

Sonata

Solo Piano

LUKE CARLSON MUSIC

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(2026)

Duration: 14 minutes

Commissioned by Clara Christian

www.lukecarlsonmusic.com

luke@lukecarlsonmusic.com

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Program Notes

As I often do with other multi-movement pieces, I composed the movements of this Sonata in order. The very prominent melodic line in the first movement was stuck in my head, and I needed to "work it out." Once it was written, I searched for second-movement material that would contrast with yet connect to the first movement. The darker mood, flowing textures, and melodic hints in the second movement seemed appropriate. Not wanting to reinvent the traditional multi-movement formula, I decided the final movement should be boisterous and exciting. Hopefully, it brings balance and cohesion to the form of this essentially melodic Sonata in a satisfying way.

I. Musingly

The first movement explores continuous variation on a melodic fragment from a 15th century Gregorian chant. The introspective bookends contrast with the central section's exuberant sonorities and polymetric layering.

II. Vividly

Assertive outbursts and forceful gestures give way to a substantial textural shift, featuring fluid figurations that outline ghostly hints of the opening material.

III. Ecstatically

Like the first movement, the central section contrasts with similarly structured bookends. The bookends are lively, joyful, and a little wild, while the central section features fast-moving scalar fragments and relentless parallel fifths.

for Clara Christian

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I.

Musingly ♩ = 66

Luke Carlson

molto legato e esp.

ppp

non Ped.

6

p

ppp

11

14

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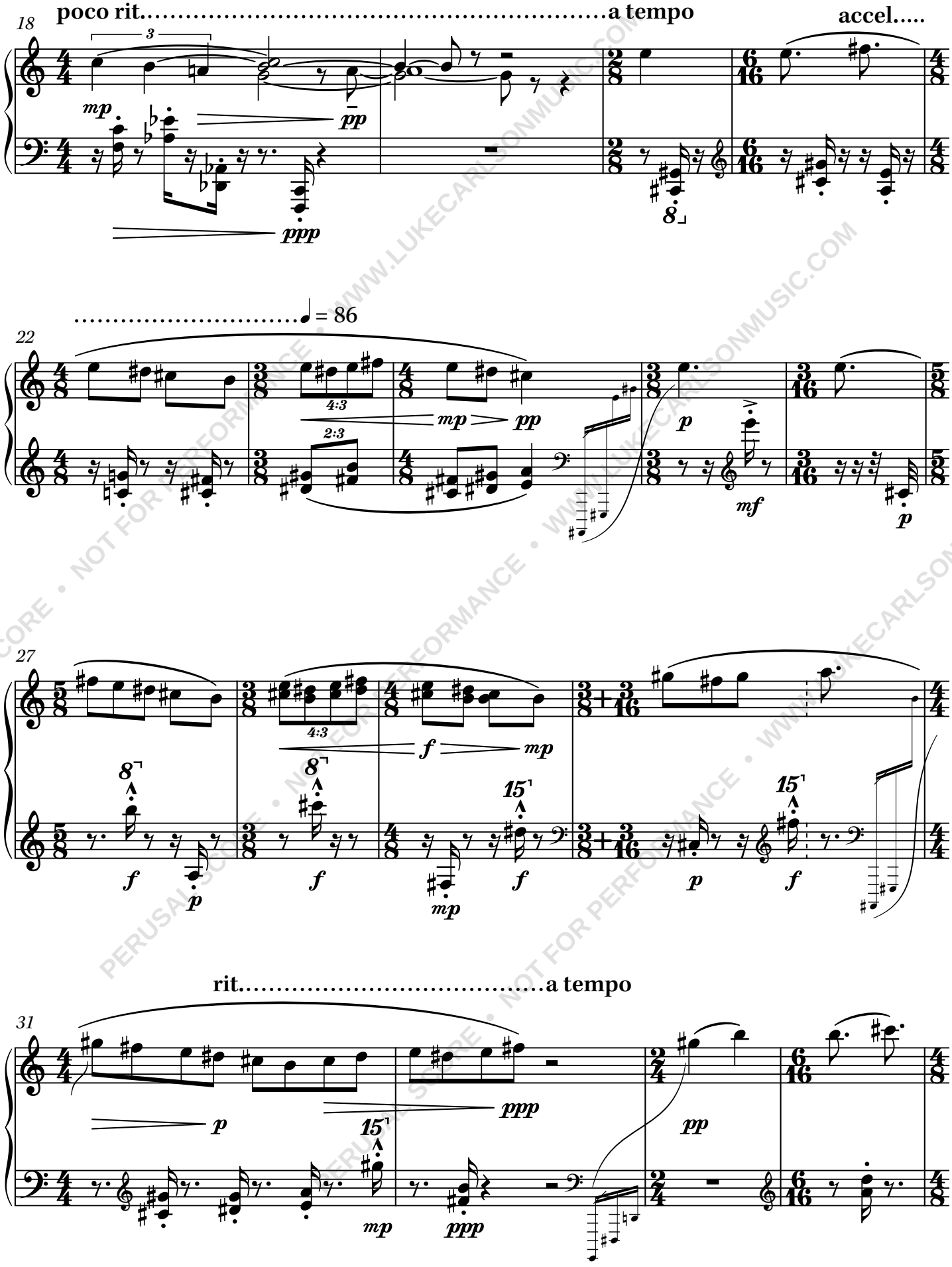

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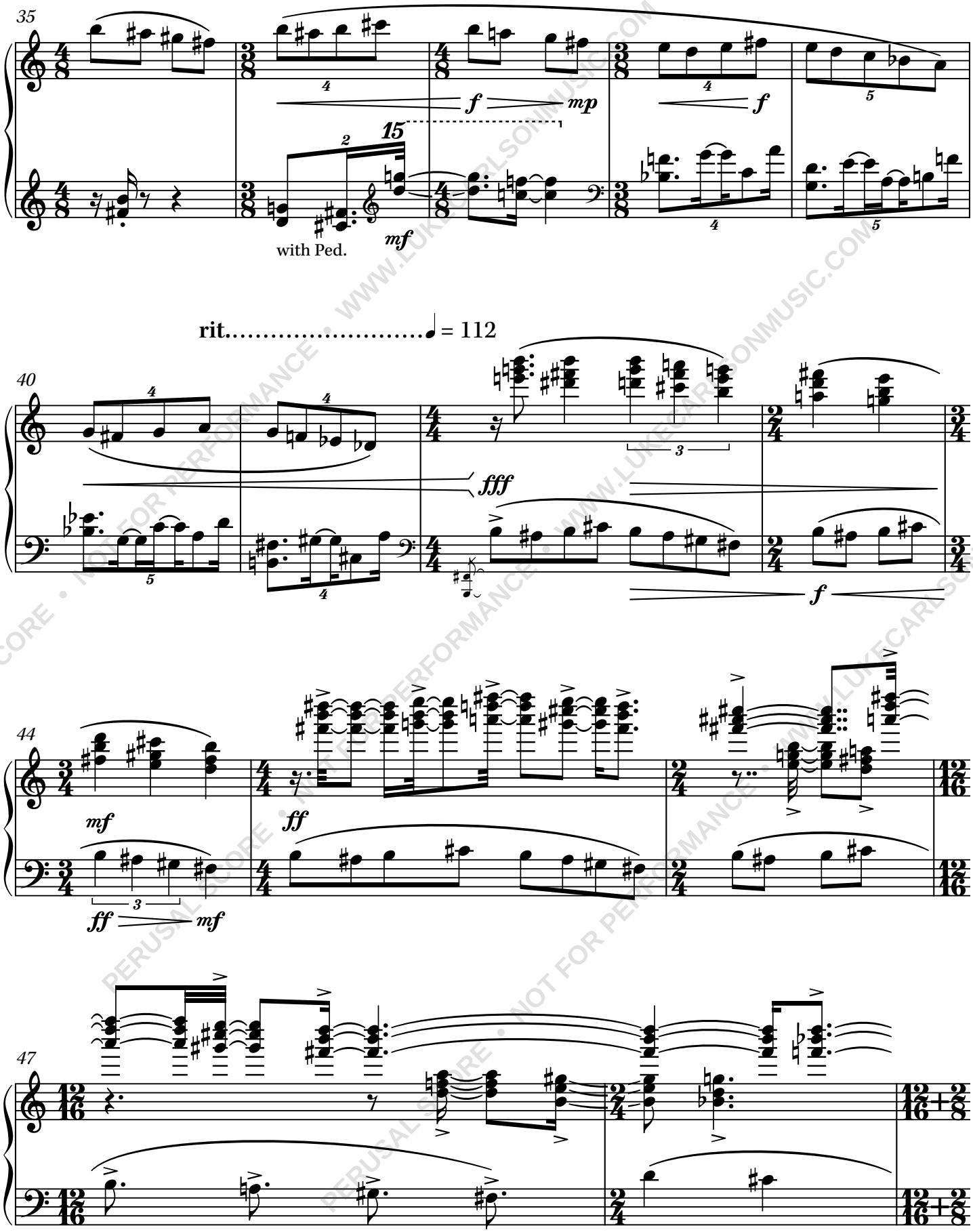

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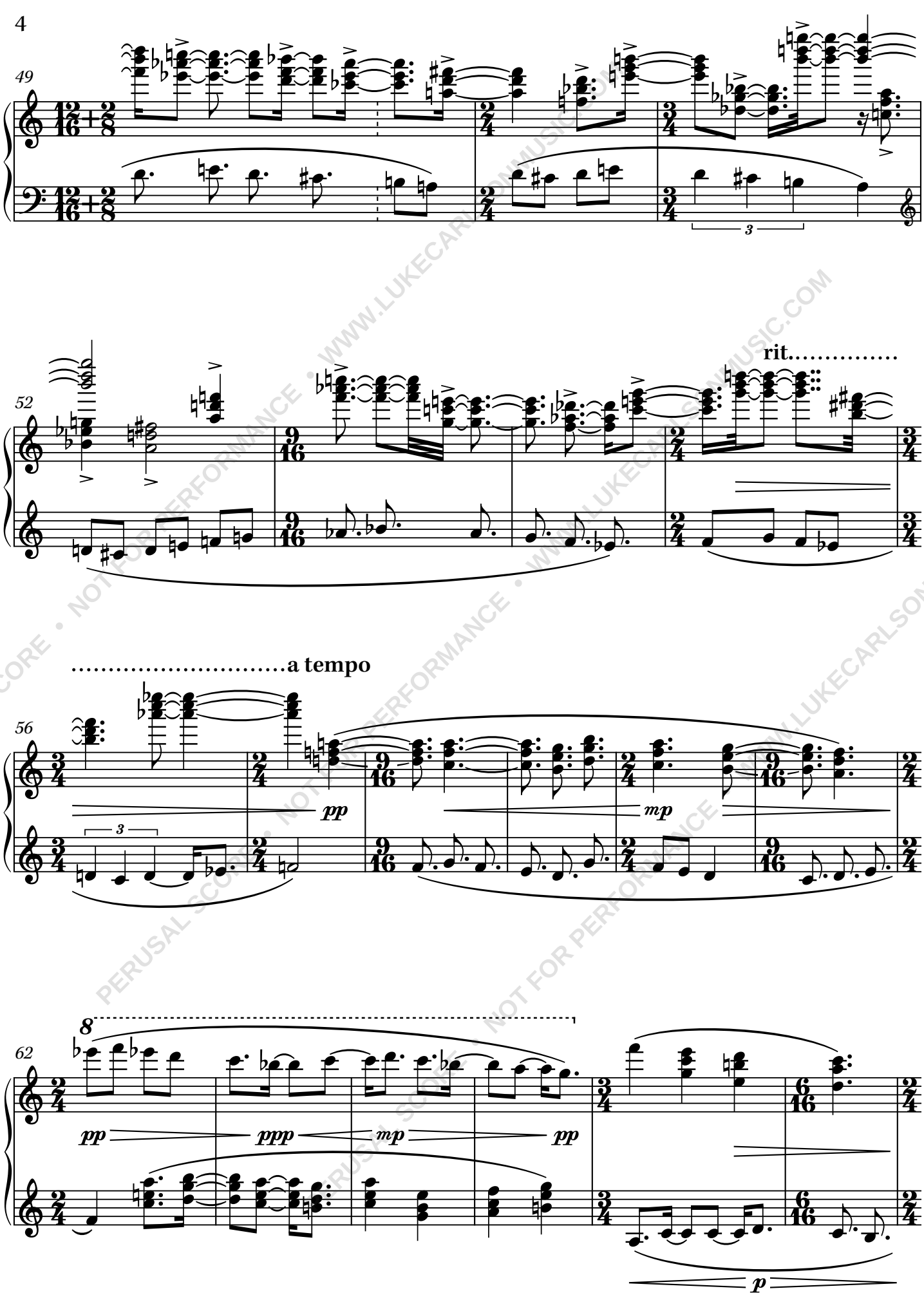

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