Chopin: Two Etudes in G Flat

Arranged as a Study for Two Pianos

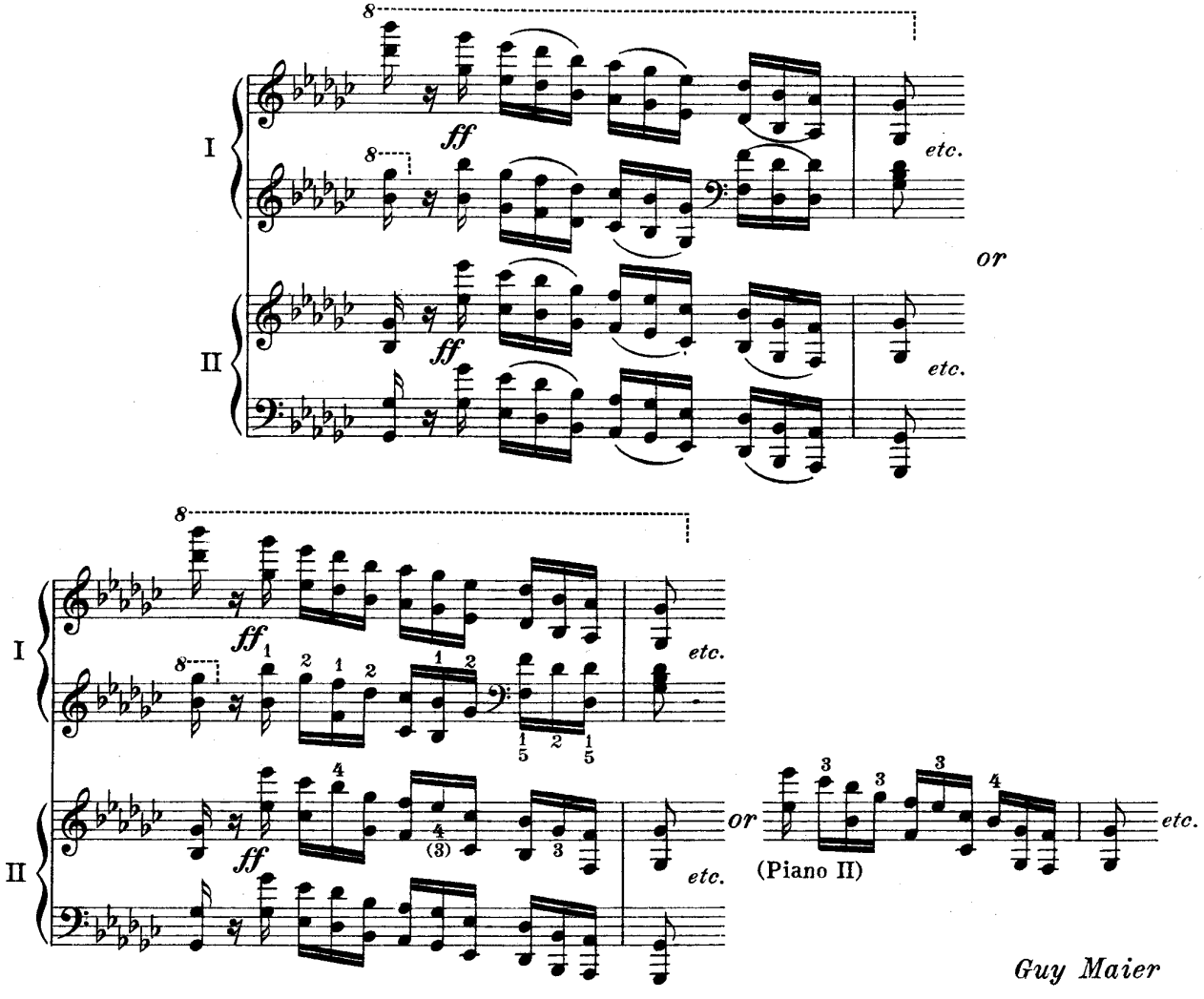
by Guy Maier

Since the familiar Chopin Etudes in G Flat,– the so-called "Black Key" and "Butterfly" studies– resemble each other closely in character and harmonic content the idea struck me that to arrange them to be played simultaneously on two pianos would make an amusing game. Therefore, I resolved to include as much as possible of the original studies in the arranging, and to add or alter only where absolutely necessary. As a result, the "Butterfly" study has come out practically intact (except for shifting positions) while the "Black Key" had to be shortened, juggled somewhat and changed in spots.

From my own experience in playing music for two pianos I earnestly advise pianists to play the piece lightly, (but incisively) to slightly emphasize first a phrase of the "Black Key" then of the "Butterfly," (whichever happens to be on top) always to use very little pedal, and to play the basses quite solidly throughout.

Please note in the first piano, first measure (and once again further on) the marking $\left\{\begin{matrix}8\\8\end{matrix}\right.$ by which is meant two octaves higher than written.

The final octave passage sounds sonorous enough as it is written, but more adventurous souls may prefer one of the following variants. The second alternative is like the first,– with a few of the difficult octaves omitted:



Guy Maier

For Ethel Hauser and Elizabeth Davies

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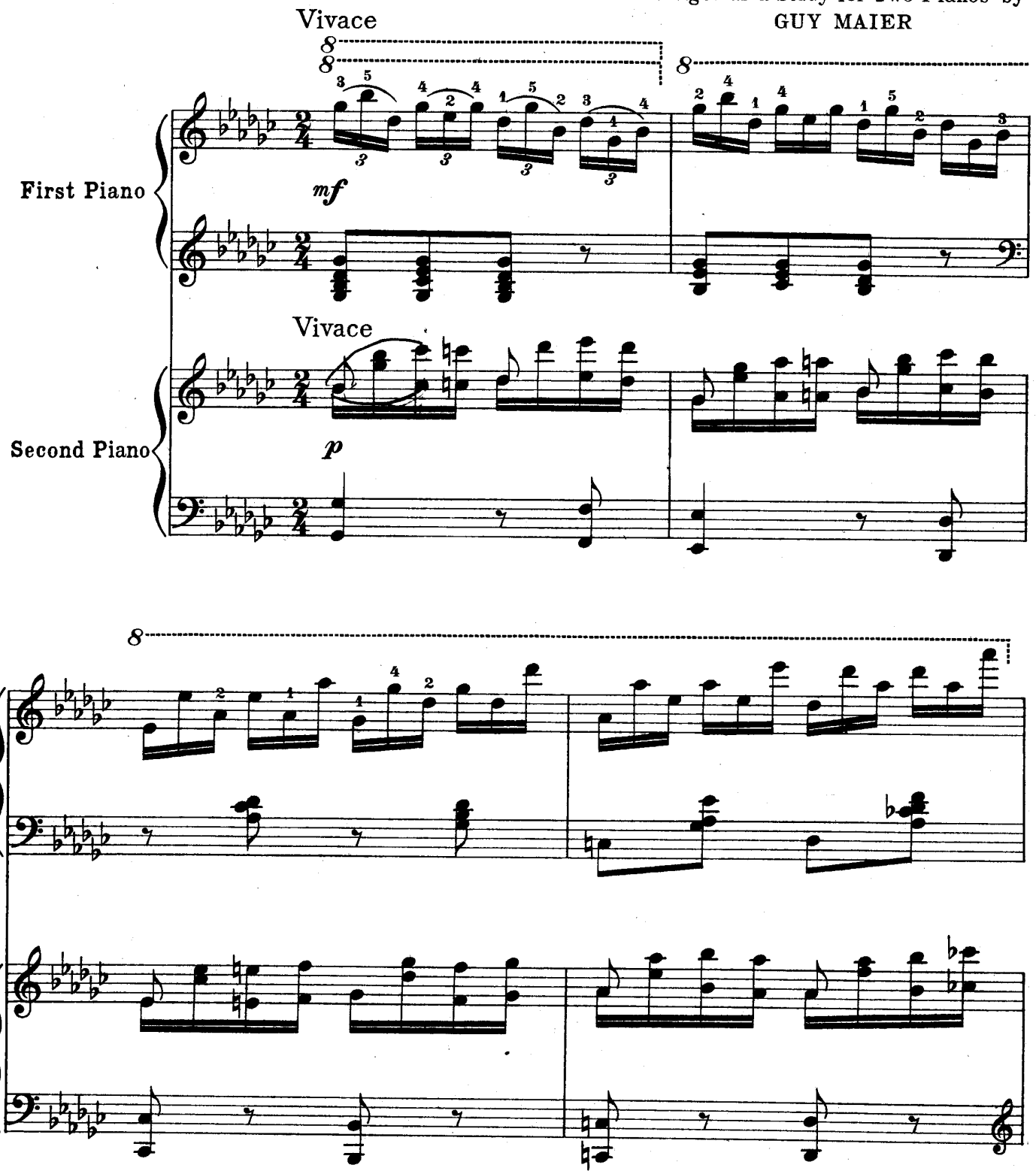

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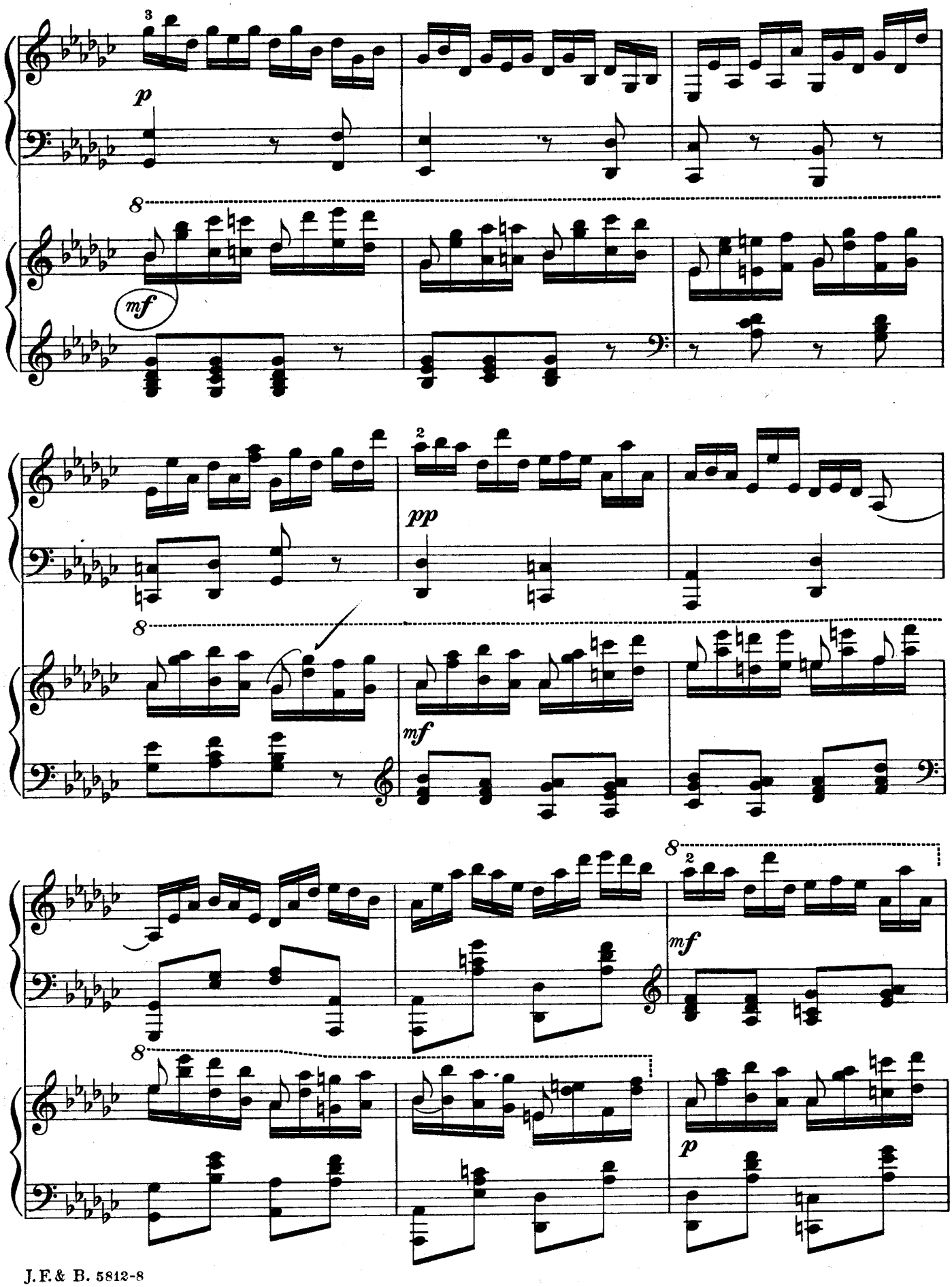
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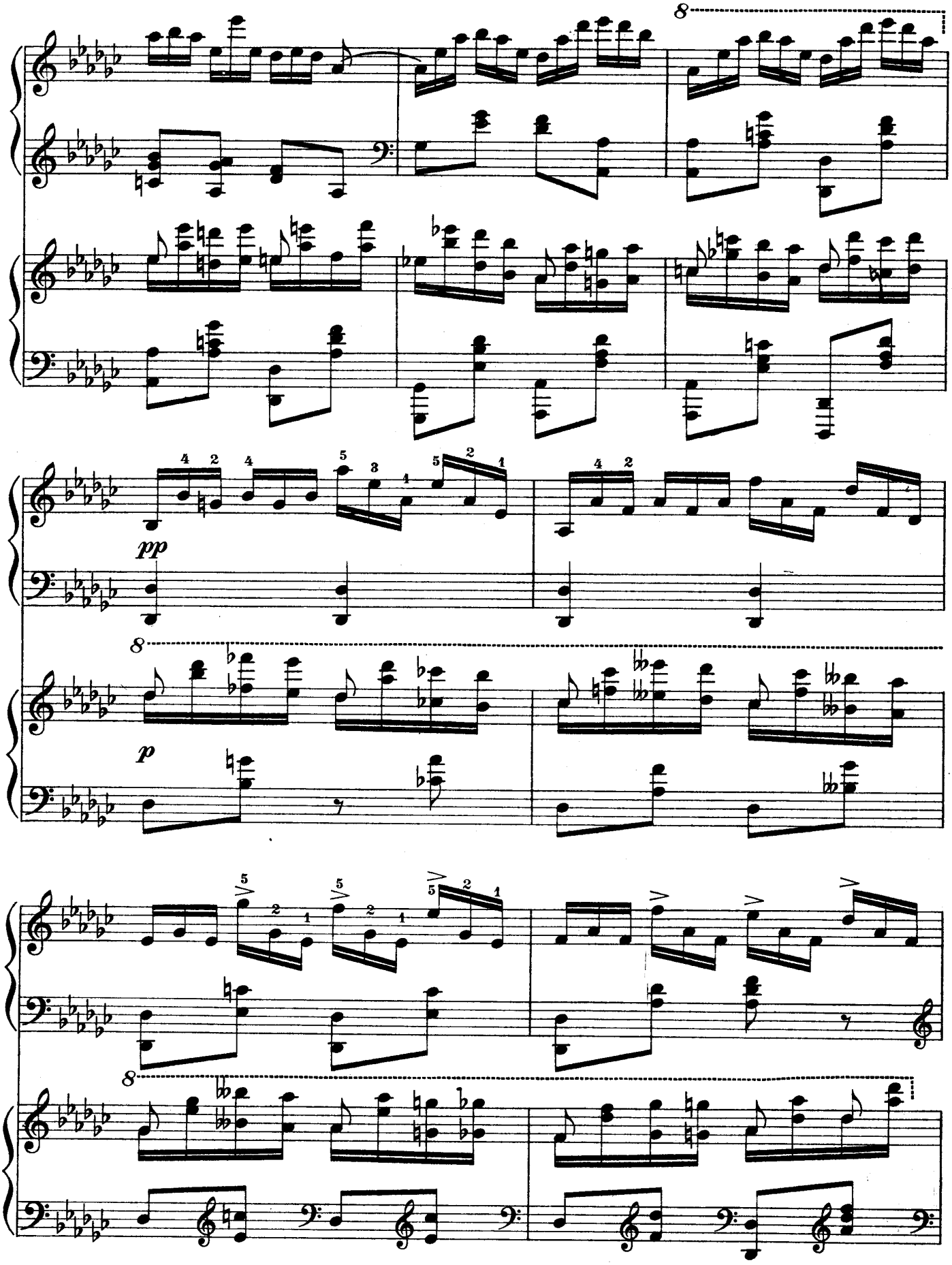
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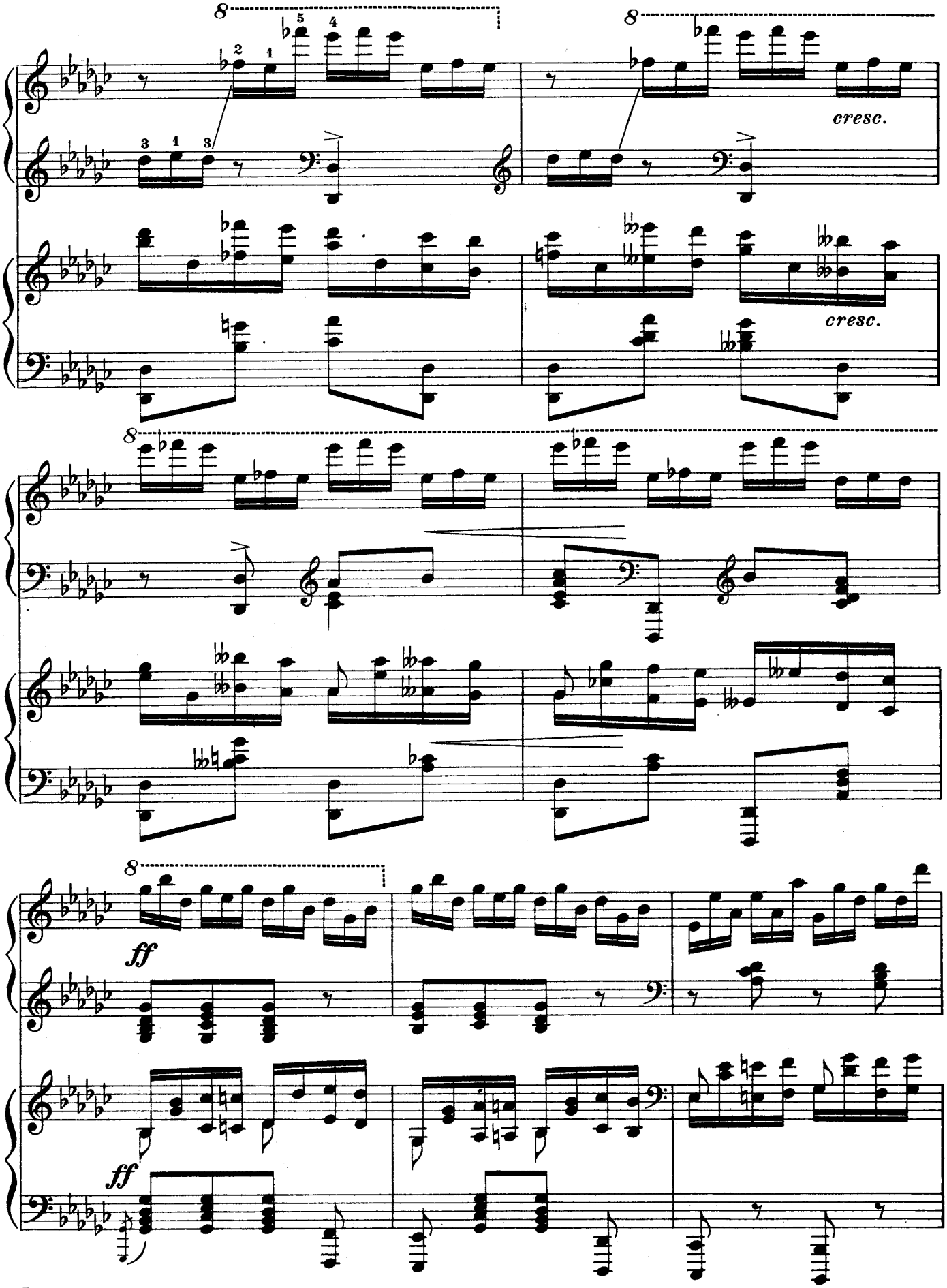
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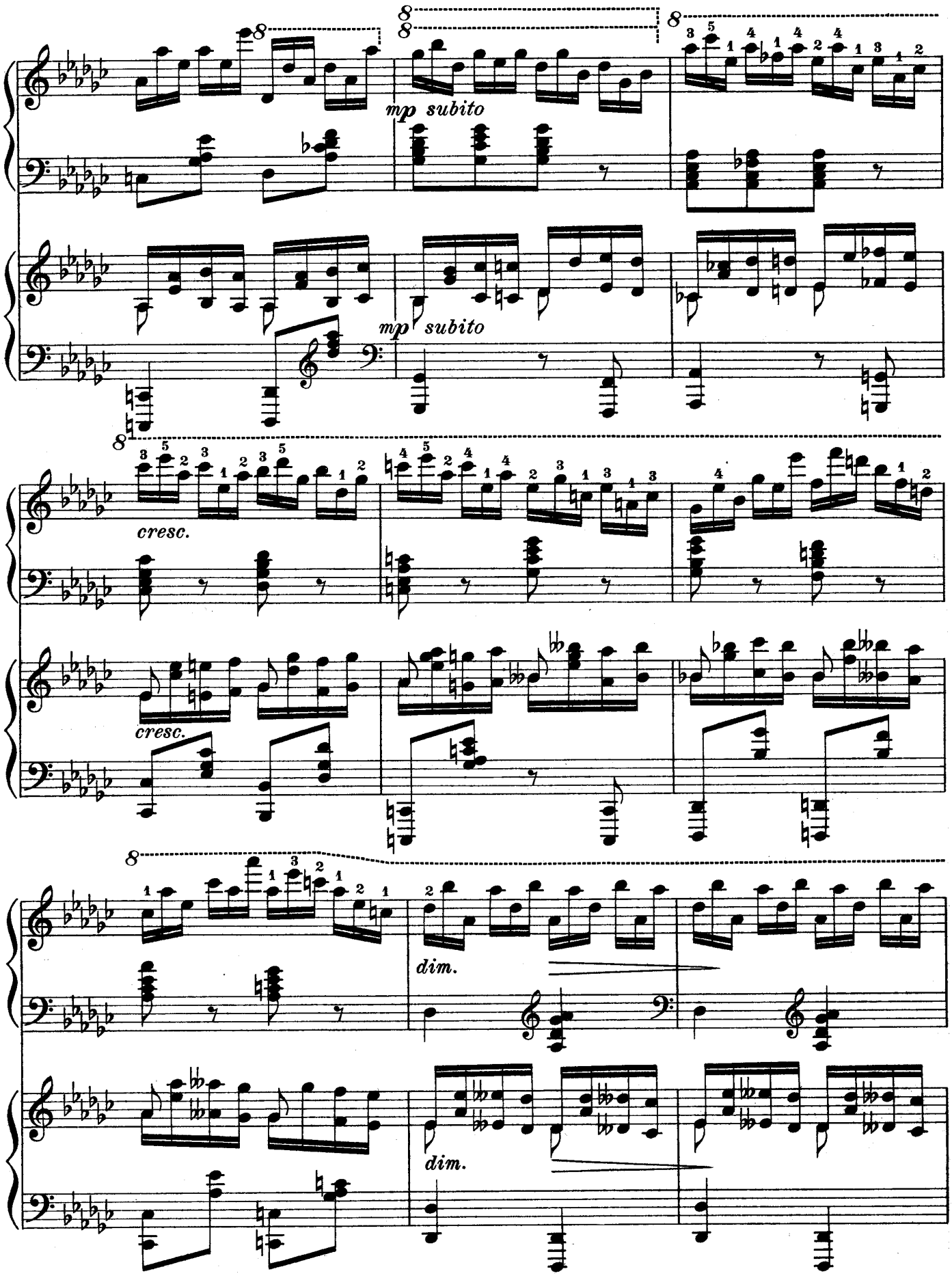
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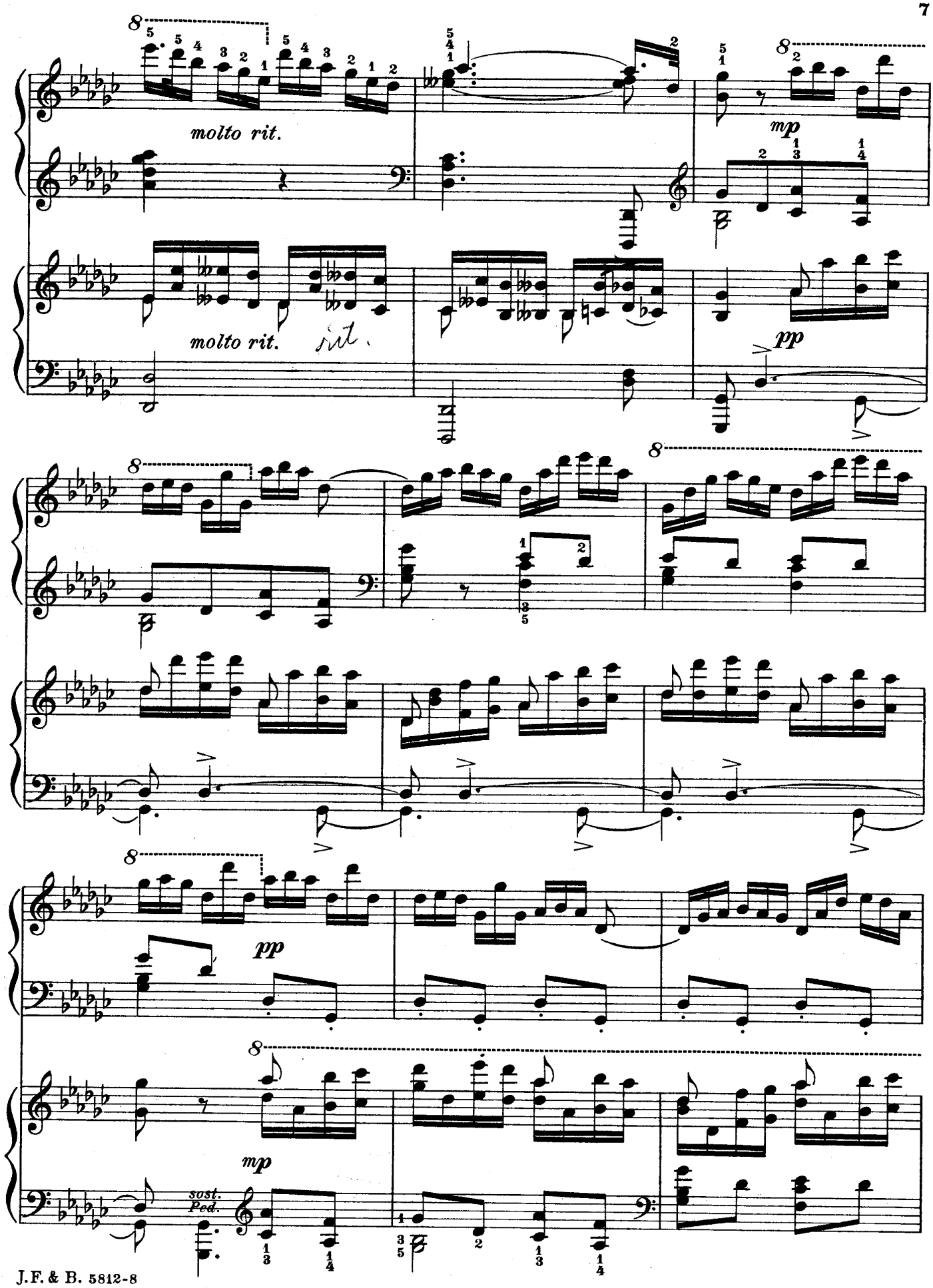
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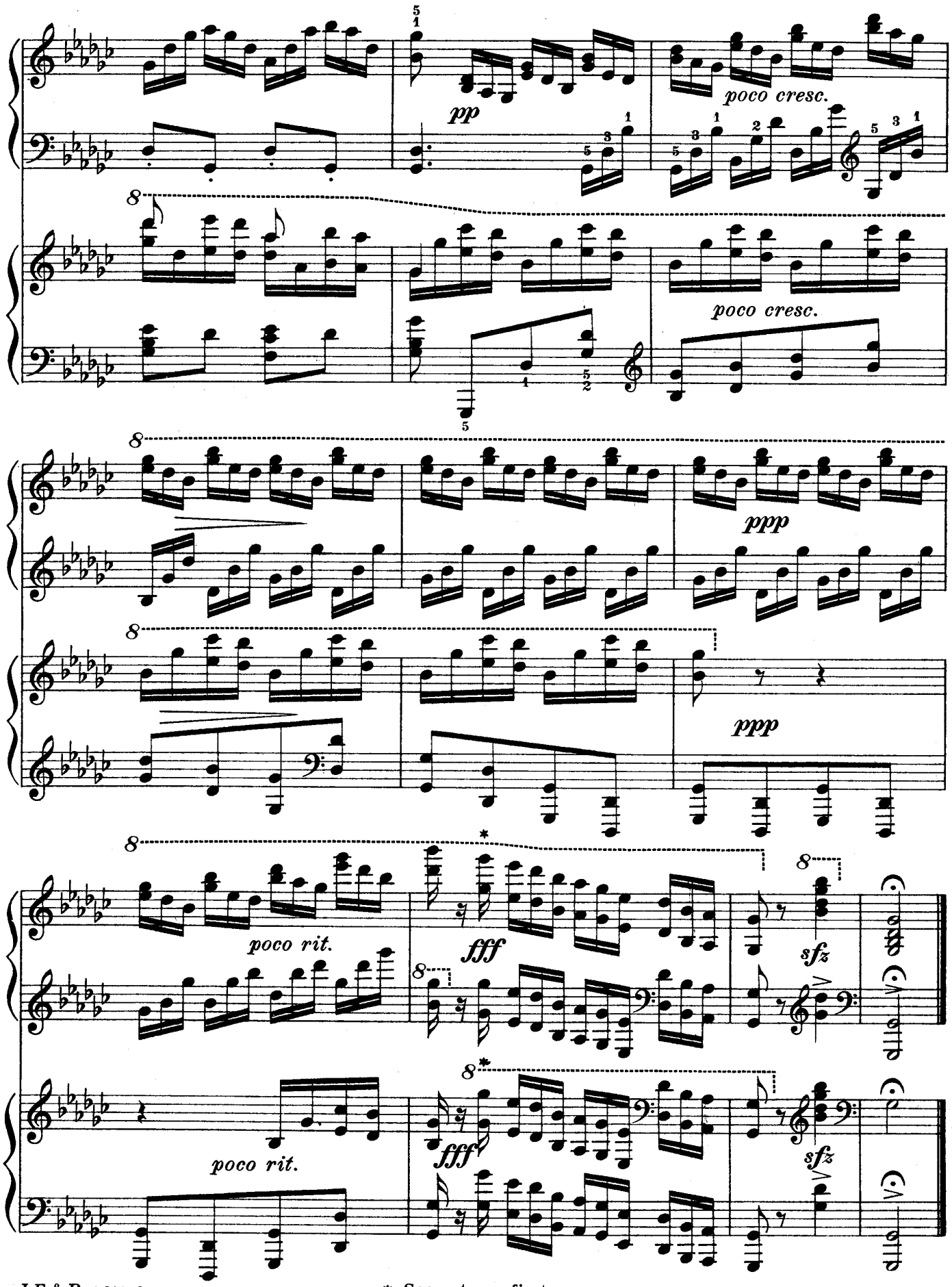

* See note on first page