"35th and Dearborn" Notes

By Jimmy Yancey
Transcribed and Arranged by Kristian Olsen
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The purpose of this document is to help distribute this wonderful piece to the world. But if you find this of use and would like to buy me a coffee (or chip in for boring website hosting fees), you can do so at buymeacoffee.com/kolsen.

General Notes

What follows is the sheet music for two versions of my favorite Jimmy Yancey piece, "35th and Dearborn." The first version is a note-for-note transcription of "Take 1" (track 9) from Jimmy Yancey's Complete Recorded Works Vol. 2 on Document Records. Yancey recorded the piece several times, each a little different from the others, and several versions appear on this album. My favorite is probably the one from track 3, but that recording isn't nearly as good, so the transcription would be trickier.

The second version of sheet music below is the version as I like to play it. My version is an amalgam of my favorite verses from Yancey's various recordings. I slowed the piece down a bit, standardized the left hand throughout, and added a new ending in the correct key (Yancey ends most of his pieces, including this one, with the same ending in the key of Eb, regardless of whether the rest of the piece is in that key). You can hear a recording of my version on my YouTube page.

I have left out articulation and pedaling in these scores. Listen to the recordings and copy, or use whatever sounds good to you.

As always, this sheet music is meant only as a guide to your own exploration of the piece. Make changes freely, and play it in whatever way moves you.

[Note: I have been unable to determine what was located at the intersection of 35th and Dearborn during Yancey's time, or what significance the place had for him. The location surely refers to the South Side Chicago intersection right next to Comiskey Park (now Guaranteed Rate Field), where Yancey served as a groundskeeper. But I can only guess beyond that. If you happen to know, please let me know!]

Measure Notes (from transcription, indicated in score with "*")

Measure 2: Maybe also a D here (and other places in the piece, when this repeats).

Measure 8, beat 2: Hard for me to tell what Yancey plays here (and other places in the piece, when this repeats). This is my best guess.

Measure 8, best 3: Maybe no F here (and other places in the piece, when this repeats).

Measure 25: I don’t hear this note, but it makes sense for it to be there. Likewise for other notes in parentheses throughout the score.

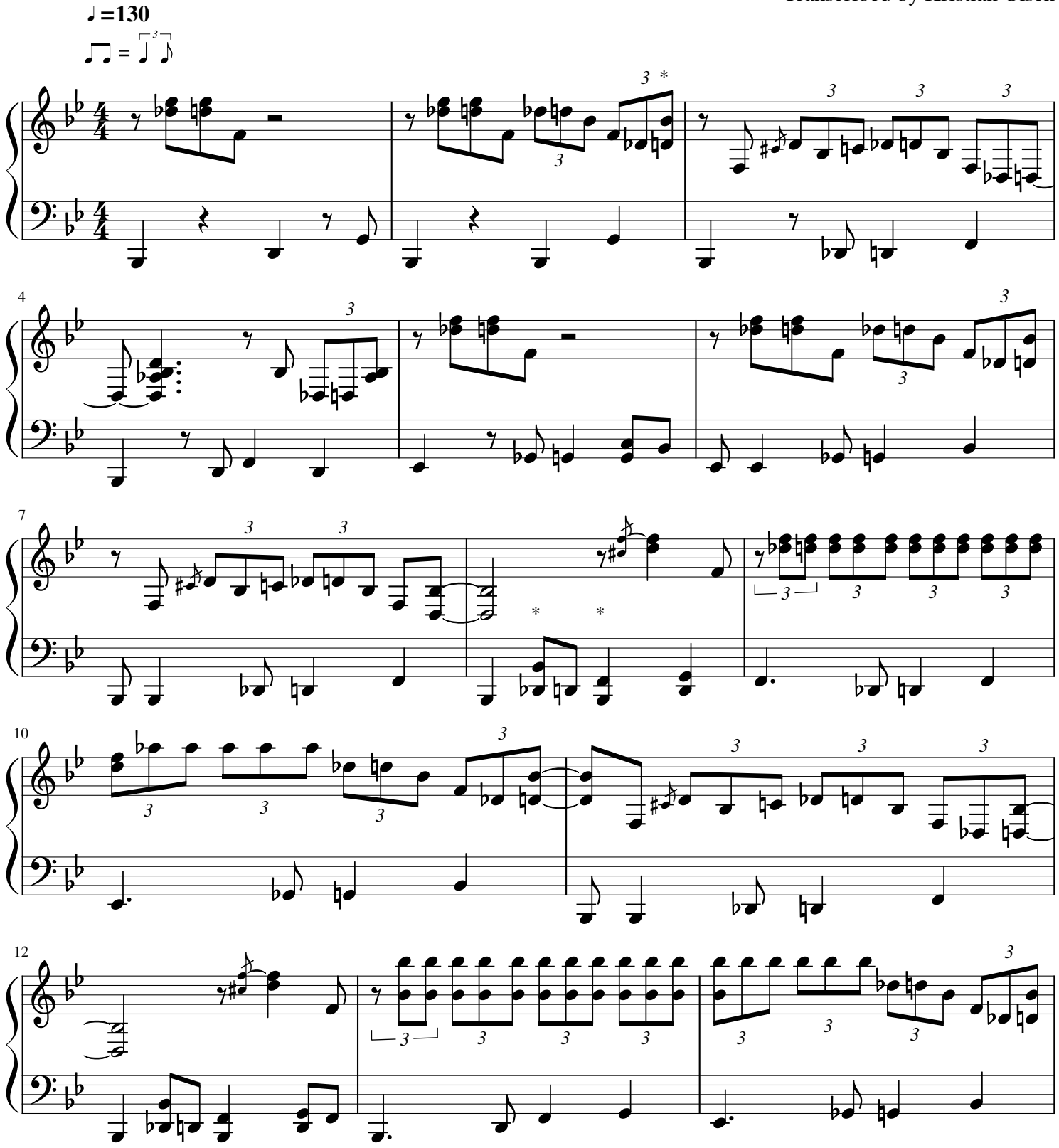
Measures 36-46: This section was difficult to transcribe. The sextuplets throughout the section should probably be thought of as tremolos. Yancey usually plays the tremolos with 5-7 notes.

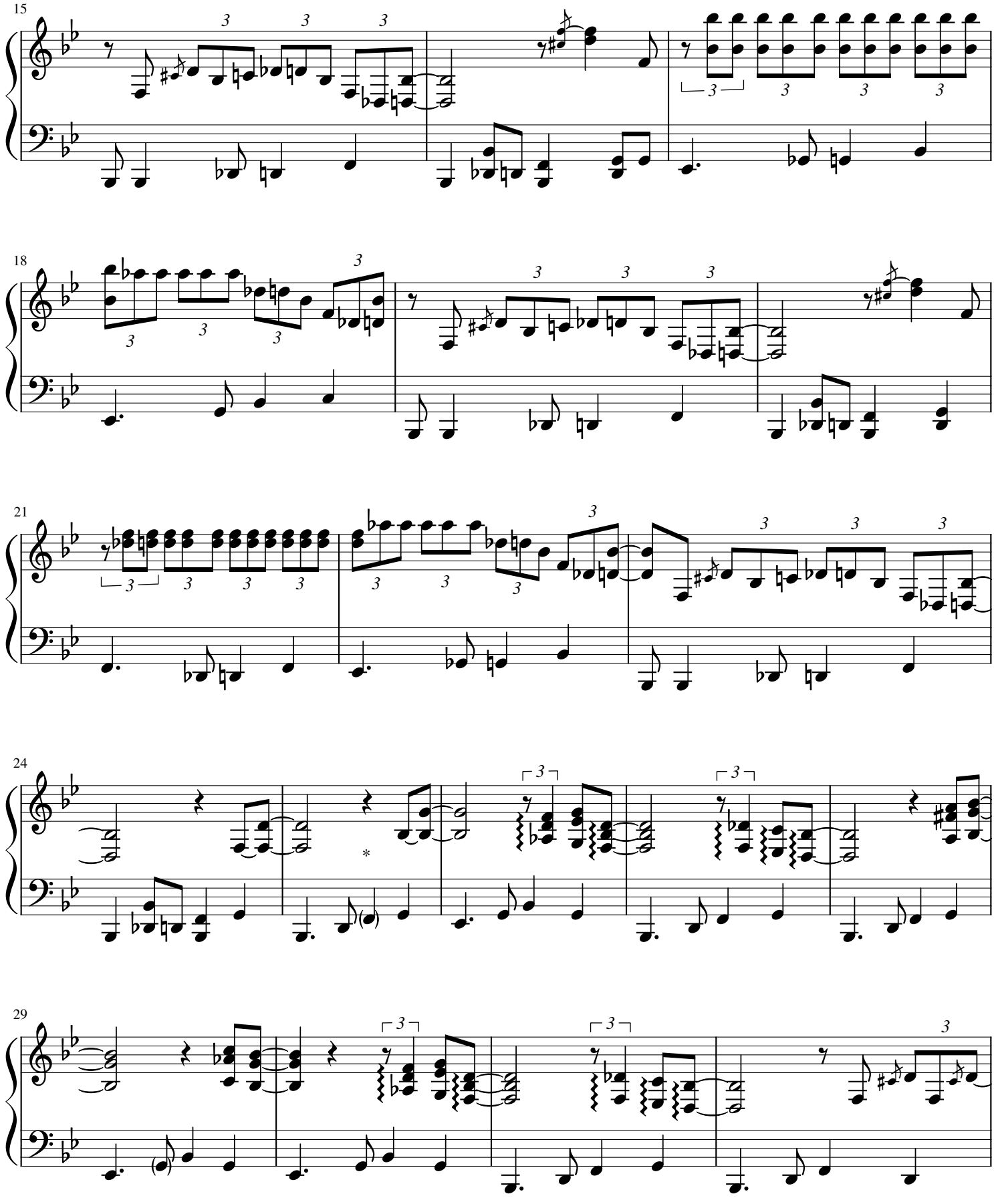
Measure 65: I corrected a few wrong notes here.

Measure 74: Yancey may play a wrong note here.

35th and Dearborn (Take 1)

Jimmy Yancey
From Complete Recorded Works Vol. 2, Track 9
Document Records
Transcribed by Kristian Olsen

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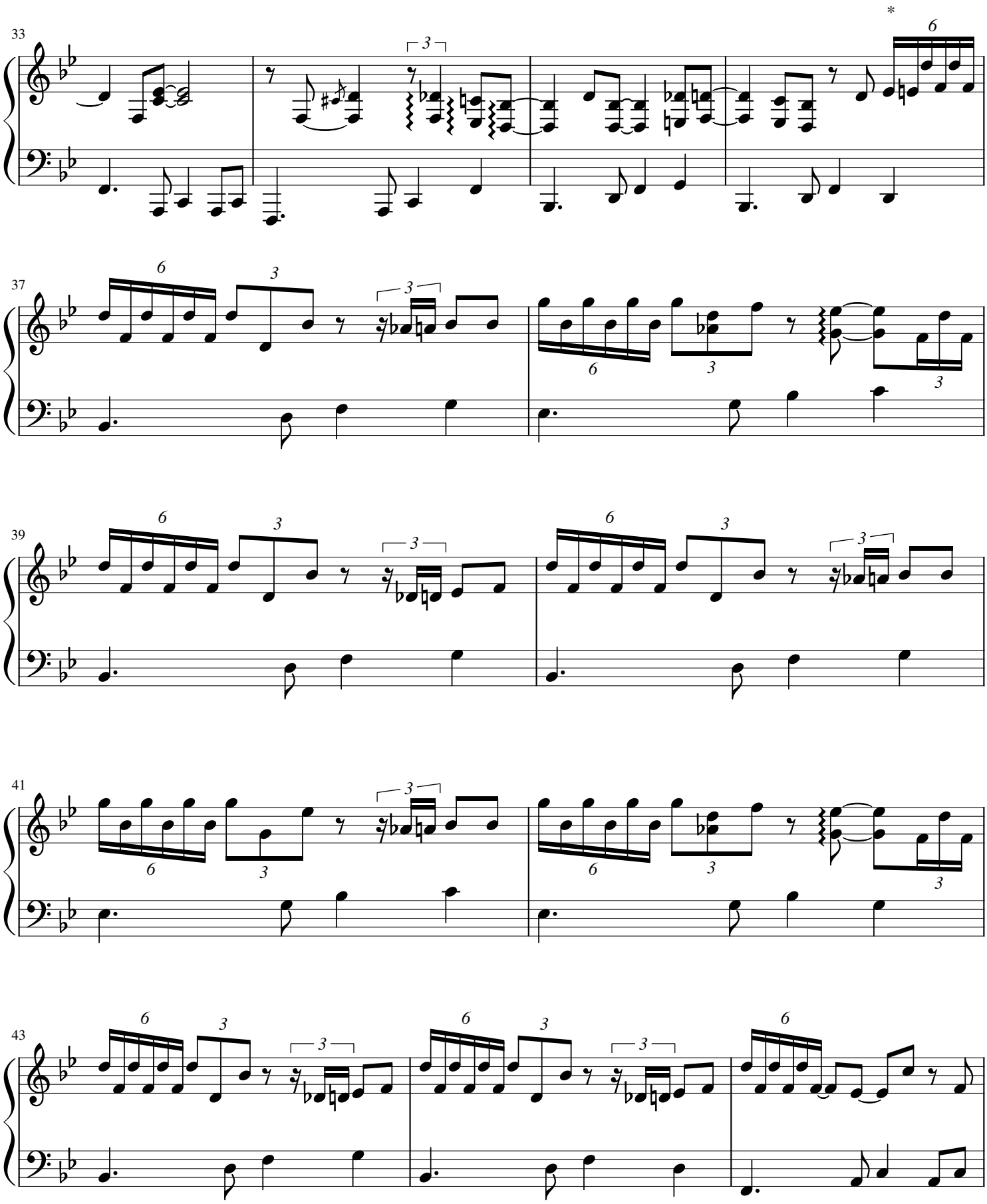
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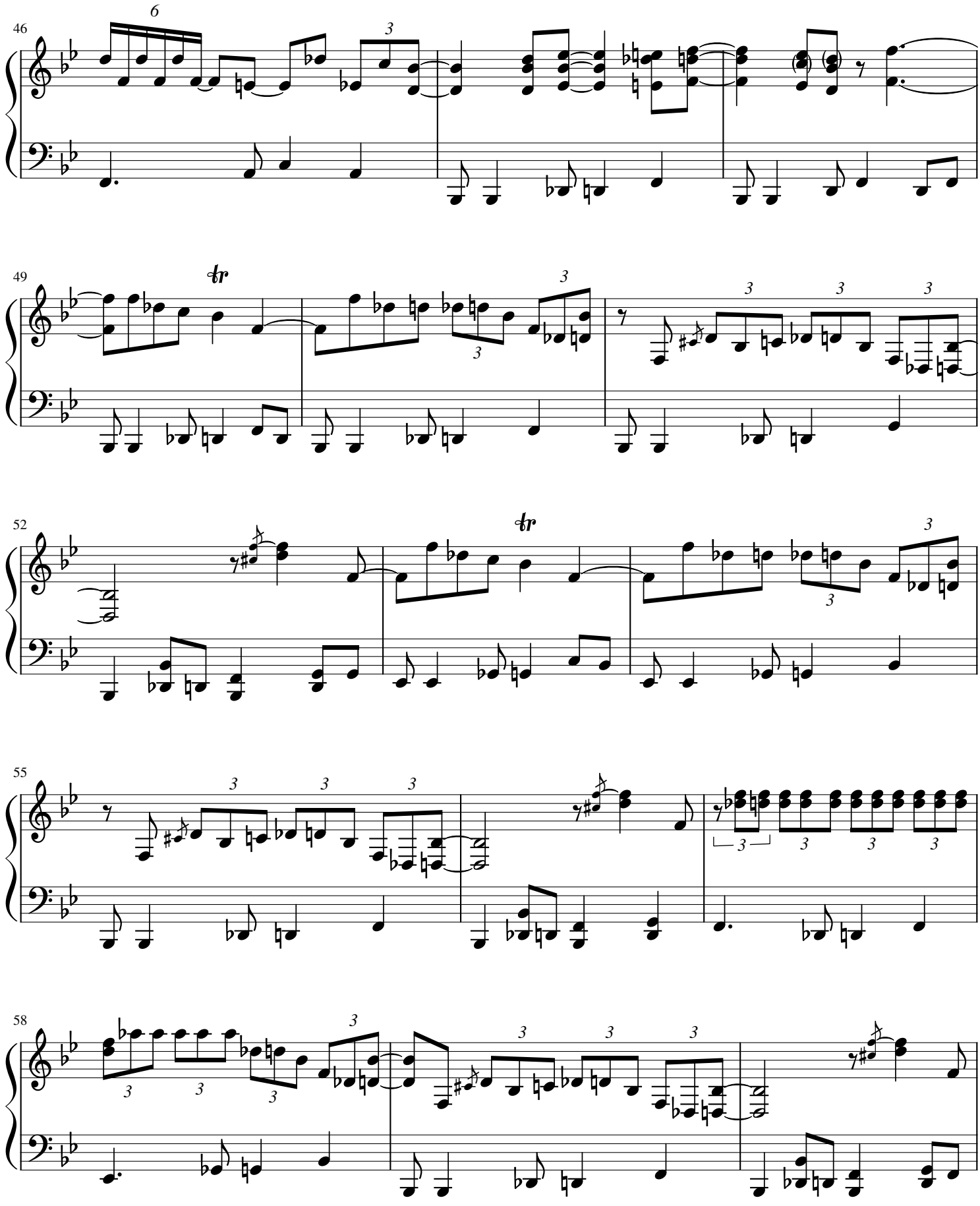
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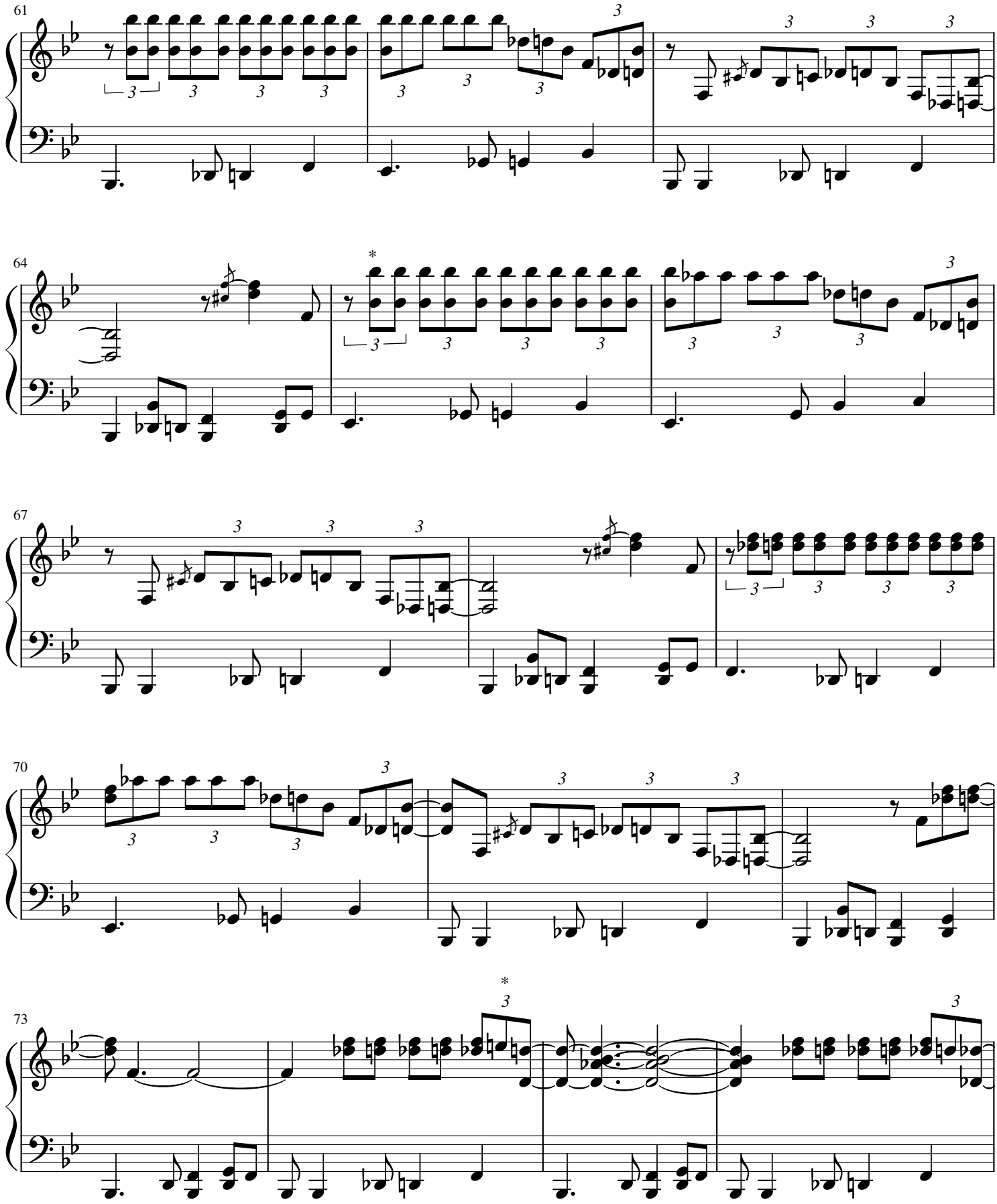
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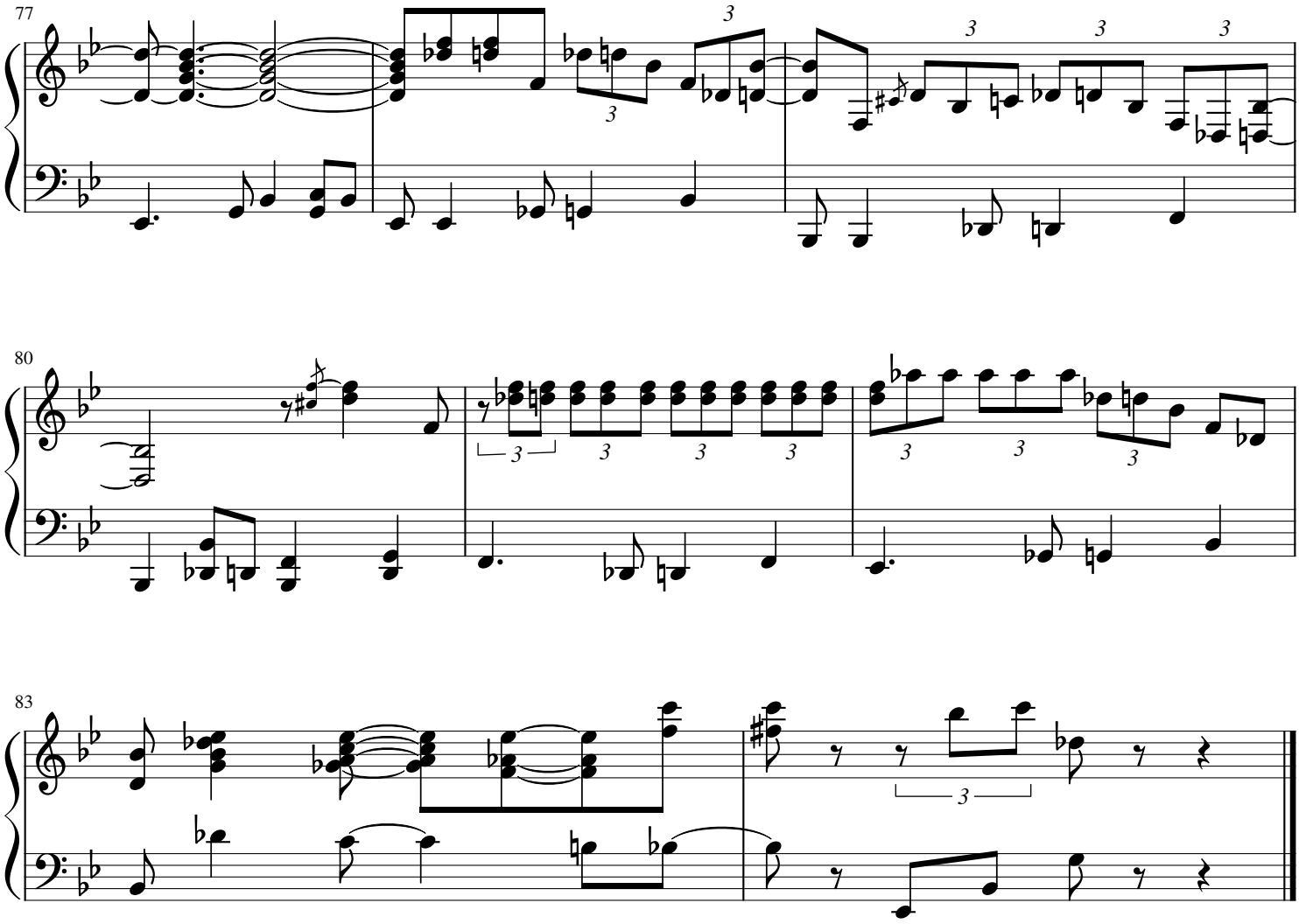
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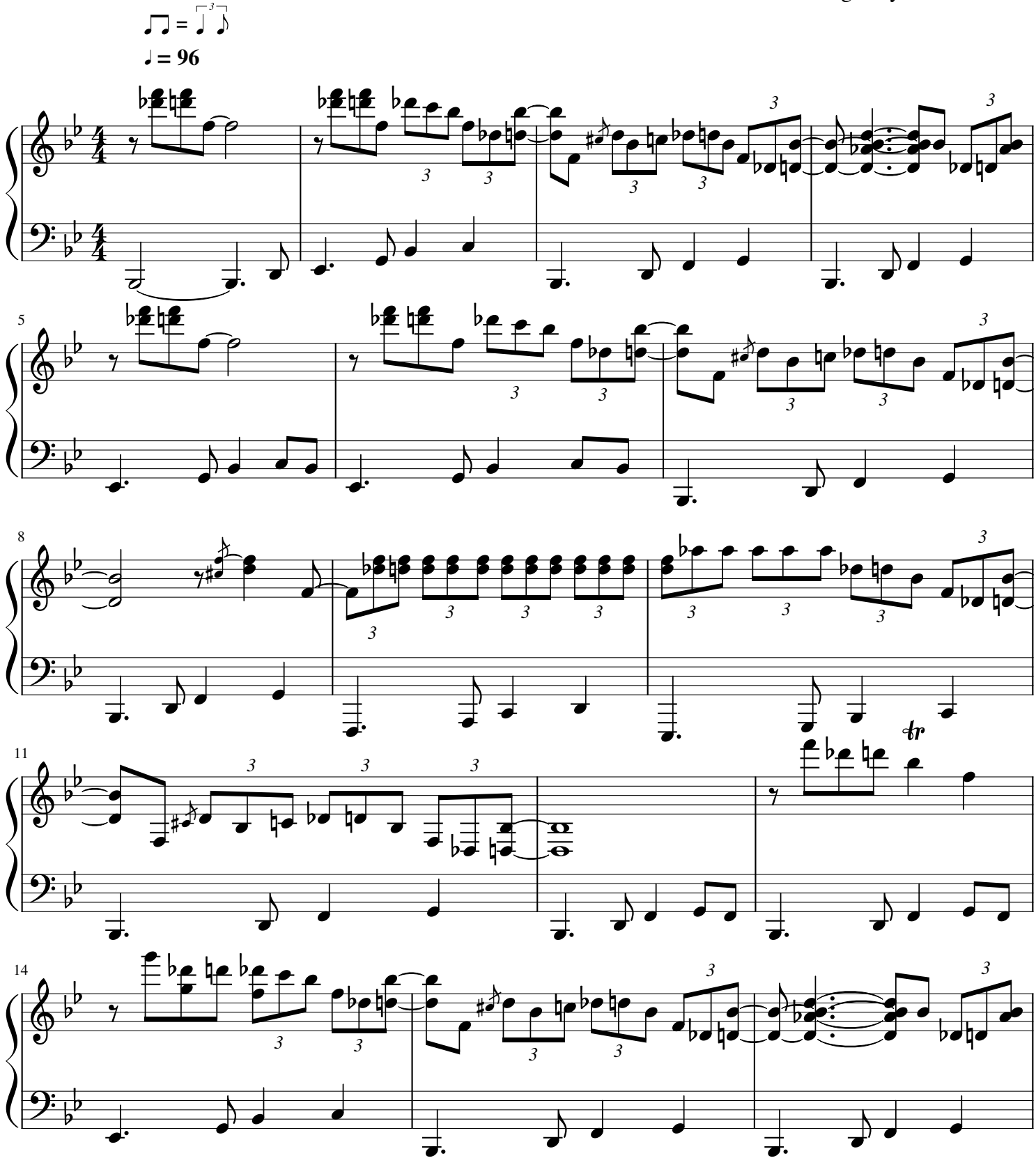
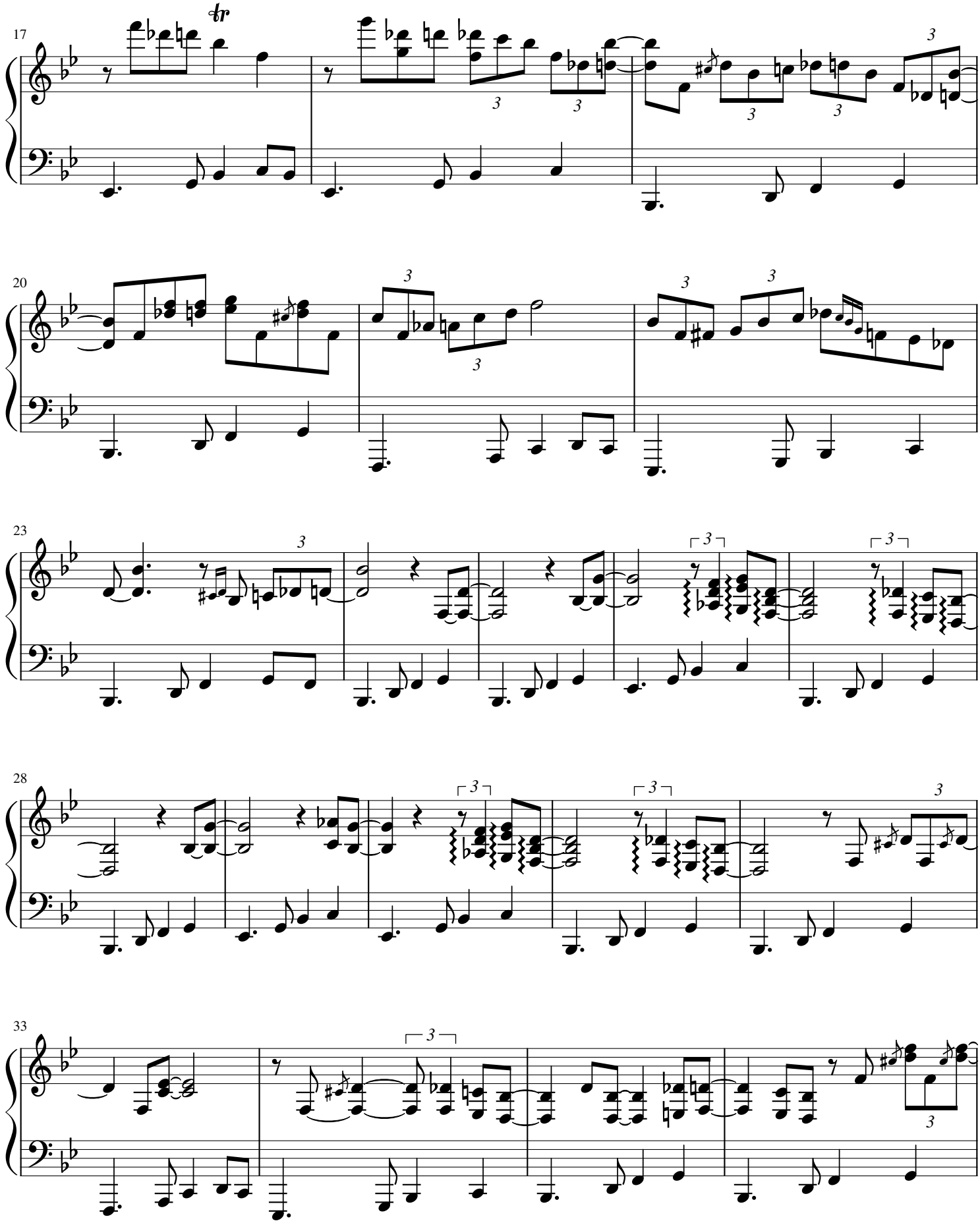
35th and Dearborn

Jimmy Yancey
Arranged by Kristian Olsen

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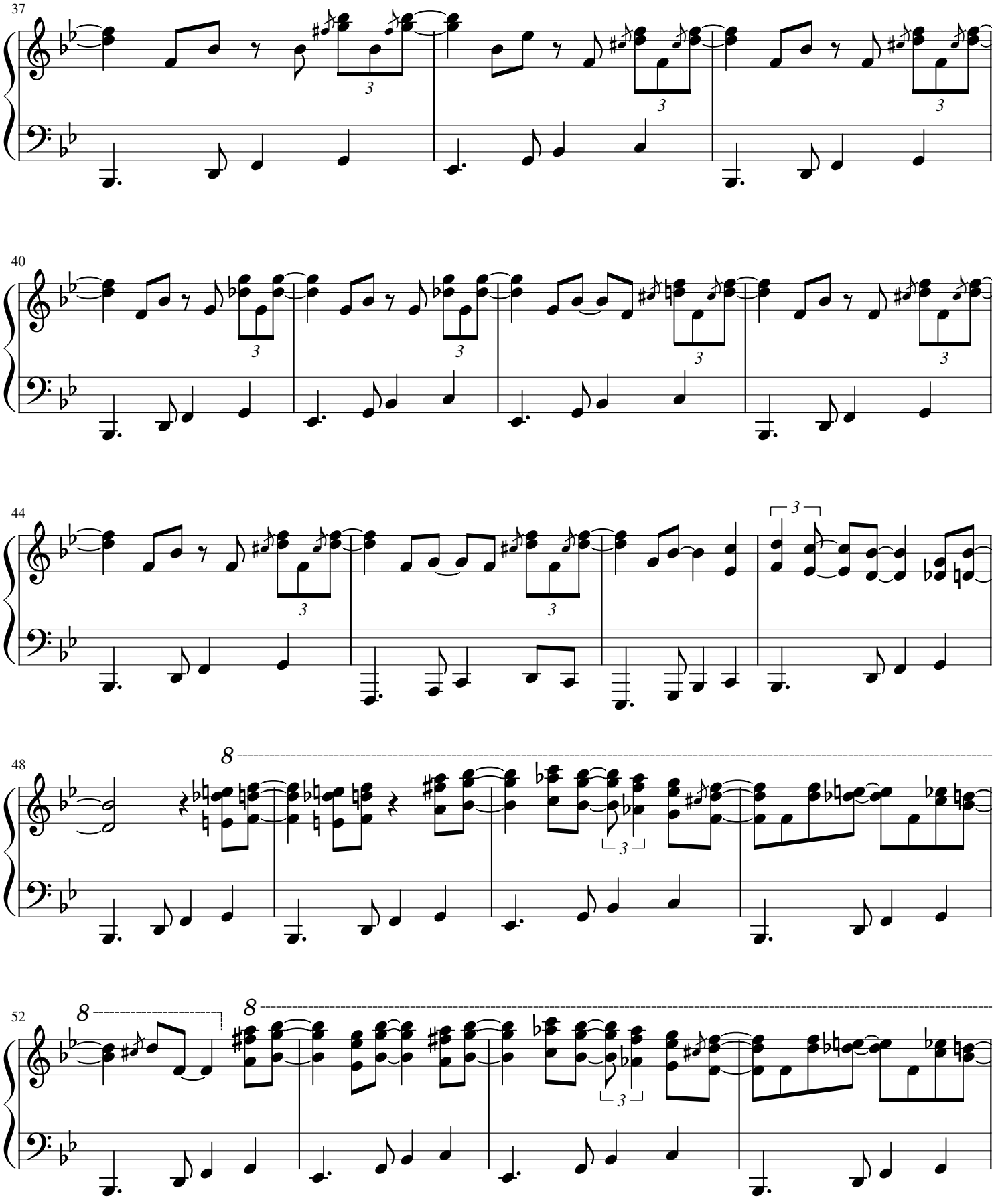
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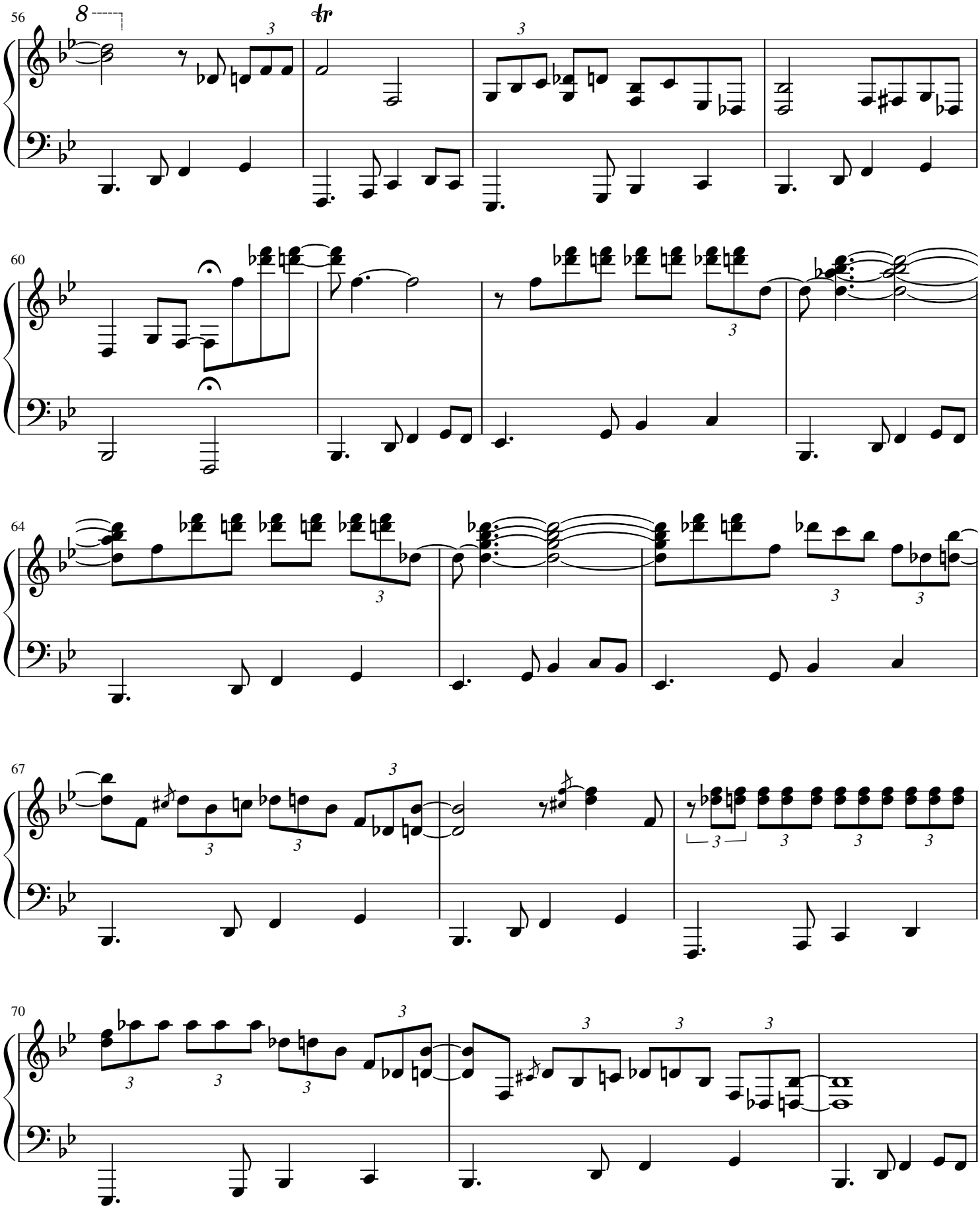
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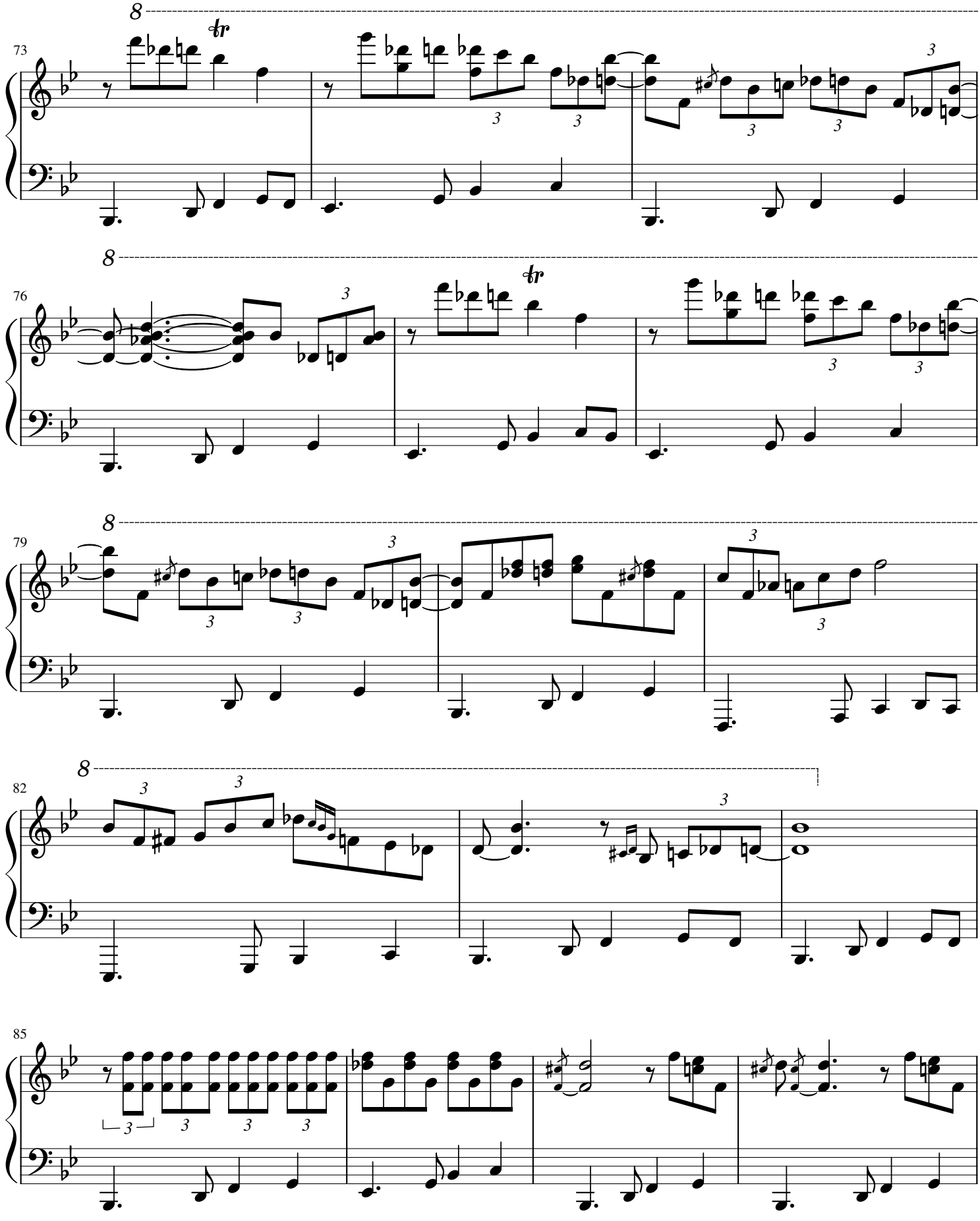
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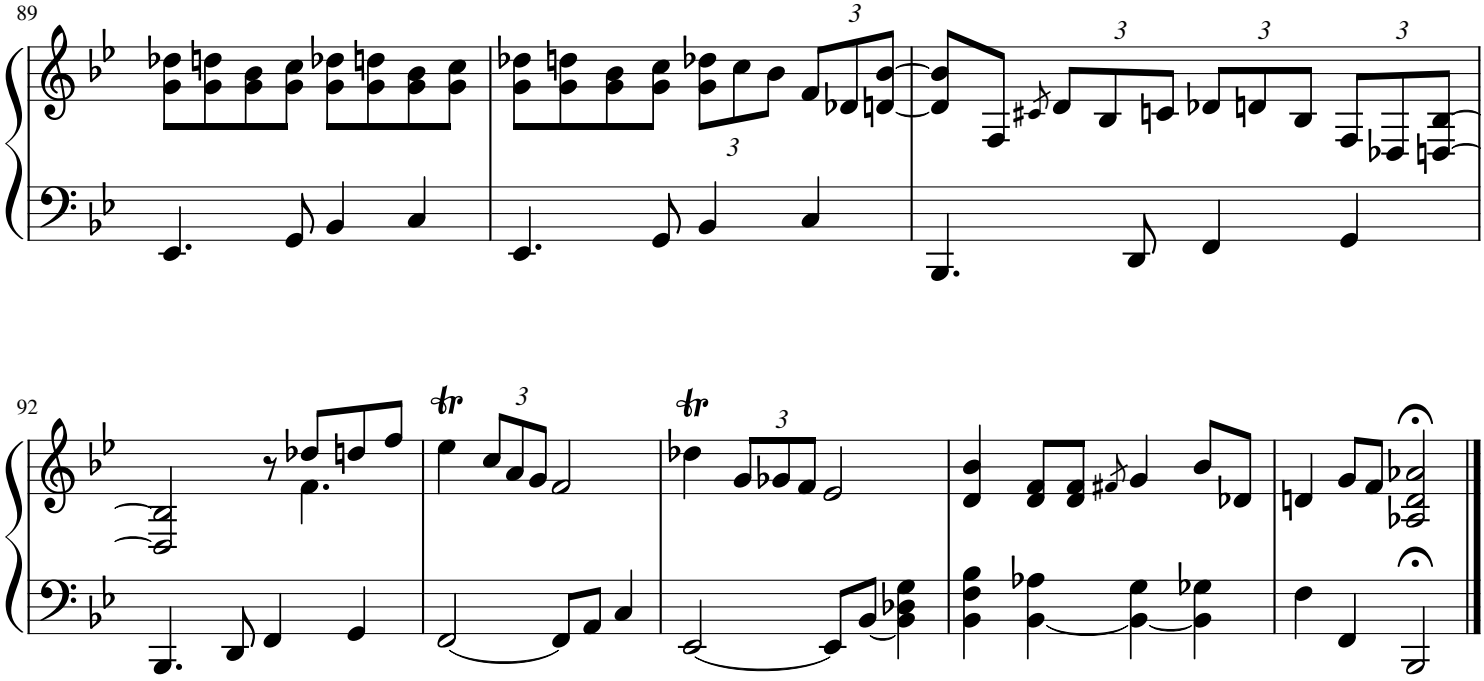
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