PIANO
MODERATELY ADVANCED

EXTOL THE LORD!

ANDY MUSKRAT | Hymns, Songs, and Carols Arranged for Solo Piano

Sample

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FOREWORD

I am honored to have my very first book of hymn arrangements for solo piano published by Lorenz Publishing Co. This is a dream I've had for several years and to finally see it come to life makes me truly thankful. Music has been a passion of mine from an early age, as it was a major part of my family's life. Having concert pianists as parents, I developed a love for classical music. At the same time, my involvement with music in the church is where I developed a love for contemporary styles of worship. After several years of taking piano lessons from my mom, I took an interest in learning how to read chord charts/lead sheets and improvising while playing hymns and praise choruses. By the time I finished high school, improvisation came naturally to me, and I soon began my journey with arranging.

Arranging these hymns and songs has given me so much joy. Whether from the melody or the biblically rich text, each one has had an important influence in my life. The first hymn I arranged was *Holy, Holy, Holy*, which was inspired by a trip I took in 2006 to visit my parents in Argentina. During that visit, we travelled to the southwest part of the country where the Andes Mountains are snowcapped and surrounded by gorgeous shimmery lakes. I was in awe of God's majestic creation and felt the presence of the Lord all around me. "Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee."

The title of this book comes from my favorite scripture in the Bible, "I will extol the Lord at all times. His praise will always be on my lips." (Psalm 34:1) The word "extol" means "to praise enthusiastically!" There is so much power in that word when it describes our worship to the Lord. "I will extol the Lord at ALL TIMES." I relate to this scripture because I am constantly creating melodies in my head and thinking of hymn texts, expressing my praises to Him. The scripture continues with, "His praise will always be on my lips." This part of the scripture moves me the most as I have been a stutterer since childhood. Stuttering may affect my speech, but it never interferes with my praise to Him. Whether singing praises on my lips, or playing piano praises with my hands. "I will extol the Lord at all times."

I pray these arrangements minister to you in a special way as you play them for worship services or as simple offerings of praise to Him. I give thanks to my sweet wife, Heather, who has supported me and encouraged me all these years to pursue arranging. Lastly, I am extremely blessed and thankful to my four children—Jacob, Braeden, Jamie, and Helen—for being my inspiration and having to endure timeless hours of me sitting at the piano. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

—Andy Muskrat

Sample

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Sample

PERFORMANCE NOTES

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

Praise Him, sun and moon, praise Him, all you shining stars! Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord! For He commanded and they were created. (Psalm 148:3–5)

I love this scripture! It is a reminder to us that all of God's works praise His name. All creation exists as a testimony to His greatness! This arrangement begins with a reflective introduction. Let the beauty of the melody shine as the music gradually builds. The middle section, bars 17–32, is simply an original melody inspired by all the wonderful things He has created.

AN AUTUMN PRAYER

This is my very first original composition for solo piano. My sister, Amy, who always sees God's love in creation, inspired me to write this music. As you play this piece, envision fresh air on an autumn day as leaves fall from the trees. Feel the warmth from the sun as it shines down on the earth, and the cool of night as the bright moon lights the sky with its neighboring stars. As we experience creation, we encounter God in a powerful way.

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll. Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Though the author of this hymn, Horatio Spafford, suffered the loss of his son and four daughters, he still wrote these uplifting words. No matter the difficulties we go through, God remains faithful. This arrangement embraces the rich text of the hymn with delicate flowing passages and reharmonized chords. The interlude in the middle of the arrangement is set in the relative minor of the original key, and lets the pianist explore the emotion of the text before it resolves back to the original key. Let this hymn be a testimony of God's love and His tender care. God gives us strength to say, "*It is well, it is well, with my soul.*"

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. (John 8:12)

This gorgeous melody and text can be used throughout the liturgical year. It is a wonderful communion song and is also appropriate during Holy Week or Advent. This arrangement incorporates rich harmonies and reflective left-hand patterns. As you play this song, meditate on the glory and power of Christ.

Sample

JOY TO THE WORLD

This classic, well-loved Christmas carol is sung all over the world as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Rather than starting with a grand entrance, it begins with a reflective tone. The music gains momentum at bar 5 with syncopated rhythms and brings in fresh new harmonies. This arrangement is dedicated to my four precious children: Jacob, Braeden, Jamie, and Helen.

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1)

Written by Martin Luther, this is one of our greatest hymns, encouraging us to find strength in the Lord as we face our battles. Typically, when we sing this hymn in church it is very stately and big. This arrangement begins with syncopated rhythms and reharmonized chord progressions. The second verse is written in the standard rhythm of the hymn, but with emotion and rubato. As you move into the third verse, return to the same syncopated energy as the beginning.

MORNING SNOW

For as the rain and snow come down from heaven … so will My Word be which goes forth from My mouth. (Isaiah 55:10–11)

This original composition is dedicated to my Gramps, Quentin Woods. He and I shared a passion for snow. My family is from the southwest corner of Missouri, where the Ozark hills roll along with trees and farmhouses. Since I was a little boy, every time I think of snow I picture it covering those southwest Missouri hills. The first ten bars of this song set the mood: the air is cold and the clouds are heavy with snow. The music continues as a depiction of a snowstorm: the first snowflakes begin to fall, then the wind begins to swirl as more snow falls. Finally, the storm calms, and the last of the snowflakes settle on the ground.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning my song shall rise to Thee.

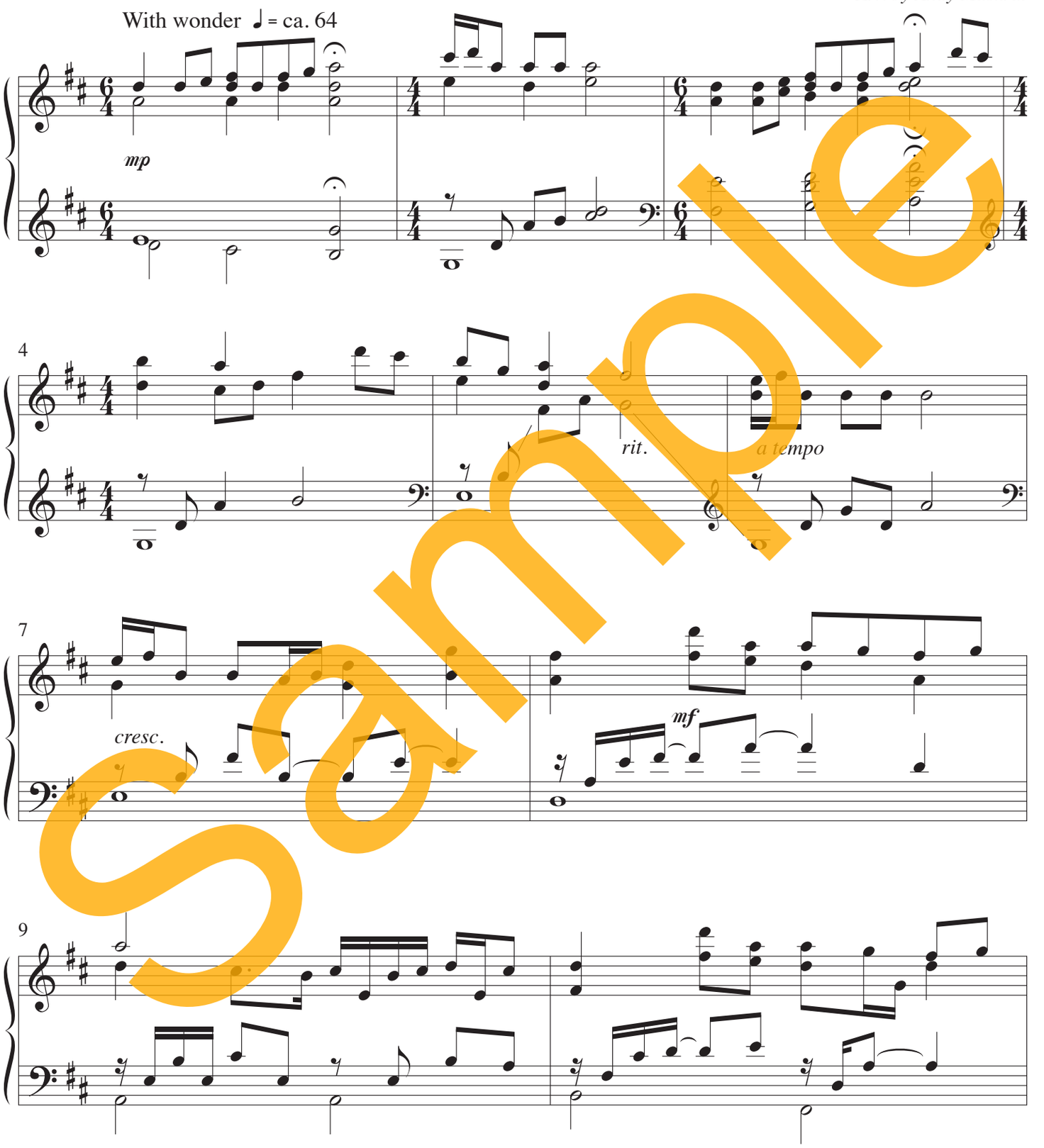
These are the lyrics that came to mind when I visited my home country of Argentina in May 2006. We travelled to Bariloche, Argentina, where the most beautiful snowcapped mountains and shimmery lakes surrounded us. We arrived early in the morning as the sun was rising, and I was captivated by God's glorious creation. Let this arrangement reflect our holy, mighty, and merciful God.

Sample

For my friend, Becky Robertson

All Creatures of Our God and King

Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623
Arr. by Andy Muskrat



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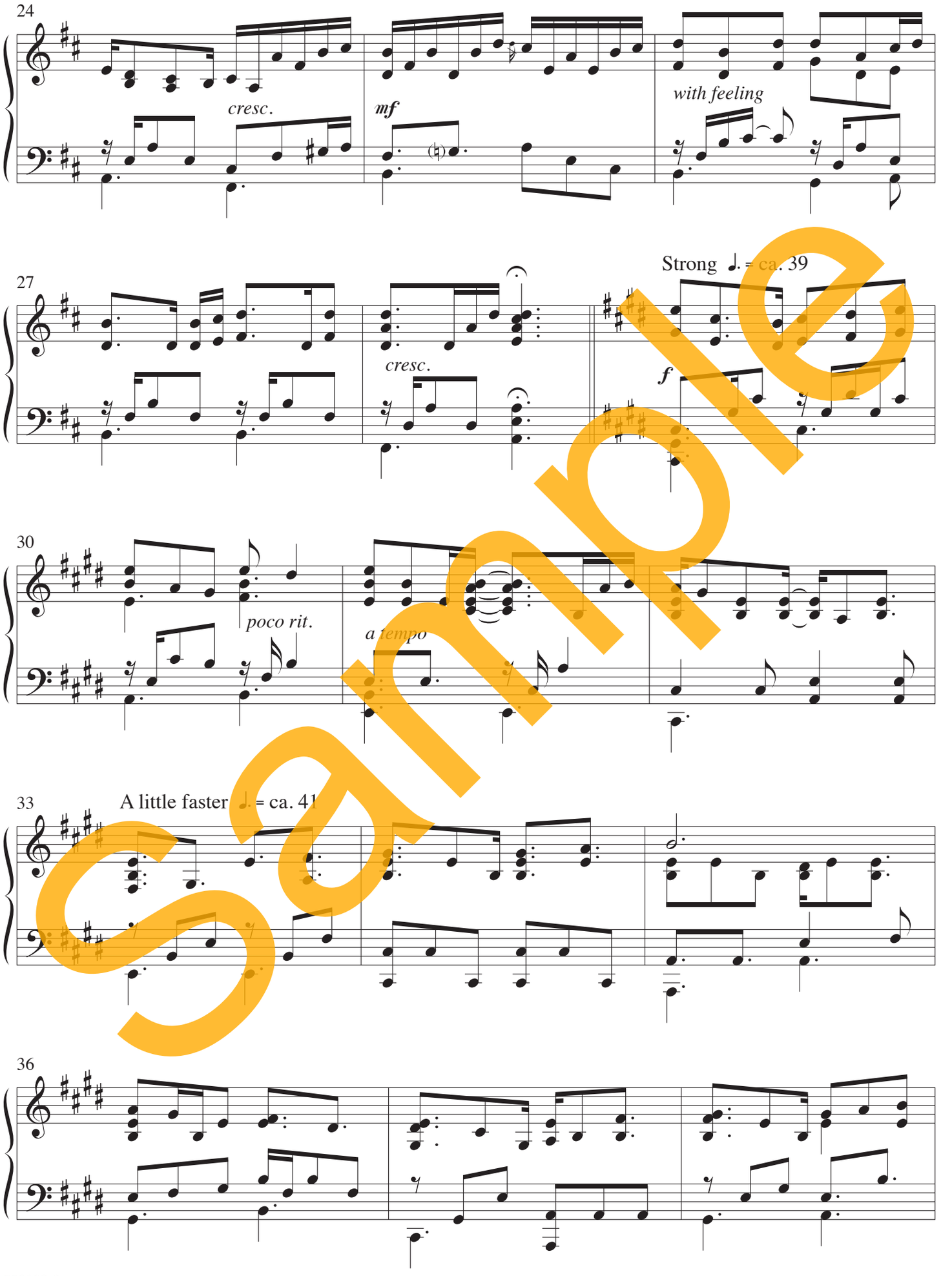
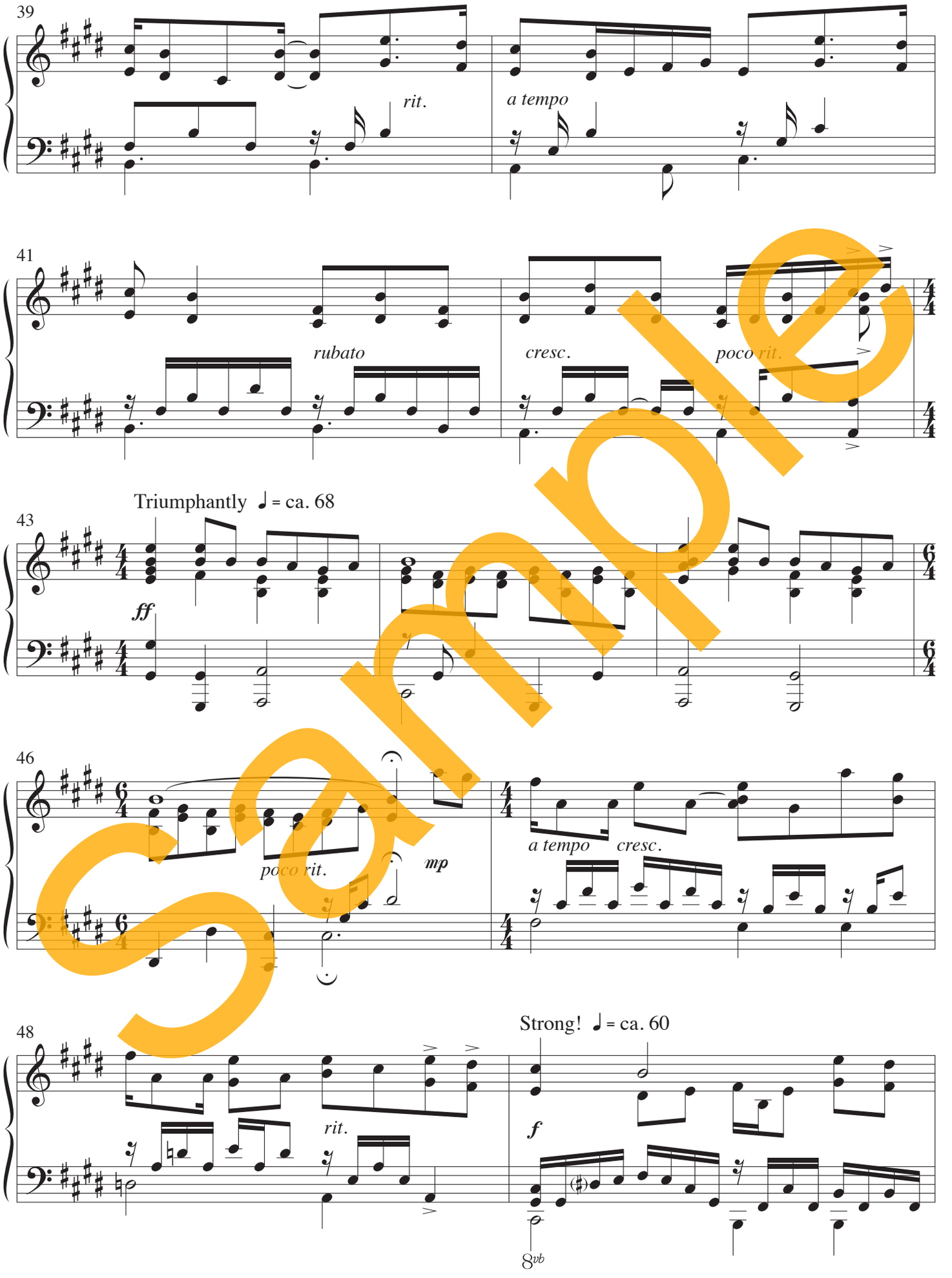
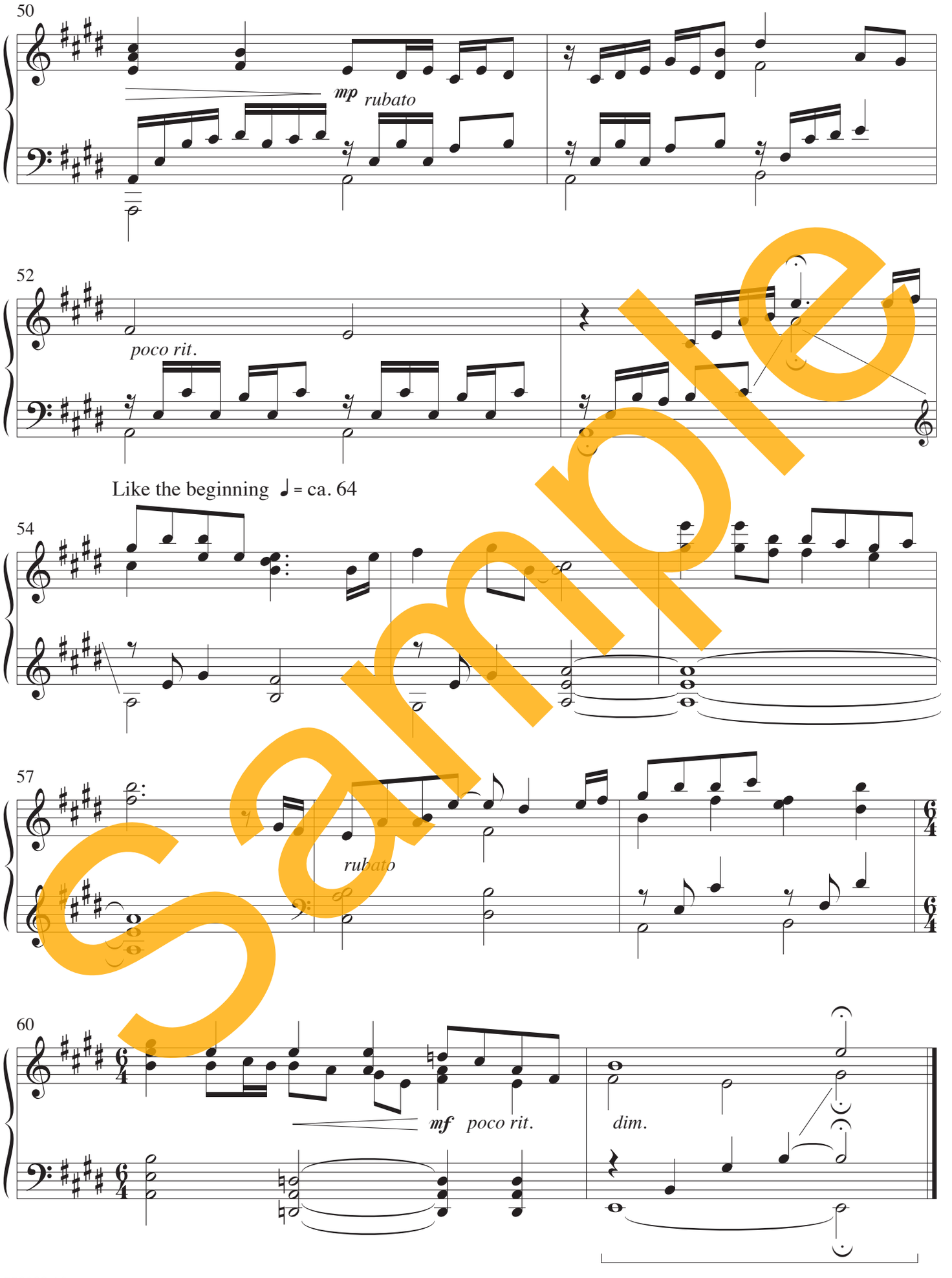

24
cresc.
mf
with feeling
27
cresc.
Strong ♩. = ca. 39
f
30
poco rit.
a tempo
33
A little faster ♩. = ca. 41
36

Sample


39
rit.
a tempo
41
rubato
cresc.
poco rit.
Triumphantly ♩ = ca. 68
43
ff
46
poco rit.
mp
a tempo
cresc.
48
rit.
Strong! ♩ = ca. 60
f
8vb

Sample

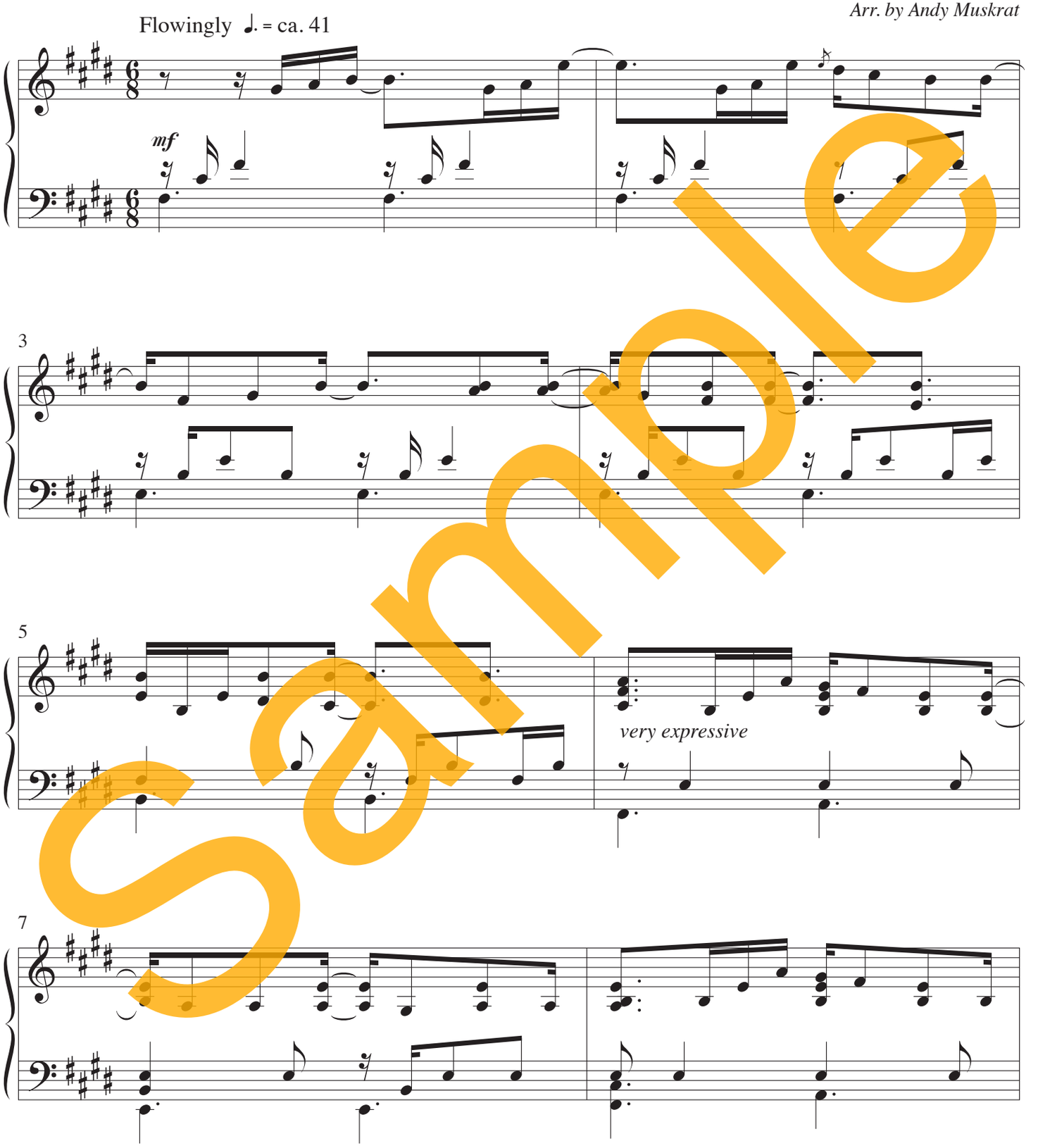

50
mp rubato
52
poco rit.
Like the beginning ♩= ca. 64
54
57
rubato
60
mf poco rit.
dim.

Sample

For my twin sister, Amy

An Autumn Prayer

ANDY MUSKRAT
Arr. by Andy Muskrat



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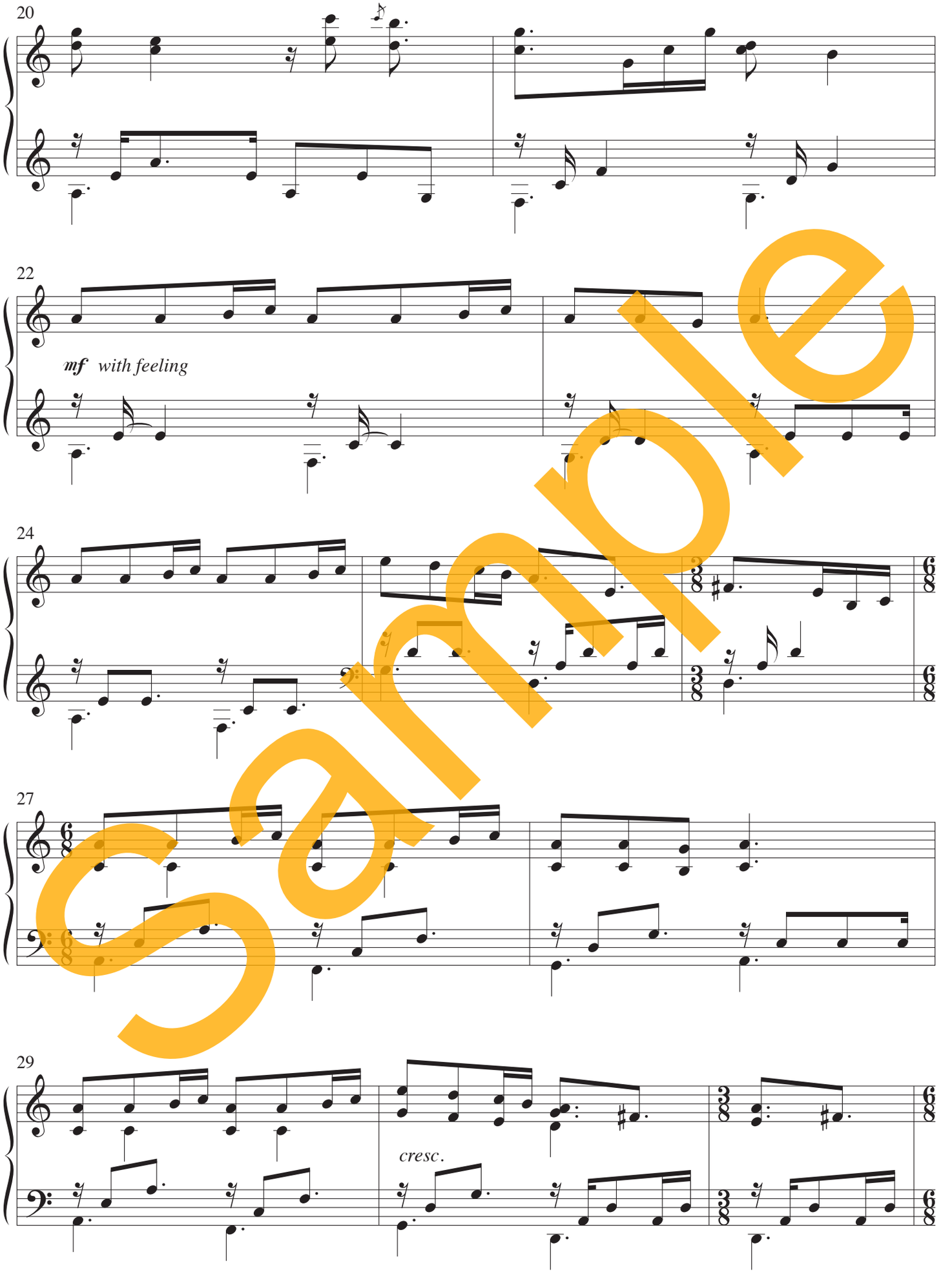

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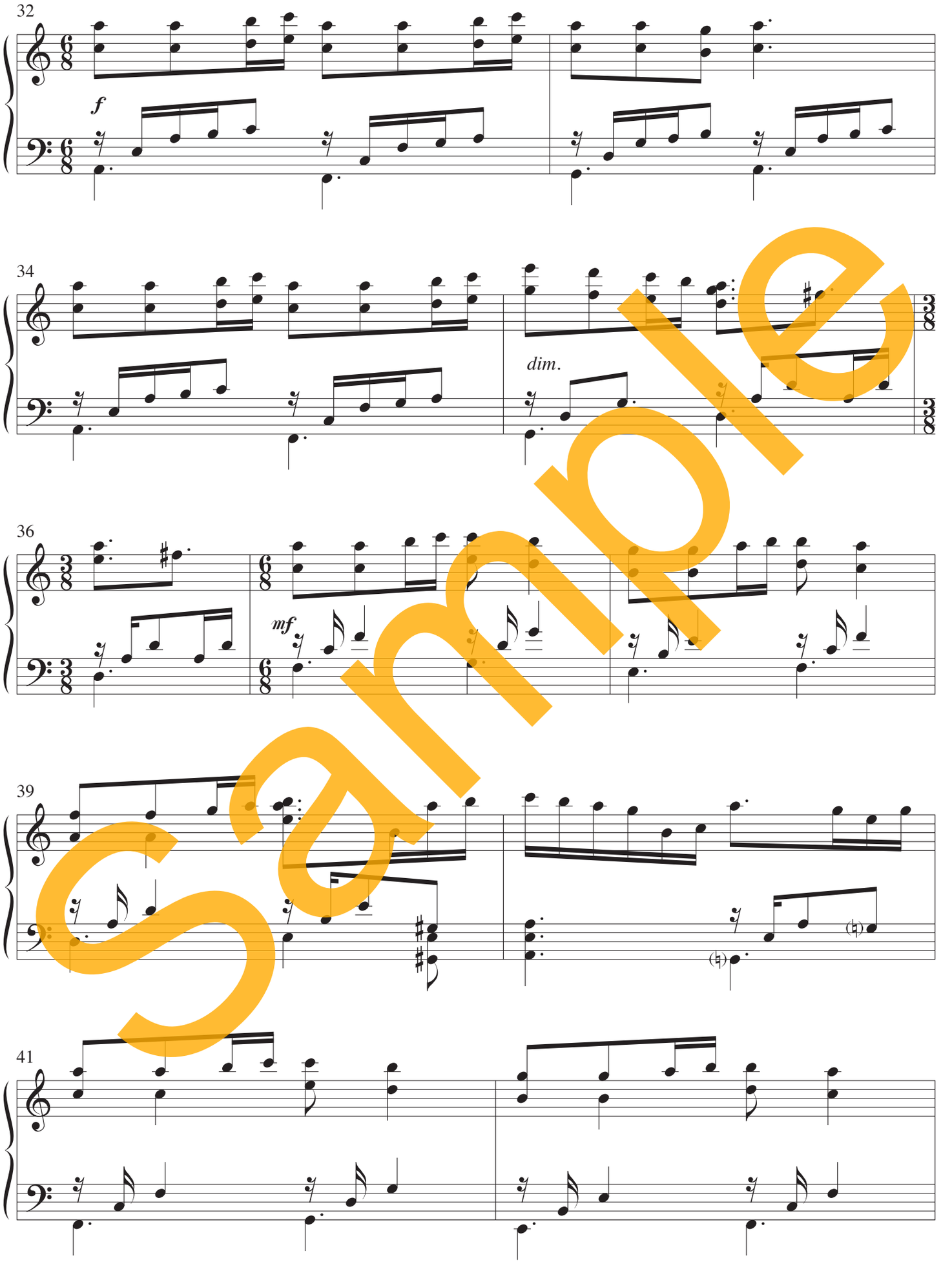

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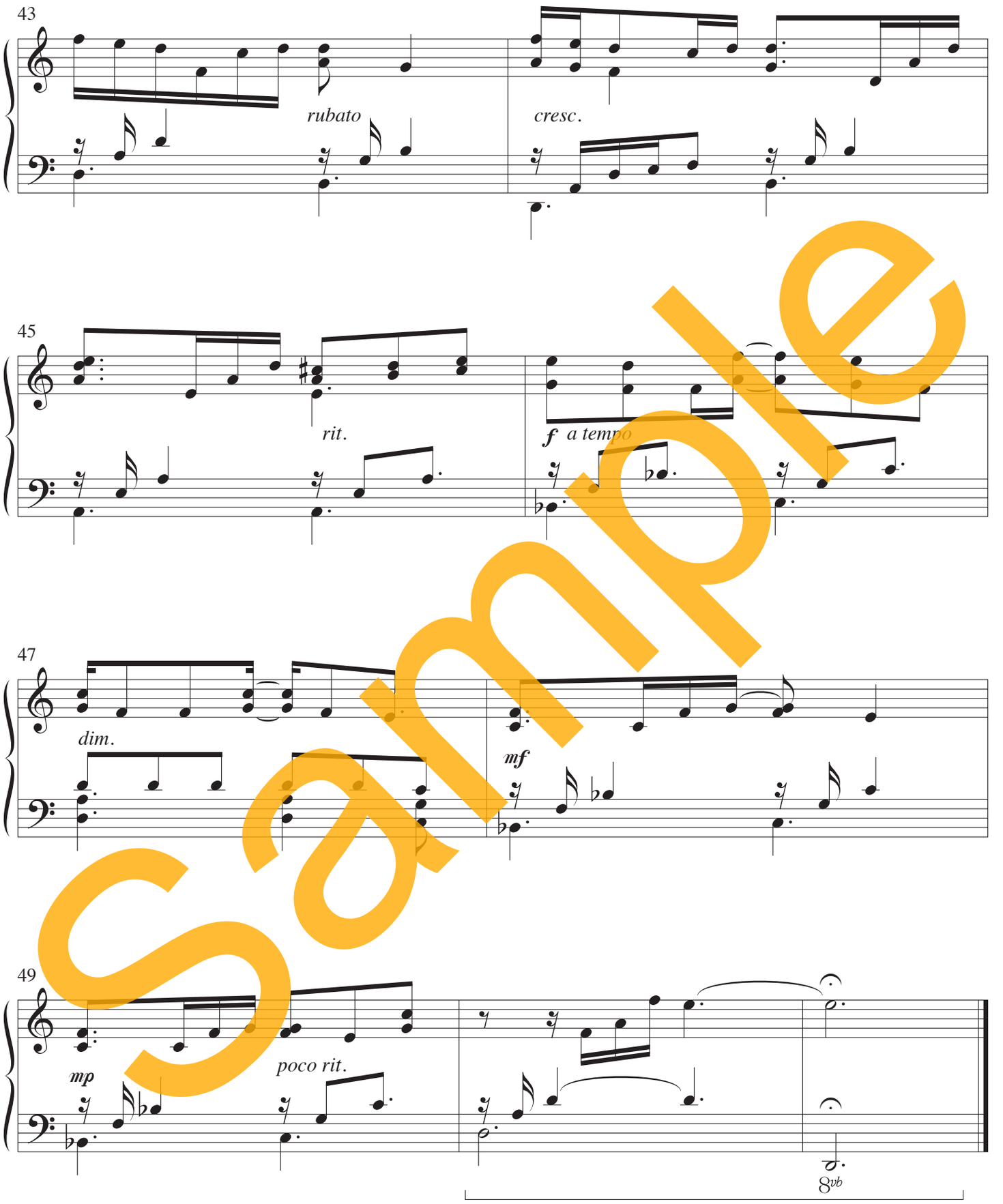


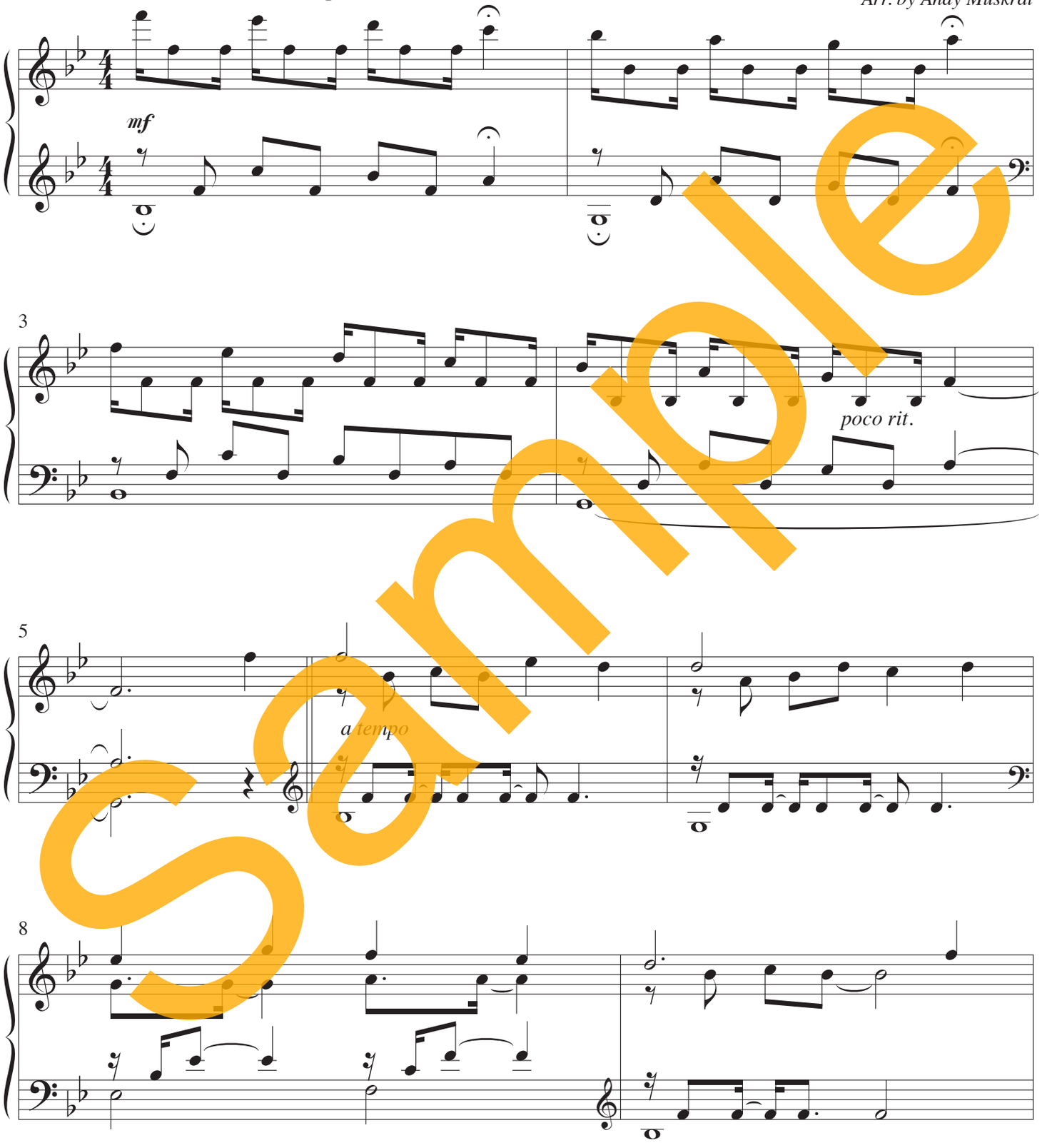
Sample

For my wife, Heather

It Is Well with My Soul

Rubato, with lots of expression ♩= ca. 72

PHILIP P. BLISS
Arr. by Andy Muskrat



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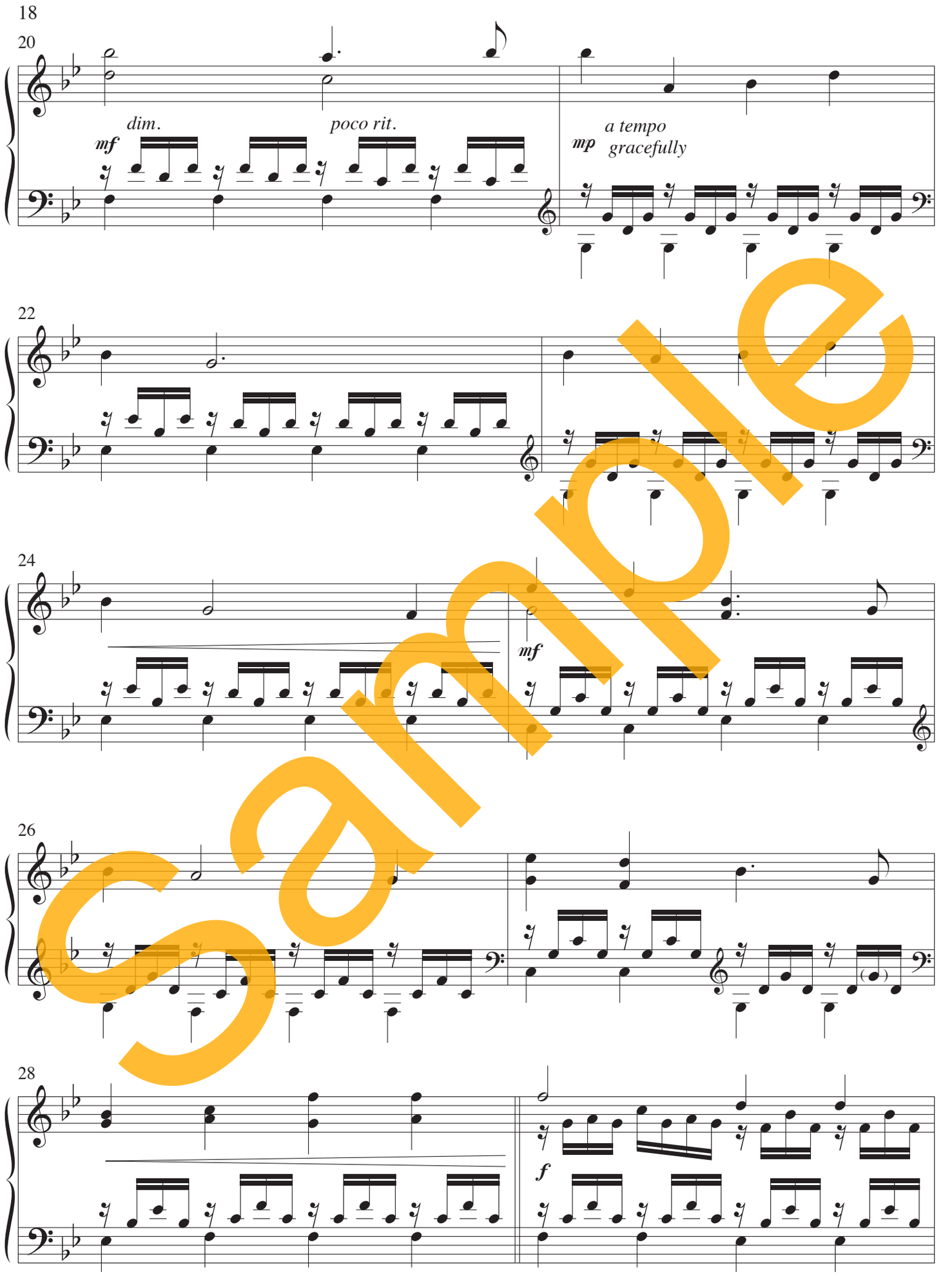

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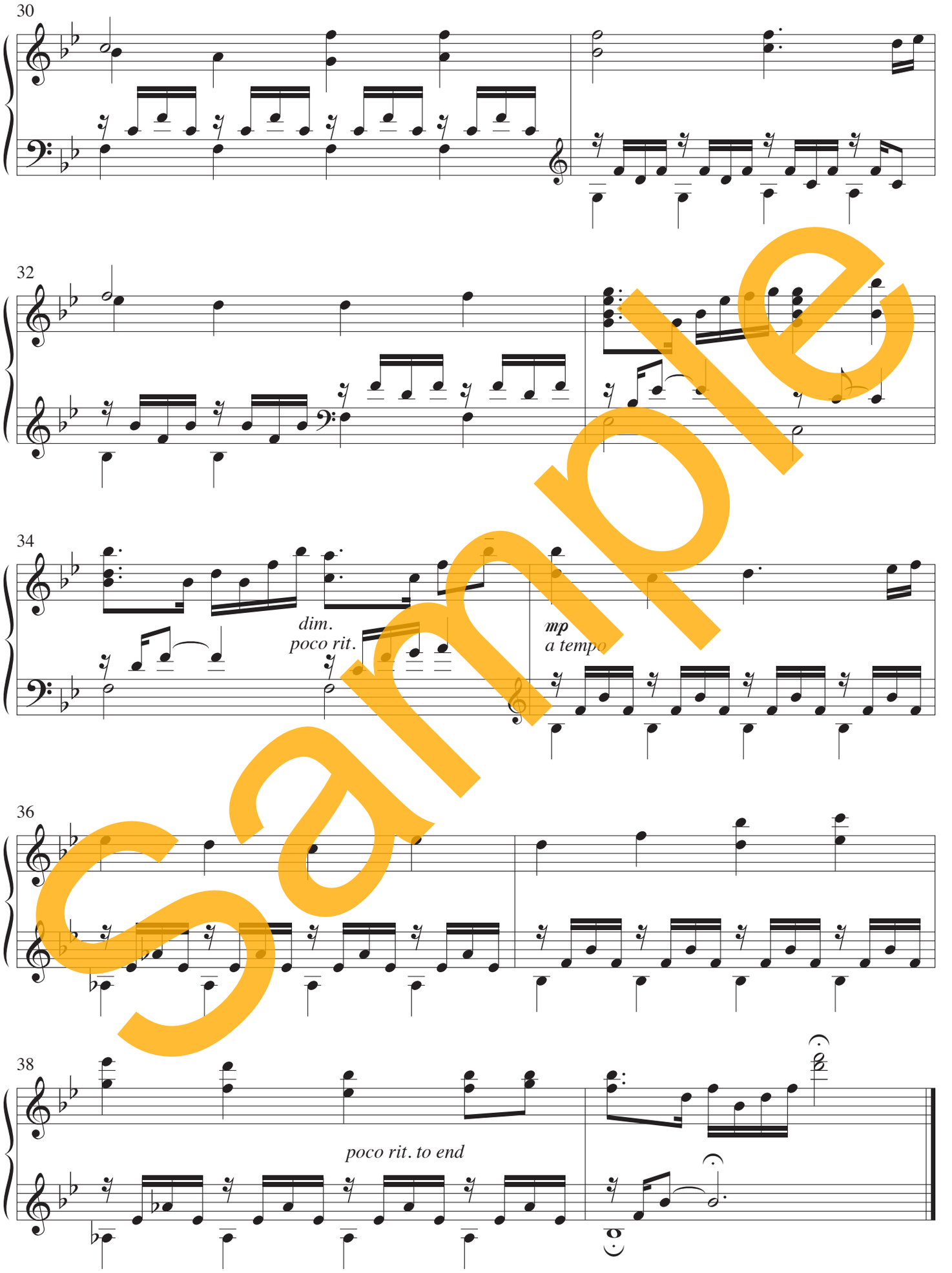
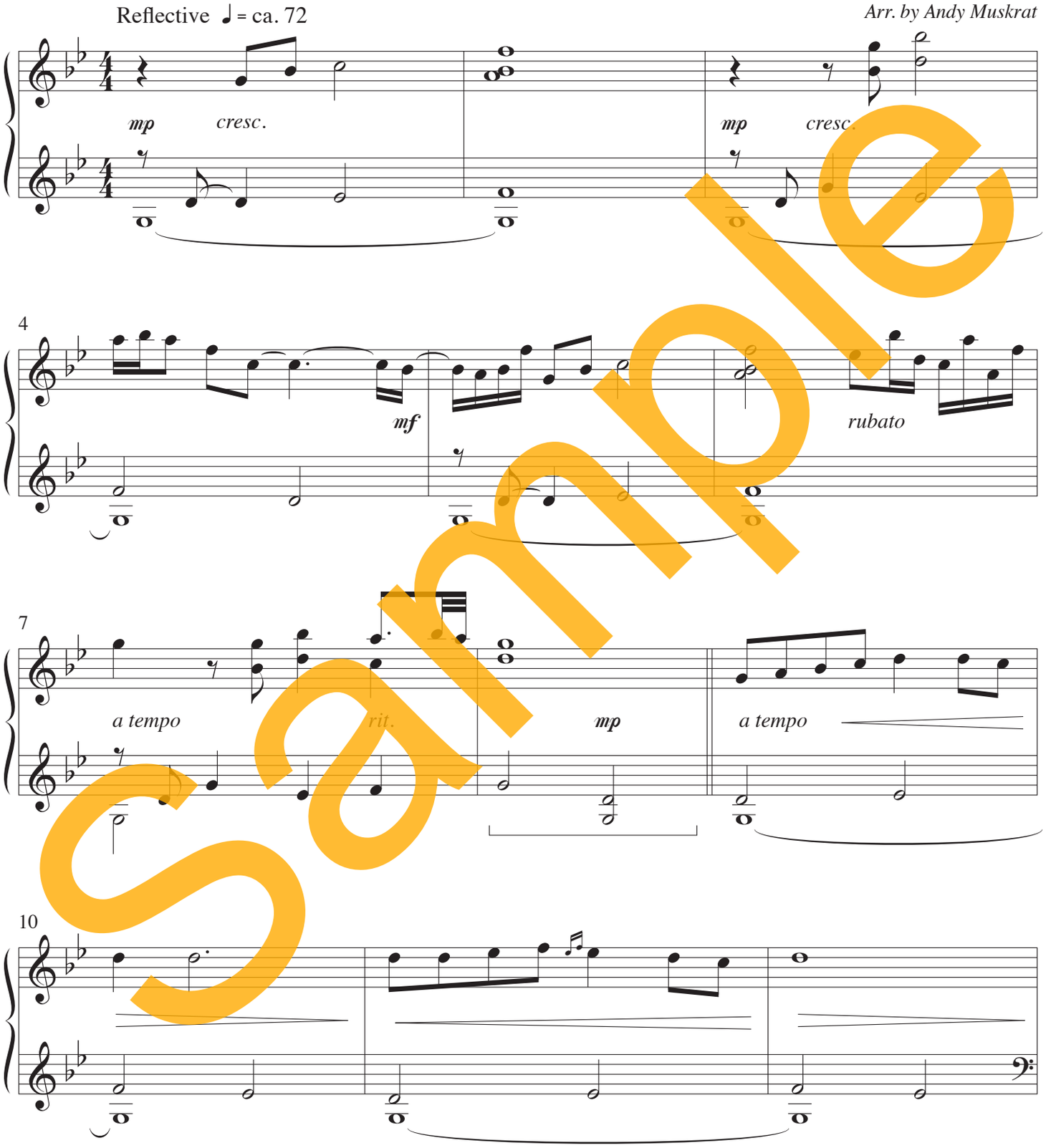


sample

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

"Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD; for He has roused Himself from His holy dwelling." Zechariah 2:13

Traditional French Carol
Arr. by Andy Muskrat



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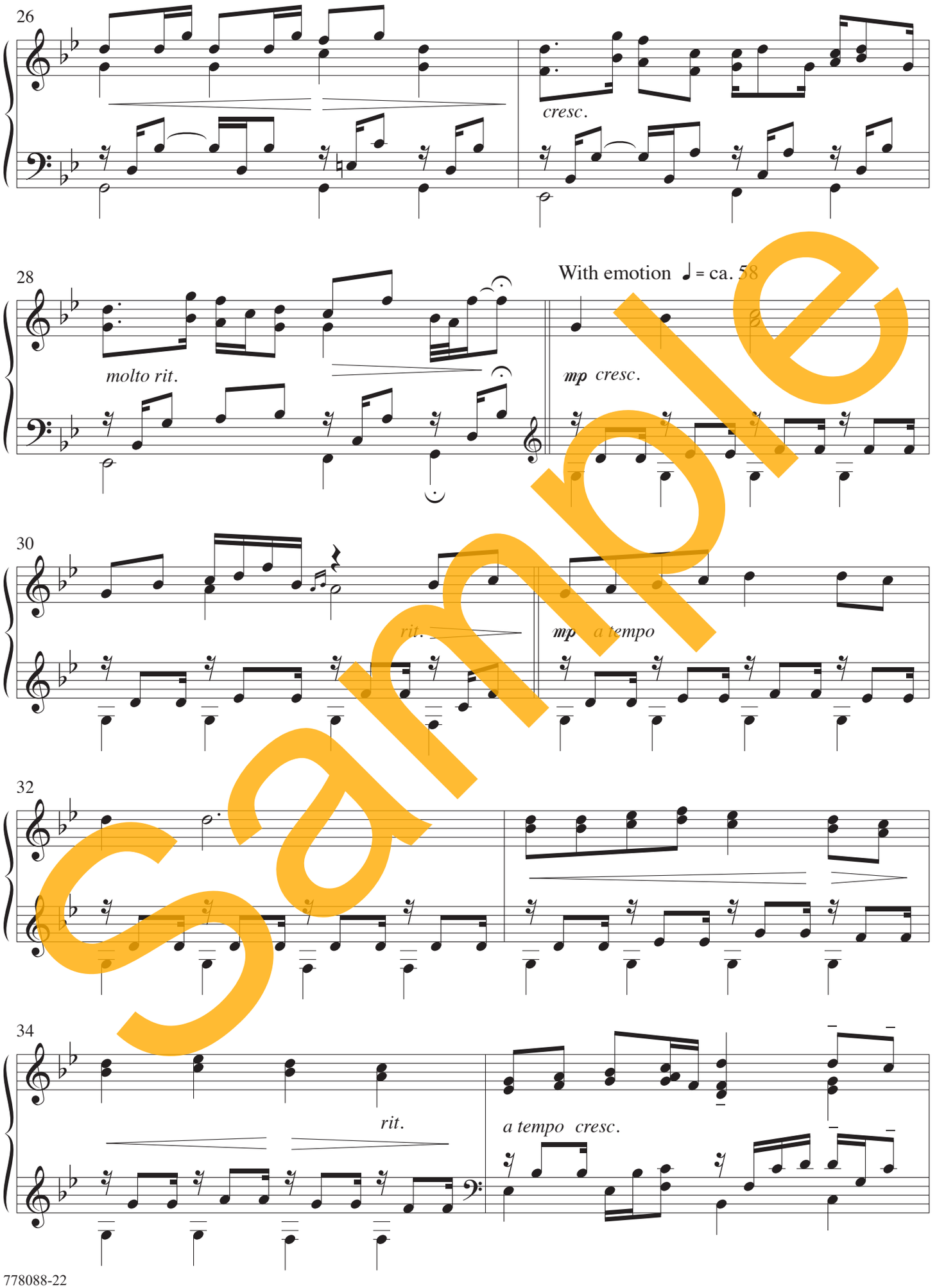
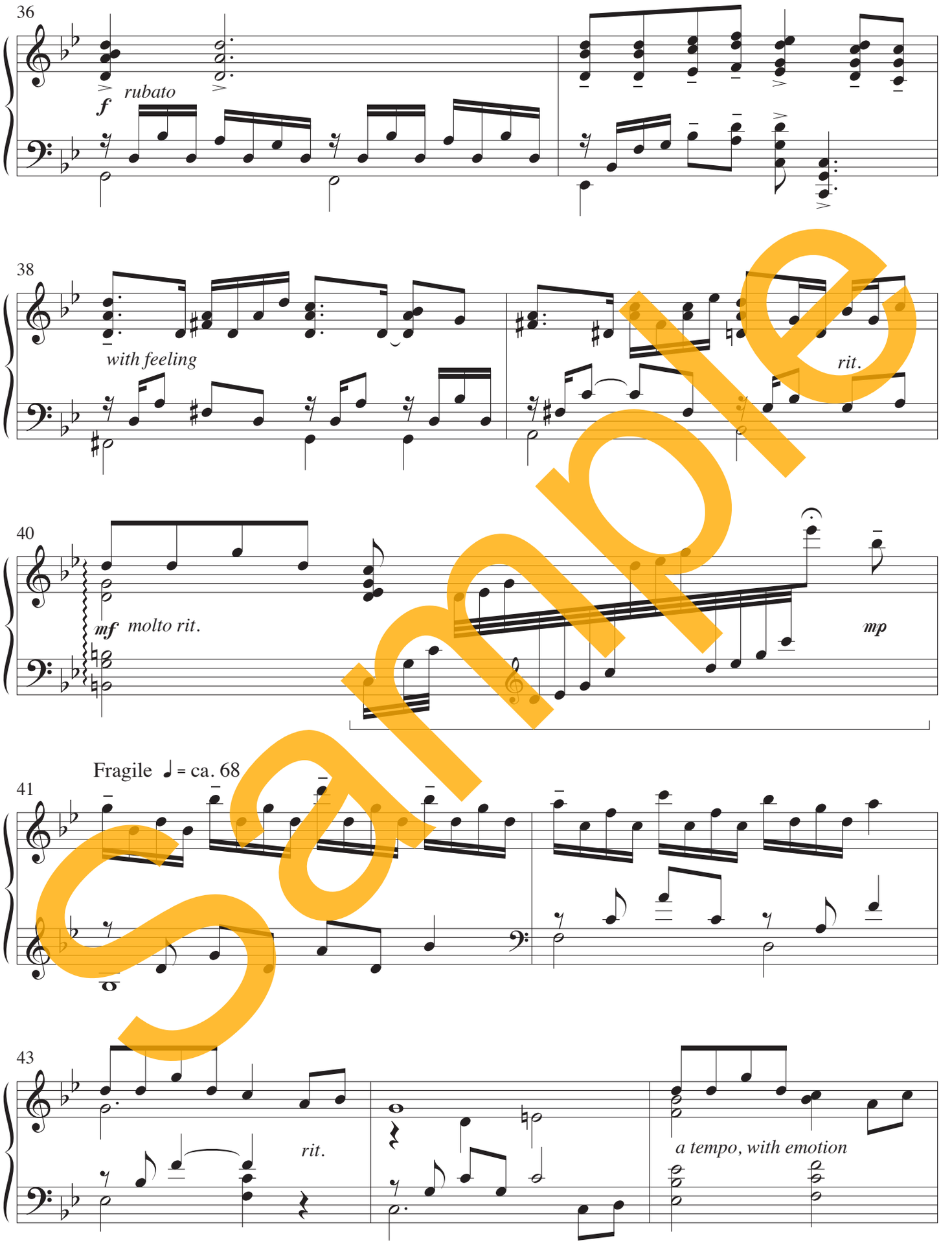
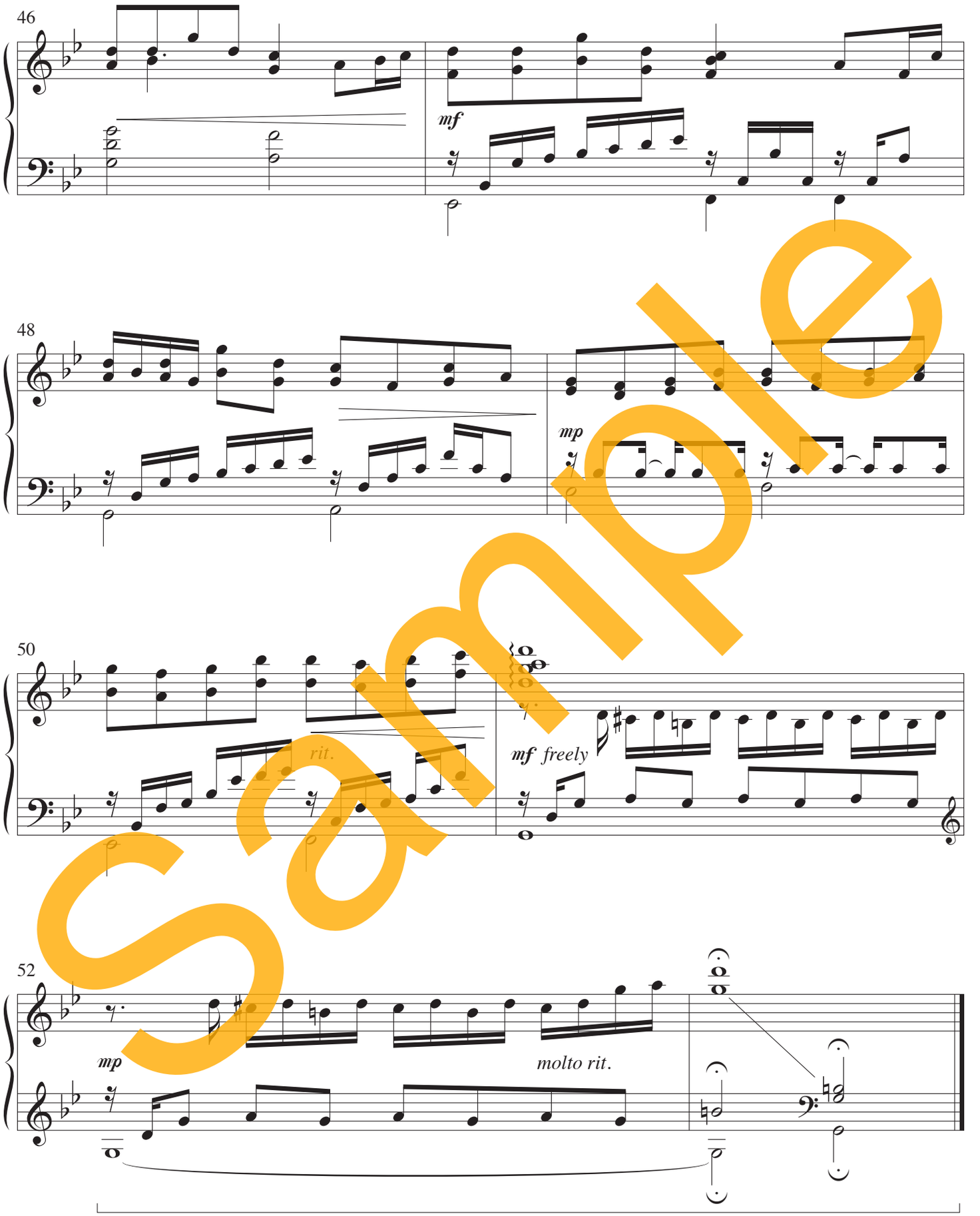

26
cresc.
28
molto rit.
With emotion ♩= ca. 58
mp cresc.
30
rit.
mp a tempo
32
34
rit.
a tempo cresc.

sample


36
rubato
f
38
with feeling
rit.
40
mf molto rit.
mp
Fragile ♩ = ca. 68
41
43
rit.
a tempo, with emotion

Sample

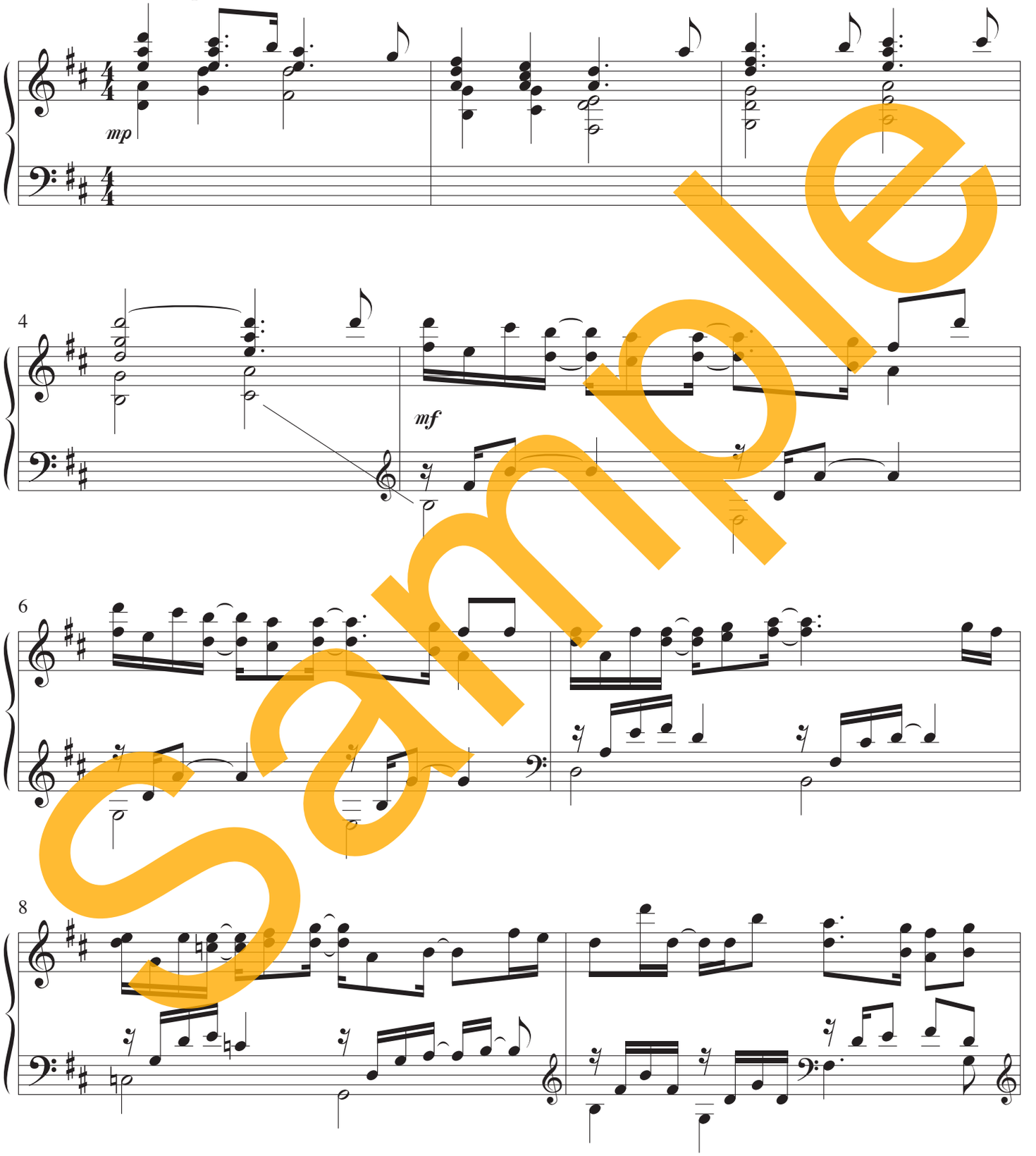


Sample

For my children, Jacob, Braeden, Jamie and Helen

Joy to the World

GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL
Arr. by Andy Muskrat



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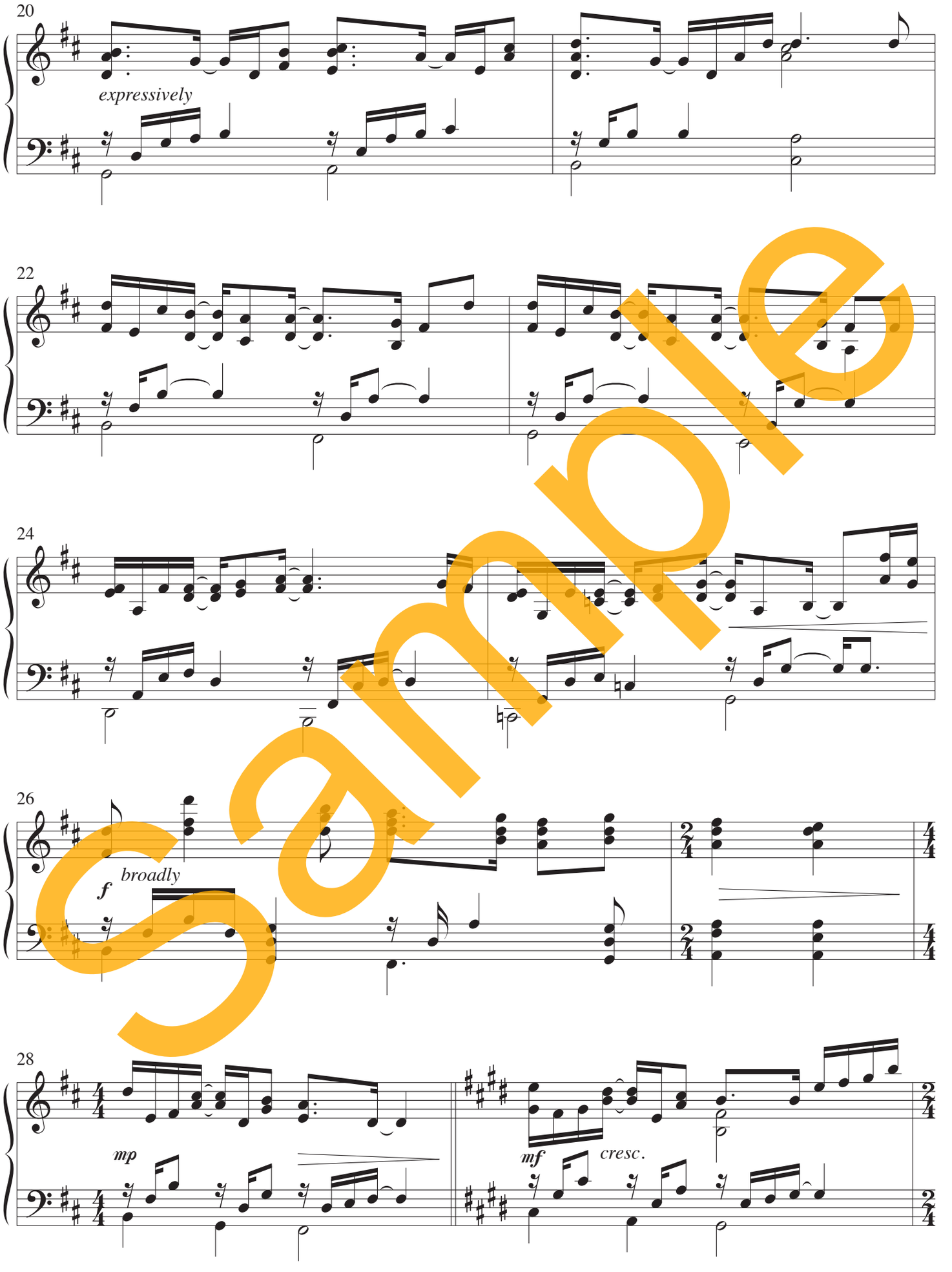

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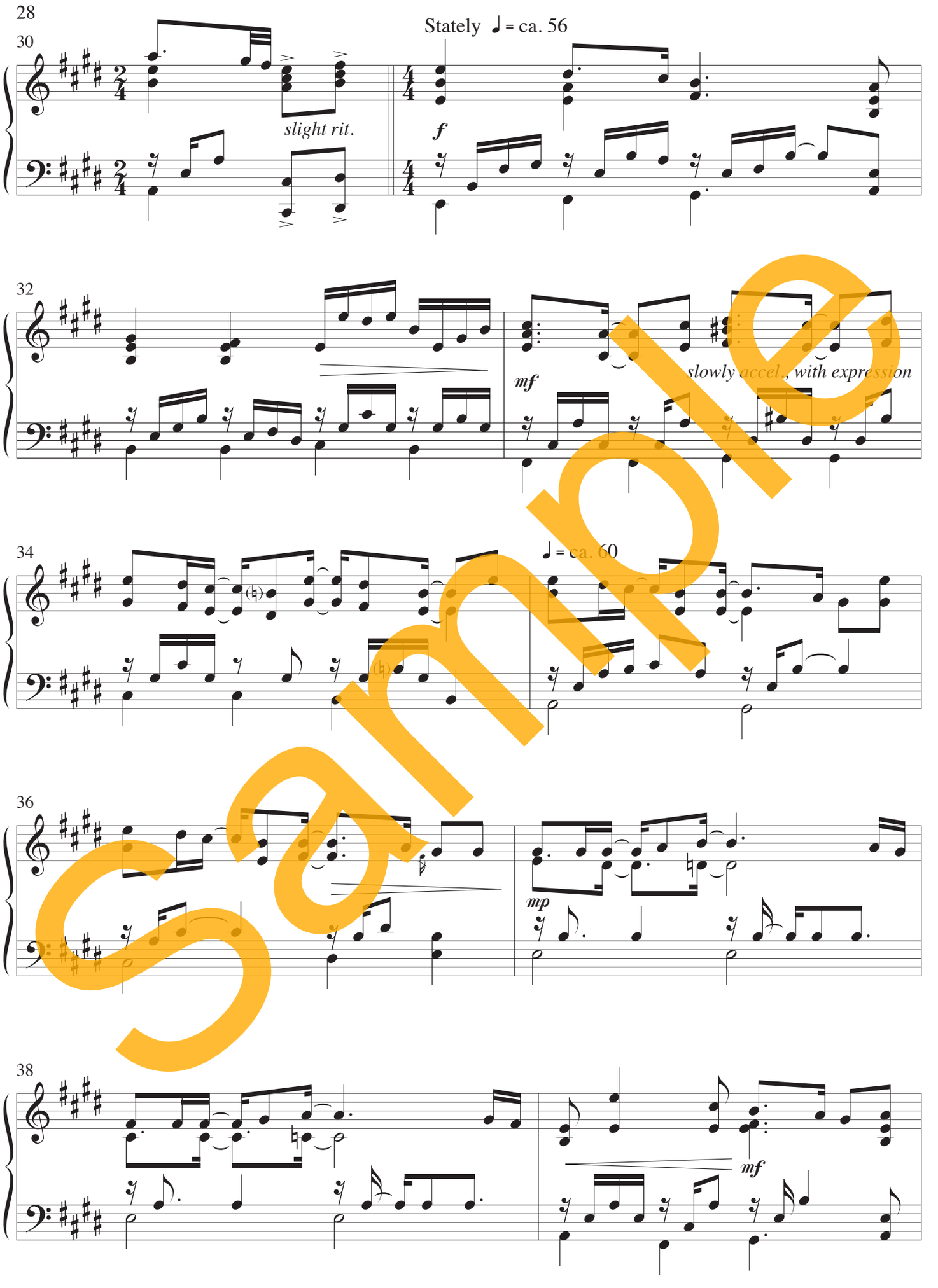
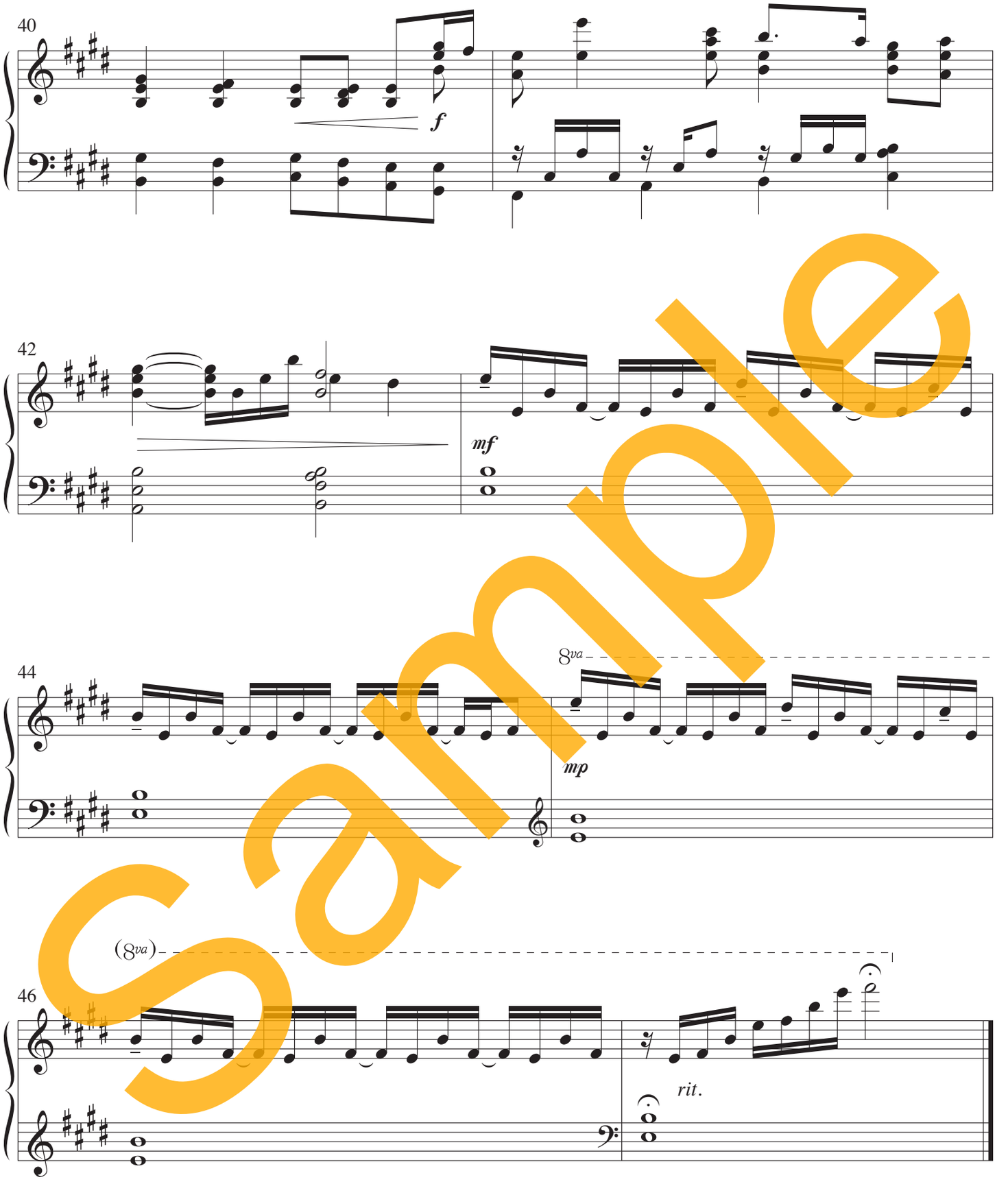

28
30
Stately ♩ = ca. 56
slight rit.
f
32
mf
slowly accel., with expression
34
♩ = ca. 60
36
mp
38
mf

Sample



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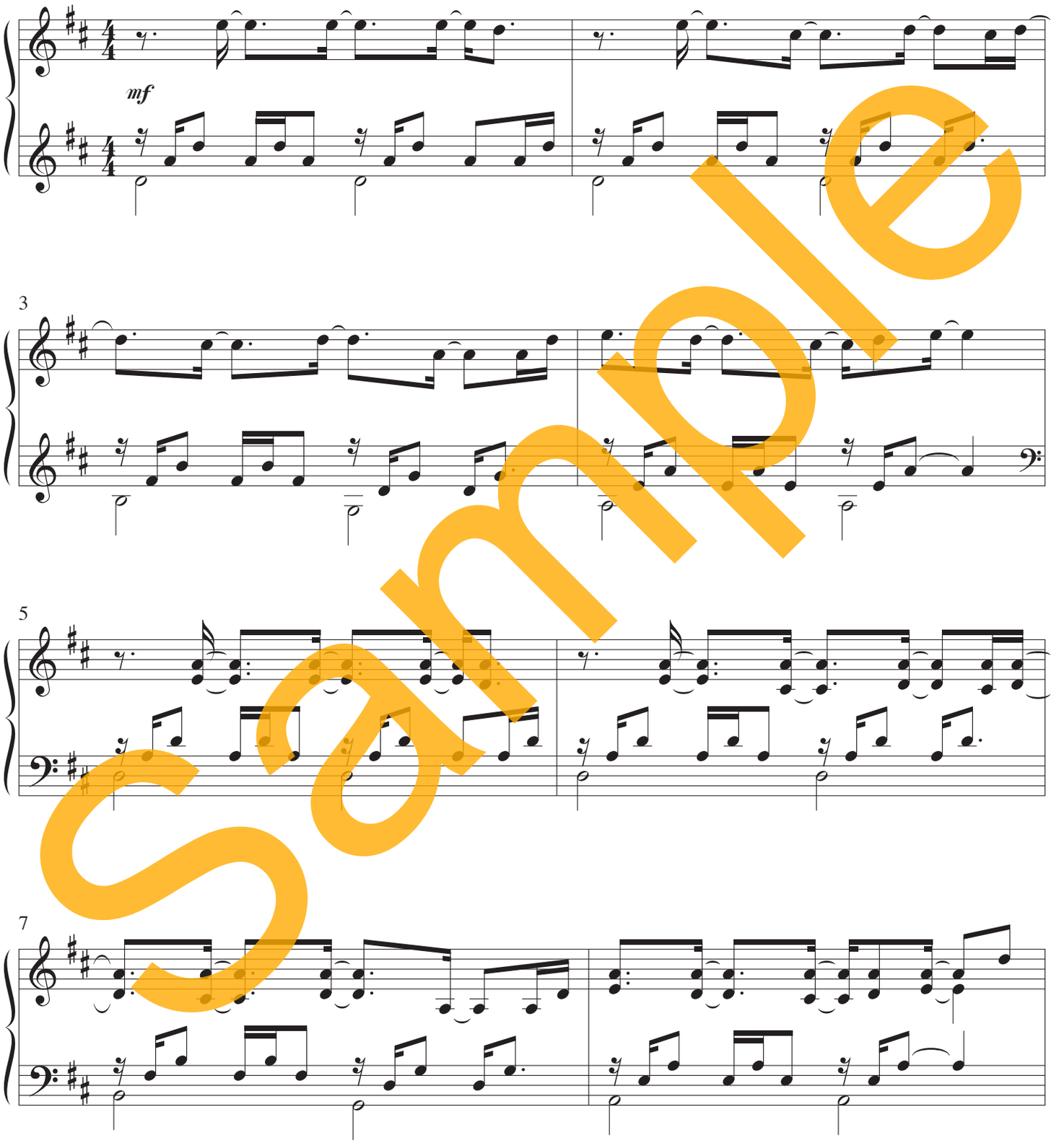
For my in-laws, Vic and Becky

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

MARTIN LUTHER
Arr. by Andy Muskrat

With excitement ♩ = ca. 72



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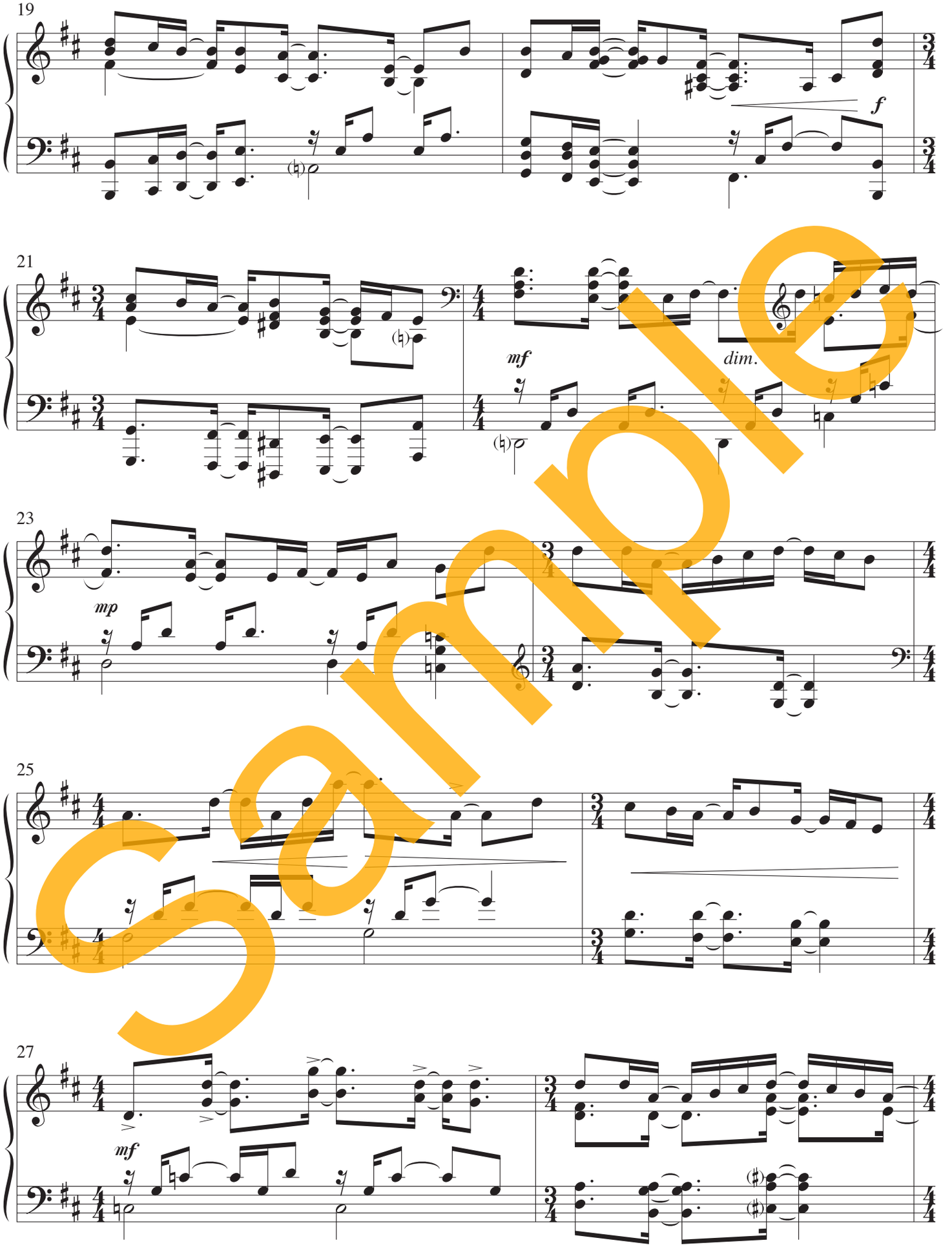

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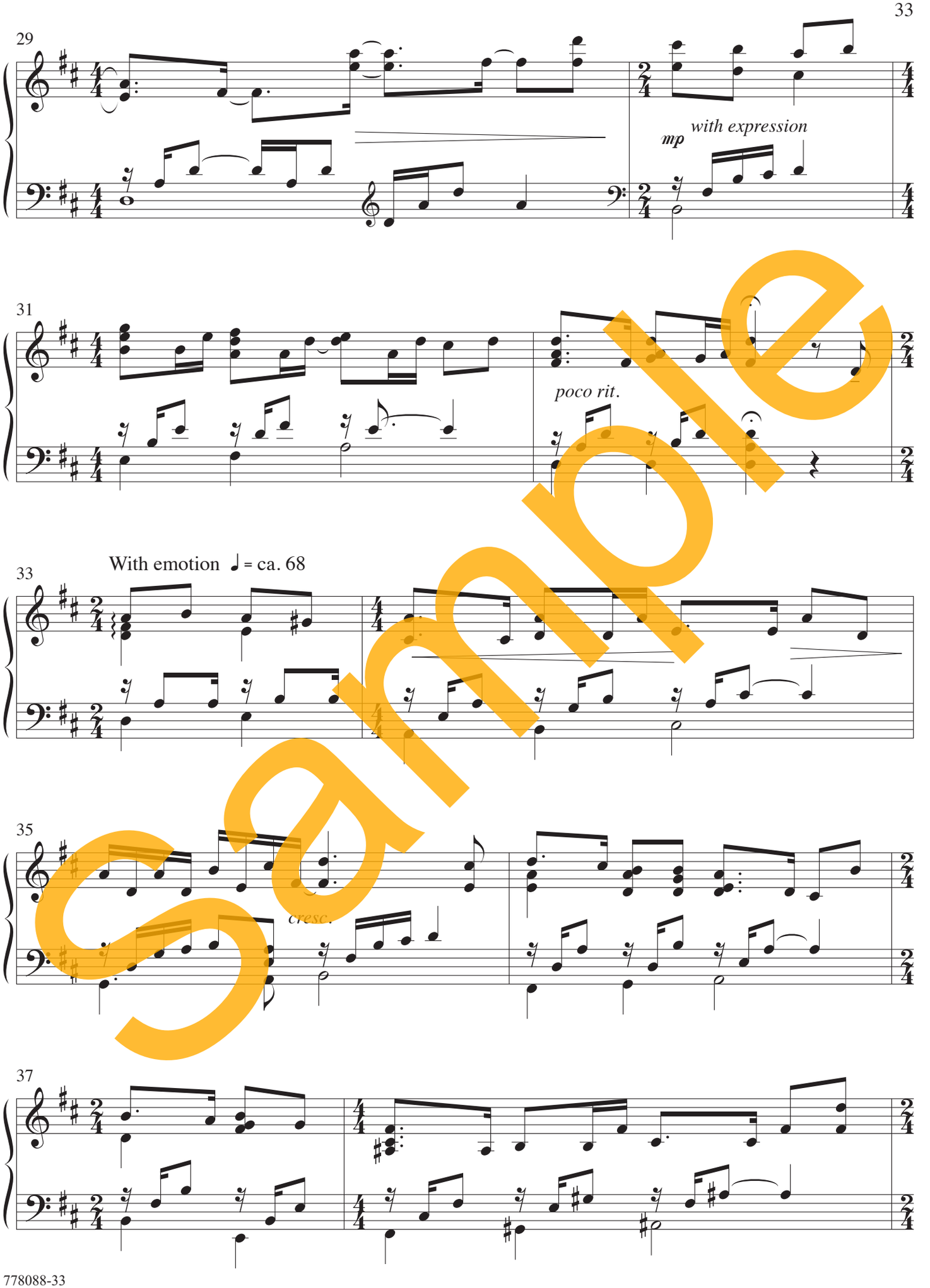

29
mp
with expression
31
poco rit.
33
With emotion ♩= ca. 68
35
cresc.
37

sample

39

mf

41

with passion
cresc.

f

Stately ♩ = ca. 64

43

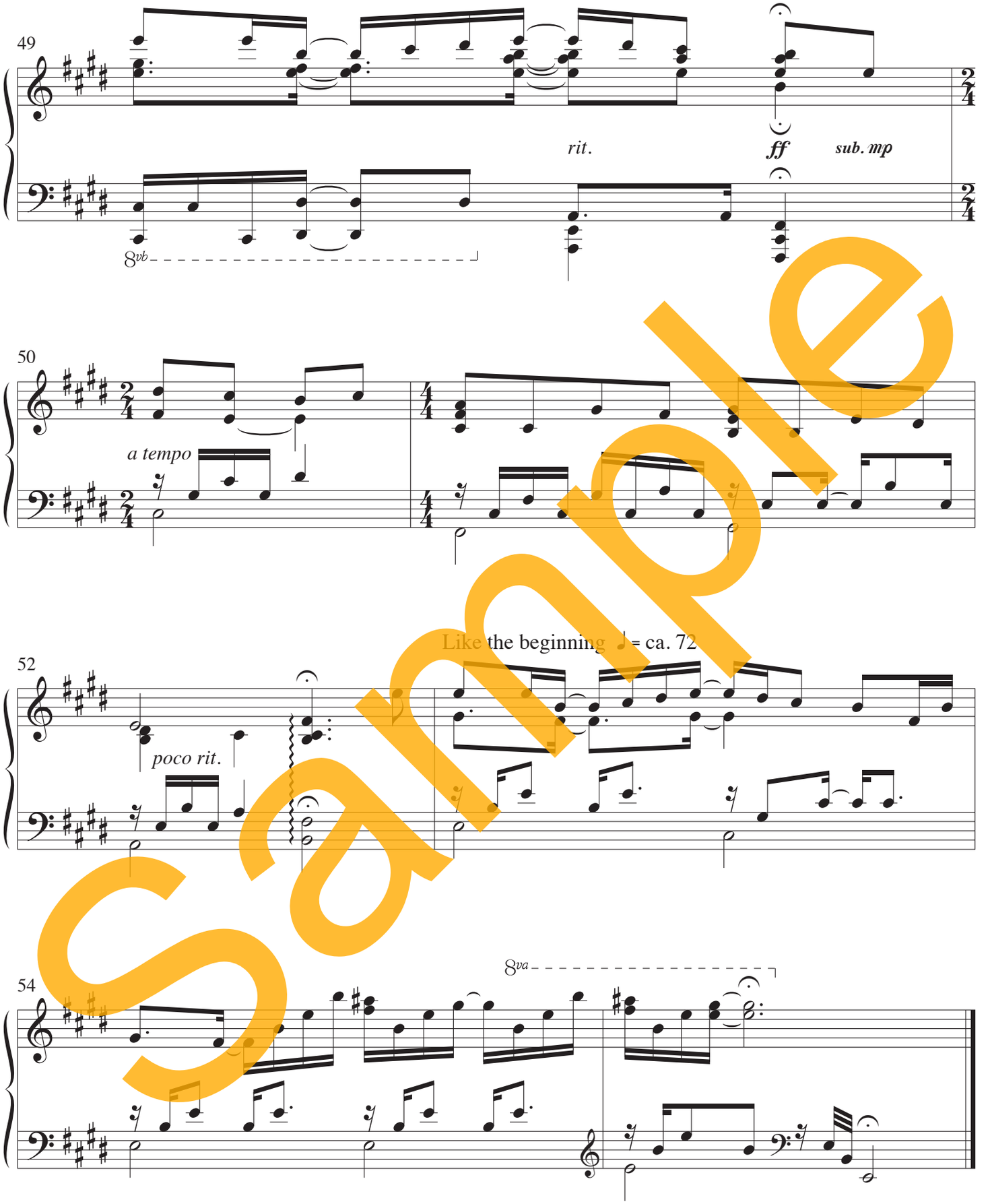
poco accel.

45

47

mp *cresc.*

Sample


49
rit.
ff
sub. mp
8vb
50
a tempo
52
poco rit.
Like the beginning ♩= ca. 72
54
8va

Sample

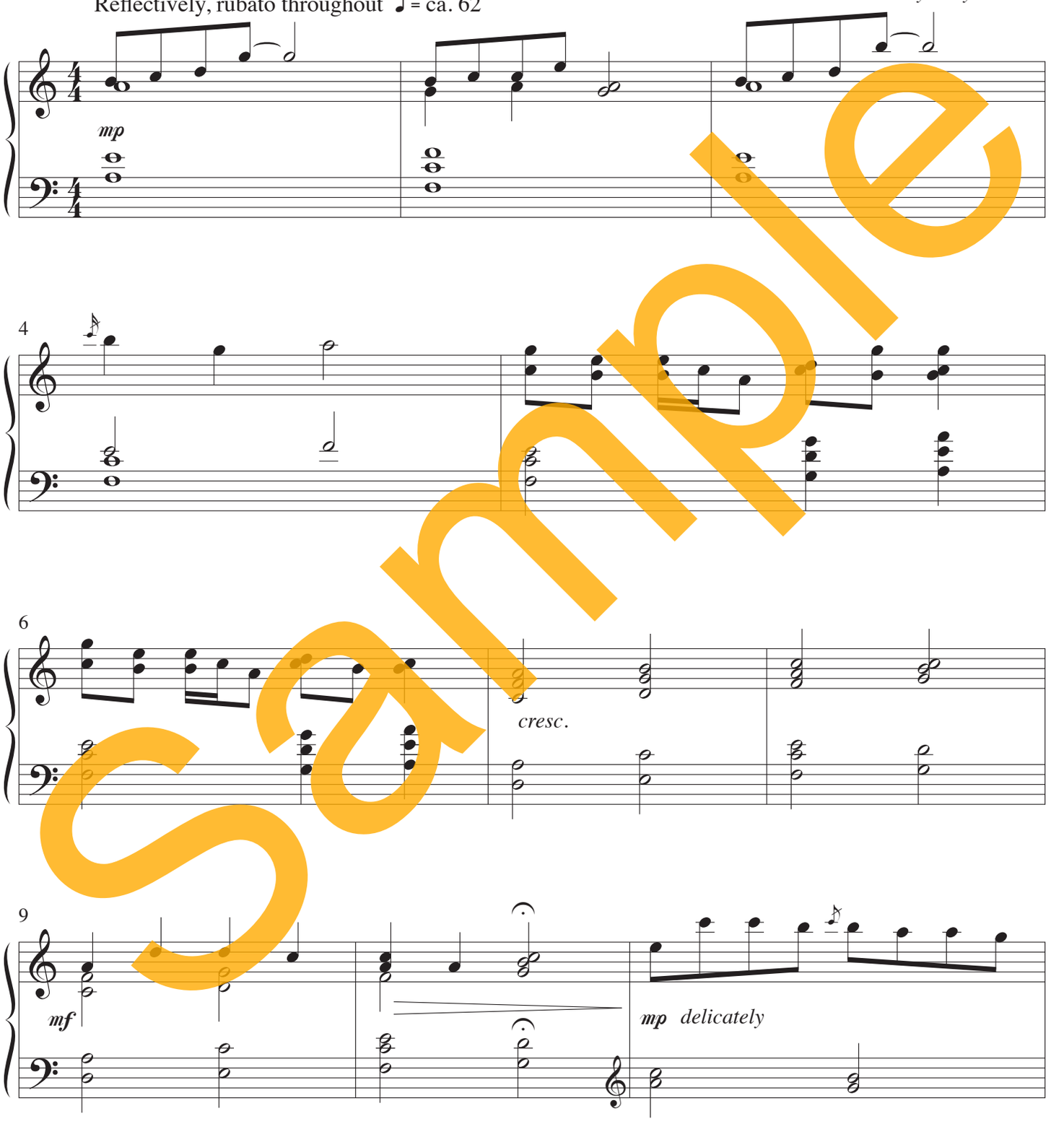
For my Gramps, who loved snow as much as I do

Morning Snow

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven . . . so will My Word be which goes forth from My mouth." Isaiah 55:10-11

ANDY MUSKRAT
Arr. by Andy Muskrat

Reflectively, rubato throughout ♩ = ca. 62



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25

27

mp

poco rit.

Expressive ♩ = ca. 58

29

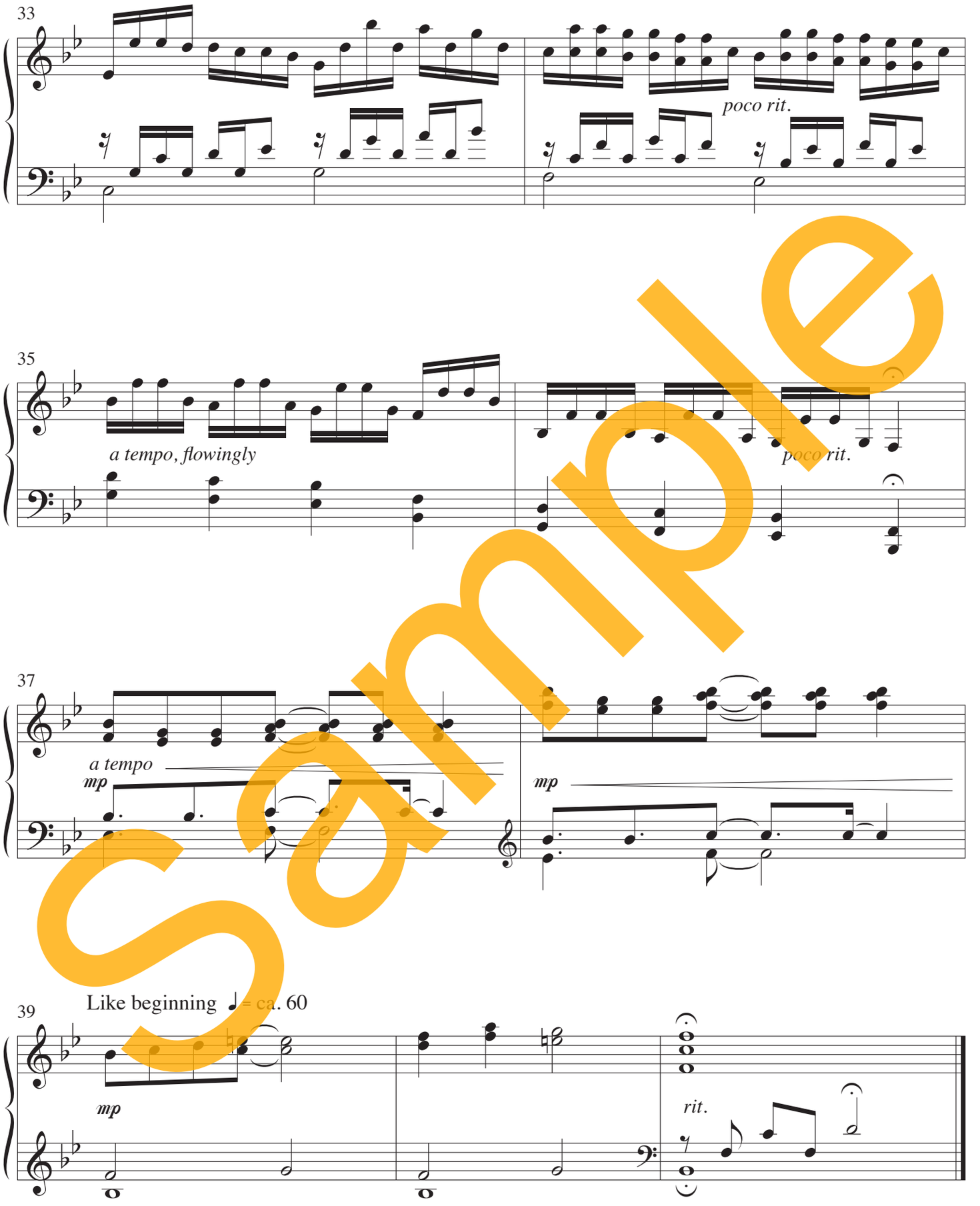
slight accel.
cresc.

Tempo I

31

mf

Sample

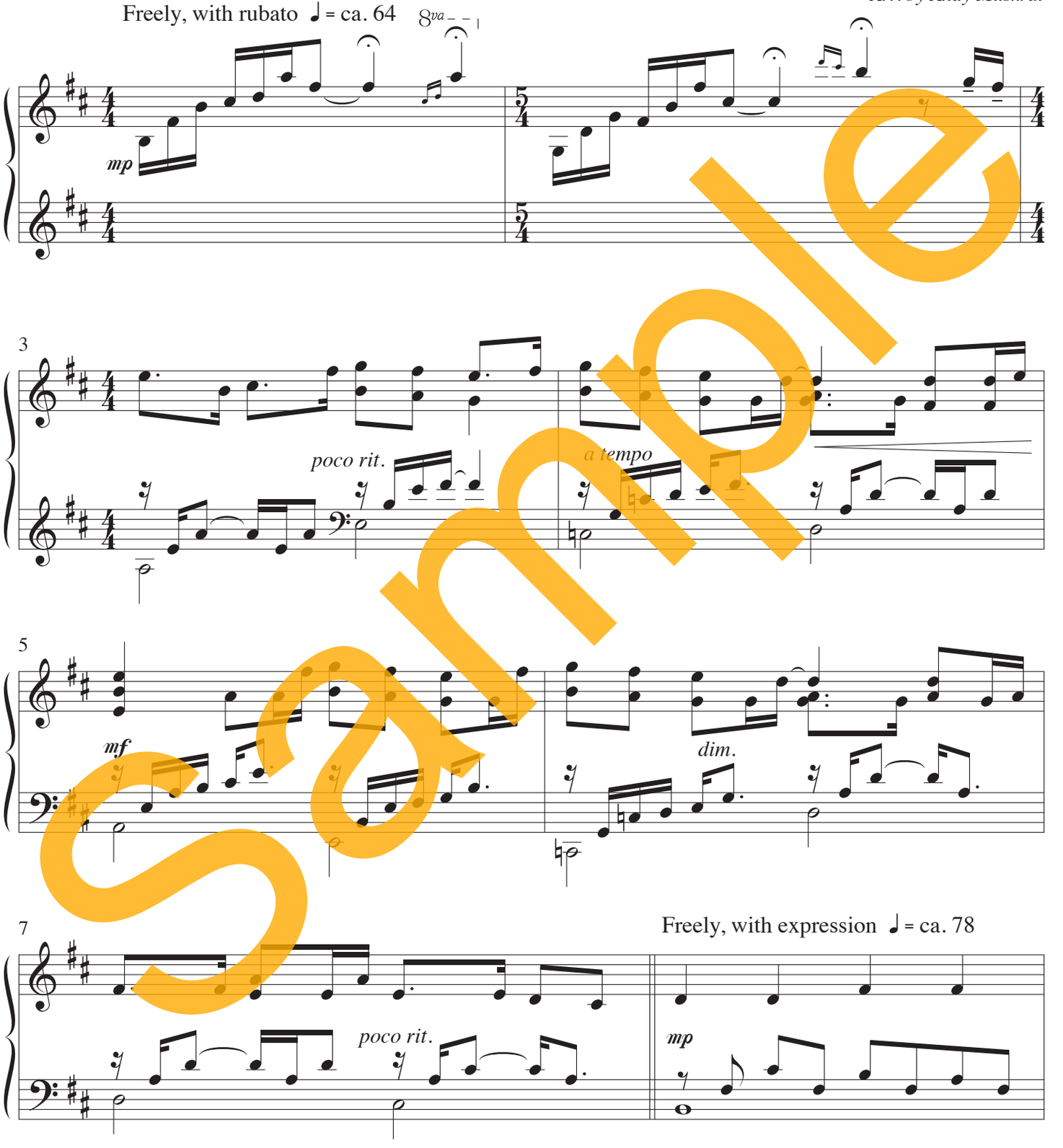

33
poco rit.
35
a tempo, flowingly
poco rit.
37
a tempo
mp
mp
39
Like beginning ♩ = ca. 60
mp
rit.

Sample

For my parents, Bruce and Nancy,
who instilled the love of music in me

Holy, Holy, Holy

JOHN B. DYKES
Arr. by Andy Muskrat



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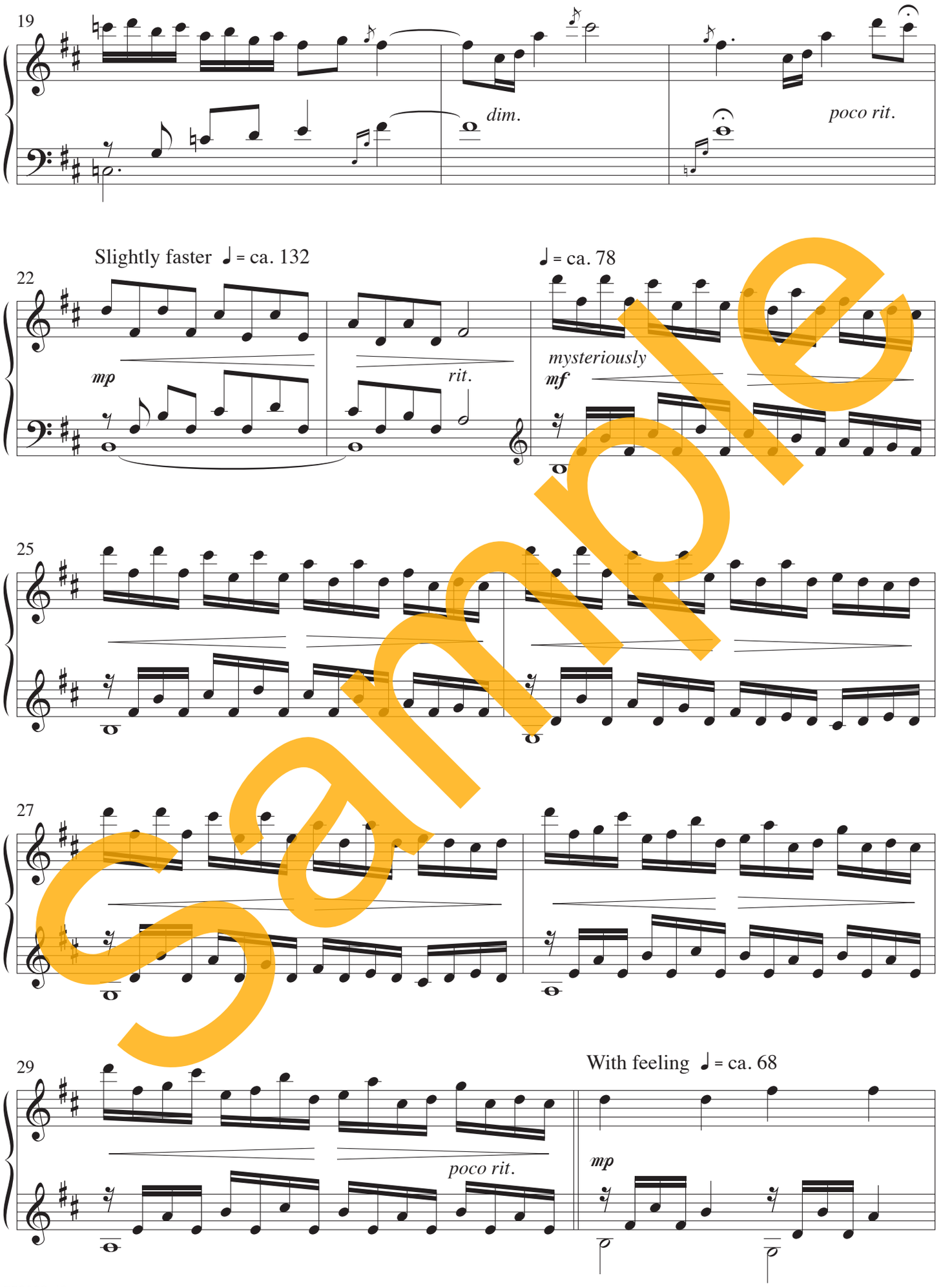
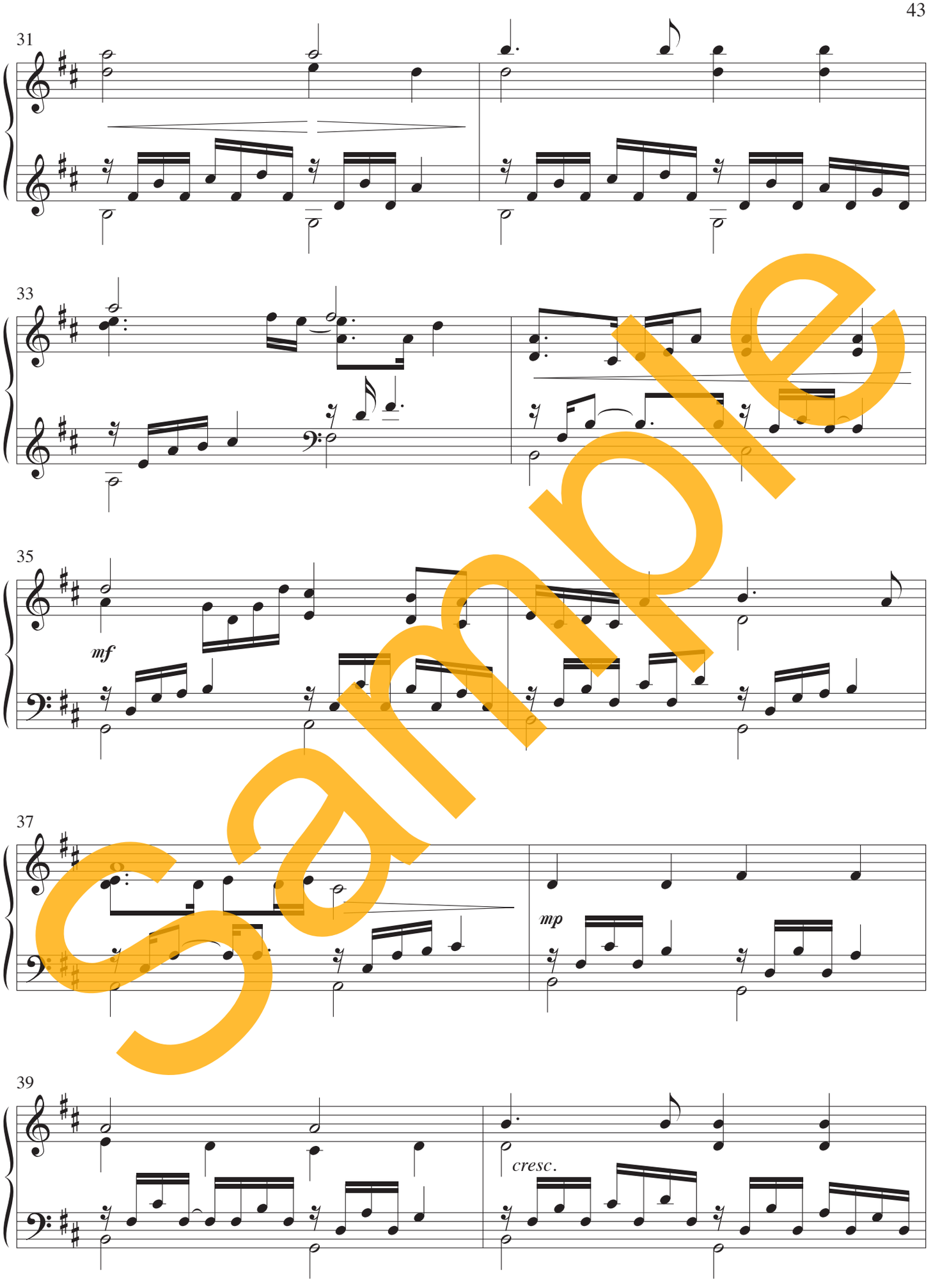
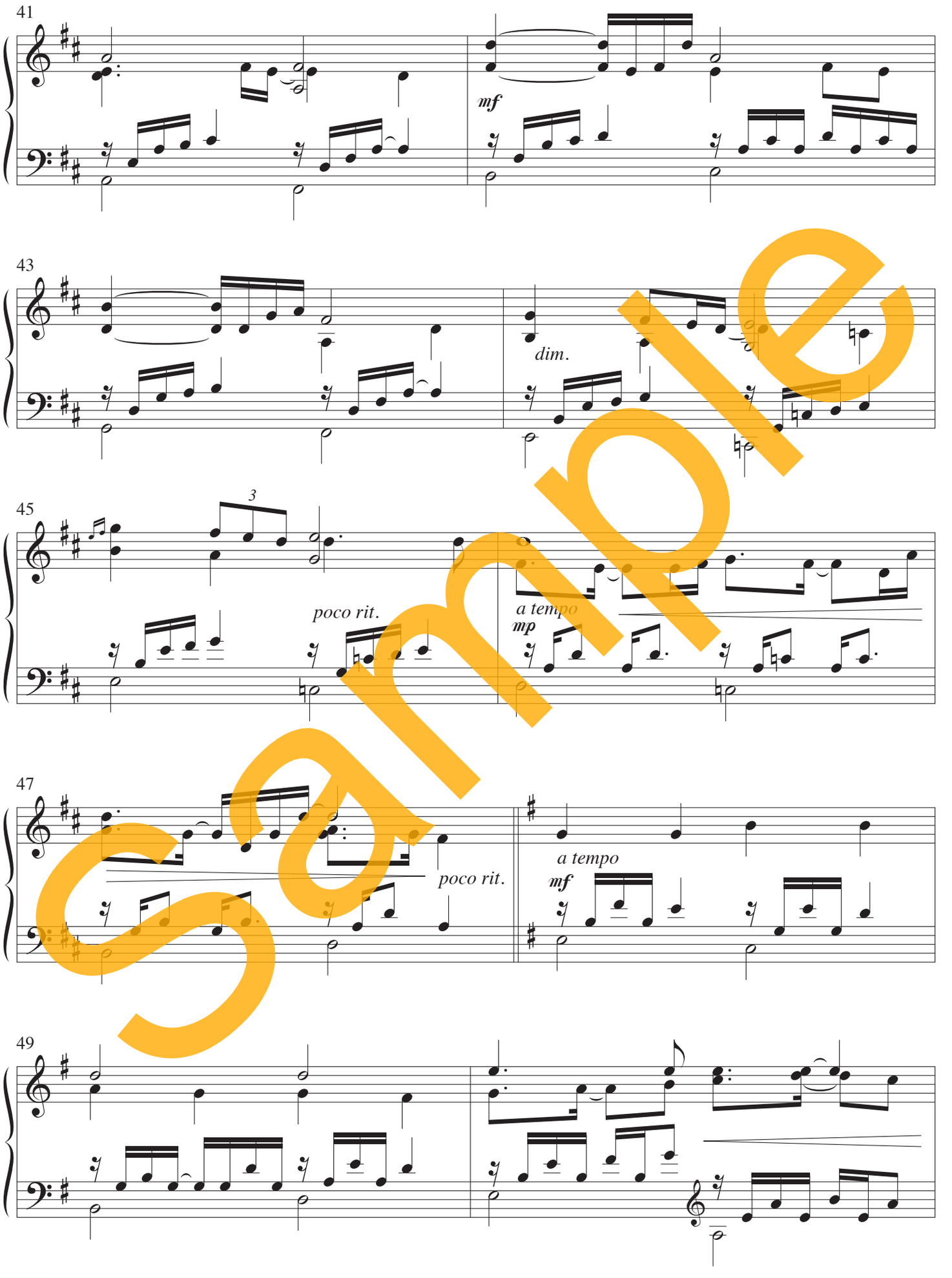

19
dim.
poco rit.
Slightly faster ♩= ca. 132
22
mp
rit.
♩= ca. 78
mysteriously
mf
25
27
29
poco rit.
With feeling ♩= ca. 68
mp

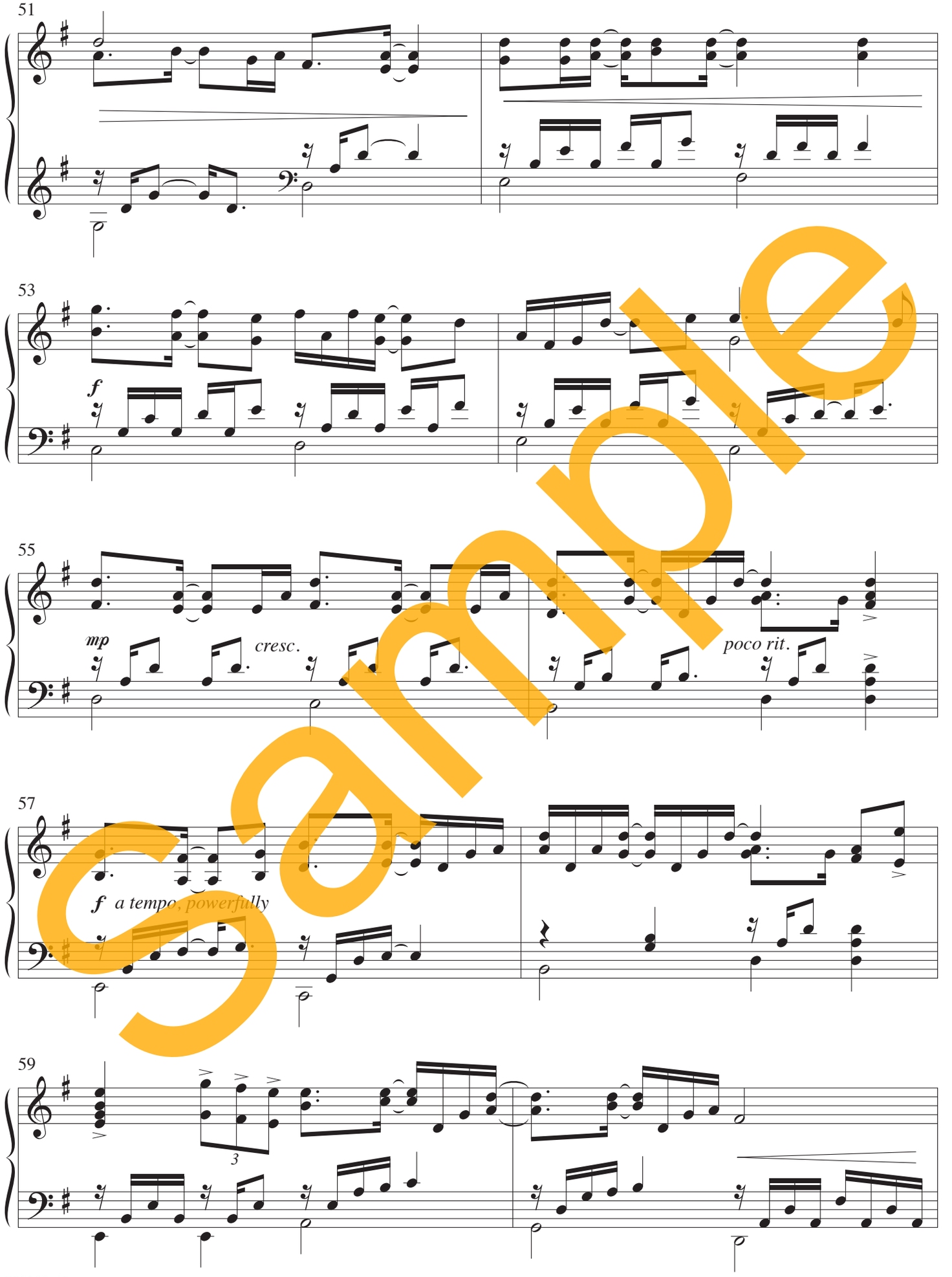
Sample



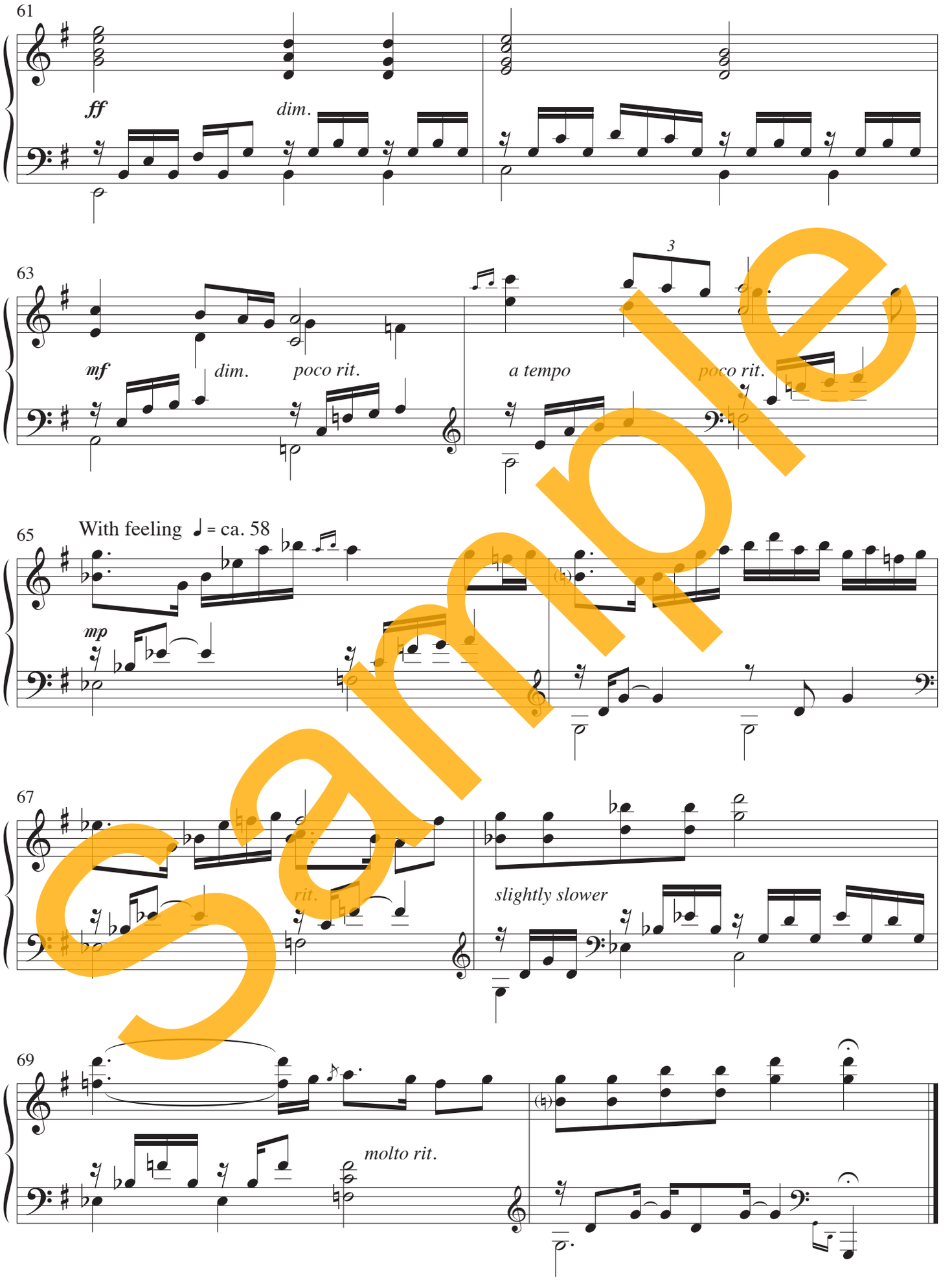
sample



sample



sample


61
ff
dim.
63
mf
dim.
poco rit.
3
a tempo
poco rit.
65
With feeling ♩ = ca. 58
mp
67
rit.
slightly slower
69
molto rit.

Sample