"The Ma Grinder"

By Robert Shaw
Transcribed and Arranged by Kristian Olsen
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The purpose of this document is to help distribute this wonderful piece to the world. But if you find this of use and would like to buy me a coffee (or chip in for boring website hosting fees), you can do so at buymeacoffee.com/kolsen.

General Notes

What follows is the sheet music for my arrangement of "The Ma Grinder" by Robert Shaw. My arrangement bears strong similarity to Ethan Leinwand's version, which can be heard here.

Robert Shaw recorded the piece several times, though the version on "Texas Barrelhouse Piano" from 1963 is perhaps the most well-known. You can hear that version here.

I have not attempted to do a note-for-note transcription of Shaw's version of the piece, in part because Charles Grogan has already completed that project. You can contact him at pianobluesreview.com. (His site is a great general resource for early blues and boogie piano music.)

You can find my recording of the following sheet music on my YouTube channel.

Note: I have left out articulation and pedaling in these scores. Listen to the recordings and copy, or use whatever sounds good to you.

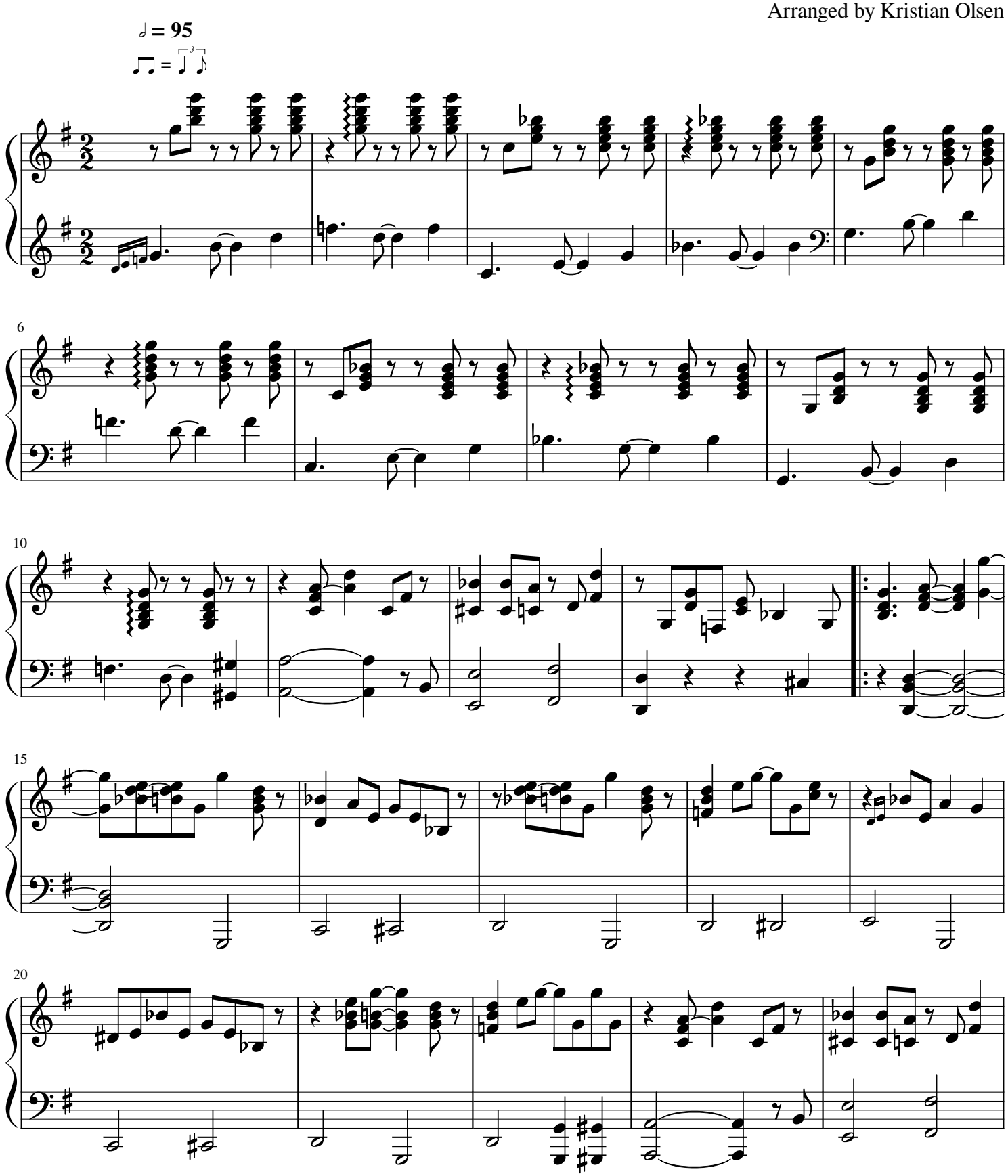
As always, this sheet music is meant only as a guide to your own exploration of the piece. Make changes freely and play it in whatever way moves you.

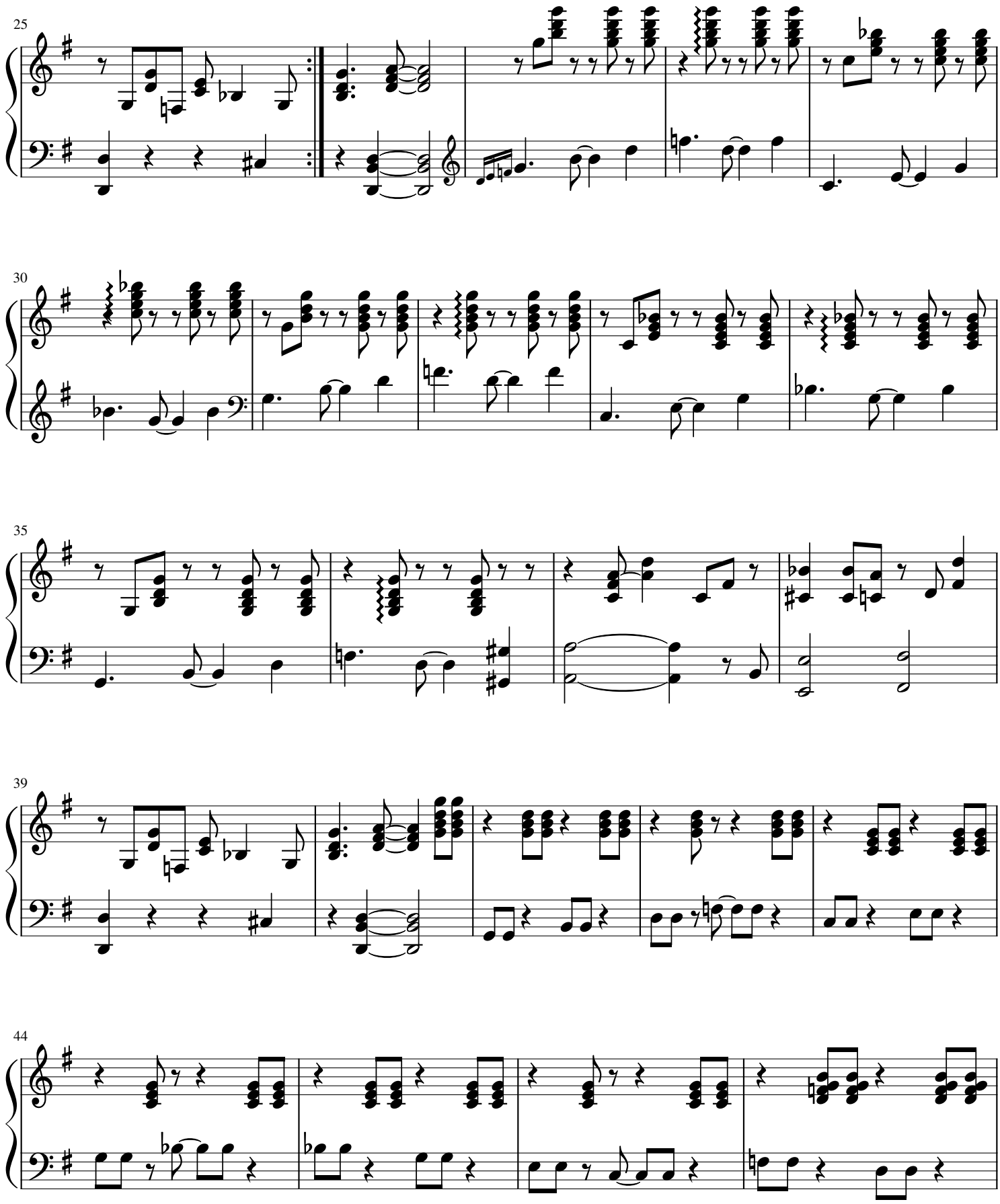
Measure Notes

41-48: Shaw played the left hand in this section (and others like it) with the side of his hand (like a karate chop). Shaw learned the technique from a player who had a deformed left hand. If you play this piece, you pretty much have to use this technique because when else are you going to get the opportunity to play like that!

The Ma Grinder

Robert Shaw
Arranged by Kristian Olsen

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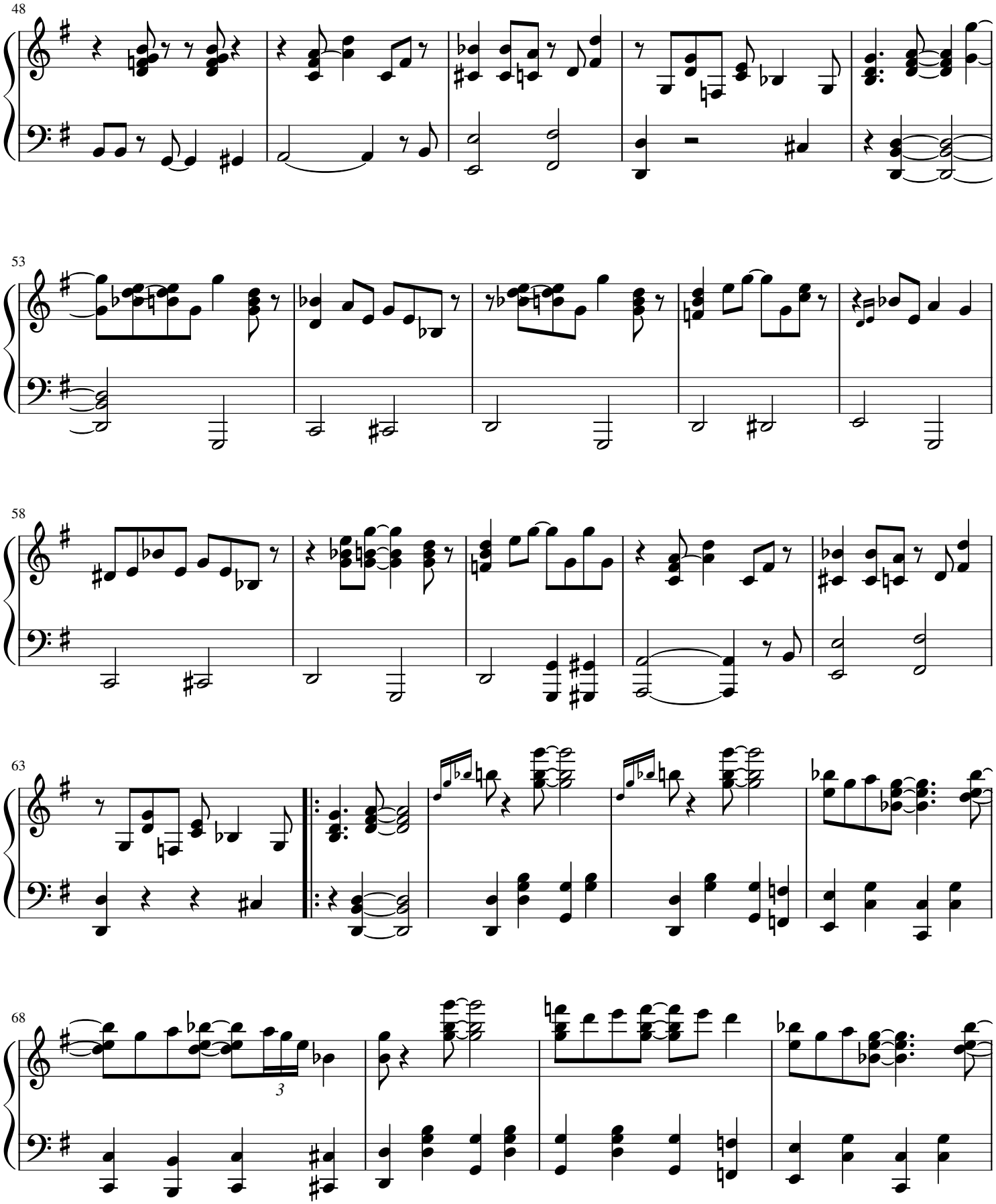
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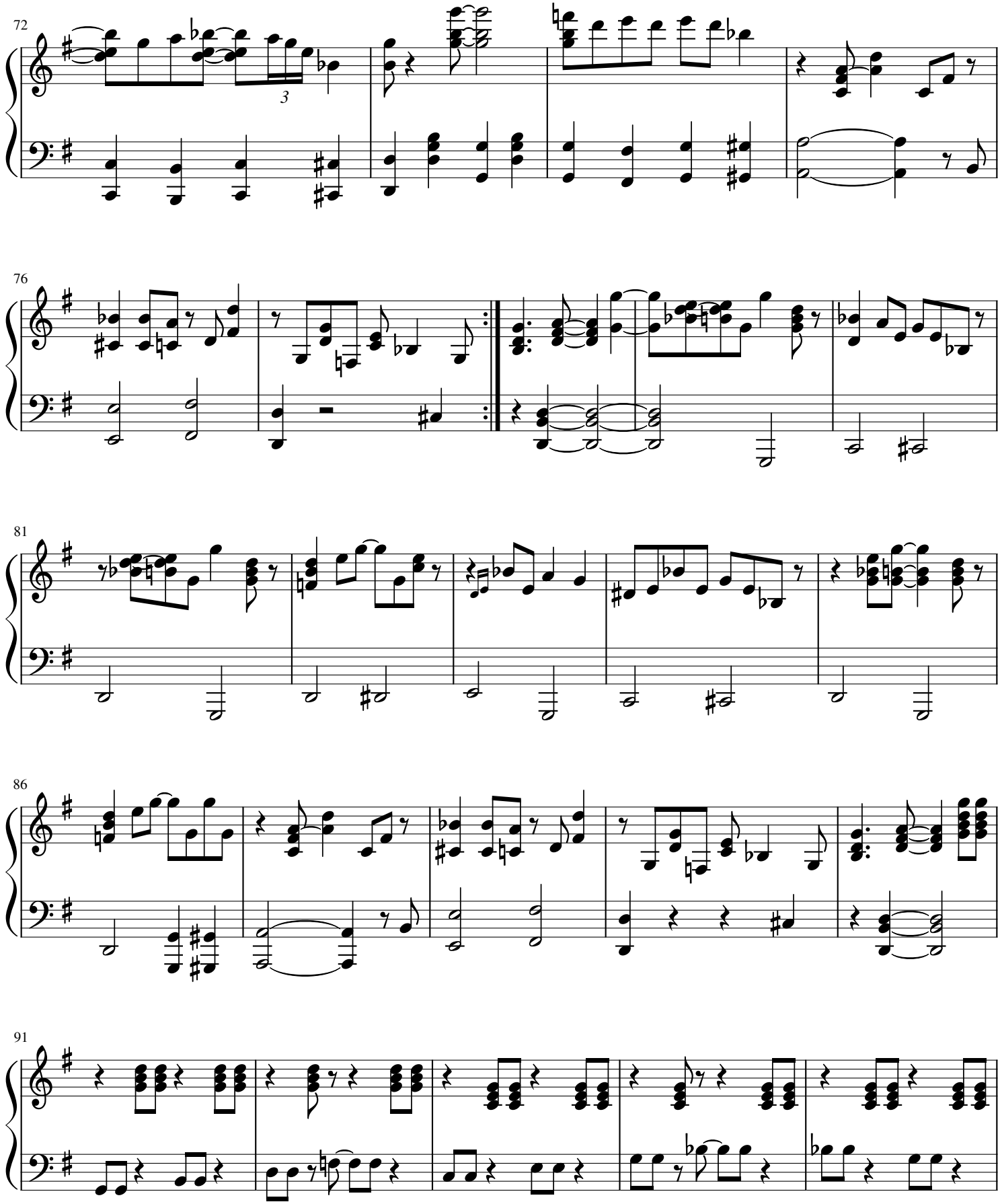
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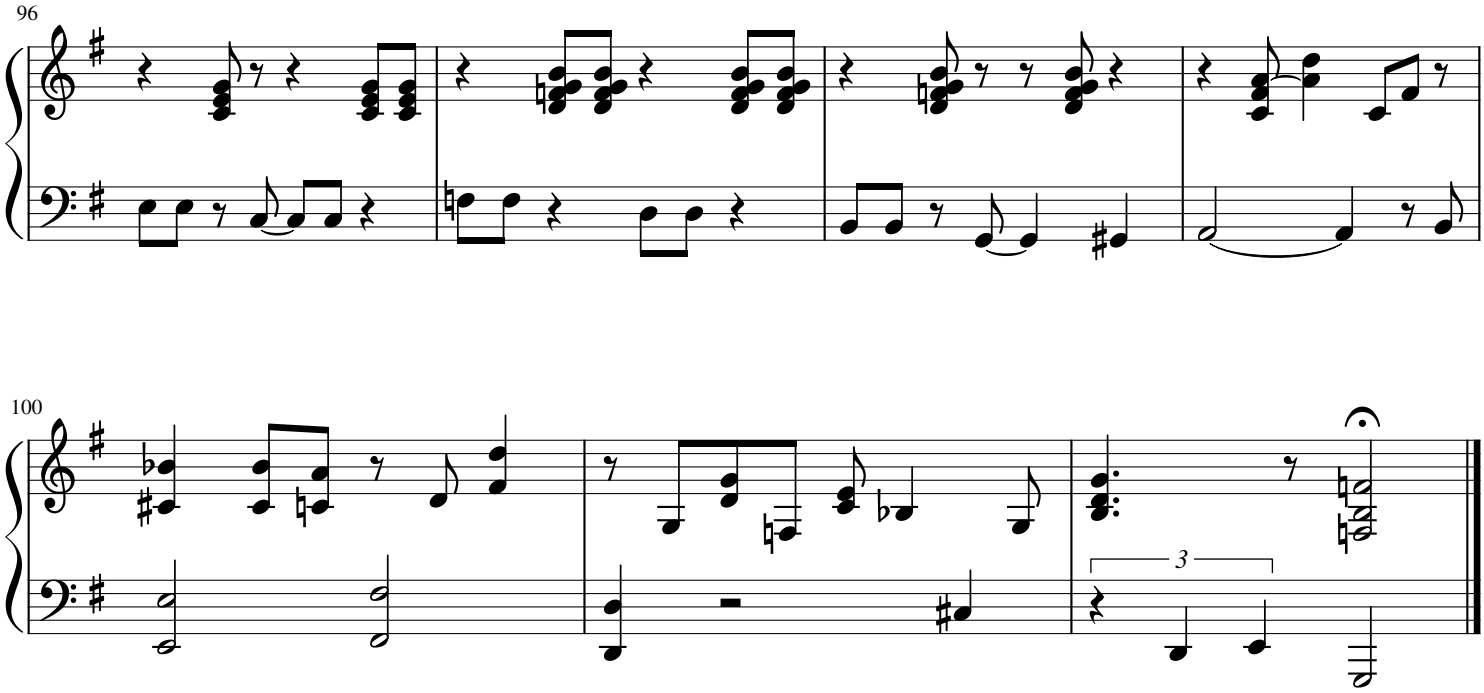
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