Peter Knell

Seven Last Words

after paintings by Rolf Stein

(2000)

SAMPLE

Duration: ca. 13 minutes

Peter Knell

838 S. Arroyo Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91105
tel: +1.323.687.1870
KNELL1@aol.com

Biography

Peter Knell (b. 1970) has received awards in numerous national and international competitions, including First Prizes in the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's 10th New Music Festival International Composers Competition, the Indiana State University Contemporary Music Festival/Louisville Orchestra Competition, and the Omaha Symphony Guild International New Music Competition, and Second Prizes in the Fourth International Witold Lutoslawski Composers Competition, the First International Composers' Competition *"In Memoriam Zoltán Kodály"*, and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's Young Composers Competition. He has also received a Fulbright Fellowship, a BMI Student Composer Award, two ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composers Awards, grants from the Paloheimo Foundation and Meet the Composer, and commissions from the Fromm Music Foundation, Ying Quartet, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Barlow Endowment for Music Composition, Pacific Serenades, Oakland East Bay Symphony, Renee B. Fisher Foundation, and Dale Warland Singers, among others.

His music has been performed at the Aspen, Bowdoin, Chautauqua, June in Buffalo, Norfolk, Oregon Bach, Ernest Bloch, New Music North and MATA festivals, by ensembles such as the Hungarian Radio Orchestra, Louisville Orchestra, Kremlin Chamber Orchestra, Filharmonia de Stat "Transilvania", Winnipeg, Omaha, Richmond, Memphis, and Oakland East Bay Symphony Orchestras, the Onyx String Quartet, Verdi Quartett, Southwest Chamber Music, Volti Chamber Chorus, counter)induction, Continuum Ensemble (UK), Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, ModernWorks, ensembleGreen, and Ensemble Musicattuale (Italy), and by soloists including James Dunham, Martin Chalifour, and the German alto Ingeborg Danz. It has been broadcast nationally in Russia, Canada and Hungary, statewide on Nebraska Public Radio, and on stations in Charlottesville [VA], Richmond, Austin, Omaha, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, San Diego, and Helsinki. His *Seven Last Words*, based on paintings of Rolf Stein, is available in a book/CD format from Valve-Hearts, Cologne. A compact disc featuring his orchestral work, *"...the weakening eye of day"* in a live performance by the Budapest Symphony Orchestra, is available on the Artisjus label, and a compact disc featuring German pianist Susanne Kessel performing to of his *Four Snapshots* was released by OehmsClassics in February 2006.

Mr. Knell holds degrees from Princeton University (BA), the Juilliard School (MM), and the University of Texas at Austin (DMA), and he was a Fulbright Fellow at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland. His principal composition teachers have included Dan Welcher, Donald Grantham, and David Diamond. He is currently a freelance composer based in Los Angeles, and he served as Composer-in-Residence for the American Music Festival in Cluj, Romania, in November 2004.

Program Note

Seven Last Words was composed during the summer of 2000. It was commissioned by the German violinist Peter Stein to accompany a display of a series of paintings by his father, Rolf Stein. The work is cast as a series of seven short movements, each of which evokes the spirit of the corresponding painting. However, the compositional structure encompasses the complete set, with thematic and structural echos weaving the seven movements into an organic whole. The most obvious of these connections is the return of material from the second movement at the end of the seventh--the suggestion of paradise now realized. The premiere was given on April 1, 2001, in Holzhausen, Germany.

Performance Notes

1) Insofar as it is possible, the movements are to be played without pause.
2) A wooden dowel may be used for the fifth movement.

SAMPLE

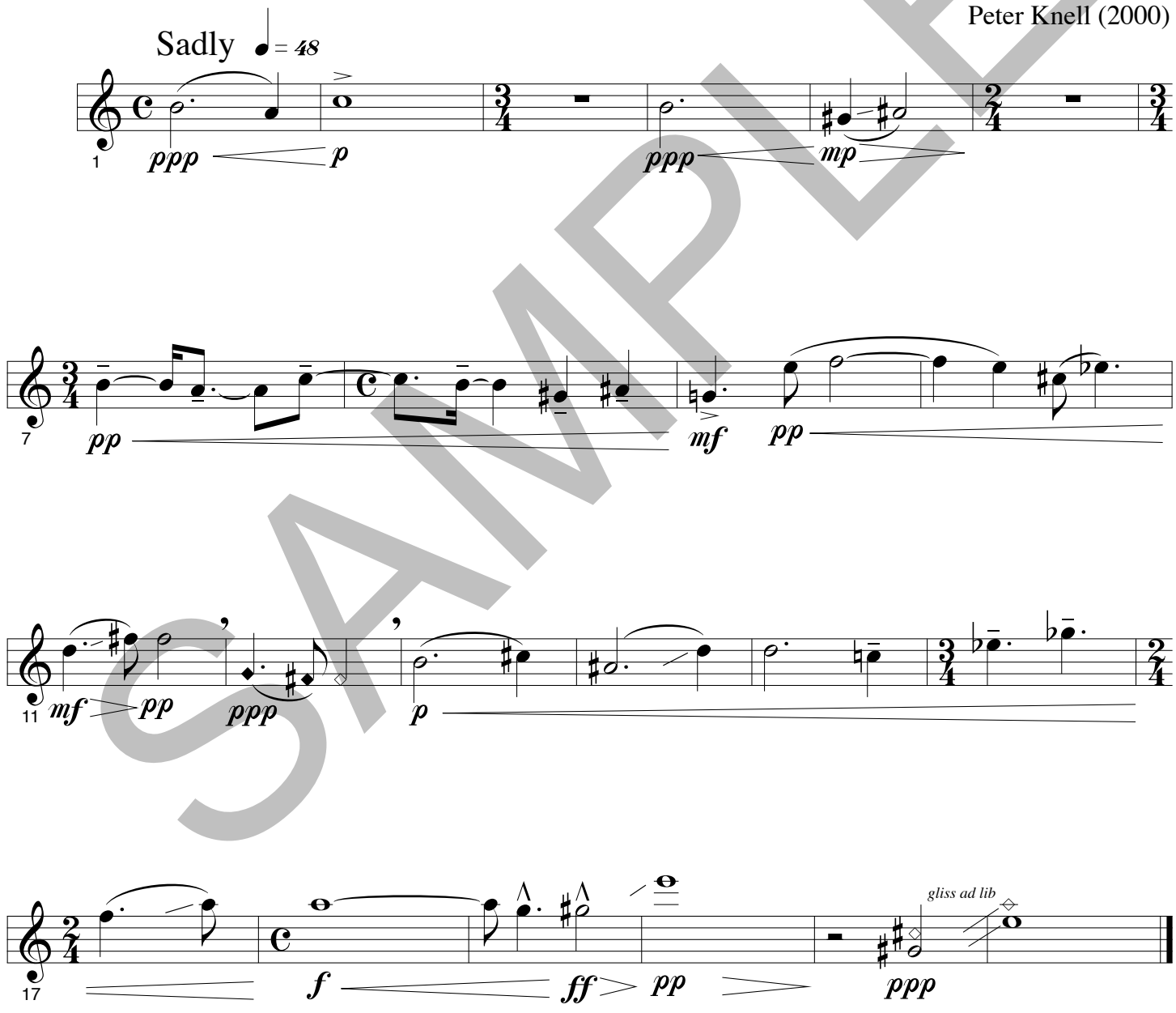
Commissioned by and
dedicated to Peter Stein

Seven Last Words

I

"Father, forgive them; for they know not, what they do."

Peter Knell (2000)



SAMPLE

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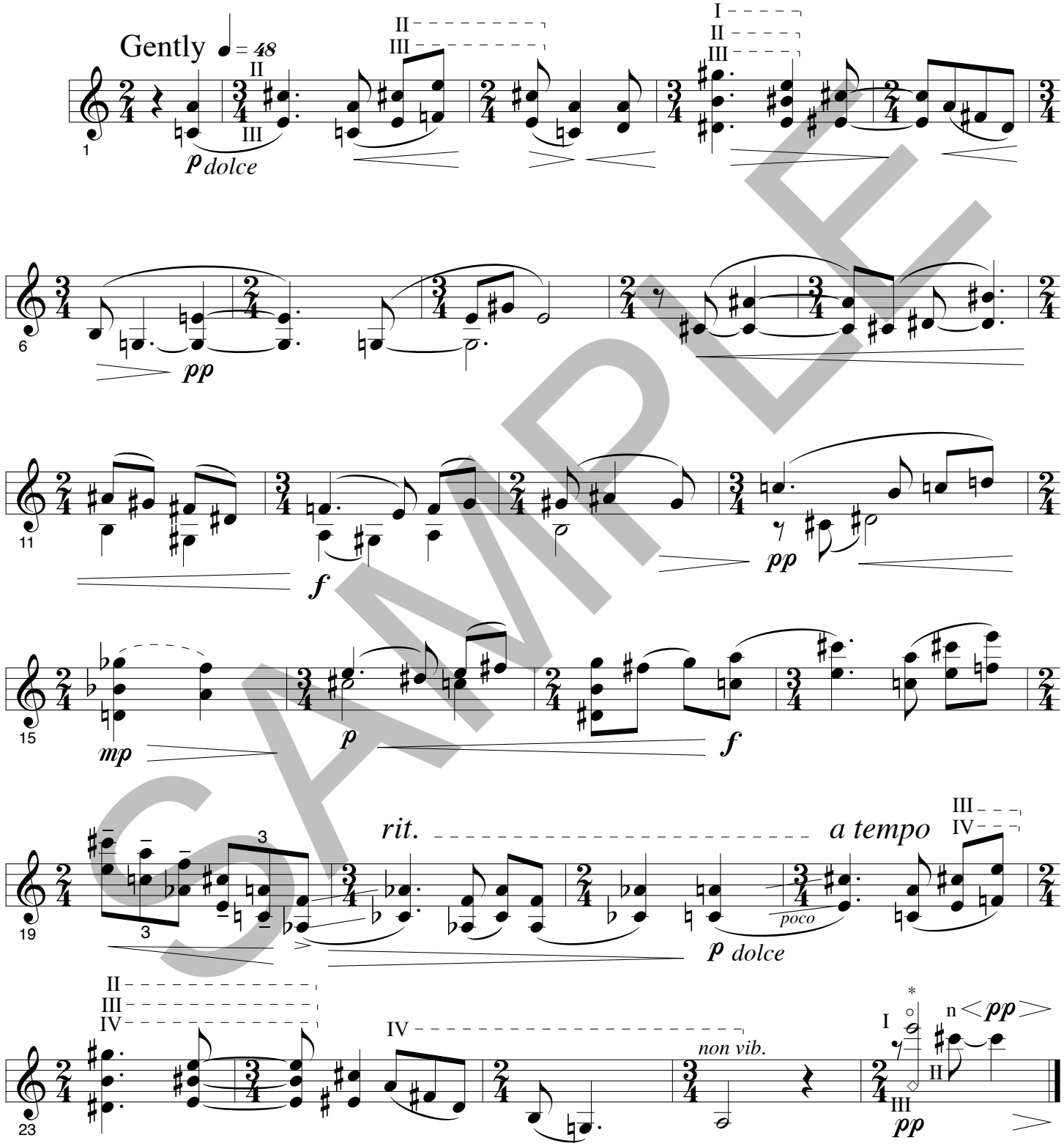
II

"Verily I say thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."



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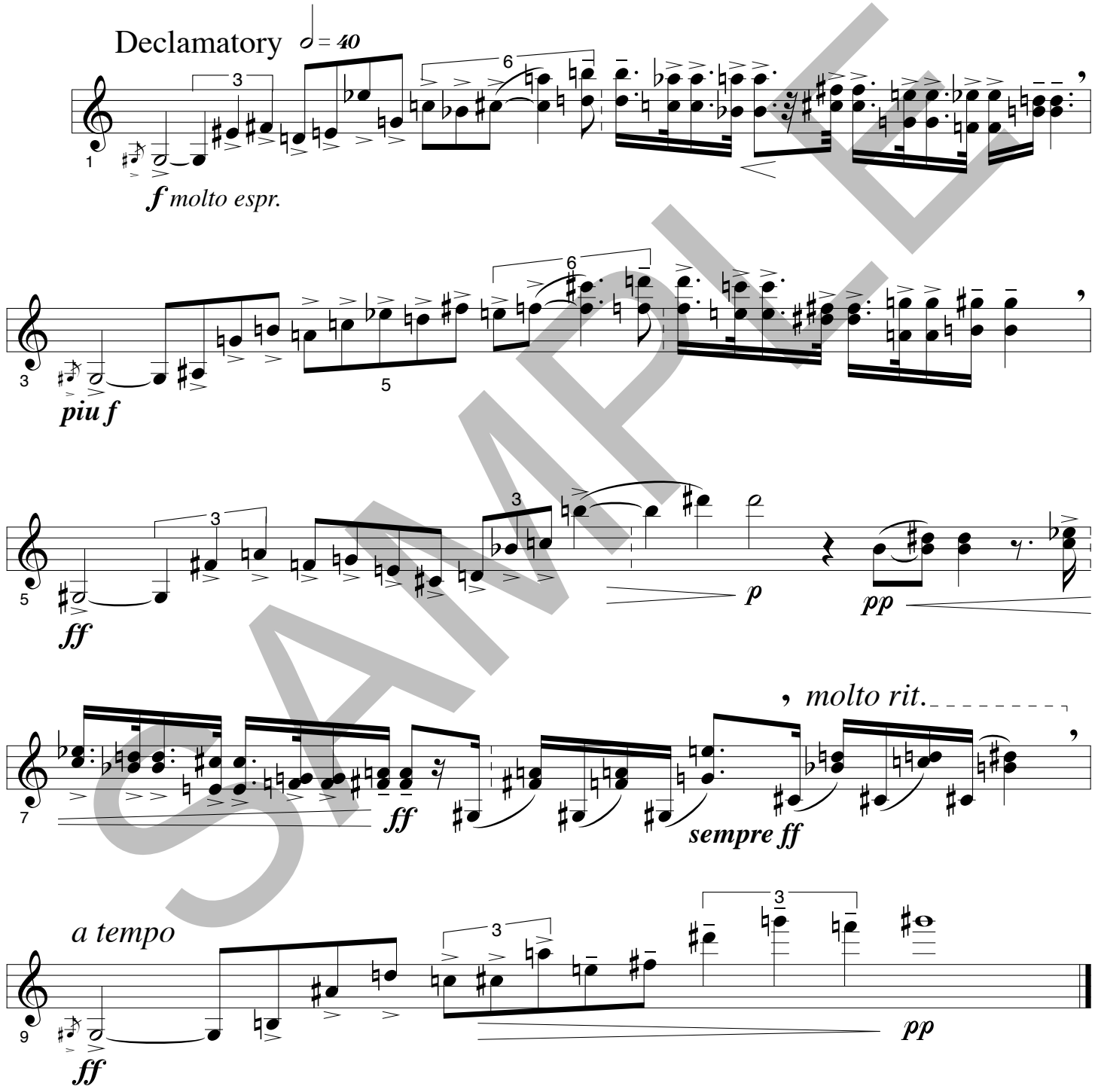
* By touching lightly the two outer strings and depressing the middle string, a point will be created where the three strings are even and may be sustained pp. Below that point, only the outer strings will sound.

III

"Woman, behold thy son! - Behold, thy mother!"



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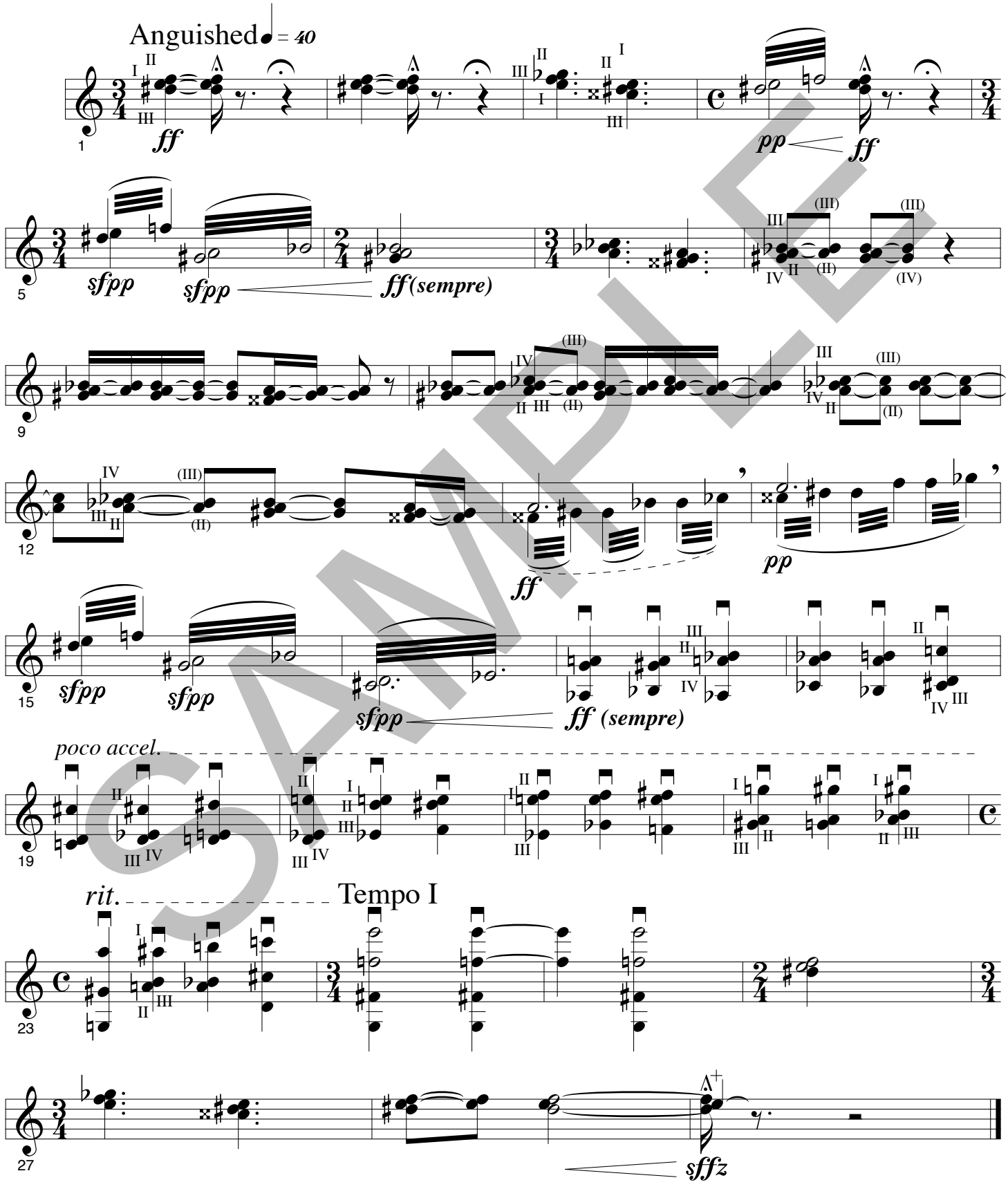
IV

"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"



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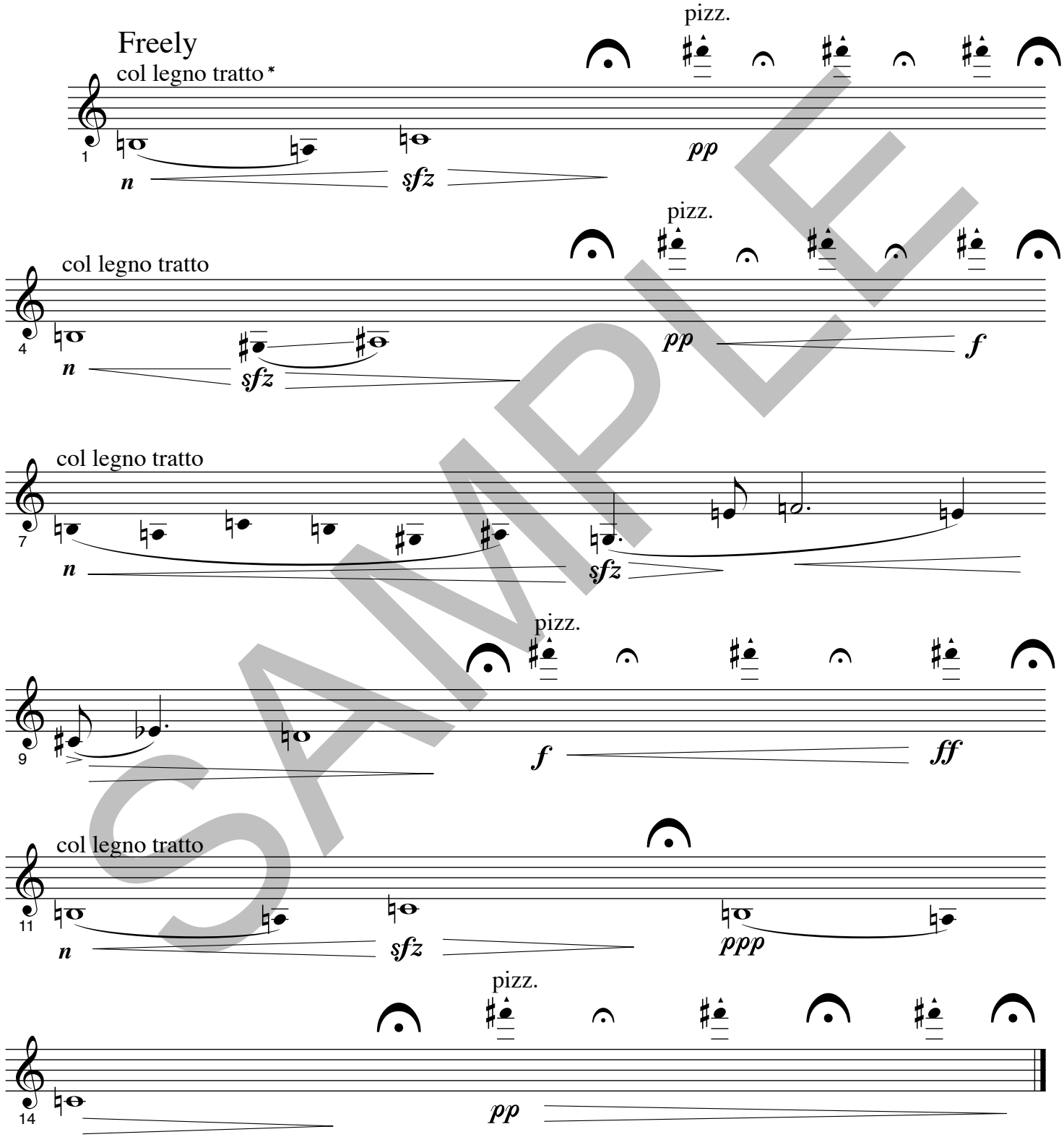
V

"I thirst."



= relatively short pause; = relatively long pause

* A wooden dowel may be used instead of the bow.

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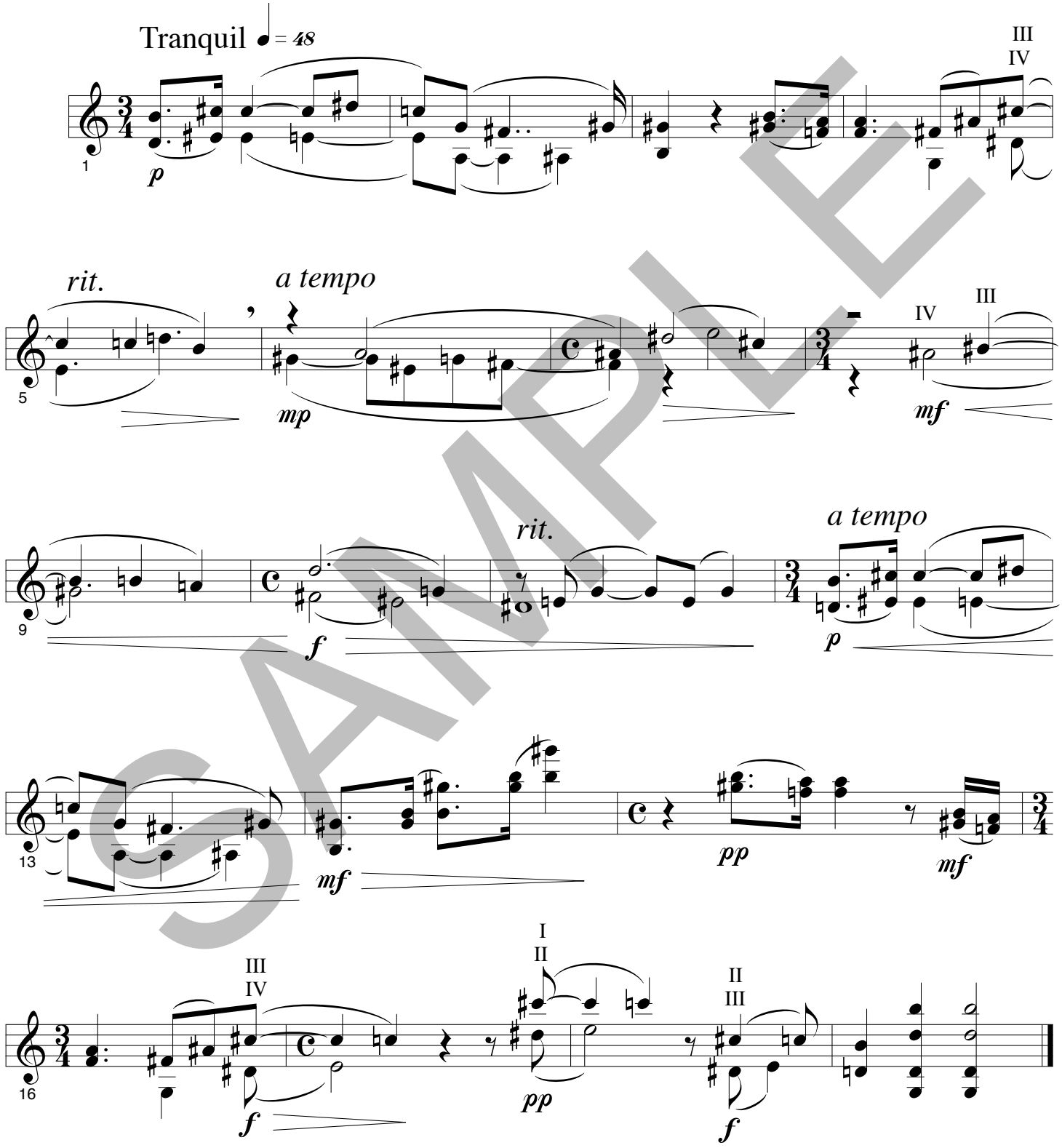
VI

"It is finished."



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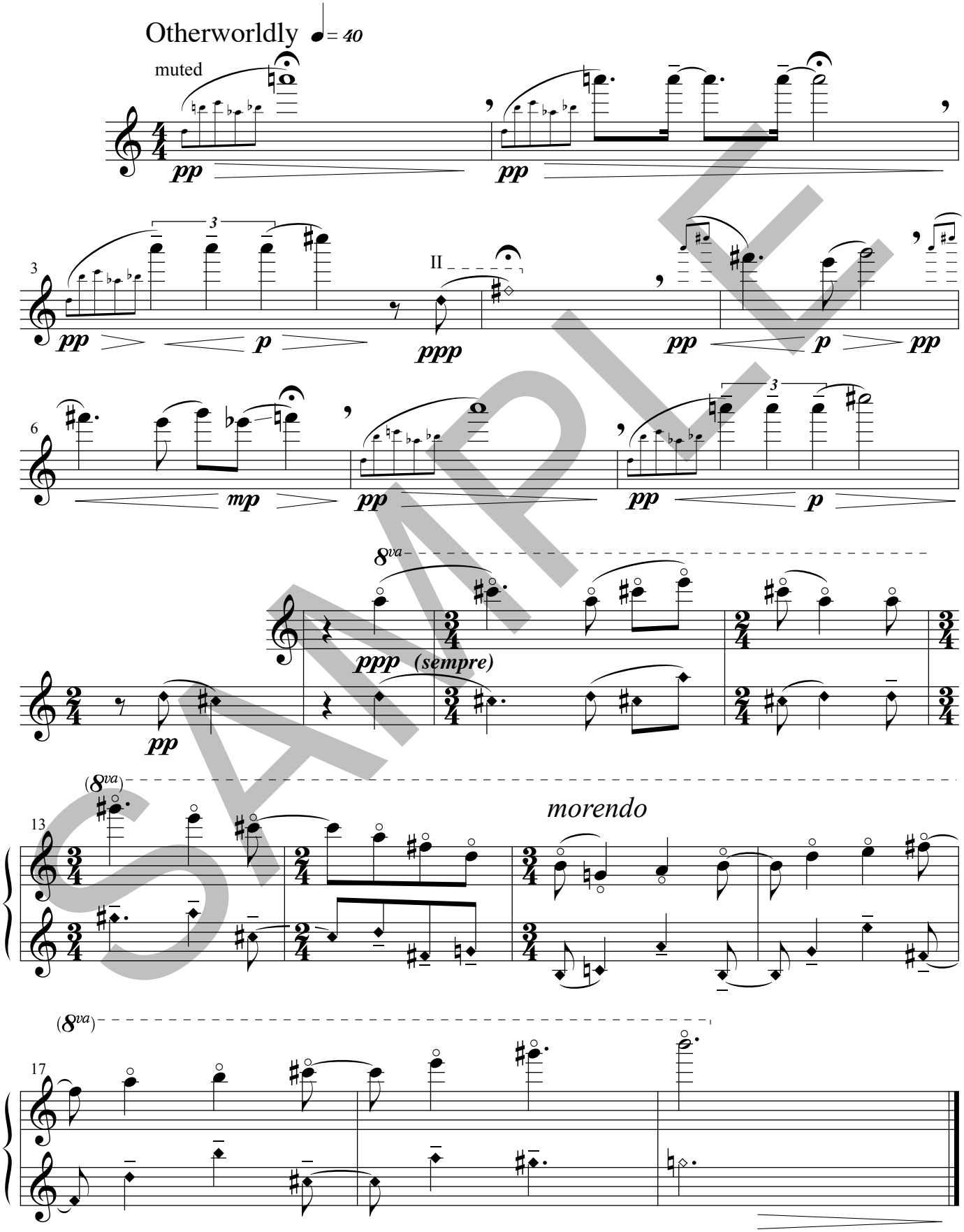
VII

"Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."



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