ERIC EWAZEN

Concerto

for Horn and String Orchestra

SOLO PART AND PIANO REDUCTION

THEODORE PRESSER COMPANY

CONCERTO for Horn and String Orchestra was commissioned by and is gratefully dedicated to Gregory Hustis, principal horn in the Dallas Symphony. Greg premiered the work in 2002 with Voices of Change, the renowned contemporary chamber ensemble in Dallas. Greg had been familiar with my horn sonata and brass chamber music, and he was eager to have me write a concerto. Hearing his beautiful, lyrical-yet-brilliant playing, I was delighted to write this concerto for him. Greg has recorded the work for Crystal Records with the Dallas Philharmonia, conducted by Paul Phillips, my friend from my college years at Eastman.

When I talk with students about writing for horn, I emphasize its extraordinary versatility – it can blend with all the instrumental families, melting together with the strings or the woodwinds, and of course as a brass instrument, holding its own with the trumpets, trombones, and tuba. It can sing out heroically, or gently float resonant lines, or be bold and assertive. One of my favorite pieces in the repertoire is the Brahms' horn trio, and I had noted that Brahms had never written a concerto for horn – a real loss to the horn world! Can you imagine the concerto Brahms would have written? Using the influence of Brahms, my love for the sound of the horn, and being familiar with the gorgeous sound of Greg Hustis, I proceeded to write this 20-minute three-movement concerto, exploring all the beautiful horn colors, as it soars above, or sings with, or subtly exchanges musical material with the string orchestra.

The first movement is lively and playful, often energetic with the harmonies reflecting my Eastern European roots, and rhythms that are full of life. The second movement focuses on a singing horn line – poignant, expressive to the point of being appassionato, but always lyrical, always beautiful. The final movement has a real edge to it – more chromatic than the previous movements, aggressive and bold, but culminating with a grand singing, soaring line in C major, bringing the piece to a resonant, heroic finale.

— Eric Ewazen

sample

to Gregory Hustis

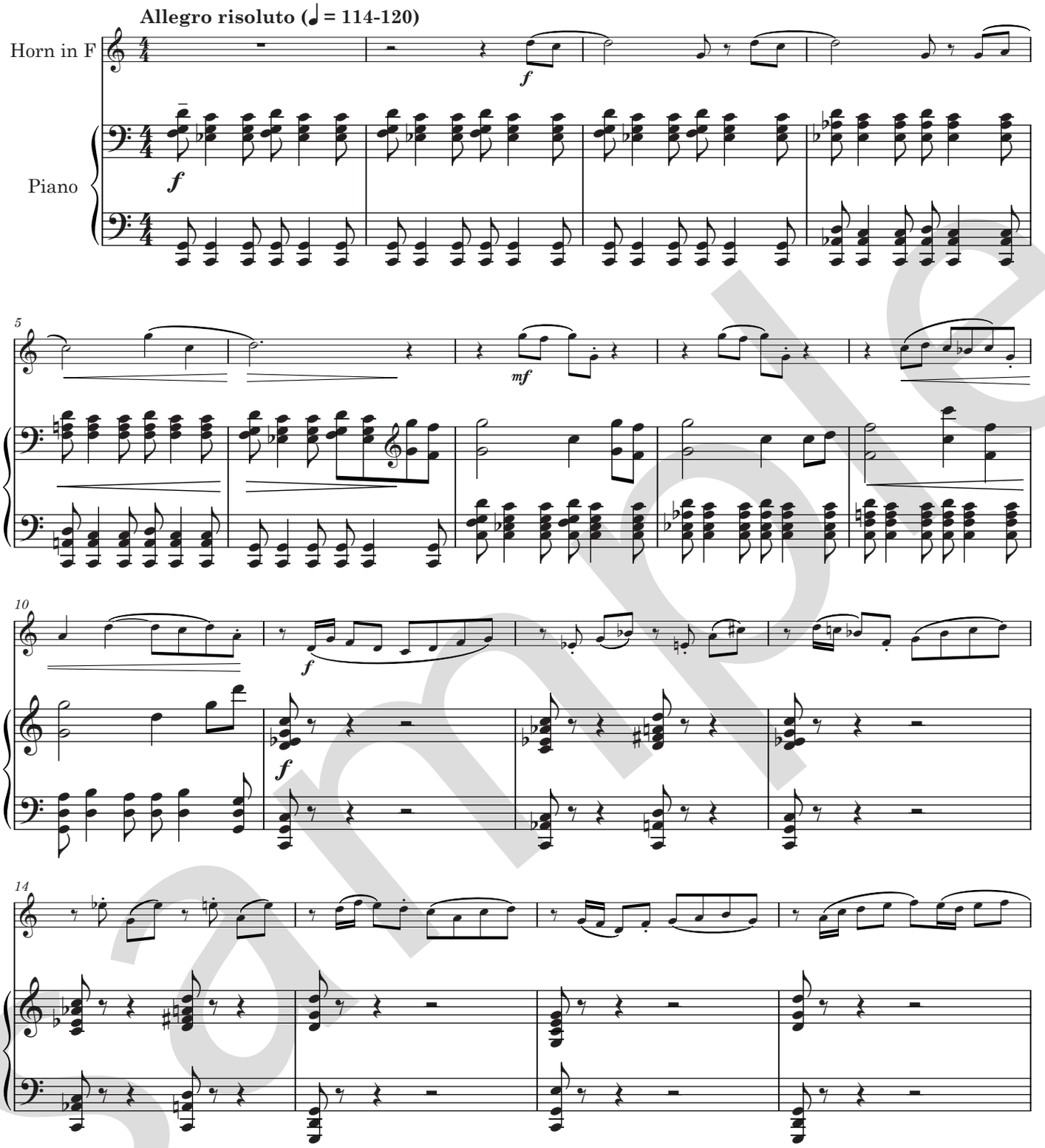
Concerto

for Horn and String Orchestra

Duration: c. 20'

ERIC EWAZEN

I.



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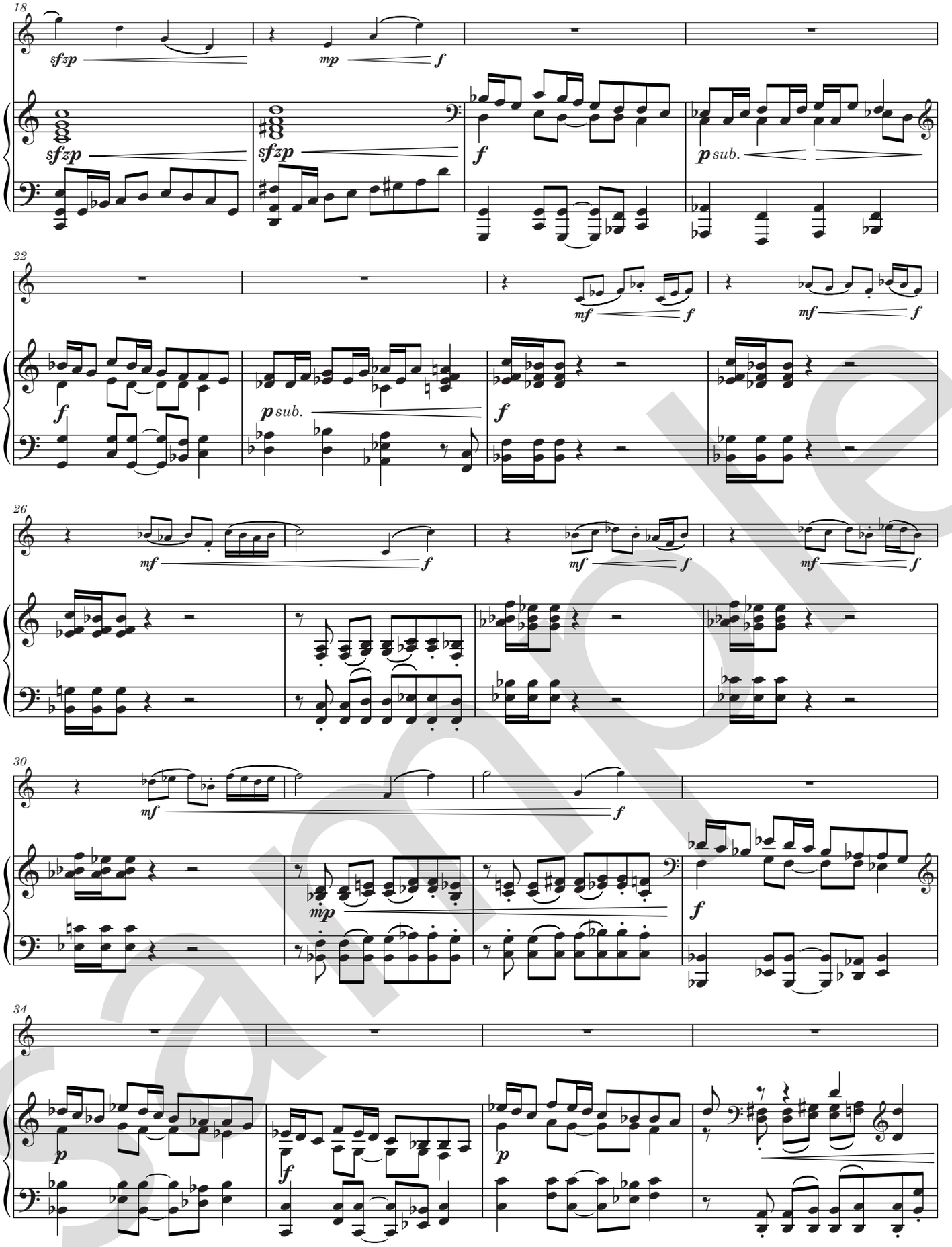
sample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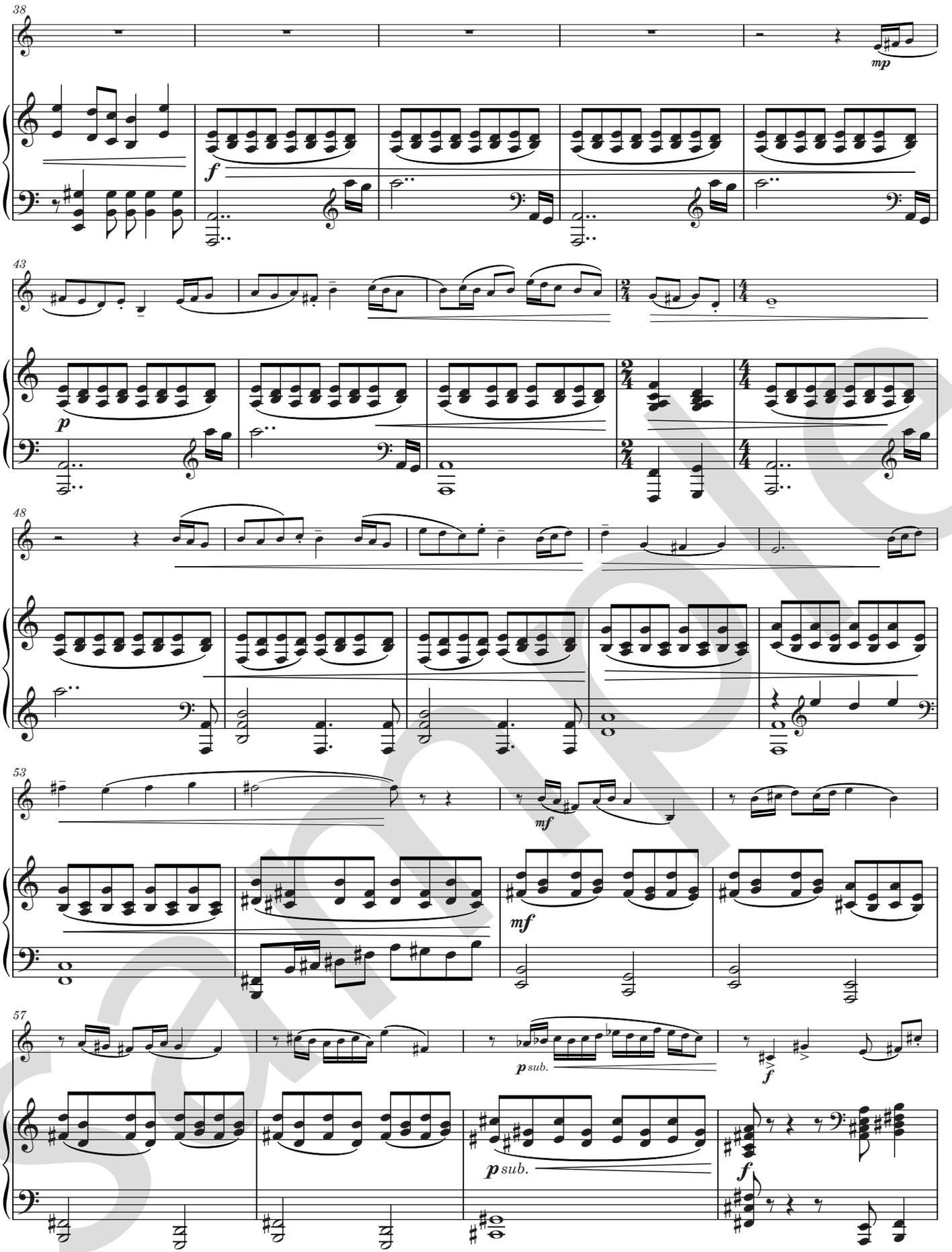

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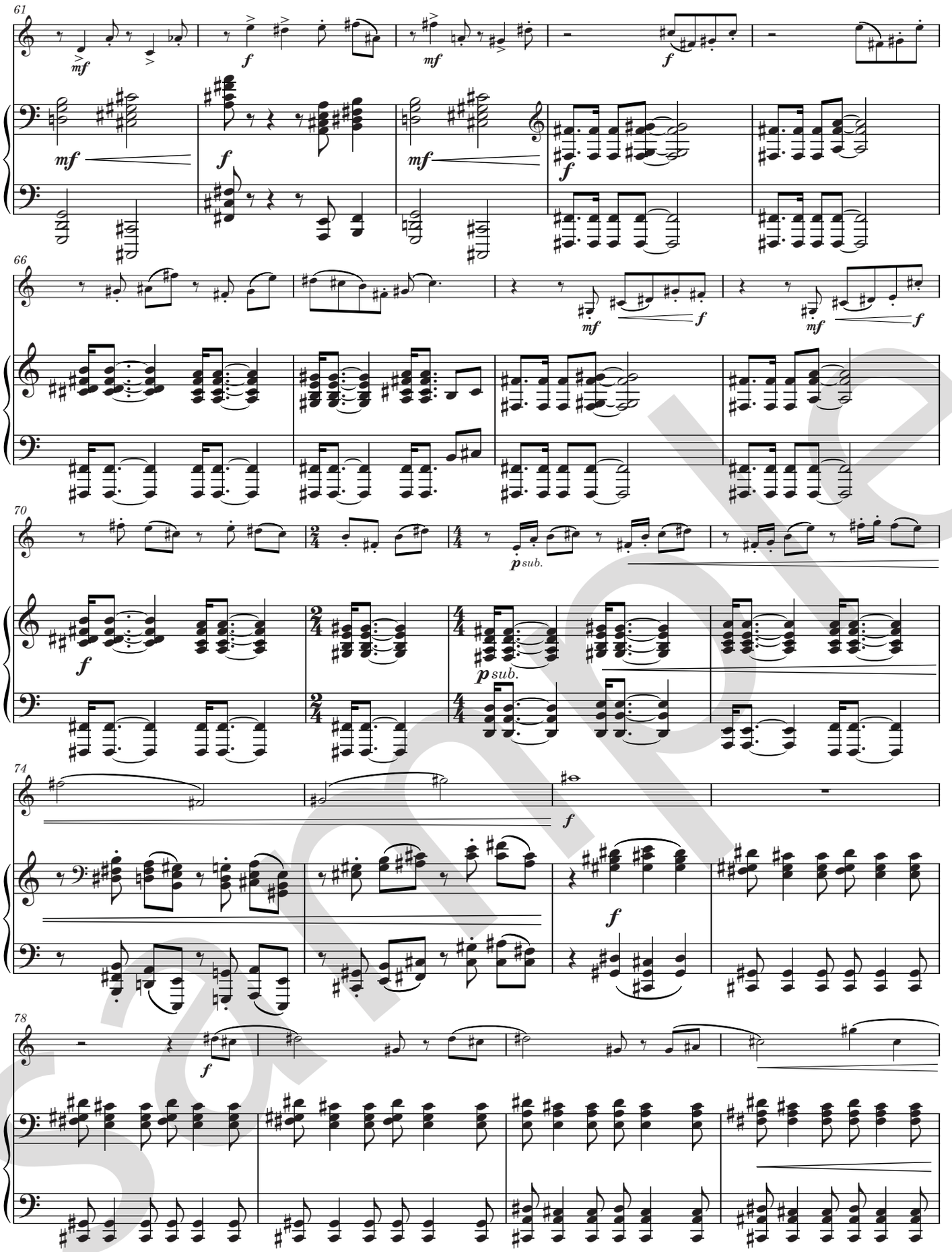
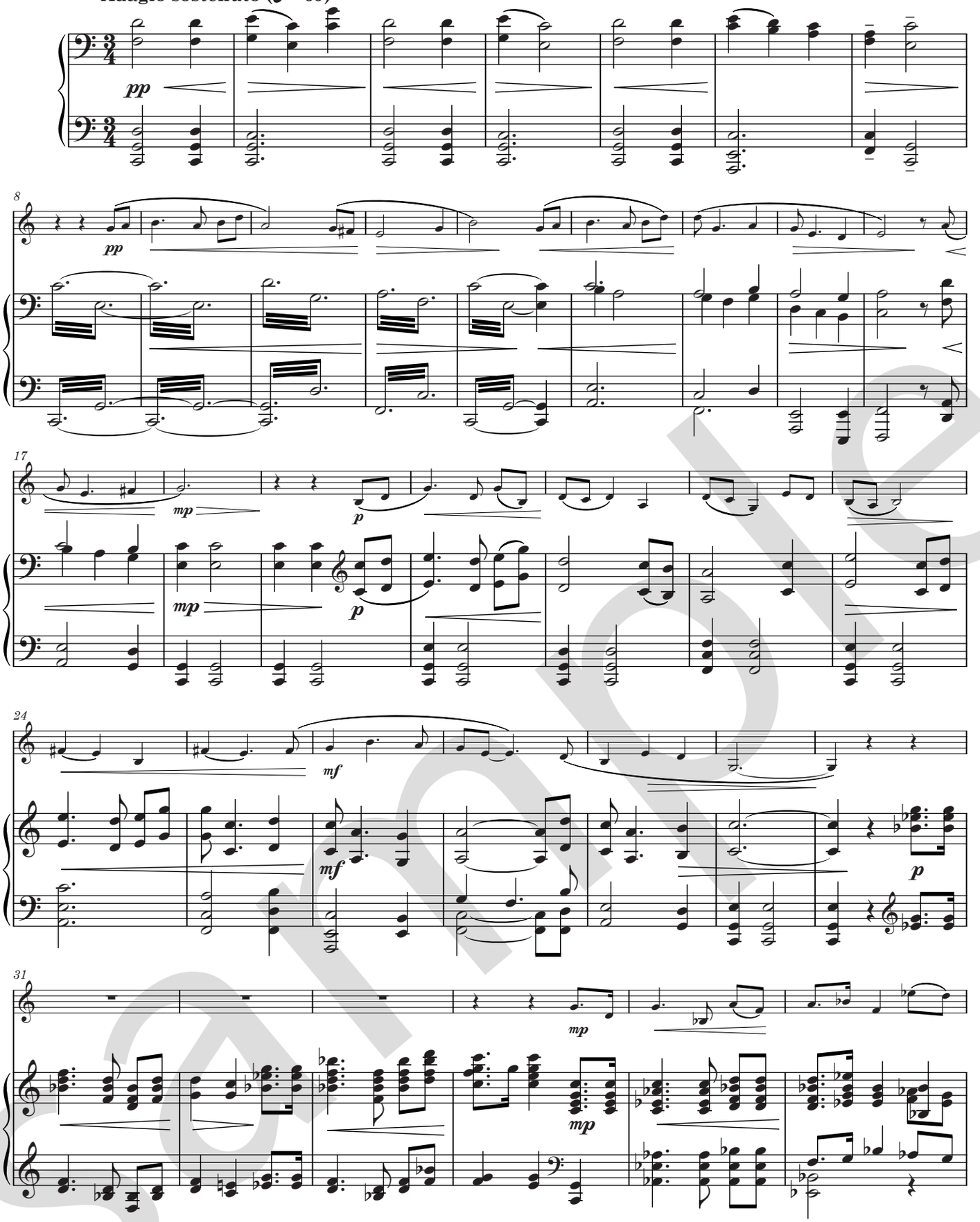


score

II.

Adagio sostenuto (♩ = 69)



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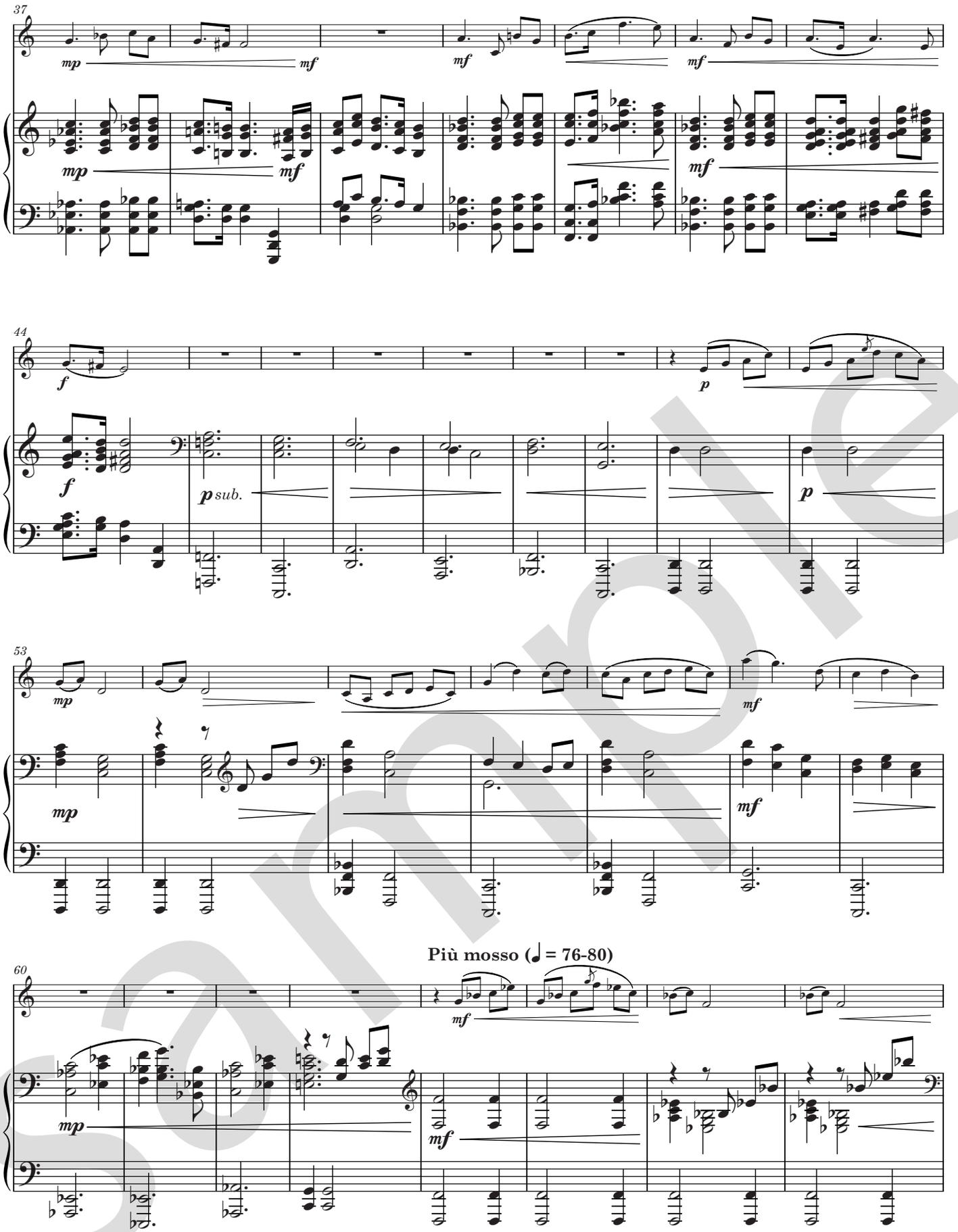
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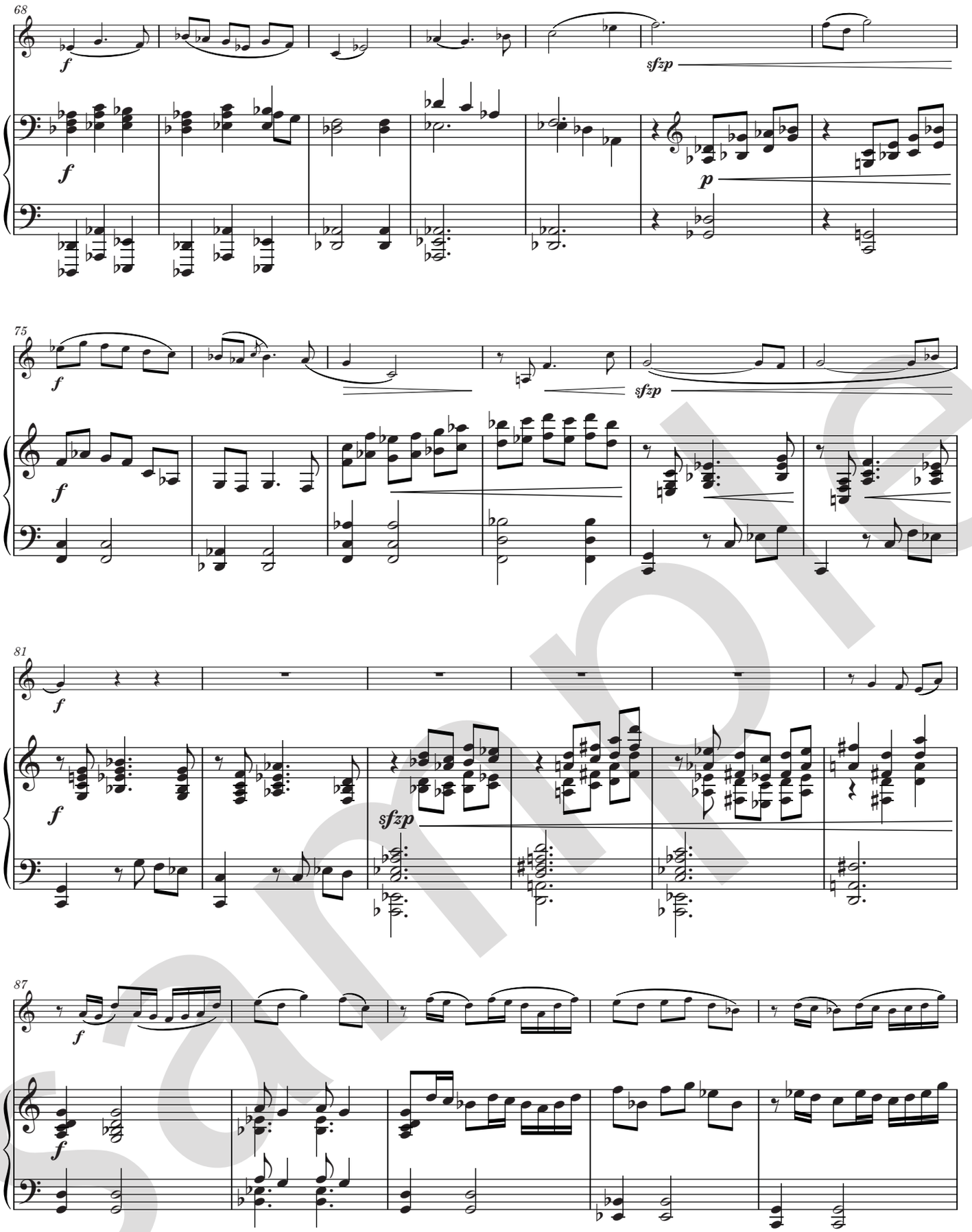
sample



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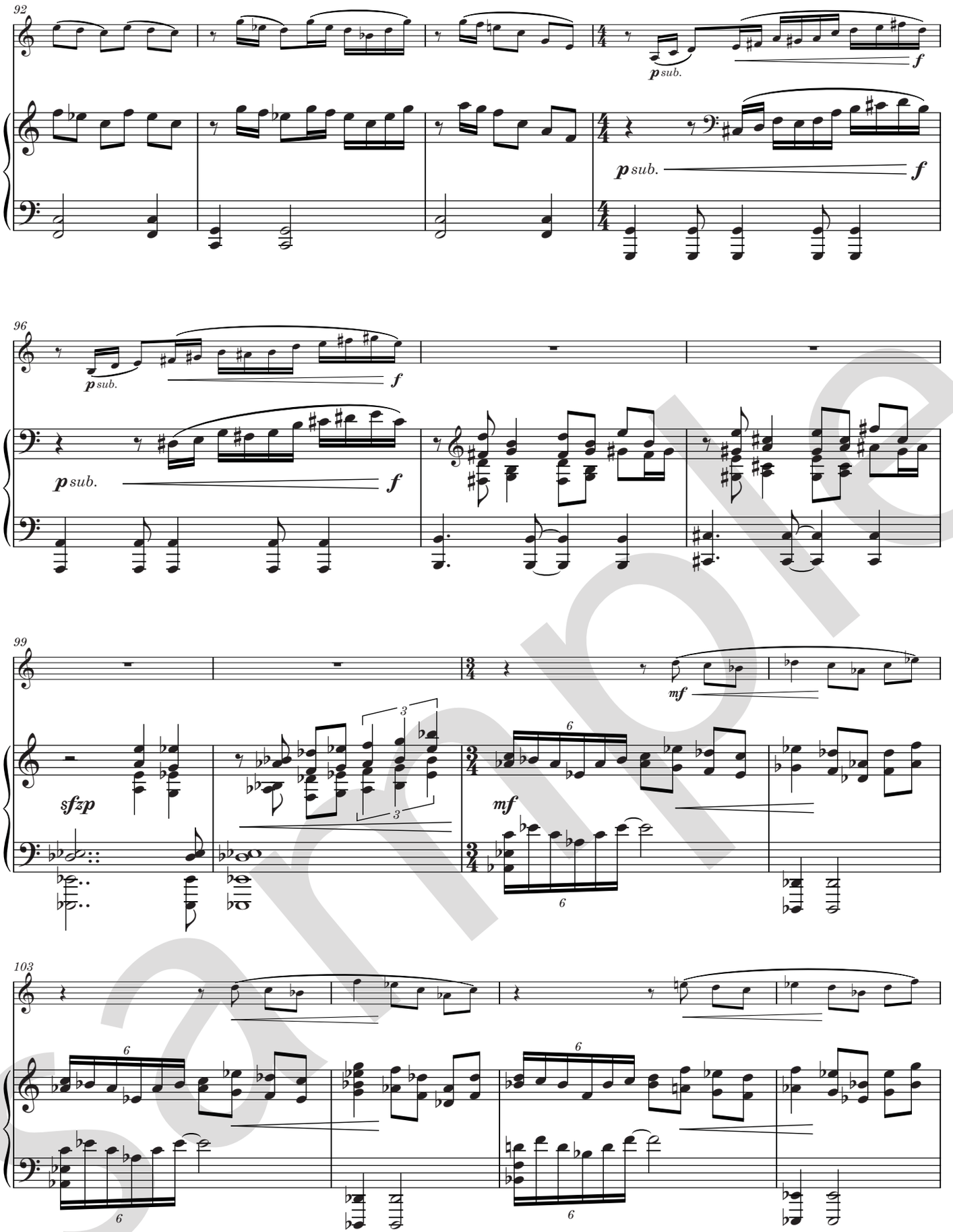

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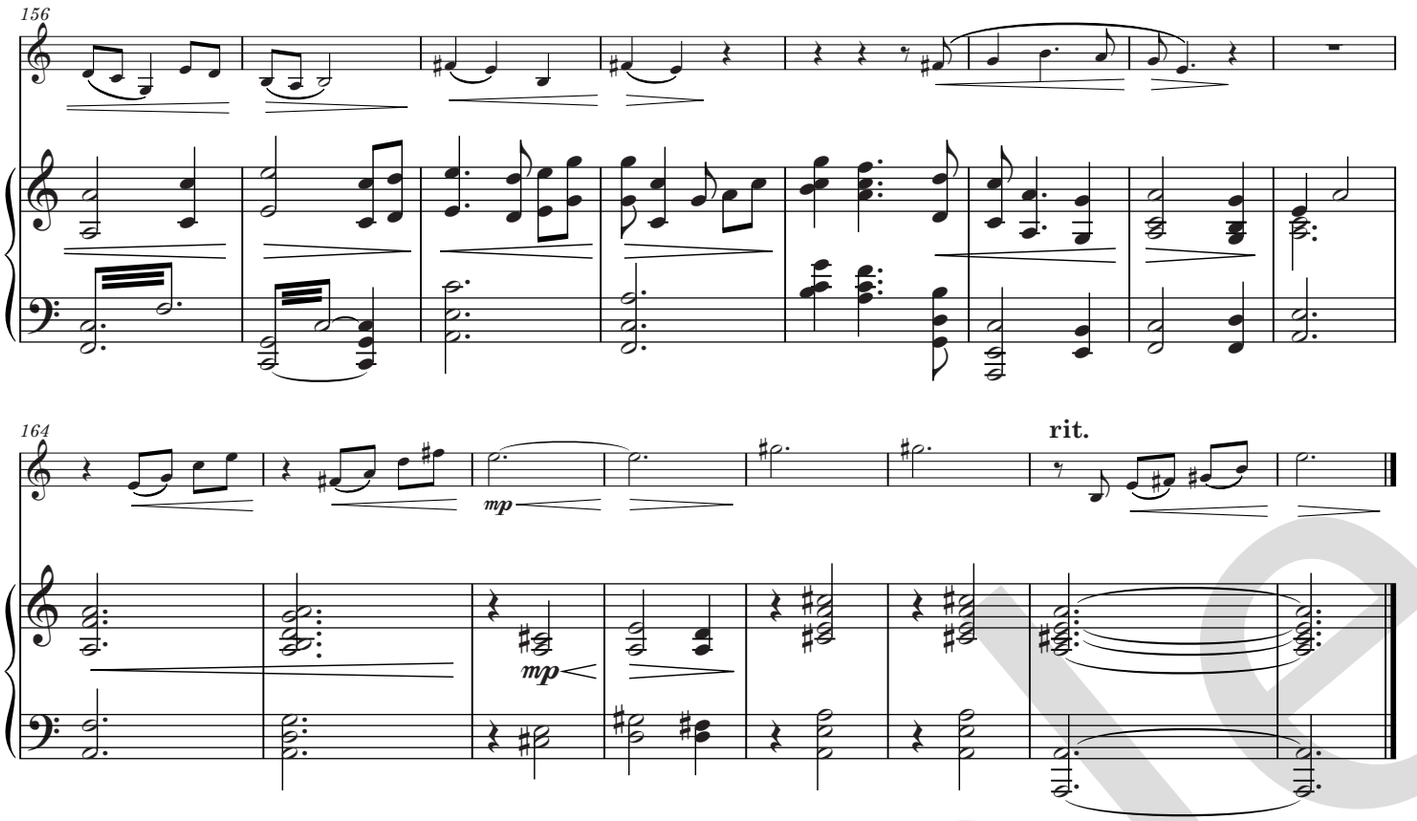

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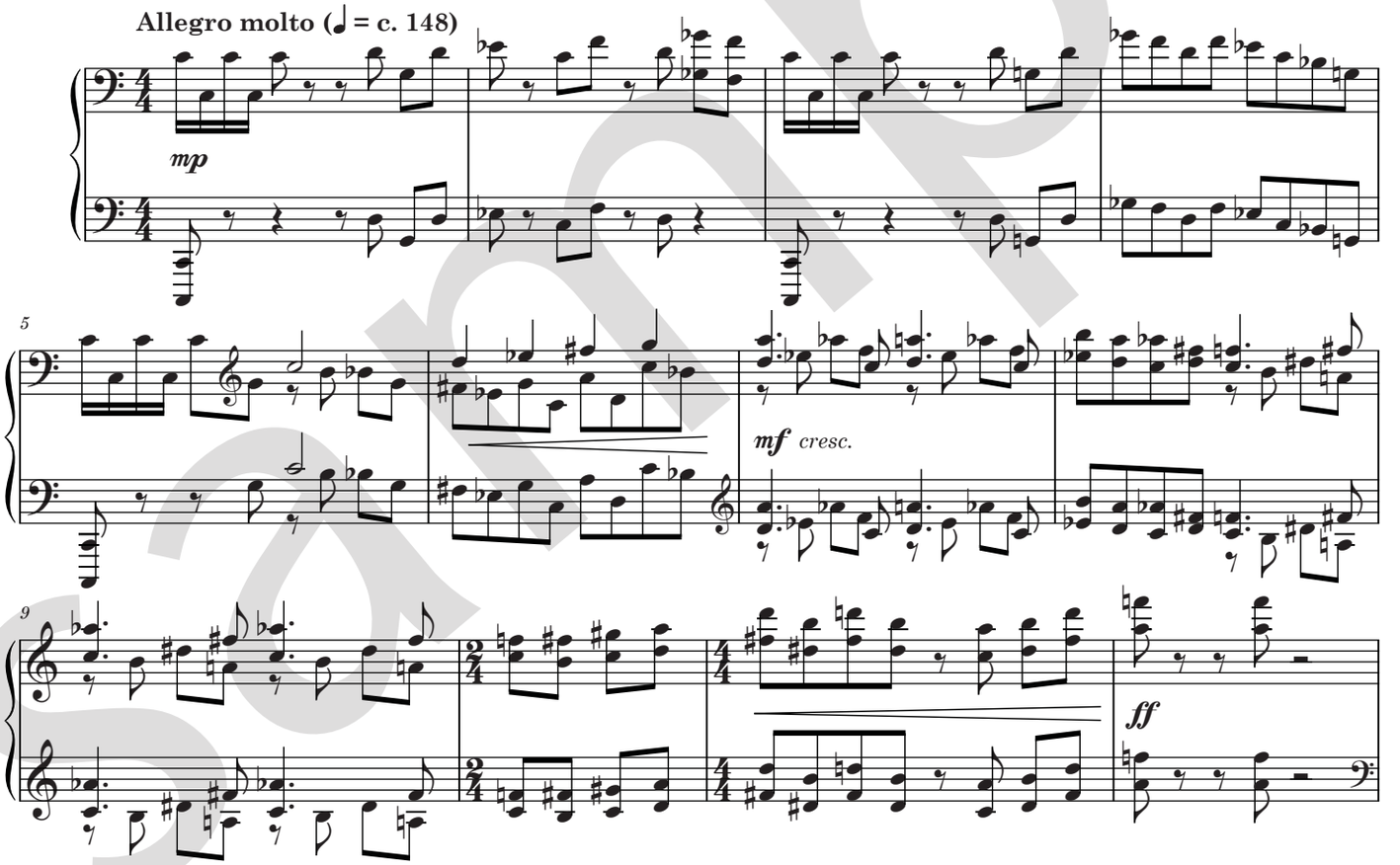

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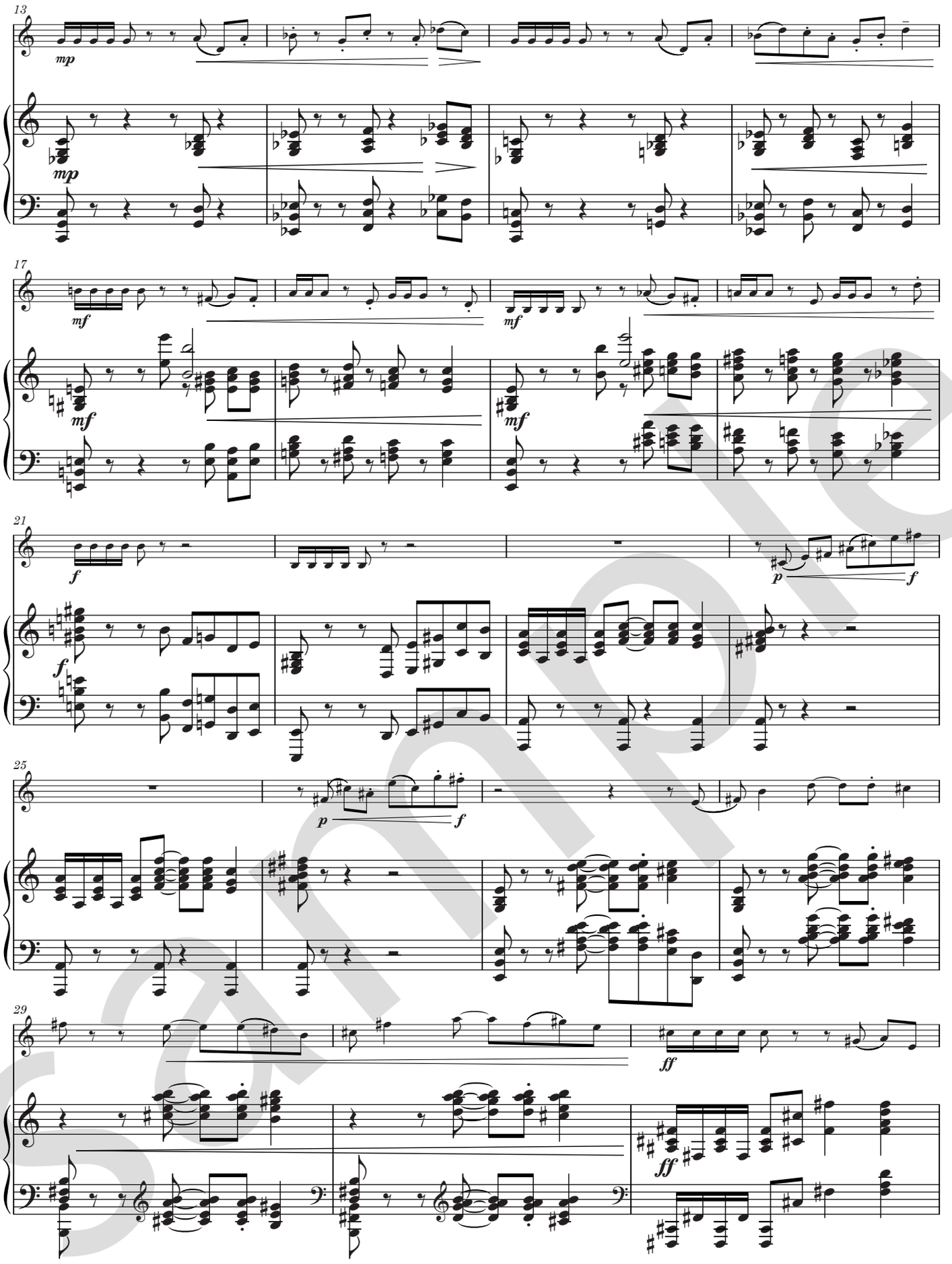

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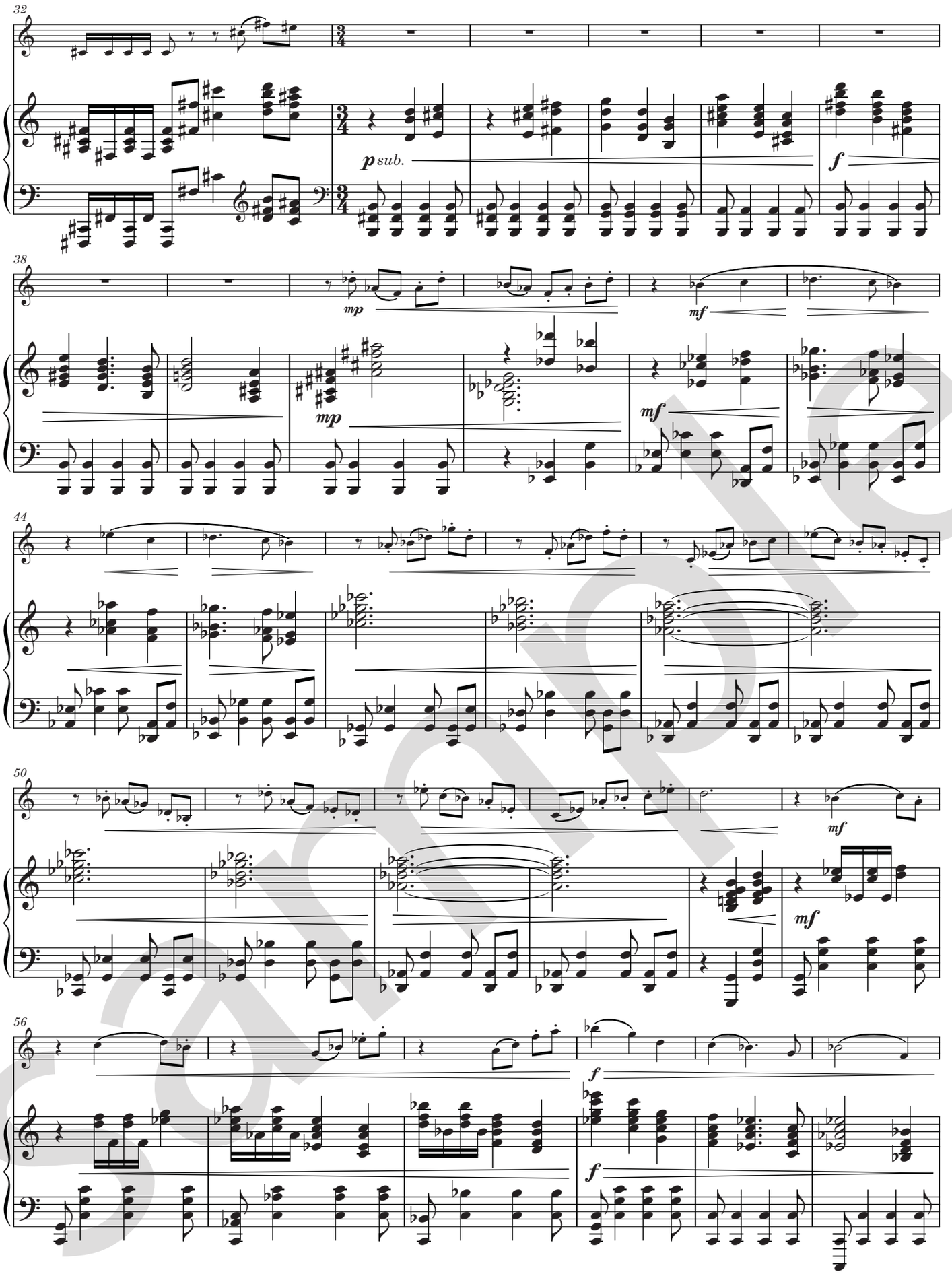
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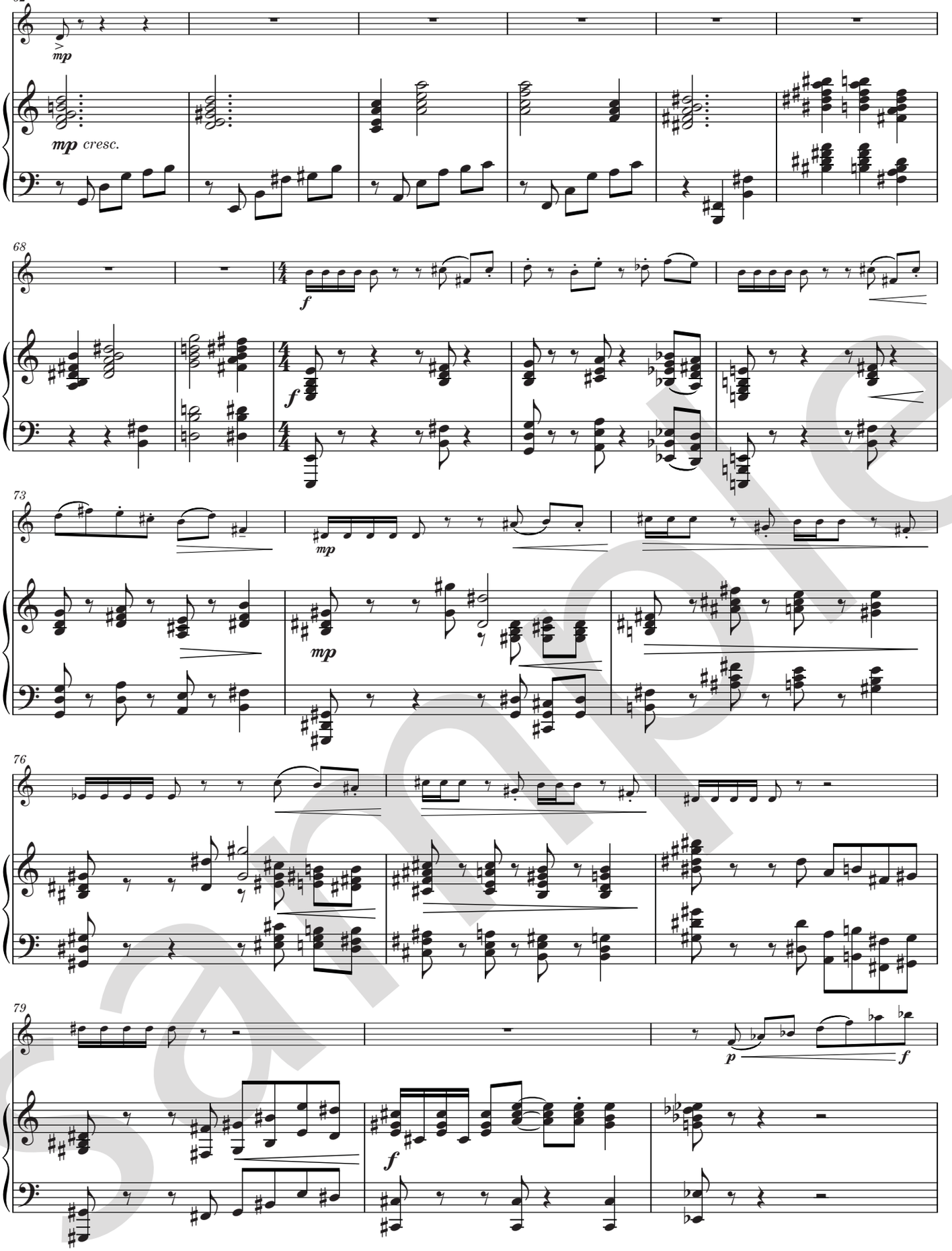

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