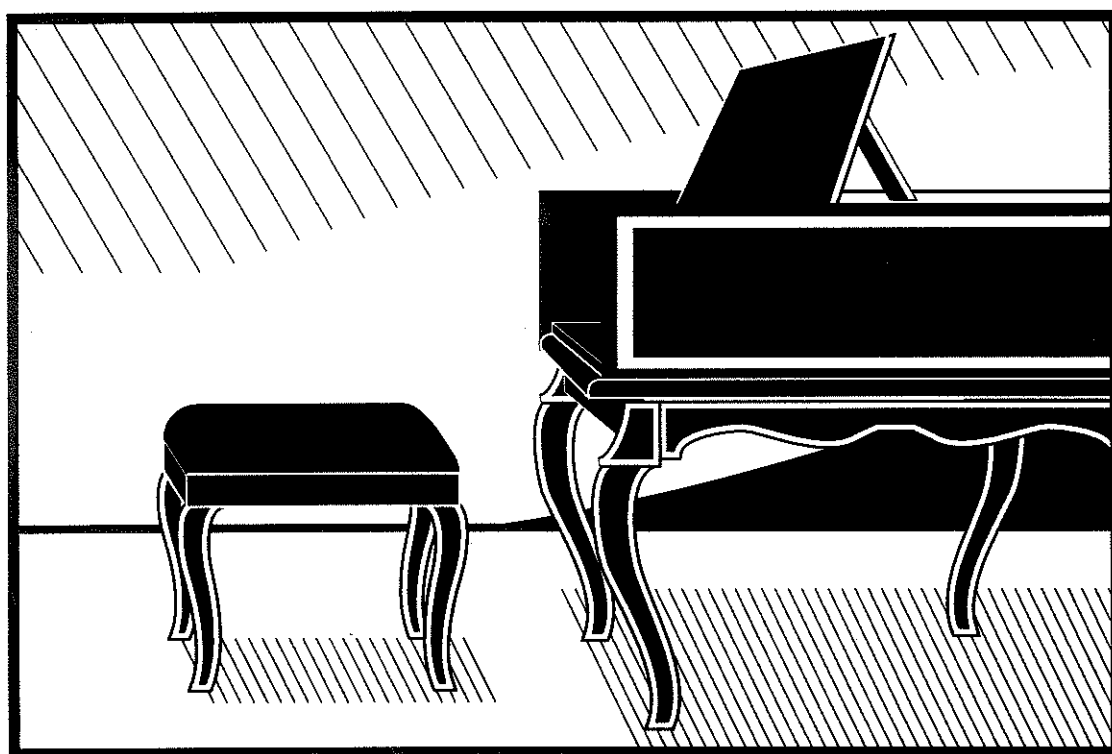


Maria Teresa Agnesi

Two Pieces for Solo Piano or Harpsichord

Edited by Barbara Harbach



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Sonata in G Major and Allegro ou Presto in A Major

By Maria Teresa Agnesi (1720-1795)

Edited by Barbara Harbach

The keyboard music of eighteenth century women composers is not widely known. Their music is exciting and challenging, but often lies neglected in forgotten attics and remote storage areas of libraries. Often, specific biographical information is unknown, though certain generalizations can be made about their lives. Often coming from musical families and having started their musical training at an early age, they generally became virtuosic performers and composers while still young; their enthusiasm and determination is understandable, especially since most were expected to give up composition and performance after marriage. These women were all active keyboardists as well as vocalists, interacting with prominent musicians and composers in public concerts and private salons.

Little information is available about Maria Teresa Agnesi (1720-1795), an Italian composer, singer, harpsichordist, and librettist. She was known primarily for her operas, possibly writing the librettos for three of her seven operas. She was apparently well-known at the courts of Vienna and Dresden. Besides her extant opera compositions, she wrote arias, concertos, and a few keyboard pieces. In 1752 she married Pier Antonio Pinottini.

The two pieces in this volume are *Sonata in G Major*, and *Allegro ou Presto in A Major*. Both of these short compositions are similar in style to those of Domenico Scarlatti with rounded binary form containing one theme, technically demanding arpeggios, appoggiaturas, suspensions, no dynamic indications, a few trill signs and grace notes, some Alberti bass accompaniment, and a few diminished chords. Most of the writing occurs in the middle-range of the keyboard. Both of the pieces are in the dance meters of 3/8 and 6/8, respectively.

Sonata in G Major has written-out turns and alternate-hand arpeggios. The grace note suspensions or appoggiaturas may be executed on the beat. The *Allegro ou Presto* is virtuosic in style with many passages of hand crossings for a range of two octaves for the arpeggios. In the right hand of measures 32 and 33, the slash on the second half of beat four may be interpreted as a *tirata*, an ornamental scale-like design starting a third below the written note.

These two pieces are a fascinating addition in the study of women keyboard composers of the eighteenth century such as Elisabetta de Gambarini, Elizabeth Turner, Elizabeth Hardin, Jane Freer, Elizabeth Weichsell Billington, Anna Bon, Jane Savage, Maria Hester Park, Cecilia Barthèlèmon, Hélène Montgeroult, Marie Bigot, and Madame de Villeblanche (available from Vivace Press). Many of these women were child prodigies, singers, and often acclaimed during their lifetimes. Unfortunately, these women were forgotten and overlooked in the succeeding years by music historians. Each woman composer that is recovered and her music published and made available for the first time since the eighteenth century provides another link in the history of women composers.

A manuscript of the *Sonata in G Major* was obtained from the Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe, and the *Allegro ou Presto* from the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin.

Editor's Note: This performing edition is an Urtext in which few ornaments, phrasing, articulation, or dynamics have been added to the score that were not originally provided by the composer. Each performer may determine these details following the composer's indications. However, the editor has unified ornaments, phrasing, articulation, and dynamics within passages or in restatements except where the composer clearly wanted variety with each recurrence. Likewise, obvious harmonic uniformity was provided by the editor (for example, where chromatic alterations were not carried out consistently in the original edition within passages or chords). Unnecessary accidentals were omitted, and the notation was altered occasionally to conform to modern standards.

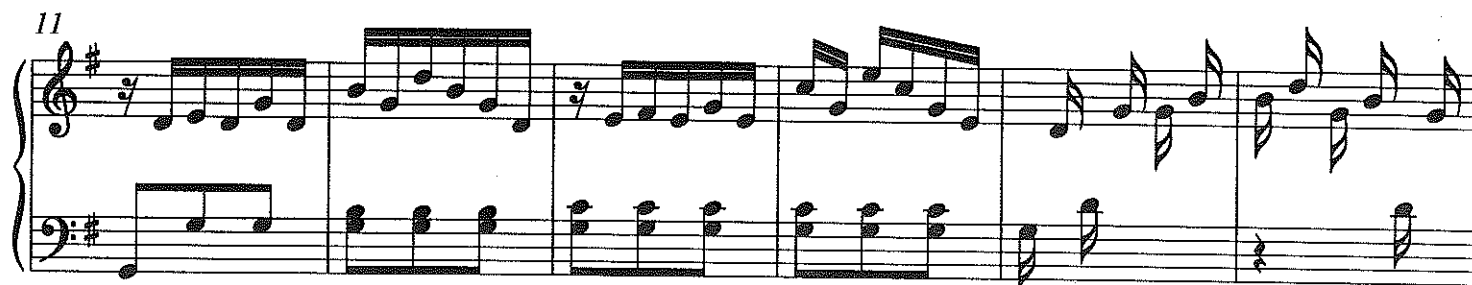
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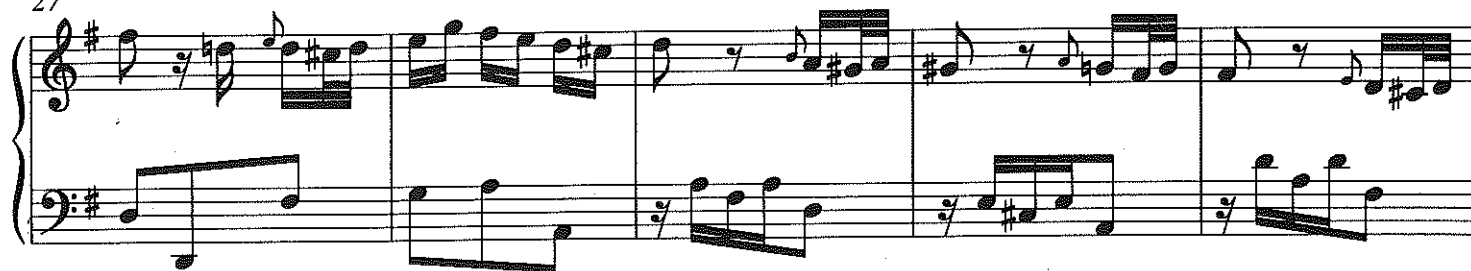
Sonata in G Major

MARIA TERESA AGNESI
Edited by Barbara Harbach

(♩. = 52 - 54)



27



32



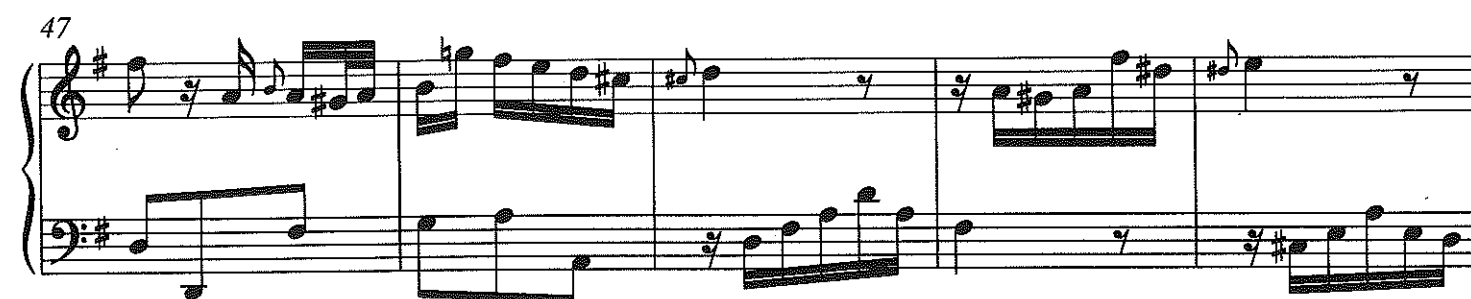
37



42



47



52

System 1, measures 52-56. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody in the treble clef consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment with eighth notes and rests.

57

System 2, measures 57-61. The treble clef continues with a more active melody of eighth notes. The bass line remains mostly silent, indicated by whole rests.

62

System 3, measures 62-66. The treble clef features a melodic line with a trill (tr) and a triplet (3) in the final measure. The bass line continues with a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes.

67

System 4, measures 67-71. The treble clef has a melodic line with some accidentals. The bass line has a few notes and rests, providing a simple harmonic support.

72

System 5, measures 72-76. The treble clef features a melodic line with eighth notes and rests. The bass line has a more active accompaniment with eighth notes.

77

Measures 77-81 of a musical score. The treble clef staff features a complex melody with many beamed sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and frequent rests. The bass clef staff provides a steady accompaniment with eighth and quarter notes. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

82

Measures 82-87 of a musical score. The treble clef staff continues with a fast, intricate melody. The bass clef staff features a more active line with eighth notes and some chords. The key signature remains one sharp (F#).

88

Measures 88-92 of a musical score. The treble clef staff shows a continuation of the fast melody. The bass clef staff has a more rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes. The key signature remains one sharp (F#).

93

Measures 93-97 of a musical score. The treble clef staff features a fast, flowing melody. The bass clef staff provides a steady accompaniment with eighth notes. The key signature remains one sharp (F#).

98

Measures 98-102 of a musical score. The treble clef staff continues with a fast melody. The bass clef staff features a more active line with eighth notes and some chords. The key signature remains one sharp (F#).

Allegro ou Presto

MARIA TERESA AGNESI
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A musical score for a piano piece titled 'The Rose Tree'. The score is written for piano (p) and consists of two staves, treble and bass. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 8/8. The tempo is marked as (♩. = 52 - 54). The melody is primarily in the treble staff, featuring a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass staff provides a simple accompaniment with eighth notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

3

A musical score for a piano piece. The score is written on two staves, treble and bass clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is primarily in the treble staff, featuring a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with a steady eighth-note pattern. The piece concludes with a final chord in the bass staff.

6

Example 6

9

Example 10 (continued)

12

Example 12

15

Measures 15-17 of a musical score in D major (two sharps). The piece is in 3/4 time. Measure 15 features a treble staff with a descending eighth-note scale and a bass staff with a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Measure 16 has a treble staff with a half-note chord and a bass staff with a half-note chord. Measure 17 continues with a treble staff featuring a descending eighth-note scale and a bass staff with a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

18

Measures 18-20 of a musical score in D major. Measure 18 has a treble staff with a descending eighth-note scale and a bass staff with a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Measure 19 features a treble staff with a half-note chord and a bass staff with a half-note chord. Measure 20 continues with a treble staff featuring a descending eighth-note scale and a bass staff with a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

21

Measures 21-23 of a musical score in D major. Measure 21 has a treble staff with a half-note chord and a bass staff with a half-note chord. Measure 22 features a treble staff with a descending eighth-note scale and a bass staff with a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Measure 23 continues with a treble staff featuring a descending eighth-note scale and a bass staff with a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

24

Measures 24-26 of a musical score in D major. Measure 24 has a treble staff with a descending eighth-note scale and a bass staff with a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Measure 25 features a treble staff with a descending eighth-note scale and a bass staff with a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Measure 26 continues with a treble staff featuring a descending eighth-note scale and a bass staff with a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

27

Measures 27-29 of a musical score in D major. Measure 27 has a treble staff with a half-note chord and a bass staff with a half-note chord. Measure 28 features a treble staff with a half-note chord and a bass staff with a half-note chord. Measure 29 continues with a treble staff featuring a descending eighth-note scale and a bass staff with a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

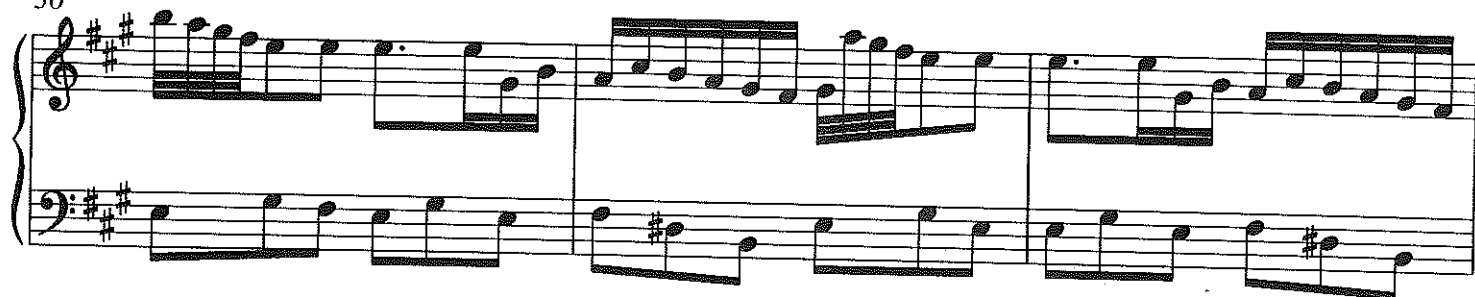
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33



36



39



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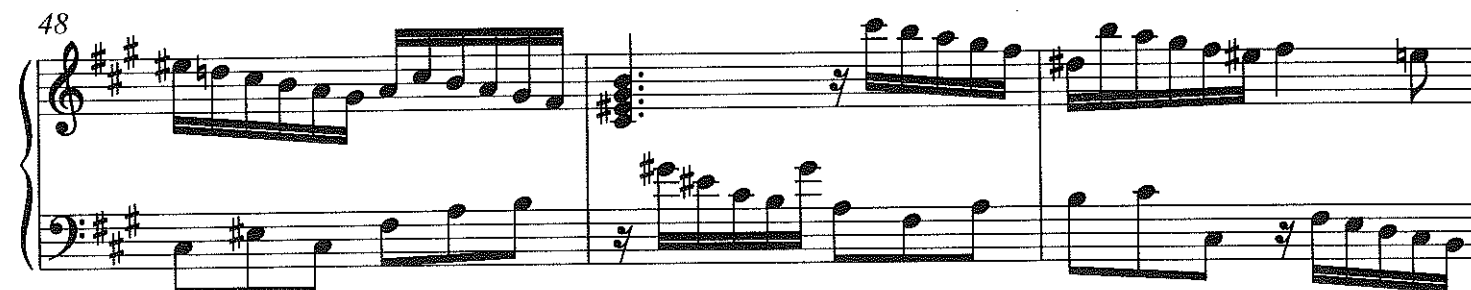
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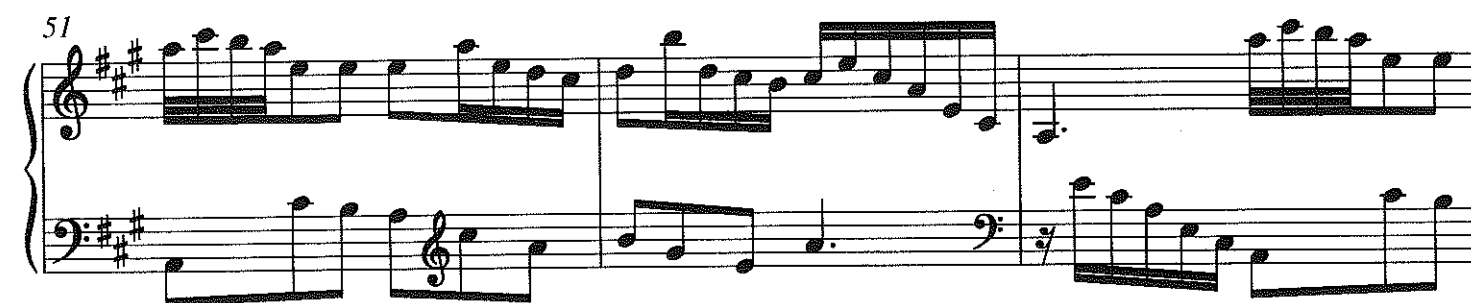
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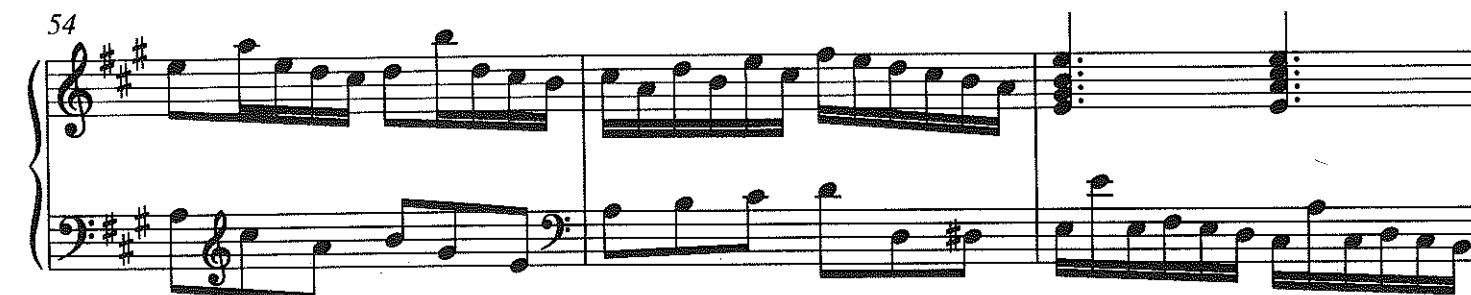
48



51



54



57

Measures 57-59. Treble clef: Continuous eighth-note melody. Bass clef: Harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

60

Measures 60-62. Treble clef: Continuous eighth-note melody. Bass clef: Harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

63

Measures 63-65. Treble clef: Continuous eighth-note melody. Bass clef: Harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

66

Measures 66-68. Treble clef: Continuous eighth-note melody. Bass clef: Harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

68

Measures 68-70. Treble clef: Continuous eighth-note melody. Bass clef: Harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

71

Measures 71-73 of a musical score in A major (three sharps). The system consists of two staves. Measure 71 features a treble staff with a melodic line of eighth and sixteenth notes and a bass staff with a supporting line. Measure 72 continues the melodic development in the treble. Measure 73 shows a more active bass line with eighth notes. The system concludes with a repeat sign.

74

Measures 74-75 of the musical score. Measure 74 has a treble staff with a melodic line and a bass staff with a supporting line. Measure 75 features a treble staff with a melodic line and a bass staff with a supporting line. The system concludes with a repeat sign.

76

Measures 76-78 of the musical score. Measure 76 has a treble staff with a melodic line and a bass staff with a supporting line. Measure 77 features a treble staff with a melodic line and a bass staff with a supporting line. Measure 78 shows a treble staff with a melodic line and a bass staff with a supporting line. The system concludes with a repeat sign.

79

Measures 79-81 of the musical score. Measure 79 has a treble staff with a melodic line and a bass staff with a supporting line. Measure 80 features a treble staff with a melodic line and a bass staff with a supporting line. Measure 81 shows a treble staff with a melodic line and a bass staff with a supporting line. The system concludes with a repeat sign.

82

Measures 82-84 of the musical score. Measure 82 has a treble staff with a melodic line and a bass staff with a supporting line. Measure 83 features a treble staff with a melodic line and a bass staff with a supporting line. Measure 84 shows a treble staff with a melodic line and a bass staff with a supporting line. The system concludes with a repeat sign.

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Barbara Harbach, Professor of Music at Washington State University, tours extensively as both a concert organist and harpsichordist. Her appearances include recitals throughout North America, Korea, Japan, Europe, the former Soviet Union, and Eastern European countries, as well as solo and continuo roles with symphony orchestras. She holds degrees from Penn State, Yale, and the Eastman School of Music (D.M.A.).

Her lively performances and recordings have captured the imagination of American composers, and the body of work written for and dedicated to Harbach is substantial. *Musical America* has called her "the American virtuoso" and *Gramophone* has cited her as an "acknowledged interpreter—and, indeed, muse—of modern harpsichord music."

She is host of the weekly television music series *Palouse Performance* seen throughout the Inland Northwest.

An accomplished composer, Harbach has written musicals, choral anthems, works for organ and harpsichord, and arrangements and transcriptions for brass and organ of various baroque works. She is involved in the research, editing, and publication of manuscripts of eighteenth century keyboard composers. Her work is available in both recorded and published form through Gasparo Records (New Hampshire), Kingdom Records (Great Britain), Albany Records, Northeastern Records, Hester Park, Robert King Music, Elkan-Vogel, Augsburg Publishing, Agape Music, and Vivace Press.

Harbach is a prolific recording artist (solo and ensemble), and she has been heard on *St. Paul Sunday Morning*, *Pipedreams*, *Adventures in Good Music*, *BOB and BILL*, *Eastman Brass*, *Audiophile Audition*, and *Live from Chautauqua*. She is editor of *Women of Note Quarterly* and has been the Director of three Women in Music Symposia at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

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