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Ventures of Praise

Piano Solos

by Joel Raney

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Code No. 8067
Also available on Compact Disc — 8088

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FOREWORD

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Originally derived from the French ouverture, meaning opening, the word overture has taken on numerous definitions throughout music history. In the 17th century it was an orchestral introduction to an opera or vocal work, and by the 19th century it became a musical form, such as the three movement Italian Overture. When I think of an overture, I think of the moment when the lights go down and the conductor raises his baton, of a timpani roll, a fanfare, and an exciting overview of things to come.

It occurred to me, after having finished this collection, that these arrangements are indeed overture-like. Each has several musical themes and movements. Each gives sort of an overview of a particular textual theme using a "blending" of popular Christian Contemporary titles with more well-known hymn tunes. Most are somewhat dramatic.

As with my first solo book *An Instrument of Your Peace* (Code #1952), I attempted to cover a variety of musical styles and difficulty levels. "Lamb of God" is a simple jazz meditation, and I took rhythmic liberties with "There Is a Redeemer" by arranging it as a jazz waltz. "Give Thanks," "Hosanna," and "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" all have new-age underpinnings. A lilting Irish feel seemed particularly appropriate for "Lord of the Dance," and "Majest"y gets a lighthearted Spanish treatment. I had the most fun with "We Bow Down," throwing multiple styles and tunes into an "Americana" medley of praise songs. In my opinion, "Here I Am, Lord" is the most moving song in the collection, and I tried to let that emotion come through and drive the arrangement.

I hope those of you who are familiar with the contemporary titles will enjoy these settings. But, if you don't recognize what you hear, wait a few bars and you probably will.

— Joel Raney

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Majesty

Crown Him With Many Crowns/How Majestic Is Your Name

Jack W. Hayford
Setting by JOEL RANEY

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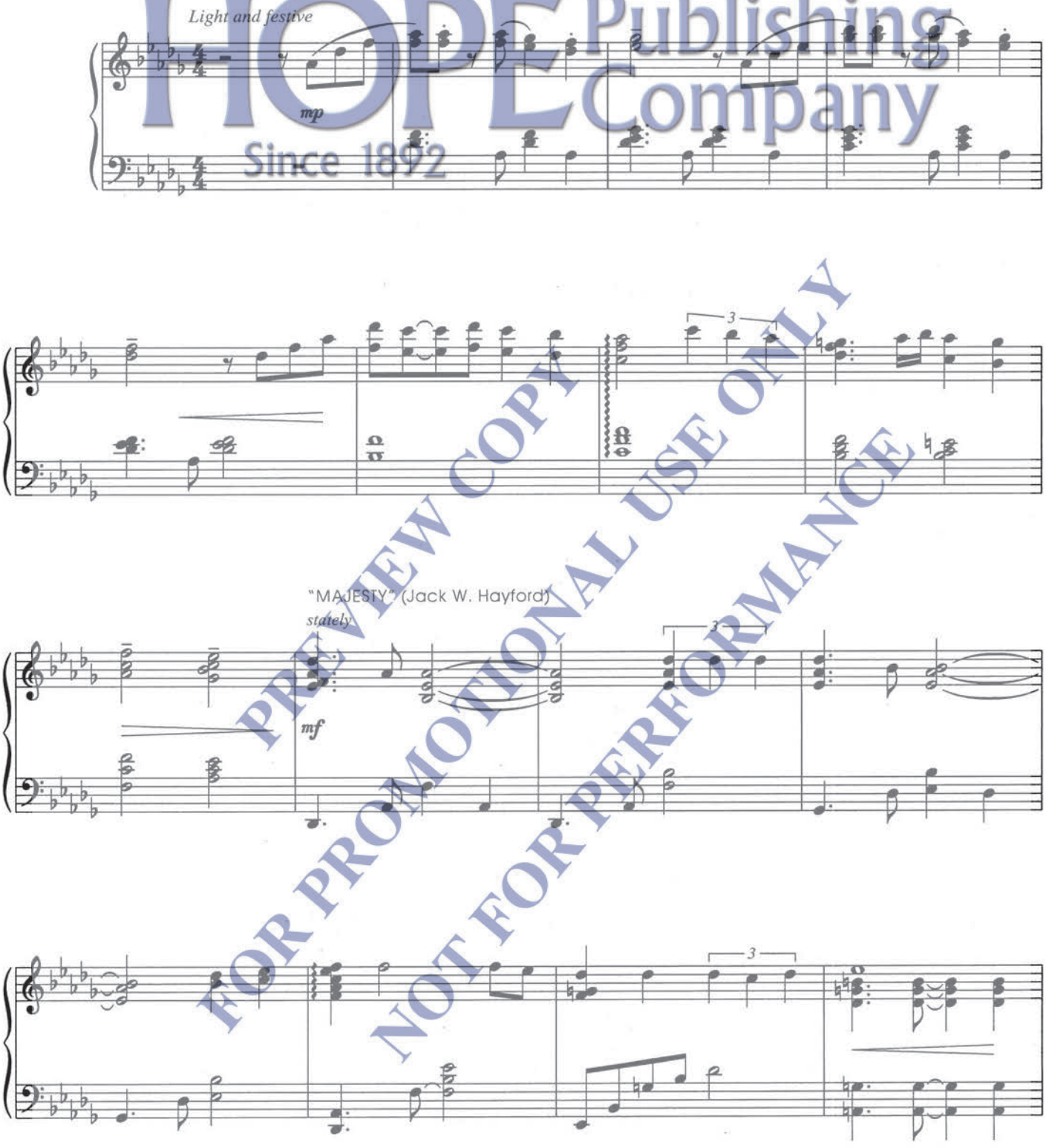

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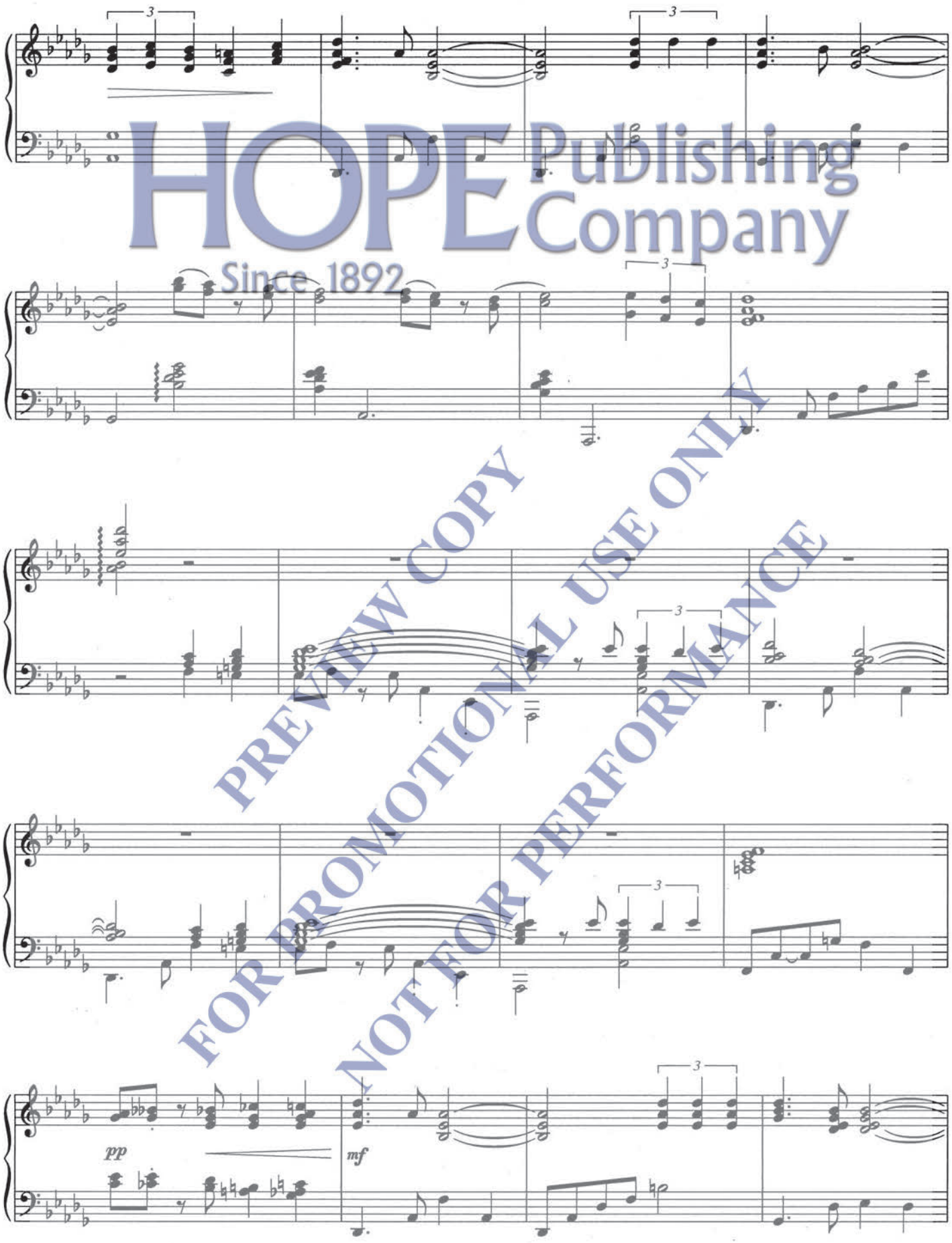

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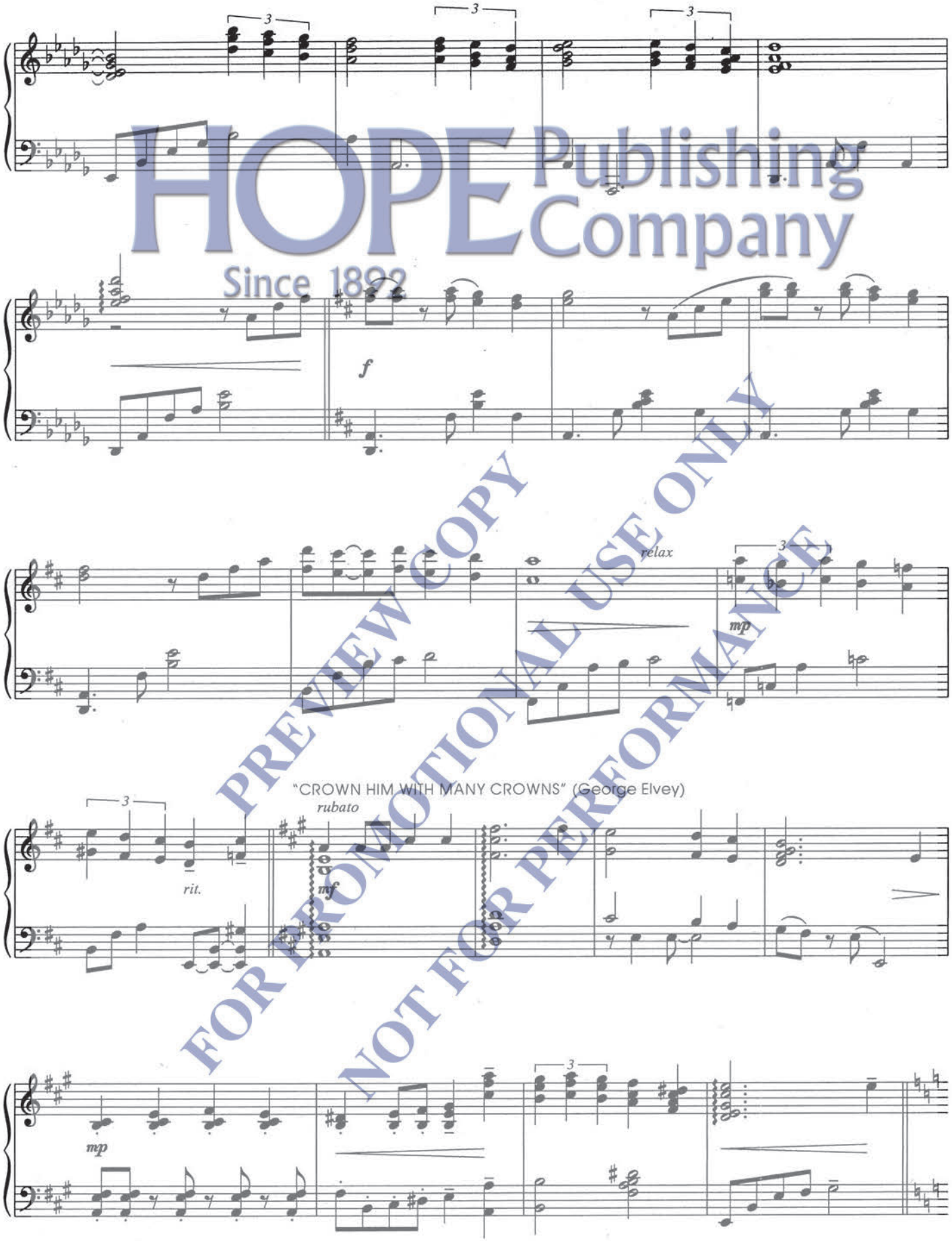

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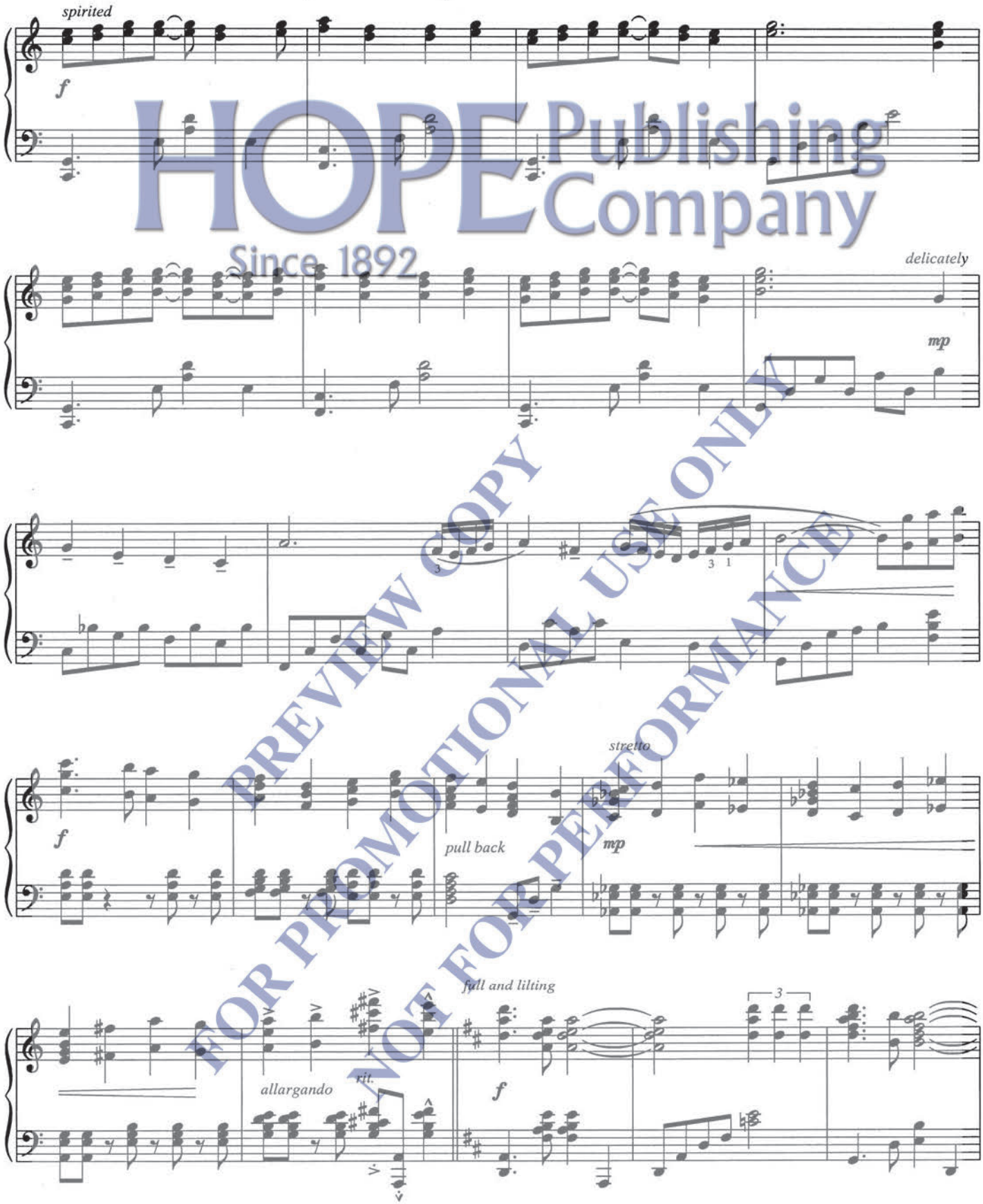
"HOW MAJESTIC IS YOUR NAME" (Michael W. Smith)



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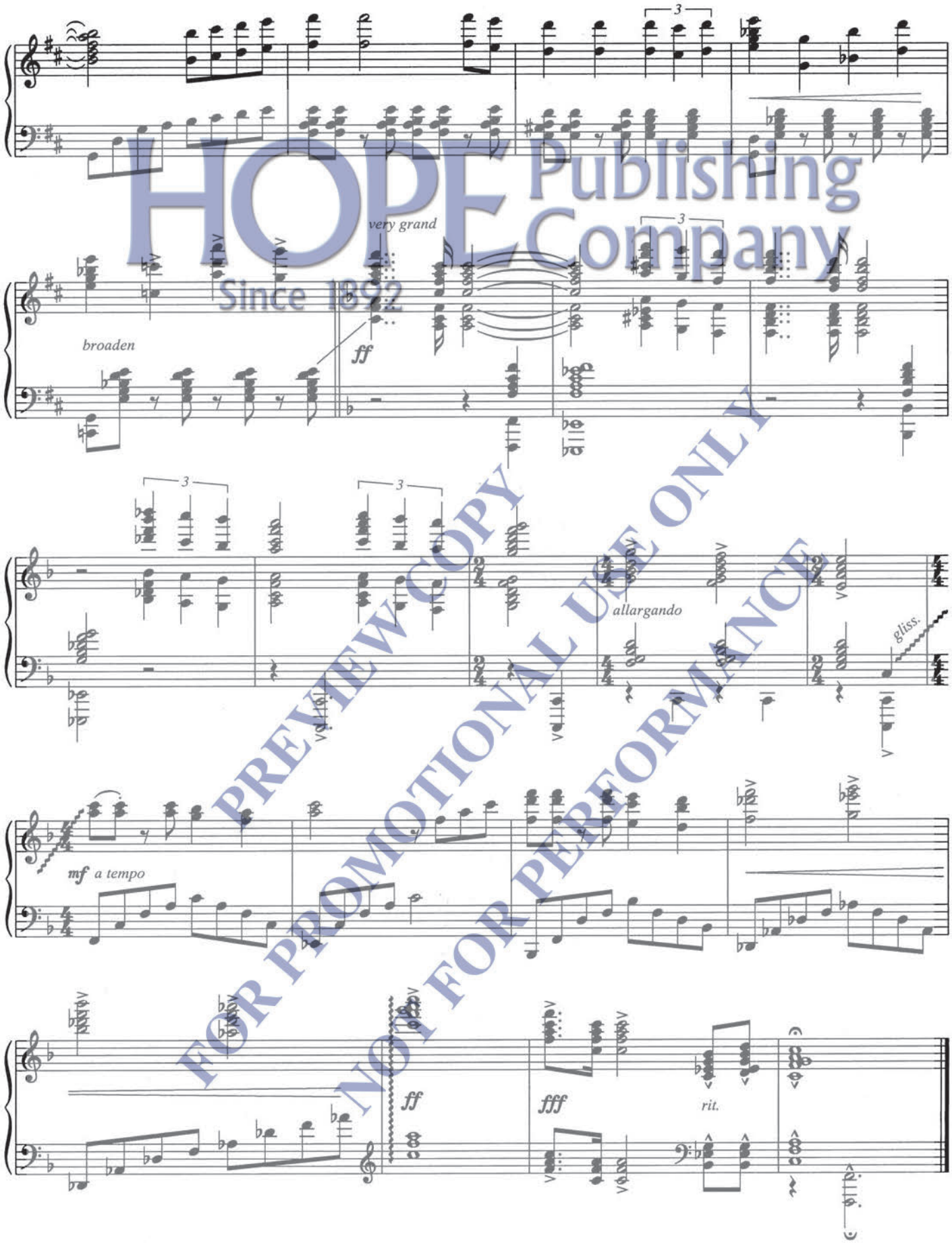

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We Bow Down

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty/
O Worship the King/Praise Him! Praise Him!

Twila Paris
Setting by JOEL RANEY

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Bright (in 2)

mf

"WE BOW DOWN" (Twila Paris)
with conviction

ff

f

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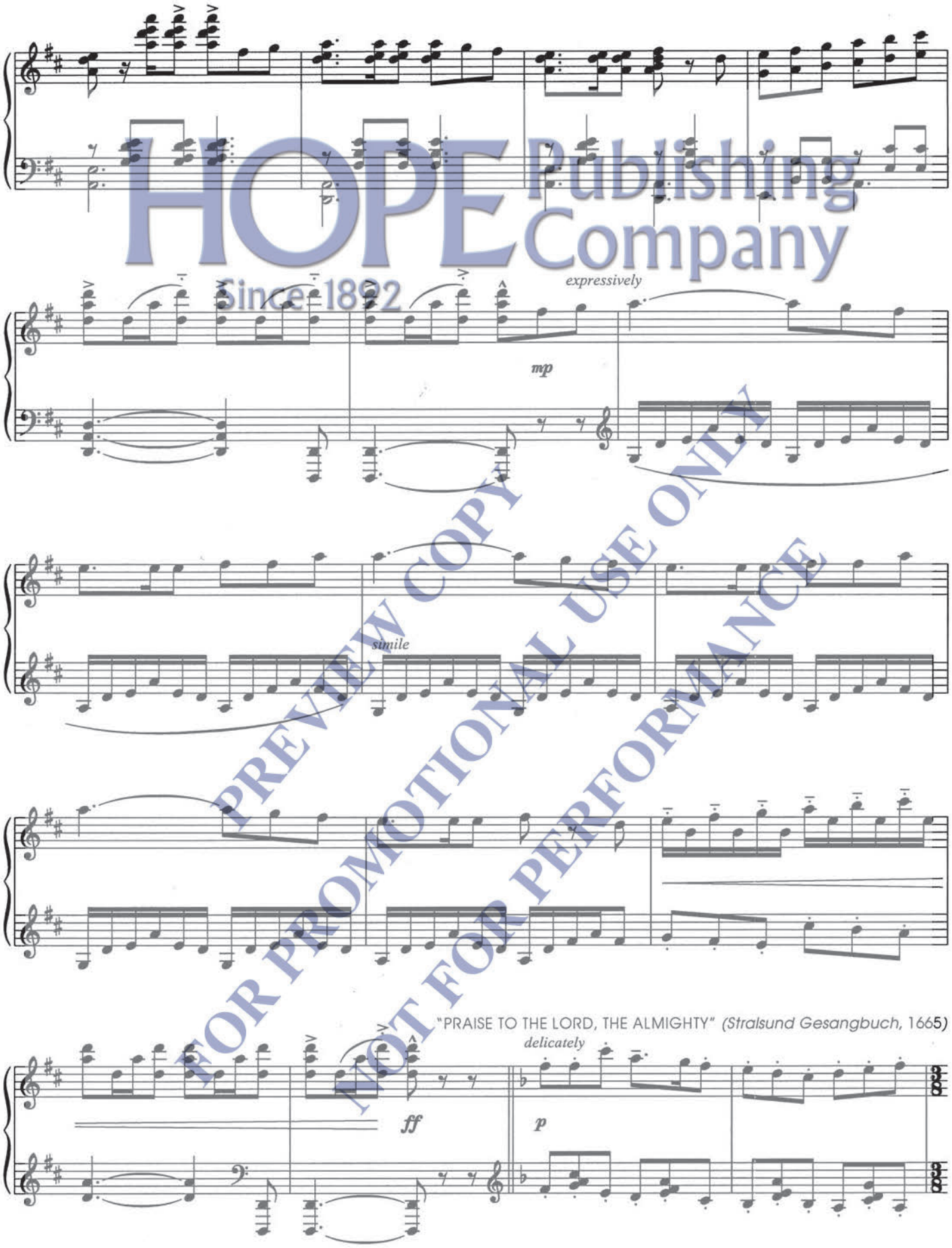

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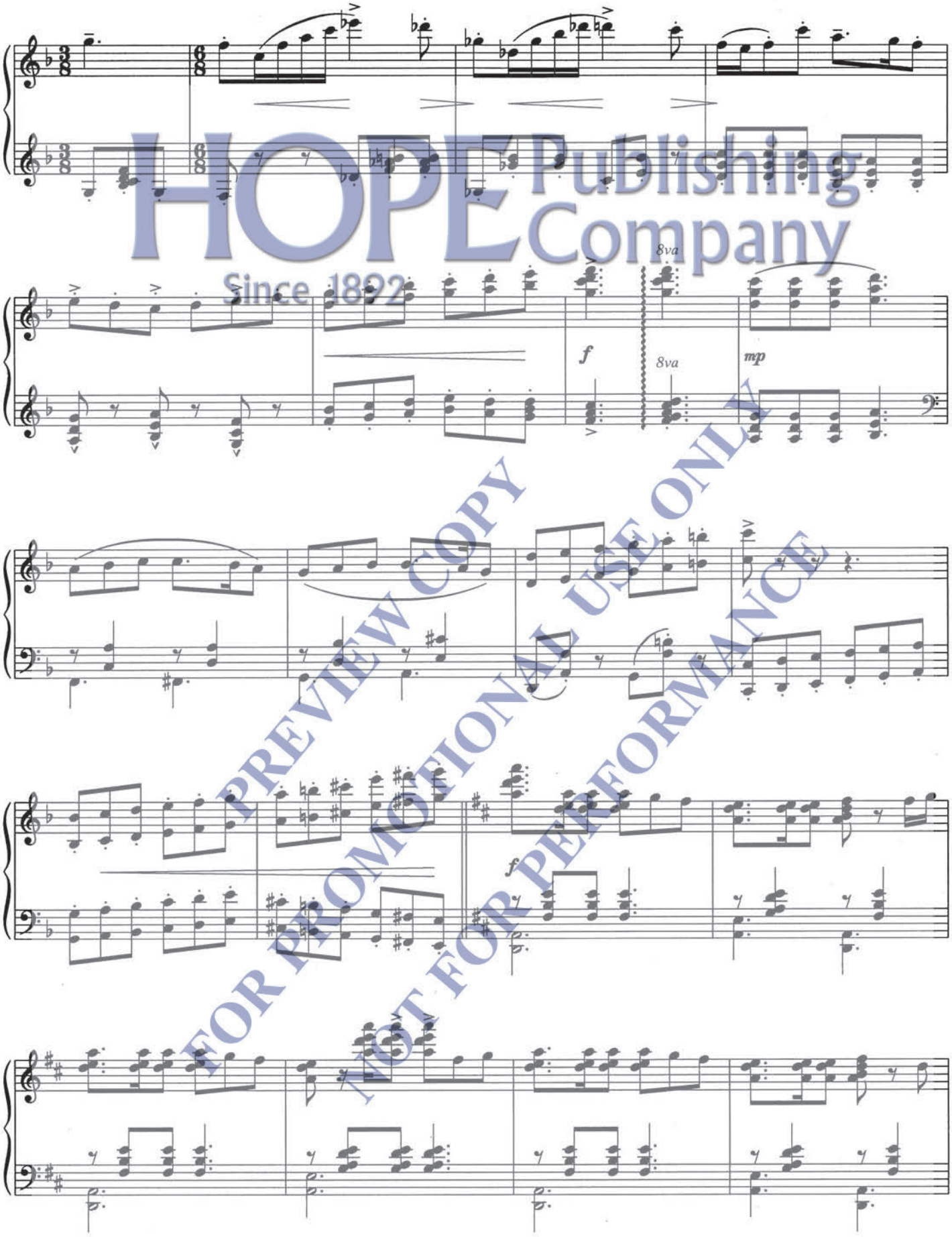

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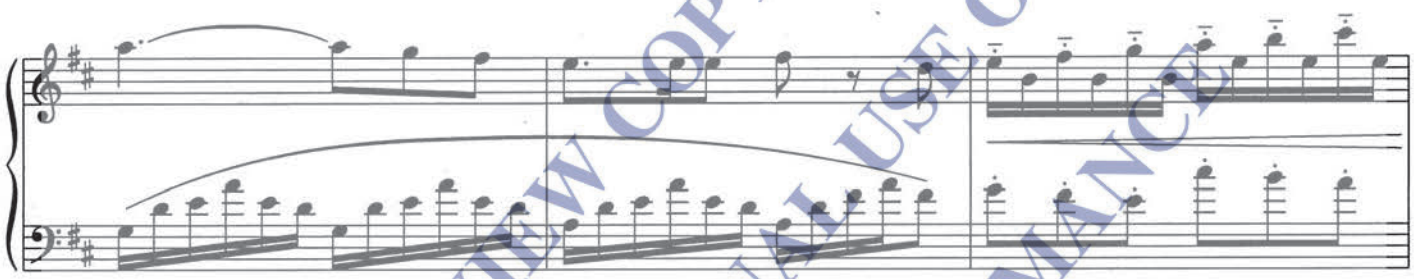
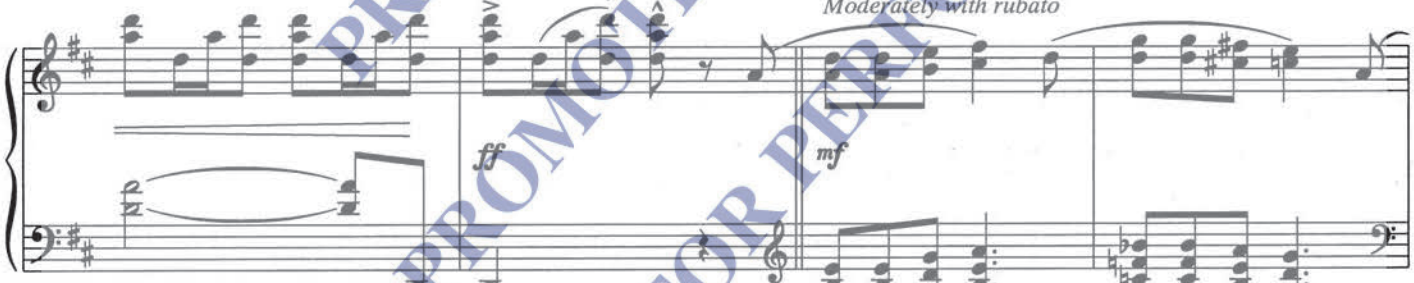
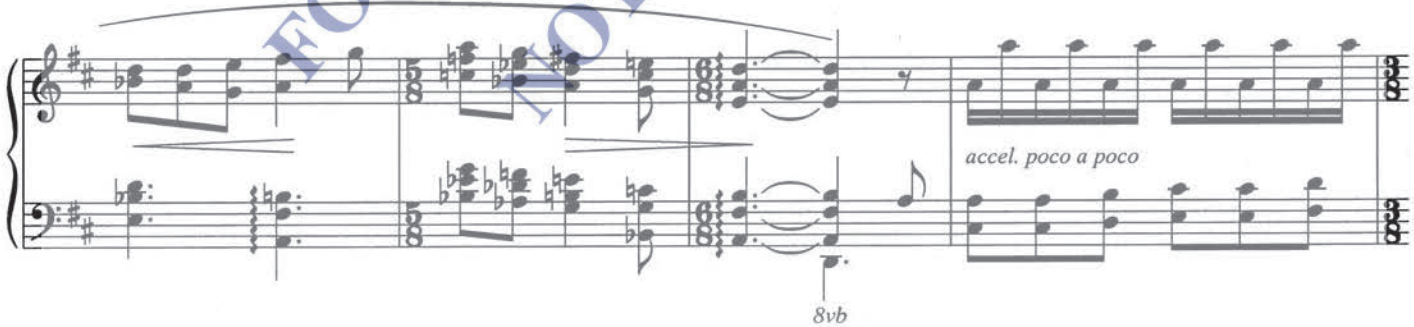


"O WORSHIP THE KING" (William Gardner's *Sacred Melodies,* 1815)

Moderately with rubato





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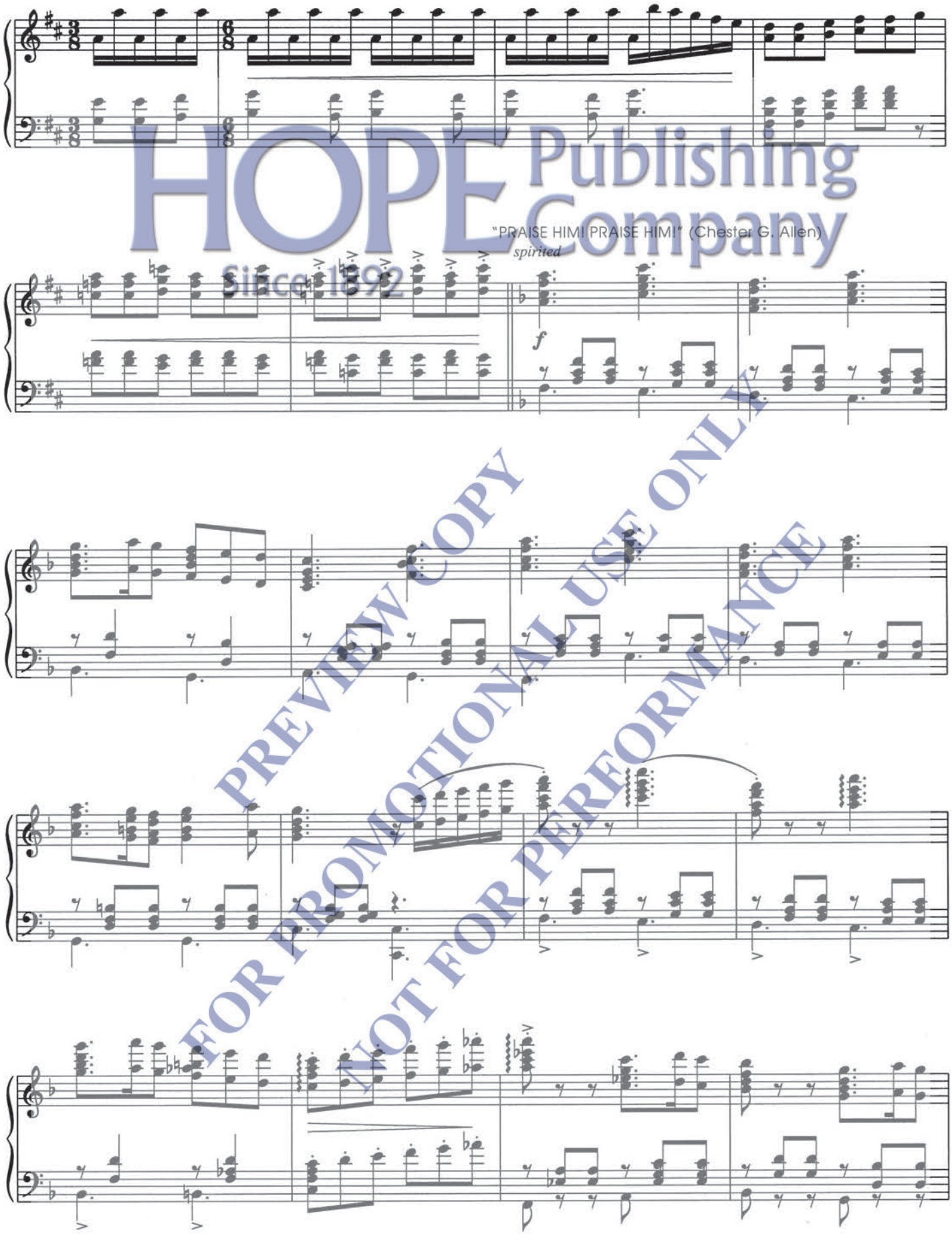

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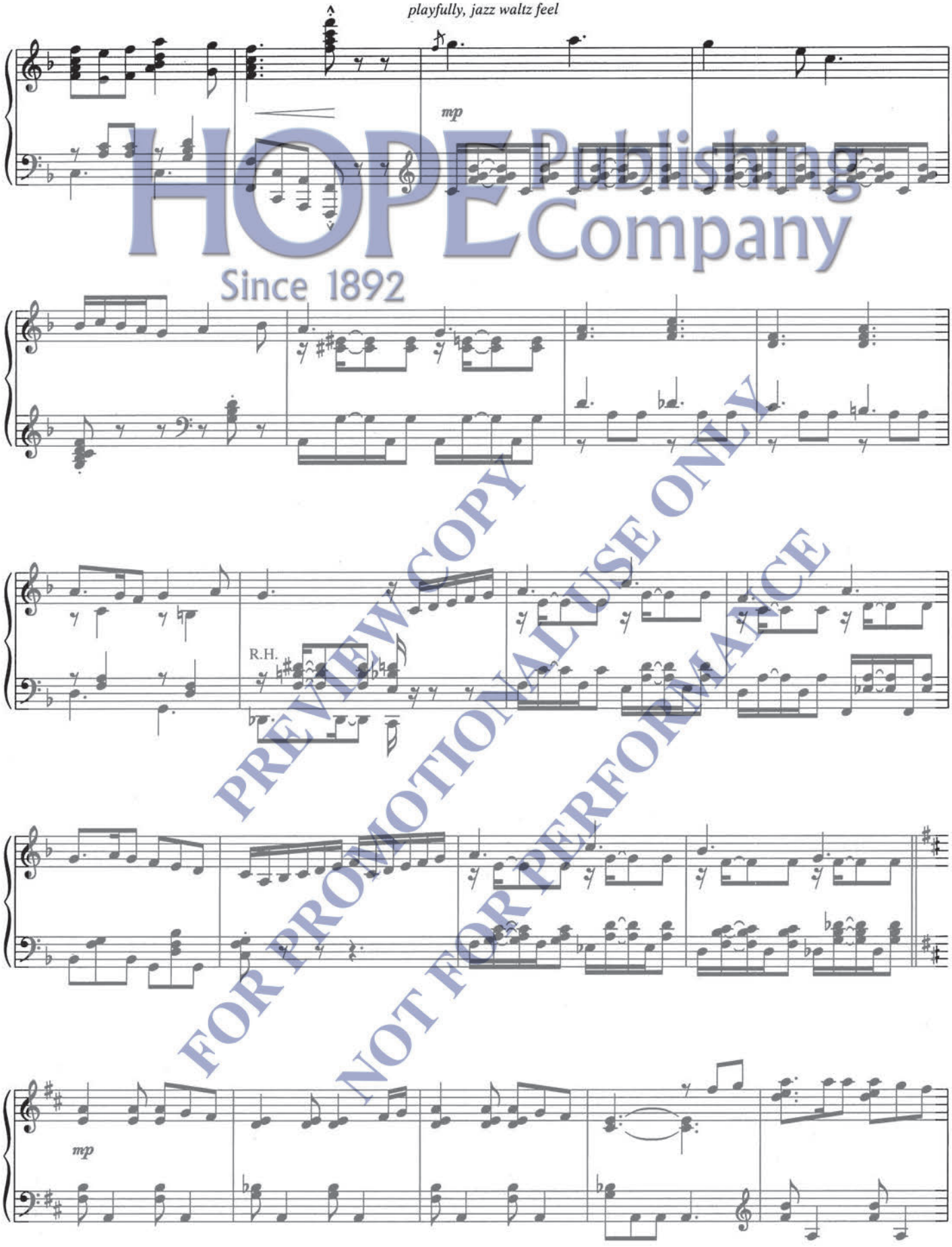

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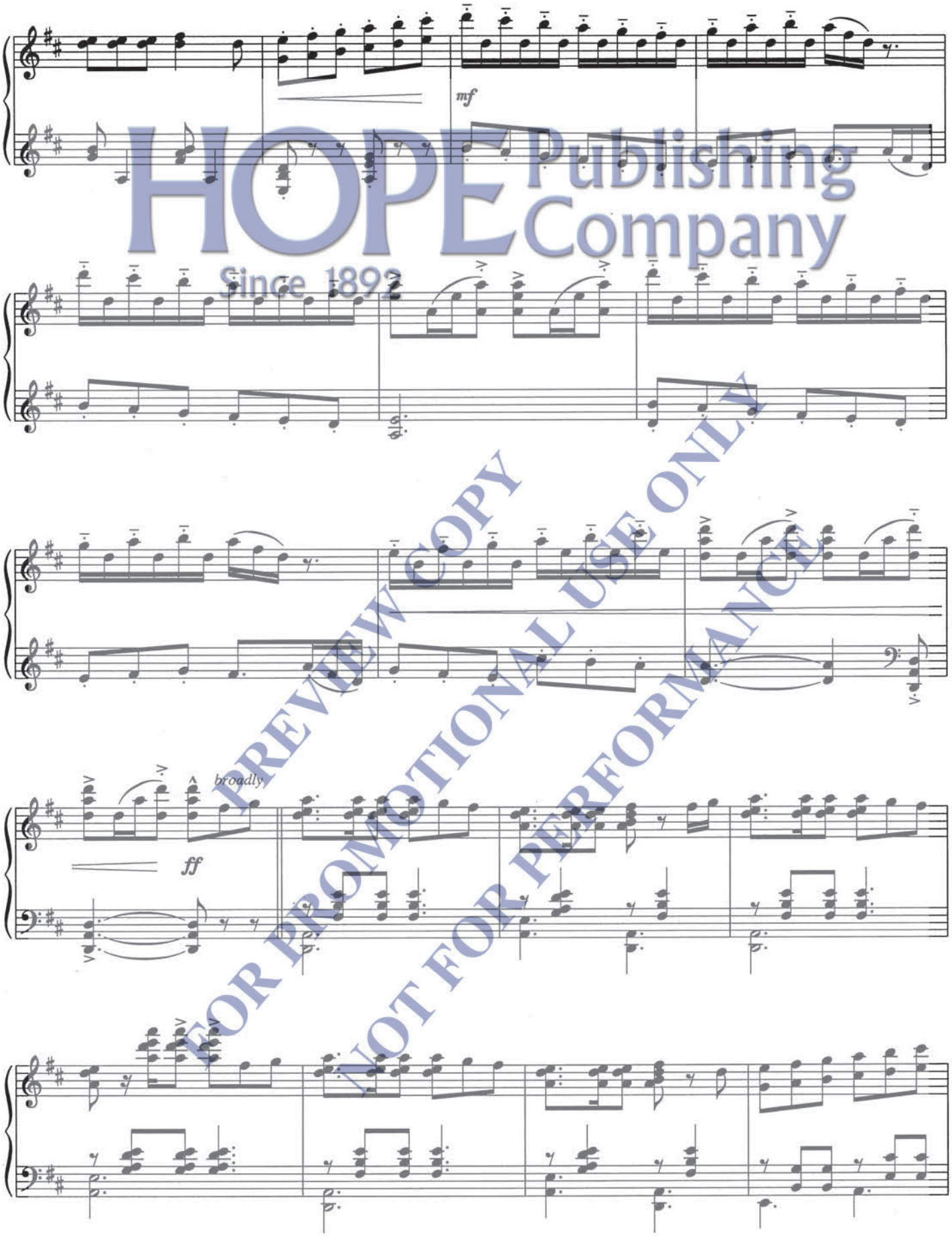

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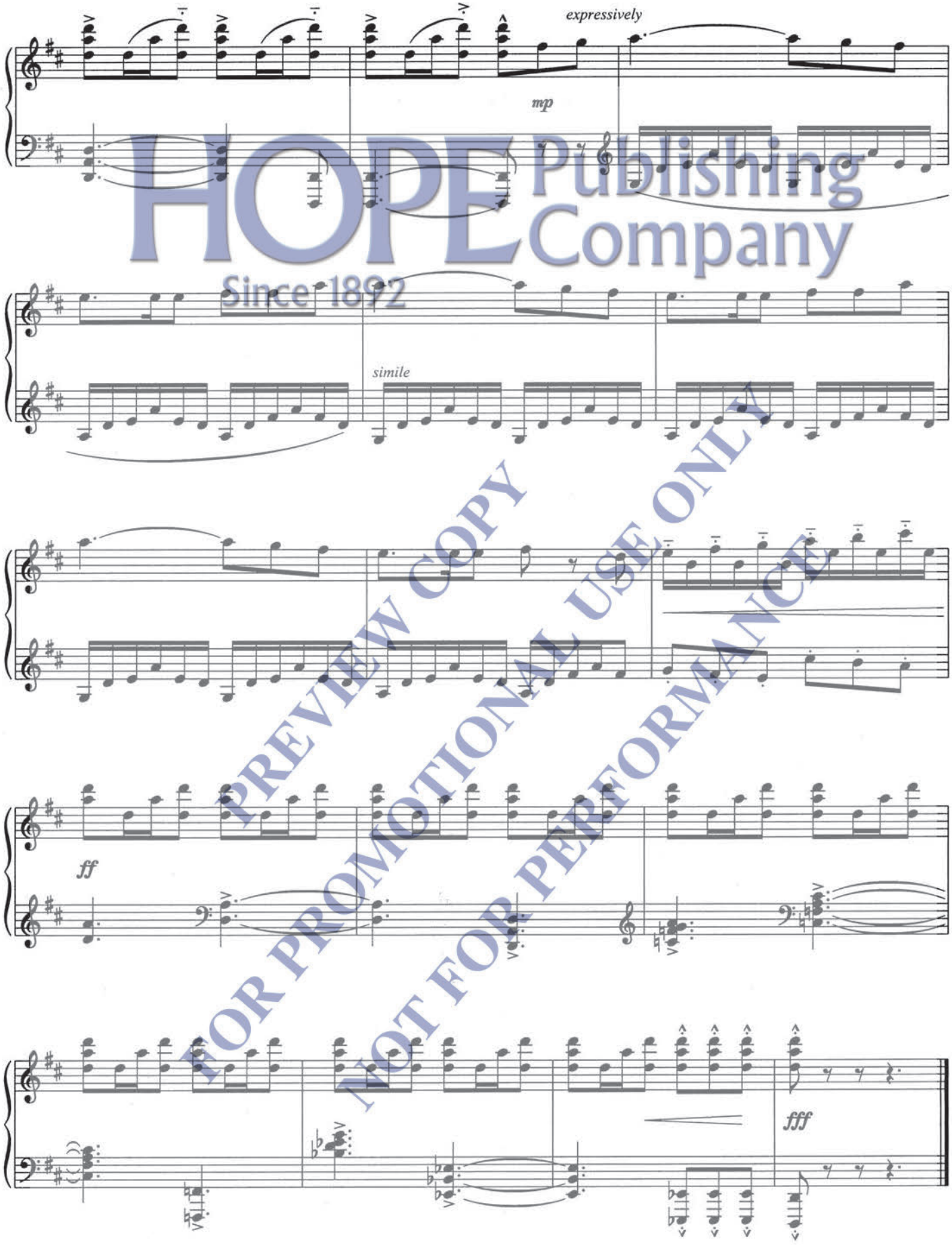

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Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

His Name Is Wonderful/There Is a Name I Love to Hear

Rick Founds
Setting by JOEL RANEY

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"THERE IS A NAME I LOVE TO HEAR" (Traditional)

Gentle and flowing

pp

"LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH" (Rick Founds)

mf

mp

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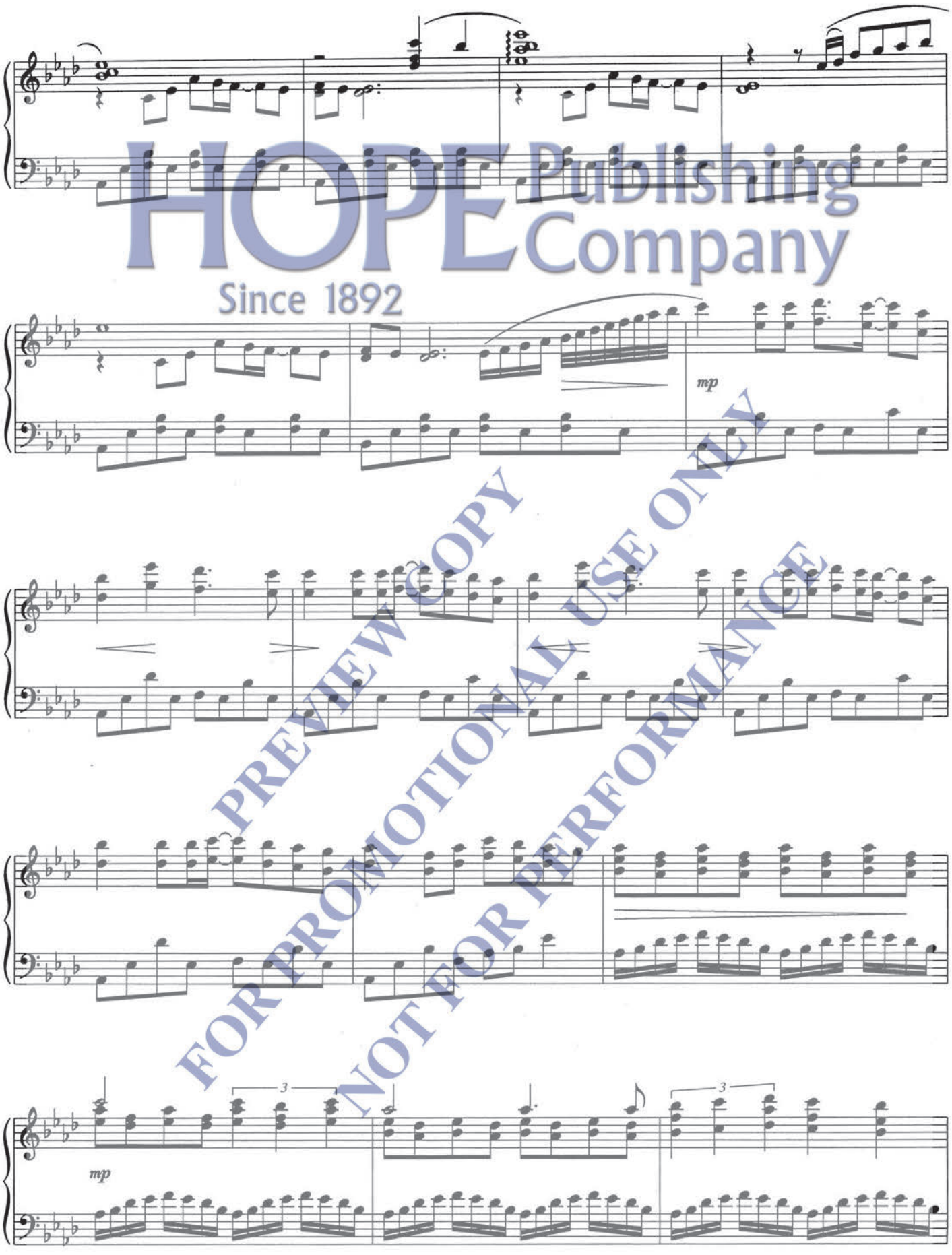

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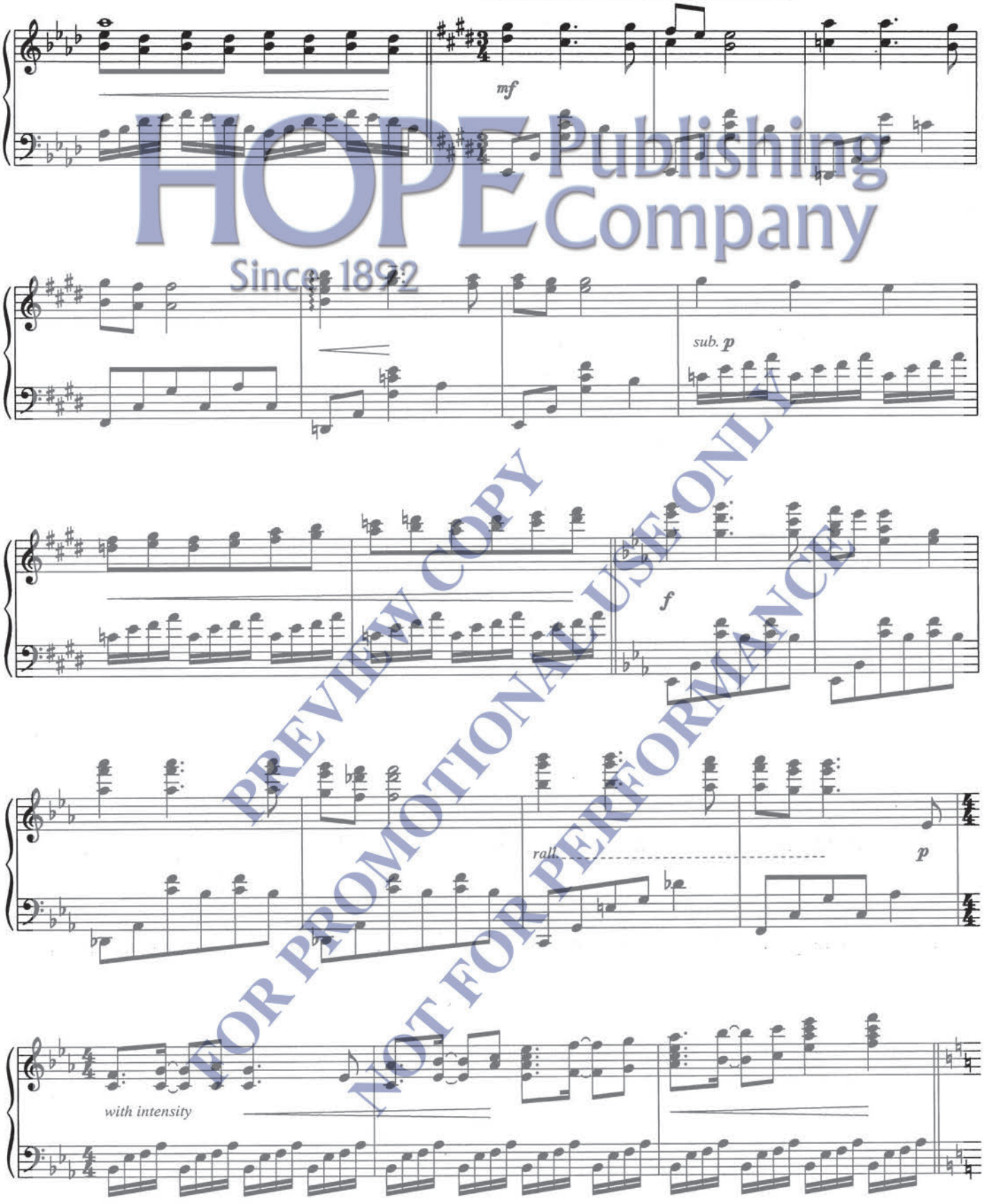
"HIS NAME IS WONDERFUL" (Audrey Mieir)



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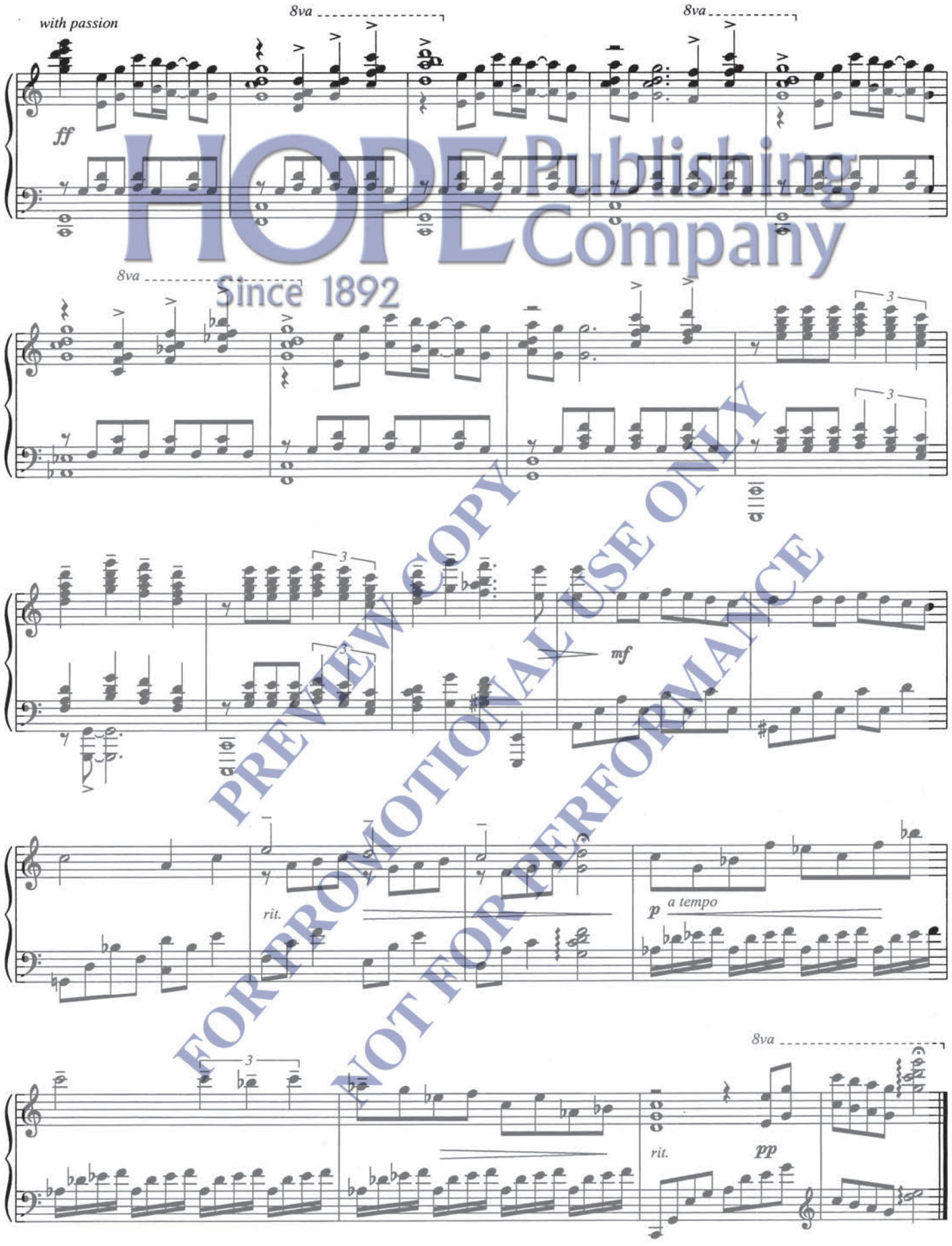

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Change My Heart, O God

Purer in Heart

Eddie Espinosa
Setting by JOEL RANEY

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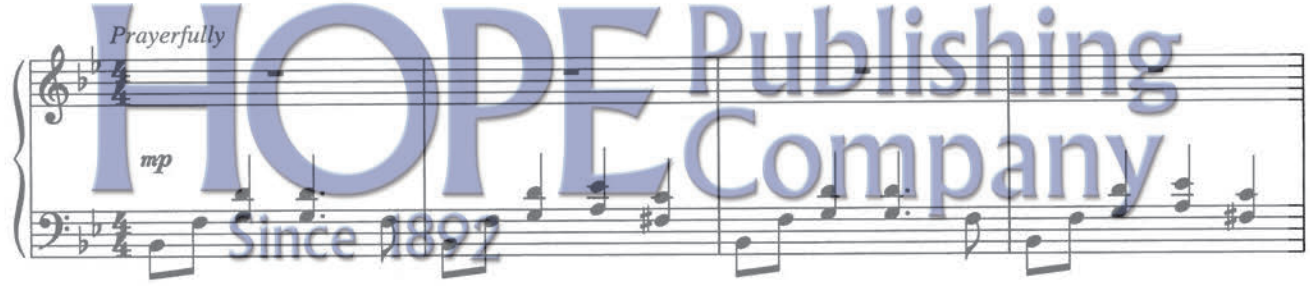

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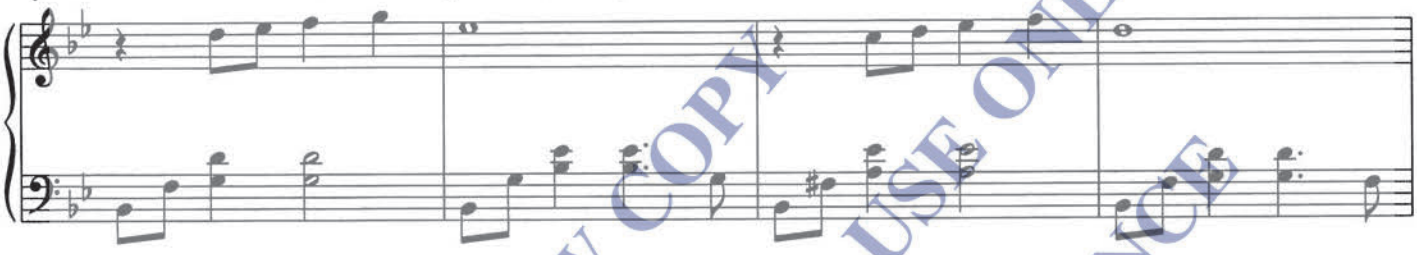

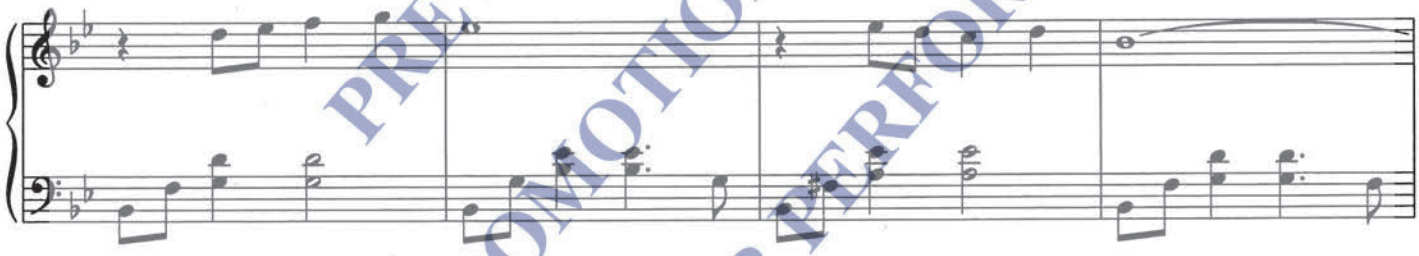

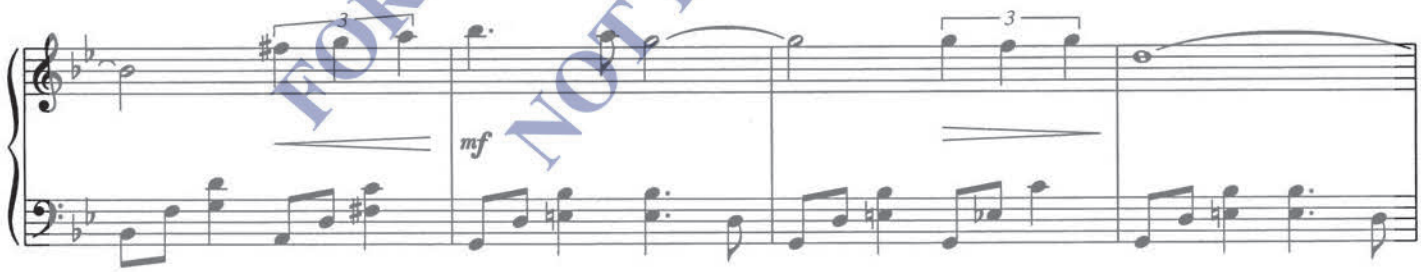

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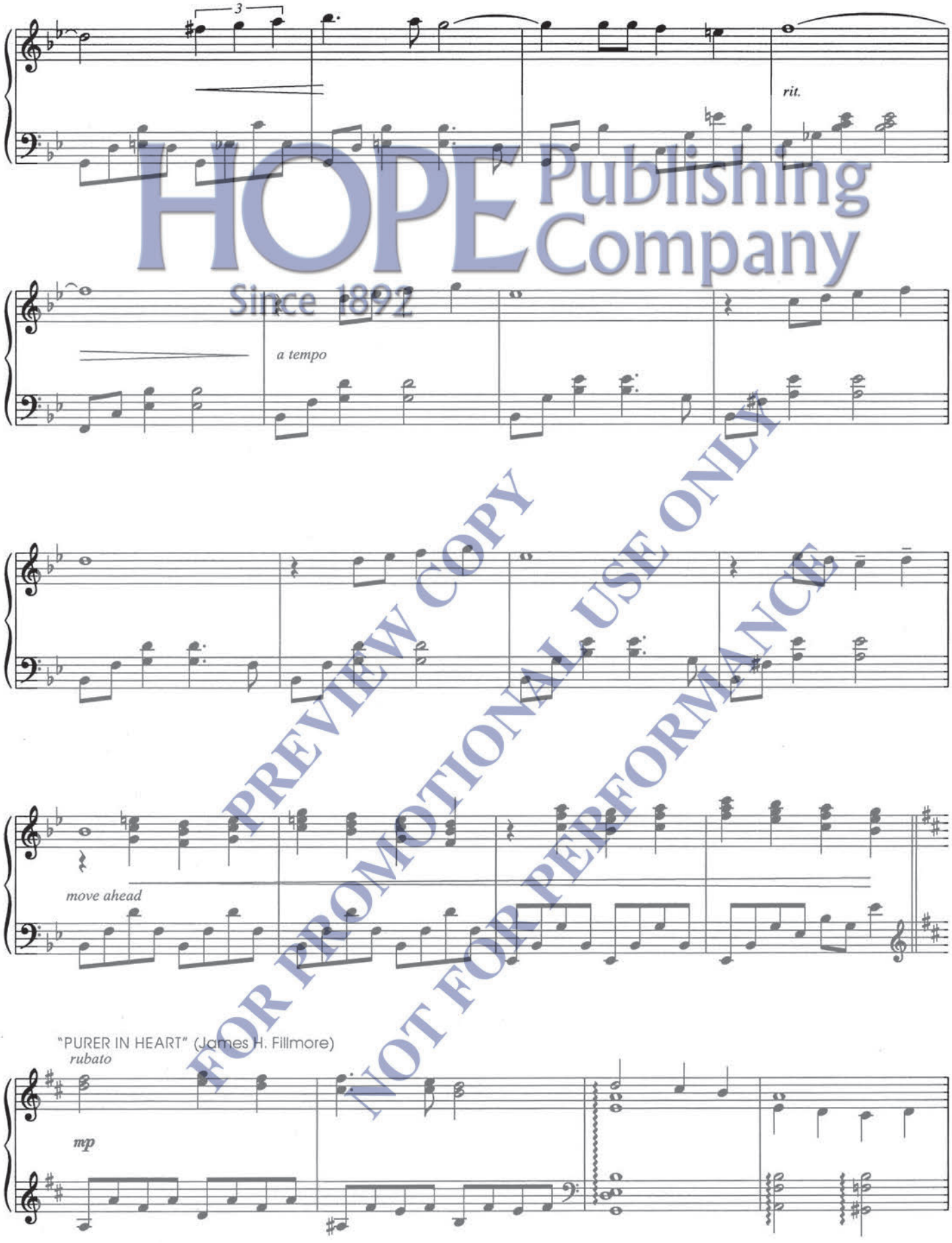

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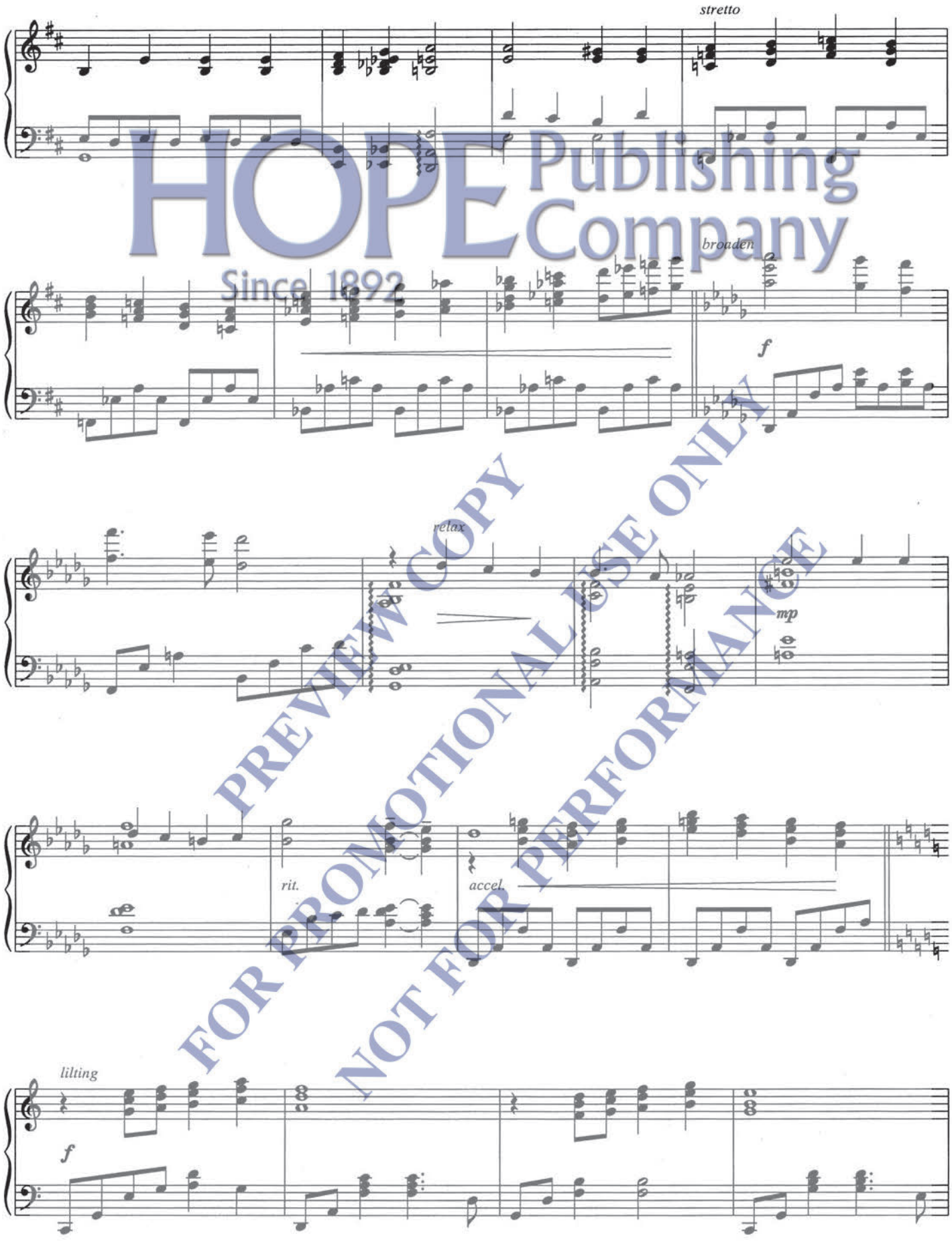

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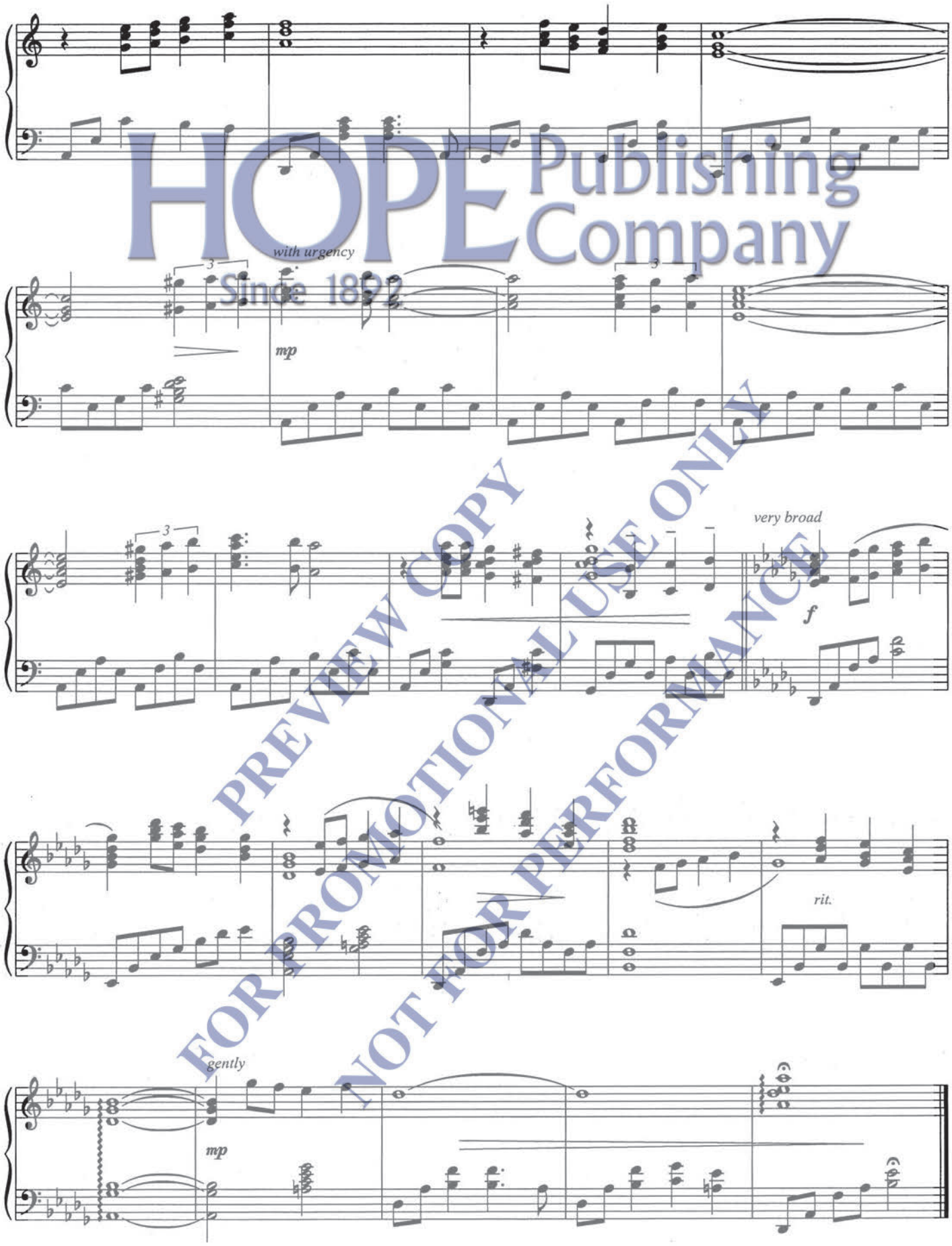

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Hosanna

Holy, Holy, Holy

Carl Tuttle
Setting by JOEL RANEY

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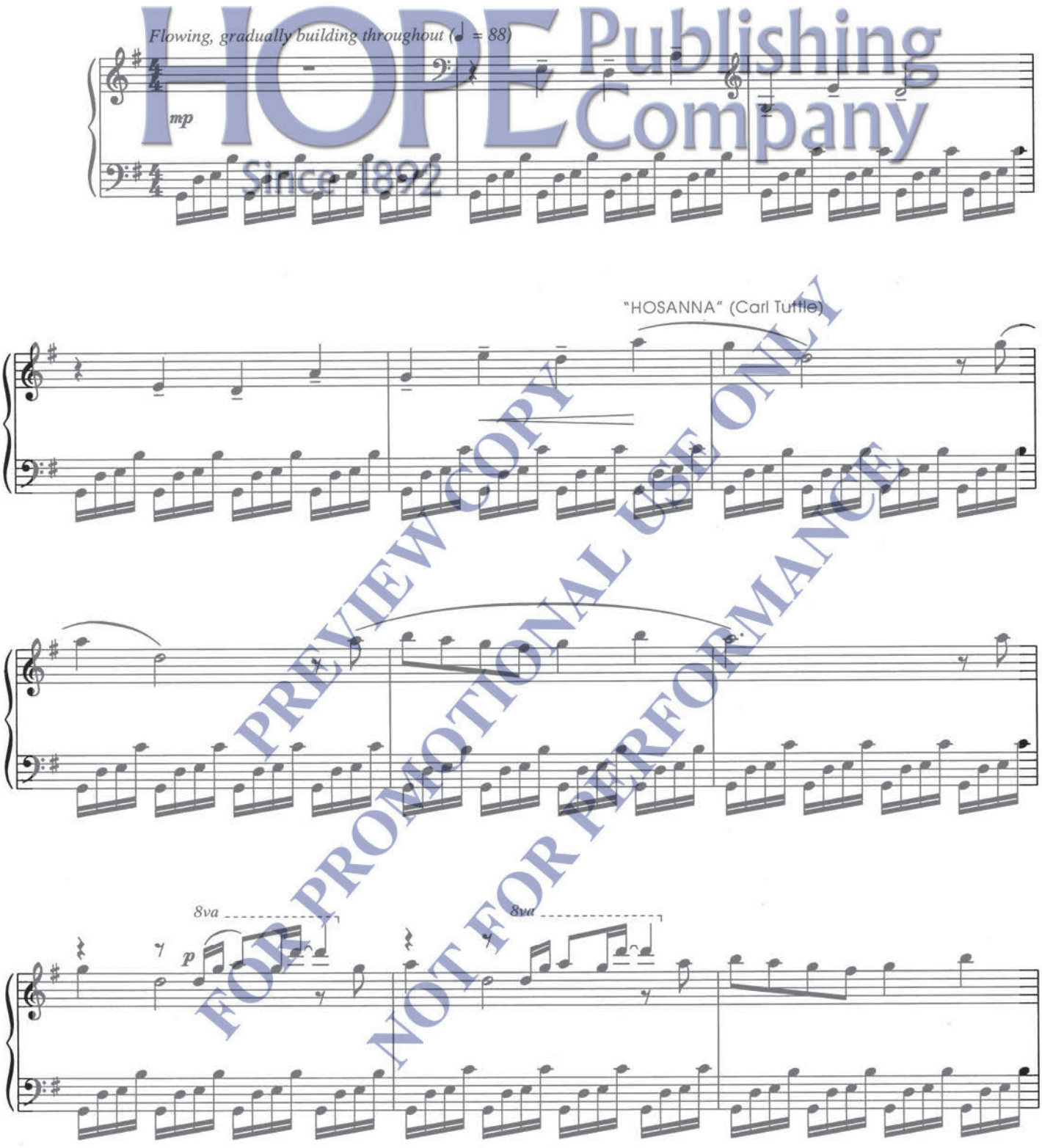

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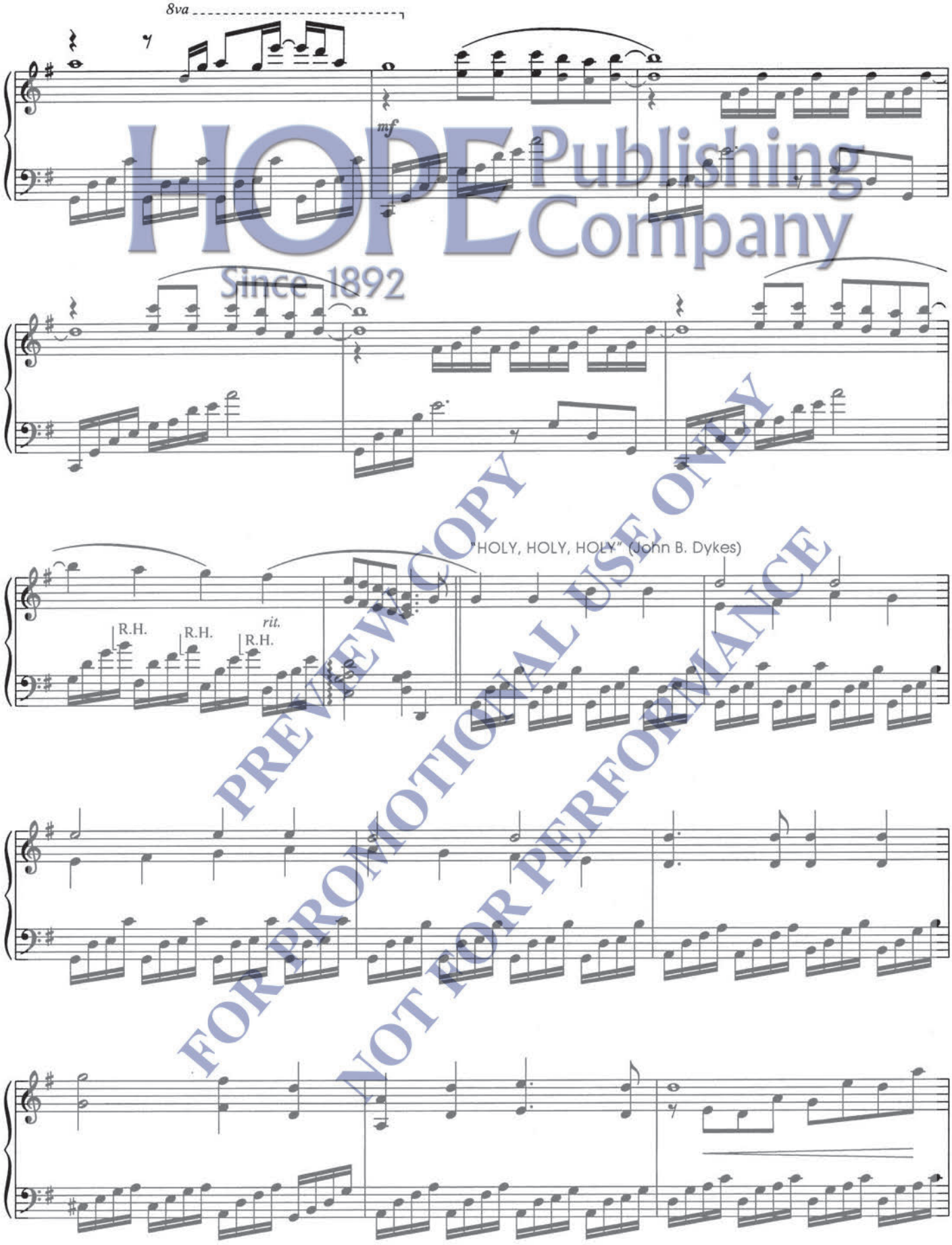

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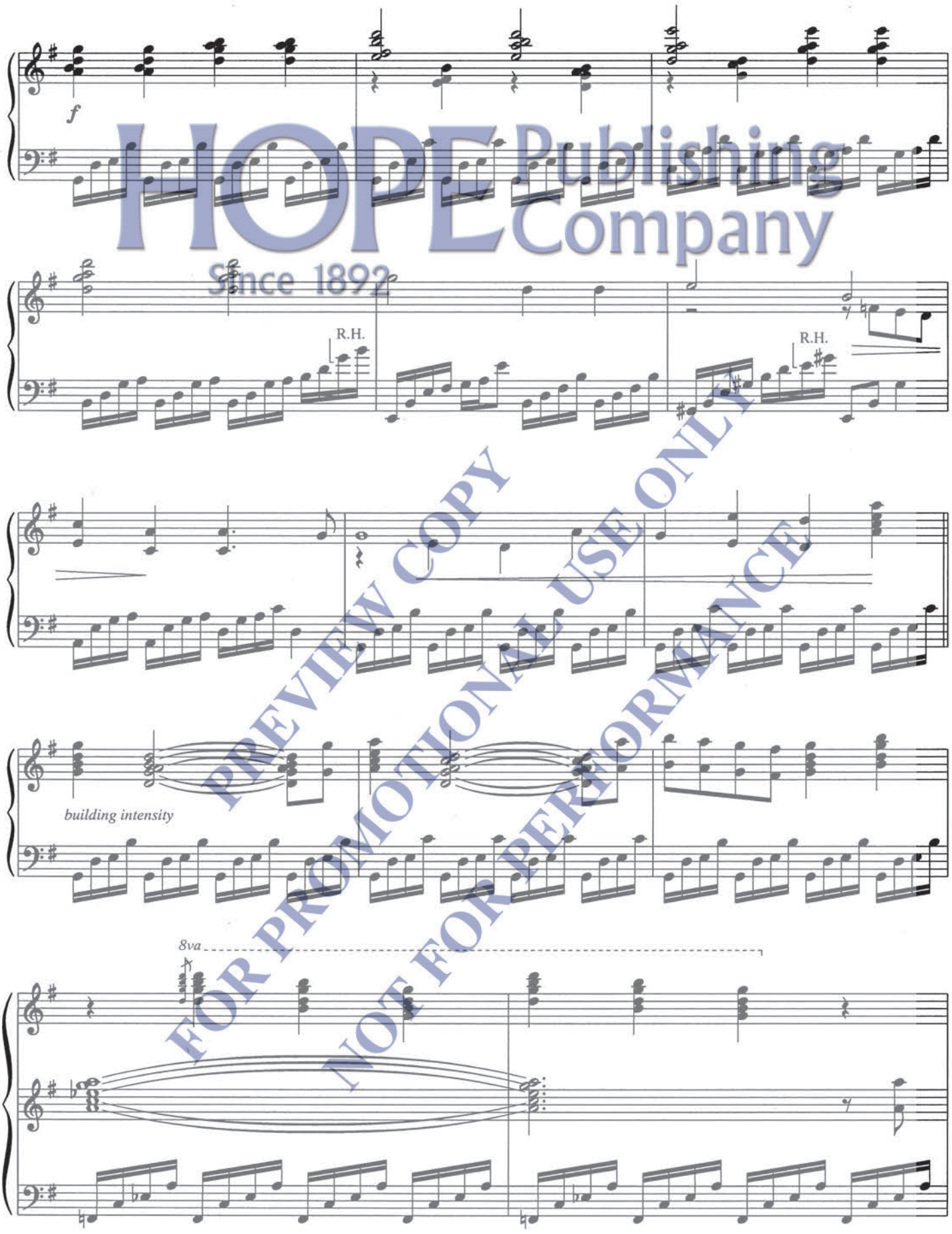

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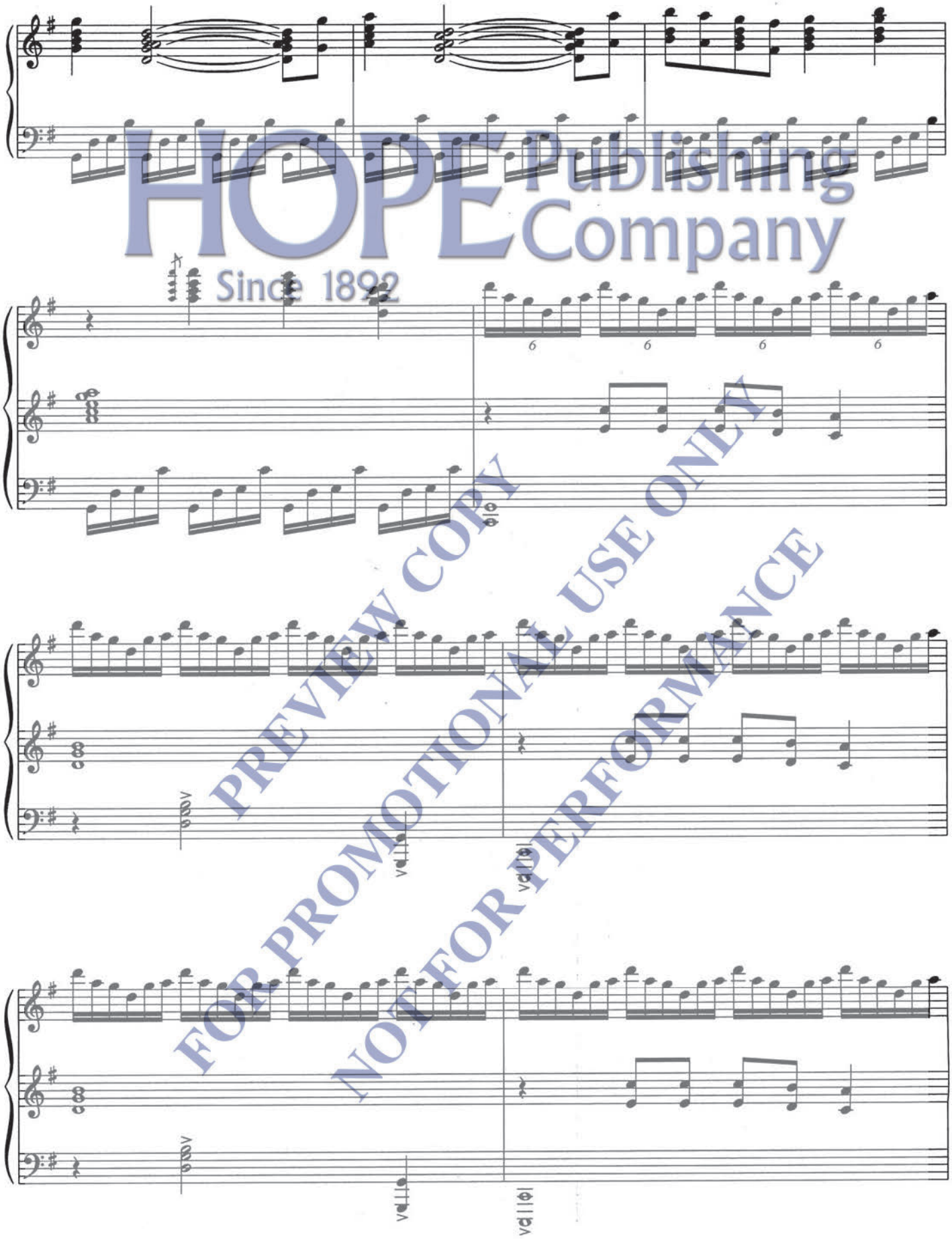

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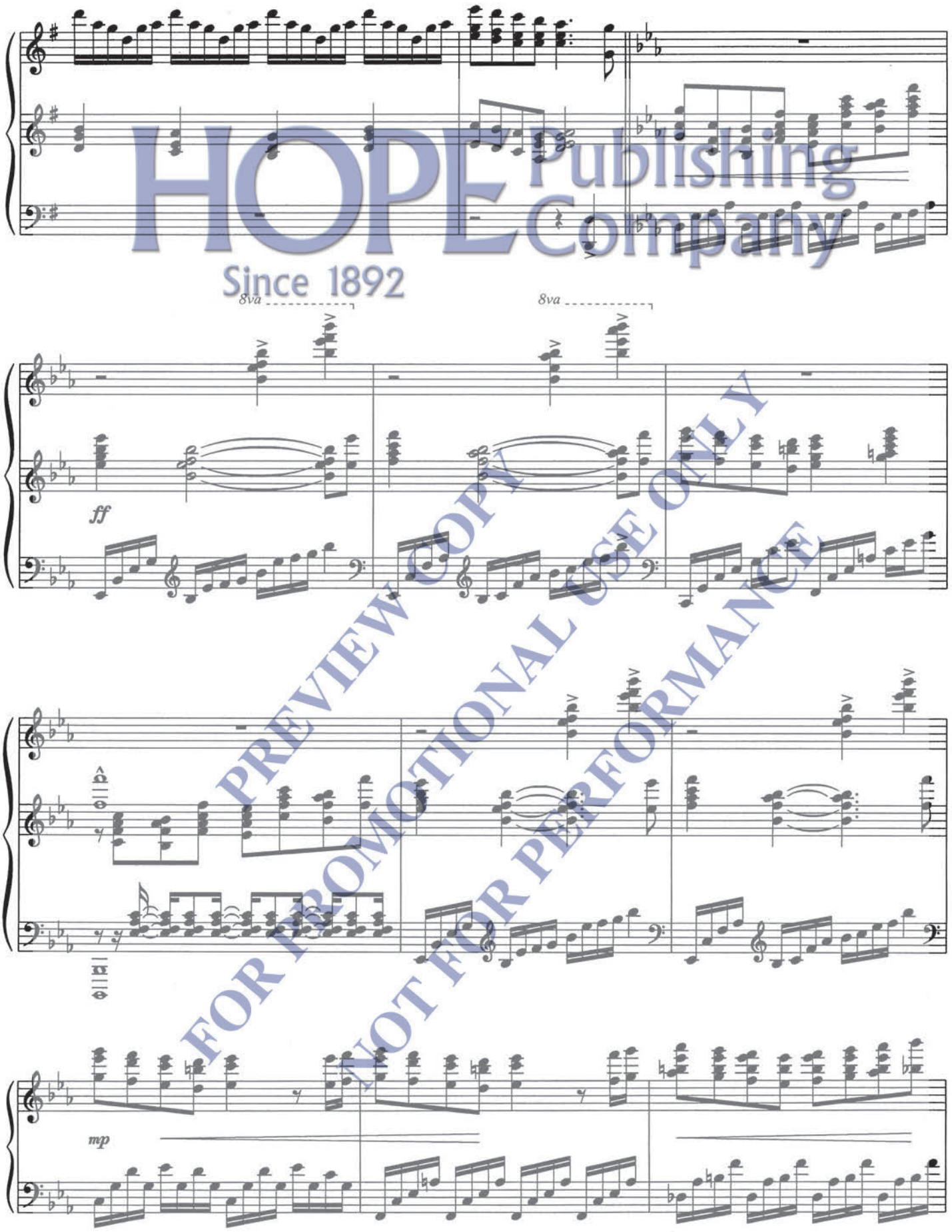

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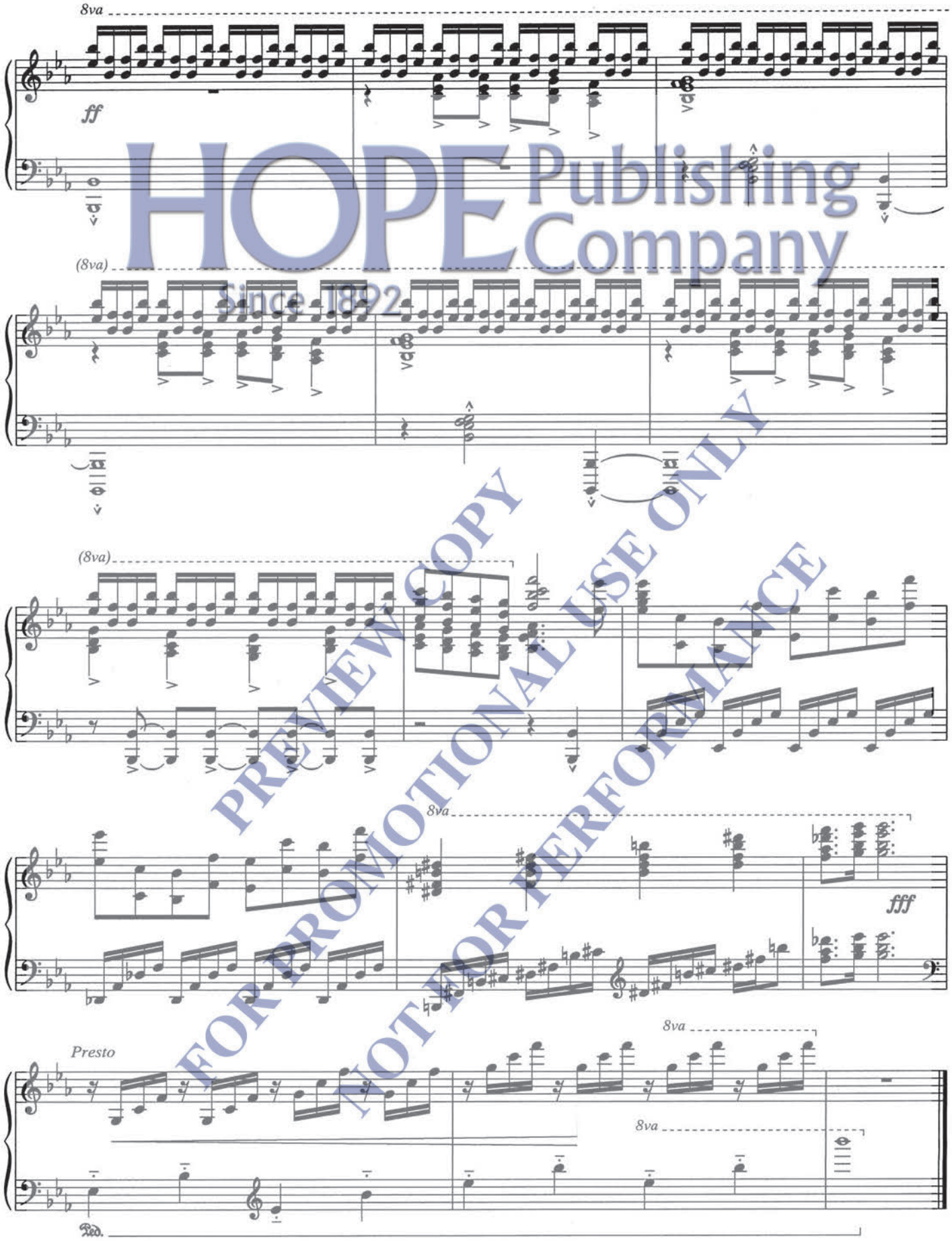

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There Is a Redeemer

Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It!

Melody Green
Setting by JOEL RANEY

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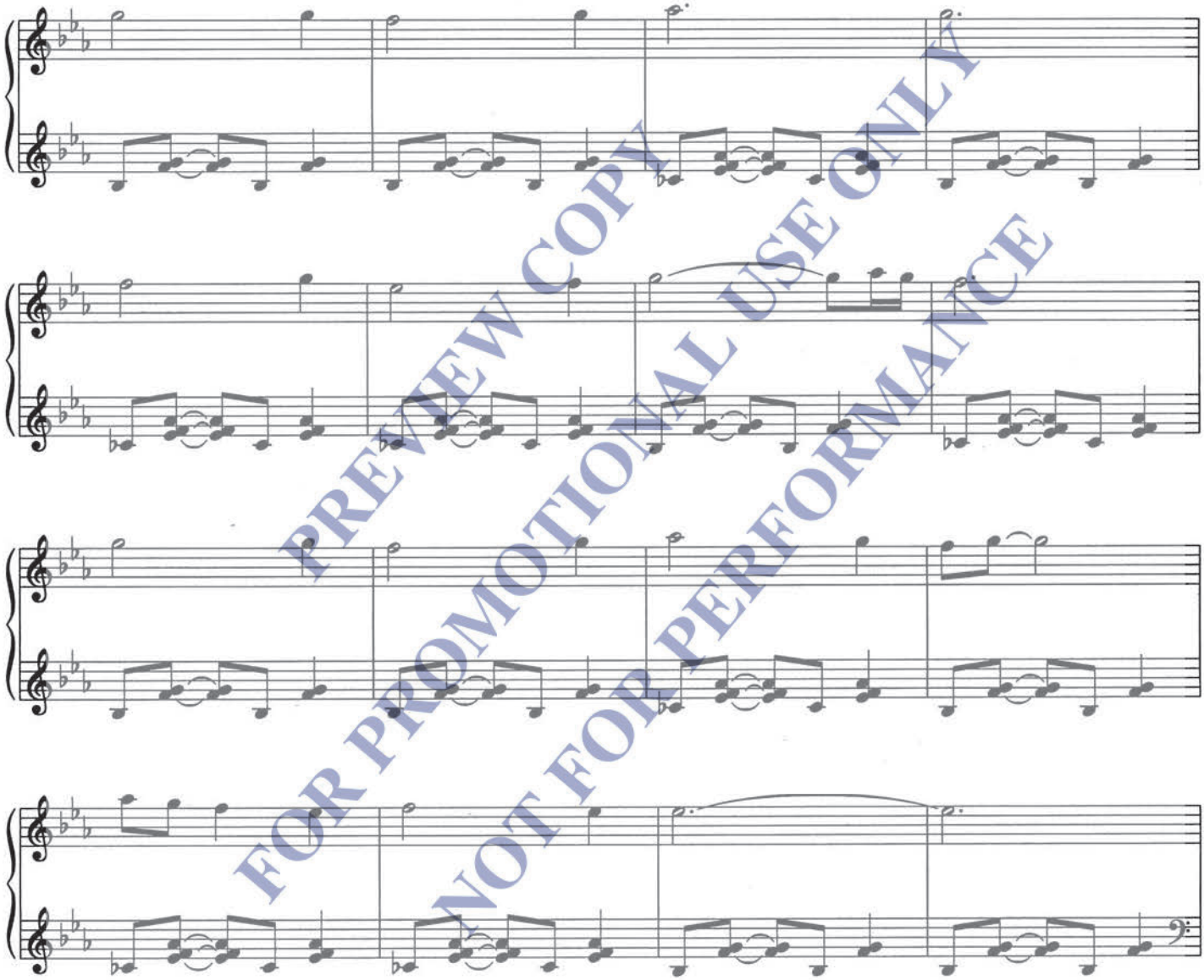
"THERE IS A REDEEMER" (Melody Green)



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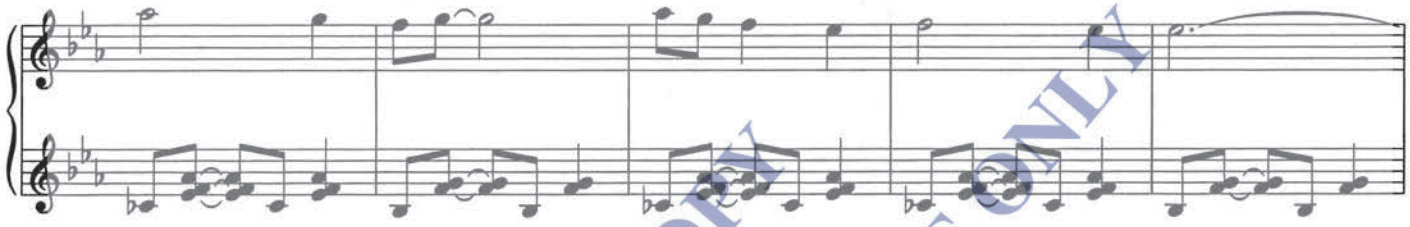
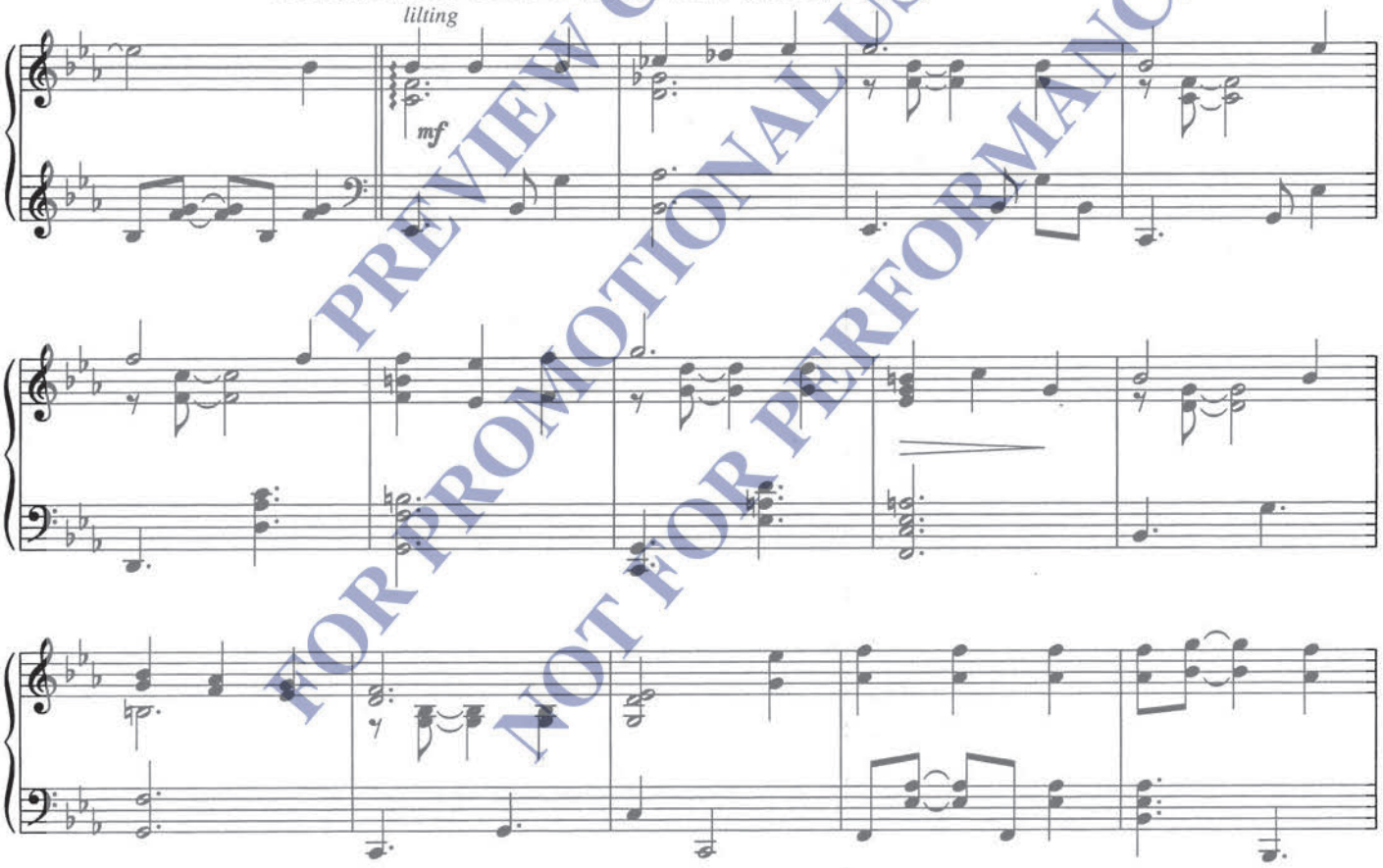


"REDEEMED, HOW I LOVE TO PROCLAIM IT!" (Aubrey L. Butler)



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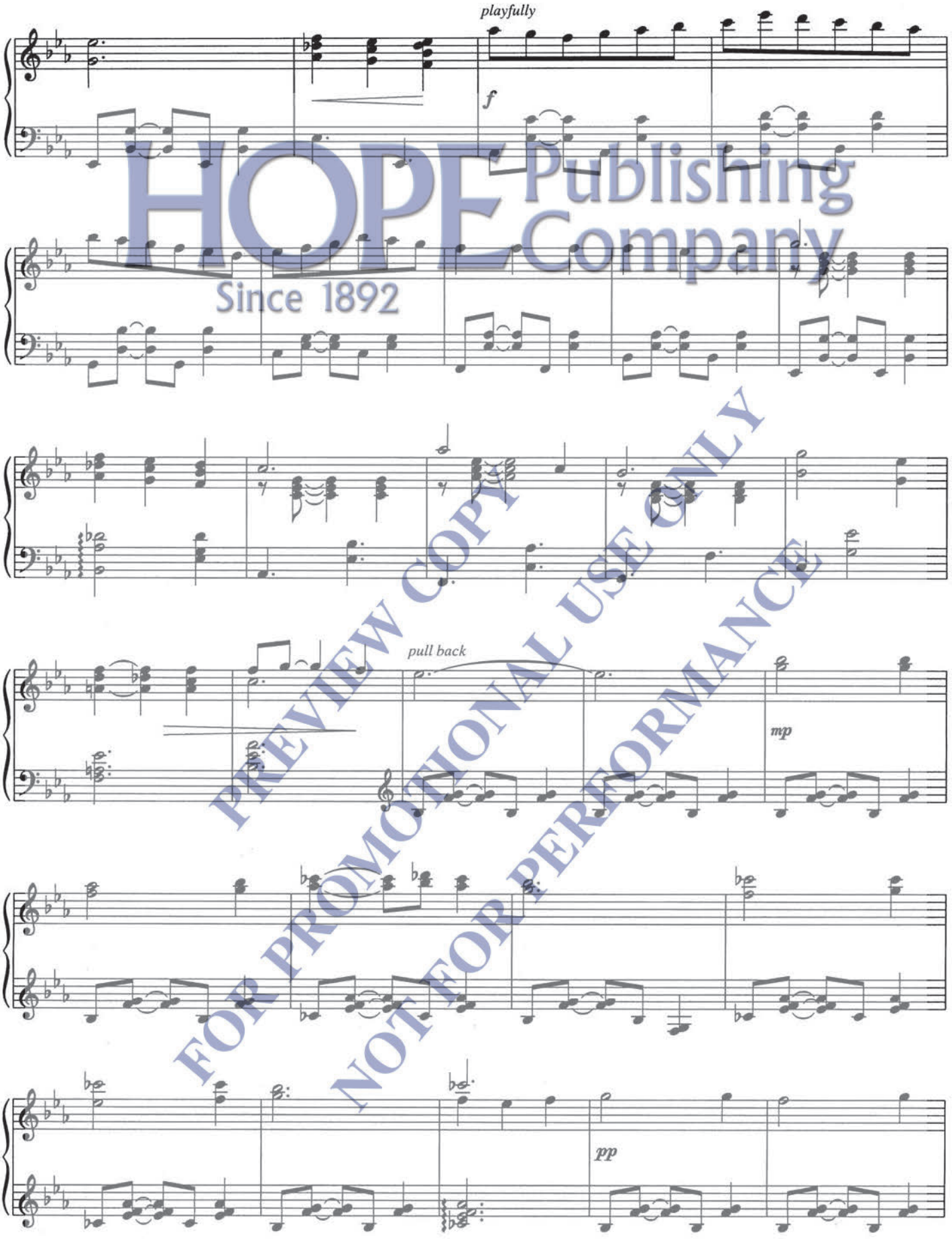

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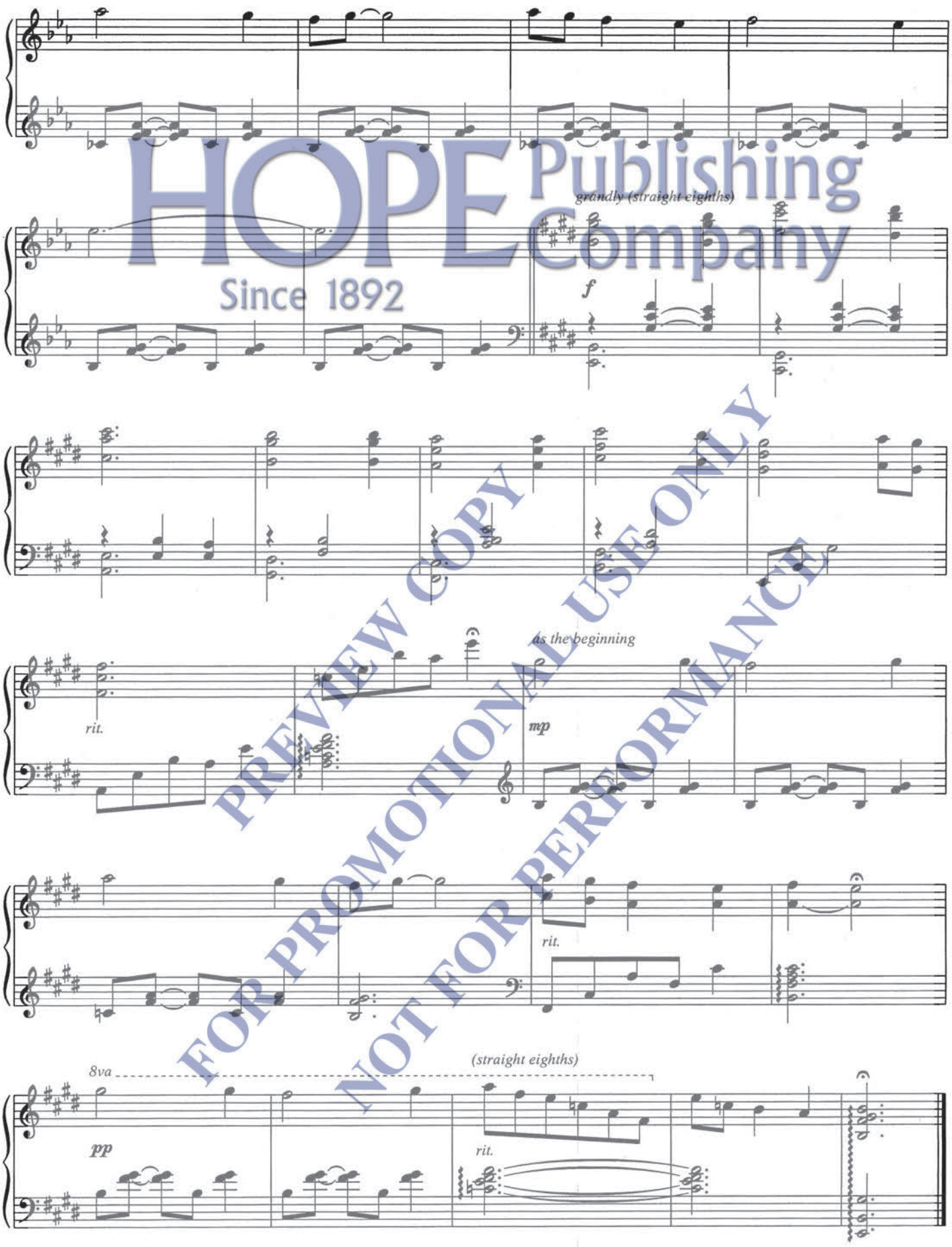

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Give Thanks

Now Thank We All Our God

Henry Smith
Setting by JOEL RANEY

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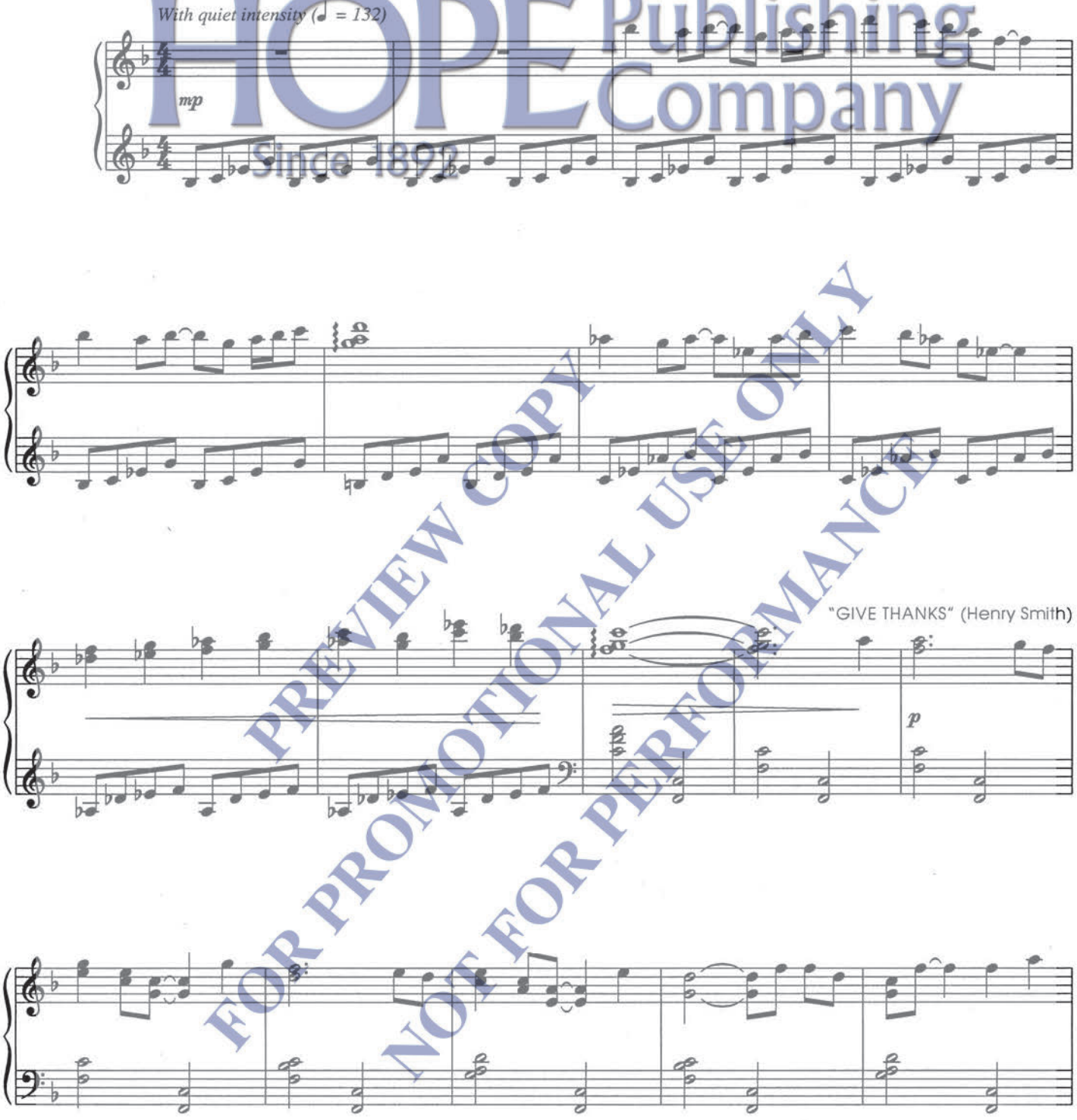

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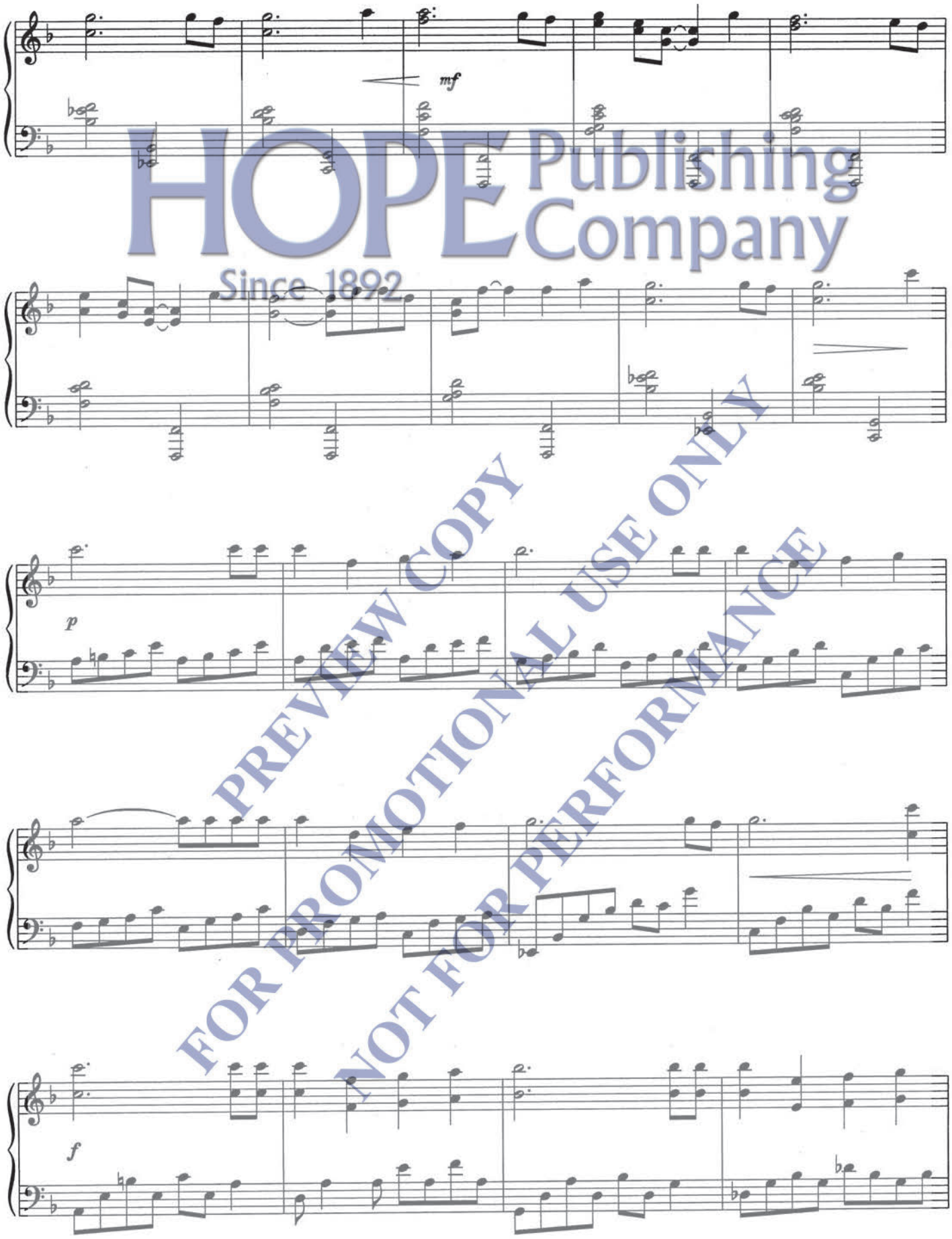

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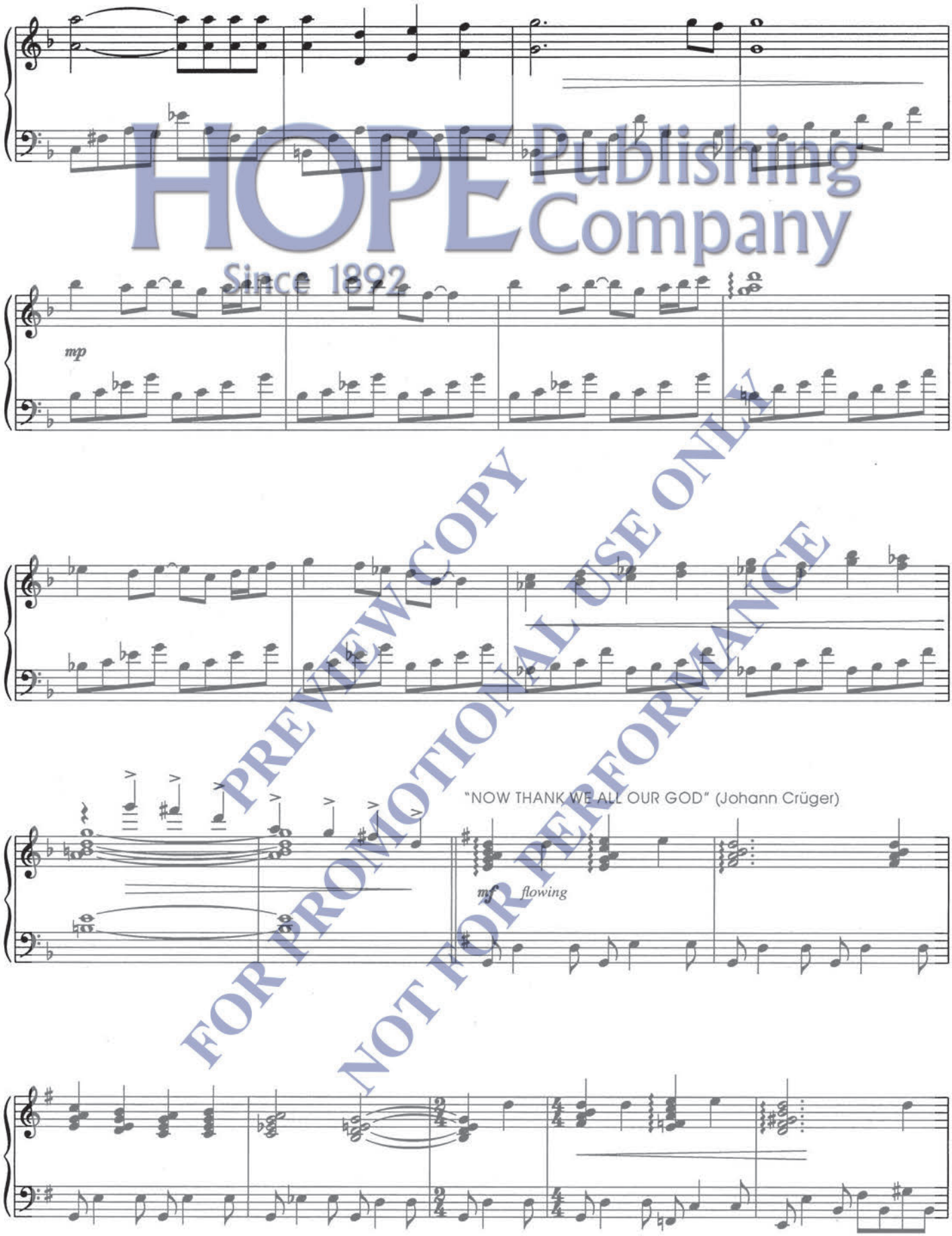

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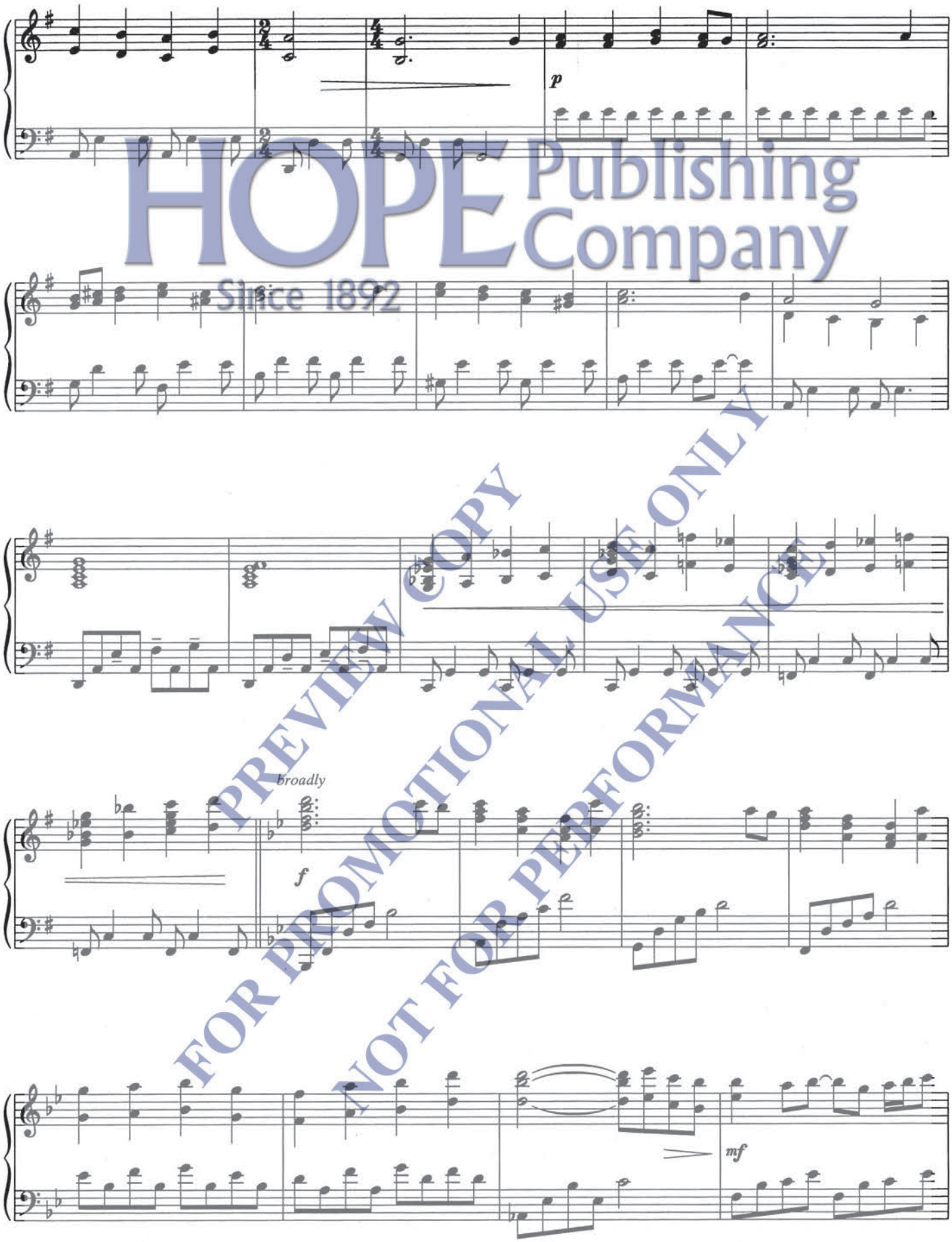

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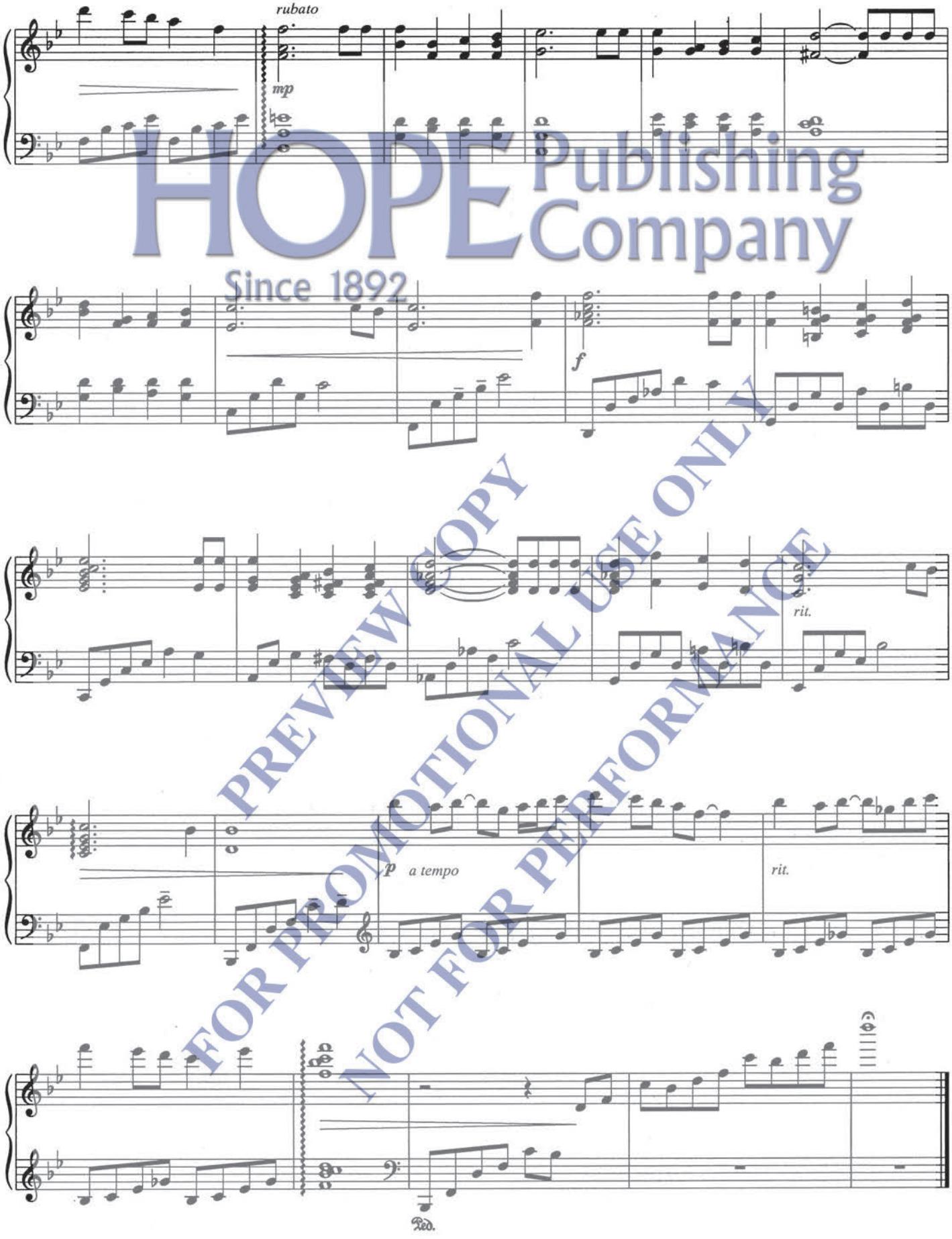

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Lamb of God

Higher Ground

Twila Paris
Setting by JOEL RANEY

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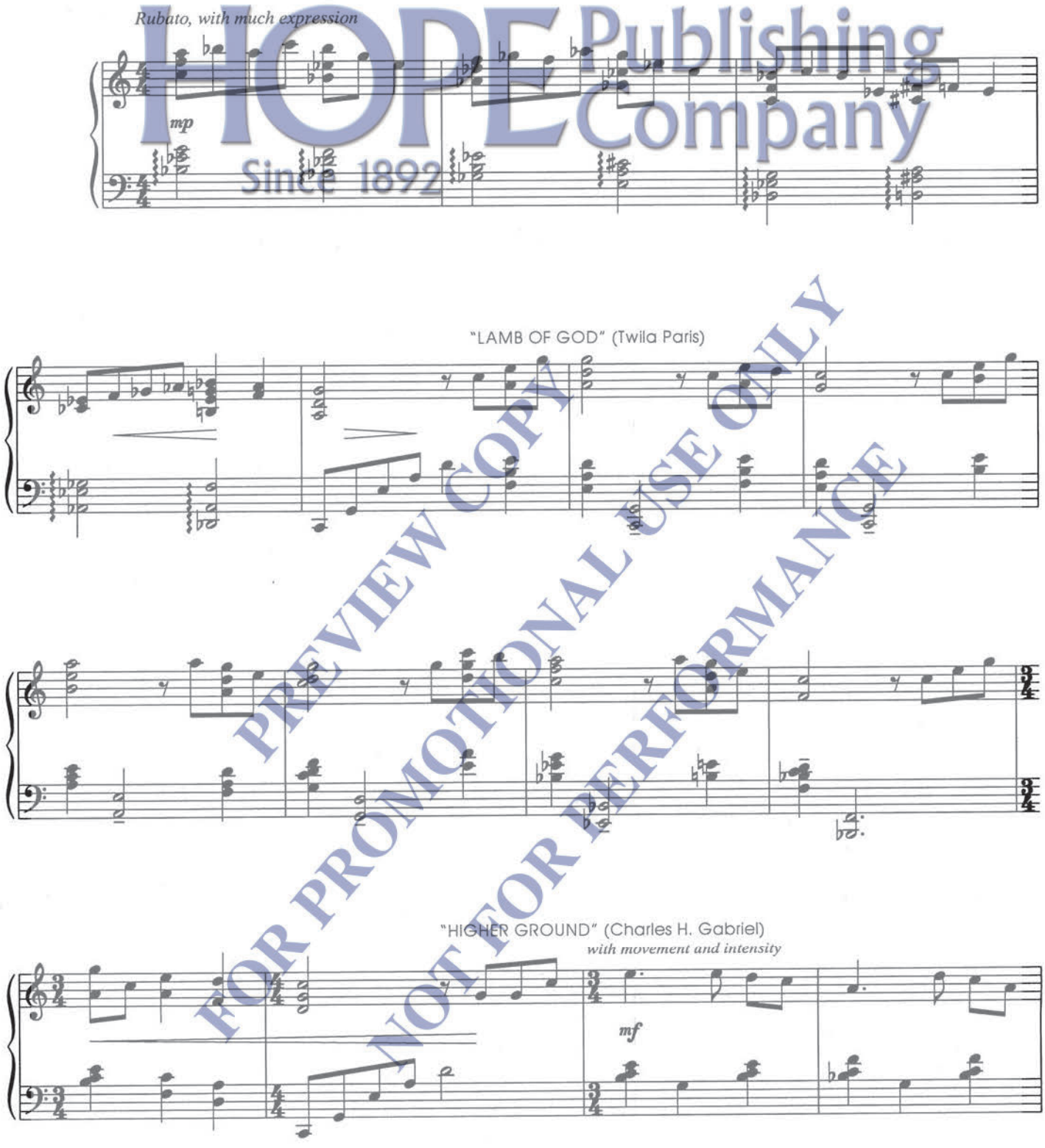

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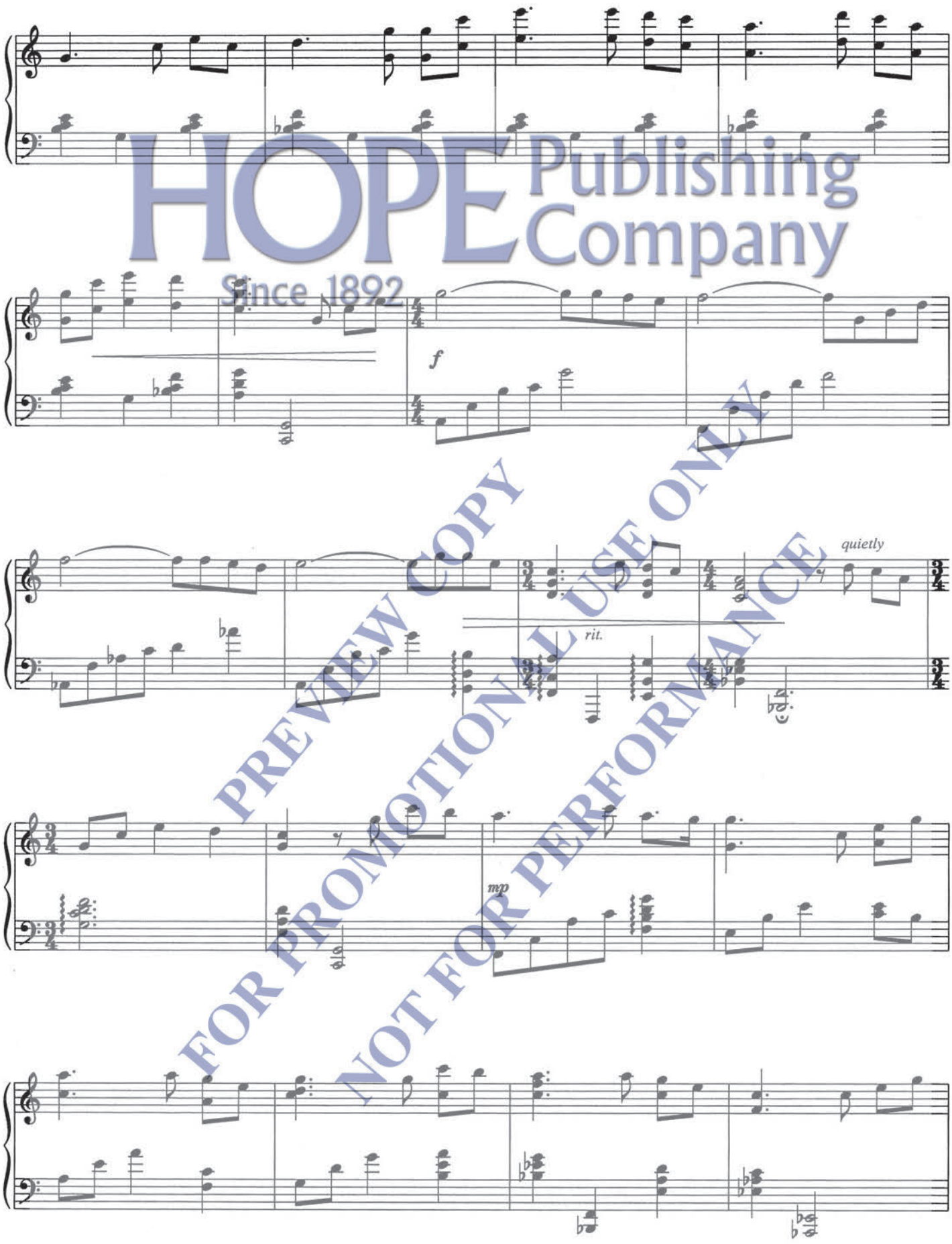

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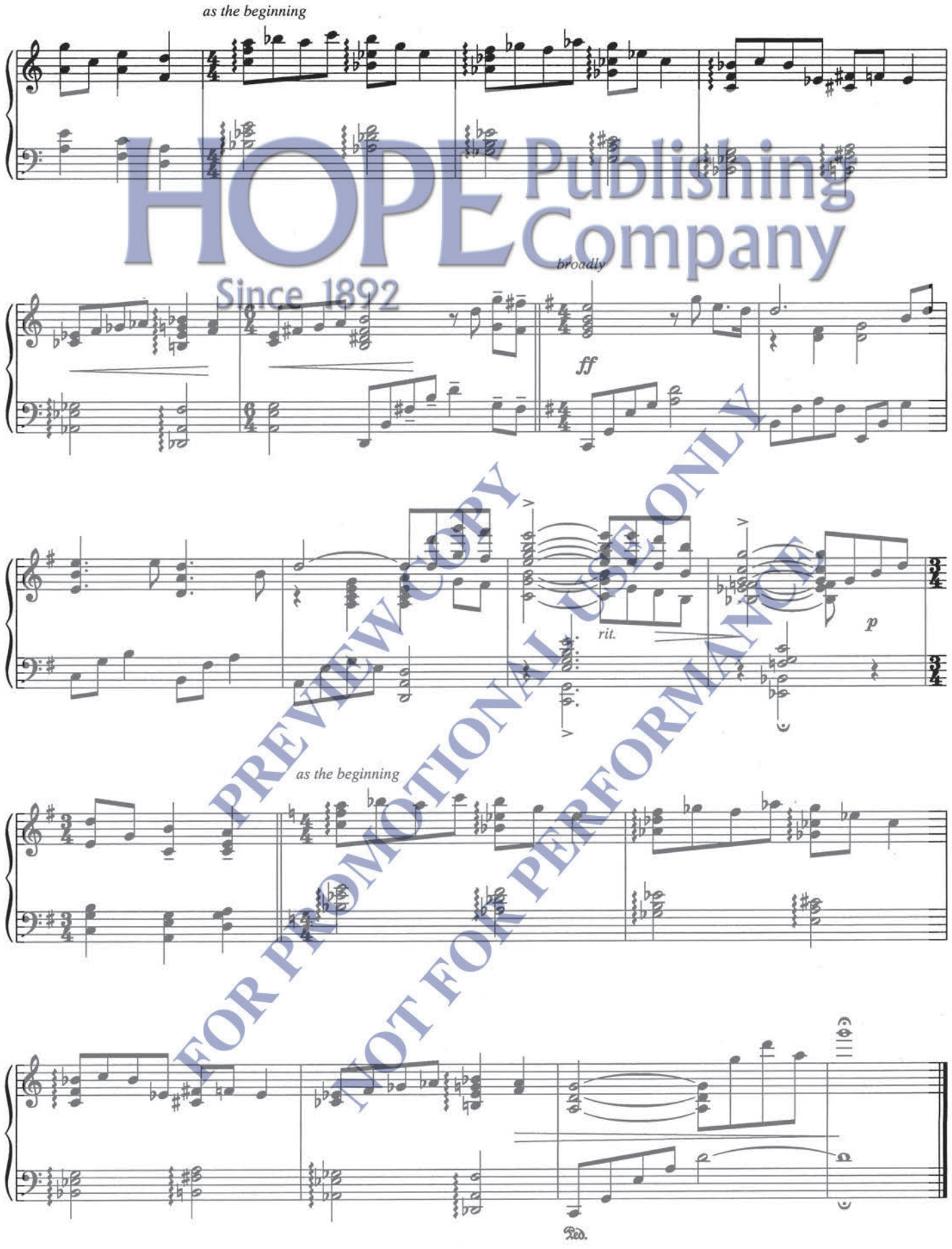

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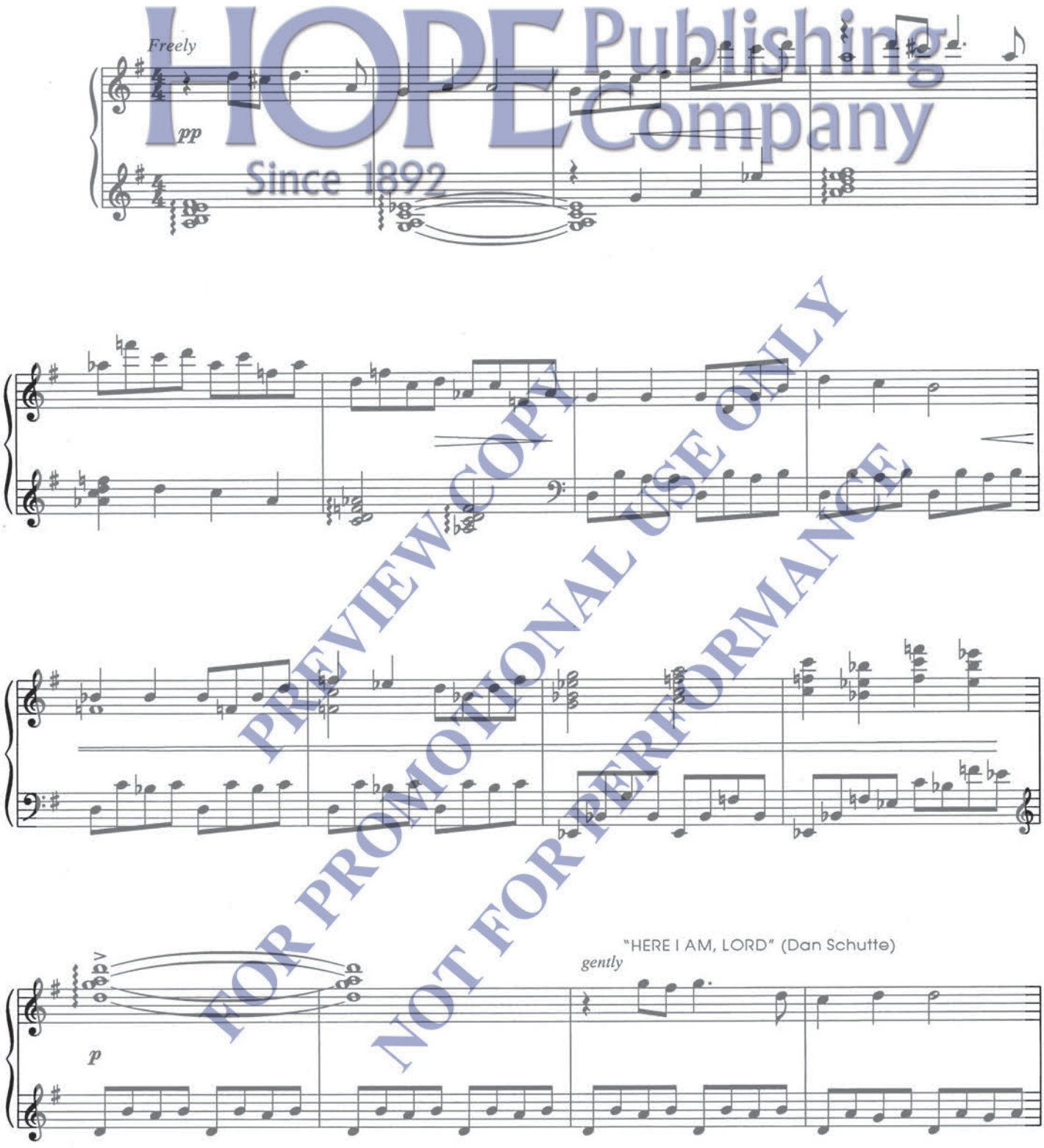
Here I Am, Lord

Take My Life and Let It Be

Dan Schutte
Setting by JOEL RANEY



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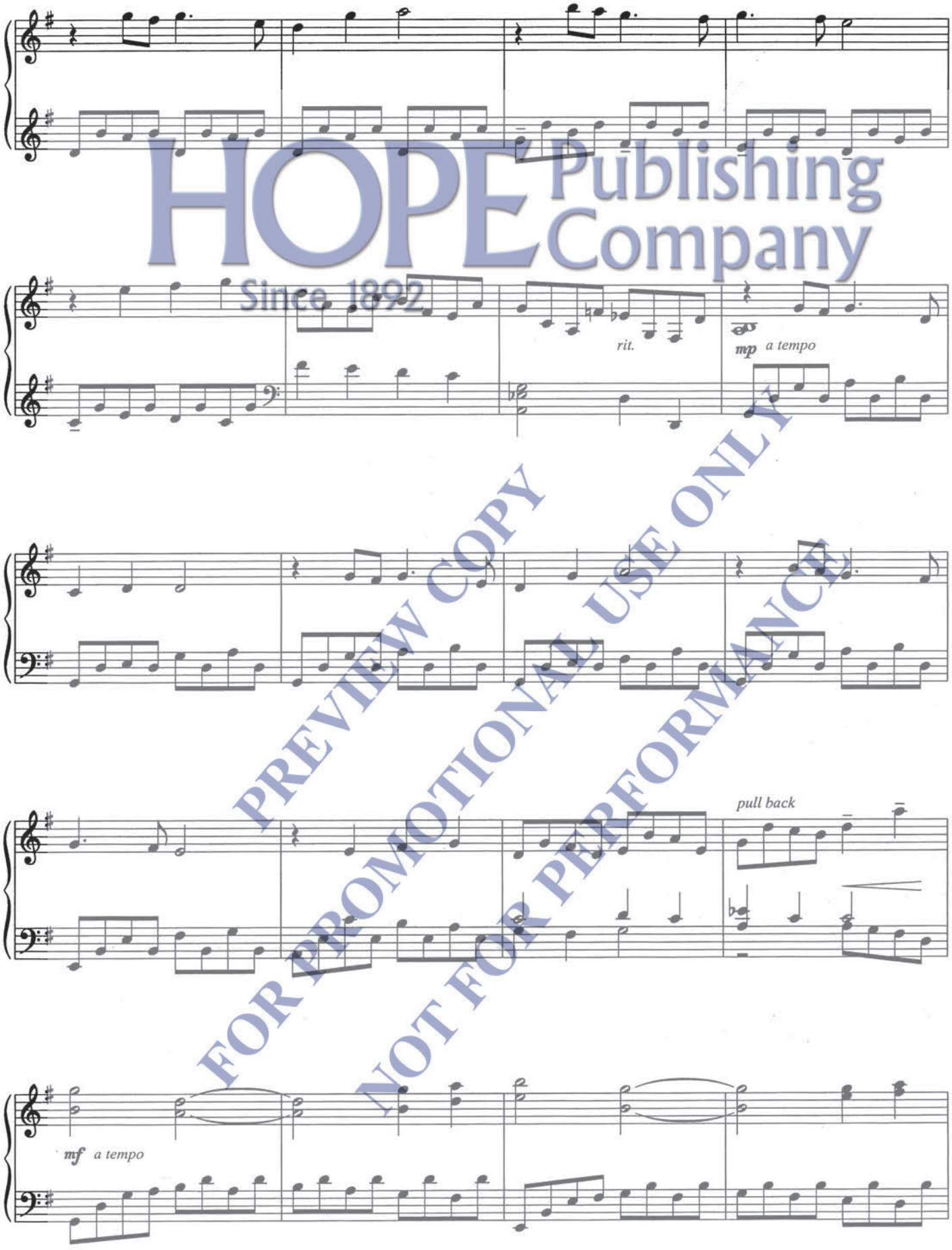

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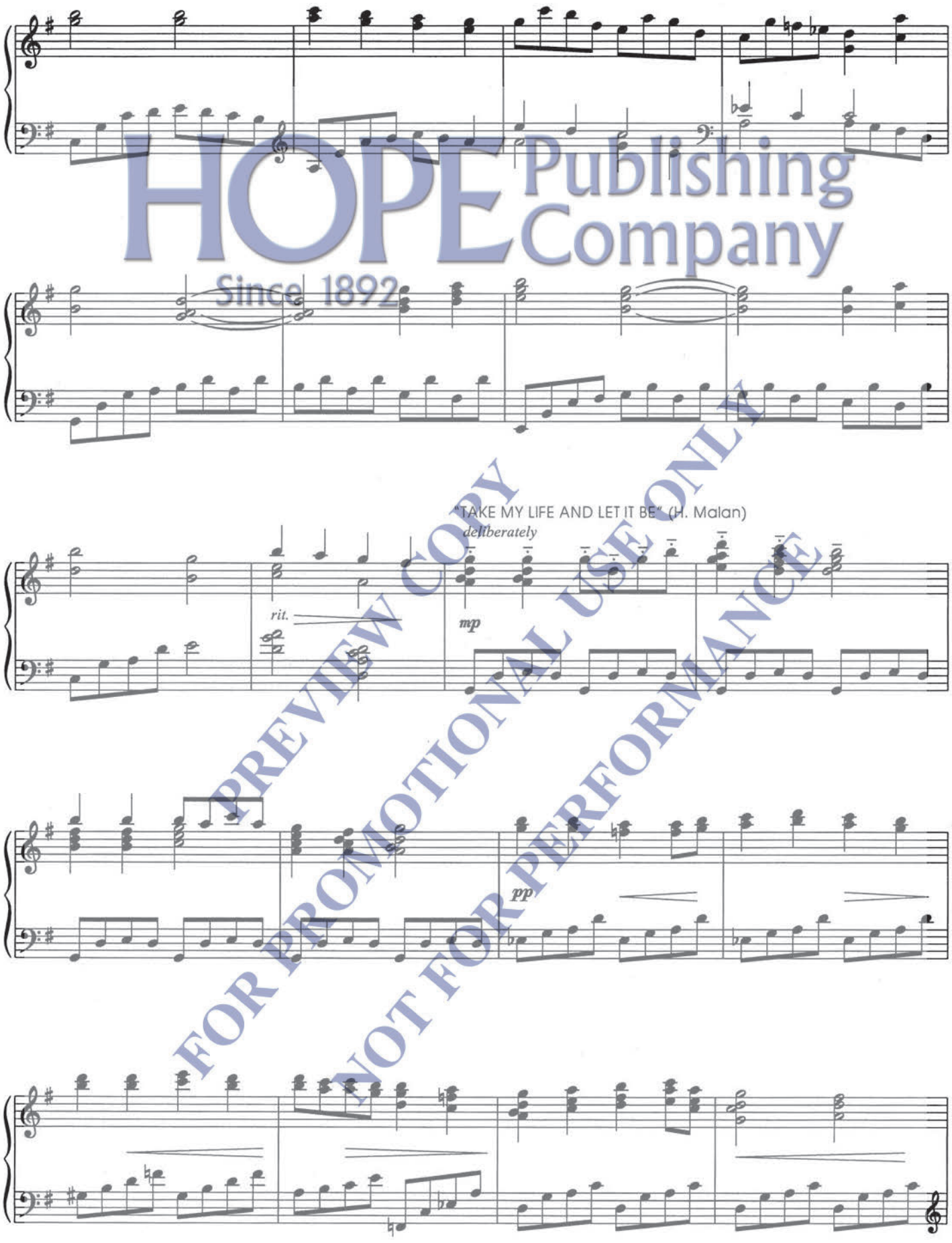

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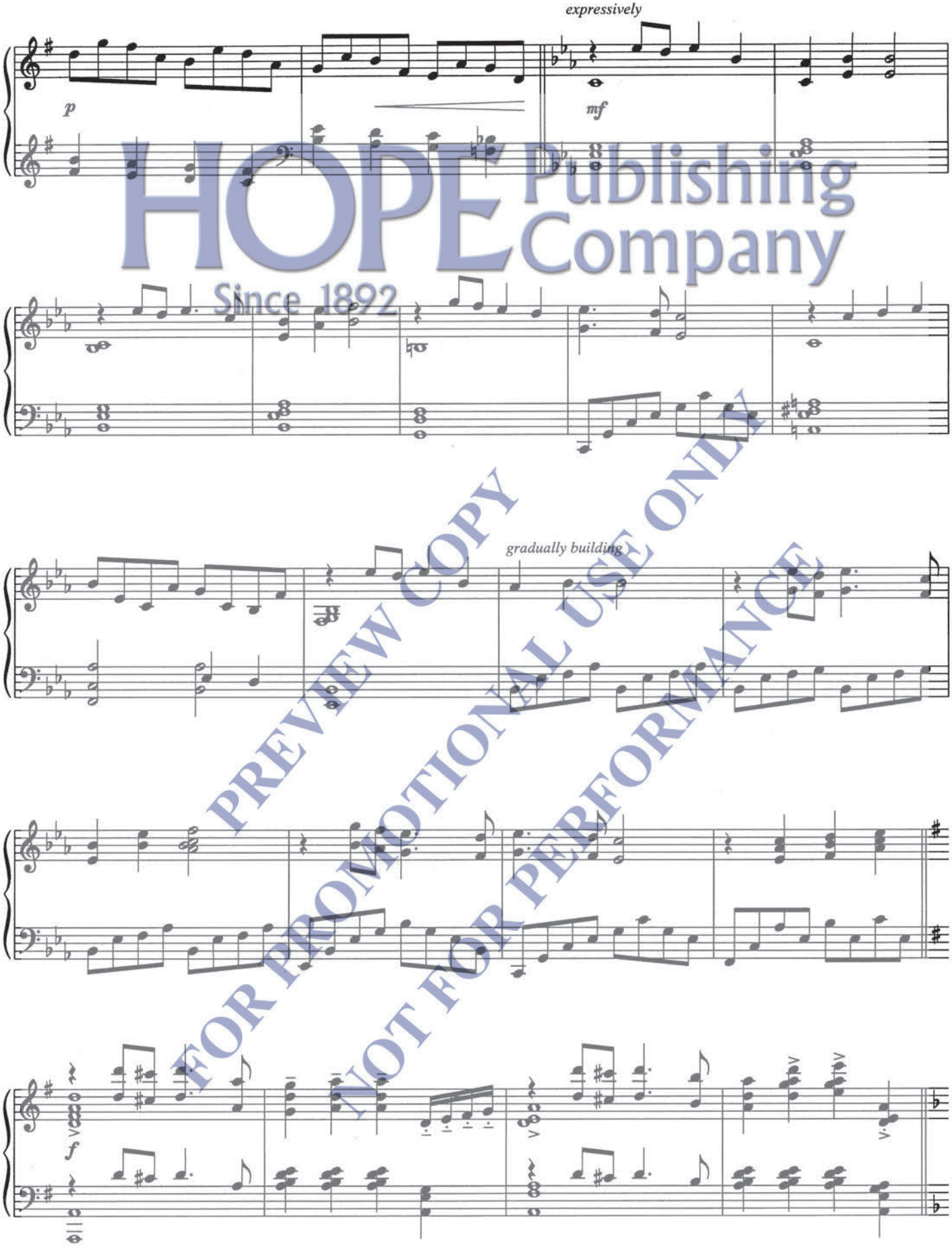

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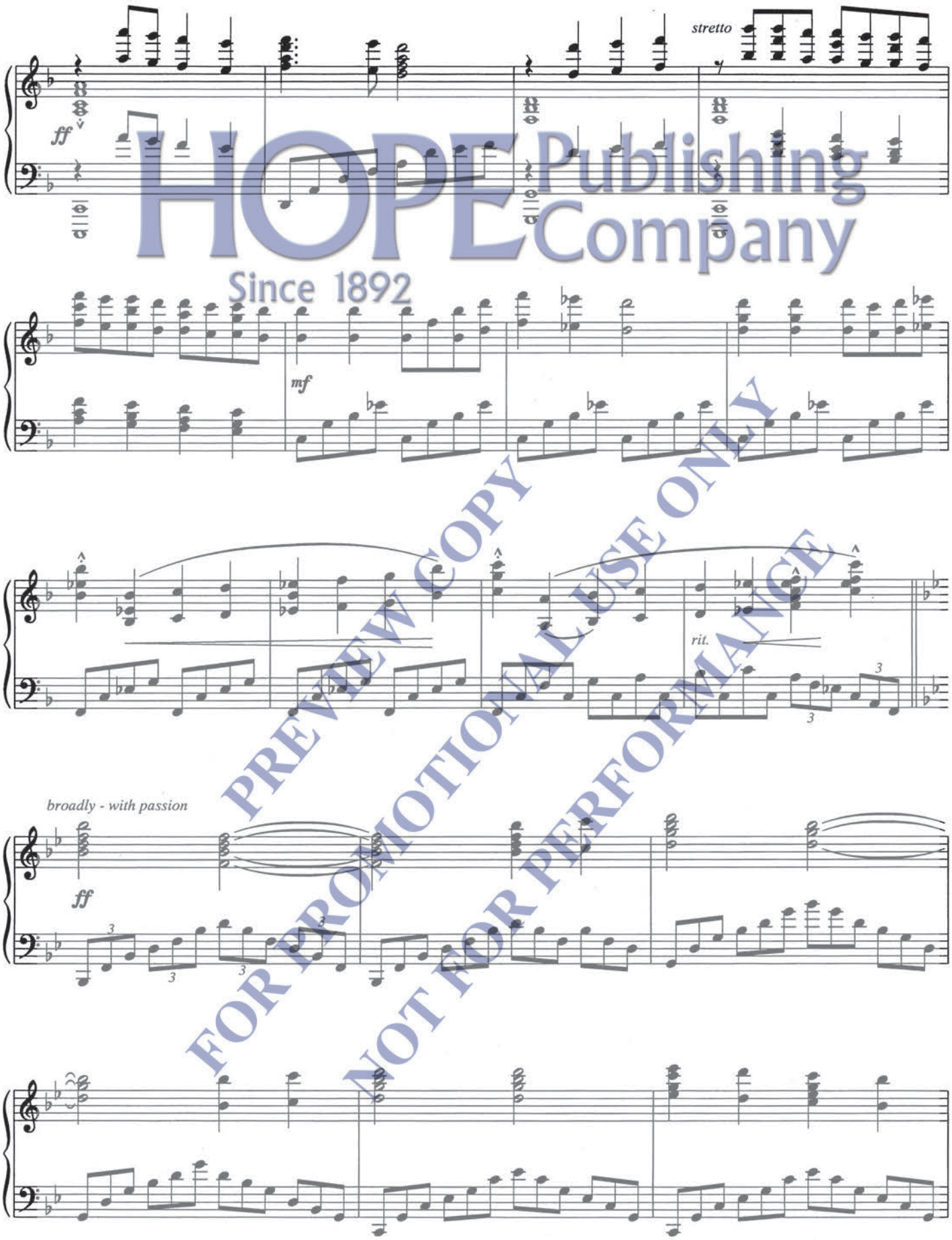

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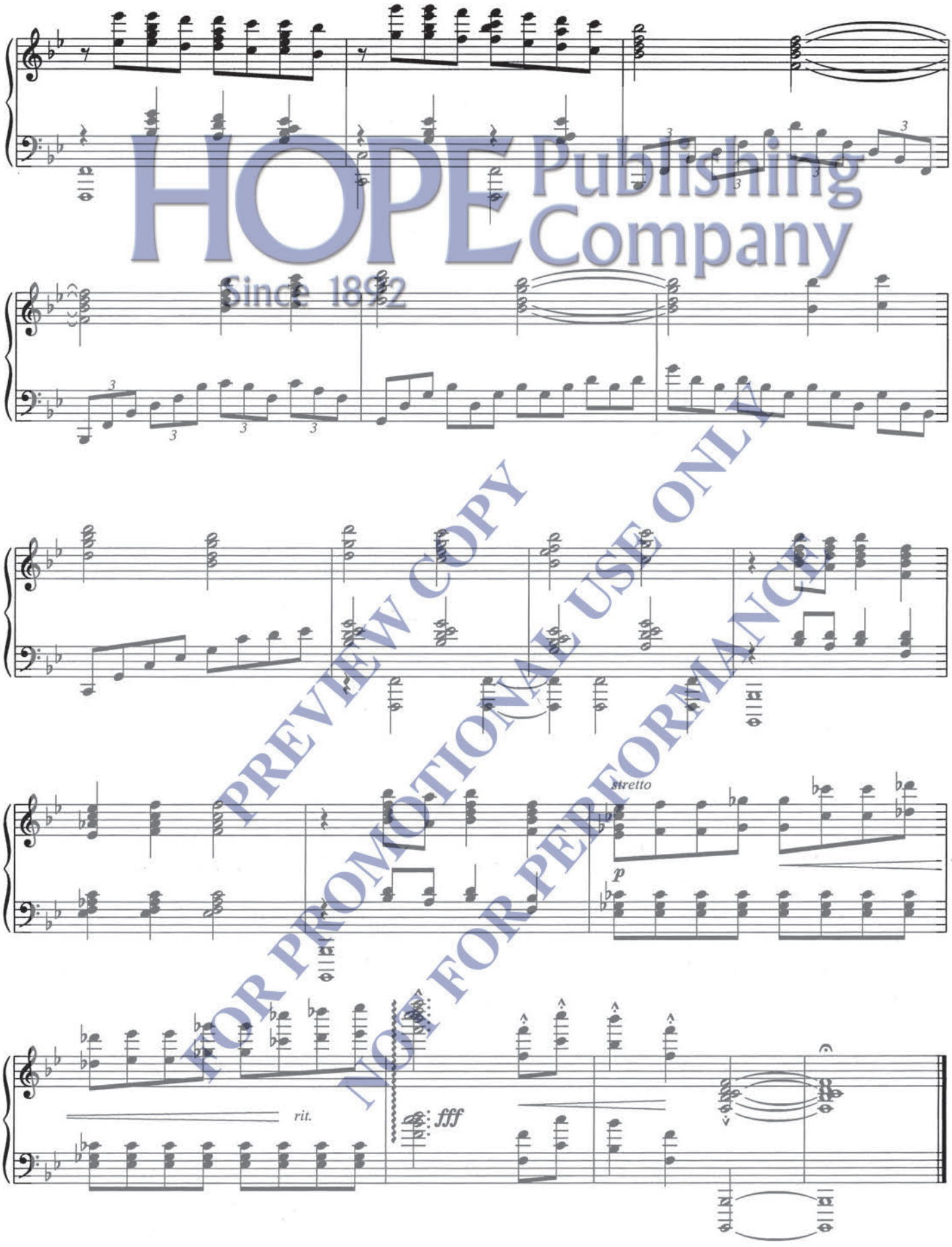

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Bind Us Together

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Bob Gillman
Setting by JOEL RANEY

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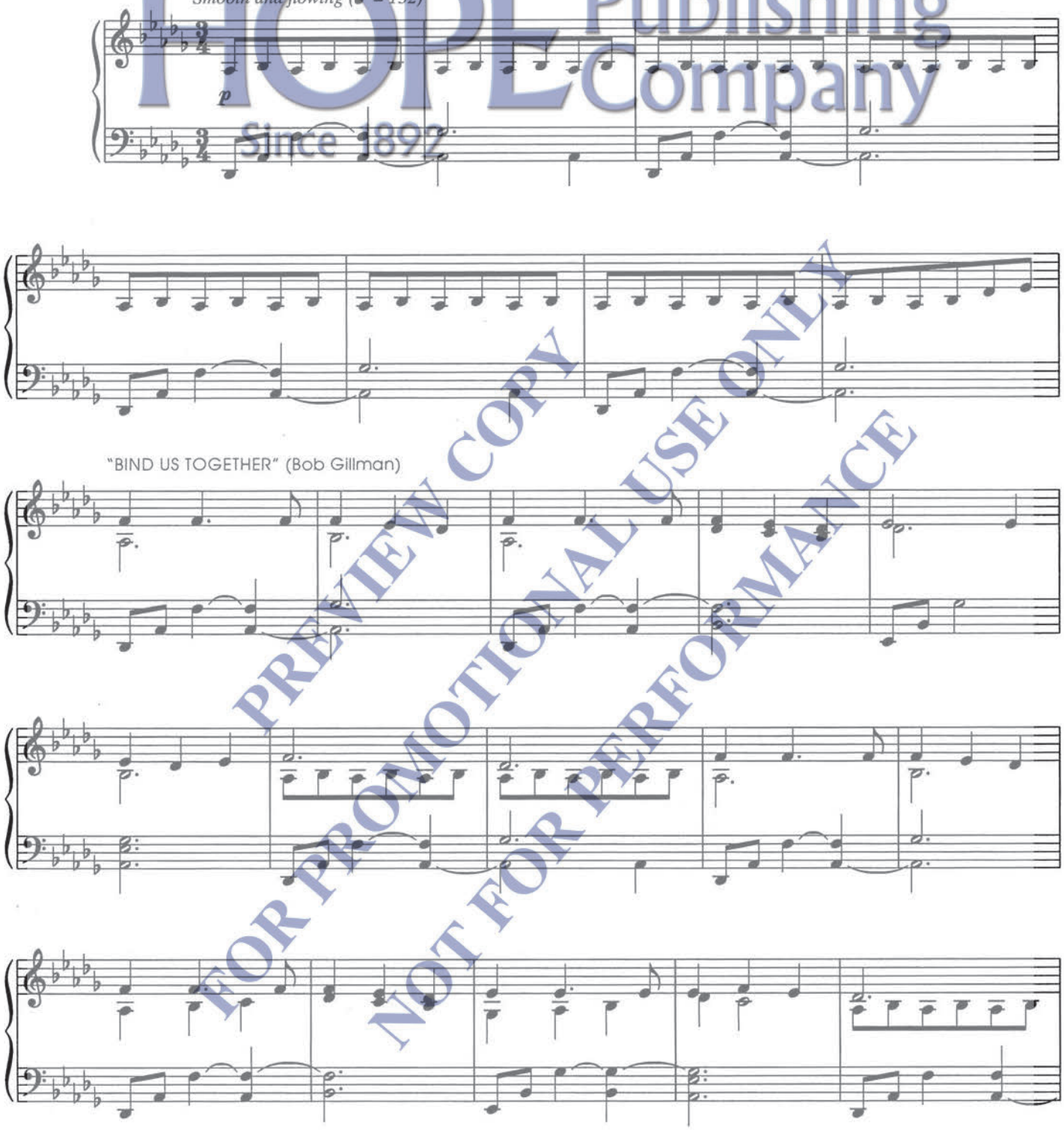

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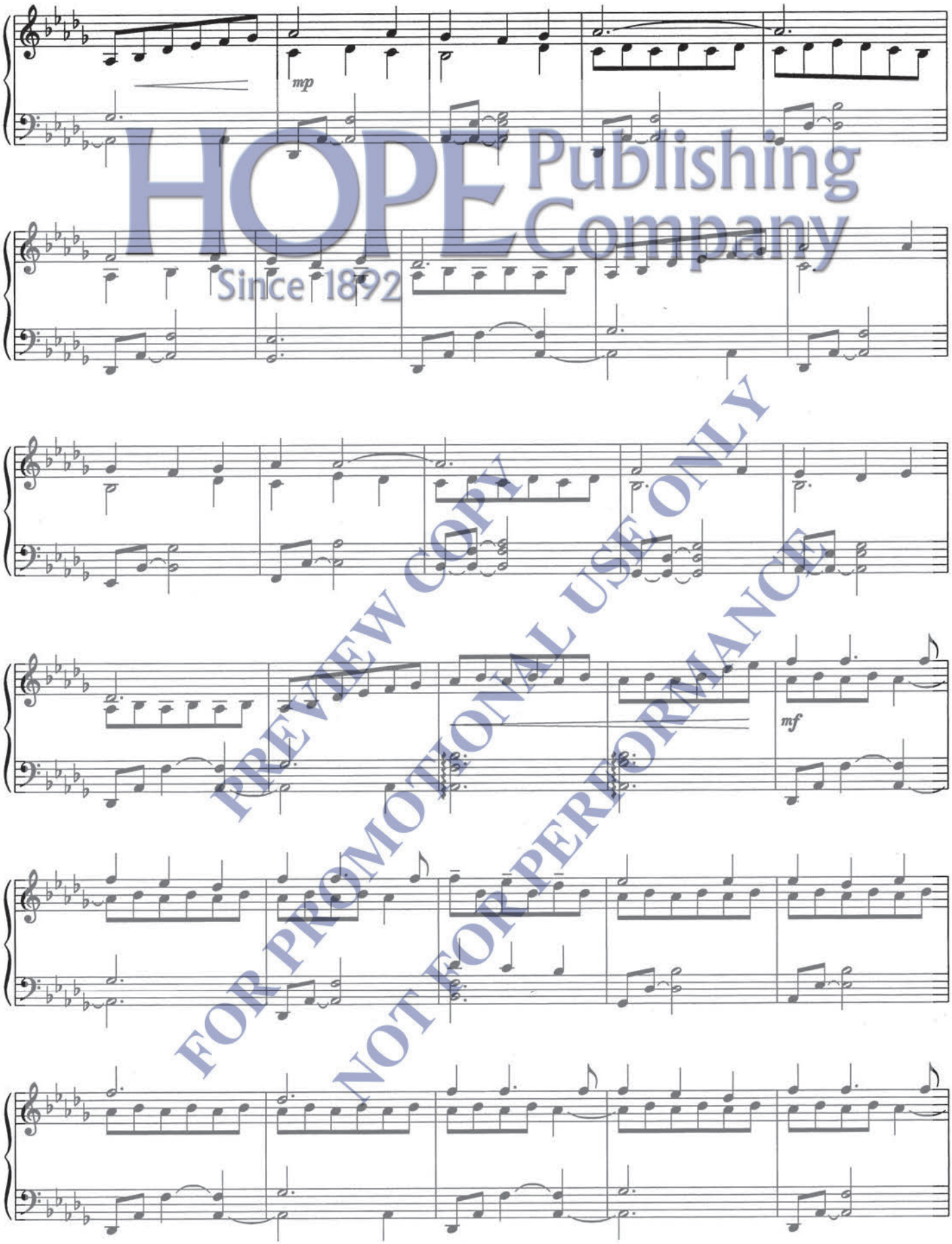

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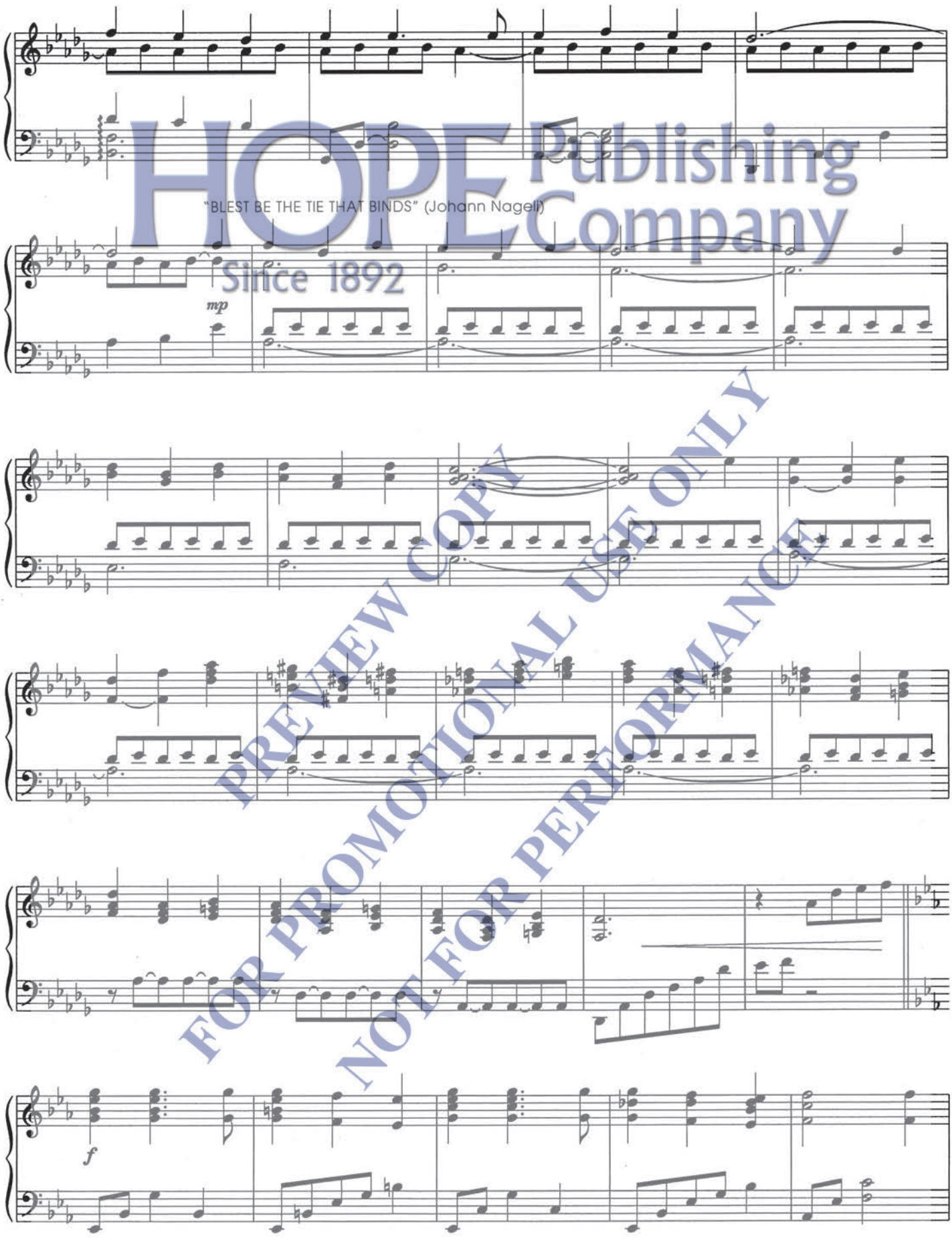

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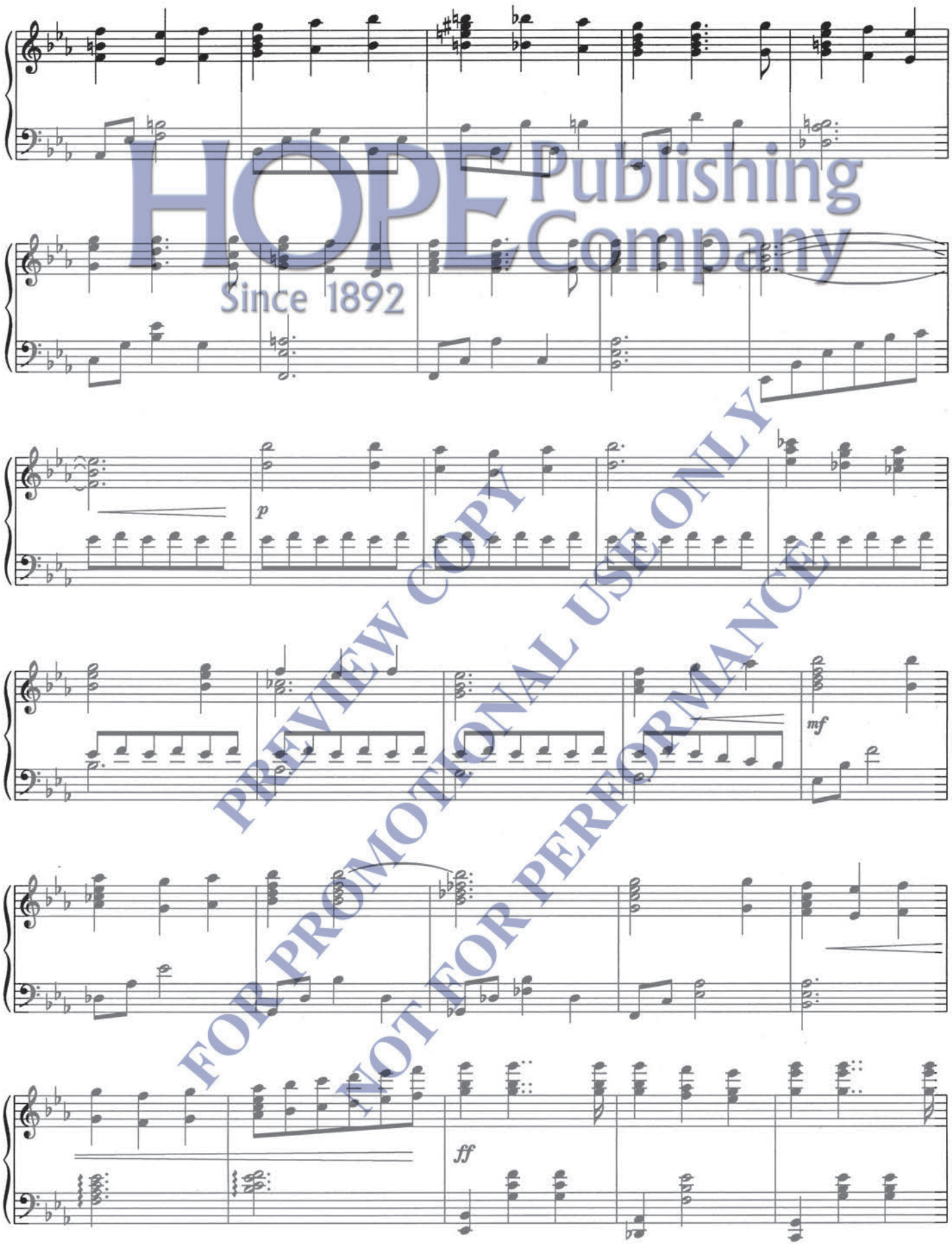

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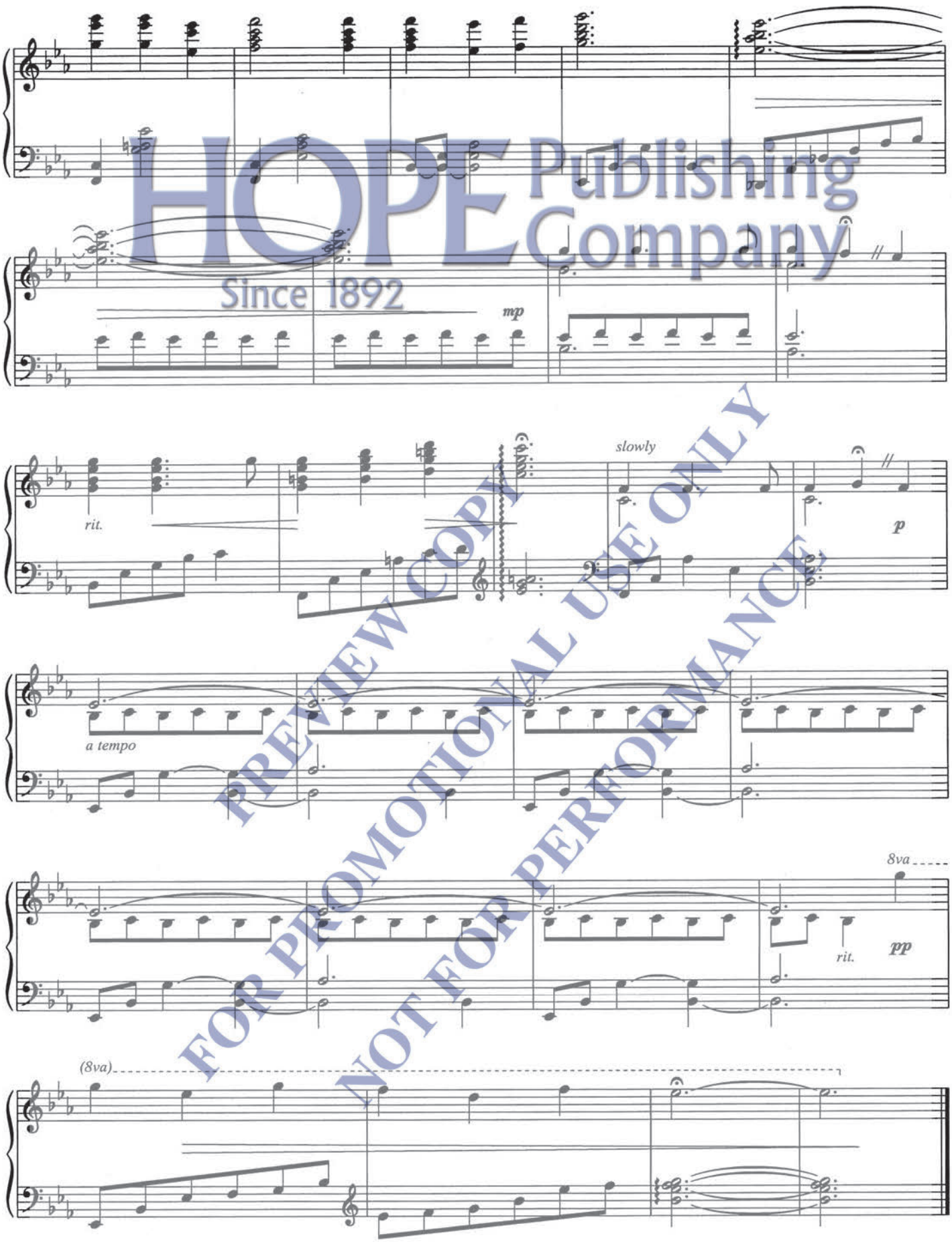

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Lord of the Dance

Were You There?

19th Century Shaker tune
Adapted by Sydney Carter
Setting by JOEL RANEY

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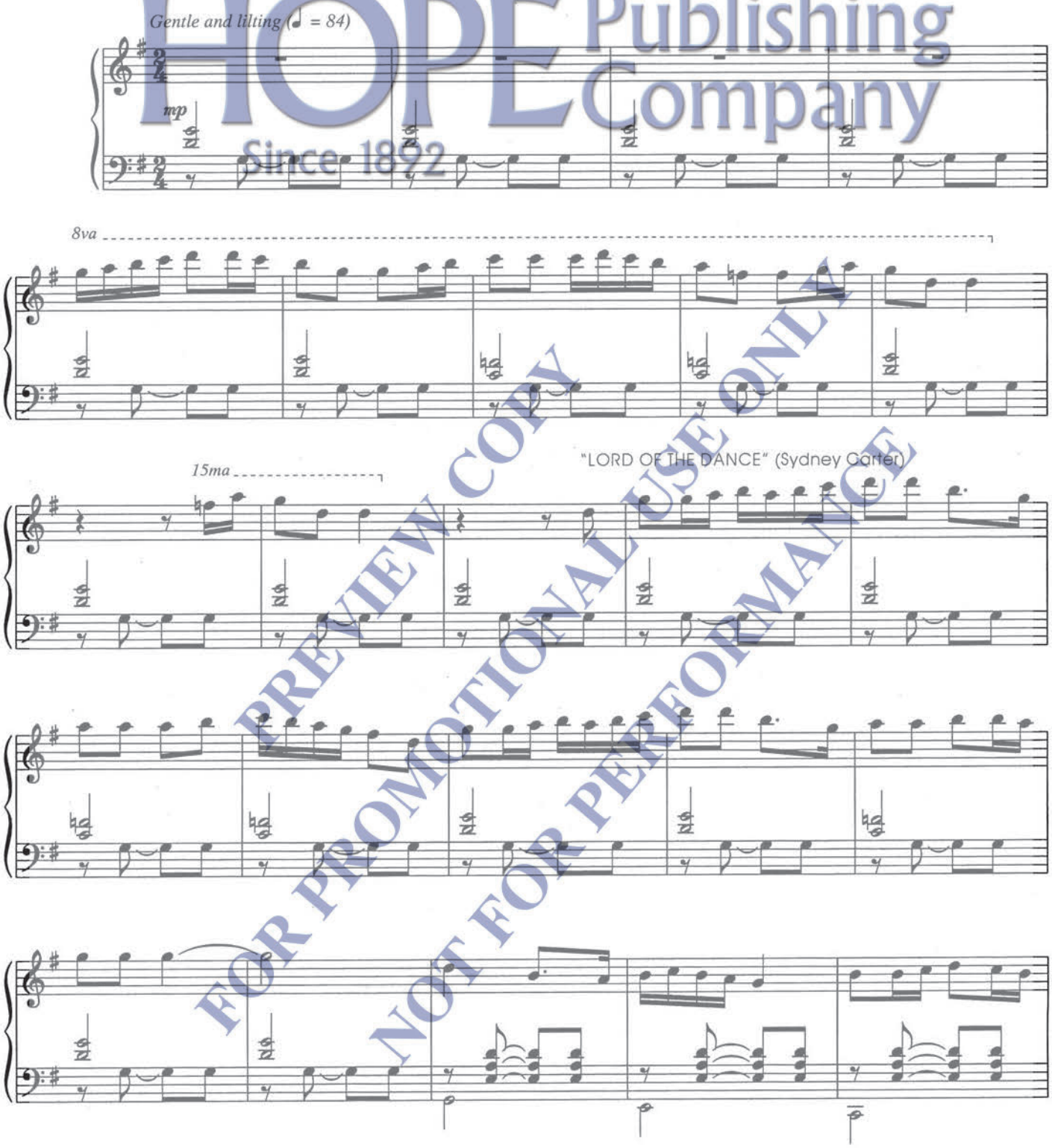

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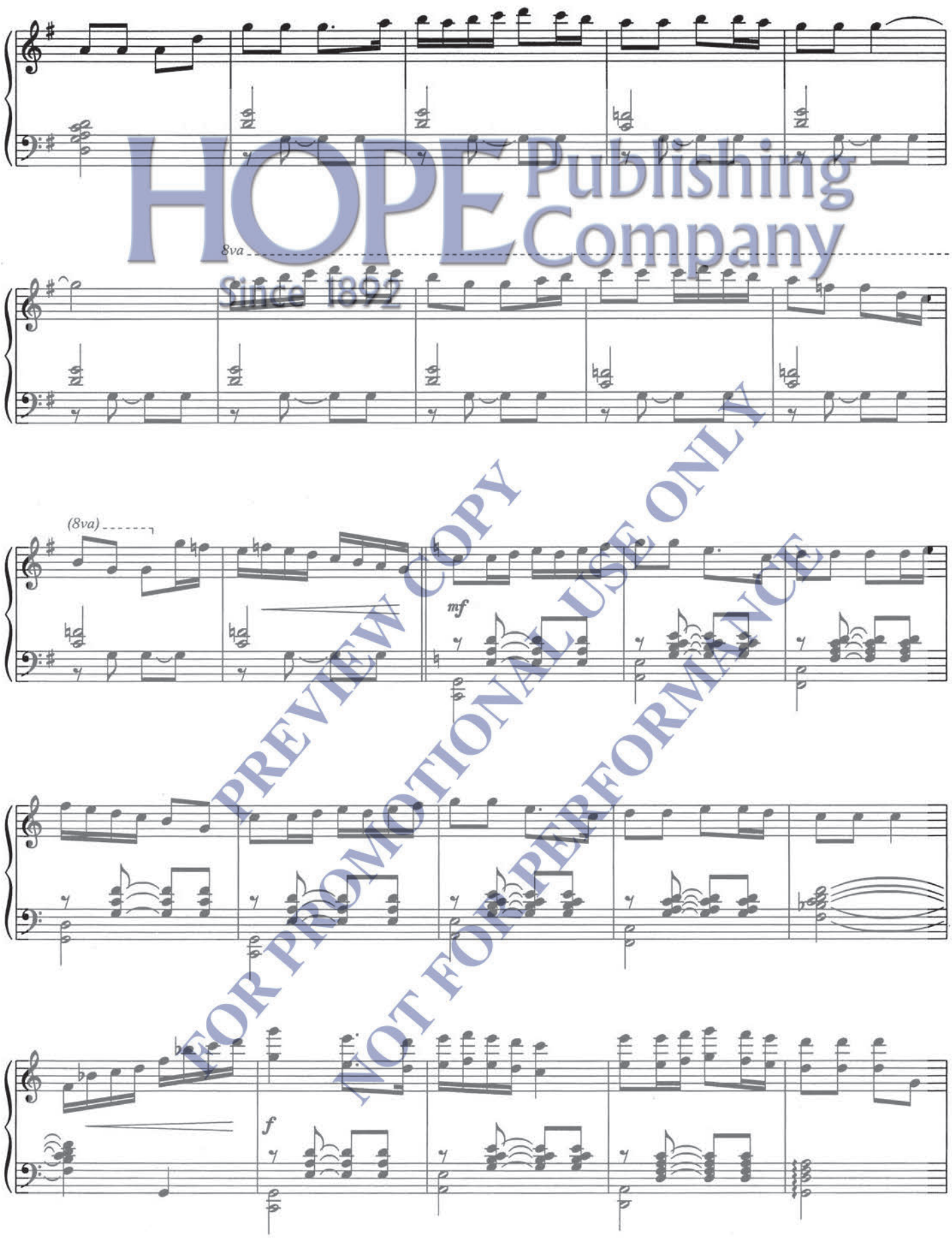

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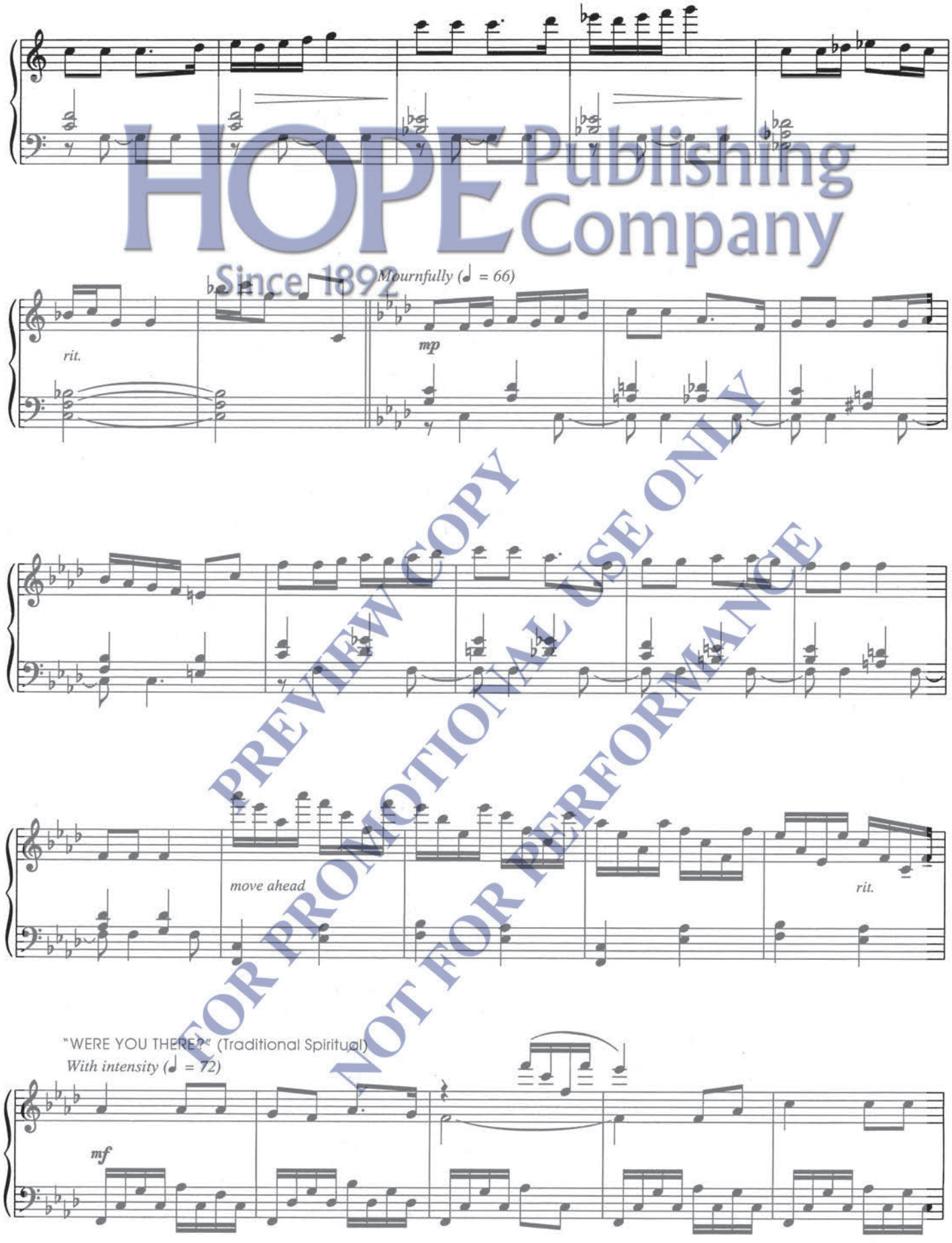

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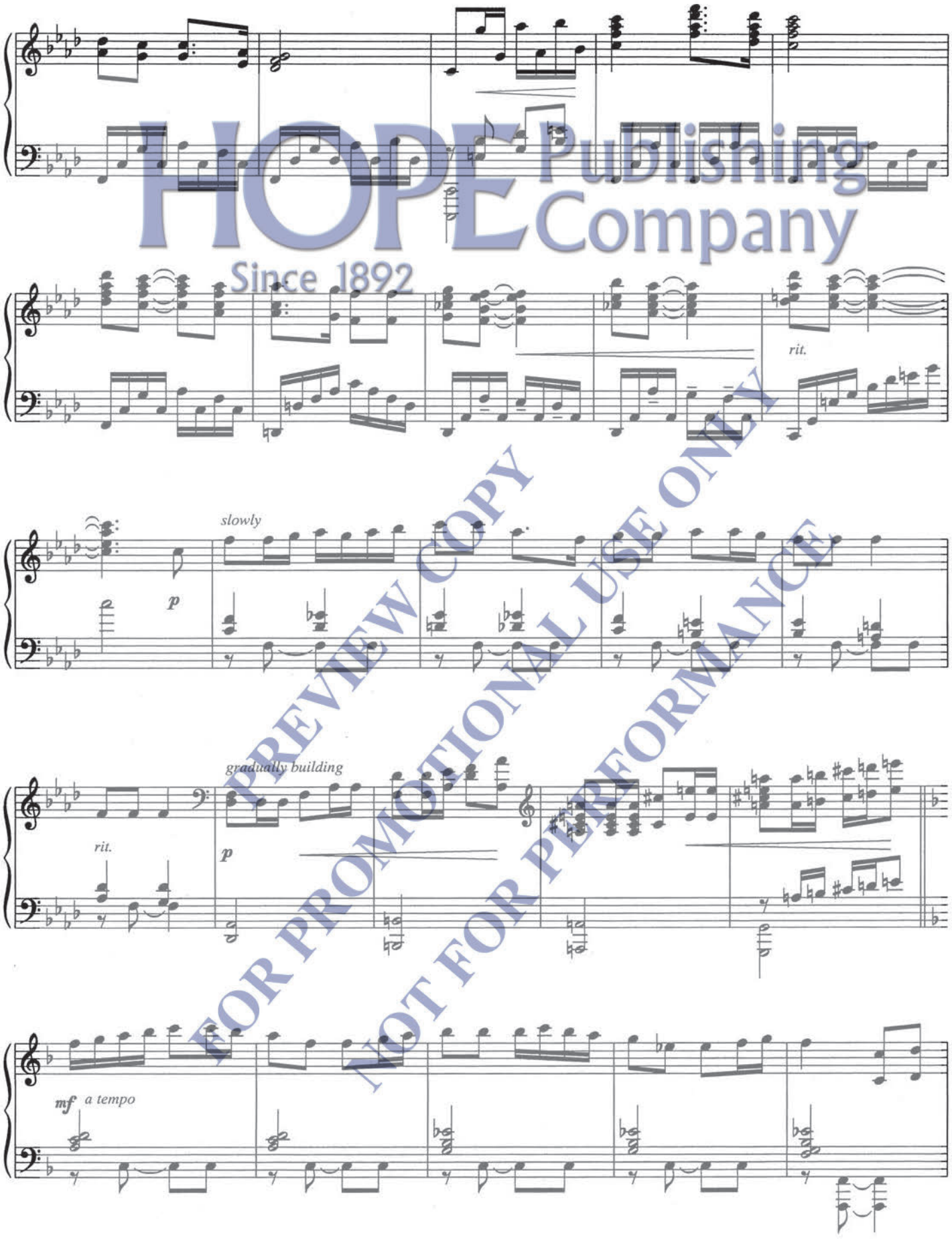

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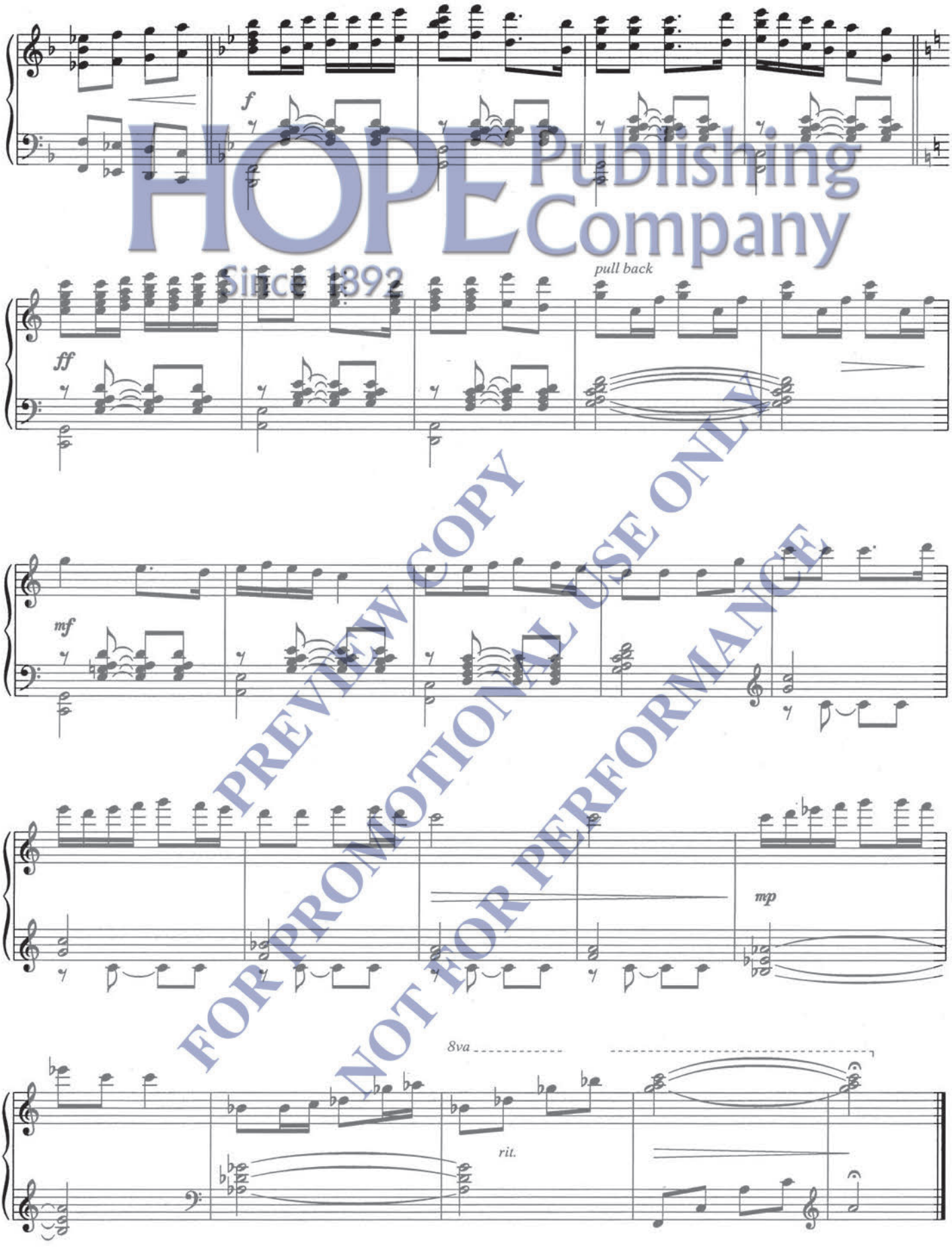

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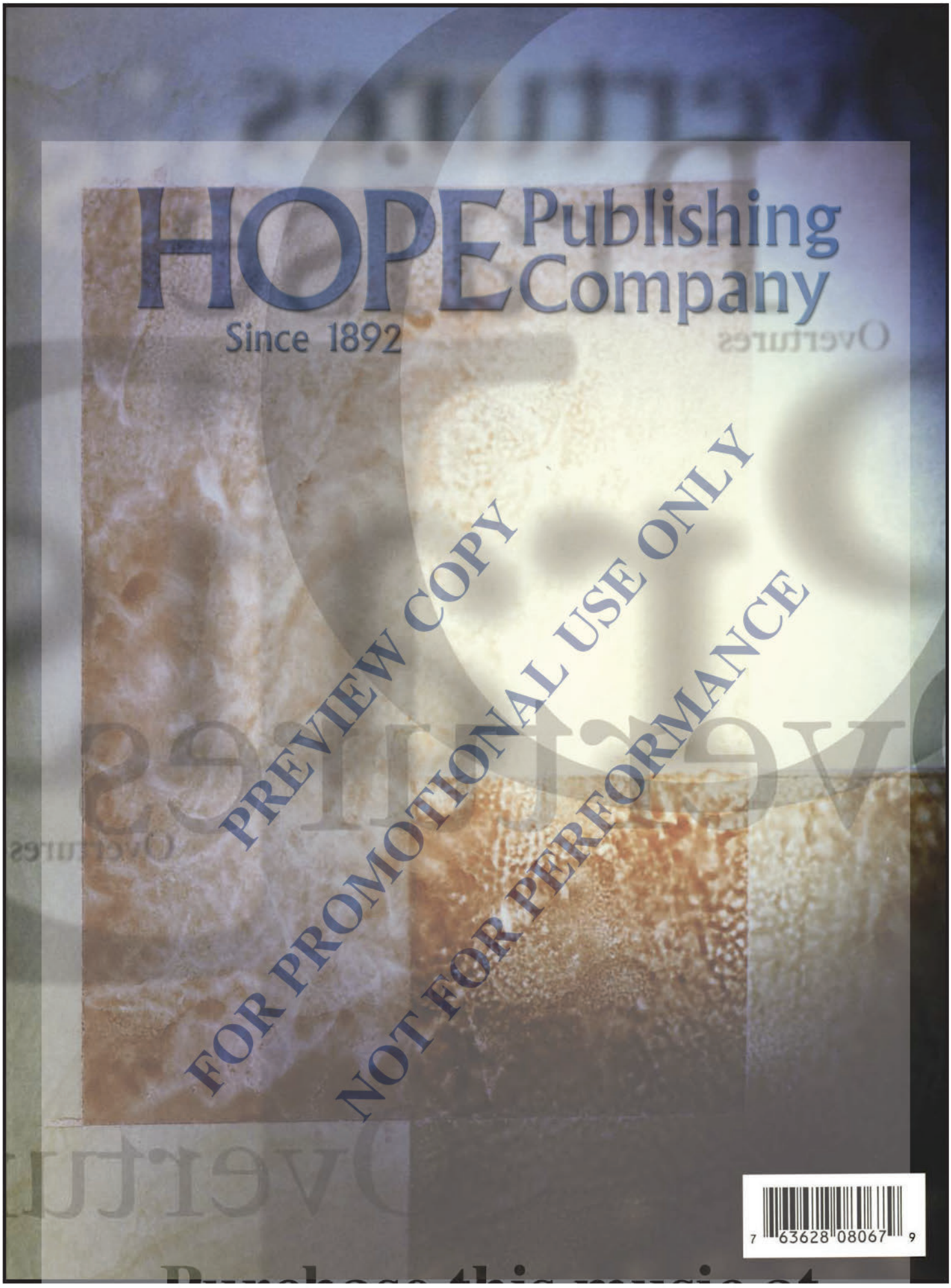
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