Scott JOPLIN (1868-1917)

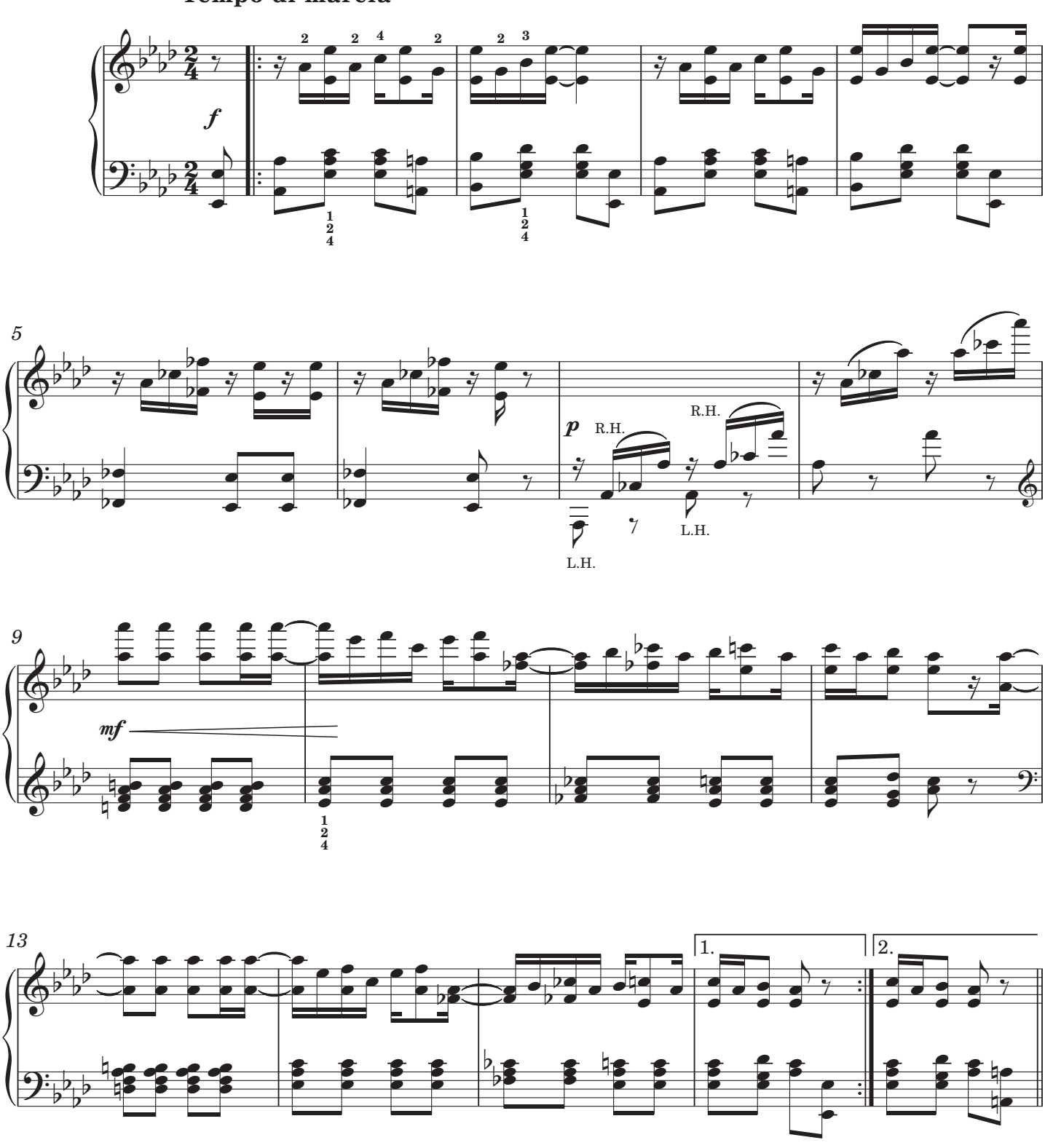
Maple Leaf Rag

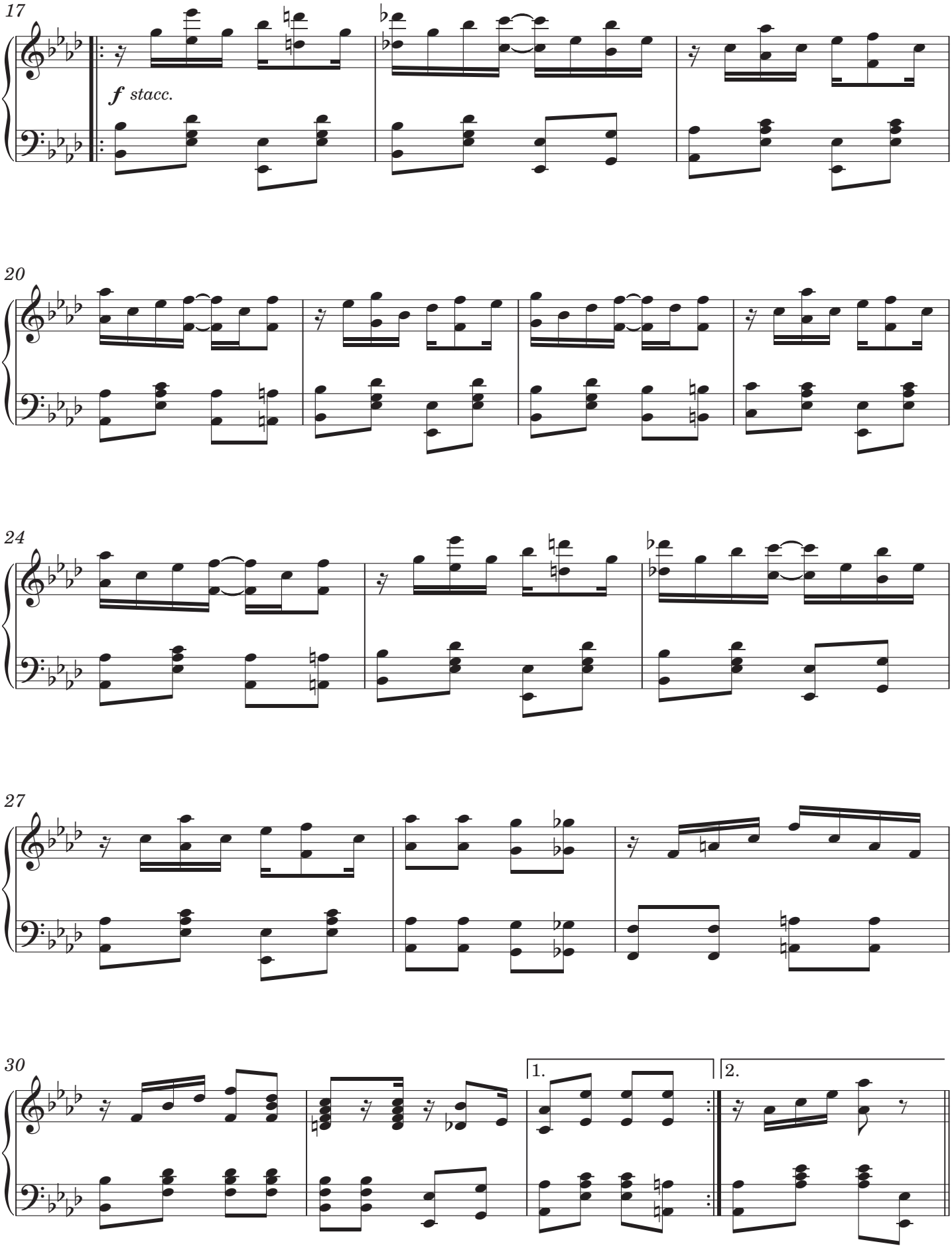
INTERMEDIATE

Nicknamed 'The King of Ragtime Writers', Joplin wrote ragtime's first most influential hit, *Maple Leaf Rag.* His genius wasn't fully appreciated until after his death; something he had actually predicted.

Playing tips: This famous piece is in typical ragtime style with its strict, march-like bass line and RH syncopated melody. The main hurdle here is being able to keep both hands relaxed (the wrists might tend to tighten). We suggest slow practice, keeping wrists supple. Try to learn hands separately, with the aim to play the LH 'blind' (that is, not looking down at the keys). Note that our pianist Chenyin plays with a more clipped, dotted rhythm. Listen to Joplin on YouTube, and he does the same.

Pedal tips: As you can see, there are no pedal markings. You might wish to add the odd dab here and there, but keep any pedal light and short.

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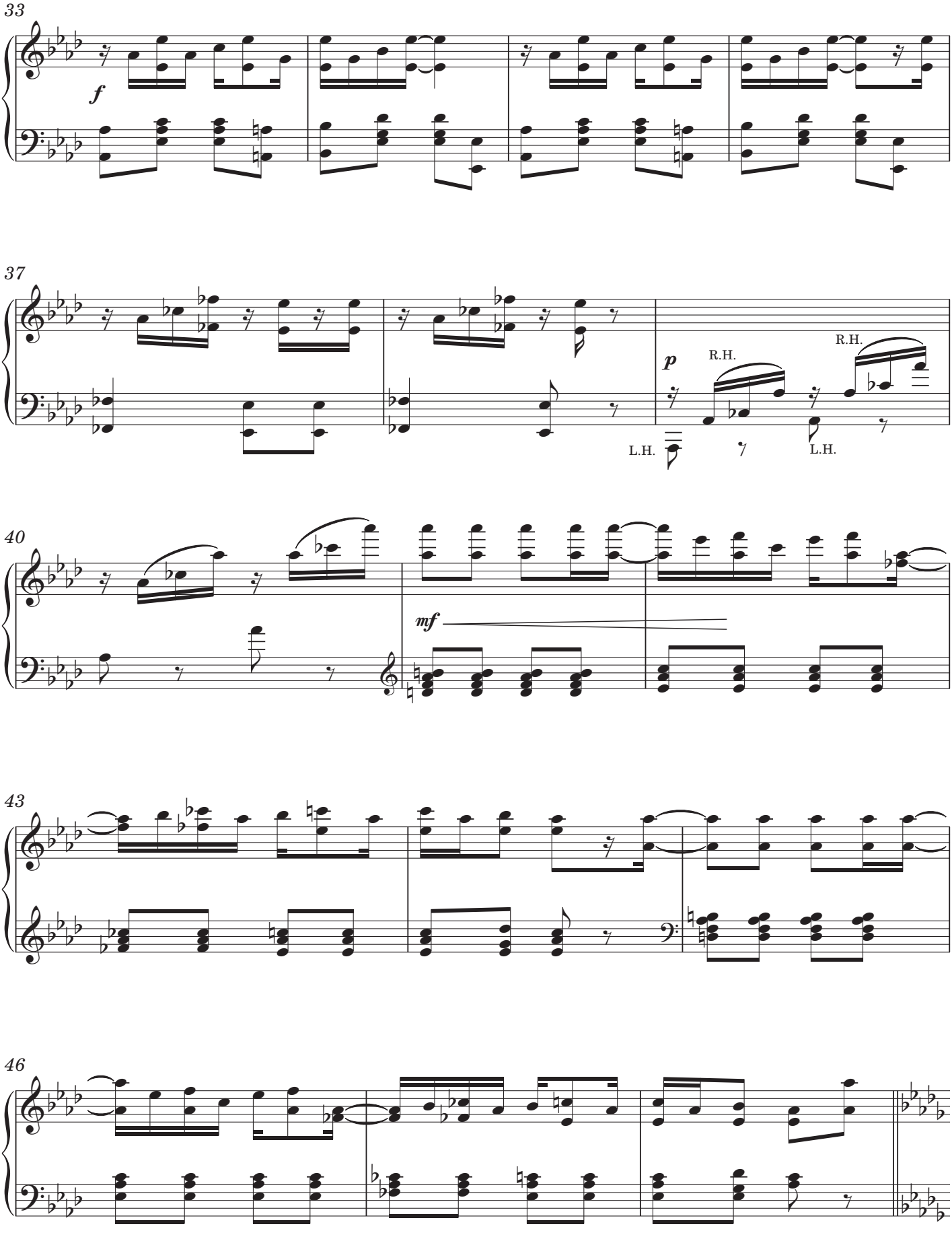
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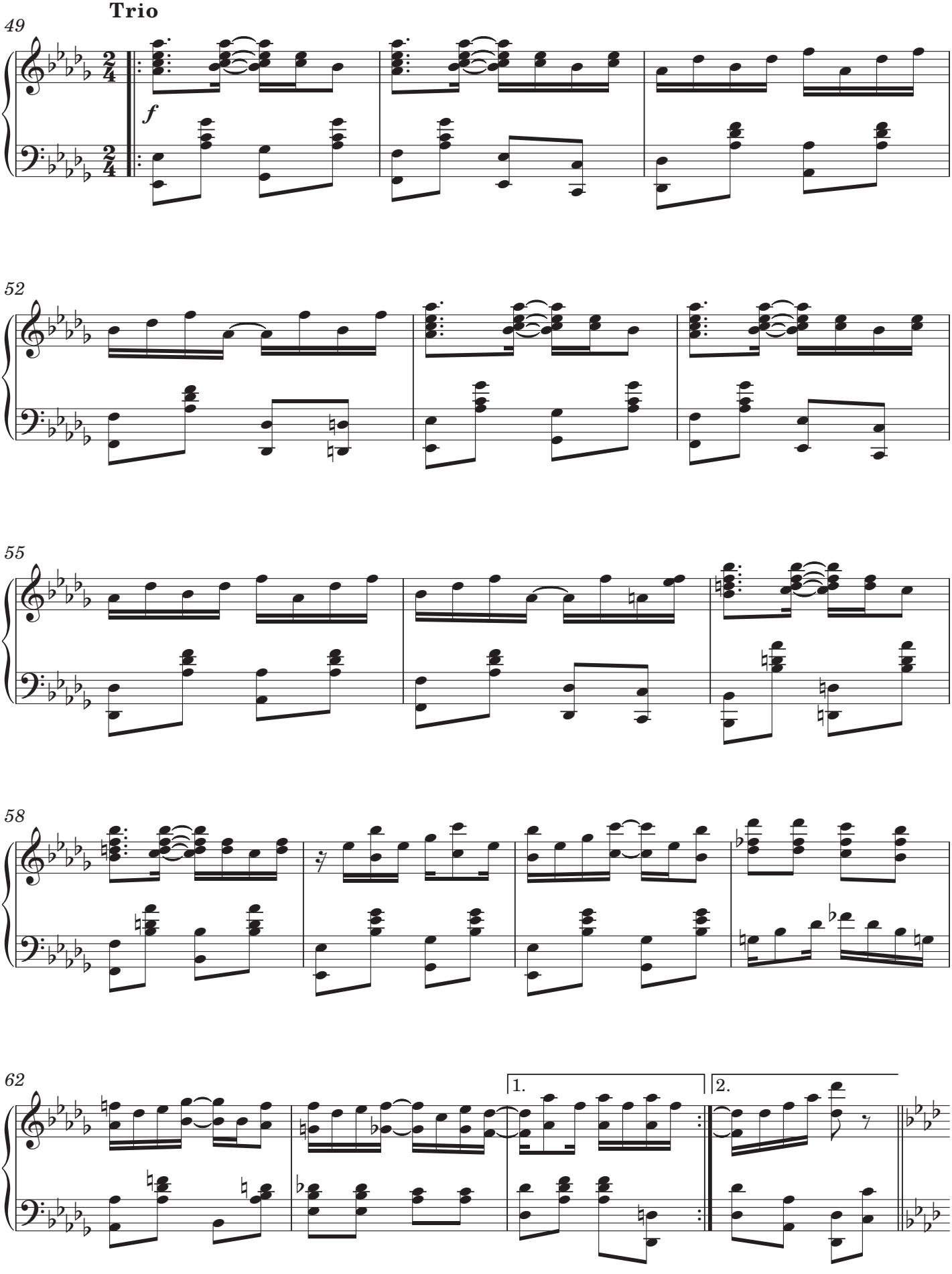
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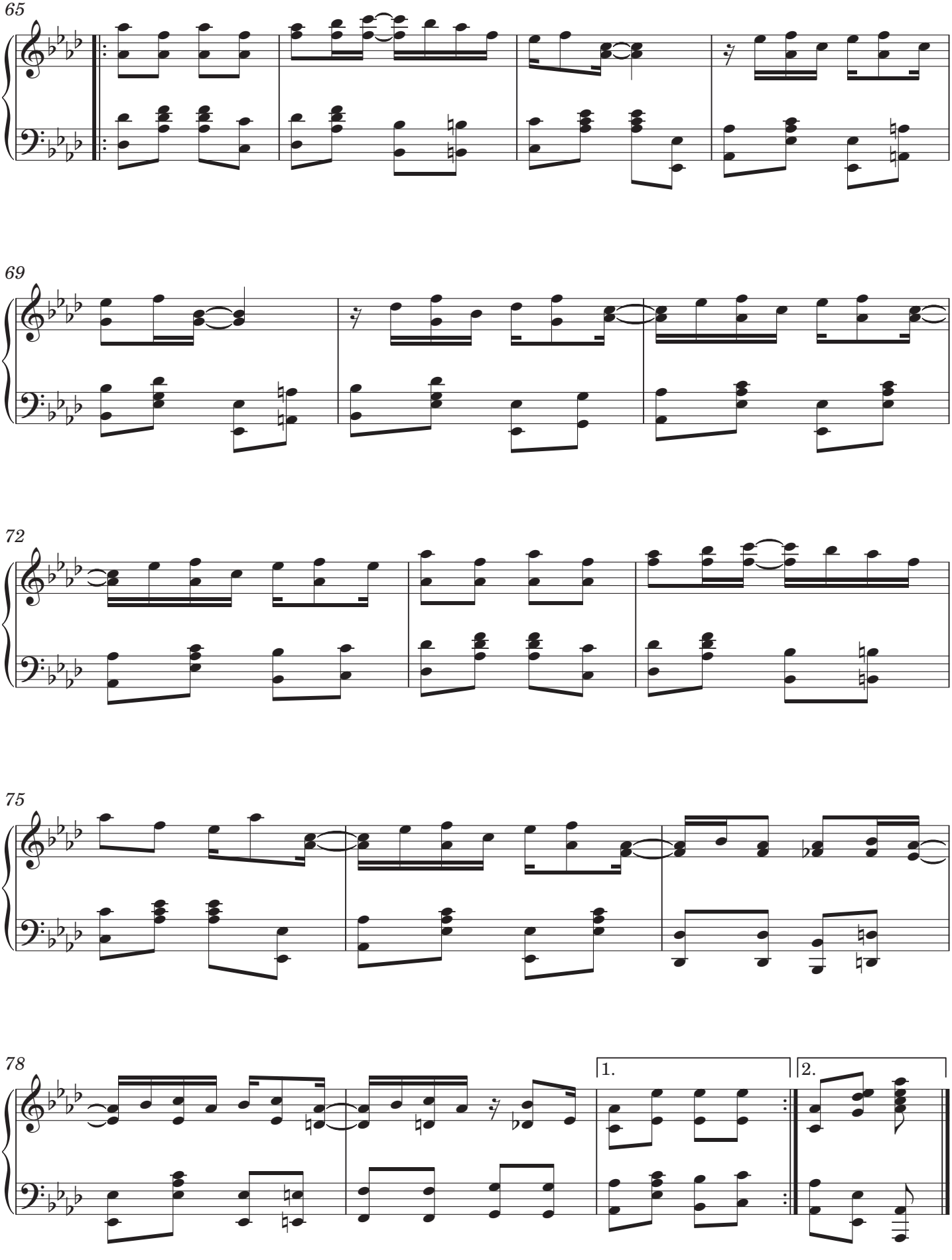
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