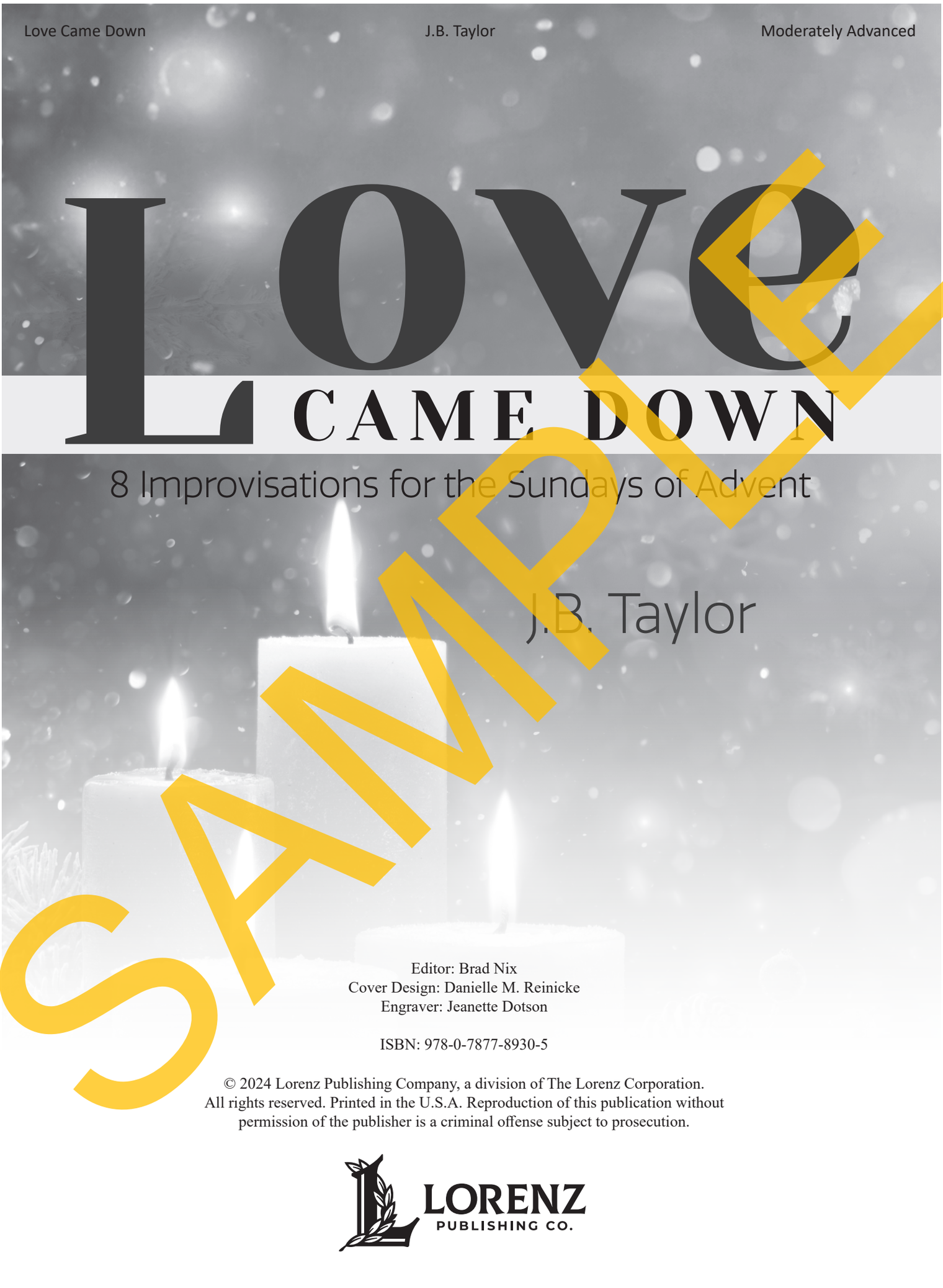

LOVE CAME DOWN

8 Improvisations for the Sundays of Advent

J.B. Taylor

SAMPLE

Editor: Brad Nix
Cover Design: Danielle M. Reinicke
Engraver: Jeanette Dotson

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Performance Notes

Hope

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
This is a perfect carol for the first Sunday of Advent. My arrangement is melancholy and mysterious, pulling inspiration from the original hymn. Play this with lots of freedom and enjoy some of the jazz influences that came to my fingers as I was improvising on this tune.

Lo, How a Rose
I have always enjoyed improvising on "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming," and this arrangement is just one of many possibilities for this beautiful hymn. Take your time with the introductory theme, which returns two more times during the piece. The middle section is original material that continues to build in tempo and intensity until a fragment of the hymn returns near the end to slow things down. Savor the special final chord!

Peace

Still, Still, Still
A lovely choice for the Sunday of Peace, this traditional Austrian melody is framed like a lullaby. Enjoy the dreamy nature of the cascading lines before the simple presentation of the original hymn at the end. You can even return to this piece on Christmas Eve.

In the Bleak Midwinter
I did not want to significantly change the character of this beloved carol for this arrangement. The piece begins with a simple presentation of the tune and then presents two variations before ending with the poignant phrase, "yet what I can I give Him, give my heart."

Joy

How Great Our Joy
One of my favorites to sing, this German carol echoes back and forth with the phrase, "Joy, Joy, Joy," and I took inspiration from that for this arrangement. After the introduction, this piece really takes off! Have fun playing it as fast as you like, but don't let all those notes get in the way of bringing out the main melody. I love playing this one and hope you will too!

We Adore Thee
There are endless possibilities for arranging "Ode to Joy," and, in fact, this represents my second arrangement of this famous melody. This time, my goal was to create a sparkling and Christmassy mood. I also wanted to write a piece that would be visually appealing and FUN for you to play. The cross-handed approach is so enjoyable, and this piece allows you to play at an especially fast tempo. There is a moment to take a breath in the middle before you resume your pace. Experiment with pedaling on your specific instrument; I play this with a lot of half-pedal so it doesn't sound too dry. This piece is appropriate any time of year, so bookmark it and return to it again and again.

SAMPLE

Love

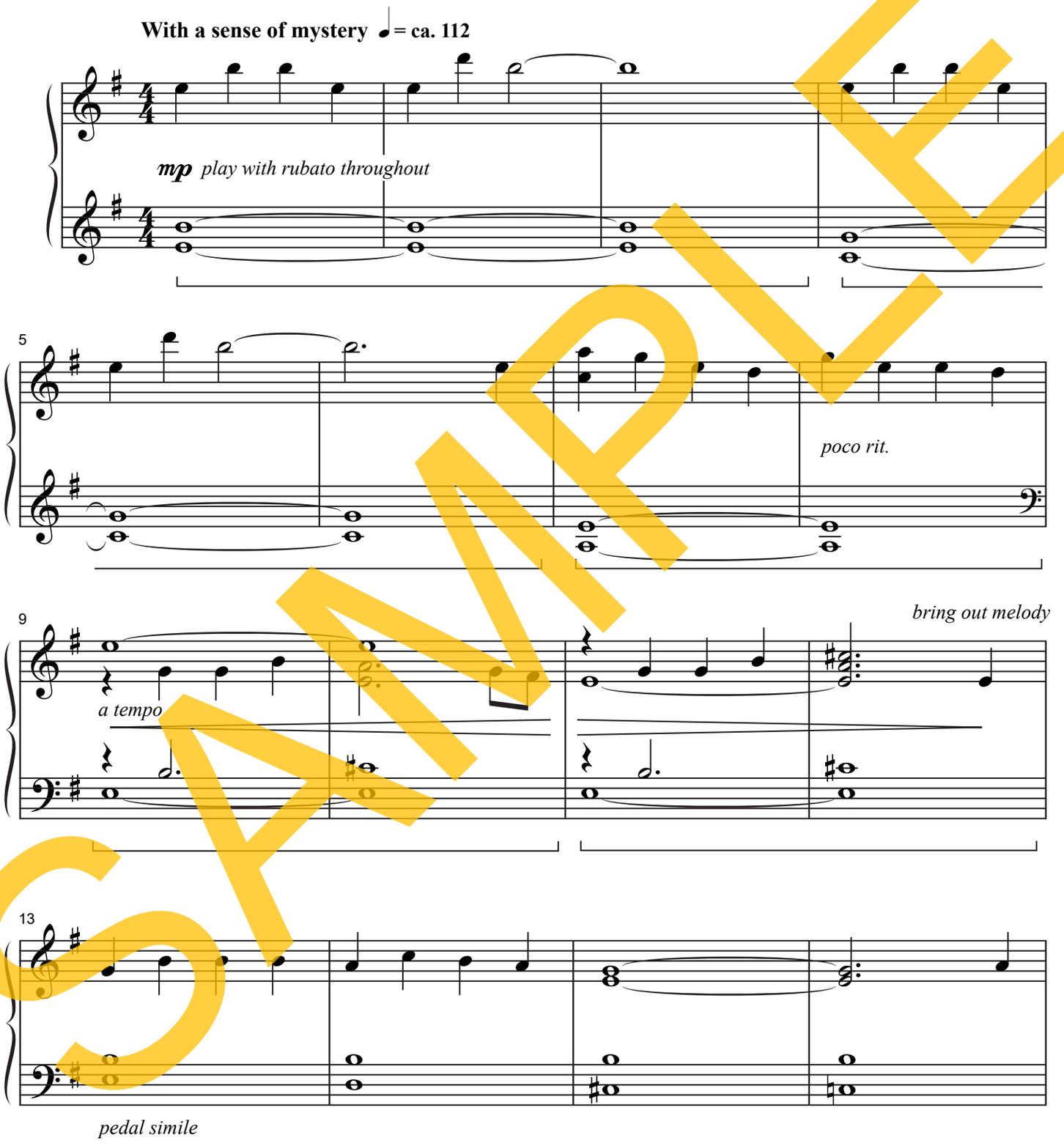
Wonders of His Love
Yes, this is indeed "Joy to the World." You could certainly play this piece during the Joy Sunday, but I chose to take a more meditative approach and focus on the lyric, "and wonders of His love." You will hear the main tune throughout this piece, but it might take the listener a moment to recognize it. A special piece to play on this Sunday or even Christmas Eve.

Love Came Down at Christmas
My book concludes with the title track, a beautiful carol that is often set to this tune. I wanted very much to arrange this hymn but was challenged by the brevity of the original. I decided to enjoy the atmosphere of my improvisation by including original material throughout the middle of the piece to help set off the presentation of the main theme. This may look like a lot of notes on the page, but it fits easily under the hands once you learn the pattern. Enjoy your long *decrescendo* to the end of the piece, and to the end of the book.

SAMPLE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Plainsong
Tune: VENI EMMANUEL
Arranged by **J.B. Taylor**



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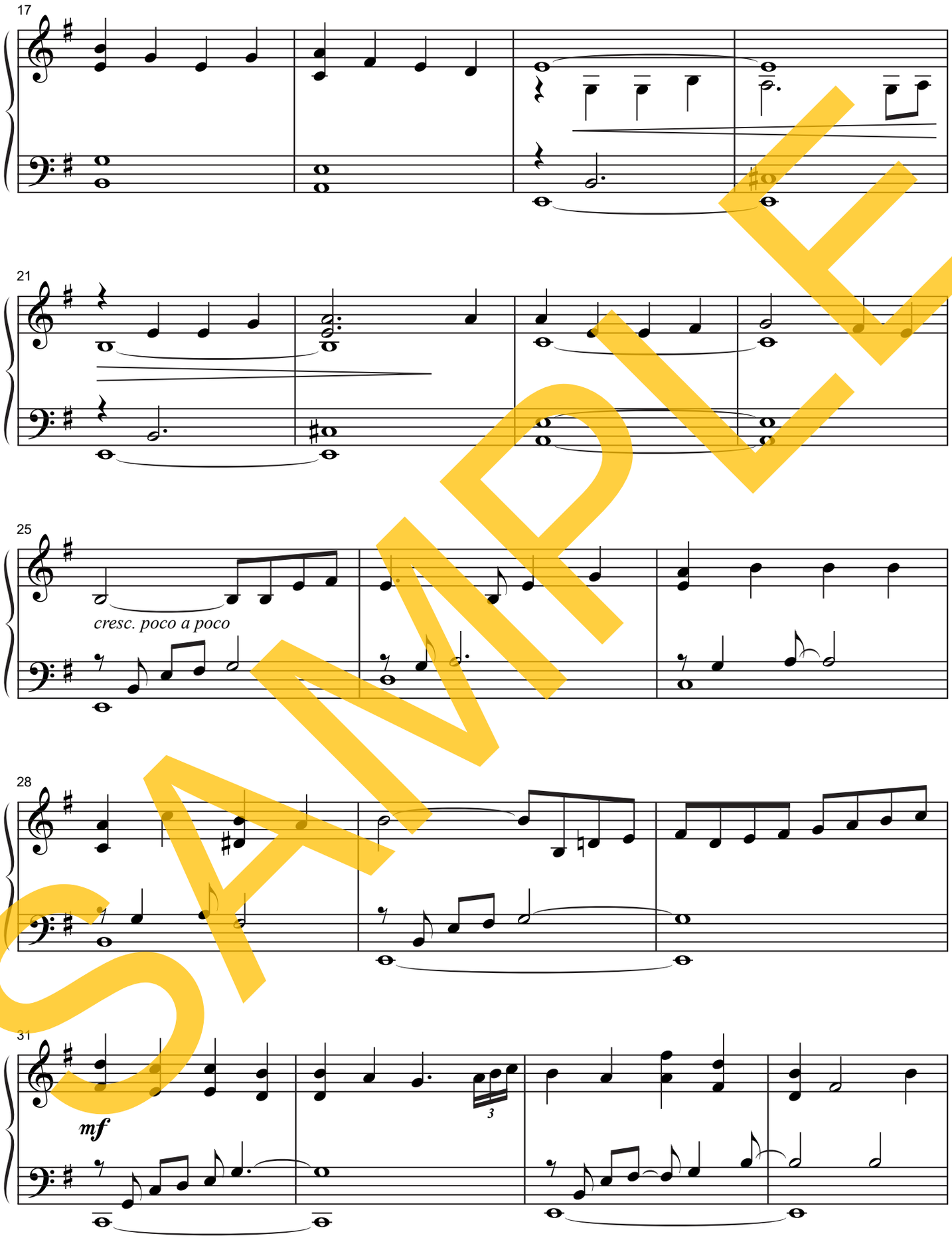

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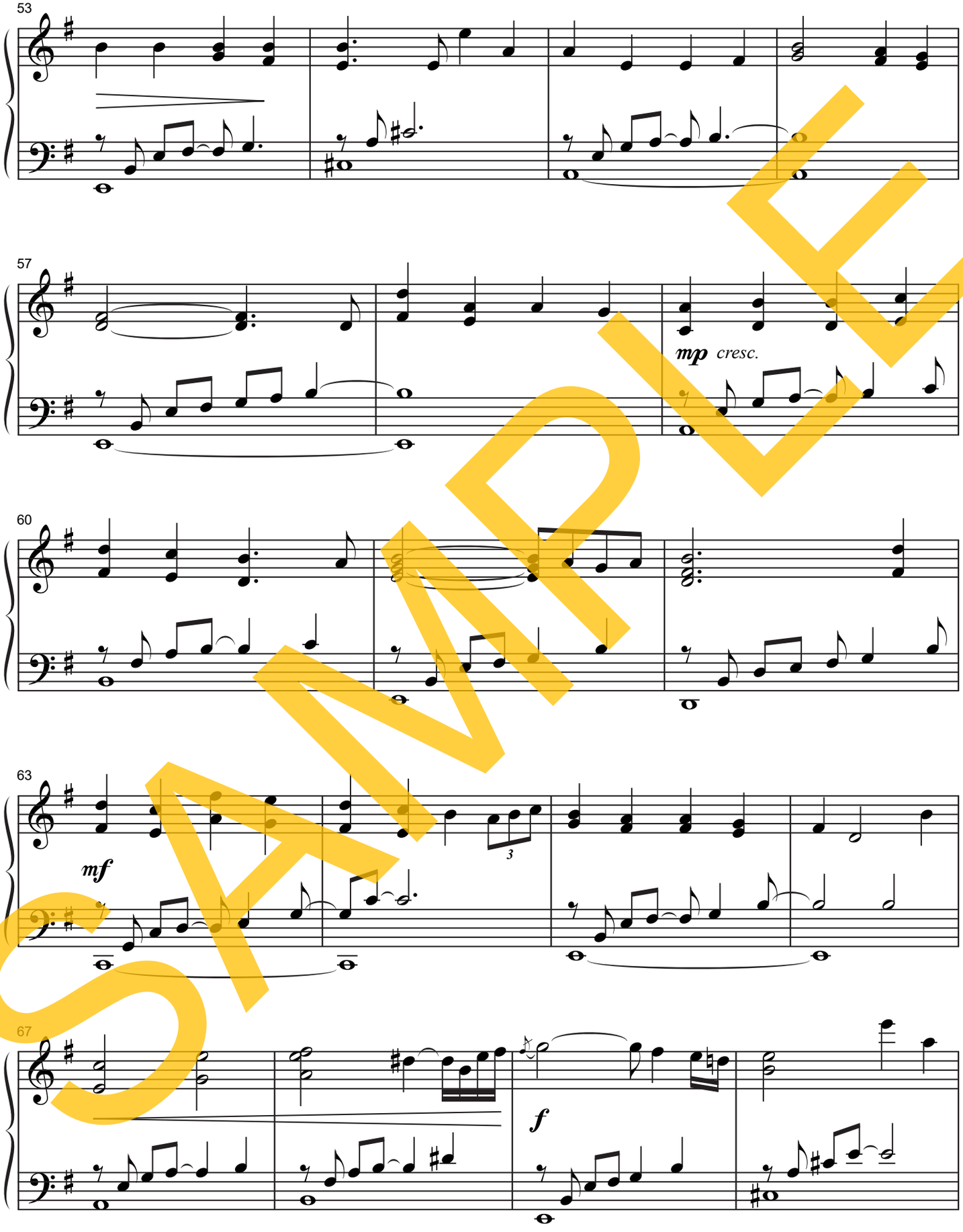

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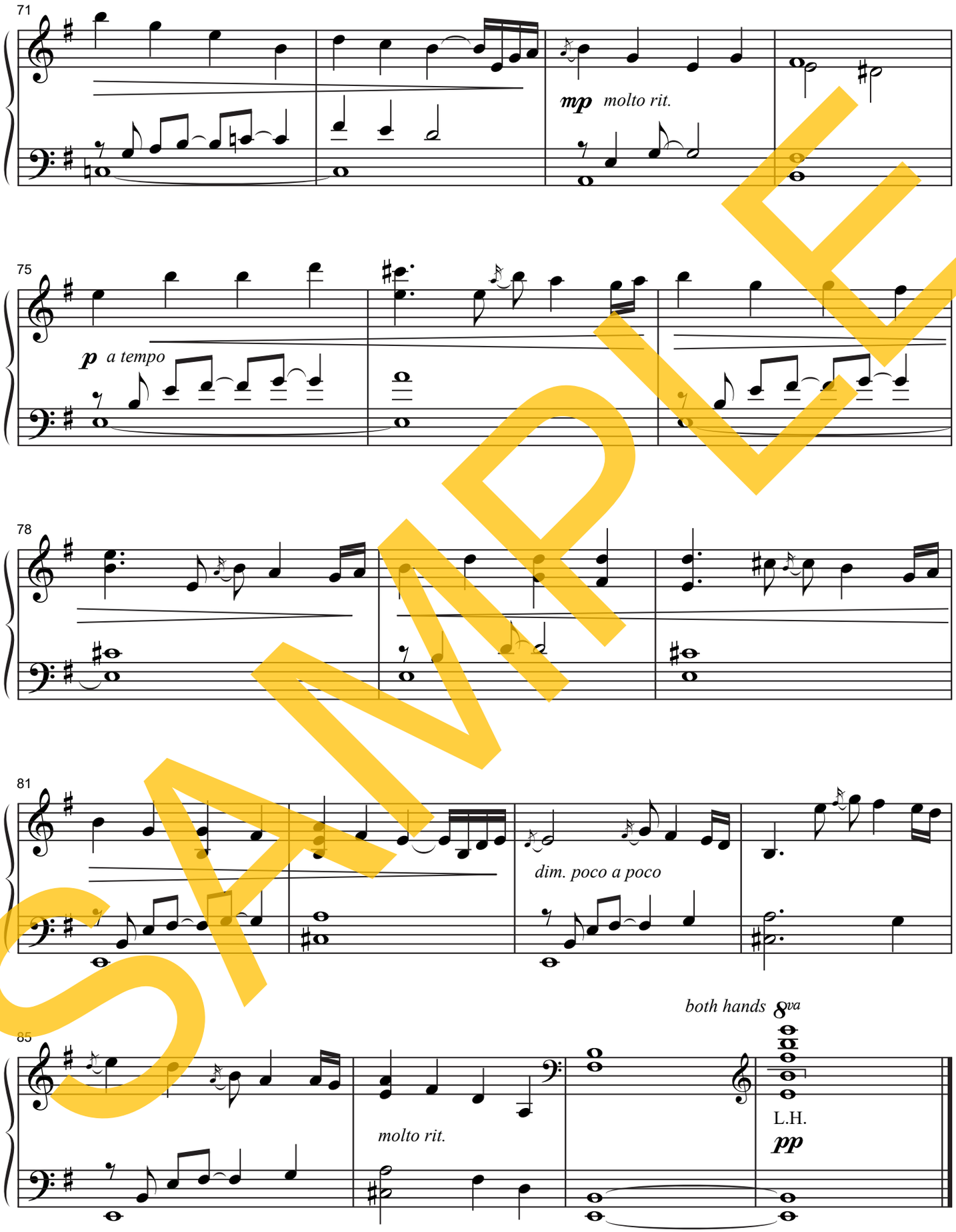
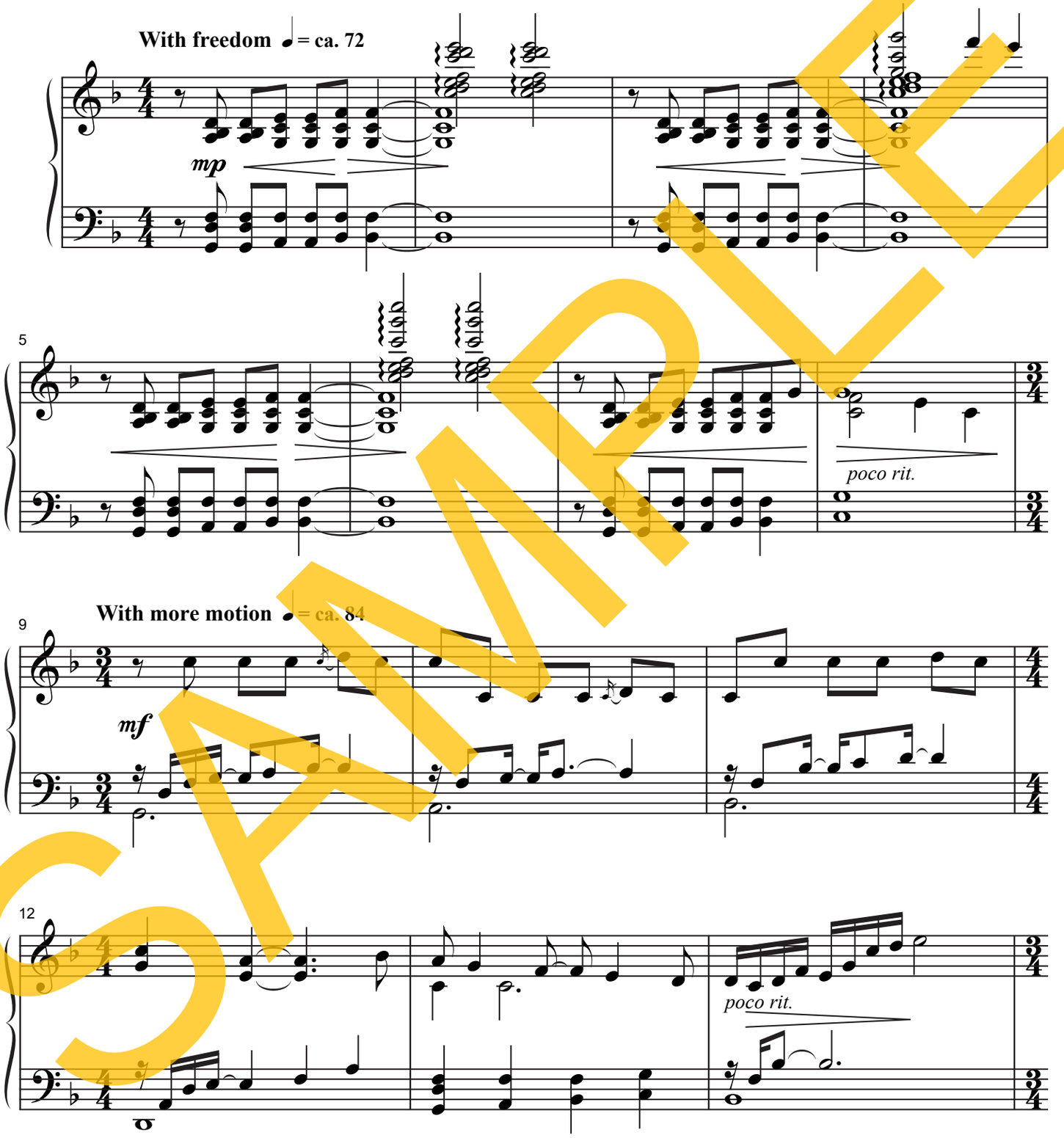

71
mp molto rit.
75
p a tempo
78
81
dim. poco a poco
both hands 8va
85
molto rit.
L.H.
pp

SAMPLE

Lo, How a Rose

Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599
Tune: ES IST EIN ROS'
Arranged by **J.B. Taylor**



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28 **Like the beginning** ♩ = ca. 72

mp

32

36 **With even more motion** ♩ = ca. 92

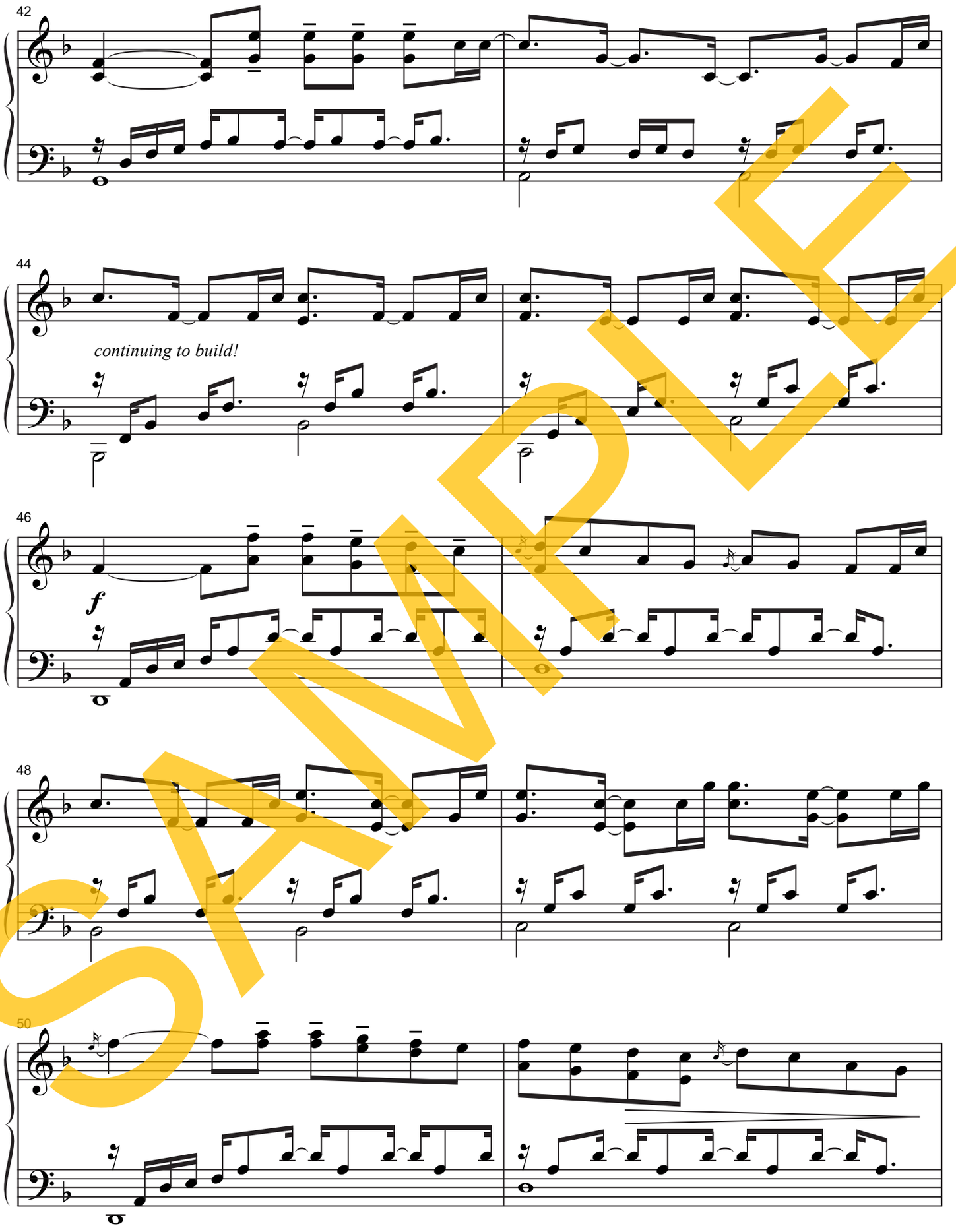
mf

38

40

cresc. poco a poco

SAMPLE



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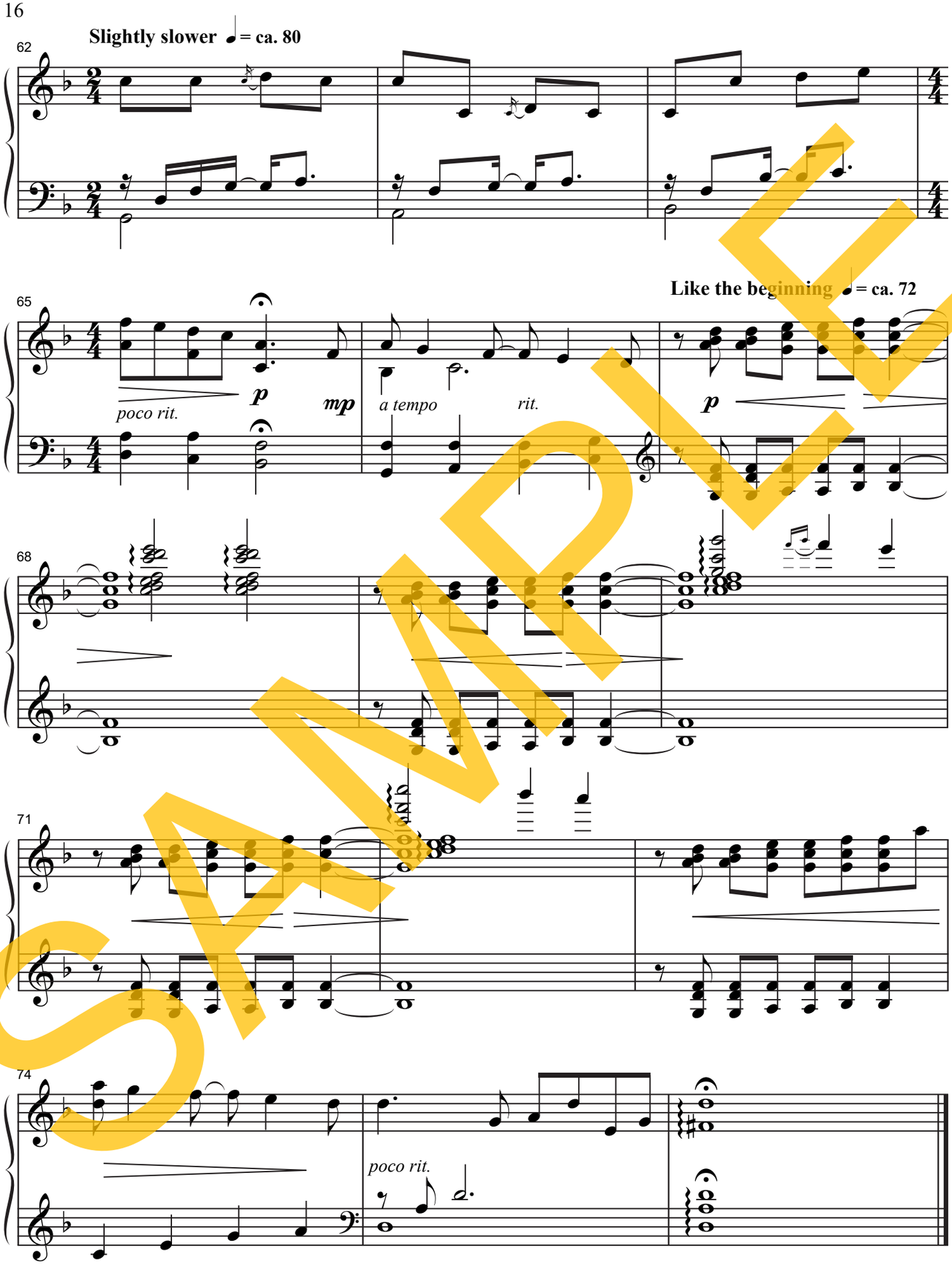
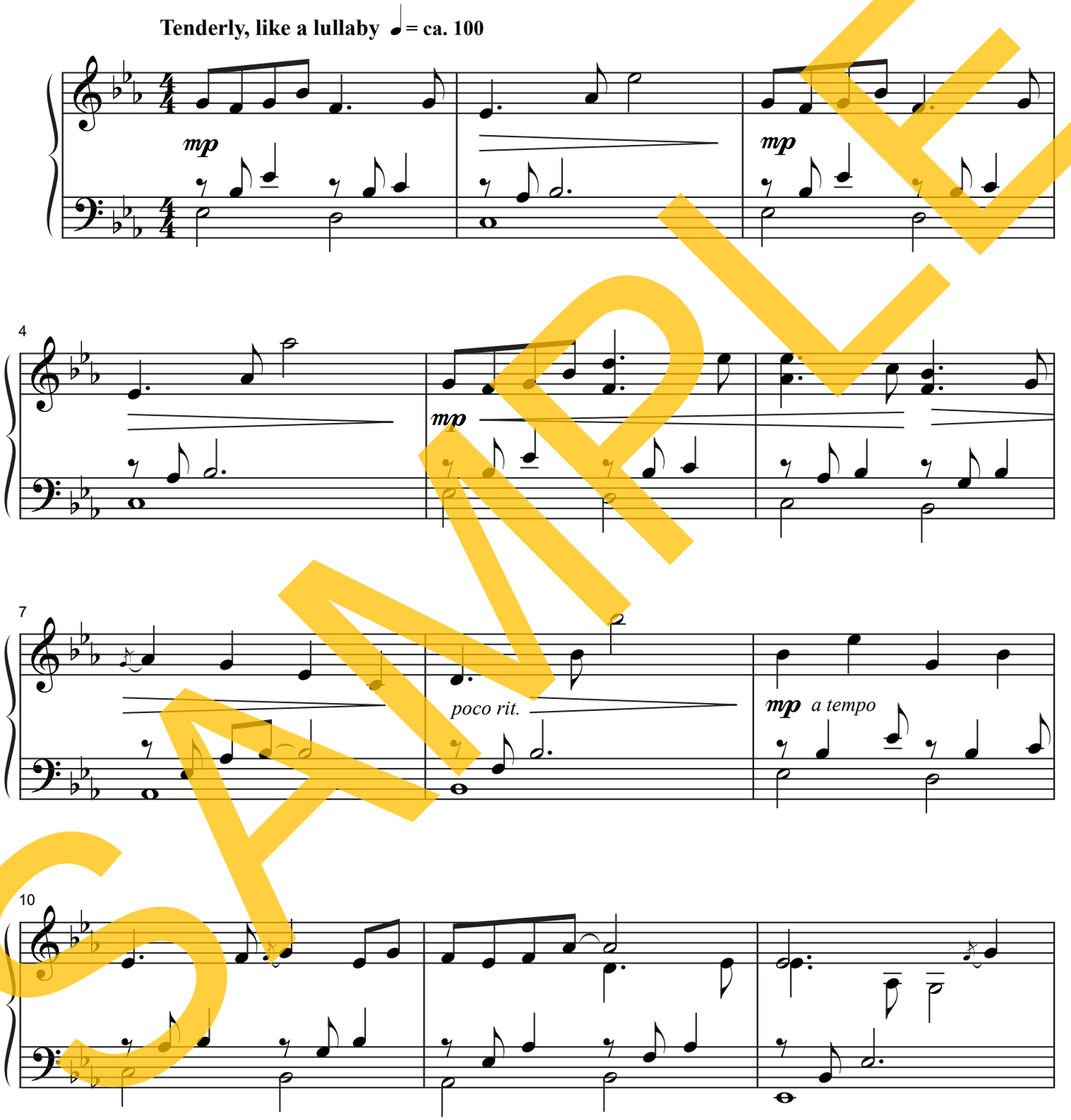

Slightly slower ♩ = ca. 80
62
65
poco rit.
p
mp
a tempo
rit.
Like the beginning ♩ = ca. 72
p
68
71
74
poco rit.

SAMPLE

Still, Still, Still

Austrian Carol
Tune: STILL, STILL, STILL
Arranged by **J.B. Taylor**



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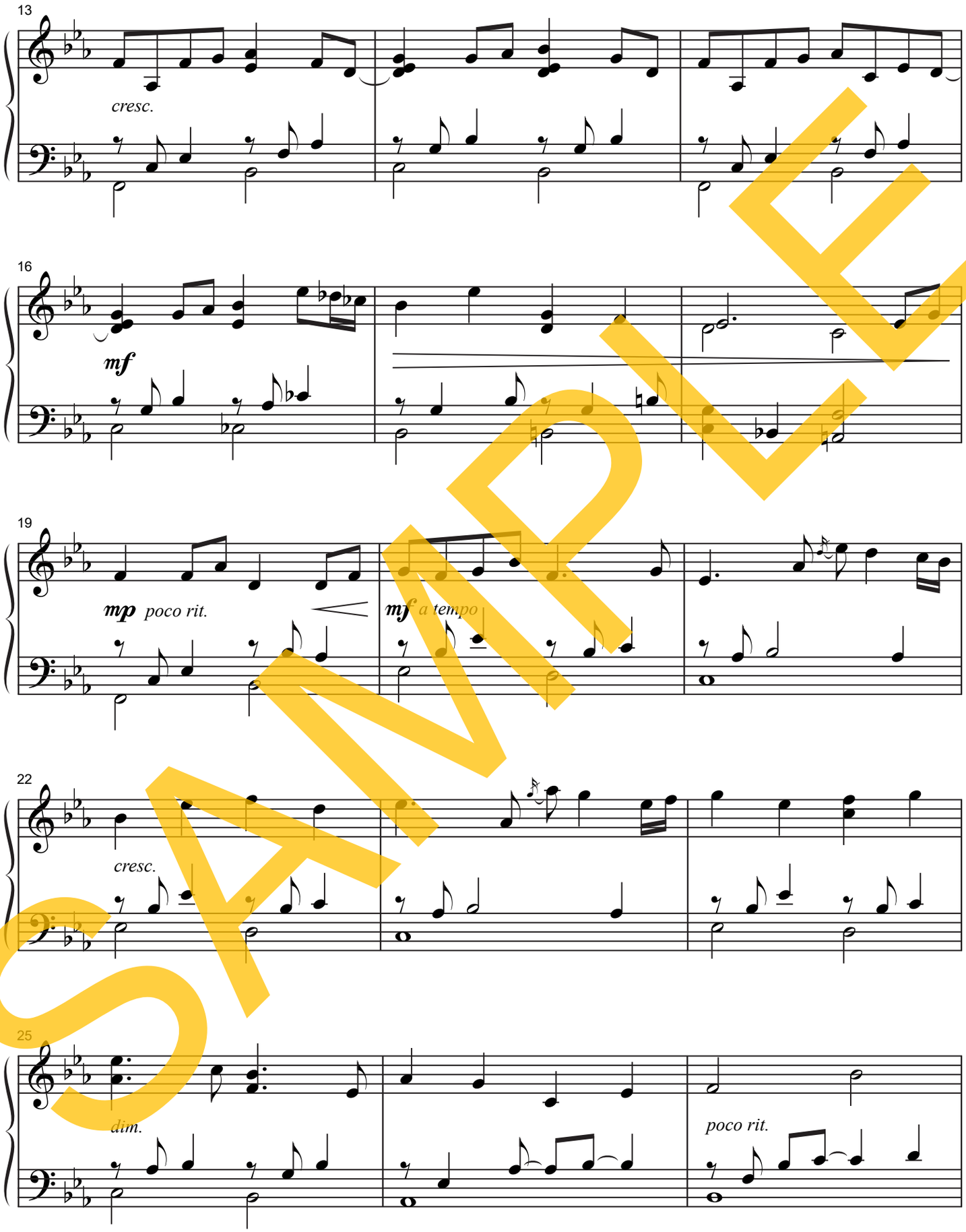

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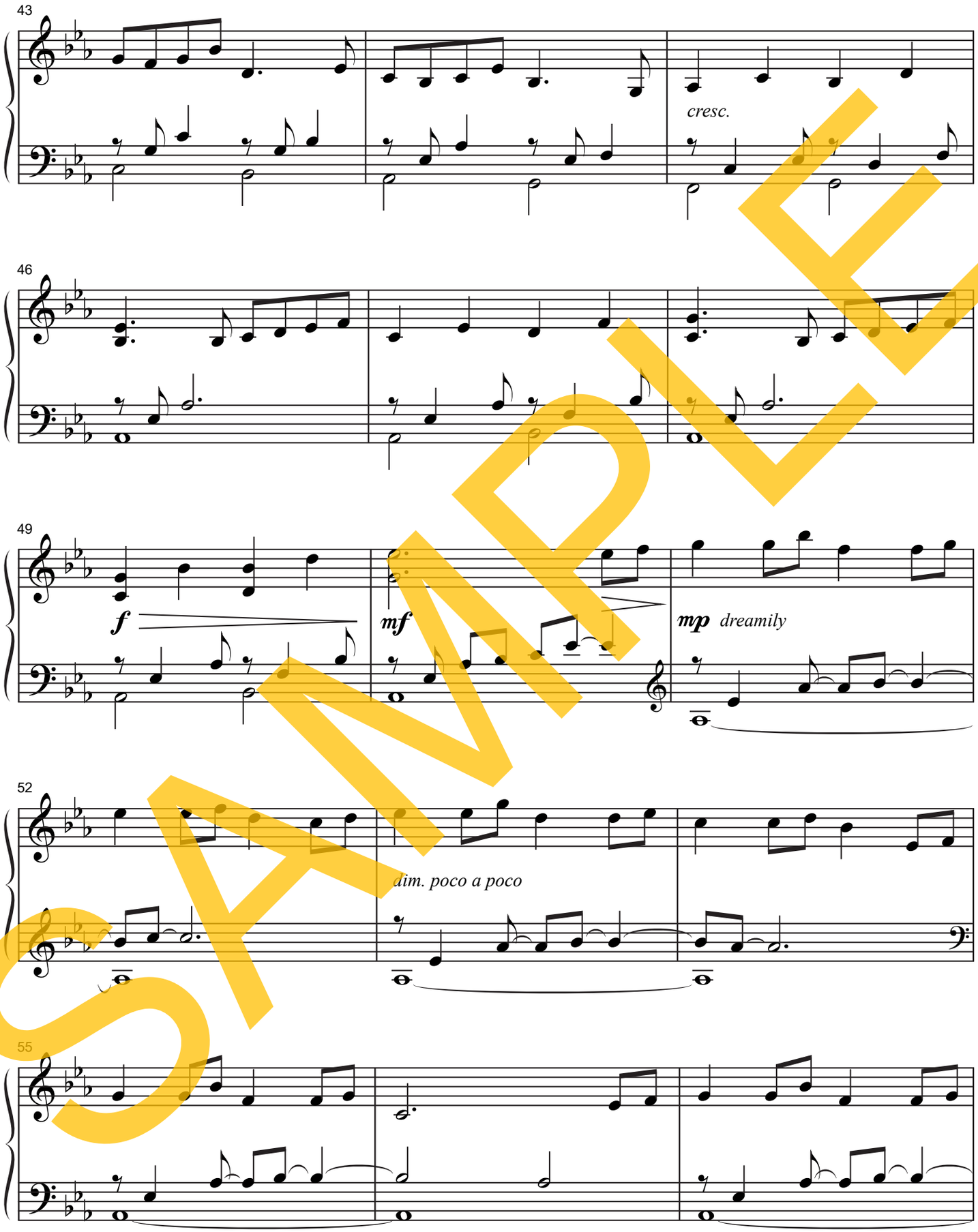

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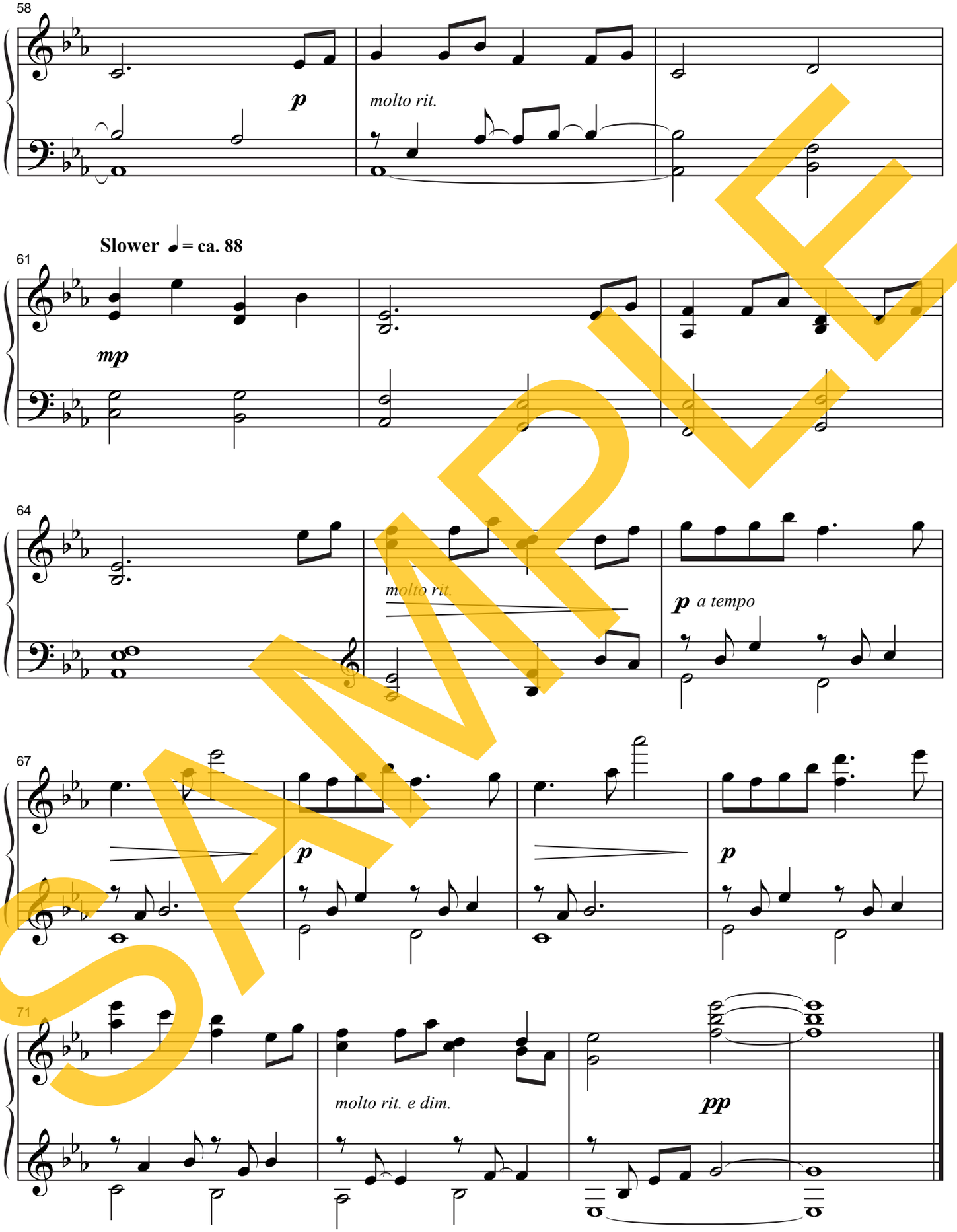
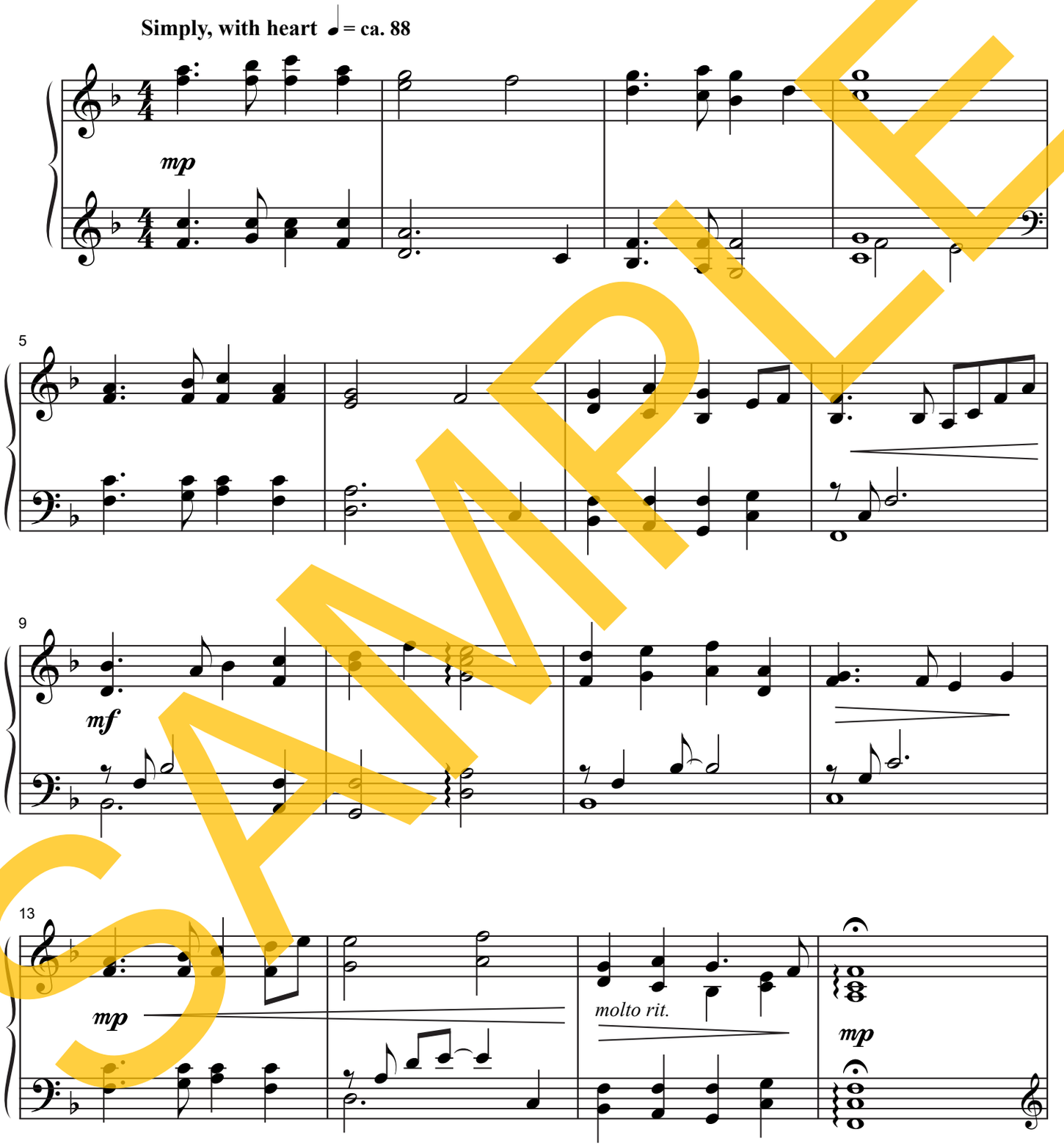

58
p
molto rit.
Slower ♩ = ca. 88
61
mp
64
molto rit.
p a tempo
67
p
p
71
molto rit. e dim.
pp

SAMPLE

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)
Tune: CRANHAM
Arranged by **J.B. Taylor**



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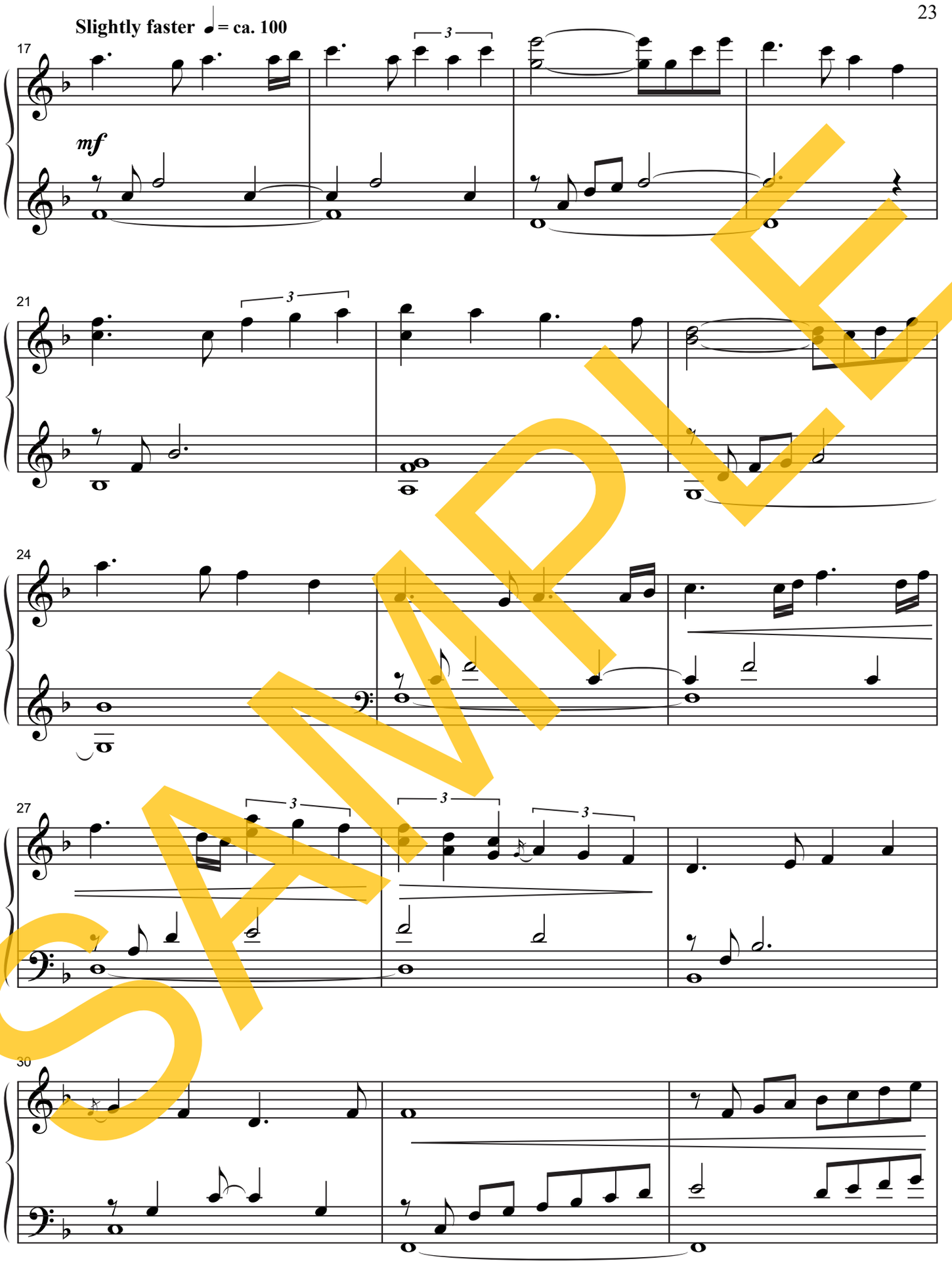

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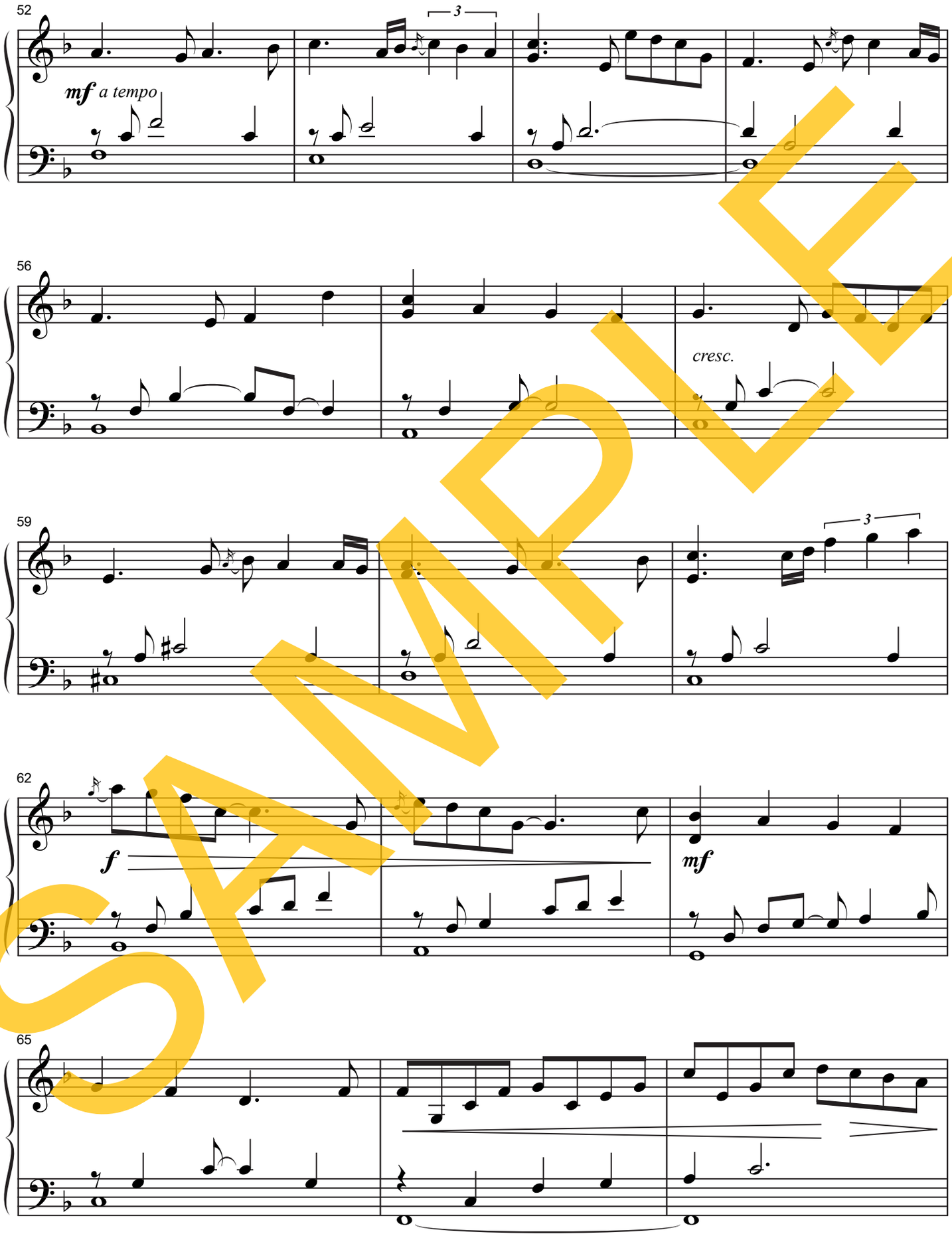

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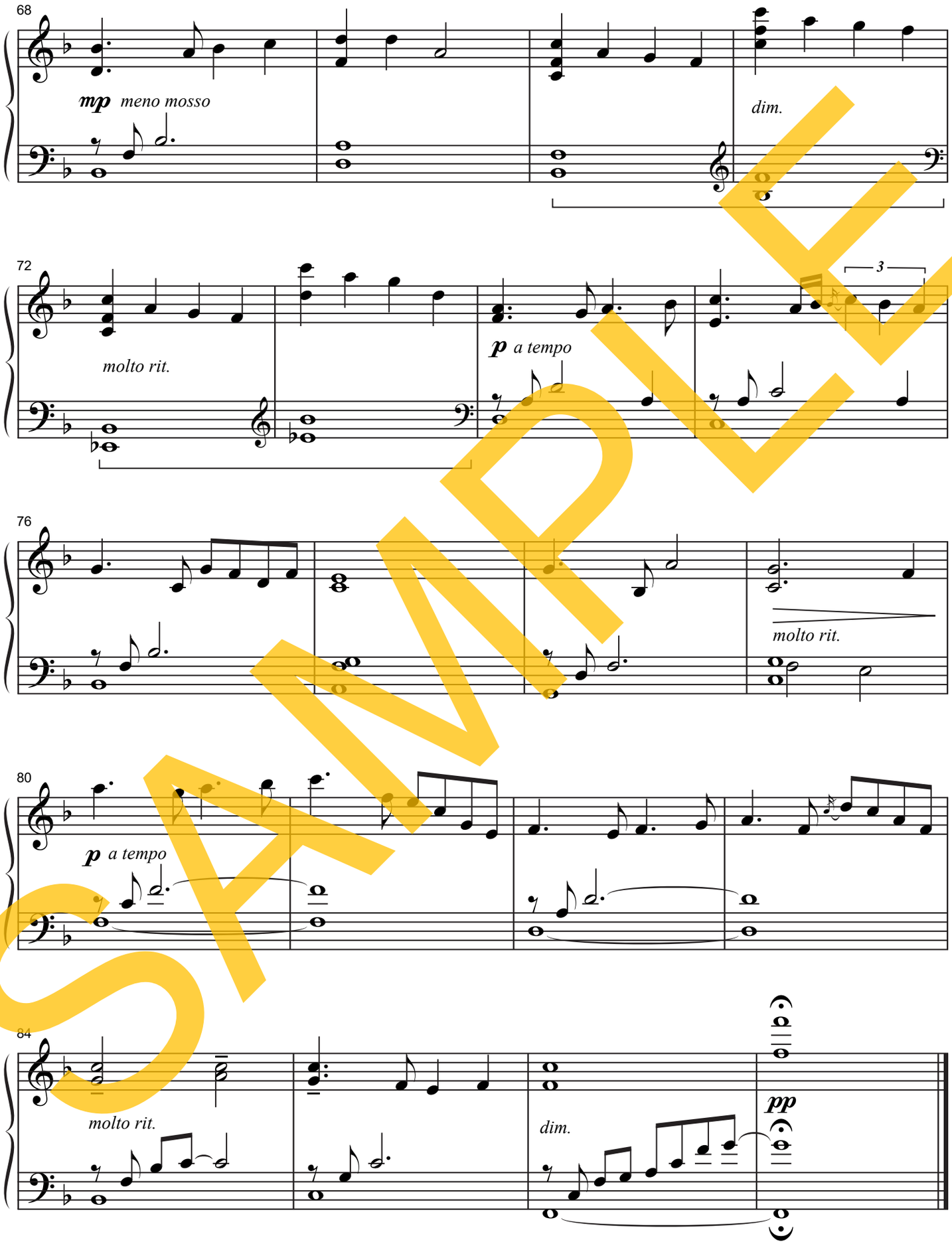
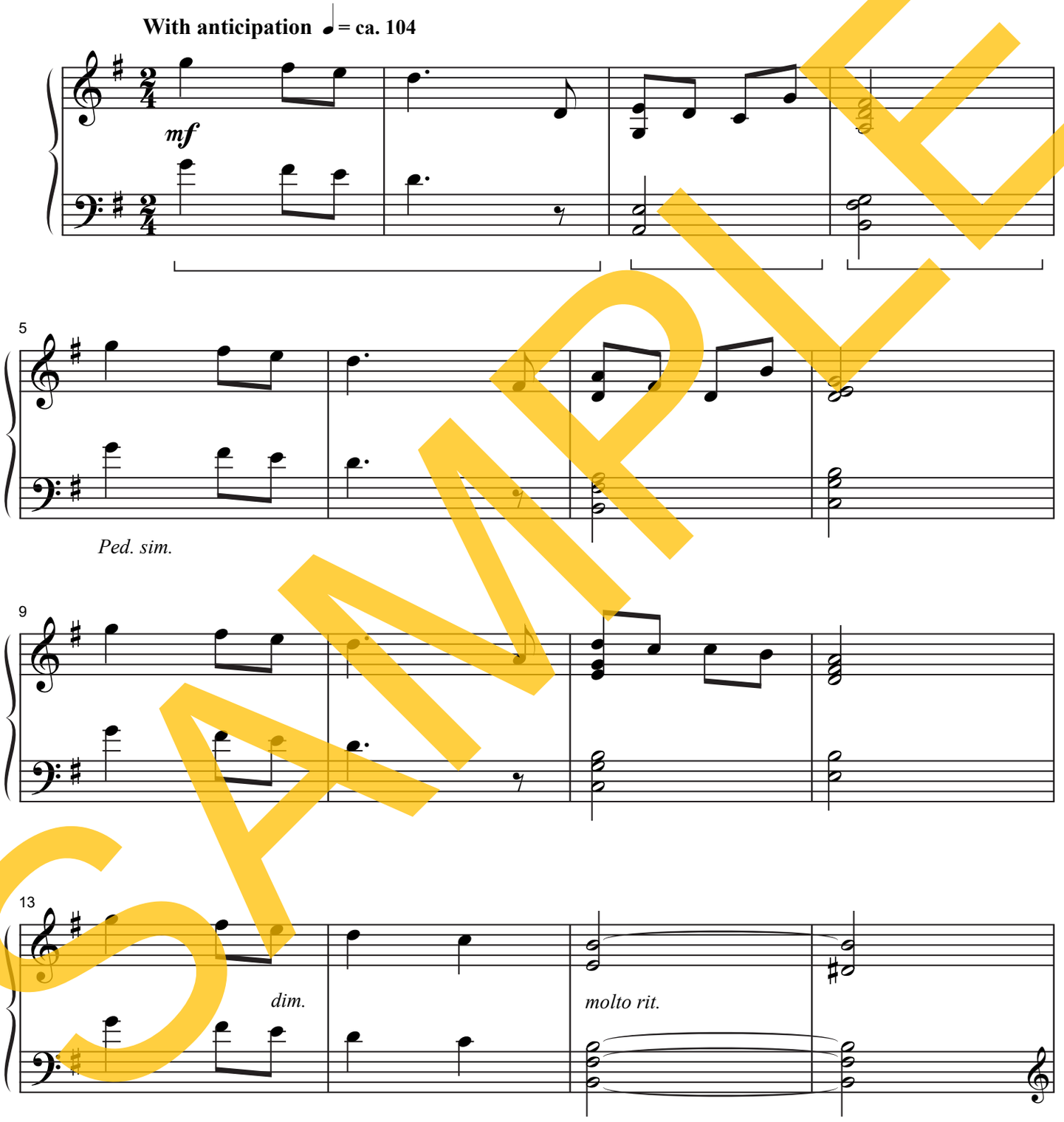

68
mp meno mosso
dim.
72
molto rit.
p a tempo
3
76
molto rit.
80
p a tempo
84
molto rit.
dim.
pp

SAMPLE

How Great Our Joy

German Carol
Tune: JÜNGST
Arranged by **J.B. Taylor**



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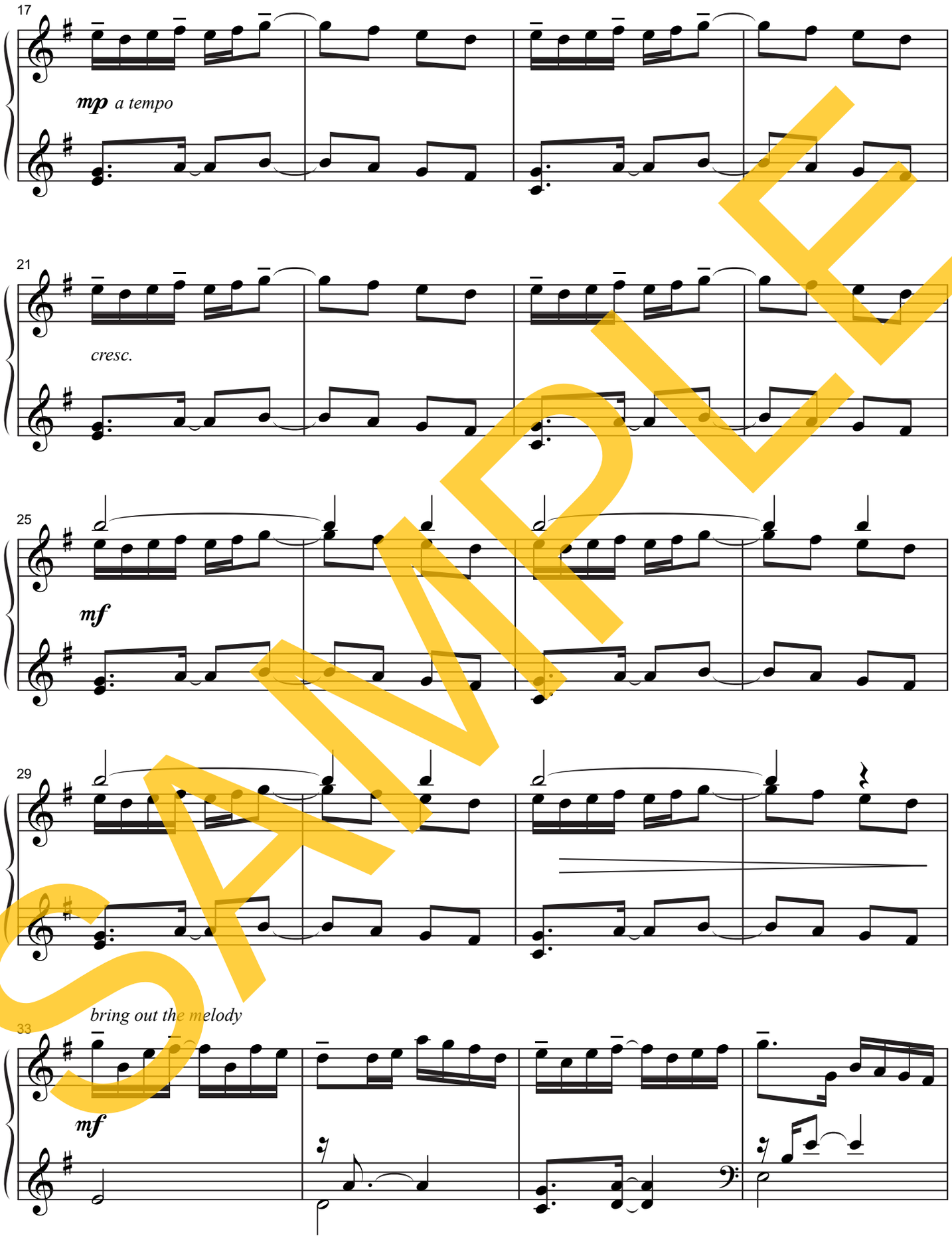

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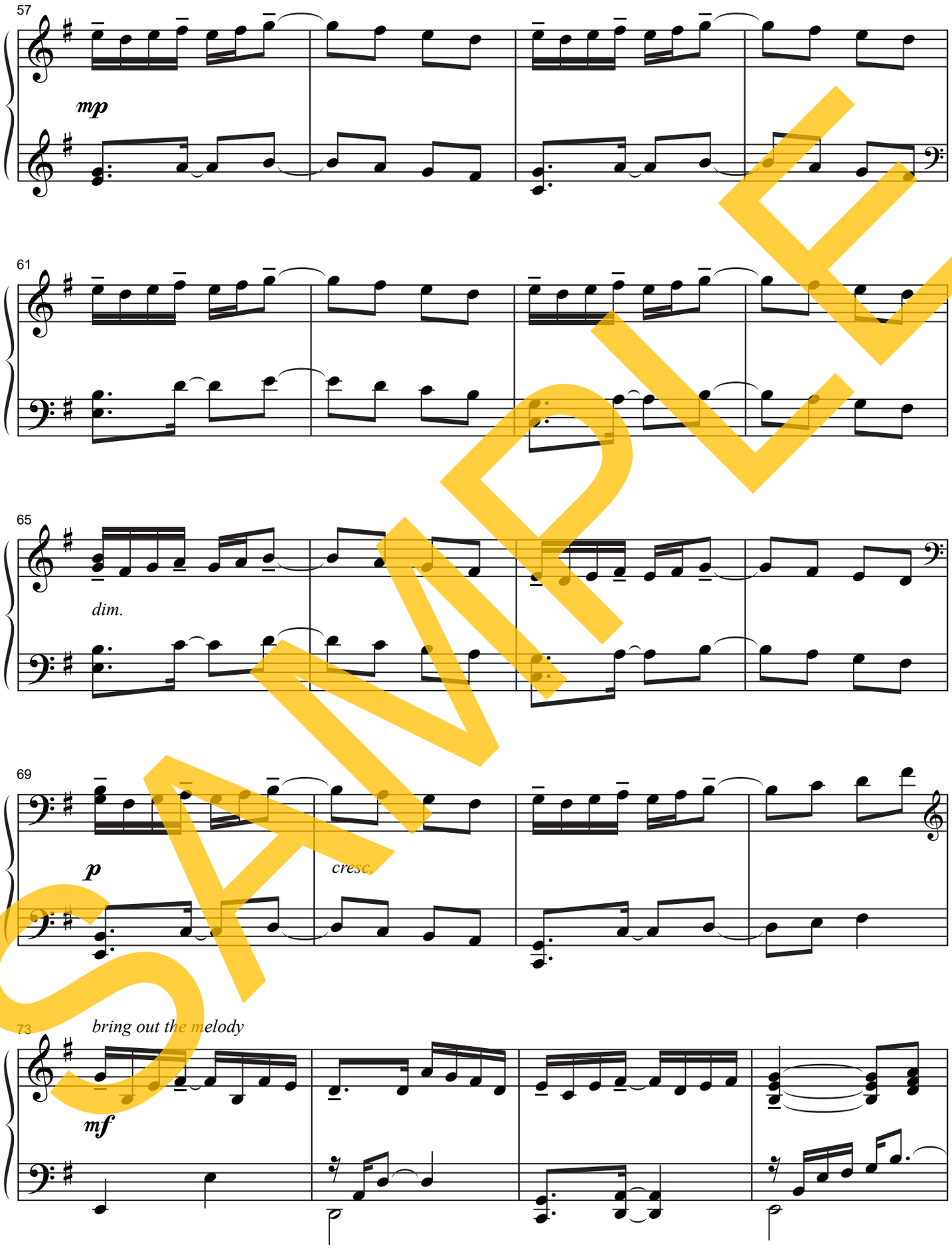

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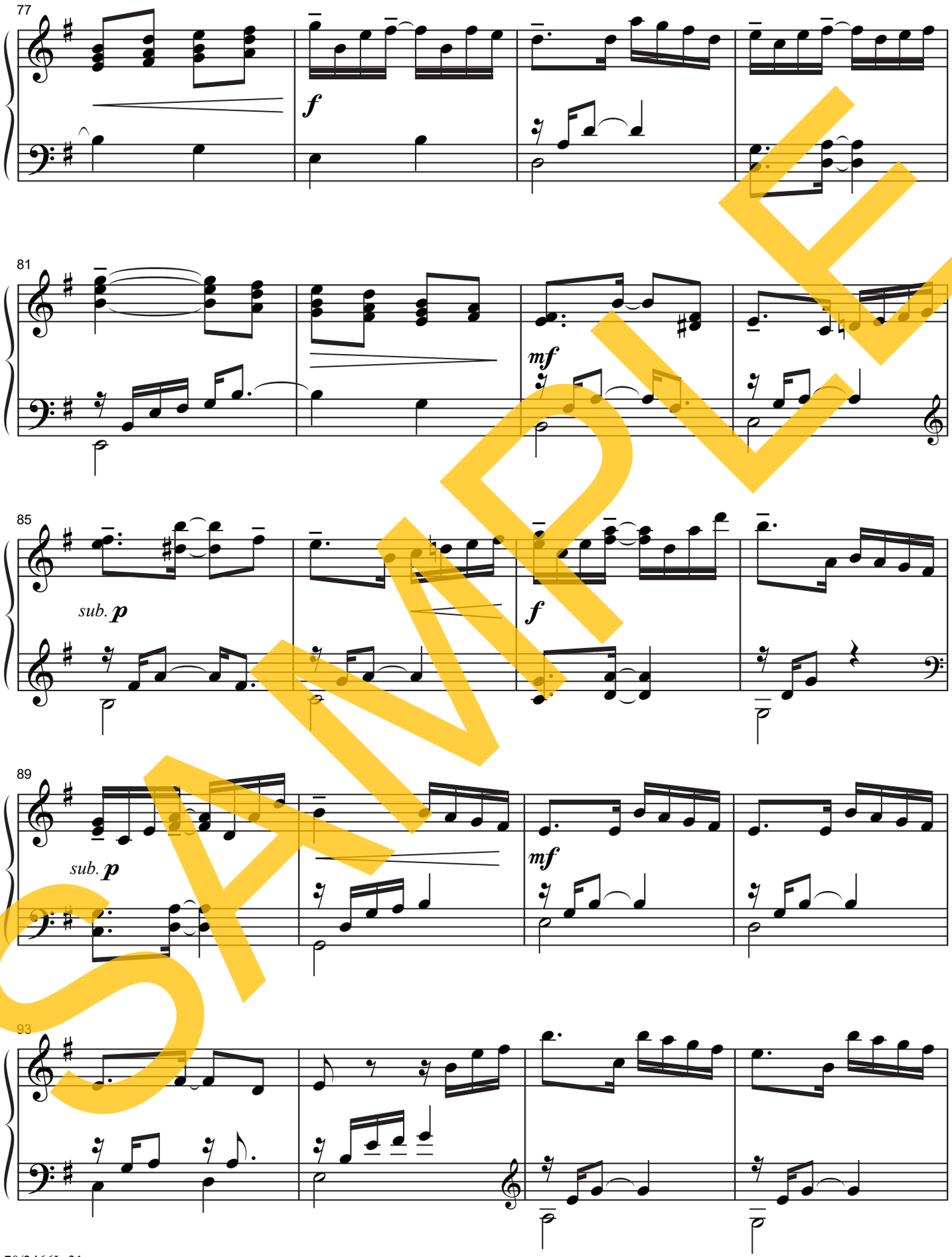

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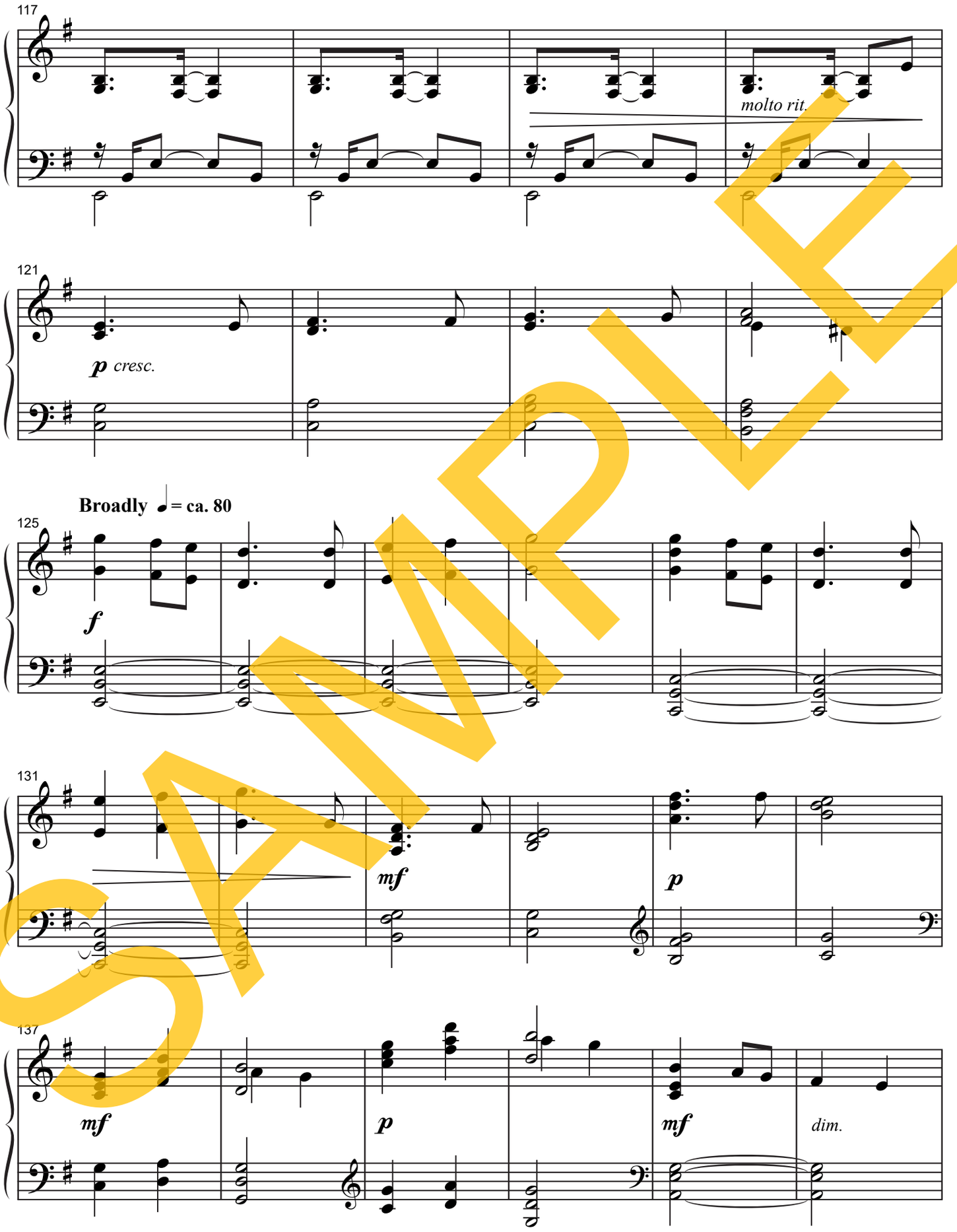
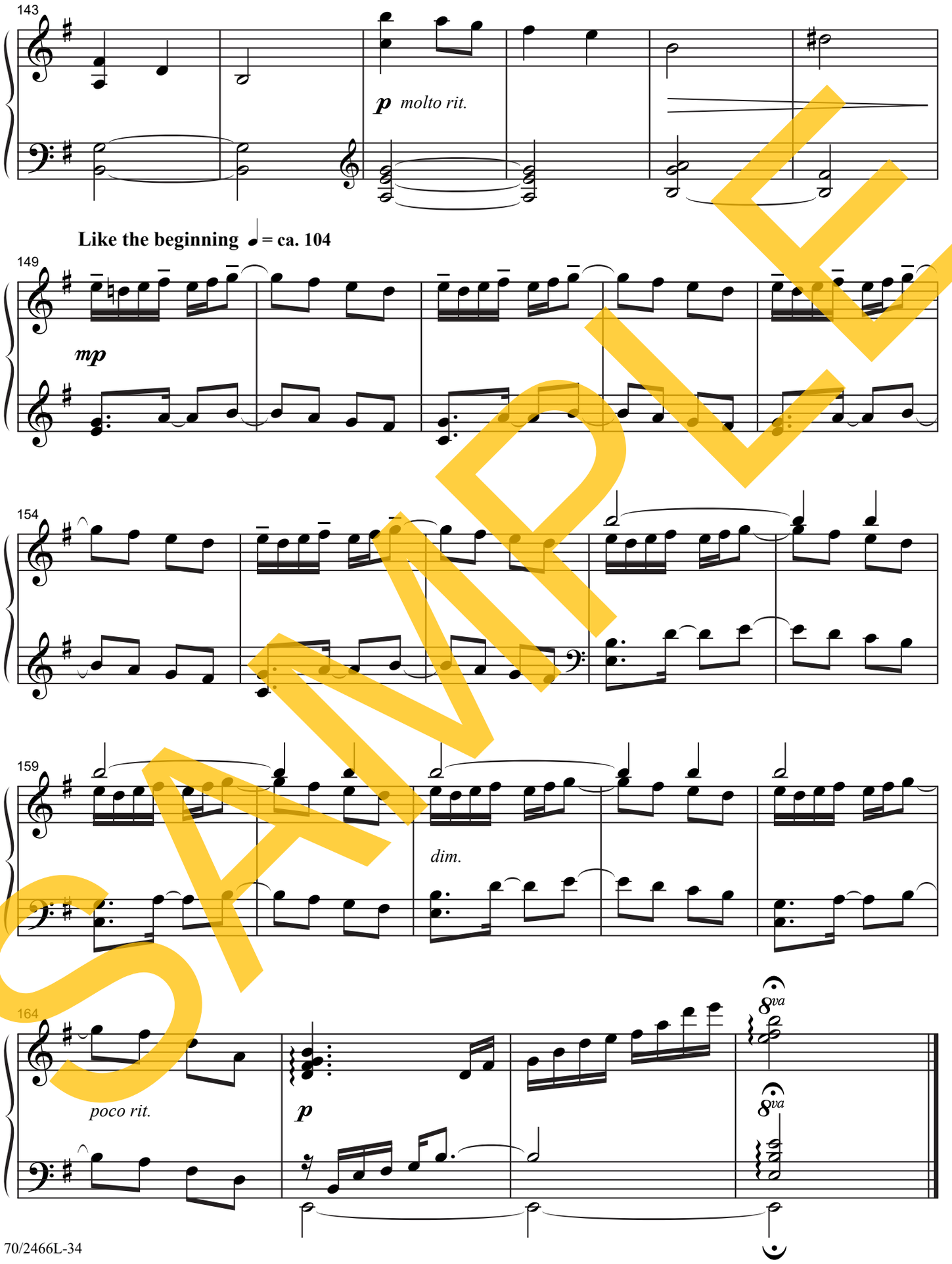

117
molto rit.
121
p cresc.
Broadly ♩= ca. 80
125
f
131
mf
p
137
mf
p
mf
dim.

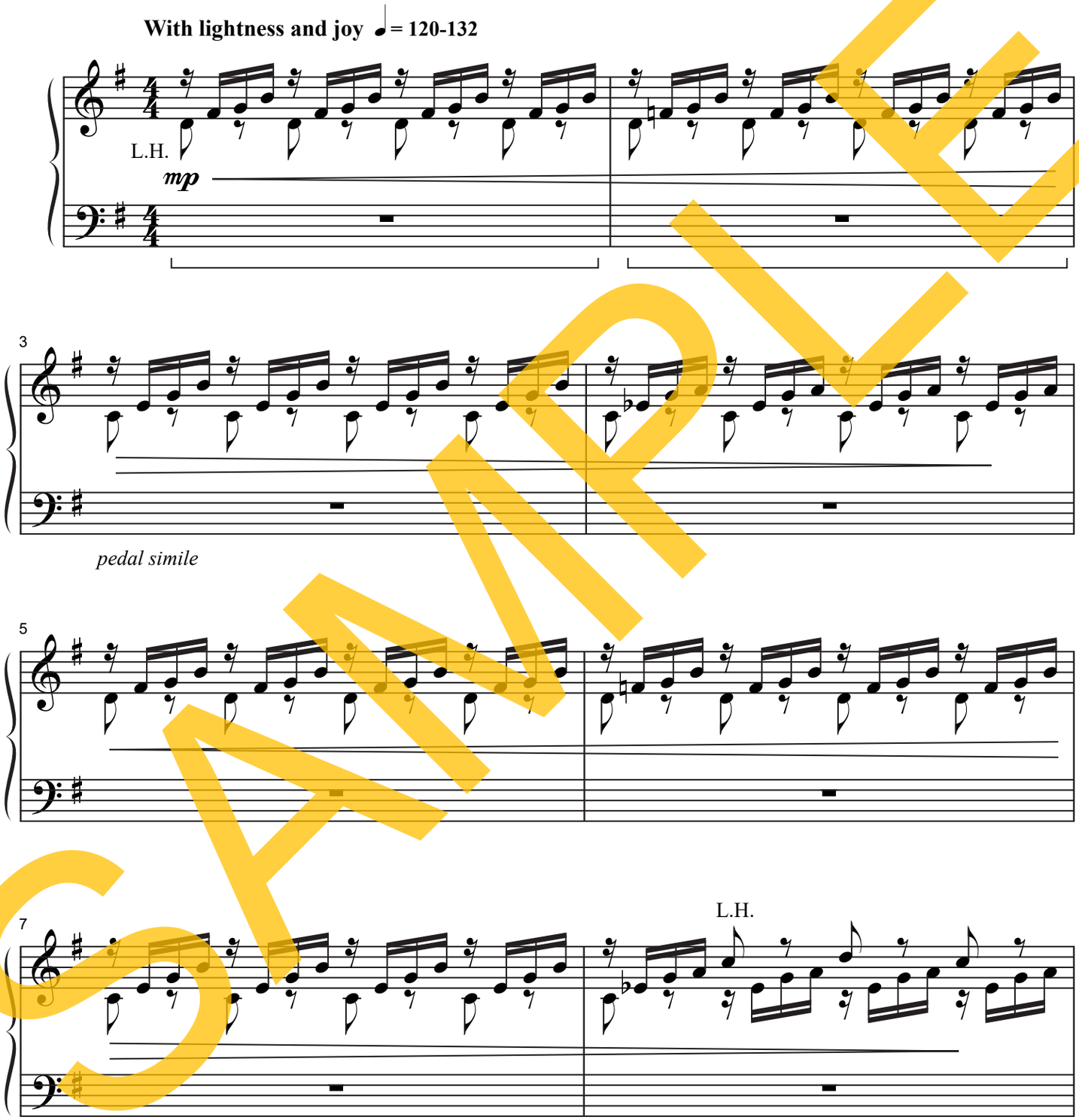
SAMPLE


143
p molto rit.
Like the beginning ♩= ca. 104
149
mp
154
159
dim.
164
poco rit.
p
8va
8va

SAMPLE

We Adore Thee

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
Tune: **HYMN TO JOY**
Arranged by **J.B. Taylor**



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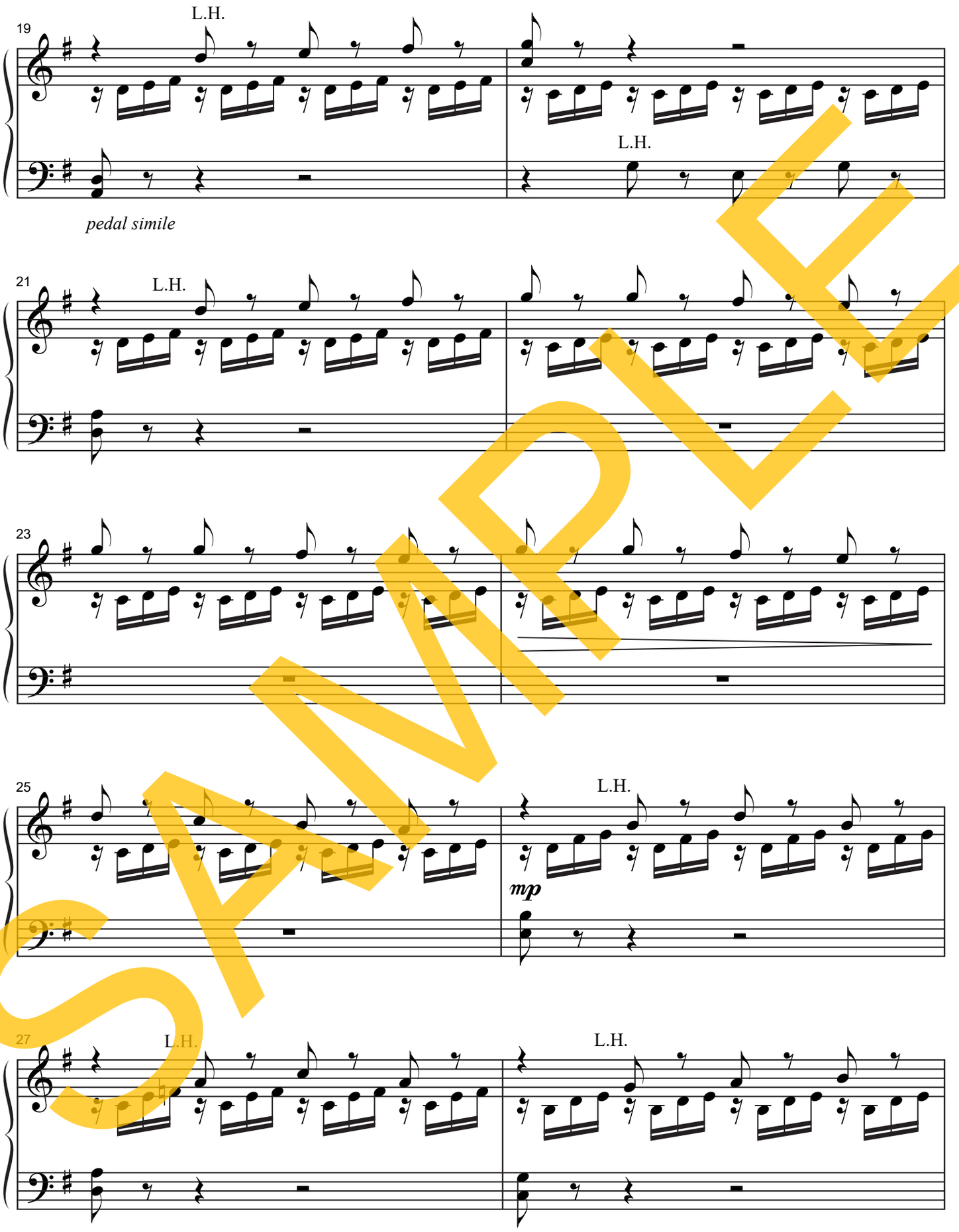

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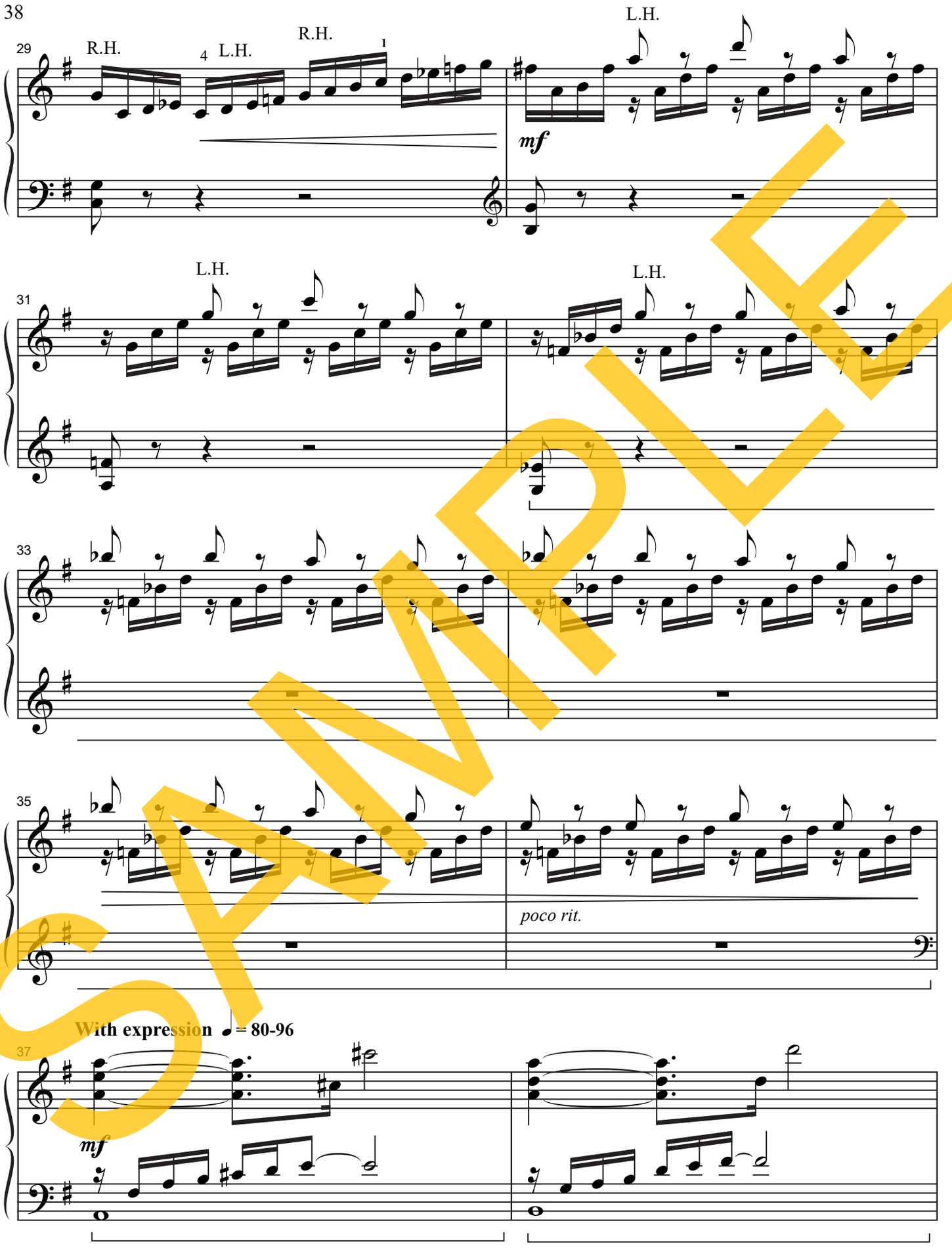
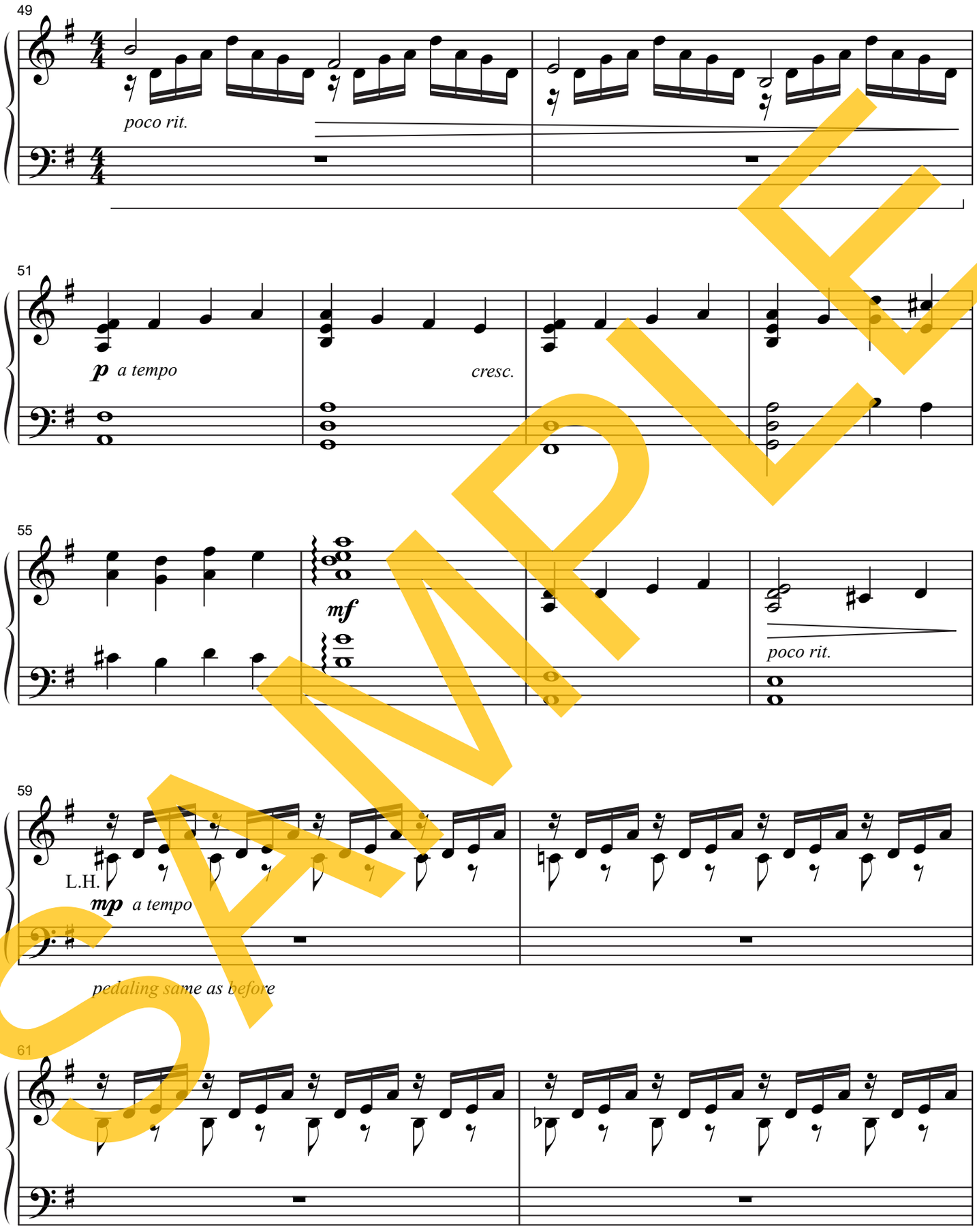
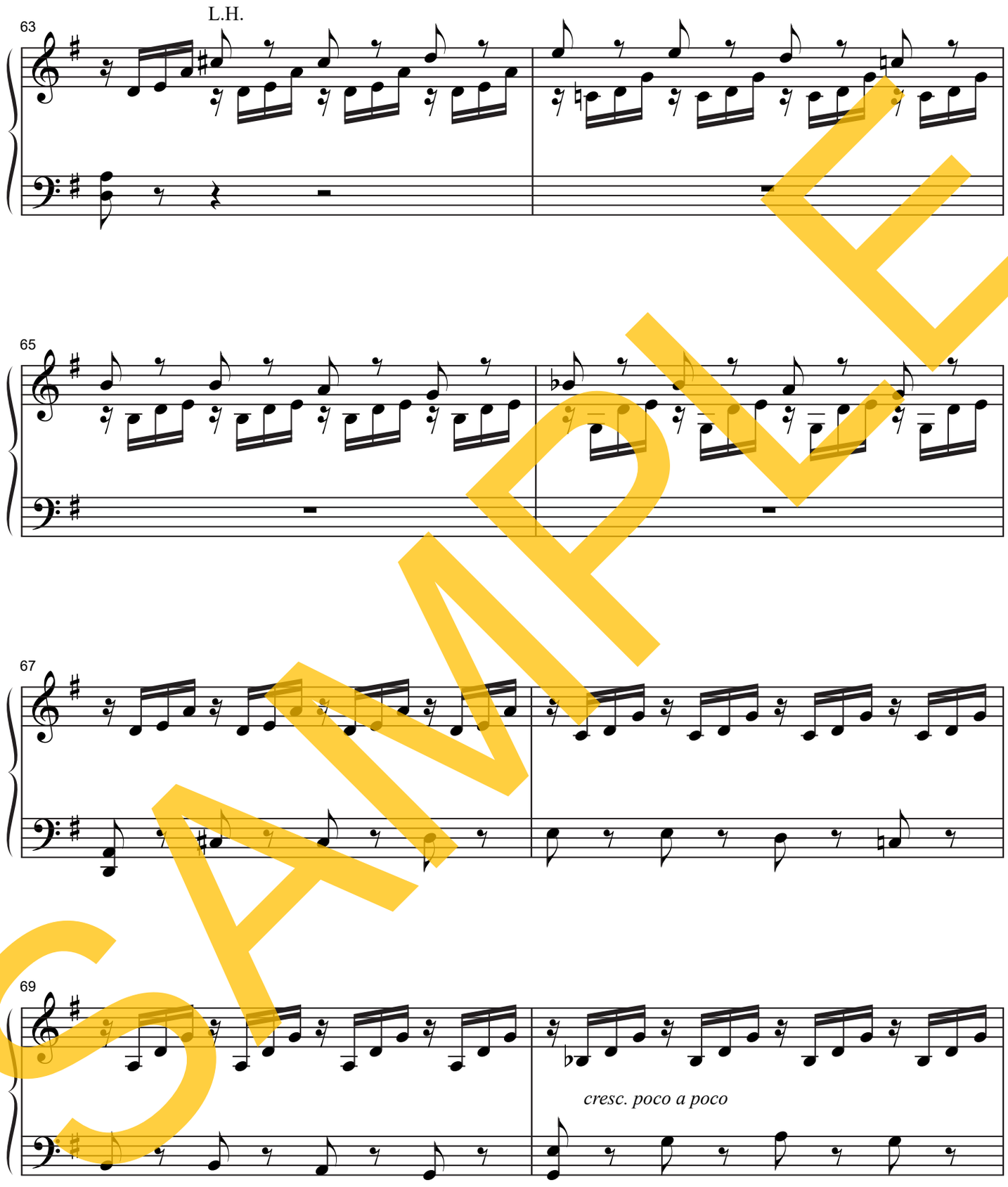

29
R.H.
4
L.H.
R.H.
1
L.H.
mf
31
L.H.
L.H.
33
35
poco rit.
With expression ♩ = 80-96
37
mf

SAMPLE


49
poco rit.
51
p a tempo
cresc.
55
mf
poco rit.
59
L.H.
mp a tempo
pedaling same as before
61

SAMPLE



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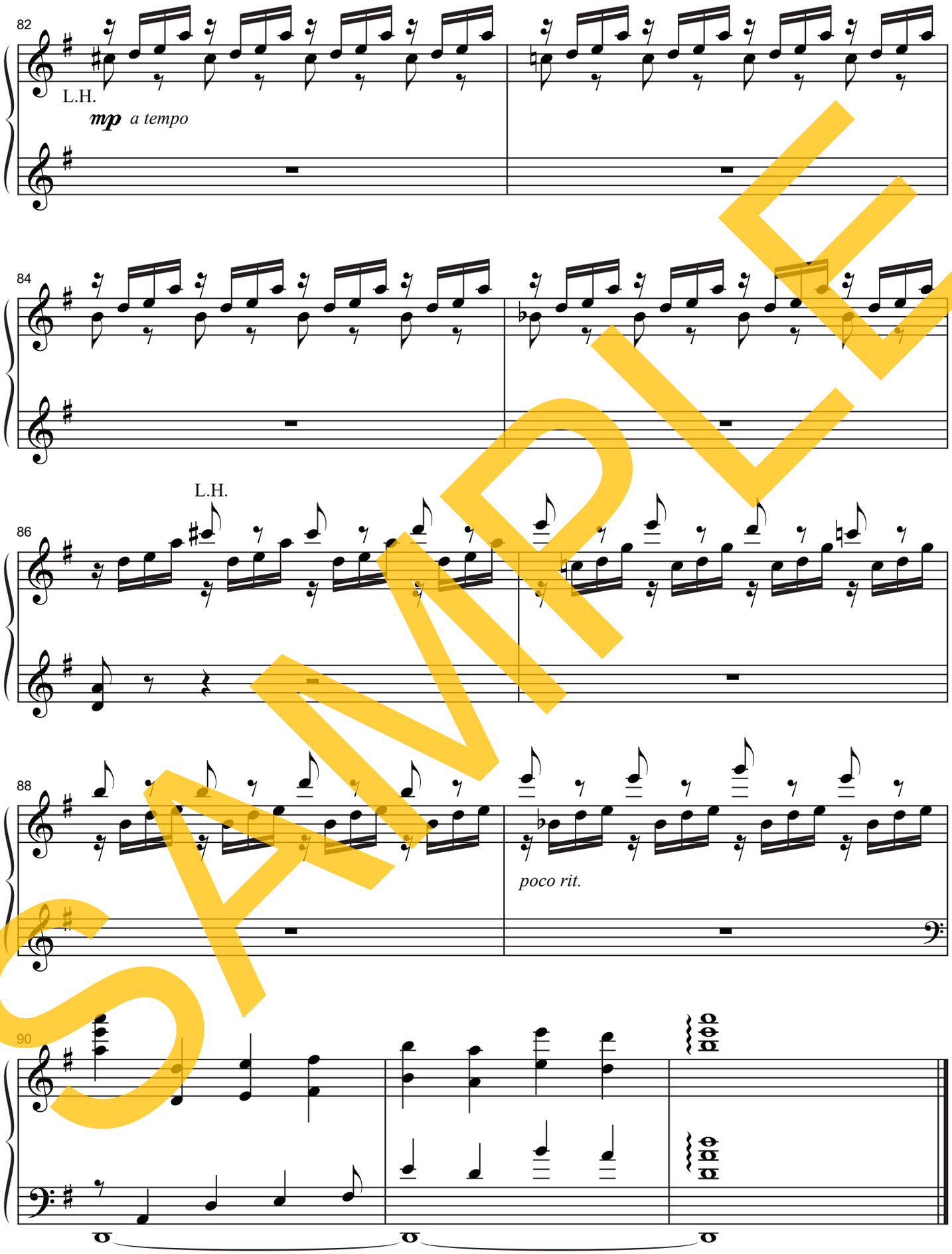
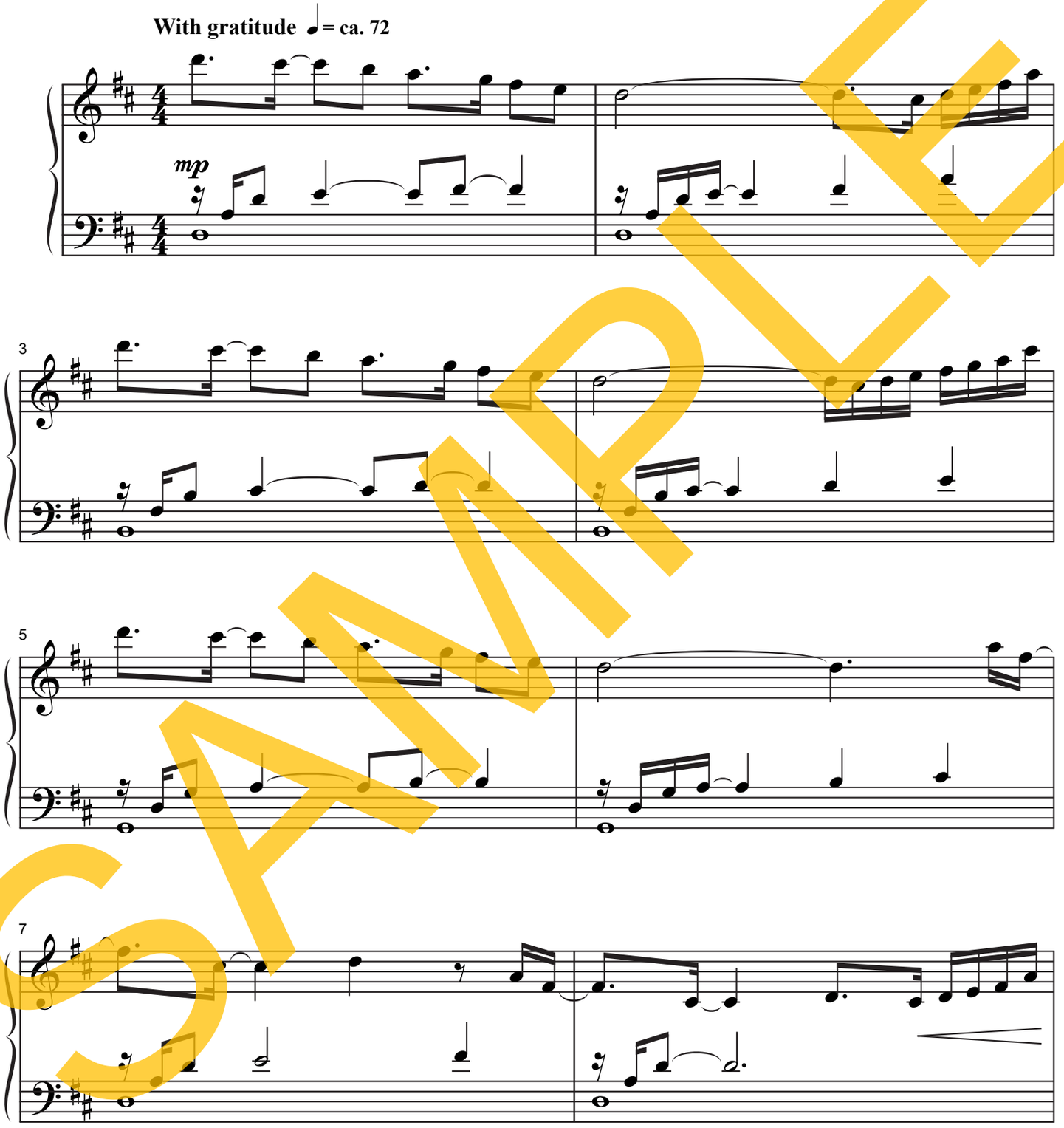


SAMPLE

Wonders of His Love

George Frederick Handel (1685-1759)
Tune: ANTIOCH
Arranged by **J.B. Taylor**



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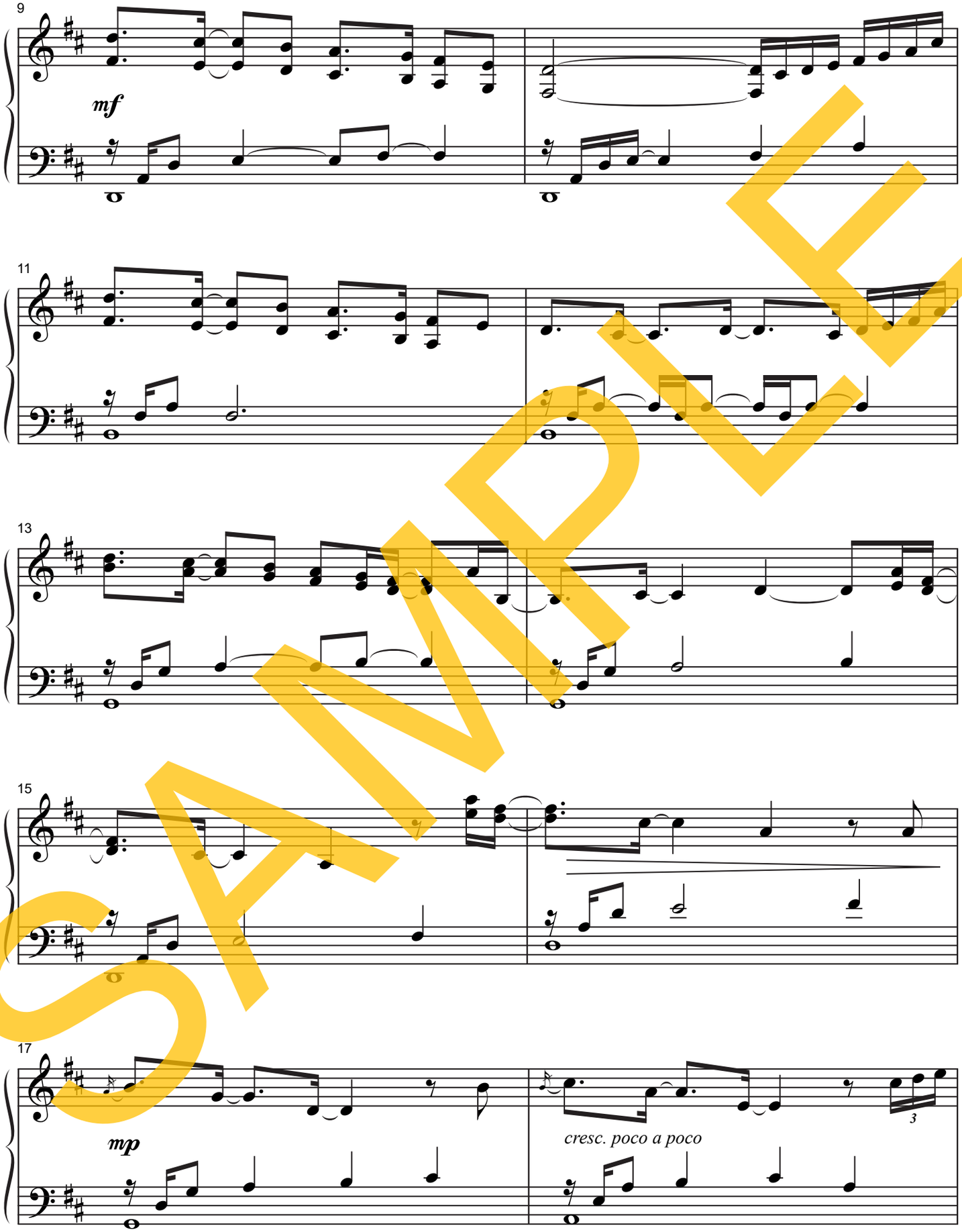

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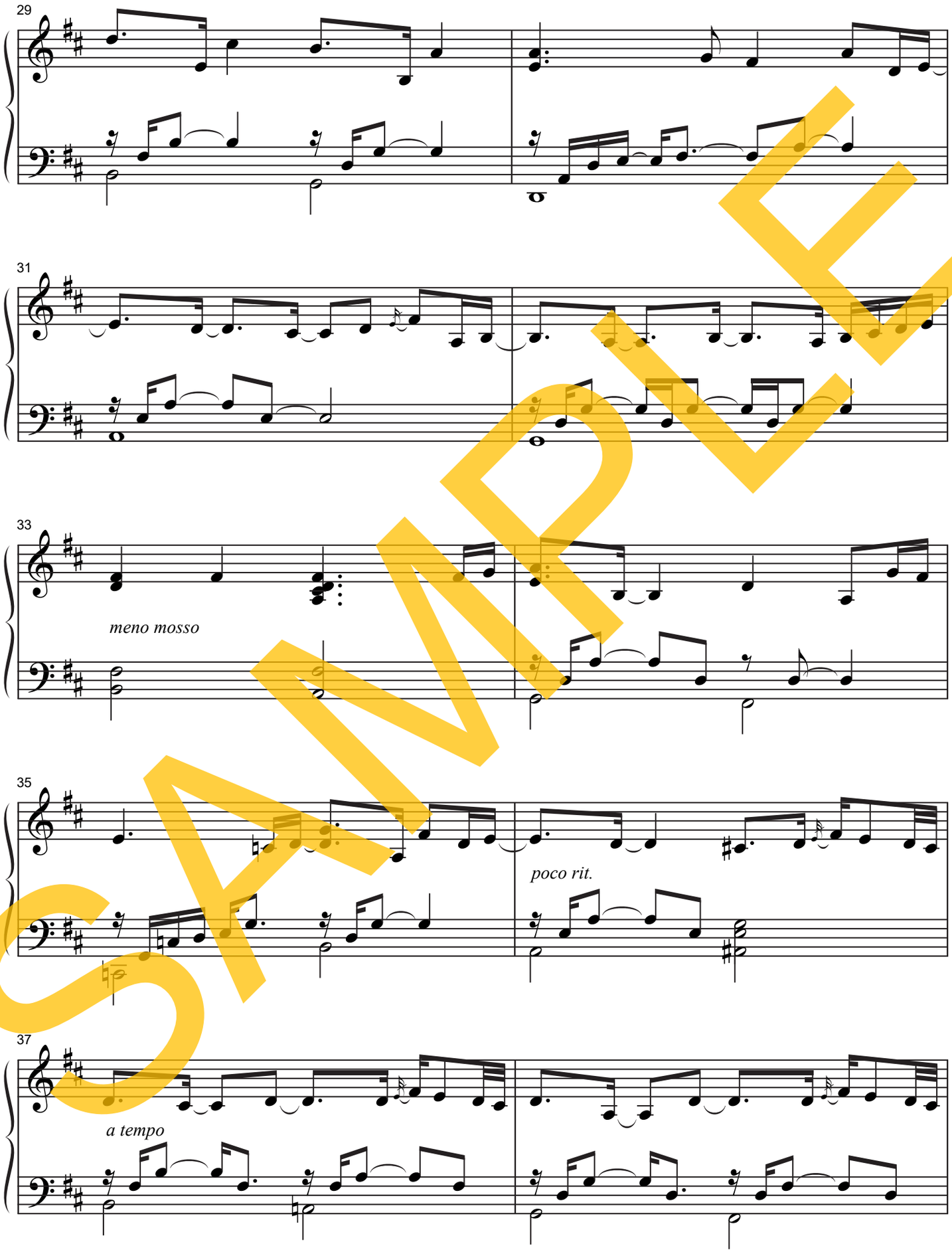

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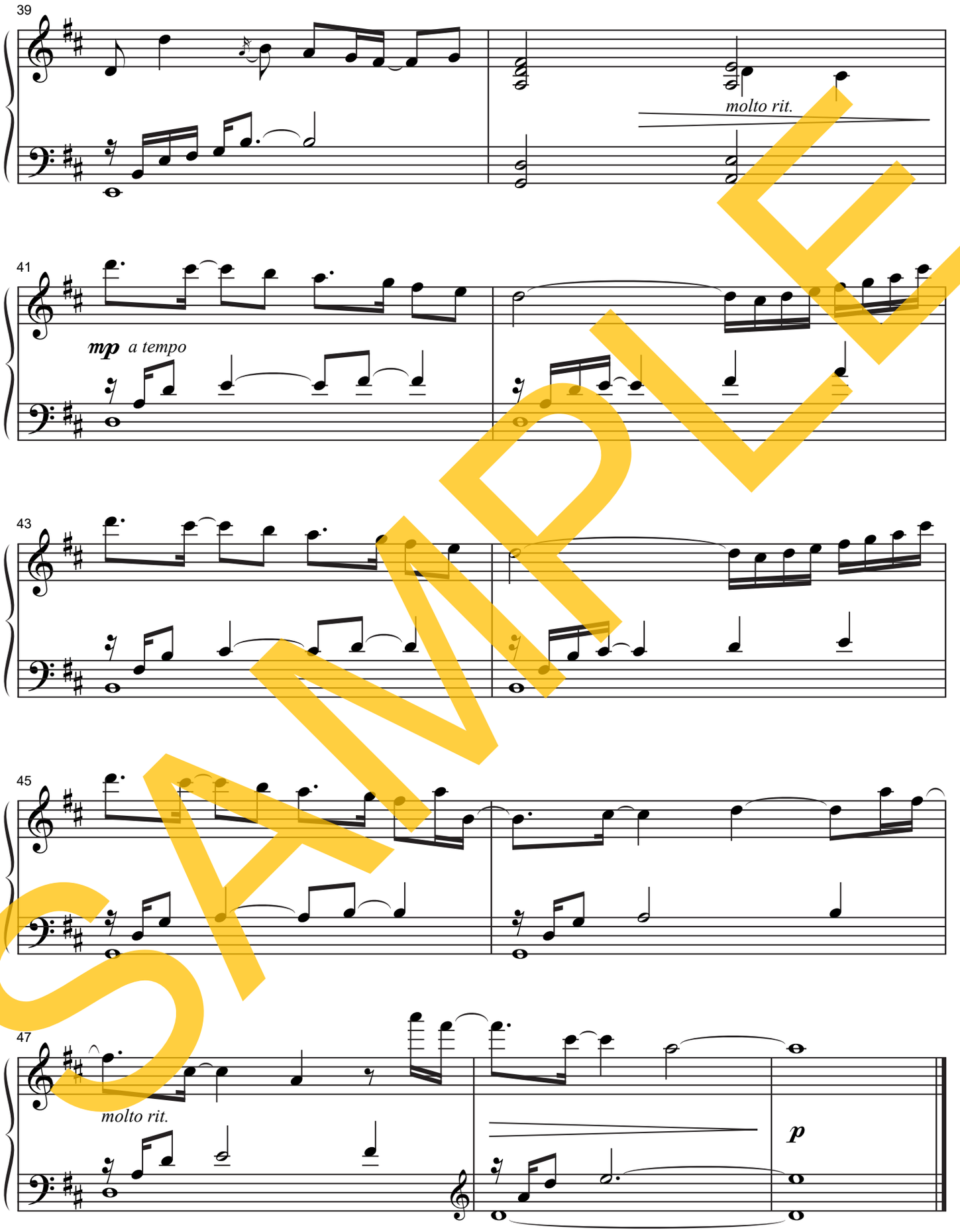
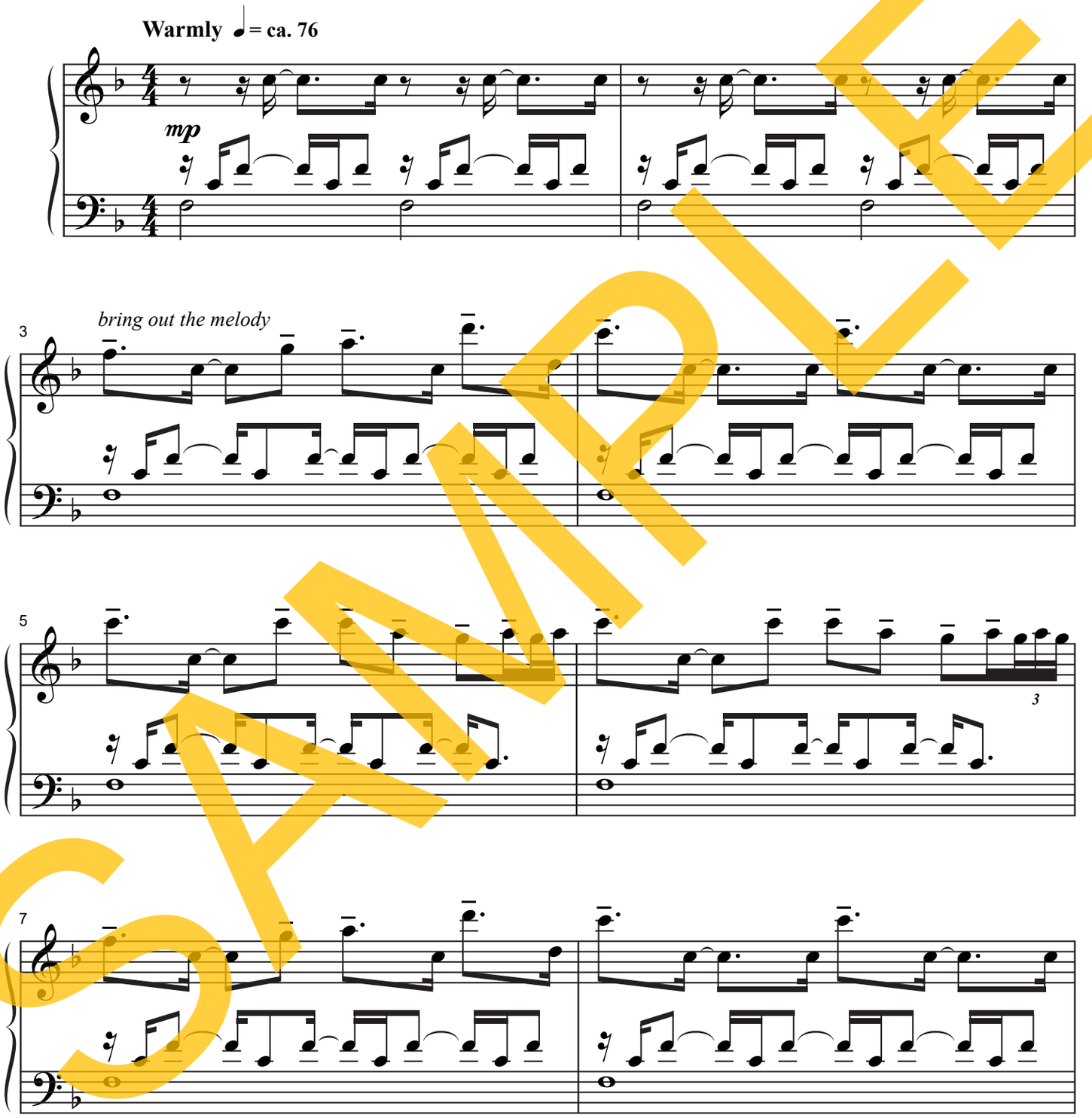


SAMPLE

Love Came Down at Christmas

Traditional Irish Melody
Tune: GARTAN
Arranged by **J.B. Taylor**



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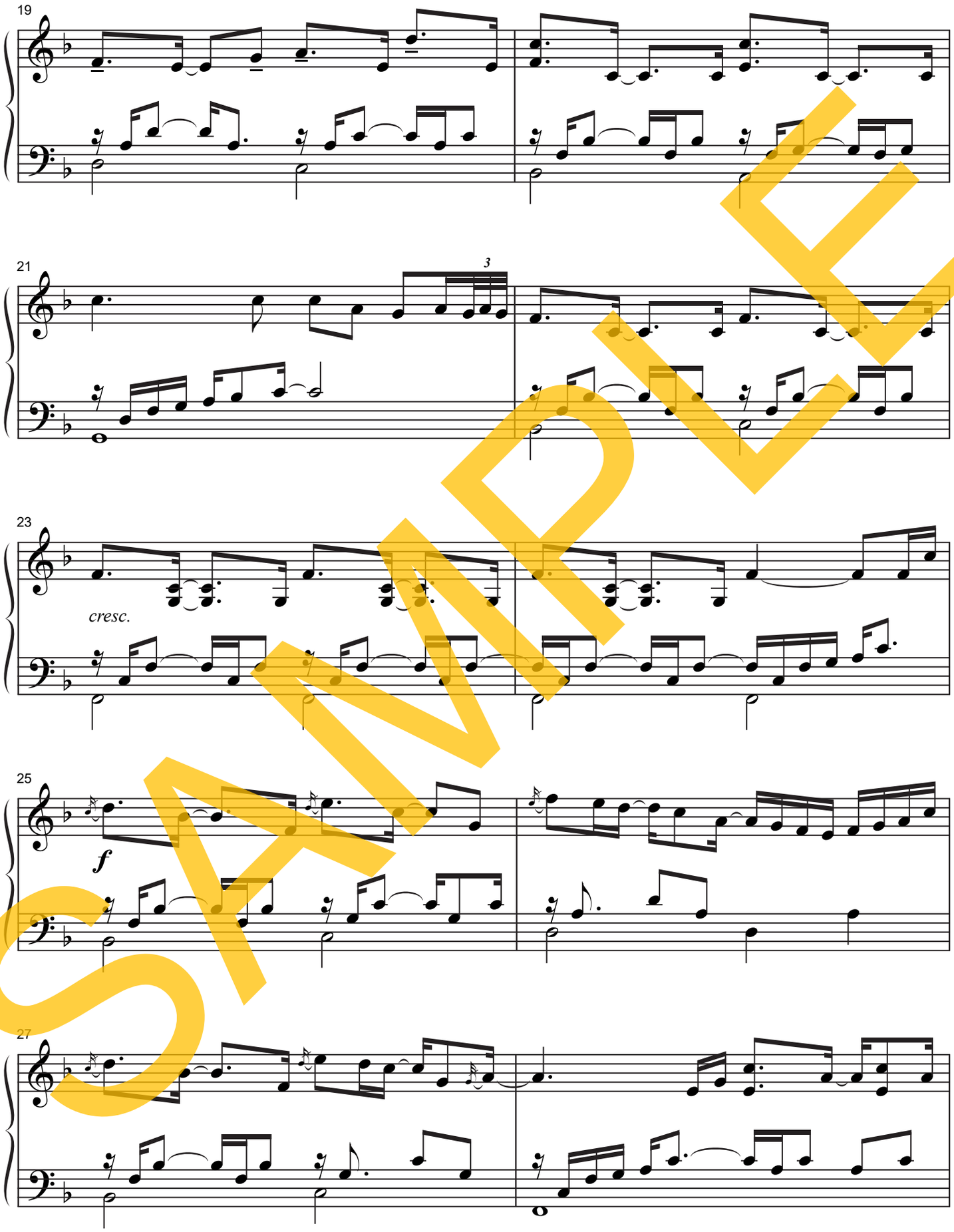

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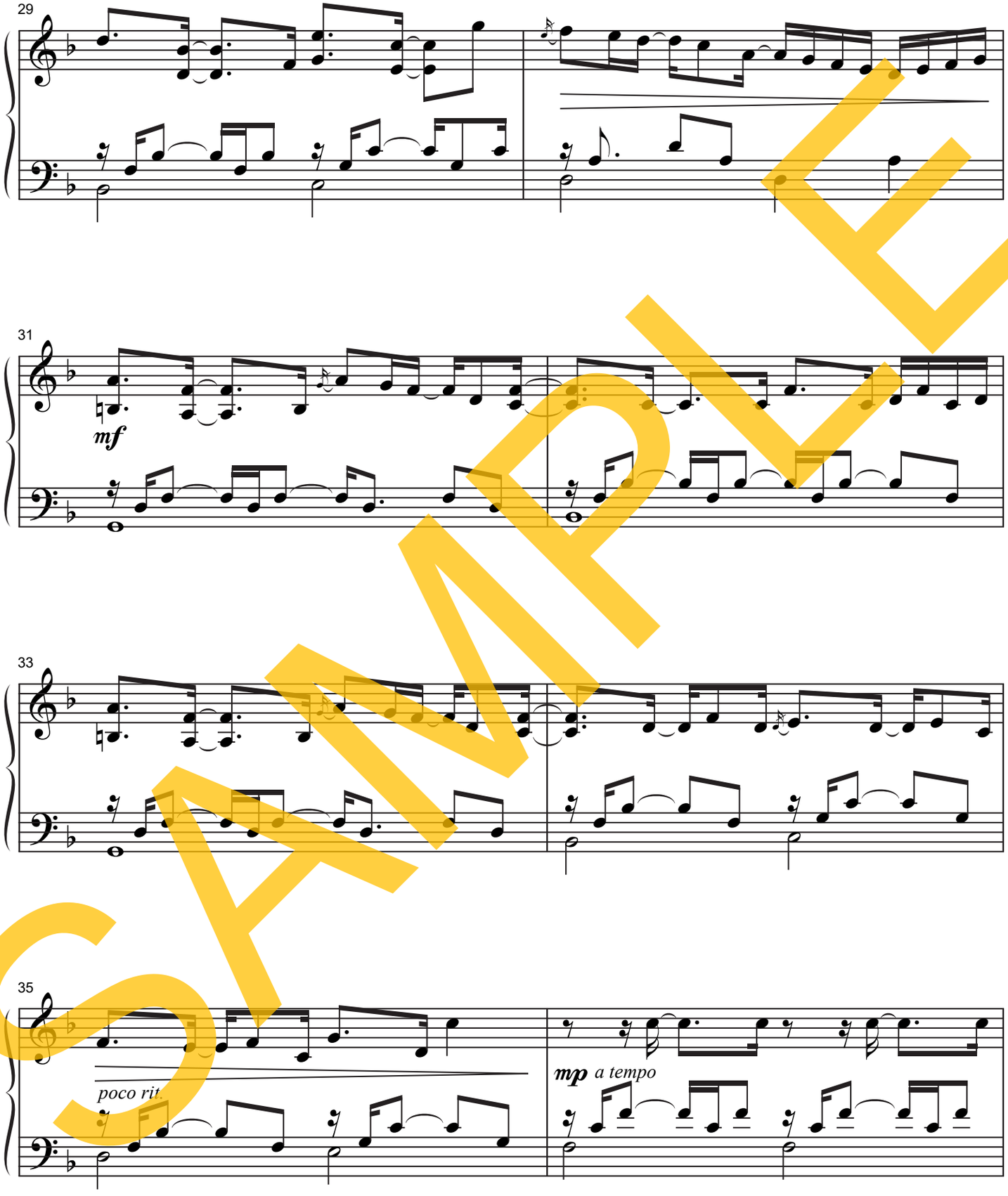

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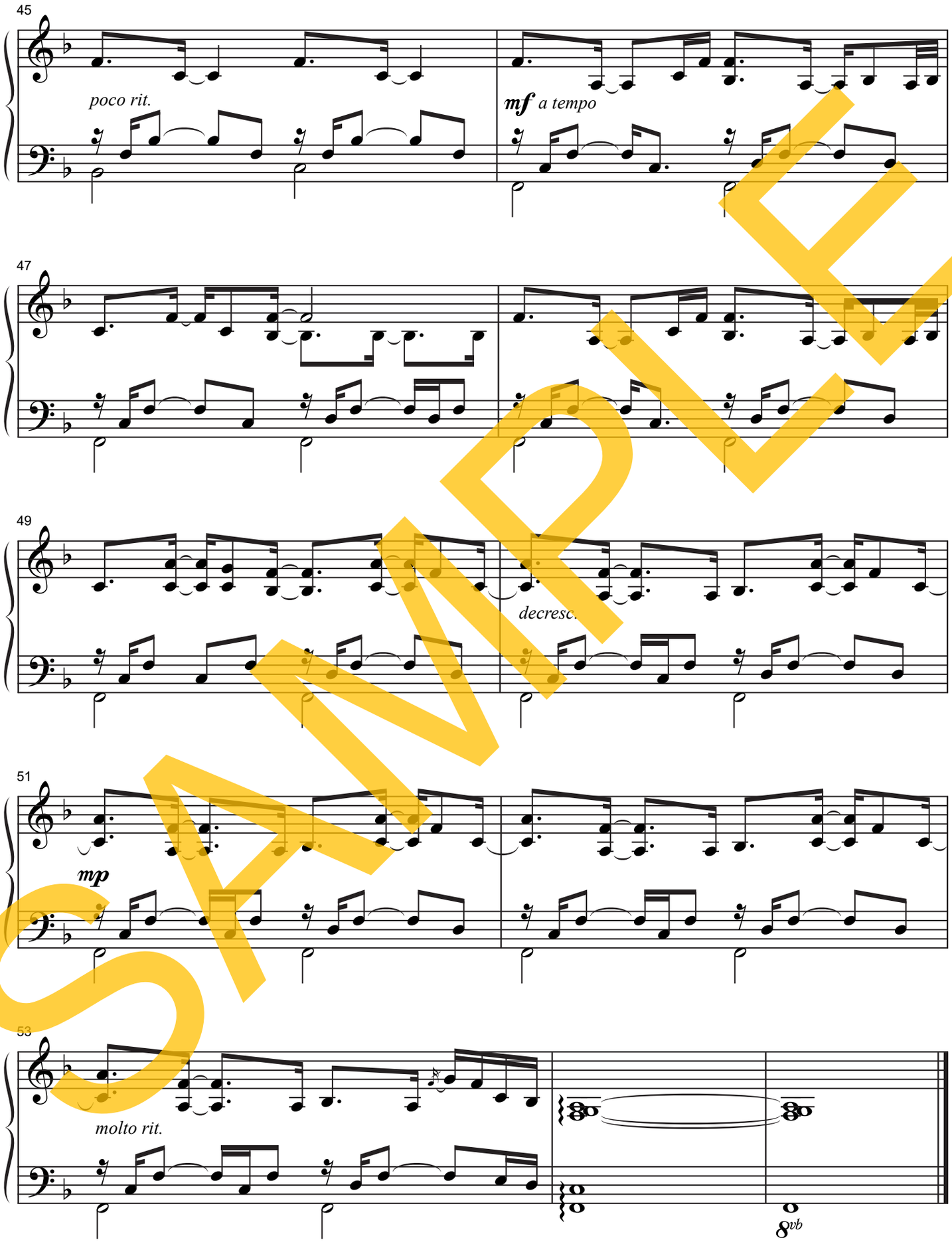

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