Sylvie

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B:1

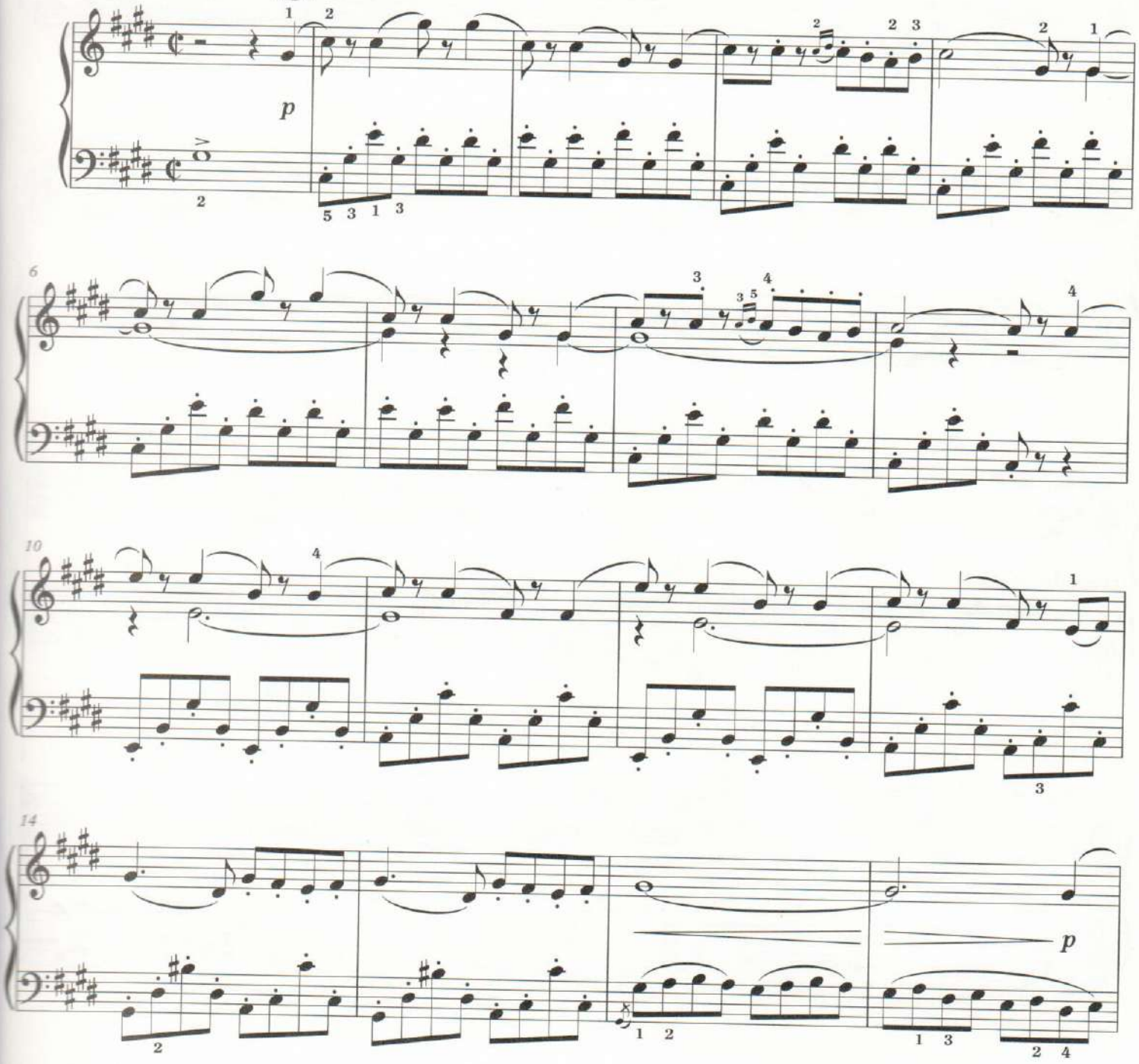
Passepied

No. 6 from *Six airs de danse*

Allegretto [♩ = *c.*76]

léger

Léo Delibes
(1836–91)



Delibes' *Six airs de danse dans le style ancien* (Six Dance Tunes in the Old Style) were written as incidental music for the 1882 revival of Victor Hugo's play *Le roi s'amuse* (The King has Fun). The play is about a hunchbacked court jester, and is set in Paris in the 1520s. In a clever, light-hearted manner, Delibes here freely imitates the French music of an earlier period.

The passepied, a lively Baroque dance in triple time, is treated here as a melodious dance in alla breve time with broken-chordal accompaniment. It is written in ternary form (ABA^1), with the outer sections in C sharp minor and the central section in the submediant A major (b. 26). The A section is itself ternary, having a middle phrase in the relative major E (b. 10). When the A section returns (b. 34), it is modified from b. 50, particularly in harmony, to form a suitable ending.

Source: *Scène du bal: exécutée au Théâtre-français dans Le Roi s'amuse de Victor Hugo. Six Airs de Danse dans le style ancien* (Paris: Heugel, 1882)

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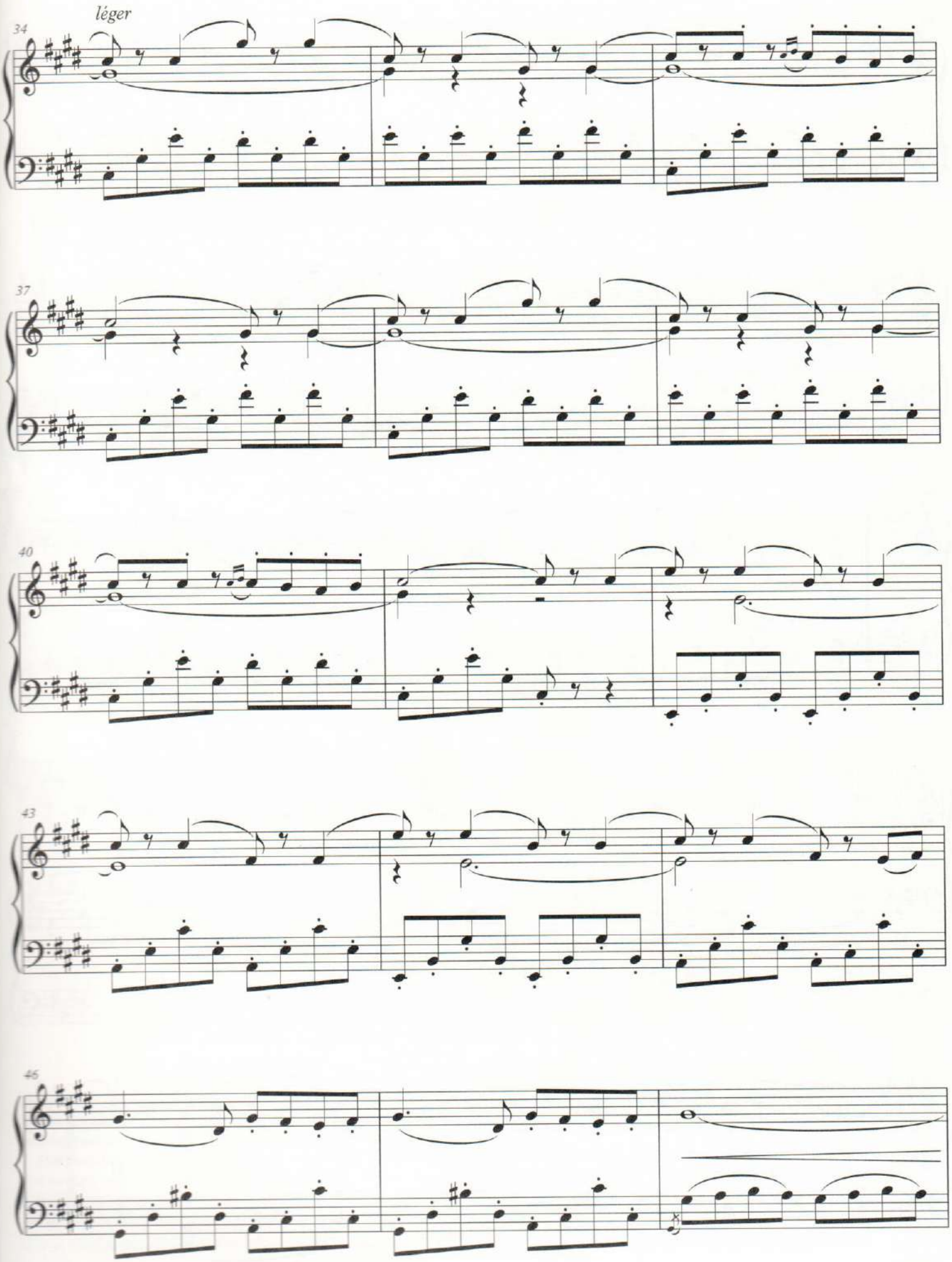
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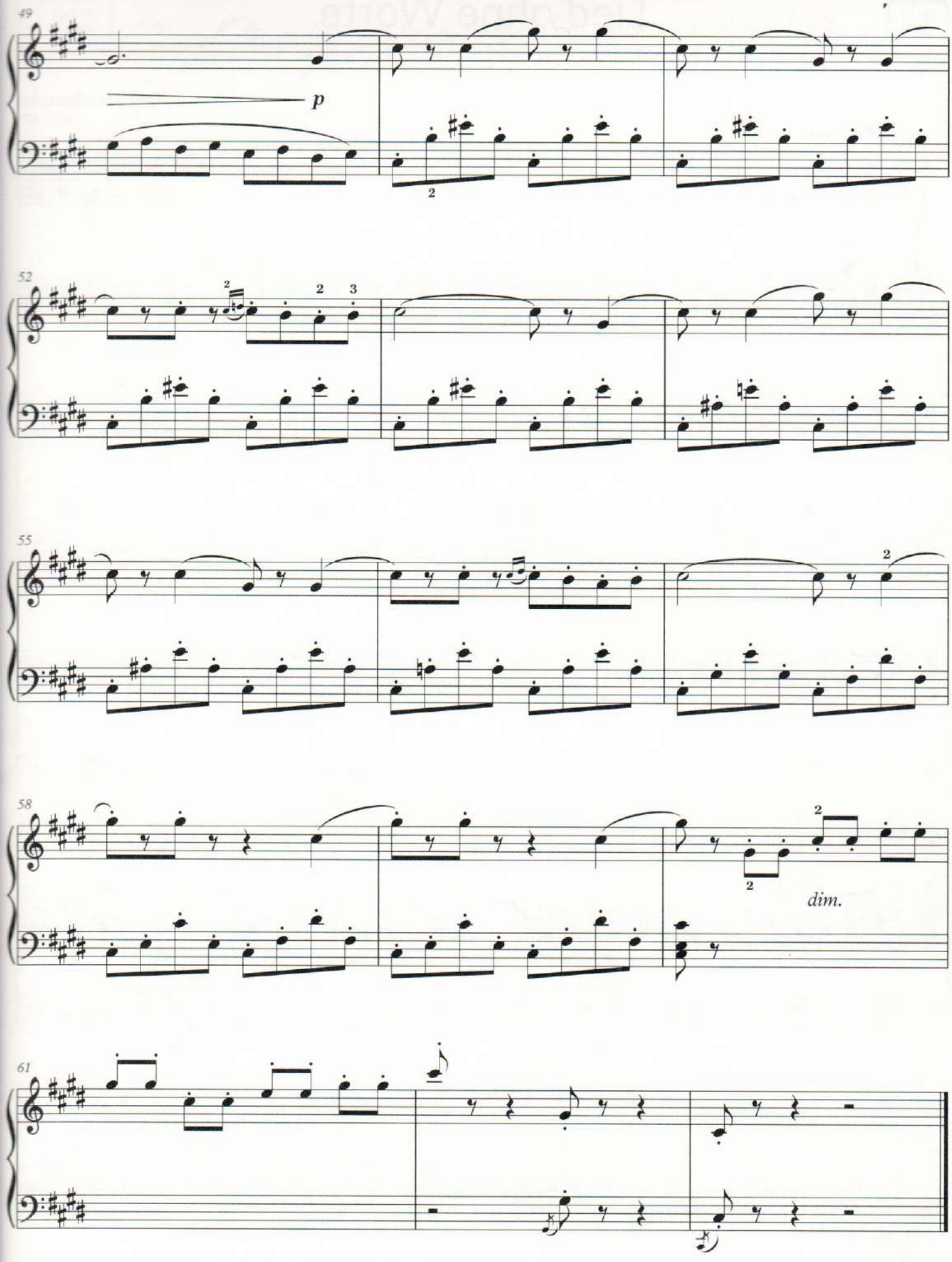
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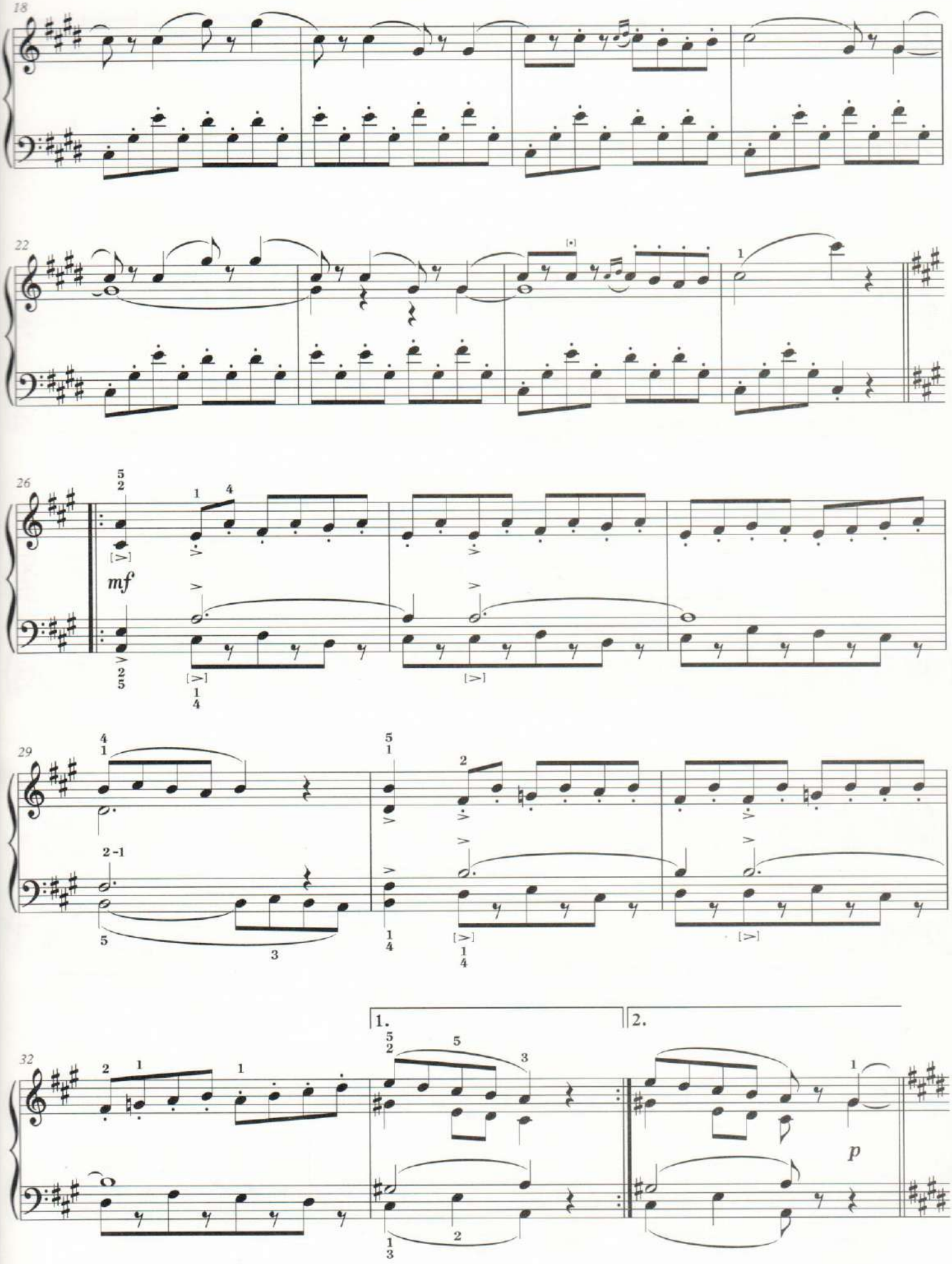
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