Gregory J. Hutter

The Melancholy Rags

for Piano Solo

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Program Note

My interest in composing piano rags began while I was a graduate student at the University of Michigan. This interest was in no small part due to my exposure to the composers William Bolcom and William Albright. The present collection of rags based in minor keys, known collectively as *The Melancholy Rags*, was composed sporadically over an eight-year period from 1999-2007. One of the objectives in composing in this admittedly anachronistic style was pedagogical: I wanted to find a method of mastering the tonal system while composing in a very strict formal design. Most of these pieces are musical portraits of friends, many of whom are fellow pianists and composers.

—Gregory J. Hutter
Chicago, IL (2016)

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Duration: ca. 50 minutes
(Durations will vary with each pianist.)

Moonlight in the Duneland, The Farewell Rag and The Redline Shuffle as recorded by Winston Choi is released on NAXOS 8.559349.

Evening Air as recorded by recorded by Matthew McCright is released on Innova Records #739.

Composer's Note

The Melancholy Rags was previously published in four "books" each containing three rags. This compendium edition combines all twelve pieces and was corrected and re-edited in March of 2016. *The Melancholy Rags* can be performed individually, in selections or as the complete collection.

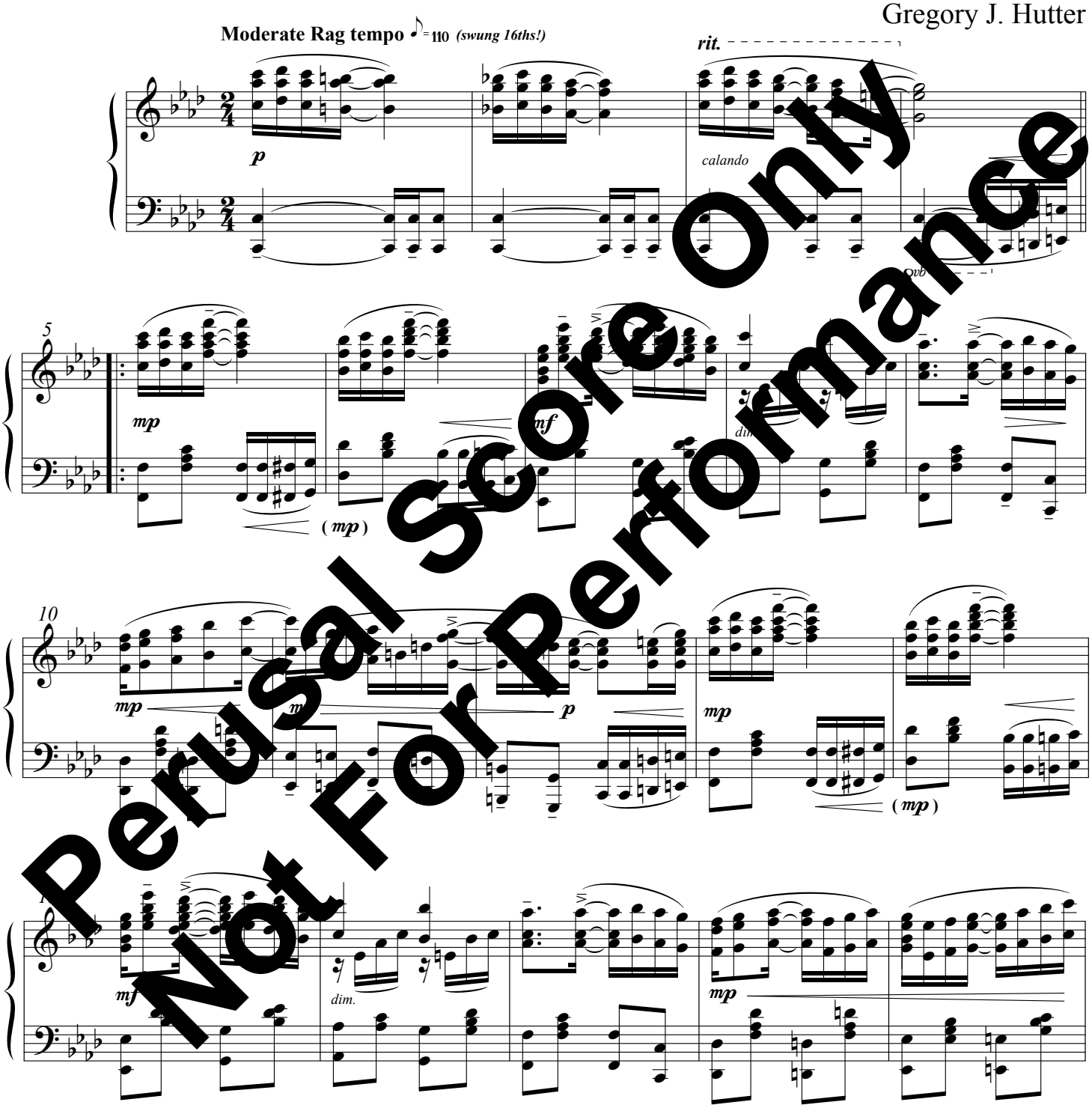
The Melancholy Rags

for Piano Solo

for Curtis Otto Bismarck Curtis-Smith

I. Moonlight in the Duneland

Gregory J. Hutter



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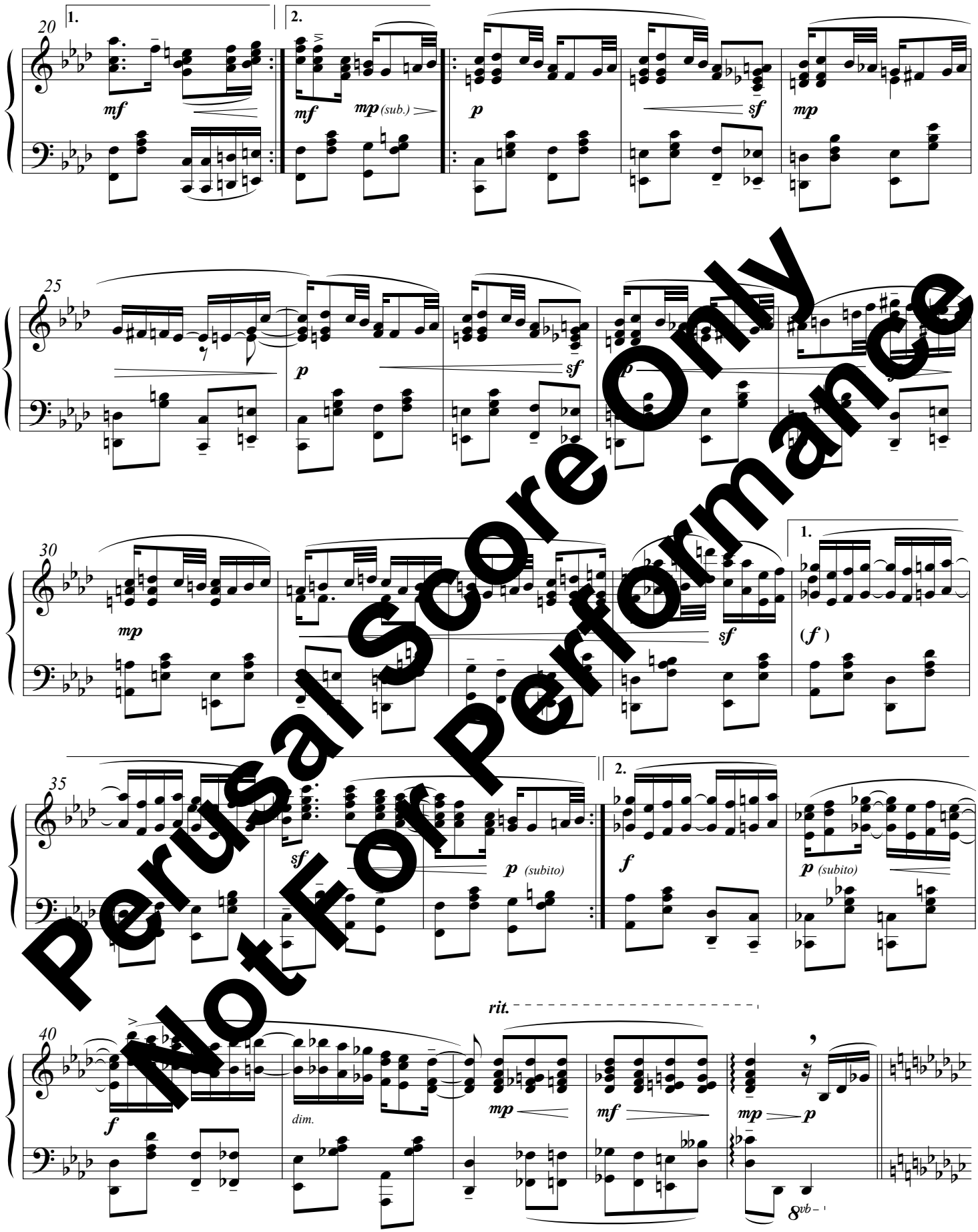

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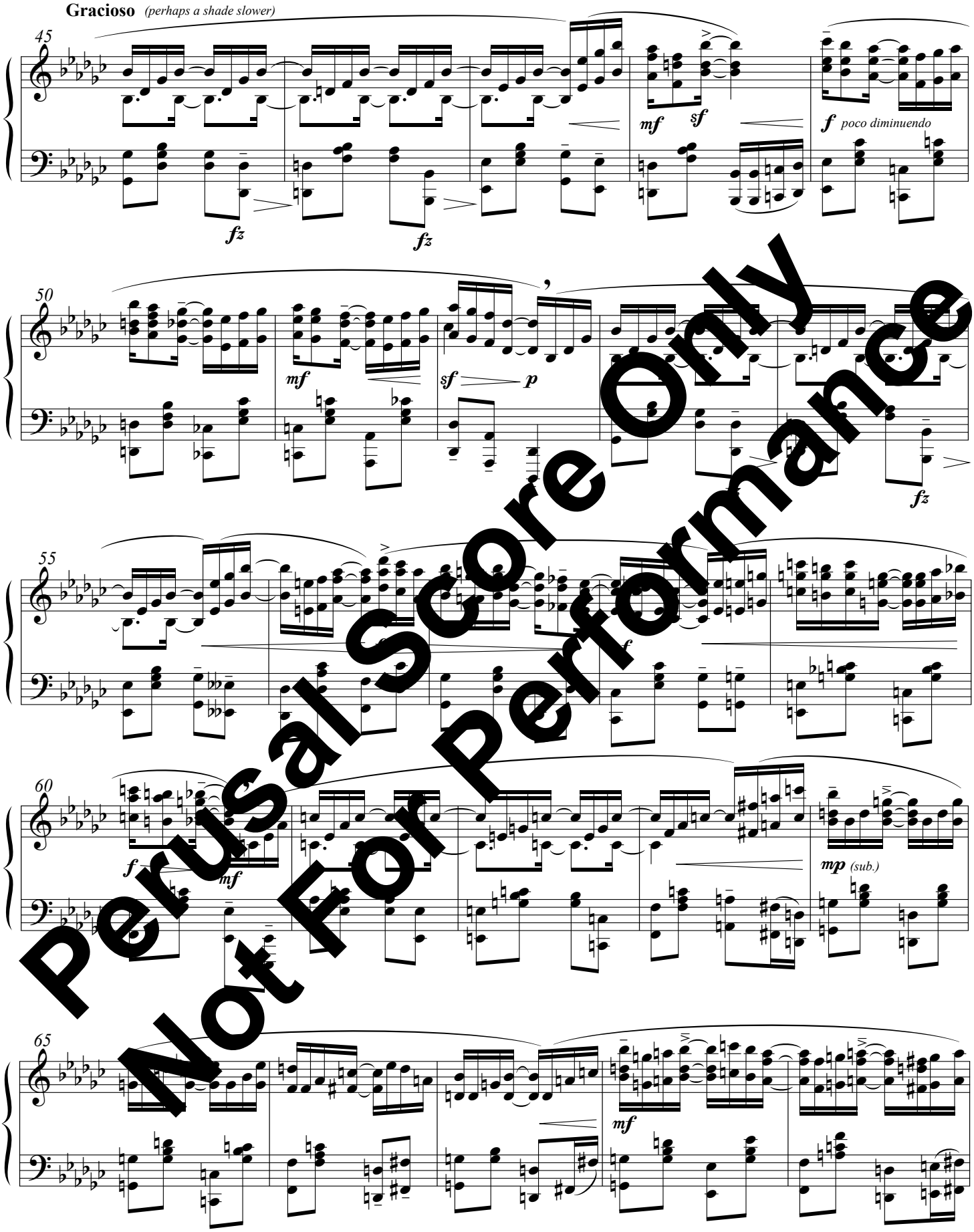

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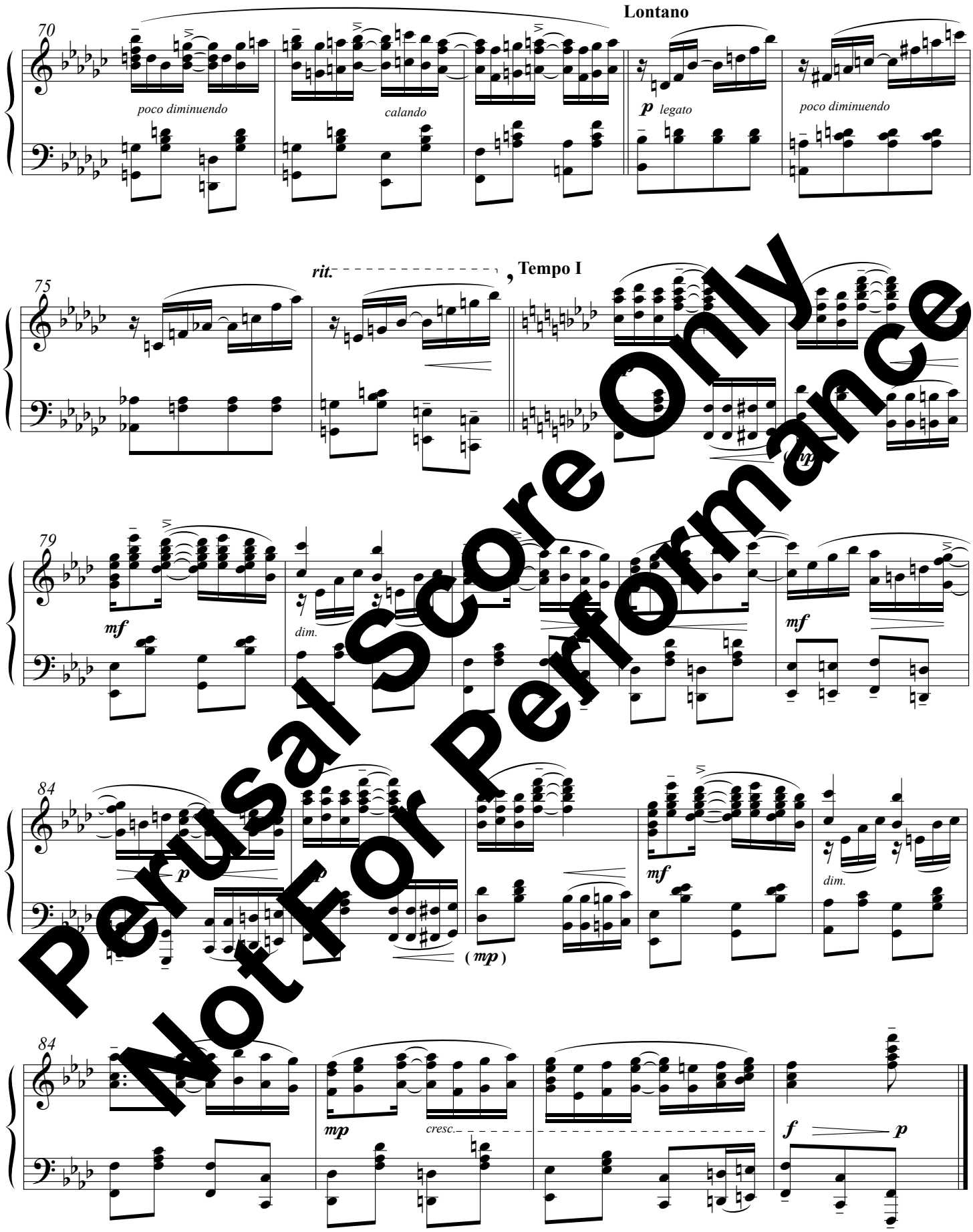

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March 1999
Ann Arbor, MI

In Memoriam: William Albright

II. The Farewell Rag

A Slow Drag

Gregory J. Hutter

Slow March Tempo ♪ = 96
(do not swing 16ths)

p

5

poco a poco cresc.

mf

10

p *(subito)*

dolce

p - mf

(10ths not rolled if possible)

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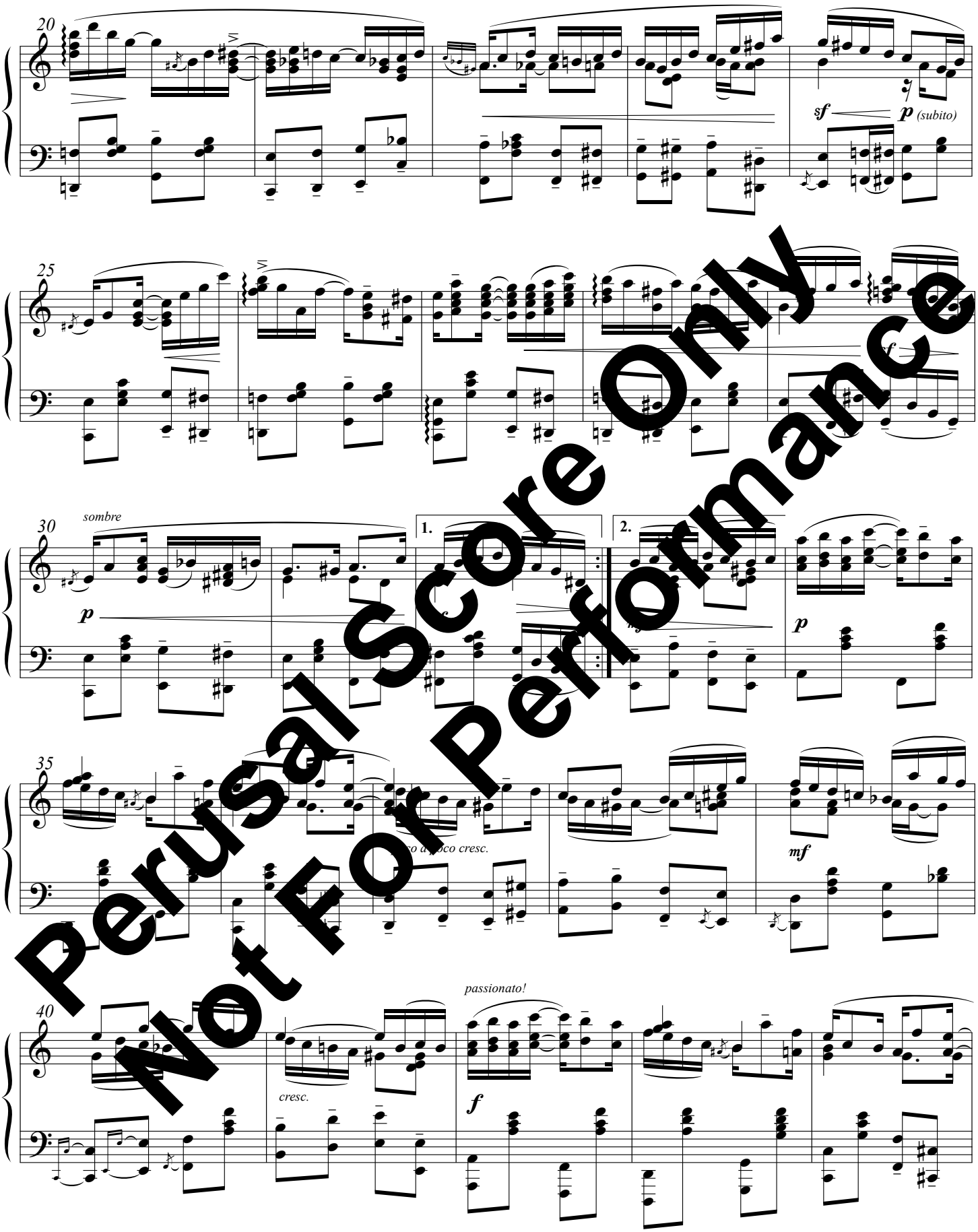

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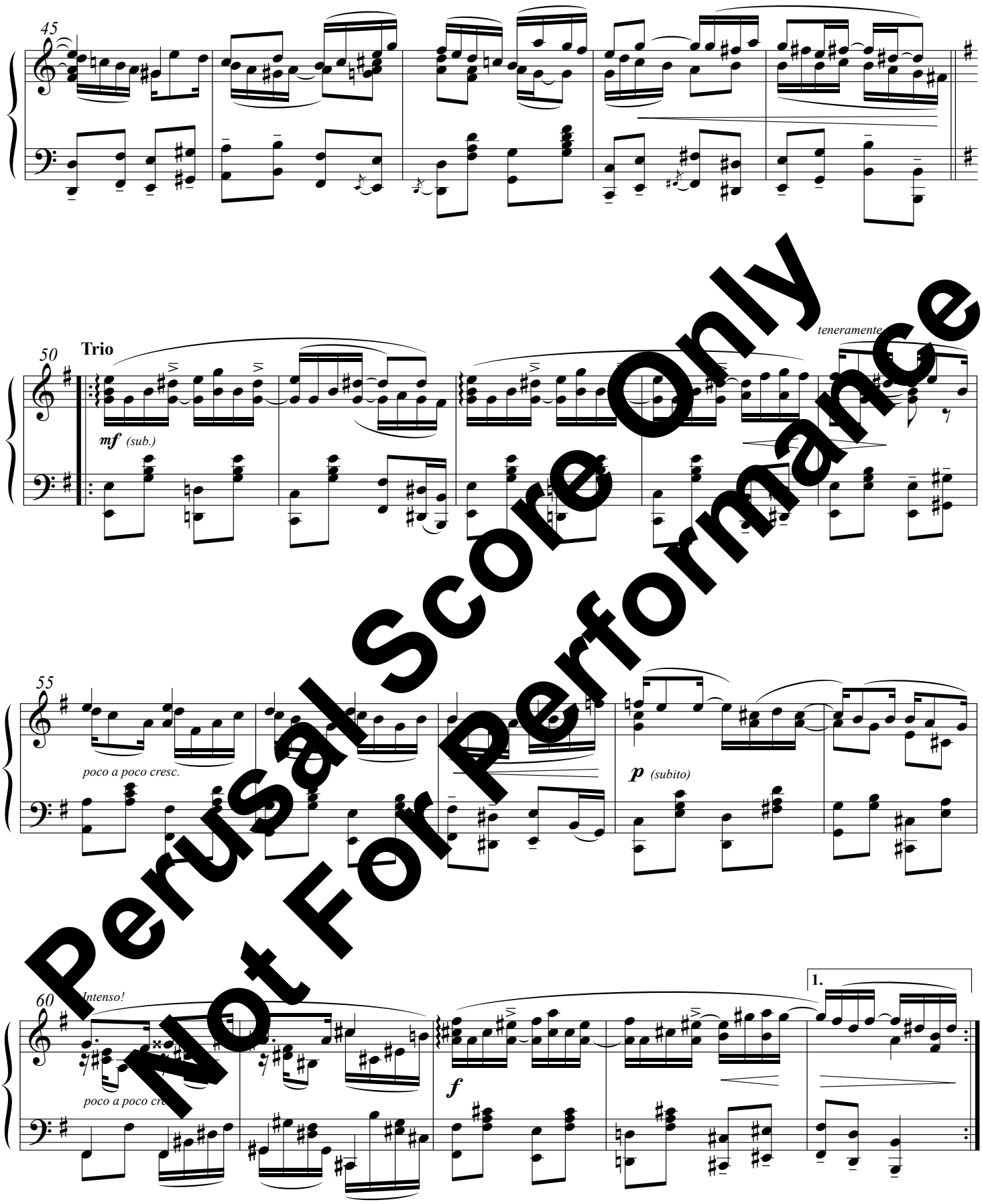

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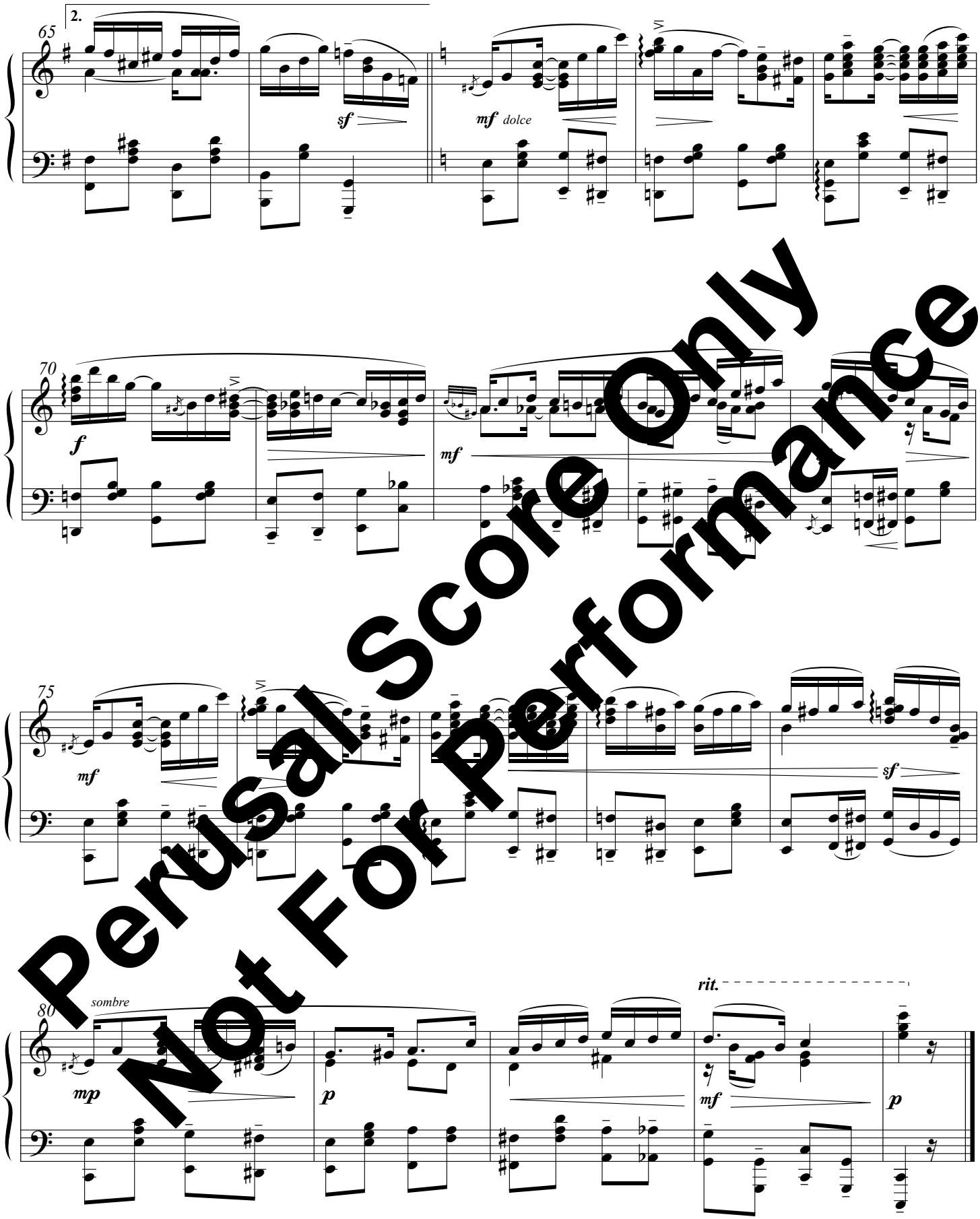

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December 23, 1999
Harbert, MI

for Carter Pann

III. The Red Line Shuffle

Gregory J. Hutter

Moderato; Don't Drag ♪ = 100

(swinging!)

p legato *fz* *p* *mp*

6

dim. *mp*

11

sf *sf* *mp*

poco cresc. *mf* *sf* *dim.* *p*

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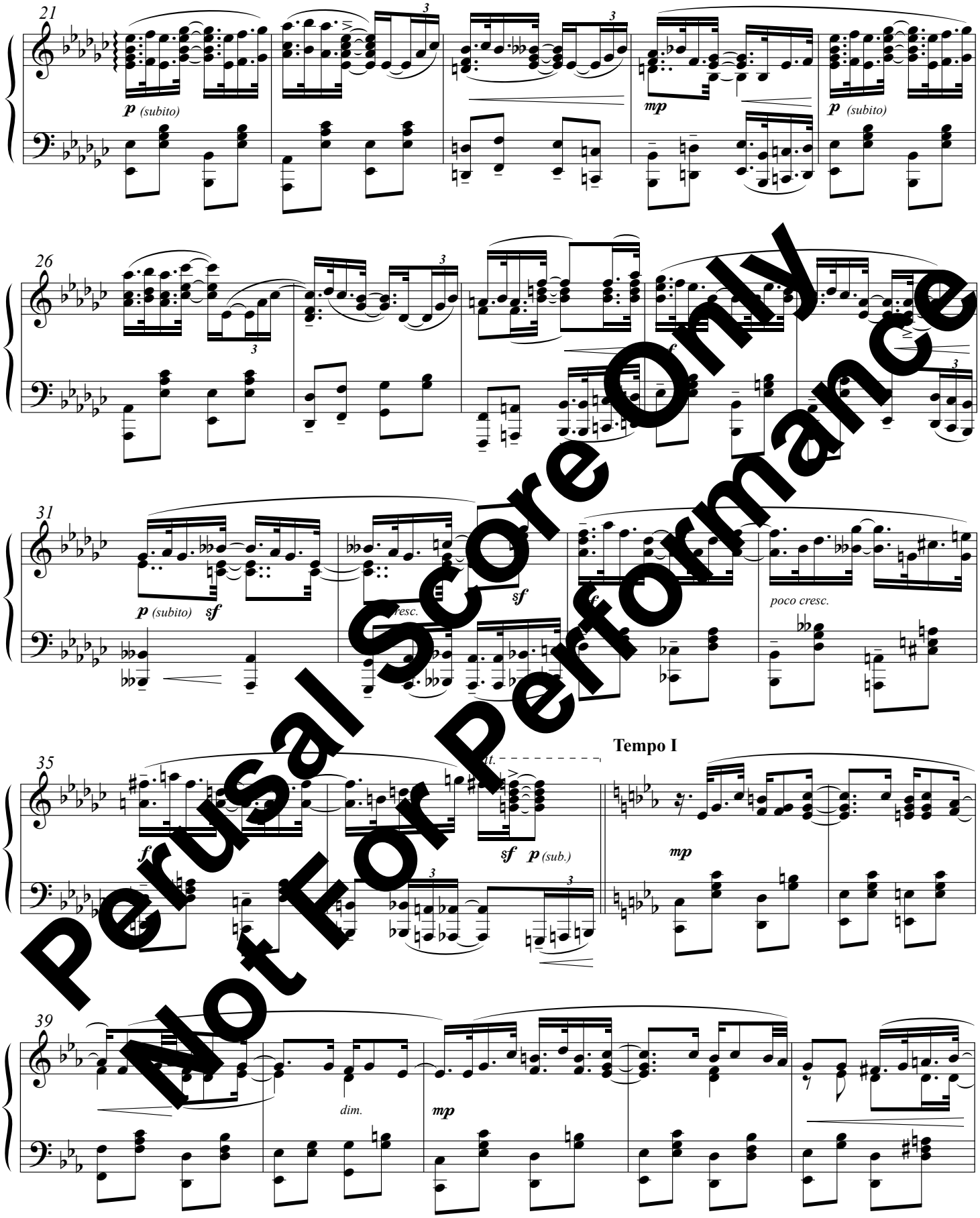

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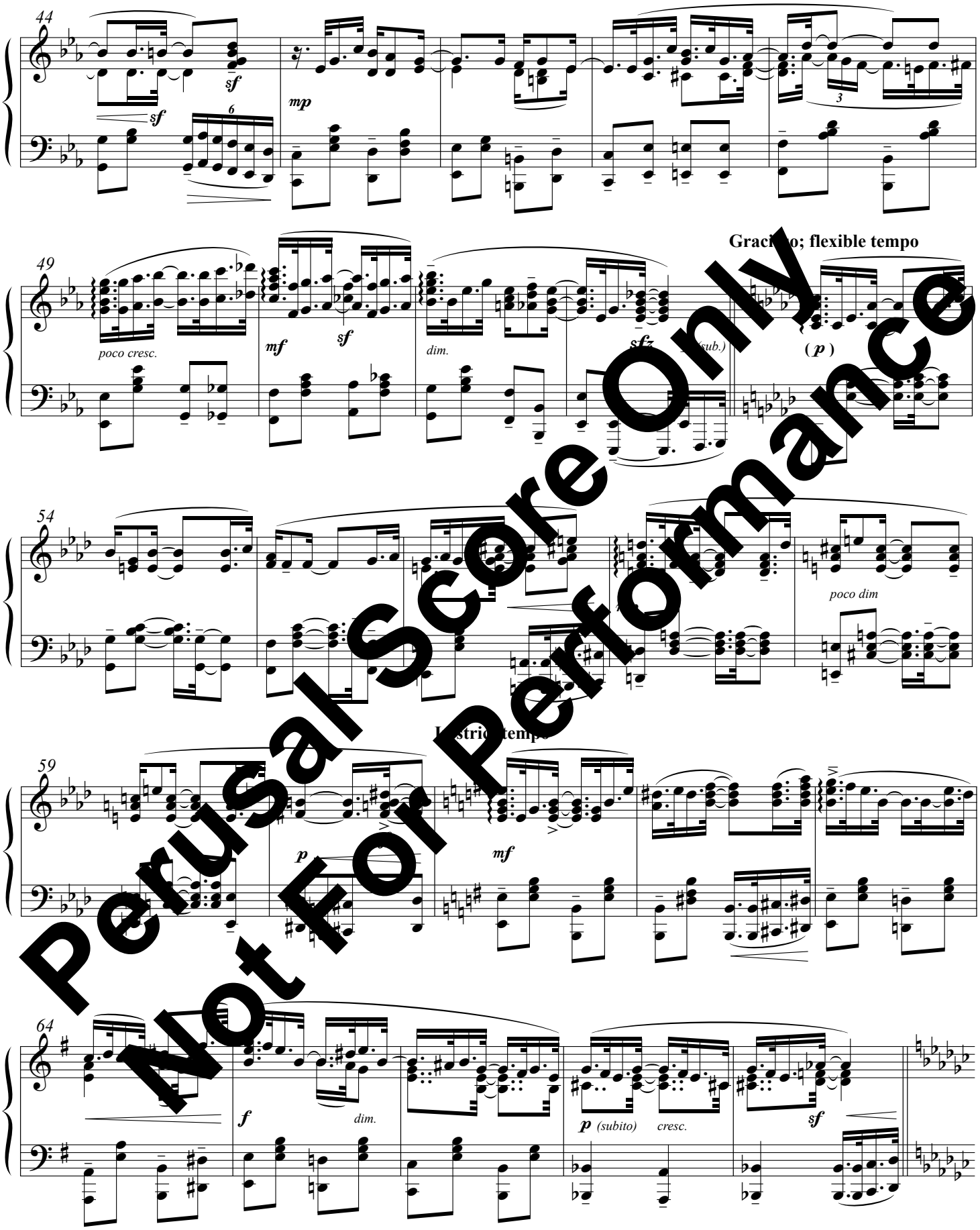

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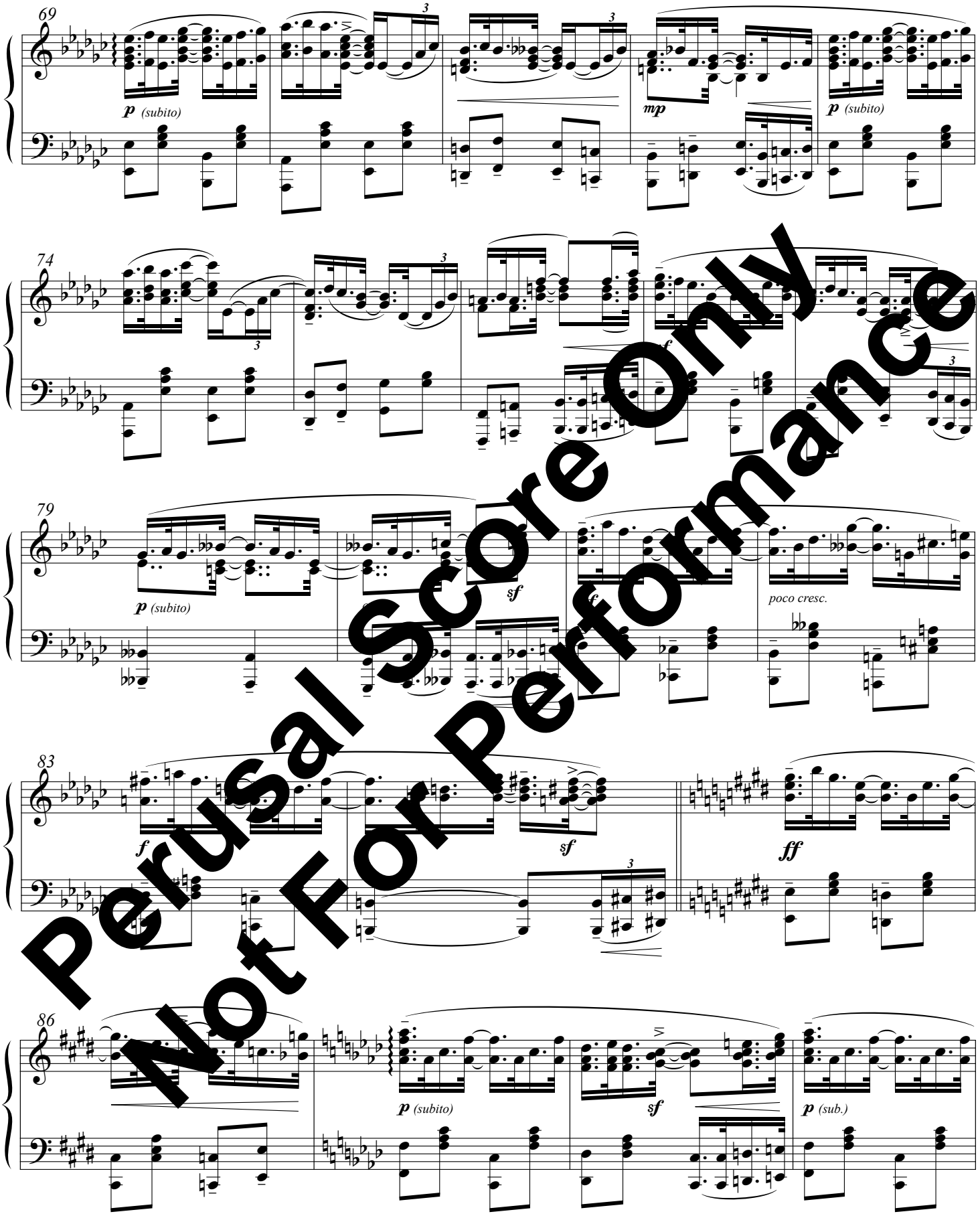

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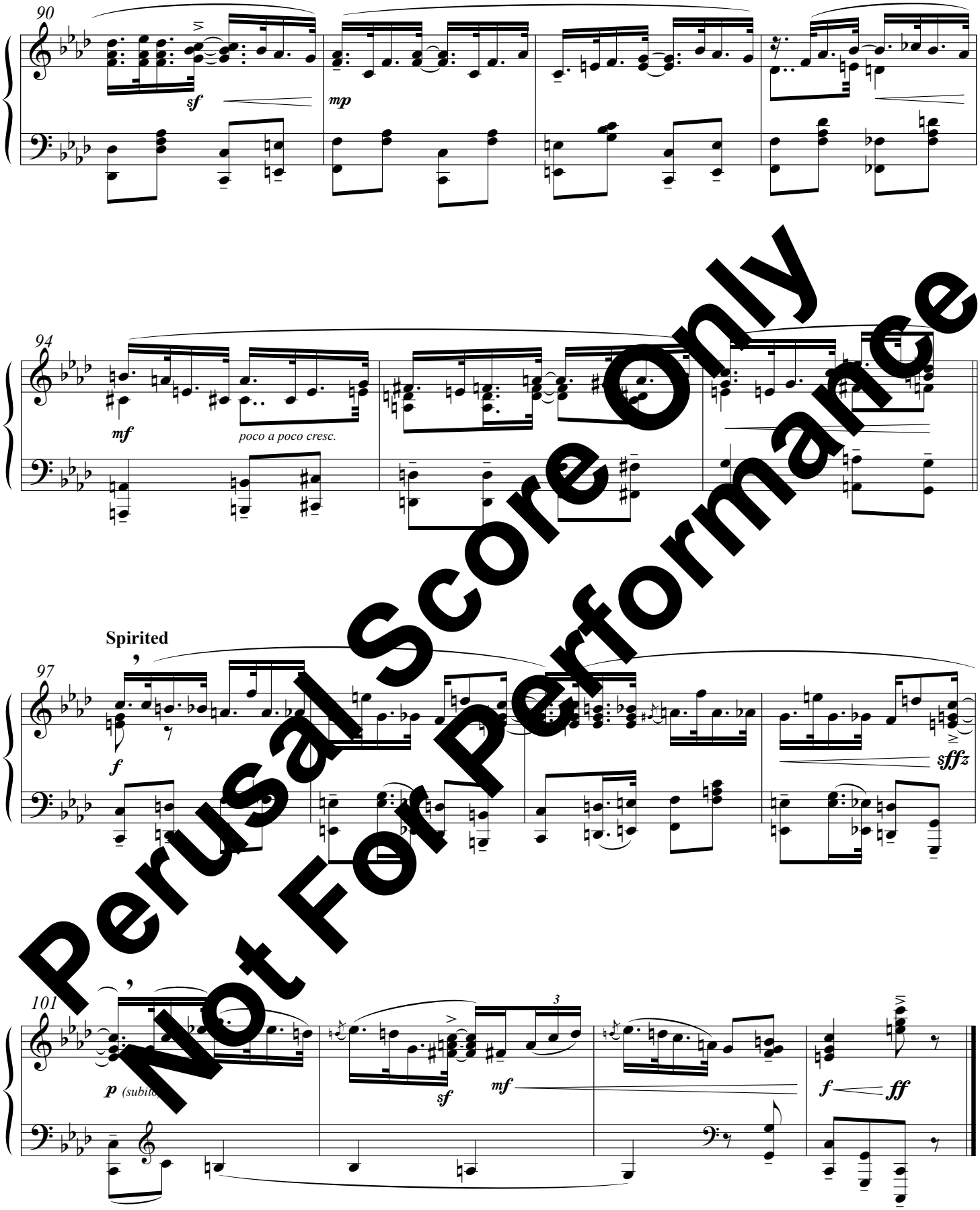

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March 2000
Chicago, IL

for B. Lynn Hebert

IV. Solitude

(A Rag-Nocturne)

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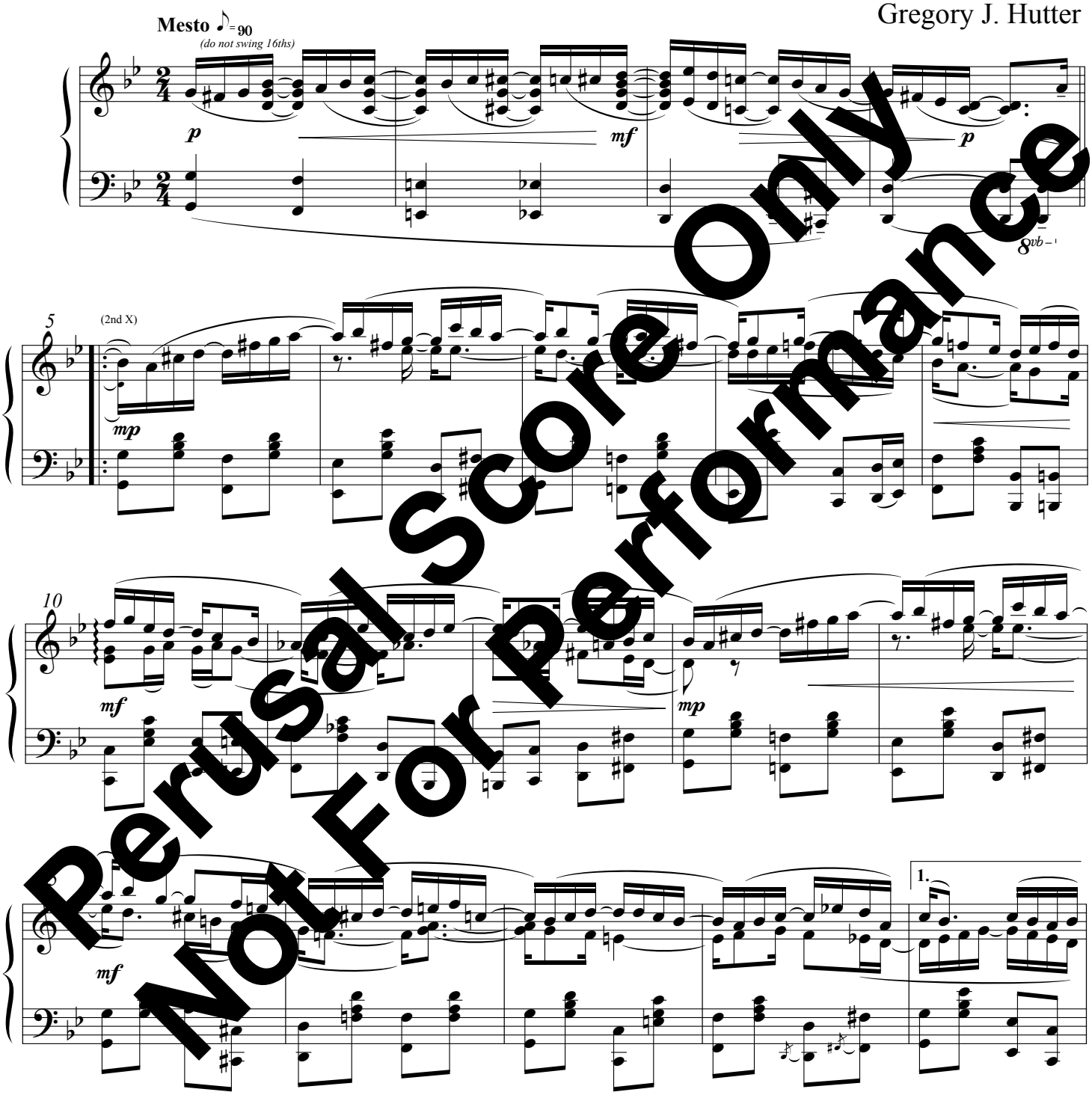

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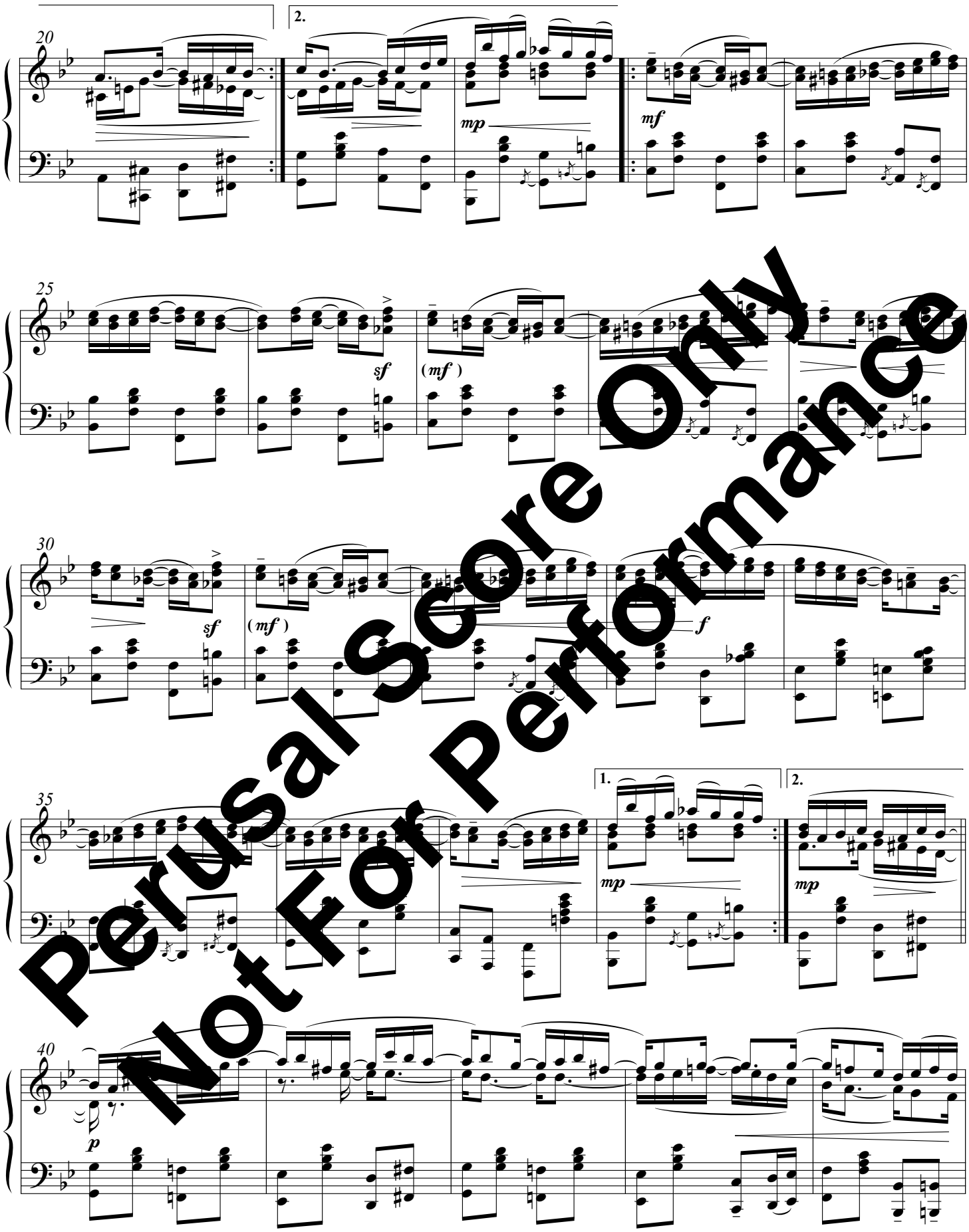

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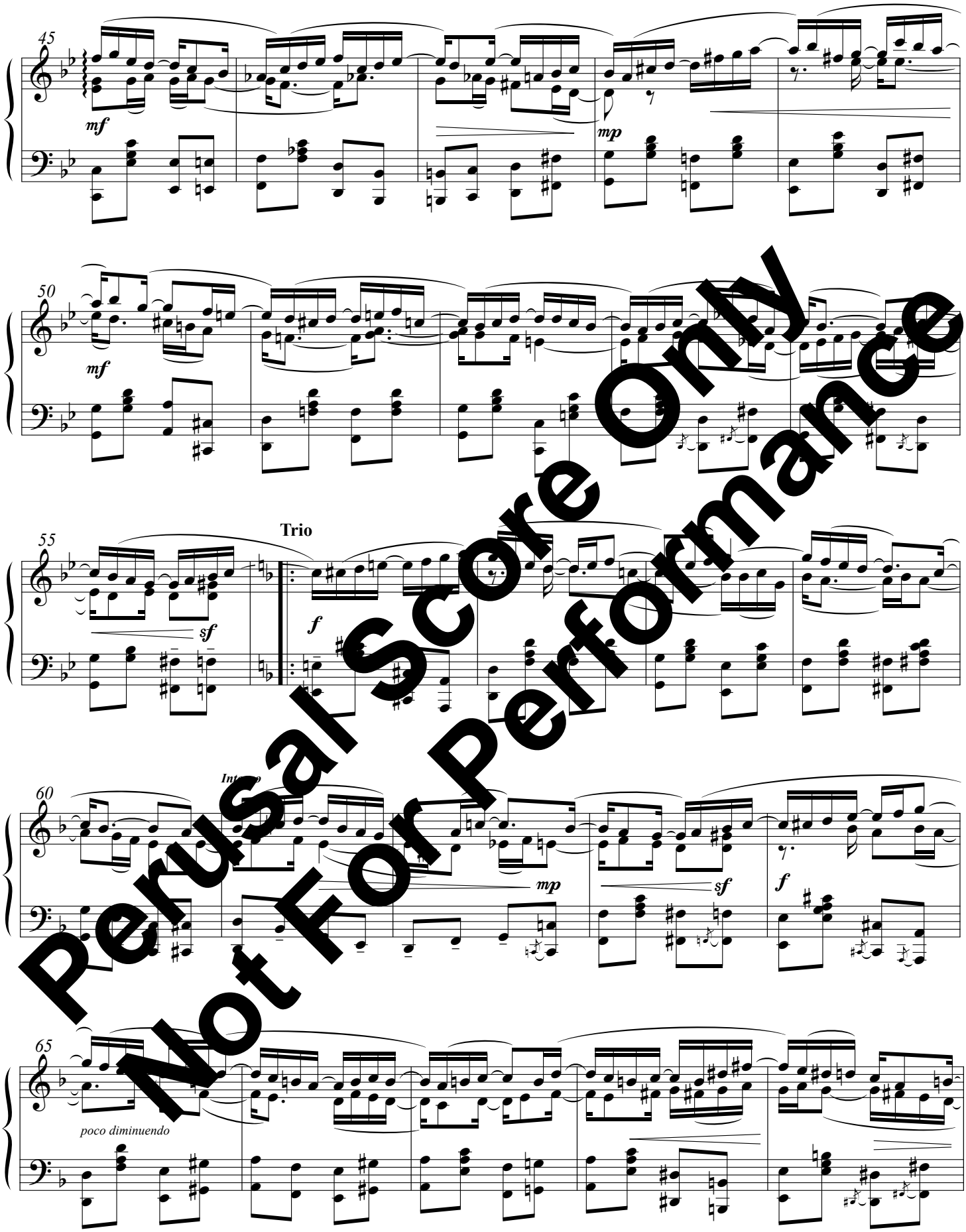

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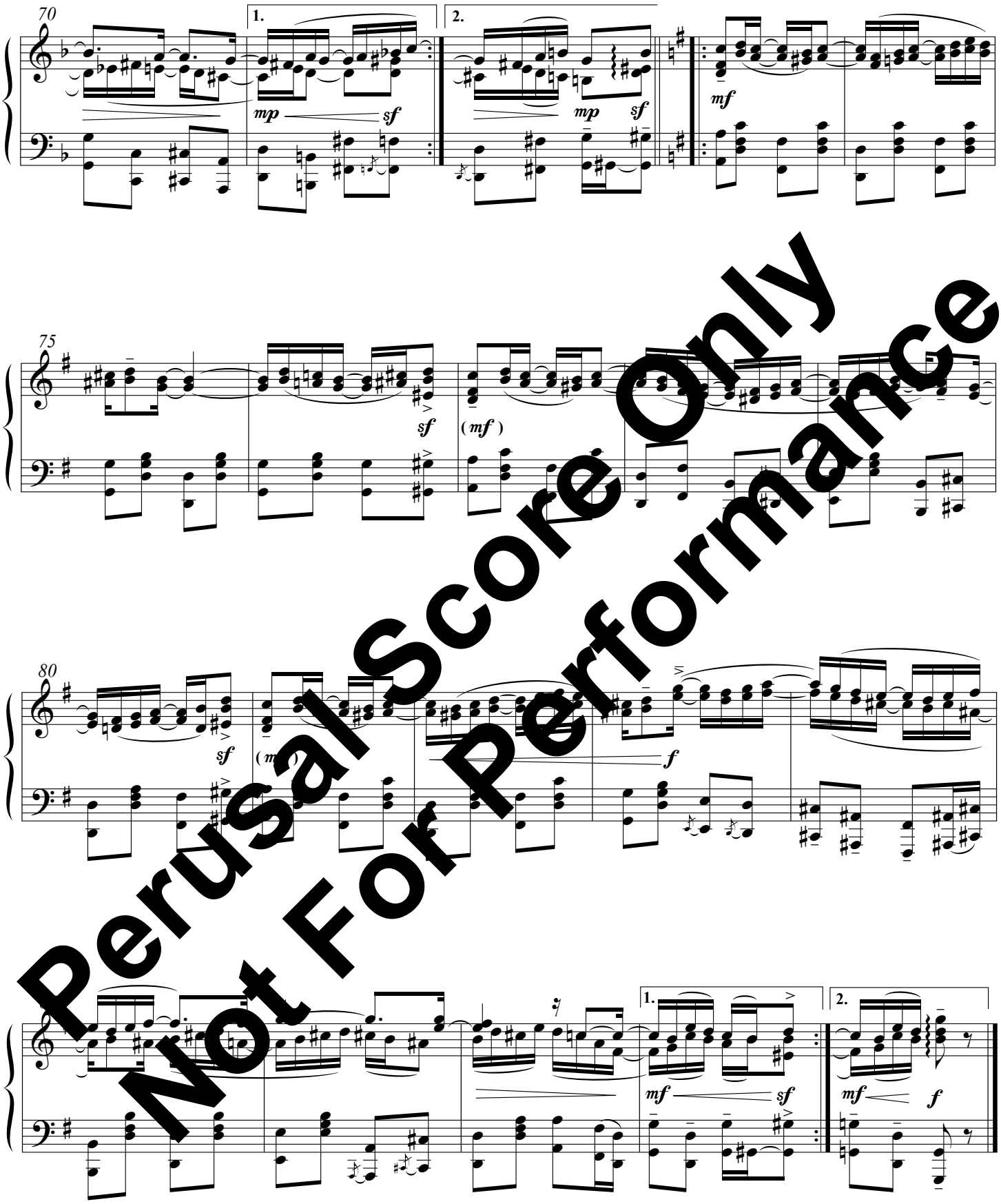

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December 17, 2004
Chicago, IL

for Chester Biscardi

V. Monday Music Rag

Gregory J. Hutter

Moderate Rag tempo ♪ = 95

mp *mf* *p* *sf* (*p*)

5 *mp* *cantabile* *mp*

10 *mf* *mp*

15 *mf* *poco diminuendo*

20 *mp* *f* (*sub.*)

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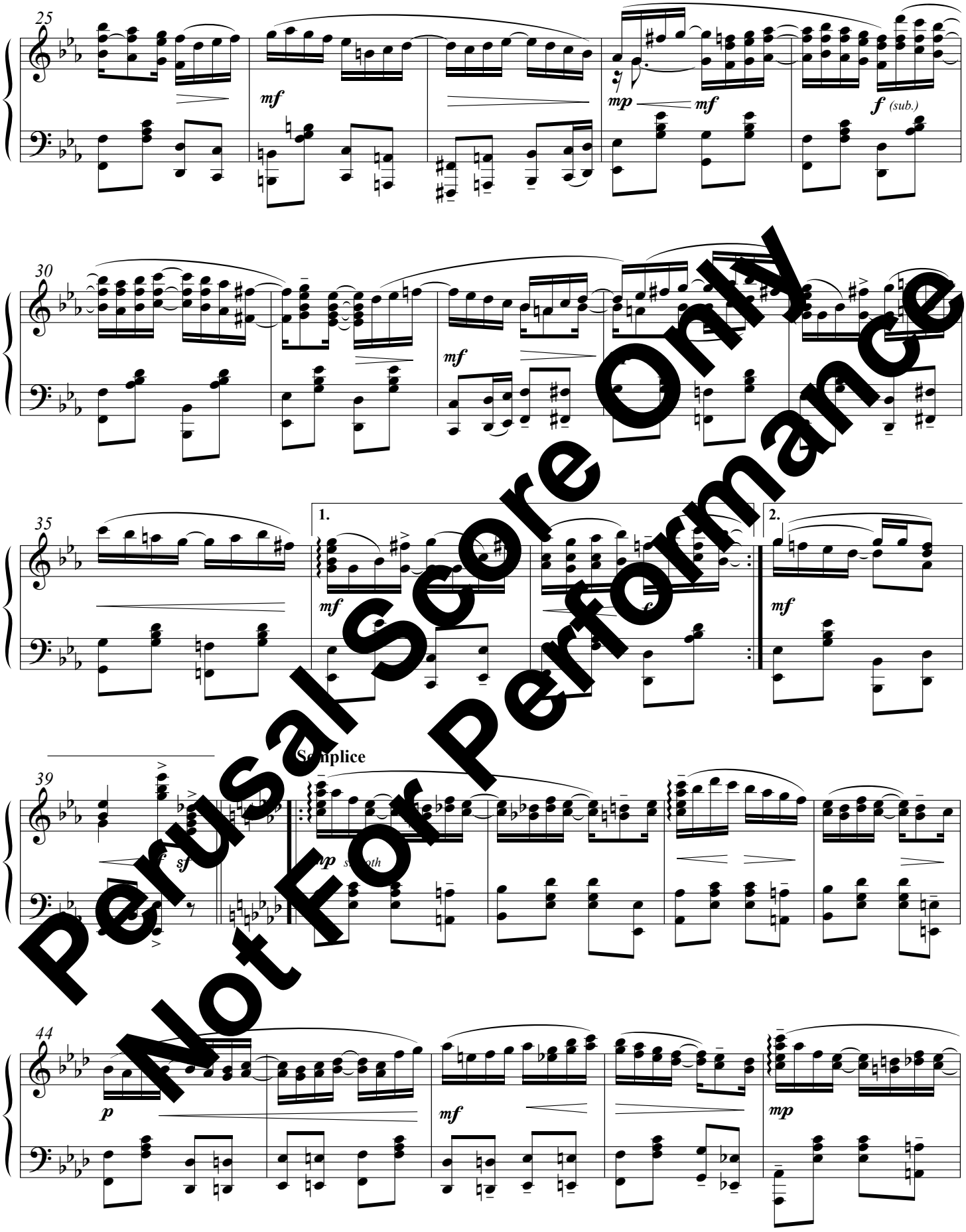

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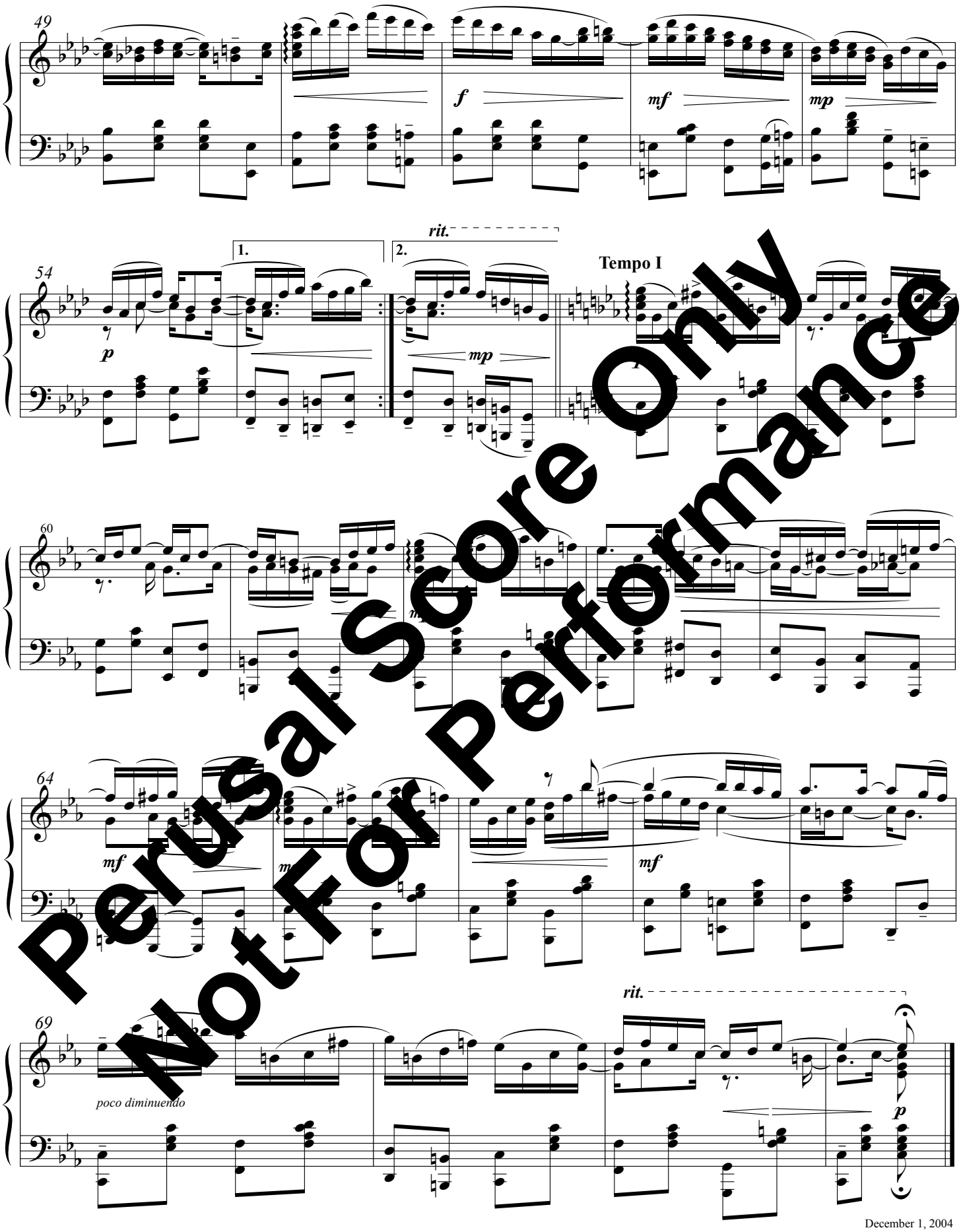

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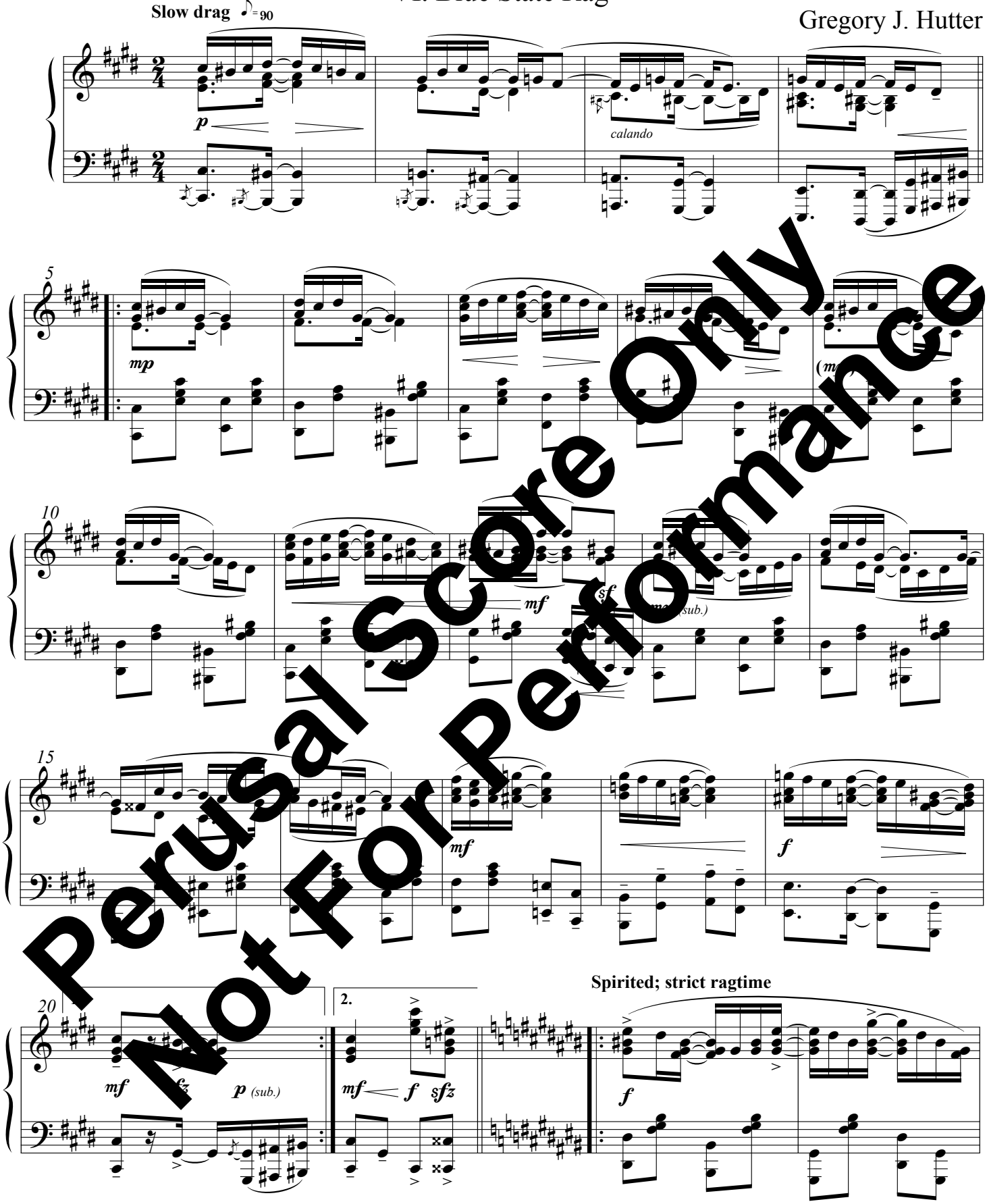
December 1, 2004
Chicago, IL

VI. Blue State Rag

Gregory J. Hutter



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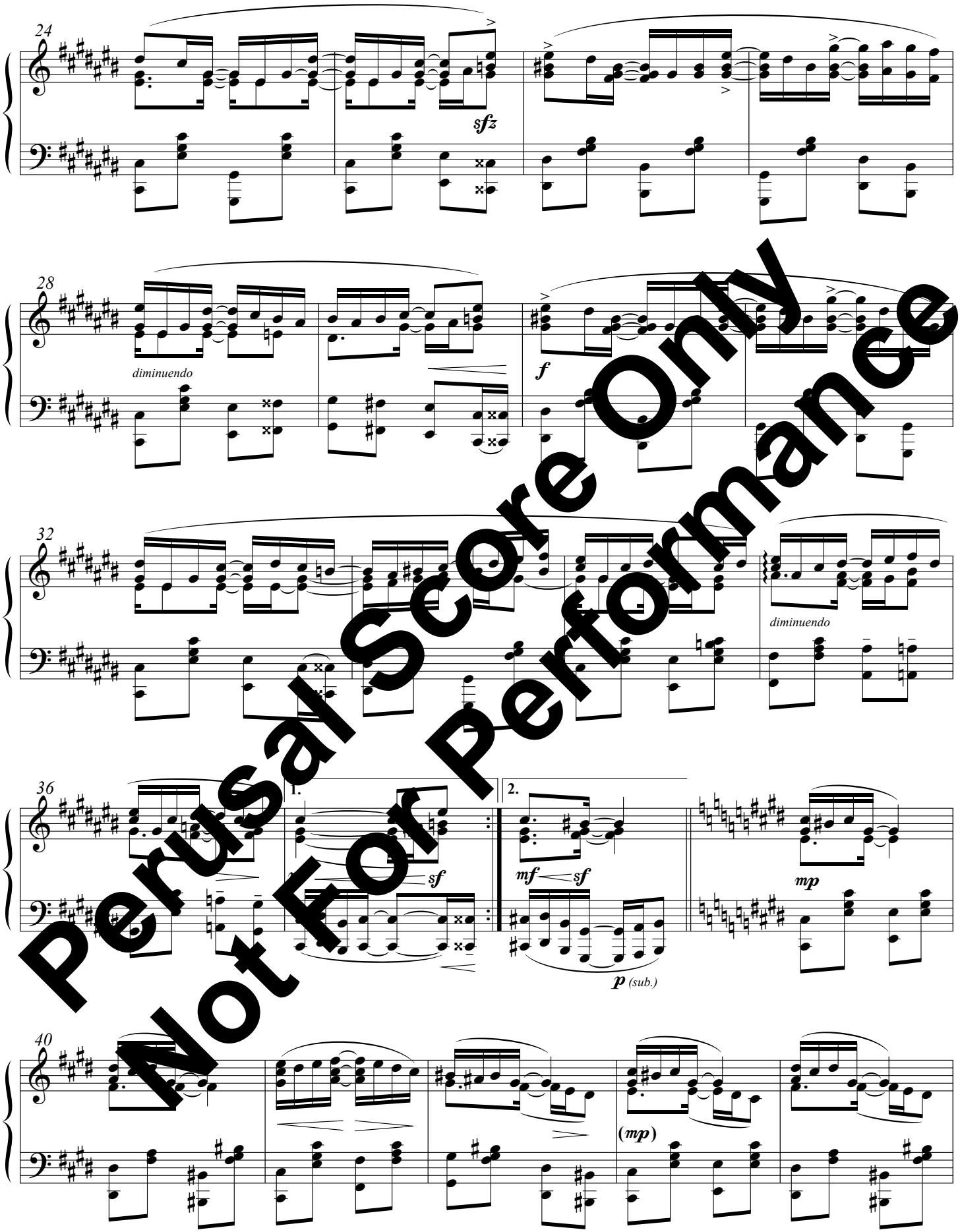

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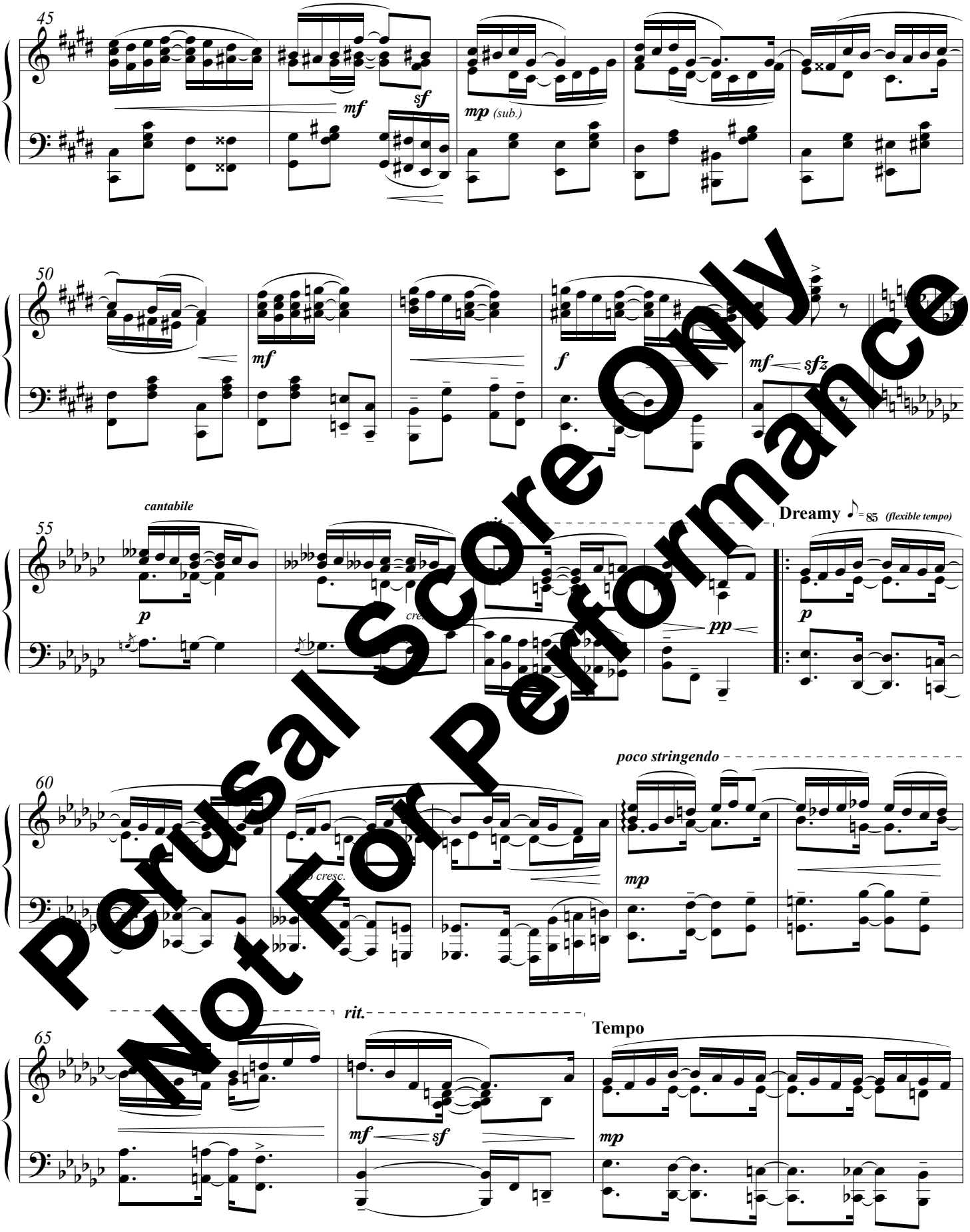

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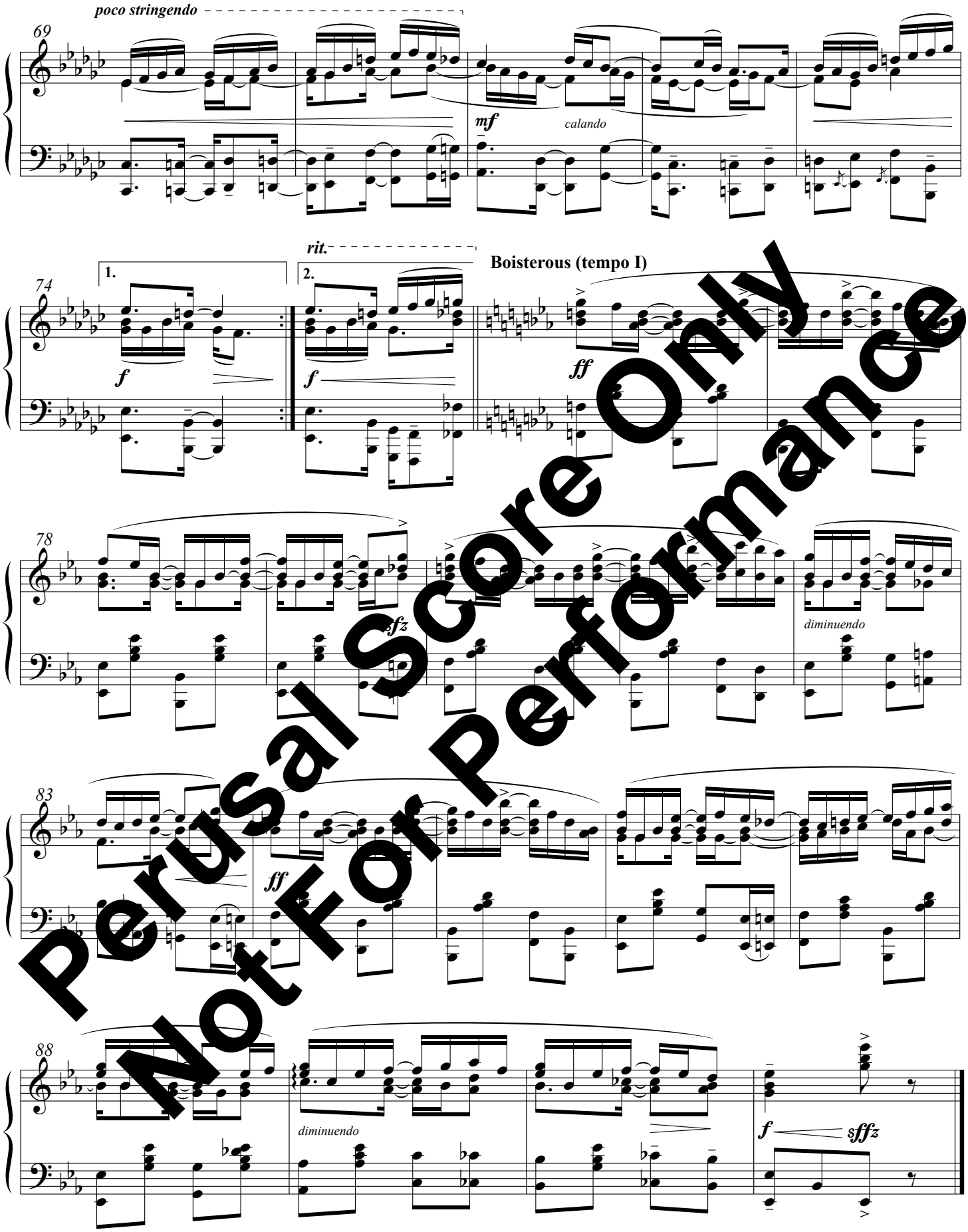

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VII. The Temptress Rag

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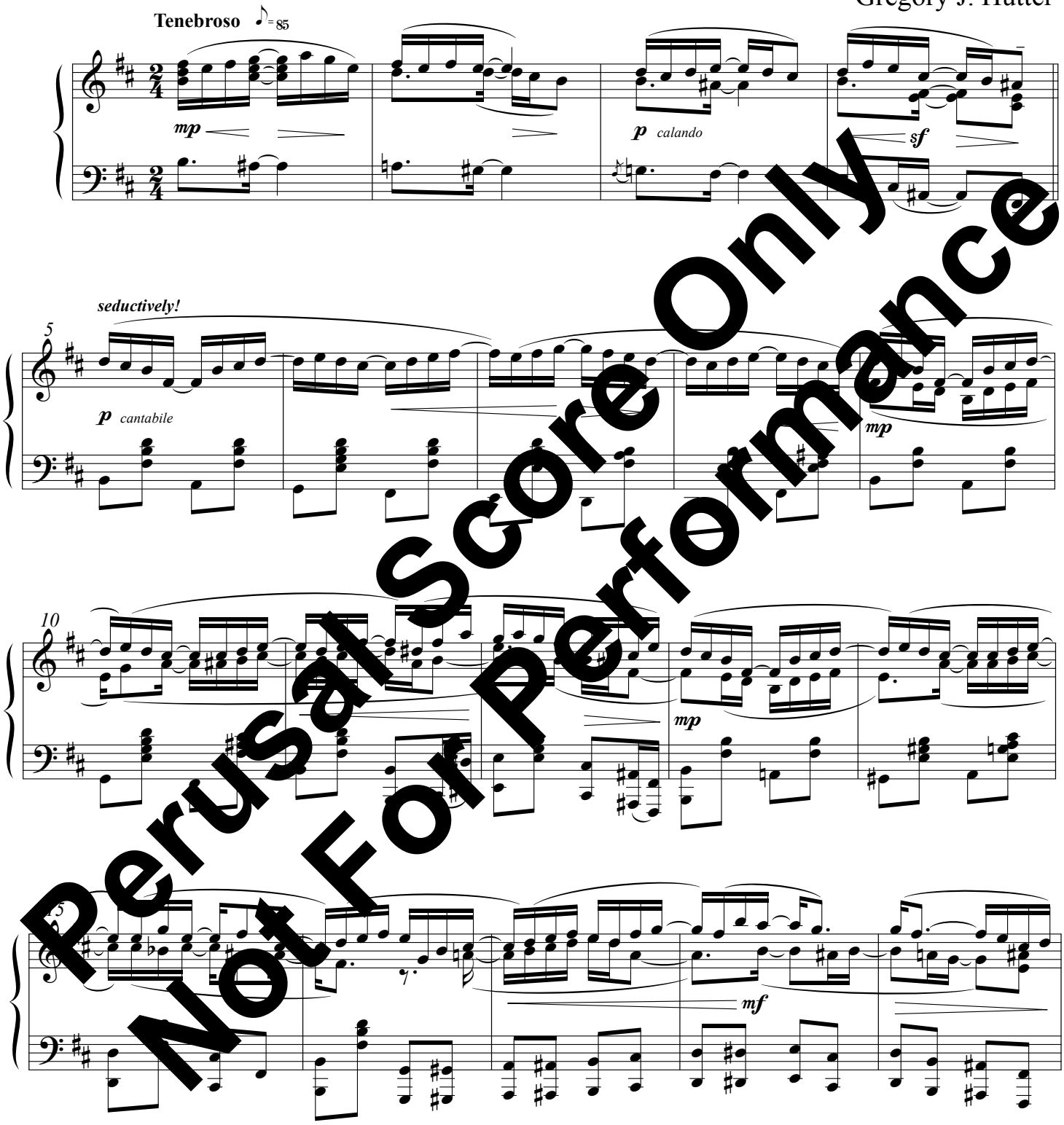

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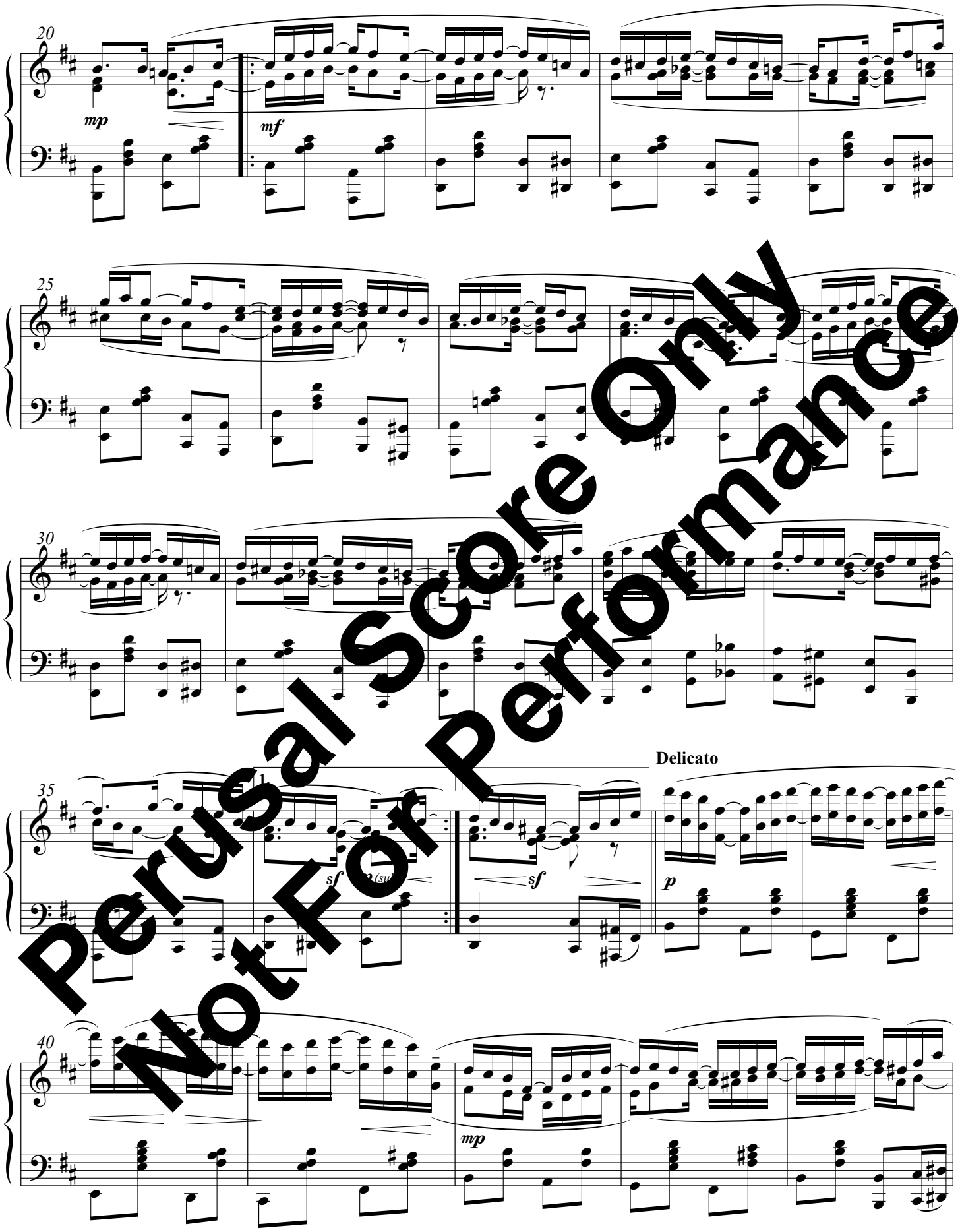

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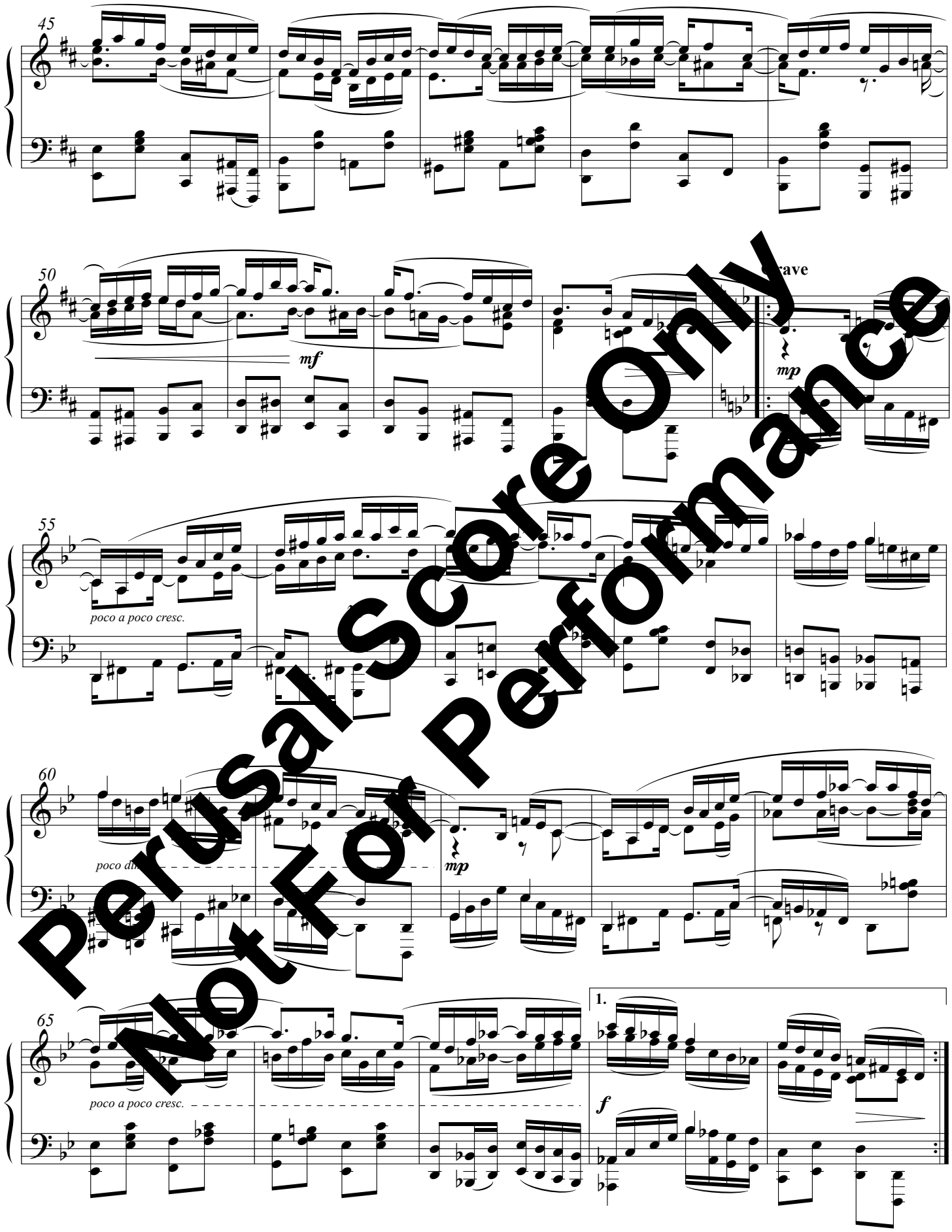

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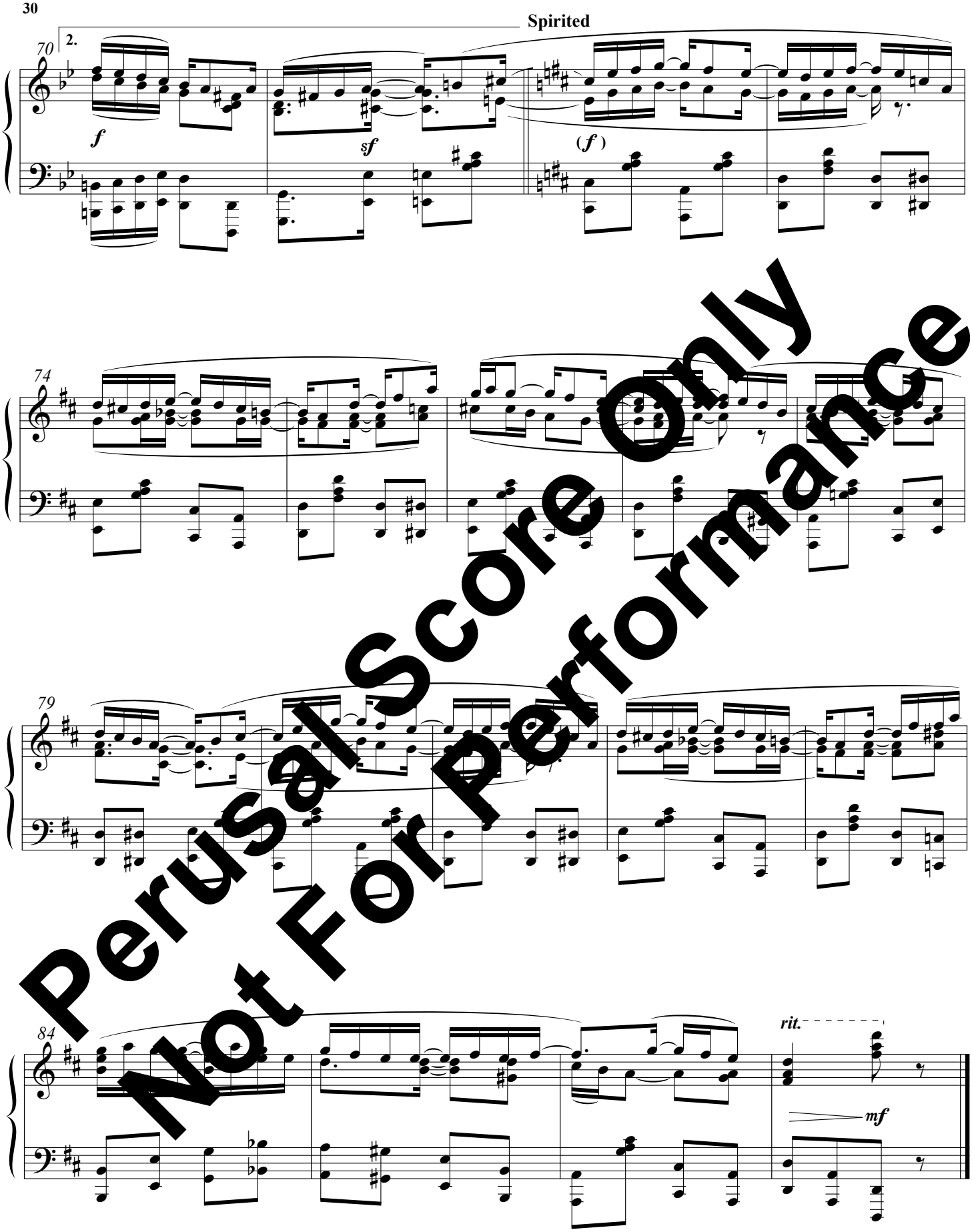

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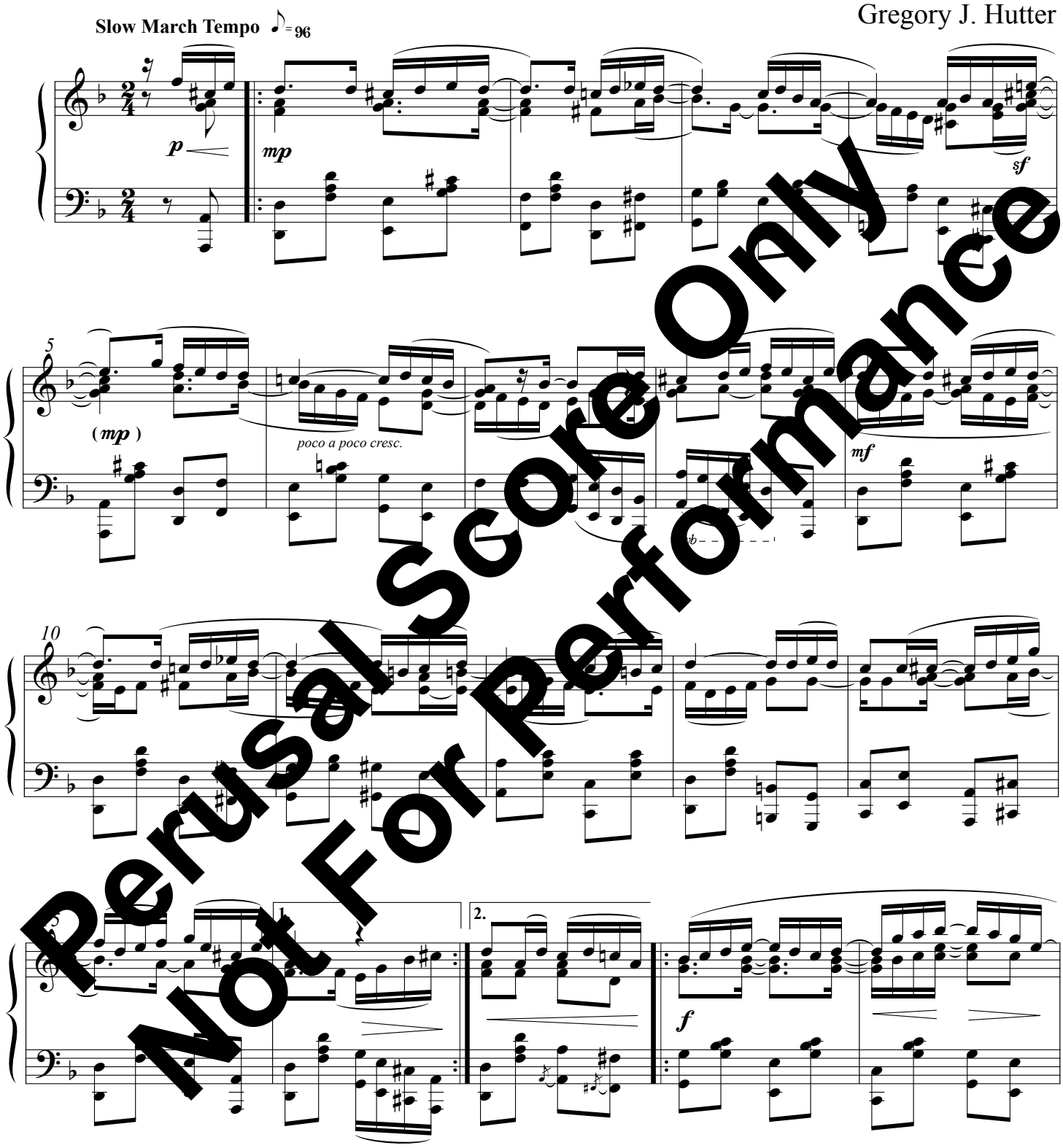
August 1, 2005
Chicago, IL

VIII. The Hiatus Rag

Gregory J. Hutter



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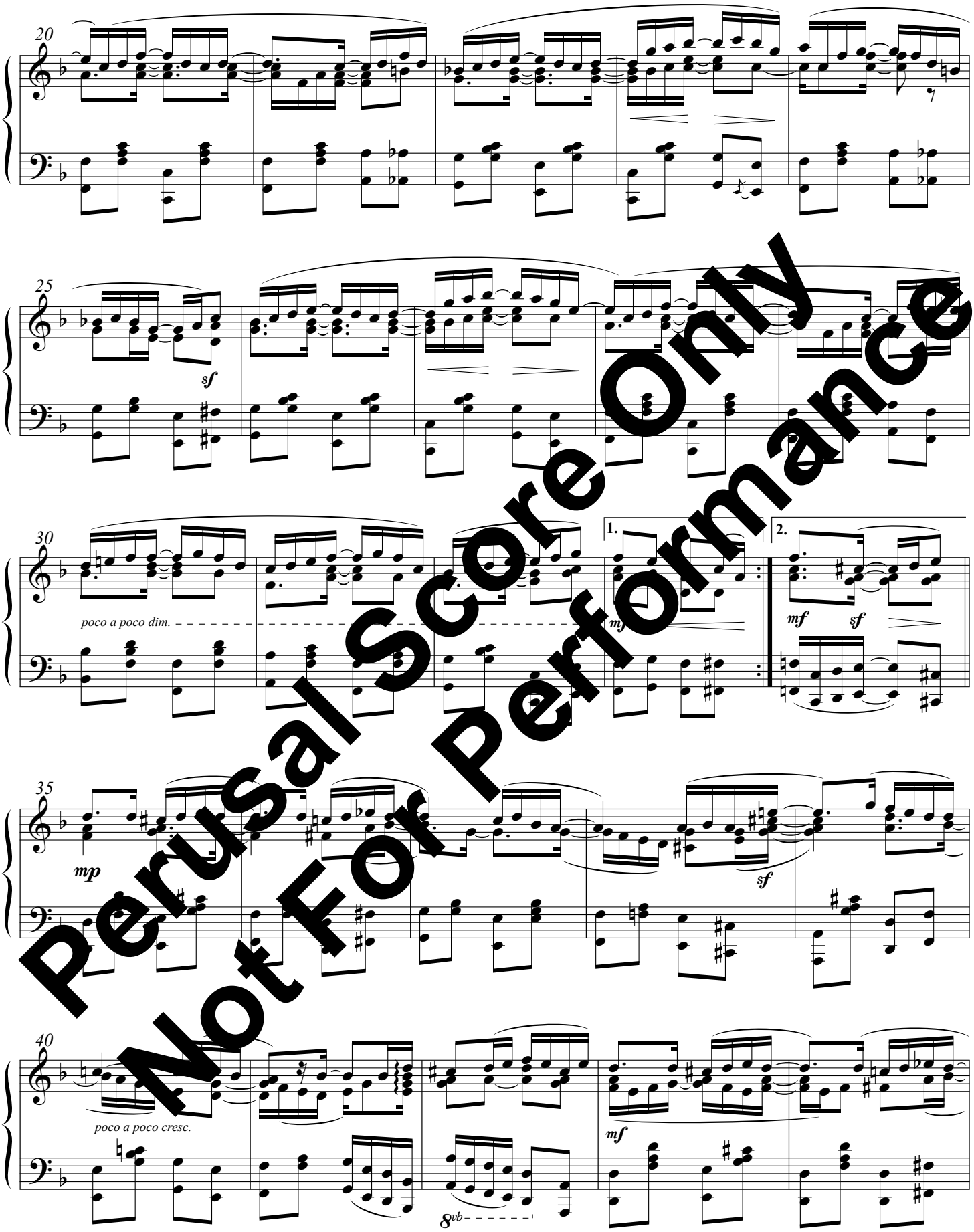

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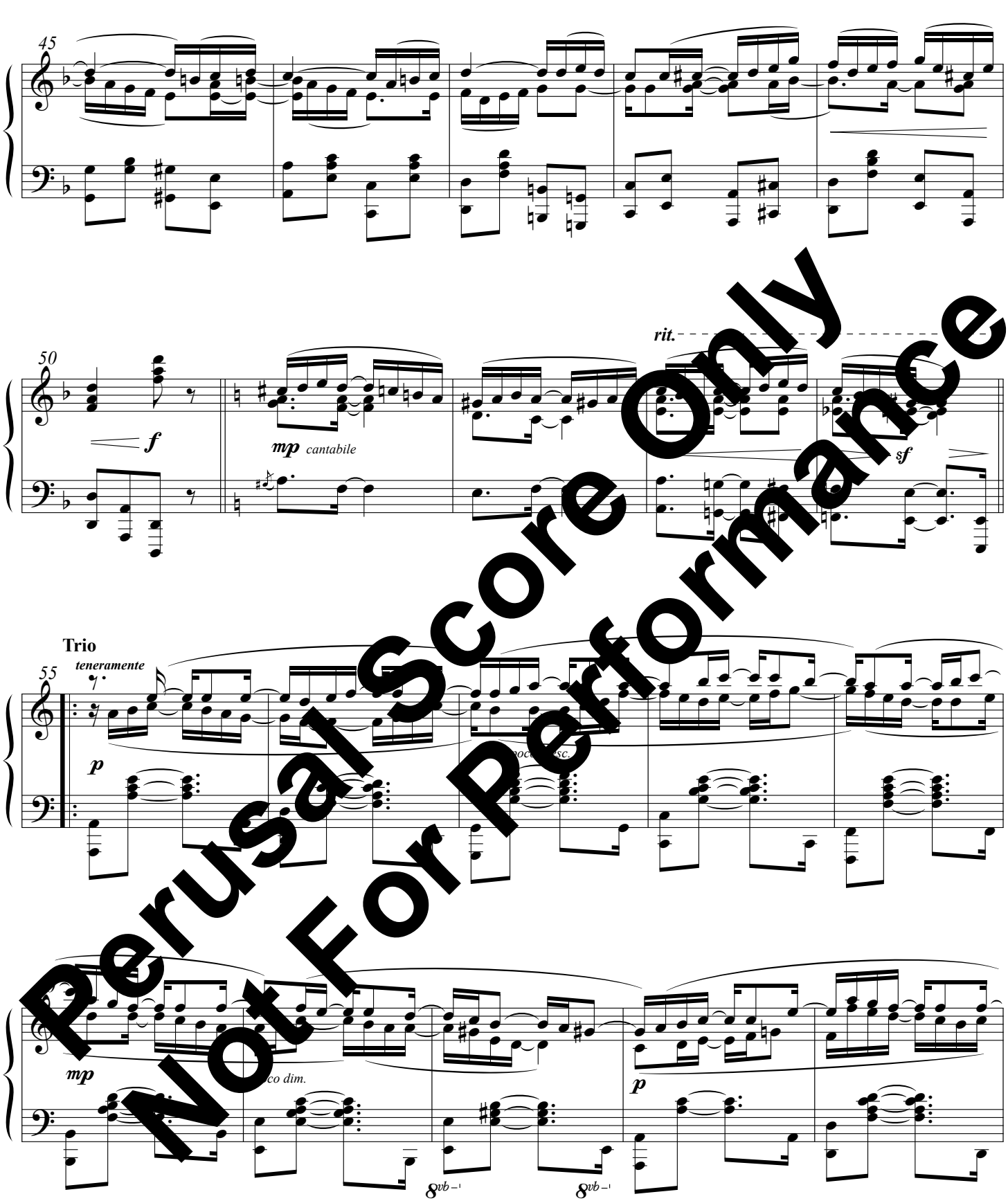

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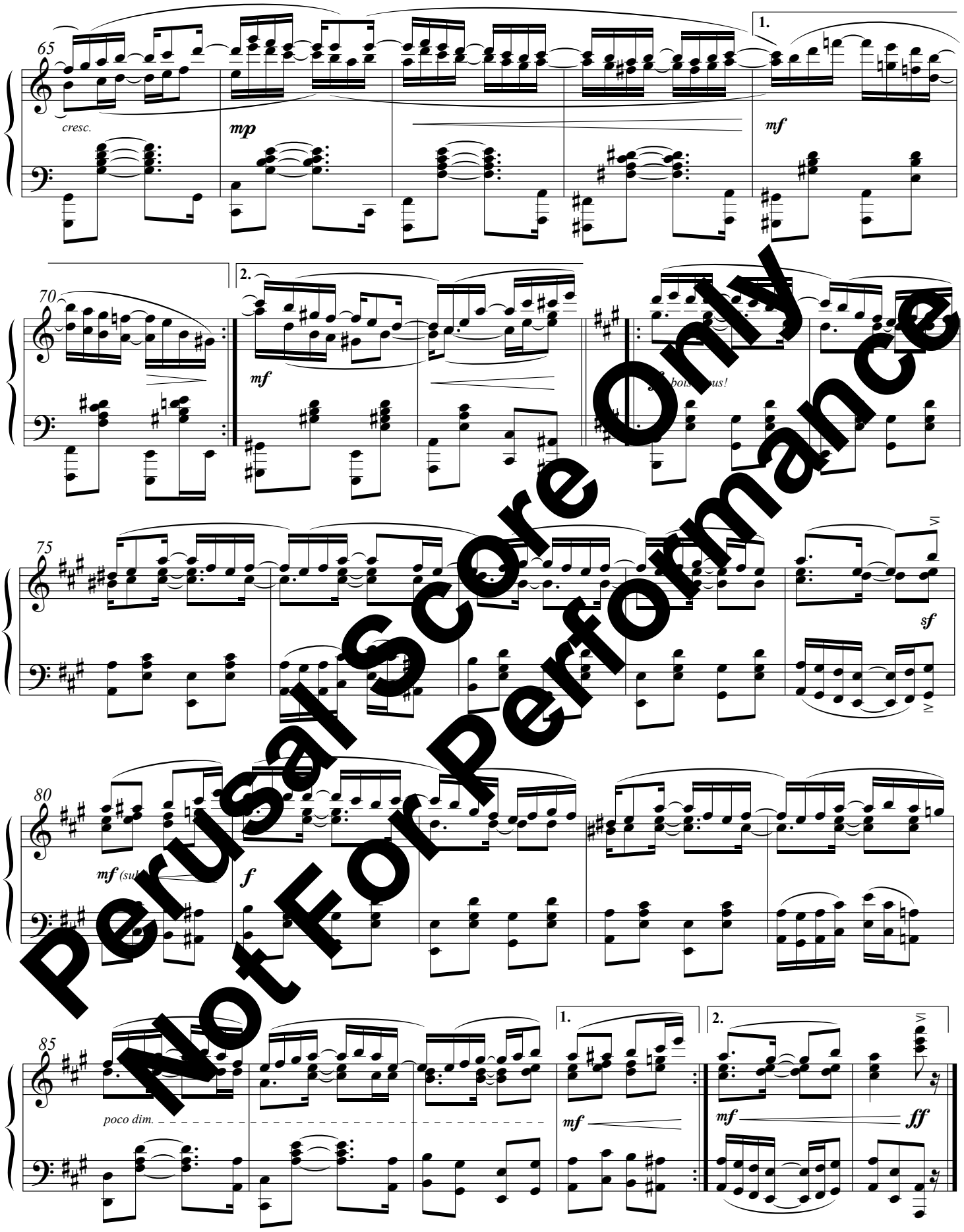

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August 19, 2005
Sawyer, MI

In Memoriam: Phyllis Hokanson

IX. The Tragic Rag

Gregory J. Hutter

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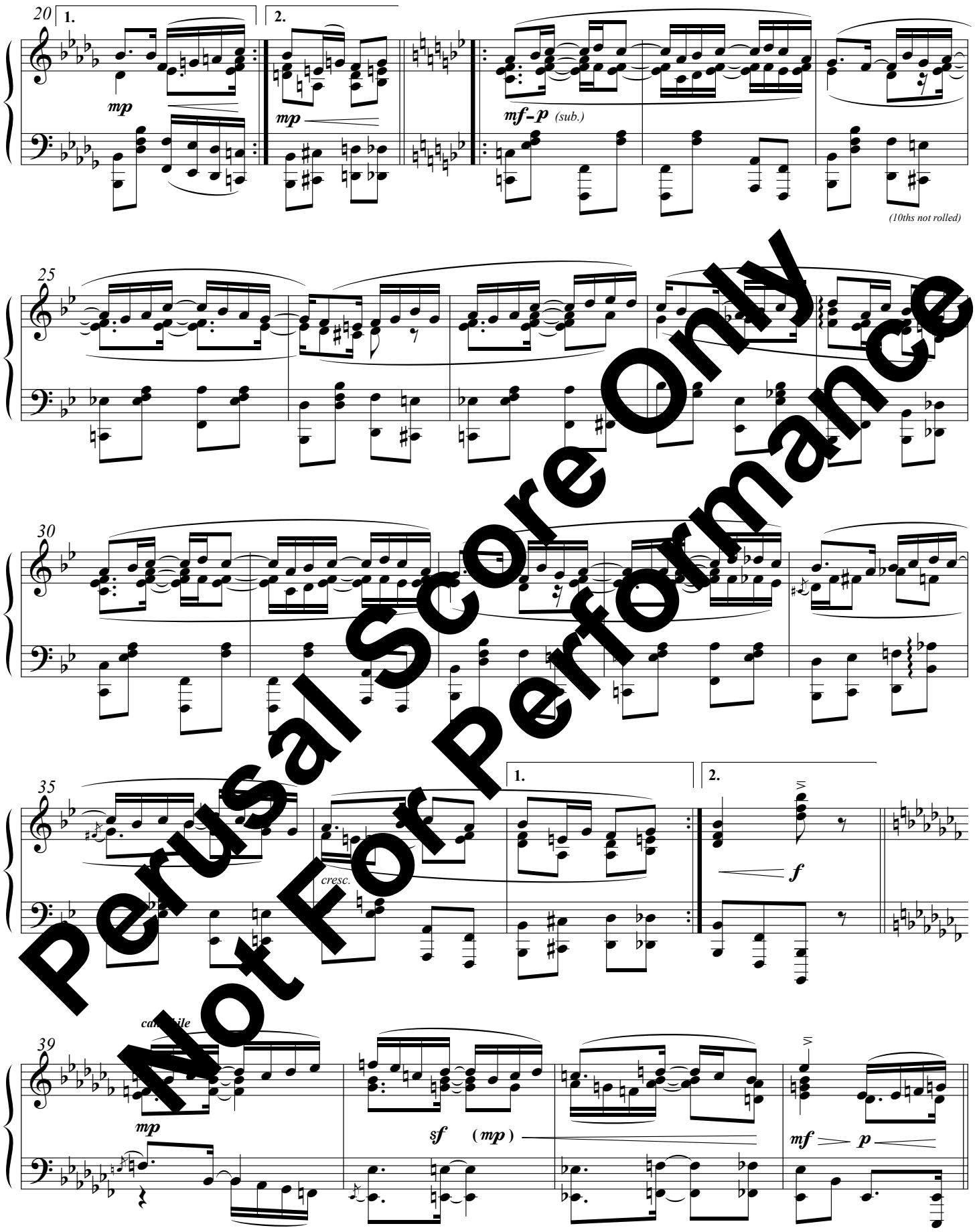

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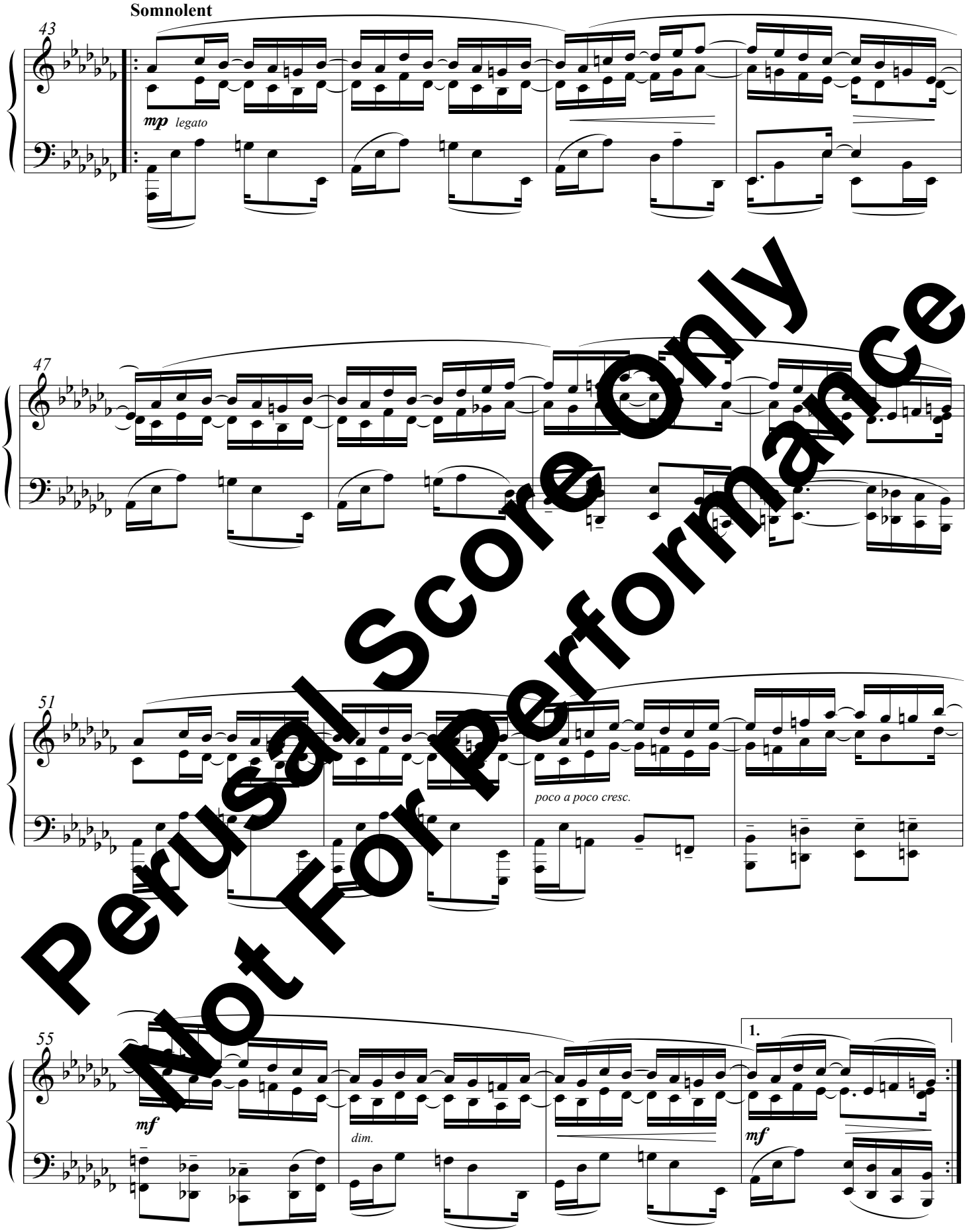

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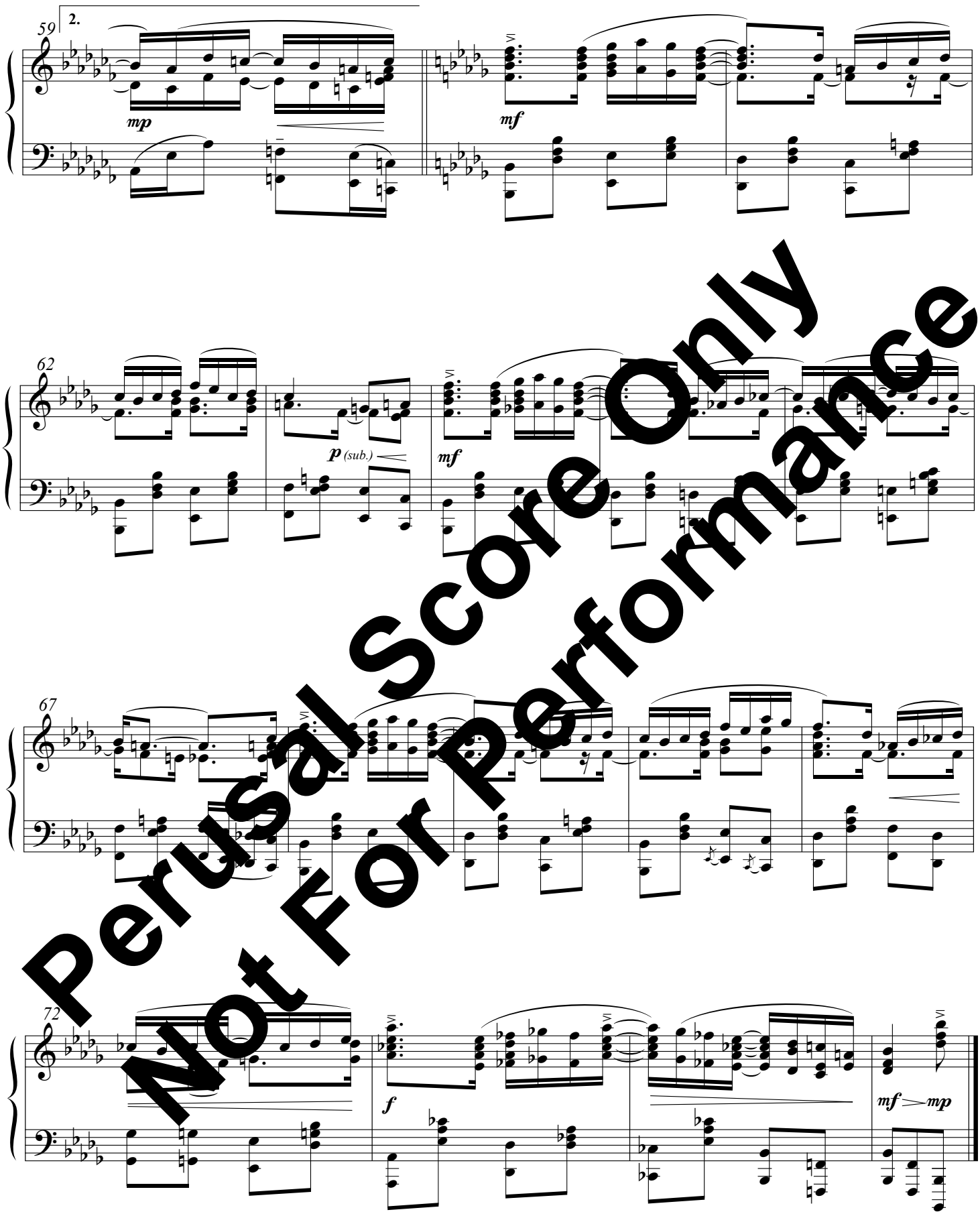

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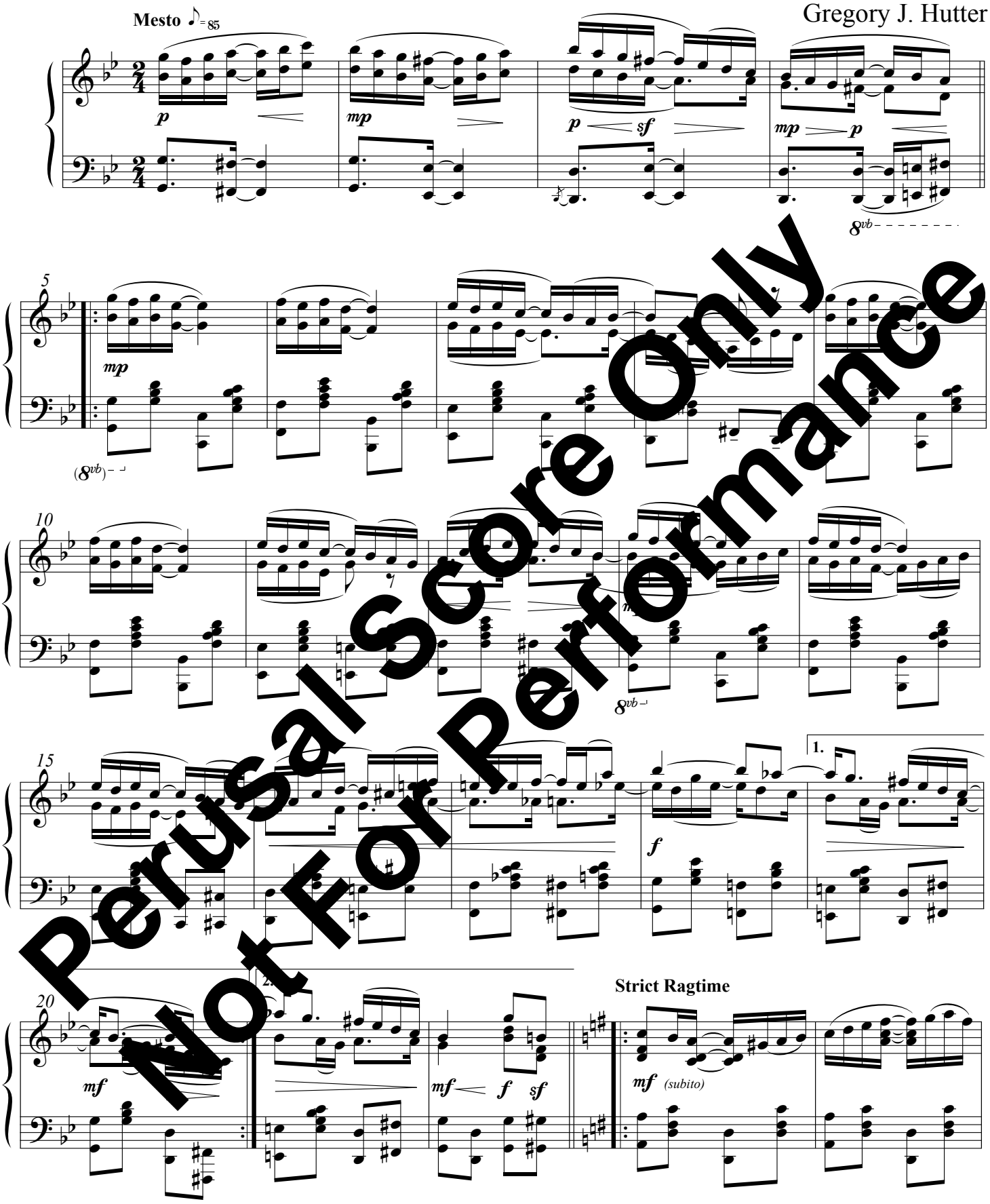
August 28, 2005
Sawyer, MI

X. The Country House Rag

Gregory J. Hutter



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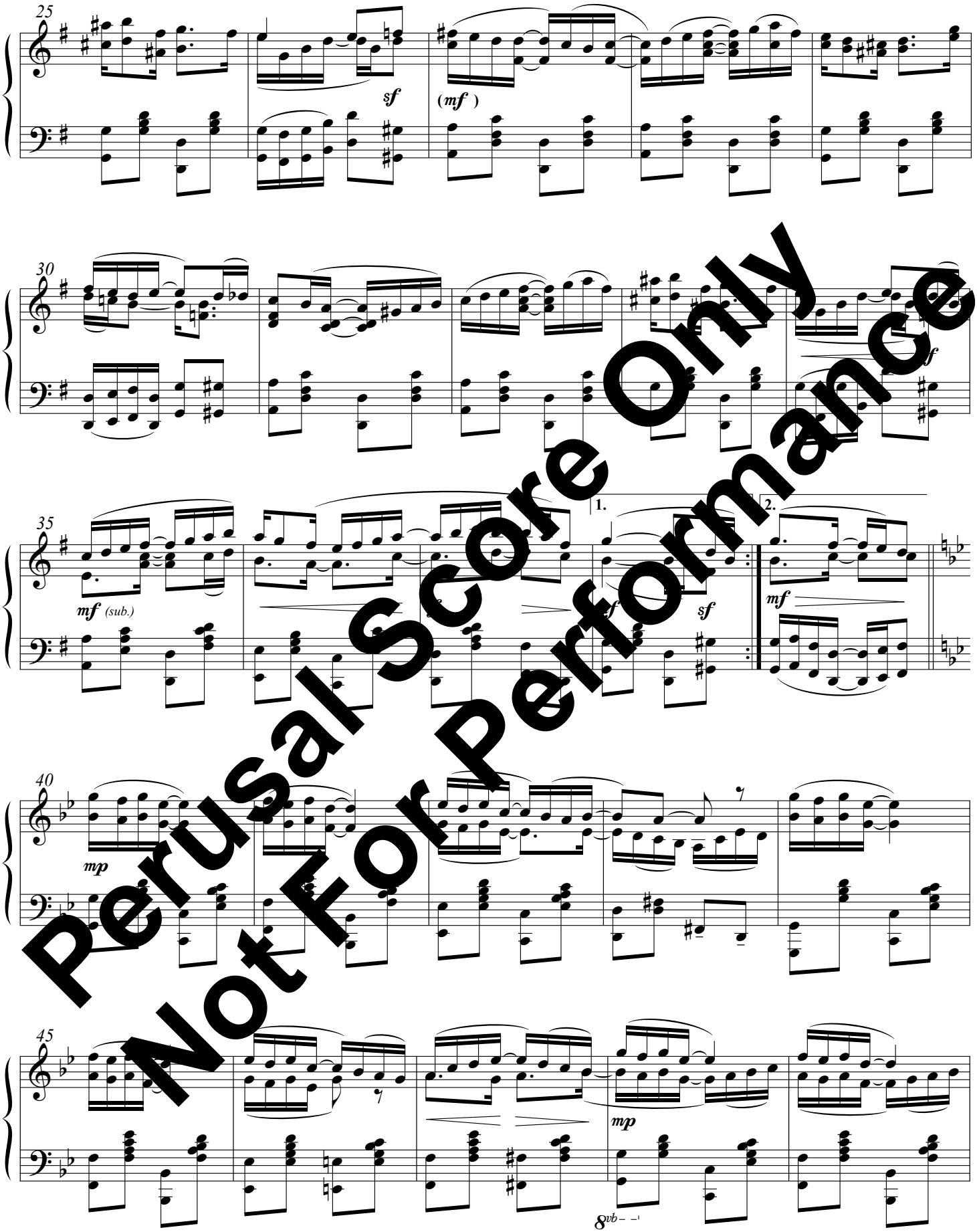

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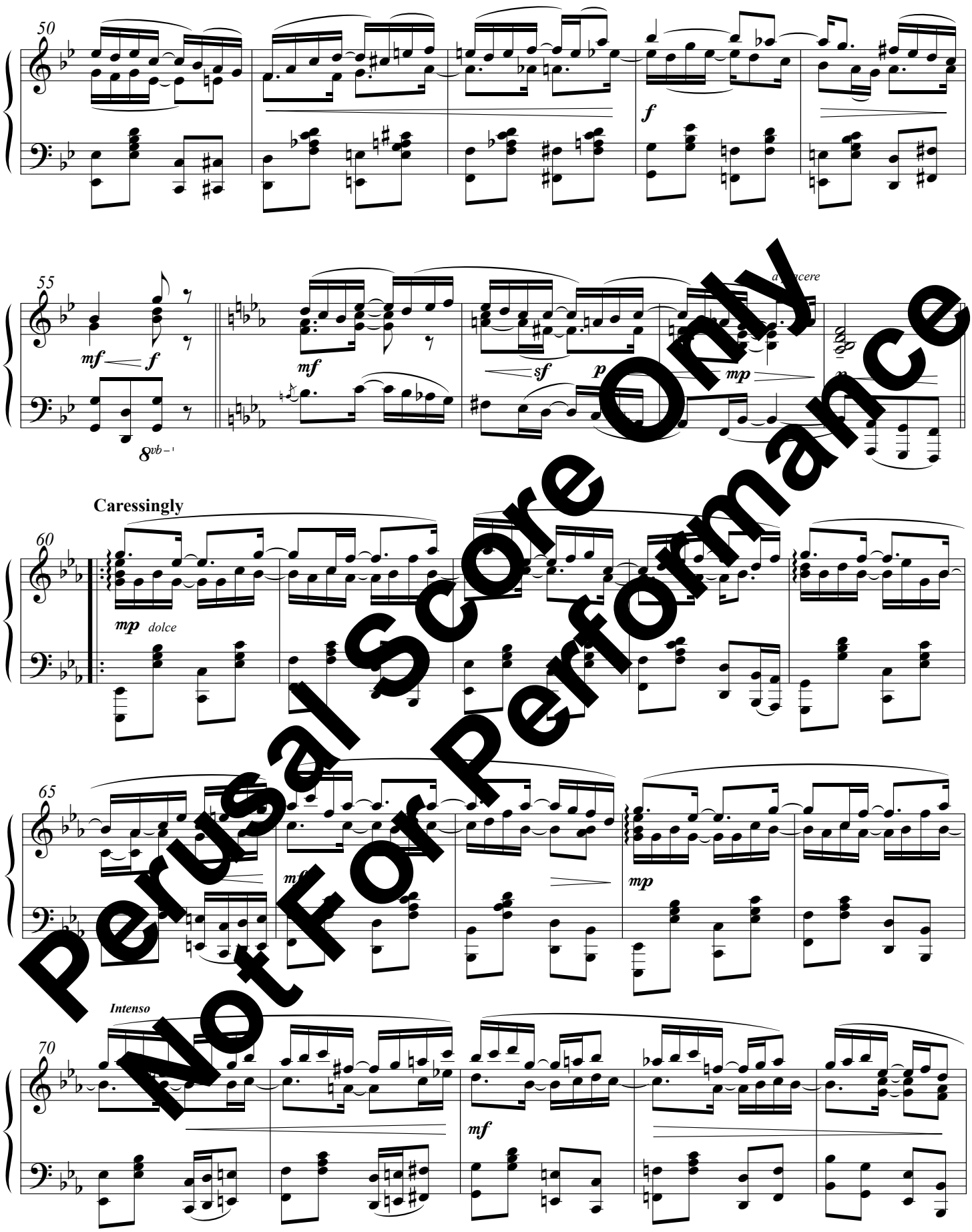

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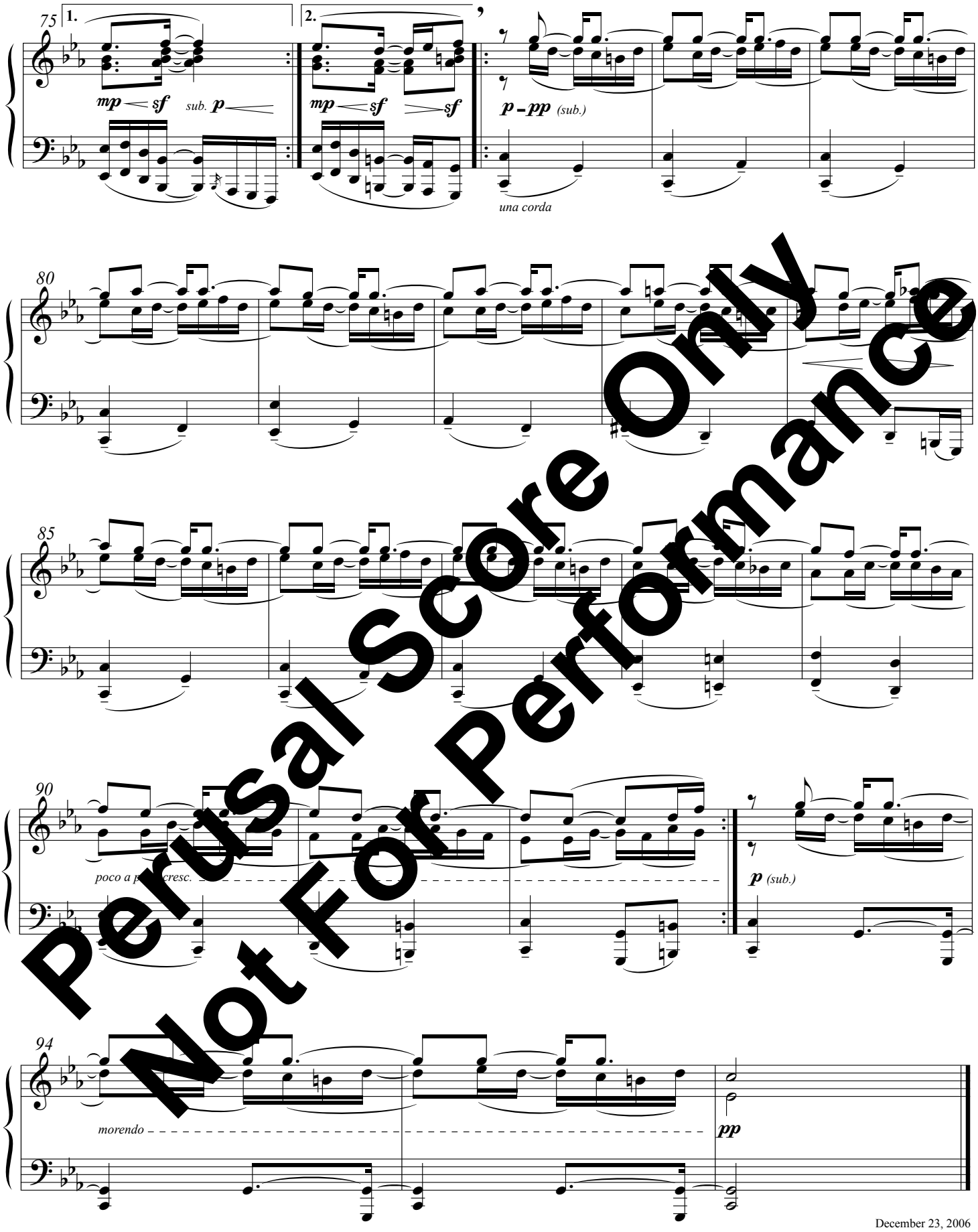
Tenebroso



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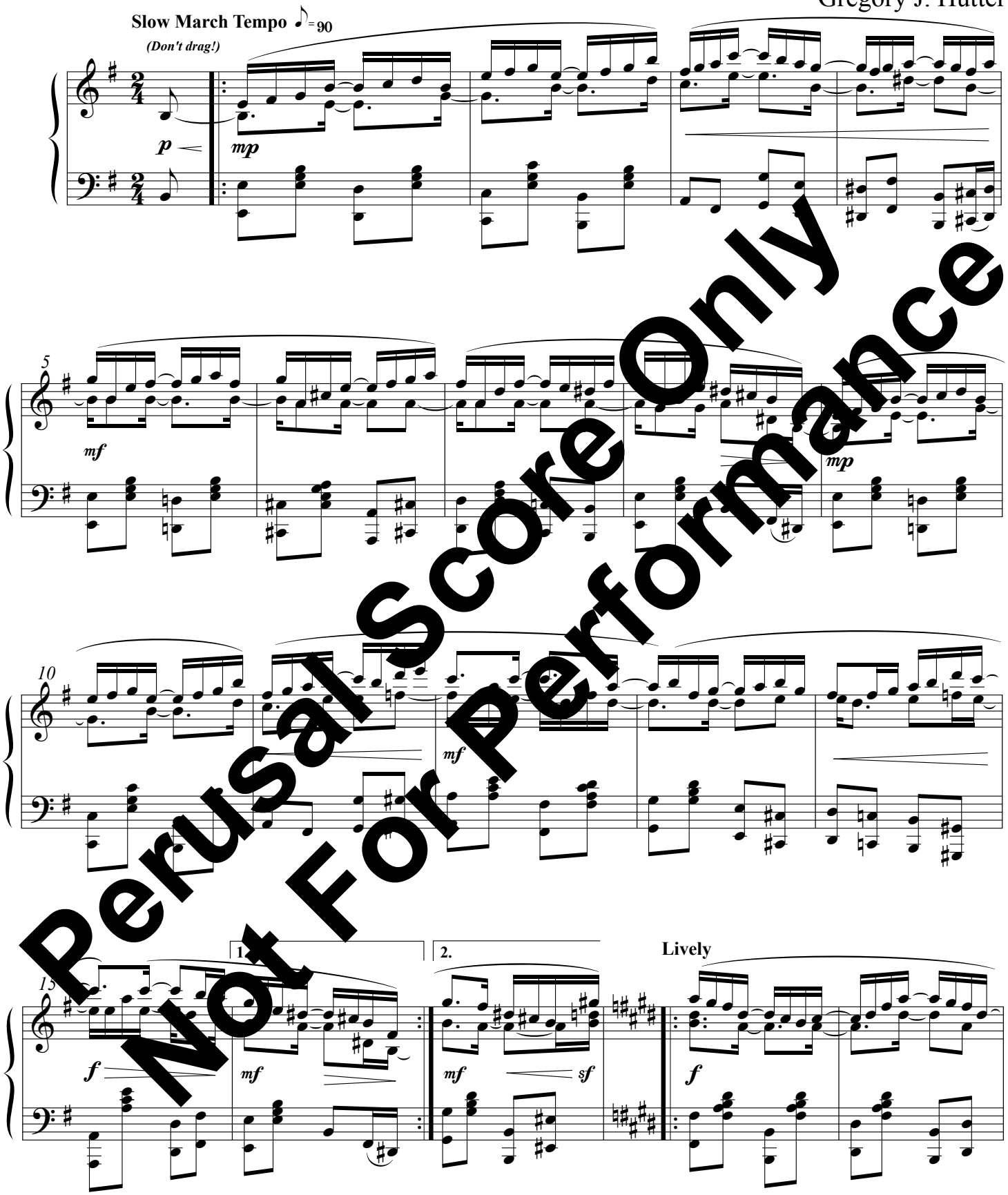
December 23, 2006
Chicago, IL

for Matthew McCright

XI. Evening Air

Gregory J. Hutter



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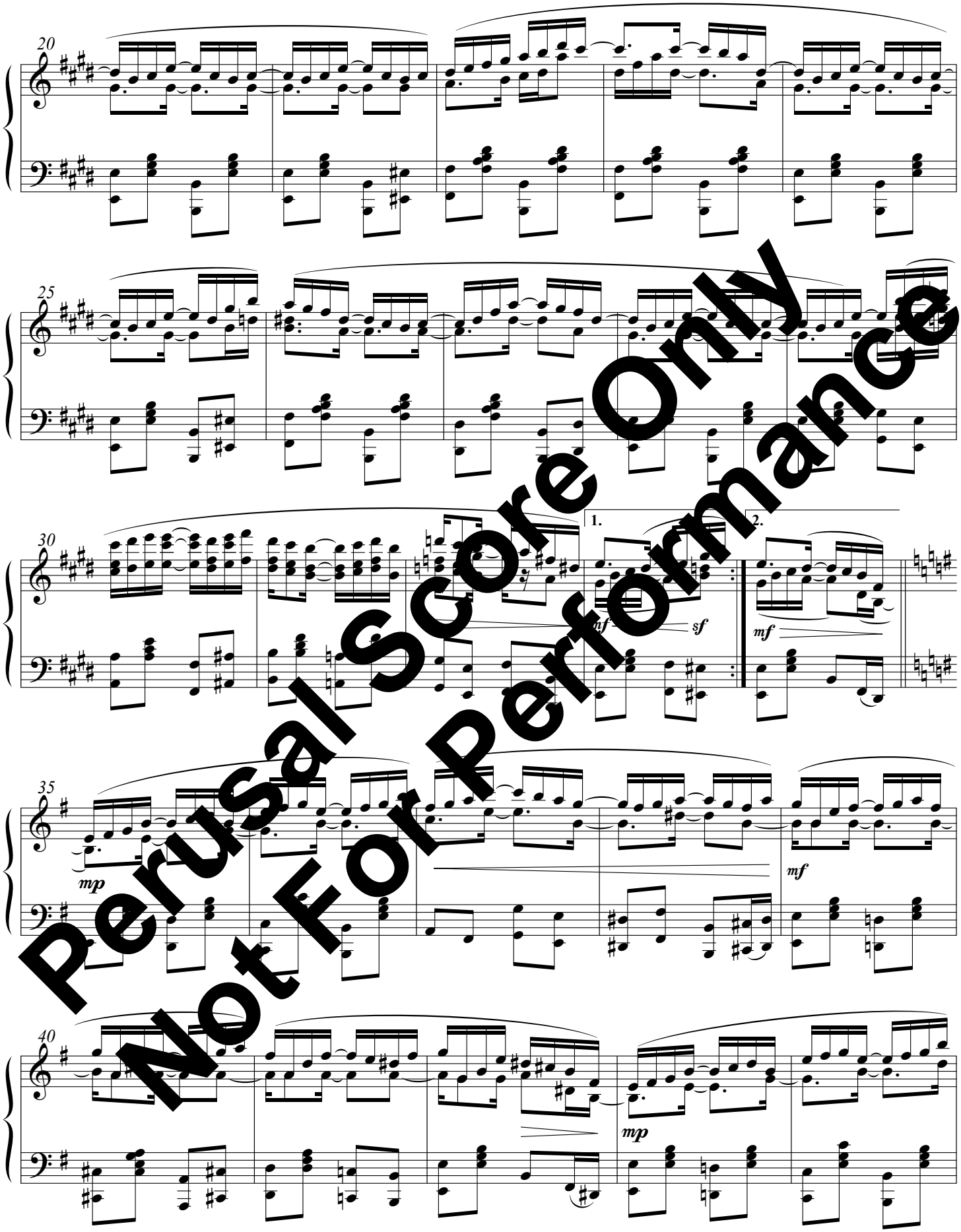

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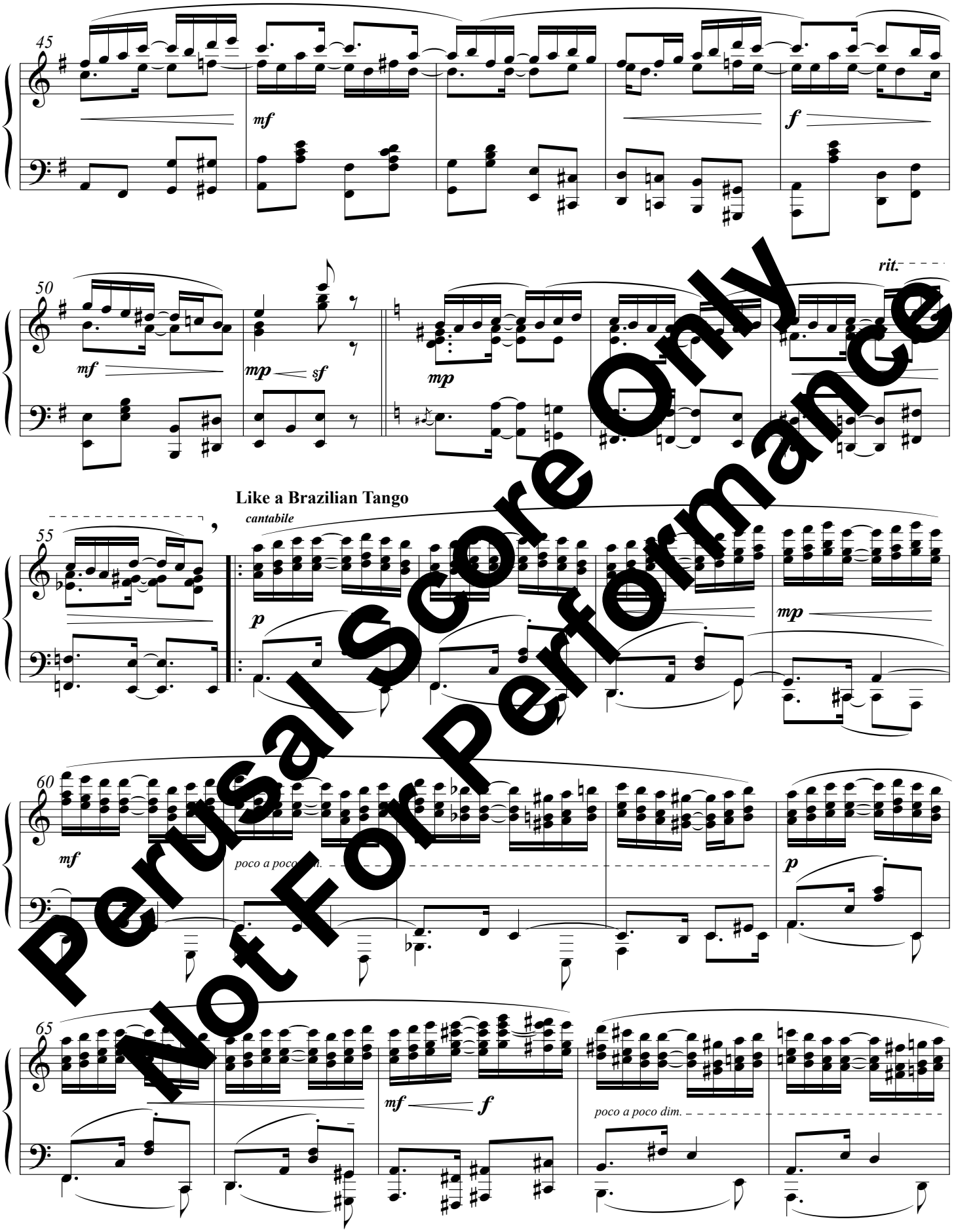

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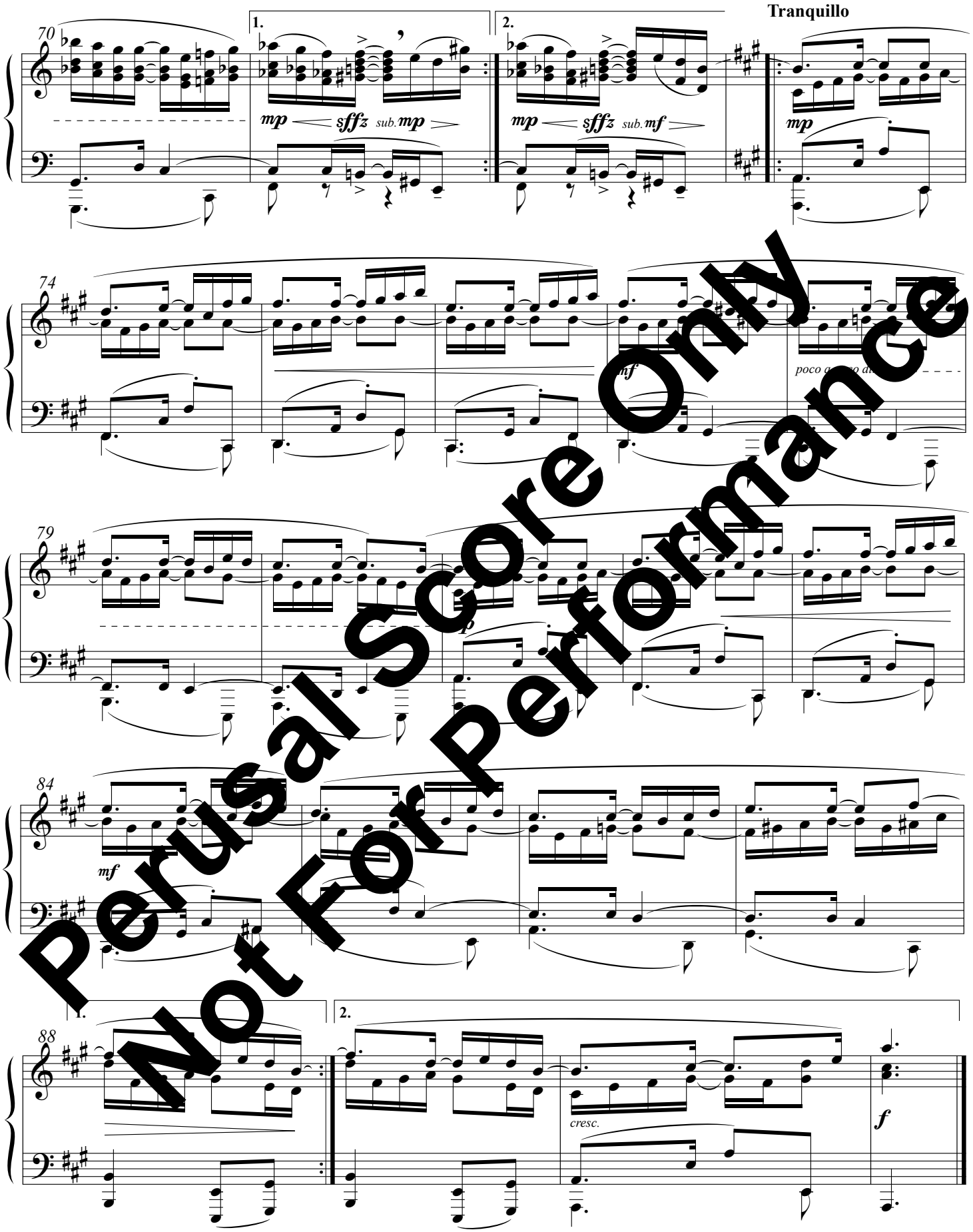

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In Memoriam: Barbara and Dean Corey

XII. The South Shore Rag

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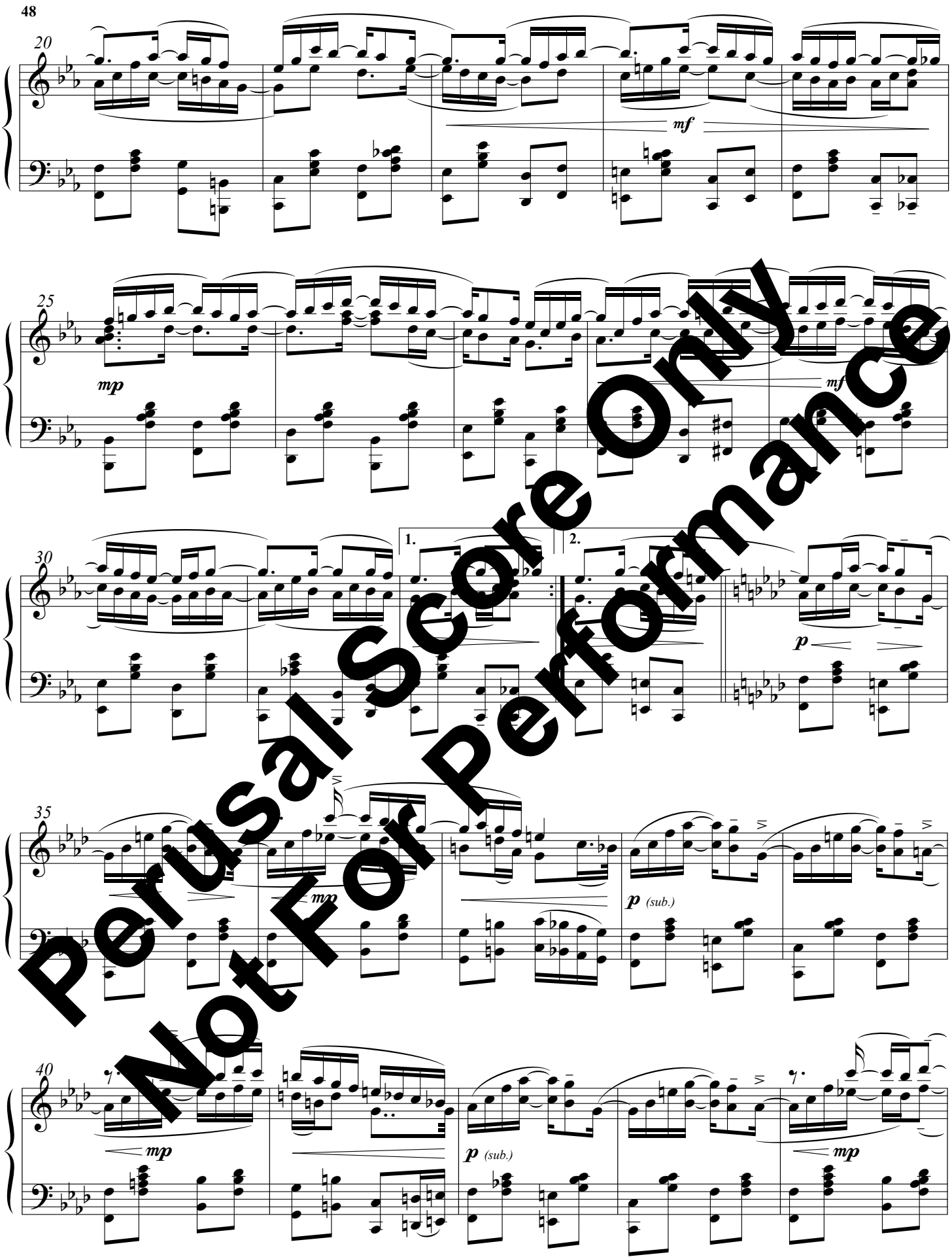

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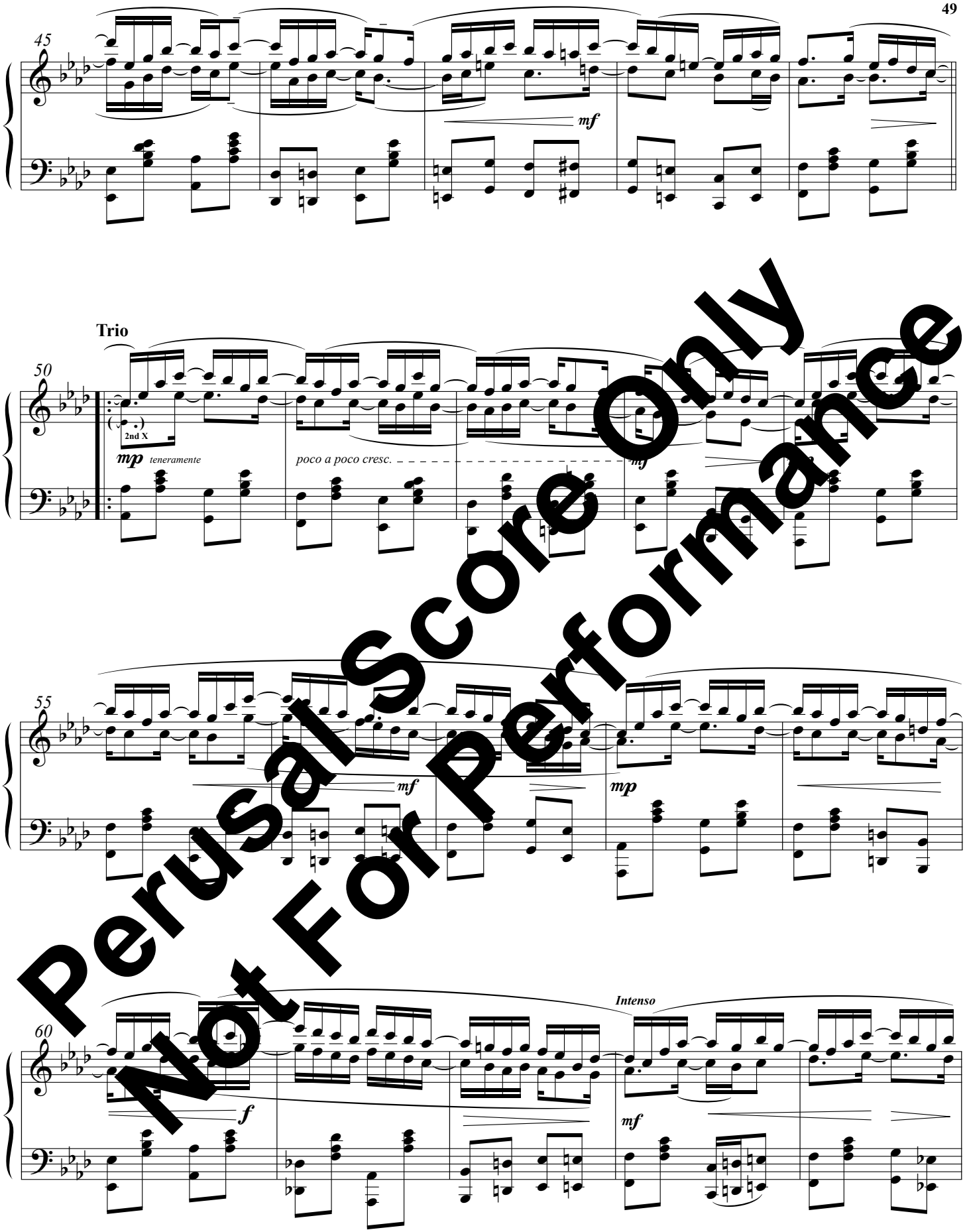

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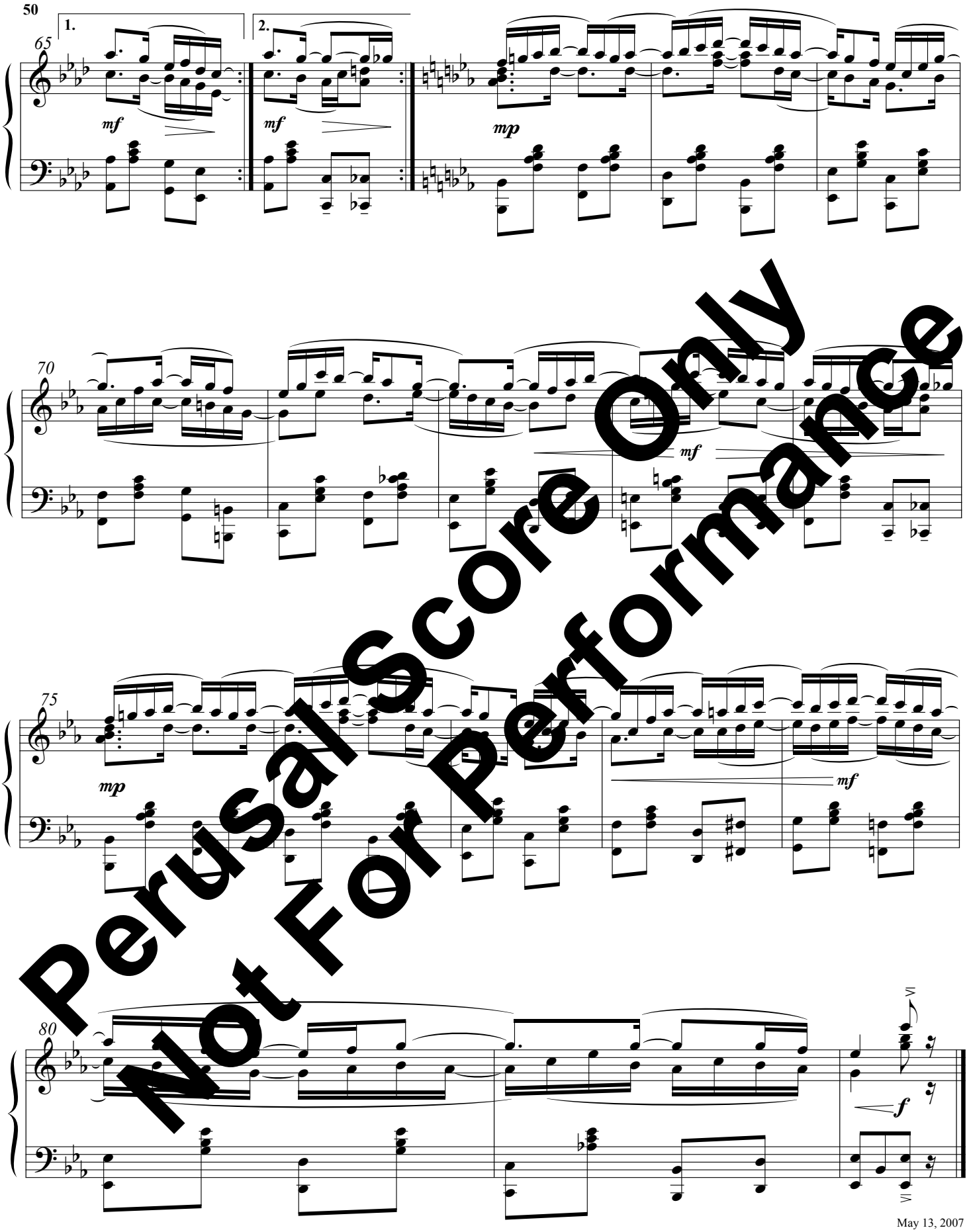

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May 13, 2007
Chicago, IL