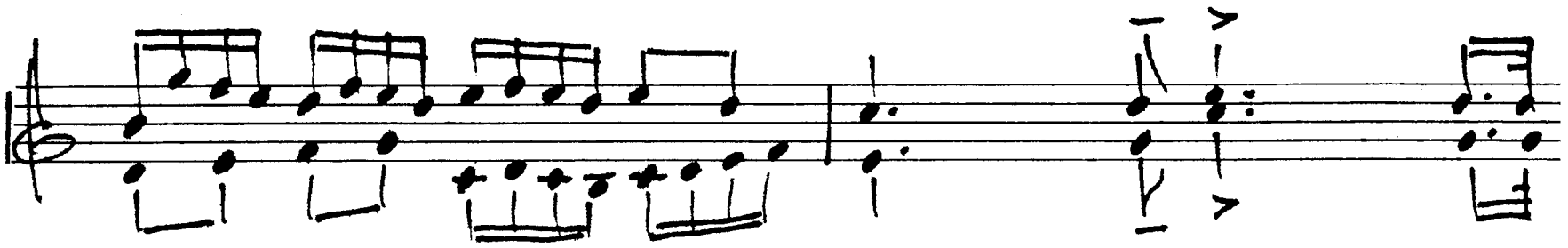
Music for a Sunday Morning 10

Prelude, Air, Fughetta

Theodore Beck

Music for a Sunday Morning

10



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Preface

Music for a Sunday Morning was proposed by Dr. Paul Bunjes, Chairman of the Music Department, Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Ill., to the Music Editorial Advisory Committee of Concordia Publishing House—a membership which he served with distinction for twenty-five years. A subsequent presentation of his idea was made by Dr. Bunjes in a lecture entitled "Opportunities for the Composer in the Church Music of Today," included in the 10th annual "Lectures in Church Music" at Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Ill. Here the concept was made public and an invitation offered to composers to seriously consider contributing to this project.

In his lecture Bunjes stated, "Looking at the church music of today from the viewpoint of available, practical, and developing media of expression, one sees a host of opportunities suggesting themselves as worthy of a composer's interest and attention. First and foremost among these lies the organ itself. Having undergone an international and intensive rebirth in its conception and execution in our time through successful efforts to establish a respectable *raison d'etre,* an artistic integrity, and a societal legitimacy, the instrument in its more recent realizations stands ready, mature, and fully equipped to offer to the serious composer a musical vehicle of comprehensive dimensions, rich tonal resources, and diversified coloristic efforts available in no other medium. All are highly worthy of, and avidly seek, the composer's best efforts.

"Although a good deal of effort has in recent years been expended on organ music predicated upon a *cantus firmus* organization, there has been a dearth of organ music suitable for preludial or postludial excursions in which a *cantus firmus* plays no note. In this connection, and to point up this deficiency, Concordia Publishing House is seeking a supply of musical essays under the concept of a three-movement form entitled 'Music for a Sunday Morning.' Such suites should contain the requisite pieces for the service, *i. e.*, a prelude, a voluntary, and a postlude, all expressive of the theme of the day and characteristic of the season. If the five-movement Mass of the Renaissance was adequate to inspire a large number of the best composers for a very long time in its musical setting for use in the divine service, the existence of the three-movement requirement of the Sunday morning service for a very long time already, and presumably for some time in the future as well, may well induce our composers to address themselves with vigor to the creation of a generous supply of 'Music for a Sunday Morning.' "

The compositional requirements for this series are:

Theme:	Non-hymnic, freely composed
Format:	Three sections: Prelude, Voluntary, Postlude; suite-like or triptych in form
Technical Difficulty:	Similar to Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Three Preludes for Organ (Founded on Welsh Hymn Tunes)"
Length:	Approximately three minutes per section
Style:	Contemporary in expression but avoiding avant-garde extremes
Instrument:	Two-manual and pedal pipe organ of approximately 16-20 stops

In initiating this series, Concordia was proud to present compositions by four well-known church music composers. The series now contains 11 titles. As the series continues to grow, we hope it will become a signficant contribution to the musical heritage of the church.

Biographical Sketch

Theodore Beck was born in Oak Park, Illinois, on April 17, 1929, the last of three children of Albert Beck and Esther Wetzel. His undergraduate work was taken at Concordia Teachers College in River Forest, Illinois, where, in 1950, he received the B.S. in Education degree. His graduate work in Church Music and Music Theory was taken at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, culminating with the Ph.D. in 1961.

Dr. Beck has been a member of the music faculty at Concordia Teachers College in Seward, Nebraska, since 1953, teaching in the areas of Music Theory and Organ. Presently he is serving as chairman of the Music Division.

Prelude

THEODORE BECK

Moderately ♩ = 116

Gt.

Pedal (optional)

Sw.

Manual

Gt.

(Ped.)

Manual

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97-5554

Sw.

Gt.

Sw.

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(Ped.)

Sw.

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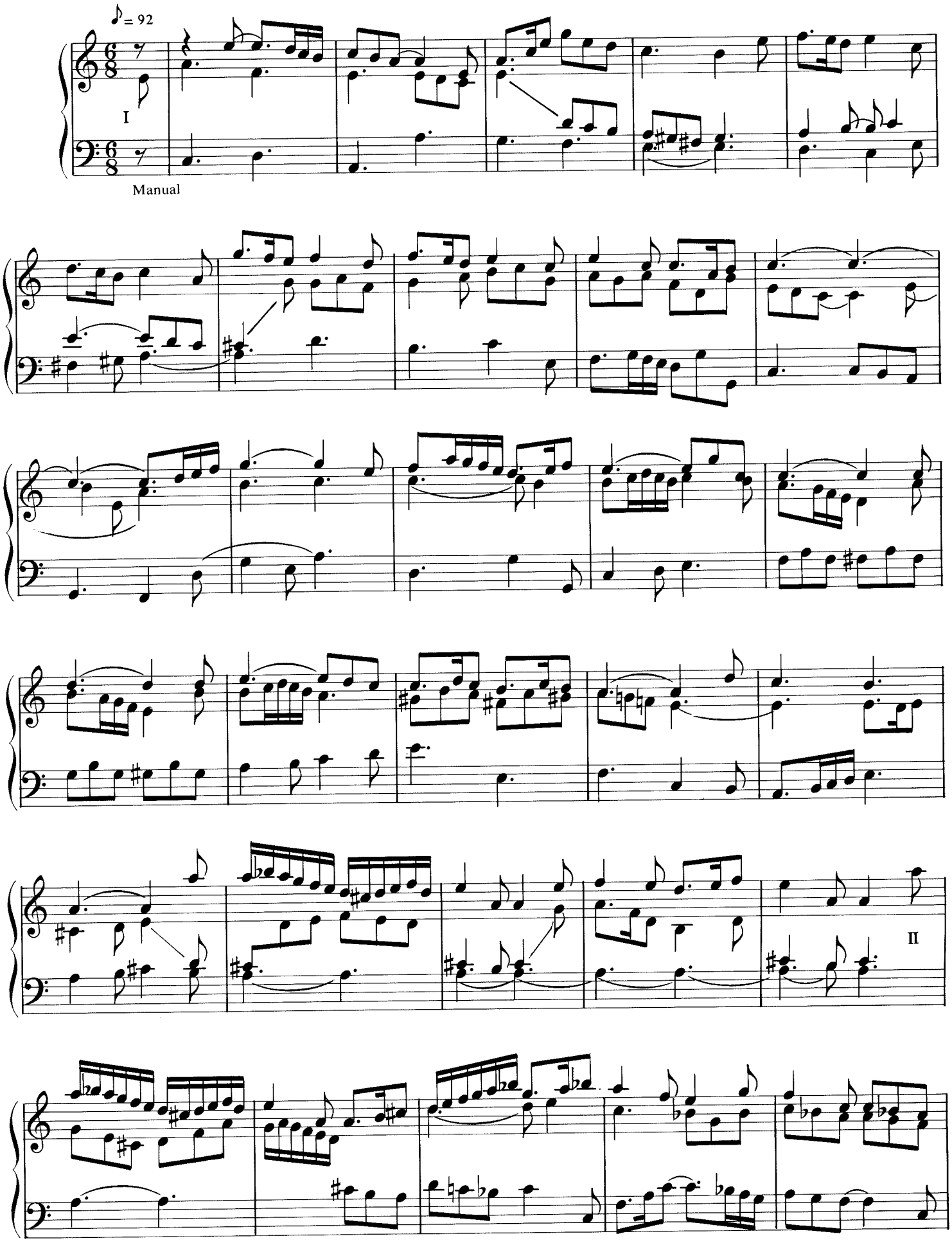
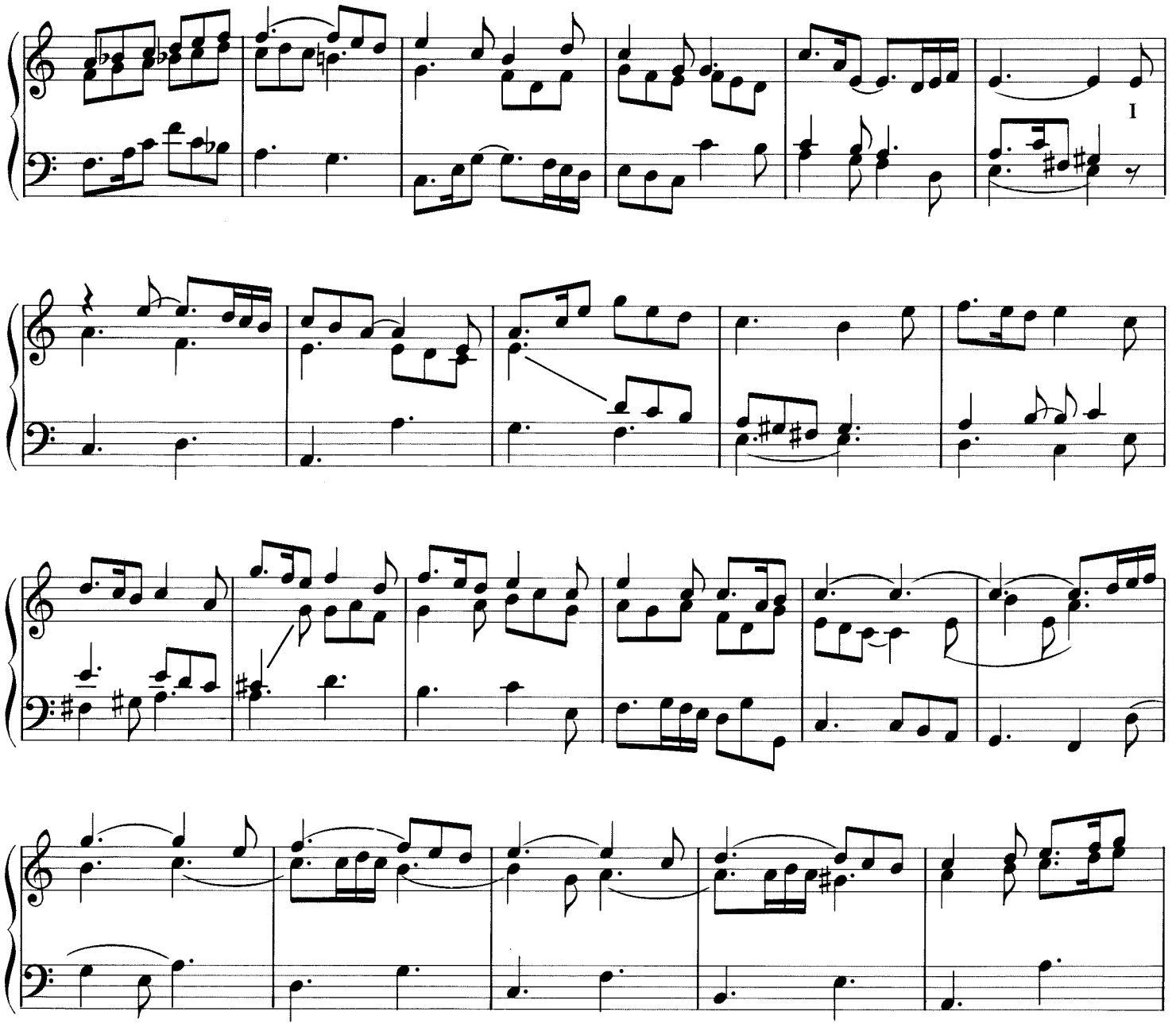
Air

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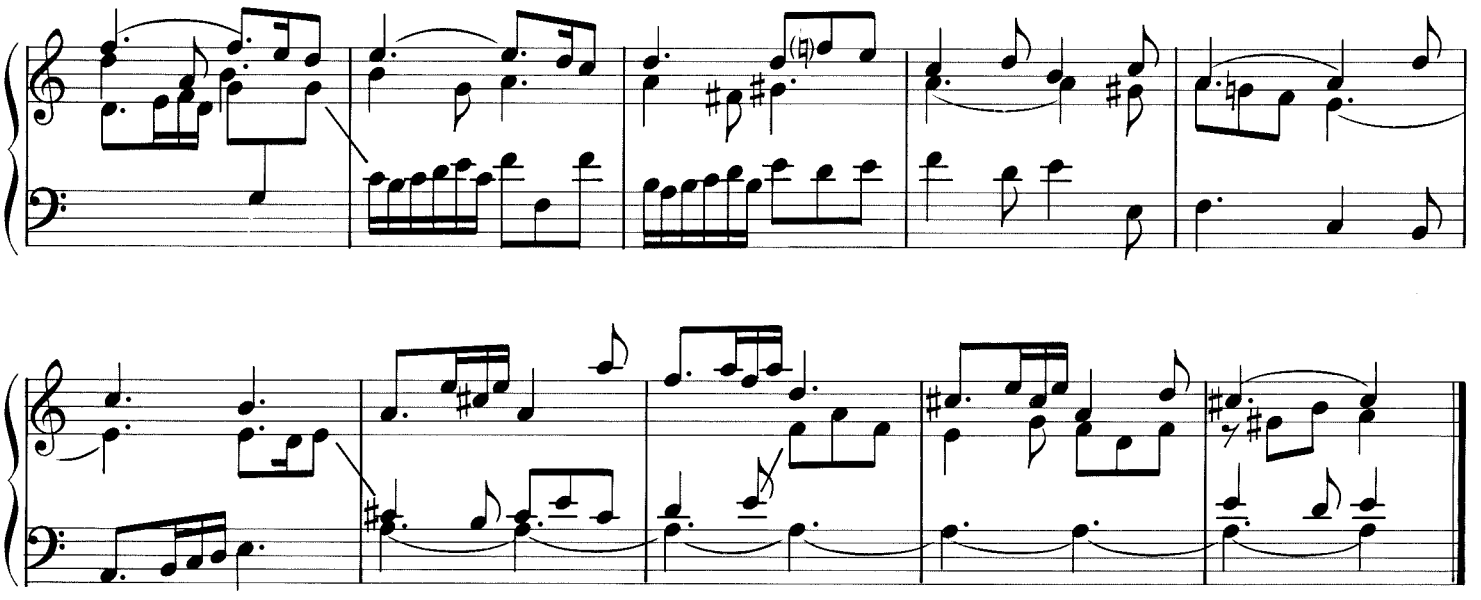
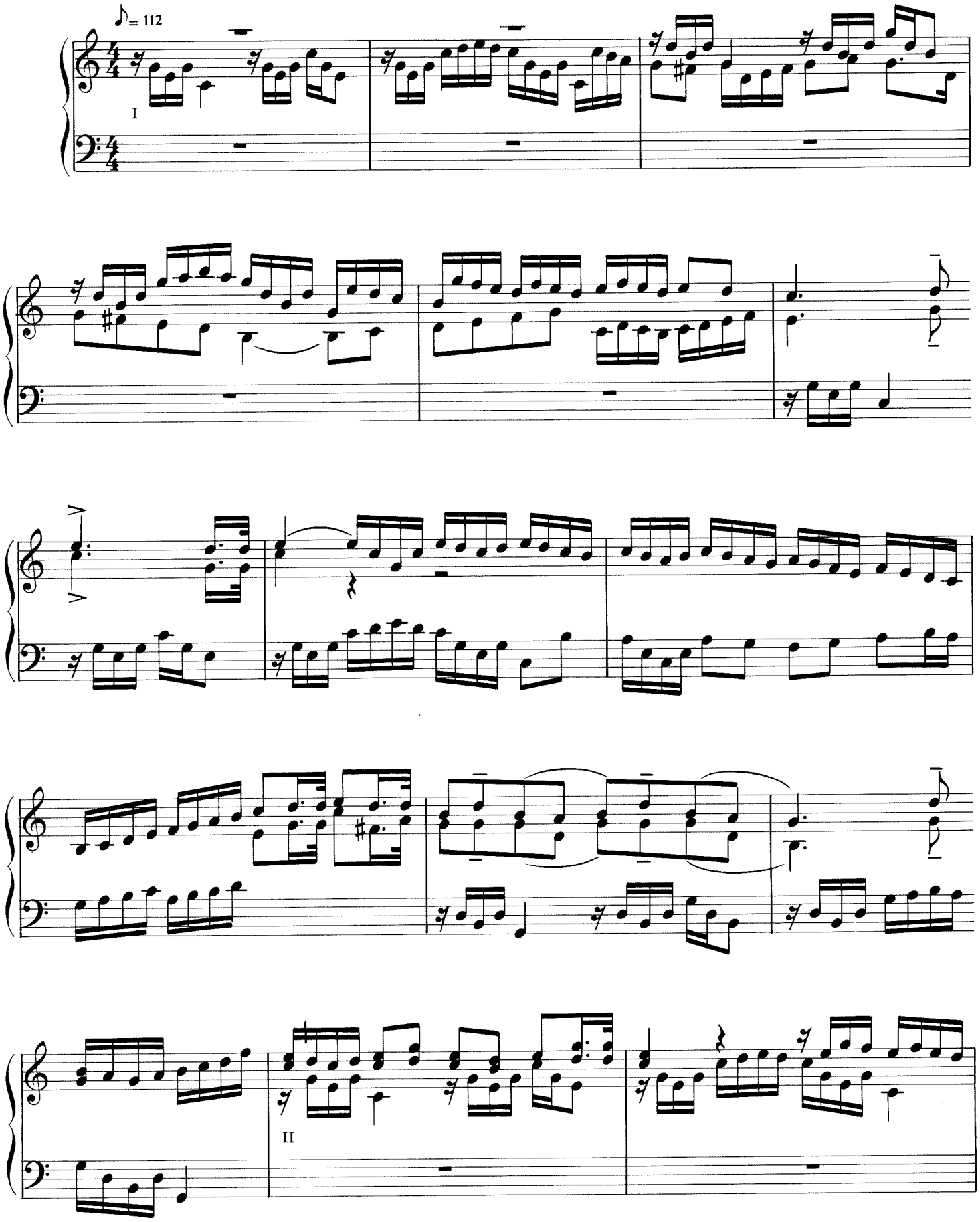
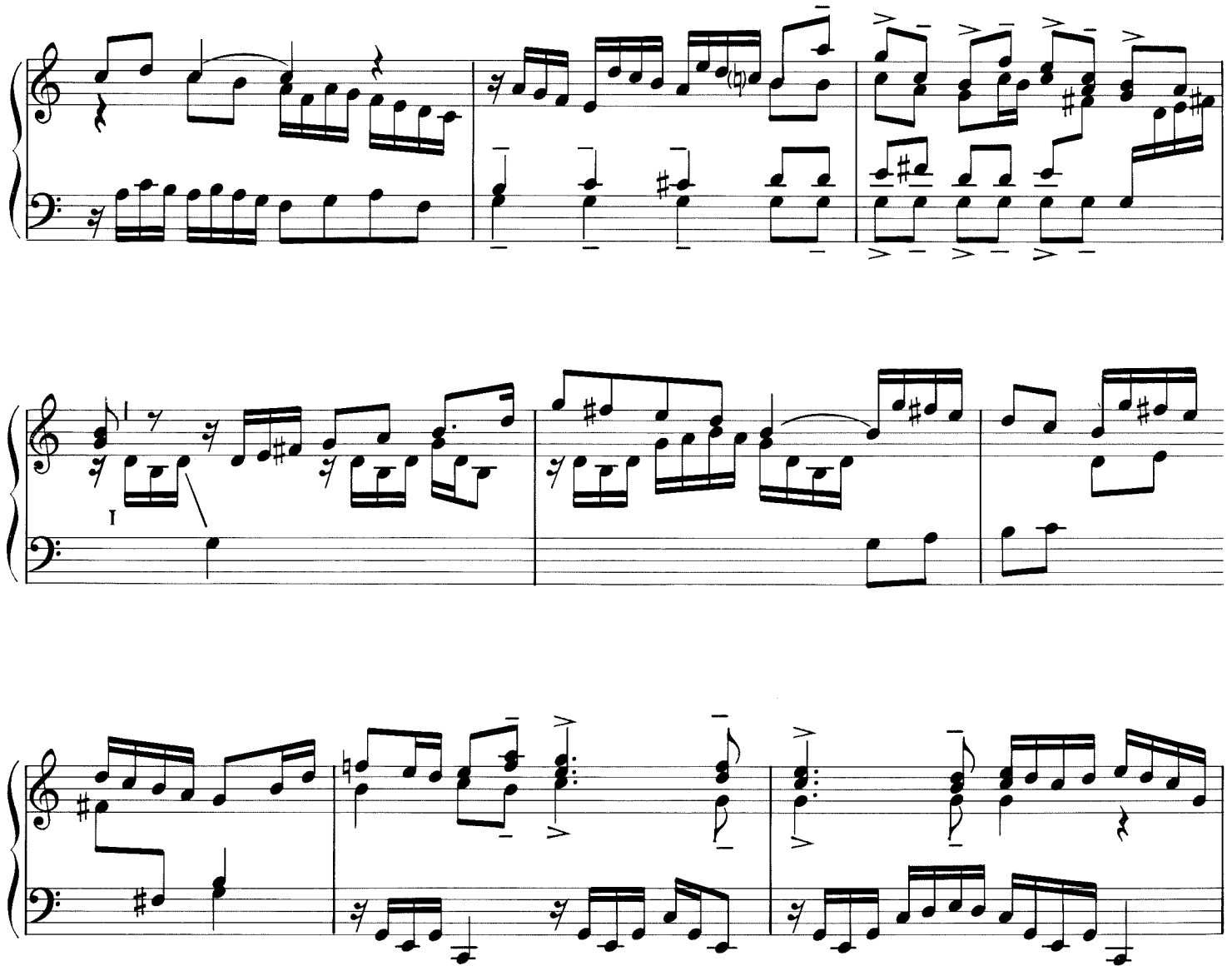


Fughetta

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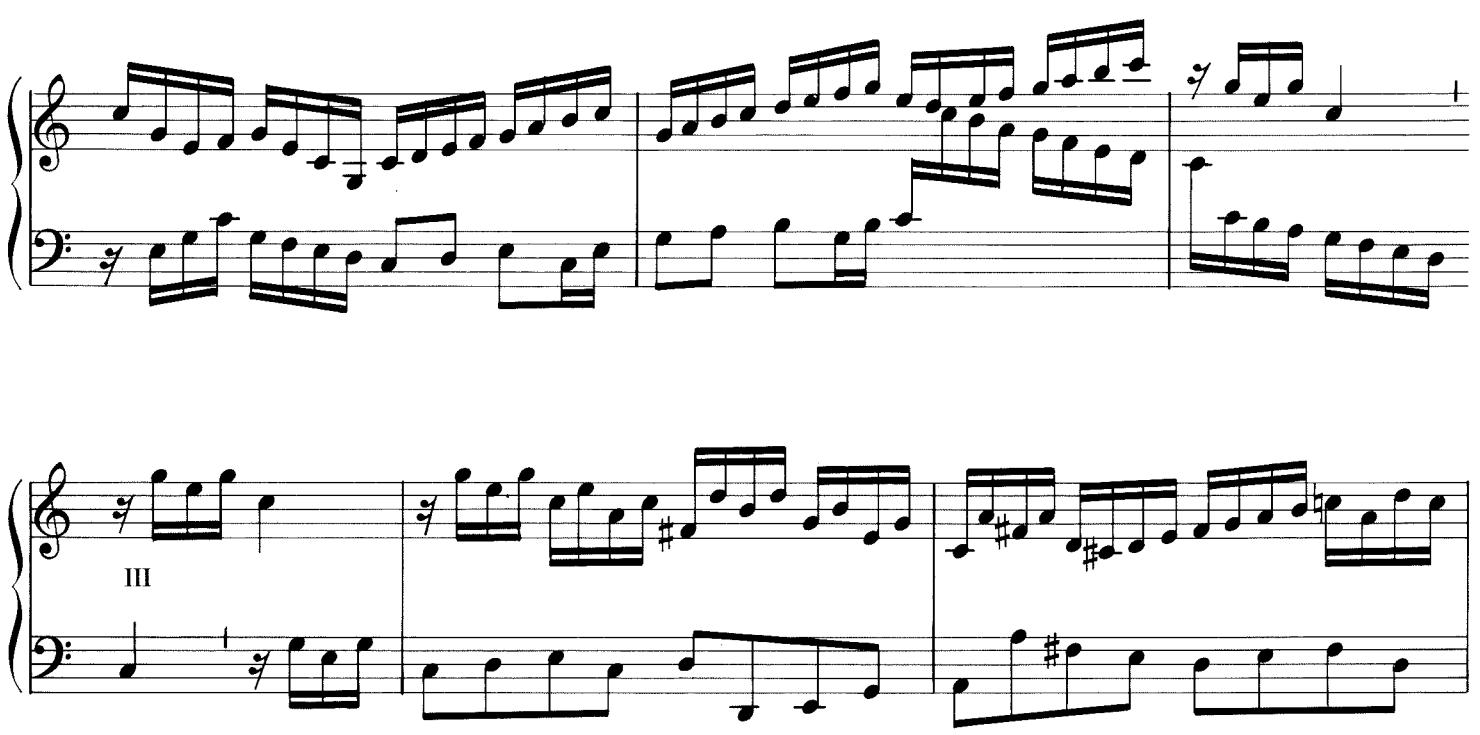
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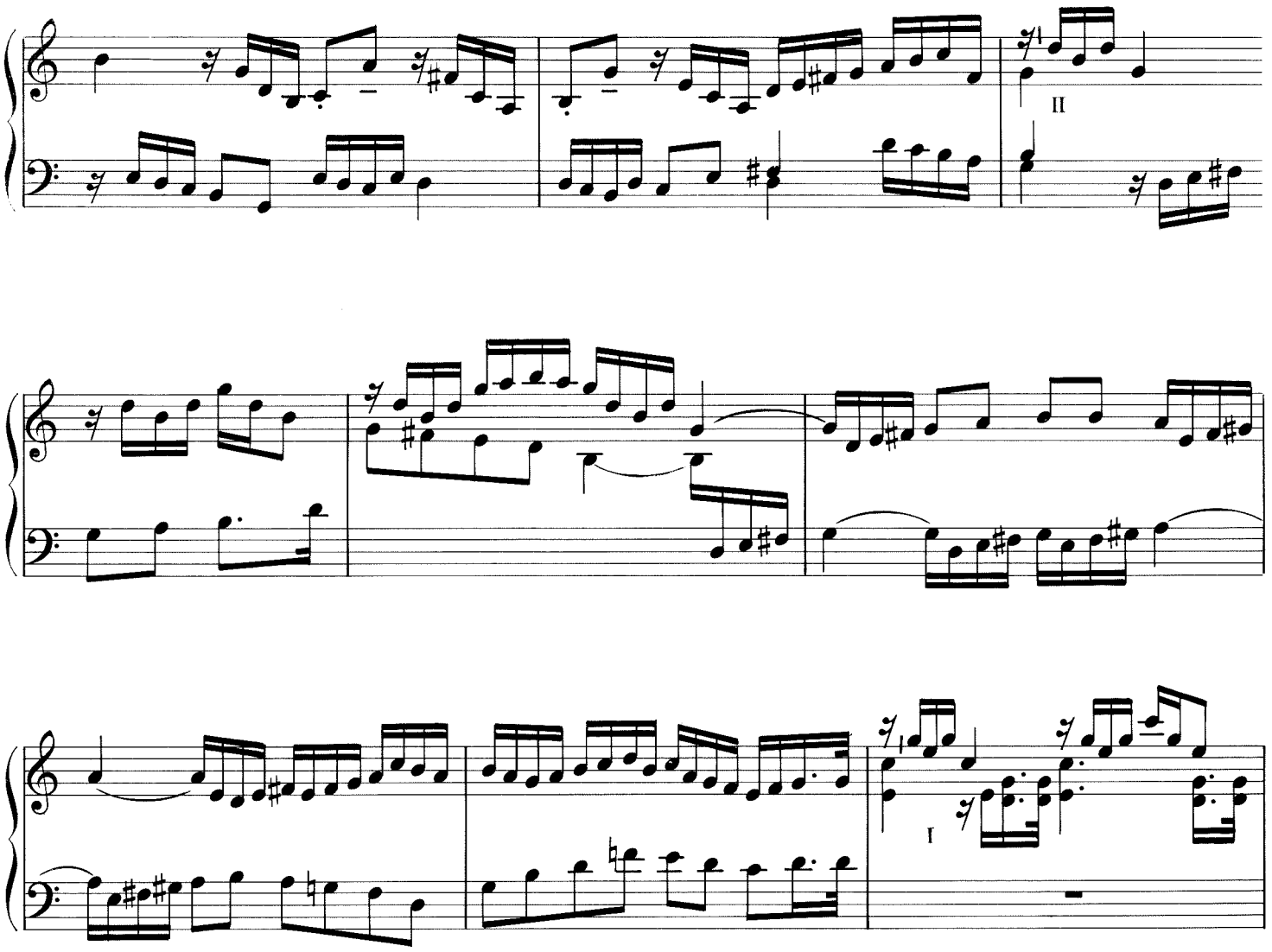
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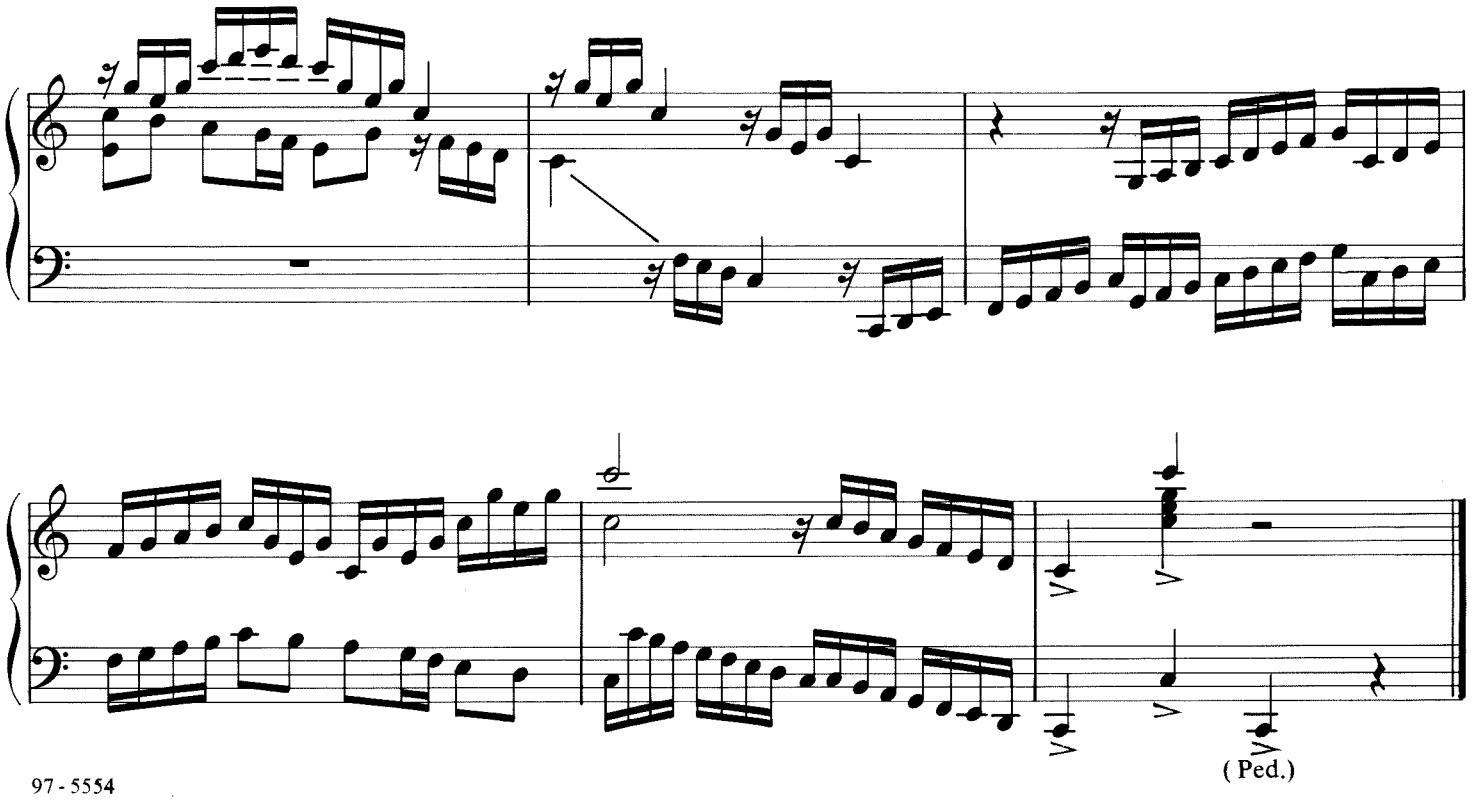
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