Fuge in As moll

Johannes Brahms

For Organ, 1846

Arranged by Peter Billam

For SATB Recorders and Viola de Gamba

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Fuge in as-moll

Johannes Brahms

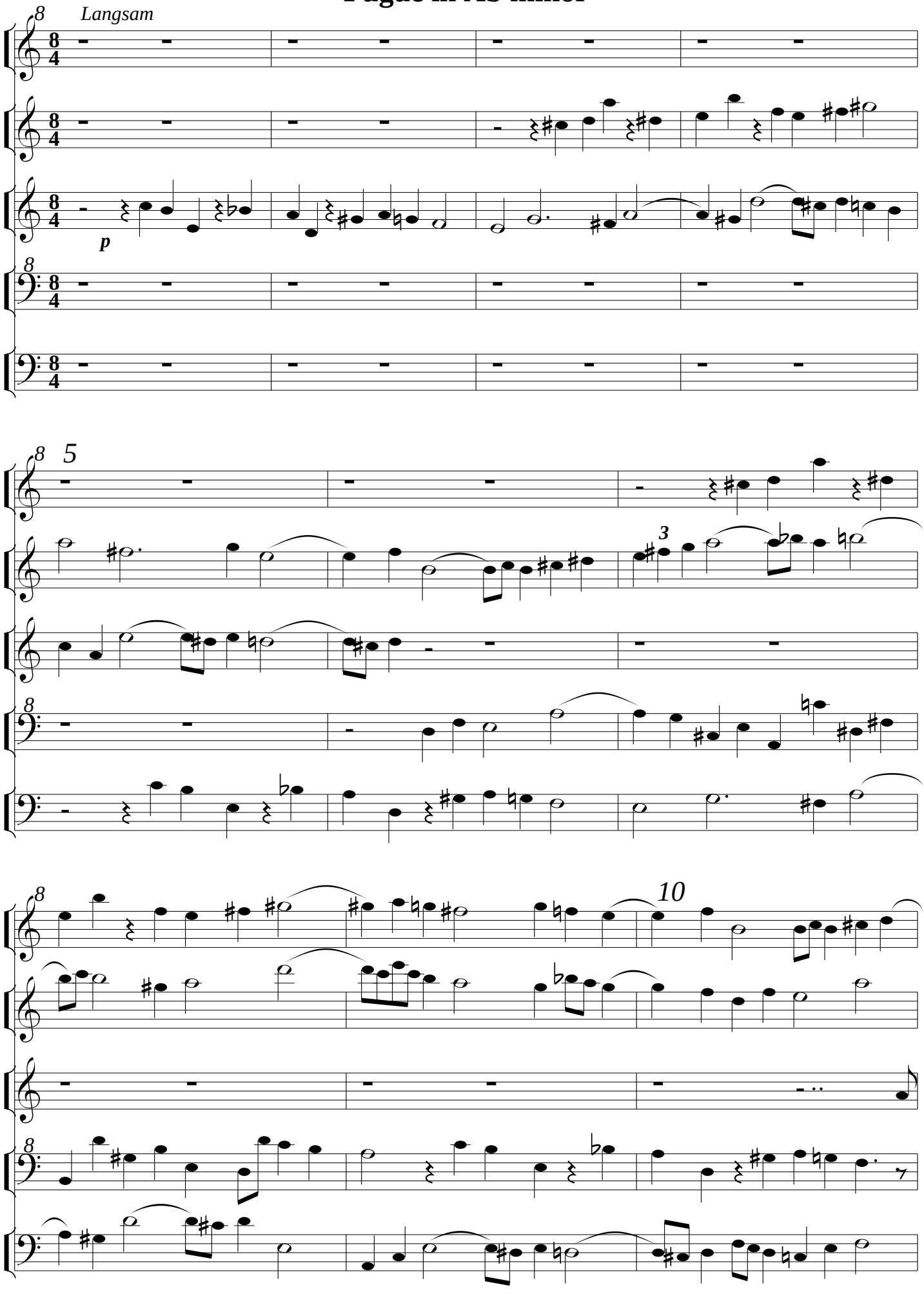
Brahms wrote his Fugue in Ab minor for Organ around 1846, the year in which Robert Schumann, the great composer and Brahms' great friend, mentor and champion, died after a prolonged period of madness. The Ab minor Fugue is a particularly introverted and searching work, in slow tempo and extremely sombre key.

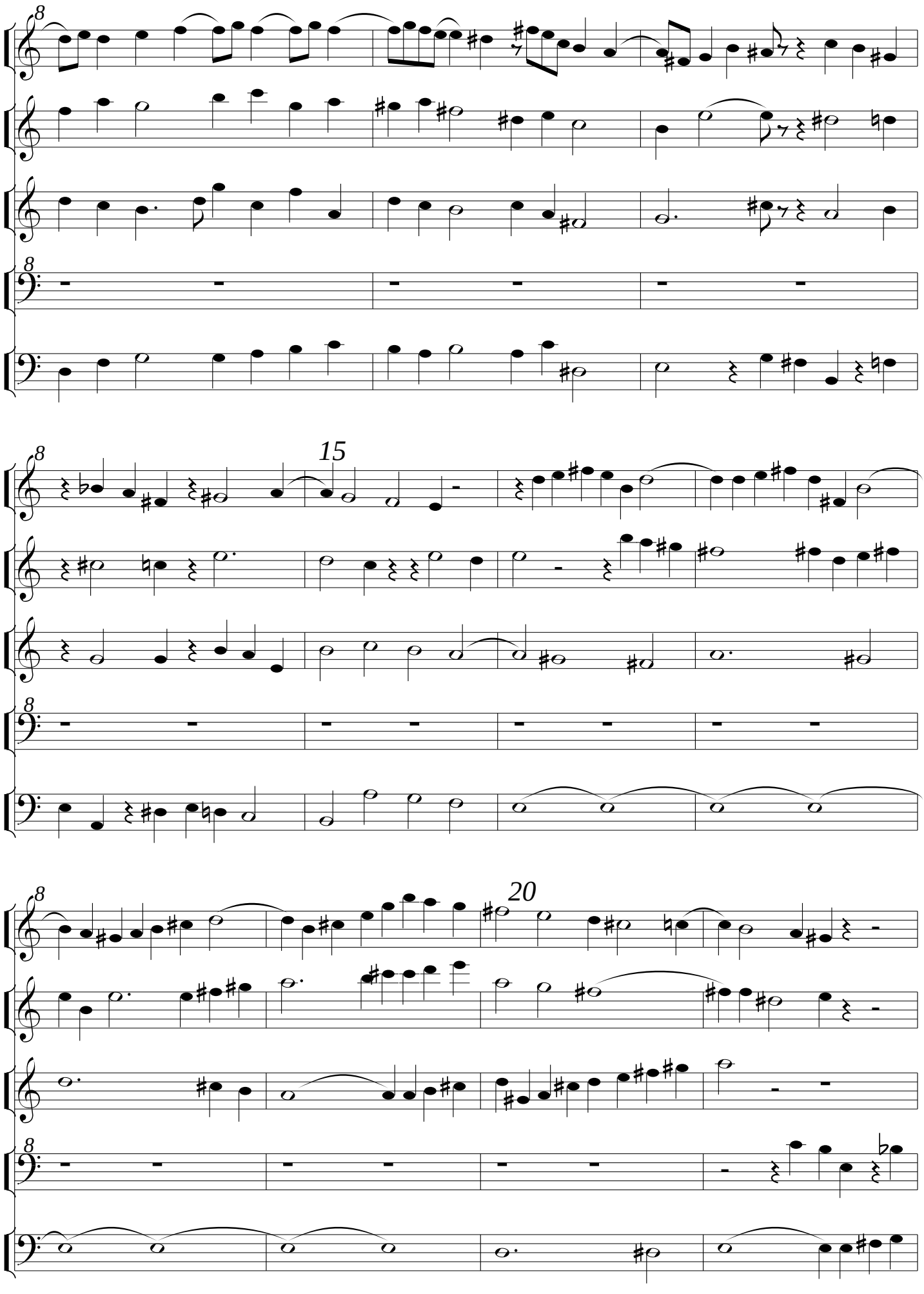
This arrangement is taken from Brahms' 1864 revision. It is transposed up one octave as is usual for the recorder, and also up one semitone into A minor. If it is played on *A 415* instruments, then it will sound in concert Ab minor, as intended; of course it may also be played on *A 440* instruments, provided the very dark tonality of the original is borne in mind.

In the original, the passage between the fourth crochet in bar 30 and the beginning of bar 40 is notated in B minor. This change in key signature does not seem to signal any brighter mood, so rather than write in B# minor, I have left the key signature of this passage unchanged. The original time signature is *CC*, which I have changed to 8/4.

Peter Billam

Fugue in Ab minor

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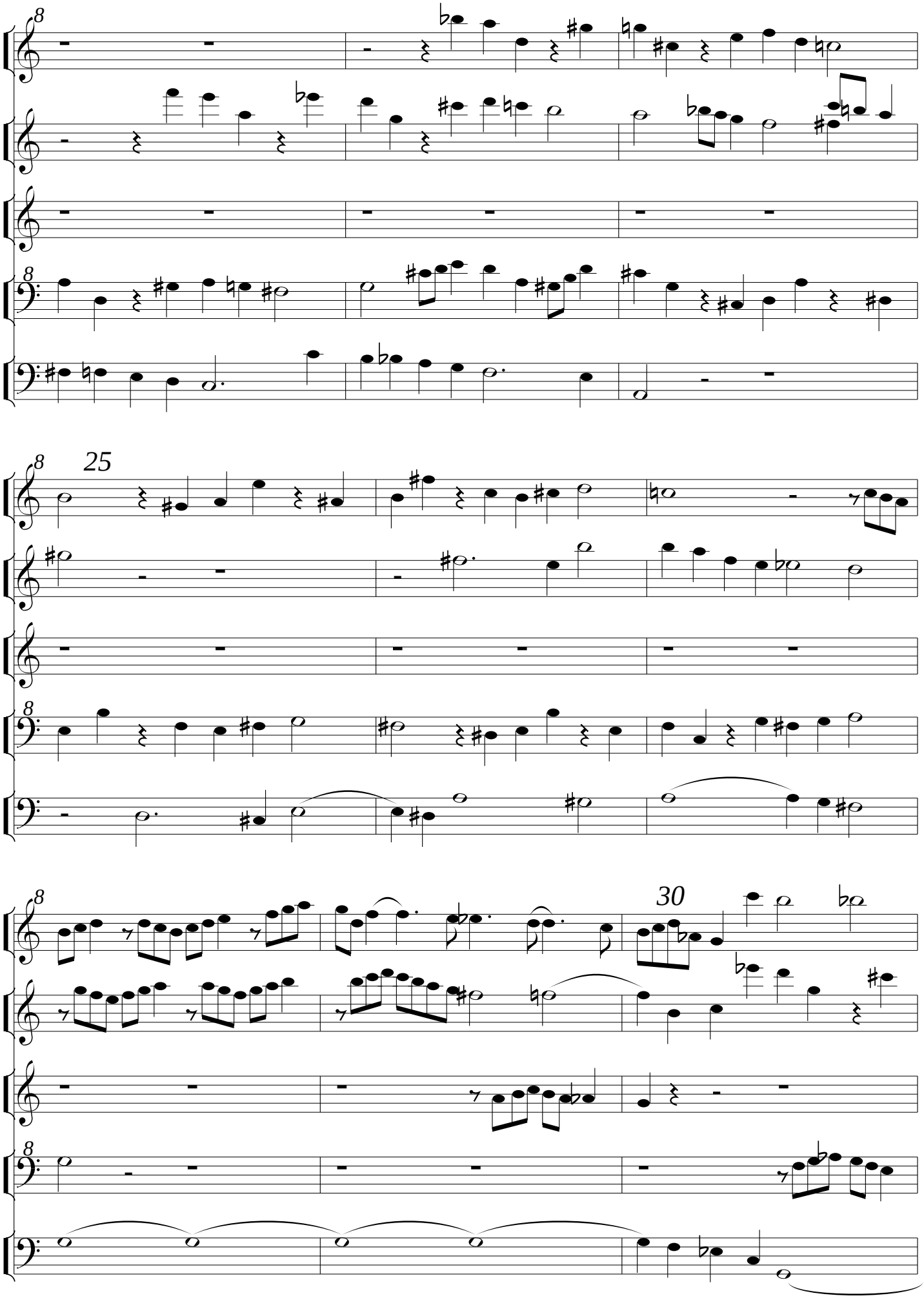
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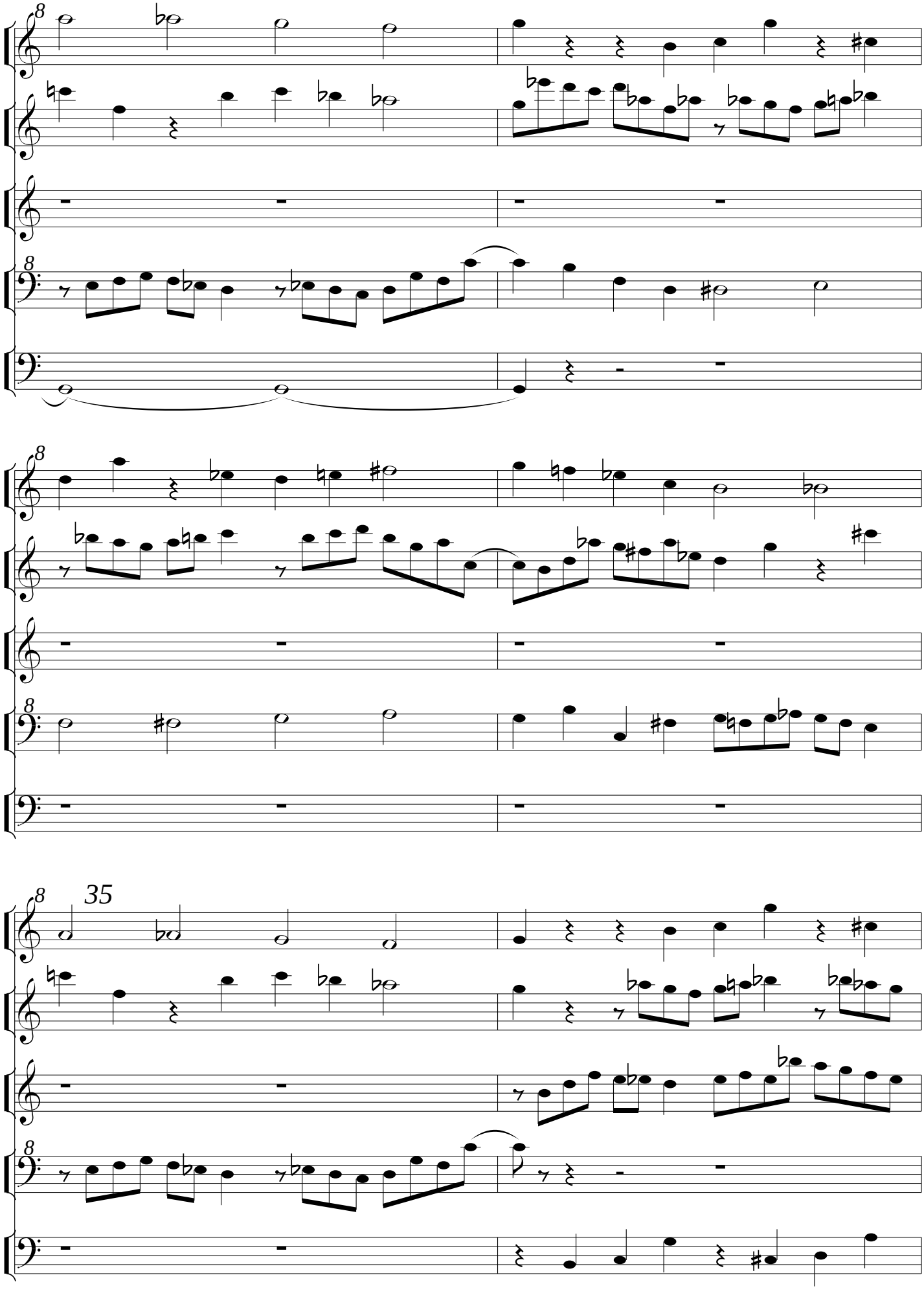
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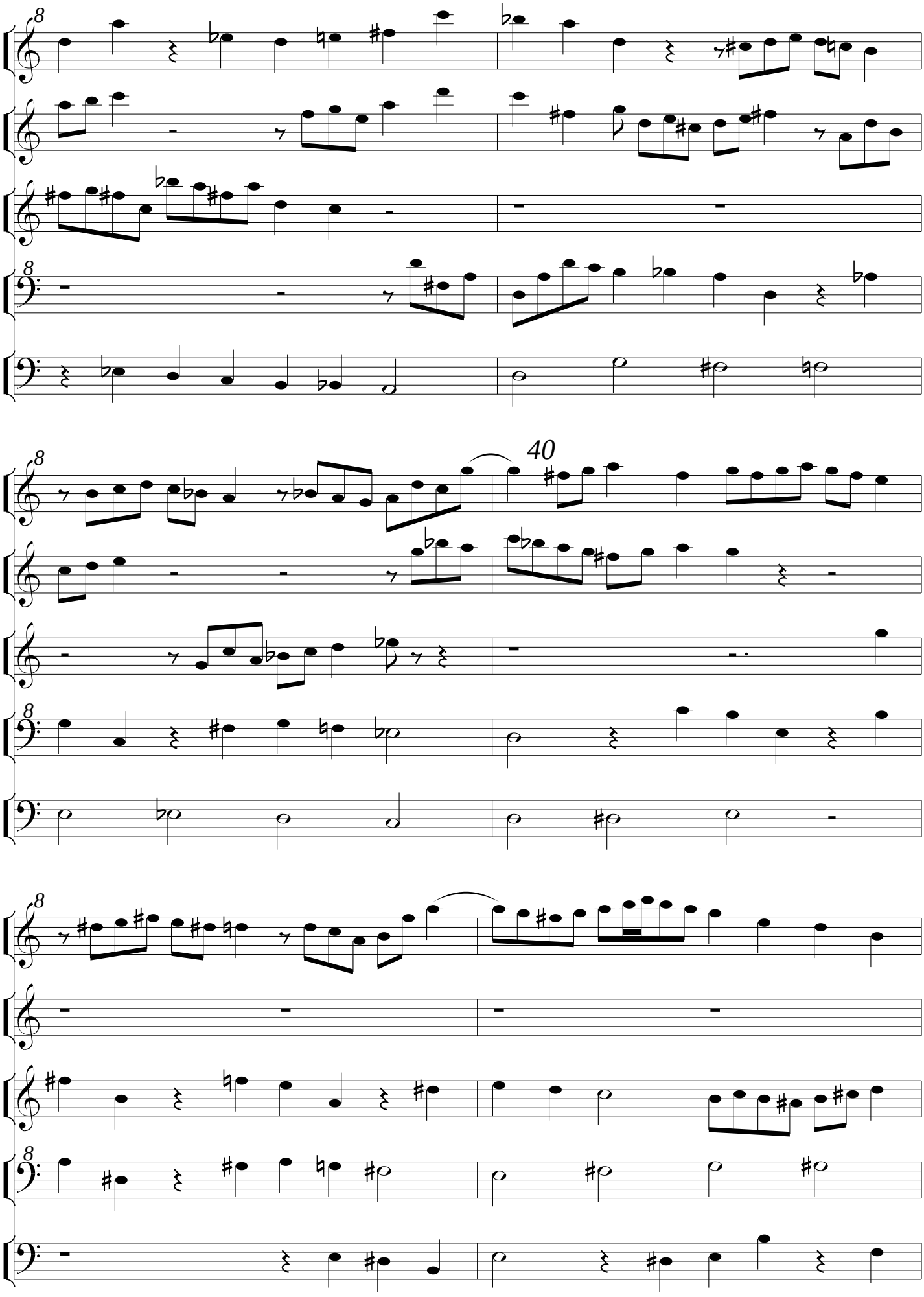
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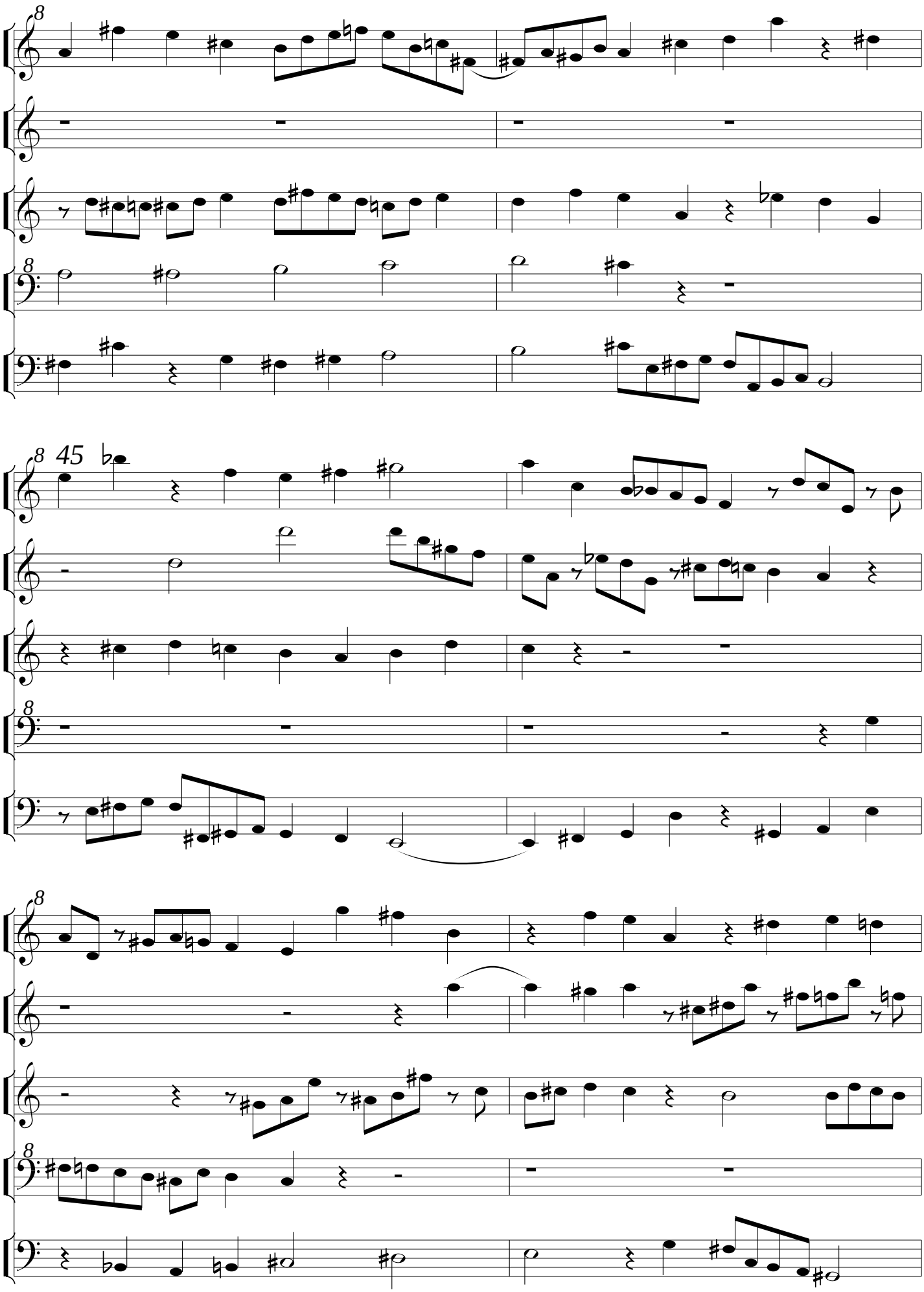
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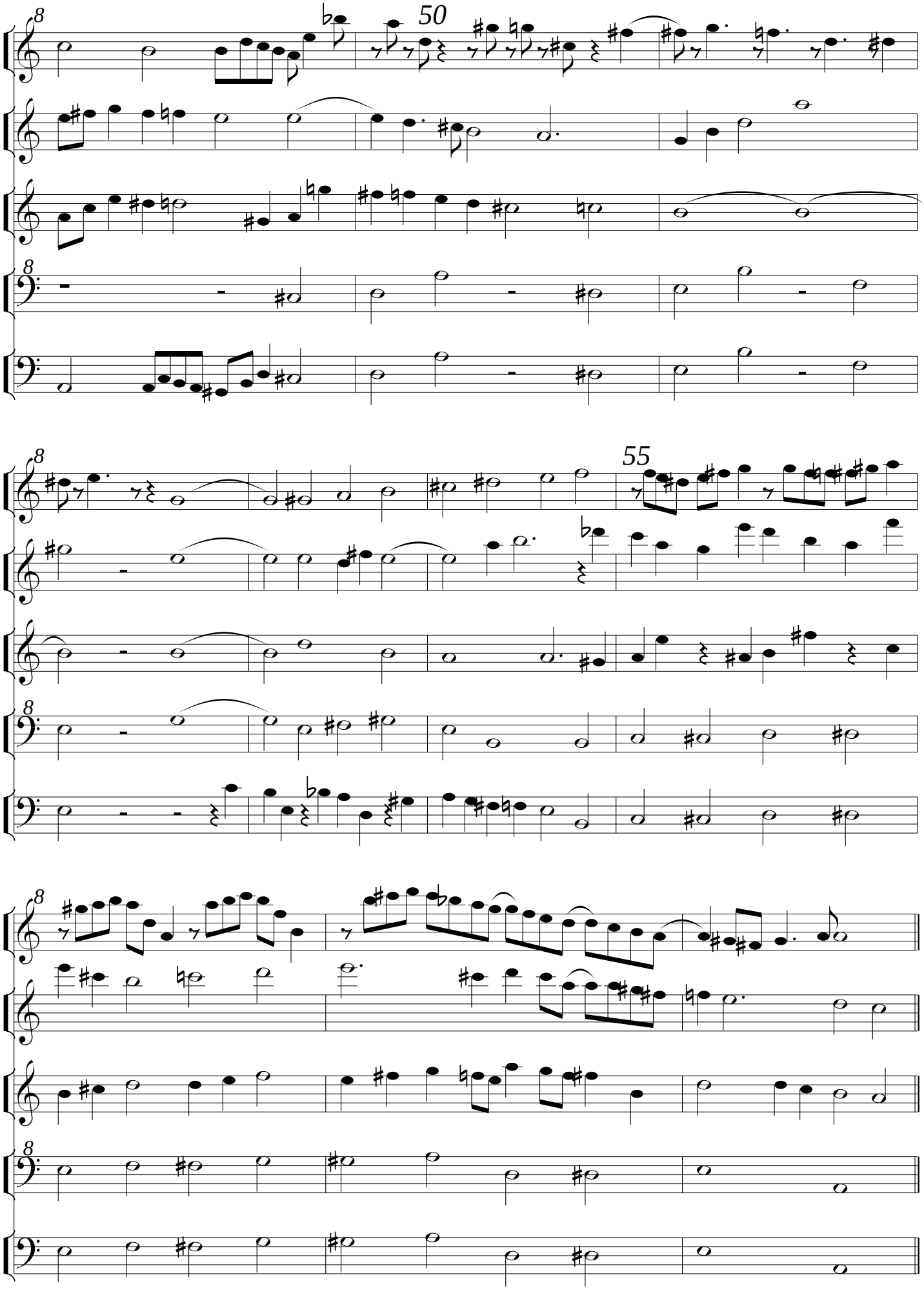
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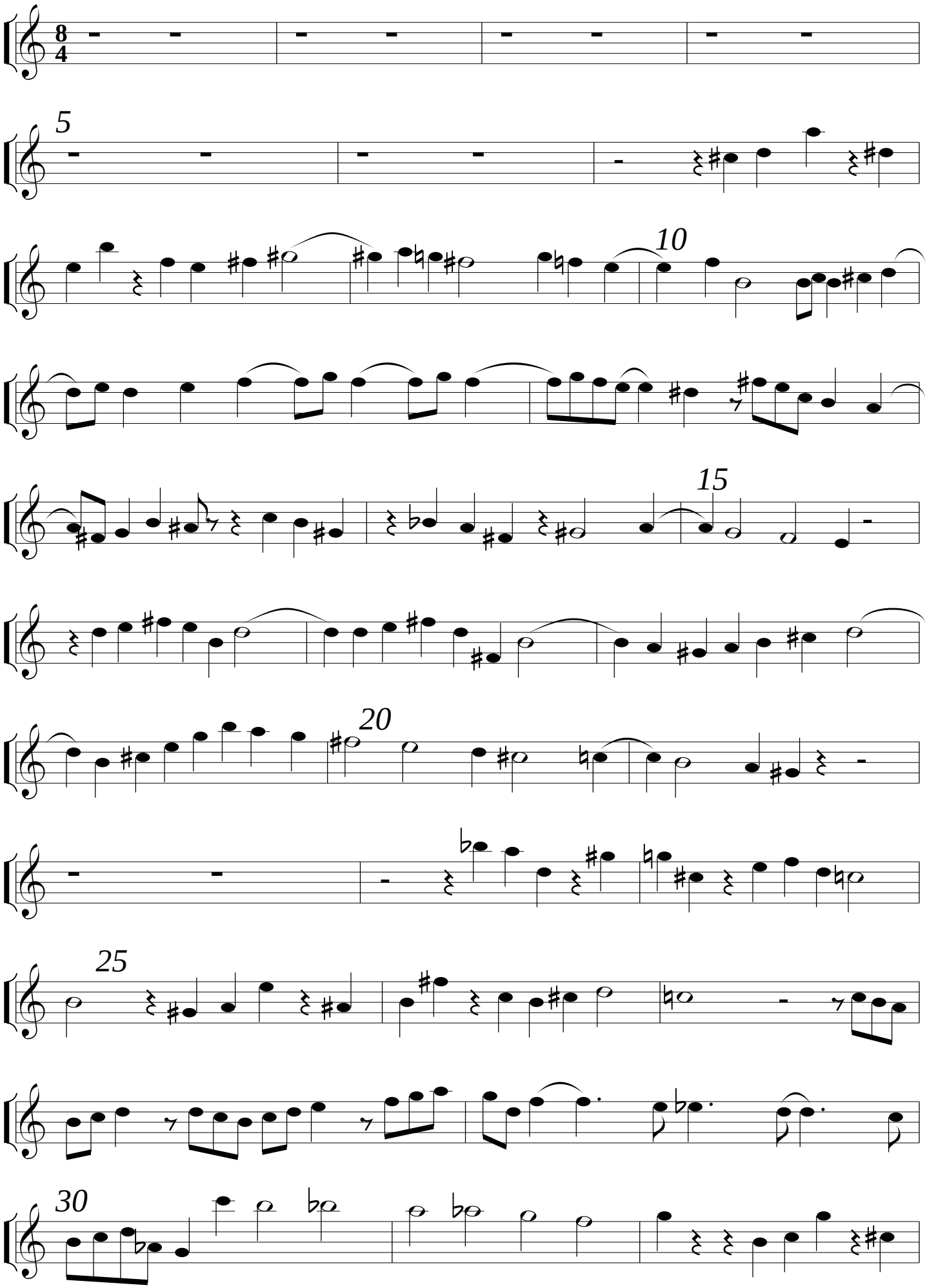
Fugue in Ab minor



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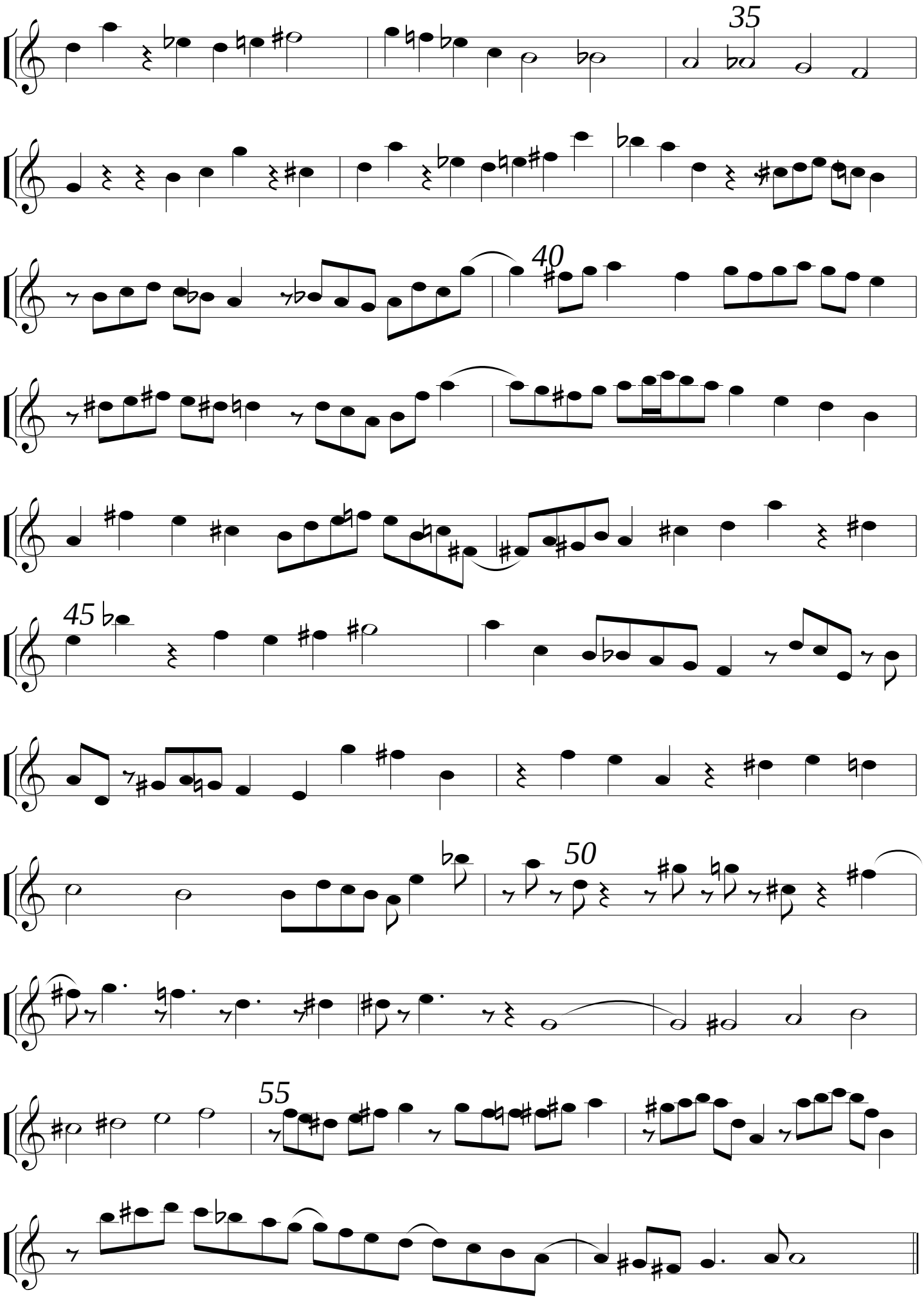
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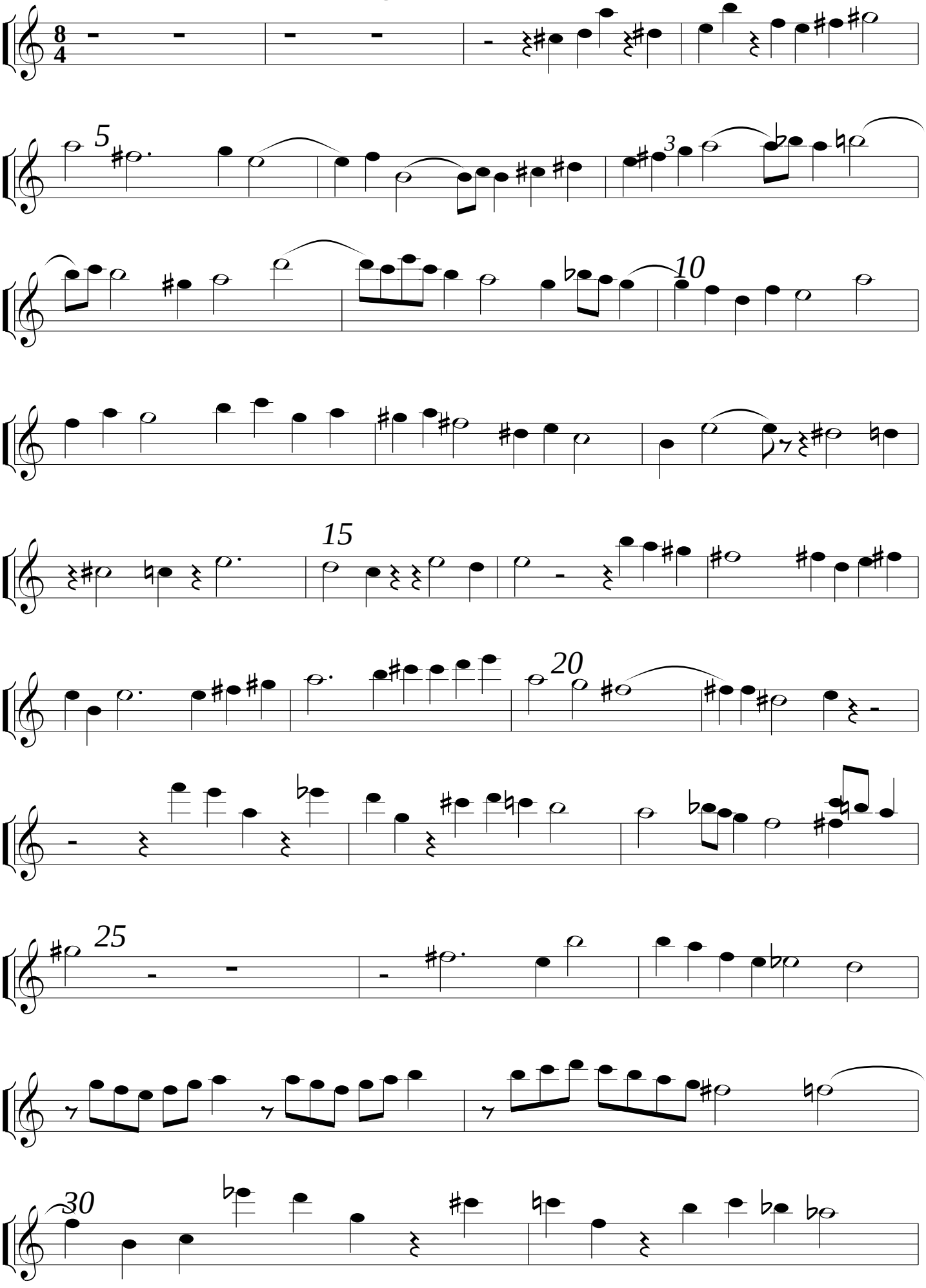

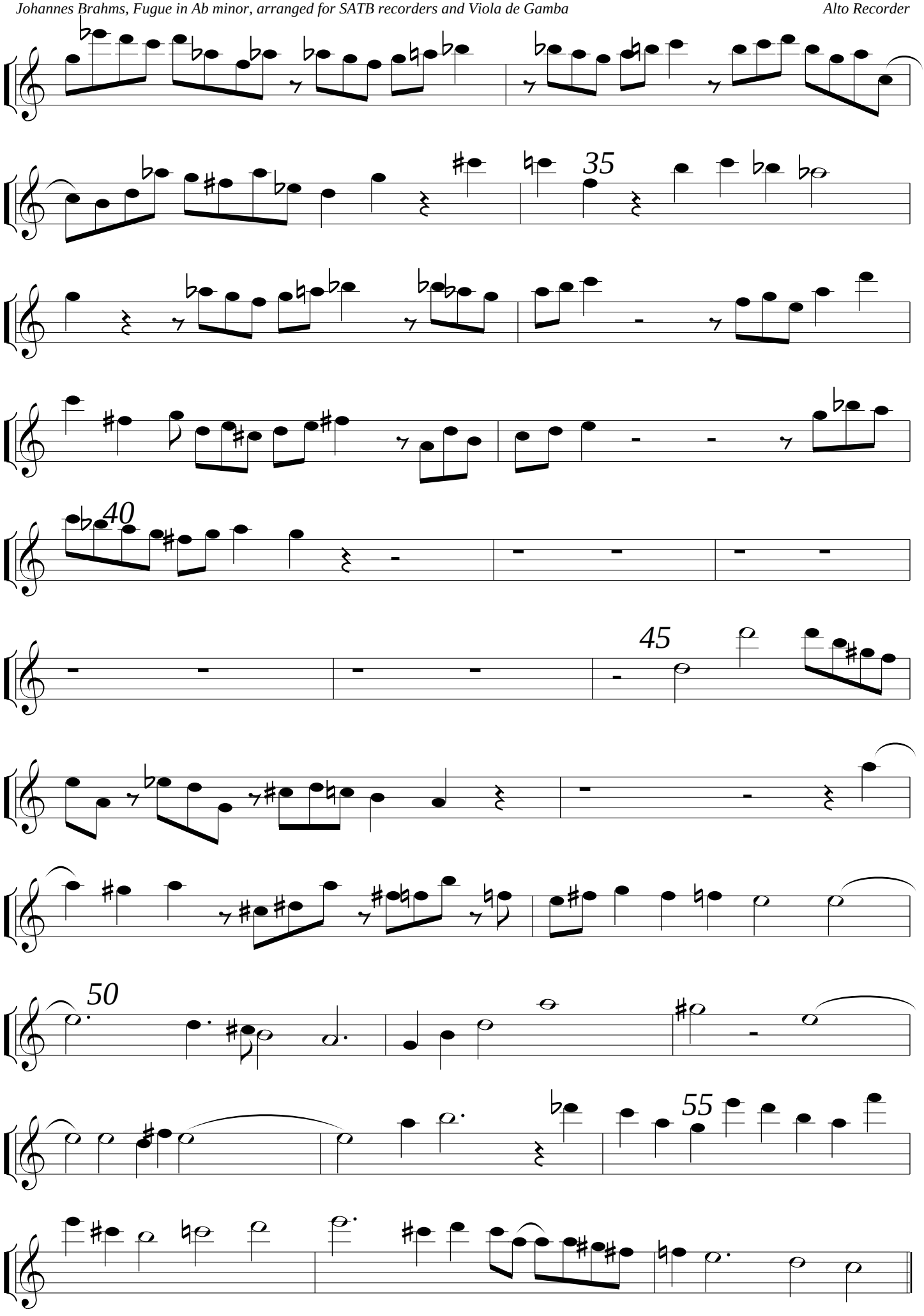

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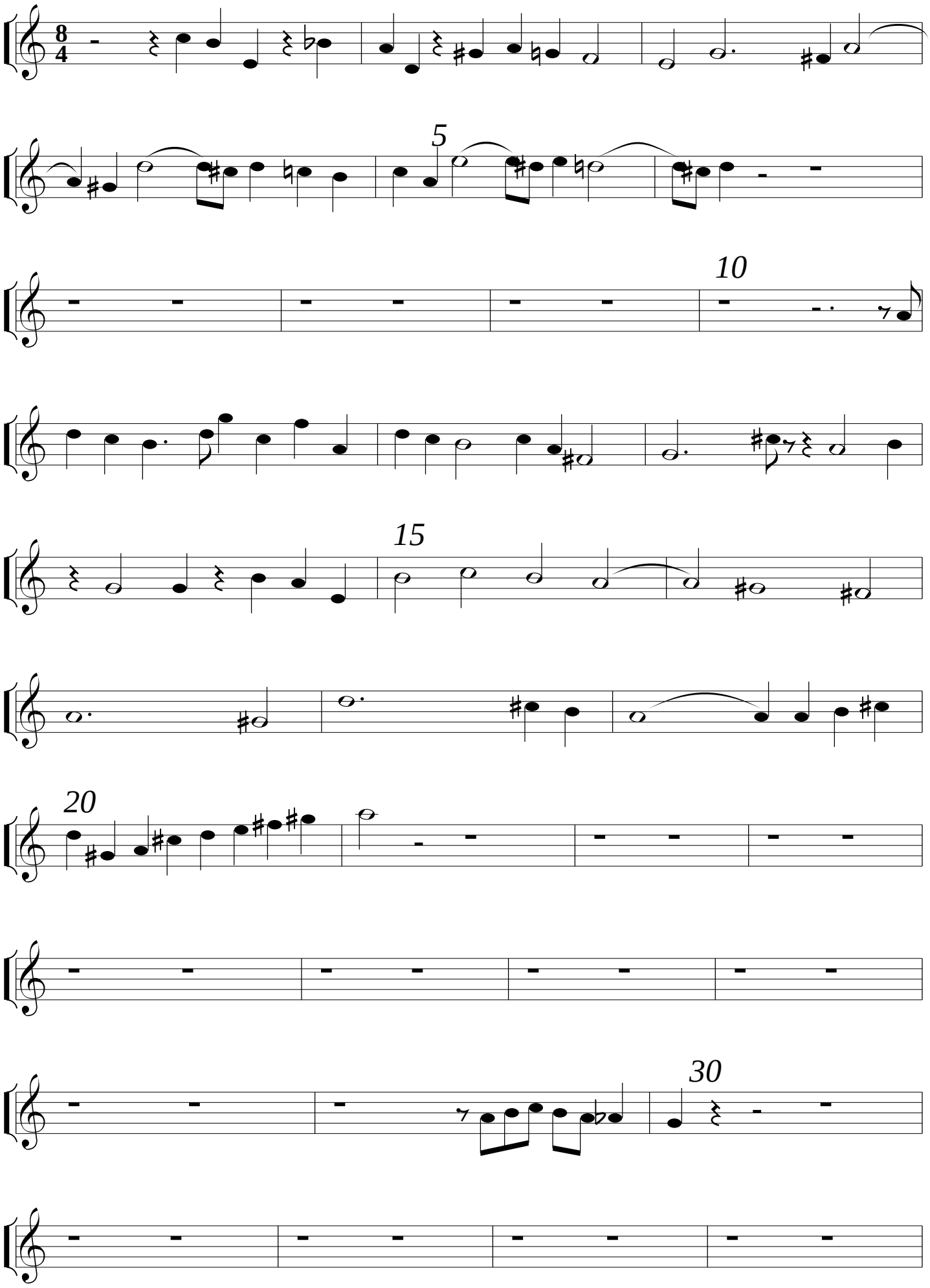

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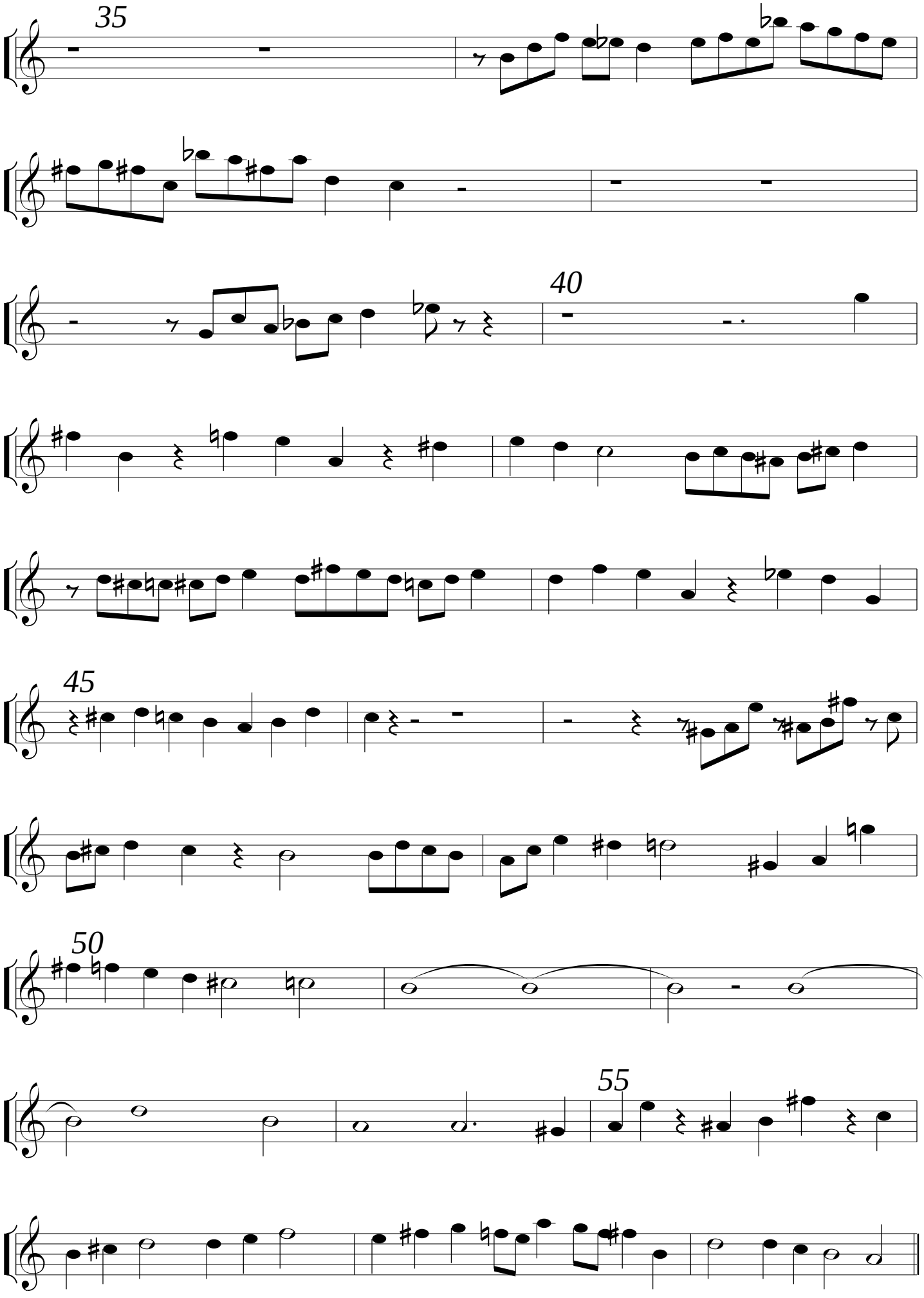
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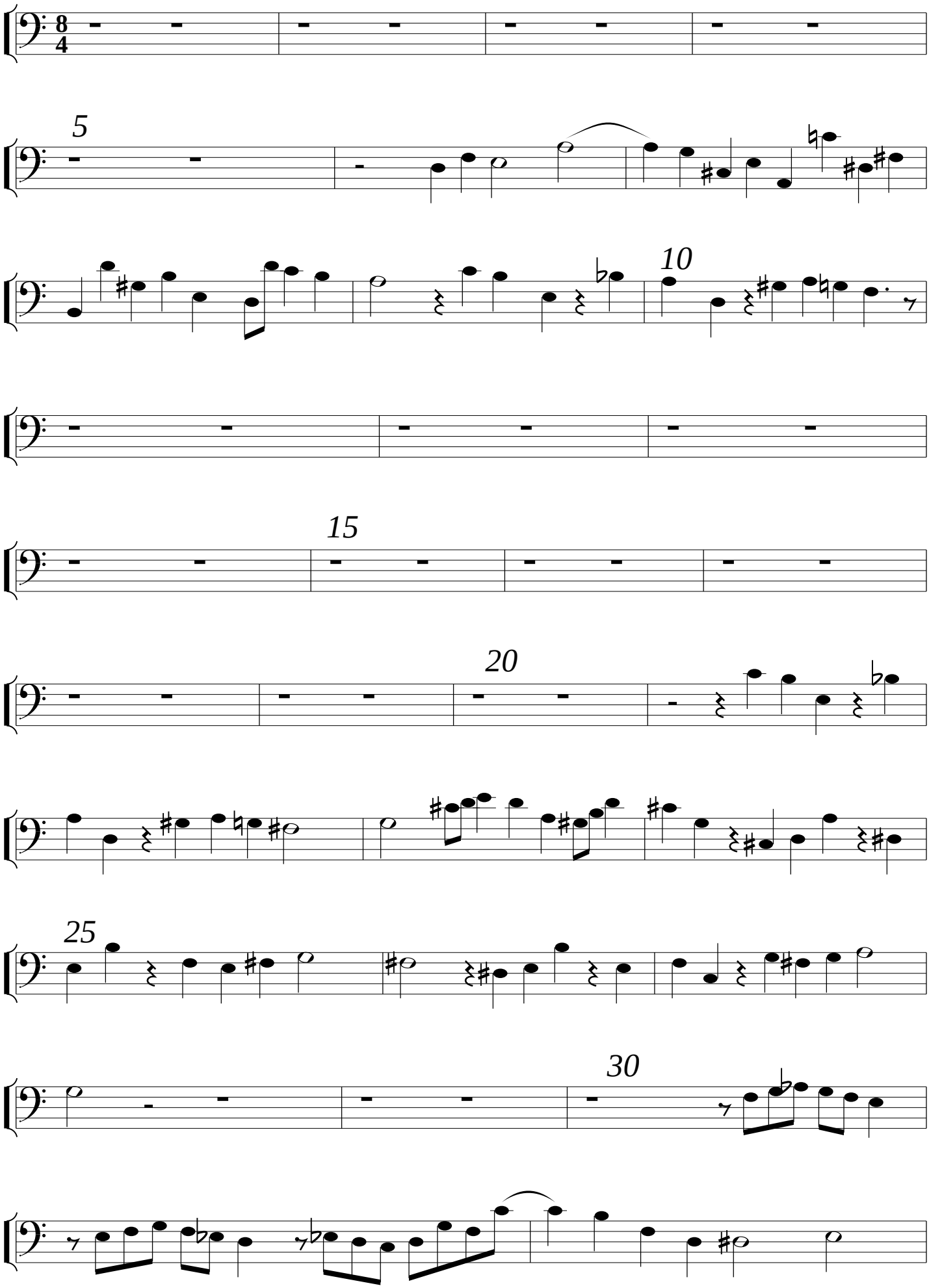

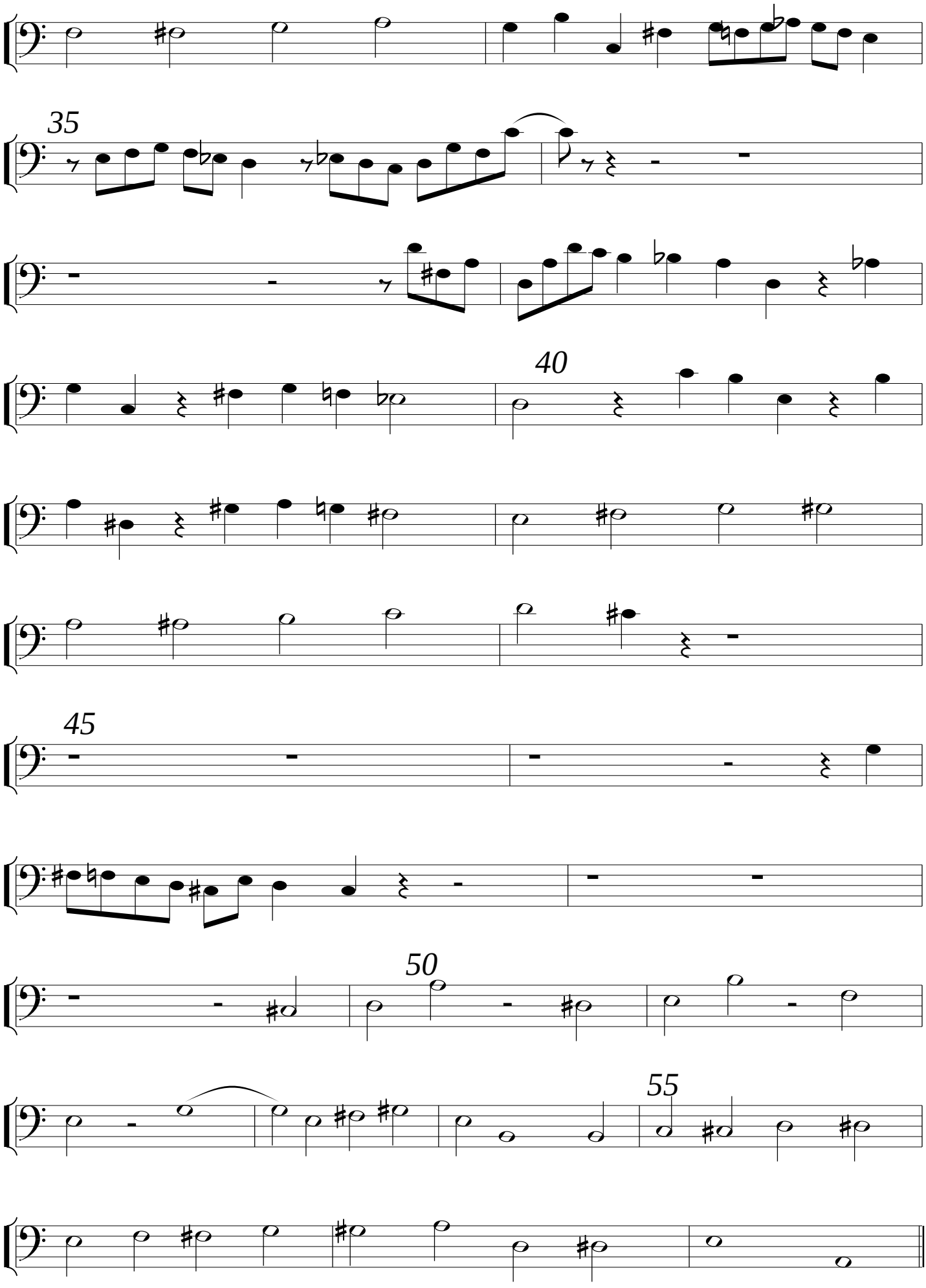
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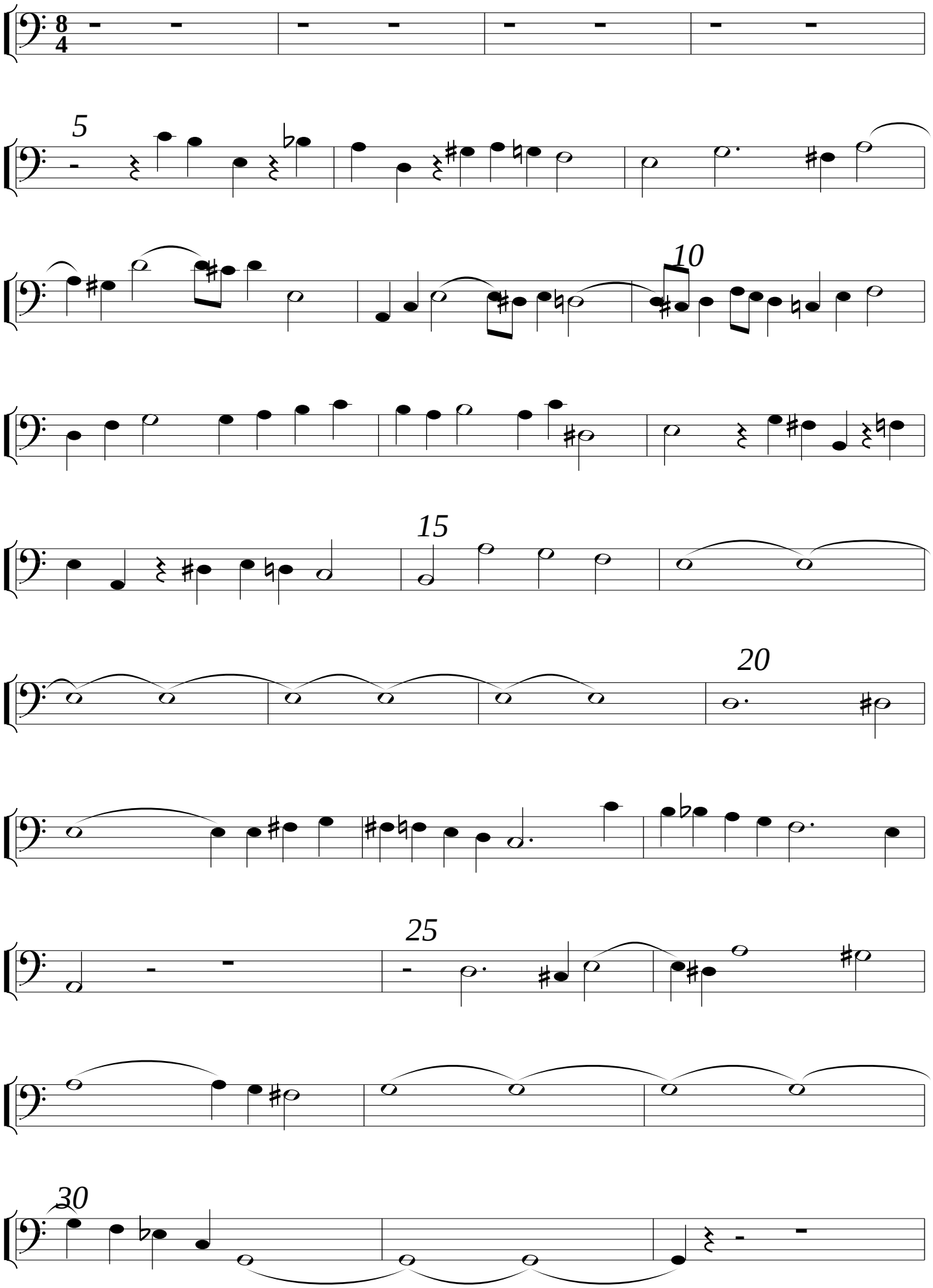

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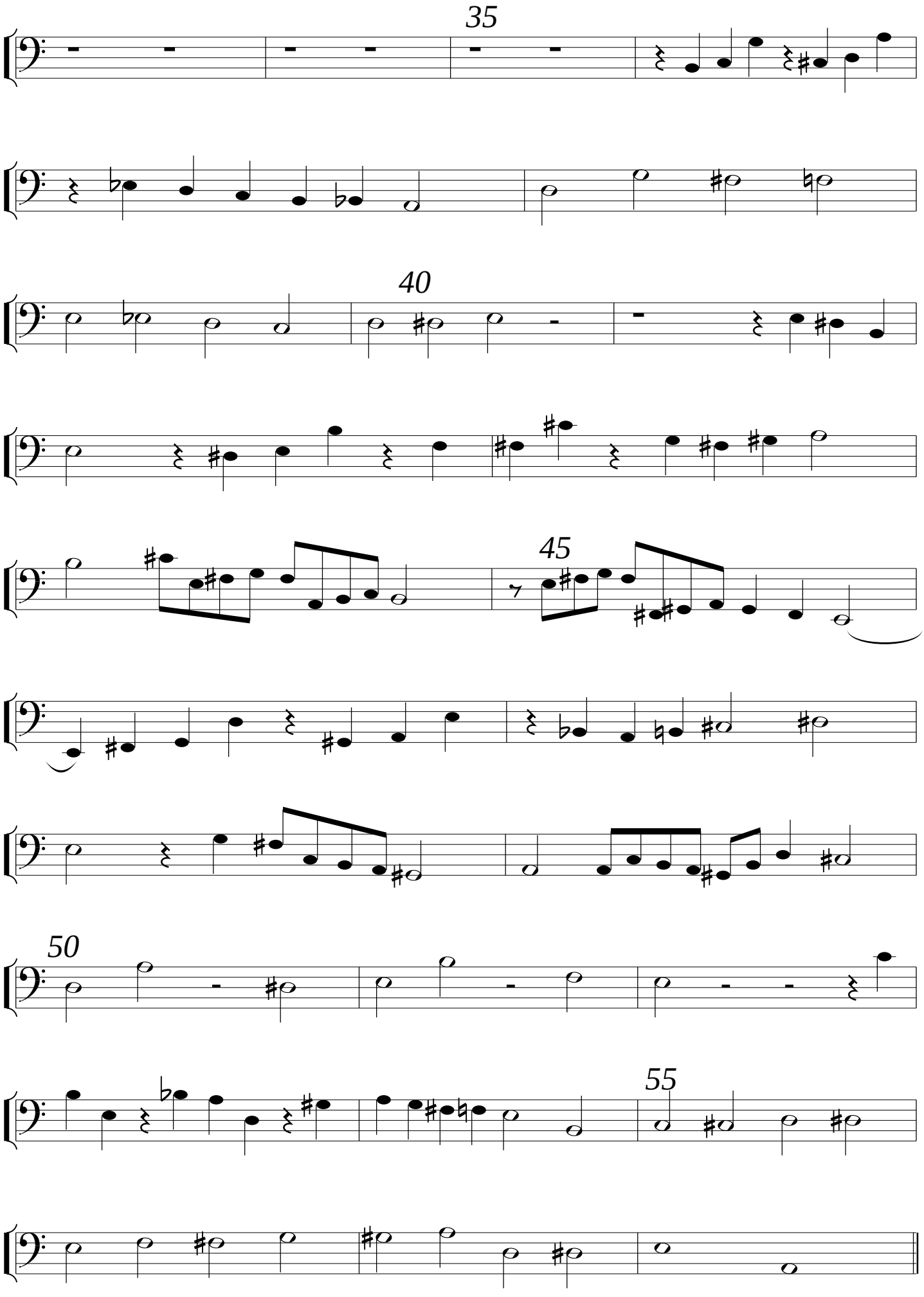
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Peter Billam was born in London in 1948, studied piano, and lived in Switzerland from 1973 to 1983, where he studied composition, classical guitar, flute and voice, worked as Musical Director of the *Théâtre Populaire Romand*, and as recording engineer, record producer and computer programmer. He moved to Tasmania in 1983, lectured in composition at the Conservatorium, conducted recorder ensembles and choirs, studied recorder, voice and harpsichord. He founded **www.pjb.com.au**, becoming the first composer to sell scores on-line, with on-line delivery, taking scores from Composer to Performer in one immediate step. *Www.pjb.com.au* offers a new approach to music publishing. These pieces are **written to be read, made to be played !**

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Arrangements include: By J. S. Bach: *Trio BWV 655*, piano and flute; *Vor deinen Thron BWV 668*, piano; *Fugue in F minor BWV 689*, SATB recorders; *Flute Sonata BWV 1031* transposed into G major for alto recorder and keyboard; *Flute Sonata BWV 1032* completed by Peter Billam for flute and keyboard, also in C major for alto recorder, and in G major for descant; *Ricercare a 3, from the Musikalisches Opfer* for keyboard; *Ricercare a 6*, for sSATBG recorders, or strings, or two keyboards; *Fuga Canonica in Epidiapente* for keyboard and melody instrument; from the *Art of Fugue*: *Contrapuncti 1* and *4* for keyboard, and *Contrapunctus 14* as completed by D. F. Tovey, for keyboard, or for SATB recorders, or for strings; *Passacaglia and Fugue in c* for piano four hands; *Chorales with Descant* for melody instrument and piano; *Cello Suites I*, *II* and *III* for flute or alto recorder, *Forty Chorales* for piano, *Der Geist hilft* for SATB-SATB recorders. By Johannes Brahms: *Fugue in Ab minor for organ*, for SATB recorders and gamba, in A minor; *Choralvorspiele for organ* with previous settings by Isaac, Bach, Praetorius, recorders. By Franz Schubert: *Four Songs*, voice and guitar; *Schubert Dances*, recorders and guitar, *Schubert Dances*, piano 4 hands. By G. F. Händel: *Concerto Grosso in A minor* op 6 no 4, harpsichord and recorders; *Recorder Sonata in Bb* no 5, in G for tenor recorder and keyboard. By other composers: *Claudio Monteverdi, Ecco Mormorar l'Onde*, SSATB recorders; *Twelve Italian Songs*, voice and guitar; *John Wilbye, Draw on sweet Night*, SSATTB recorders, and for flute choir; *Telemann, Twelve Flute Fantasias*, recorder; *John Carr, Divisions on an Italian Ground*, flute or recorder and guitar; *Fourteen Folk Dance Tunes*, recorder and guitar; *Easy Classical Pieces*, Bb trumpet and piano.

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