Prelude and Fugue in E Major

For Solo Keyboard

Holden Mui

in the style of J. S. Bach

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Program Notes

The *Prelude and Fugue in E Major* is modeled after the preludes and fugues in Bach's *The Well-Tempered Clavier*. It was constructed to combine my favorite parts of Bach's contrapuntal writing with a keen sense of harmony.

I. Prelude

The *Prelude* is a bright, playful dance structured in binary form, a rare structure for a Bach prelude. It opens with bold, chordal structures, then moves to a contrapuntal passage before ending its first half in the dominant key. The second half features spicy seconds and a modulation back to the home key of E major.

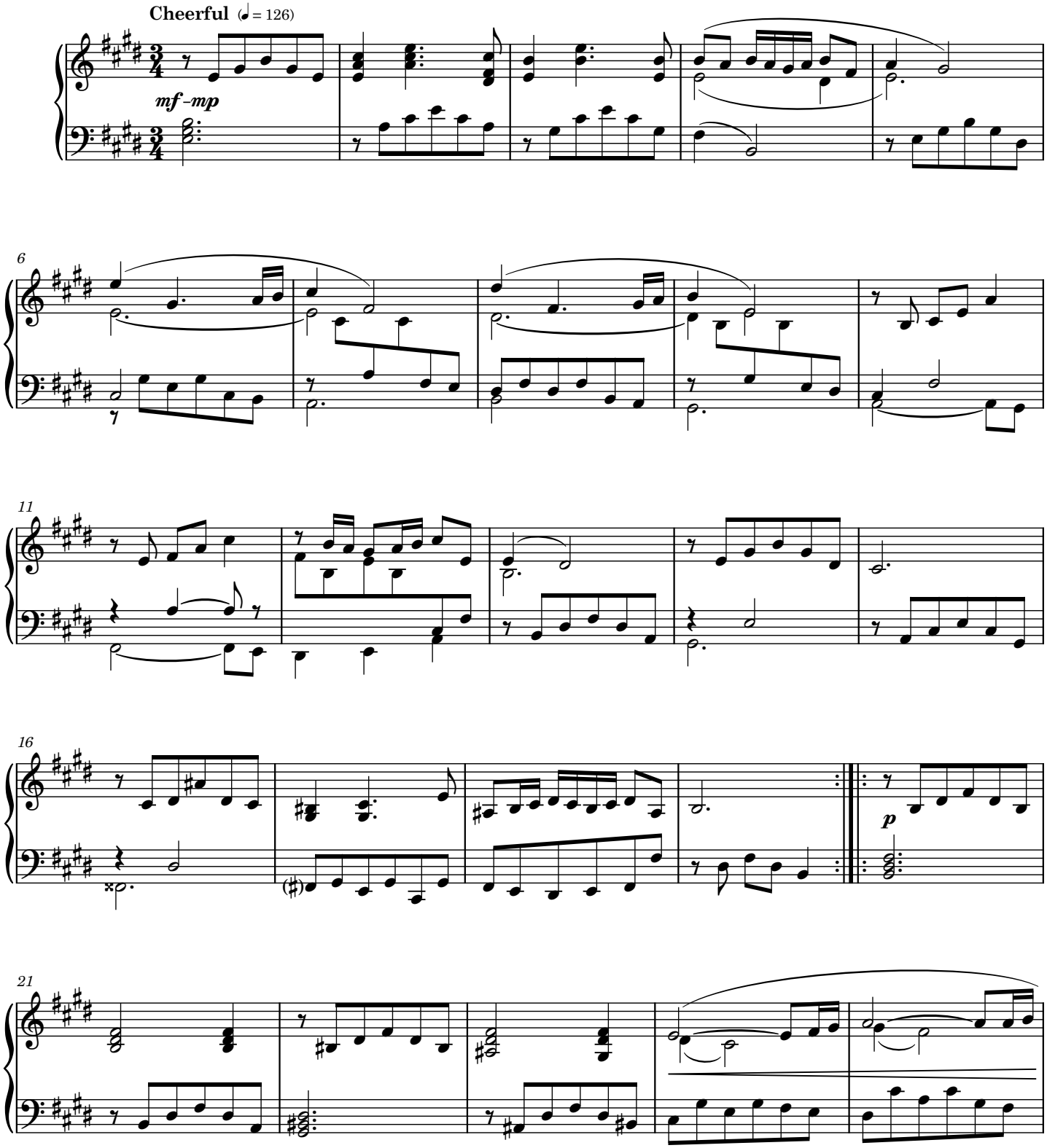
II. Fugue

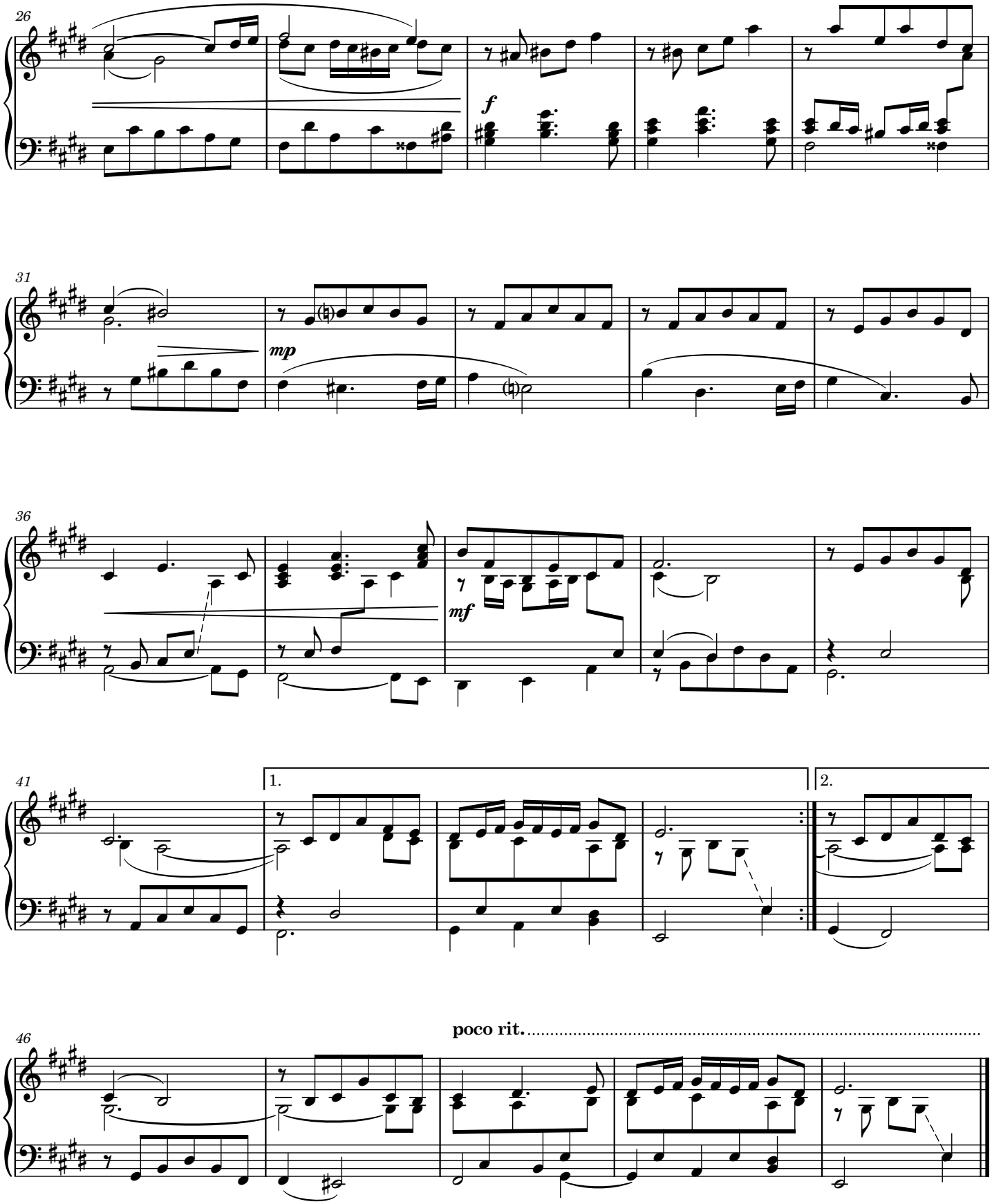
The *Fugue* is a three-voice keyboard fugue featuring episodes, stretti, inversions, augmentations, and pedal points. However, it differs from the fugues in *The Well-Tempered Clavier* in several notable ways; for example, a tonal answer is not used despite the prominent fifth in the fugue subject, time signature changes and cadential subversion delineate the work's sections, and planned dissonances along with extended harmonies permeate the work.

The fugue subject begins with a declarative ascending fifth and descends stepwise until the second voice enters. A brief codetta full of spicy sevenths leads to the entrance of the third and final voice, then a short episode modulates to the relative minor key. Two stretti are featured before a deceptive cadence builds to the "recapitulation": a section that mimics the opening, including a descending chromatic bass line that visits every note. A final episode transitions into a magical coda, featuring elegantly voiced harmonies and a triumphant, satisfying stretto finish.

Prelude and Fugue in E Major

I. Prelude

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f
31
mp
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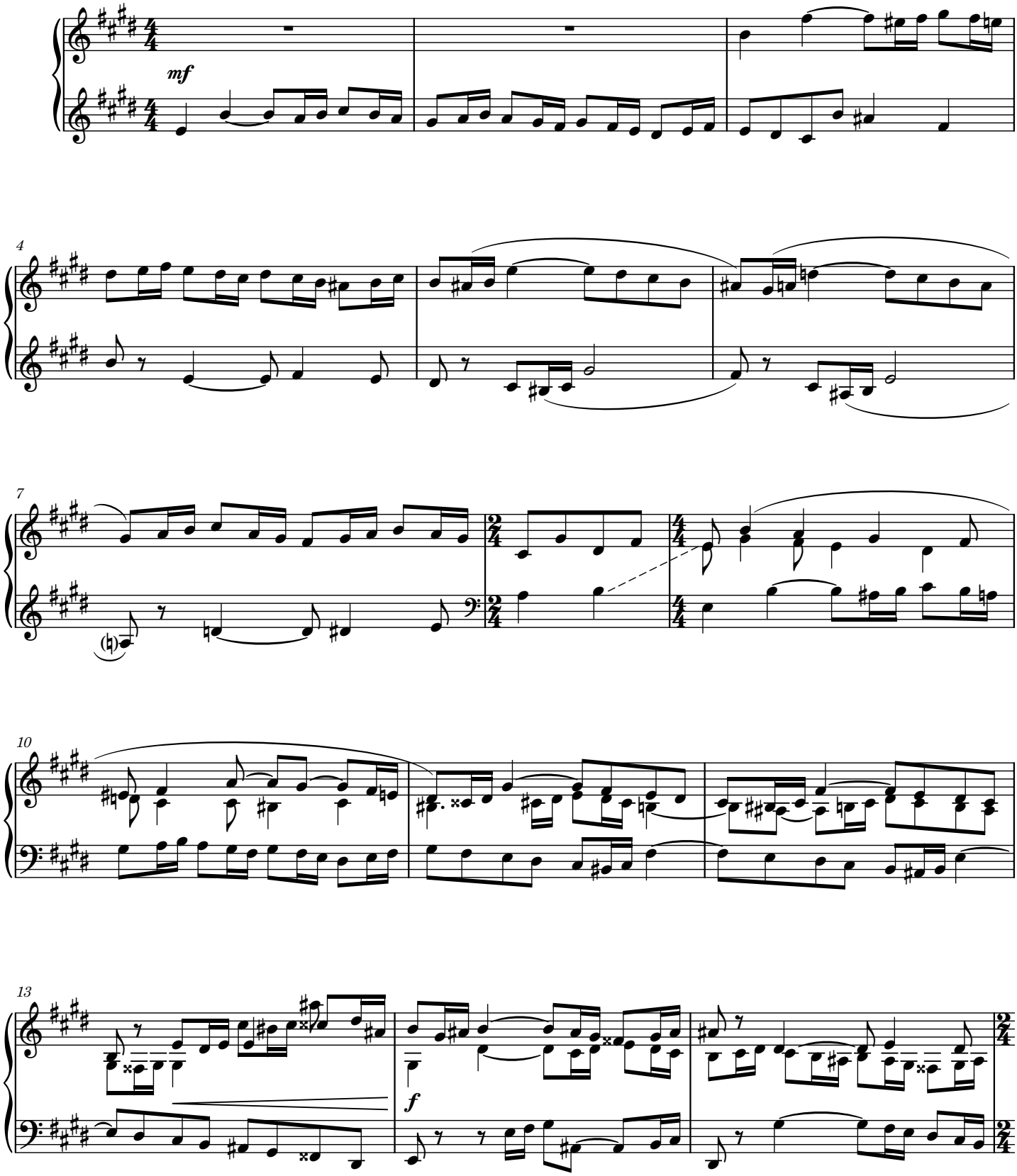
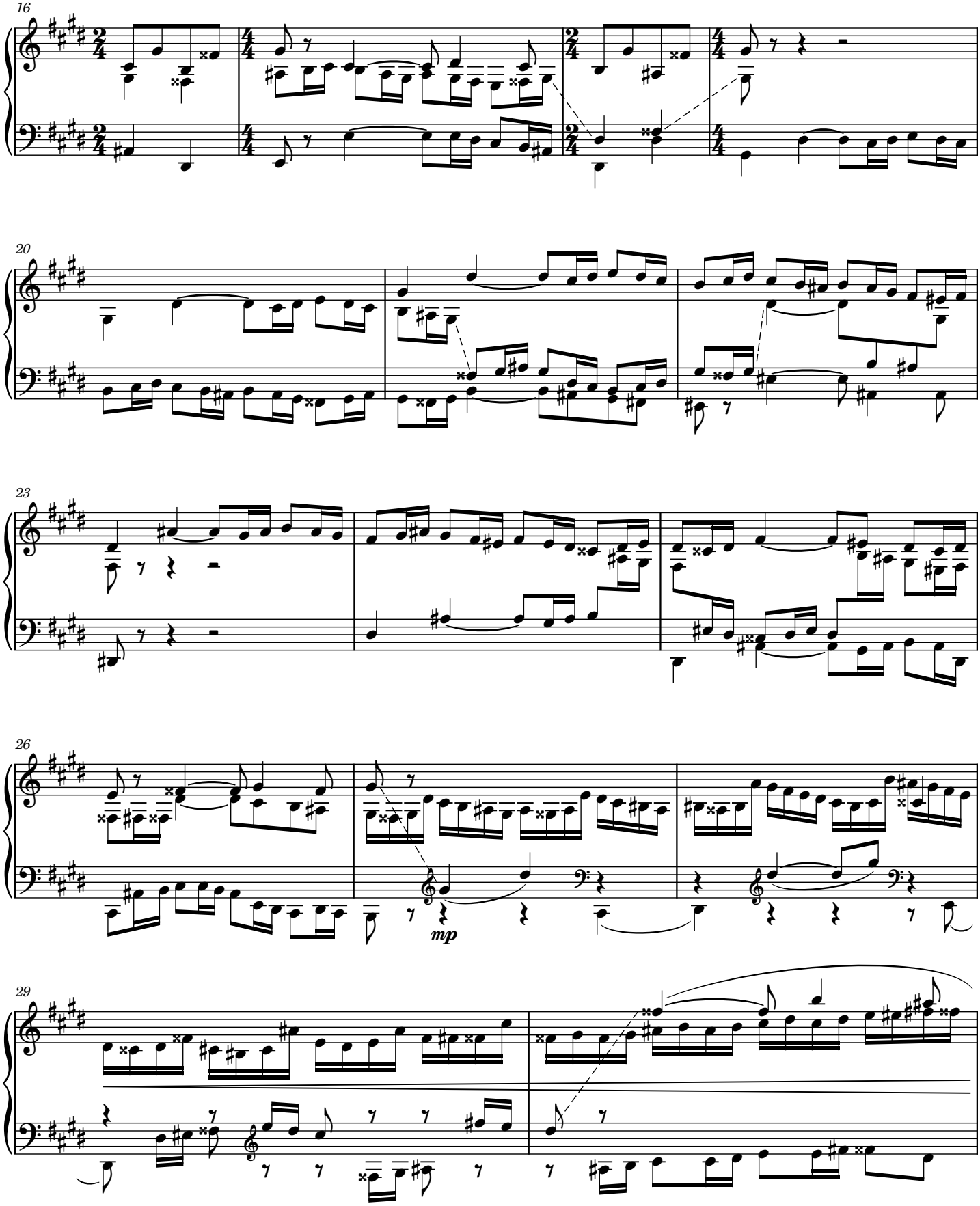
mf
41
1.
2.
46
poco rit.

II. Fugue

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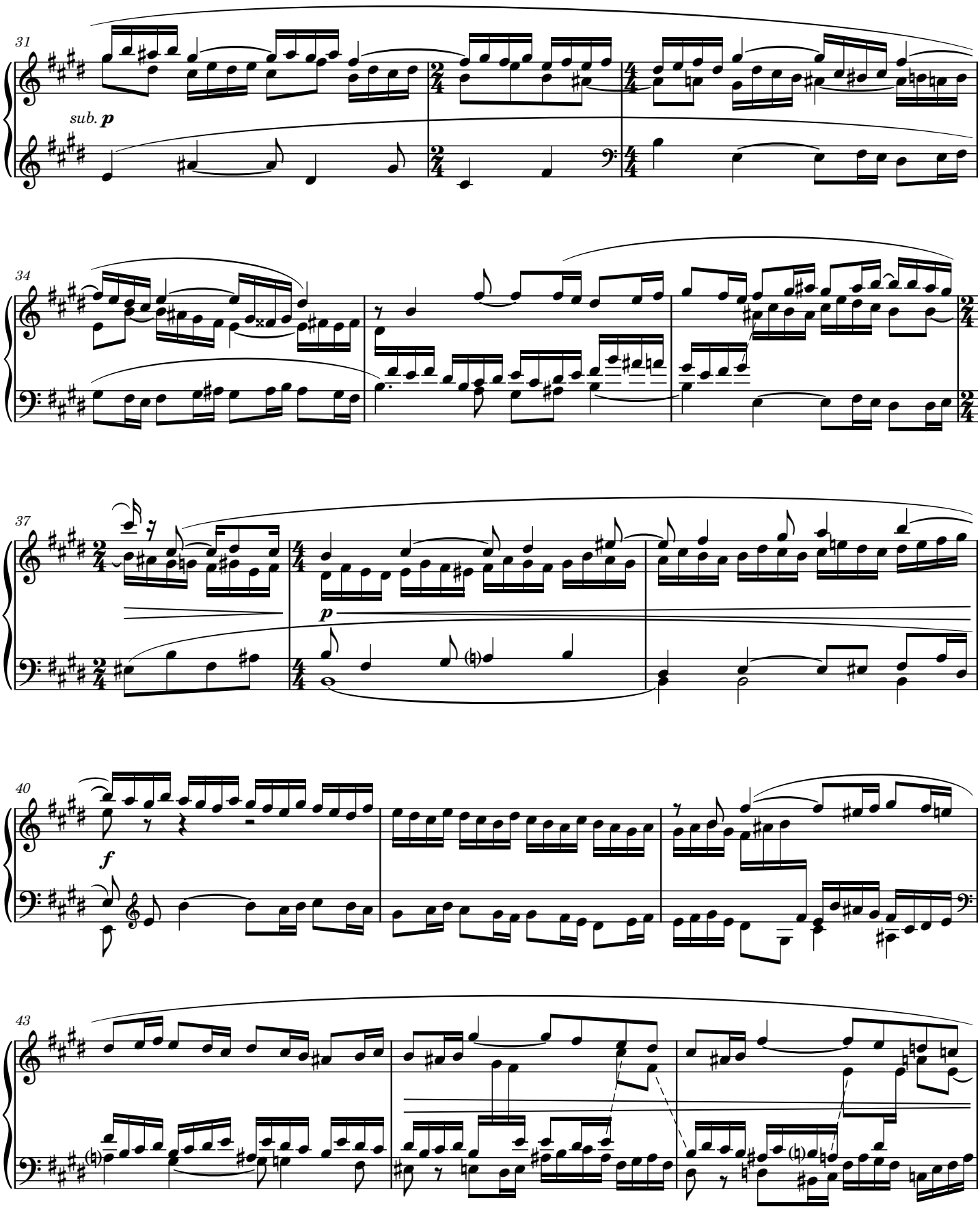
31
sub. p
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p
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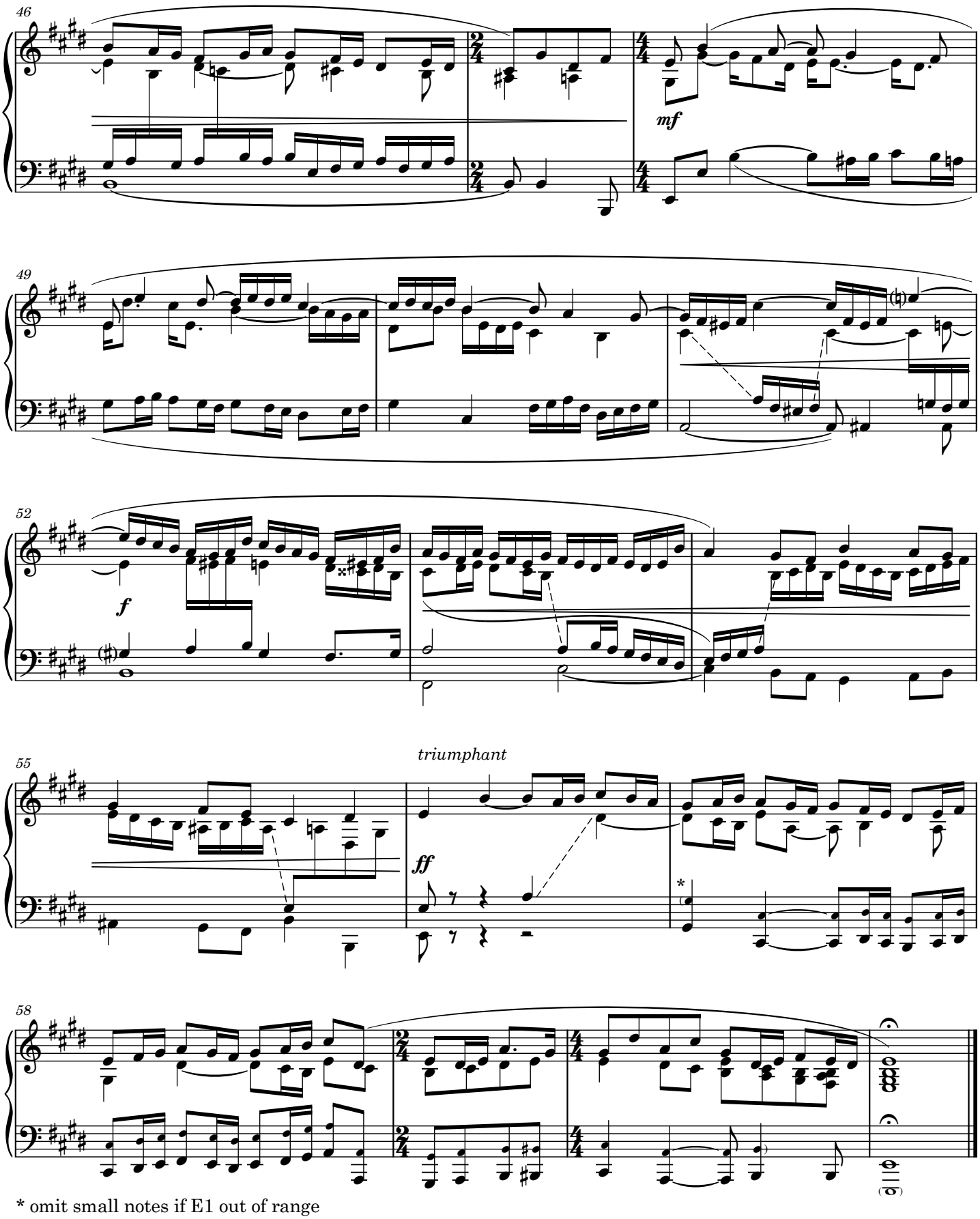
f
43



* omit small notes if E1 out of range