THE ARCHANGELS

Composition for Organ

John-Luke ADDISON

SAMPLE

Performance Notes

"'Who like the Lord?' thunders Michael the Chief;
Raphael, 'the cure of God' comforteth grief;
And as at Nazareth, prophet of peace,
"Gabriel, 'the Light of God,' bringeth release."
-Joseph the Hymnographer, 9th c.

The Archangels echoes the characteristics of three legendary figures in Christian theology, by captivating their individual attributes through musical motifs. Michael, Raphael and Gabriel, the archangels of heaven, as described through Christian legend and text, exemplify various traits, which are reflected in their respective movements. The performer should attempt to bring these features to life through his/her interpretation of the music.

Michael, meaning, "who is like God", is depicted through the book of Revelation as a leader and warrior against the armies of Satan. The war-like themes depicted in the first movement illustrate his triumphant march into battle, and his victory over evil. The opening stanza depicts fanfares announcing the battle, followed by Michael leading his armies on horseback. Ultimately, the battle is won, and a triumphant recapitulation of the original theme carries the movement to its finale.

Raphael, "the cure of God", is portrayed as a restorer of the souls of those who have wandered into sin. The light texture of the second movement serves to illustrate an absolving atmosphere, whereby the errors of those who have strayed have been forgiven. The optimistic feeling at m. 124 demonstrates the comforting process, while the peaceful final stanza shows the soul becoming rested and cleansed.

Gabriel, "the Light of God", is represented as a news-bearer to mortals, such as in the biblical books of Daniel and Luke, serving as a guardian eye over Earth. The third movement is a chorale, depicting everlasting devotion and attentiveness from Gabriel, as he is forever watching over peoples' lives. The culminating coda brings the piece to conclusion, whereby the archangels are adorned with a majestic finale.

SAMPLE

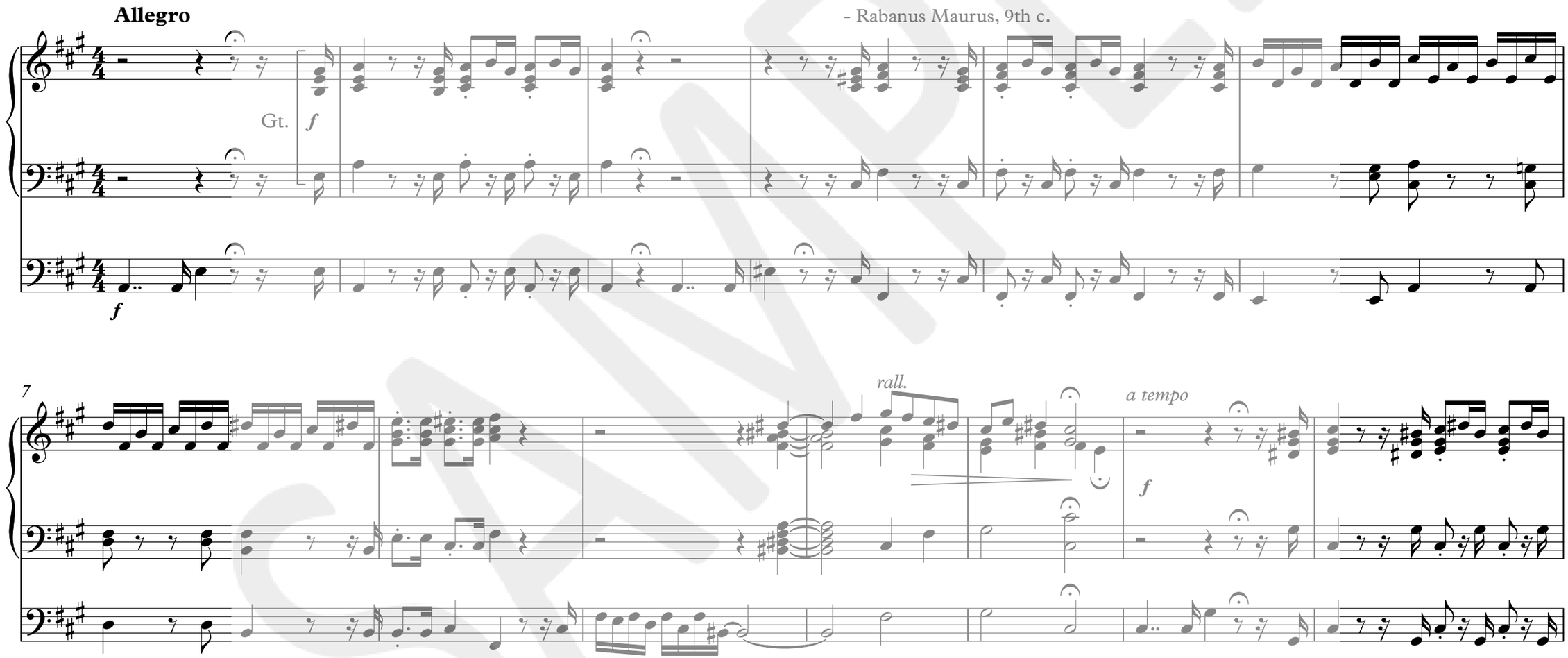
THE ARCHANGELS

I: Michael

John-Luke ADDISON

Sw. - Fl. 8', Str. 8'-4'
Gt. - Full 16'-8'-4', Sw. to Gt. 8'-4'
Ped. - Full 16'-8', Gt. to Ped. 8'

"Send thy Archangel, Michael, to our succour;
Peacemaker blessèd, may he banish from us
Striving and hatred, so that for the peaceful
All things may prosper."
- Rabanus Maurus, 9th c.



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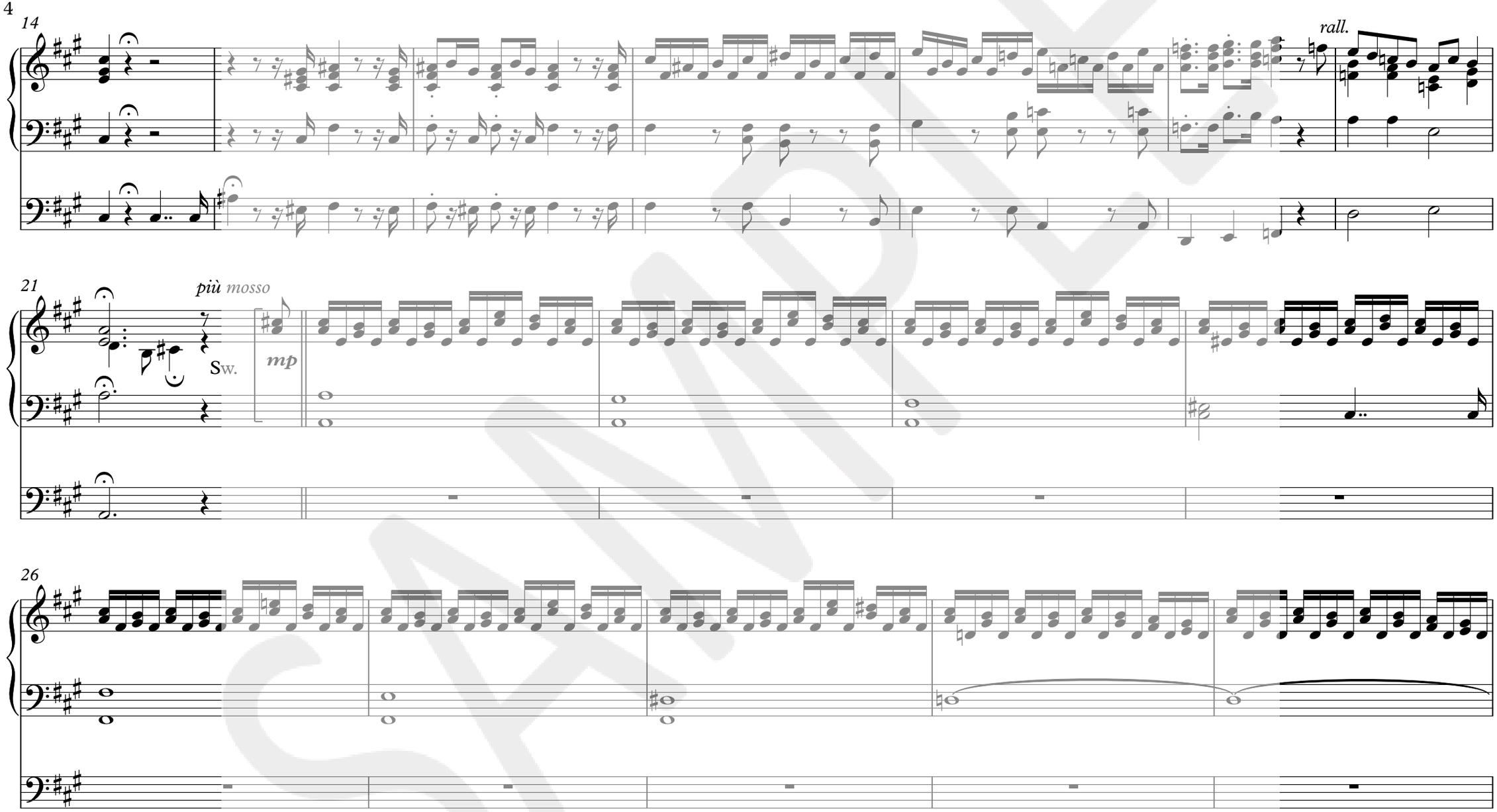
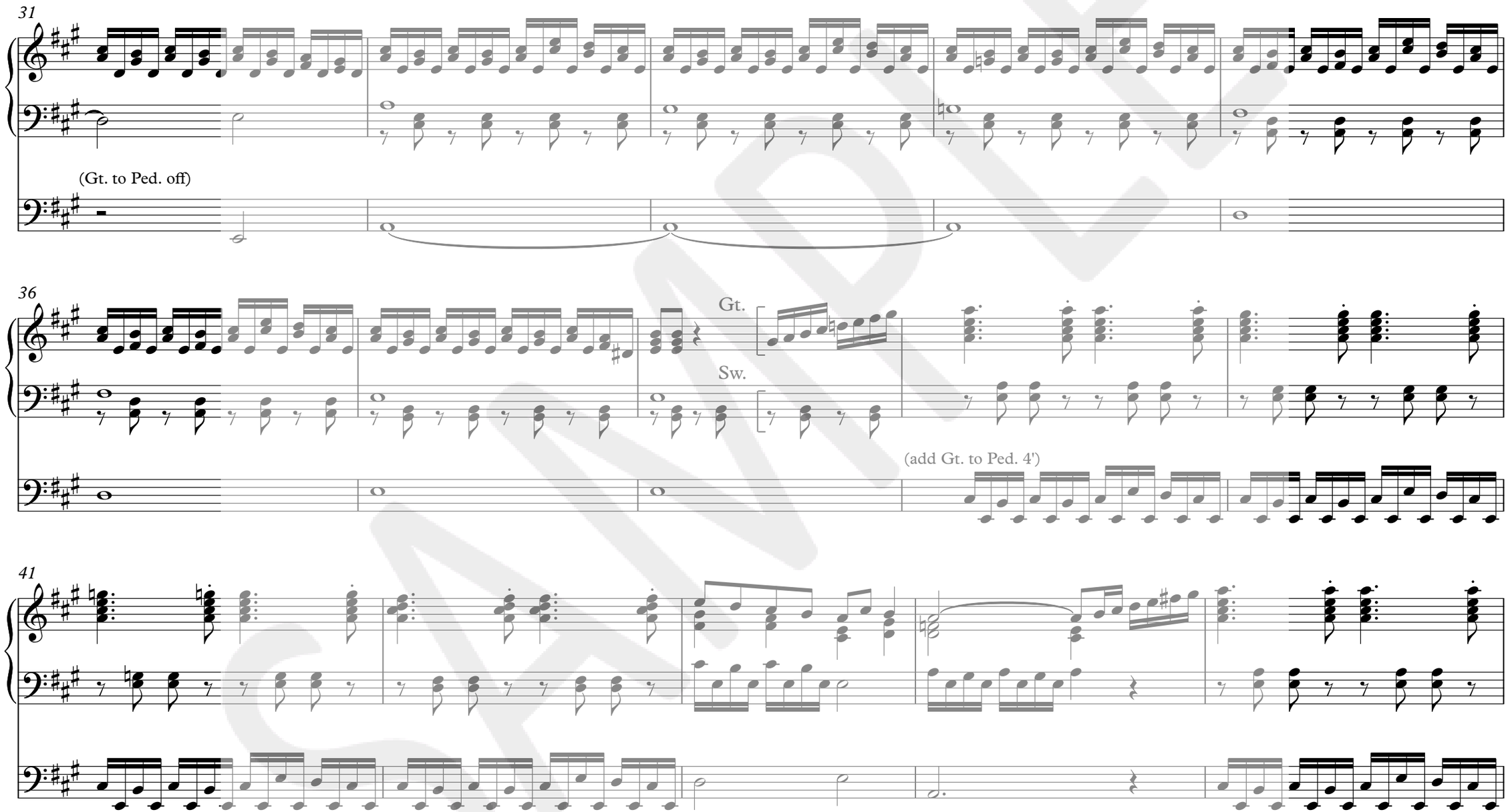
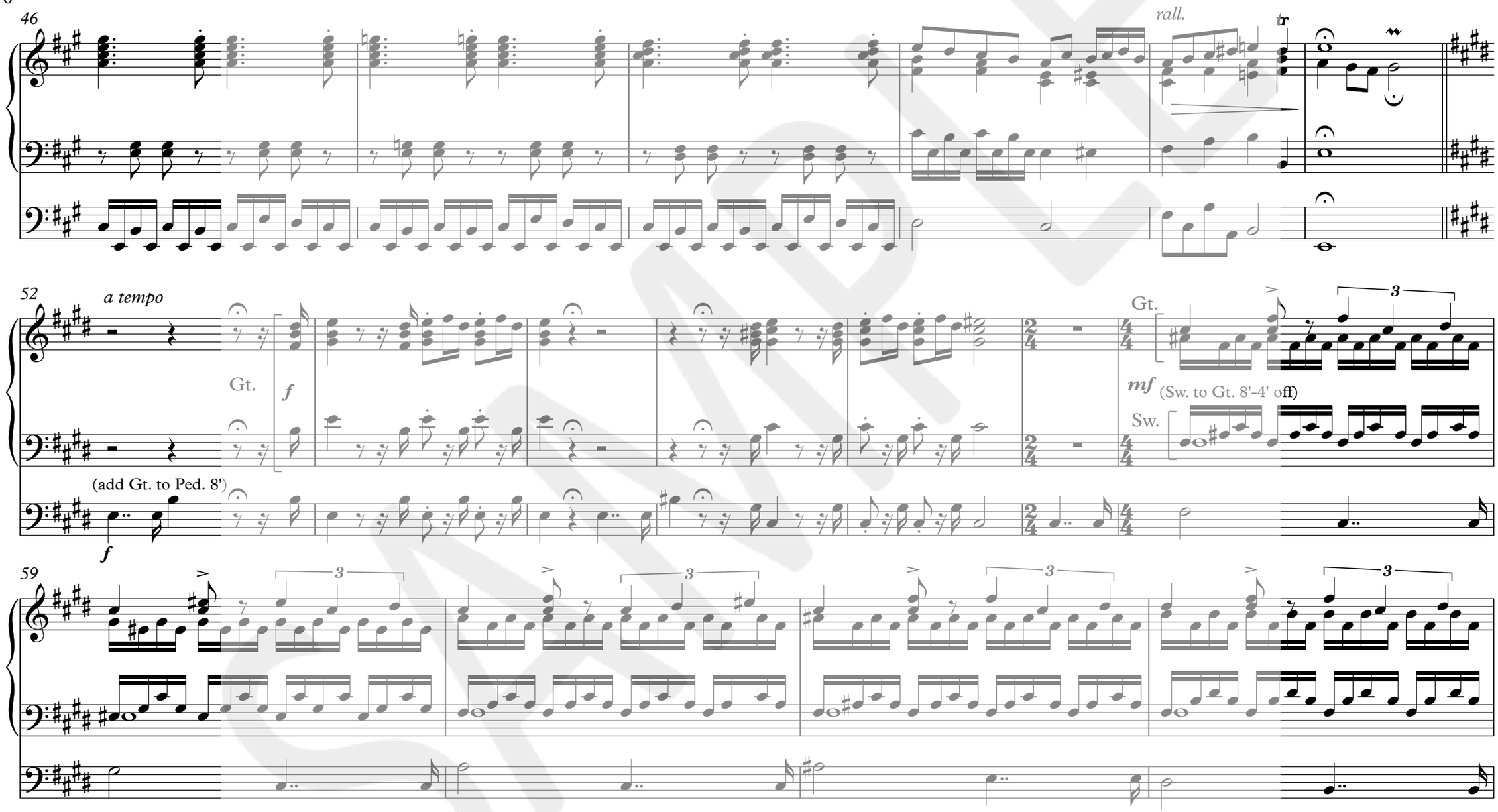
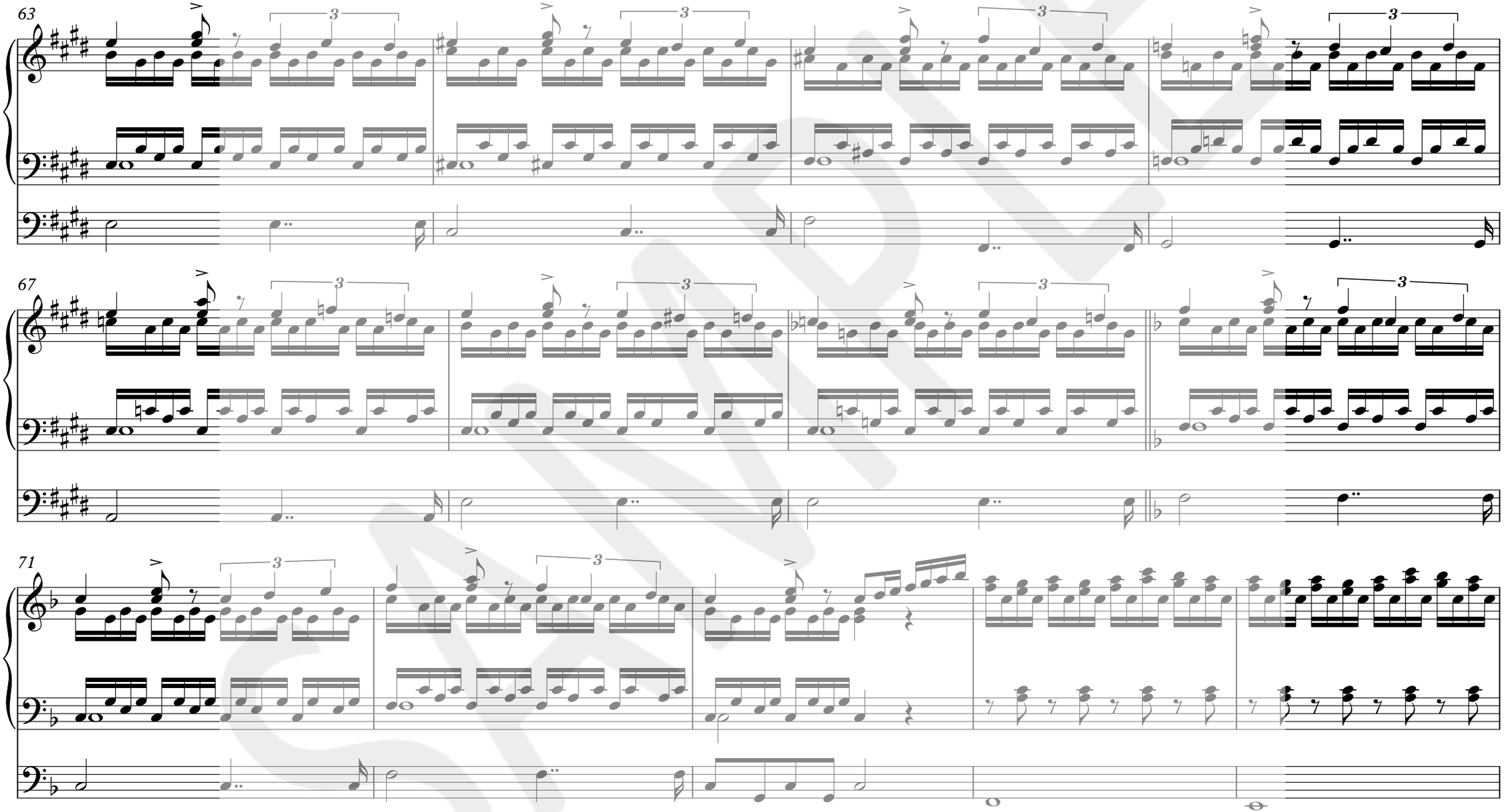
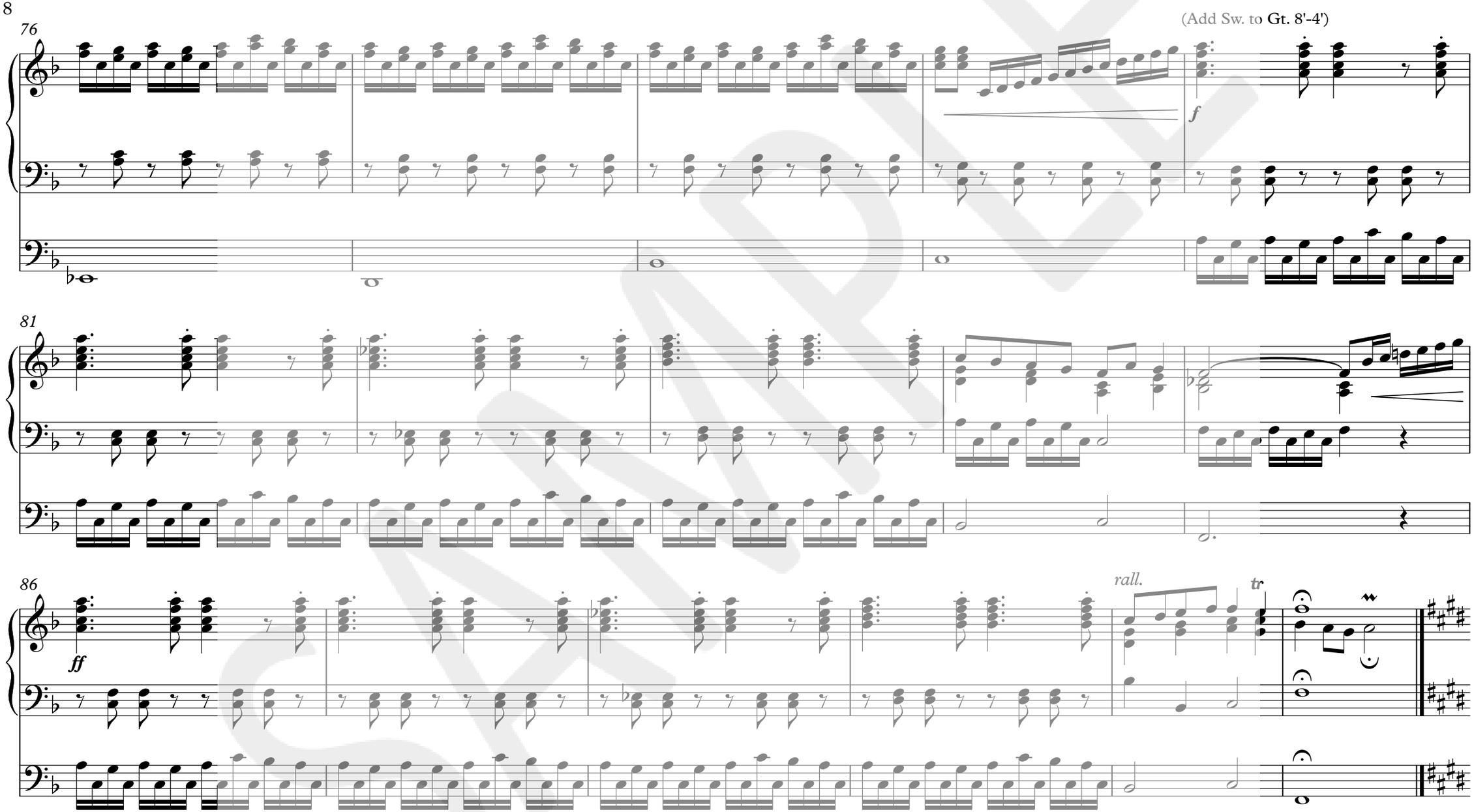

14
rall.
21
più mosso
Sw.
mp
26


31
(Gt. to Ped. off)
36
Gt.
Sw.
(add Gt. to Ped. 4')
41


46
rall.
tr
52
a tempo
Gt.
f
(add Gt. to Ped. 8')
f
Gt.
mf
(Sw. to Gt. 8'-4' off)
Sw.
59
3

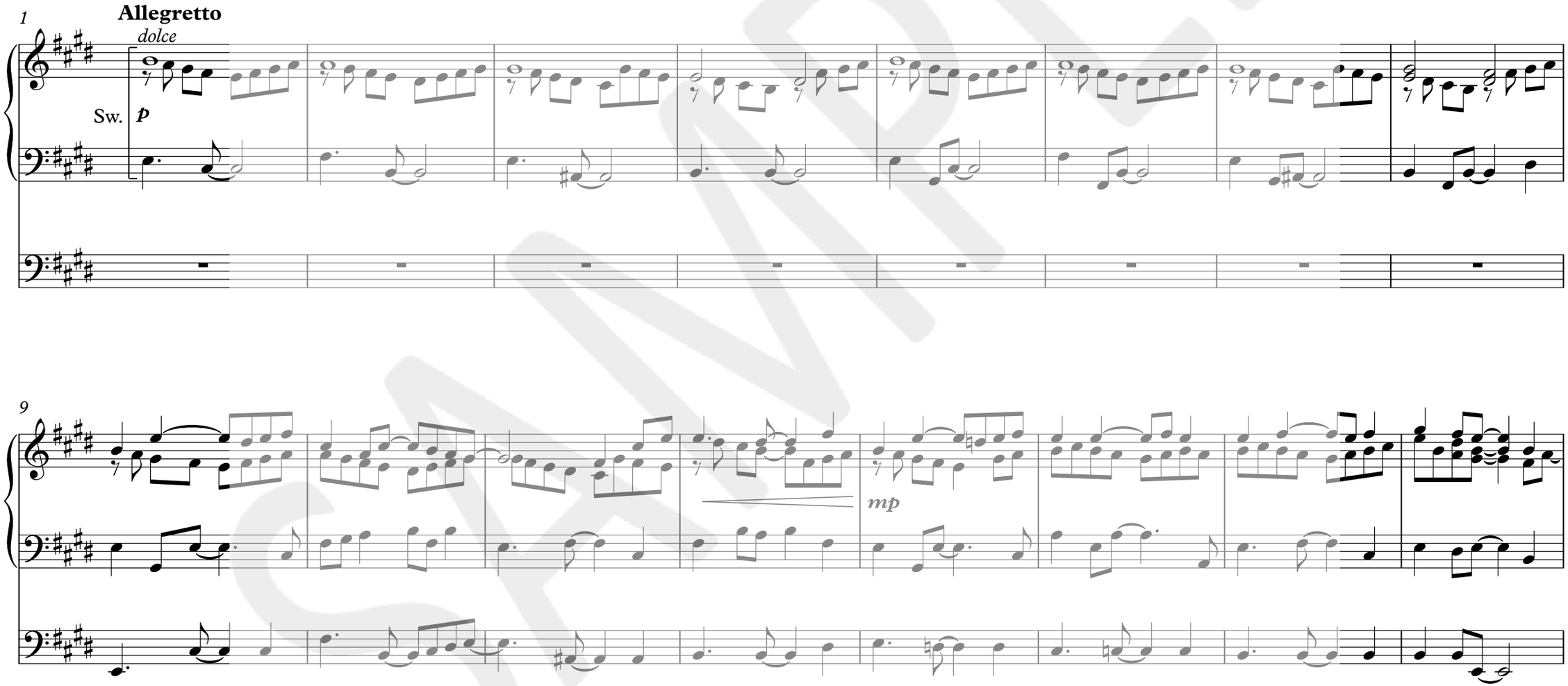

63
67
71


76
(Add Sw. to Gt. 8'-4')
f
81
86
ff
rall.
tr

Sw. - Fl. 8', Str. 8'
Gt. - Op. Diap. 8', Fl. 8'
Ped. - Bdn. 16', Gt. To Ped. 8'

II: Raphael

"Send thy Archangel, Raphael, the restorer
Of the misguided ways of men who wander,
Who at the bidding strengthens soul and body
With thine anointing."
-Rabanus Maurus, 9th c.



SAMPLE

17

mf

25

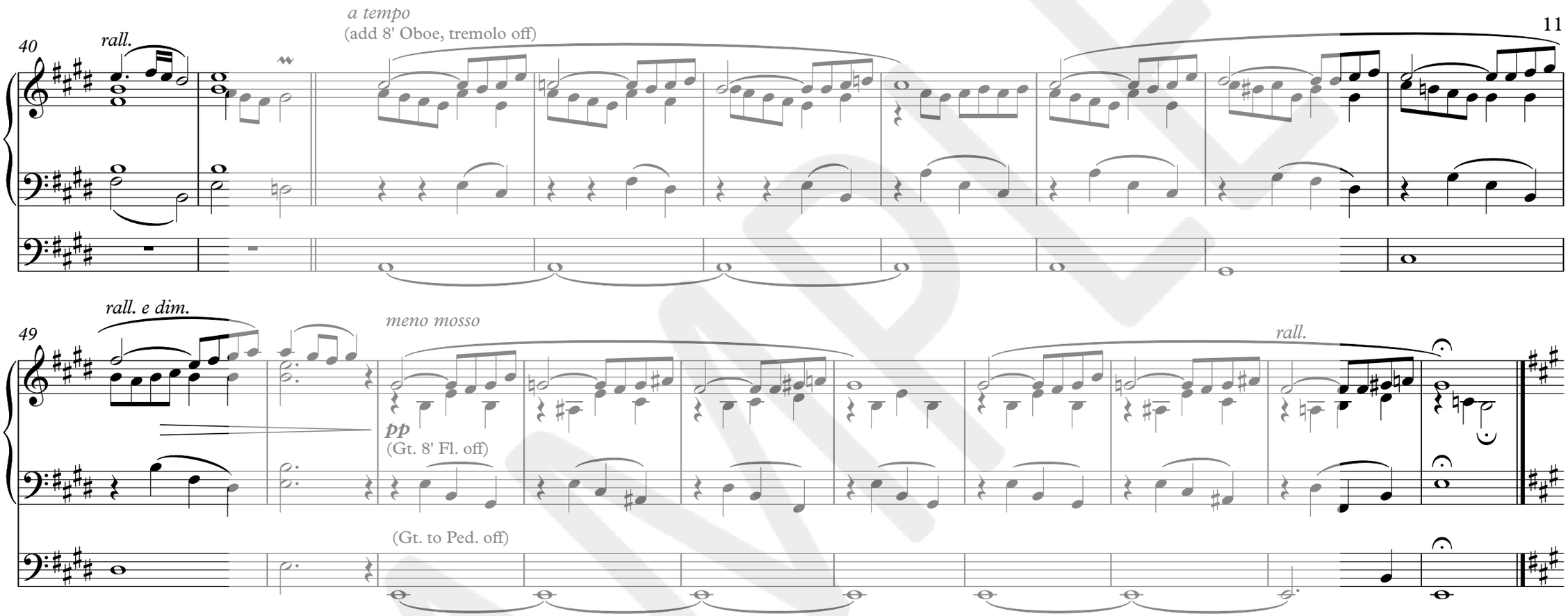
31

(Sw. add tremolo)

Sw.

p

Gt.

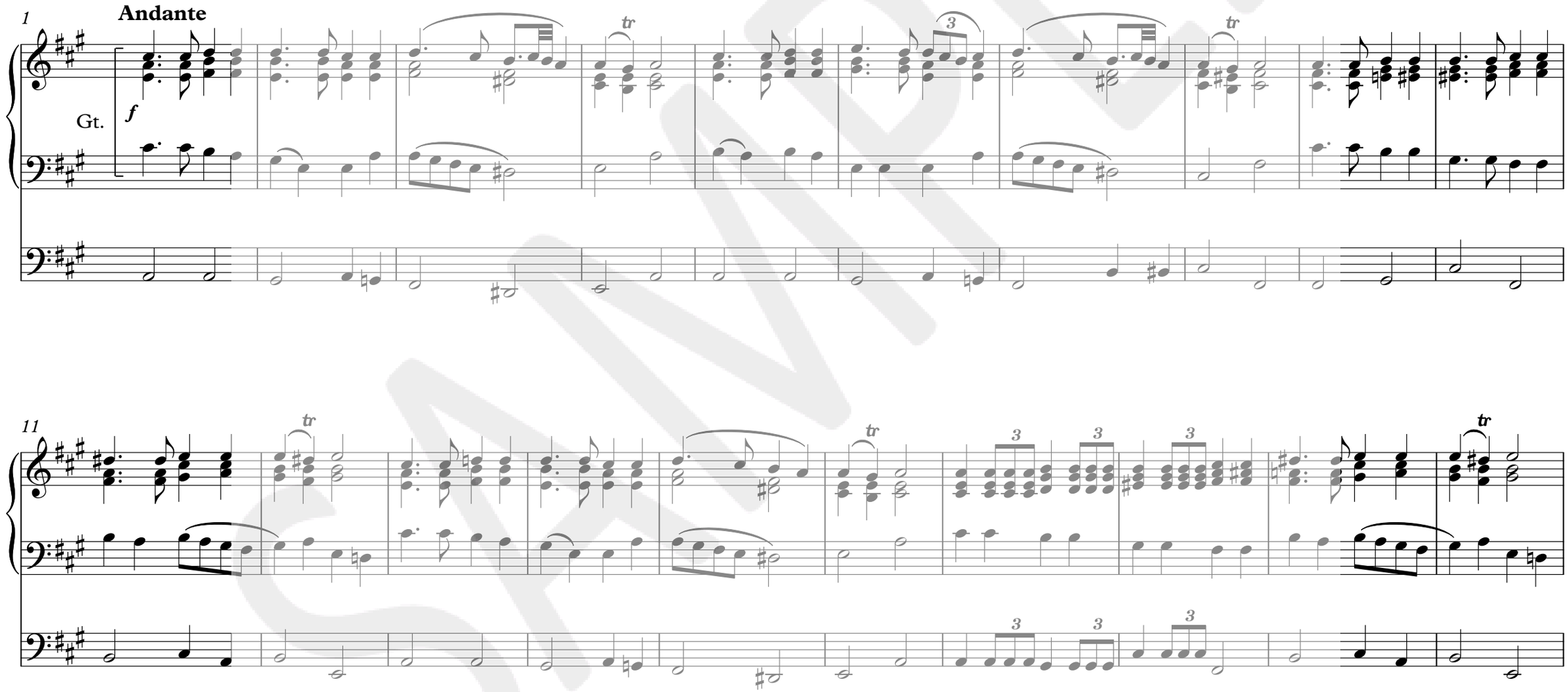

40
rall.
a tempo
(add 8' Oboe, tremolo off)
49
rall. e dim.
meno mosso
pp
(Gt. 8' Fl. off)
(Gt. to Ped. off)
rall.

SAMPLE

Sw. - Full 8'-4' without Reeds
Gt. - Full 16'-8'-4', Sw. to Gt. 4'
Ped. - Full 16', Gt. to Ped. 8'

III: Gabriel

"Send thy Archangel, Gabriel, the mighty;
Herald of heaven, may he from us mortals
Spurn the old serpent, watching o'er the temples
Where thou art worshipped."
- Rabanus Maurus, 9th c.



SAMPLE

21
3
3
rall.
Allegro
mf cresc.
3
3
27
molto rit.
(Full organ)
fff
3
fff

SAMPLE