khreiae

for 2 pianists

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PerMagnus Lindborg 2001

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To be performed on two grand pianos.

The use of the middle pedal (indicated by the symbol **M**) should not be altered. The use of the other pedals is at the discretion of the players, bearing in mind that a generally 'dry' sound is intended by the composer.

Duration 3 minutes.

khreiae is a sketch for a longer piece. It is a transcription of **khreiae (progymnasmata)** for orchestra, written for Nordisk Komponistverksted 2001/2002 [Nordic Composers' Workshop] with the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra.

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khreiae; sing. khreia

De elementære øvelsene ble på gresk kalt *progymnasmata*... Retoren Nikolaus definerer *progymnasmata* generelt som "en middels vanskelig øvelse med sikte på å styrke seg til større oppgaver" (...) [Khreia] er den slående episode eller det gode poeng (...) Den tilsvarer ofte det vi kaller en anekdote. En khreia kan i sin kjerne være en replikk: "Isokrates sa: 'Dannelse har bitre røtter, men søte frukter'."

[Øivind Andersen, pg 242-4, I Retorikkens Hage, Universitetsforlaget 1995]

The early sophists introduced exercises in composition and for the first time encouraged some originality on the part of the students (...) Chreia, or anecdote, [is] defined as "a brief reminiscence referring to some person in a pithy form". It is called chreia because it is *chreiodes*, (morally) useful.

[George A. Kennedy, pg 202-4, A new History of Classical Rhetoric, Princeton University Press 1994]

Stoic philosophers favored *chreiae* as illustrations in long speeches; cynic philosophers, on the other hand, collected *chreiae* as ammunition for social confrontations and as paradigms for cynic social behavior, somewhat like Zen masters' use of the *koan*.

[http://religion.rutgers.edu/nt/primer/chreia.html]

Chreia, or anecdote, [is] one of the most widespread literary forms in Greek and Latin literature. It was used primarily to express and preserve the wit, wisdom, and memorable actions of philosophers, kings, generals, Spartans, even prostitutes. For example, Diogenes the Cynic philosopher, on seeing a young boy misbehaving, struck the boy's pedagogue and said, "Why are you teaching such things?" . The popularity of the chreia is explained in part by its brevity and fixed form that made it easy to remember, but also by its use in all levels of the educational curriculum, from the first sentences students read to rather advanced exercises in argumentation by students of rhetoric.

[The Chreia and Ancient Rhetoric and Education Project, Ronald F. Hock & Edward N. O'Neil, http://www.cgu.edu/inst/iac/chreia.html]

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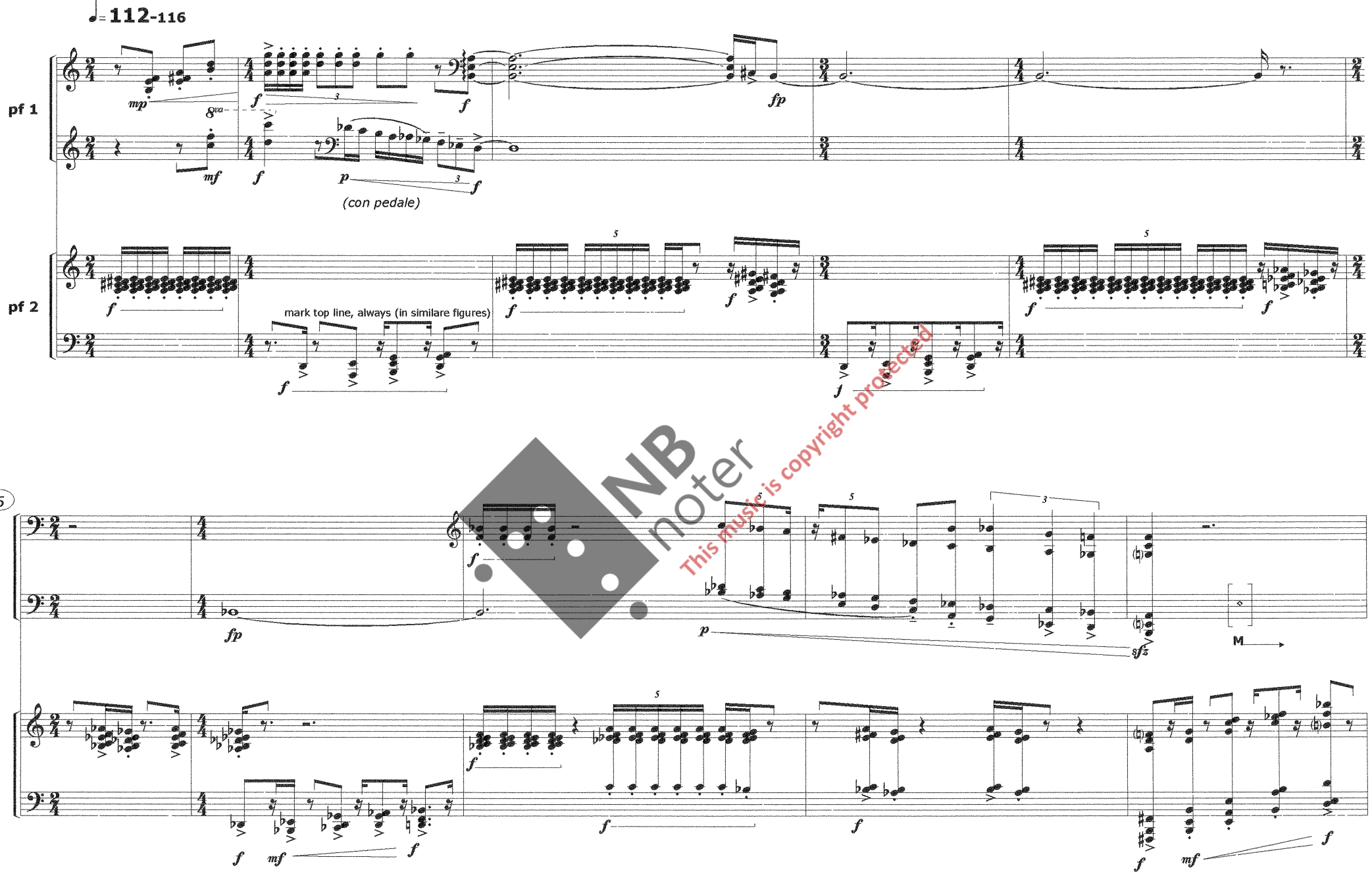
PerMagnus Lindborg



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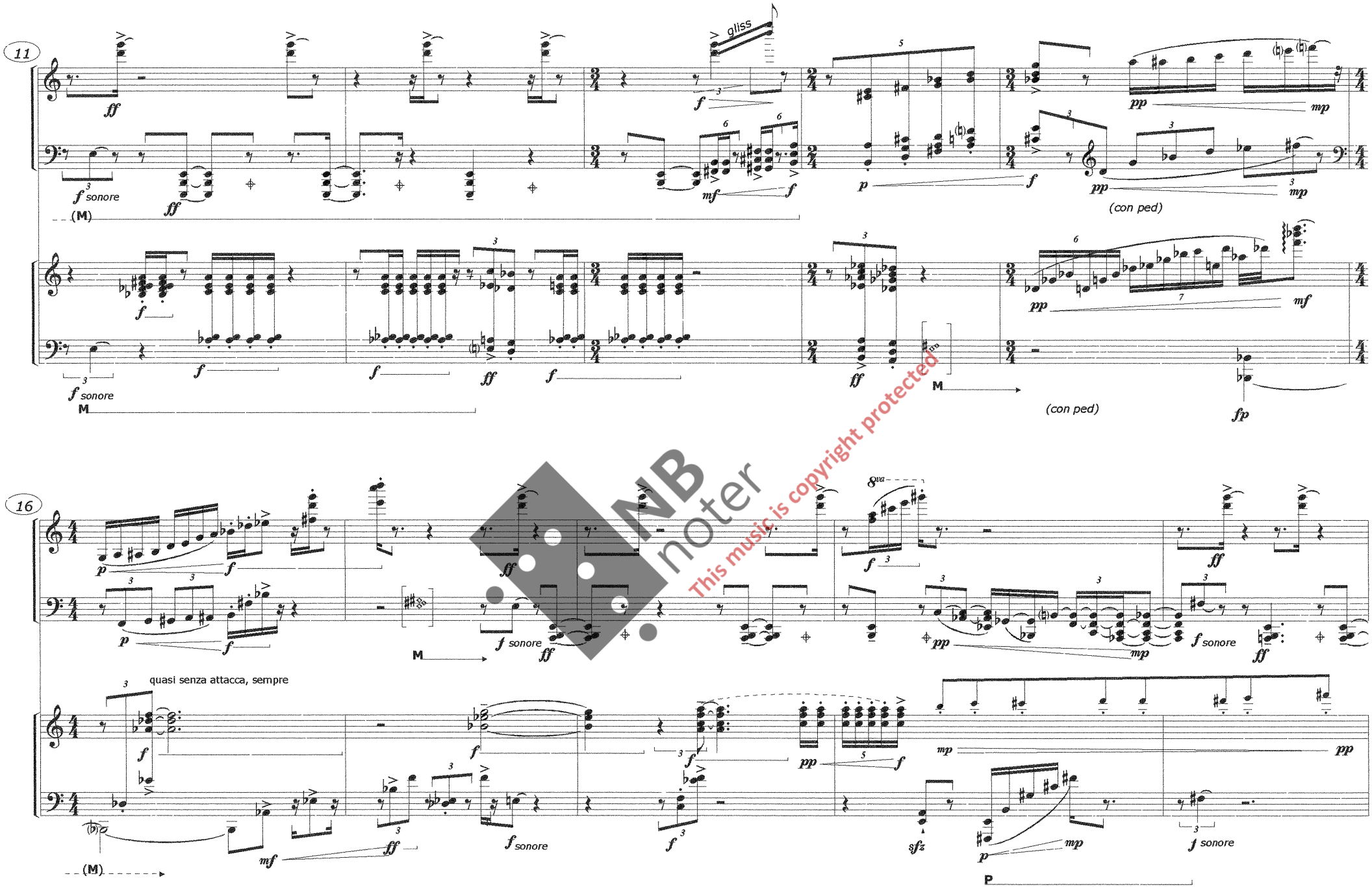

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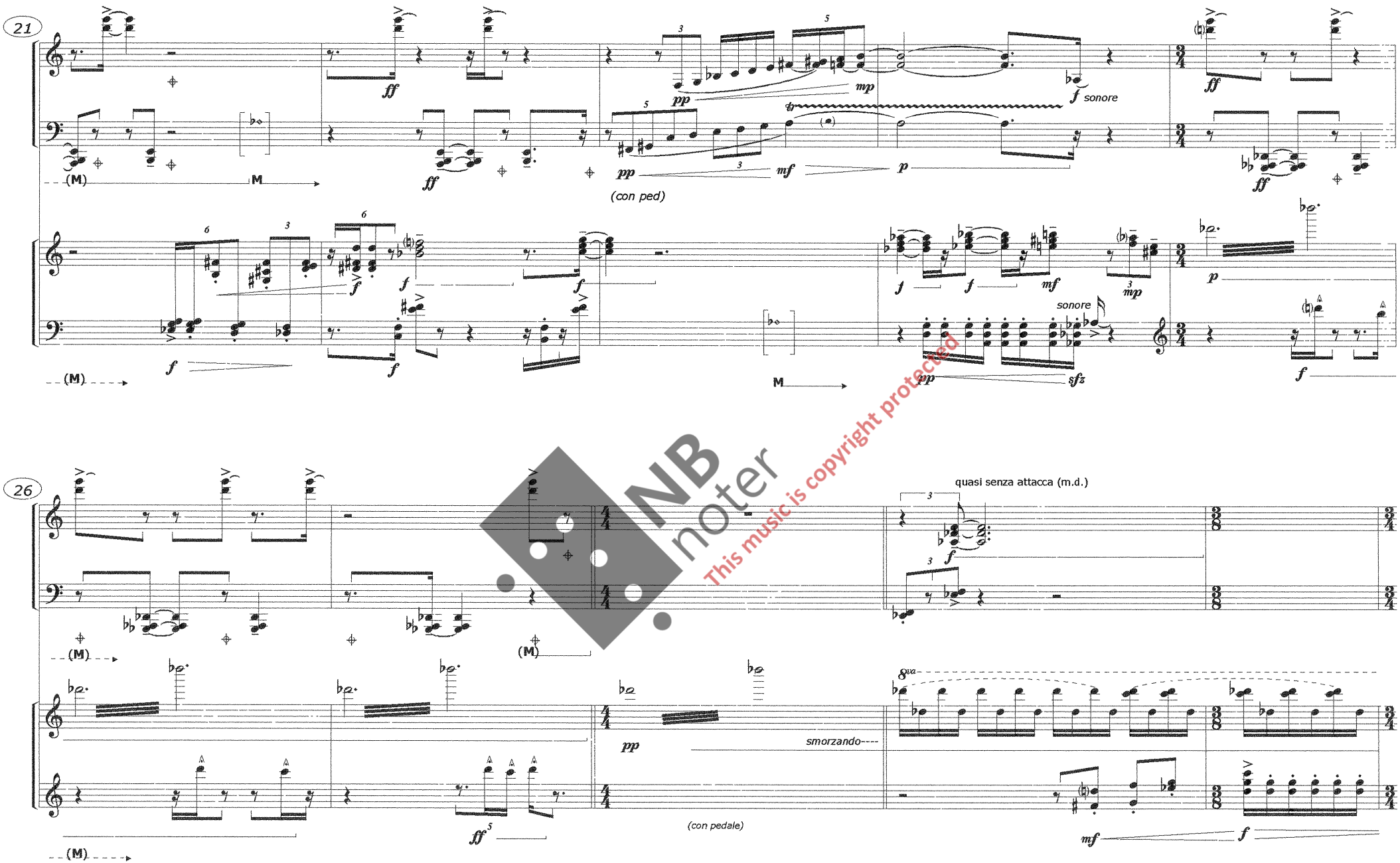

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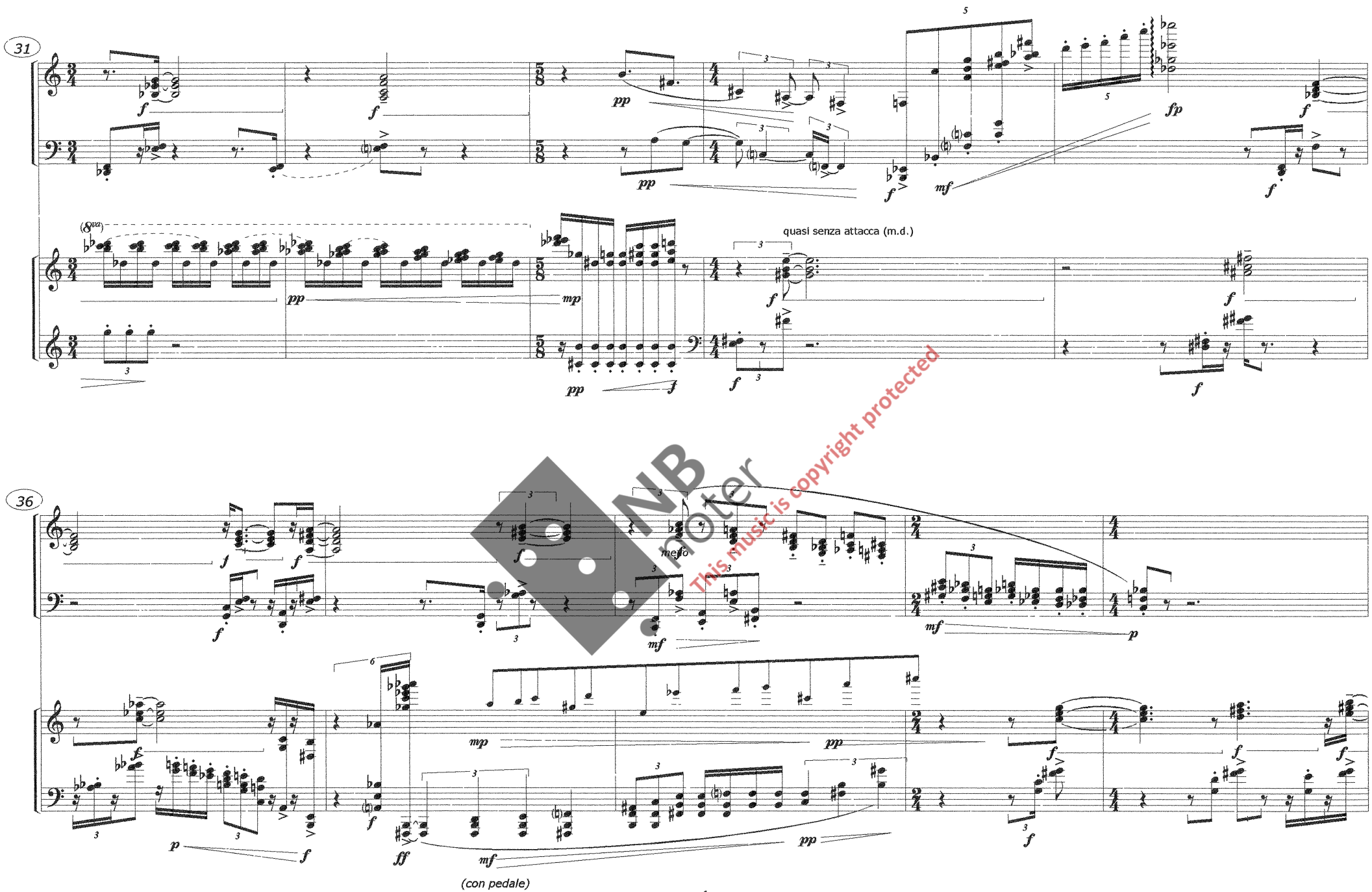

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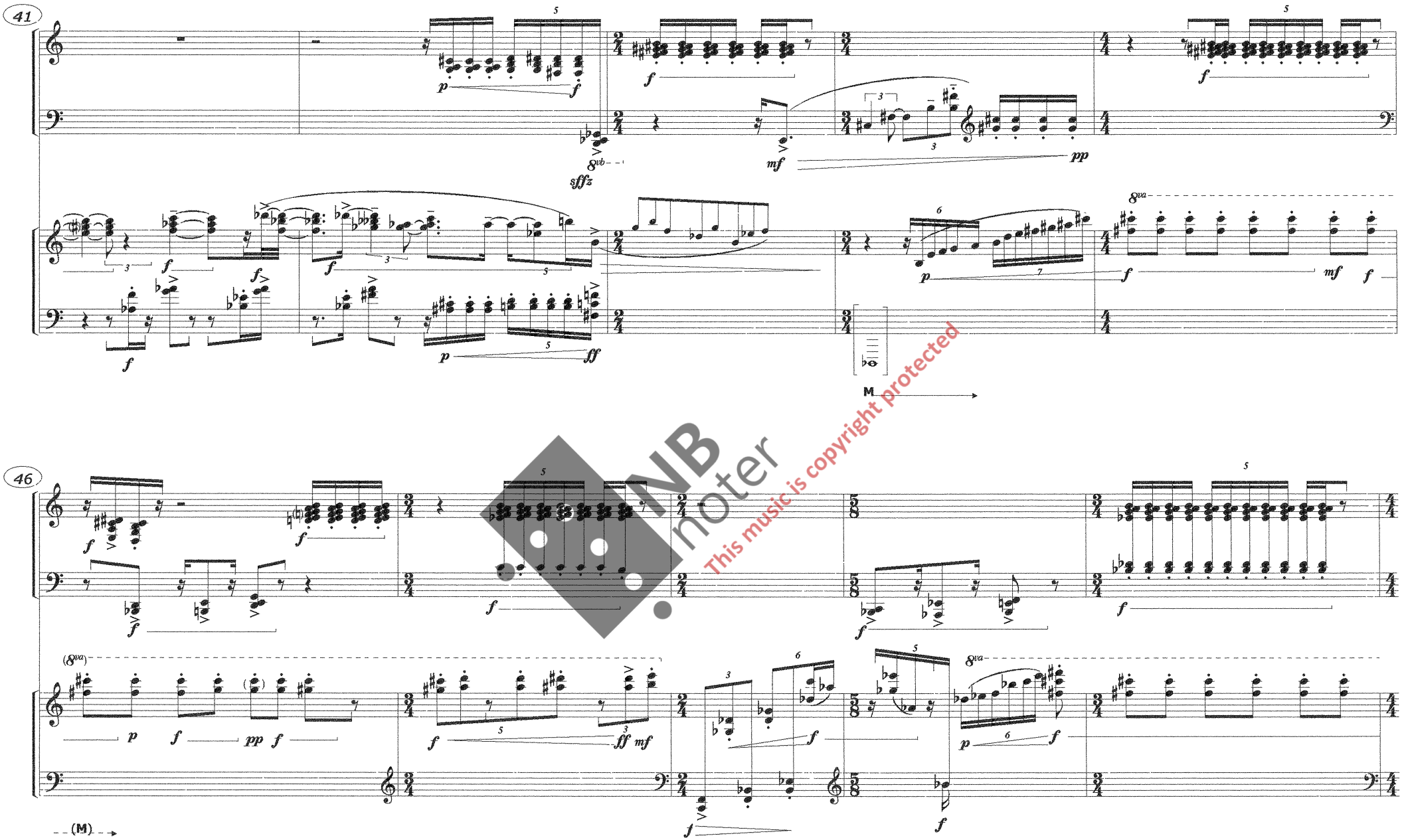

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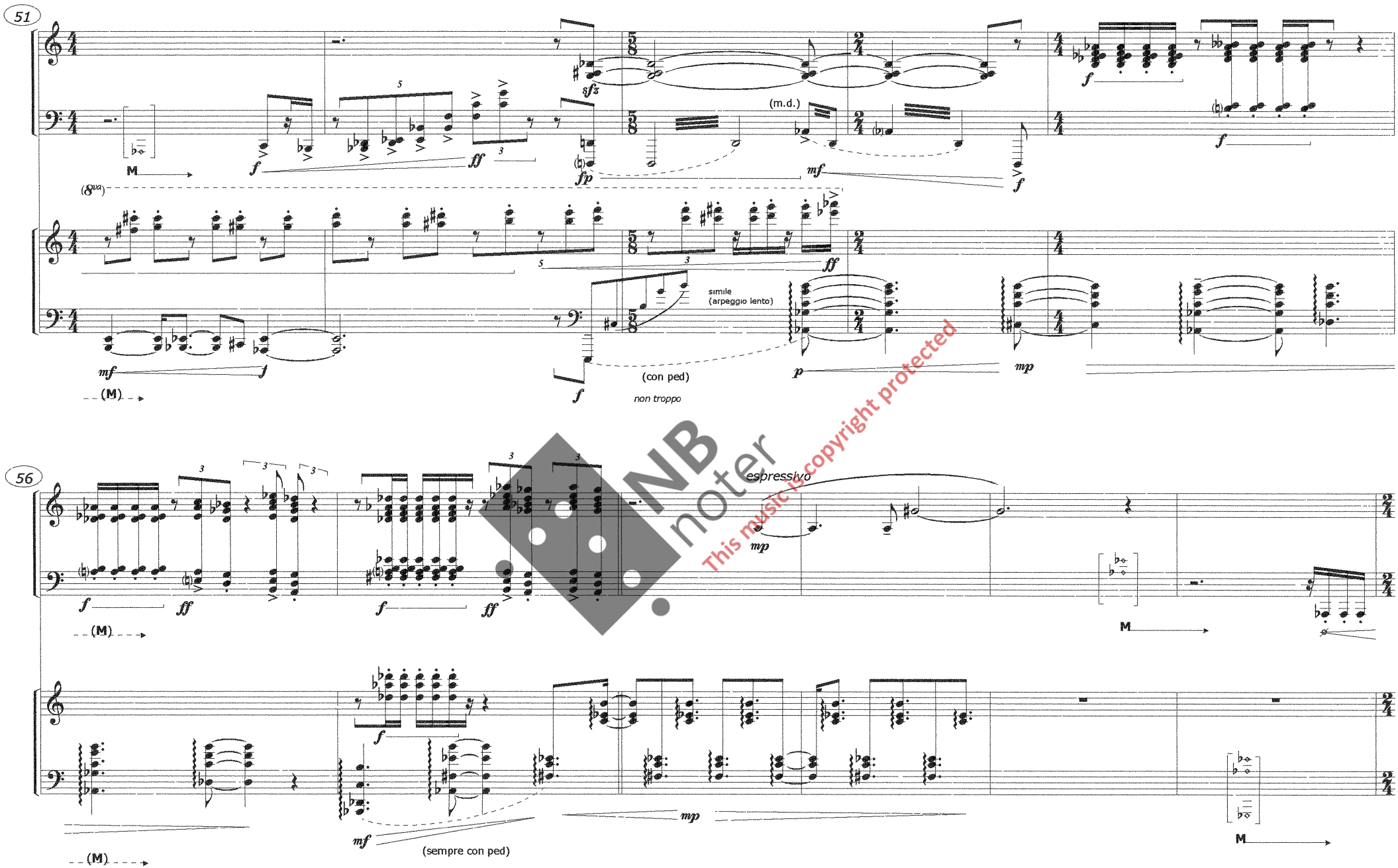

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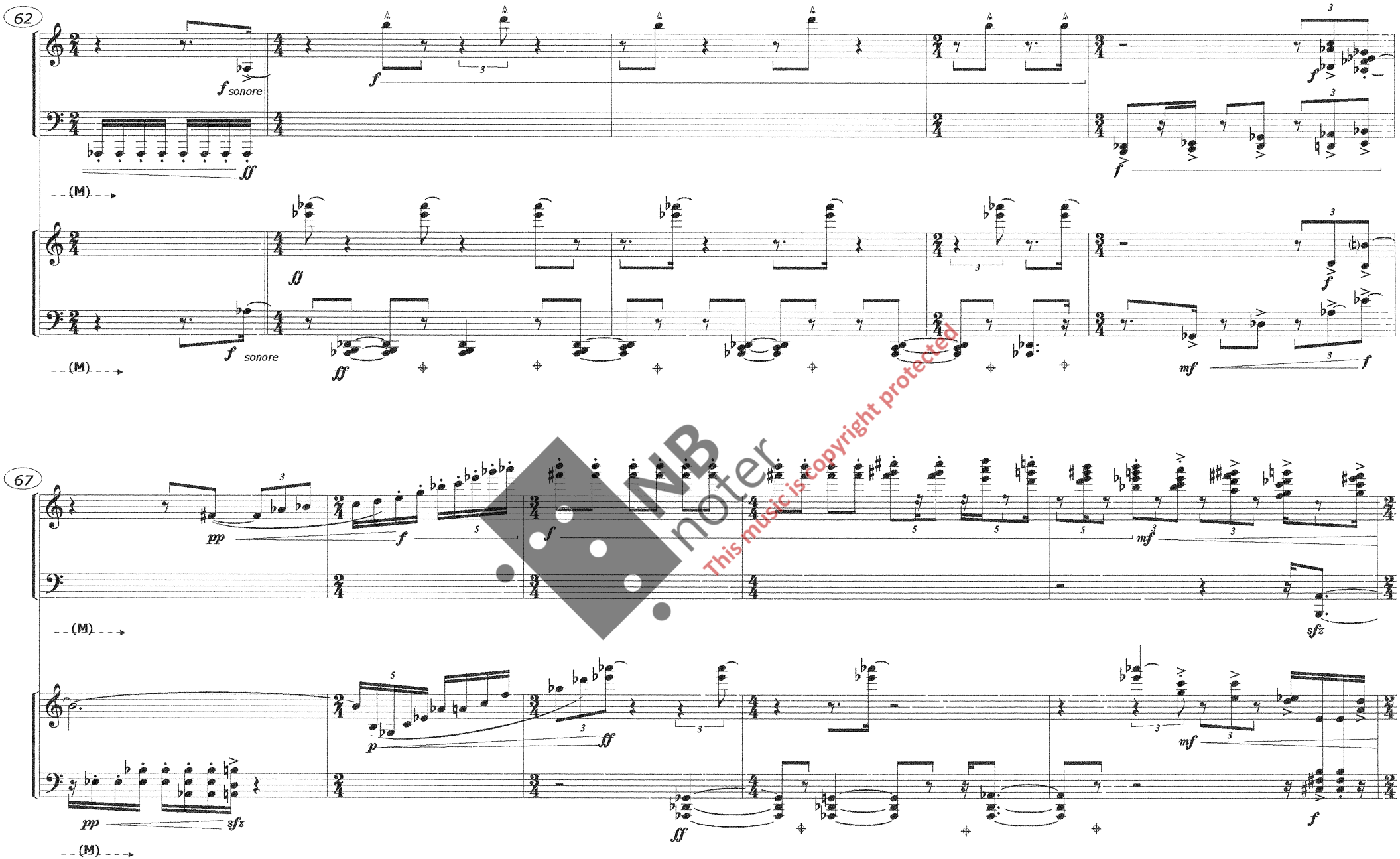

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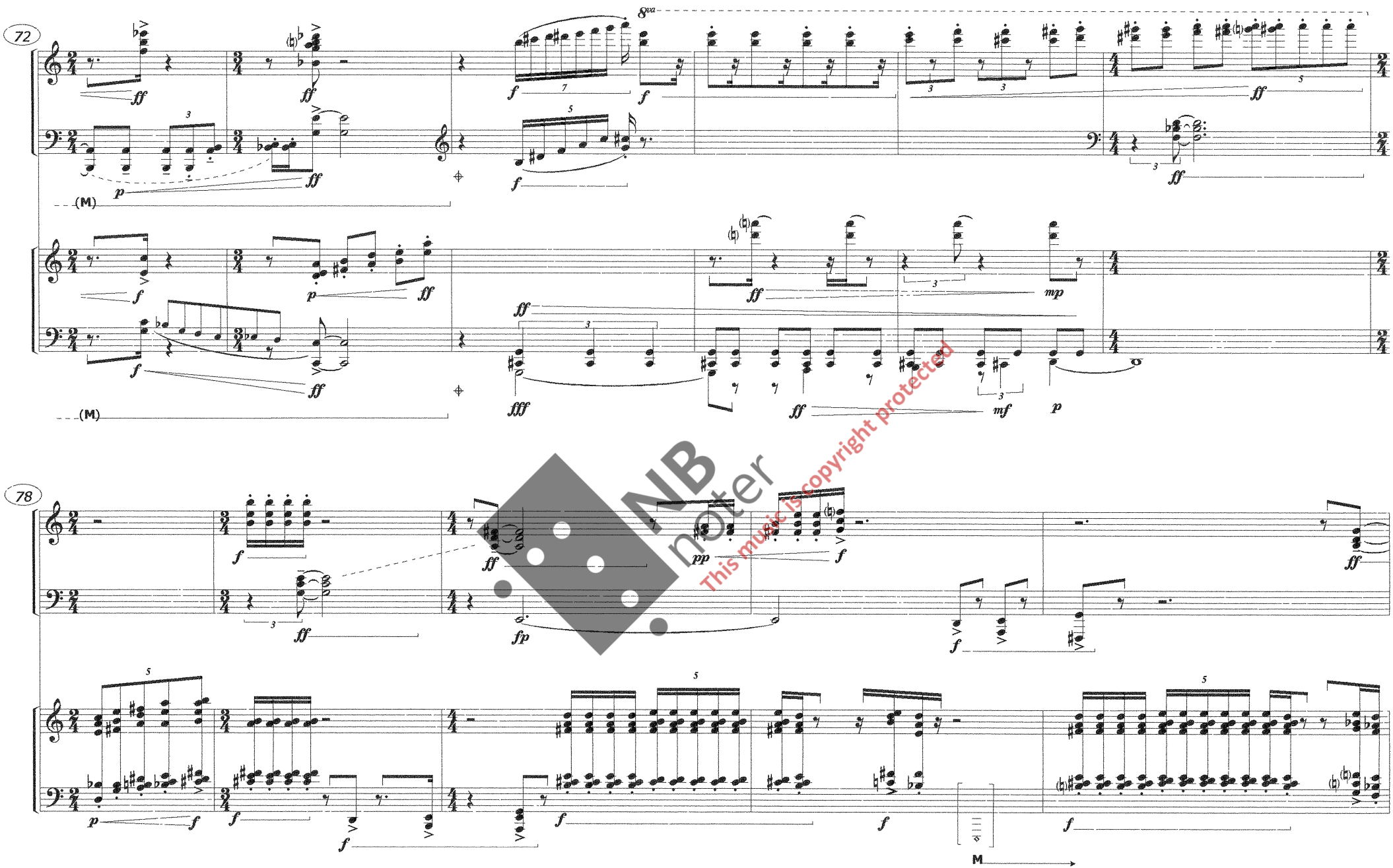

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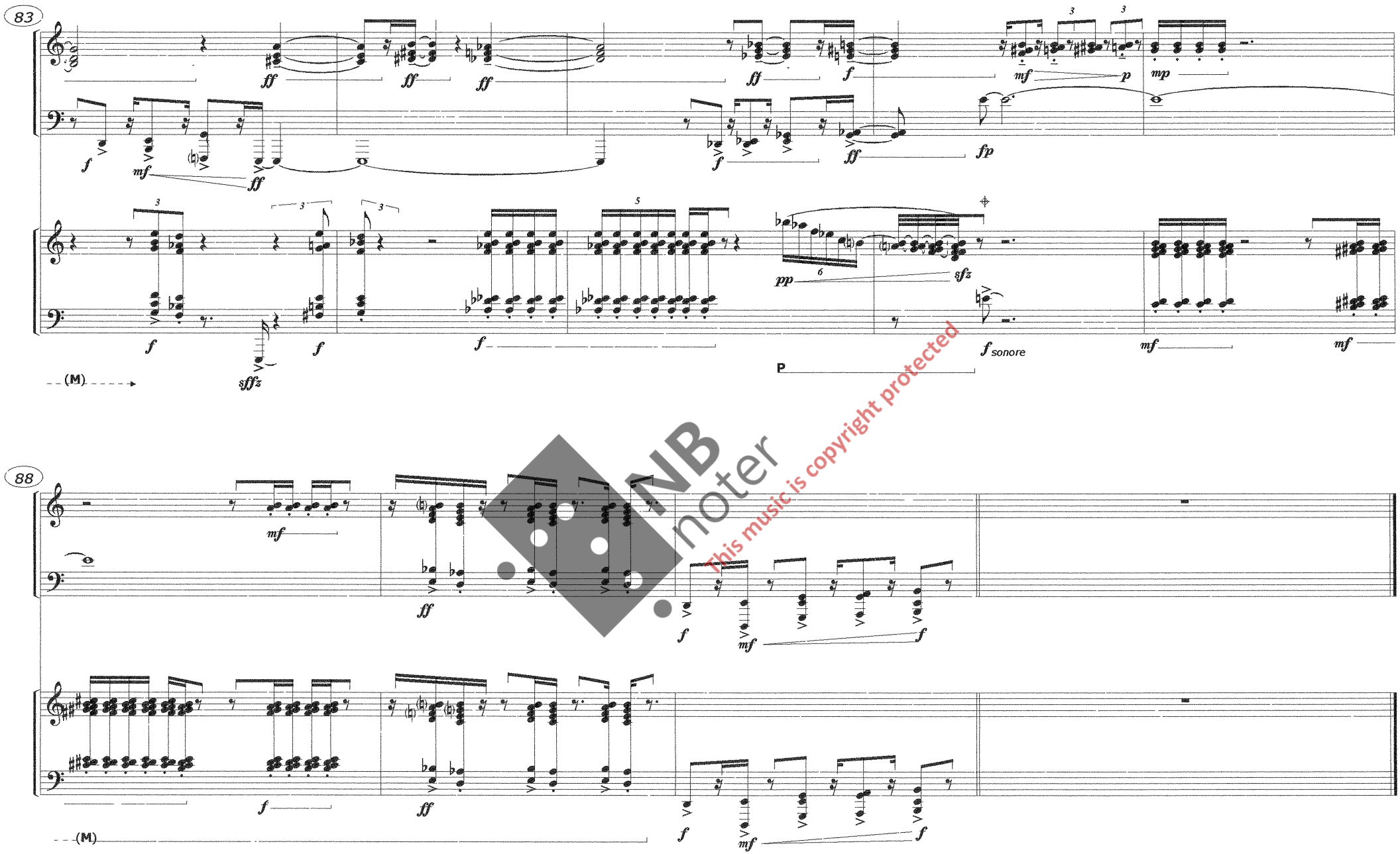

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