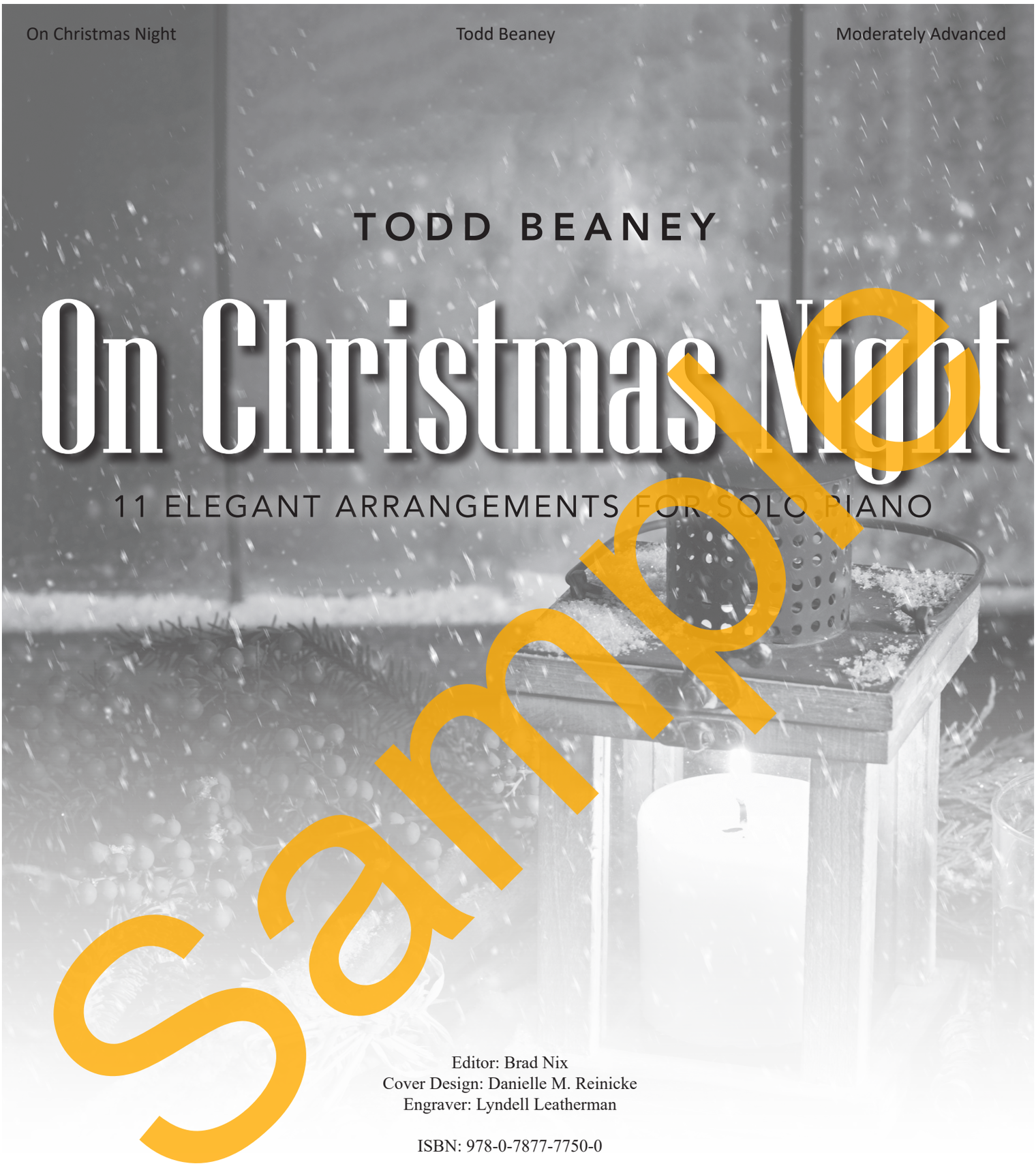

TODD BEANEY

On Christmas Night

11 ELEGANT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOLO PIANO

Sample

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Cover Design: Danielle M. Reinicke
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Sample

FOREWORD

Have you ever heard someone say, or have you yourself felt, that hearing the music of Christmas helps us to "get into the Christmas spirit?" In so many aspects of our lives, music "sets the mood" in ways that nothing else quite matches.

But music can do more than simply set a mood; it can tell a story. The wonderfully rich canon of Christmas carols we are blessed to enjoy tells the extraordinary *beginning* of the greatest story ever told—the life, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As musicians, we have the privilege of presenting and interpreting music that tells this story in endlessly new ways… and that provides the reason for this book. Here are ten new settings of familiar and not-so-familiar carols, plus one new original piece, that tell the wondrous, timeless story of what happened *On Christmas Night*, bringing glad tidings of great joy to all and hopefully resonating with both listener and performer.

I very much enjoyed writing the arrangements for this book. As I became more and more immersed in the project, my personal appreciation and sense of blessing for God's great gift to us was both refreshed and increased. Crafting these new pieces not only brought me into "the Christmas spirit" (even though they were not written in December!) but also enabled me to experience the gift of God's love in a more profound way, in contemplation of what God did for us *On Christmas Night*.

May this music similarly help you to experience Christmas, and God's love, in ever new and deeper ways.

—Todd Beaney

Sample

ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT (THE SUSSEX CAROL)

This beautiful English tune, with its centuries-old text, was first written down in 1919 by Ralph Vaughan Williams after he heard it sung near Sussex, England. He sought to preserve it against the decline of oral tradition (as printed music gained in popularity with the increase in literacy in rural areas). I chose to include it in this book because of its gentle, lilting melody, and it seemed like such a good starting place that this was the first arrangement I wrote for this project.

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

One of the most stately, and at the same time one of the most moving, of all Christmas carols is given a new setting here with a 12/8 time signature, and bookended with just a touch of original material. My intention was to present this wonderful carol, one of my very favorites, in a new way while still allowing it to retain all its cherished and timeless beauty. Let the 12/8 feel like four beats to a measure and allow the triplets to flow in an easy, natural way.

GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN

The first line of this age-old hymn is sometimes misunderstood. In 17th-century English usage, *rest* would have meant "to keep or continue," while *merry* would translate today as "great, mighty, or strong." So we might think of this hymn's title as an encouragement to all: "God keep you strong"—because Jesus Christ, the Savior of all, is born. Keep the staccatos short and light and observe the accents!

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Most often presented in a triumphant, exuberant style, this is one of the carols I most enjoy singing out on in full voice! However, it is cast here in a completely different musical light. I have approached the text more from a perspective of awe and wonder than one of enthusiastic praise, so I hope you will enjoy this unexpectedly intimate setting of a typically upbeat carol.

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

As appropriate for Advent as it is for Christmas (if not even more so), this piece would also be suitable for Communion during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Incorporate an air of mystery as you navigate the minor (and sometimes slightly dissonant) harmonies by keeping the tempo slow and letting the piece unfold very gradually. After the climax, let it fade away to nothing ("silence") as you bring it to a close.

Sample

COME, THOU REDEEMER OF THE EARTH

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth, and manifest Thy virgin birth: Let every age adoring fall; such birth befits the God of all. Well-suited for Advent, this beautiful tune by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621) provides a perfect setting for the text that is more than 1000 years older! Play this one with freedom and lots of expression, and take your time. This is one of my favorites in this book.

ALL MY HEART THIS NIGHT REJOICES

All this night my heart rejoices, as I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices. "Christ is born," their choirs are singing; till the air, everywhere, now their joy is ringing. When I learned that this song was the favorite Christmas hymn of my new pastor, I had to look it up and get to know it. Once I had found and spent some time with it, I also grew to love it, and quickly determined to include it in this book. If it is not familiar to you, I hope you will grow to love it, too!

SHEPHERDS, SHAKE OFF YOUR DROWSY SLEEP

I love this somewhat-less-familiar French carol for its buoyant, dance-like character as well as the celebratory nature of both message and melody. Let it "dance" when you play it!

ADVENT PRAYER

Creating some music specifically for Advent was very much my intention here; this piece is about mystery, hope, expectation, and waiting rather than celebration… with just a hint of the great joy that is coming.

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

The main message of this tender, lullaby-like hymn is found in the closing lines of both verses: *Christ the Babe is Lord of all* (v.1) and *Christ the Babe is born for you* (v.2). I've chosen to repeat the corresponding musical phrases for emphasis. In addition, at these two spots in the music (m. 17-19 and 36-38), the 5/8 meter changes temporarily to 3/4 (and even 4/4 in verse 2)—another way to lend a little extra weight to the main message. You'll want to give these two short (but important) passages just a little extra care! In the rest of the piece, let the 5/8 meter flow naturally in groups of 3+2, take your time, and take advantage of the opportunity to be expressive.

GOOD KING WENCESLAS

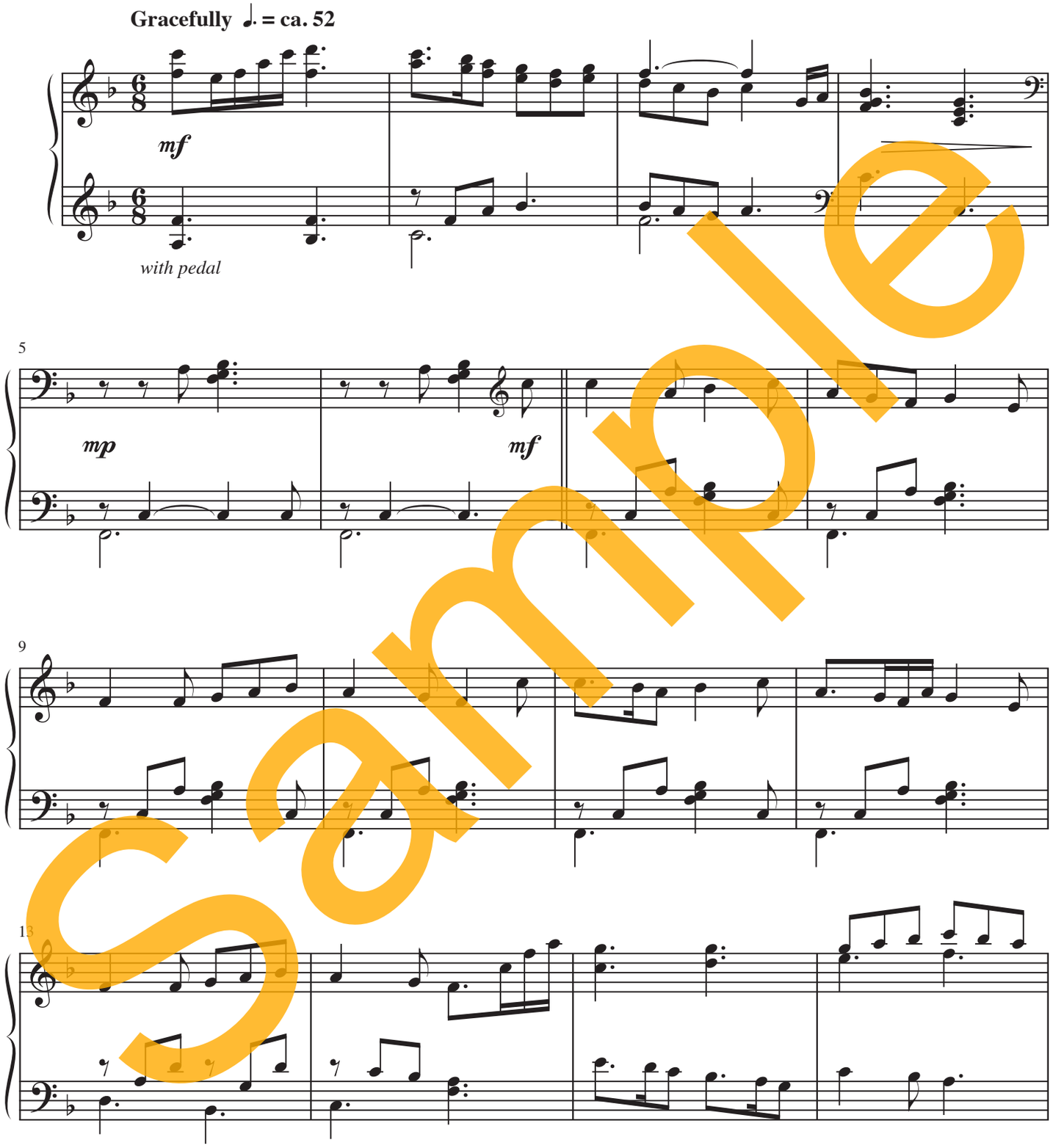
Set as a "gospel waltz," this piece requires a strong, steady beat and very pronounced articulations (accents, staccato, tenuto) as well as dynamics. Have fun with this one!

Sample

On Christmas Night

Todd Beaney

Tune: **SUSSEX CAROL**
English Carol



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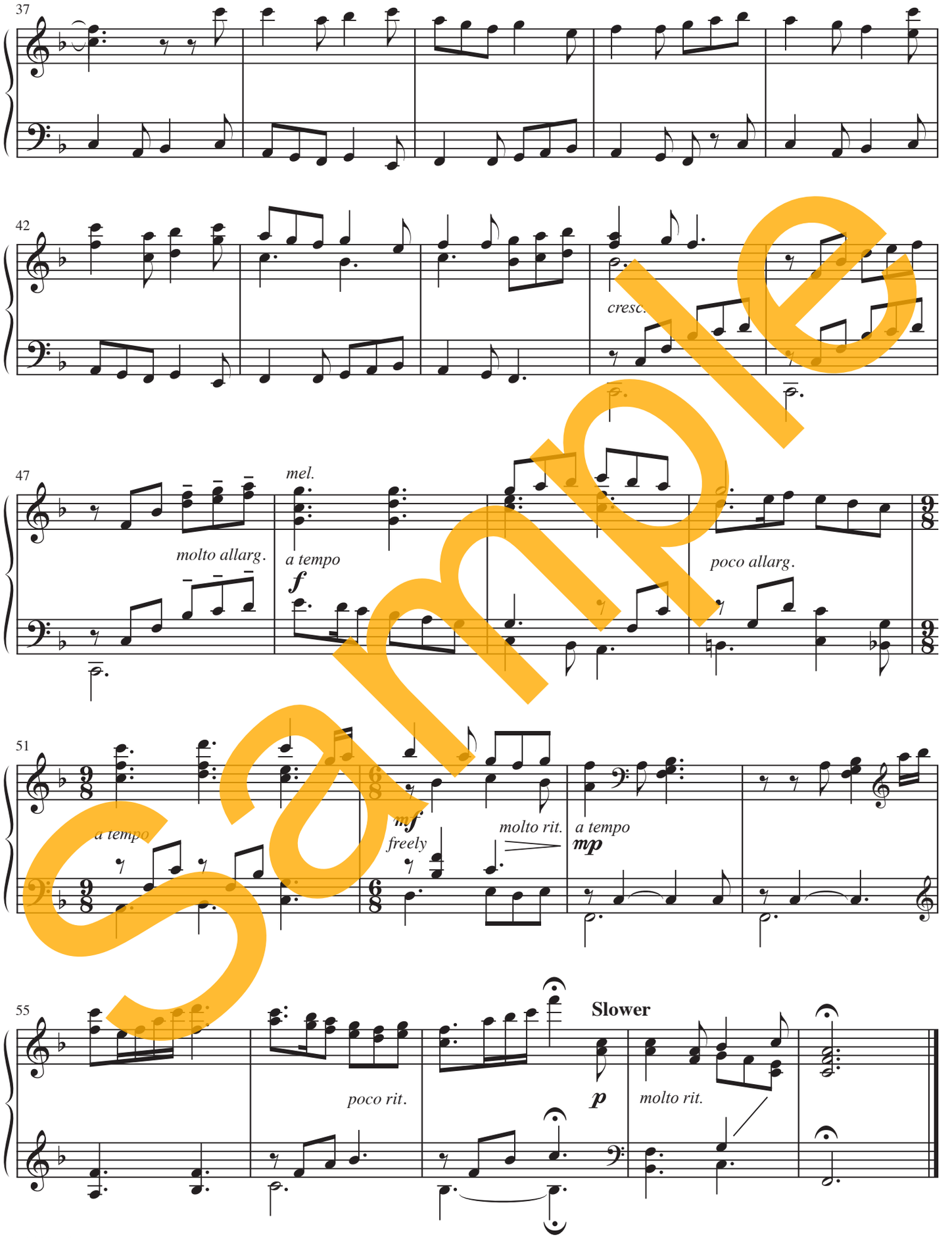
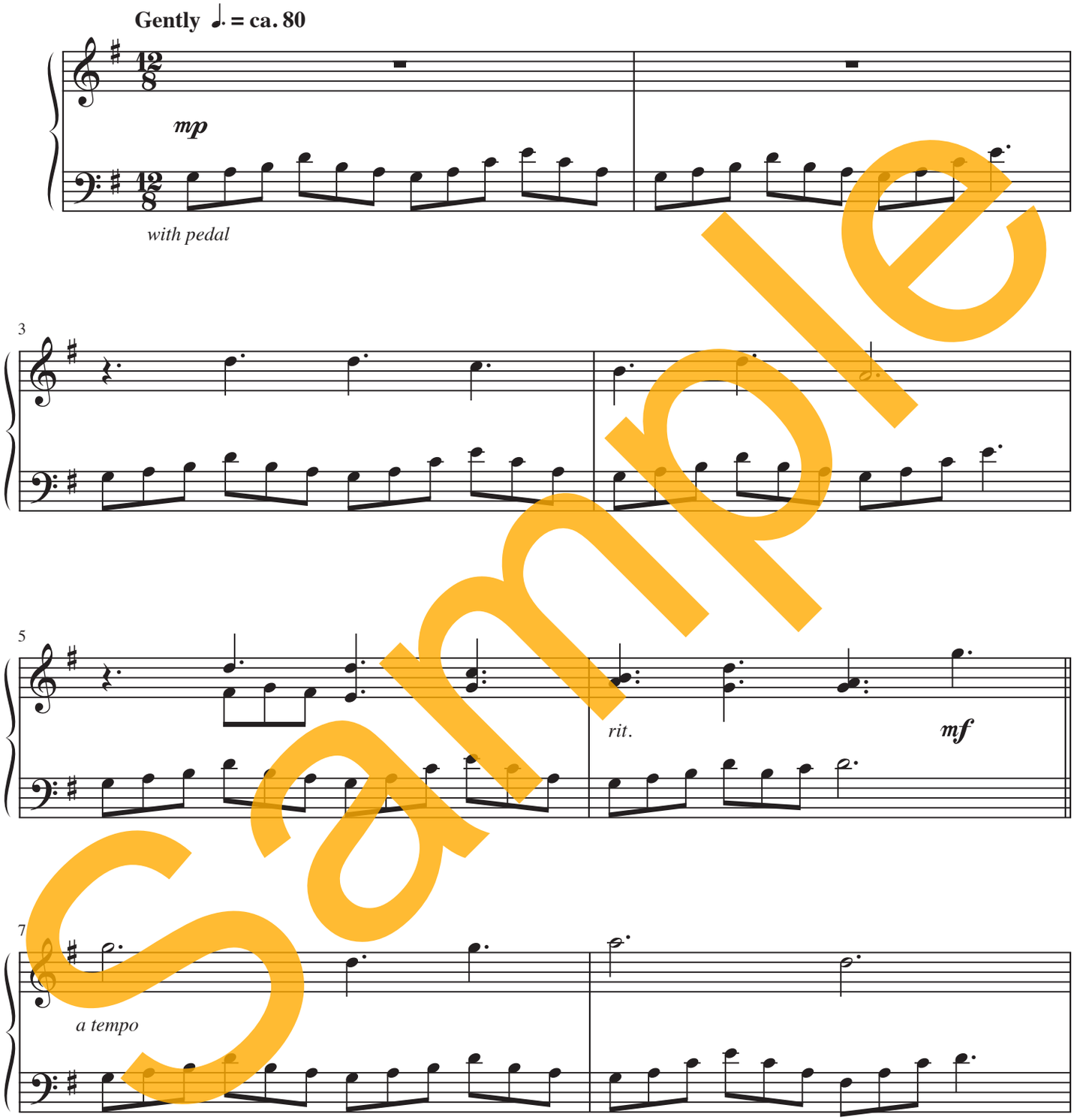

37
42
cresc.
47
mel.
molto allarg.
a tempo
f
poco allarg.
51
a tempo
mf
freely
molto rit.
a tempo
mp
55
Slower
poco rit.
p
molto rit.

Sample

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Todd Beaney
Tune: **ADESTE FIDELES**
by **John Francis Wade**, 1711-1786



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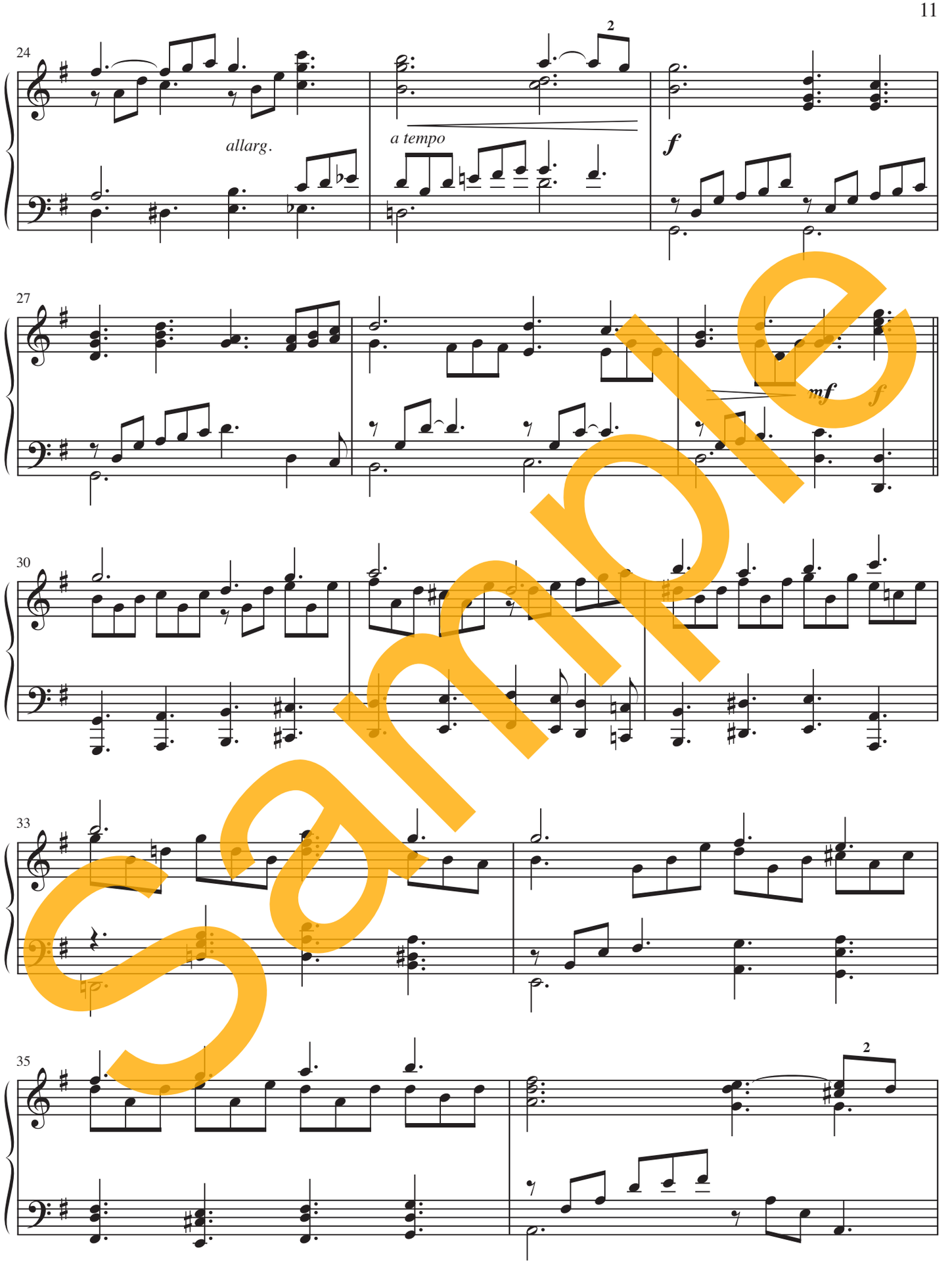

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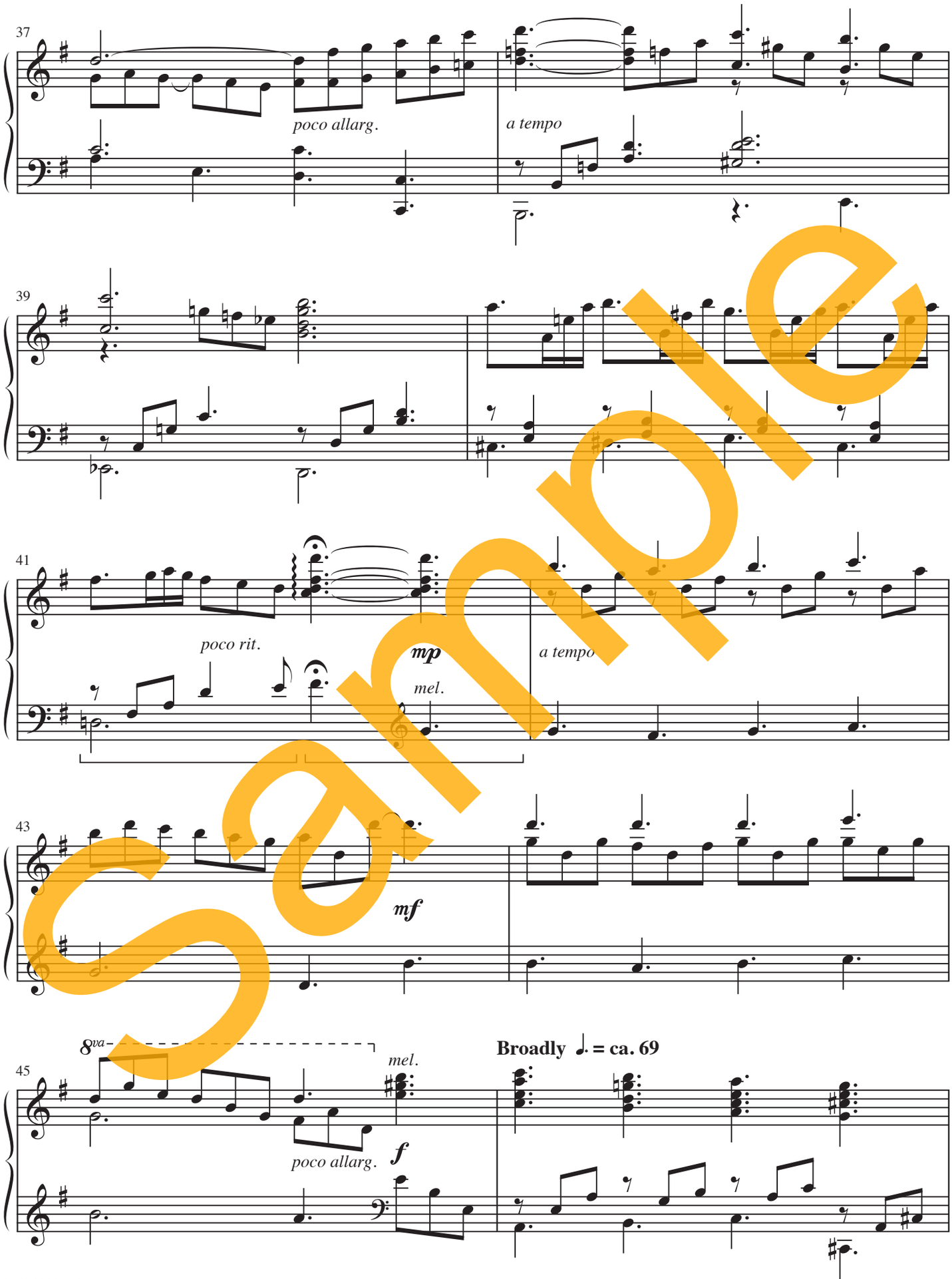
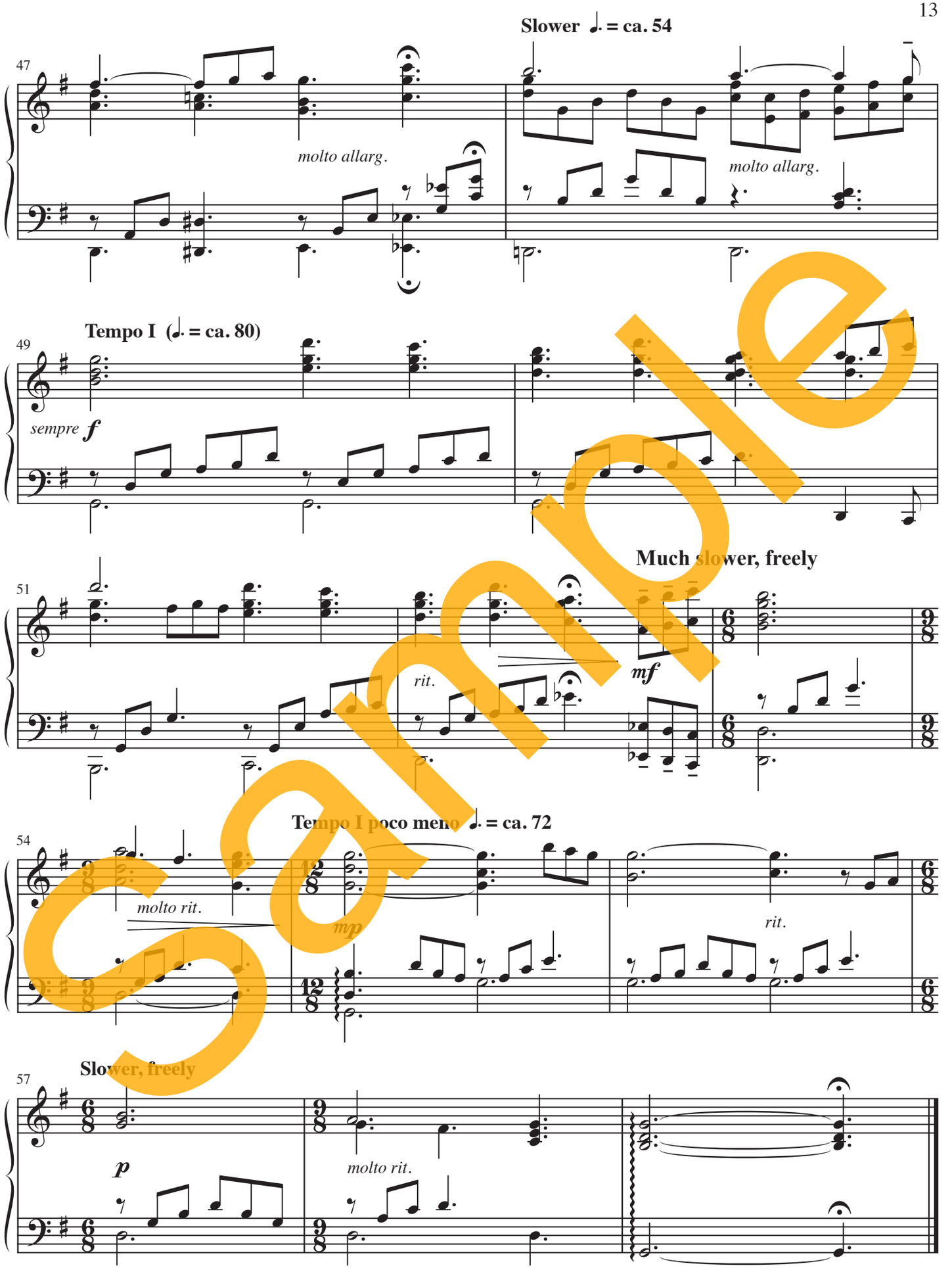

37
poco allarg.
a tempo
39
41
poco rit.
mp
mel.
a tempo
43
mf
8va
mel.
45
poco allarg.
f
Broadly ♩. = ca. 69

Sample

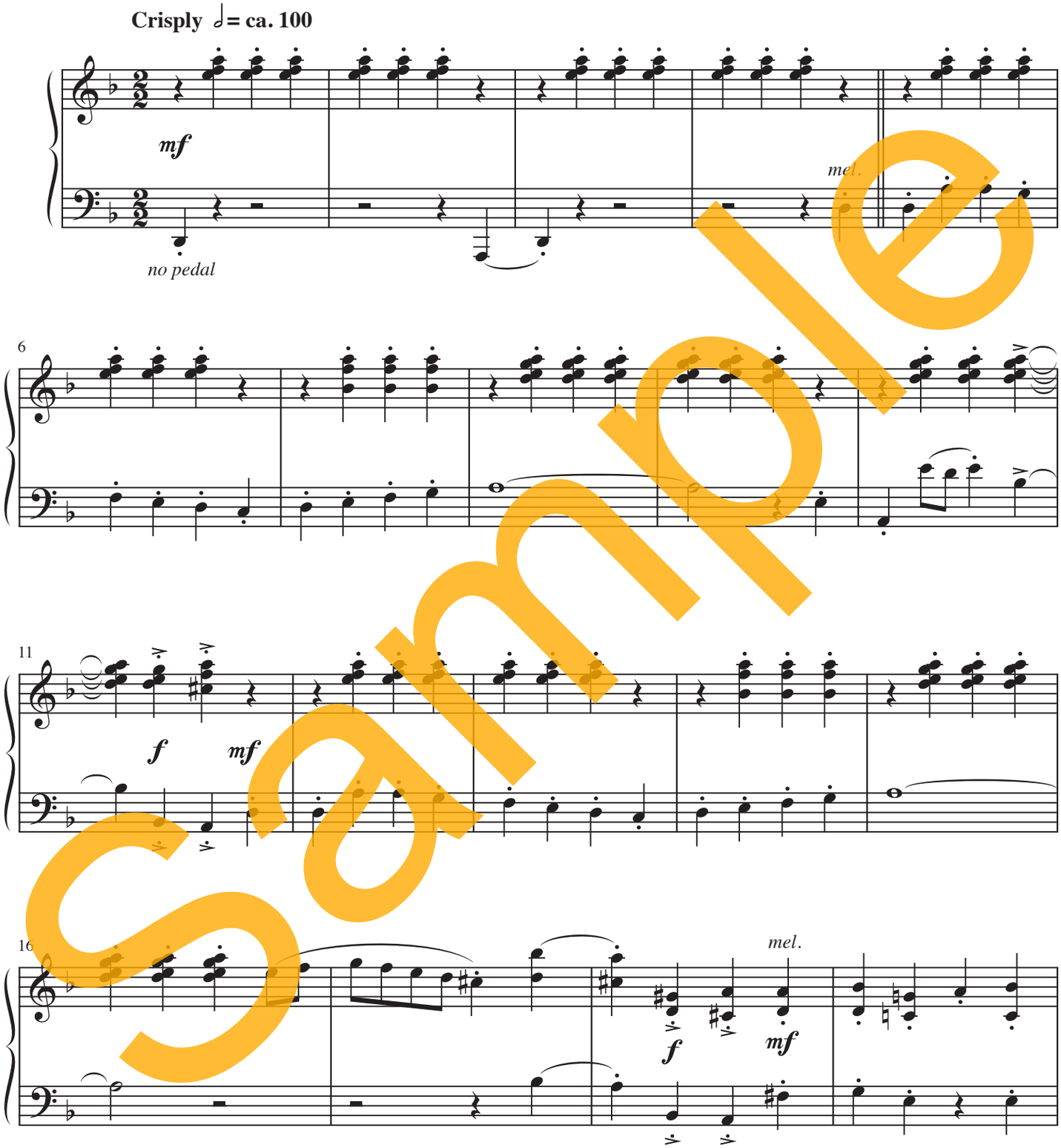

Slower ♩. = ca. 54
47
molto allarg.
molto allarg.
Tempo I (♩. = ca. 80)
49
sempre f
Much slower, freely
51
rit.
mf
Tempo I poco meno ♩. = ca. 72
54
molto rit.
mp
rit.
Slower, freely
57
p
molto rit.

Sample

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Todd Beaney

Tune: **GOD REST YOU MERRY**
Traditional English Carol



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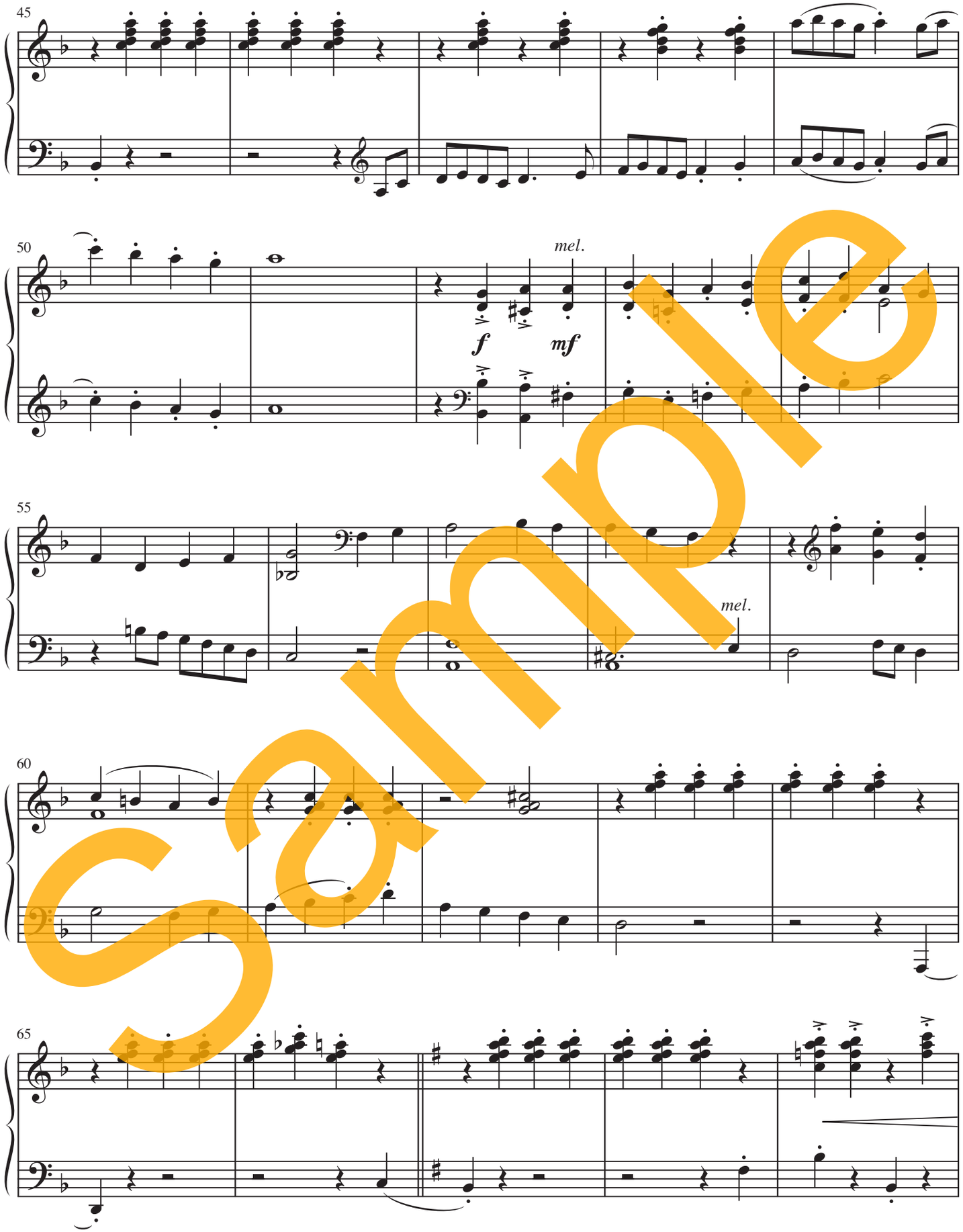
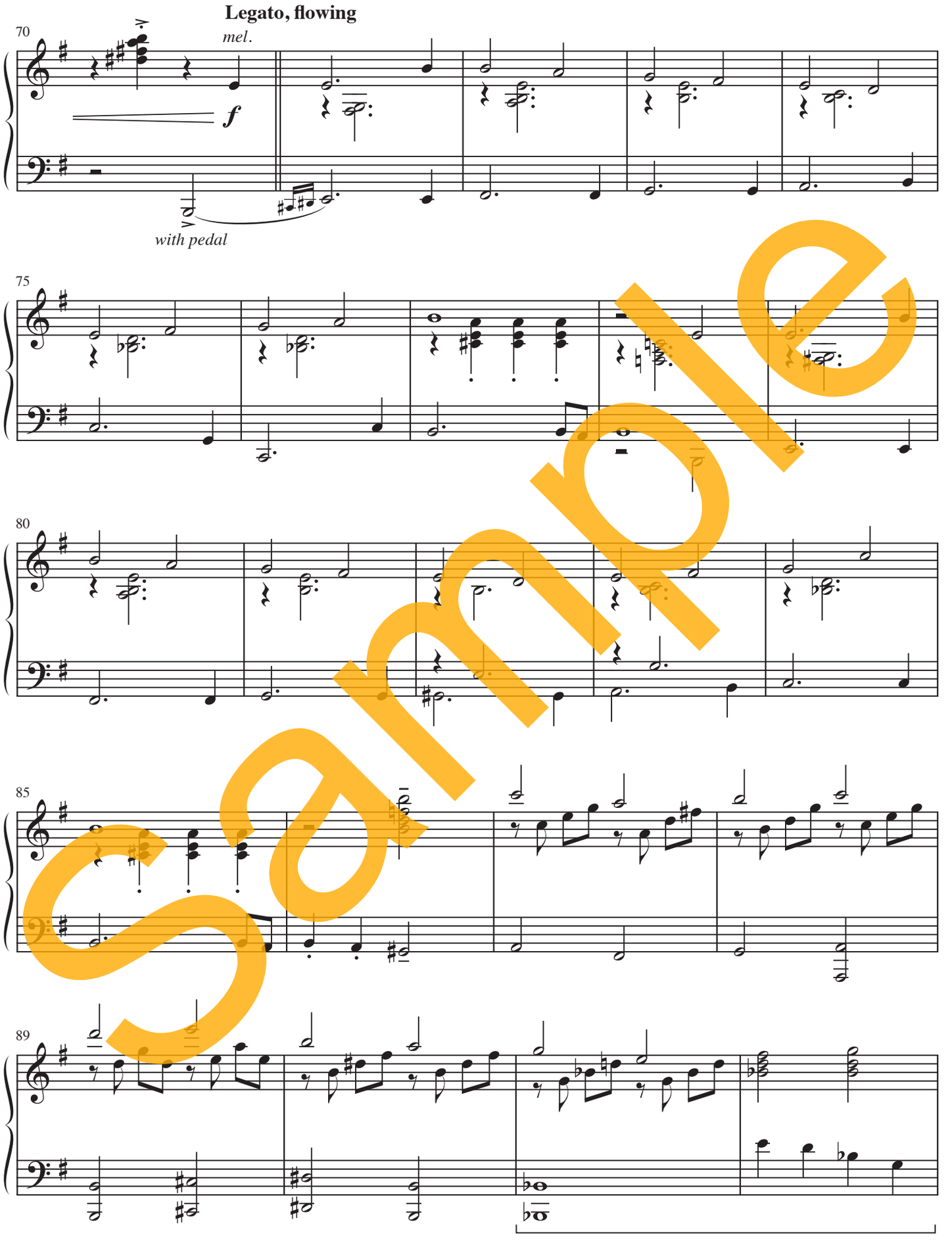


Sample



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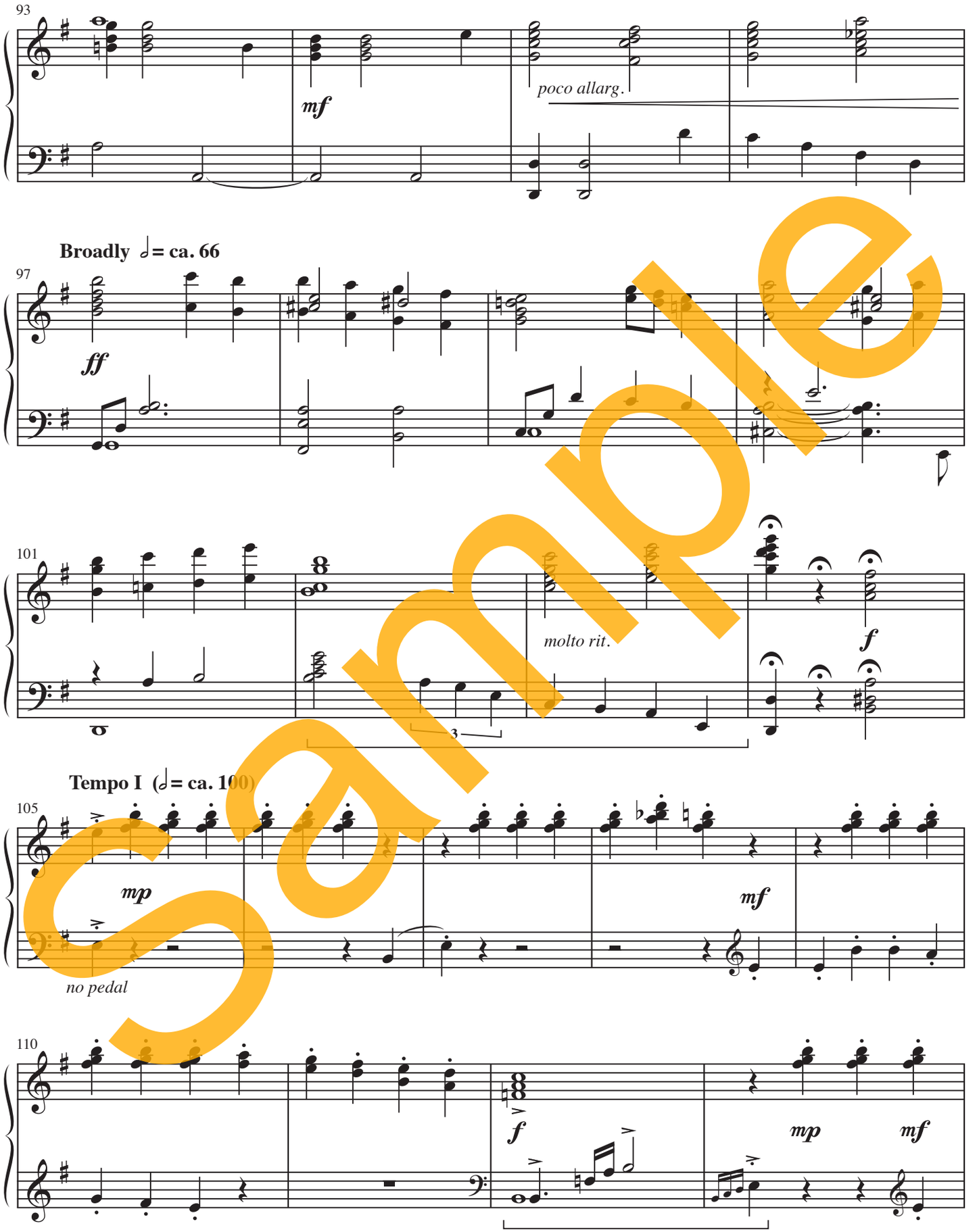
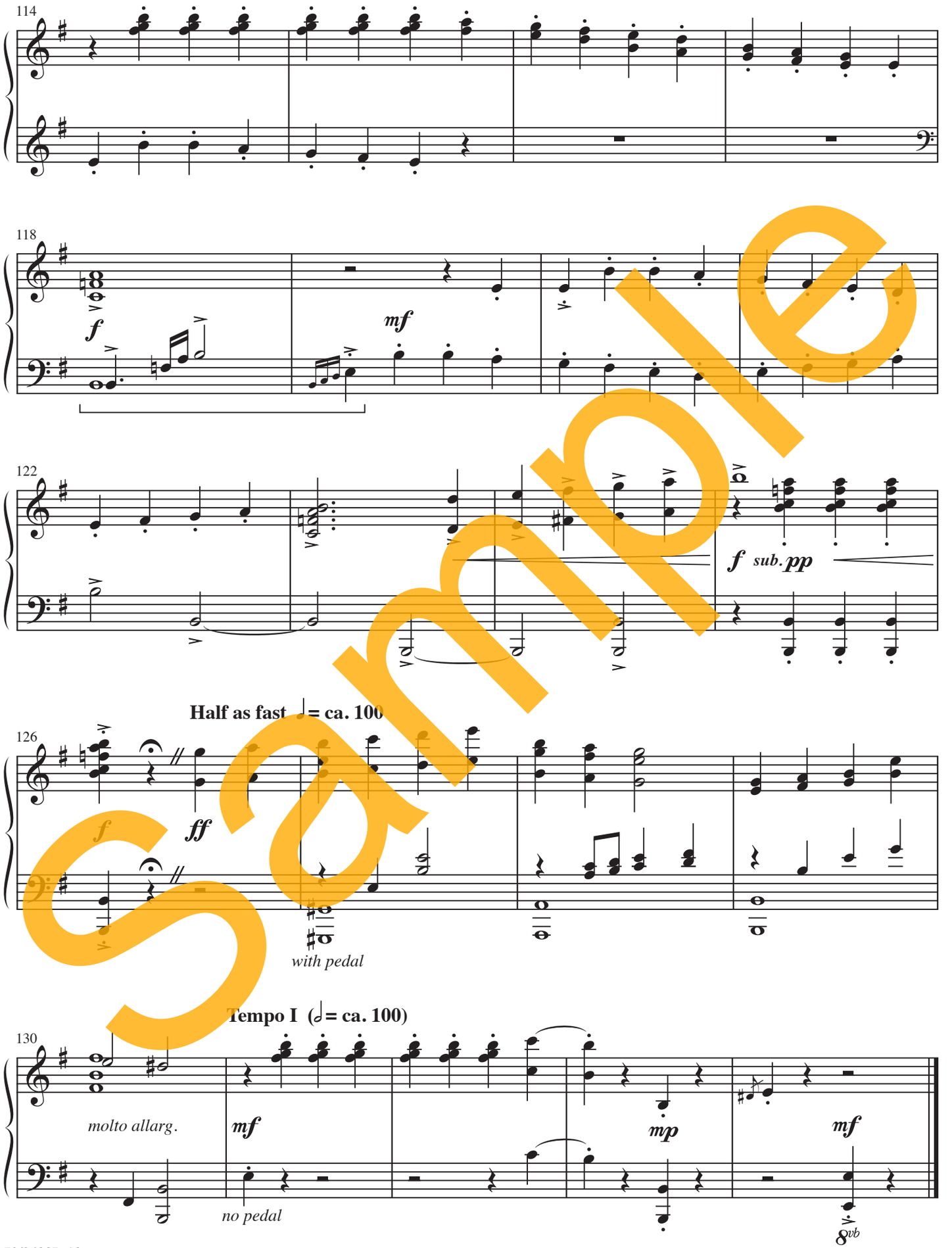

93
mf
poco allarg.
Broadly ♩= ca. 66
97
ff
101
molto rit.
f
3
Tempo I (♩= ca. 100)
105
mp
mf
no pedal
110
f
mp
mf

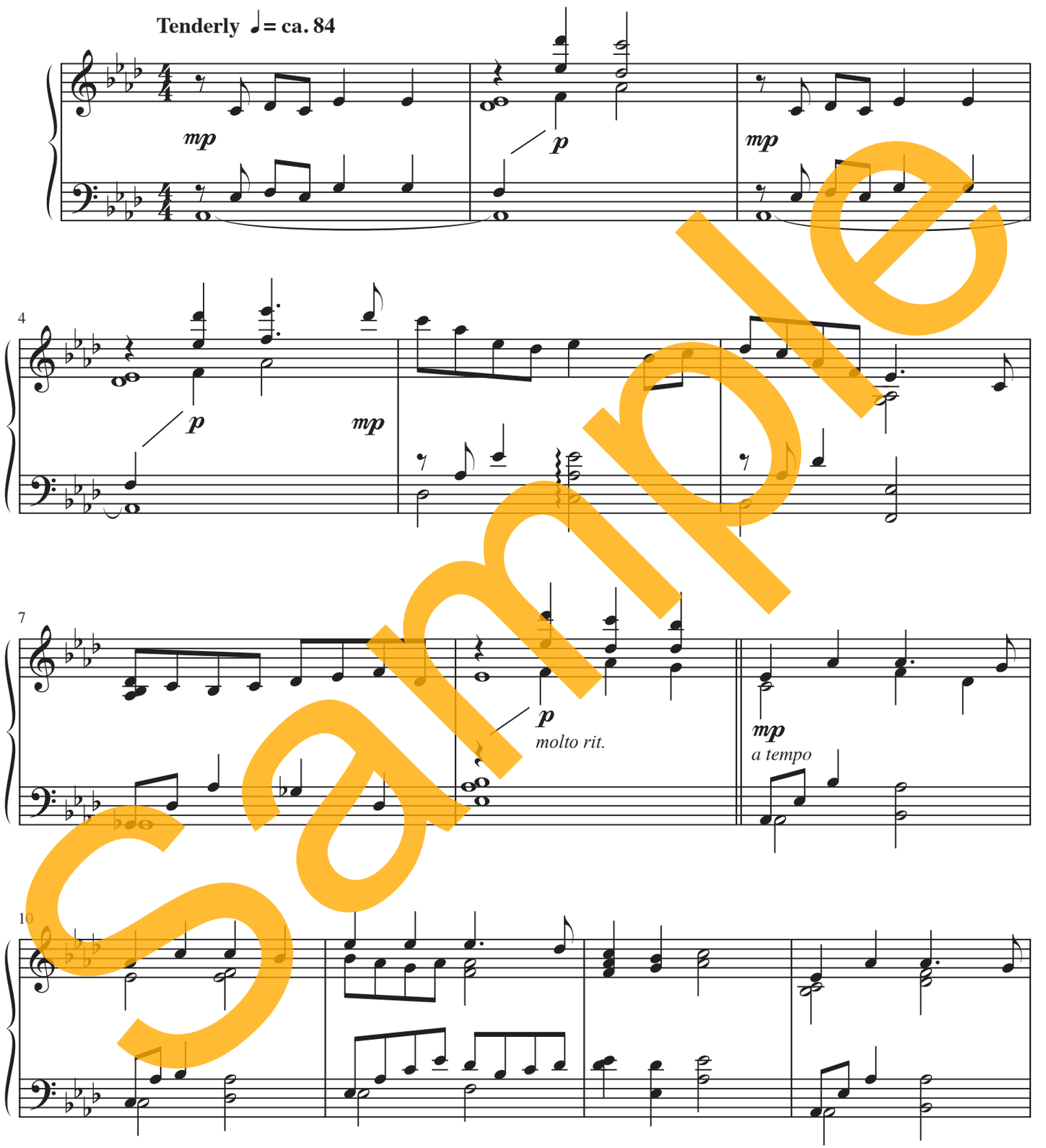
Sample


114
118
f
mf
122
f sub. pp
Half as fast ♩= ca. 100
126
ff
f
with pedal
Tempo I (𝅗𝅥= ca. 100)
130
molto allarg.
mf
no pedal
mp
mf
8vb

Sample

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Todd Beaney
Tune: **MENDELSSOHN**
by **Felix Mendelssohn**, 1809-1847



Sample

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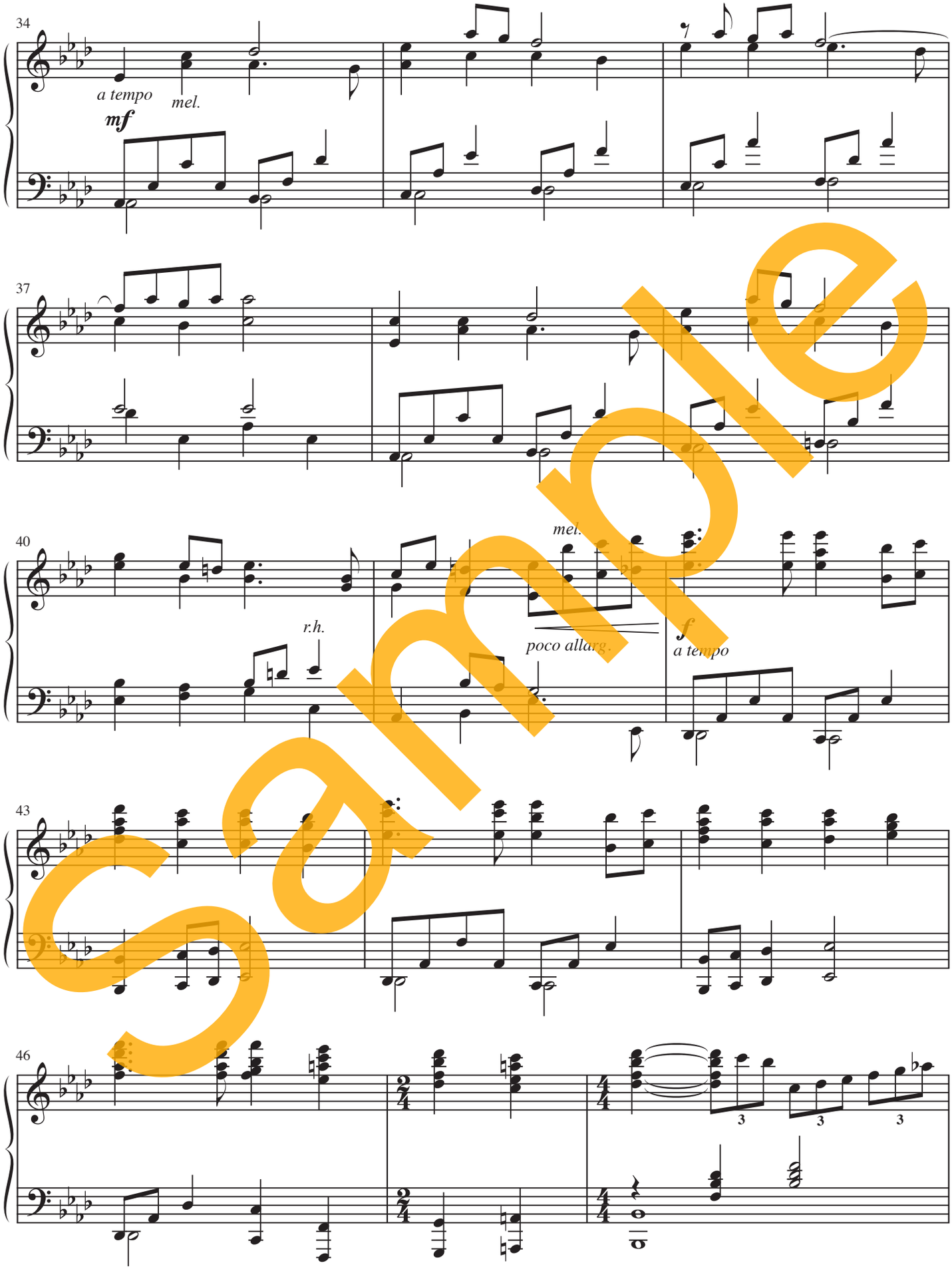

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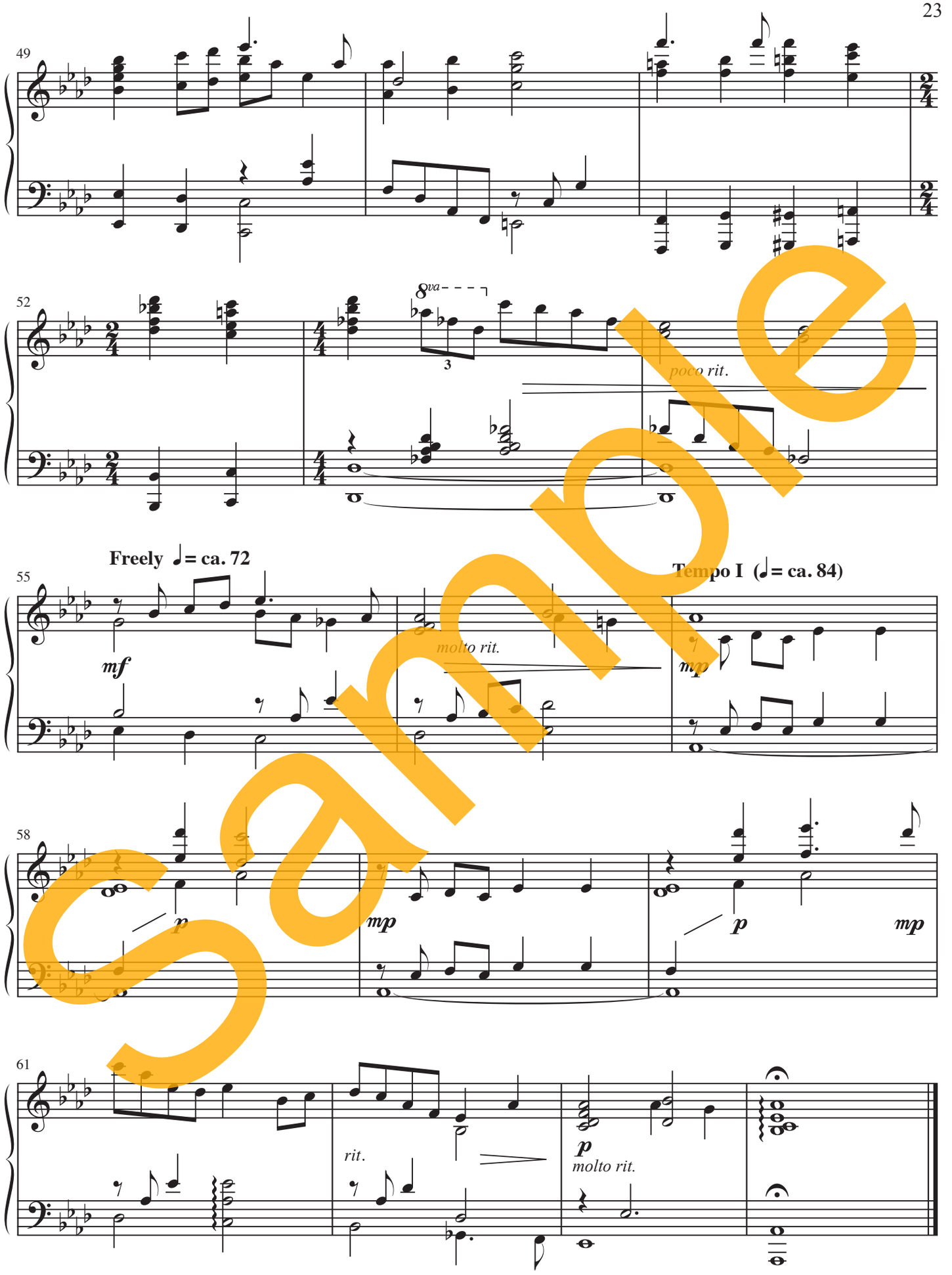
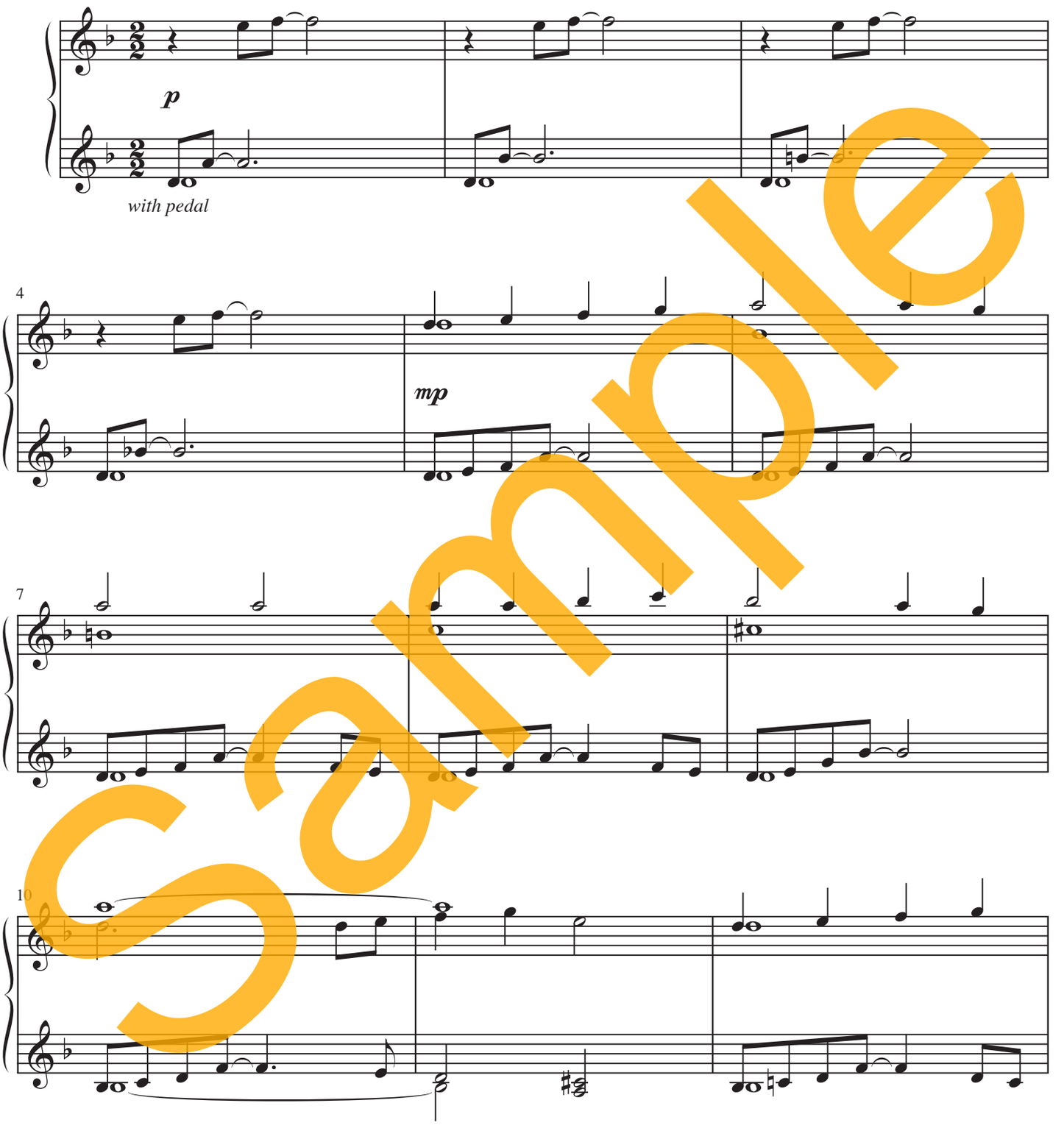

49
52
8va
3
poco rit.
Freely ♩= ca. 72
55
mf
molto rit.
Tempo I (♩= ca. 84)
mp
58
p
mp
p
mp
61
rit.
p
molto rit.

sample

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Todd Beaney
Tune: **PICARDY**
French Carol

With an air of mystery ♩= ca. 50



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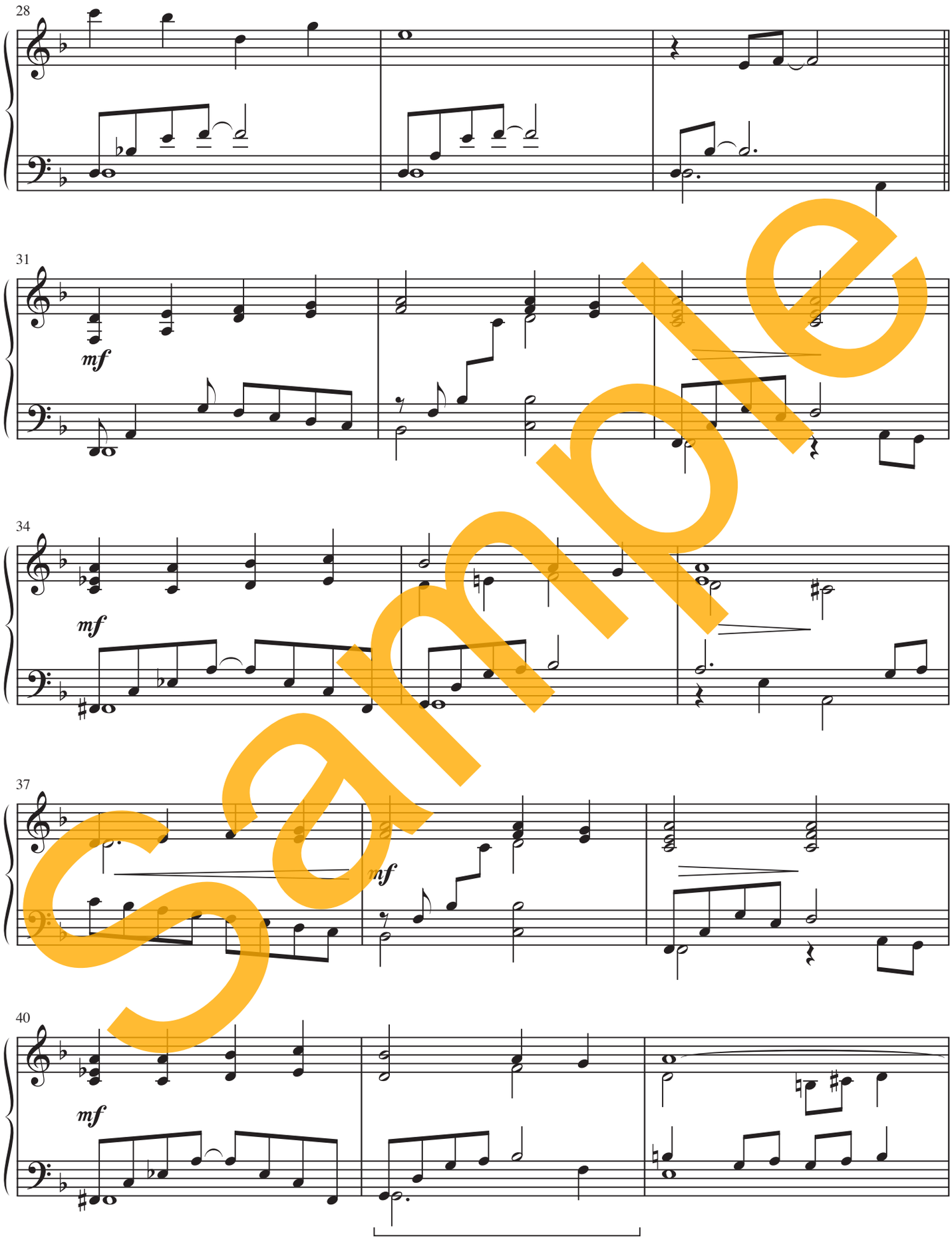
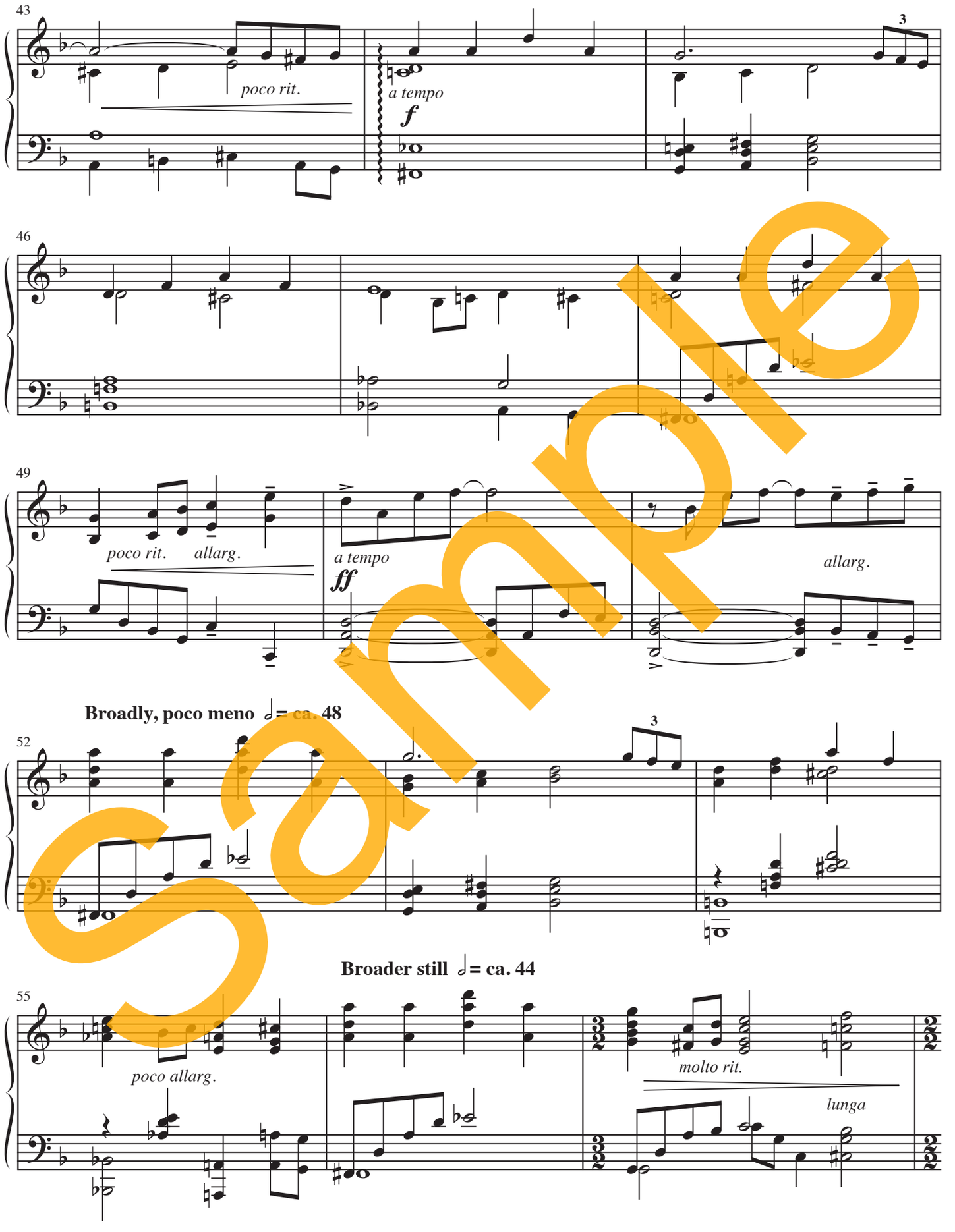
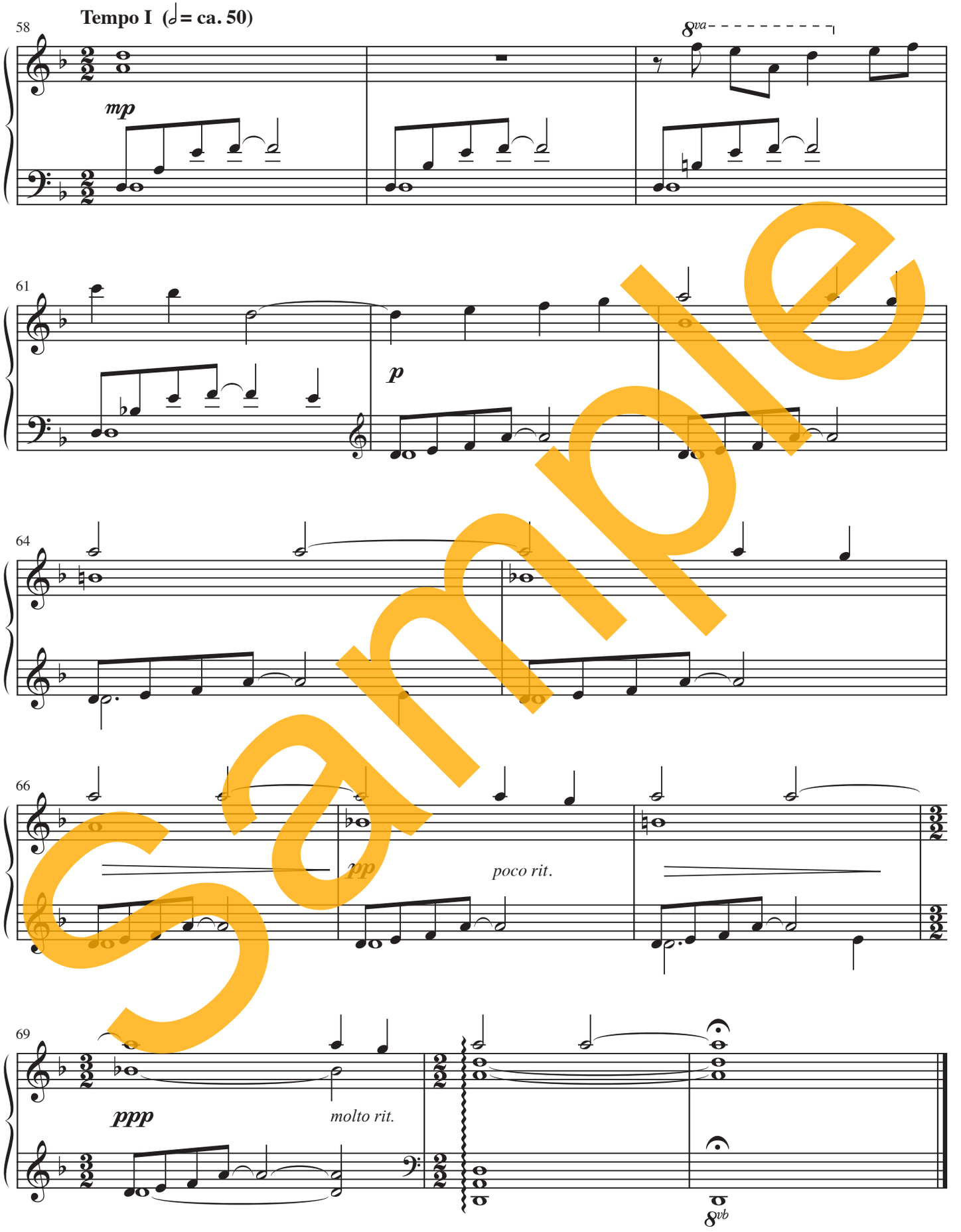


sample


43
poco rit.
a tempo
f
3
46
49
poco rit.
allarg.
a tempo
ff
allarg.
Broadly, poco meno ♩= ca. 48
52
3
Broader still ♩= ca. 44
55
poco allarg.
molto rit.
lunga

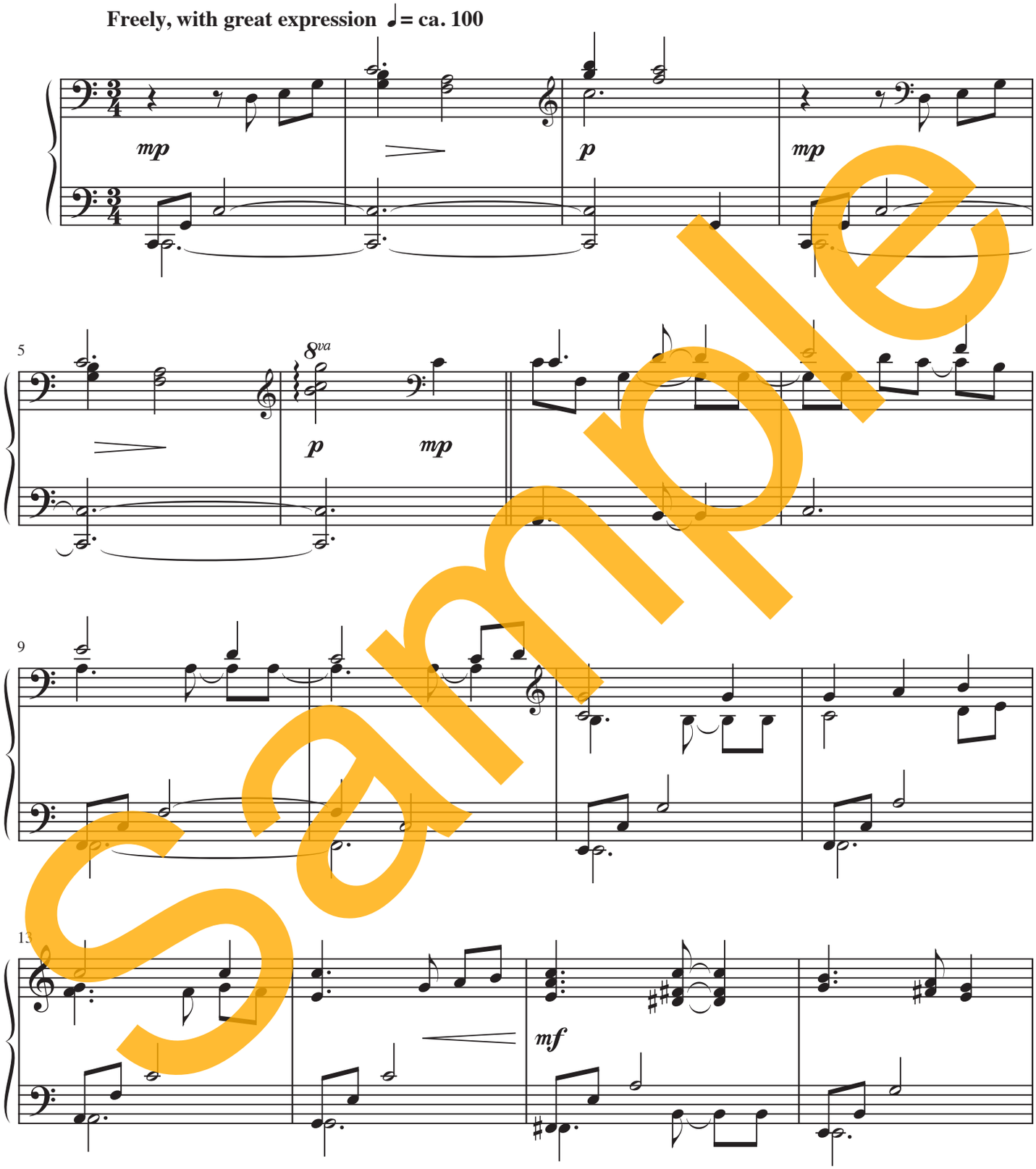
Sample



Sample

Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth

Todd Beaney
Tune: **PUER NOBIS NASCITUR**
by **Michael Praetorius**, 1571-1621



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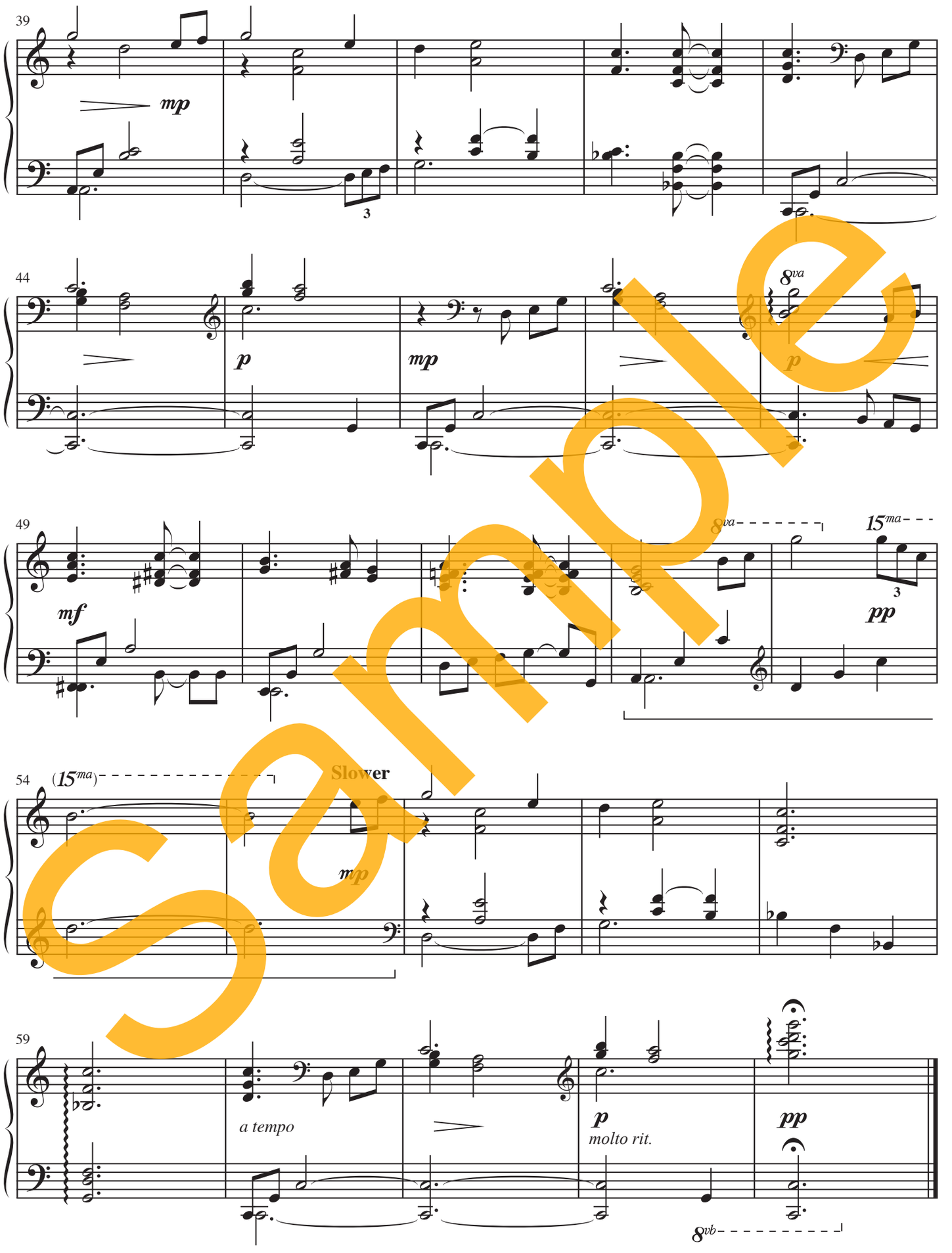

39
mp
3
44
p
mp
8va
p
49
mf
8va
15ma
3
pp
54
(15ma)
Slower
mp
59
a tempo
p
molto rit.
pp
8vb

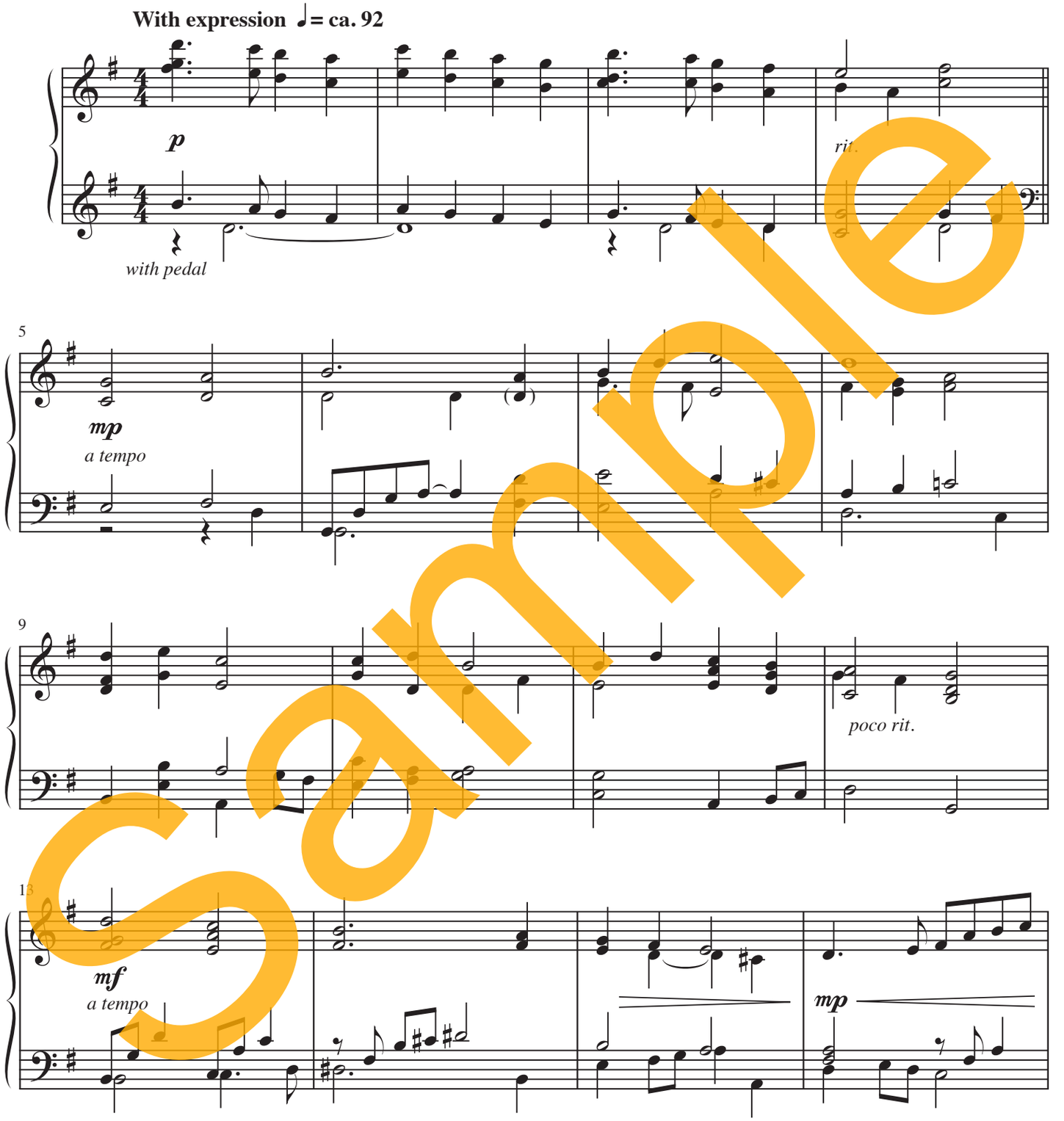
Sample

for Craig Higgins, founding and senior pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Mt. Kisco, New York

All My Heart This Night Rejoices

Todd Beaney

Tune: **WARUM SOLLT ICH**
by Johann G. Ebeling, 1637-1676



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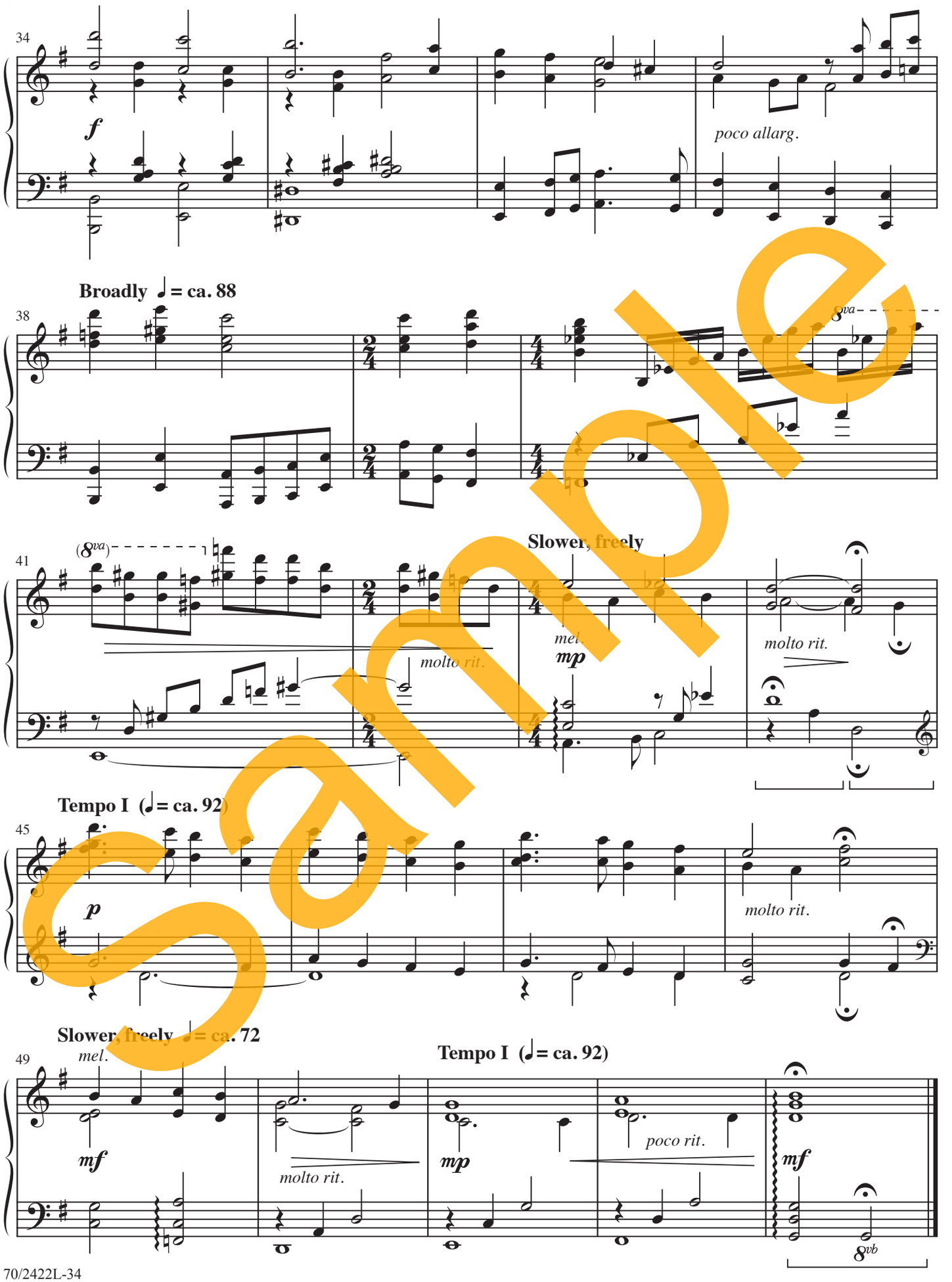
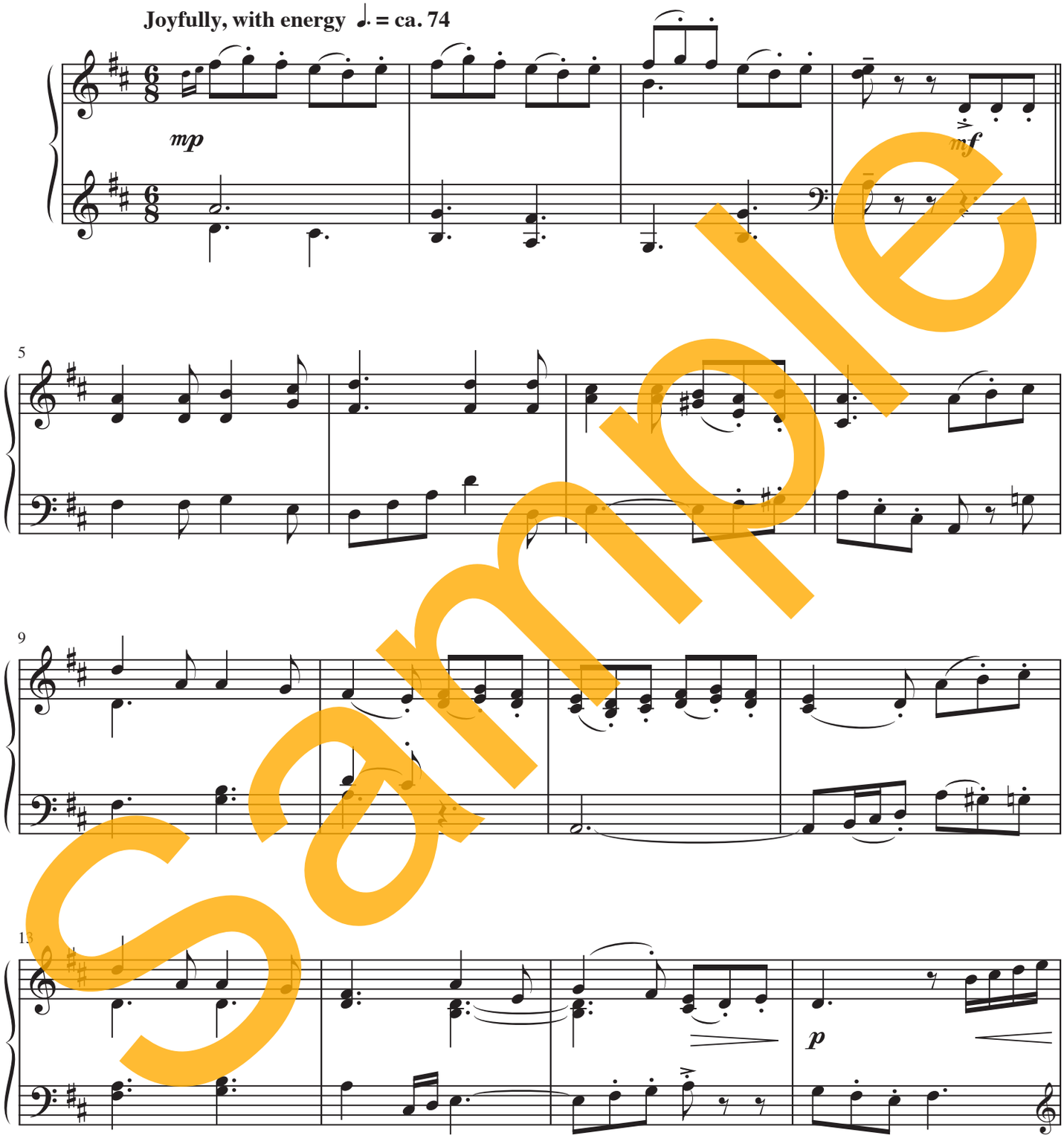

34
f
poco allarg.
Broadly ♩= ca. 88
38
8va
(8va)
41
molto rit.
Slower, freely
mel.
mp
molto rit.
Tempo I (♩= ca. 92)
45
p
molto rit.
Slower, freely ♩= ca. 72
mel.
49
mf
molto rit.
mp
Tempo I (♩= ca. 92)
poco rit.
mf
8vb

Sample

Shepherds, Shake Off Your Drowsy Sleep

Todd Beaney
Tune: **BESANÇON**
French Folk Melody



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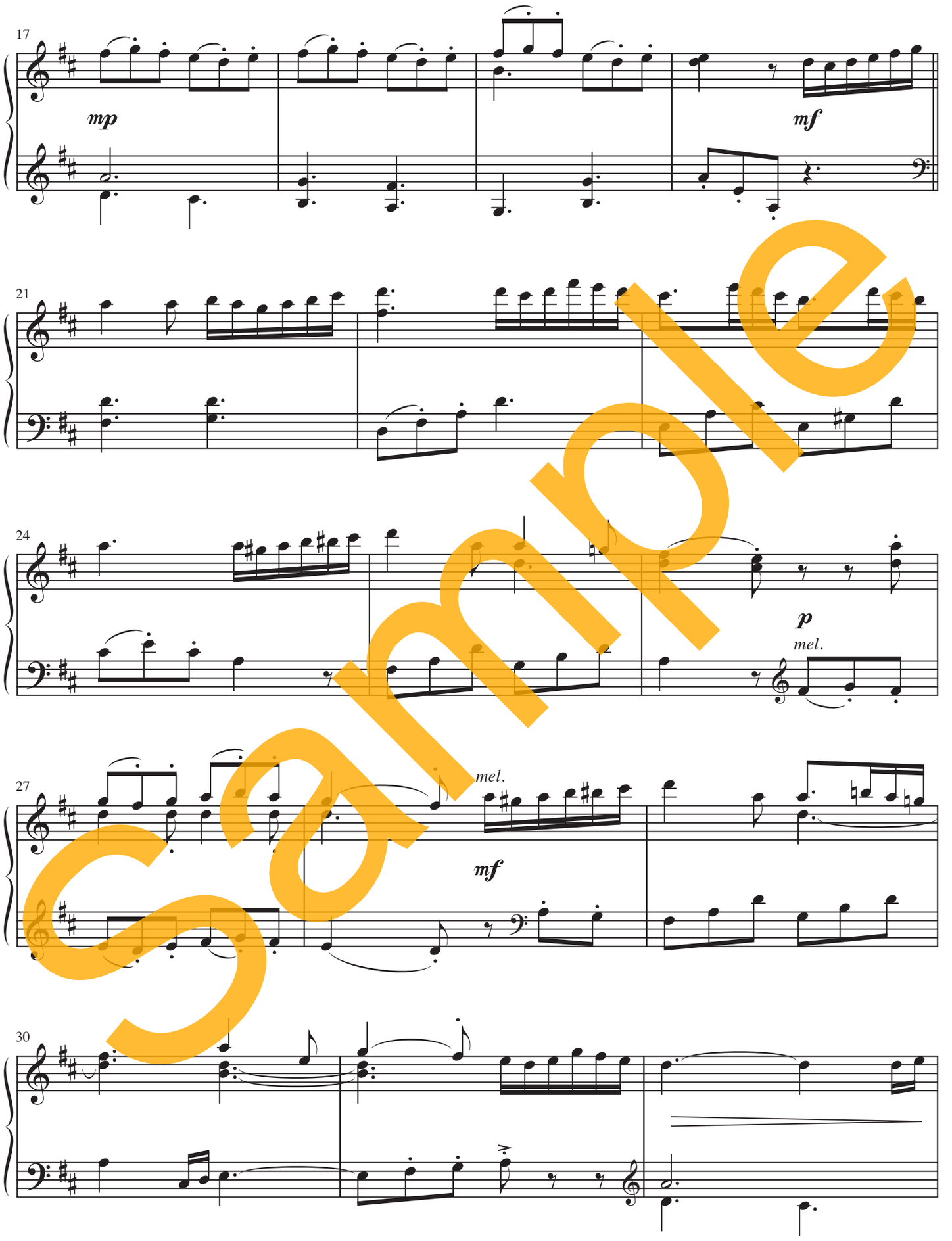

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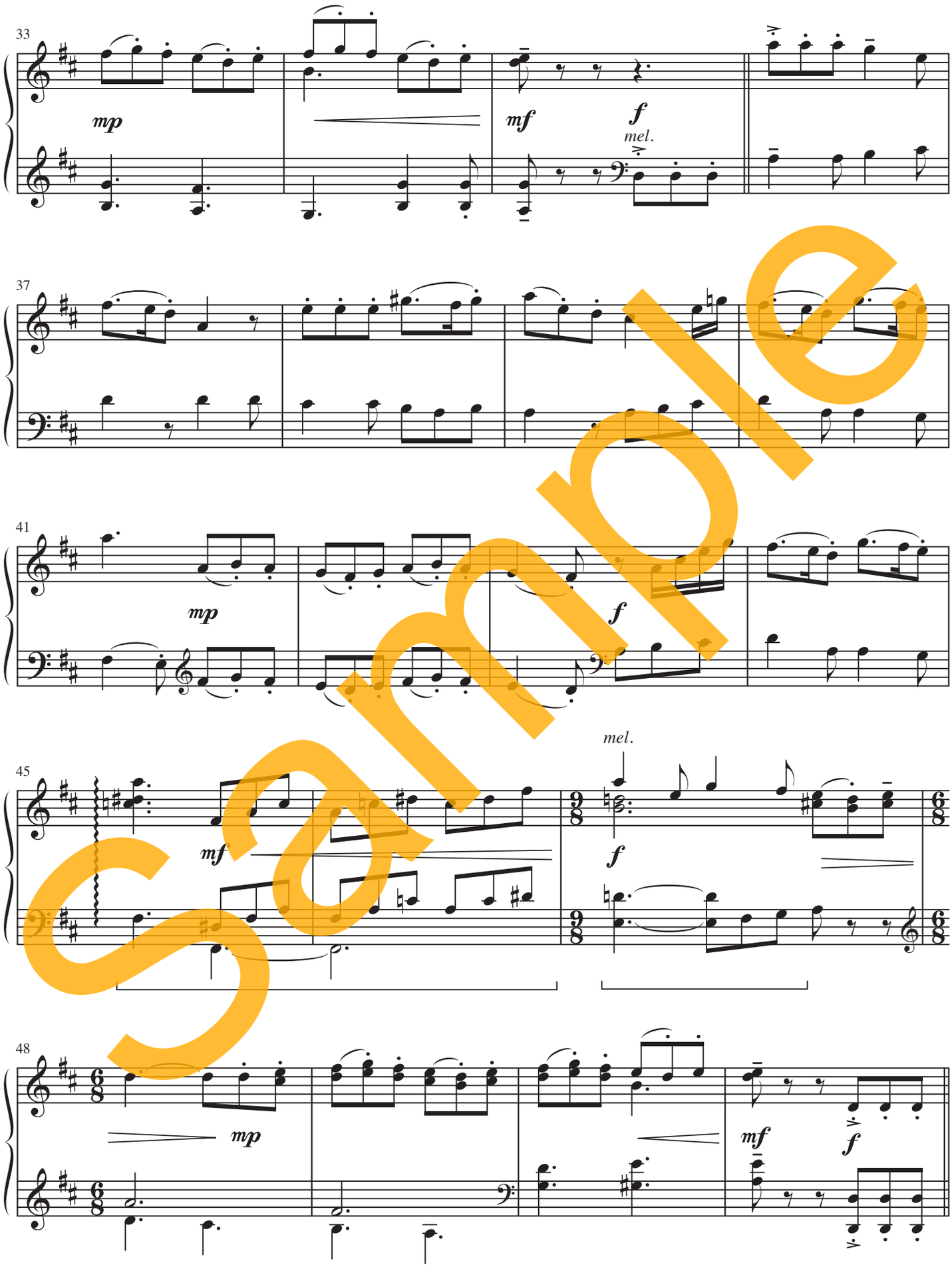

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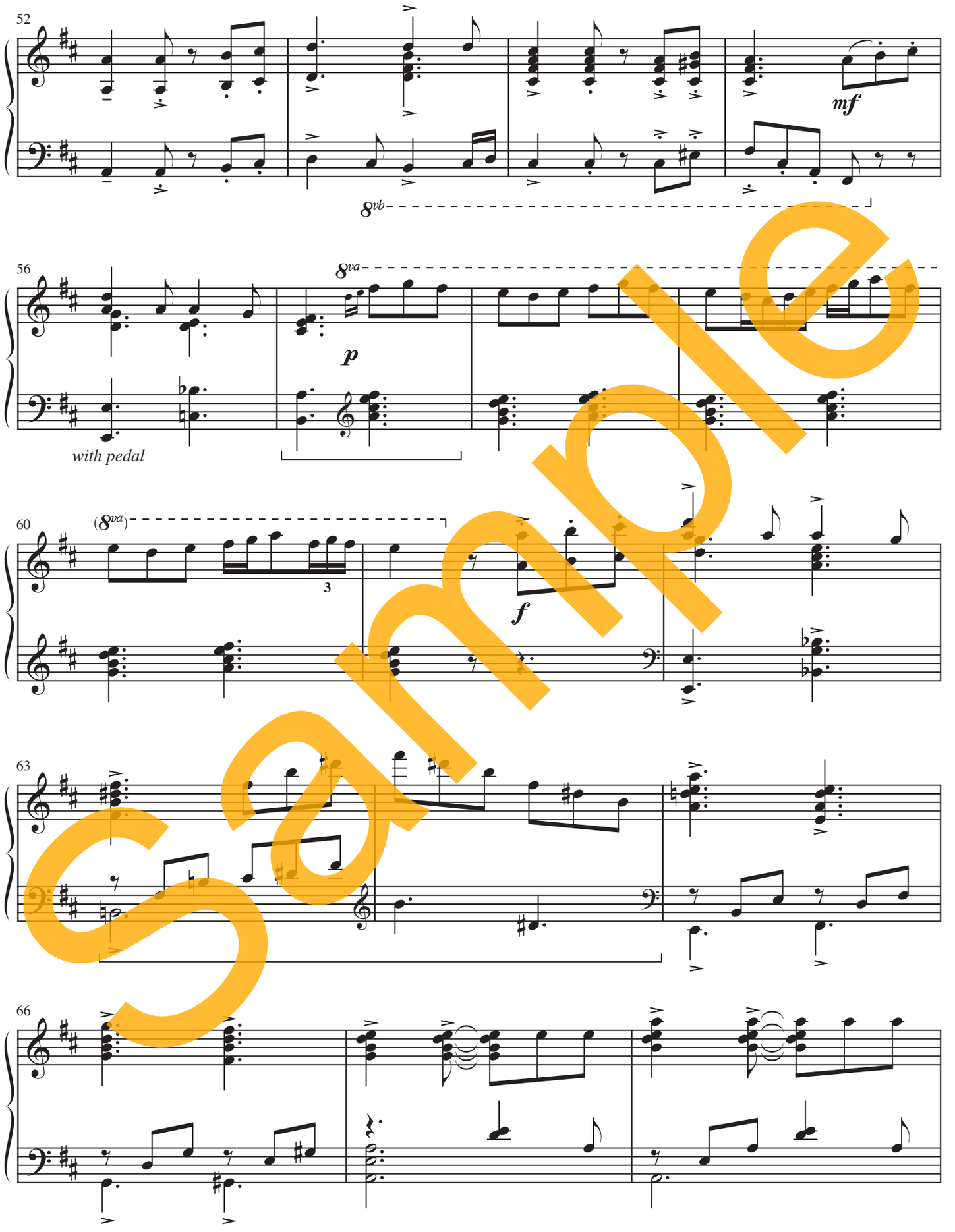

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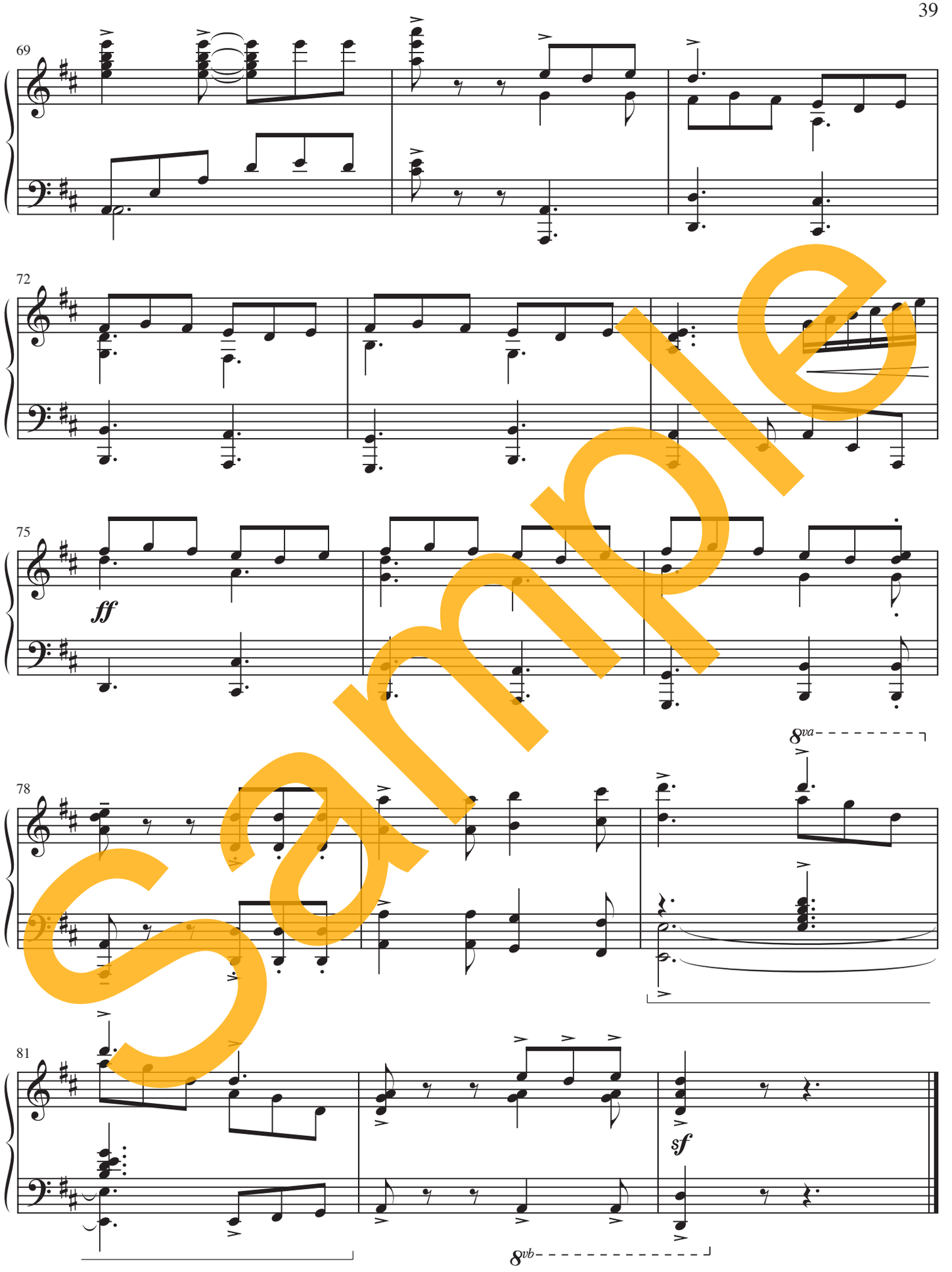
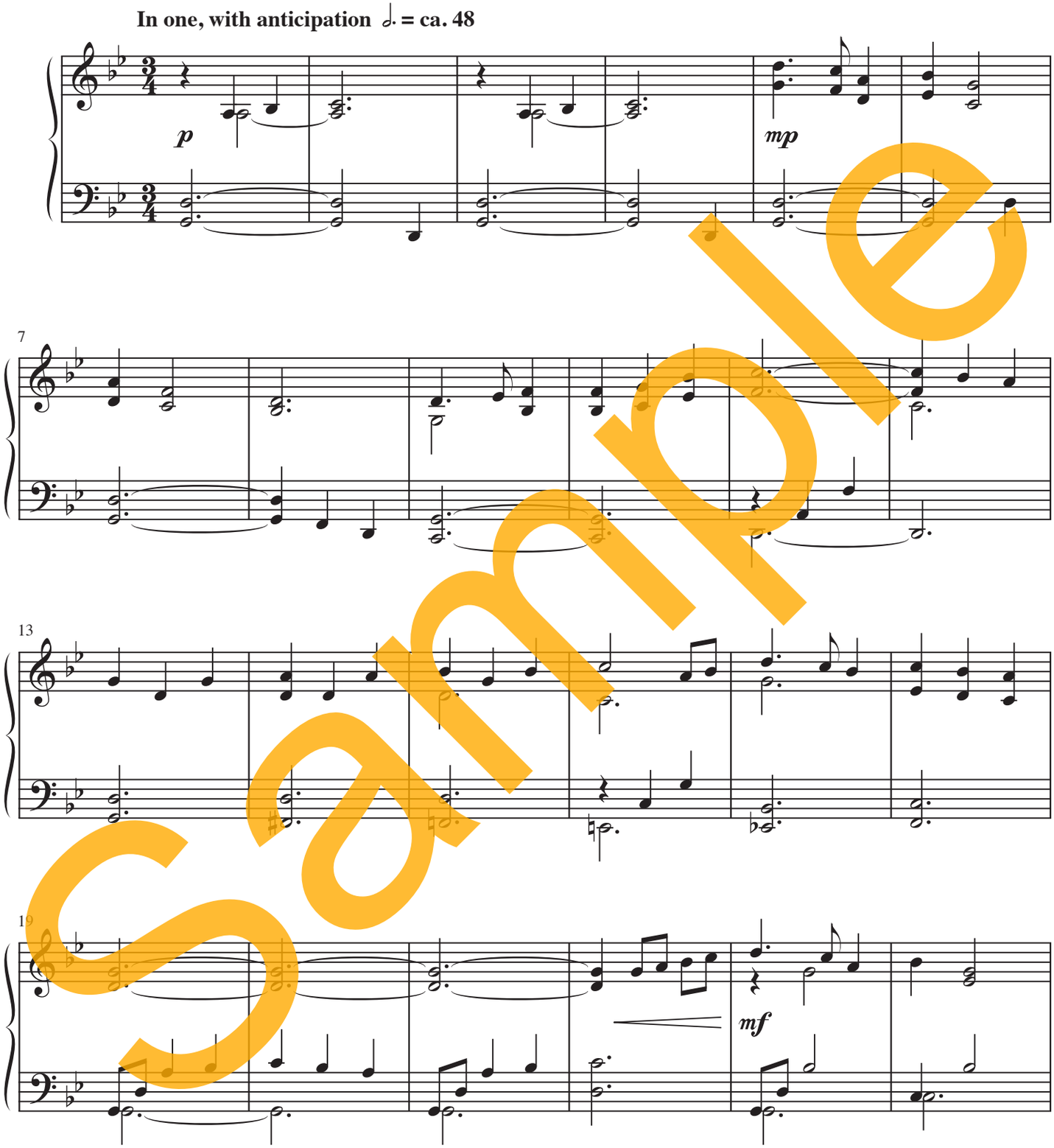


Sample

Advent Prayer

Todd Beaney



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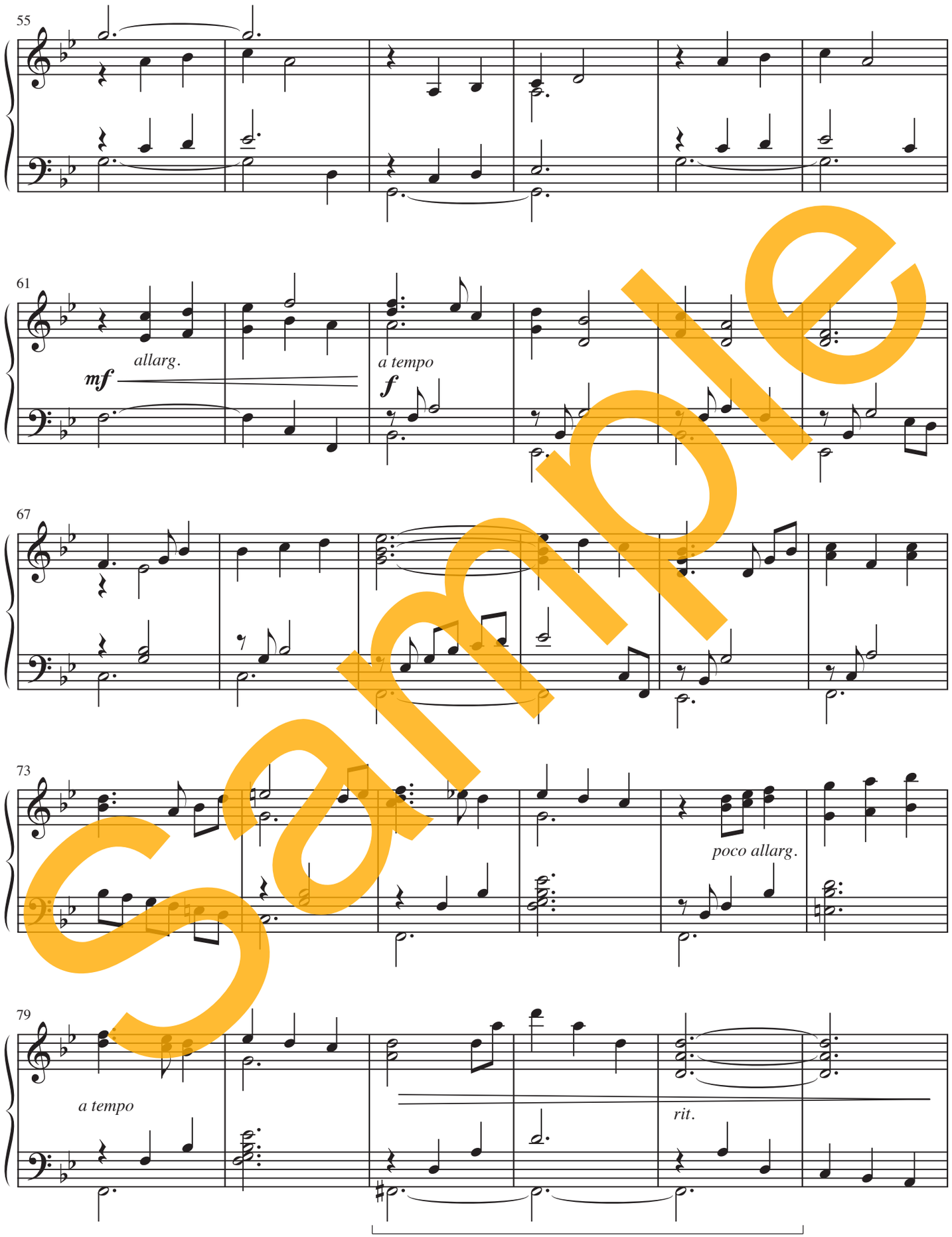
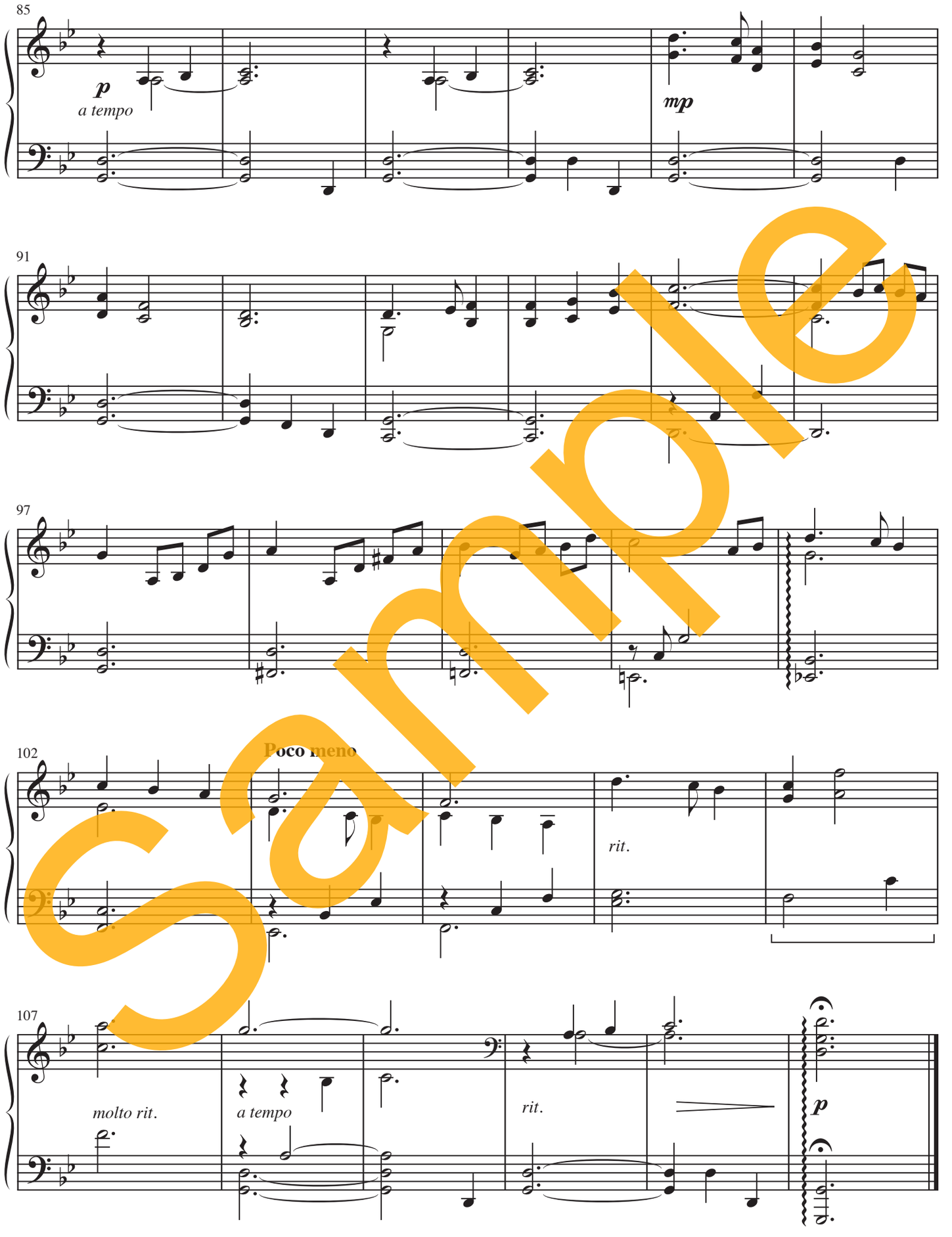


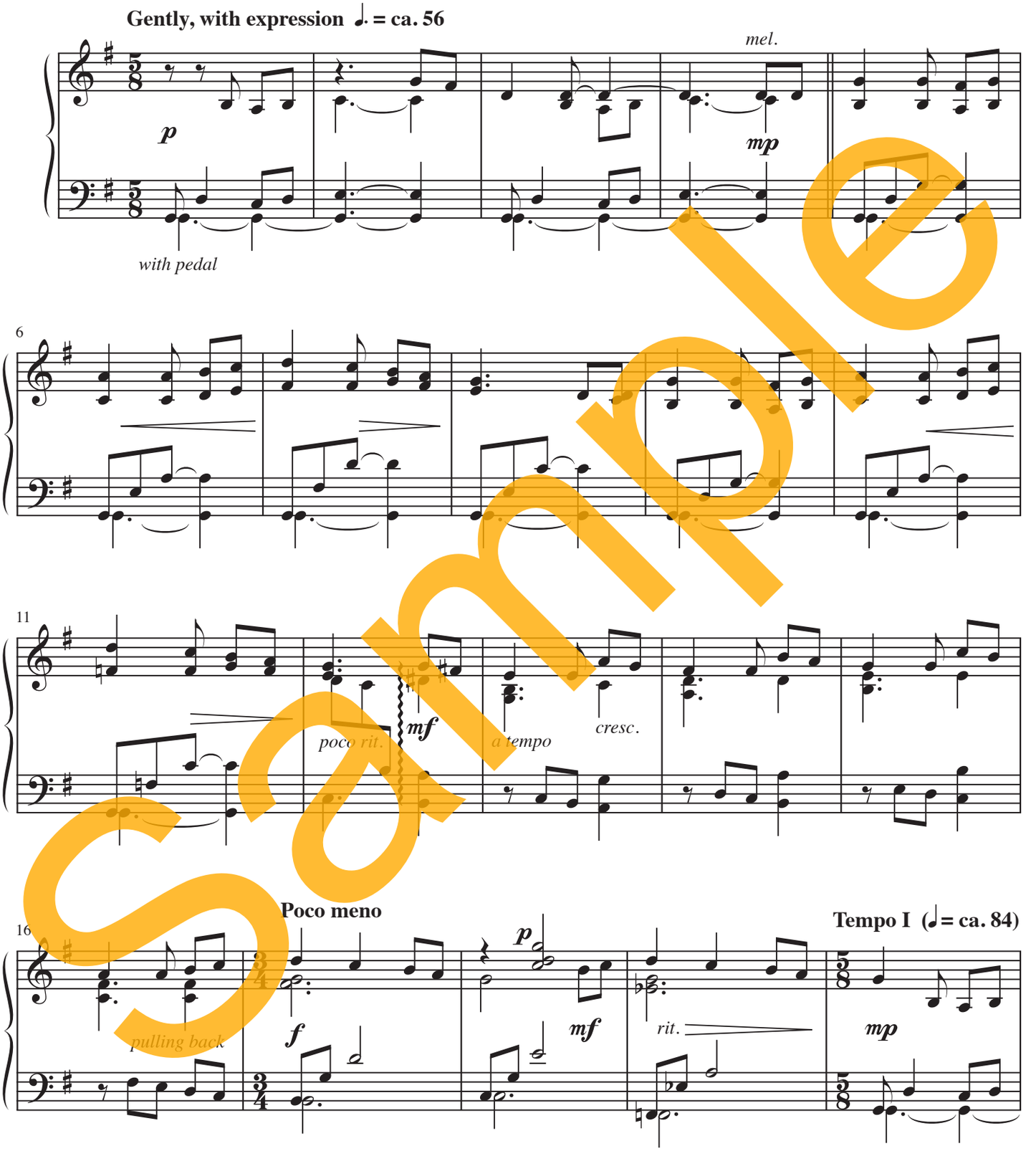
Sample


85
p
a tempo
mp
91
97
102
Poco meno
rit.
107
molto rit.
a tempo
rit.
p

Sample

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Todd Beaney
Tune: **W ZLOBIE LEZY**
Polish Carol



Sample

Duration: 1:40

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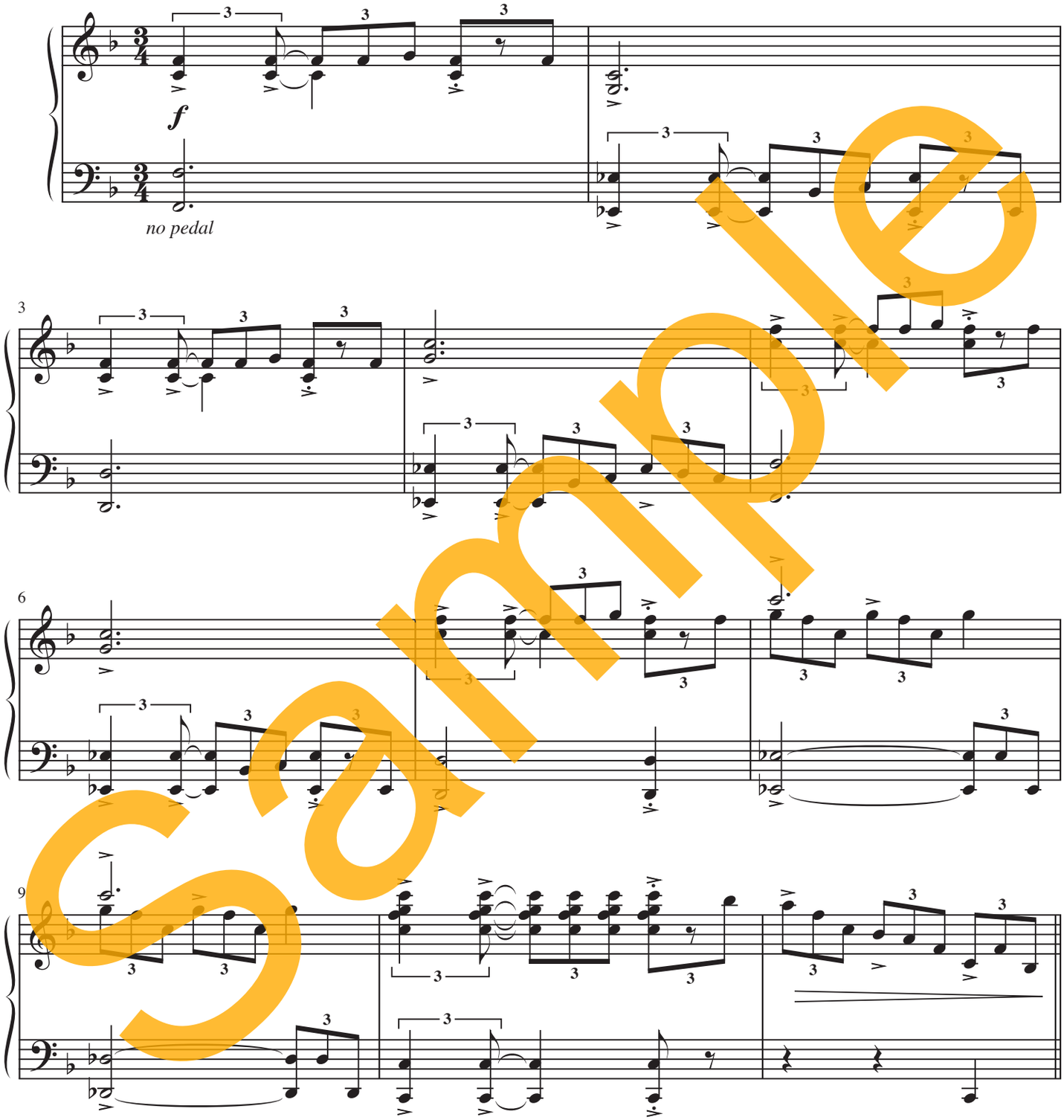
Good King Wenceslas

Todd Beaney

Tune: **TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM**
Piae Cantiones, 1582

Heavy gospel waltz ♩= ca. 108



Sample

Duration: 2:30

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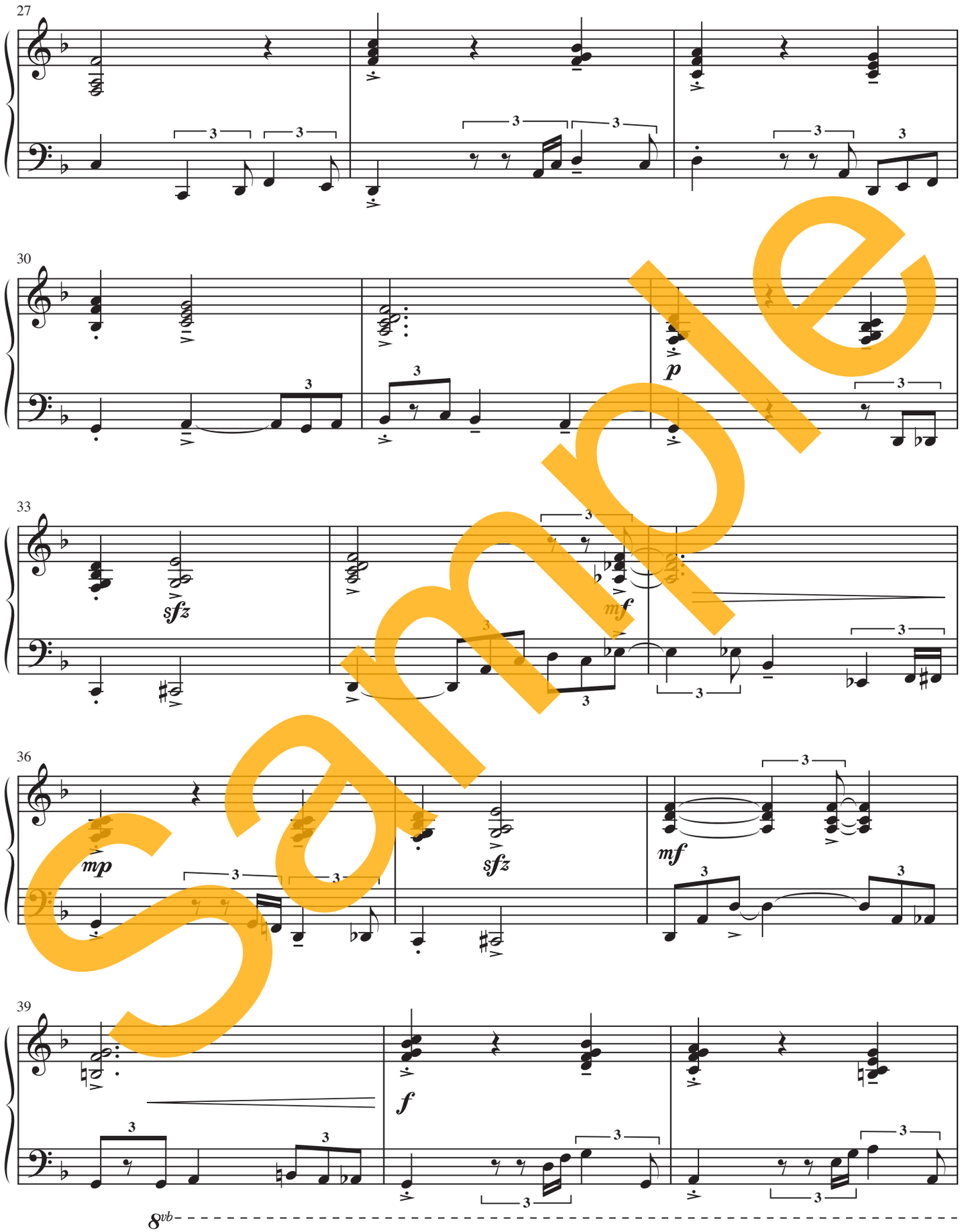

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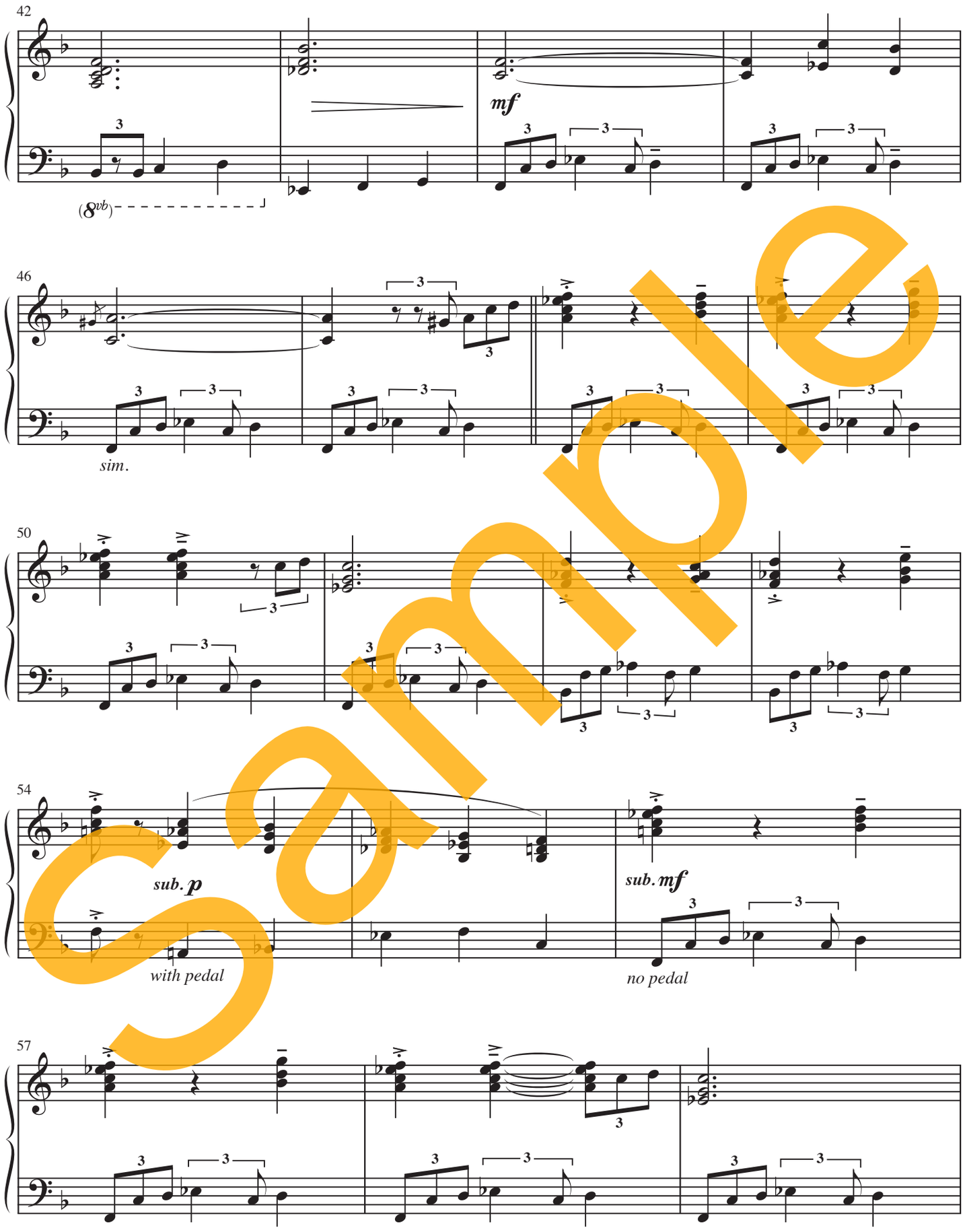

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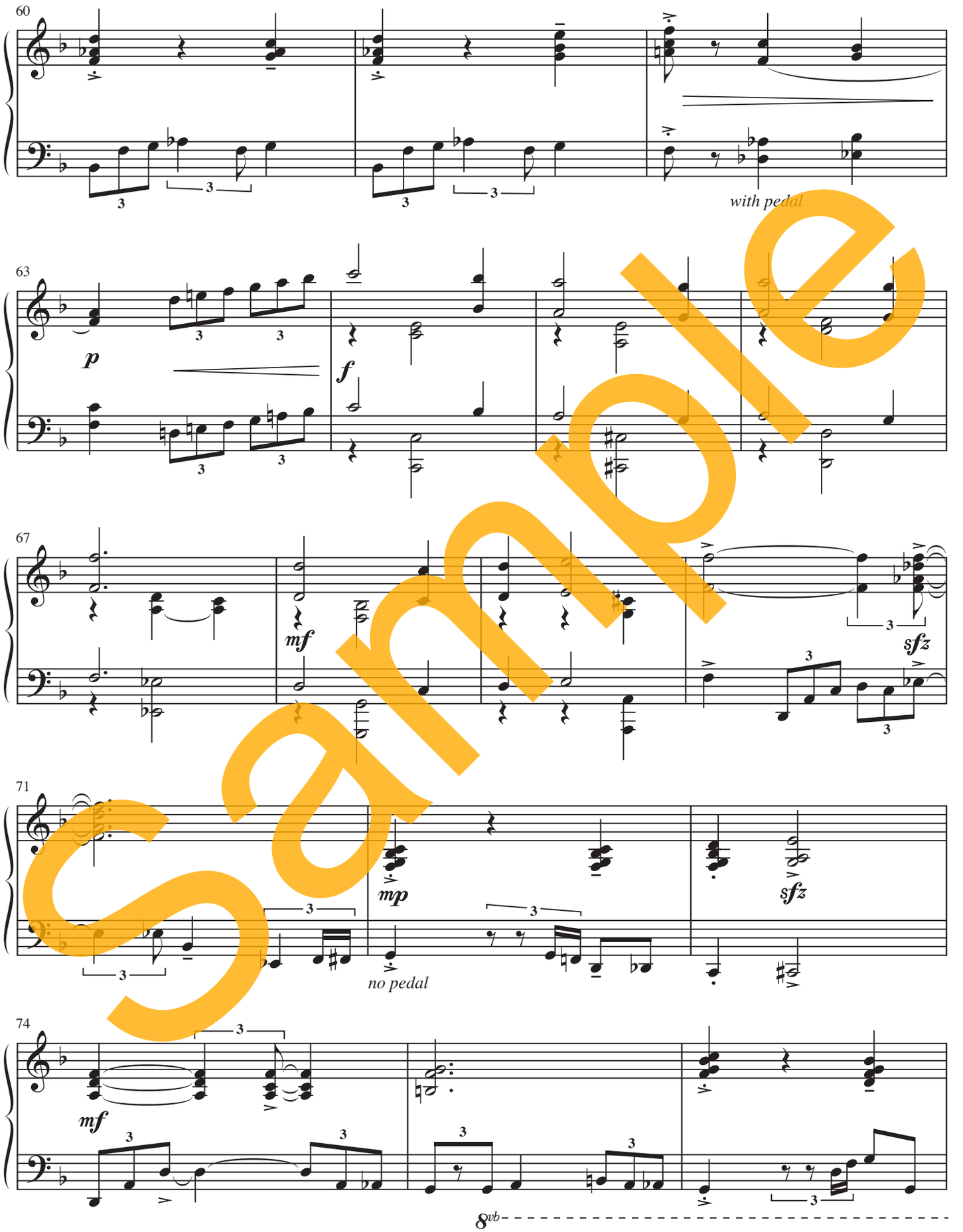
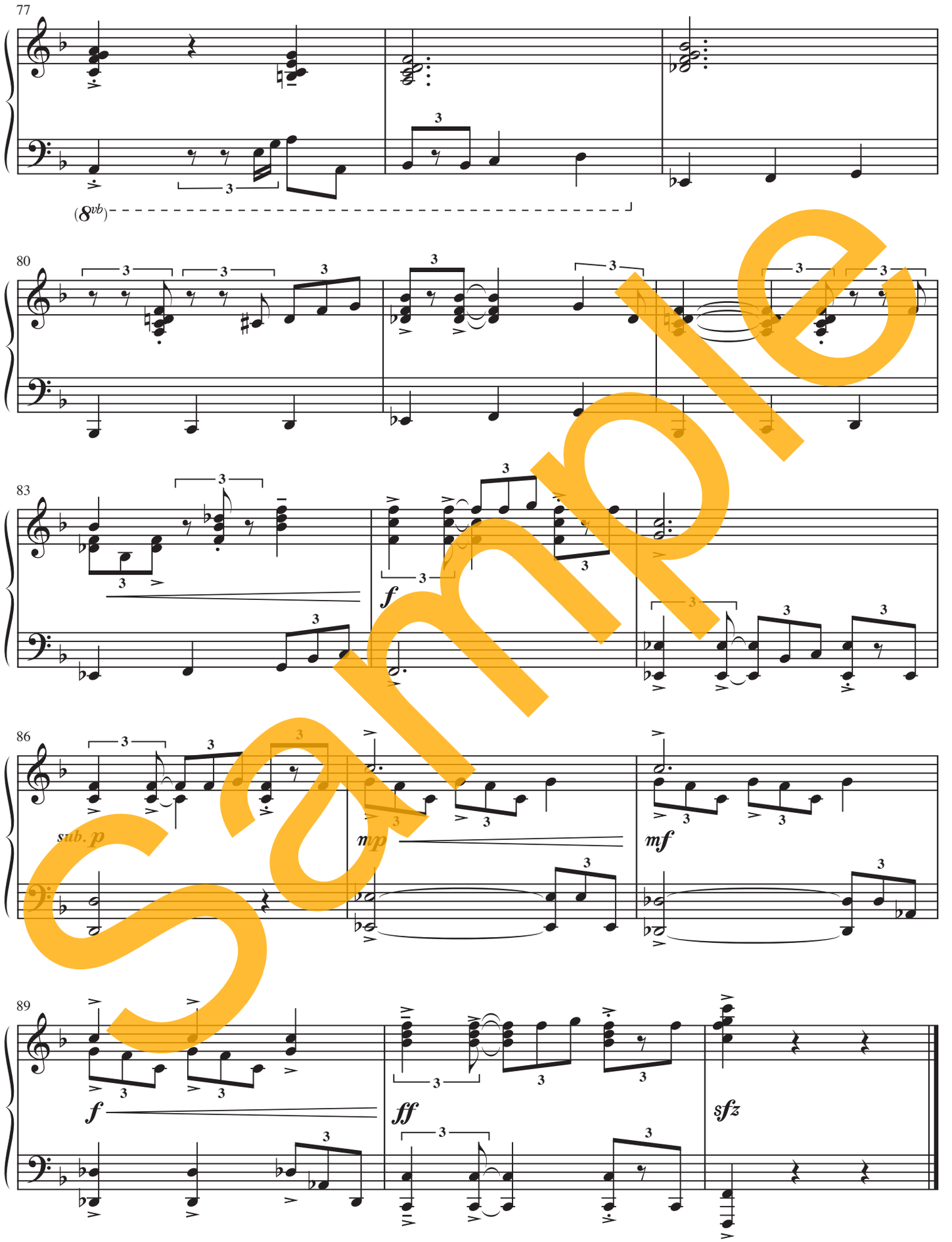


Sample



Sample