TIMOTHY ROGERS

Exultate

for organ

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Exultate
for organ

PROGRAMME NOTE

This recital piece was first performed (in its original version) by Jonathan Rees-Williams (formerly Organist of Lichfield Cathedral and St George's Chapel, Windsor) at St Mark's Church, Sheffield, as part of the 1984 Broomhill Festival. He described the composition as 'breezy, vivacious and full of life.'

Other distinguished organists have also played the work. Kevin Bowyer (currently Organist to the University of Glasgow) gave the London première in 1985 and Dr Francis Jackson CBE (formerly Organist of York Minster) performed the piece at a recital in York Minster during the 1986 Northern Cathedrals Festival. Kevin Bowyer also broadcast the composition as a closing voluntary on BBC Radio 4's Morning Service in January 1994. In addition, Exultate was used by one of the younger generation organists, Julia Rikkonen, in a masterclass with Jan Lehtola at the first overseas Annual Festival of New Organ Music, Organo Novo, which was held in Helsinki in 2007.

The composition was revised and extended in the autumn 2014.

Written in three main sections (A, B and C), the structural outline is as follows:

A; B; C; B (development); C; B; and A (with added material).

The work opens with a powerful statement on the pedals, which acts as the primary source of thematic material. Sections A and B are both lively with syncopated, dance-like rhythms always driving the music forwards. In contrast, section C is gentle and relaxed. It is first heard on the solo flute and later on the oboe in a quiet dynamic. Exultate concludes with a powerful restatement of the first section, together with newly developed ideas, all ending with a sudden loud chord.

There is no actual programmatic thinking behind this work. Essentially, the key to it lies in the title and my intention was to create a modern piece containing a feeling of jubilance. At the same time, I have tried to introduce a mix of different colours, figurations, complex harmonies and full chords, so that the music has strong contrasts and variety.

Duration: 6 minutes

Exultate

TIMOTHY ROGERS (b. 1961)

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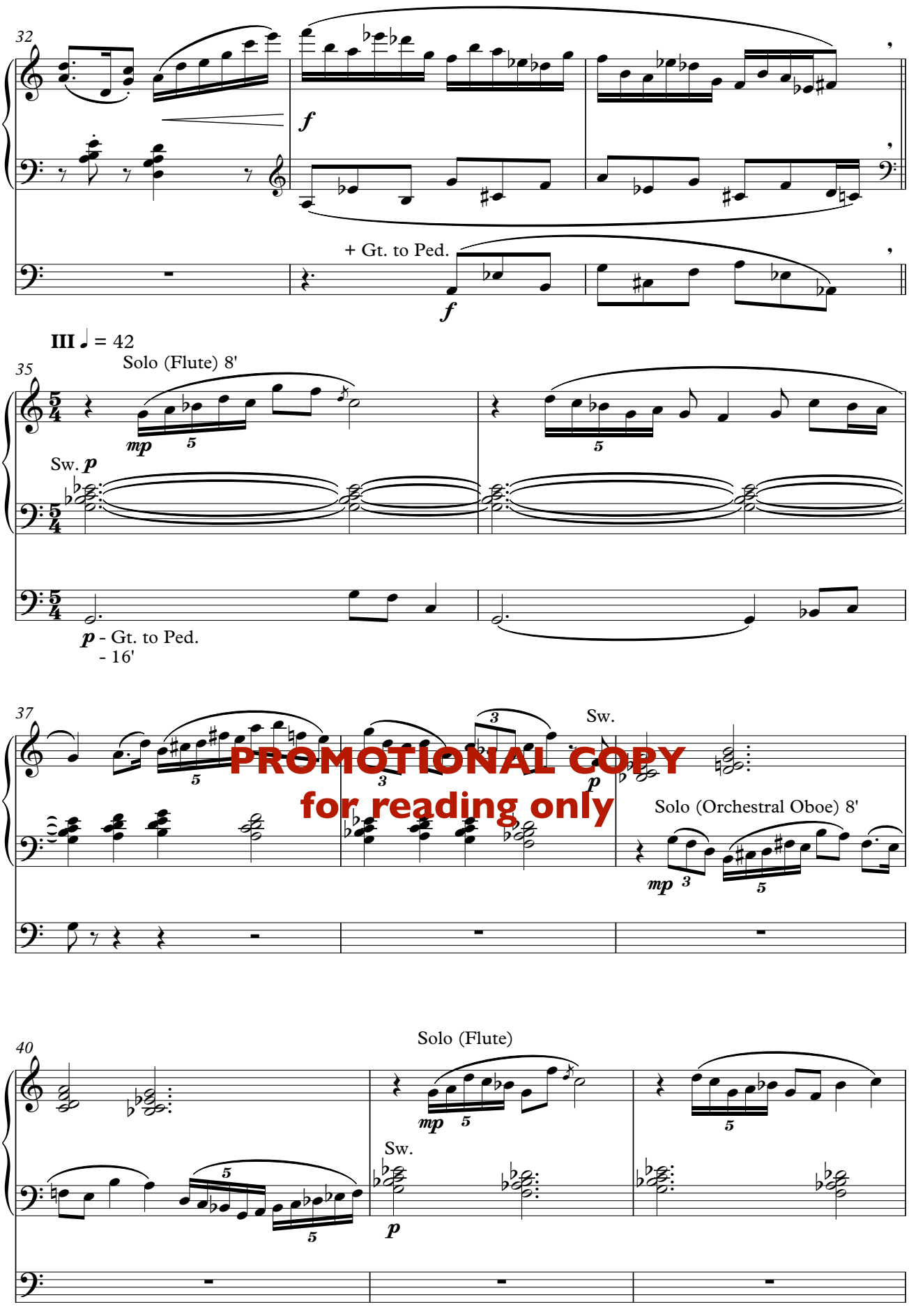

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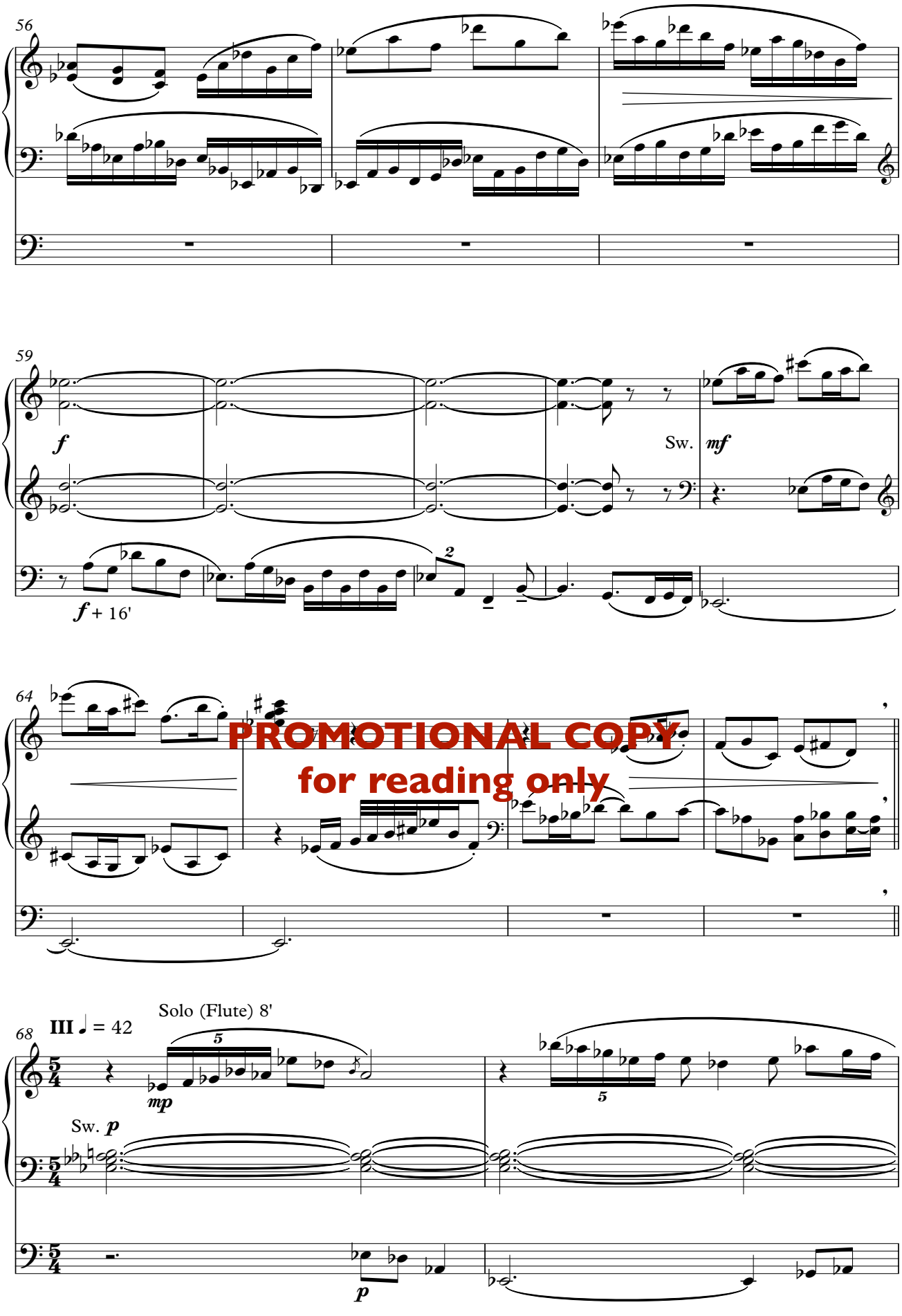

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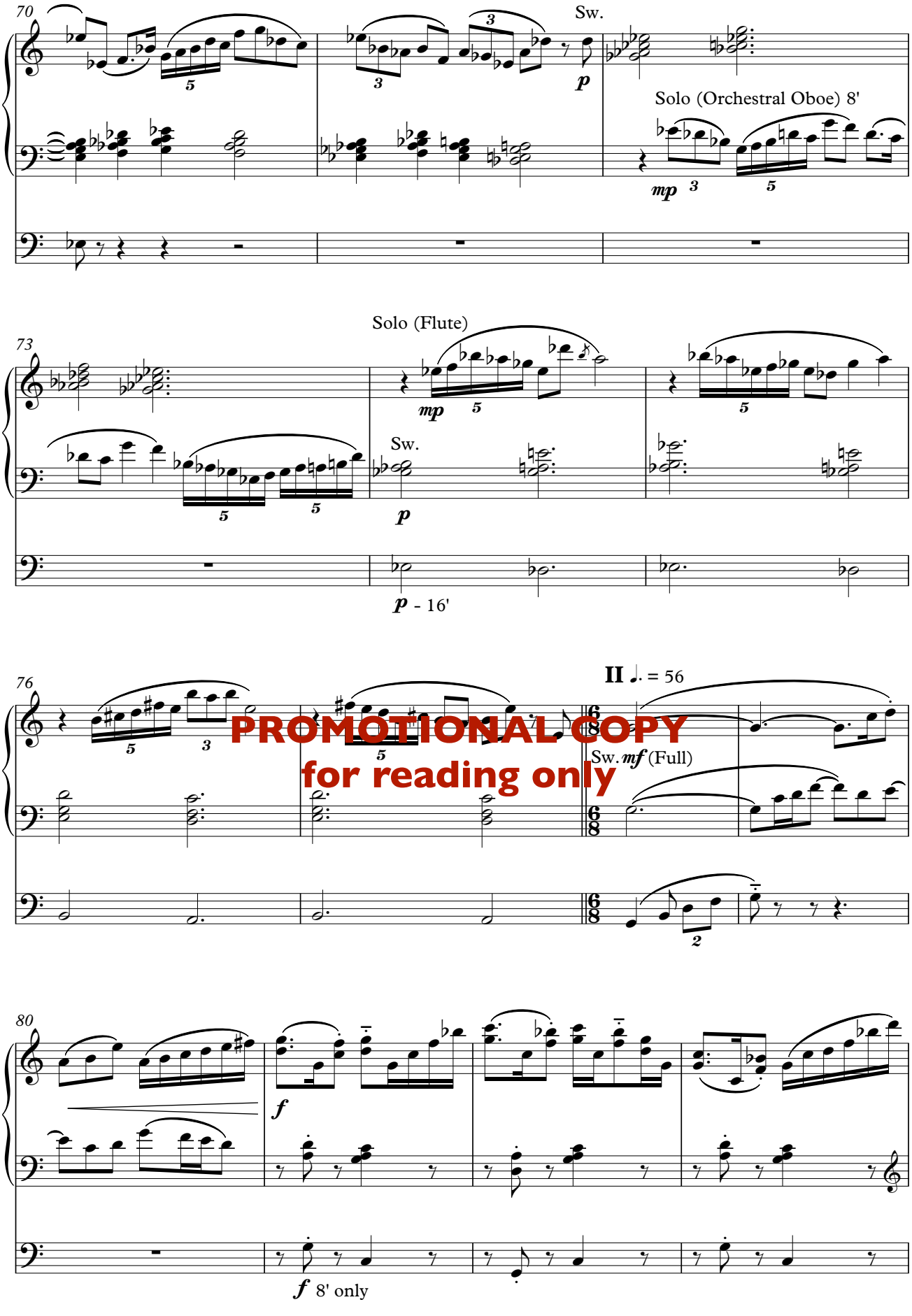

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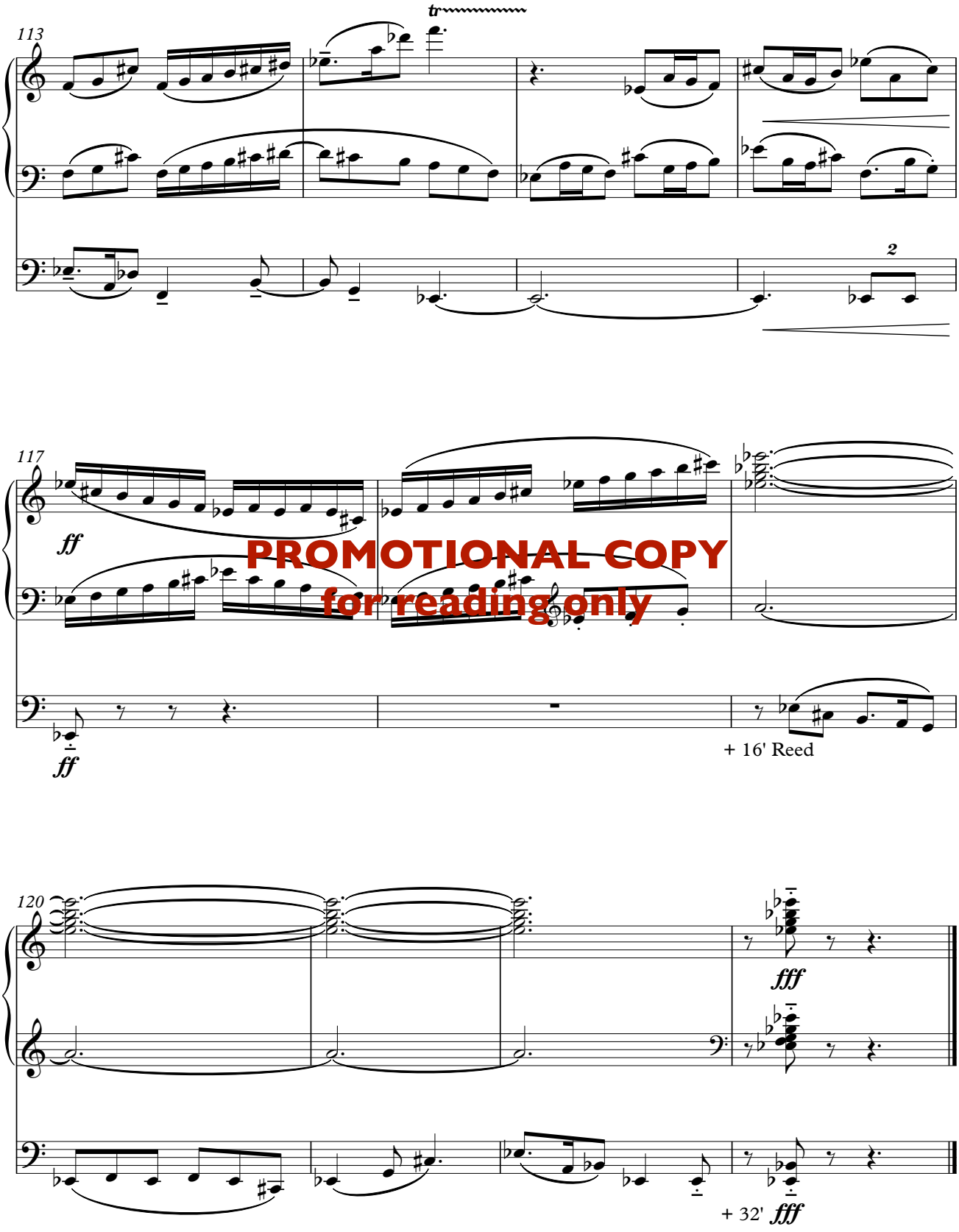

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