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Jouni Kaipainen

Placido

for accordion solo

2003 / 2005

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Jouni Kaipainen

PLACIDO, op. 68

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Jouni Kaipainen: Placido, op 68 (2003)

I composed Vento, Op. 58 for Mika Väyrynen in 1998, and he has since performed it a number of times all over the world, so that has in fact become my most-played work. A partnership with a musician such as this is, of course, manna for a composer so when a few years later, Väyrynen asked me for a new piece, it was not difficult to give my immediate consent. "Vento" is (besides being a prefix to the adjective "vieras" (strange) in Finnish) Italian and means "wind"; as its name suggests, the piece is a flurry that whizzes wildly around in countless eddies. I thought the new work could act as a counterbalance to this, and that Väyrynen could possibly even perform them one after the other at concerts. Whether he really does remains to be seen, since both pieces place tremendous demands on the player. Together they would doubtlessly constitute a thicket of almost insuperable difficulties.

For as it turned out, although this new work acquired the name Placido in contrast to the wind, it is anything but simple and modest to play. True, the tempo is much calmer than in the sister work, but the music to be played "placidly" is all the more challenging. The sonority is dominated by vast stretches requiring hands capable of doing manual splits, chords in which the top and bottom notes are well over two octaves apart, yet also plyphony of completely independent strands of melody in which the various elements may at times seem to totally part company. Making these clearly distinct is, I am sure, tricky, but once the player has put the trouble of practising them behind him, the result should be a very rich, wonderful-sounding quasi-tonal texture.

Placido was, I have to admit, quite a difficult task for the composer, too. I wrote it twice, first in 2003 and then again two years later. Mika Väyrynen has spared himself no pains in further editing the latter version, to such an extent that he has strongly left his mark on the final outcome: the accordion differs so much from all other instruments that not many composers are automatically as familiar with its techniques and ergonomics as they are with those of, say, the piano or the violin. Placido should therefore really be dated 2003/05/09: in any case it bears the opus number 68 of 2003. Naturally it is dedicated to Mika Väyrynen.

Jouni Kaipainen

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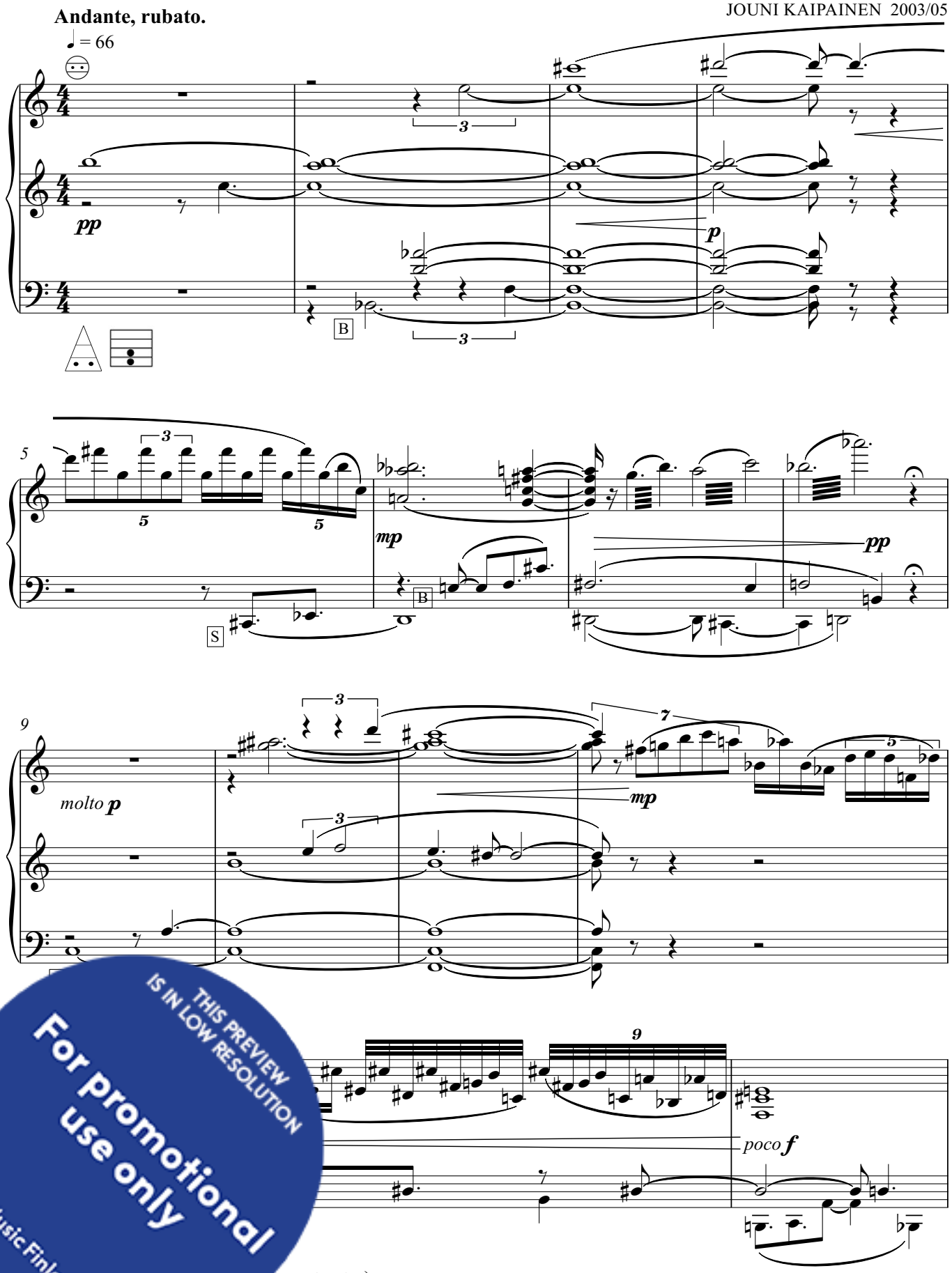
CD "Misterium", The Finnish Accordion Institute, FAICD 23
June 2009 at the Loviisa Sibelius Festival

Commissioned by and dedicated to Mika Väyrynen

PLACIDO, op.68

for accordion solo

JOUNI KAIPAINEN 2003/05



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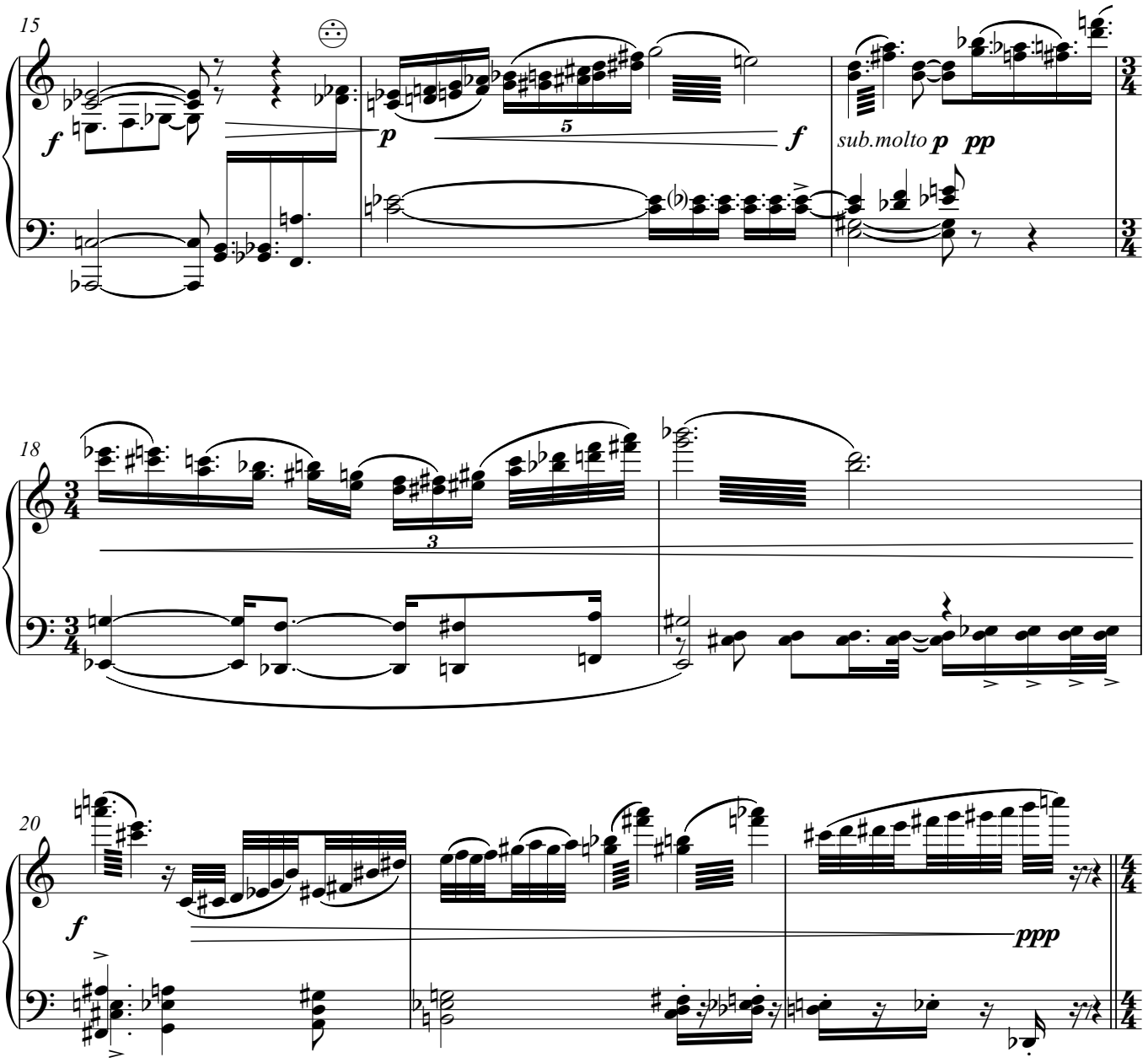
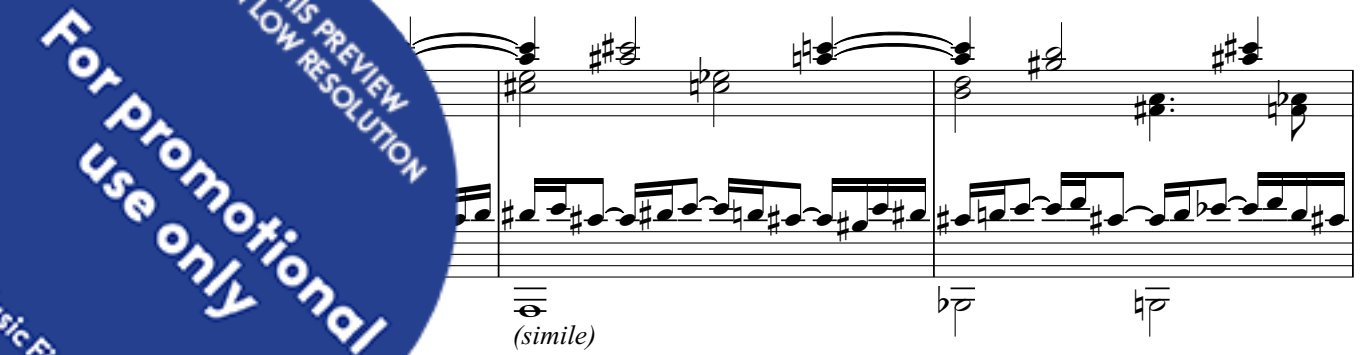
lowest notes)
with chords



Lento tranquillo,misterioso.



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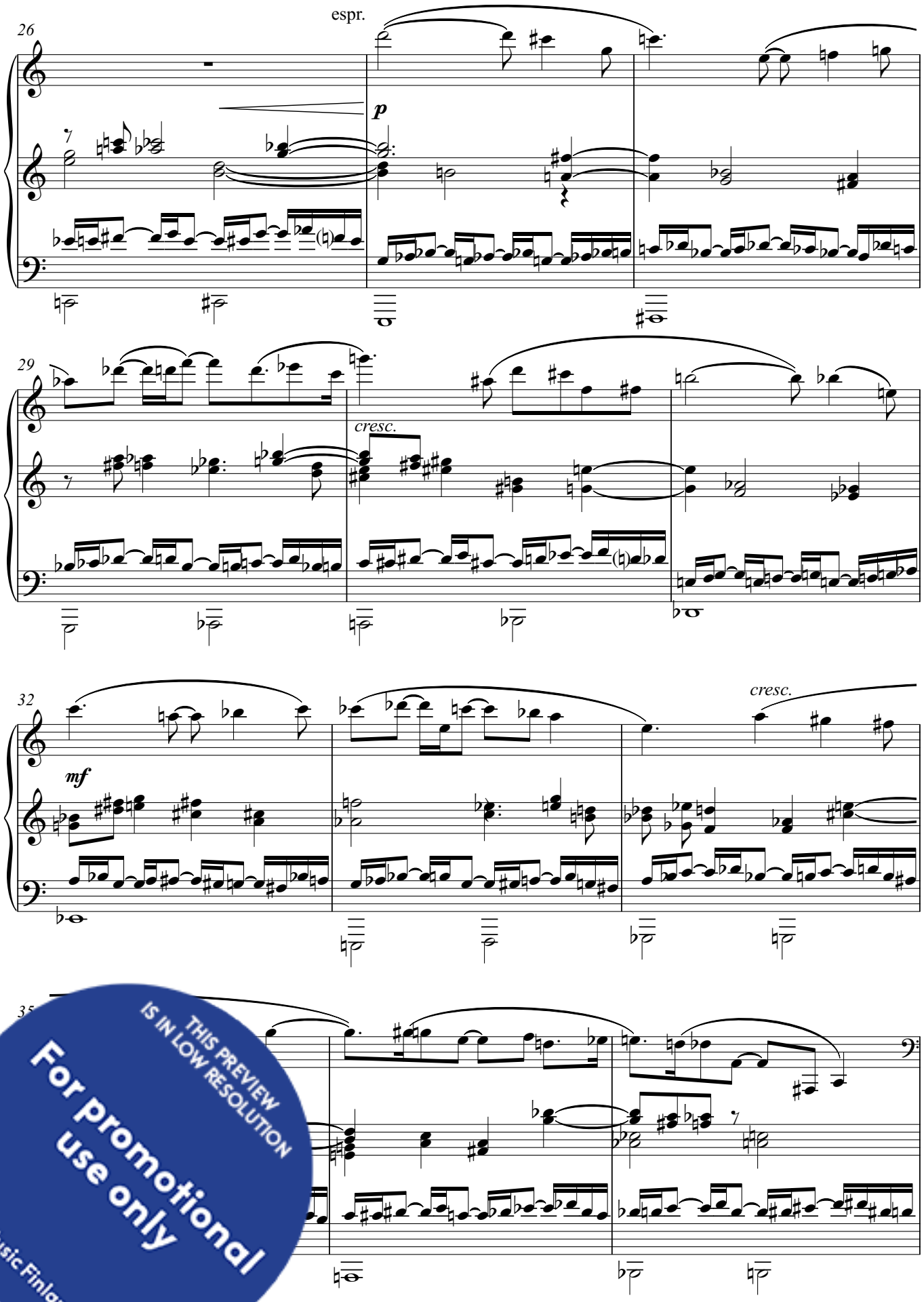

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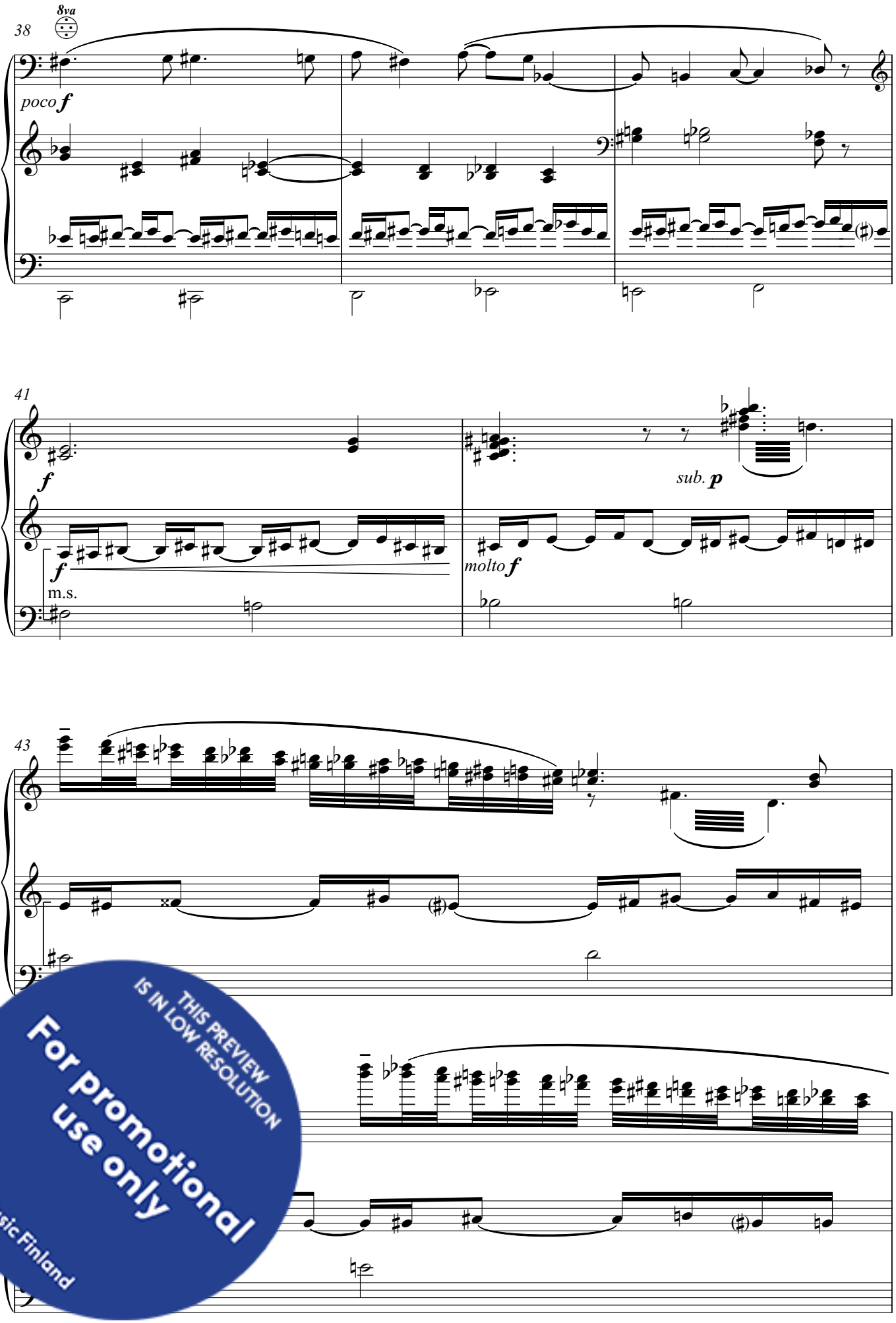

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45

8va

46

cresc.

loco

47

Poco accel.

molto *f*

(B)

B

S

simile

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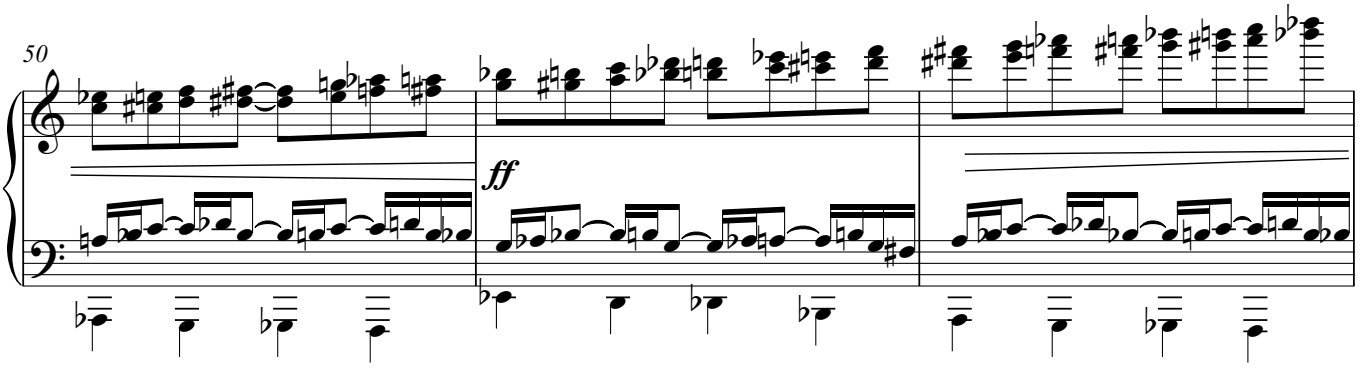

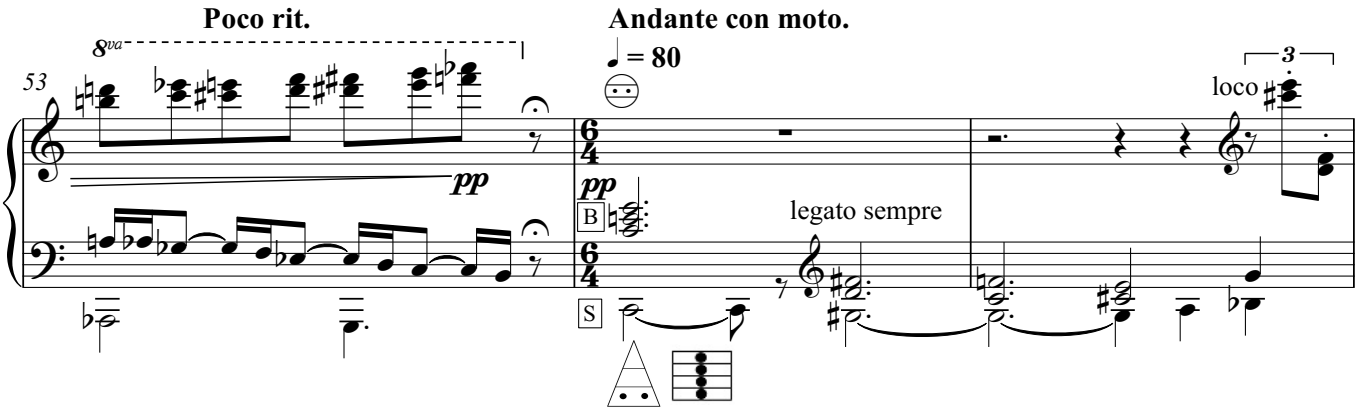

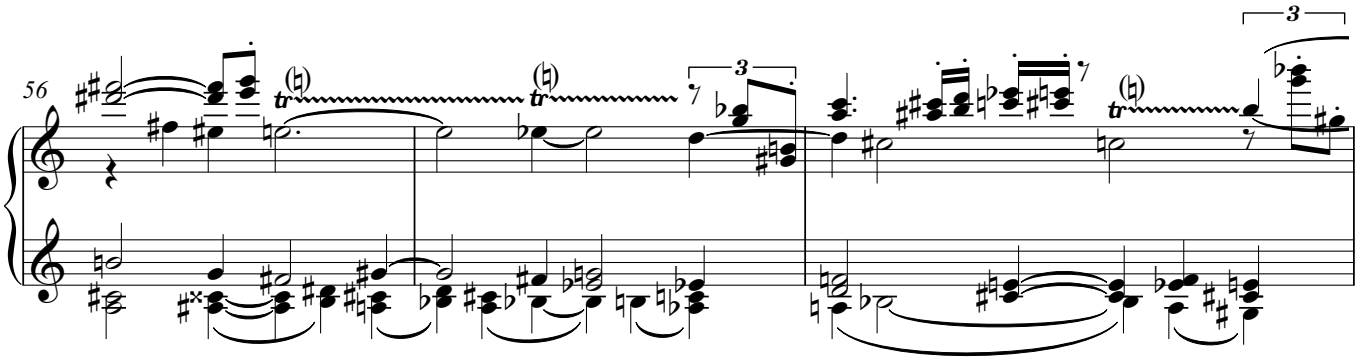

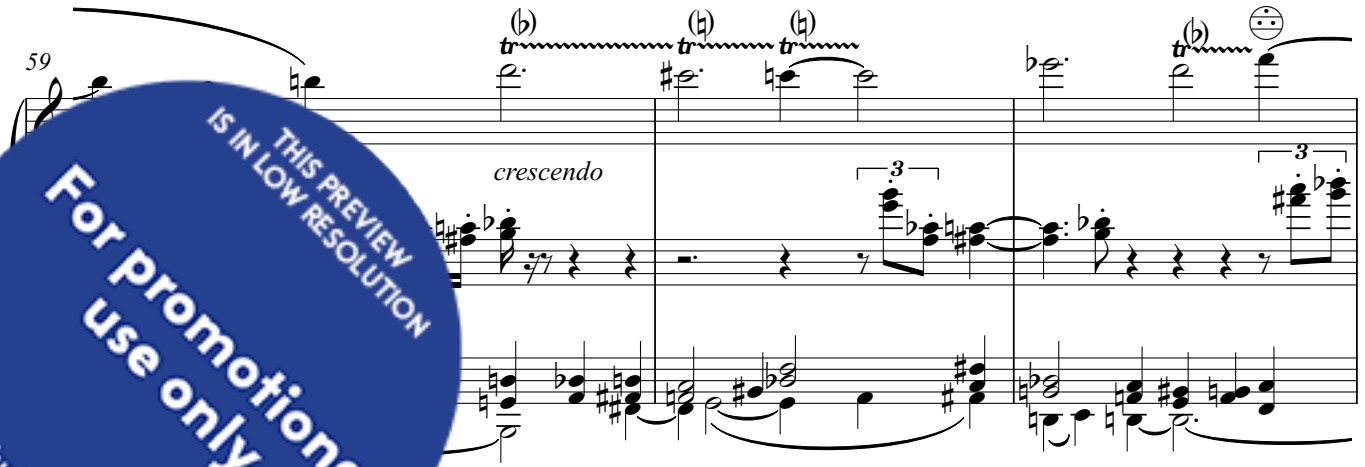

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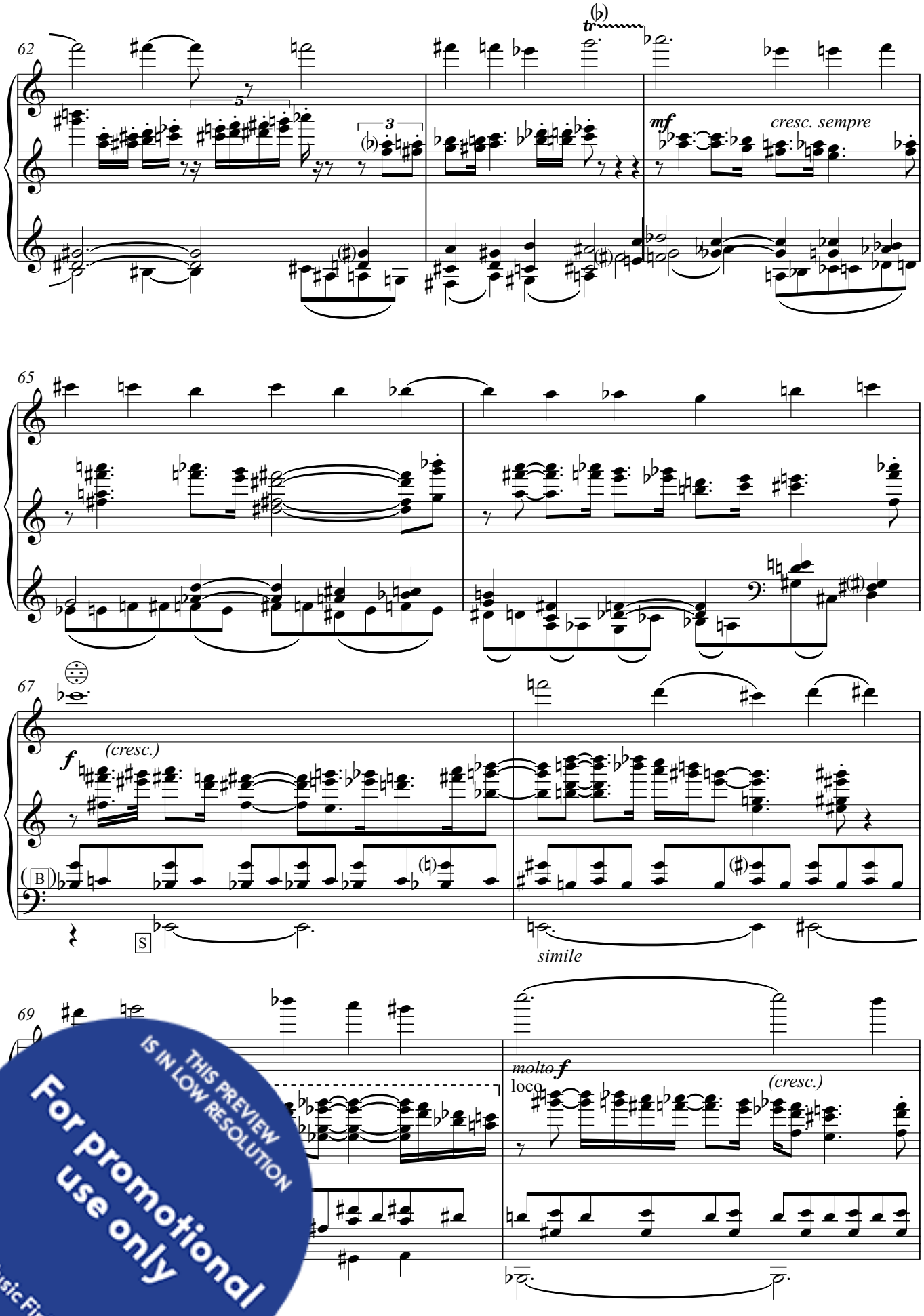

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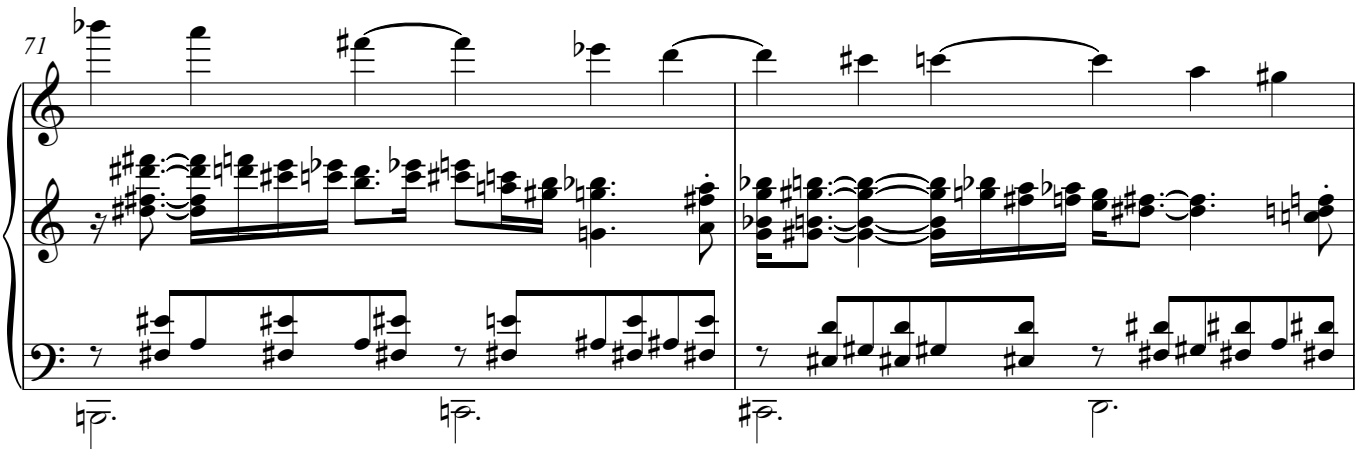

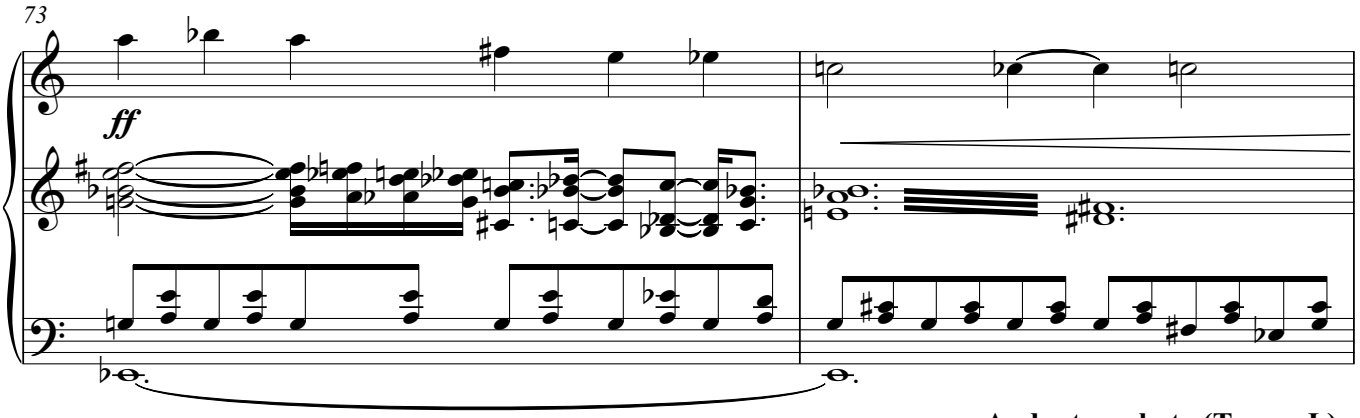

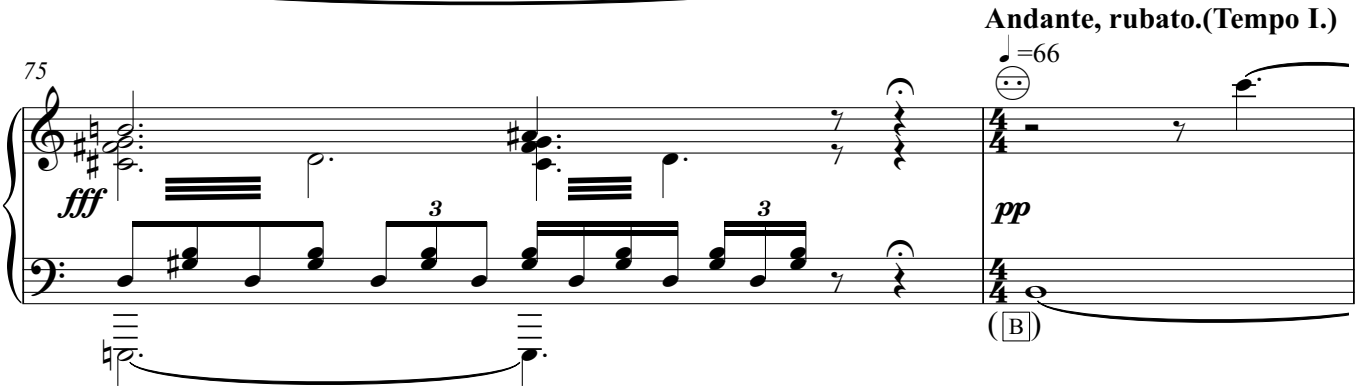

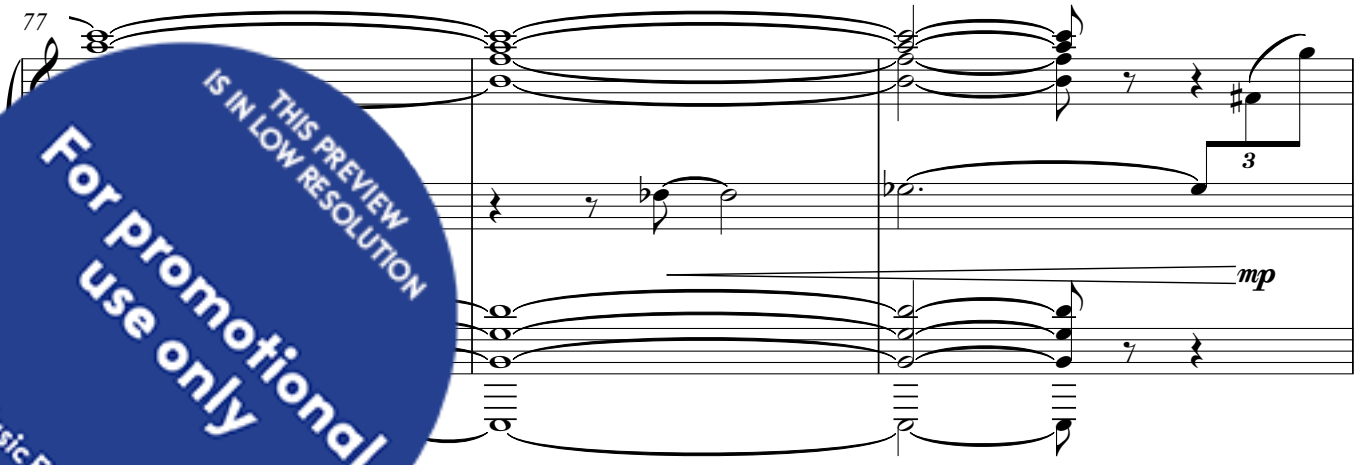

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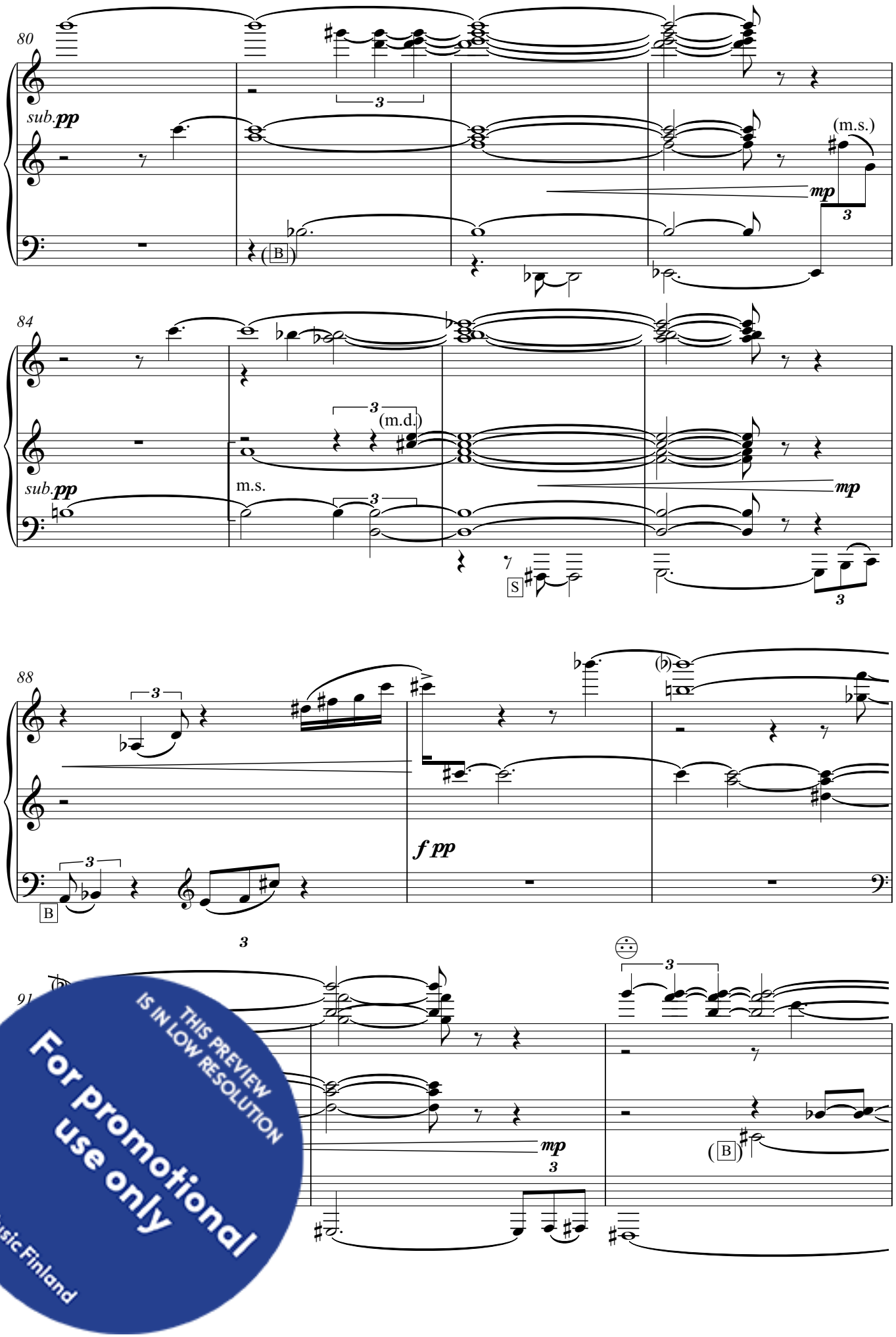

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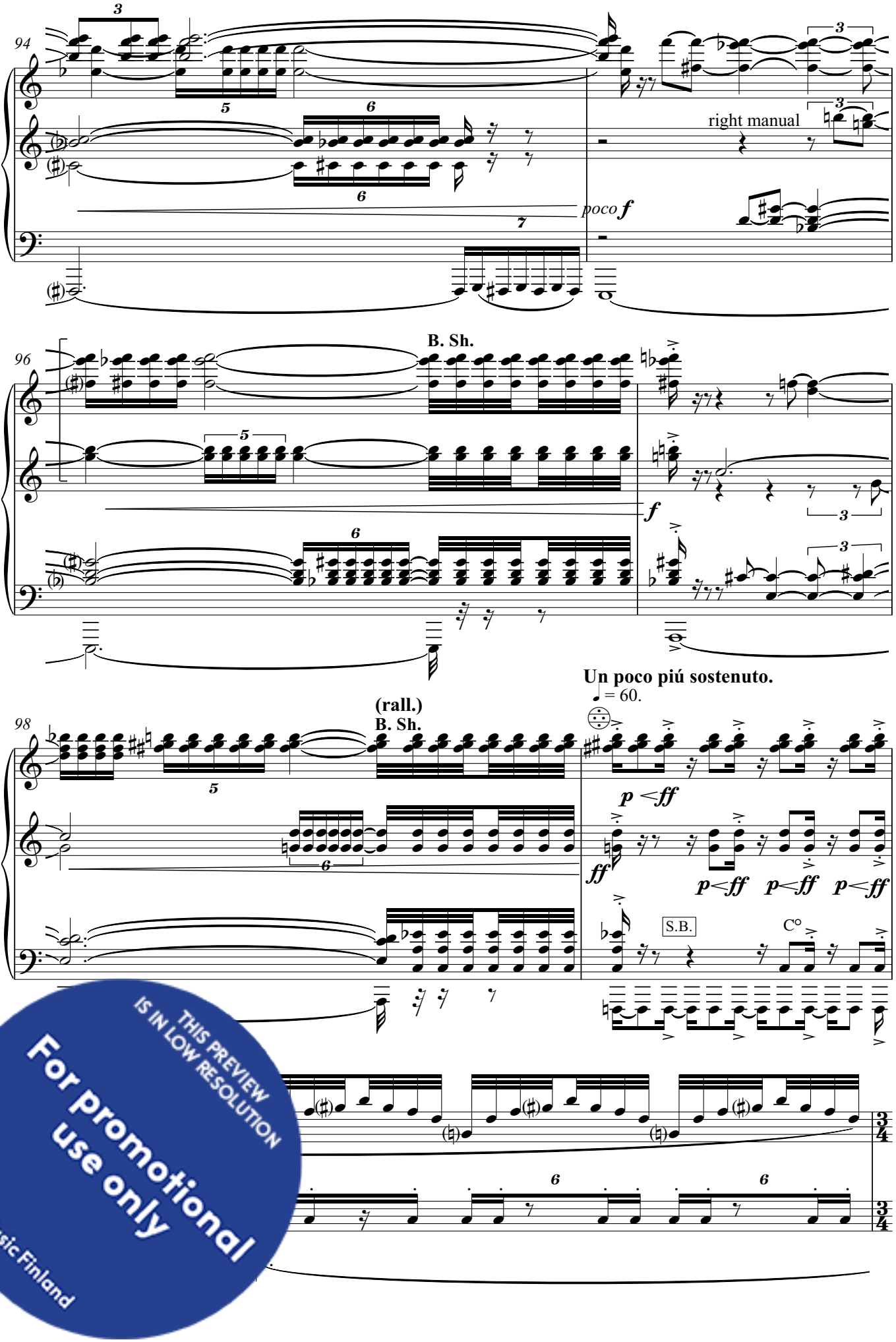

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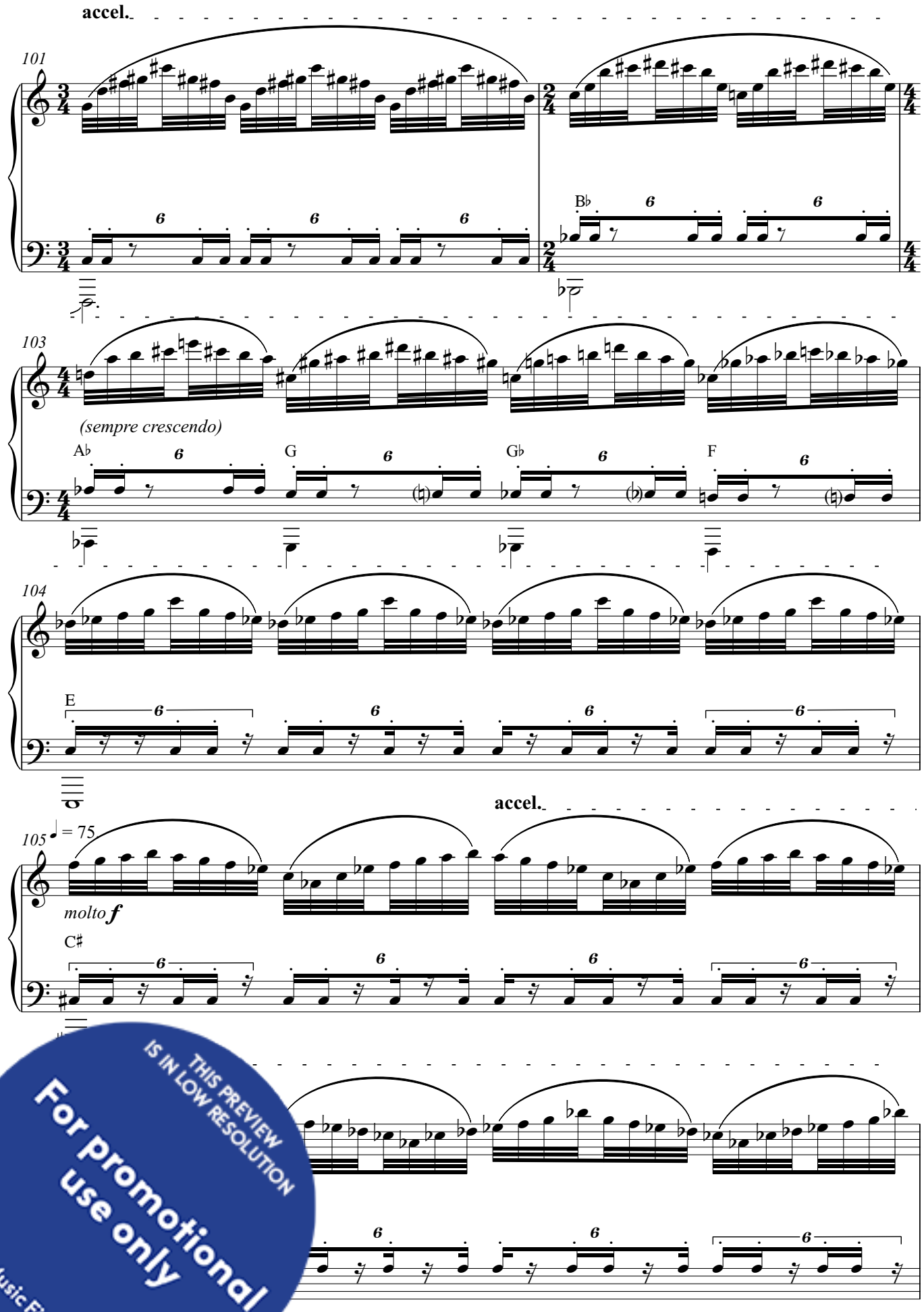

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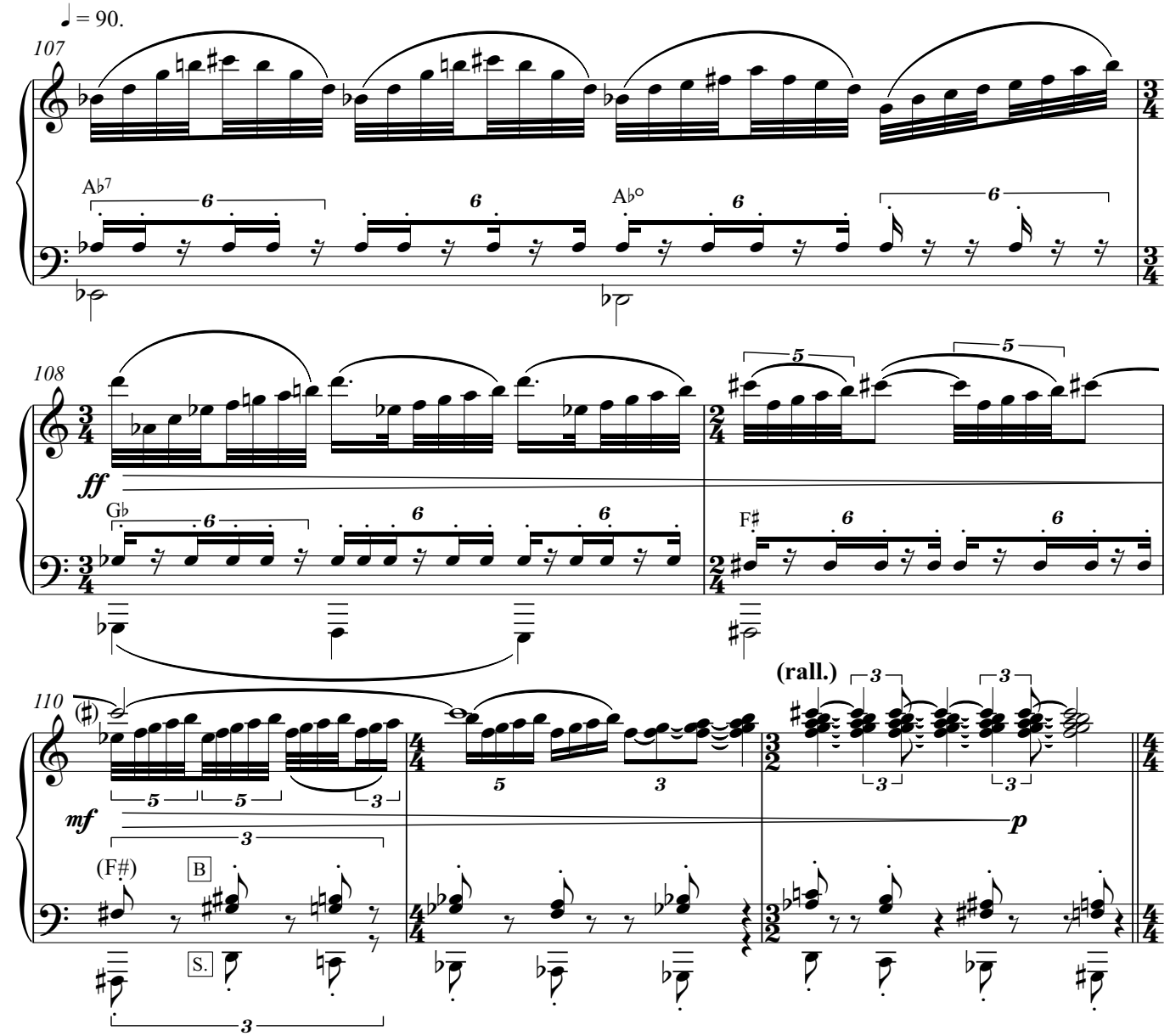
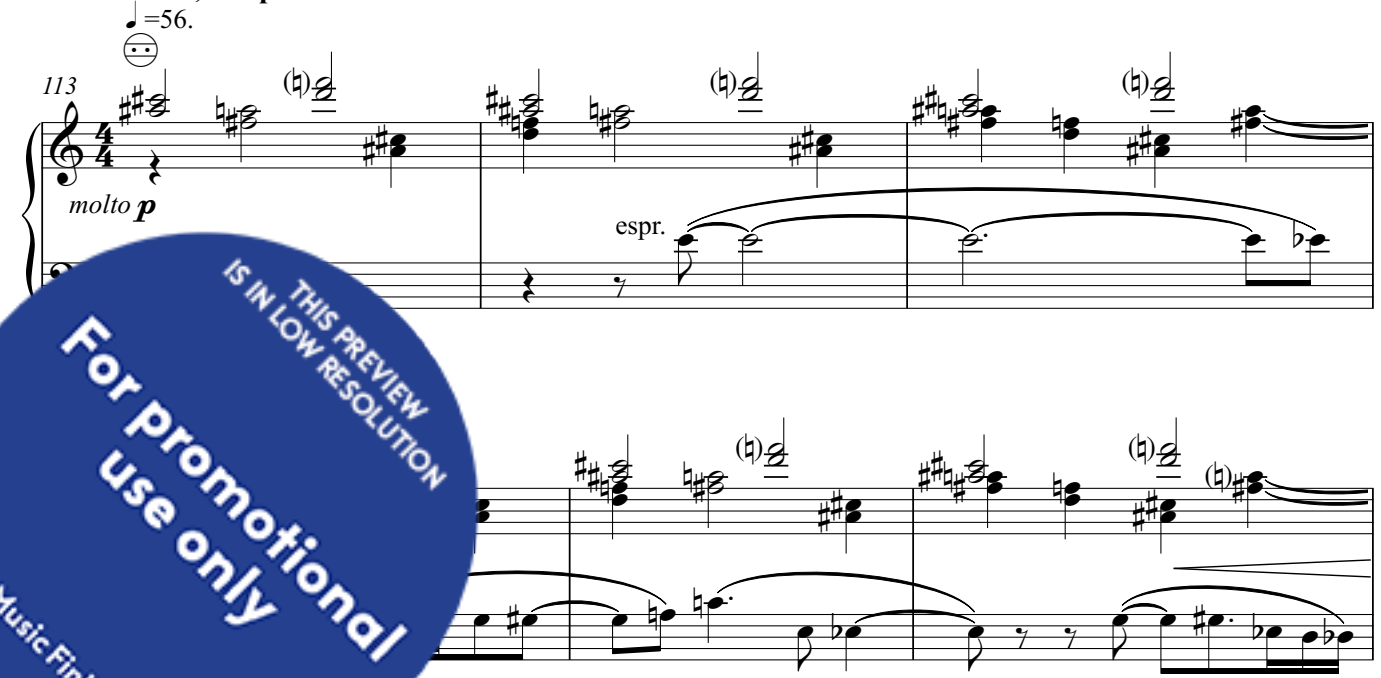


Lento, semplice.



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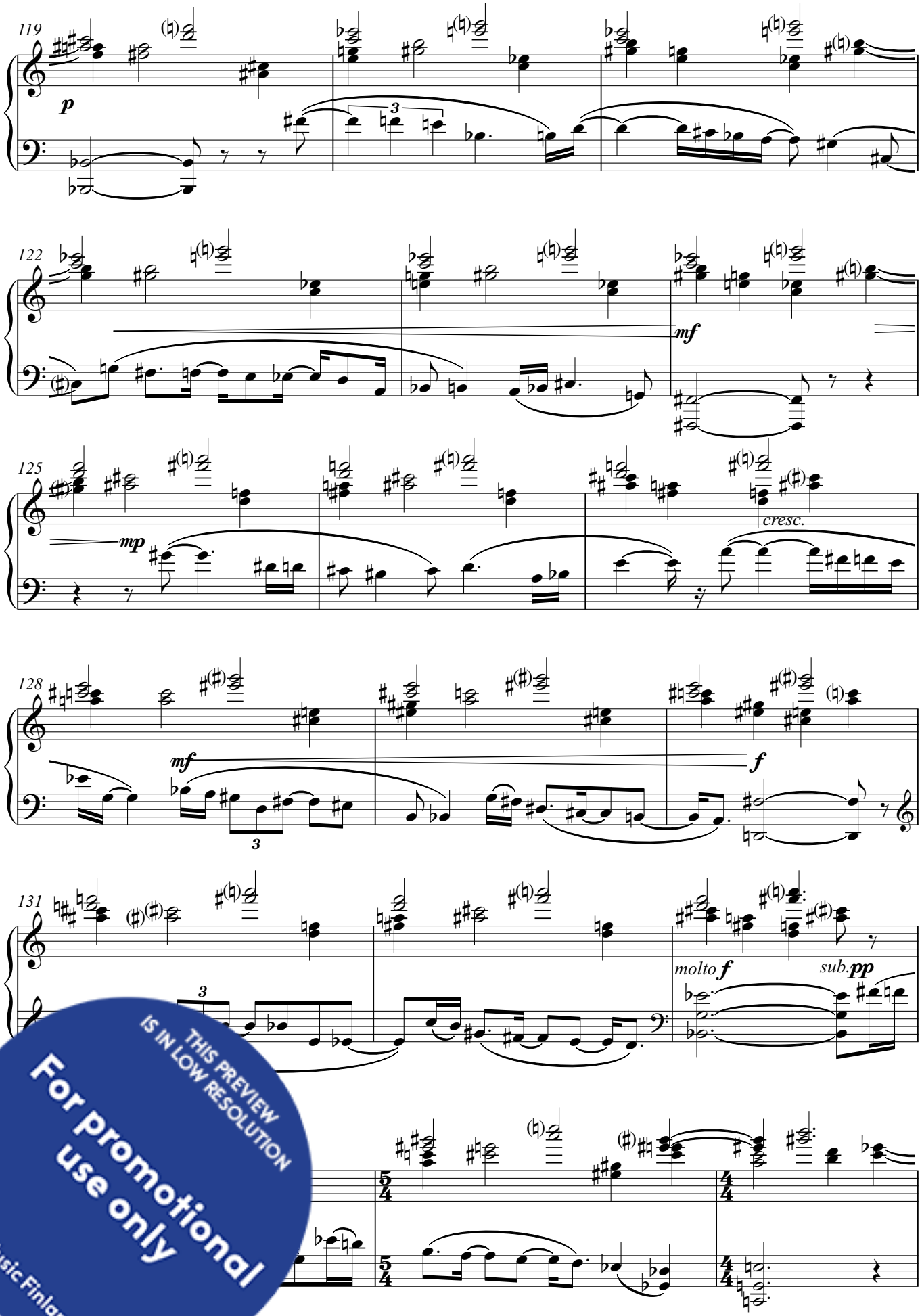

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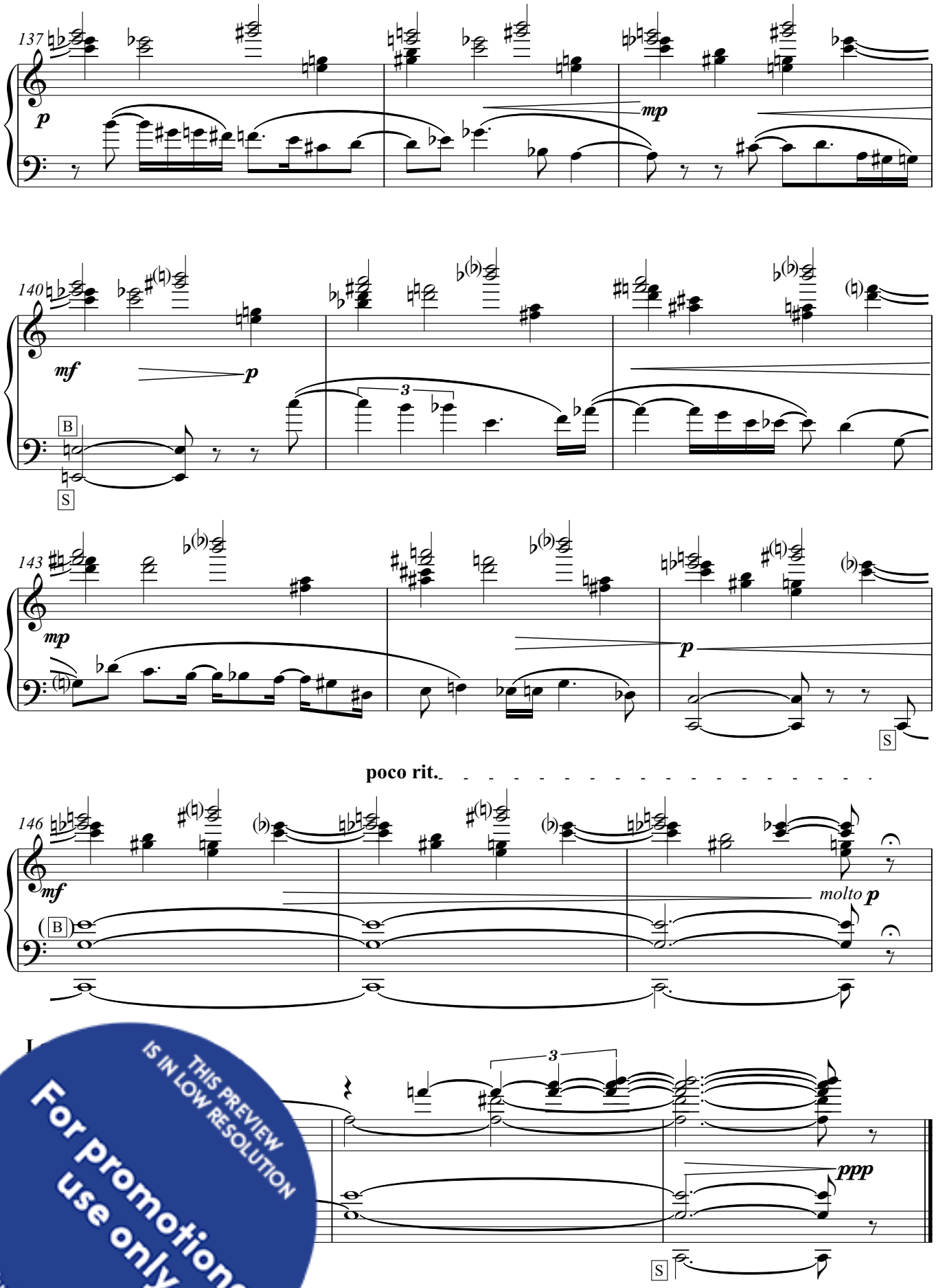

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Tampere, November 16, 2003