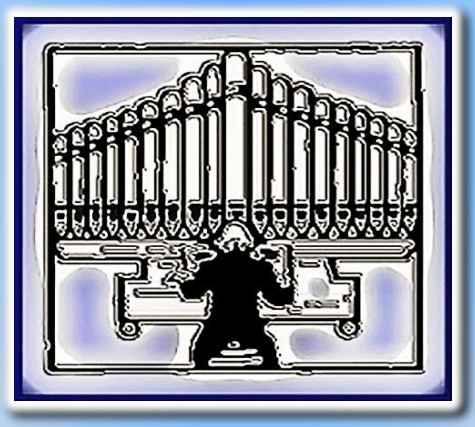
Johann Sebastian Bach

Sinfonia

from Cantata 29

"Wir danken dir, Gott"

A transcription for Organ Solo



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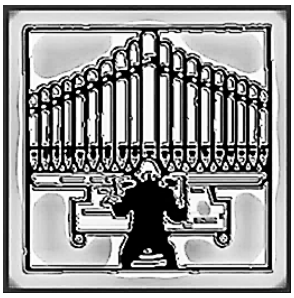

Sinfonia

from Cantata S. 29

"Wir danken dir, Gott"

A transcription *for* Organ Solo

Notes

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) was born into a musical family of Eisenach, located in eastern central Germany. His early career included two church music posts, as well as three court appointments — two in Weimar and one in Cothen — that encouraged his production of sacred, secular and ceremonial music. In 1723 Bach was named *Kantor* of the Thomasschule and *Direktor musices* for the city of Leipzig, overseeing the music of the Thomaskirche and its associated parishes.

His Cantata No. 29, ***"Wir danken dir, Gott"***, is one of four originally written to celebrate the annual investiture of Leipzig's Municipal Council to have survived intact. The work would have been performed in St. Nicholas Church on the Sunday prior to the traditional St. Bartholomew's Day ceremony that took place in the municipal council chamber. It was first performed on August 27, 1731, and is thought to have been repeated for the opening sessions of 1739 and 1749.

The Sinfonia is a brilliant instrumental adaptation of the *preludio* from Bach's third unaccompanied Violin Partita (in E-major, S.1006). In its cantata setting, the movement is transposed down a whole step (from E to D-Major), and is rescored for strings, oboes, trumpets (*trombas*), tympani, organ *obbligato* and *basso continuo*. The solo line of the original violin *preludio* is present throughout in the right hand of his adaptation for organ, with occasional alterations to idiomatic violin figurations. The sinfonia's ceaseless rhythmic drive provides unusual challenges, even for a virtuoso player, while at the same time imparting a compelling impetus to the work.

In this transcription, intended for a two or three manual instrument, adaptations have occasionally been made to manual and pedal figurations to facilitate performance, and while pedal and left hand move at a relaxed pace, the rigors of the right hand solo are readily apparent. Although ideally suited to a Baroque registration and interpretation, a French romantic rendition — registered for *grand orgue* and performed in an equally grand manner — will also provide a stunning addition to concert repertoire.

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Sinfonia

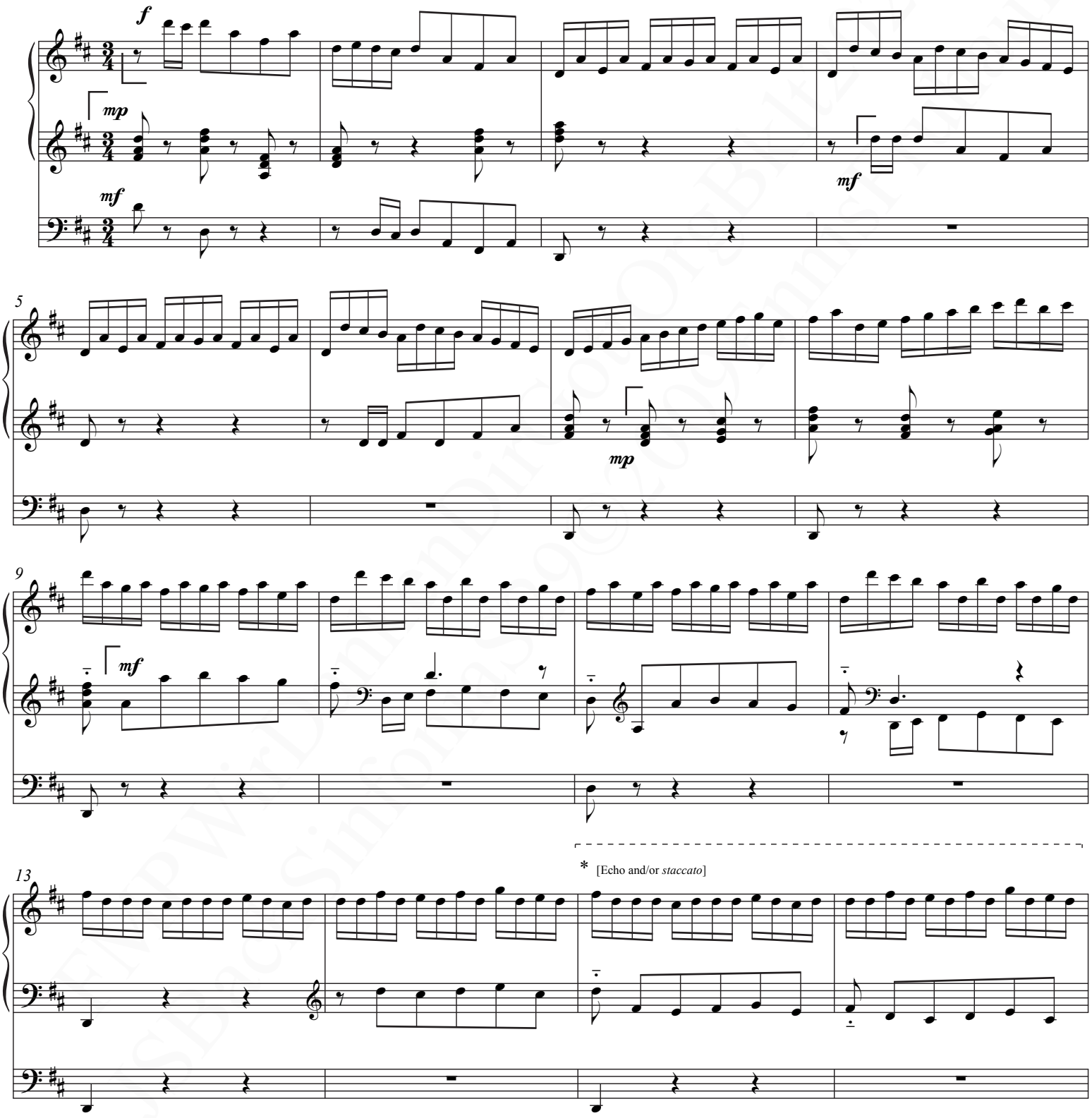
from Cantata No. 29

"Wir danken dir, Gott, wir danken dir"

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Arrangement for Organ
Ennis Fruhauf

Presto [**Andantino** = ♩]



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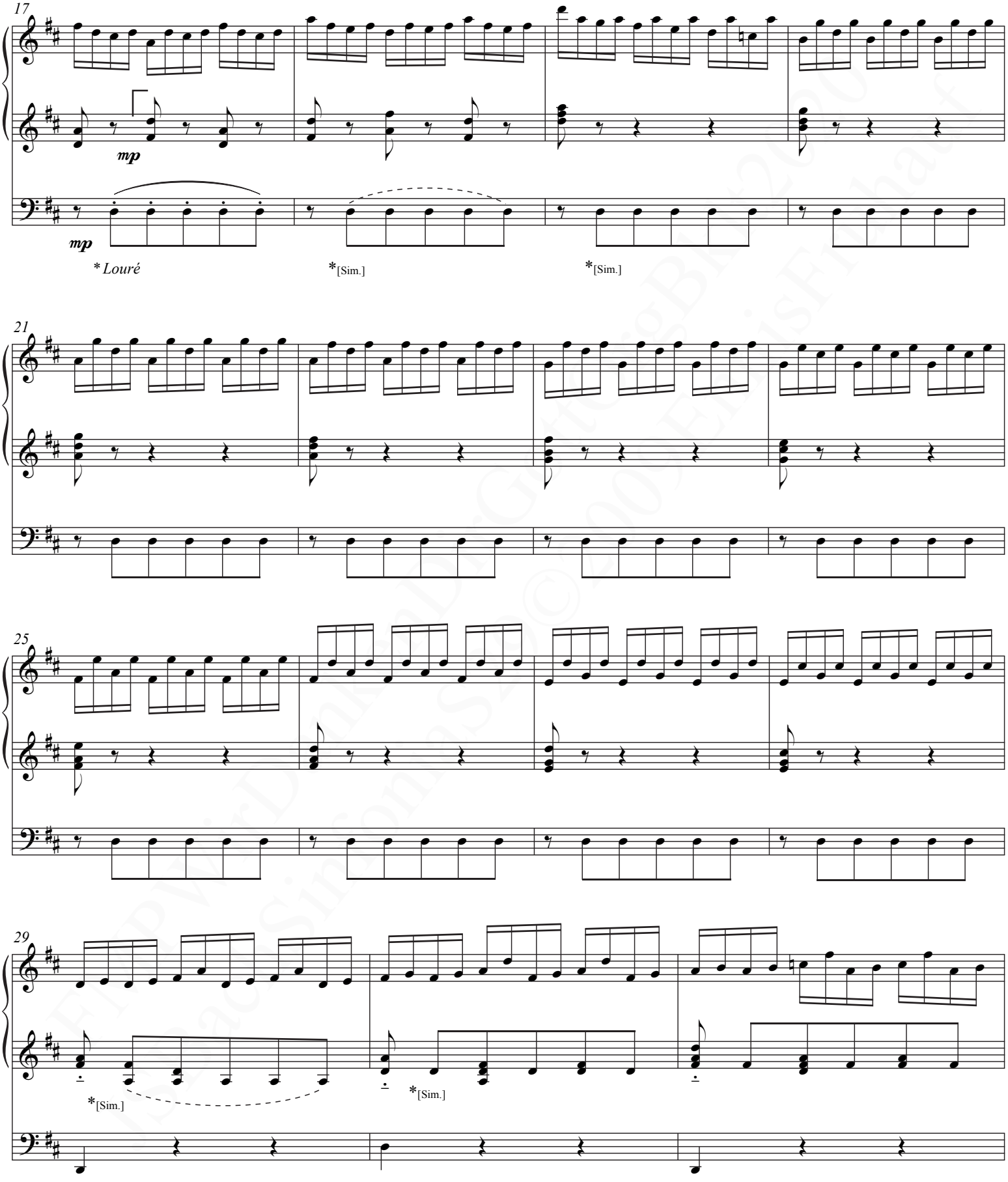
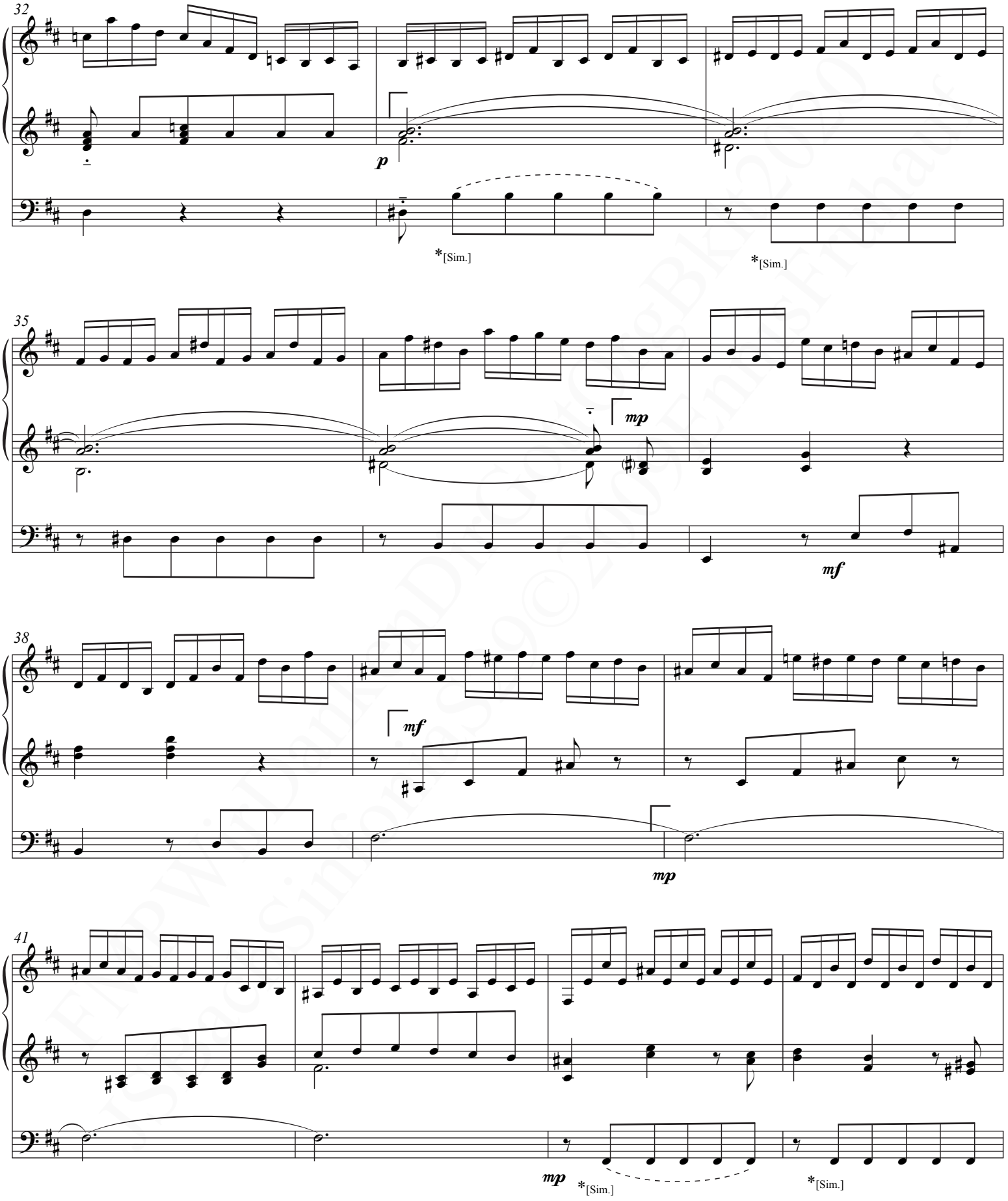
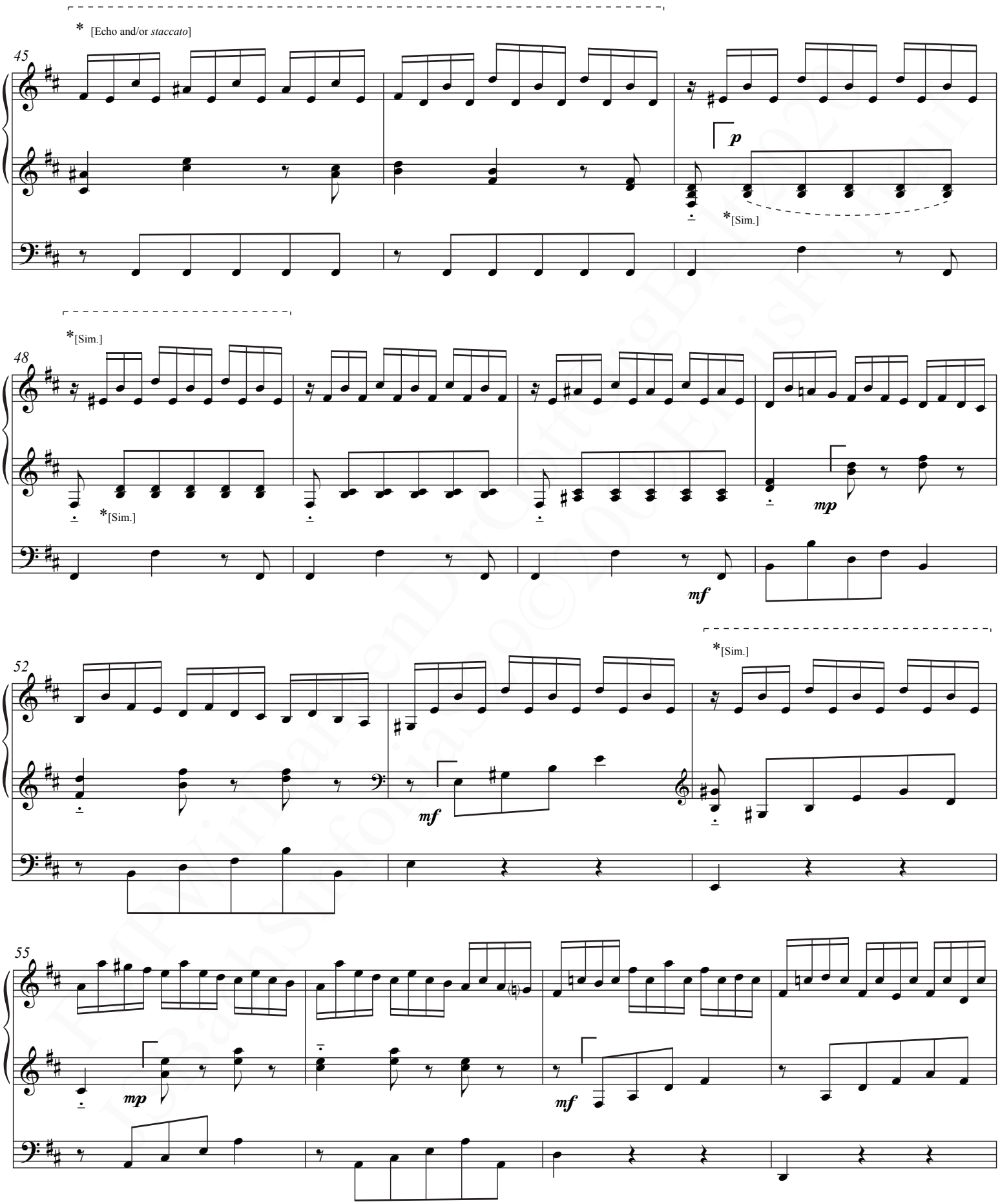
J. S. Bach ~ Sinfonia from Cantata S. 29




32
p
*[Sim.]
*[Sim.]
35
mp
mf
38
mf
mp
41
mp
*[Sim.]
*[Sim.]

J. S. Bach ~ Sinfonia from Cantata S. 29



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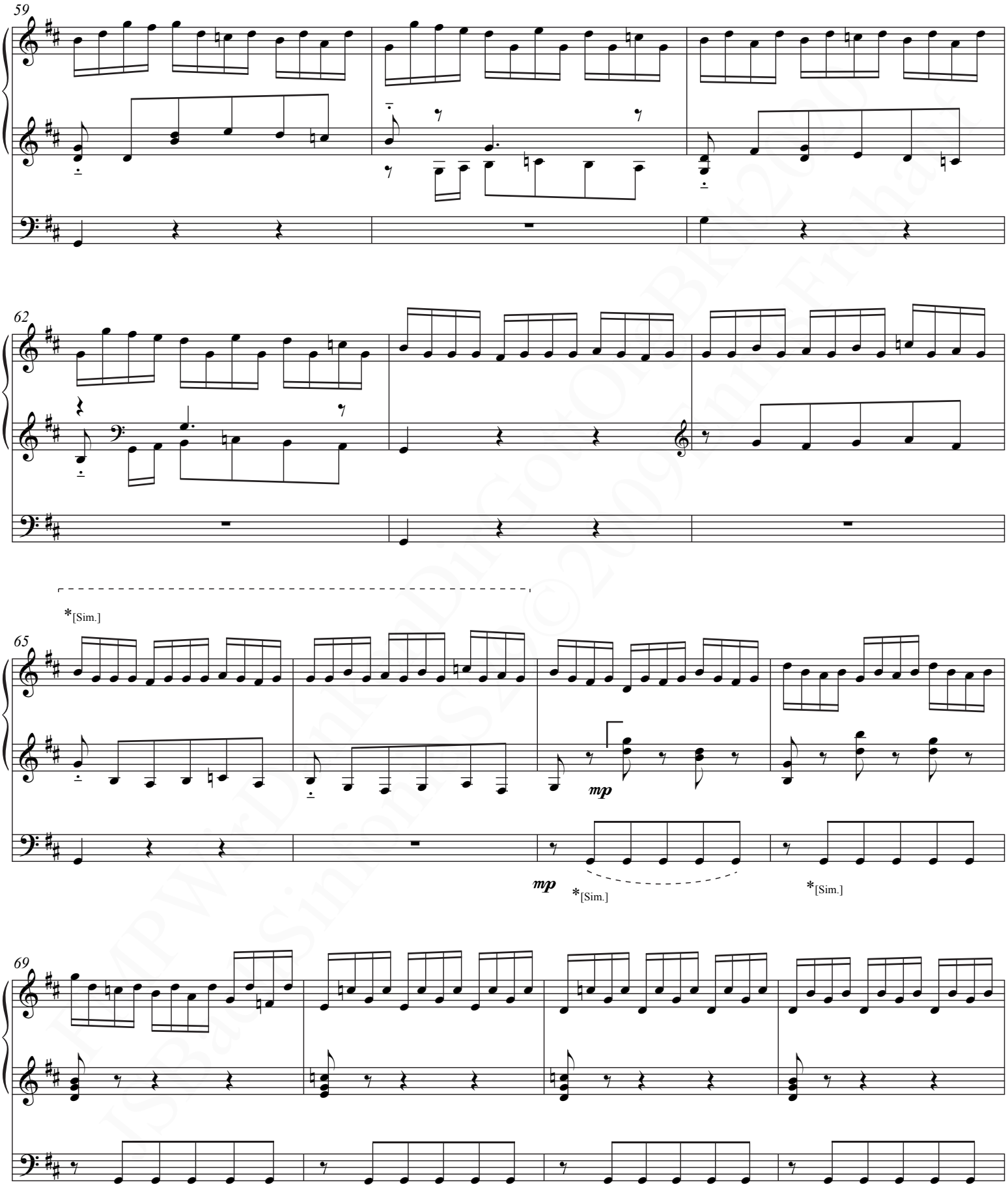

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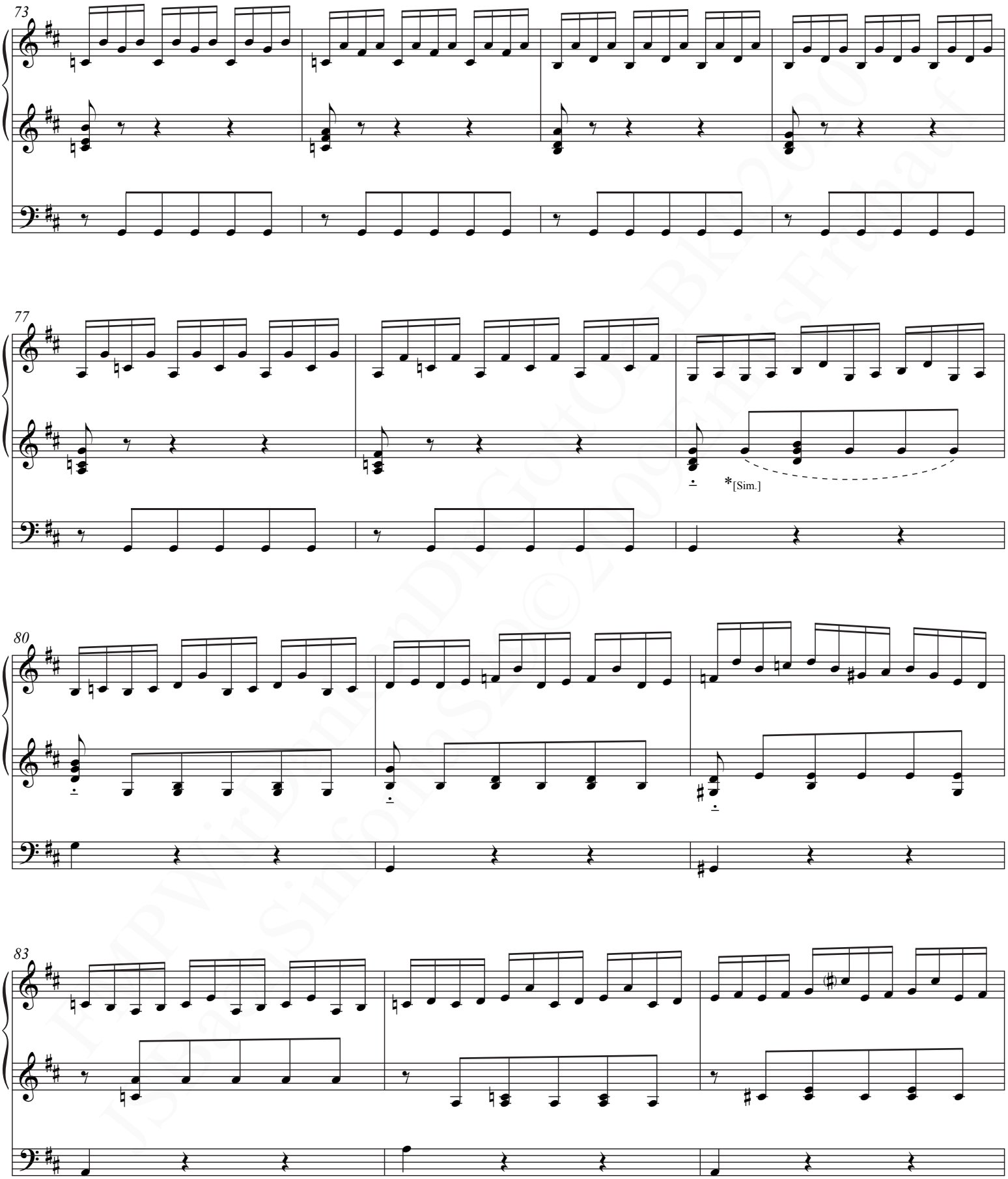
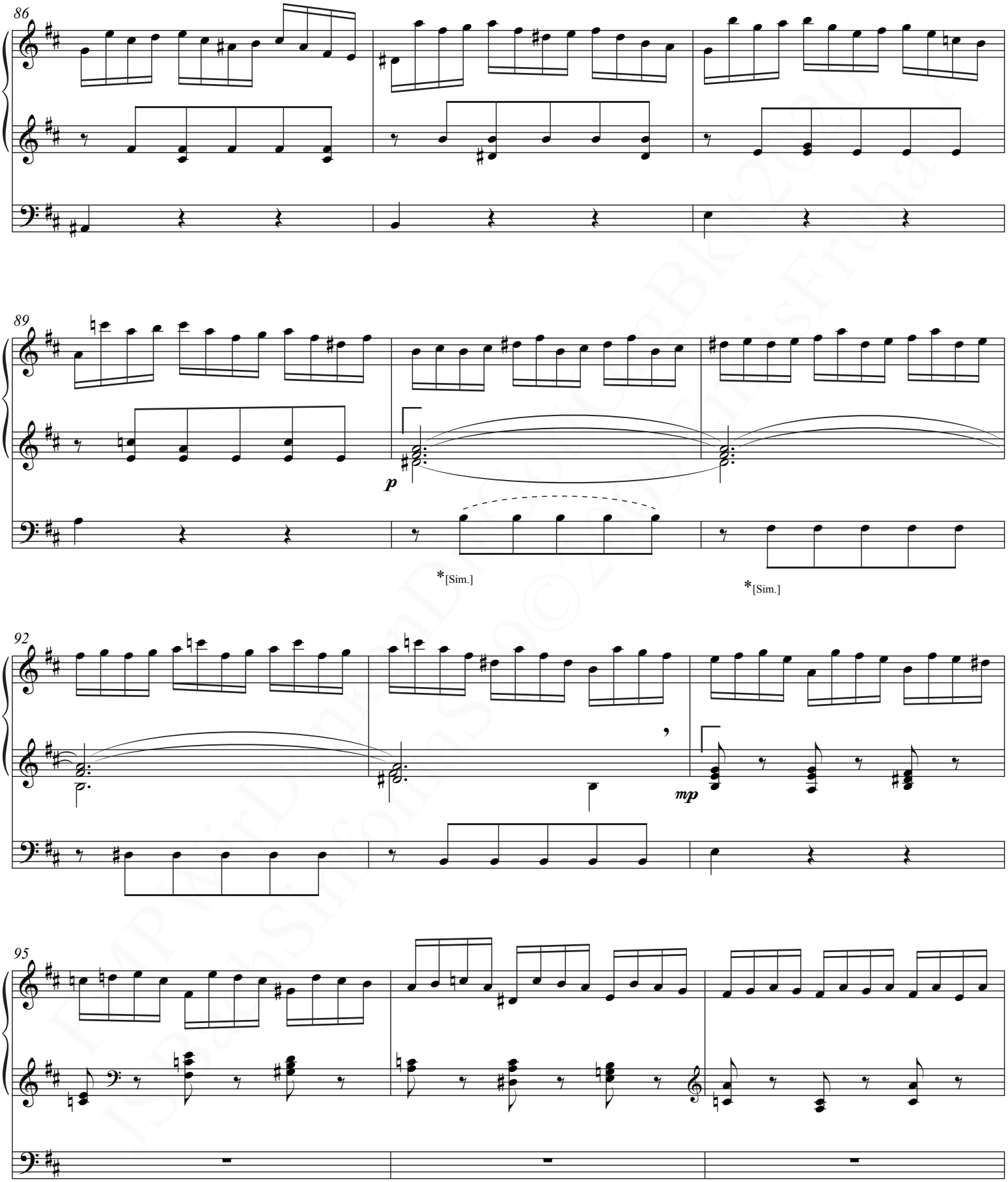
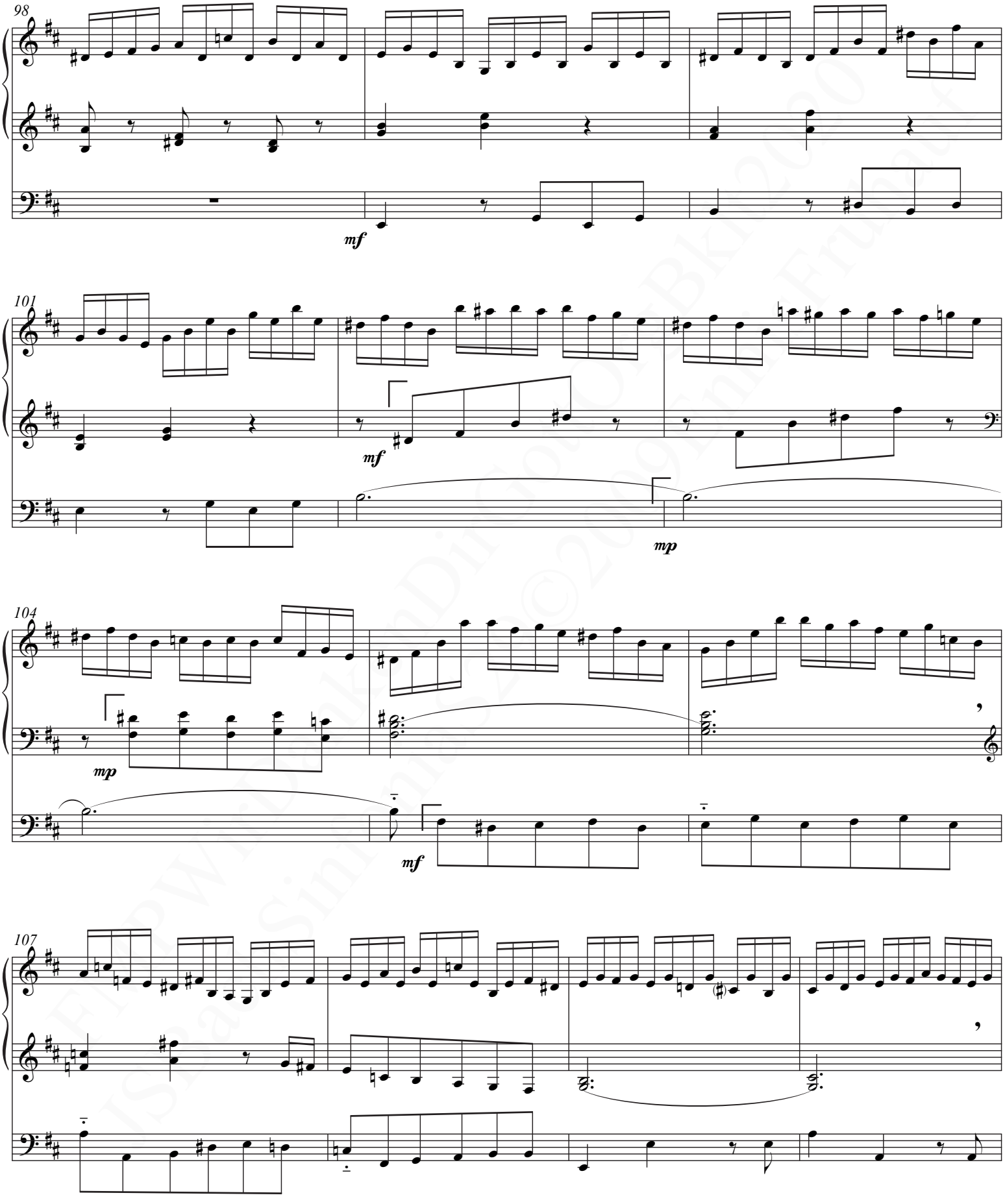
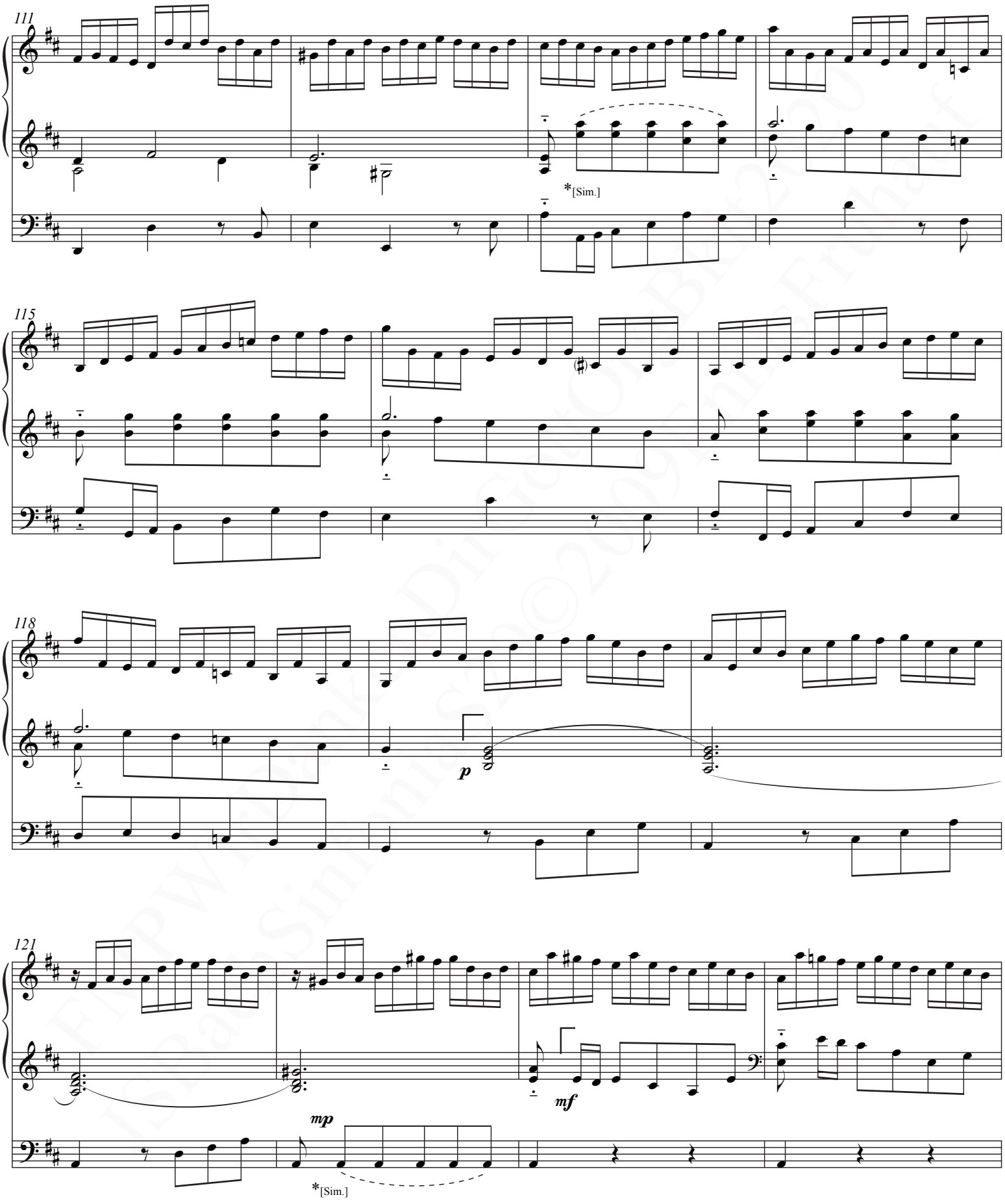



86
89
p
*[Sim.]
*[Sim.]
92
mp
95

J. S. Bach ~ Sinfonia from Cantata S. 29




111
*[Sim.]
115
118
p
121
mf
mp
*[Sim.]

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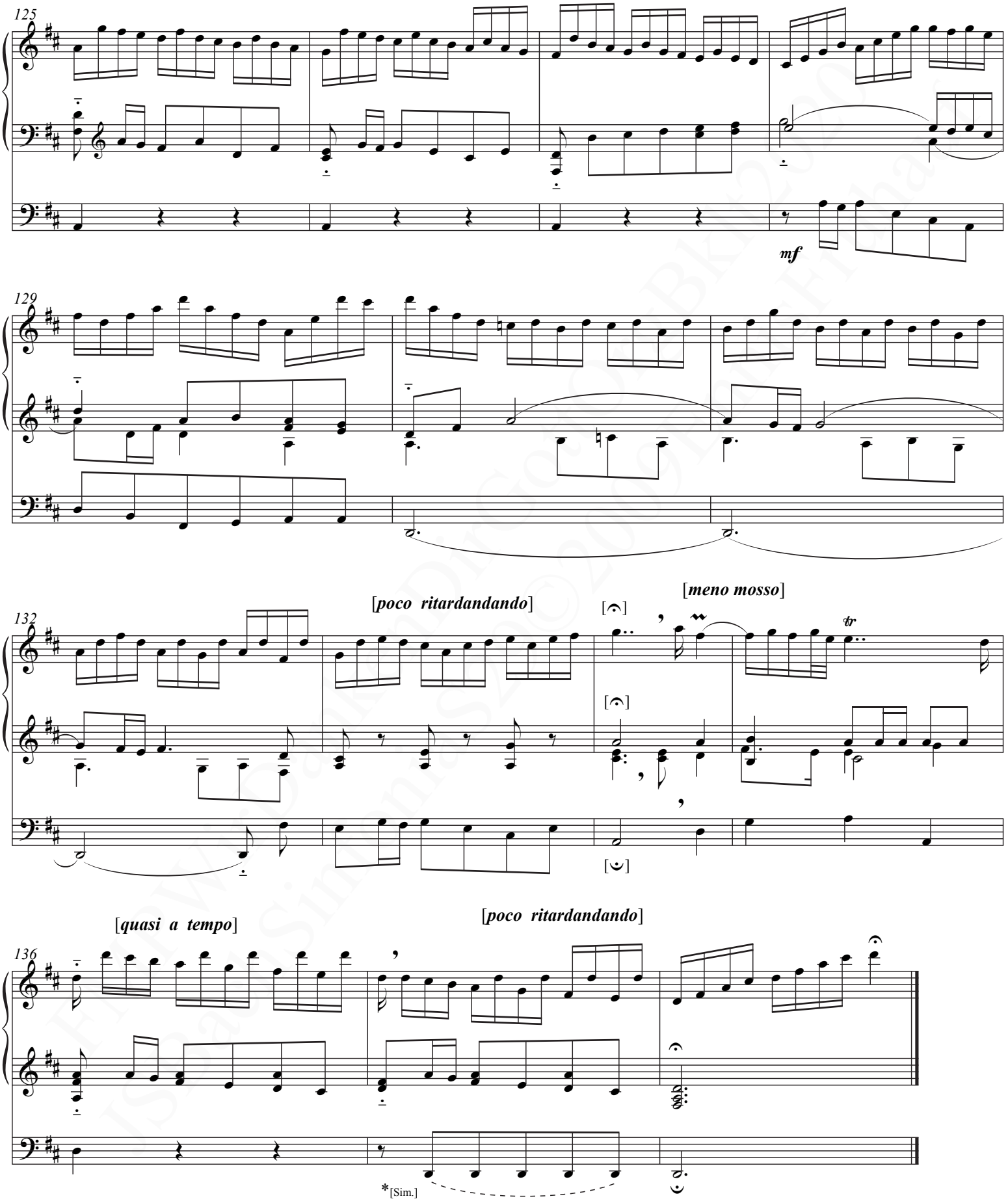

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