# FROM HEAVEN ABOVE

## GLORIOUS HYMNS OF THE REFORMATION ERA FOR SOLO PIANO

LARRY SHACKLEY

Sample

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Sample

# FOREWORD

Over thirty-five years have passed since the publication of my first book for church pianists, and since then I've written over seventy more books and collaborated on an additional forty. What amazes me each time I start a new project is that there are still hundreds of worthy hymns and Gospel songs that I haven't yet worked on!

This book is a case in point. Because of my church background, I never really got to know the earliest of Protestant hymns – those that came directly out of the Reformation in Germany, Switzerland, France, and elsewhere. So I did some exploring, with the invaluable help of my Lutheran friend Mark Pendleton, and came up with a list of almost twenty hymns from which I extracted the eight in this book.

Martin Luther and John Calvin both had composer colleagues who were among the most skilled writers of their time, and they contributed to the early hymnody of the Lutheran and Reformed churches. Names like Claude Goudimel and Claude LeJeune can be found in collections of 16th-century madrigals as well as Reformed hymnals. The three hymns I've chosen from the French tradition were all written or co-written by Louis Bourgeois, one of the main contributors to the *Genevan Psalter*, who was once put in jail for changing the tunes of some favorite Psalms. (Calvin got him out!) His most famous tune is the one we call *Old Hundredth*, most often sung with the words of the Doxology.

Martin Luther was a skilled musician himself, so I couldn't leave him off the list of composers. I've already done a setting of *A Mighty Fortress* (in the Lorenz book *Built on the Rock*, 70/1762L), so I chose one that he wrote for his family's Christmas celebration: *From Heaven Above I Come to You*. (Of the original 15 verses, the first portion was to be sung by an adult dressed as an angel; the rest were to be sung by the children.) The other Lutheran hymns in this book were written by the German composers Hans Leo Hassler, Nicolaus Decius, and Johann Crüger. The one unexpected name on the composer list is Giovanni Gastoldi, an Italian known for his "fa-la-la" madrigals. One of these secular works ended up with the German sacred lyrics *In Dir Ist Freude* (*In Thee Is Gladness),* and became a staple in the Lutheran repertoire.

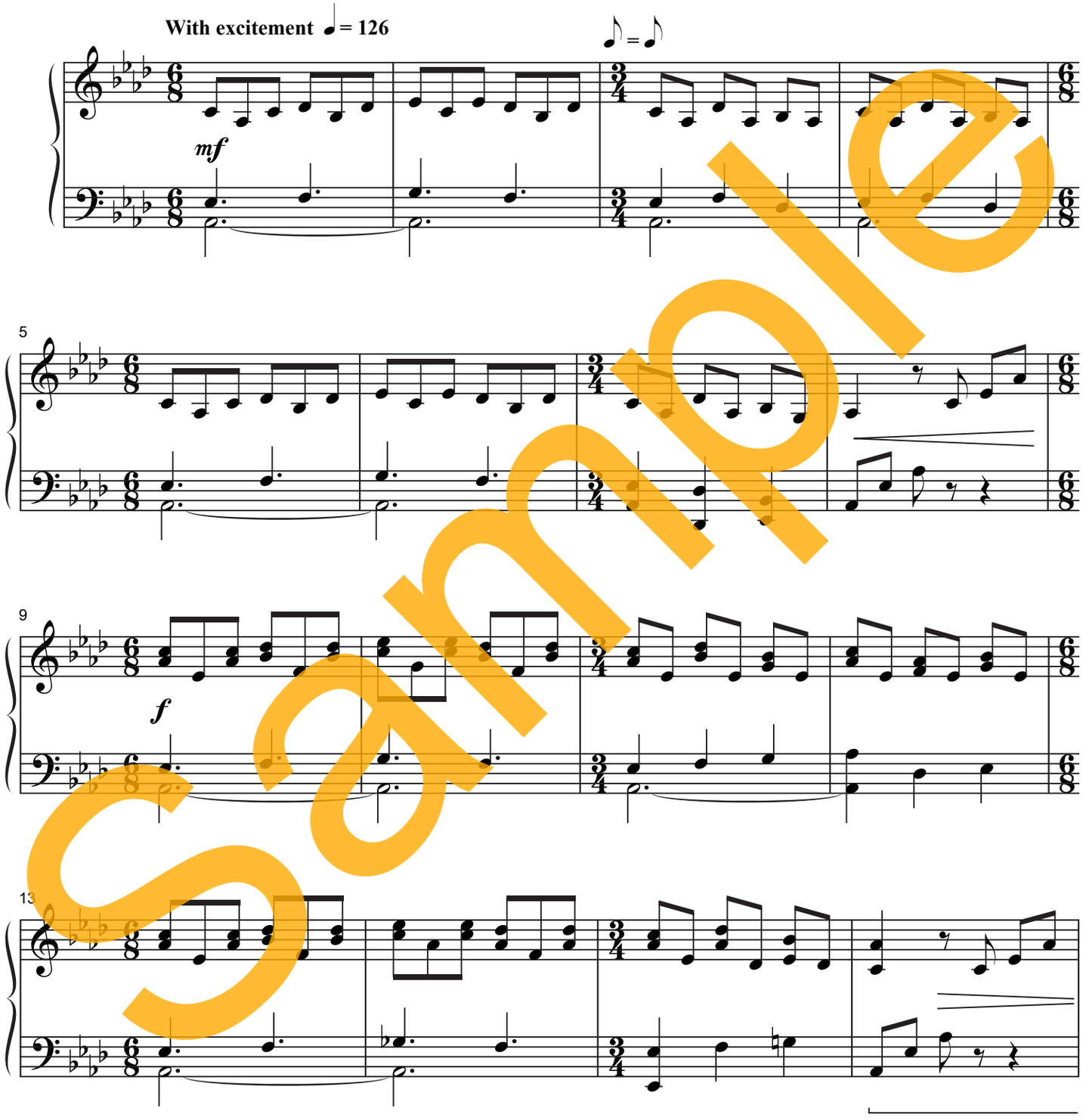
I encourage you to look up the lyrics to each song, which should inspire your performance. This collection contains hymns suitable for many occasions on the church calendar, arranged in styles ranging from a Bach-like chorale prelude to the mellow jazz of Bill Evans. I hope you enjoy adding to your repertoire, and sharing the results with your local congregation.

*—Larry Shackley*

Sample

# All Glory Be to God on High

**Larry Shackley**
Tune: ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH
by **Nikolaus Decius** (1485-1546)

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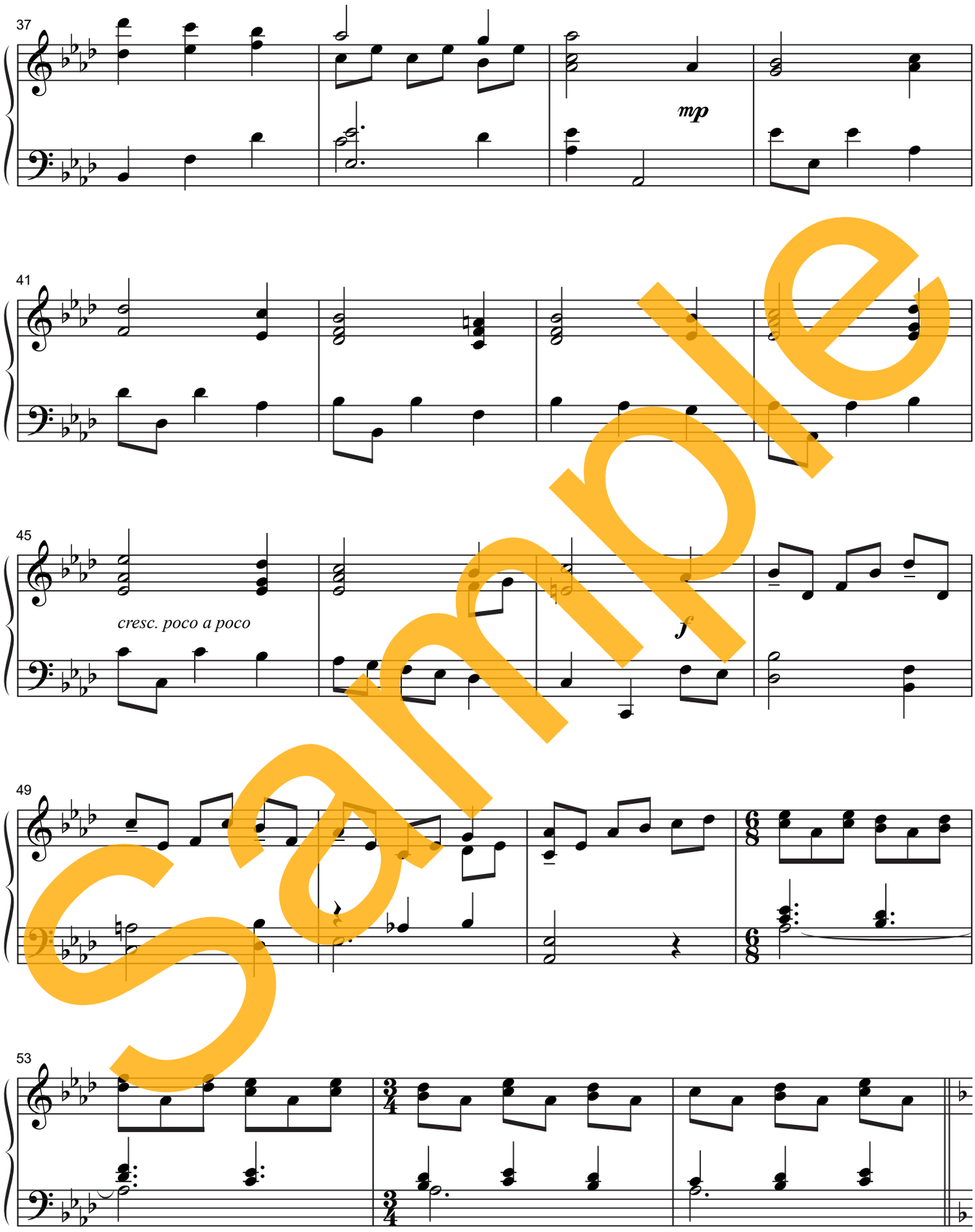


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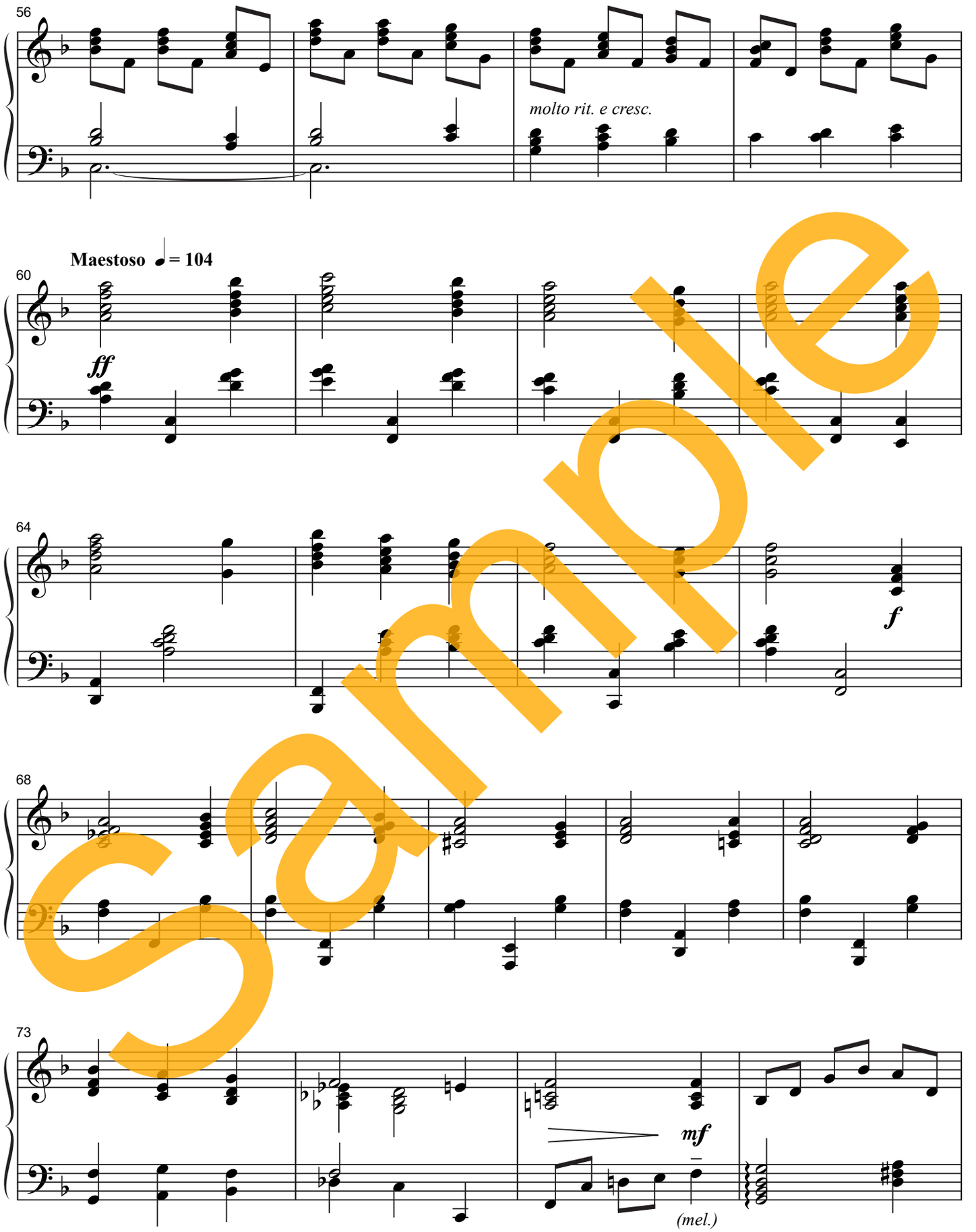


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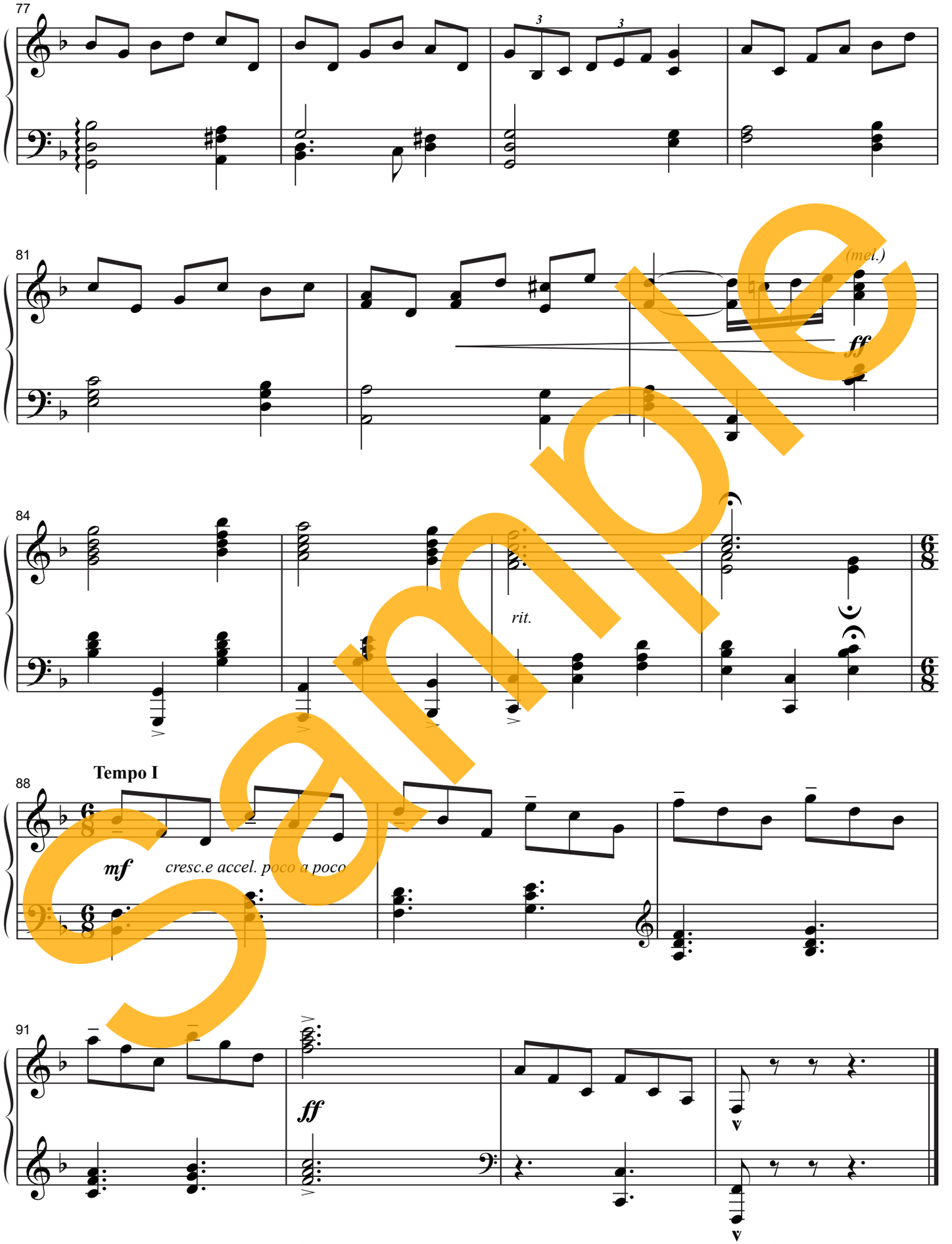
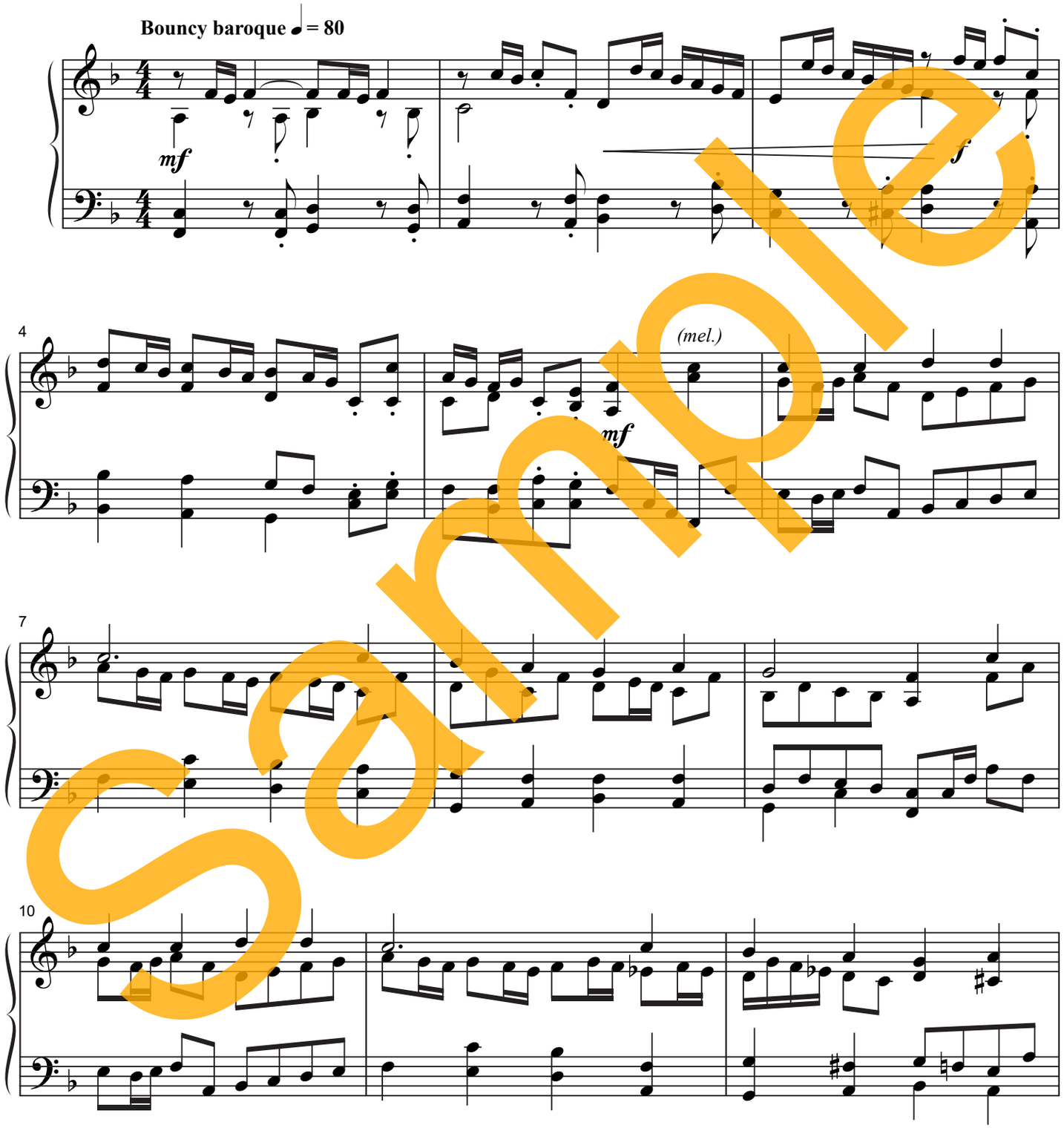

77
3
3
81
(mel.)
ff
84
rit.
88
Tempo I
mf
cresc.e accel. poco a poco
91
ff

Sample

# Now Thank We All Our God

**Larry Shackley**
Tune: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT
by **Johann Crüger** (1598-1662)

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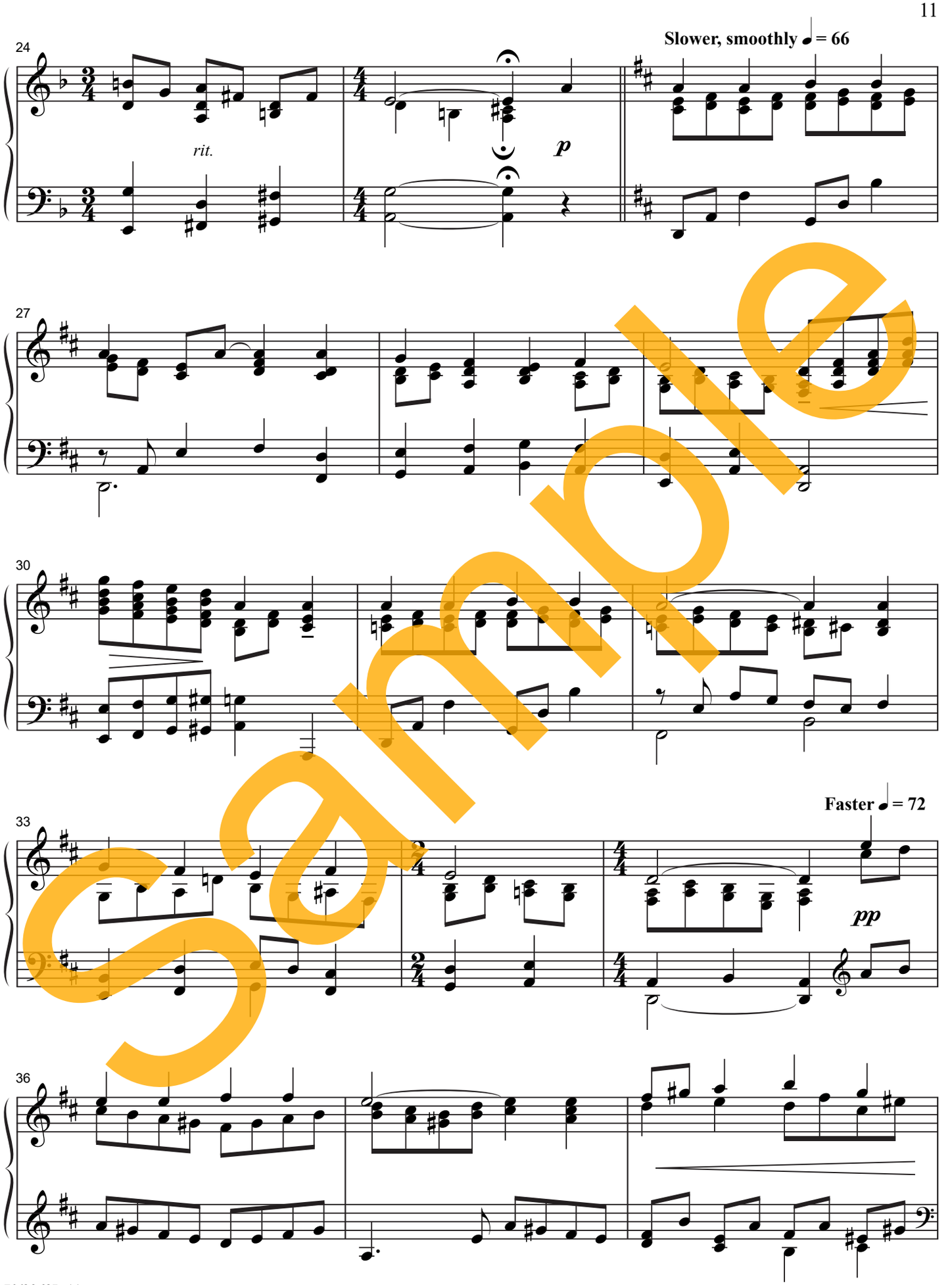


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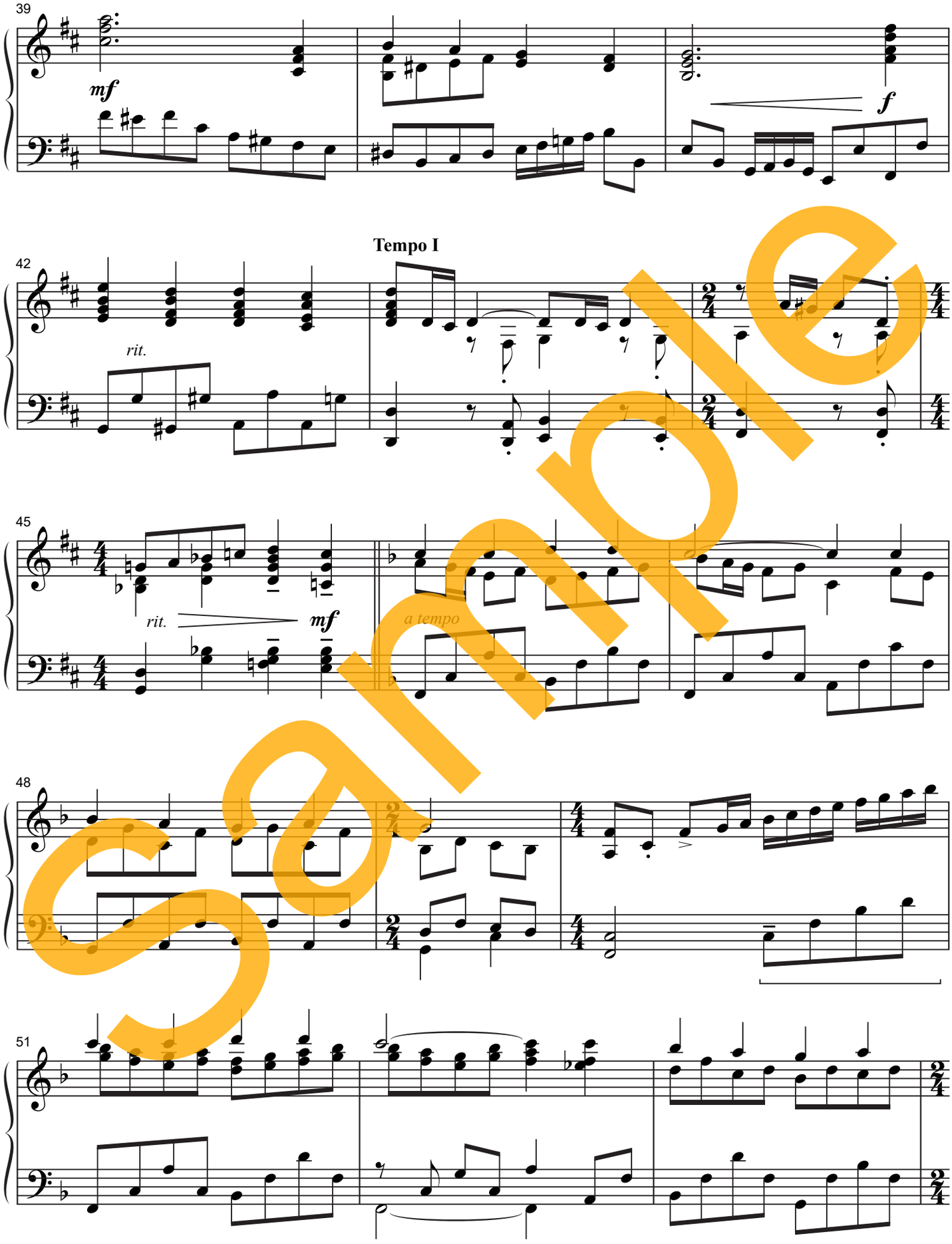


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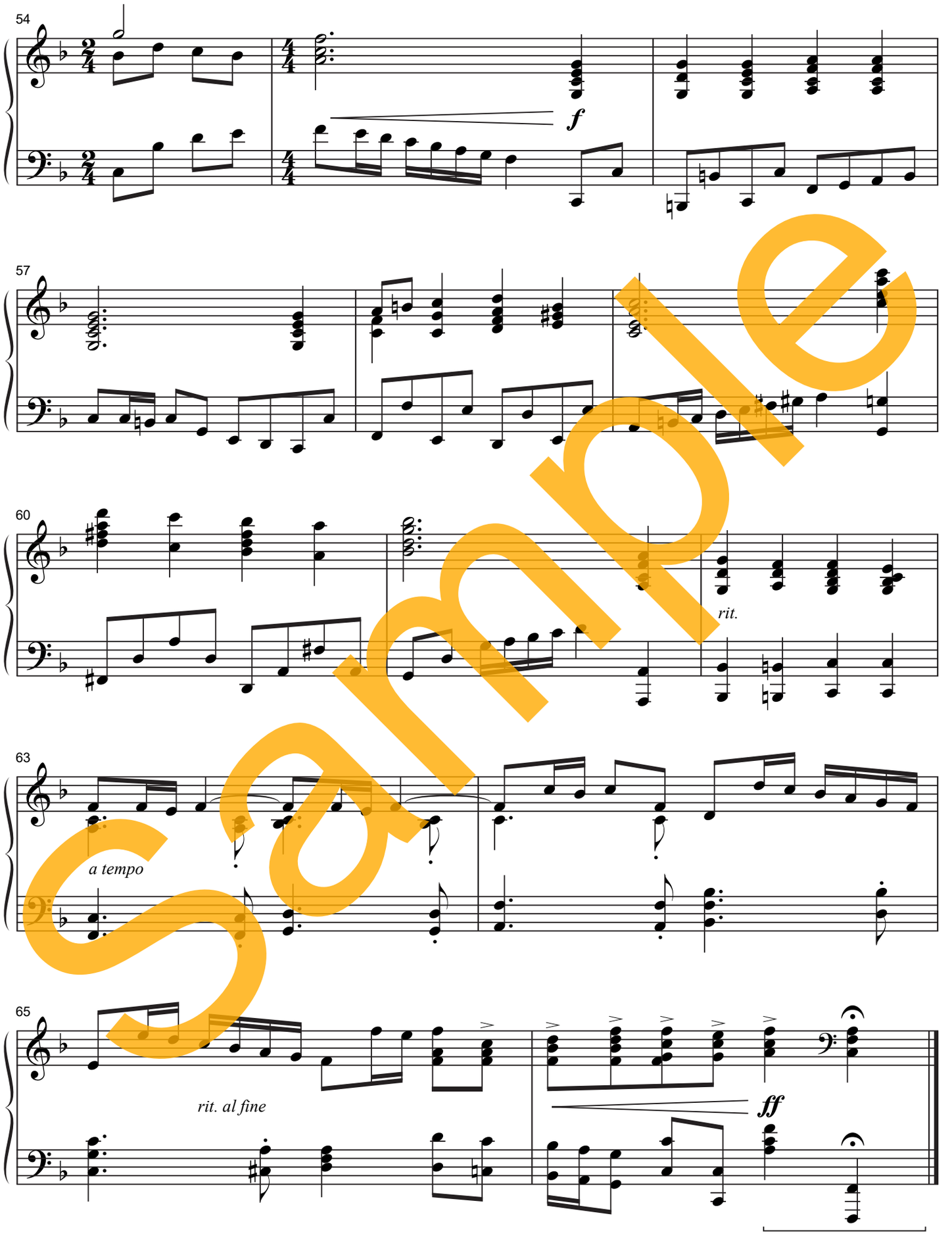
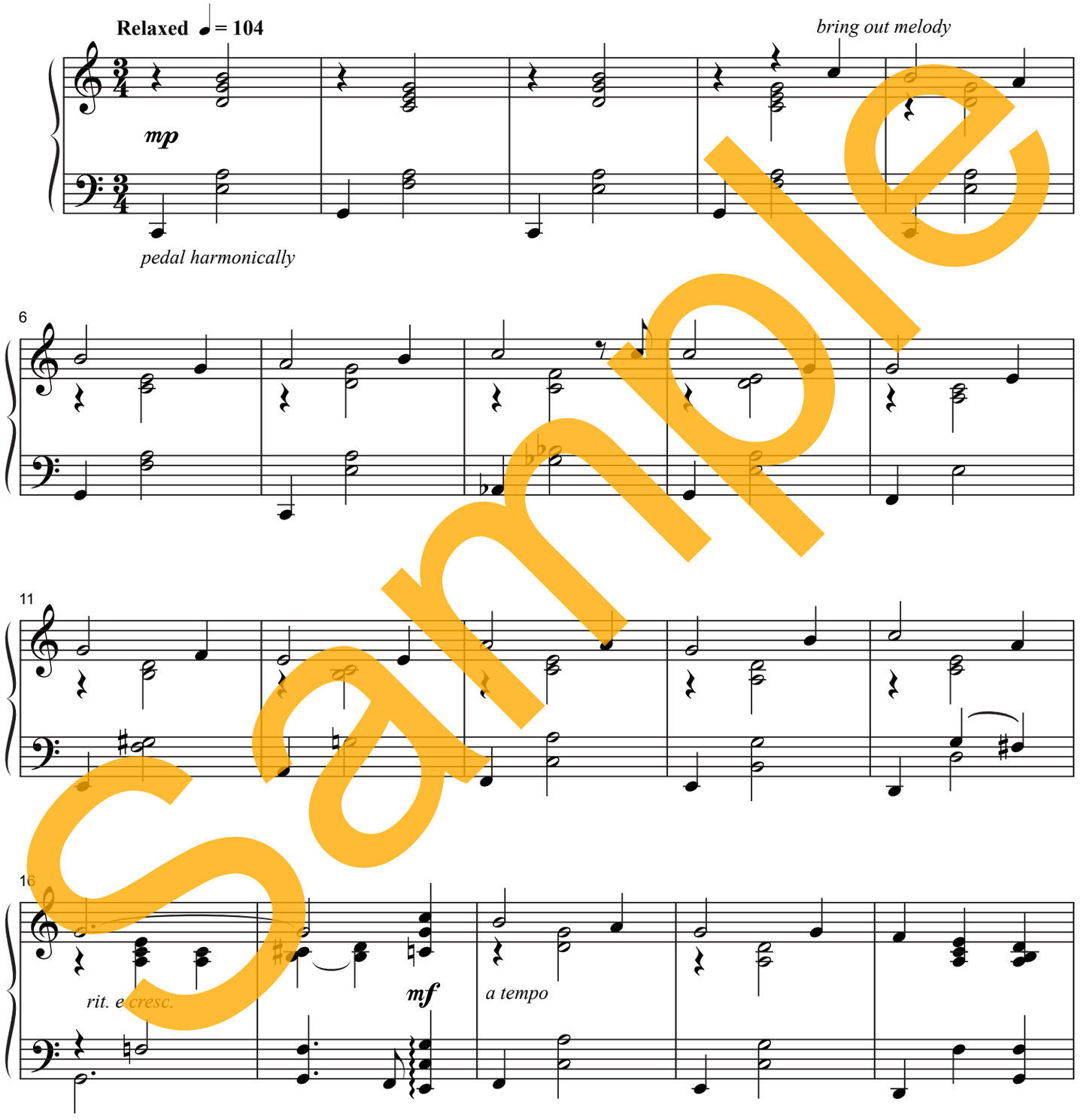



Sample

# From Heaven Above I Come to You

**Larry Shackley**
Tune: **VOM HIMMEL HOCH**
by **Martin Luther** (1483-1546)

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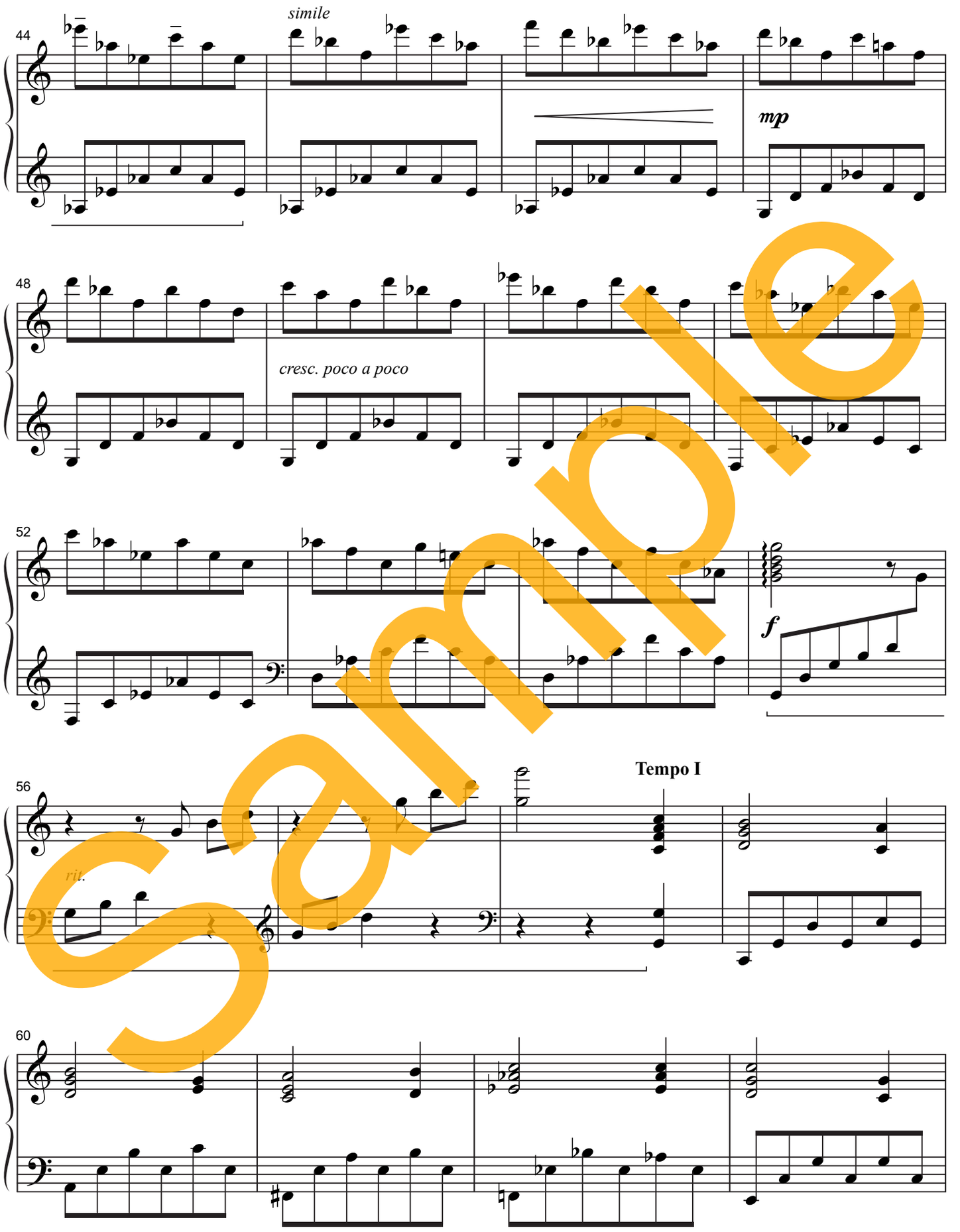


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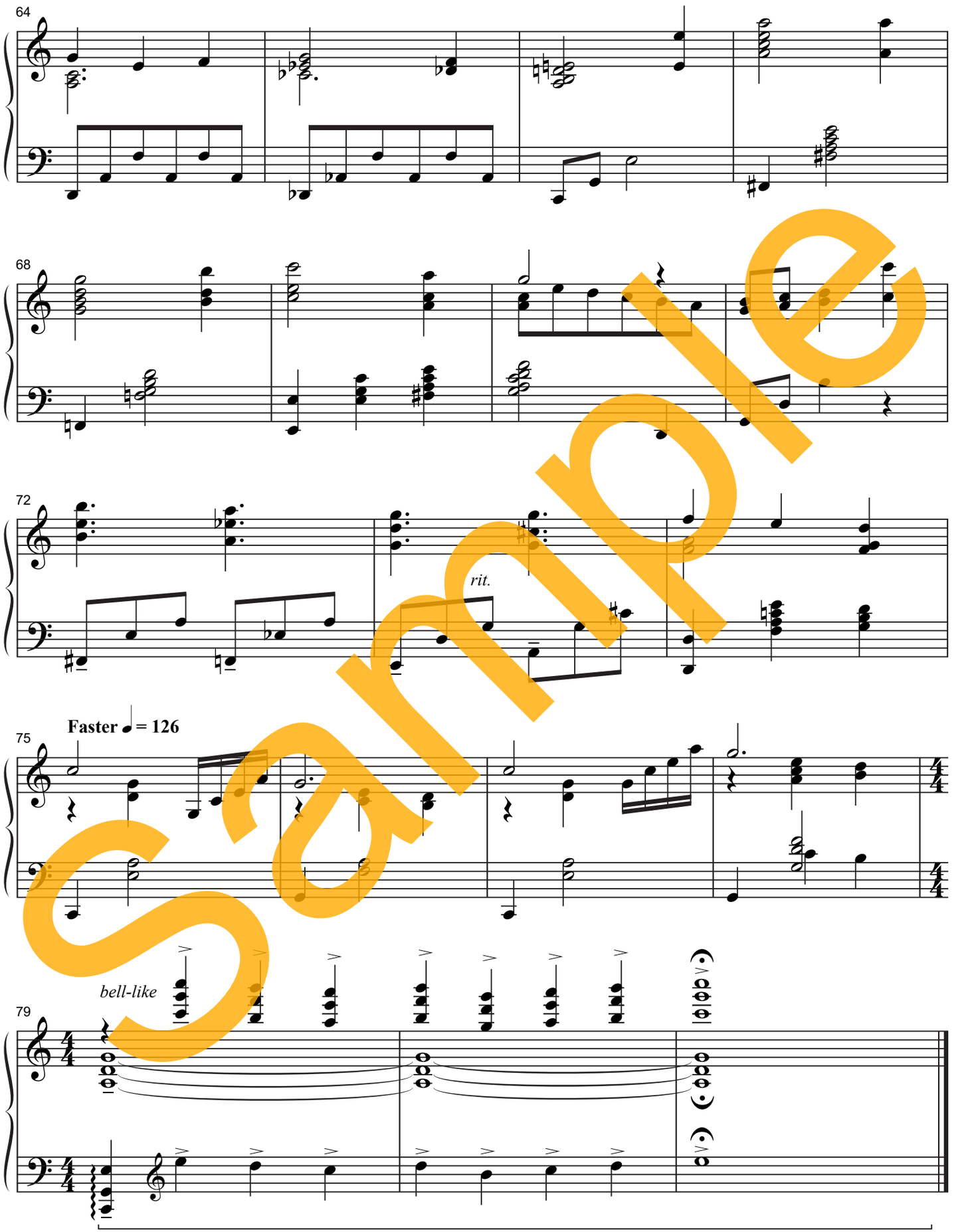
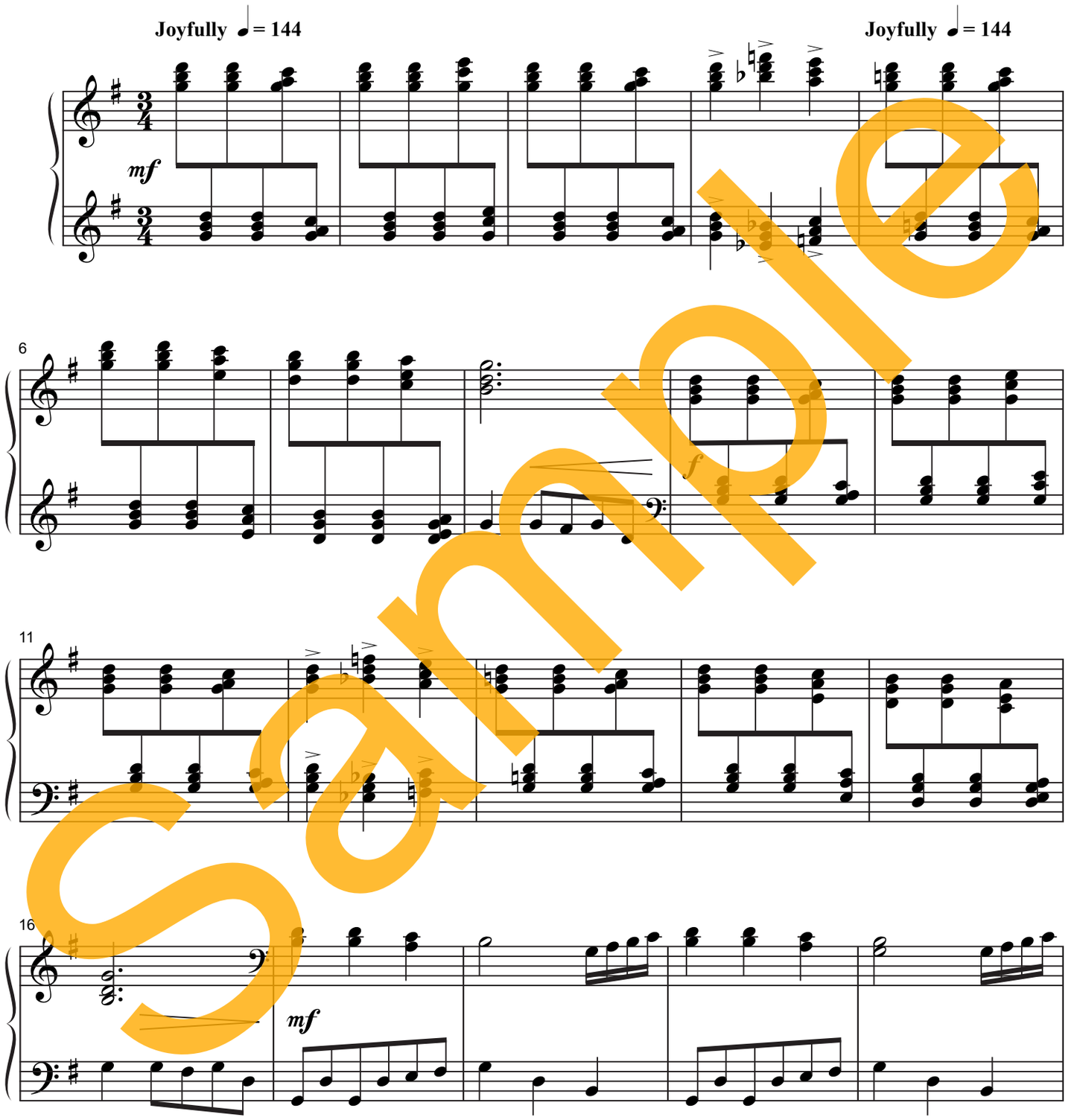



Sample

# In Thee Is Gladness

**Larry Shackley**
Tune: **IN DIR IST FREUDE**
by **Giovanni Gastoldi** (1554-1609)

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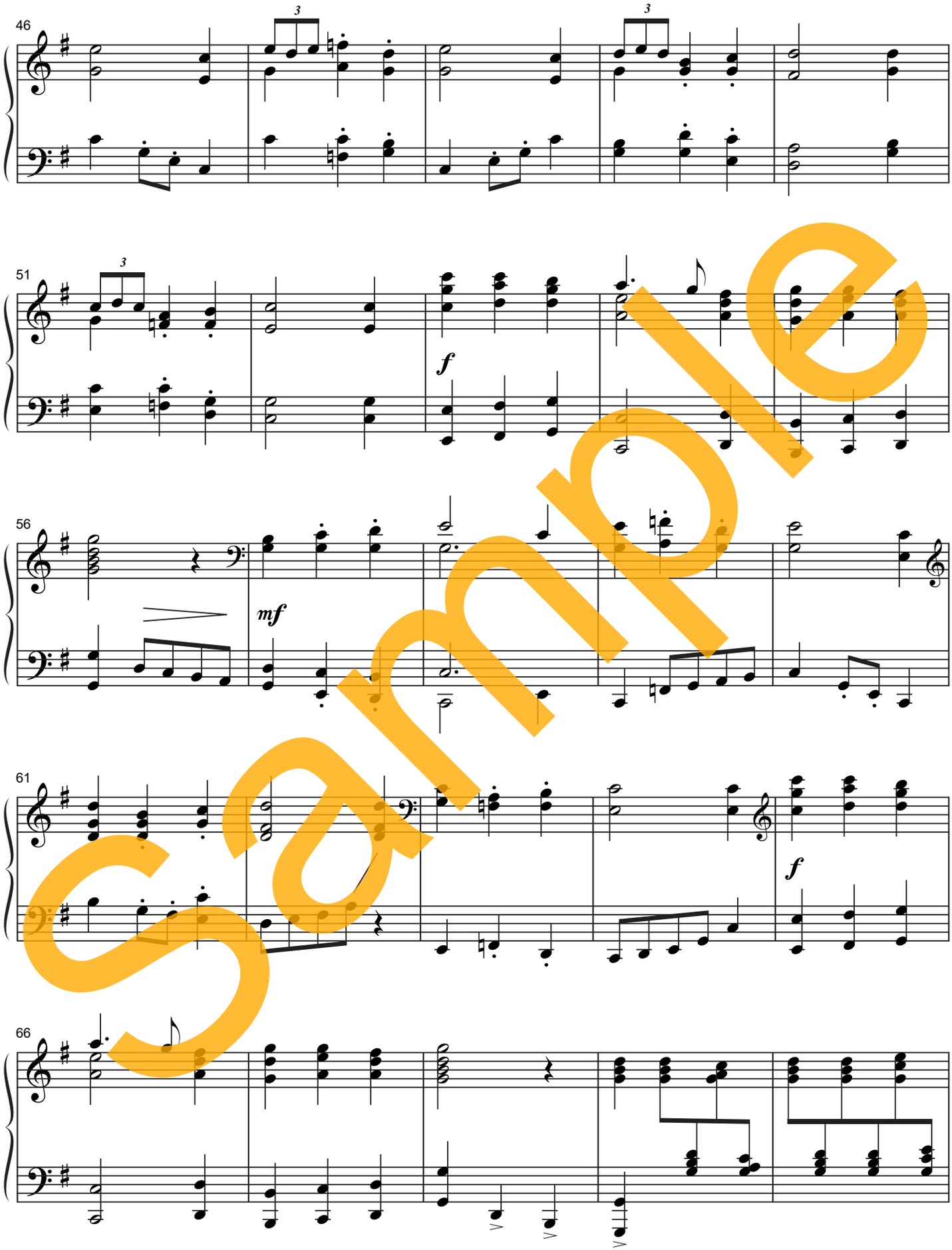


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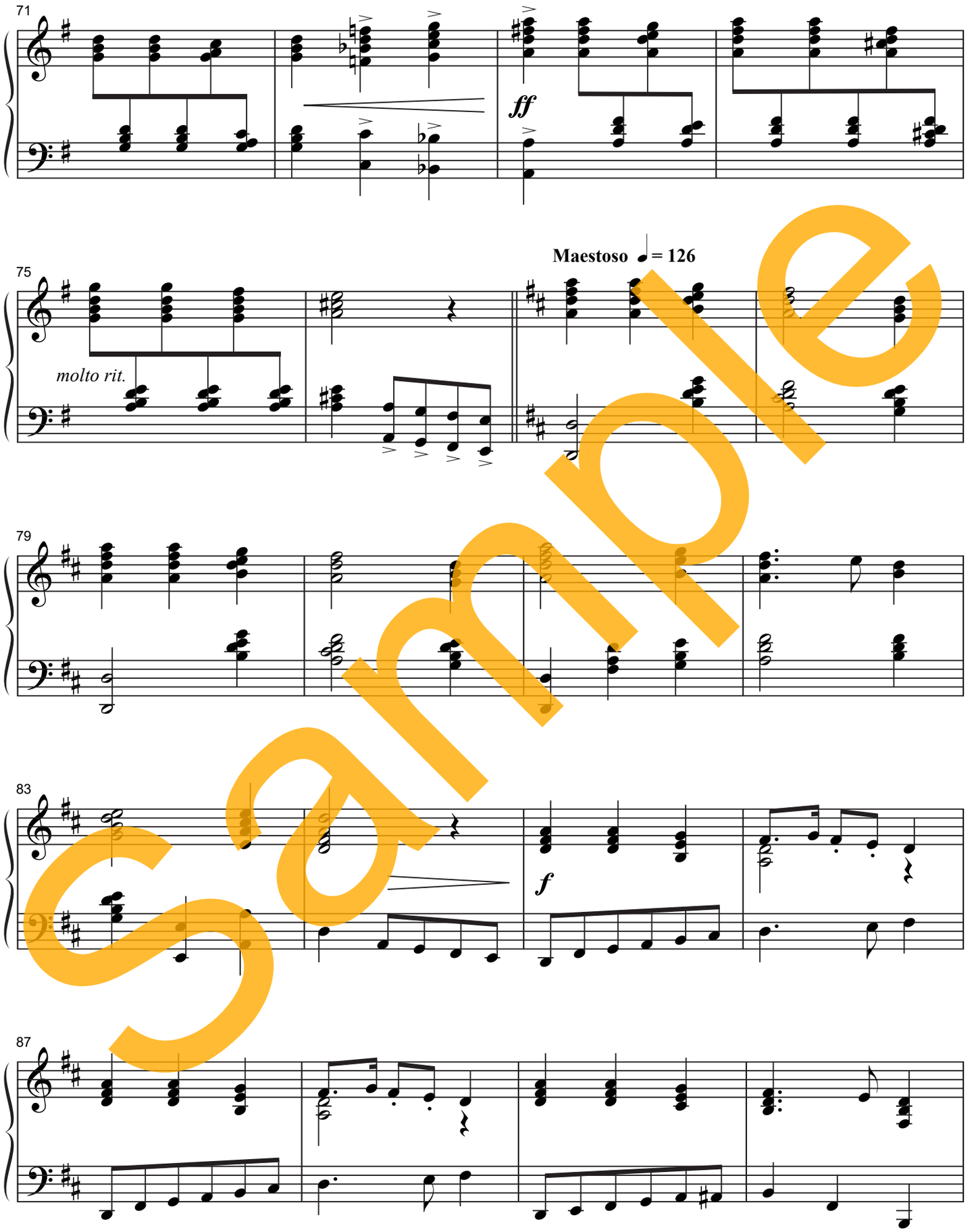


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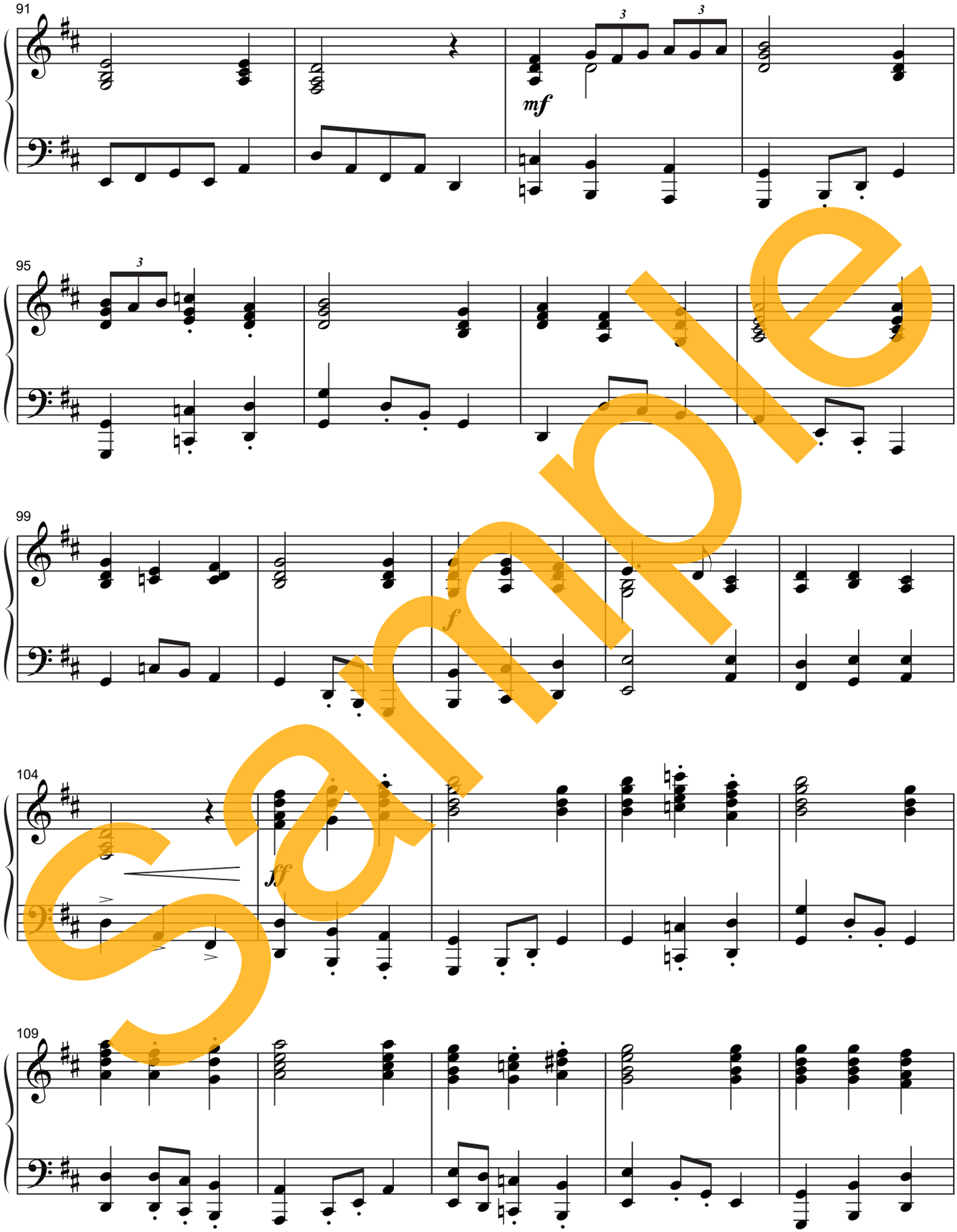


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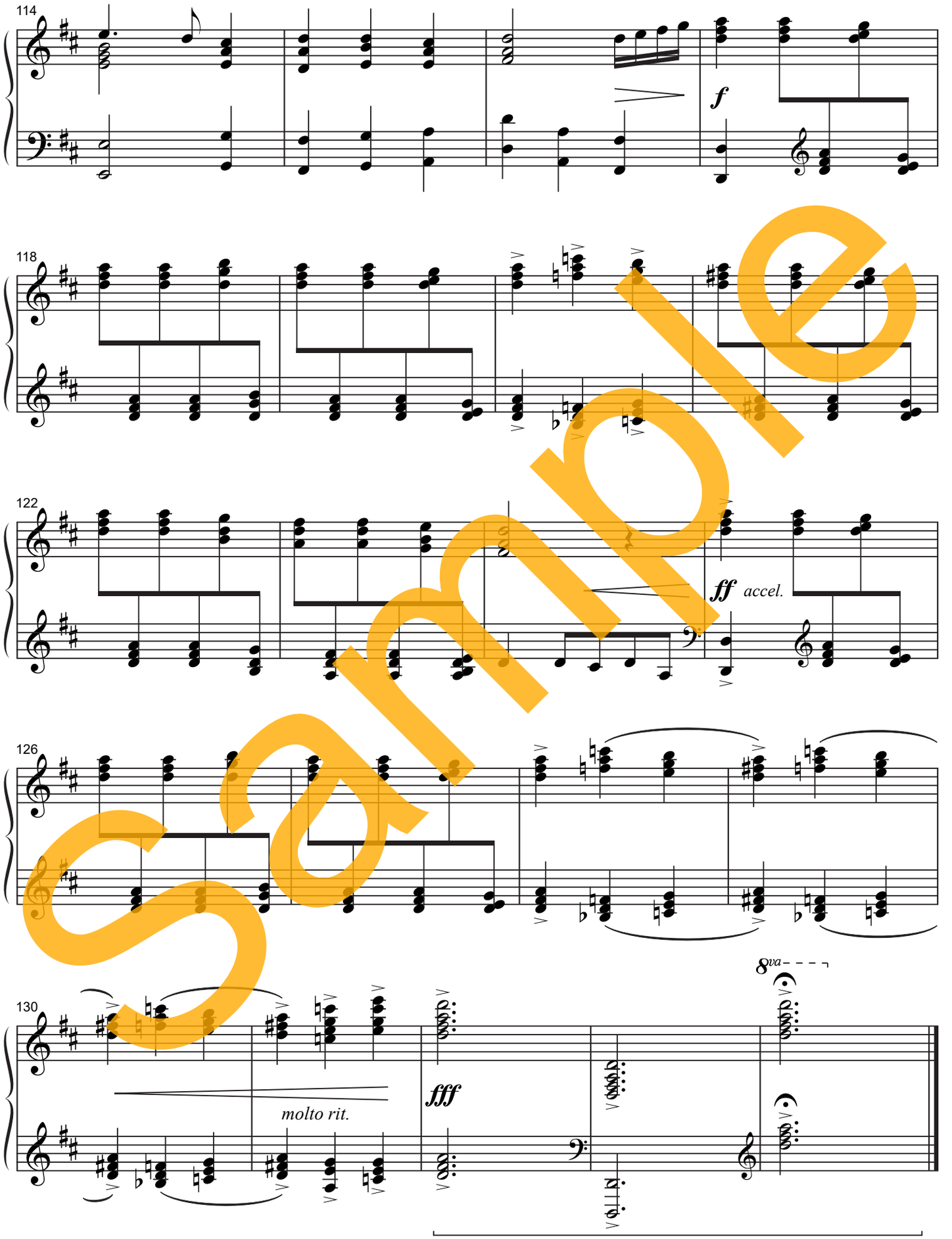
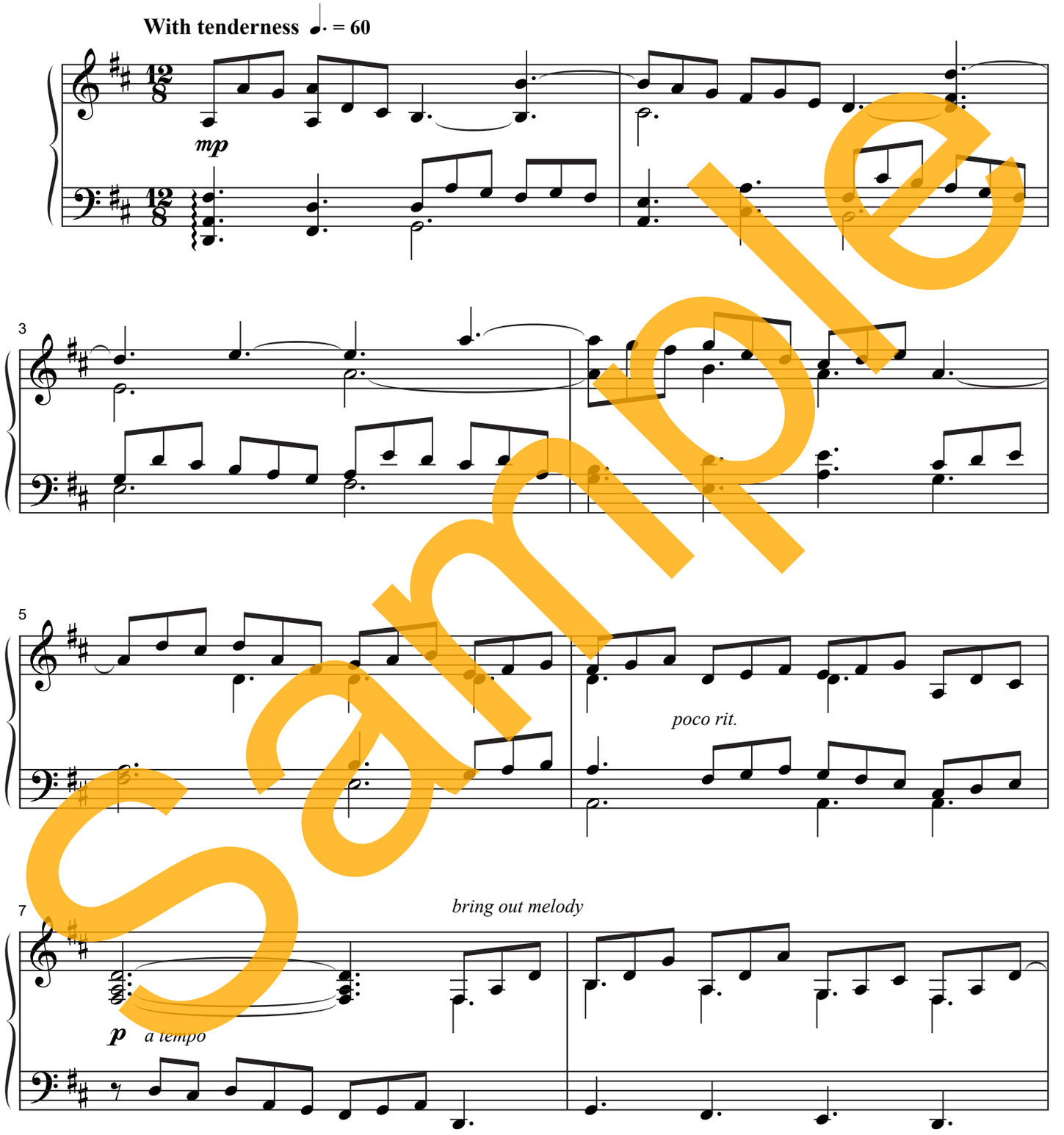



sample

# O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

**Larry Shackley**
Tune: **HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN**
by **Hans Leo Hassler** (1564-1612)

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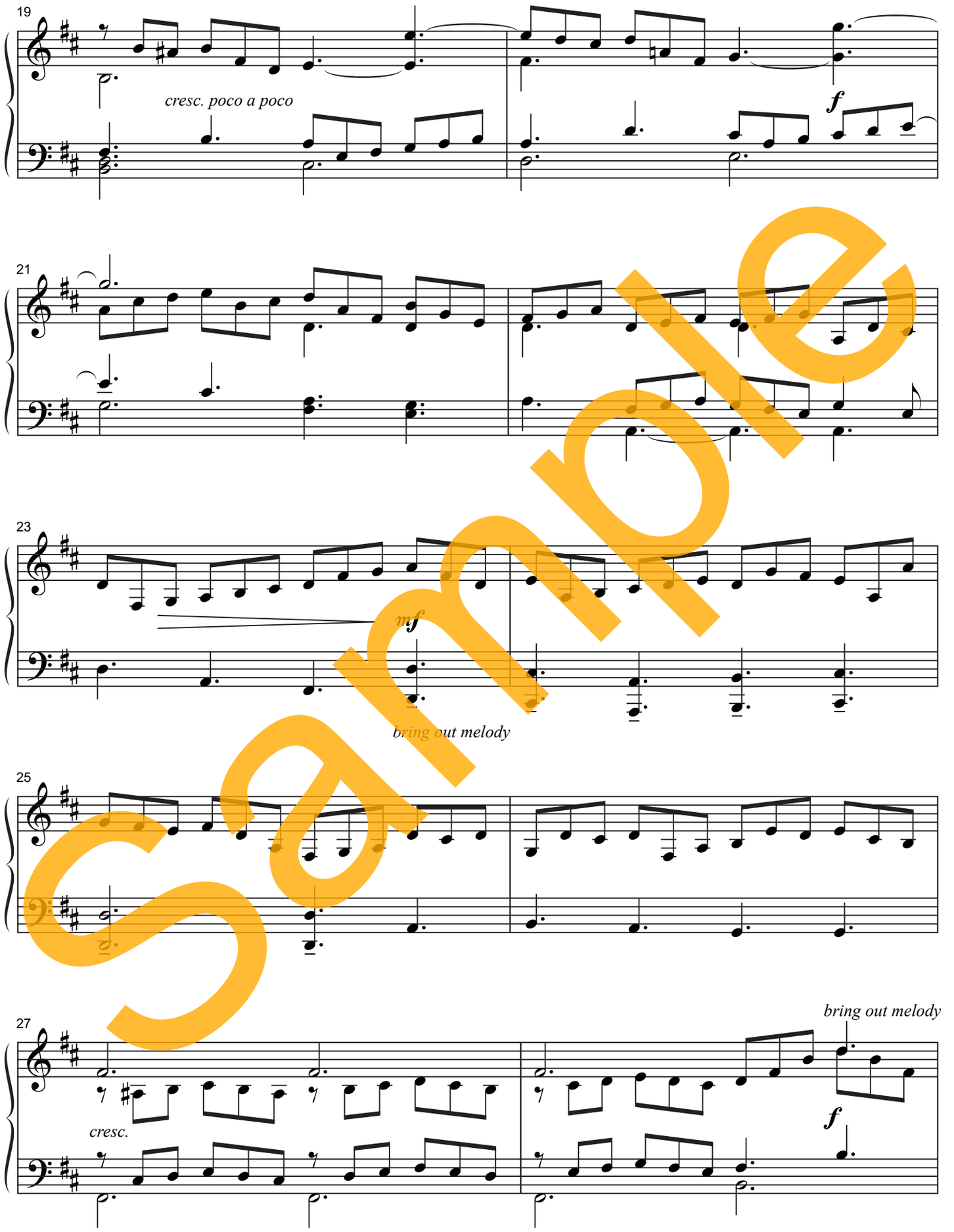
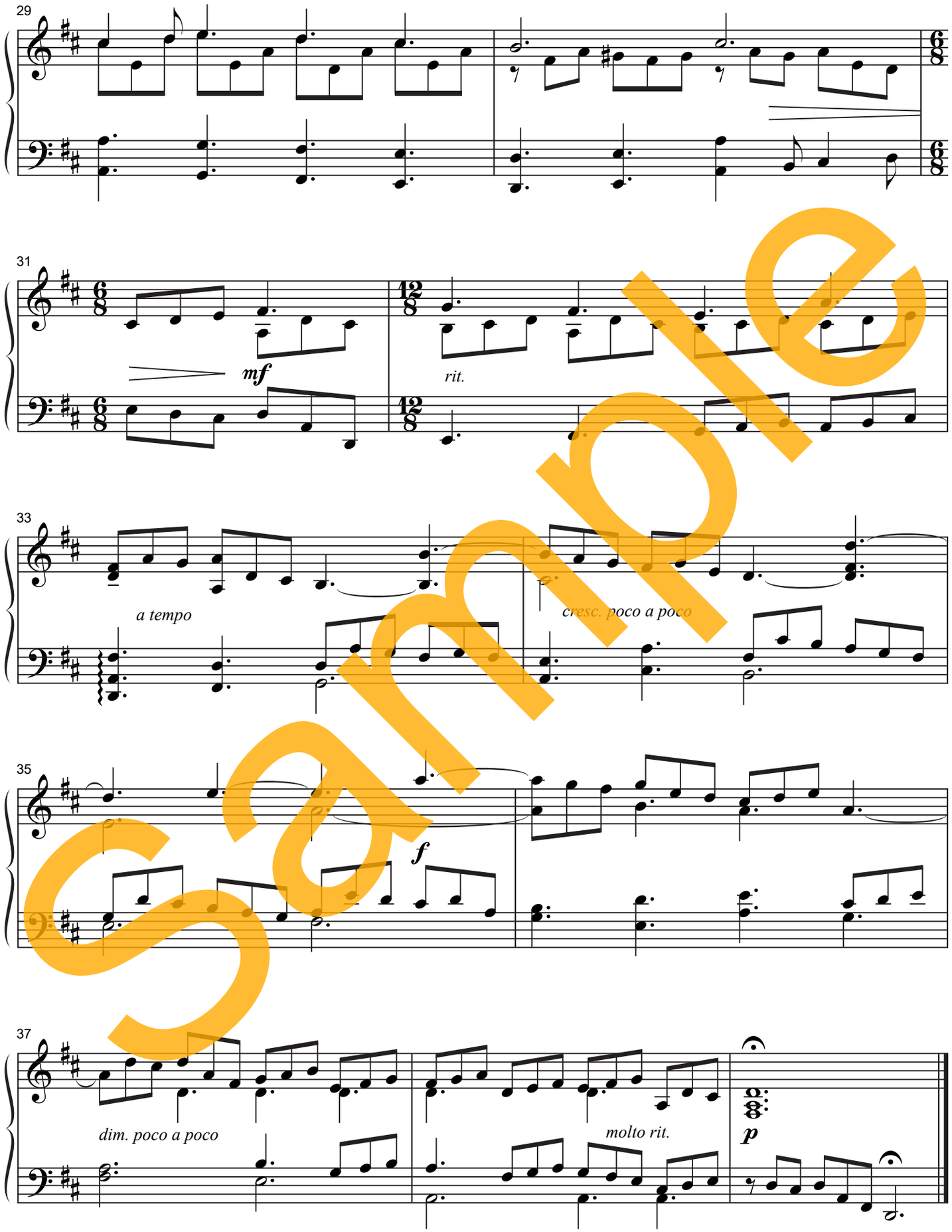

19
cresc. poco a poco
f
21
23
mf
bring out melody
25
27
bring out melody
cresc.
f

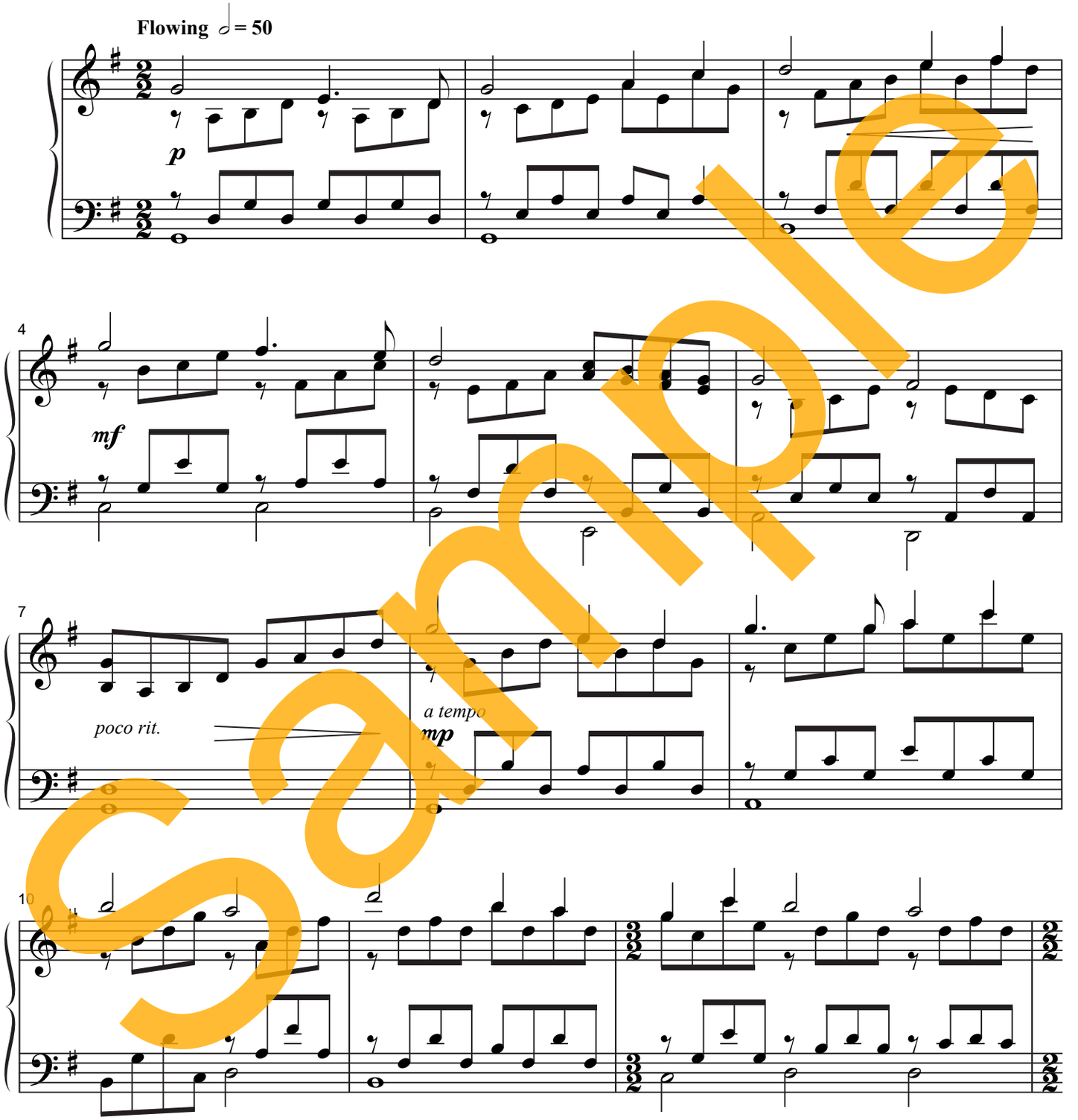
Sample


29
31
mf
rit.
33
a tempo
cresc. poco a poco
35
f
37
dim. poco a poco
molto rit.
p

Sample

# Bread of the World

**Larry Shackley**
Tune: **RENDEZ À DIEU**
by **Louis Bourgeois** (1510-1561)

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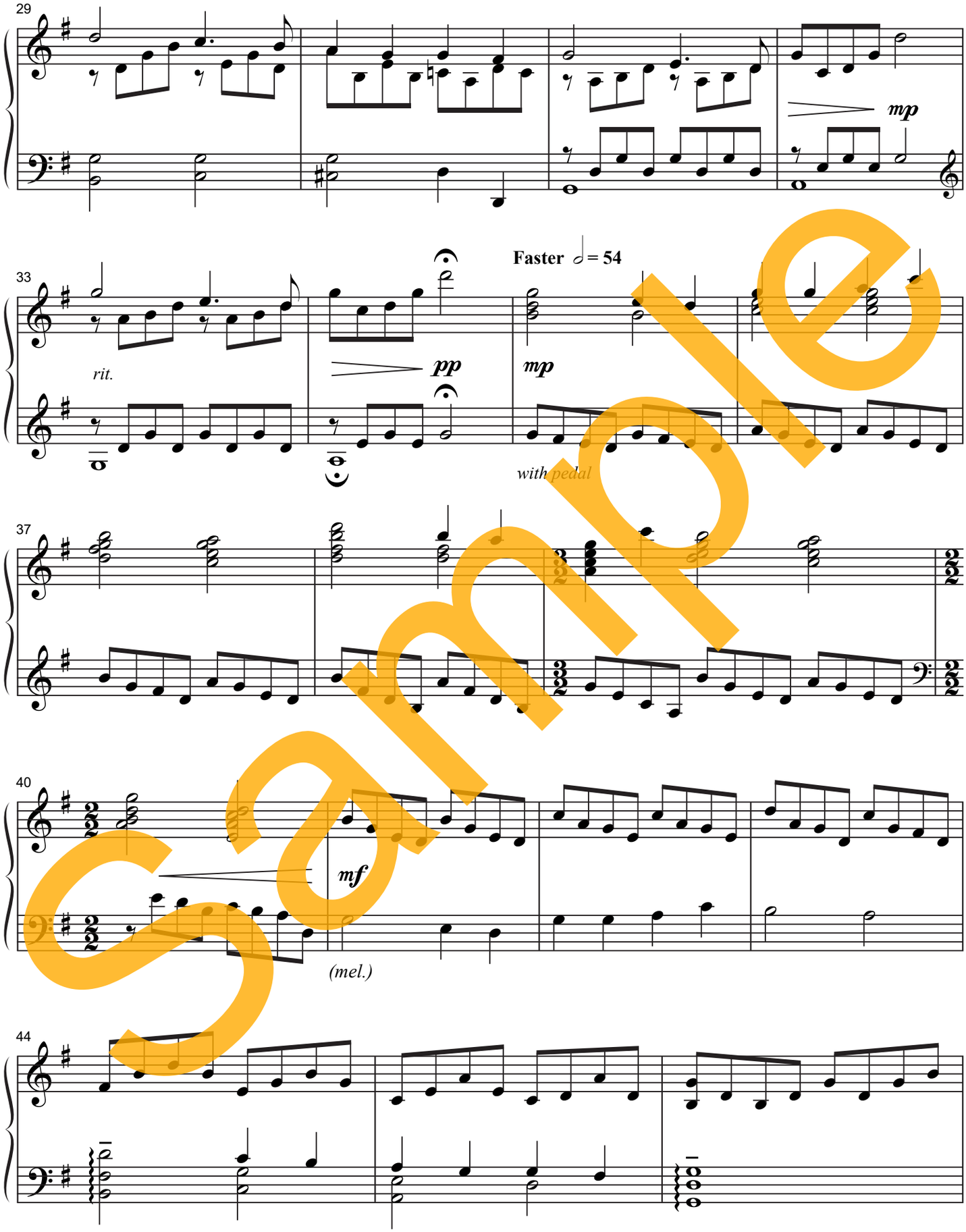


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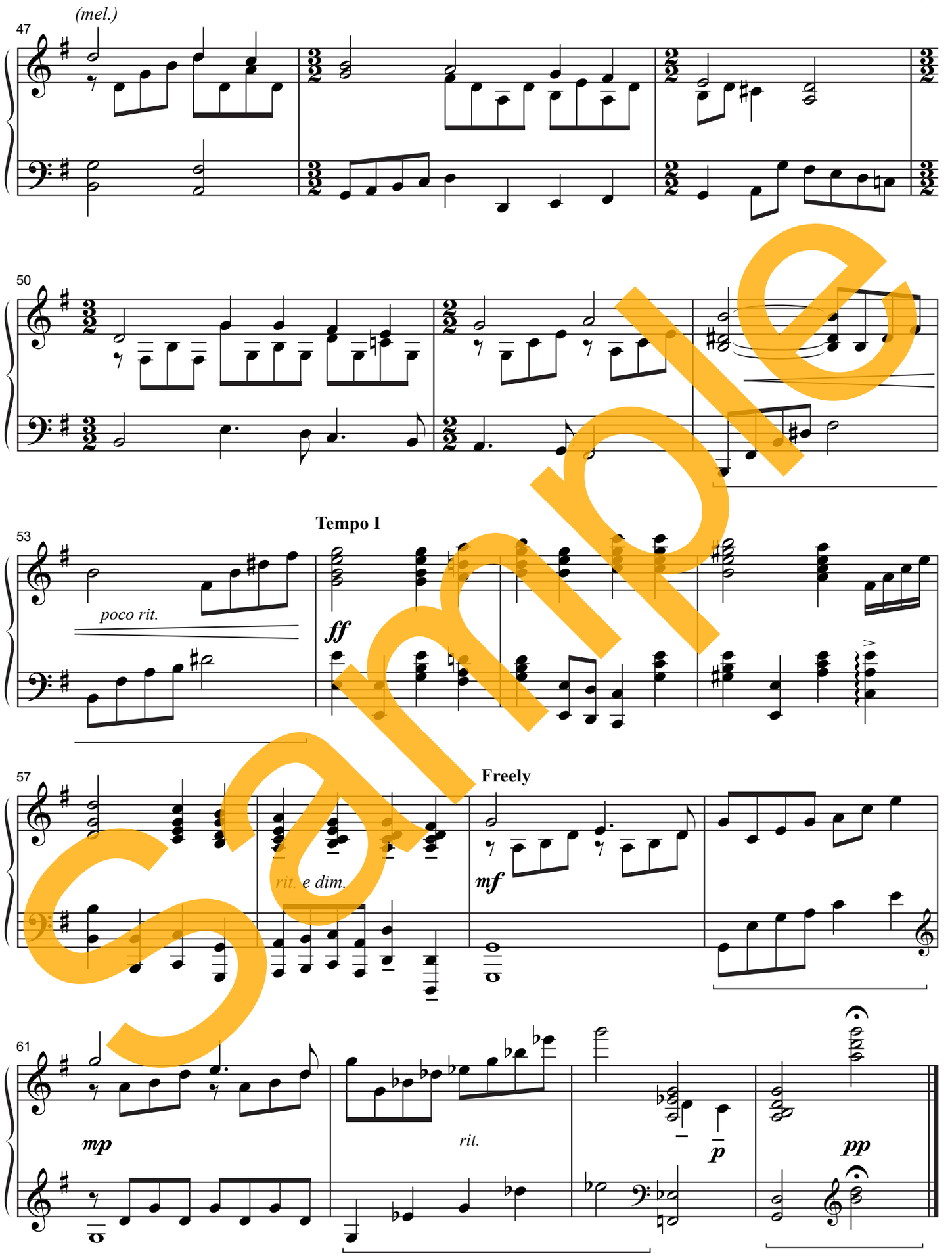
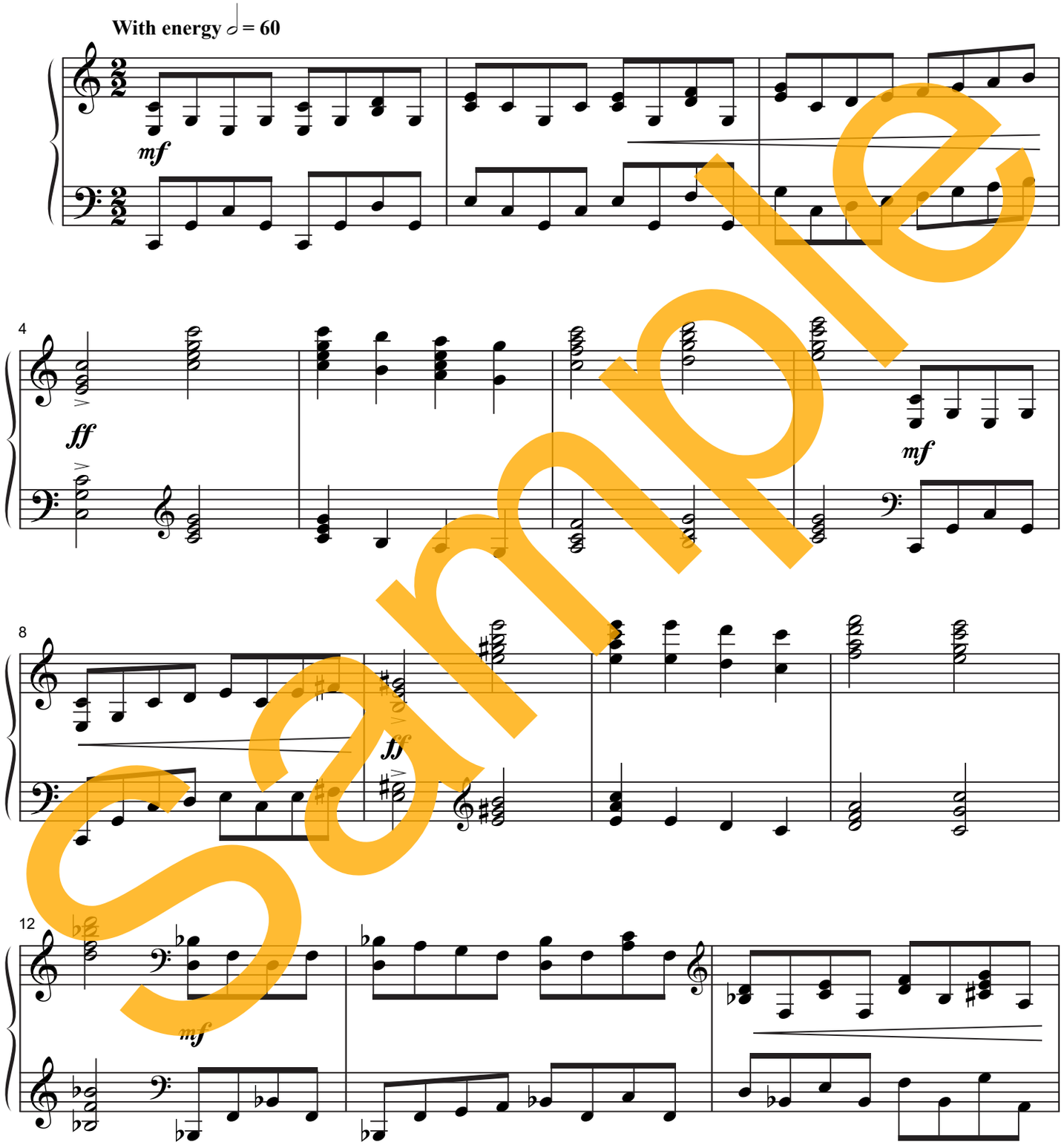

(mel.)
47
50
Tempo I
53
poco rit.
ff
57
rit. e dim.
Freely
mf
61
mp
rit.
p
pp

Sample

# Fanfare on the “Doxology”

**Larry Shackley**
Tune: **OLD HUNDREDTH**
by **Louis Bourgeois** (1510-1561)

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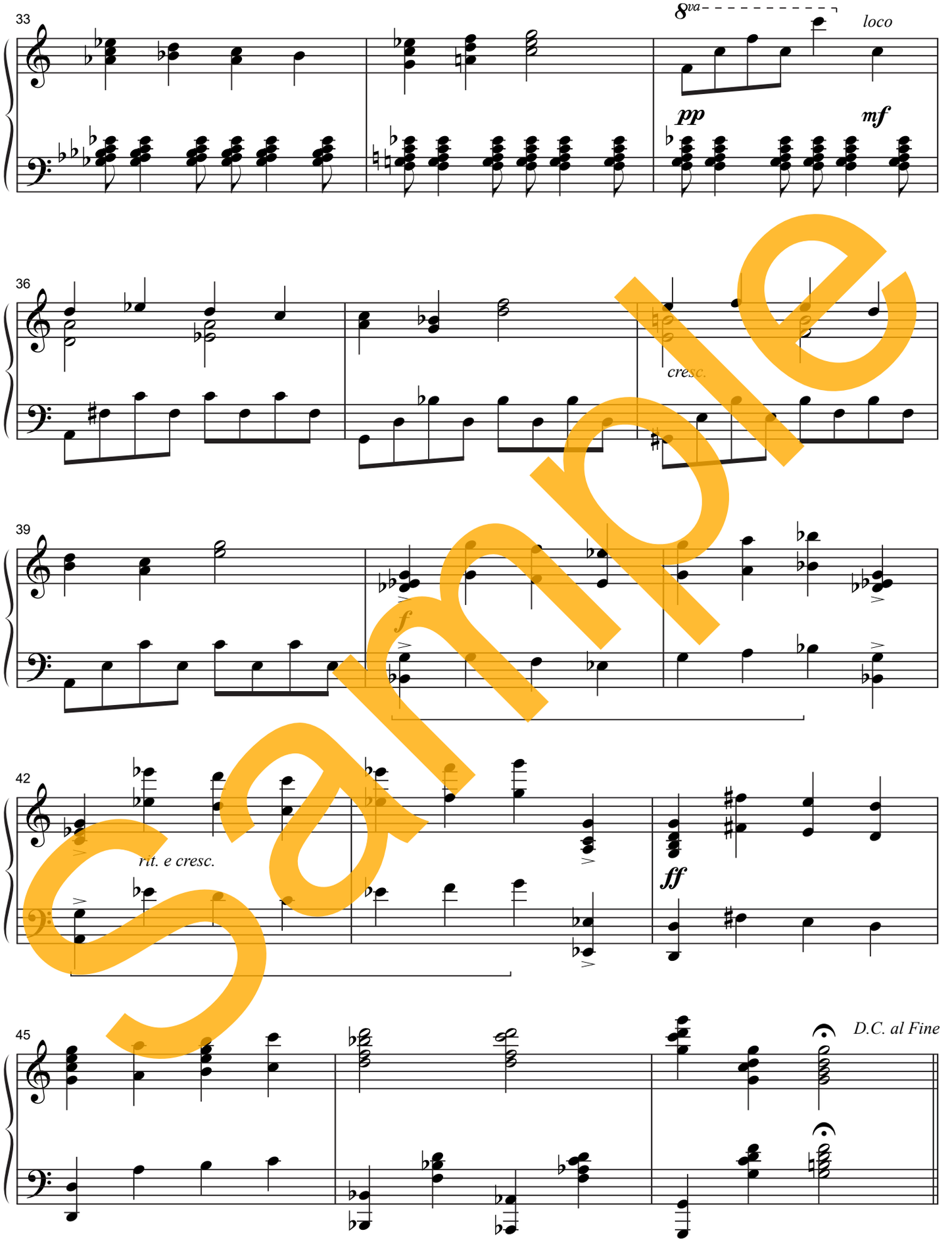
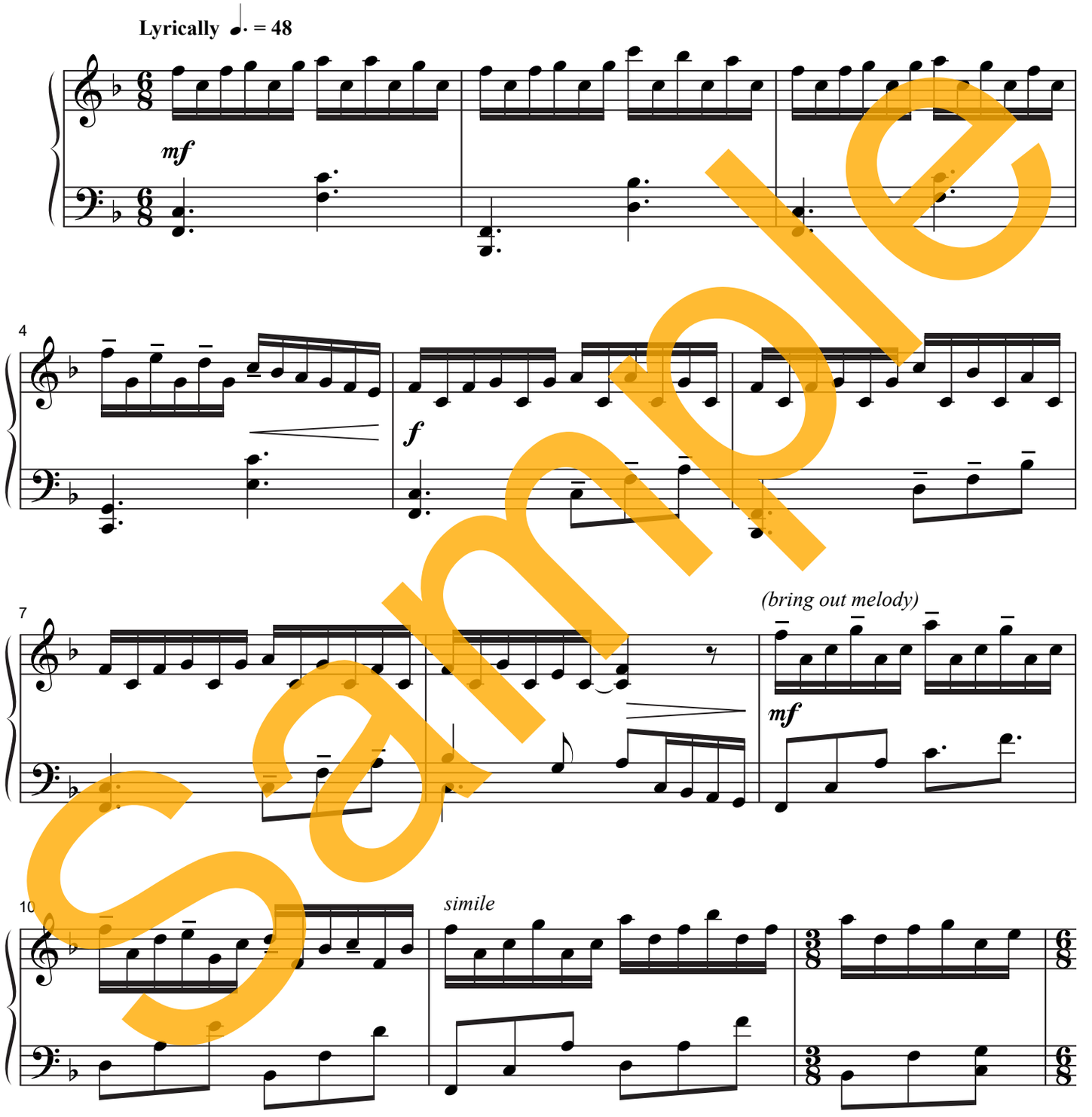



Sample

# Comfort, Comfort Now My People

**Larry Shackley**
Tune: **GENEVAN 42**
by **Claude Goudimel** (1505-1572)
and **Louis Bourgeois** (1510-1561)

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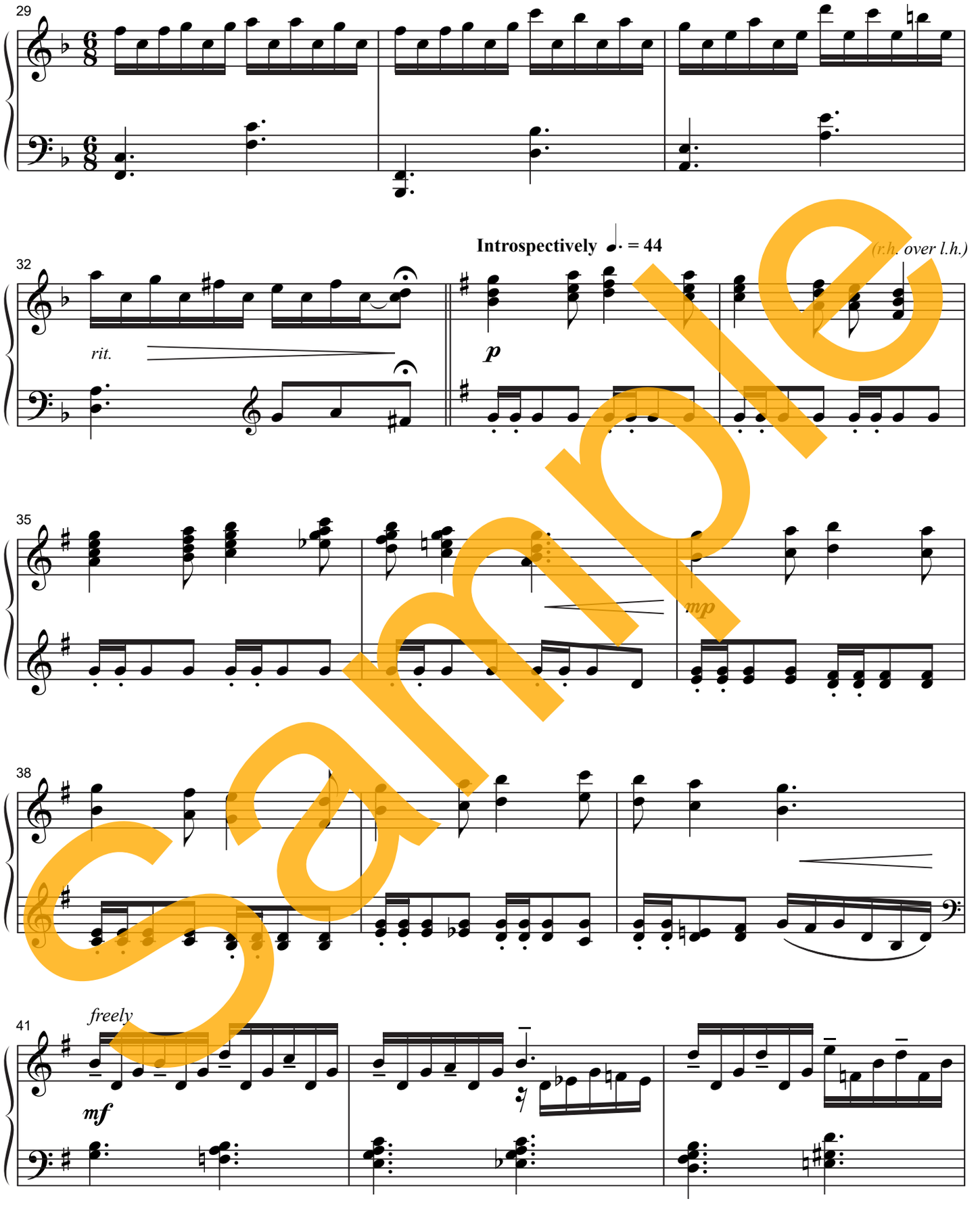


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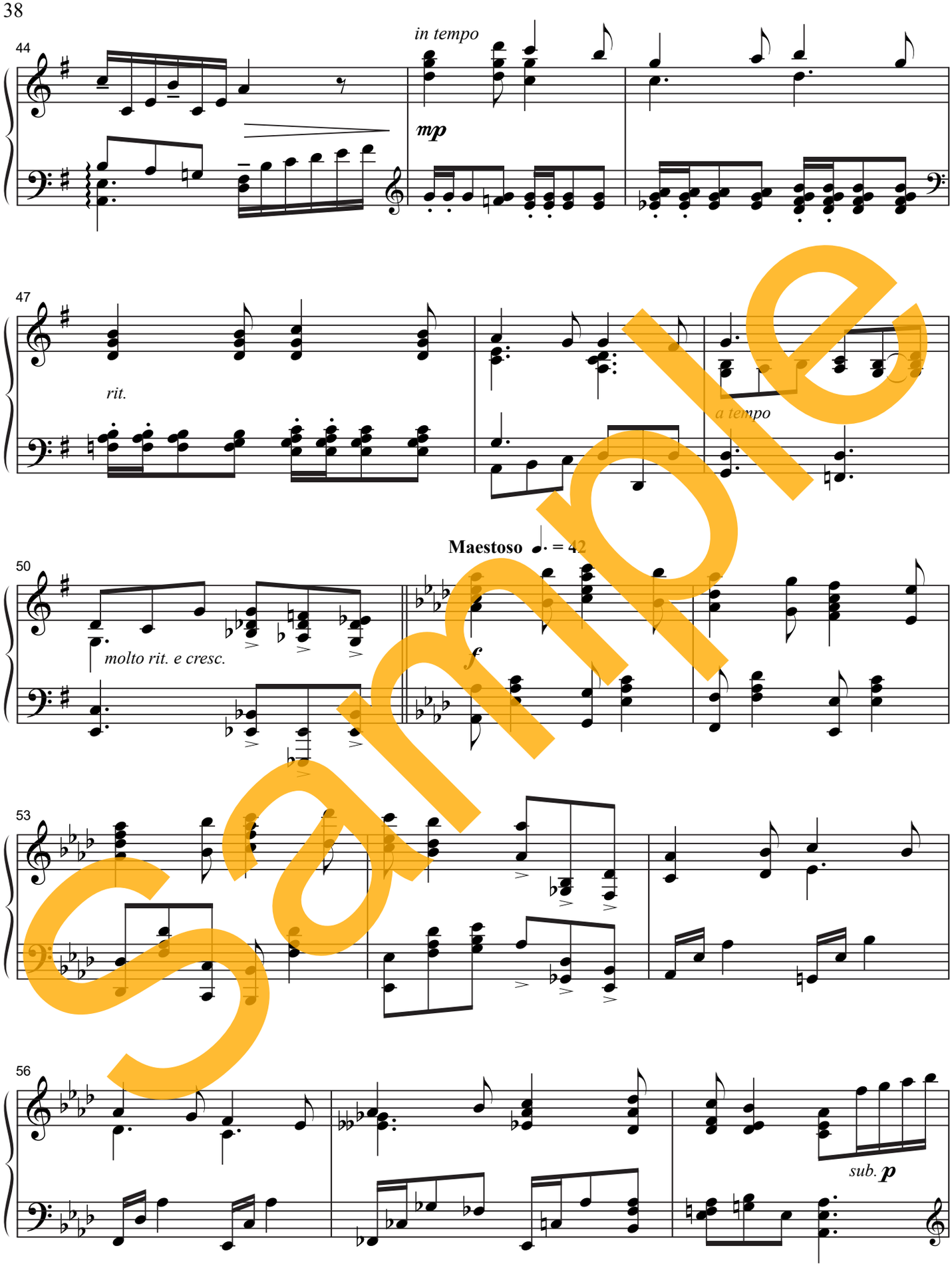
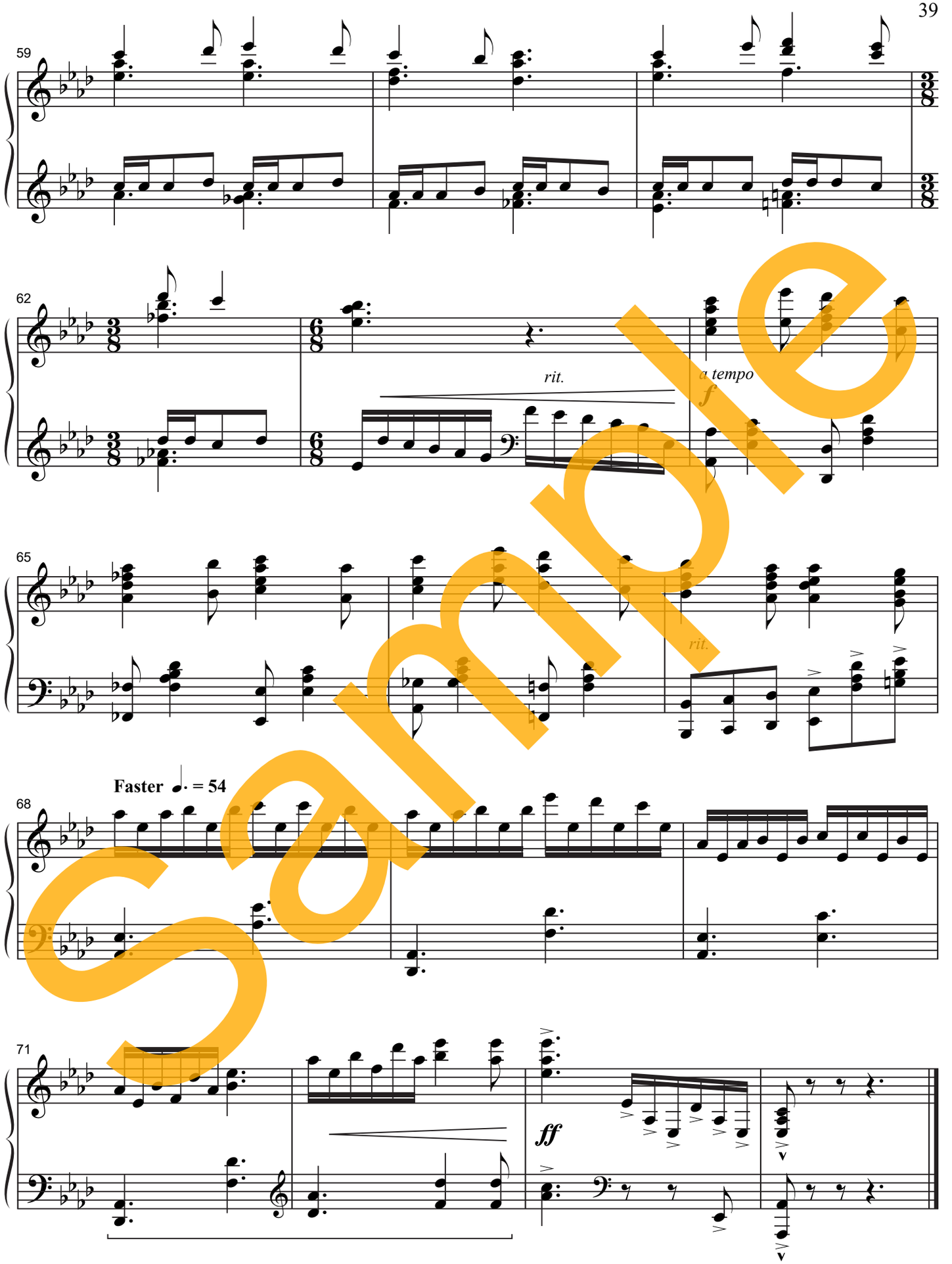

44
in tempo
mp
47
rit.
a tempo
50
molto rit. e cresc.
Maestoso ♩. = 42
f
53
56
sub. p

Sample

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