Sarah Baker

Transformations

6 pieces for solo piano

Notes about the *Transformations* collection

Transformations are a collection of six pieces for solo piano written during 2020. They explore my feelings and thoughts during this time and provide a varied and expressive musical illustration.

Below are the ideas and inspiration for each individual piece.

And Yet It Goes On
April 2020 was a period in which my emotions varied from feelings of sadness and loss, to those of hope and wonder as the beauty of nature emerged around me. Time felt like it was both standing still and yet relentlessly rampaging onwards, blissfully unaware.
The music reflects these thoughts and feelings in the way in which repetition and thematic development interweave in the piece.

A moment …
Moments. Fleeting fragments of time, here one minute and then wisping away like mist. This piece has short snatches of melody, musical moments that come and go. The pedal blurs the harmonies, purposefully blending the sounds, just as mist shifts, obscuring the view one minute and then clearing to reveal the unexpected.

… and then it's gone.
This musical miniature pairs with my last piece, *A moment …*
The harmonic language is similar, and motifs are further explored in this second piece. I have worked with the idea of colourful snatches of time, momentary sounds or experiences that seem to float in the breeze and then disappear - maybe the distant sounds of street musicians or a carnival some way off.

Circular
Purposefully different in mood from the others, this piece is edgy and argumentative, with short phrases in a dialogue between parts. There is a sense of frustration that the music doesn't seem to go anywhere, and in the end it just gives up.
I have written it to show the reality of emotions during a difficult period, when conversations were not always that easy and often seemed to return to the same subject.

It Changes Around Me
It feels as if the world is rapidly transforming and changing. Simple things that were so insignificant are now transformed in a disturbing way. There is a longing for the restoration of the familiar.
It Changes Around Me is a piece that unexpectedly shifts and moves tonality and merges dissonance with resolution as if describing that sense of yearning in the midst of transition.

Time Will Tell
I seem to spend a lot of my time reflecting on the changing perspectives that time gives us. Current events are viewed so differently with hindsight, and even as we live through each moment, time brings new insight.
This piano piece started from an improvisation in which the phrase 'time will tell' seemed to speak from the music. I have developed this theme here, changing it in each recurrence and interweaving new motifs and threads to alter our perspective of the theme through time.

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And yet it goes on

Transformations no.1

And yet it goes on

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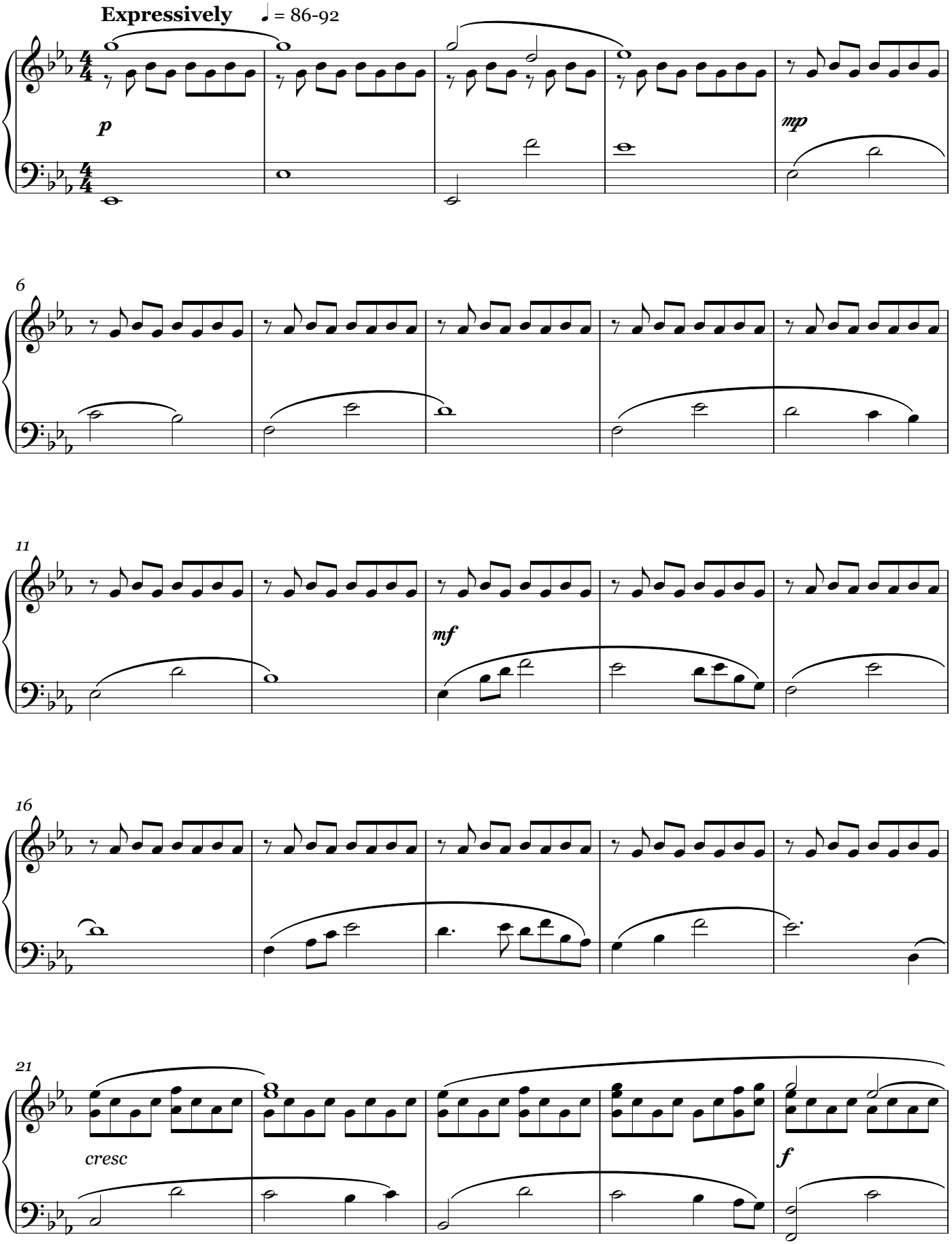

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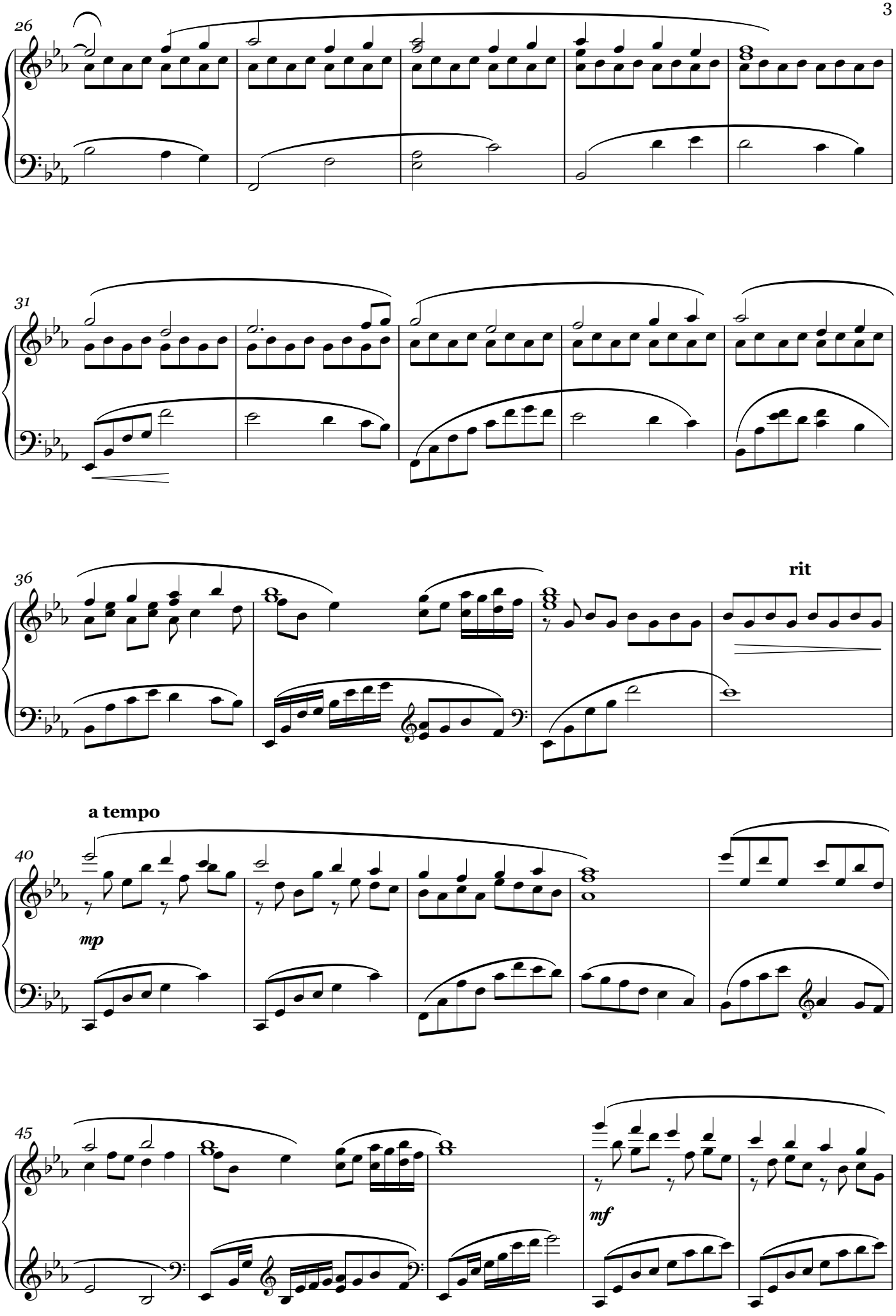

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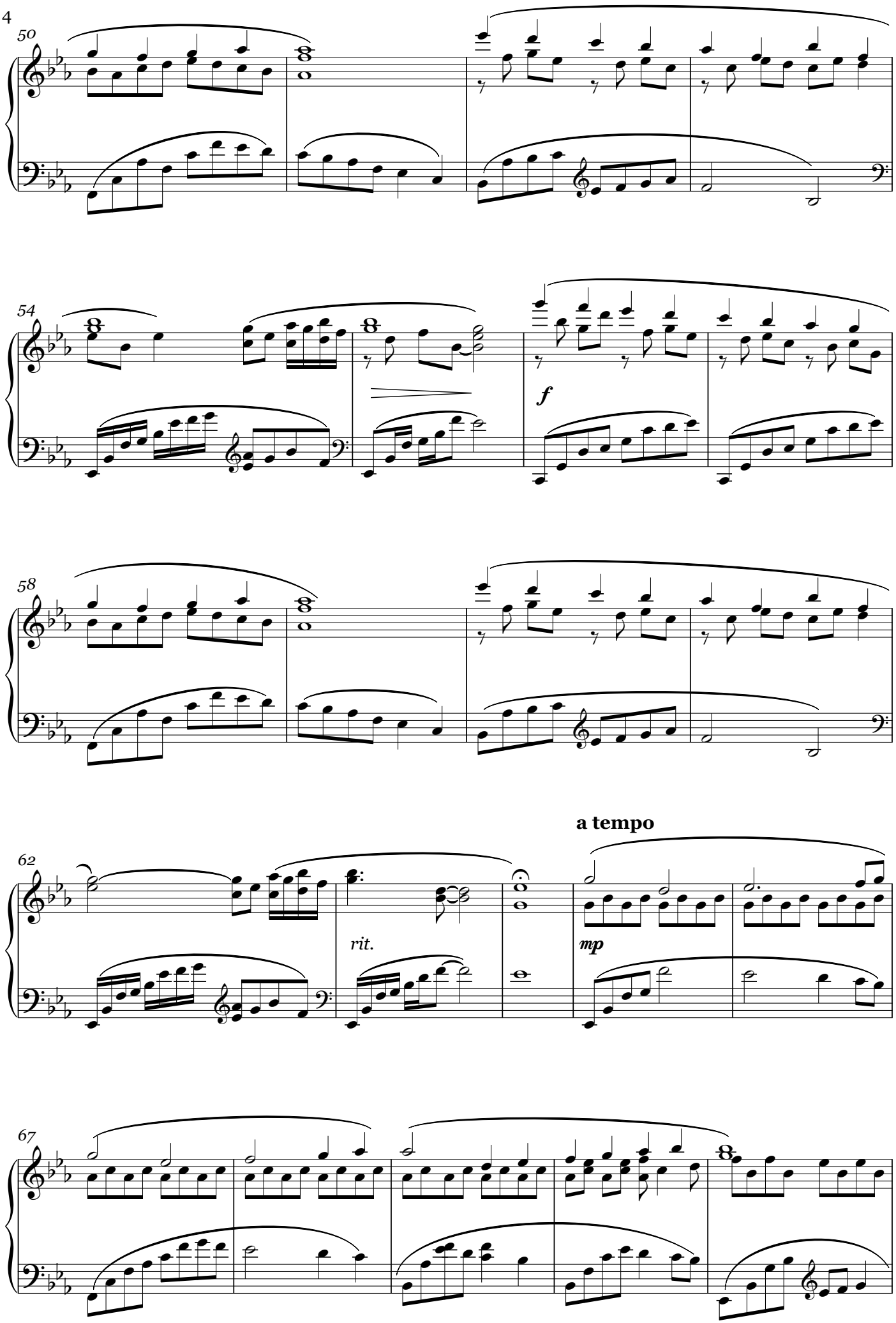

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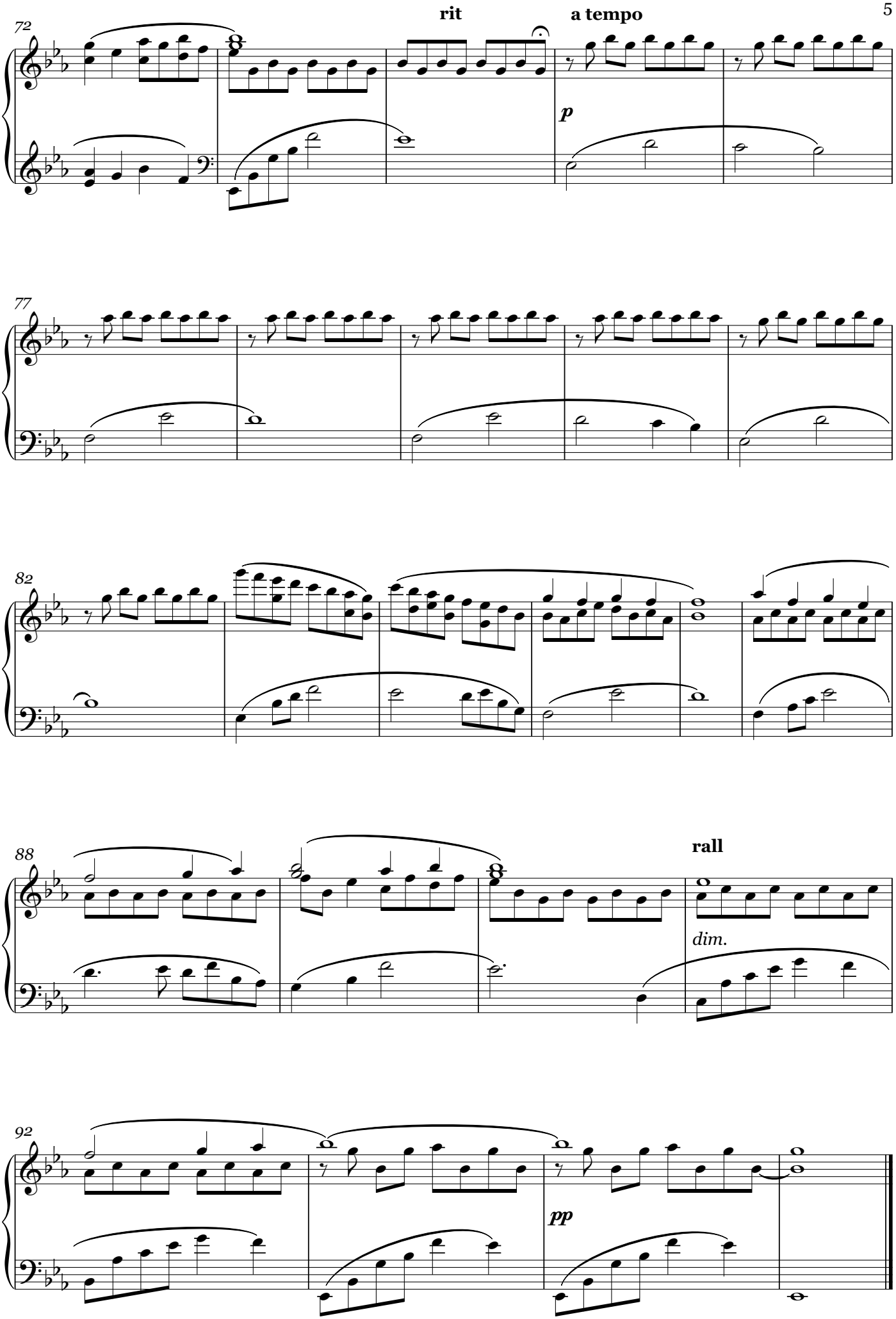

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A moment ...

Transformations no.2

A moment ...

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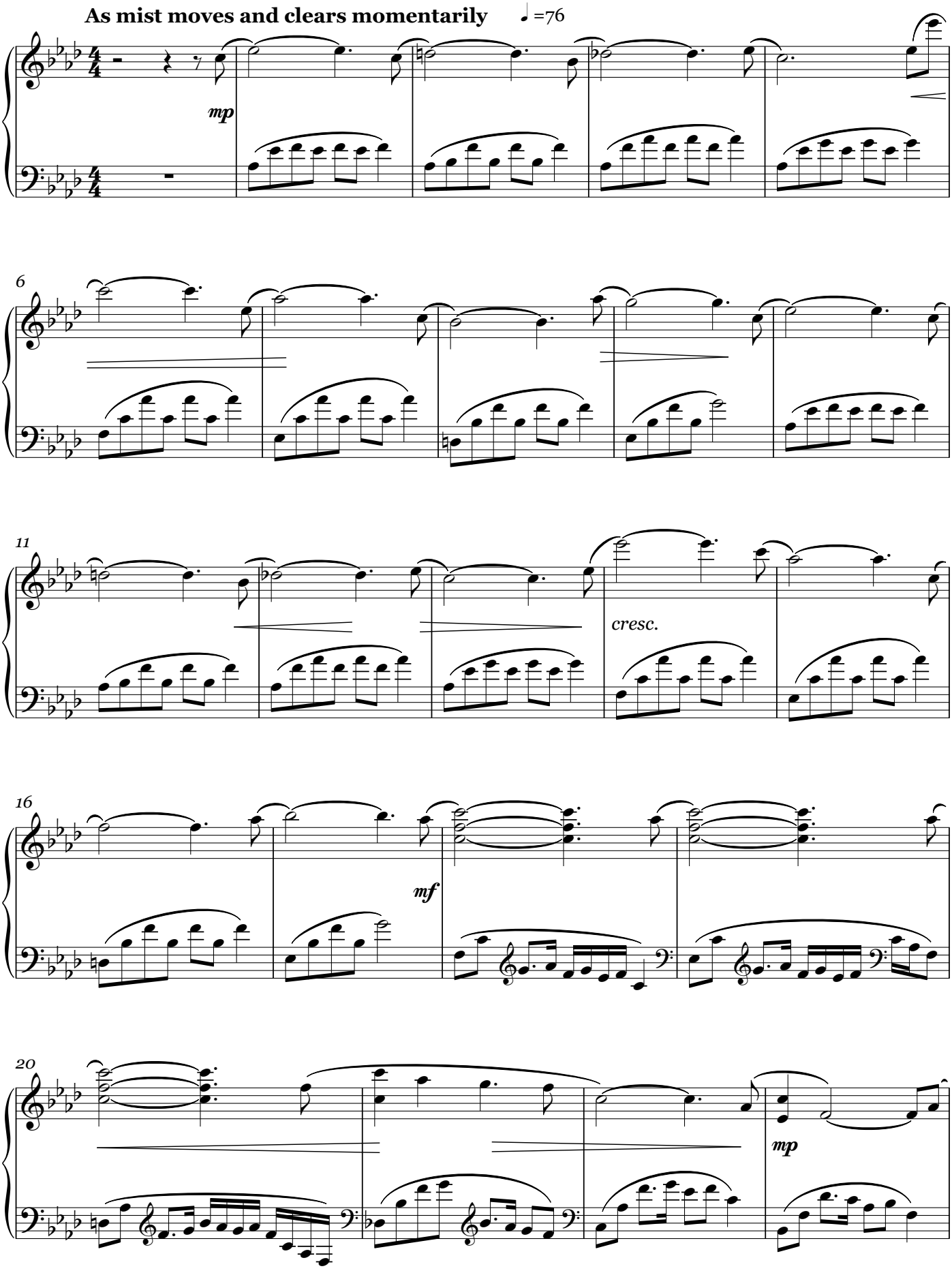
As mist moves and clears momentarily ♩=76



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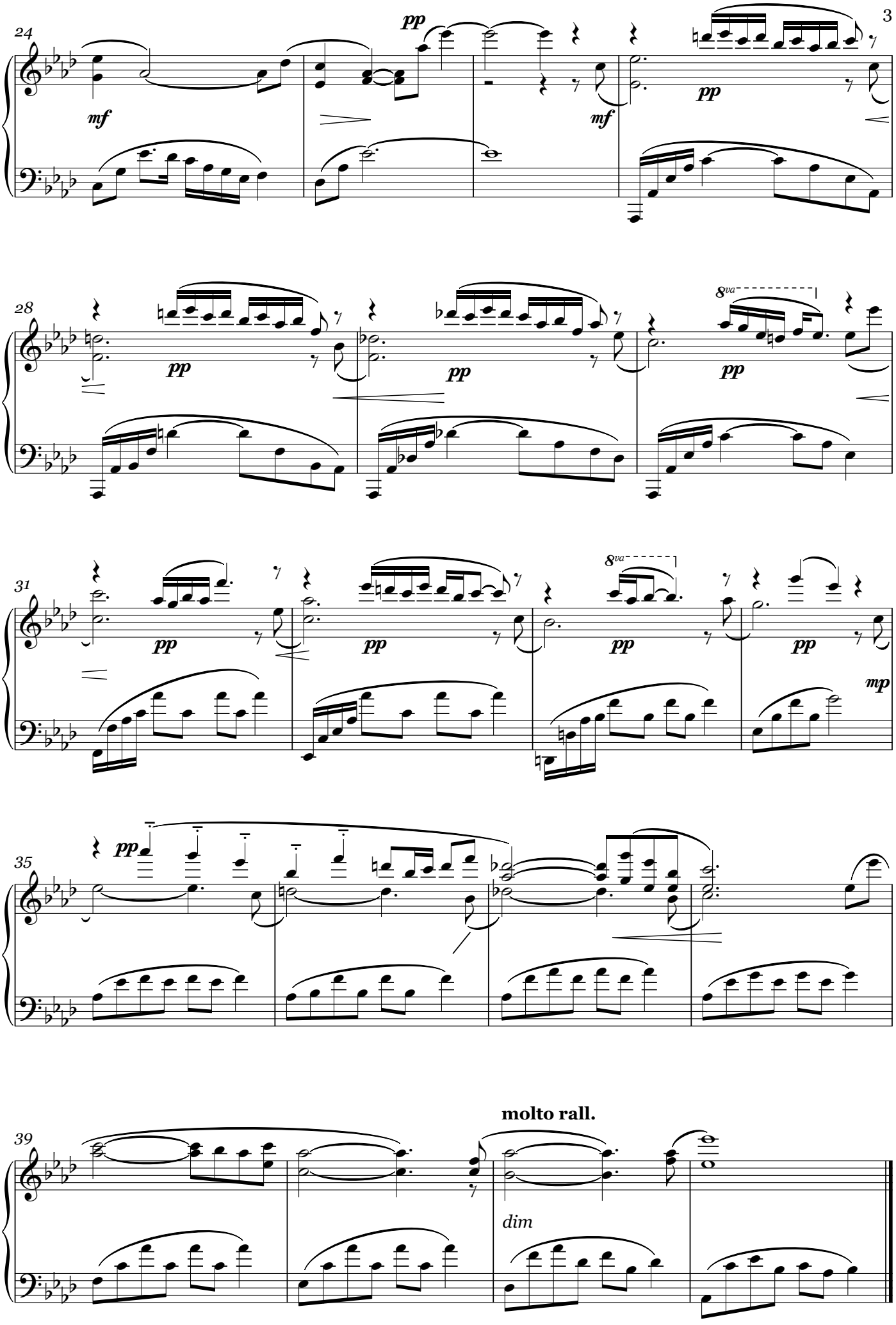

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… and then it's gone.

Transformations no.3

... and then it's gone.

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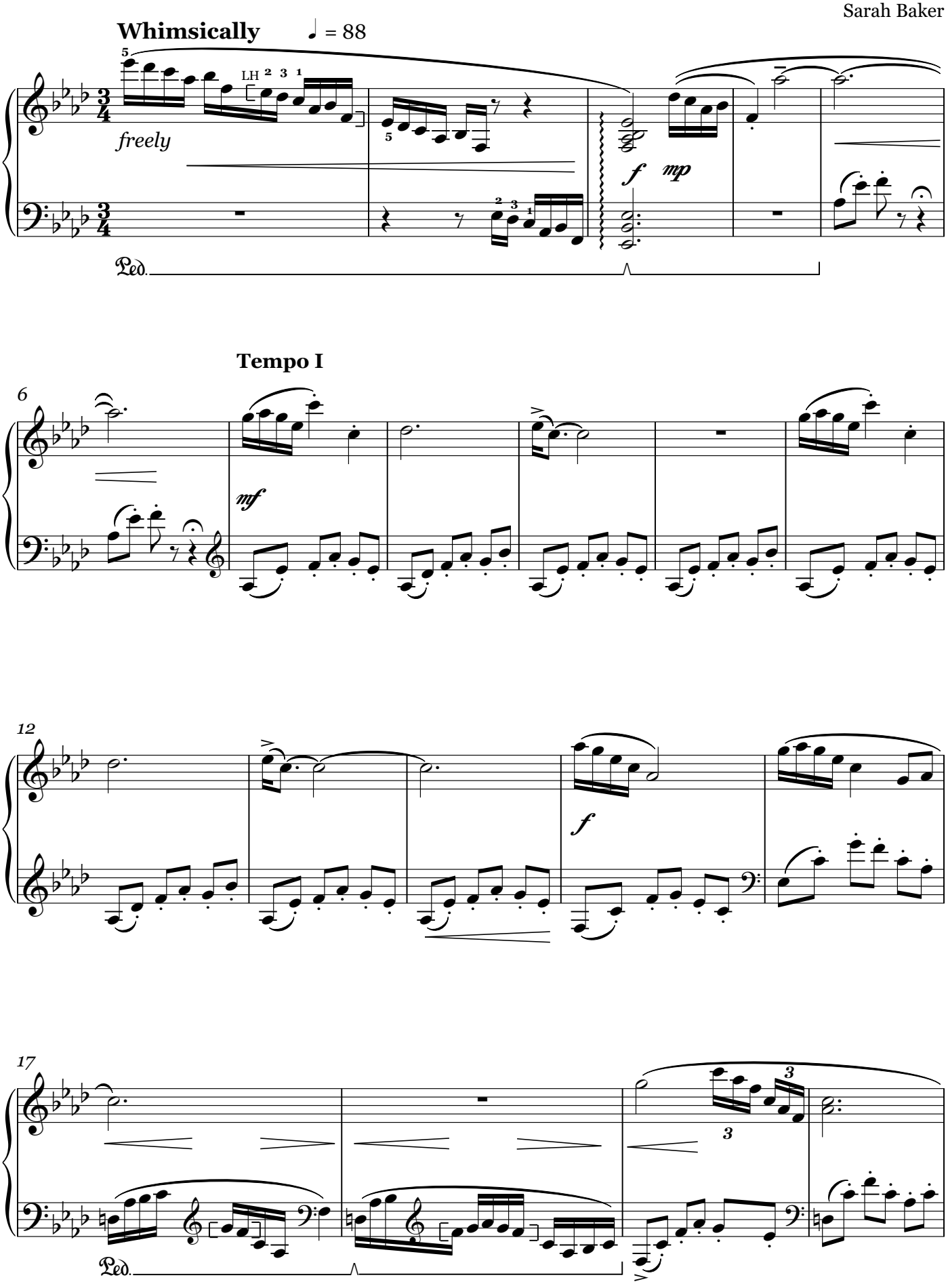

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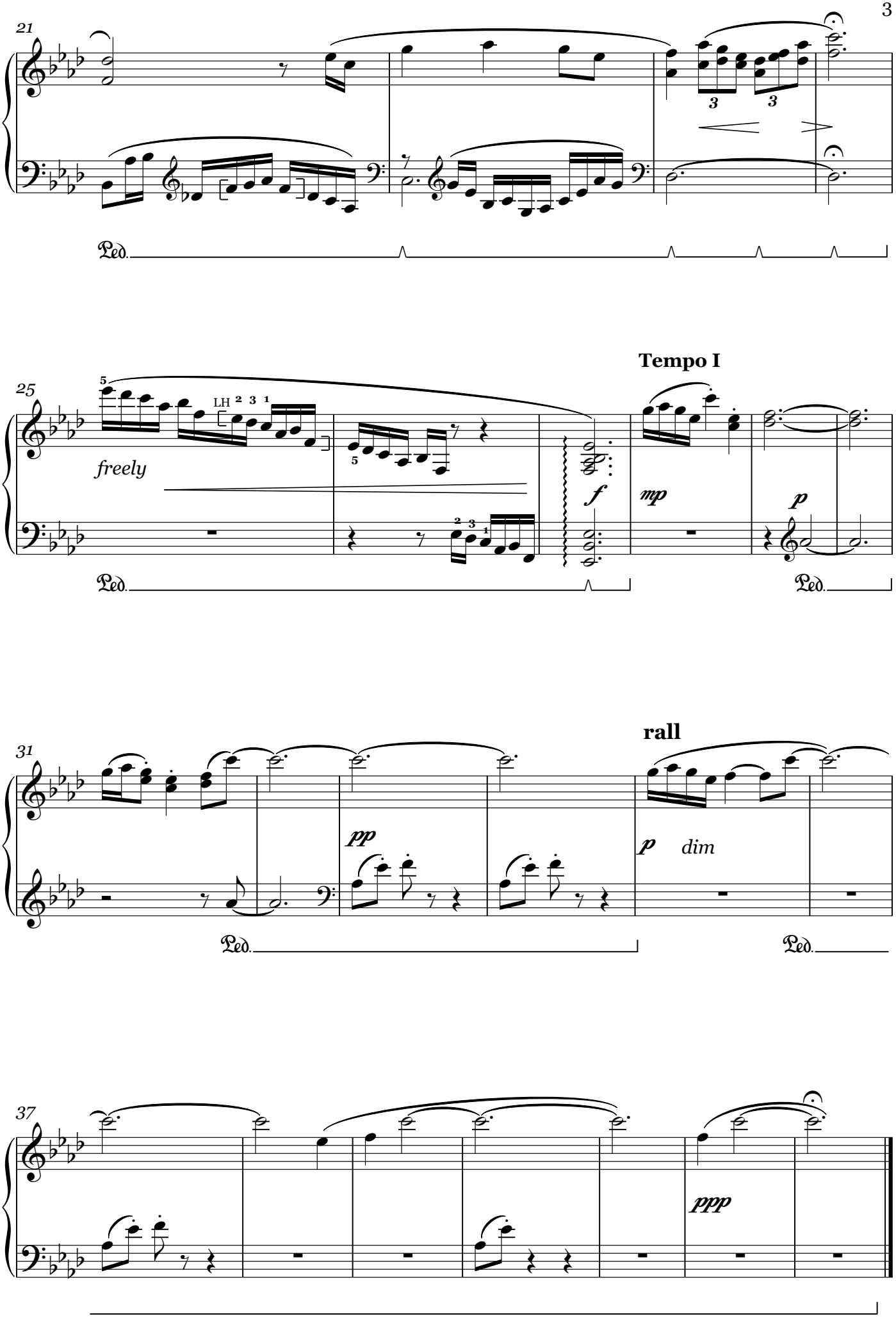
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Circular

Transformations no.4

Circular

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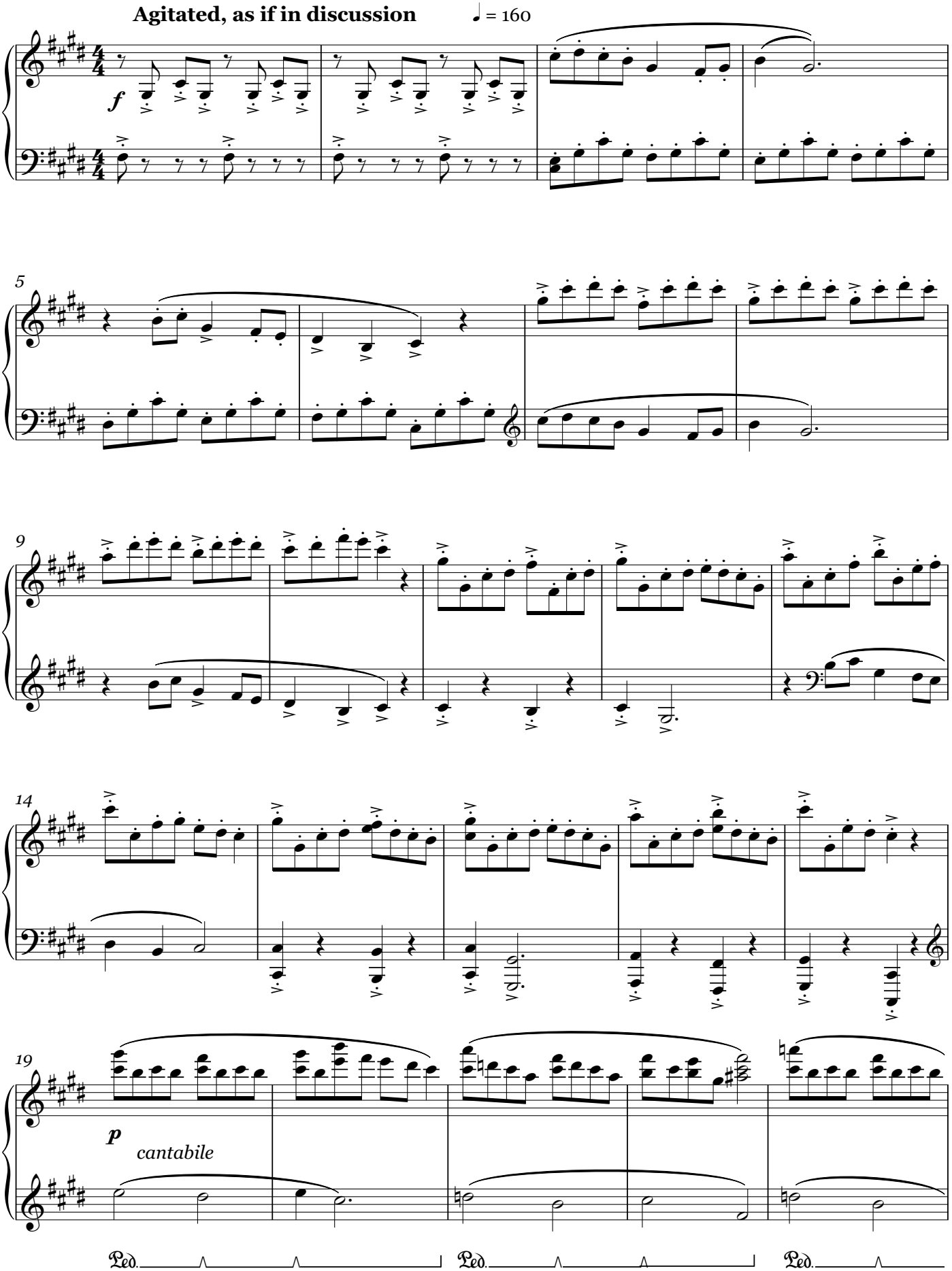

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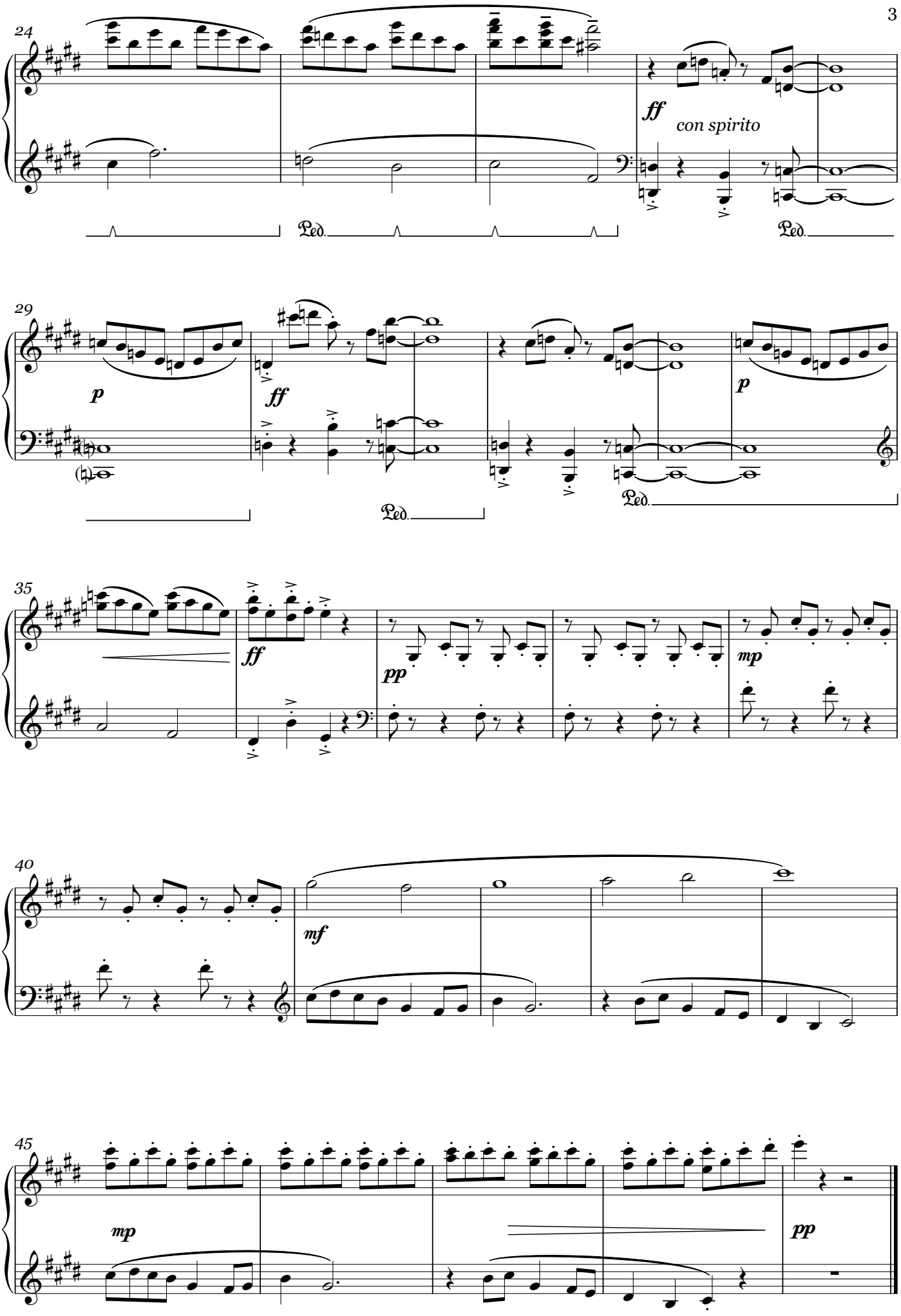

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It Changes Around Me

Transformations no.5

It Changes Around Me

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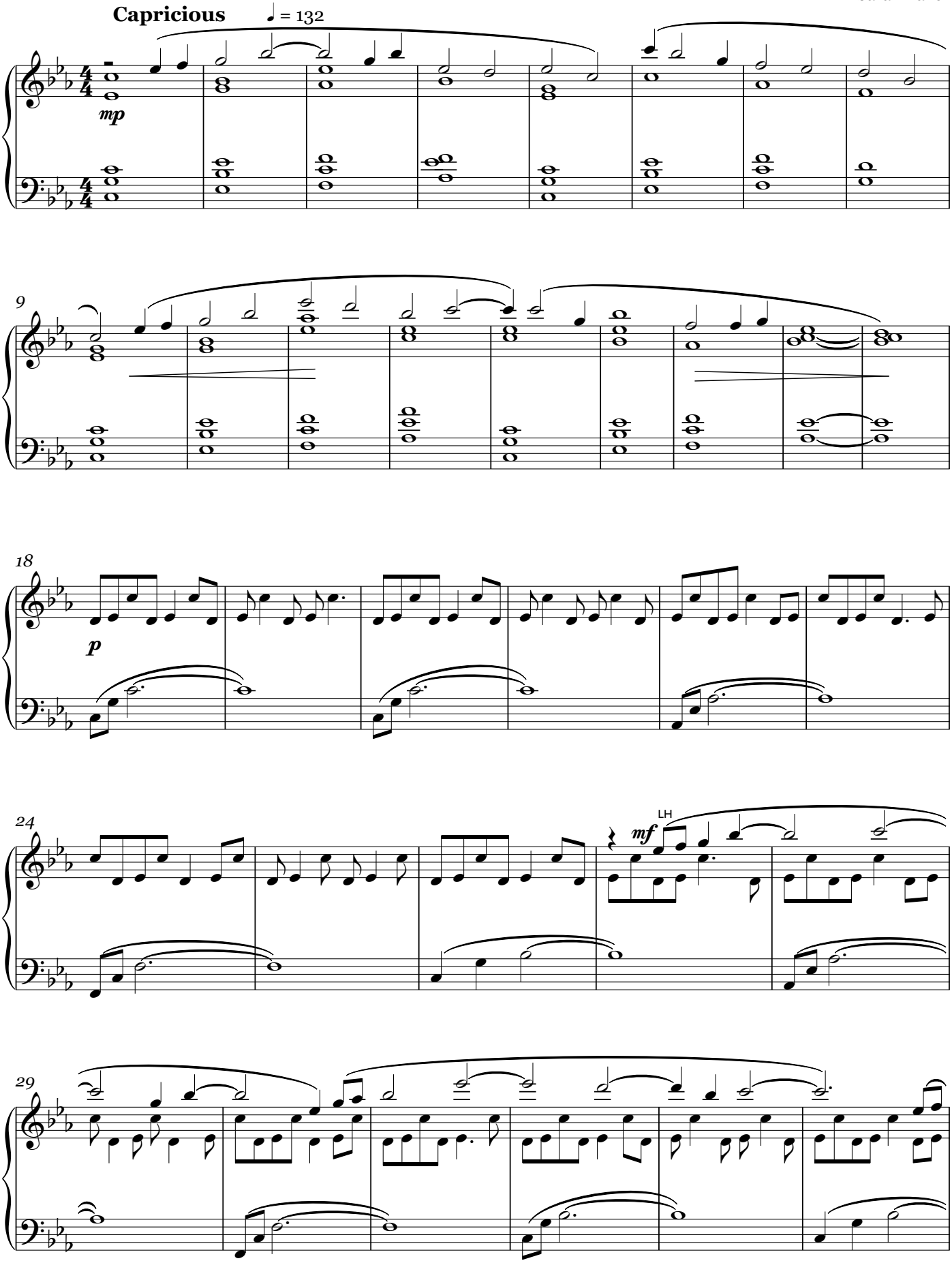

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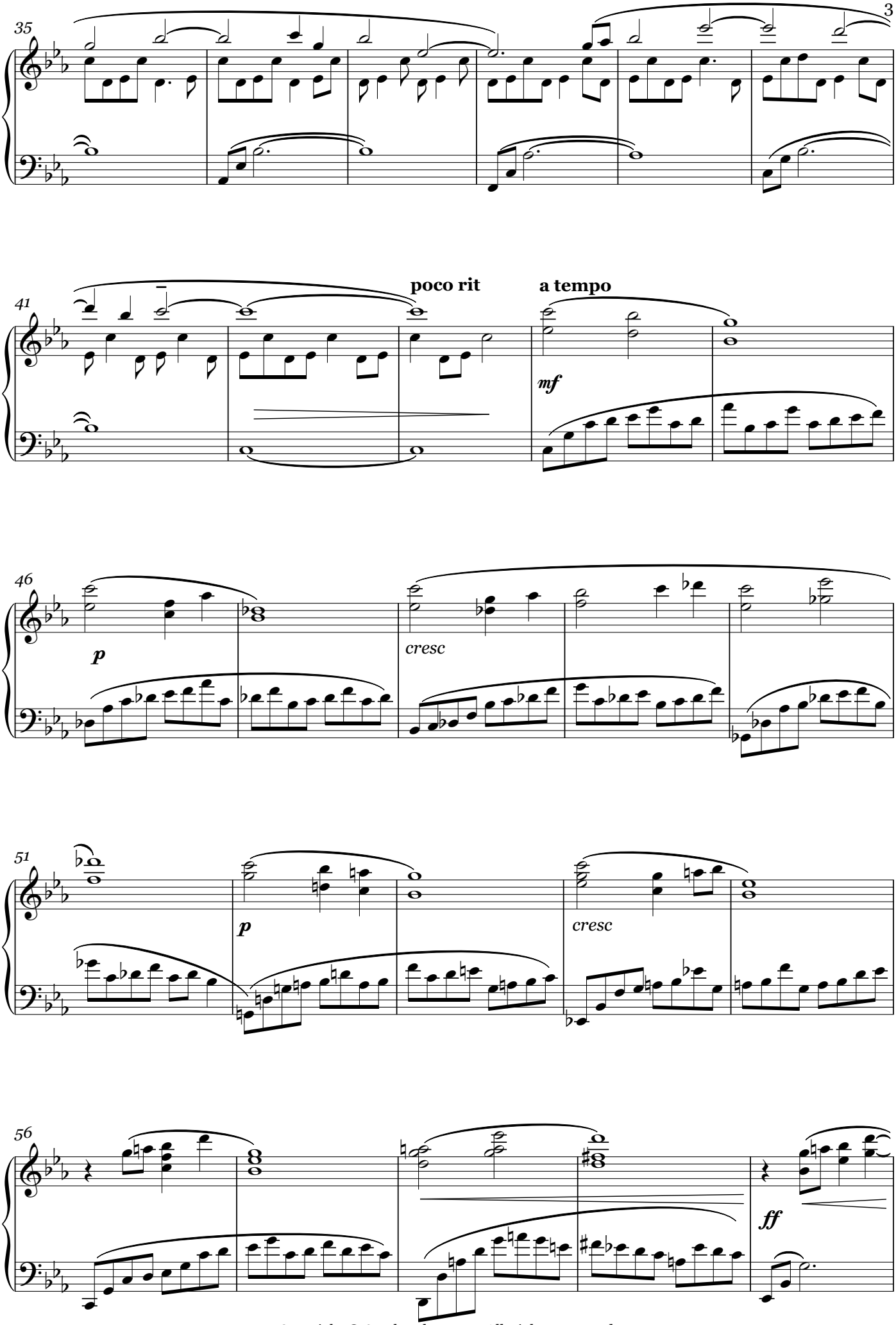

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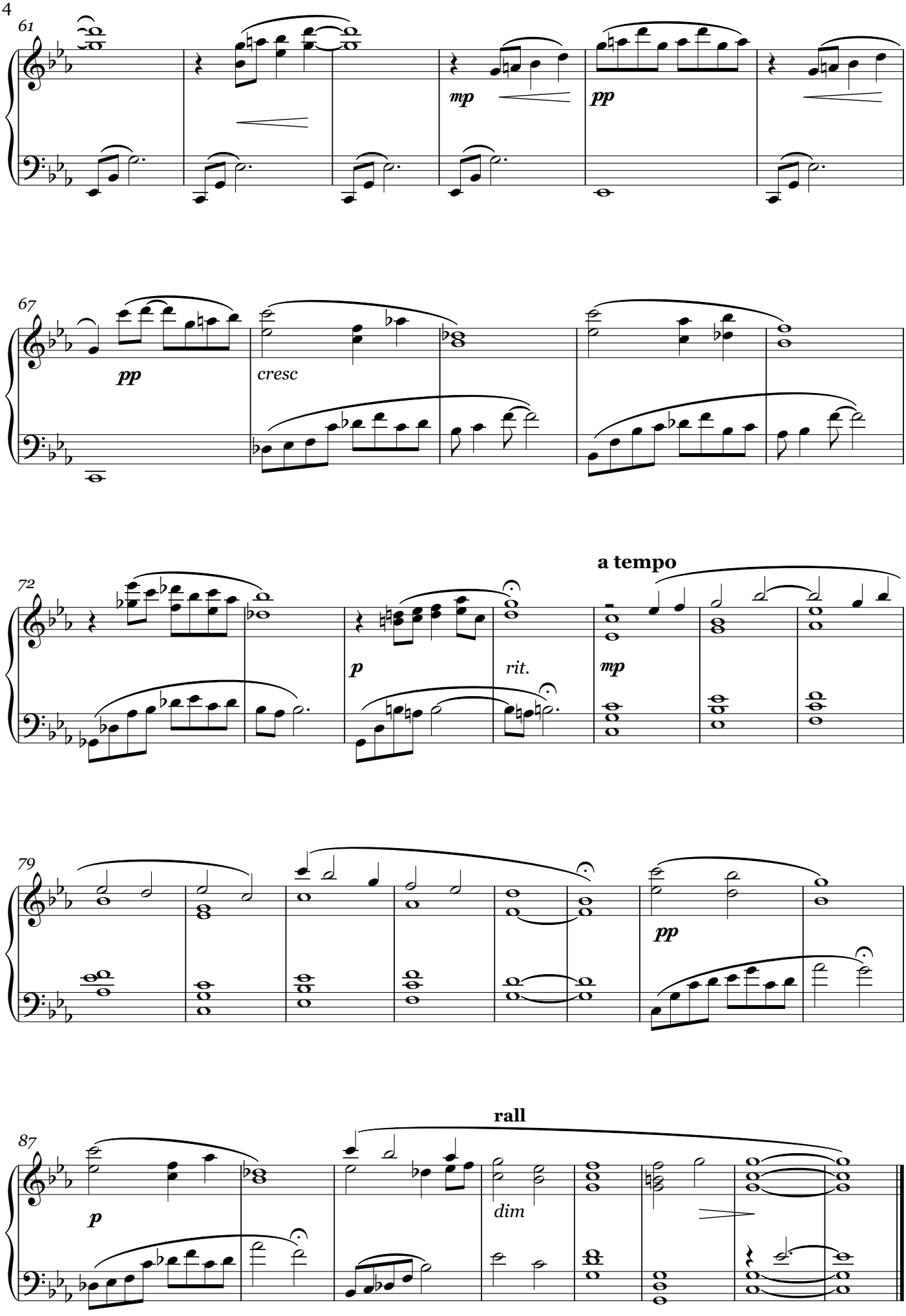

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Time Will Tell

Transformations no.6

Time Will Tell

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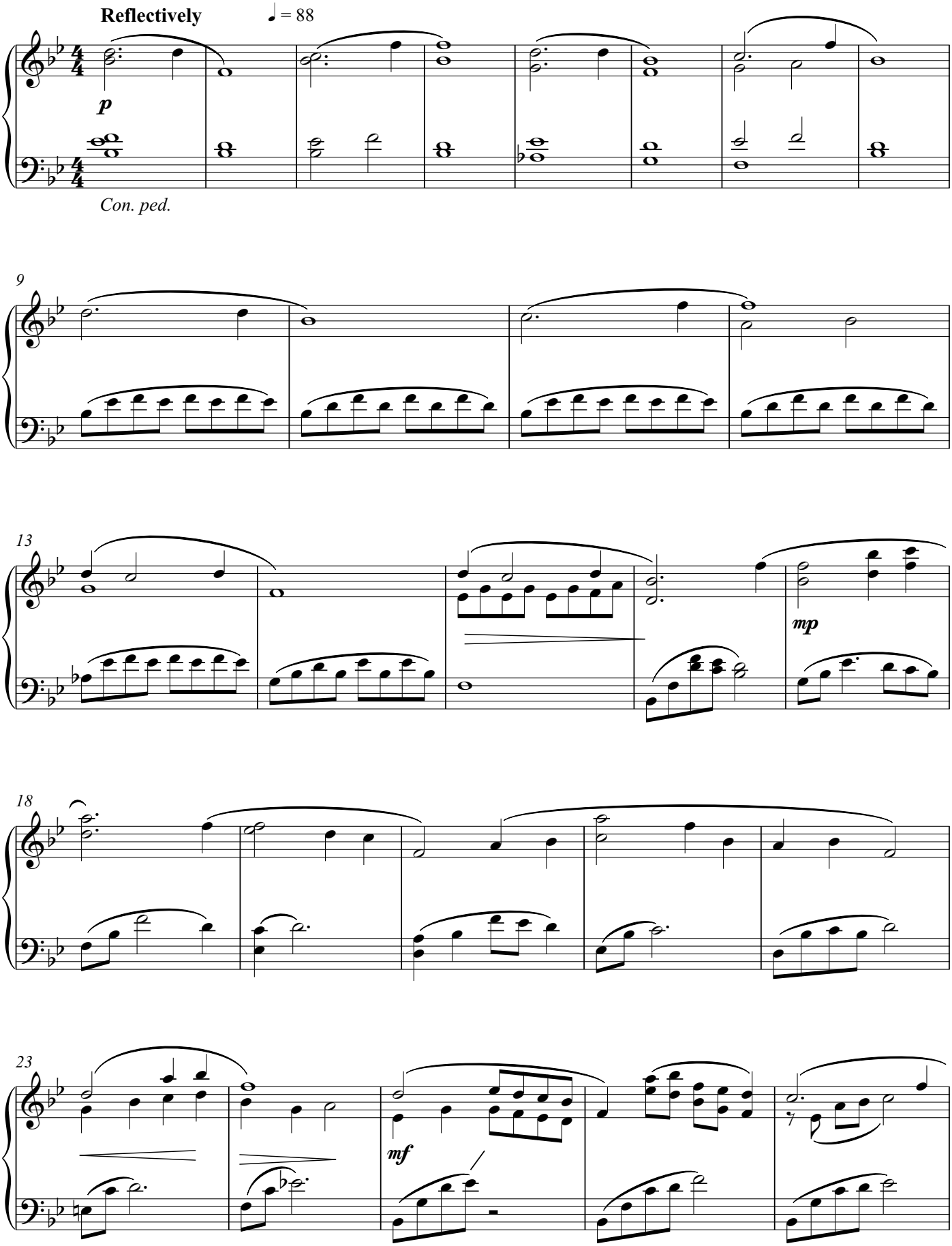

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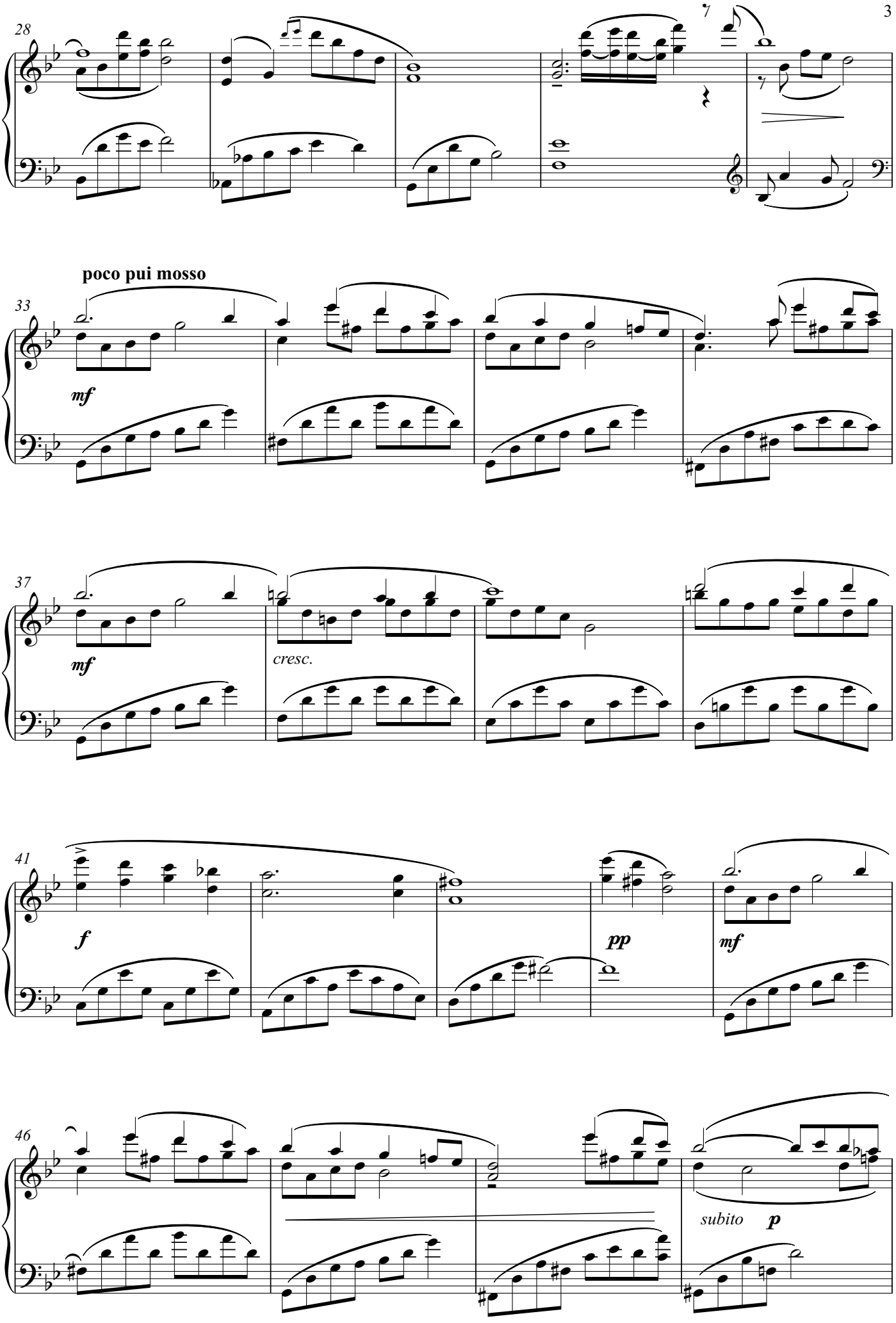

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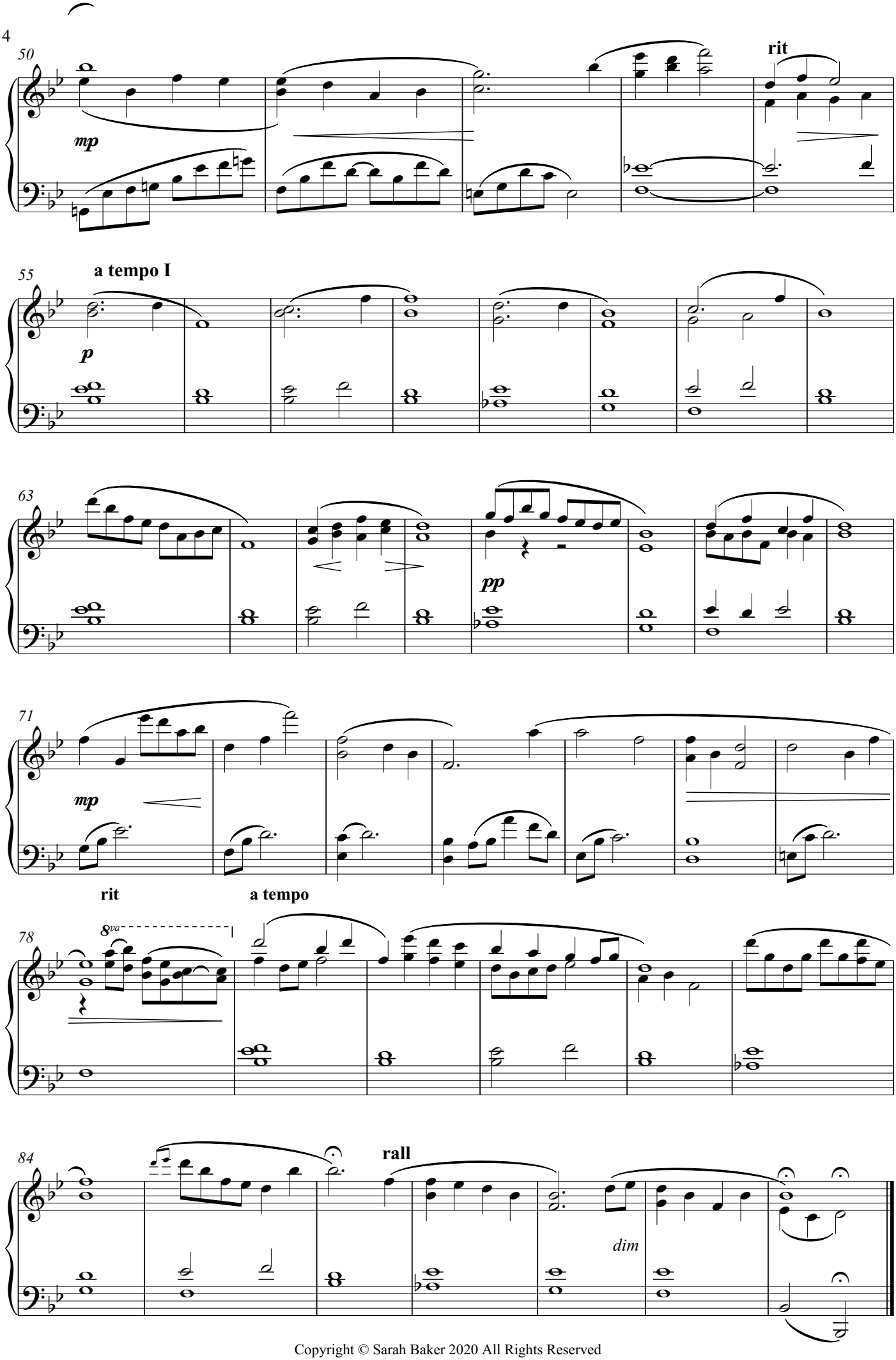

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