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Were You There?

African-American Spiritual

for Organ

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Robert M. Thompson

Robert M. Thompson

Dr. Thompson holds a doctoral degree from the University of Michigan and has been active as a College teacher, concert organist, harpsichordist, percussionist, conductor, television producer, recording artist and editor of *Versuch in figurirten Chorälen*, an 18th century set of 21 chorale preludes for organ by F. W. Marpurg, published as Twenty-one Marpurg Chorales, Augsburg Press. As a Fulbright Scholar, he studied organ with the famed Helmut Walcha, focusing on the major organ works of J. S. Bach. As a Walcha pupil in his early 20's, Thompson was invited to play concerts in several cities around Germany and recorded an entire program for Radio Bremen. Later he gave additional concerts in Europe, the U. S and has appeared on radio and television. From 1969-1985 Thompson served on the music faculty of St. Olaf College as College Organist and Professor of organ, harpsichord and classical percussion. He pioneered beginning class organ for pianists. Shortly before leaving St. Olaf for San Diego, he established the St. Olaf hand bell program. For twenty years he served as Director of Music and Concerts (organ and choir) at All Soul's Episcopal Church, San Diego, retiring in 2005 as Choirmaster/Organist Emeritus and moved to Oregon. He now lives in Corvallis where he was organist at First Presbyterian Church for almost seven years and now is the head organist at First Church of Christ Scientist in Corvallis. He also performs regularly as a freelance organist, harpsichordist, pianist and percussionist. Most recently Thompson devoted a great deal of time to his website, research, composing, transcribing and editing music.

Thompson's website, *organmixtures.com*, is not just for organists, but has much historical information and is full of humor and little-known facts concerning a wide range of musical subjects from The *Etude* Journals, 1911-1939.

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Paraclete Press sheet music is available from www.paracletesheetmusic.com

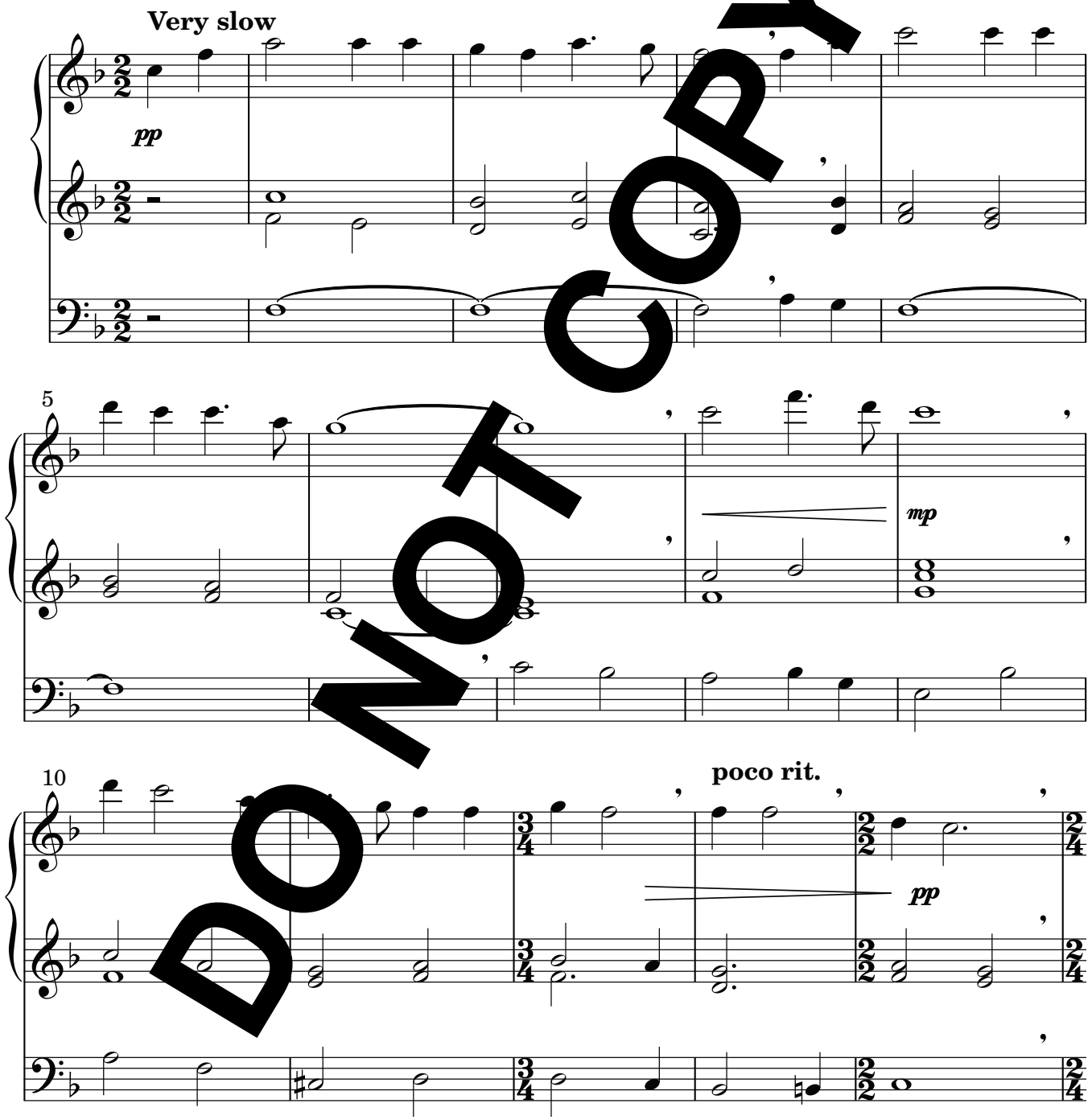
Dedicated to my beloved identical twin, William Worthington Thompson, choirmaster/organist

* Were You There?

African-American Spiritual

** I. Flute 8', trem.
II. Viole 8'
III. Ped. 16' & 8' only

arr. Robert M. Thompson



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* Depending upon the worship context, Good Friday, for example, the *forte* ending variation may be played quietly.
** The upper staff may be played an octave lower with either a 4' or an 8' stop.

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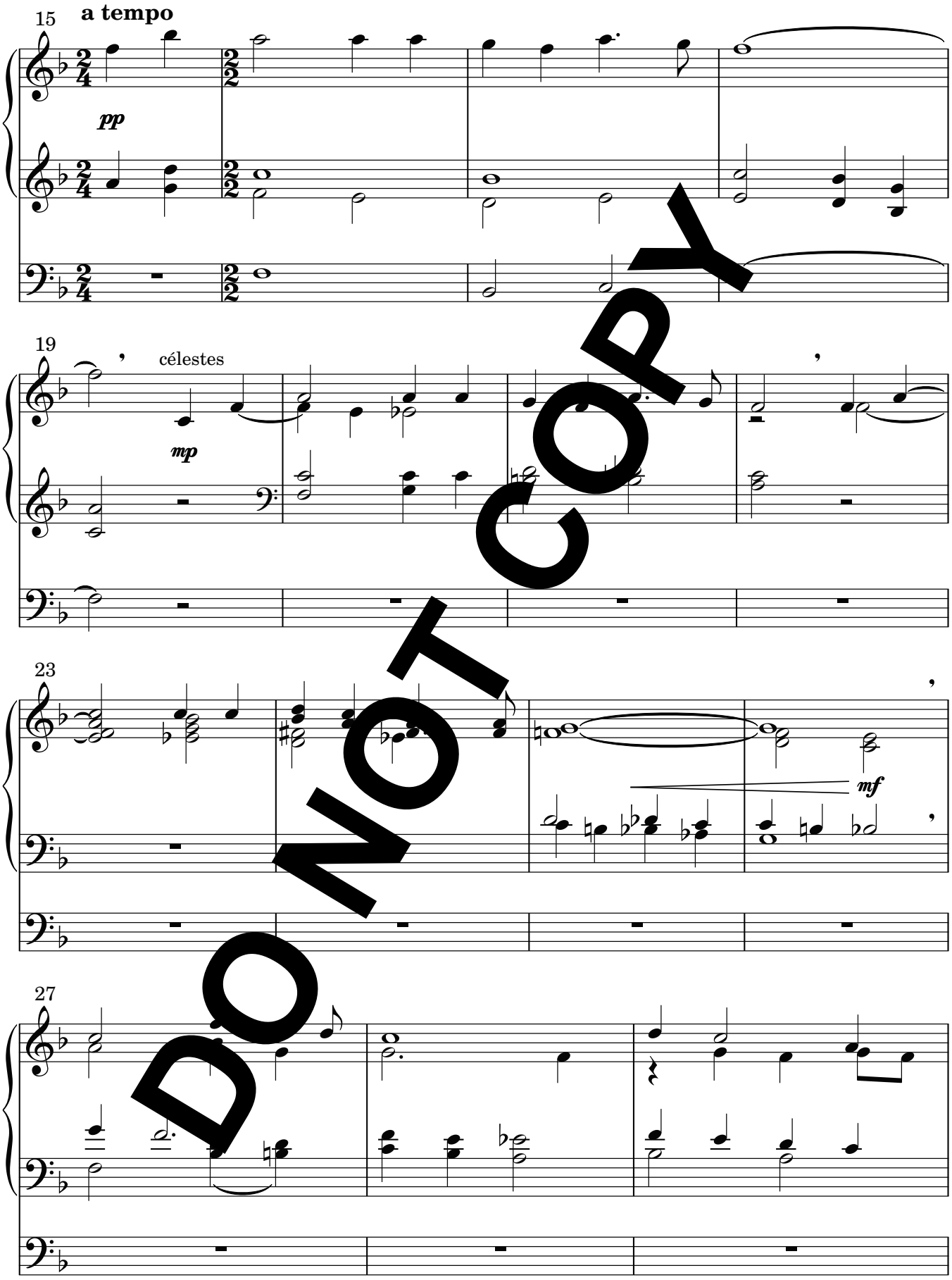

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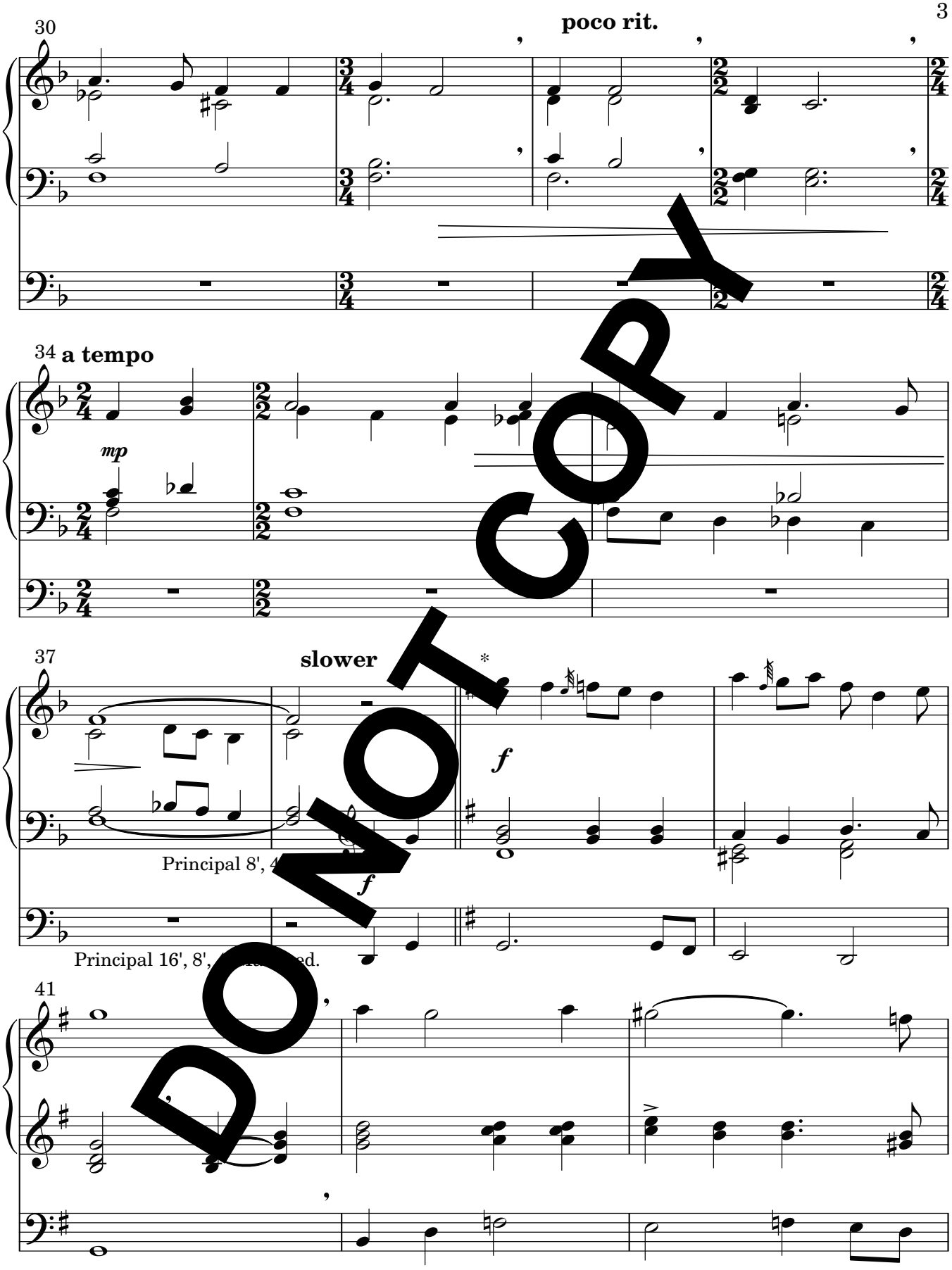

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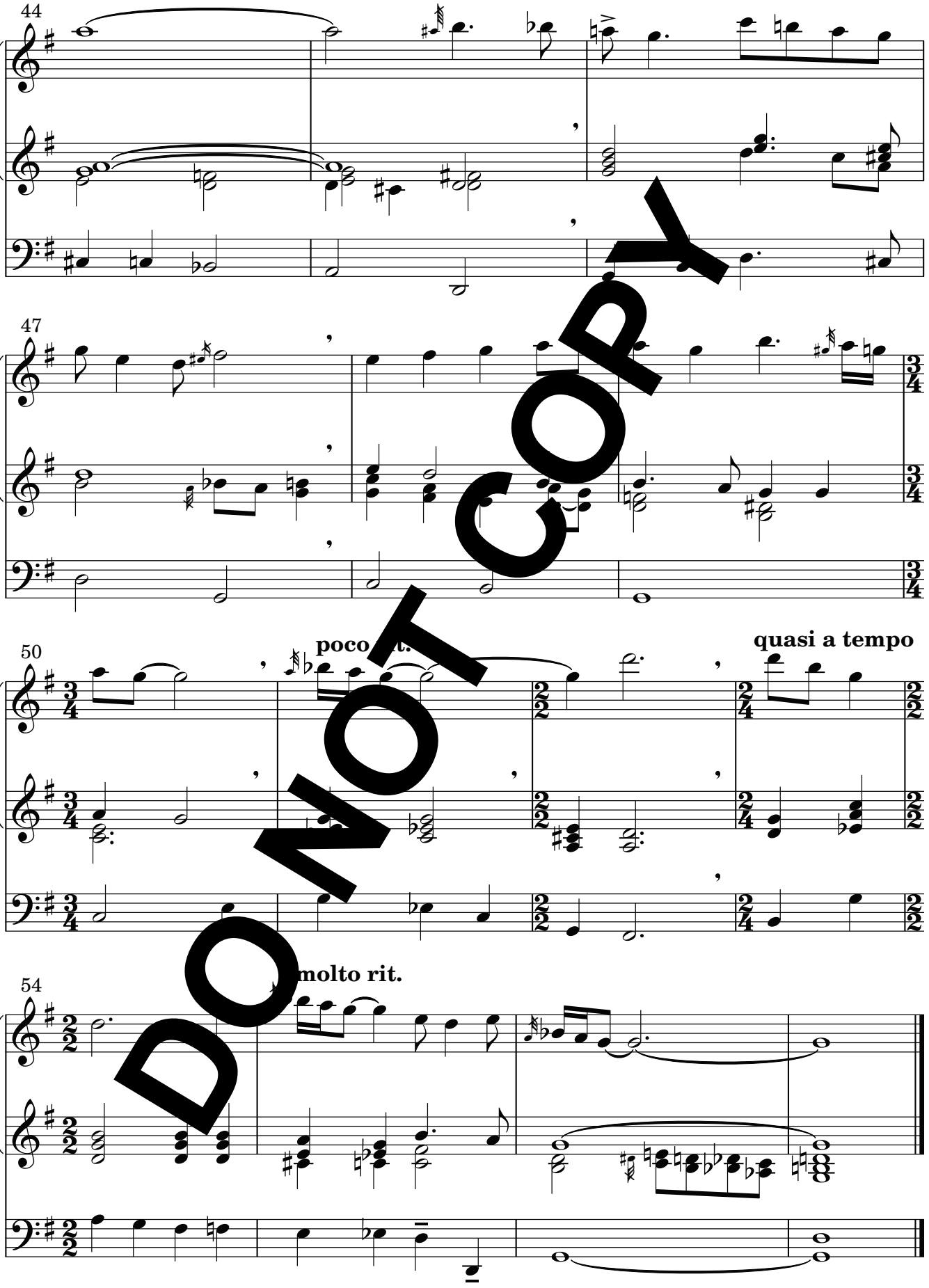
* From here to the end, this counter melody may be played with a strong reed or cornet, but not as to obfuscate the main theme in the left hand. It may also be played by a trumpet, clarinet, oboe, saxophone or sung on "ah".



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