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MESSIANIC LONGINGS

Organ Music for Advent and Christmas

ANGELA KRAFT CROSS

THE Sacred MUSIC PRESS

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Foreword

Fantasie on "Personent hodie"

A very old Christmas carol, *Personent hodie* was originally published in the 1582 *Piae Cantiones*, a collection of 74 medieval songs with Latin texts. More recently, in 1916, Gustav Holst arranged it for voice and orchestra, which was adapted to the hymn version best known today, "On this day, Earth shall ring." With its delicious medieval and modal flare, this is a joyous Christmas day proclamation celebrating the birth of Christ.

Performance recommendations:

1) Section one should be played legato and lyrically, as should the second section with the Oboe melody.
2) Measures 39–46, the chords should be crisp but heavy tenuto with a legato countermelody
3) Starting in m. 51, LH chords should be crisp and held their full value. The punctuating RH chords should be also crisp and held their full value. Nothing is staccato.
4) Starting in m. 61, chords stay crisp and the pedal scales are mostly legato.
5) From here to the end, playing chords crisply will add to the bold energy.

Messianic Longings

Messianic Longings was inspired by a sermon of the same name by the Rev. Edgar A. Cook of the First Congregational Church of Corona, California, where I was organist during medical school in the first half of the 1980s. The premise of the sermon was the universal response of humankind to seek a savior during times of injustice and oppression—searching for someone to come and deliver them from their agony. The quintessential Advent hymn, *O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Veni Emmanuel)* is the musical basis for this work, developing first the E minor melody with a mood of "need/longing" before celebrating in the "Rejoice, rejoice!" refrain with a small fughetta. The final E major section on celestes is the secret of love and justice that God writes in our hearts with the birth of the Christ-child.

Performance recommendations:

1) This piece starts very plaintively. Keep it very legato and gentle.
2) Starting in m. 58, and even more so in m. 70, feel the intensity of "the need" grow, but still very legato.
3) Starting in m. 90, feel the new optimistic energy with crisp, energetic scales and chords.
4) In the fughetta (starting m. 103) chords stay crisp over a legato pedal; melodic lines stay legato.
5) The final section should be very lyrical and free; feel the dialogue between voices.

Mary Magnificat

On Christmas Eve in 2009, I began considering the incredible faith journey that Mary must have experienced in response to the Annunciation. The angel Gabriel informs Mary that she is to become the mother of God's son, and in the innocence of her young years, and in a conservative culture, that message would have naturally elicited an anxious initial response and concern for the future. She prayerfully and steadily comes to terms with her concerns and realizes a newly-found confidence in God's promise, to the point that she proclaims or sings the Magnificat, an amazing prayer-poem, with deep insights into justice in the Kingdom of God. *Mary Magnificat* is the story of this amazing faith journey, and the increasing personal dedication as Mary grows into the courageous woman of faith that God has encouraged her to be.

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Fantasie on "Personent hodie"

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Sw. Oboe 8, Flute 8, 4
Gt. Flute 8, String 8, Sw. to Gt.
Ch. Clarinet 8, Flutes 8, 4
Ped. Soft 16, 8, Sw. to Ped.

Angela Kraft Cross
(2015)

Tune: **PERSONENT HODIE**
from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582

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Duration: 4:00

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Sw. Oboe 8, Flute 8
Gt. Foundations 8, Sw. to Gt., Ch. to Gt.
Ch. Flute 8
Ped. Soft 16, 8, Ch. to Ped.

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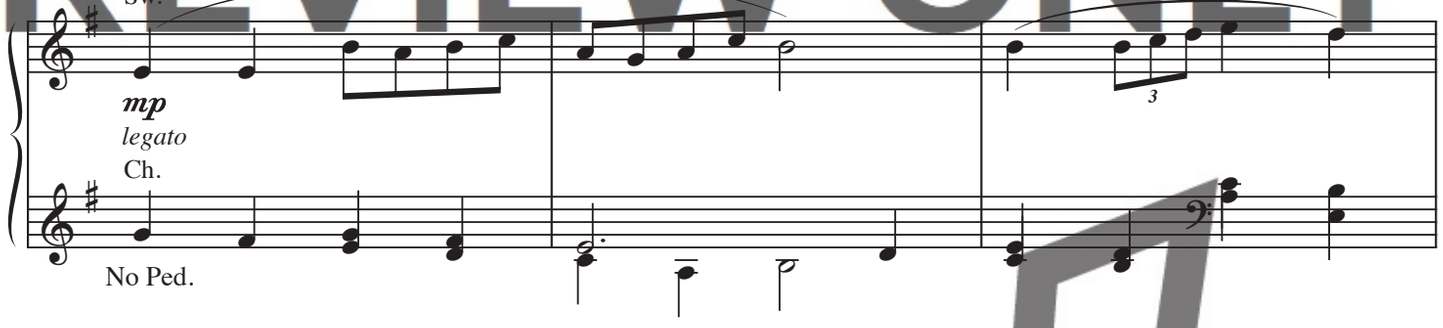
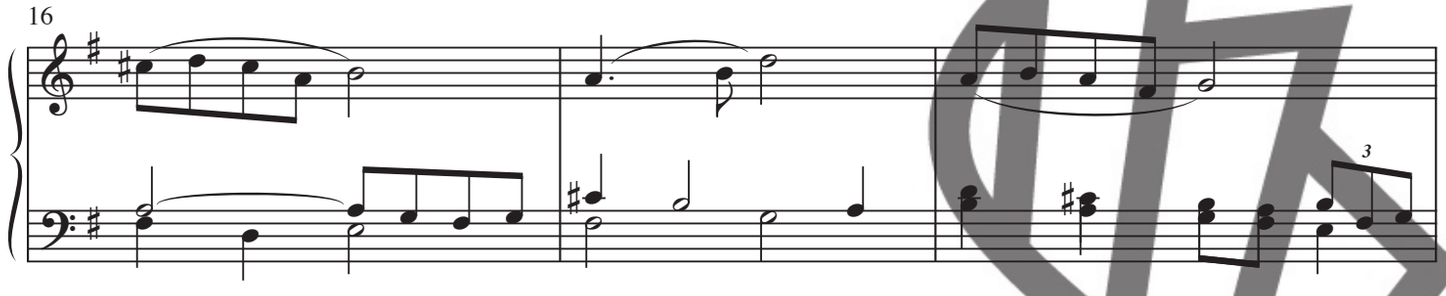
13 Sw.



Ch.

No Ped.

16



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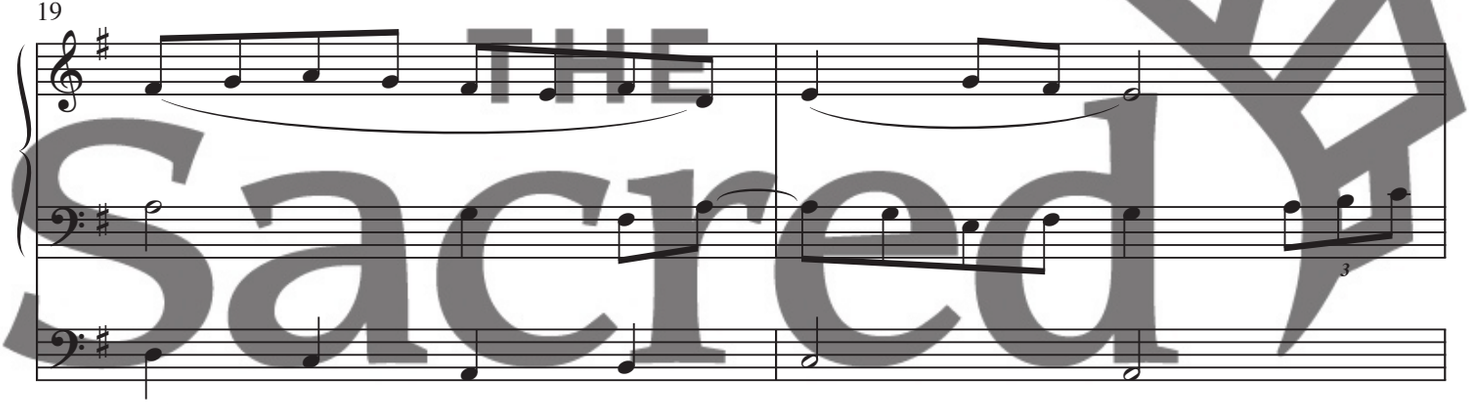

Ped.

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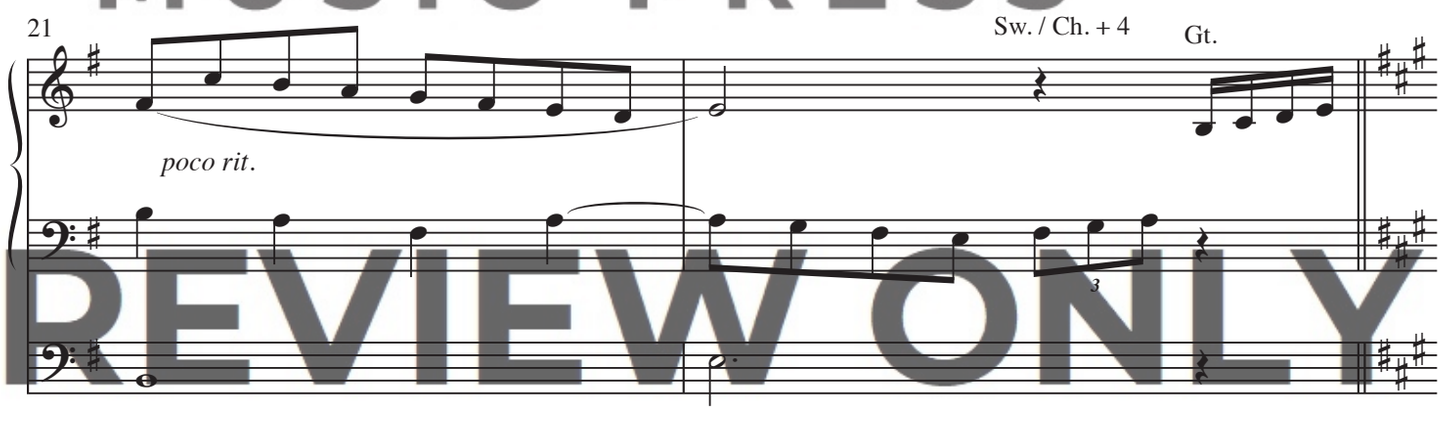
21 Sw. / Ch. + 4 Gt.



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81

83

rit.

Adagio ♩ = ca. 60

85

Gt. + Trumpet 8
Ped. + Reeds 16, 8

87

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in loving memory of the Rev. Edgar A. Cook, Senior Minister
of the First Congregational Church of Corona, California

Messianic Longings

Fantasie on "Veni Emmanuel"

Angela Kraft Cross
(2017)

Tune: **VENI EMMANUEL**
Plainchant

Sw. Oboe 8, Bourdon 8
Gt. Flute 8, Gemshorn 8, Ch. to Gt. possible
Ch. Soft Strings 8, Flute 8
Ped. Soft 16, 8, Ch. to Ped.

Duration: 5:00

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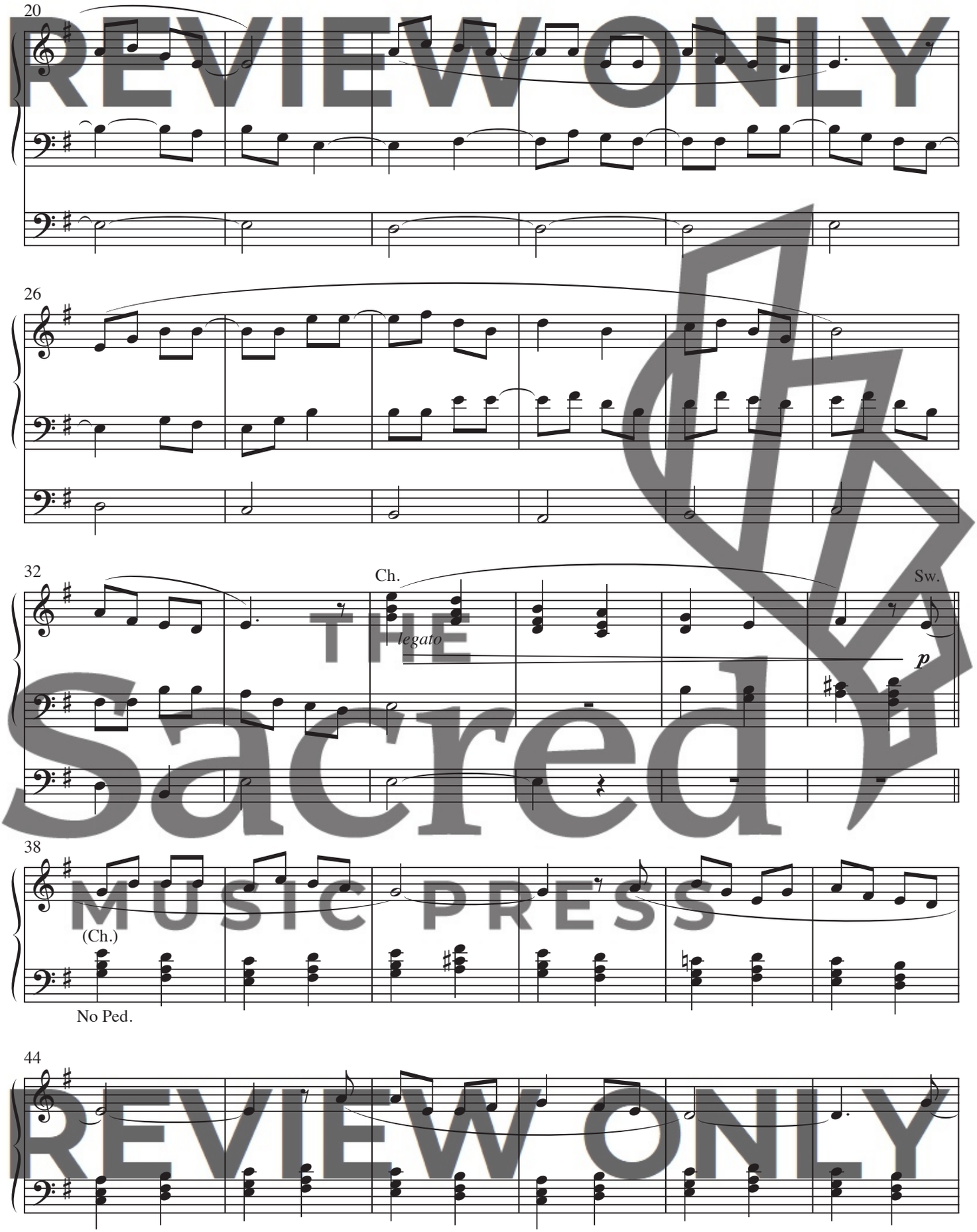

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Mary Magnificat

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Sw. Oboe 8, Flute 8
Gt. Flute 8
Ch. Soft Strings 8 (soft Flute 8)
Ped. Soft 16, 8

Angela Kraft Cross
(2010, rev. 2020)

Cantabile e legato ♩ = ca. 88

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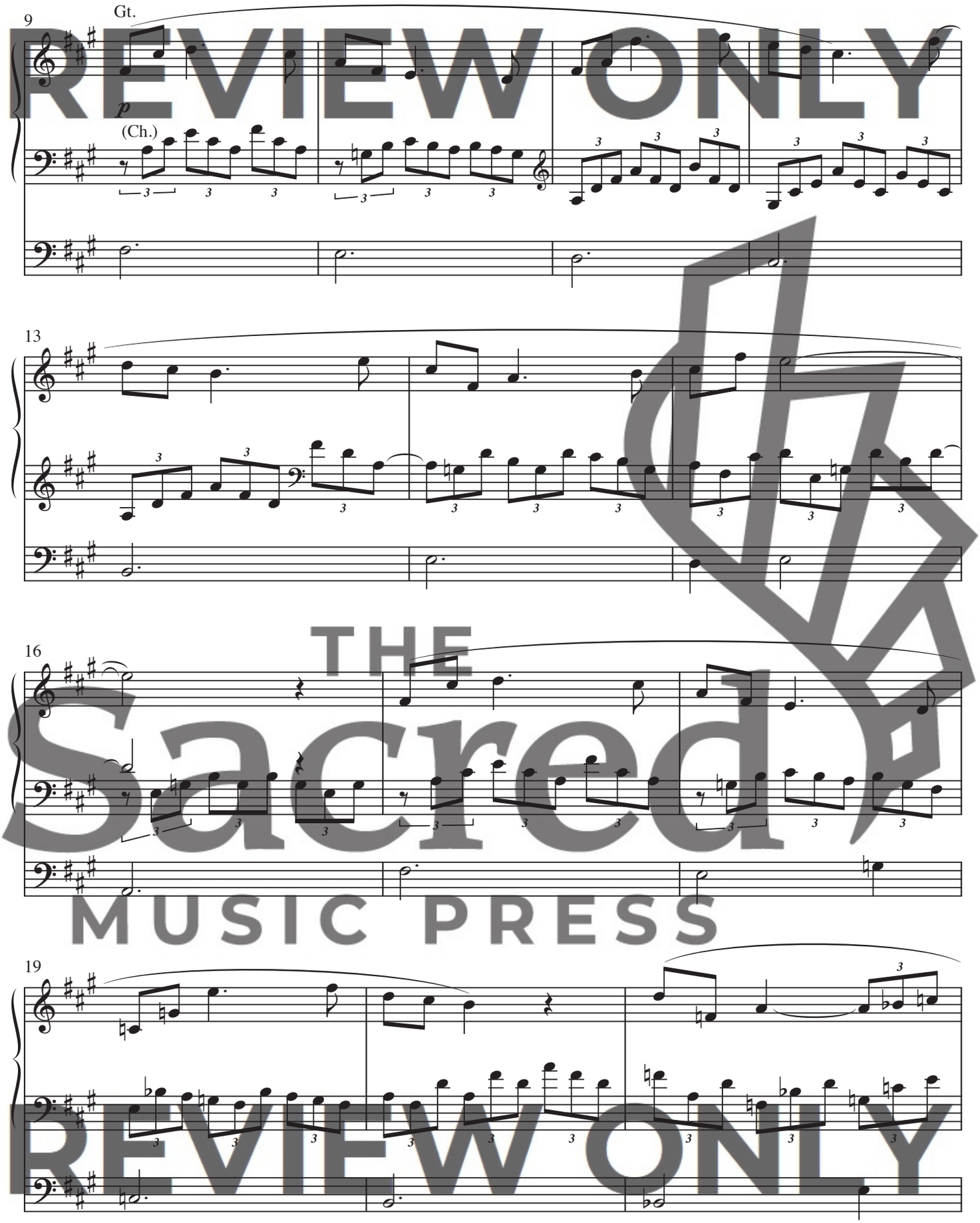

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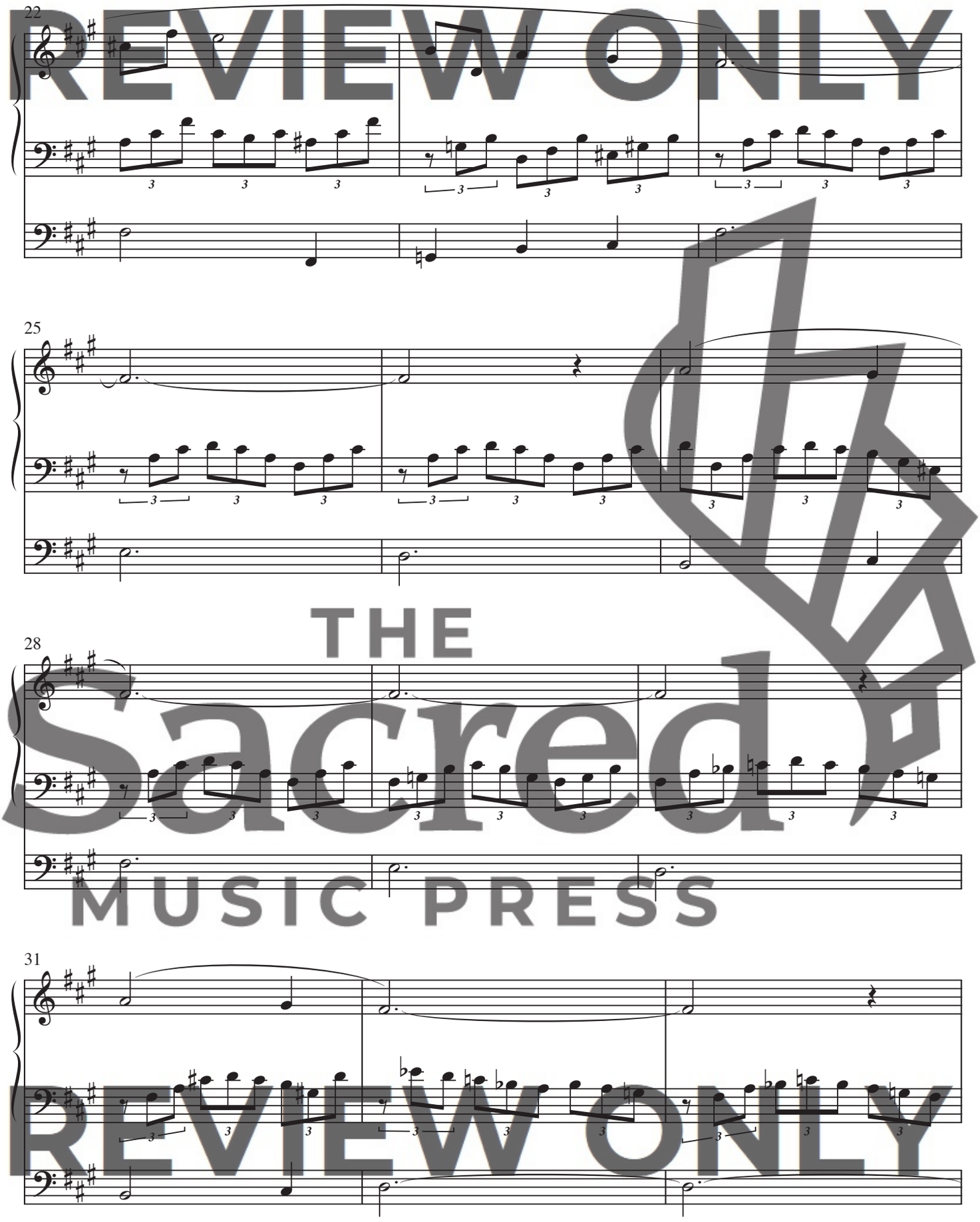

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Commissioned by the Congregational Church of San Mateo
in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of "Silent Night"

Meditation on "Silent Night"

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Sw. Oboe 8, Flute 8
Gt. Gemshorn, Ch. to Gt.
Ch. Soft Strings, Flutes 8, 4
Ped. Bourdon 8, Ch. to Ped.

Angela Kraft Cross
(2018)
Tune: STILLE NACHT
by **Franz Xaver Gruber**

Slowly, freely

mp Ch.

4 **Maestoso** ♩ = ca. 84

sempre legato

8 Gt.

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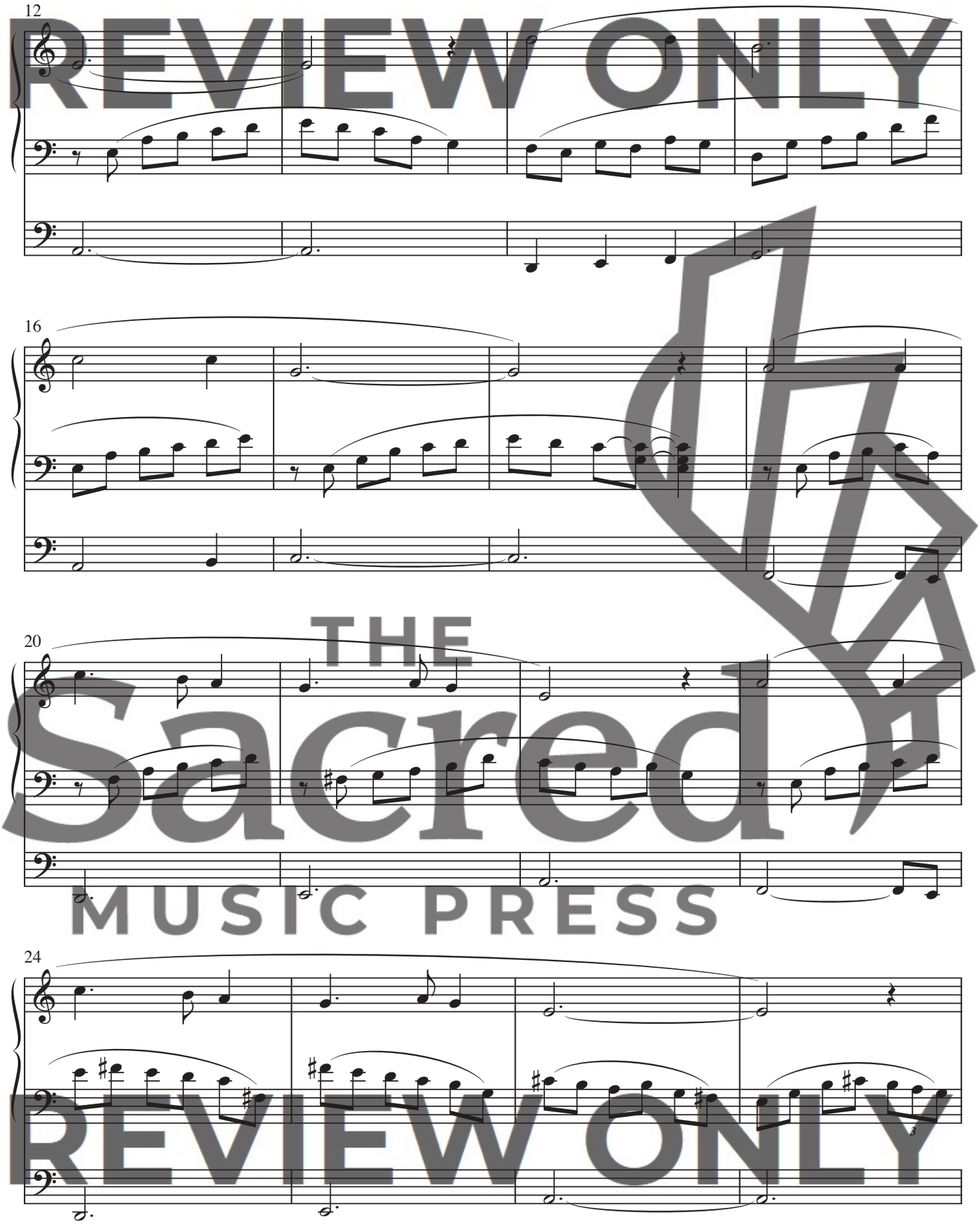

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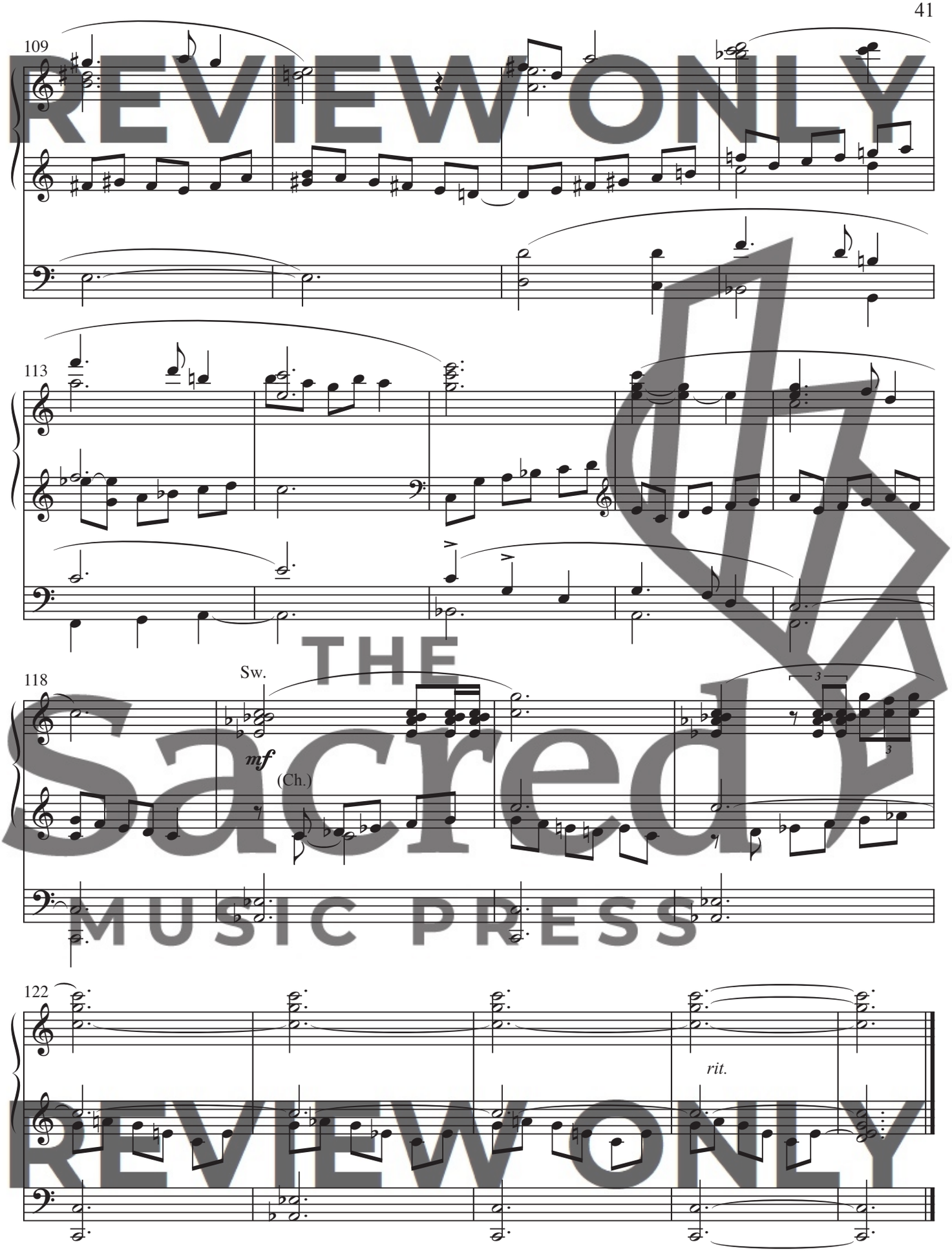

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Fantasy on an Old English Carol

(The Somerset Carol: "Come All You Worthy Gentlemen")

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Angela Kraft Cross
(2013)

Sw. Foundations 8, 4, 2
Gt. Trumpet 8, with supporting Foundations 8
Ch. Foundations 8, 4, 2, Sw. to Ch.
Ped. Foundations 16, 8 to match, Sw. to Ped.

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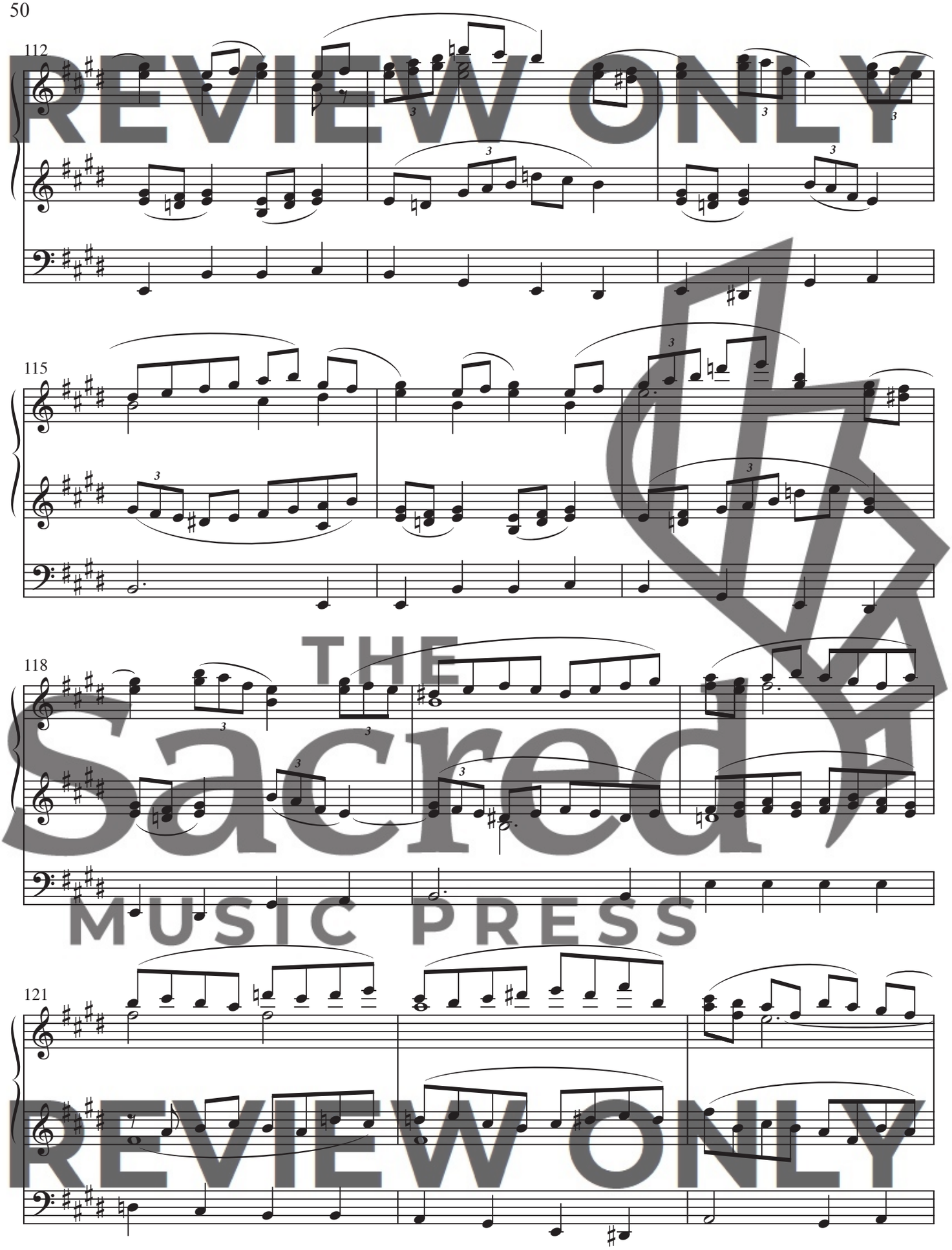

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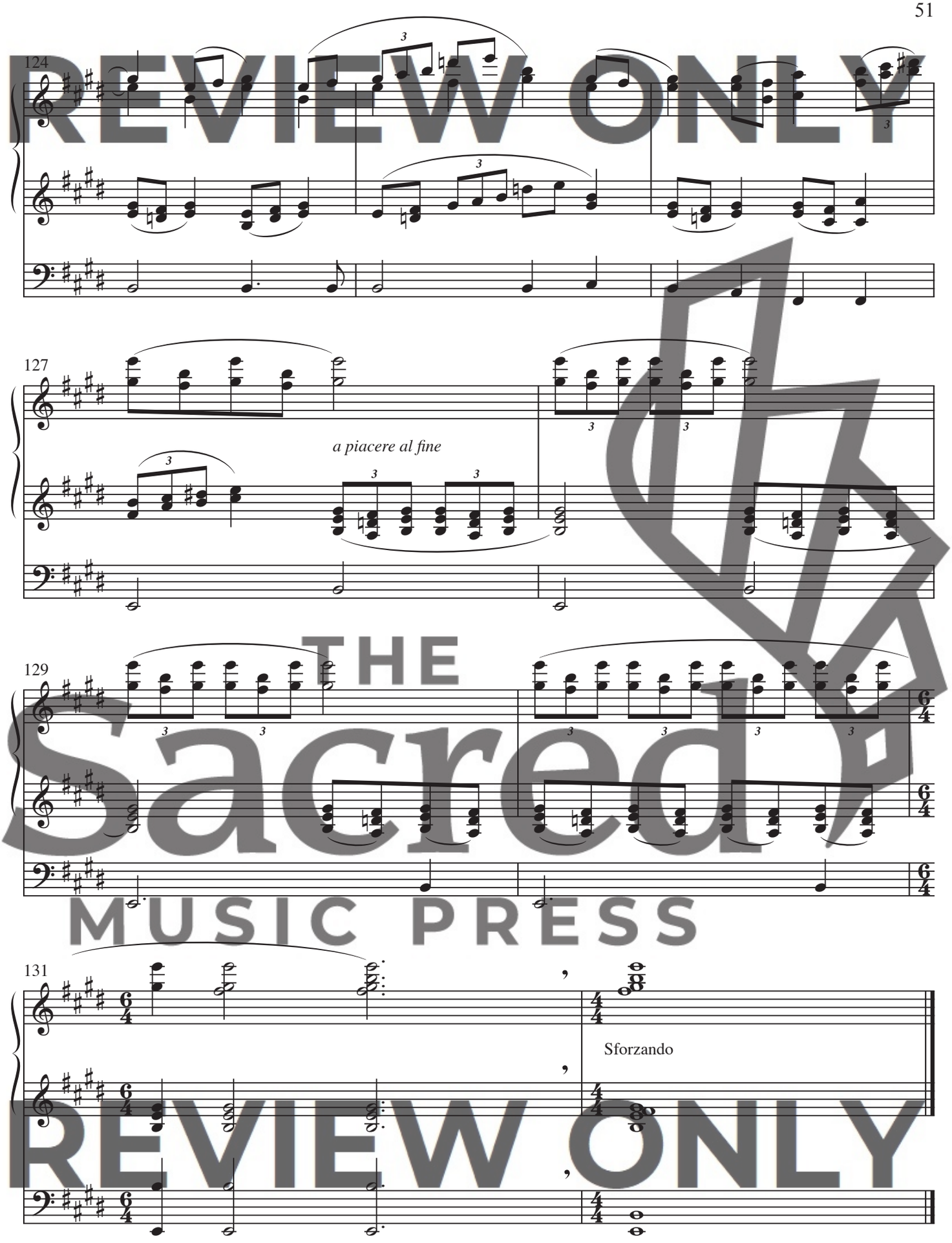

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