Eldin Burton

Concerto

for Flute and Piano

sample

CARL FISCHER®

About Eldin Burton

Thomas Eldin Burton, known as Eldin Burton, was born in Fitzgerald, Georgia, on October 26, 1913. After graduating from Fitzgerald High School in 1930, he enrolled at the Atlanta Conservatory of Music to study piano and composition under George Lindner. Following his graduation in 1938, he performed as a concert pianist in Georgia and in 1940 was appointed the director of the Georgia Conservatory and Music Center.

In 1943, Burton moved to New York to continue his studies in composition at the Juilliard School. There, Burton composed a short piece for piano for a class with the composer Bernard Wagenaar, who is said to have encouraged him to convert the piece into a sonata for piano and flute. He dedicated the piece, titled Sonatina for Flute and Piano, to his friend and classmate, Samuel Baron, who later became an accomplished flutist and conductor.

Burton graduated from Juilliard with honors in composition in May 1946. Two years later, he entered his Sonatina into the New York Flute Club's first ever composition contest. On December 31, 1948, the New York Times announced him as the first place winner, and the piece was premiered at the City Center Chamber Music Hall the following January. The prize included 100 dollars and an offer of publication by Carl Fischer. After its premier and publication, Burton's Sonatina was well received and continued to be performed. The Sonatina endures today as his most widely known work and as a staple in the flute repertoire.

Burton continued composing and performing over the next two decades, primarily writing chamber music for piano and strings. He also continued to perform occasionally with Baron, with whom he recorded a CD of his works, including, in addition to the Sonatina for Flute and Piano, his Sonatina for violin and piano and his Quintet for piano and strings. In December 1950, a full concert of Burton's works was performed in New York at the performance hall then known as Carl Fischer Hall.

Nearly twenty years after winning the New York Flute Club competition, Burton completed another piece for flute, his Concerto for Flute and Piano. He dedicated the piece to John Wummer, who served for two decades as the principal flutist of the New York Philharmonic and with whom Burton frequently performed. The first edition of the concerto was made available by Carl Fischer in 1964.

Later in life, Burton retired to Sarasota, Florida. He passed away in Sarasota in March 1981 and is buried near his hometown in Georgia's Rockdale County.

sample

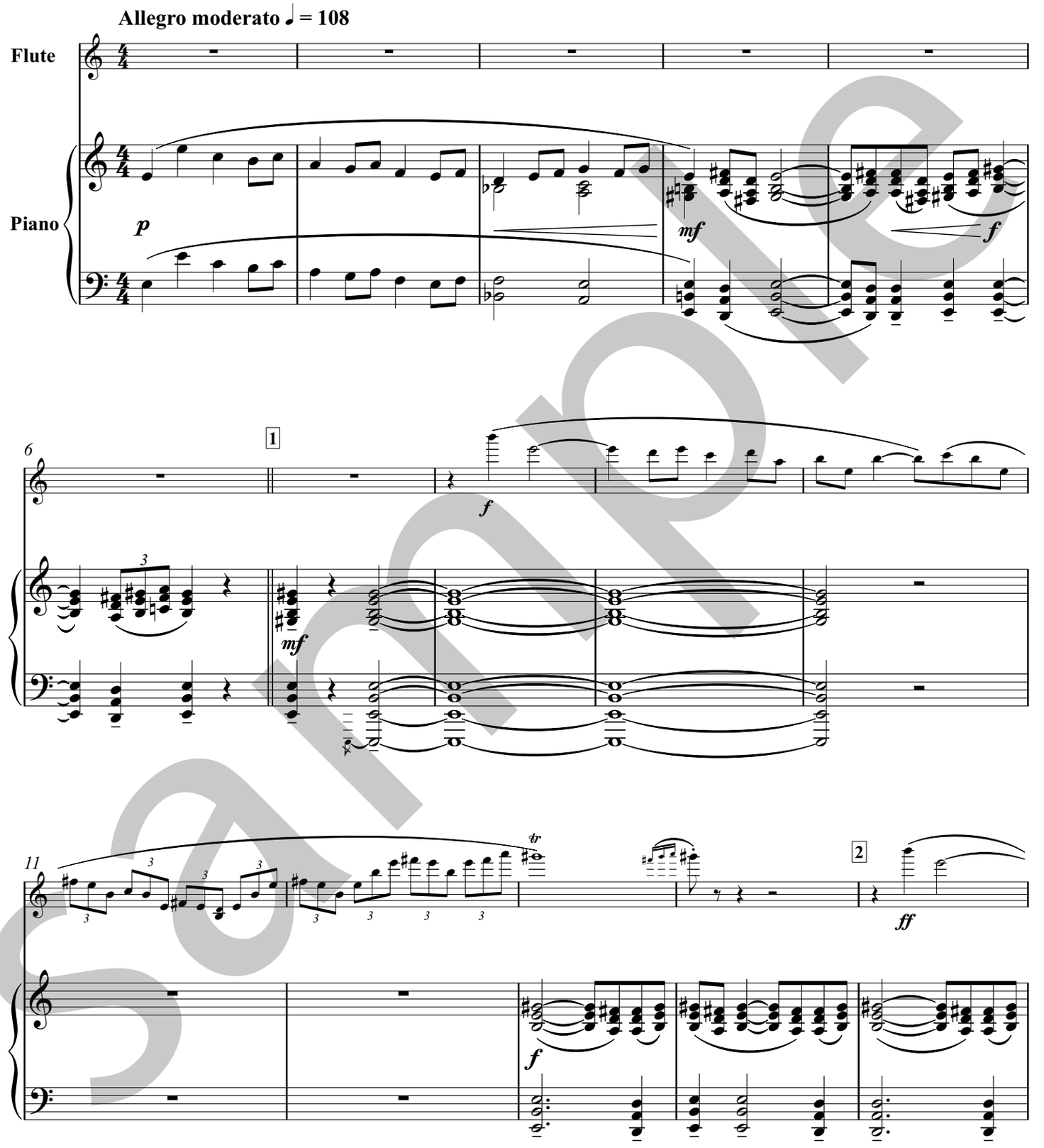
to John Wummer

Concerto

for Flute and Piano

ELDIN BURTON
(1913-1979)

I.



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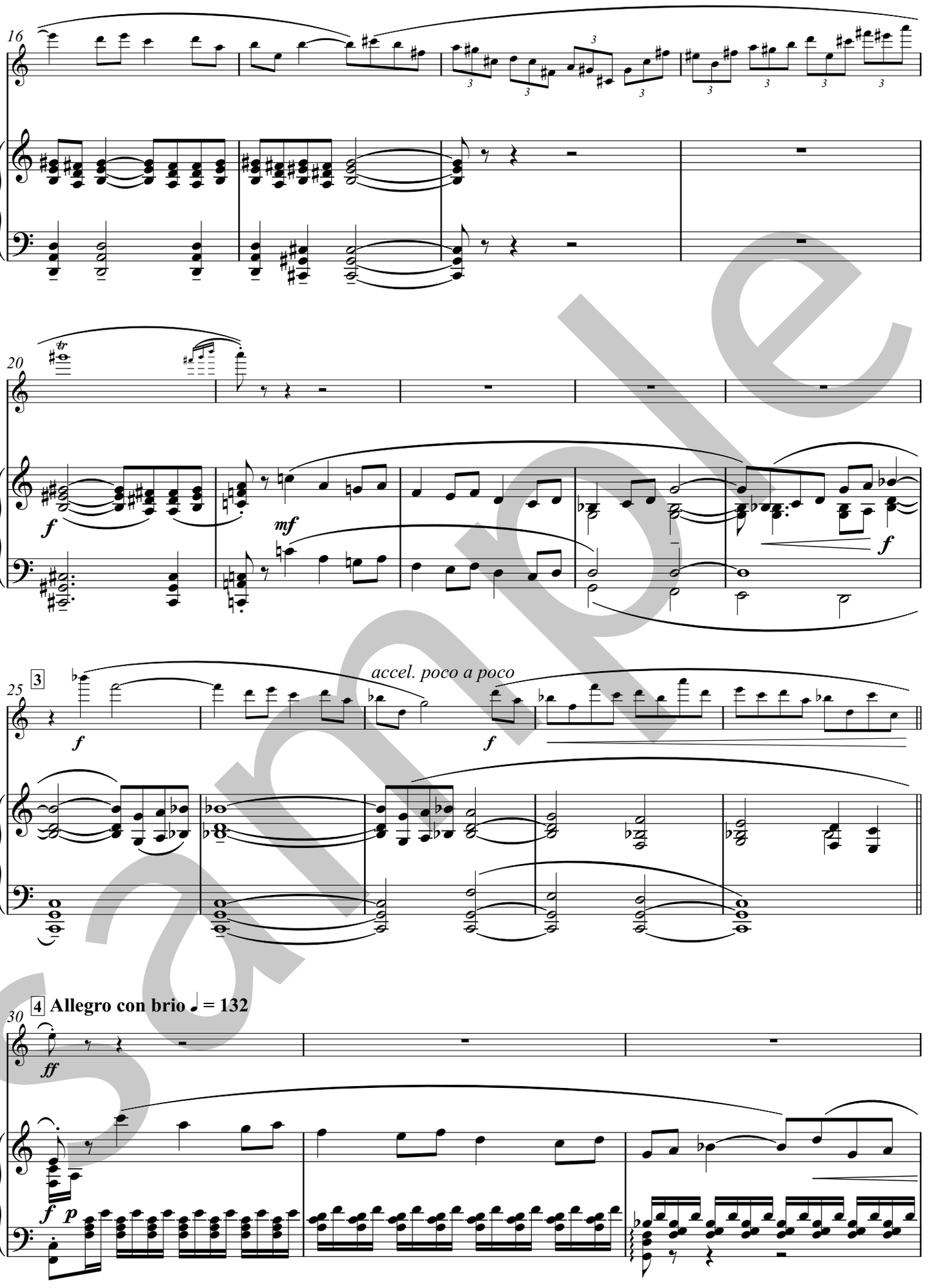

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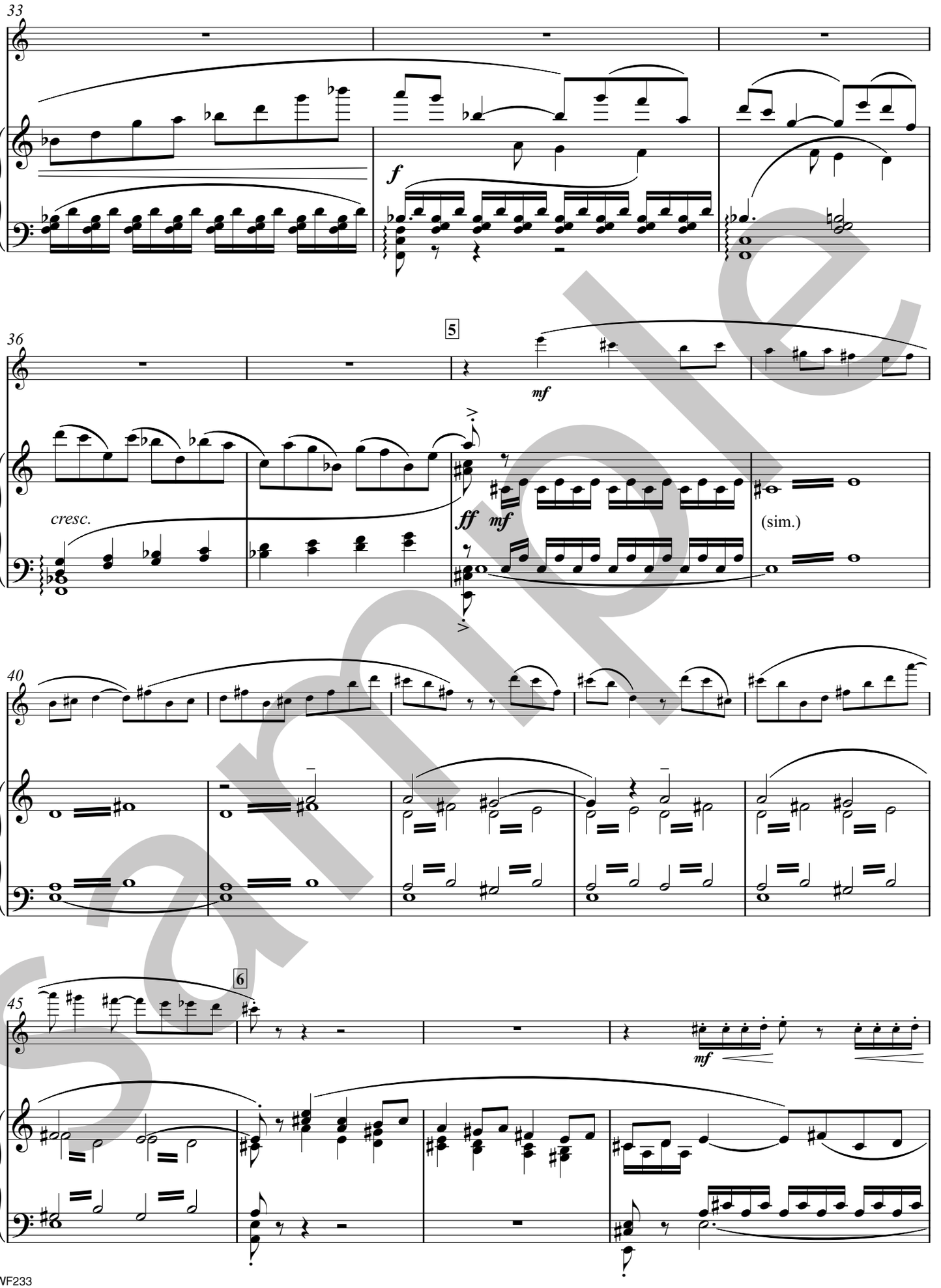

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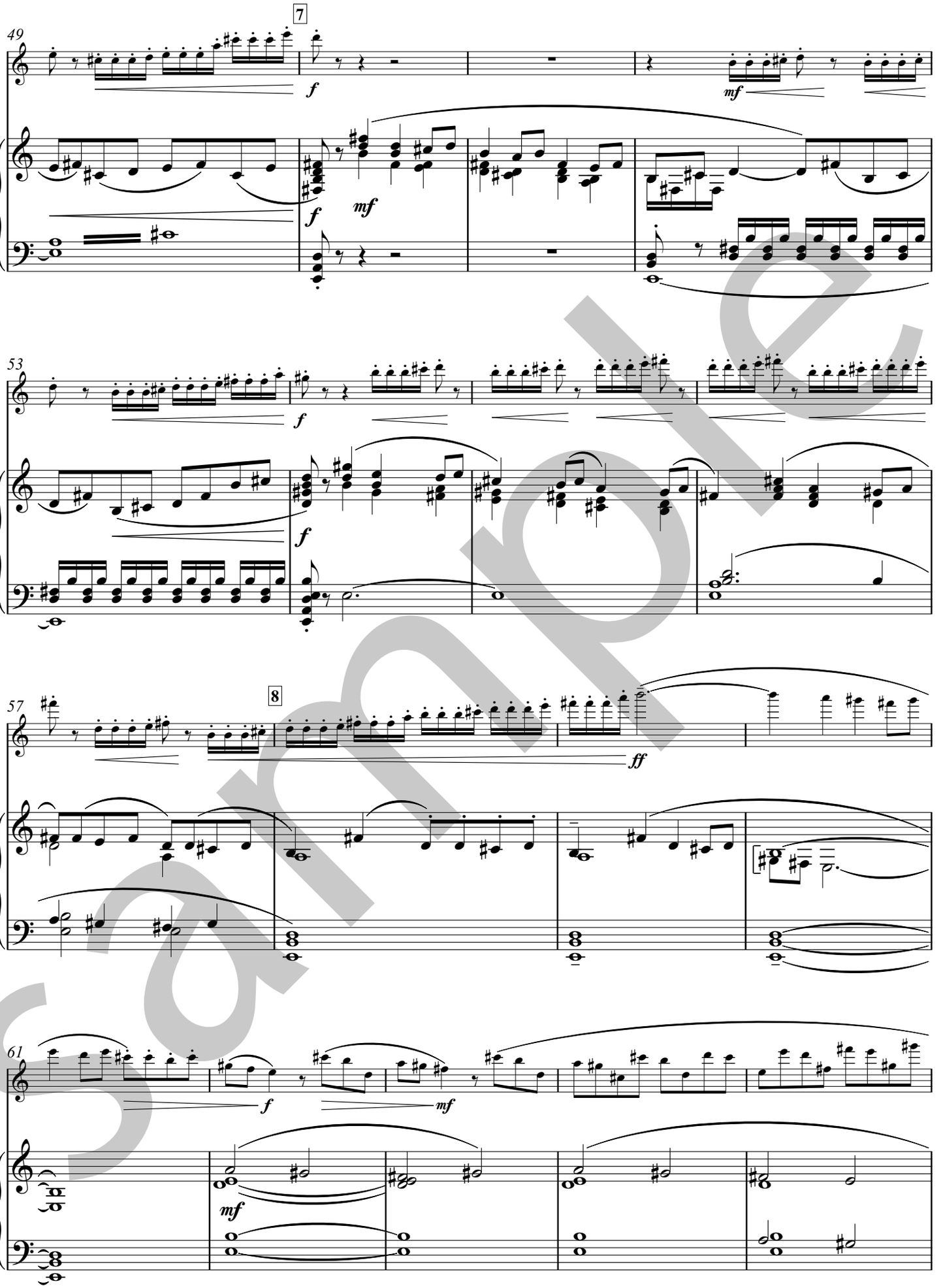
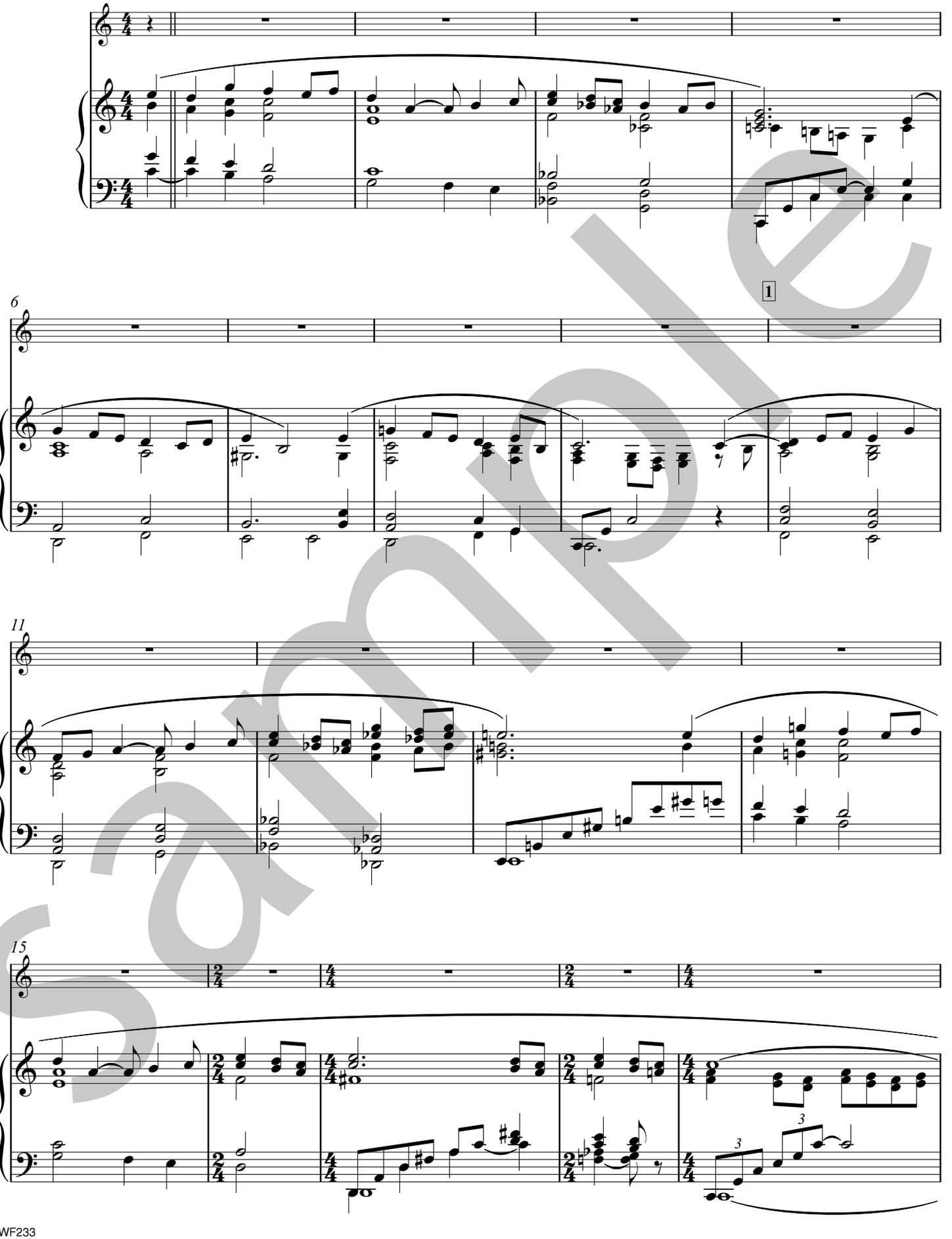


Sample

II. Theme and Variations

THEME
Andante con moto ♩ = 60



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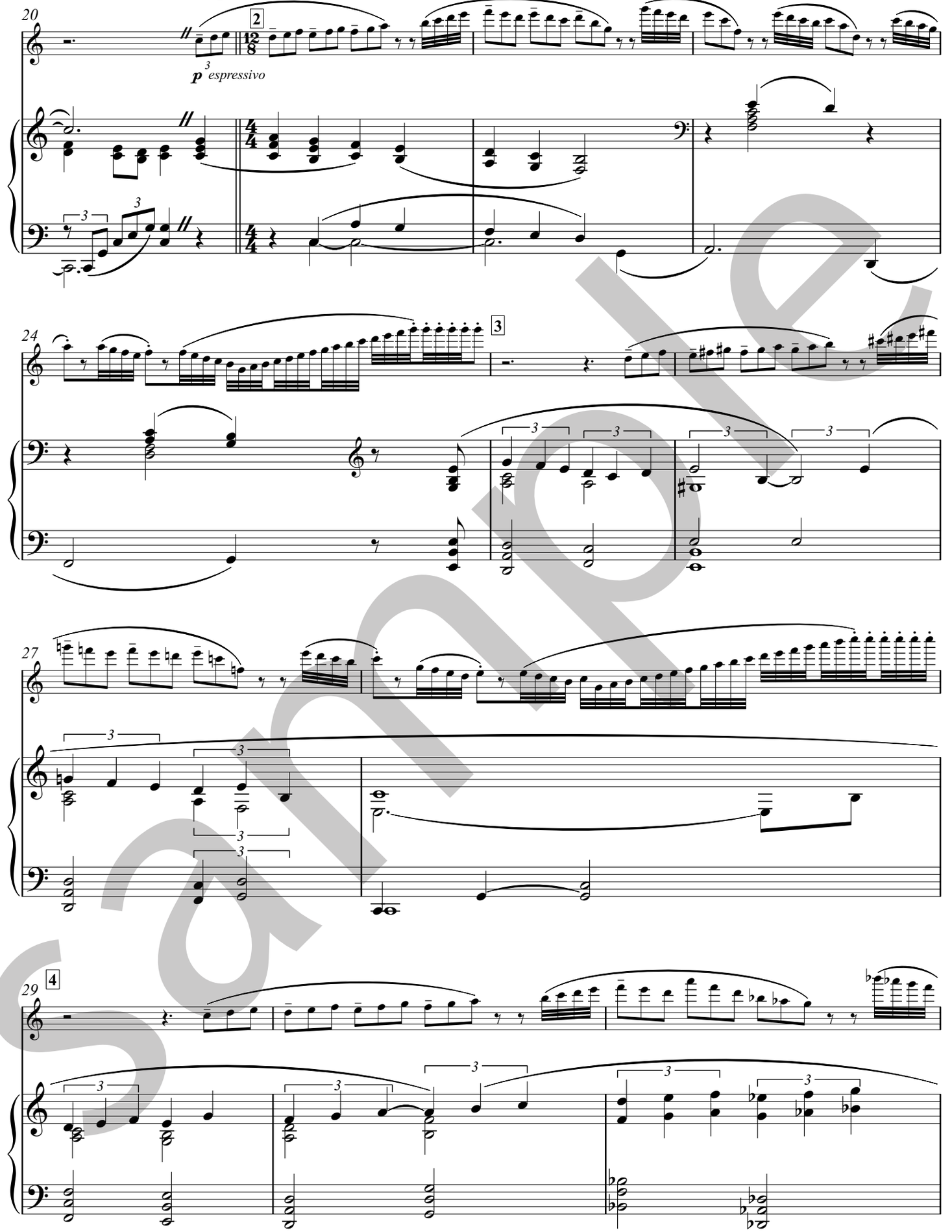
VARIATION I
un poco più mosso ♩. = 72



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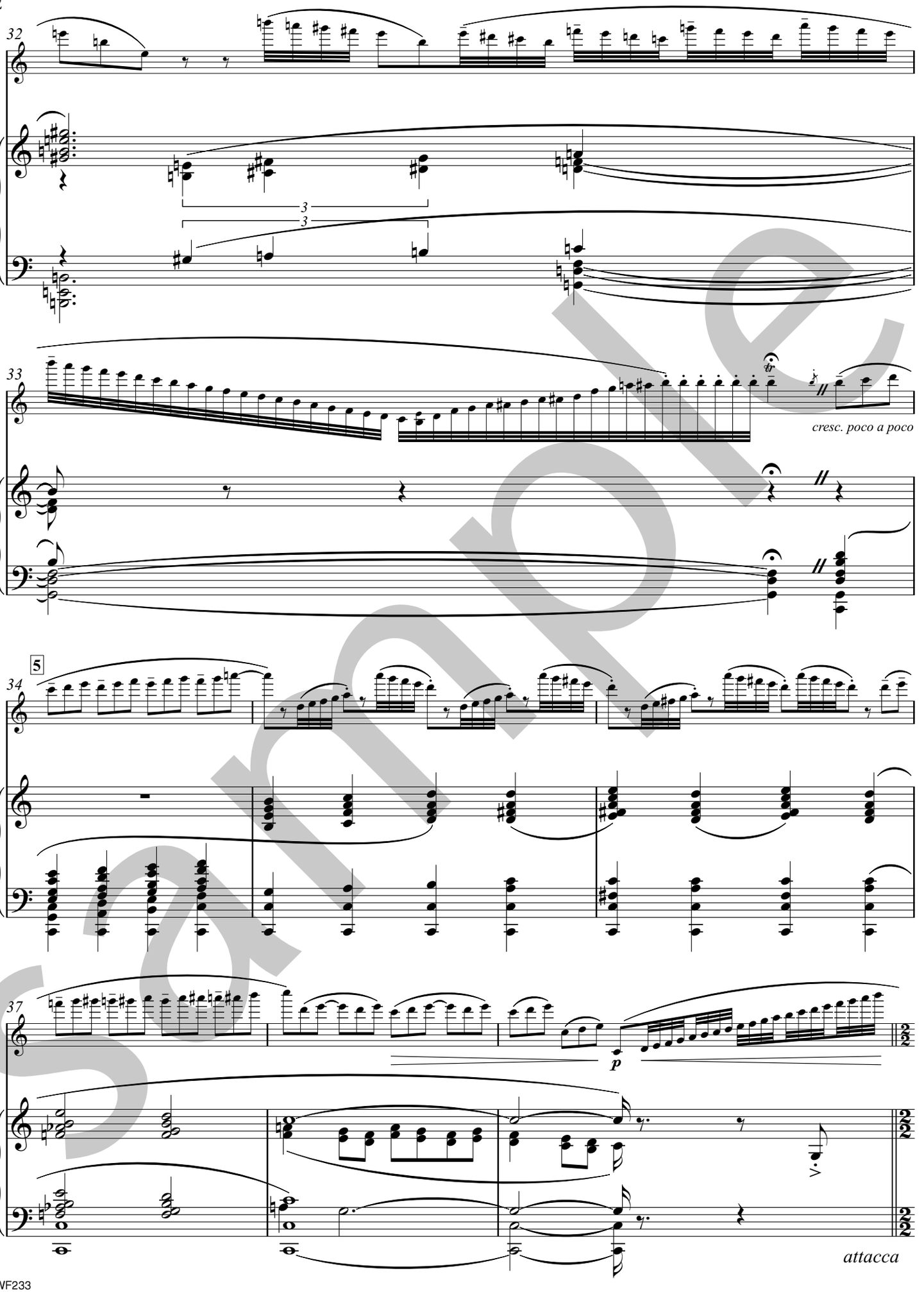

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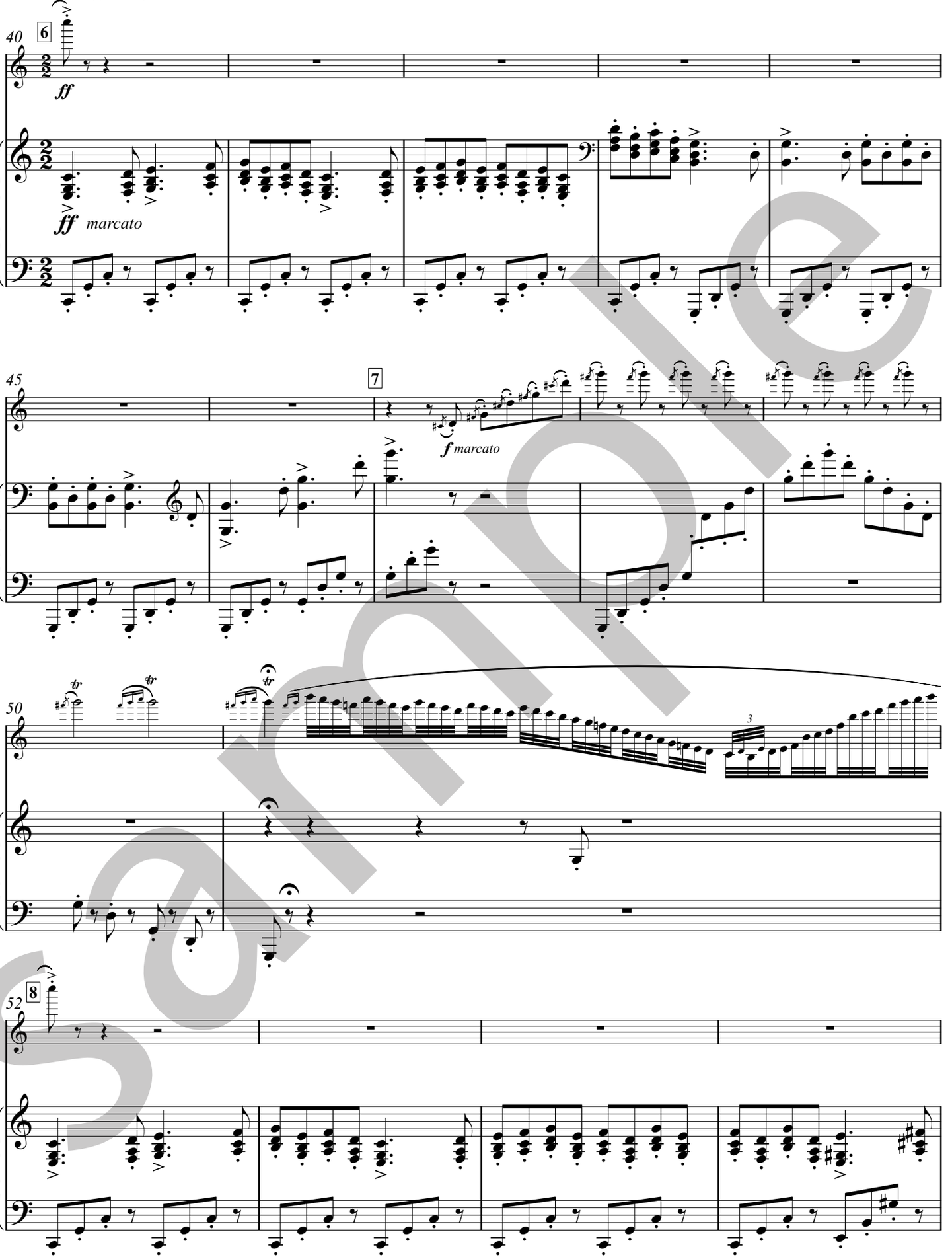
VARIATION II
Allegro agitato ♩ = 66



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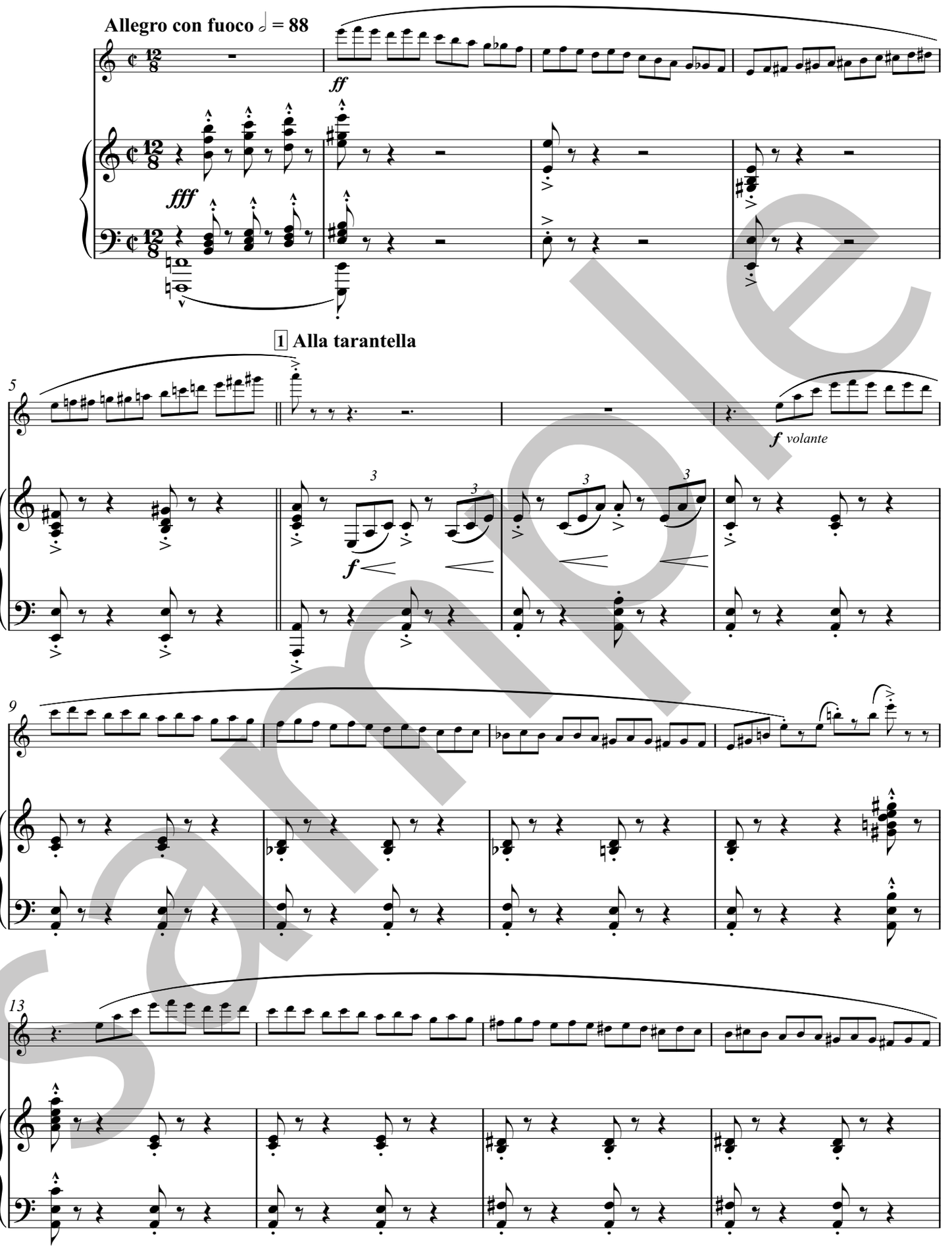

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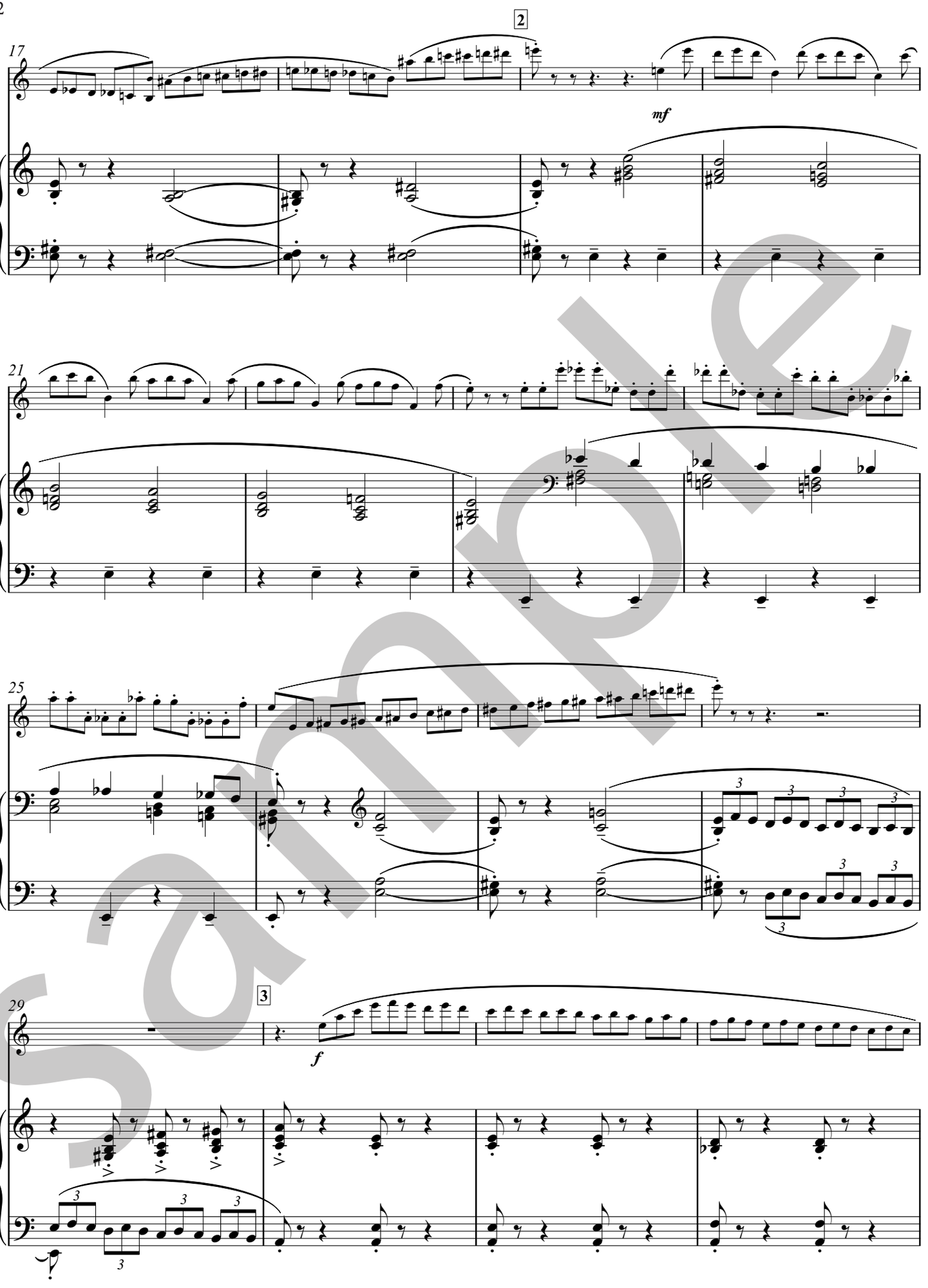

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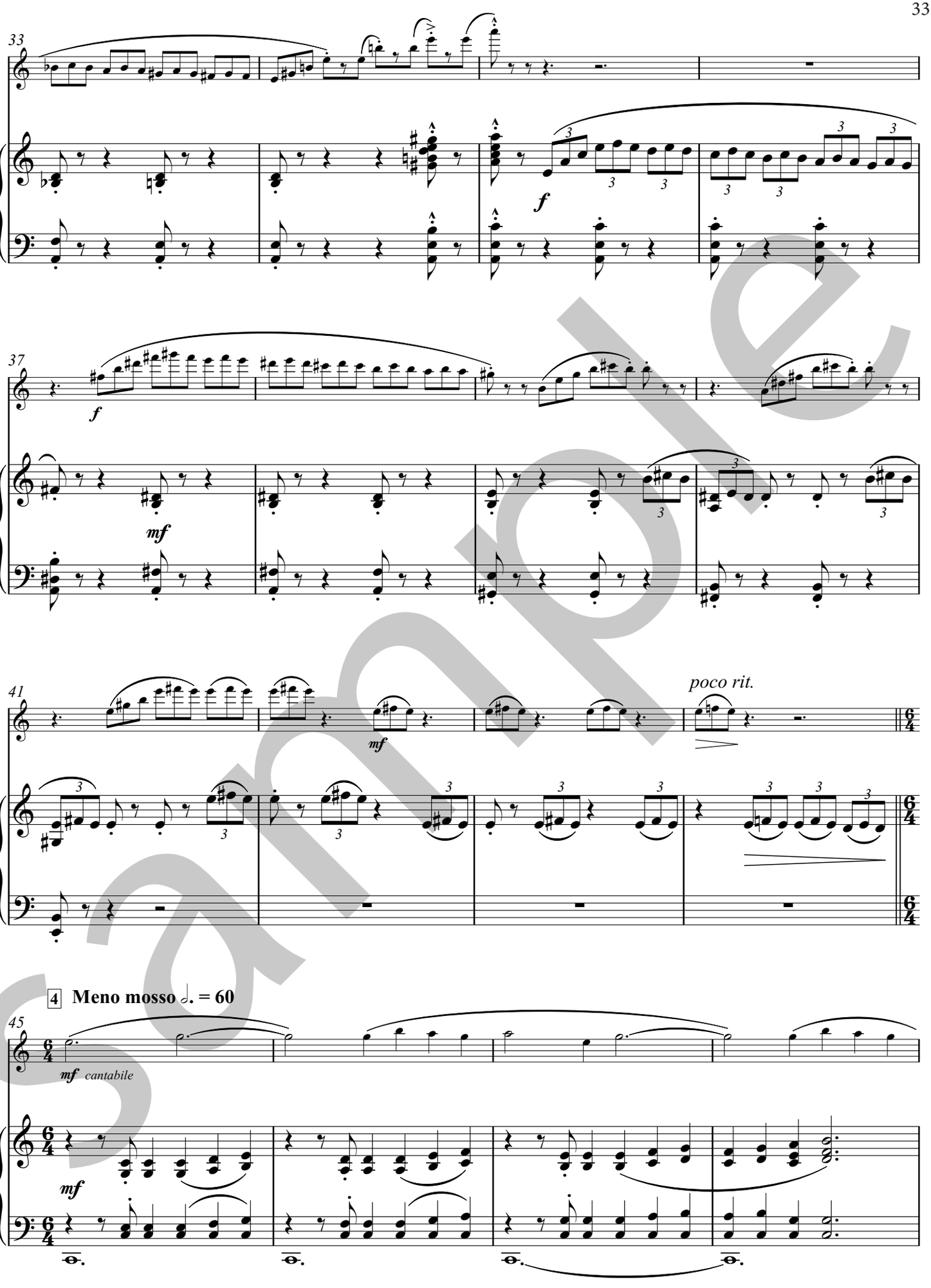

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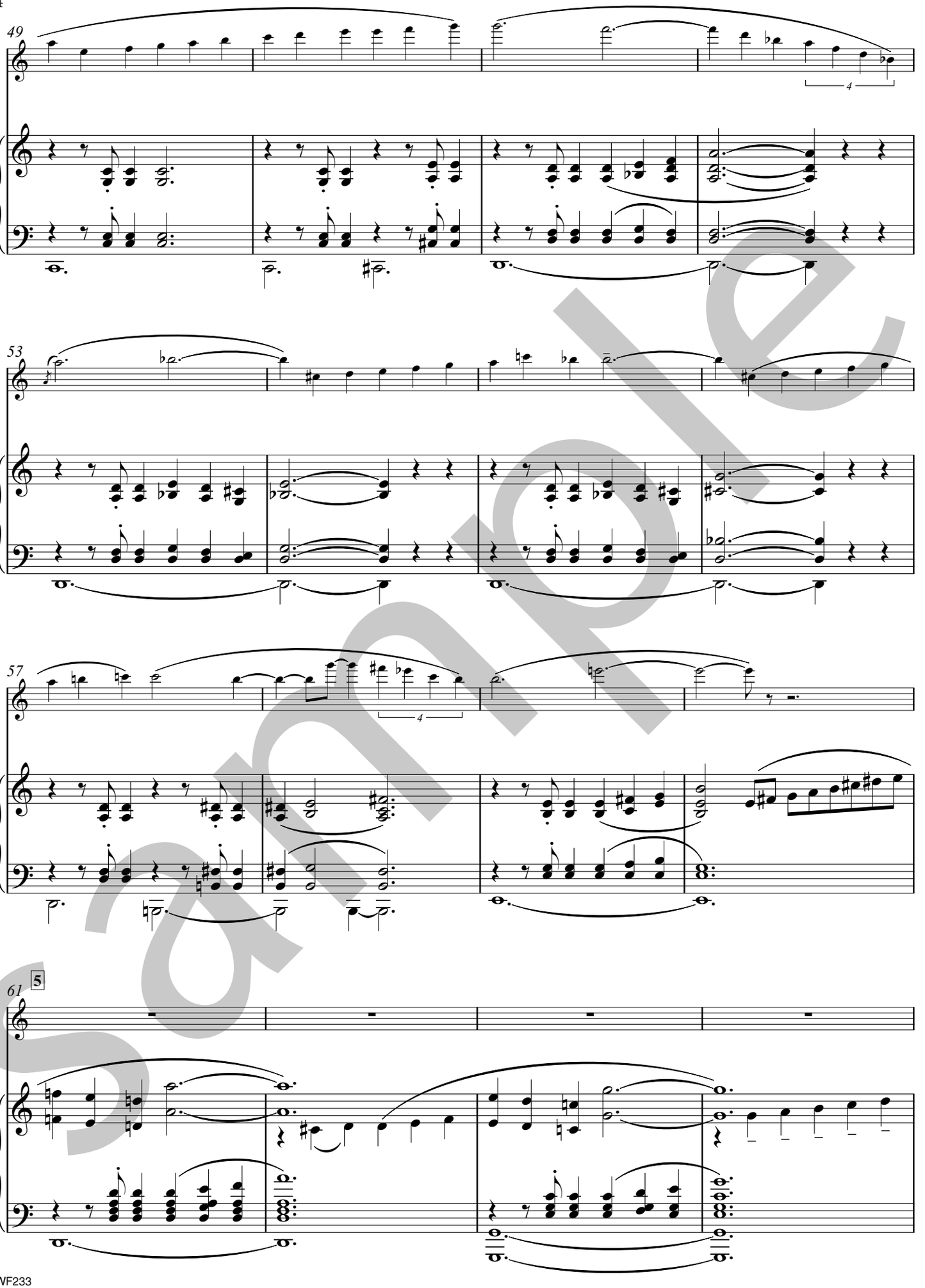

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