Concert Variations on The Star-Spangled Banner

Dudley Buck

arranged by Paul De Bra for accordion quintet (1, 2, 3, 4, bass)

The British song, composed by John Stafford Smith and named “To Anacreon in Heaven” became popular in the United States and was reused using the lyrics of the poem “Defence of Fort McHenry” by Francis Scott Key” and became the national anthem of the USA (in 1931).

The American composer and organist Dudley Buck (1839-1909) created the Concert Variations on the Star-Spangled Banner (opus 23) for organ. (It was later also orchestrated.)

The arrangement for accordion quintet is a nice demonstration that an accordion ensemble is in fact “better” than an organ (because each of the voices can have its own dynamics). This composition is a bit long, but some variations can be omitted if desired, to better suit the intended audience.

Professor P made a recording available.

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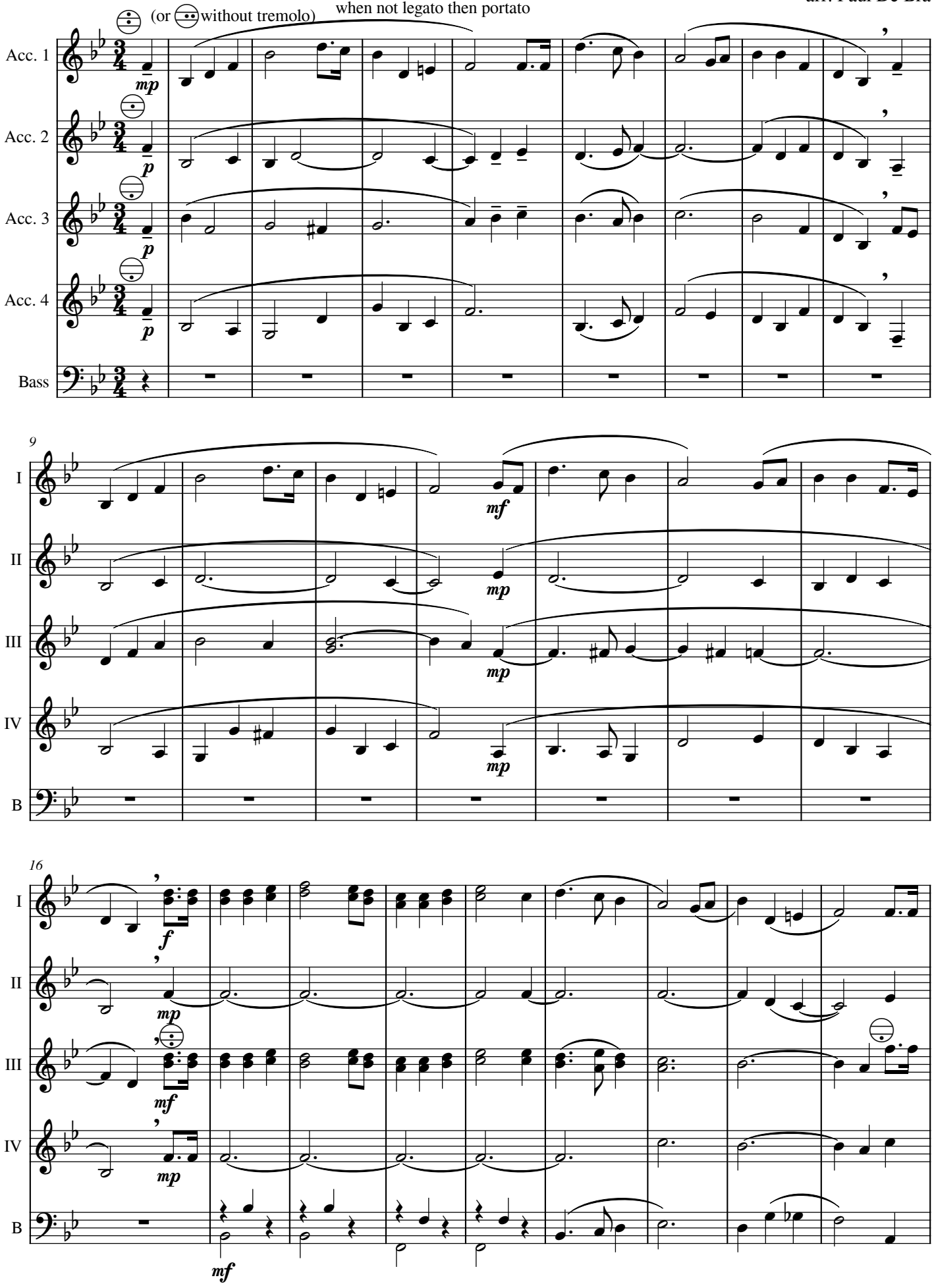
Concert Variations on The Star-Spangled Banner

Dudley Buck
arr. Paul De Bra

Theme **Andante** ♩ = ca. 90

(or without tremolo) when not legato then portato



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poco rit. ad lib

25

I
II
III
IV
B

ff *mp* *p* *p* *p* *p*

Var. I

a tempo 33

mf *mp* *p* *mp* *mp*

38

1. 2.

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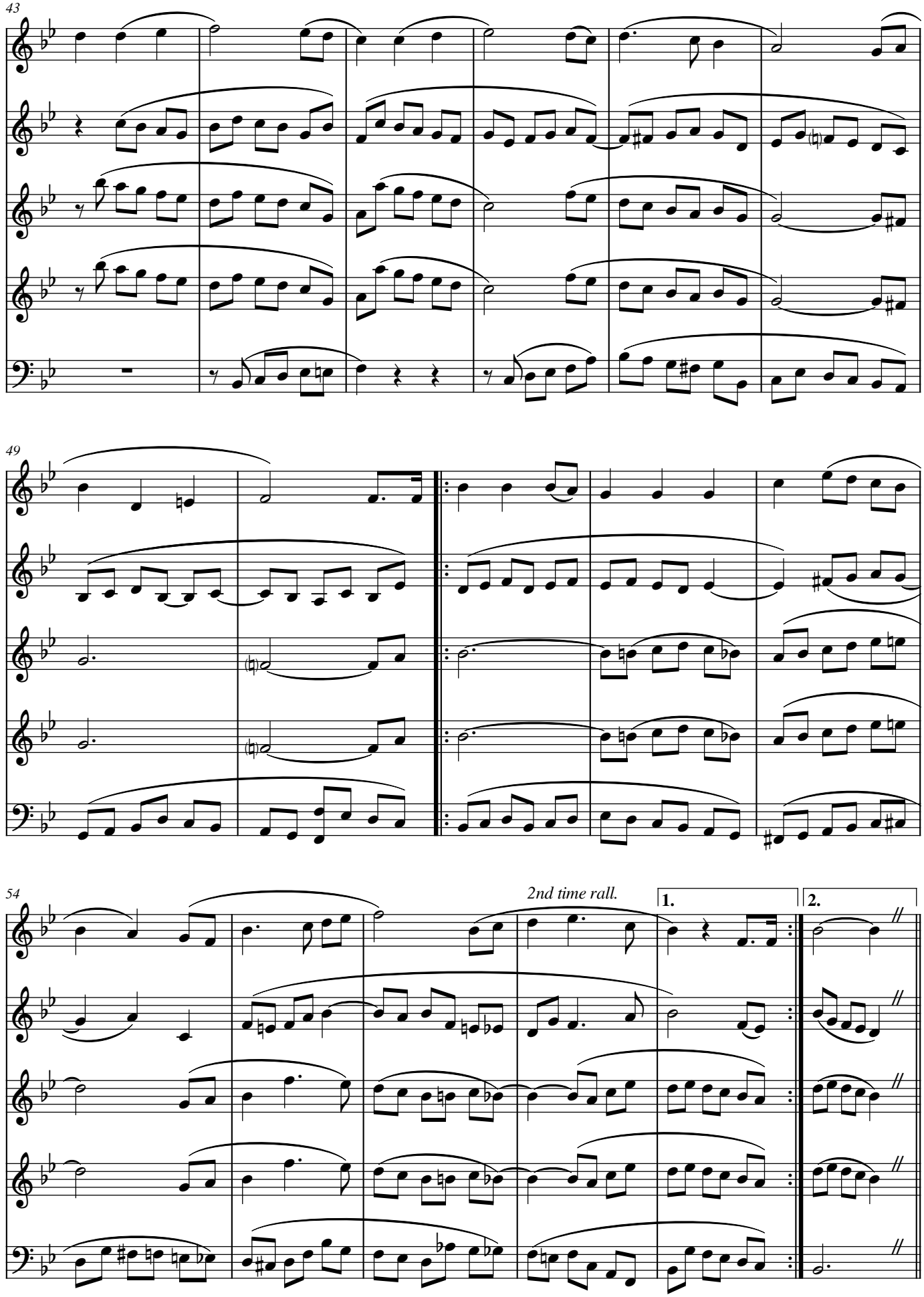

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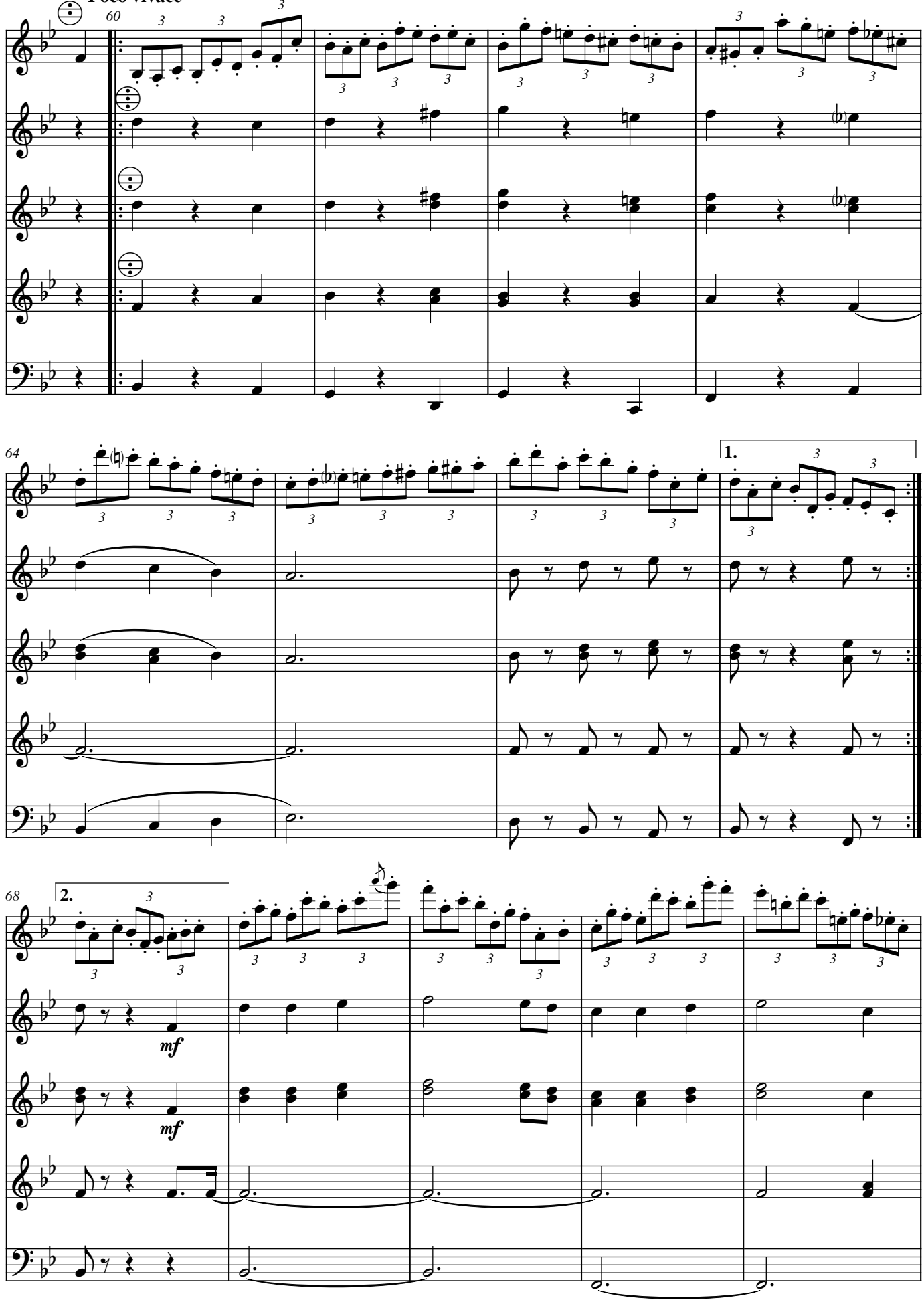

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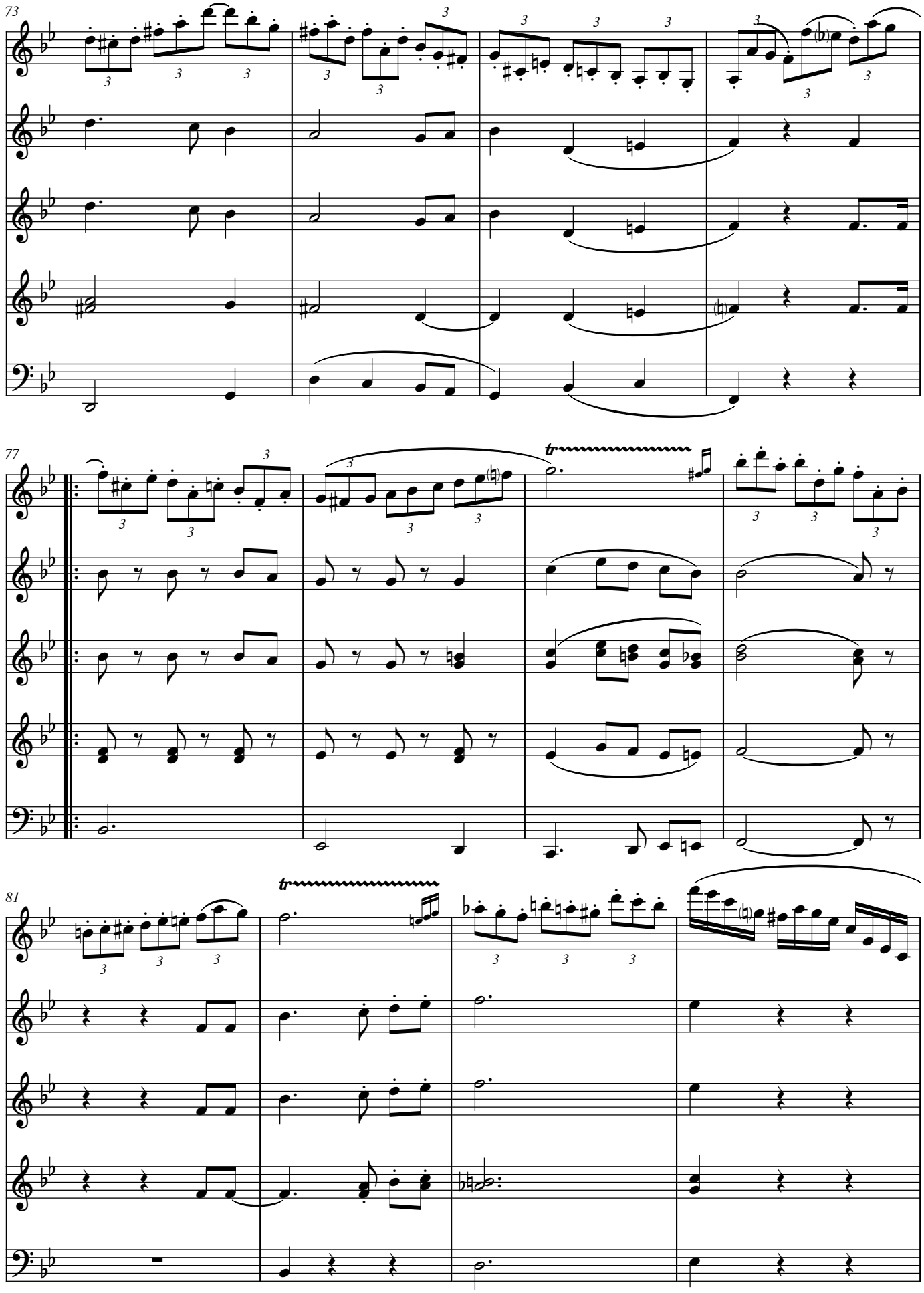

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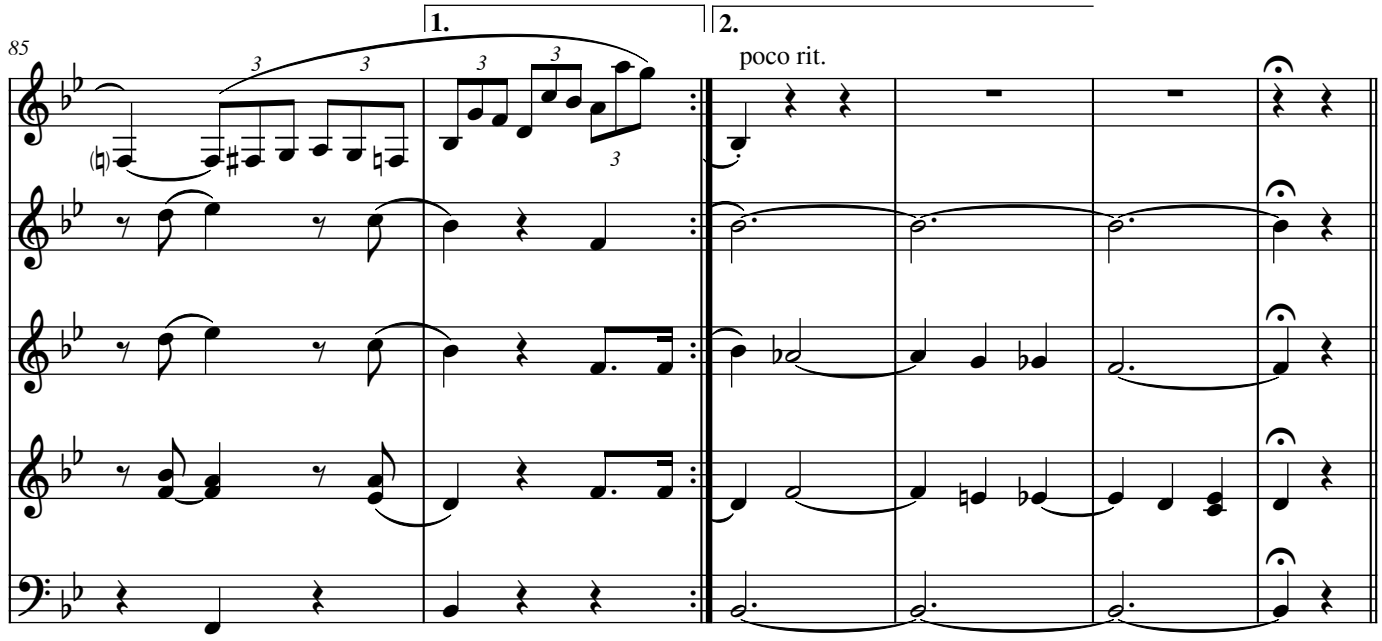
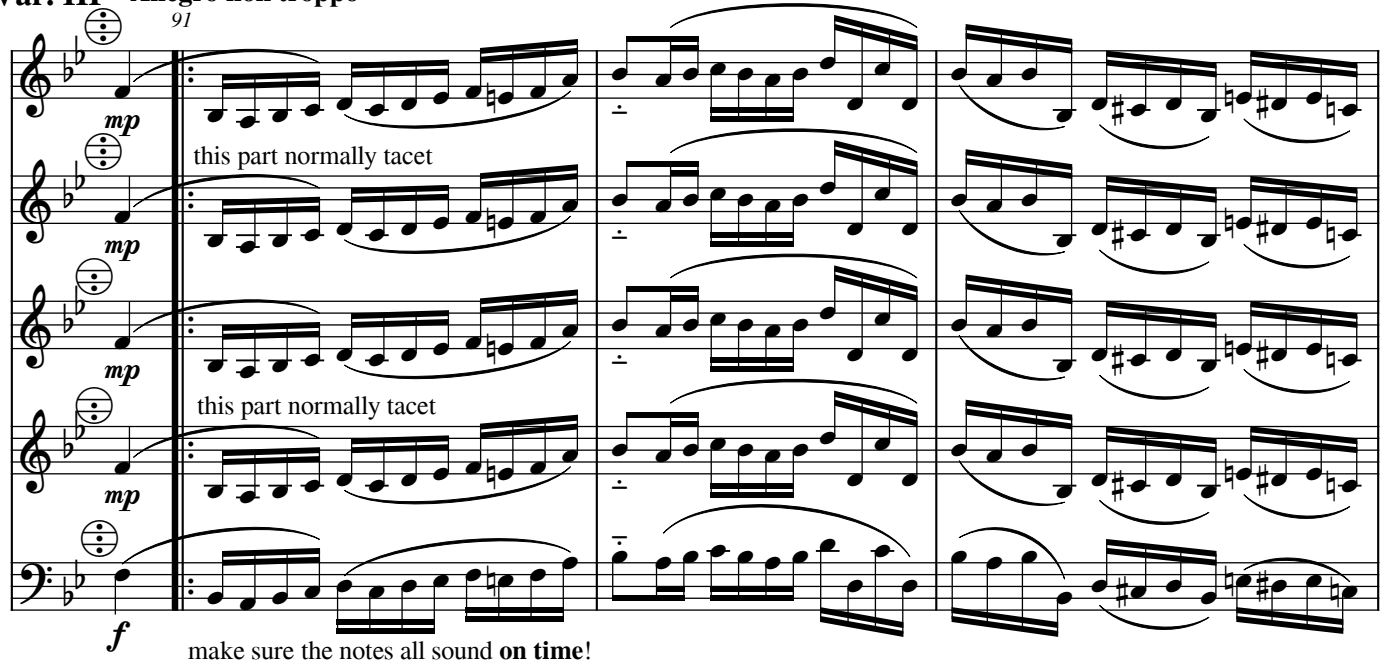
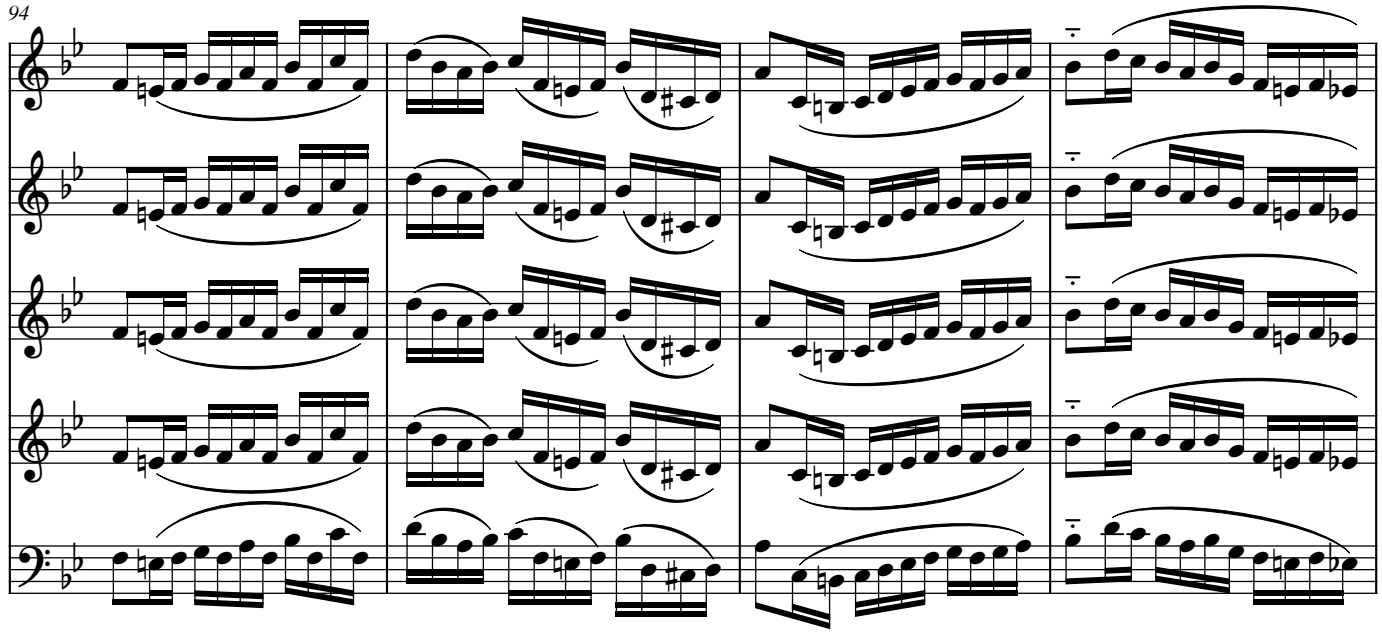


Var. III **Allegro non troppo**

You may choose which 2 voices other than the bass play this part (depending on skill levels).





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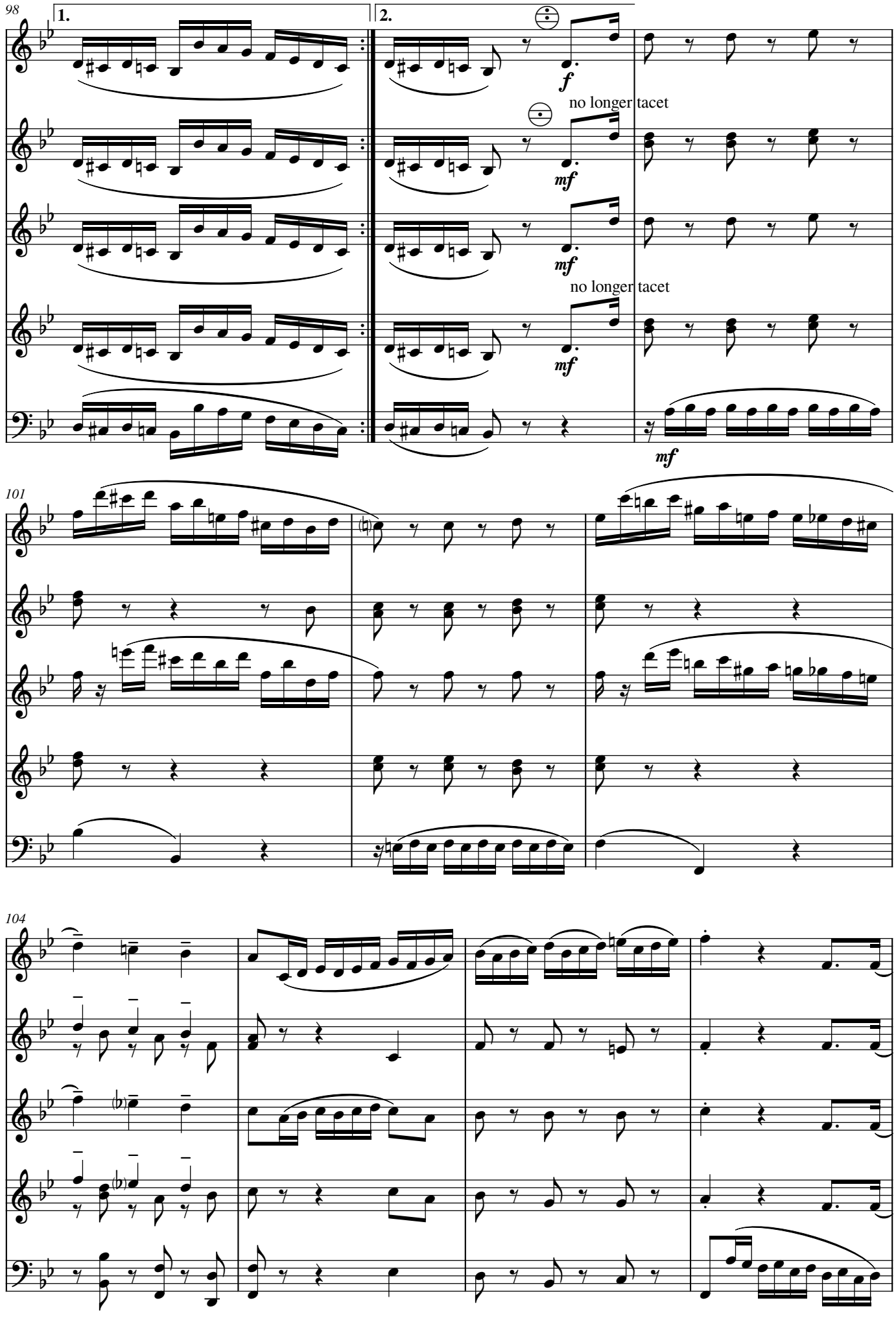

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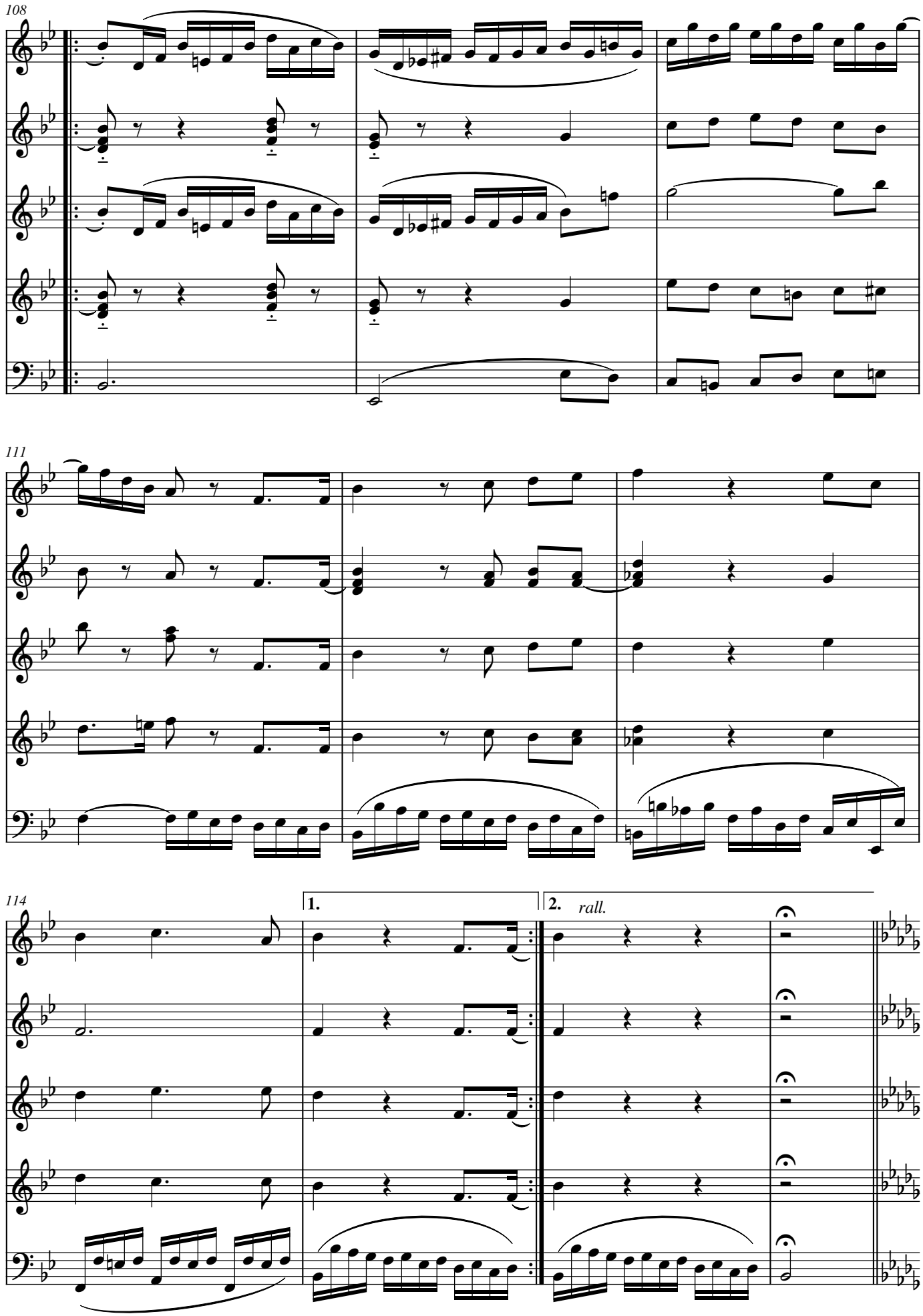

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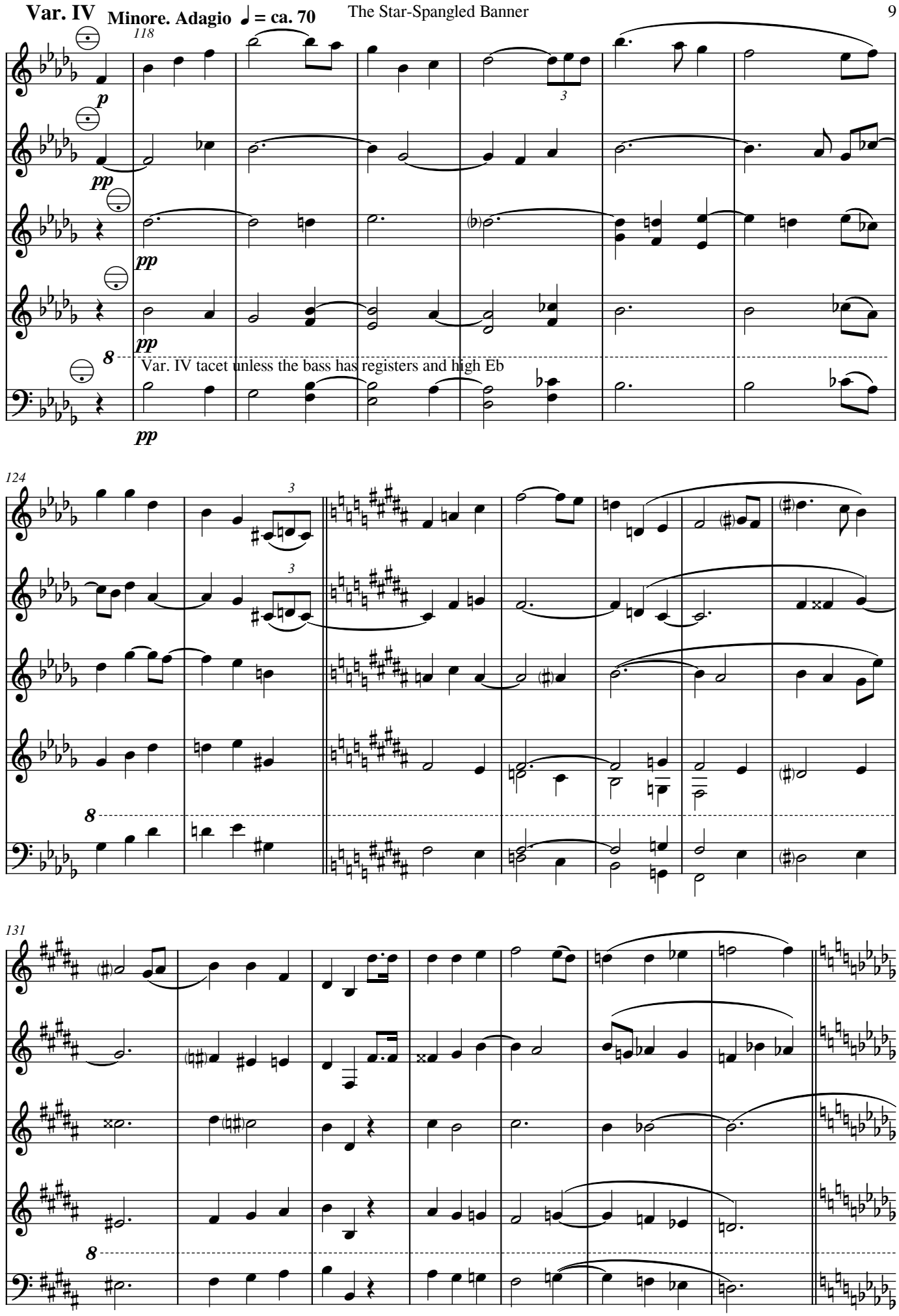

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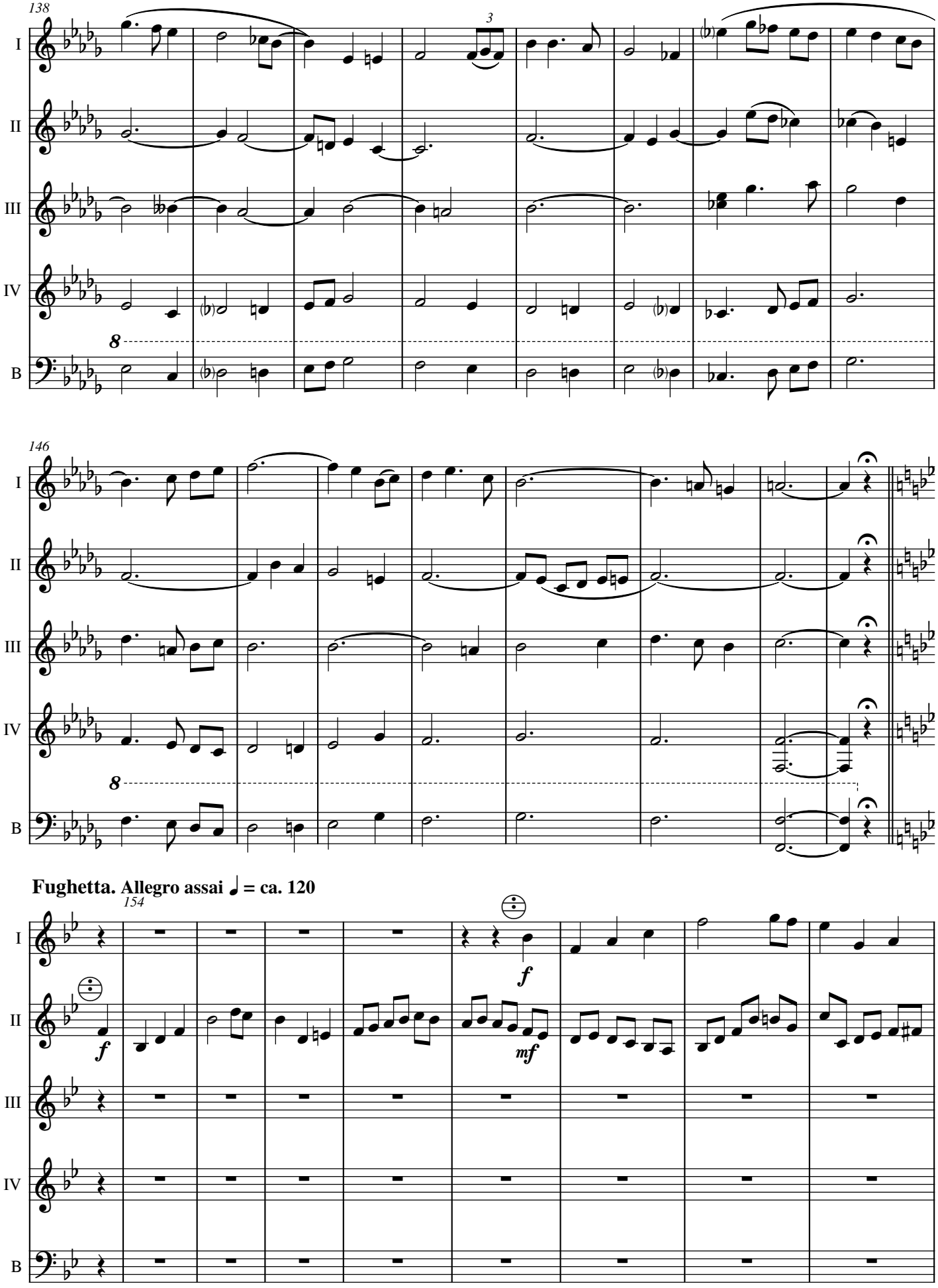

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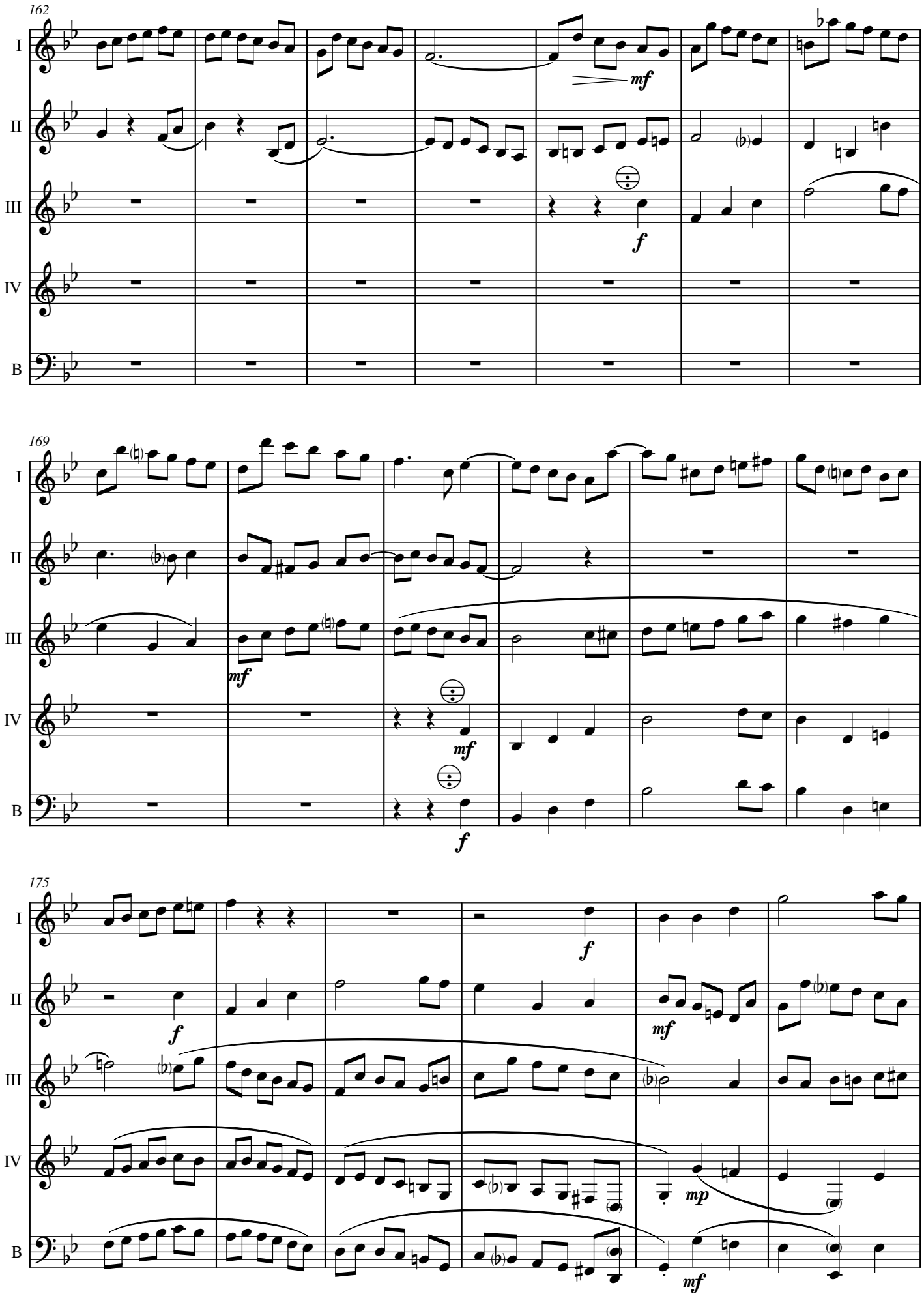

Play notes in parentheses when 4rd voice uses small accordions.

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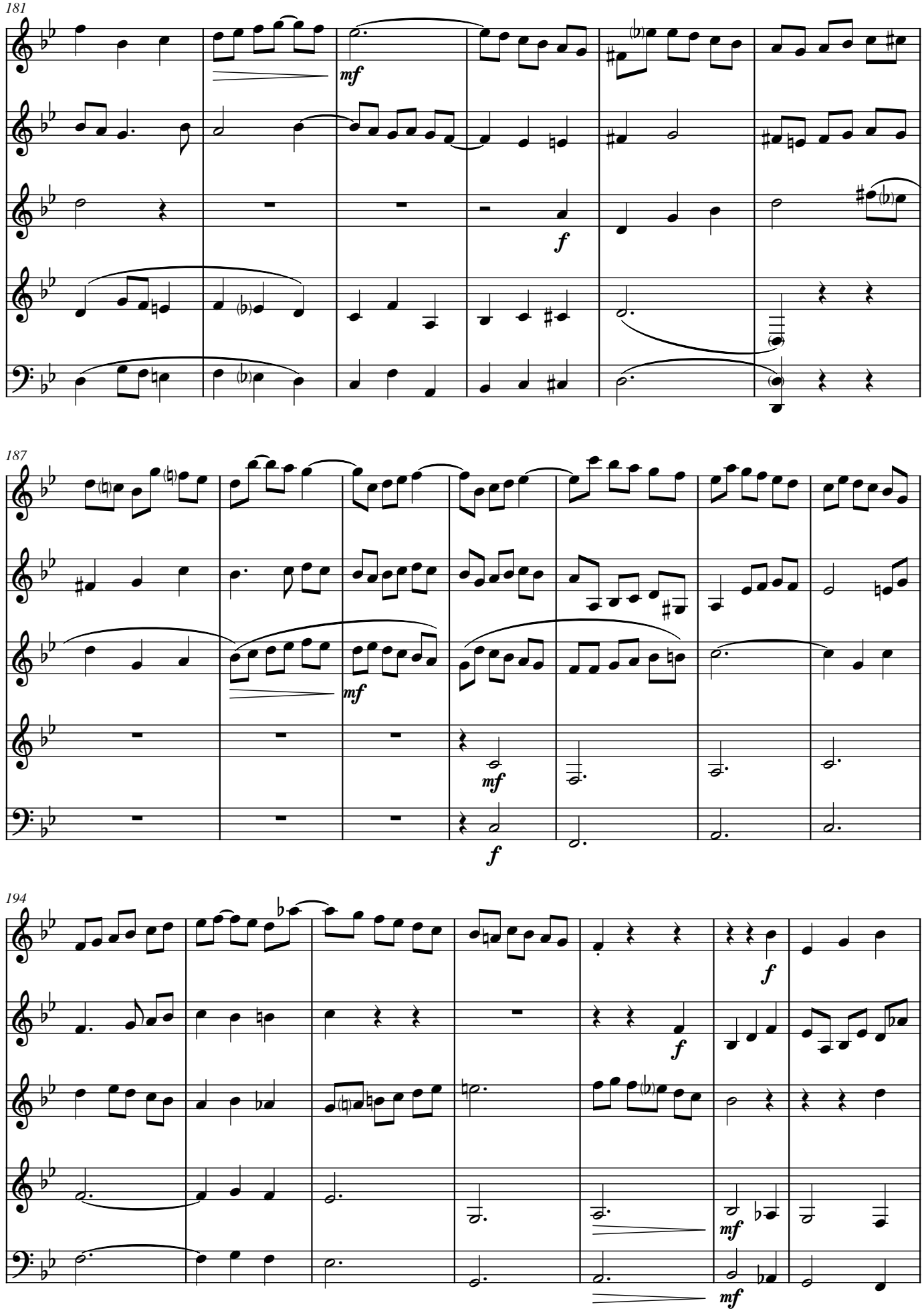

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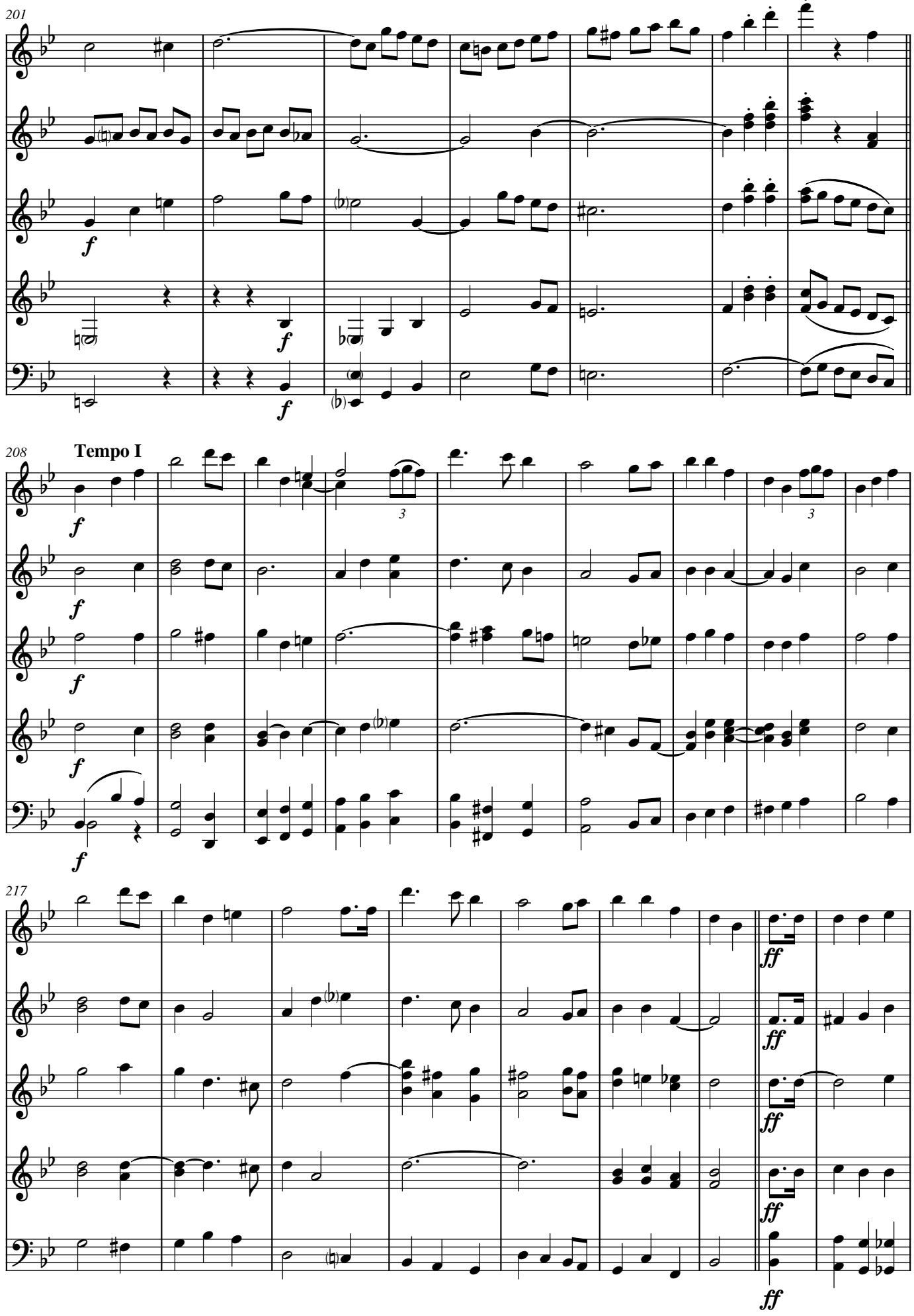

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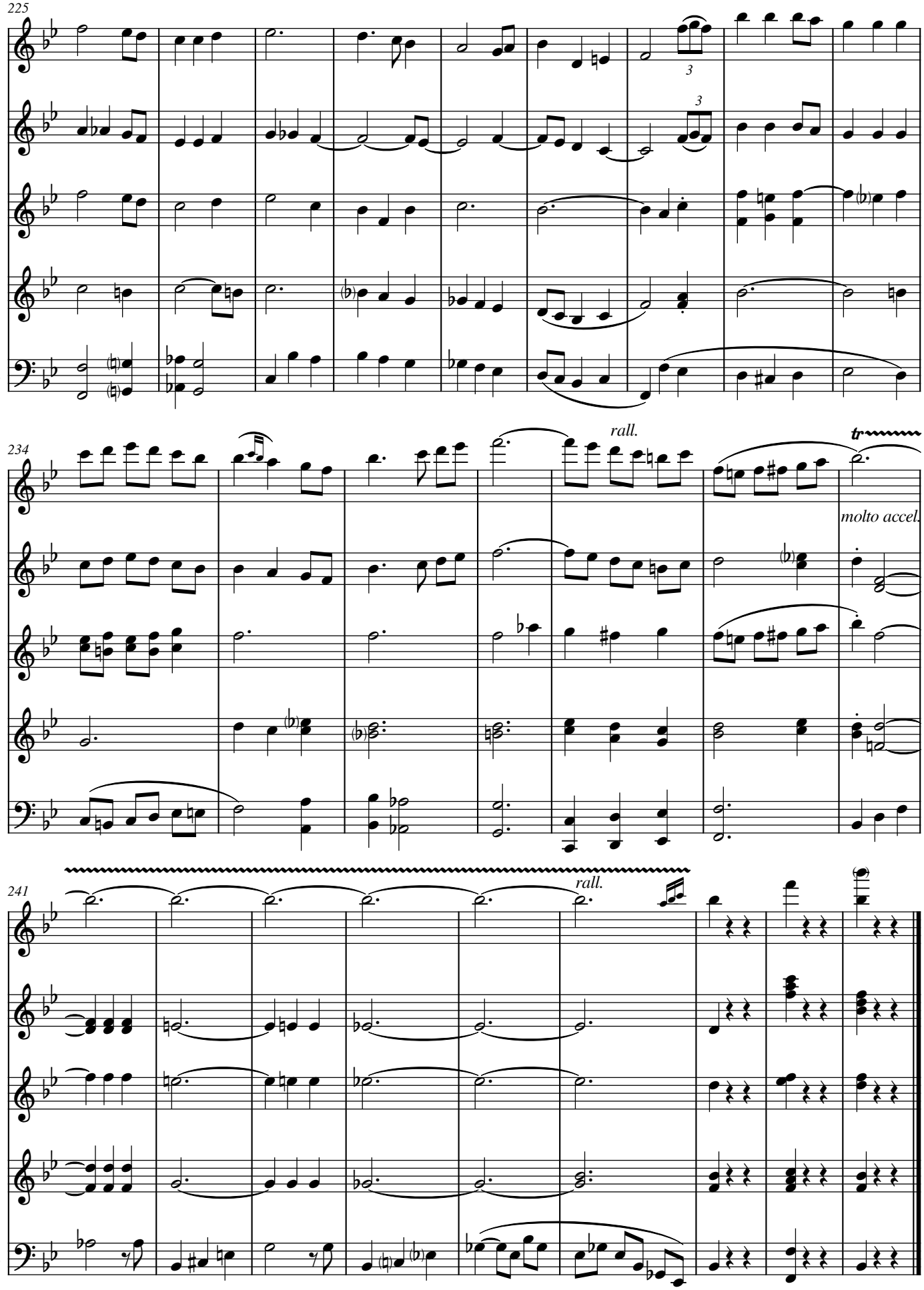

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For more arrangements, check out www.de-bra.nl/arrangements.html
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