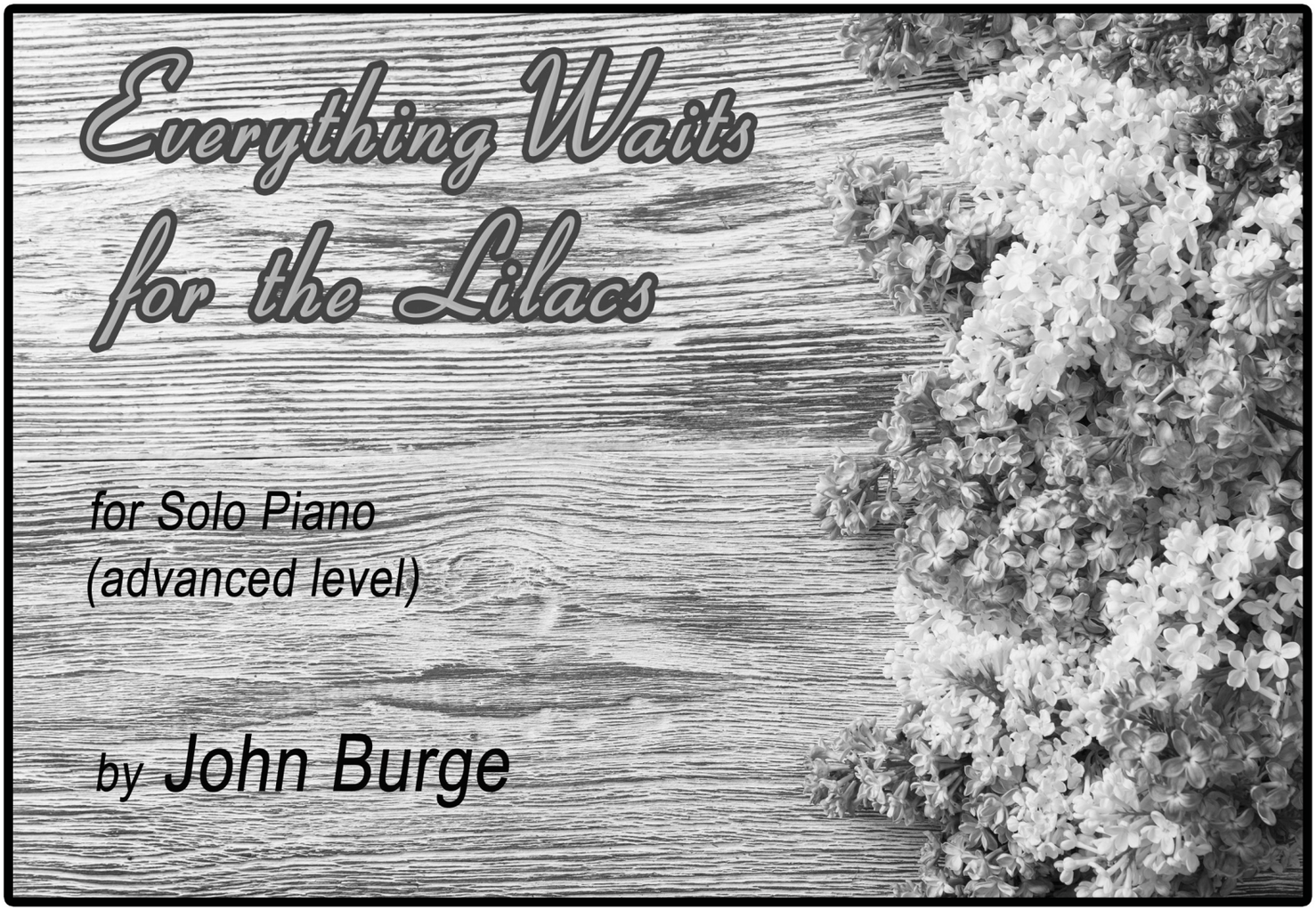
# Everything Waits for the Lilacs

for Solo Piano
(diploma level)

by John Burge




*Duration: ca. 6 minutes*

*ISBN: 978-1-927835-11-8*

*Copyright © 2015 John Burge*
*All Rights Reserved Printed in Canada*

***Everything Waits For The Lilacs*** was commissioned in 1996 by PIANO SIX, a group of Canadian concert pianists that included at the time: Angela Cheng, Janina Fialkowska, Marc André Hamelin, Angela Hewitt, André Laplante and Jon Kimura Parker. Individually these artists had dedicated a ten-day period in their annual calendar to present a series of recitals, school concerts and master classes in communities that would otherwise not have an opportunity, or at least only rarely, to interact with international concert artists. This group has also endeavoured to promote Canadian music by actively performing and commissioning music written by a wide selection of Canadian composers.

***Everything Waits For The Lilacs*** is a brief, evocative work that captures the anticipation of spring. The title is taken form the Margaret Avison poem, "Thaws," which is found in her collection of poetry entitled, *Sunblue*. The Canadian climate is such that it seems possible to define the moment when winter releases it grasp and the first blossoms unfold. Or perhaps it is simply that the Canadian psyche reaches the point when it cannot bear the snow-bound landscape any longer and the awareness of the shifting season becomes heightened. In this case the music echoes appropriately with a strong sense of longing and desire ending with a repeated chord that just yet, can't seem to break free of the fading grasp of winter.

***Everything Waits For The Lilacs*** is gratefully dedicated to Dorothy Hare, a piano teacher in Calgary who was influential in the development of the composer's musicianship and training. The work was given its premiere performances by Janina Fialkowska during her fall tour of British Columbia in 1997. Special thanks to Susan Griesdale for her help with the graphic design for this book.

"Thaws"

*The snowflow*
*nearly-April releases melting bright.*

*Then a darkdown*
*needles and shells the pools.*

*Swepth of suncoursing sky*
*steeps us in*
*salmon-stream*
*crop-green*
*rhubarb-coloured shrub-tips:*

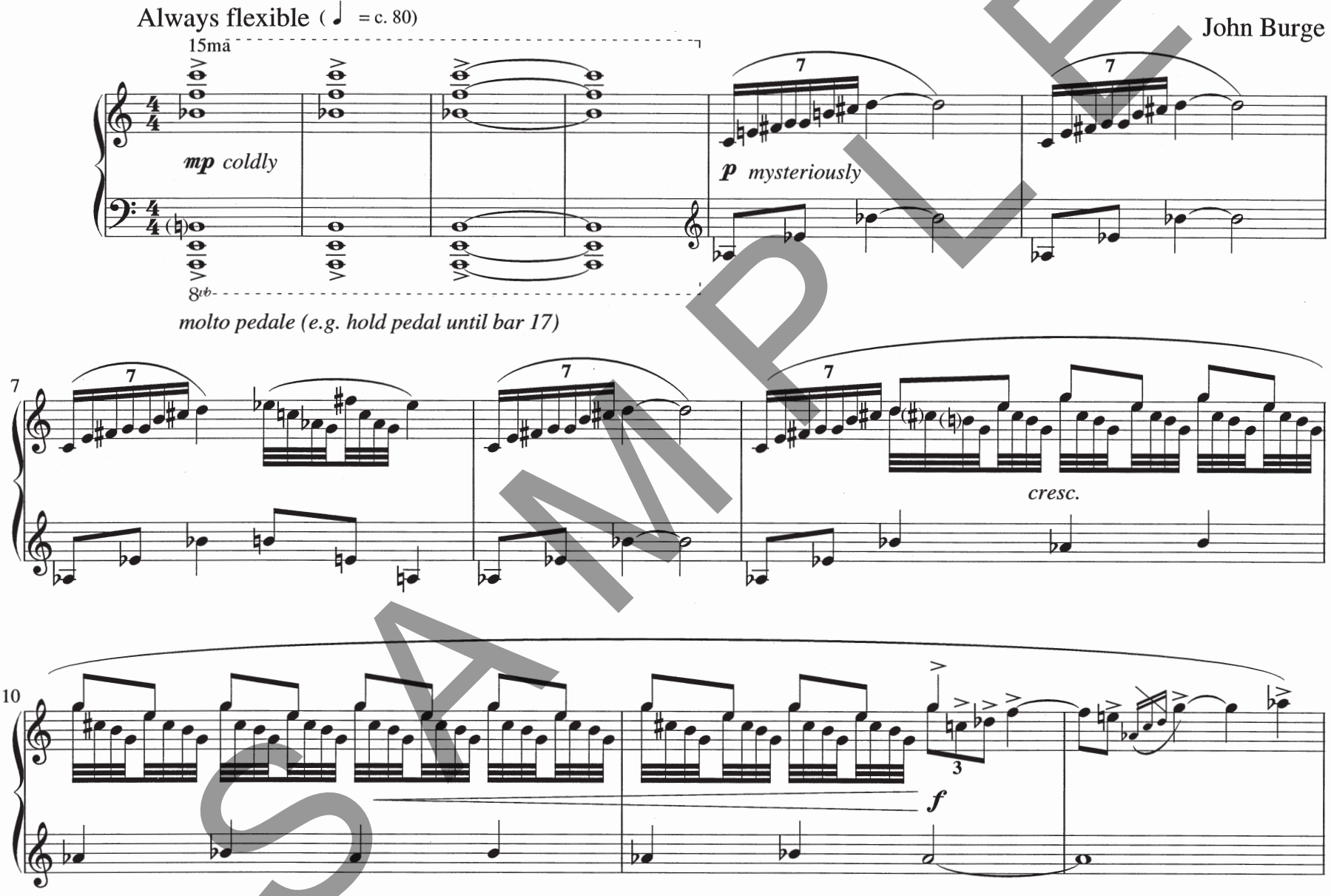
*everything waits for the*
*lilacs, heaped tumbling – and their warm*
*licorice perfume.*

From ***Sunblue*** by Margaret Avison © Copyright 1978 by Lancelot Press, Hantsport, Nova Scotia. Used by Permission.

*for Dorothy Hare*

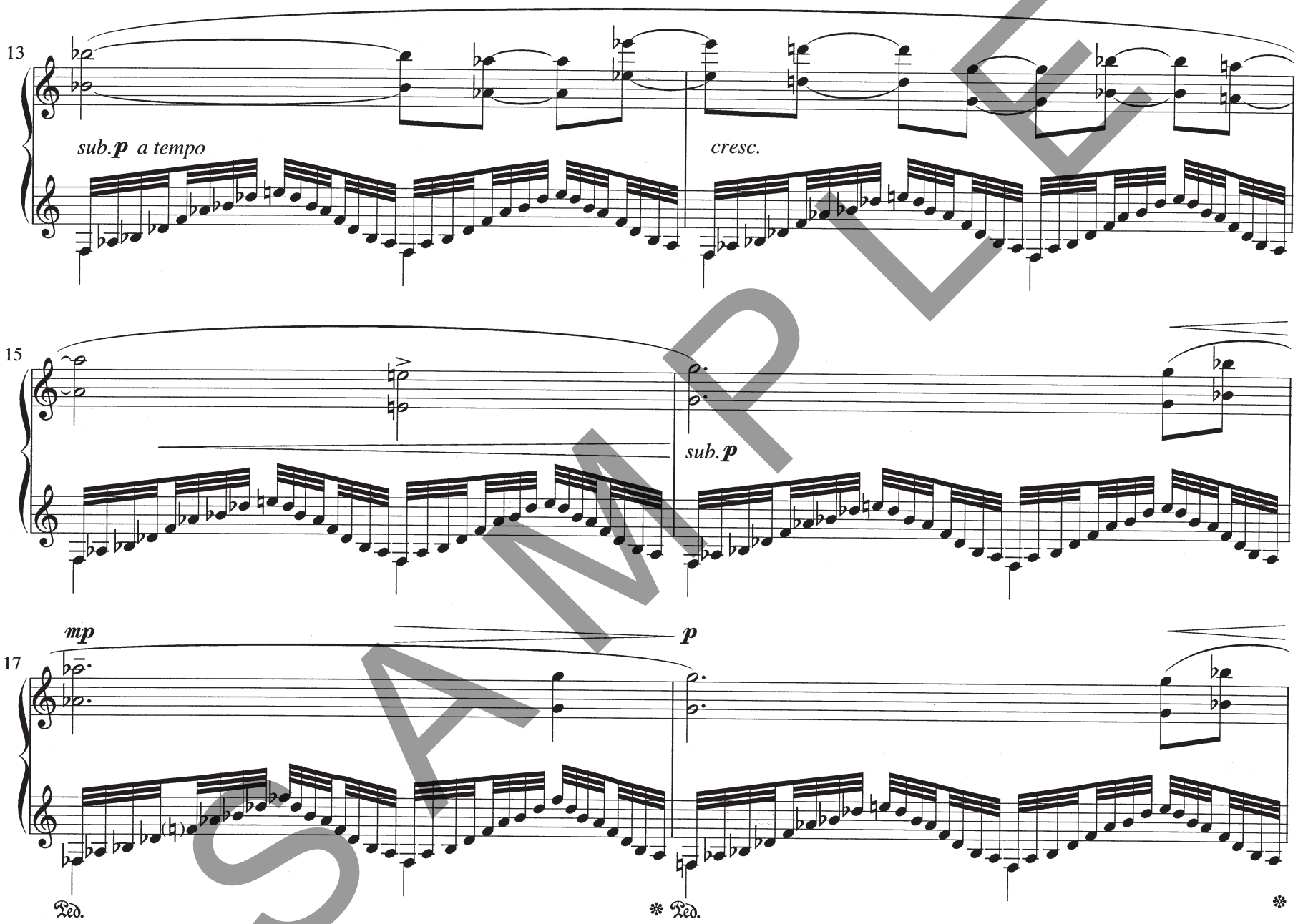
# Everything Waits For The Lilacs

John Burge

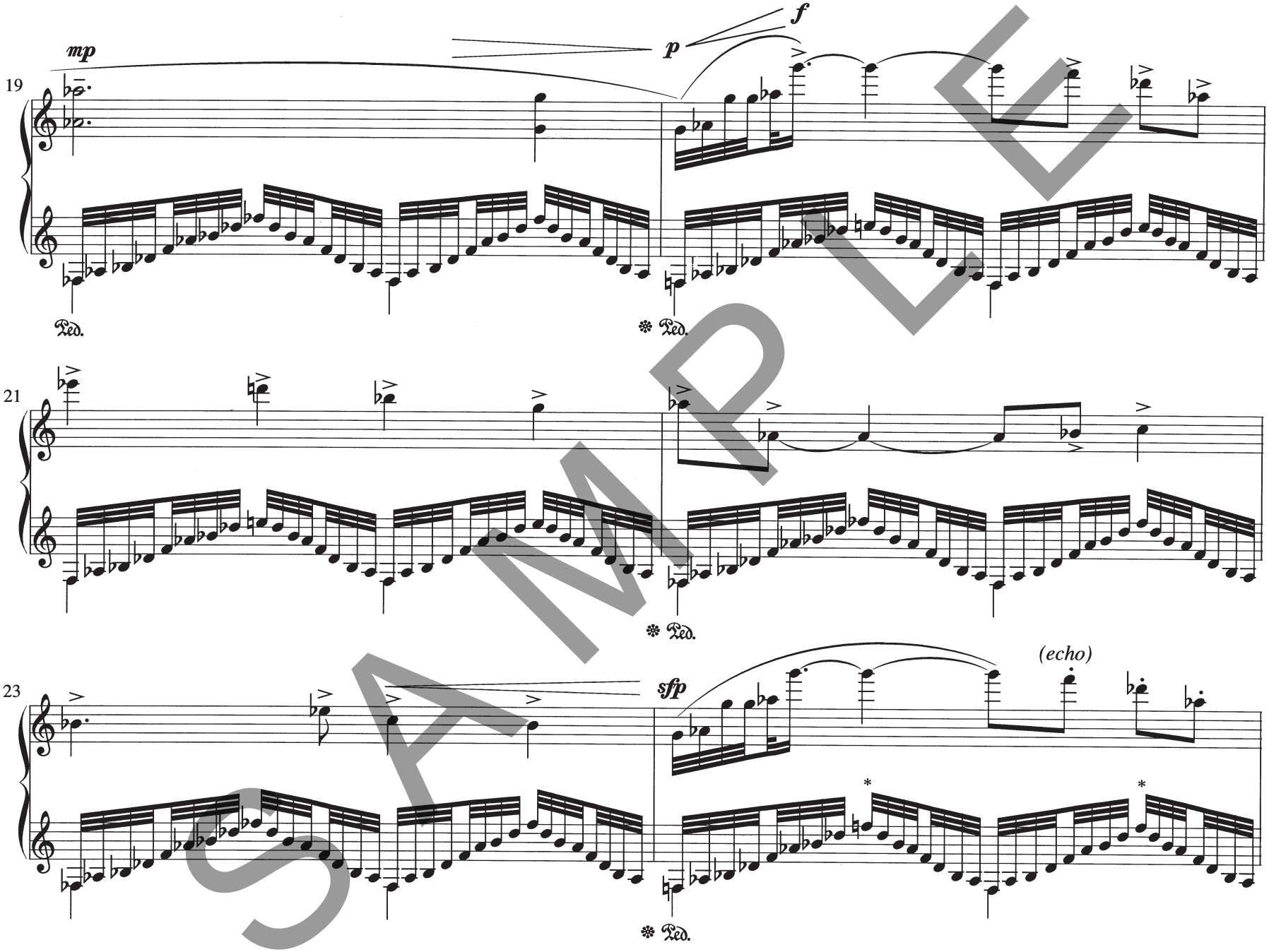



SAMPLE

©1996 by John Burge

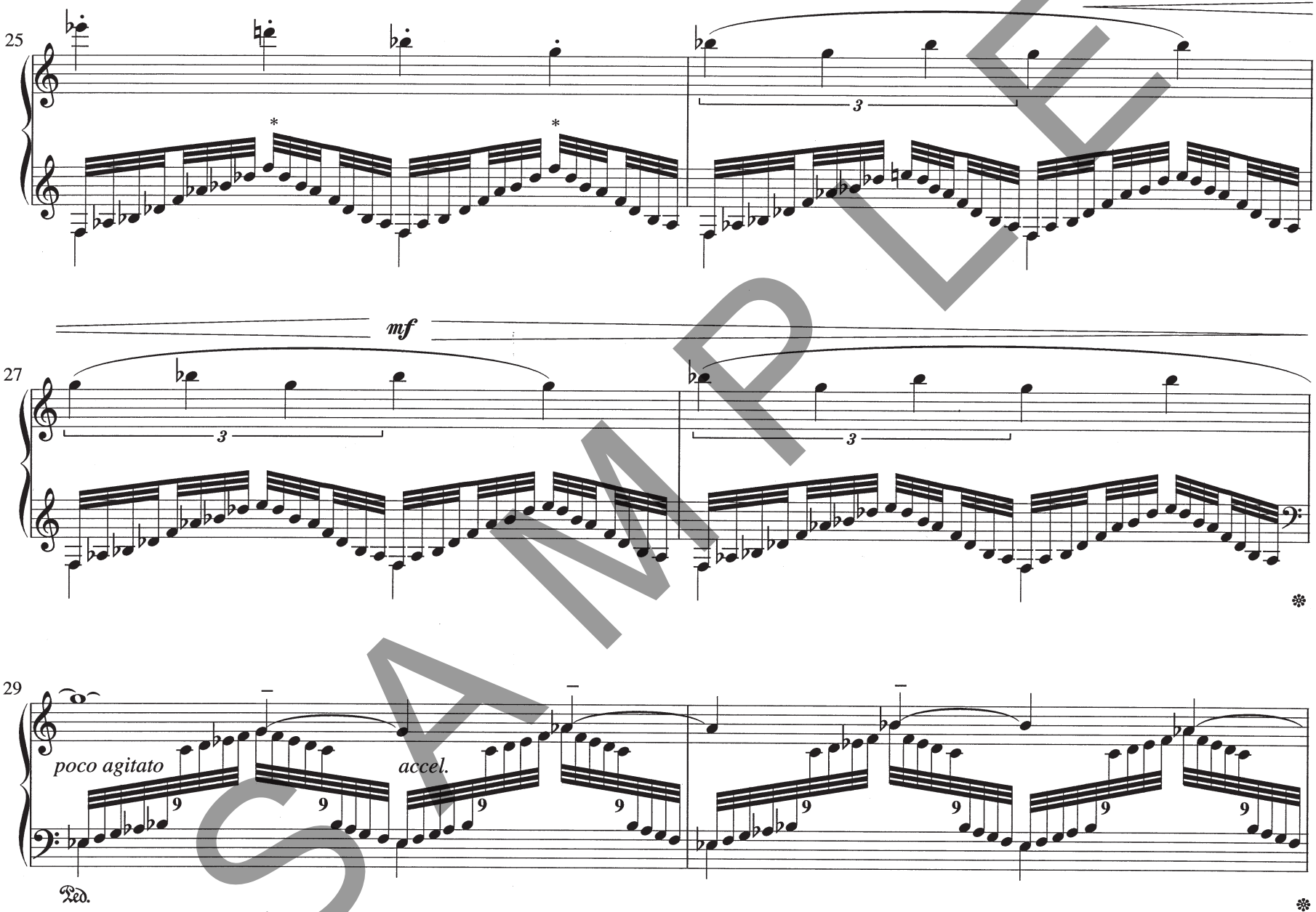



SAMPLE

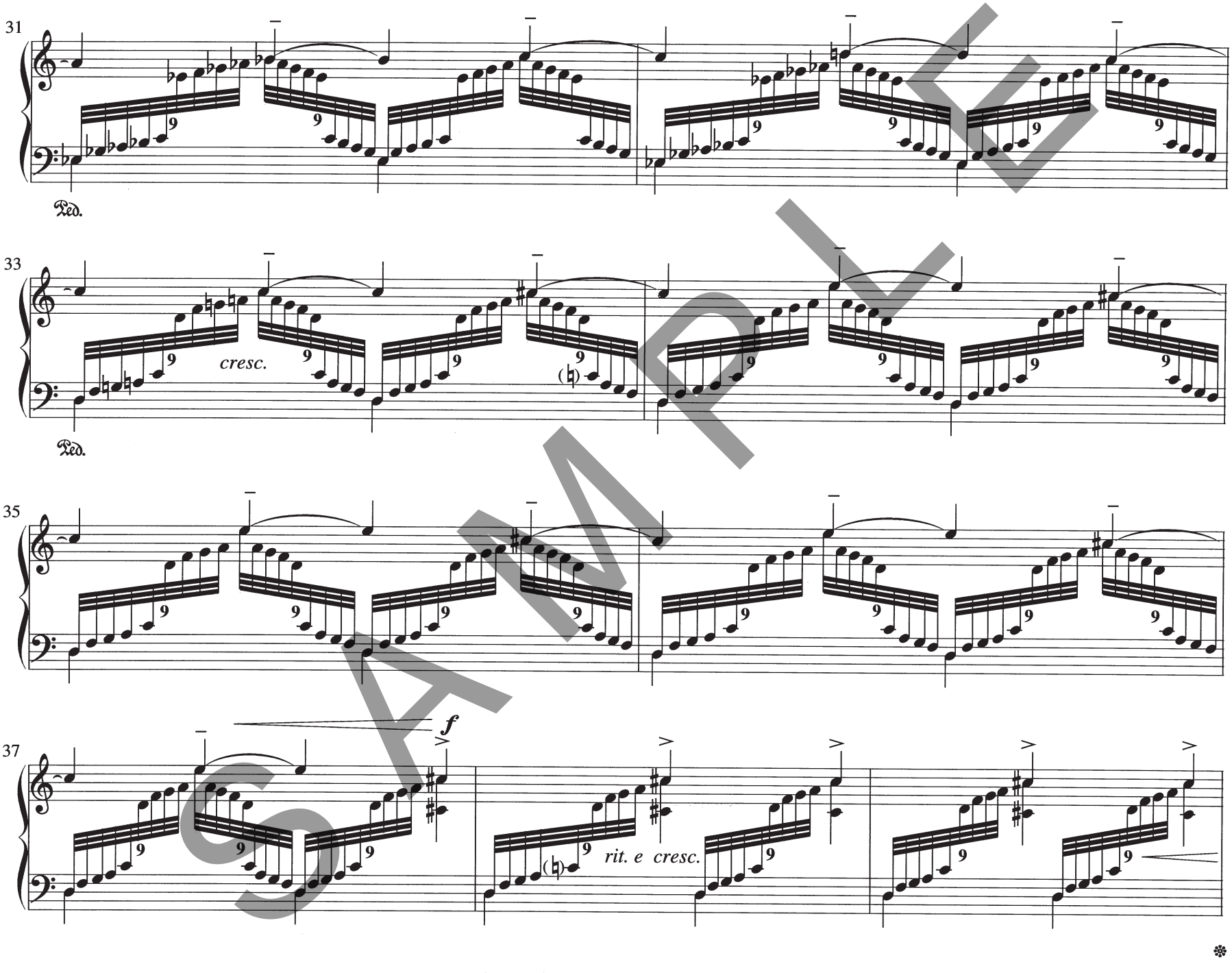



*Intentional change in pattern.

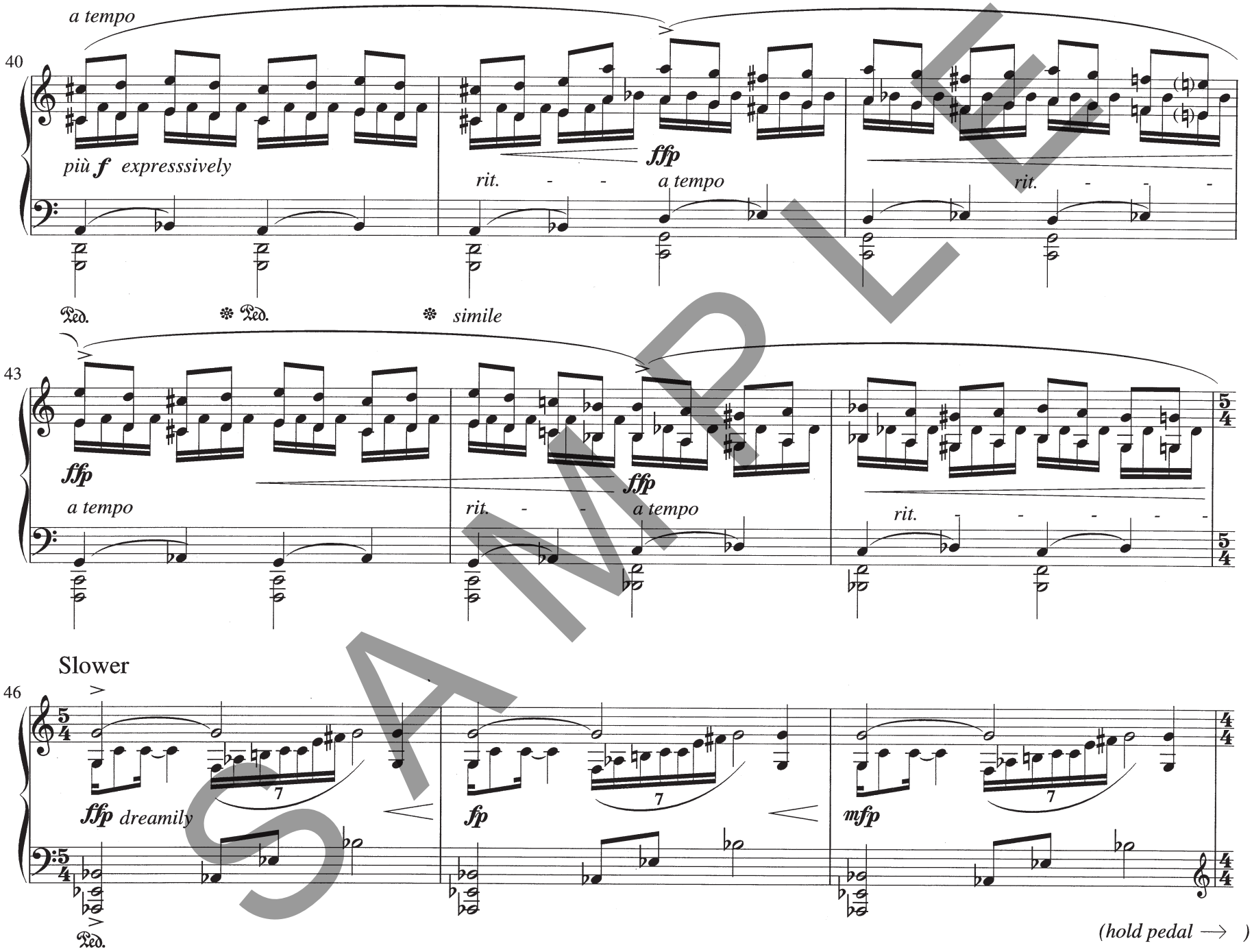
SAMPLE



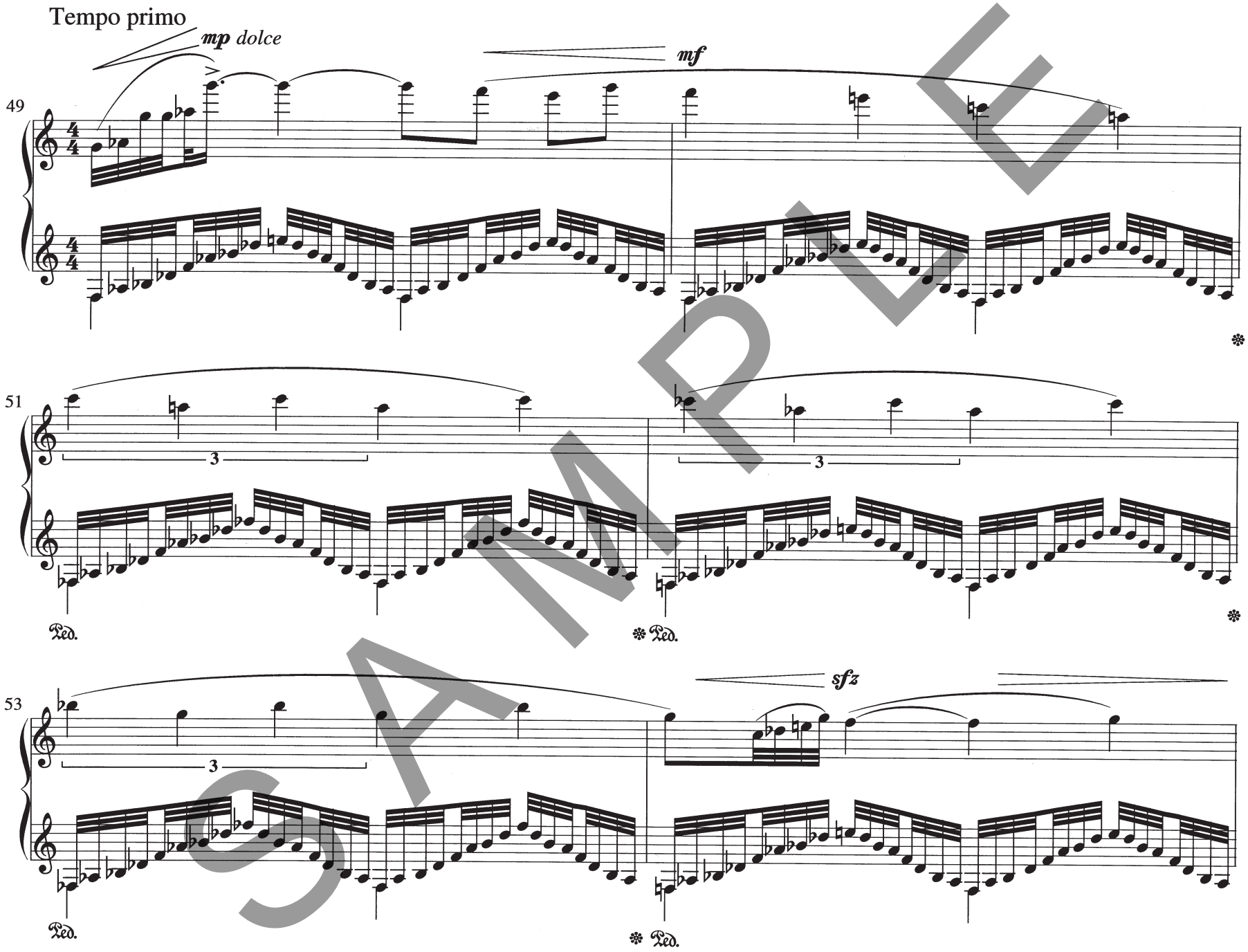

SAMPLE



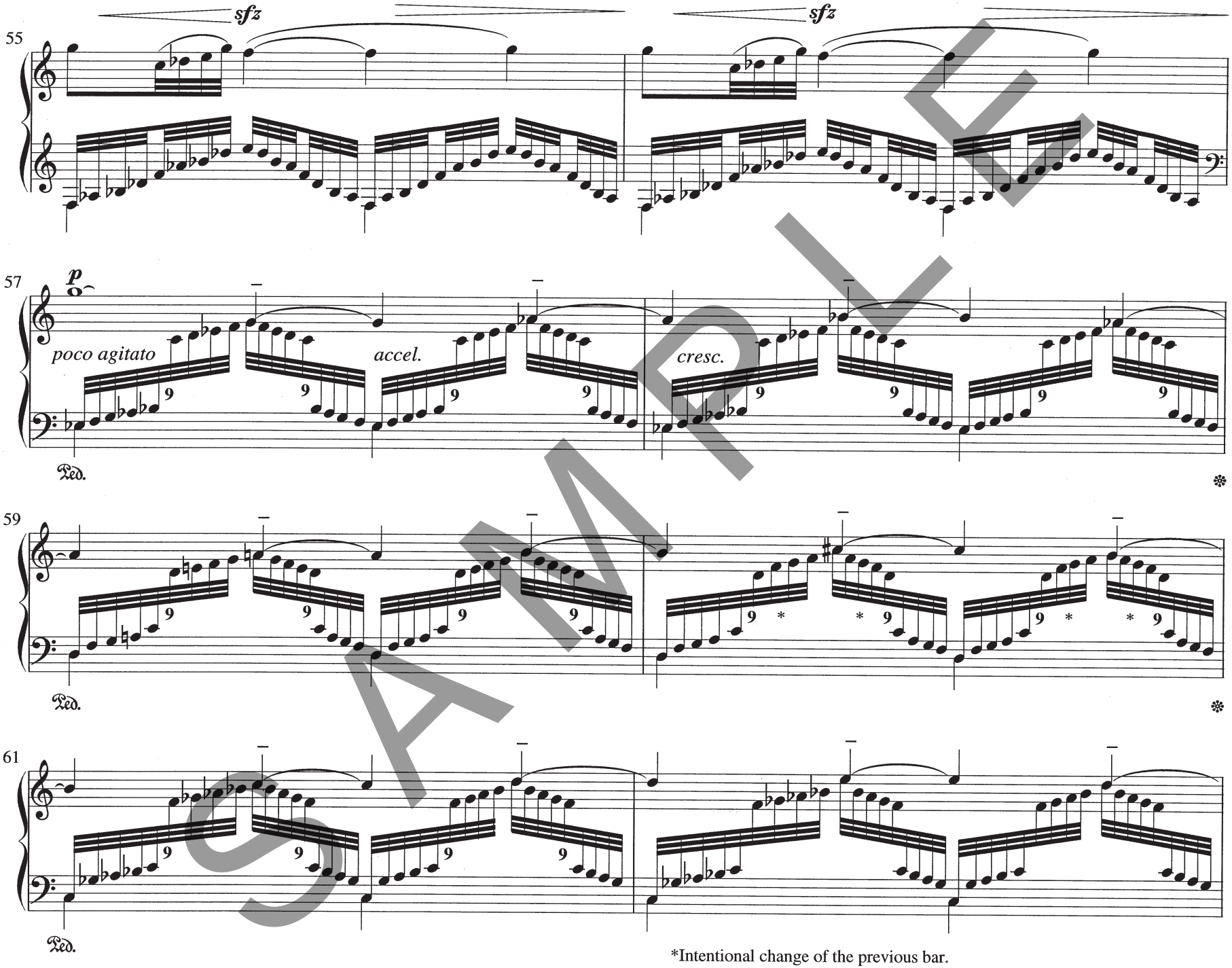

SAMPLE


a tempo
40
più f expresssively
ffp
rit.
a tempo
rit.
Ped.
Ped.
simile
43
ffp
a tempo
ffp
rit.
a tempo
rit.
Slower
46
ffp dreamily
fp
mfp
Ped.
(hold pedal → )

SAMPLE

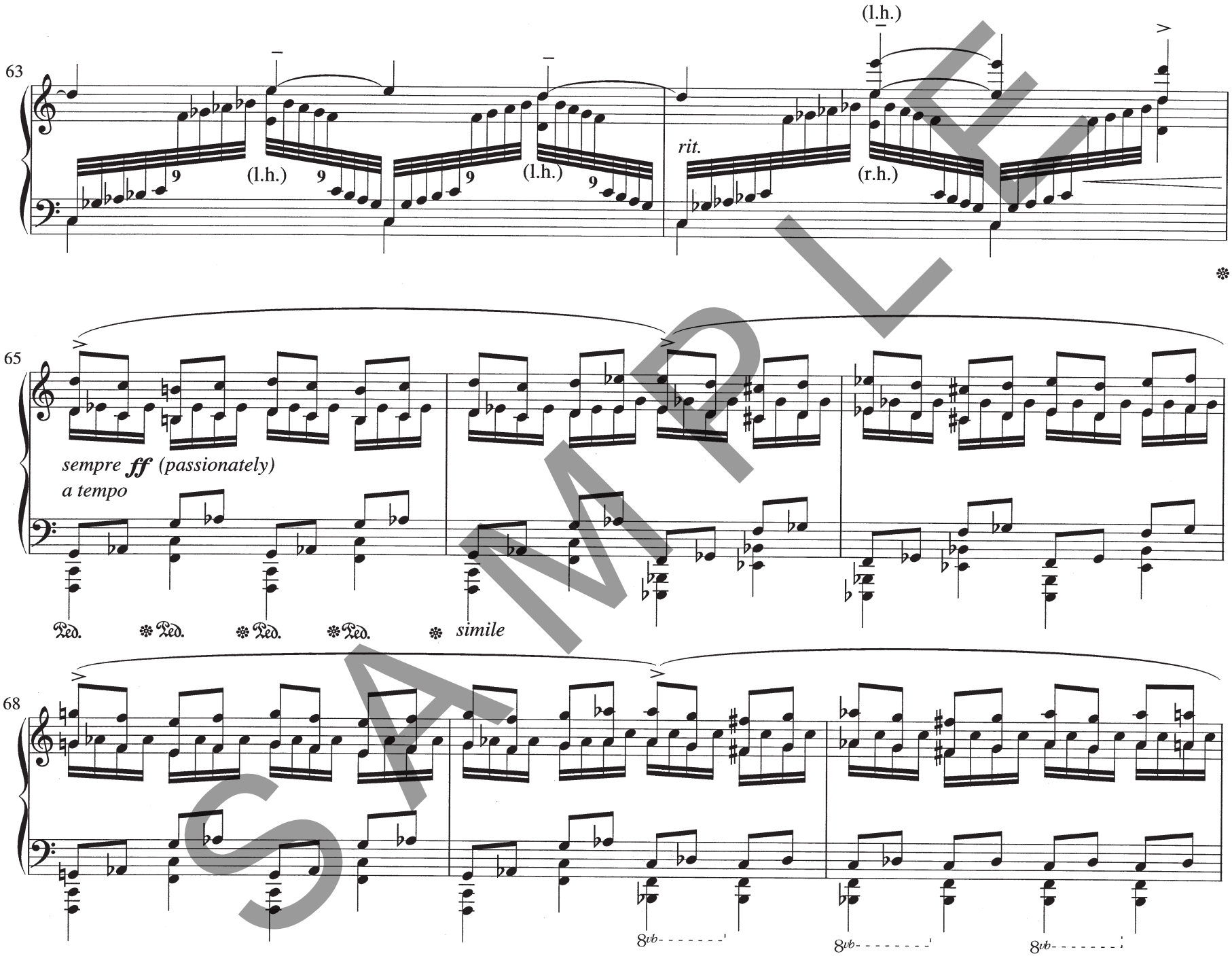



SAMPLE

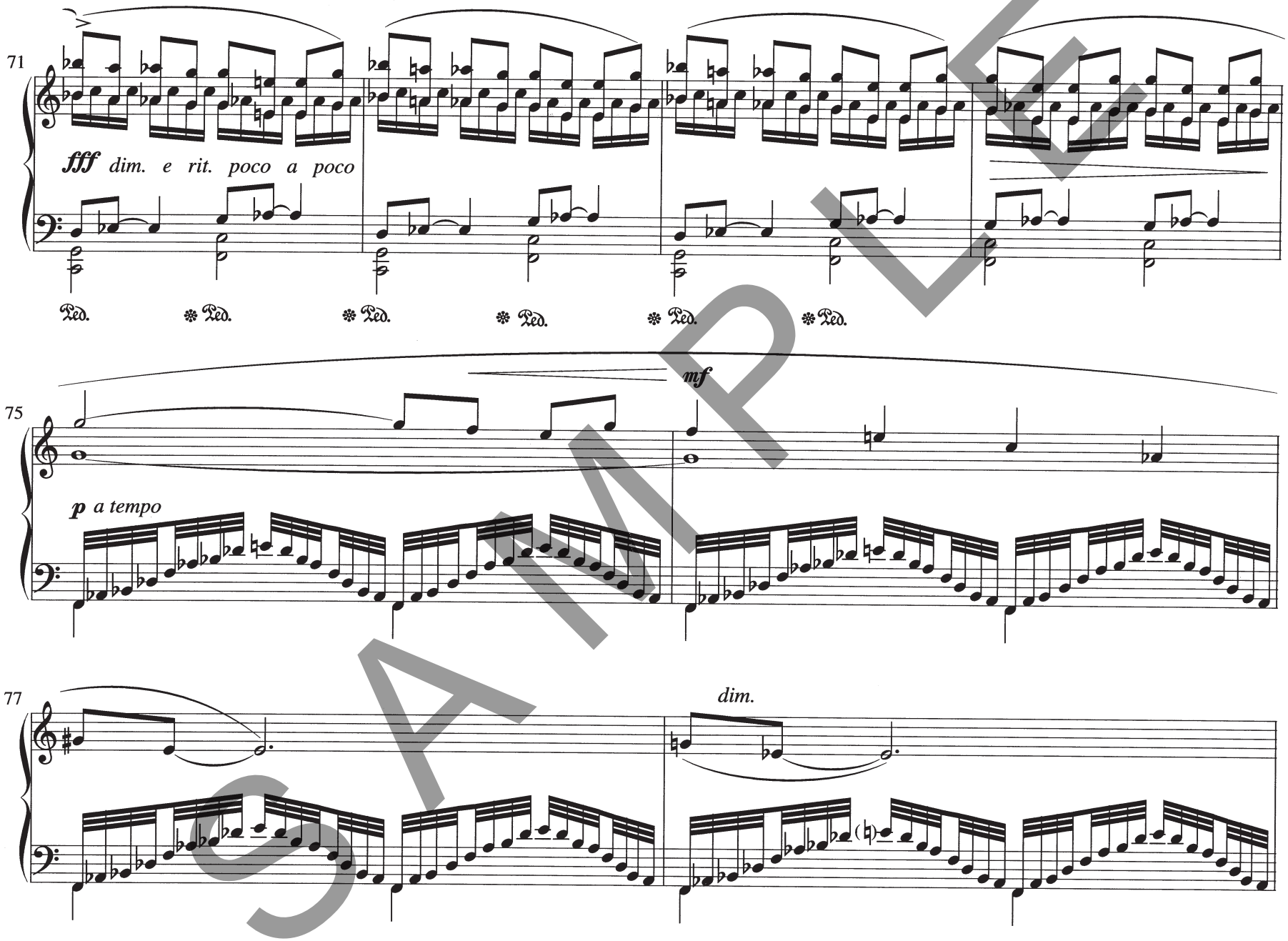



*Intentional change of the previous bar.

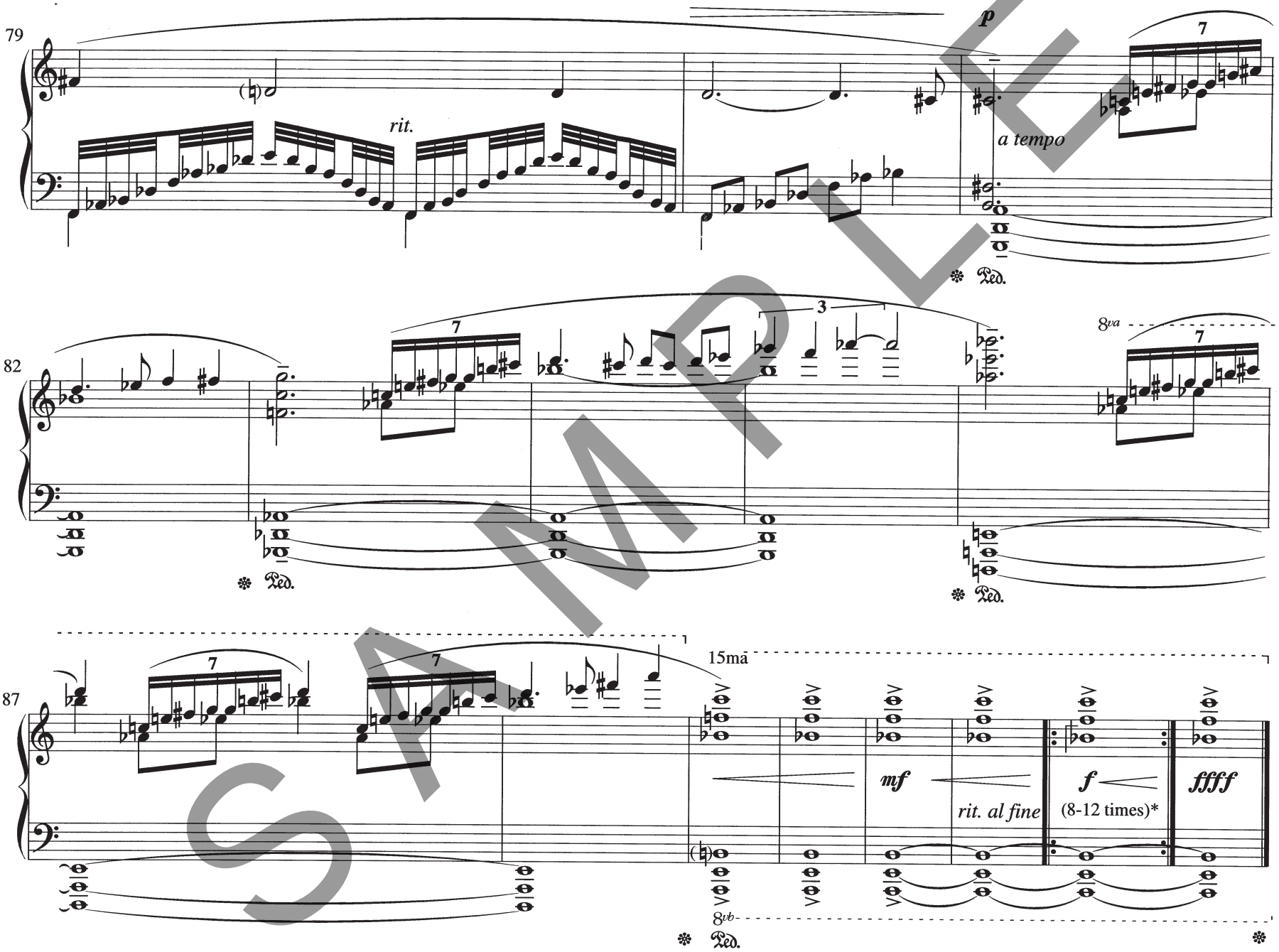
SAMPLE


63
(l.h.)
(l.h.)
(l.h.)
rit.
(r.h.)
65
sempre ff (passionately)
a tempo
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
simile
68
8vb
8vb
8vb

SAMPLE


71
fff dim. e rit. poco a poco
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
75
mf
p a tempo
77
dim.

SAMPLE




*Repeat this bar while slowing down thereby generating overtones in a hauntingly mysterious fashion.

SAMPLE

Dr. John Burge was born in Dryden Ontario in 1961 and grew up in Calgary studying the piano with Dorothy Hare. He holds three degrees in Composition and Theory from the Universities of Toronto and British Columbia and since 1987 has been teaching at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, where he is a full professor. For his outstanding work as a composer over the years, he was awarded a 2013 Queen's University Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship and in 2014 was inducted as a Fellow in the Royal Society of Canada. He has composed a large body of instrumental and vocal music in all genres and his work, ***Flanders Fields Reflections***, for string orchestra, received the 2009 Juno Award for the Best Canadian Classical Composition. Burge loves working with young musicians and he is in high demand as a music festival adjudicator and clinician. In recent years he has joined the Red Leaf Pianoworks collective and has been performing solo piano recitals or lecture/demonstrations of his own compositions. A passionate advocate for Canadian music he was an executive member of the Canadian League of Composers from 1993-2007 (President from 1998-2006) and since 2009 he has been on the Board of Directors for the SOCAN Foundation.

ISBN 978-1-927836-11-8 90000>
9 781927 836118

**www.johnburge.ca**

Red Leaf Pianoworks