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Scott Joplin
1868 - 1917)

Ragtimes

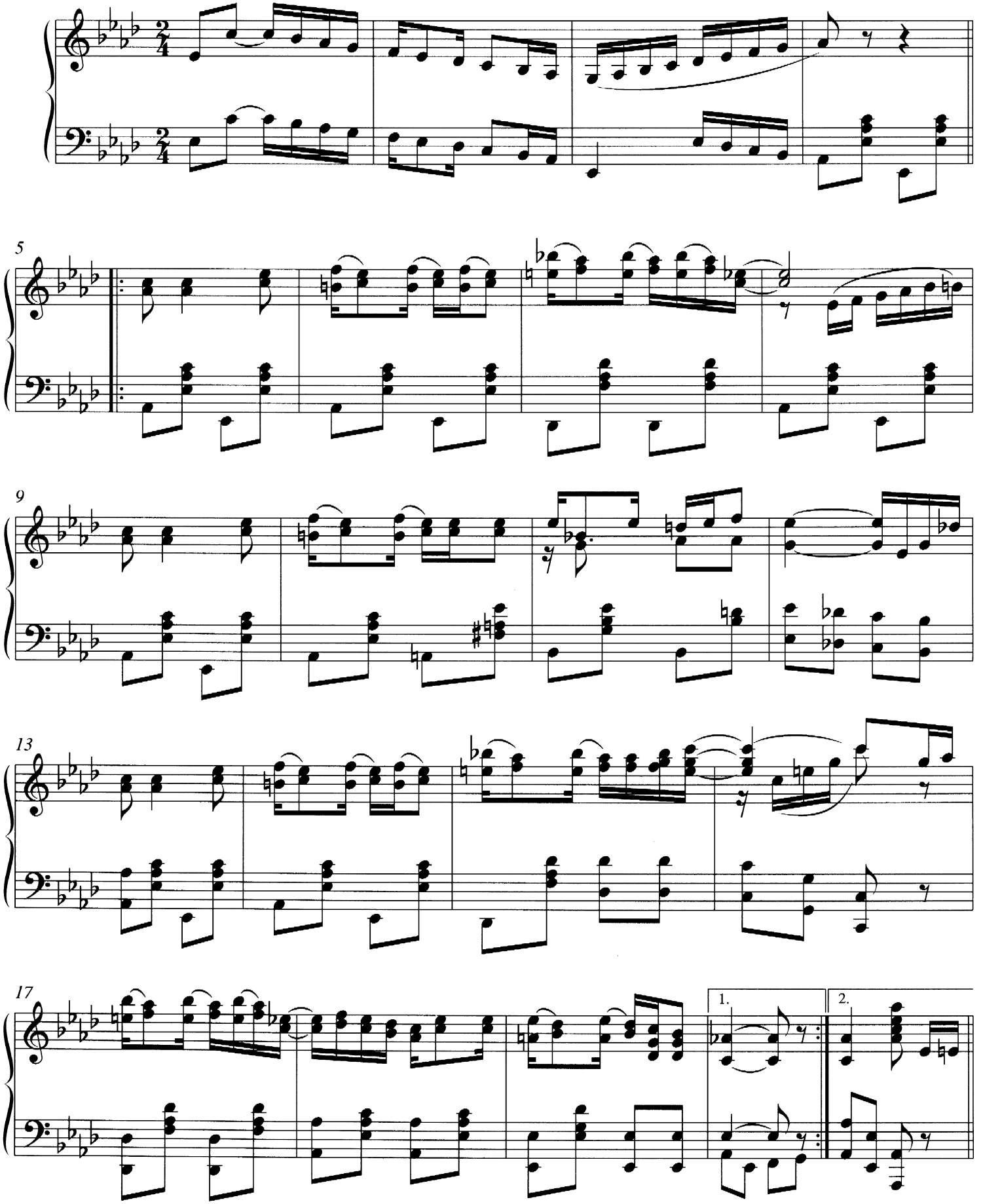
for Pianoforte solo

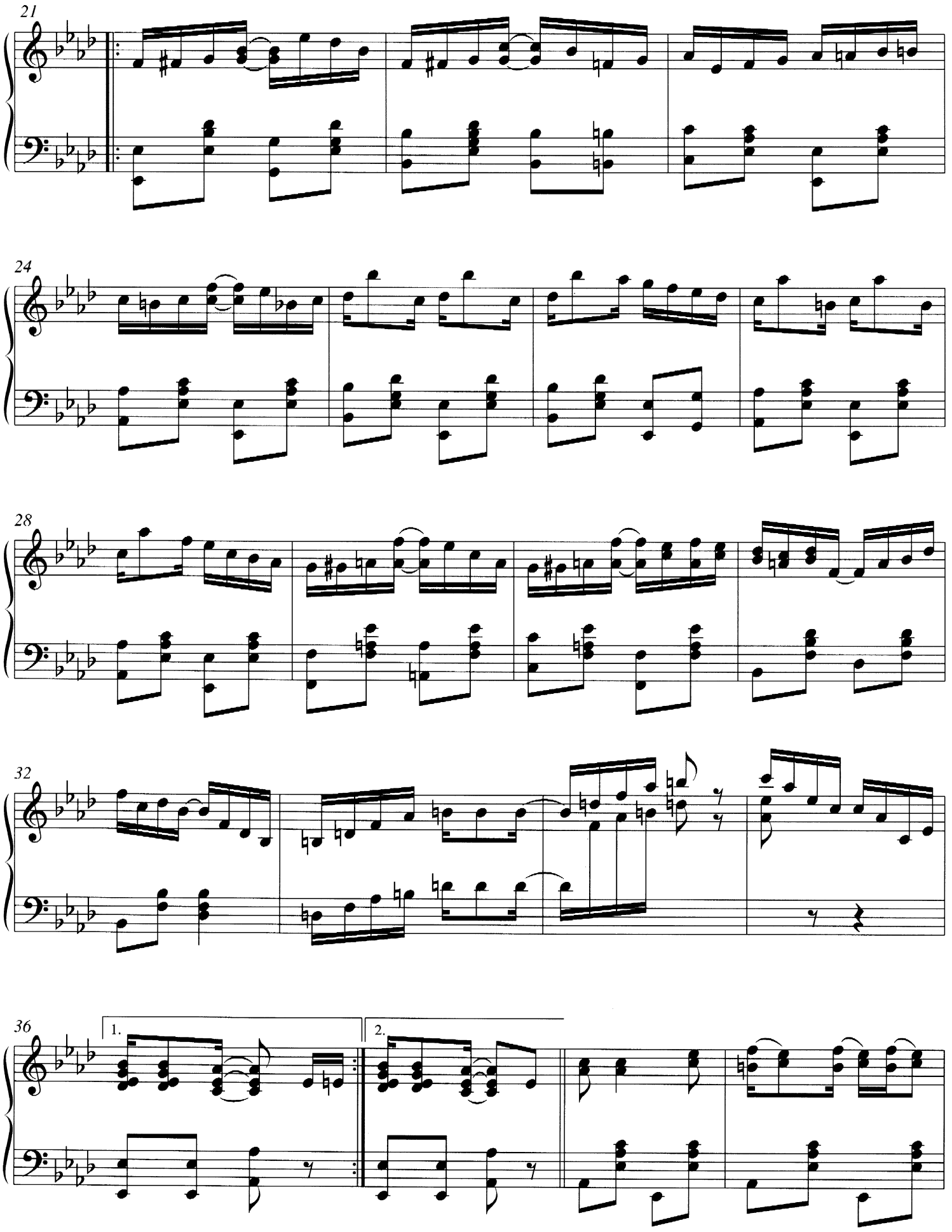
Index

Title	Page	Title	Page
The easy winners	3	The Chrysanthemum	76
A breeze from Alabama	8	Original Rags	80
The Sycamore	13	Eugenia	85
The Cascades	16	The Favorite	90
Maple leaf Rag	20	The Nonpareil	94
Palm leaf Rag	24	Sensation	98
Something doing	28	Weeping Willow	102
Swipesy	32	The Augustian Club waltzes	106
Reflection Rag	36	Binks‘ waltz	111
Peacherine Rag	40	Bethana	116
The Ragtime dance	44	Pleasant moments	122
Lily Queen	48	Harmony Club waltz	126
Heliotrope bouquet	52	Combination march	131
Leola	56	Antoinette	135
Elite Syncopations	60	Cleopha	139
The Entertainer	64	The Rosebud march	143
The Strenuous life	68	The crush collision march	147
Sunflower slow Drag	72	March majestic	151

The Easy Winners

Not fast

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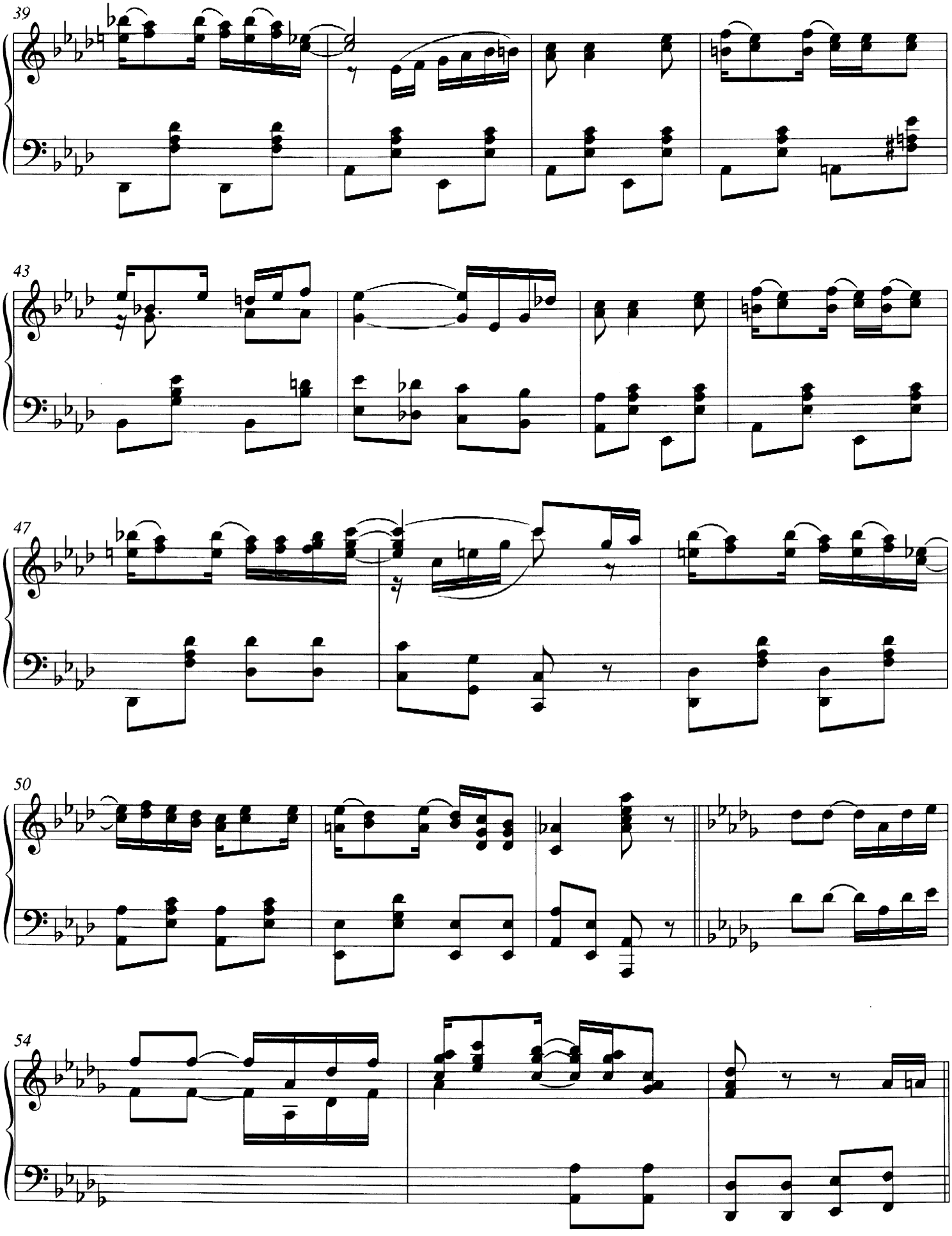
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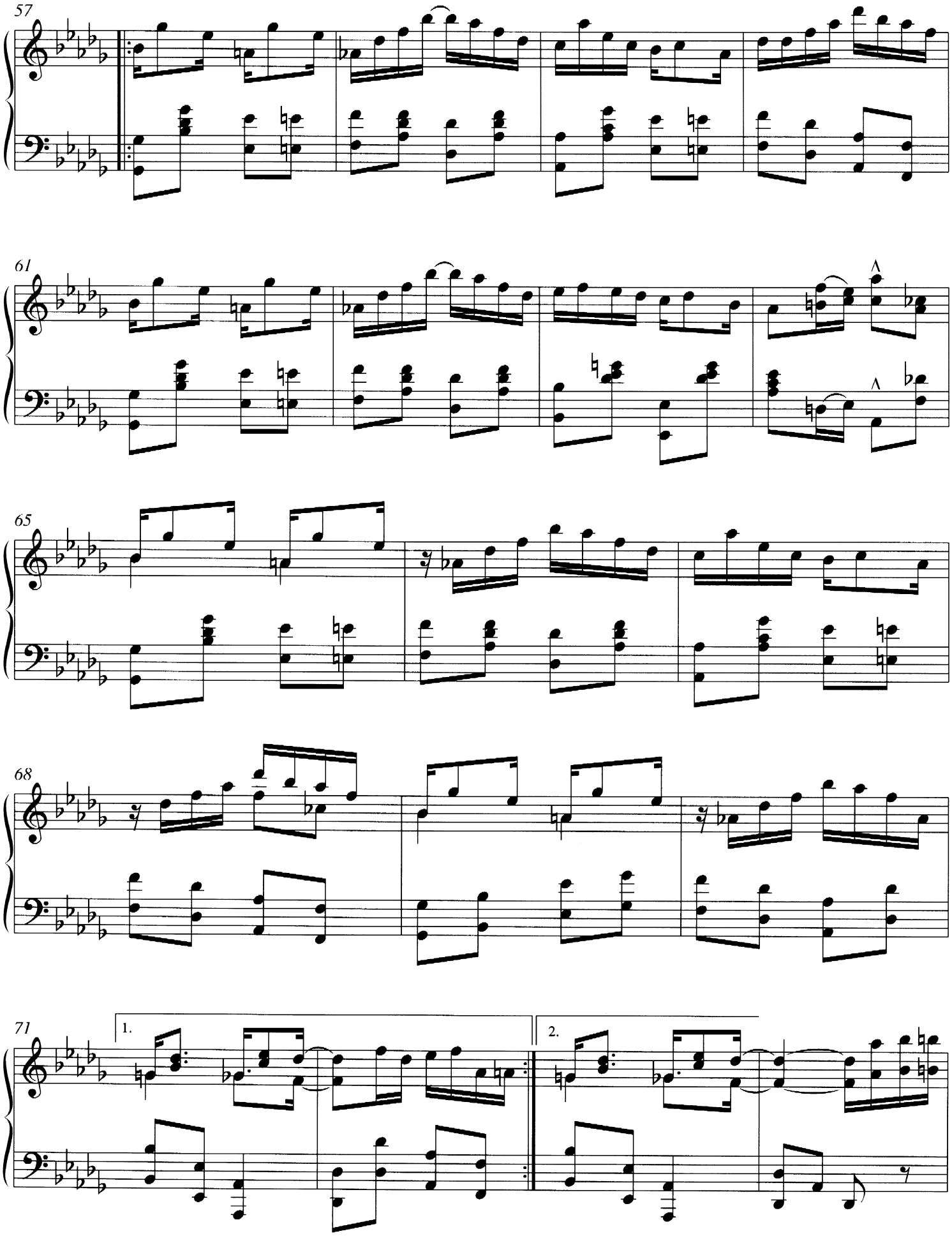
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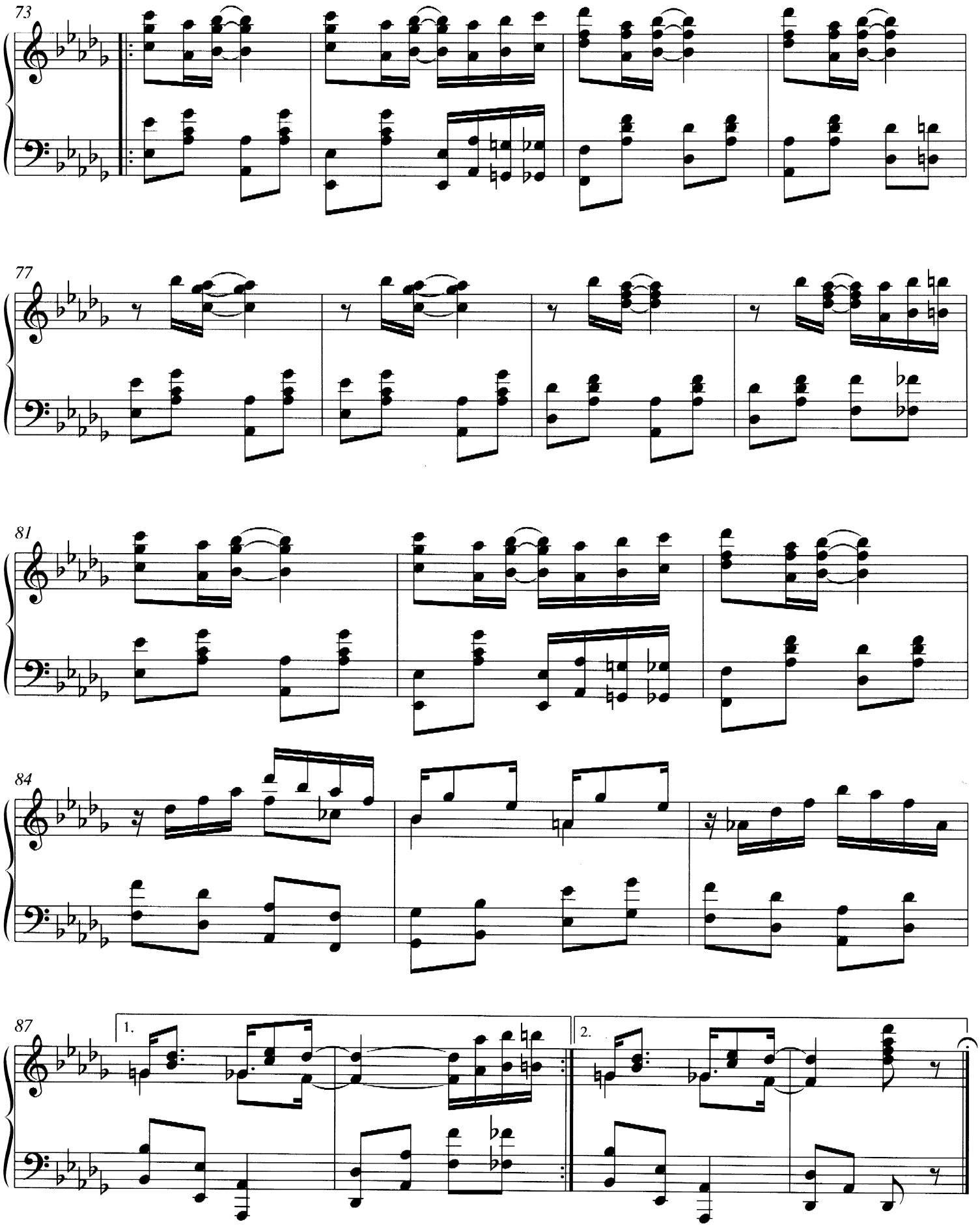
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Scott Joplin
(1868 – 1917)

Scott Joplin was born in Texarkana (Texas) 1868 and death in New York 1917.
1885 he was going to Saint Louis as pianist. 1893 her was a player on the world exhibition in Chicago.

1907 he moved to New York. There was born his opera “Treemonisha” in 1911, it was a failure. First in 1975 in remembrance of Joplin his opera was a great success. His greatest success was the ragtime “The Entertainer” which was the titel-music to the movie “The Clou”.

Joplin was a great pianist and composer. He wrote more than 60 compositiones most of them ragtimes. Also he has wrote a teach-book for ragtime. Scott Joplin was the most sophisticated and tasteful ragtime composer of the era. But he aspired to more. His goal was to be a successful composer for the lyric stage and he continually worked toward this end.

That he called himself “King of Ragtime Writers,” omitting a claim for his piano playing, reveals his recognition that not all of his music musical skills were on the same high level. His piano playing was described as mediocre, perhaps due to early effects of syphilis. He also played cornet and violin, but put little effort into developing himself on those instruments. He is reported to have had a fine singing voice, and performed at times as a singer. He also had perfect pitch and, on becoming proficient at music notation, composed away from the piano.

As a person, he was intelligent, well-mannered and well-spoken. He was extremely quiet, serious and modest. He had few interests other than music. He was not good at small talk and rarely volunteered information, but if a subject interested him, he might become animated in his conversation. He was generous with his time and was willing to assist and instruct younger musicians. He had a profound belief in the importance of education.

At the time of his death, he was almost forgotten. Interest in ragtime, too, was quickly waning as the new style of “jazz” took center stage. But Joplin never slipped totally into oblivion. His *Maple Leaf Rag* continued to exercise its magic on successive generations of musicians and music lovers.

Edited by
Alexej Wilk

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