ZACHARY WADSWORTH

Three Fantasies

for piano

to Sezi Seskir

PERUSAL SCORE

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Score and Performance Notes

- Completed: October, 2015.
- Duration: approximately 10 minutes.
- Commissioned and premiered by Sezi Seskir.

- Throughout the first movement, downward-stemmed groups should be played with the left hand and upward-stemmed groups by the right.
- In the third movement, all 11/8 bars are grouped as 2+2+2+2+3, and all 15/8 bars as 2+2+2+2+2+2+3.

Program Note

While musical fantasies are, by their very nature, improvisational and free, all music is nonetheless driven by subtle systems and rules. These *Three Fantasies* for solo piano are often whimsical and expressive, but they adhere to a specific plan. In the first, a softly bubbling Nocturne (one by one), only one note is ever played at a time. In the second, a richly expressive Intermezzo (two by two), two simultaneous notes are allowed. Finally, in the wide-ranging closing Capriccio (three by three), the pianist plays three notes at once.

While certainly an exercise in compositional moderation, these fantasies show the depth of harmony and emotion that can result from spare musical means.

PERUSAL SCORE

Zachary Wadsworth's "vivid, vital, and prismatic" music has established him as one of the leading composers of his generation, especially among those writing vocal, choral, and operatic works. With recent performances by the choir of Westminster Abbey, the Washington National Opera Chorus, Boston Metro Opera, Long Leaf Opera, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Atlanta Philharmonic Orchestra, his works have been heard in venues around the world, from Washington's Kennedy Center to Tokyo's Takinogawa Hall.

As winner of the 2011 King James Bible Trust Award, Wadsworth's anthem *Out of the South Cometh the Whirlwind* was performed at Westminster Abbey in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II. Other recent honors include a Fellowship from the Douglas Moore Fund for American Opera, a Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, three Morton Gould Young Composer Awards from ASCAP, and first-prize recognition in competitions sponsored by the American Composers Forum, the Pacific Chorale, the Boston Choral Ensemble, and the Esoterics. Wadsworth's music is widely broadcast and distributed, with recent publications by Novello, G. Schirmer, and E.C. Schirmer, and broadcasts on NPR, BBC, and CBC.

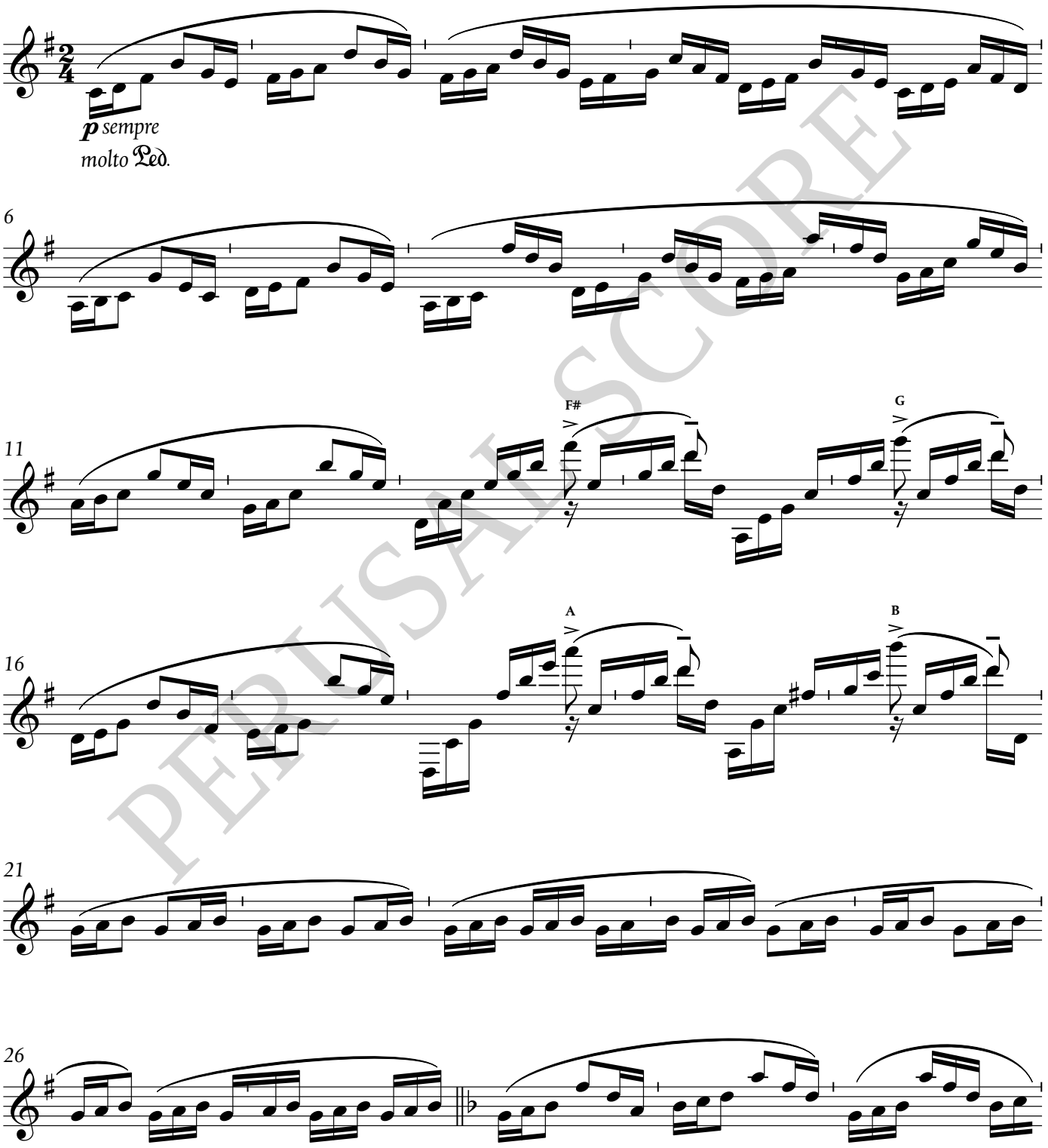
Wadsworth earned graduate degrees from Cornell University (DMA) and Yale University (MM), and is an honors graduate of the Eastman School of Music (BM). Originally from Richmond, Virginia, Wadsworth (b. 1983) has taught at Williams College, the Interlochen Center for the Arts and the University of Calgary, and he maintains an active performing life as a tenor and pianist.

to Sezi Seskir

Three Fantasies

I. Nocturne (one by one)

Dolcissimo ♩ = ca. 100



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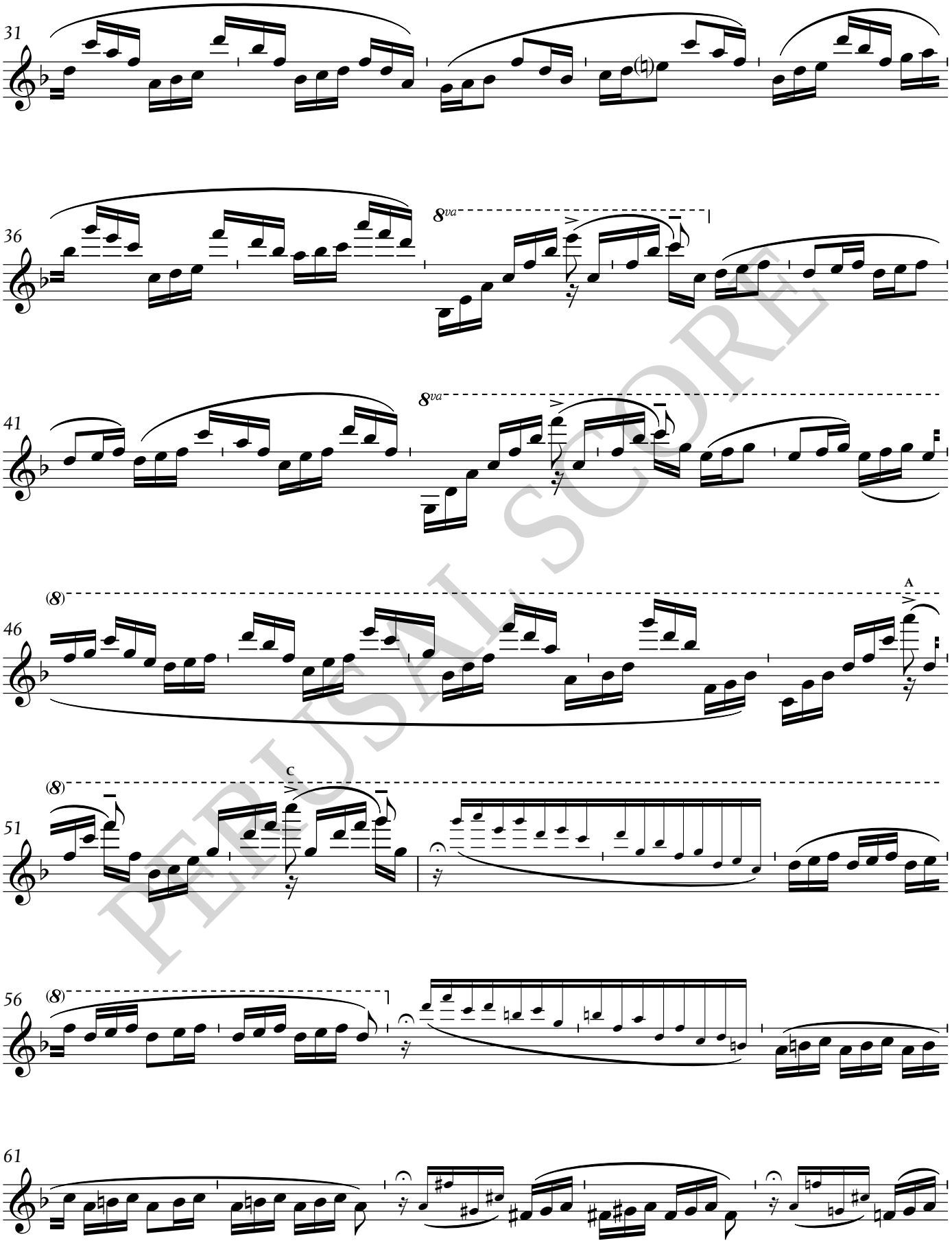

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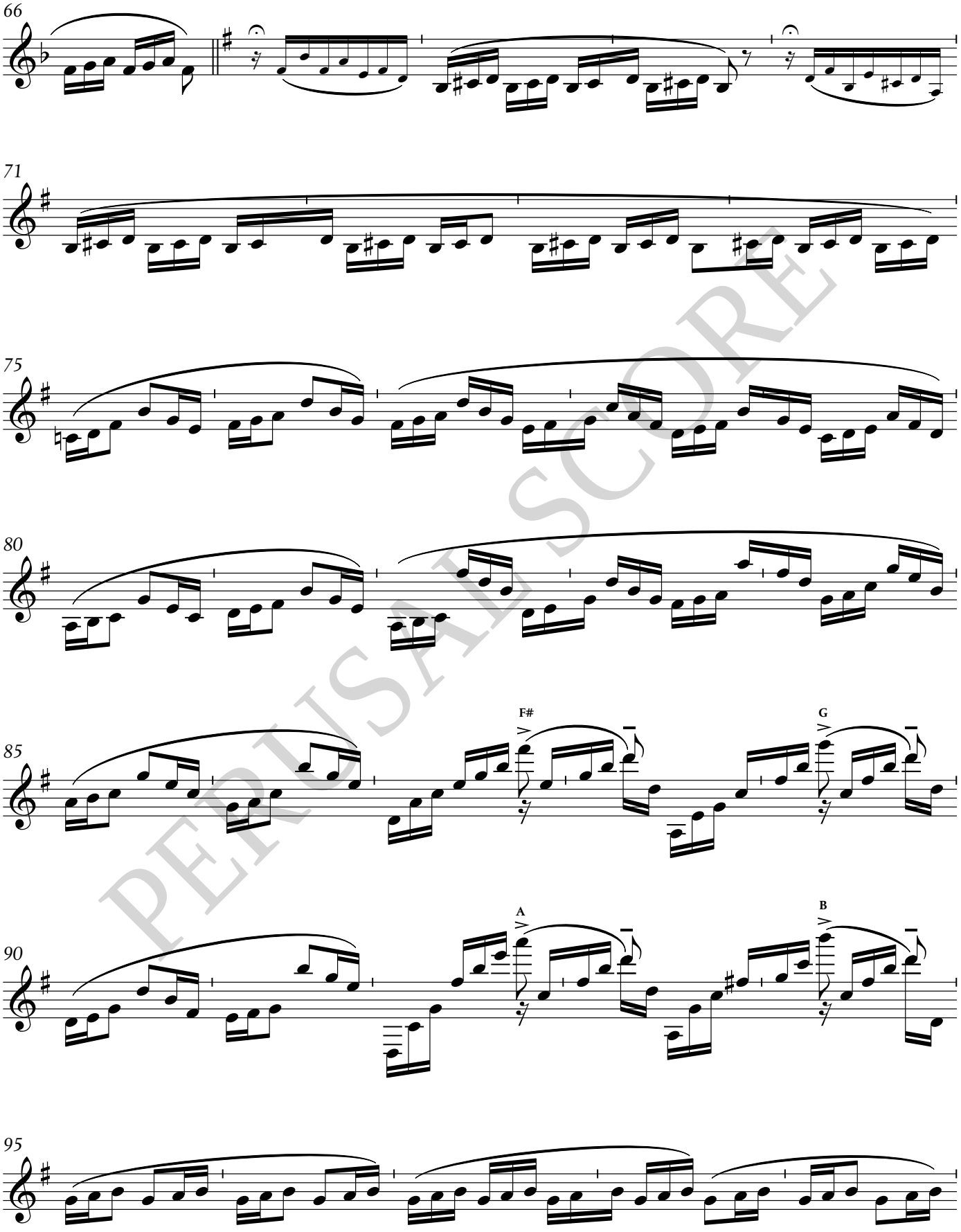

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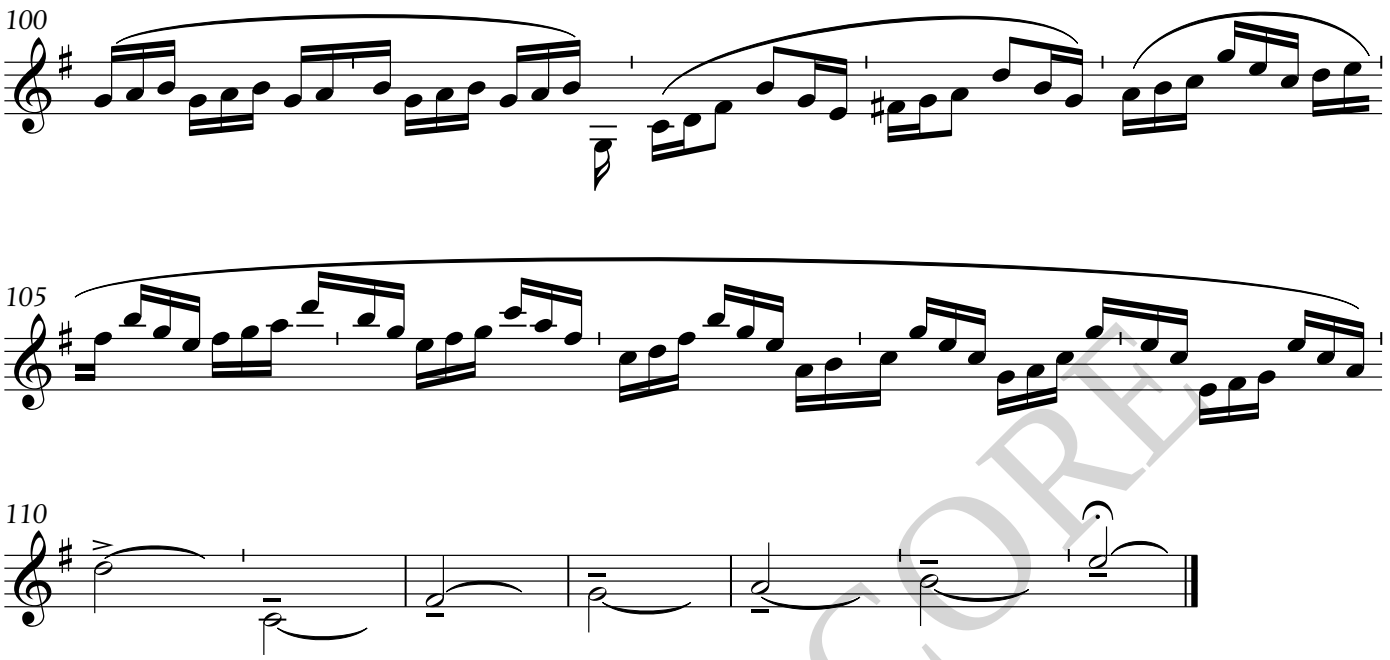

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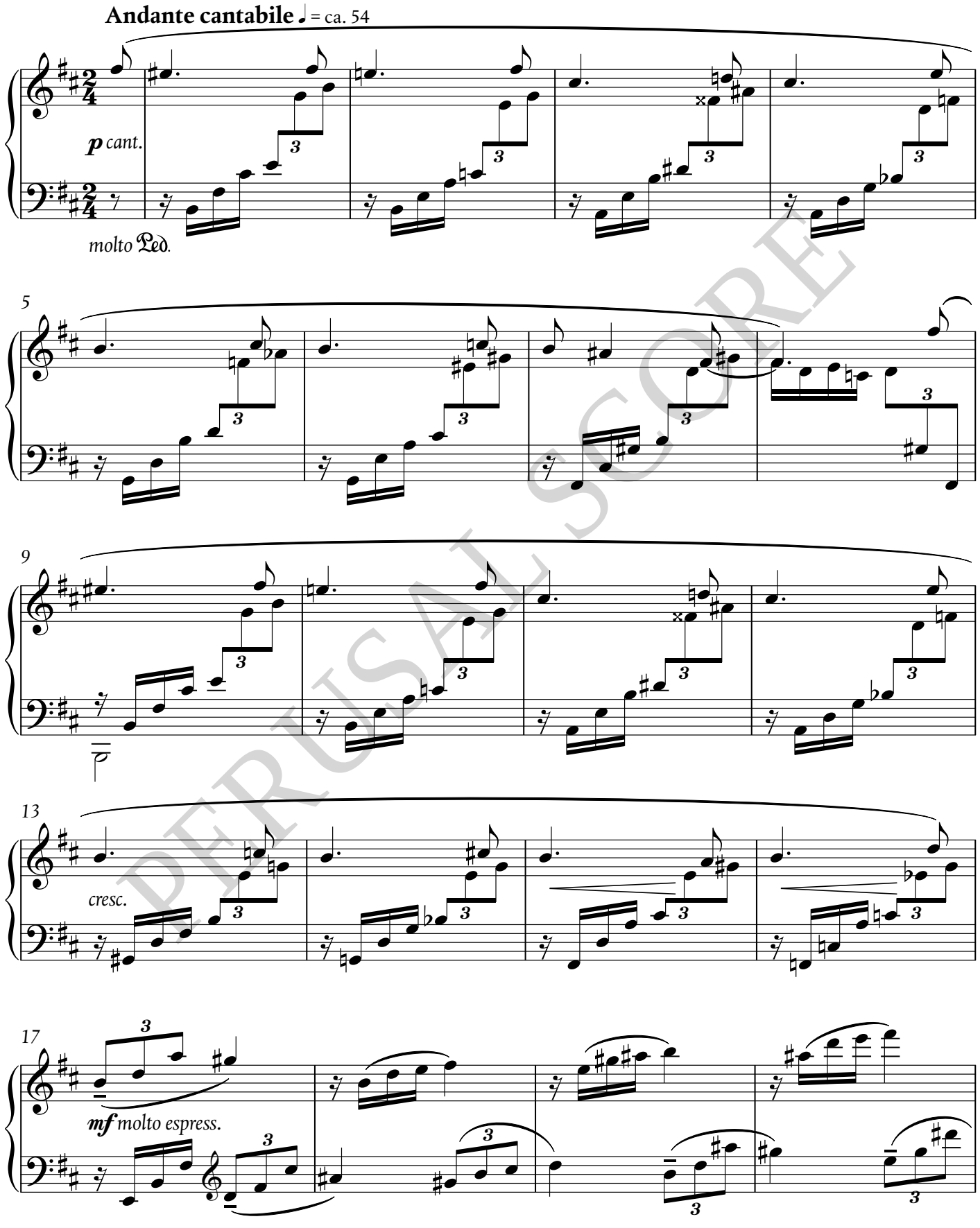
II. Intermezzo (two by two)



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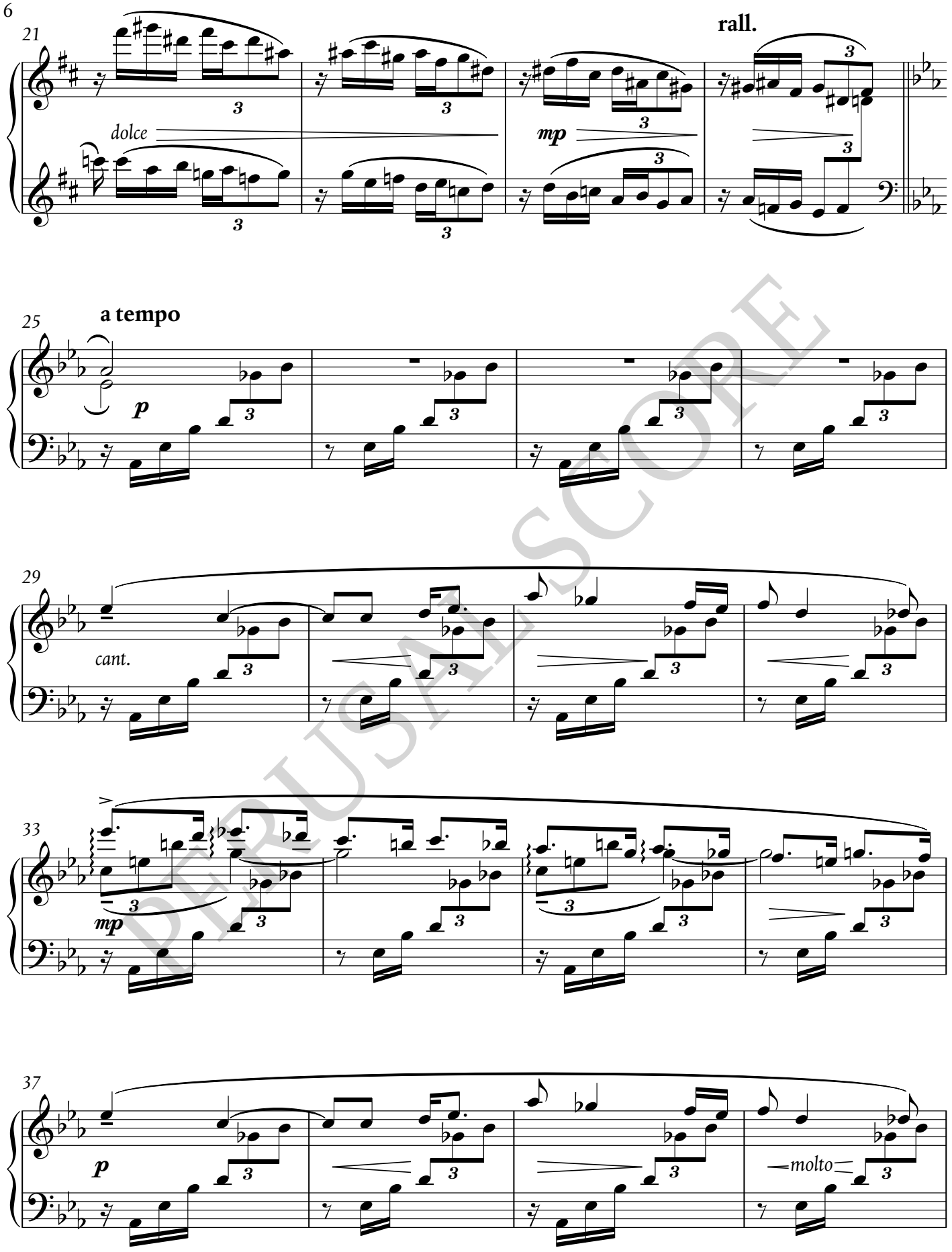

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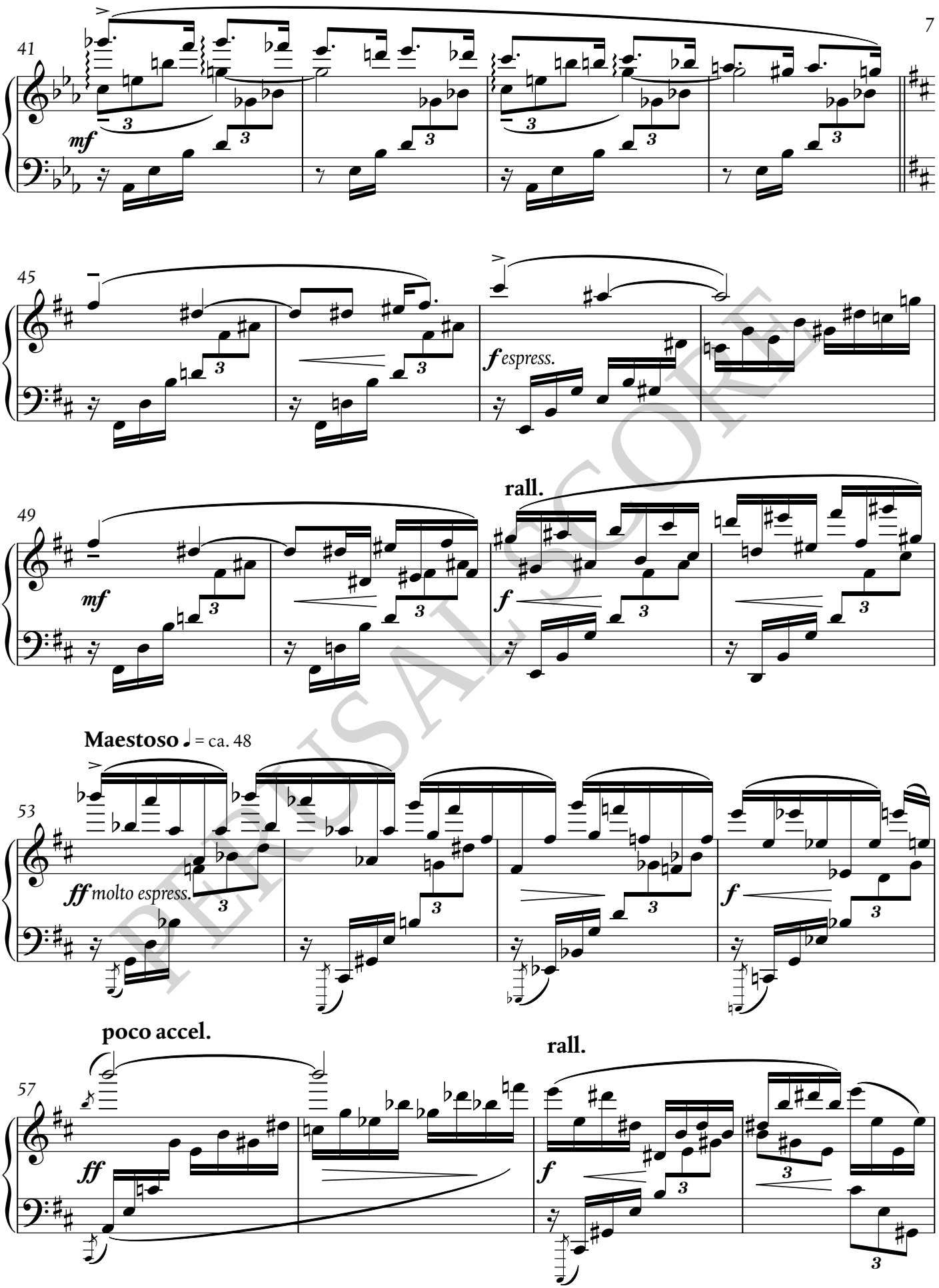

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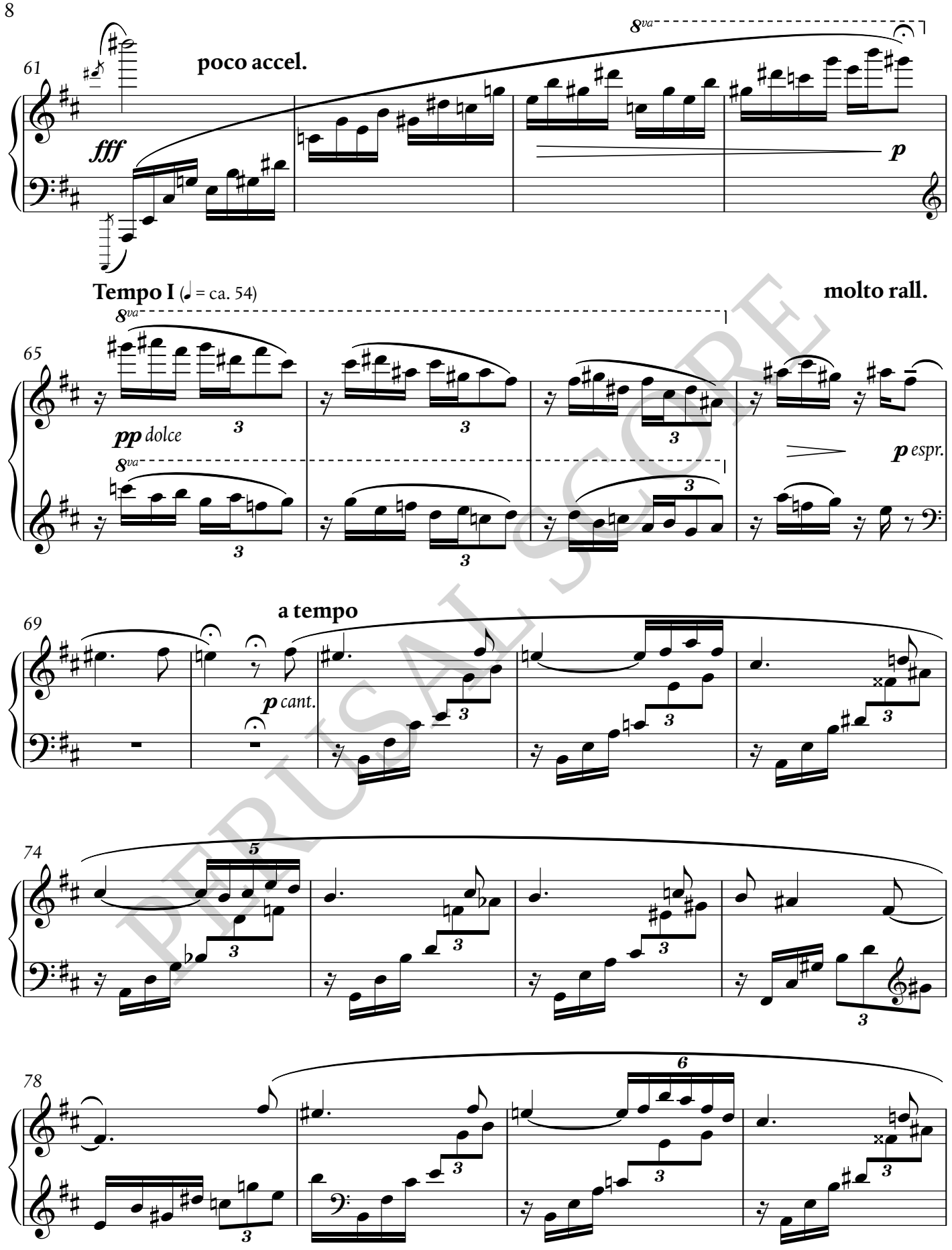

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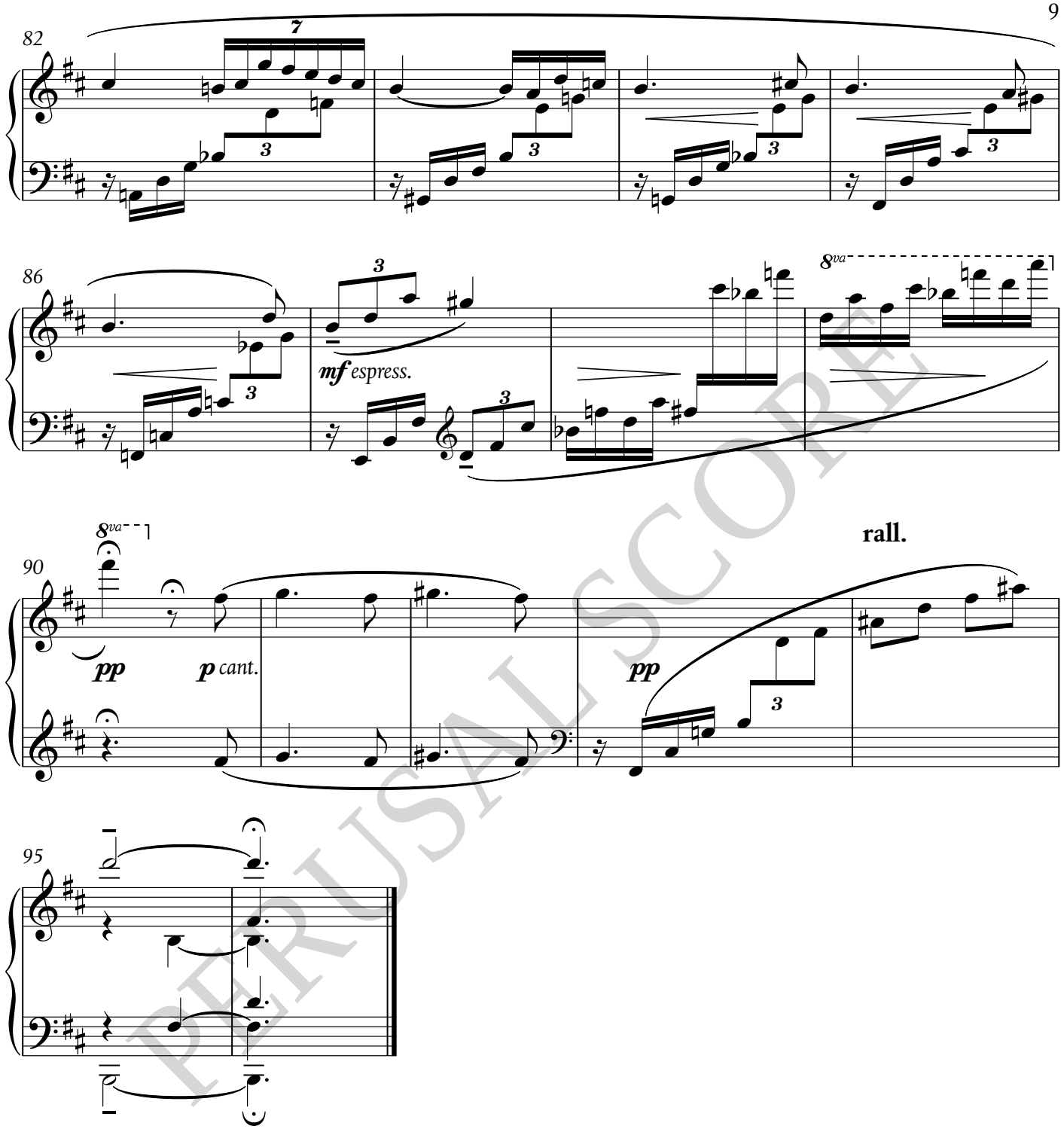

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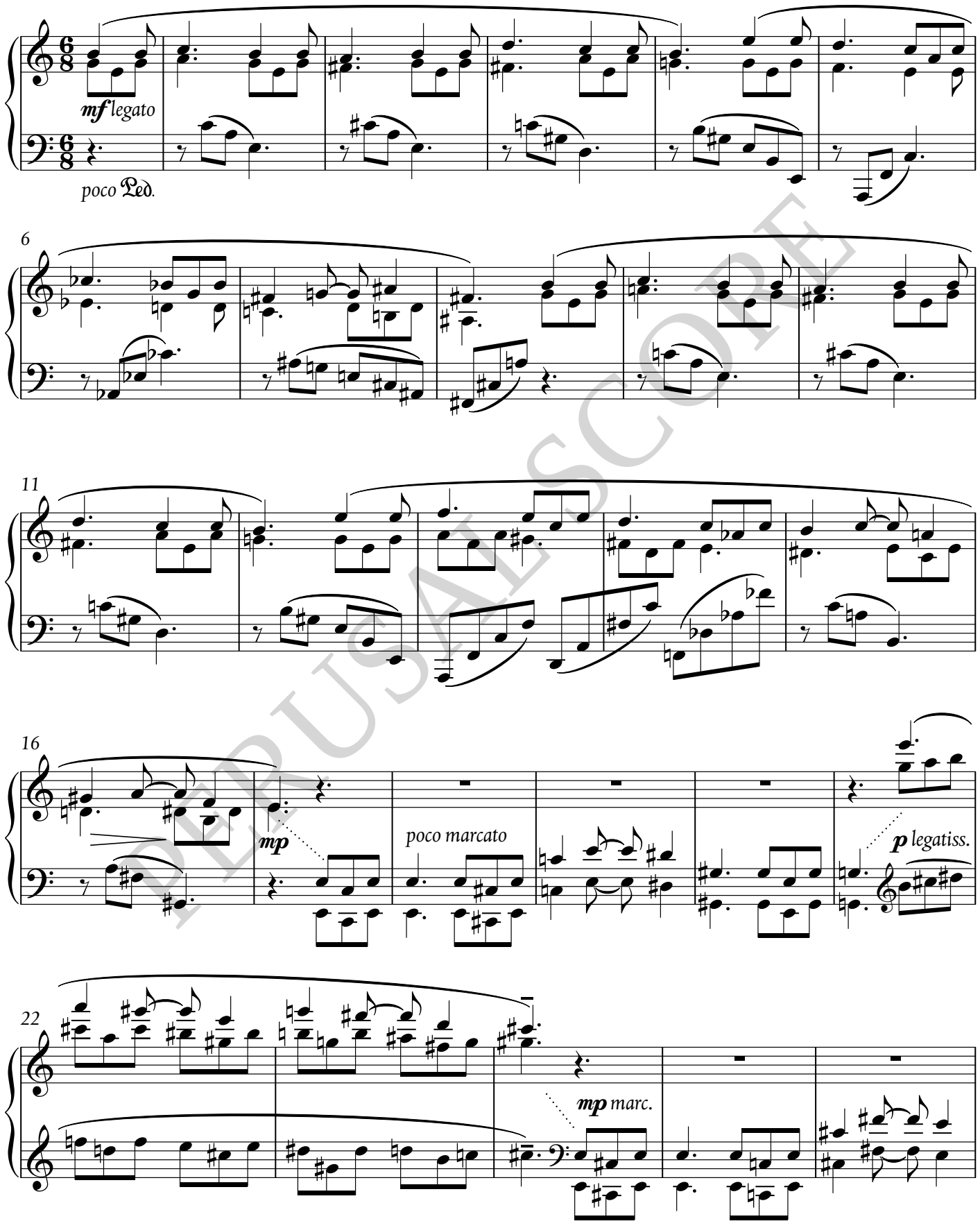
III. Capriccio (three by three)

Poco allegro ♩. = ca. 112



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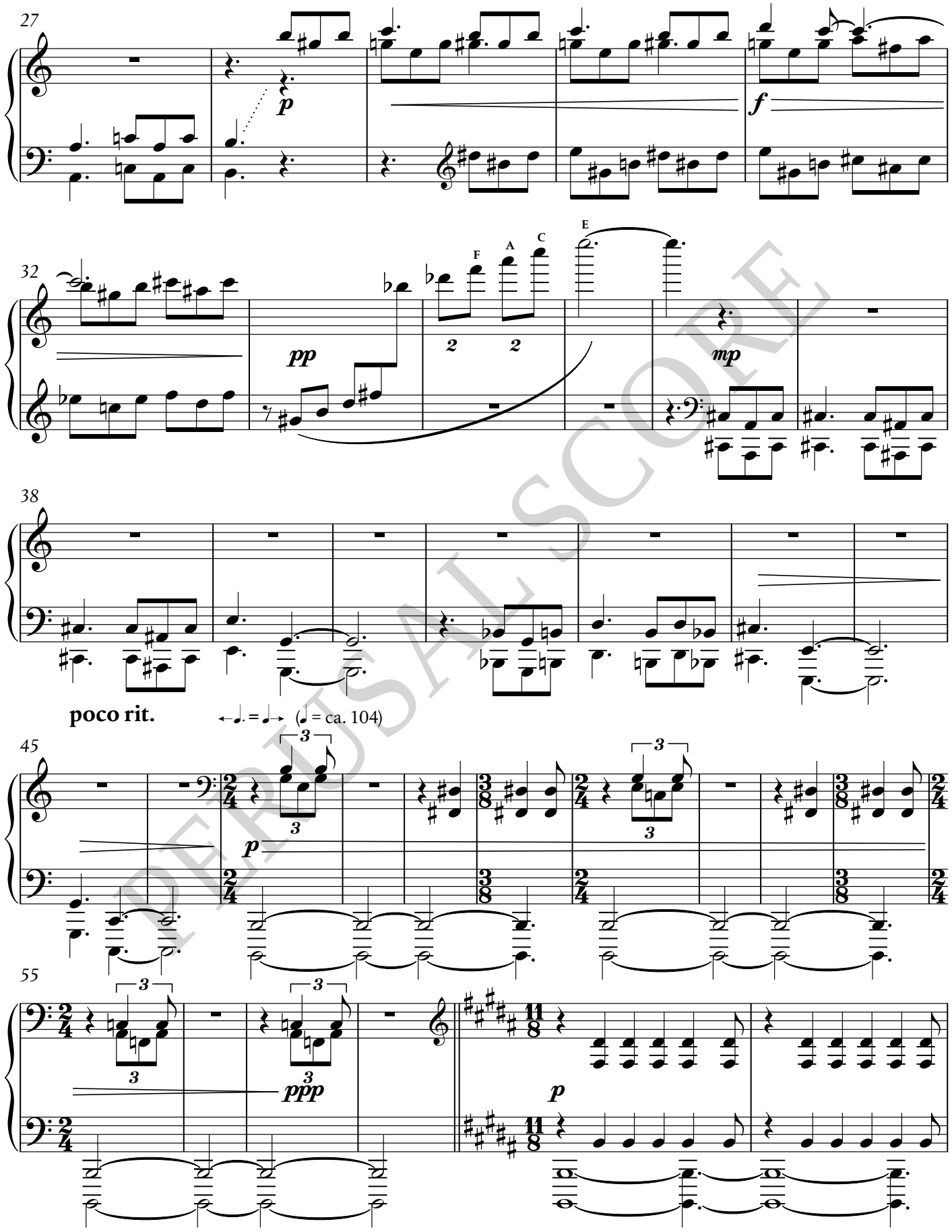

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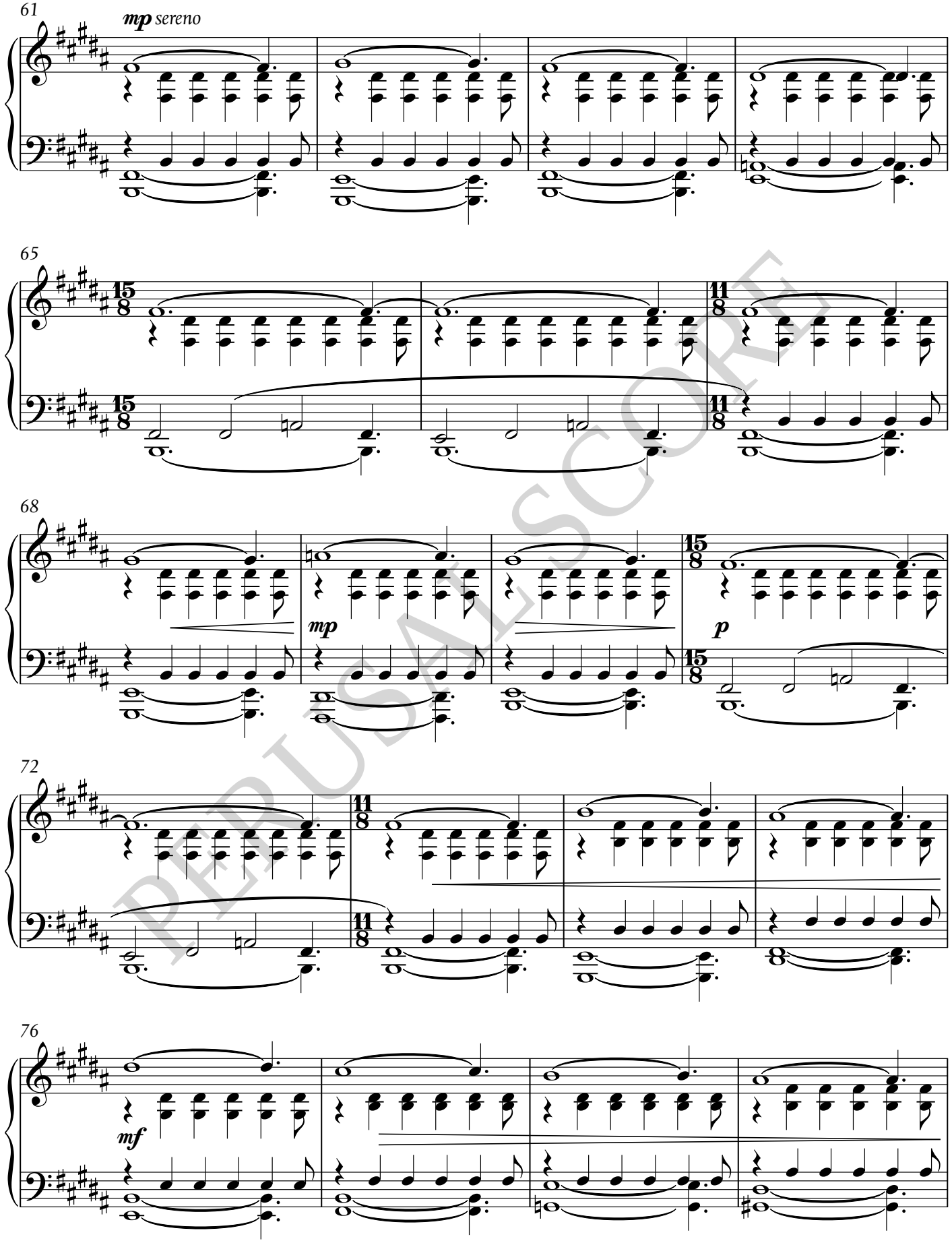

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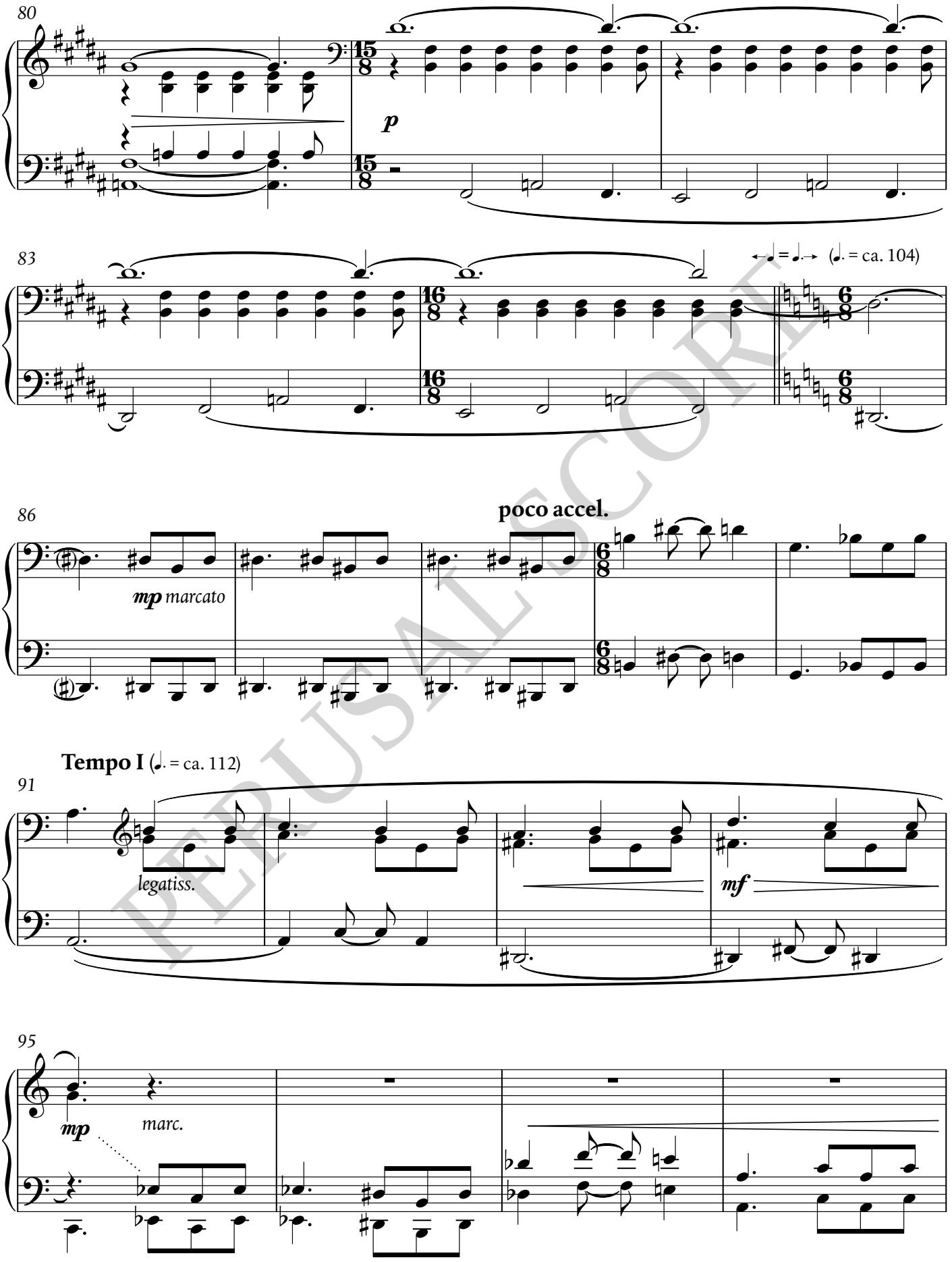

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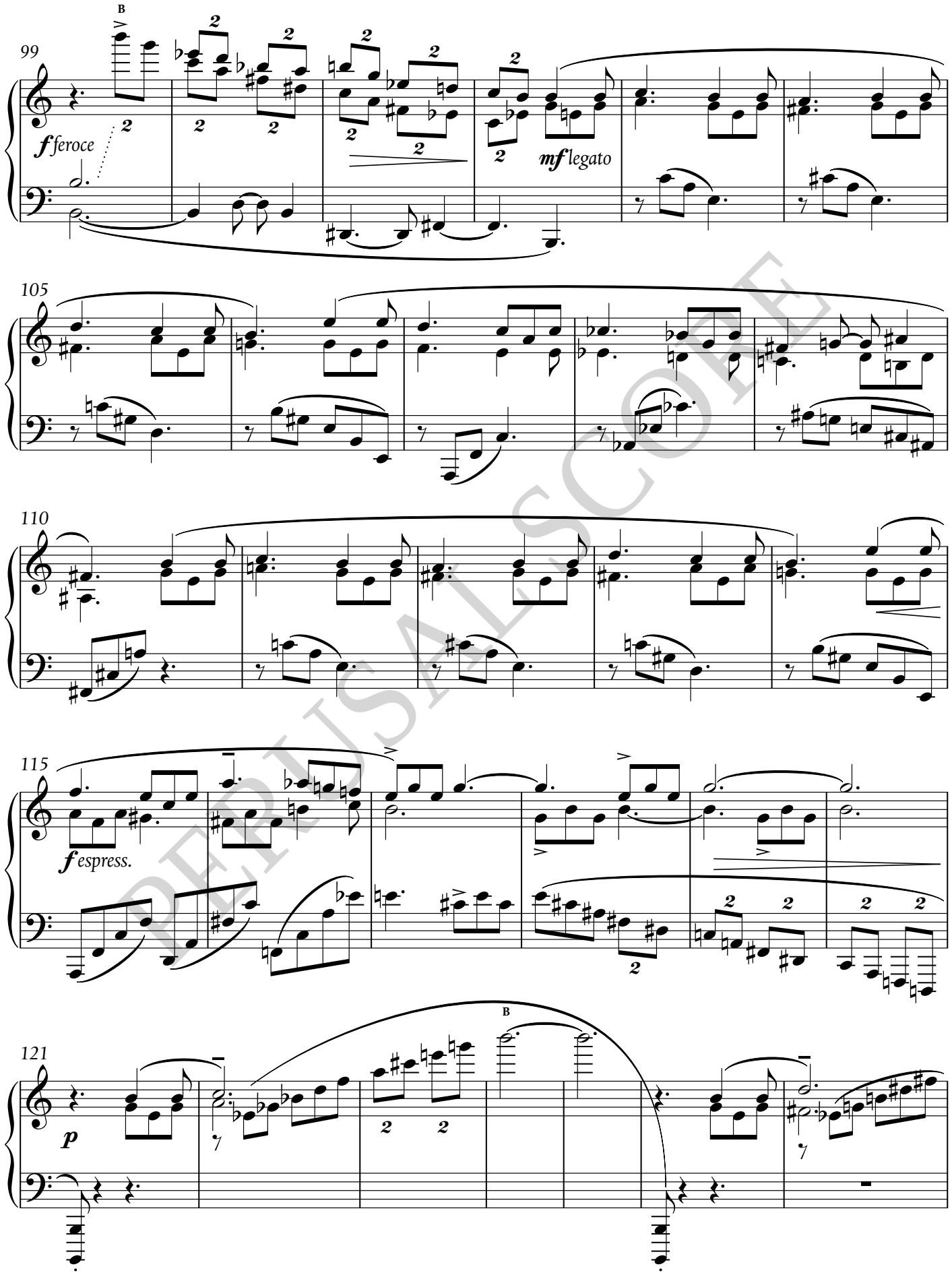

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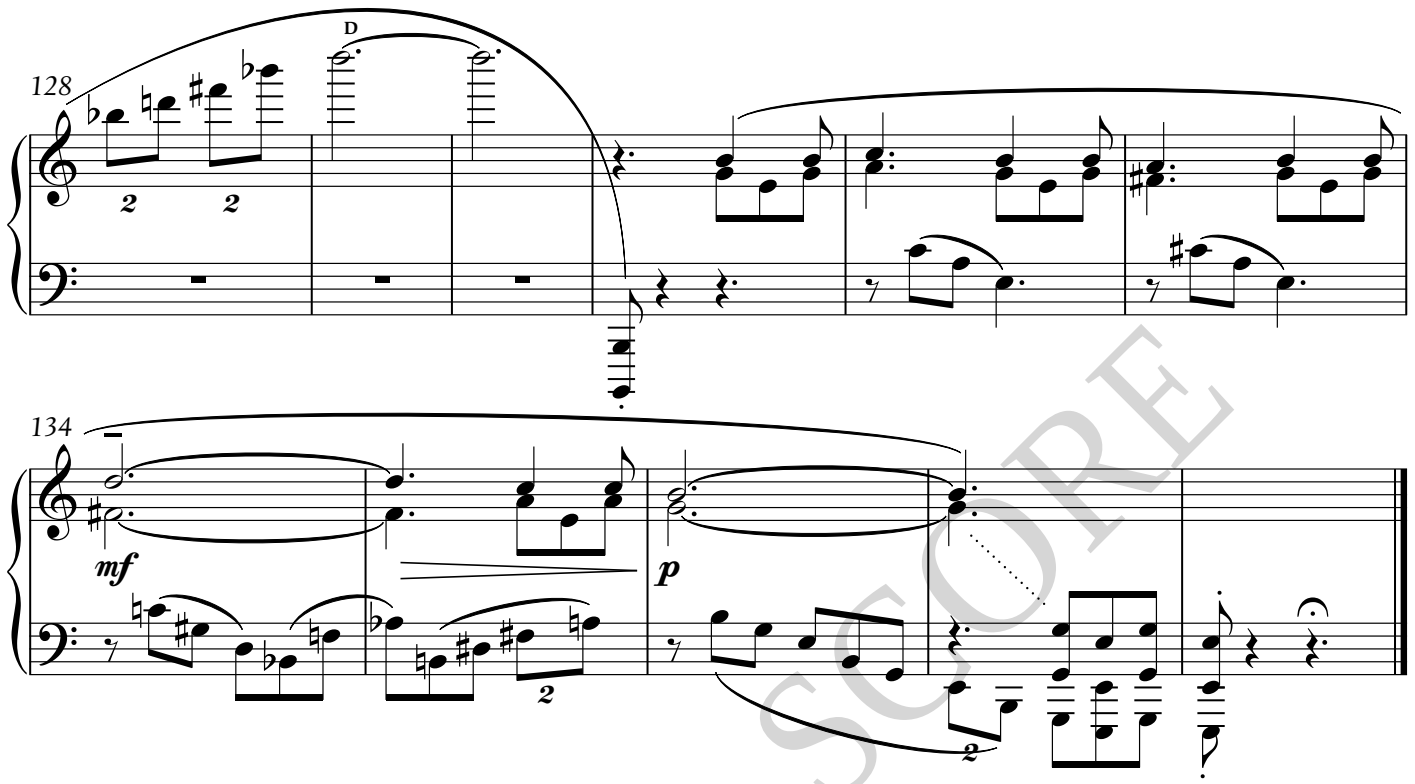

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