DREI KLAVIERSTÜCKE

for solo piano

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LIAM RITZ

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DREI KLAVIERSTÜCKE

for solo piano

(2018)

I. Schattenhaft *(fließend aber nicht schnell)*.... 1

II. Adagietto..... 12

III. Rondo. Finale..... 14

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Premiered on April 22, 2018 at Church of the Holy Trinity, Toronto ON:

León Bernsdorf (piano)

DREI KLAVIERSTÜCKE (2018)

for solo piano

DURATION: 10 minutes

Programme Notes:

I. Schattenhaft (fließend aber nicht schnell)
II. Adagietto
III. Rondo. Finale

Drei Klavierstücke is a three movement work for solo piano, commissioned by German pianist, León Bernsdorf. The piece is loosely inspired by the symphonic works of Gustav Mahler. Each movement begins with a tempo or expressive marking borrowed from the works of Mahler, and these act as the impetus defining the rest of the movement.

The opening movement is titled "Schattenhaft (fließend aber nicht schnell)", which translates to "shadowy (*flowing but not fast)"* and is borrowed from the scherzo of Mahler's 7th Symphony. I took this indication and aimed to create an ambiguous yet constantly moving atmosphere to underline the entire movement, with occasional glimpses of clarity and light.

The second movement, "Adagietto", takes its name from the fourth movement of Mahler's 5th Symphony. What is interesting about the Mahler Adagietto, are the contradictory opening markings of having the titular marking of "Adagietto", and the additional tempo indication of "sehr langsam" (*very slowly*). Through this movement I tried to craft a slow and distant recounting of the original symphonic score, and produce the lingering resonance of Mahler's writing.

The third and final movement takes its name again from the ending of Mahler's 7th Symphony, Rondo – Finale. The piece moves between alternating sections of mechanical, typewriter-esque perpetual motion, gentle cascading lines, and rhythmically-asymmetrical repeated grooves.

Composer Biography:

Liam Ritz (b.1996) is a Canadian-born composer based in Toronto, Ontario.

As a composer, Liam has been fortunate to work with outstanding musicians and ensembles including the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Gemma New, Veronique Lacroix, Etsuko Kimura, Cameron Crozman, and more.

His works have been frequently performed across Canada in festivals and workshops such as the Canadian Contemporary Music Workshop, the Scotia Festival of Music, the University of Toronto:

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New Music Festival, the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra's *What Next Festival,* and at the Orford Music Academy. In addition, Liam's works are often programmed by musicians in solo and chamber recitals, including recent performances in the United States, Italy, and Finland.

Recognized for his work, Liam has twice received the Pierre Mercure SOCAN Foundation Young Composers Prize, first for his *Sonata for Solo Marimba* (2017) and *Drei Klavierstücke* (2019). His works have been supported by organizations such as the Toronto Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, and the RBC Emerging Artists Project. In addition, Liam was selected as the inaugural winner of the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra's *Composer Fellowship Program*, in their 2018/19 Season, and received a City of Hamilton Arts Award in 2020.

Liam received a Bachelor of Music from the University of Toronto, studying composition under Abigail Richardson-Schulte.

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For inquiries regarding performance and materials:

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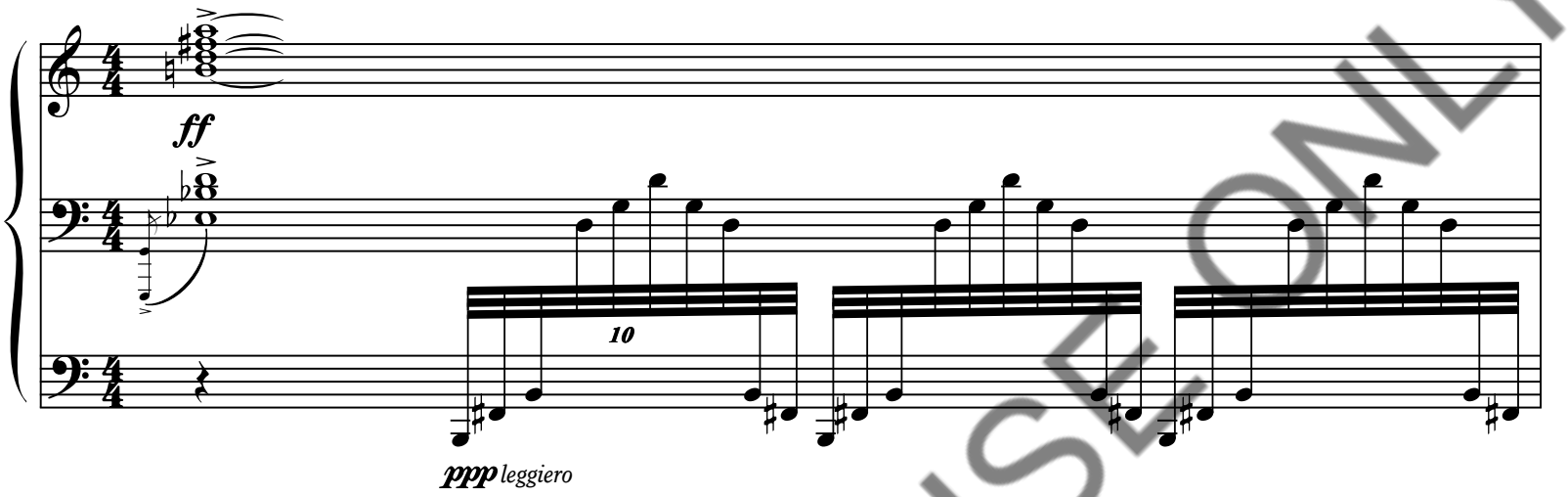
für León Bernsdorf

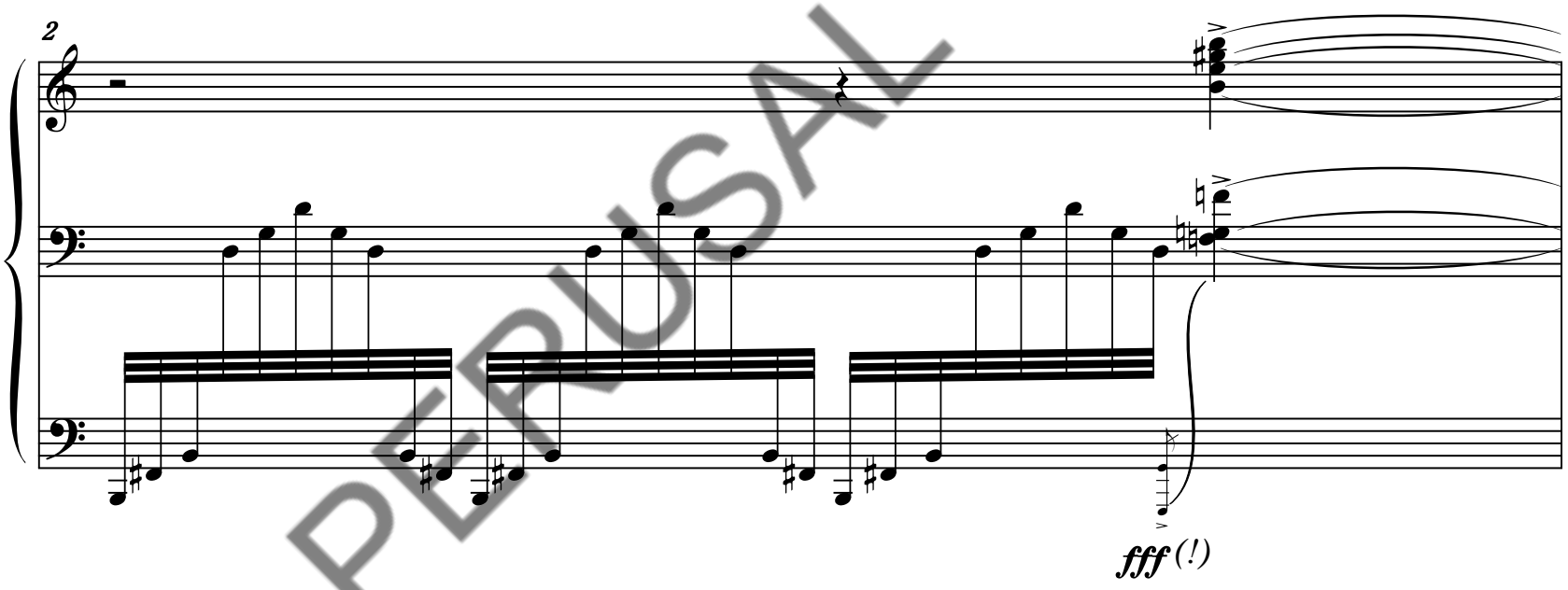
DREI KLAVIERSTÜCKE

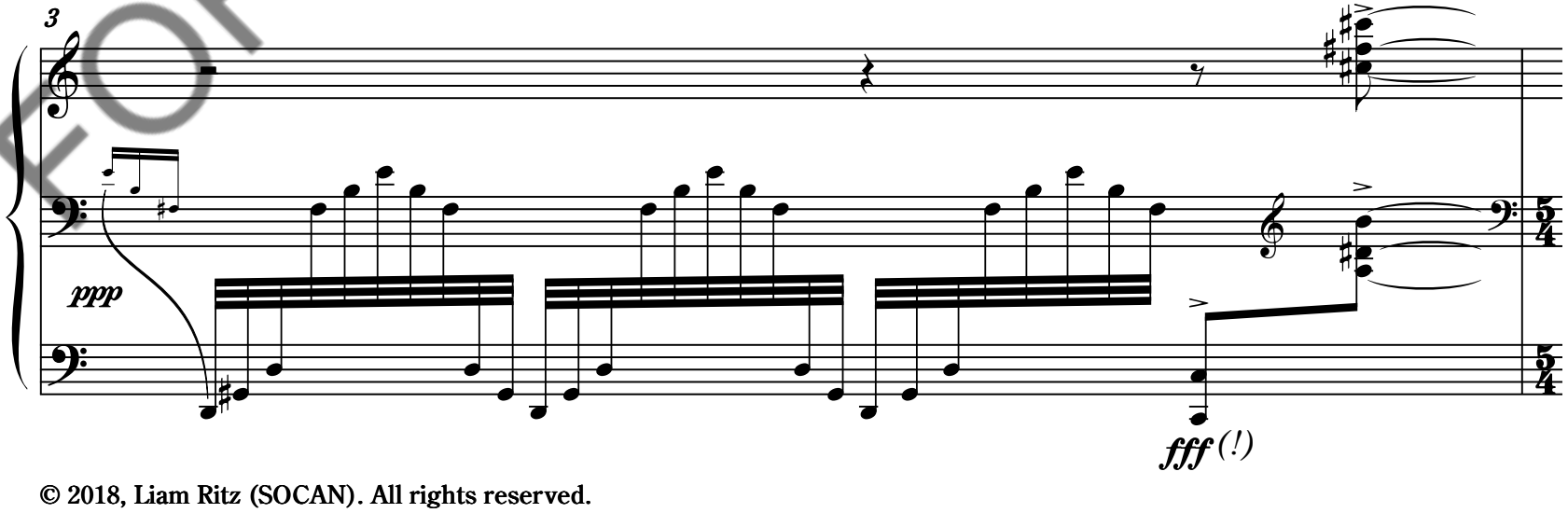
I. Satz

Liam Ritz (b.1996)

Schattenhaft *(fließend aber nicht schnell)* (♩. = 66)







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4

ppp

12:8

3:2

5

3

p(!)

fff (!)

6

ppp

17

p

7

ppp

10

10

12:8

3:2

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8

10 11 10 10

9

Plötzlich langsamer *(ohne zu schleppen)* (♩. = 52)

6 3 6

fpp *mp* *pp*

Ped.

11

8a

f

3 6 3

8b

(Ped.)

13

molto rit. a tempo

pp *p*

5 7

8b

(Ped.) ✻ Ped. ✻ Ped. ✻

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15

17

19

20

21

molto rit.

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23 *freely, quasi-cadenza*

f

p *cresc. poco a poco*

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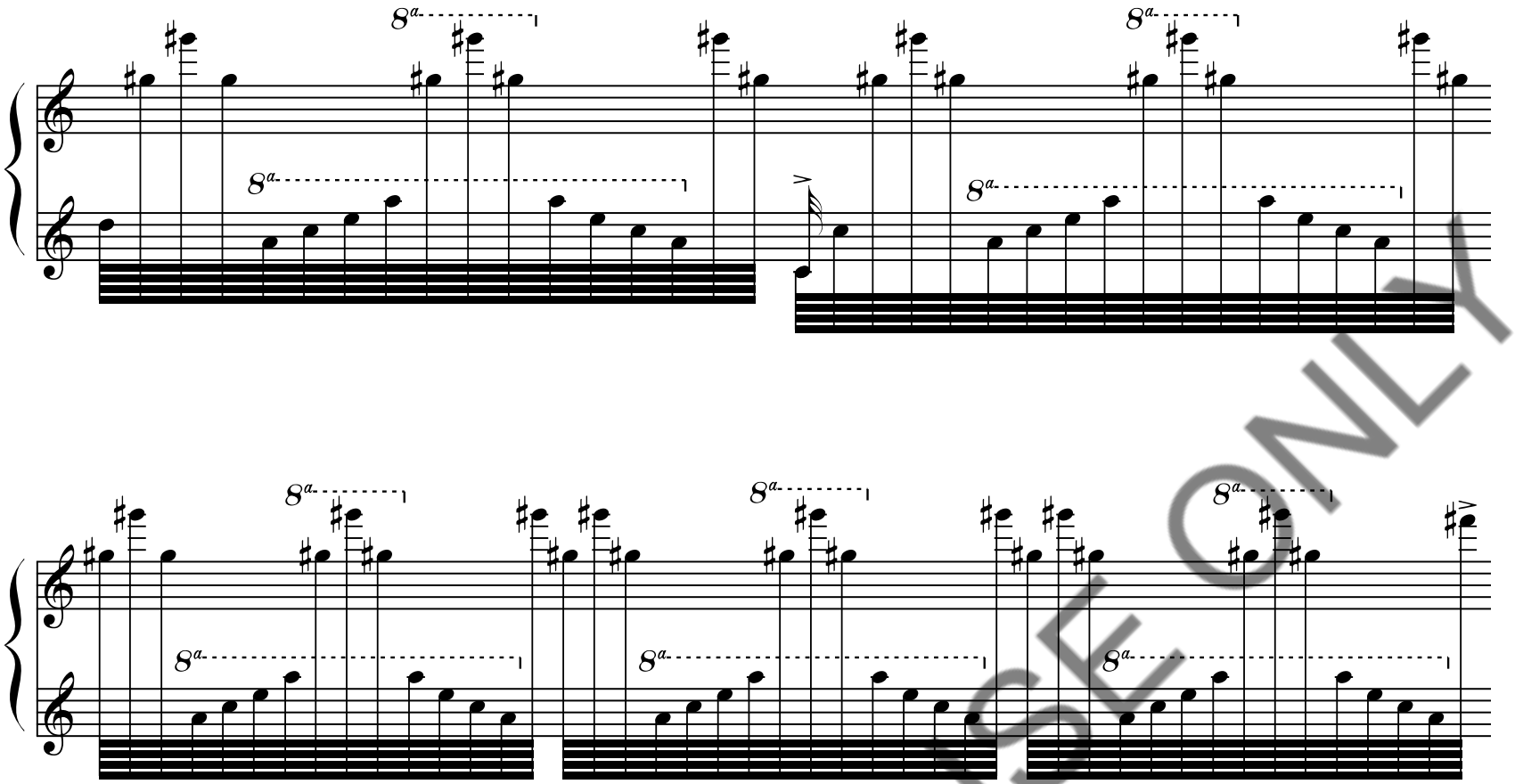
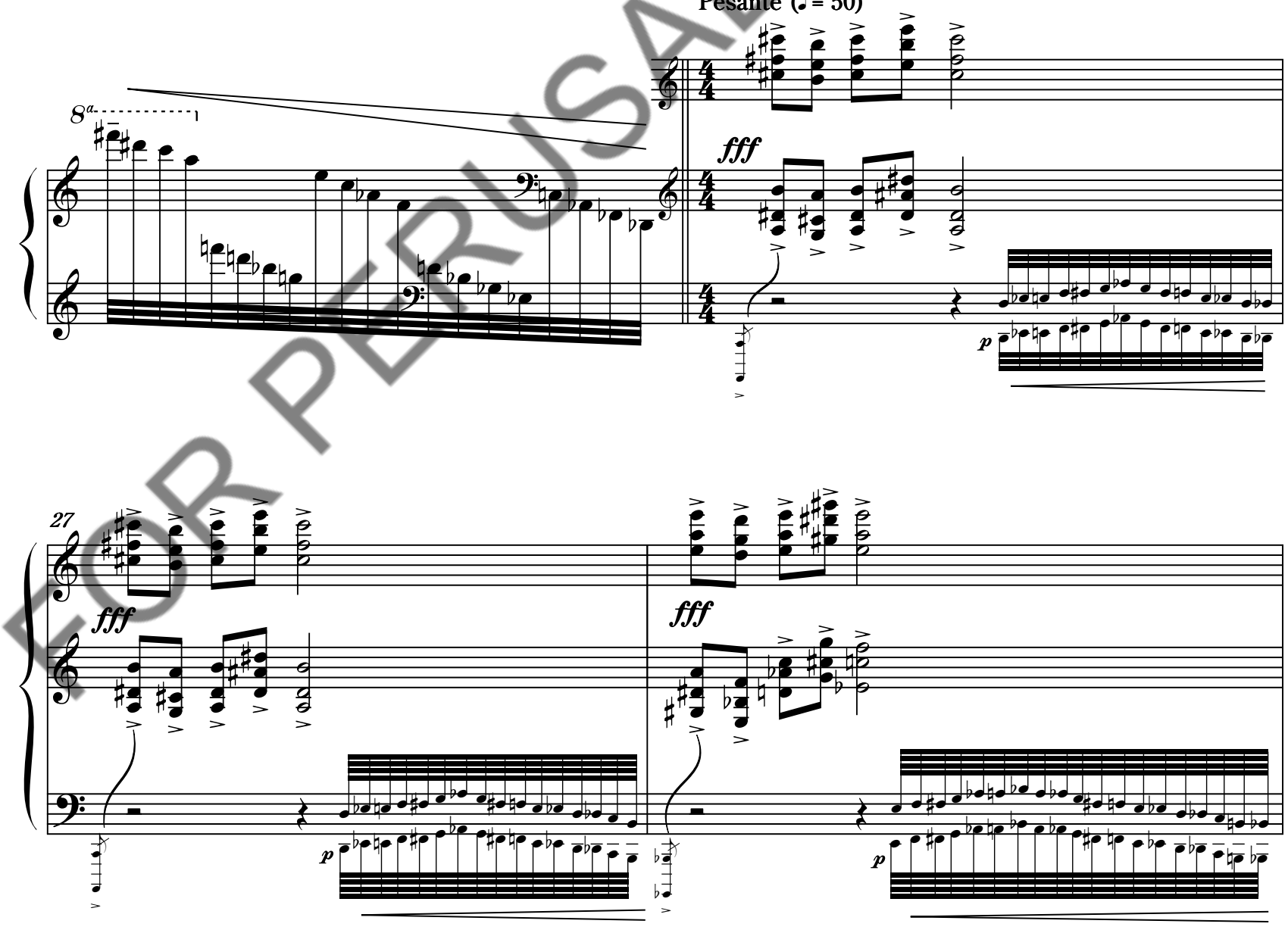


Pesante (♩ = 50)



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29

fff

pp

senza rit.

fff

31

Più mosso subito (♩ = 76)

pp

f

34

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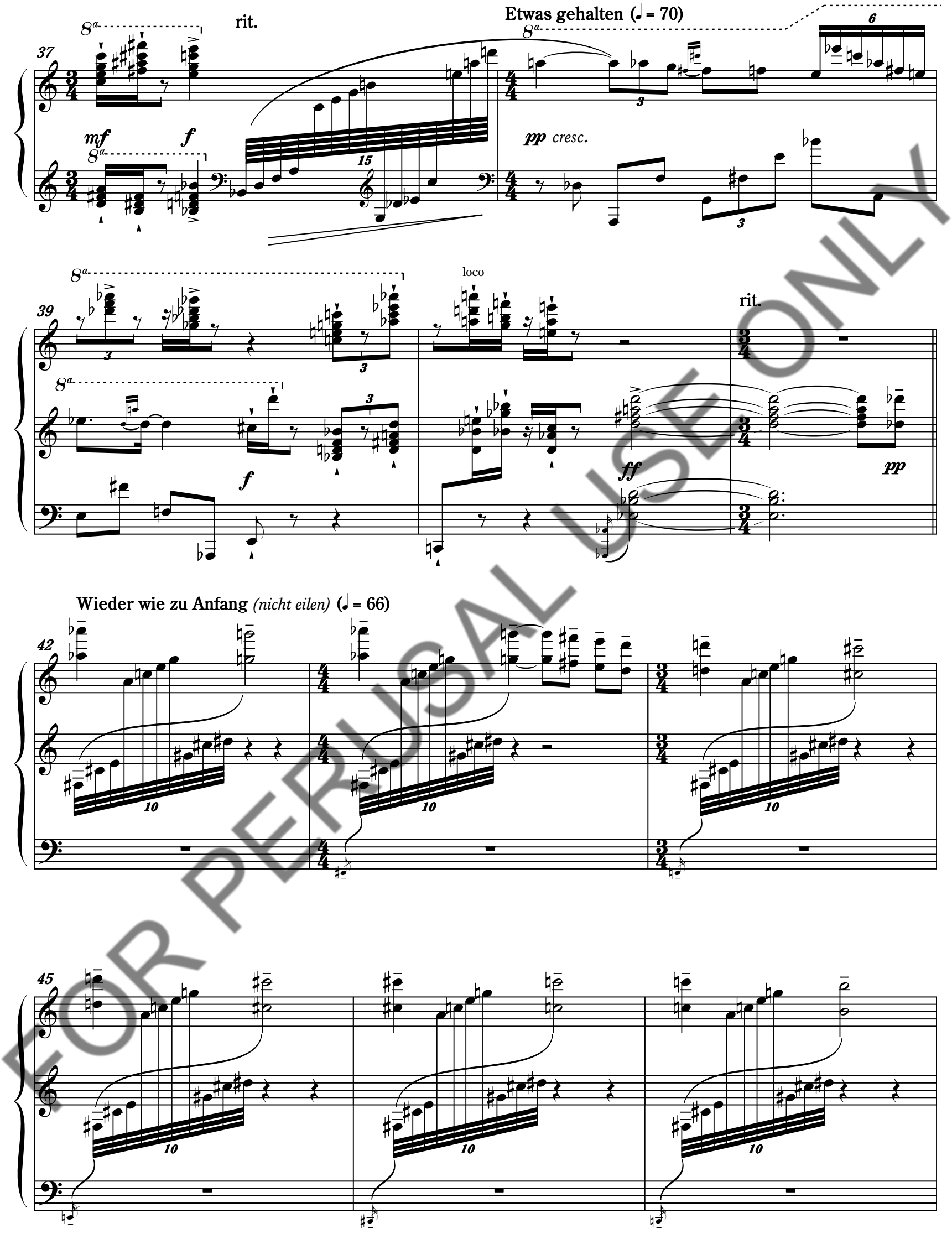

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48

10

10

molto rit.

50

p

Schattenhaft *(fließend aber nicht schnell)* (♩. = 66)

52

ppp *leggiero*

3

p *molto espr.*

10

cresc. poco a poco

53

3

(p)

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54

(mp)

55

12:8

3:2

56

(f)

57

17

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

58

3

10

10

12:8

3:2

ff

59

3

mf

60

5

7

3

61

8a

8a

Ped.

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II. Satz
Adagietto

Sehr Langsam (♩ = 40)
(let ring until silent)

*) sharply remove finger from key of x-notehead, in time

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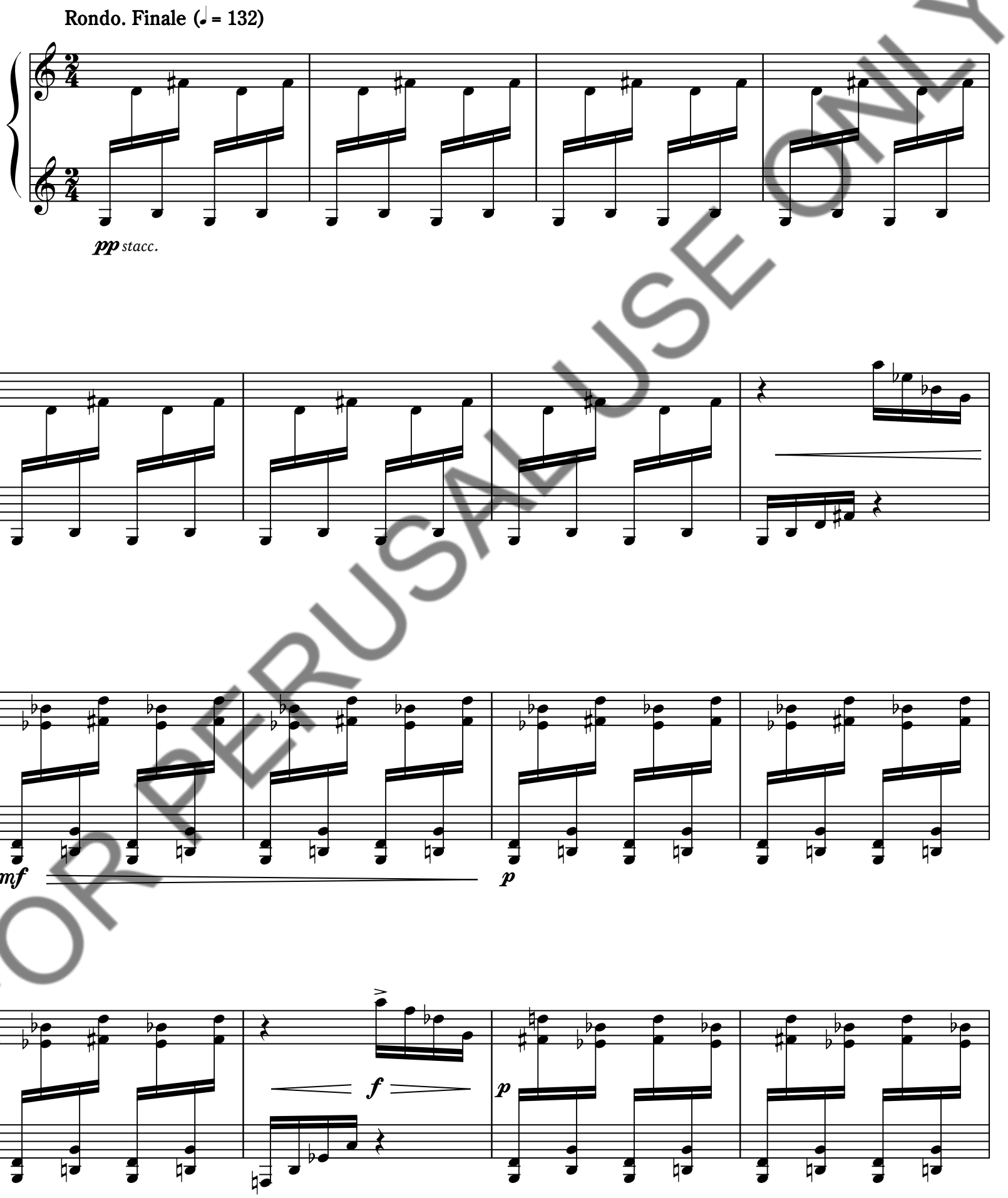
III. Satz



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17

cresc.

f

21

25

29

33

FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY

37

p

41

f

45

p

f

49

8a

52

ff mp ff sf ppp

8a both hands

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57

(8ª)

(8ª)

ppp

61

(8ª)

(8ª)

65

(8ª)

(8ª)

69

(8ª)

(8ª)

accel. poco a poco

(♩. = ♩)

cresc. poco a poco

73

(8ª)

(8ª)

loco

loco

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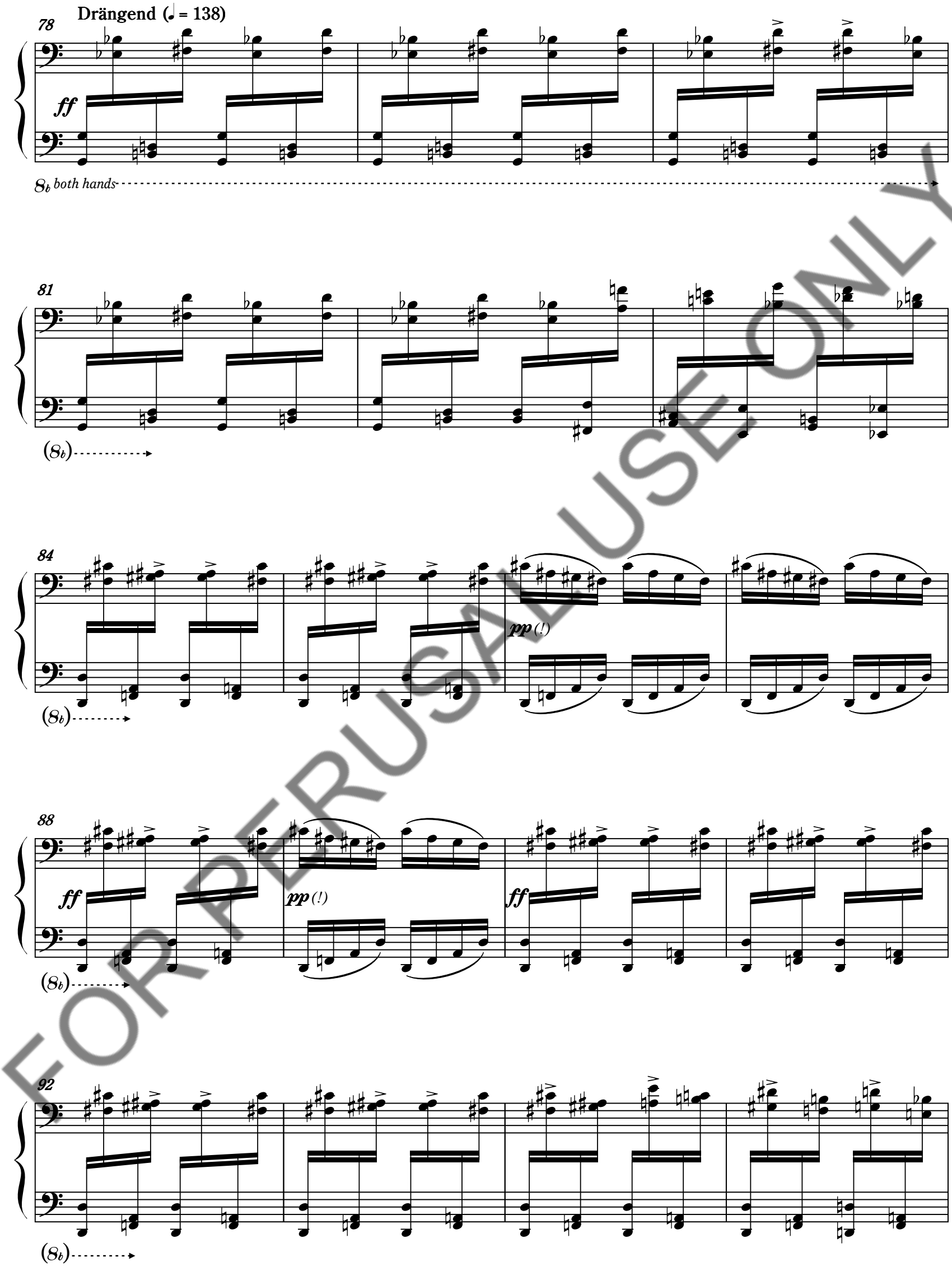

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96

loco

loco

101

sfppp

105

sf

sf

sf

109

p cresc.

113

FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY

117

mf *cresc. poco a poco*

122

126

130

134

ff

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8ª both hands

138

142

loco

mf

←5 𝅘𝅥𝅯 = 4 𝅘𝅥𝅯→

8ª both hands

146

fff

(𝅘𝅥𝅯 = 𝅘𝅥𝅯)

p stacc.

149

Tempo I (𝅗𝅥 = 132)

152

mp

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155

mf

ff

158

sfmf *cresc. poco a poco*

6

162

166

ff

169

repeat ad. lib; accel. until quasi-tremolo

8^a *both hands*

molto cresc.

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