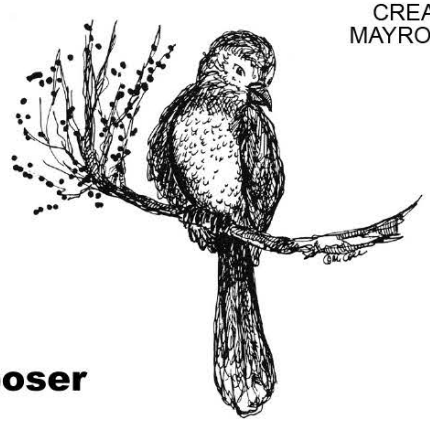
The MAYRON COLE PIANO METHOD



Jazz Bird

A Note from the Composer

One beautiful spring day I was sitting at my grand piano trying to compose a new four-piano ensemble. My piano was close to the patio doors so I opened the doors to feel the warm spring air and then continued playing various themes on the piano. But nothing seemed to work! Suddenly I was aware that I had been joined by another musician! A bird, sitting in a nearby tree, began singing his little heart out as I played the piano. But my piano playing was no match for his singing! He was great! He trilled beautifully for a period of time and then began warbling at an amazing speed. It was then that I knew what I needed to compose: an ensemble for the little feathered singer. So that's how Jazz Bird came to be! This Jazz Bird solo is an arrangement of my original ensemble. I hope somewhere—in some tree—that little bird that inspired me is still singing!

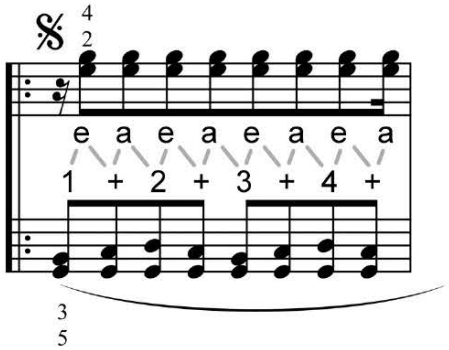
Mayron Cole

1. Turn to the first page of Jazz Bird. Both hands play in the _____ (treble or bass?) clef through measure 16.

2. In measure 5 you see *poco rit.* This means to gradually play a little _____ (softer or slower?).

3. In measure 6 you see *a tempo.* This means to _____ (look at the clock or return to normal speed?)

4. How do you count the LH and RH in measure 6 (and elsewhere?) Break each beat into 16th notes by counting:
   1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 e + a
   Your LH will play on "**1** e **+** a" and your RH "see-saws" and plays on "1 **e** + **a**".



With your class, play and count aloud the above measure.

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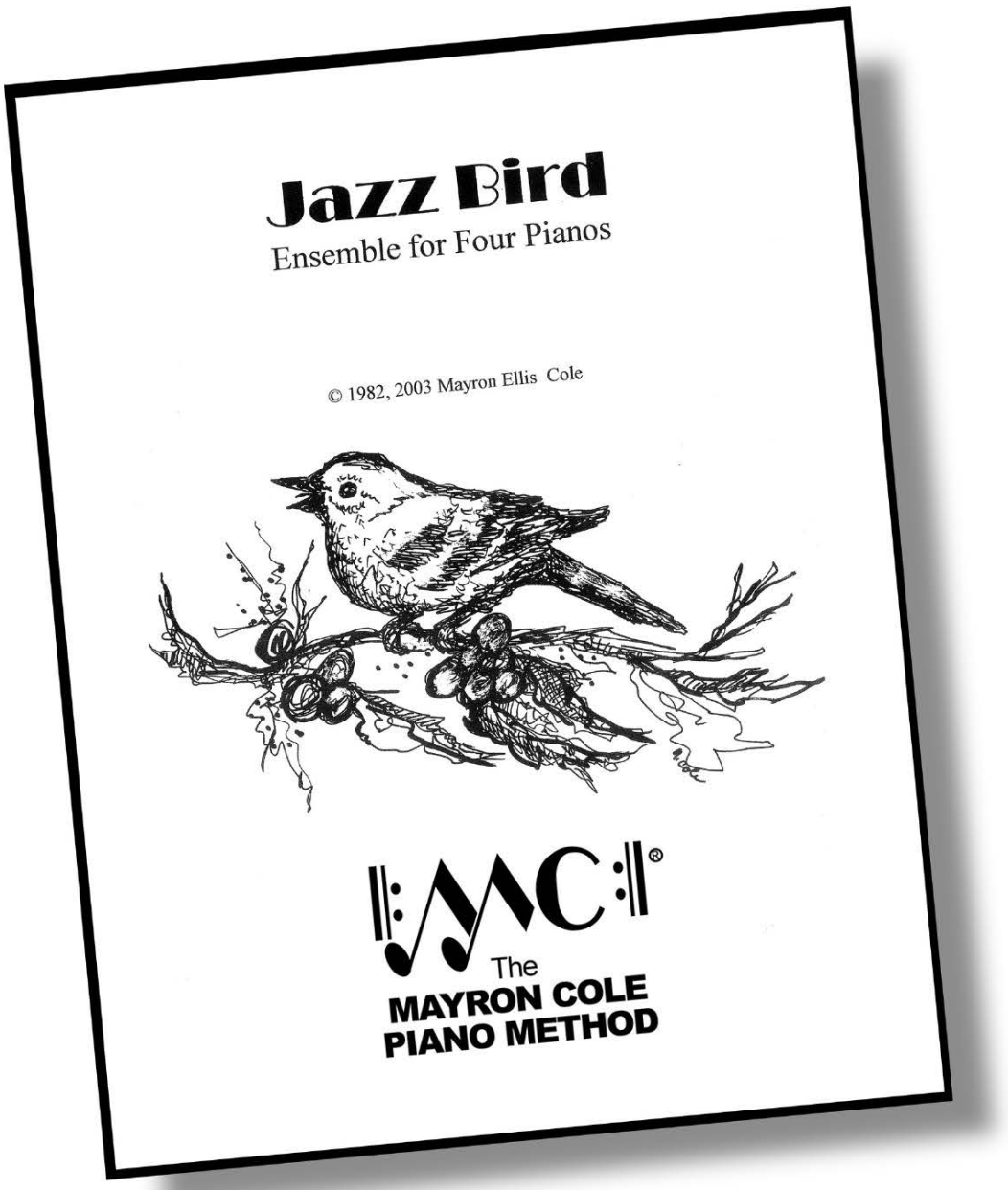
If you enjoyed the Jazz Bird solo, you'll love the original Jazz Bird ensemble!

created specifically for Levels 4, 5, 6, & 7 of The Mayron Cole Piano Method



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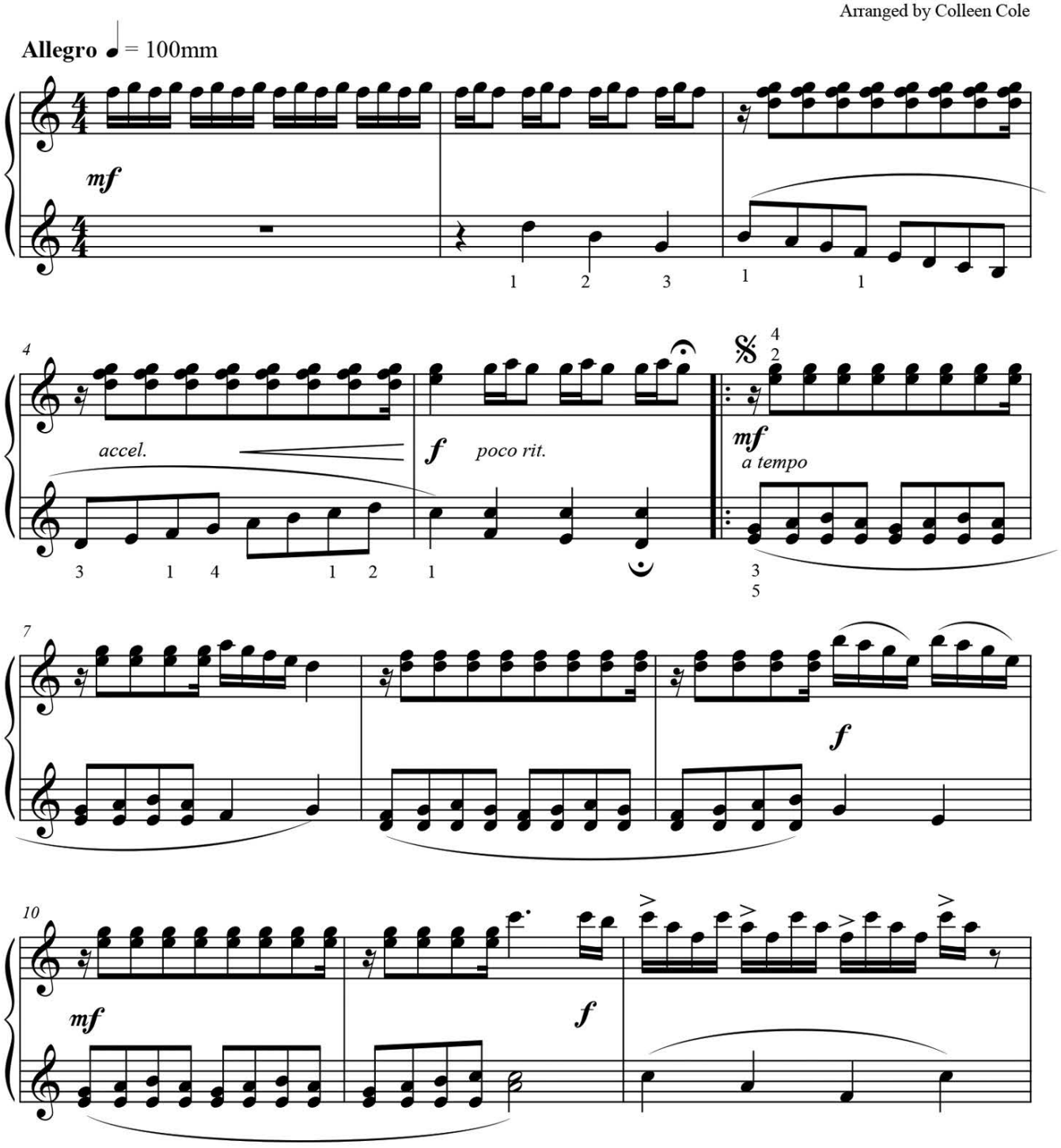
Jazz Bird

(orchestrated accompaniment has a 2 measure count-in)

Mayron Cole
Arranged by Colleen Cole



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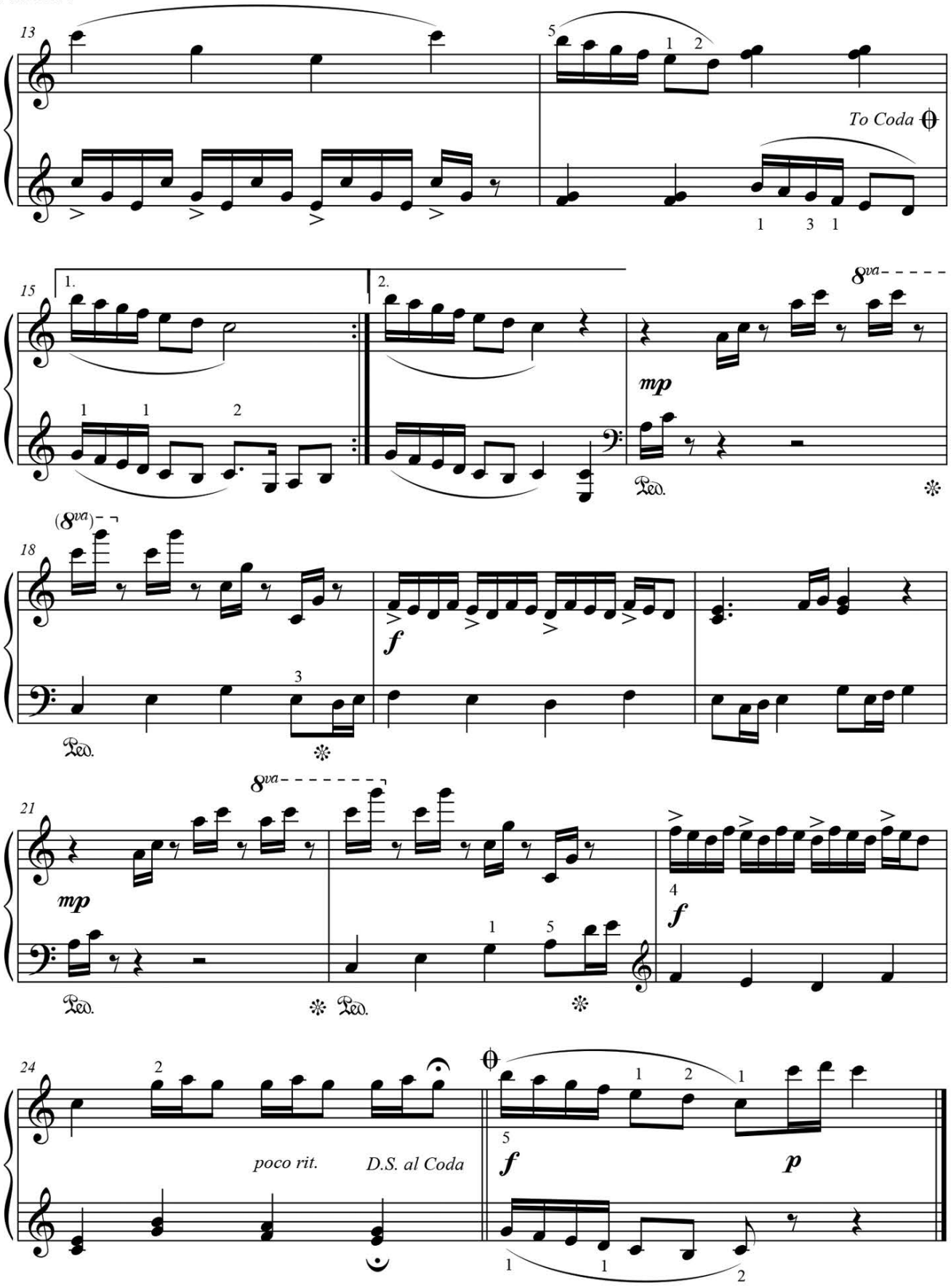

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What are Perfect, Major and Minor Intervals?

Why are some intervals identified as “Perfect” and some intervals identified as “Major” or “Minor”?

An interval is perfect when, inverted, it is found unaltered in the other key’s scale! What does this mean? Here’s an example:

C up to F is a **perfect** interval because, when inverted, F up to C is a **perfect** interval. This means: F natural is found in C Major’s Scale; C natural is found in F Major’s scale (no sharps, flats, or naturals need to be added).

Here’s an example of a major interval: C up to E is a **major** interval; E up to C is a **minor** interval. Why? Because in C’s scale, E is a natural E (unaltered); but in E’s scale, C is sharped (altered).

Here are the intervals in C’s scale as an example:

The lowest note in each interval is C. That’s telling you that C’s scale is being used to identify (or measure) the intervals.

C to C = **Perfect 1** (or unison or prime)*
C up to D = Major 2nd
C up to E = Major 3rd
C up to F = **Perfect 4th**
C up to G = **Perfect 5th**
C up to A = Major 6th
C up to B = Major 7th
C up to C = **Perfect 8th** (or octave)



So in every major scale, measuring from the tone note or first note of the scale, all intervals are either **major** or **perfect**!

What are the perfect intervals above?

Perfect_____; Perfect_____; Perfect _____; Perfect _____.

* When is a **Perfect 1** used?
When two voices sing or two instruments play the same tone.

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Why are the intervals listed on the previous page perfect? Because when inverted (turned upside down) the tones are not altered - no sharps, flats or naturals need to be added to the tones. _____ (yes or no?)

Let's invert the intervals from the previous page to see why they are perfect versus major:

(Remember, the lowest note in the interval is the scale in which the interval is found!)

C to C = **Perfect 1** *inverted to* C up to C = **Perfect 8th**
(in C's scale C is unaltered)

C up to D = Major 2nd *inverted to* D up to C = Minor 7th
(in D's scale C is sharped, so C♯ would be a 1/2 step lower making it minor)

C up to E = Major 3rd *inverted to* E up to C = Minor 6th
(in E's scale C is sharped, so C♯ would be a 1/2 step lower making it minor)

C up to F = **Perfect 4th** *inverted to* F up to C = **Perfect 5th**
(in F's scale C is unaltered)

C up to G = **Perfect 5th** *inverted to* G up to C = **Perfect 4th**
(in G's scale C is unaltered)

C up to A = Major 6th *inverted to* A up to C = Minor 3rd
(in A's scale C is sharped, so C♯ would be a 1/2 step lower making it minor)

C up to B = Major 7th *inverted to* B up to C = Minor 2nd
(in B's scale C is sharped, so C♯ would be a 1/2 step lower making it minor)

C up to C = **Perfect 8th** *inverted to* C to C = **Perfect 1**
(in C's scale C is unaltered)



Memory Helper: When inverted, intervals always add up to 9!

Example Using Perfect Intervals:

C up to C = 1 up to 8th 1 + 8 = 9

C up to F = 4th F up to C = 5th 4 + 5 = 9

C up to G = 5th G up to C = 4th 5 + 4 = 9

Unisons, Fourths, Fifths, and Eighths (Octaves) are perfect intervals.

True or False? _____

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More Good News

Major intervals invert to Minor intervals!

Minor intervals invert to Major intervals!

But Perfect intervals always invert to Perfect intervals!

Yea!

From now on, these symbols will be used for intervals:

Major = M

Minor = m

Perfect = P

One more time! Intervals, when inverted add up to "9"!



It's Time to Try This Knowledge!

Here are some intervals to invert:

Example: **M3** inverts to a **m6** (3 + 6 = 9)

P4 inverts to a _____ Think: 4 + __ = 9

M2 inverts to a _____ Think: 2 + __ = 9

m7 inverts to a _____ Think: 7 + __ = 9

M6 inverts to a _____ Think 6 + __ = 9

m3 inverts to a _____ Think 3 + __ = 9

P8 inverts to a _____Think: 8 + __ = 9

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