# Presence

*for*

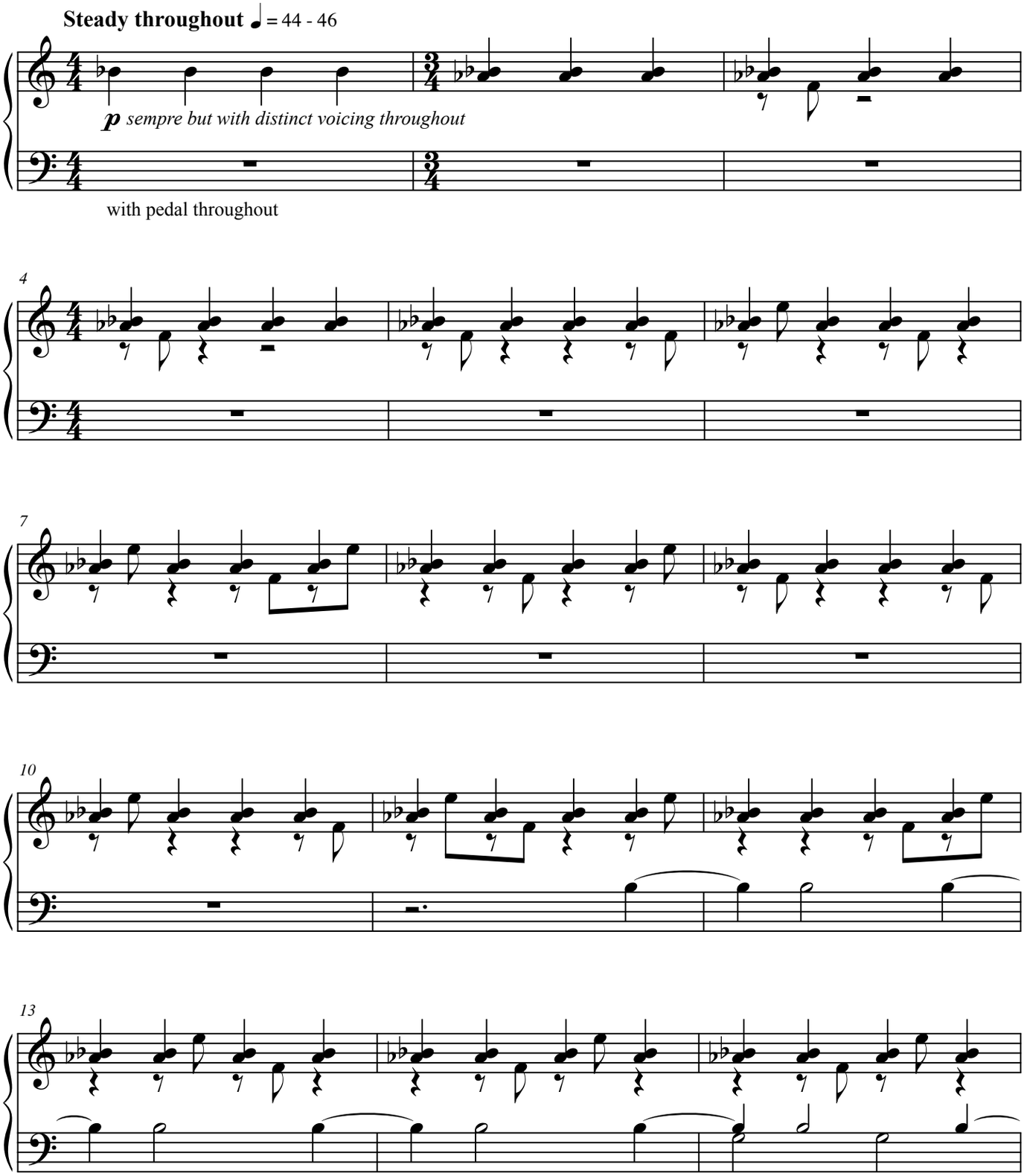
*Piano solo*

John Newell

ABIERTO MUSIC

# Presence

John Newell

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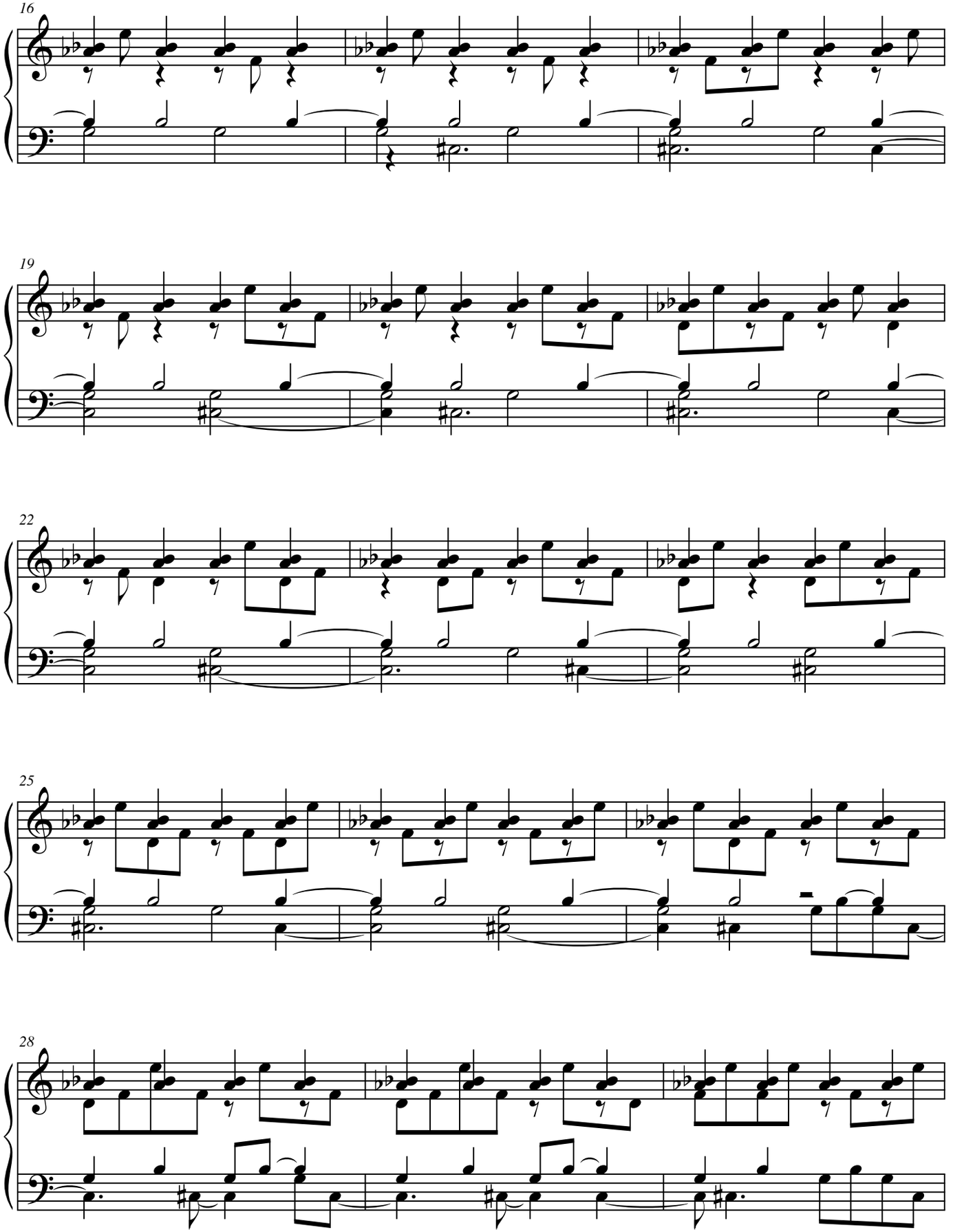
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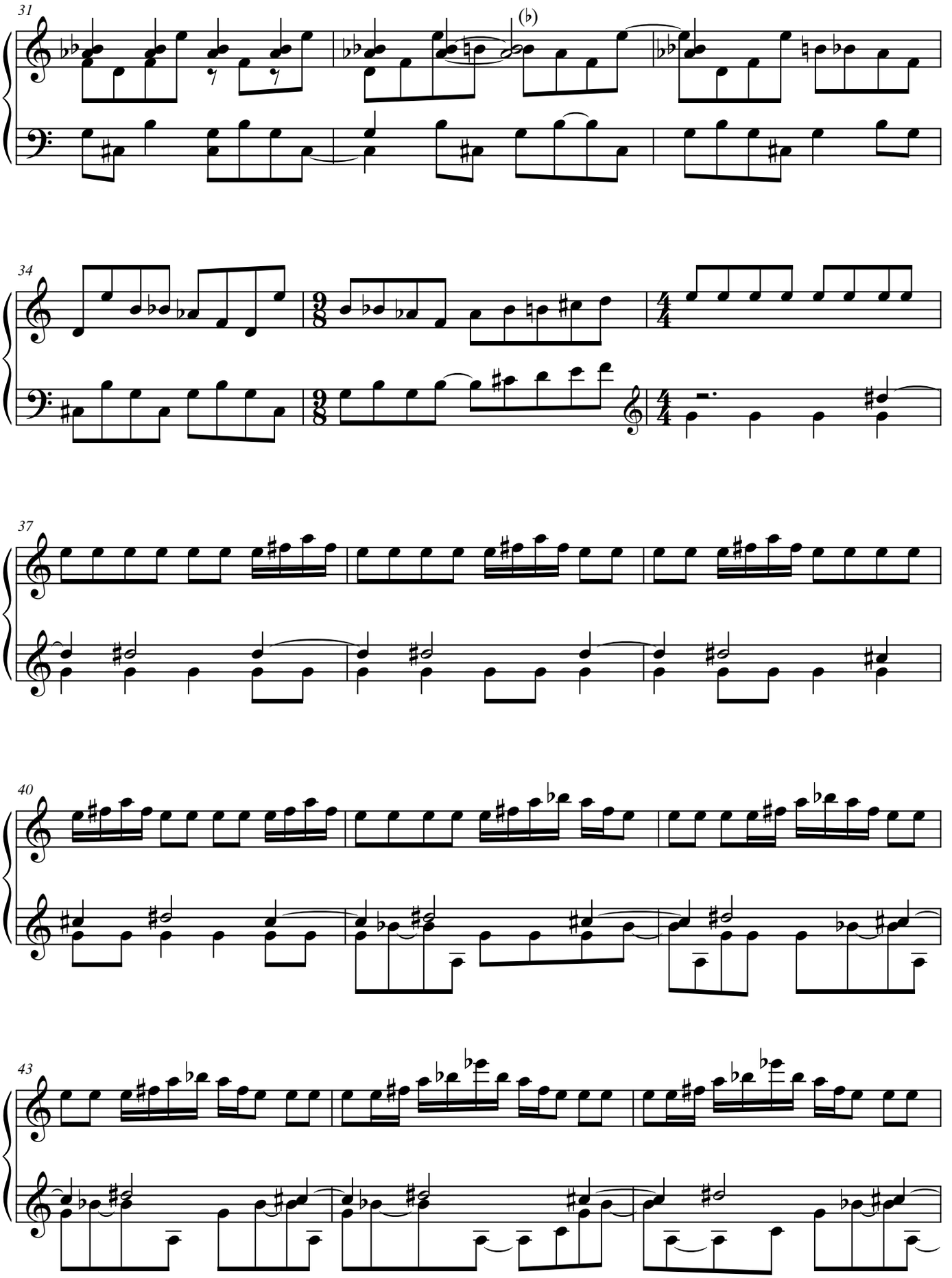
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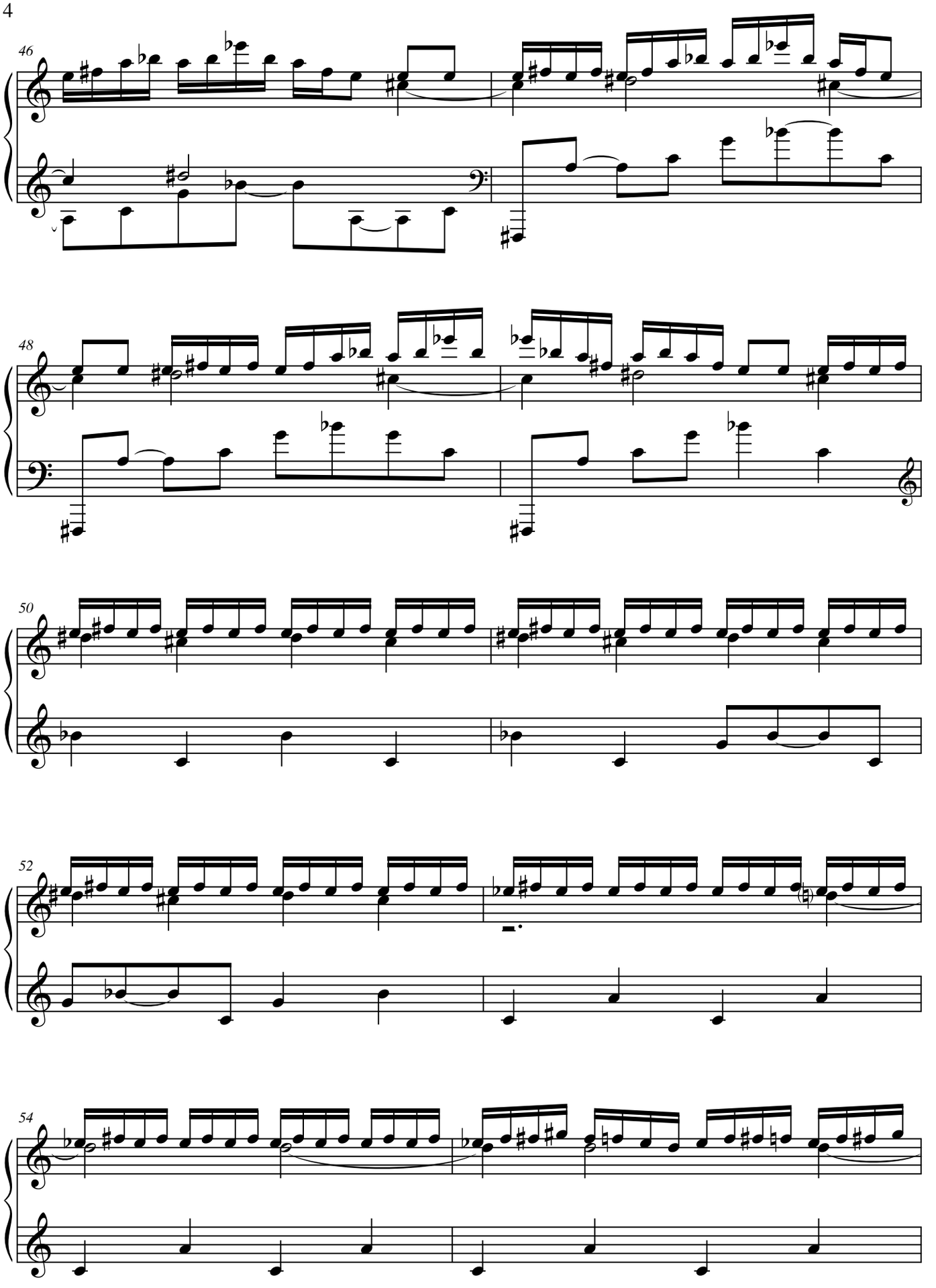
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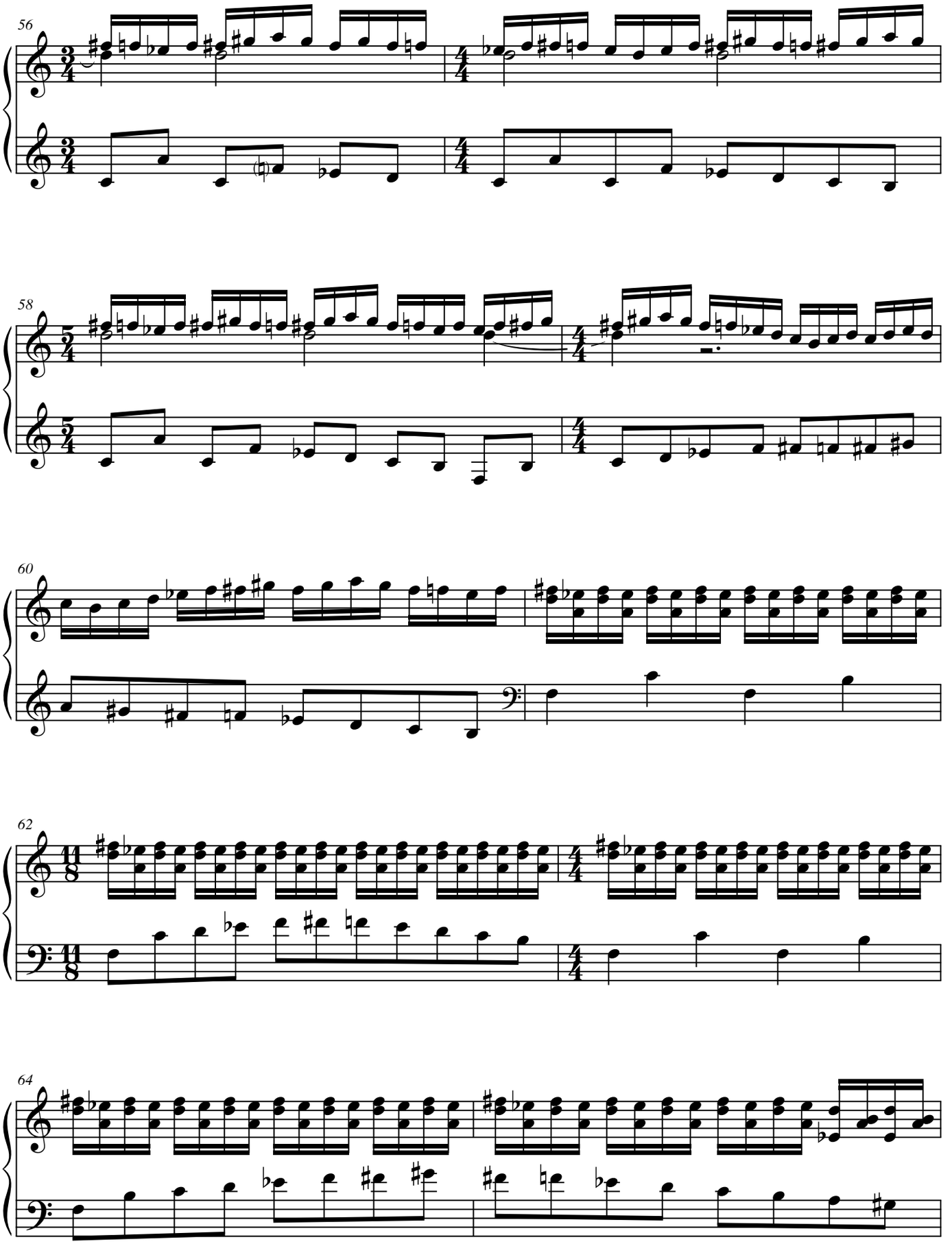
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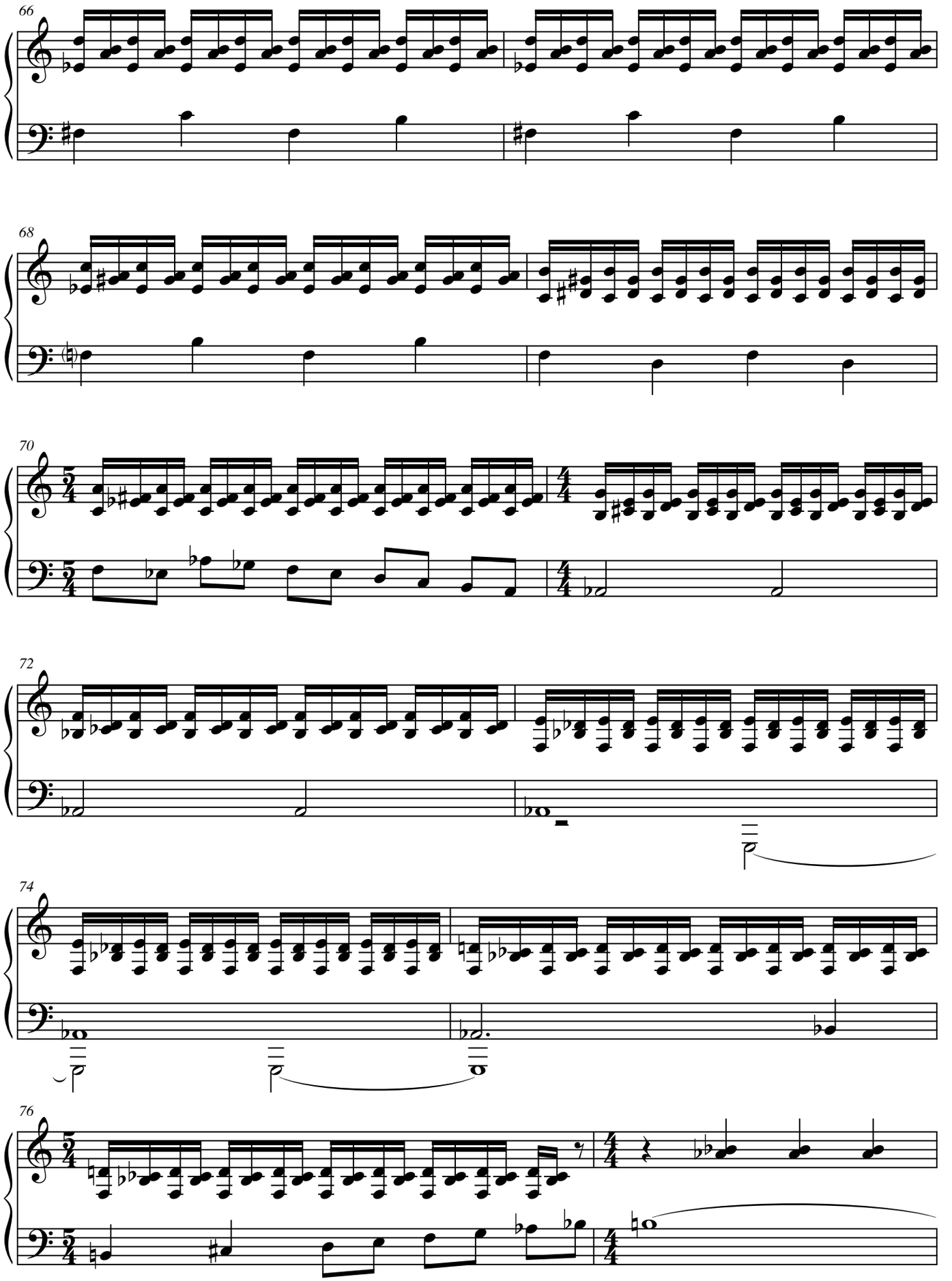
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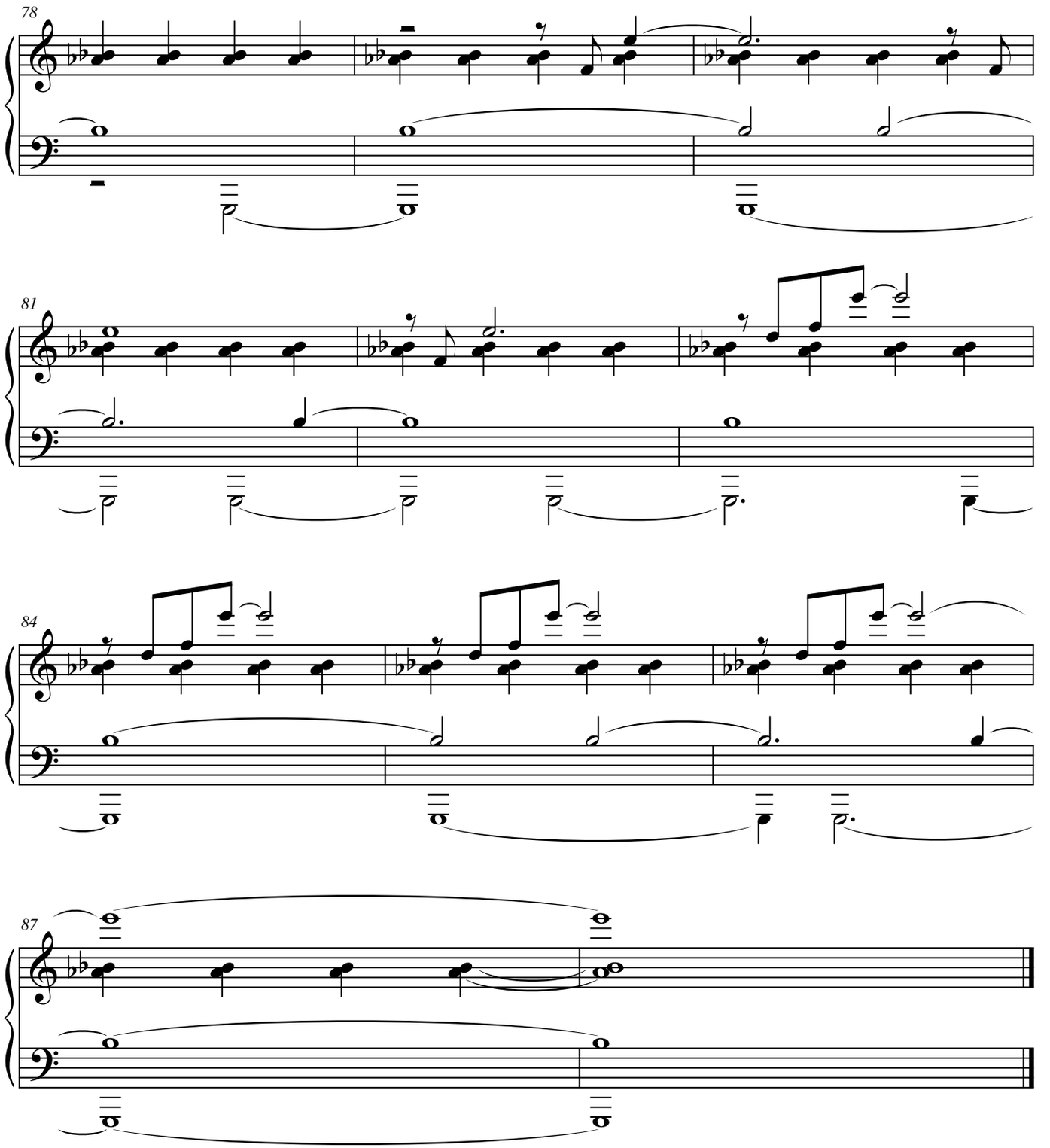


March 14, 2024

# Presence

Composed in early 2024, Presence is a quiet work that is essentially a reflection on being present. It is when I am composing or practicing that I tend to be most present — being still, listening, focused on what is there, hearing where it wants to go.

In many spiritual traditions the word also refers to the state of becoming attentive and aware of the presence of the Divine (however named) — a mutual presence. Of course, the state of presence often comes and goes; and with luck, comes again. Ah, the unruly mind.

– John Newell

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Born in Charlotte, North Carolina, composer John Newell graduated from Duke University, having pursued studies in composition, piano and conducting. He earned his M.F.A. from California Institute of the Arts, where his primary teacher was Mel Powell. John completed his formal training at SUNY Buffalo, working with Morton Feldman as recipient of the first Edgard Varèse Fellowship. Since earning his Ph.D. in 1979 he has pursued an independent creative path, composing works for orchestra, solo instruments, vocal ensembles and chamber groups.

Organizations that have commissioned works include Eight Strings & a Whistle, Bowery Ensemble and Atlantic Sinfonietta (New York), Monday Evening Concerts (Los Angeles), Enid Symphony Orchestra (Oklahoma), Resinosa Ensemble, Passamaquoddy Bay Symphony Orchestra and Songs From Here (Maine). His work has received support from the American Music Center, the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Meet the Composer.

An accomplished pianist and conductor, John is experienced in collaborating with performers to create and present new works. He has participated in a number of premiere performances, including as soloist in his Concerto for Piano and Orchestra. John was the founding director of Quoddy Voices, a choral ensemble based in Eastport, Maine.

John currently maintains a private teaching studio and is on the faculty of the SummerKeys adult music program in Lubec, Maine. He and his wife Linda divide their time between downeast Maine and the Pioneer Valley of Massachusetts. More information is available at his website: johnnewellmusic.com.

# John Newell

## *Selected Solo and Chamber Works*

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**Scenes From Here and There** 'cello, piano

**On the Way** violin, 'cello, piano

**Pieces of Time** viola solo

**Of Time and Place** clarinet solo

**Trails** piano (four hands)

**Night Songs** mezzo-soprano, 'cello, piano

**Summer Music** flute, oboe, 'cello

**Peace** piano solo

**Fantasy** viola, 'cello, piano

**In Autumn** violin, piano

**On Impermanence** flute, viola, 'cello

**Three Preludes** flute solo

**Variations on Praise to the Lord** organ solo

**A Day's Journey** string quartet

**The Signature of All Things** baritone, oboe, piano

**Variations on Amazing Grace** piano solo

**Sequoia Quintet** flute/piccolo, clarinet, oboe, horn, bassoon

**Sky Music** flute, clarinet, harp

**Companions I & II** piano solo

**Song of Compassion** 2 violas, keyboard, percussion

**Rhapsody** horn, piano

**Lavender Axis** flute/picc, clarinet, oboe/eh, bassoon, percussion, piano

**Knossos** piano solo

**Horizons** piano solo

**Text** soprano, violin, flute, clarinet, guitar, percussion

**Image, Song, Vision** flute, clarinet, violin, 'cello

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