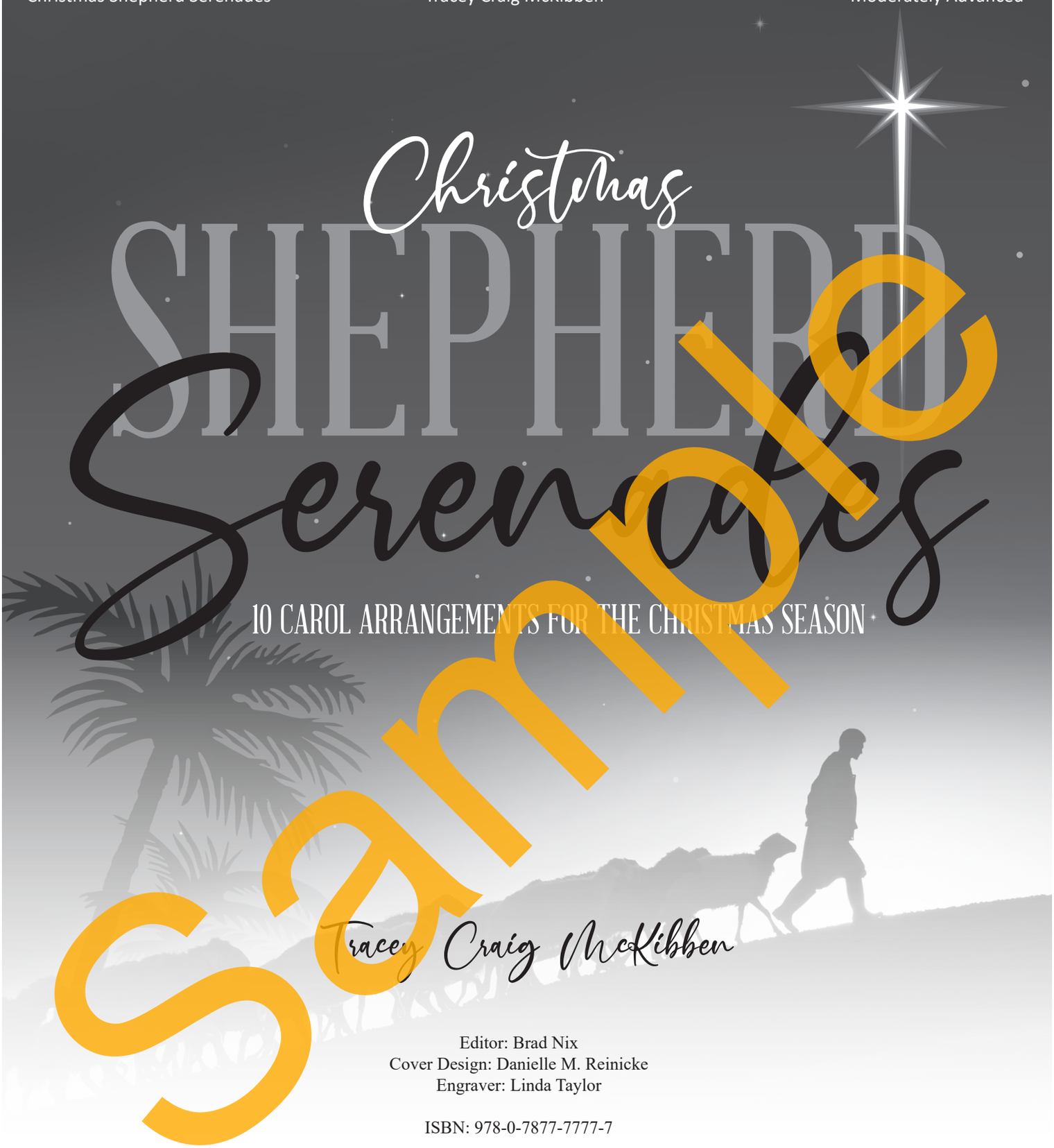

Christmas Shepherd Serenades

10 CAROL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Sample

Tracey Craig McKibben

Editor: Brad Nix
Cover Design: Danielle M. Reinicke
Engraver: Linda Taylor

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Foreword

There's a good chance that, if you're picking up this book to play Christmas carols, you are familiar with the Christmas story in Luke 2. I tend to focus on numbers, and couldn't help noticing that Luke's telling of the Christmas story devotes two verses to the birth of Jesus (6–7), and then thirteen verses (8–20) to what's going on with some shepherds. Of course, Luke also mentions angels, a manger, and a baby, but, at first glance, there seems to be a bit of an imbalance here. If you stop to think of it, why didn't the angels appear to the rich and noble people of the day? Why the shepherds? The star led the kings from the East, but when God sent His heavenly host to announce the birth of His son, they went to shepherds sitting out in the fields watching some sheep. Probably not the people I would have picked to receive the first notification of the birth of the Messiah. Looked at in this light, the story is pretty remarkable, so I was happy to have the opportunity to focus on the carols that tell this part of the Christmas story. It is my hope that this collection will encourage you to look at a familiar story and some familiar songs in a new light.

Tracey

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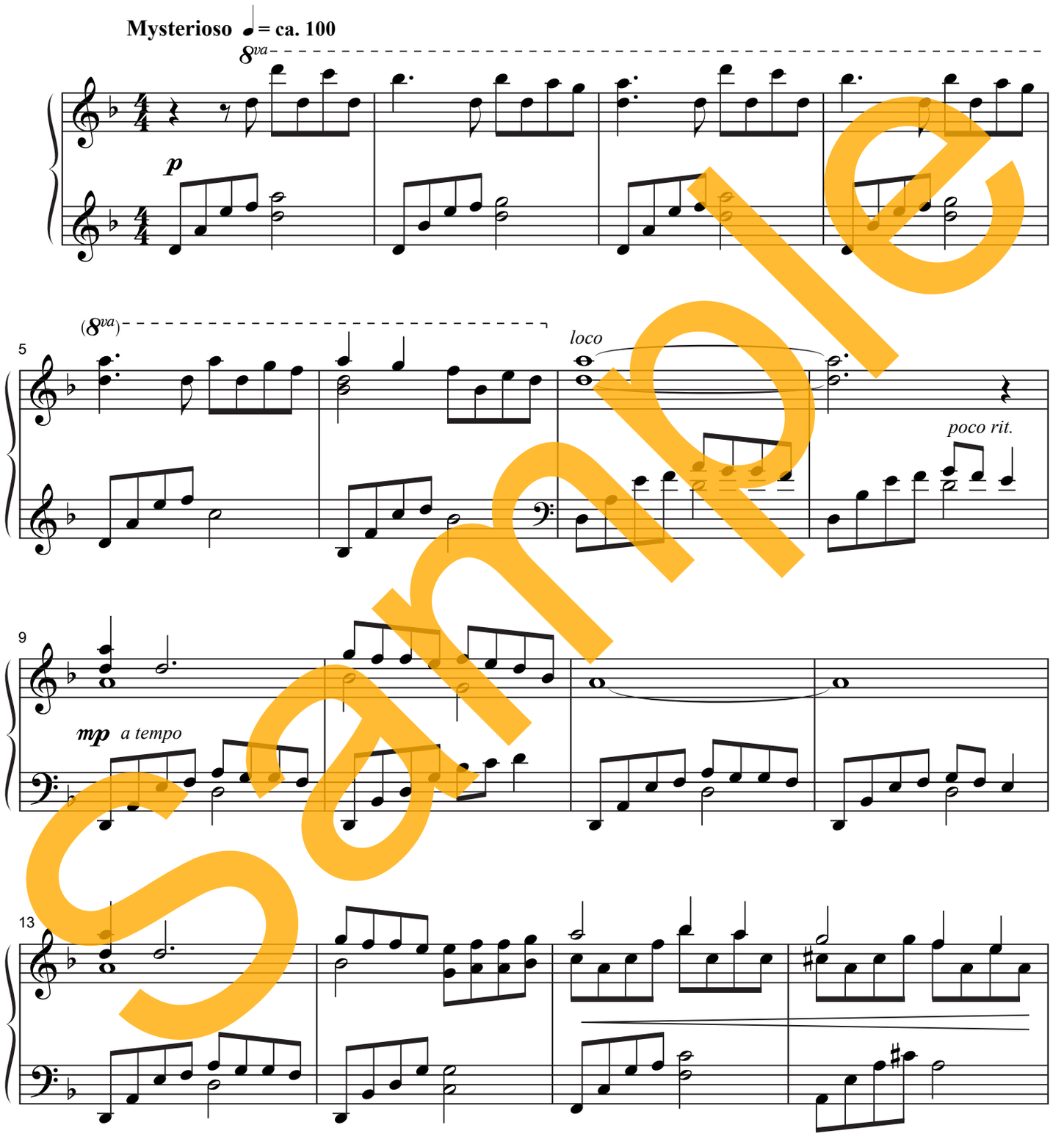
Sample

There Were Shepherds in the Field

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding
in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
Luke 2:8 (KJV)

Tracey Craig McKibben



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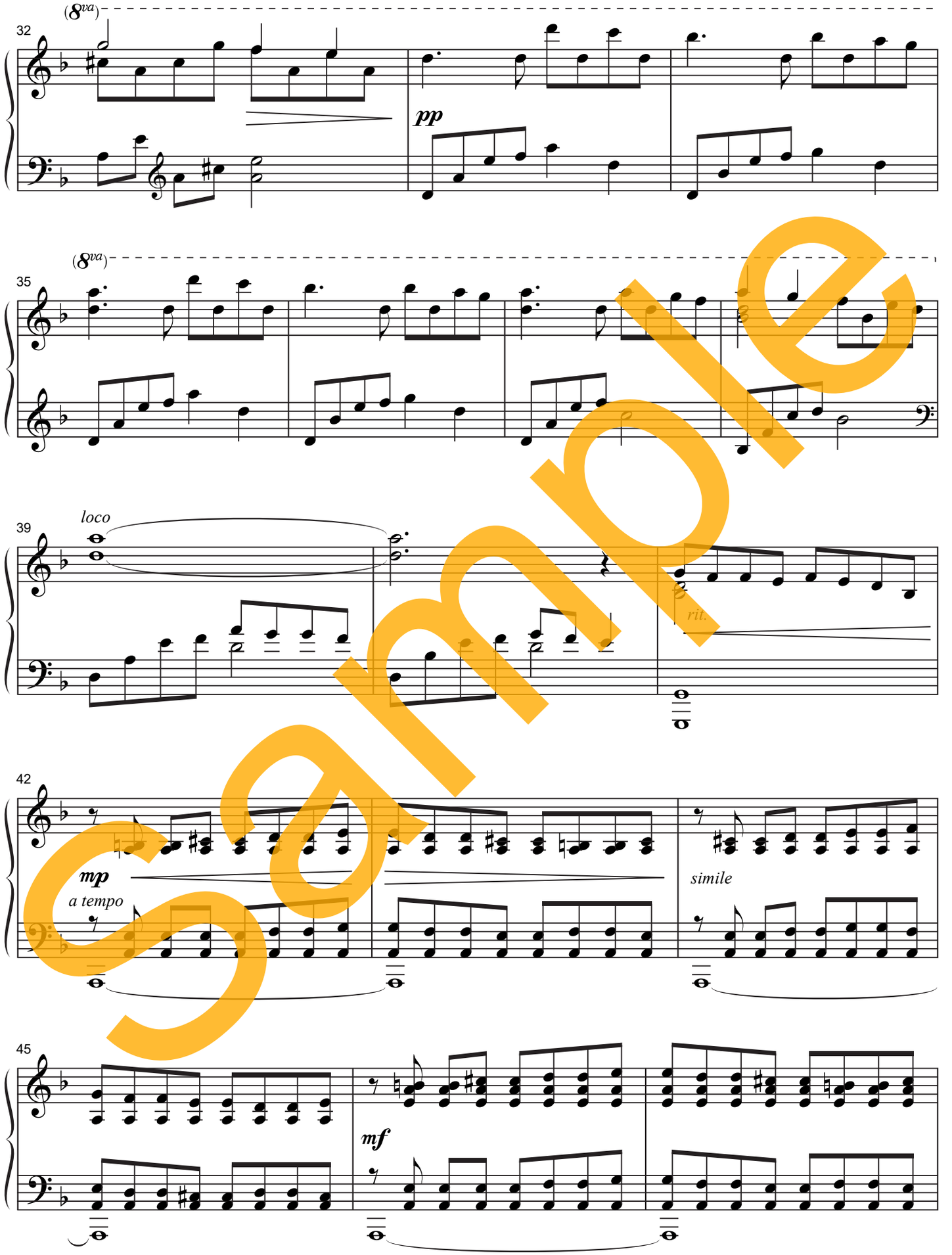

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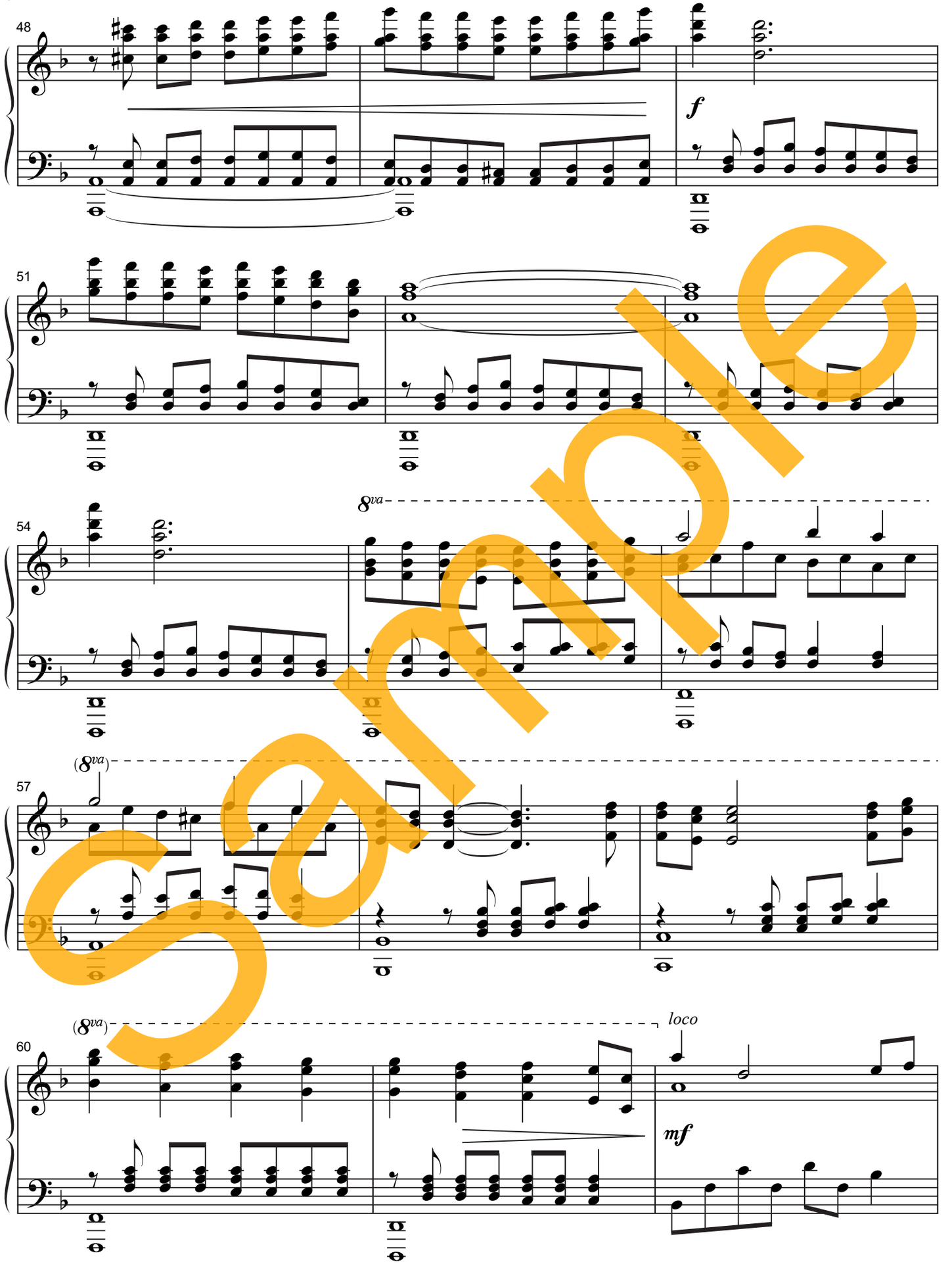

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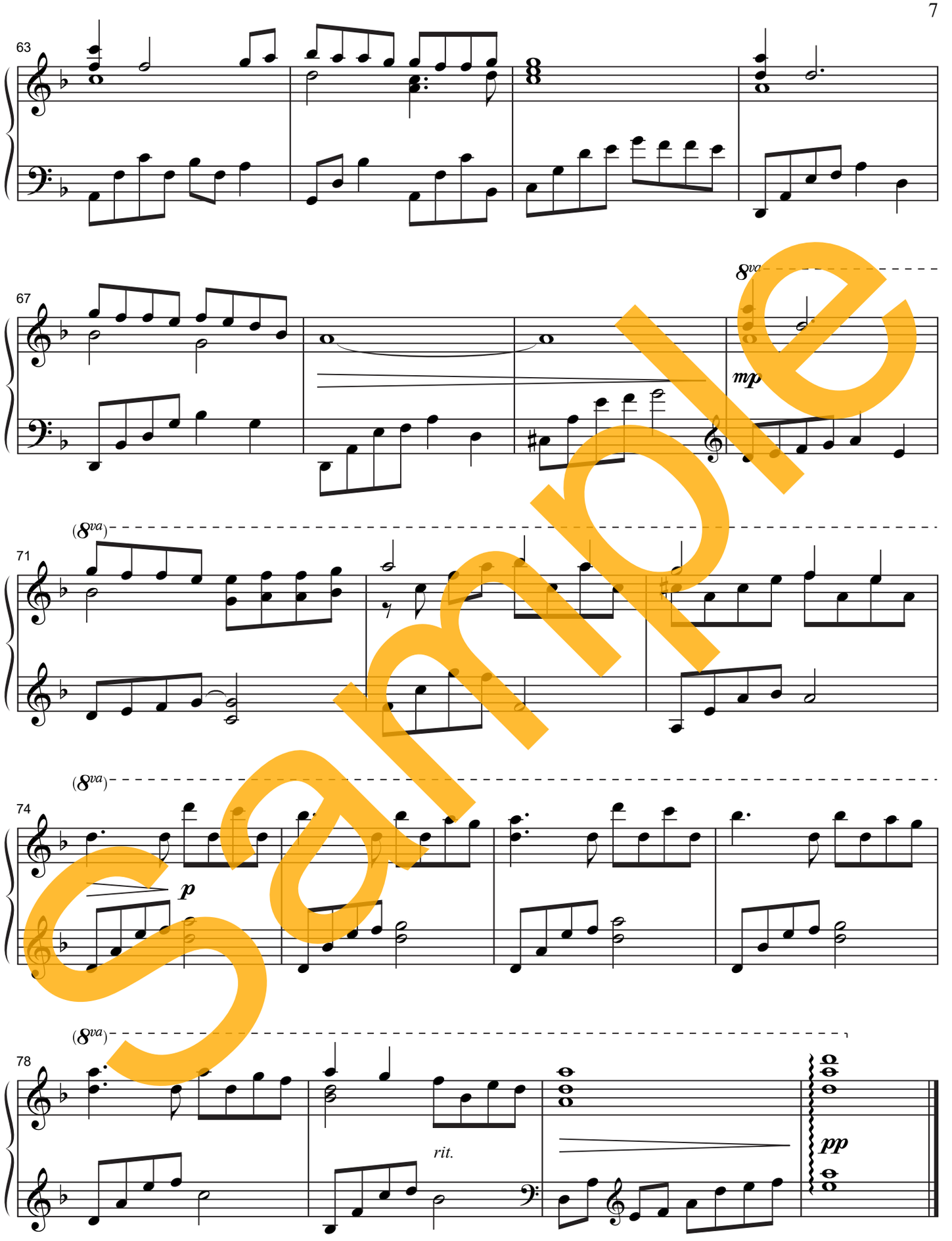
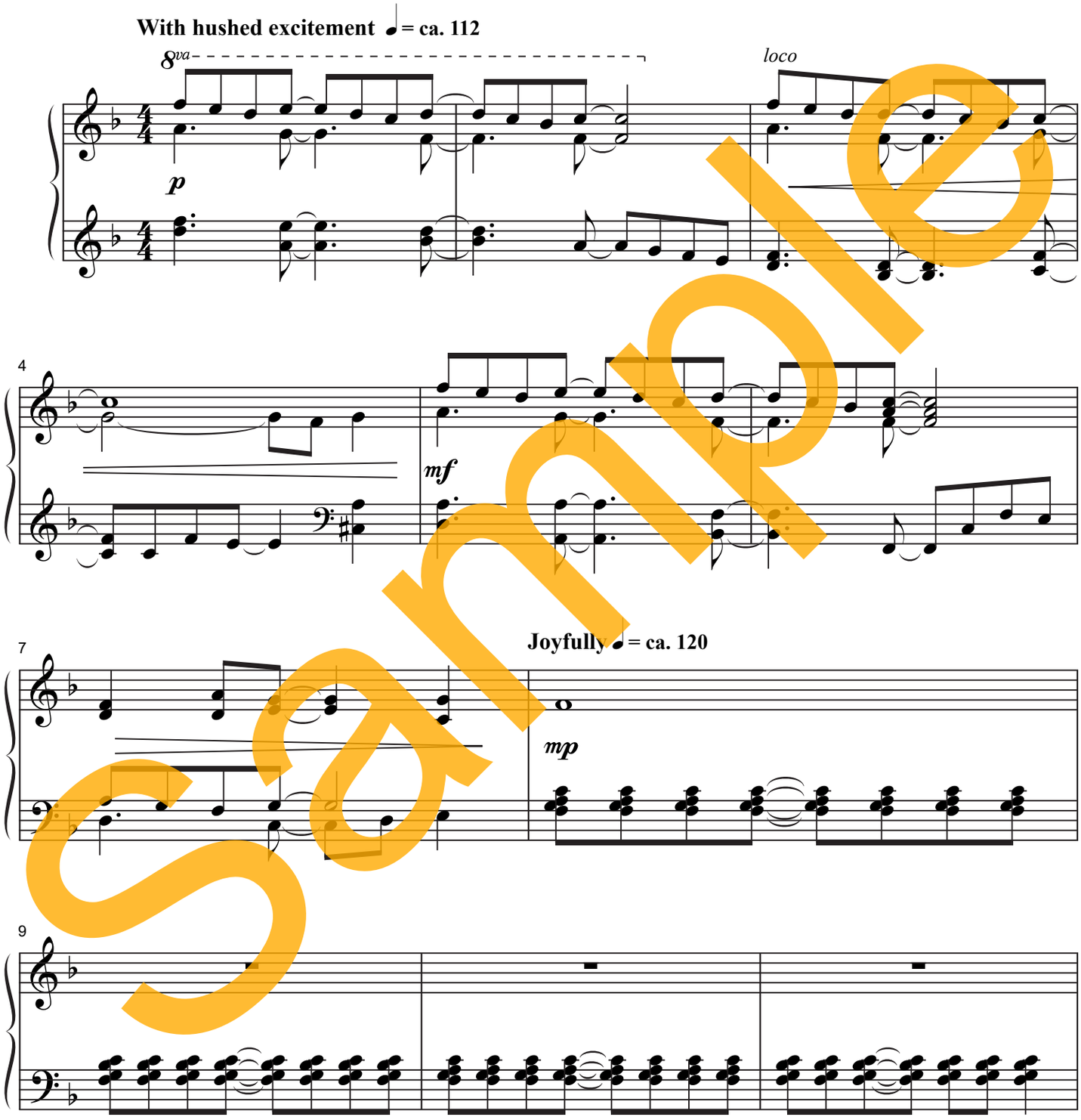


Sample

Angels We Have Heard on High

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?
(Traditional French Carol)

Tracey Craig McKibben
Tune: **GLORIA**
Traditional French Carol



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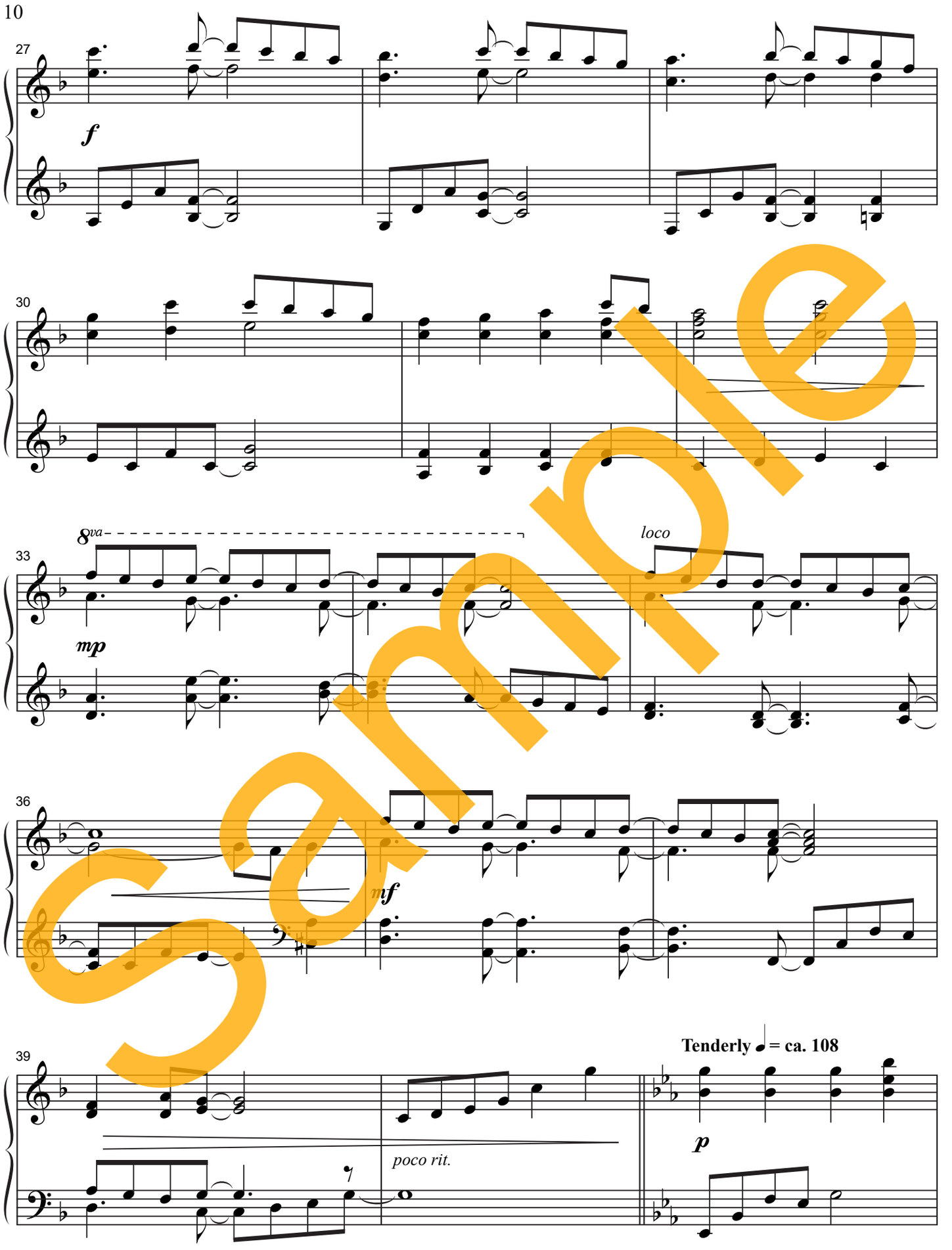

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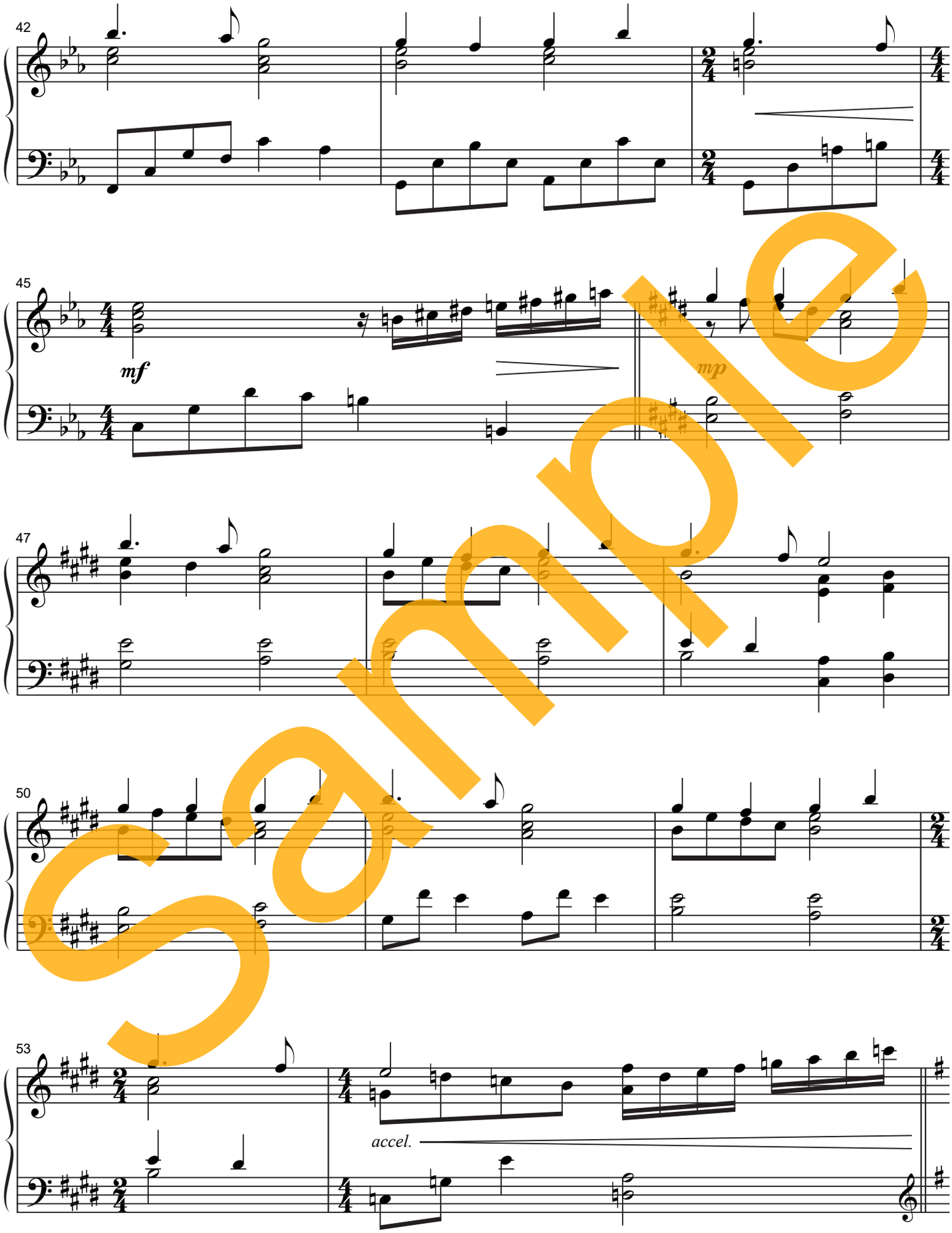

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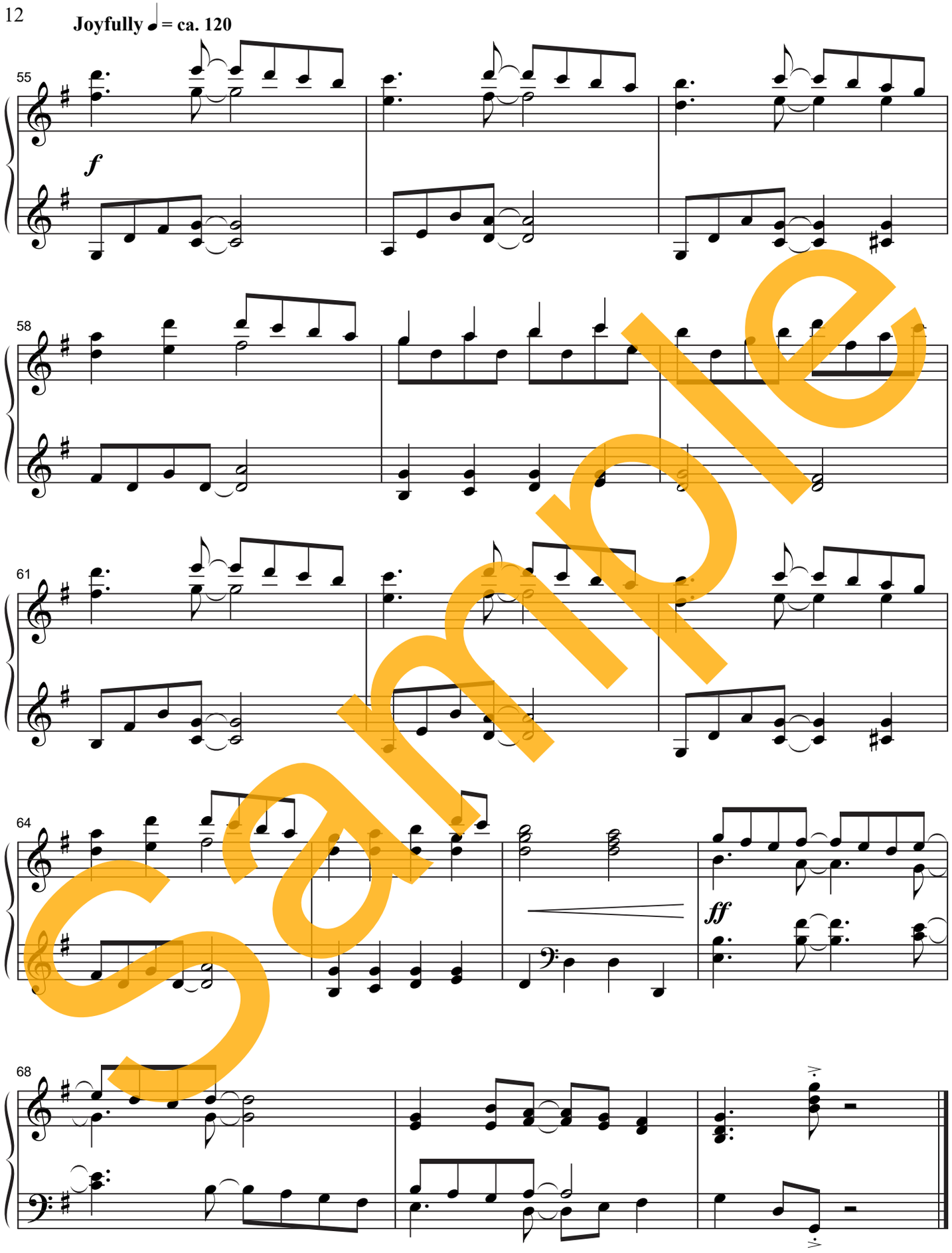
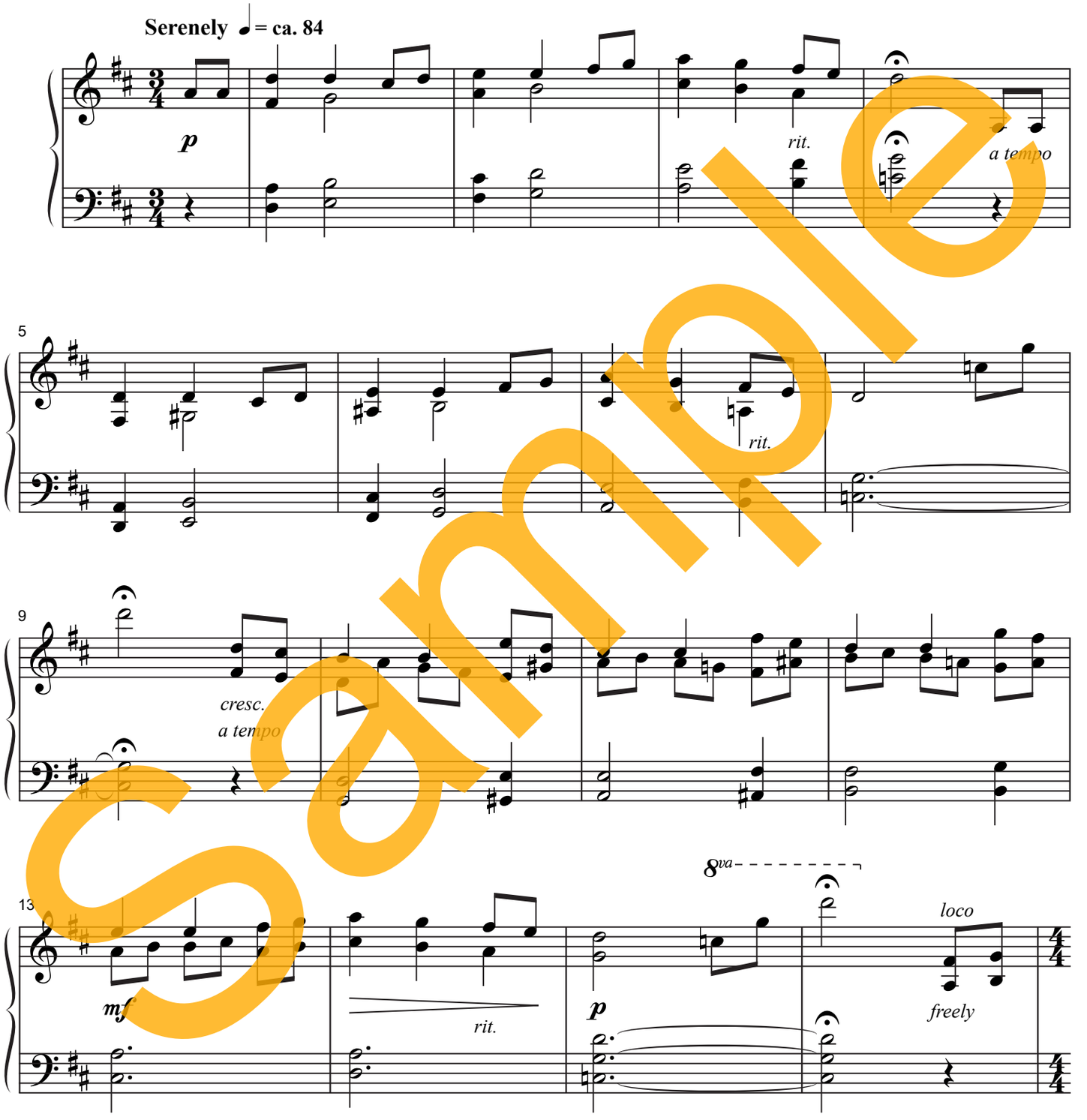


Sample

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story,
Tidings of a gospel true.
(Polish Carol; para. Edith M. G. Reed, 1925)

Tracey Craig McKibben
Tune: **W ZLOBIE LEZY**
Polish Melody



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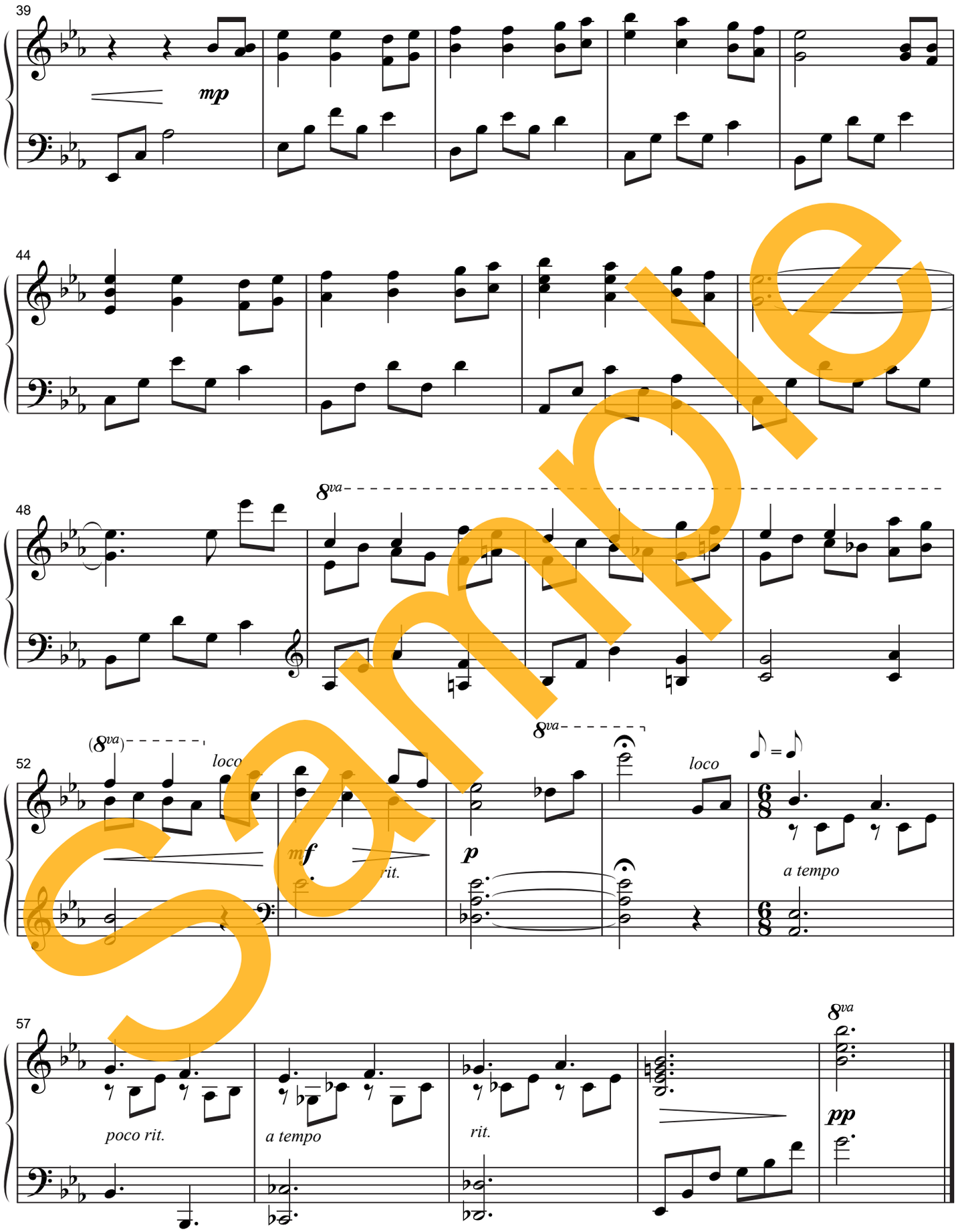
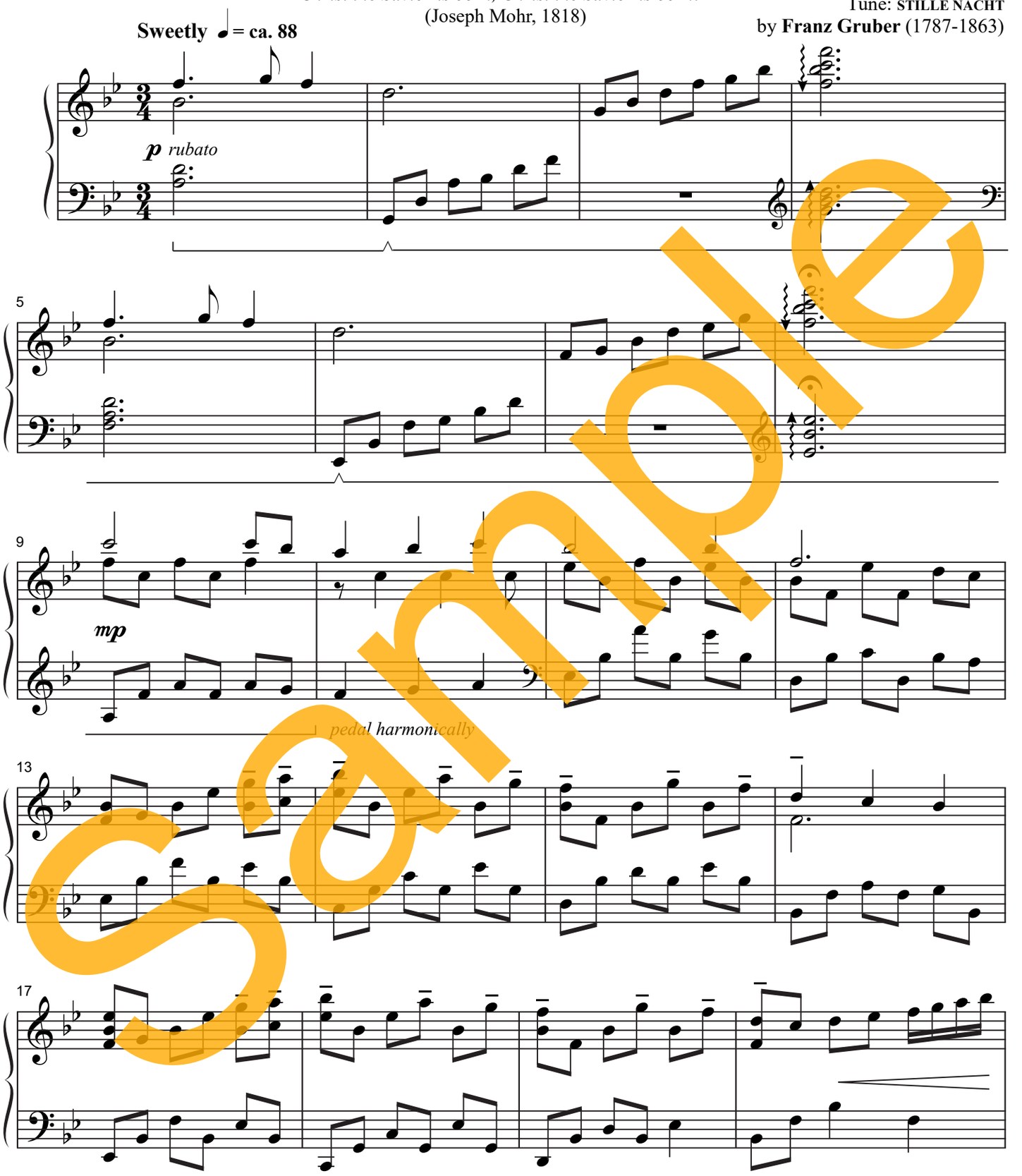

39
mp
44
48
8va
52
(8va)
loco
mf
f
rit.
8va
p
loco
a tempo
57
poco rit.
a tempo
rit.
8va
pp

Sample

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar; heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!"
(Joseph Mohr, 1818)

Tracey Craig McKibben
Tune: **STILLE NACHT**
by **Franz Gruber** (1787-1863)



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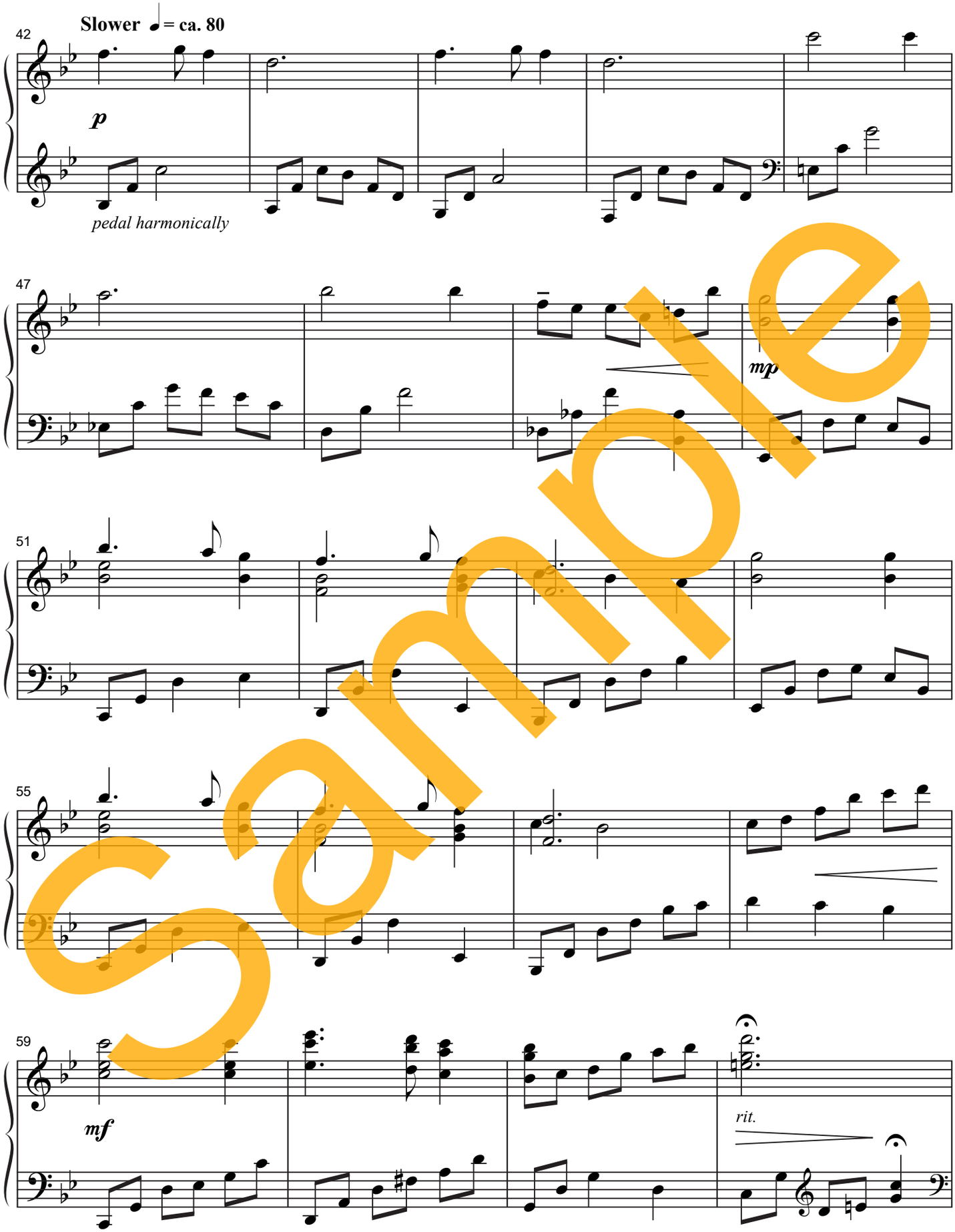

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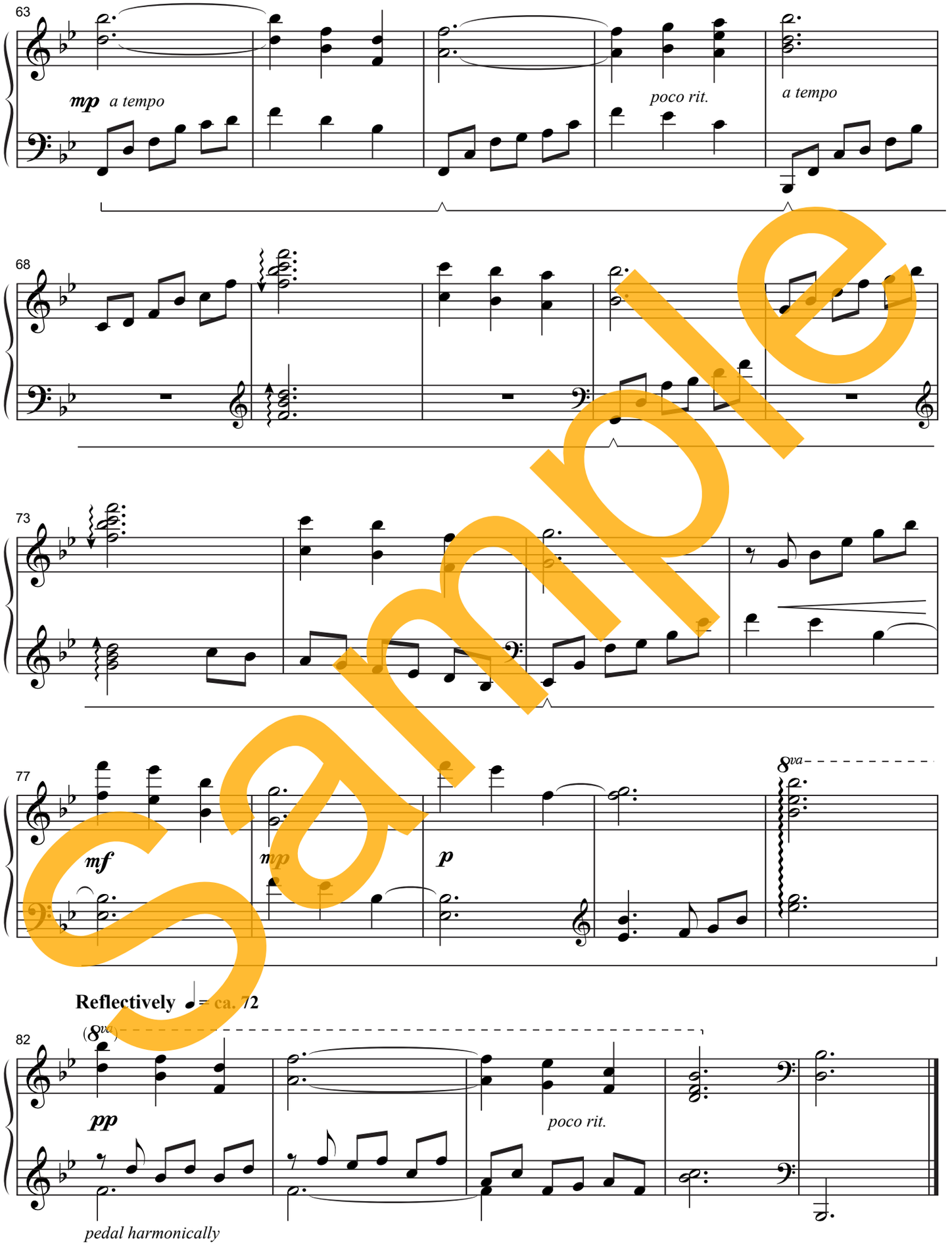
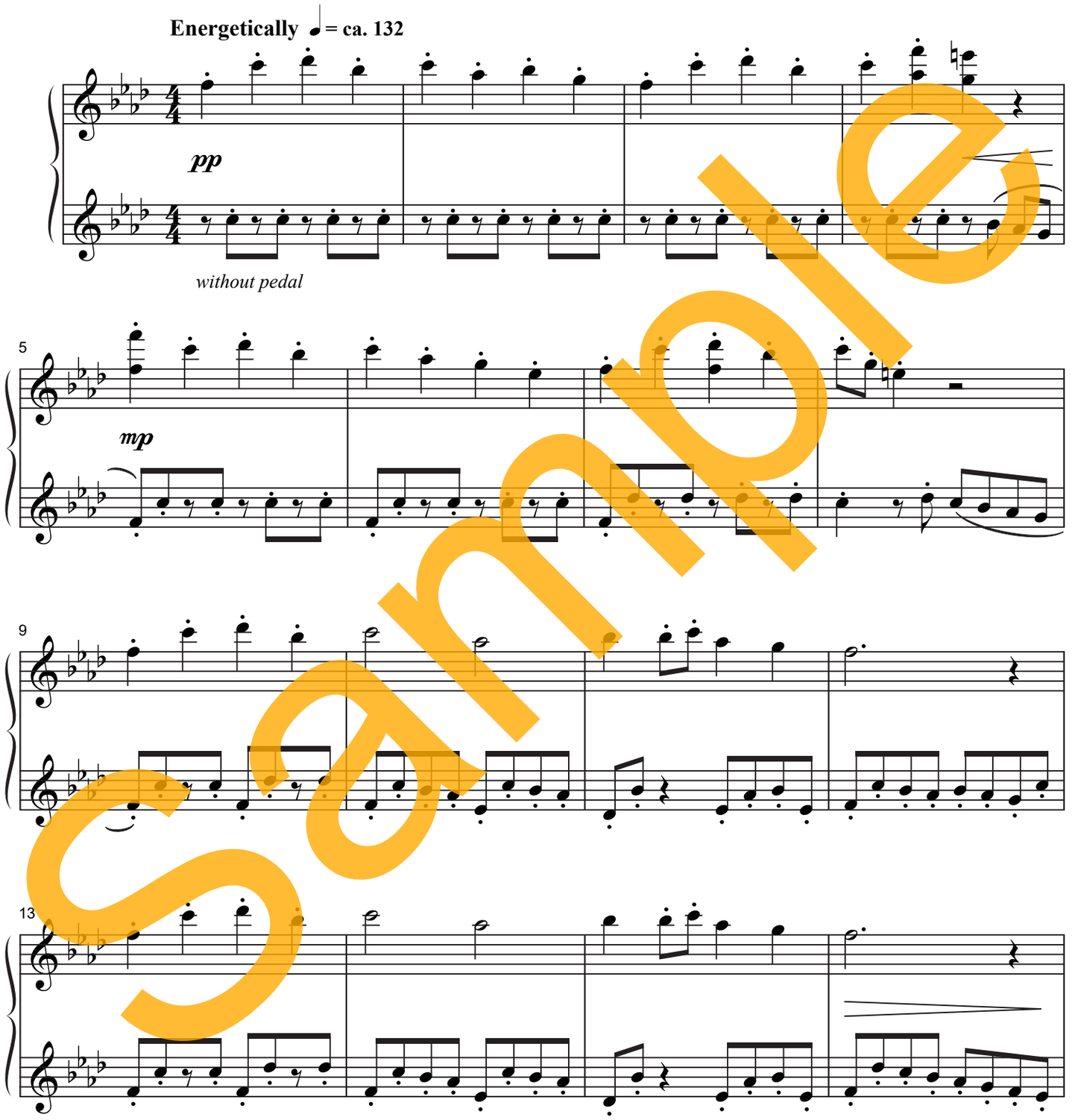

63
mp a tempo
poco rit.
a tempo
68
73
77
mf
mp
p
8va
Reflectively ♩= ca. 72
(8va)
82
pp
poco rit.
pedal harmonically

Sample

Sing We Now of Christmas

Angels from on high say,
"Shepherds come and see.
He is born in Bethlehem,
a blessed lamb for thee."
(Traditional French Carol)

Tracey Craig McKibben
Tune: **NOEL NOUVELET**
Traditional French Carol



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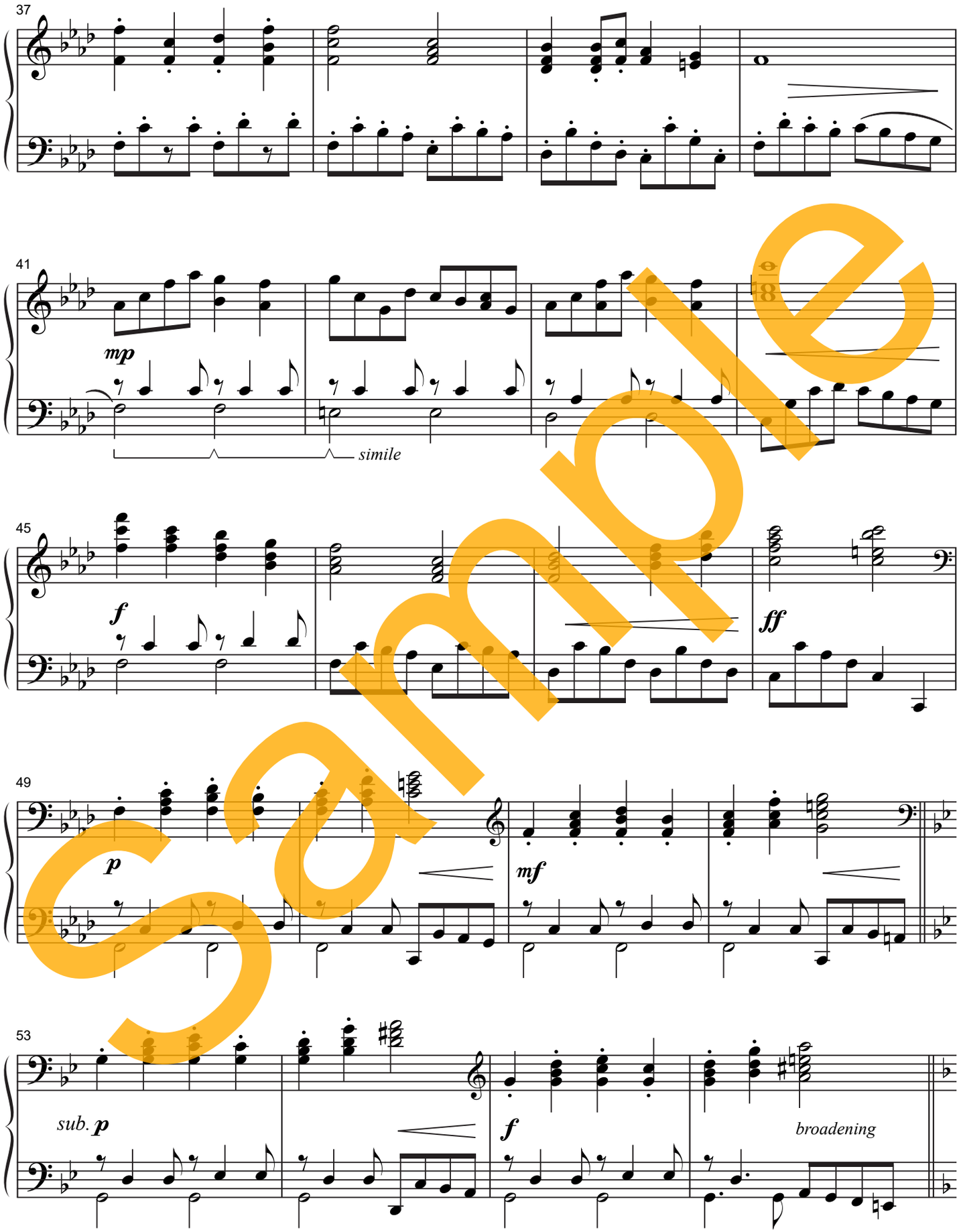

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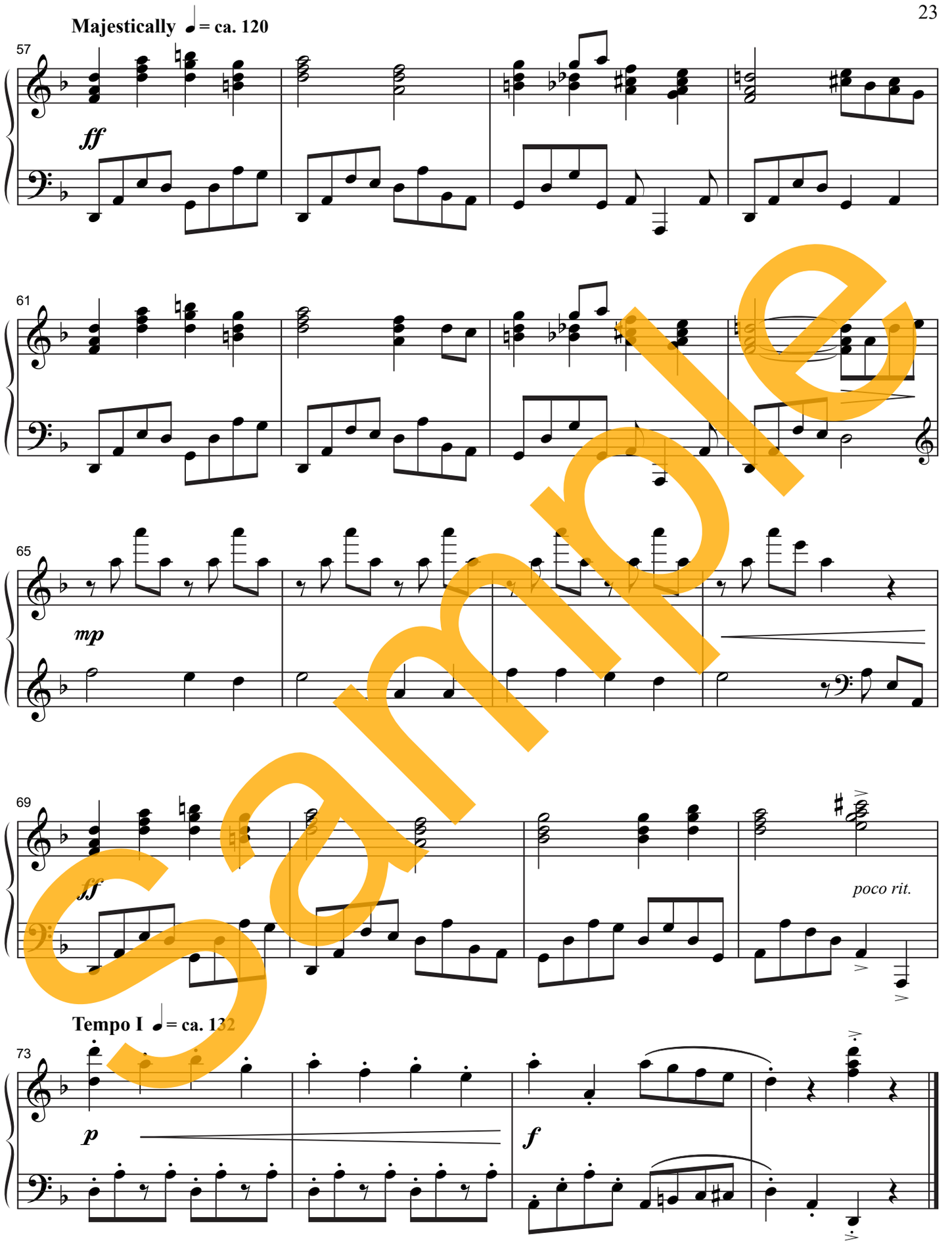
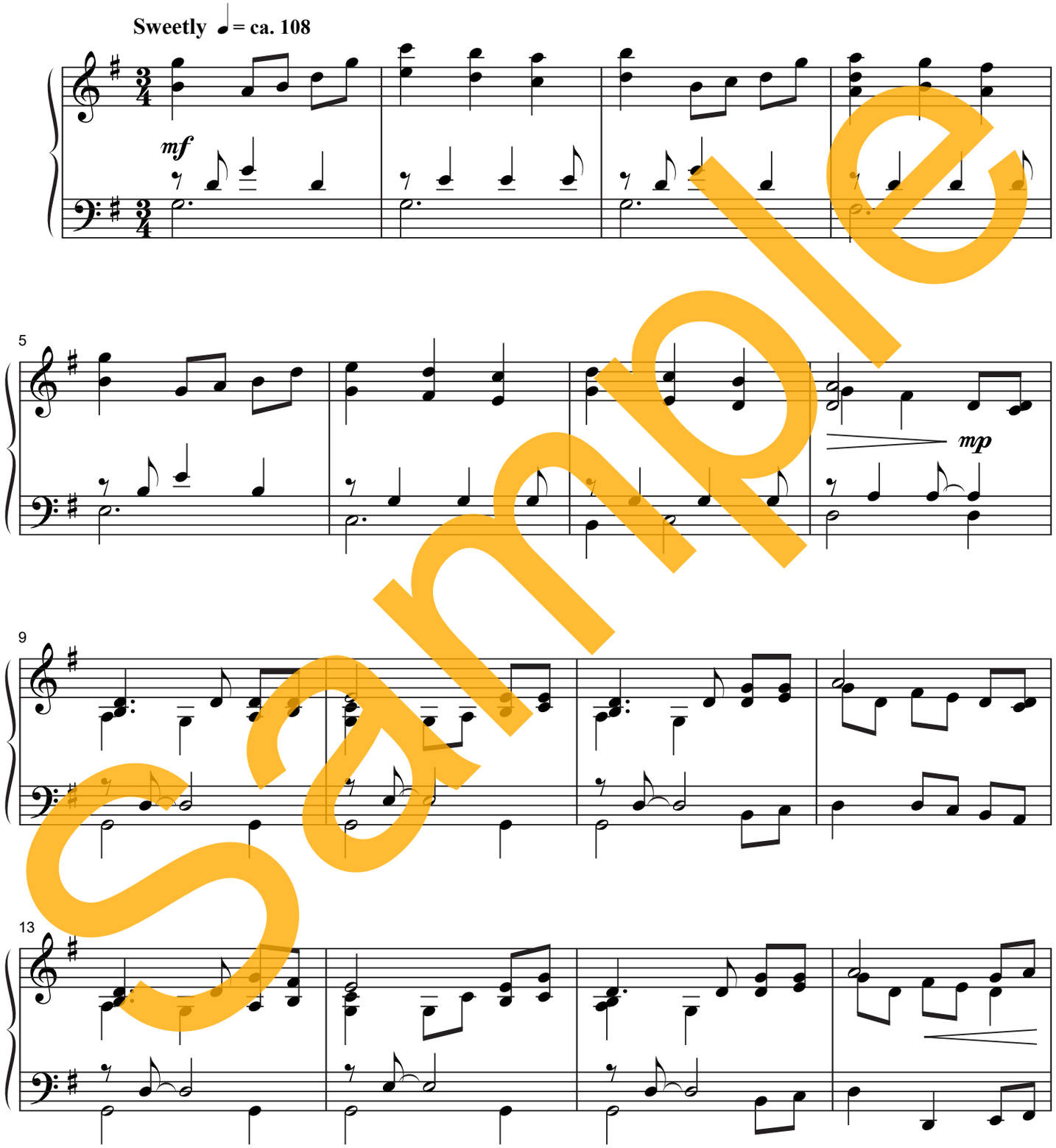

Majestically ♩= ca. 120
57
ff
61
65
mp
69
ff
poco rit.
Tempo I ♩= ca. 132
73
p
f

sample

Who Is He In Yonder Stall

Who is He in yonder stall,
At whose feet the shepherds fall?
'Tis the Lord! O wondrous story!
'Tis the Lord! the King of glory!
(Benjamin Hanby, 1866)

Tracey Craig McKibben
Music by
Benjamin Hanby (1833-1867)



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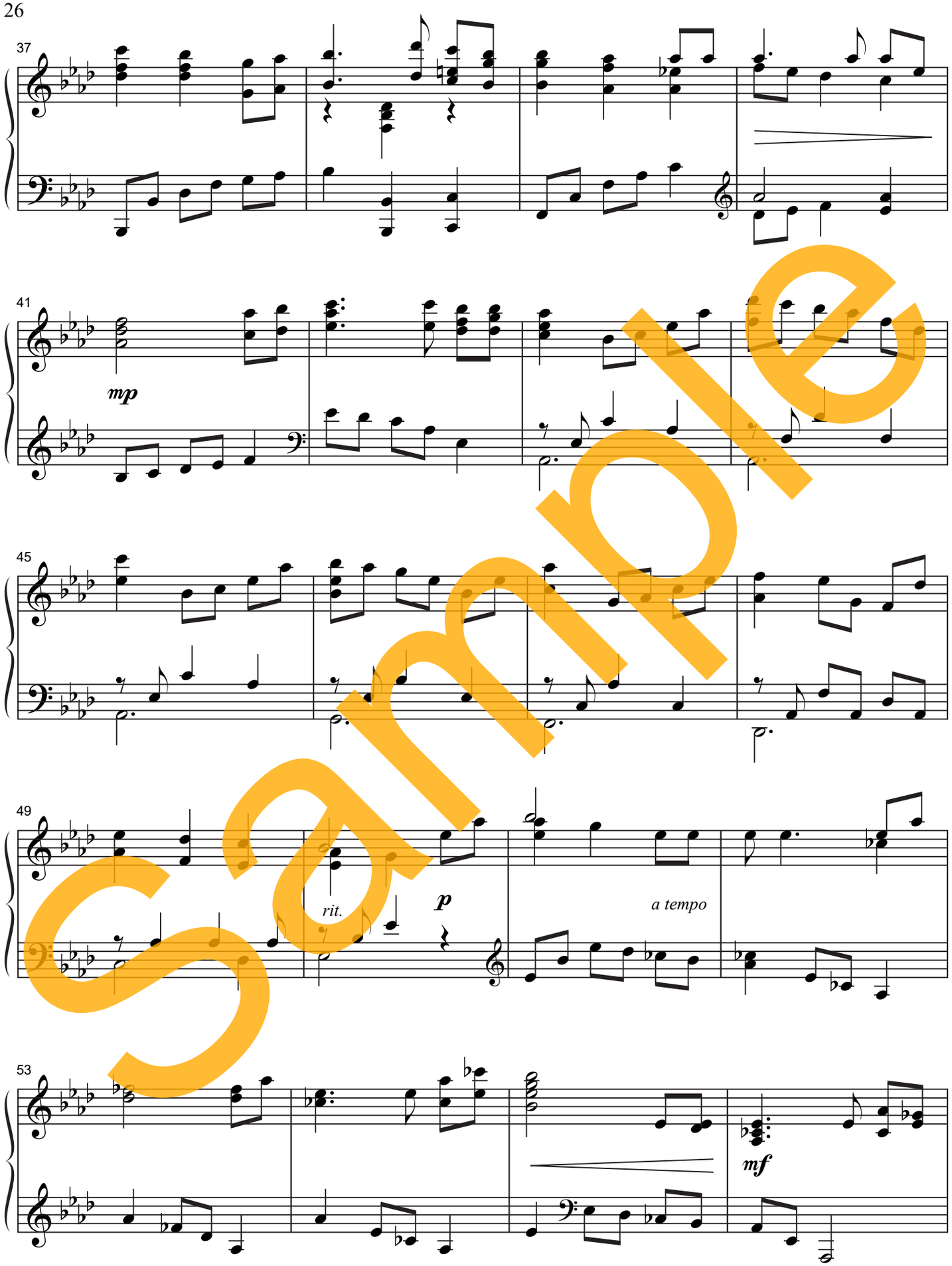

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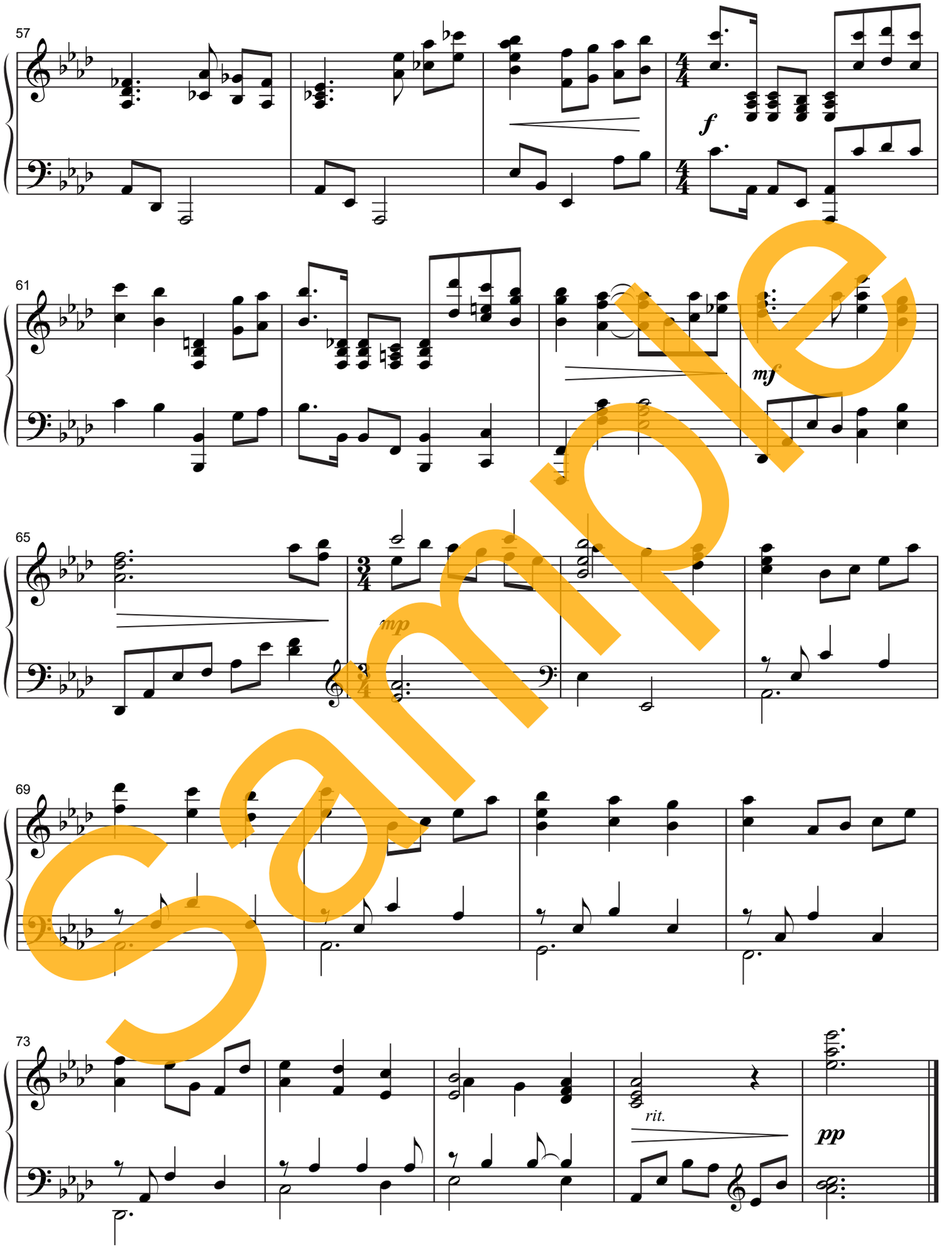
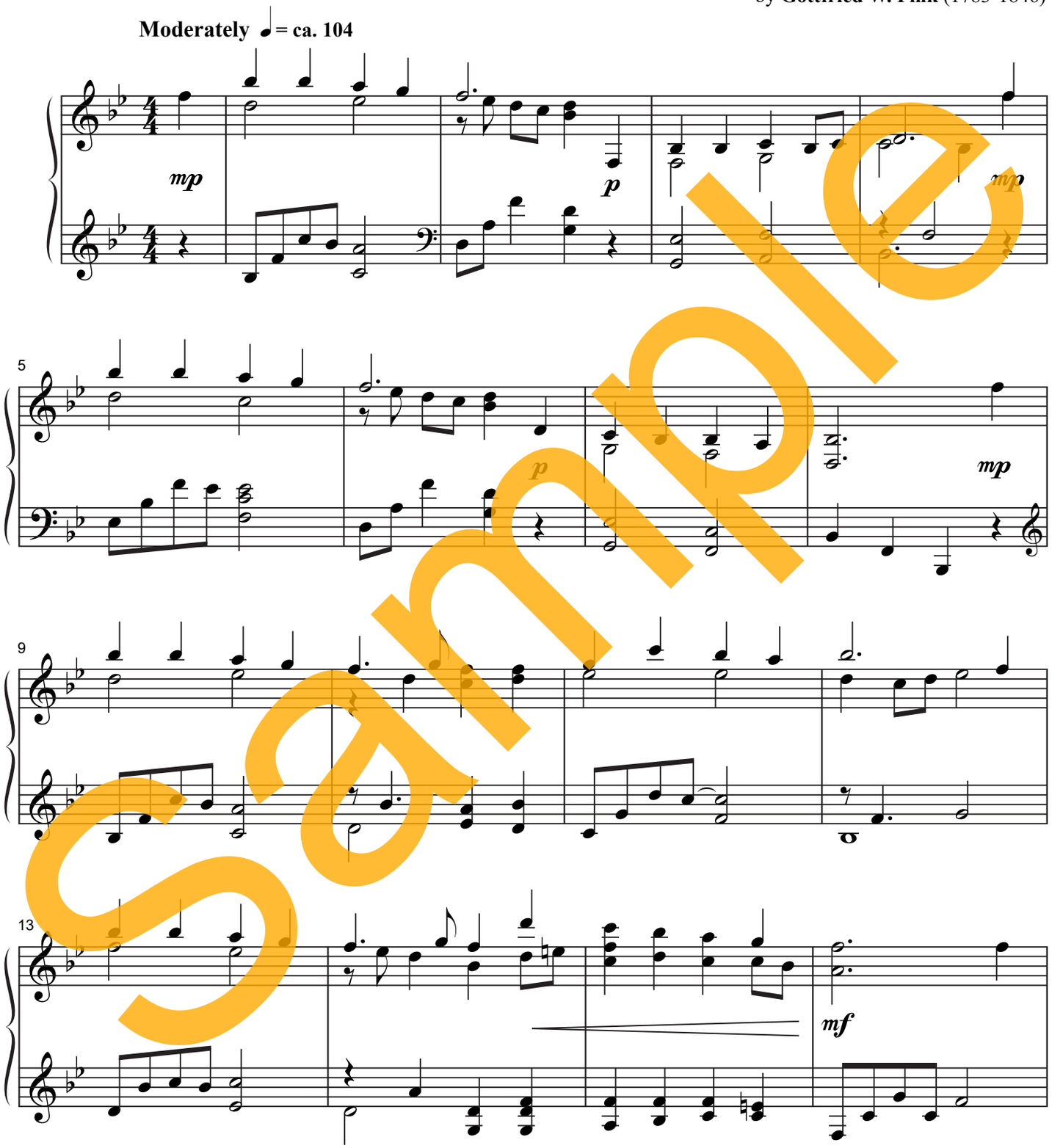


Sample

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.
(Nahum Tate, 1700)

Tracey Craig McKibben
Tune: **BETHLEHEM**
by **Gottfried W. Fink** (1783-1846)



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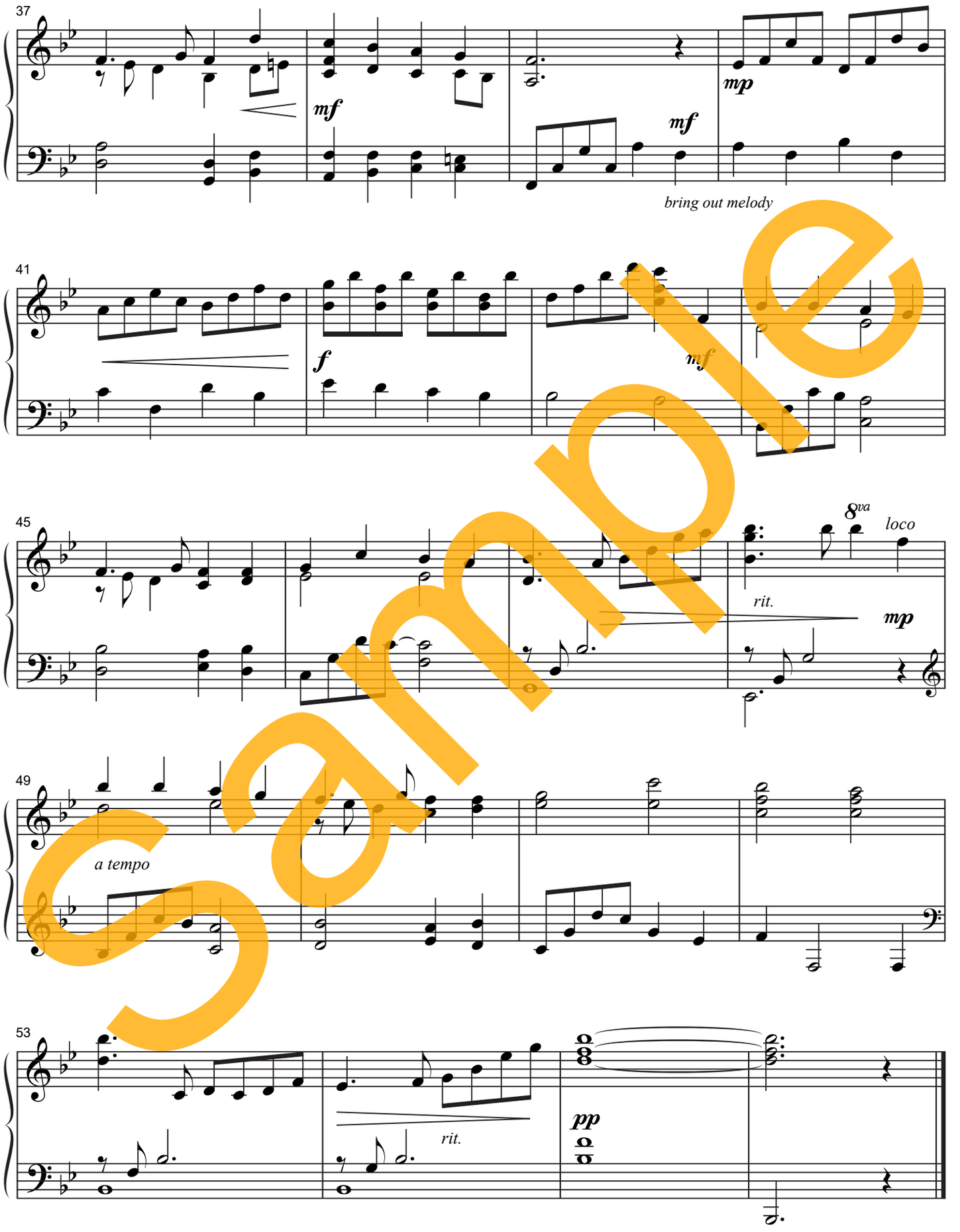

37
mf
mf
mp
bring out melody
41
f
mf
45
8va
loco
rit.
mp
49
a tempo
53
rit.
pp

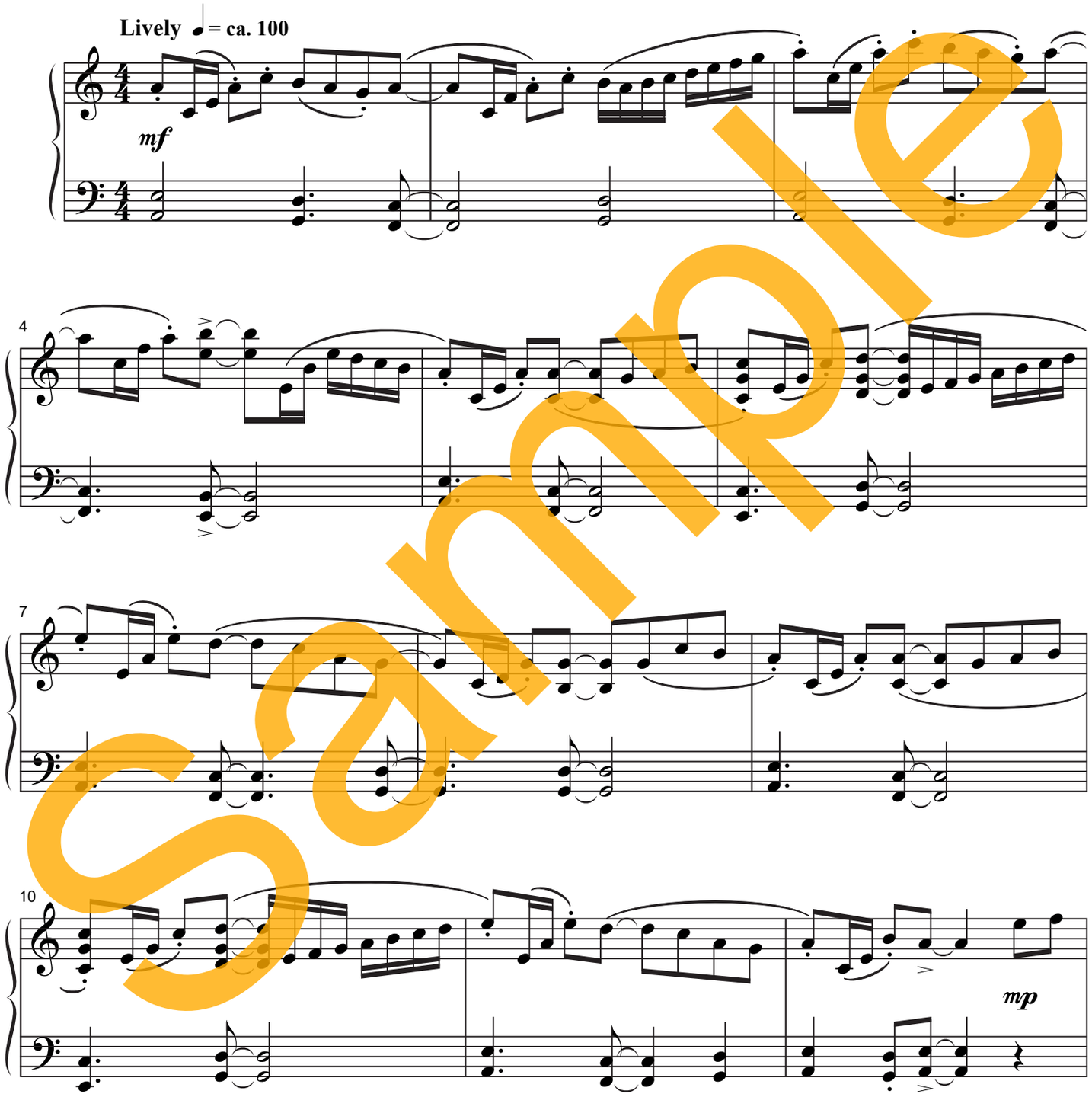
Sample

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

with Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there,
And of the news that came to them from angels in the air.
(Louis F. Benson, 1889)

Tracey Craig McKibben
Tunes: **KINGSFOLD**
Traditional English Melody
and **MENDELSSOHN**
by **Felix Mendelssohn** (1809-1847)



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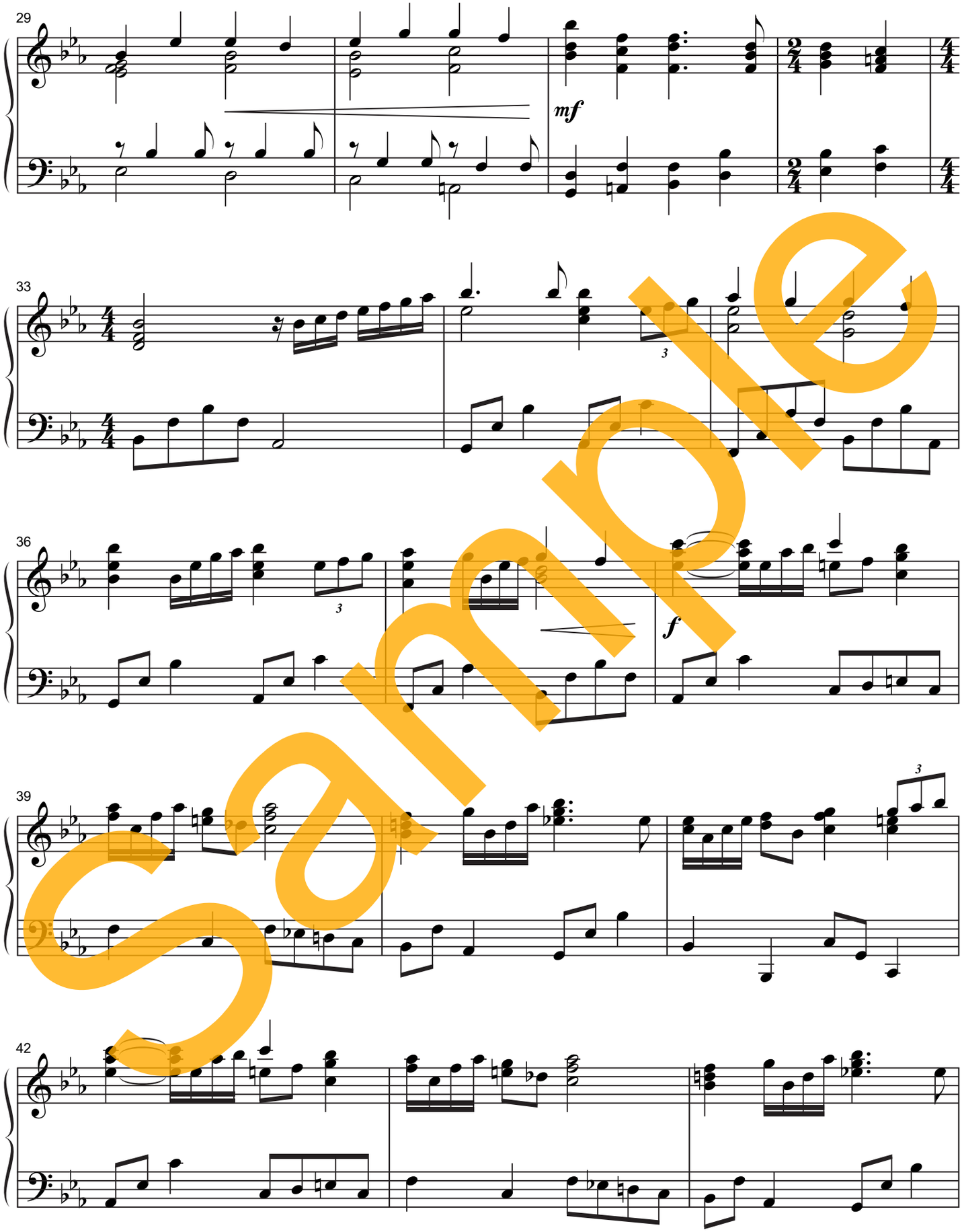

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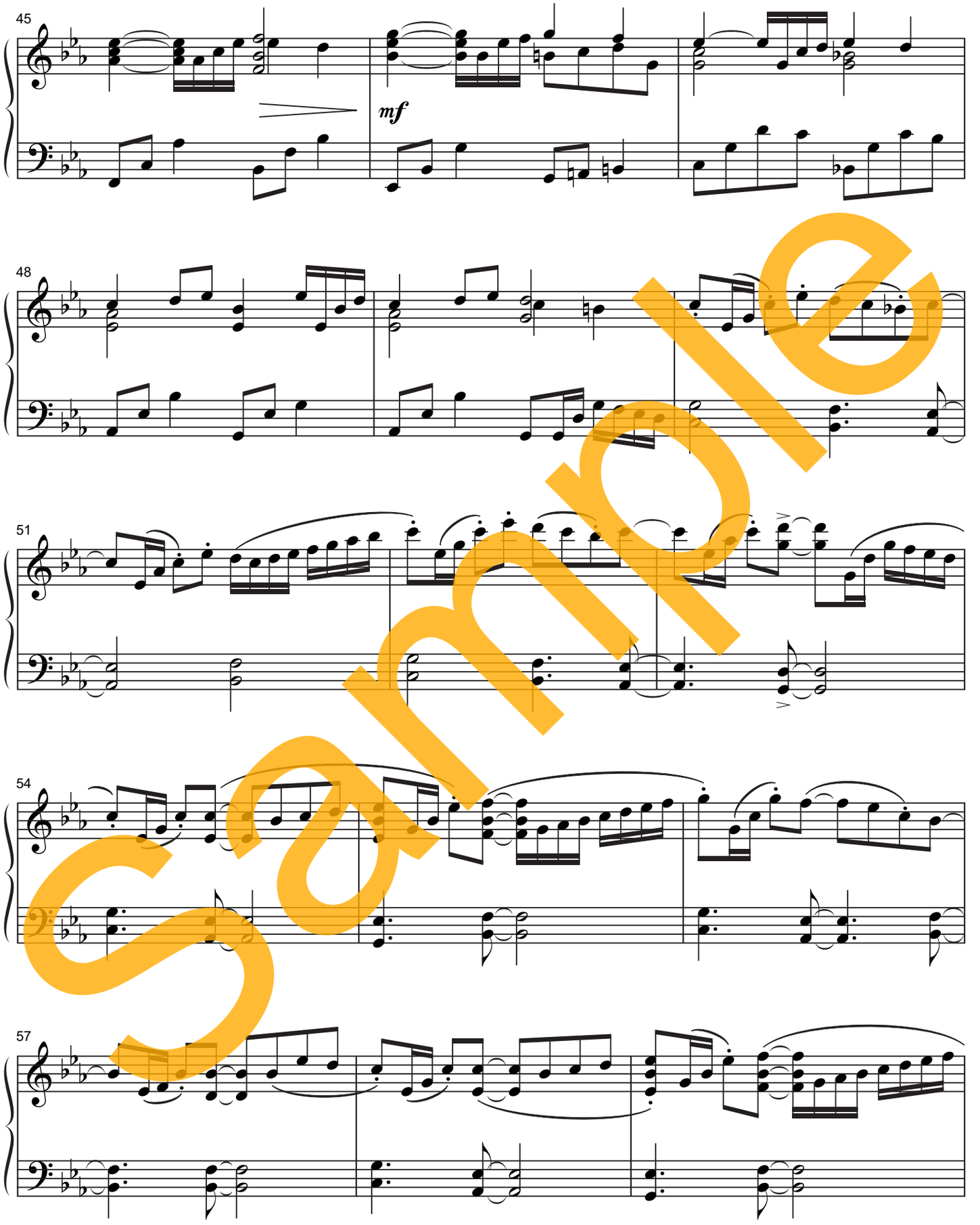

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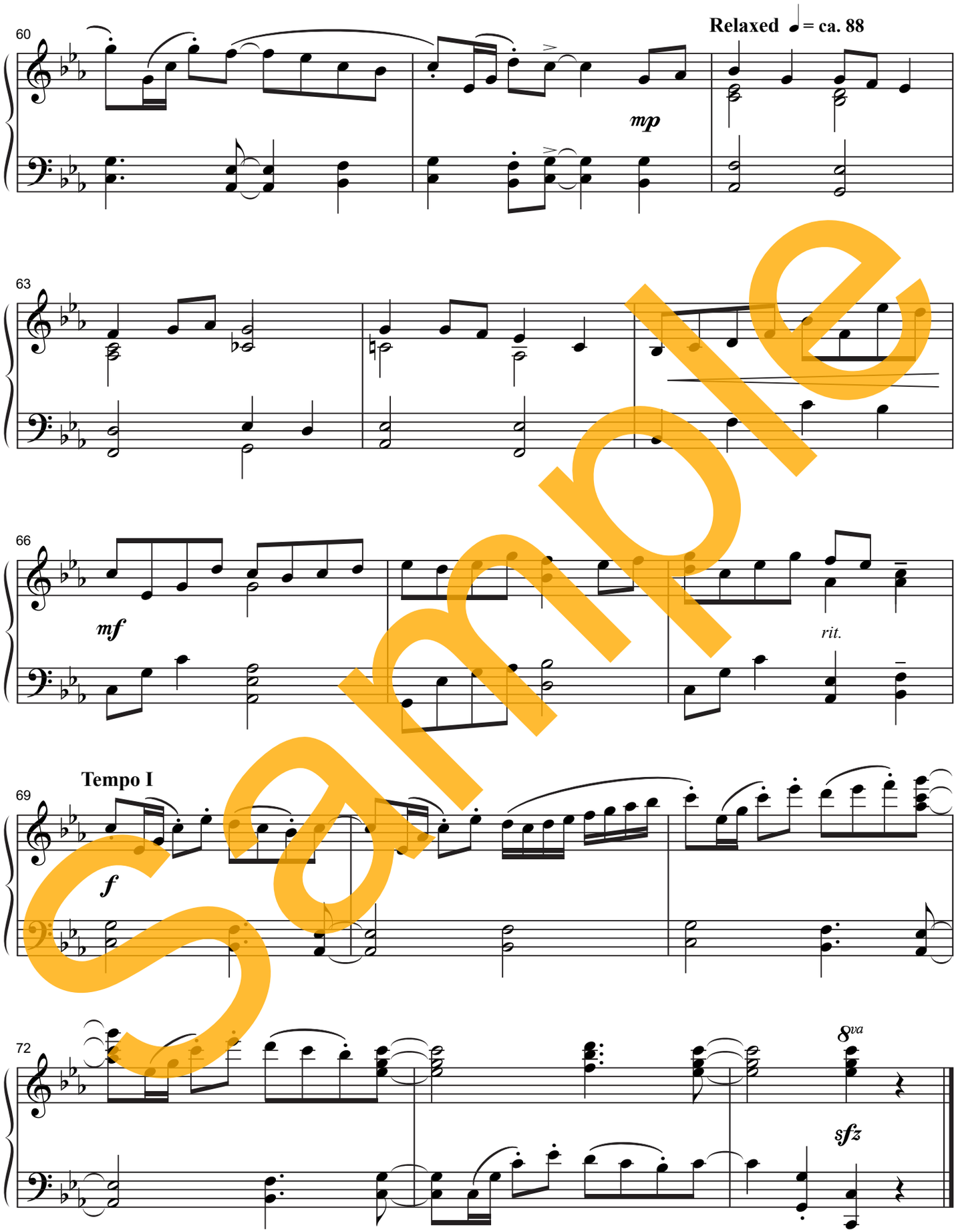
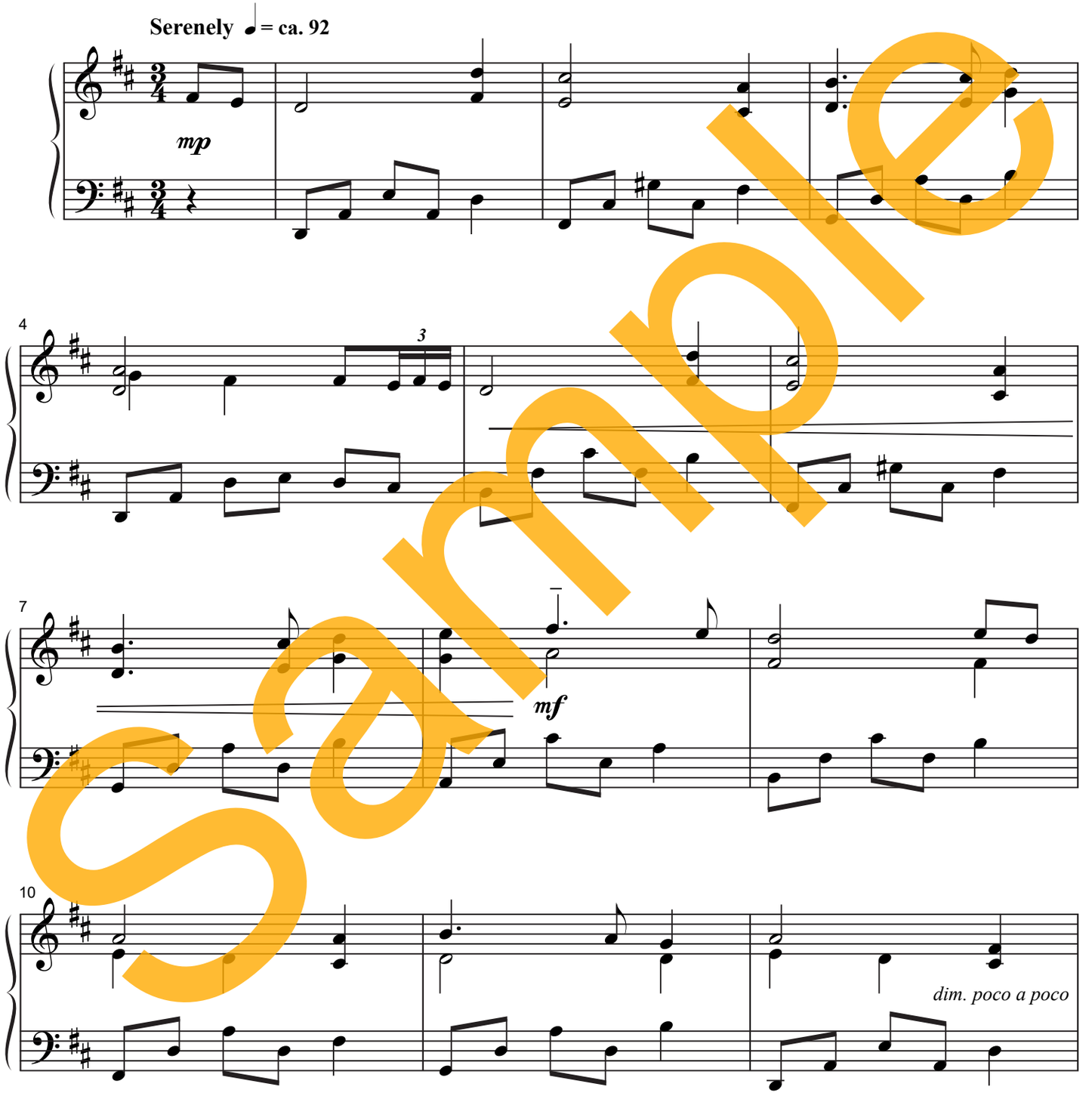


Sample

The First Nowell

The first Nowell, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
(Traditional English Carol)

Tracey Craig McKibben
Traditional English Carol



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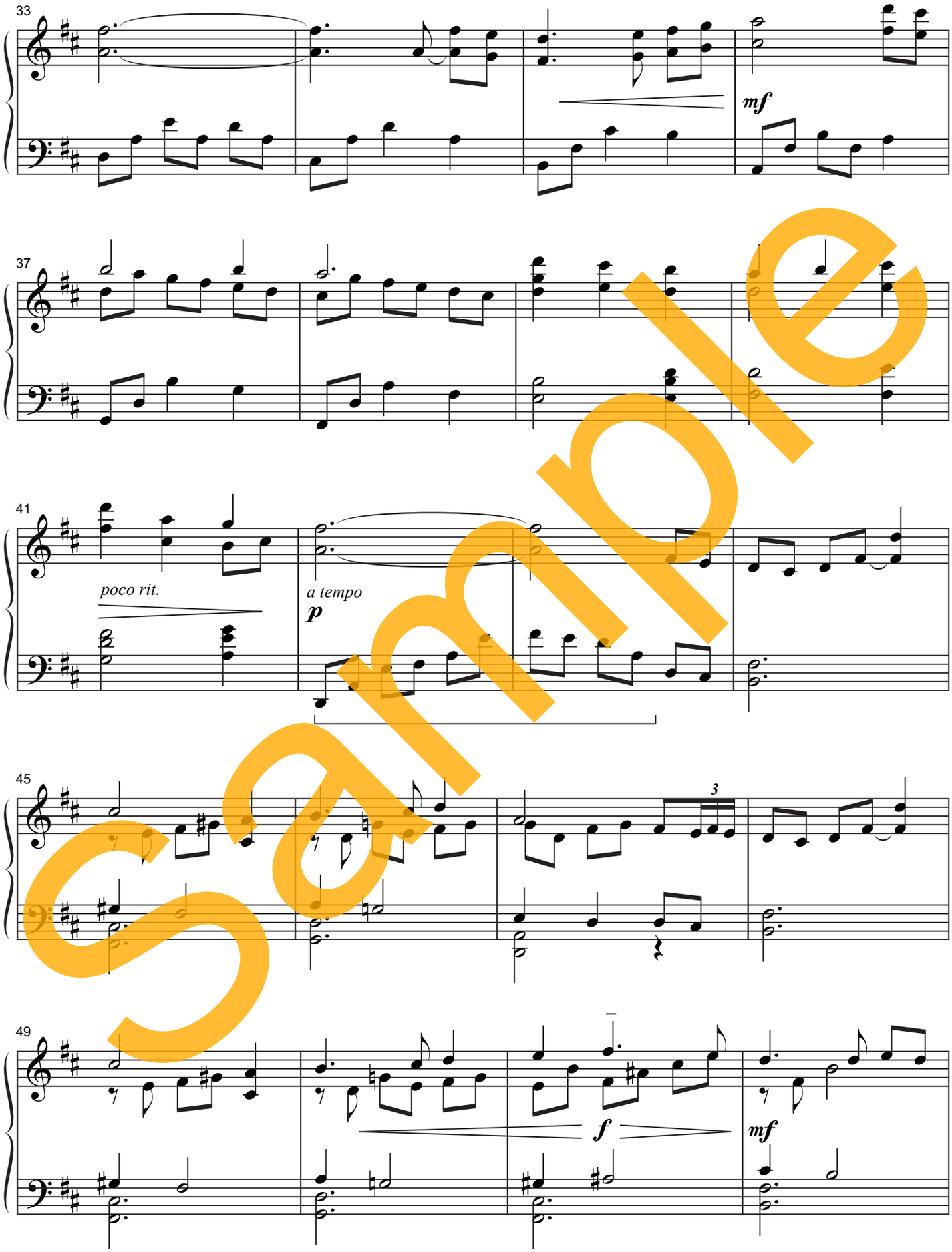

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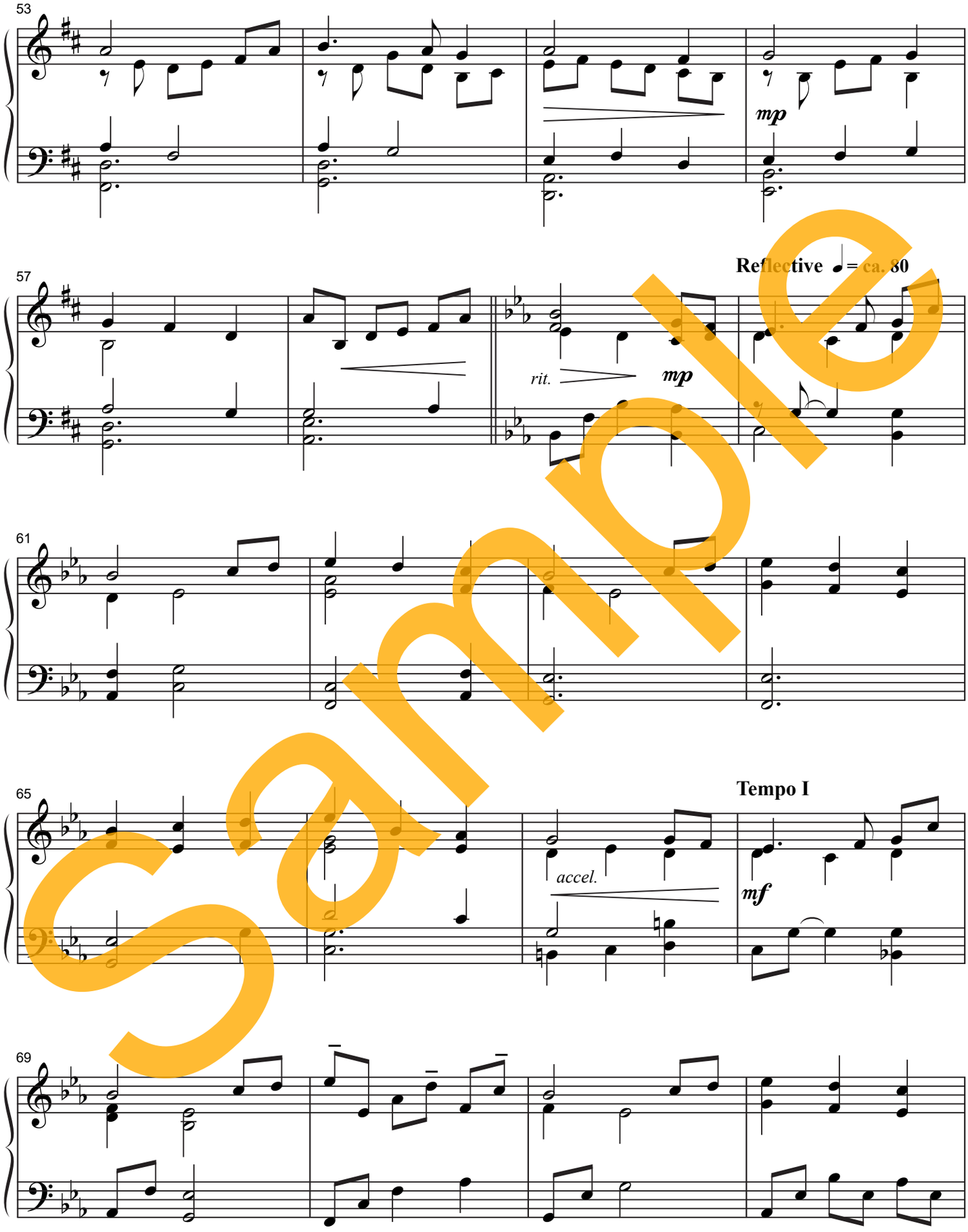

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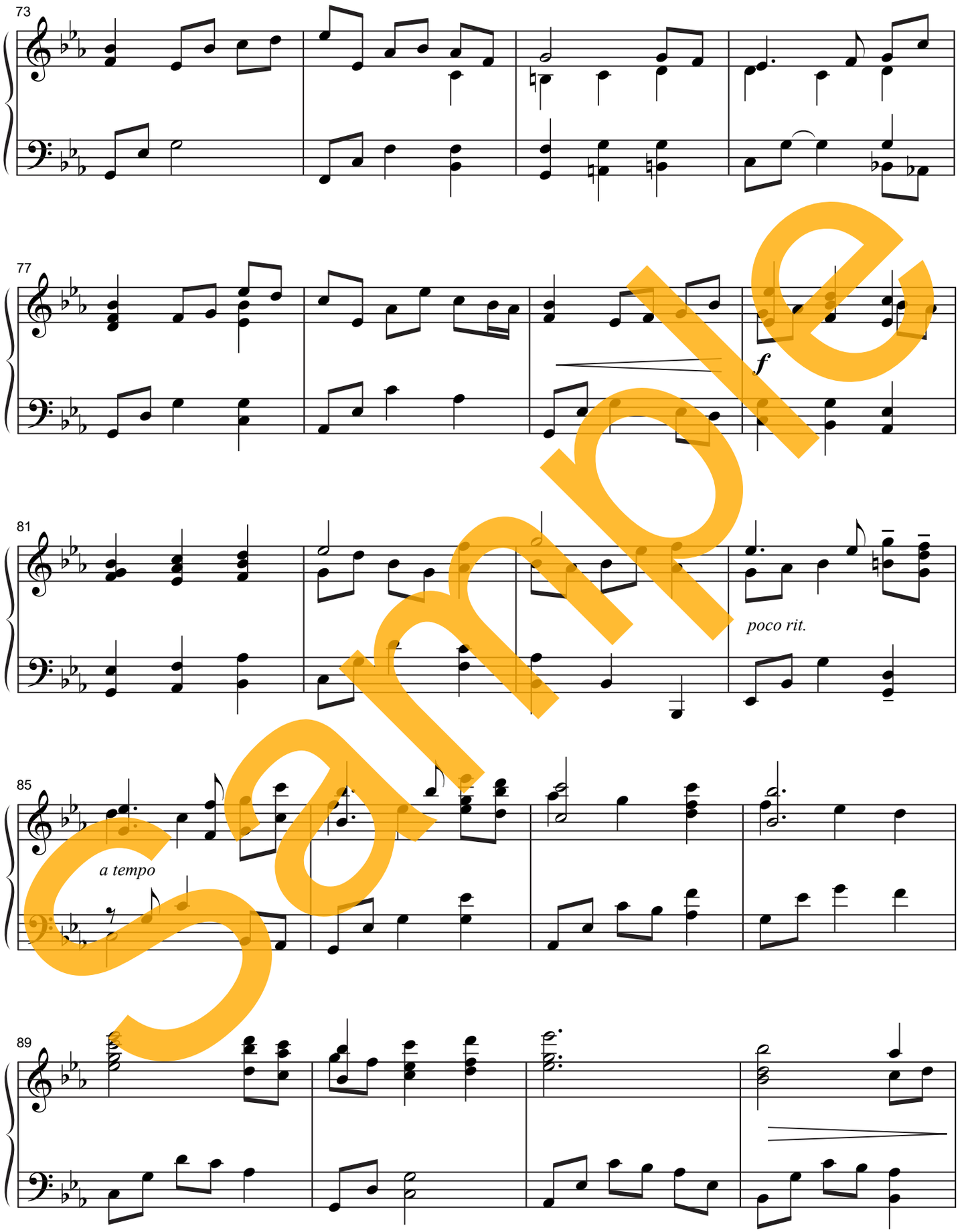

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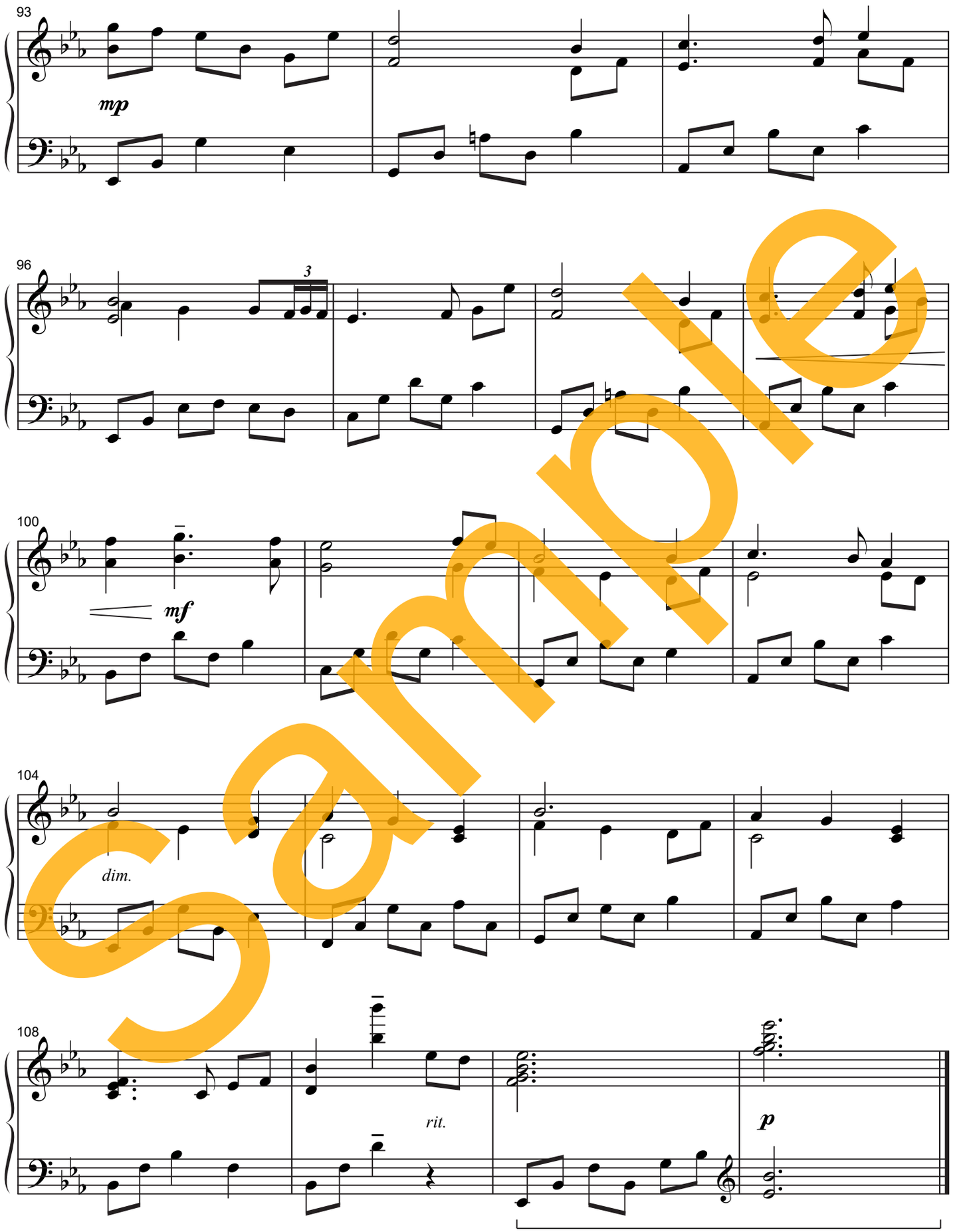
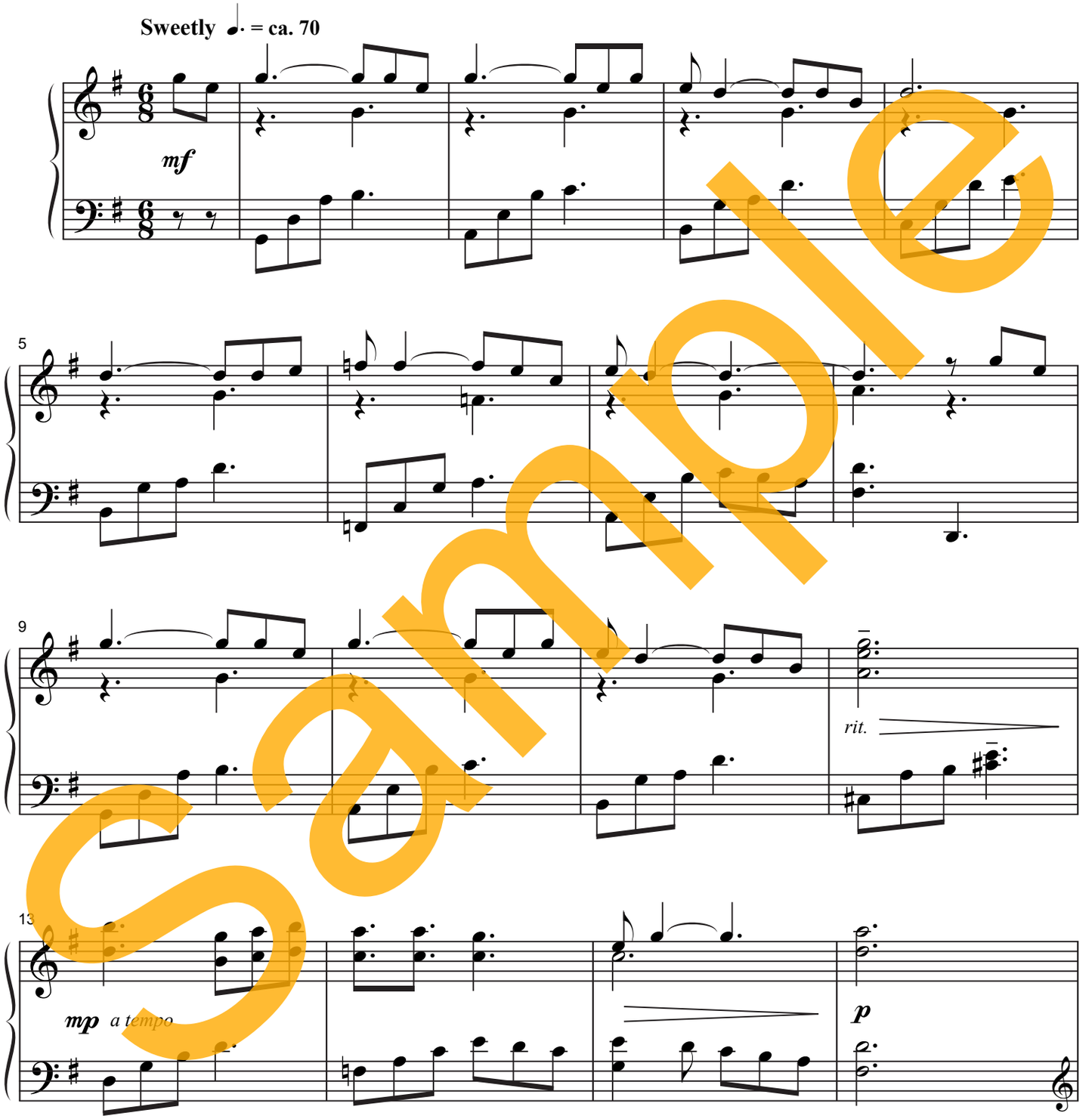


sample

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

There's a star in the East on Christmas morn;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow;
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.
(Traditional Spiritual)

Tracey Craig McKibben
Tune: **FOLLOW**
African American Spiritual



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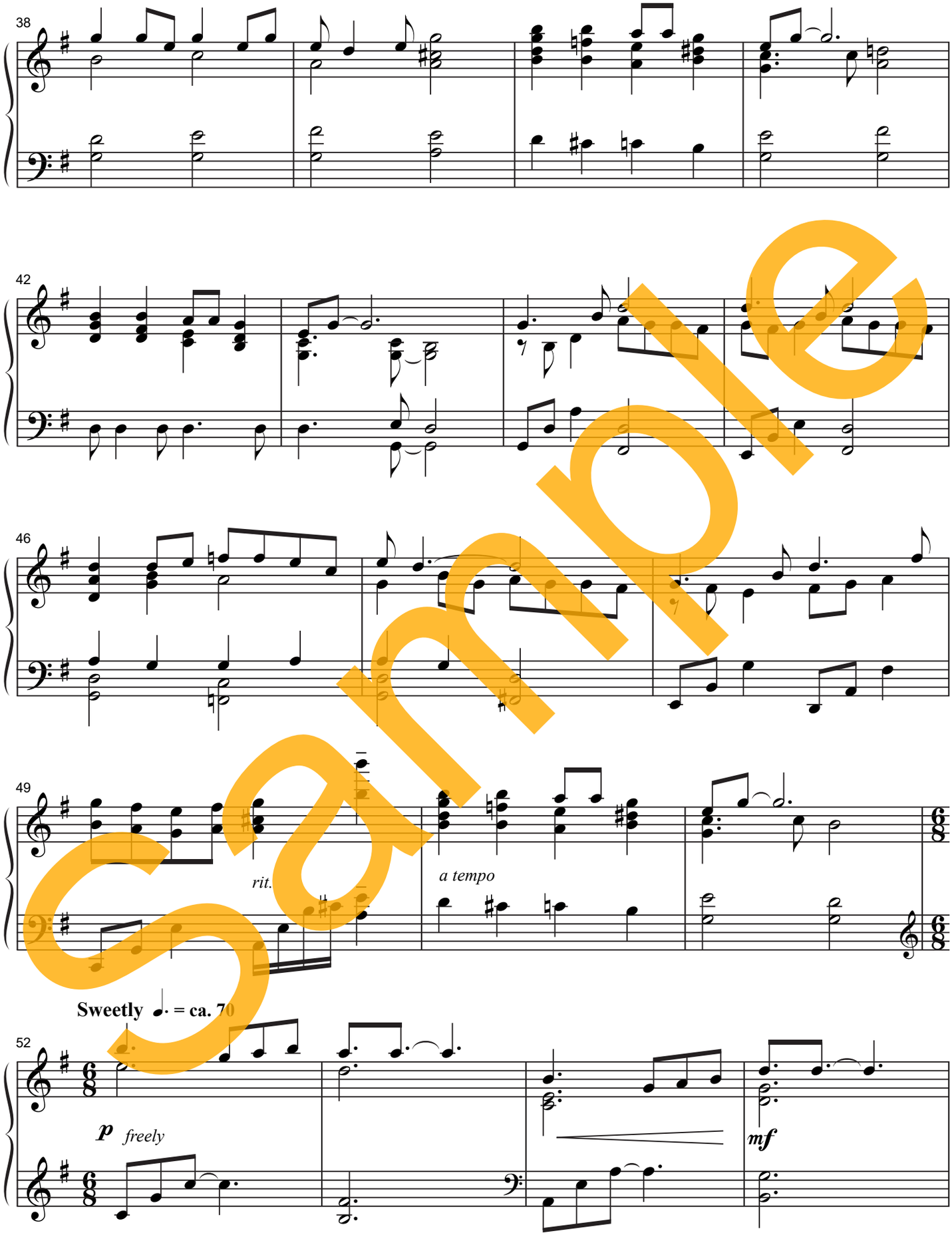

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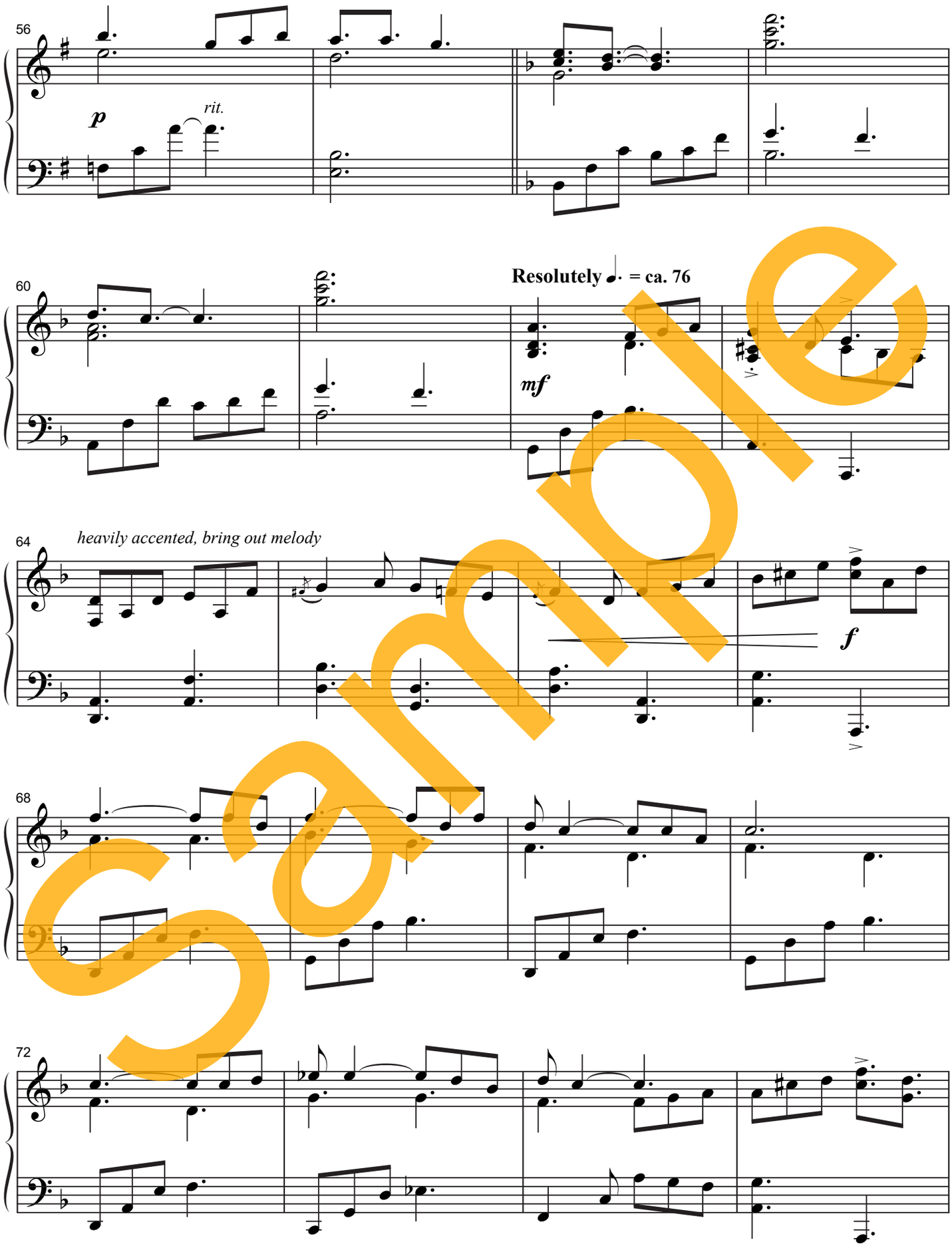
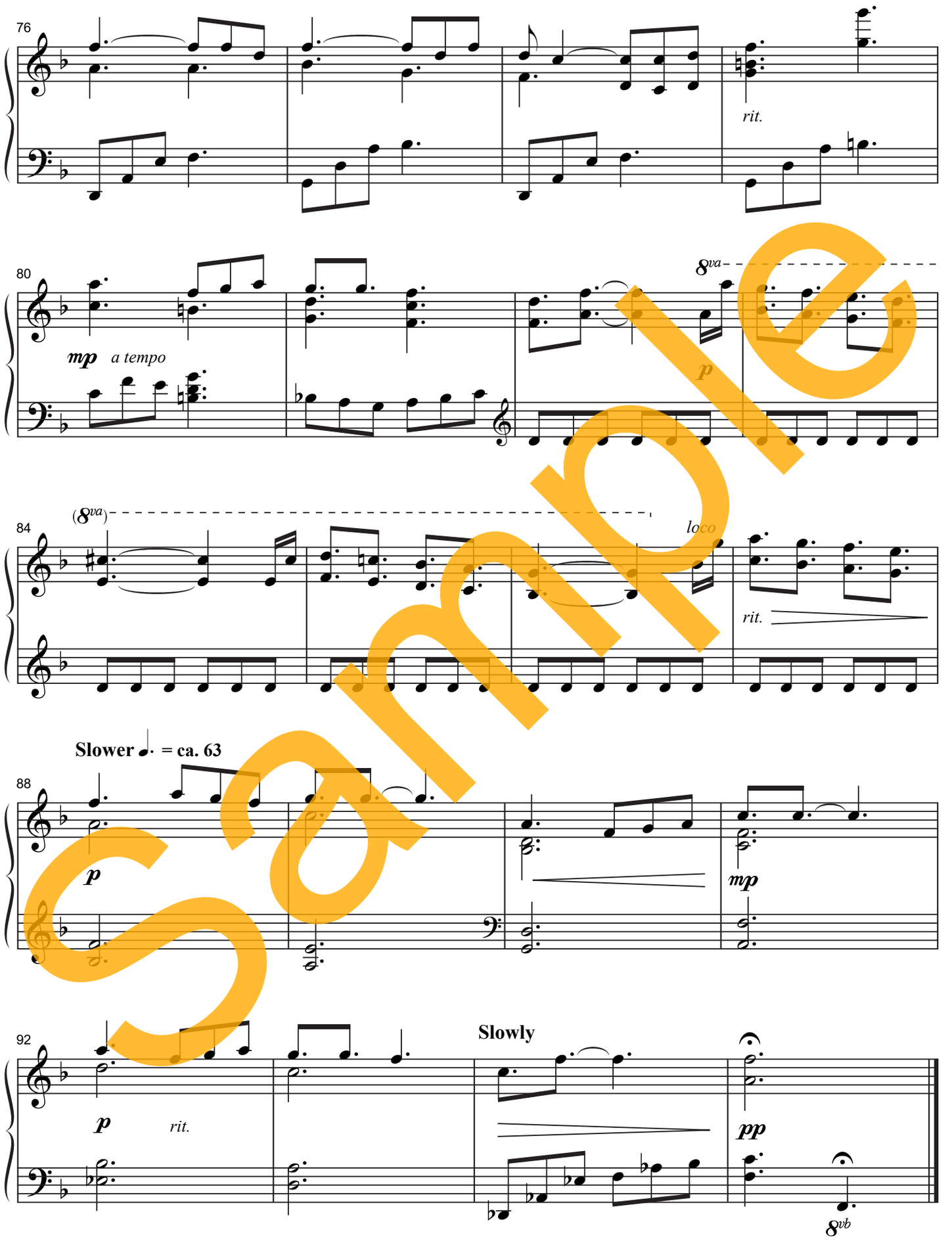

56
p
rit.
60
Resolutely ♩. = ca. 76
mf
64
heavily accented, bring out melody
f
68
72

sample


76
rit.
80
mp a tempo
8va
p
(8va)
84
loco
rit.
Slower ♩. = ca. 63
88
p
mp
92
p
rit.
Slowly
pp
8vb

Sample