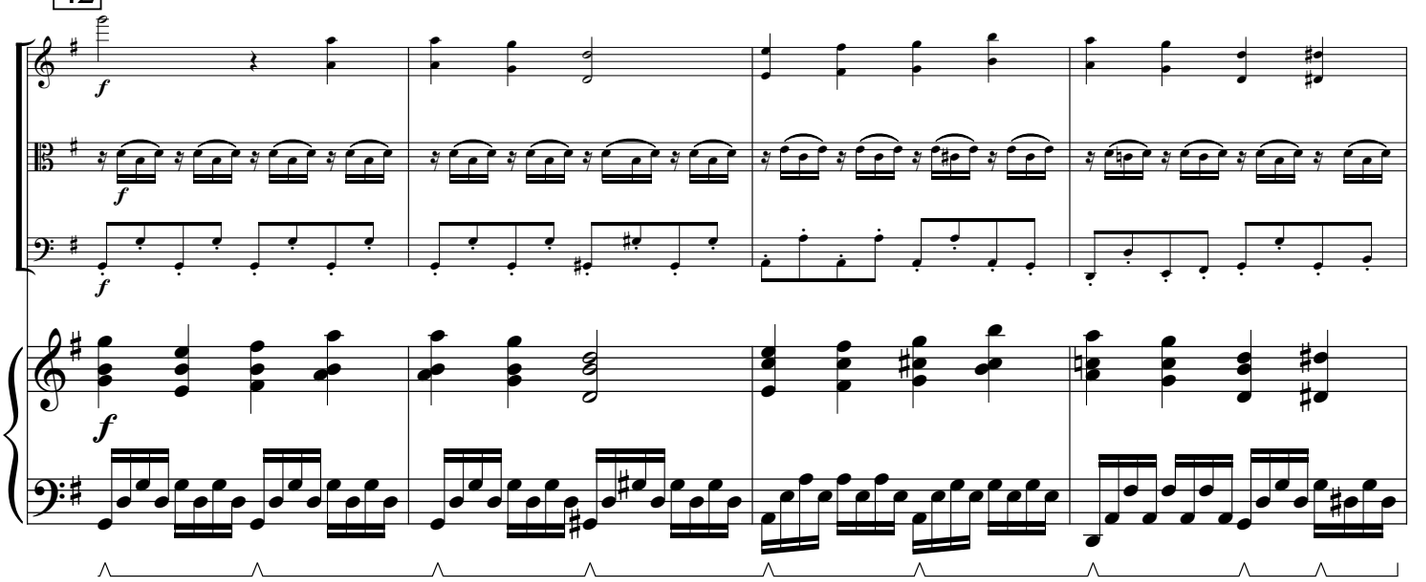

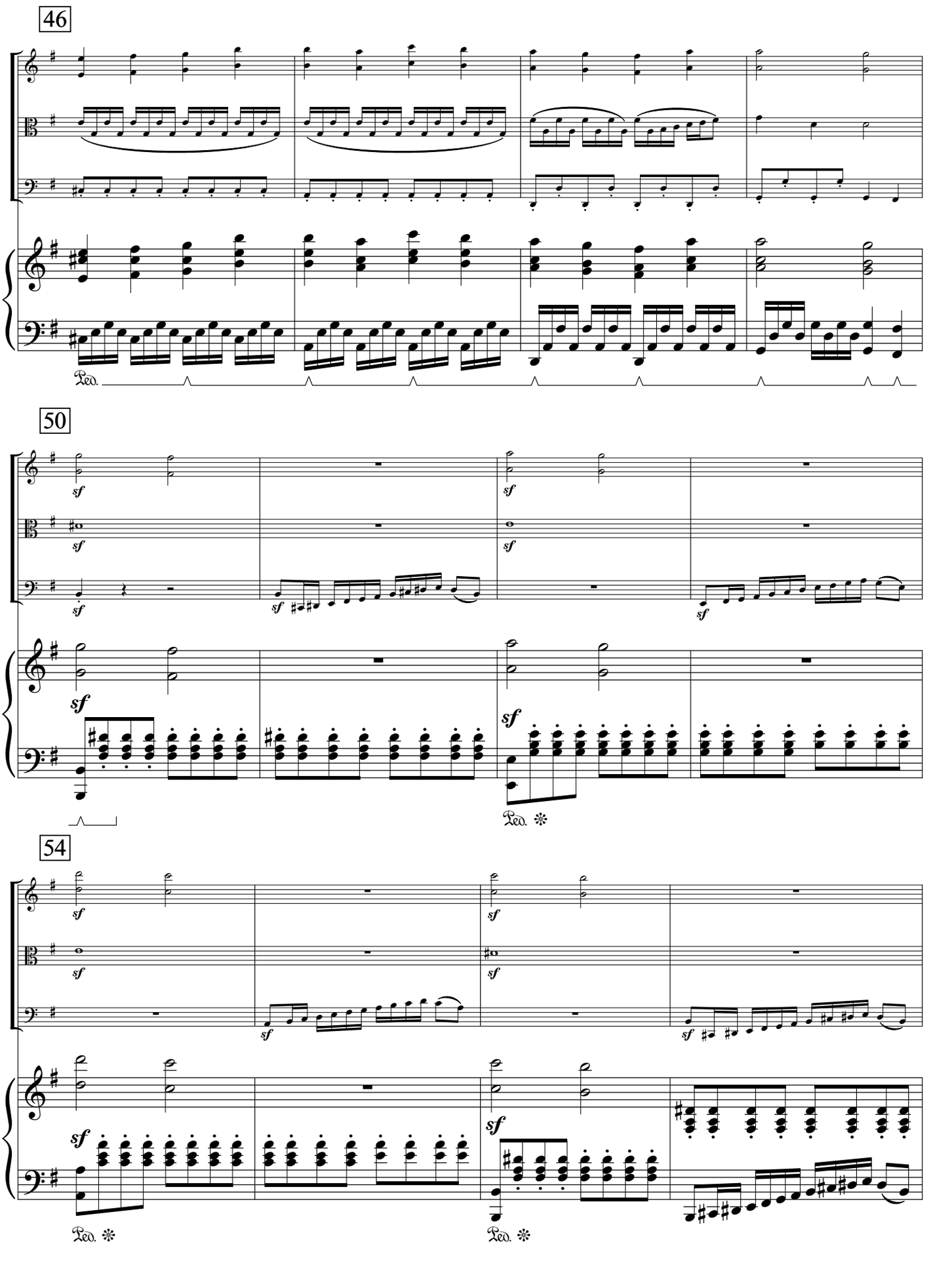
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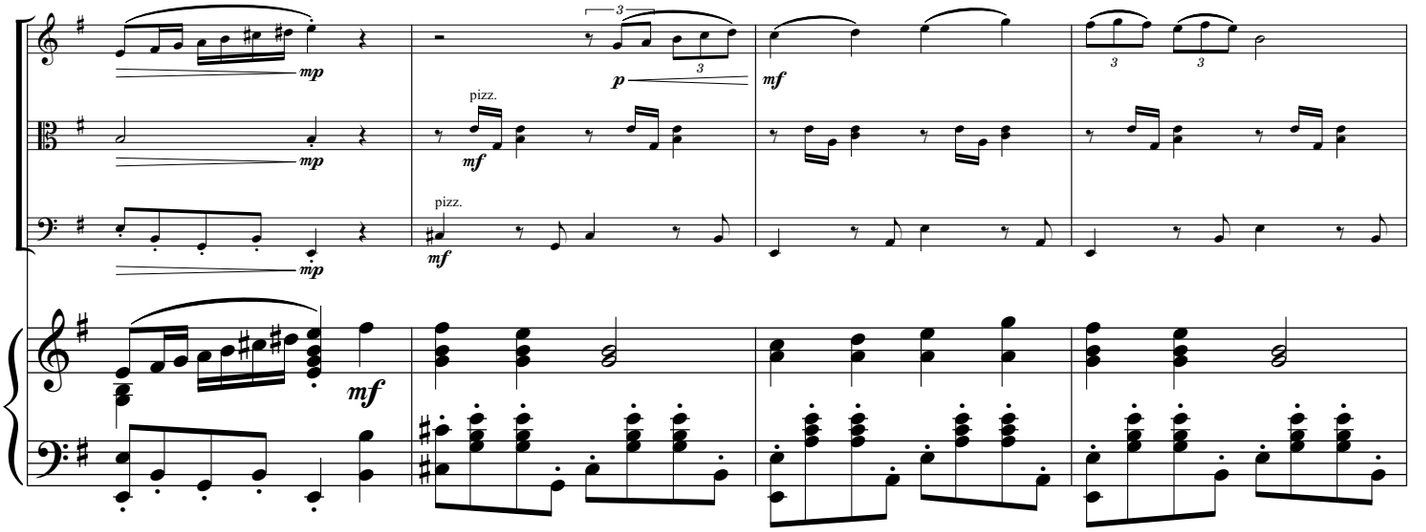

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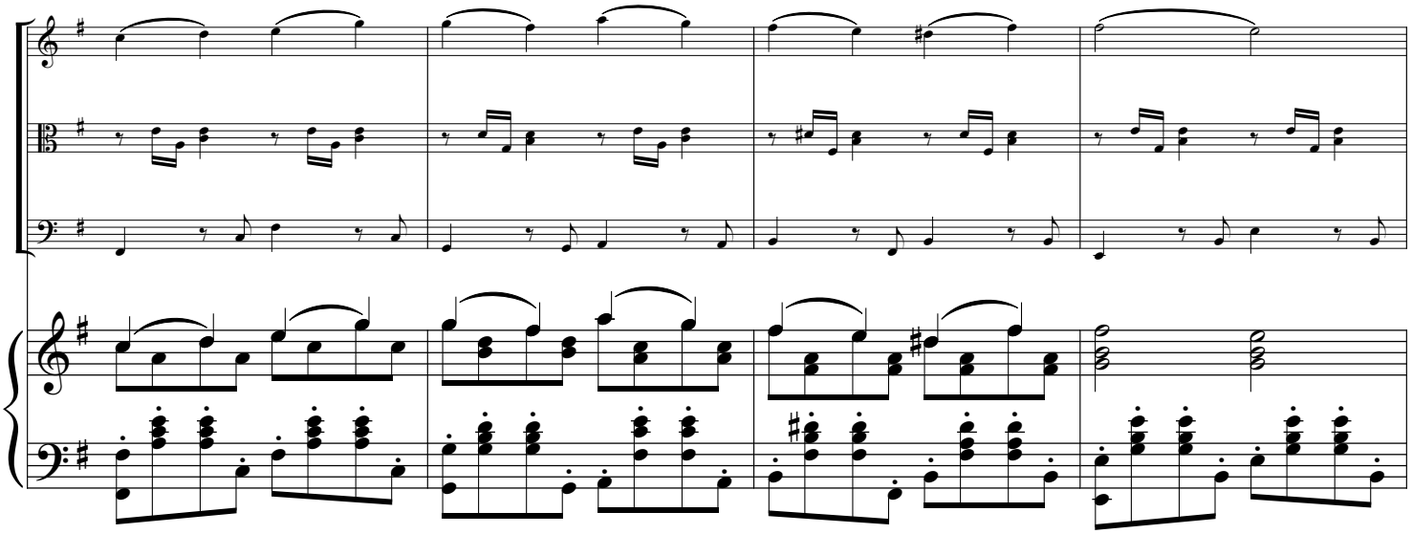

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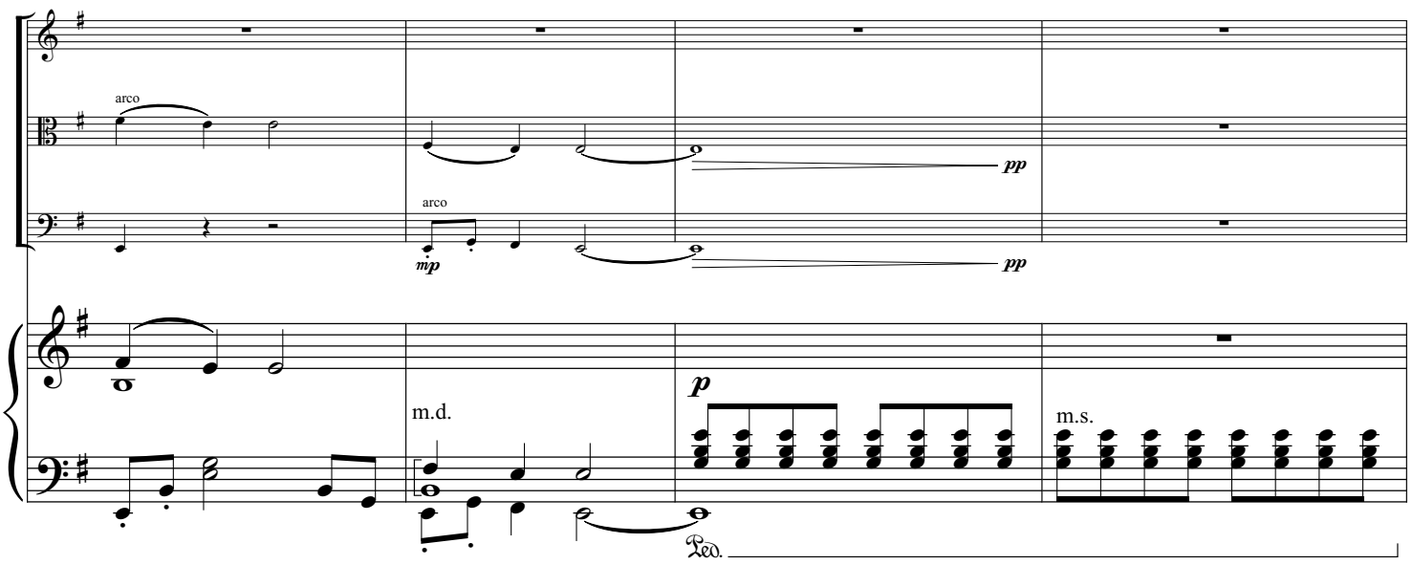

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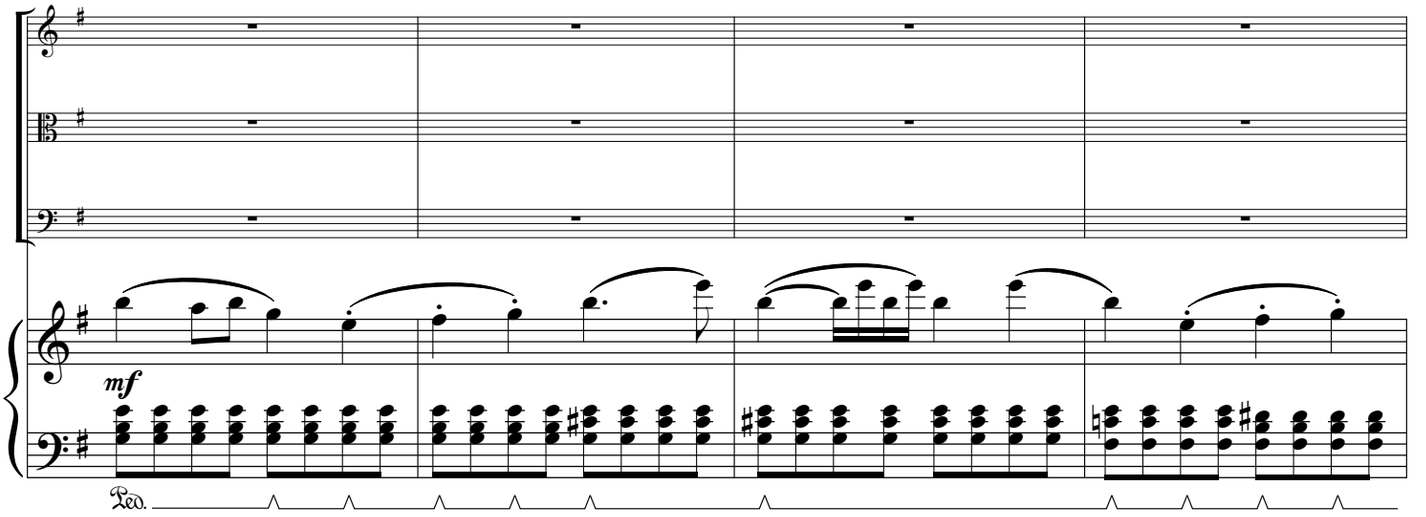

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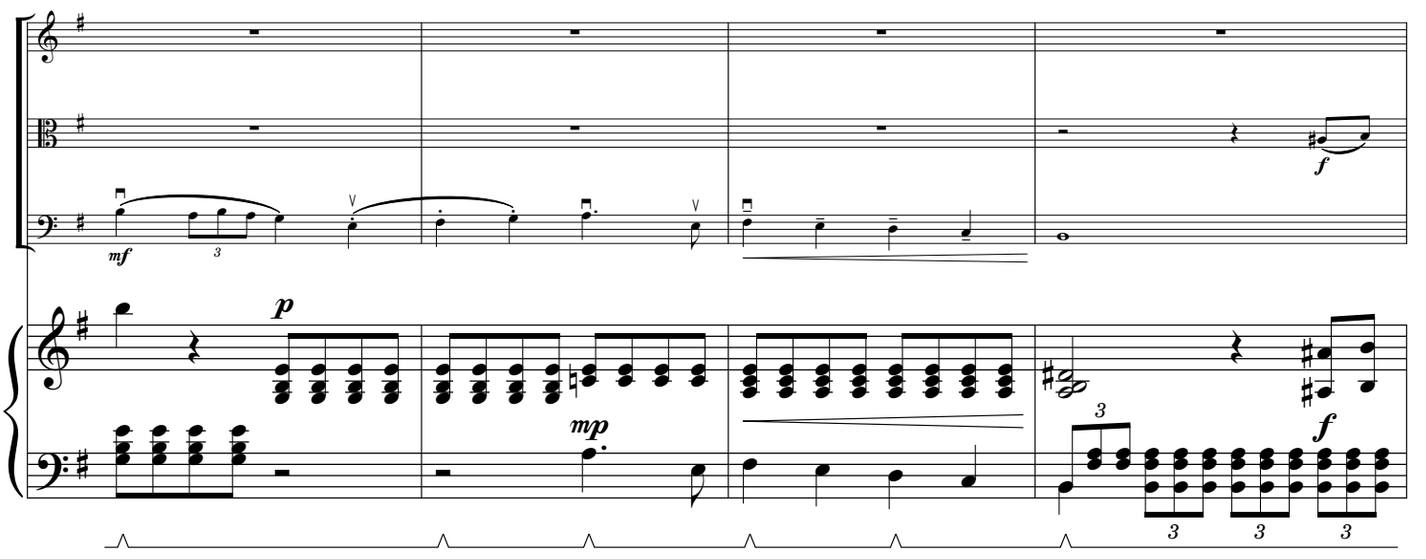

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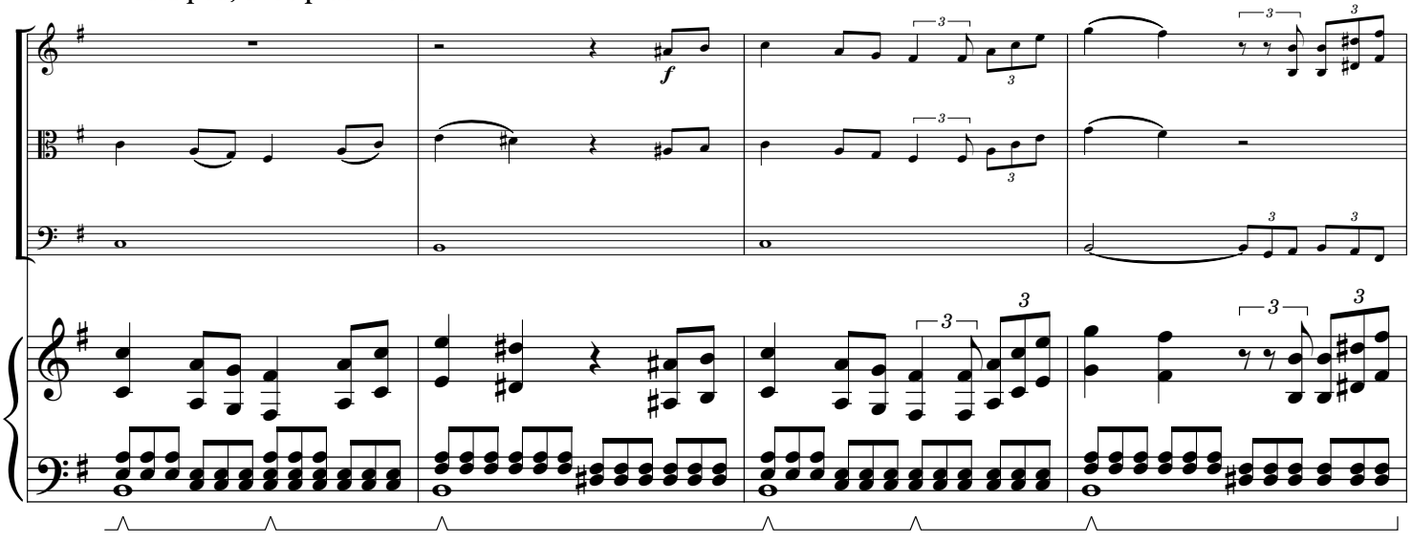

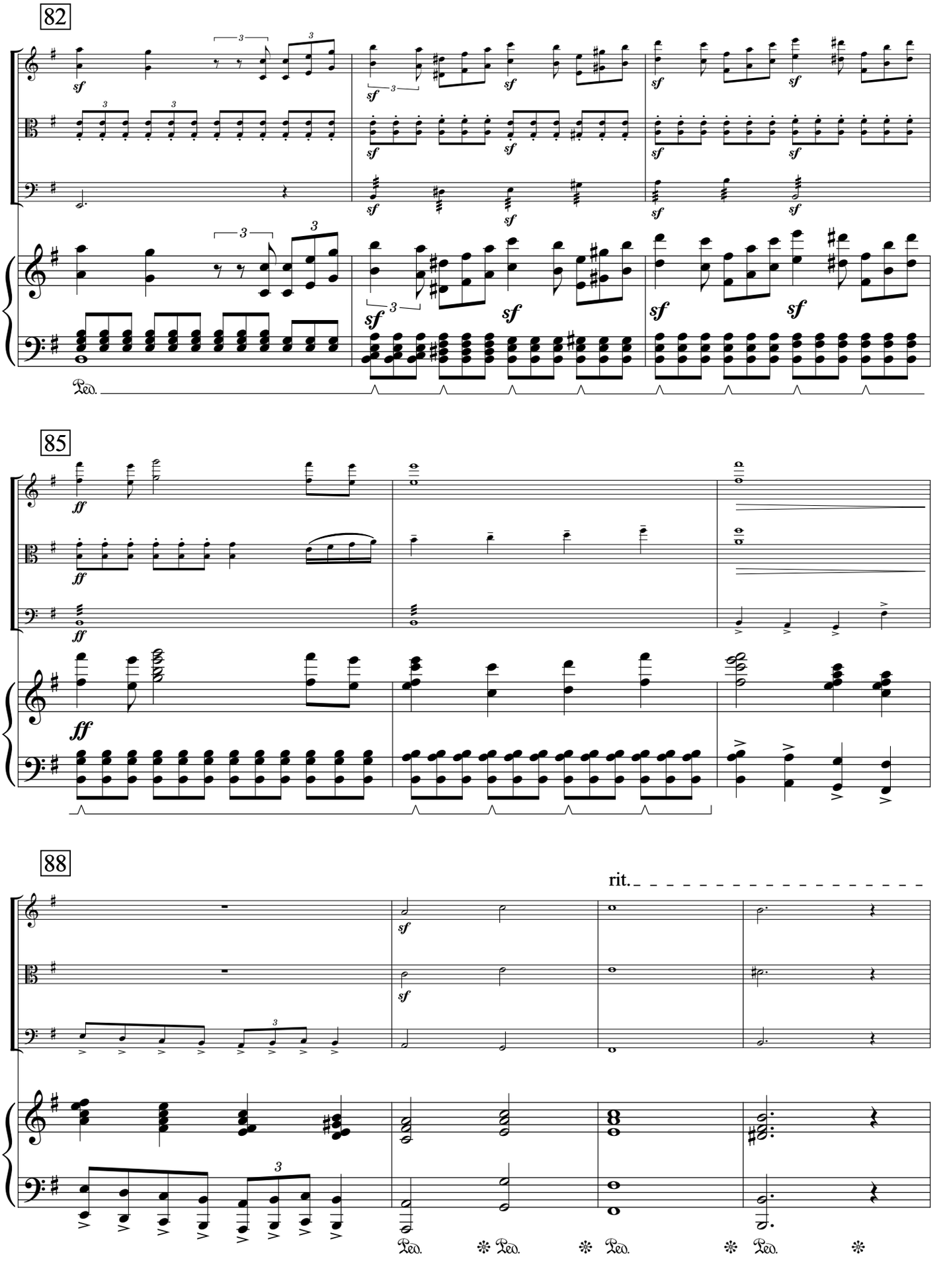
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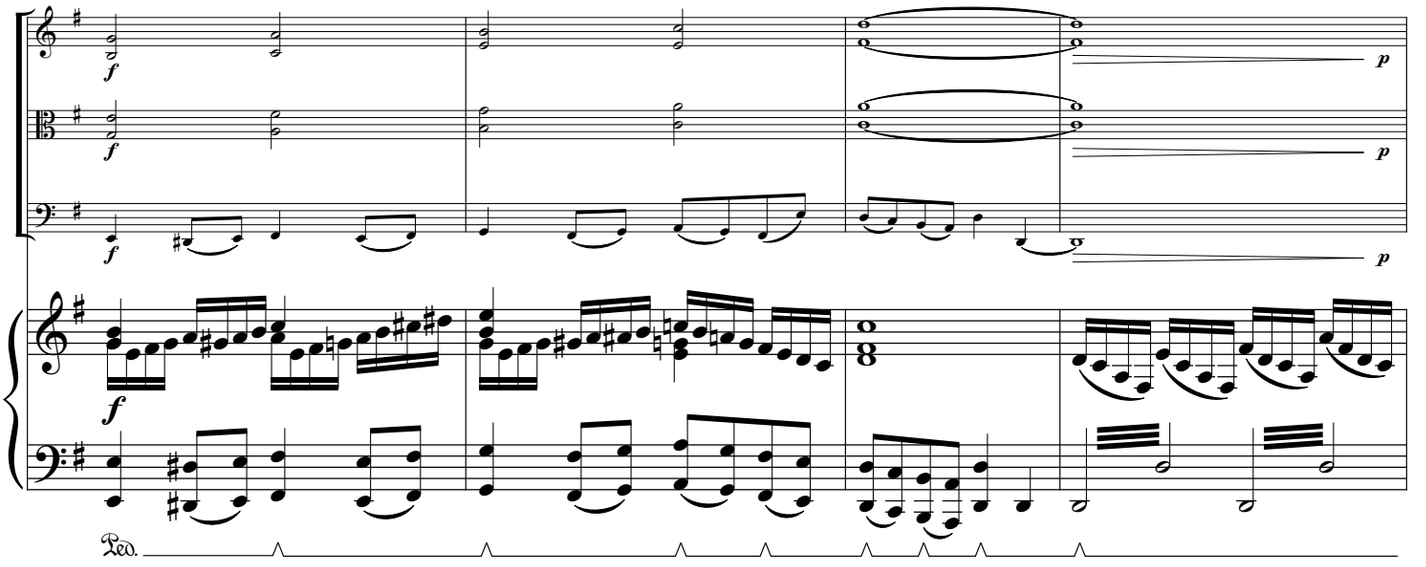

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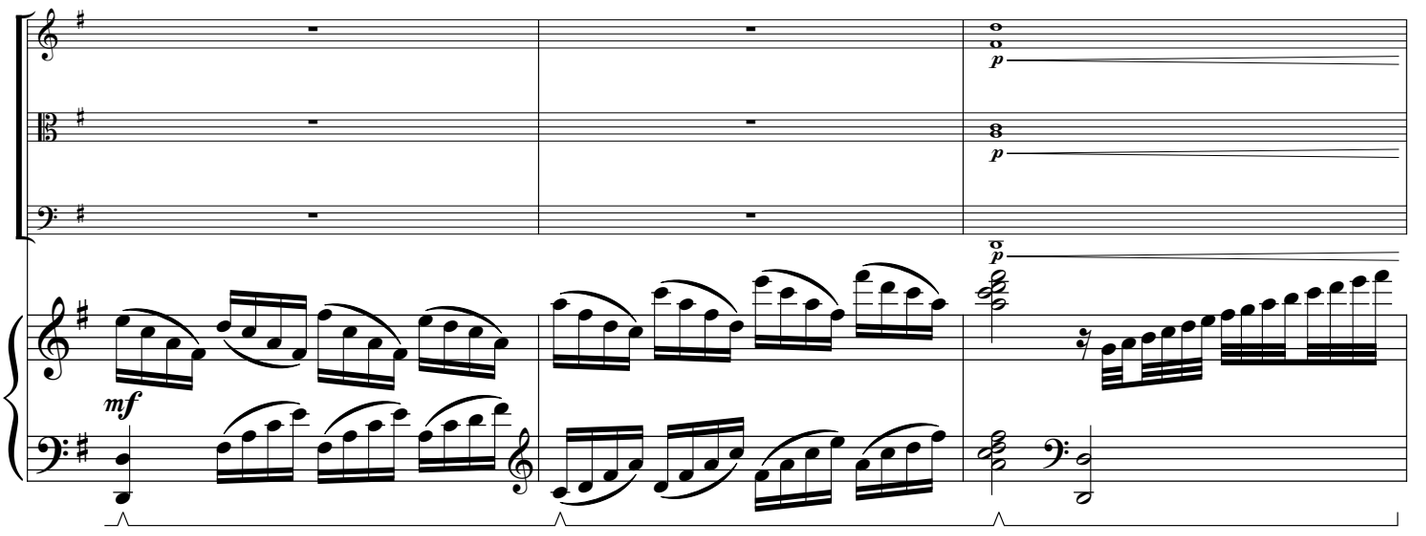

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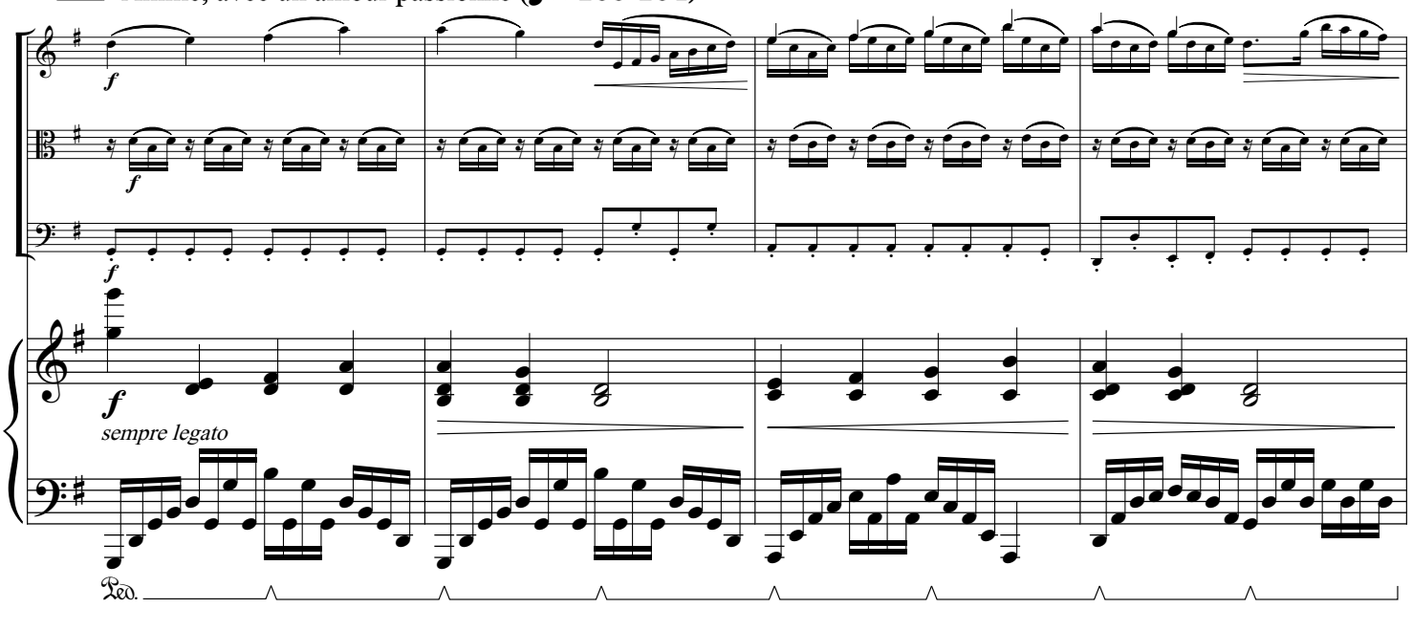

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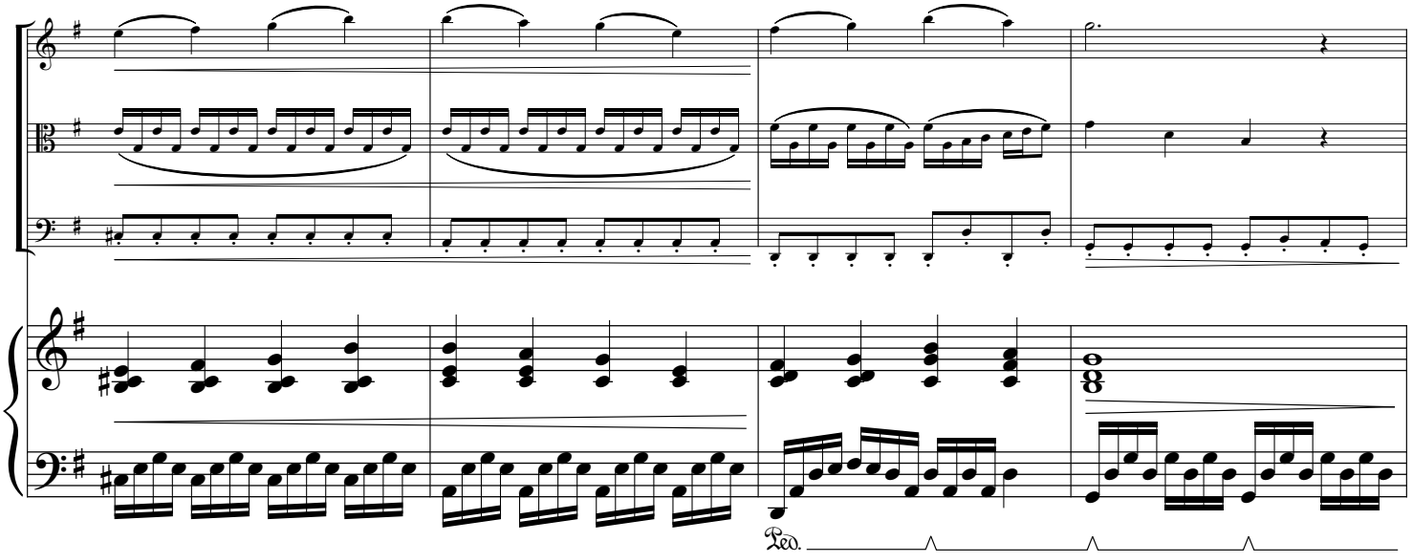

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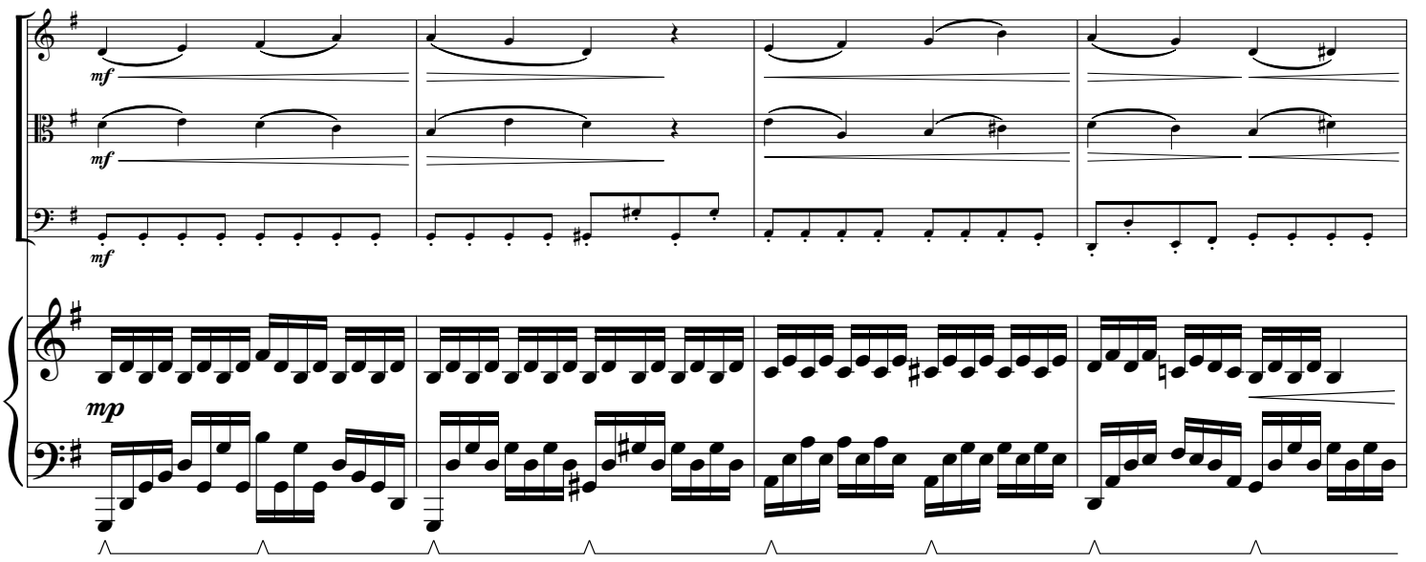

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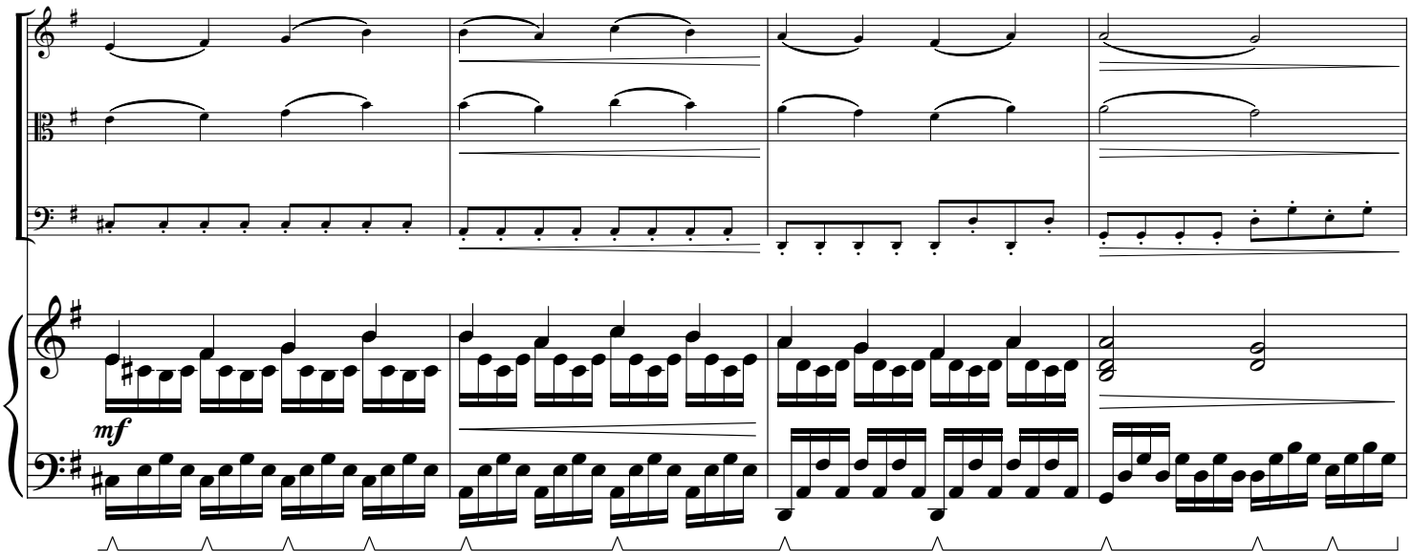

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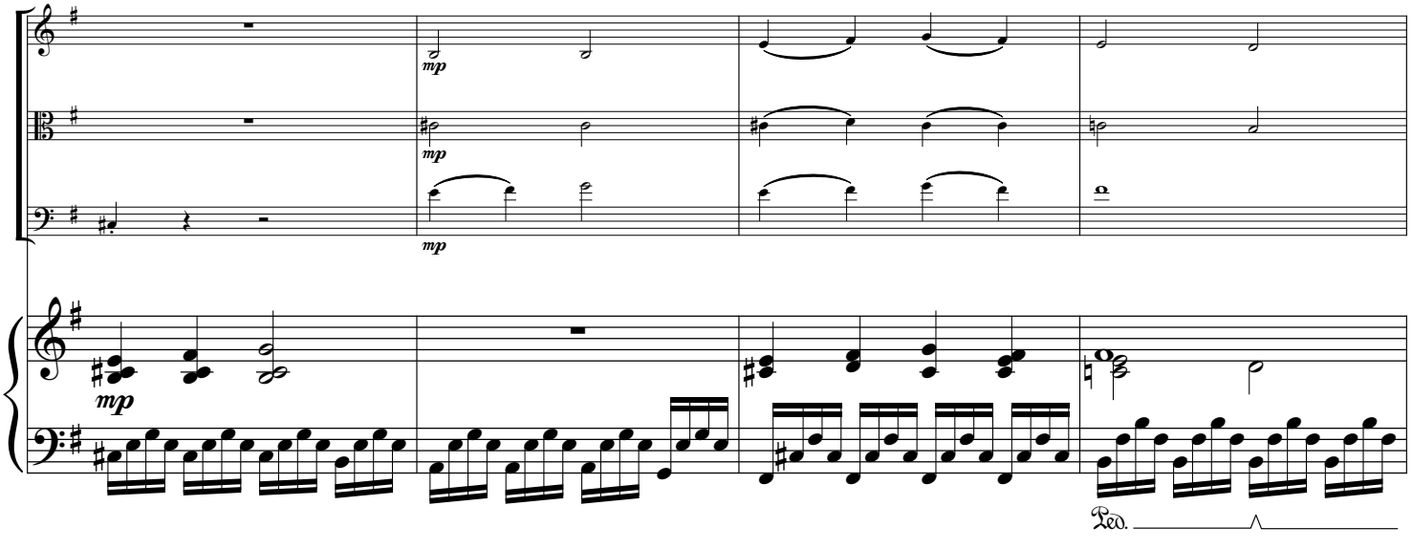

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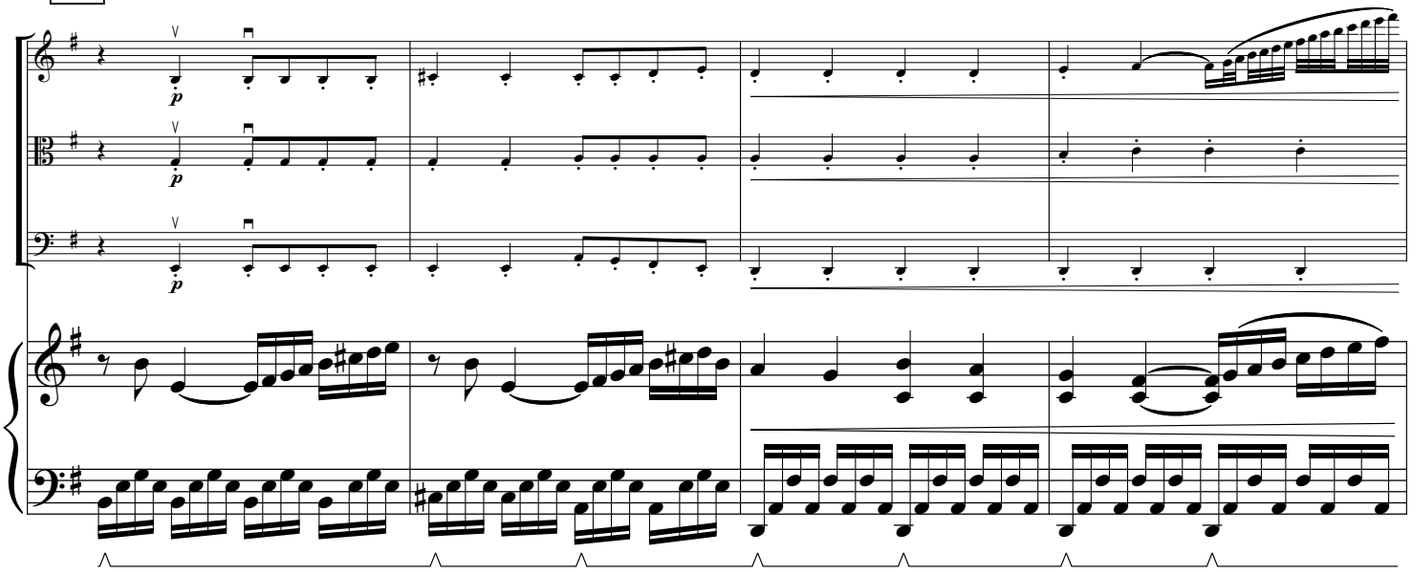

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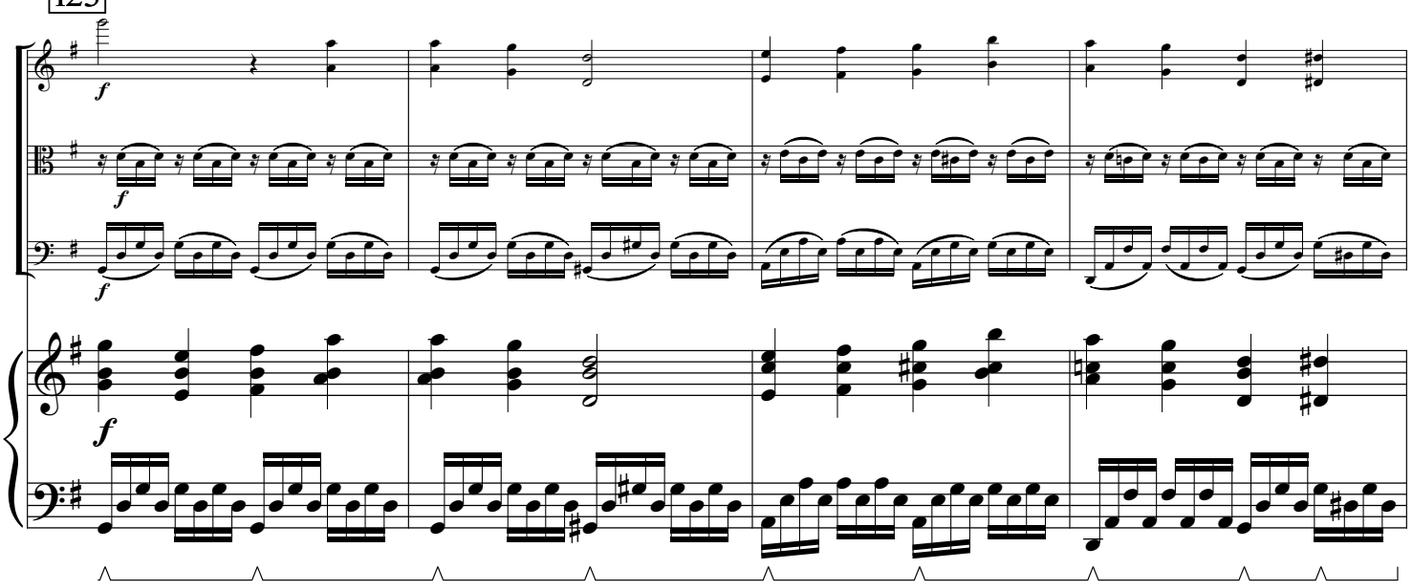

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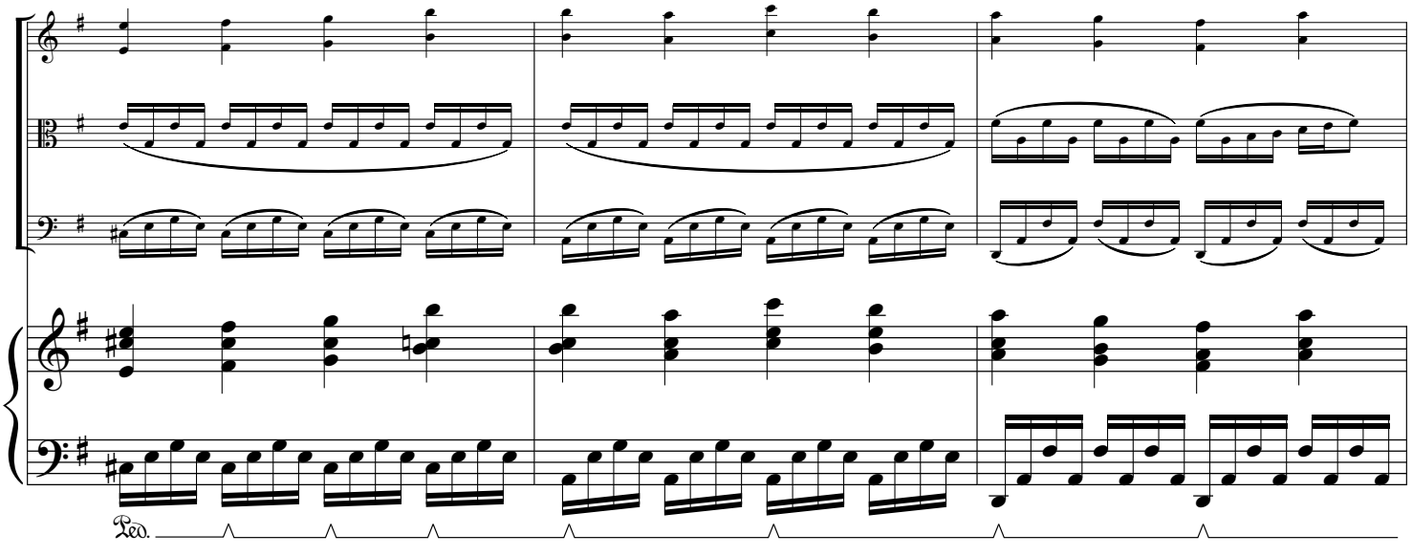

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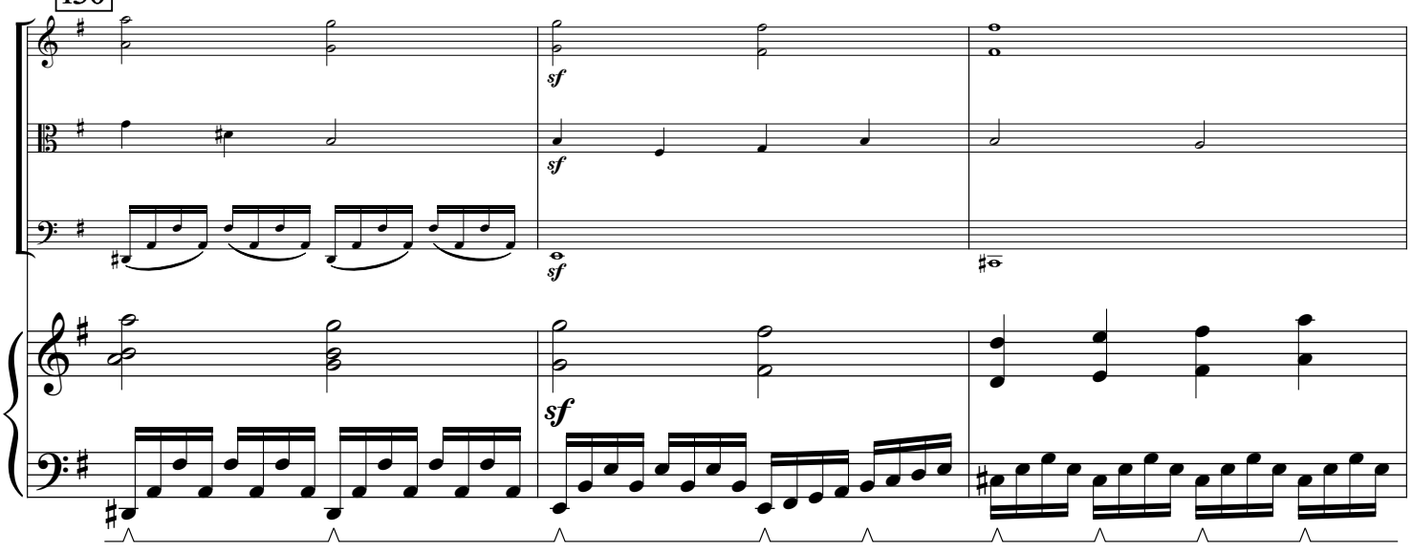

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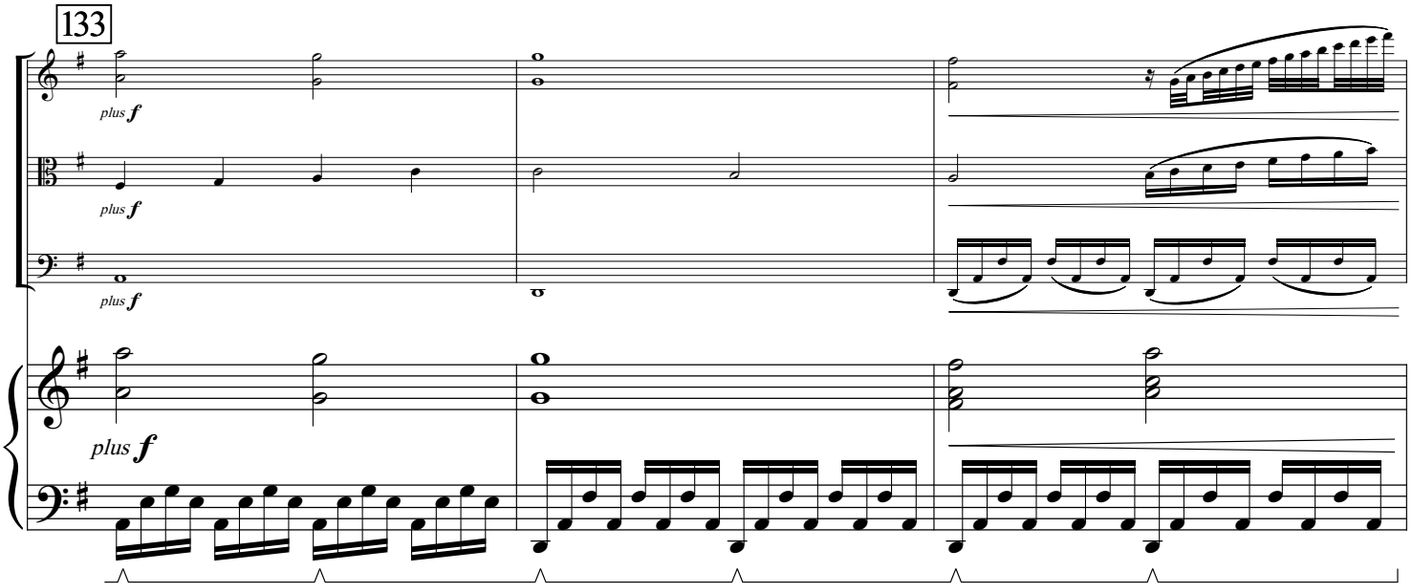

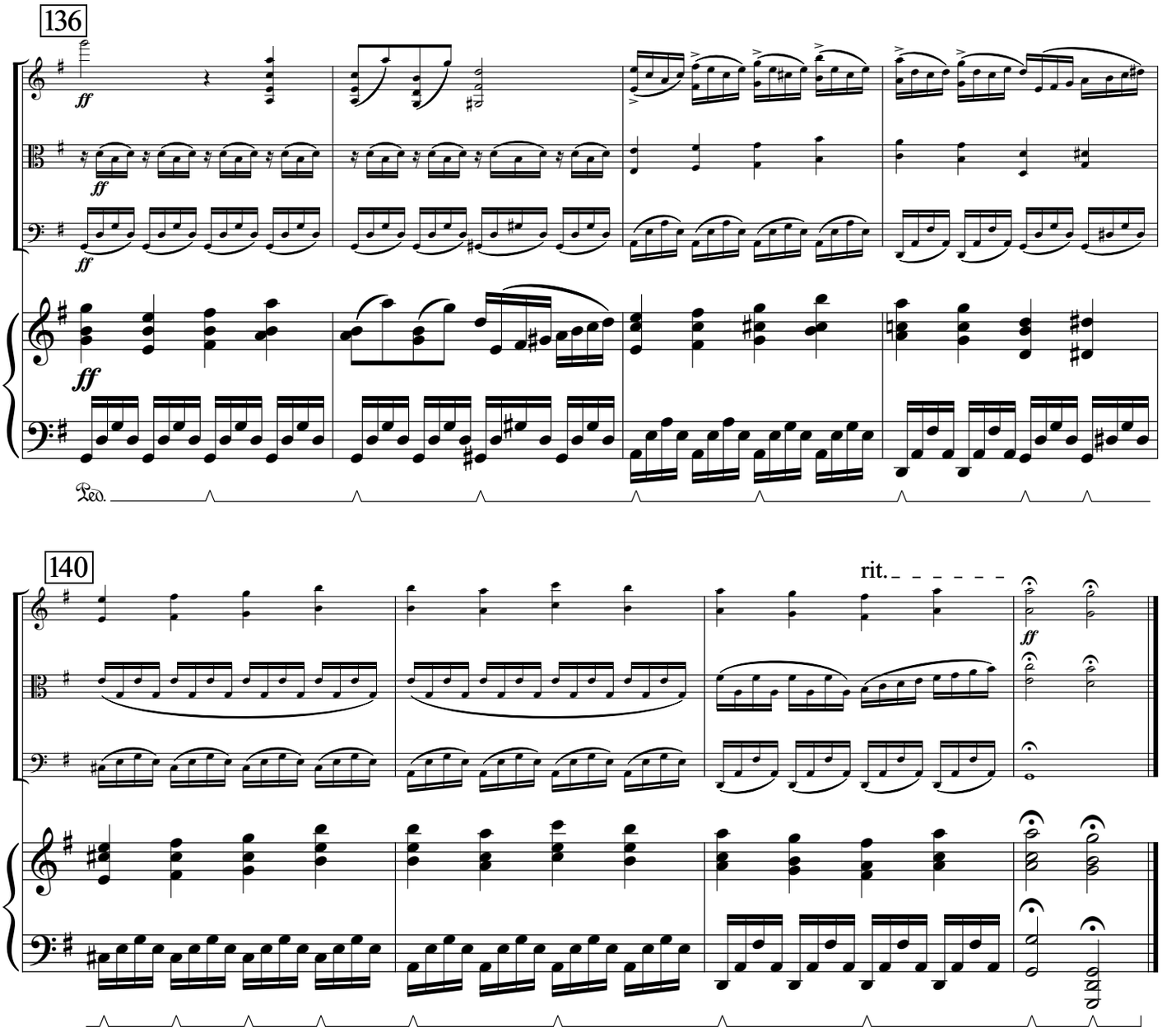
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