Art of the Recorder

SATB

Fourth Edition

Bill Robinson

Art of the Recorder

for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass Recorders

First composed in three movements,1975;
first and last movements recomposed June 19-24, 2004;
middle movement replaced February 2013
Duration: about 10 minutes

In 1975 I wrote a recorder quartet for my father, Heber Robinson, who was an enthusiastic recorder player with a group at the local Unitarian-Universalist Church in Peabody, Massachusetts. However, the work was too contemporary for the other performers, and the piece was never played.

In hopes of finding other performance opportunities, I wrote a large number of arrangements for other instruments; Art of the Violin, Art of the Flute, Art of the Double Reed, and Art of the Saxophone. However, none found a happy home. (Part of the gag—forgive me for explaining a joke—was that this was an experiment in music that could be played by any instruments that fit the range, after suitable transposition and modification of phrasing or bowing. So it really isn't the Art of any specific Instrument.)

In 2004 I decided that the piece must be at fault, and I rewrote the first and last movements from scratch, keeping nothing from the originals. I made new arrangements for four flutes and four violins as before. Performers continued to shy away; the middle movement was one of the most atonal I had ever written, slow and very short (only one minute) and titled "So You Think I'm Too Old-Fashioned". No one liked it, and I saw it needed revision.

On February 4, 2013, a fine local violinist, Izabela Spiewak, who had played on the memorial concert for my sister in 2010, died of leukemia. I wrote this new middle movement as an elegy in her memory. Now the whole piece is tuneful, gentle, and easily appreciated by many ears. Someday its day may come.

I made other arrangements for four bassoons, and for viola and three cellos. Only the recorder, violin, and flute versions survive.

Bill Robinson

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www.billrobinsonmusic.com

I. Just for Fun [3']

Bill Robinson

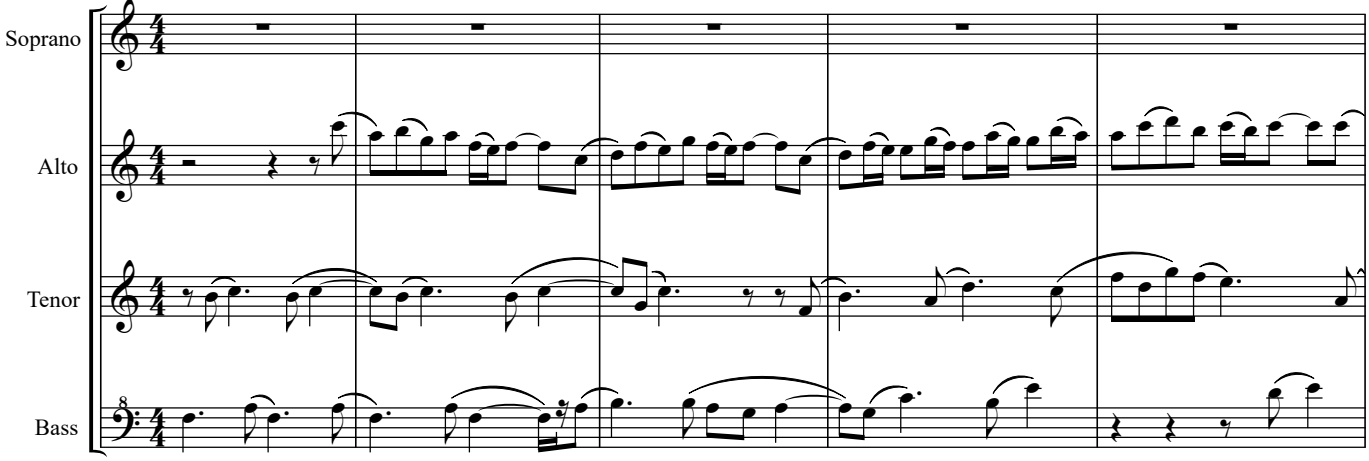
Root'n toot'n ♩= 84

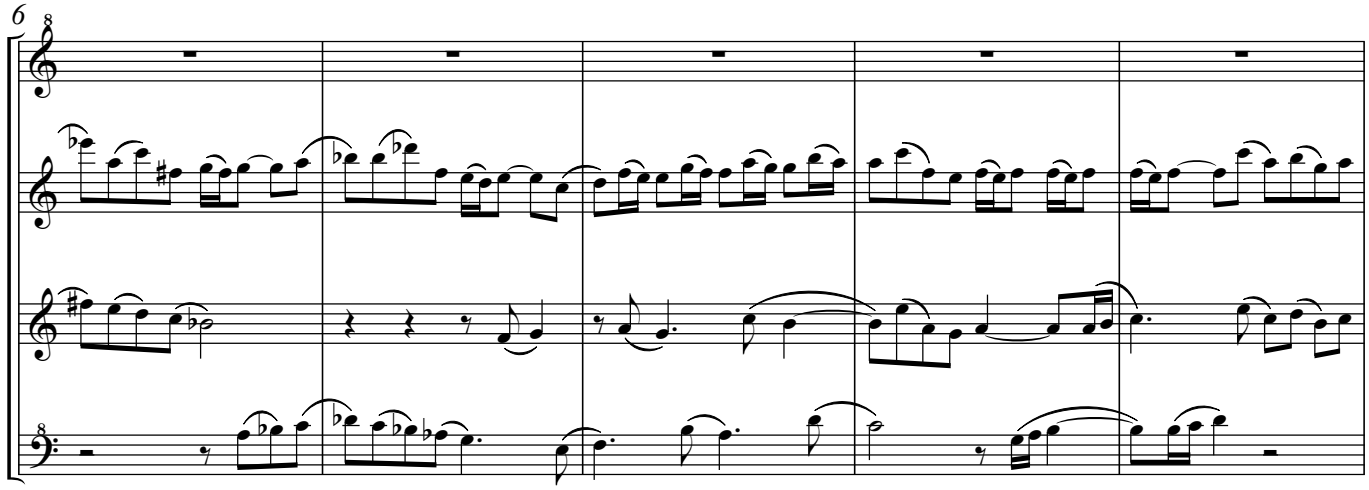
Soprano

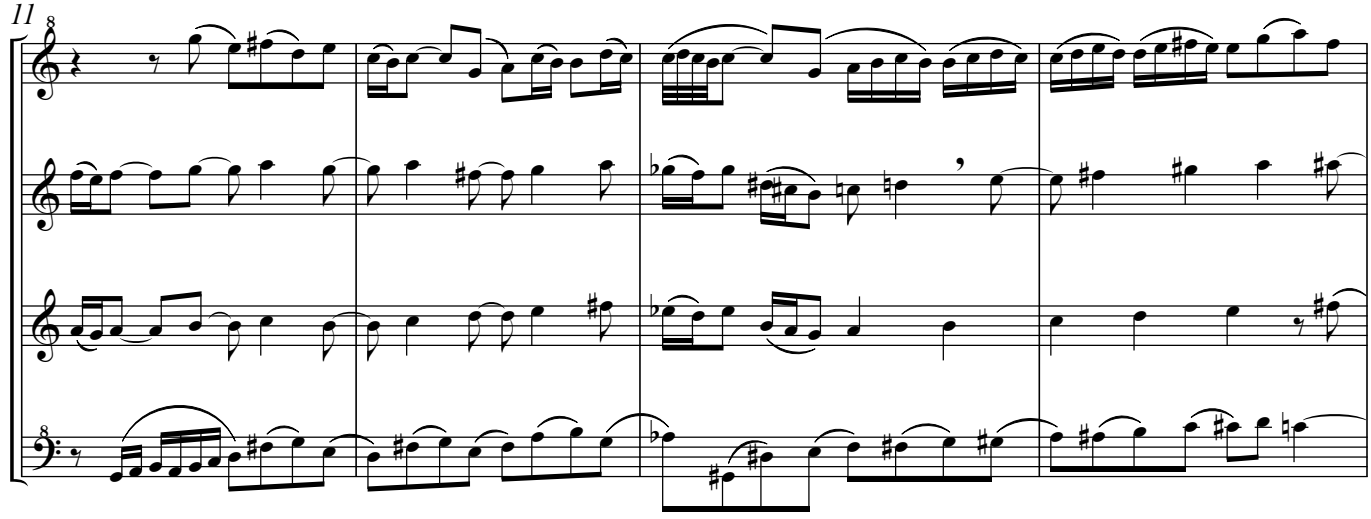
Alto

Tenor

Bass







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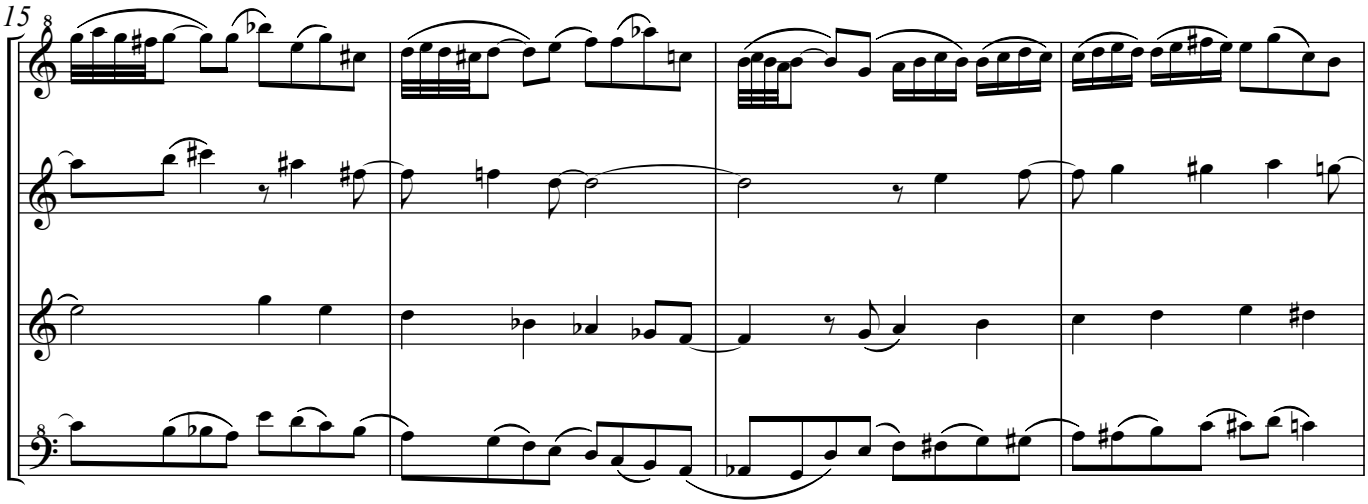

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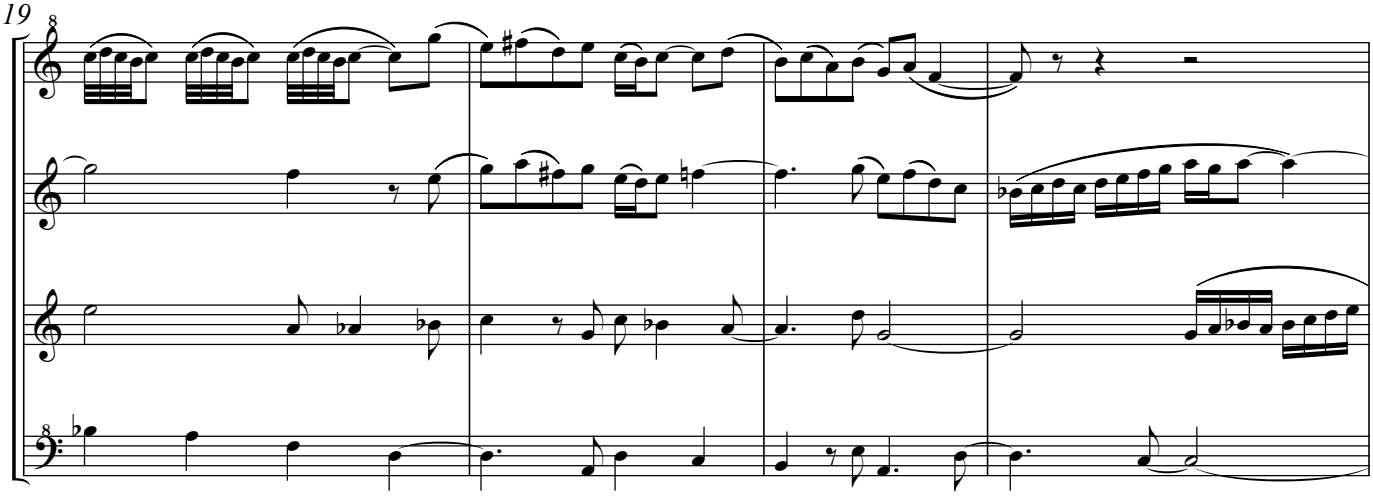

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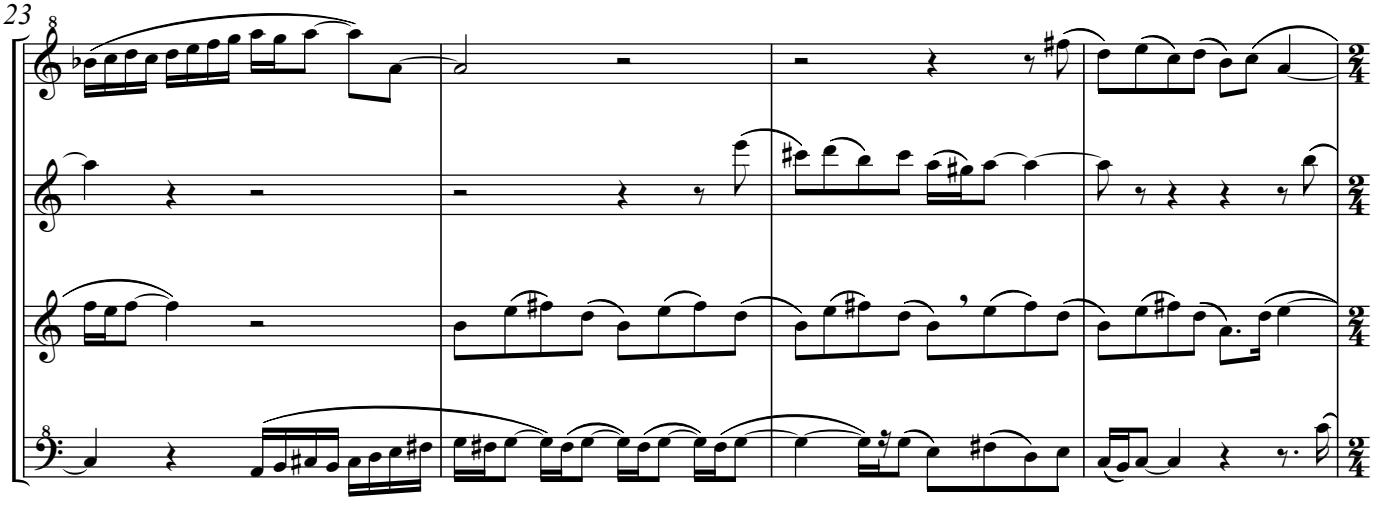

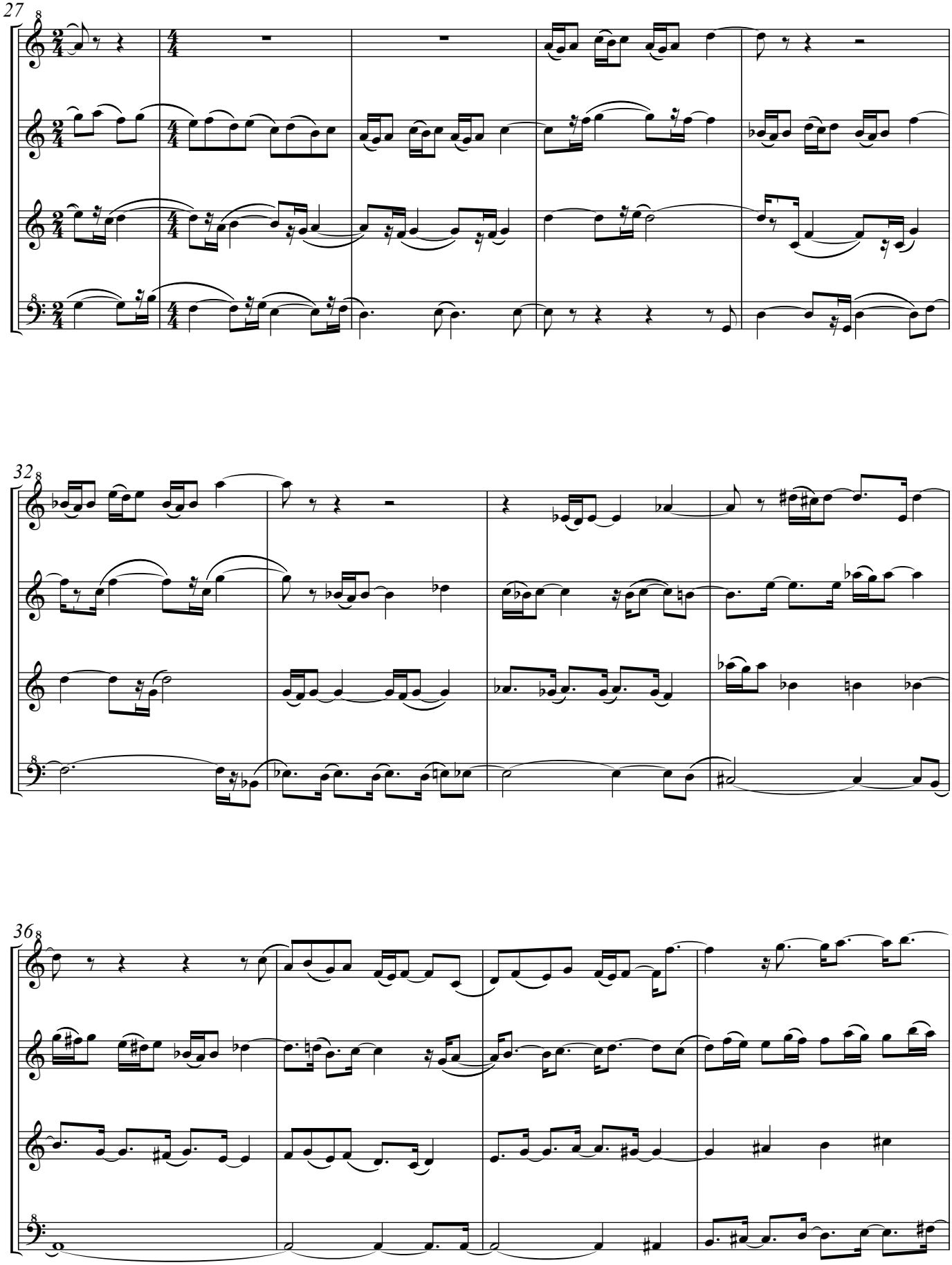
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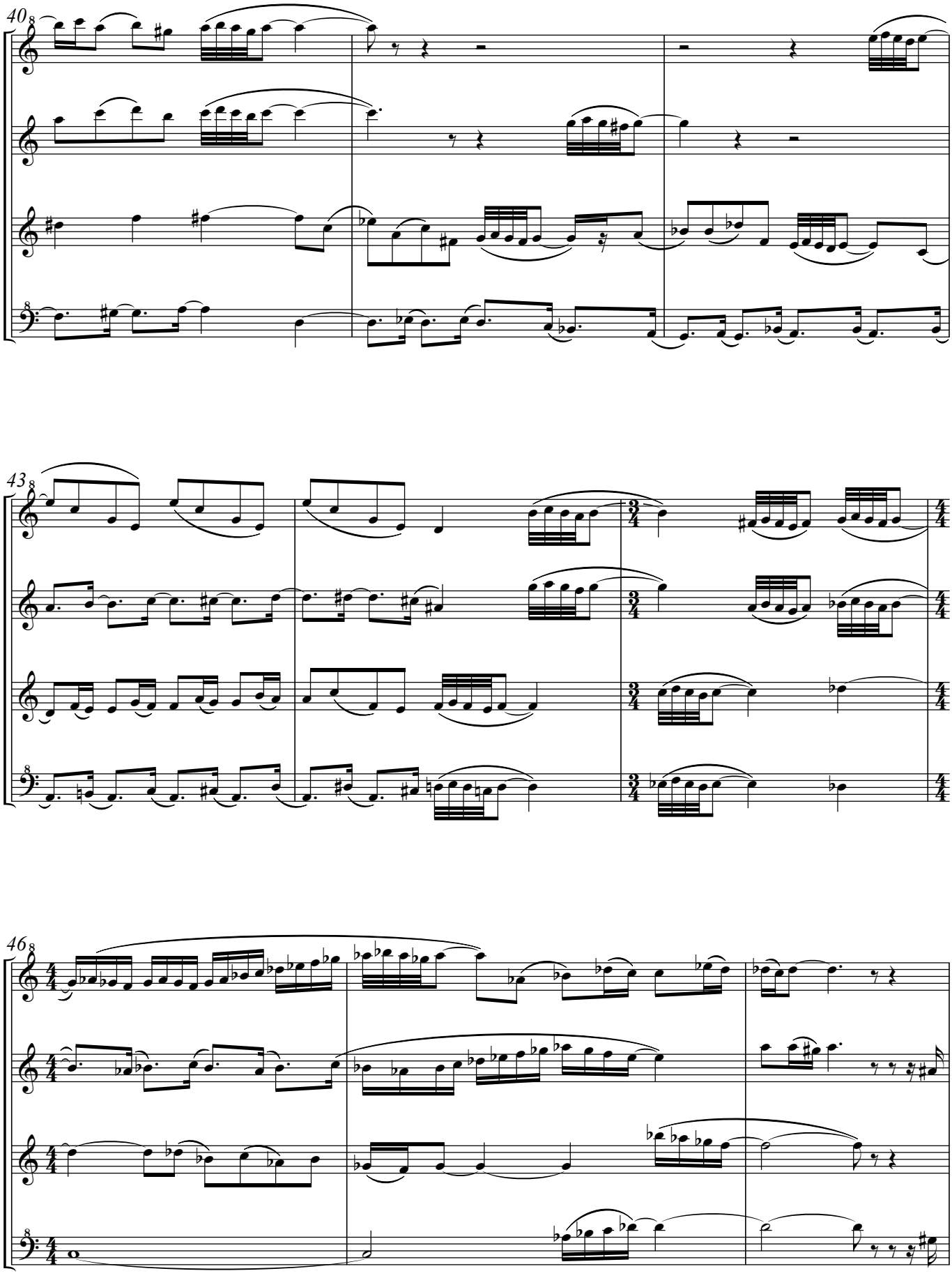
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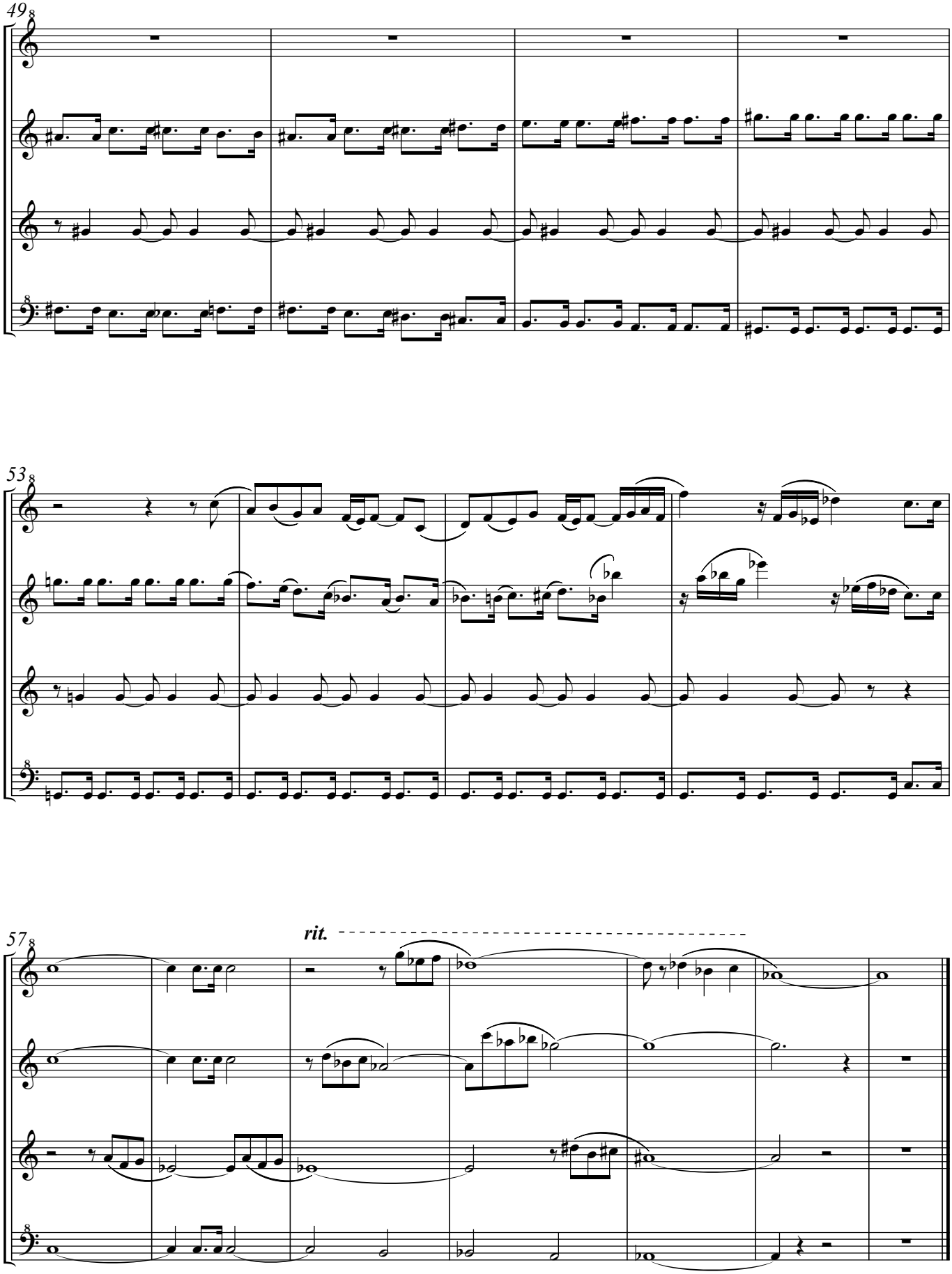
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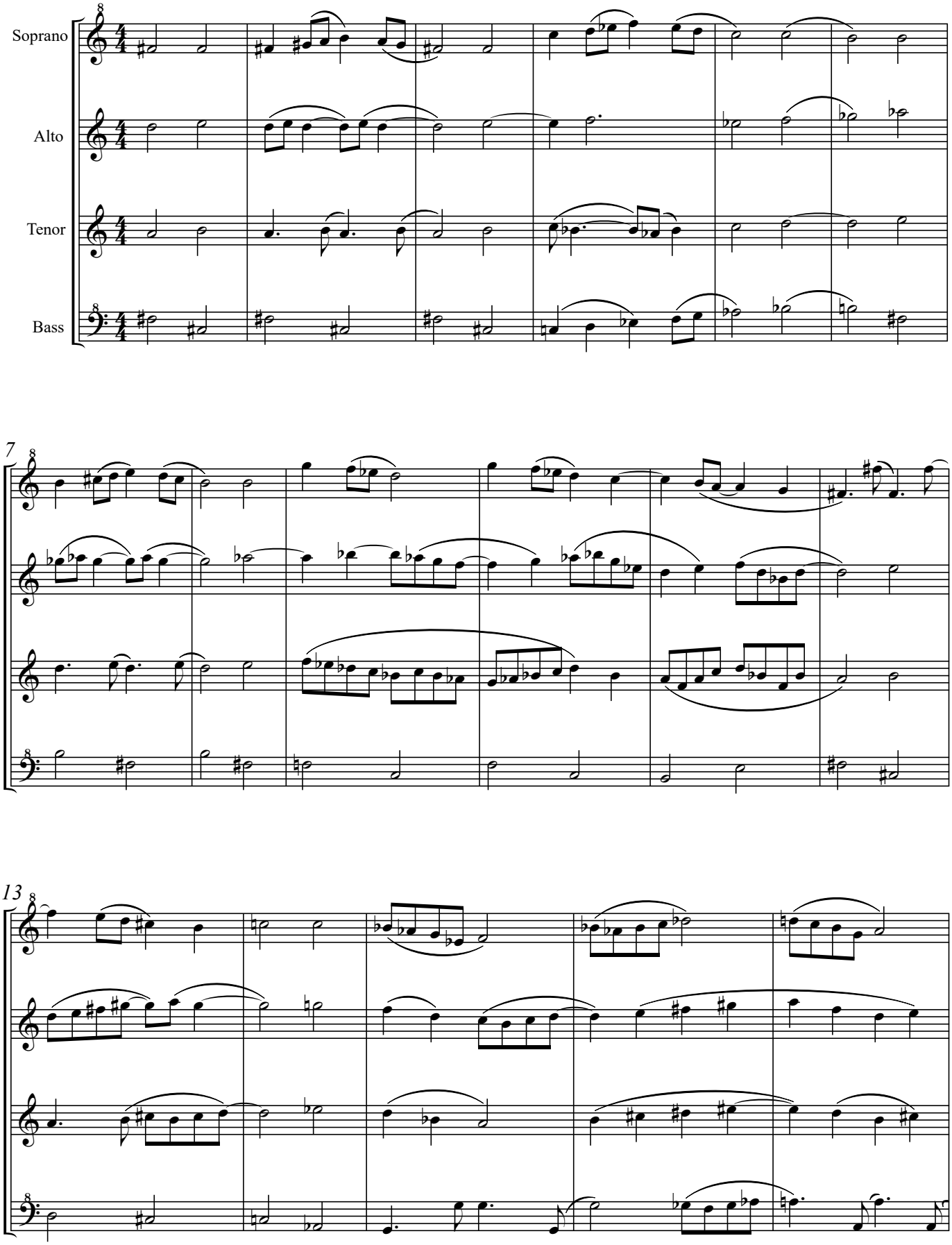
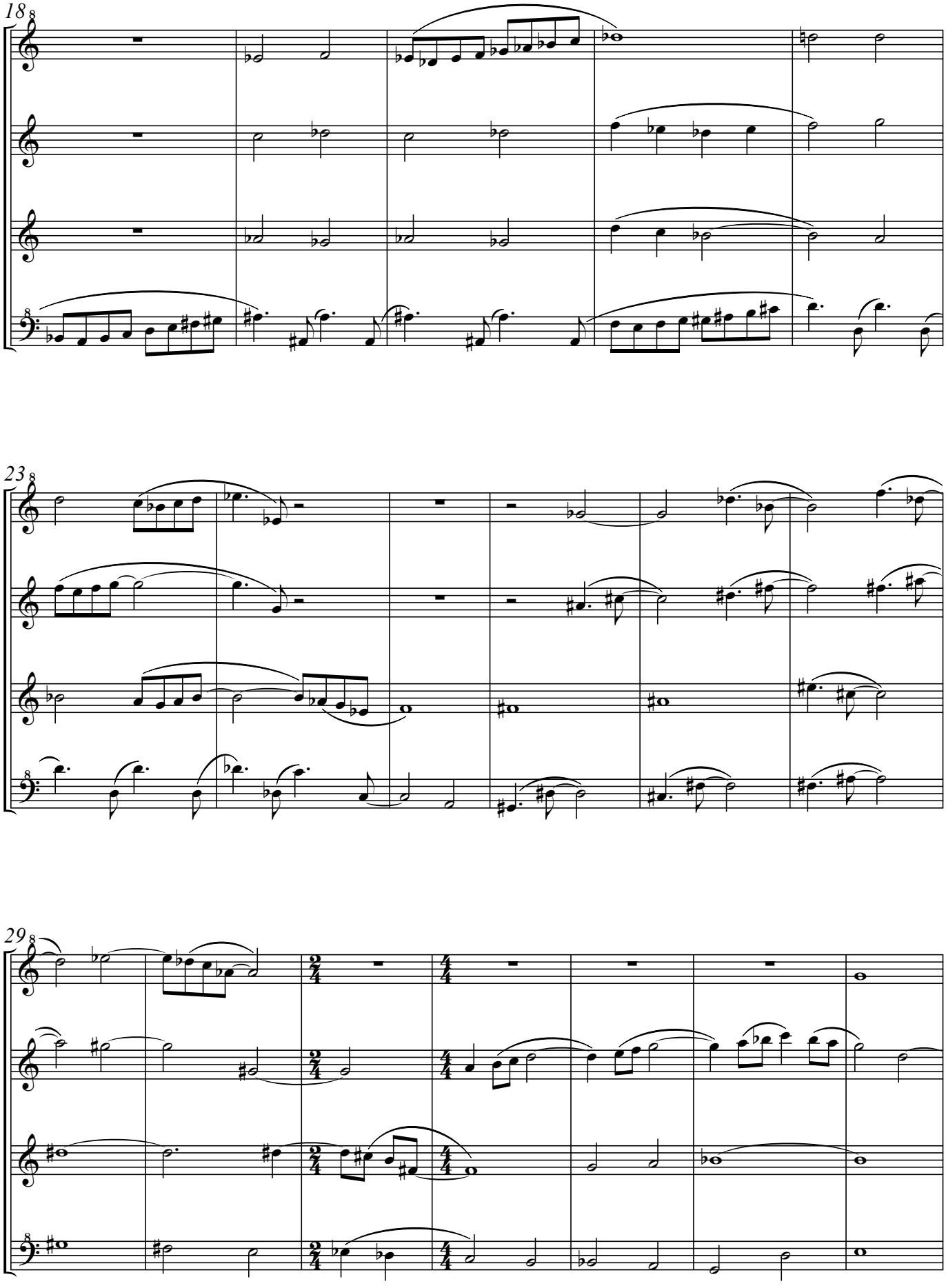
rit.

II. Elegy for Izabela

[2:40]

Adagio (♩ = 80)

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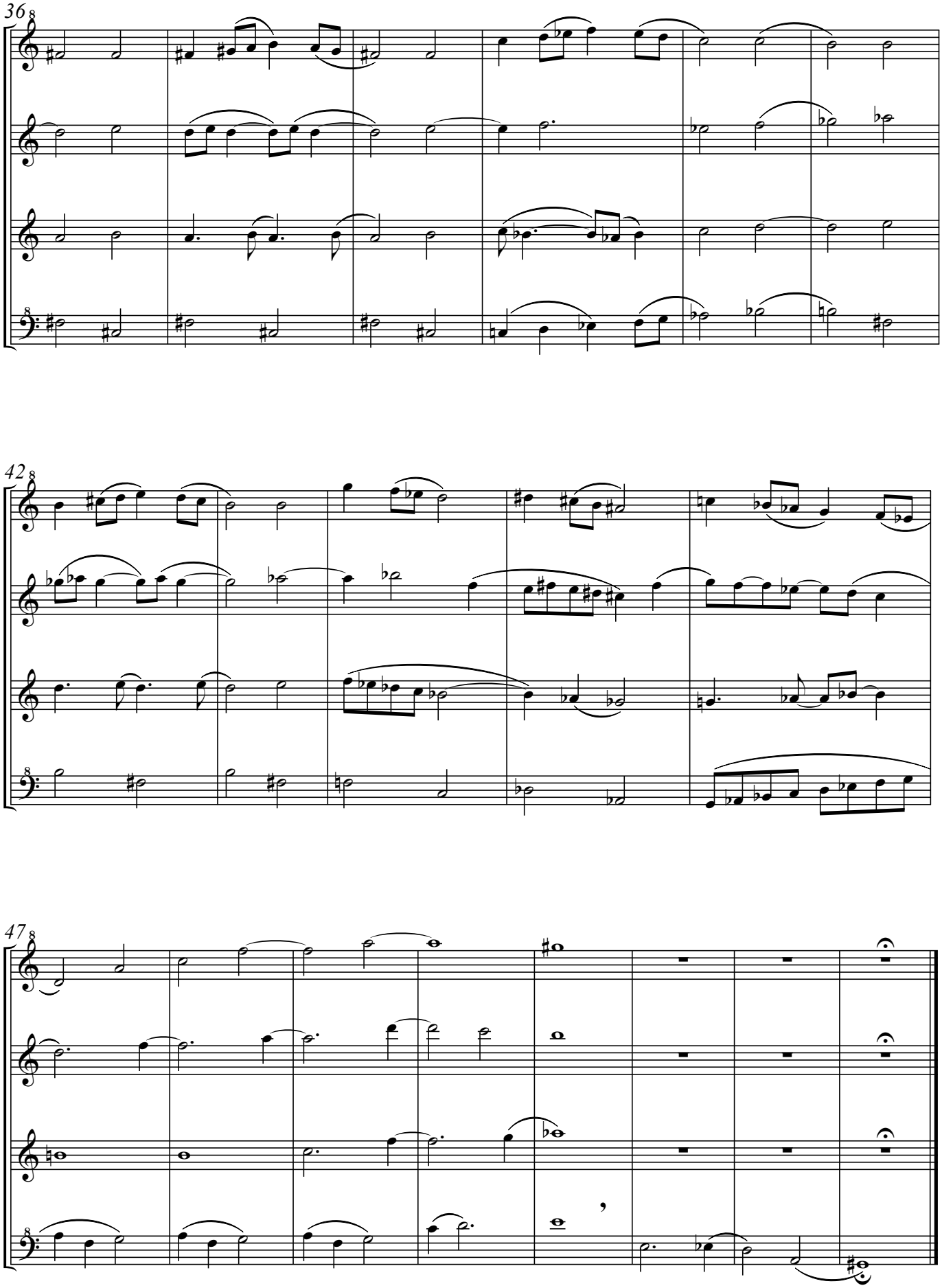
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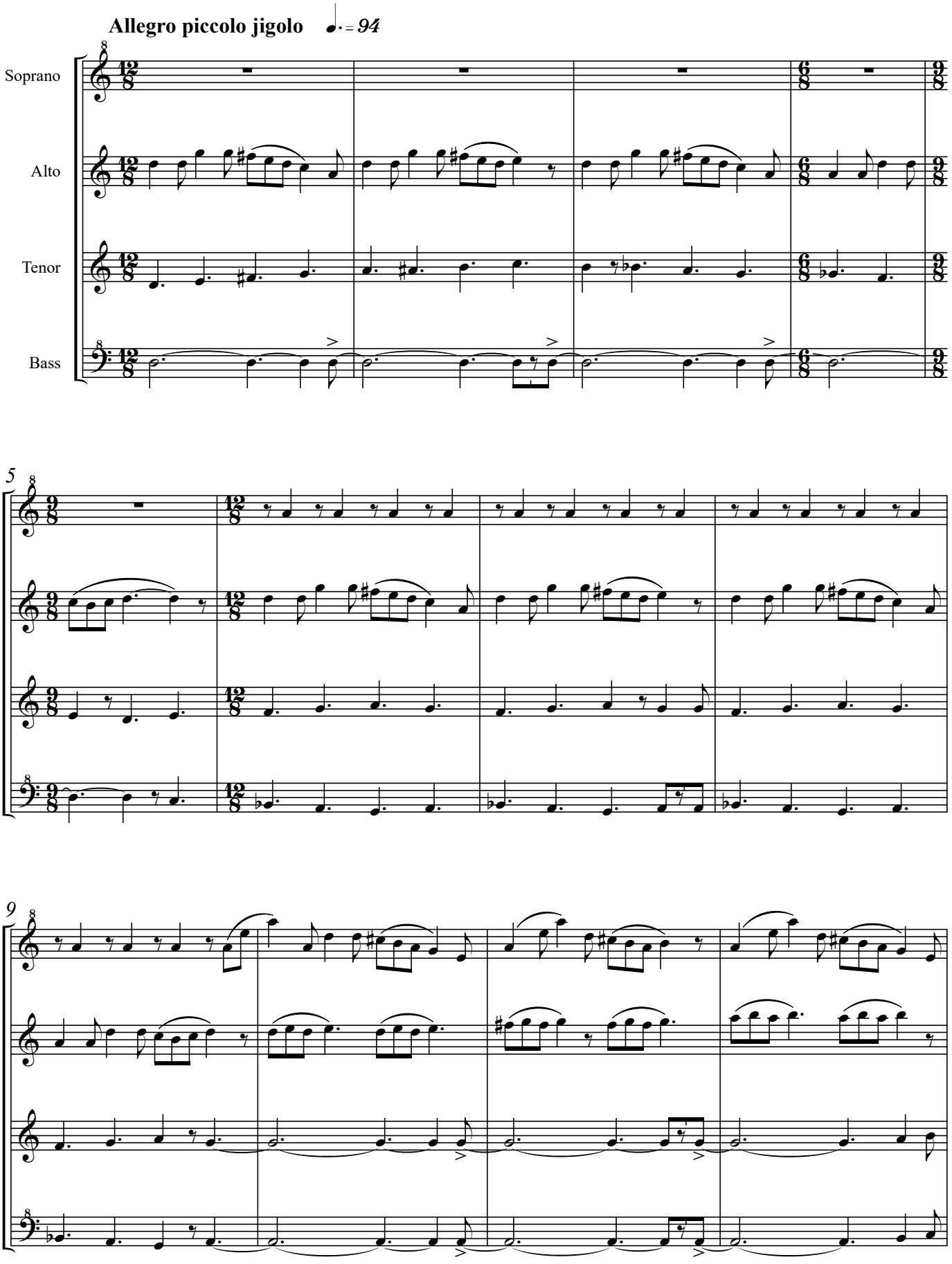
Allegro piccolo jigolo
♩. = 94
Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass
5
9

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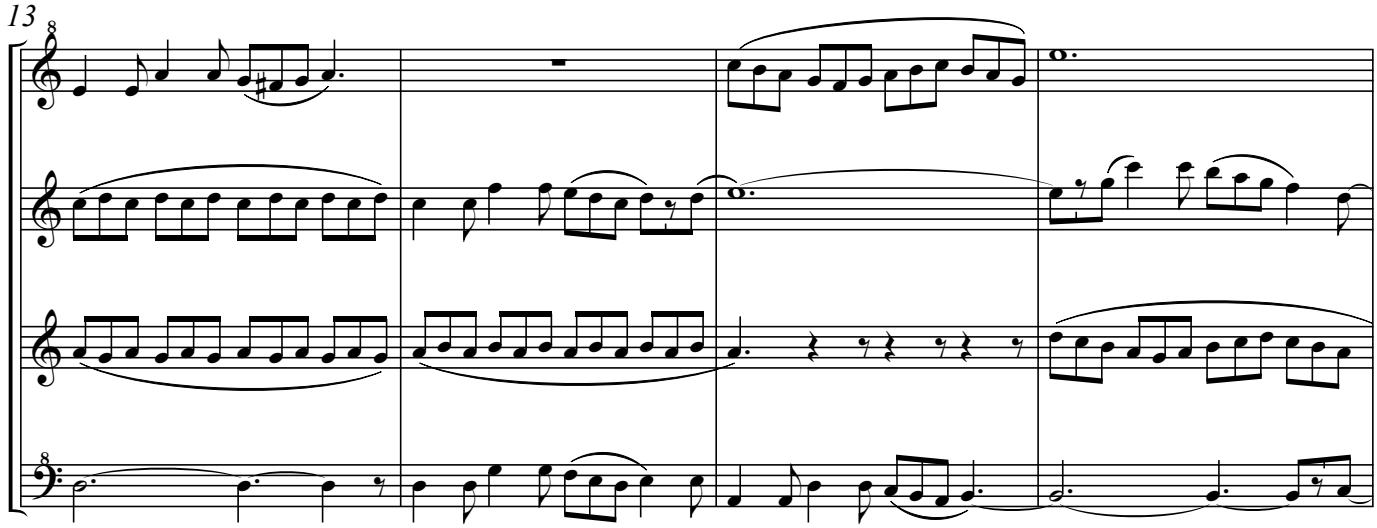

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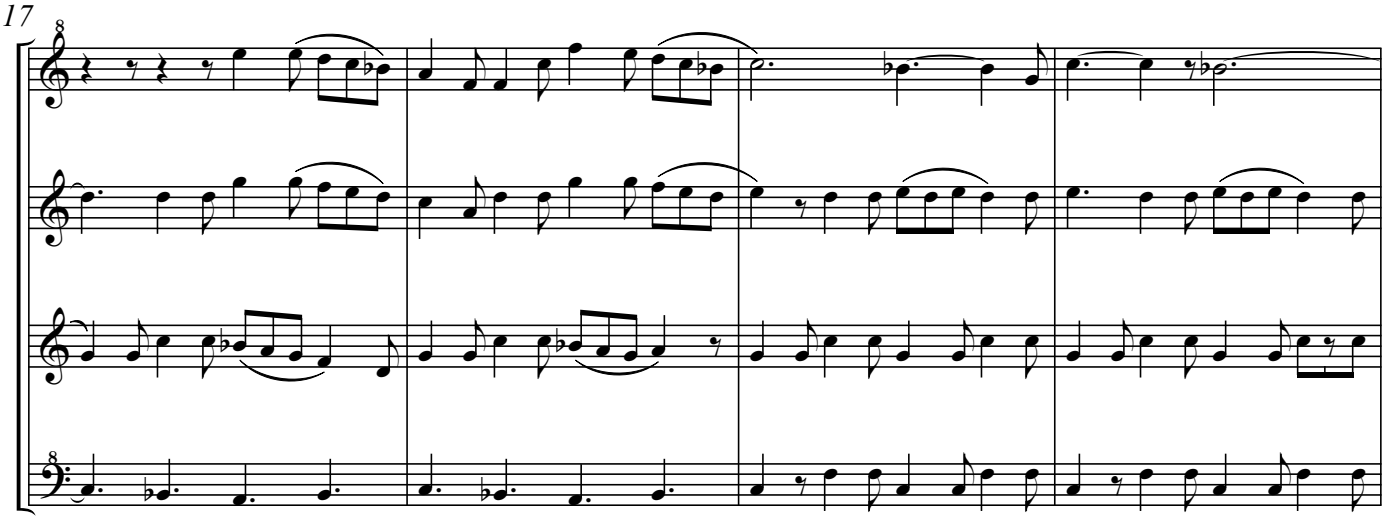

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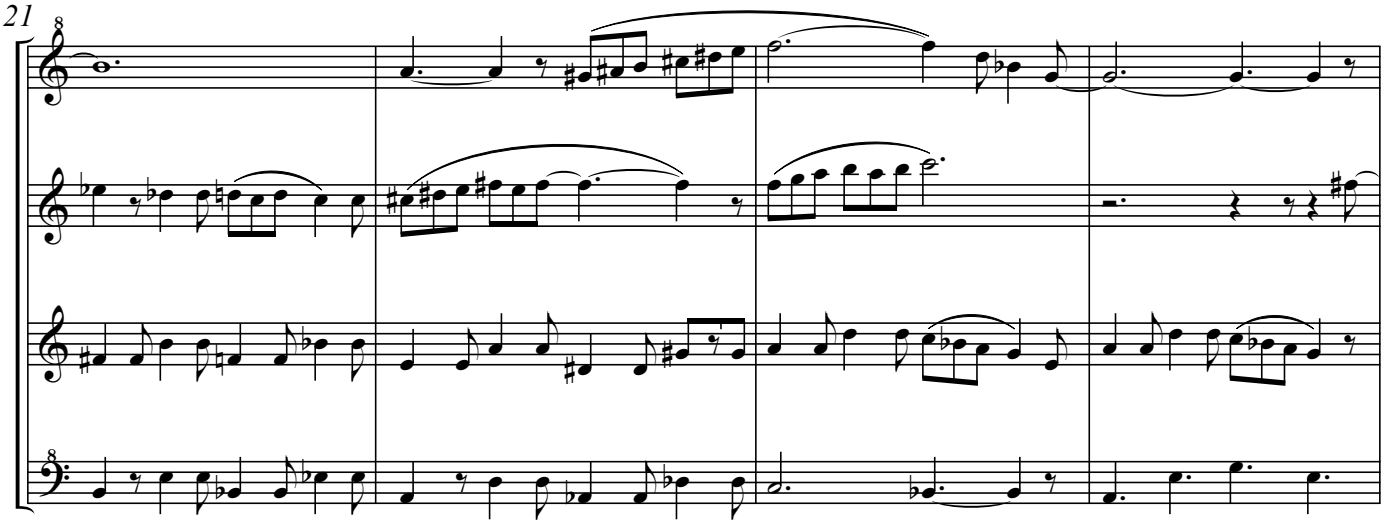

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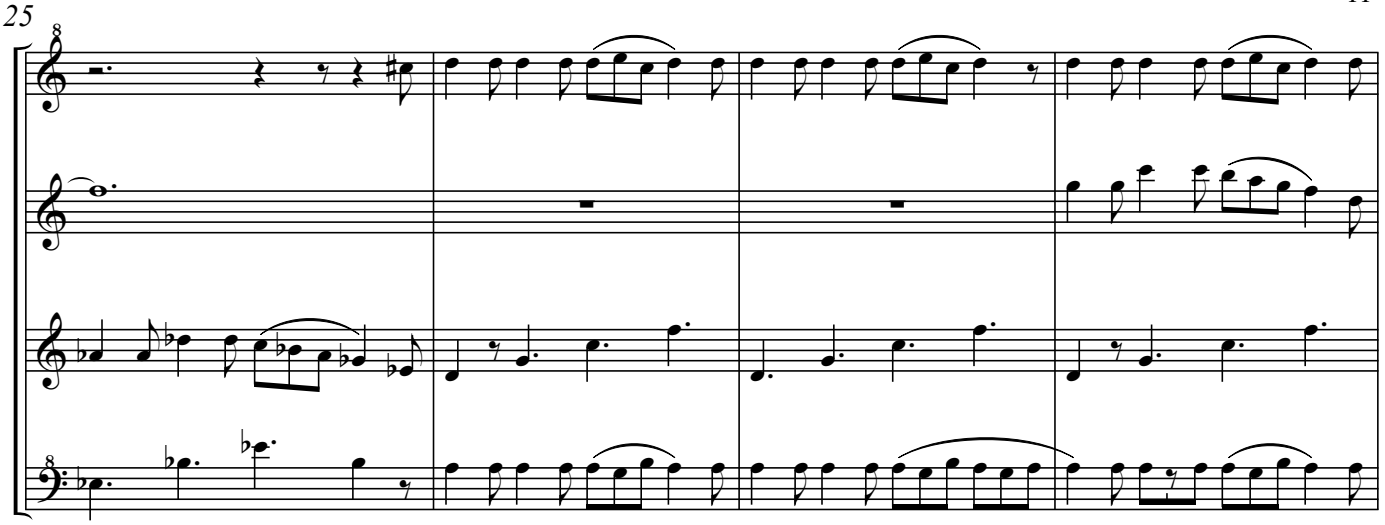

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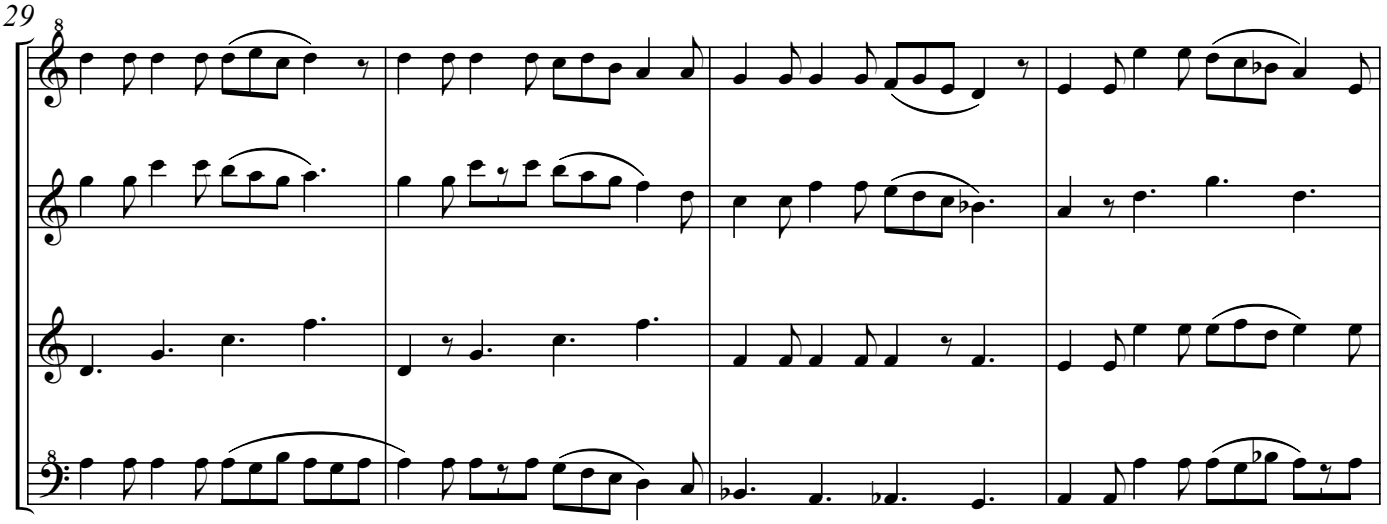

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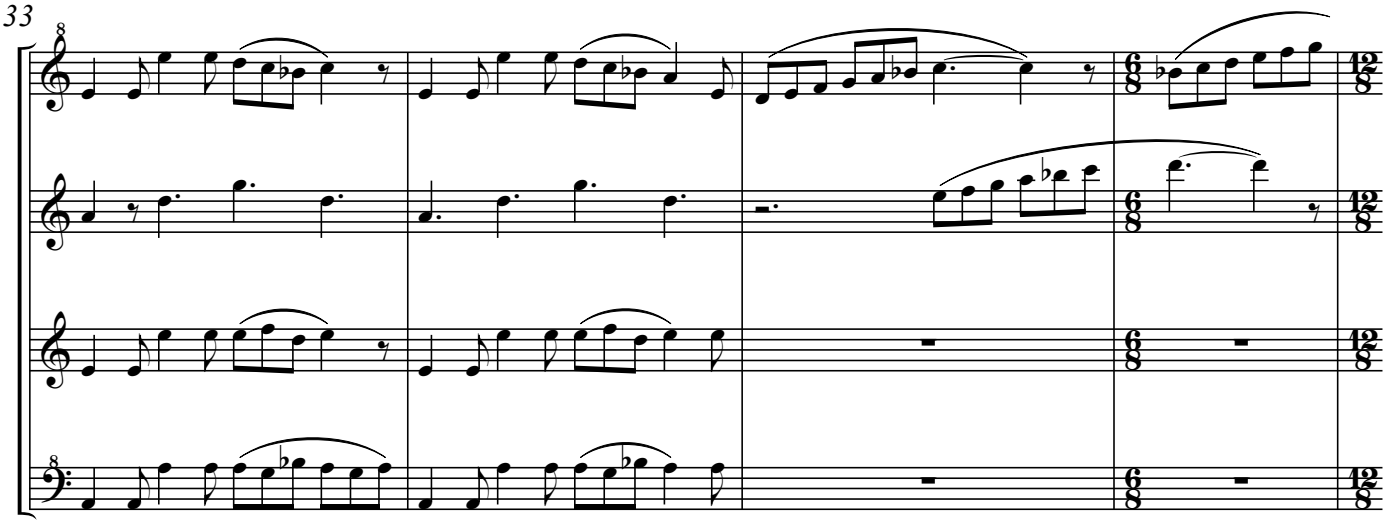

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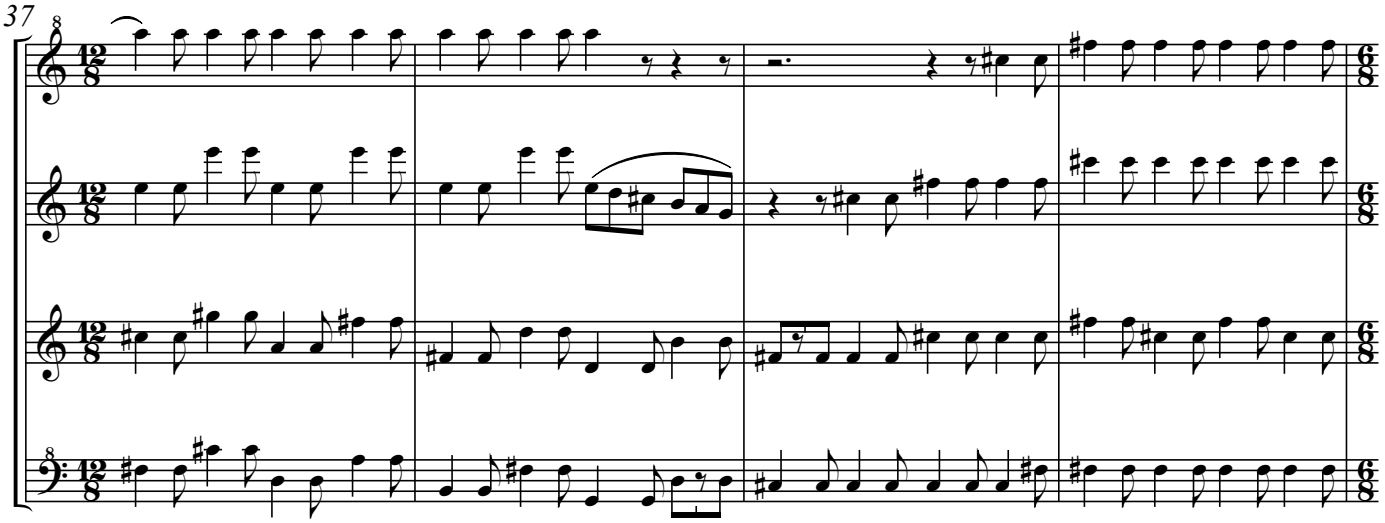

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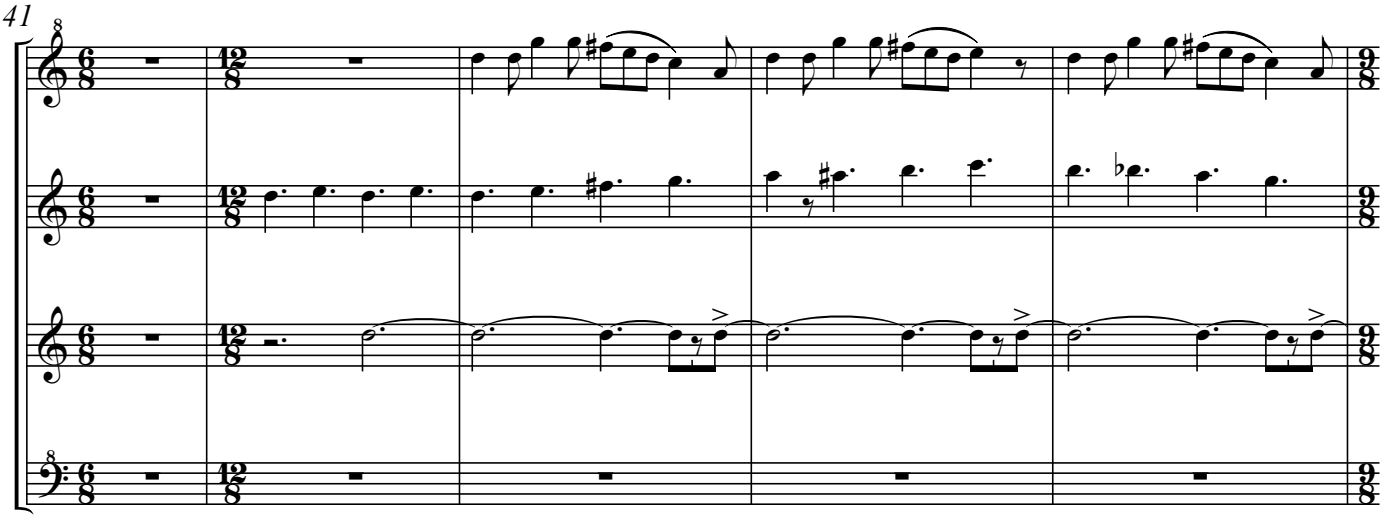

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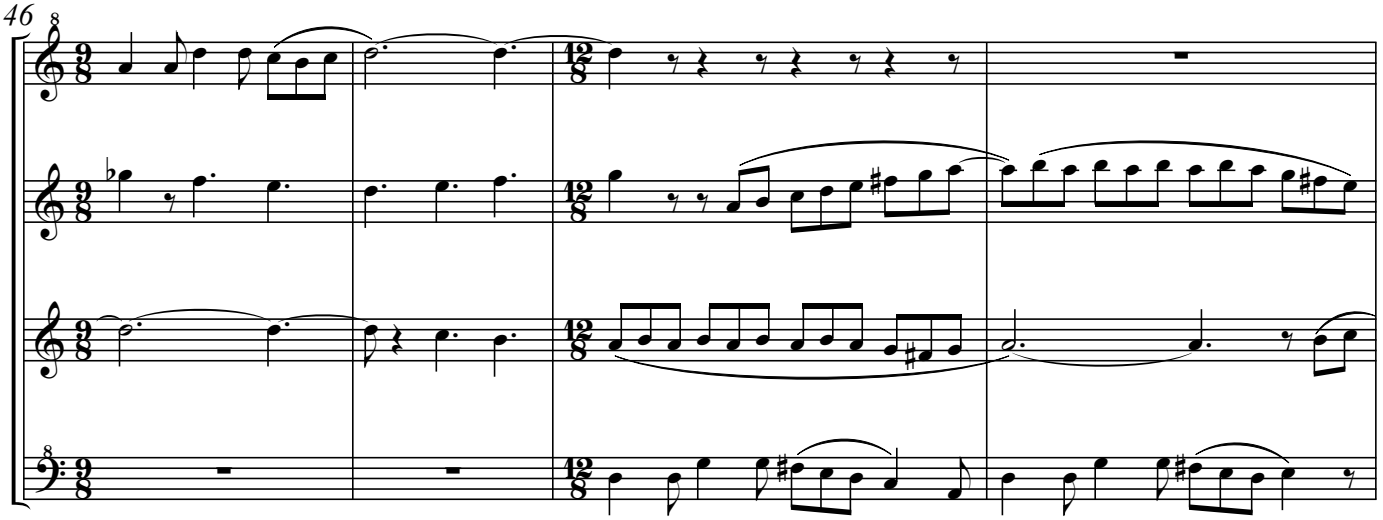

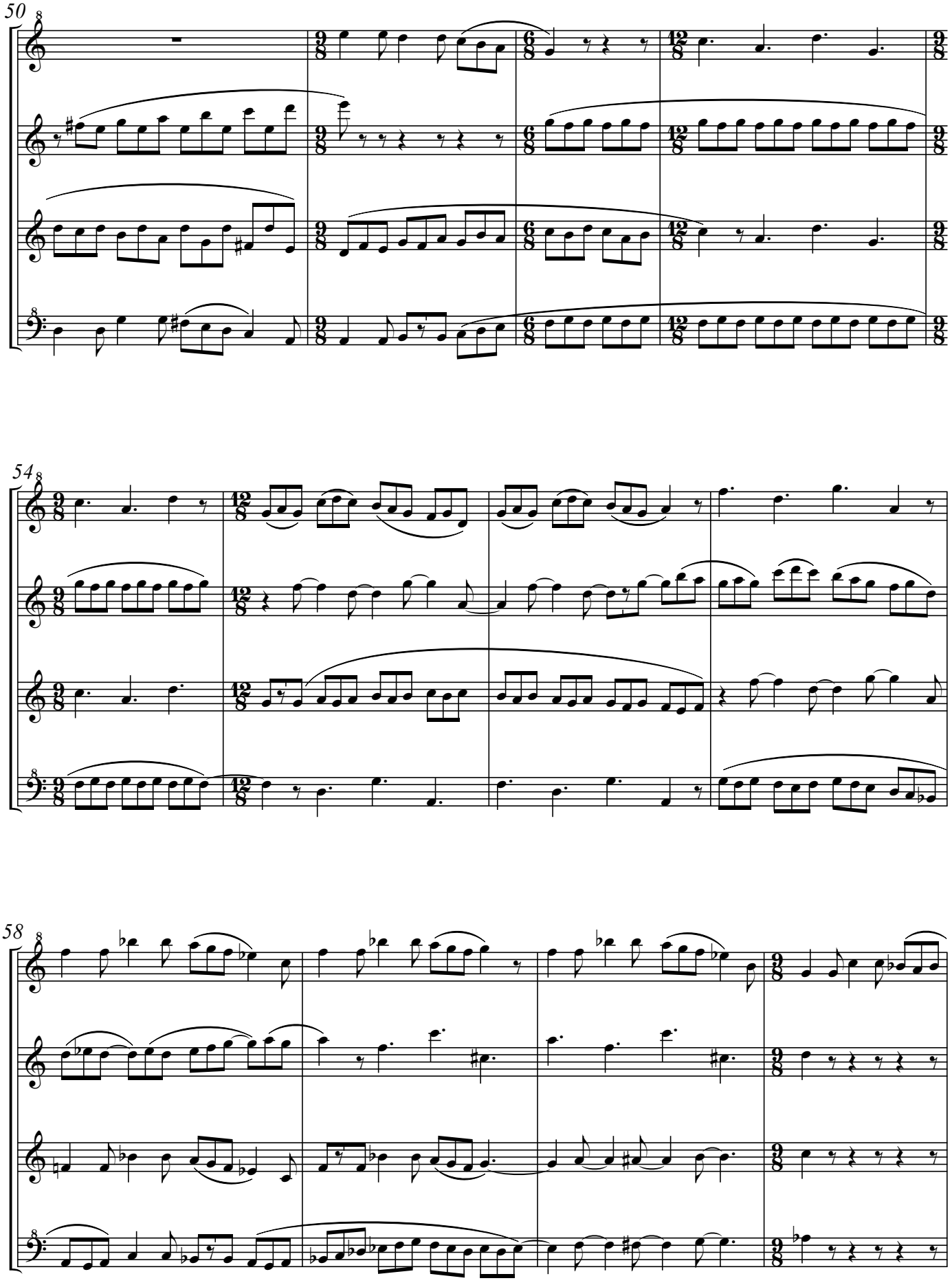
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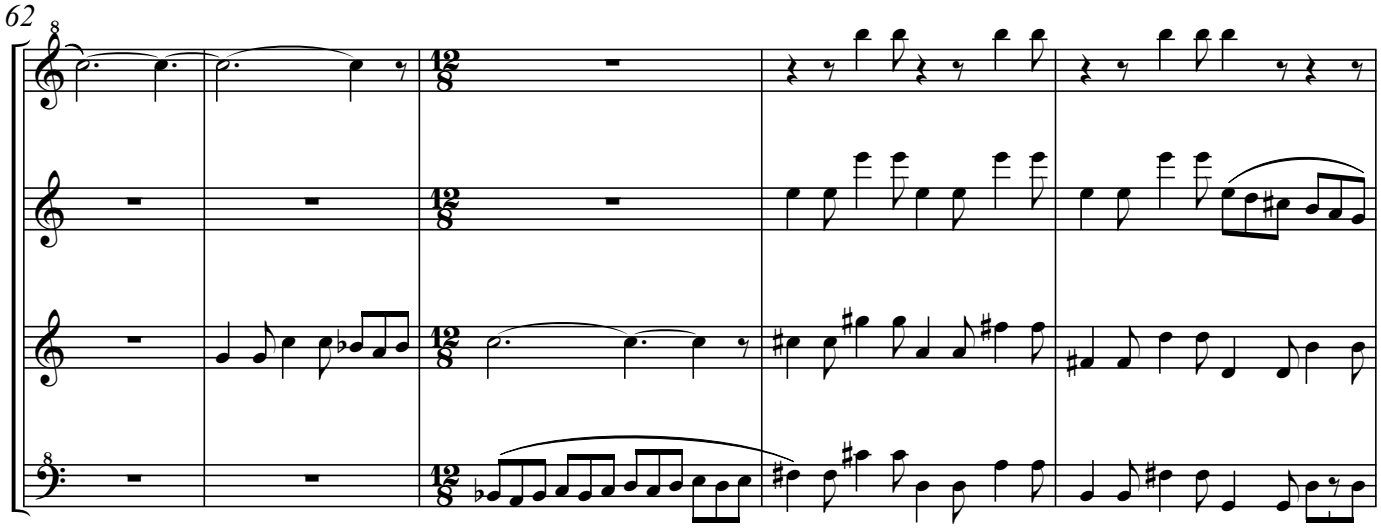

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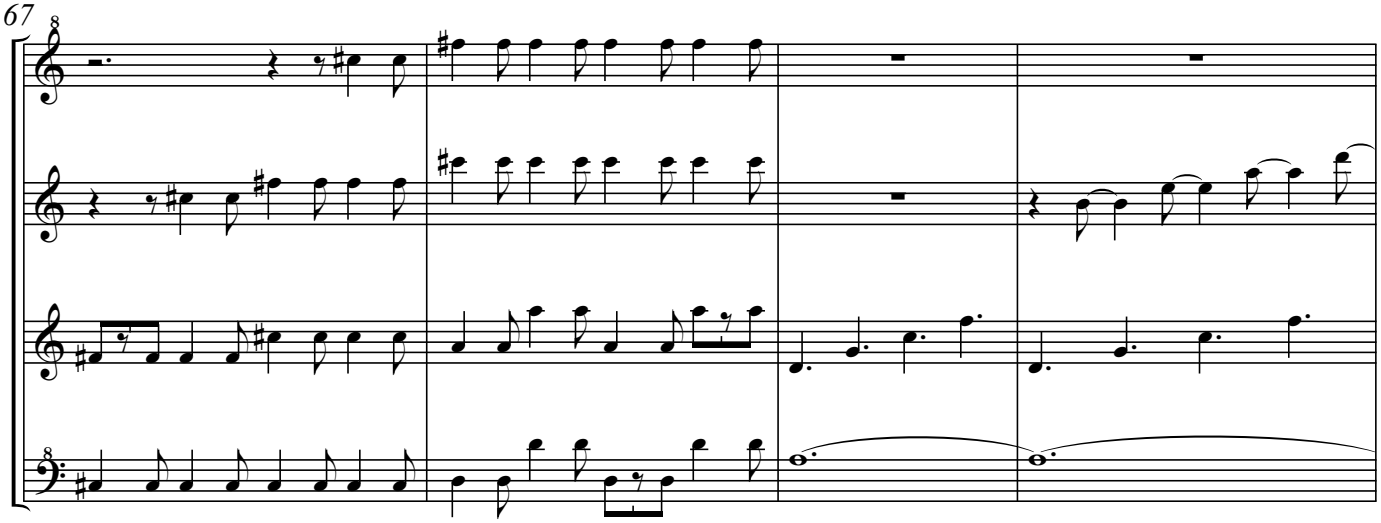

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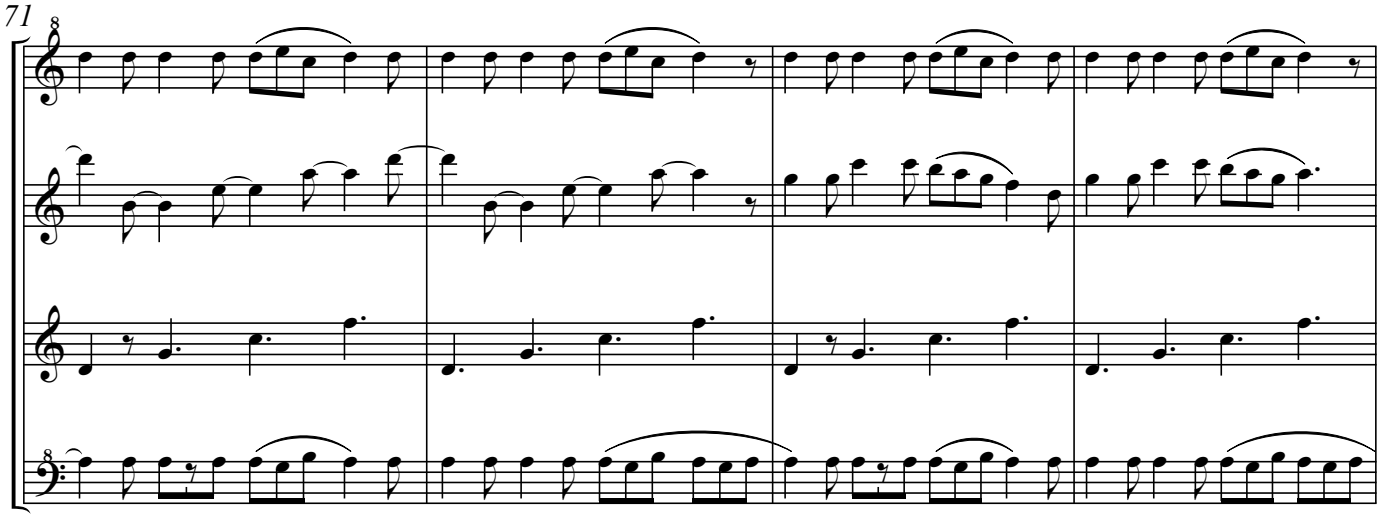

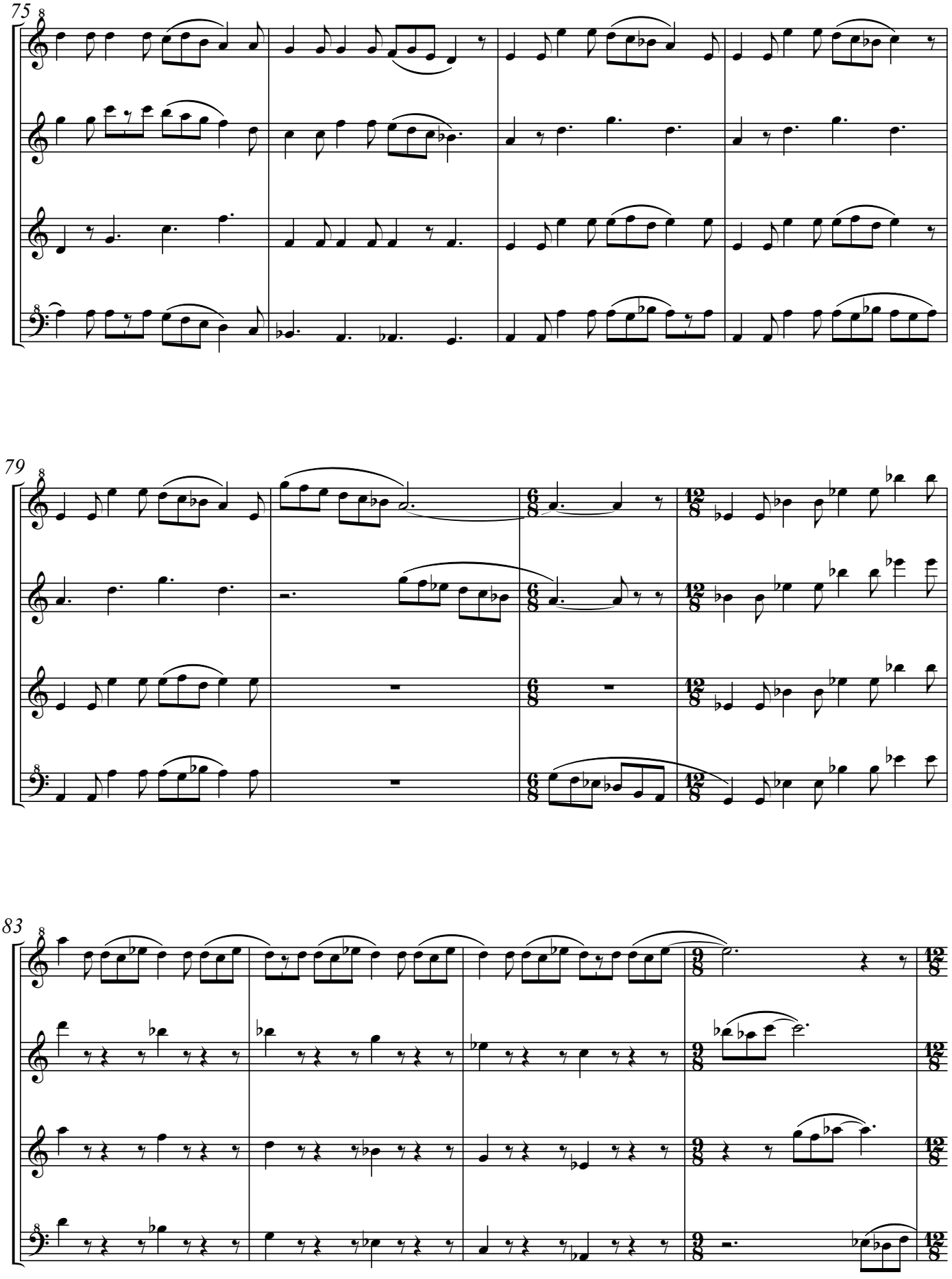
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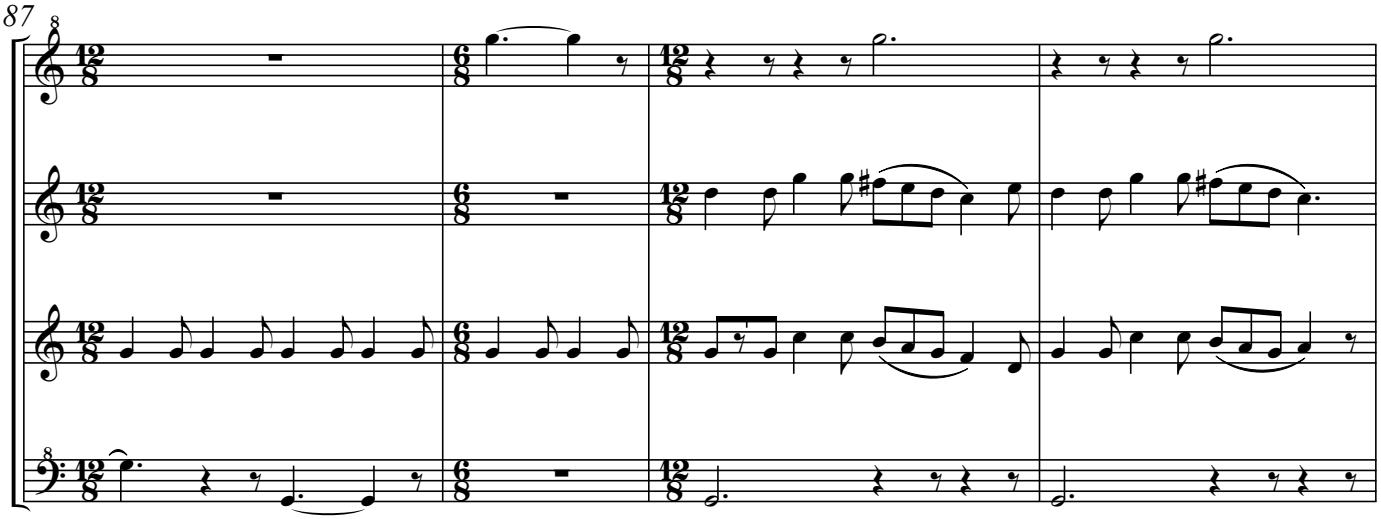

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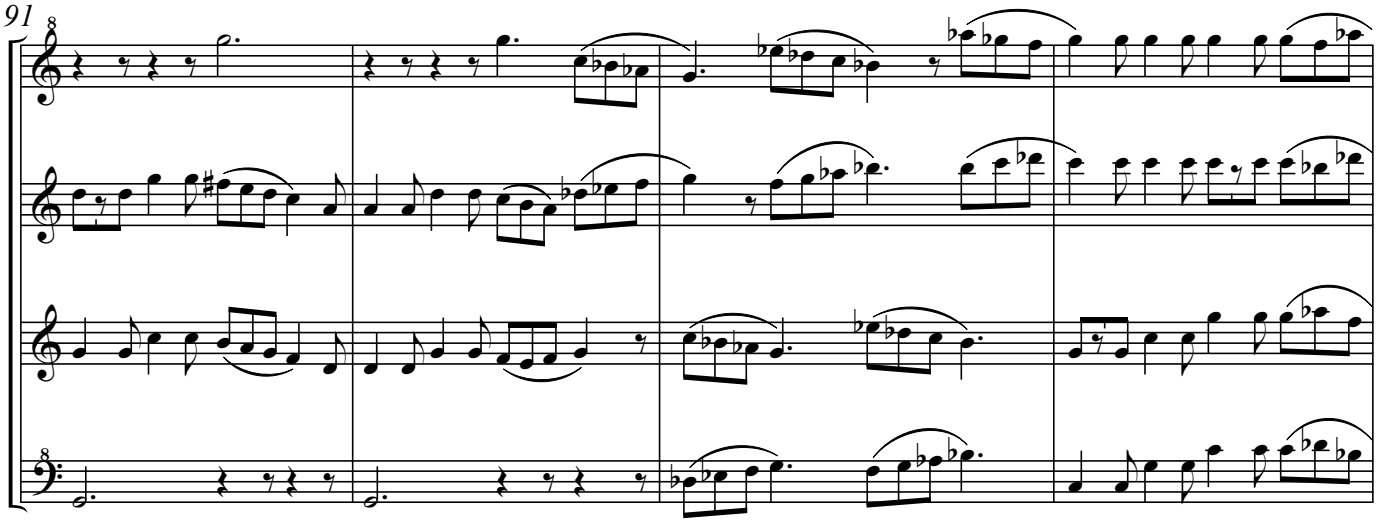
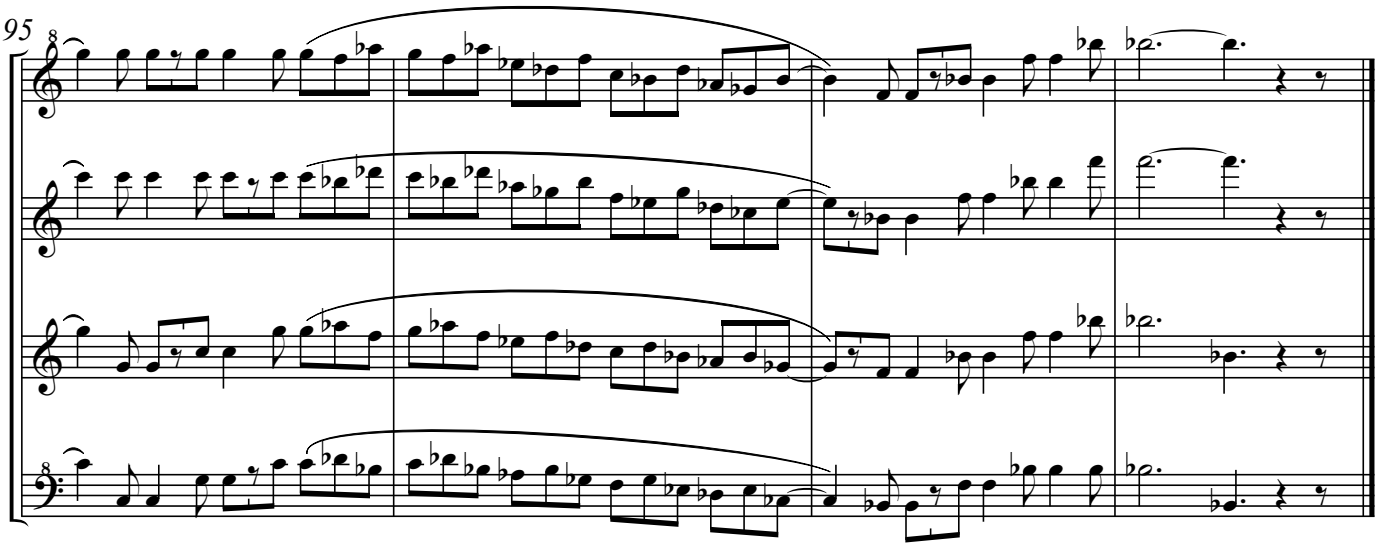
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