Alexander Agricola

Caecus non Iudicat Coloribus

[The blind do not judge by color]

Transcribed for treble, tenor and
tenor viol consort

Dick Yates
August 2024

Notes

Caecus non Iudicat Coloribus, by Alexander Agricola (1446-1506) is one of the strangest and most intriguing pieces that you will find from the 15th Century. It is apparently built around the middle voice (tenor 1) which abounds in unusual structures half-hidden by the outer voices. In several places, a short figure is repeated, but with an extra note added each time around. In others, a figure is repeated five times verbatim in the middle voice but with the surrounding voices using new material each time. One phrase in the middle voice is repeated a measure later, and then again three measures later, with the outer voices giving no hint to this pattern. I know of no precedent for these experiments, but they do succeed wonderfully -especially if you get to play the middle voice!

The full-score that is included here shows these oddities using square horizontal brackets in the middle voice.

Also, unexplained is the title, which translates as "*The blind do not judge by color.*"

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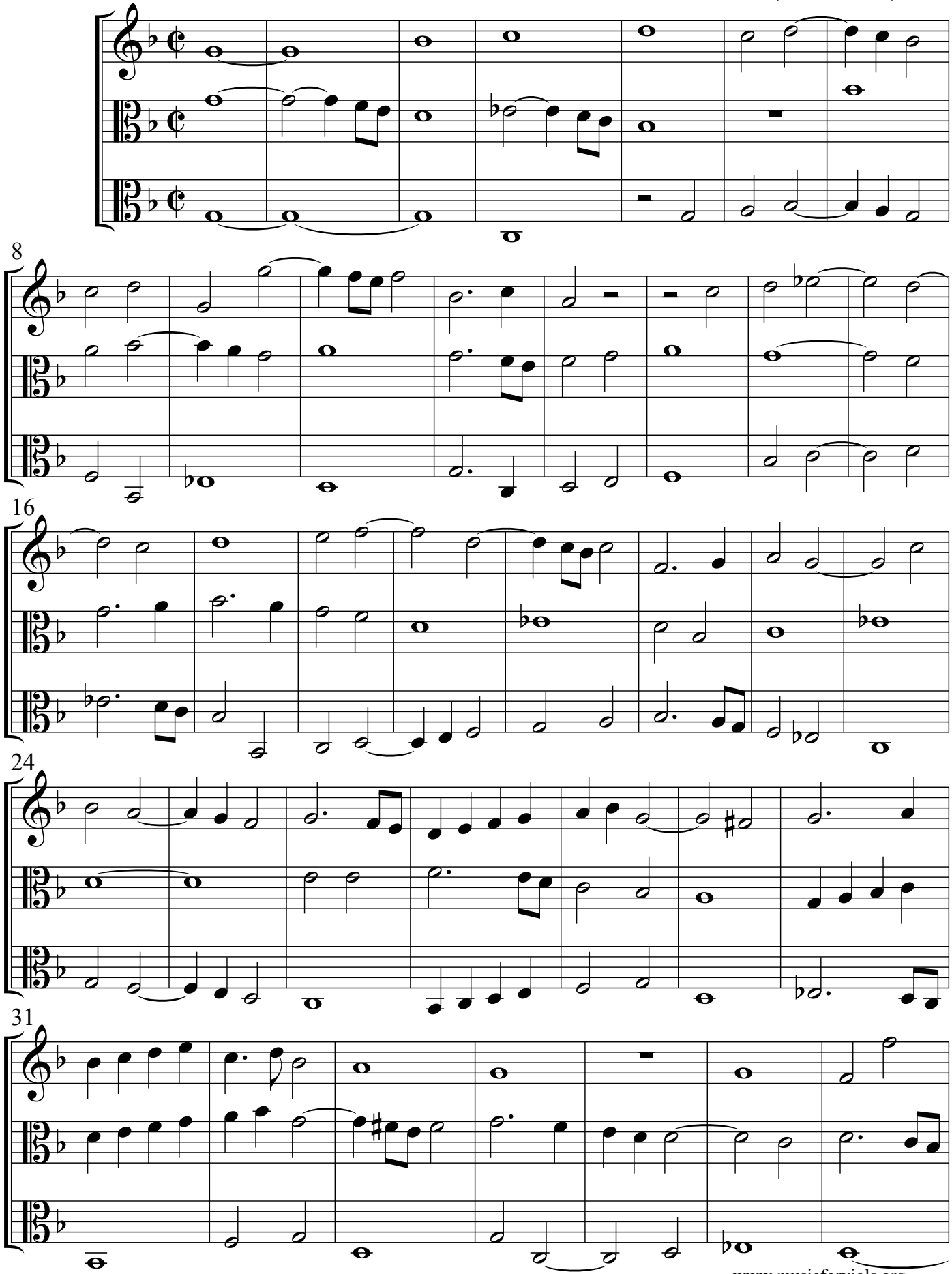
(1446-1506)



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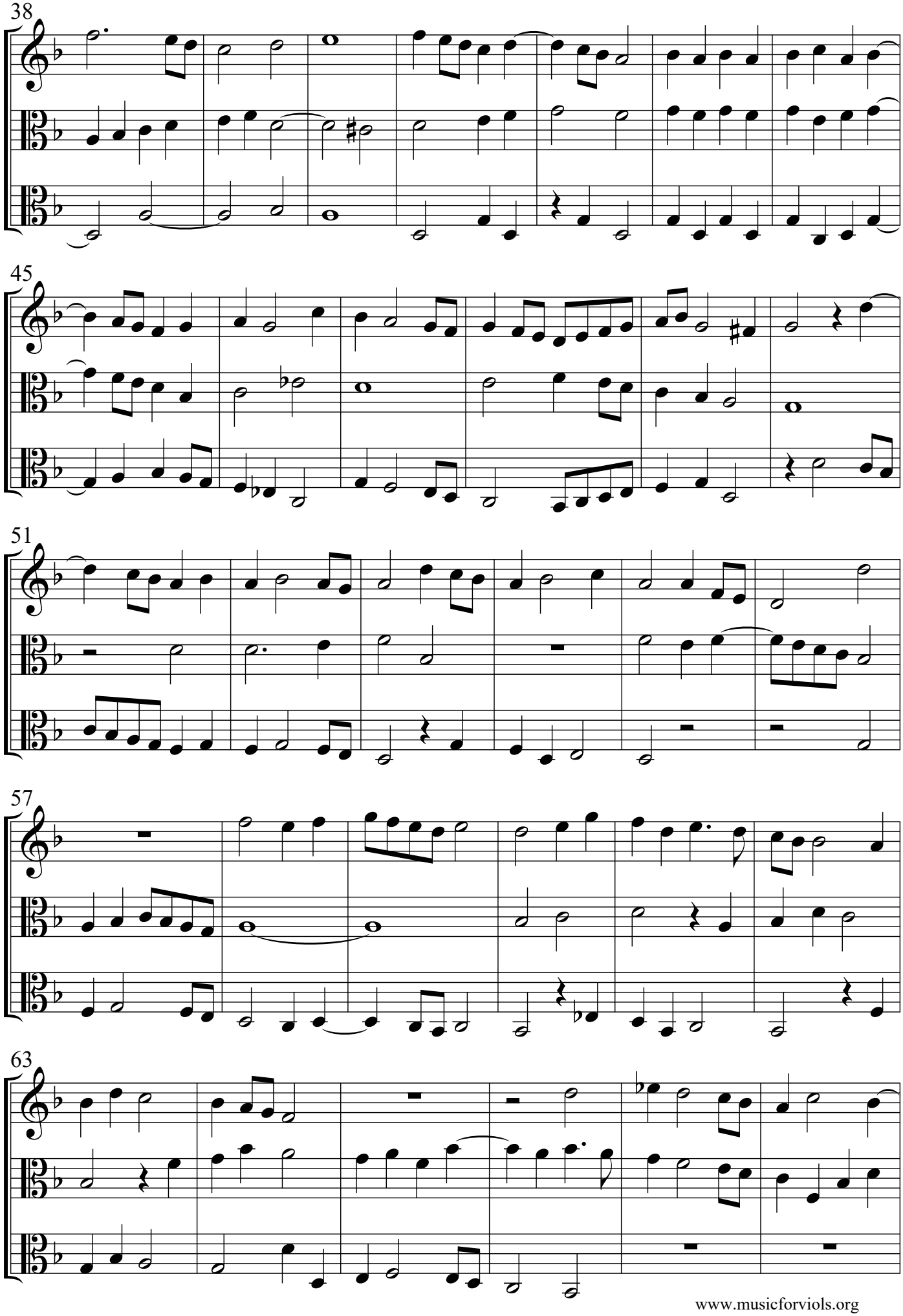
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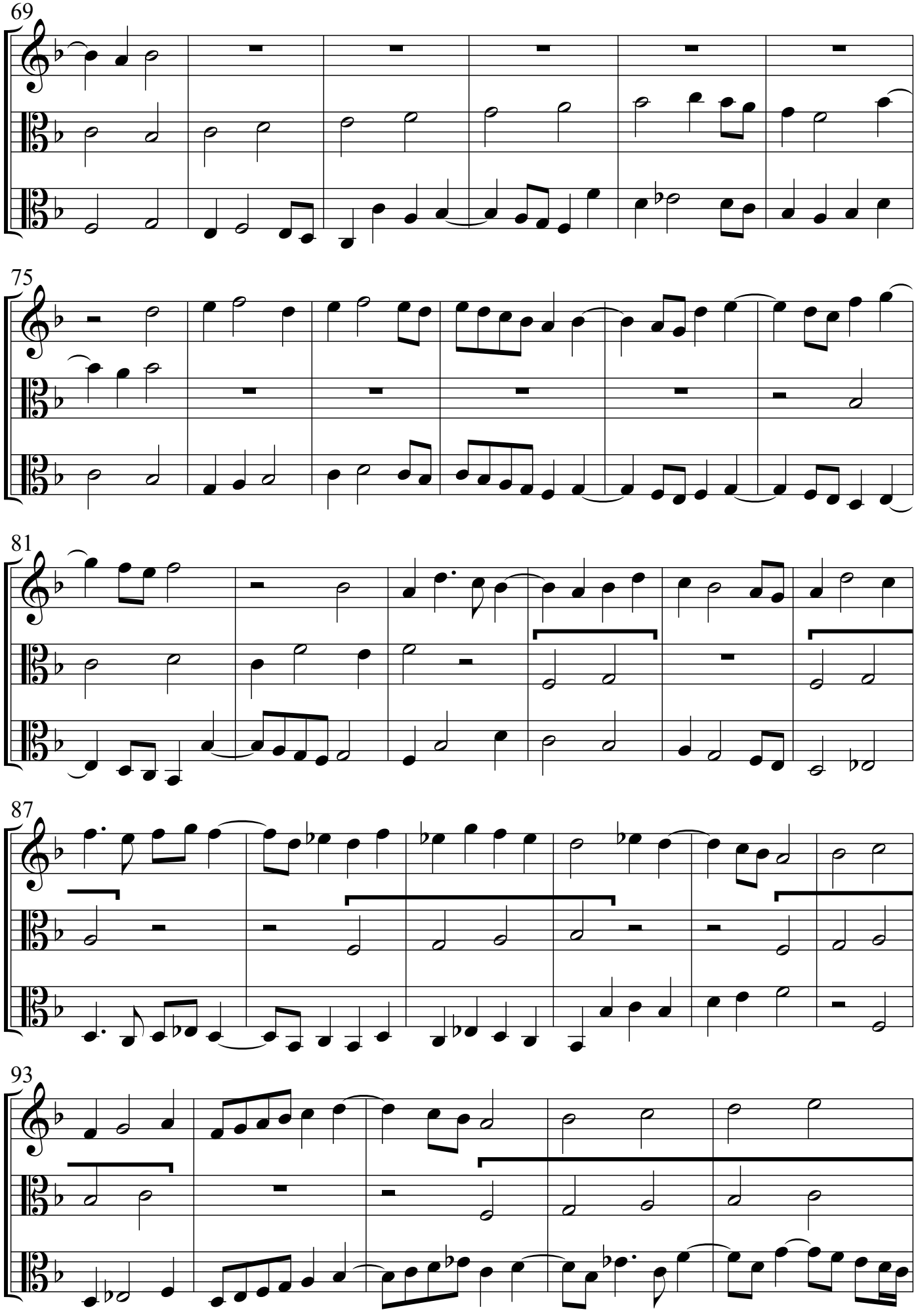
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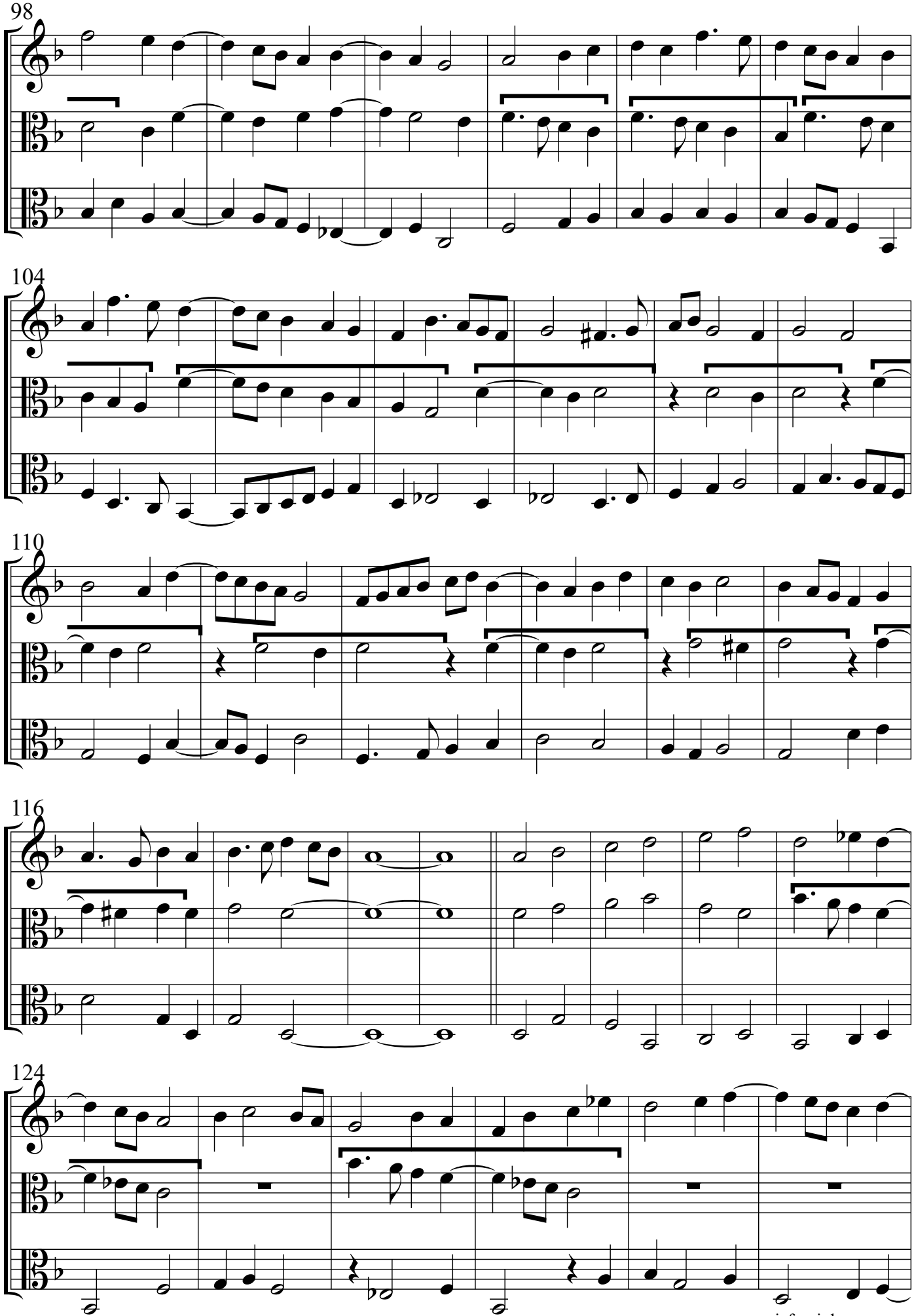
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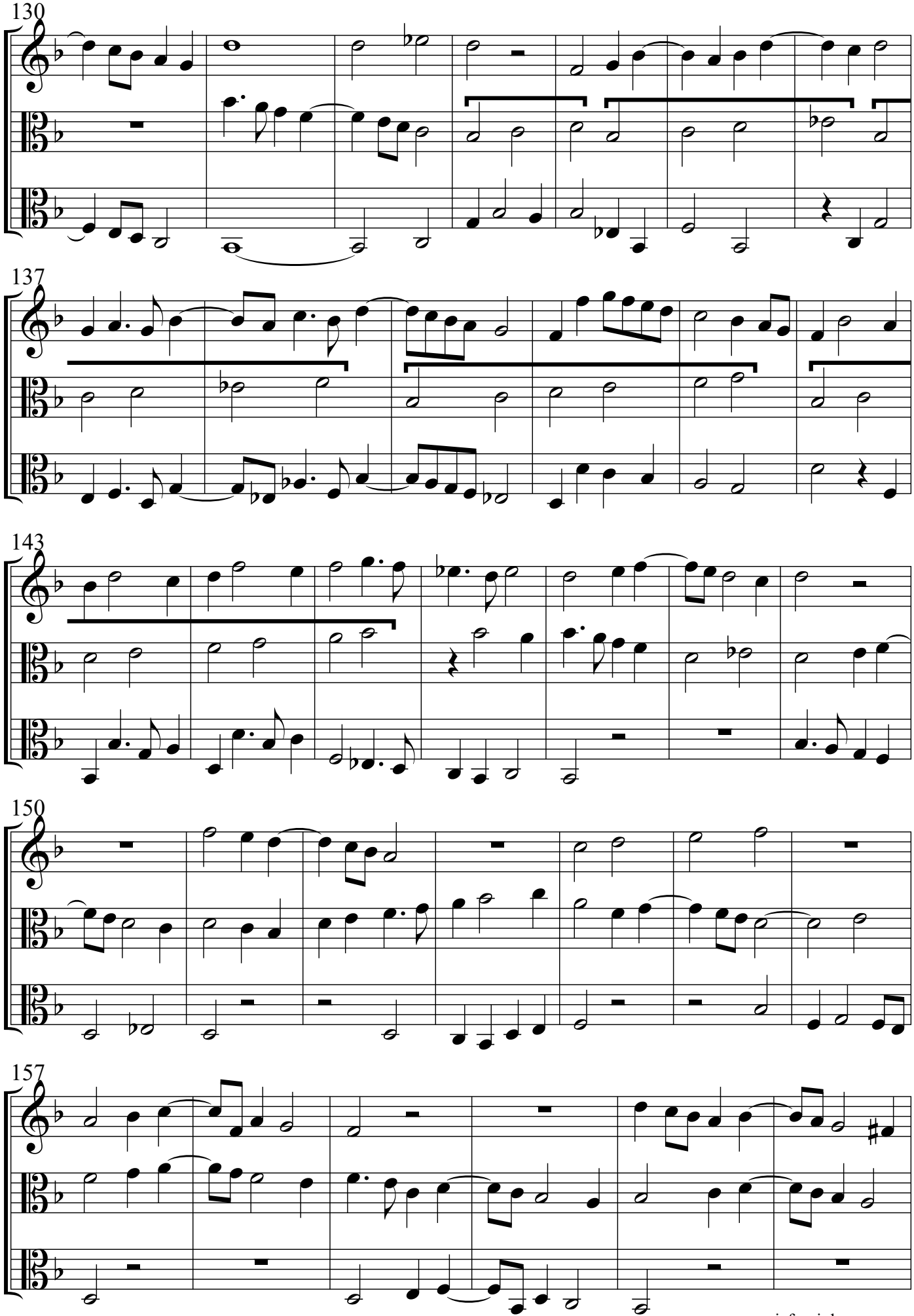

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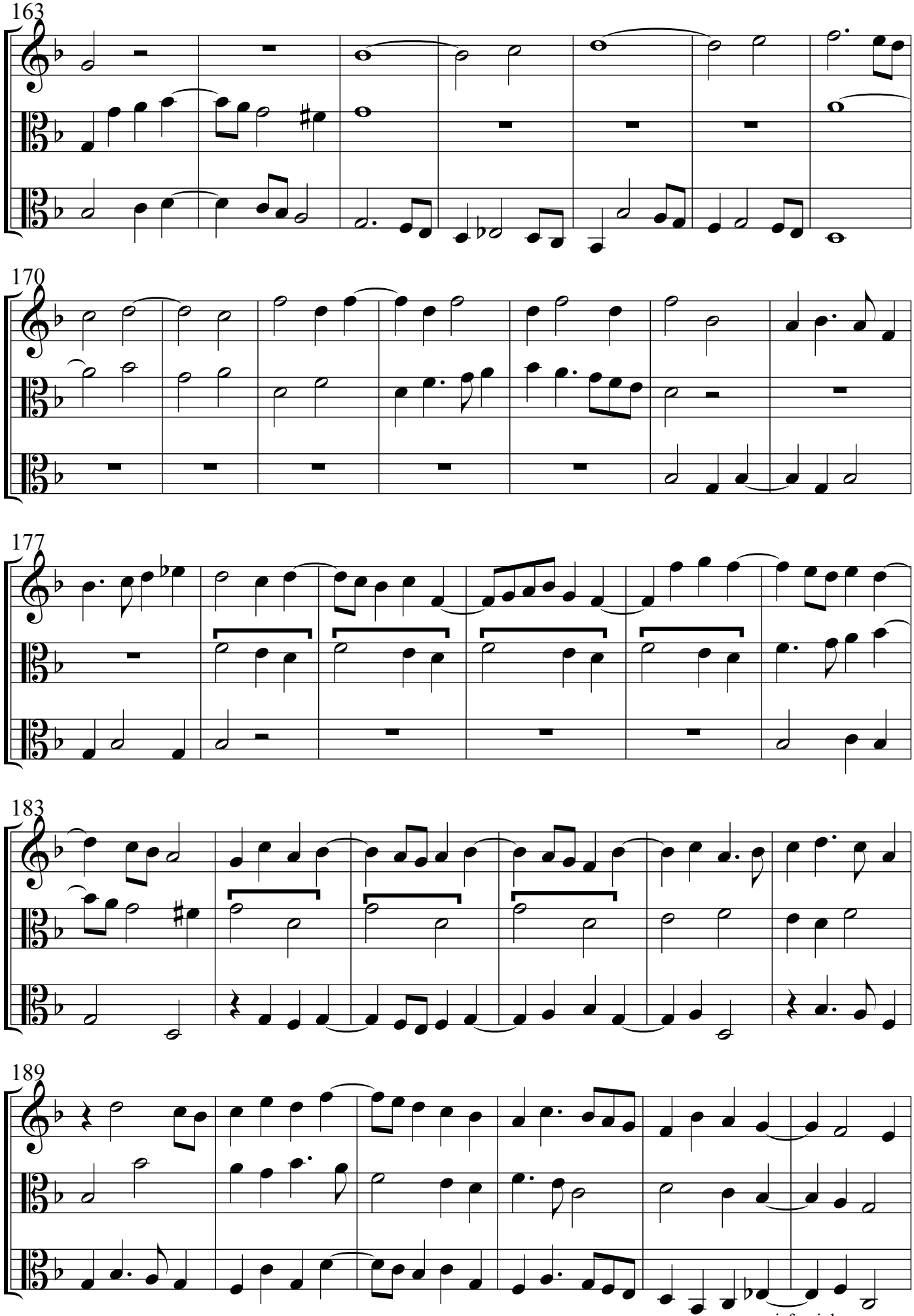

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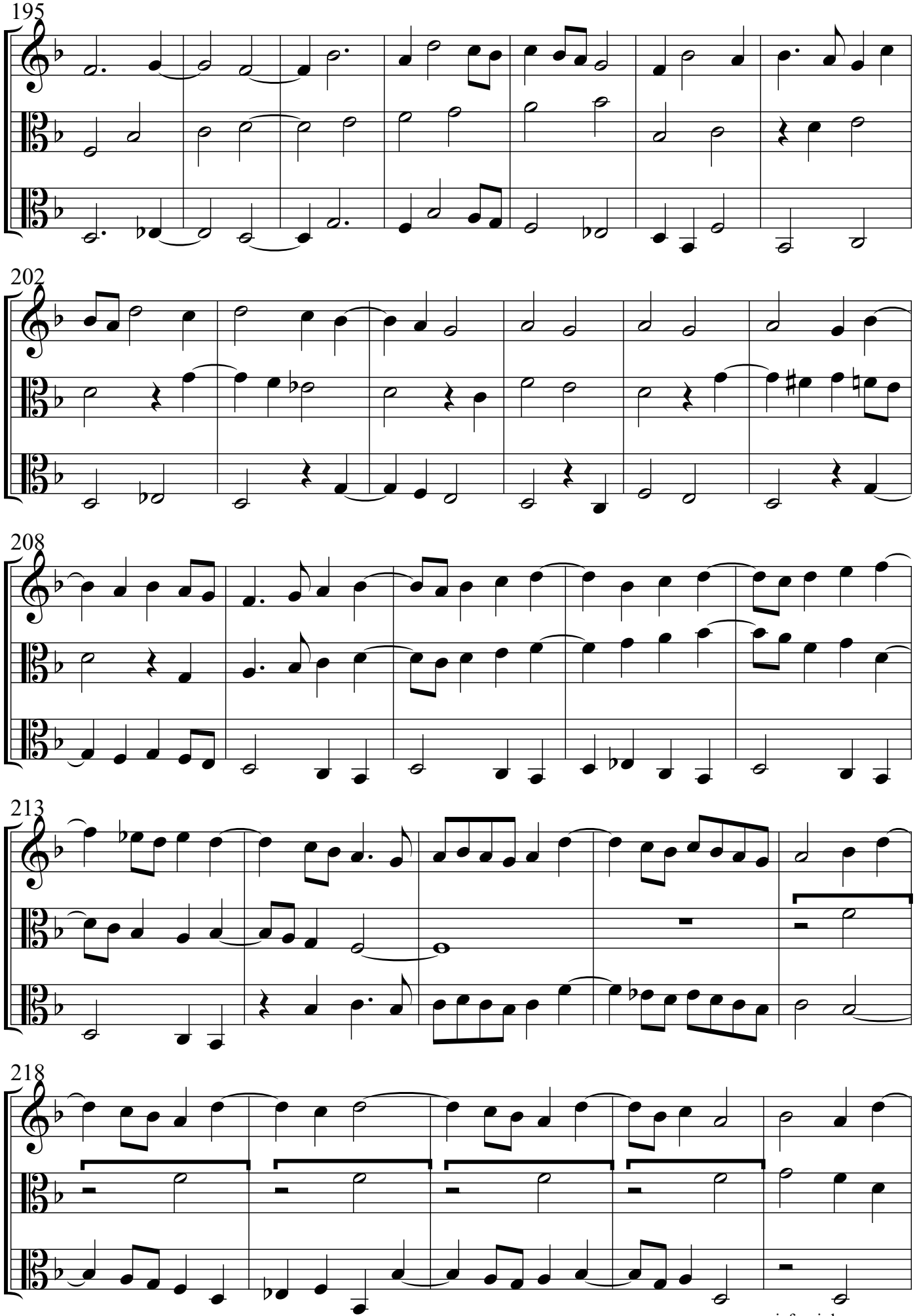
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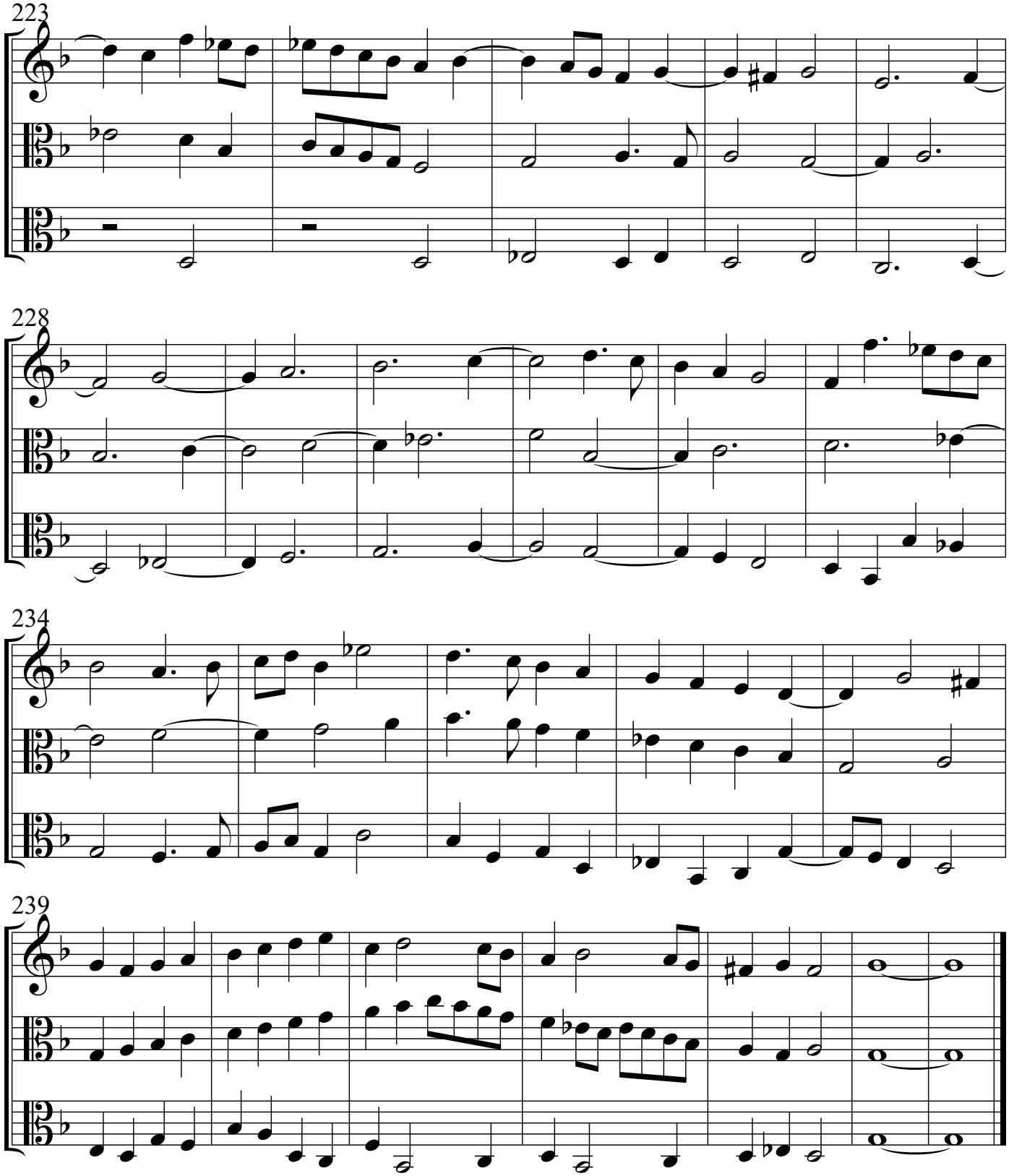
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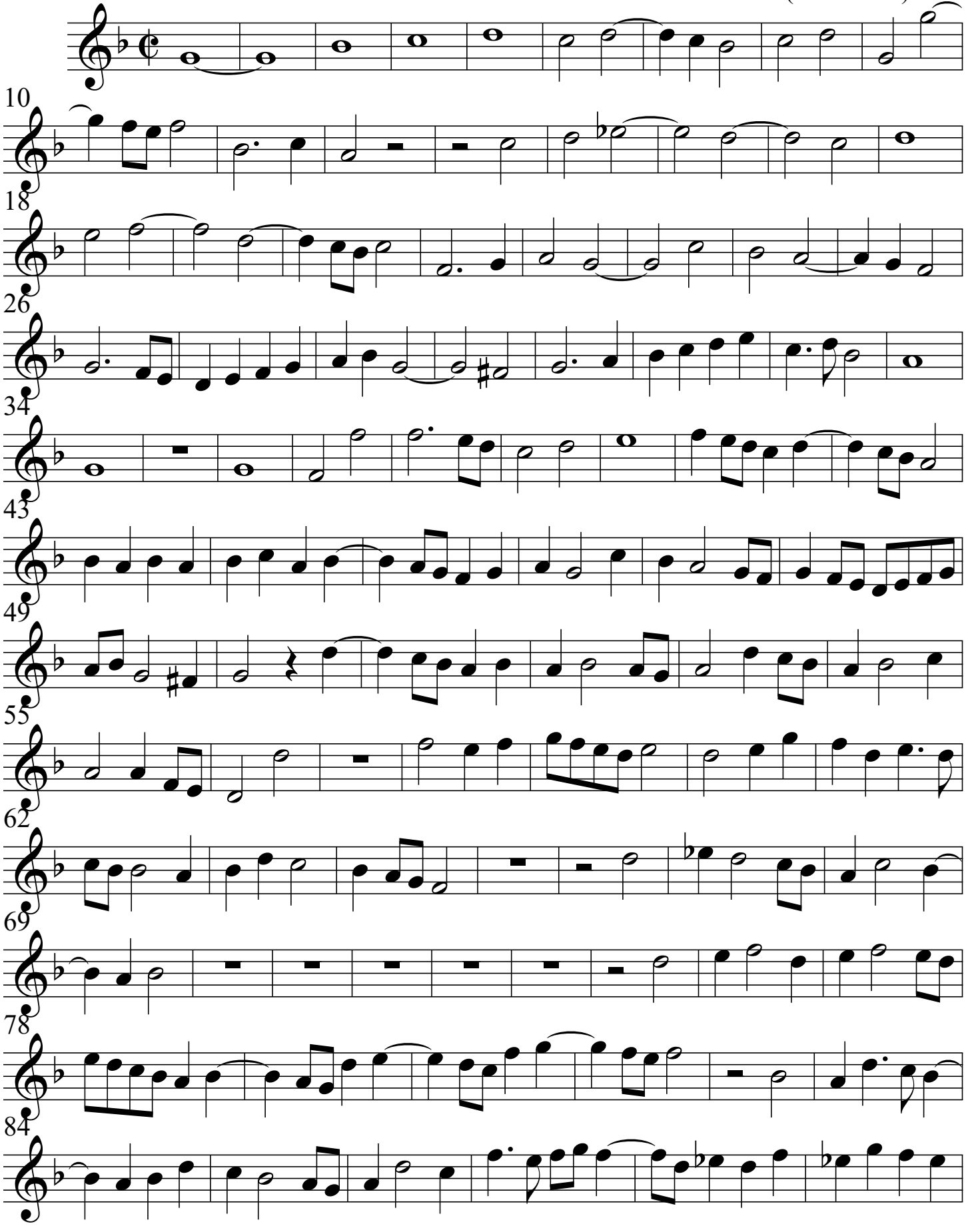

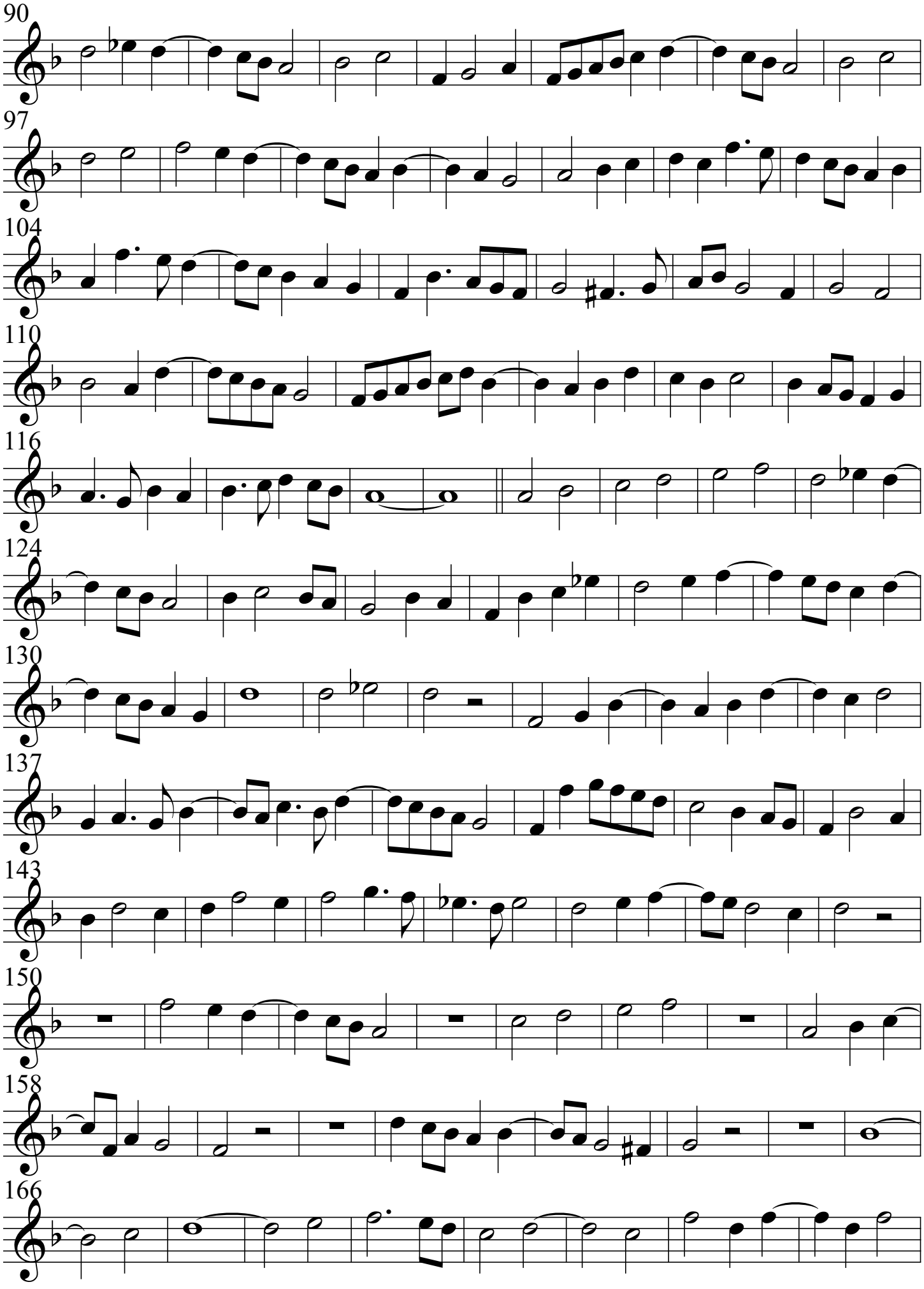
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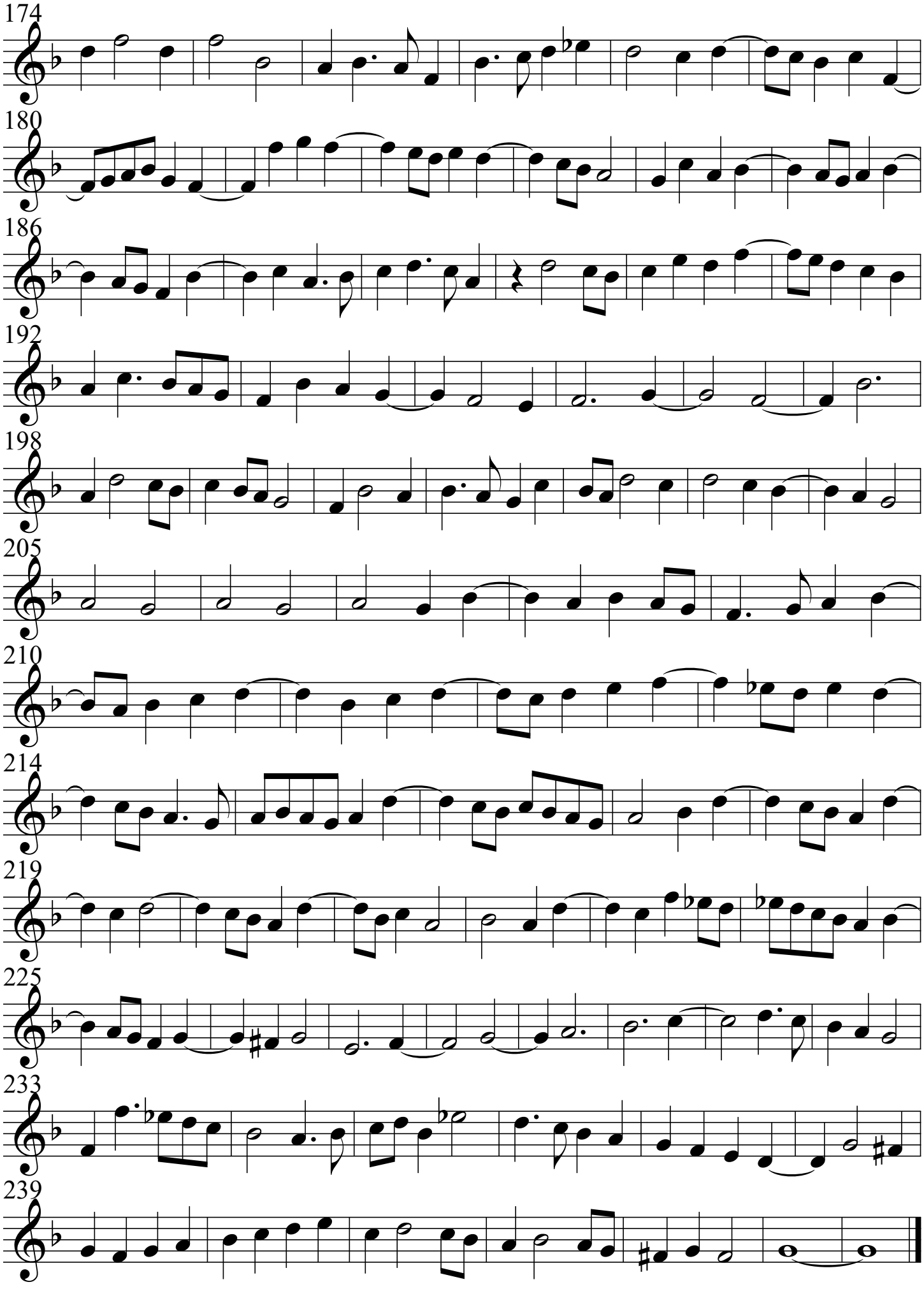
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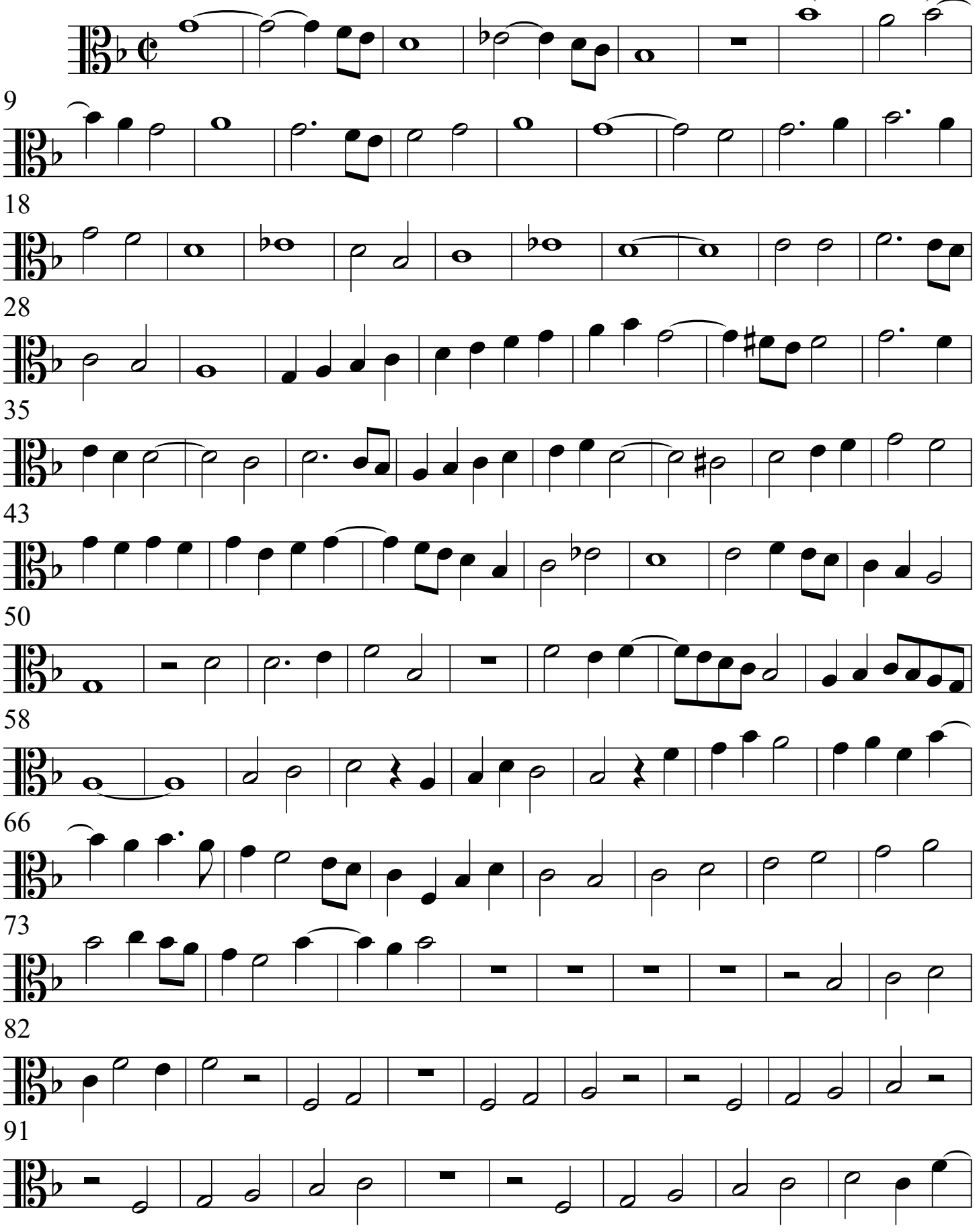

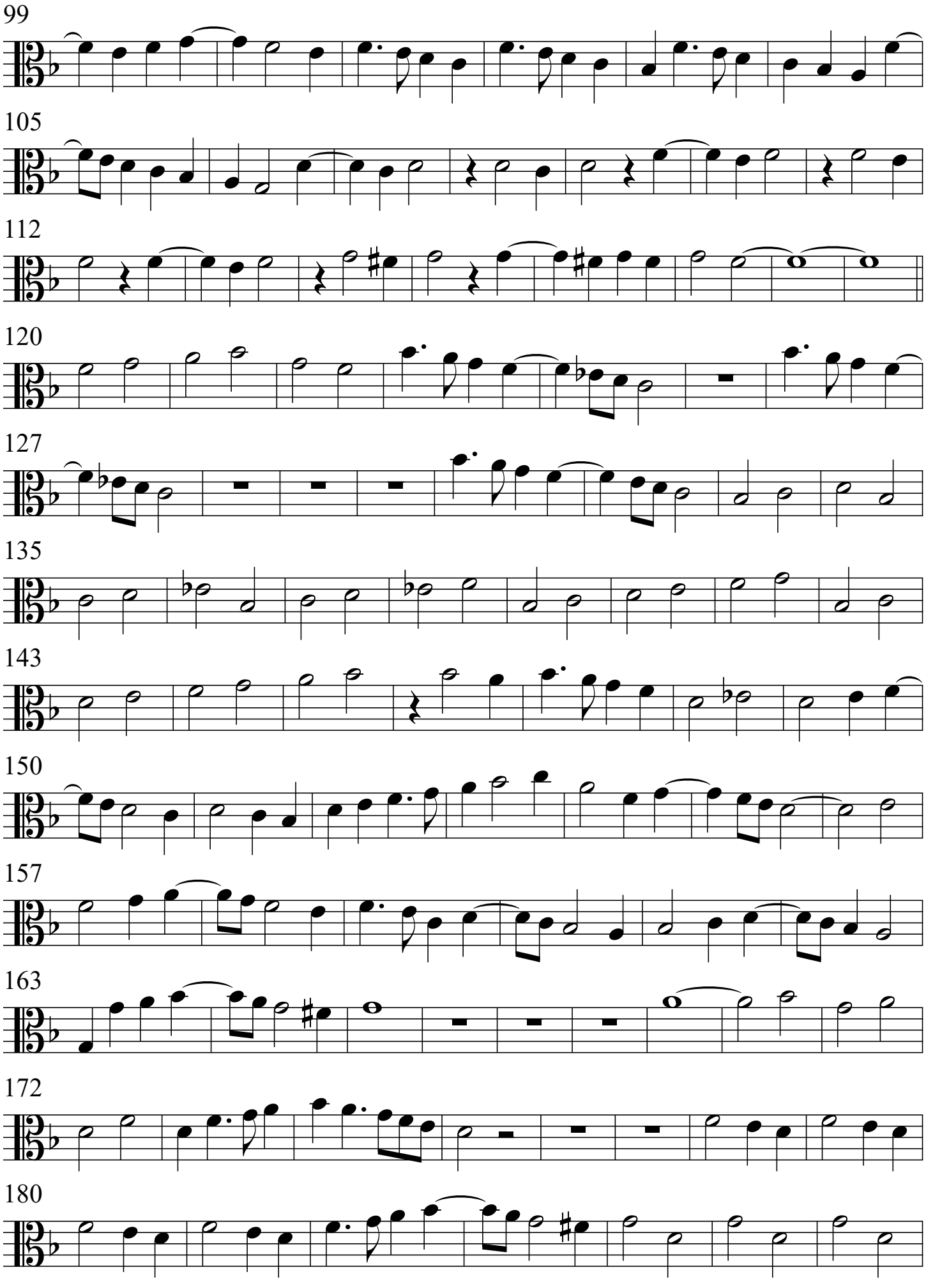
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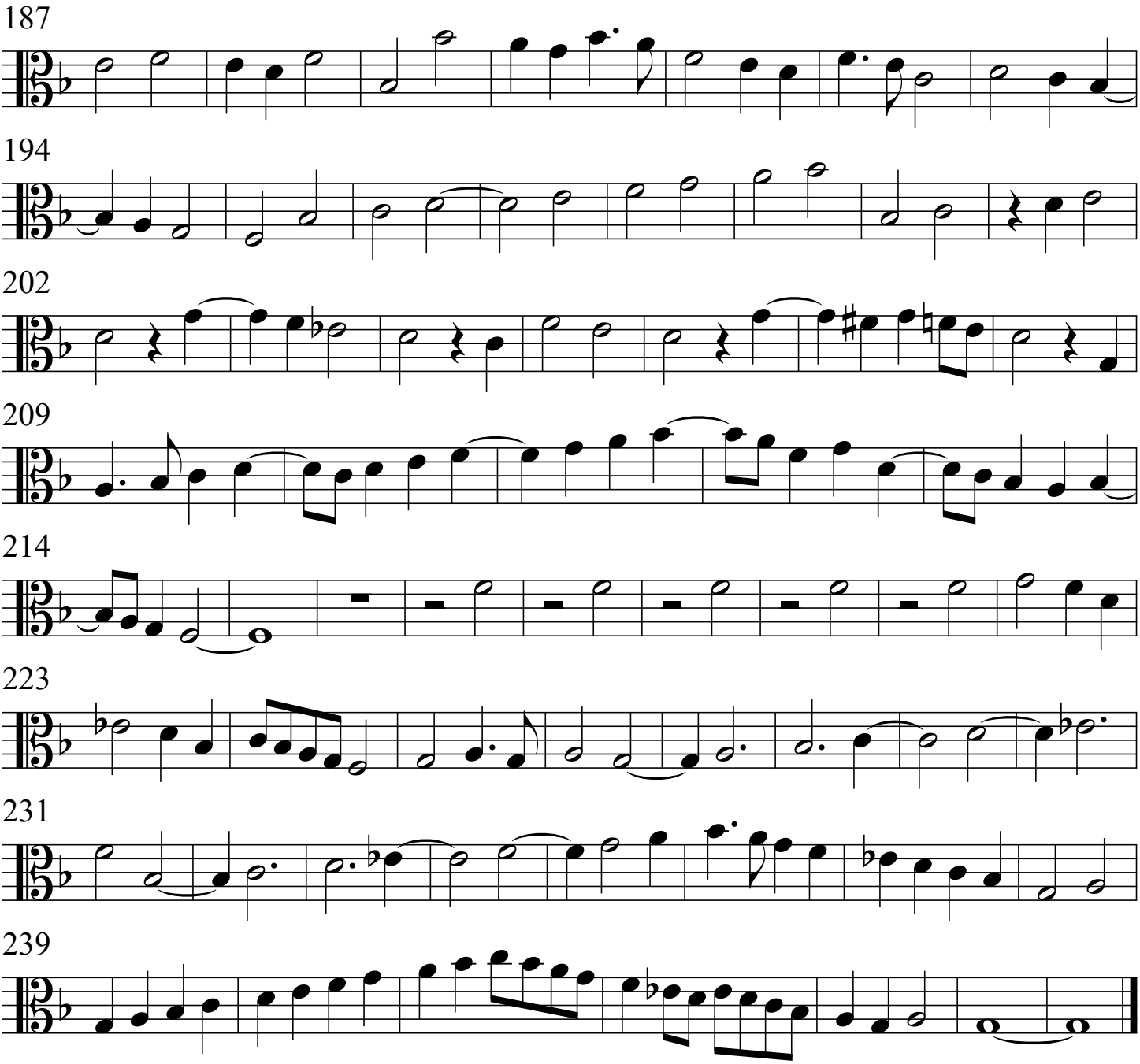
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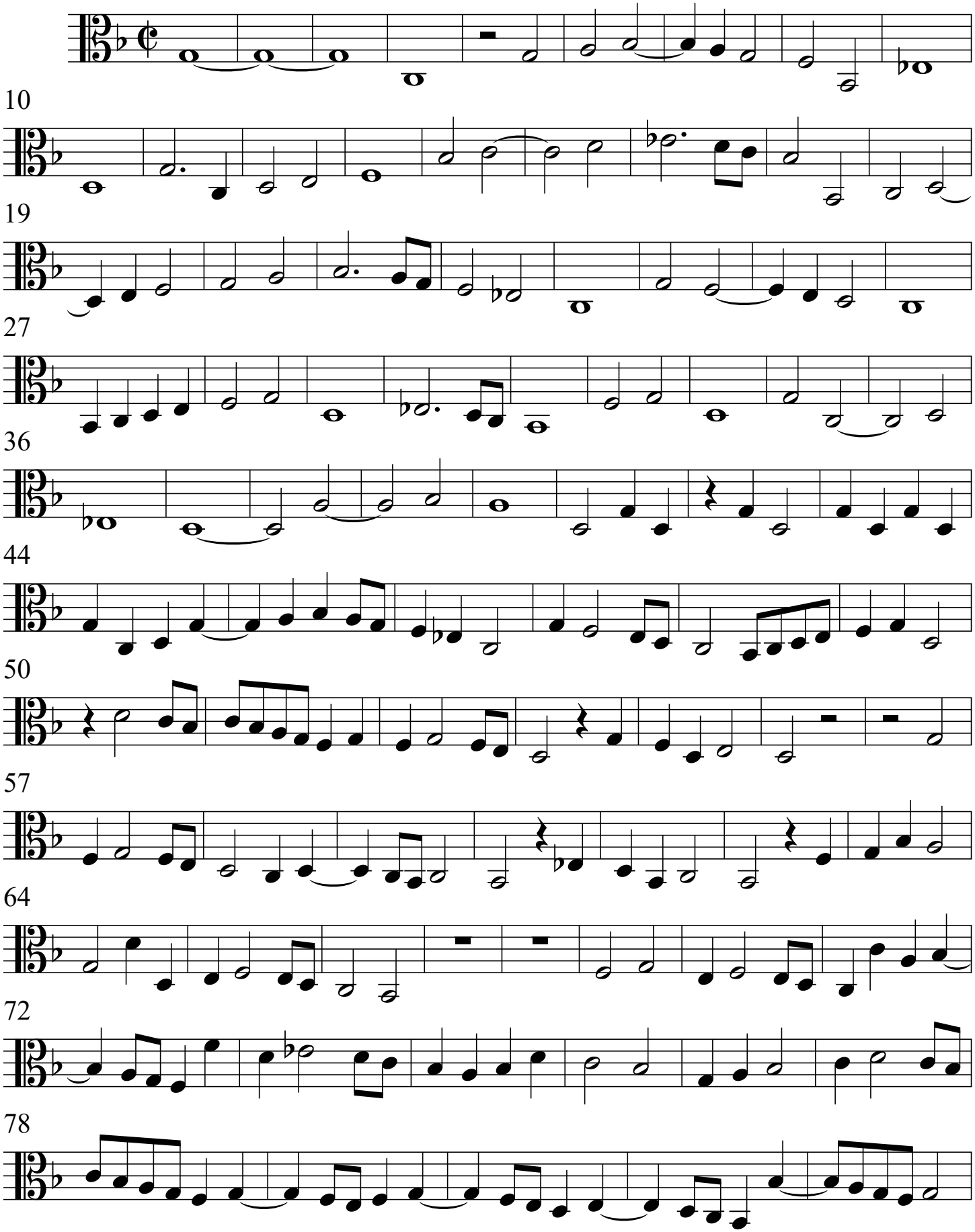

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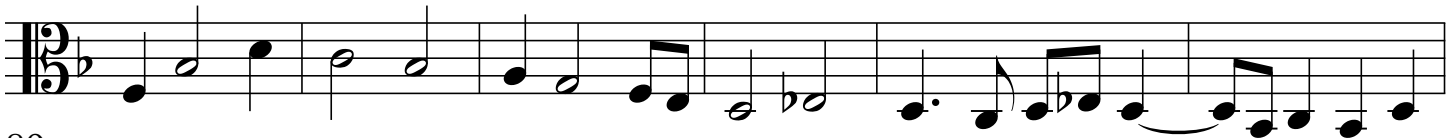

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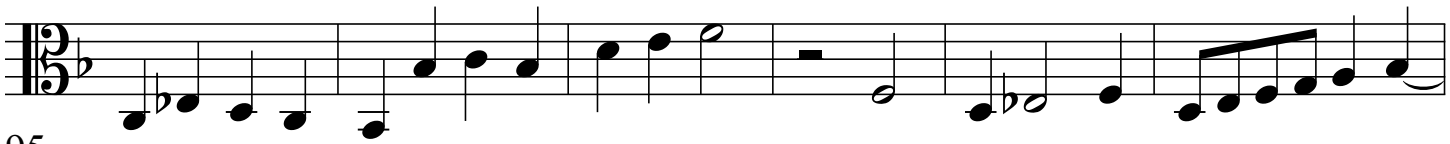

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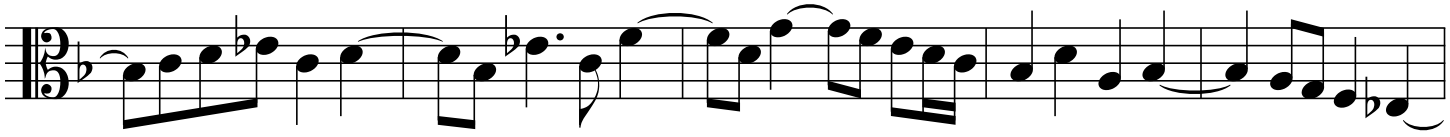

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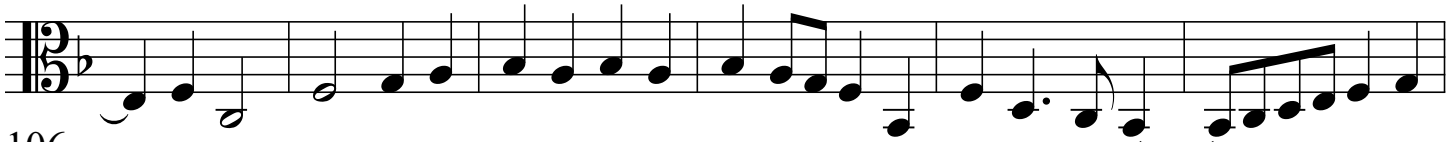

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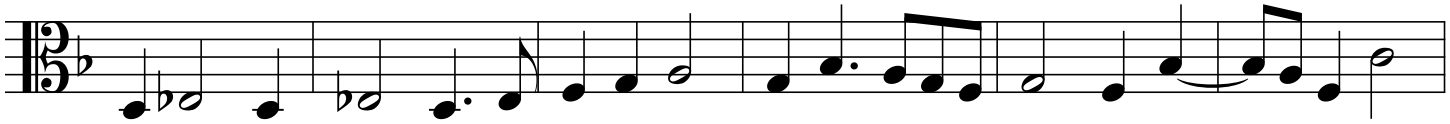

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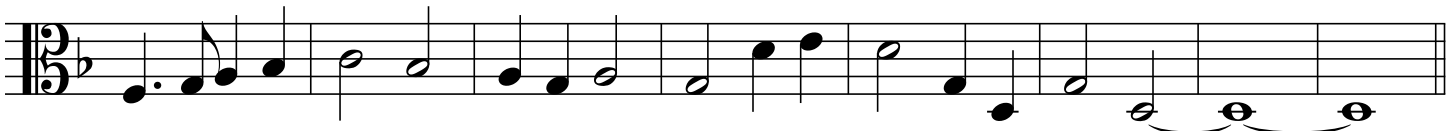

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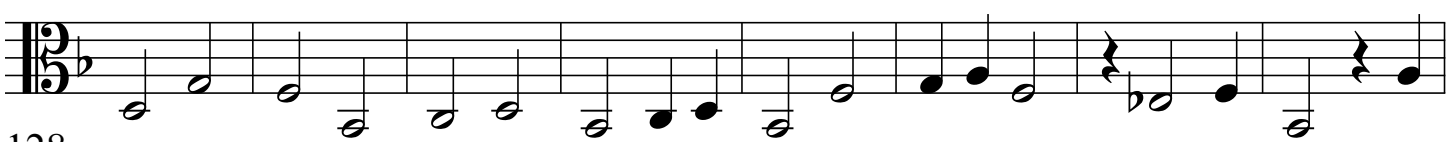

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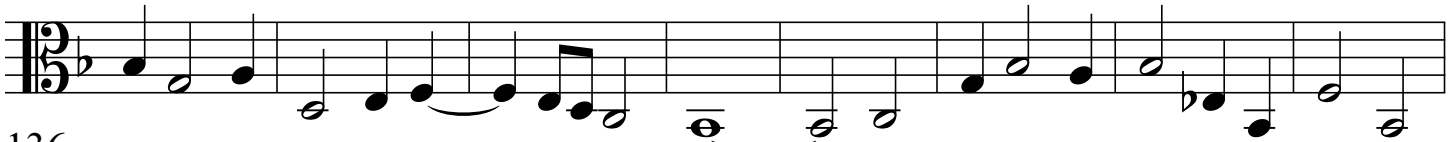

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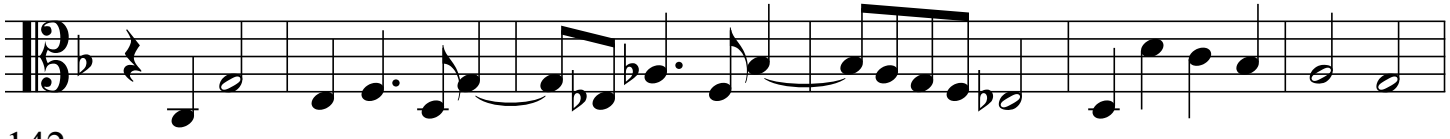

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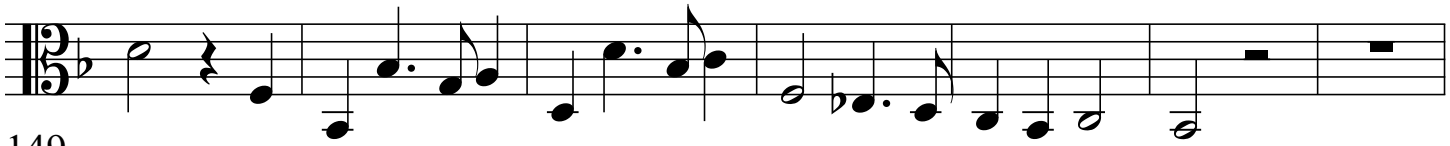

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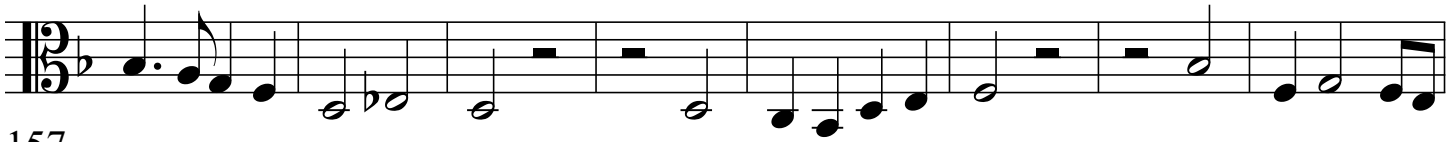

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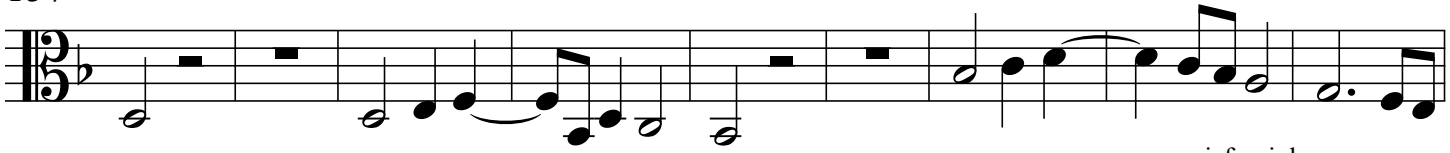

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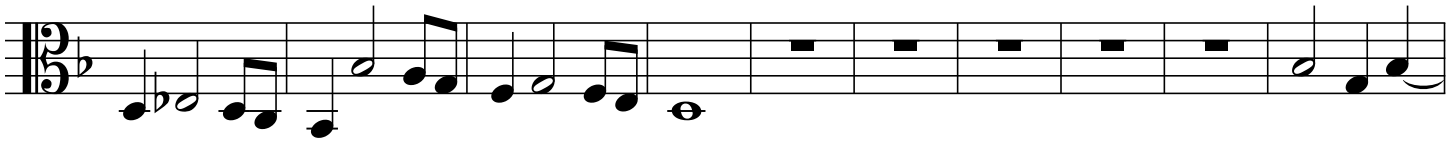

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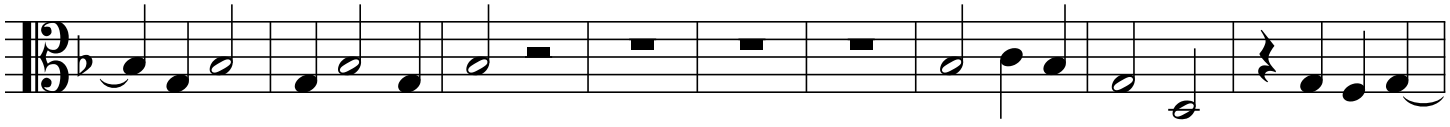

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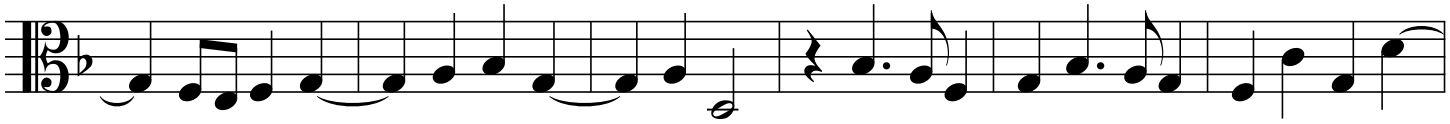

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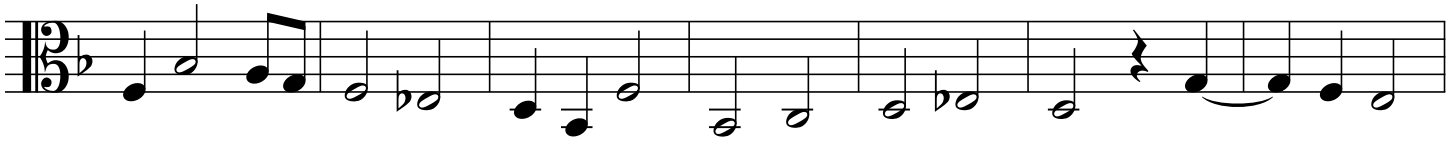

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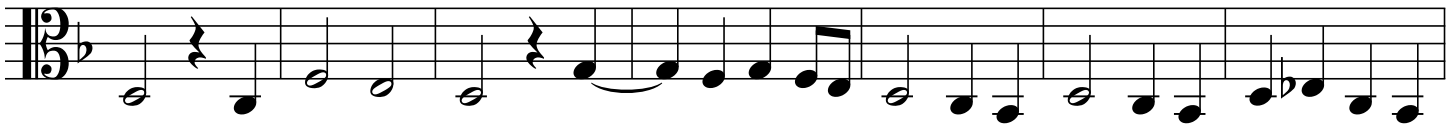

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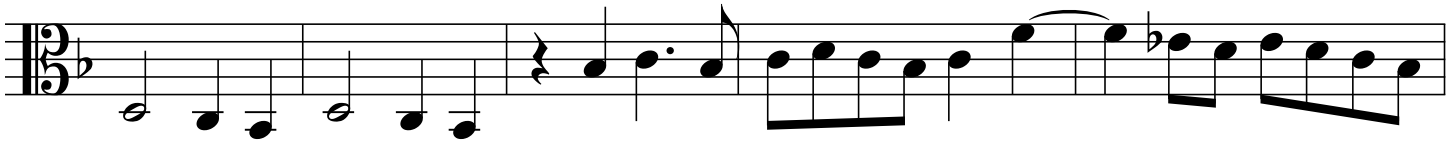

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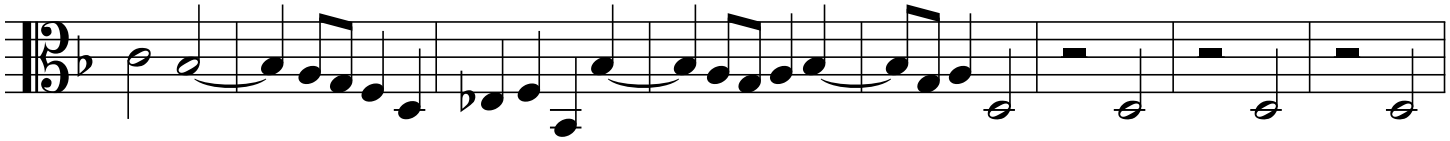

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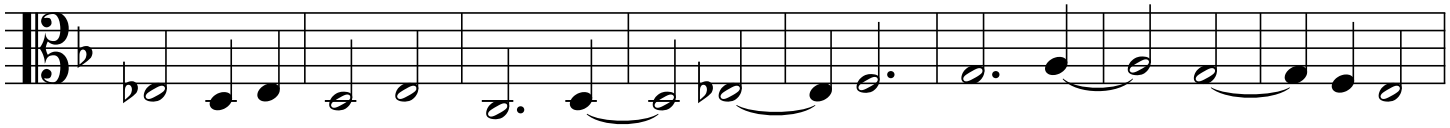

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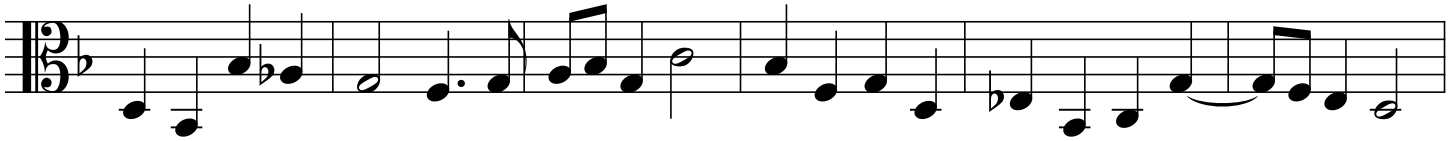

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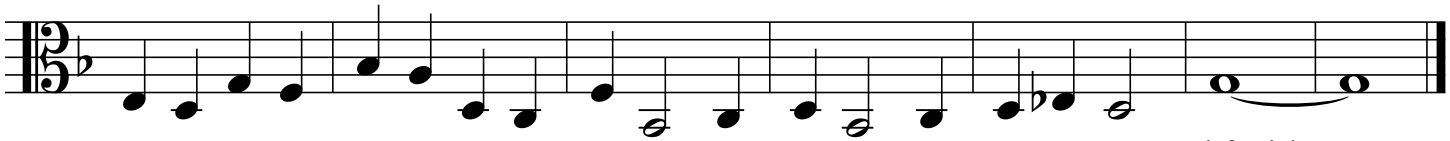

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