Benny Thomasson Fiddle Transcriptions

by Peter Martin

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Benny Thomasson

Fiddle Transcriptions

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Introduction

This book is a collection of fiddle tunes transcribed from the playing of Benny Thomasson. It contains Texas style breakdowns, waltzes, rags, old time tunes and other pieces. I have transcribed the notes and bowing from the original recordings as accurately as possible.

The tunes are not presented in order of difficulty. Some are more difficult than others, but none are for the beginner. This book is advised for intermediate and advanced players.

All position shifts I heard on the recordings are marked, with the marking being over the first note in the new position. Sometimes Benny would stretch a finger to a note in a higher position, but would not move his hand up to the higher position. When this is the case, I don't indicate a position change.

New sections of each tune are marked with double bar lines. All 4th fingers I heard Benny play are marked when not obvious. Sometimes fingering suggestions are indicated when Bennys fingerings are not obvious on the recording.

Basic chords are given for each part the first time that part is encountered. Repeating chord patterns are not marked in new parts.

When learning each tune, play through the music slowly and closely watch the bow directions! If you have the recording, listen many times and try to copy Bennys sound.

A number of transcriptions of Benny also appear in the books **"Texas Style Fiddle Transcriptions, Volume 1 and 2"**, by Peter Martin. For information on this and other books, see www.petimarpress.com.

I would appreciate any comments you may have on this book. Drop me a line at the address on the inside back cover. Thank you and good music to all.

Many Thanks to:

Benny, for countless hours of inspiration and listening pleasure; Starr McMullen, Bob Culver, Bruce Lites, Larry Brandon and Leah Larson for their proof reading; Brad Pinkerton, Pinkerton Graphic Design, for the drawings and the jokes; Carol for her support and love; Gary Lee Moore for fiddling fun and Benny stories; all my fiddling friends. Last, thanks to every musician I was inspired by and whom I have stolen tunes from.

About the Author

Peter Martin is a musician living in Seattle, Washington. Peter has performed and recorded with many Northwest artists. With the Skyline Drifters he appeared on the Nashville Network Bluegrass show "Fire on the Mountain".

Peter has won or placed near the top in many regional and national instrumental competitions. In 1983, Peter placed in the top 5 at the Walnut Valley Mandolin Contest, Winfield, Kansas. In 1994, Peter was Adult Division National Fiddle Champion, held each year at Weiser Idaho.

Collecting and transcribing tunes and solos has been a hobby of his for years. At the suggestion of students and friends, Peter founded Petimar Press in 1994 to publish some of his collections.

Recordings by Benny Thomasson

These recordings are in print as of February 1997:

"The Weiser Reunion", Voyager 309 Voyager Records, 424 35th Ave., Seattle, WA 98122, www.voyagerrecords.com. Recorded in 1974 at a jam session at Weiser, Idaho. Cotton Patch Rag, Apple Blossom, Sally Johnson and Cripple Creek are transcribed from this recording. Features Jerry Thomasson on tenor guitar. Reissued on CD. Benny at his best.

"Say Old Man, Can You Play The Fiddle", VRCD 345 Voyager Records, 424 35th Ave., Seattle, WA 98122, www.voyagerrecords.com. Recorded at many jam sessions in the northwest from 1972 to 1978. 32 tunes. A great recording.

"Benny Thomasson, Volumes 1 and 2", GRS Productions 48014 & 48015. Available from Gillian Music, Rt. 3 Box 39, Chandler, OK 74834. Ook Pic Waltz, Wild John and Little Joe are transcribed from these recordings.

"**Mark O'Connor, Heroes**", Warner Brothers 9 45257-4. Benny plays Sally Johnson (not the version transcribed in this book) along with Mark, Terry Morris and Texas Shorty (Jim Chancellor).

Watch for these out of print recordings. They may be re-issued sometime:

"Country Fiddling from the Big State", County 724. Bush In The Shucks (misnamed "Dry and Dusty" on the recording),

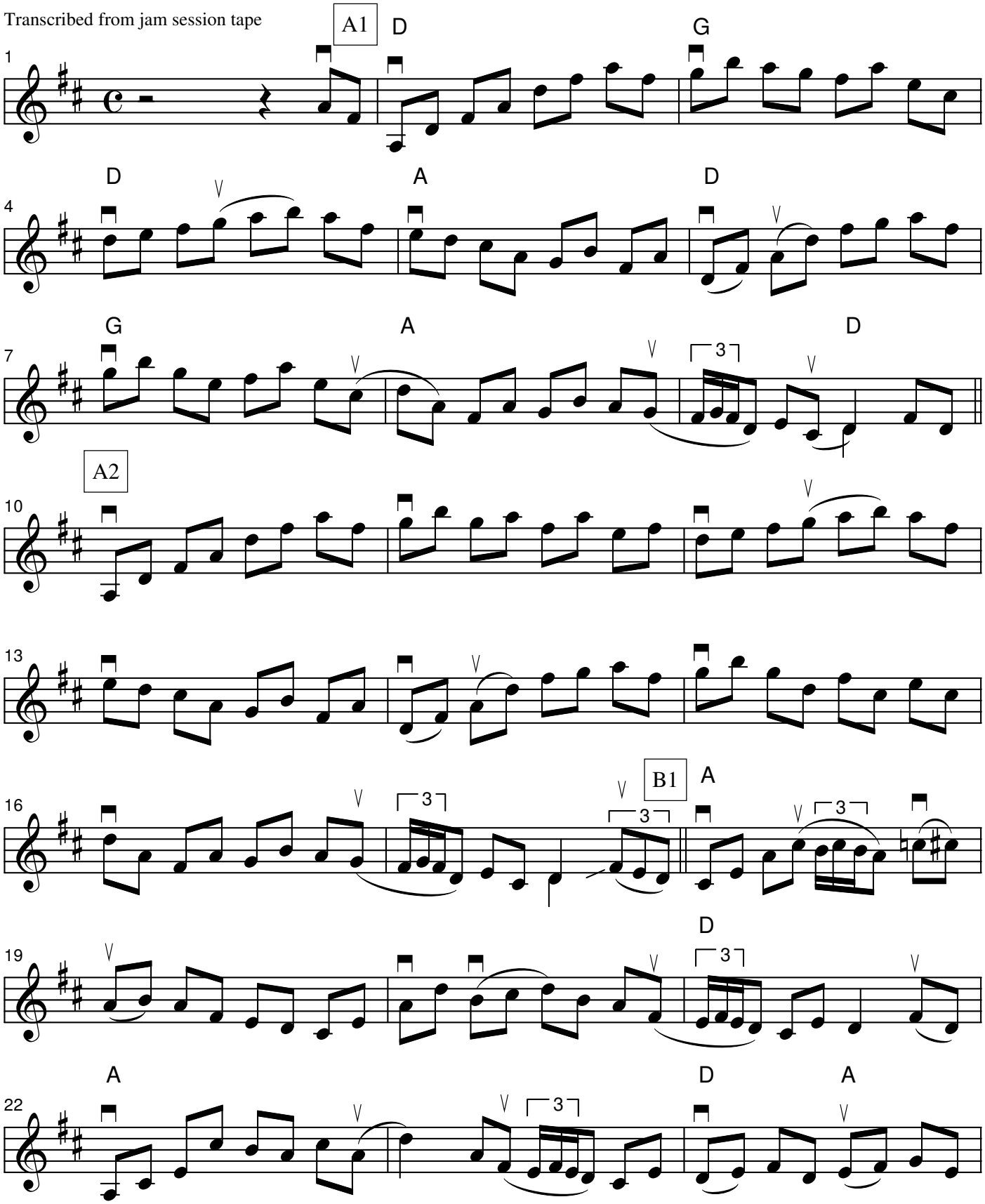
"Texas Hoedown", County 703.

Forked Deer

♩= 208

Traditional

Transcribed from jam session tape



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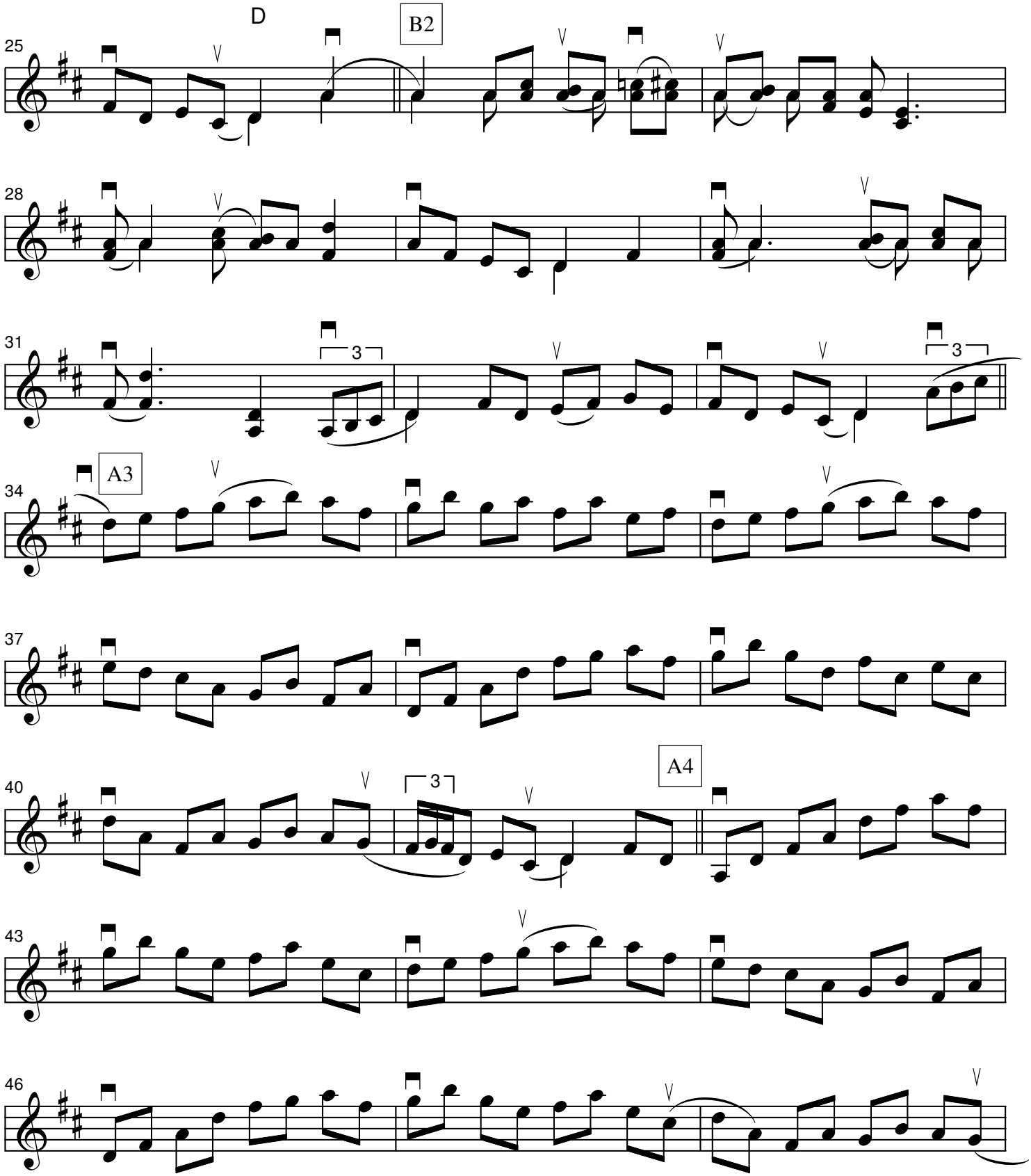

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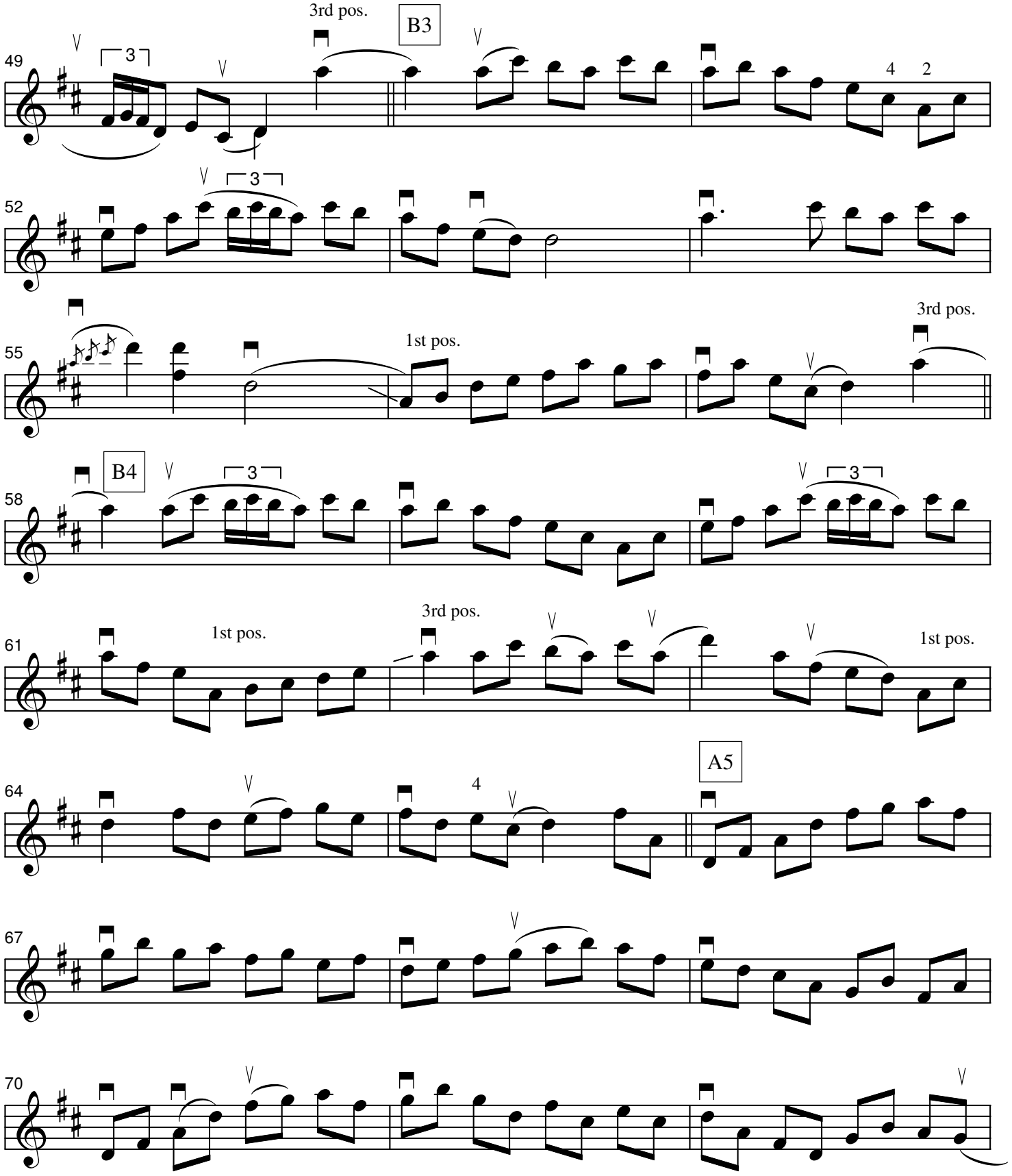

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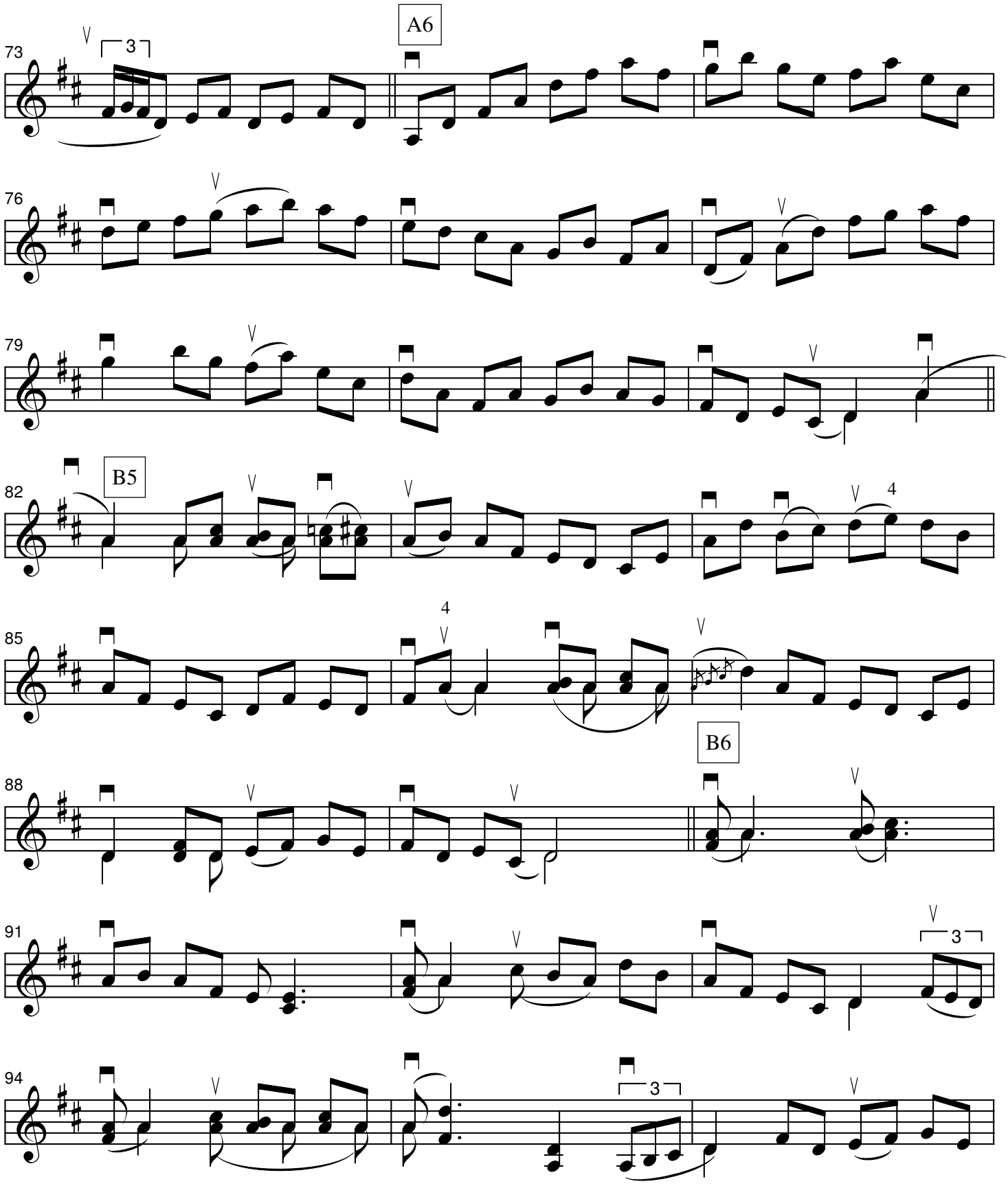

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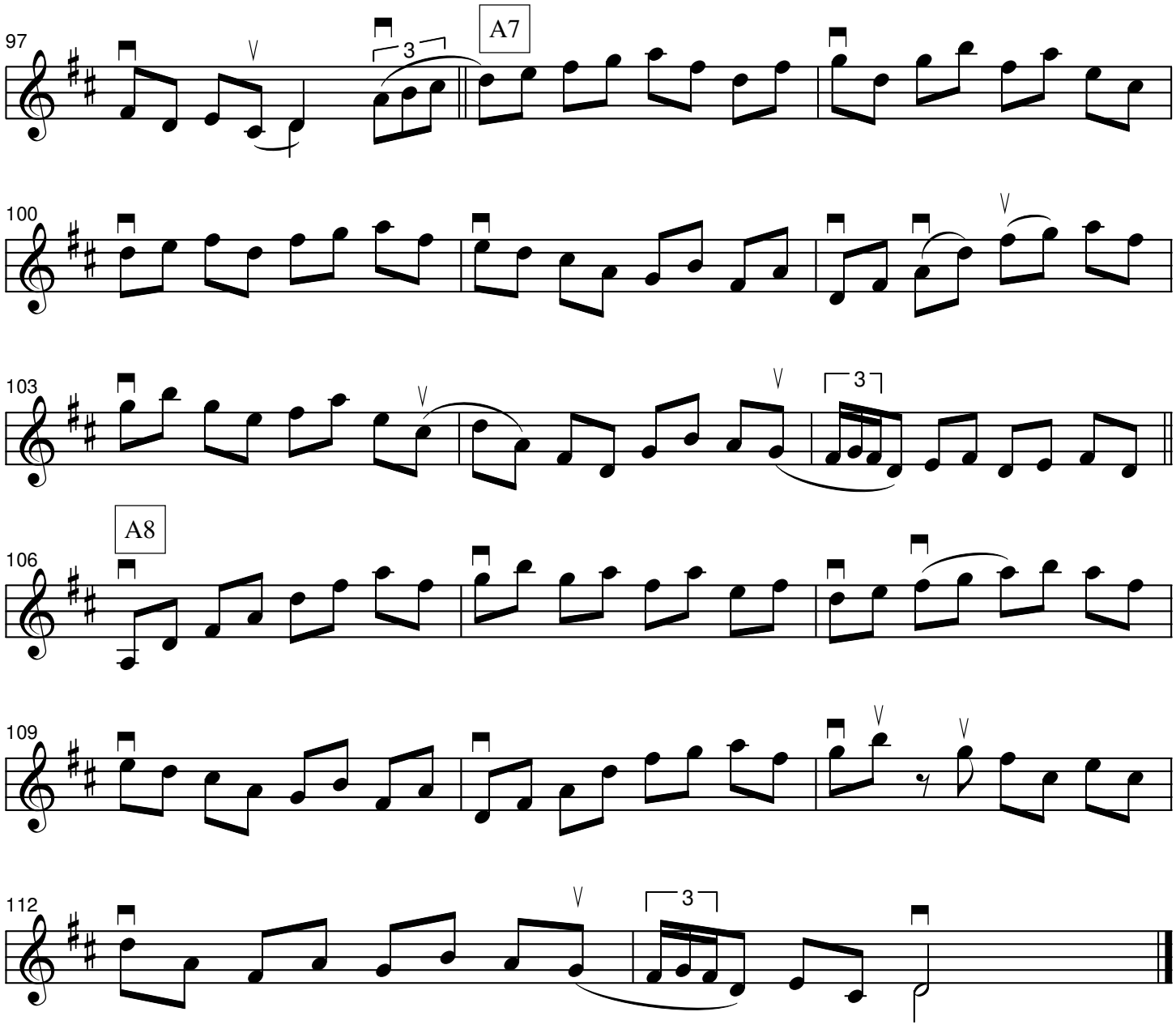

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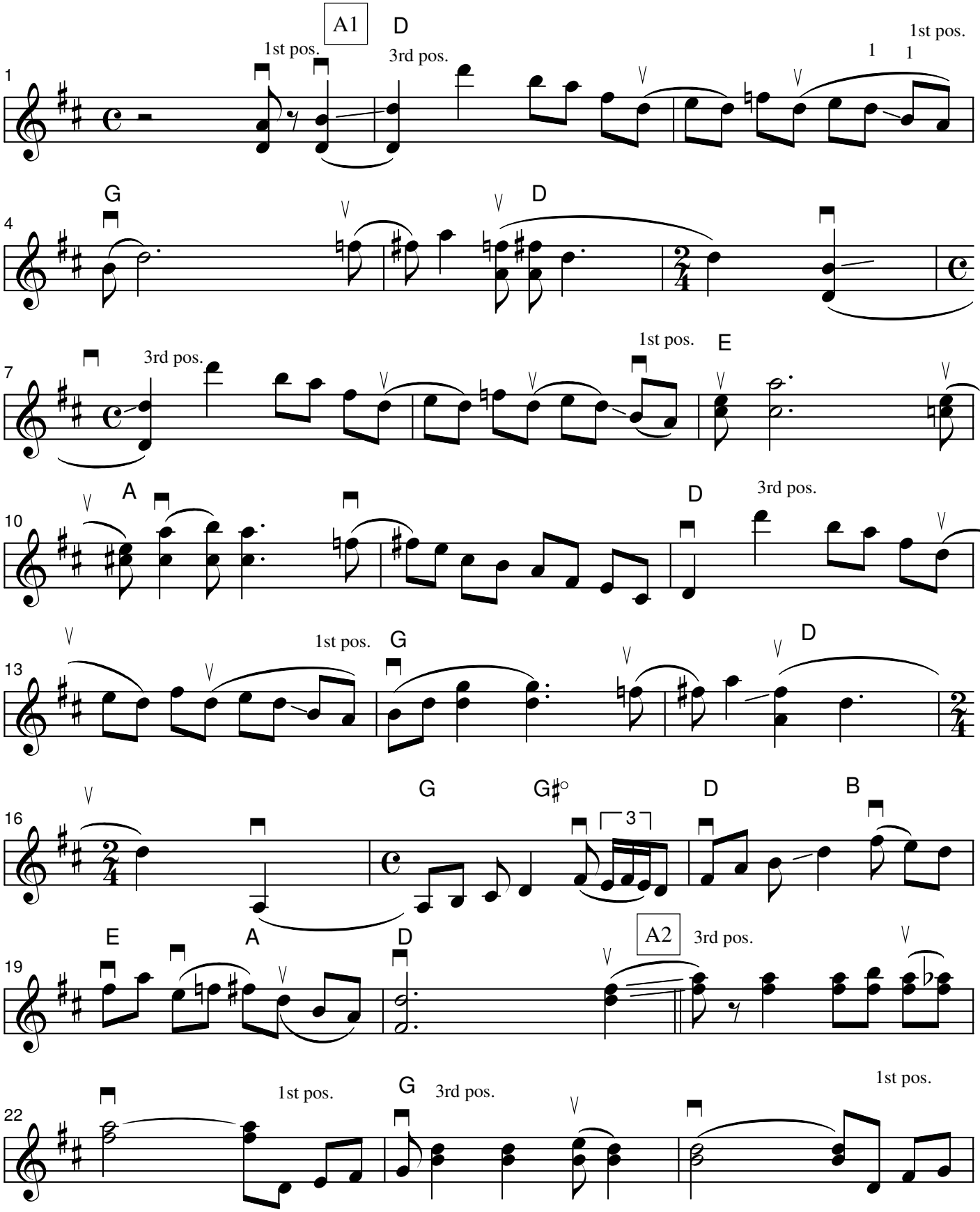
Steeley's Rag

♩= 188

by Red Steeley



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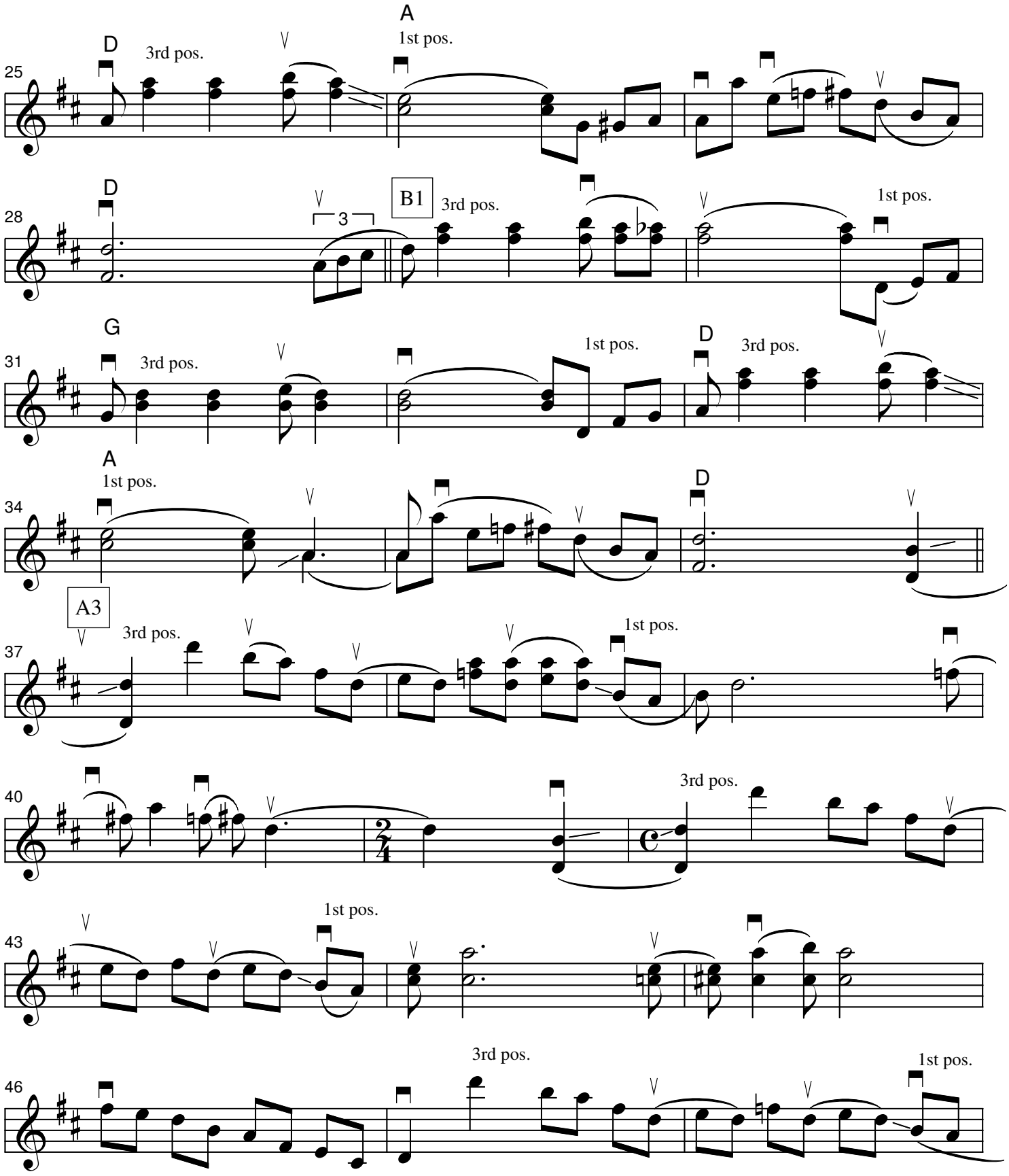

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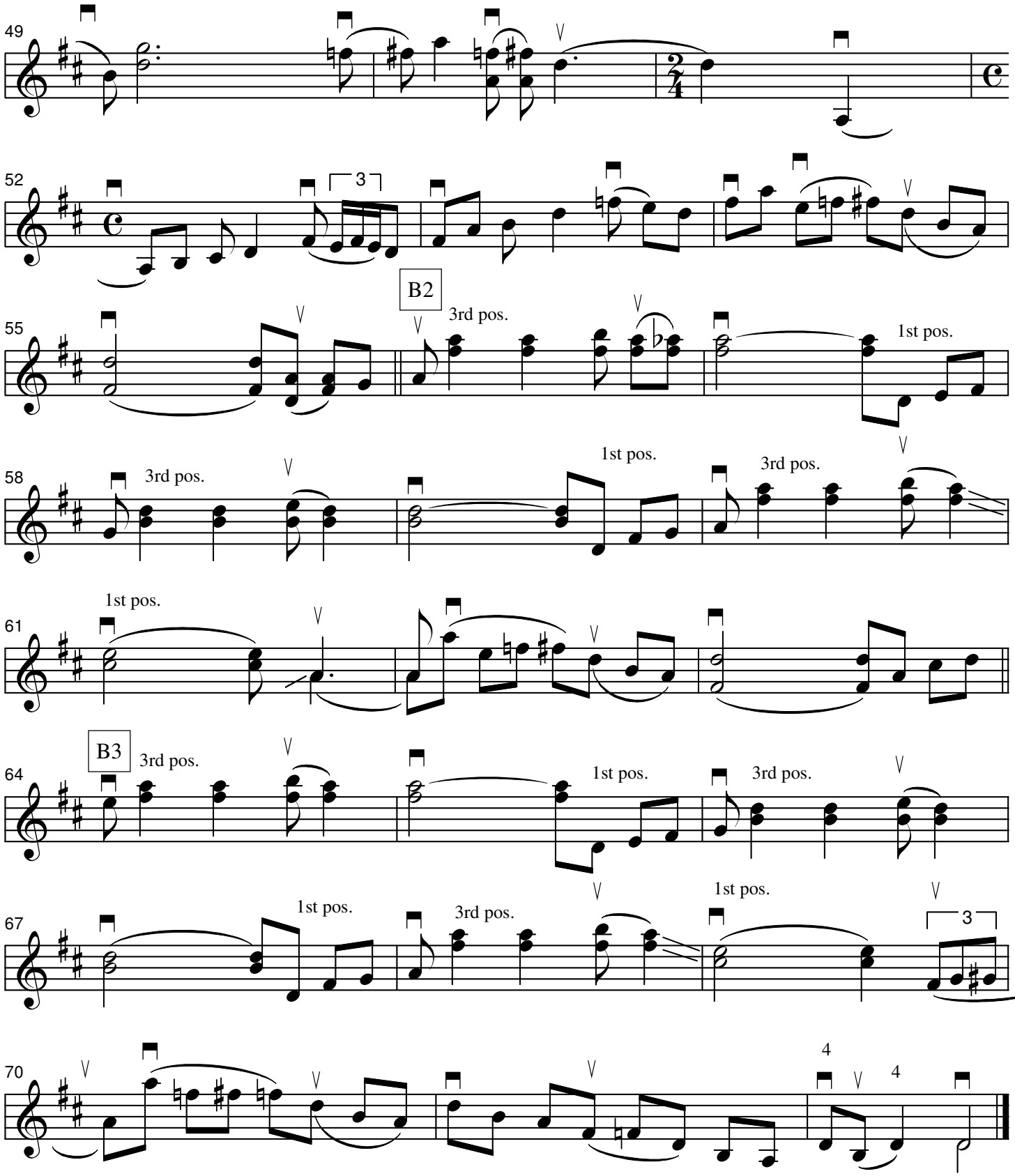

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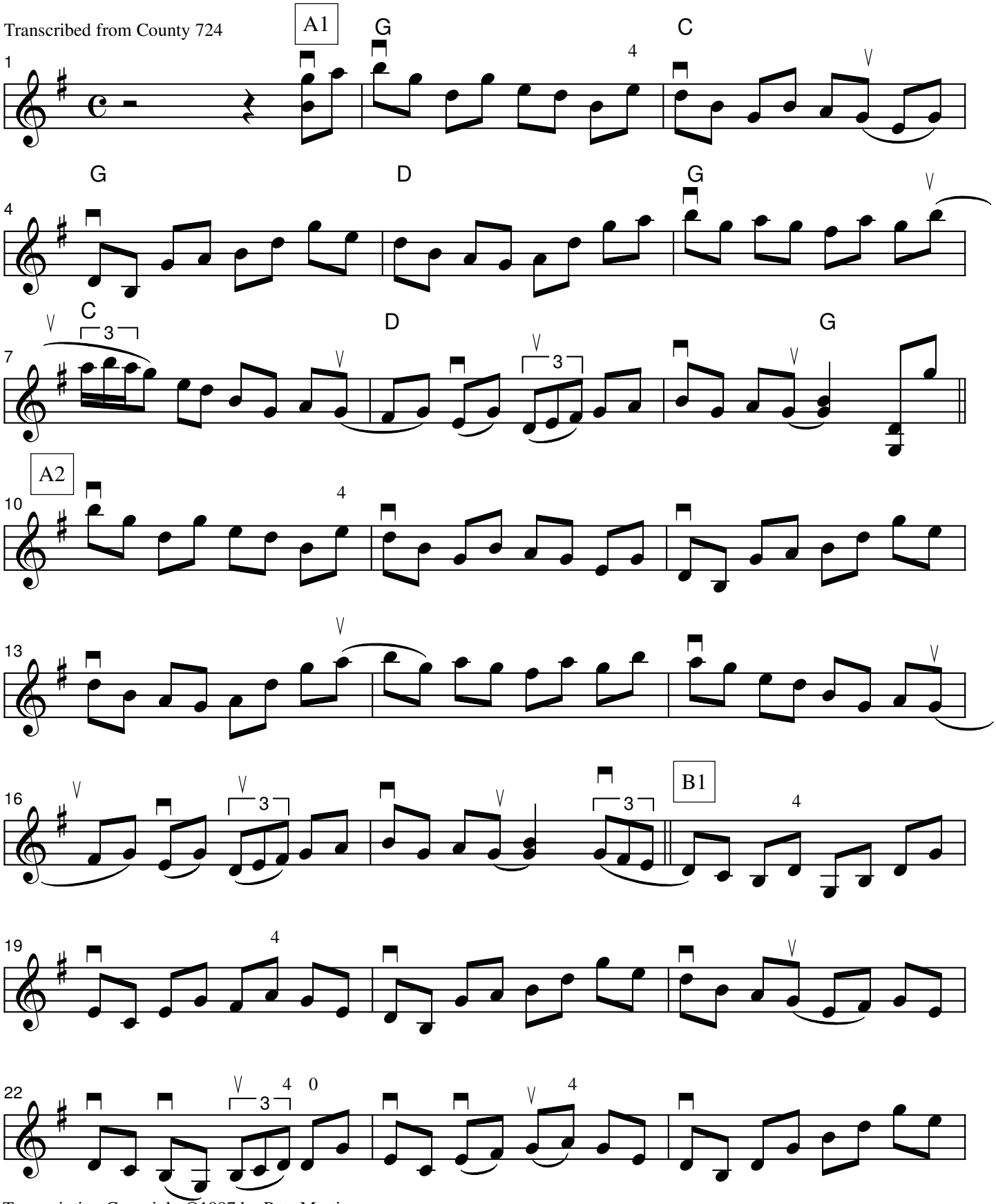
Bitter Creek

♩= 196

Traditional

Transcribed from County 724



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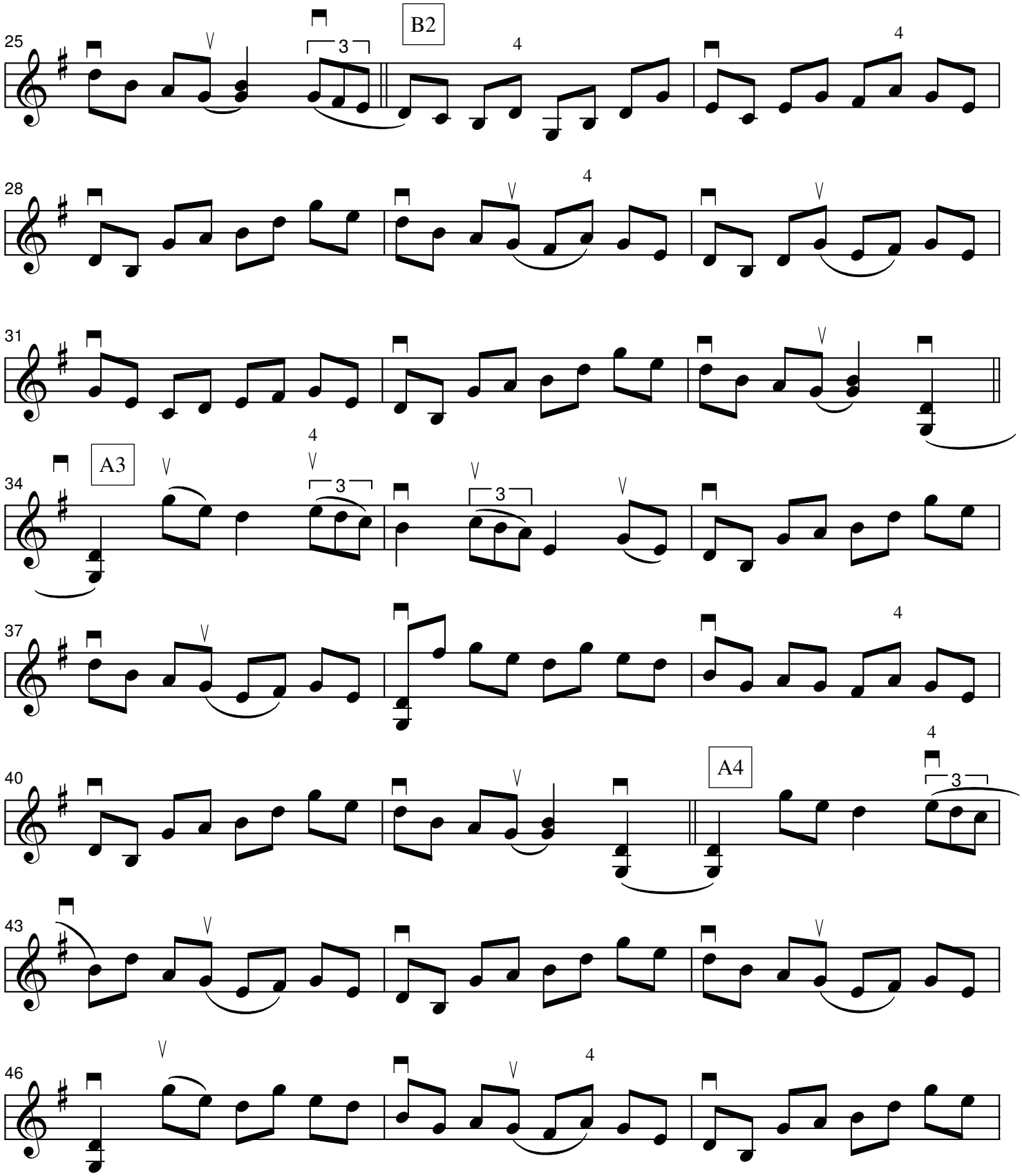

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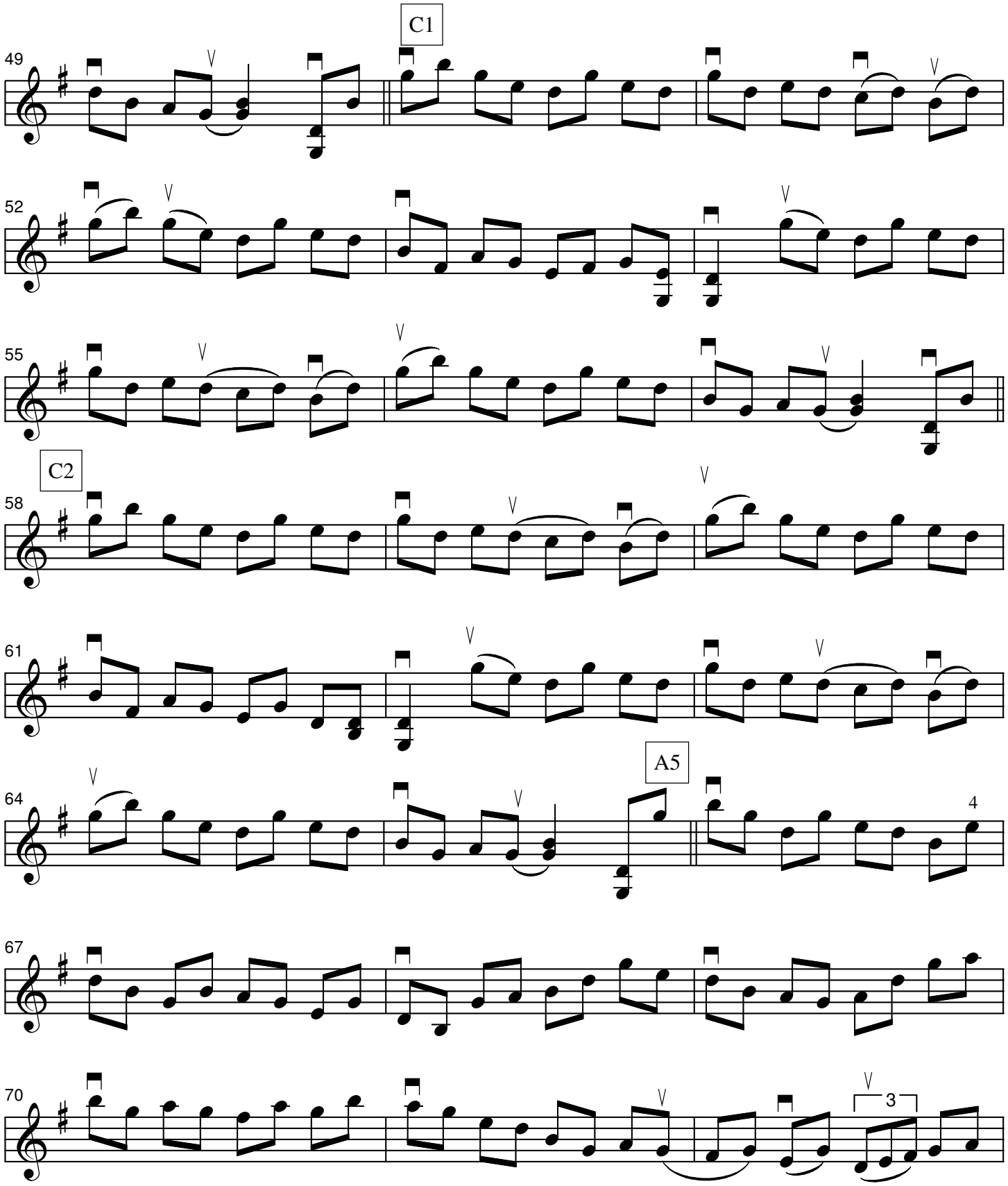

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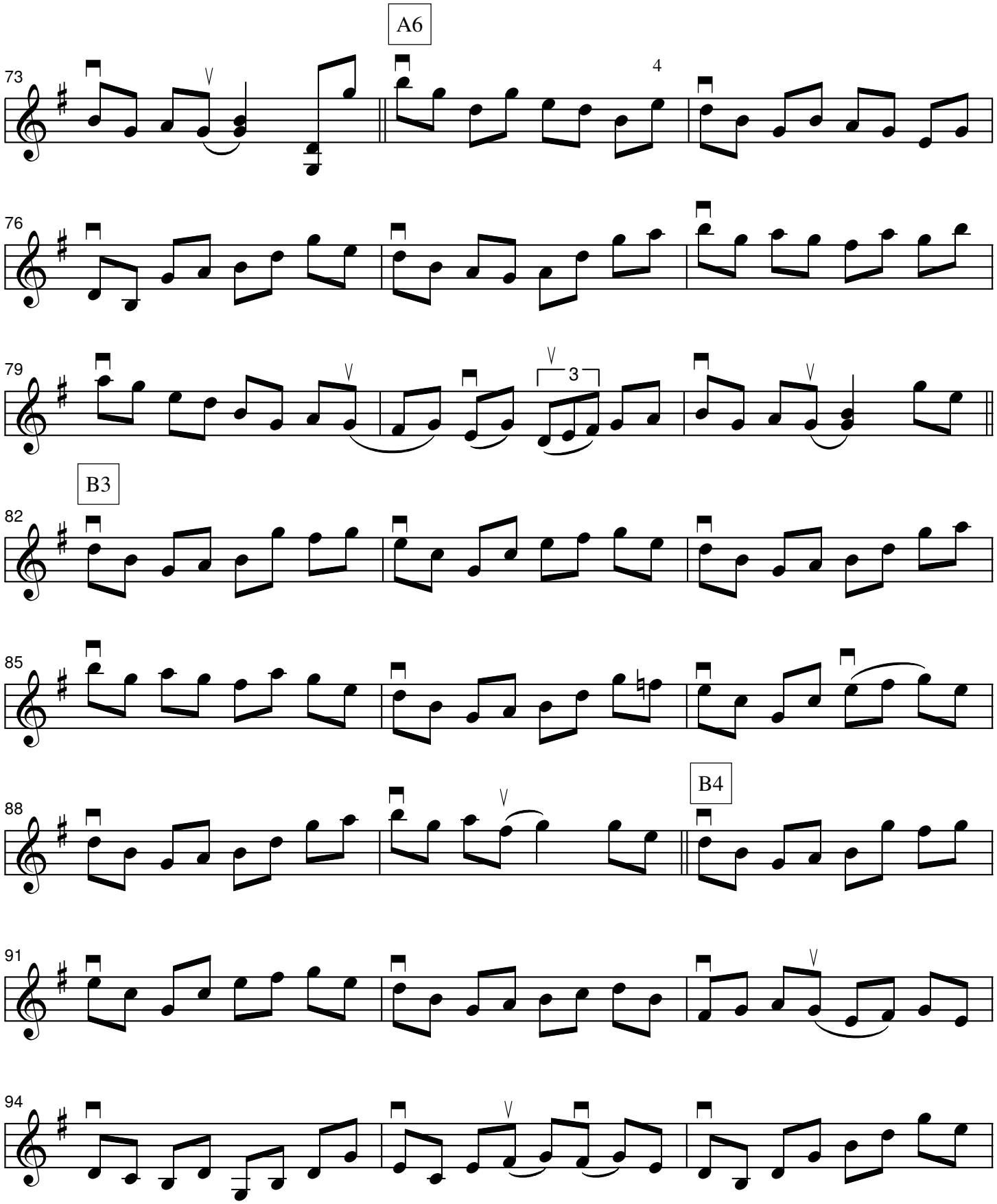

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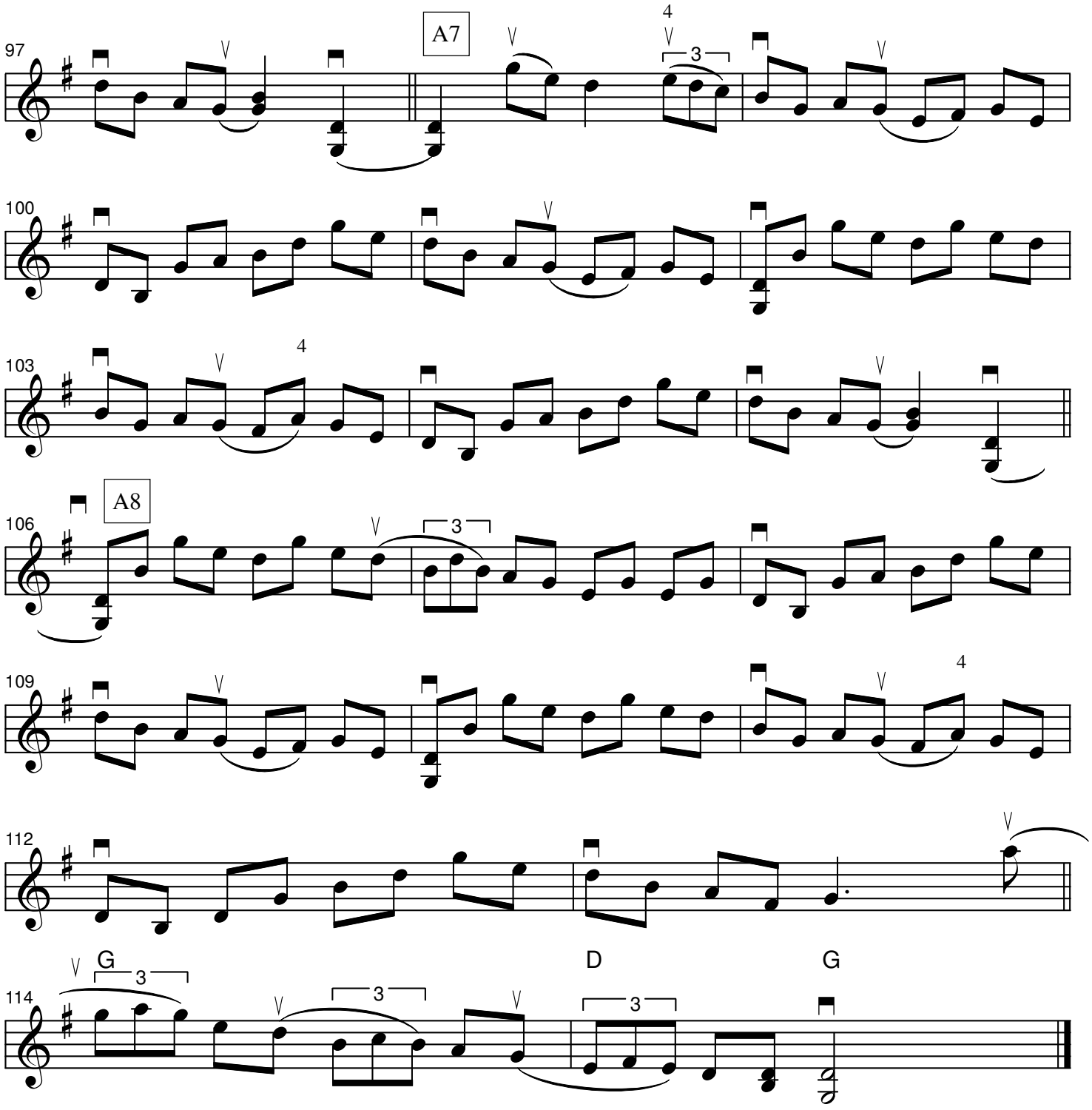

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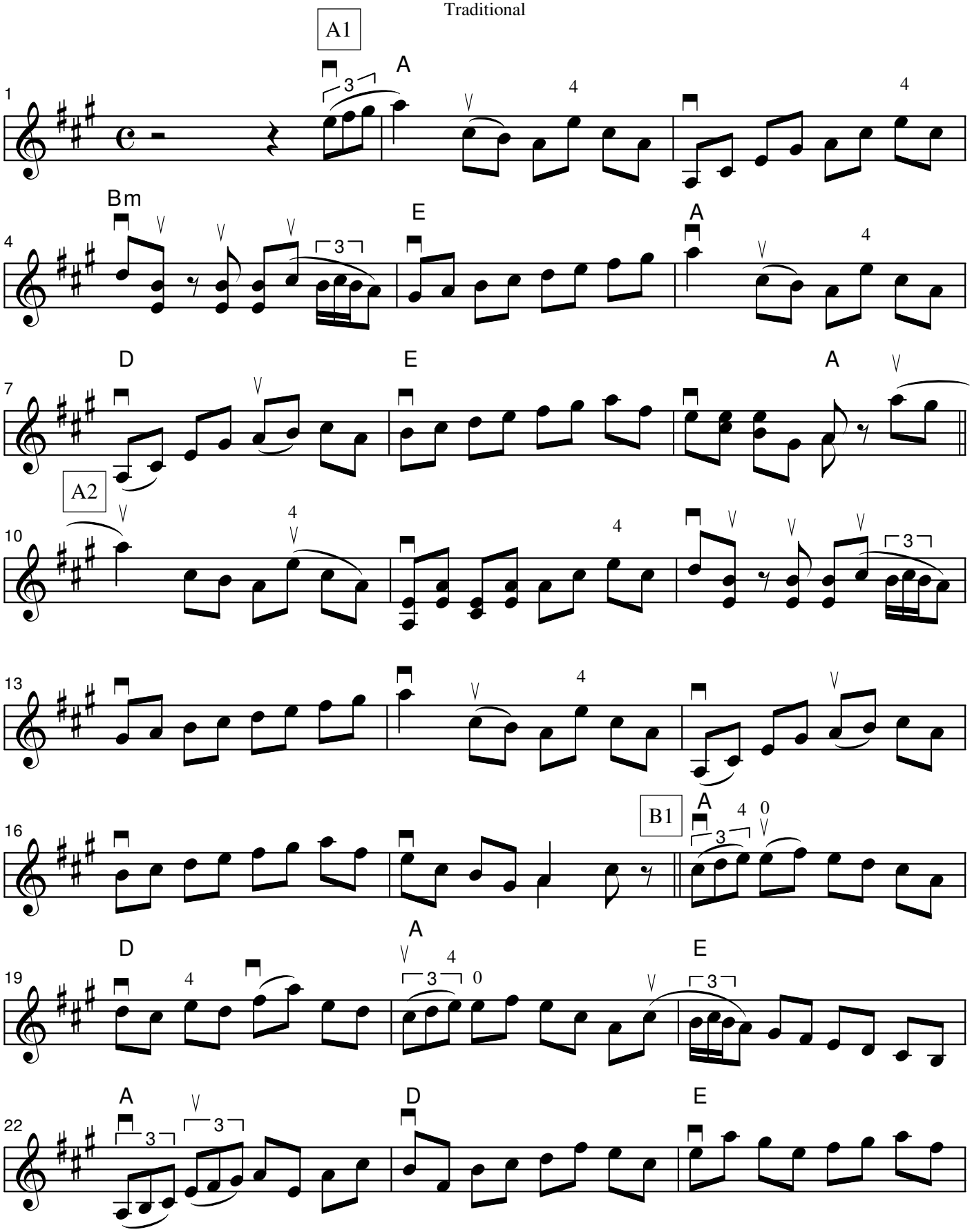
Jack of Diamonds

♩= 214

Traditional



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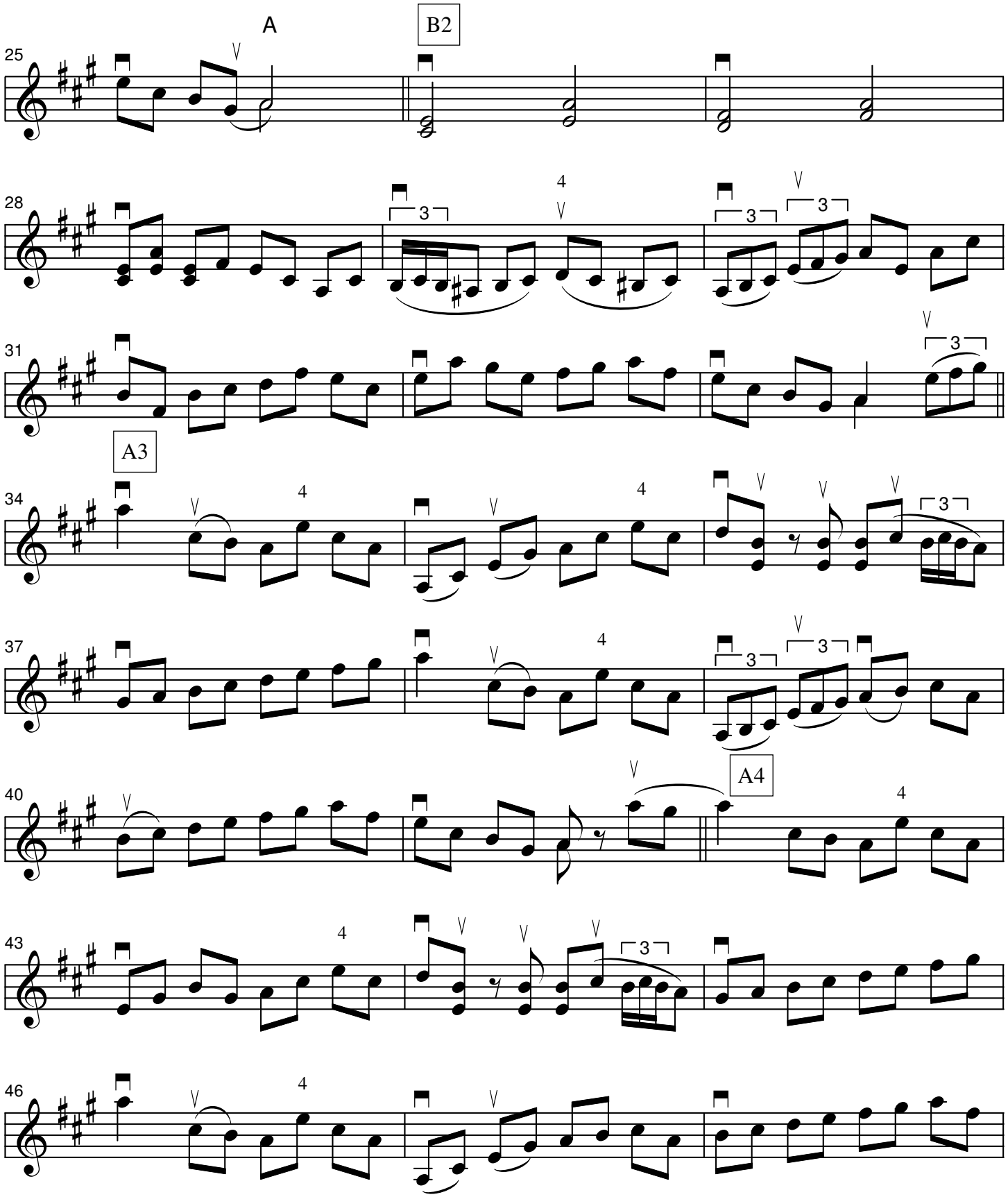

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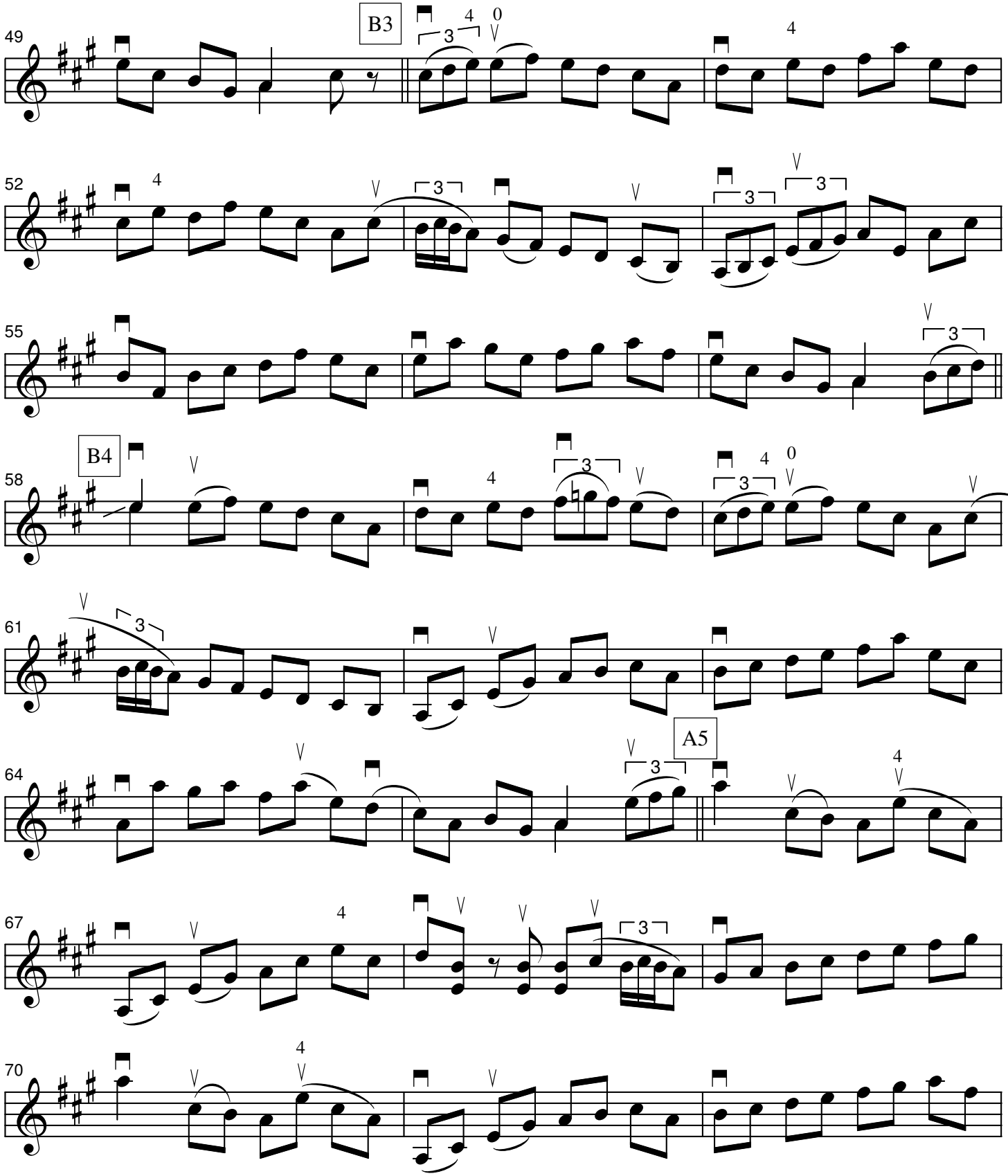

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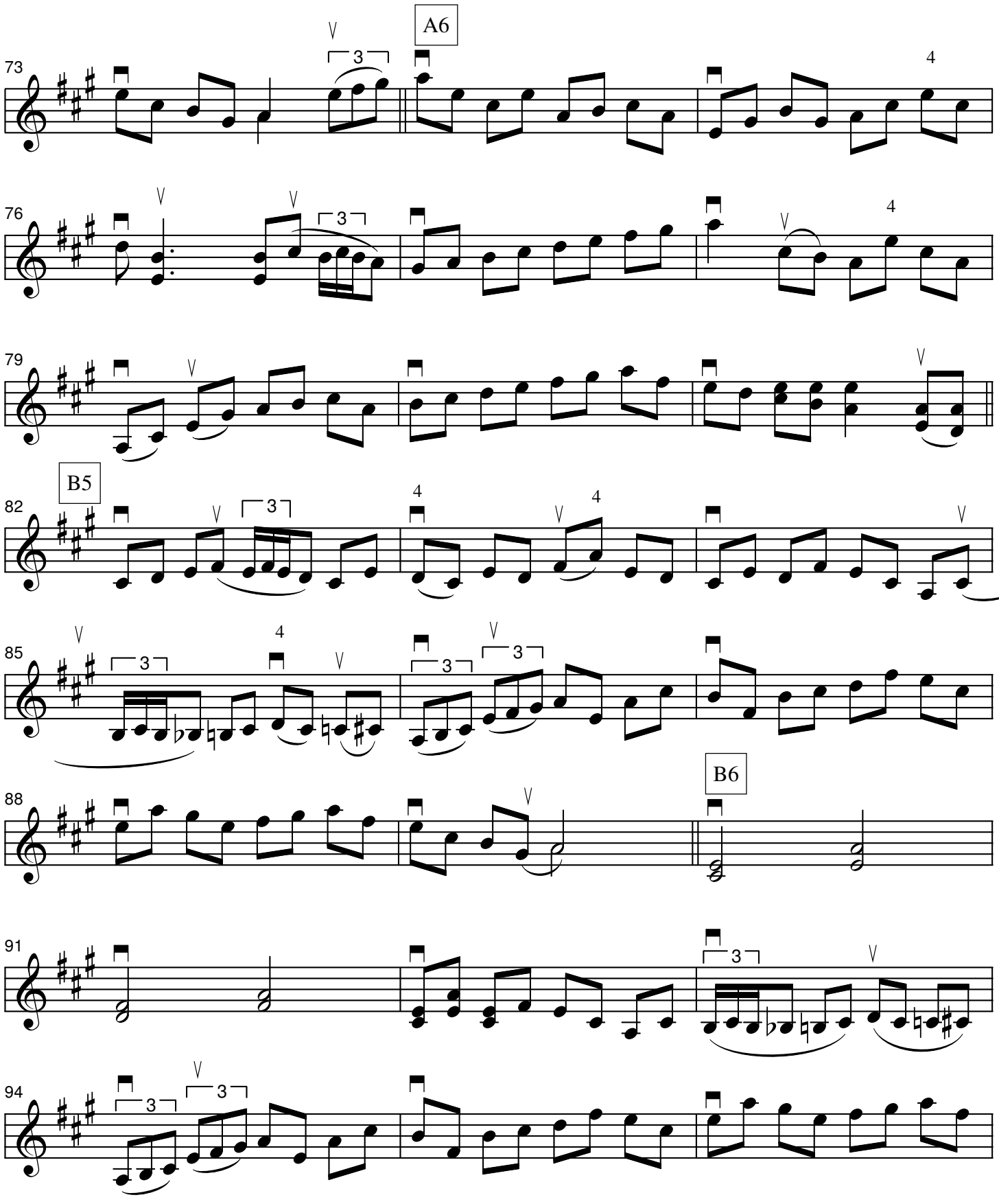

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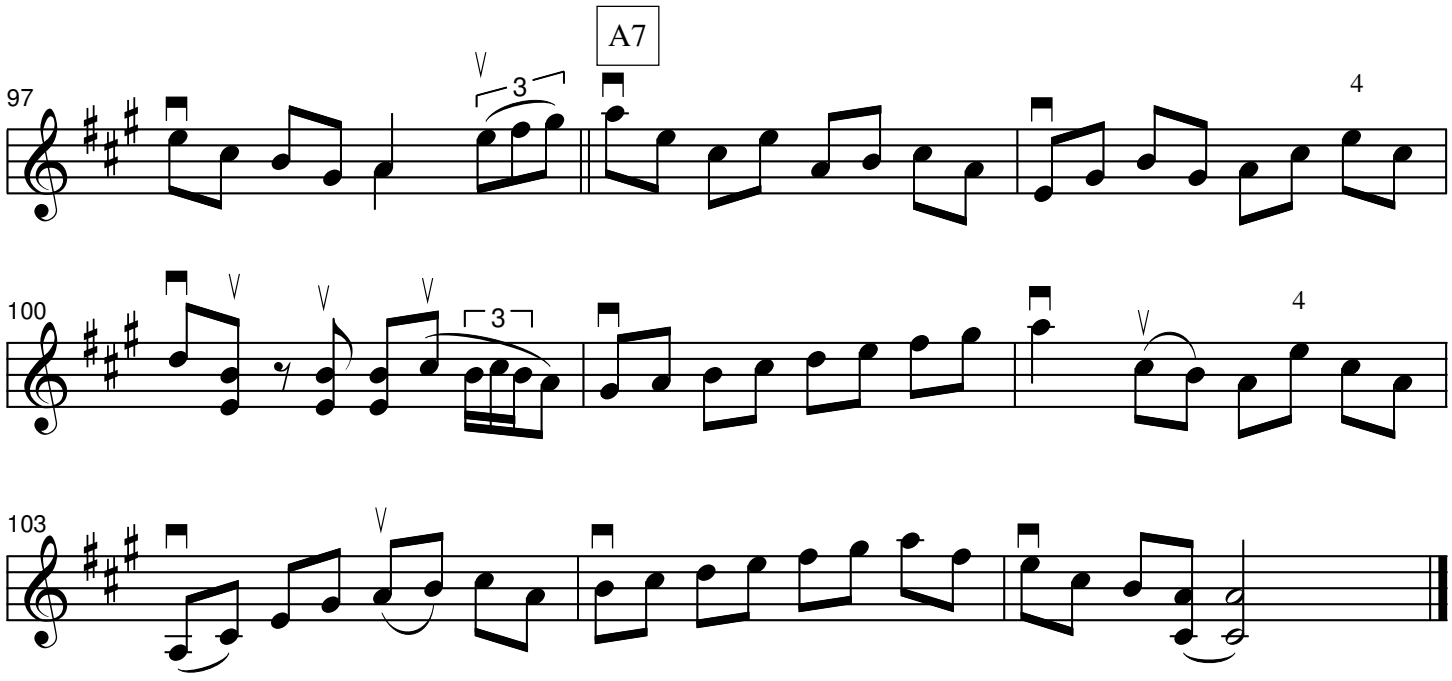

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Cotton Patch Rag

♩= 220

Traditional

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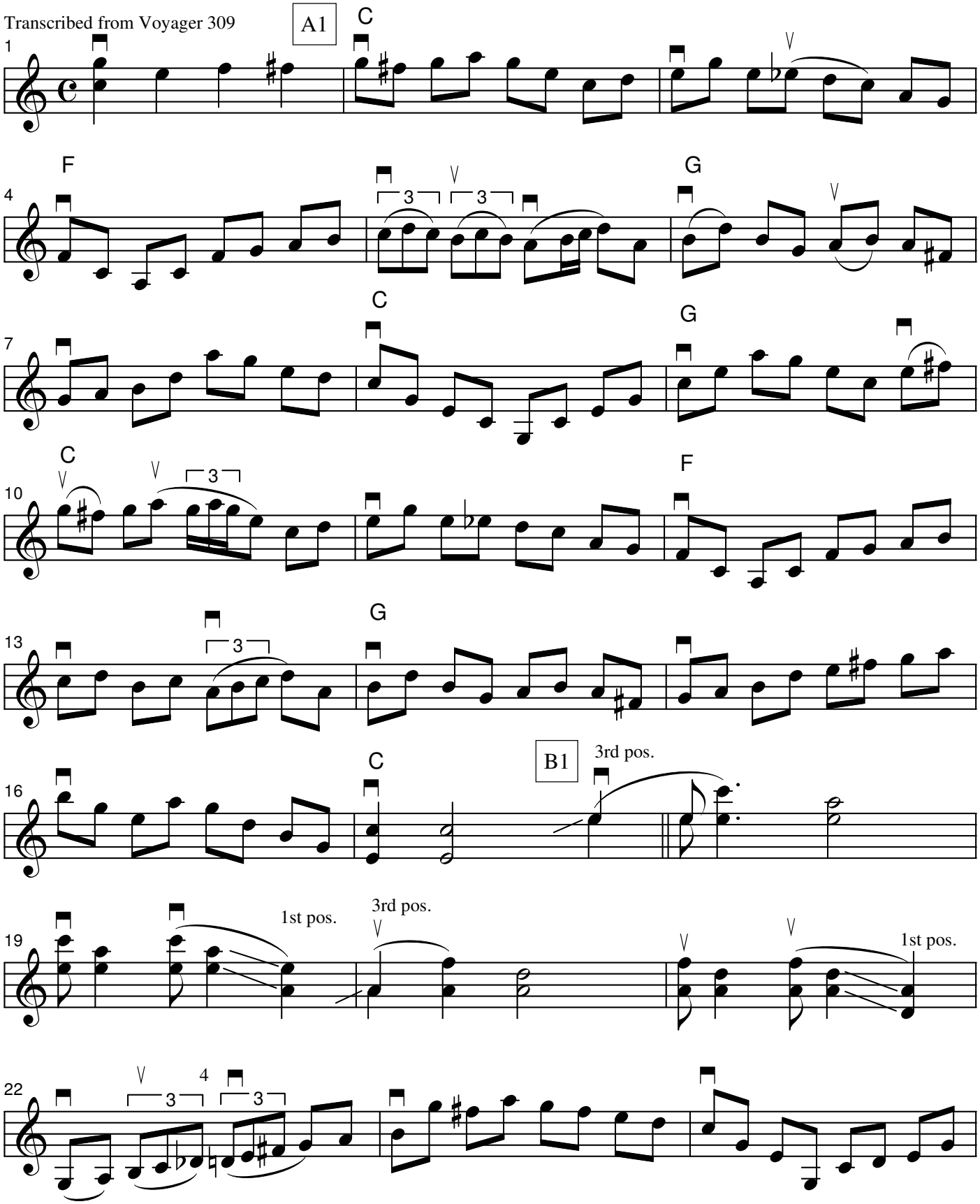

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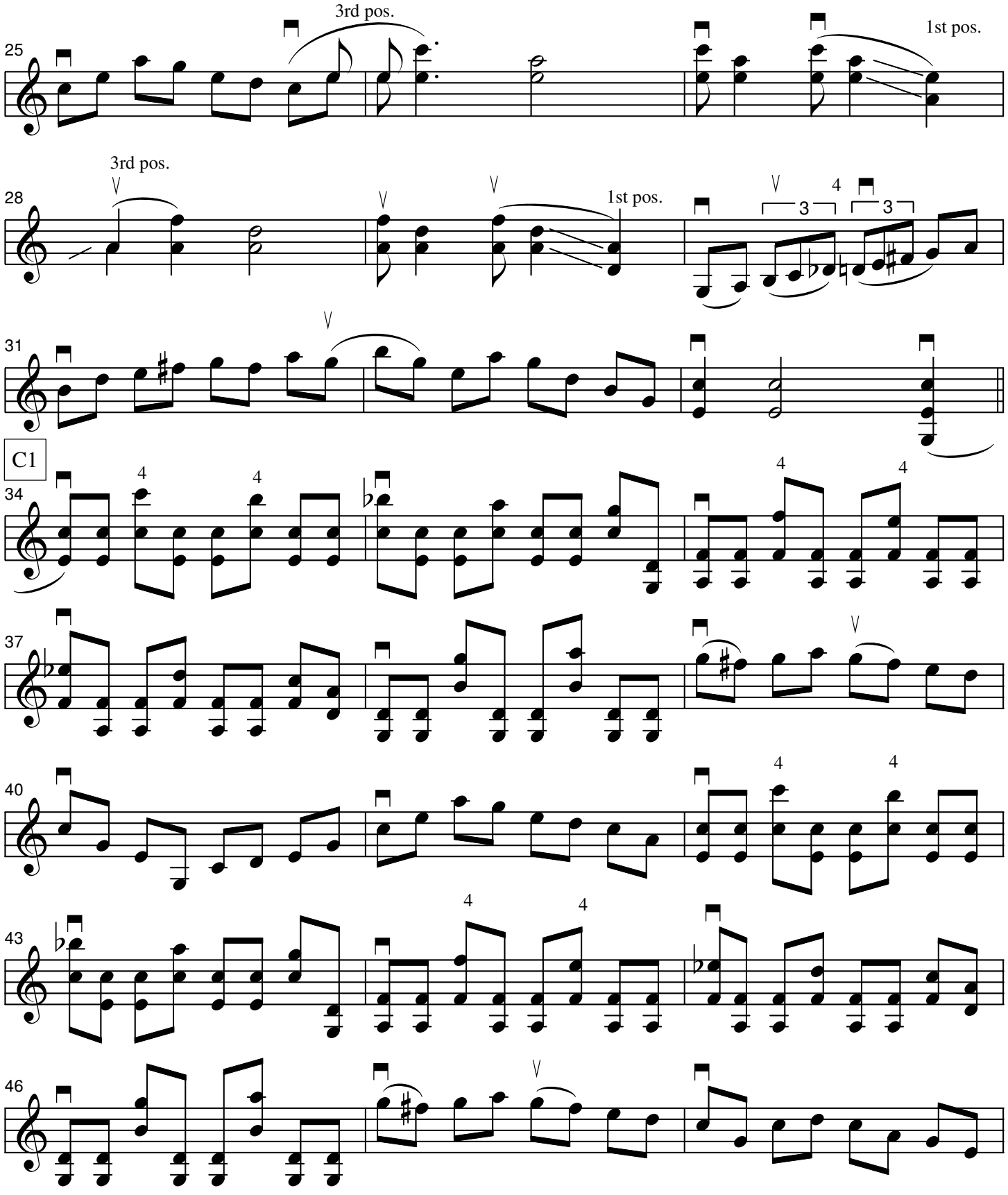

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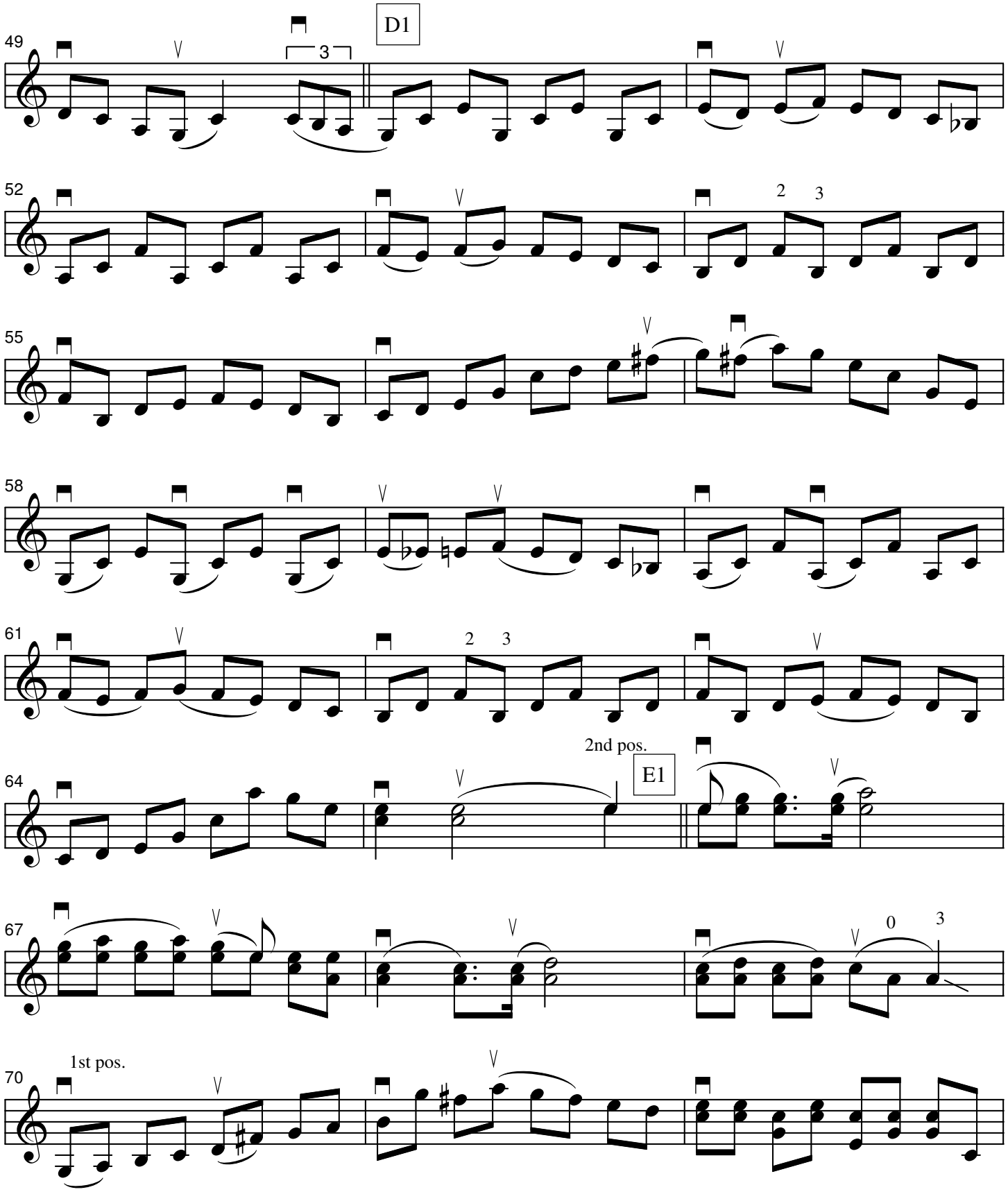

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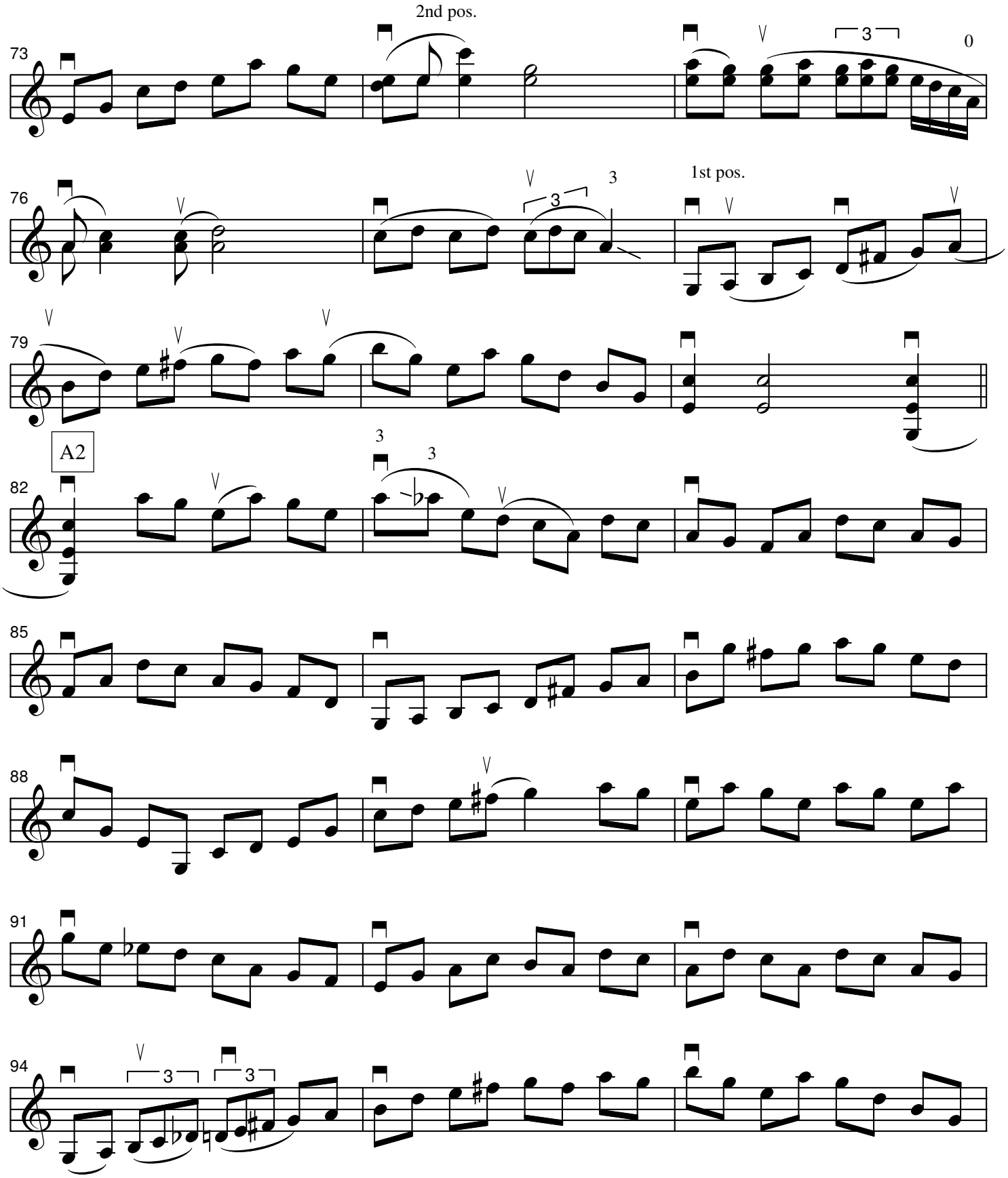

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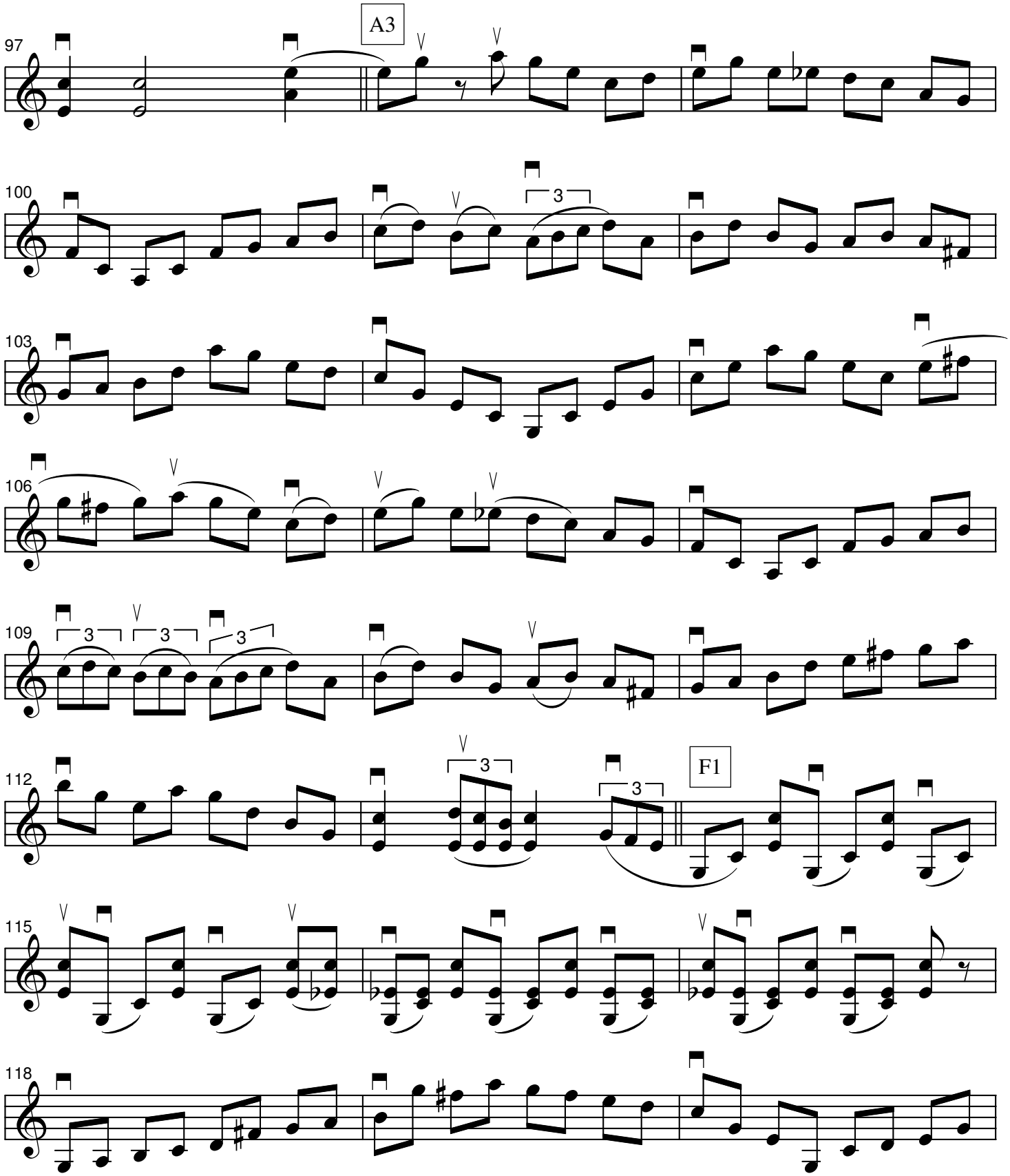

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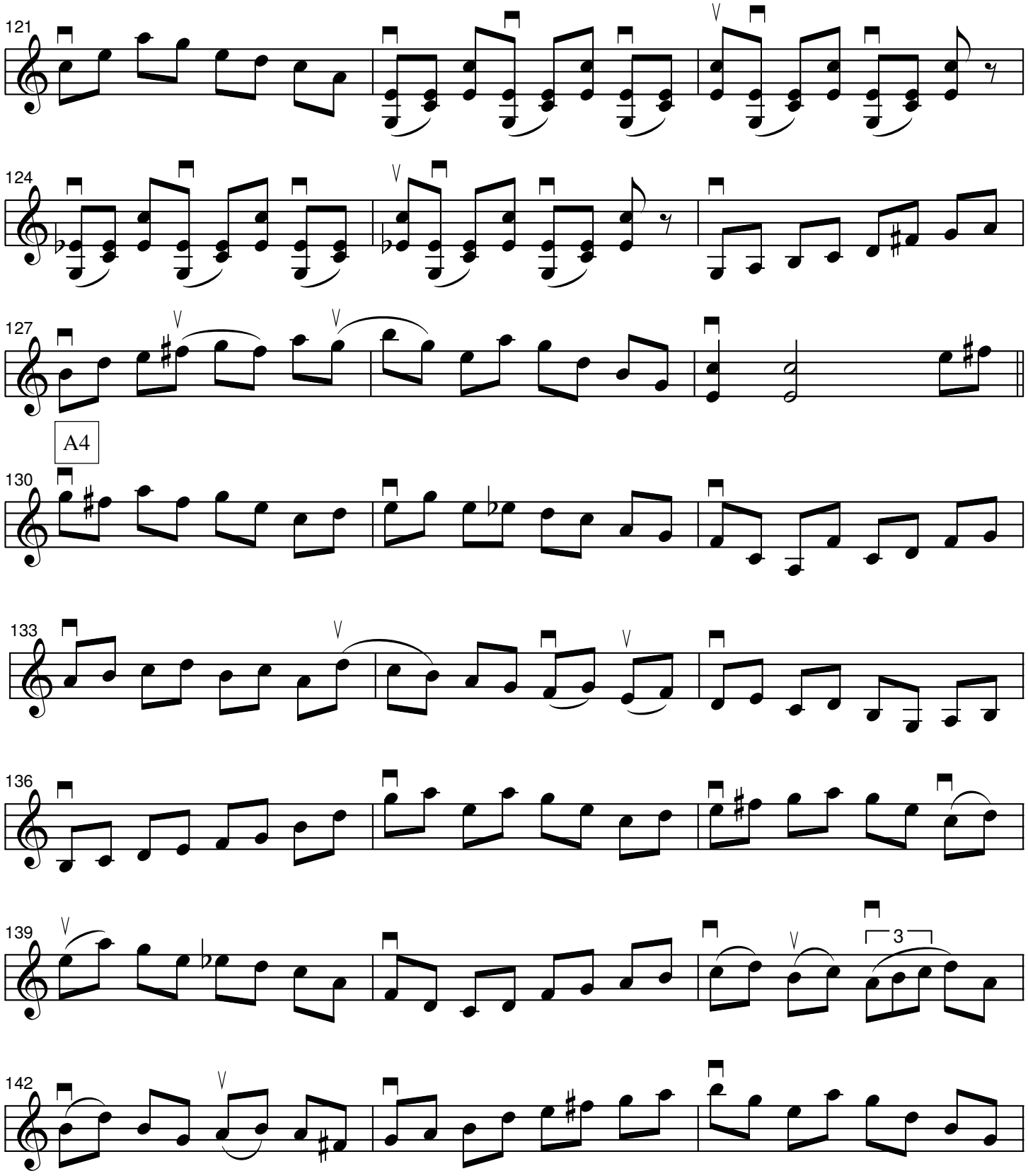

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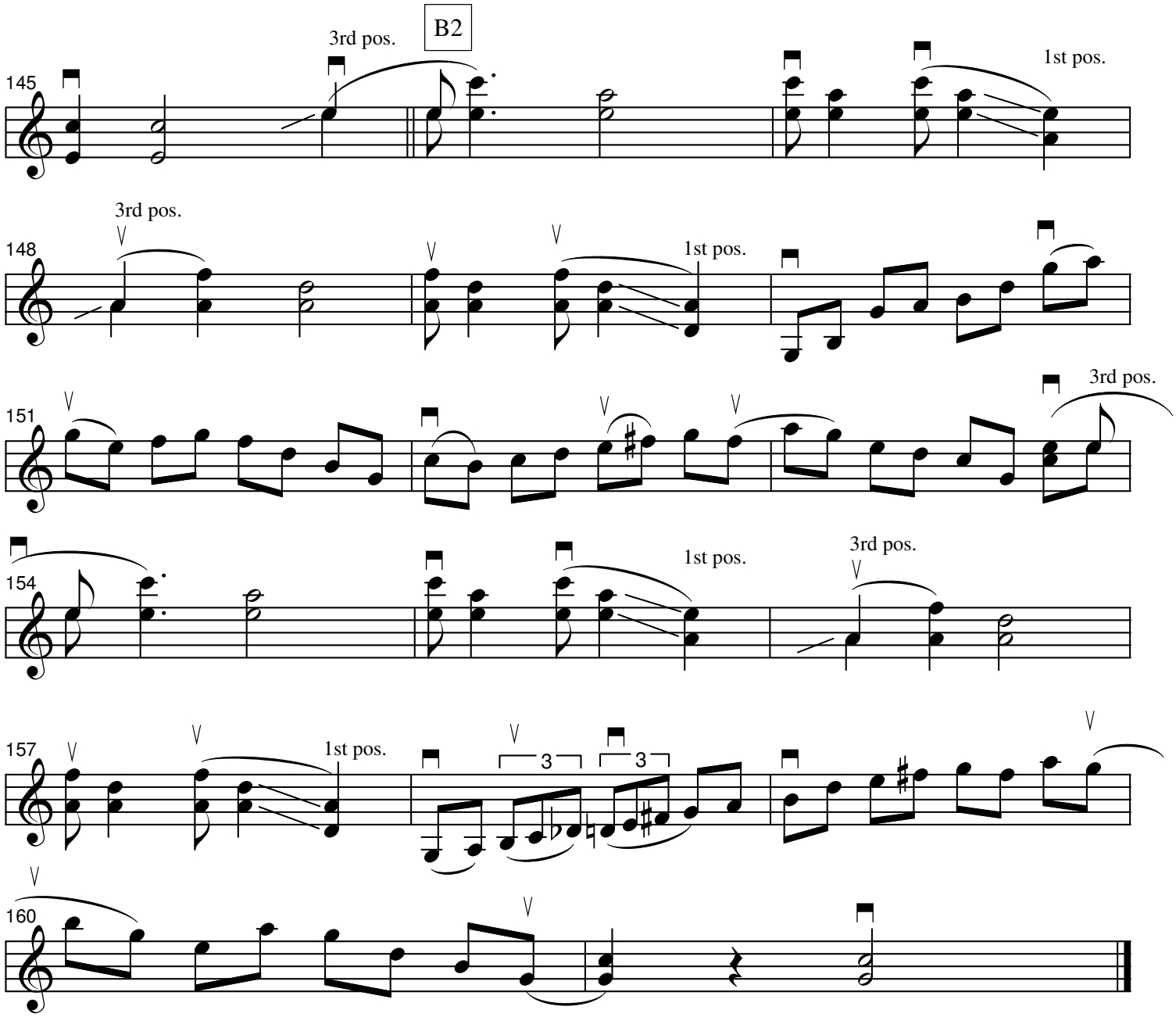

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Apple Blossom

♩= 222

Traditional

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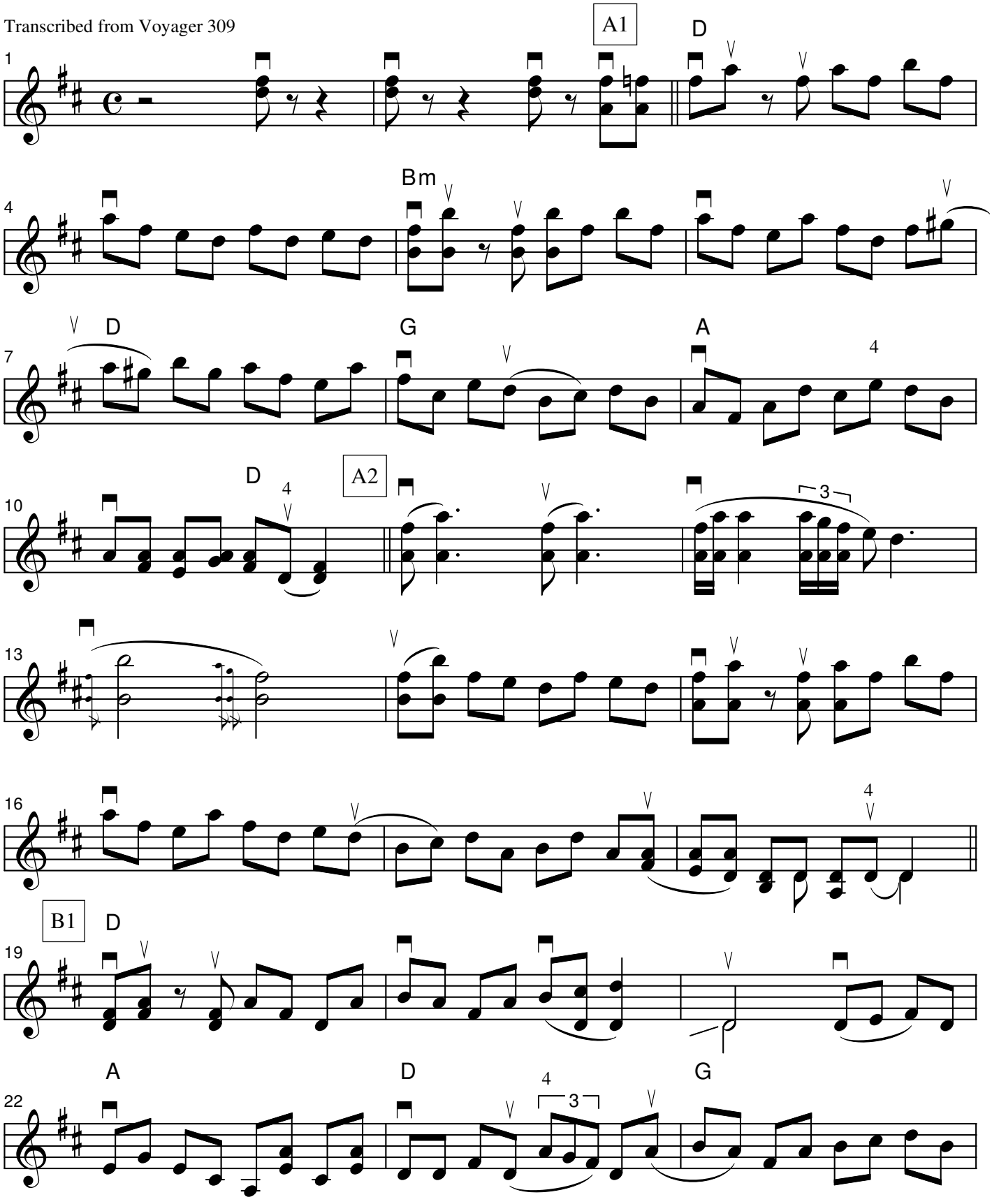

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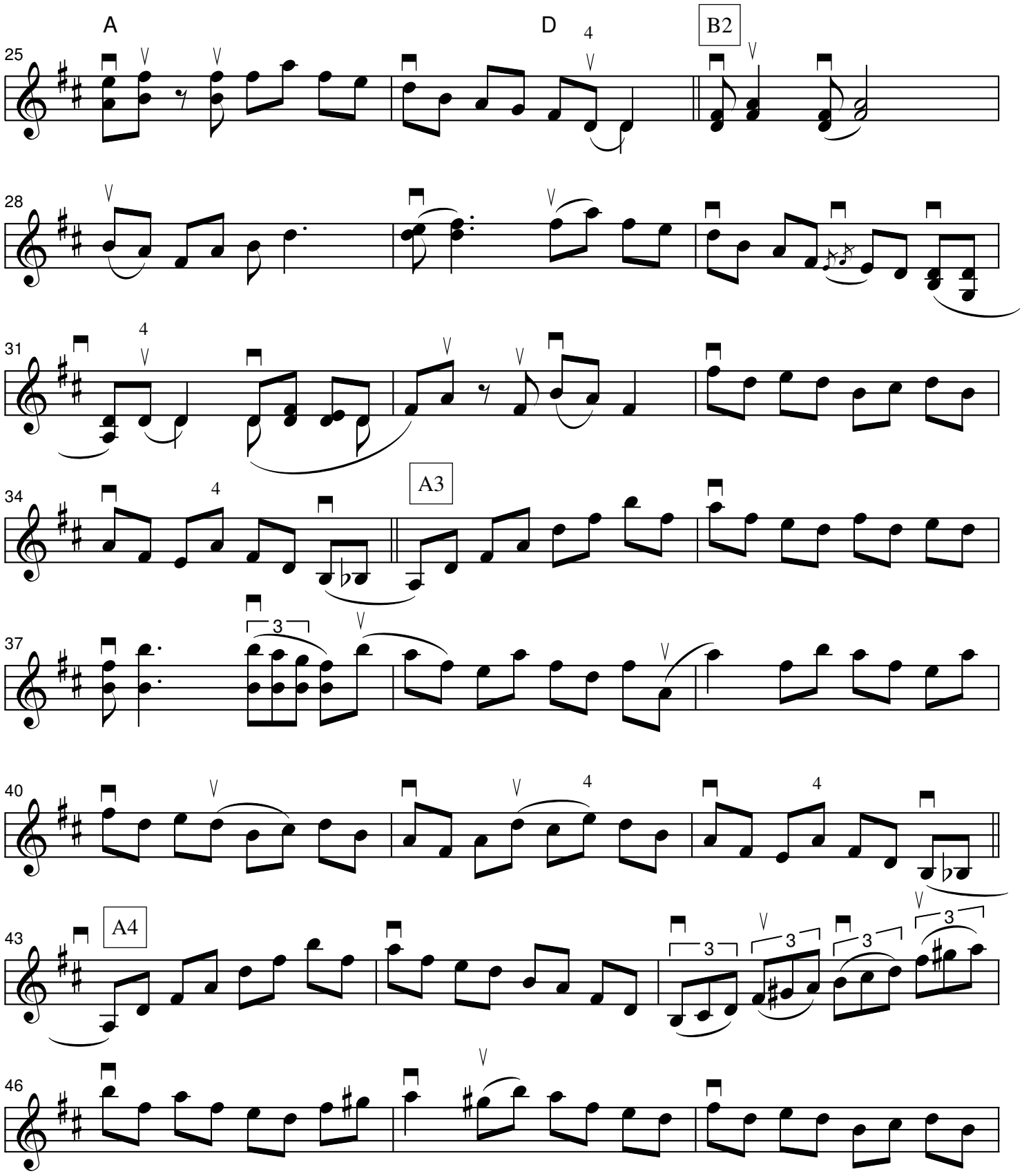

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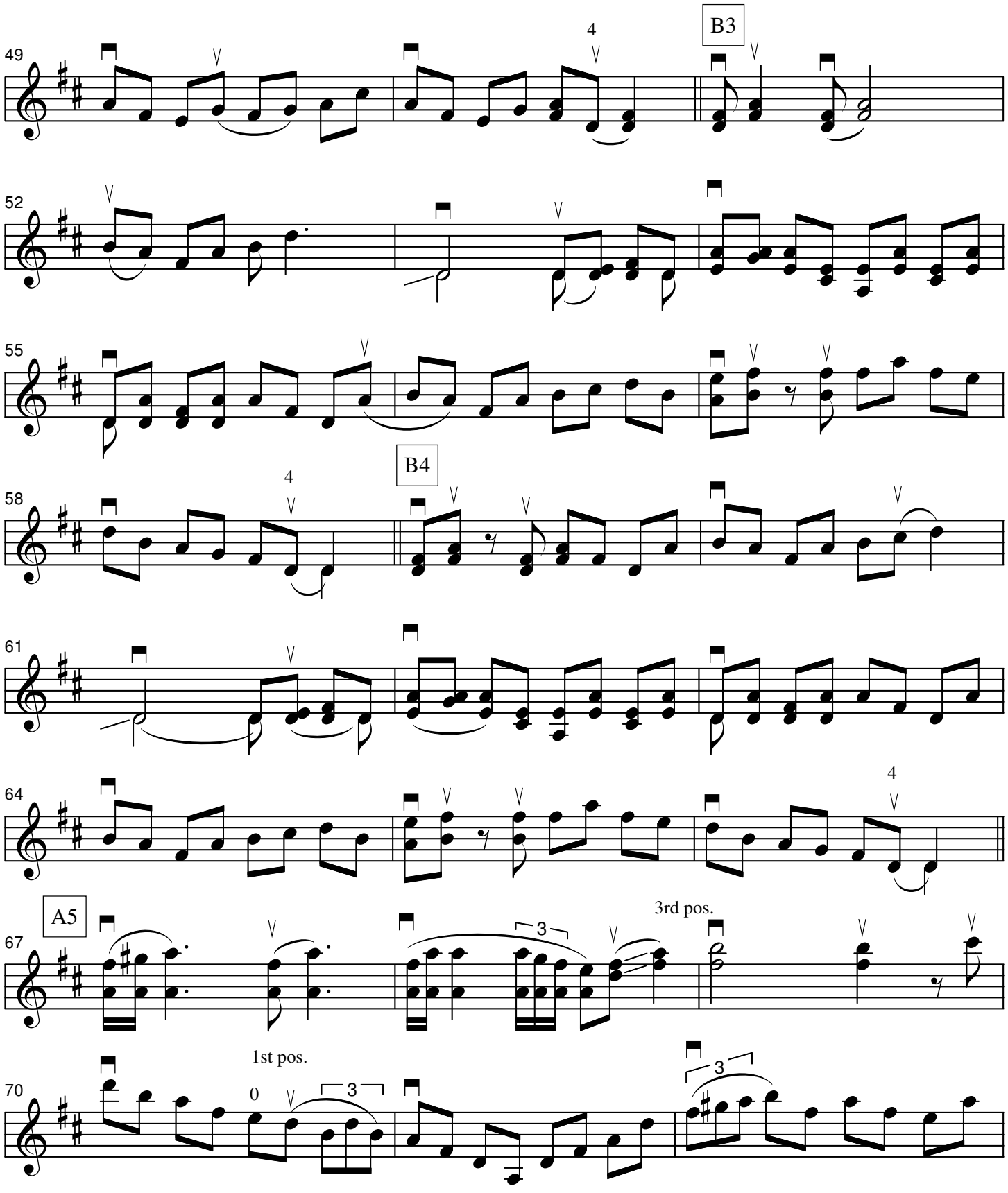

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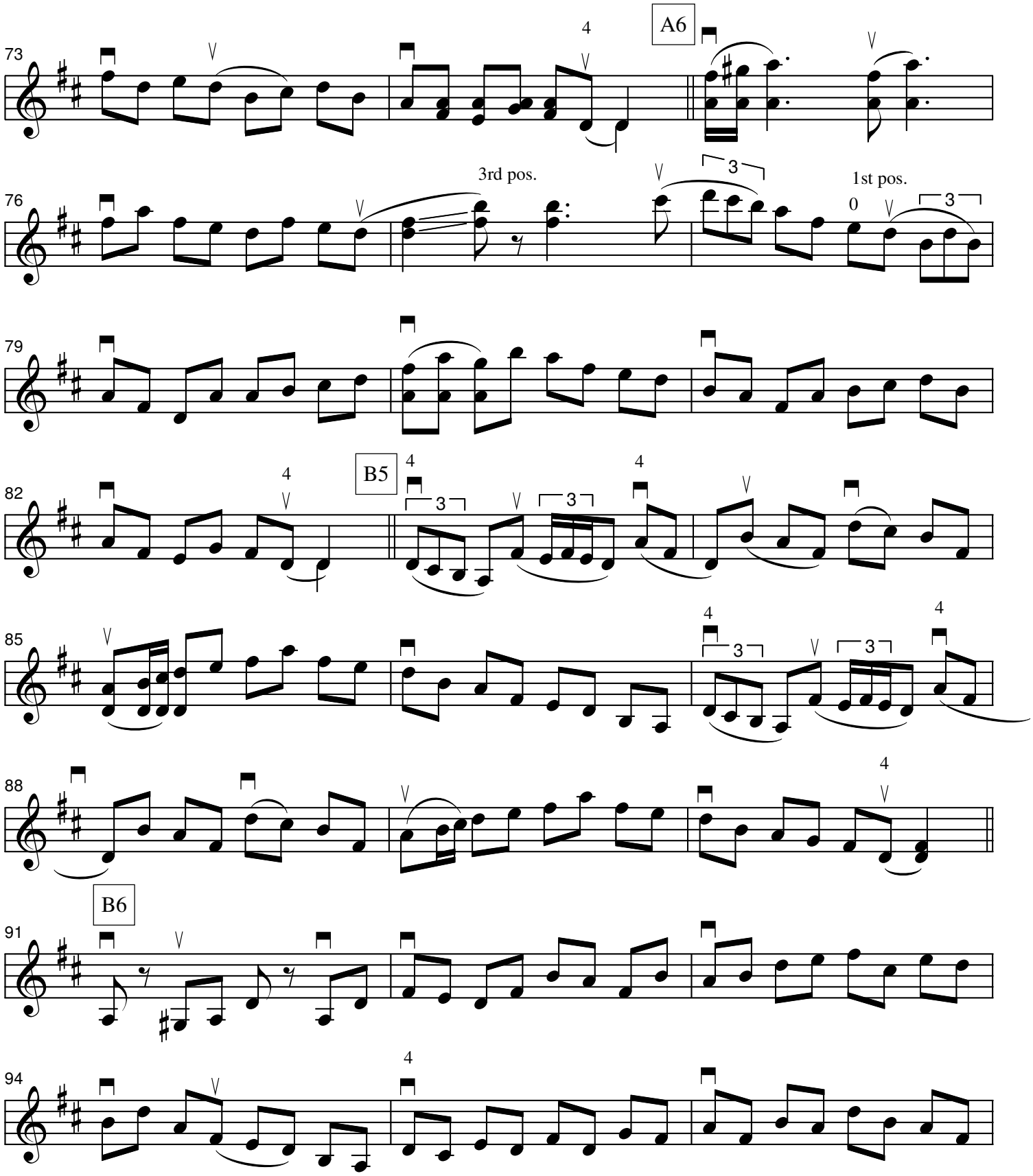

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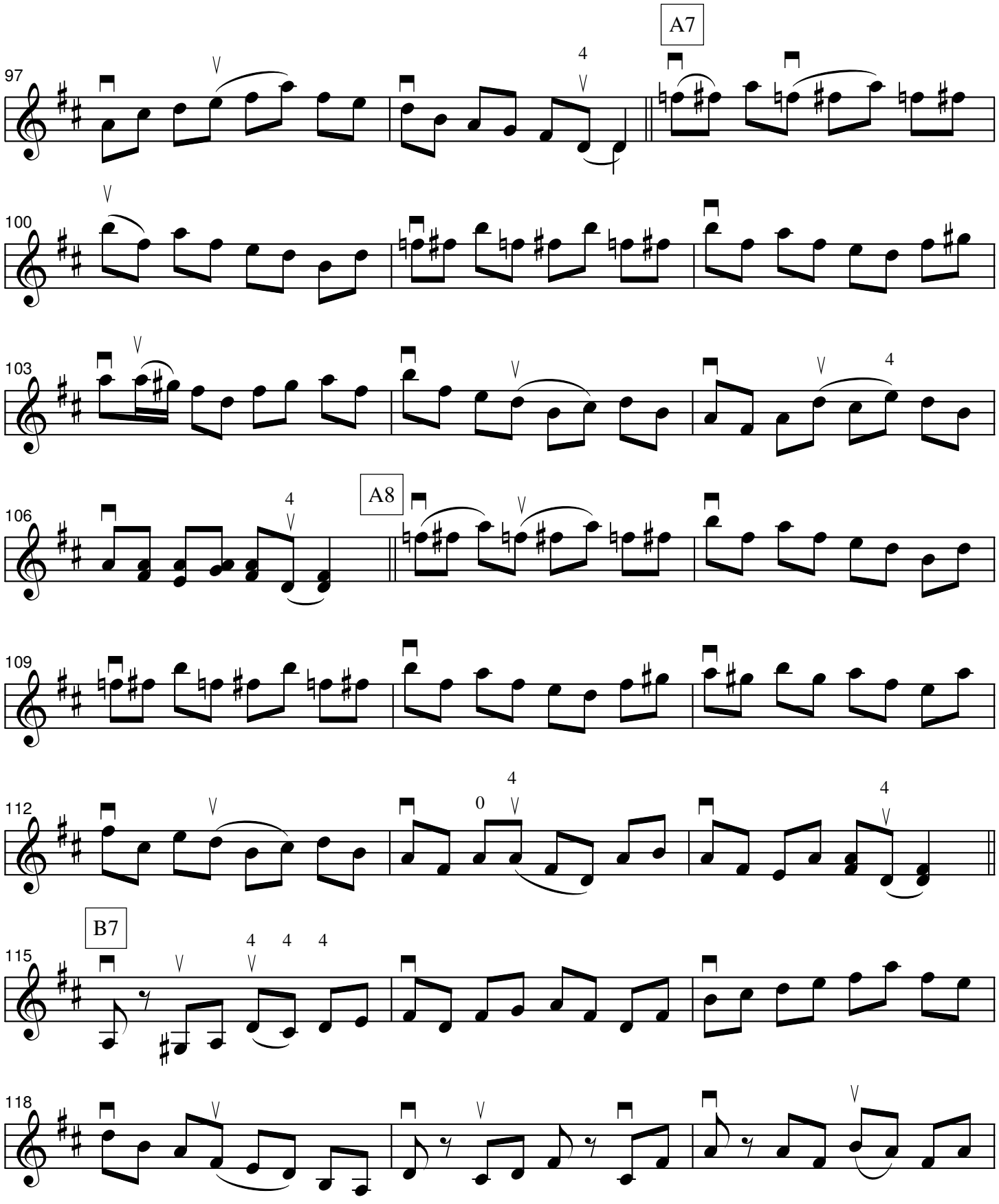

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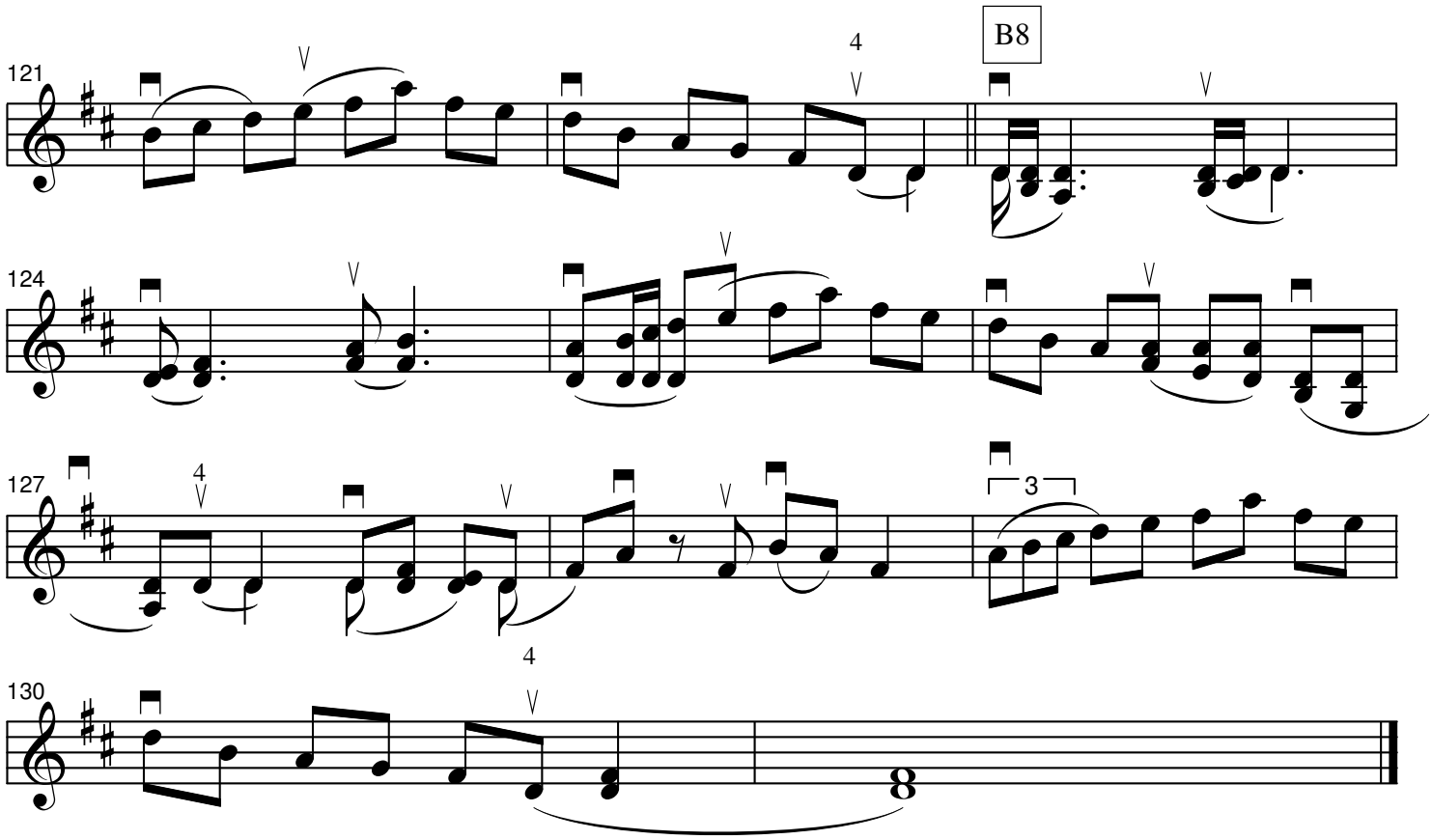

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Sally Johnson

♩= 220

Traditional

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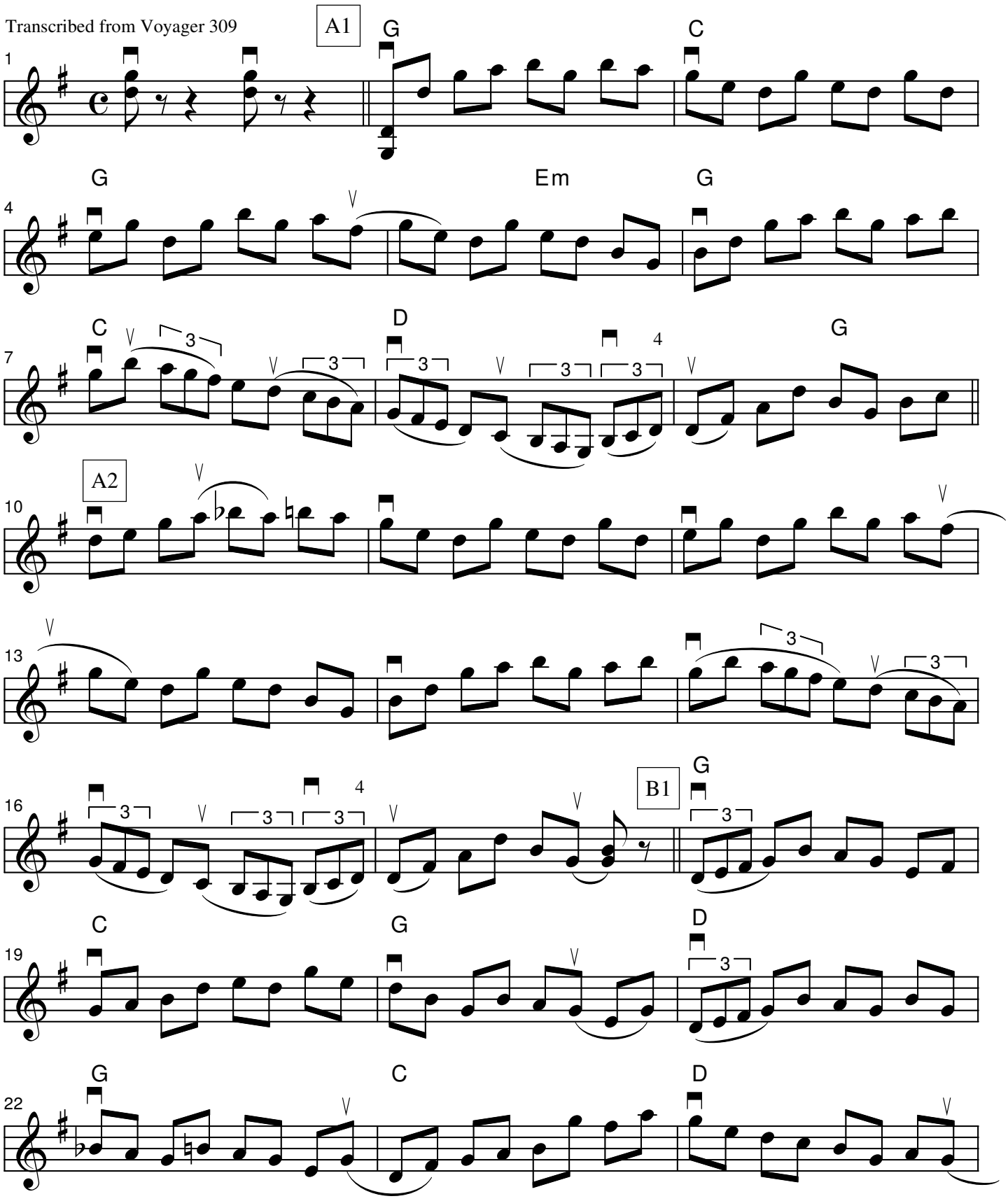

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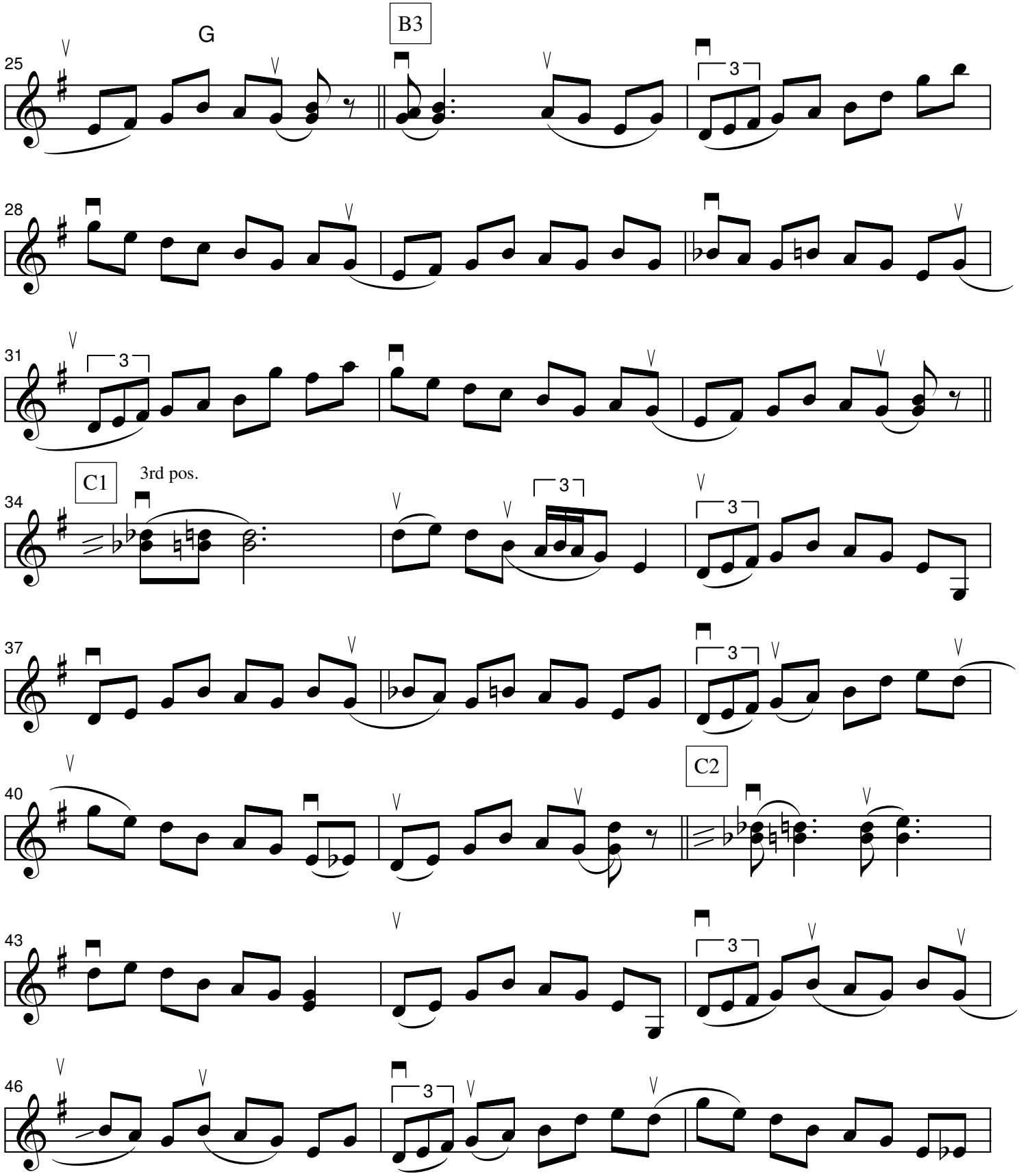

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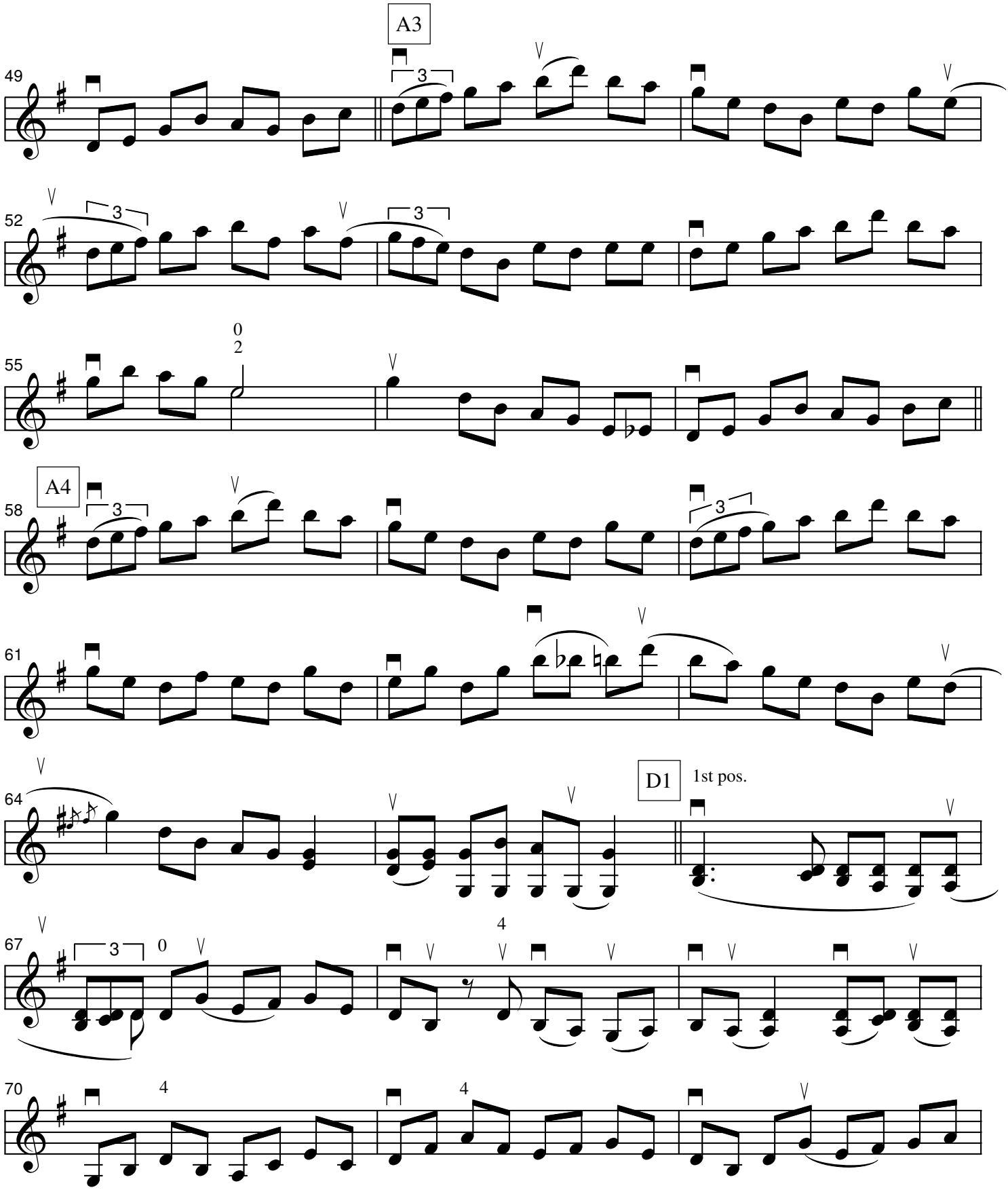

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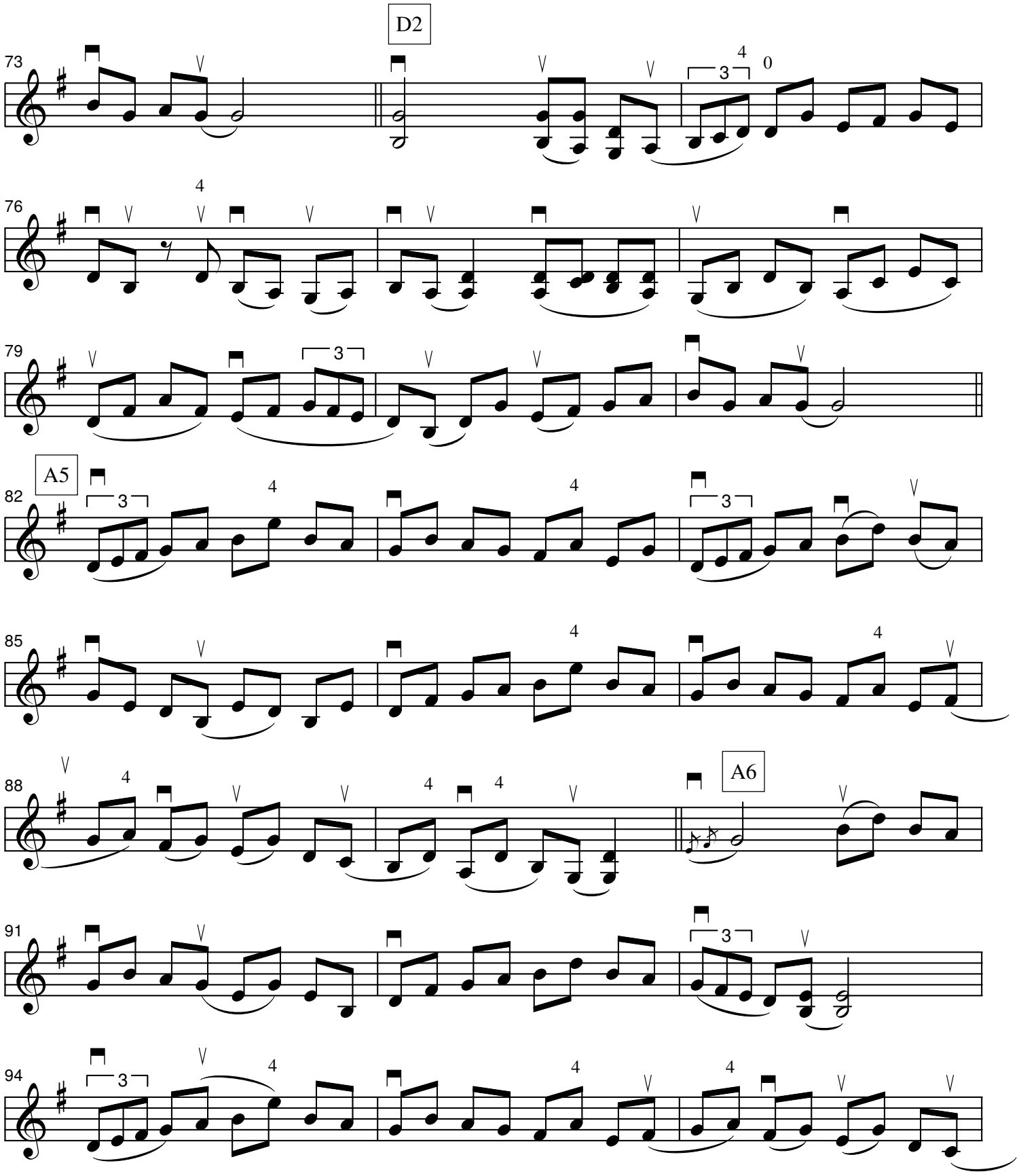

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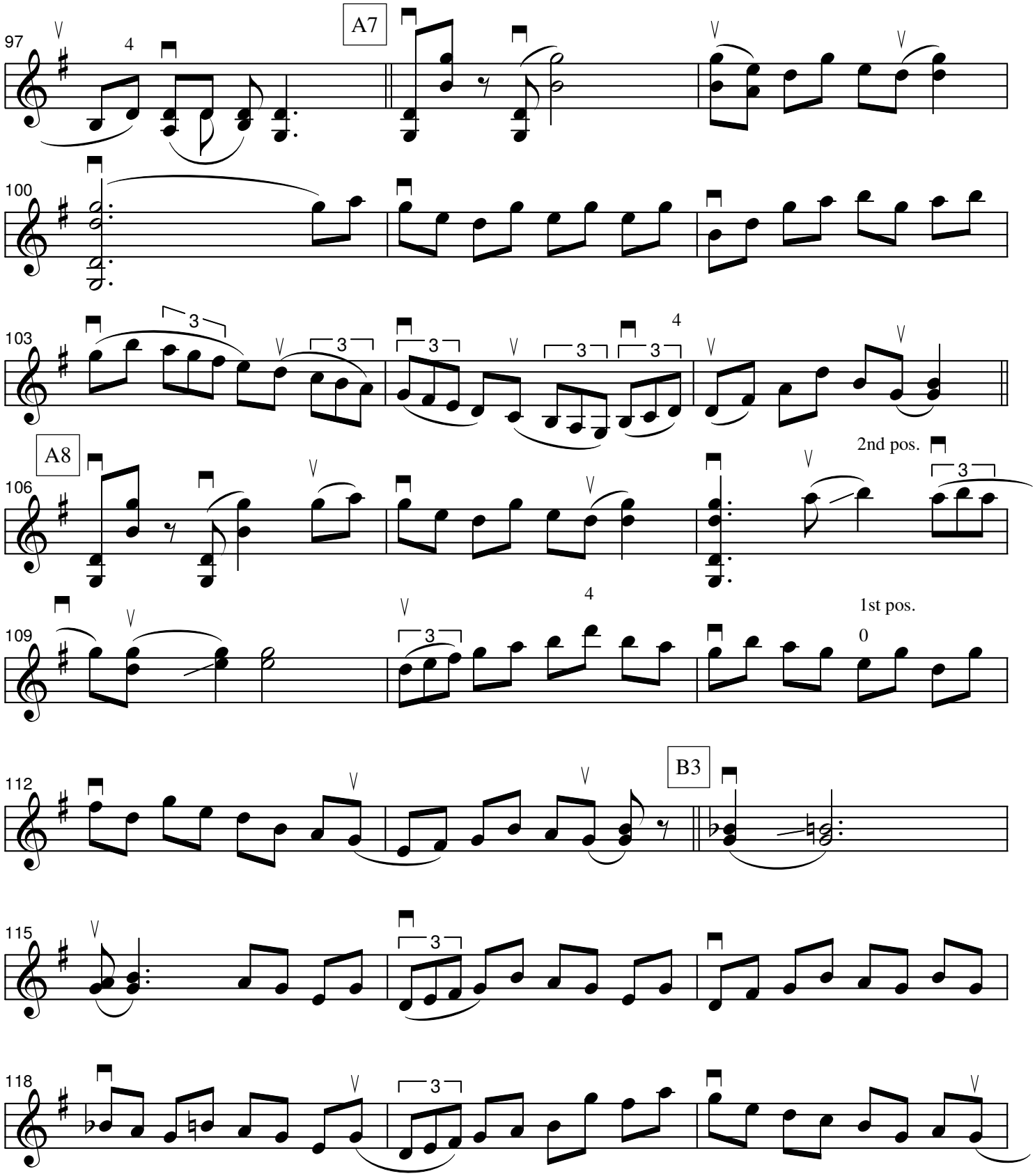

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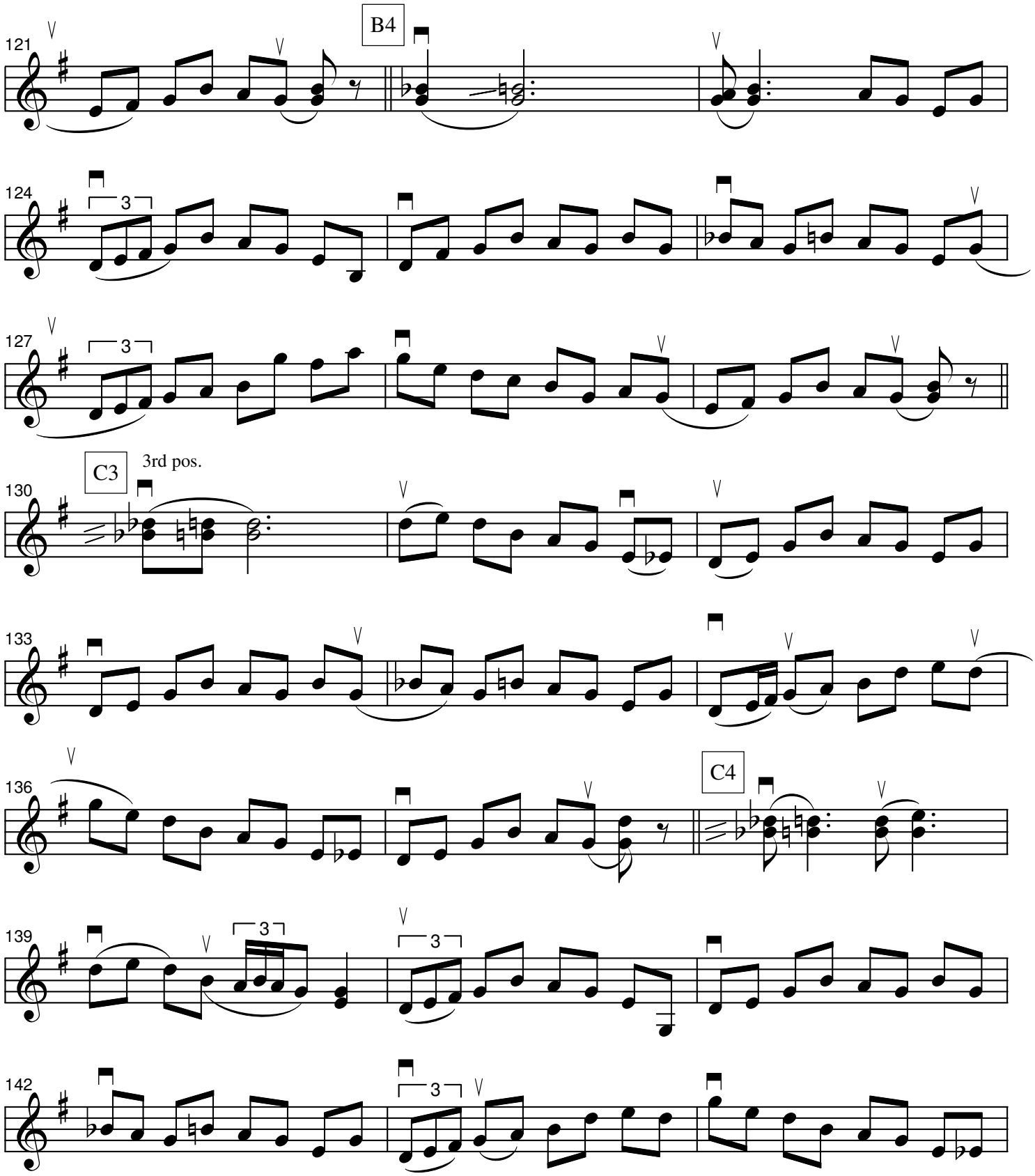

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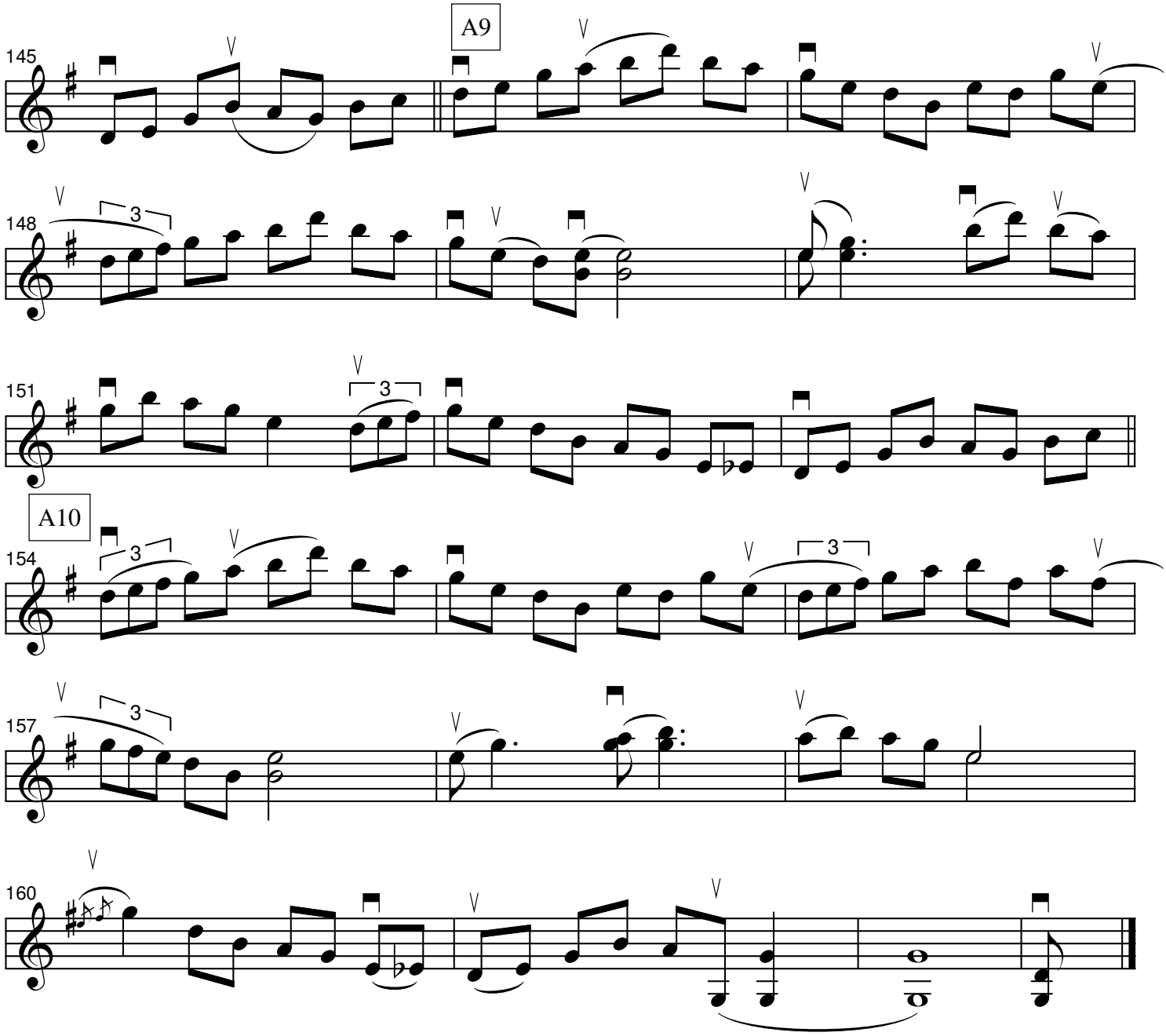

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Bonaparte's Retreat

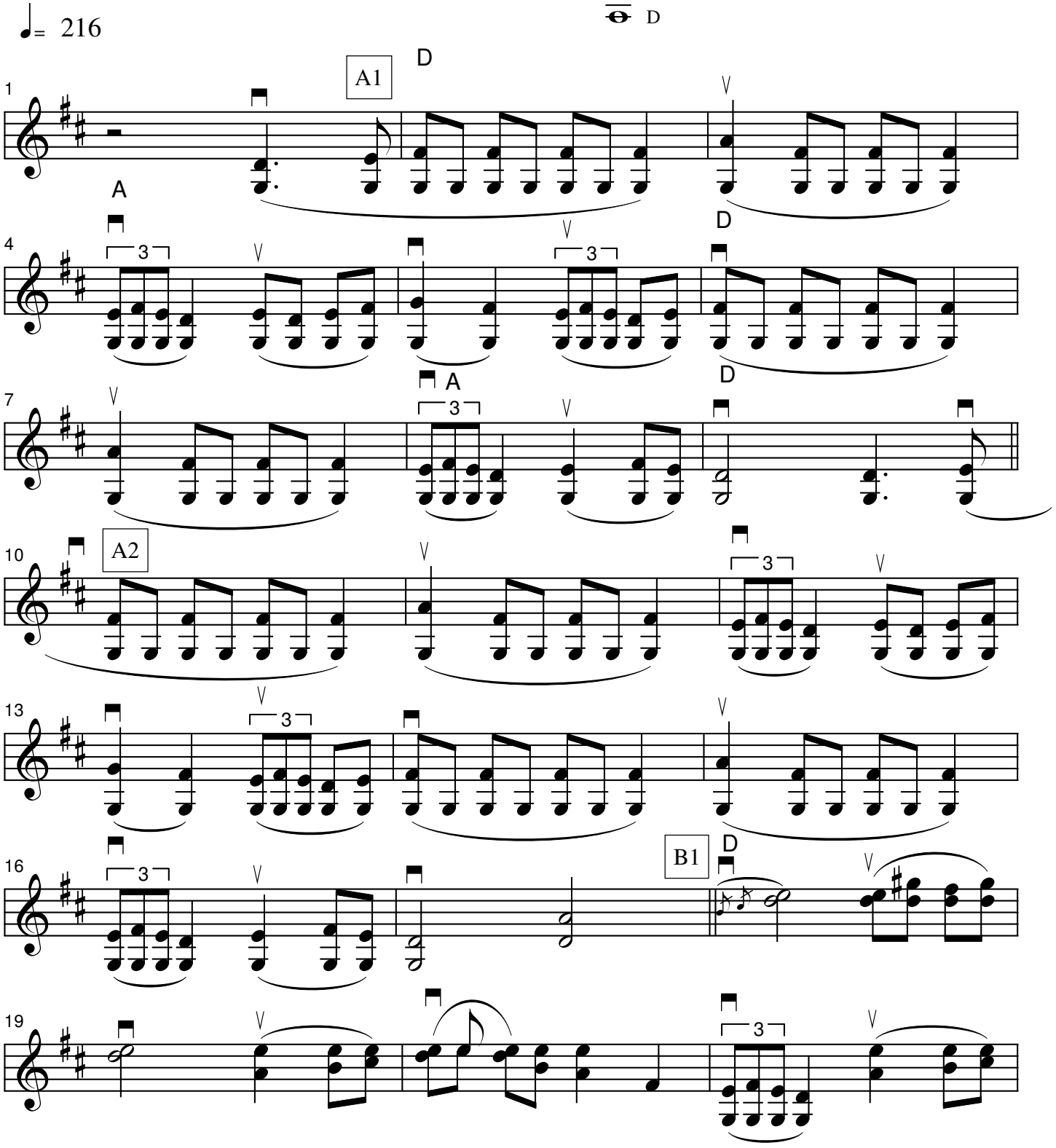
Traditional

Transcribed from County 703

TUNING

D
A
D
D

Read music as if in standard tuning



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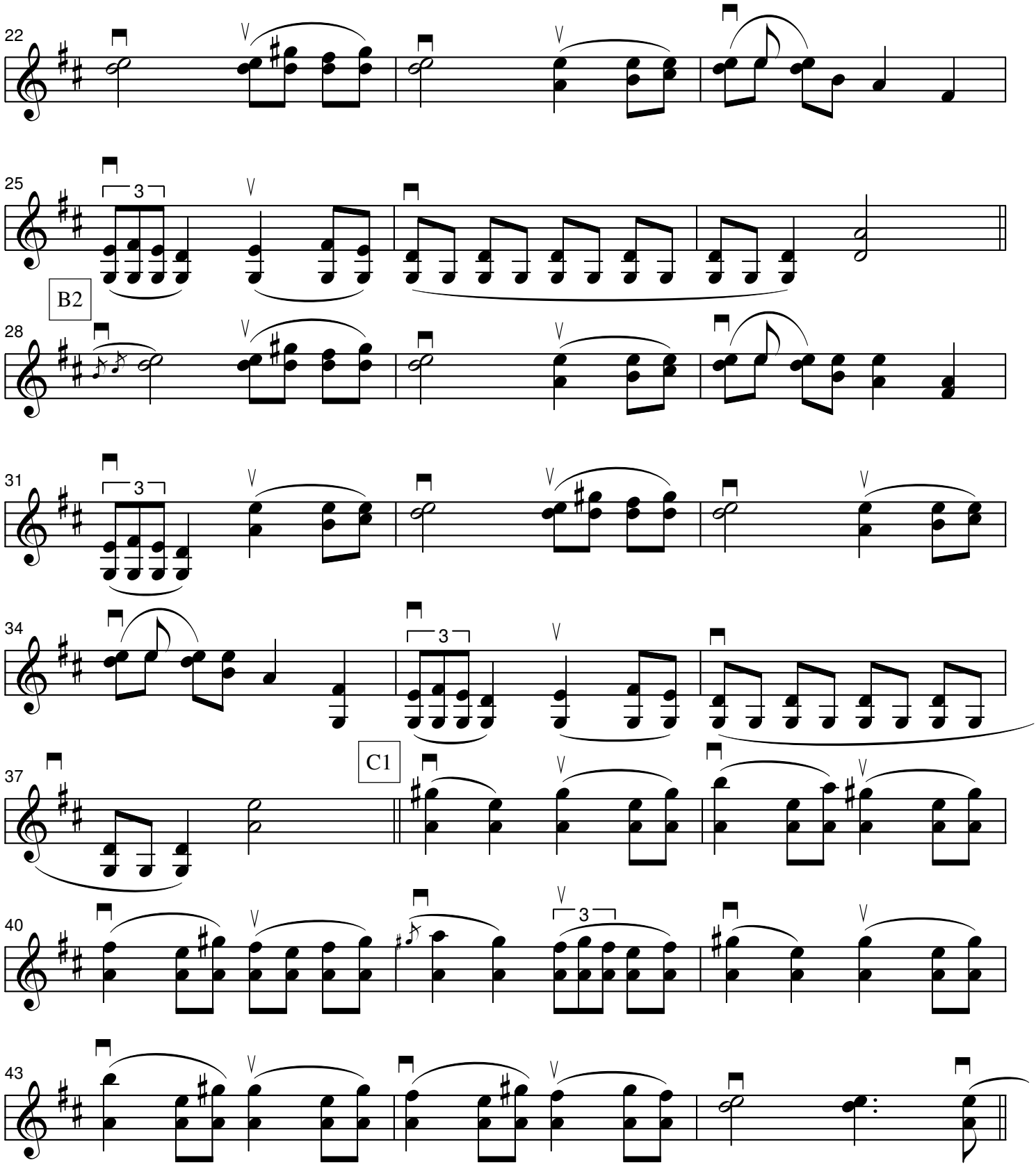

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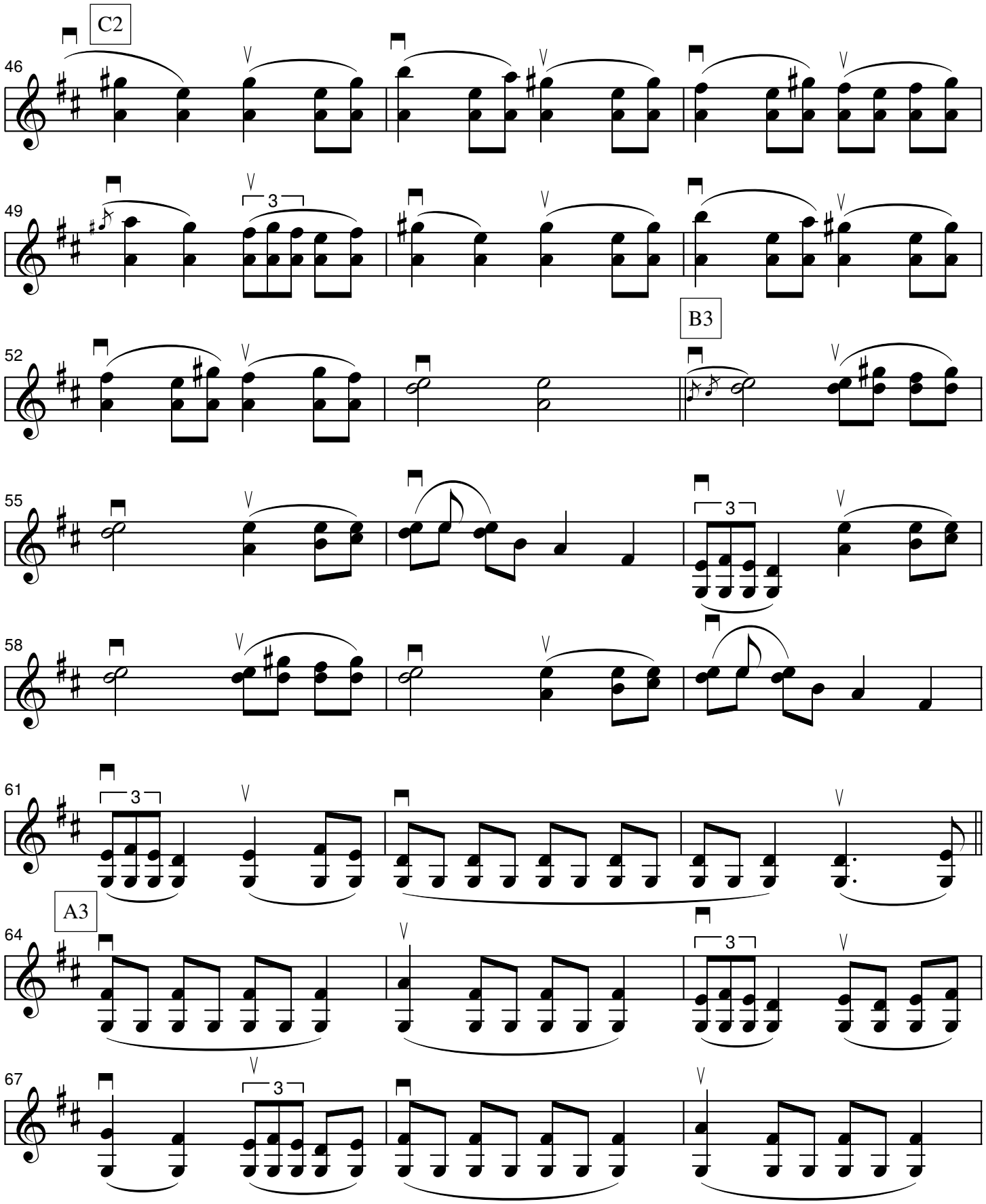

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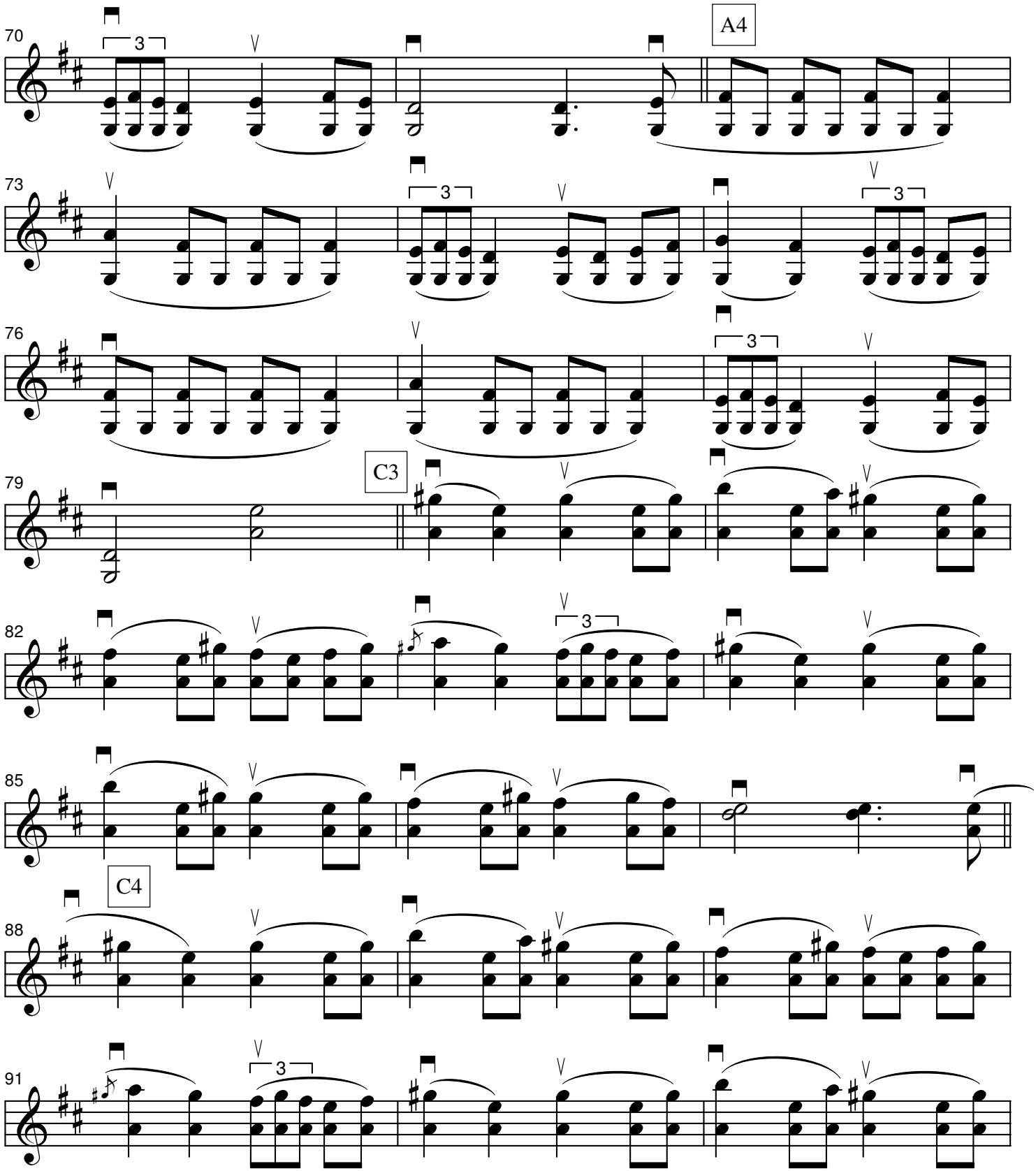

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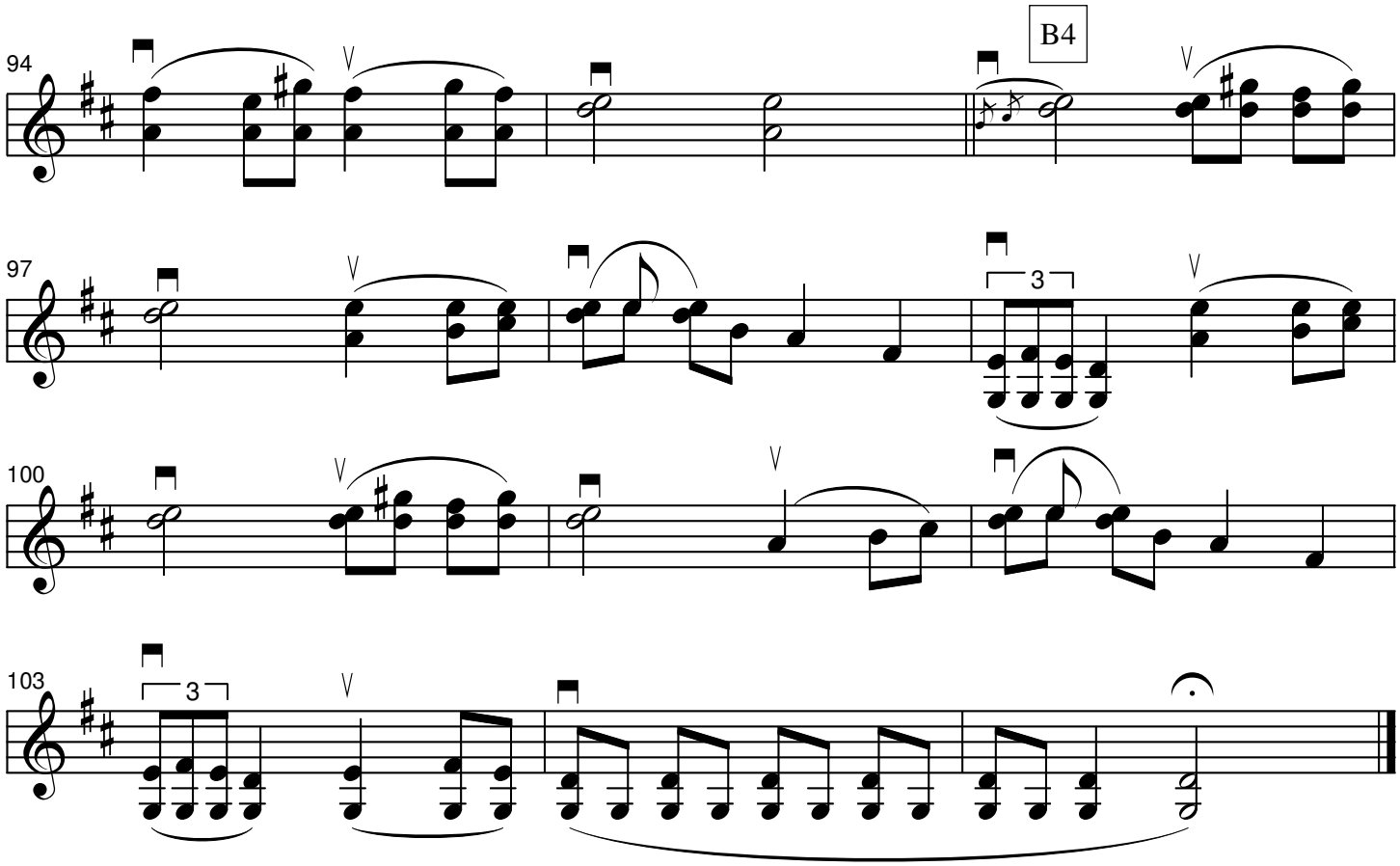

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