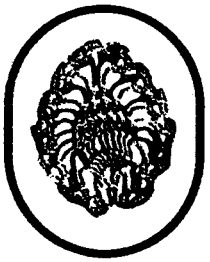
Maple Leaf Rag

as played by Scott Joplin
on an early piano roll recording



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Maple Leaf Rag

(1899)

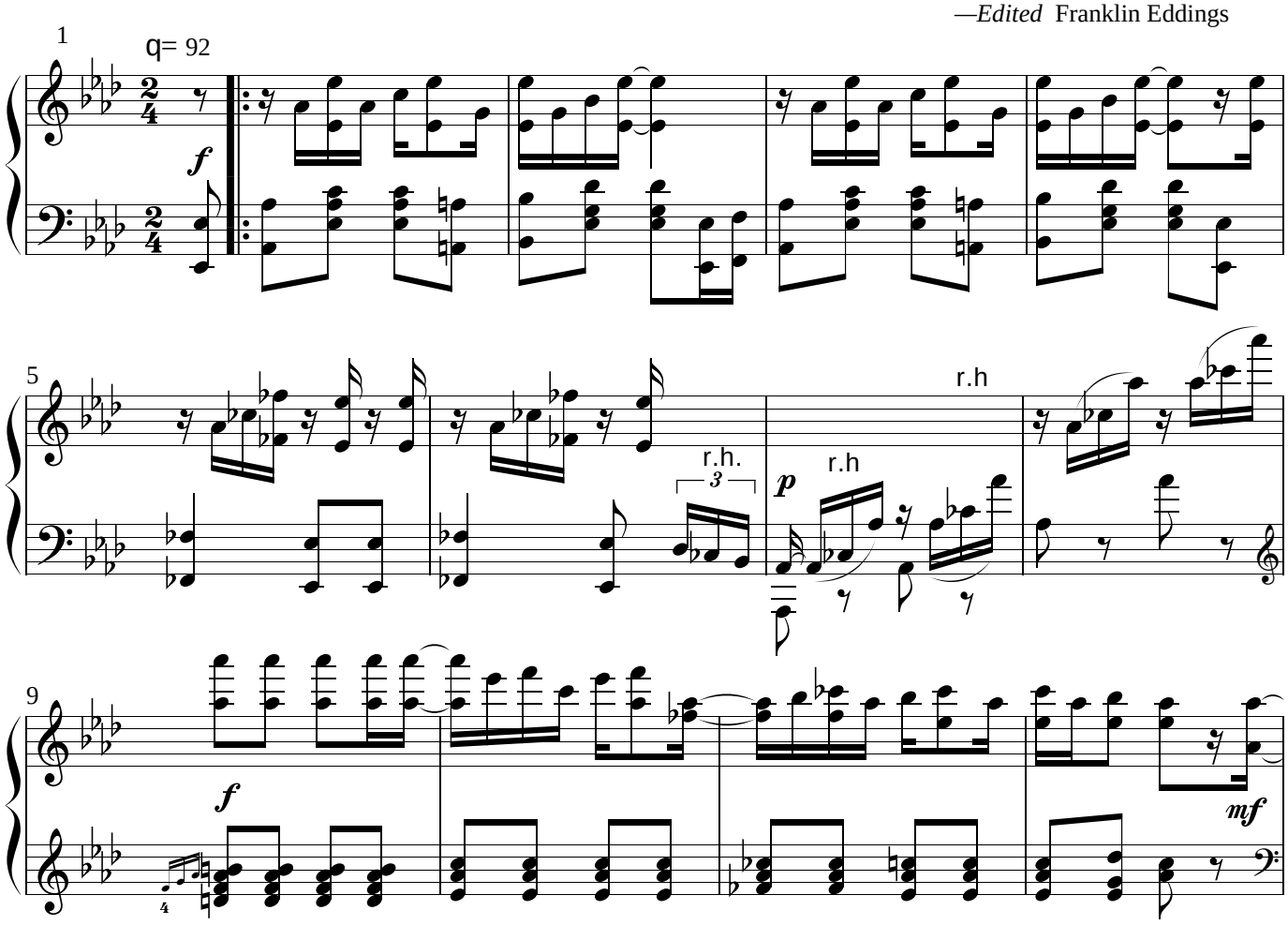
as played by Scott Joplin on an early piano roll recording

Scott Joplin's rags with their syncopated rhythms were one of the first forms of jazz. The Ragtime Era began in the 1890's and lasted into the 1920's influencing everything that came after. Good harmony and cadence, fresh rhythm and melody is the reason for this music's enduring popularity. Ragtime was composed (written down) rather than improvised as later jazz was done. During Scott Joplin's life his Maple Leaf Rag was enormously succesful. It was the first piece of sheet music to sell a million copies.

Near the turn of the 20th Century when accoustic recording on phonograph disks began to evolve, a few pianists including Scott Joplin, recorded directly on to paper piano rolls. As the paper roll cranks through the player mechanism of the piano, air compressed by pumping a bellows apparatus with the feet causes the keys and hammers to play in the same manner as the artist recorded it.

The sixteenth-note passing tones in the bass line of this setting of Maple Leaf Rag were added by Scott Joplin when he played it on the piano roll recording made in the early 1900's. Additionally, he played some of the treble passages in the "B" theme and Trio an octave higher than in the commonly published editions. To facilitate playing the sixteenth-notes in the bass, the player may omit the octave notes. Notes in parentheses (1st) and (2nd) indicate when to play the smaller cue notes.

Scott Joplin (1867-1917)
—*Edited* Franklin Eddings



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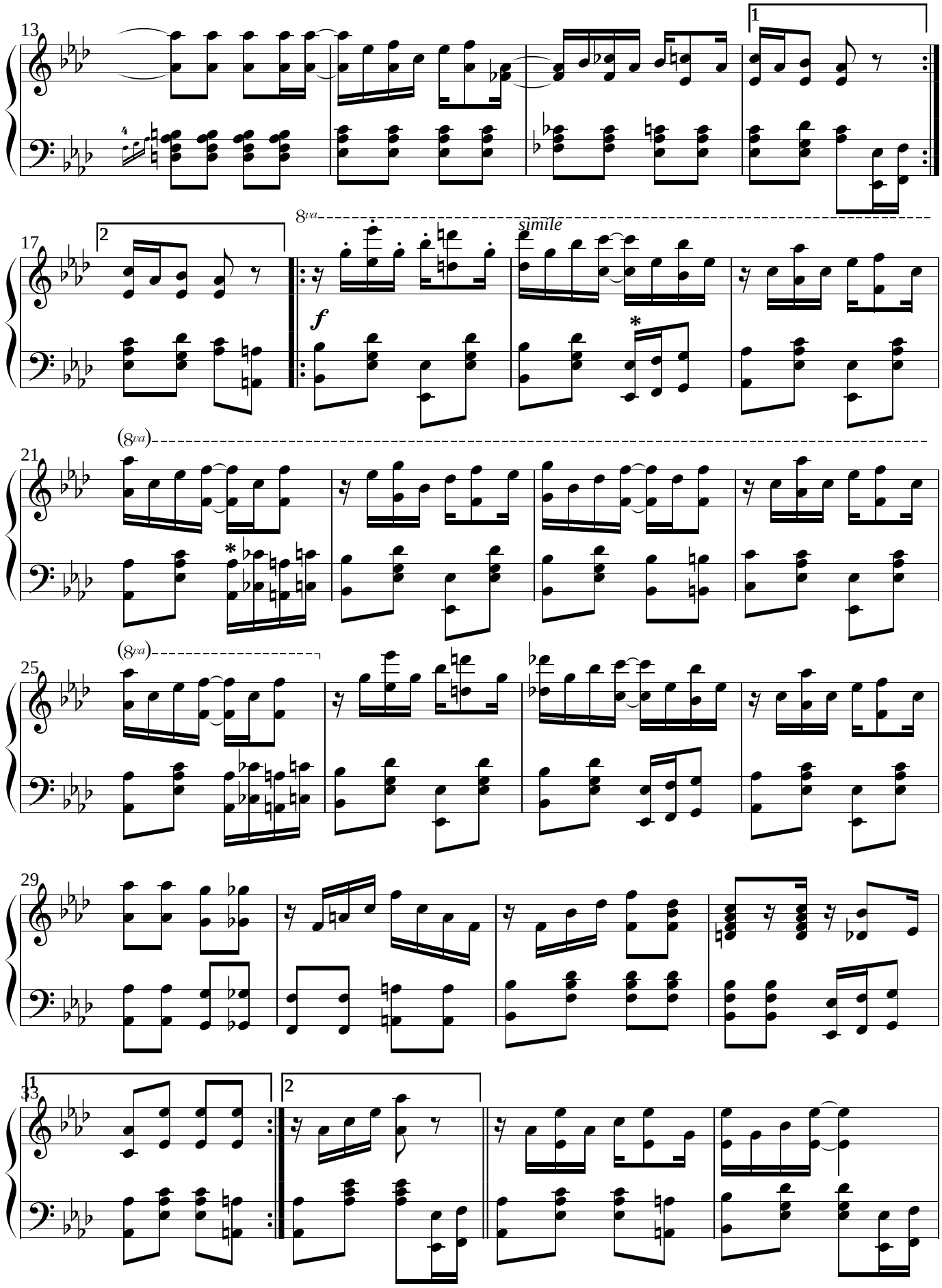
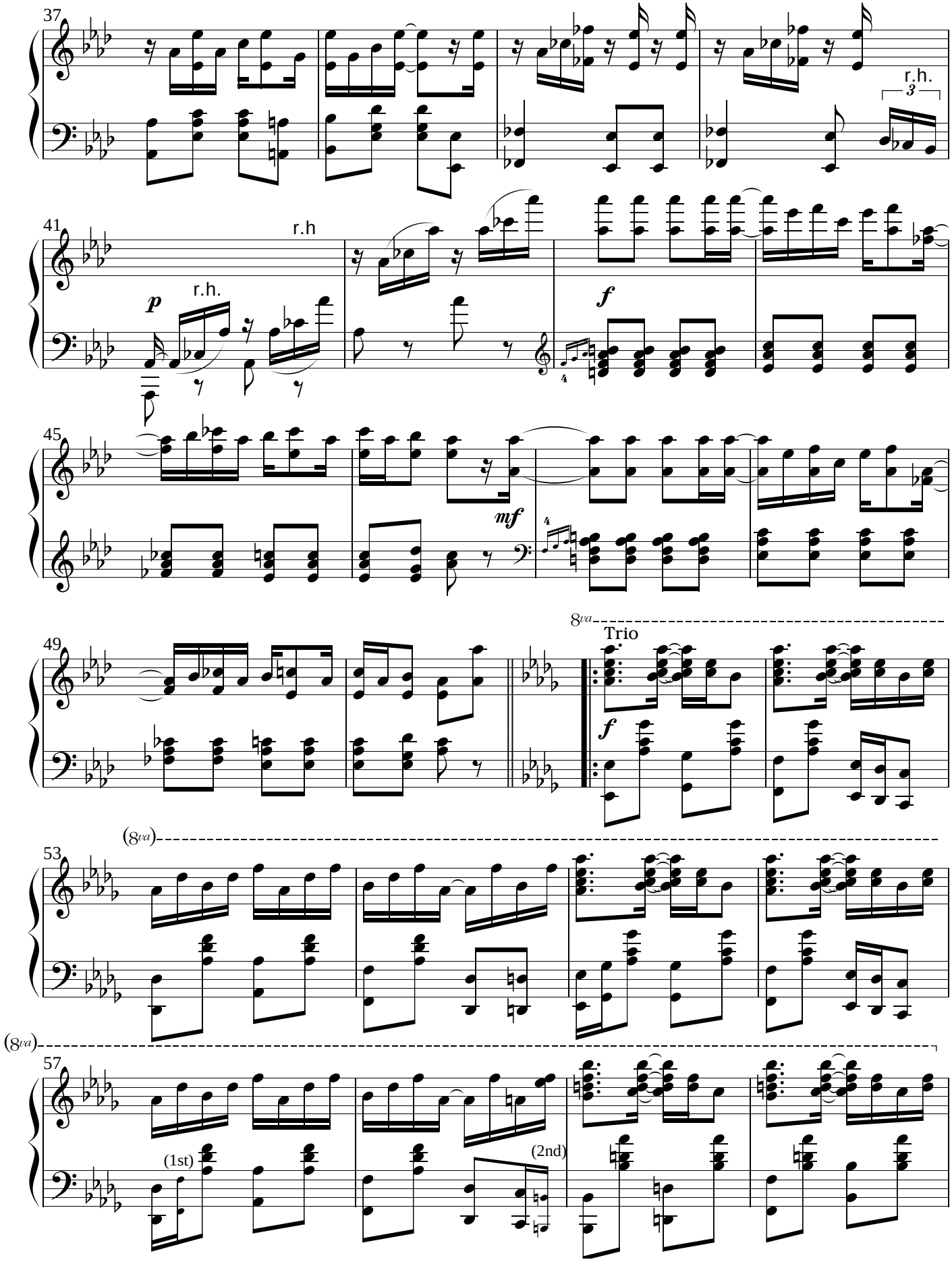
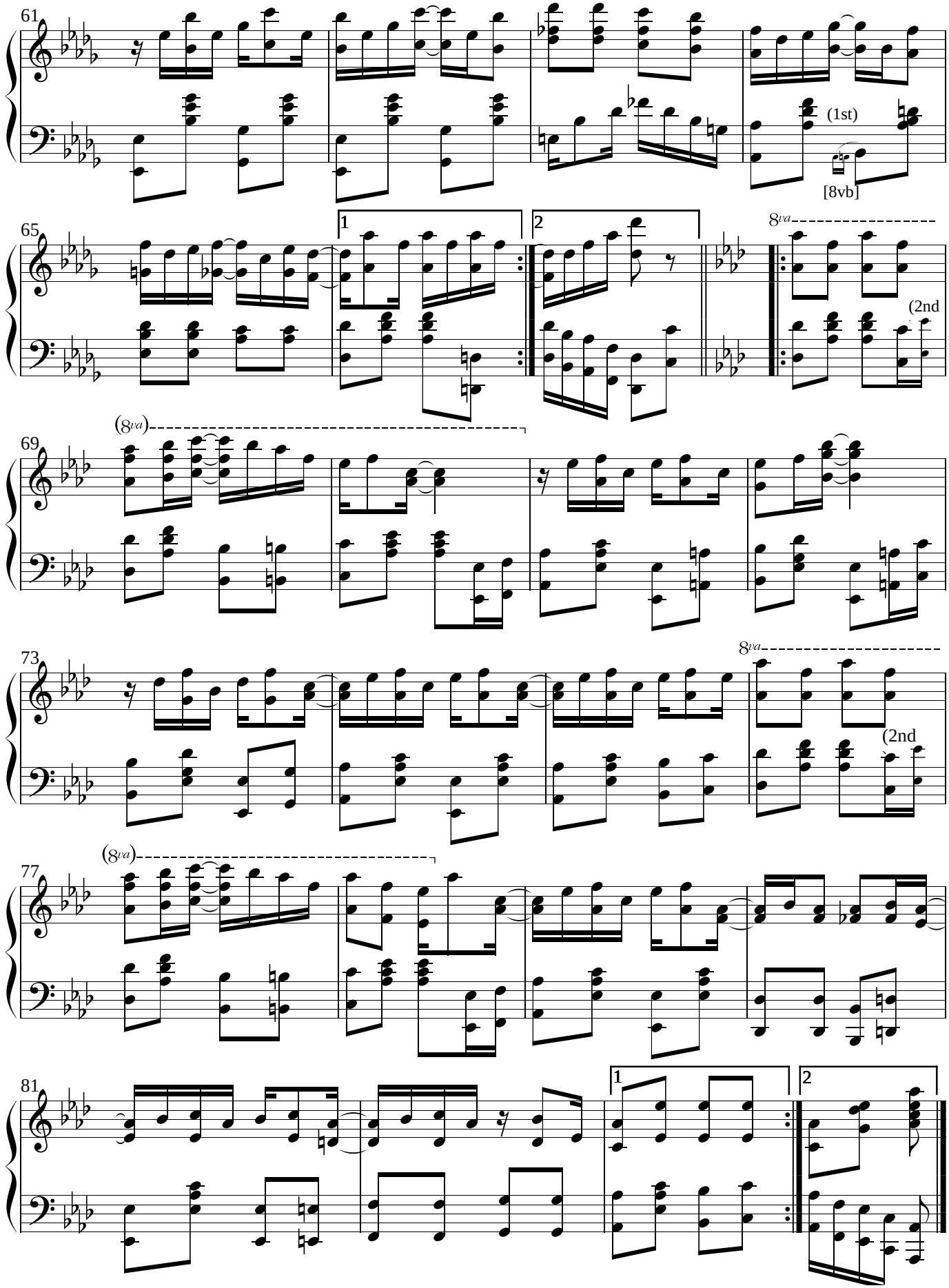

13
1
17
2
8va
simile
f
21
(8va)
25
(8va)
29
33
1
2


37
r.h.
3
41
r.h
r.h.
p
f
45
mf
49
8va
Trio
f
(8va)
53
(8va)
57
(1st)
(2nd)


61
(1st)
[8vb]
65
1
2
8va
(2nd
(8va)
69
73
8va
(2nd
(8va)
77
81
1
2

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