PIANO
INTERMEDIATE

How Sweet the Name

THIRTEEN TREASURED AMERICAN HYMN TUNES

Stan Pethel

Sample

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lillenas
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Foreword

The 1850s were a turbulent time in the United States of America. Western expansion was underway as thousands of people traveled along perilous roads, like the Oregon Trail, in search of land and a better life. California's statehood signaled the end of Manifest Destiny, but the tenuous debate over the extension of slavery would lead to the Civil War. As people migrated across the country, small towns and cities were established, which provided fertile ground for new ideas and innovations—including music.

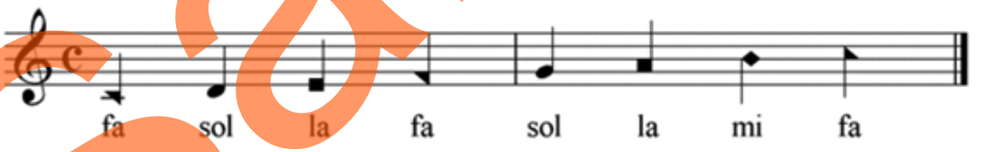
An enterprising musician, William "Singing Billy" Walker, saw an opportunity to expand the music industry and its audience. He went to work and compiled a volume of 335 songs from various sources and composers. Walker's first book, *The Southern Harmony,* was originally published in 1835 in what we would now call landscape format. The final edition, published in 1854, remains the same to this day.

Traveling by stagecoach and covered wagons, "Singing Billy" traversed the country with volumes of *The Southern Harmony and Musical Companion* in tow. In small towns and cities, he held "singing schools" where basic music instruction was taught, and participants purchased a copy of Walker's collection.

Walker claimed that he sold 600,000 copies of the tome. Very impressive, considering the estimated population of the United States at that time was just over 23 million people. That's close to three percent of the population.

In a music engraving style that appears crude by today's standards, the tunes are in three and four-part settings with the melody in what we would call the tenor line, with harmony parts above it for ladies' voices and a bass voice part below.

His system was designed to teach people to sing with a basic staff, using relative pitch notation. His notation used syllables and shapes for scale degrees that were sung initially, followed by the singing with the text. Walker's system worked, and people without formal musical training could learn to sing with relative ease.



Southern Harmony popularized many hymns tunes that we know well today. They are listed by the hymn tune name such as NEW BRITAIN for *Amazing Grace* for which Walker is credited for pairing the tune and text we now know.

As a side note, the volume *The Sacred Harp* was compiled and distributed by Walker's brother-in-law, Benjamin Franklin White. It was first published in 1844 just after Walker's *Southern Harmony* and contains many of the same tunes in a similar notational format. However, unlike *Southern Harmony*, *The Sacred Harp* has undergone several editions since.

This collection for solo piano gives a contemporary treatment to some timeless tunes from a bygone era. We owe "Singing Billy" a debt of gratitude.

—Stan Pethel

Sample

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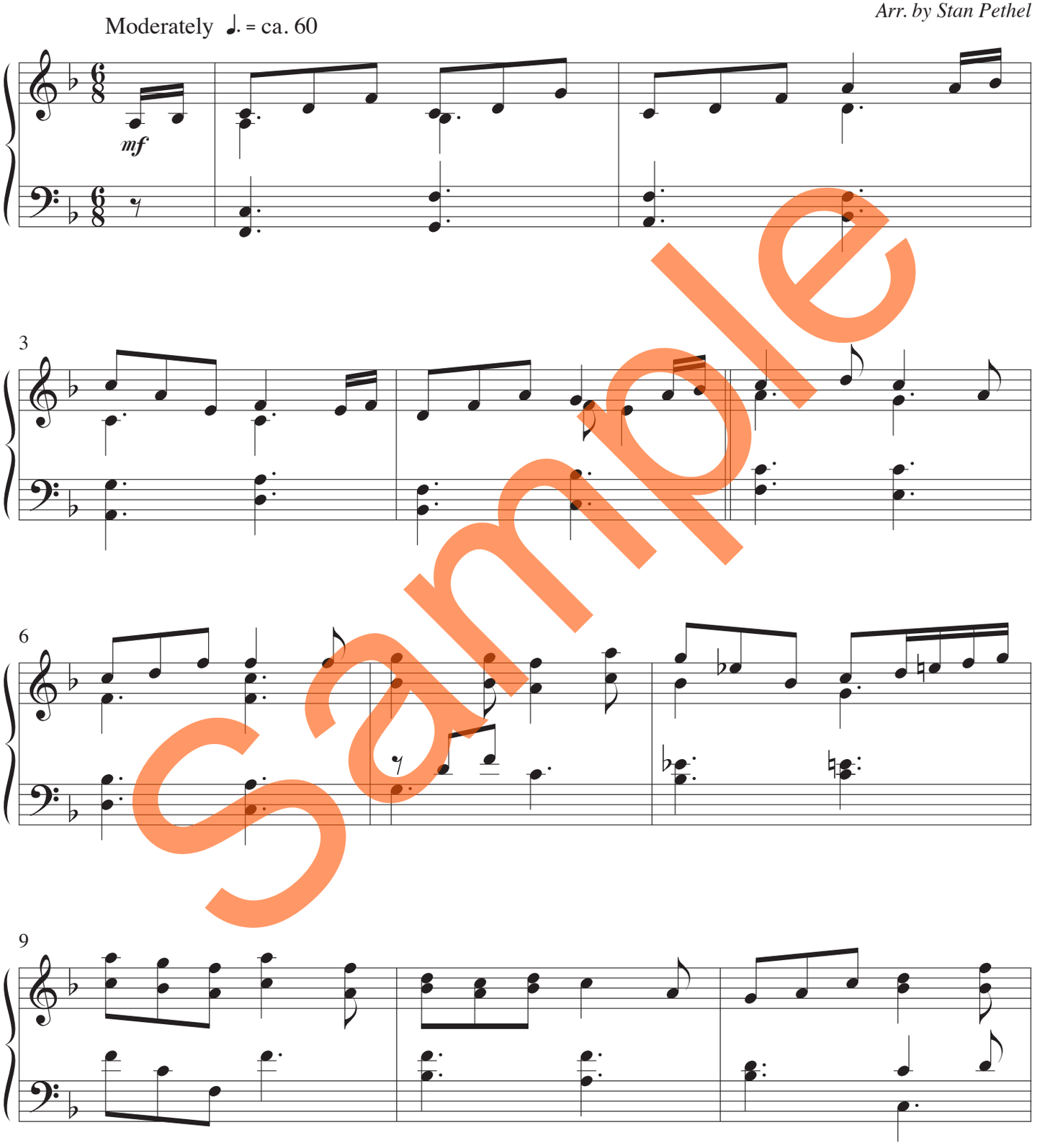
Sample

Salem

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

SOUTHERN HARMONY 12
Arr. by Stan Pethel



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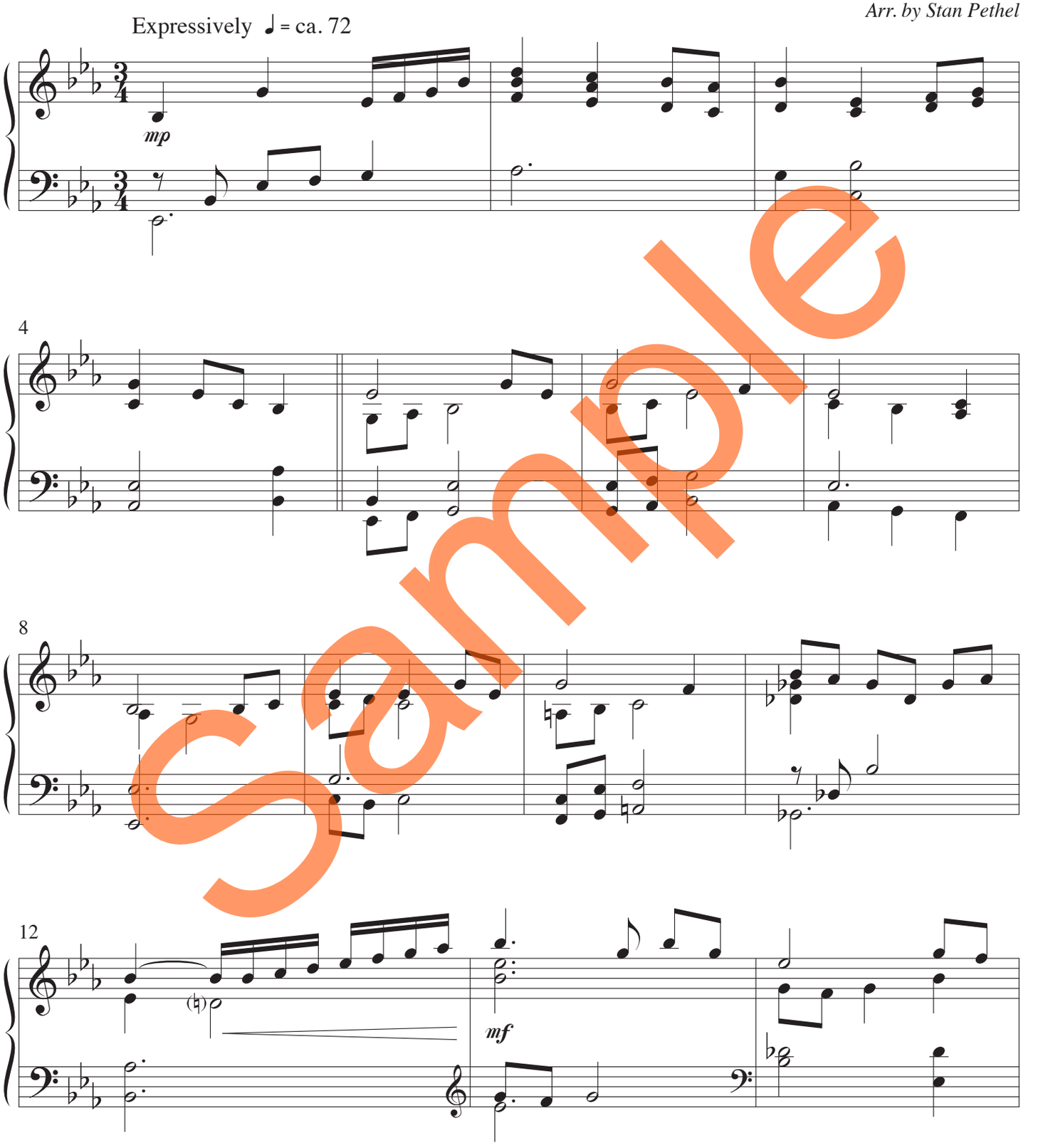
New Britain

Amazing Grace

SOUTHERN HARMONY 8
Arr. by Stan Pethel



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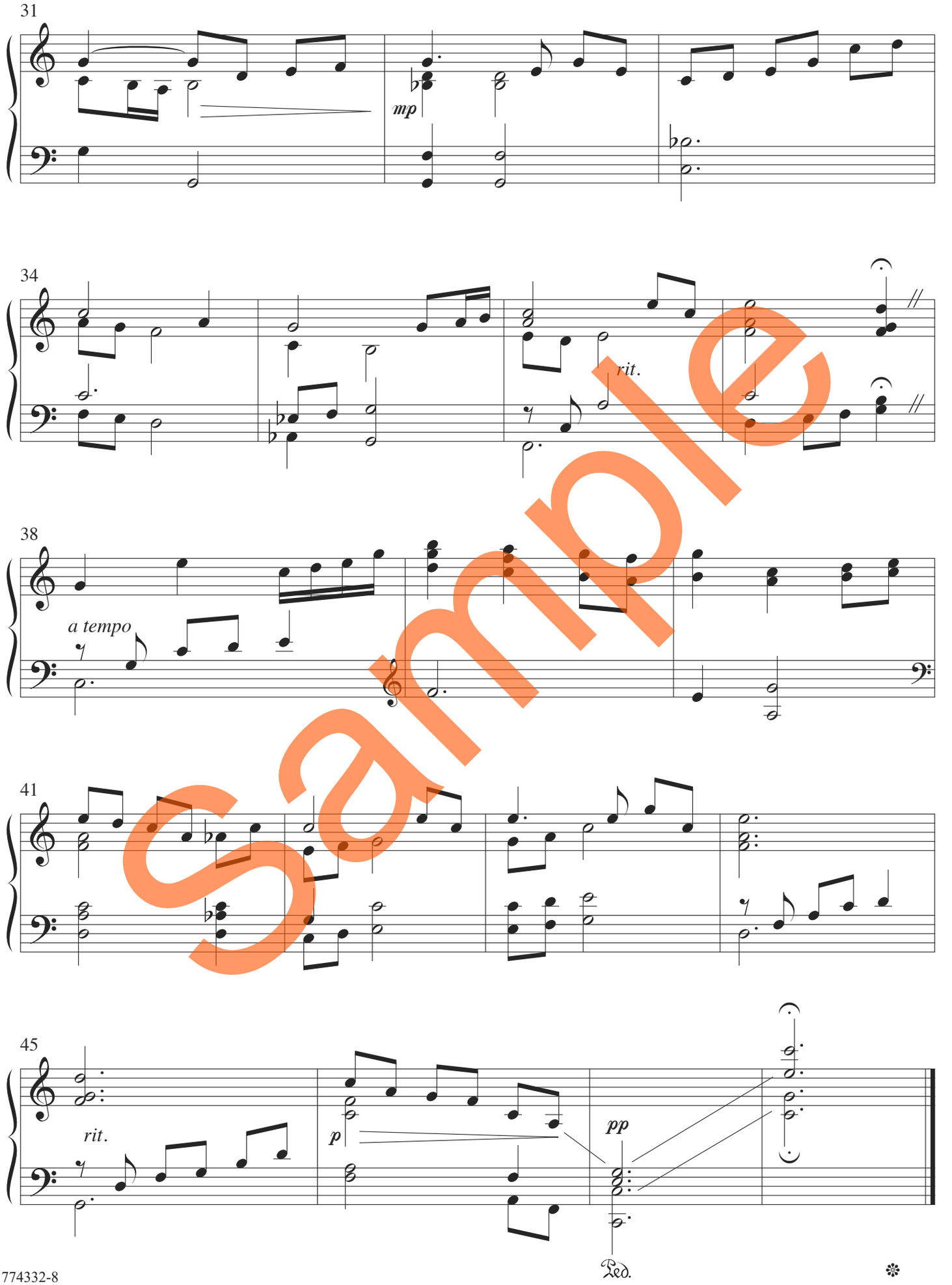

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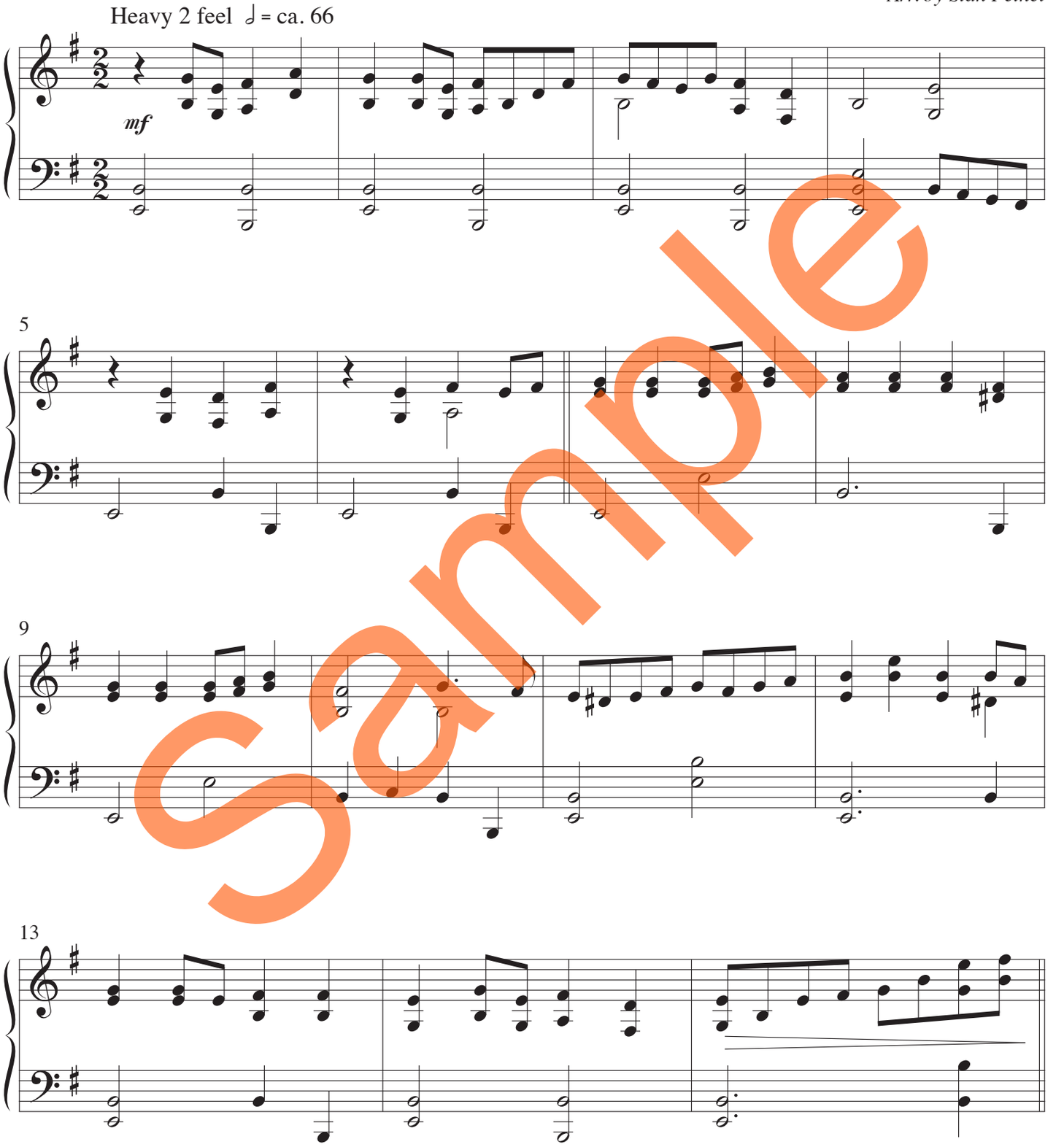
The Promised Land

On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

SOUTHERN HARMONY 51
Arr. by Stan Pethel



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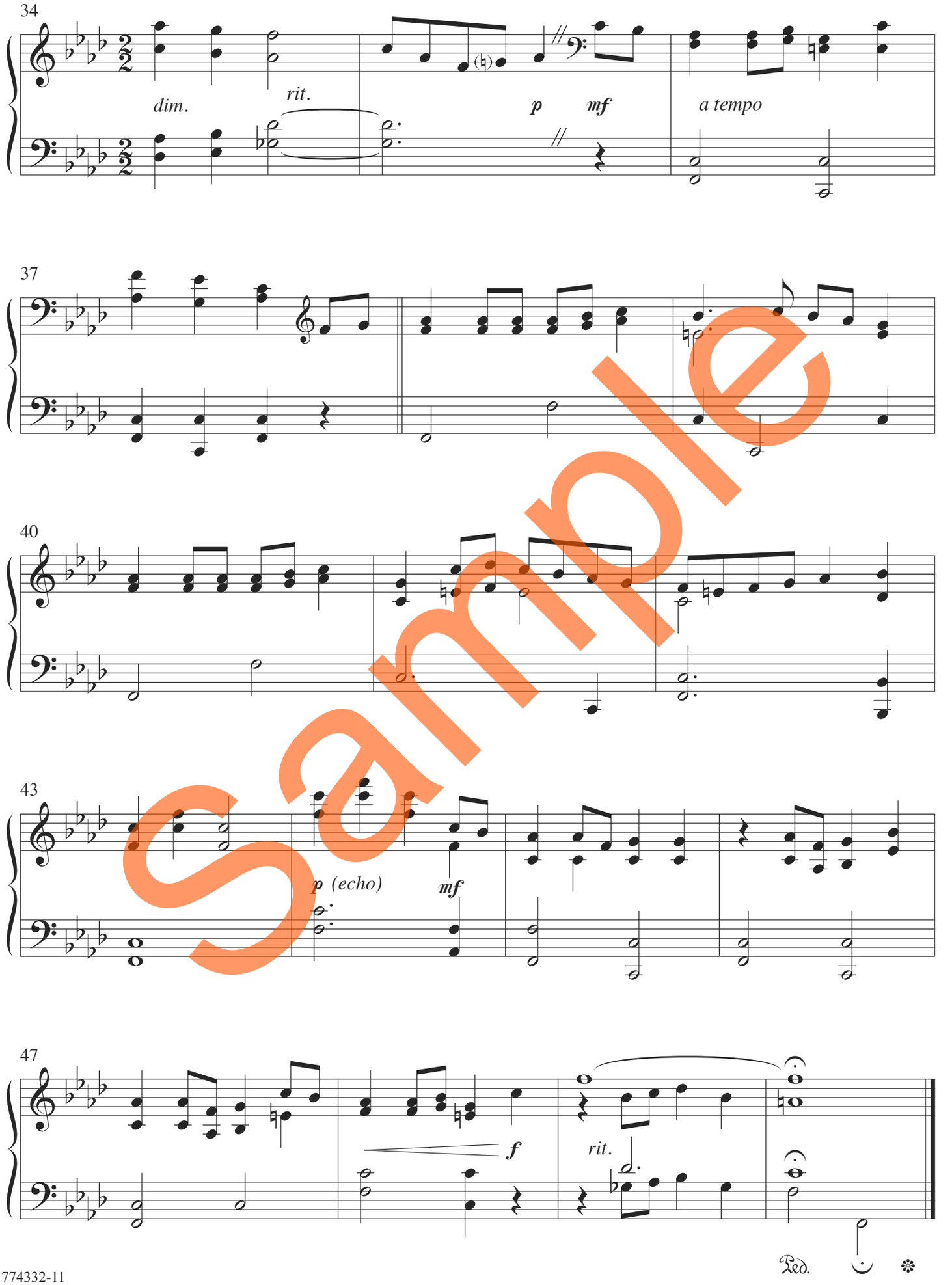
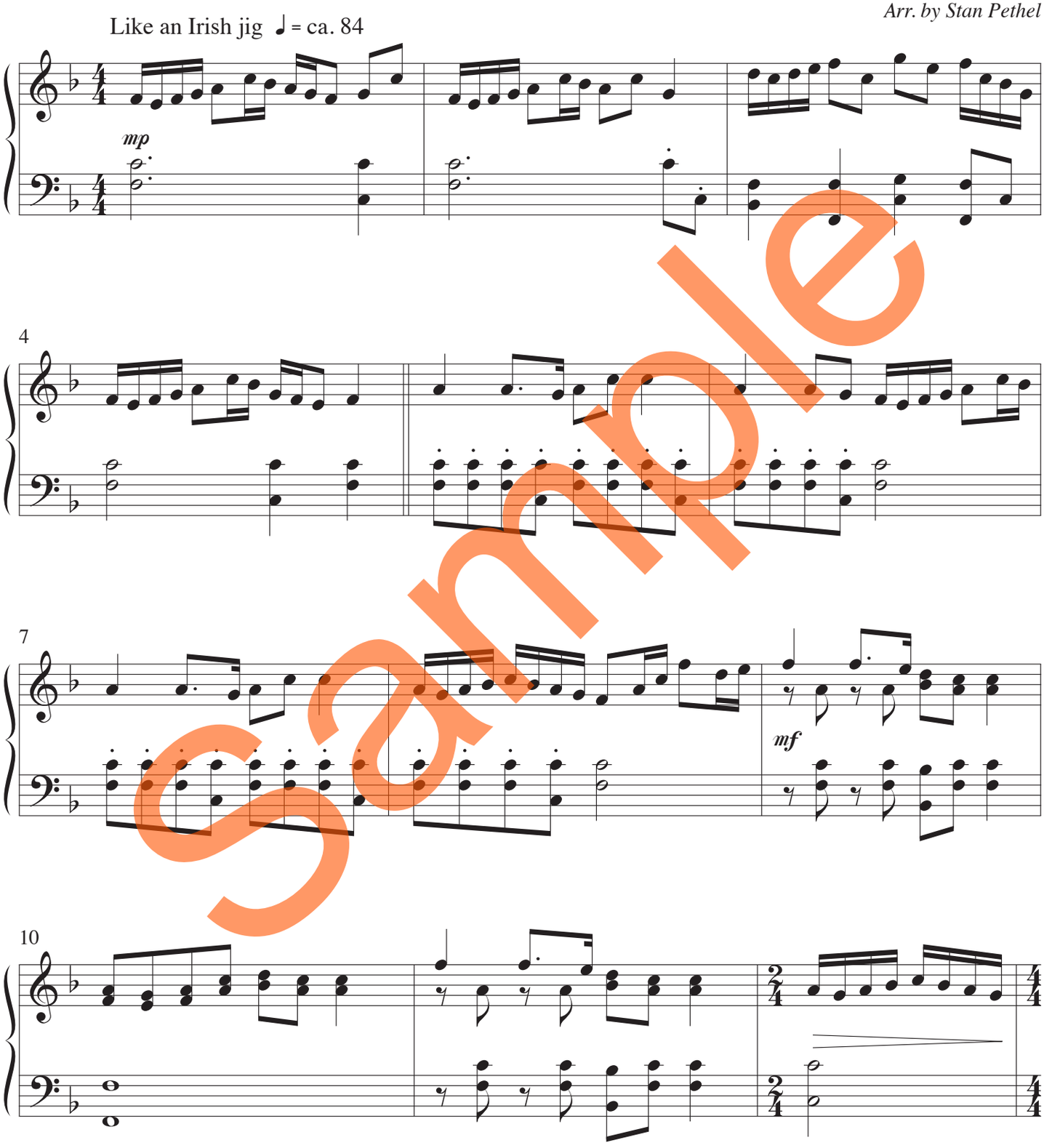


sample

Happy Land

Happy Land

SOUTHERN HARMONY 89
Arr. by Stan Pethel



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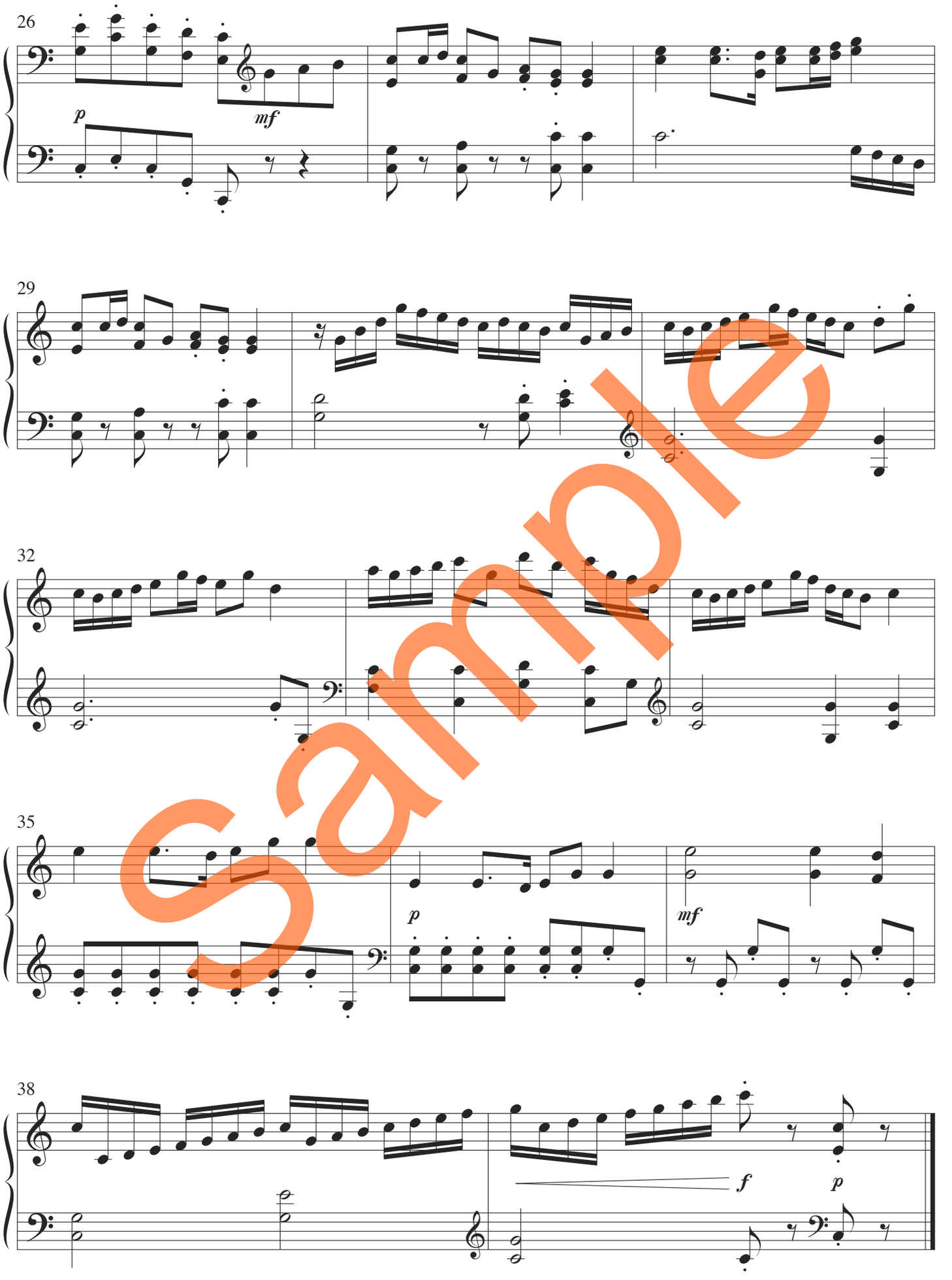
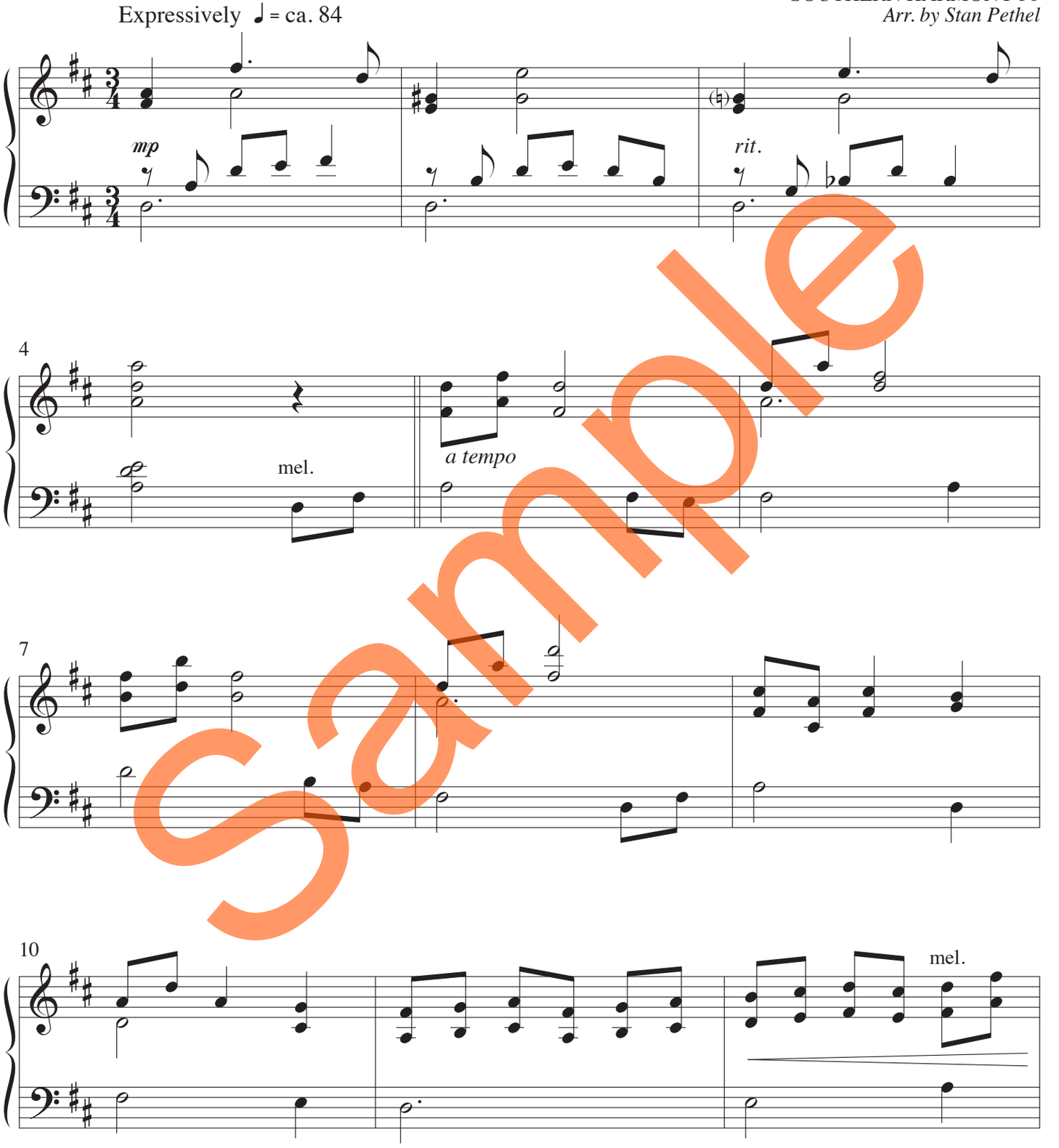


Sample

Resignation

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

SOUTHERN HARMONY 38
Arr. by Stan Pethel



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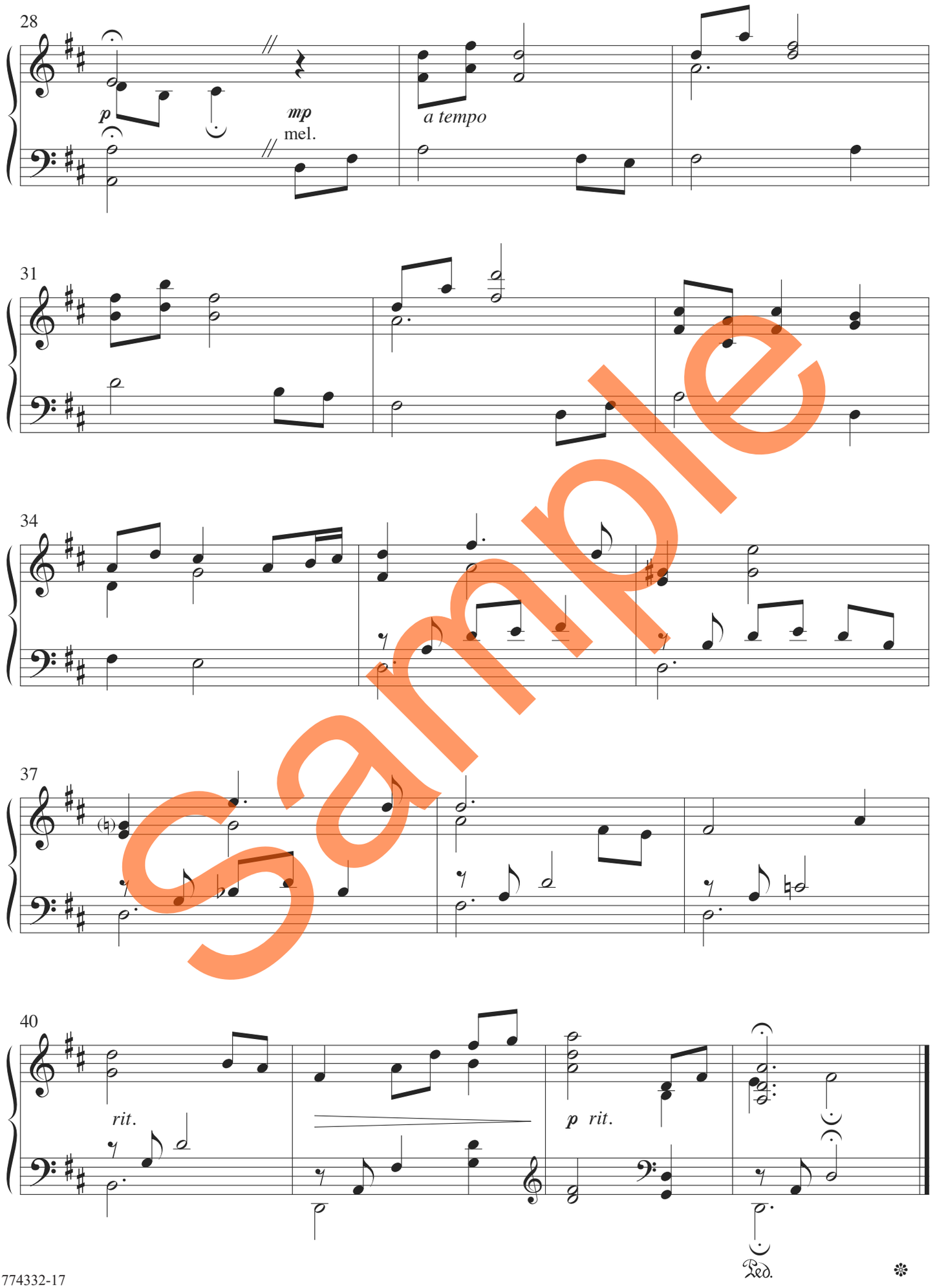

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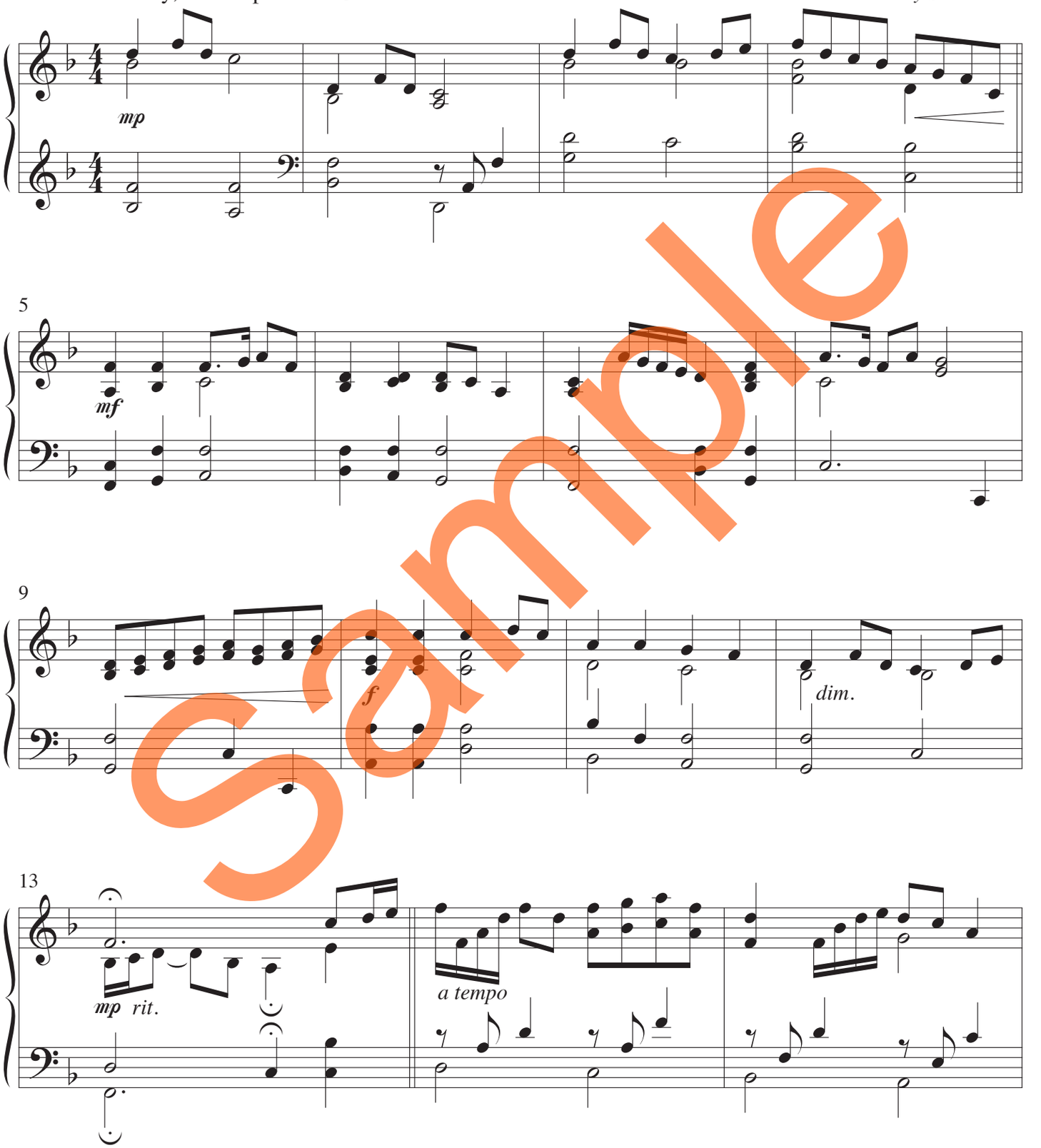
Pisgah

When I Can Read My Title Clear

SOUTHERN HARMONY 80
Arr. by Stan Pethel



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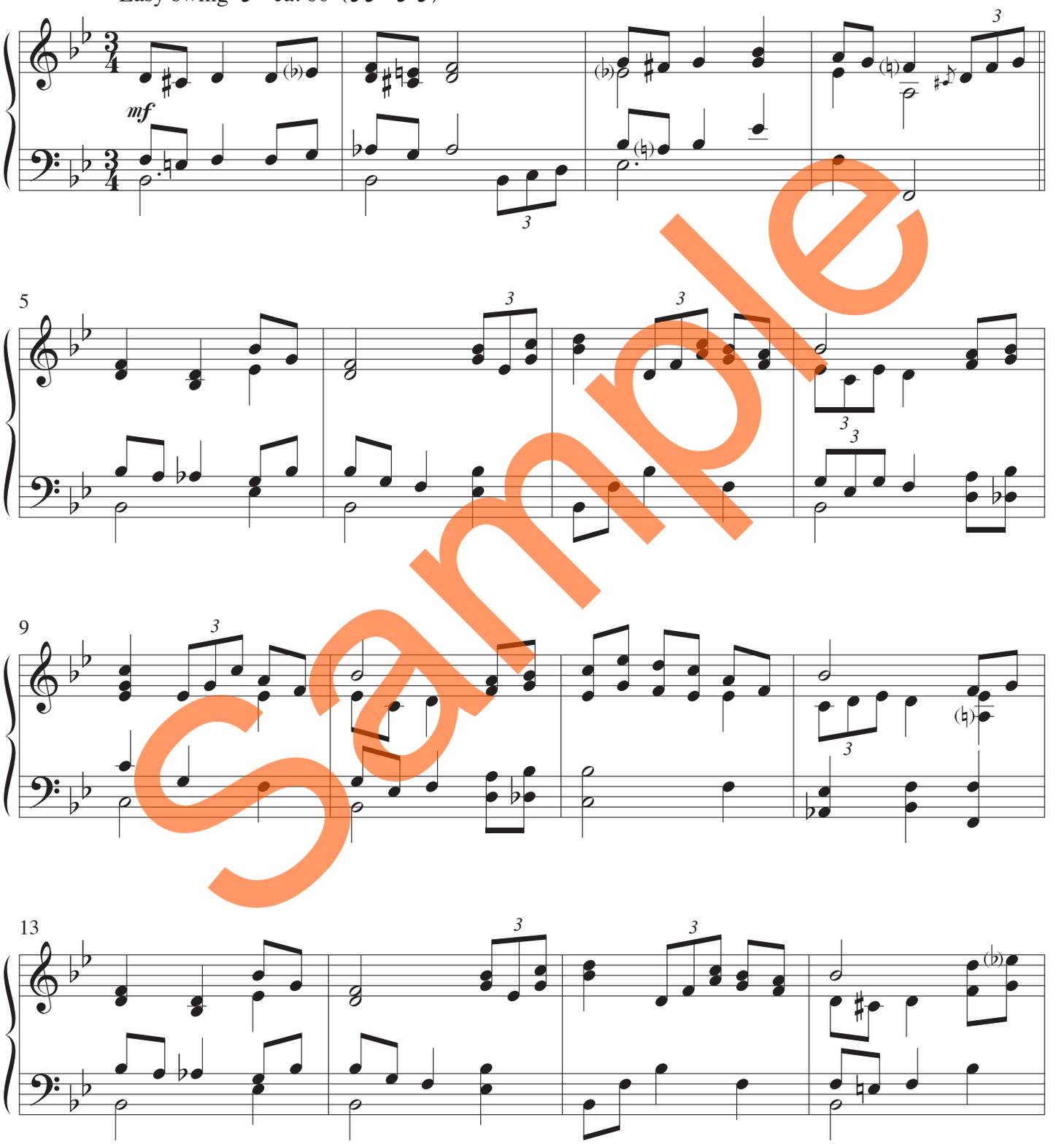
Rock of Ages

Rock of Ages

SOUTHERN HARMONY 275
Arr. by Stan Pethel

Easy swing ♩ = ca. 80 (♫ = ♩³♪)



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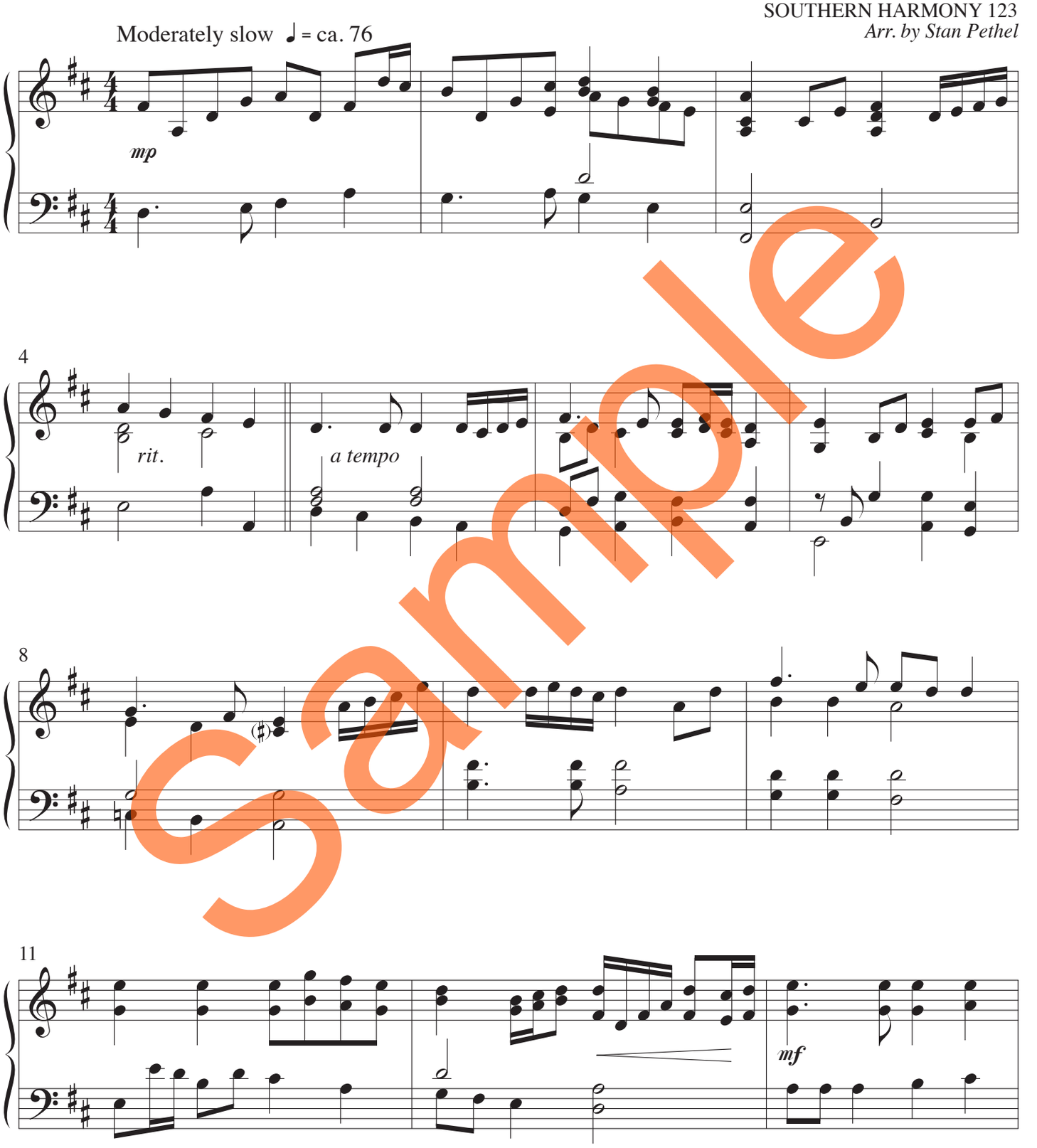
Disciple

Hark! the Voice of Jesus Calling

SOUTHERN HARMONY 123
Arr. by Stan Pethel



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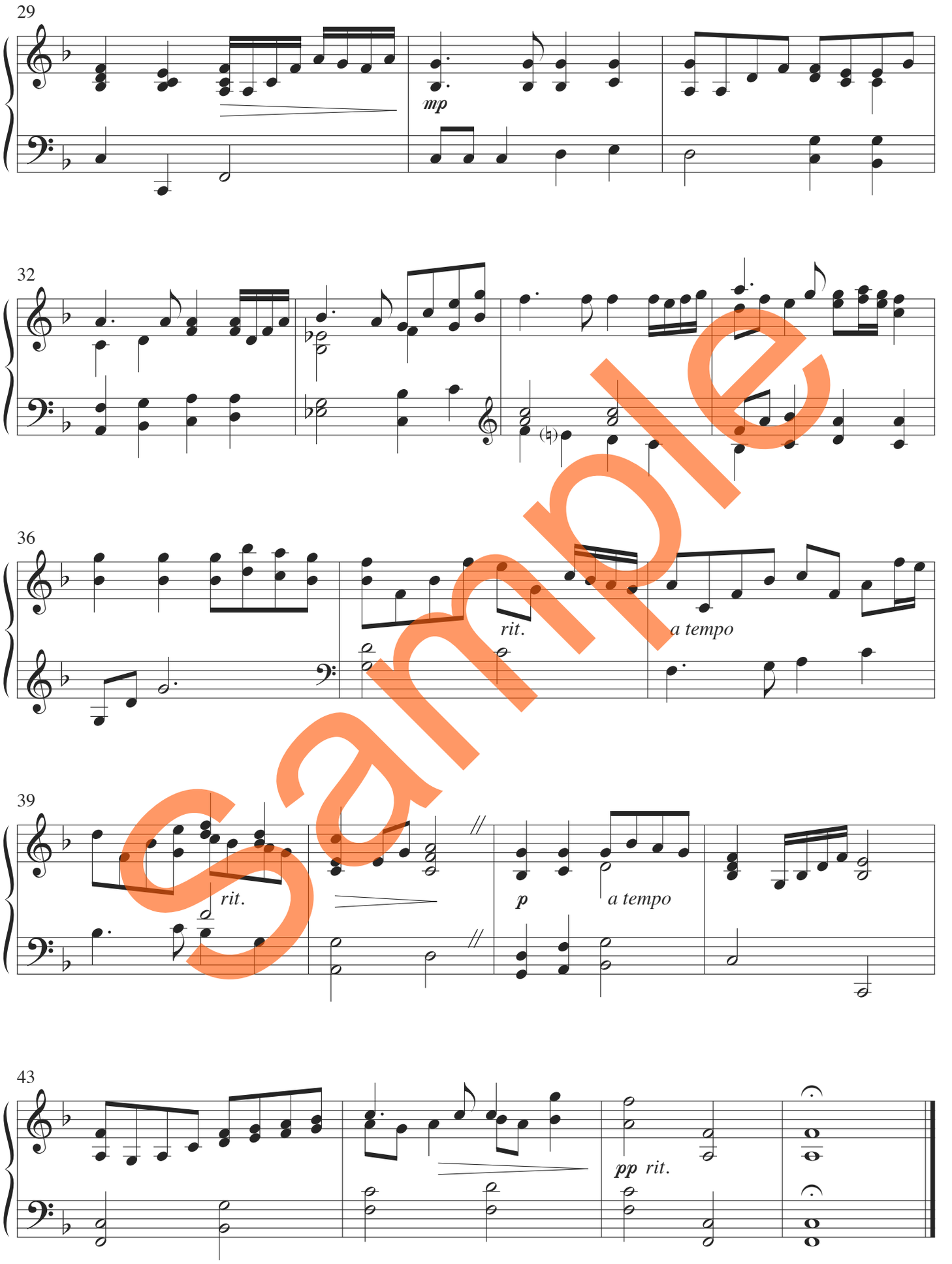

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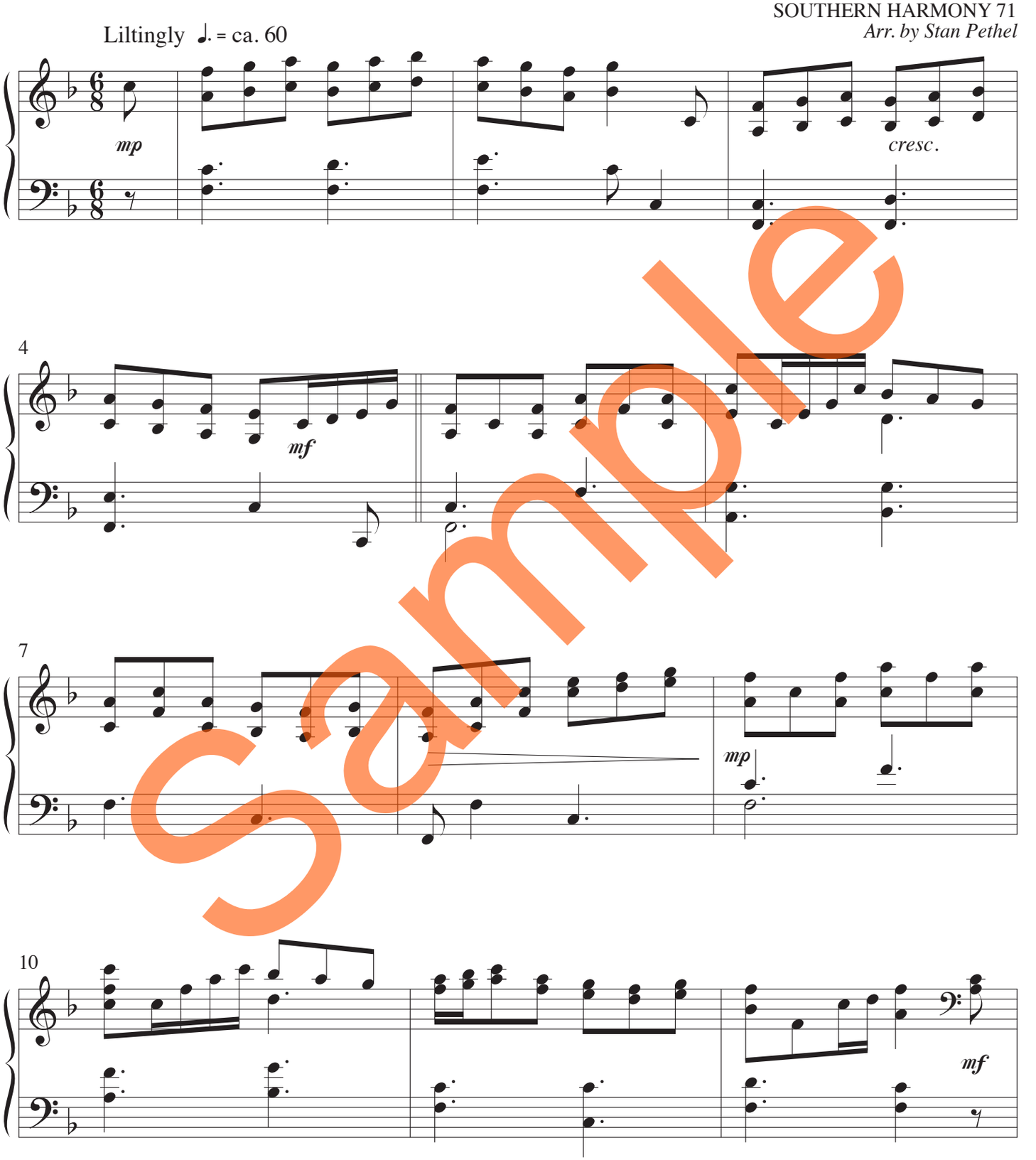
Green Fields

How Tedious and Tasteless the Hours

SOUTHERN HARMONY 71
Arr. by Stan Pethel



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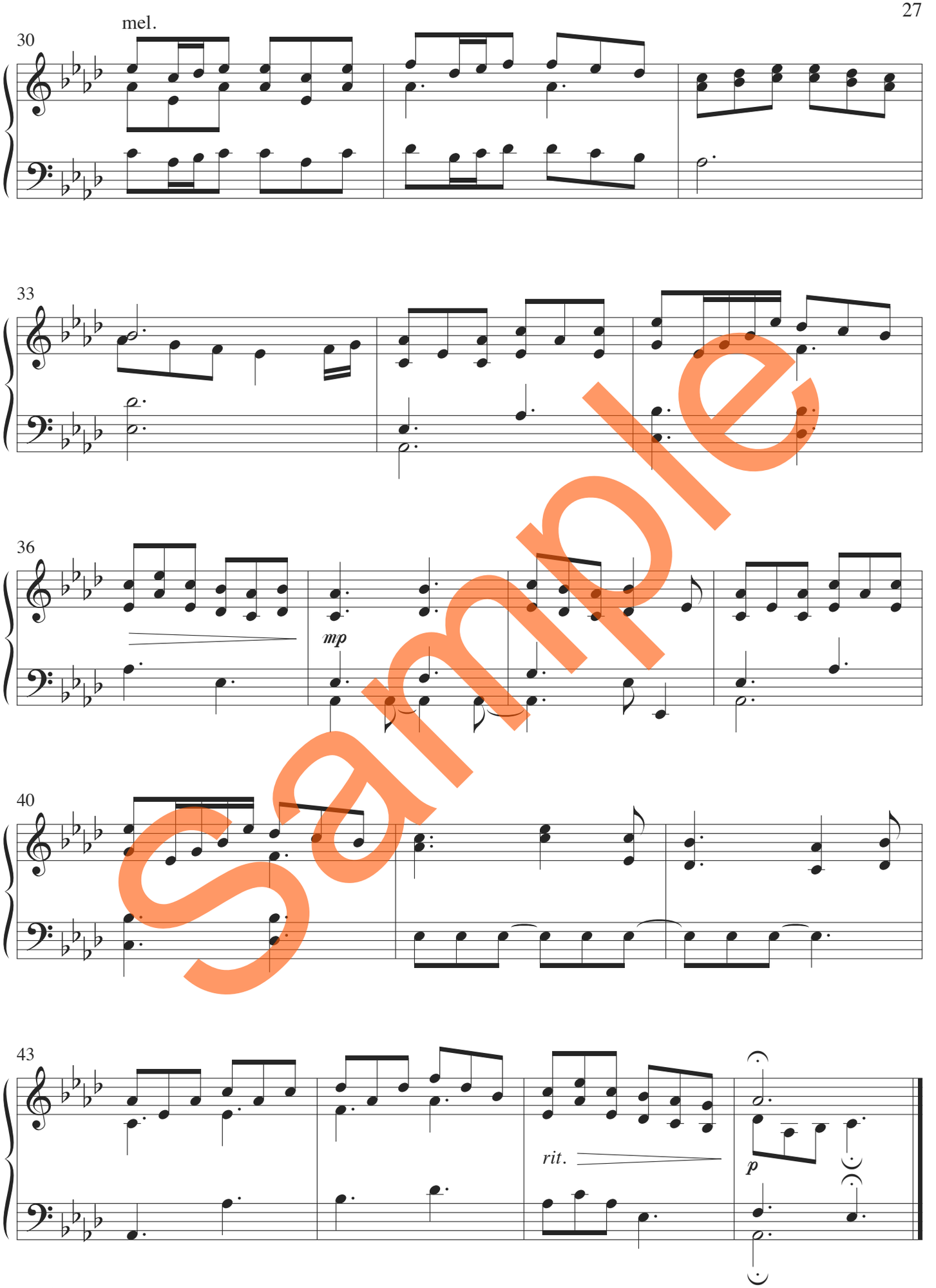

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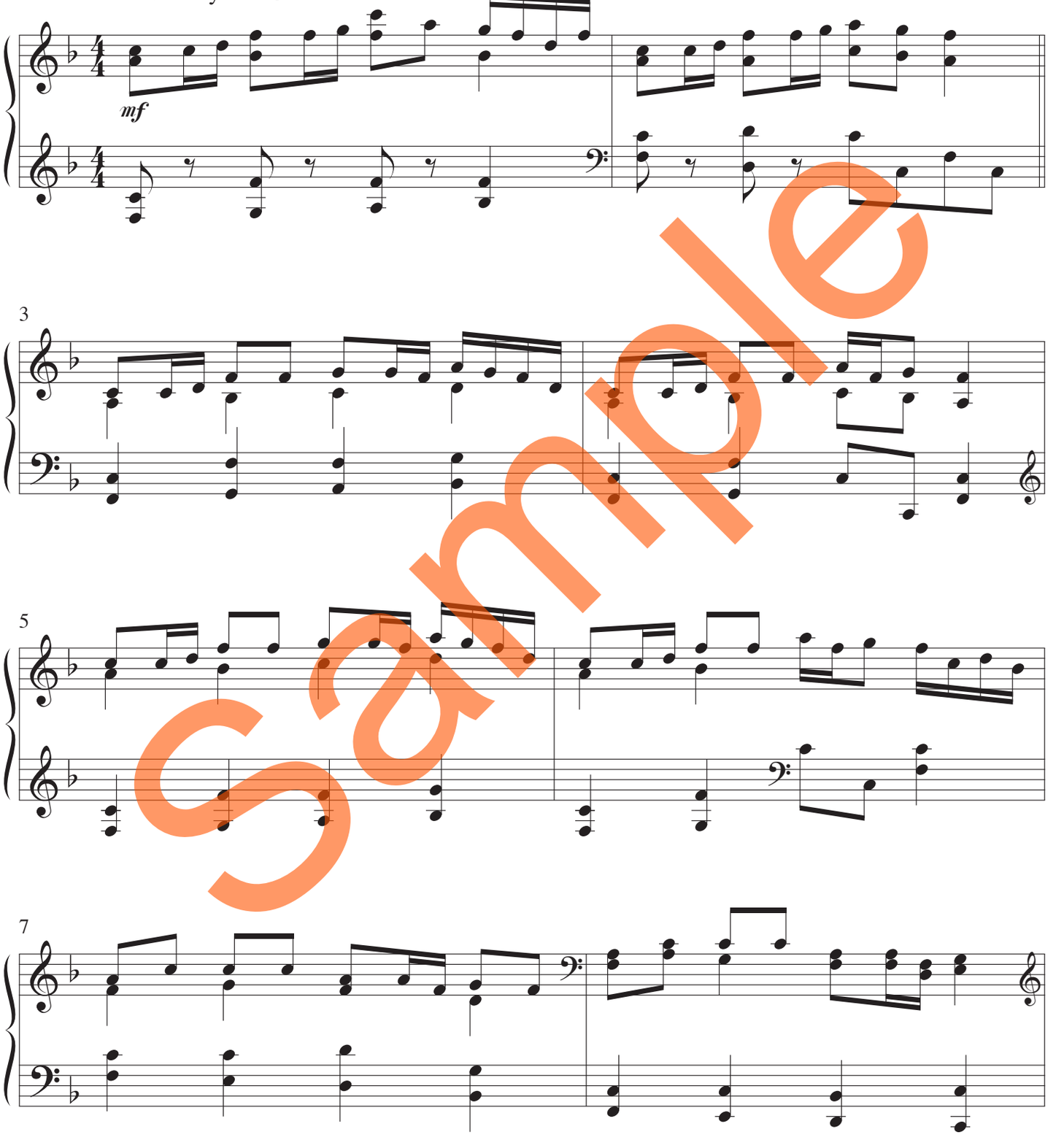
Holy Manna

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

SOUTHERN HARMONY 103
Arr. by Stan Pethel

Moderately fast ♩ = ca. 72



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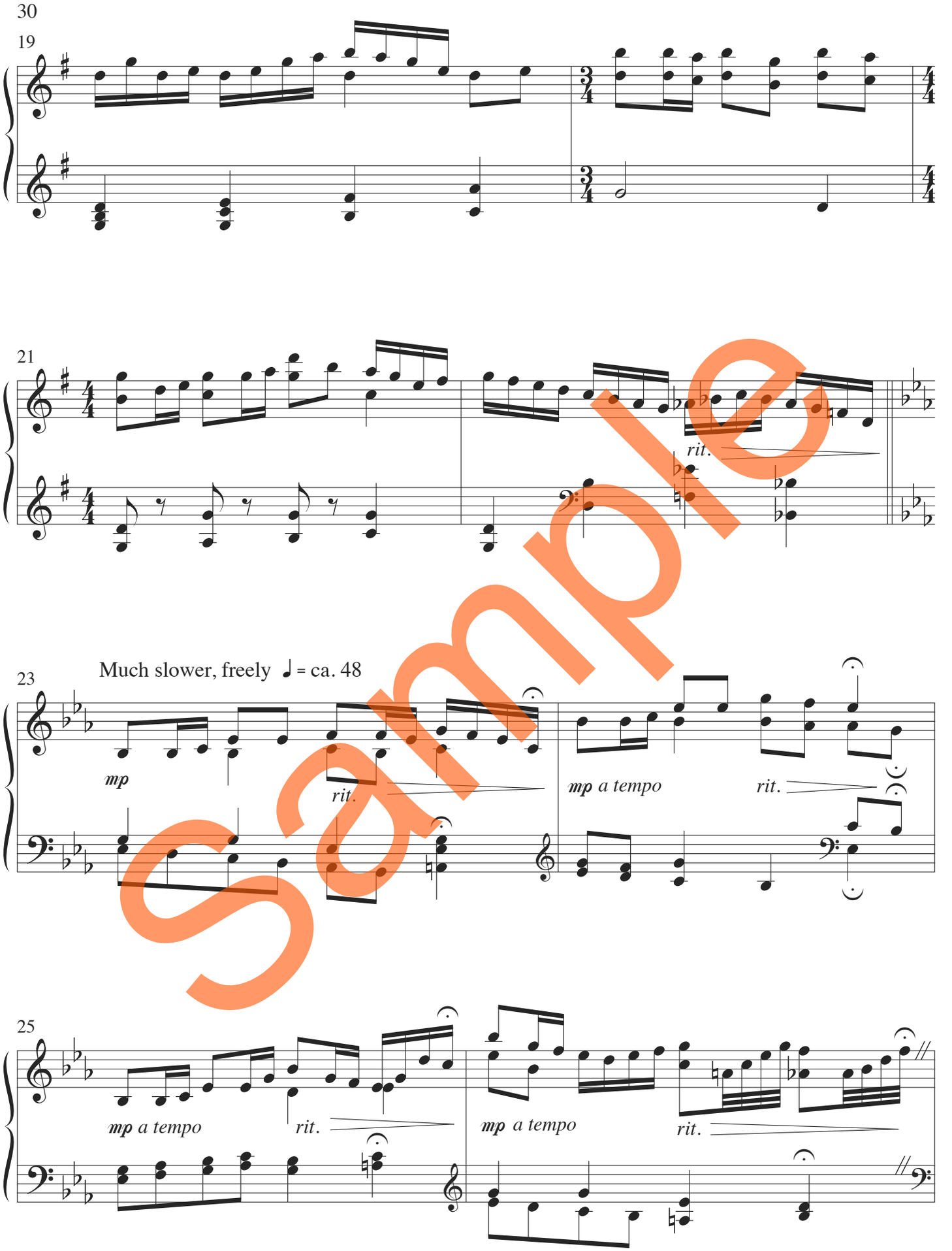
19
21
rit.
23
Much slower, freely ♩ = ca. 48
mp
rit.
mp a tempo
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25
mp a tempo
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mp a tempo
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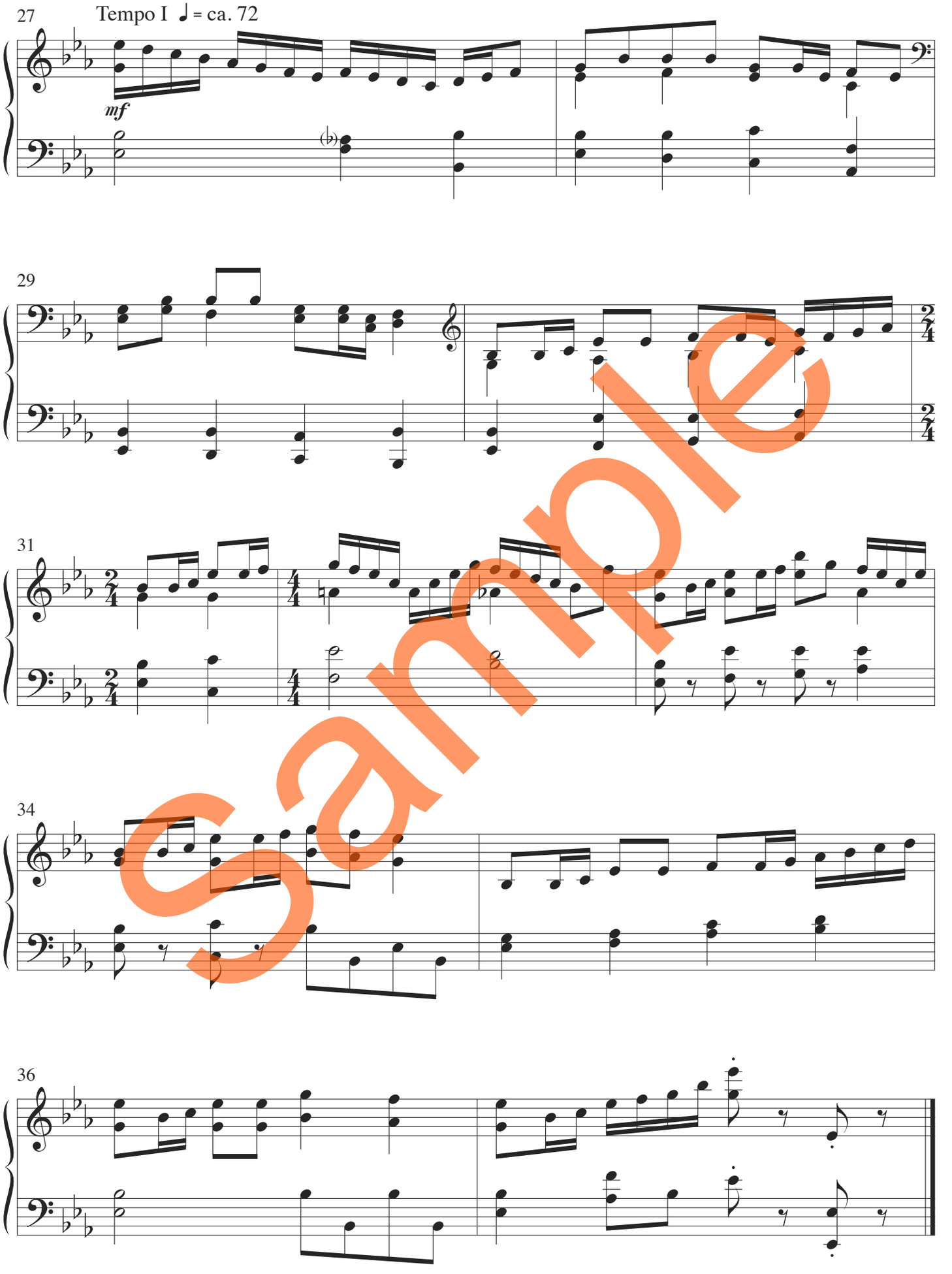
Sample



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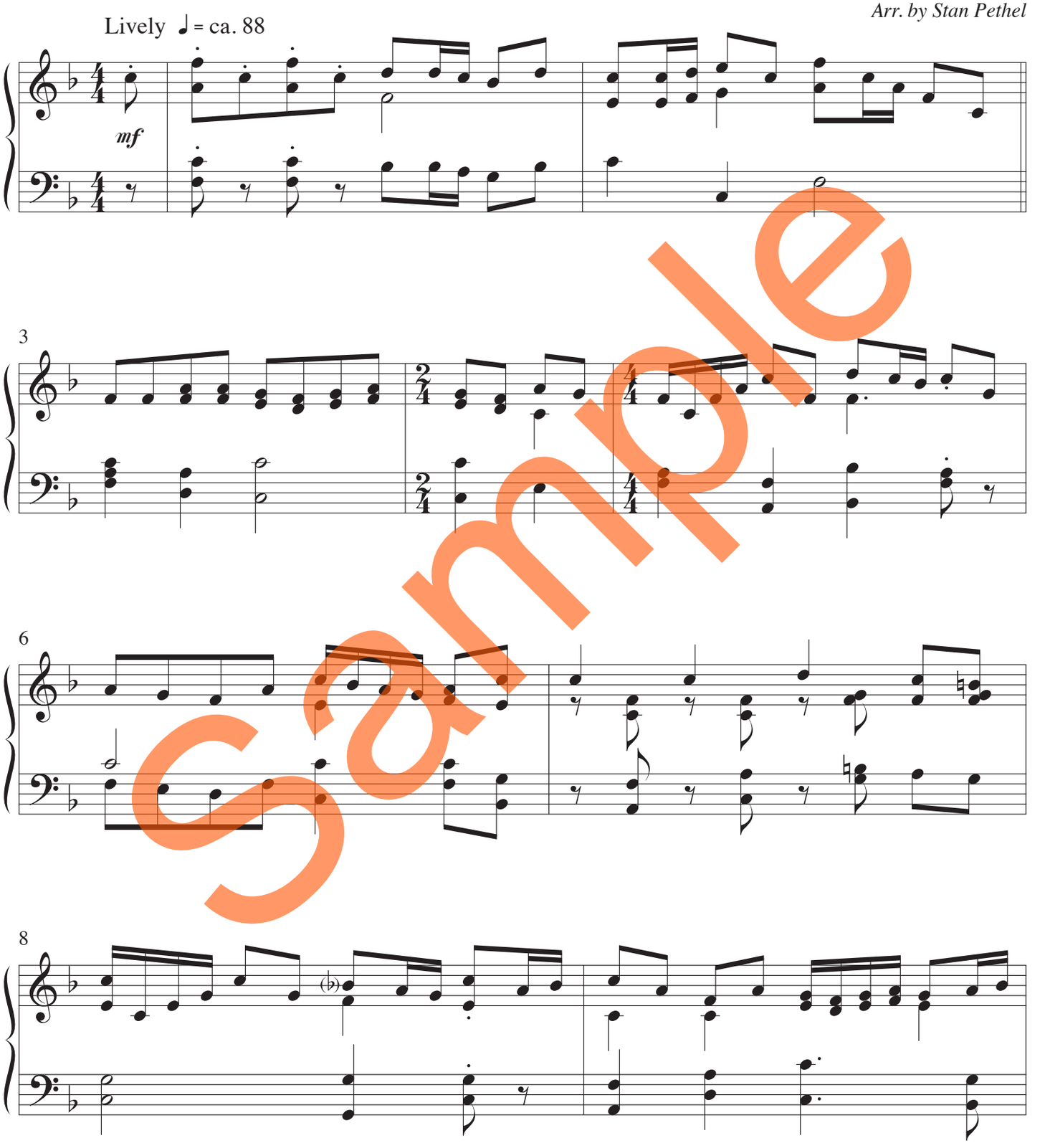
Coronation

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

SOUTHERN HARMONY 299
Arr. by Stan Pethel



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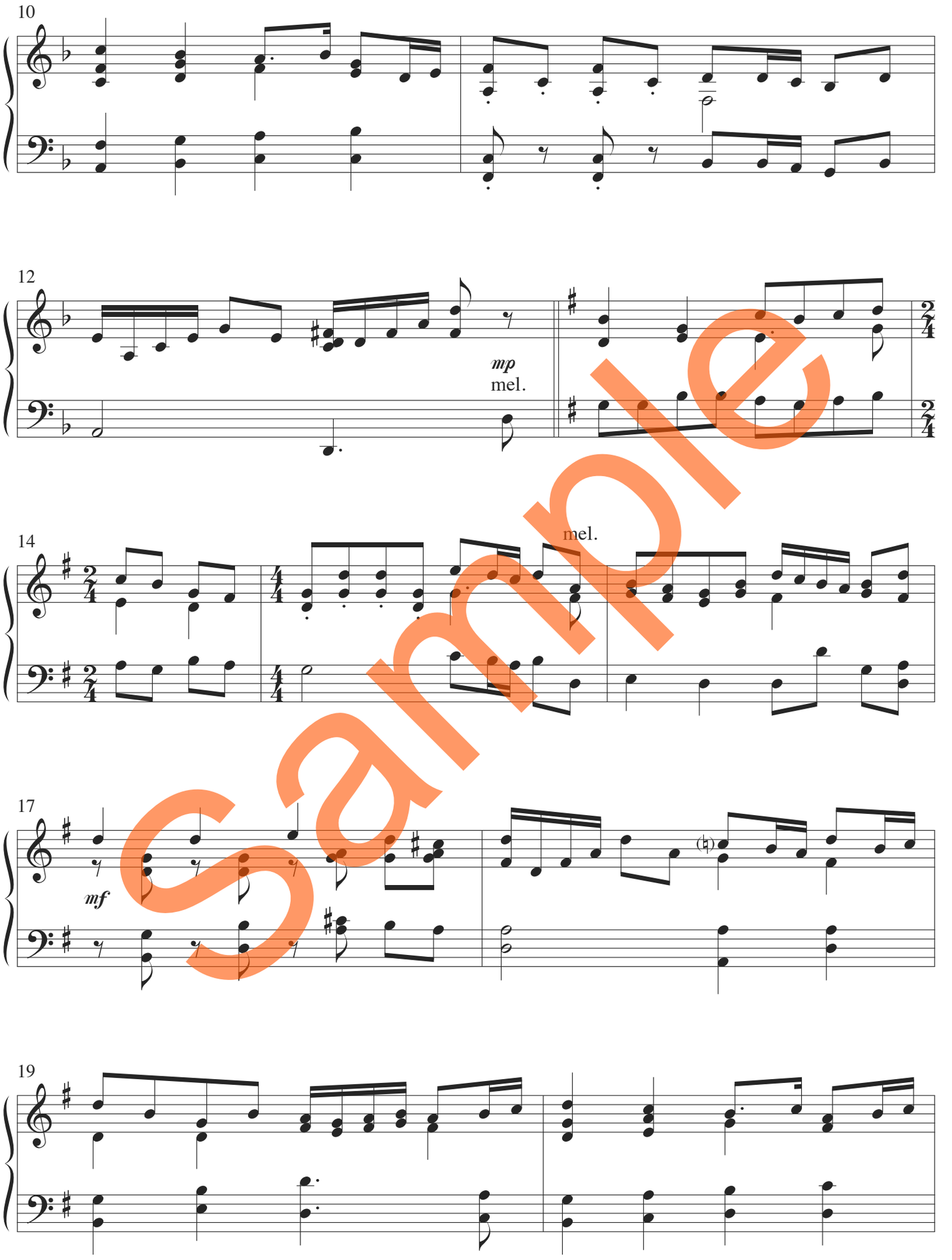

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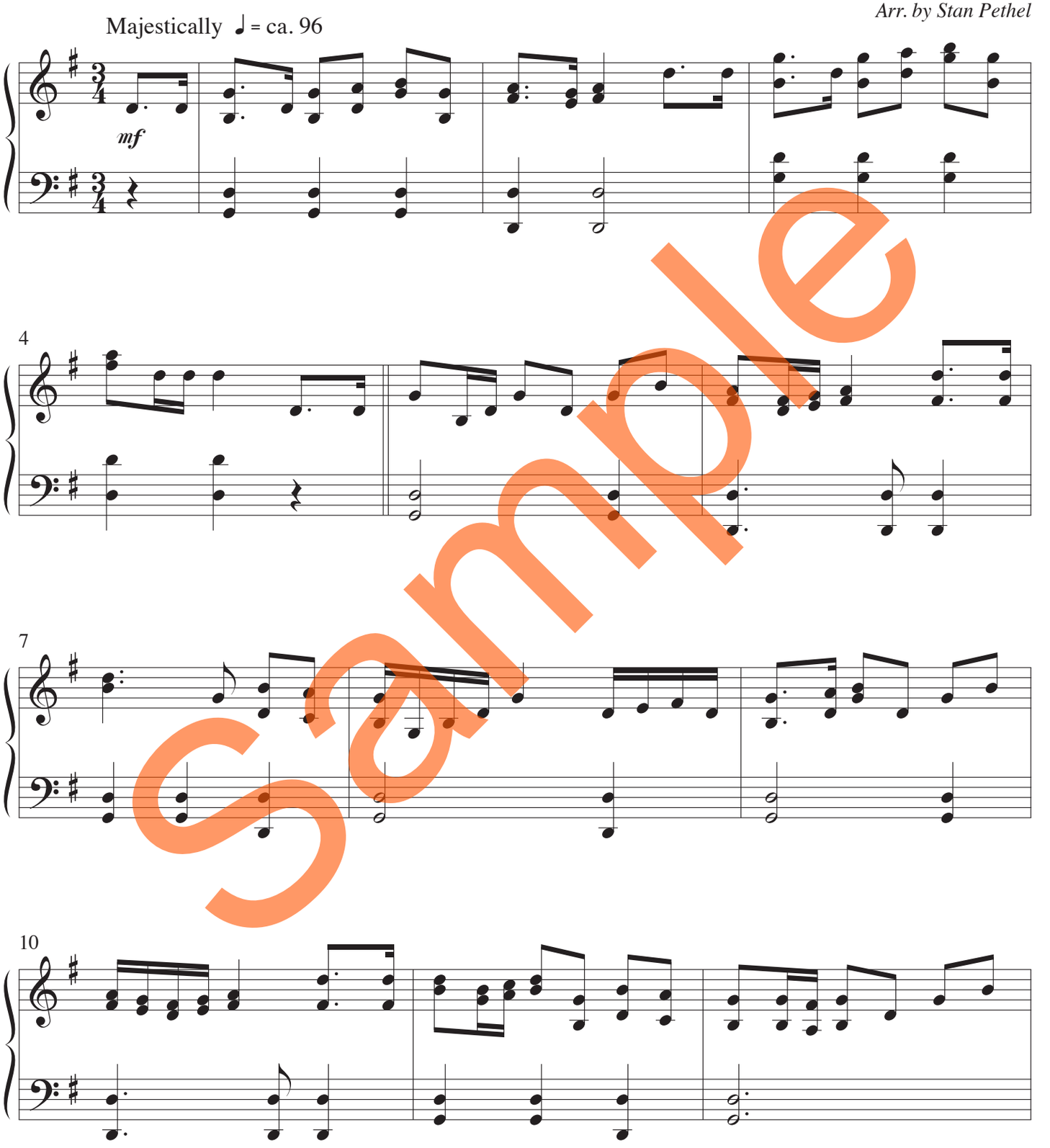
Harwell

Hark, Ten Thousand Harps and Voices

SOUTHERN HARMONY 192
Arr. by Stan Pethel



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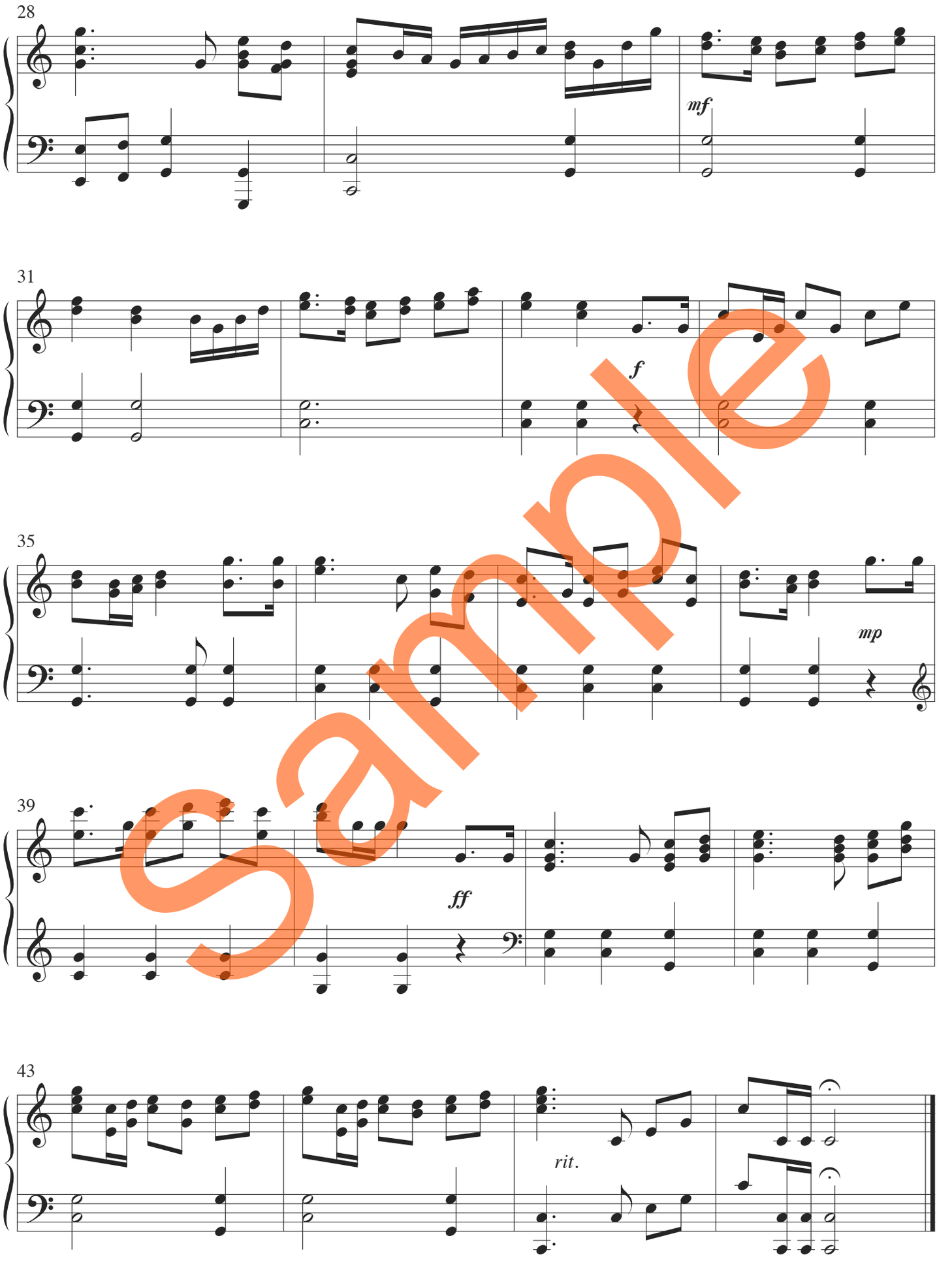

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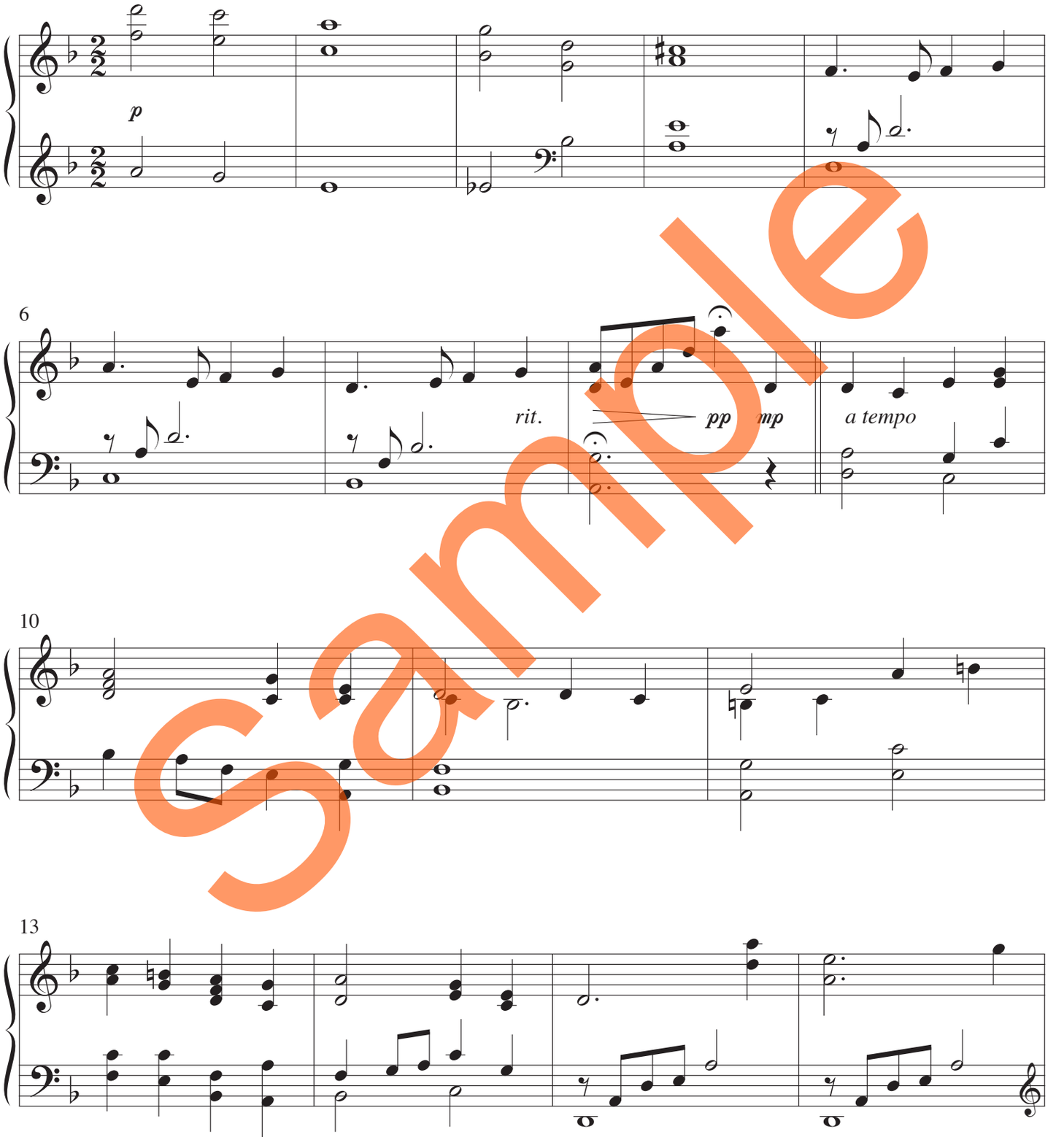
Wondrous Love

What Wondrous Love Is This

SOUTHERN HARMONY 252
Arr. by Stan Pethel



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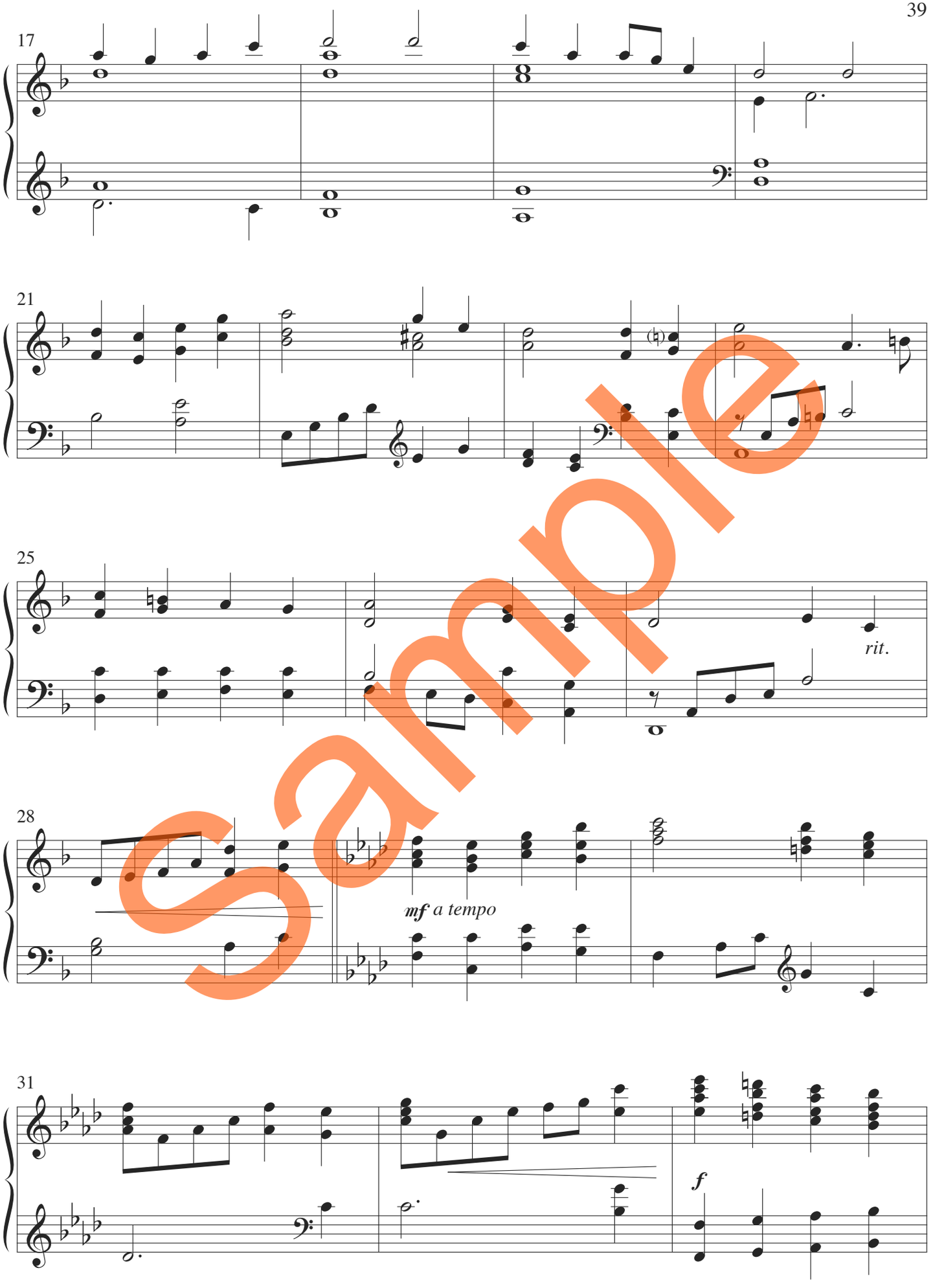

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