PRESSER PREMIERE SERIES

Robert Martin

Love-Ghost Tango No. 4

The Tender Tango

for Clarinet Trio

sample

THEODORE PRESSER COMPANY

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THE LOVE-GHOST TANGOS are a collection of eight trios for clarinets in B-flat (both score and parts are in B-flat). Each is a single piece lasting from 4 to 5 minutes. Even before their publication in 2017, these pieces were played by clarinetists in the New York City area. Ever since they have enjoyed universal appeal among clarinet lovers, as well as tango lovers.

Although these tangos most often will be played singly, they are part of a larger story, a mysterious tale that I heard from an elderly woman from Argentina. She told me that it happened long ago when she was young. It is the story of the Love-Ghost.

At a gathering in late afternoon, a dashing young man and a beautiful young woman are introduced to one another. It is love at first sight and both have premonitions (No. 1) that their meeting will make a great difference in their lives. Without hesitation, the youth invites his new beloved to go dancing. It is sunset (No. 2), and she ardently accepts. They dance successive tangos until well after midnight (No. 3, 4, and 5). It is time to part, but with the burning love that they now share, they cannot bear to be separated, and they retire to a ruined stone structure, long abandoned. Finally, they embrace with great passion and pledge their eternal love to one another (No. 6 and 7), but at that very moment, they are startled by a chilling sound--the haunted cry of a ghost (No. 8). Is it only a night bird, or perhaps their friends playing mischief? Or, is it really a wandering phantom from another plane of existence, a visitor from a shadowy place where spirits dwell? Dawn breaks, and they remain together and sleep through the day. By late afternoon, however, they have forgotten the phantom's cry, and they want nothing but to go dancing again, one tango after another, into the darkness.

Ordinarily, I would expect no more than one or two of these pieces to be played at a single concert; however on special occasions perhaps all eight trios can be played in the following sequence:

Love-Ghost Tango No. 1	The Premonition Tango	duration: 4' 30"
Love-Ghost Tango No. 2	The Sunset Tango	duration: 4' 15"
Love-Ghost Tango No. 3	The Moonlight Tango	duration: 4' 45"
Love-Ghost Tango No. 4	The Tender Tango	duration: 4' 15"
Love-Ghost Tango No. 5	The Midnight Tango	duration: 4' 15"
Love-Ghost Tango No. 6	The Passion Tango	duration: 4' 15"
Love-Ghost Tango No. 7	The Lovers Tango	duration: 4' 15"
Love-Ghost Tango No. 8	The Phantom Tango	duration: 4' 15"

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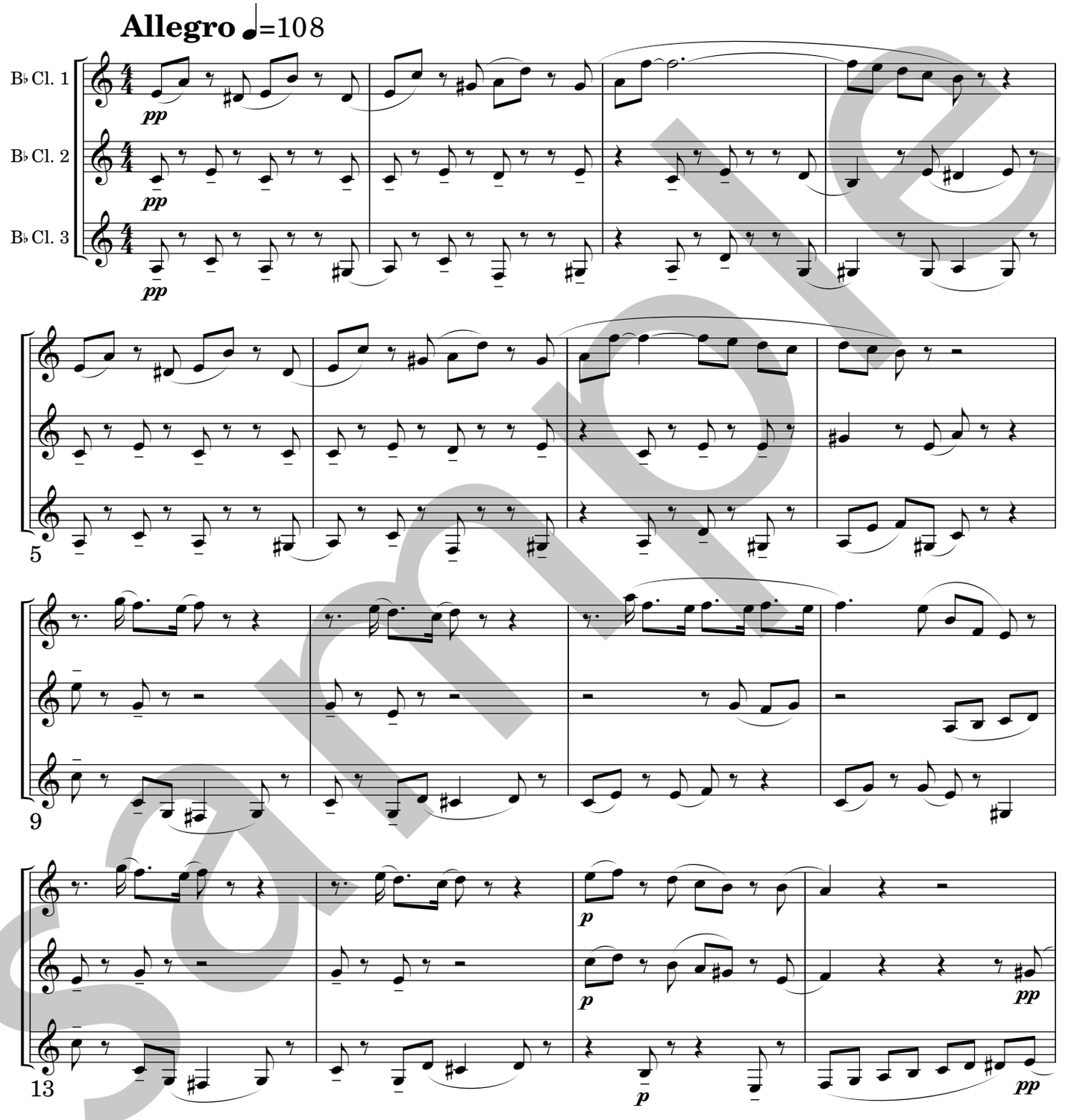
LOVE-GHOST TANGO NO. 4
The Tender Tango

for Clarinet Trio

Duration: c. 4' 15"

ROBERT MARTIN



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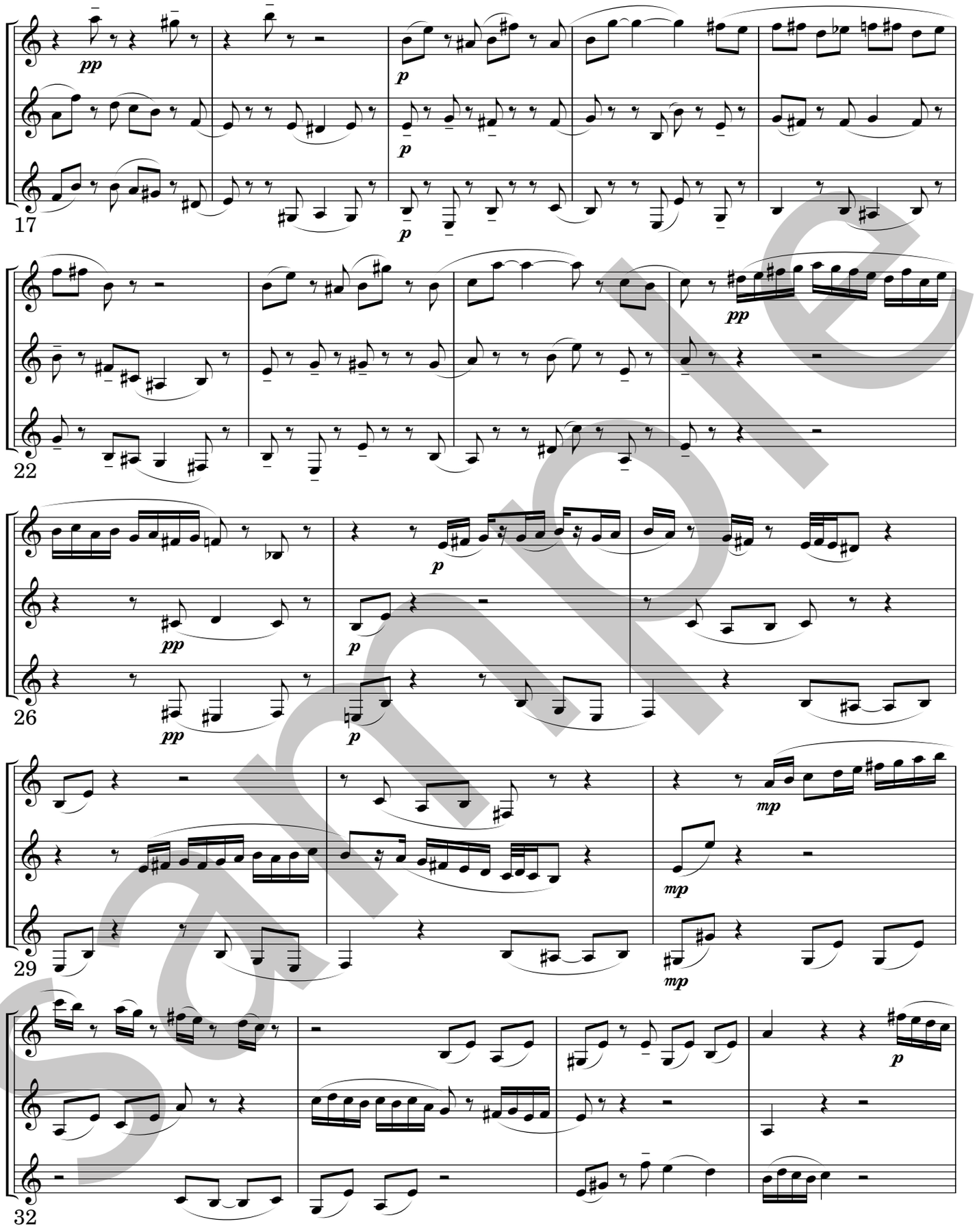

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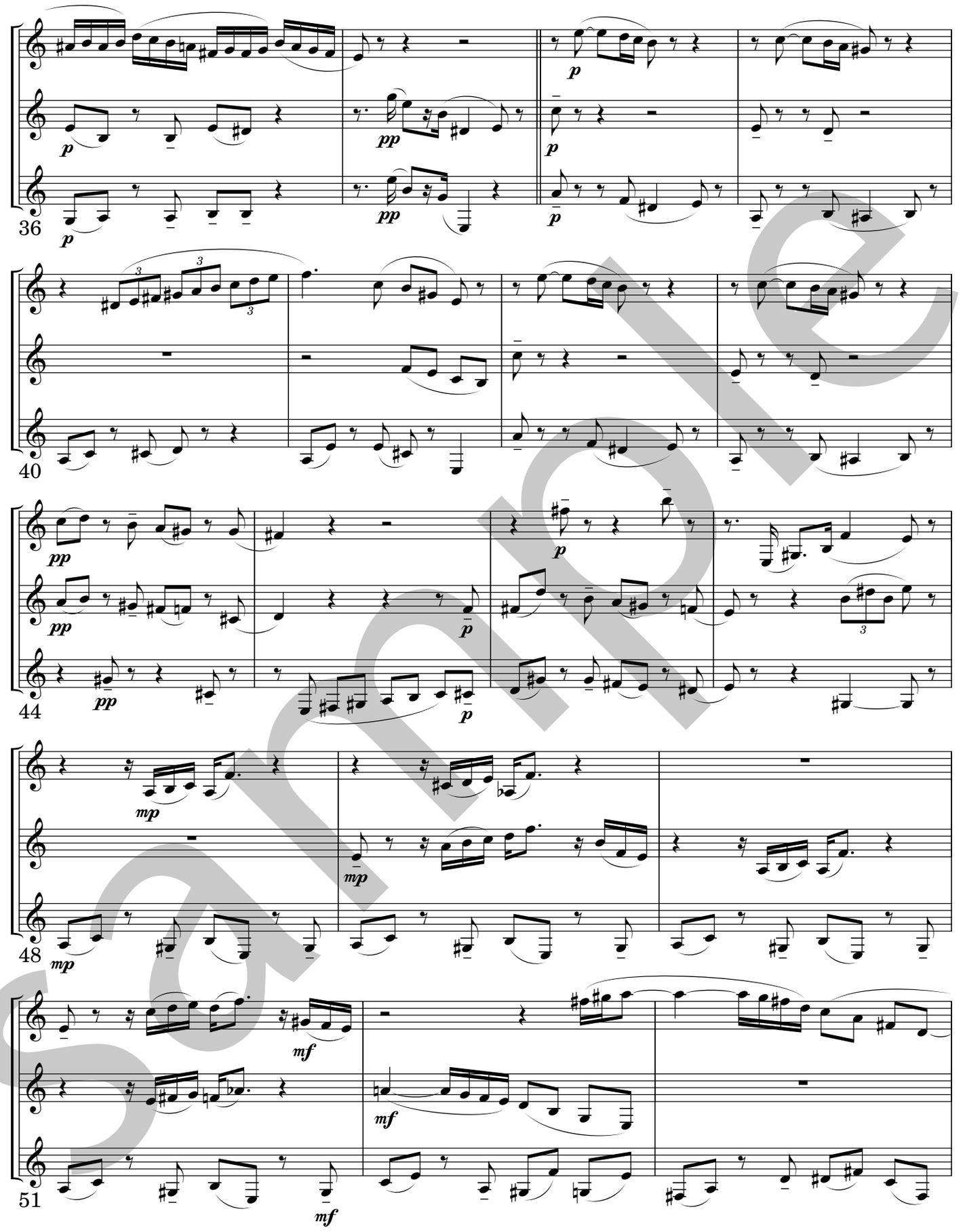

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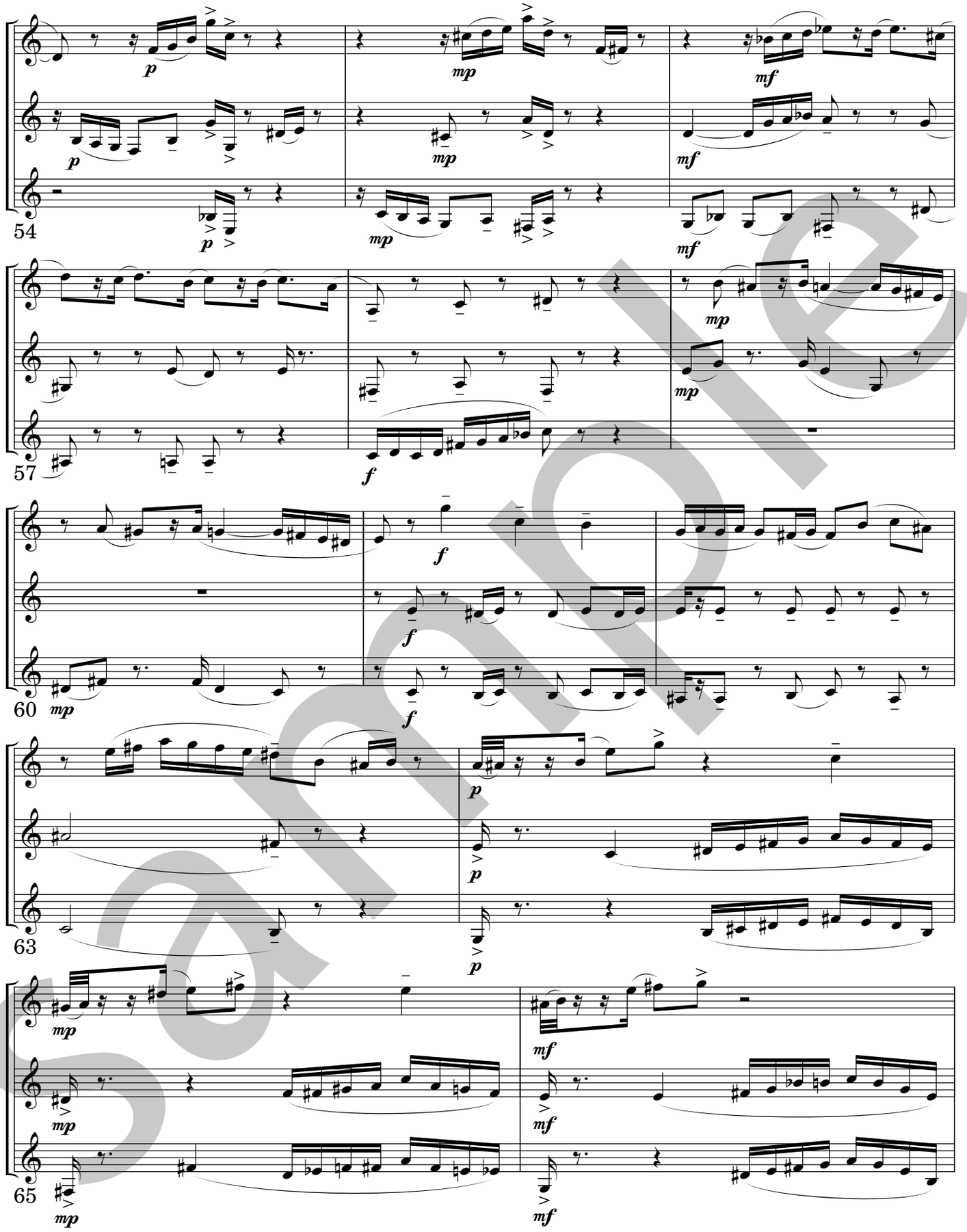

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