THE TRIUMPHAL MARCH

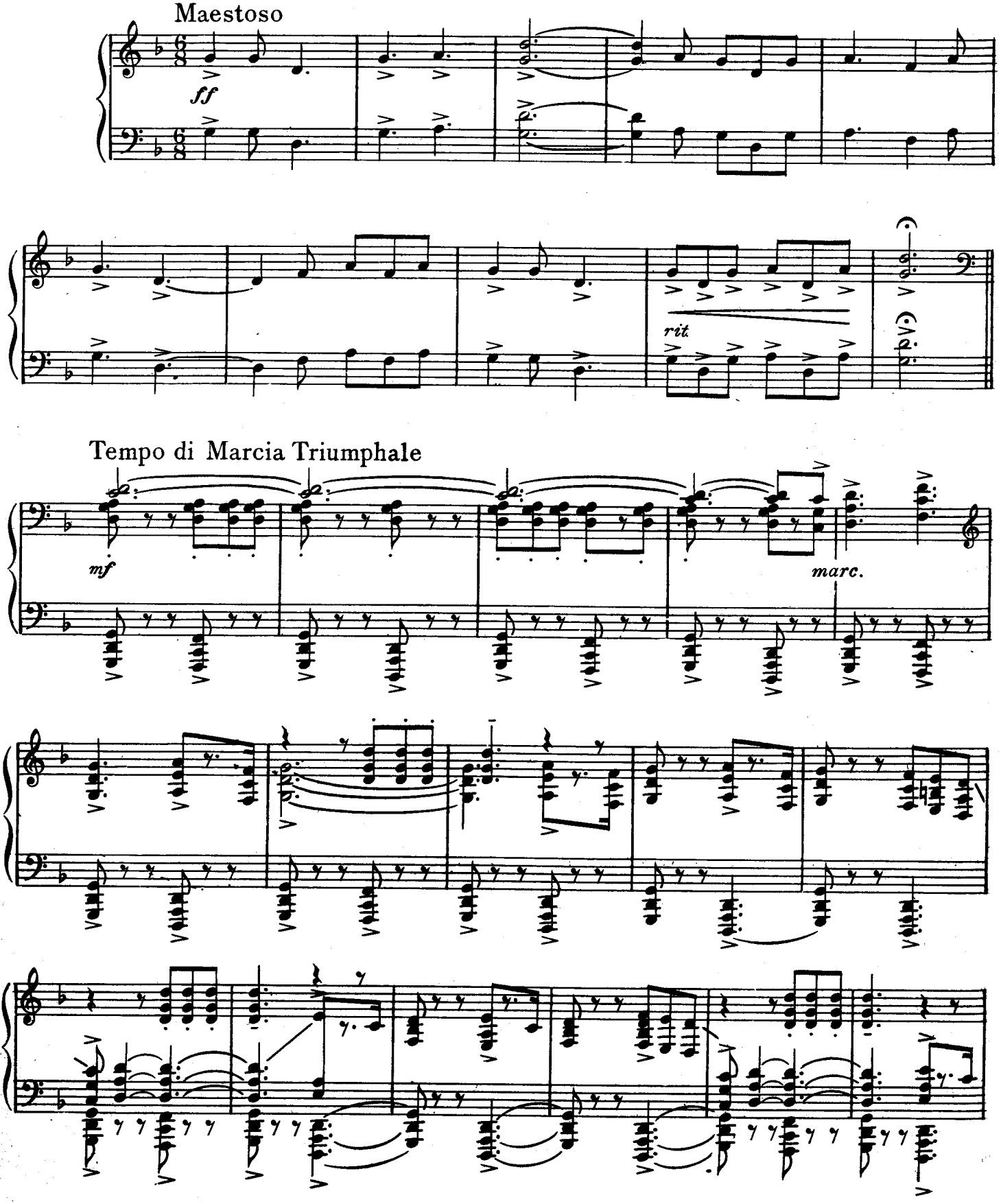
This scene shows the famous Roman military ceremony known as a Triumph, a privilege granted to victorious generals. Preceded by children scattering flowers, by musicians, lictors and senators, by standards, sacrificial animals, prisoners and booty, the victorious general drove along in a triumphal chariot drawn by four white horses and followed by his troops. It was a supreme moment in his life.

Here, Marcus rides proudly across the square in front of Nero's palace. The Emperor, on his balcony, and Marcus salute one another. But while he pays tribute to Nero, Marcus is thinking only of Lygia. He had asked her to be there and though she had refused, his eyes hopefully scan the hysterically cheering crowds.

After the opening fanfares, comes the beat of the Triumphal March—the conqueror's theme—played by massed groups of typically Roman military instruments—salpinx, buccina, double flute or aulos, drums and cymbals. In it we feel all the pride and arrogance of the spirit of Imperial Rome.

HAIL NERO, TRIUMPHAL MARCH

MIKLOS ROZSA



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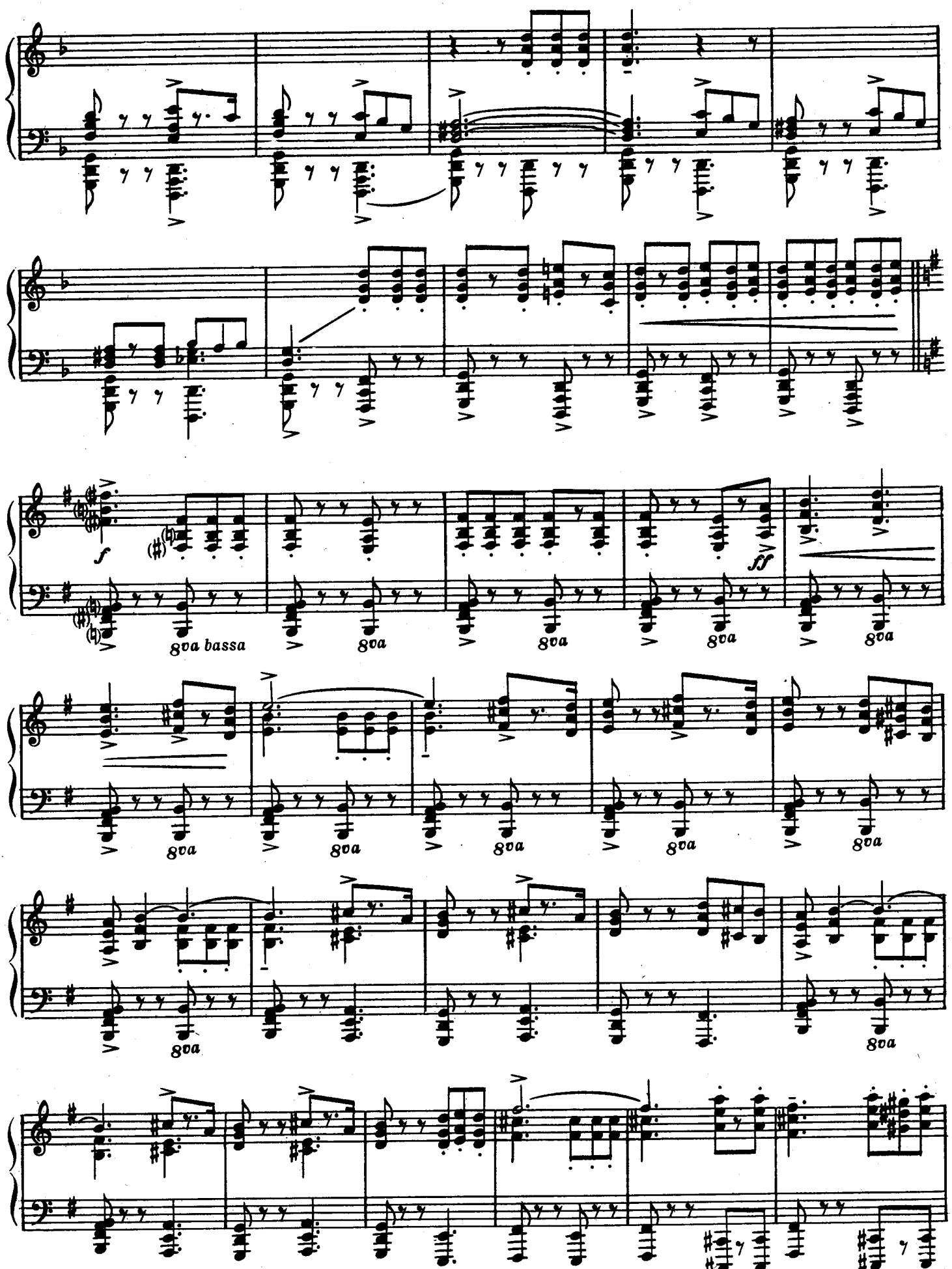
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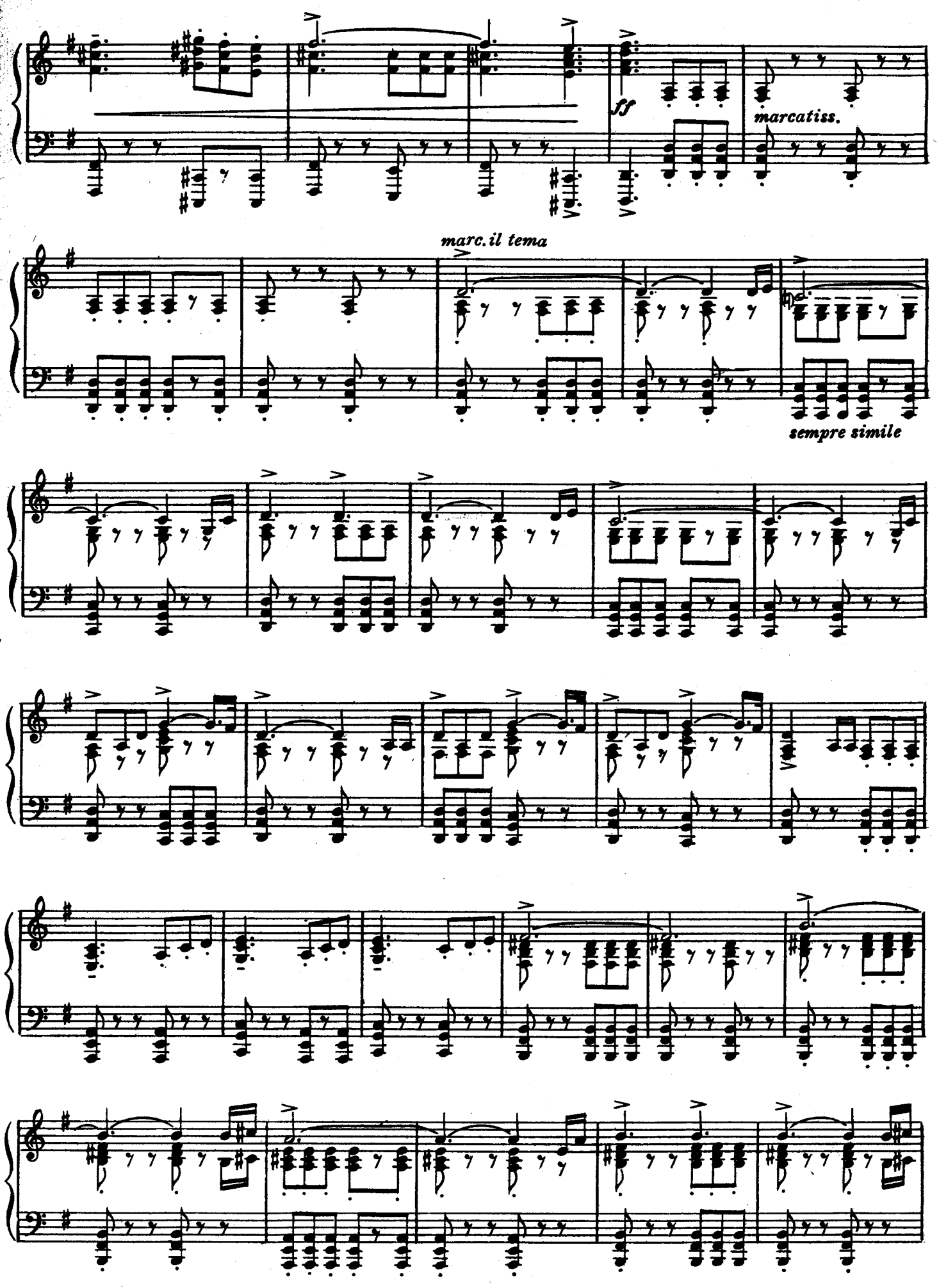
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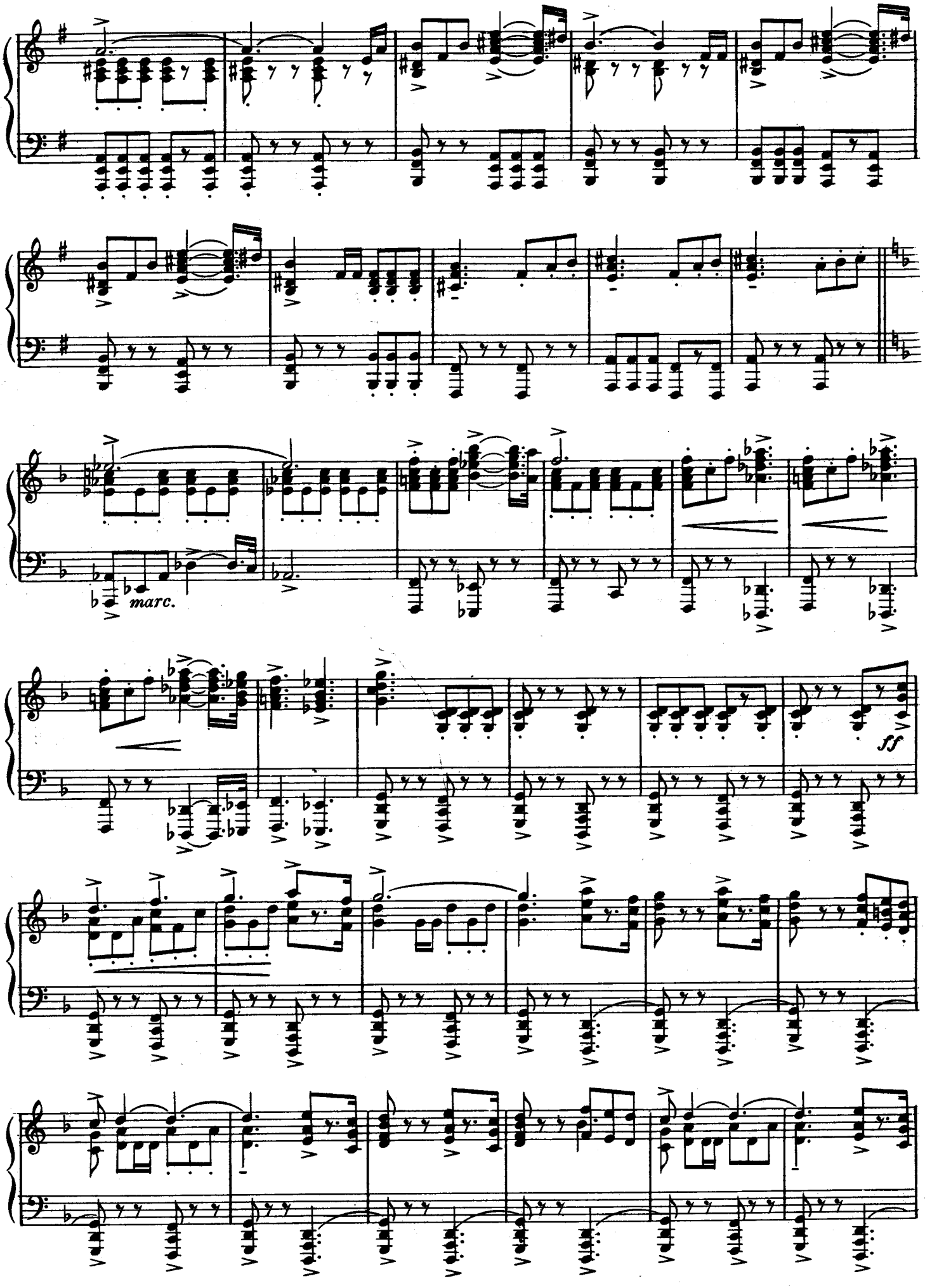
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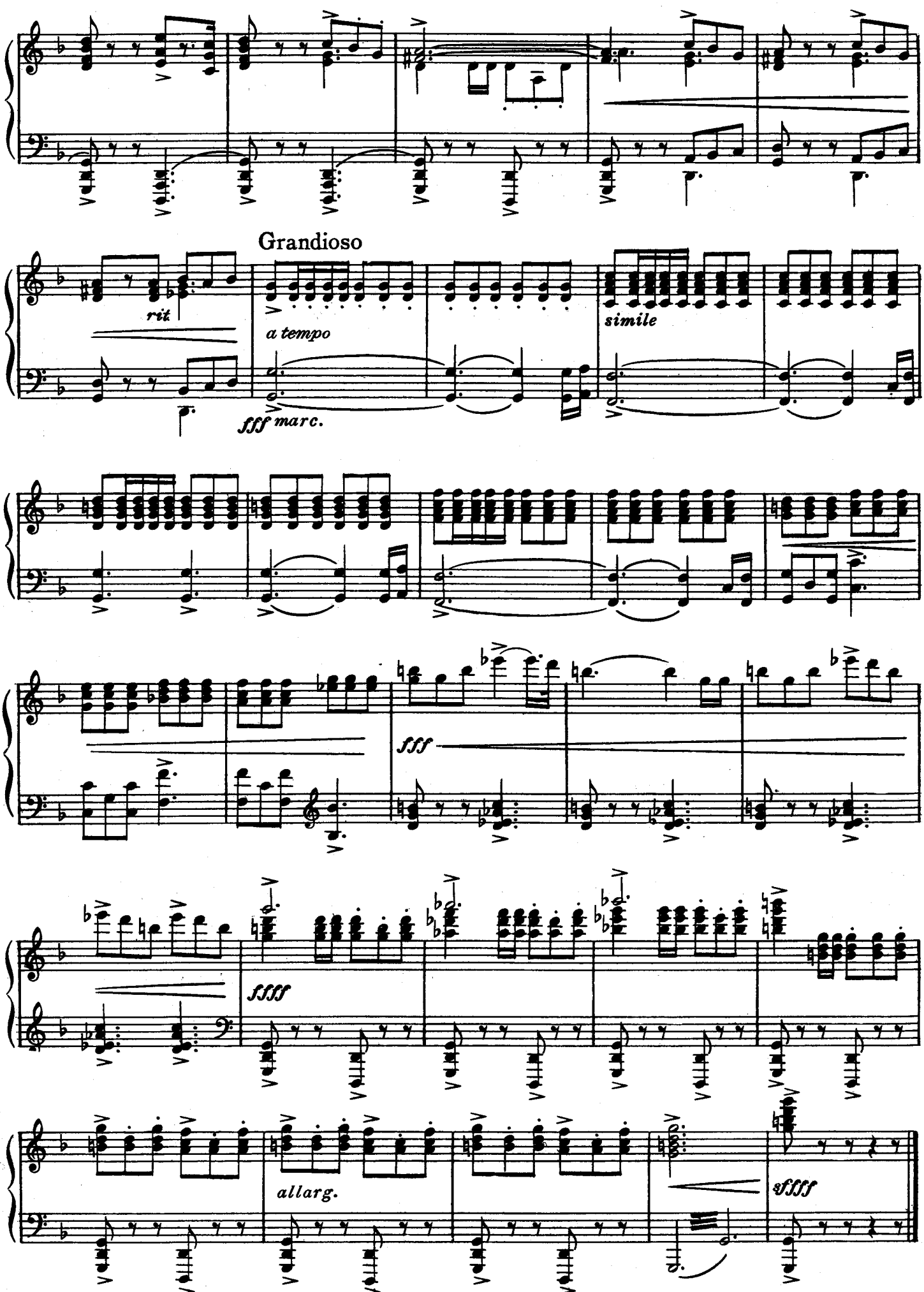
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