Euphonos

Εὔφωνος

for Unaccompanied
Euphonium

SAMPLE SCORE

Zoe Gougousidis
Ζωή Γκουγκουσίδης

SAMPLE SCORE

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Euphonos is a piece for unaccompanied euphonium, composed by Zoe Gougousidis in 2023.
It was premiered by Zoe Gougousidis on the 27th of May 2023, in the Verbrugghen Hall
at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.
This work was additionally workshopped by Josh Clark on the 12th of May 2023, who's
input was beneficial in the development of this piece.

Duration: c. 6 minutes 15 seconds.

This work is based on three traditional Greek dances - the Tsamiko, Hasapiko and Kalamatianós.
The title of the piece is an ancient Greek word that means 'sweet voiced' or 'beautiful sounding', and is the origin of the word 'euphonium'. Each section of the work is reflective of the dance that it is based on, taking inspiration from the different musical and stylistic characteristics.

I composed this work to honour both my Greek heritage, as well as my love of the euphonium.
This piece is dedicated to my family.

The cover of this piece contains four matia, or evil eyes. The evil eye curse in Greek culture can be put on someone through negative emotions (like anger, jealousy, envy or hostility) via a bitter or negative glance. The blue eye mati symbol can protect against the curse - these are used on the cover of the score to protect the performer against the evil eye when performing.

I. Tsamiko (Τσάμικος)

The Tsamiko is a dance that was historically used to prepare for war, or celebrate after battle. It is often associated with the Klephts, who were fighters in the war of independence. It is characterised as dignified and aggressive, often incorporating leaps and acrobatic feats. The dance is not fast, and is in a 3/4 time signature - with beats split into one long step and one short step. In this work, the melody incorporates leaps up and down to replicate the acrobatic leaps of the dancer, and predominantly follows the 'long beat, short beat' style of this dance.

II. Hasapiko (Χασάπικο)

The Hasapiko translates to 'the butcher's (dance)' and originated in the Middle Ages from a battle mime performed by the butcher's guild. This dance is characterised by slow, cat like movement, with the tense and sharp body movement. The slower rendition (Heavy Hasapiko) is usually in 4/4, and the faster iteration (Hasaposerviko) can be in 2/4. This dance will sometimes incorporate both tempos, with an accelerando to transition between - this is seen in the modern version of the dance, the Sirtaki, which was created in the 1960s for the movie *Zorba the Greek*.

Inspiration is taken from this group of related dances, by incorporating heavy ornamentation in the melody (trills, grace notes, etc.), which creates a similar character, as well as the transition from slow to fast tempo often seen in the Sirtaki, with the classic bass movement of I I V I.

III. Kalamatianós (Καλαματιανός)

This dance is a festive, carefree and joyous dance by nature, and is performed in 12 steps over 4 bars. It utilises both backward and forward steps, and can incorporate squats and jumps. Sometimes the leader of the dance will join the chain of dancers by a handkerchief, rather than the usual handhold, to allow more freedom to perform leaps and acrobatics. The music in this section of the piece is the fastest and most joyous, using a major key and incorporating running lines and high registers. This dance uses a 7/8 time signature, split into one long beat and two short beats, which is also used in this solo.
For the slides/scoops used in this section, the performer should quickly move their fingers from third valve to second to first, before playing the note that the scoop is attached to.

The work also incorporates sections not based on a dance, which instead focus on establishing the harmonic language and general style used throughout the whole work.

SAMPLE SCORE

C Bass Clef

Euphonos

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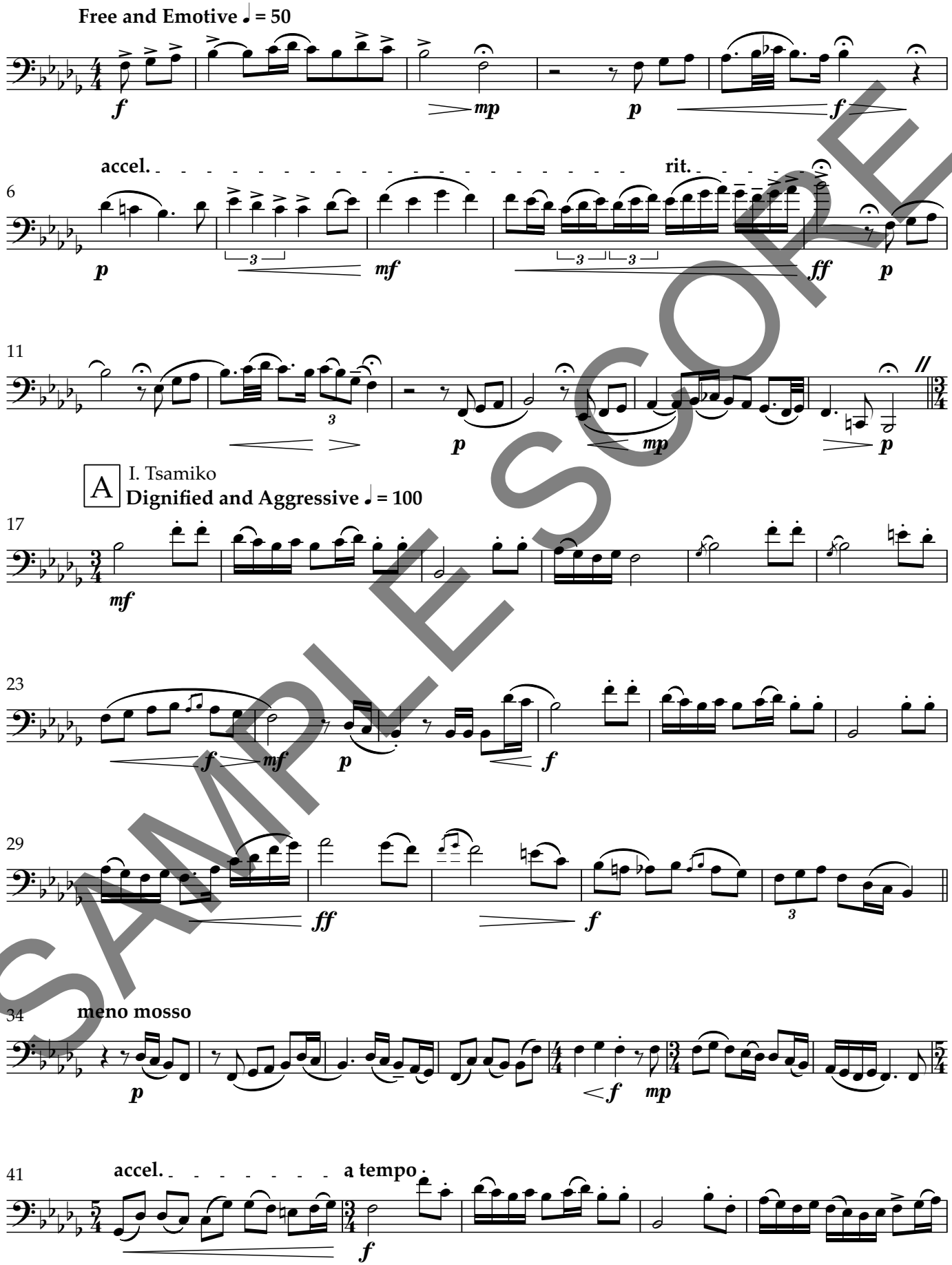

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Bb Treble Clef

Euphonos

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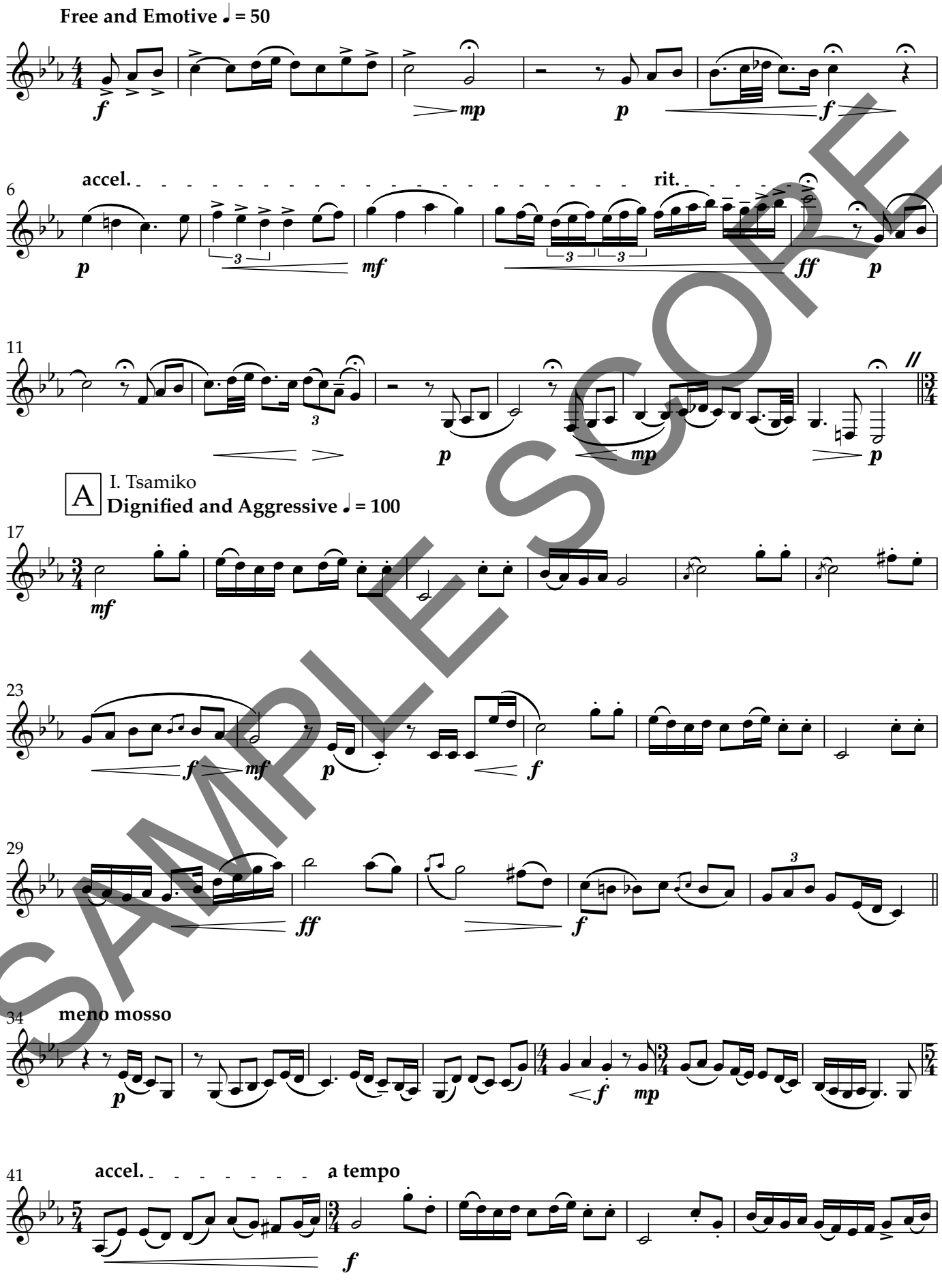

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