Foreword

Being a grandfather has many benefits, but one of the sweetest has been to rediscover Christmas through the eyes of my grandchildren. Seeing their faces light up when they first see the Christmas tree, or watching their anticipation as presents are handed 'round the family circle, are heart-warming experiences. But most special of all is hearing them tell the Christmas story in their own words, and being reminded of what it means to have the faith of a child.

For me, what most strongly brings back the child-like feeling in my own heart is the *music* of Christmas. The melodies and simple words draw me away from the busy routines of life, and for a few moments, take me back to the time when I first learned the story of the Christ-child. I hope that these arrangements will bring joy to your Christmas season, and that you will share them with others who need to hear the message of the angels once again.

I dedicate this book to those four marvelous little people: Emily, Katie, Topher, and Luke.

—Larry Shackley

About the Arranger

Larry Shackley is a full-time composer and music editor from Columbia, South Carolina. From 1995-2007, he taught and directed the music program at Columbia International University in Columbia, South Carolina. Prior to that, he worked for several years at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, creating original music and producing radio programs for the Moody Broadcasting Network. He served as staff keyboardist for ten years at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Illinois. Larry's published music includes over 250 choral pieces, twelve cantatas, and 450 keyboard arrangements, as well as vocal and instrumental collections and numerous orchestrations. He has received writing awards from ASCAP every year since 1998, and has fulfilled commissions from churches, schools, and community choirs across America. He currently works as a choral and keyboard editor for The Lorenz Corporation in Dayton Ohio, and edits their magazine *Keyboard Worship and Praise.*

Larry and his wife, Joni, have four children: Stephanie, Andy, Laurel, and Geoffrey; and four grandchildren: Emily, Katie, Topher and Luke.

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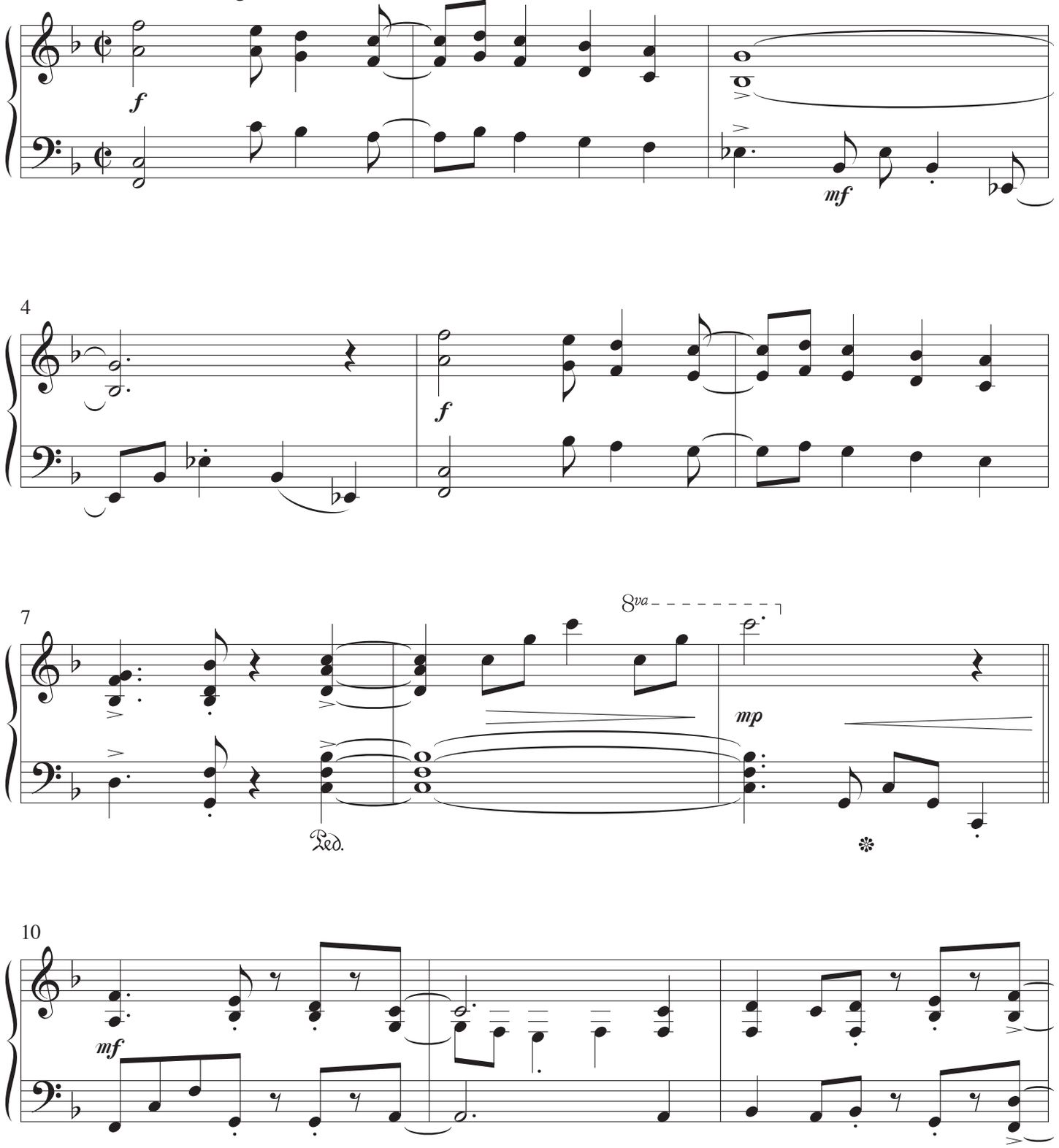
How Great Our Joy!

Traditional German Melody
Arr. by Larry Shackley

With a Latin groove ♩ = ca. 80



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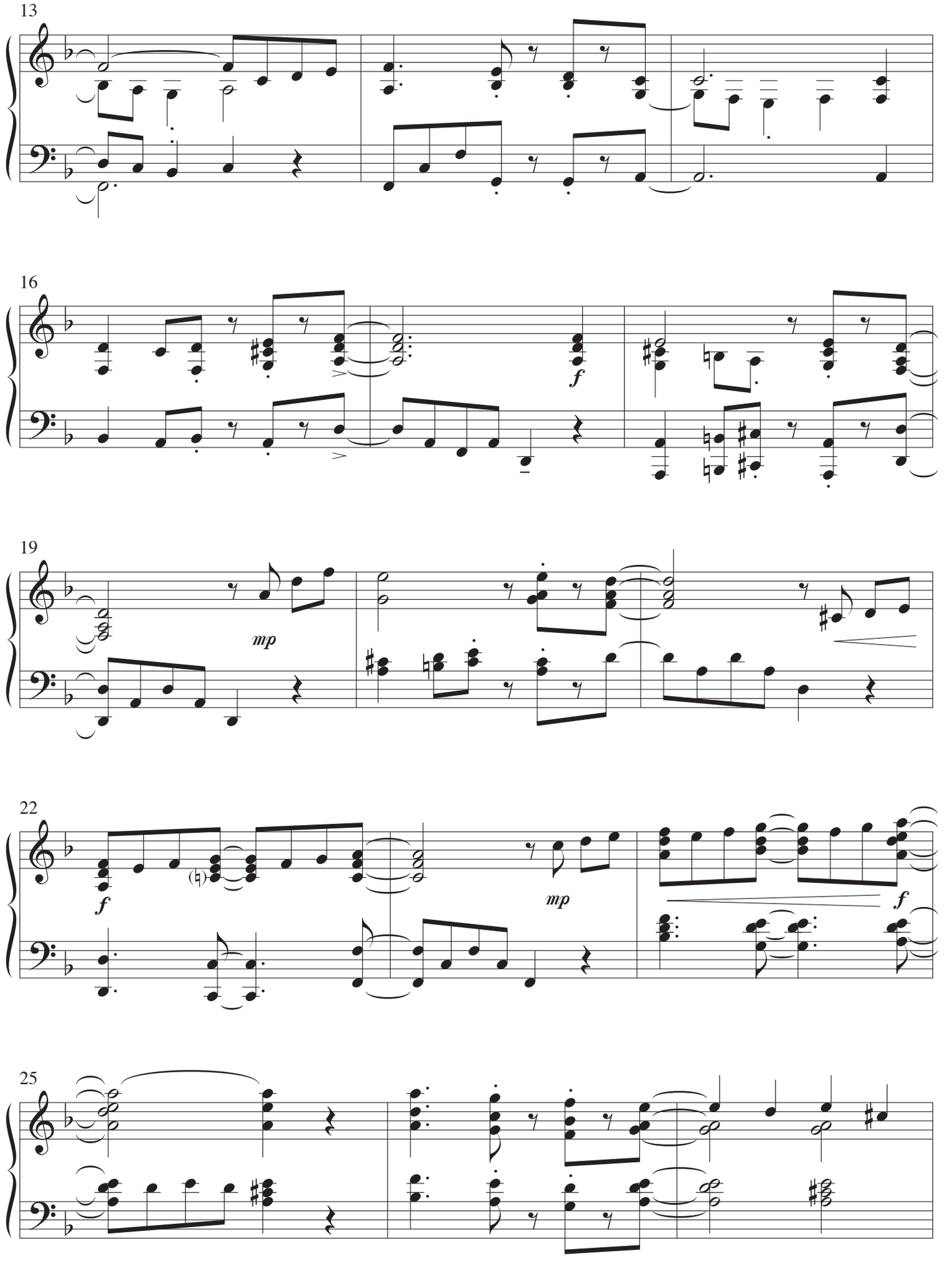
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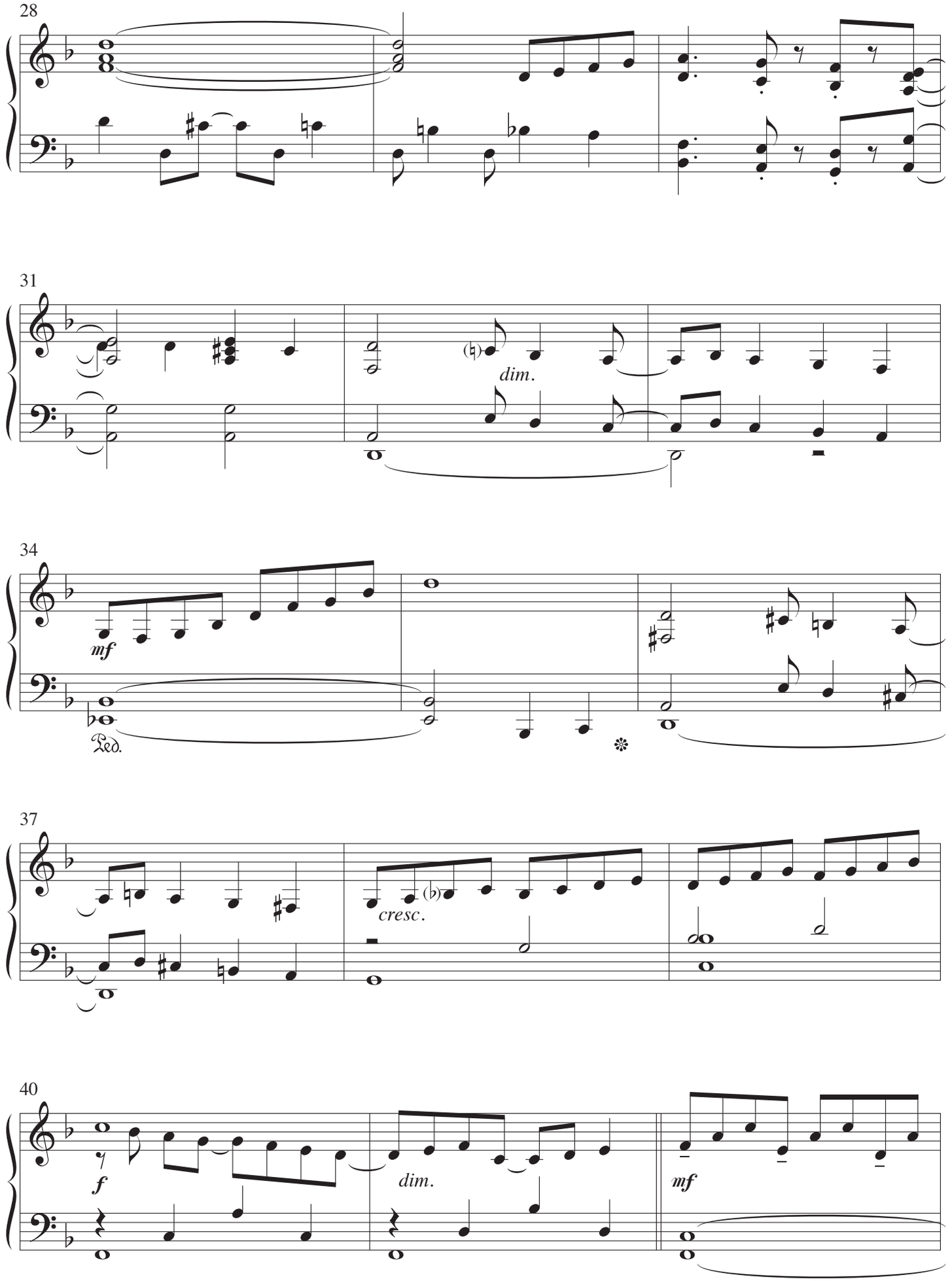
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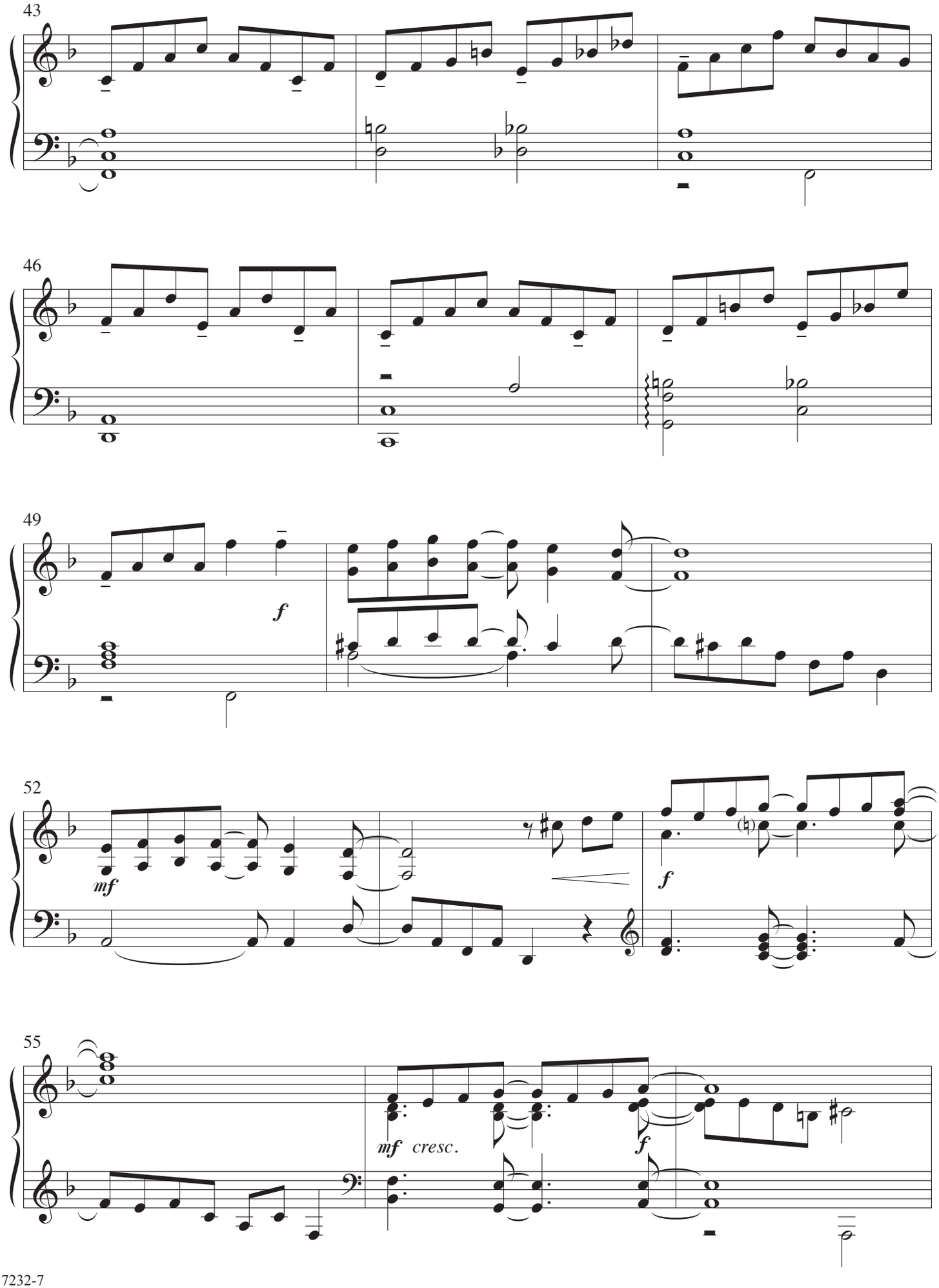
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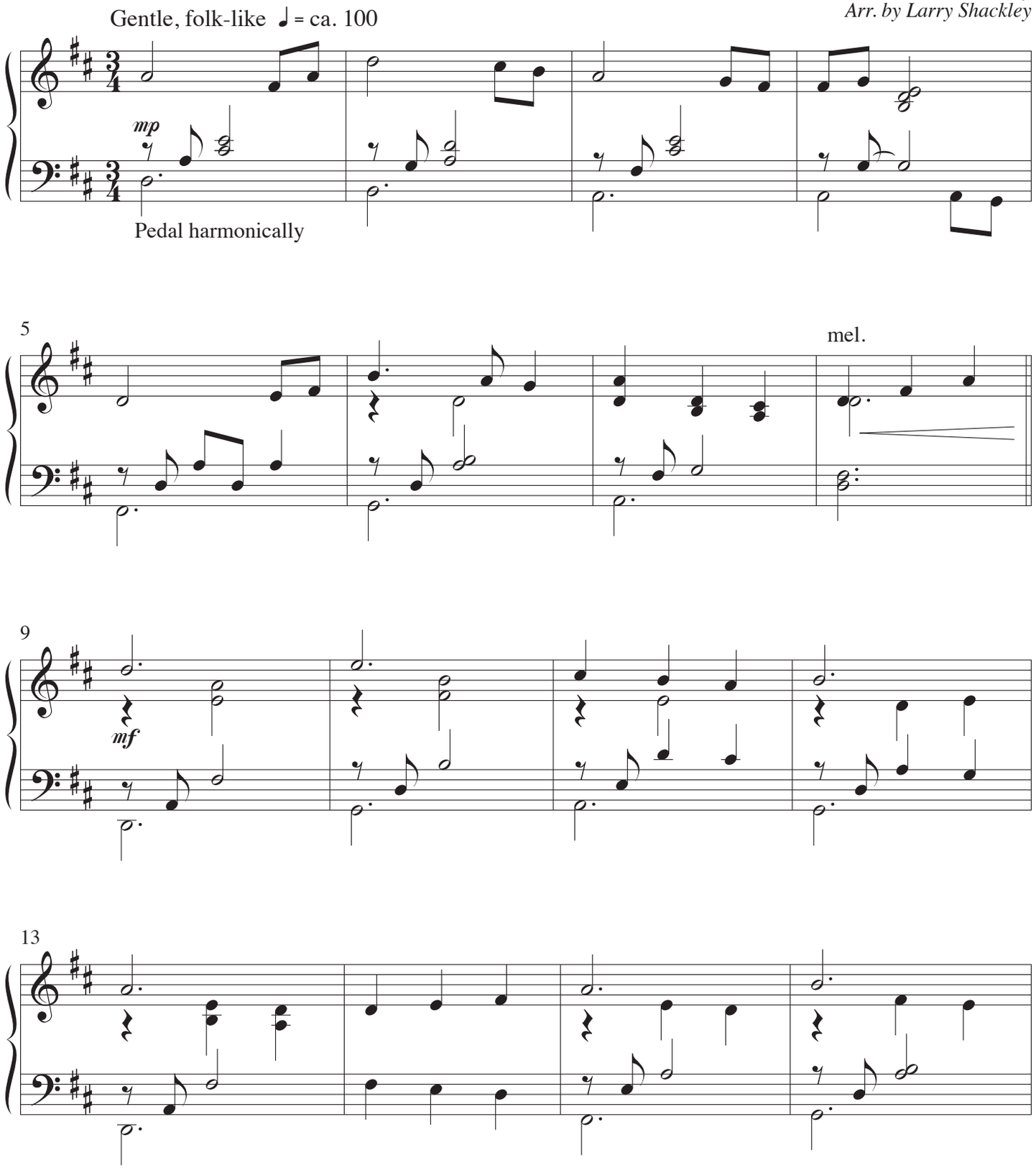
Child in the Manger

with

Away in a Manger

Traditional Gaelic Melody
Arr. by Larry Shackley



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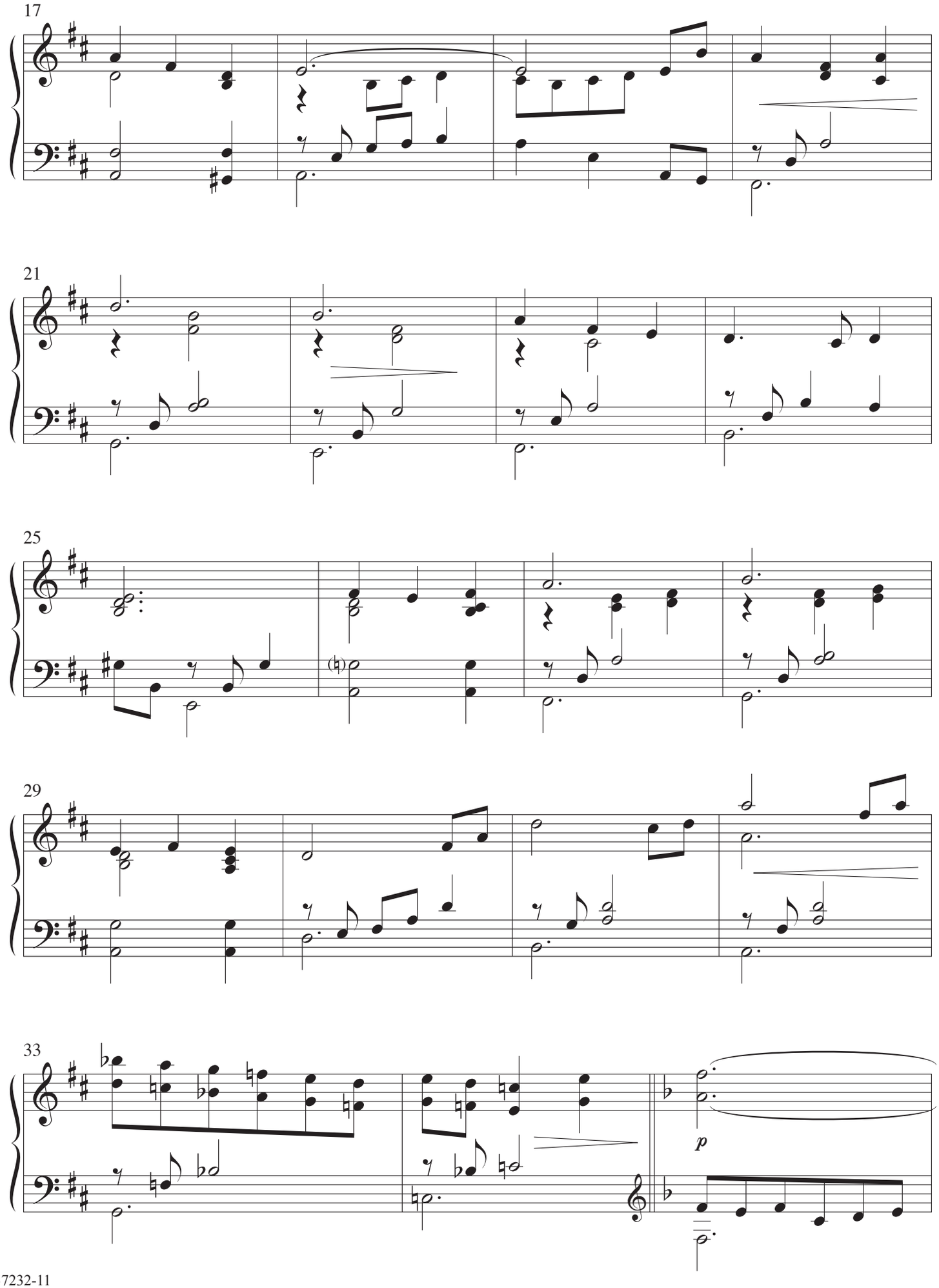
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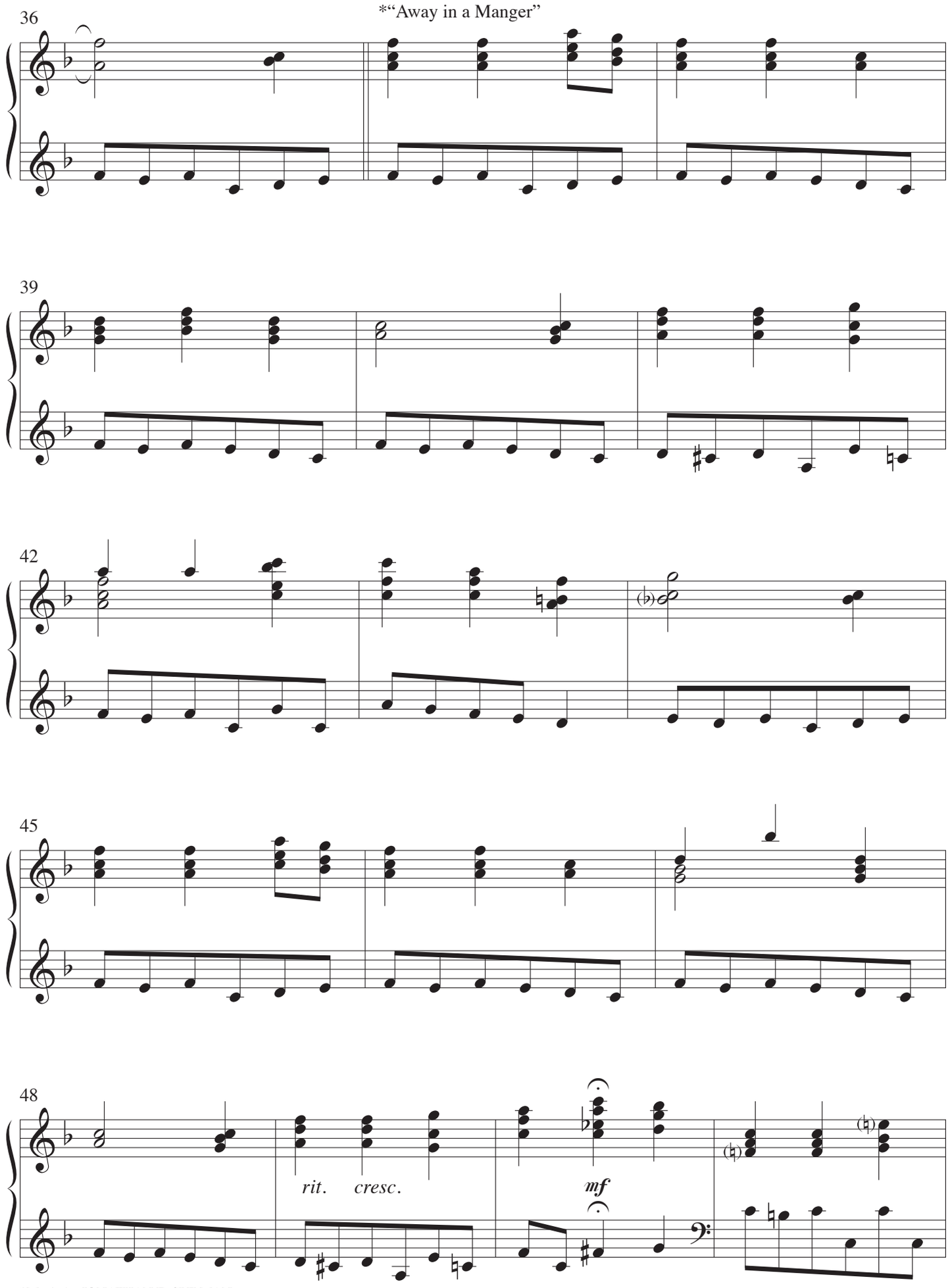
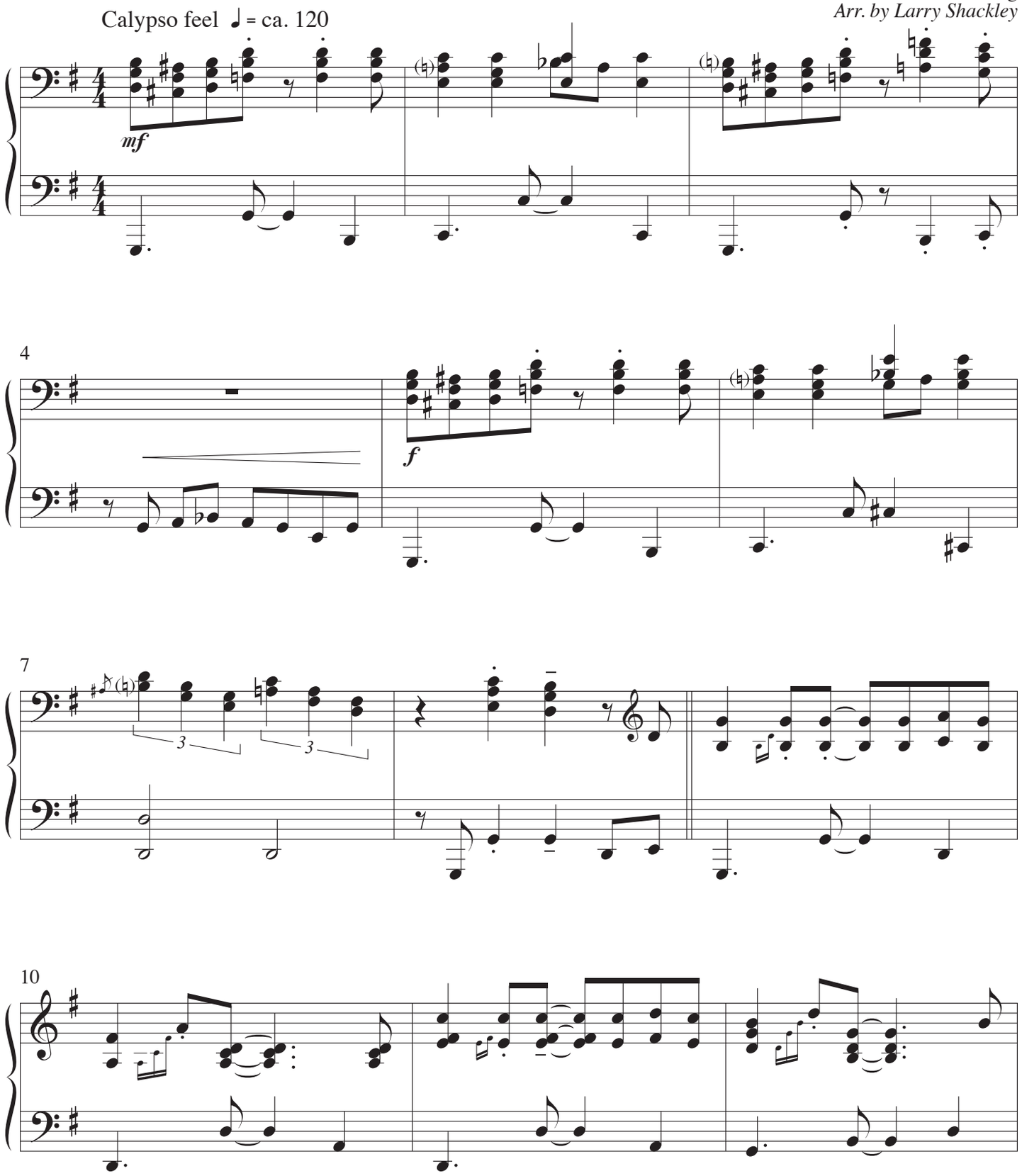


*Music by JONATHAN E. SPILMAN

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

West Indian Folk Song
Arr. by Larry Shackley



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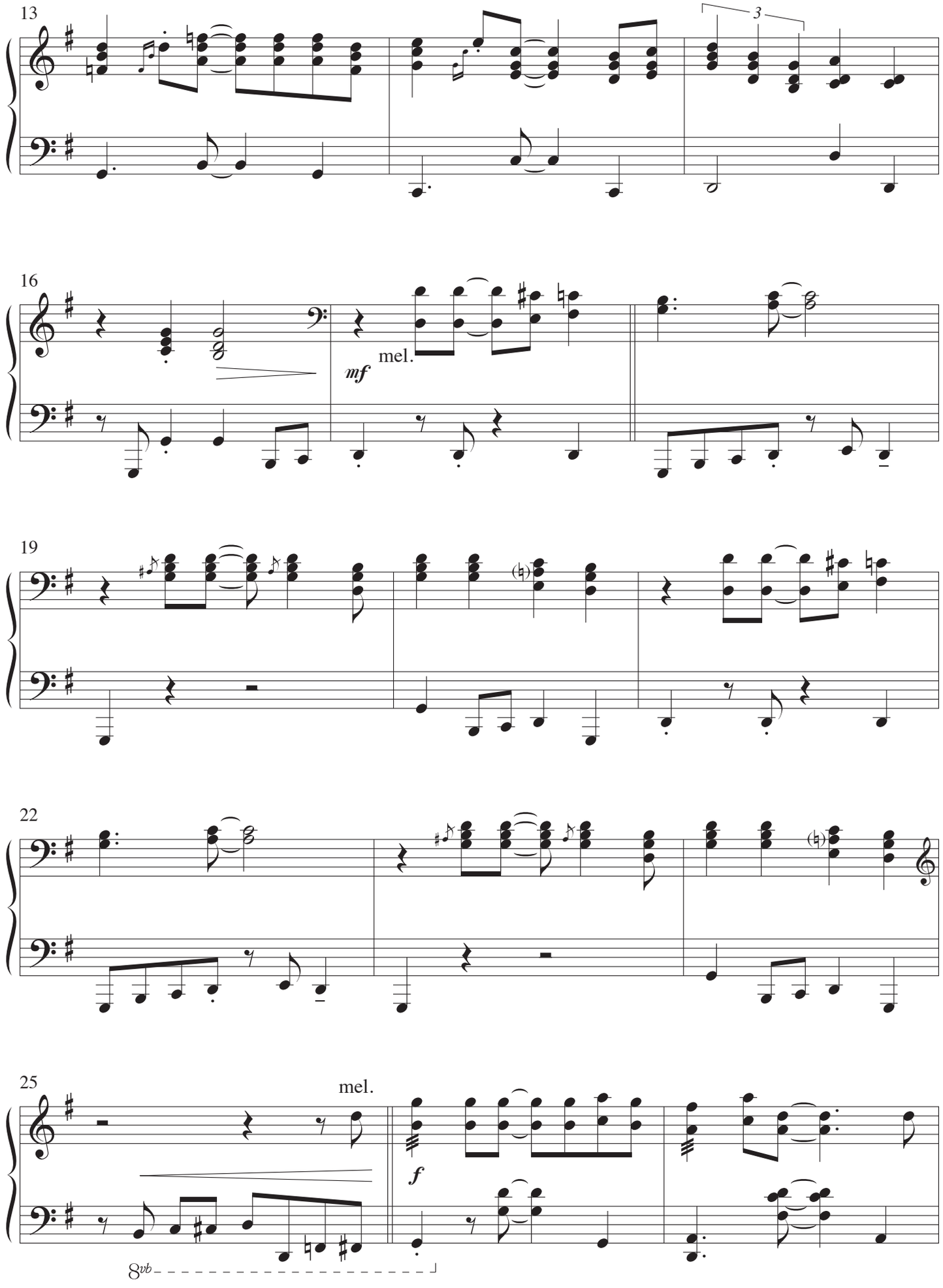
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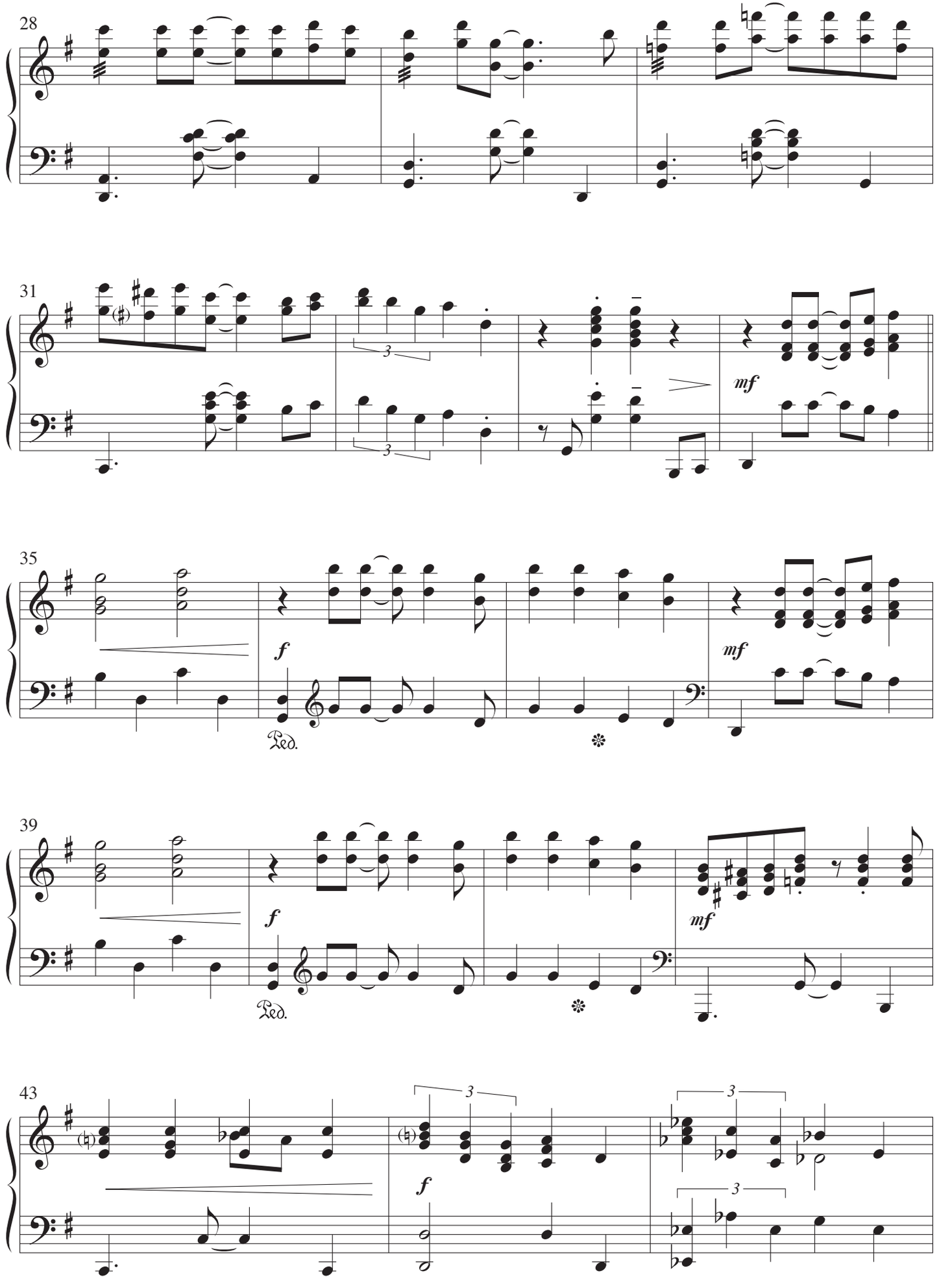
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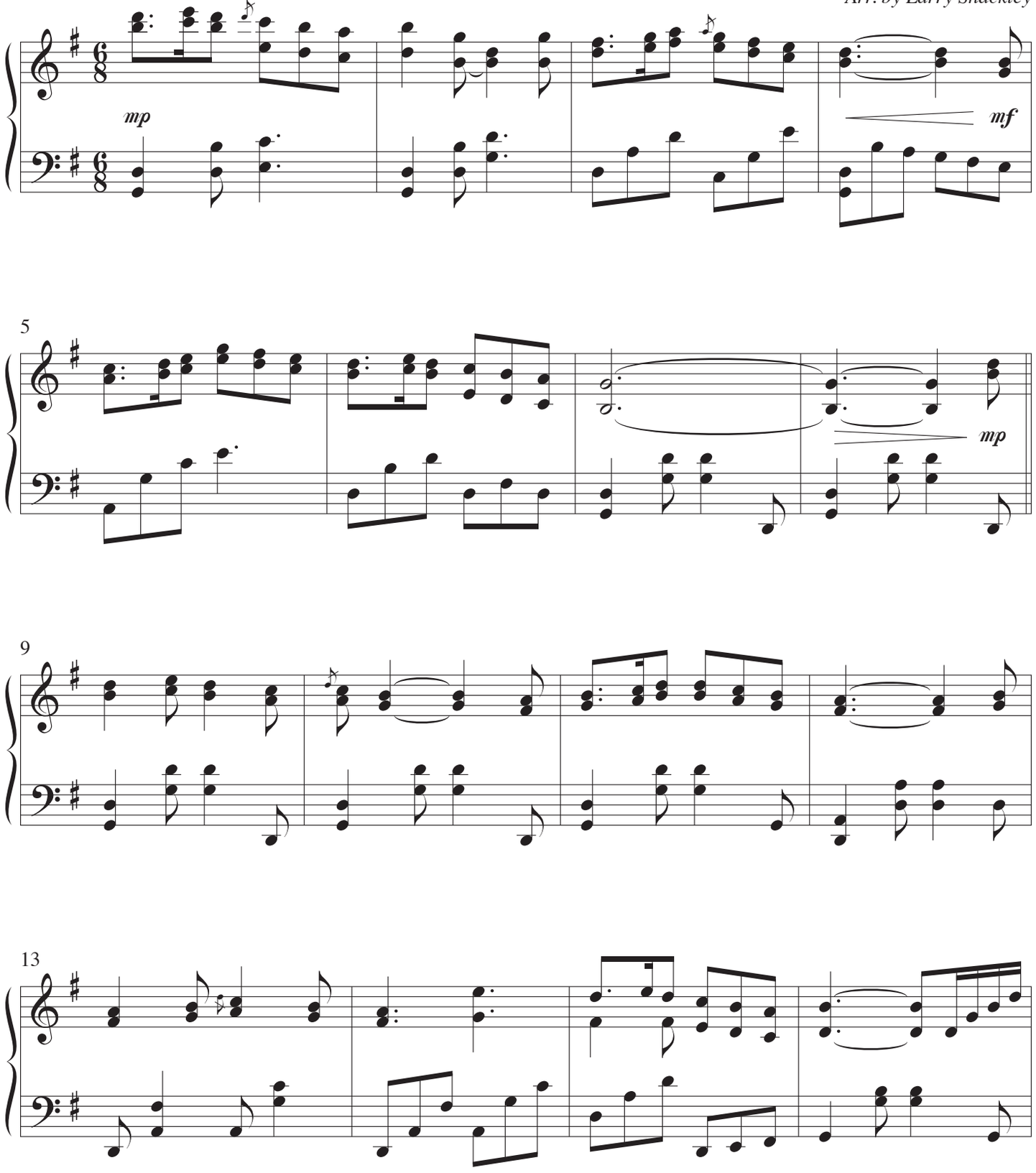
The Moon and Stars Were Shining

Gentle, folk-like ♩. = ca. 60

ALFONSO MARIA DE'LIGUORI
Arr. by Larry Shackley



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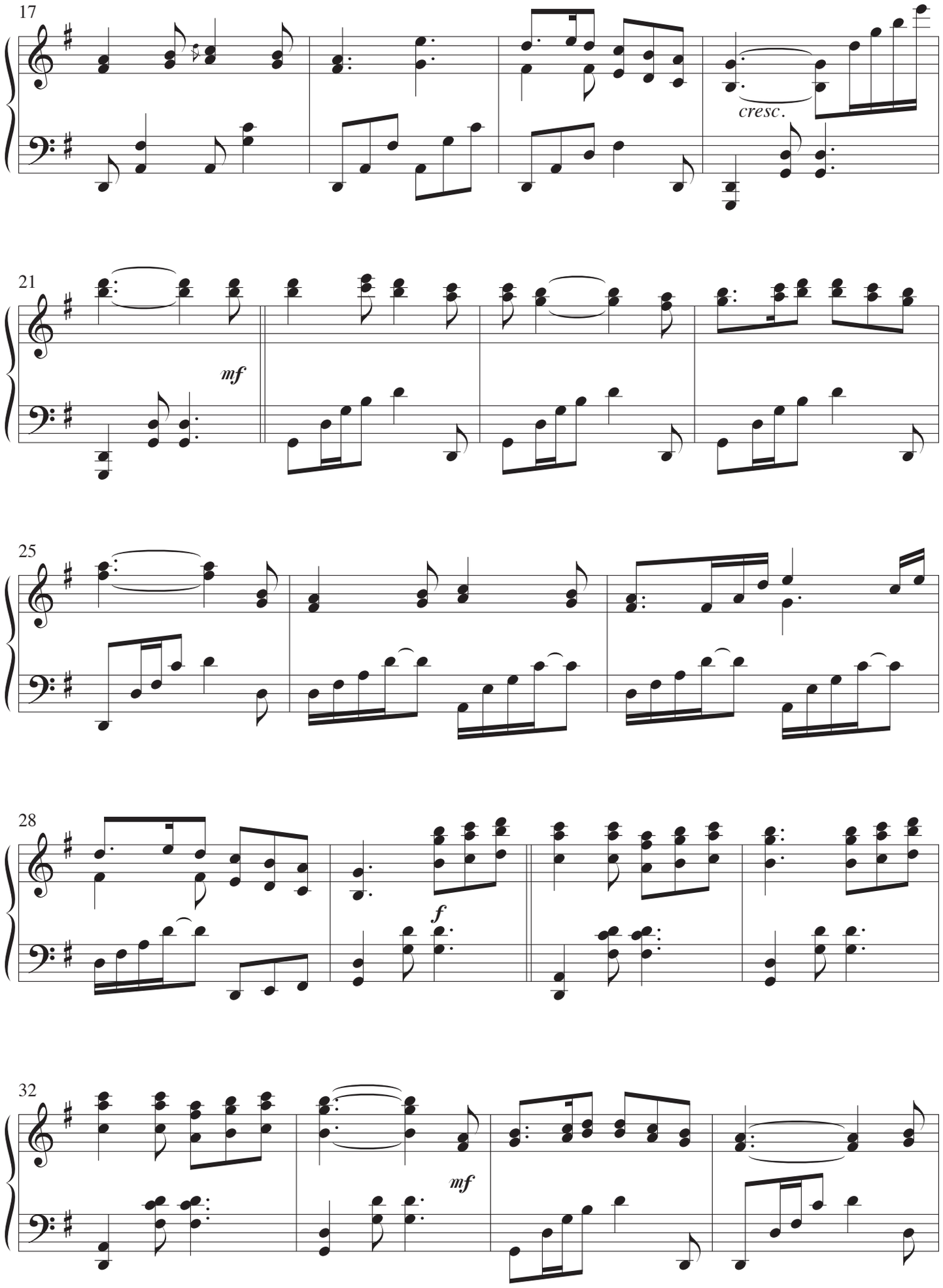
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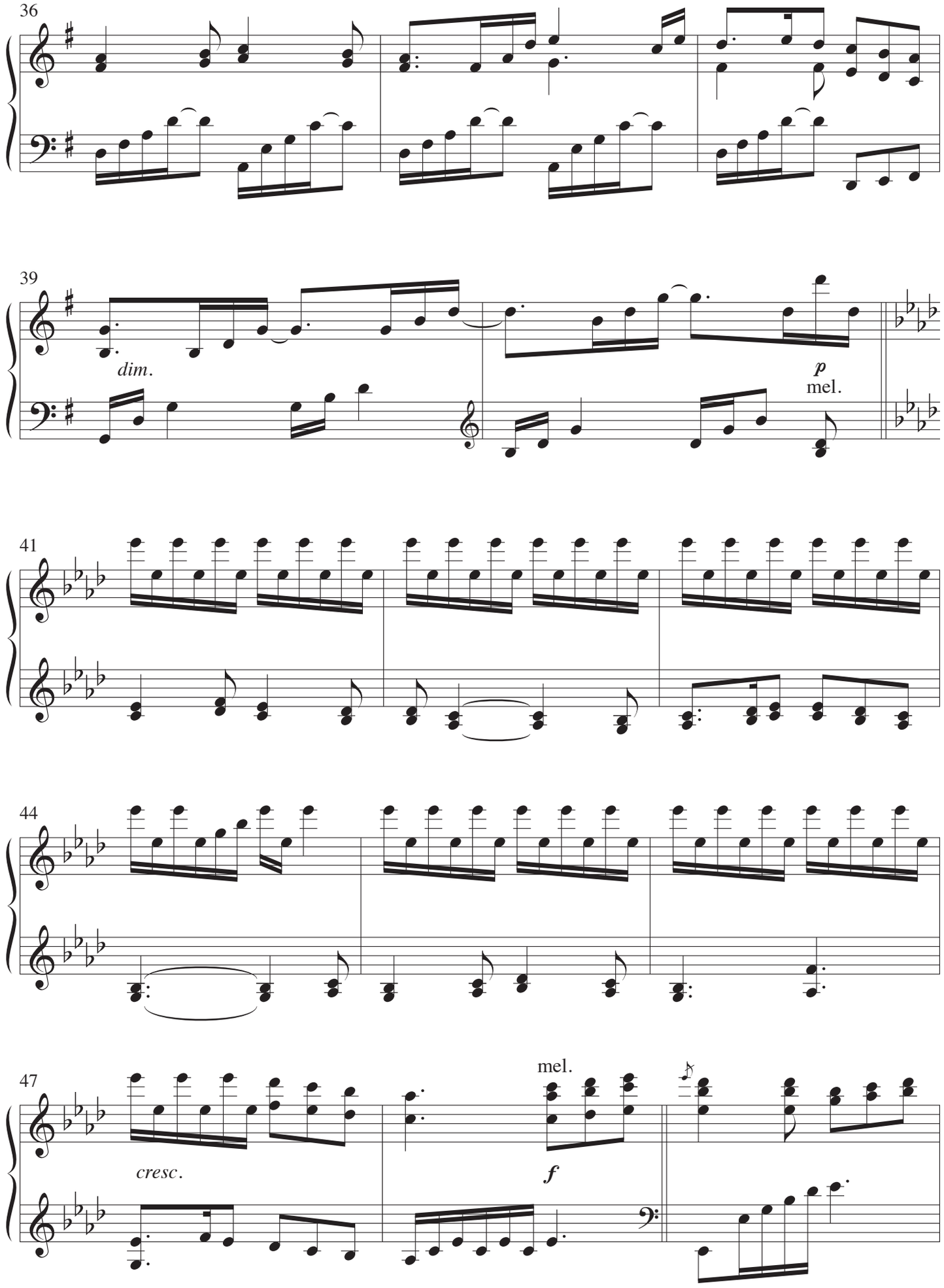
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