The
MAYRON COLE
PIANO METHOD

Contemporary Era

Maple Leaf Rag

Scott Joplin
1867 – 1917



Scott Joplin was born in Texas and grew up in Texarkana. He is considered to be the first black composer to gain international importance. A more complete biography of Scott Joplin can be found in Level 9A.

This essay is to enlighten you to the fact that Scott Joplin's wonderful ragtime music greatly influenced composers such as Claude Debussy. Debussy would hear ragtime music played by the Sousa Band at the 1889 Paris World Exhibition for which The Eiffel Tower was built. Debussy decided to try his hand at writing ragtime and composed *Golliwog's Cakewalk* and *La Petit Negre*.

Parisians loved ragtime and people were clamoring for piano lessons to learn to play the breezy style. Sadly, a few dishonest people were opening piano "studios" claiming that they could teach a person to play ragtime in "three easy lessons". Ha! Those of us who know how to play ragtime will quickly acknowledge that the skill cannot be taught in three lessons.

But back to Scott Joplin. His and Claude Debussy's wonderful rhythms and great chord progressions created the groundwork for jazz which was to become popular in the 1920s. You are most probably realizing by now that composers often inspire other composers. I hope that some of my musical offerings will inspire you to create your own masterpieces.

Essay by Mayron Cole

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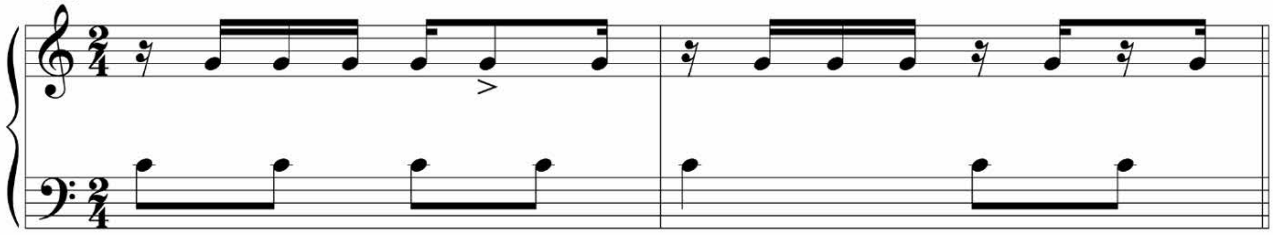
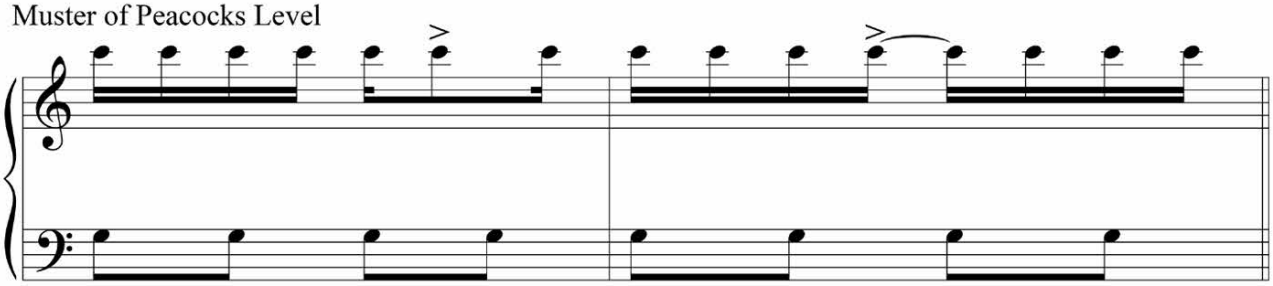
Maple Leaf Rag Rhythm Taps

The “trick” to playing Ragtime is to accent the notes that are larger in value in each measure as shown below with with accent marks:

Gaggle of Geese Level

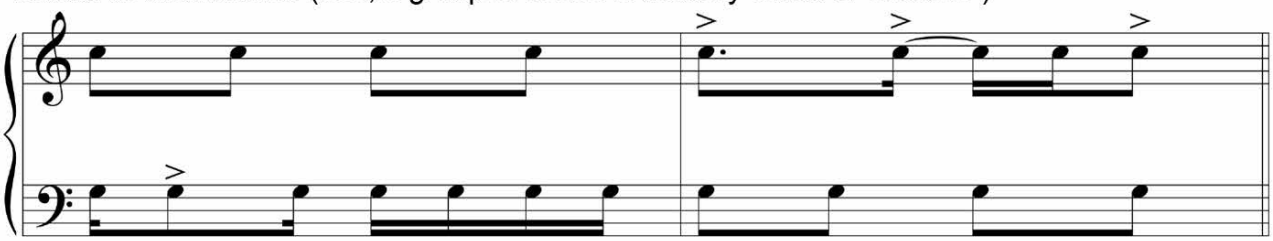


Muster of Peacocks Level



In Ragtime, the left hand serves mostly as a metronome while keeping a steady rhythm. The exception to this premise is the first measure in the rhythms below in which the right hand serves as the metronome.

Murder of Crows Level (Yes, a group of crows is actually called a “murder.”)



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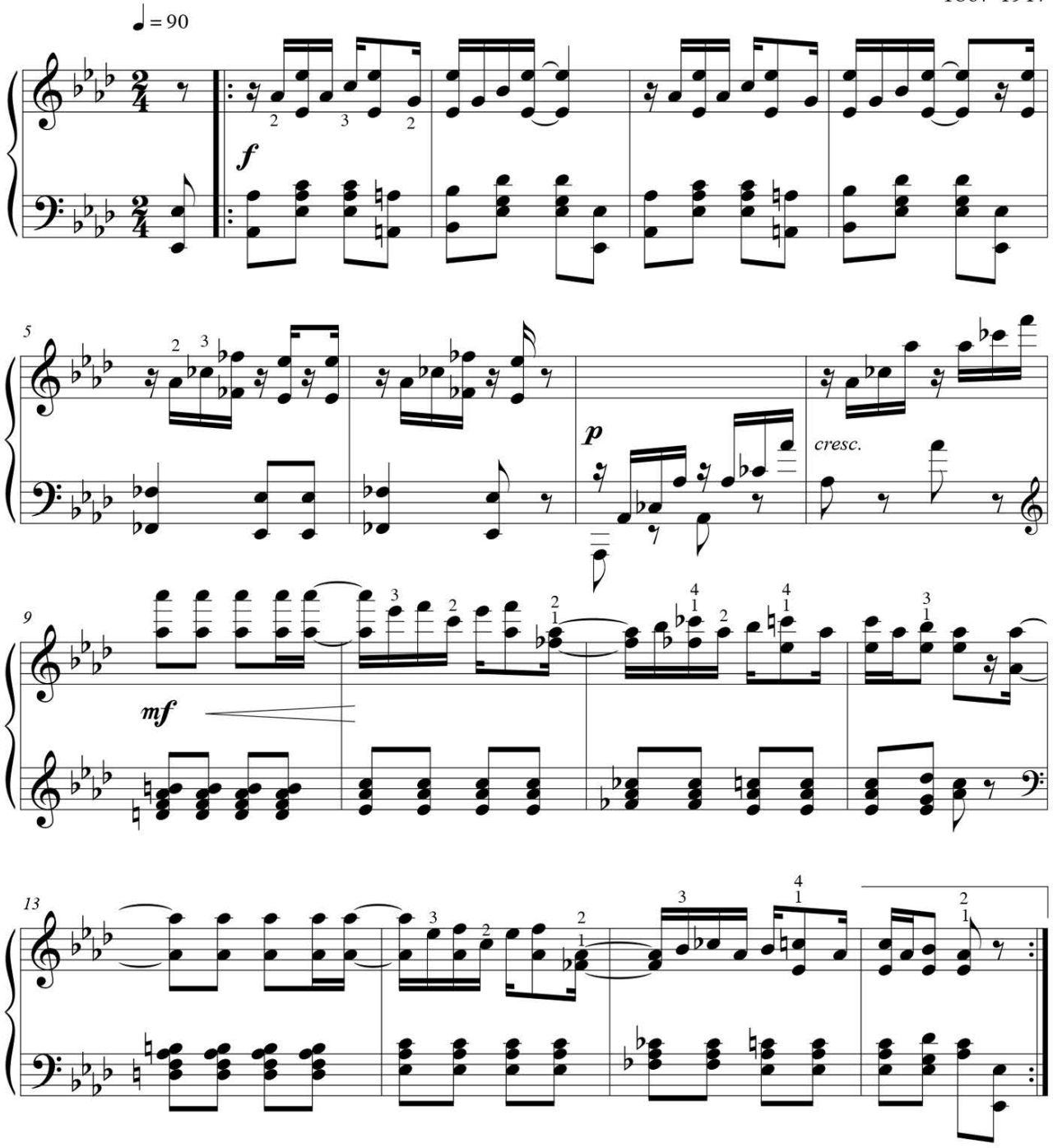
Maple Leaf Rag

(orchestrated accompaniment has a 2 measure count-in)

Scott Joplin
1867-1917



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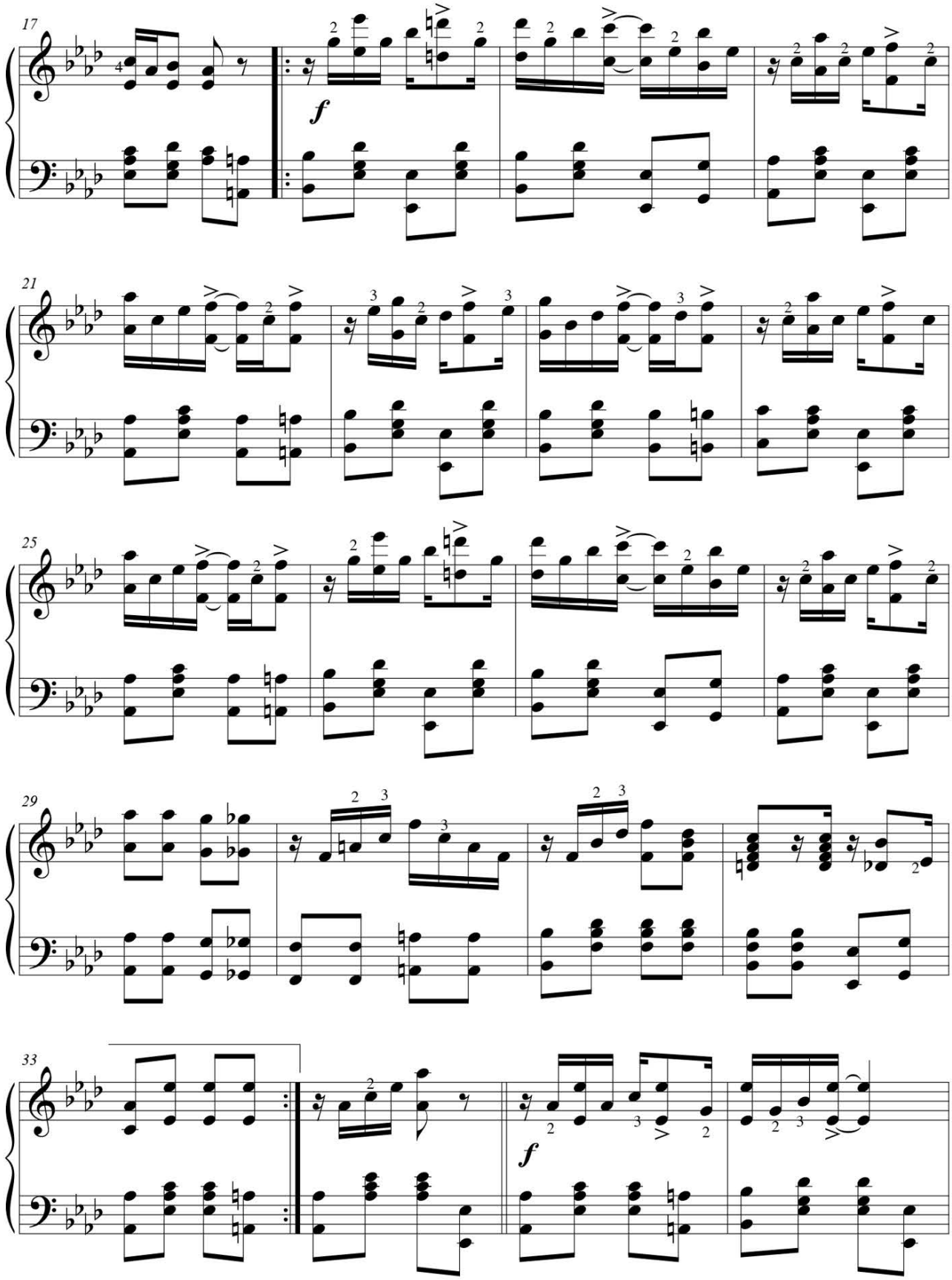

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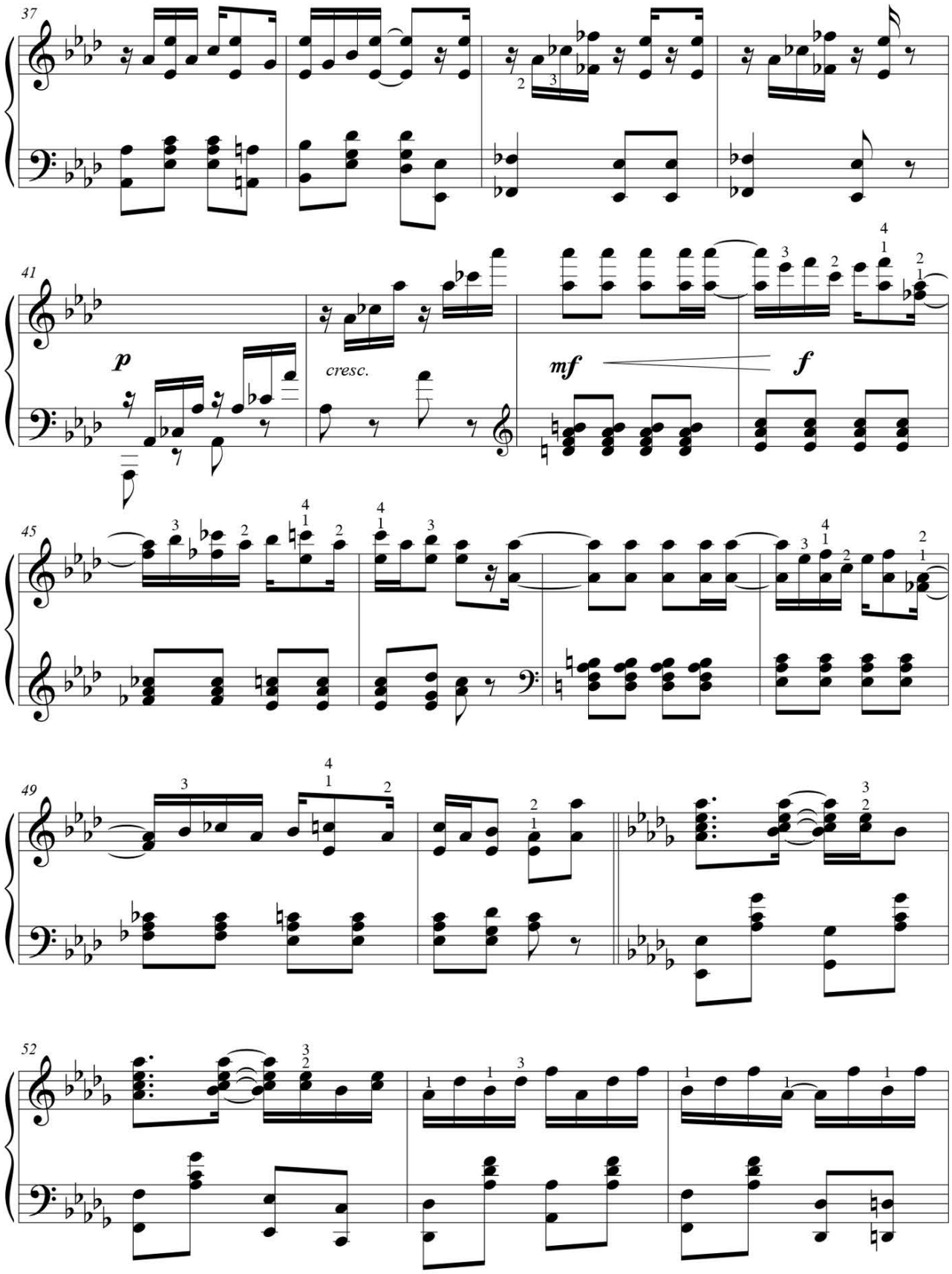

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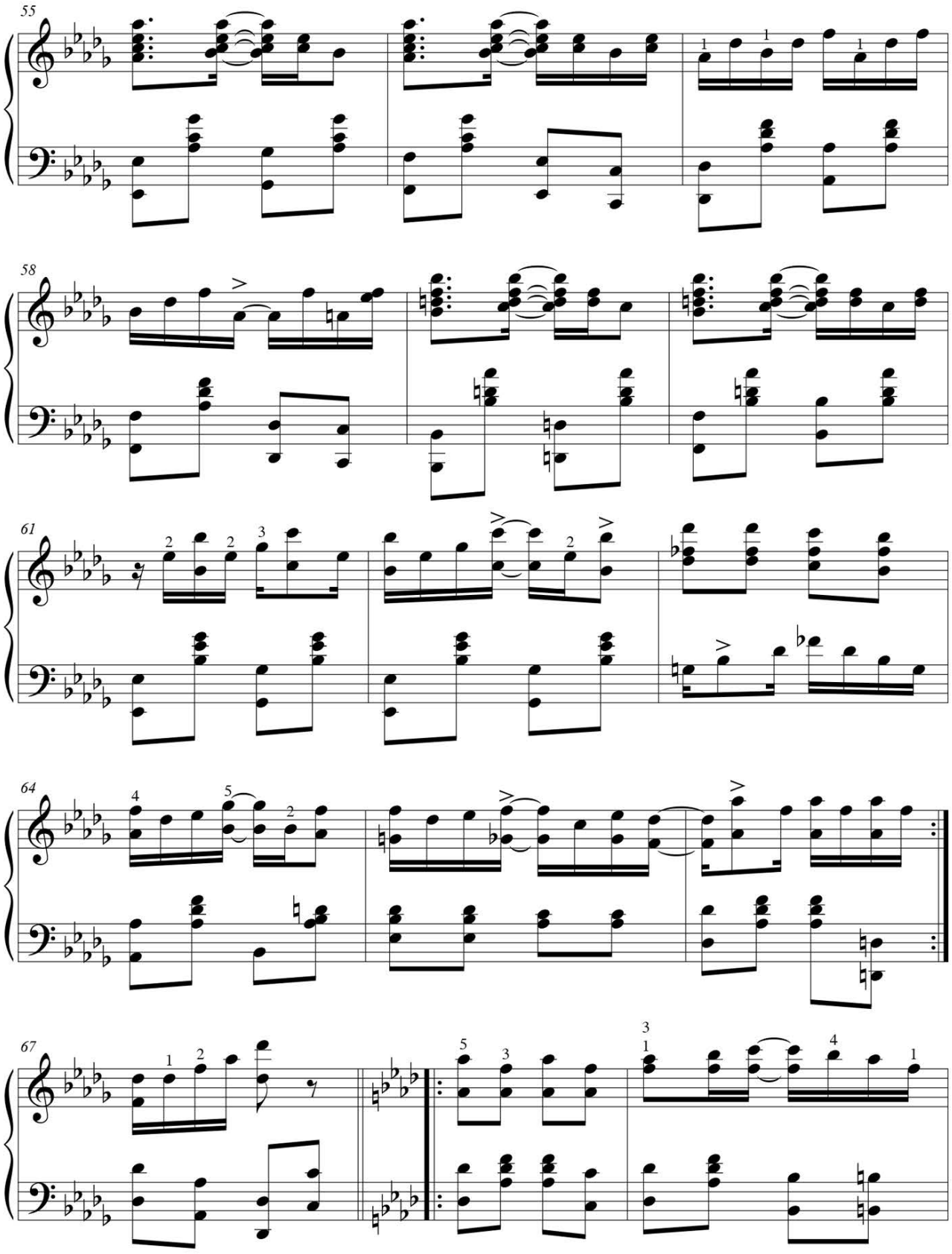

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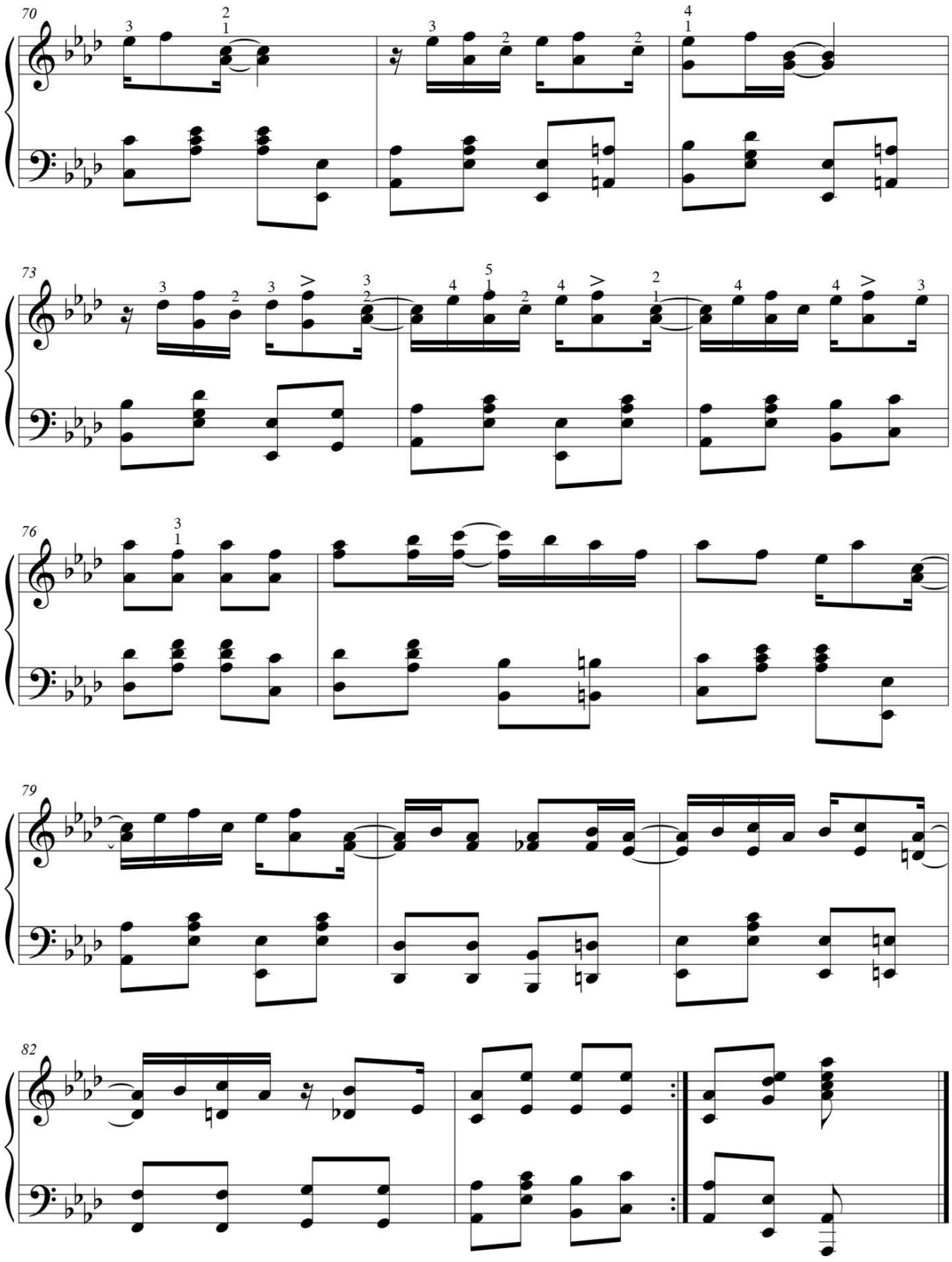

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