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PRELUDE AND TOCCATA
No. 1

for

Solo Organ

by

John Burge

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ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

Duration: approximately 11 Minutes

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About the music…

Prelude and Toccata No. 1 was commissioned in 2015 by the Kingston, Ontario Centre of the Royal College of Canadian Organists with funding generously provided by the Ontario Arts Council. The impetus for the commission was the desire to premiere a new organ work at the RCCO conference in Kingston scheduled for July 2016 with Patrick Wedd as the invited soloist. John Burge was approached with this project as he had already composed a significant number of works for organ including the rather monumental ***Cathedral Architecture***, a five-movement work scored for both organ and brass band or organ and full orchestra. Additionally, being a long-time Kingston resident also made Burge an obvious choice for this opportunity. As an added connection, Burge had sung in the choir at Vancouver's Christ Church Anglican Cathedral during Wedd's final year as the Music Director at this church thereby providing an additional dovetailing of the participants.

The two contrasting movements of ***Prelude and Toccata No. 1*** have been subtitled, "Oboe Aria" and "Foot Race" respectively in part to give the listener an immediate reference point. In the Prelude, the slightly faster middle section treats the motivic material of the opening oboe aria in a quirky fashion with a number of unexpected turns before sliding into a reprise of the opening oboe melody. As would be expected by the Toccata's subtitle, this movement has a very vigorous pedal part and at times really makes the feet dance. The bright harmonic vocabulary employed in this movement (often emphasizing many added seventh and ninth chords) is coupled with many rhythmic synchopations that continually build in volume and energy until arriving at the final flourish in the pedals.

About the composer…

Canadian composer John Burge (b. 1961) has been a professor of Composition and Theory at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario since 1987. In recognition of his work as a composer, he received one of the University's 2013 Awards for Excellence in Research and in 2014 was inducted as a Fellow in the Royal Society of Canada. A passionate advocate of Canadian music, he was a member of the executive council of the Canadian League of Composers for fourteen years, serving as President from 1998-2006. He currently sits on the Board of the SOCAN Foundation and has served as Chair of the Music at Port Milford Summer Music School and Festival.

A Juno-award-winning composer, John Burge has written a large body of vocal, chamber, and orchestral compositions including two symphonies and a number of concertos as well a chamber opera entitled, ***The Auction***. During his undergraduate studies in composition and theory at the University of Toronto, Burge switched from piano lessons to a year of organ studies and learned just enough to feel a certain element of confidence in composing for the instrument (although truth be told, he remains in awe of the technical proficiency displayed by the organists that he has had the pleasure to work with over the years). His other solo organ compositions include a number of choral preludes and two multi-movement works entitled ***St. Peter's Sonata*** and ***Departure Point***. He has also composed works for organ and other instrument(s) including solo alto saxophone, solo violin, solo cello and woodwind quintet. Information on these works can be found at: www.johnburge.ca

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Commissioned by The Royal College of Canadian Organists Kingston, Ontario, Canada

Prelude and Toccata No.1

I. Prelude: Oboe Aria

I - Oboe or Crumhorn
II - Fl. 8, Str. 8
Ped. - Fl. 16, II/Ped.

Adagietto espressivo ♩ = 56

John Burge

Organ

I

II

mp

4

8

rall.

a tempo

11

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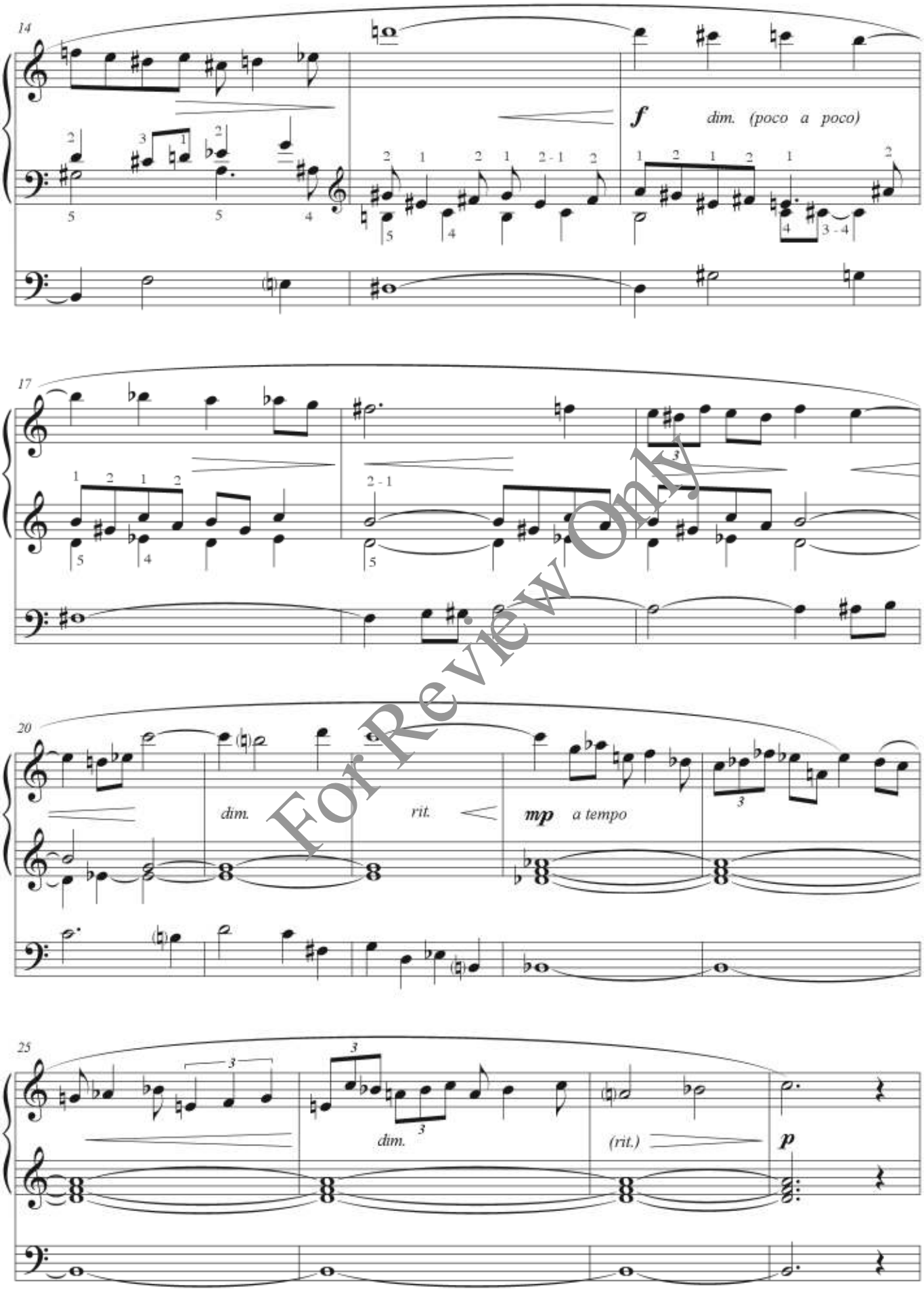

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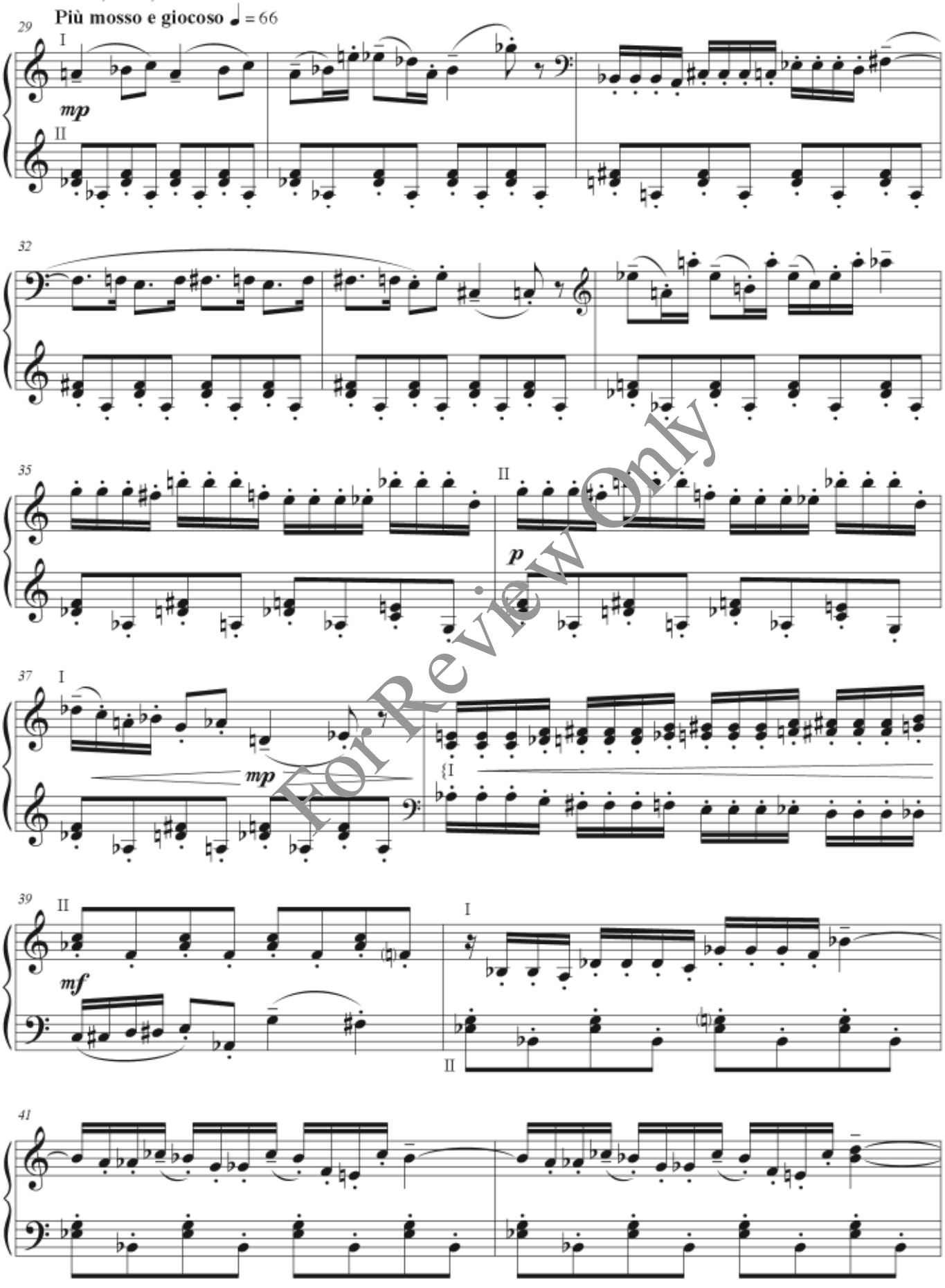
I - Pr. 8, II/I
II - Fl. 8 + 4, Str. 8
Ped. - Fl. 16, I/Ped., II/Ped.

29 **Più mosso e giocoso** ♩ = 66



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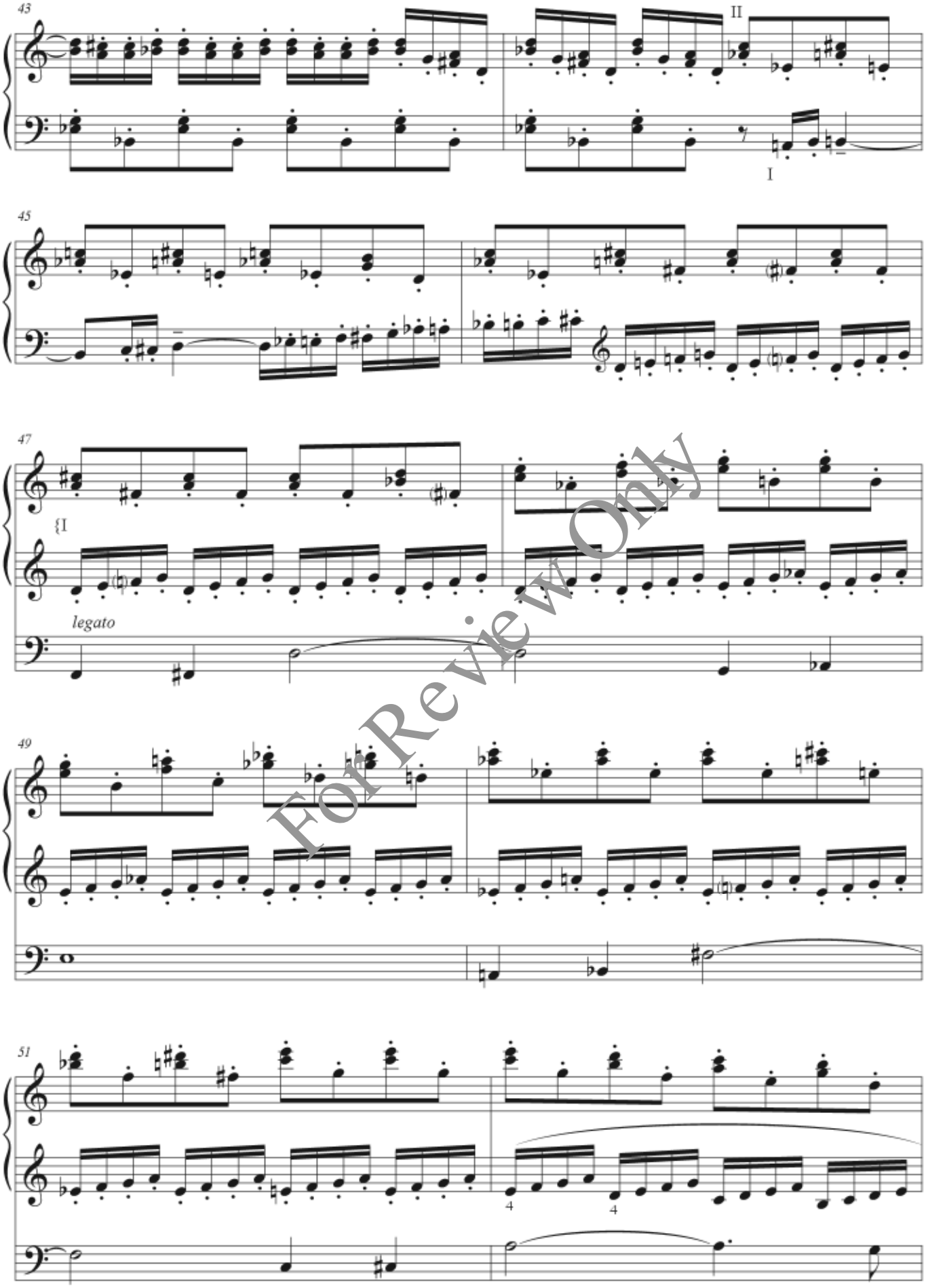

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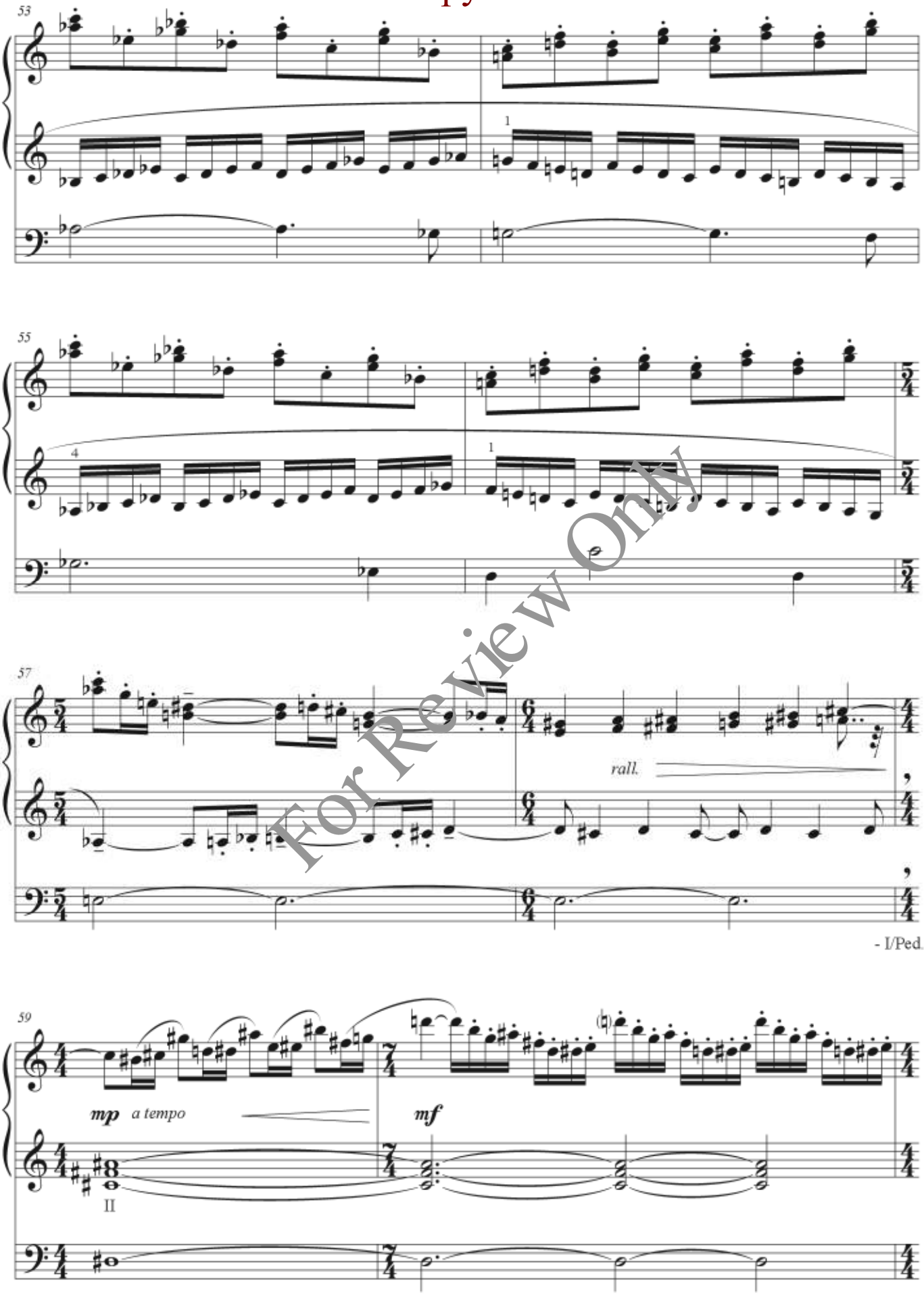

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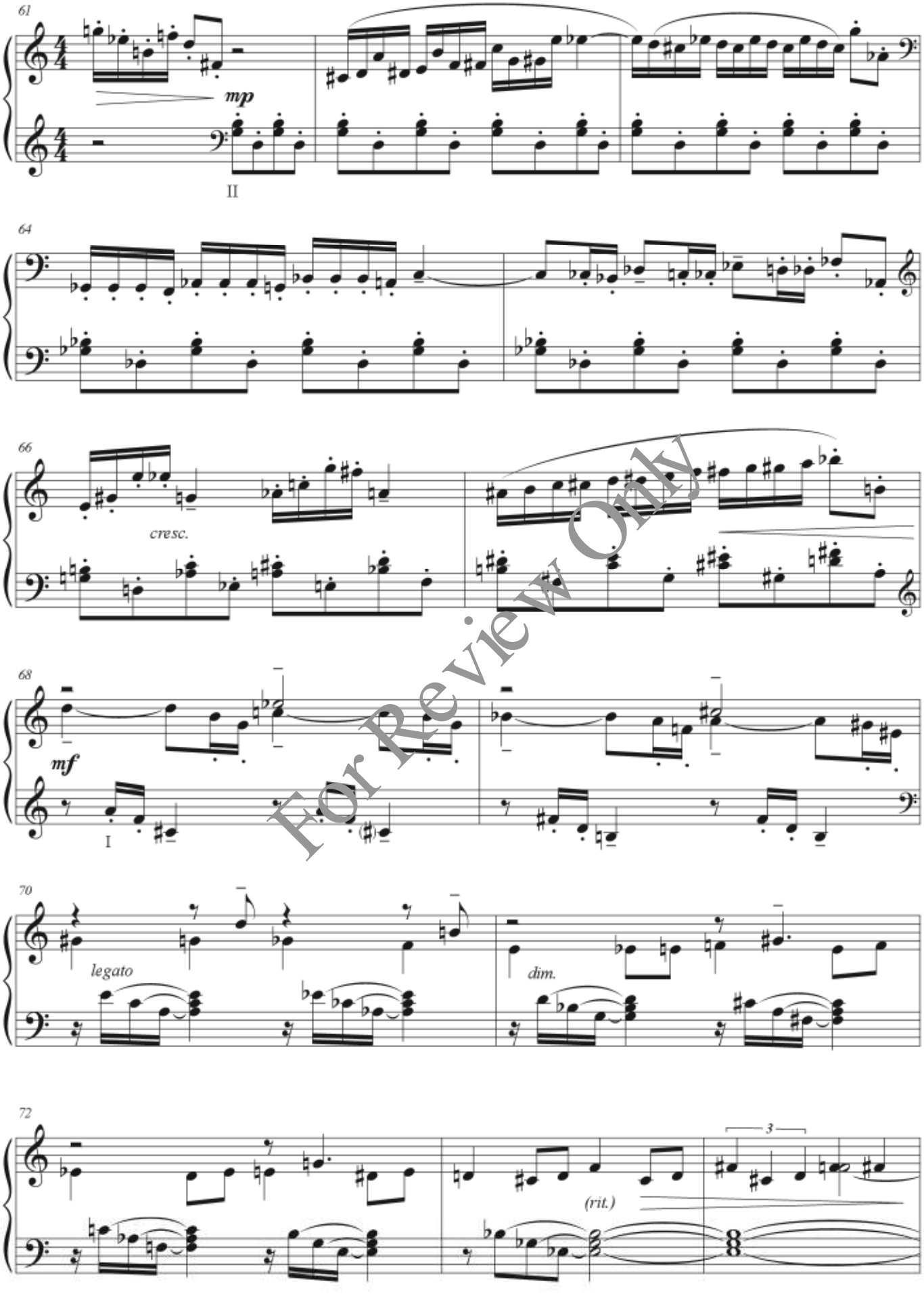

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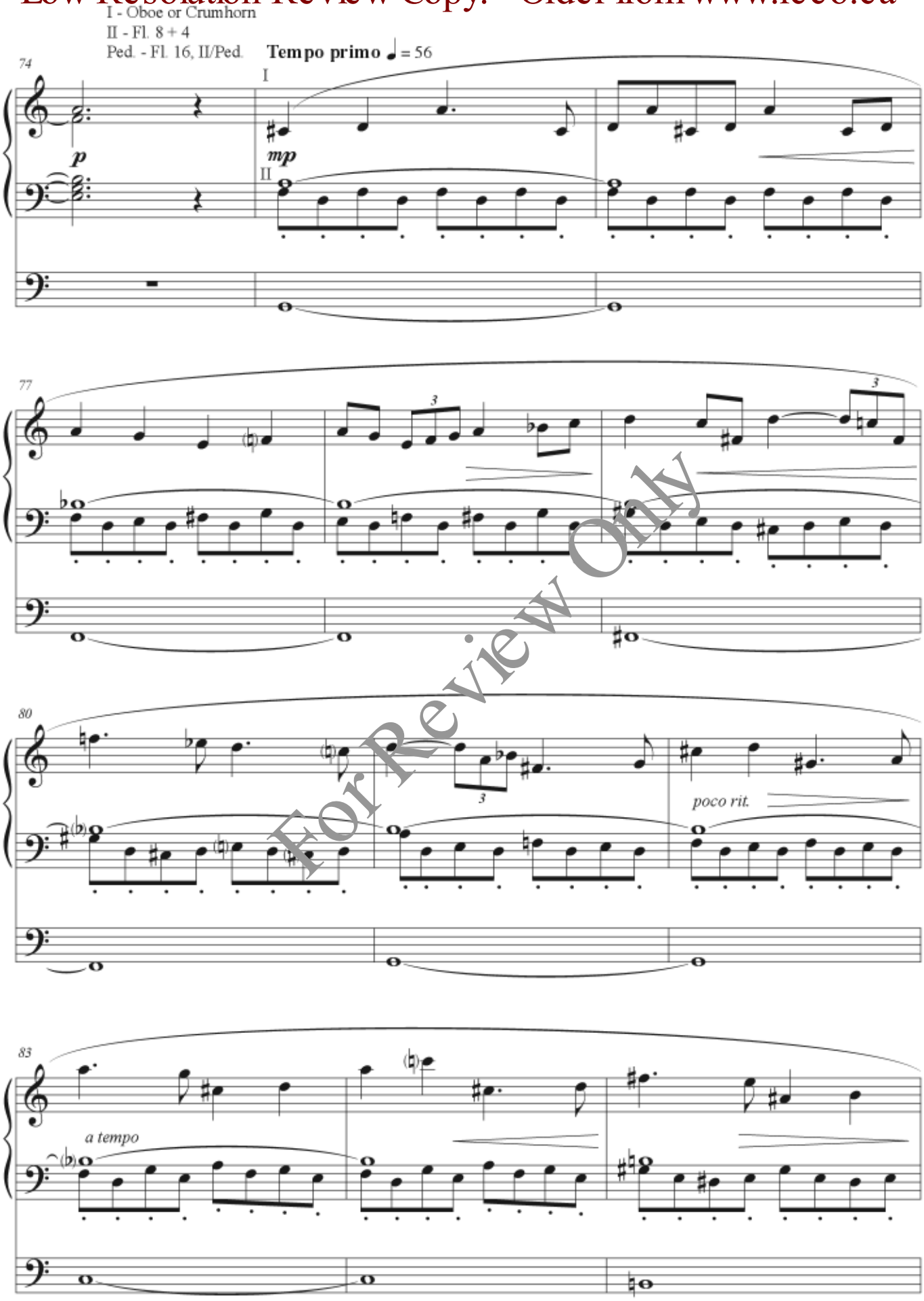

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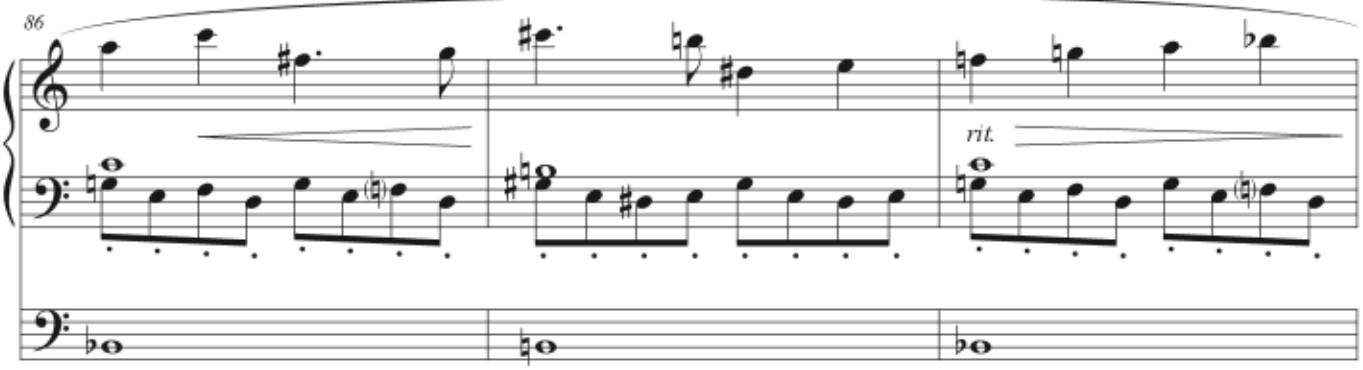

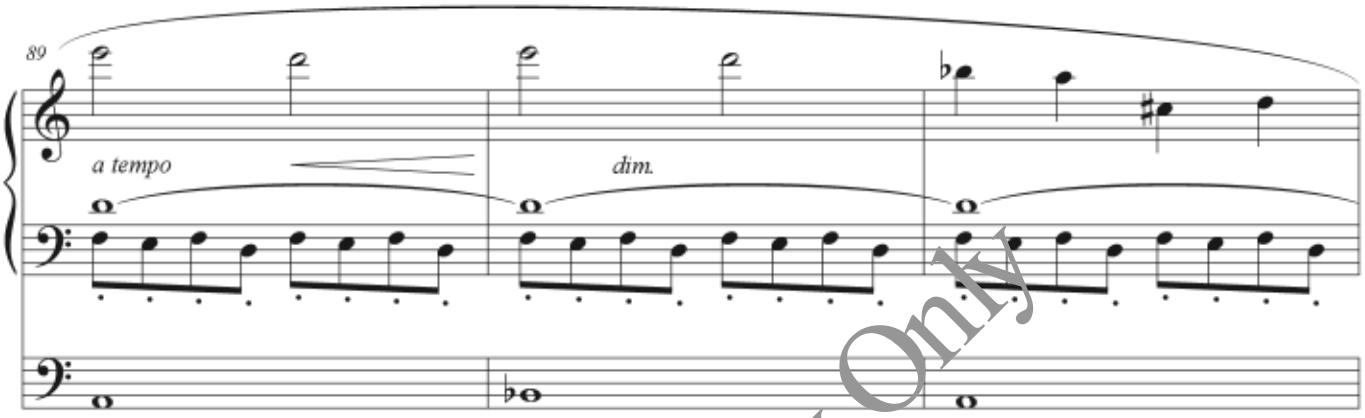

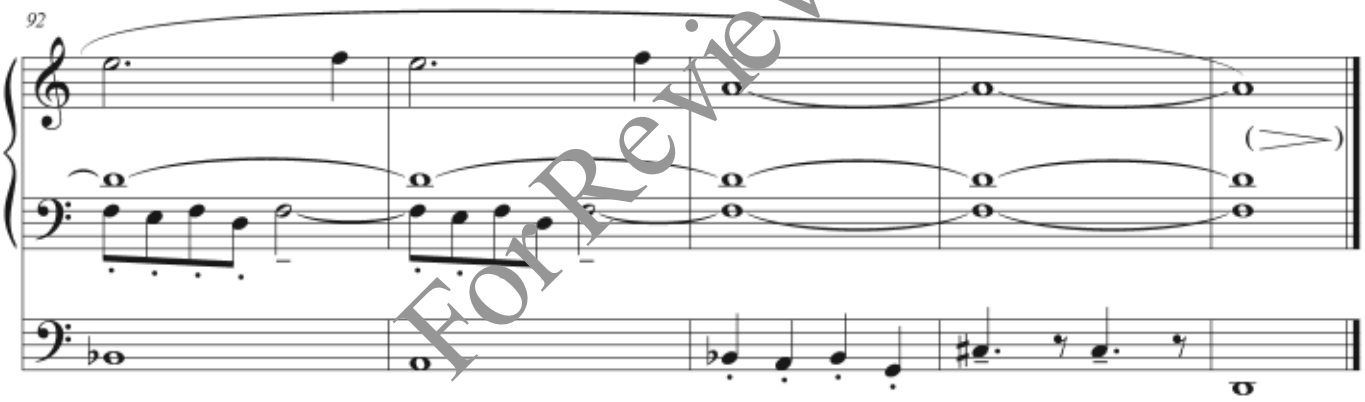

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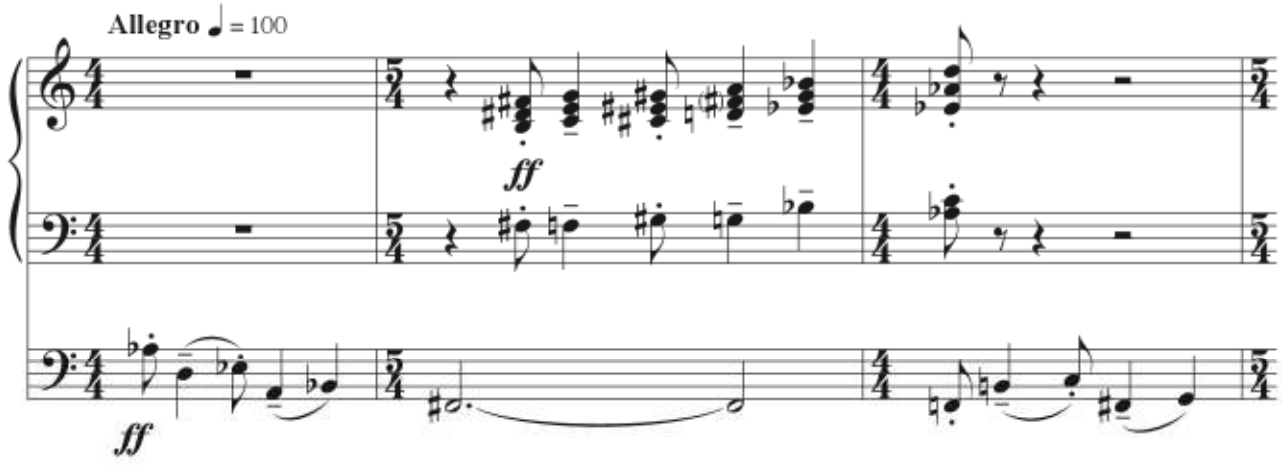
II. Toccata: Foot Race



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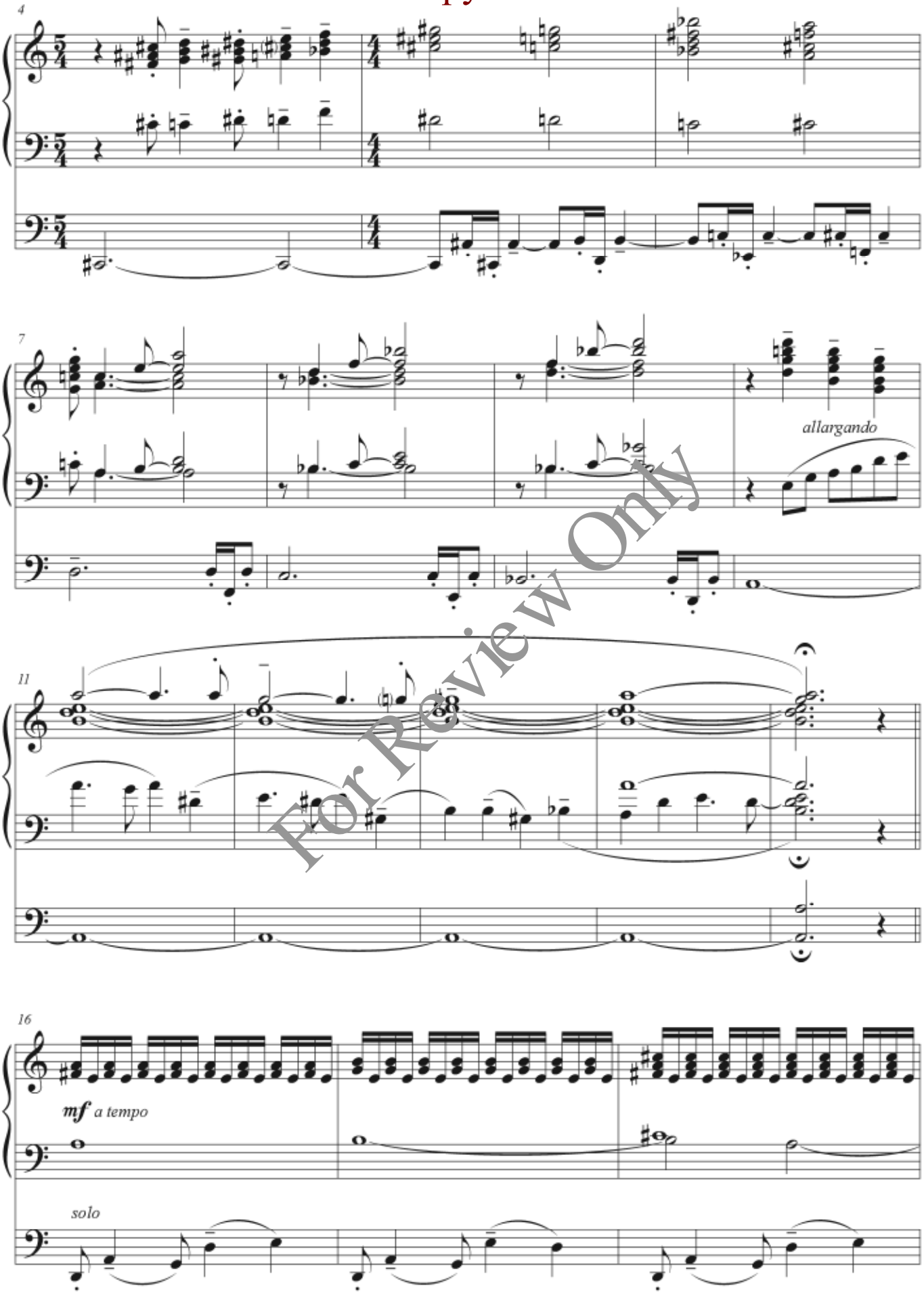

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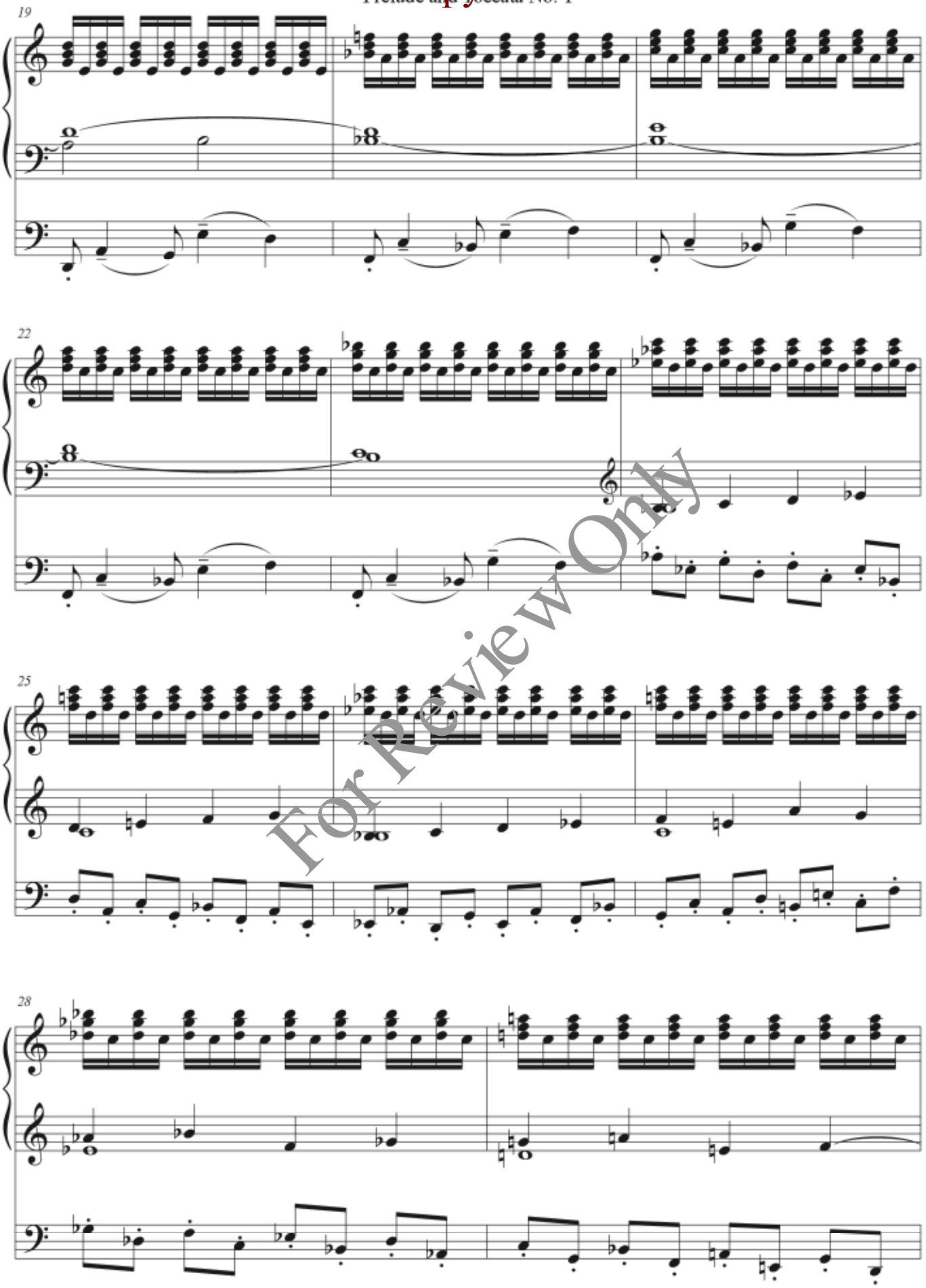

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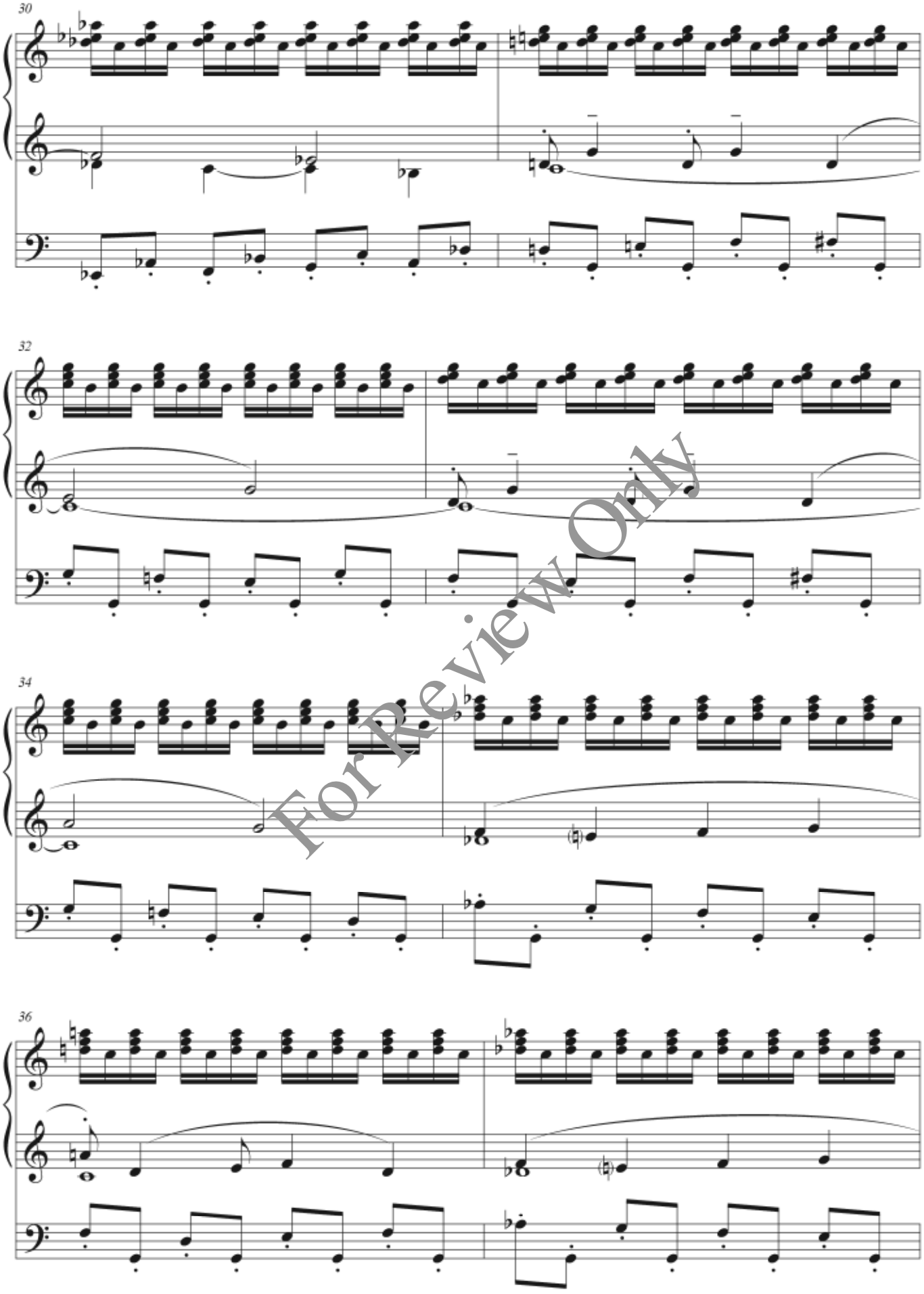

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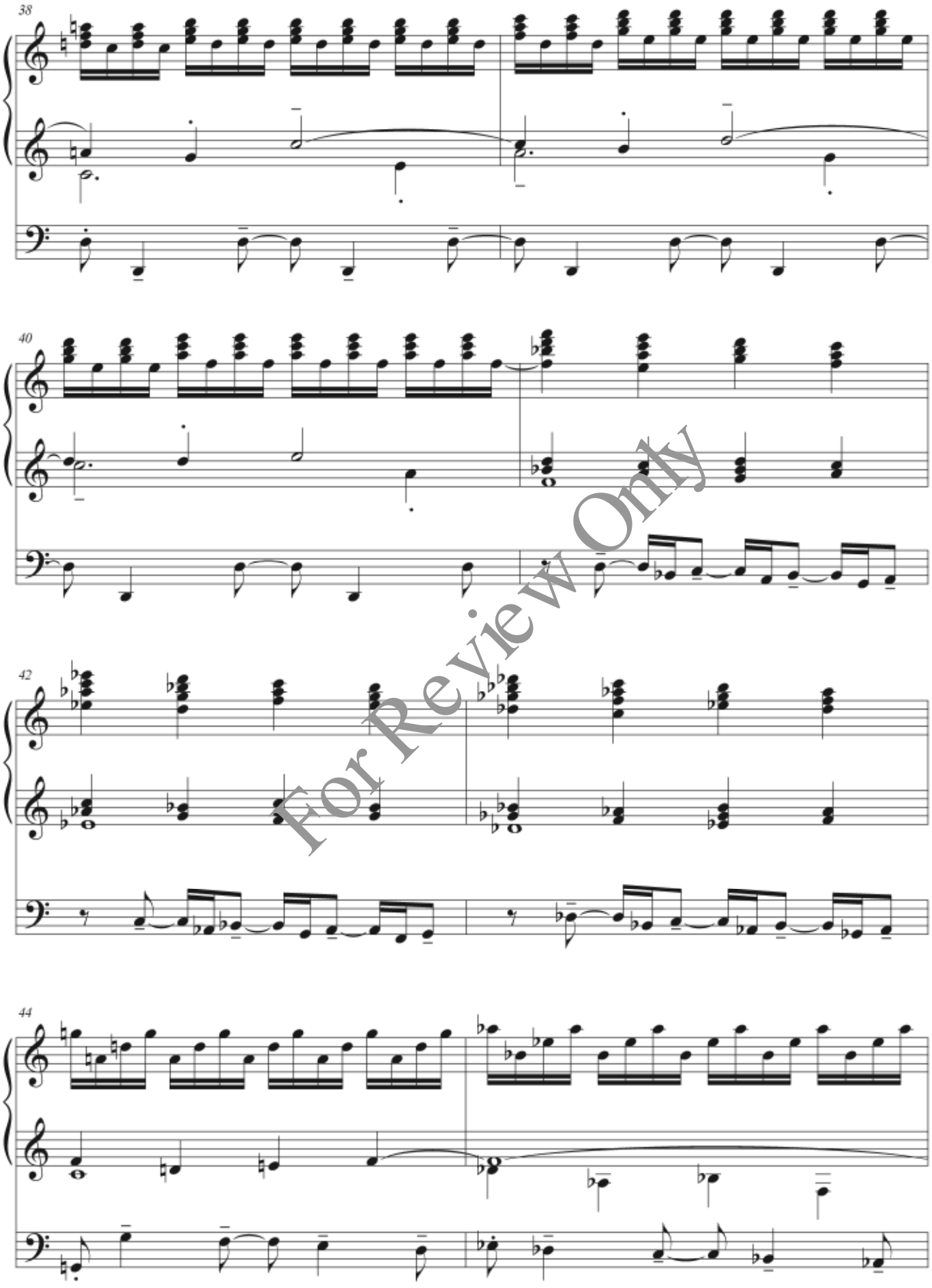

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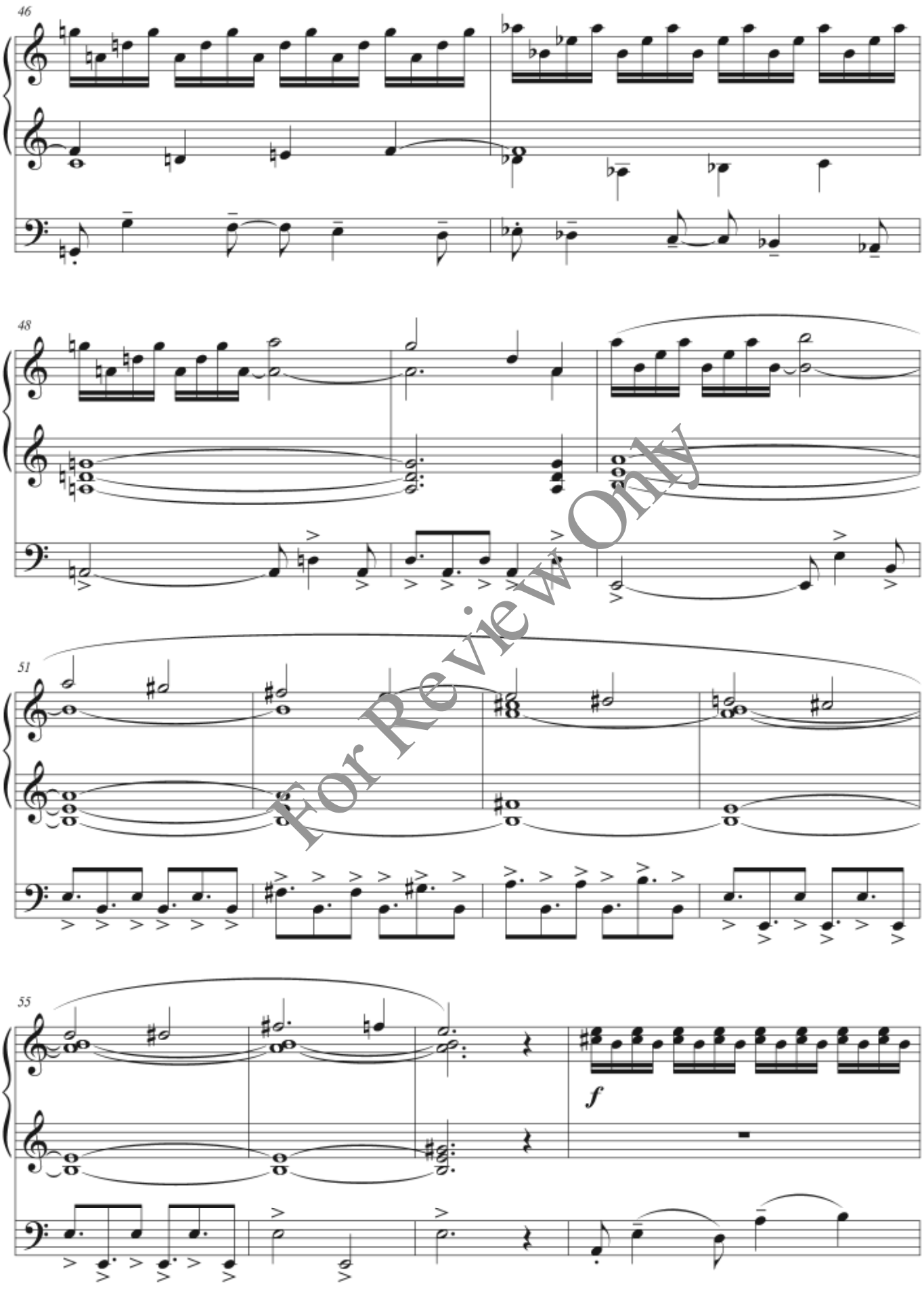

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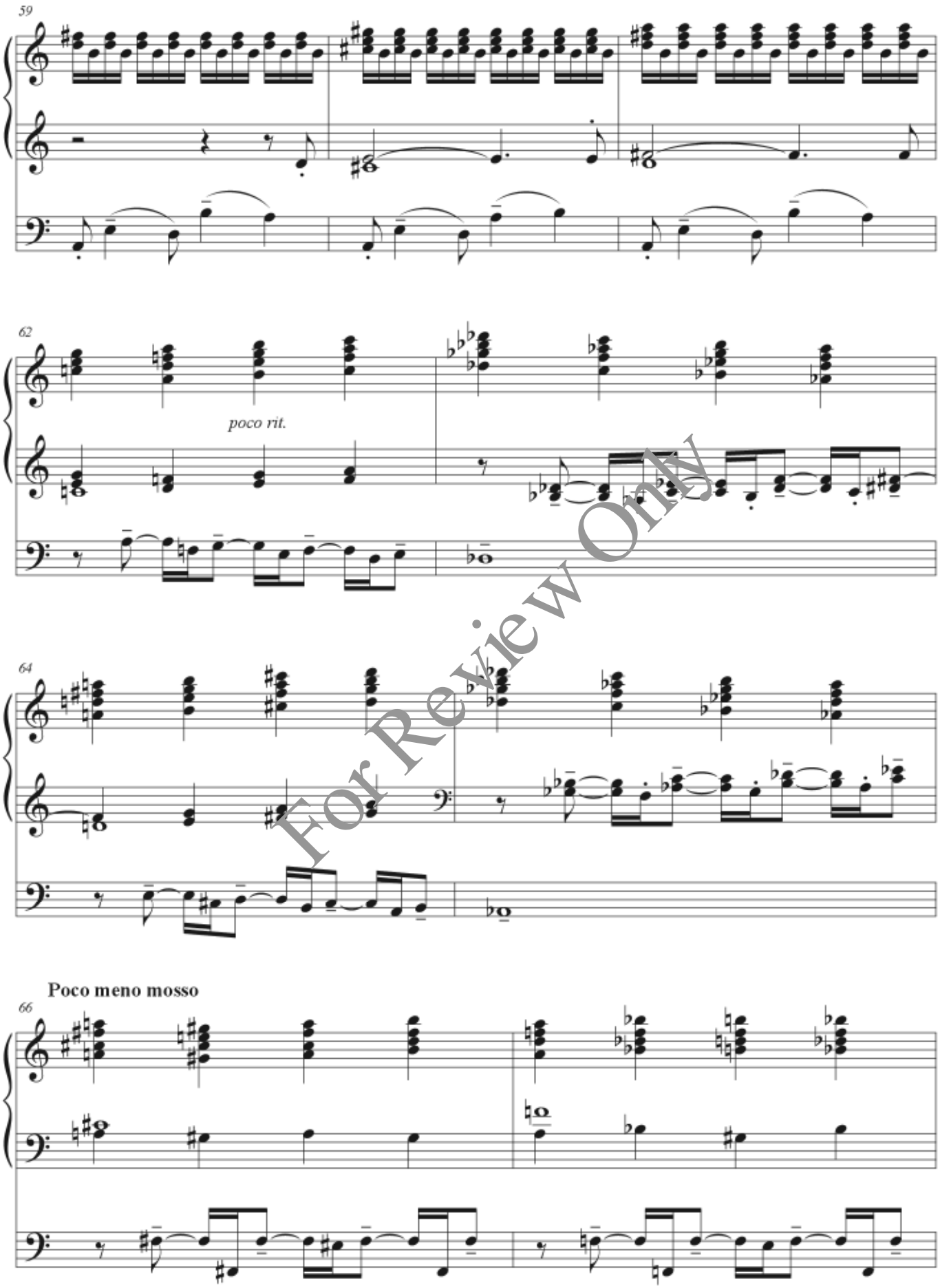

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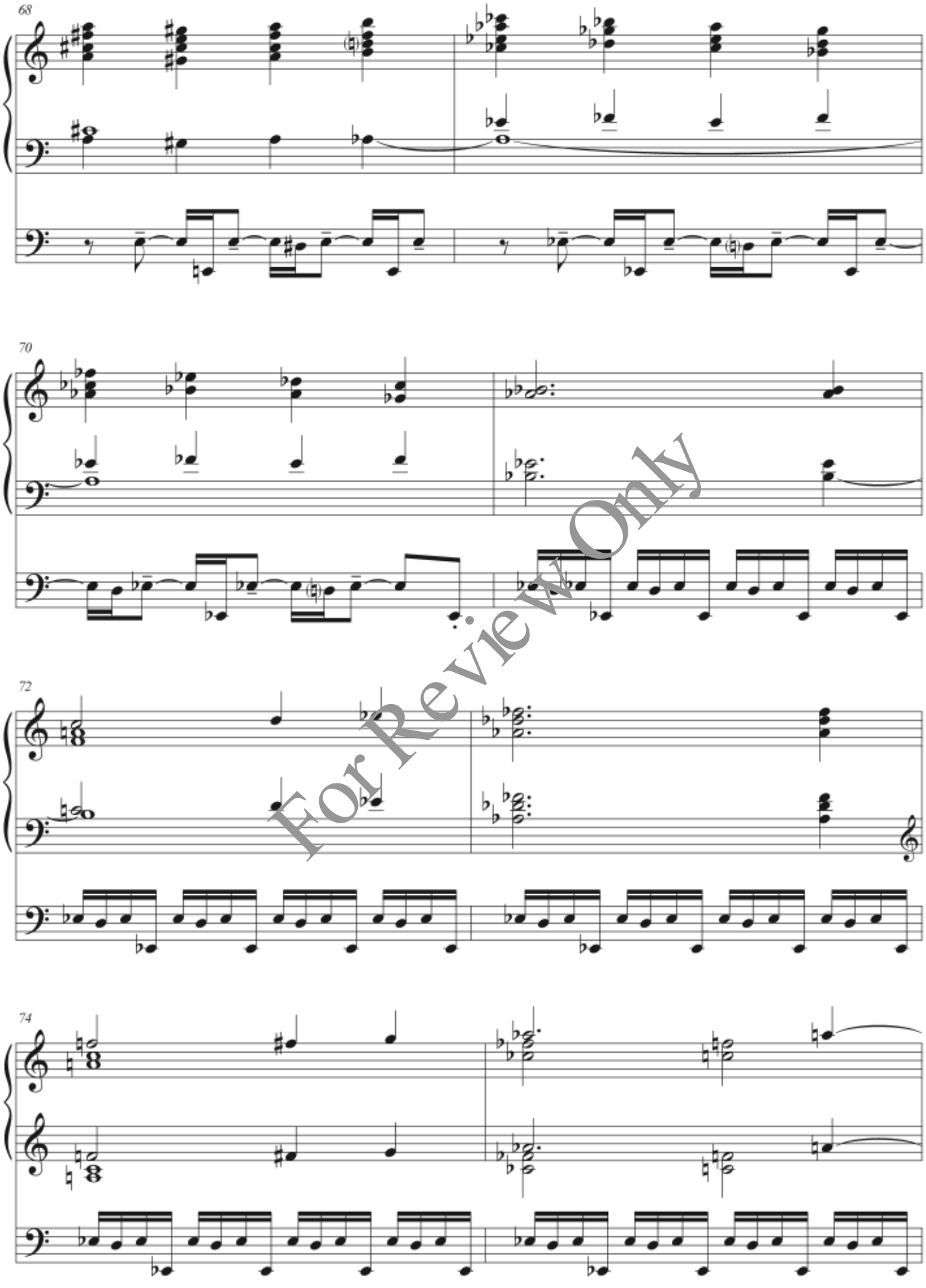

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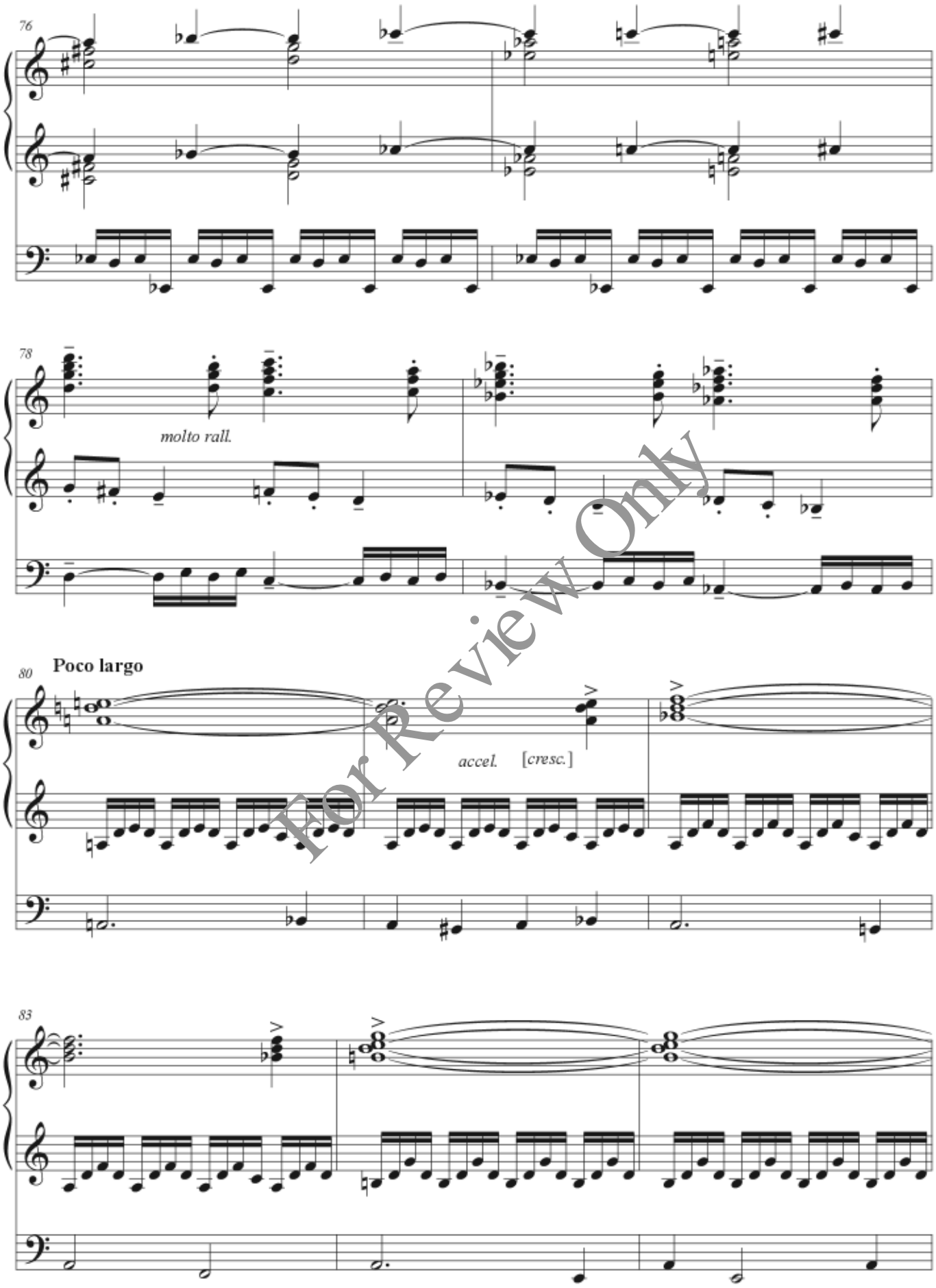

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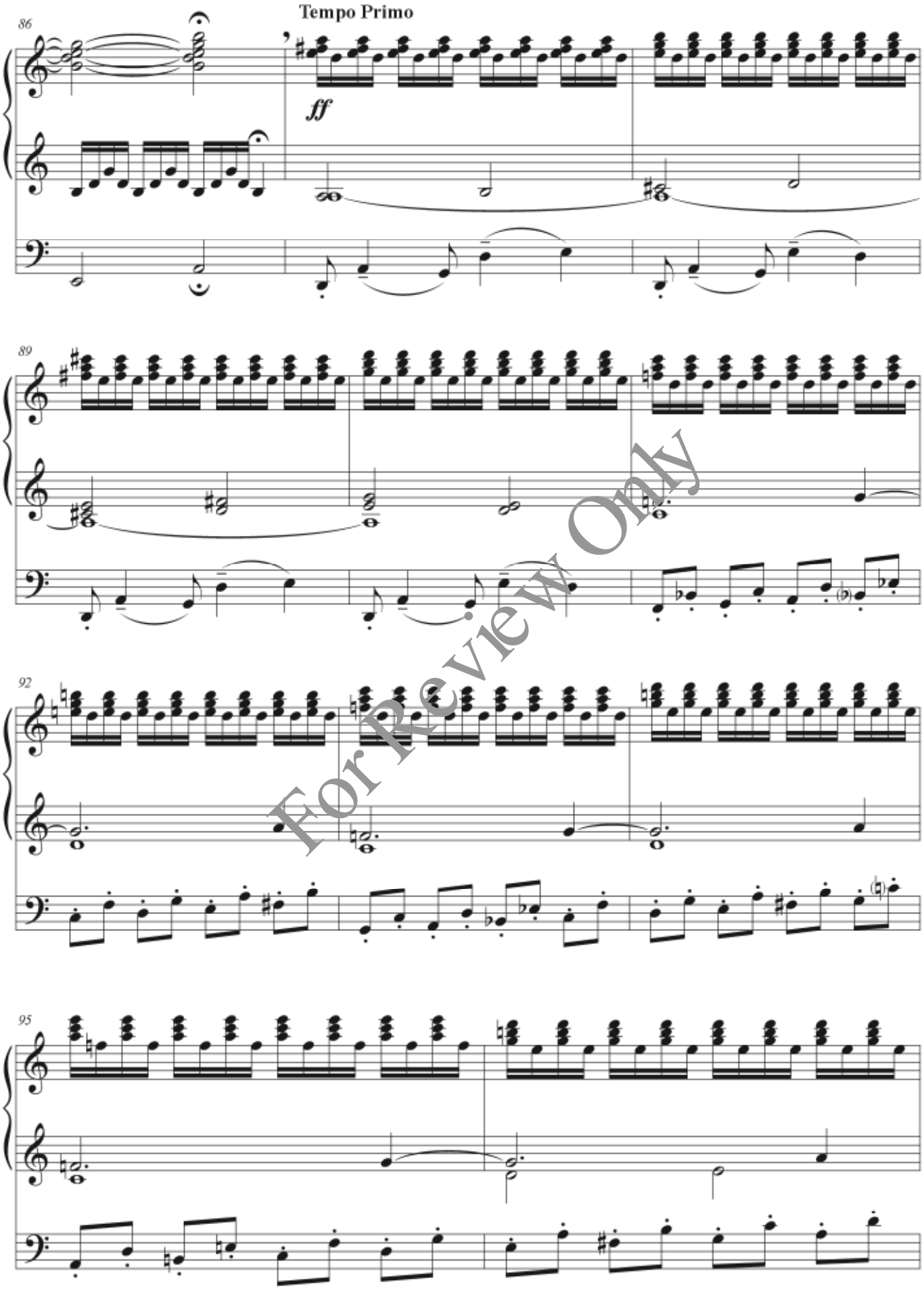

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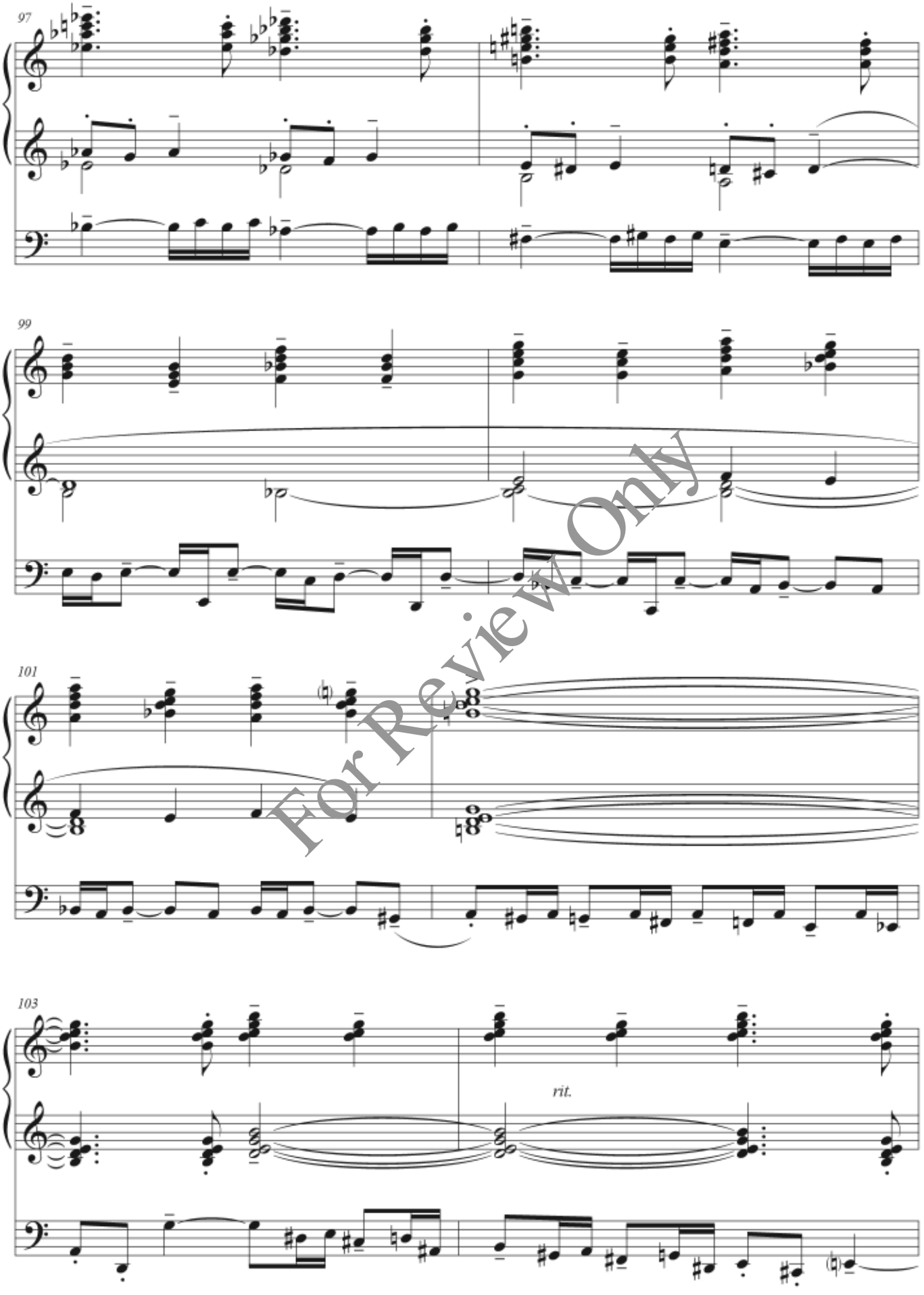

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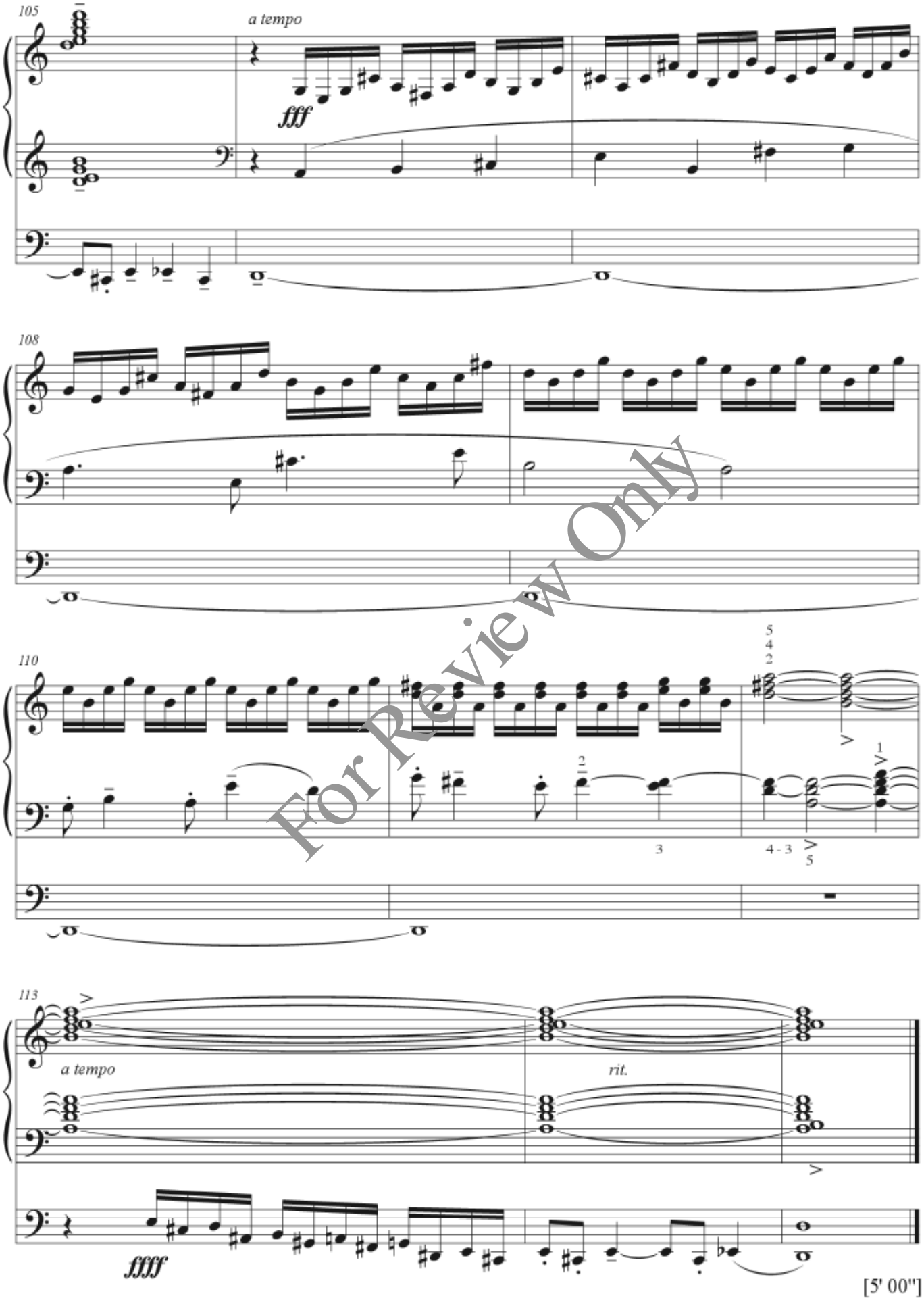

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