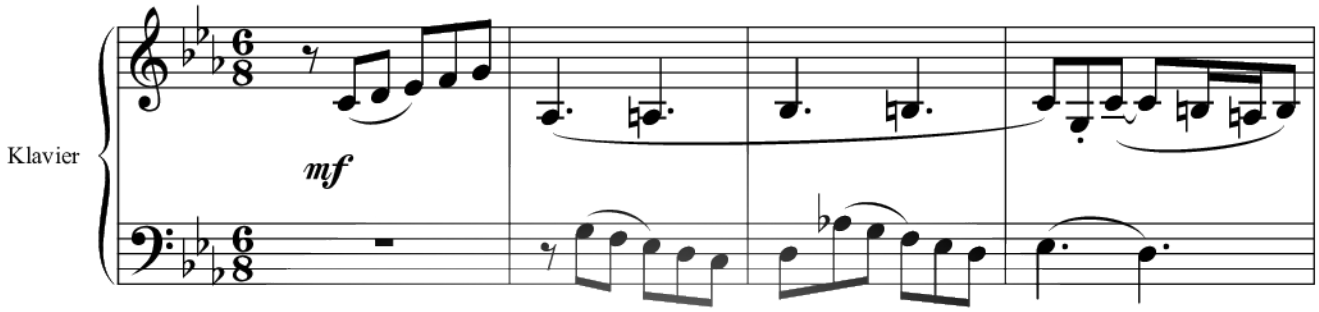
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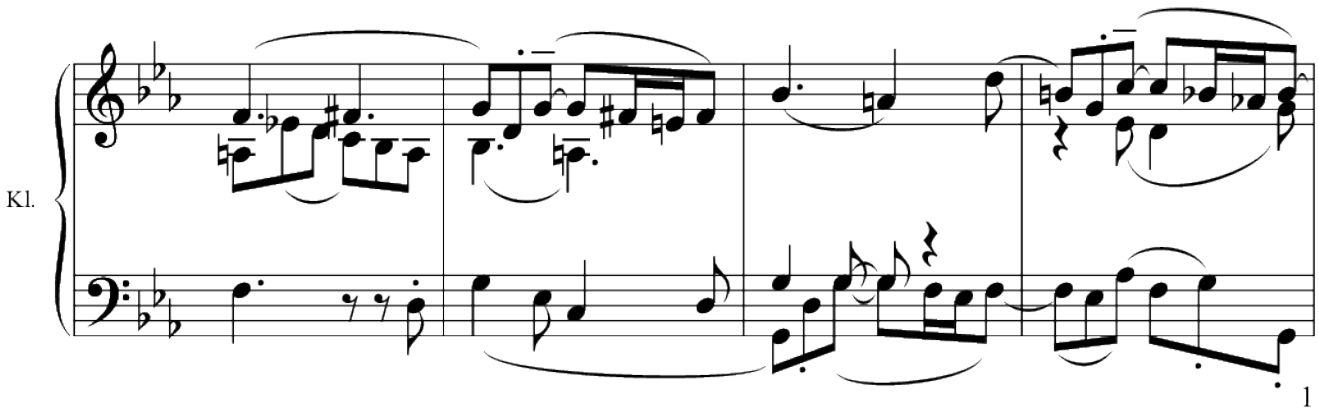
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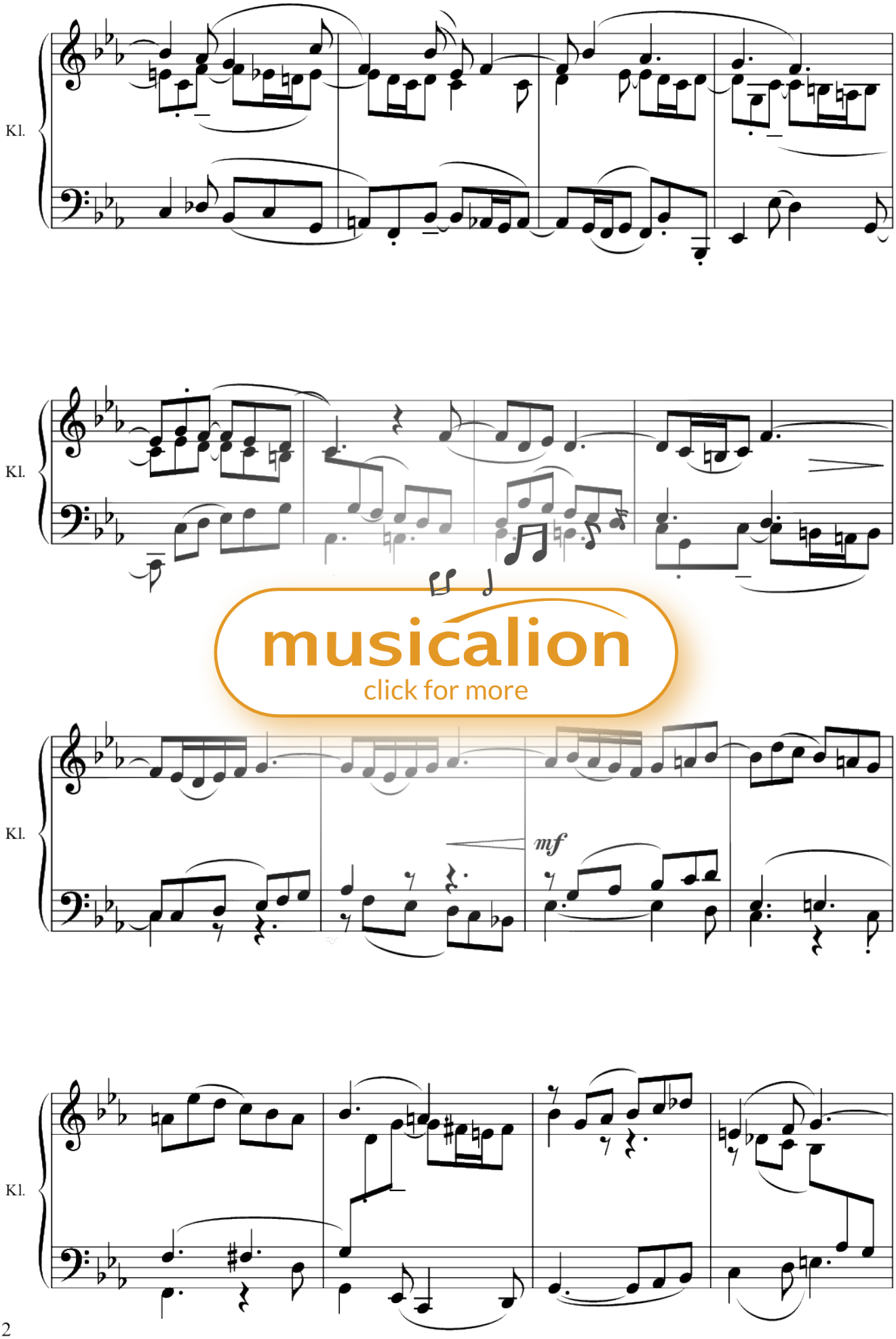
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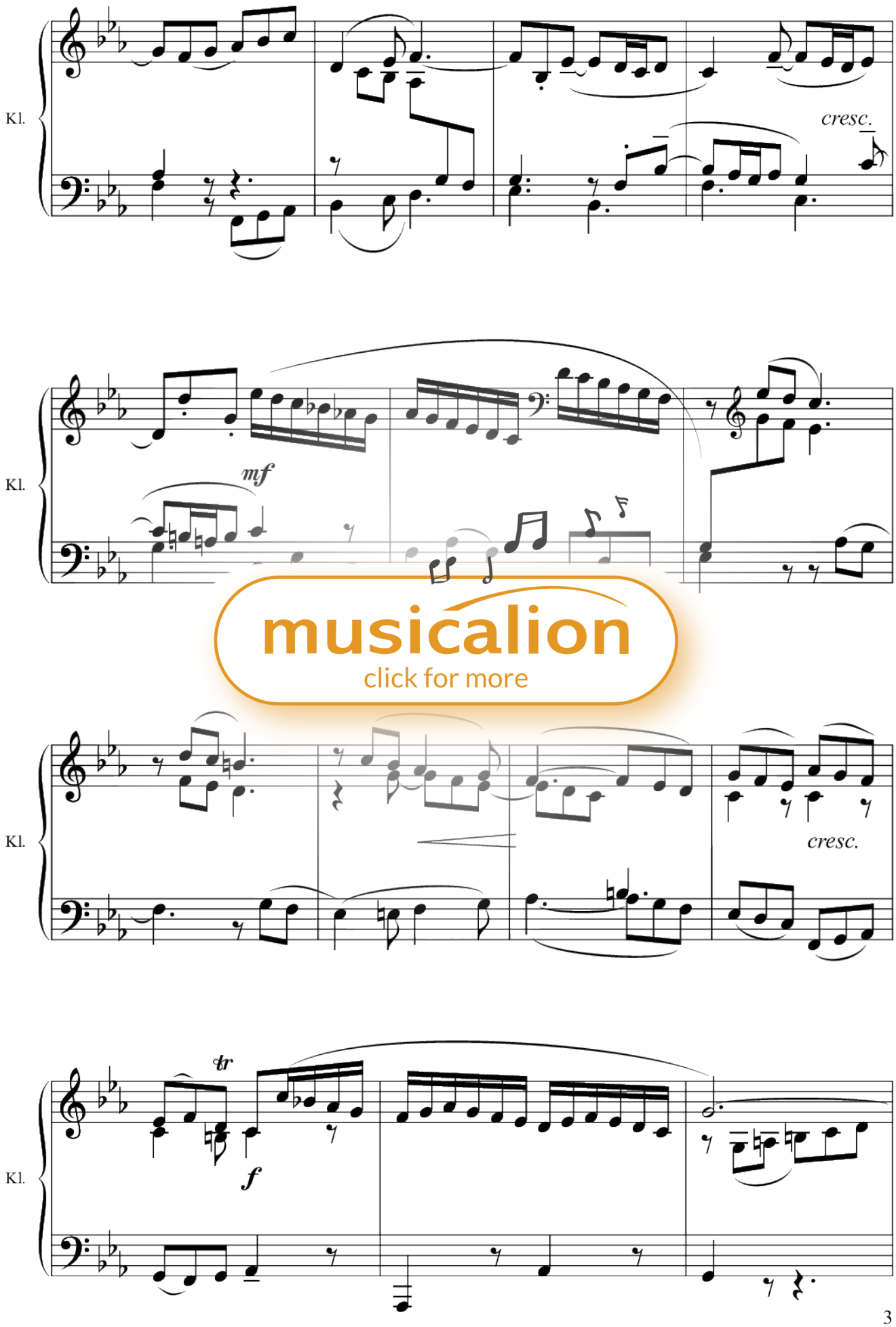


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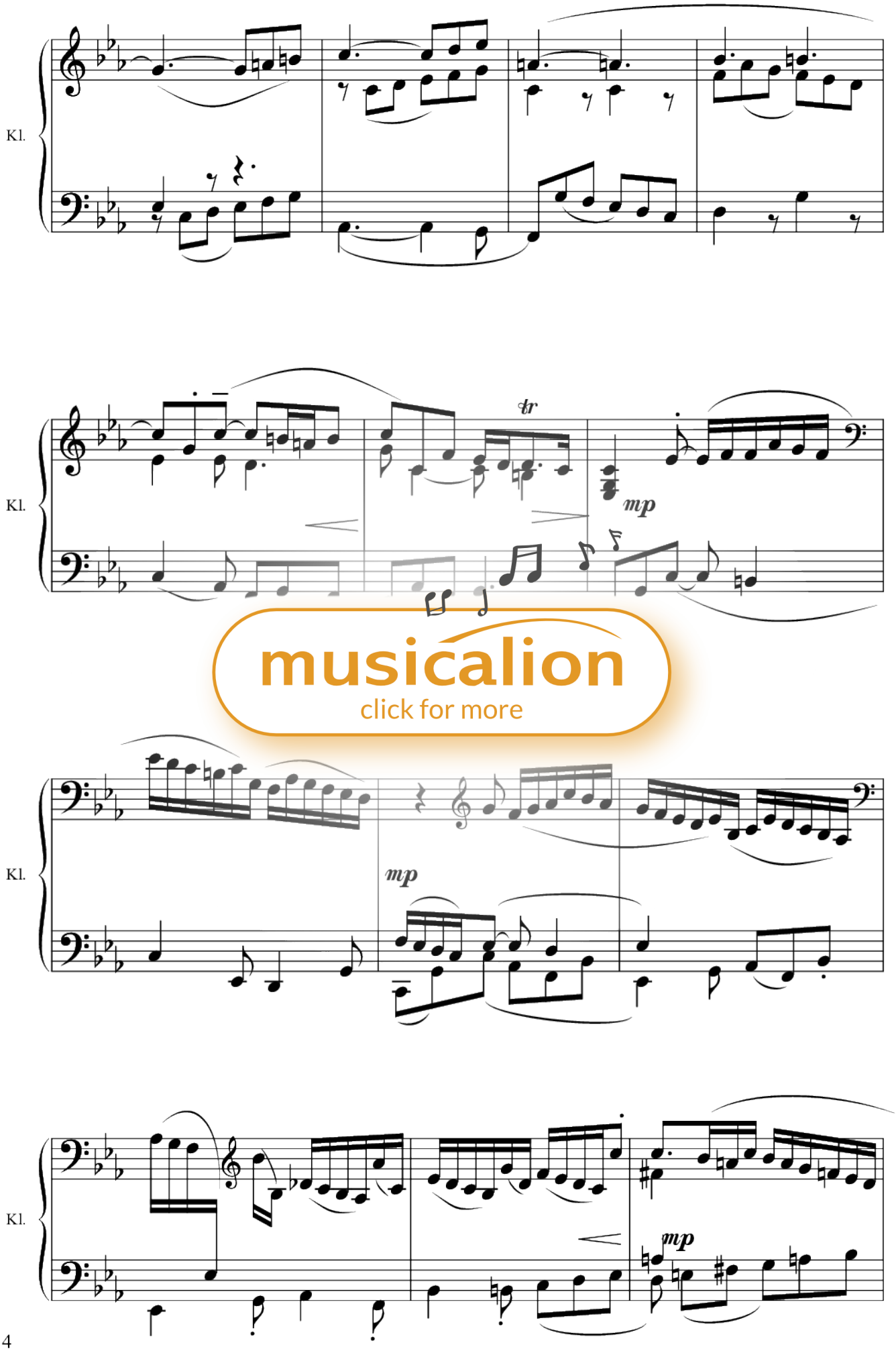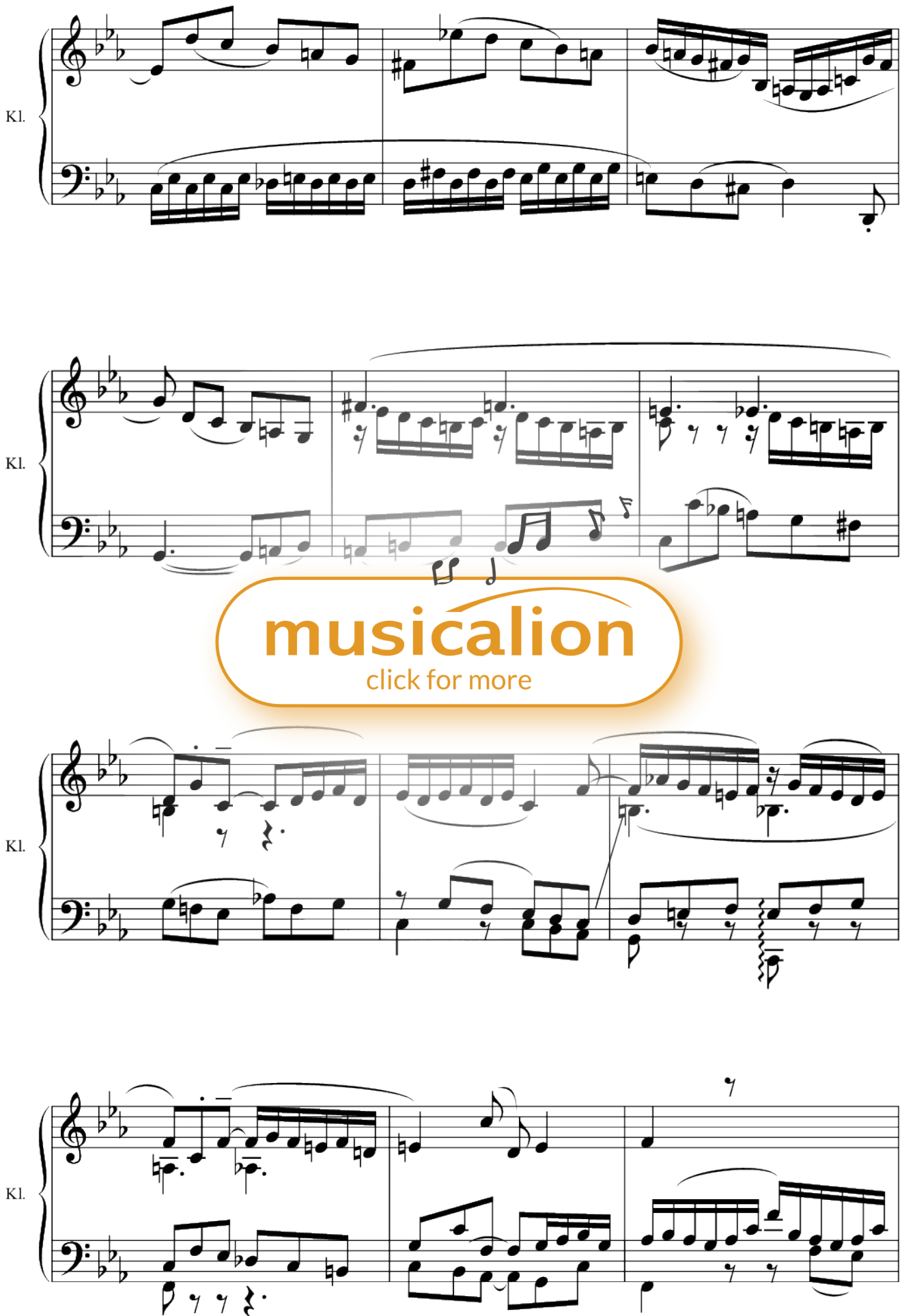






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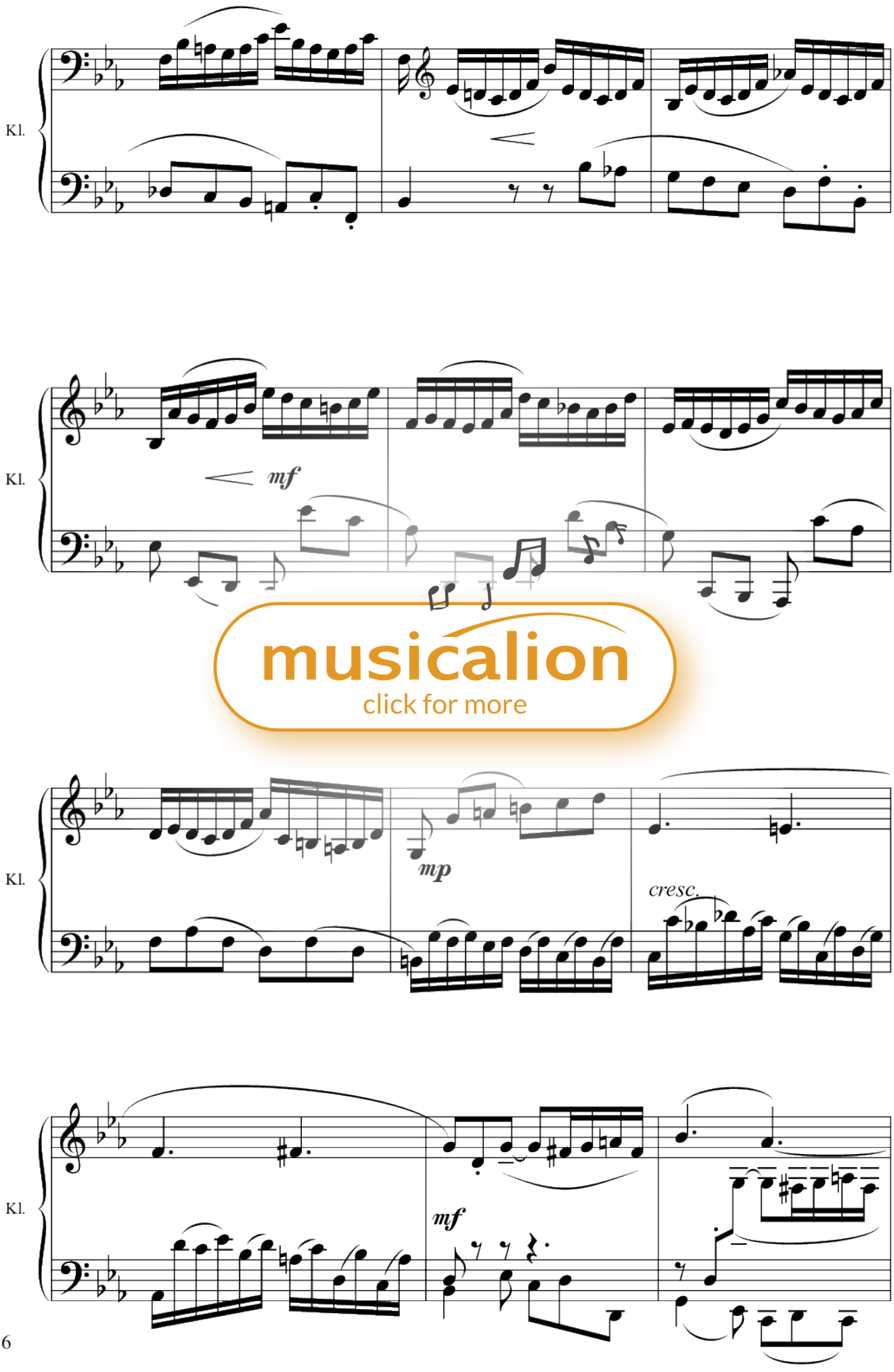


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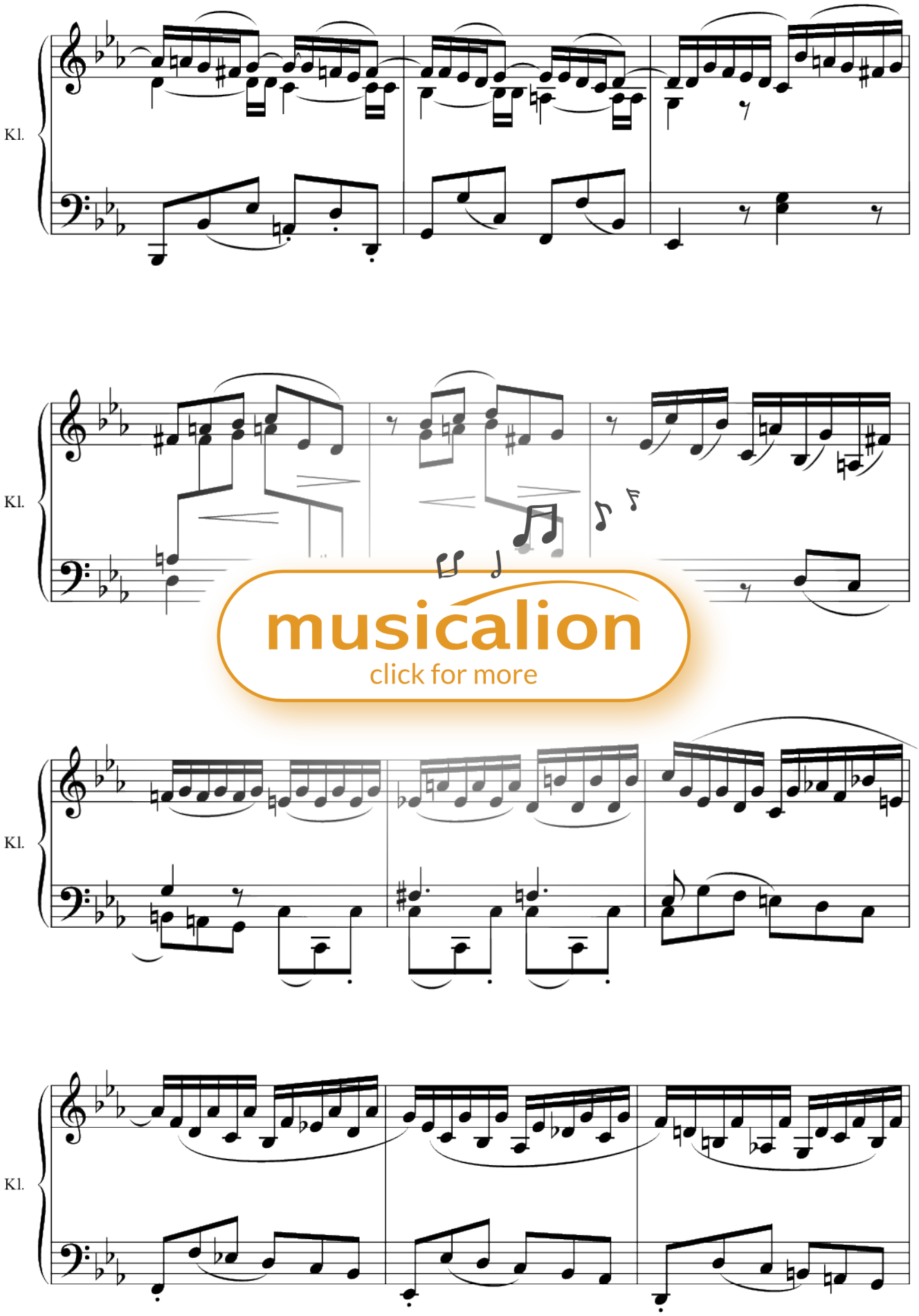


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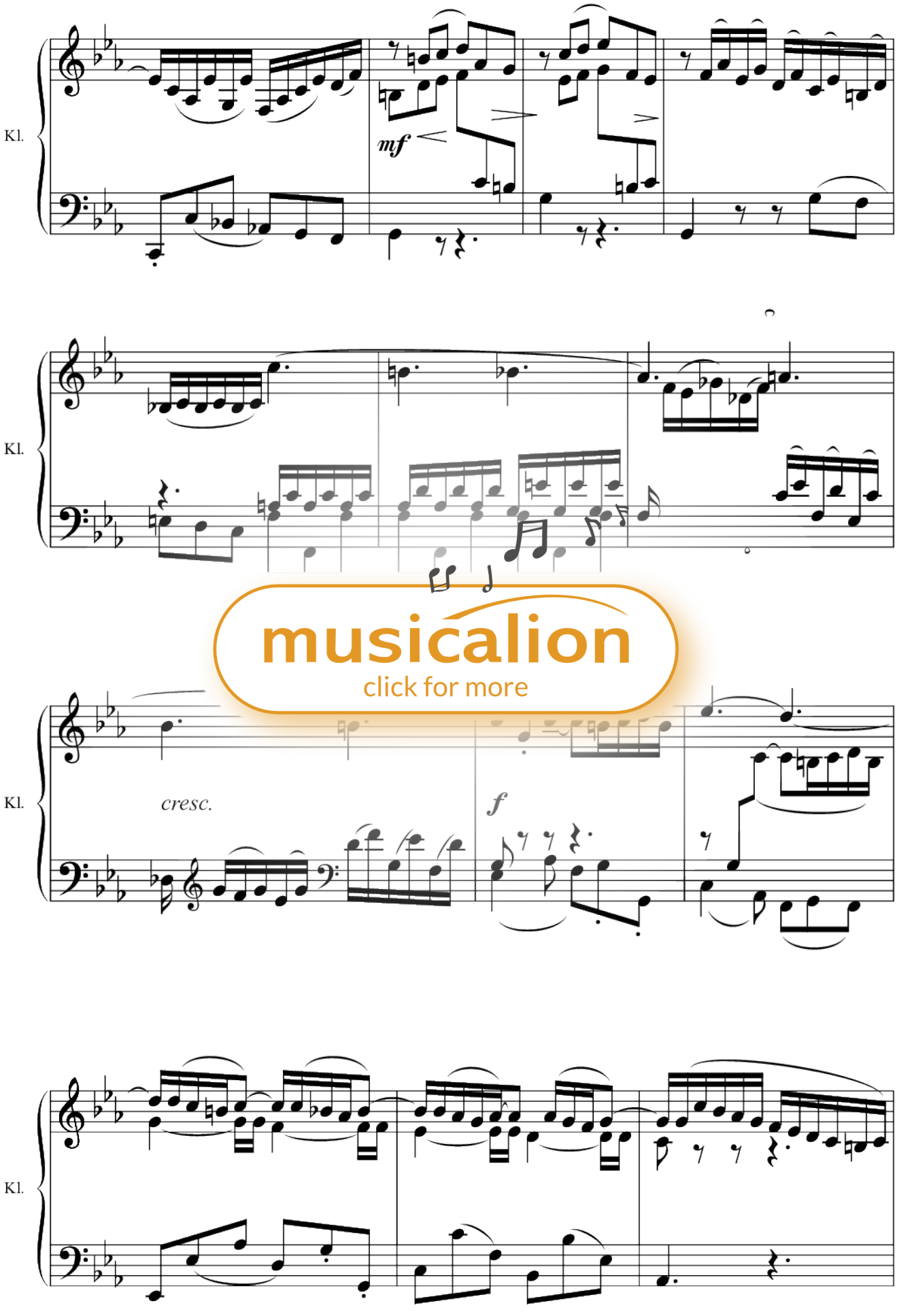


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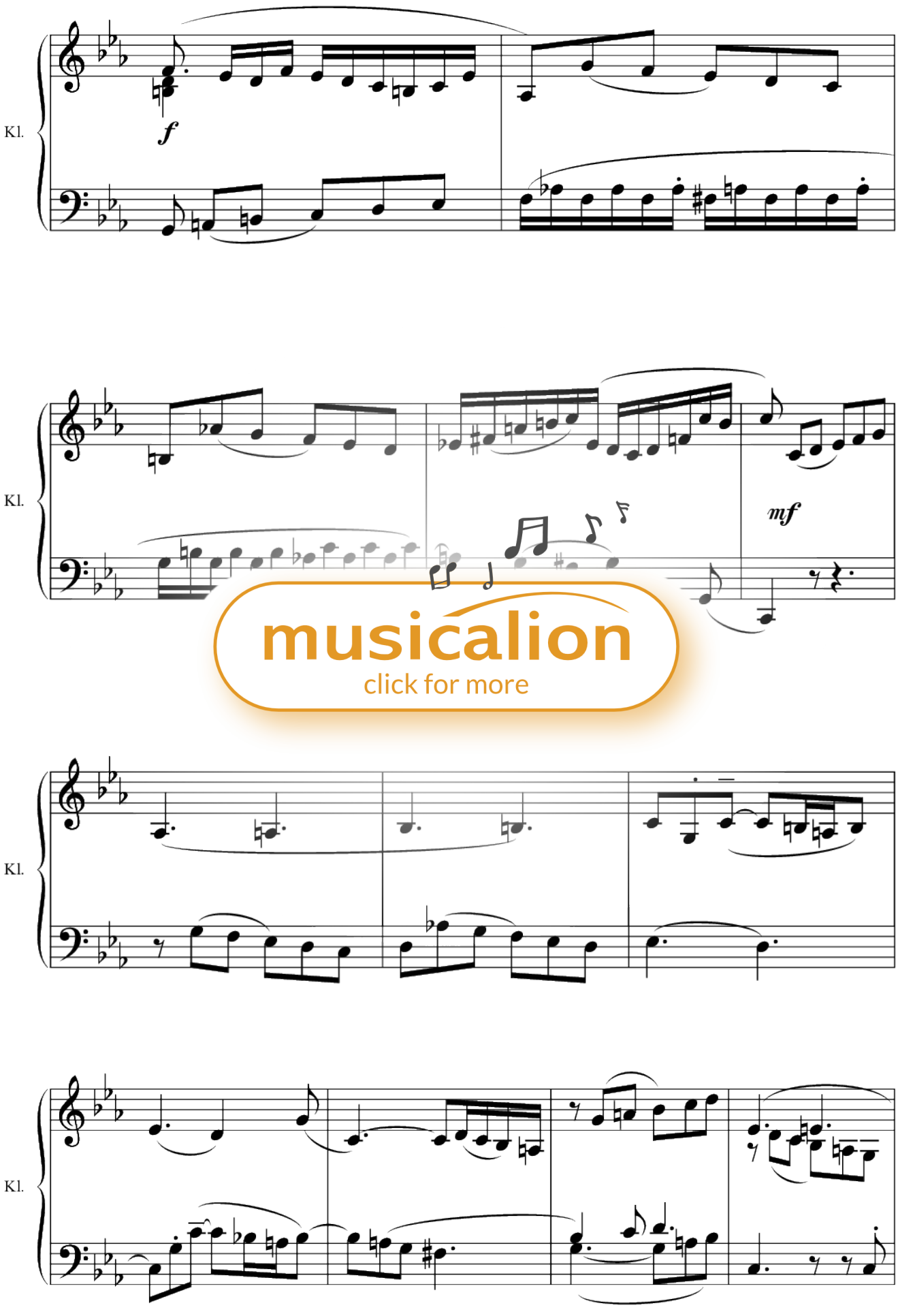


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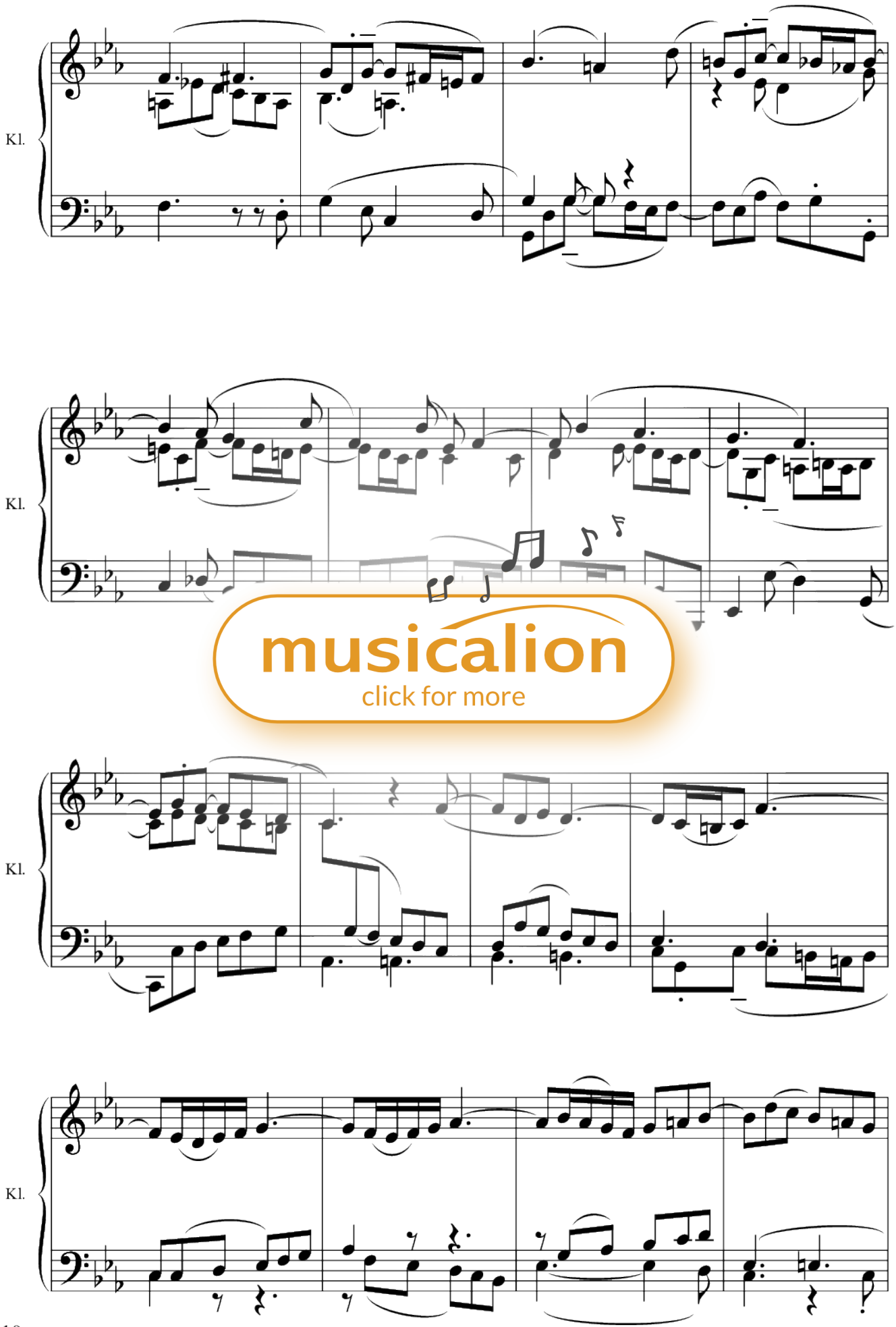


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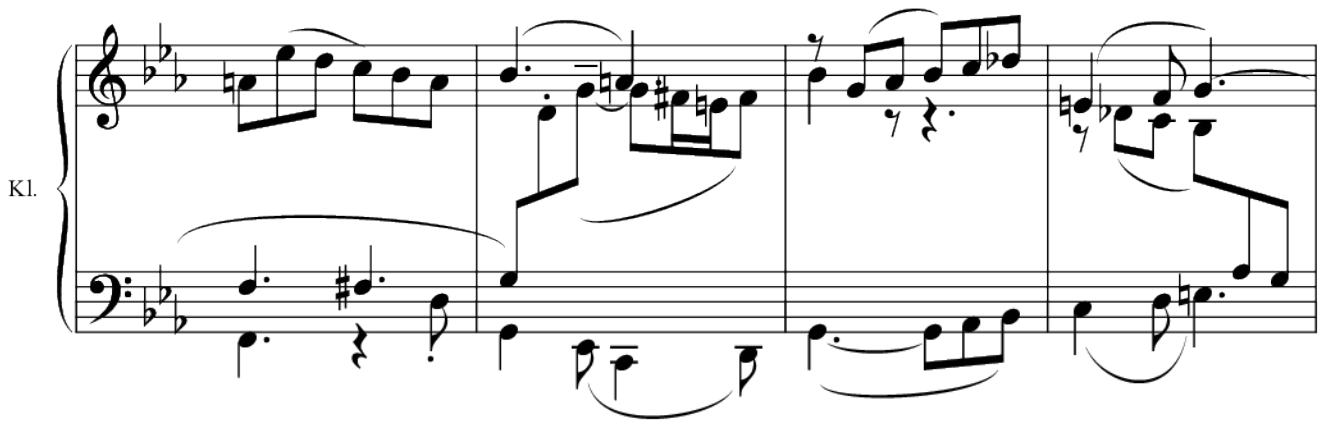

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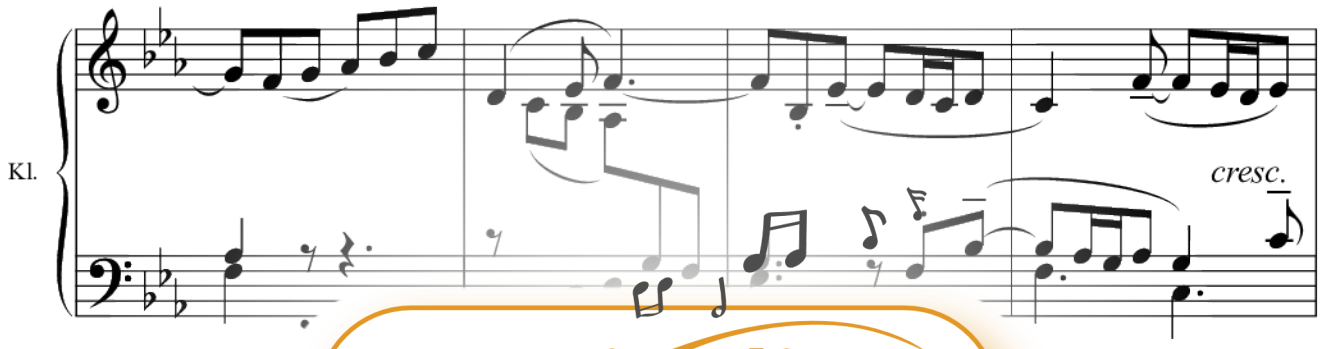


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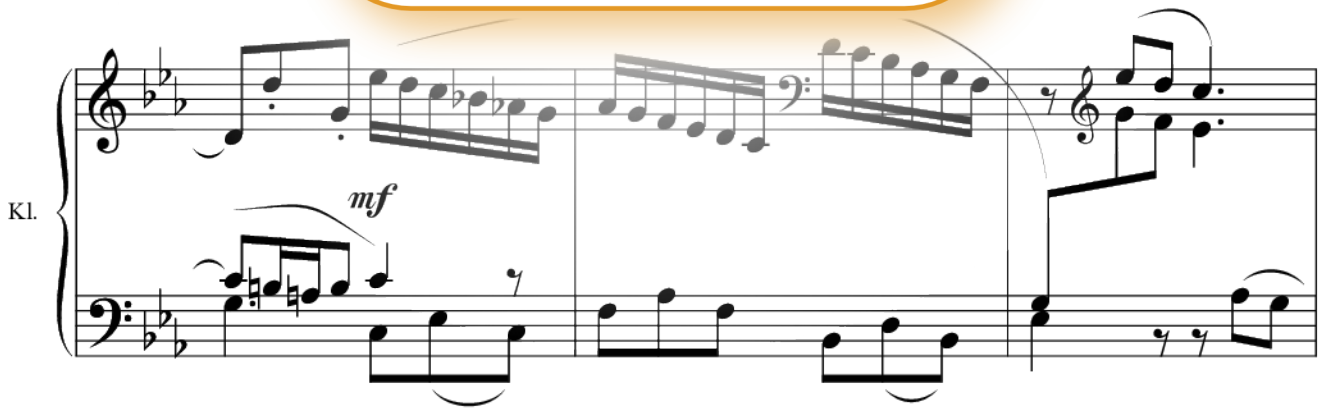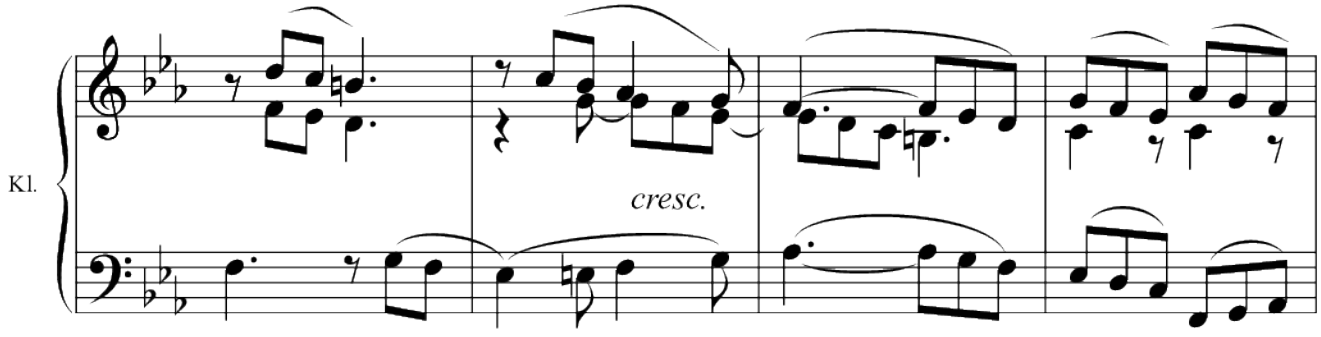


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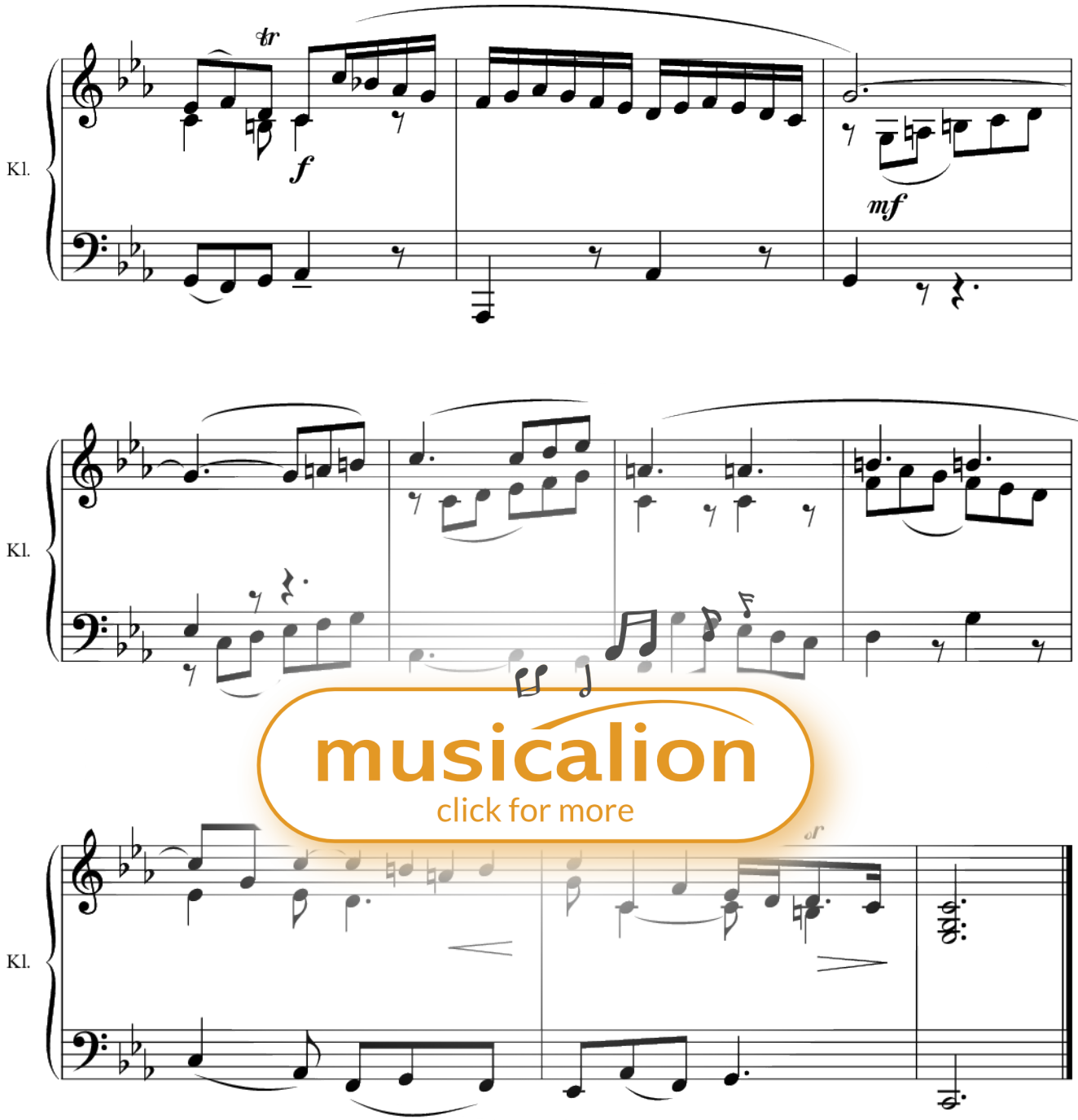




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Type: Sheet music

Título: Lute Suite - Movement 2 Fuge Allegro

Compositor: Johann Sebastian Bach

Época: Barroco

Tema: .Misceláneas

Categoría: Suites

Dificultad: Mittel bis schwer

Instrumentación Grupo: Teclado solo

Arrangement: Piano

Instrumentación: *Piano = Pno(1)*

The present version of Johann Sebastian's Suite in C-minor BWV 997 was prepared by Howard Ferguson, an Irish composer and musicologist, in 1949. Like Robert Franz before him, who made an arrangement of the Suite BWV 997 for piano in 1881, Ferguson intensively studied the copies of a lost autograph by J.S. Bach in various music libraries in Germany. He finally decided to make the present arrangement for piano. It is simpler than the arrangement by R. Franz and transposes the part for the right hand an octave lower, thereby reducing the distance between the bass and soprano, which greatly improves playability on the piano. This applies in particular to the three-part fugue, where the middle voice constantly alternates between the right and left hand. This fugue is very unusual as part of a suite. It also surpasses Bach's numerous fugues for keyboard instruments in terms of length. The opening movement is a two-part prelude and thus follows the style of Bach's English and French suites for harpsichord.
The opening theme of the chord-rich sarabande is reminiscent of the final chorus from Bach's St. Matthew Passion, while the gigue has the typical character of Bach's harpsichord suites. Bach normally ends his suites with a gigue. Here, however, he has added a variation (double). All in all, the suite in C-minor is very different from the other suites for harpsichord, which could indicate that it was actually intended for lute. Today, at any rate, it is performed exclusively in this form. I am not aware of any recording for

piano or harpsichord, whereas there are numerous recordings for lute (on YouTube, for example). It would be all the more appealing if a pianist were to perform this work in public or release a recording of it.

This musical text largely corresponds to Howard Ferguson's arrangement. I have merely made a few additions to the dynamics and alterations to the notation (for example in bars 122 and 123 of the fugue) in order to improve readability.

Bremen, September 2025, Johannes Westendorf