Pablo E. Furman

Trip to Twelve Tone Town

(Based on a tone row by Anton Webern)

"Trip to Twelve Tone Town" is a series of short piece for children (from 9 to 94 and beyond) using the tone row from Anton Webern's *Kinderstück* (1924). The row is as follows: Eb E C B Bb C# D A G# G F #F.

I wrote the compositions at the kind request of pianist Janice Mercer. They are composed with the goal to highlight, in a welcoming and sometimes good-humored way (never disrespectfully), some of the common tenets and characteristics of music written with the 12-tone technique. Each piece focuses on a concept or stylistic trait of the tradition such as angularity, rhythmic irregularity, extreme register and dynamic contrasts as well as on the basic tenets (use of the series' original form, retrograde, etc.). It is my hope that players are brought a bit closer to a great musical heritage and that they will have as much enjoyment playing these pieces as I had composing them.

1. ***Can you count to twelve?*** requires the player to figure out how to sound all 12 pitches simultaneously without using the damper pedal, feet dangling from the bench.
2. ***Retro Rock*** presents the tone row in reverse order and in a retro-music style.
3. ***How far can you reach*** explores dynamic contrast, tone color, and extreme registers with two statements of the row that start around the middle of the keyboard and are presented in forward-retrograde fashion. I can imagine the very young pianist stretching in an effort to get to the far reaches of the keyboard.

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Pablo E. Furman was born in Argentina and educated at UCLA. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area and teaches at San José State University were he coordinates the composition and electro-acoustic music program. His compositional interests are varied and include music for chamber ensembles, orchestra and for the electro-acoustic medium. For his music he has received awards including Guggenheim, Koussevitzky, California Arts Council and CSU and SJSU Special Presidential Award.

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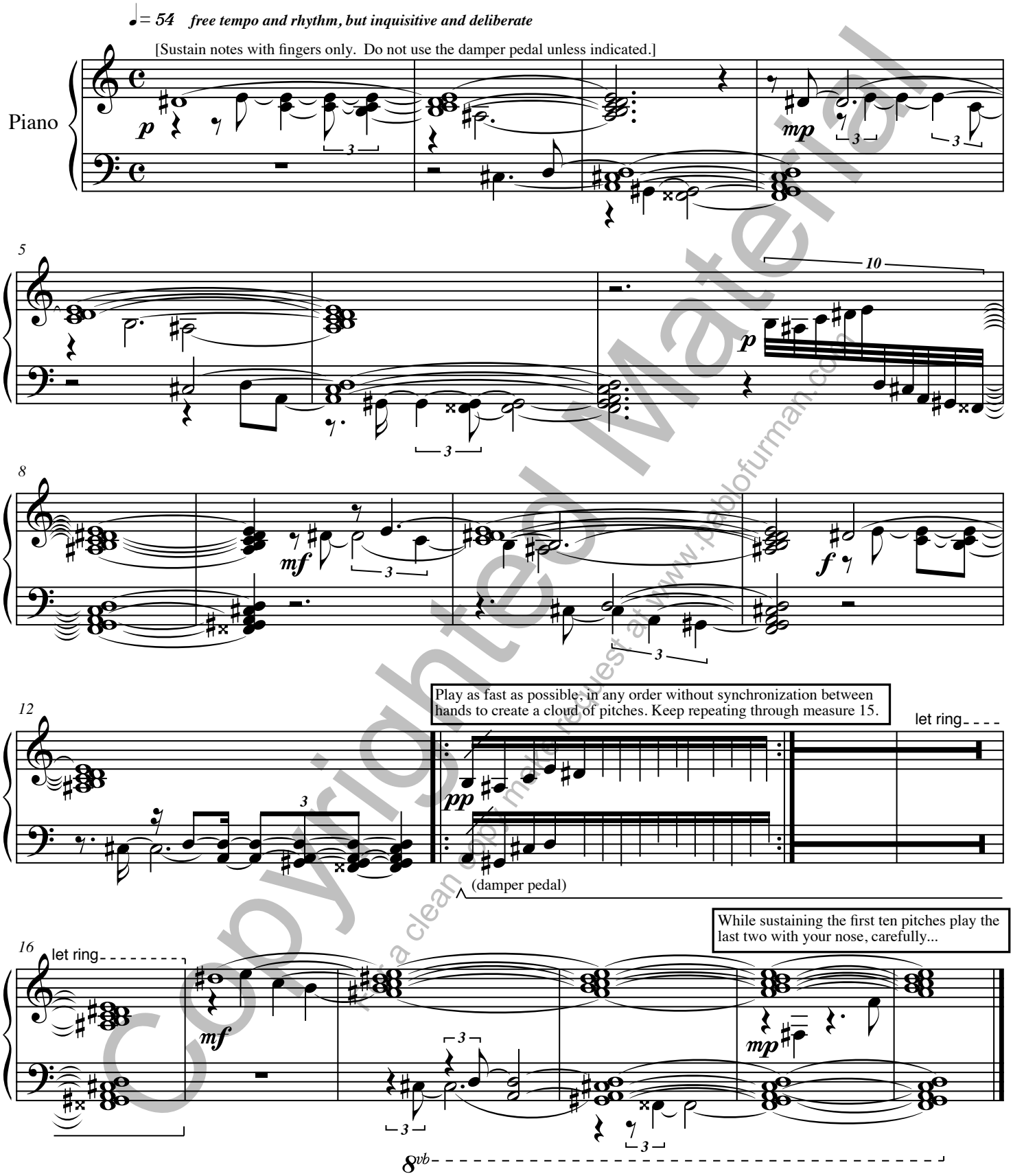
Can you count to twelve?

Pablo E. Furman



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Retro Rock

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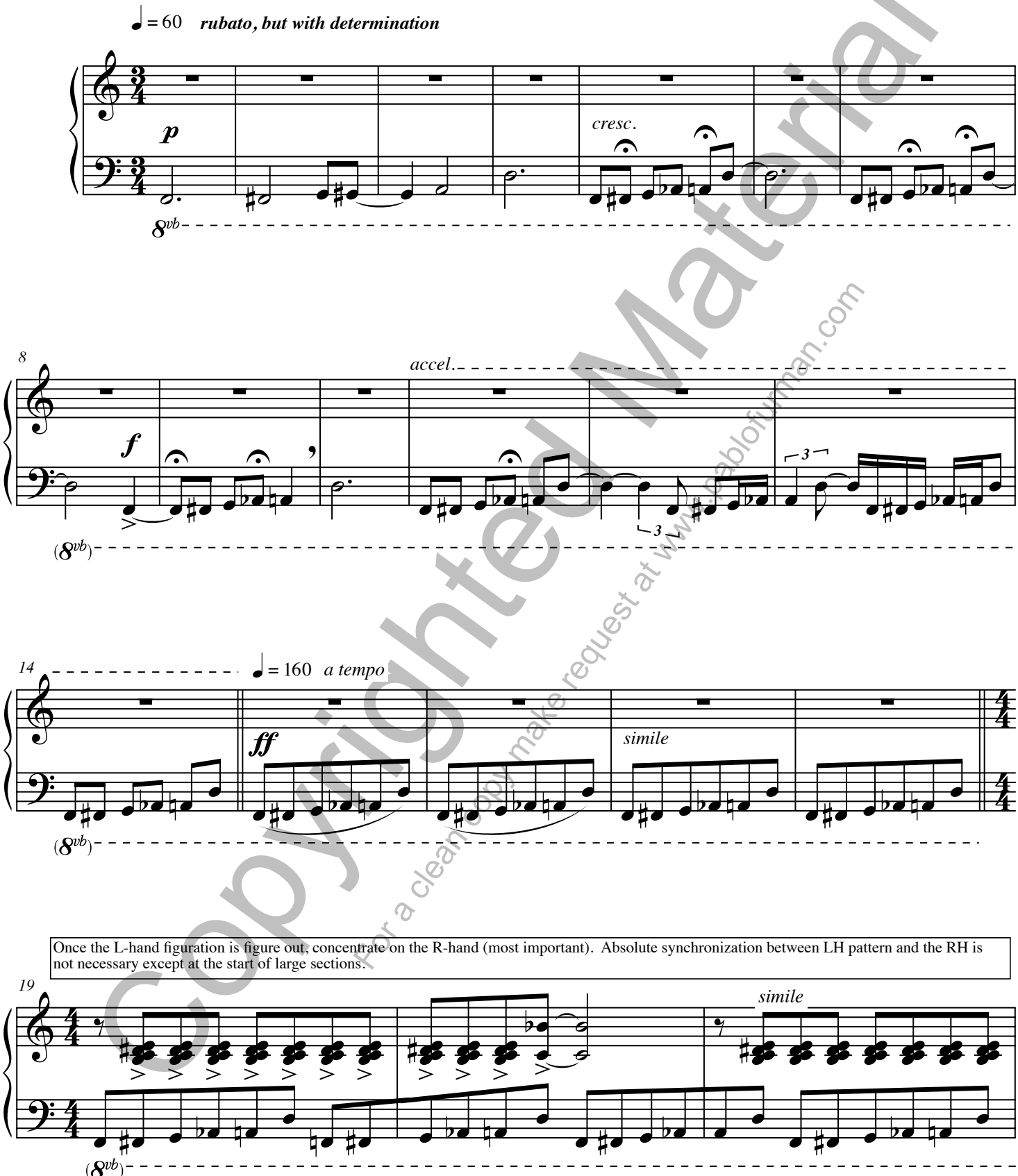

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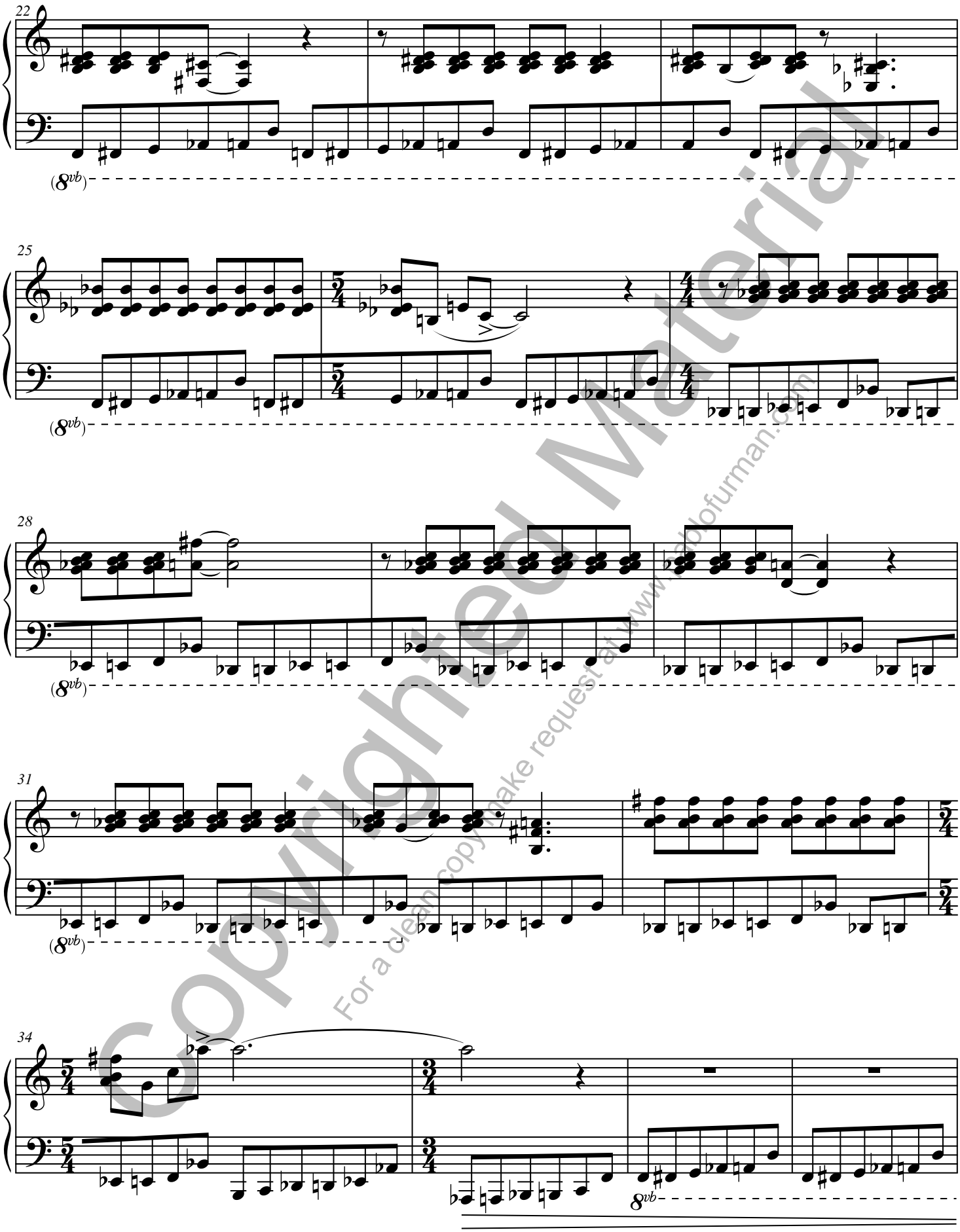

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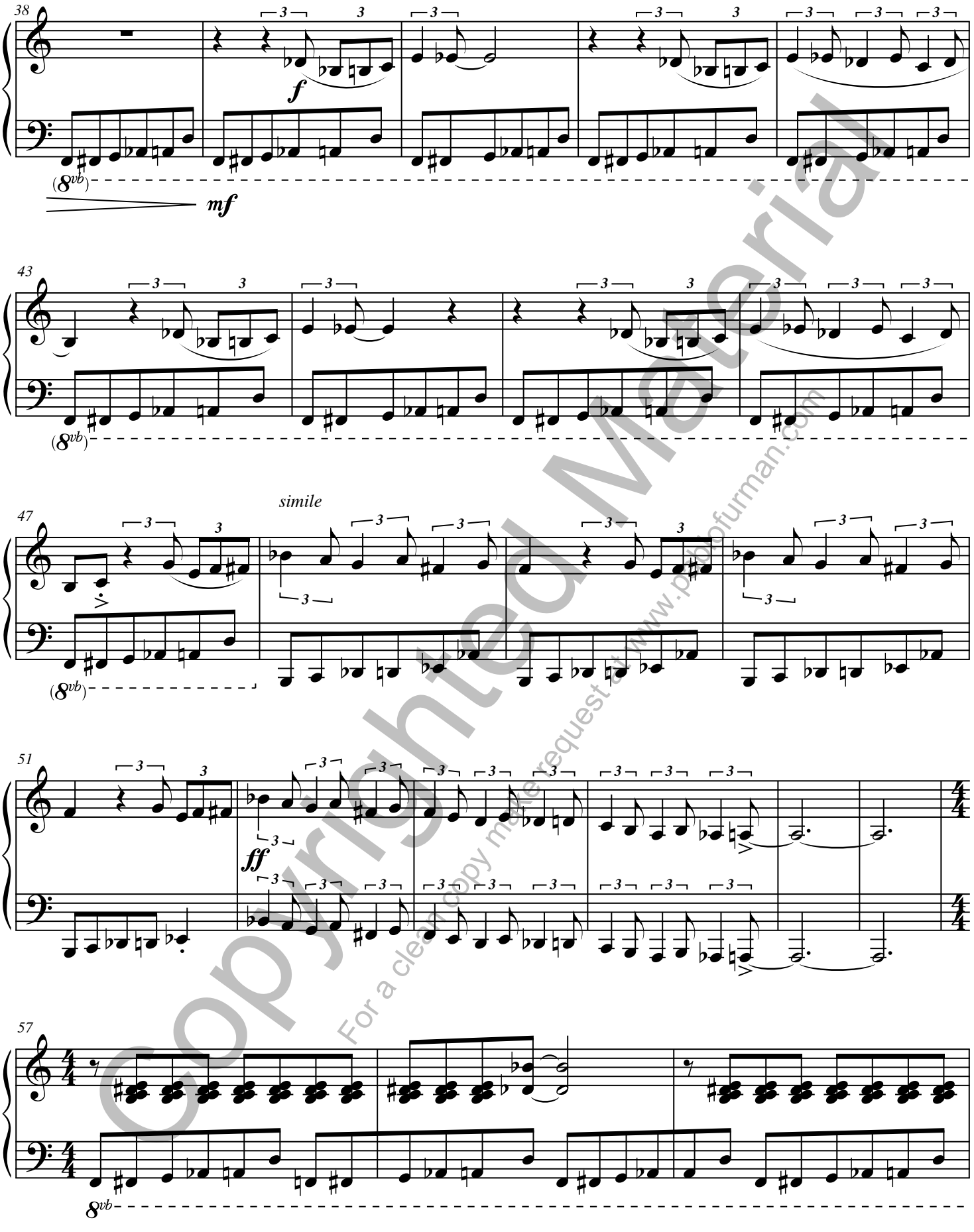

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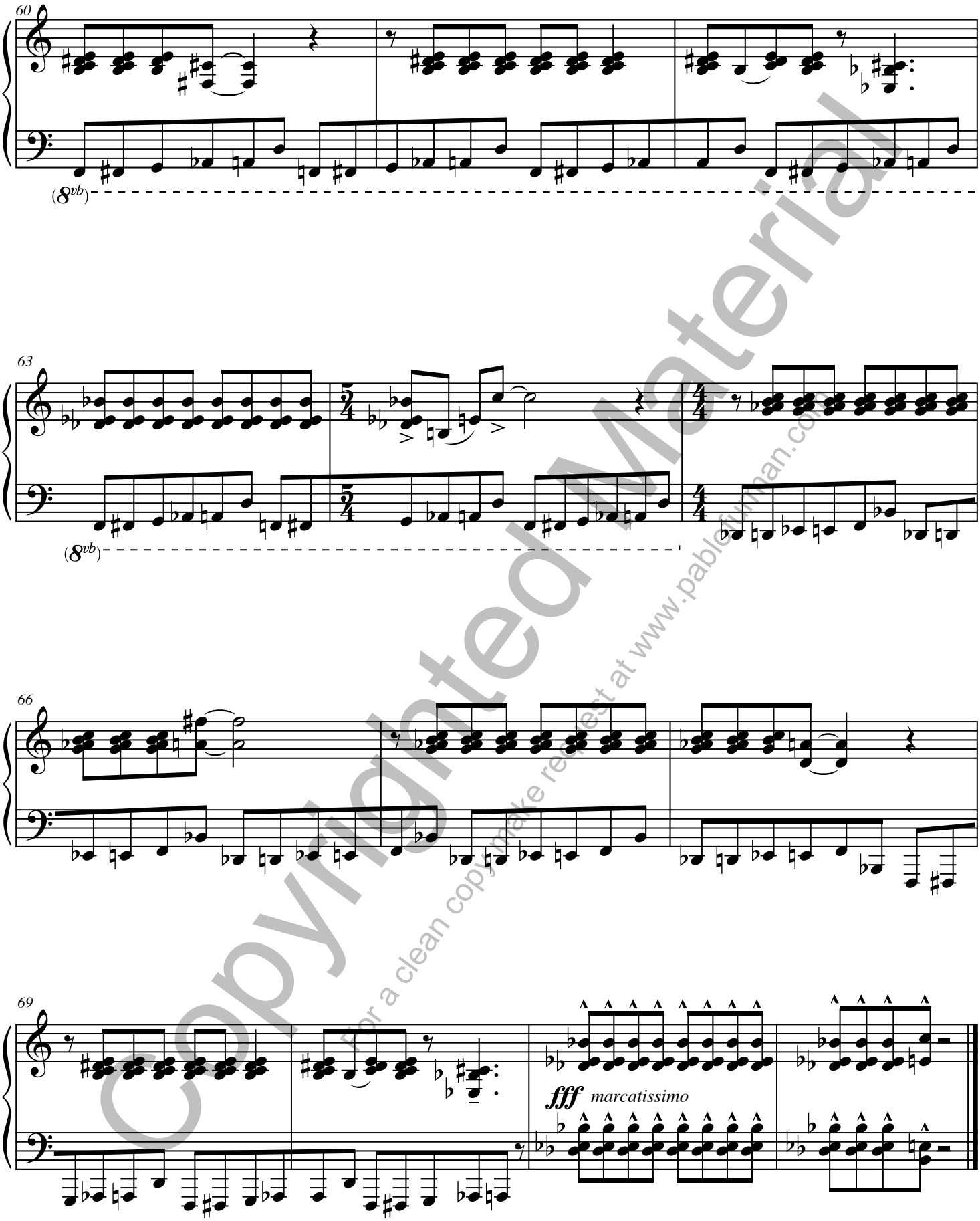

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How far away can you reach?

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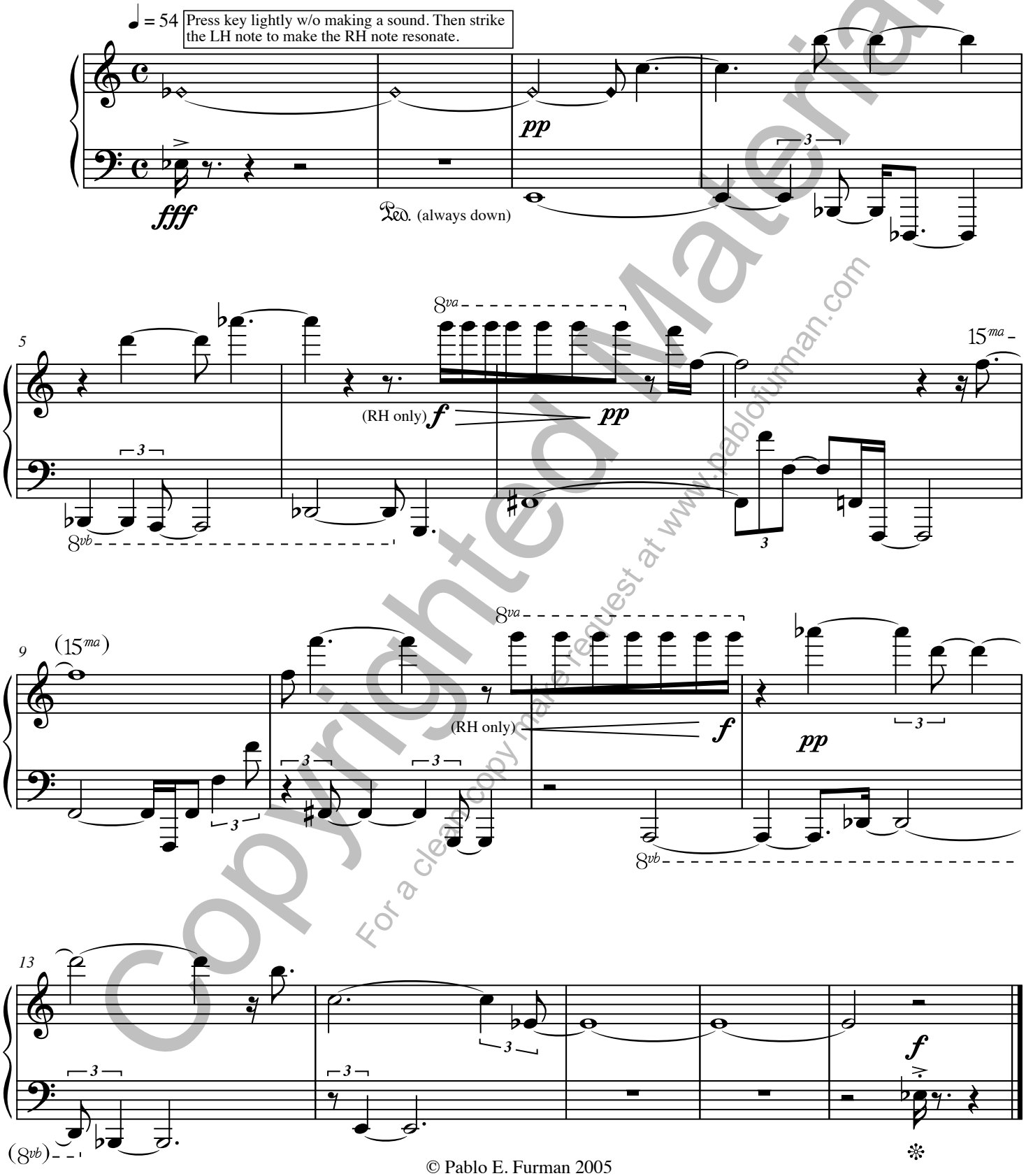

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