Level
2-

Also Available: 3-7 oct. Setting — 2931

Full Score for 2-3 & 3-7 oct. Together — 2931D

THE JASON W. KRUG
HANDBELL SERIES

HOPE Publishing Company
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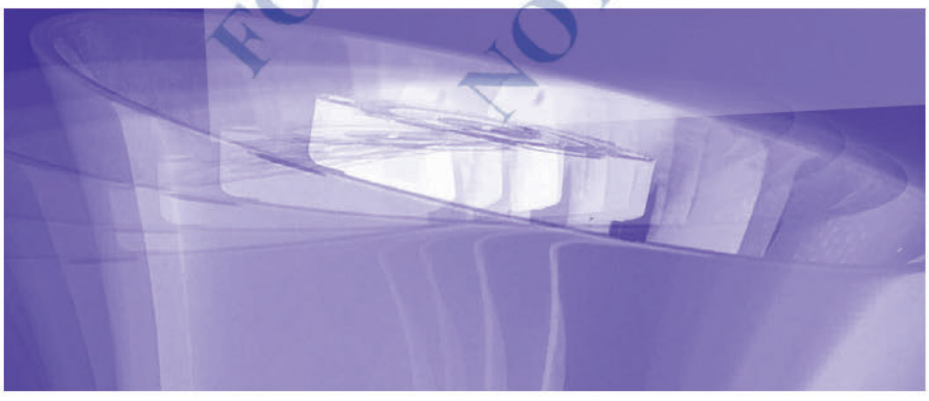
On Wings Above

An original composition
for 2-3 octave handbells by

Jason W. Krug



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Program Notes

In 2018, the world lost a devoted handbell ringer and wonderful friend, Mary Lynn Wolfe. In the fall of 2013, after retiring as the Chief of Radiology at a local hospital, Mary Lynn began her next career as a handbell enthusiast at Cross of Grace Lutheran Church in New Palestine, Indiana. Even though she had never played handbells before, she jumped in and immediately began perfecting her new skills. Within a few months she joined a second bell choir at Cross of Grace, and soon thereafter a third at Old Bethel United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. In the five short years that made up her handbell career, she blessed her fellow ringers with her jokes, dry wit, and dedication; her generous gifts, including sewing new table covers; and most of all, her unbridled enthusiasm and love for music and handbells.

Mary Lynn never missed an opportunity to attend a handbell workshop, and she absolutely loved to attend handbell festivals. On April 27, 2018, Mary Lynn and her husband Tom tragically lost their lives in a small plane crash en route to a handbell festival on Mackinac Island, Michigan.

The piece opens with a repeated triplet pattern overtopped by a soaring melody meant to depict the start of that tragic flight – a time of awe and wonder and excitement for what was to come. The ominous tolling E5 in the middle section harbingers impending danger and is meant to signify the fateful crash. There follows a slow reintroduction of the opening theme, giving hope that even in the darkest hour, all can still be well, and when the triplet motif returns, it is a sign that not only *can* things still be well, but that they *are* well. The randomly ringing bells at the end depict a final, glorious, triumphal entry into heaven.

As Mary Lynn rang in ensembles of different numbers of octaves and different skill levels, the piece is written for both a smaller and a larger ensemble, with a simpler and more complex part. Like the groups she played in, each part can ring on its own for a full musical experience, but – like the ringing at the festivals she enjoyed so much – when both parts are played together, the combined effect is something which, I hope, is truly worthy of Mary Lynn's memory.

Susan Oxley, Handbell Director, Cross of Grace and Jason W. Krug

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Written for the Central Indiana Spring Ring, April 2019, in memory of Mary Lynn Wolfe, beloved ringer and friend at Cross of Grace Lutheran Church, New Palestine, Indiana

On Wings Above

For 2-3 Octave Handbells

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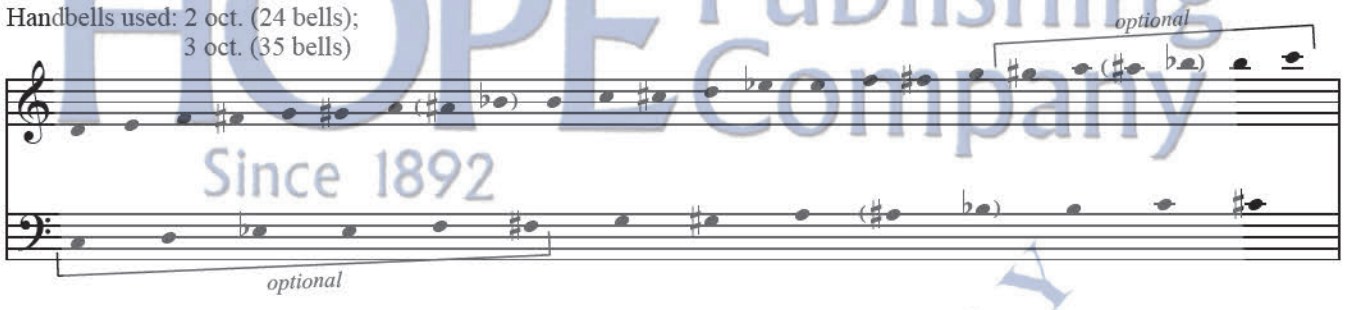
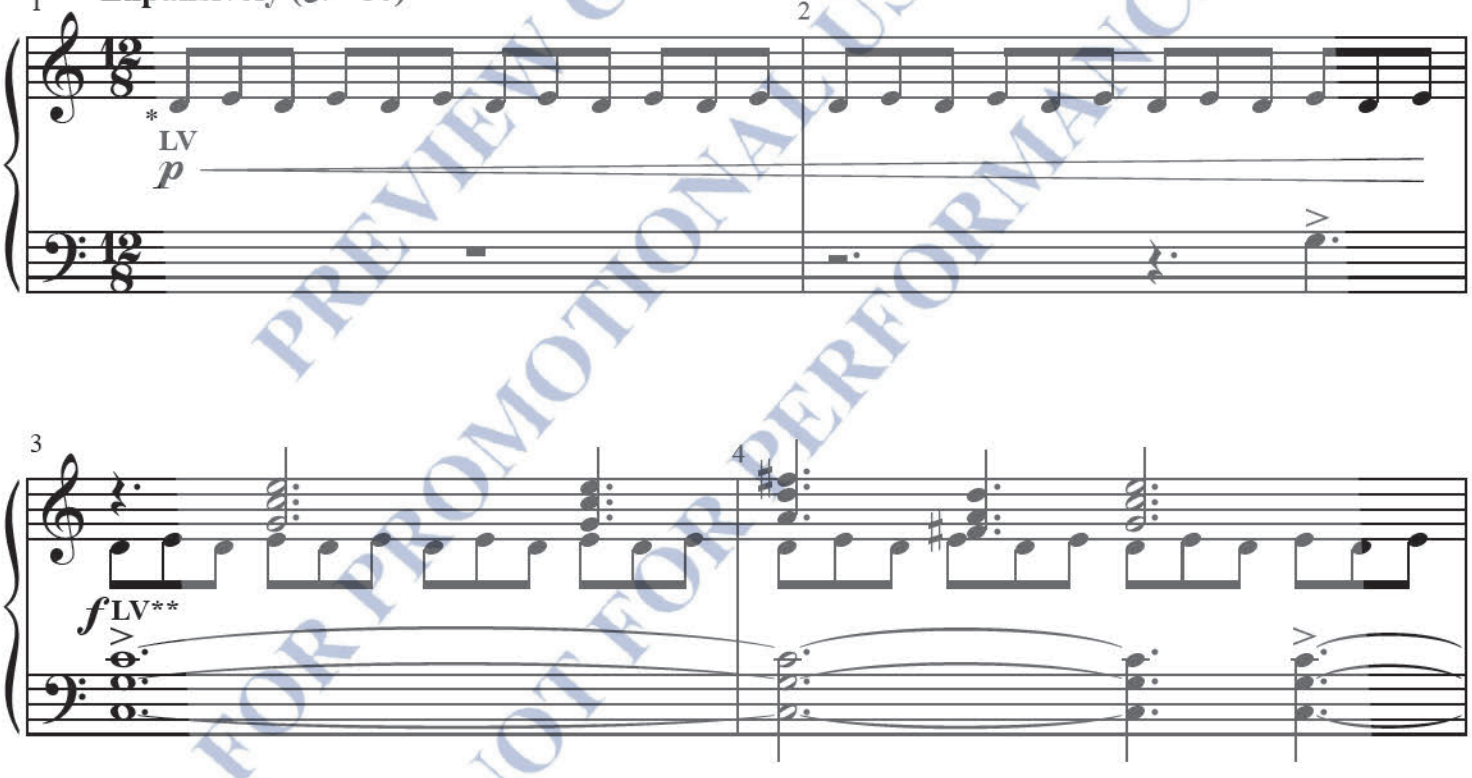
Handbells used: 2 oct. (24 bells); 3 oct. (35 bells)



2 octave choirs omit notes in ( ).

Jason W. Krug (ASCAP)



*If an easier version is desired, only the first note of each group of eighths may be played.
**LVs in measures 3 through 28 apply to down-stem treble eighth notes only.

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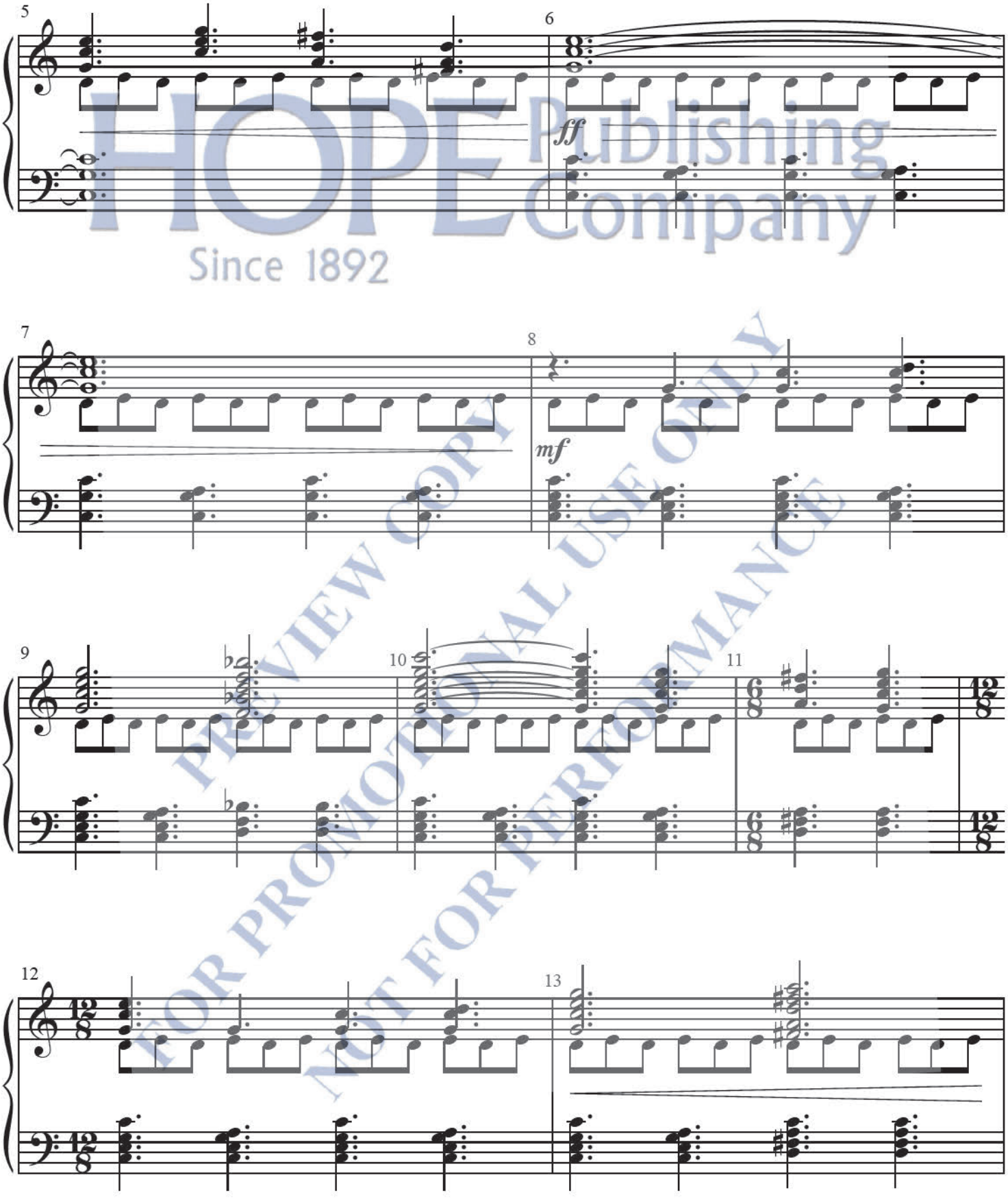

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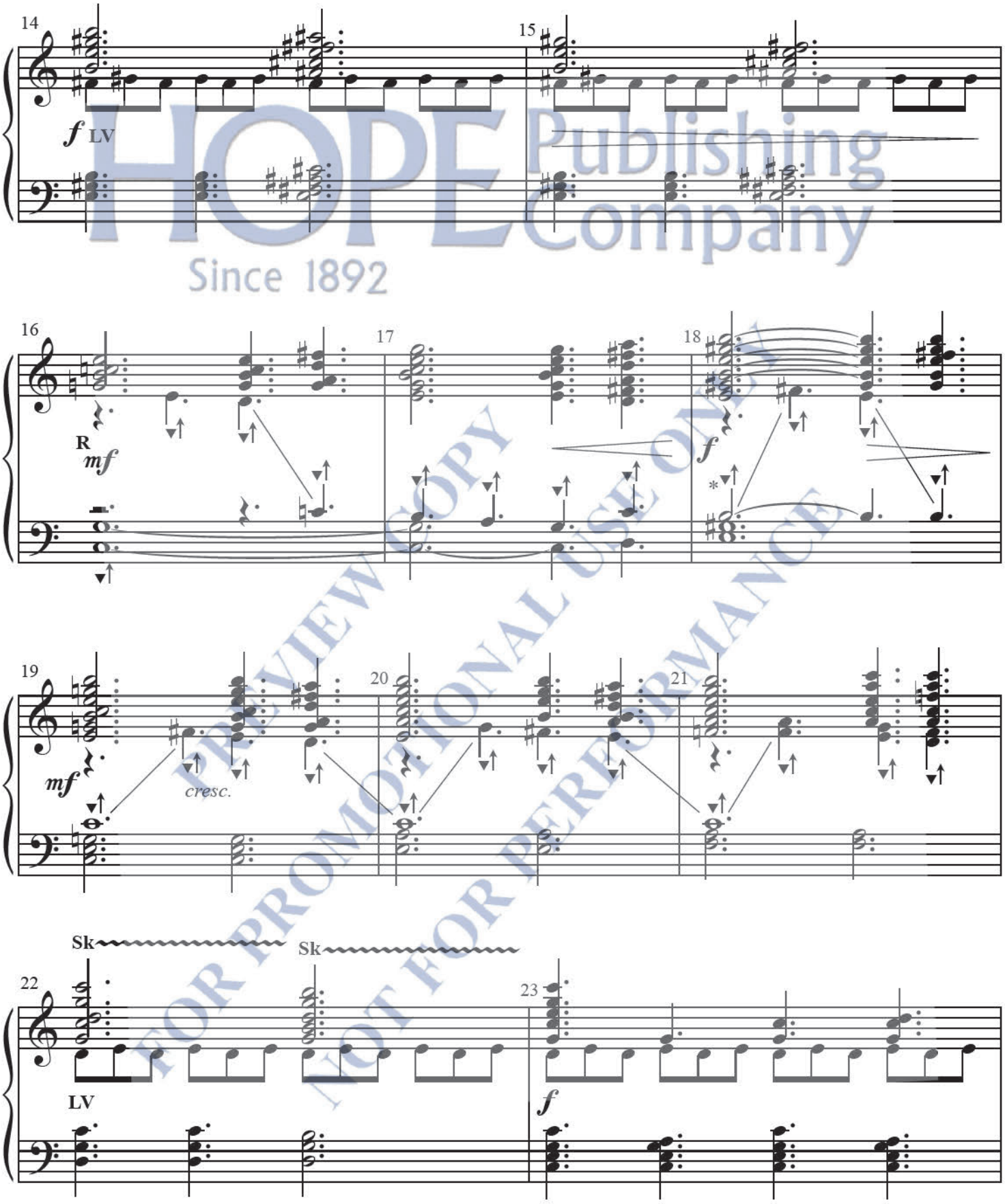

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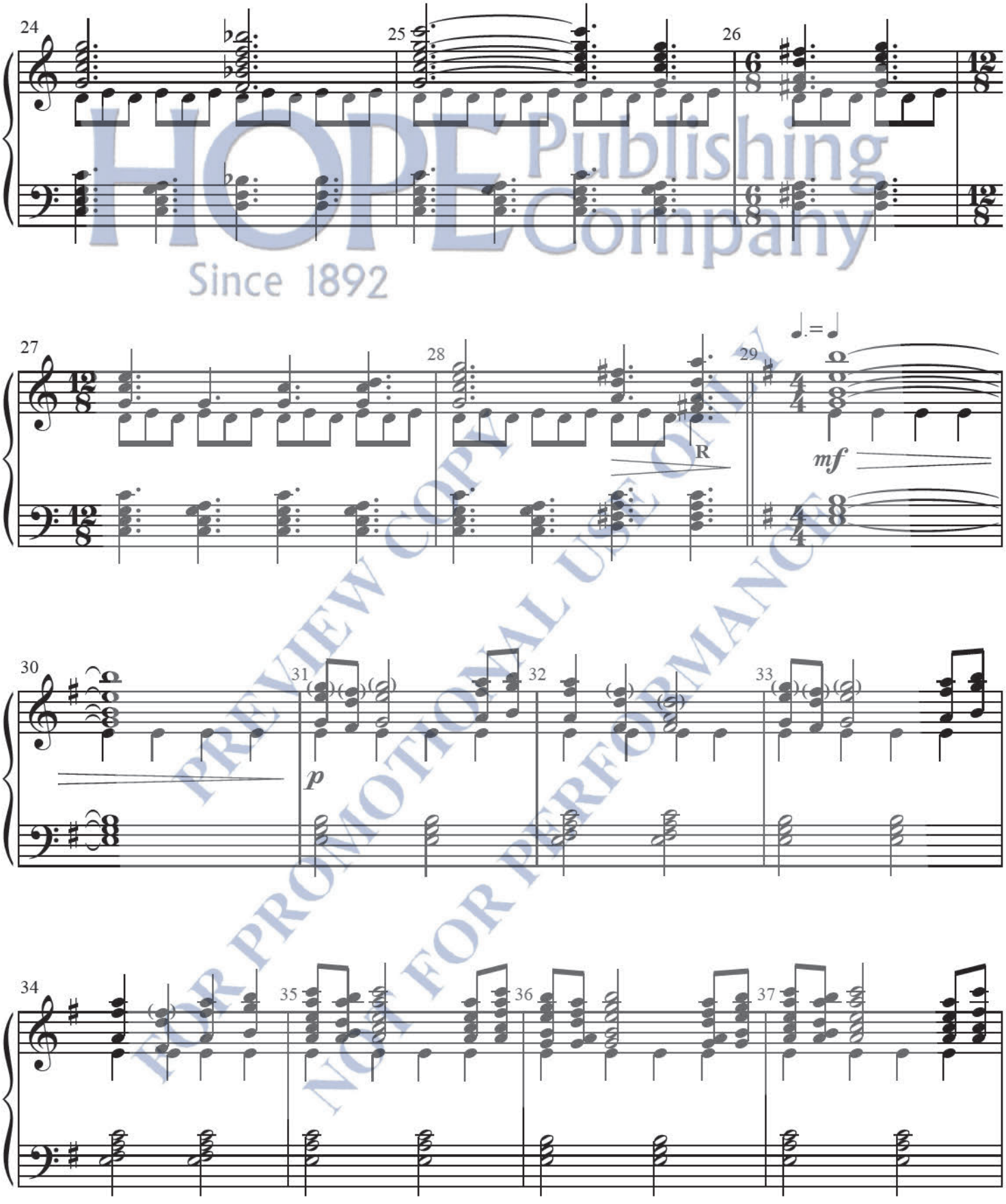
*Mart. lift on upstem B4 only.
On Wings Above 2-3



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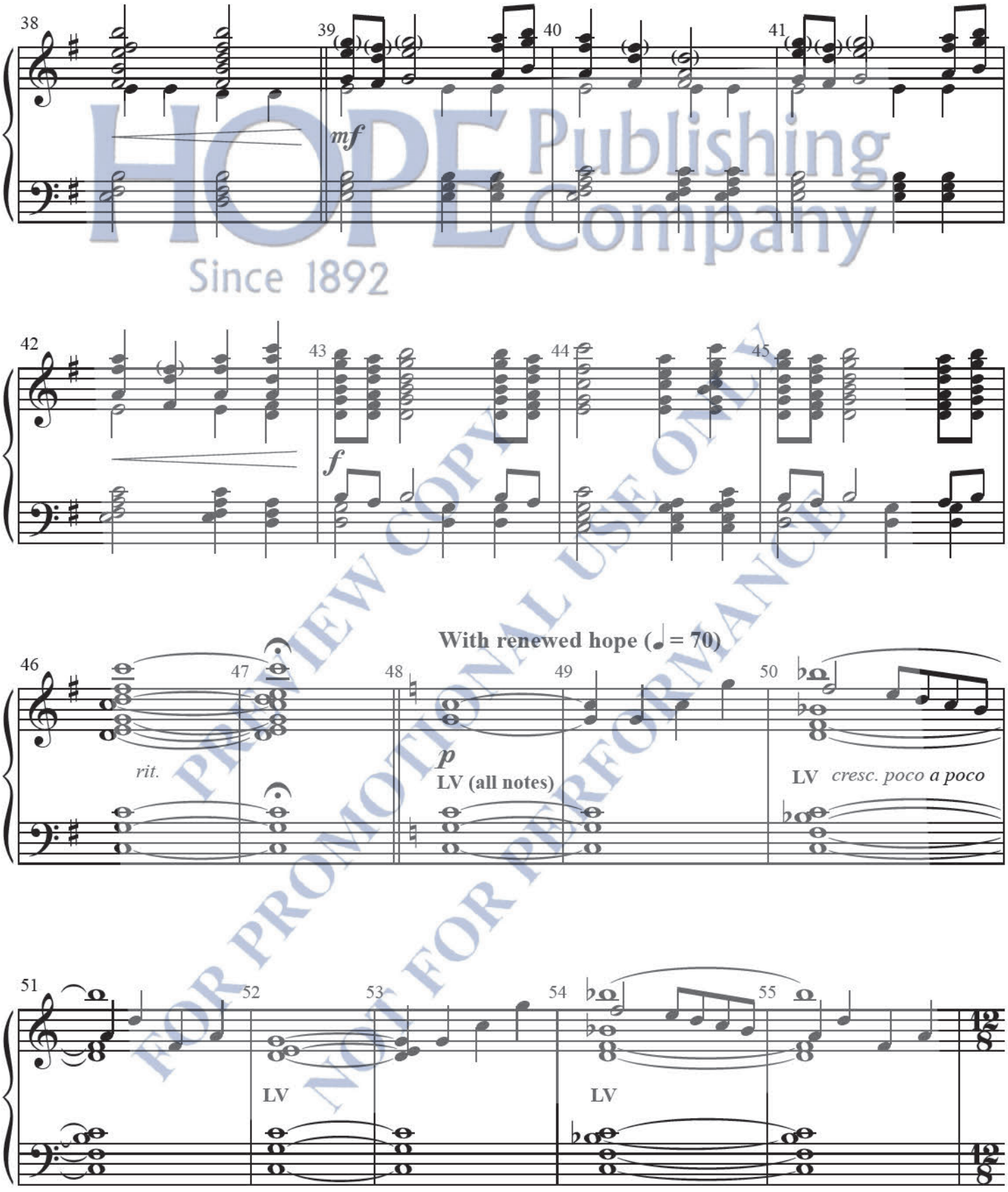

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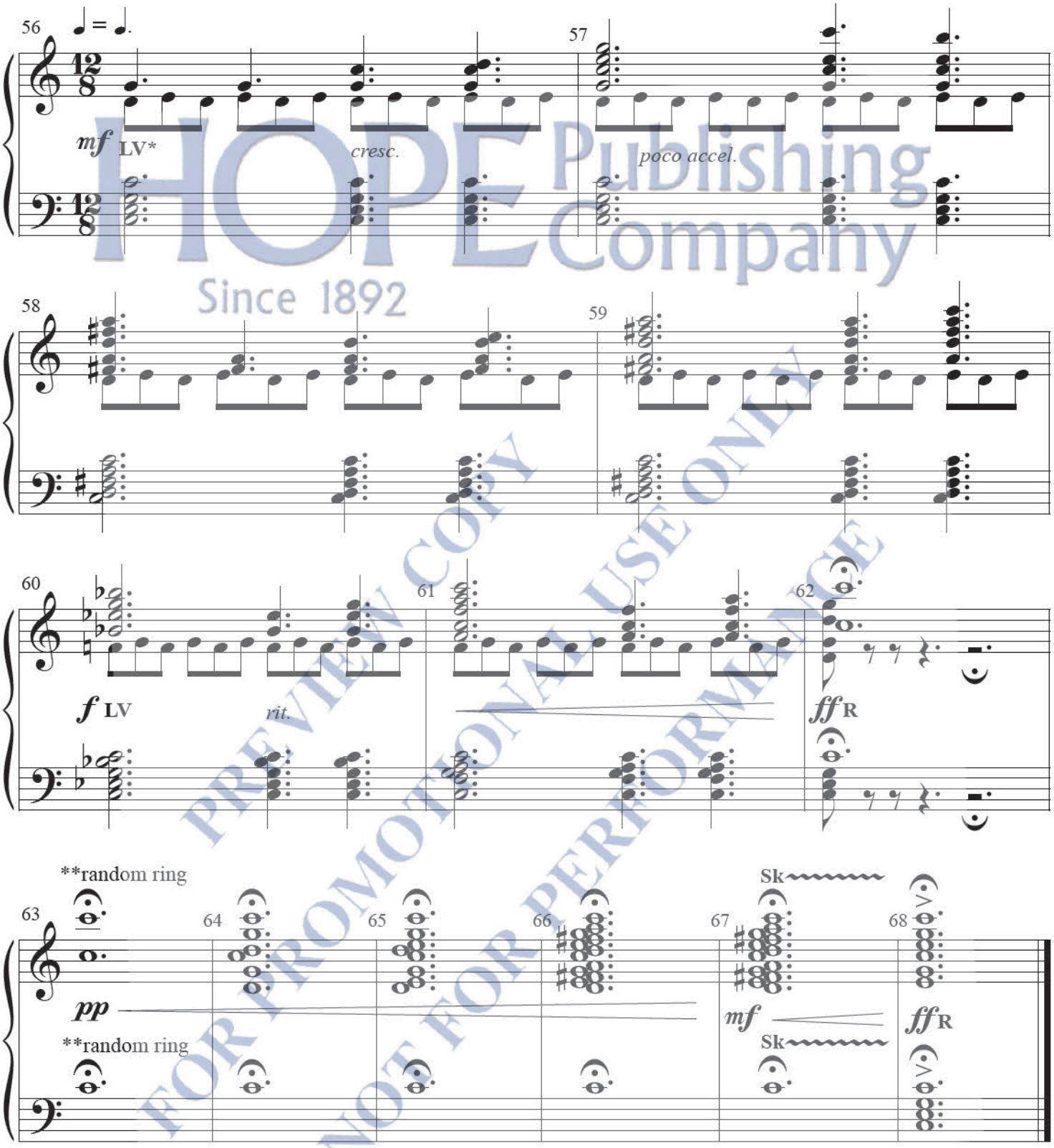

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*LVs in measures 56 through 61 apply to down-stem treble eighths only.

**Random ringing starts very slowly and gradually speeds up through measure 66, becoming a shake in measure 67. Chords should *not* be struck on each indicated downbeat, and strict time should *not* be given by the conductor.

Price Code: G
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