Samuel Prescott's Ride

by

Matthew Prins

From the Top Music
Albuquerque, NM
www.FromTheTopMusic.com

Samuel Prescott

Americans learn in elementary school about Paul Revere's ride on the eve of the American revolution: one lantern if by land, two if by sea. Revere riding alone in the dead of night through the New England countryside. The cry of *The British are coming! The British are coming!* The story makes a good narrative, but it's a mix of fiction and fact, mythologized primarily by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's 1860 poem.

Revere's mission -- to get to Lexington and Concord to warn the American militia of the British army's movements -- depended on secrecy. So rather than yelling *The British are coming,* Revere went door-to-door to quietly alert known patriots. And perhaps most importantly, Revere didn't go on this mission alone.

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Leaving at the same time as Revere, the little-known William Dawes rode separately to Lexington to give other patriots the news. And in Lexington, the two met up and picked up a third rider: Samuel Prescott, a doctor on his way home from visiting his fiancée.

The three continued on to Concord, but before they got there, they were detained by British troops at a roadblock. Revere was held for questioning while Dawes and Prescott escaped. Dawes soon fell off his horse, but Prescott jumped his horse over a wall, escaped into the woods, and was the only of the three riders who made it to Concord to warn the patriots there.

Revere was the patriot fortunate enough to be read about by schoolchildren everywhere, but let us not forget William Dawes and this song's namesake, Samuel Prescott, equally as important to America's independence.

Matthew Prins has captured the essence of this event: the urgency, the excitement of the the pounding hooves and the ultimate success of ***Samuel Prescott*** -- an unheralded hero!

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Samuel Prescott's Ride

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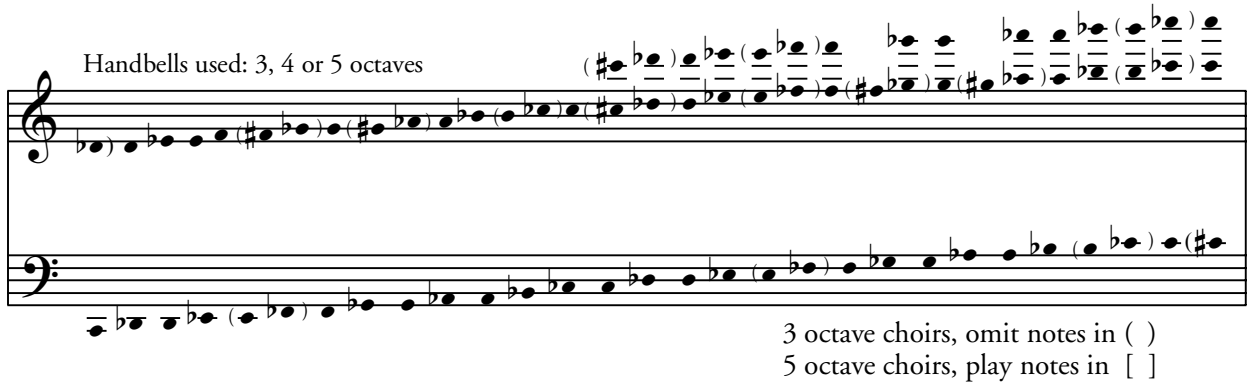

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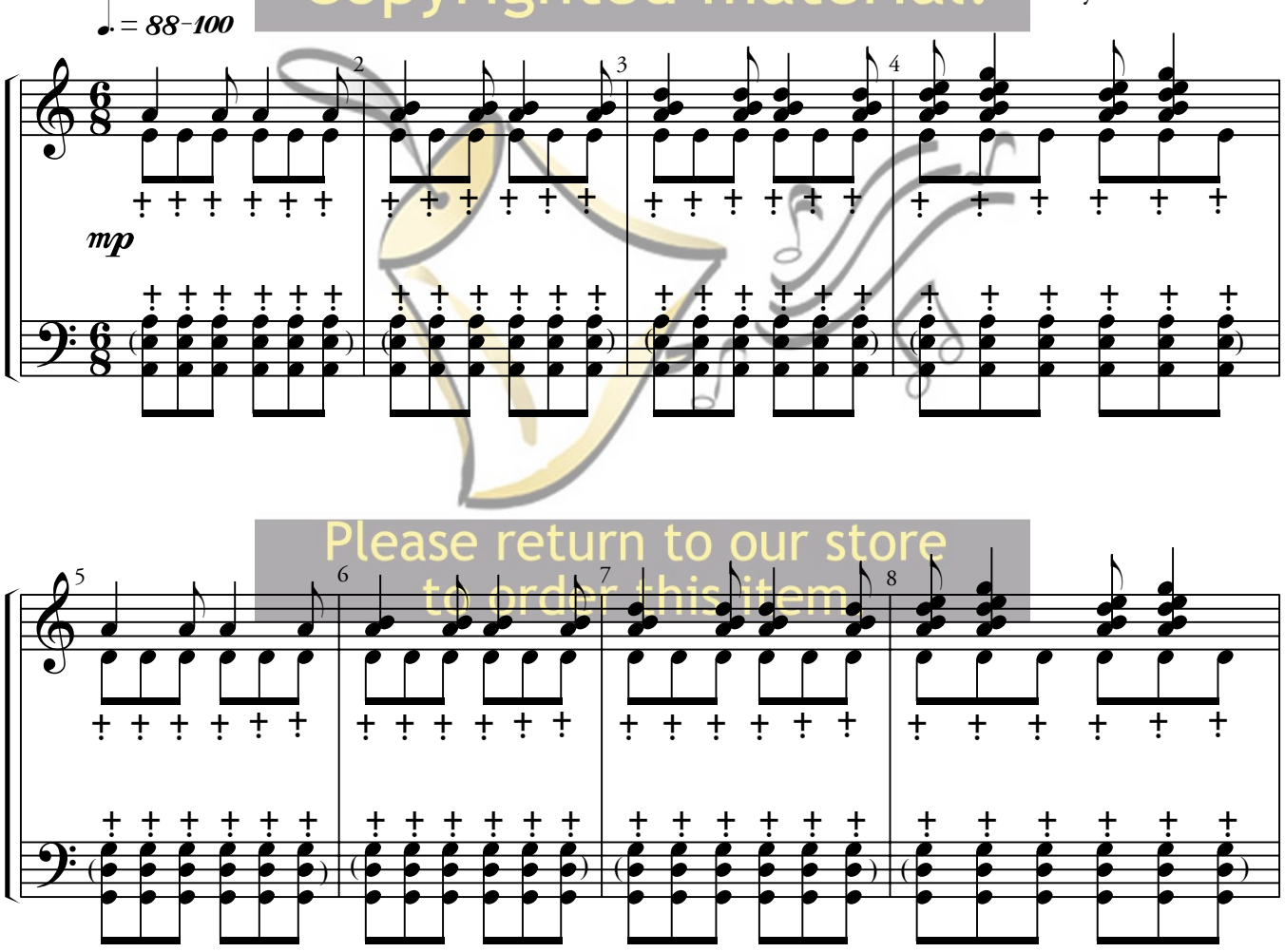

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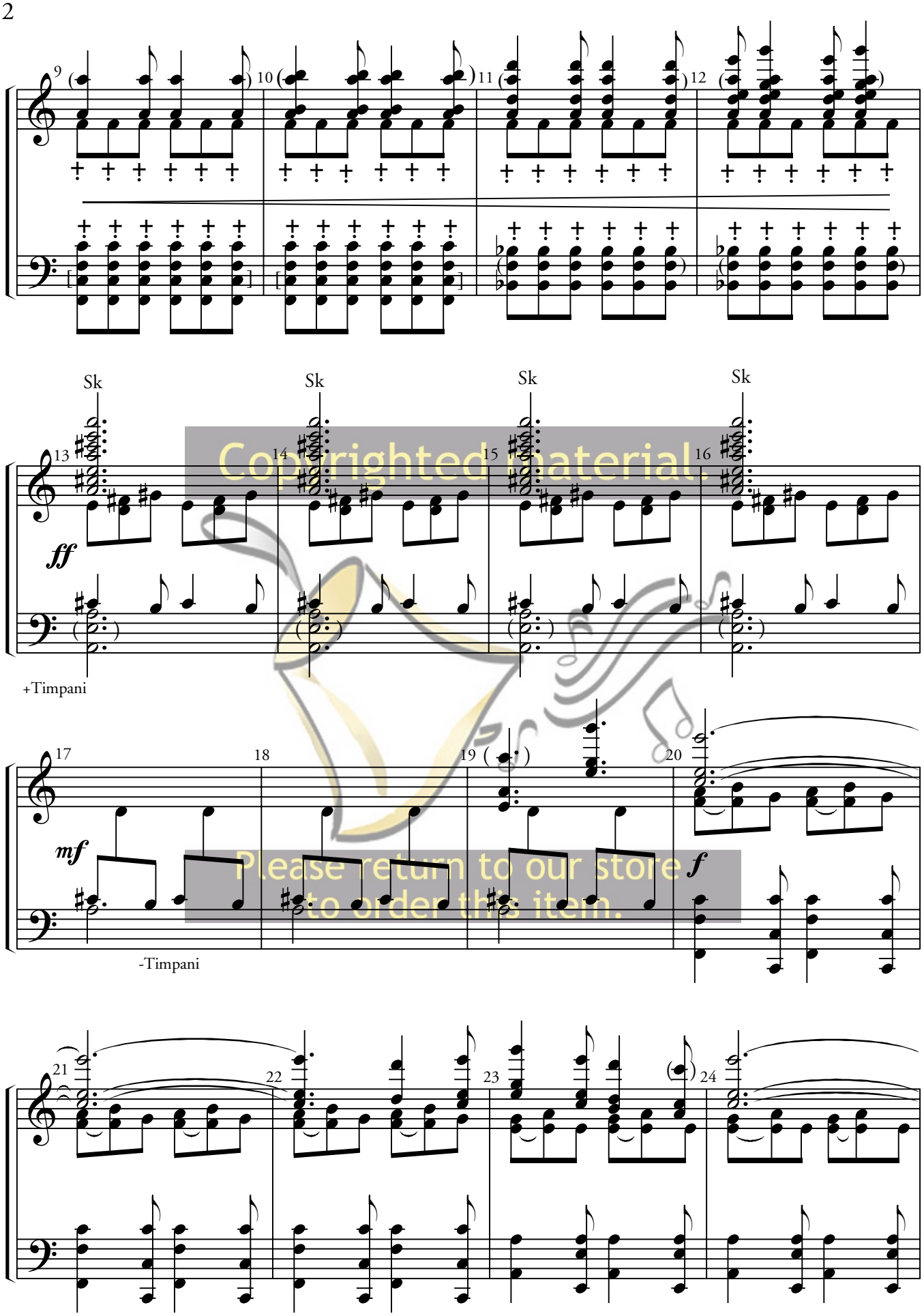

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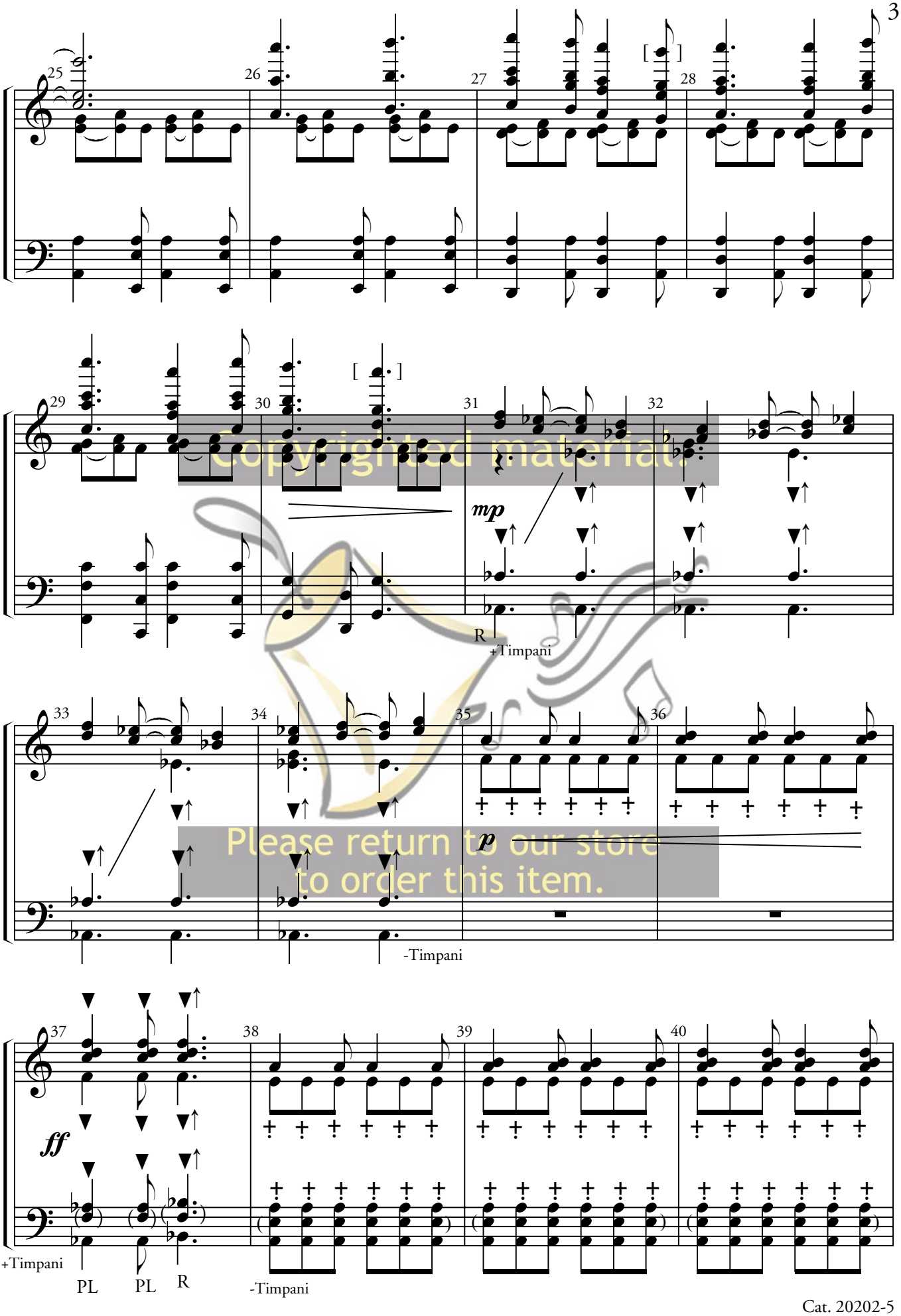

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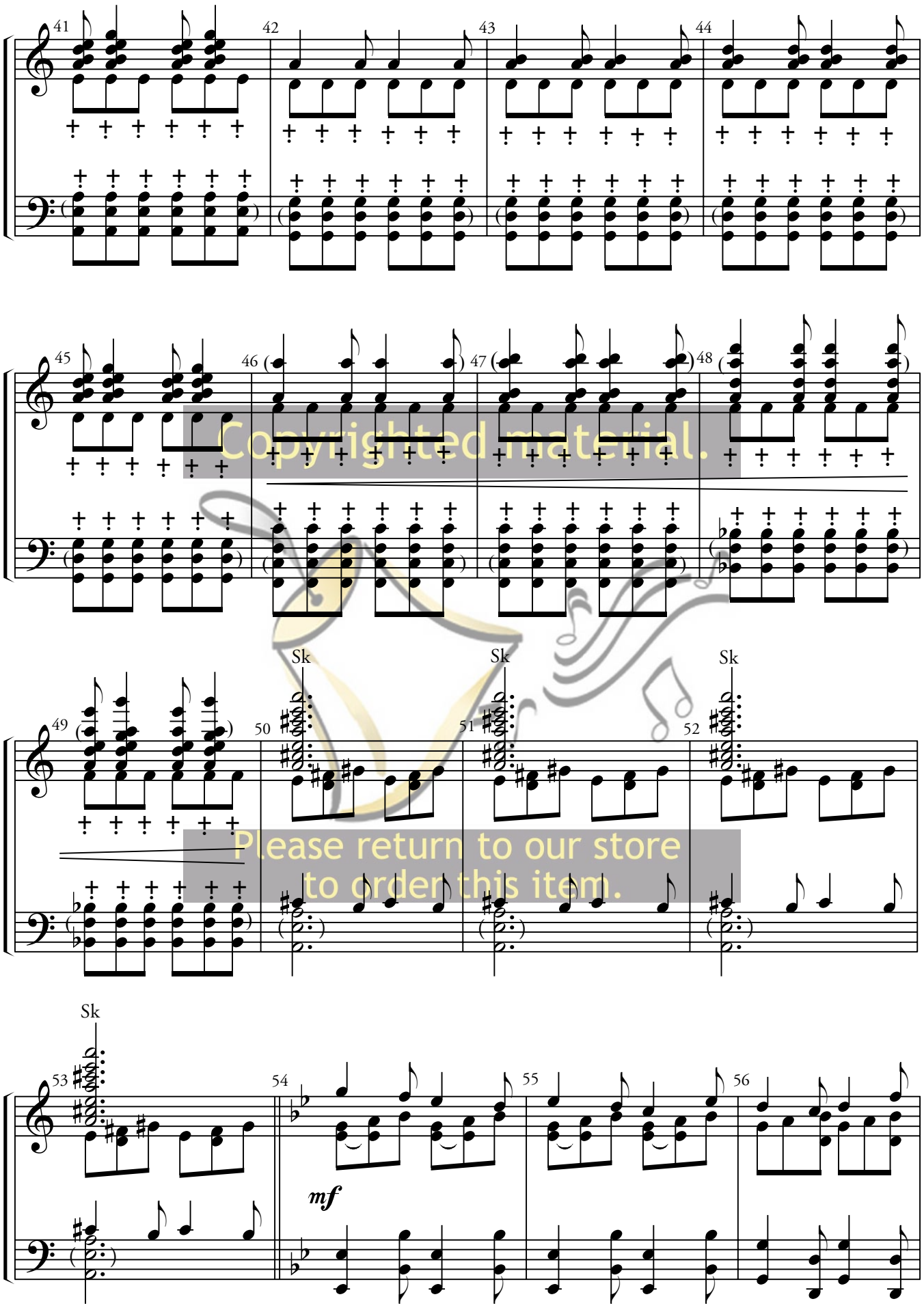

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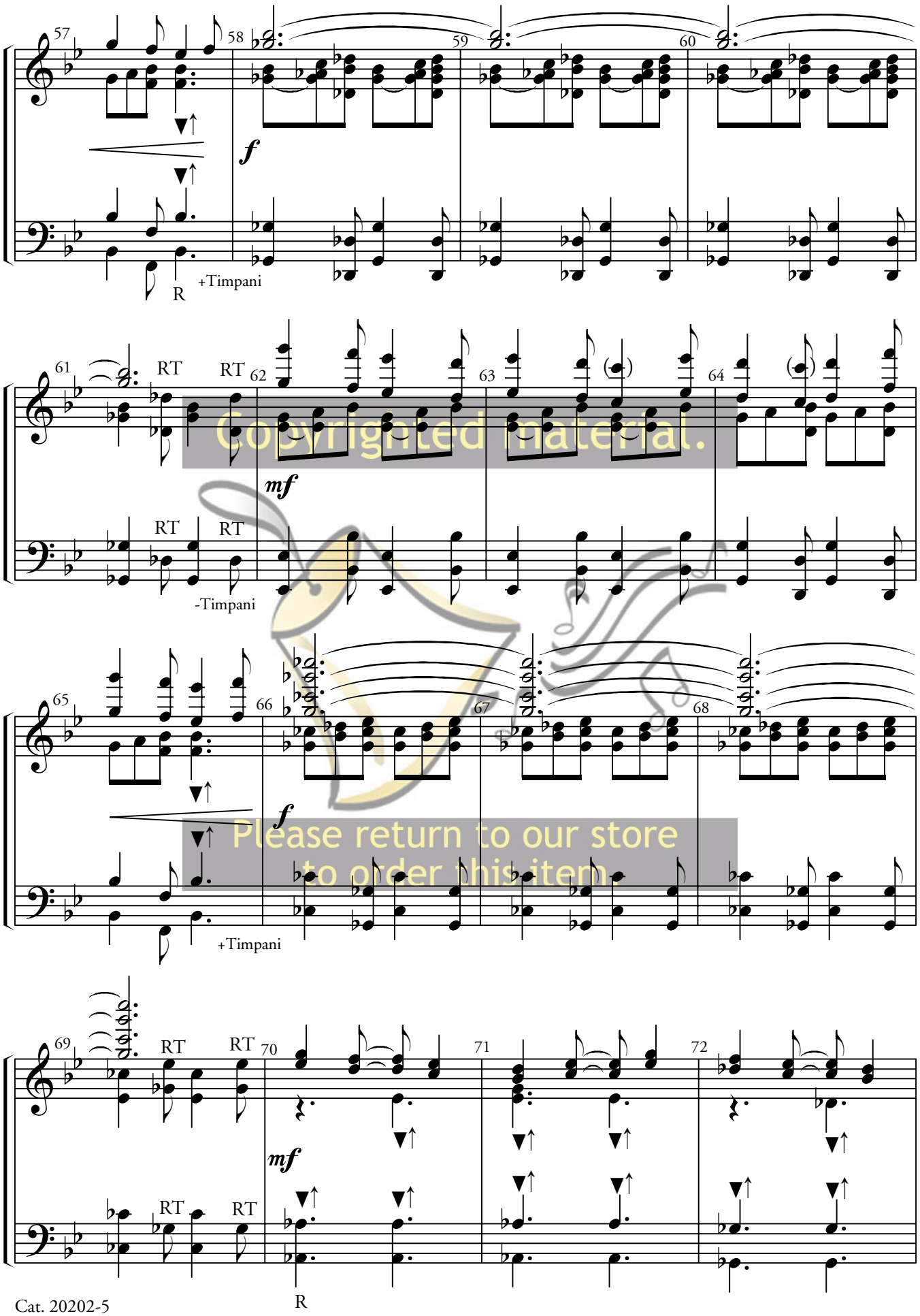

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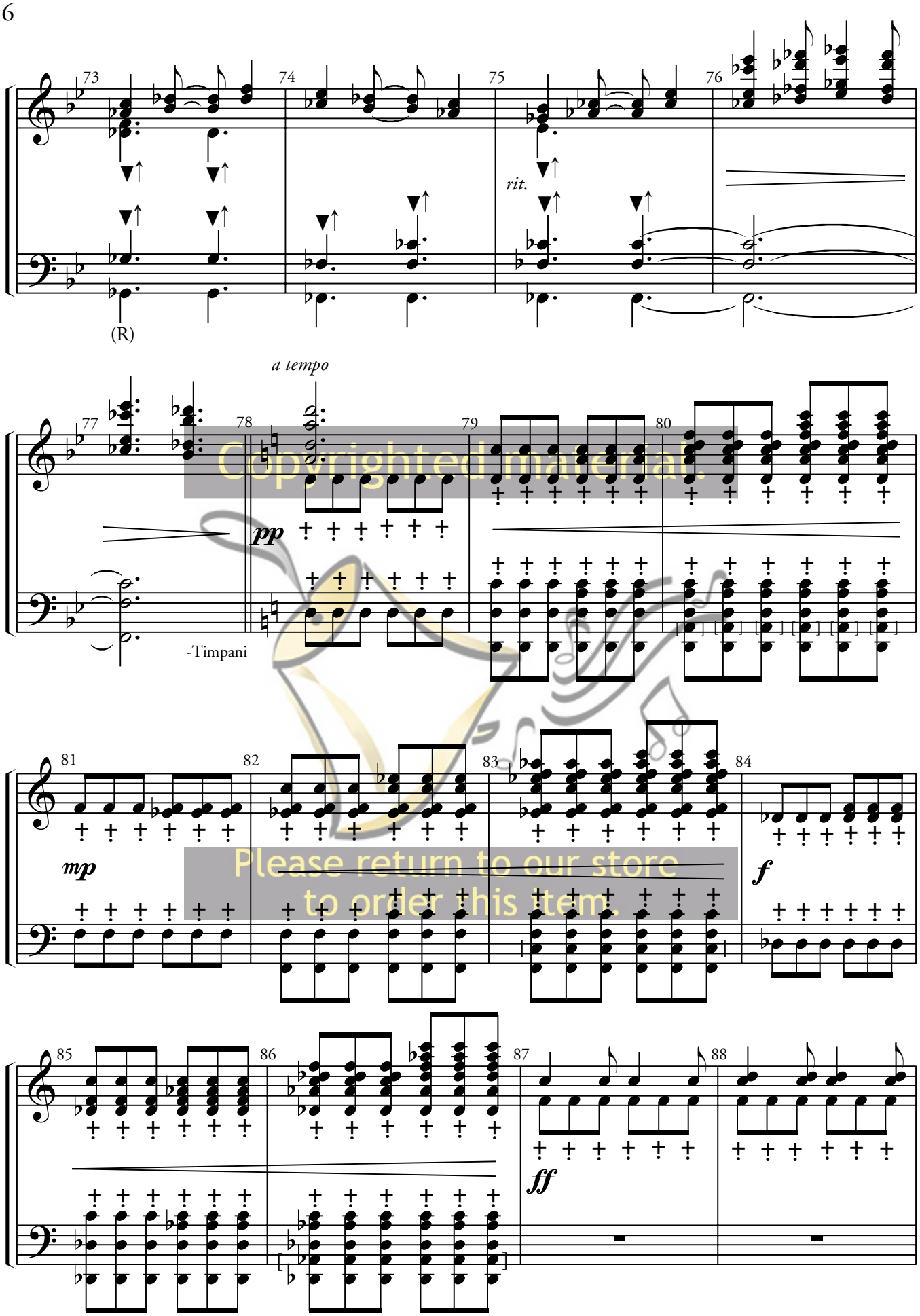

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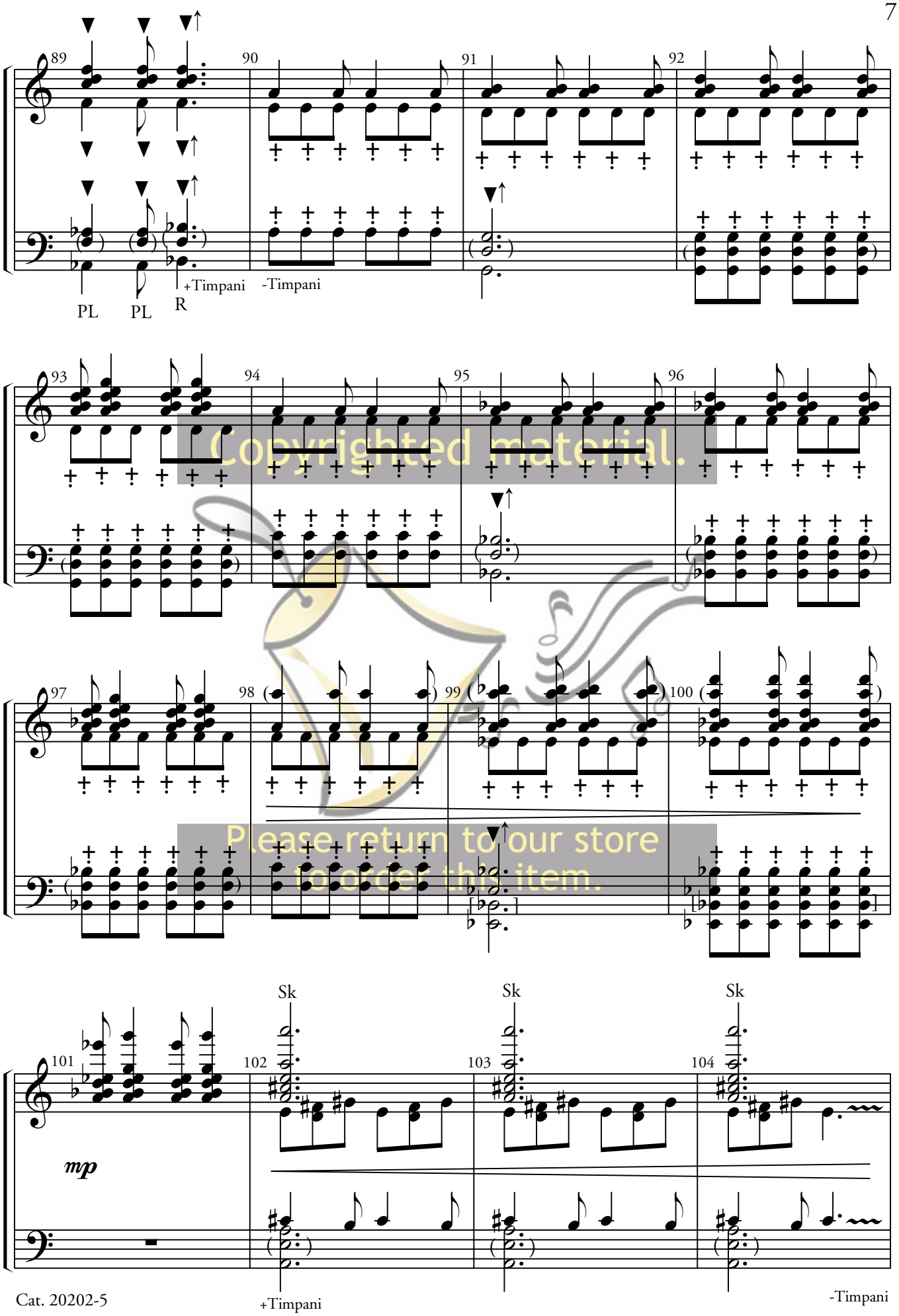

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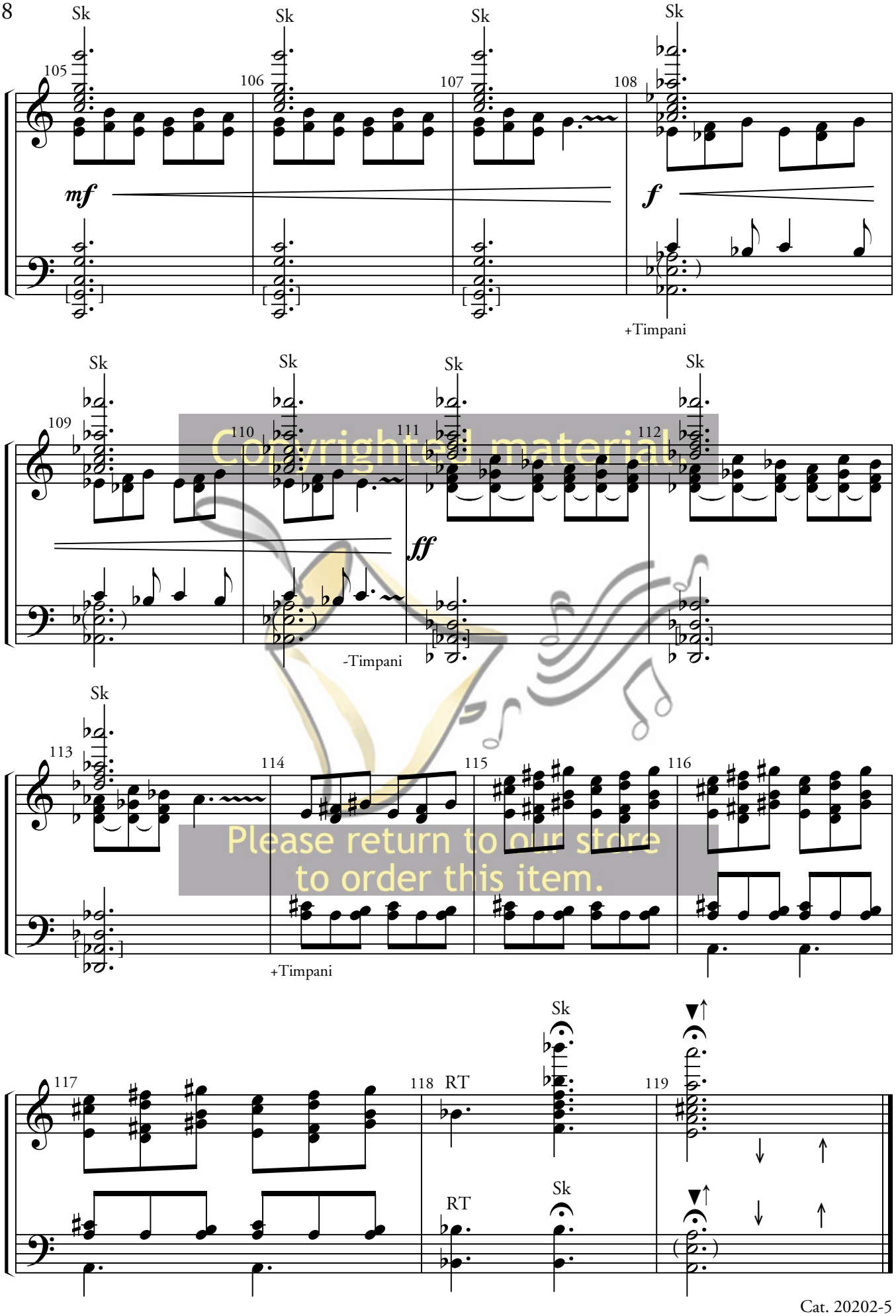

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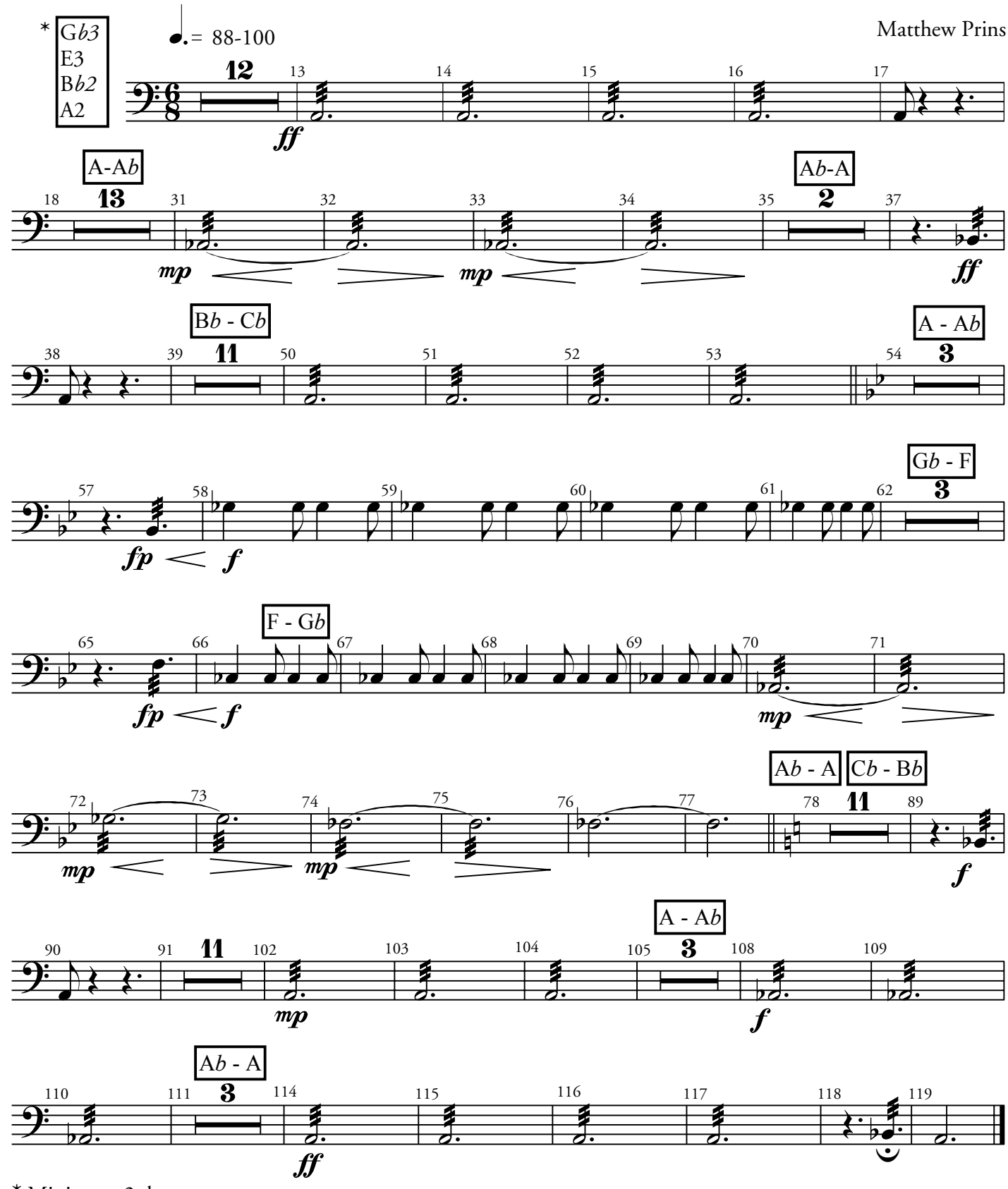

* Minimum 2 drums:
Ab2 - Gb3

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