35'

IAN McQUEEN
1986

DREAMS FOR MARCIE

Preview File Only

STRING QUARTET AND MEZZO-SOPRANO

DREAMS FOR MARCIE

This work was commissioned by the Roth Quartet and first performed by them with Catherine Denley (mezzo-soprano) at Leigh College on May 18th 1986.

The work may be given in concert performance, or staged as music-theatre. The text has been compiled and written after research into journalistic and other sources.

I. McQueen. Leigh March 1986

I
PRELUDE

(Marcie is asleep. She has a nightmare vision of the recurrent "White Night" ritual of mock suicide enacted by People's Temple at Jim Jones' behest. Could it be for real this time .... ?)

A soft mid-western American accent may be assumed by the singer and the quartet when speaking.

vlns: ALERT ! ALERT ! ALERT !

1 plyr (whisper) WHITE NIGHT .....

1 plyr (Reassuring advert-speak): Like taking hemlock in ancient Greece ...

1 plyr ... others gradually joining in: Where's the vat with the green
Cs... ?

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II
ARIADNE

Marcie (suddenly awake): Preacher what's in your smile ?
Preacher, what's in your voice ?
Preacher, what's in your heart ?
What's there -
Where !?
- To feed, to drive
And make you completely mine.

Preacher, what's in your soul
Soul-black with lonliness and fear
Soul-white with the will to live
To die for an idea:
Freedom and dignity
For those who might just shatter the American dream

Oh, Jim
Come dream with us
With Martin, sweet Danny Grace, Father Devine
Hell, you could be greater than all of em, Jim

Preacher, what´s in your touch ?

III Commentary I (String Quartet)

IV
THE ROAD

(Marcie has discovered Jim alone with Bridie Pastourelle, a new convert to the Community Unity Church which Jim and Marcie founded in Indianapolis in 1959 and which transferred to Ukiah, California as People´s Temple in the mid-sixties)

(Marcie uncovers a knife - she offers it to Jim ...)

MARCIE If thy right hand offend thee ...
How could you do it Jim ?
- To me, who´ve stood by you through everything
Who had the windows boarded up ?
Who dried the tears
When the white mob had gone ?

- To me, who´ve watched over our progress
(Closing my eyes to the bad things)
Who´ve listened to you
No matter how weird your ideas
Who cajoled, pummelled and subdued the others
Believing, inspiring, interpreting your rantings ...

I made you !
I turned you from a kid with a chip on his shoulder
Into a man of power.
Oh Jim, with Bridie Pastourelle
You have destroyed our love.

O why, can´t we stop time ?
When we reach the turning point
The point when there´s no pretending any more
Aren´t we in a movie ?
Can´t we do a re-write ?
Huh ! Reality is death´s crutch ...

I will live for the Temple
I will travel wearily down that road we´re all bound upon

So, Jim -
Youre a man
You need love
You need sex
You need reassurance

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What about my love, my body,
The reassurance I've given ?
Why must men always prefer what's new to what's true ?

Jim, I was a woman once
Full of love and hope
Now I've turned into a thing
A mother metamorphosed
Into a creature
And with one goal:

The Temple's journey down that road
Paved with hope and despair,
Fantasy, obsession;
With trust and betrayal.
I still can't see our destination
Can you ?

Remember Belohorizonte ?
Remember the nights immense and black ?
And the jungle alive
With its wild chorus calling ..
Calling us where Jim ?
Calling us when ?

Calling us down that road
From Indianapolis to Ukia, California
From Redwood Valley to ..... ?

------ o ------

V Commentary II

VI WHITE NIGHT

Marcie: Oh, Jim
How far I've travelled down this lonely road
White Night ....
The last, the ultimate ritual of loyalty
The final proof we're true

Listen, Jim
What will it prove ?
Who can triumph through our death ?
Who will dare to claim the hollowest victory ?

Oh, Jim
I am afraid
Now that the white traitors have gone
Back to their privilege
Back to the Californian wine
On to the next freakshow
To the next redeeming cause

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The latest lifestyle
Go sound the alert !
Call your rainbow family
Only we "blacks" are left:
In yet another ghetto
Left here to die
Backs up against the wall again
All hope abandoned

So, Jim
King of the Misfits
Lord of my dreams,
Our socialist Dad
I'll help administer the FLA-VOR-AID
Laced with Green Cs
Only a little bitter-tasting
I'll help syringe death down our babies' throats

Bye and bye comes sweet release.

Well, Jim
You tried to regain Paradise
To liberate Jerusalem
(Lest we forget thee)
But it always goes wrong
Them and Us - Us and them:
The ever-renewing cycle
Power-hate-fear-violence

Oh Jim
The road ends here in Jonestown
Go call them to this last goodnight -
Goodnight with poison and the gun

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Quartet Players: ALERT !

Quartet Player: Hang on a moment honey.
What exactly was your message ?

Quartet: ALERT !

Marcie: No message
Wait ..!
Love now, if your lucky
For time is very short.

QUARTET: ALERT !!

Performance Notes

Passages in "time-space" notation are indicated by the sign " X " indicating a suspension of time signature.

Note heads without stems are encountered as follows:—

- • can vary from a short point of sound to a value equal to ♩=60 in a legato phrase. Relative length may be indicated by ——
- o longer held note in legato phrase.
- ‖ o ‖ Underpinning "pedal" note, usually accompanying the voice in recitative. This is held over following systems by ⌒•⌒
- ▭→ Pitches or phrases in boxes continue as indicated until arrows ↓ or ↓ (less than tutti changes) signify their cessation, or the beginning of a new event.
- // indicates an unmeasured silence.

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Dreams for Marcie
I
PRELUDE

Jim McQueen
1986

Rhythmic!
♩.=100

♫=60 subito → ♫=112
ACCEL MOLTO

Mezzo-Soprano (Marcie)

(Marcie is asleep - appas. hands/arms curled round head)

vln 1 — speaking voice — 5:6 — take mute

vln 2 — take mute

string quartet

vla — col legno batt. — sim — p cresc. — (tratto)

speaking voice — col legno batt.

cello — p cresc. — sim — (tratto)

♩=80

harms SUL E SUL A — p — (slightly restive) — mf:sf — remove mute

p flautando — remove mute

ARCO - mute

ARCO - mute — distinto — p

Very Agitated ♩=112

10 Scurrying ♩.=96

(covers ears - trying to shut out the nightmare)

ord. — f — sf — take mute

(both plyrs) nat. — A-lert! A-lert! A-lert! — take mute

f — sf

(come si calmo) — pp — tasto — ppp

pp — tasto — ppp

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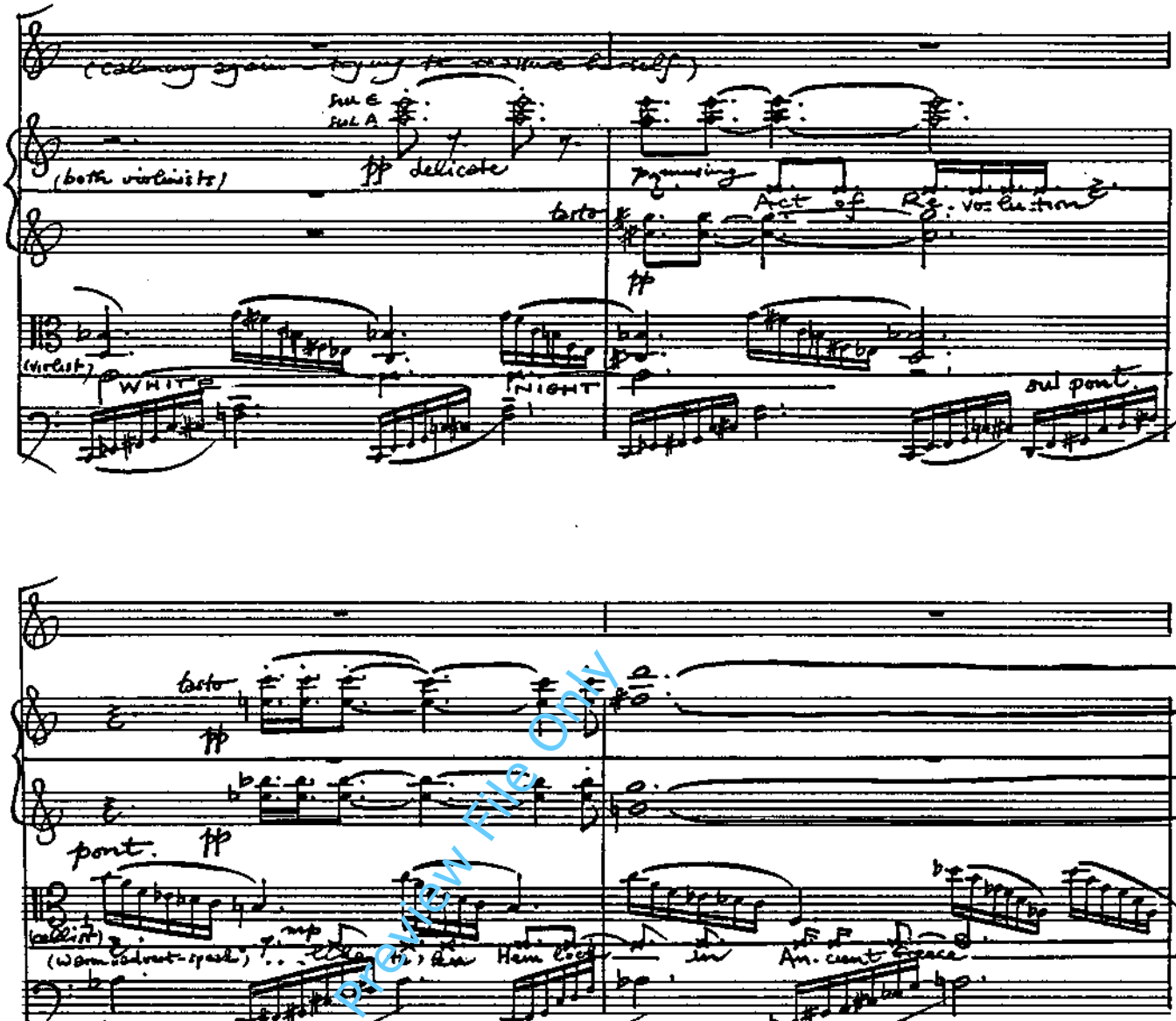

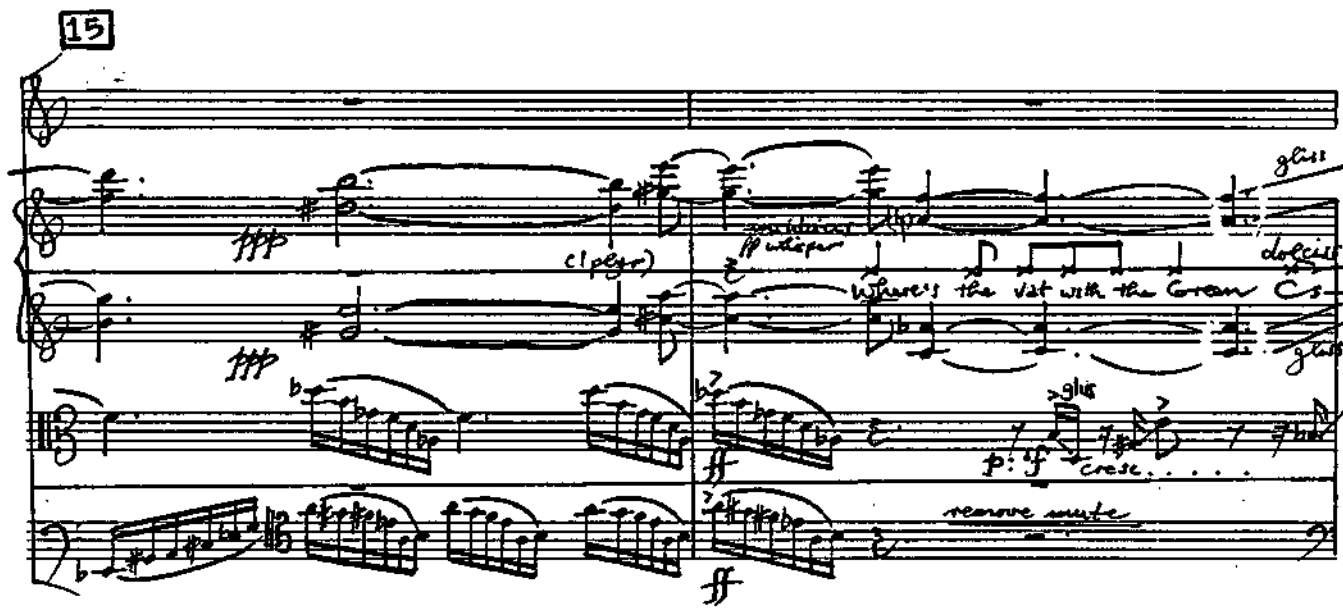

1 or deepest voice

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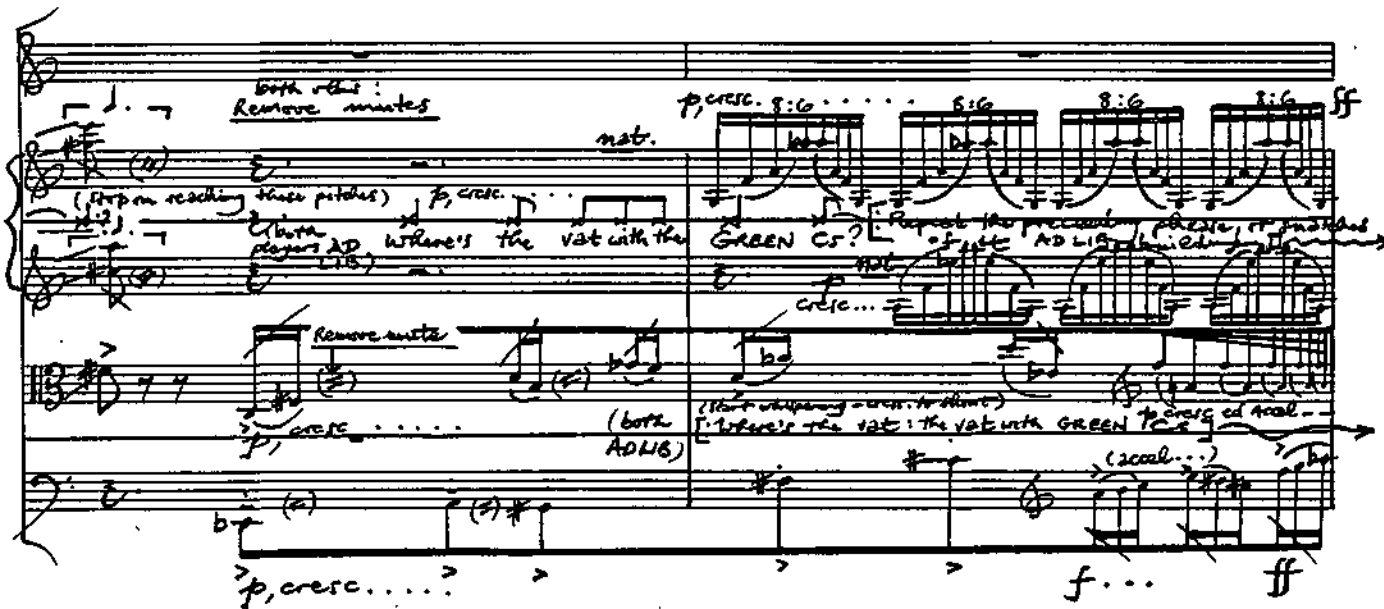

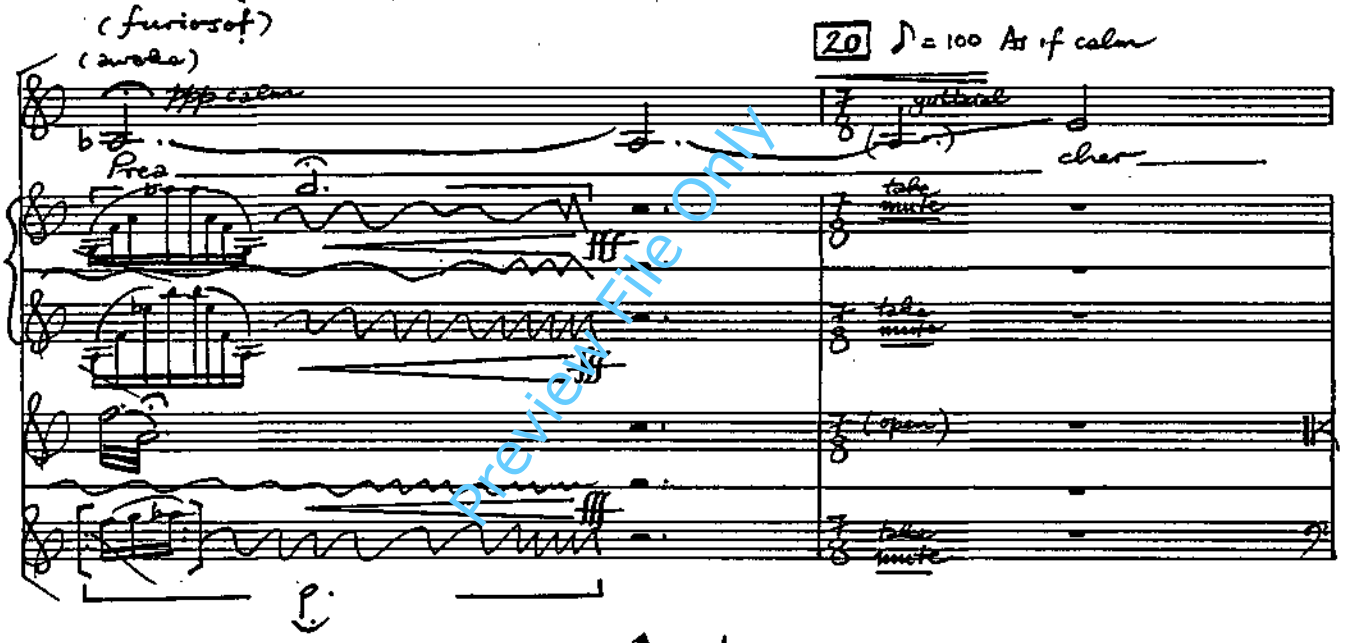

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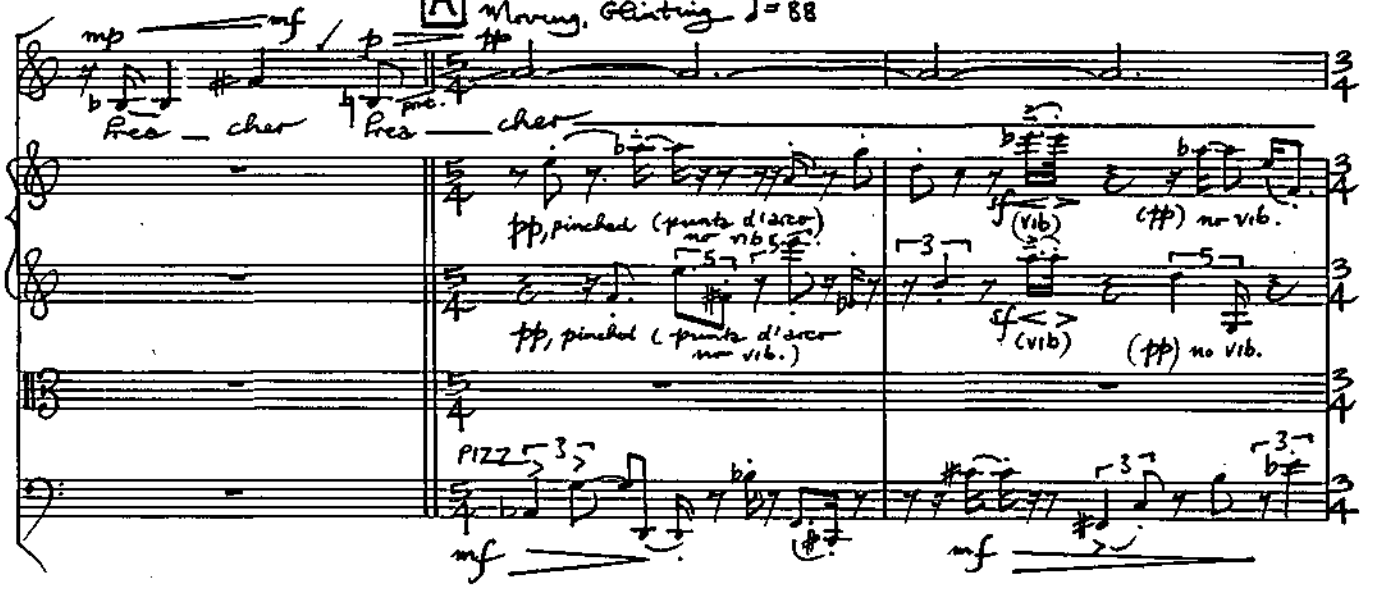

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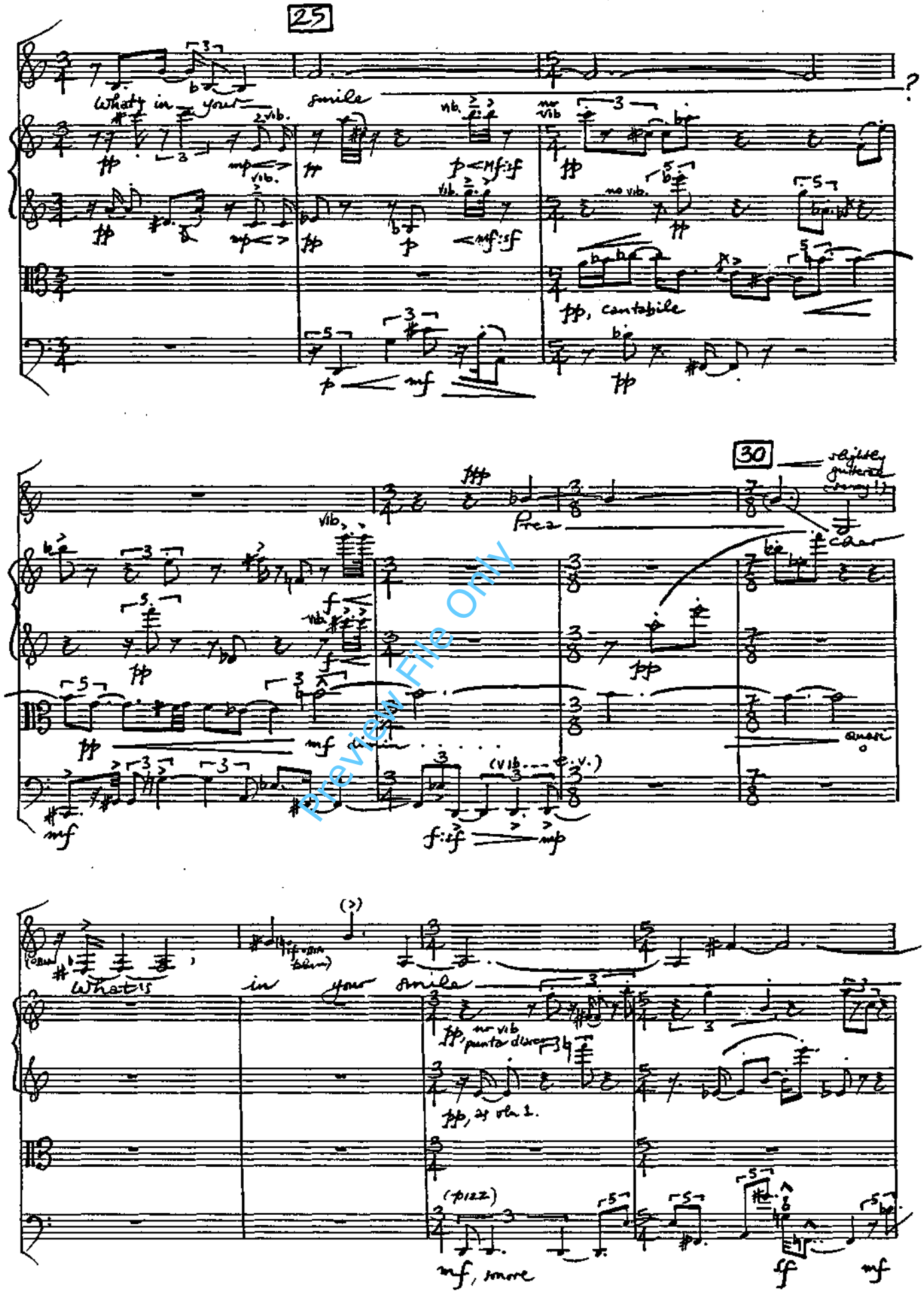

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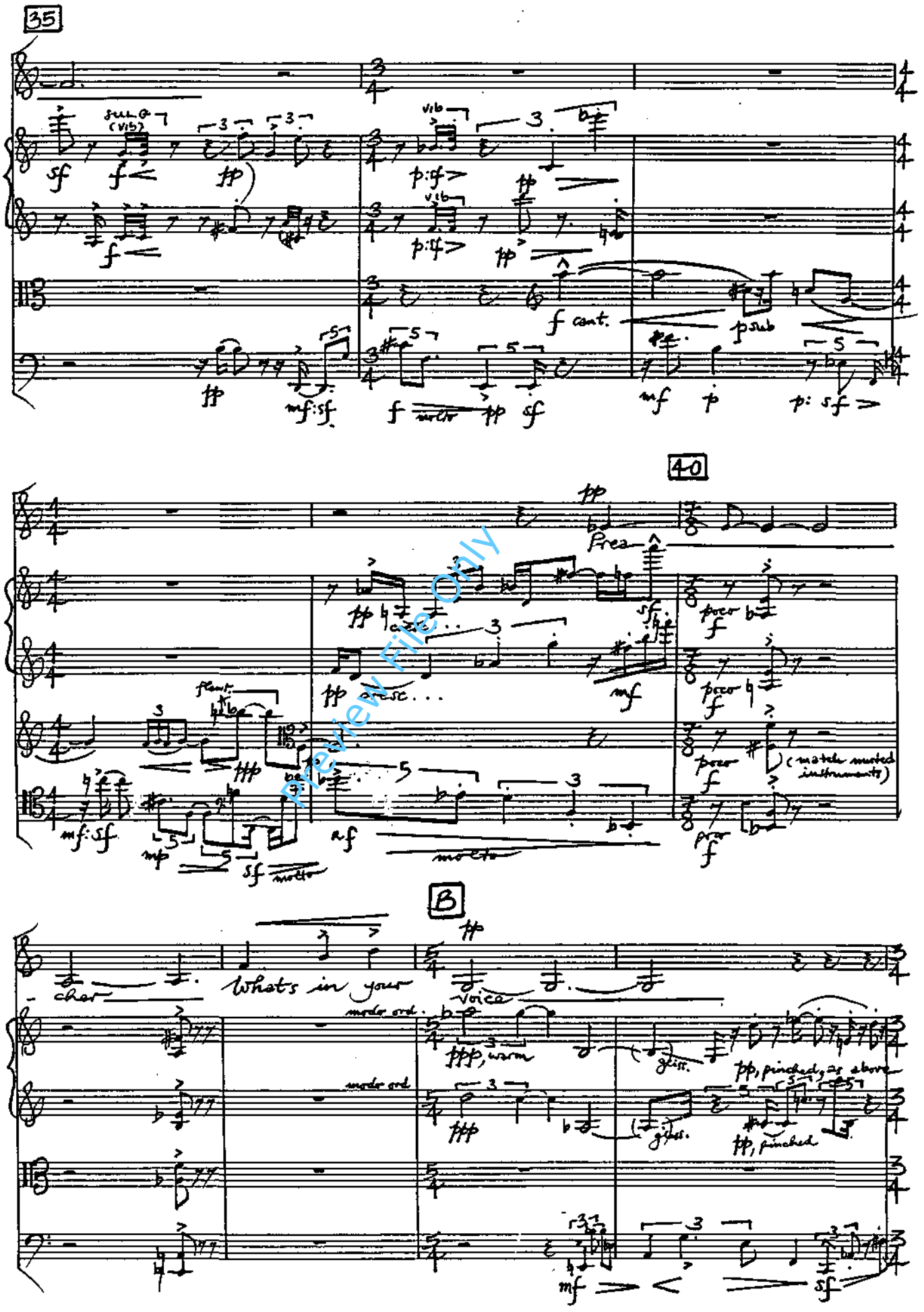

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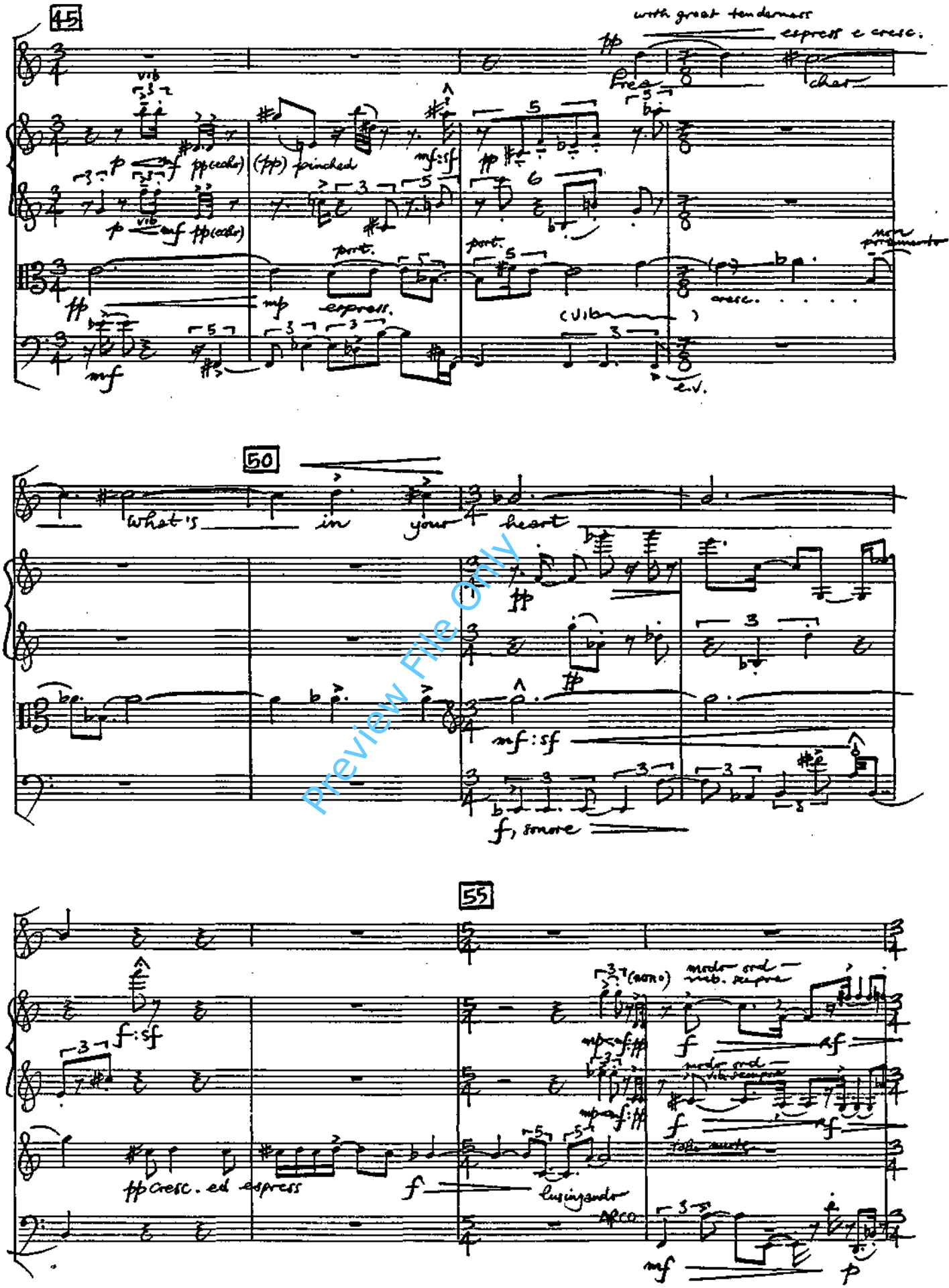

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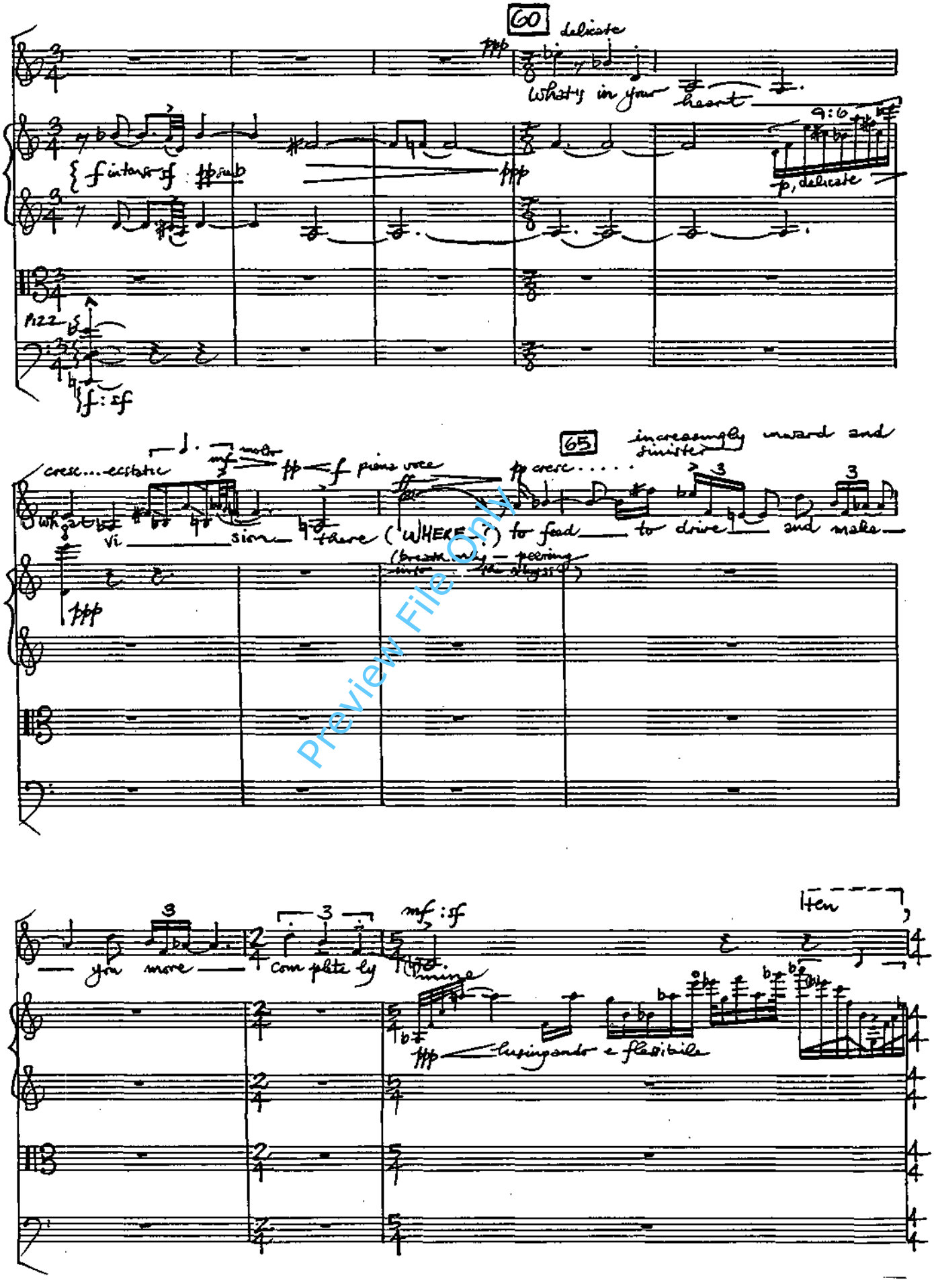

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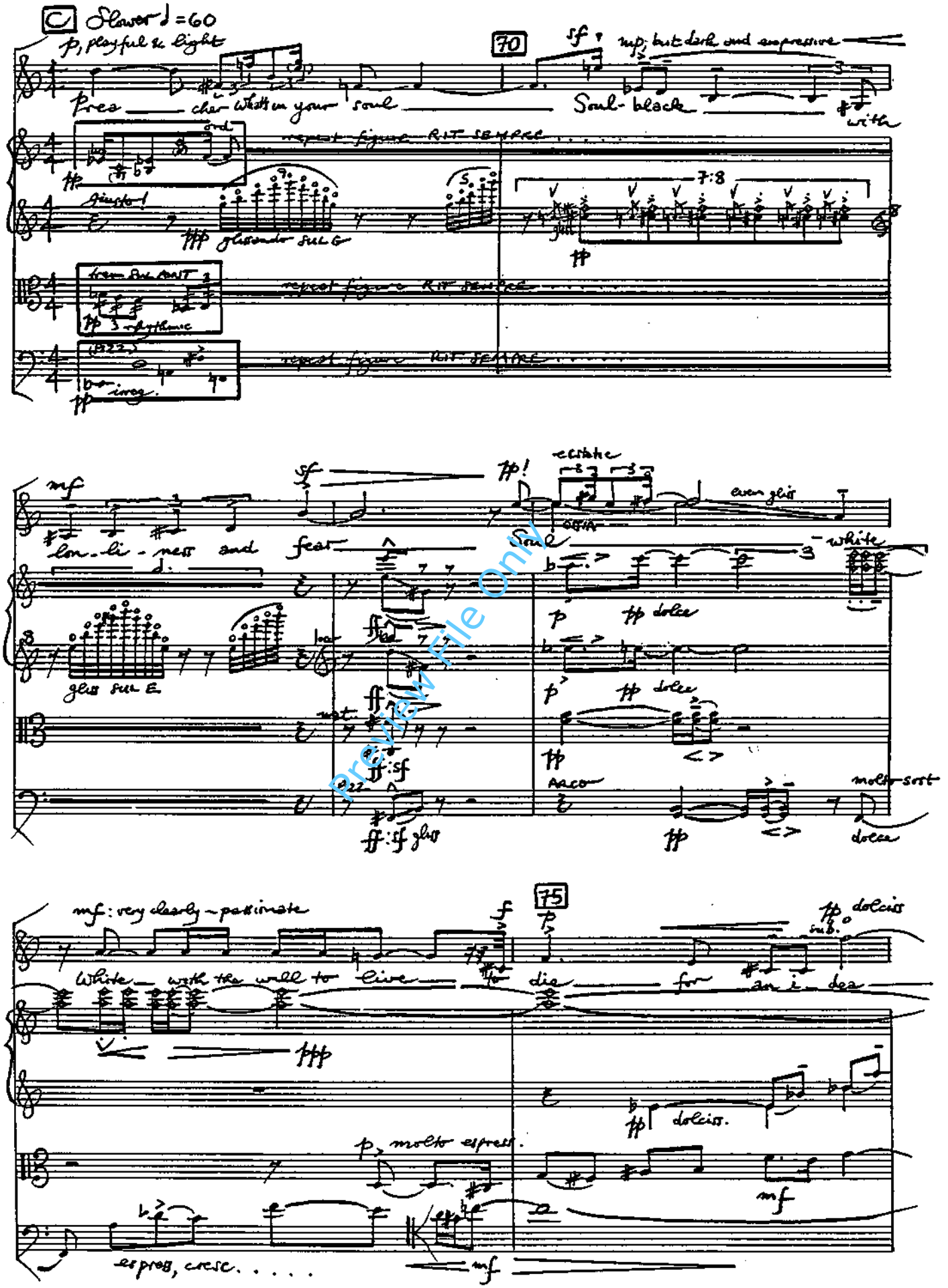

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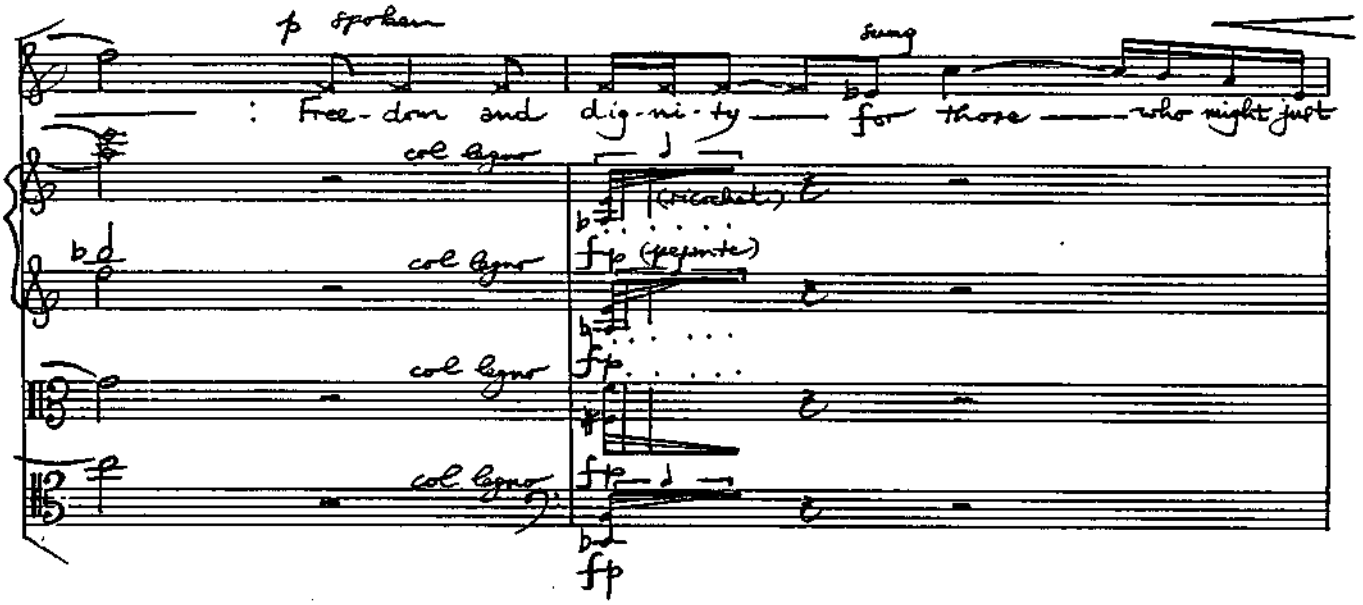

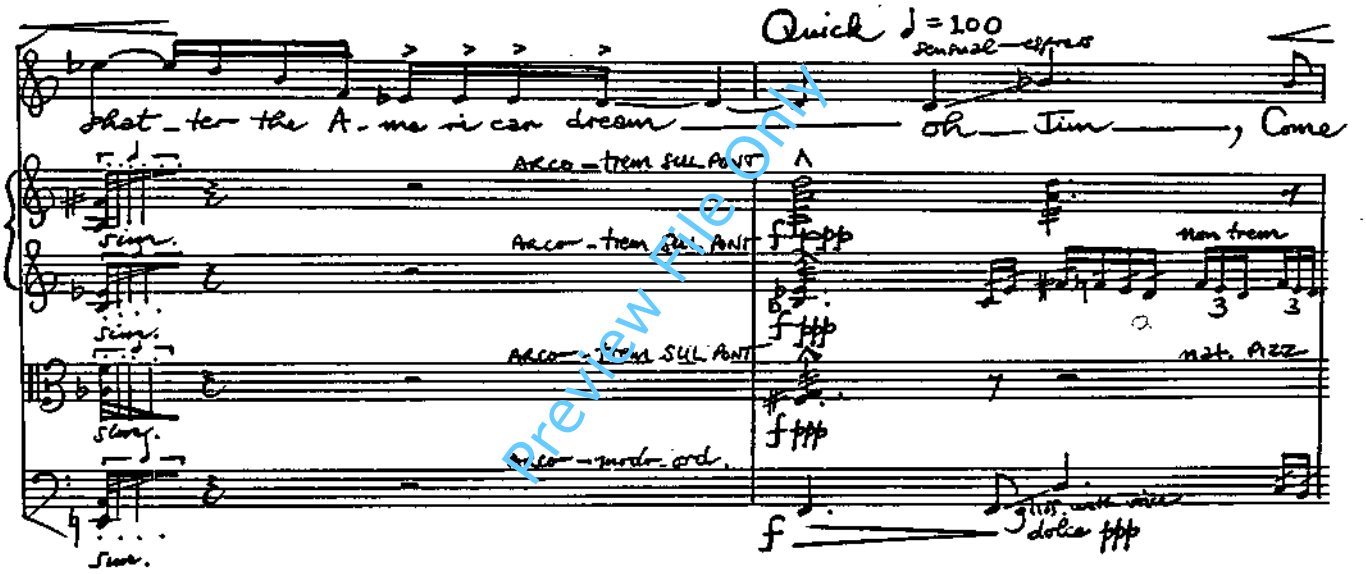

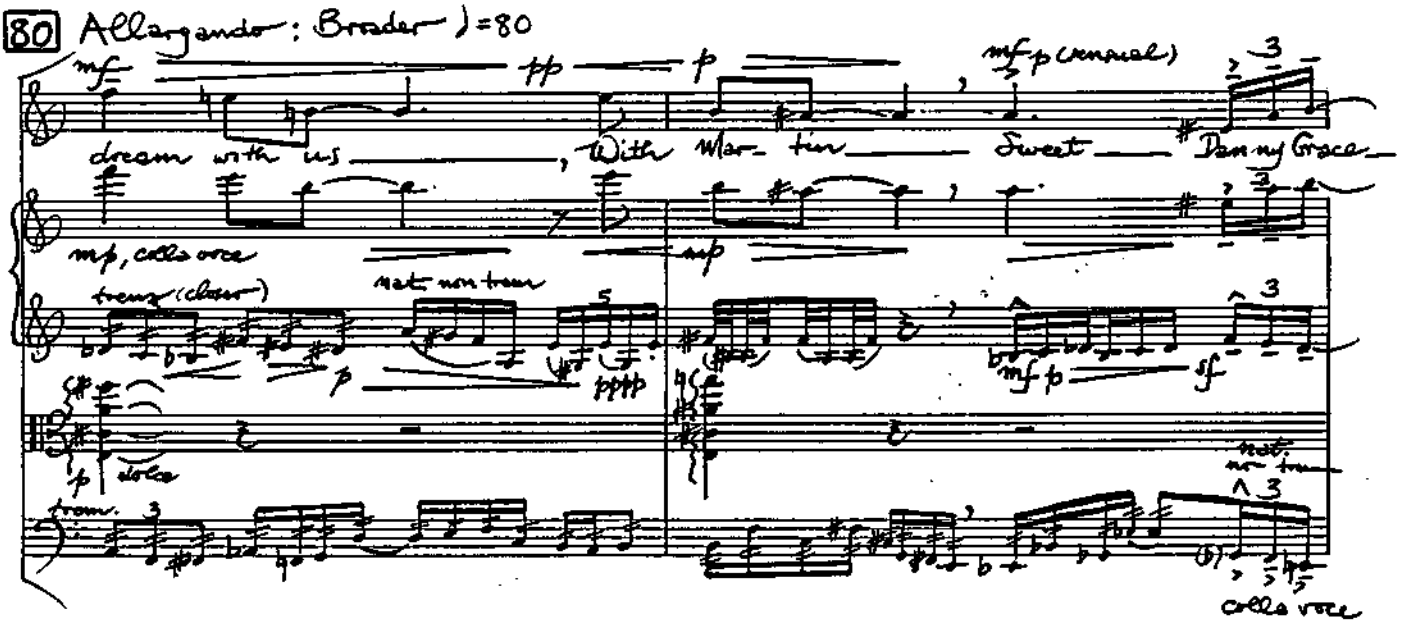

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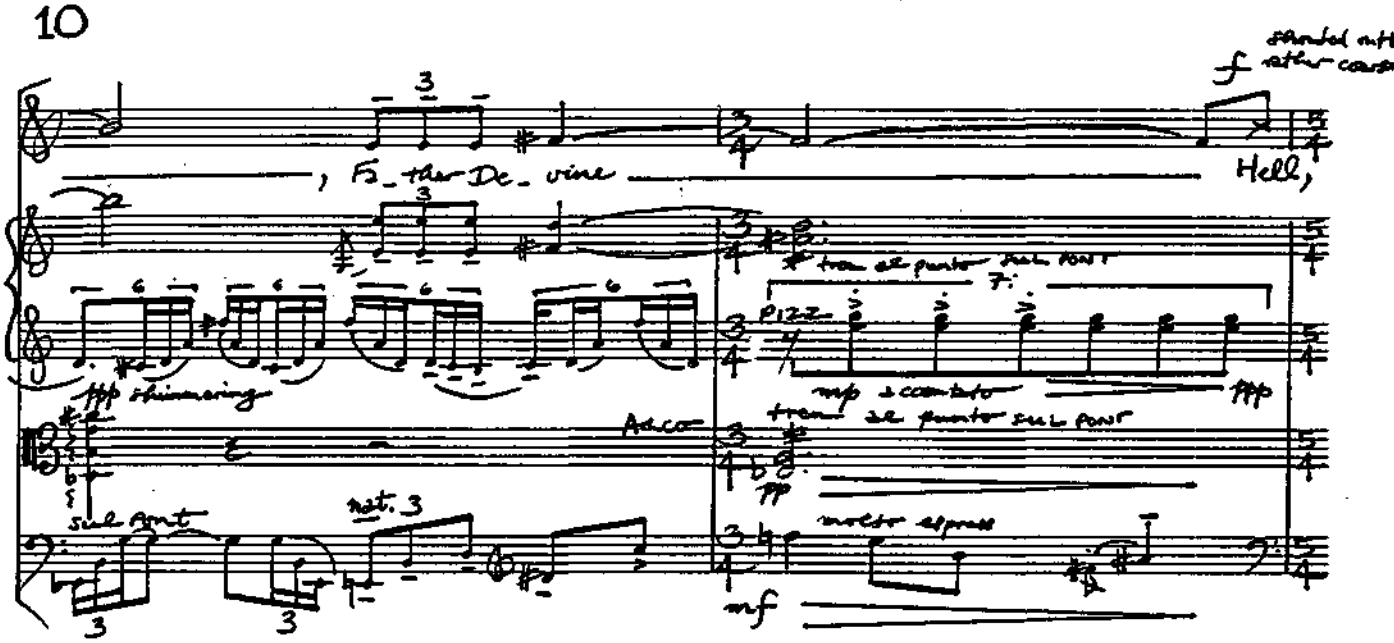

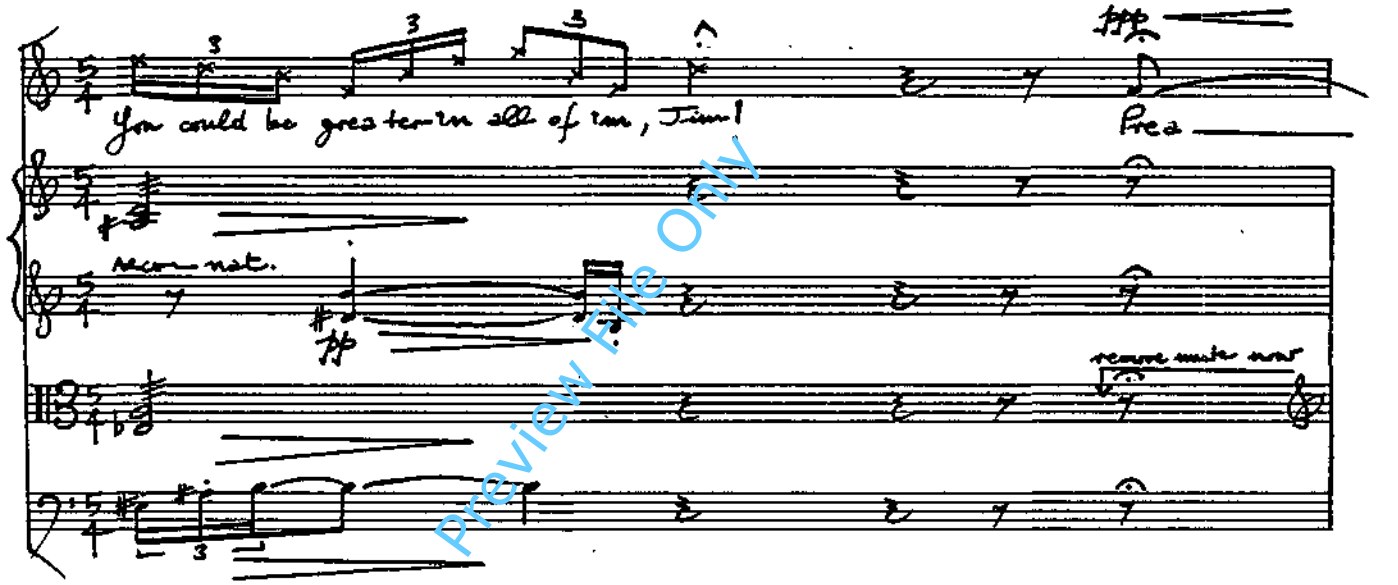

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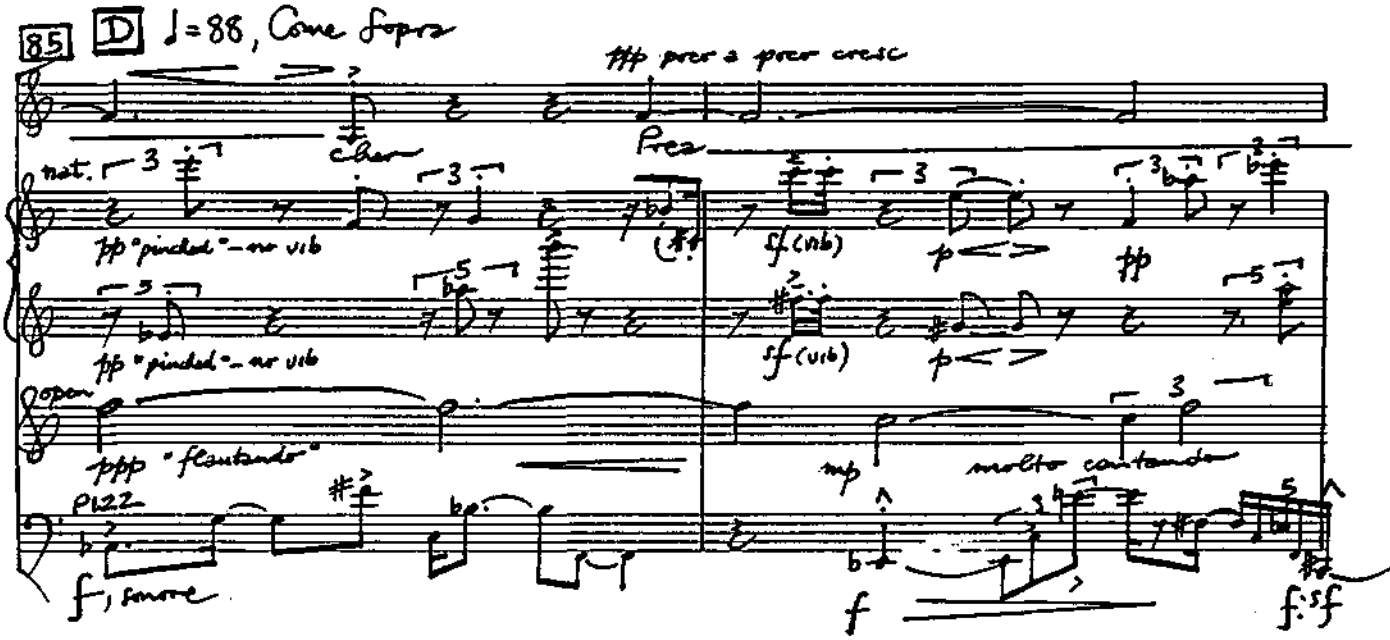
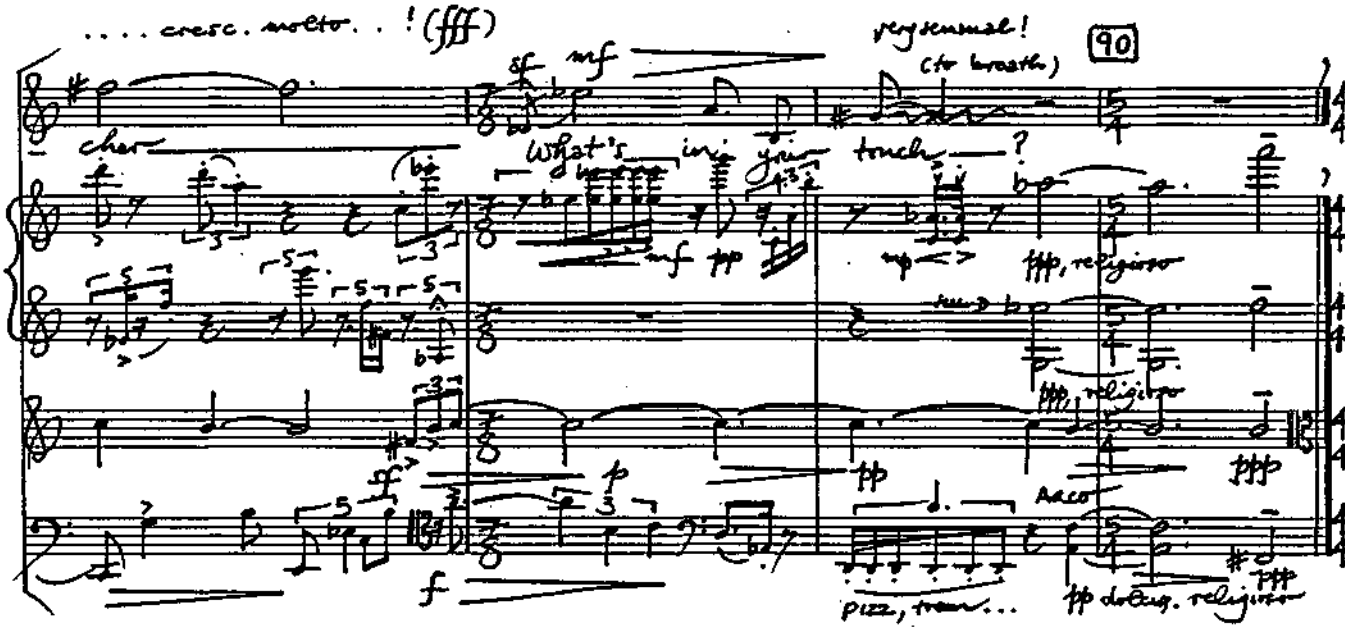
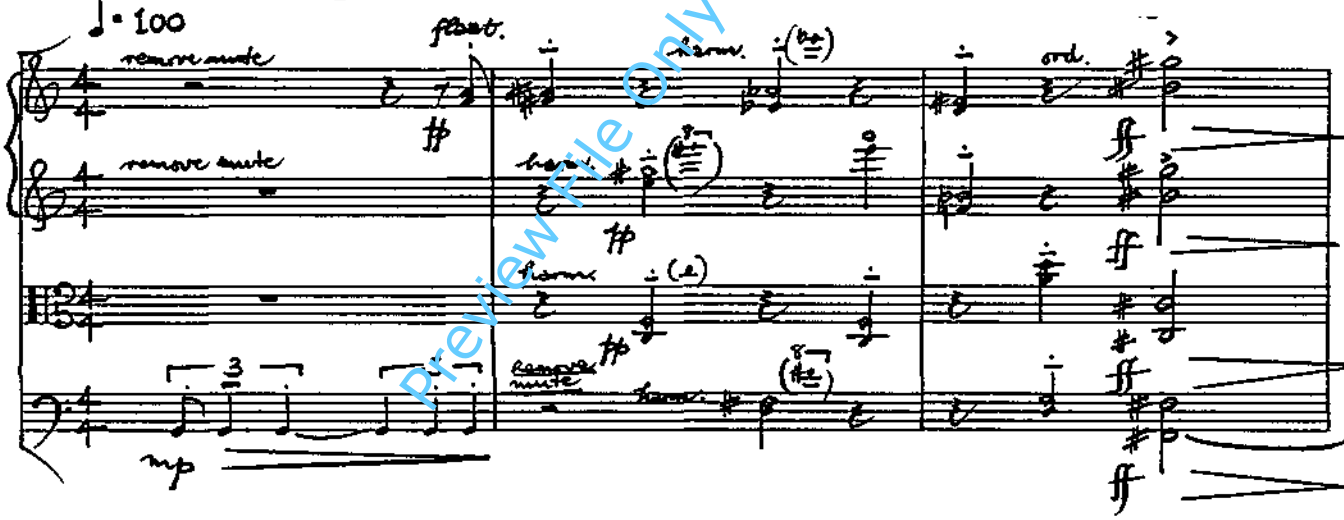
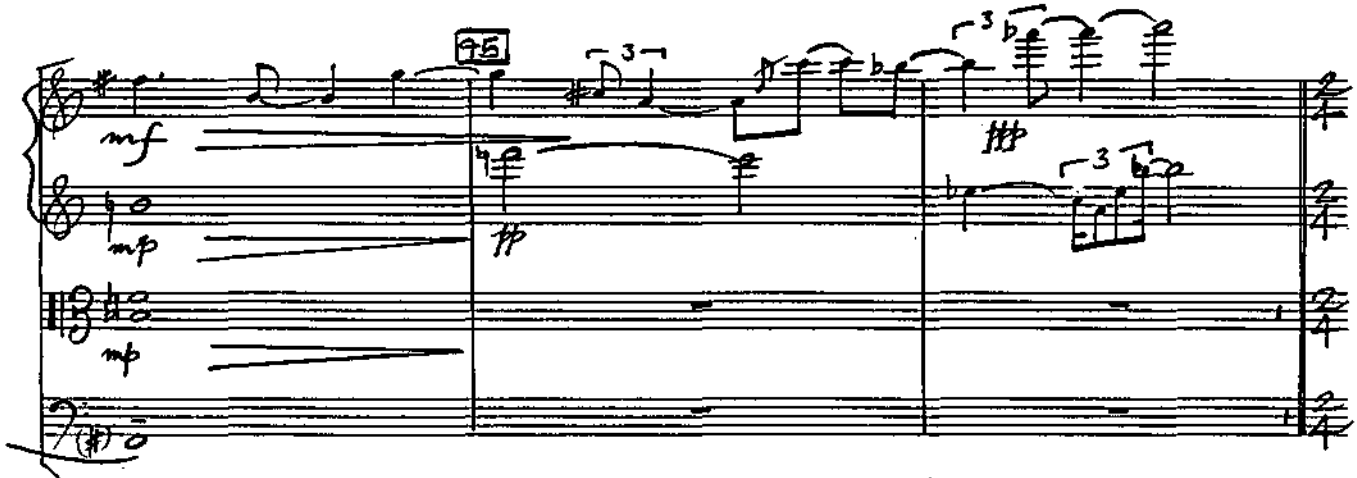




III – Commentary 1





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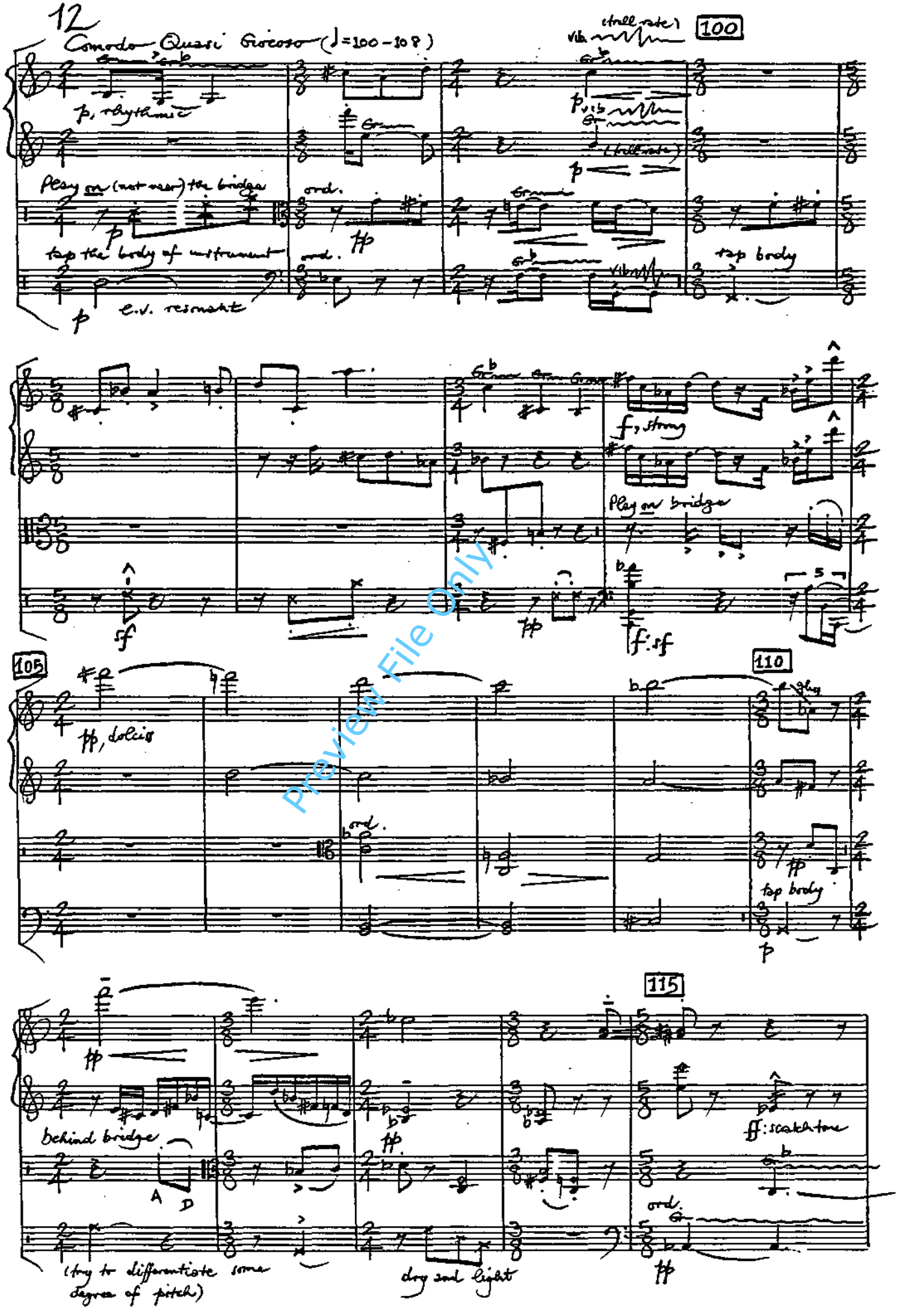

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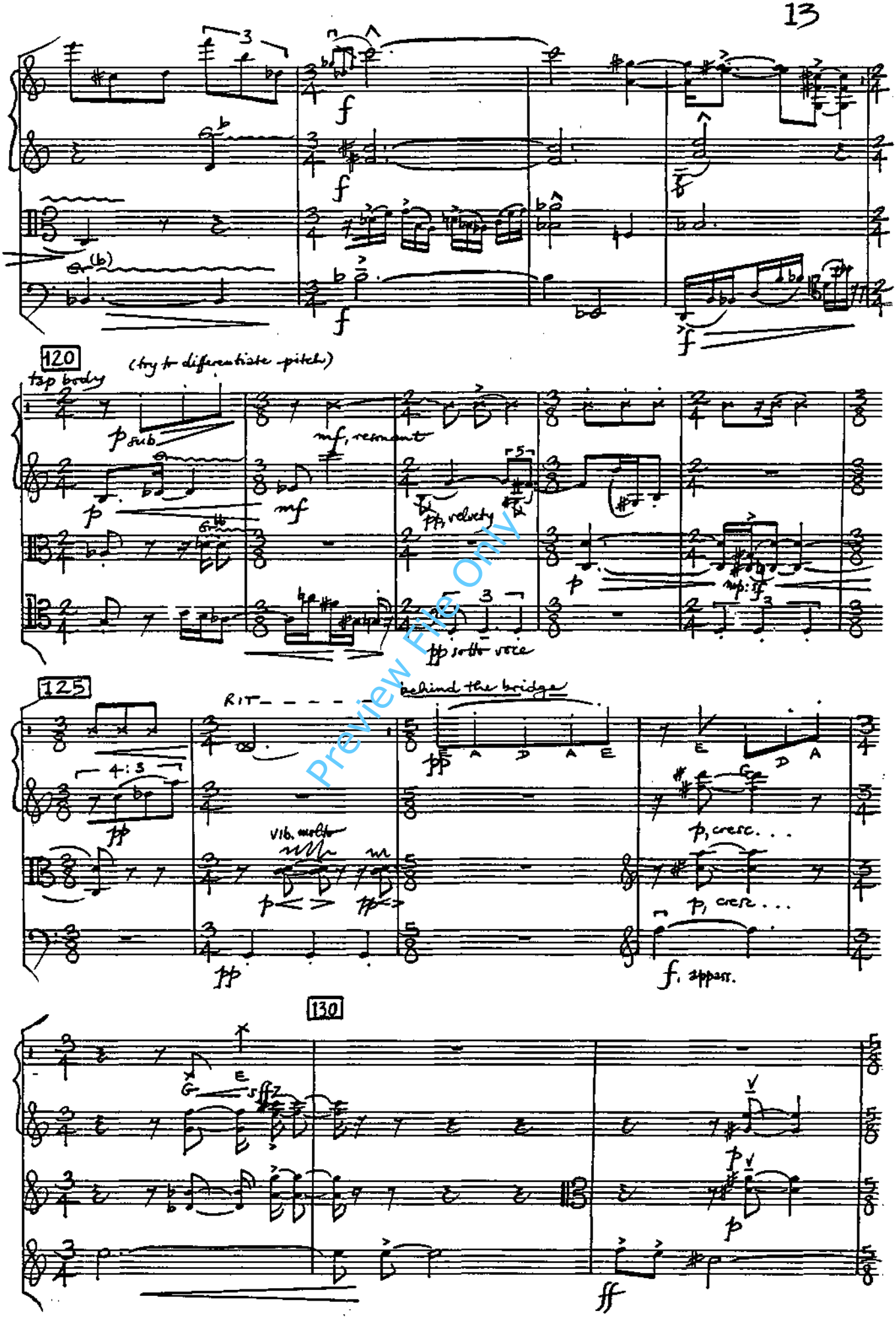

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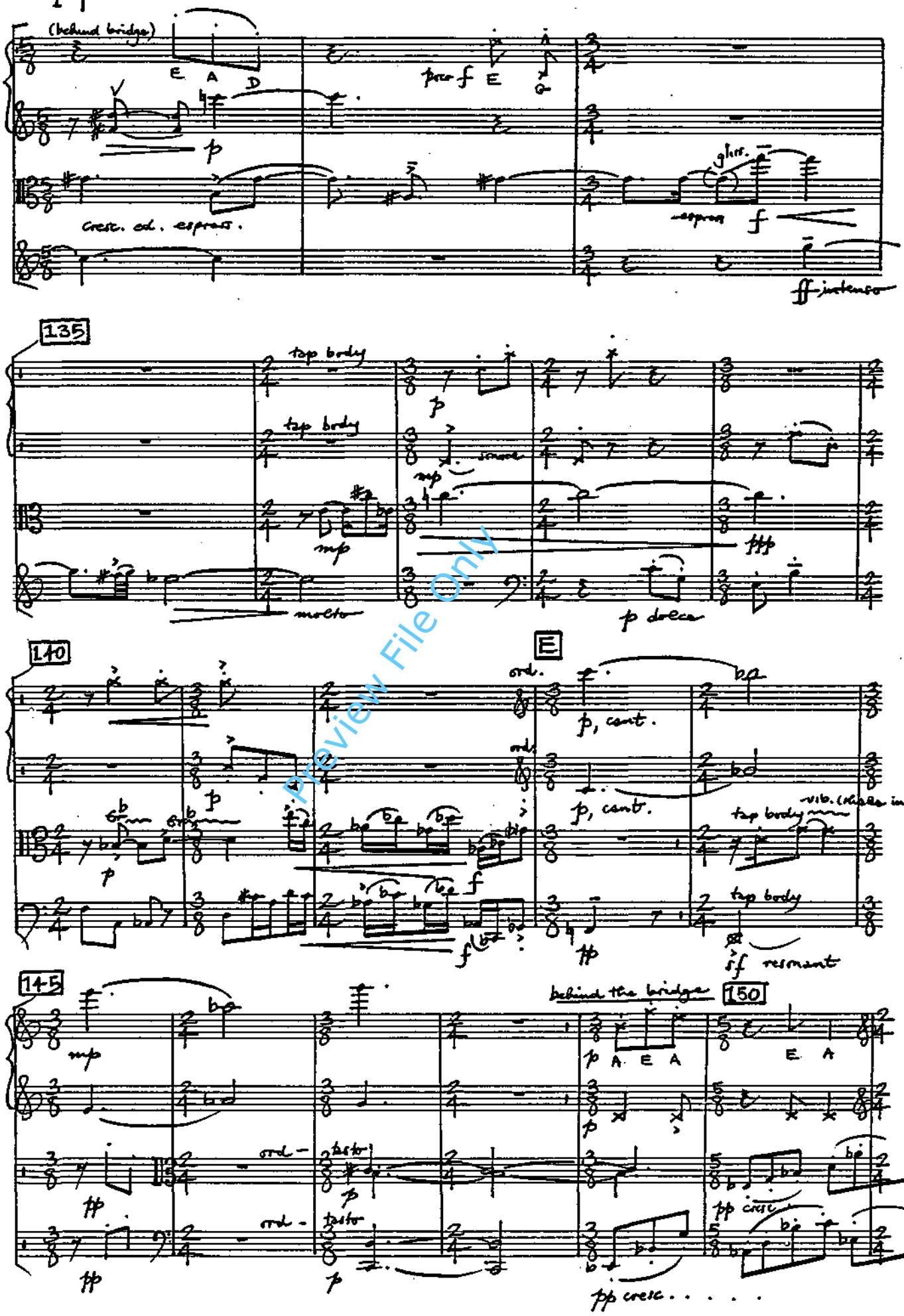

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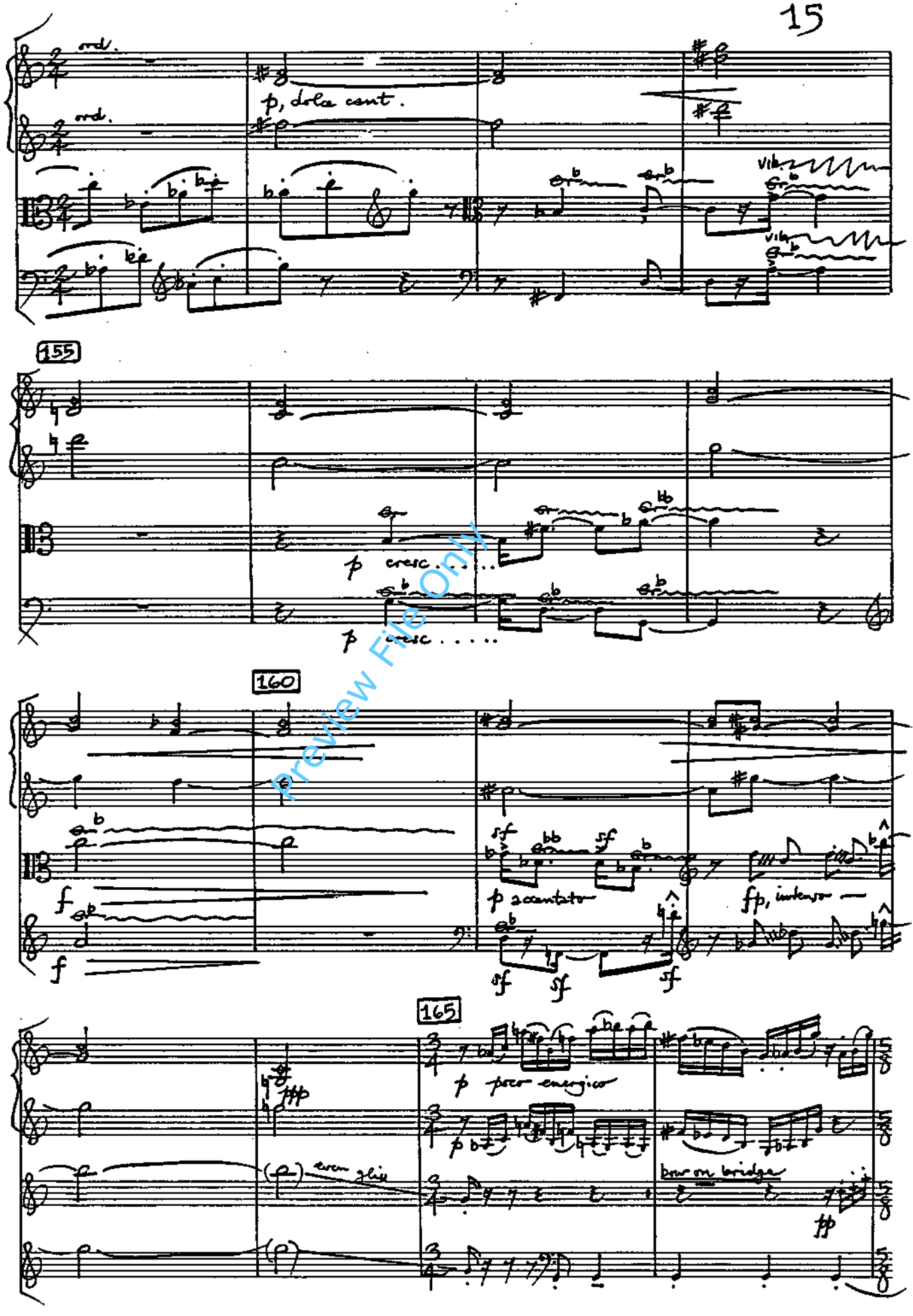

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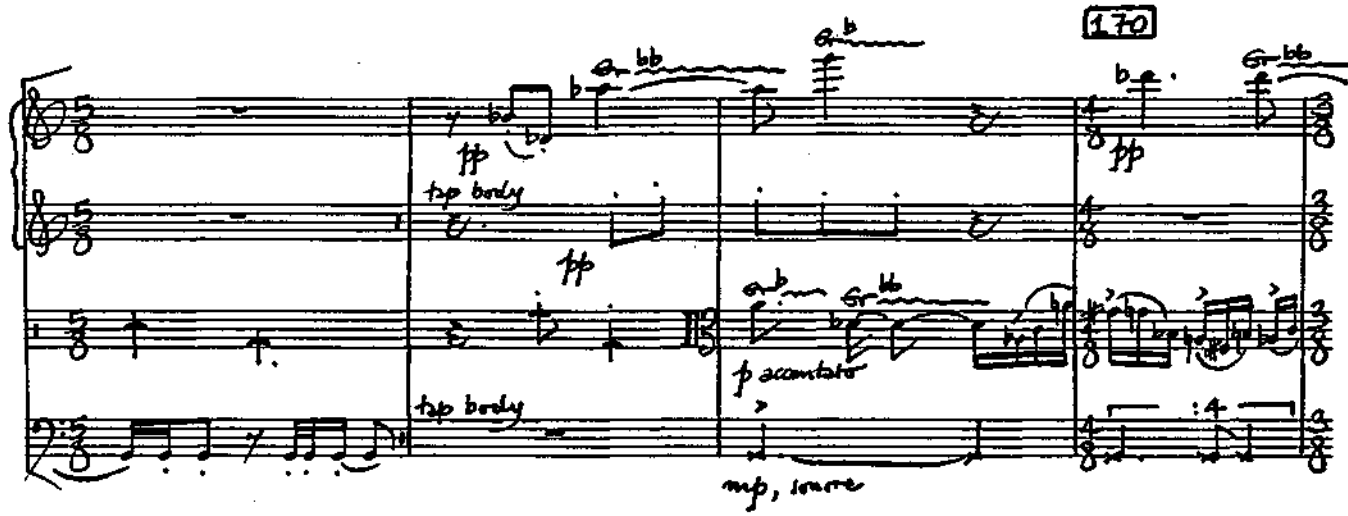

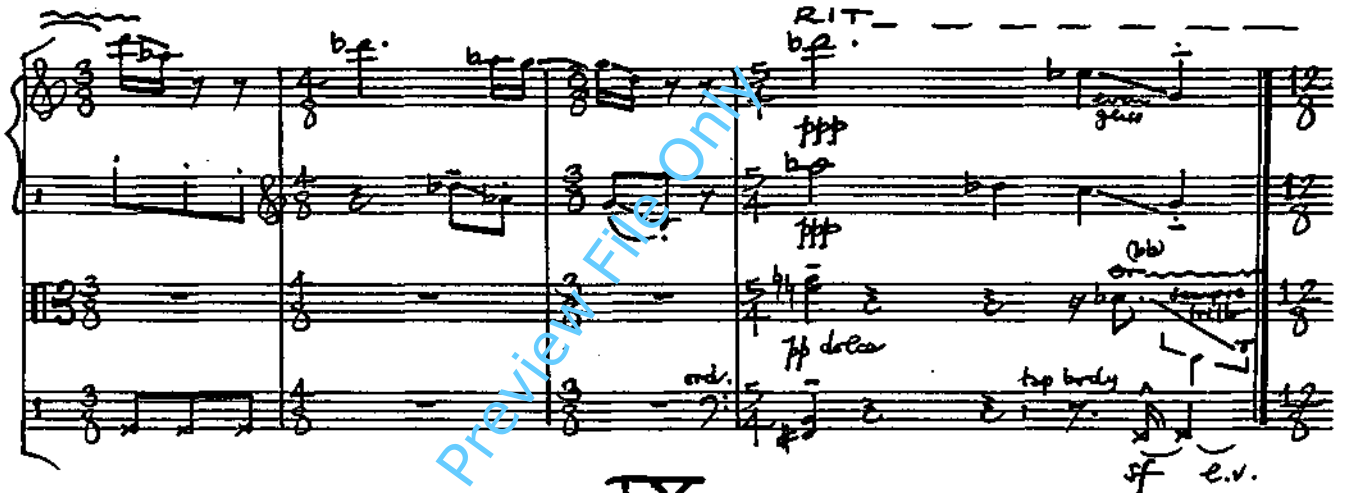

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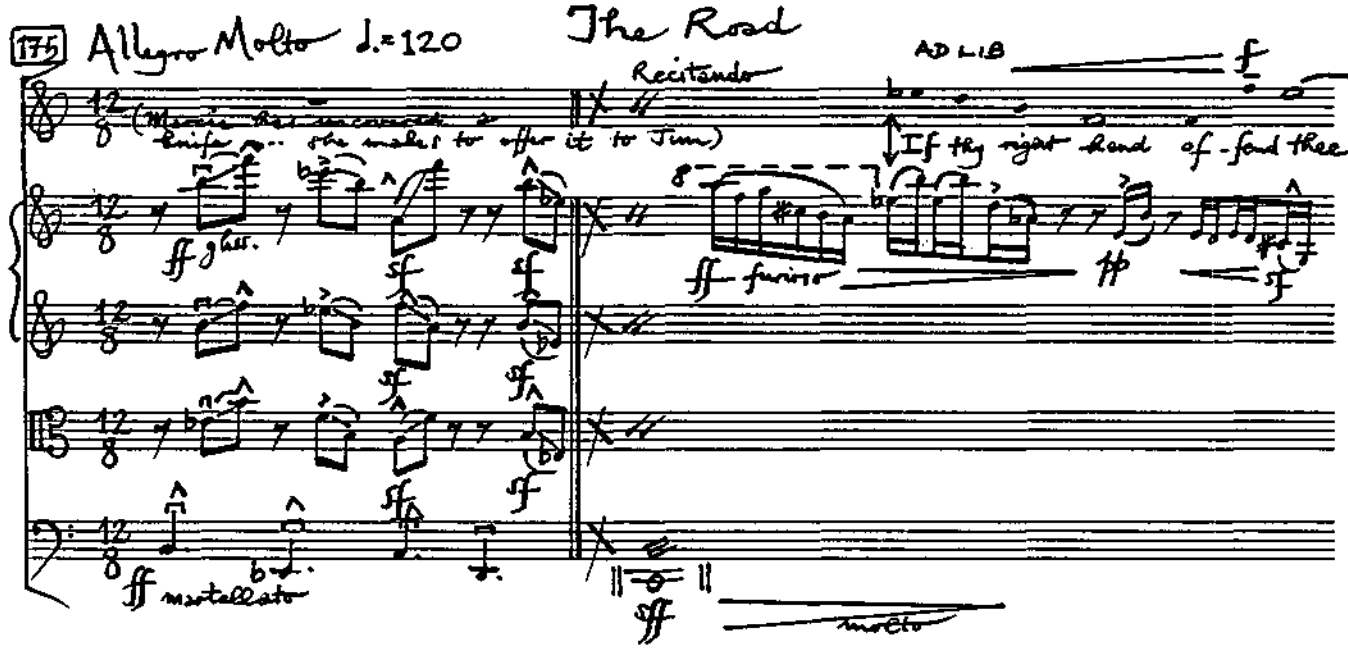
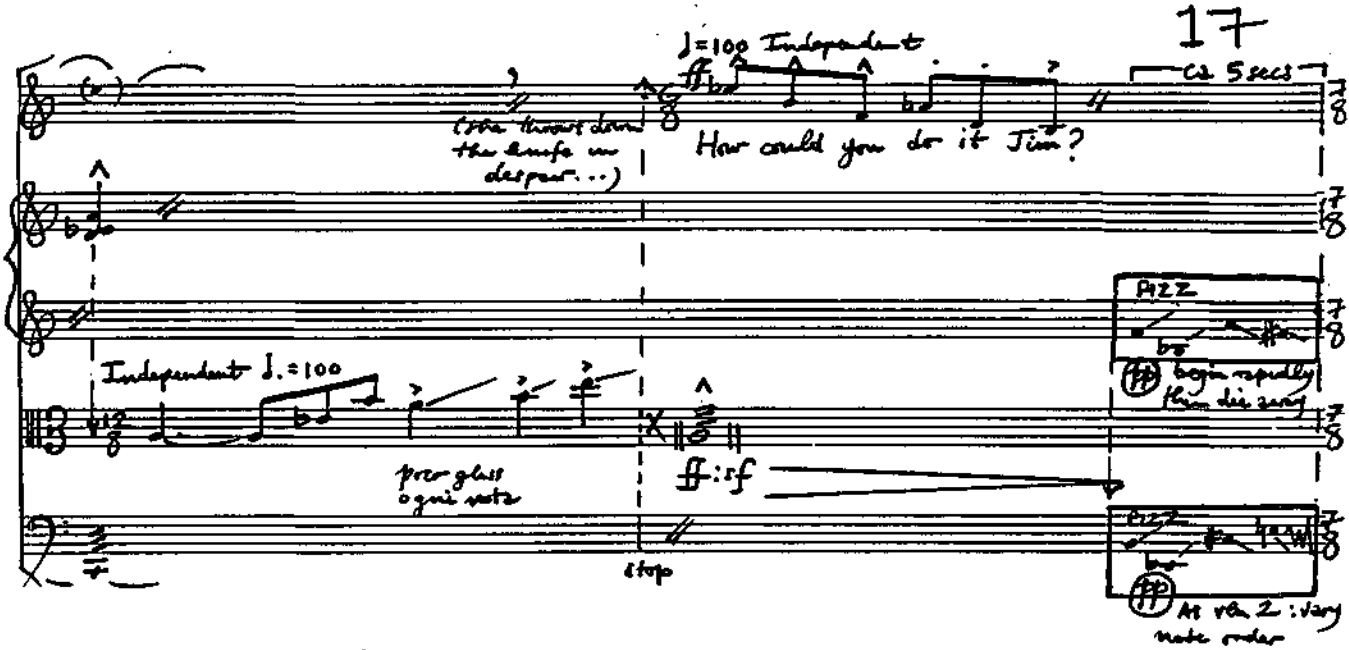
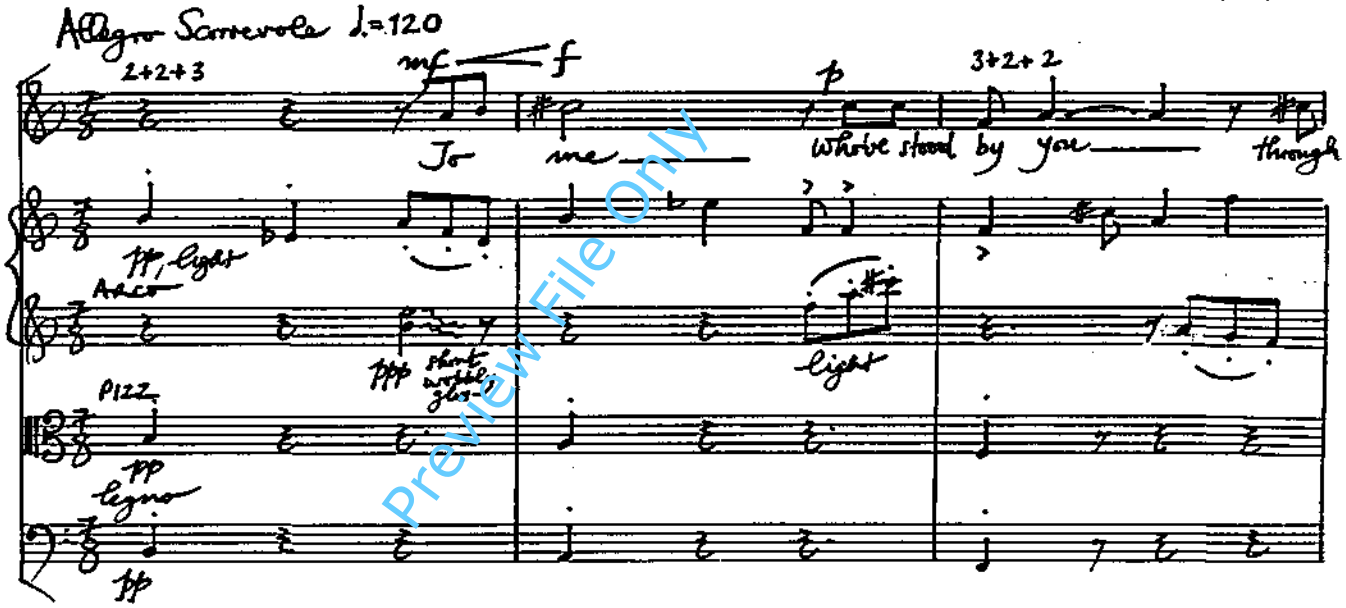
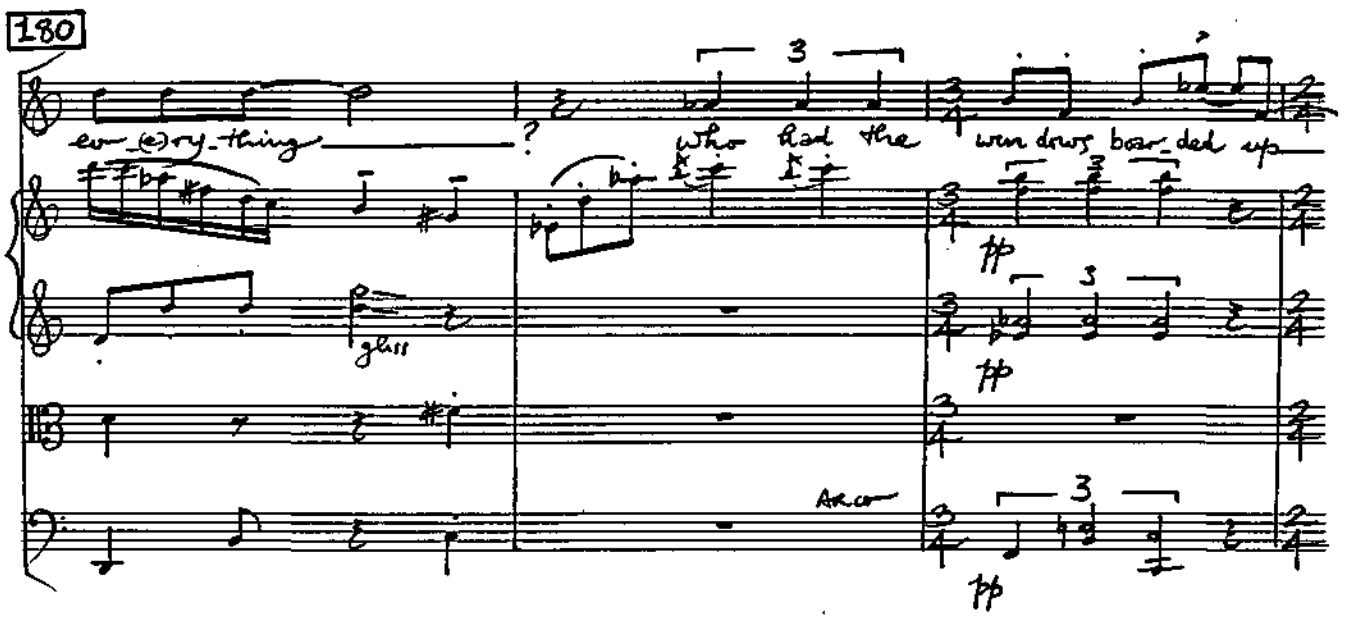
IV

The Road









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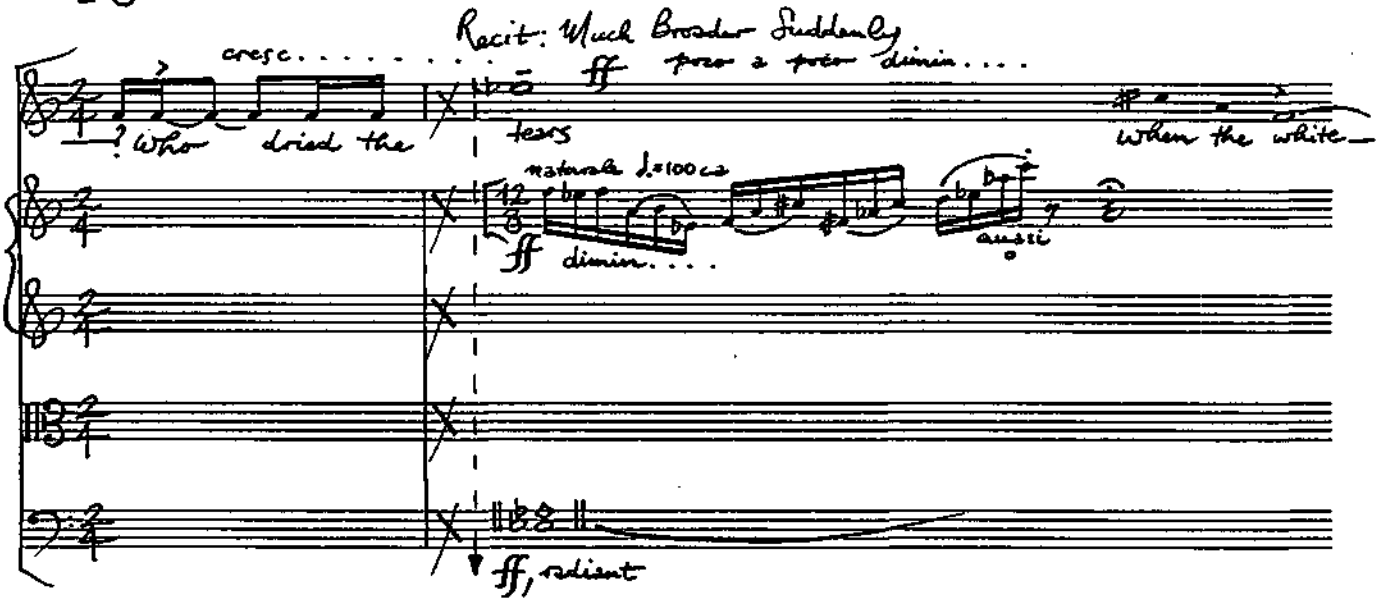

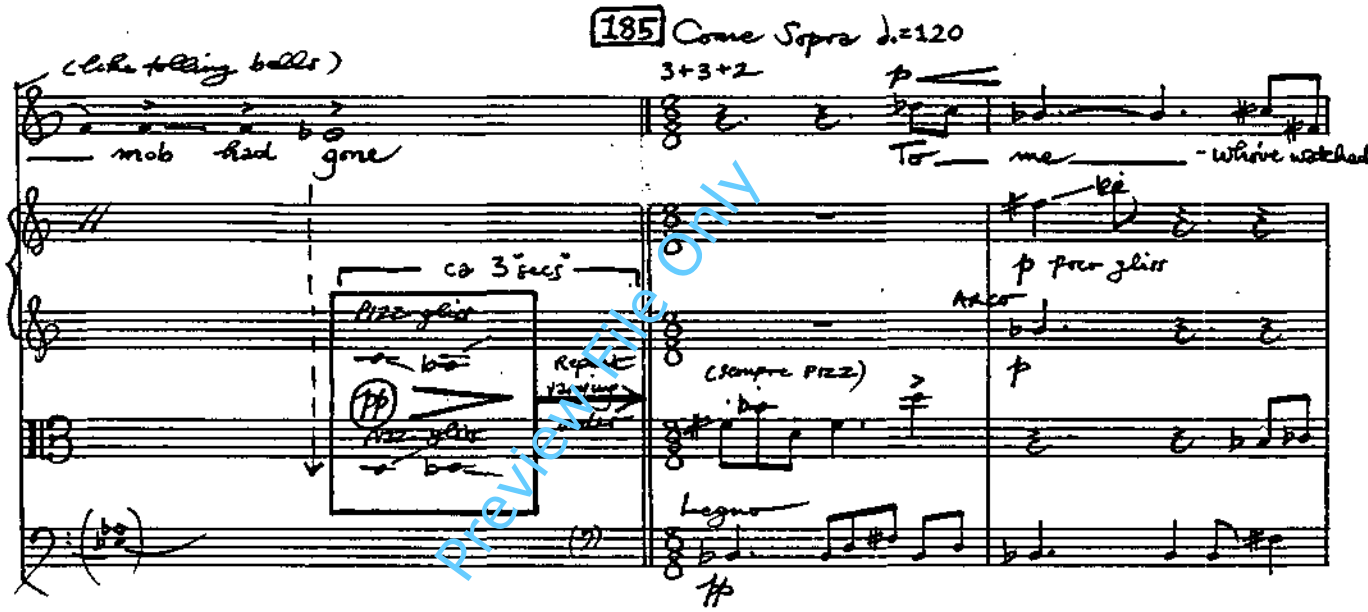

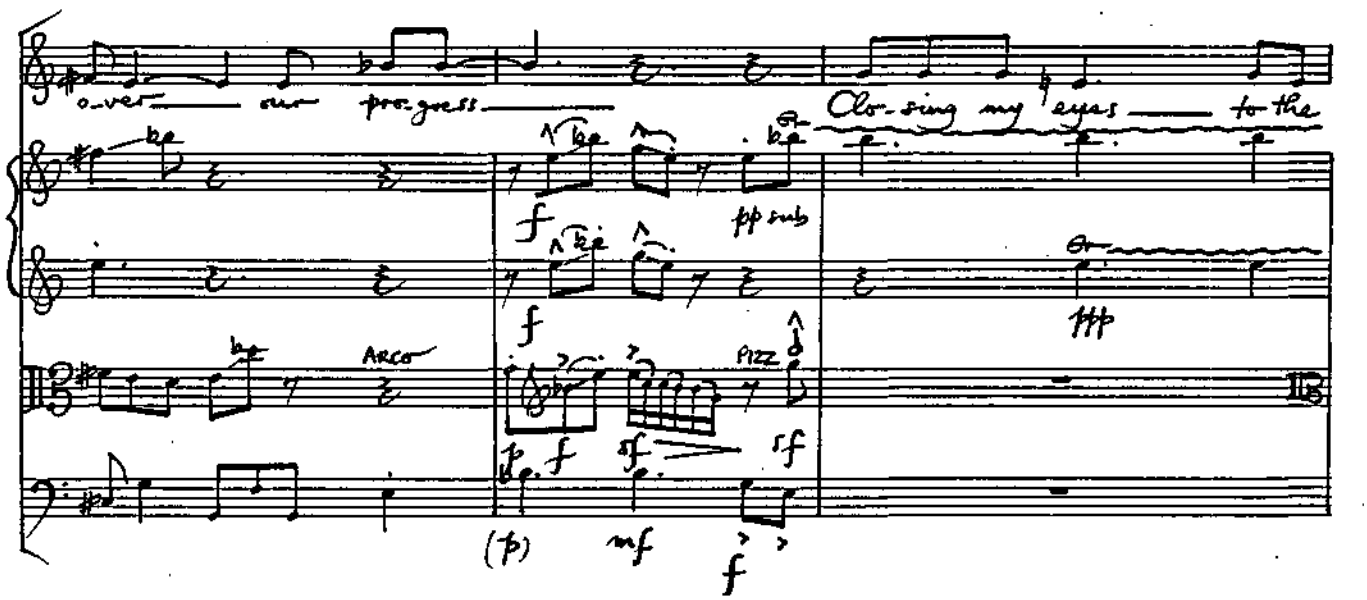

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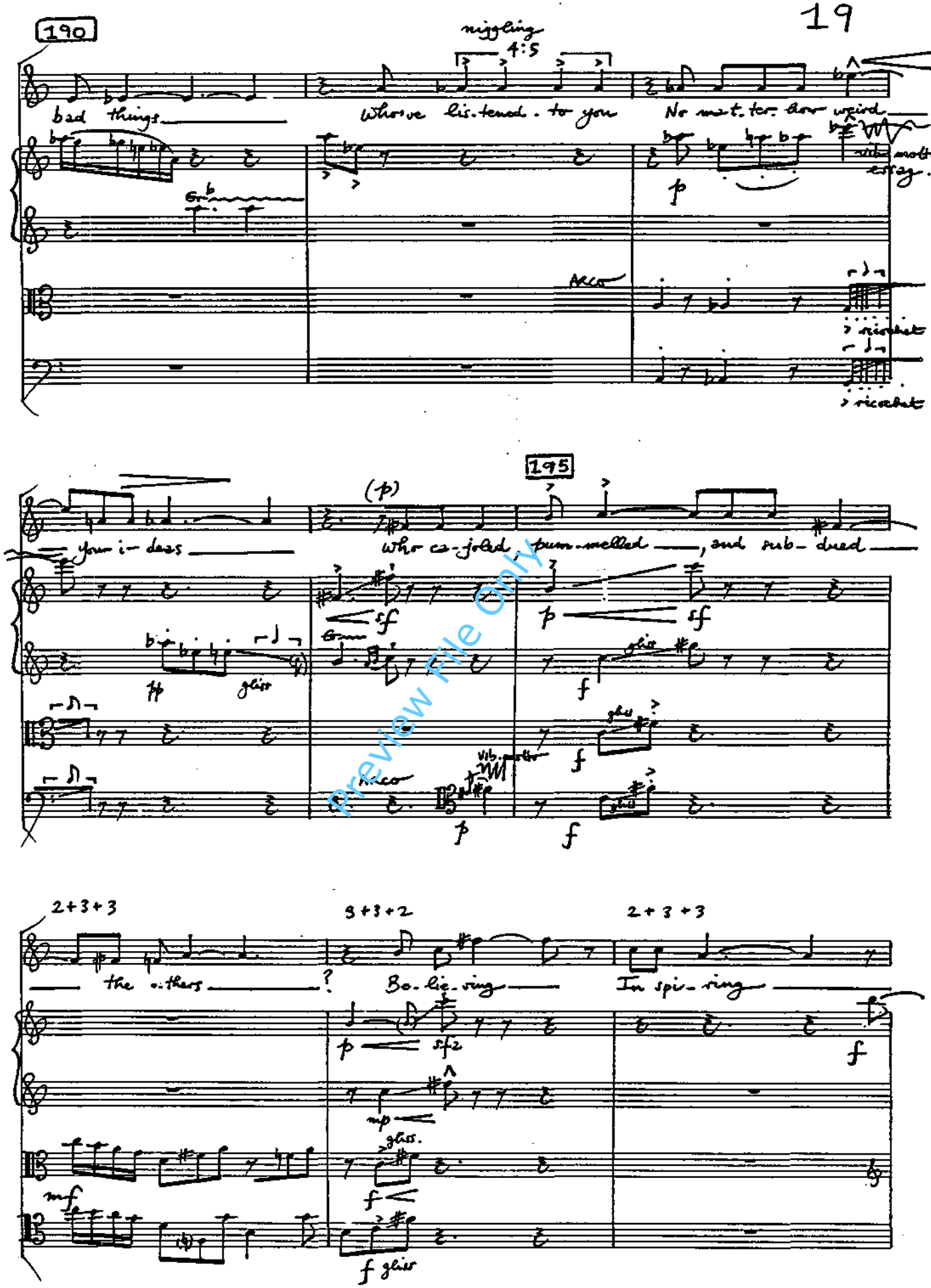

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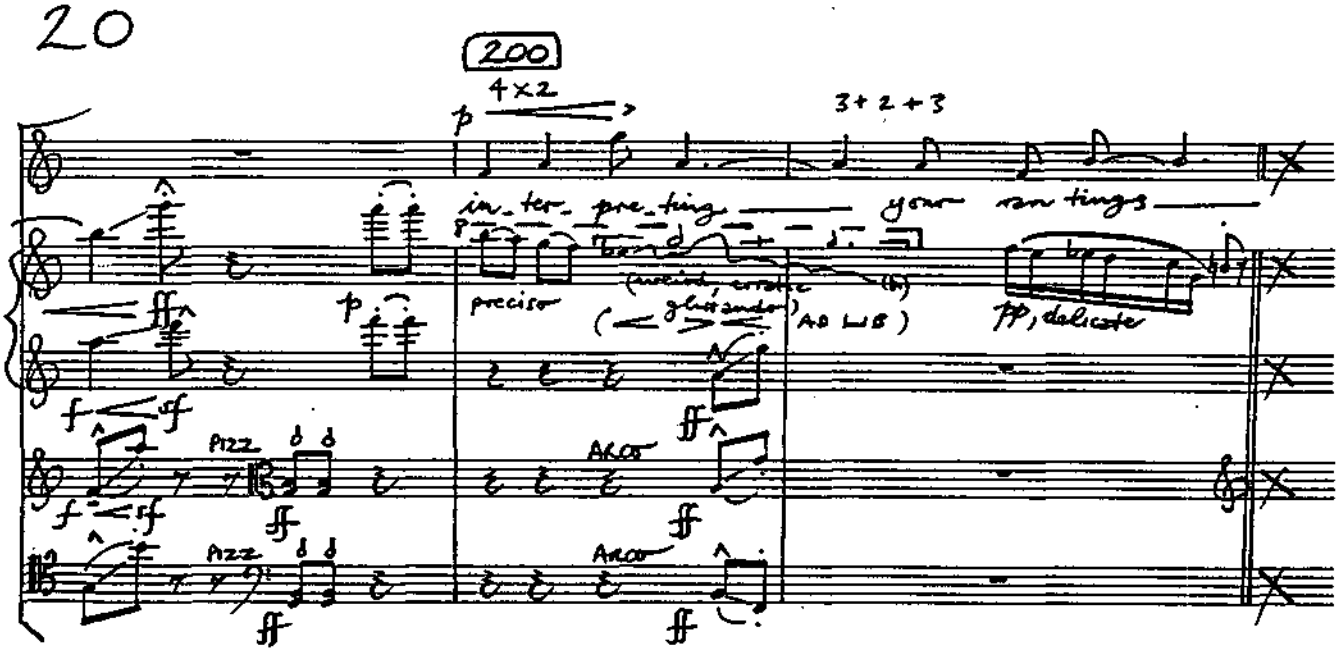

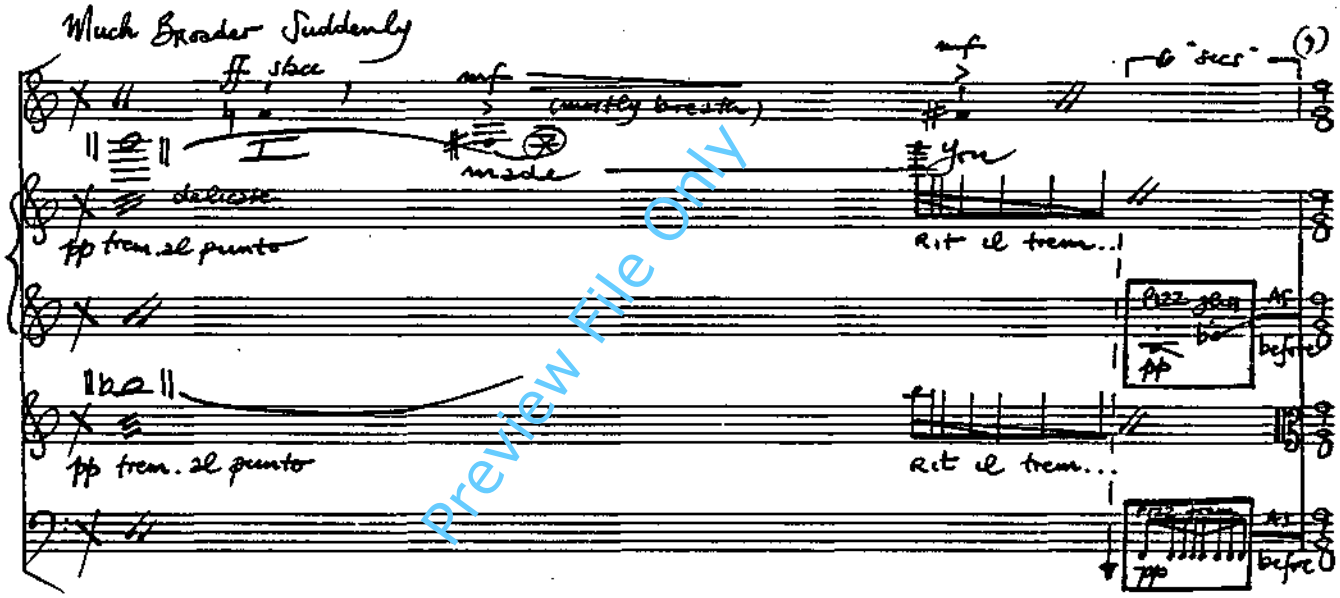

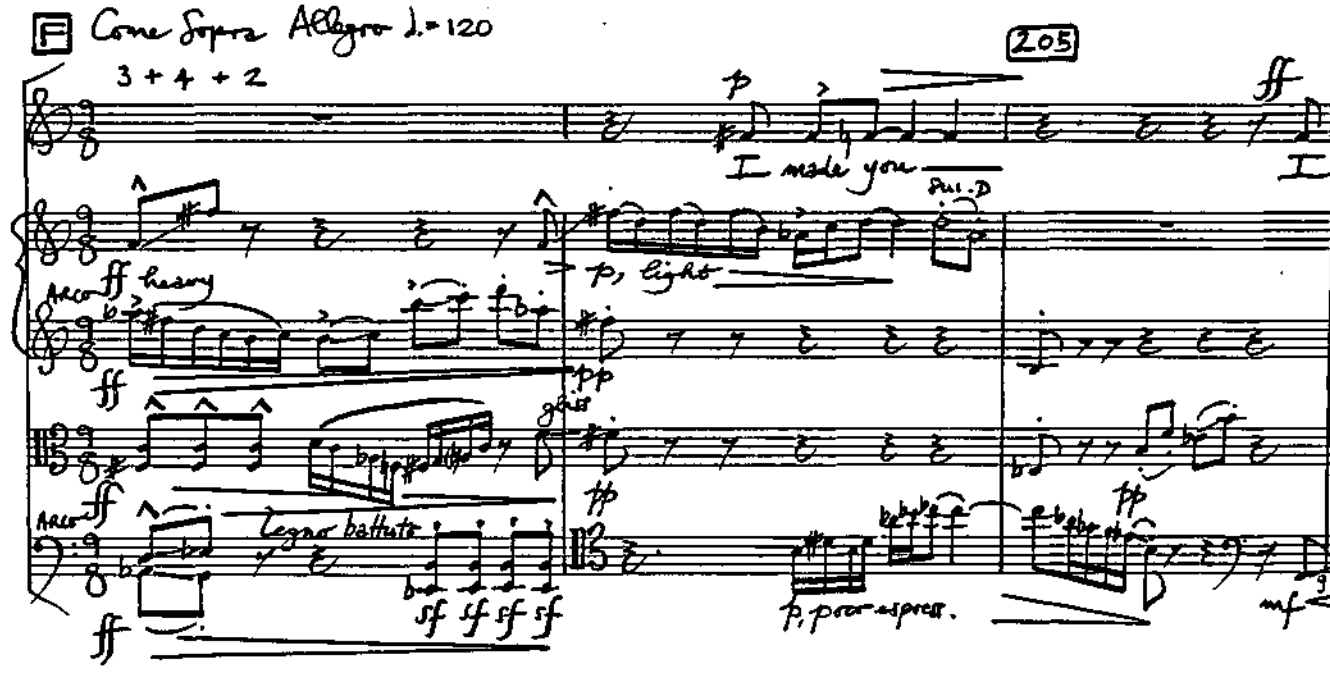

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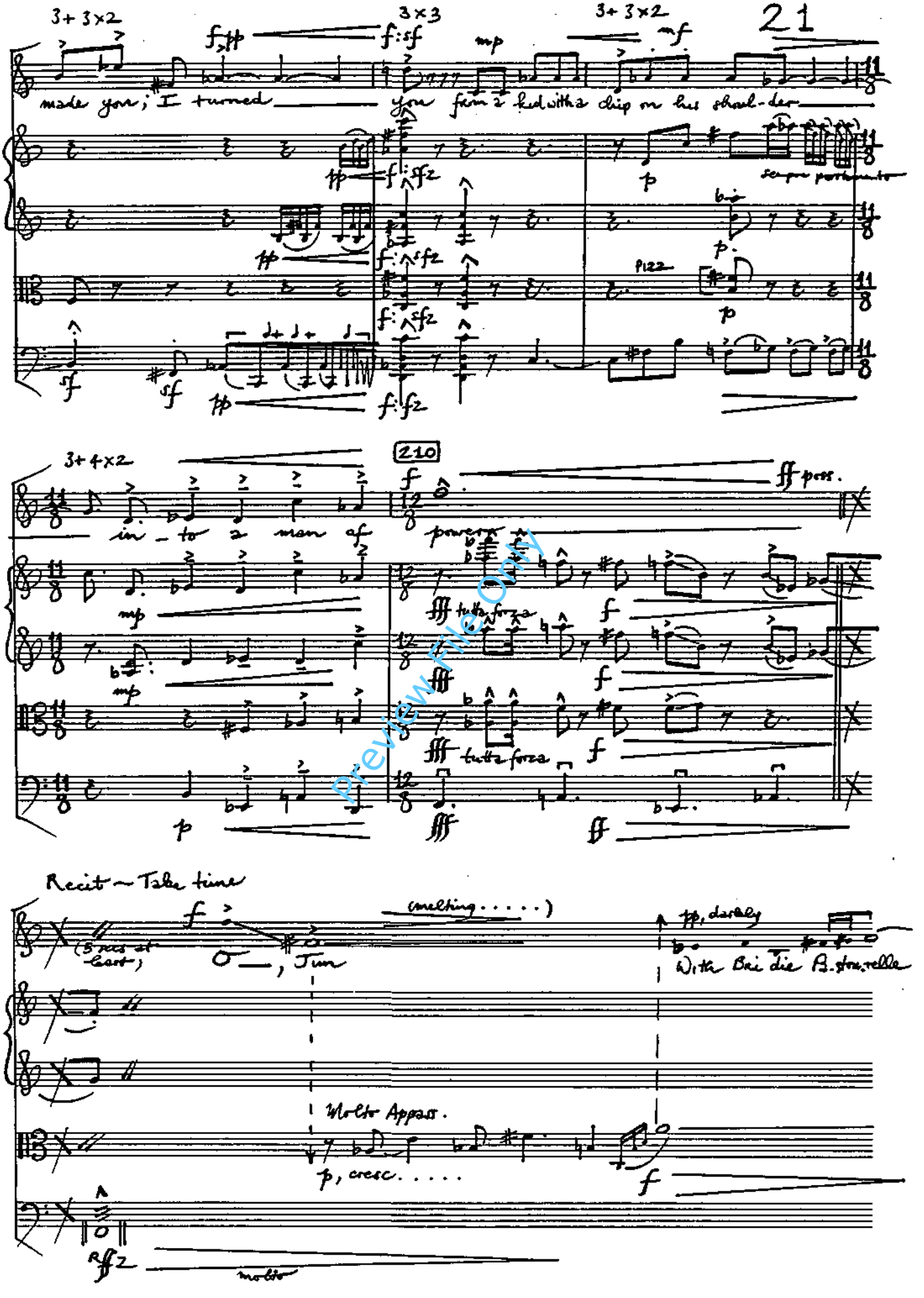

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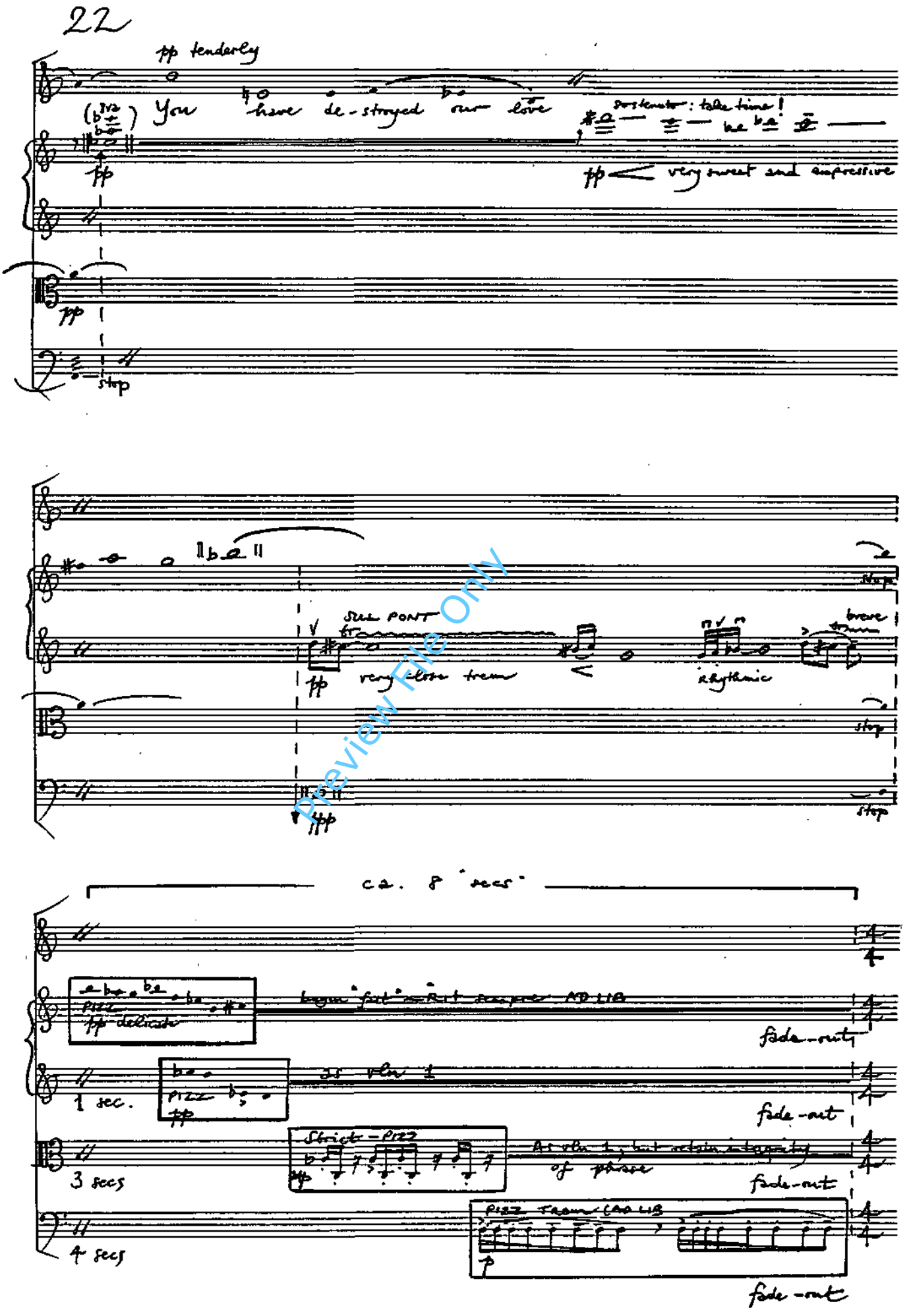

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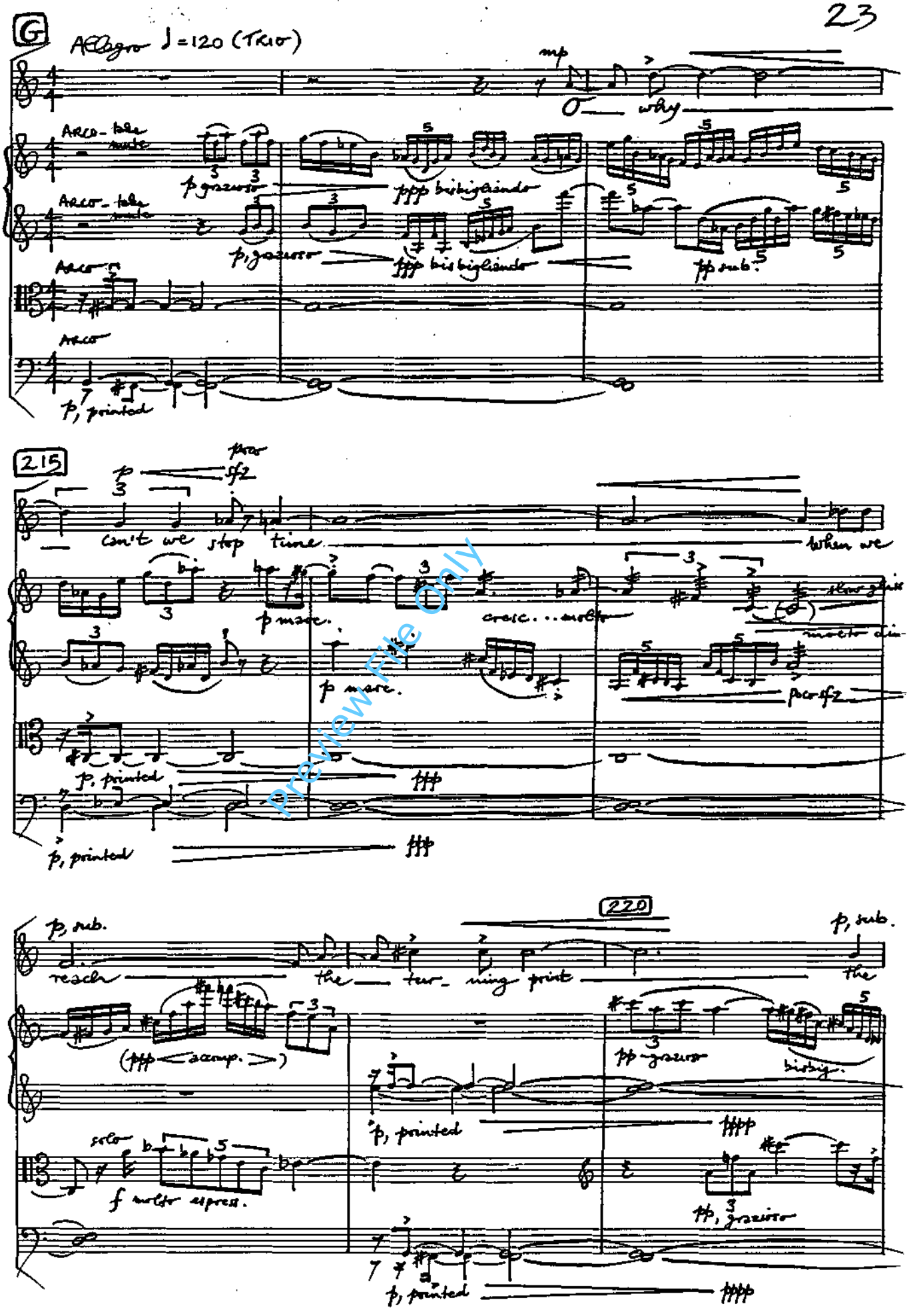

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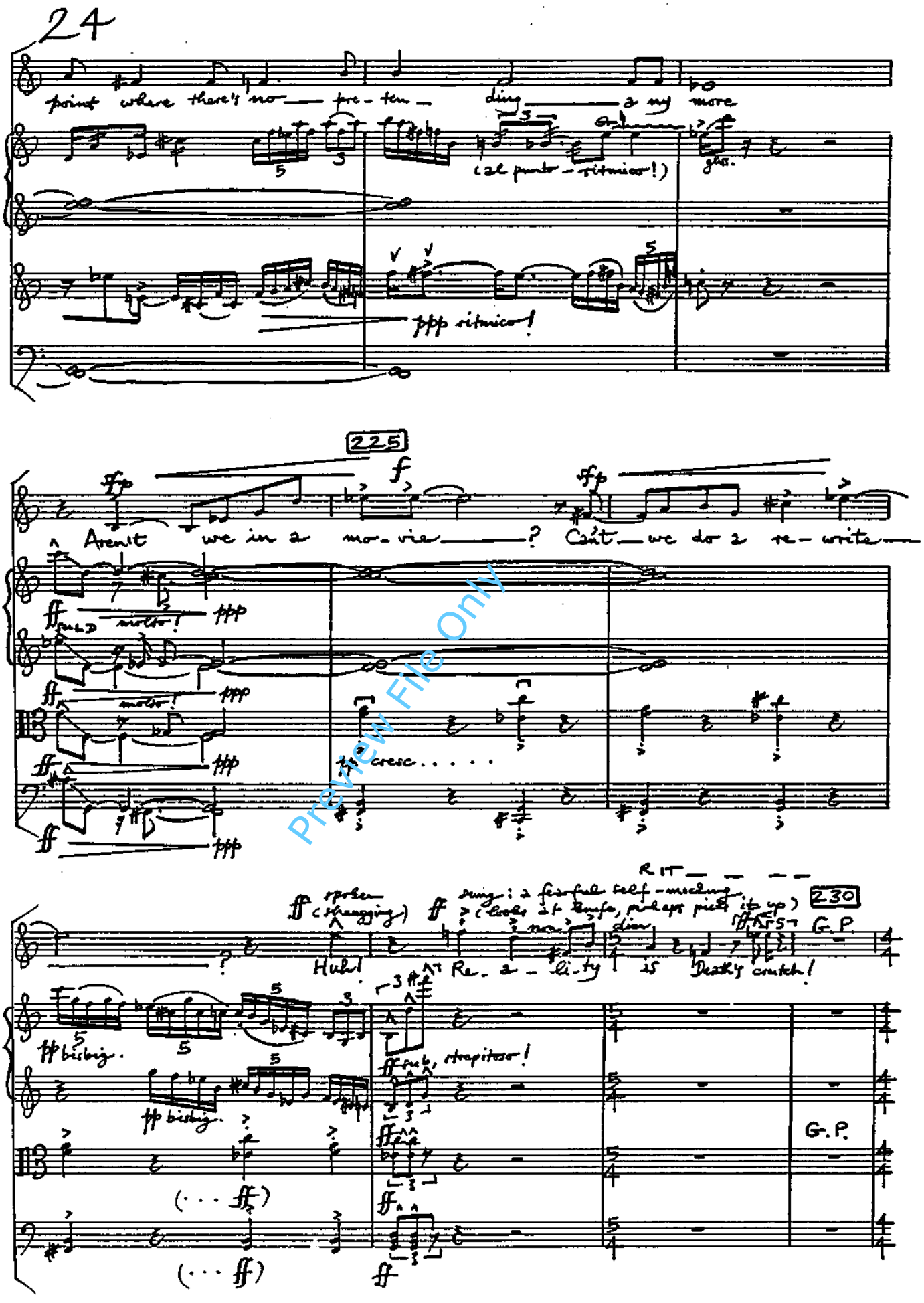

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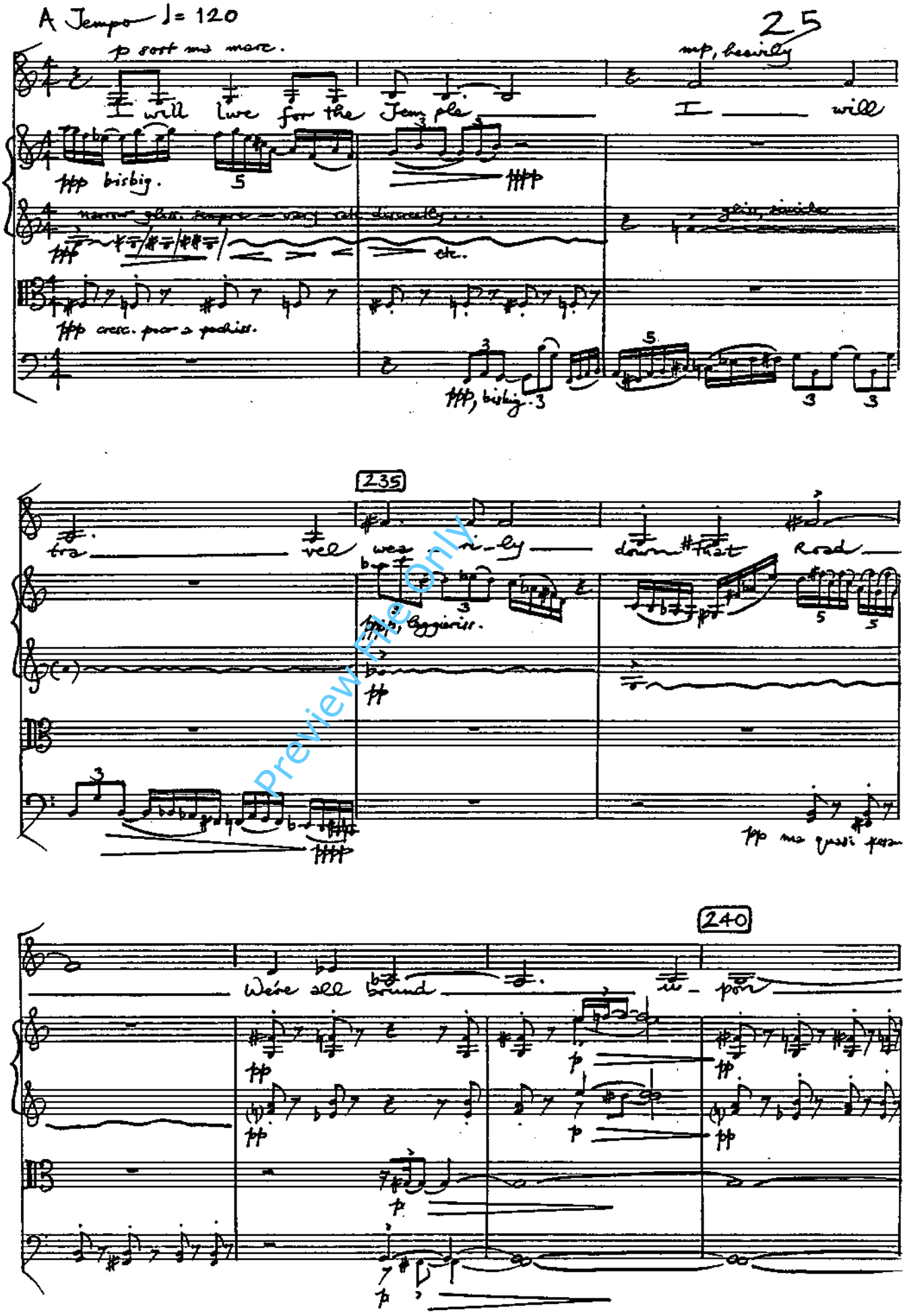

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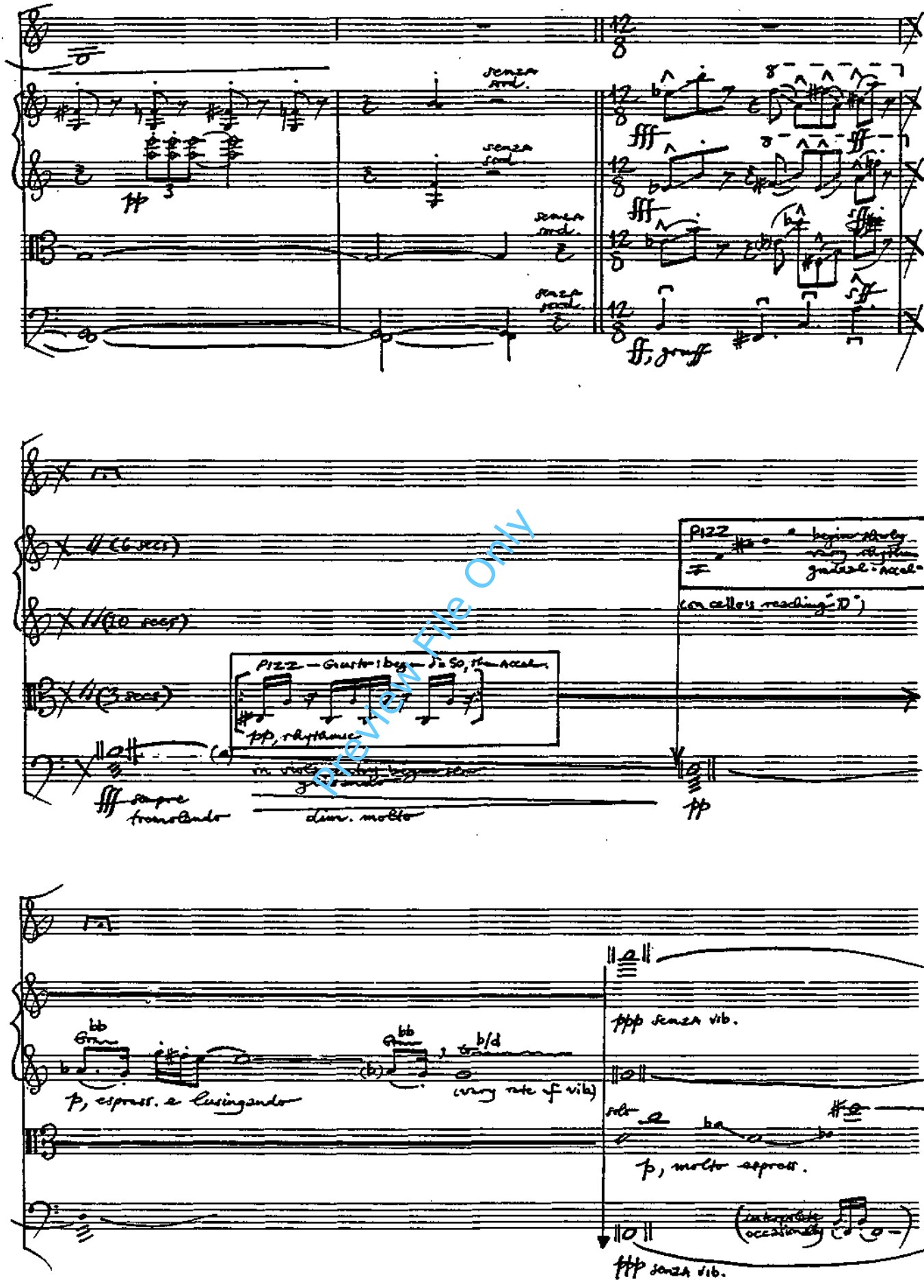
H Come Prima – ♩.=120 Vivo



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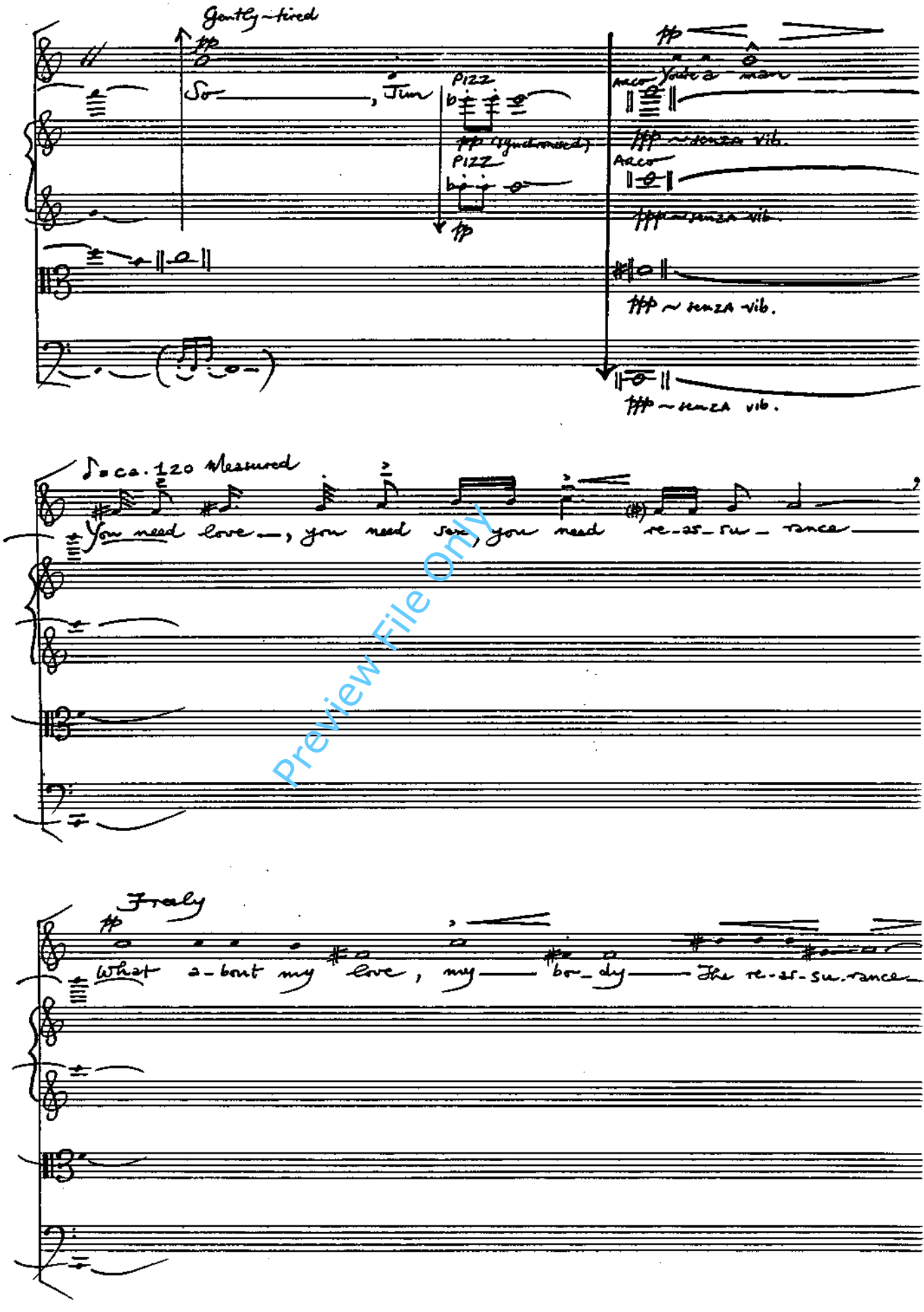

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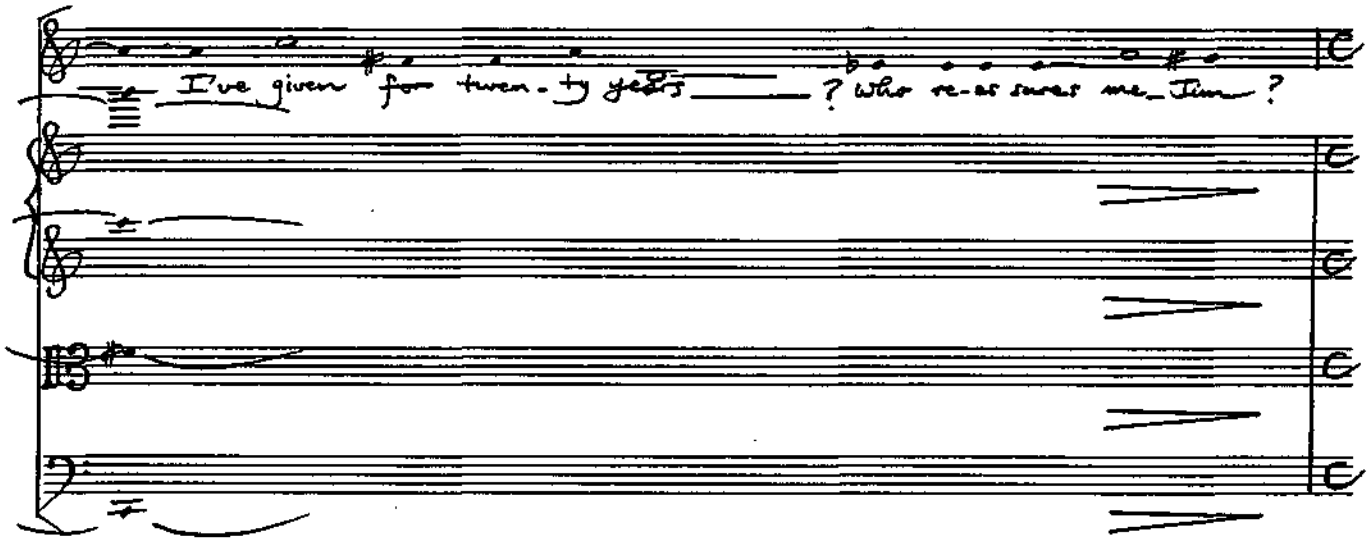

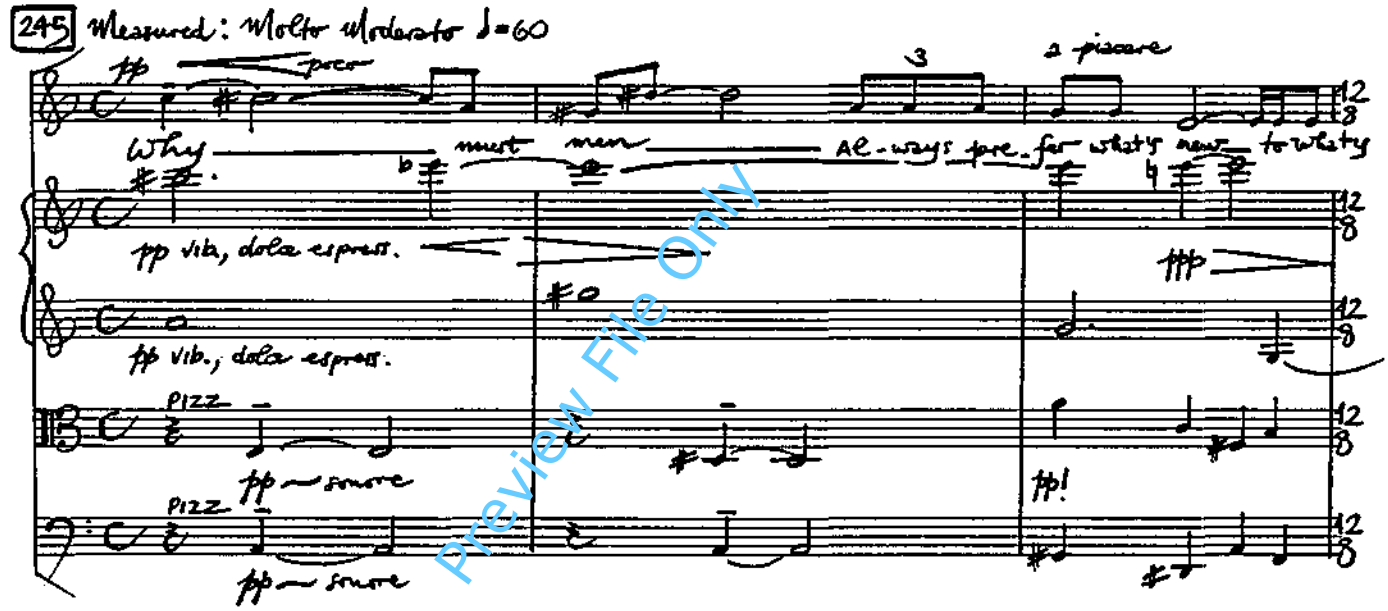

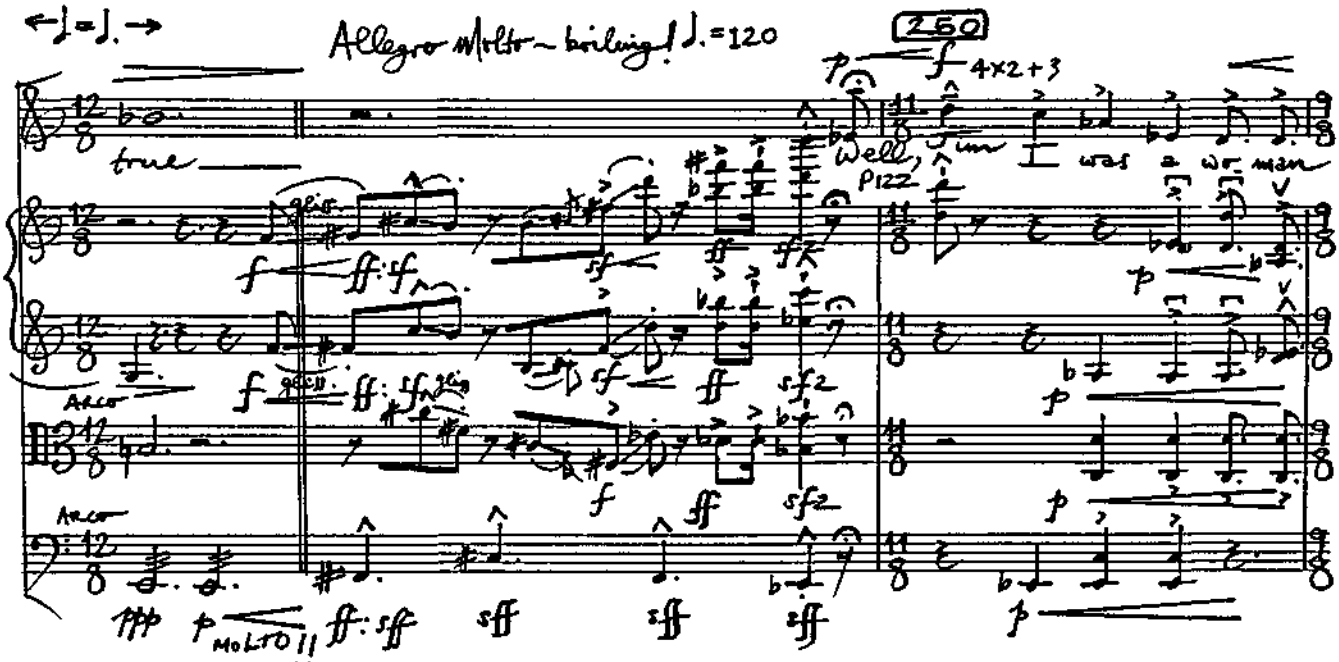

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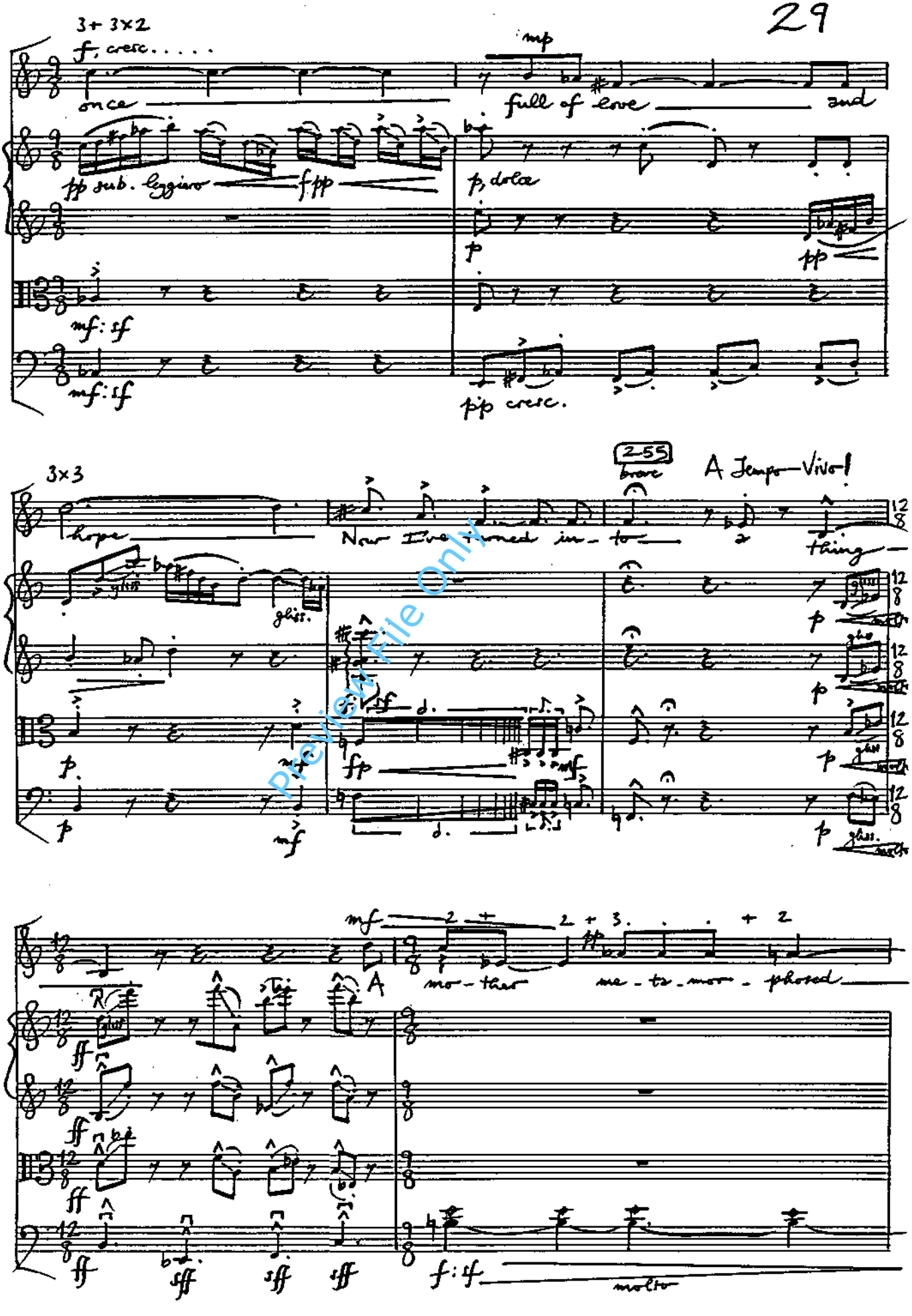

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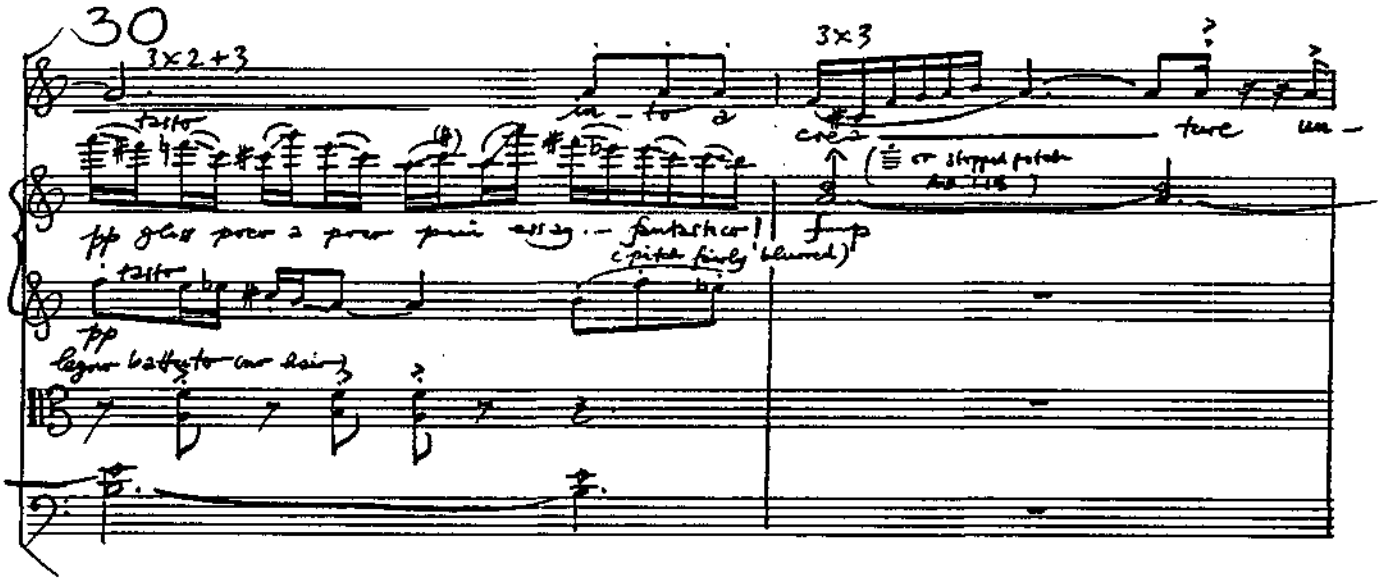

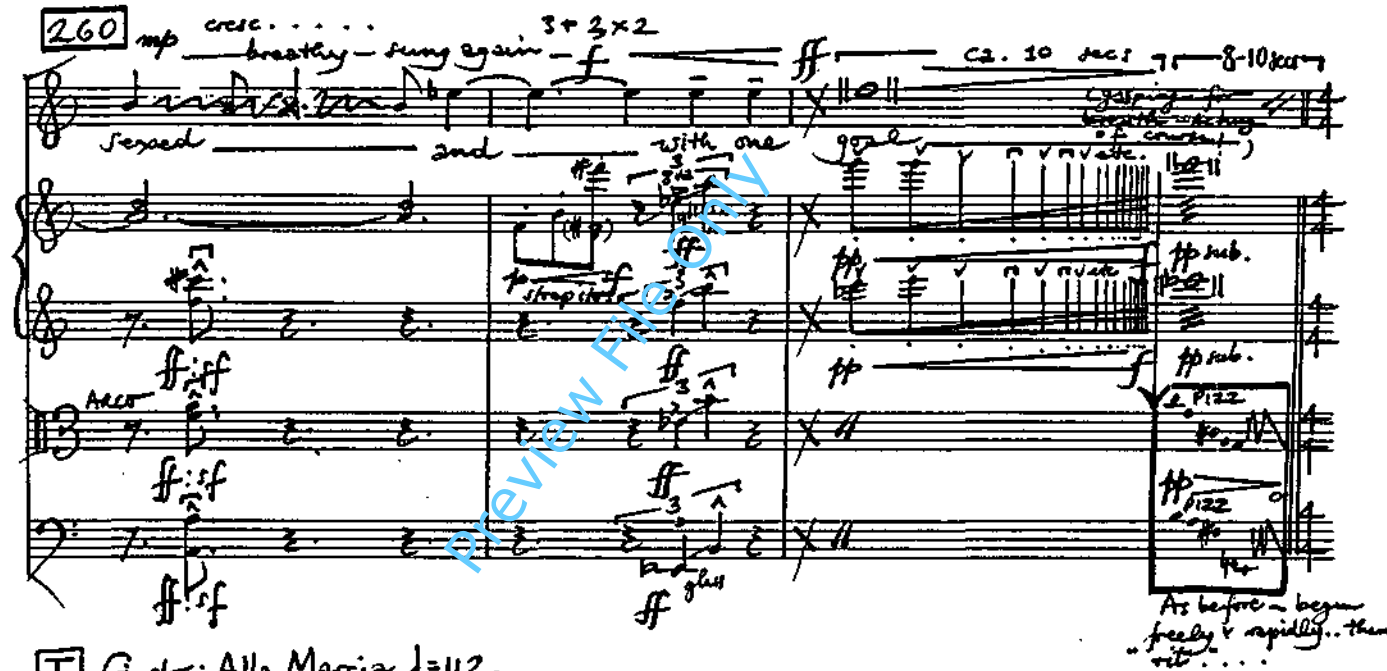

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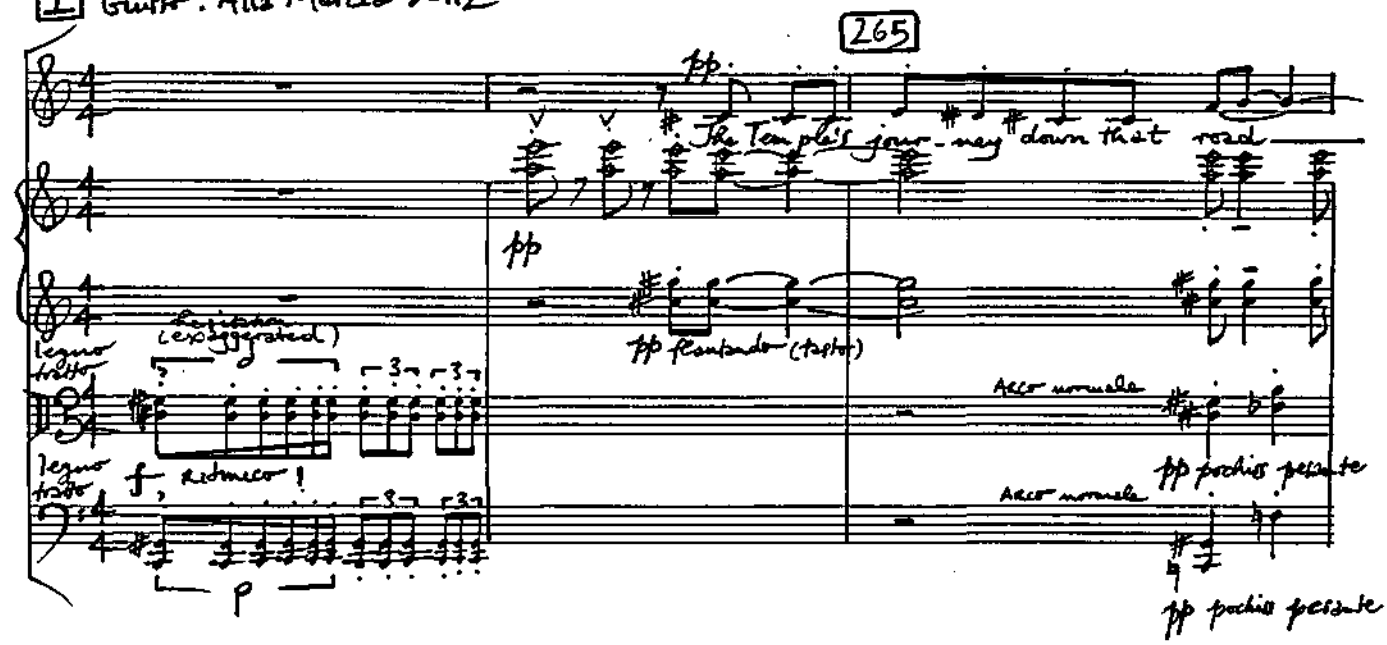

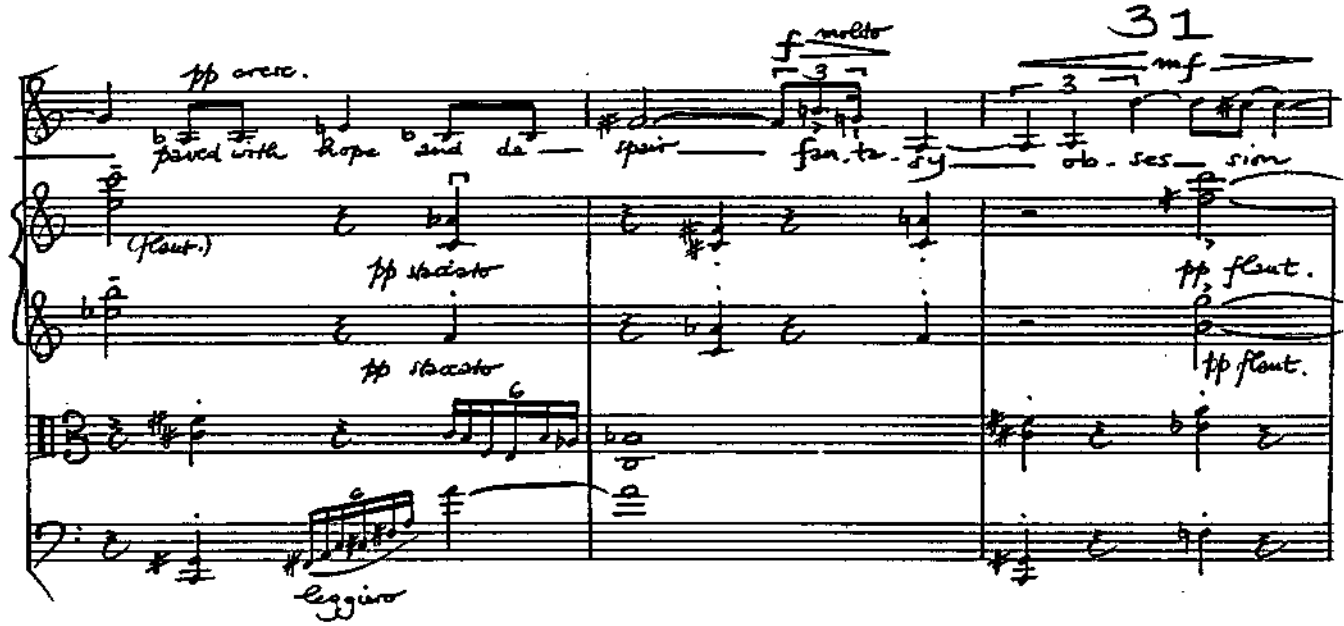

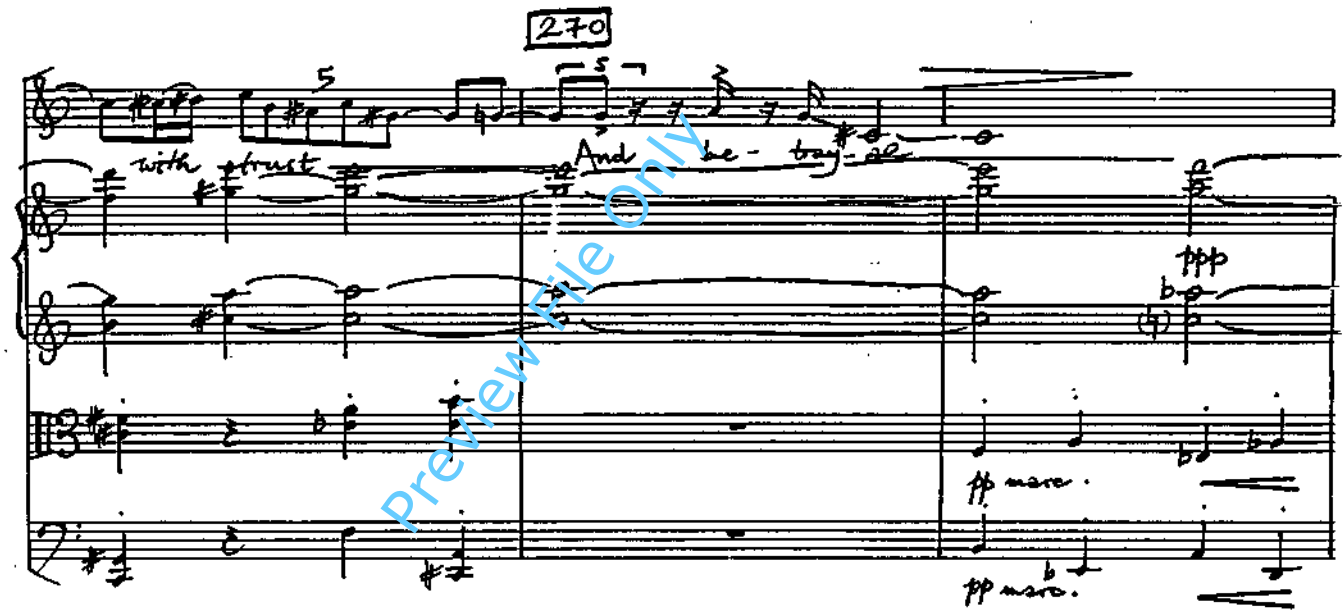

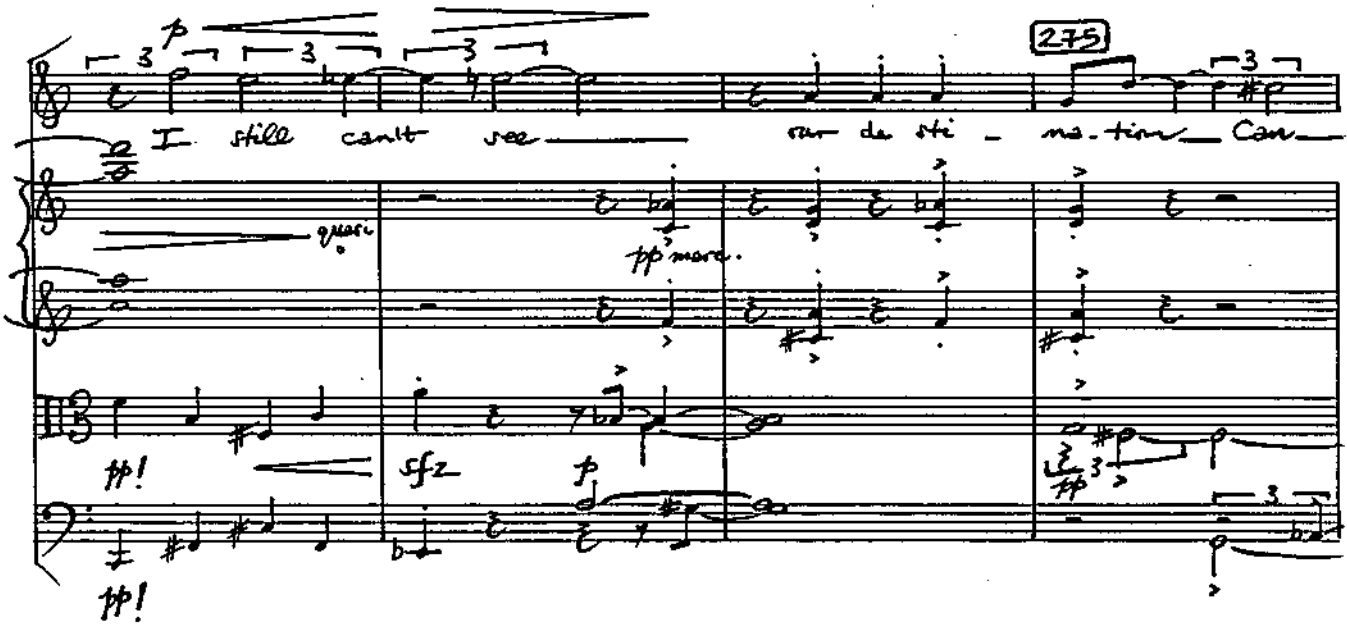

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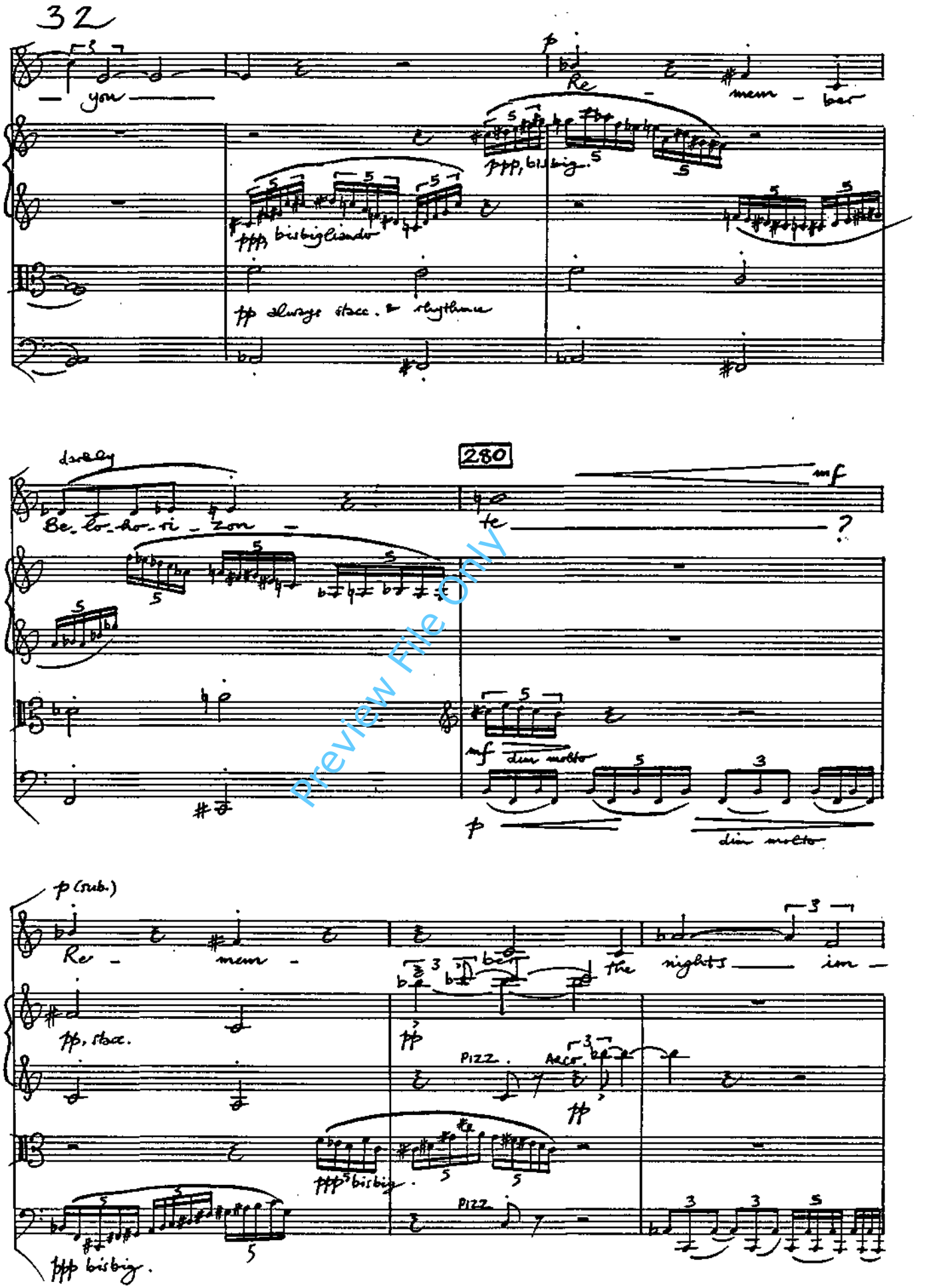

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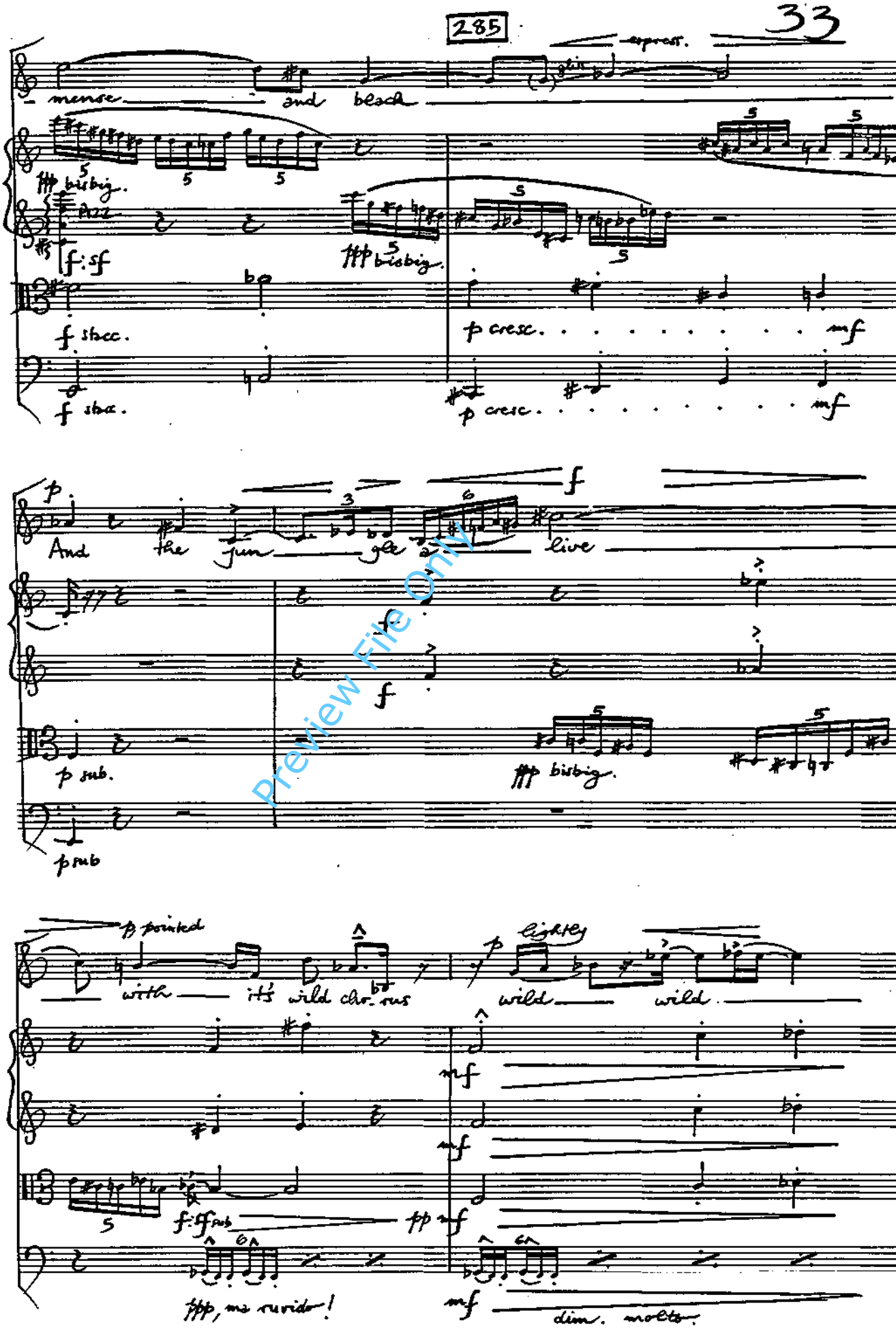

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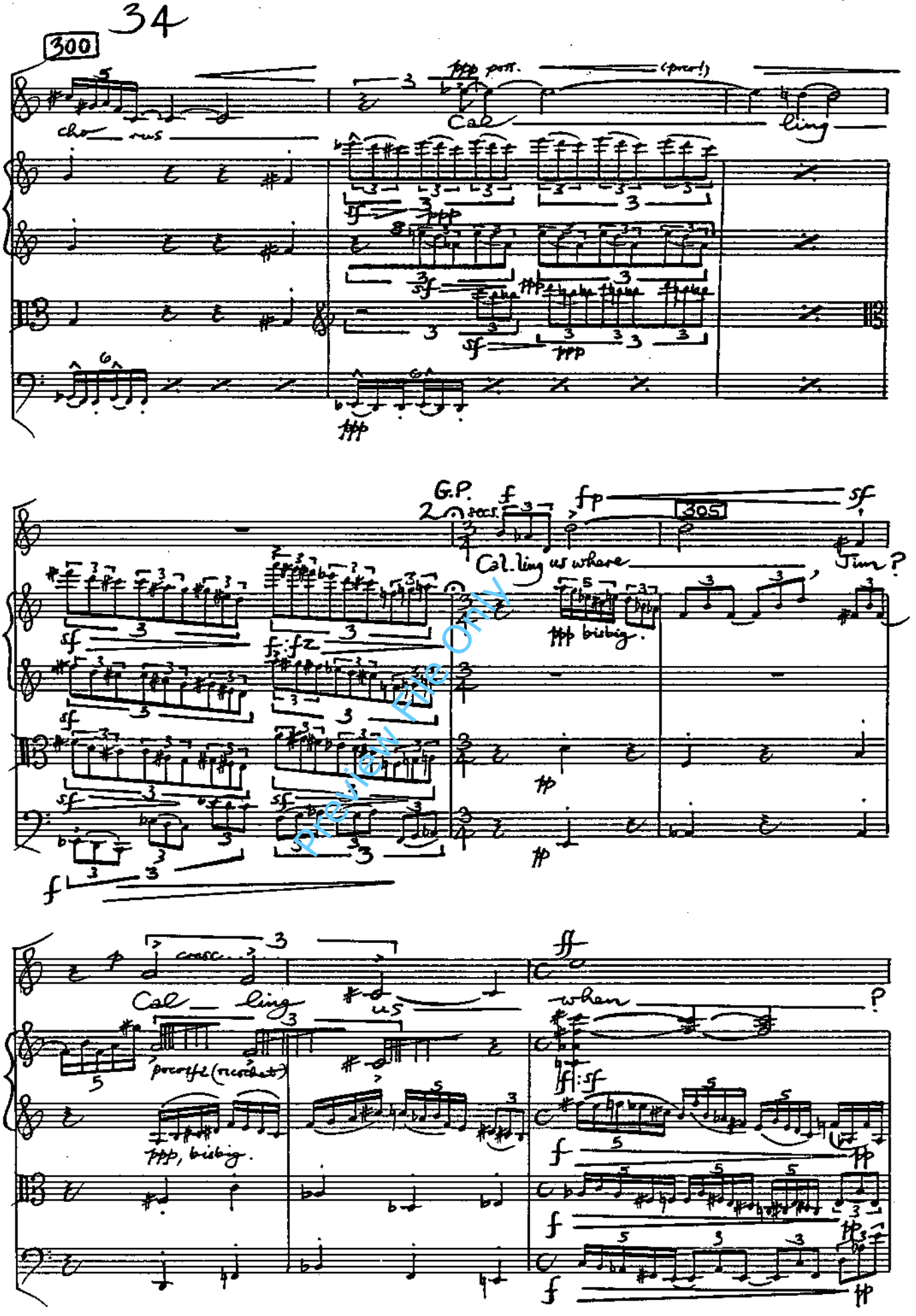

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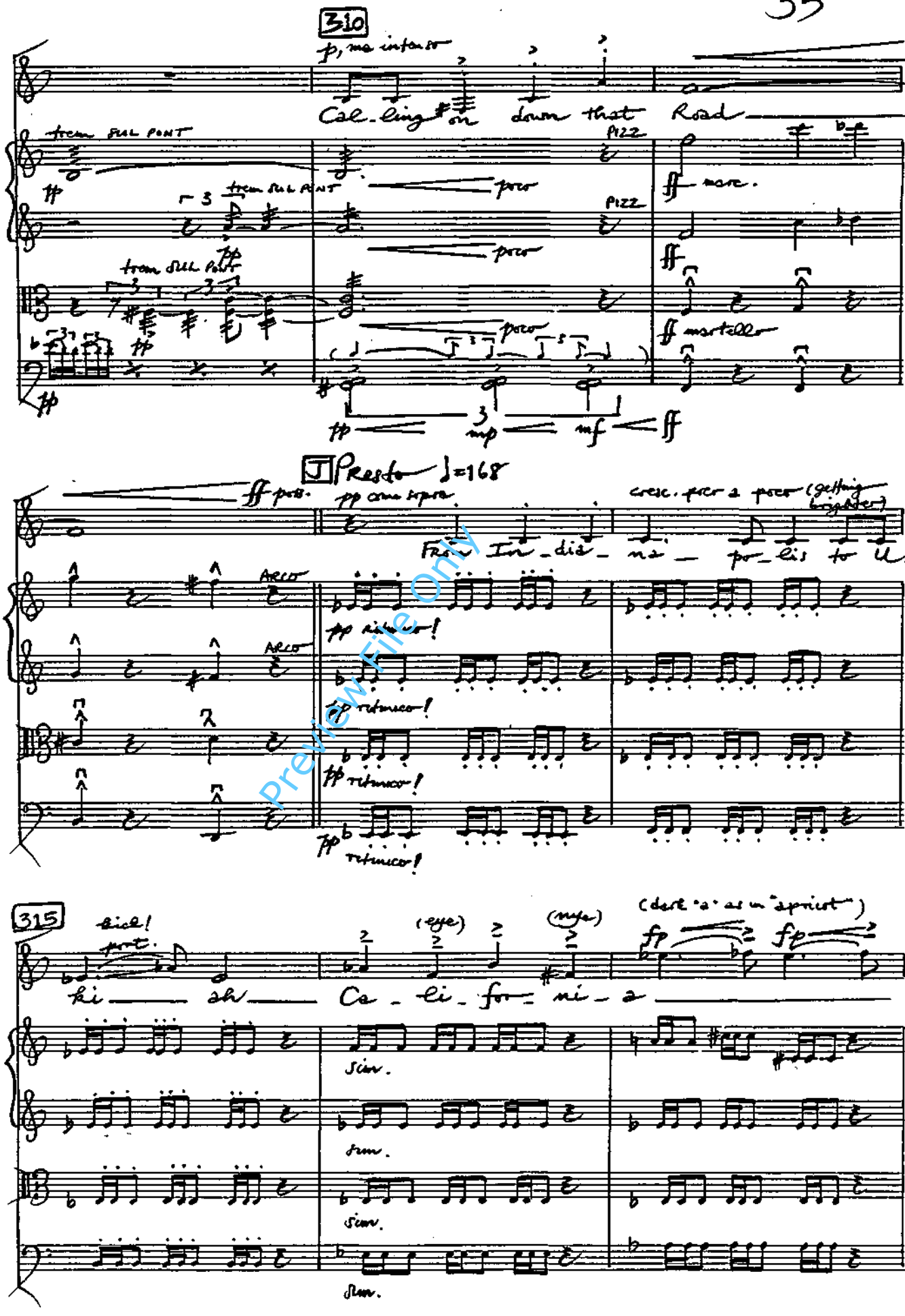

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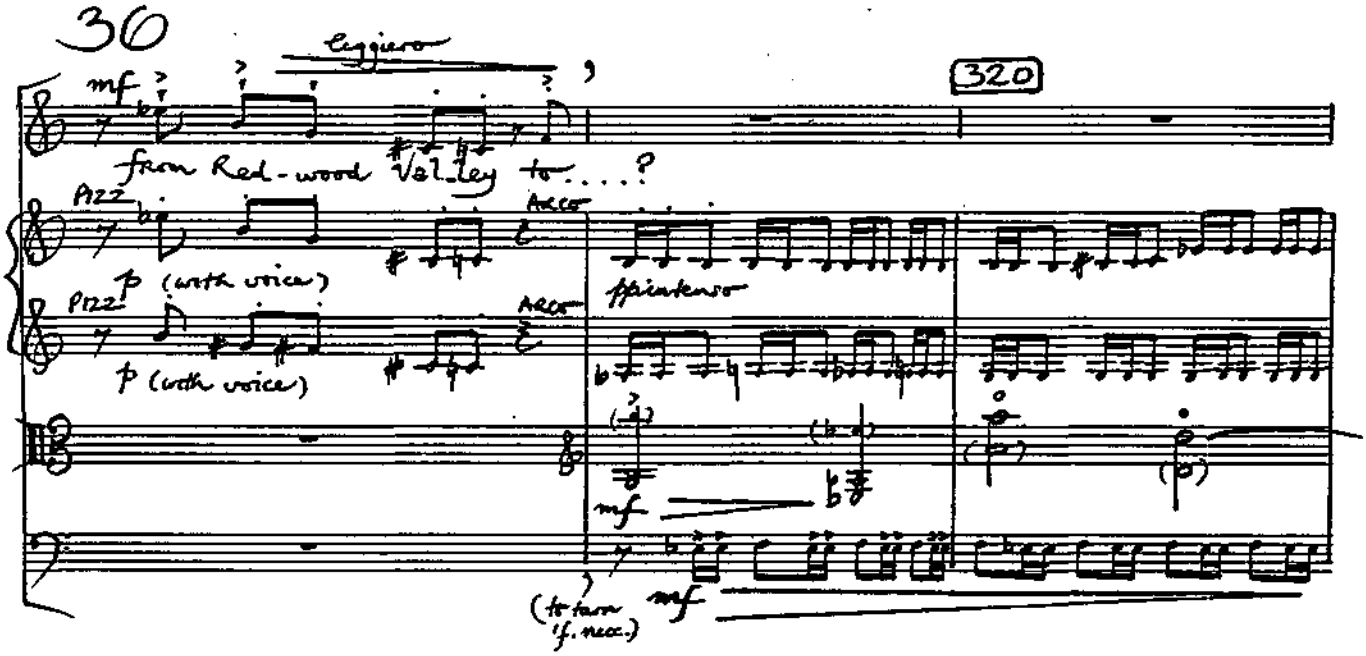

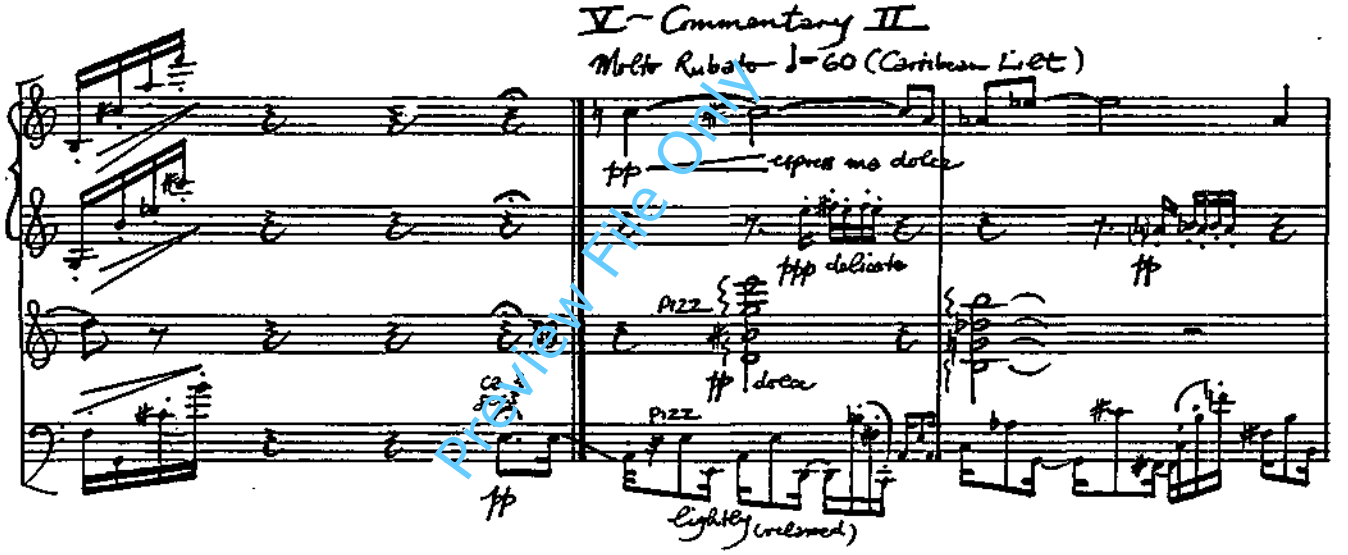

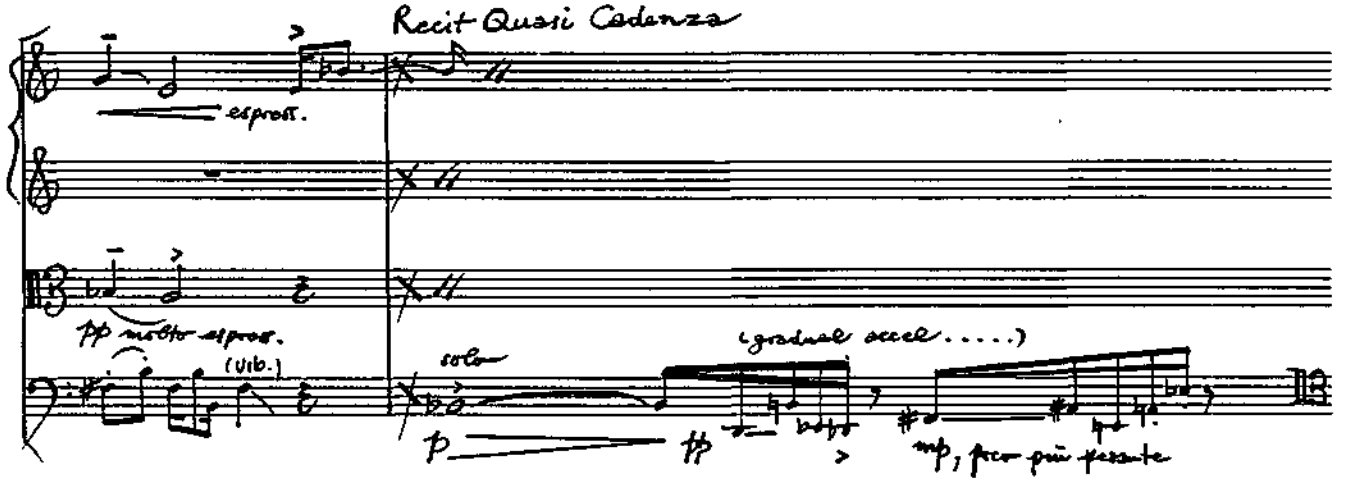

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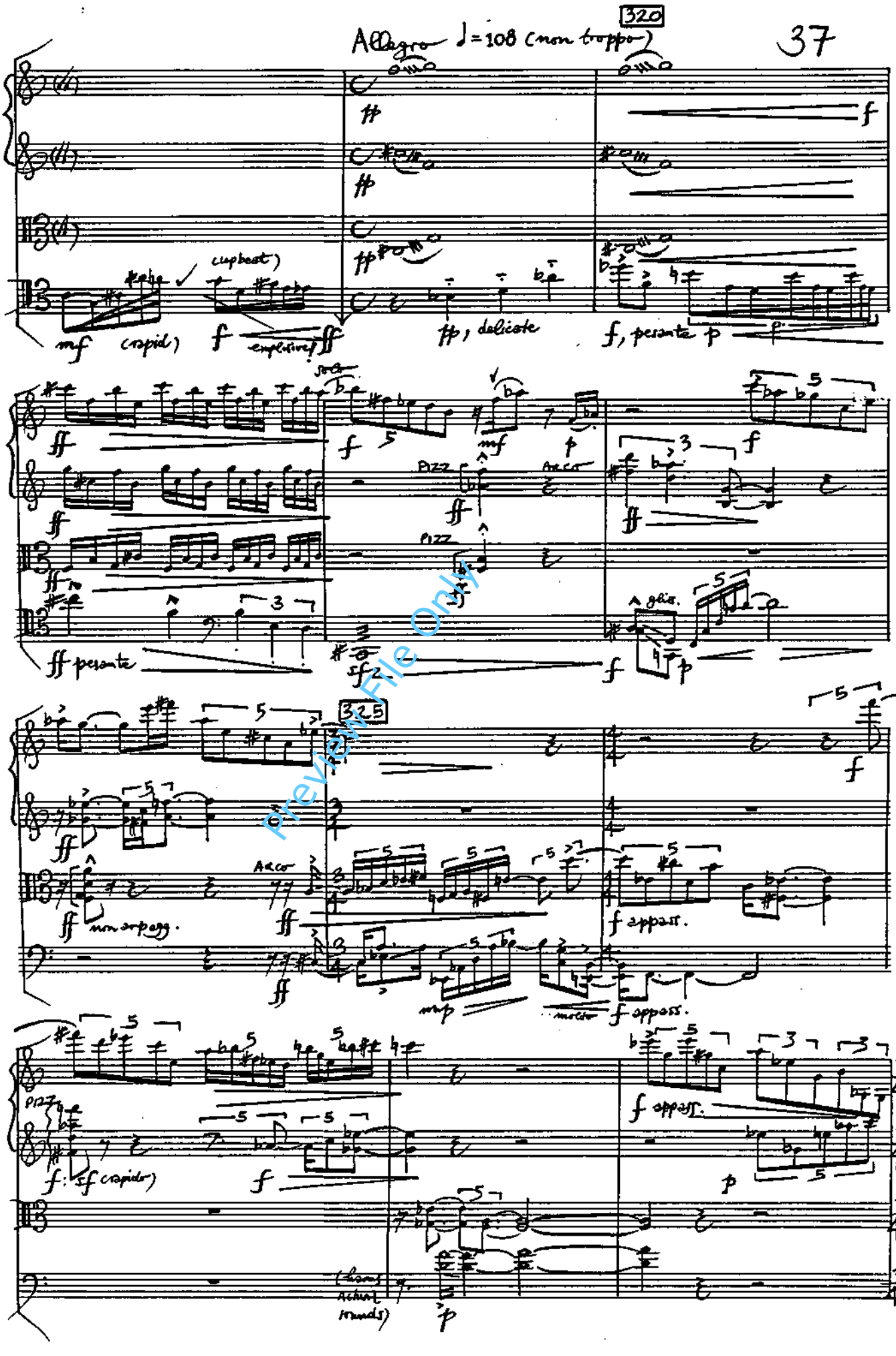

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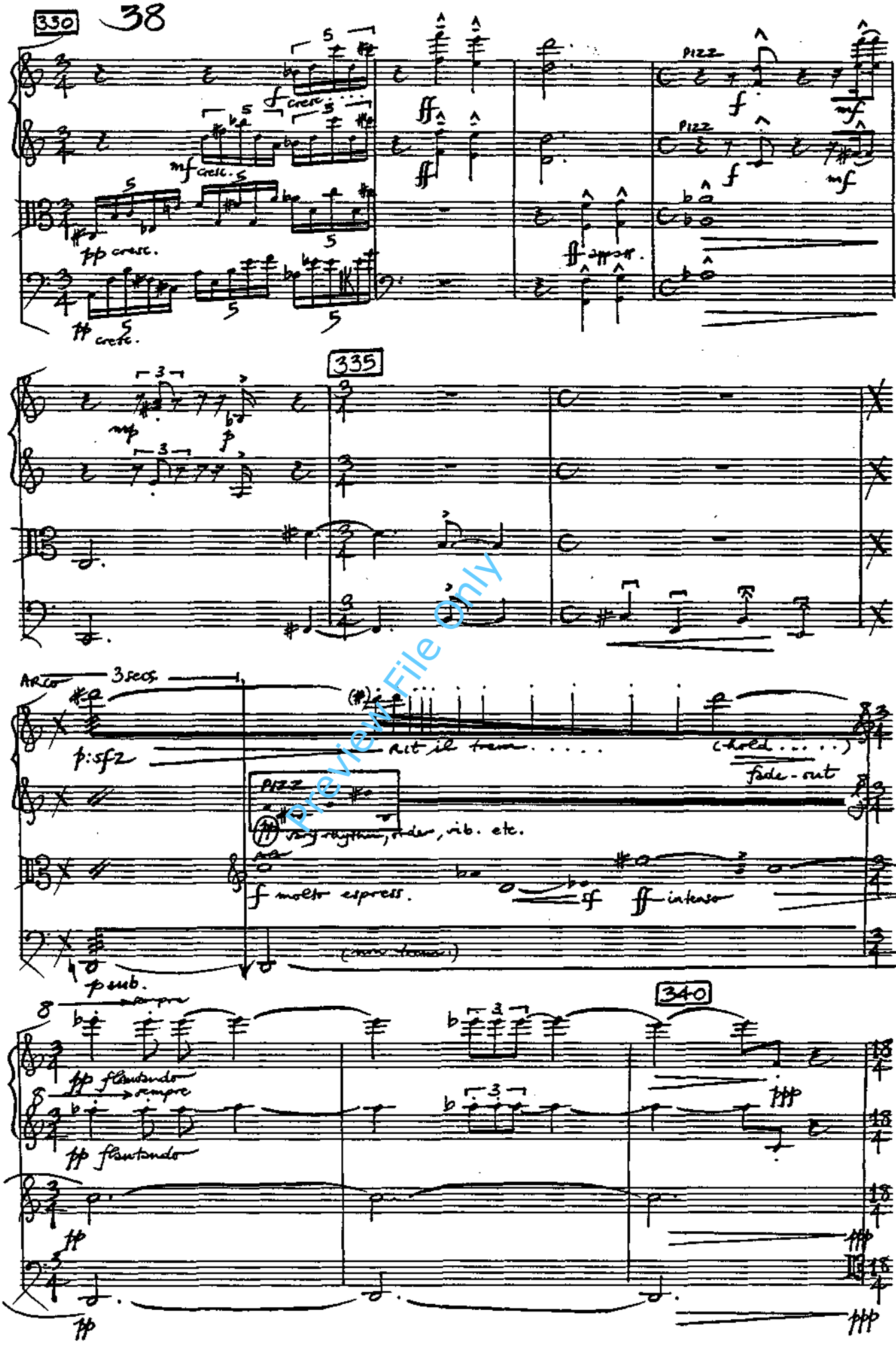

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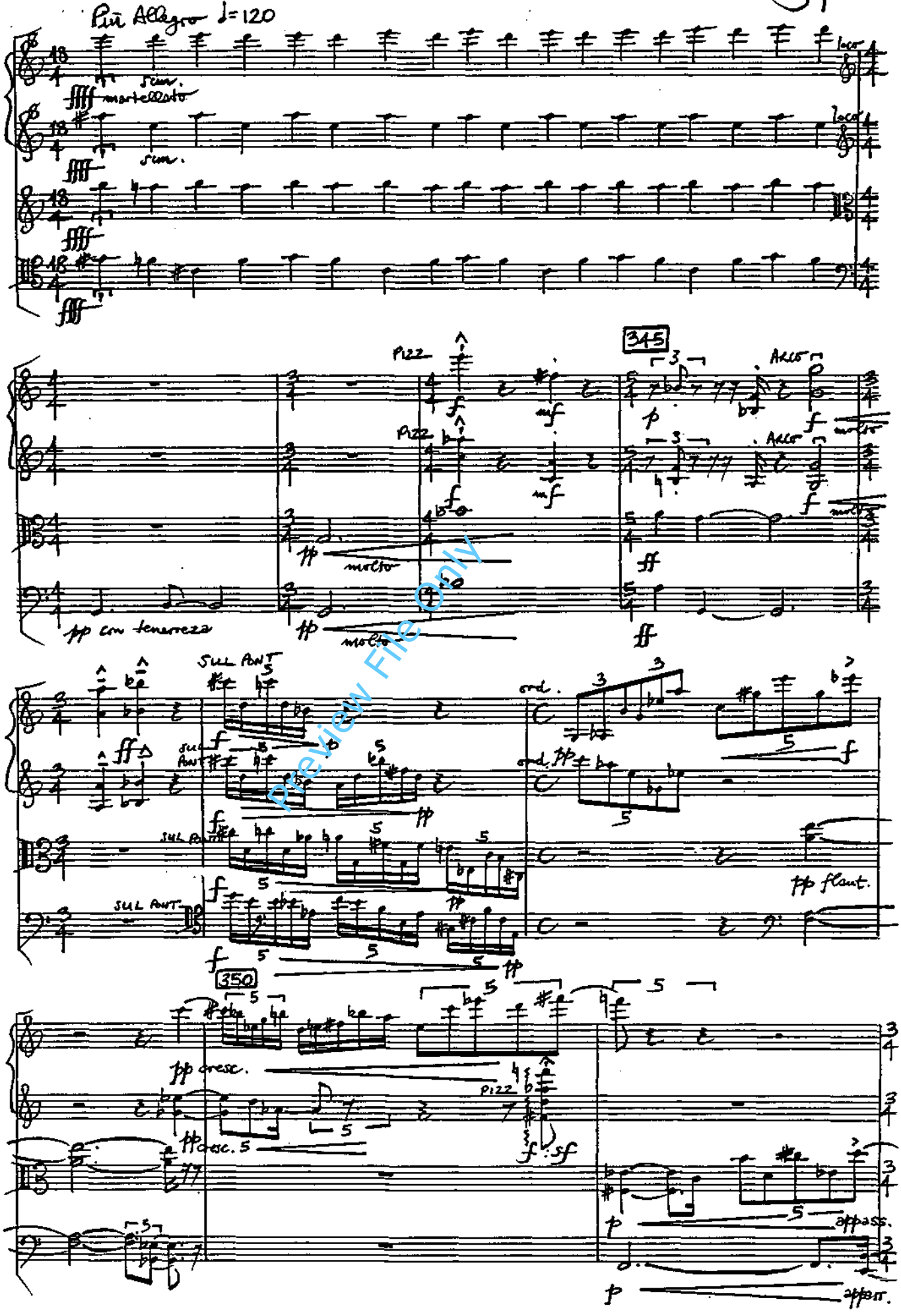

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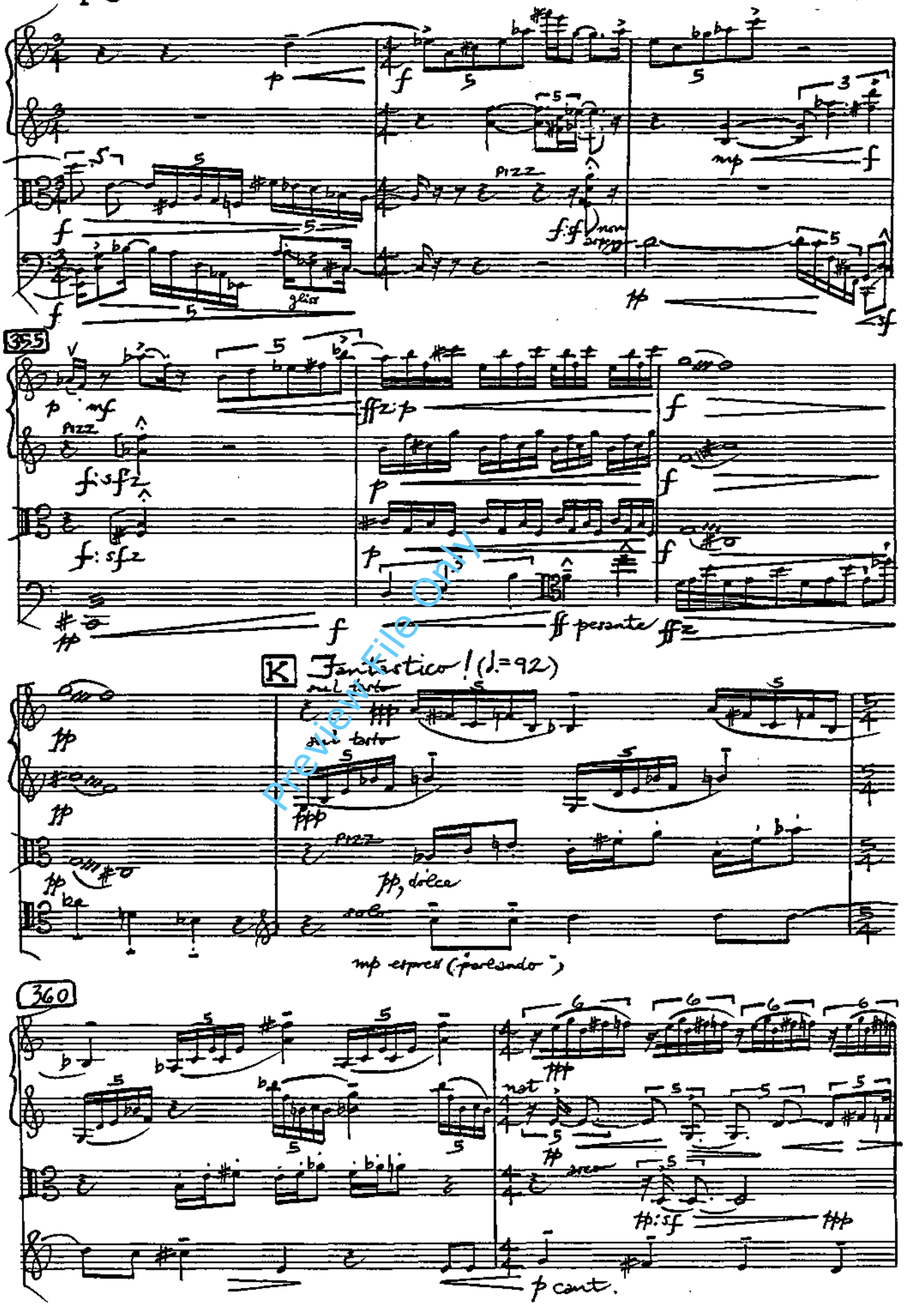

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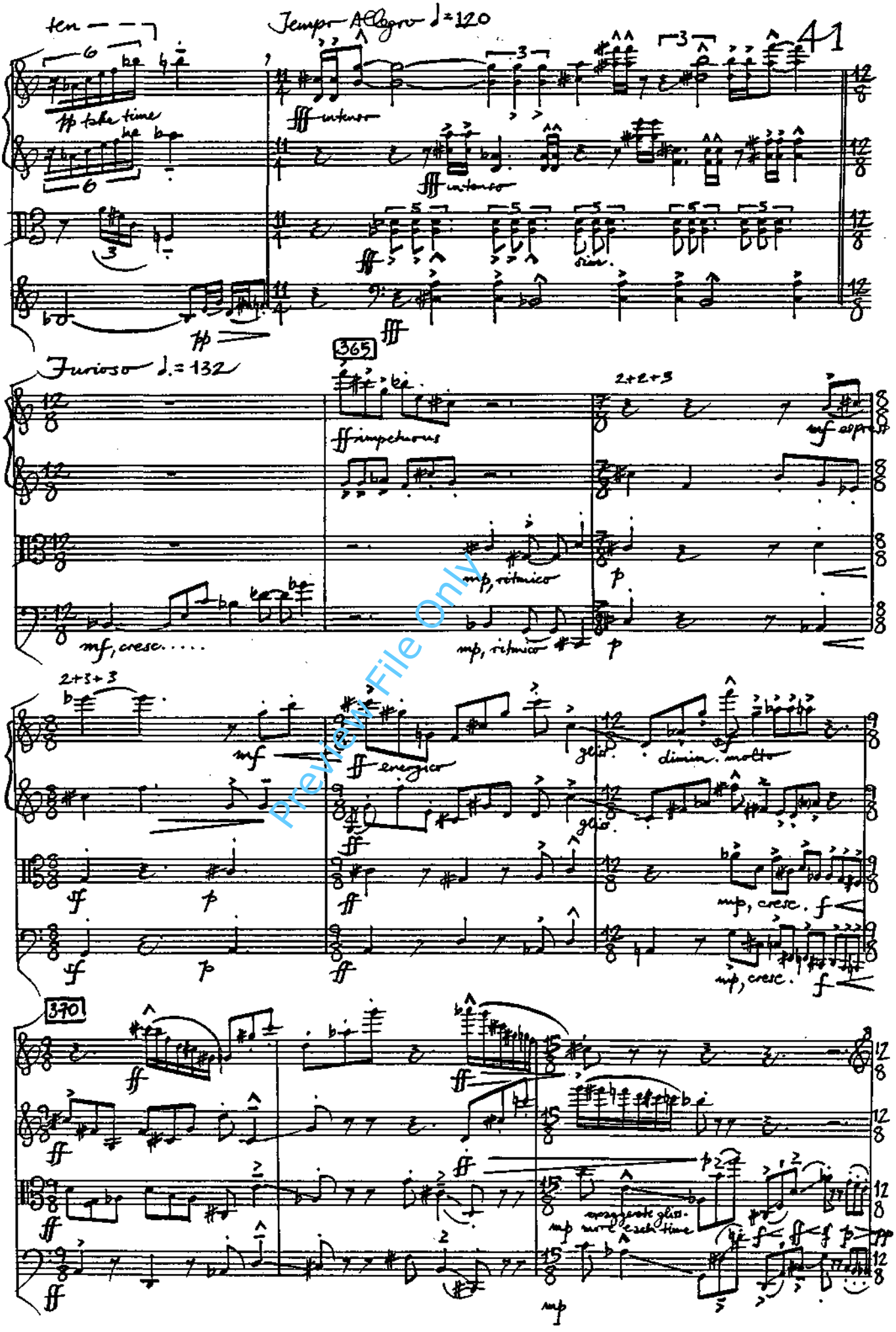

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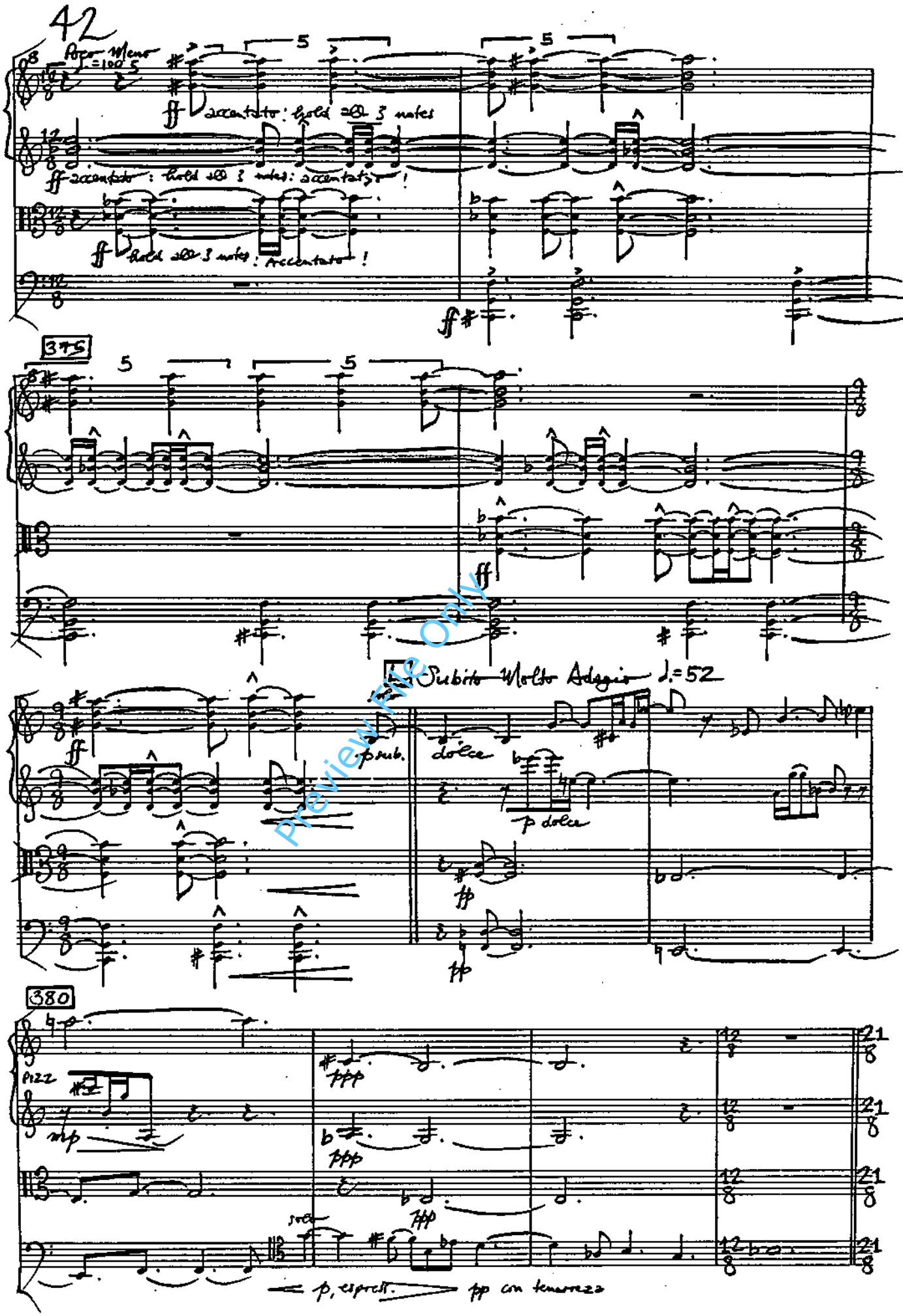

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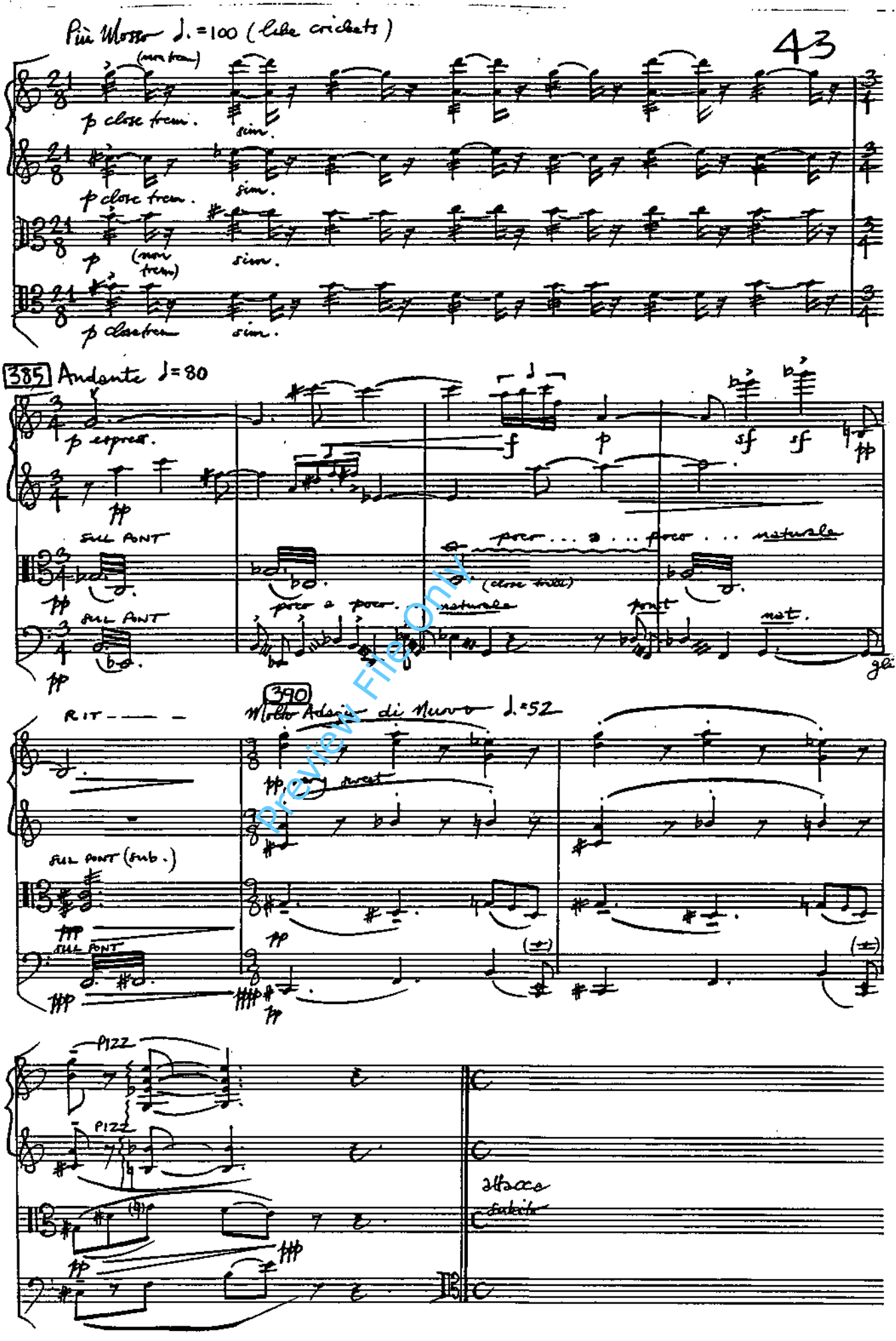
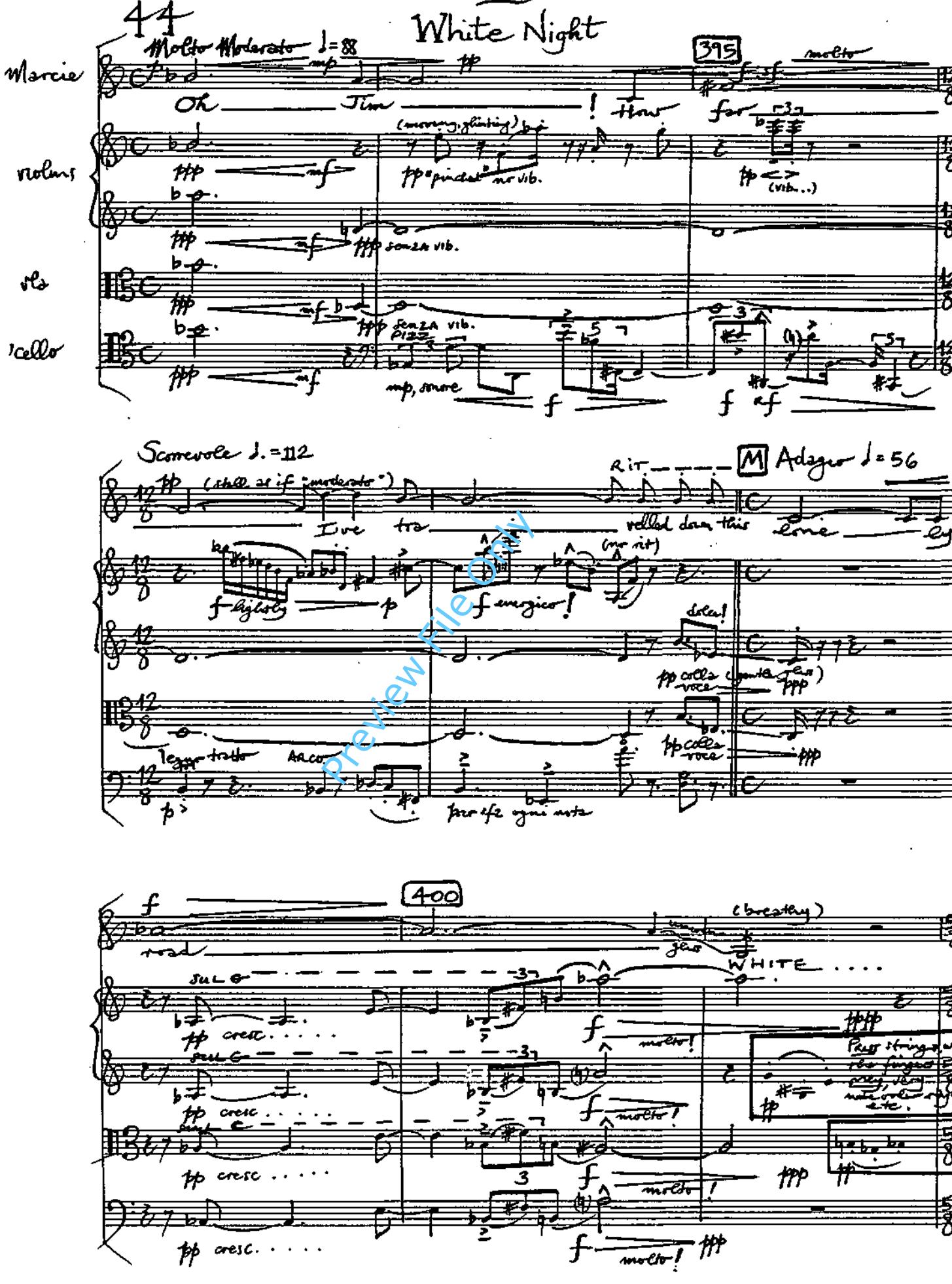


Preview File Only

VI
White Night



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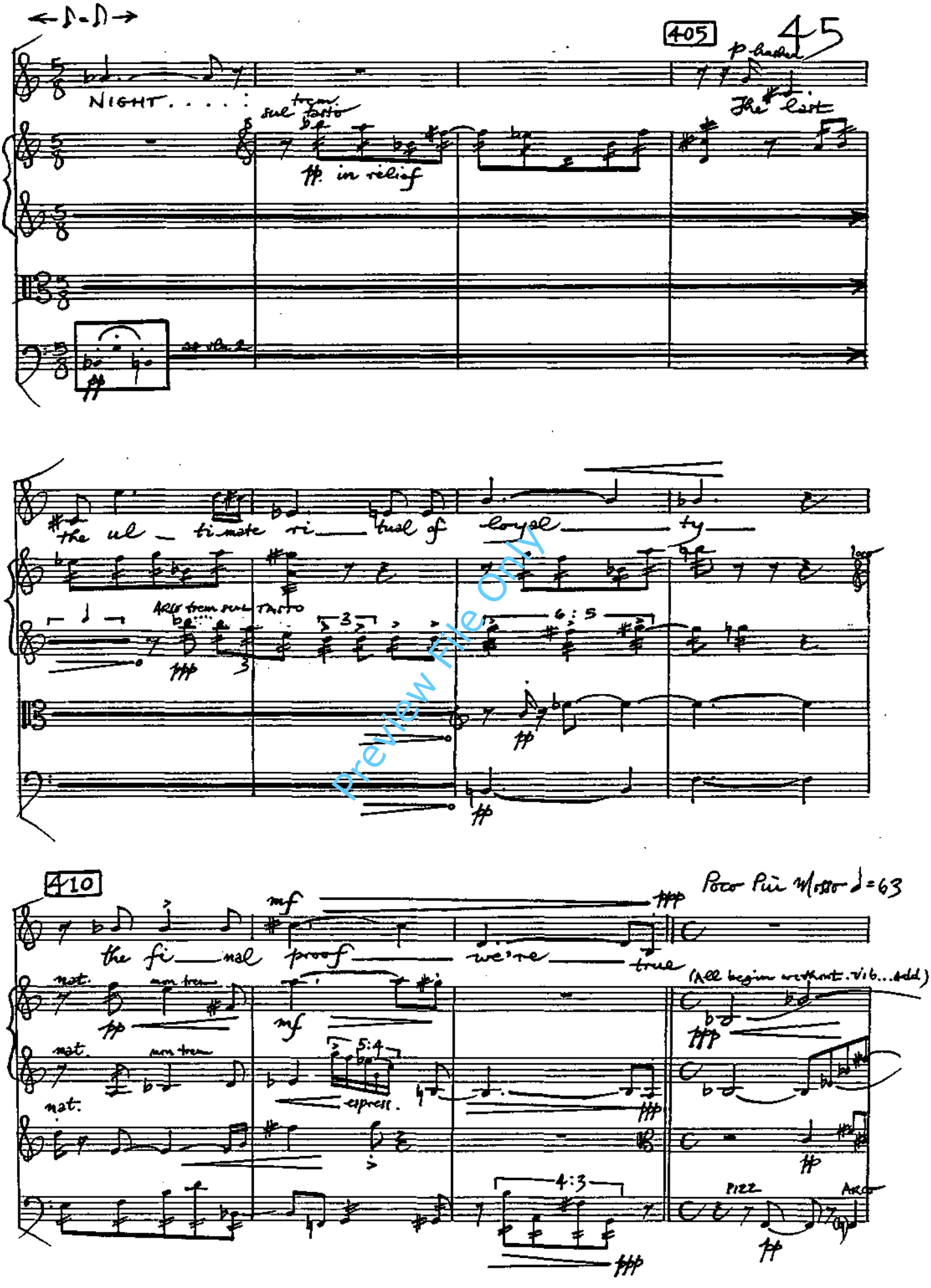

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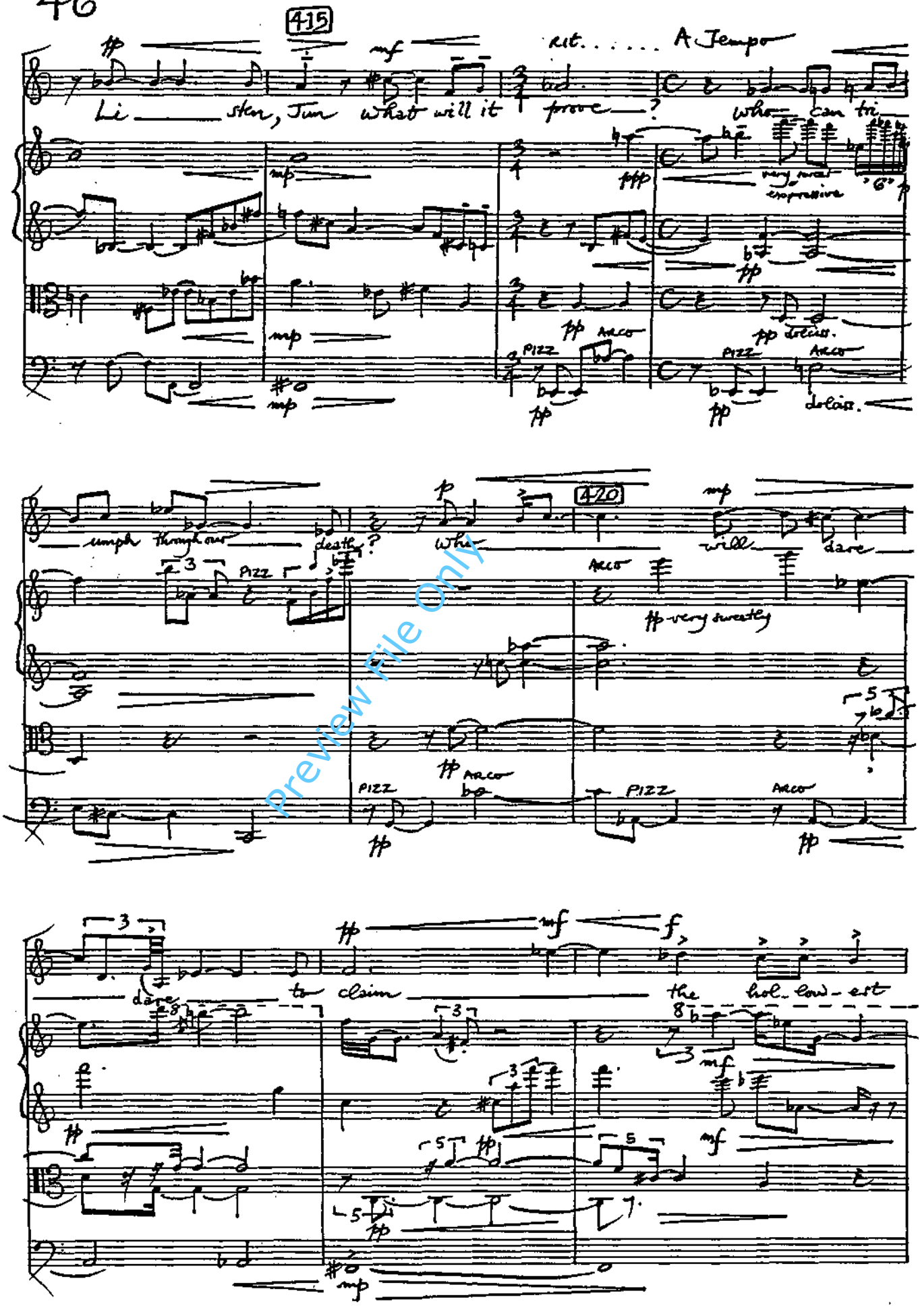

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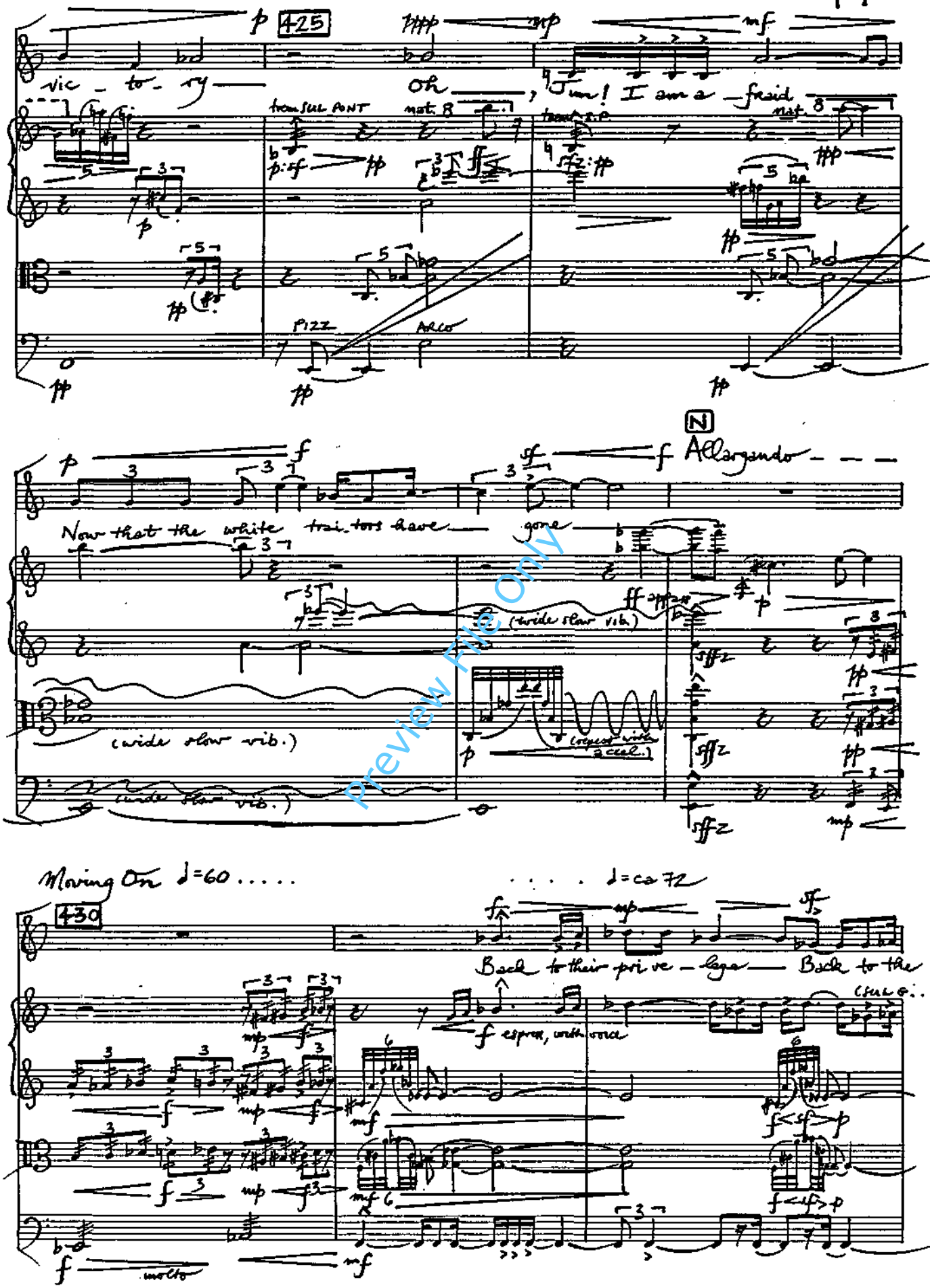
PANOPUS SCORE-SYSTEM®



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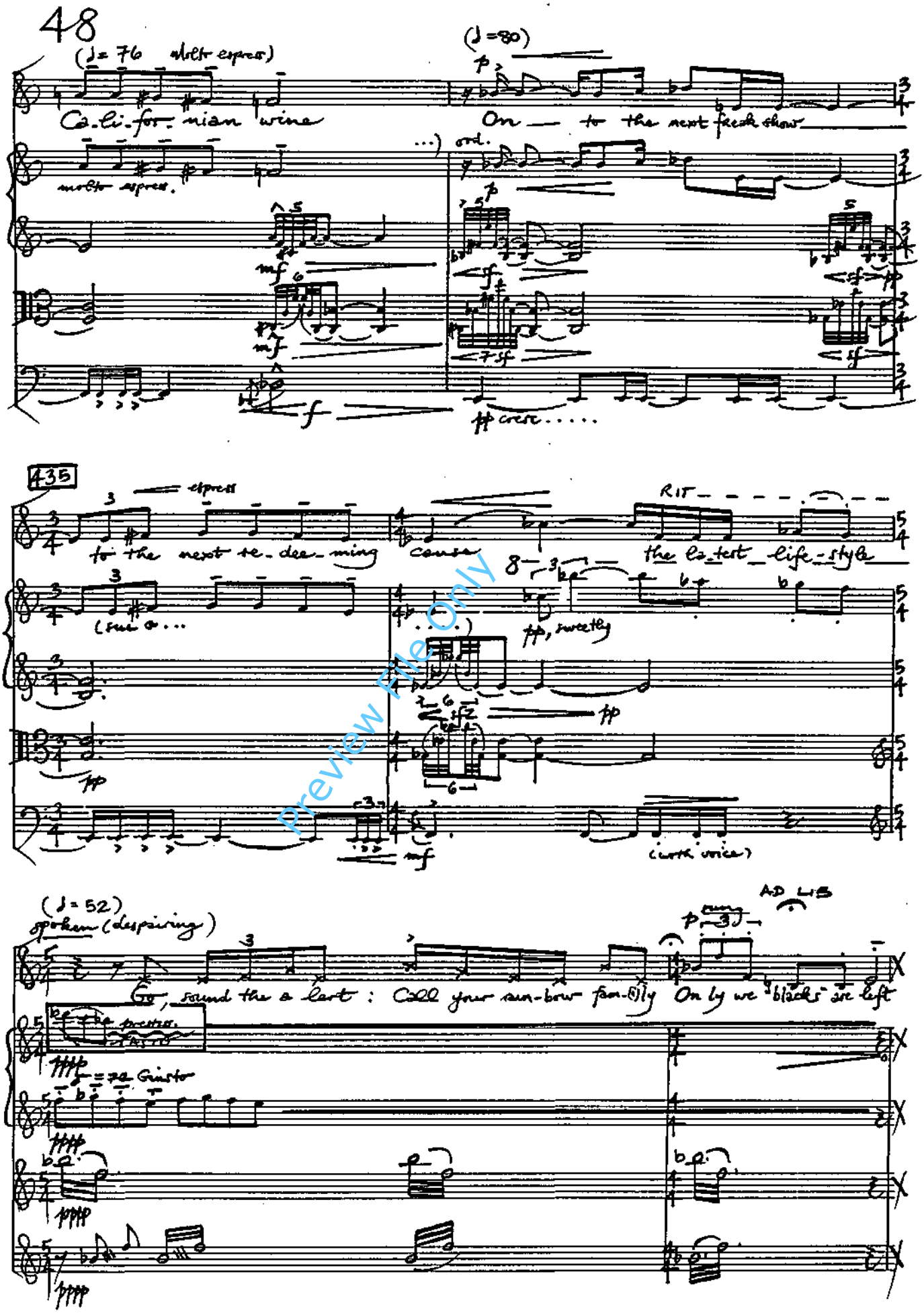
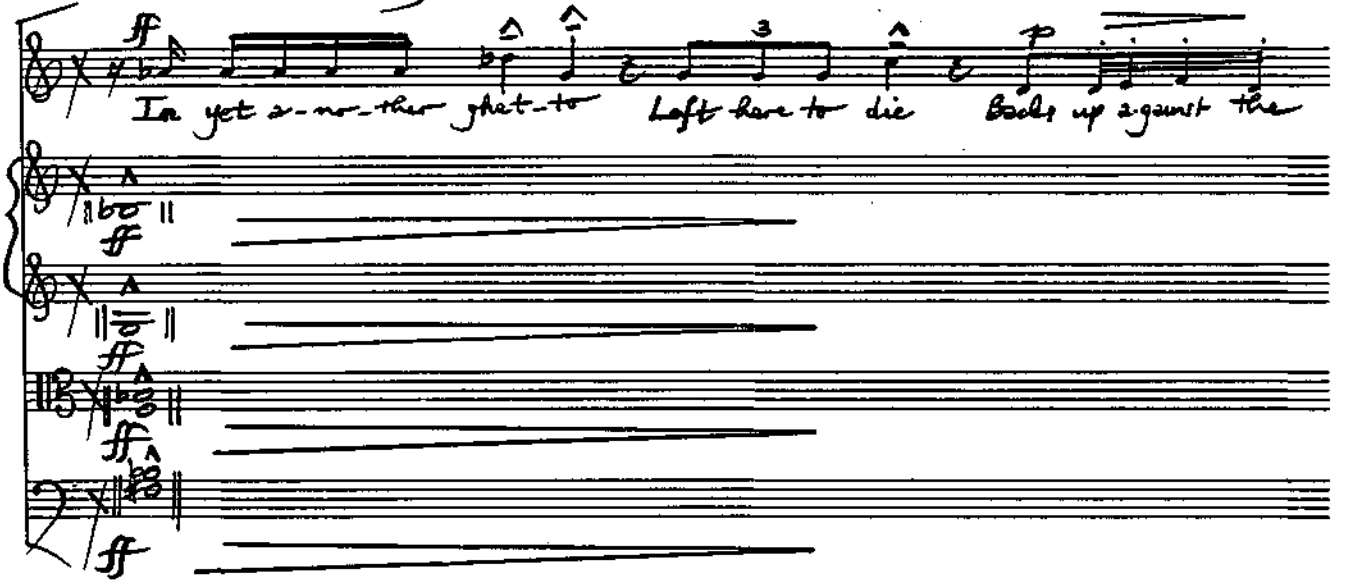
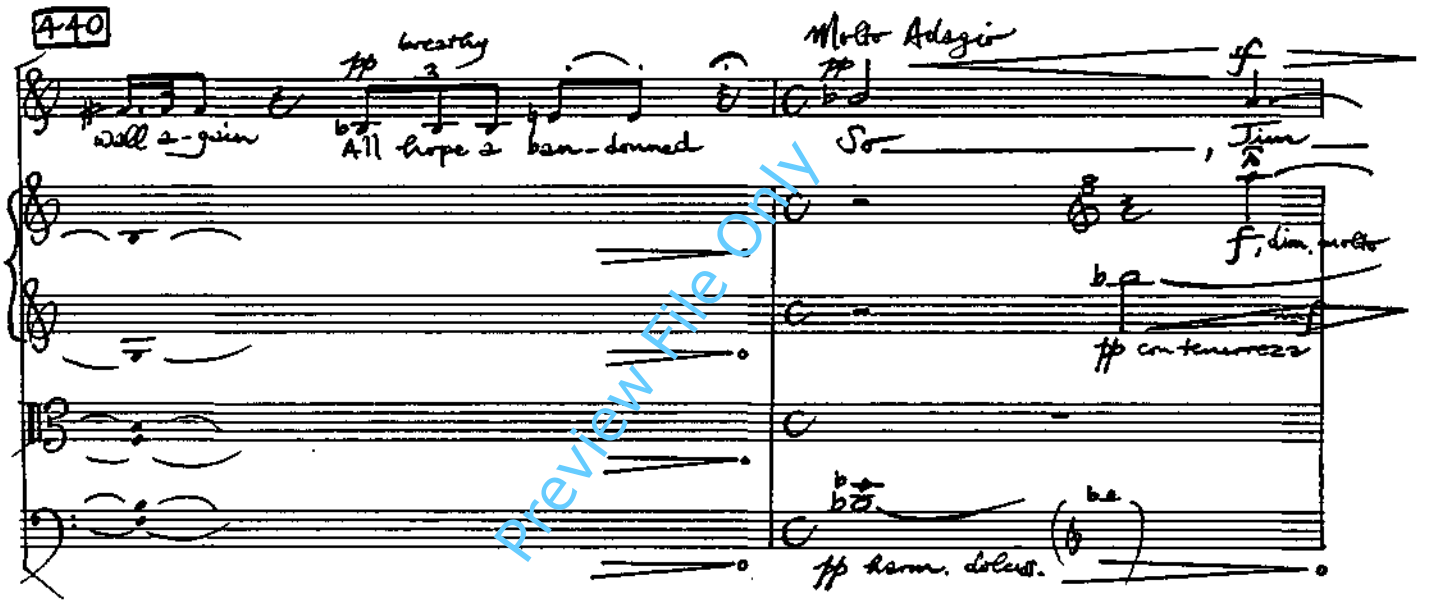
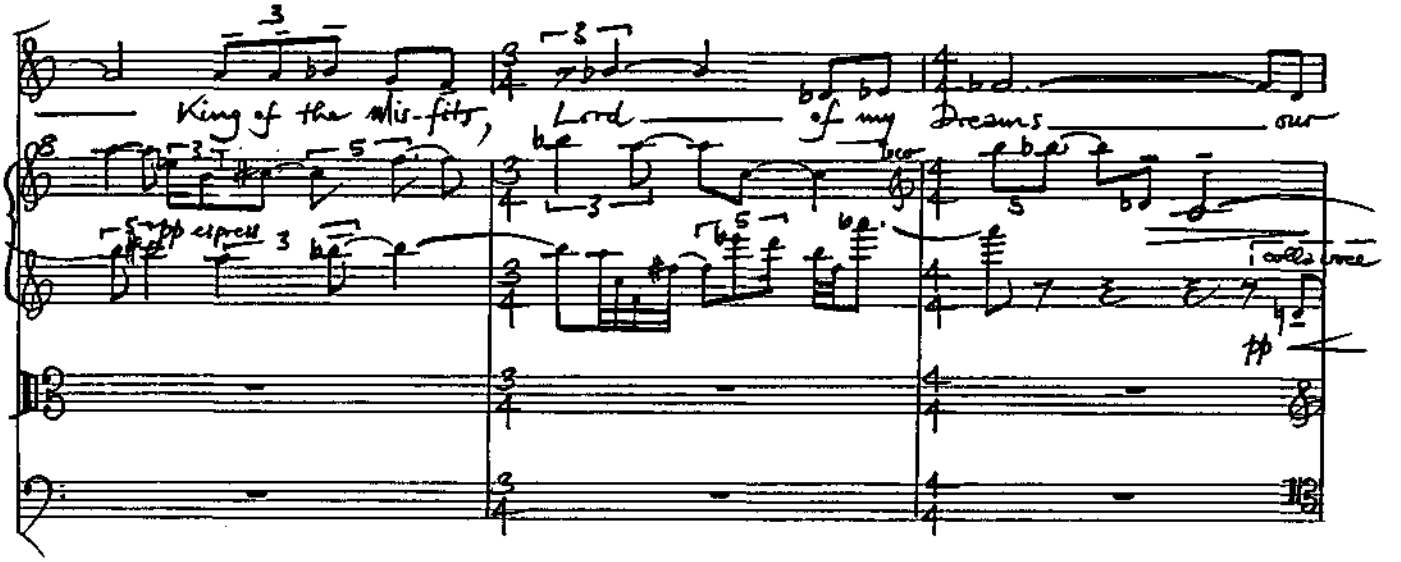


Preview File Only

Recitando — Broadly







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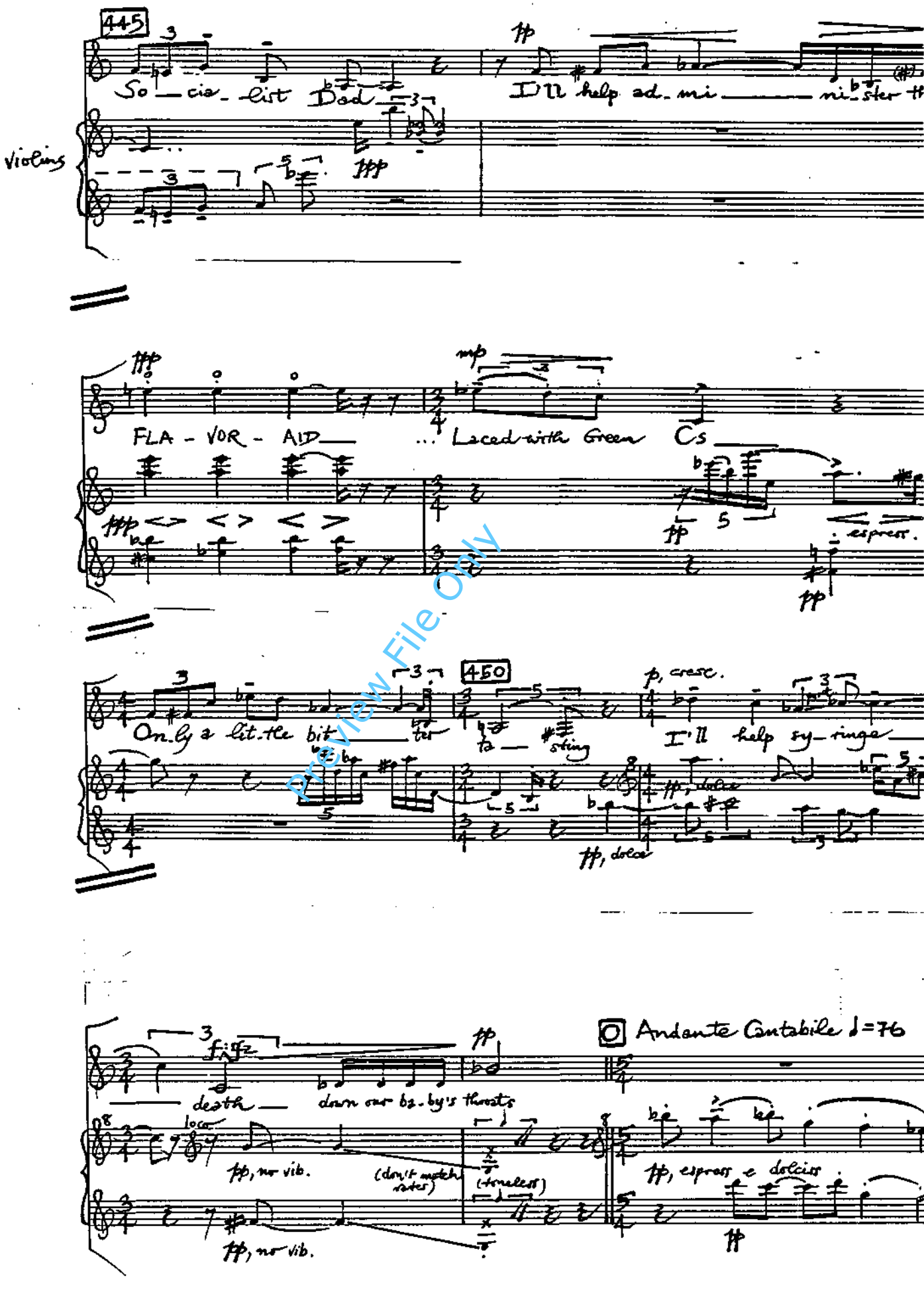

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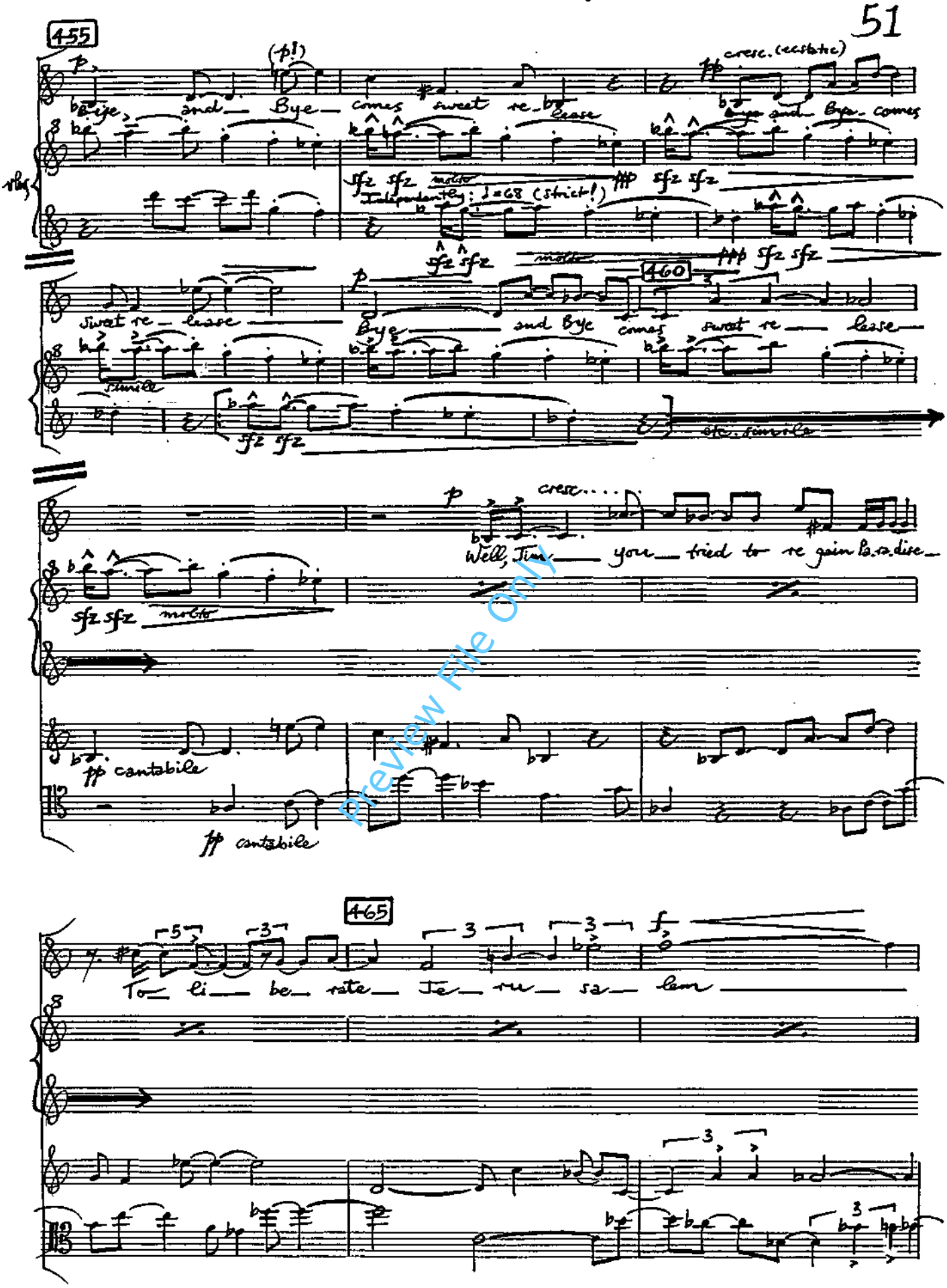

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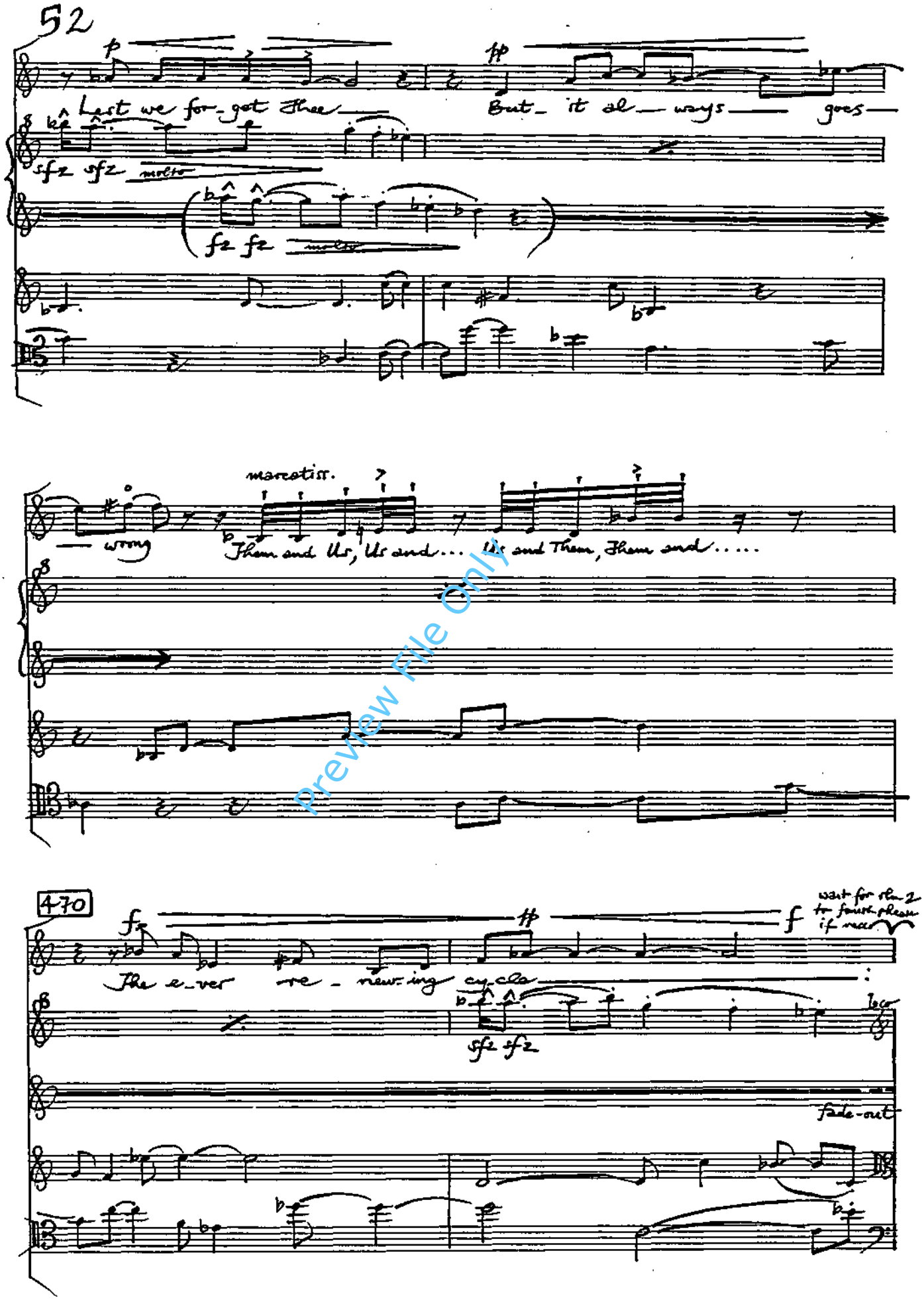

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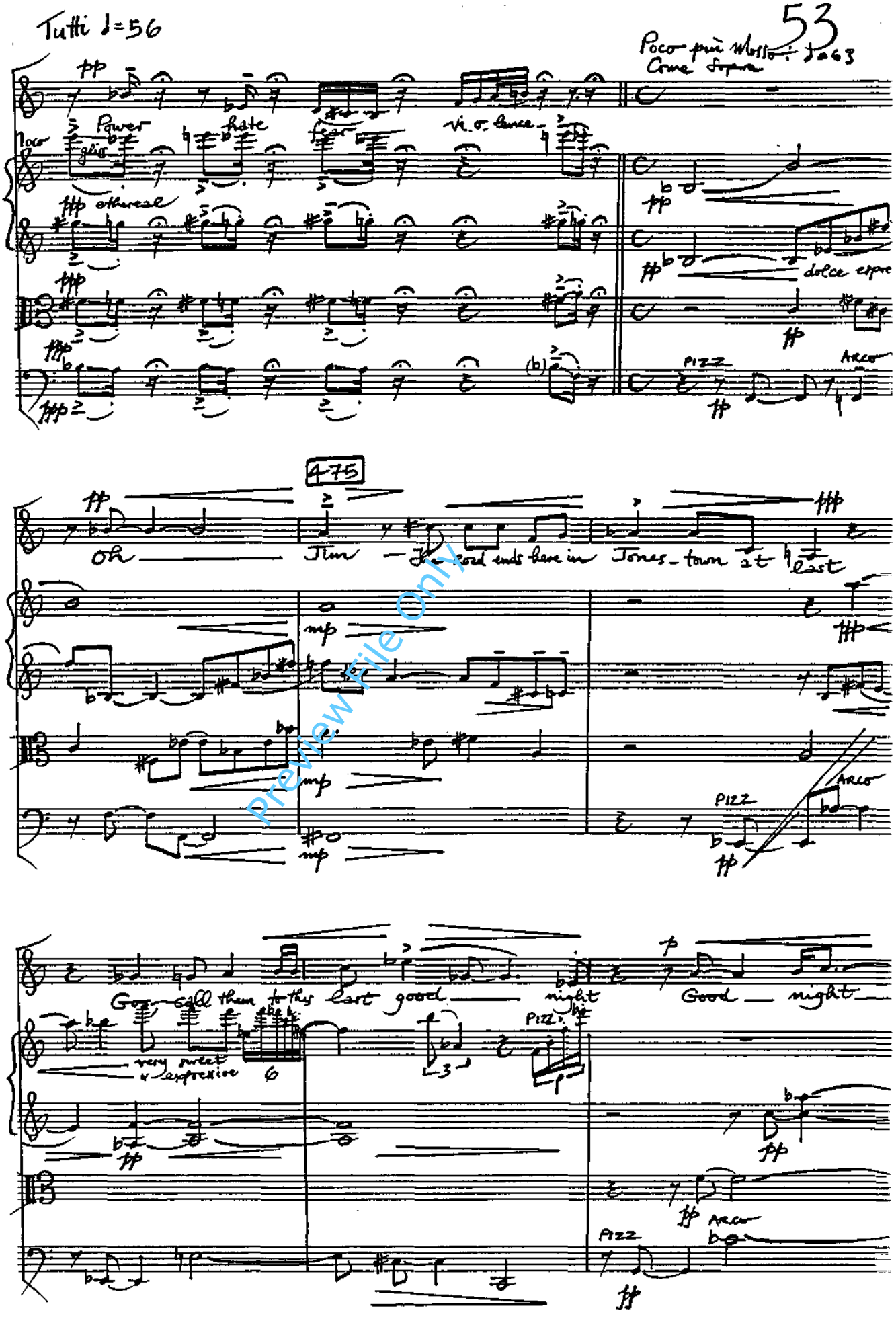


Preview File Only

480

Good night Good night with

Arco Pizz Arco

pp cresc. mf

poi - son and the gun

485 Più Deciso ♩= 112

Quartet plays spoken

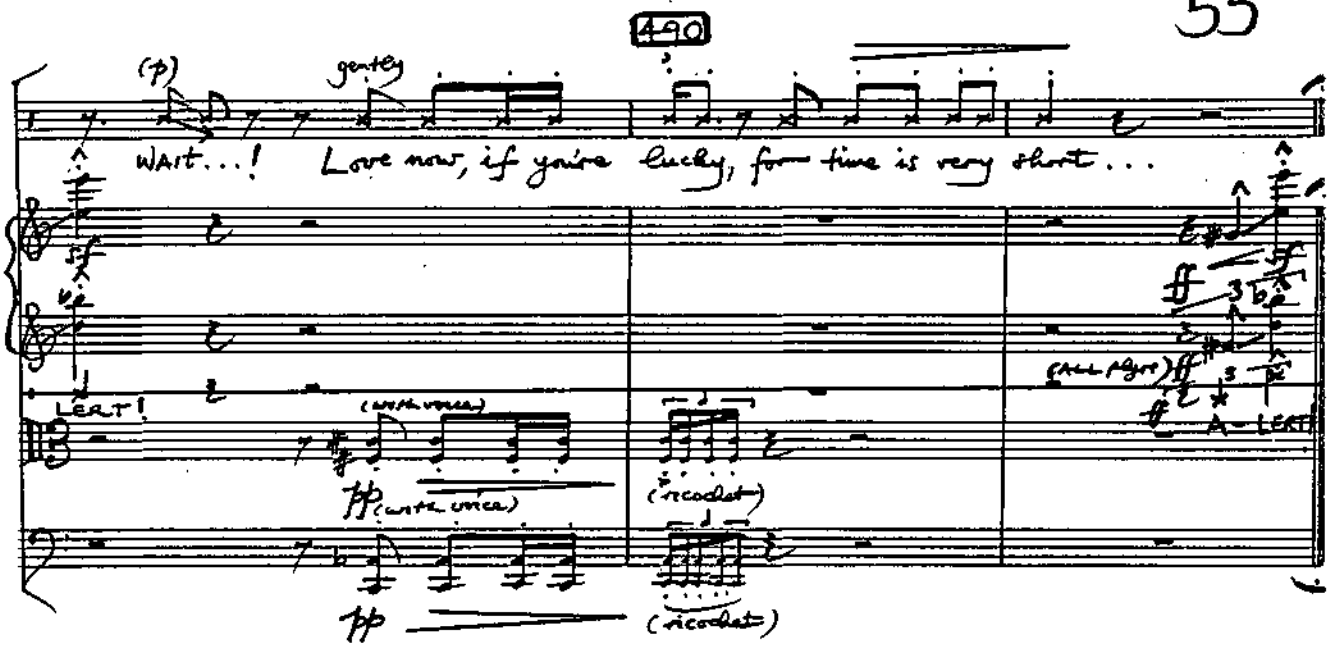
Lead Batt. (All) plays

(turning in her dream) spoken

No message.

LER T ! Hang on a mo - ment, Hon-ey .... what exactly was your mes-sage-?

Preview File Only



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