Brian Blume

Stretch

for solo marimba

creativity in percussion™

Stretch. by Brian Blume
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TSPCS-17

Program Notes

When I think about the way by which we grow as individuals, it always comes back to being stretched; as an athlete, as a musician, in the classroom, spiritually, socially, and the list goes on. What would happen if we were never stretched in our thinking or in our abilities? It almost always takes our being challenged, enduring trials and difficulties, and being pushed or pulled for us to learn or grow in a certain area.

Stretch for solo marimba is motived in large part by these thoughts. Much of the piece is characterized by a constant pattern, or slight variation of this pattern, meant to connote the typical "daily grind" that many of us experience. Throughout the piece are some short moments of stretching outward on the keyboard, after which things either return as before, or the music moves toward a moment of victory, a positive result of being stretched. The listener will notice moments of thoughtfulness – brief moments to reflect – that quickly move on to something else. Fortunately, life eventually allows for times to relax and recharge, whatever that means for each individual. The slower, single-handed roll sections represent that time, almost a dreamlike state. However, life goes on, and so do the trials, difficulties, and challenges that stretch us to become better at whatever it is we do.

- Brian Blume

Performance Notes

Stretch **requires a 5-octave marimba**. **Medium-hard mallets** are recommended for the entire piece, except the roll sections, during which the right hand should switch to **softer mallets**. The performer should set a music stand or stick tray in front of the upper half of the instrument in order to make necessary mallet changes quickly.

The grace notes in the roll sections should be played softly in order to create the effect of bending the pitch from the previous rolled note to the primary note that follows the grace note(s).

Level: Advanced
Approximate playing time: 7'30"

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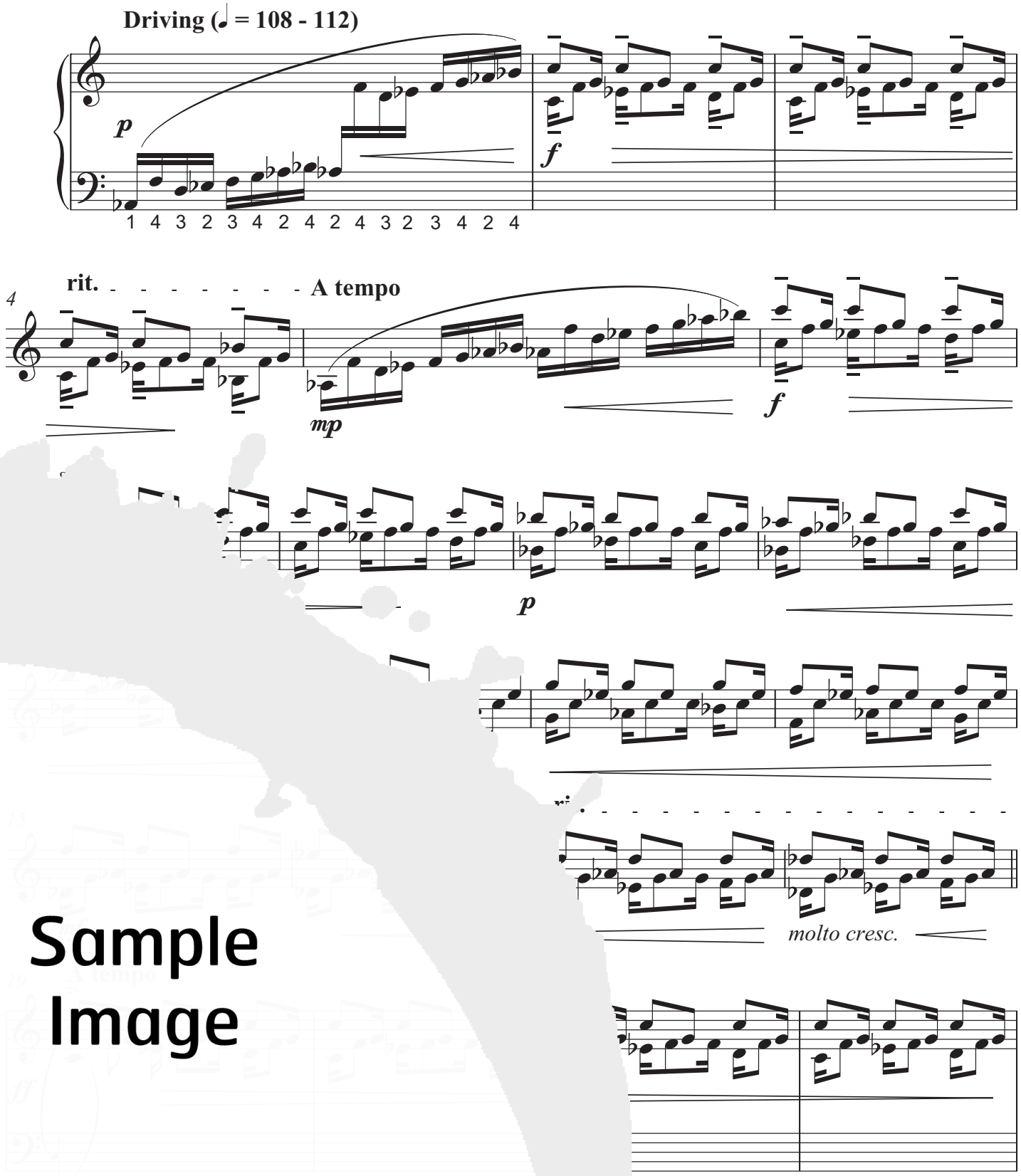

Sample Image

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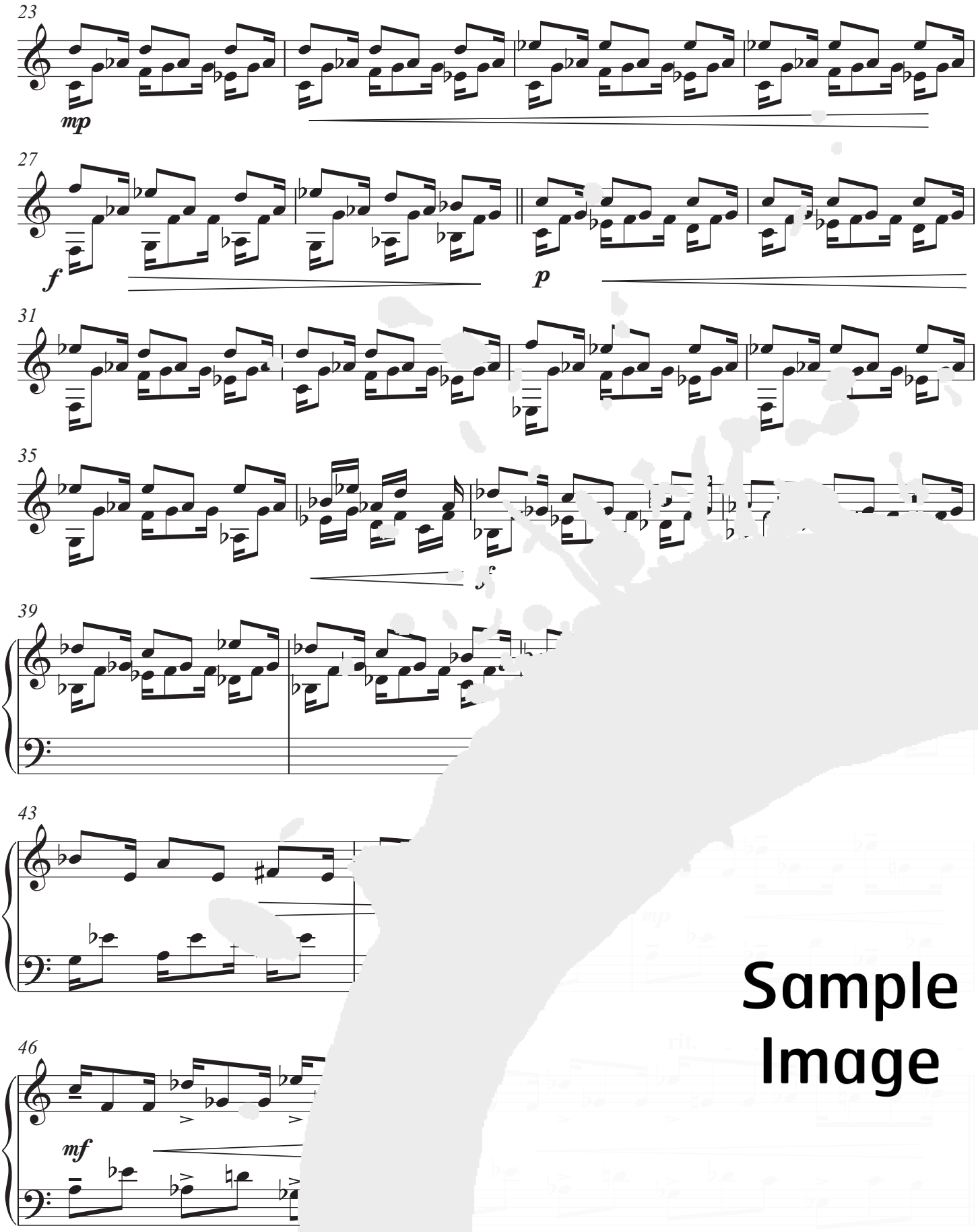

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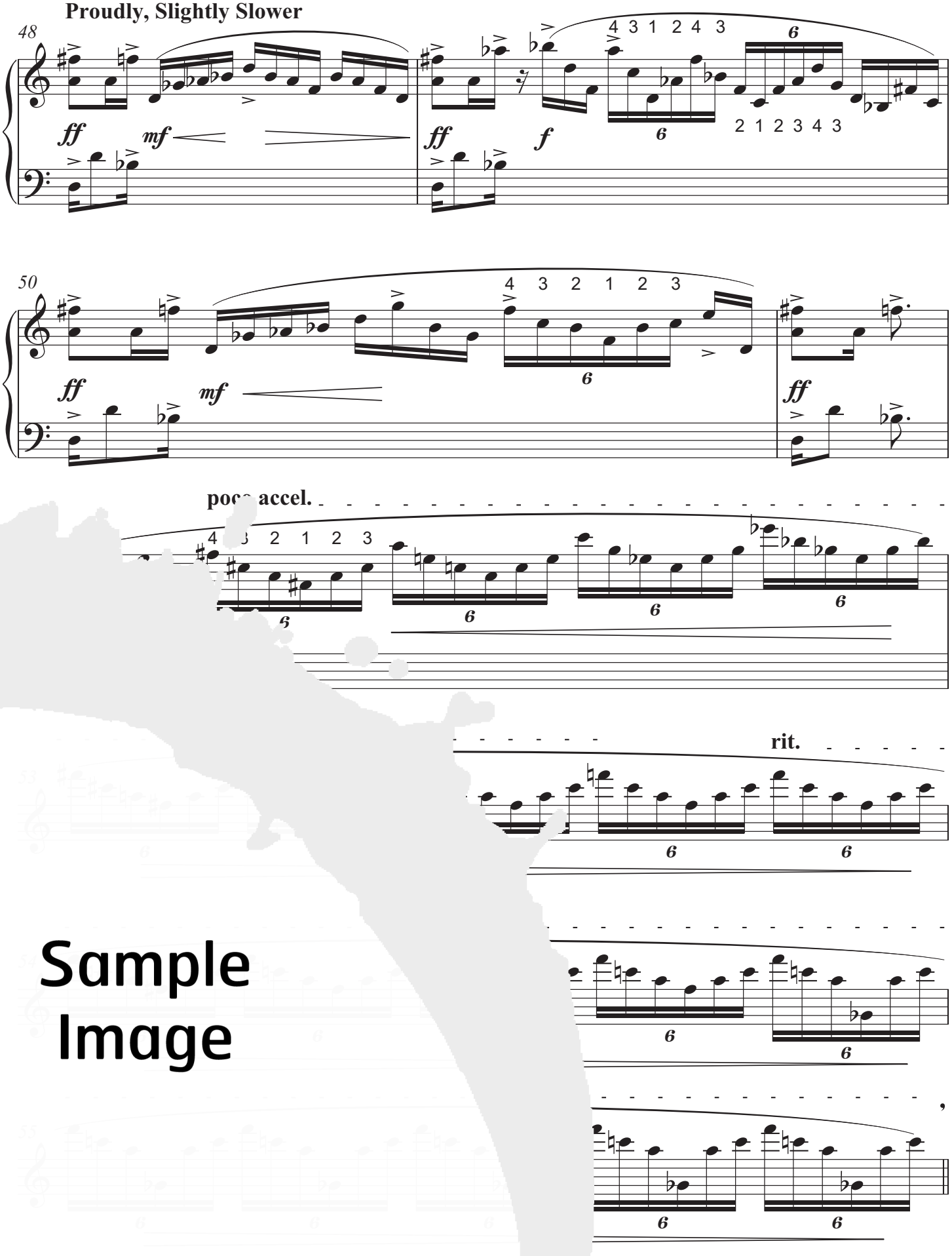

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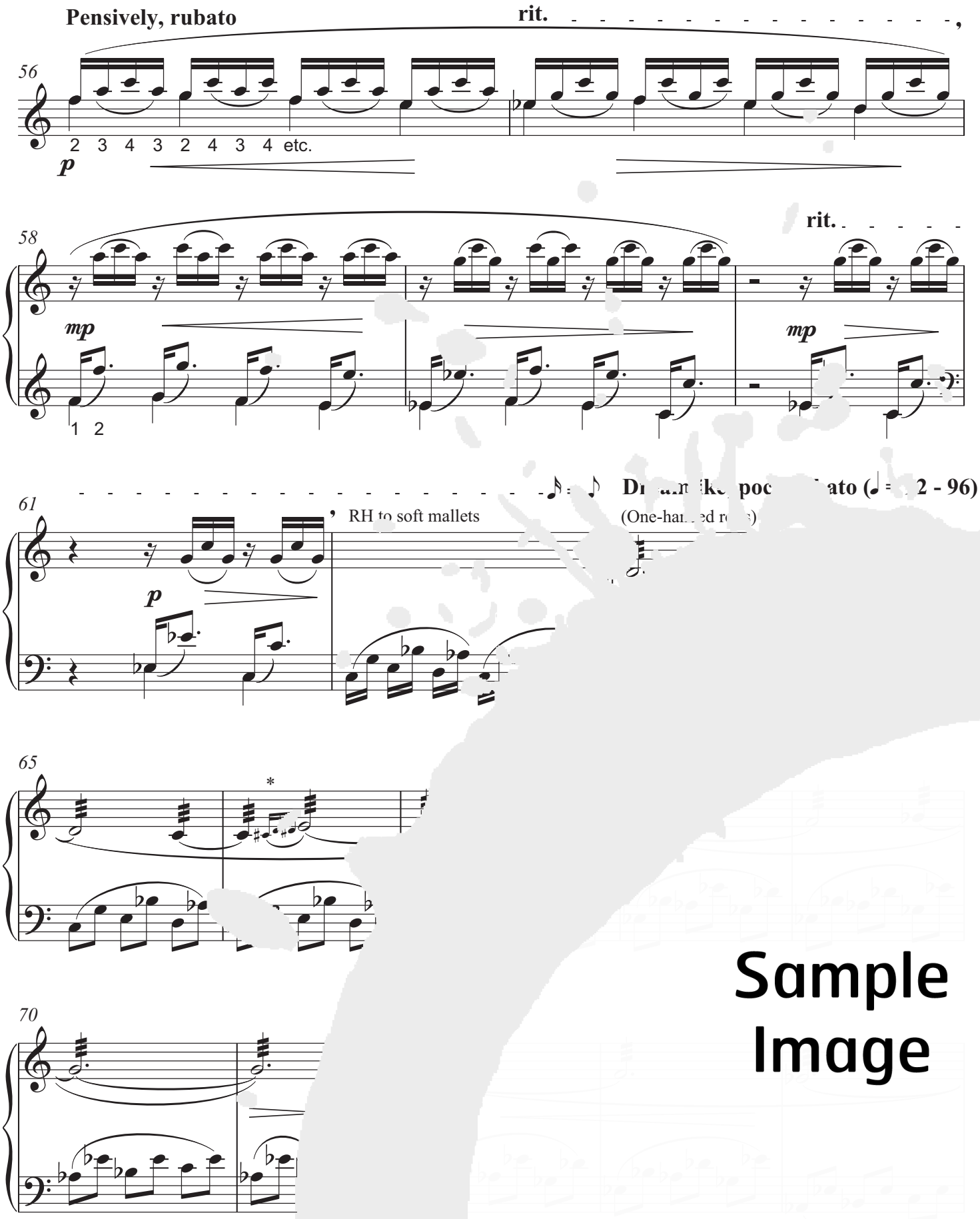

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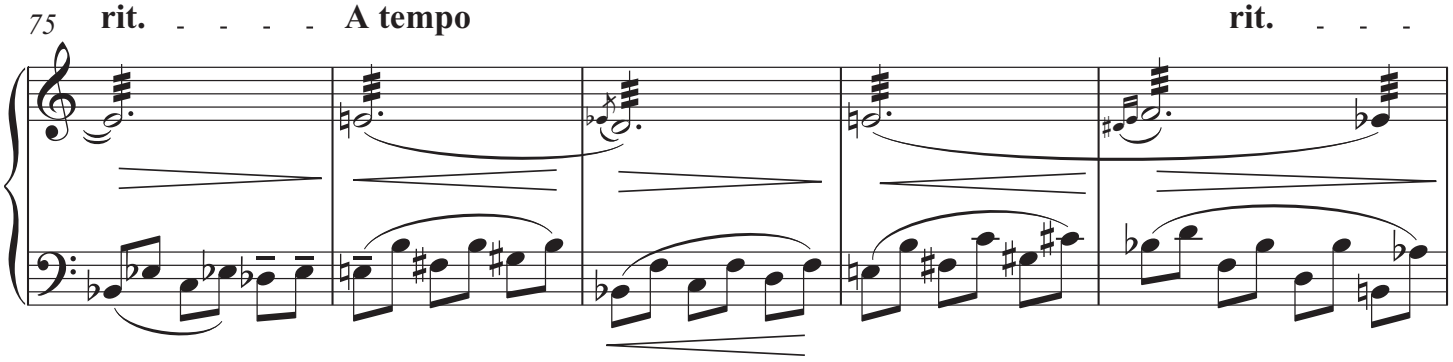
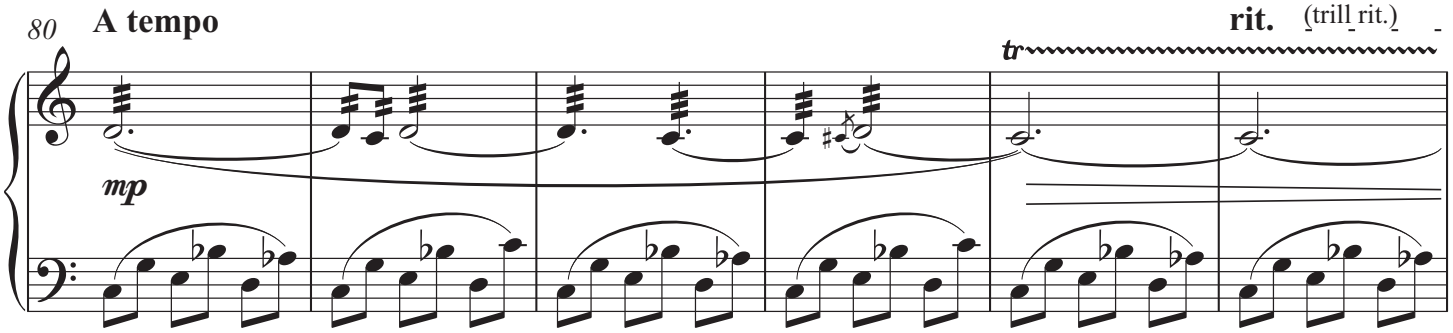
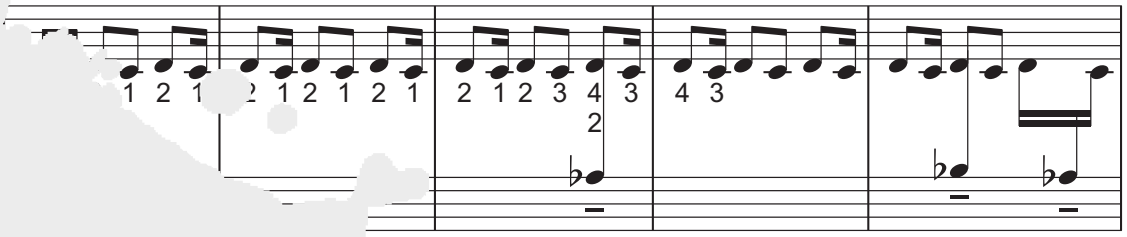
* See performance notes for details on grace notes

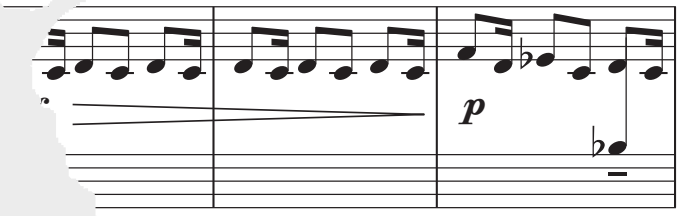


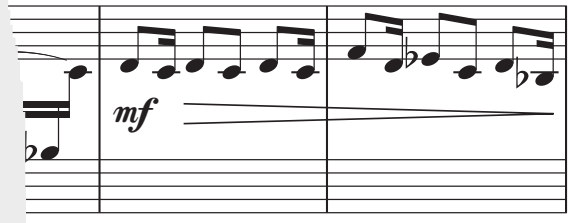


Tempo primo (♩ = 108 - 112)

RH to harder mallets







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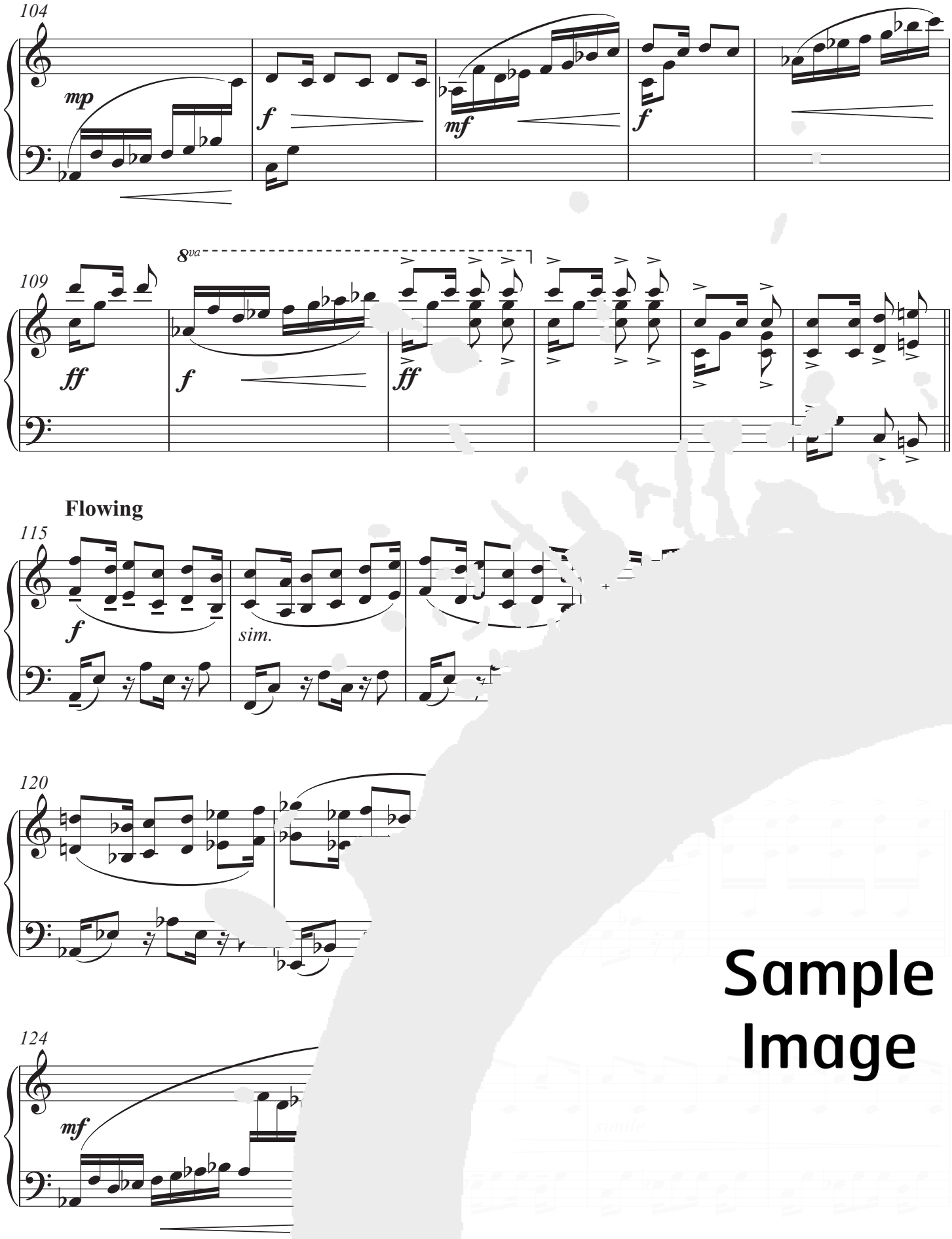

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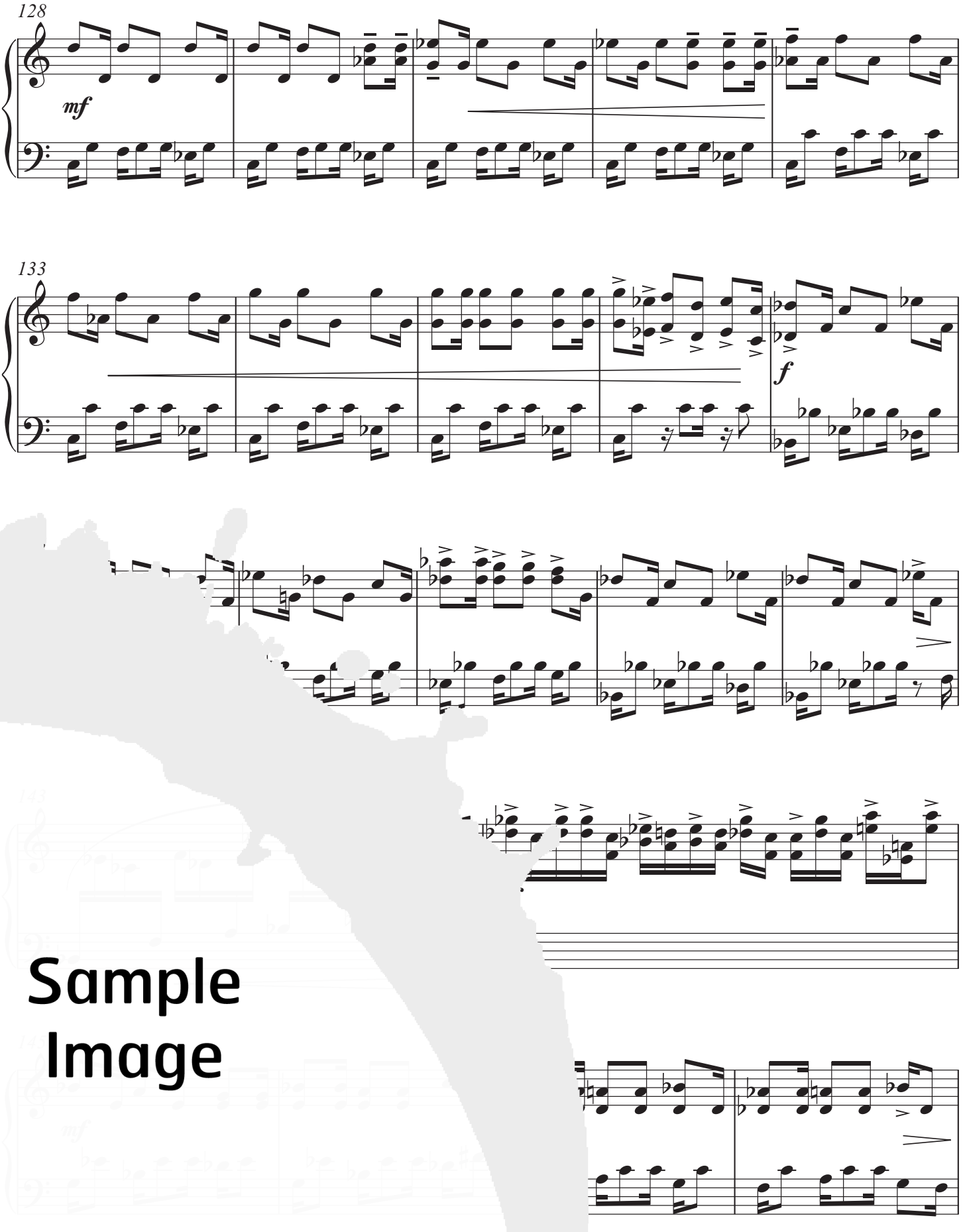

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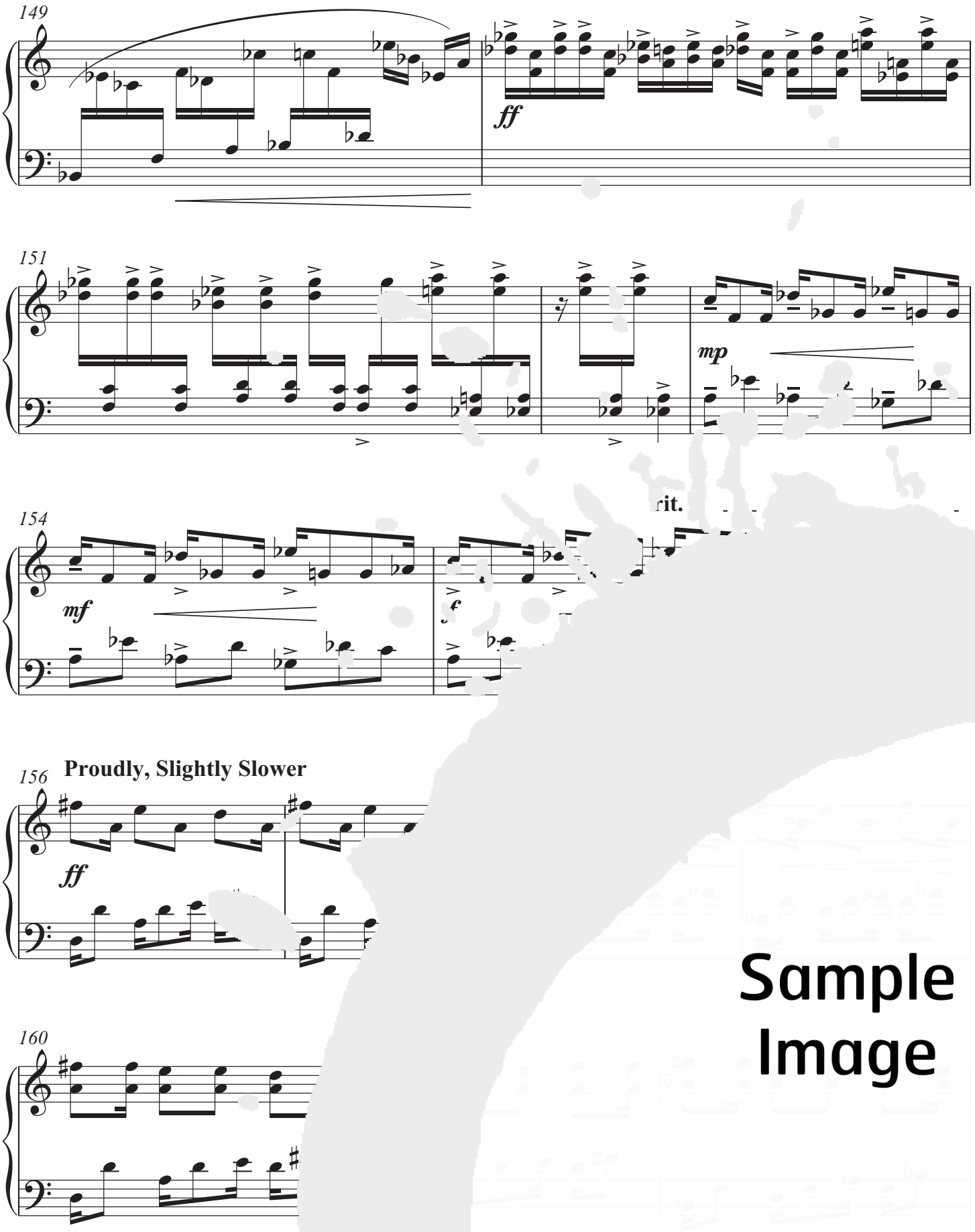

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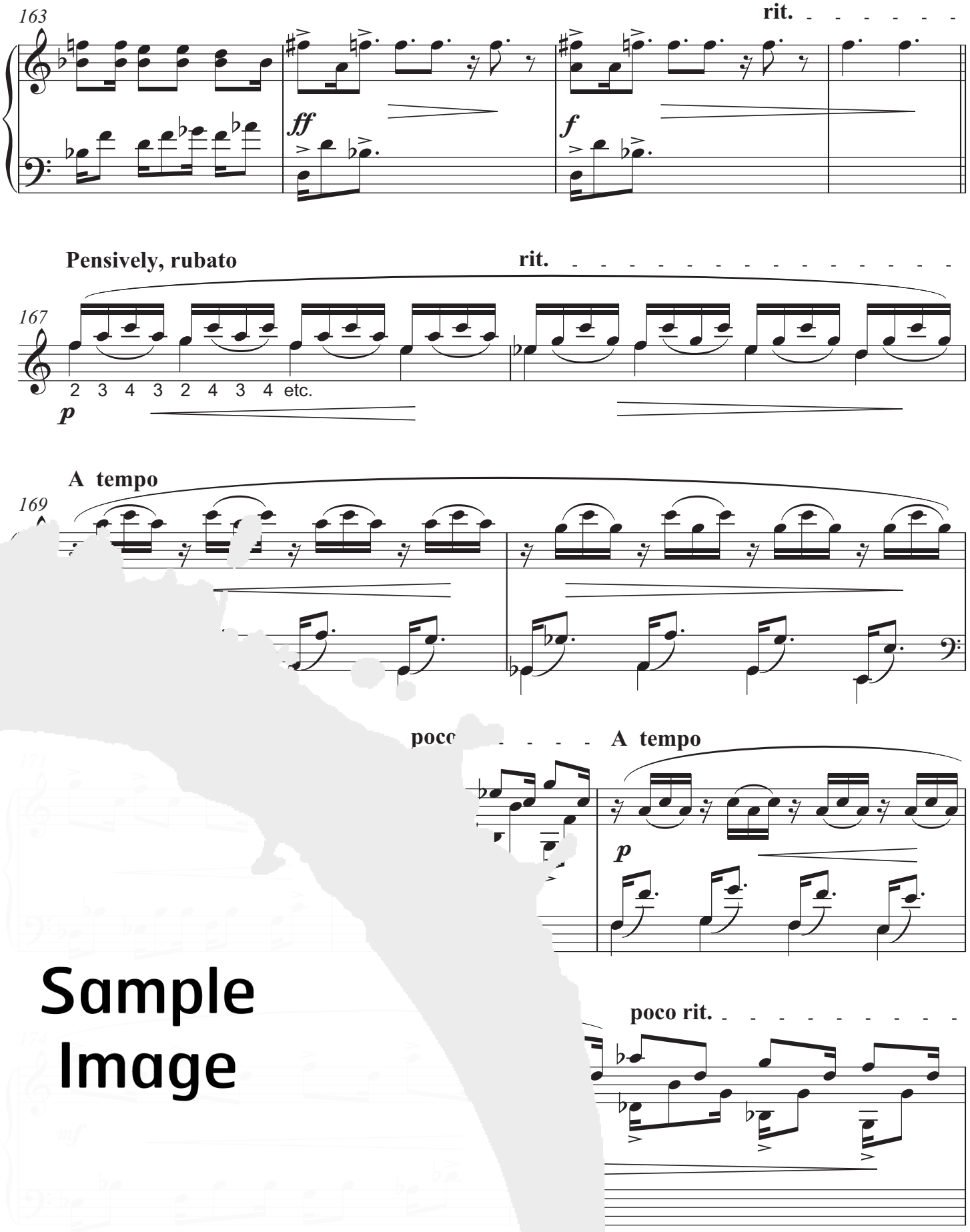

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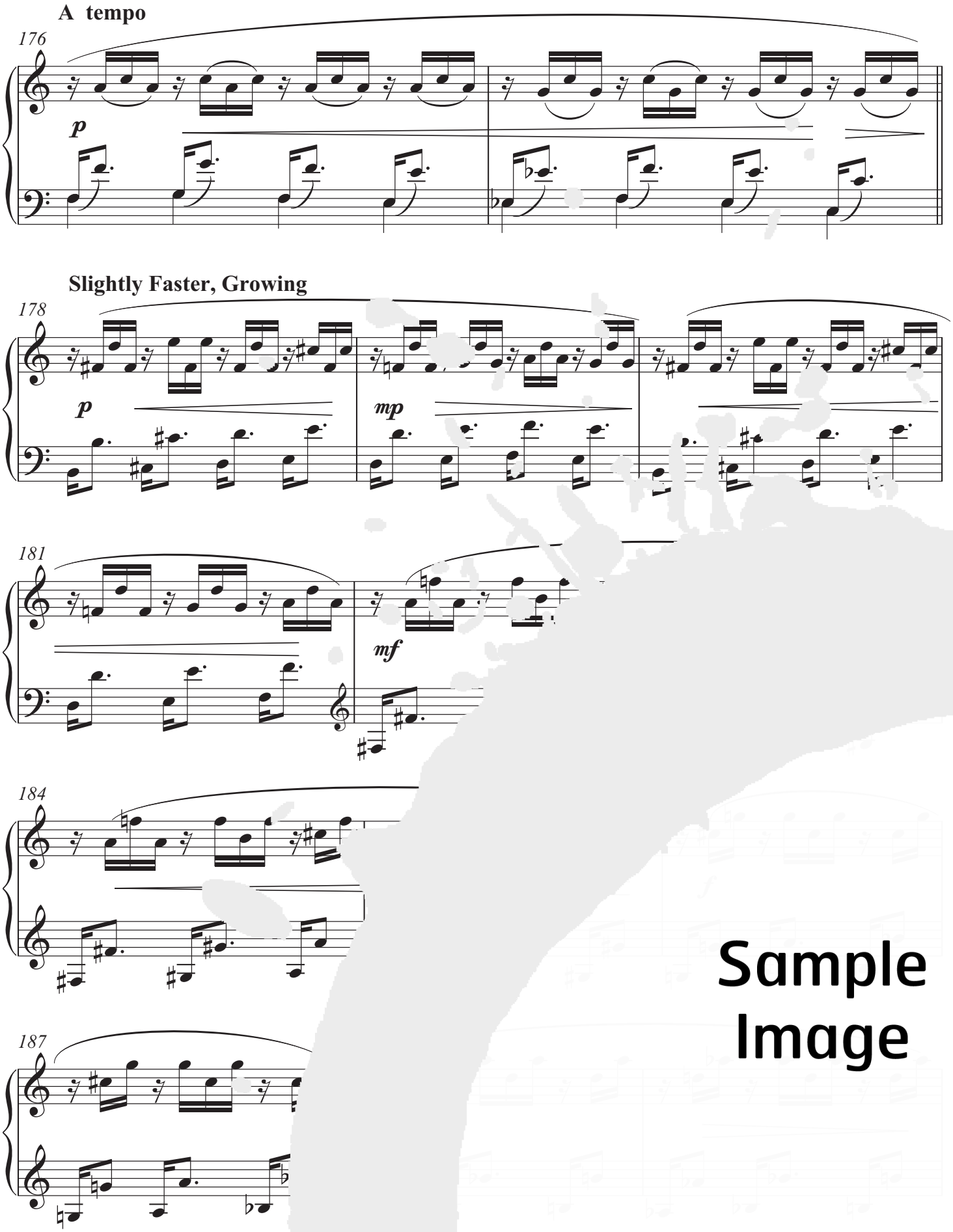

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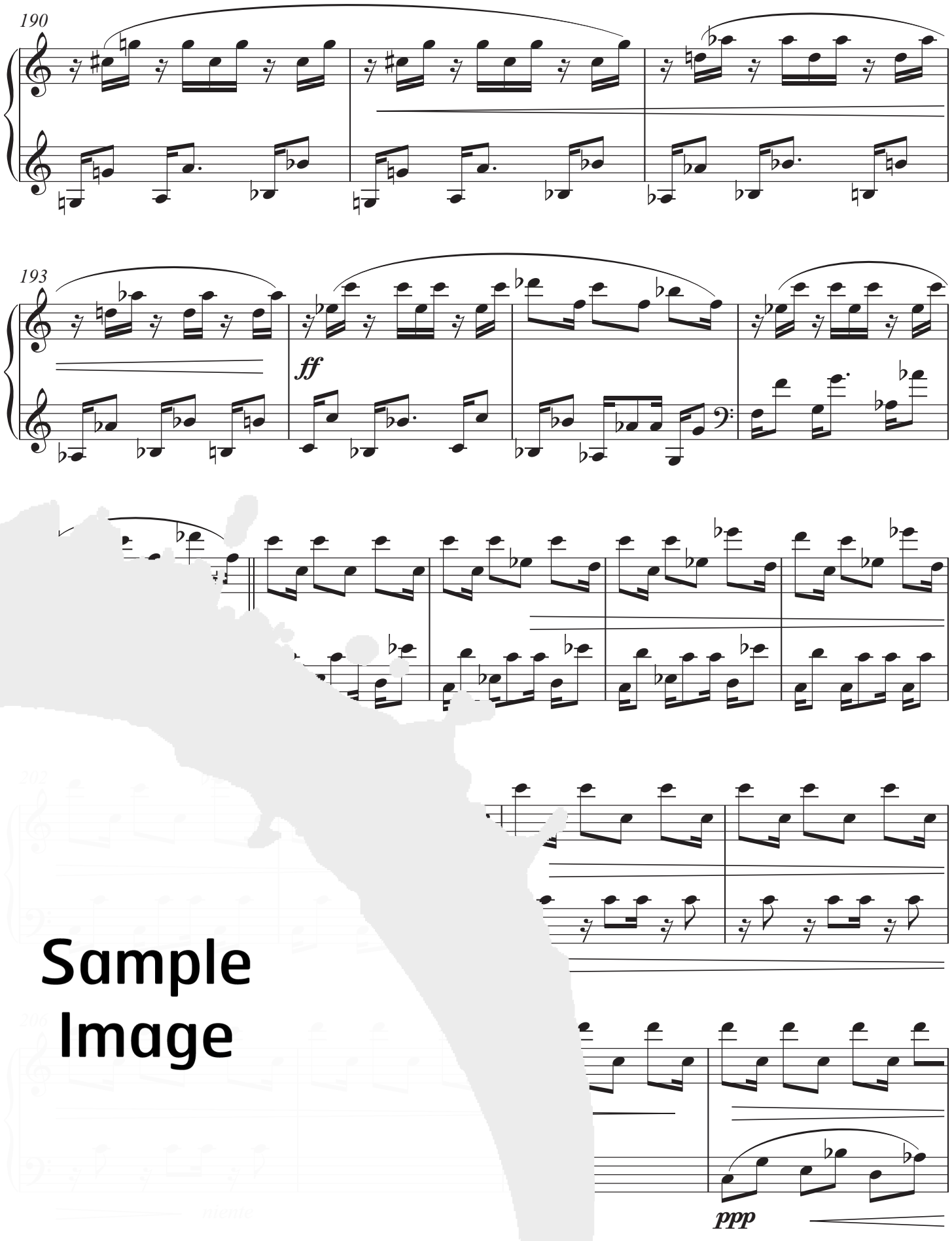

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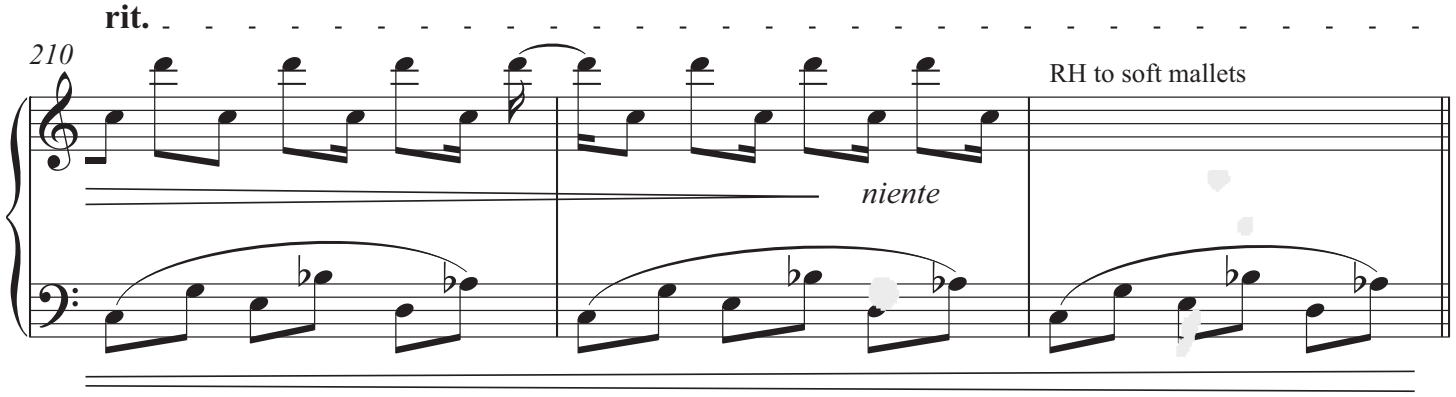

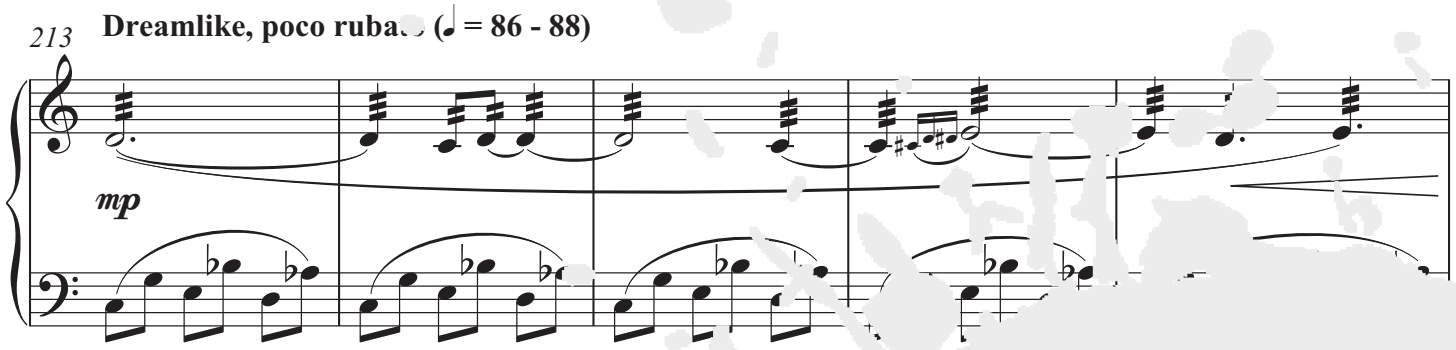

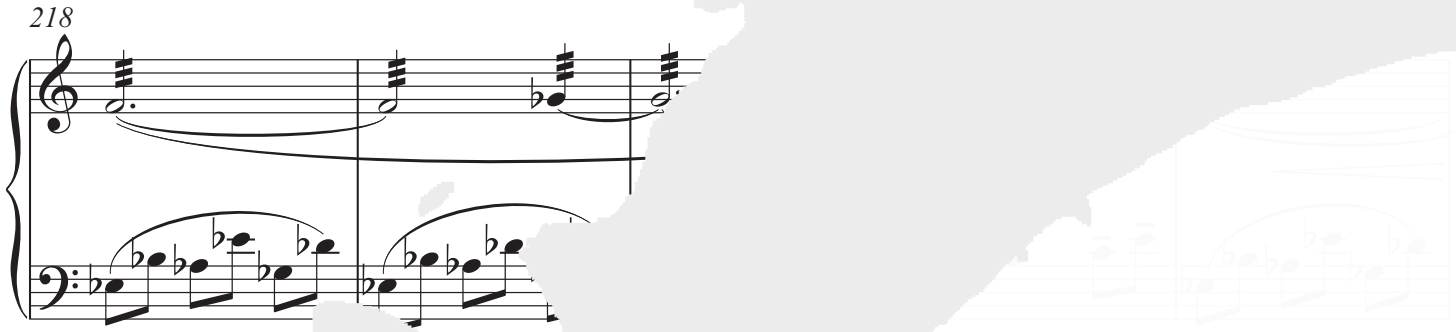

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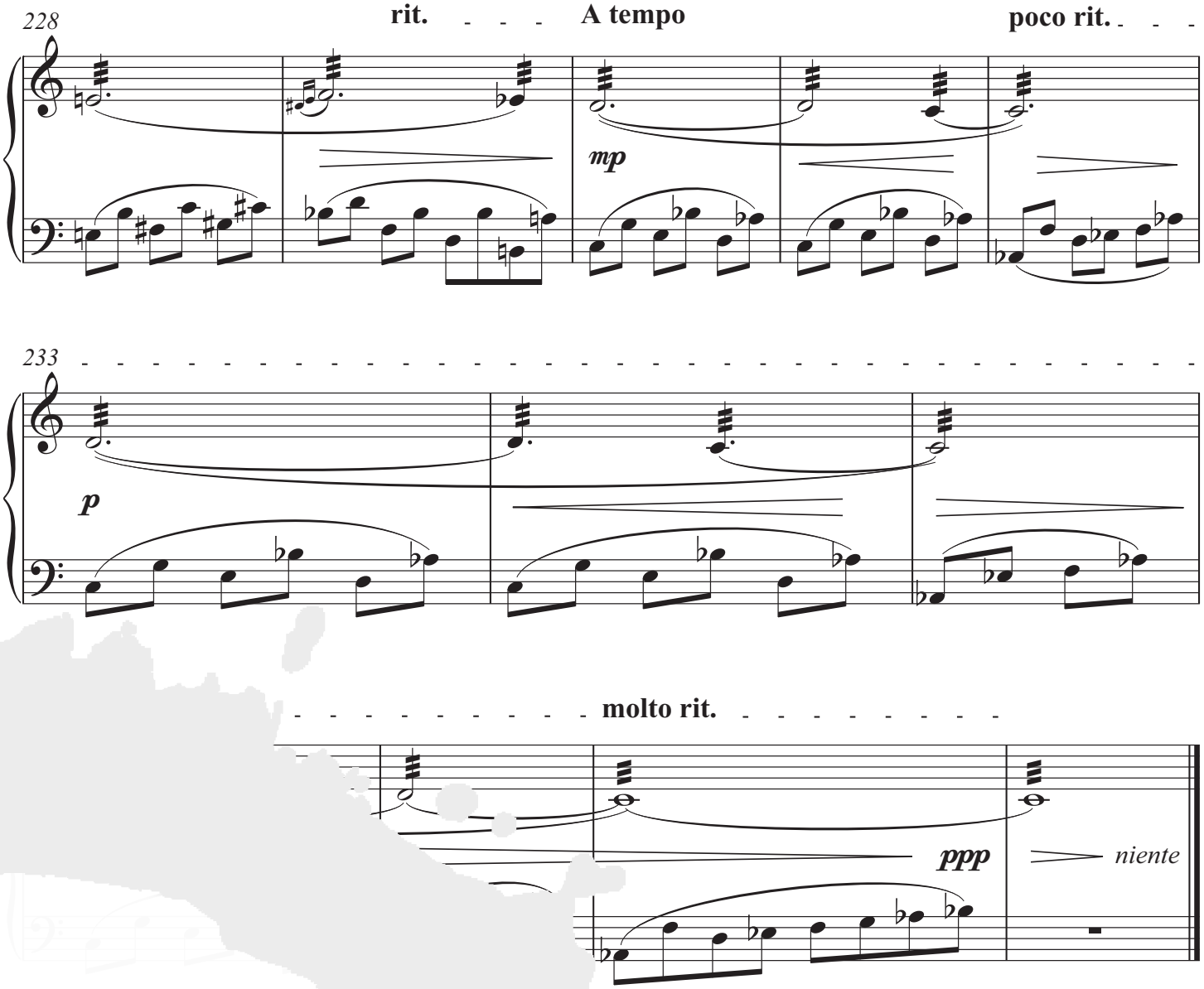

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