Erkki-Sven Tüür

SONATA NO. 1

for piano

(1985)

New and corrected edition 2021

SAMPLE

FENNICA GEHRMAN

PREFACE

Erkki-Sven Tüür

Erkki-Sven Tüür studied percussion and flute at the Tallinn Georg Ots Music High School (1976–1980) and composition with Prof. Jaan Rääts at the Tallinn Conservatoire (1980–1984). He also took private lessons from Prof. Lepo Sumera in Tallinn and developed his skills in the field of electronic music in Karlsruhe. In 1979, Tüür founded the progressive rock ensemble In Spe, where he was engaged as composer, flautist, keyboardist and frontman (vocalist) until 1983. Since 1992, Tüür is a freelance composer, his works are primarily commissioned by world-renowned performers and are frequently premiered abroad before reaching the home public. His music is being played regularly by the best symphony orchestras and outstanding soloists worldwide in the most prestigious concert halls.

The main characteristic feature of Tüür's music is an intense energetic transformative dimension. The intuitive and rational approach is synthesized into a complete organic system. Instrumental music makes up the main body of Tüür's work. He is the author of ten symphonies, a number of works for symphony and string orchestra, twelve instrumental concertos, a wide variety of chamber music and an opera "Wallenberg".

As a composer, Tüür wishes to stimulate the creative energy of the listener. "Music has to have everything - overwhelming power, illuminating light, endless gentleness and the deepest darkness. Fury, pain, remorse. Everything that makes us human. And the tender touch of redeeming love."

Erkki-Sven Tüür's works are published by Edition Peters, also by Fennica Gehrman. Albums with music by Erkki-Sven Tüür have been released by ECM, Ondine, Warner, and EMI Virgin.

www.erkkisven.com

Piano Sonata No. 1 (1985)

Piano Sonata No. 1was composed in 1985. The work was dedicated to his wife, pianist and harpsichordist Anne Tüür and premiered in Tallinn in 1985 by Anne Tüür. Throughout the entire sonata Tüür explores musical ideas which are based on a traditional foundation. All three movements are contrasting and contain several elements of the traditional piano sonata within the structure.

The declamatory first movement sets a foundation for the entire piece and leads to the calm but mysterious middle movement, which is followed by an impatient finale. The two musical ideas dominating in the first movement function as the A and B subjects, but Tüür takes it further. The combination of his harmonic language and careful voice leading unite the different sections into one musical idea. Throughout the first movement, ideas of fascinating musical diversity unfold before coming to a balanced closure.

The slow movement begins with a hammering motive that reflects fragments from the first movement (see Ex. 1). It allows the resonance of the overtones to define a response to the

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Dedicated to Anne

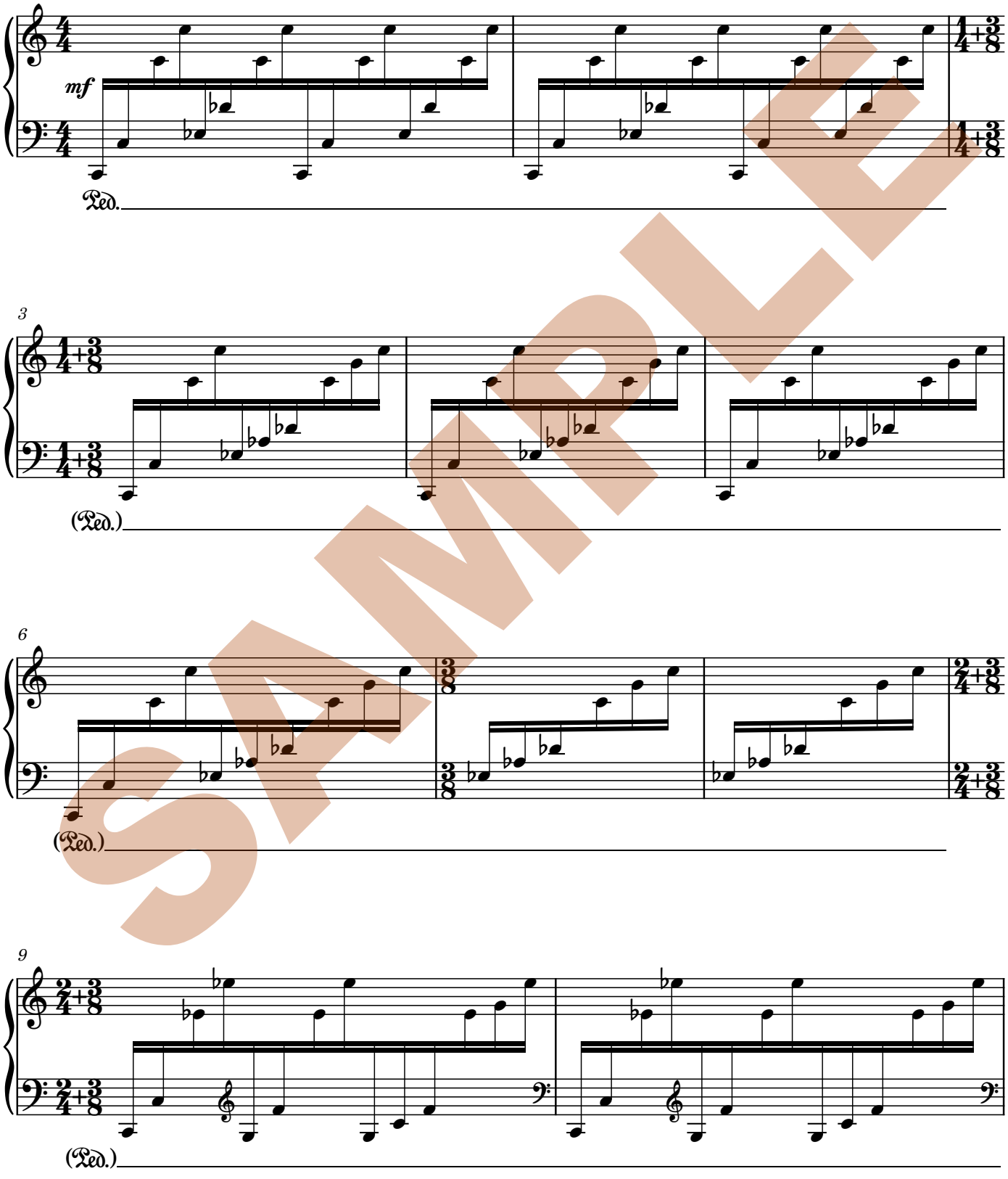
SONATA NO. 1

for piano

I

ERKKI-SVEN TÜÜR (1985)

Presto



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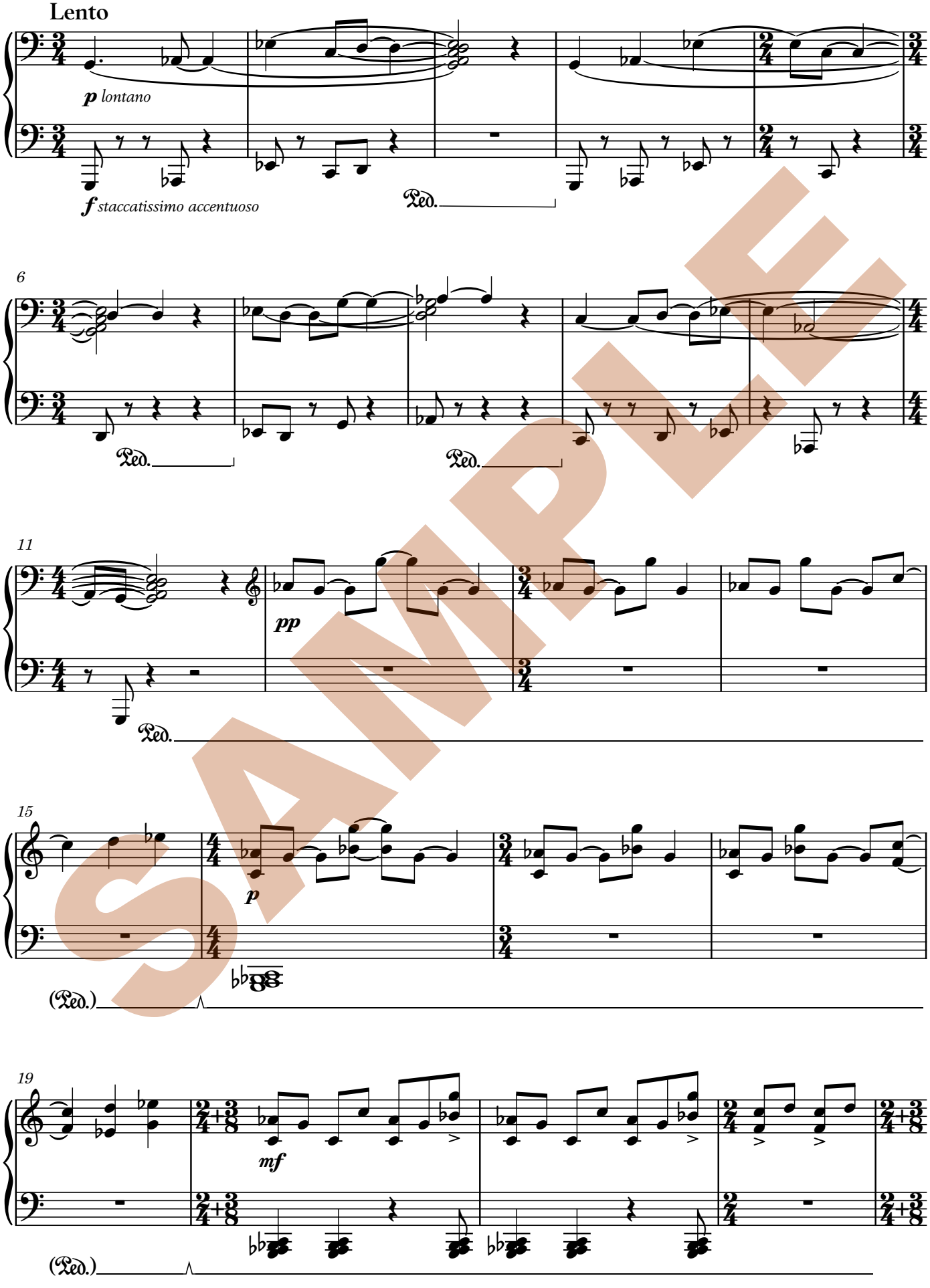
Lento
p lontano
f staccatissimo accentuoso
Ped.
6
Ped.
Ped.
11
pp
Ped.
15
p
(Ped.)
19
mf
(Ped.)

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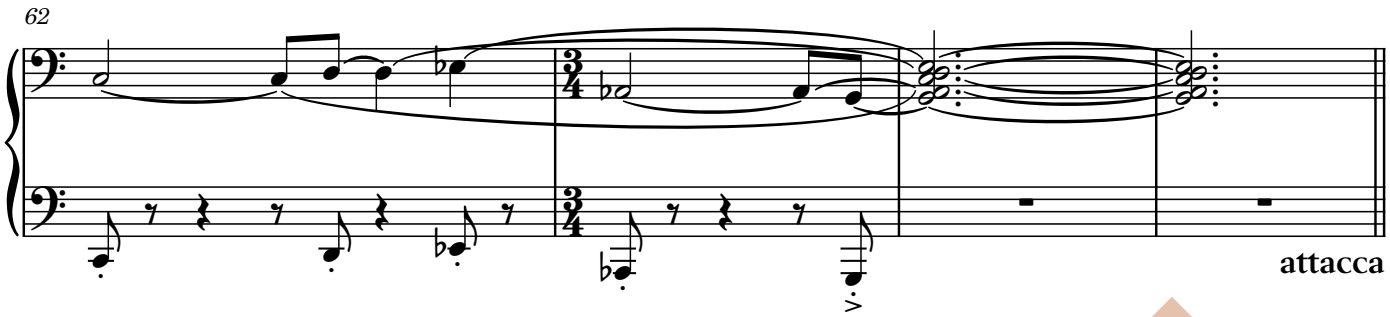
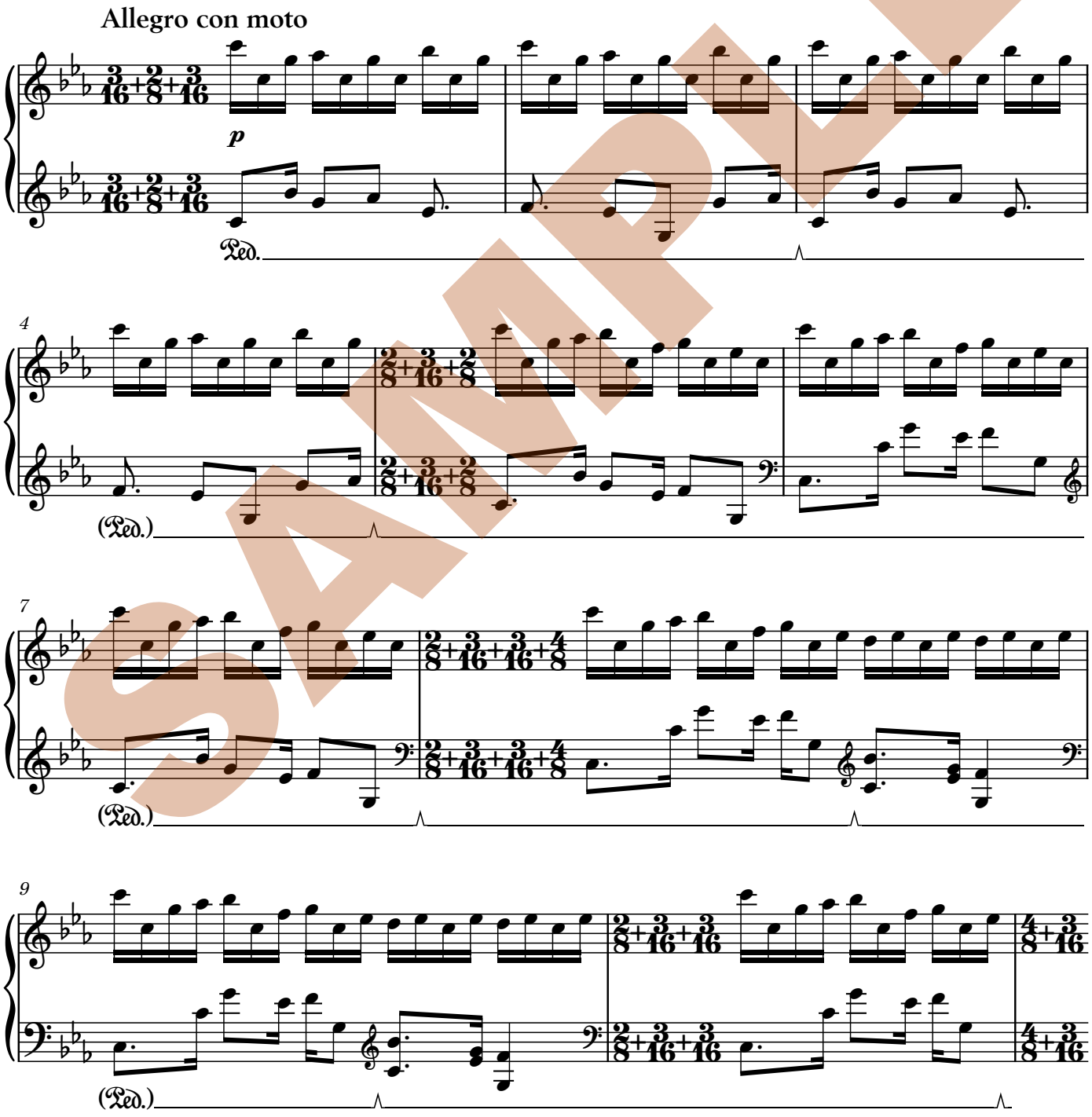


III



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