PAUL HAYDEN

Berceuse pour la Nouvelle-Orléans

from *Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra*

for alto saxophone and piano

Magnolia Music Press

Program Note

The first movement of my *Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra* (2008) is one of two works I composed as a personal response to the hurricane Katrina disaster. The first piece, *Das Echo von New Orleans* (for saxophone and piano, 2006), was commissioned, premiered, and recorded by Farrell Vernon. That work is a brief, three-movement fantasy on the German Catholic hymn *Grosser Gott*.

My second "Katrina" work is the first movement of this concerto -- a "berceuse" (or lullaby) intended as salve for a wounded city. Slow, lyrical sections enclose a faster, more virtuosic central section.

The second movement (a passacaglia) consists of a theme section and six variations. A cadenza separates the fifth and sixth variations. The passacaglia theme is played at the beginning of the movement by a solo double bass and can be found in some form virtually throughout the movement.

While the solo saxophone part in this concerto is certainly difficult, it was not specifically written to be a virtuosic showpiece. I have, for example, written pieces for saxophone that make use of extended techniques (multiphonics, tongue slaps, pitch bending, etc.), but the melodic material of this concerto simply did not require these techniques (other than some fluttertongue in the second movement). In fact, my main desire in the first movement was simply to showcase the beautiful tone of the soloist I had hoped would premiere the work: Griffin Campbell. The saxophone can without a doubt be agile and loud, but I feel that beauty of tone is a quality that is sometimes overlooked in new pieces for saxophone.

Duration: ca. 9 mins.

The saxophone part in this score is transposed.

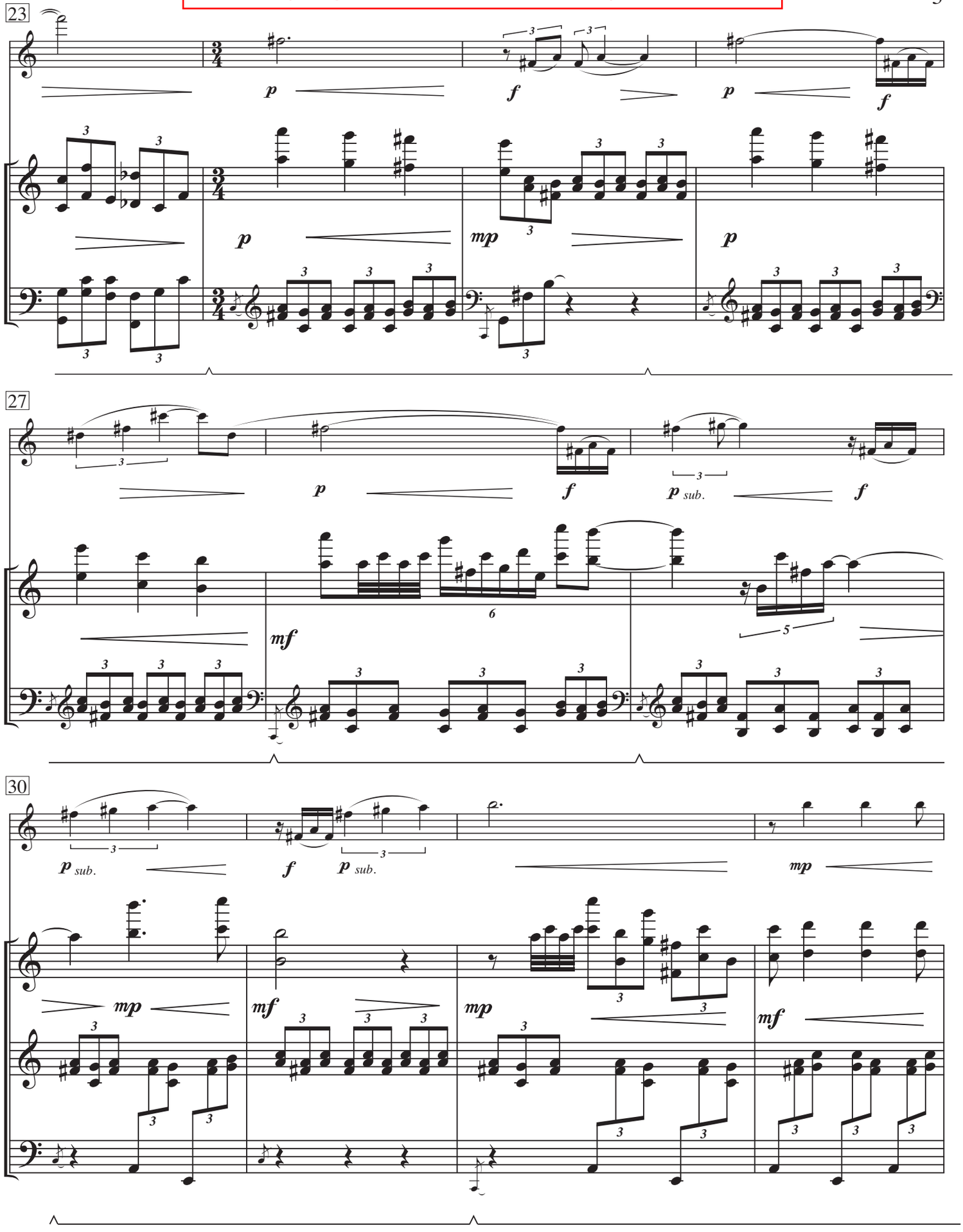
Biographical Information

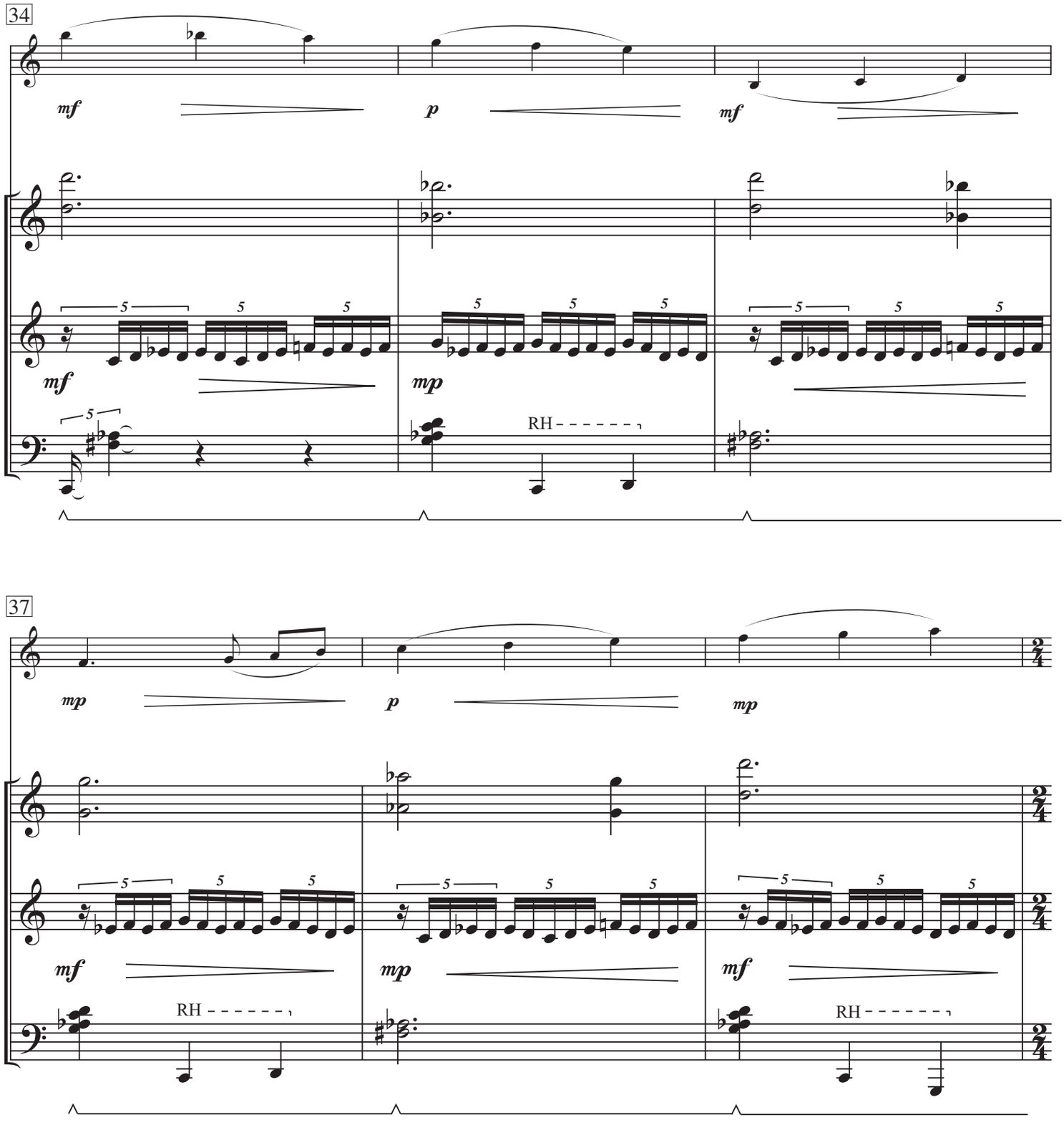
Paul Hayden received his undergraduate degree in music composition from Louisiana State University and his graduate degrees (also in composition) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has studied composition with Ben Johnston, Salvatore Martirano, and Thomas Fredrickson. Dr. Hayden has taught music at Louisiana State University and at Eastern Illinois University.

Hayden has received awards, grants, or recognition from ASCAP, the American Music Center, the Charles Ives Center for American Music, Delius Composition Competition (grand prize winner for *A Tre* for solo flute), the National Flute Association's Newly Published Music Competition (winner for *A Tre* and *Grand Mamou* for flute and piano), Truman State University/MACRO Society Composers Competition (for *Filé* for orchestra), and the Virginia College Band Directors National Association (for *Scintilla* and *Chalumeau*, both for wind ensemble). His orchestral piece, *Filé*, was premiered in 2003 by the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra, Timothy Muffitt, Director. Hayden's *Les Amours et les Beaux Jours* is based on Cajun folk songs and was premiered by the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra in 2009.

Hayden's music is published by Theodore Presser Co., Carl Fischer, Inc., and Magnolia Music Press. His music is recorded on the Centaur, Opus One, Mark, and WorldWinds record labels.

Audio excerpt begins in measure 24. Sax is transposed in this score.

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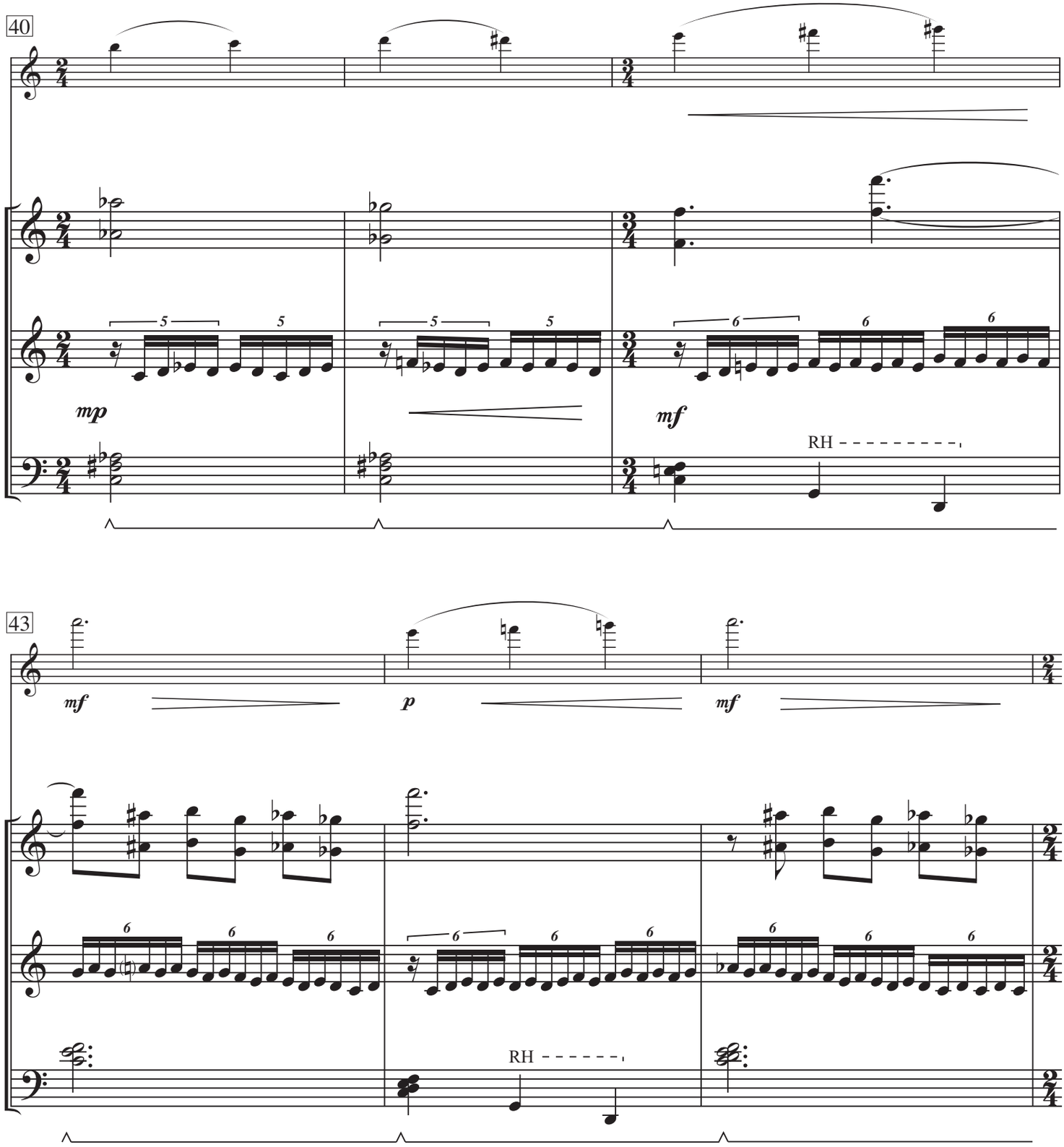
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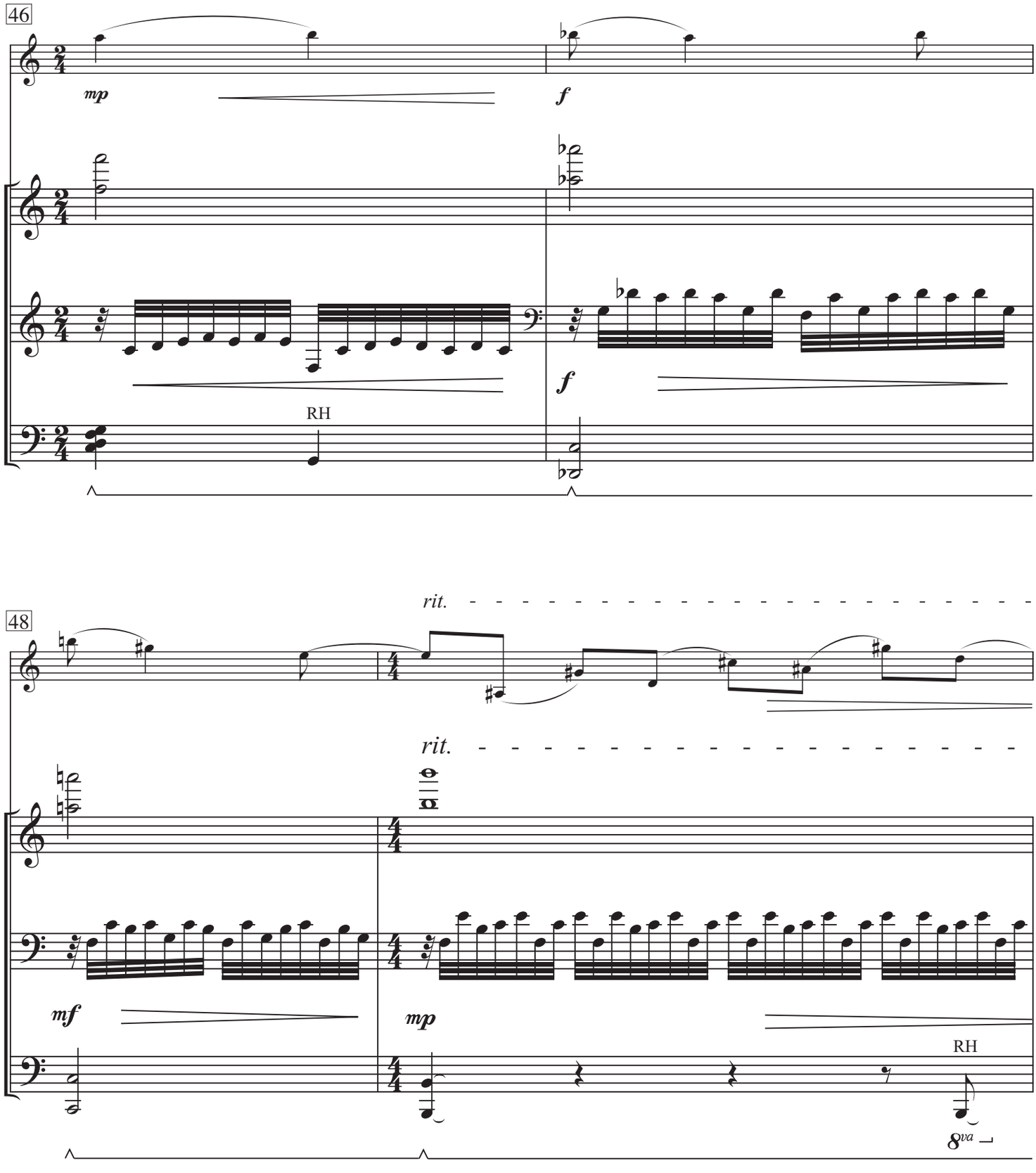
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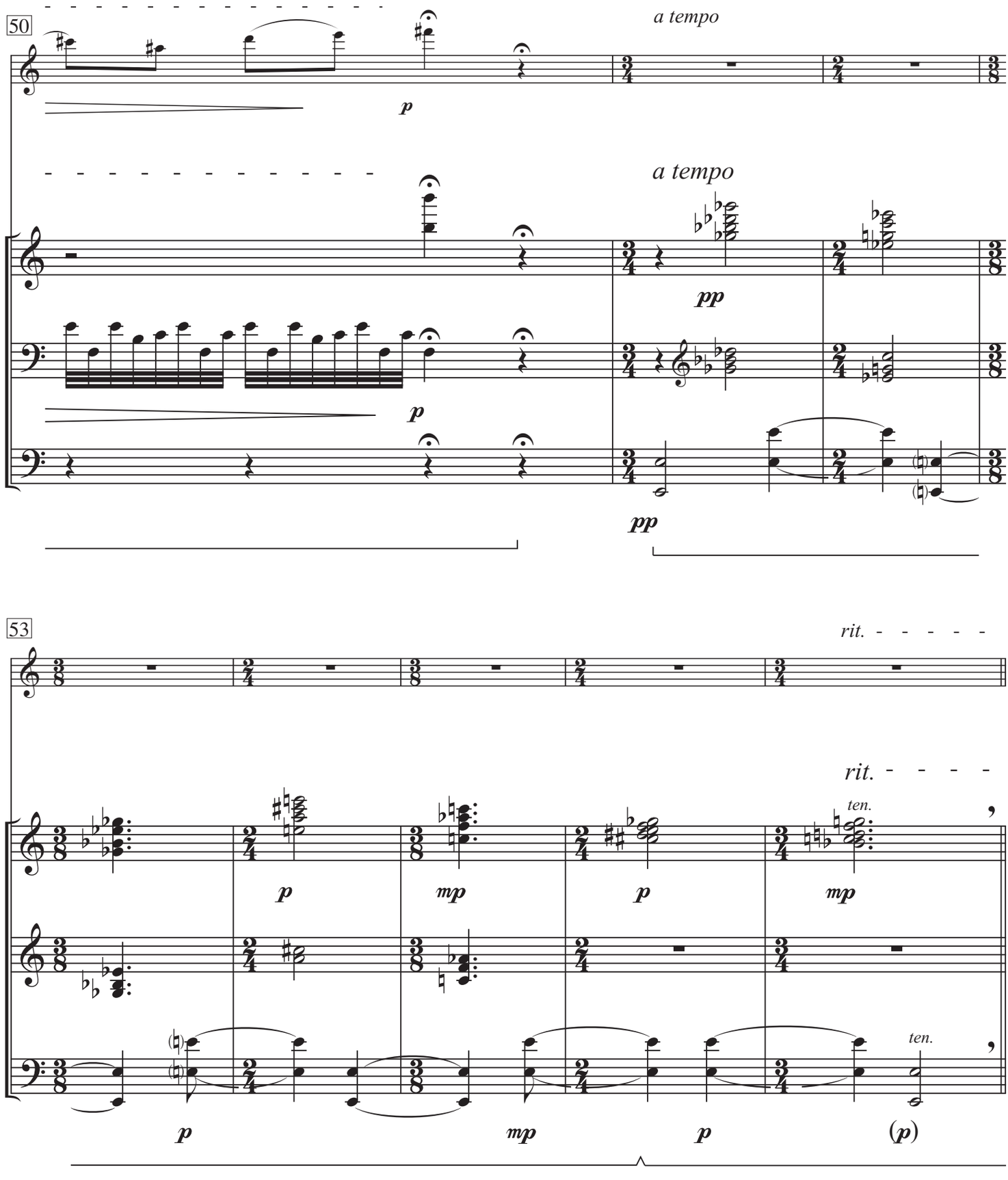
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