Очи Чёрные

(Schwarze Augen, Dark Eyes)

Traditional: lyrics Evgeny Grebenka (1843), music Florian Hermann or Sindo Garay

arranged by Paul De Bra for accordion quintet (1, 2, 3, 4, bass)

The traditional Очи Чёрные (pronounced as "Ochi Chyornye") was originally just a poem, by the Ukrainian writer Evgeny Grebenka (Евгений Гребёнка), and later turned into a song by using a melody that could be by Florian Hermann (of German origin) or Sindo Garay (Cuban). The origin is not 100% certain. (Sources differ in opinion.) The song consists of a single simple melody of 16 bars that repeats over and over again (with different lyrics). To turn this into an instrumental piece every arranger adds improvisations and variations, one more extremely difficult than the other… To enable “normal” amateur ensembles to play this an easier arrangement was needed. In this arrangement the melody returns many times, but each time with a different rhythm and with different additions. One of these may even remind you of Libertango…
This arrangement was made especially for the quintet ARTE, which always uses a button accordion for the fourth voice. One of the improvisations (near the end) in the fourth voice is only very easy on a button accordion. On piano accordion that could be replaced for instance by a glissando up and down.

A recording by Professor P is available on YouTube.

This arrangement is provided under the Creative Commons Attribution license (and so is the recording).

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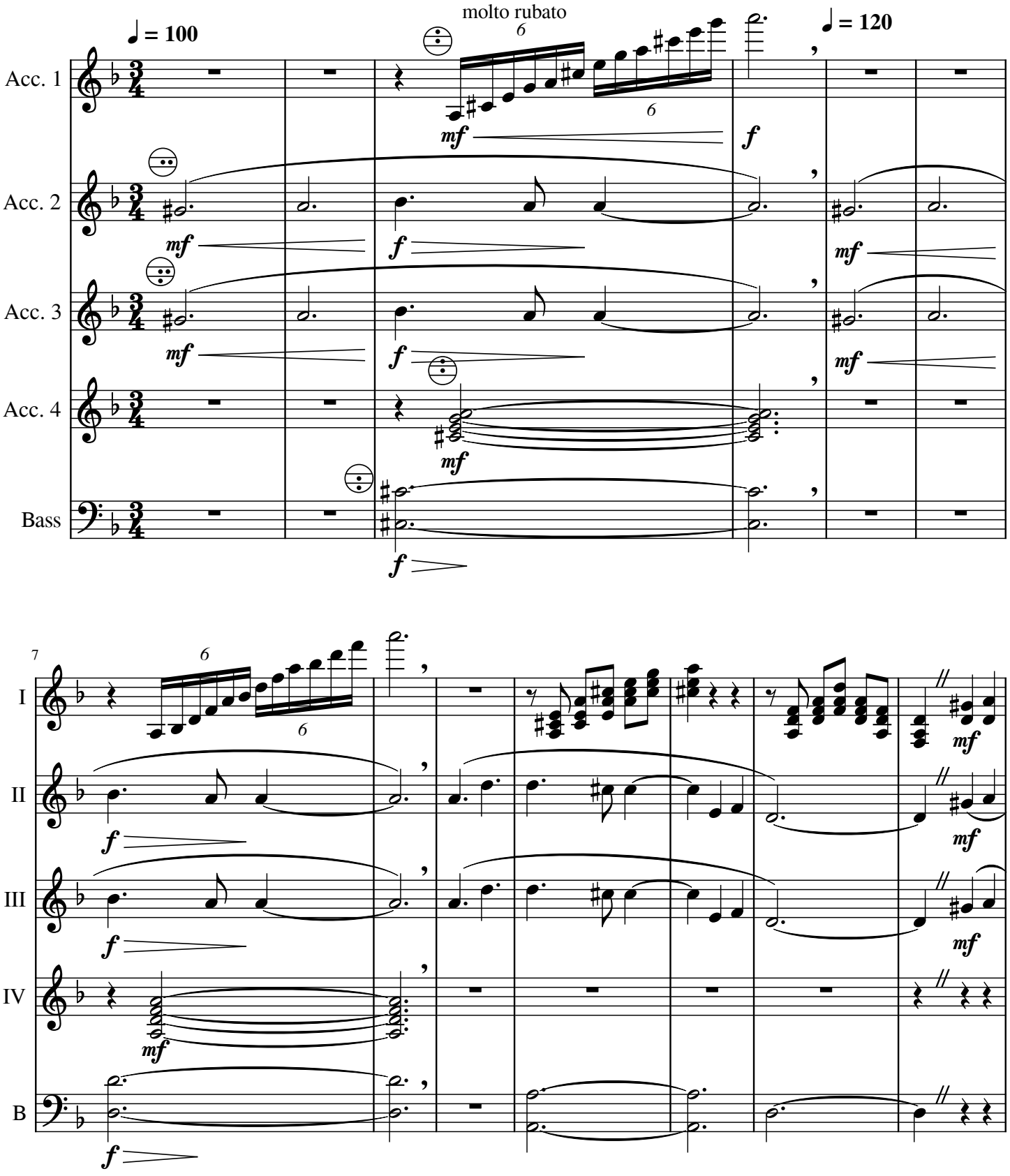
(pronounced "Ochi Chyornye")

poem: Evgeny Grebenka (1843), music: Florian Hermann or Sindo Garay
arr. Paul De Bra



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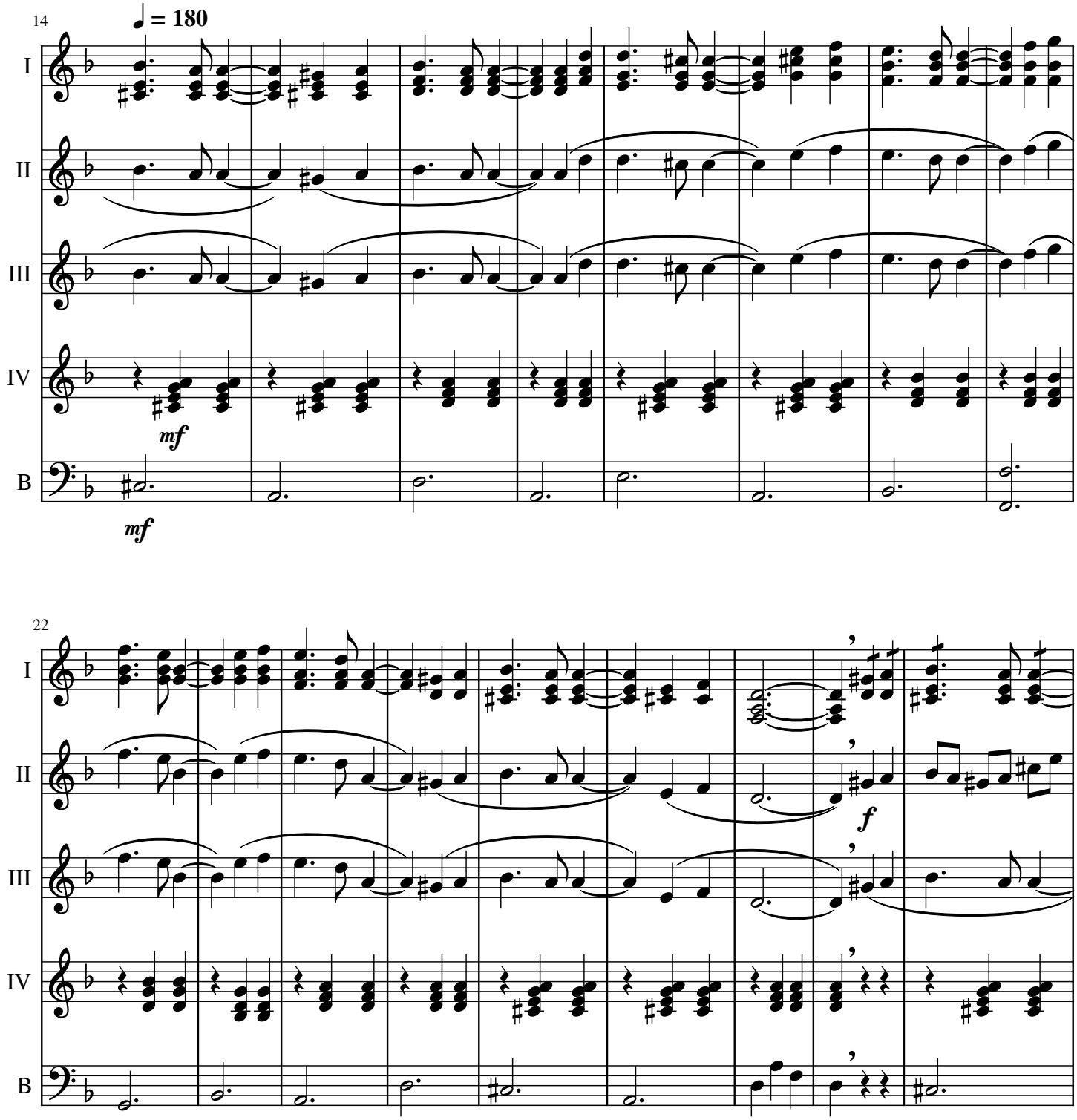

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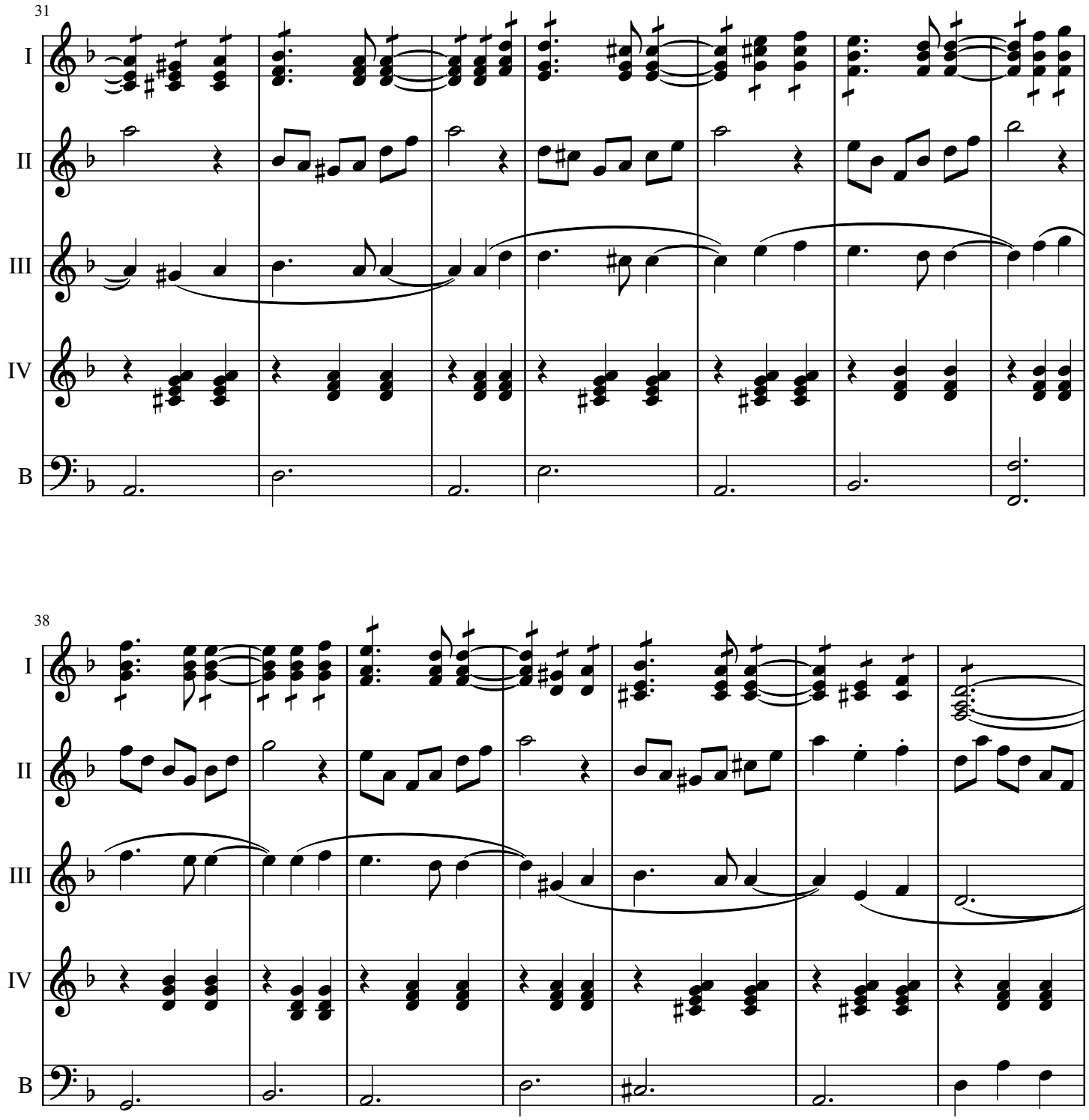

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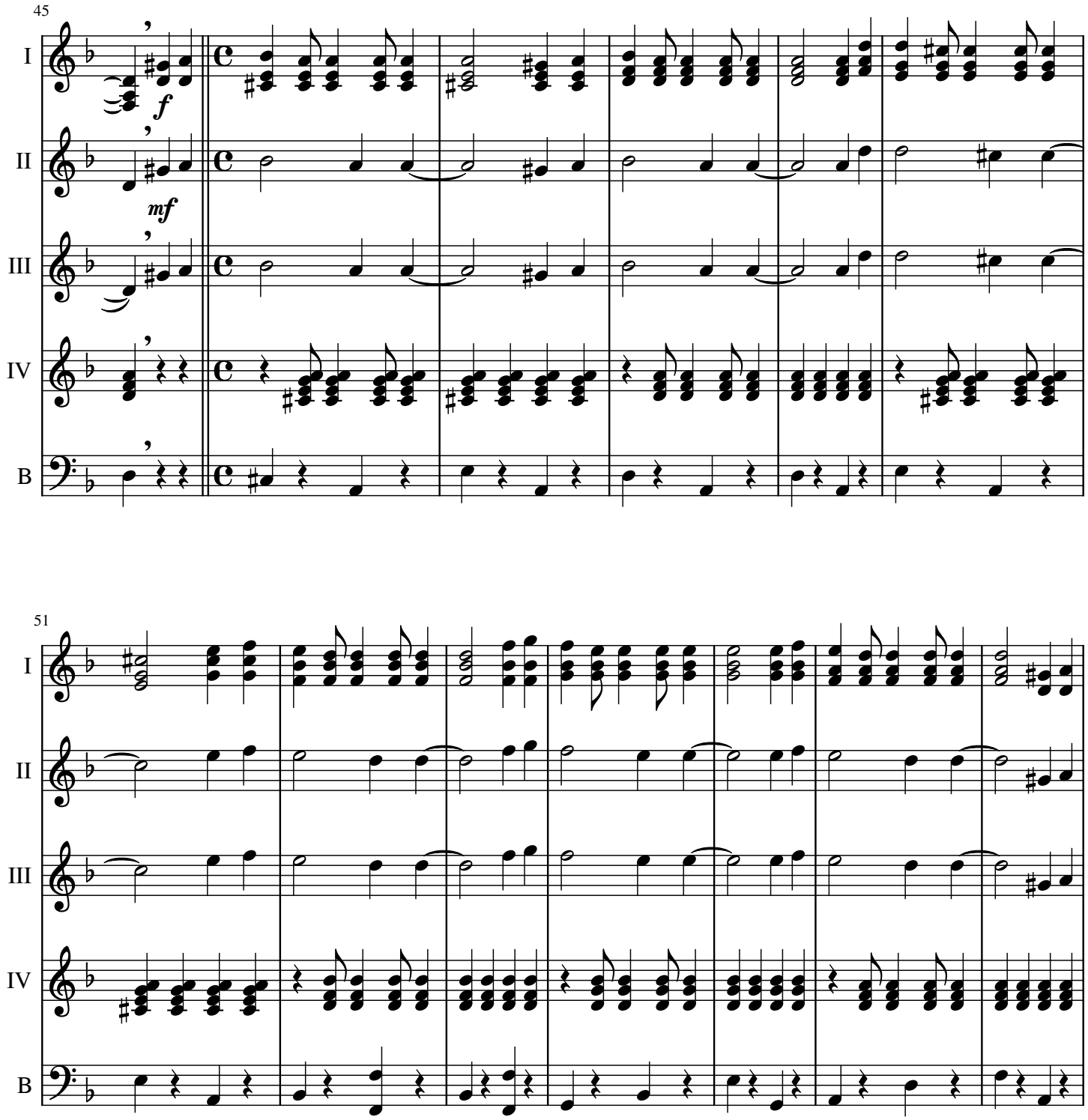

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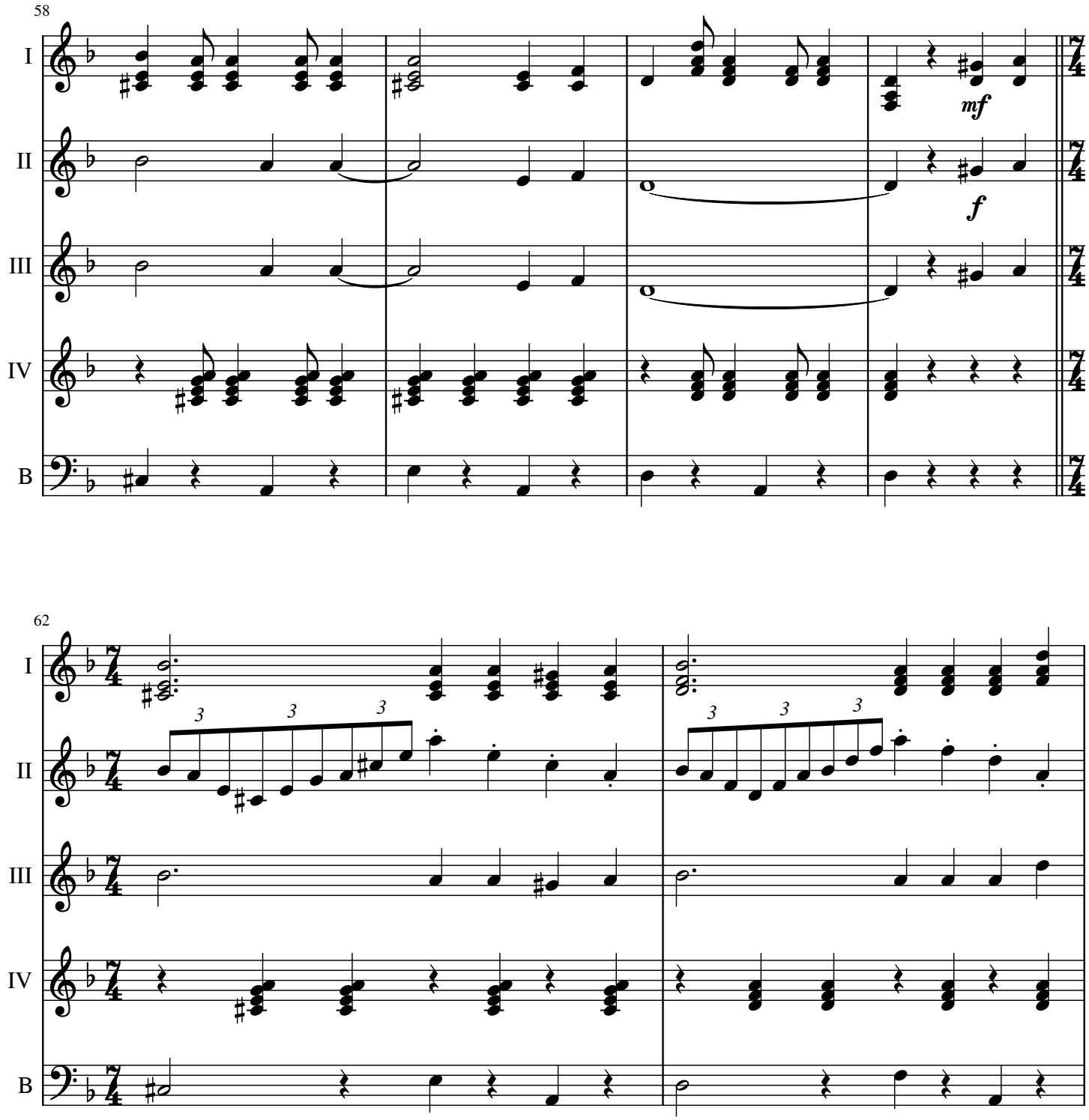

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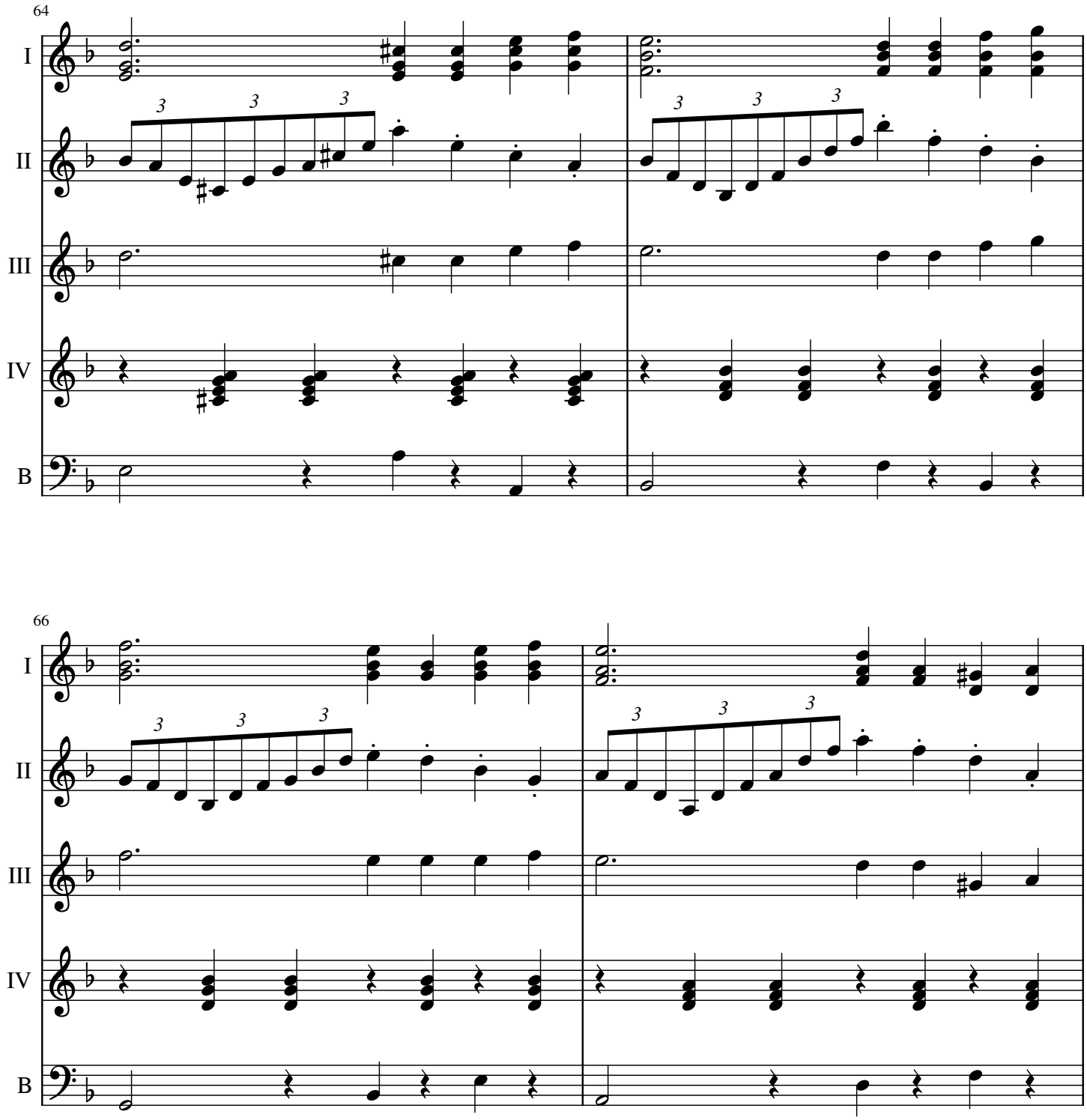

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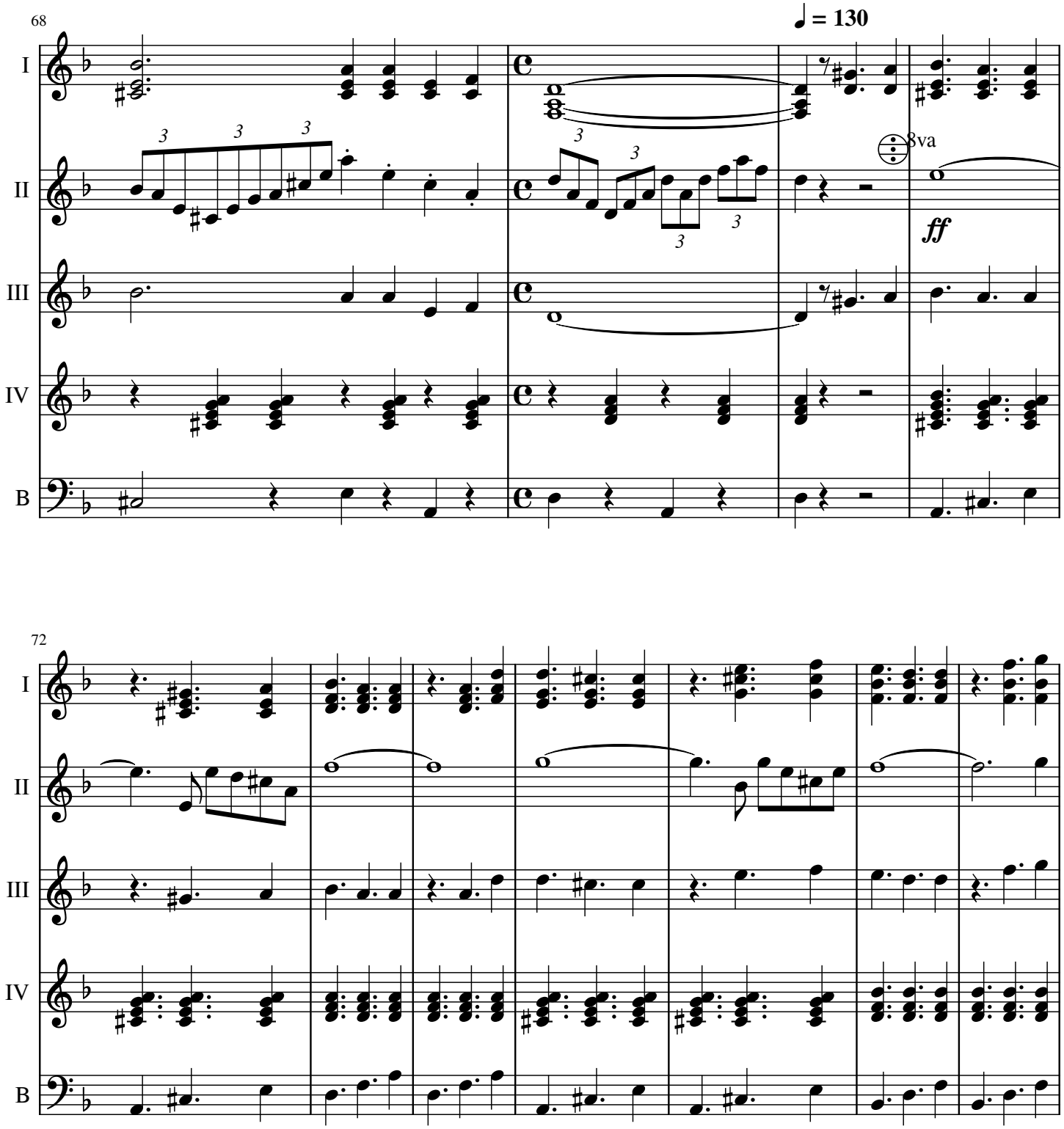

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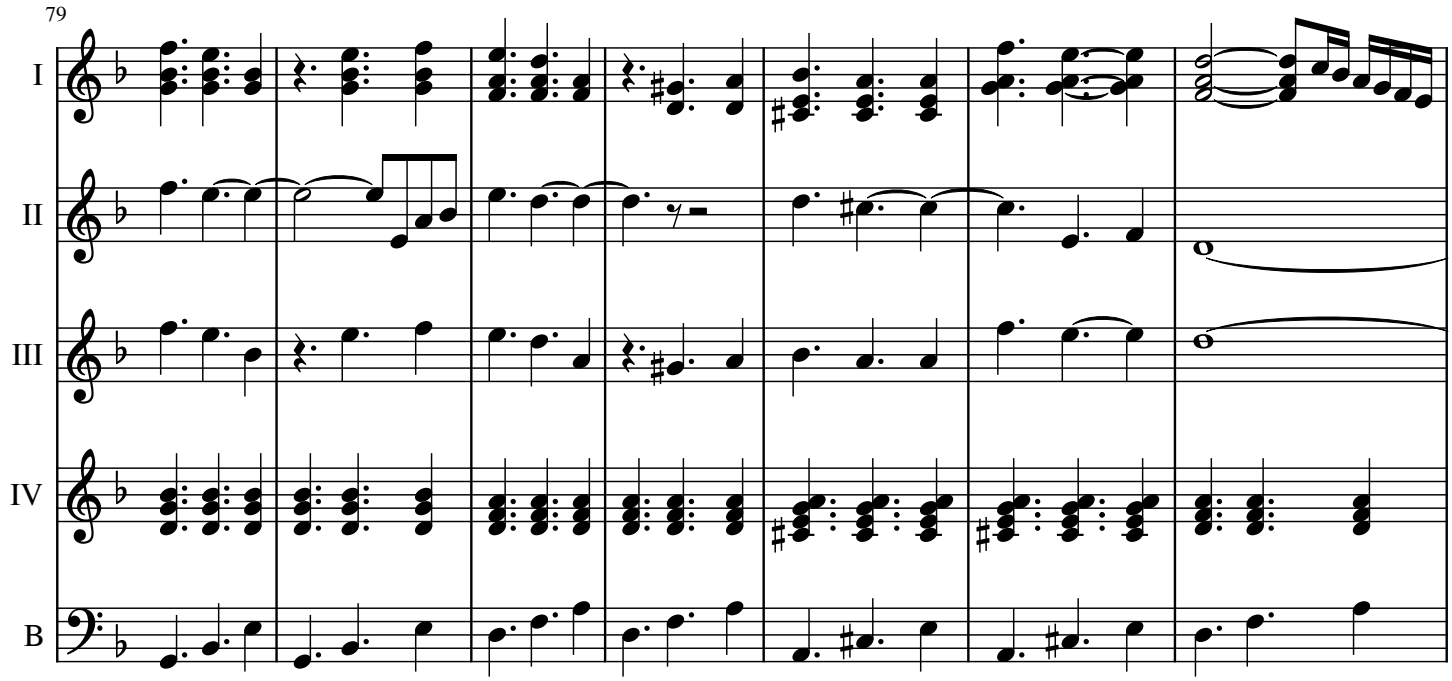

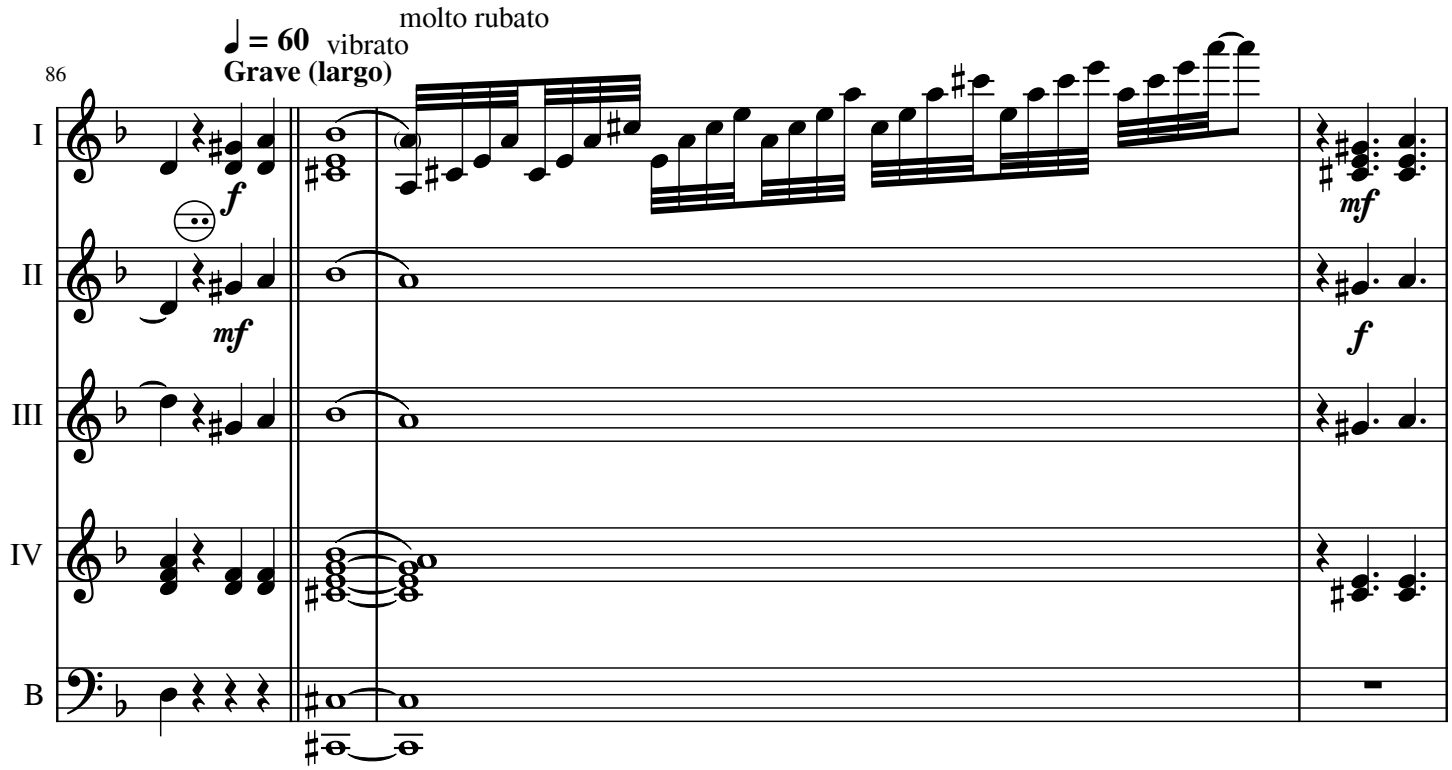

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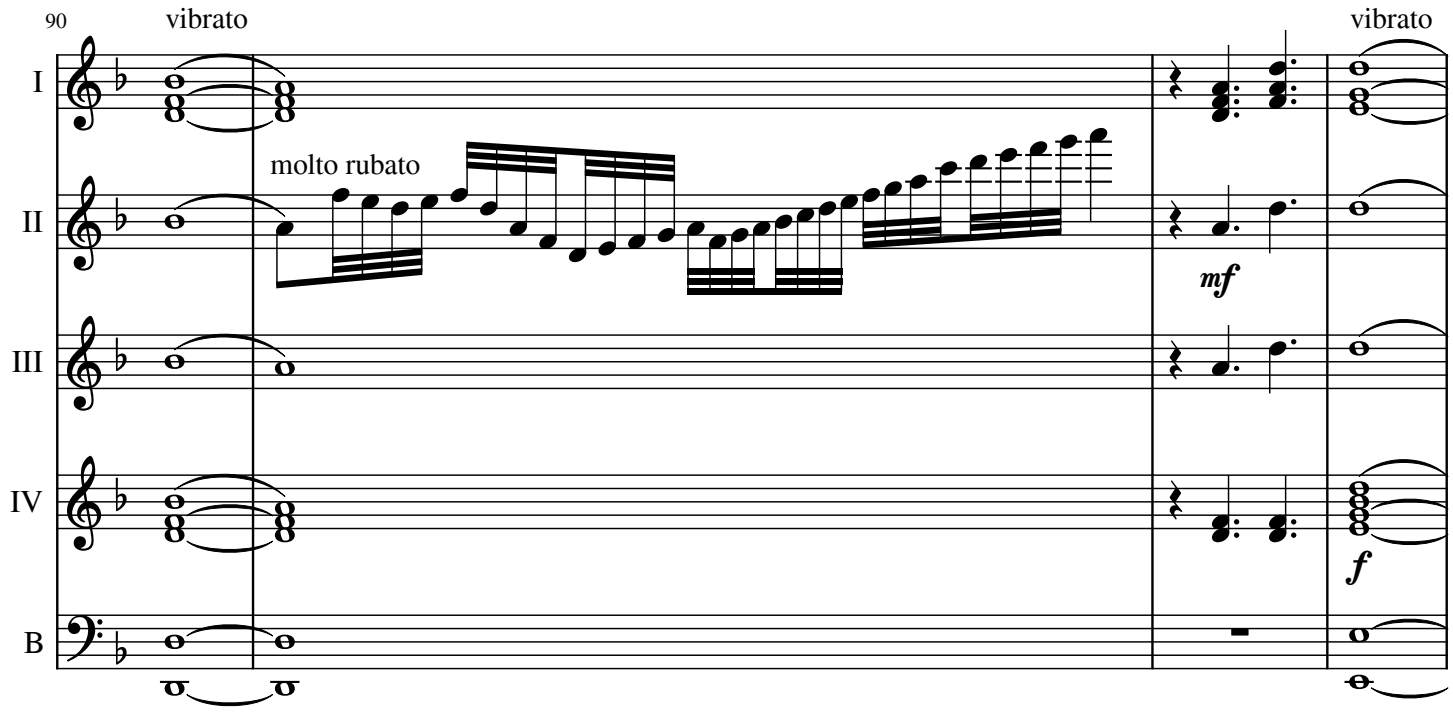

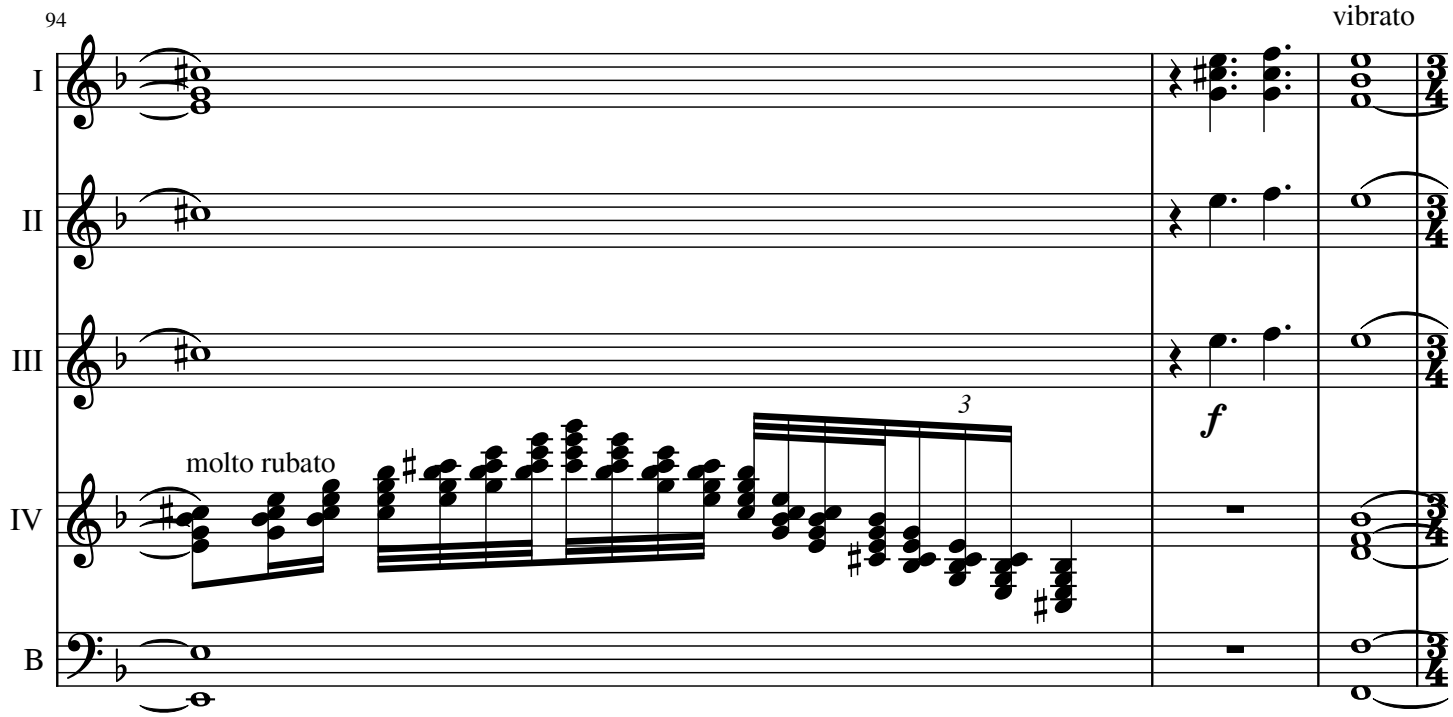

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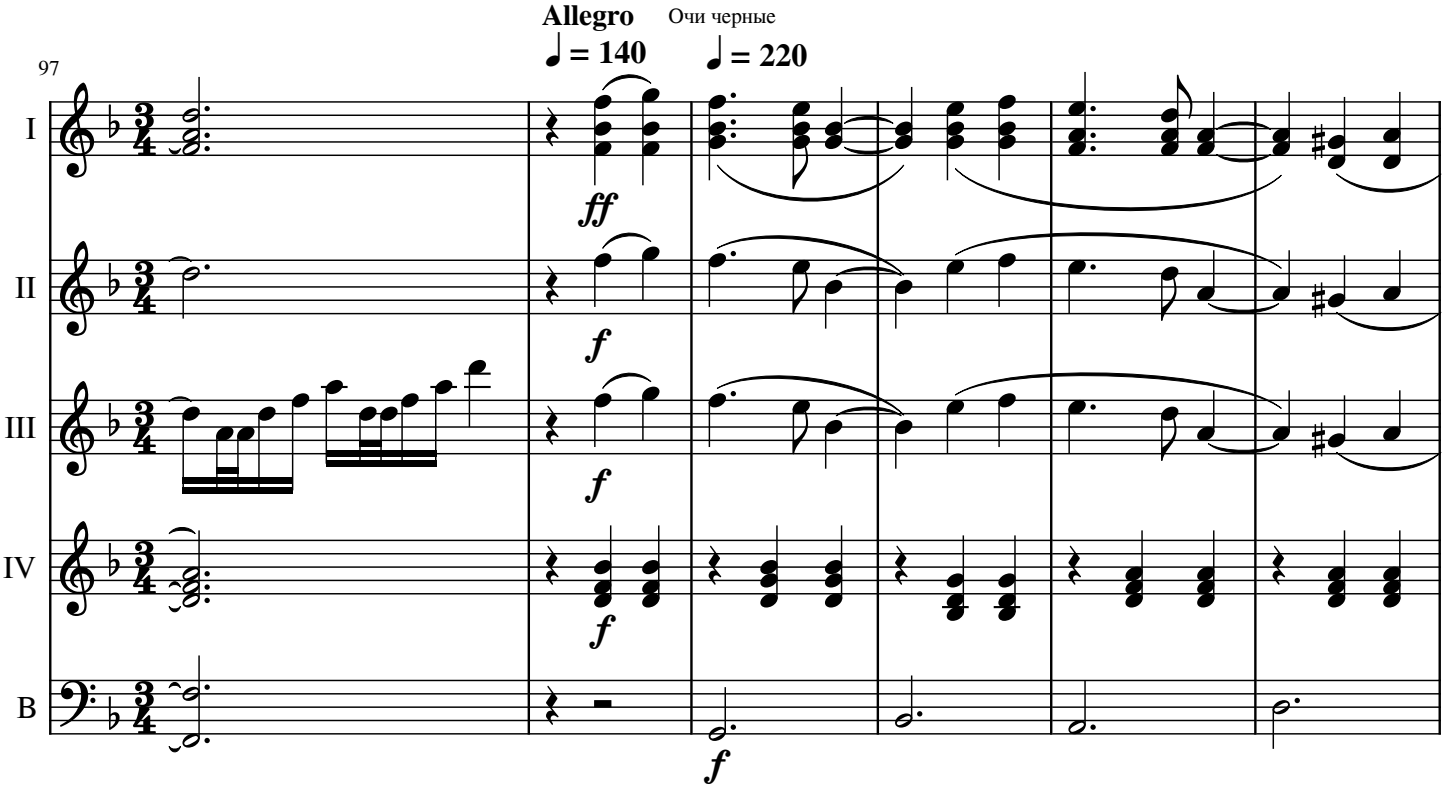

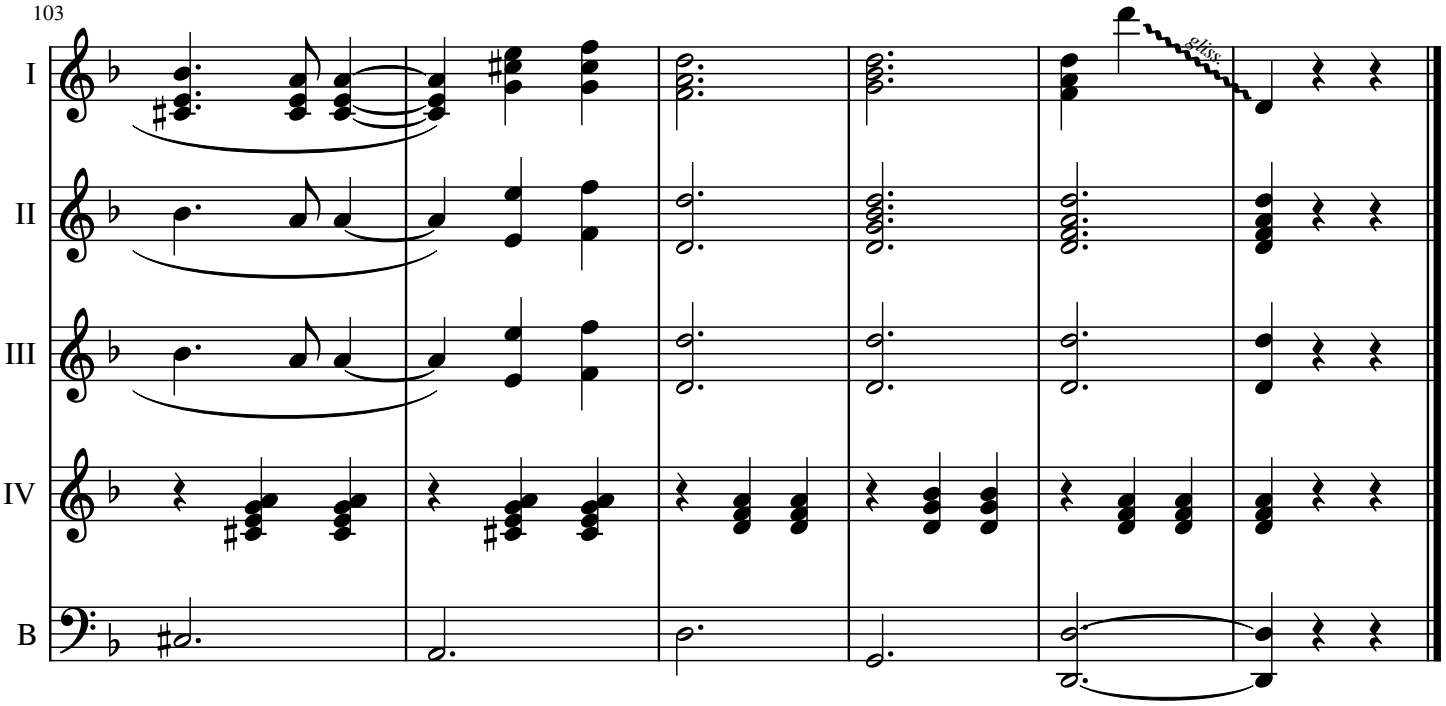

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