The First NOEL

Handbell arrangement

(using 18 bells from a 3-octave set)

by

Matt Johnson

www.MattJohnsonMusic.com

DOLCE & NUIT PRODUCTIONS

COMPOSER'S NOTES

This intimate adaptation features melodic handbells floating above the harmonic swirls of the piano. On the recording, elegantly sparse orchestration frames the hypnotic rhythm and lulls the listener into a peaceful mood. The work was created during Matt's 30+ year career as Director of Music within the church world. He often composed or arranged for the handbell choirs he directed.

- *The composer engraved this arrangement and acknowledges that clarity of intent often won over strict adherence to notational rules. For example, all notes were written in the treble clef…while handbell notation dictates notes below middle-C should be written in the bass clef. This provided melodic clarity and a cleaner look. Also, since the chords were left above the staff, the handbell part may double as a "lead sheet."*
- *Two bells from a 3-octave set of handbells are needed to play the highest notes in this 2-octave arrangement.*
- *While notated in 4/4 time signature, it may prove helpful to count as if in 12/8.*
- *Ring pick-up notes lighter with a slight crescendo into the down beat of each phrase.*
- *Original concept was to have a small number of ringers playing the piece from memory, gathered around the piano, for a more intimate and visually appealing presentation.*
- *The 18 bells may be assigned to six (6) ringers as follows:*
  - *Ringer 1: G4, A4, F#6, G6*
  - *Ringer 2: B4, C5, E6*
  - *Ringer 3: D5, D#5, E5, A6*
  - *Ringer 4: F#5, G5, B6*
  - *Ringer 5: A5, B5*
  - *Ringer 6: C6, D6*

Peace,

Matt Johnson



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The First NOEL

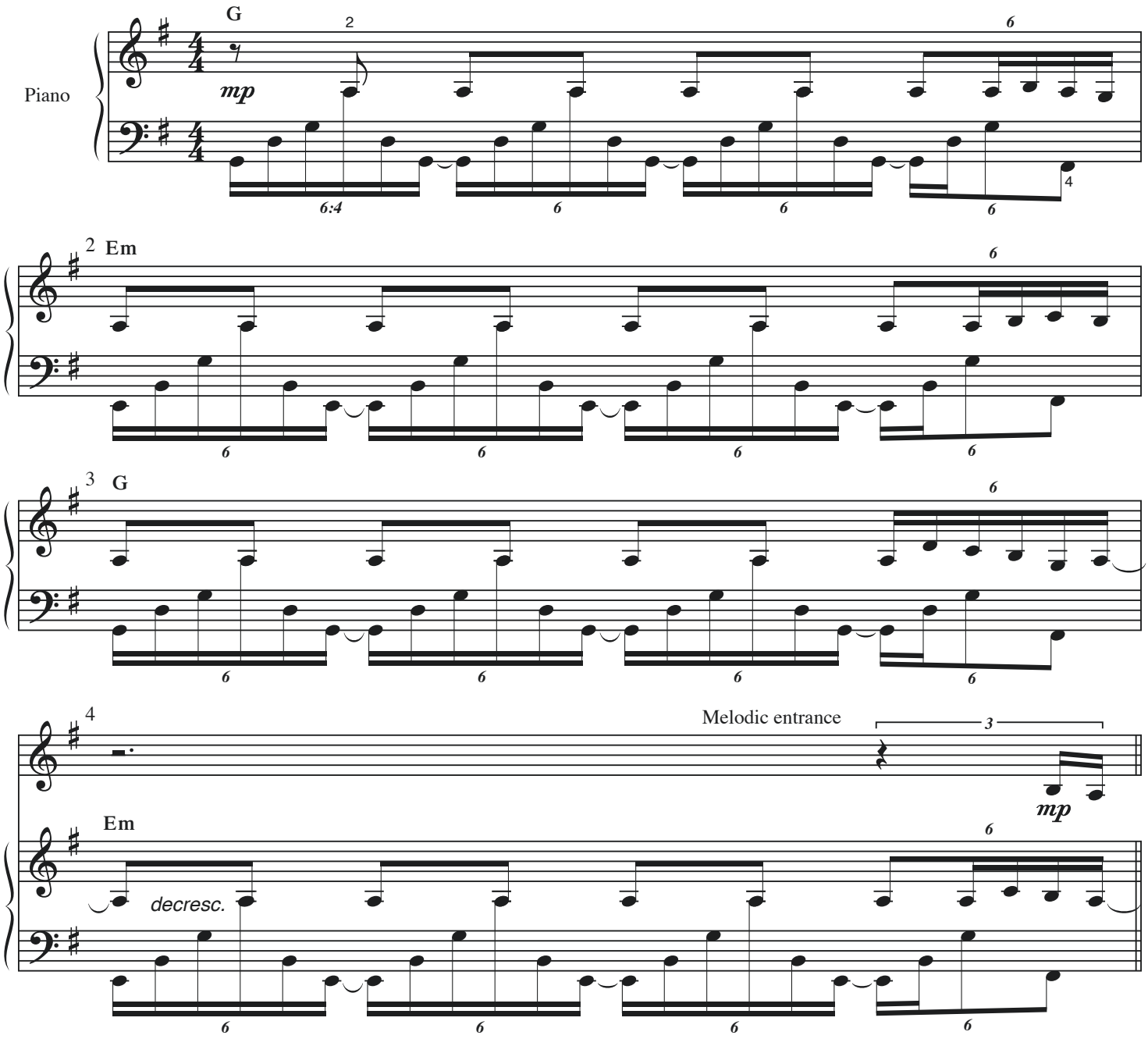
for handbells, with piano accompaniment

3-octaves, or
2-octaves *(plus 2 bells)*
Bells needed: 18

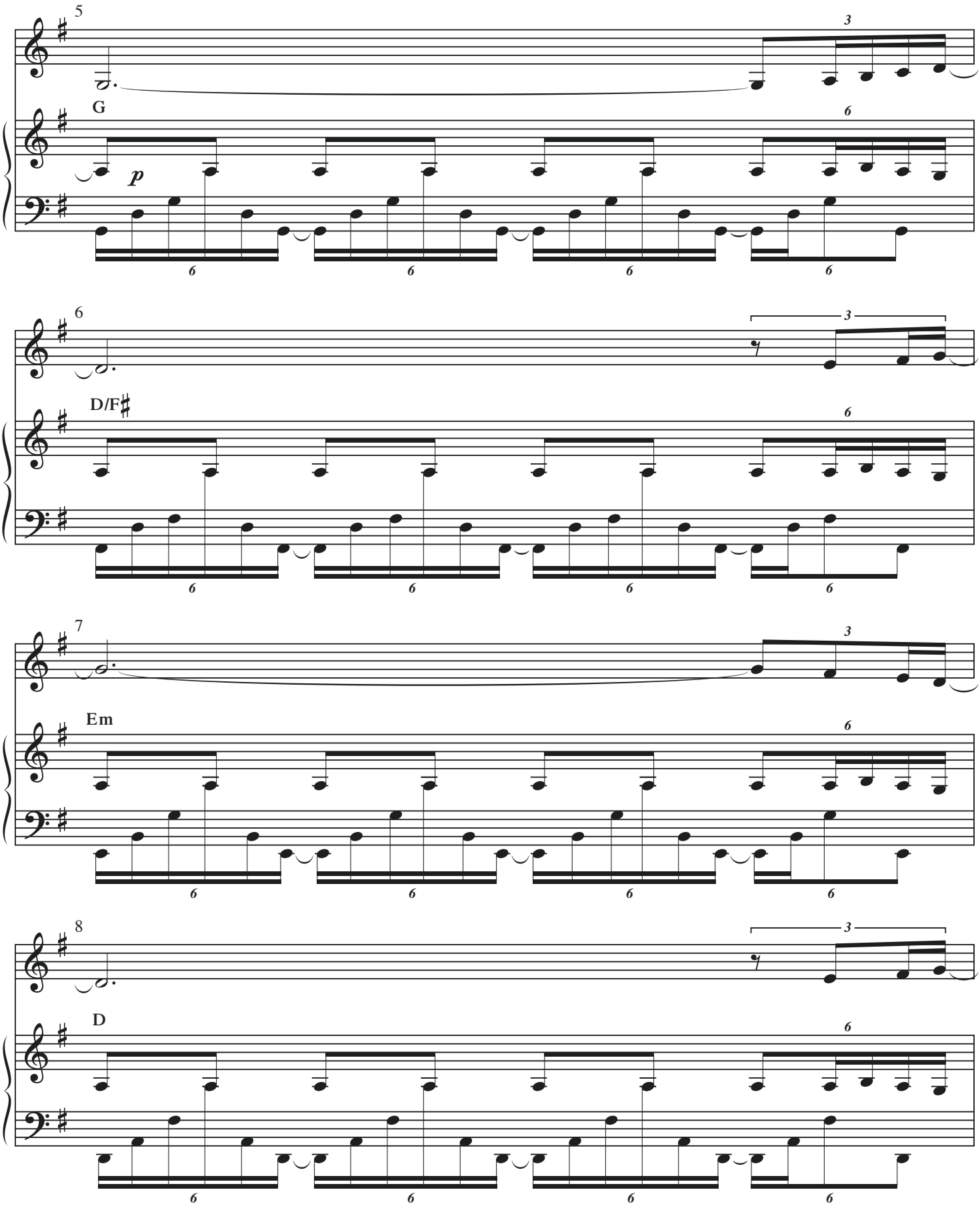


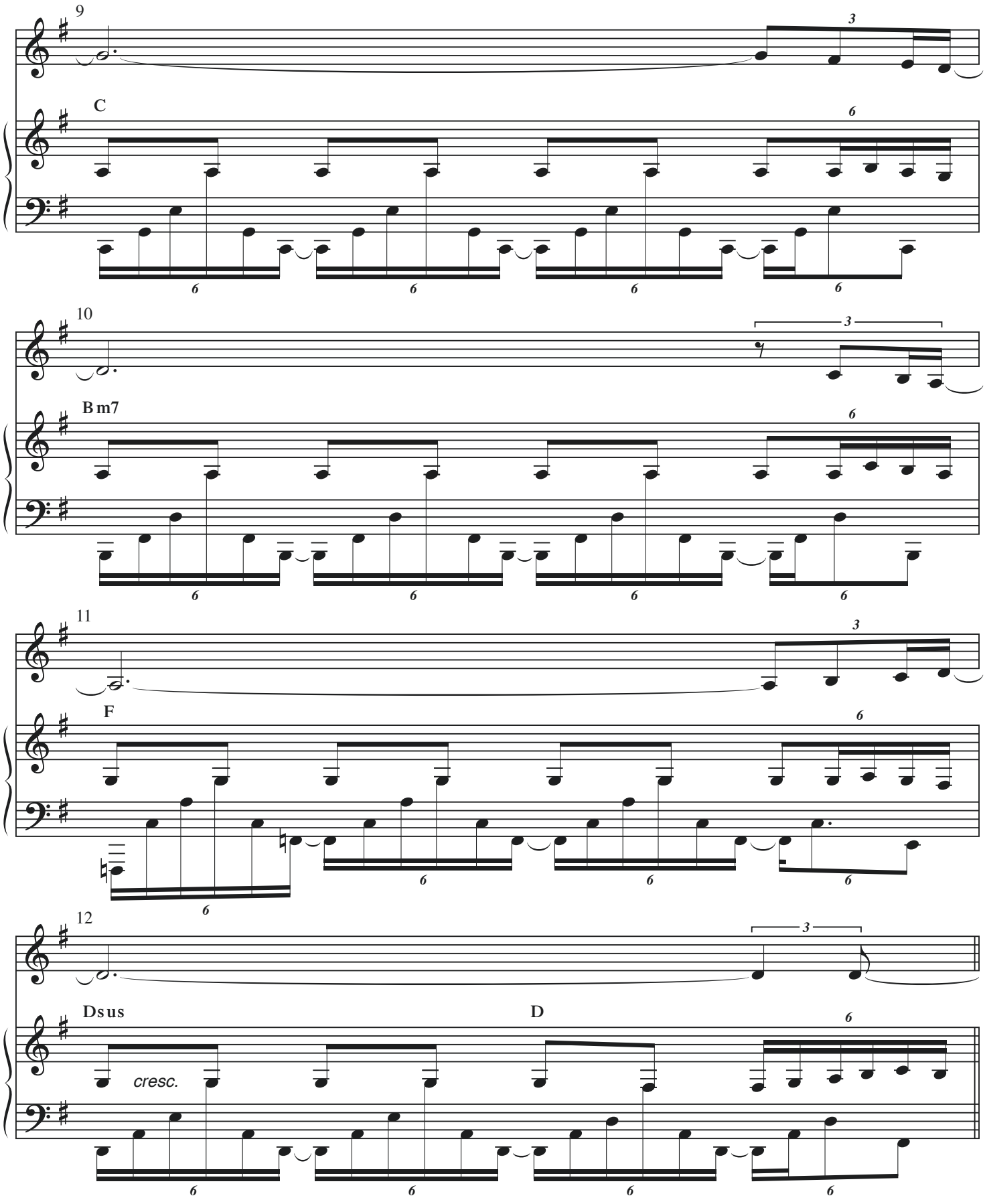
arr. by MATT JOHNSON (ASCAP)
www.MattJohnsonMusic.com

Flowing (♩ = circa 63)



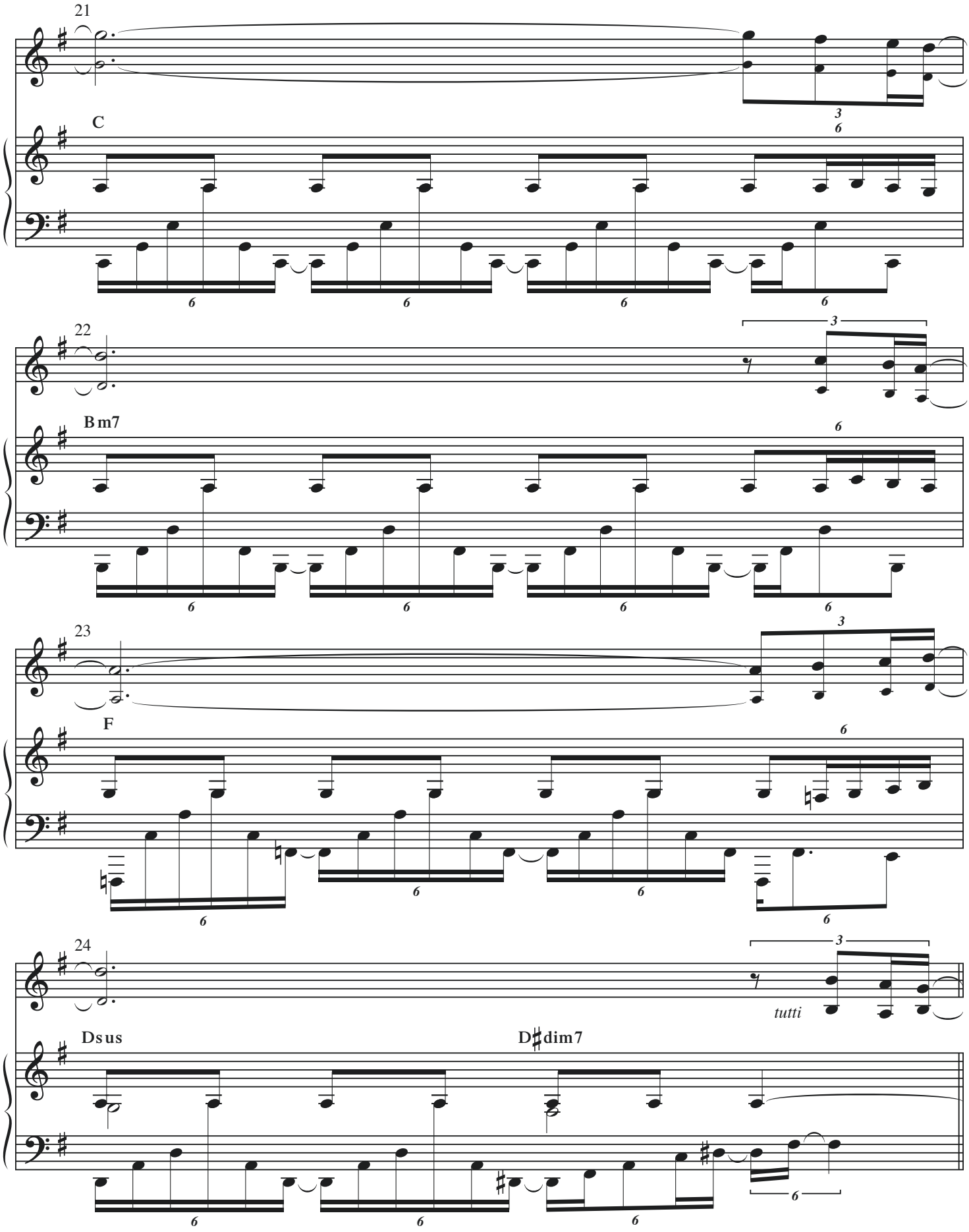
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5
G
p
6
6
6
6
3
6
D/F♯
6
6
6
6
3
7
Em
6
6
6
6
3
8
D
6
6
6
6
3


9
C
10
Bm7
11
F
12
Dsus
cresc.
D


13
G
mp
6
14
Em
15
G
16
3
* optional lower notes
mf
Em

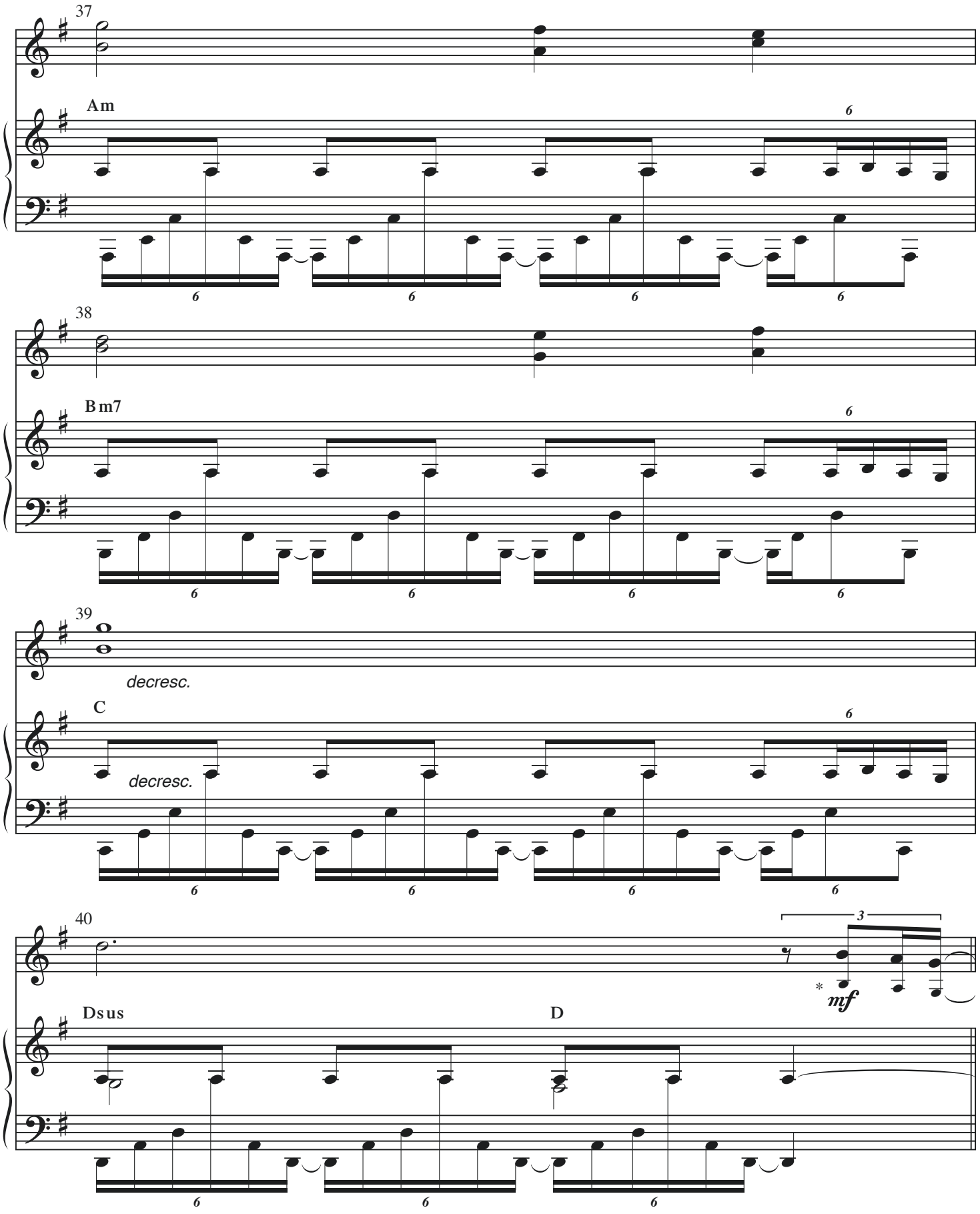

17
G
18
D/F♯
19
Em
20
D


21
C
22
Bm7
23
F
24
tutti
Dsus
D♯dim7


25
Em
26
D
27
C
28
B m7


29
Am
30
Bm7
31
cresc.
C
32
Dsus
cresc.
D♯dim7
f


33
Em
mf
34
D
35
C
36
B


37
Am
38
Bm7
39
decresc.
C
decresc.
40
Dsus
D
mf


41
G
mp
42
Em
43
G
44
Em
45
G

The First NOEL

3-octaves, or
2-octaves *(plus 2 bells)*
Bells needed: 18



• HANDBELL PART
• LEAD SHEET

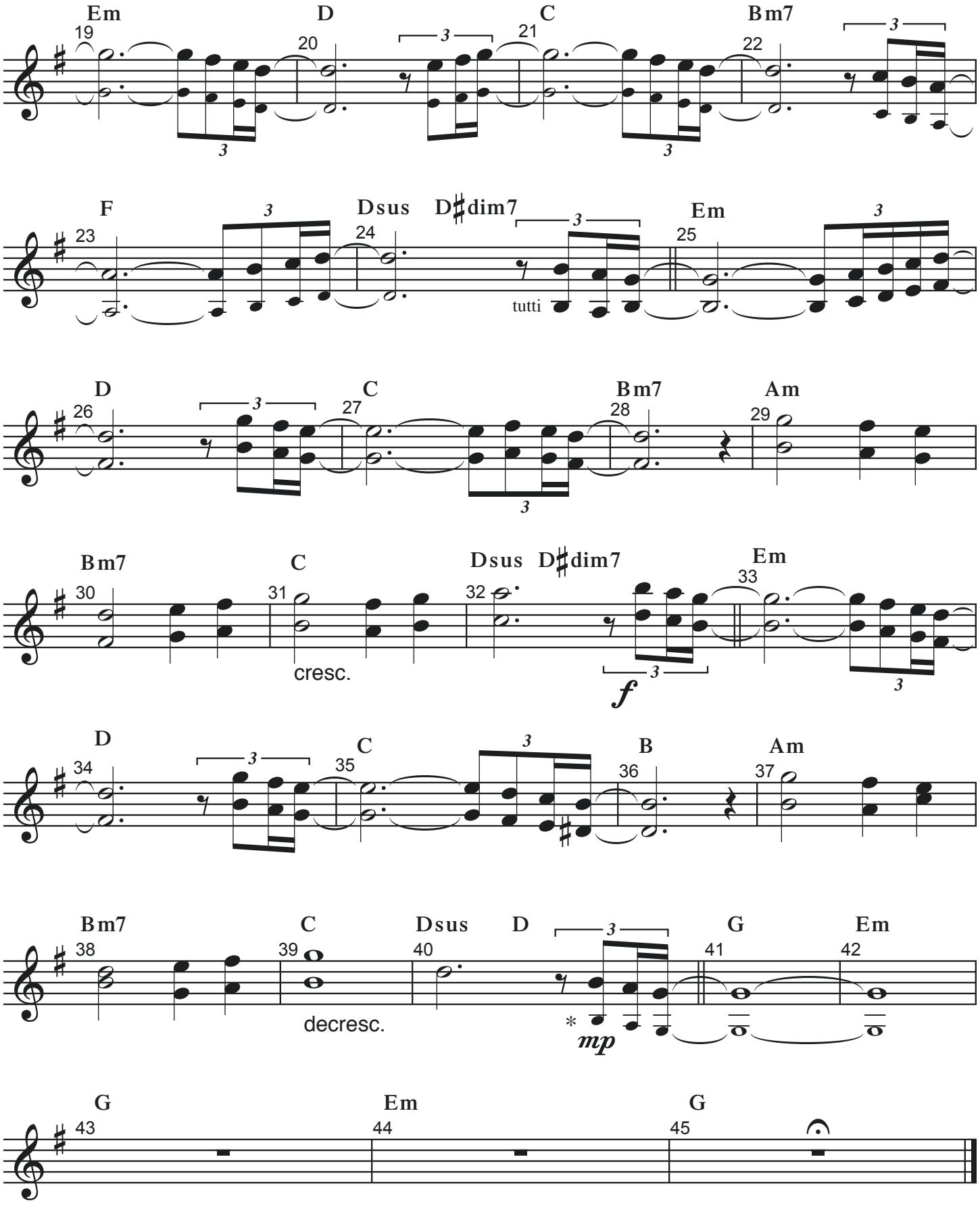
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Flowing (♩ = circa 63)



* *optional lower notes*

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Em
D
C
Bm7
19
20
21
22
F
Dsus
D♯dim7
Em
23
24
25
tutti
D
C
Bm7
Am
26
27
28
29
Bm7
C
Dsus
D♯dim7
Em
30
31
32
33
cresc.
f
D
C
B
Am
34
35
36
37
Bm7
C
Dsus
D
G
Em
38
39
40
41
42
decresc.
mp
G
Em
G
43
44
45

The First NOEL

for Solo Piano

by

Matt Johnson

www.MattJohnsonMusic.com

DOLCE & NUIT PRODUCTIONS

COMPOSER'S NOTES

This intimate adaptation features melodic handbells floating above the harmonic swirls of the piano. On the recording, elegantly sparse orchestration frames the hypnotic rhythm and lulls the listener into a peaceful mood. The work was created during Matt's 30+ year career as Director of Music within the church world. He often composed or arranged for the handbell choirs he directed.

- *The composer engraved this arrangement and acknowledges that clarity of intent often won over strict adherence to notational rules.*
- *While notated in 4/4 time signature, it may prove helpful to count as if in 12/8.*
- *The solo piano arrangement was originally created in the key of D major and later transposed to G major, in order to accommodate for handbells.*
- *Both key options are included. (I play it in the key of D major)*

The First NOEL



Peace,

Matt Johnson



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The First NOEL

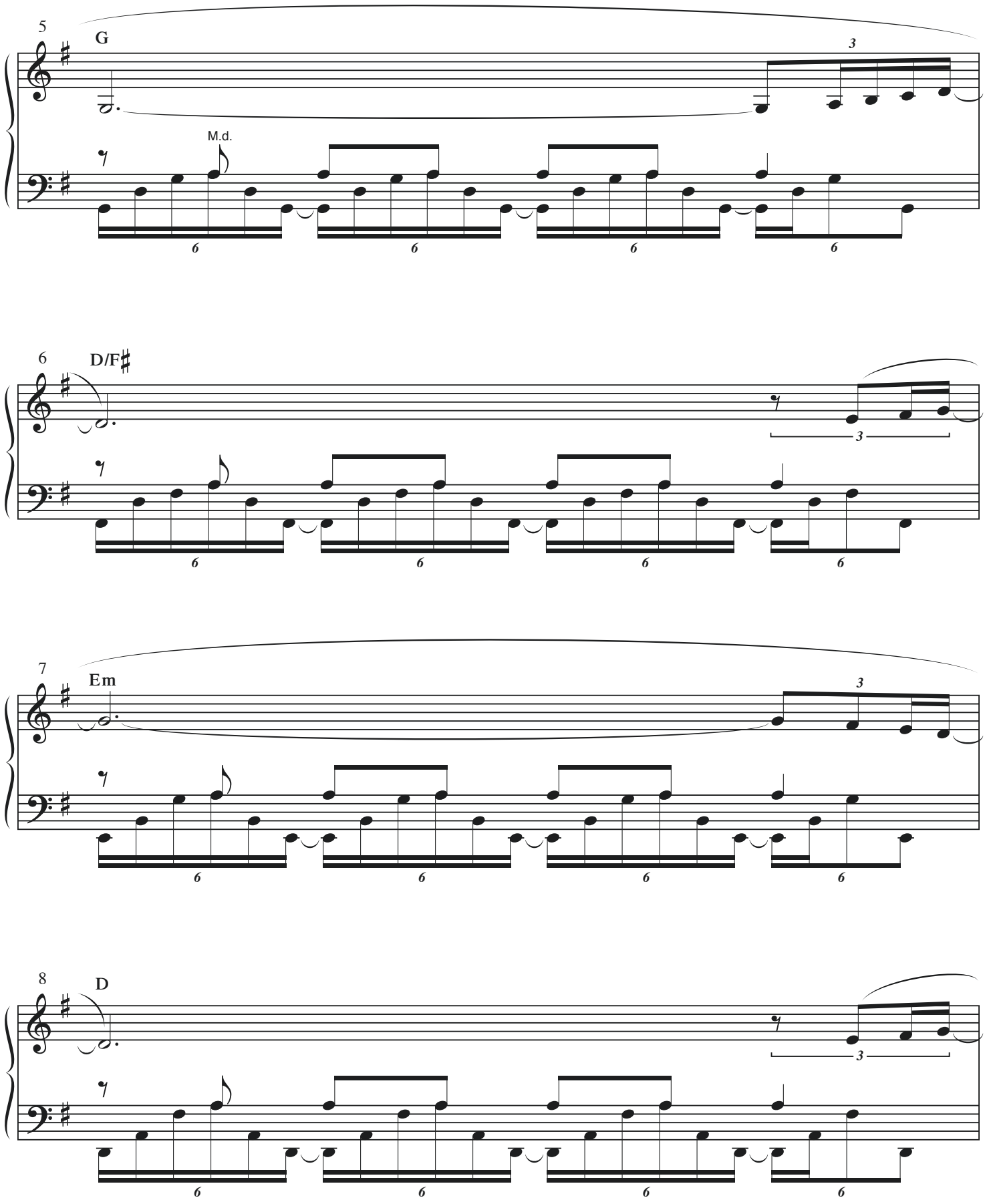
Key of G

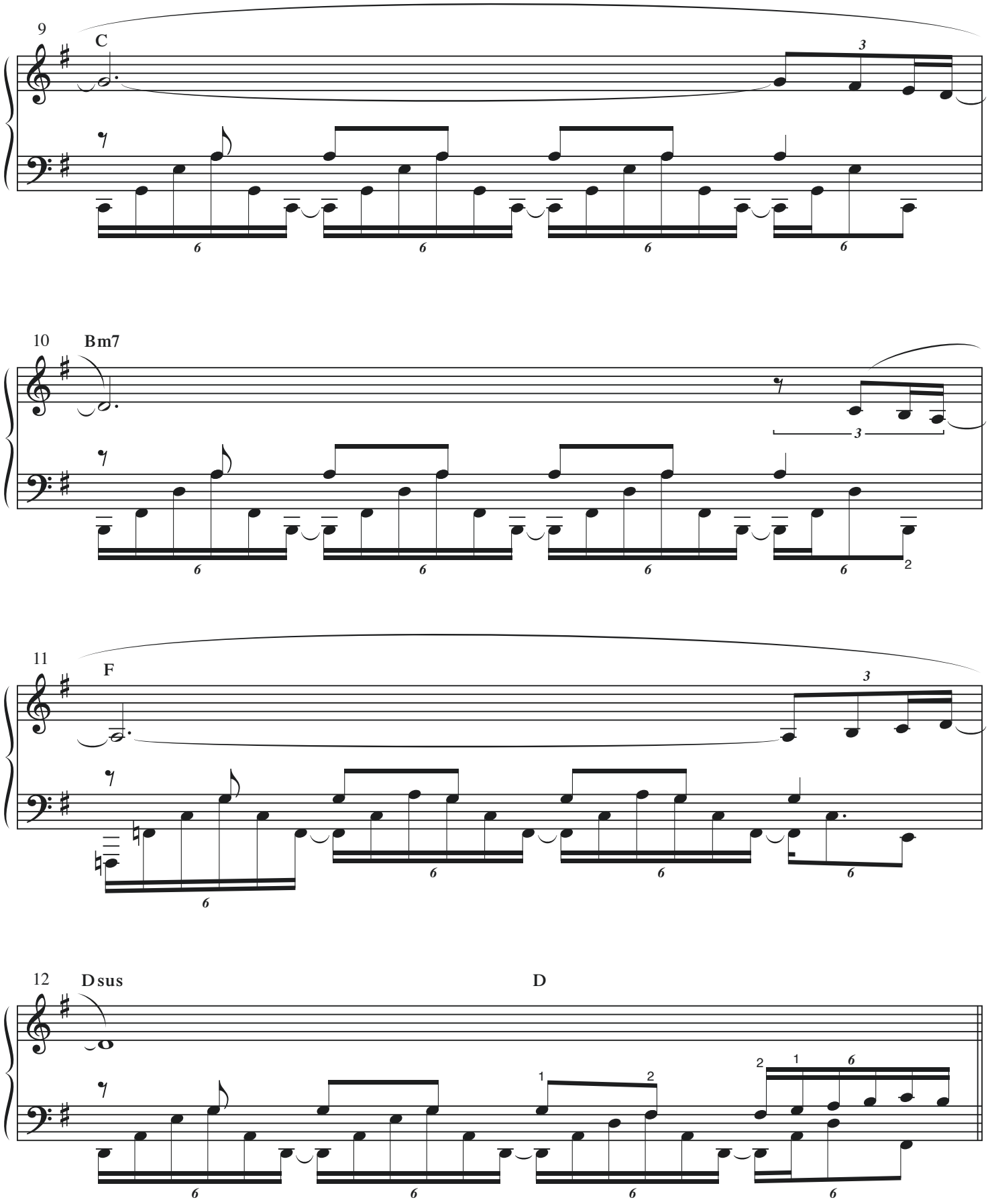
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Flowing *(12/8 feeling)*



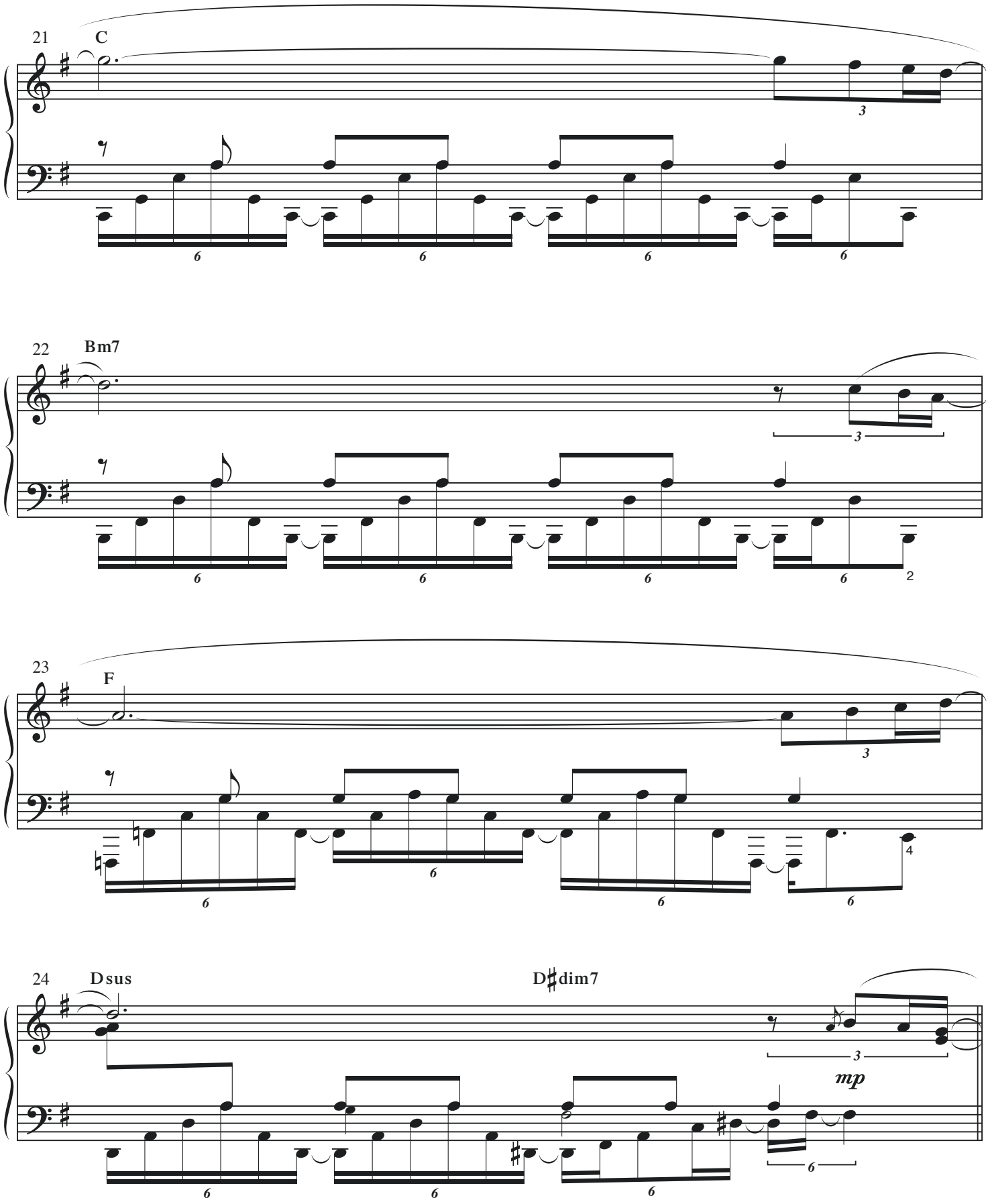
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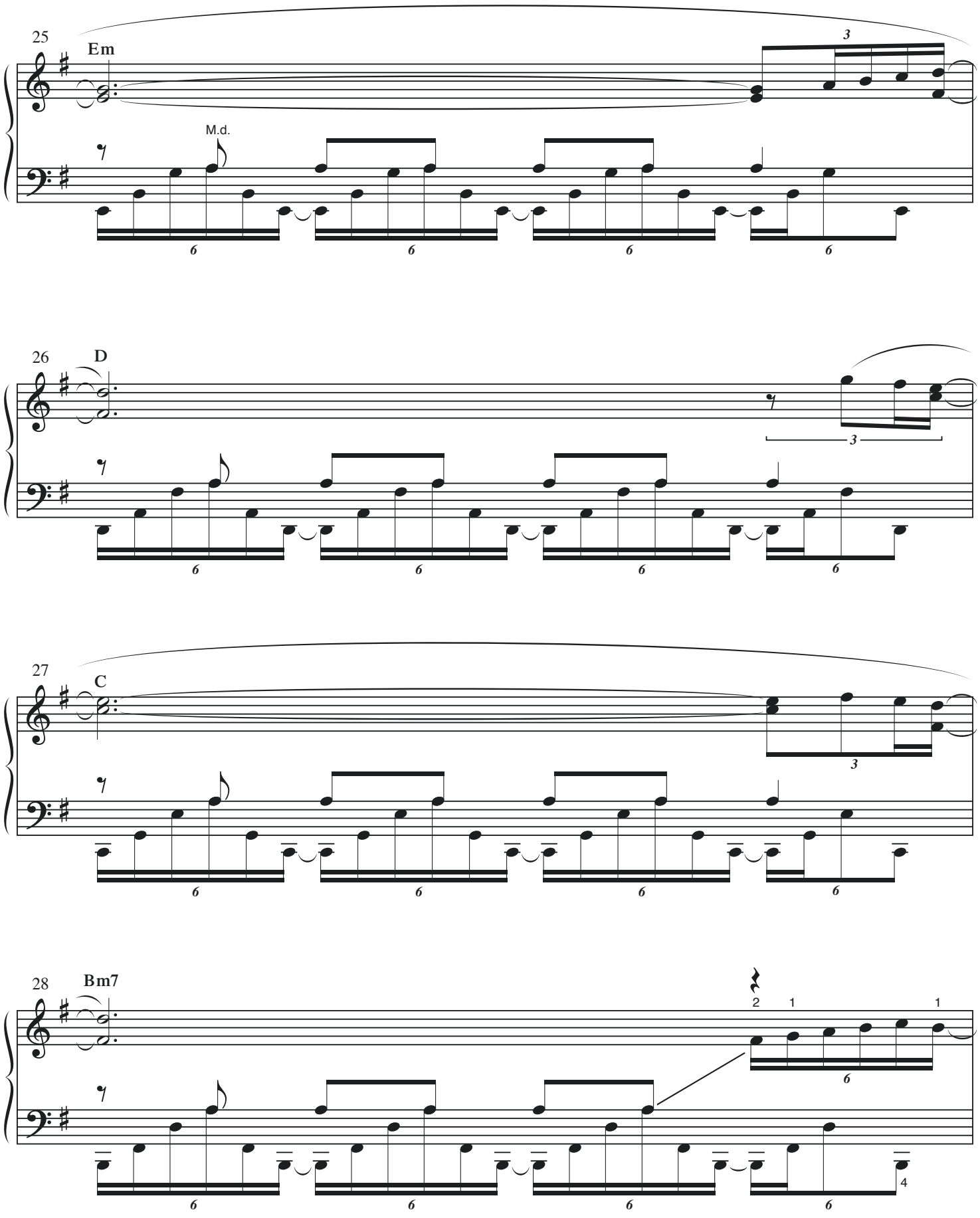

5
G
M.d.
6
D/F♯
7
Em
8
D


9
C
10
Bm7
11
F
12
Dsus
D

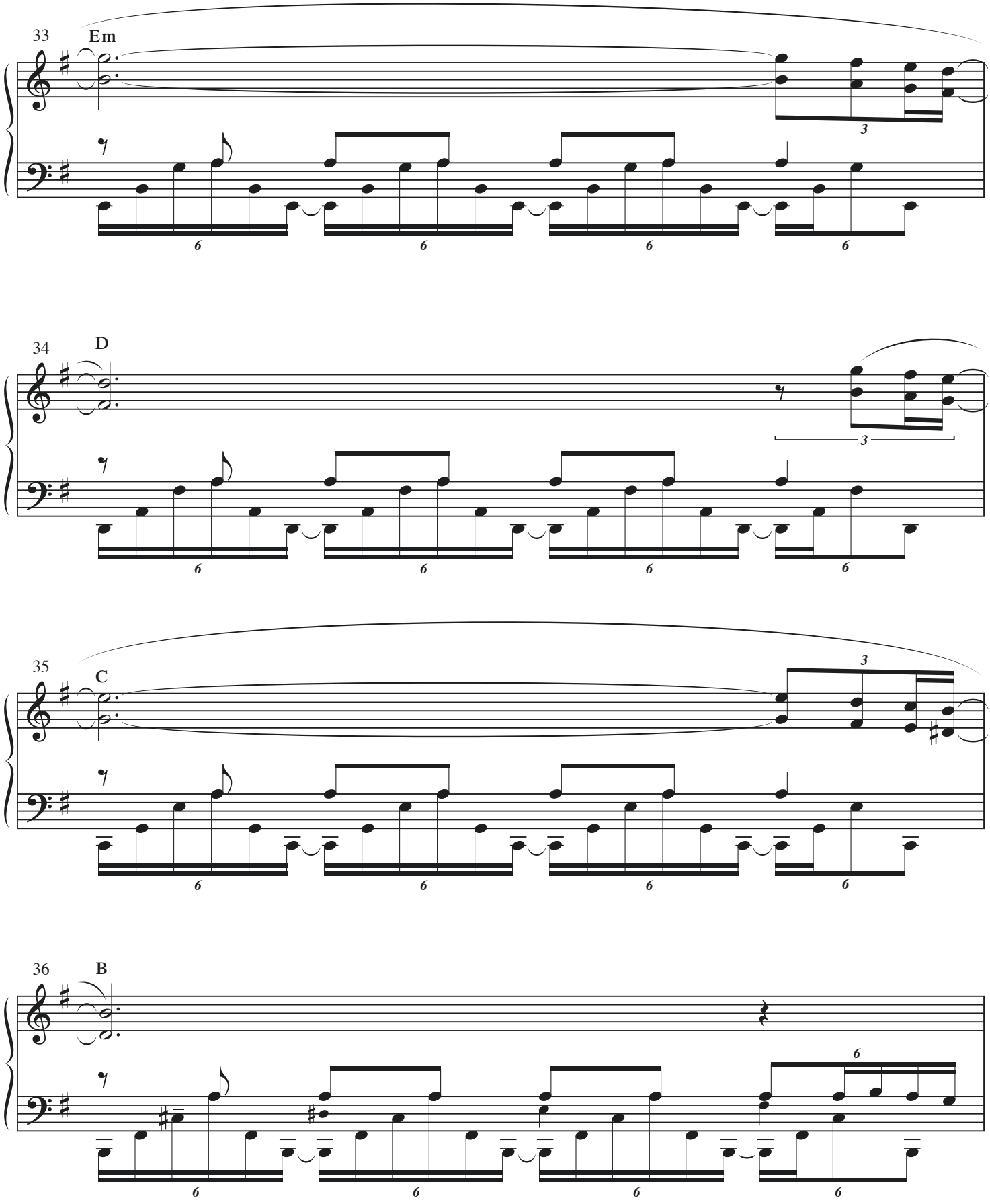

13
G
6
14
Em
cresc.
15
G
16
Em
3
mp


17
G
M.d.
18
D/F♯
19
Em
20
D


21
C
22
Bm7
23
F
24
Dsus
D♯dim7
mp


25
Em
M.d.
26
D
27
C
28
Bm7


29
Am
30
Bm7
31
C
cresc.
Dsus
32
D♯dim7
mf


33
Em
34
D
35
C
36
B


37
Am
6
38
Bm7
6
39
C
decresc.
6
40
Dsus
D
M.d.
3
mp


41
G
6
42
Em
decresc.
6
43
G
6
44
Em
6
p
G
M.d.
6

The First NOEL

Key of D
(original key)

arr. by MATT JOHNSON (ASCAP)
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Flowing *(12/8 feeling)*



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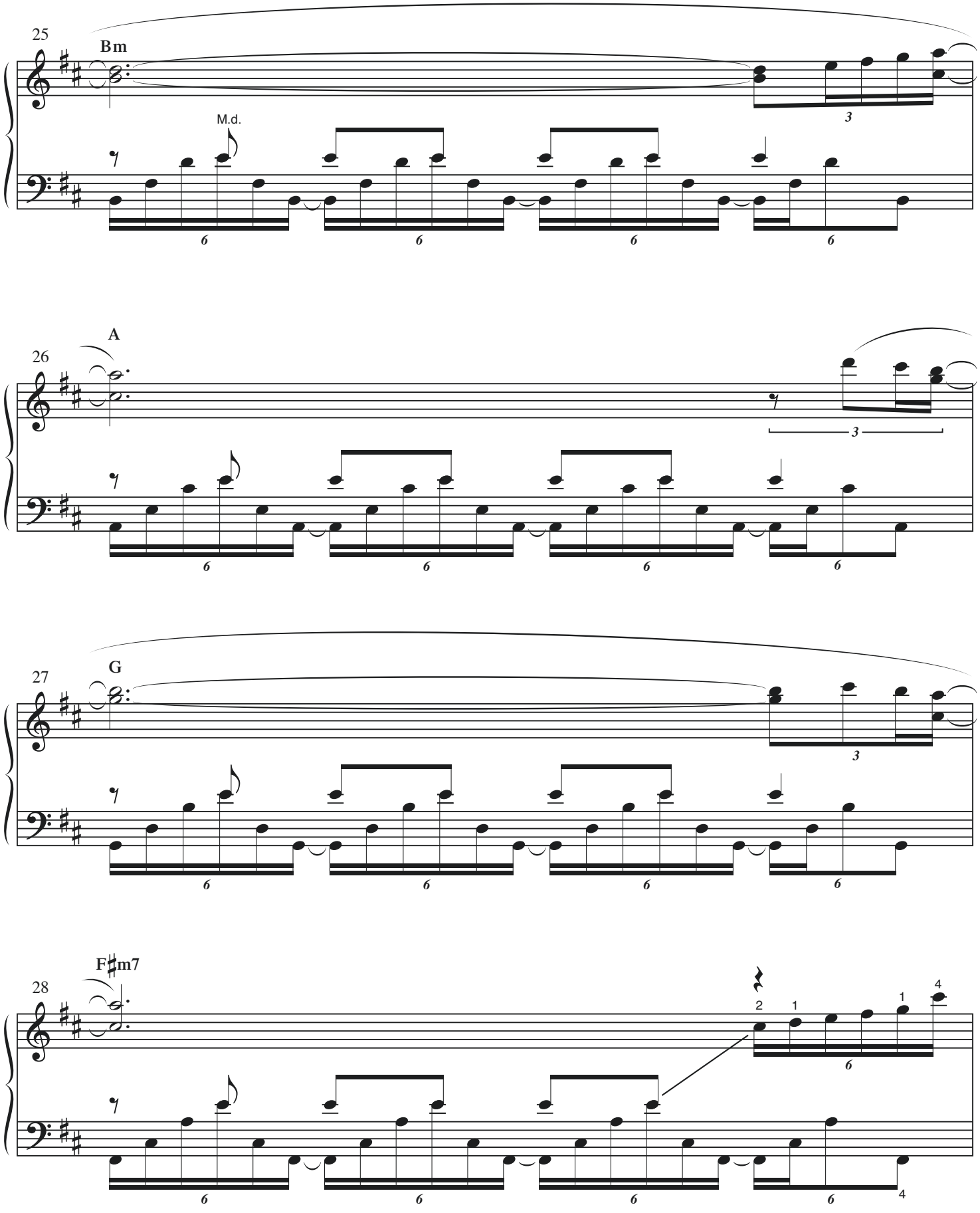

5
D
M.d.
6
A/C♯
7
Bm
8
A


9
G
10
F♯m7
11
C
12
A sus
A

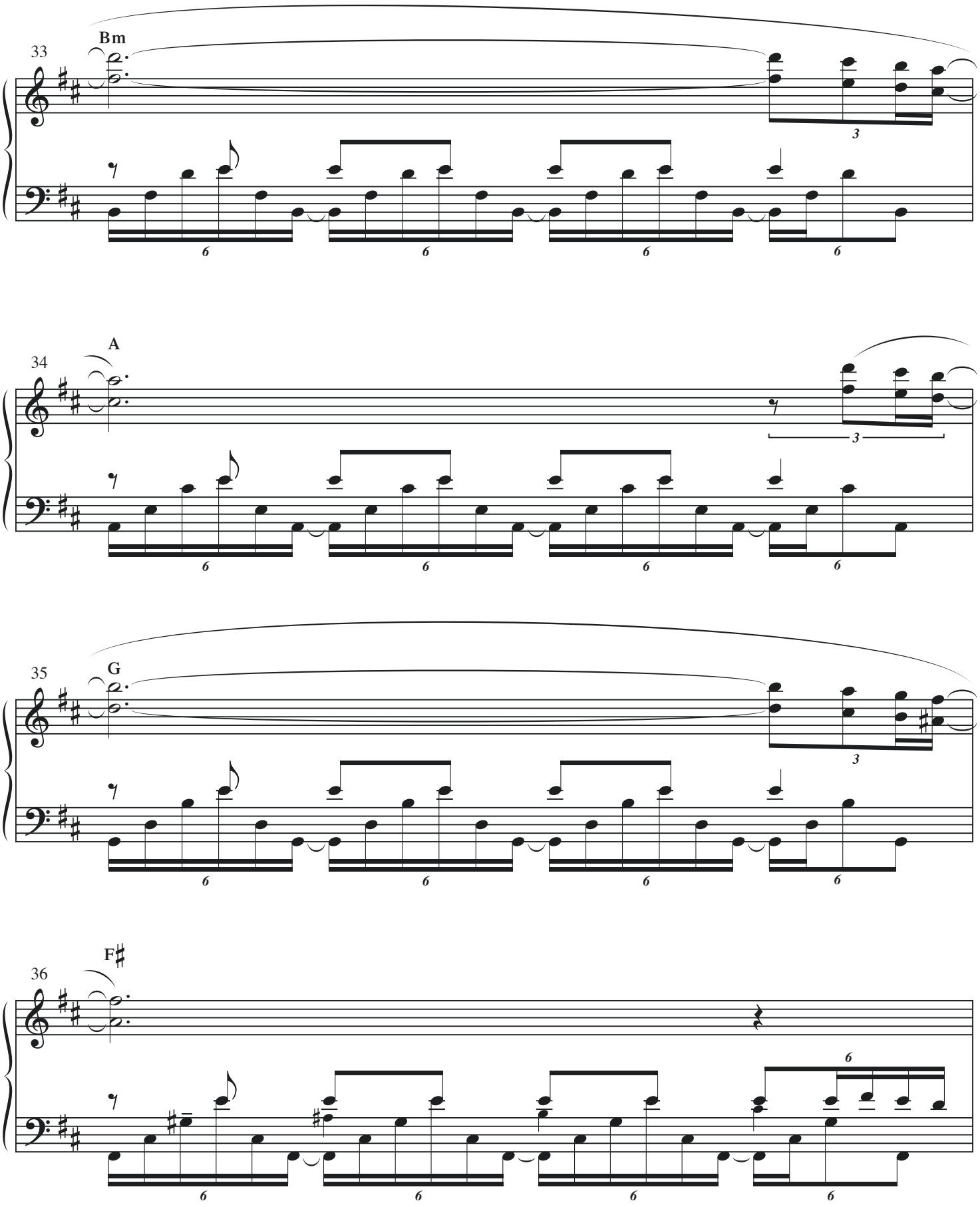

13
D
14
Bm
cresc.
15
D
16
Bm
3
mp


17
D
M.d.
18
A/C♯
19
Bm
20
A


21
G
22
F♯m7
23
C
24
A sus
A♯dim7
mp


25
Bm
M.d.
26
A
27
G
28
F♯m7

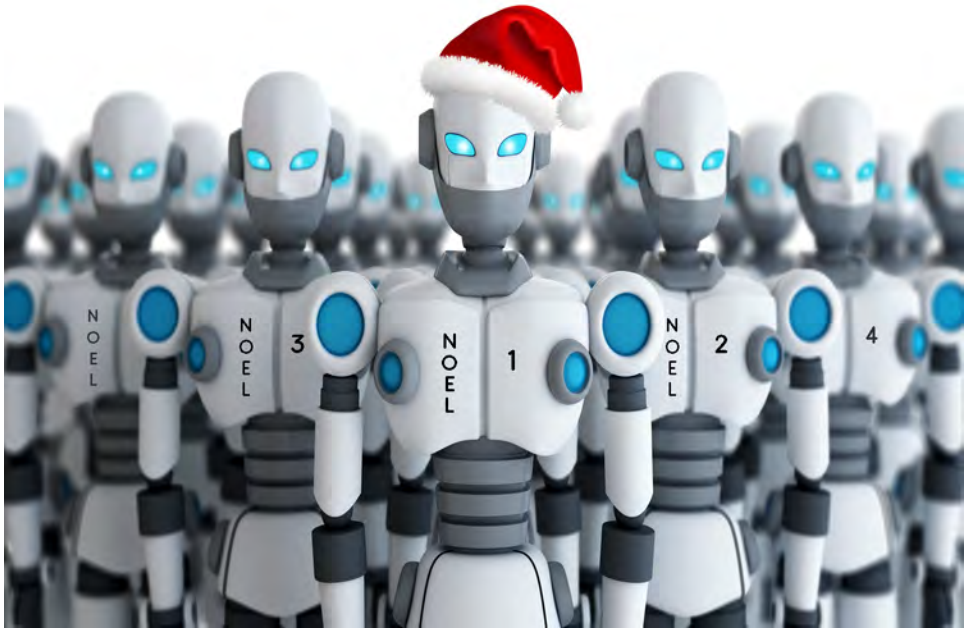

Em
29
F♯m7
30
G
31
cresc.
A sus
32
A♯dim7
mf


33
Bm
34
A
35
G
36
F♯


Em
37
6
6
6
6
6
F♯m7
38
6
6
6
6
6
G
39
decresc.
6
6
6
6
6
A sus
40
A
3
mp
M.d.
6
6
6


41
D
42
Bm
decresc.
43
D
44
Bm
p
D
M.d.

The First NOEL



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Peace,





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