PIANO
MODERATELY
ADVANCED

SONGS OF PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

I COME TO THEE

ARRANGED BY **BRAD NIX**

Editor: Bryan Sharpe
Cover Design: Danielle M. Reinicke

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THE LORENZ CORP.

FOREWORD

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. (Philippians 4:6, KJV)

Throughout the Bible, the concept of prayer is often linked with thanksgiving. It seems you rarely find one mentioned without the other. So, when Bryan Sharpe asked me to write a folio featuring hymns of prayer and thanksgiving, I jumped at the chance. I felt that now, more than ever, we needed to hear again the biblical truths contained in these hymns. Perhaps, even more to the point,

I needed to hear again the biblical truths contained in these hymns.

These arrangements were written in February 2021, on the heels of a particularly tumultuous election cycle, and still well in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. And, as a side-note, several of these pieces were written during one of the worst winter storms in Texas history. I live in Bastrop, TX, just outside of Austin. Since we were without power for a few days, I pulled out manuscript paper and wrote by candlelight!

We are continually surrounded by unrest and uncertainty, and having the opportunity to spend time with these old hymns was a much-needed encouragement to me. I hope they will be an encouragement to you as well.

I want to thank Bryan and the folks at Lorenz for asking me to tackle this project. I also want to thank my wife and three children: Pattie, Kylie, Sarah, and Anna. They are very patient with me during the many hours I spend writing. Lastly, I want to thank you for investing in my music. I may not know you personally, but I have written these arrangements just for you, and I am praying for you as you prepare and present them. The events of the past year have only served to clarify my mission and calling, which is to write music that honors Christ and points people to Him.

Sincerely,
Brad Nix

ABOUT THE ARRANGER

Brad Nix is a widely-recognized composer, orchestrator, and arranger, and has written for many of the nation's major publishers. He currently serves as Keyboard Editor for the Fred Bock Music Group, and has well over 200 choral pieces in print, as well as many piano folios and orchestrations. Brad frequently travels throughout the country as a clinician for reading sessions and conferences, and his music has been heard in venues ranging from Carnegie Hall in New York City to the famed St. Martin-in-the- Field
as well as countless churches all over the world. He and his wife, Pattie, along wit
proud to make their home in Bastrop, TX. Learn more about Brad and his music a

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PERFORMANCE NOTES

COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME
I love experimenting with irregular time signatures, and this tune seemed to come alive in 5/4. In fact, the arrangement practically wrote itself! The most important things here are to keep the tempo steady during the rhythmic sections, and to make sure your finger-work is pristine and energized. The music should really sparkle.

COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING
This arrangement can function as a stand-alone piece or an introit. Many churches ring bells to signify the start of worship. If desired, the pianist may replicate this by taking the optional ending at the conclusion of the arrangement. Then, repeat the chord in the last measure the same number of times as the starting hour of the service. For example, if the service starts at 9:00 am, repeat the last chord nine times, freely, with pedal, and gradually get softer each time. The effect can be very worshipful.

I MUST TELL JESUS
This one is dedicated to my parents, and is an homage to the music I heard in my home church while growing up. This was the way hymns were usually presented on Sunday night, as opposed to Sunday morning! Again, the important thing is to keep the music steady. Rhythmic music immediately loses its groove if the tempo fluctuates at all. Above all, have fun with this piece!

I NEED THE EVERY HOUR
As a former jazz pianist, I love chord substitutions. I also love adding extra "color" tones to a sonority to really freshen it up. This arrangement is full of these techniques. Be sure to really voice the melody note in each chord that contains color tones. Otherwise, the effect can be a little jarring, and the dissonances within the chord might be overly exaggerated.

WE GATHER TOGETHER
In this setting, the left hand can be tricky. However, don't fall into the trap of concentrating so intensely on the left hand that you fail to beautifully shape the melody in the right hand. Also, feel free to approach this one with a fair amount of rubato, particularly when moving into and away from the contrasting minor section in the middle of the arrangement.

NEARER, MY GOD, TO THEE
Mark Hayes is a familiar name to musicians everywhere, and I am privilege[illegible]ll Mark a very dear friend, as well as a trusted mentor. I was particularly thinking of him when I
as he often writes in this style. Here again, keep the tempo steady and play

HAVE THINE OWN WAY, LORD
I have always loved this hymn, but, for some reason, the original time sign
with me as I started this arrangement. Therefore, after a brief presentation
alone, I decided to move into a gentle 4/4, and then the music really starte
particular attention to the left hand in measures 34 through 39. Keep it so
accents.

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SPIRIT, NOW LIVE IN ME with "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"
This beautiful tune, by Bryan Jefferey Leech, is given a tender, contemporary setting. As a surprise, I added a rather hymn-like treatment of "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" to the middle of the arrangement. Be sure to highlight the contrast between the straight-forward style of this added song and the more syncopated, modern approach given to the title song.

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER
The text of this hymn has resonated deeply with me over the past few months. Perhaps it has with you as well. Be extra careful in measures 38 through 45. What should be highlighted above all else is the melody. The fast notes should come across as a soft wash of sound. In fact, I toyed with the idea of notating these quick gestures as grace notes in order to minimize their importance. They should never overpower the melody. Think Debussy and you will be fine.

A GRATEFUL HEART with "For the Beauty of the Earth"
I have to admit this is one of my favorite pieces in the collection. I also have to admit the idea for this arrangement came from my great friend Joseph Martin. I was leaning toward arranging Fred Bock's lovely melody as a jazz waltz, but Joe suggested I should first experiment with something more Satie-like. So, I pulled out my trusty edition of

Gymnopedies, placed it on my music stand for reference, and this arrangement is the result. In Joe's honor, I felt it was only right to dedicate this setting to him!

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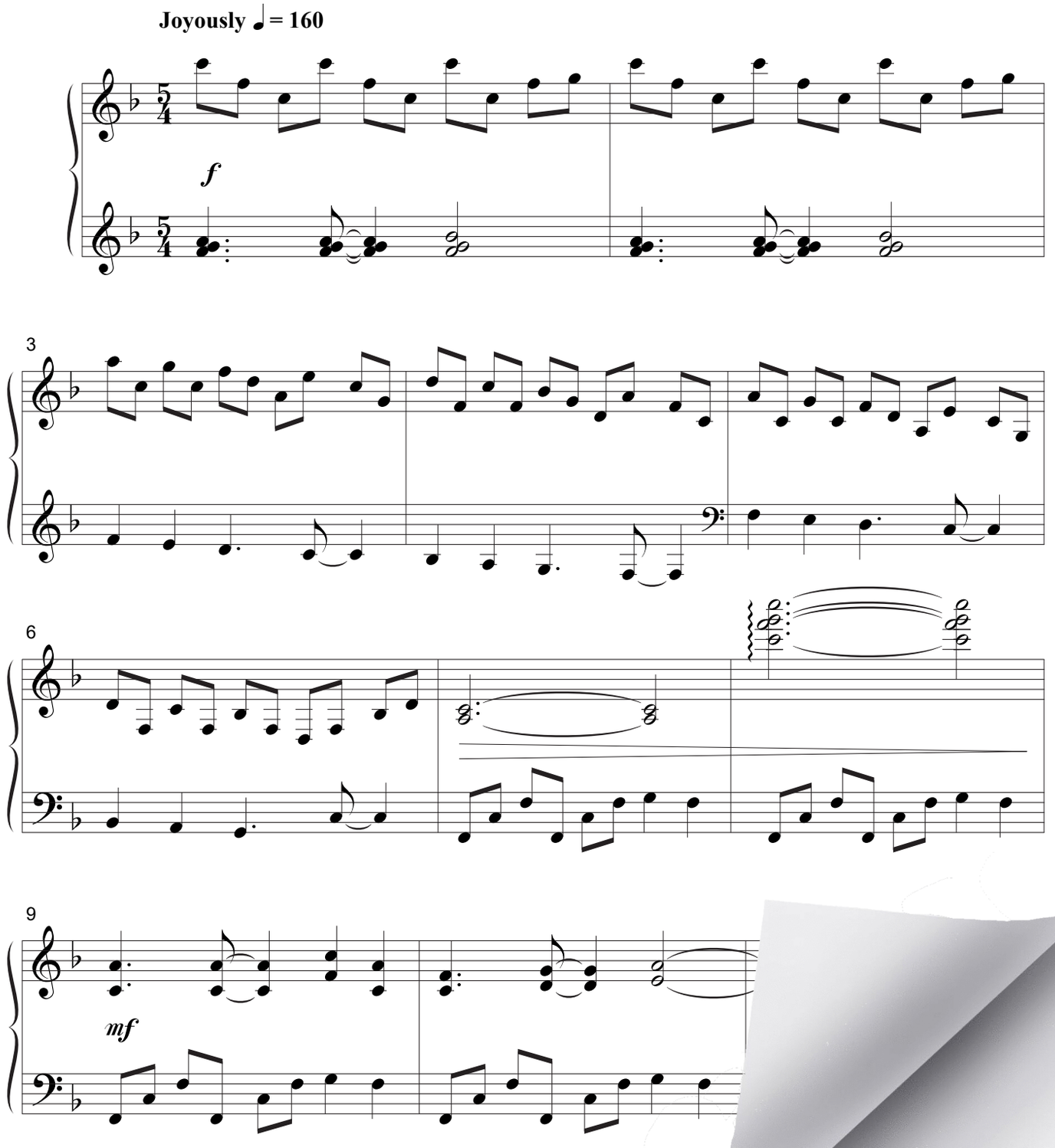
for my children, Kylie, Sarah, and Anna Nix

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

George J. Elvey
Arranged by Brad Nix



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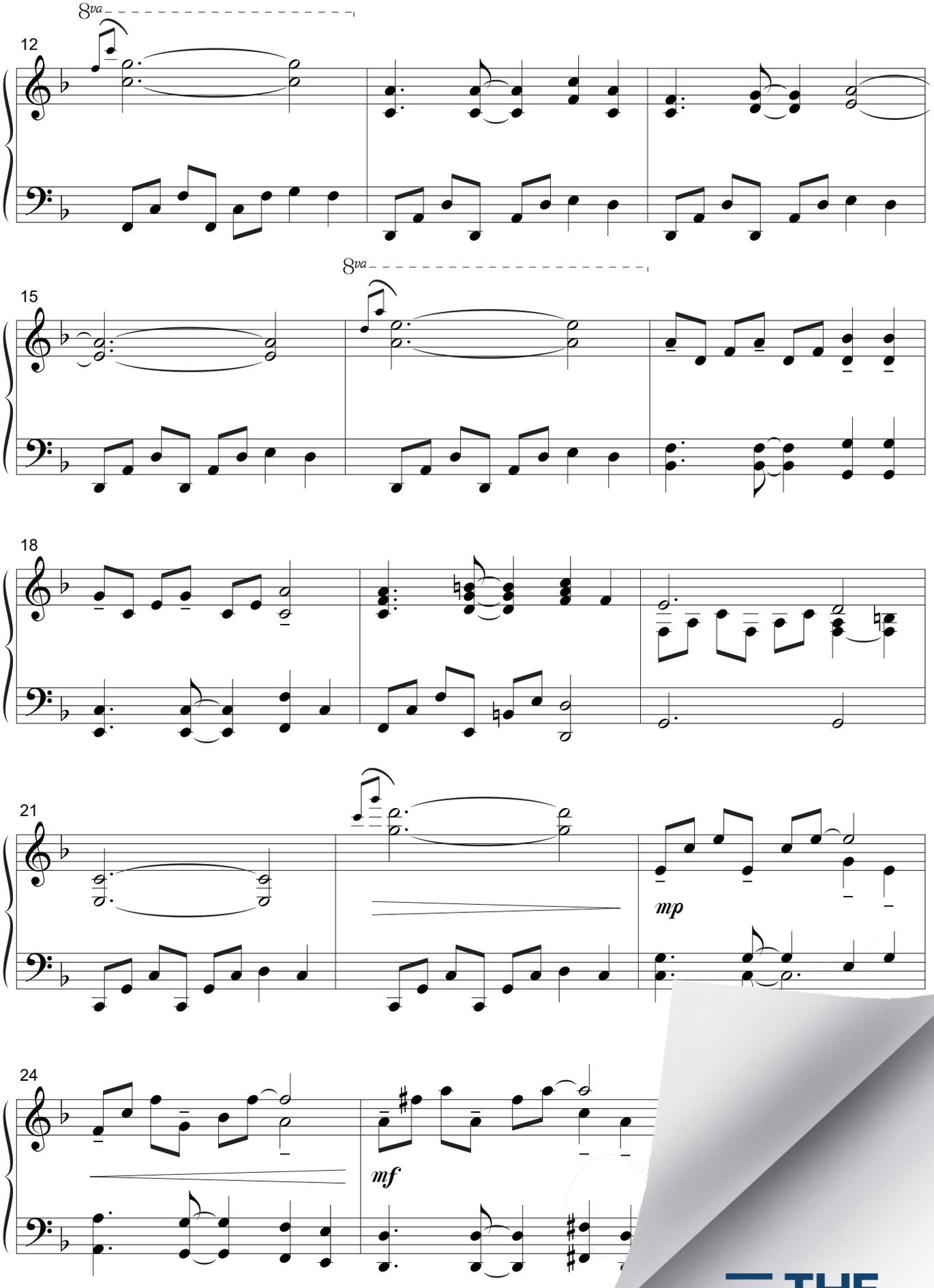

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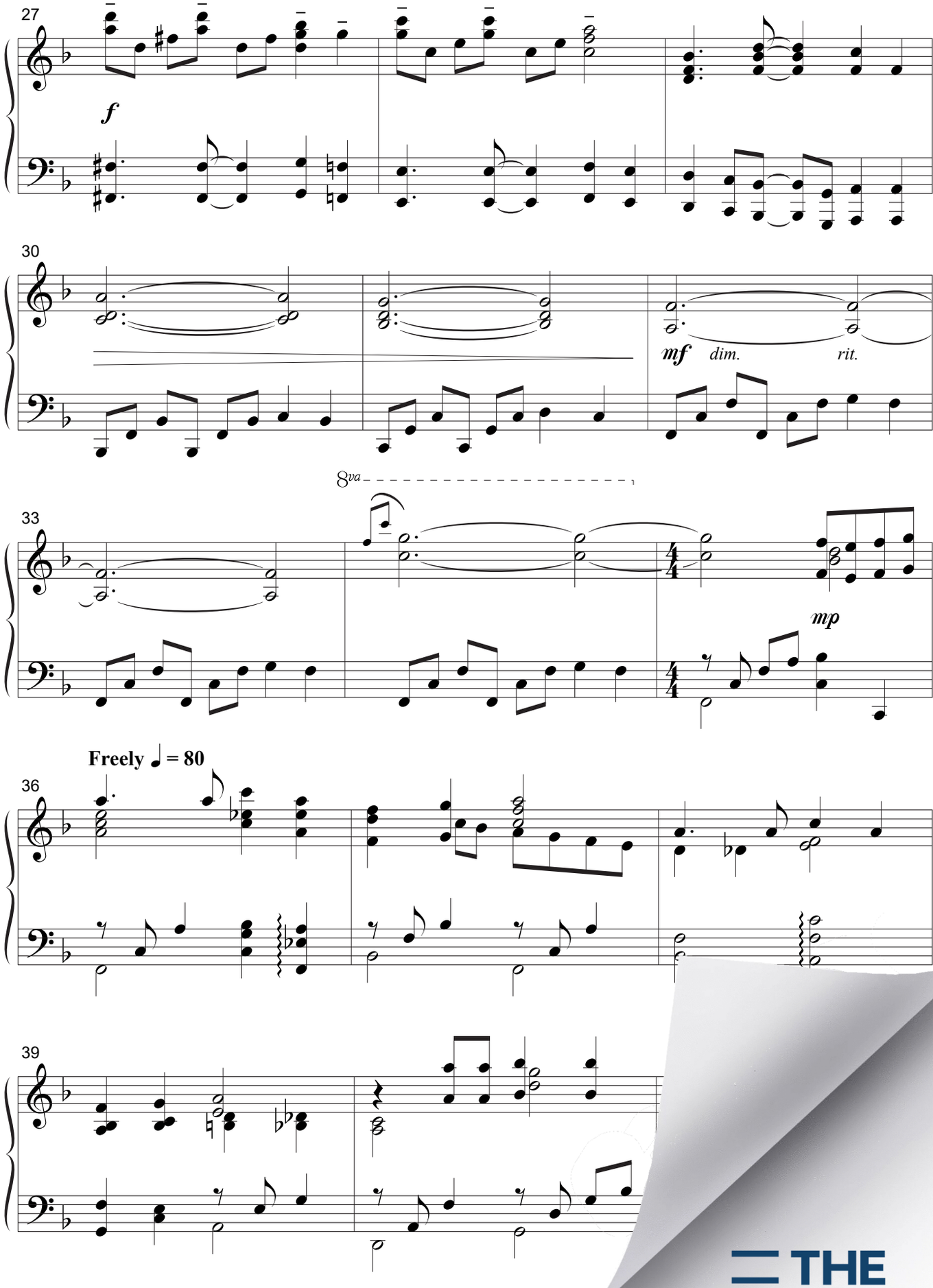

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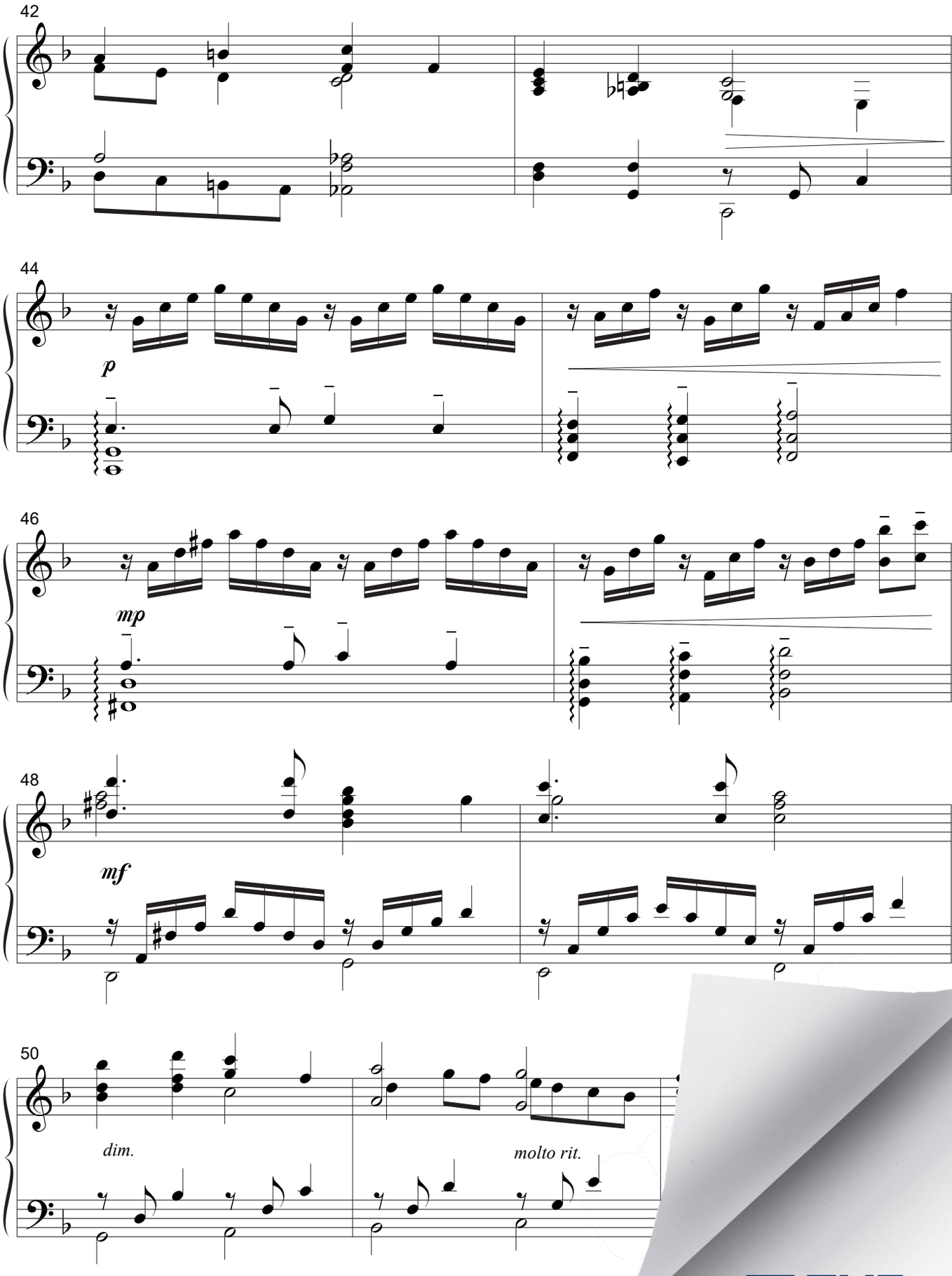

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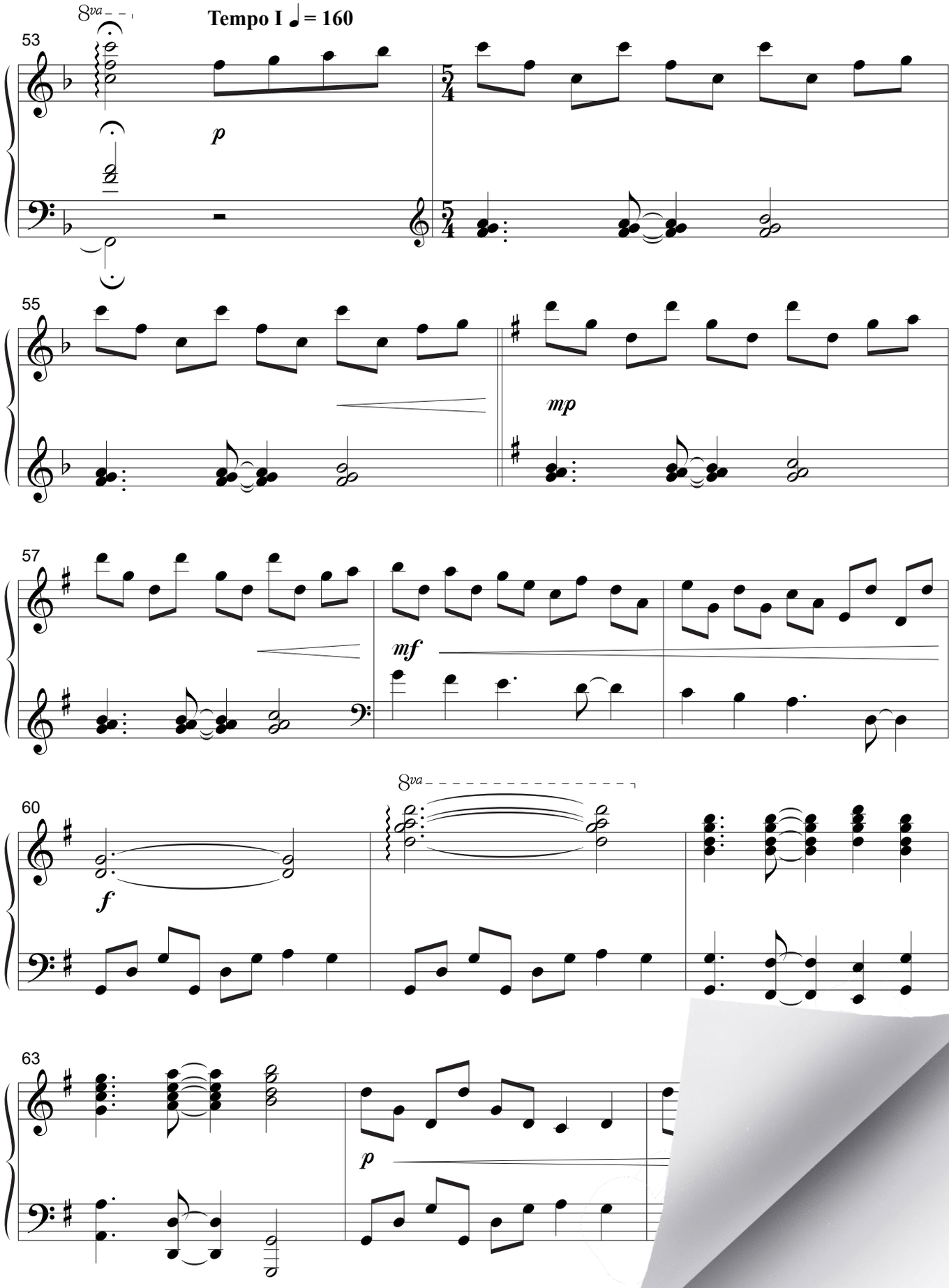

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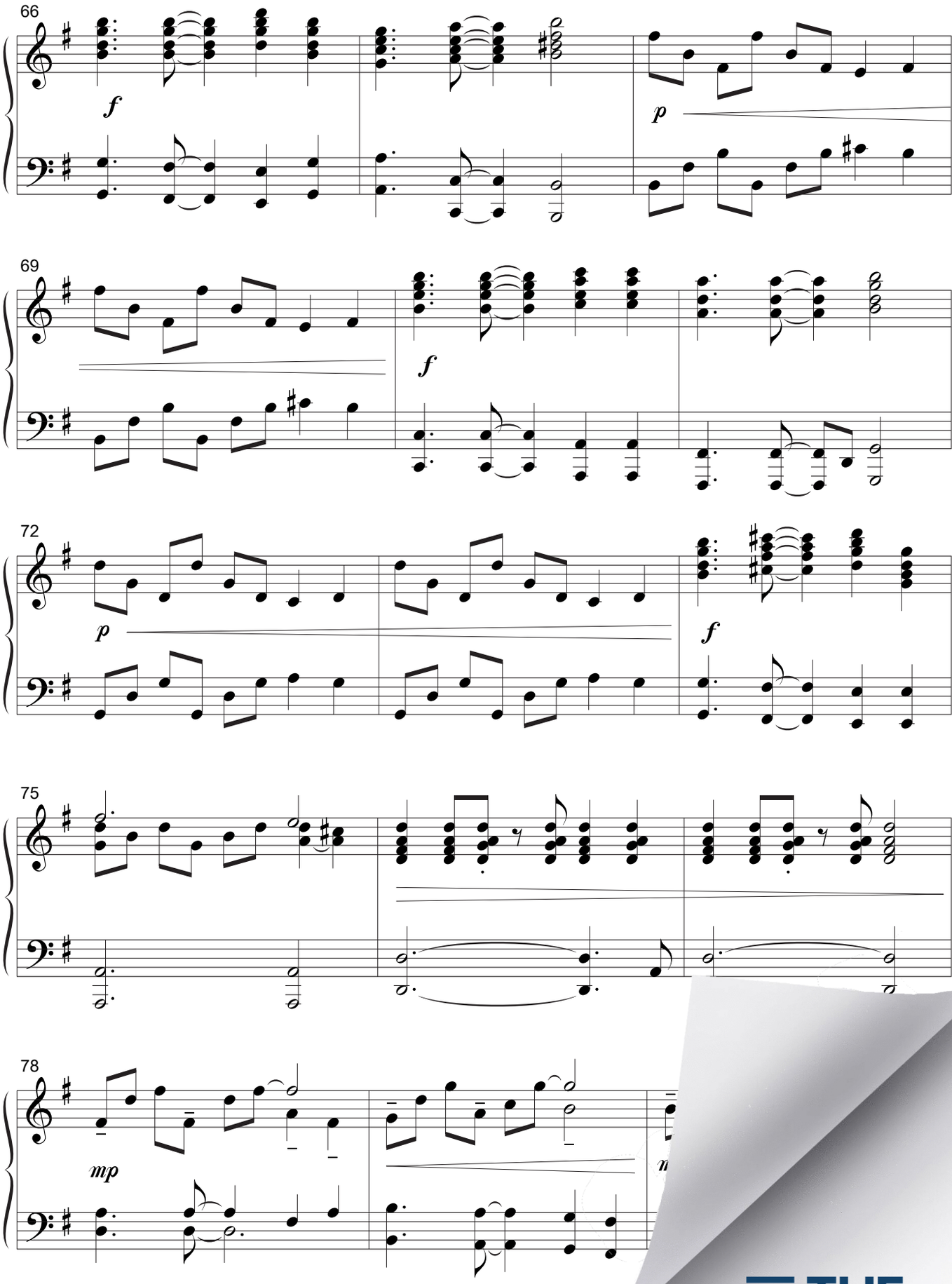

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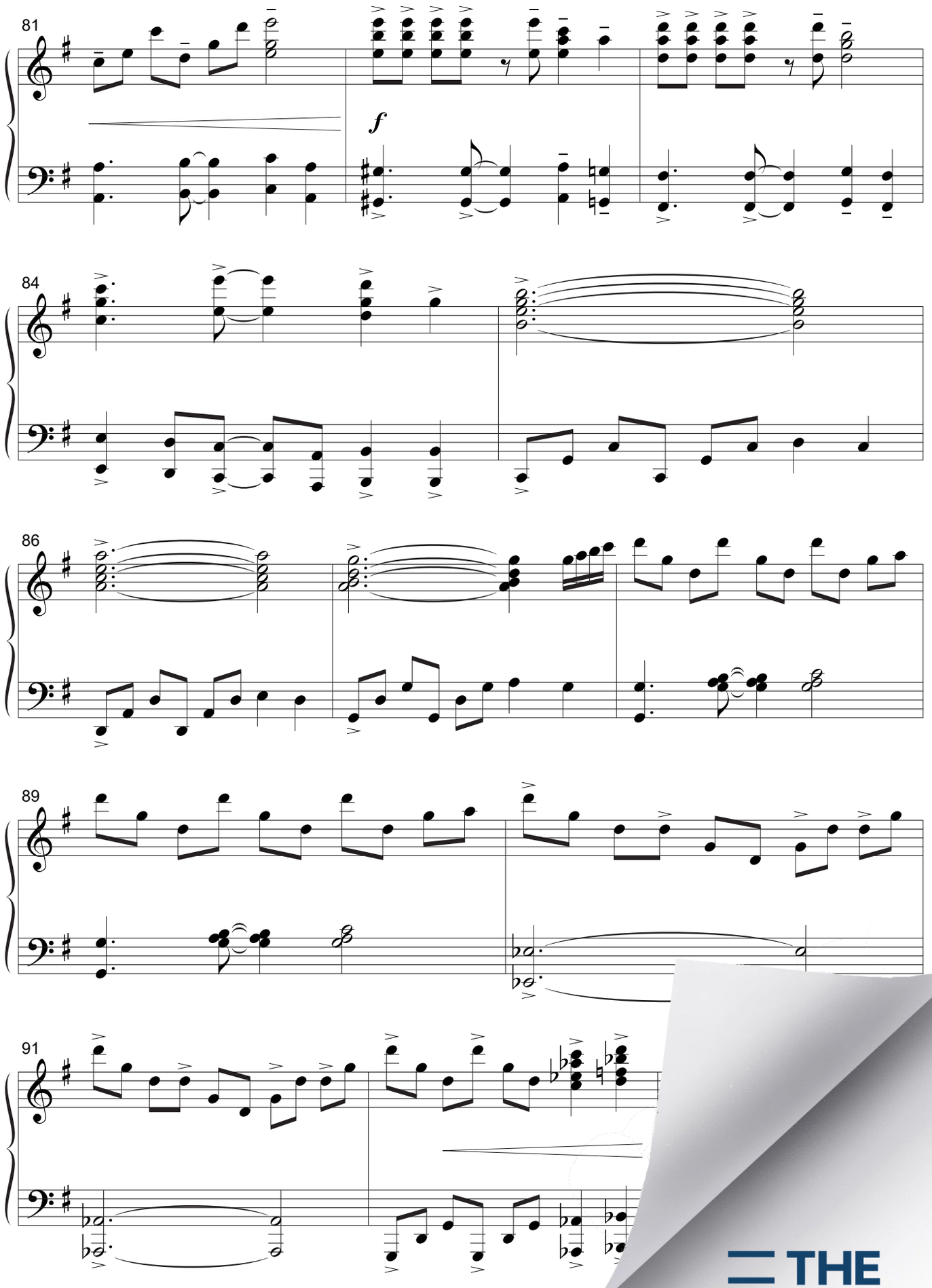

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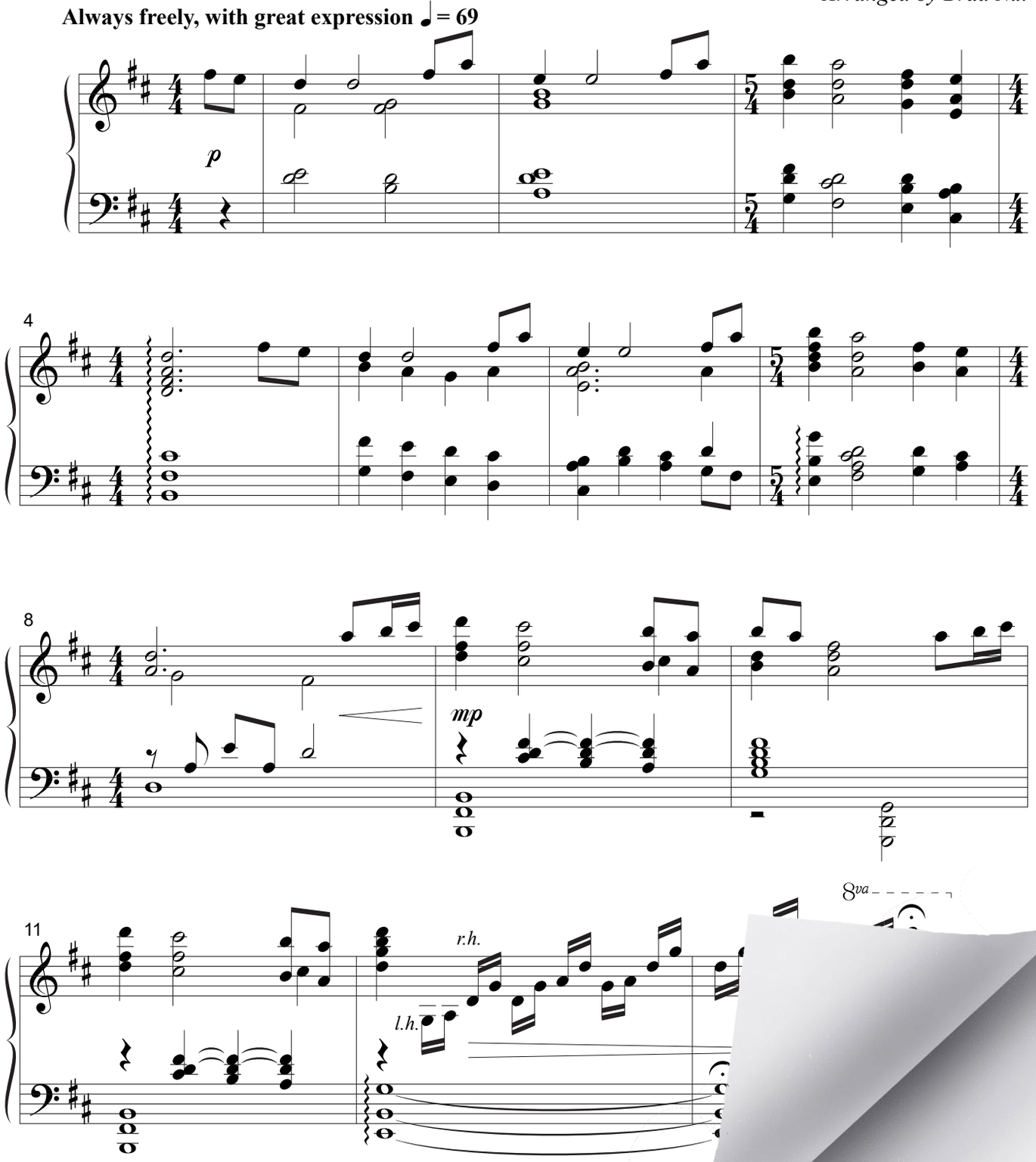
for Tom and Barb Coffan

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Traditional American Melody
Arranged by Brad Nix



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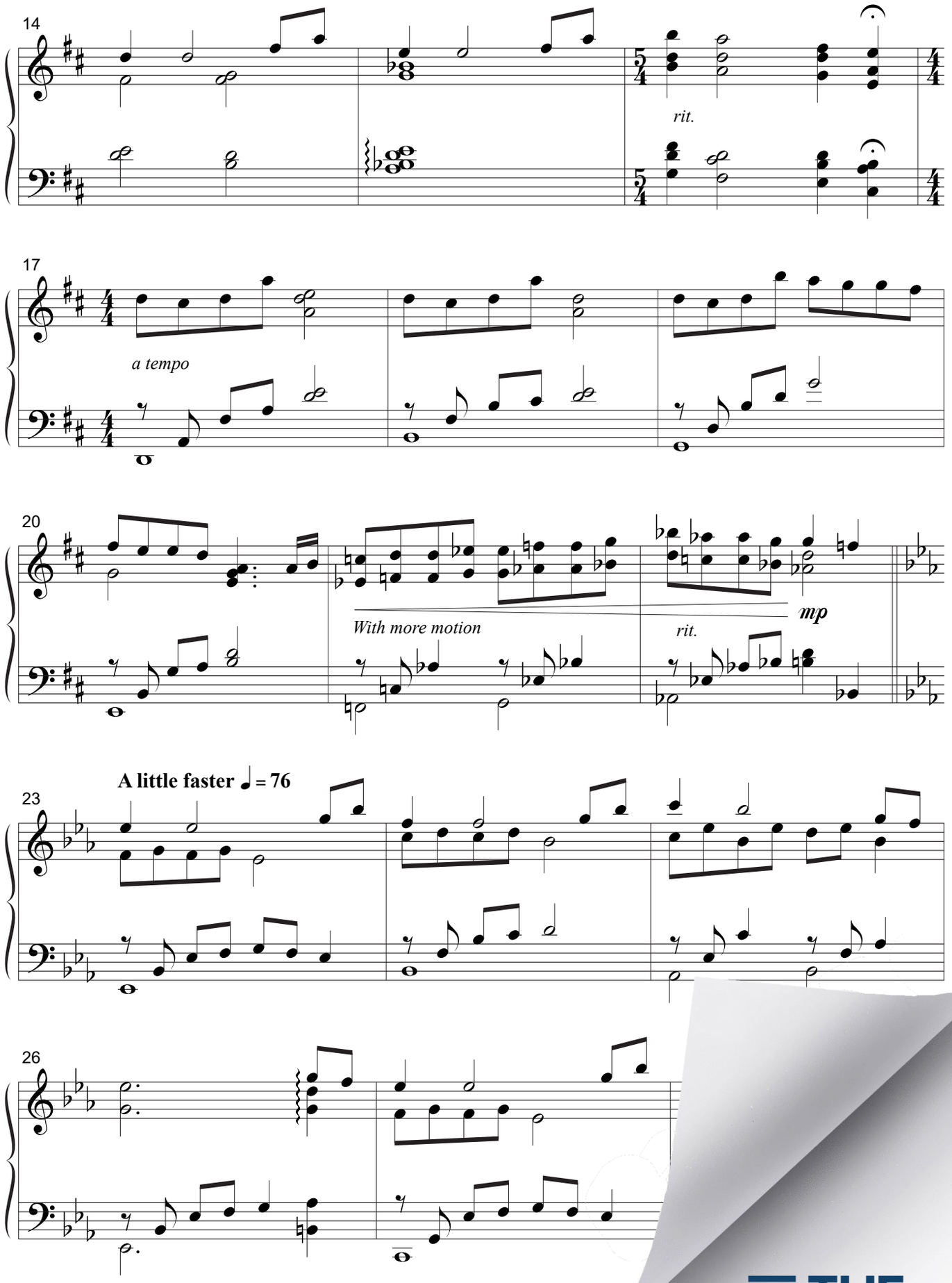

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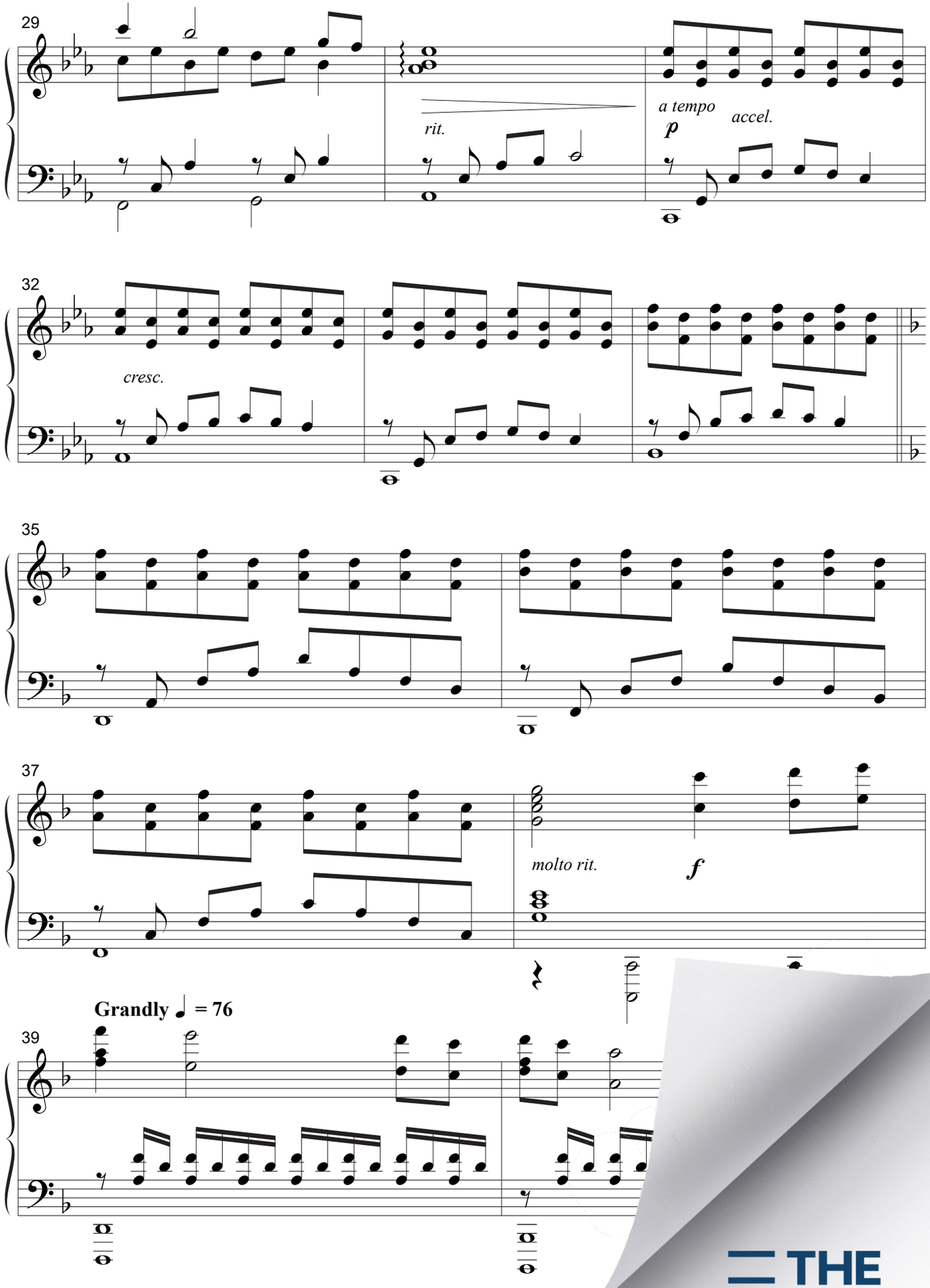

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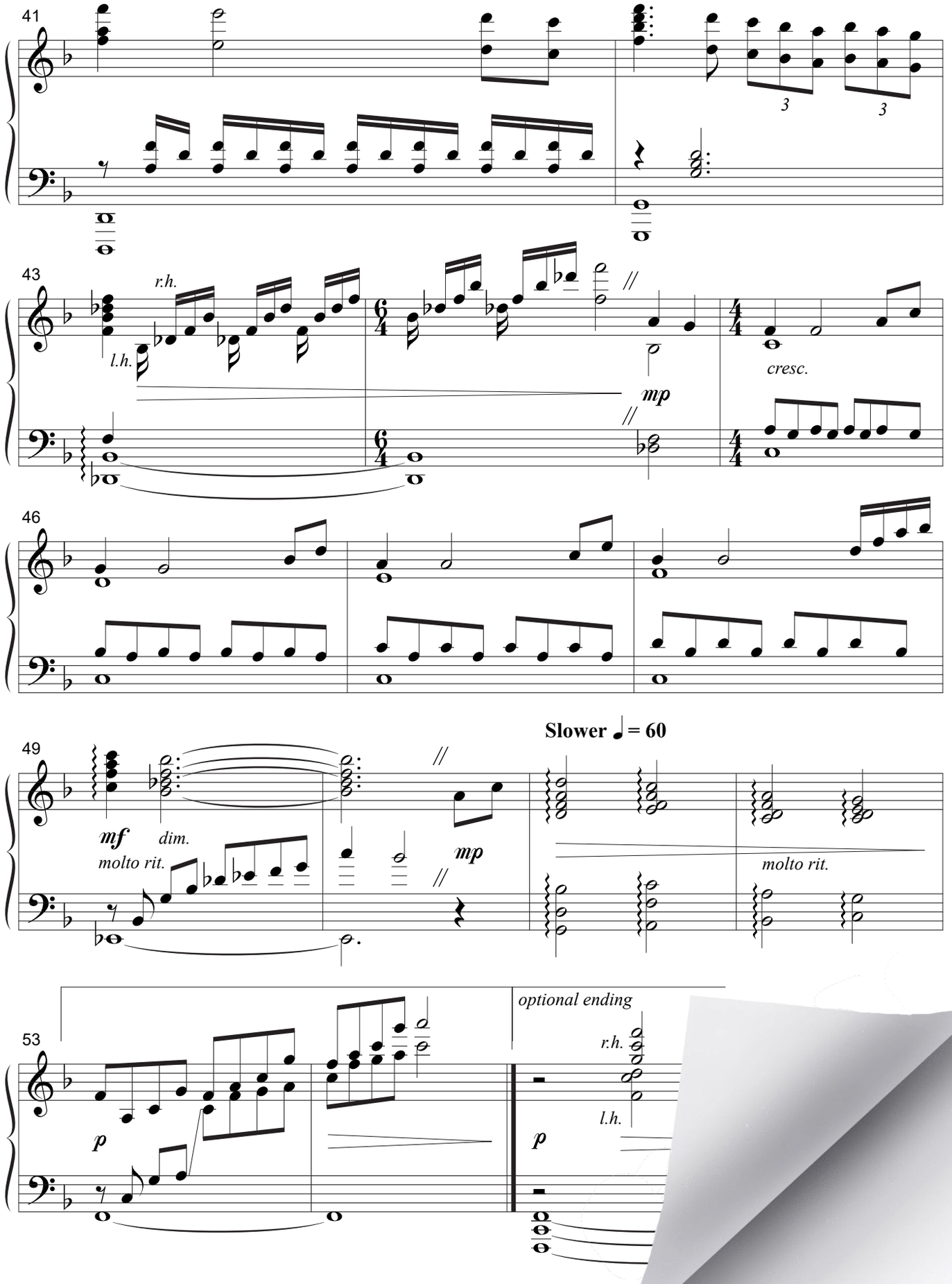

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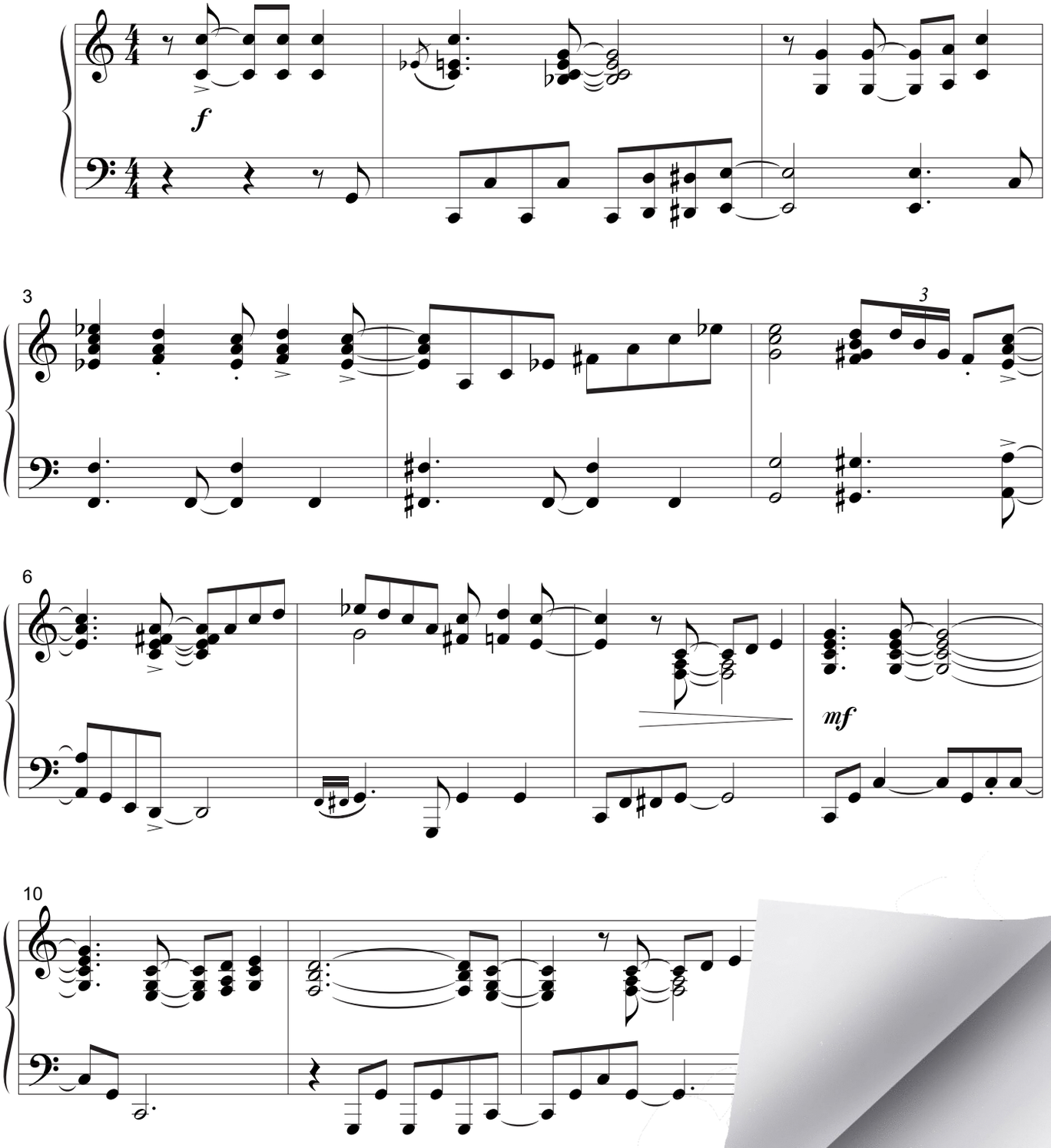
for my parents, Larry and Carol Nix

I Must Tell Jesus

Elisha A. Hoffman
Arranged by Brad Nix

Medium gospel, straight eighths ♩ = 126



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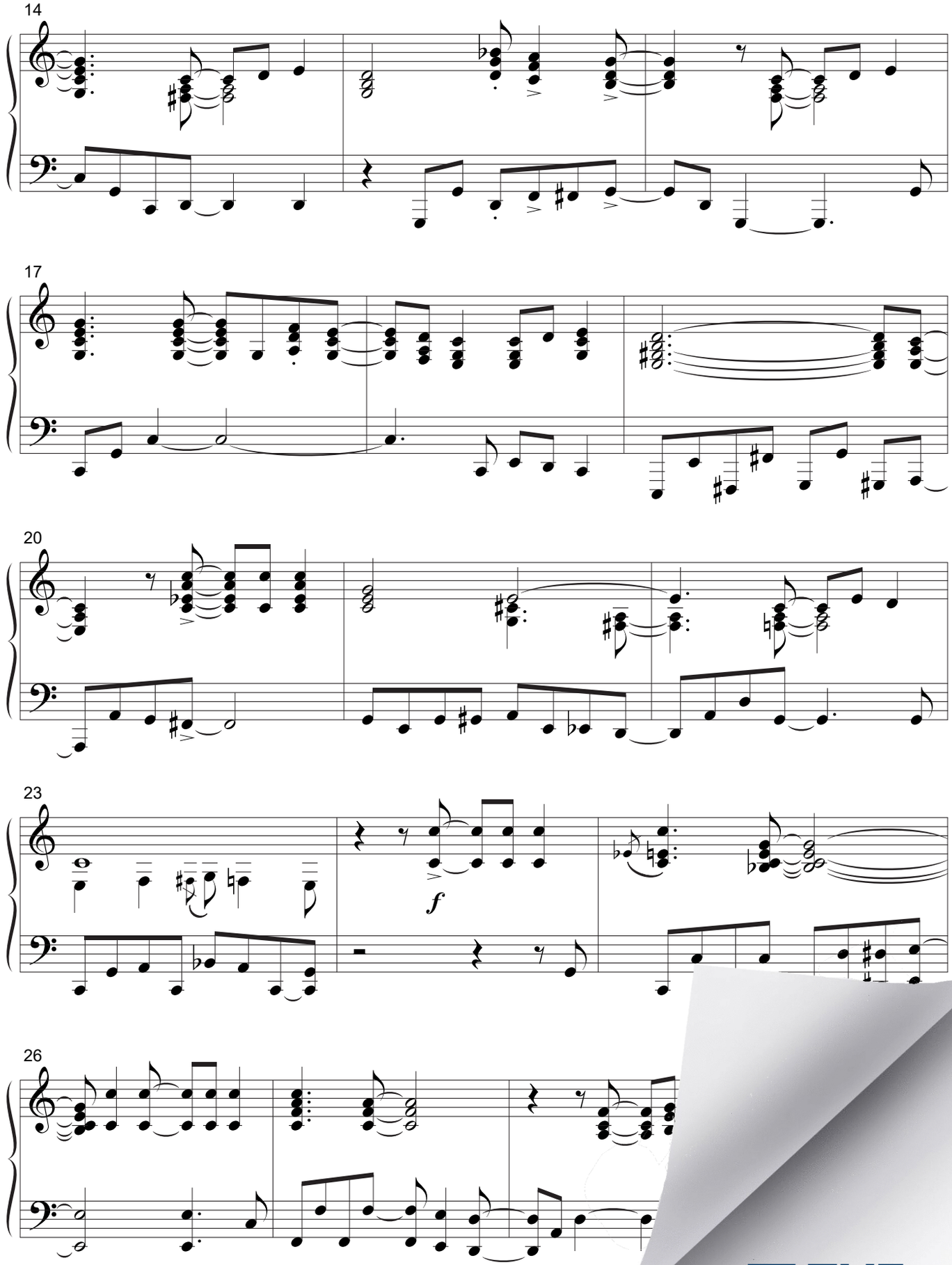

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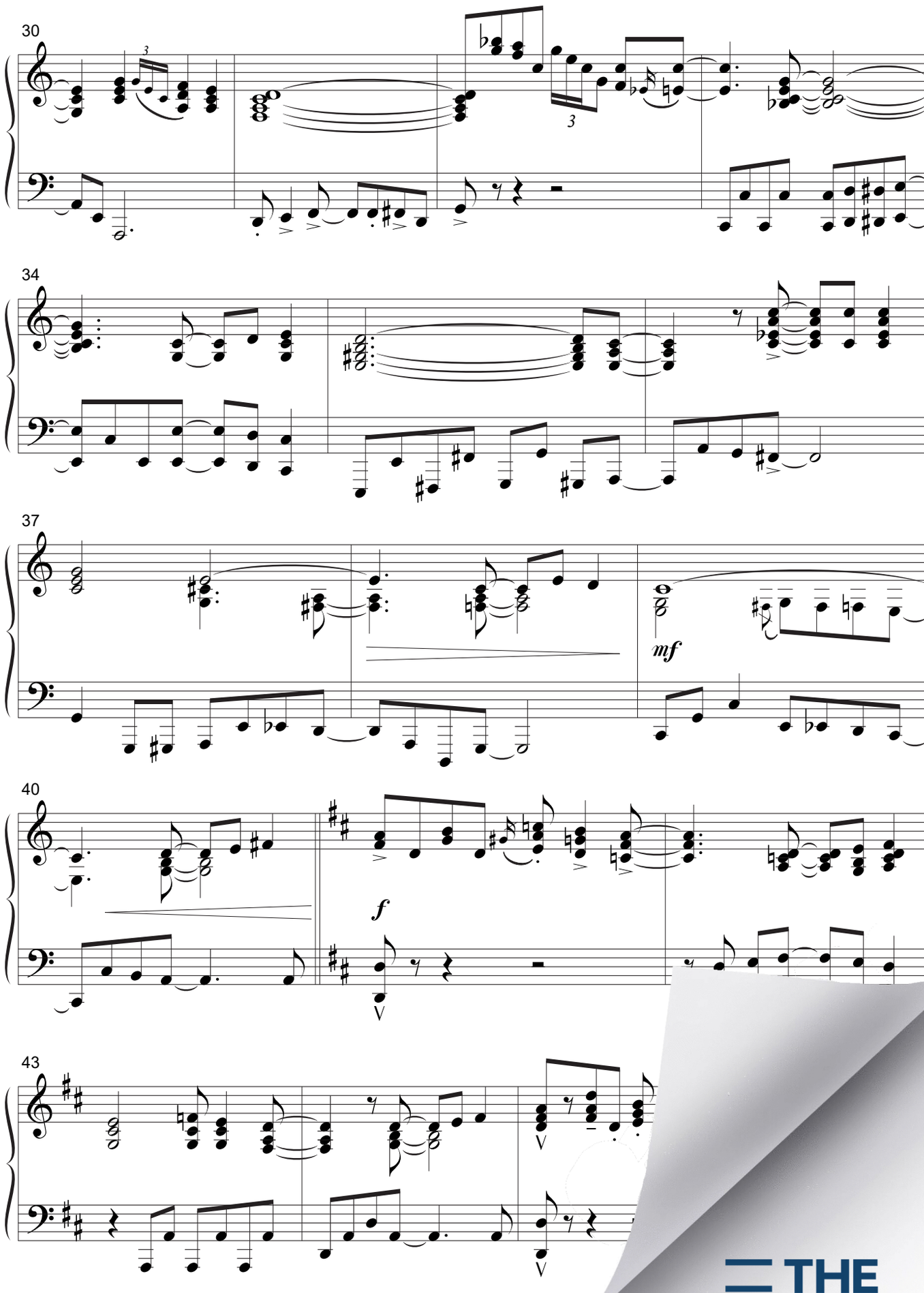

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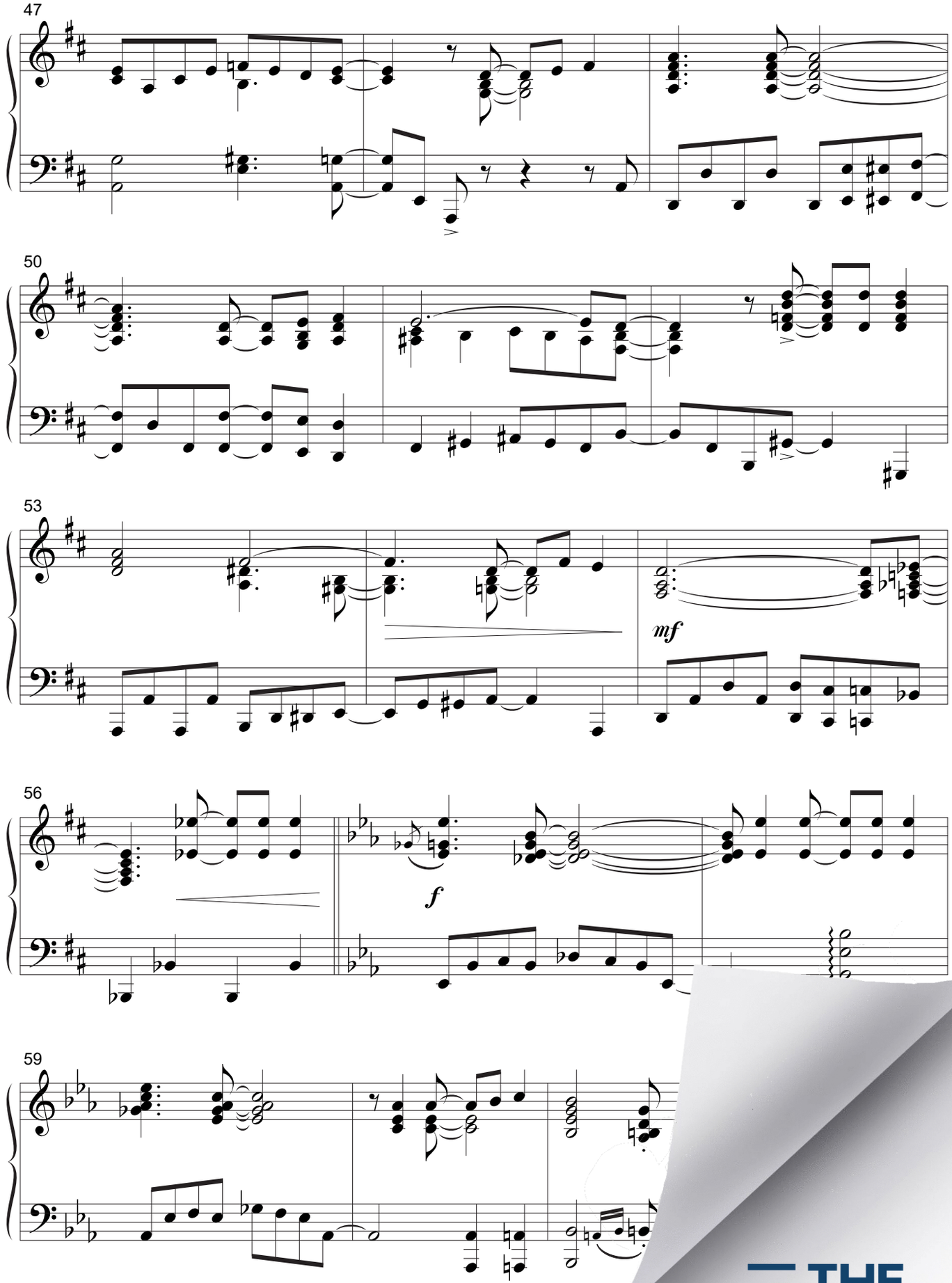

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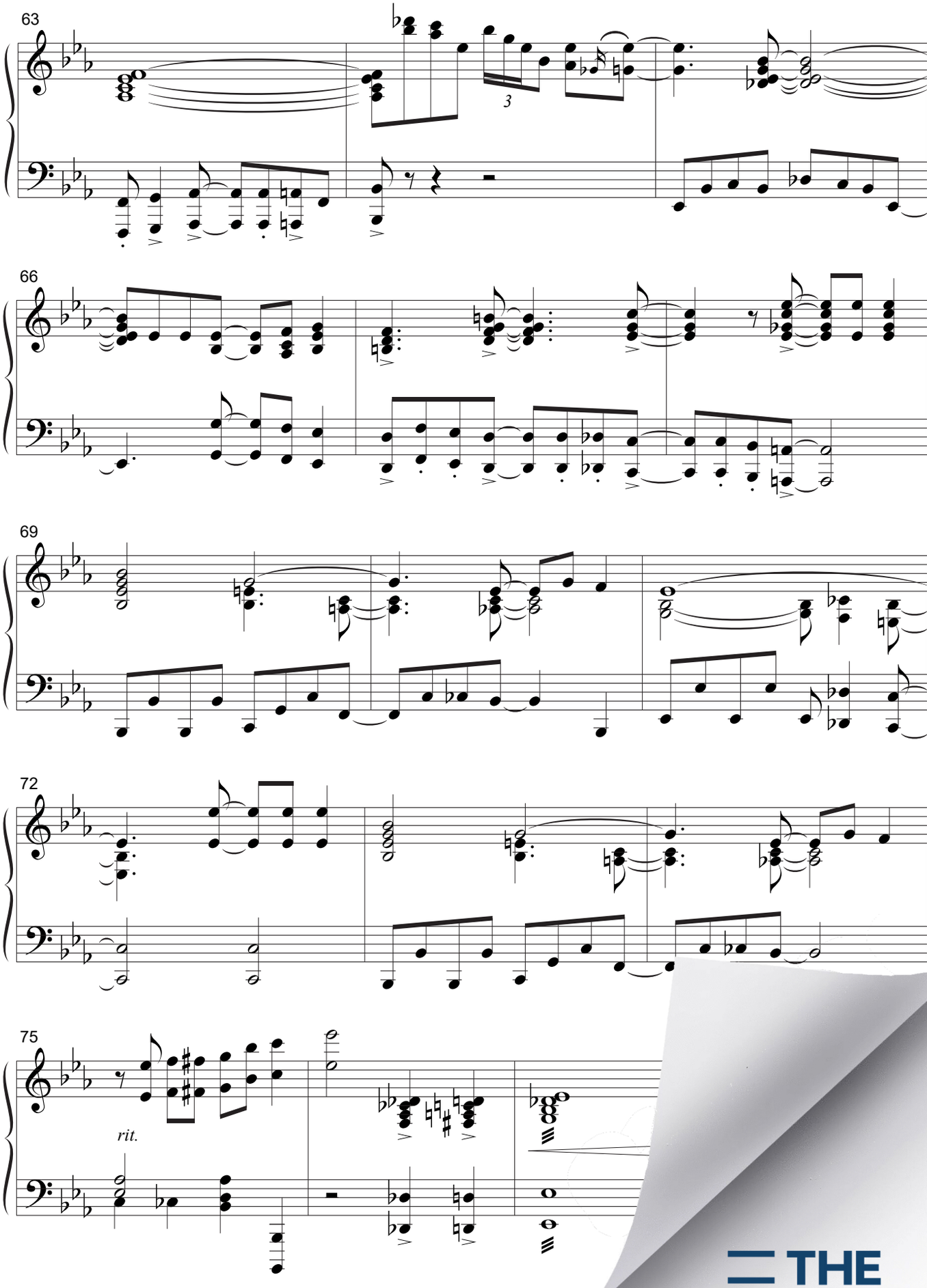

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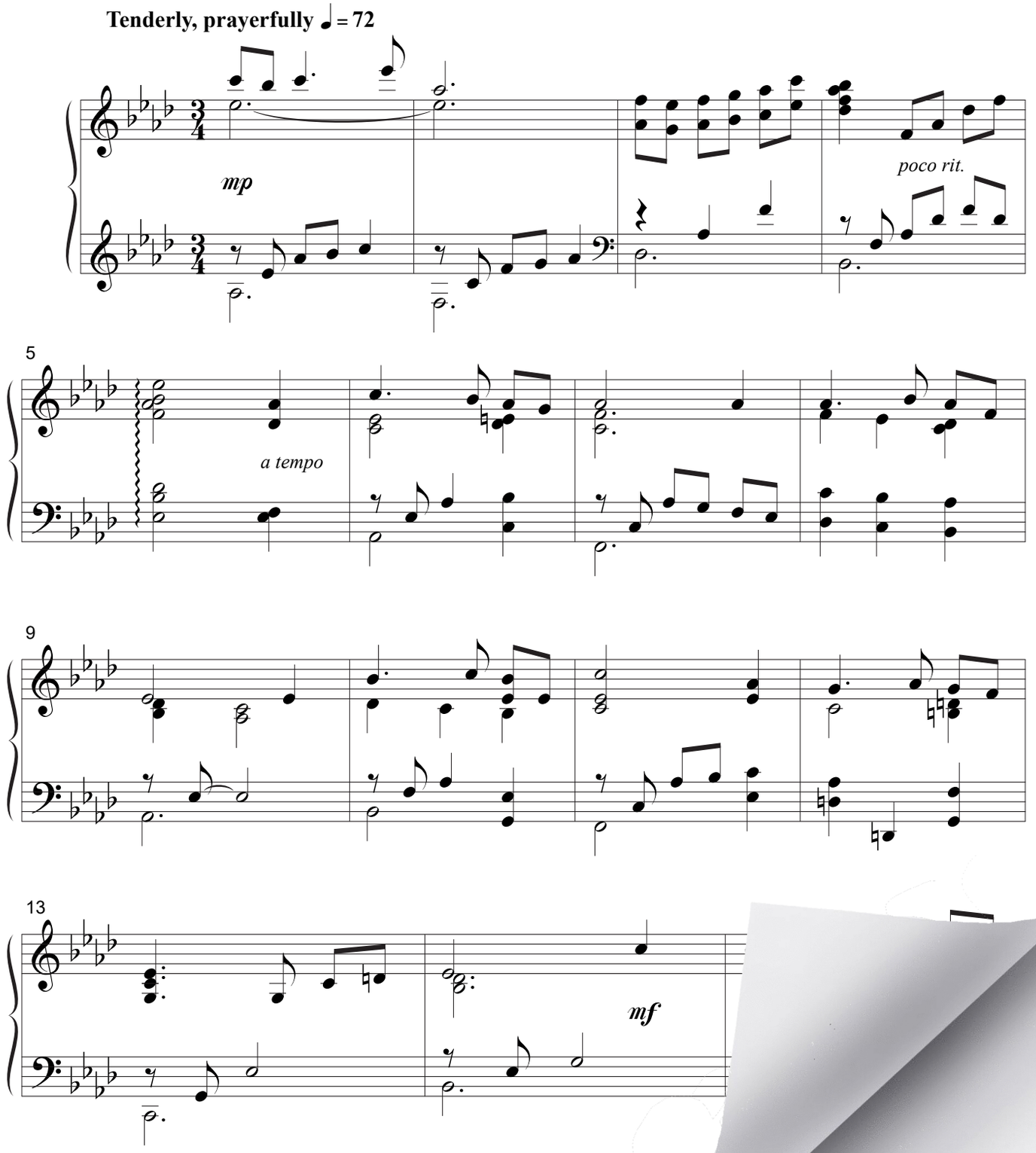
for my wife, Pattie Nix

I Need Thee Every Hour

Robert Lowry
Arranged by Brad Nix



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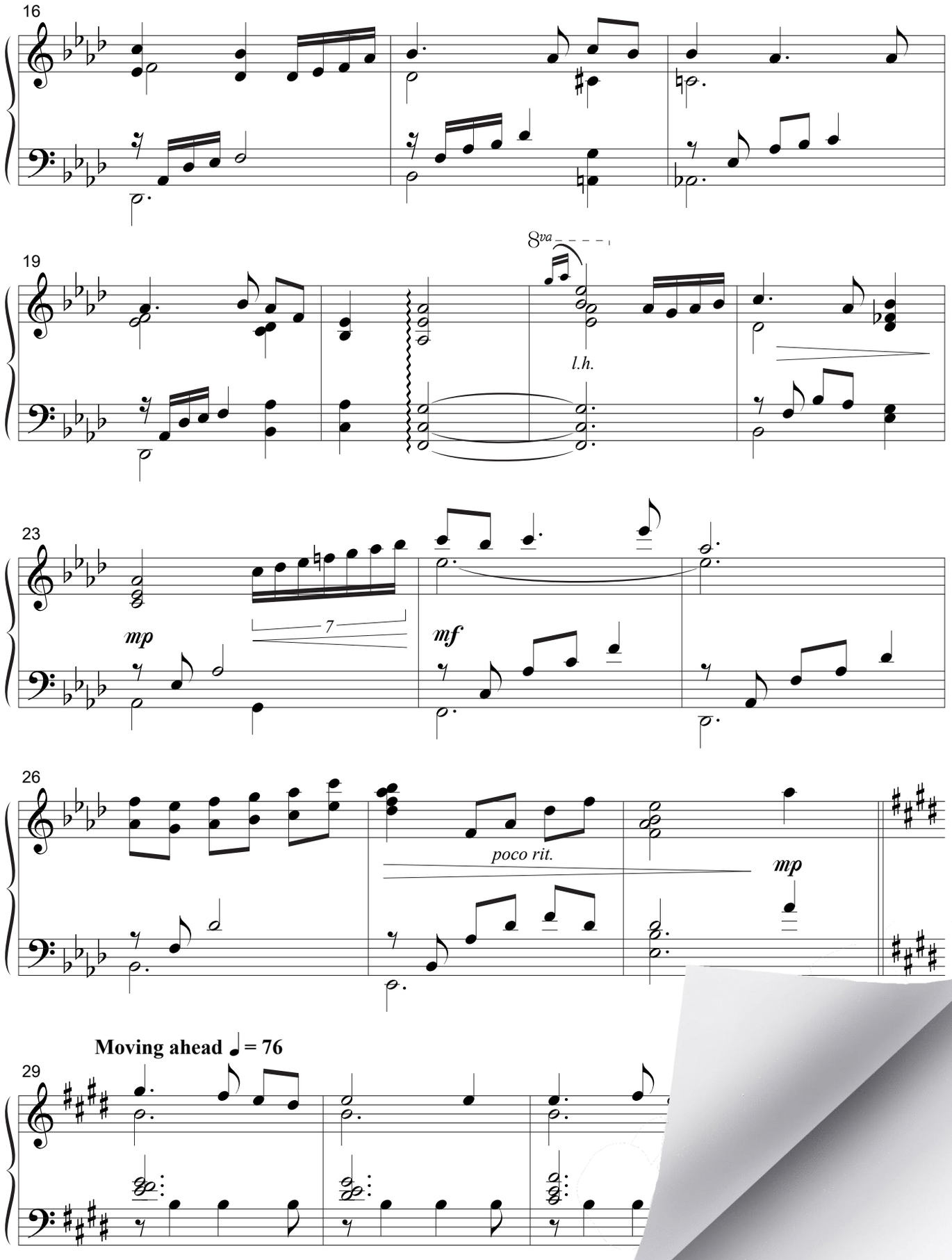

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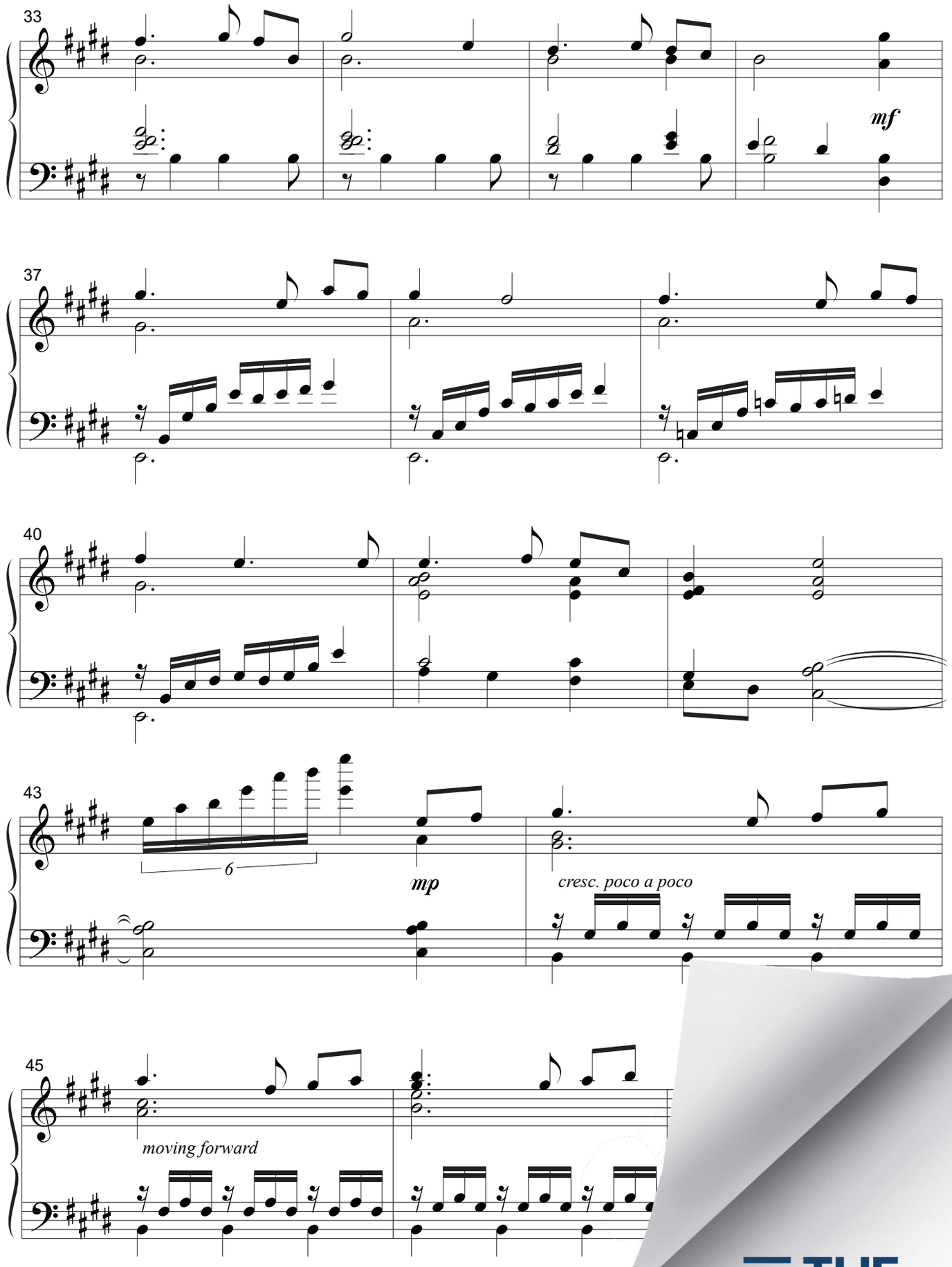

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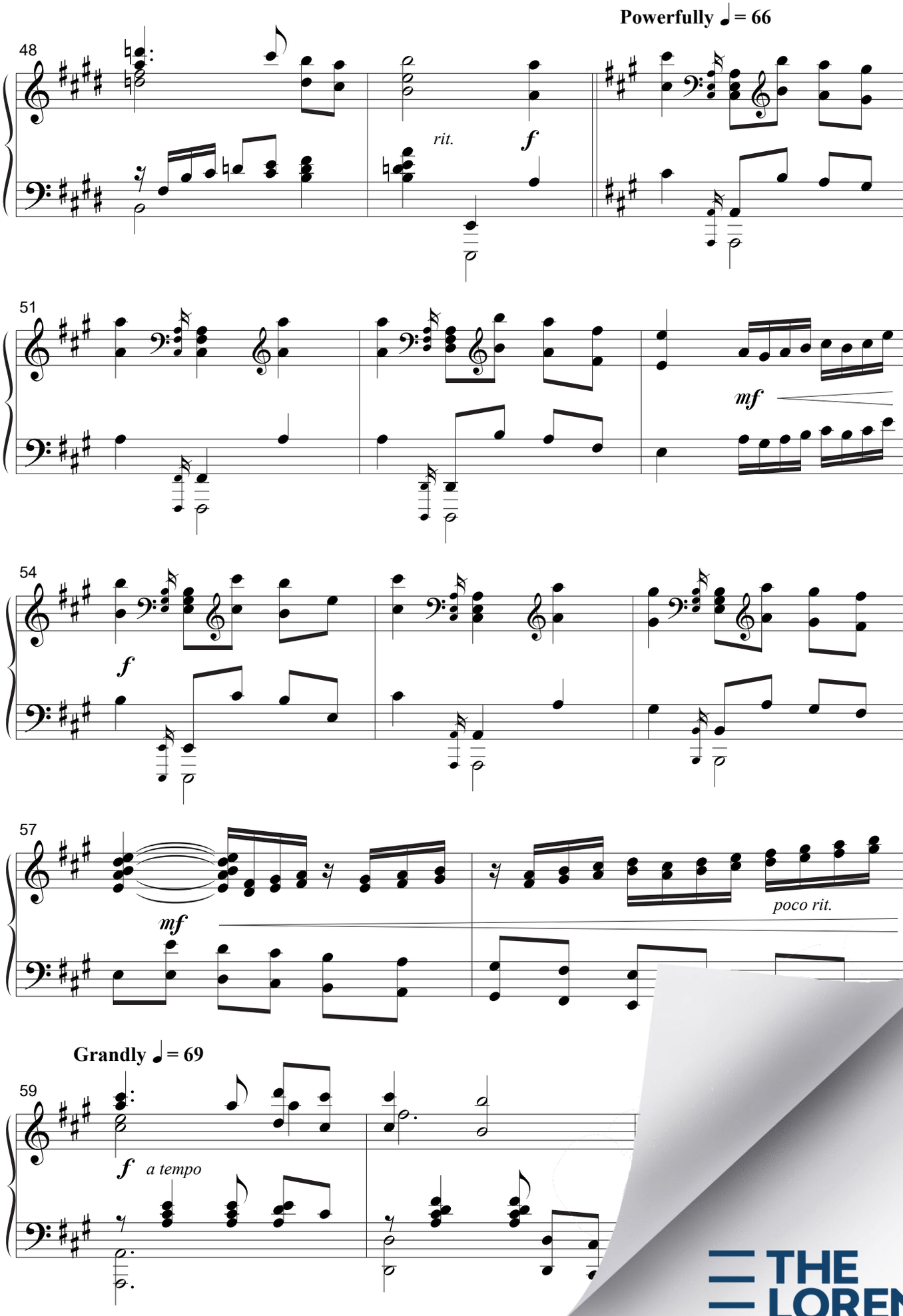

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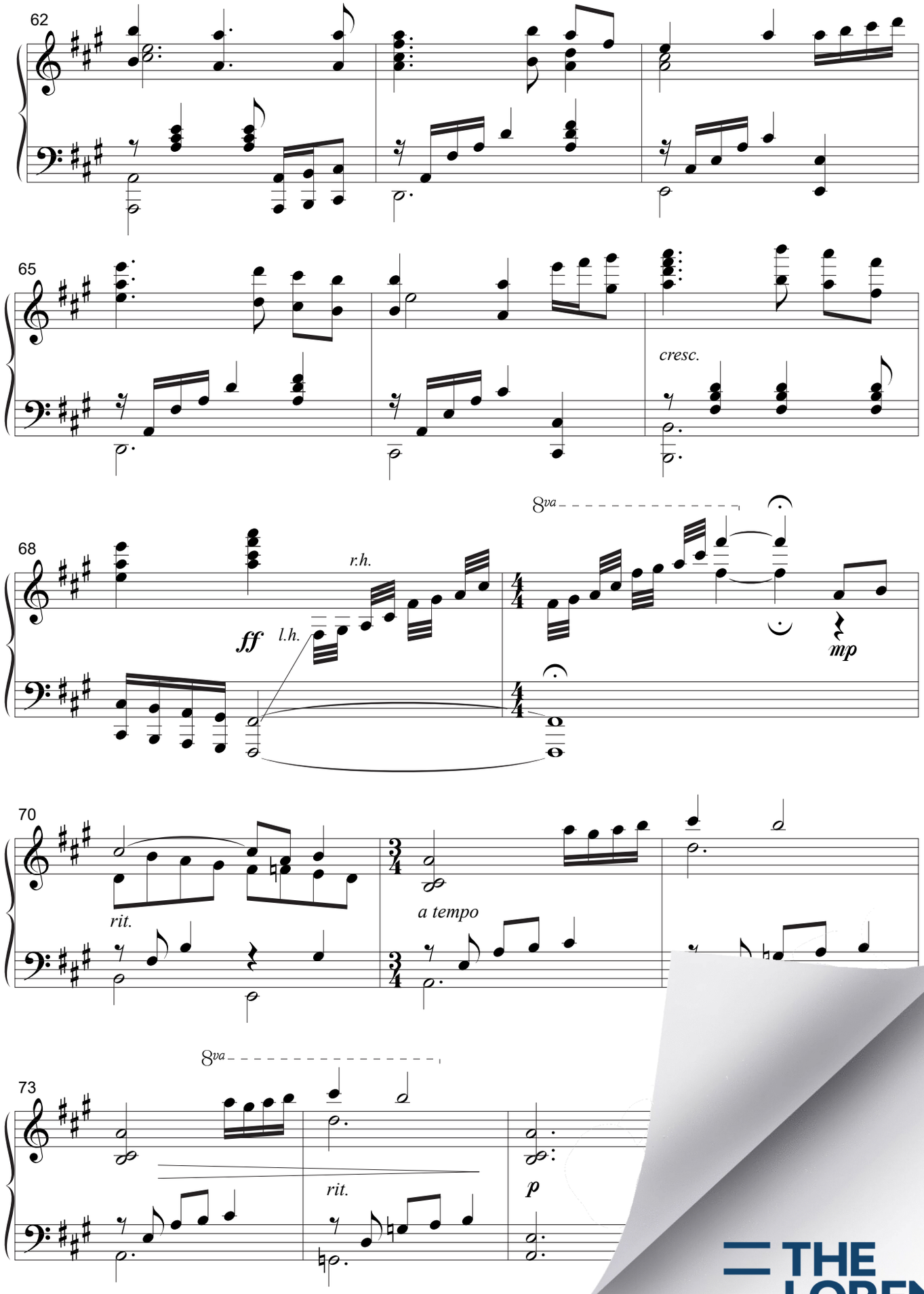

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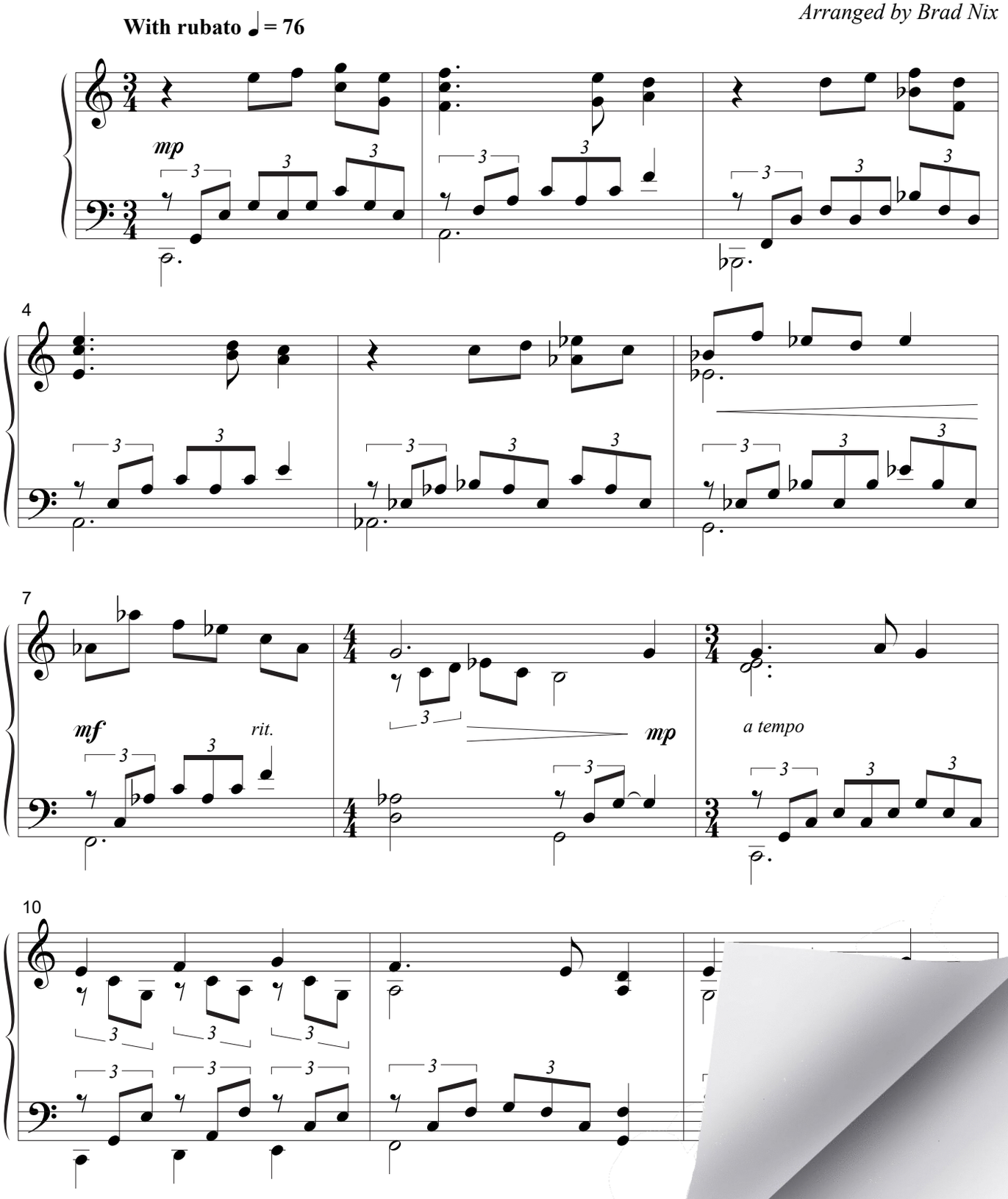
for Dr. Ralph Quisenberry

We Gather Together

Dutch Folk Song
Arranged by Brad Nix



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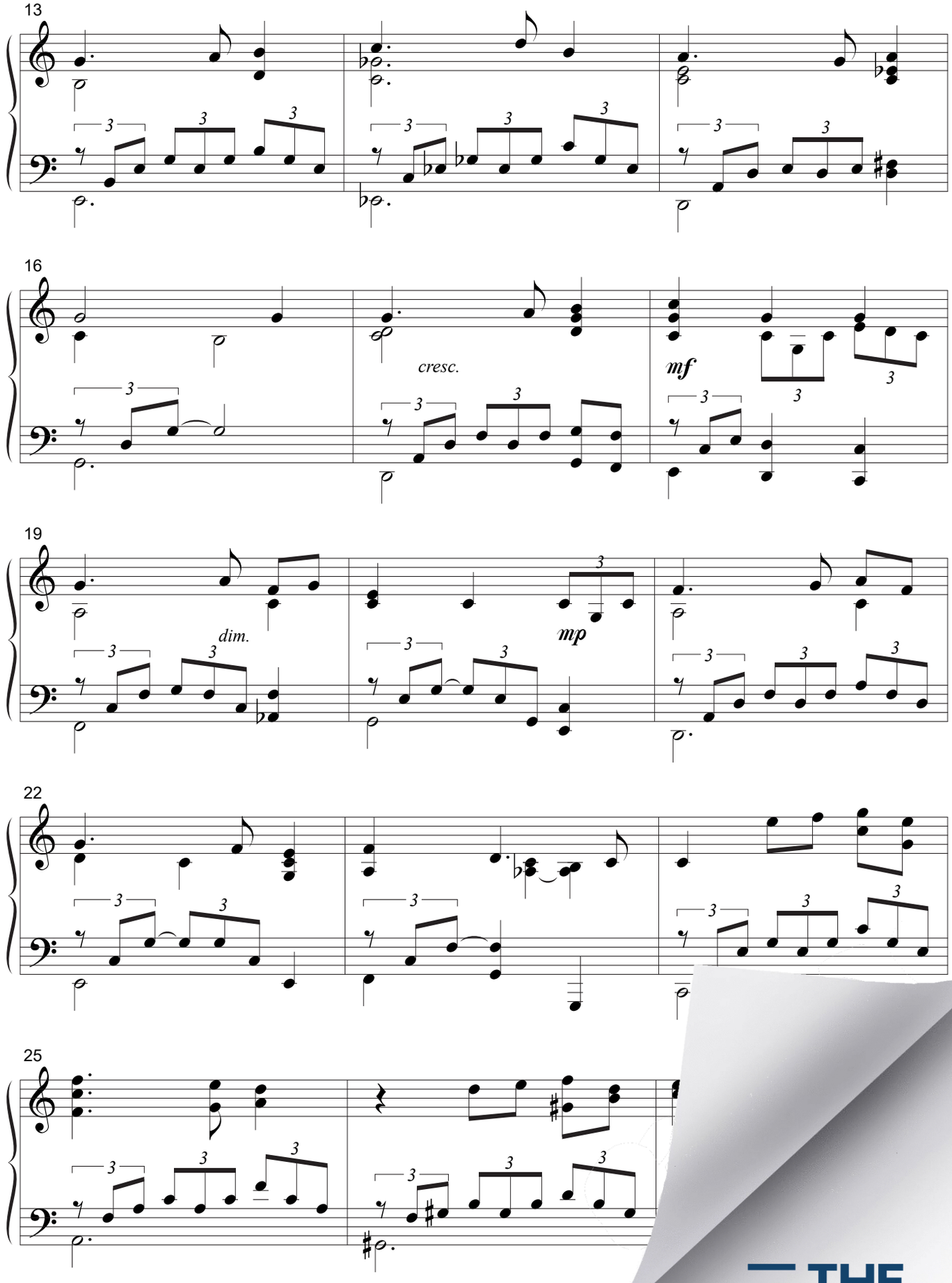

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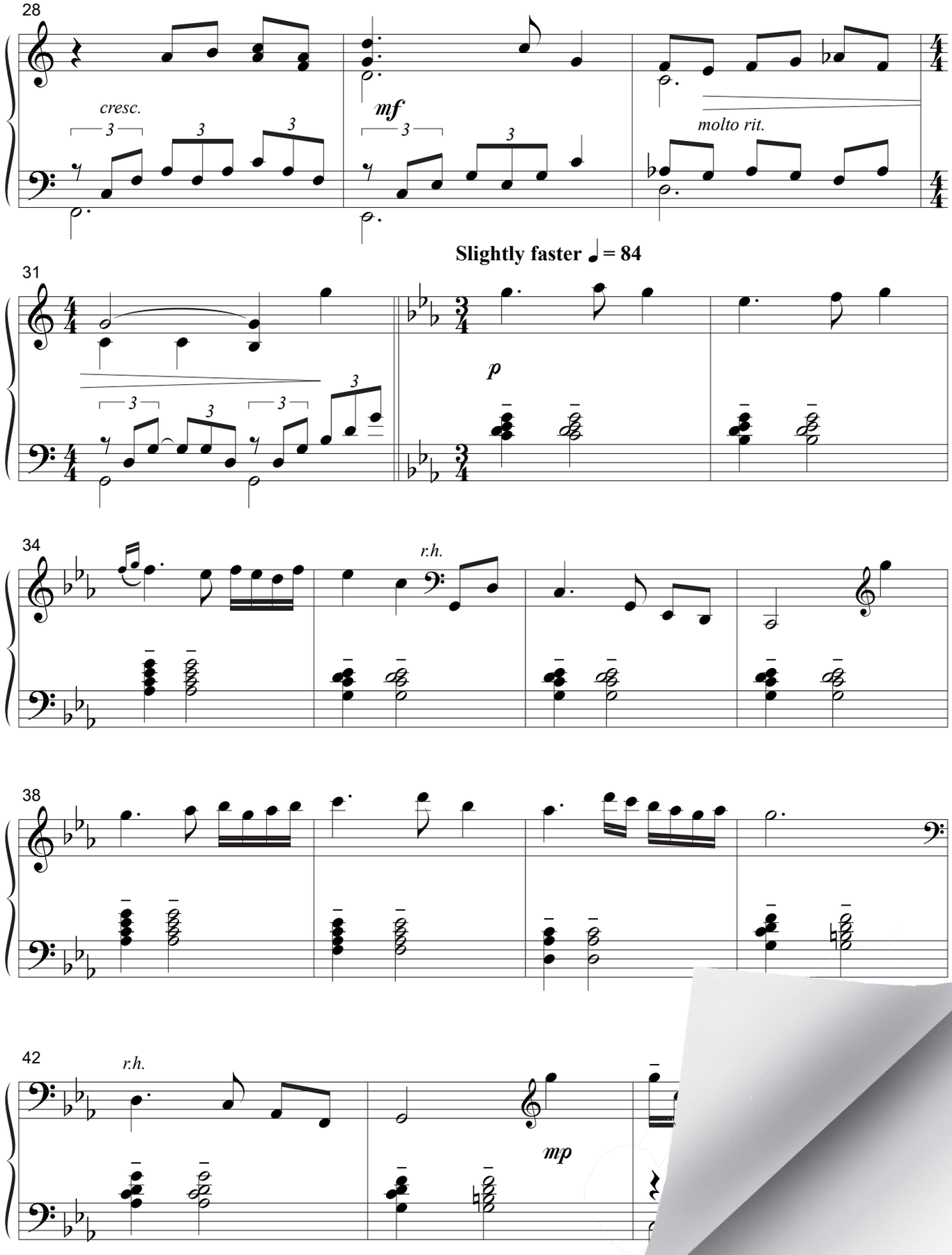

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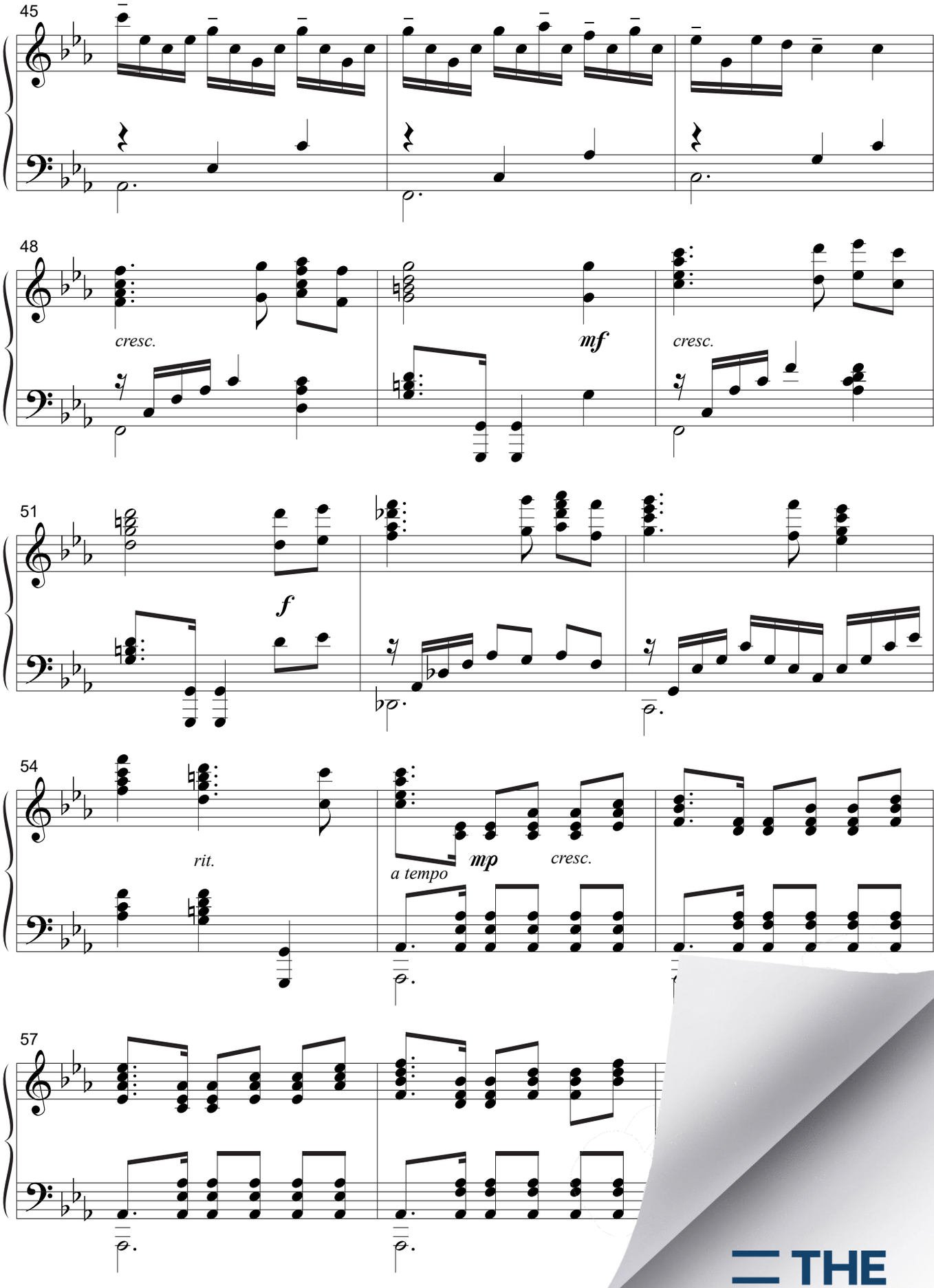

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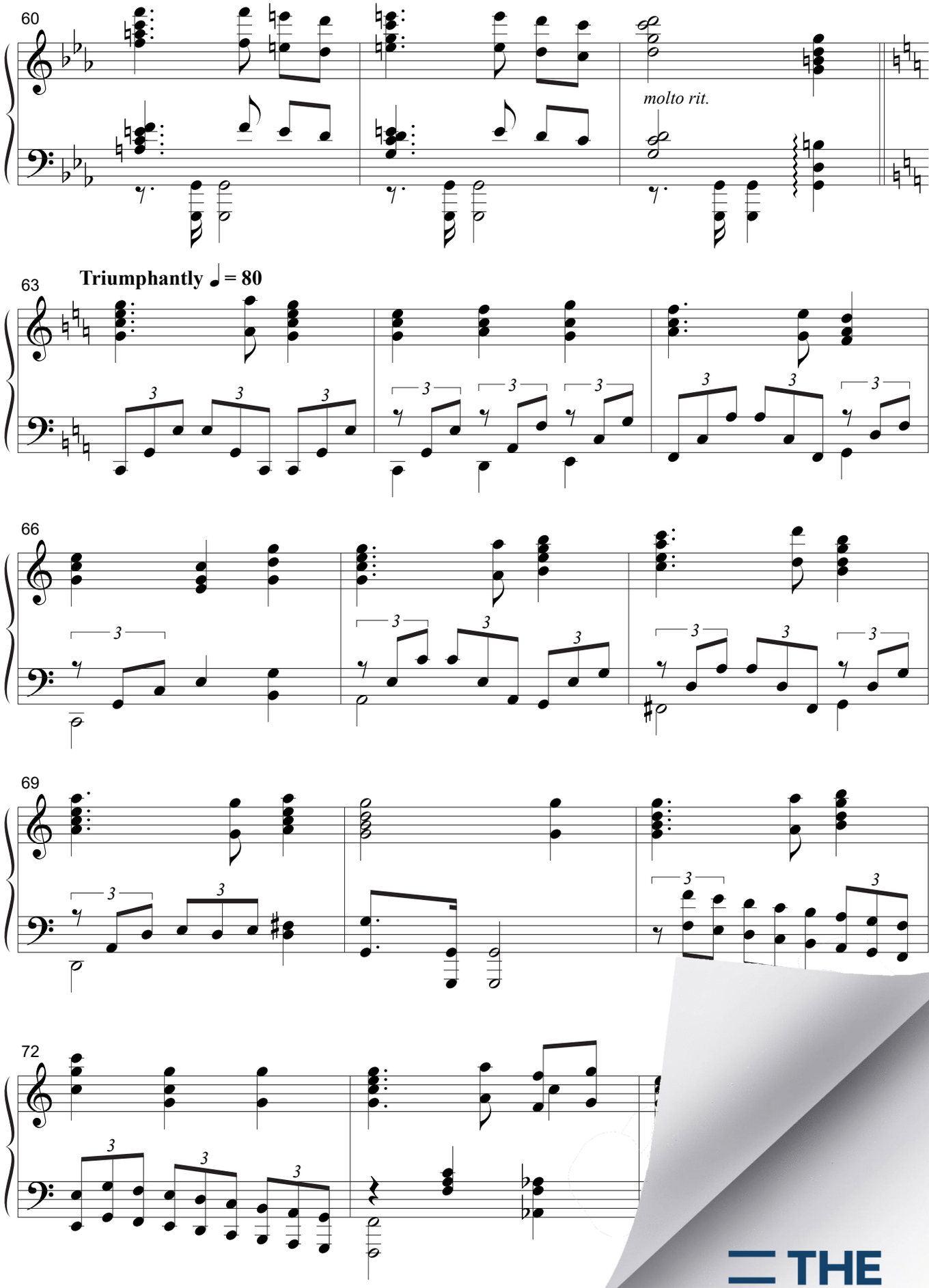

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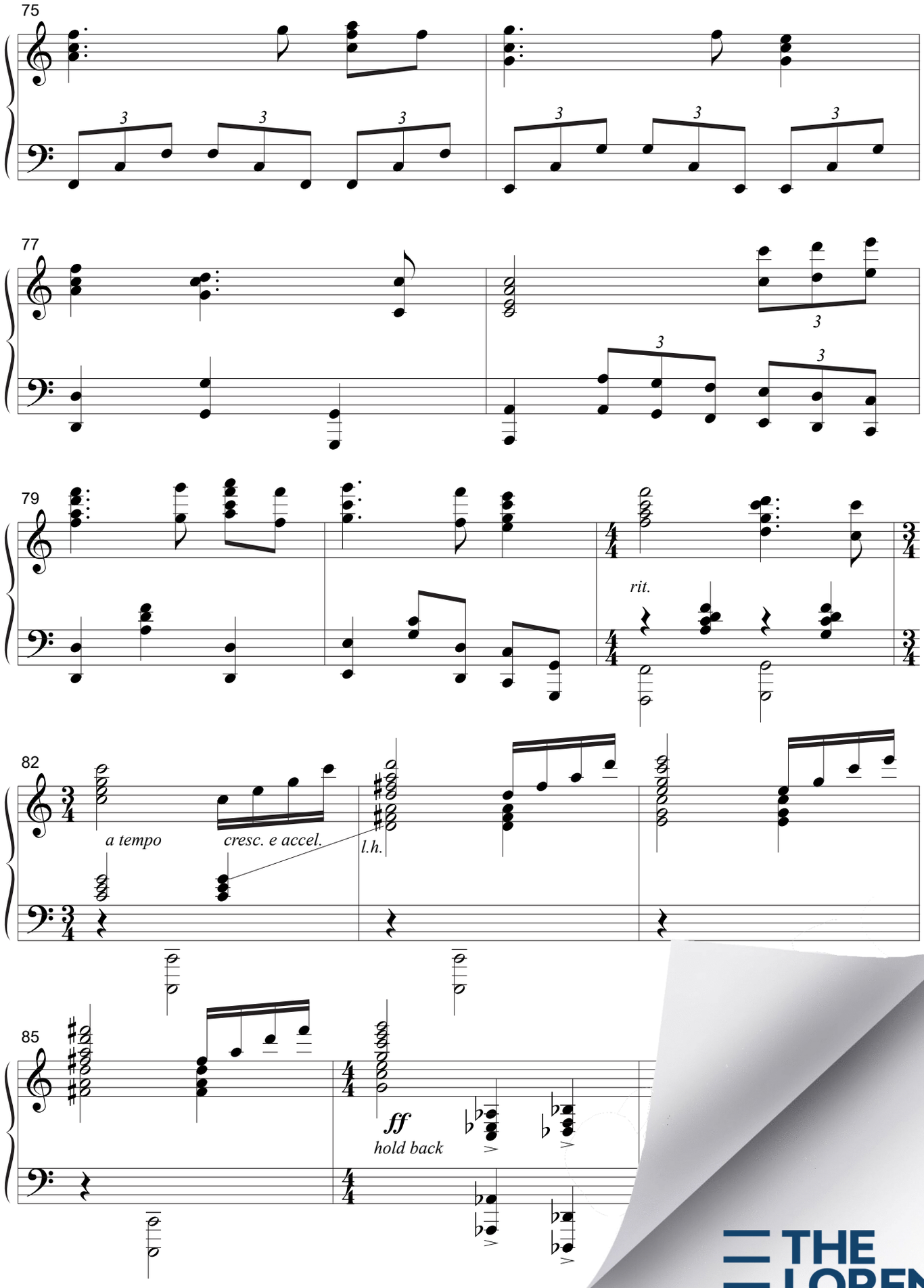

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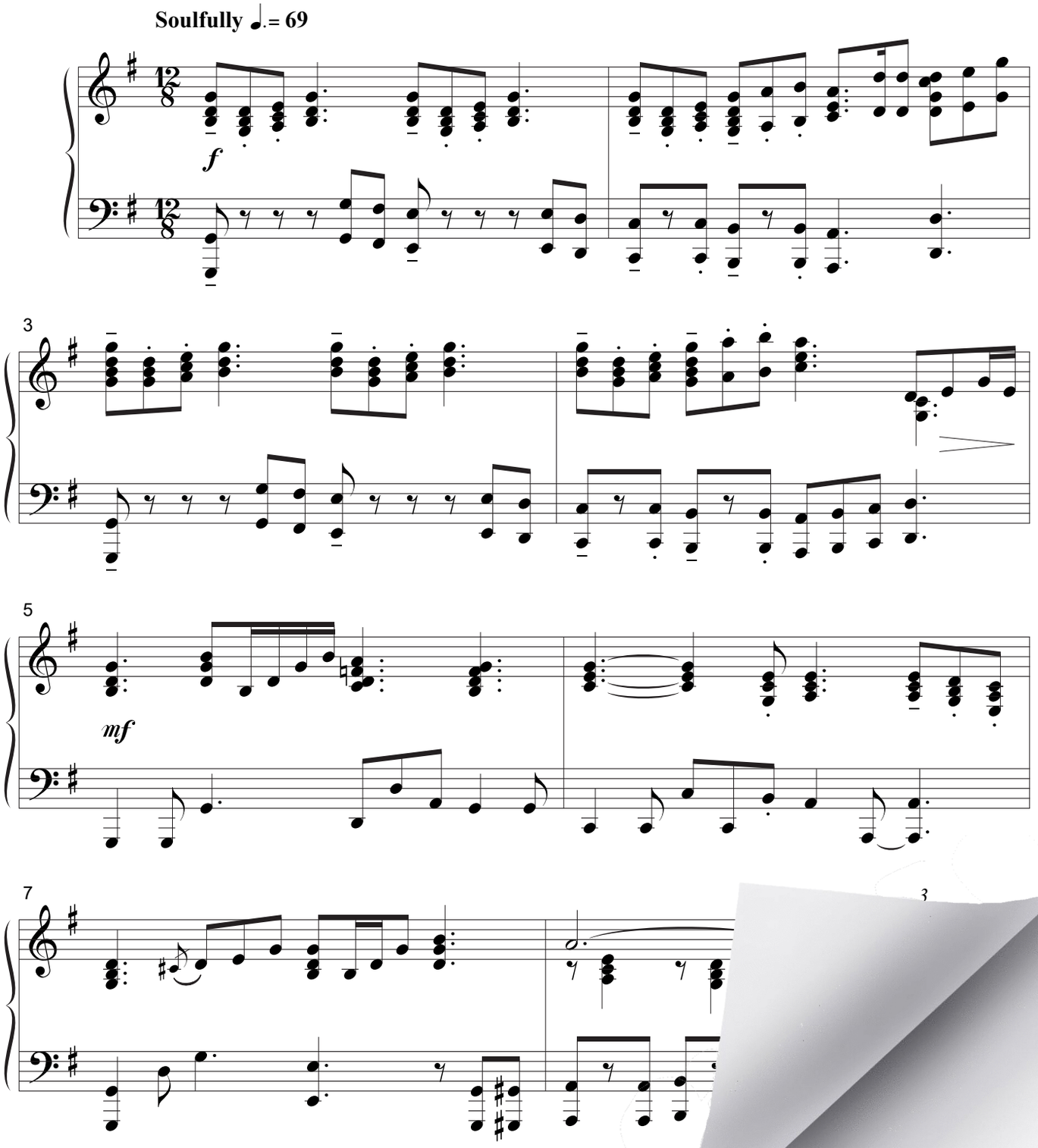
for Mark Hayes

Nearer, My God, to Thee

Lowell Mason
Arranged by Brad Nix



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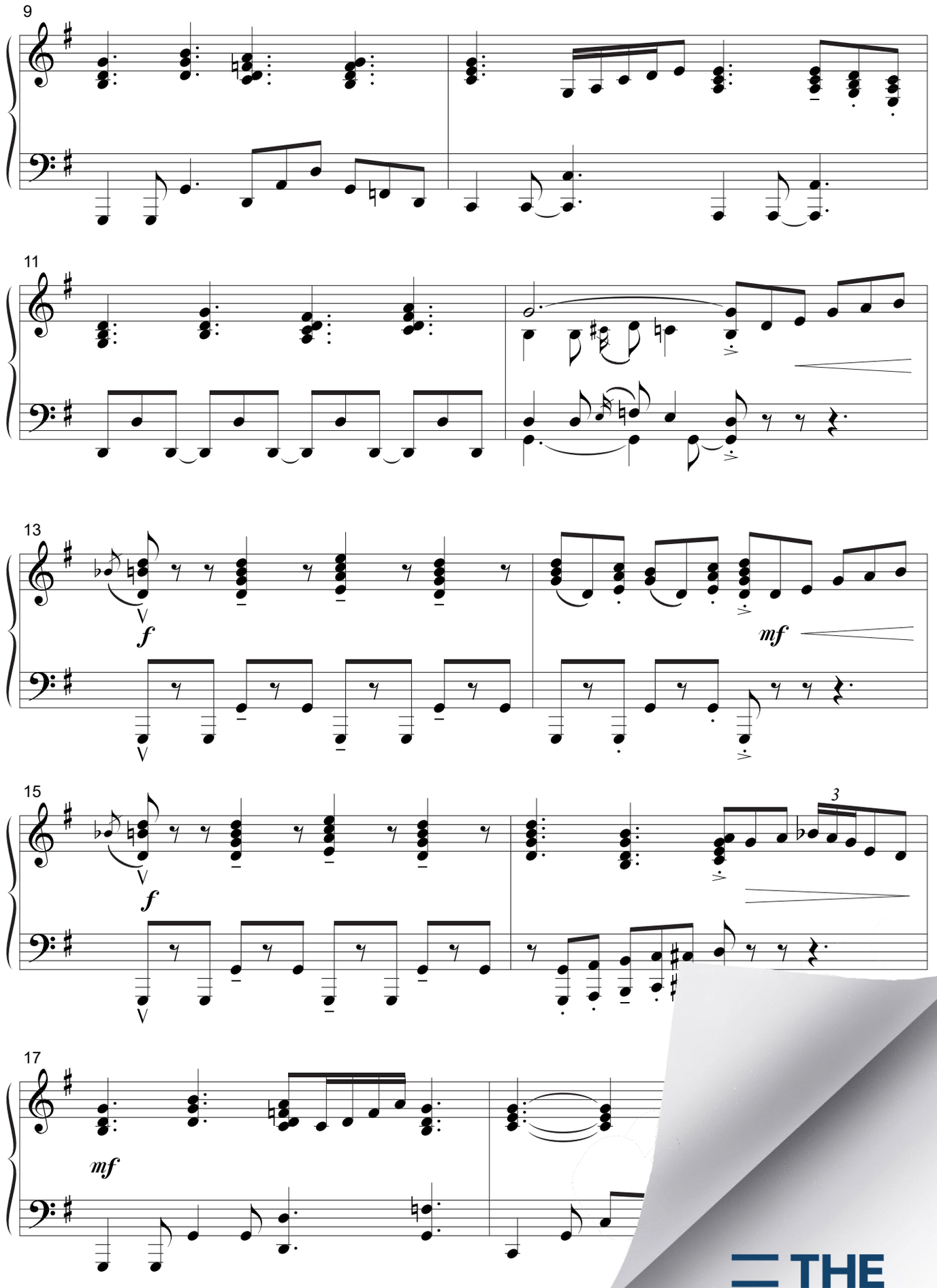

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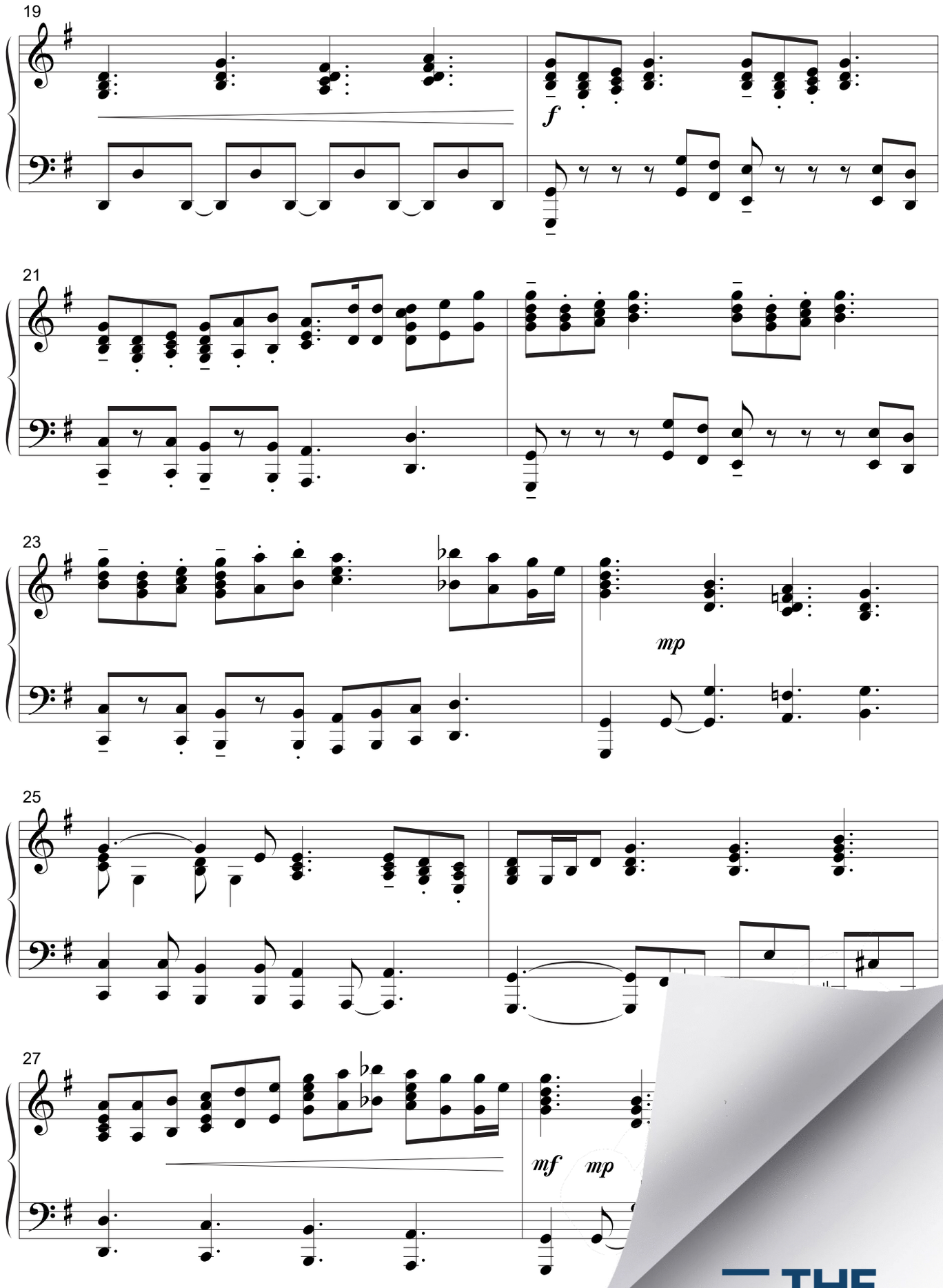

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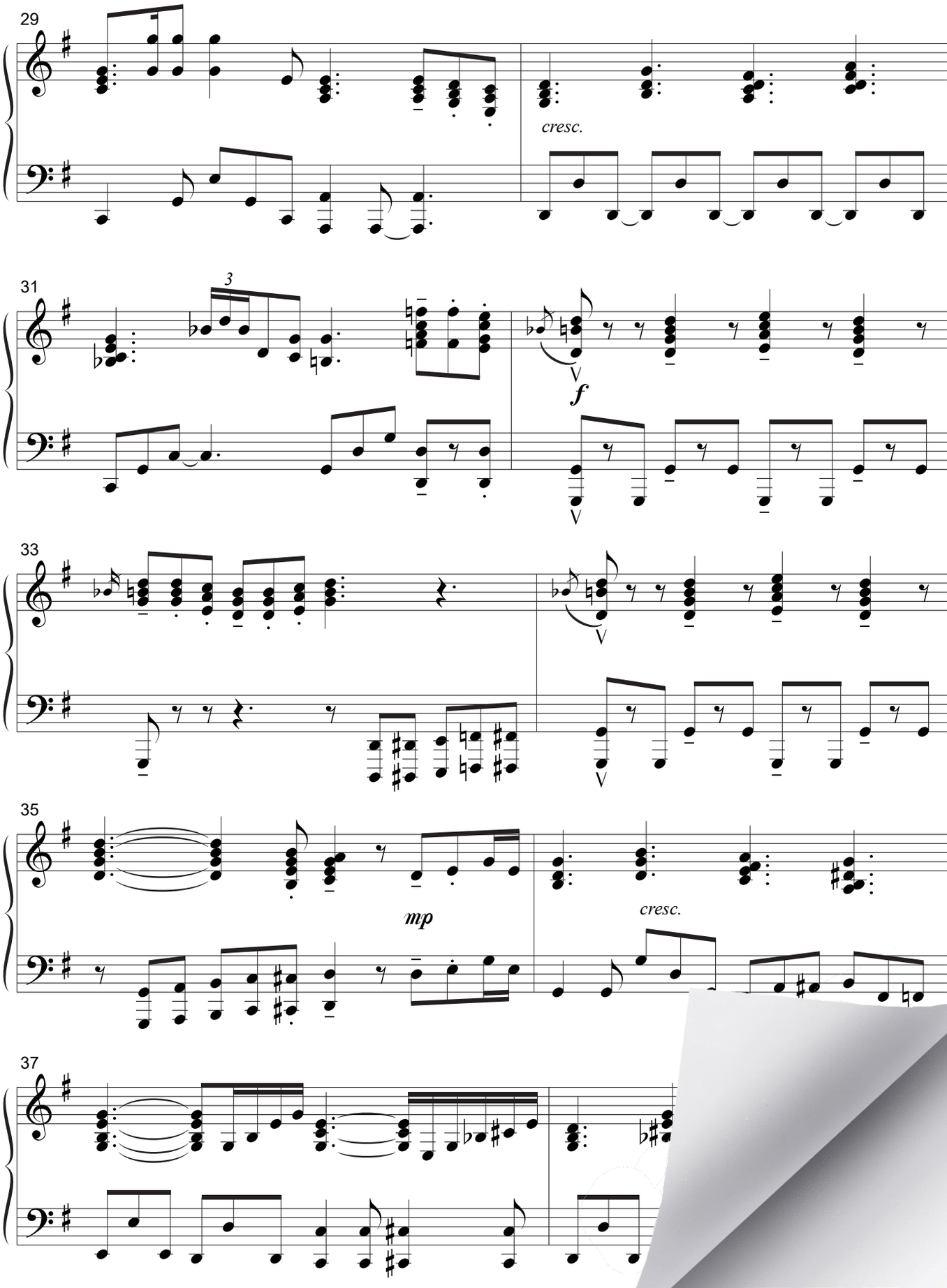

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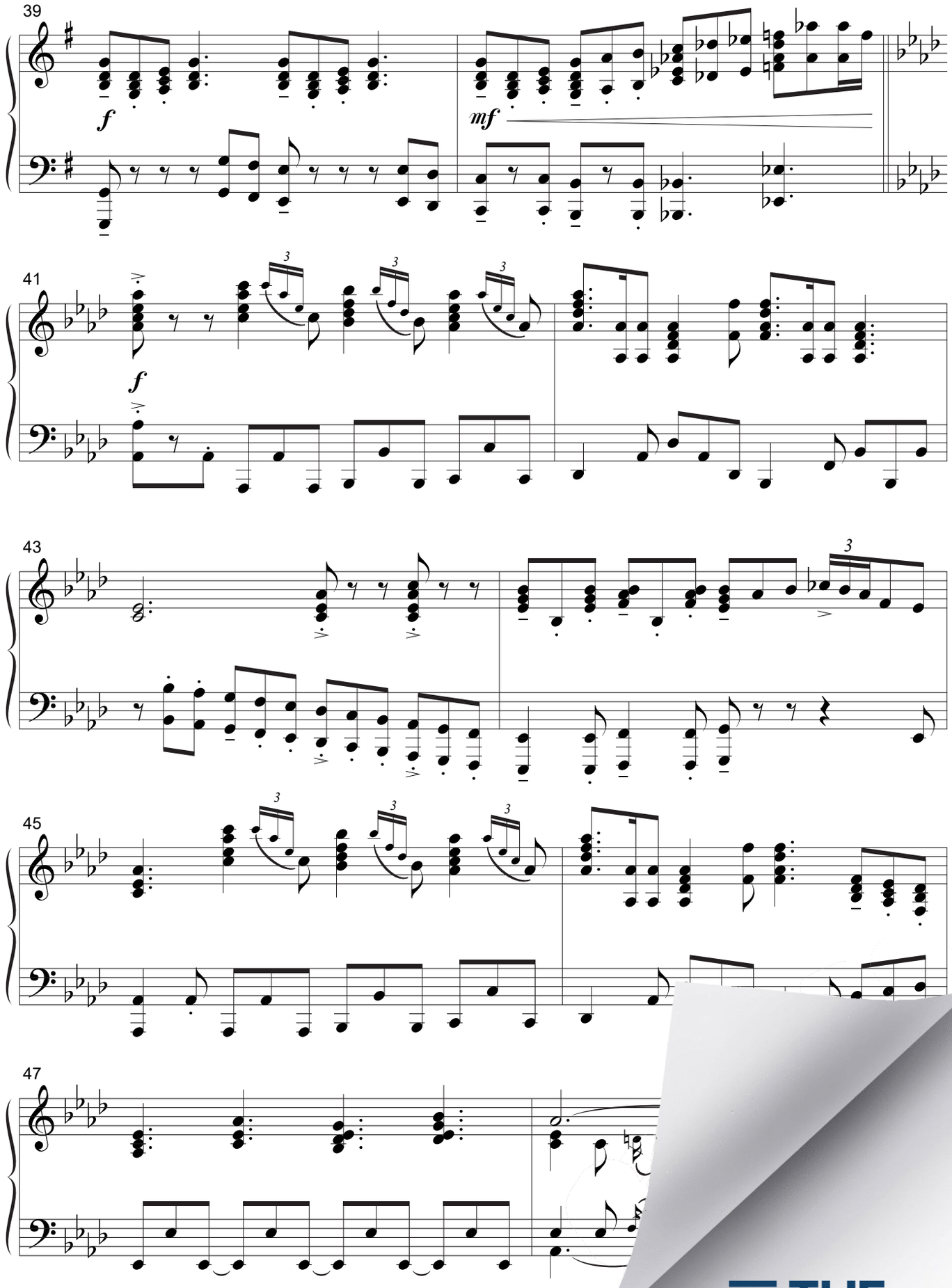

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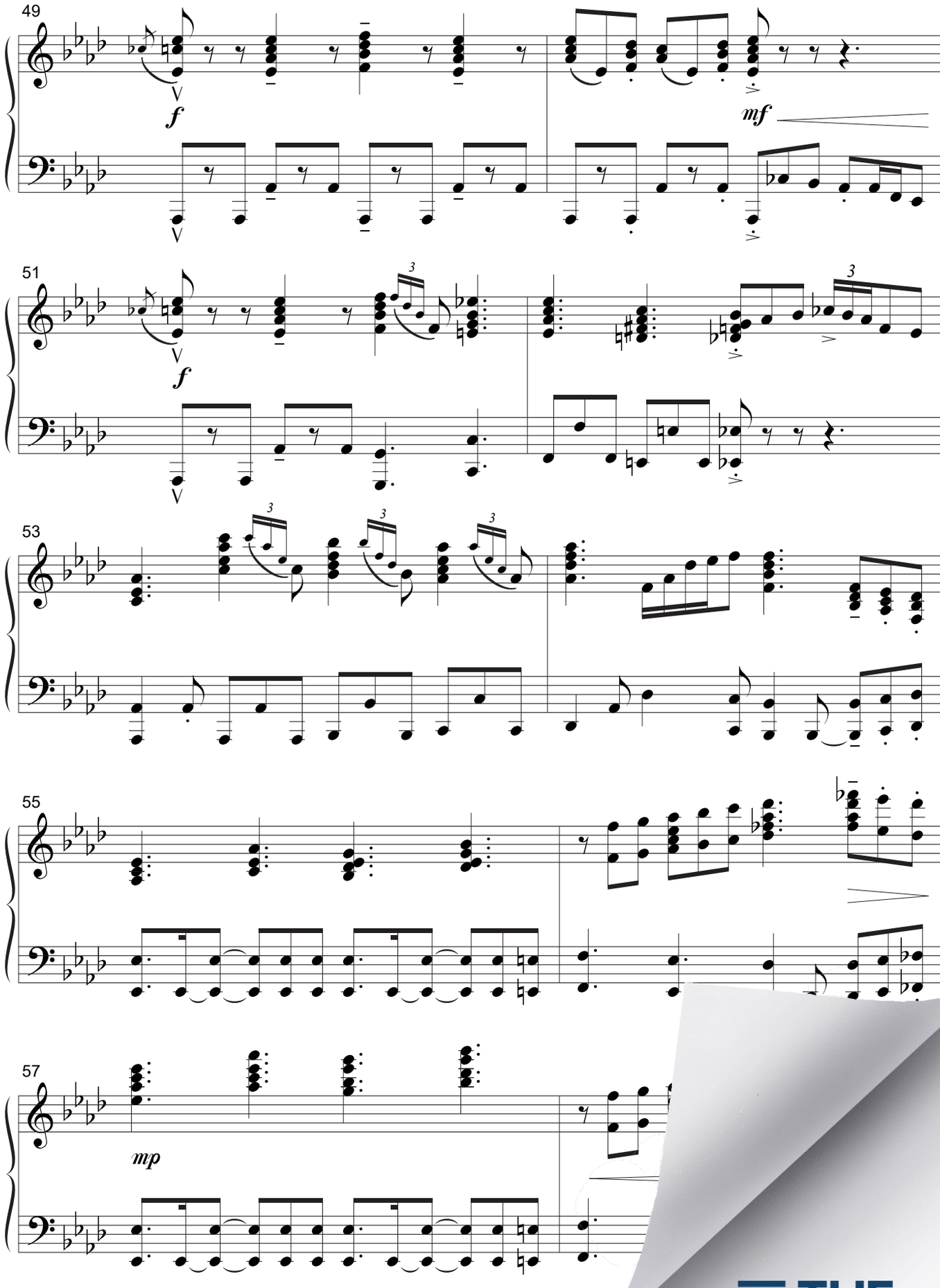

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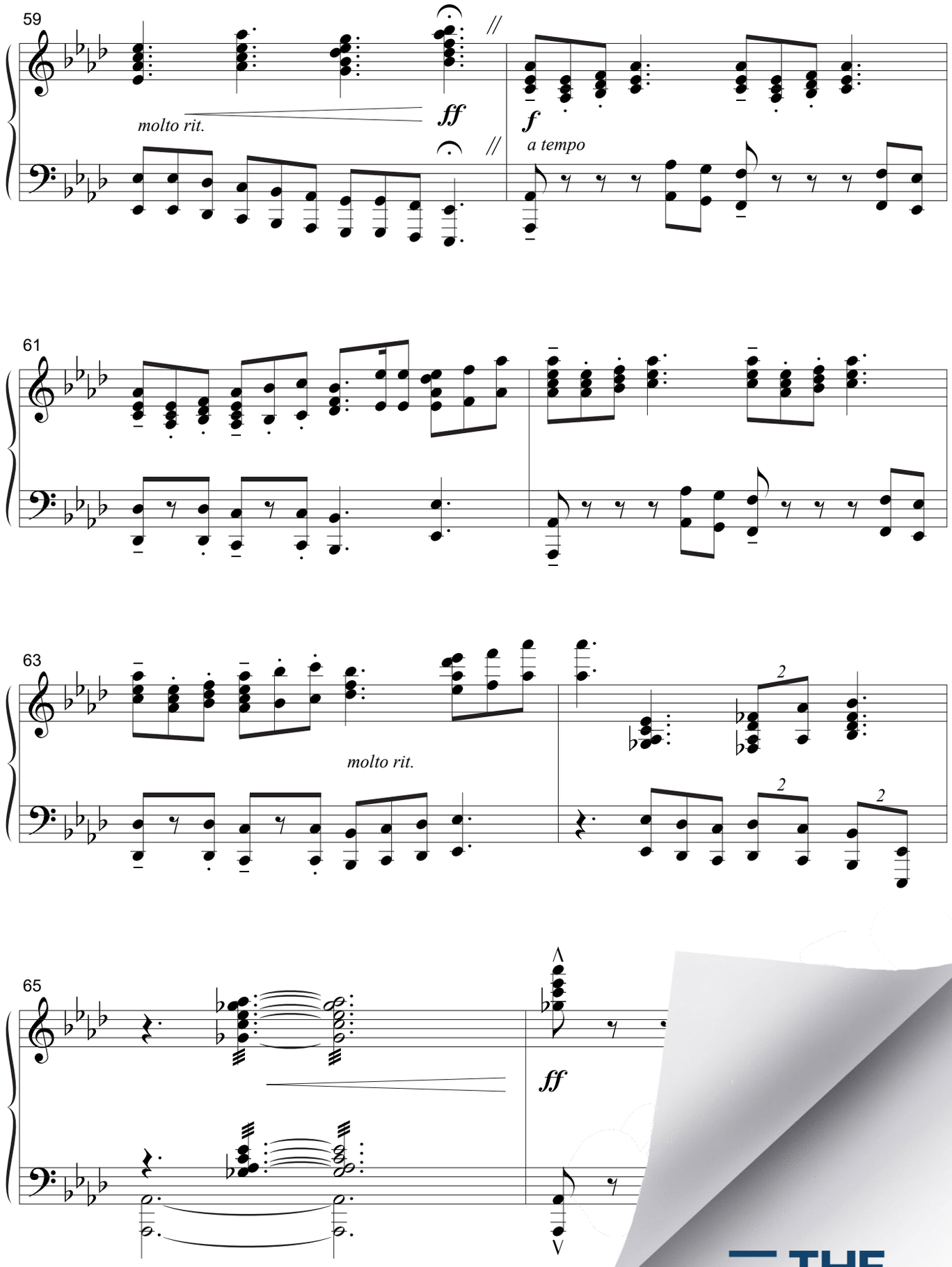

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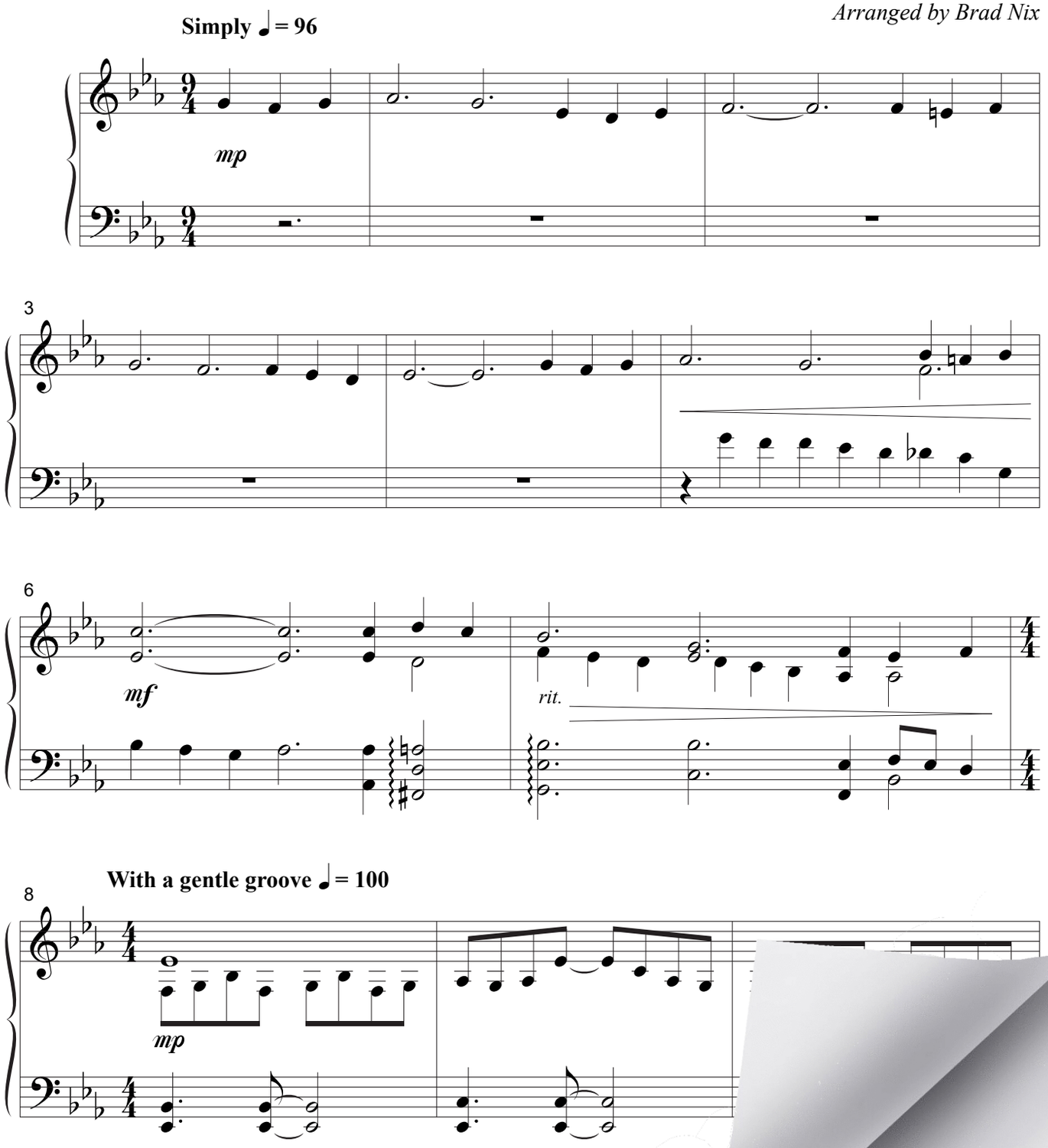
for Larry and Jonda Dramann

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

George C. Stebbins
Arranged by Brad Nix



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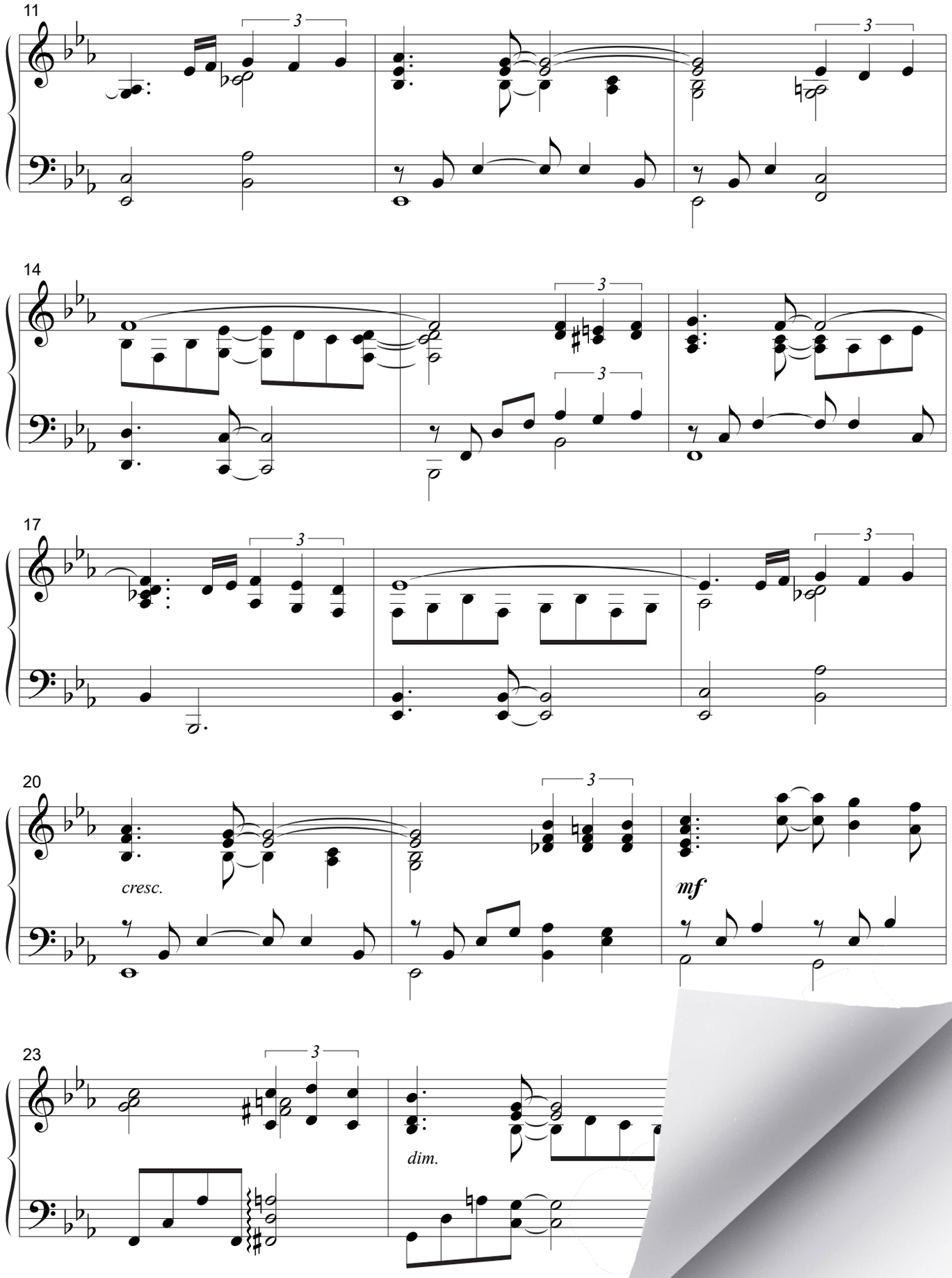

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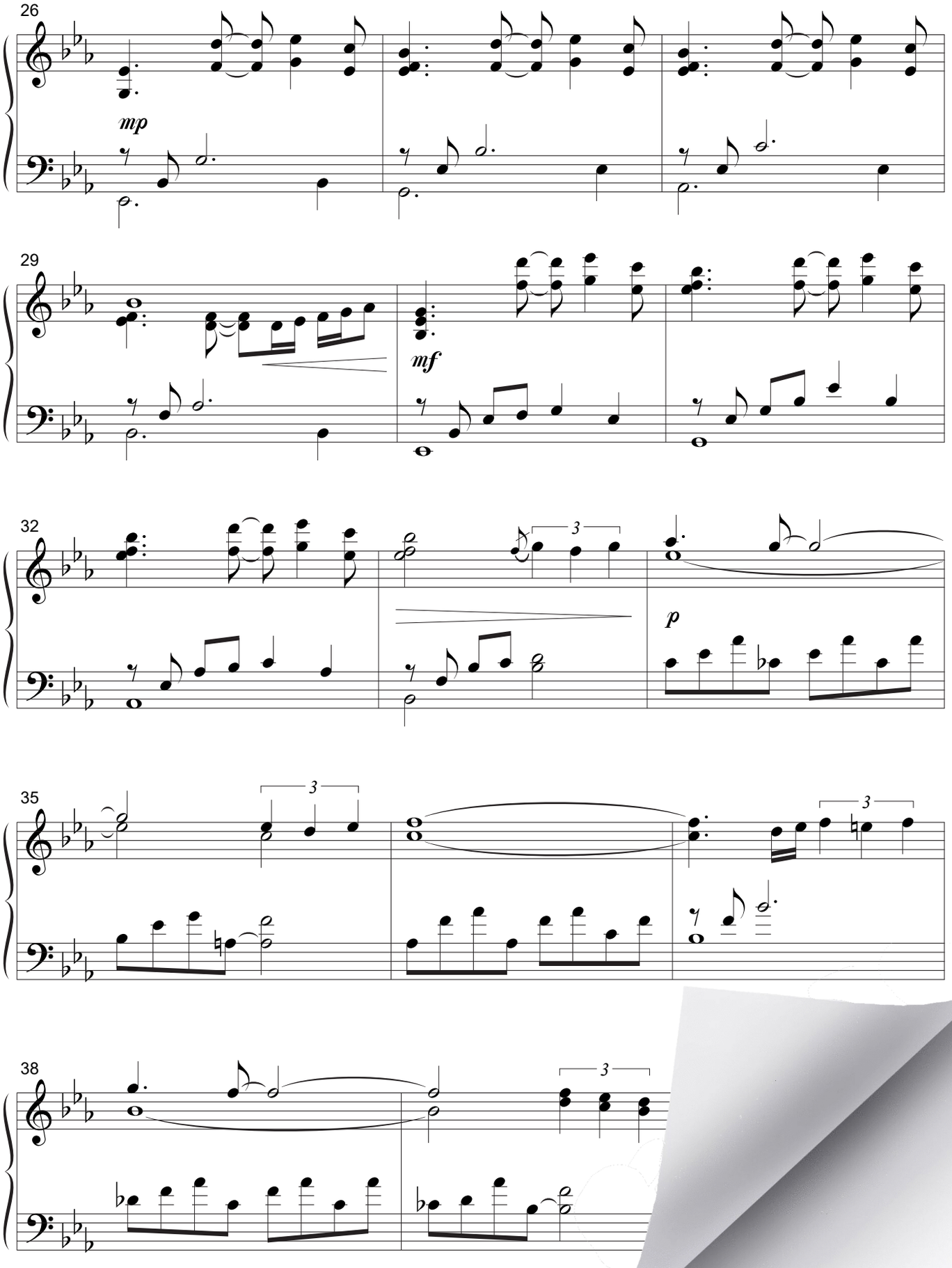

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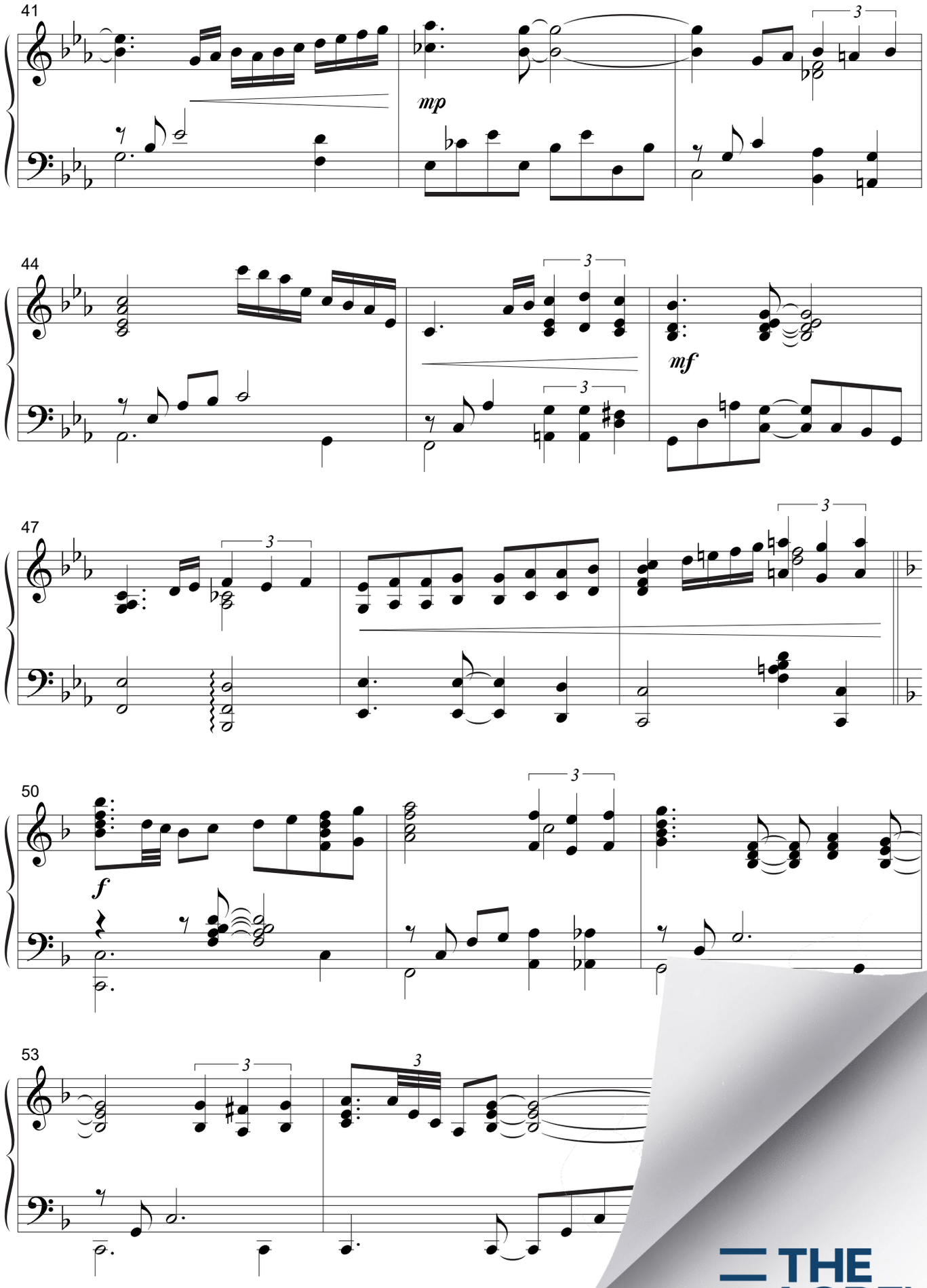

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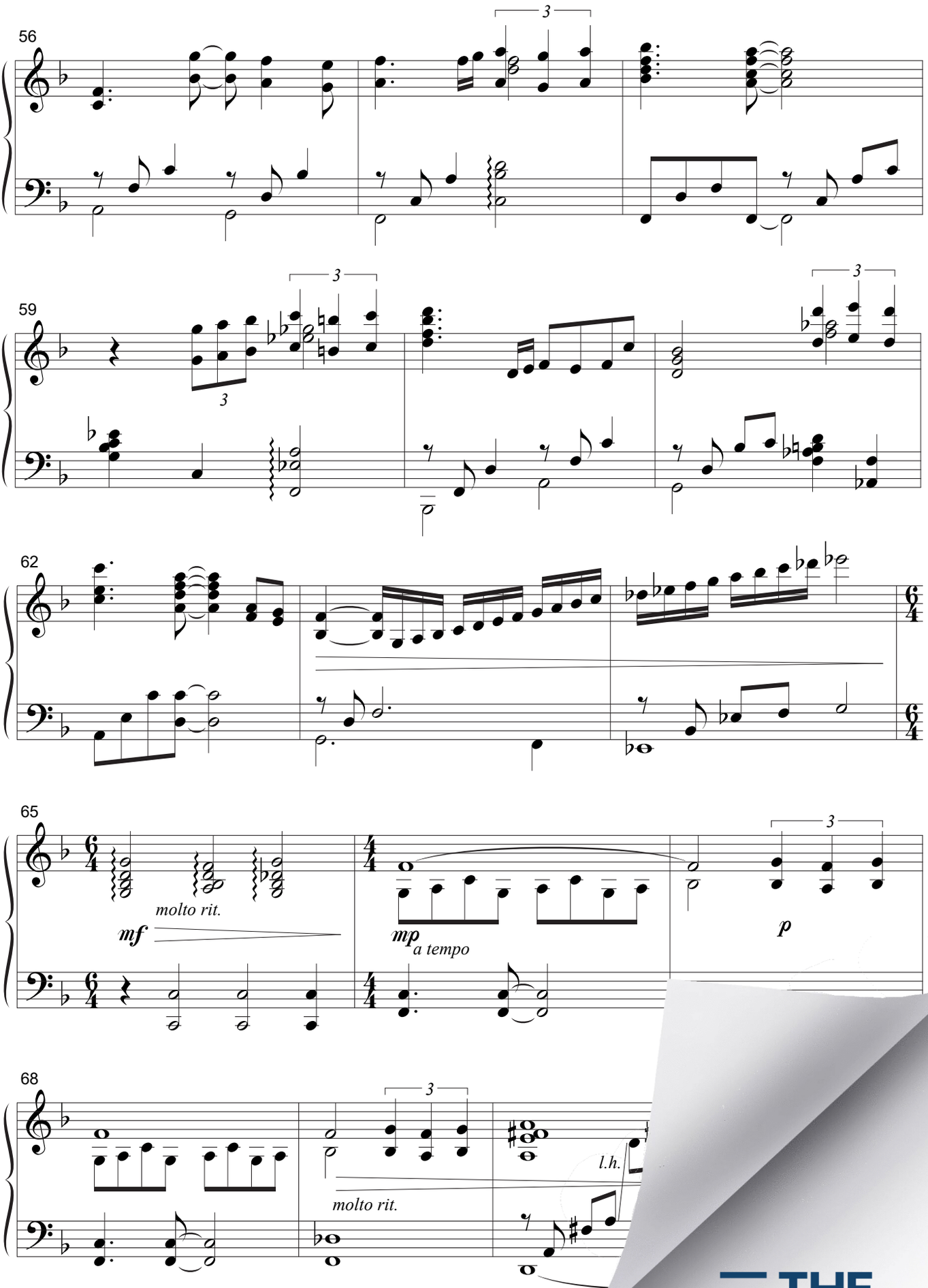


THE LORENZ CORP.

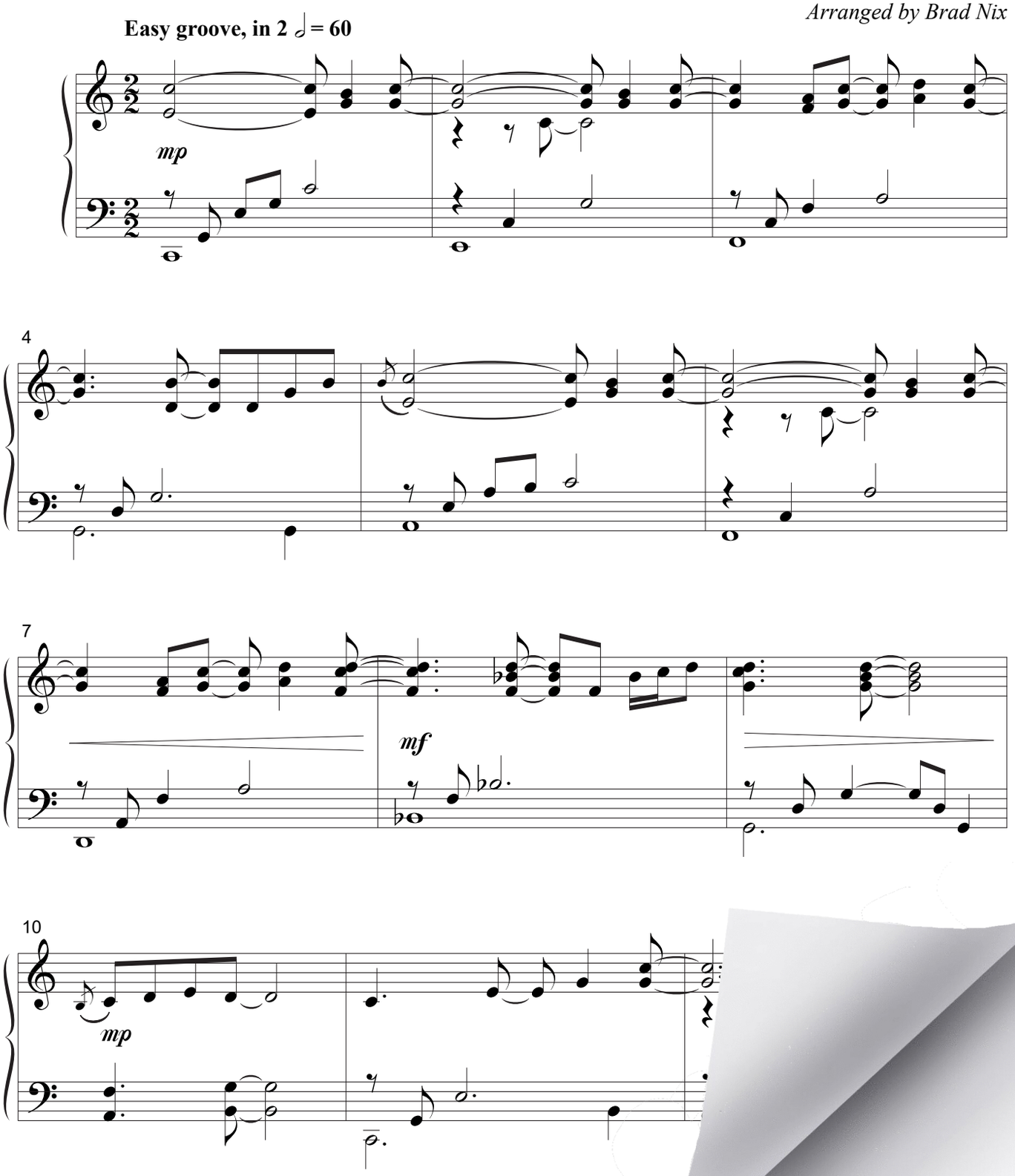
for David and Carolyn McCall

Spirit, Now Live In Me

with

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

Bryan Jeffery Leech
Arranged by Brad Nix



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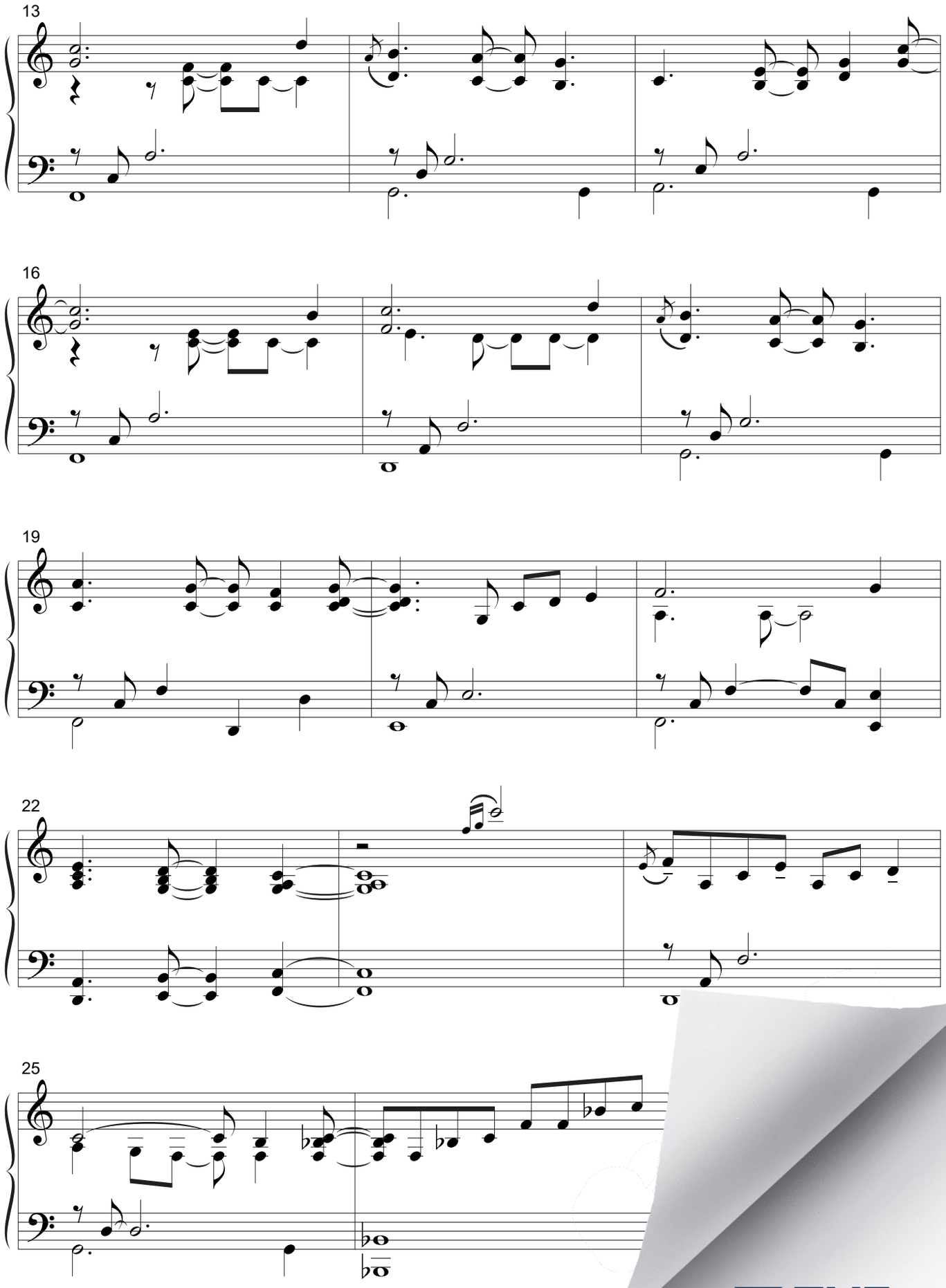

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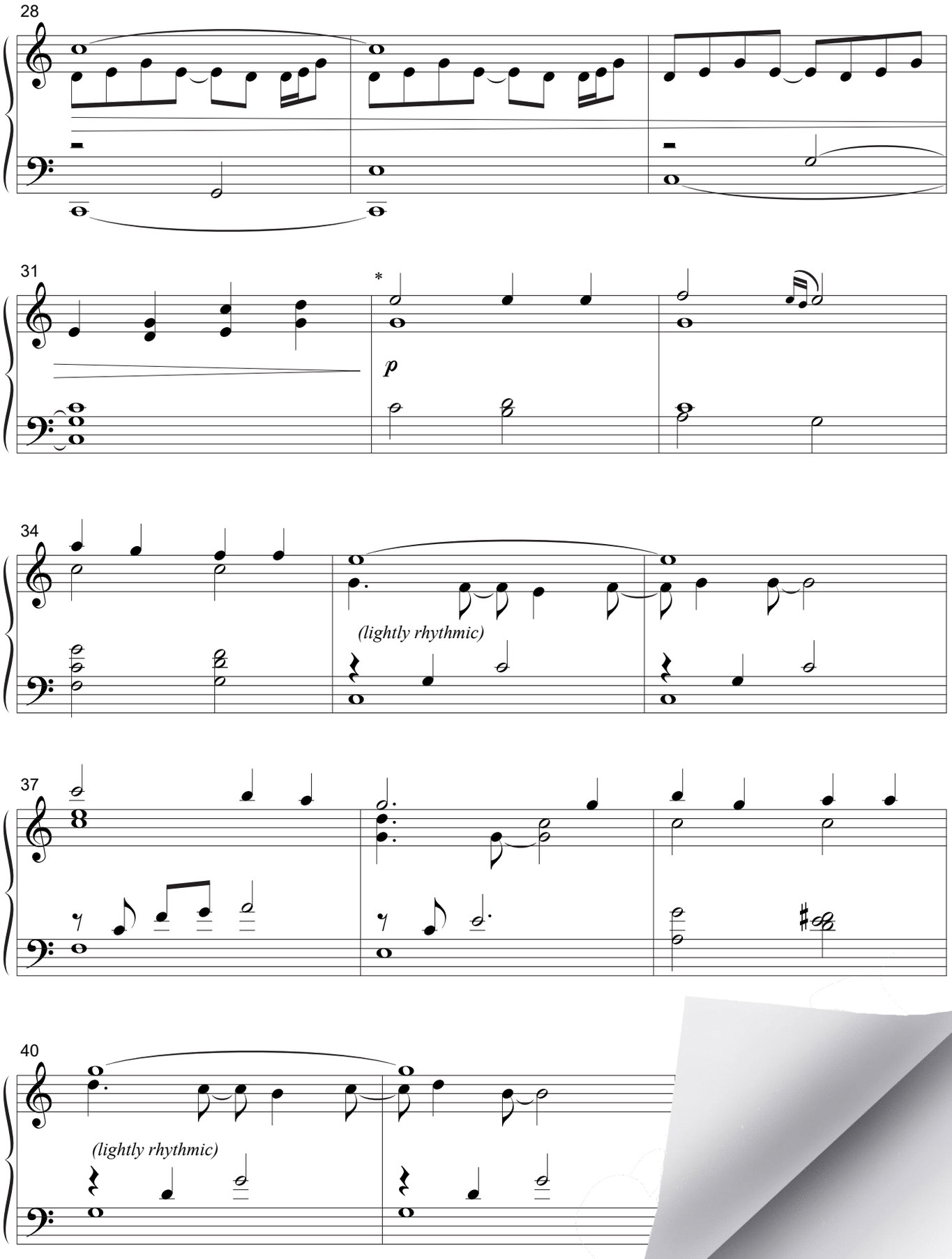
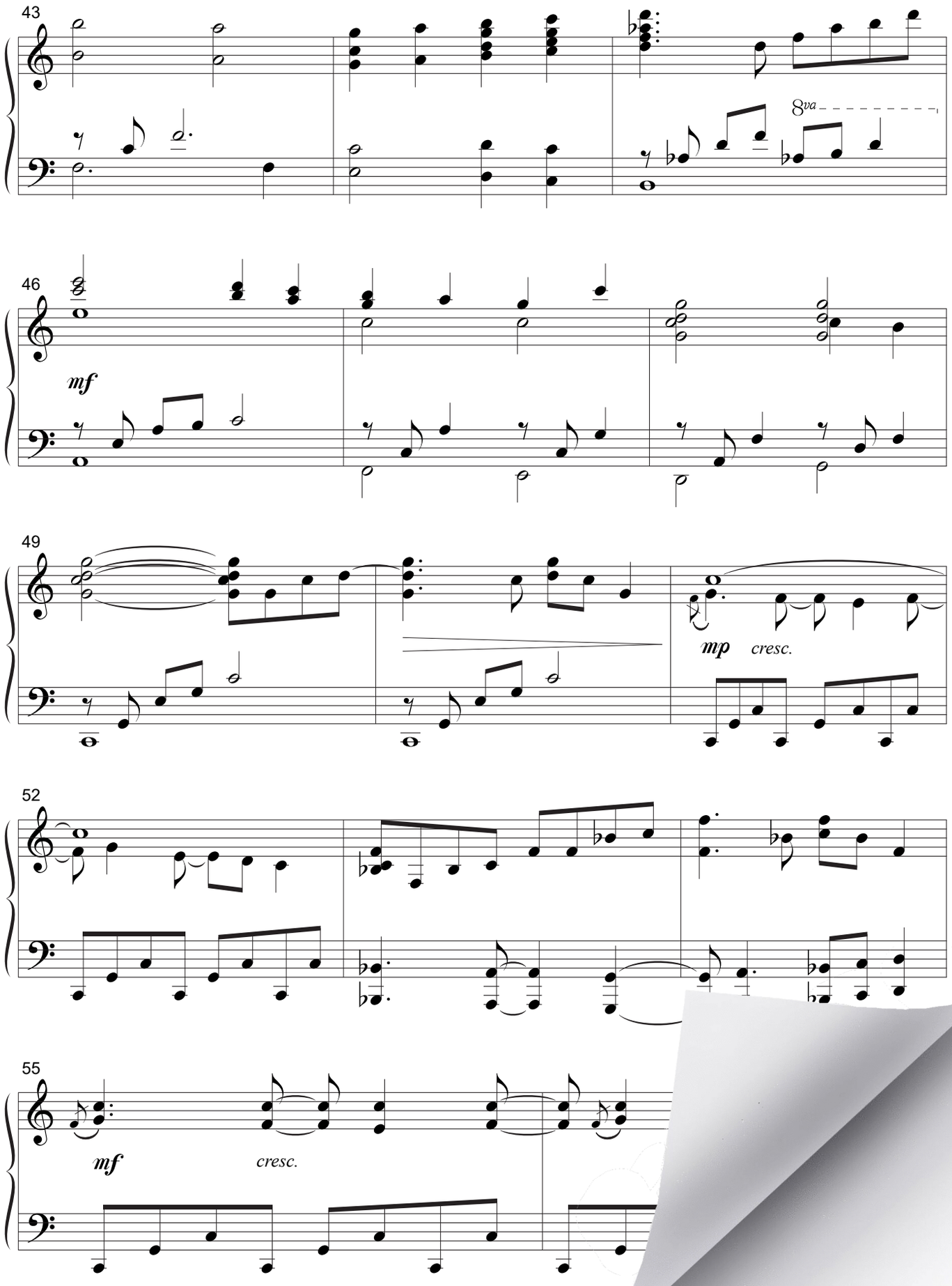


* Tune: **MORECAMBE**, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870

THE LORENZ CORP.



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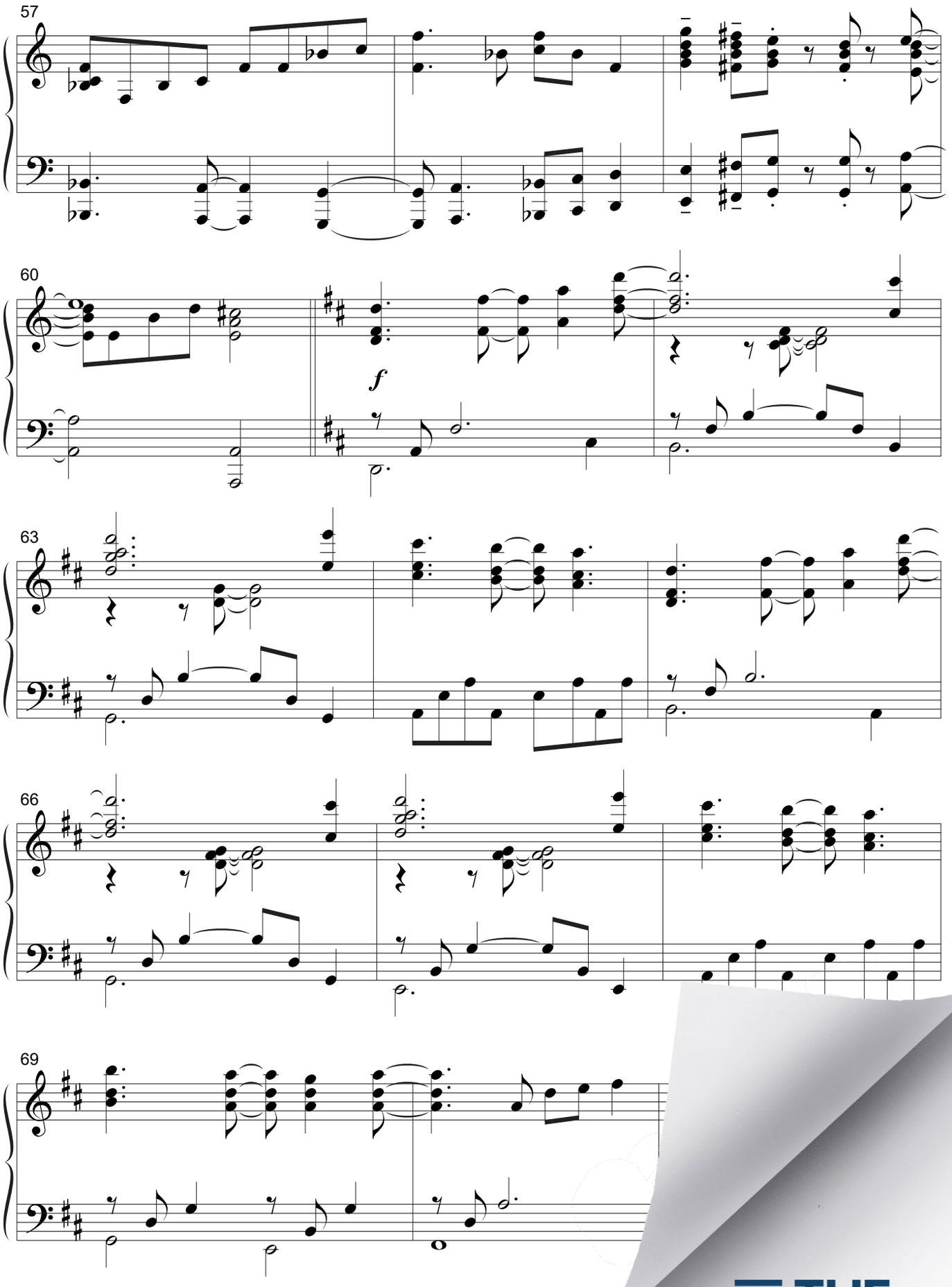

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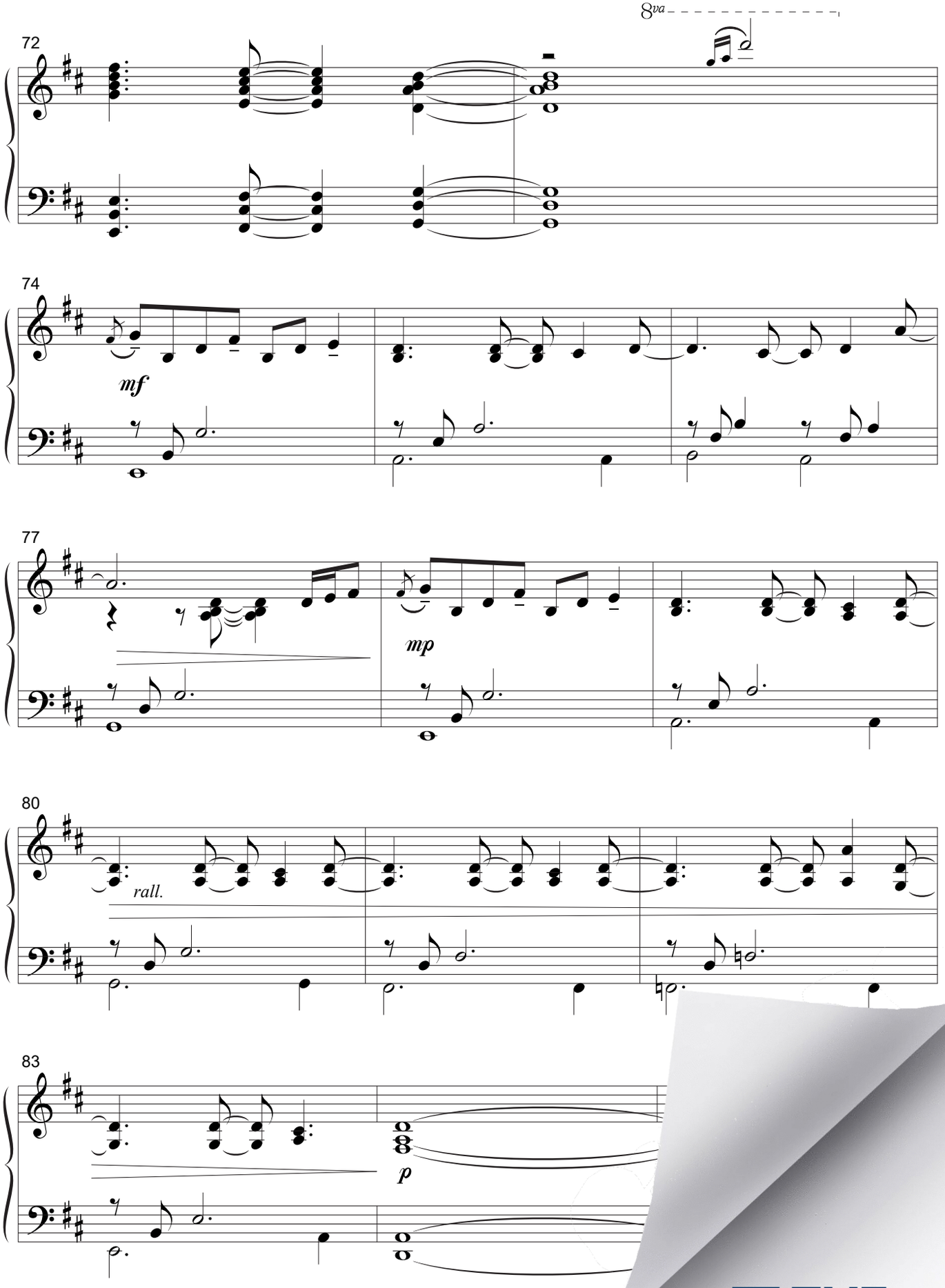
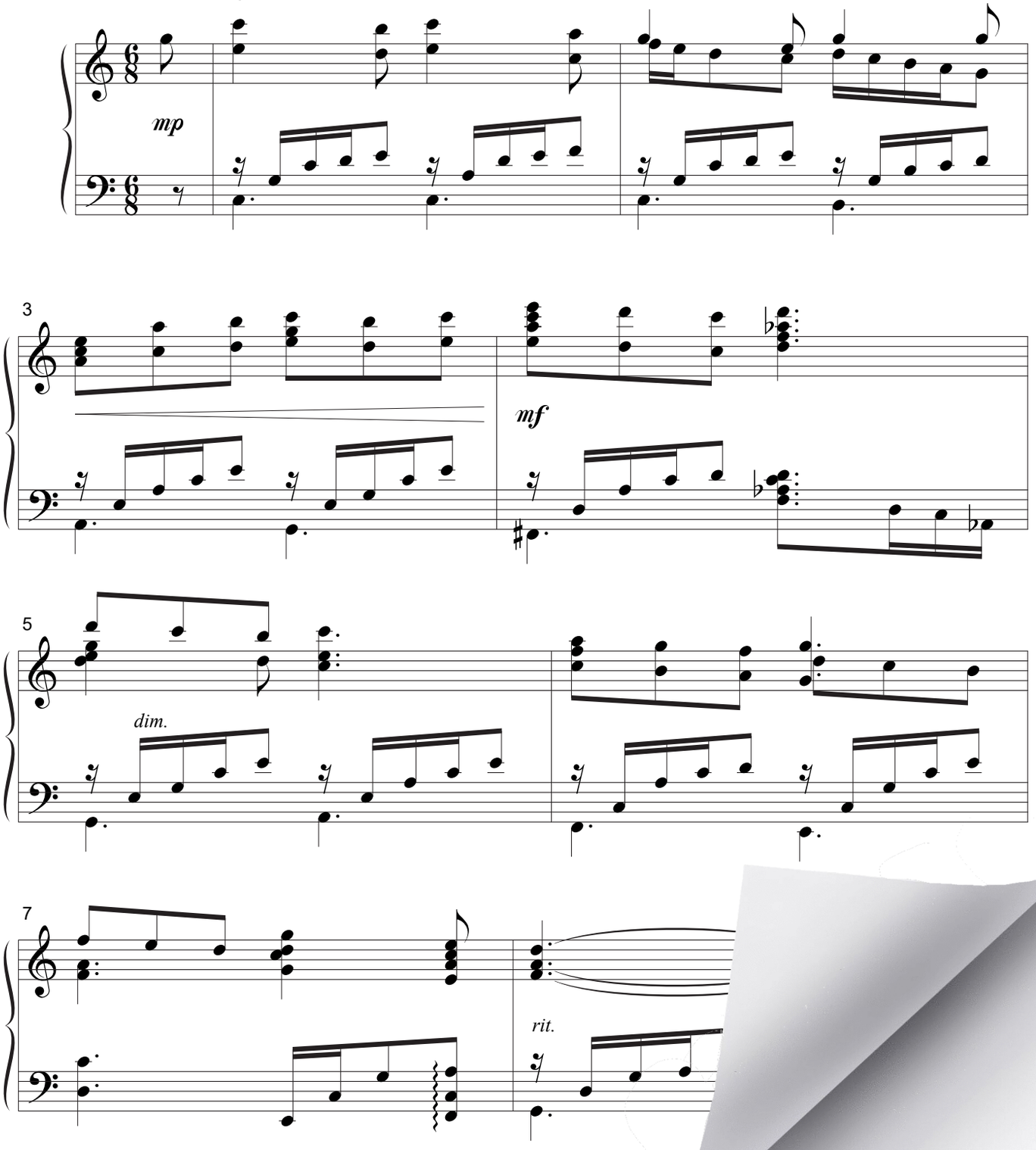


THE LORENZ CORP.

for Denny and Betty Ross

Sweet Hour of Prayer

William B. Bradbury
Arranged by Brad Nix



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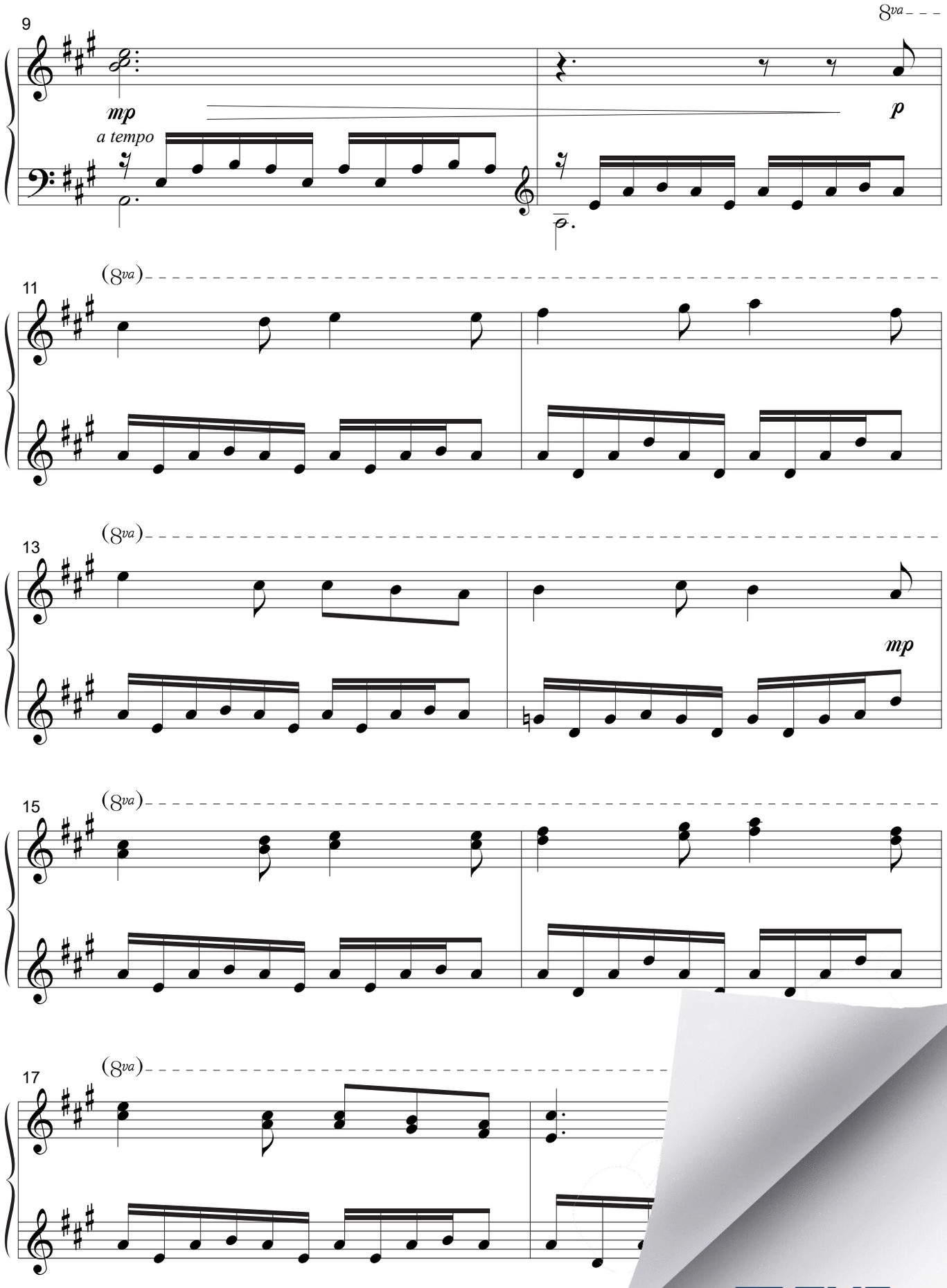

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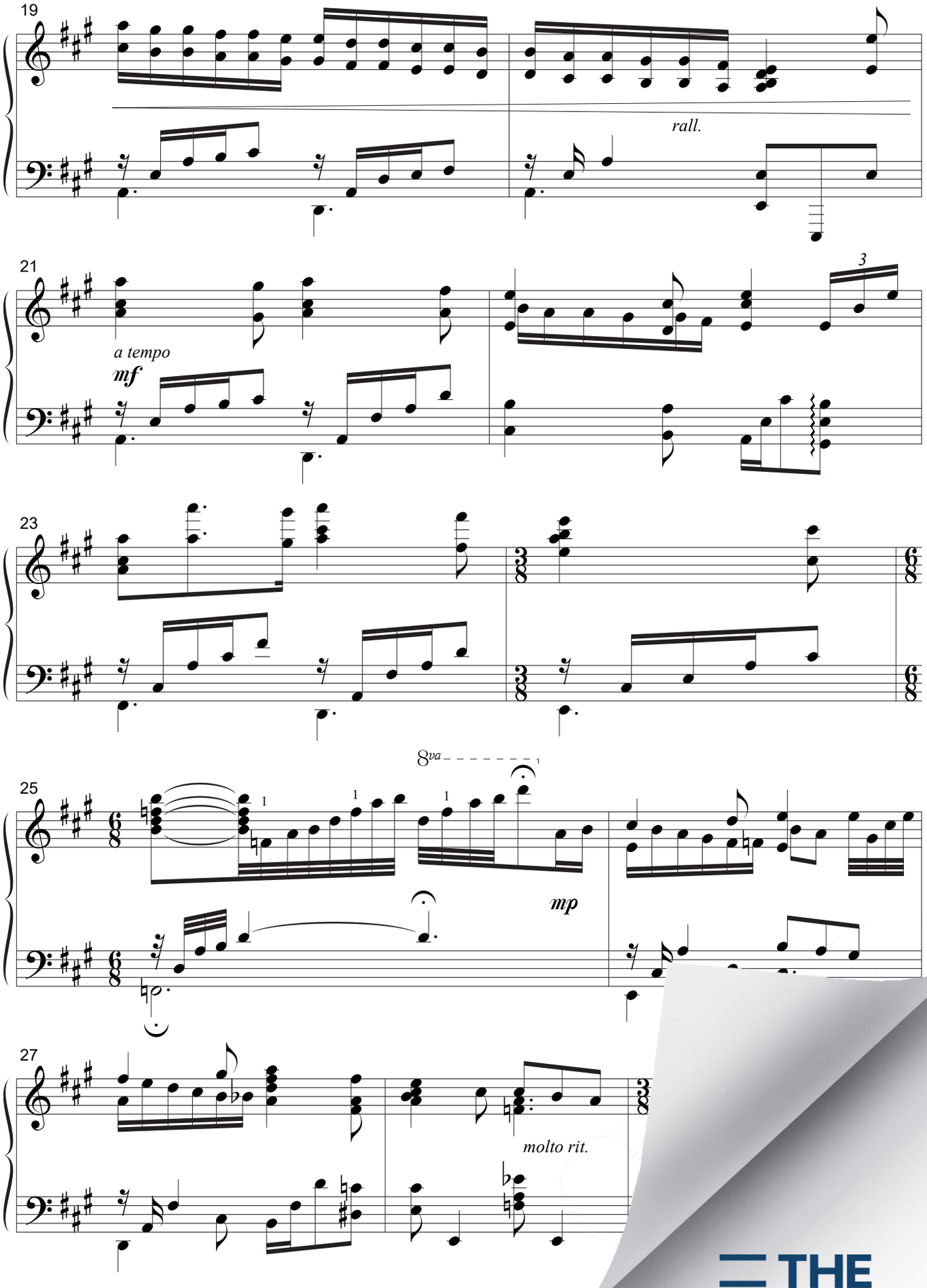

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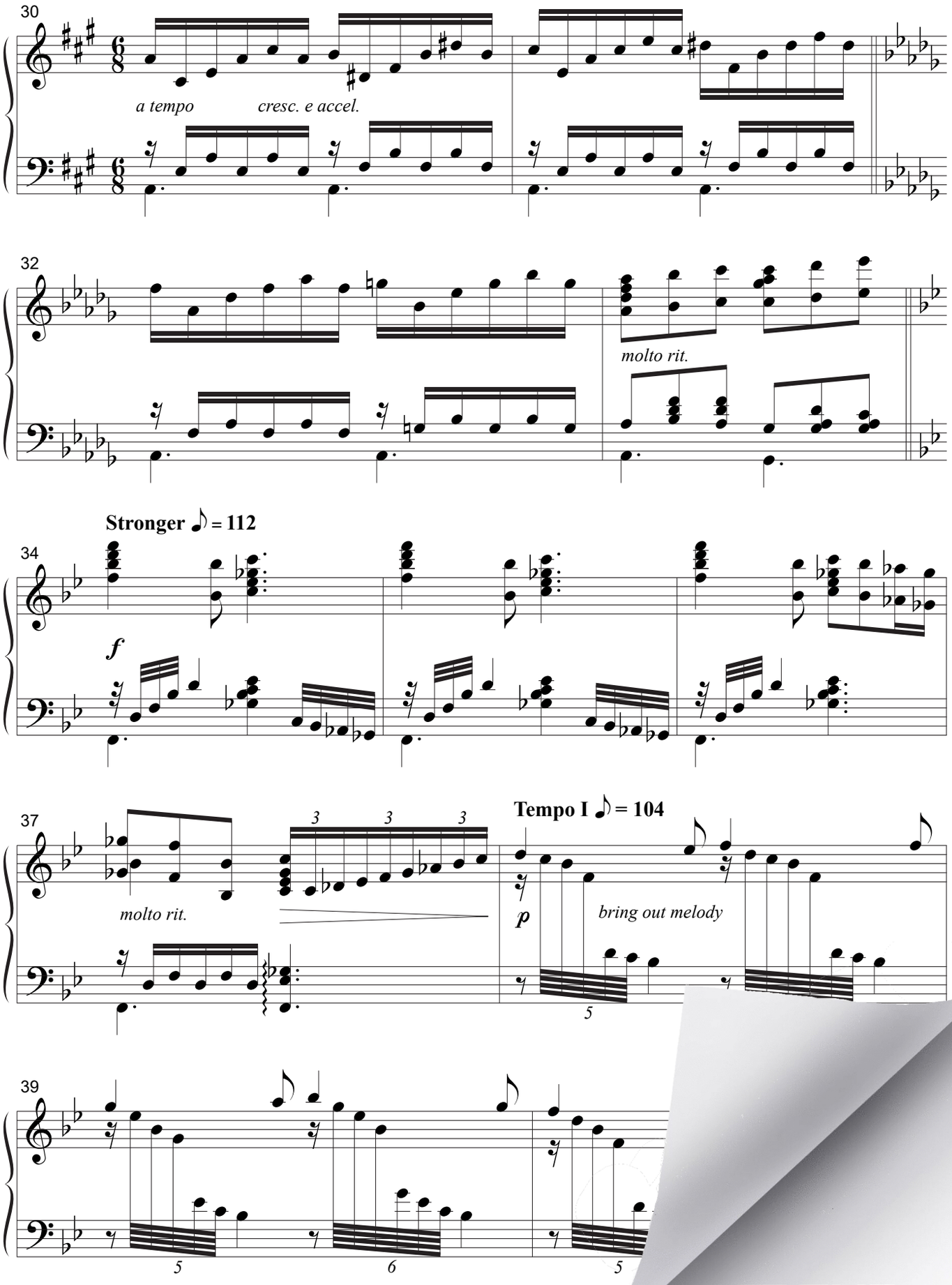

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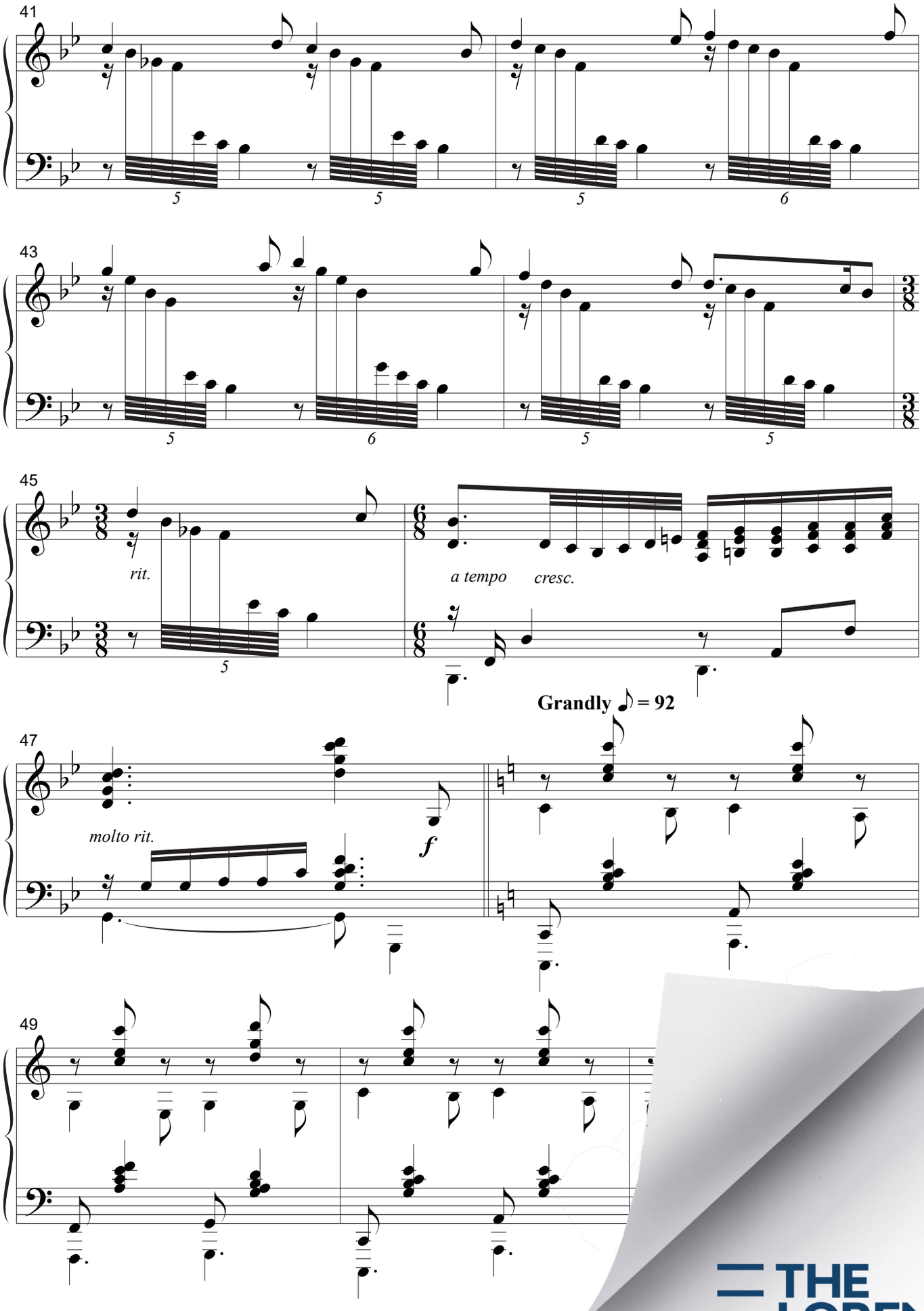

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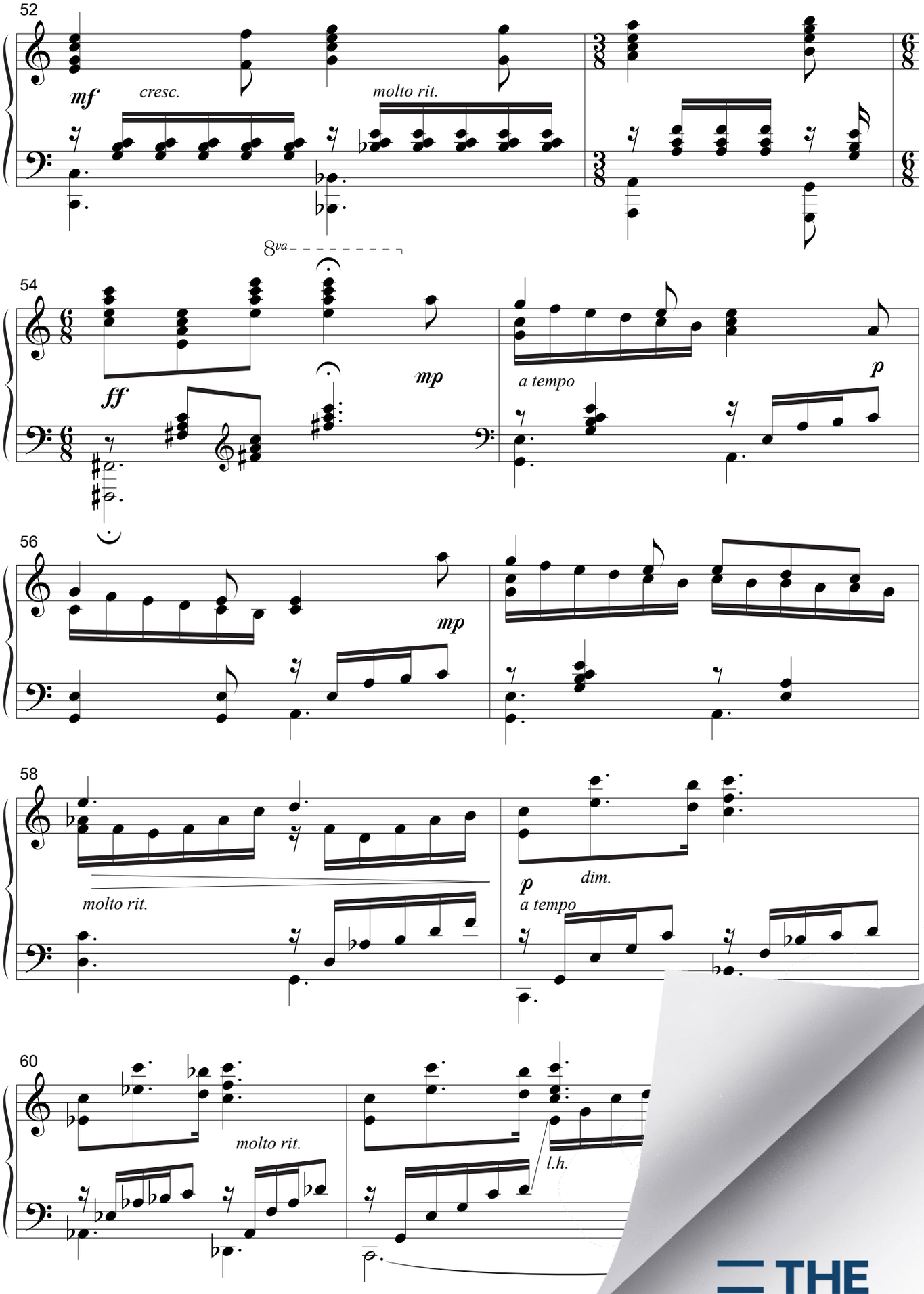


THE LORENZ CORP.

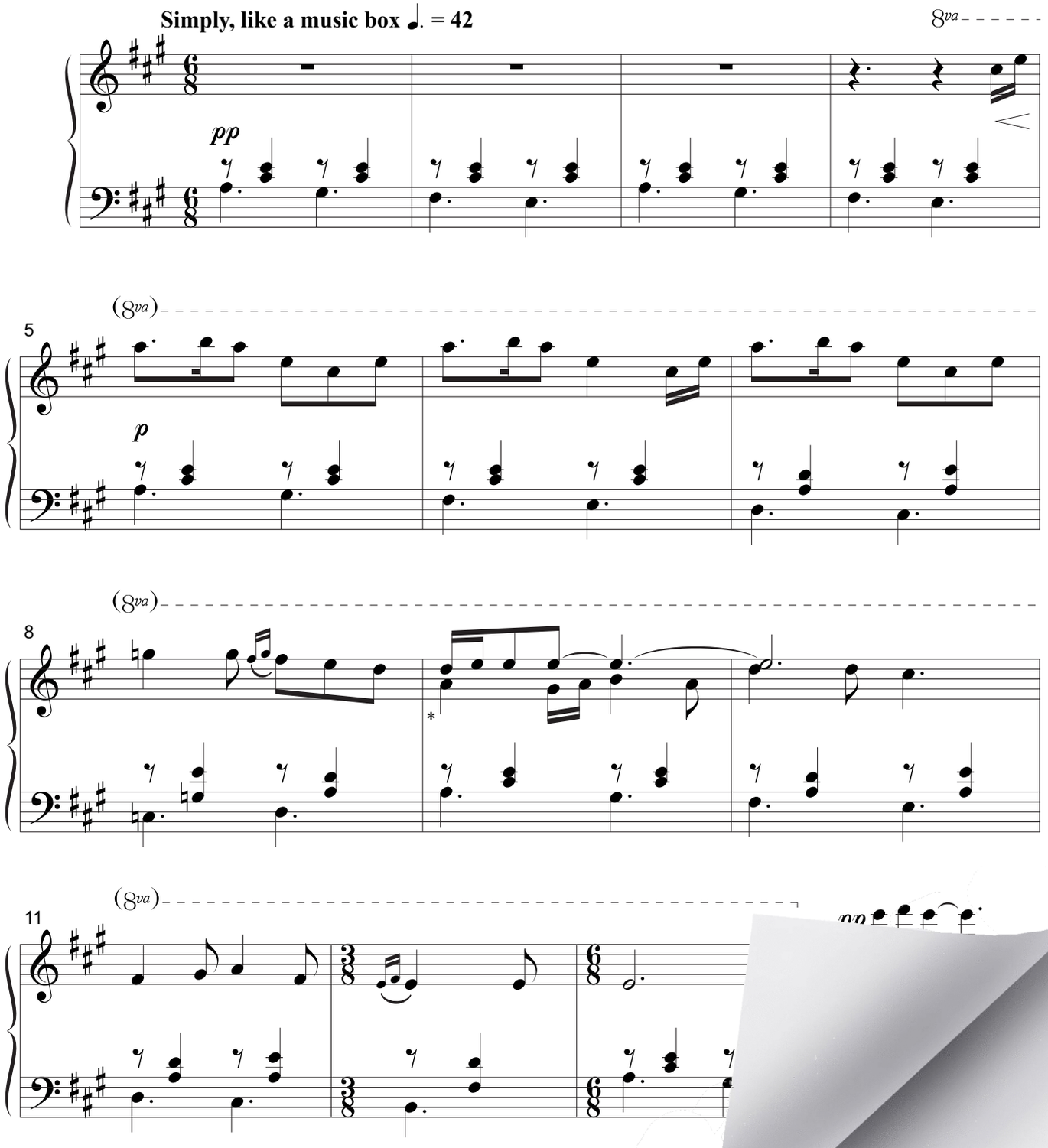
for Joseph Martin

A Grateful Heart

with

For the Beauty of the Earth

Fred Bock
Arranged by Brad Nix



* Tune: **DIX**, Conrad Kocher, 1838

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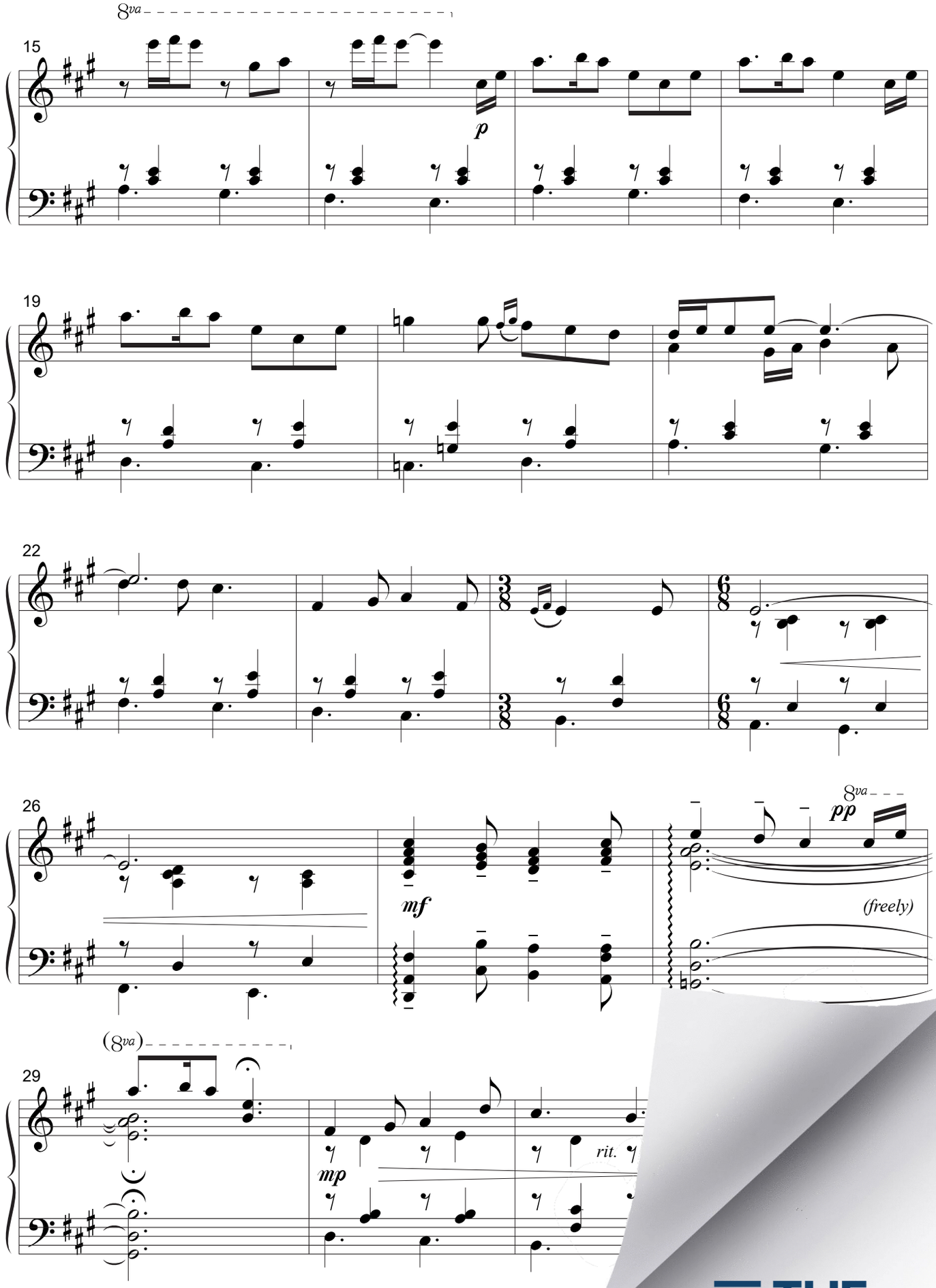

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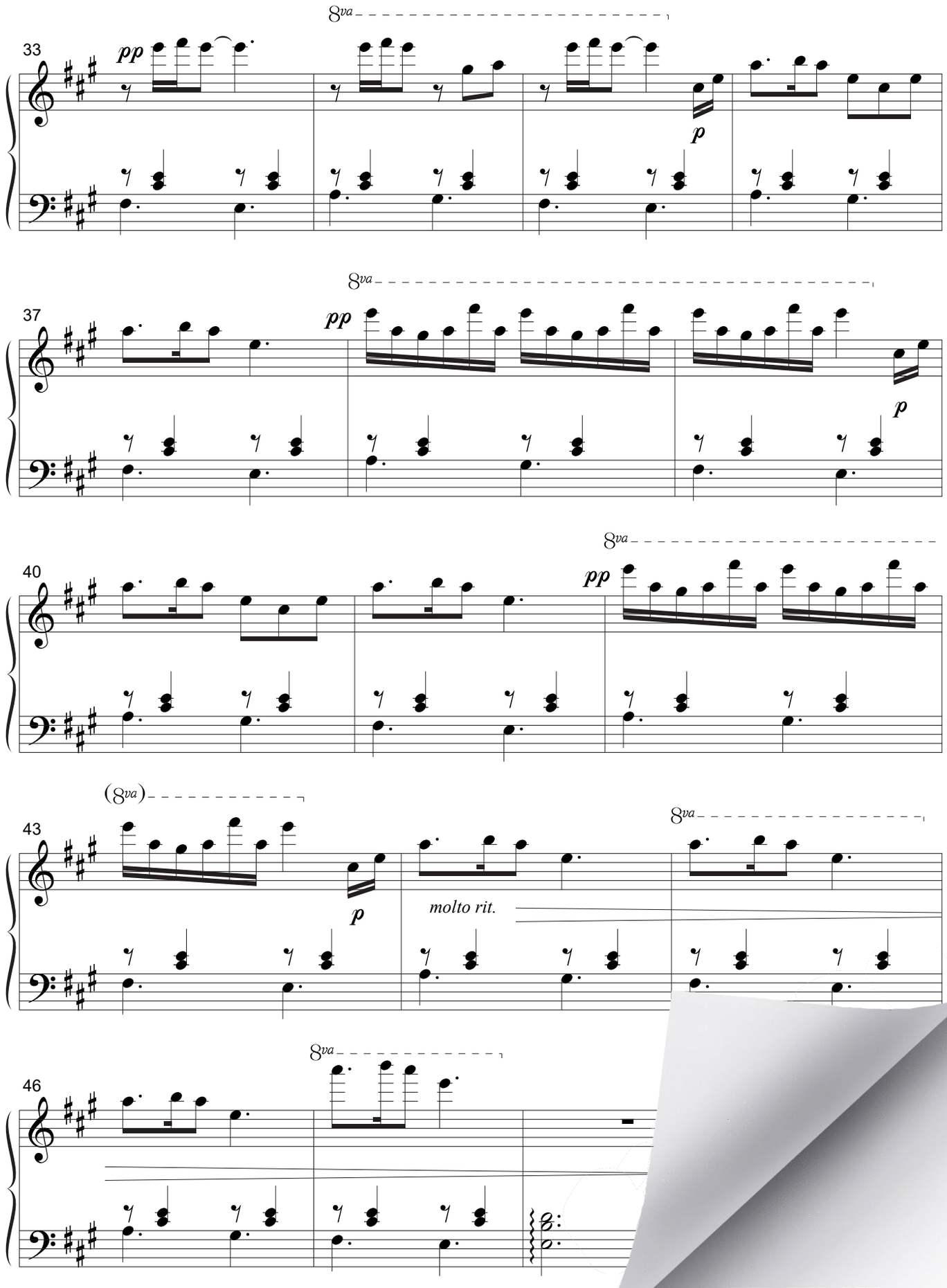

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