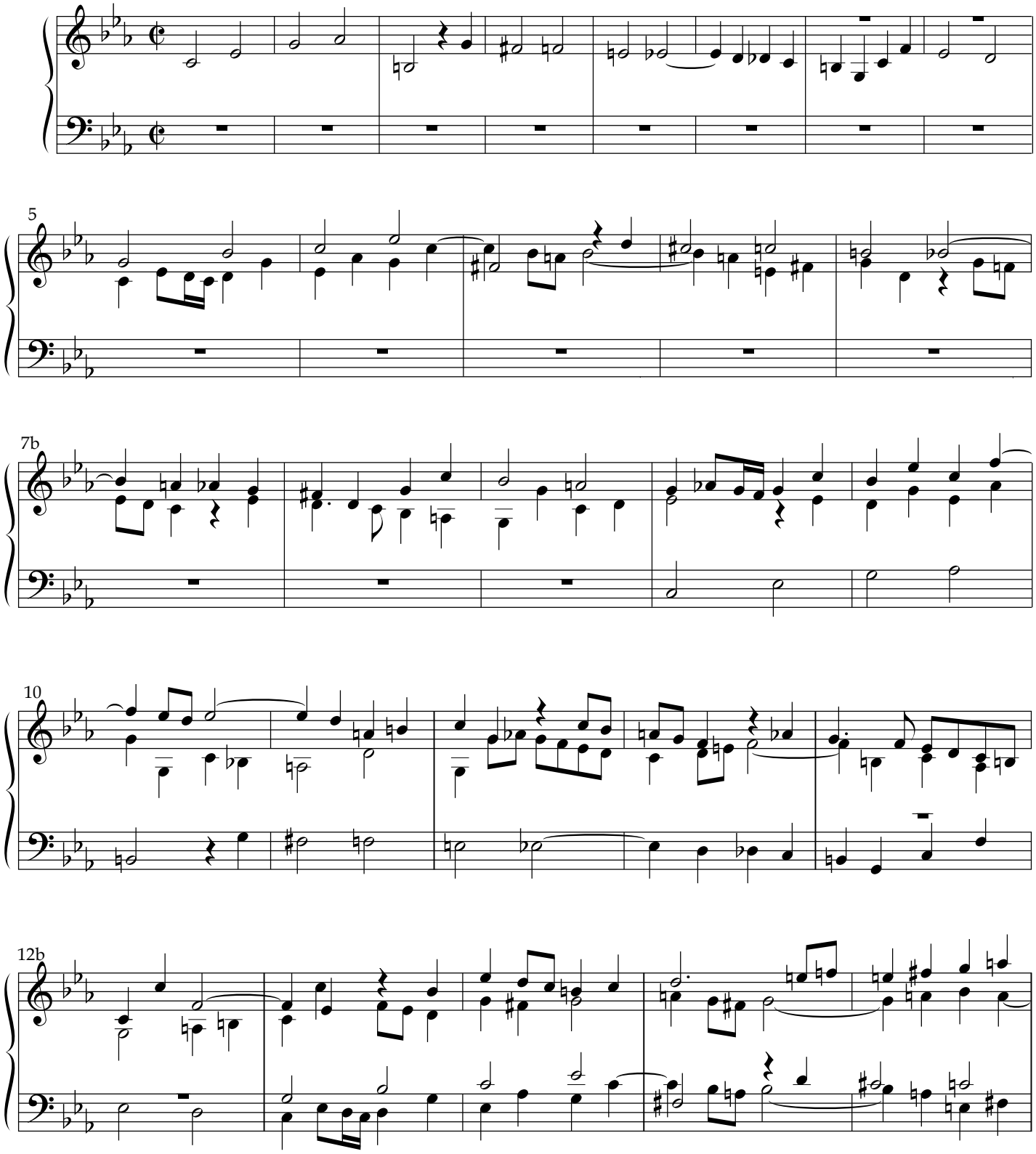
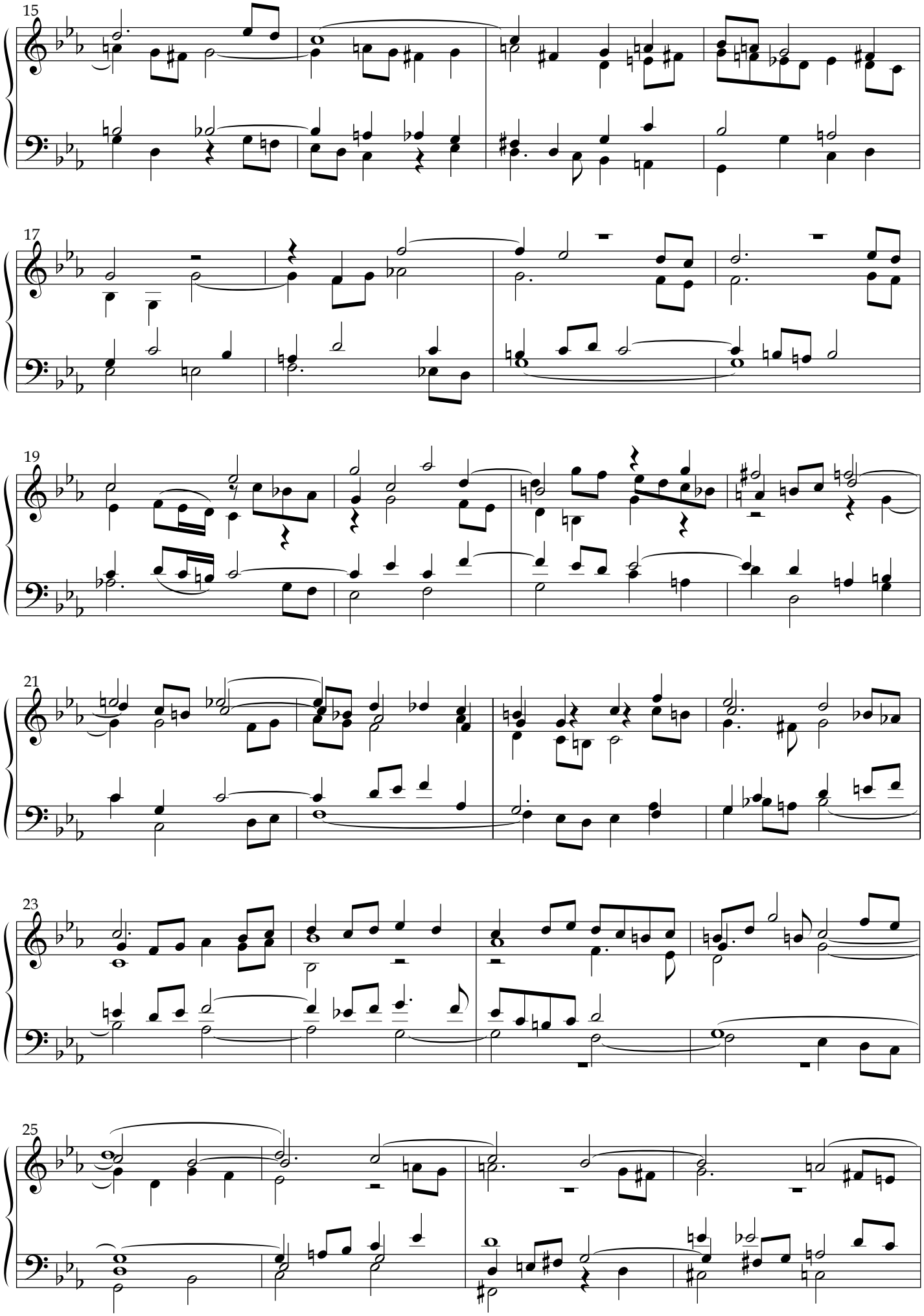
Johann Sebastian Bach

Ein Musicalisches Opfer - Ricercar a 6

BWV 1079/2



Edited for IMSLP / Petrucci Music Library by Hans-Joerg Rechtsteiner - 9/2013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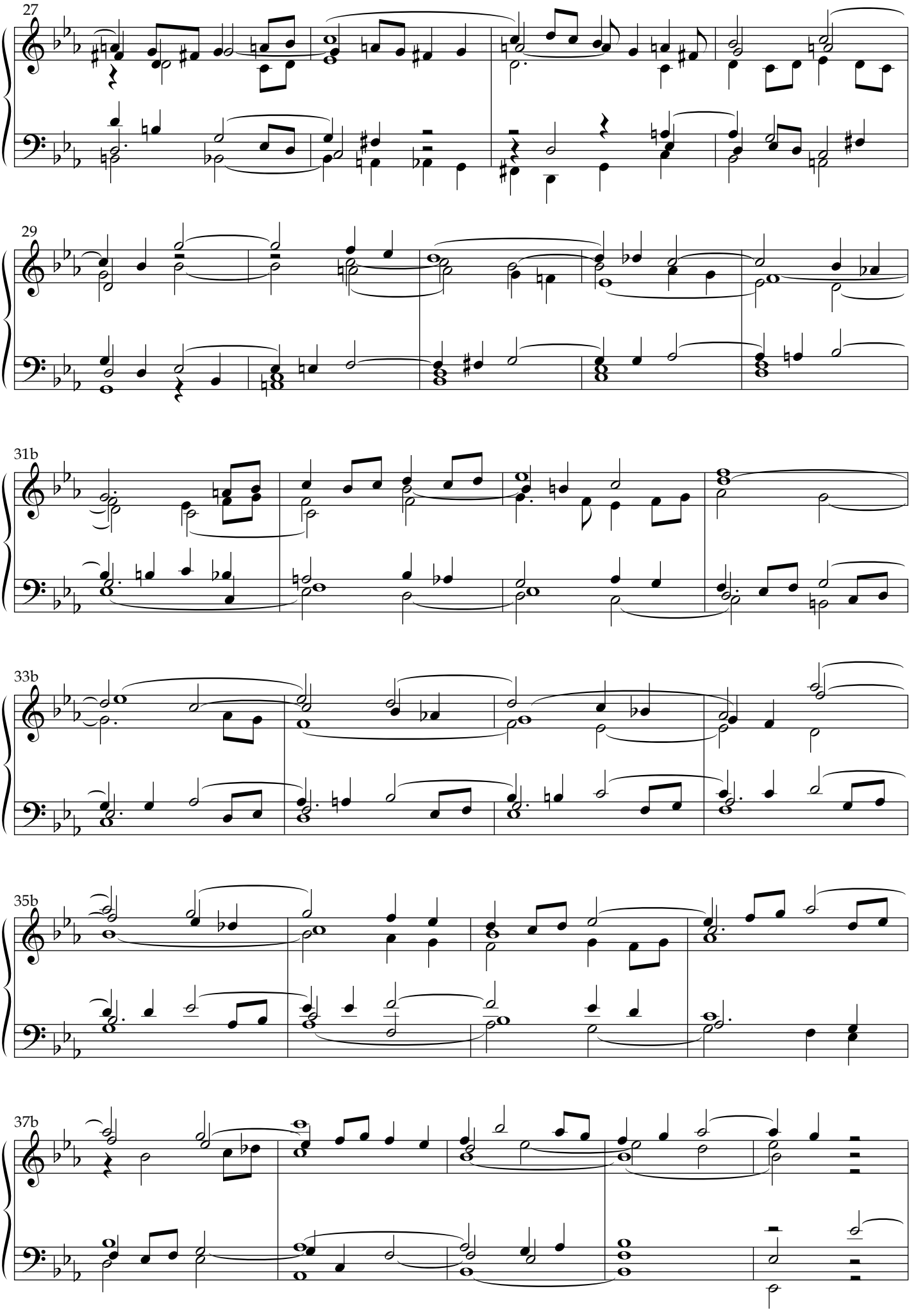
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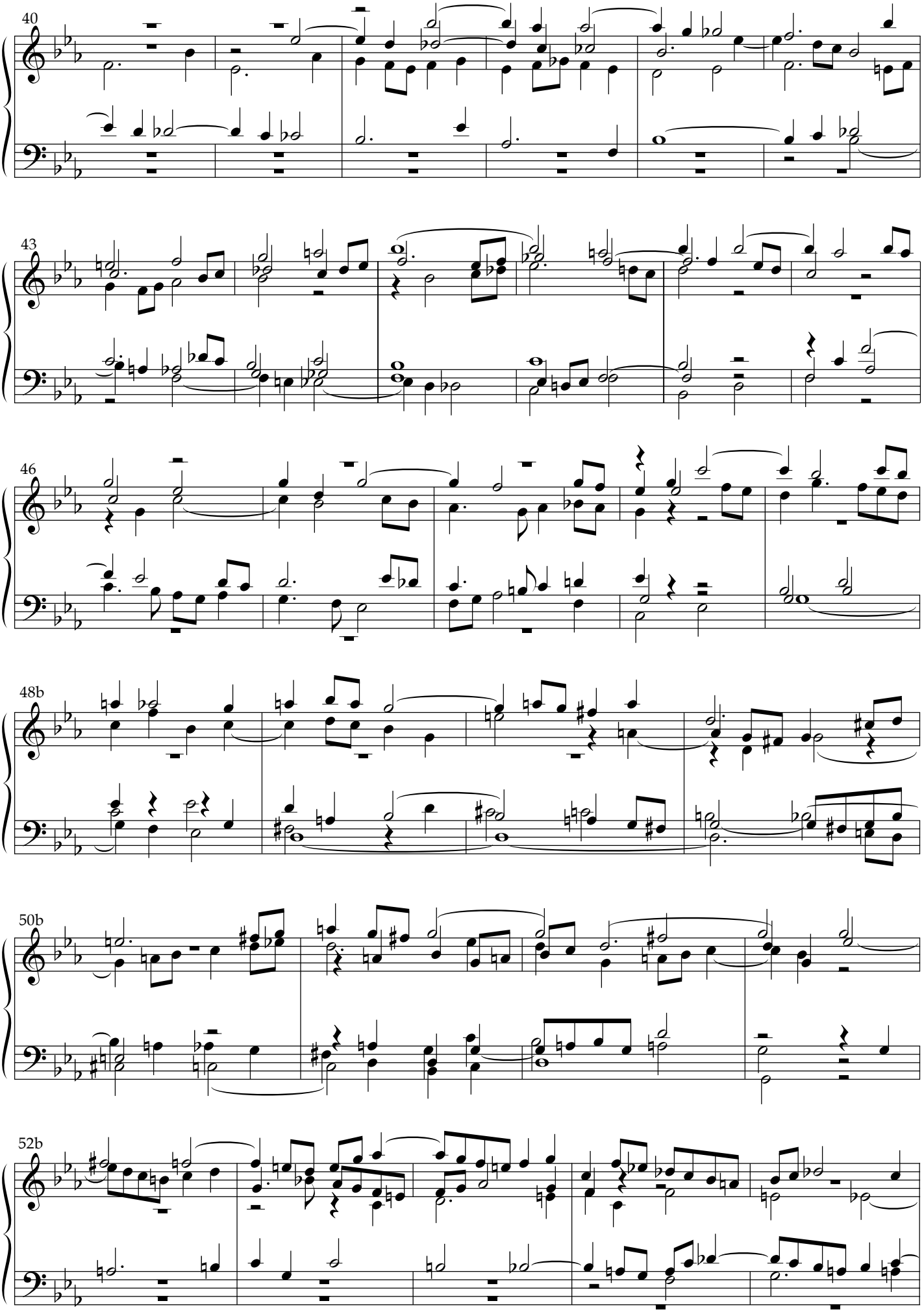
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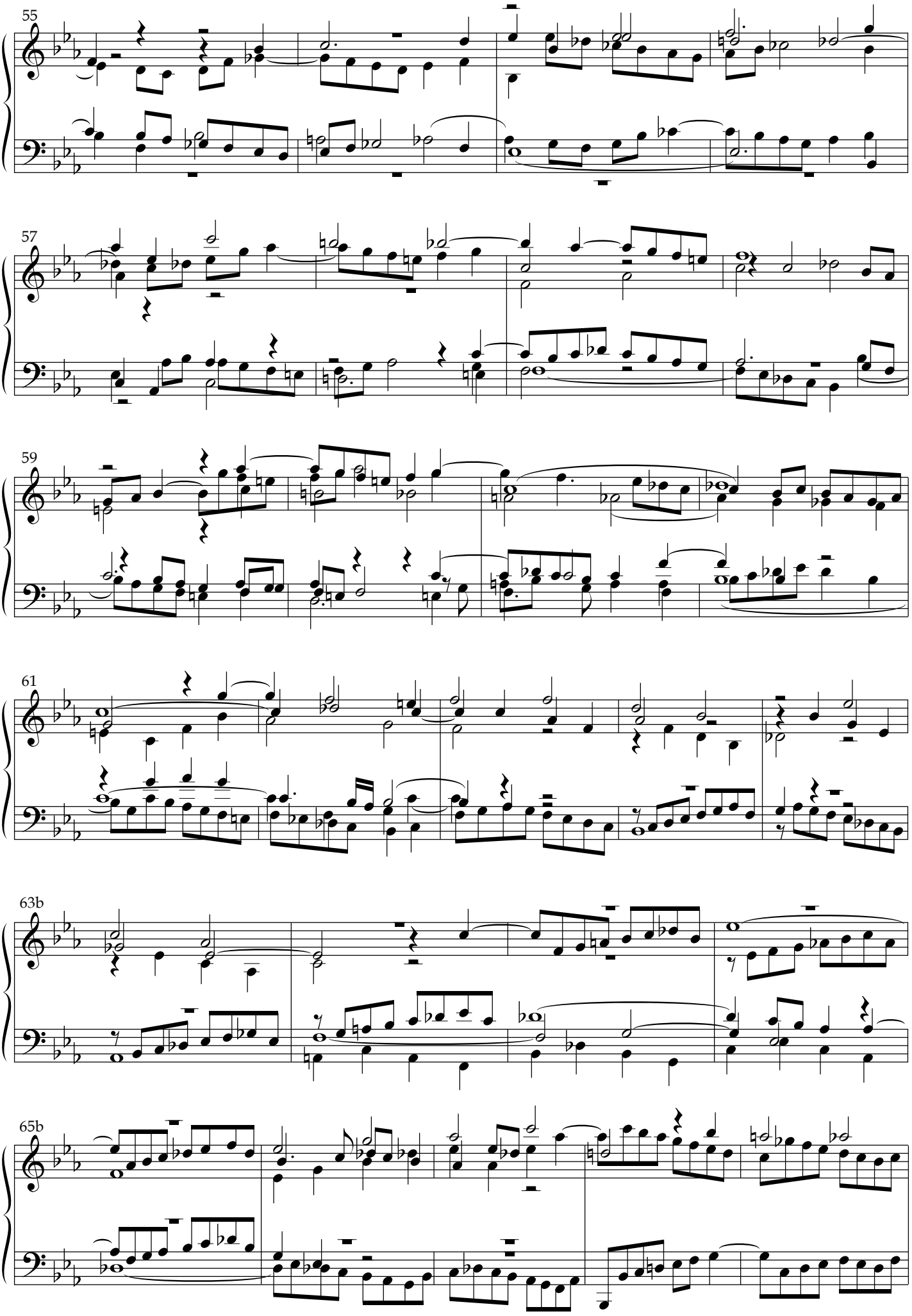
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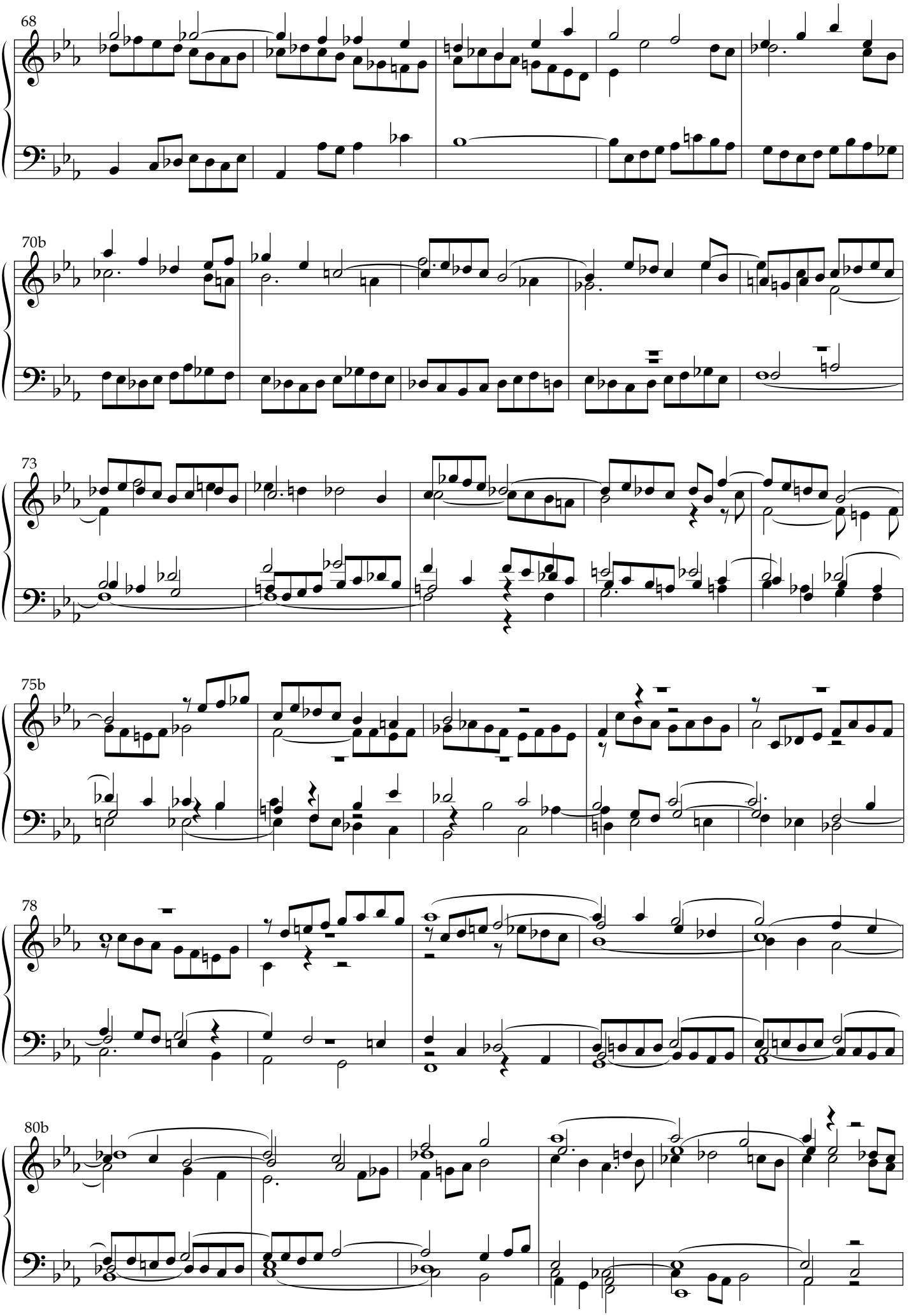
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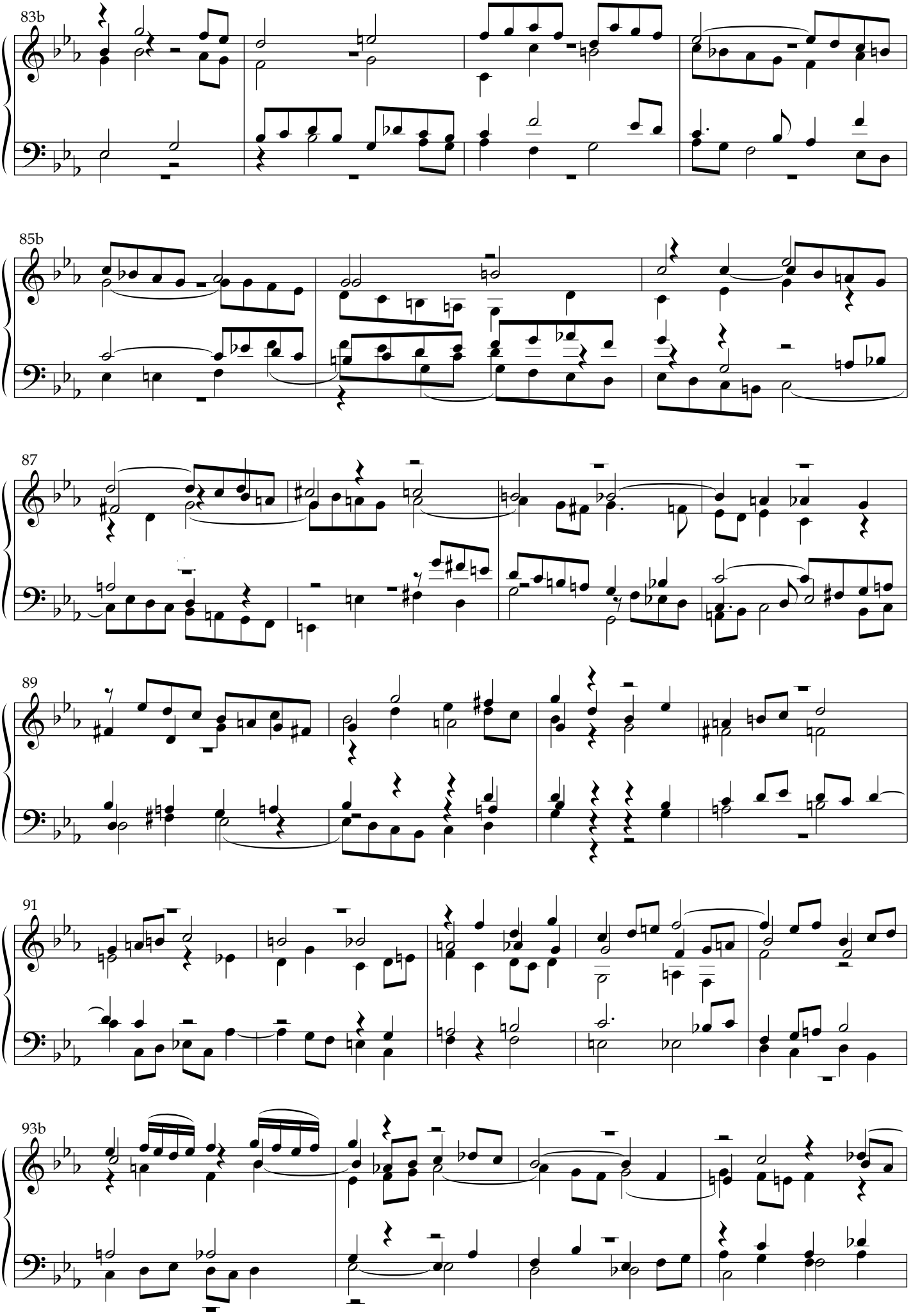
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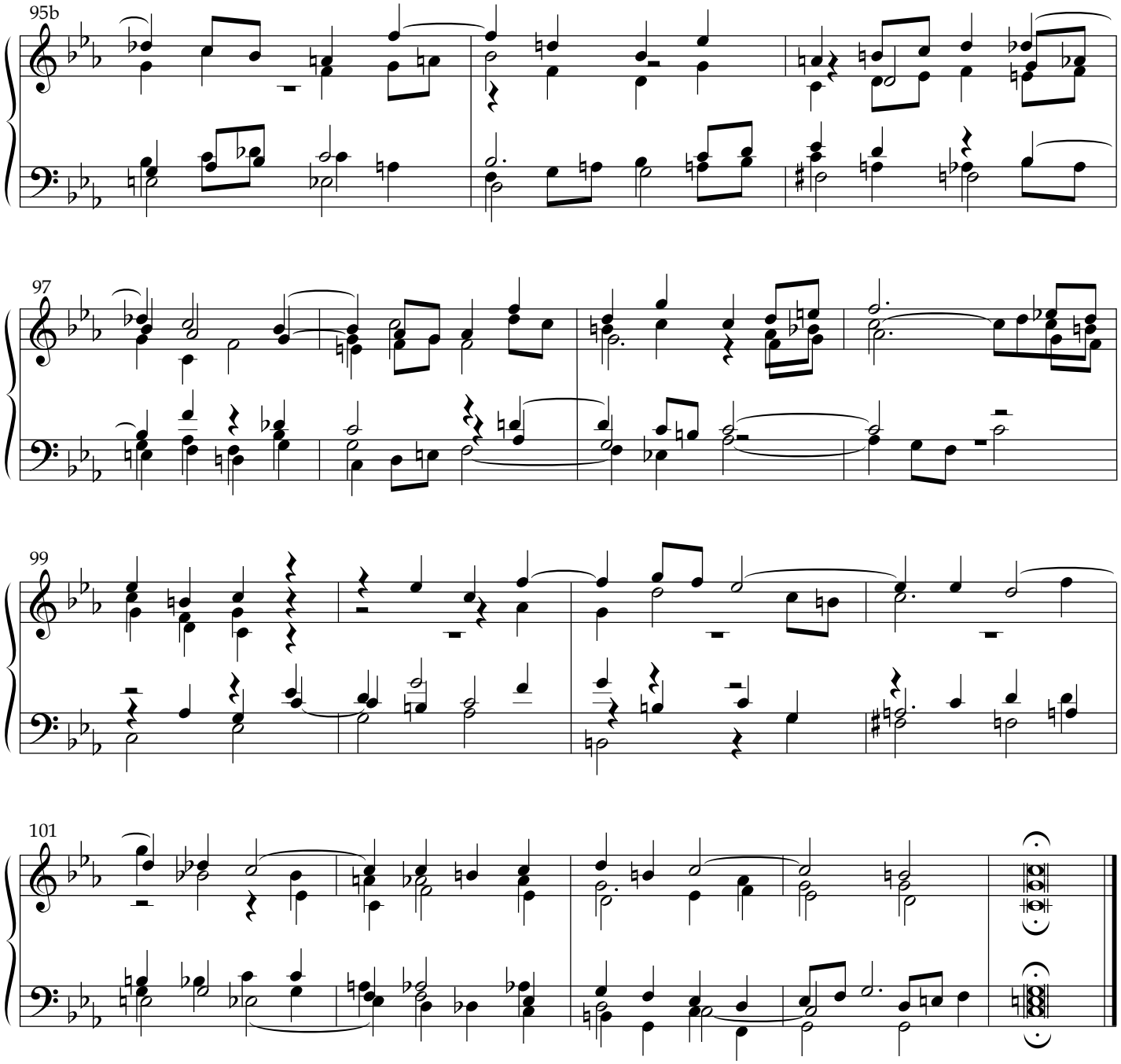

Some remarks on the edition

The piece goes back to two constitutive sources: the autograph (Mus. ms. Bach P 226) and the original print, both from 1747. The major difference between these sources is the six-part score of the printed edition in contrast to the manuscript's simple piano score with two staves. Comparison of these music texts reveals relatively minor differences between both versions, yet also allows presuming that the print represents a younger stage in development of the piece, since it includes the improvements - except for one hardly legible correction found only in the manuscript, not in the later print: In bar 72 the 5th note of the Soprano I is a crotchet B flat ante correcturam, which has been changed to two quavers, E flat / B flat. I consider this correction an amelioration and have thus incorporated it into the present edition. The concluding fermata occurs only in the manuscript, too. Otherwise, the entire musical text follows the original print. The use of a piano score, though, has its model in Bach's manuscript, and intends to make the great challenge of playing a fugue for six voices on the harpsichord or piano as agreeable as possible even to an advanced amateur.

Offenbach, September 2013, Hans-Joerg Rechtsteiner