MICHAEL MARKOWSKI

TARANTULA

FOR BASSOON AND PIANO

SAMPLE SCORE / NOT A PURCHASED SCORE / FOR PERUSAL ONLY

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MICHAEL MARKOWSKI

TARANTULA

Duration: ca. 5:00

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PROGRAM NOTE

What better instrument to write a piece called *Tarantula* for than the fuzzy, dark, and biting tones of a bass clarinet?

Tarantula, as you might have guessed, was inspired in part by the Italian *tarantella* style, a wild and off-kilter folk dance believed to help treat *tarantism* caused by the bite of a highly poisonous wolf spider *(Lycosa Tarantula).* While traditional *tarantellas* are often written in 6/8 time, I wanted to stretch the use of compound time even further by juggling 7/8, 5/8, and other mixed meters to heighten the sense of hysteria. An "eight-legged" *octatonic* mode also crawls through the piece, inducing a kind of harmonic delirium, while "twitchy" grace note figures exaggerate the madness and mystery that holds us hostage.

Tarantula was written especially for clarinetist David Gould, and premiered in 2019. It was adapted for bassoon and piano in October of 2023.

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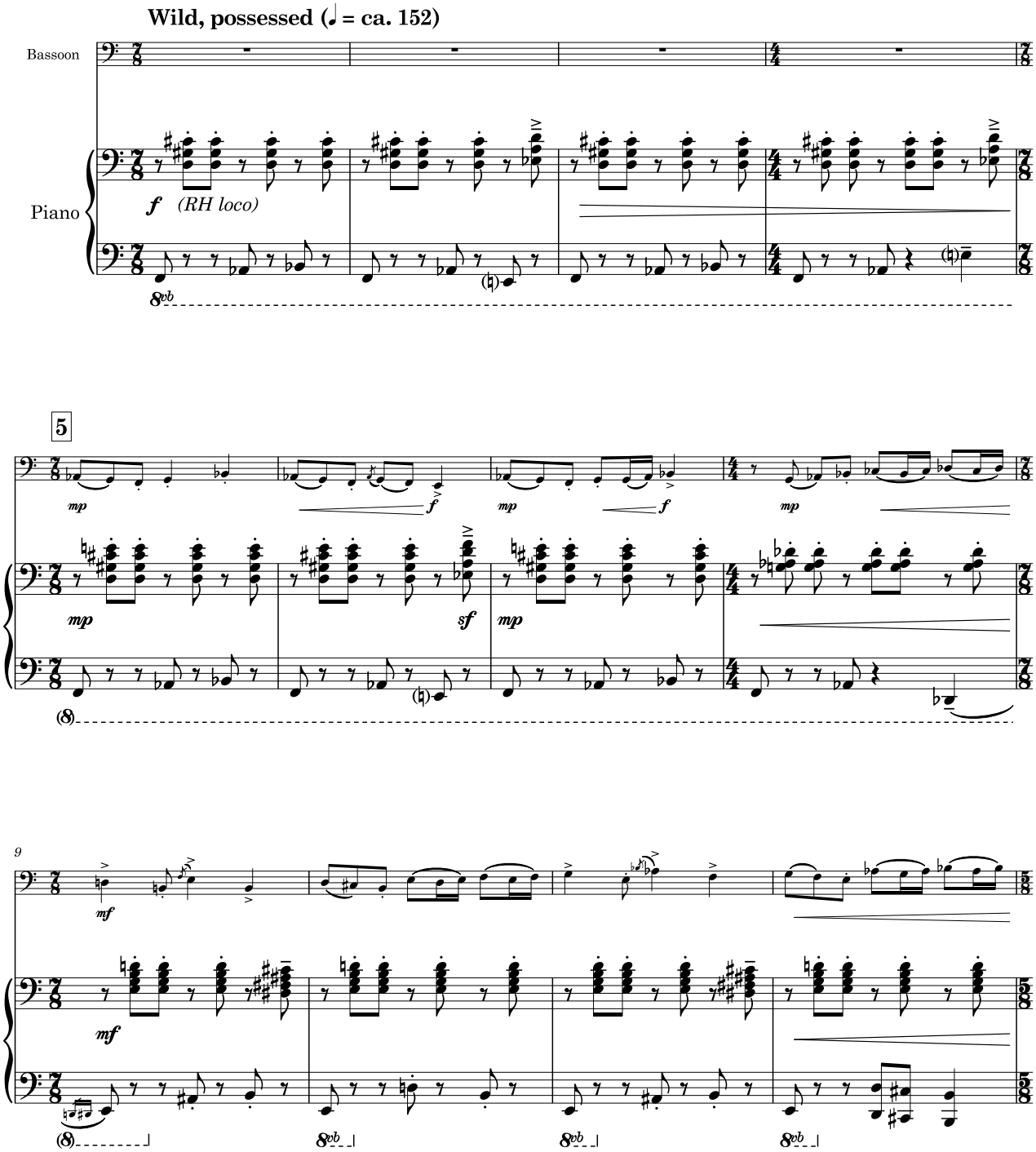
Transposed Score

For David Gould

TARANTULA

(Bassoon Version)

MICHAEL MARKOWSKI



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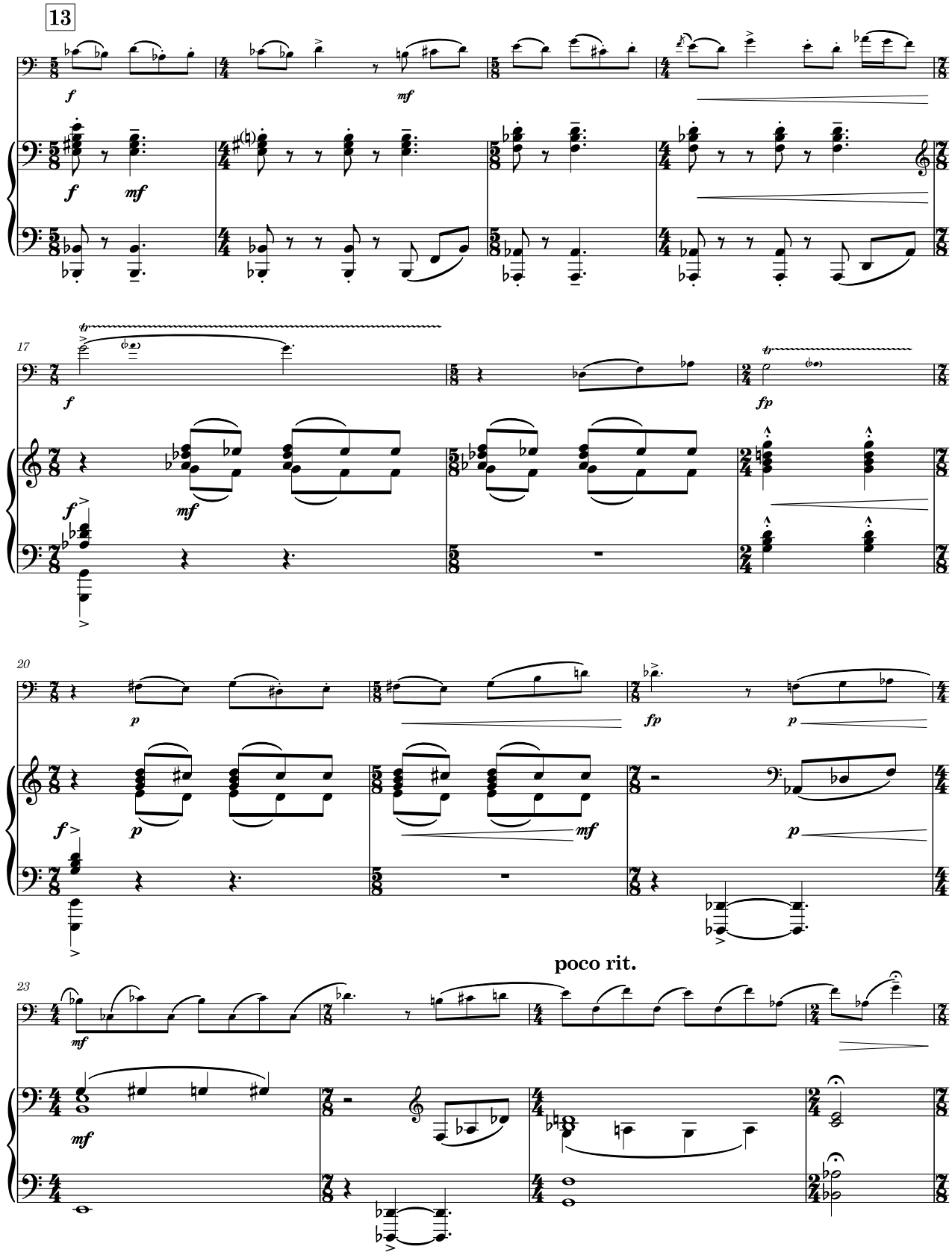

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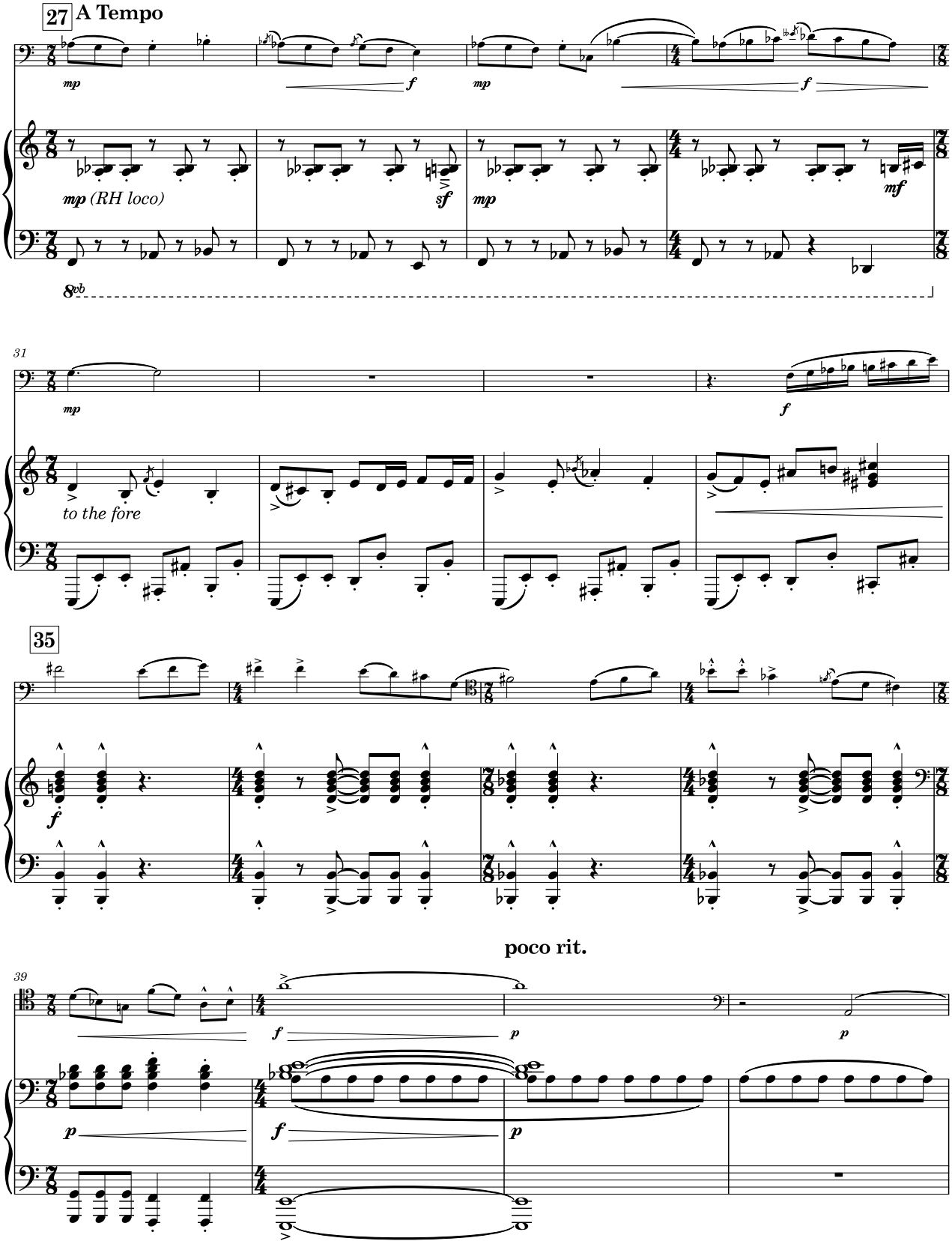

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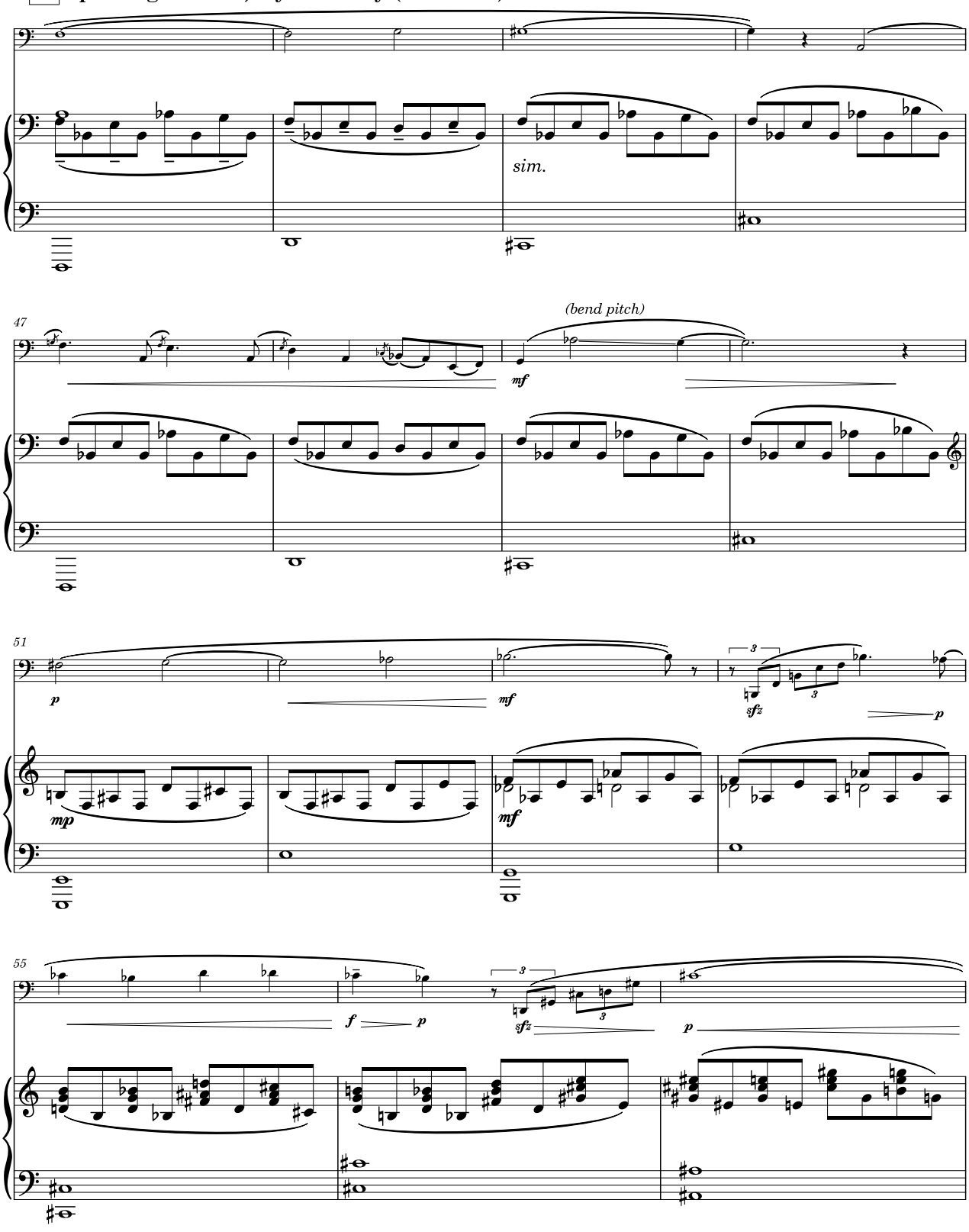
43 **Spinning the web; mysteriously (♩. = ca. 132)**



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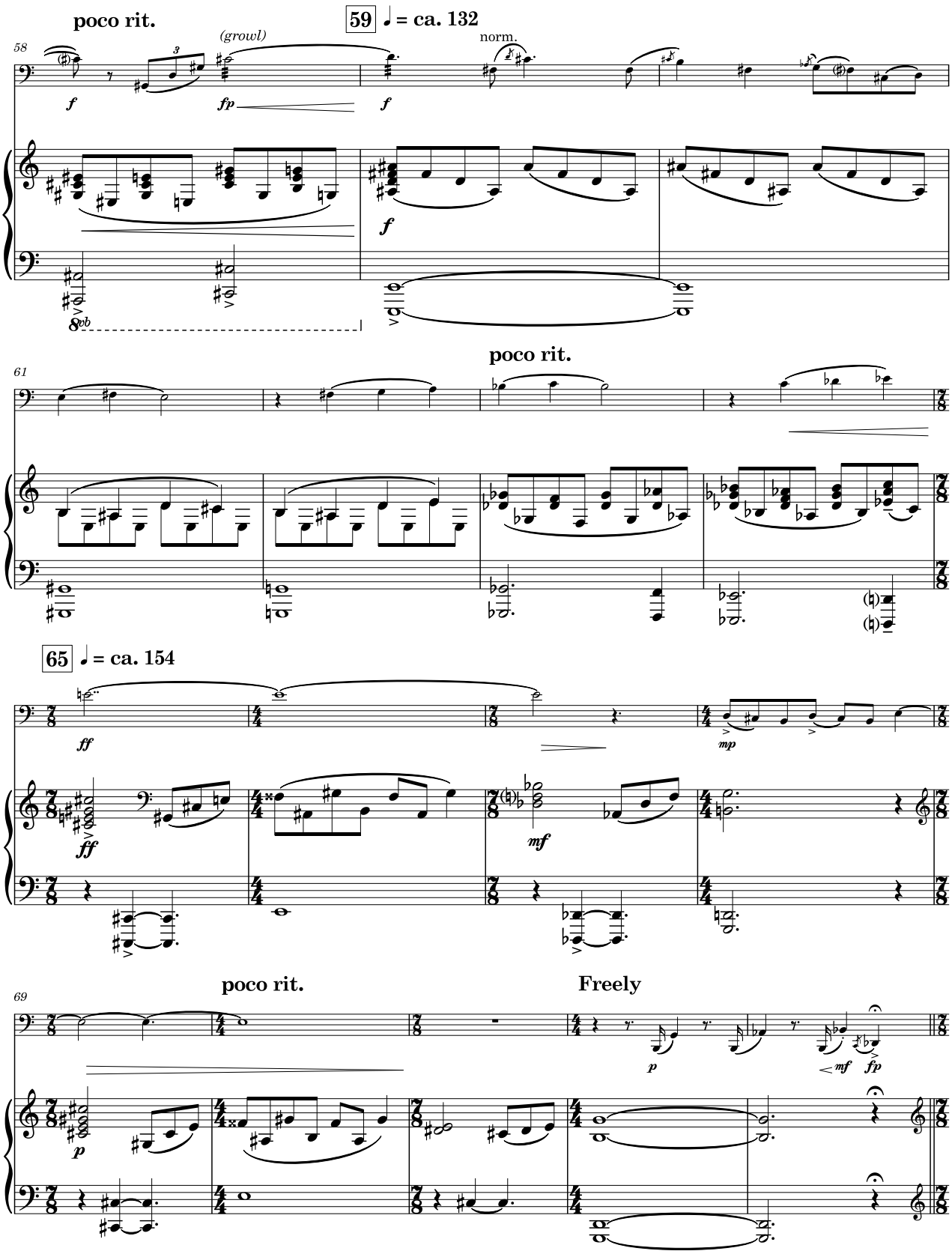

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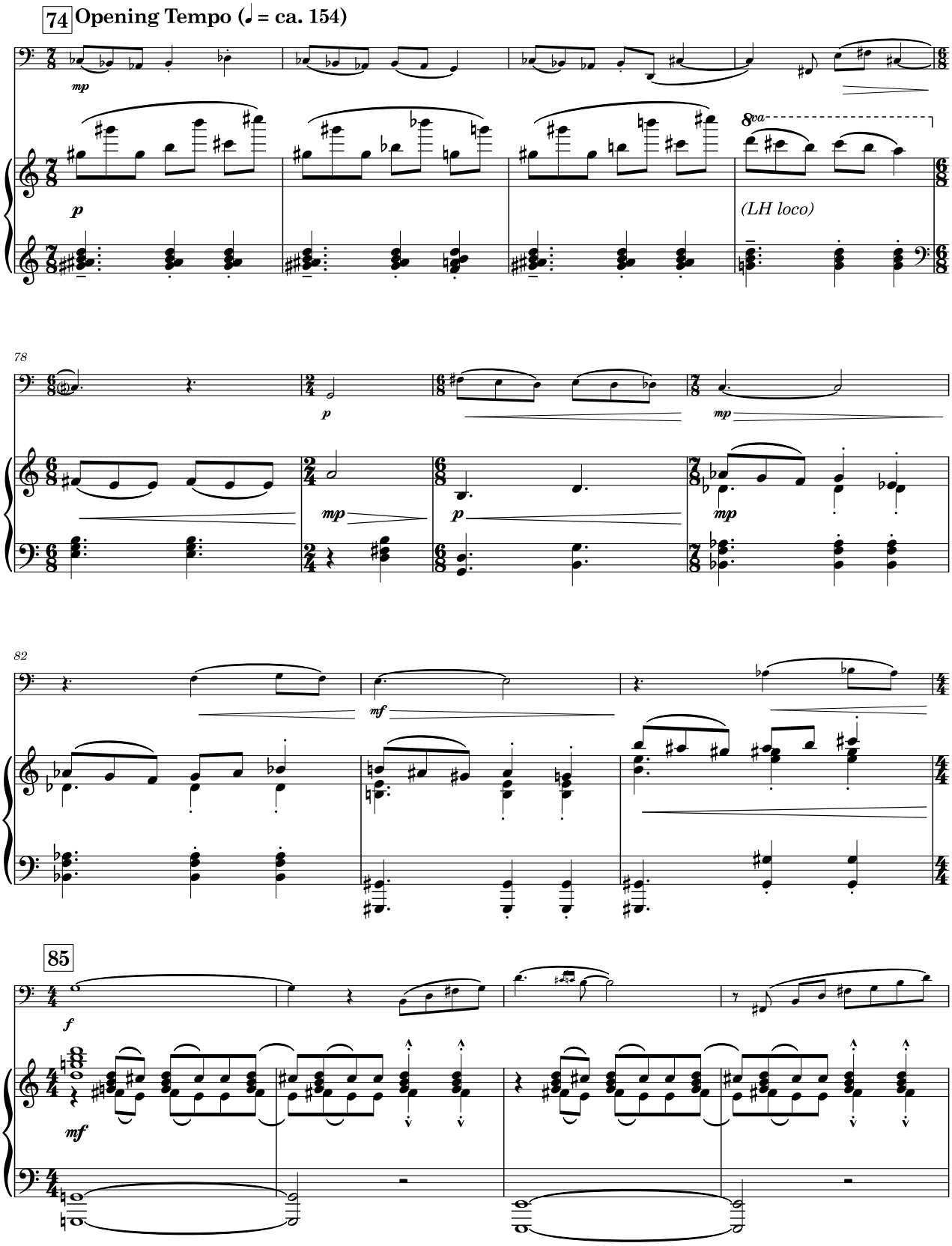

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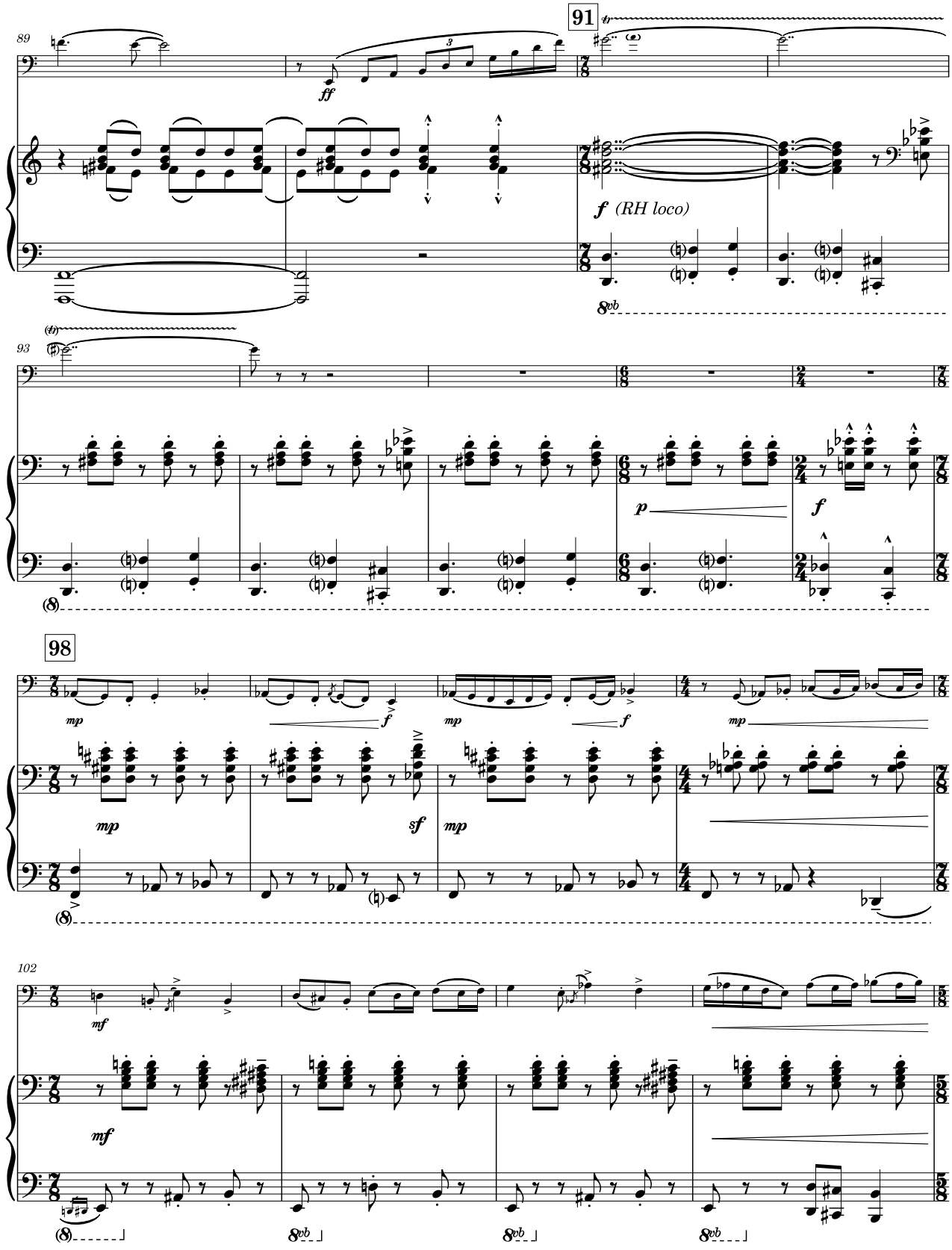

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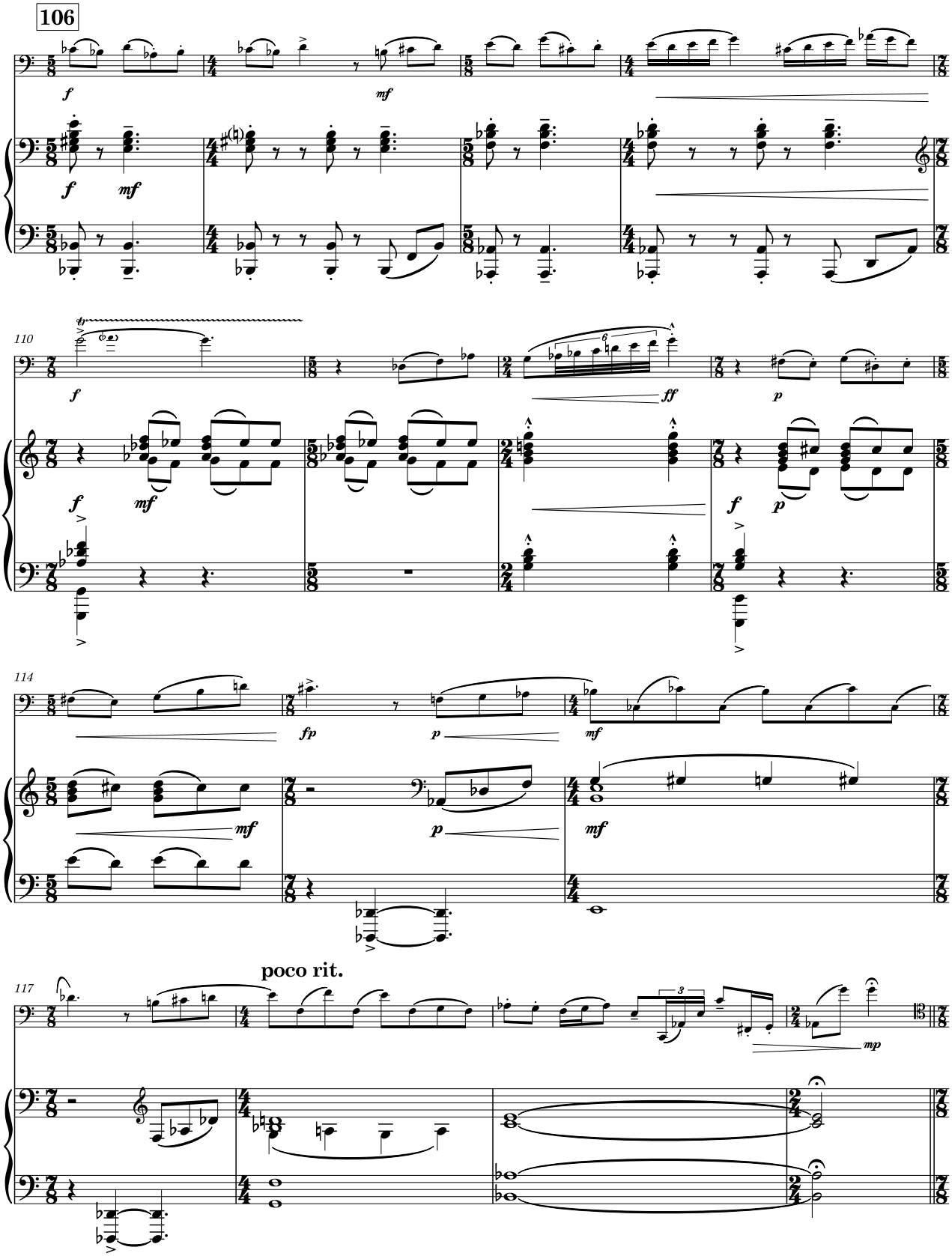

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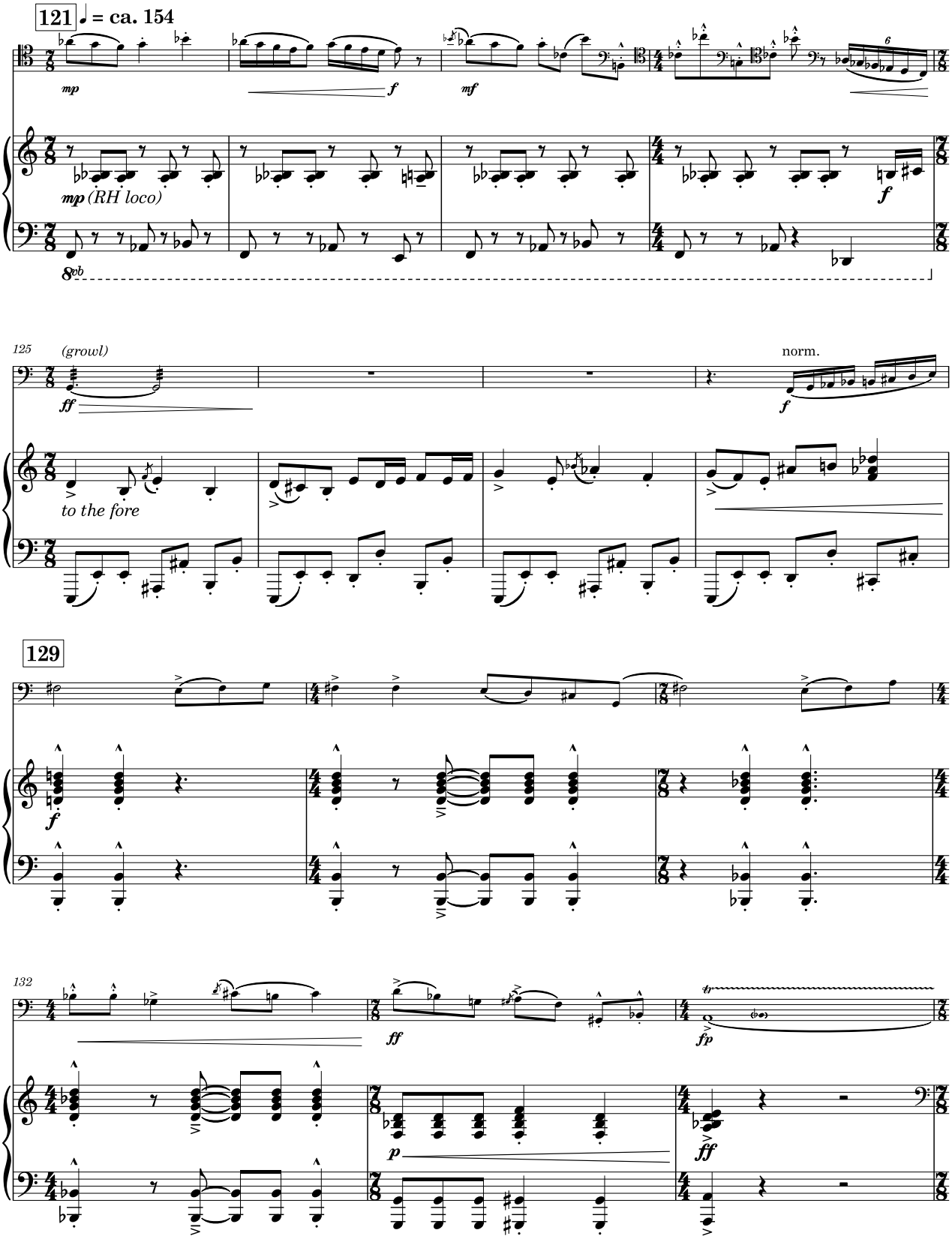

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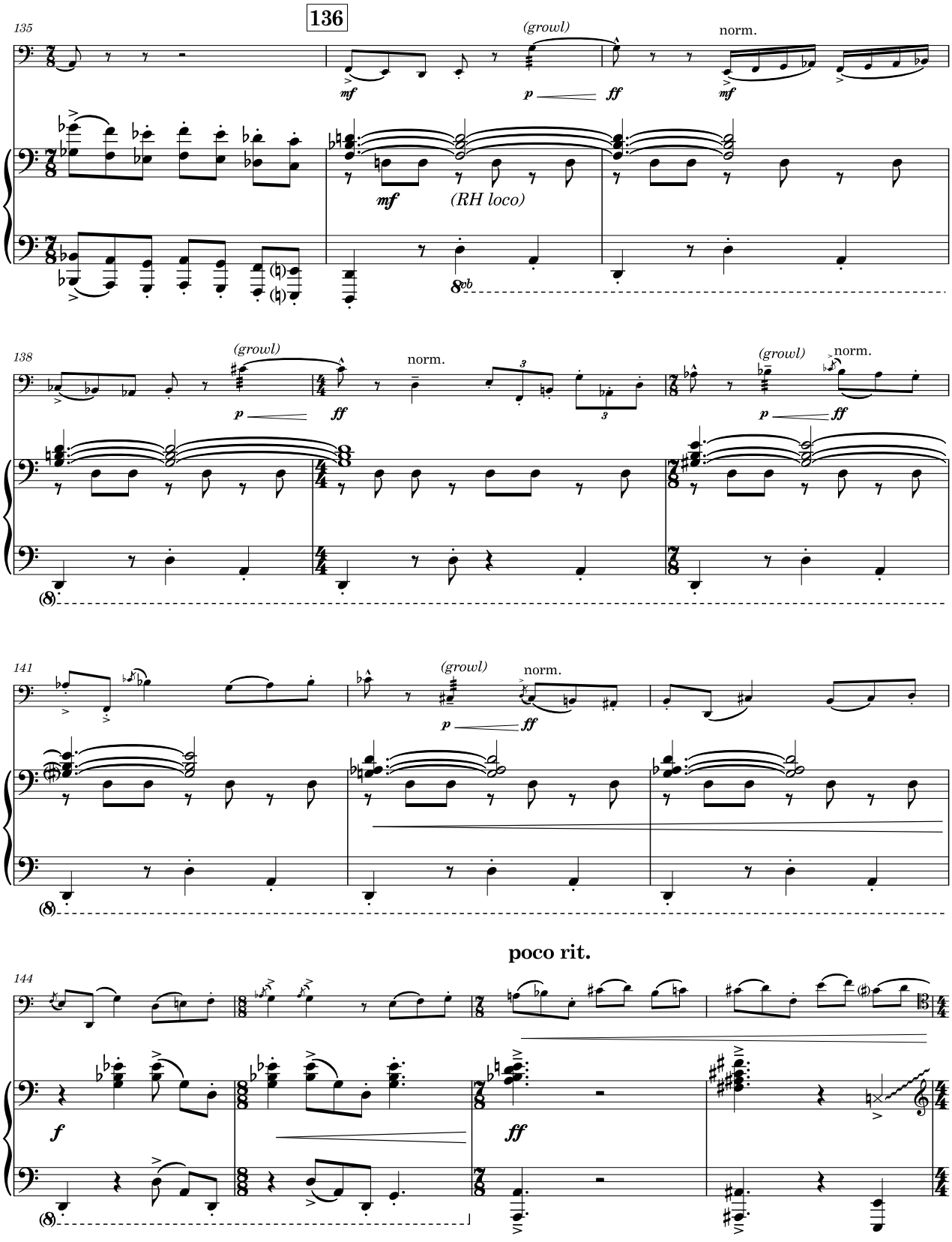

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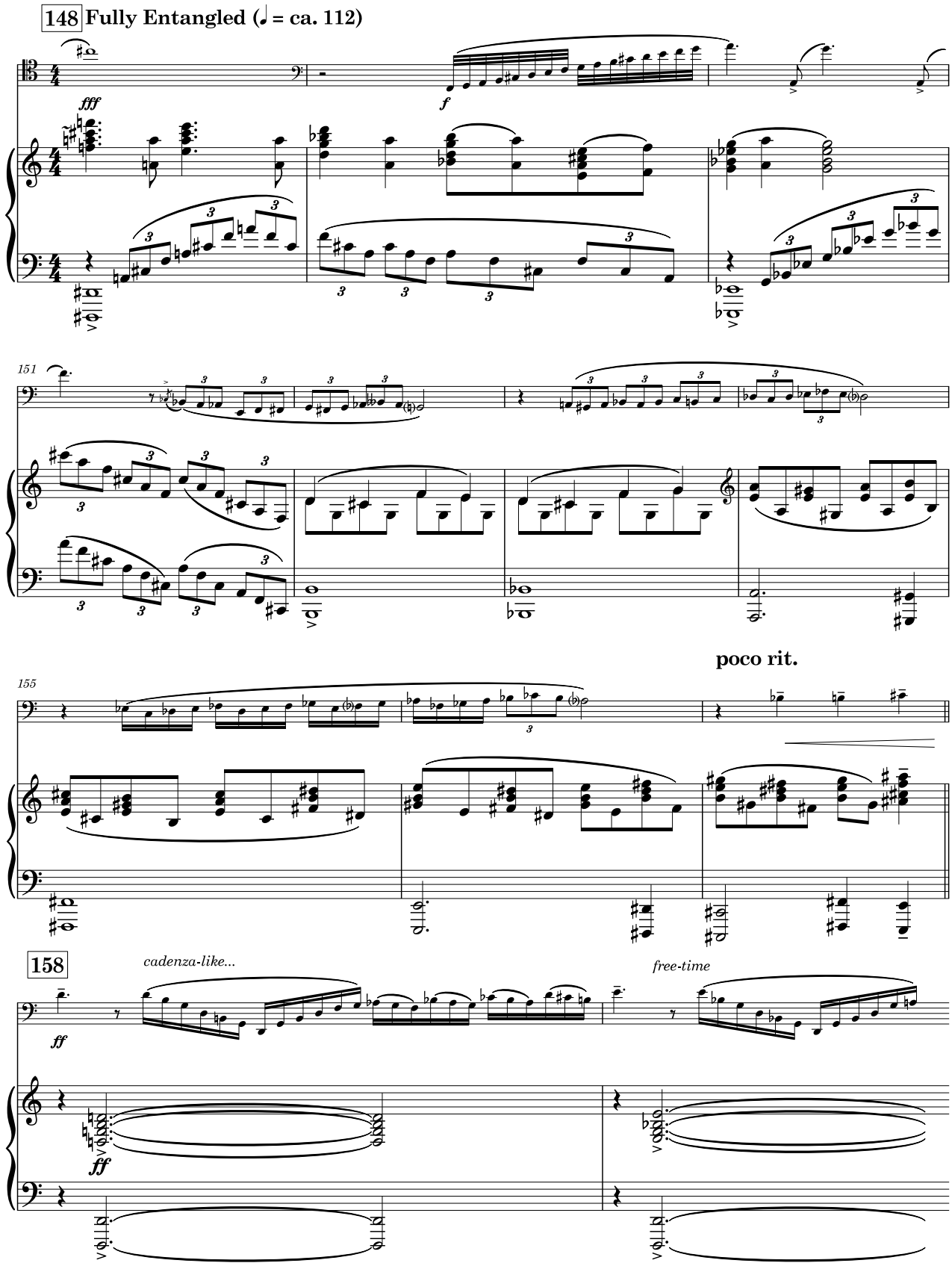

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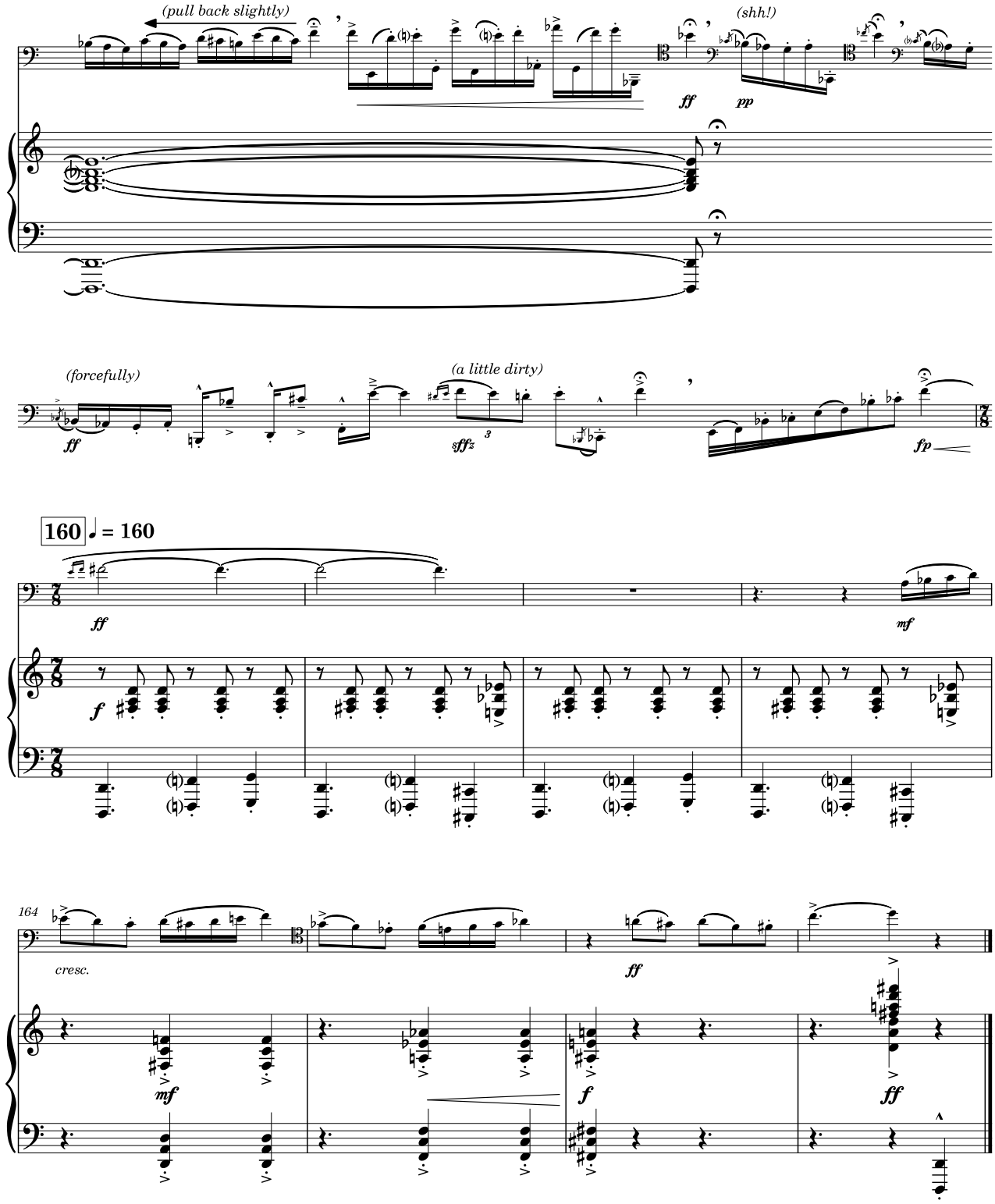

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