DOUBLEMAIN

Preview File Only

by

Andrew Hugill

for

solo piano

DOUBLEMAIN **Andrew Hugill**

Programme Note

The five sections of this composition are related only by virtue of their falsehood:

1) **Vizier Asaf** (pseudo-Islamic)
2) **Doublemain** (cod Ancient Greek)
3) **Balkis** (mock Egyptian), coupled with
4) **Solomon** (plagiarist by anticipation)
5) **Rehoboam** (false Solomon)

The idea for the piece came out of my work on John Harman's translation of Alfred Jarry's *The Other Alcestis*. From an admixture of myths, Jarry spins a complex of yarns around the five characters mentioned above. Doublemain is the most Jarryific - his version of Charon (the ferryman of the dead in Greek mythology). The text describes him thus:

"His back appeared to be plated with bronze, or covered with scales similar to myrtle leaves, like those of a snake. His long arms reached over the side and were lost in the water as if the great beetle of the marshes, whose carapace was our conveyance, were rowing with its hairy, median pair of legs."

and, later: "...Doublemain's arms had two elbows, since an extra arm sprang from each wrist..."

Doublemain was composed in 1989 for *Gemini*. The first performance was given in October 1989 at the Old Bull Arts Centre, Barnet, by Peter Hanson (violin) and Adrian Lee (guitar). A version for viola and piano was prepared in July 1991.

This version, for solo piano, was prepared in July 1992, and differs fairly substantially from the original.

Doublemain is dedicated to Dave Smith.

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Tape: This is optional. If used (it appears in "Balkis") it should fade up to a volume which nearly, but not quite, matches the piano, then fade out at the cue. The tape should consist of continuous recording of African cicadas and such a tape (cassette) is available on request from the composer, at the address below. "Ghetto-blaster" playback is quite adequate, so operated by the pianist or page-turner.

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(Andrew Hugill, 30 Mountcastle Road, Leicester LE3 2BW, England.)

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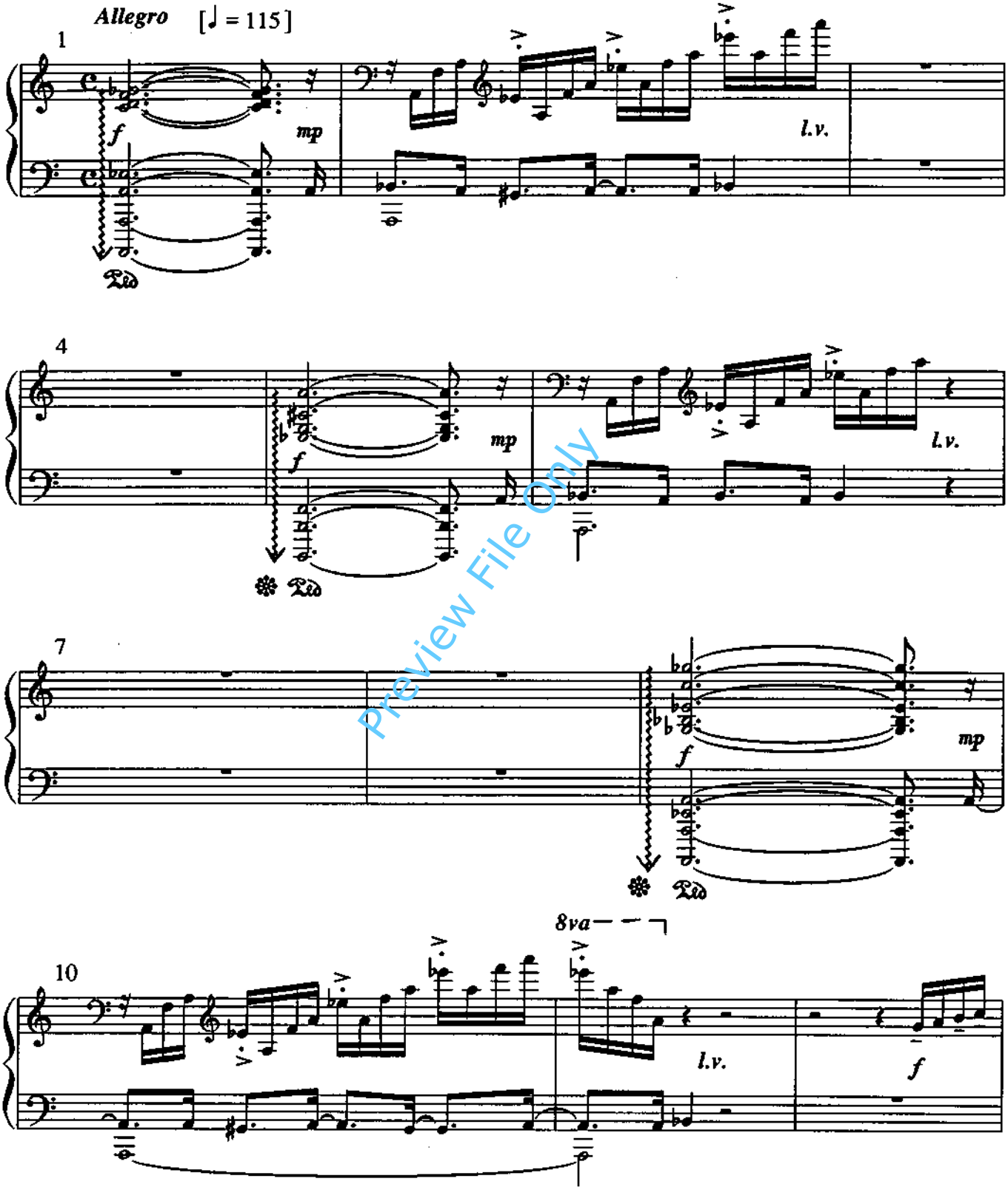
VIZIER ASAF (pseudo Islamic)



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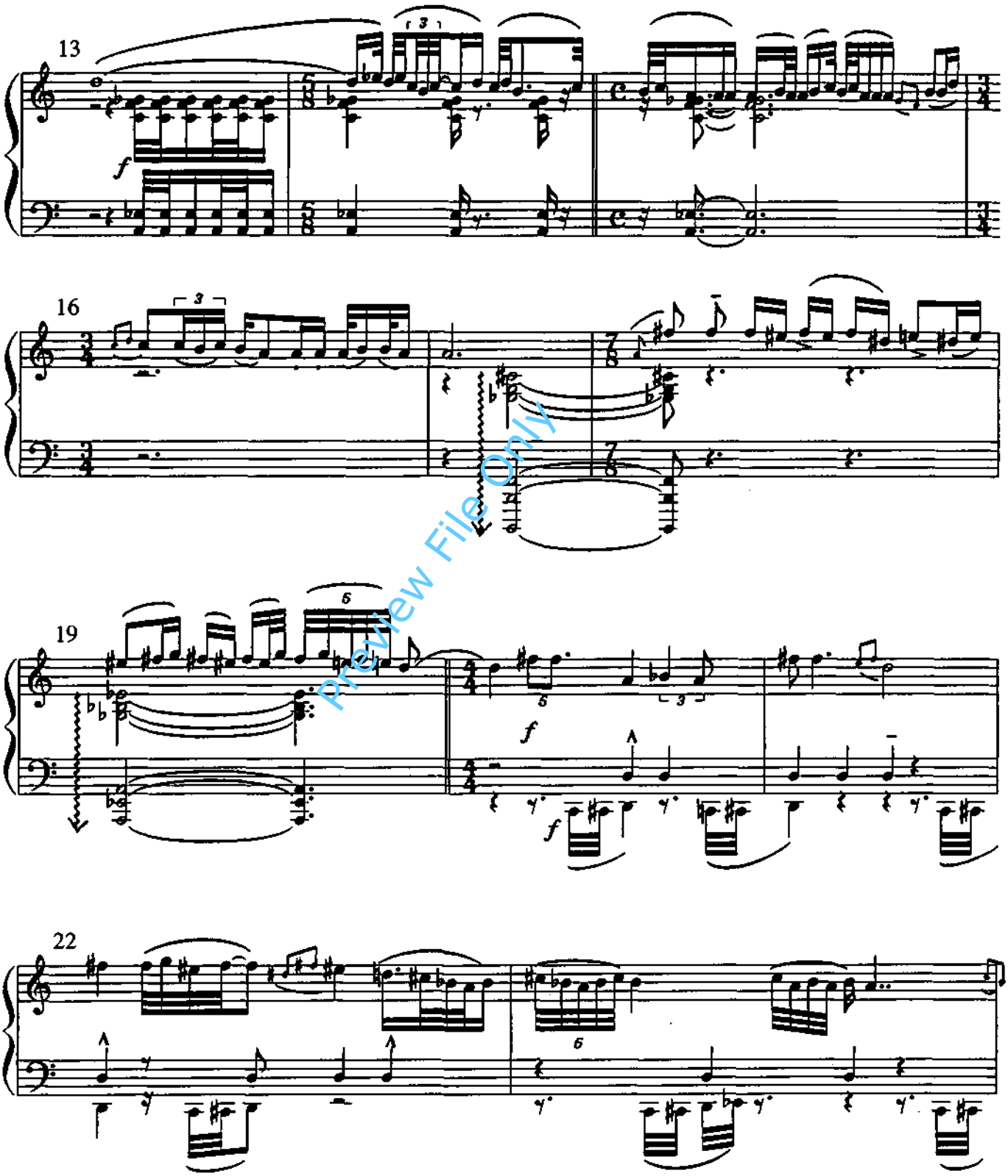

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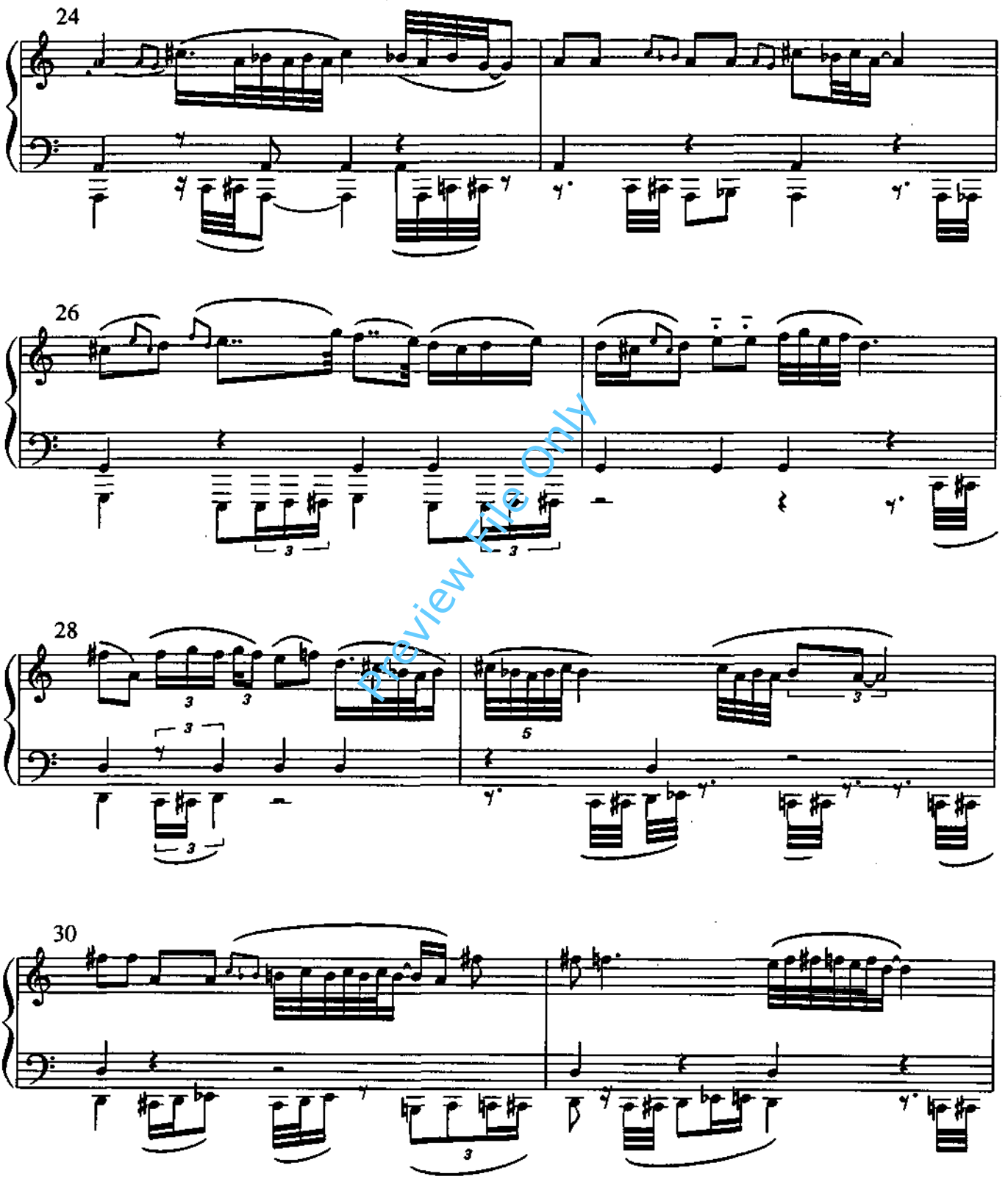

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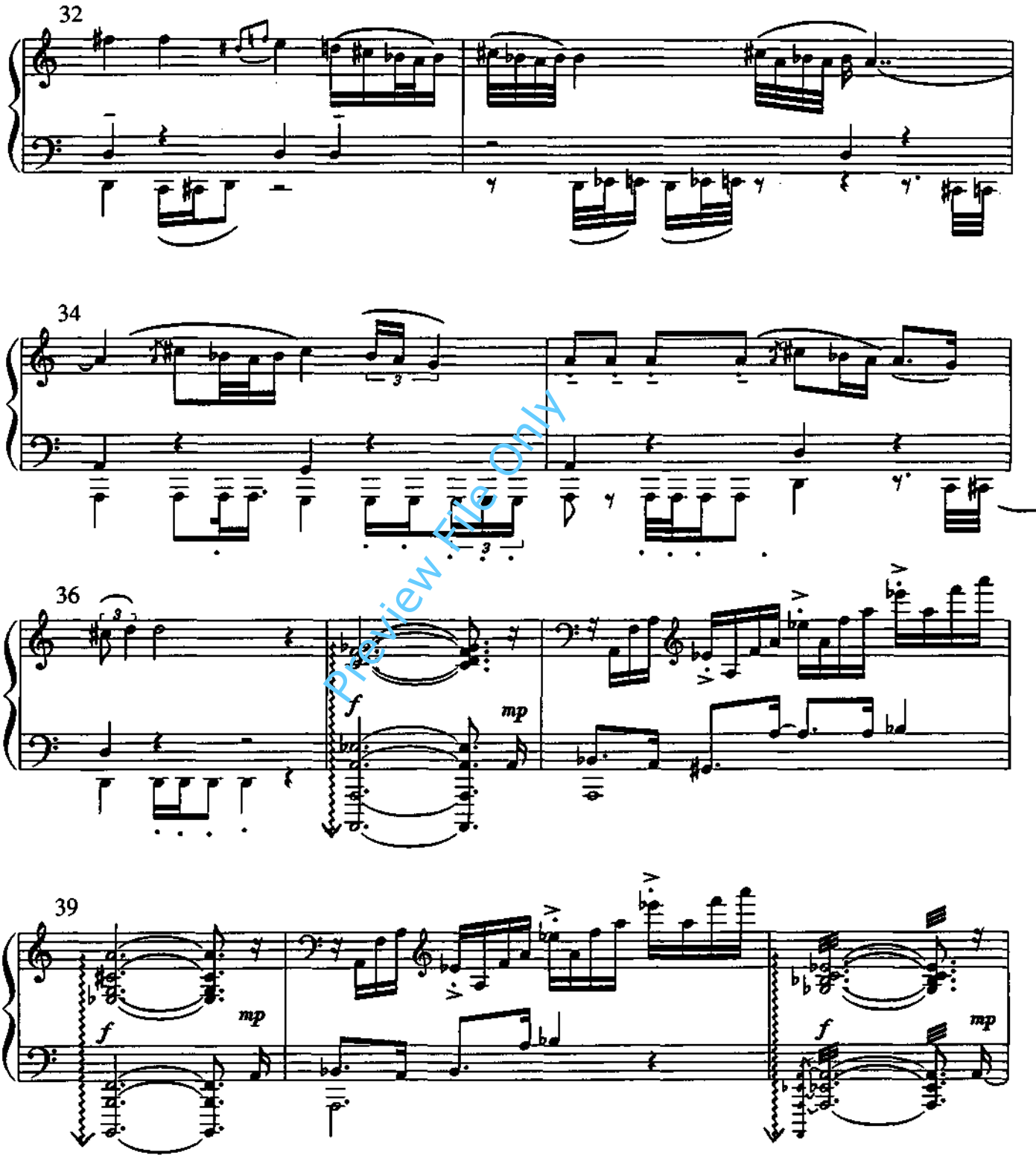

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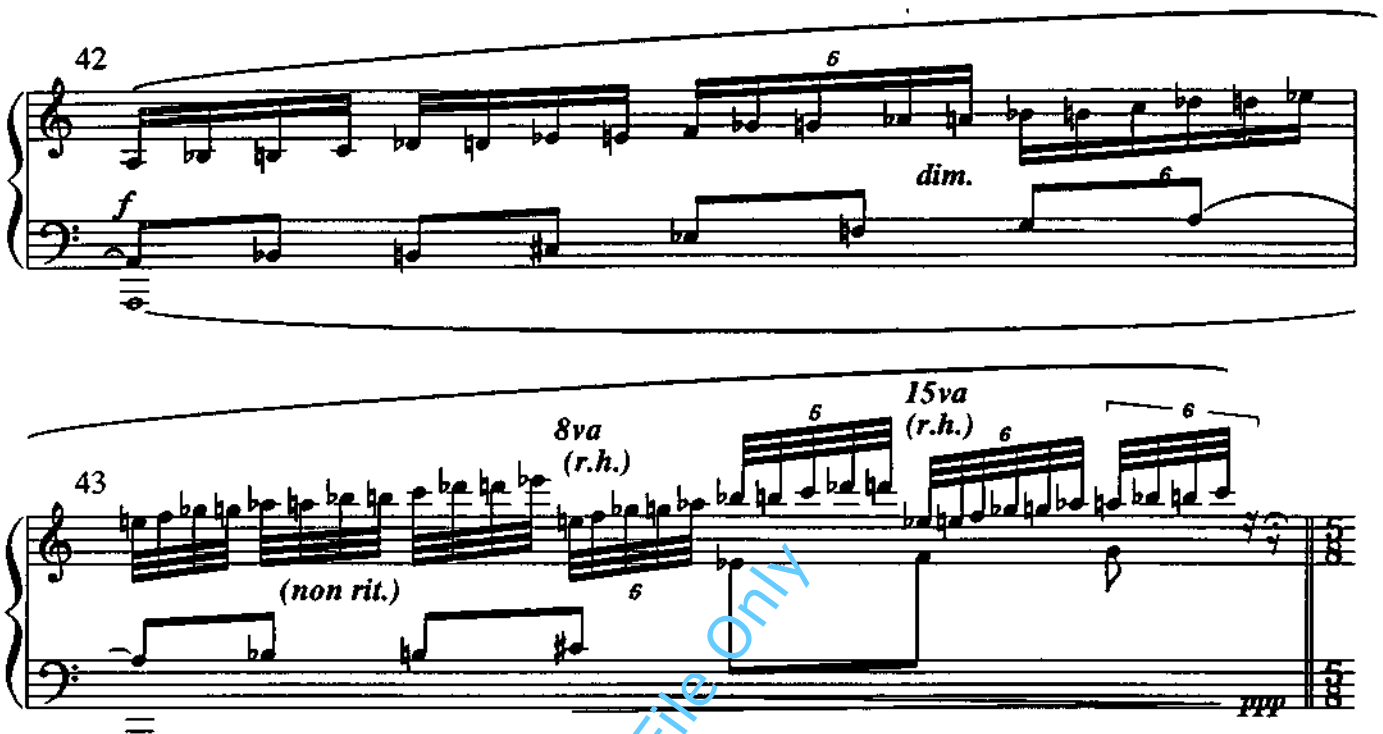

DOUBLEMAIN (cod Ancient Greek)

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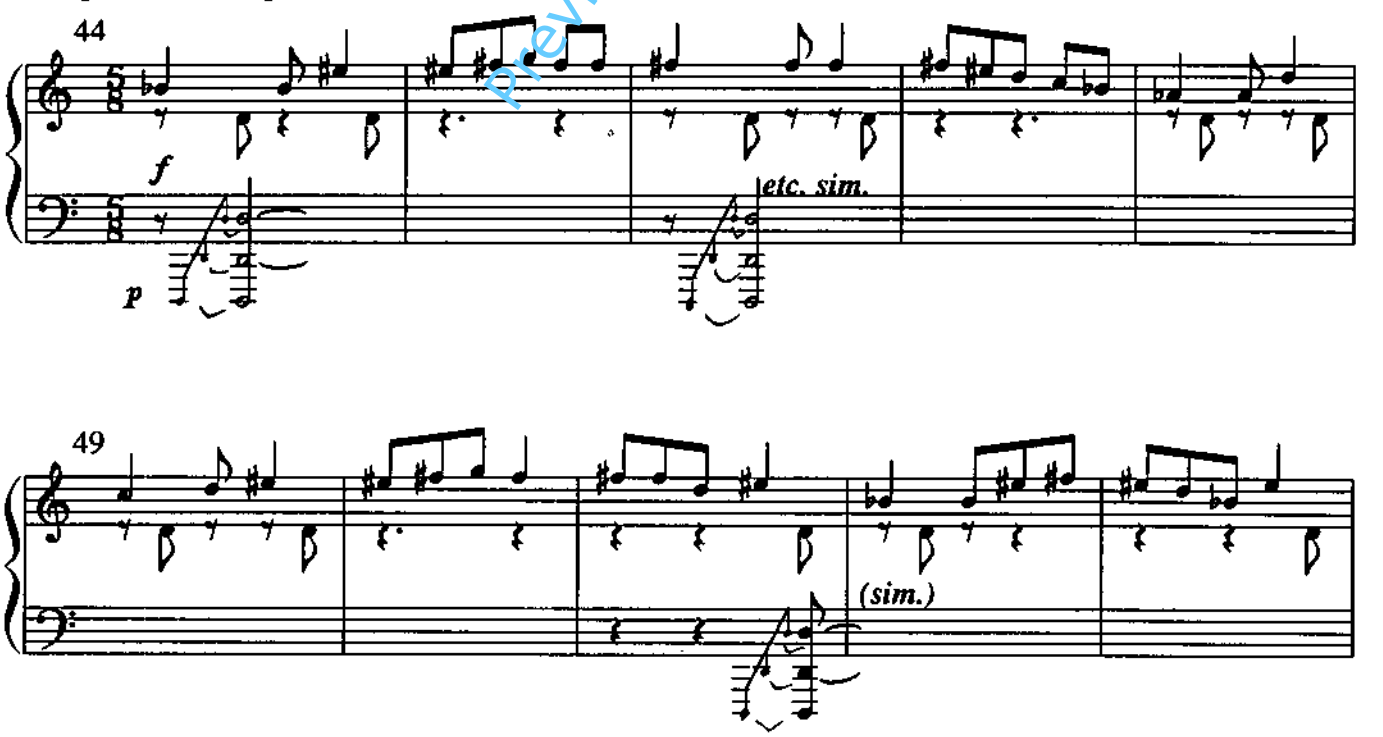

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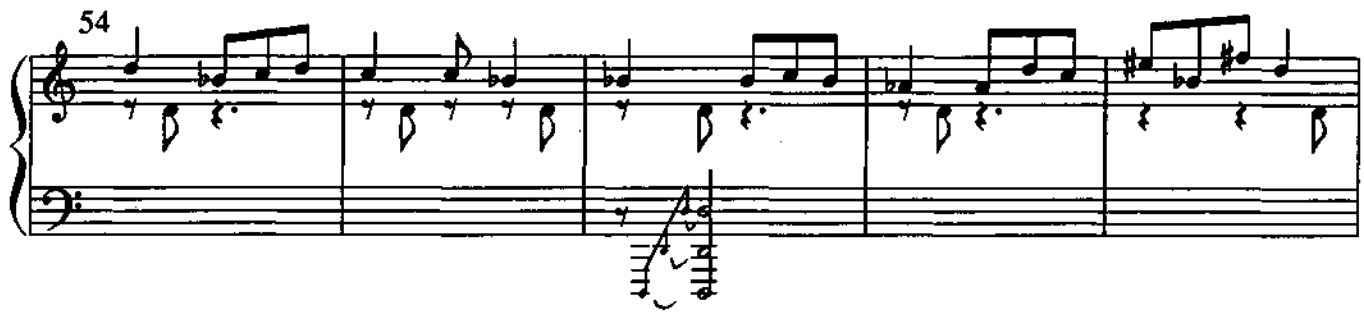

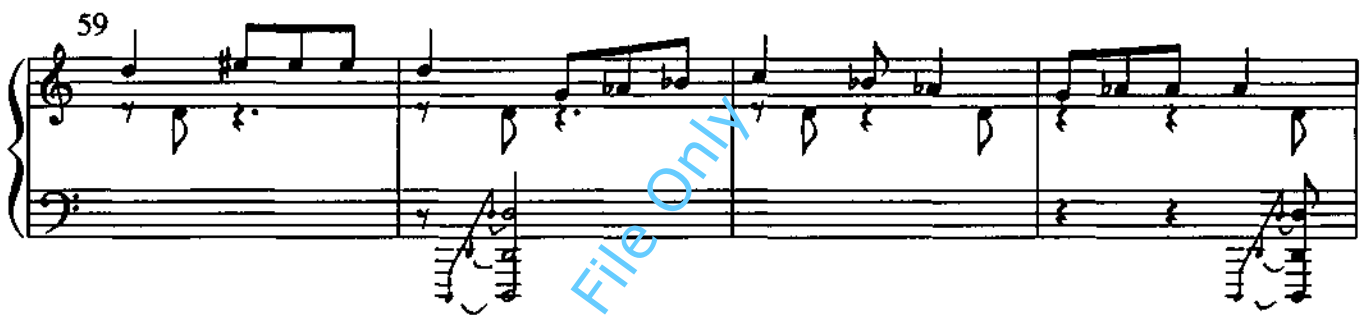

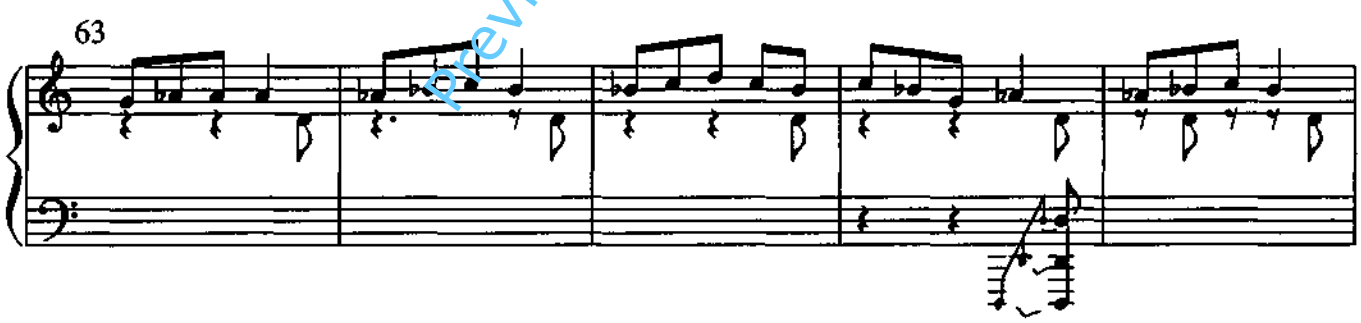

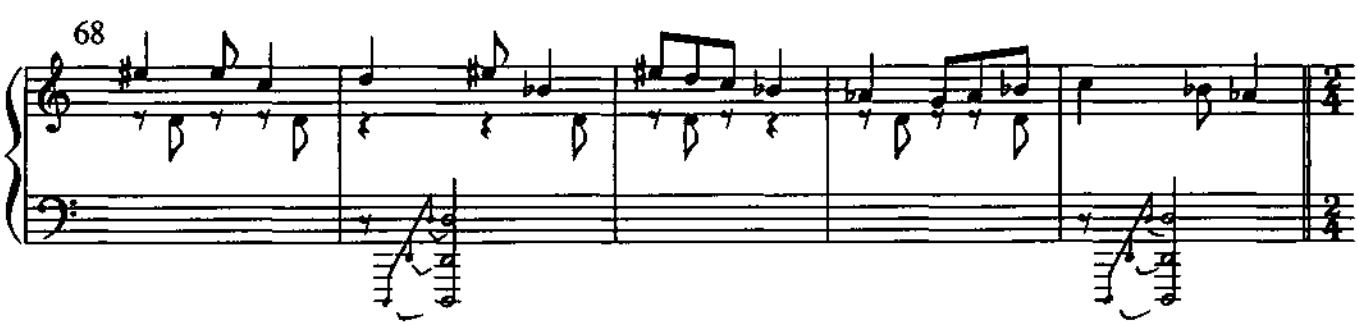

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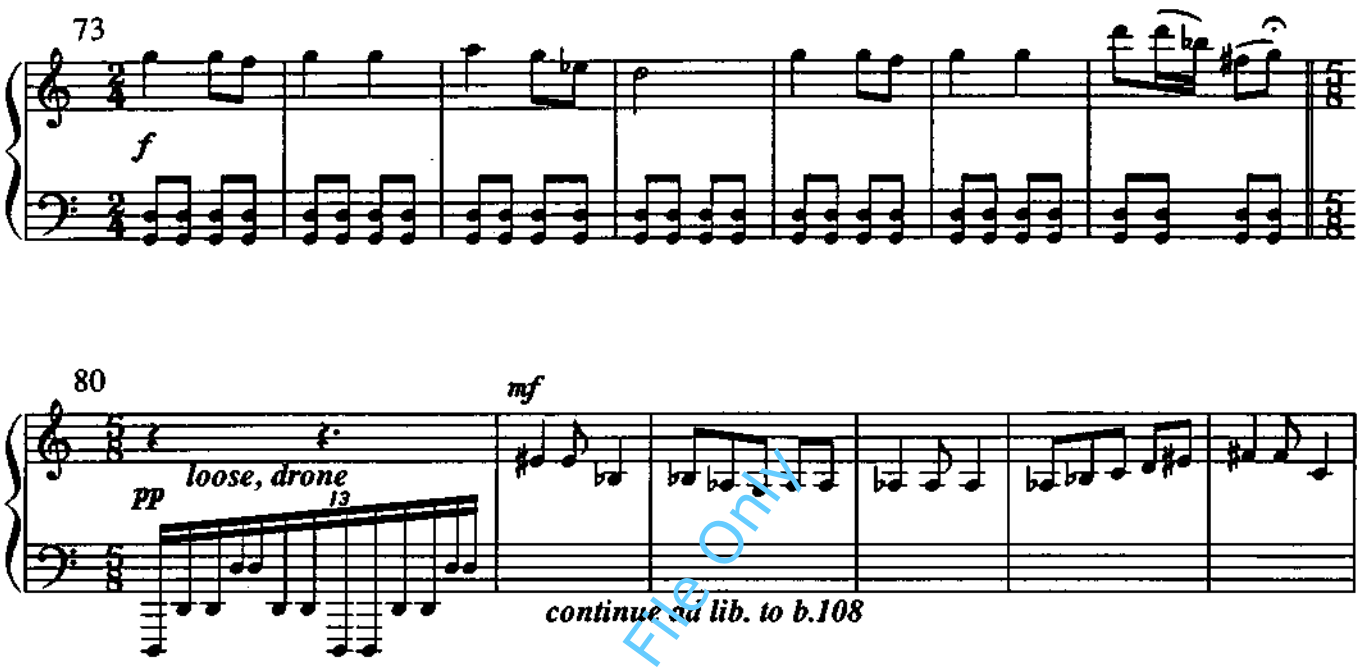

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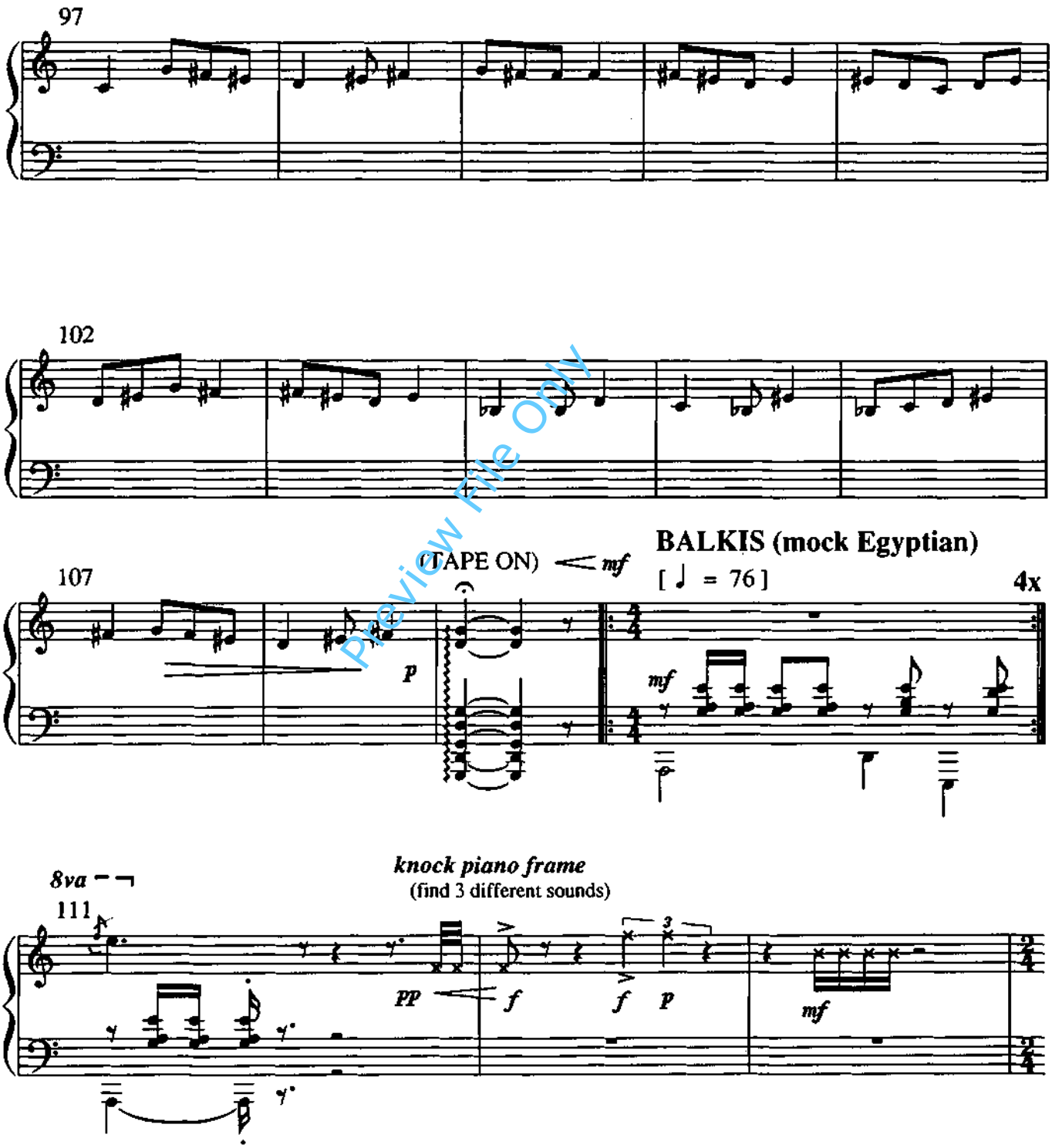

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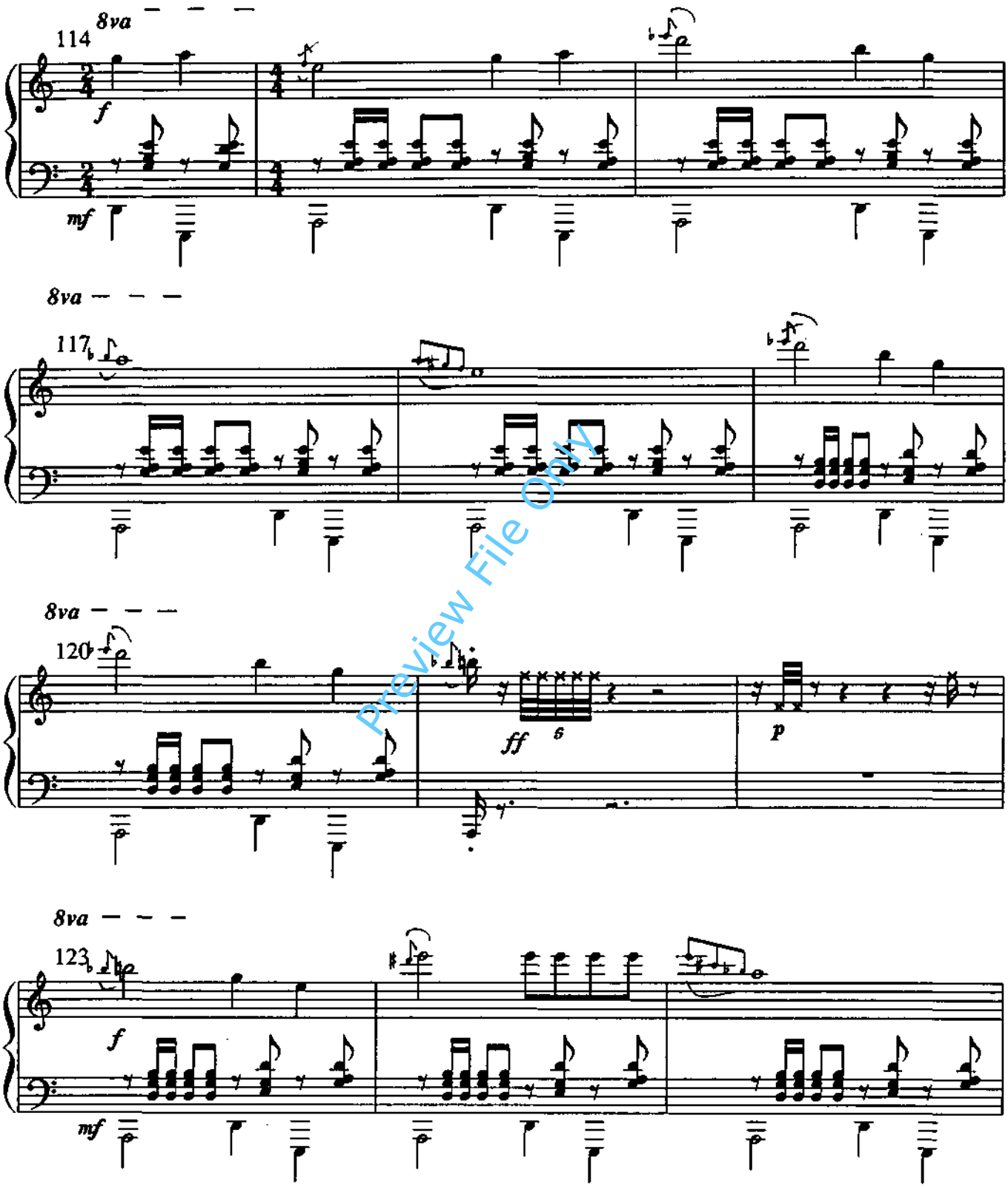

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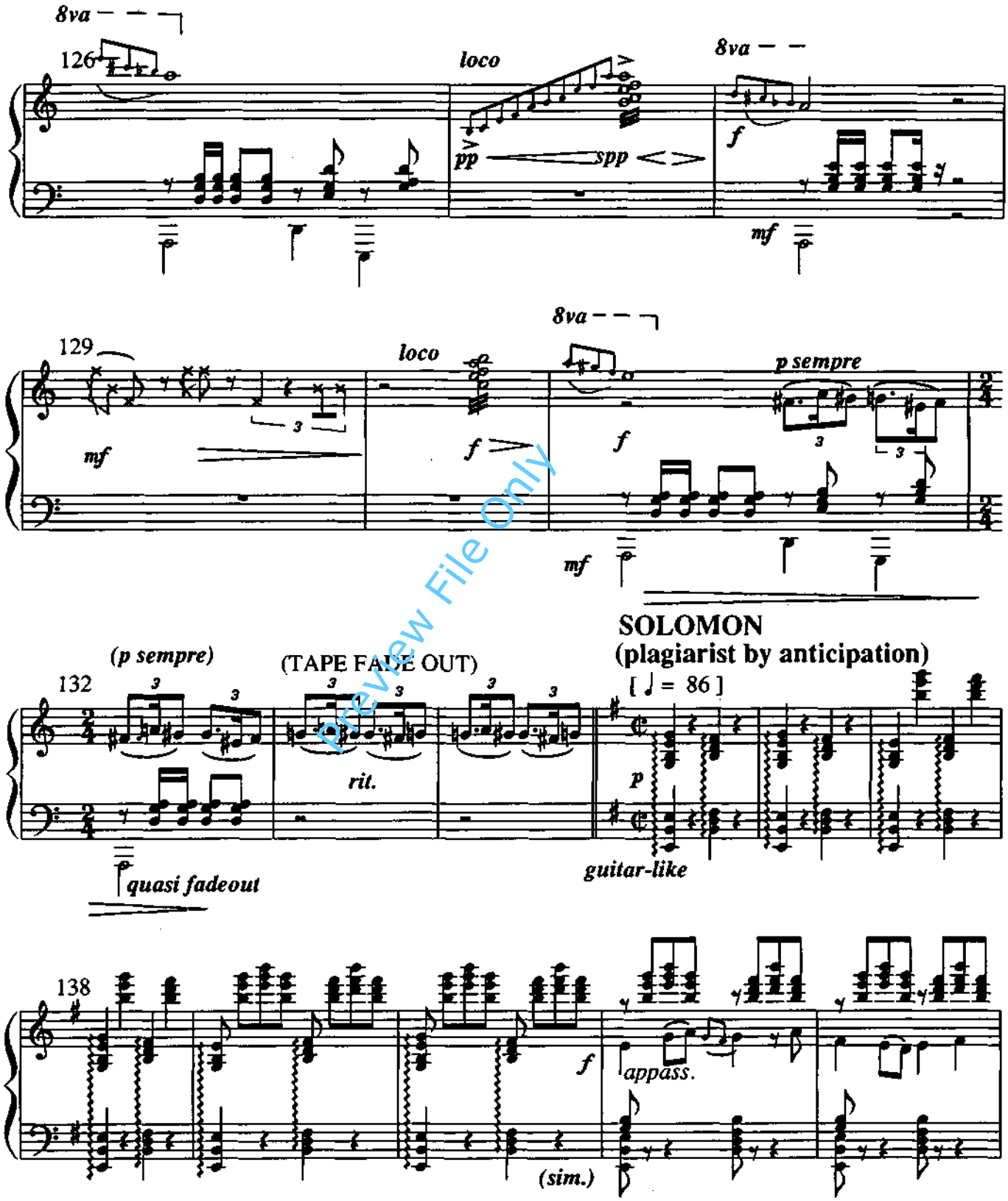

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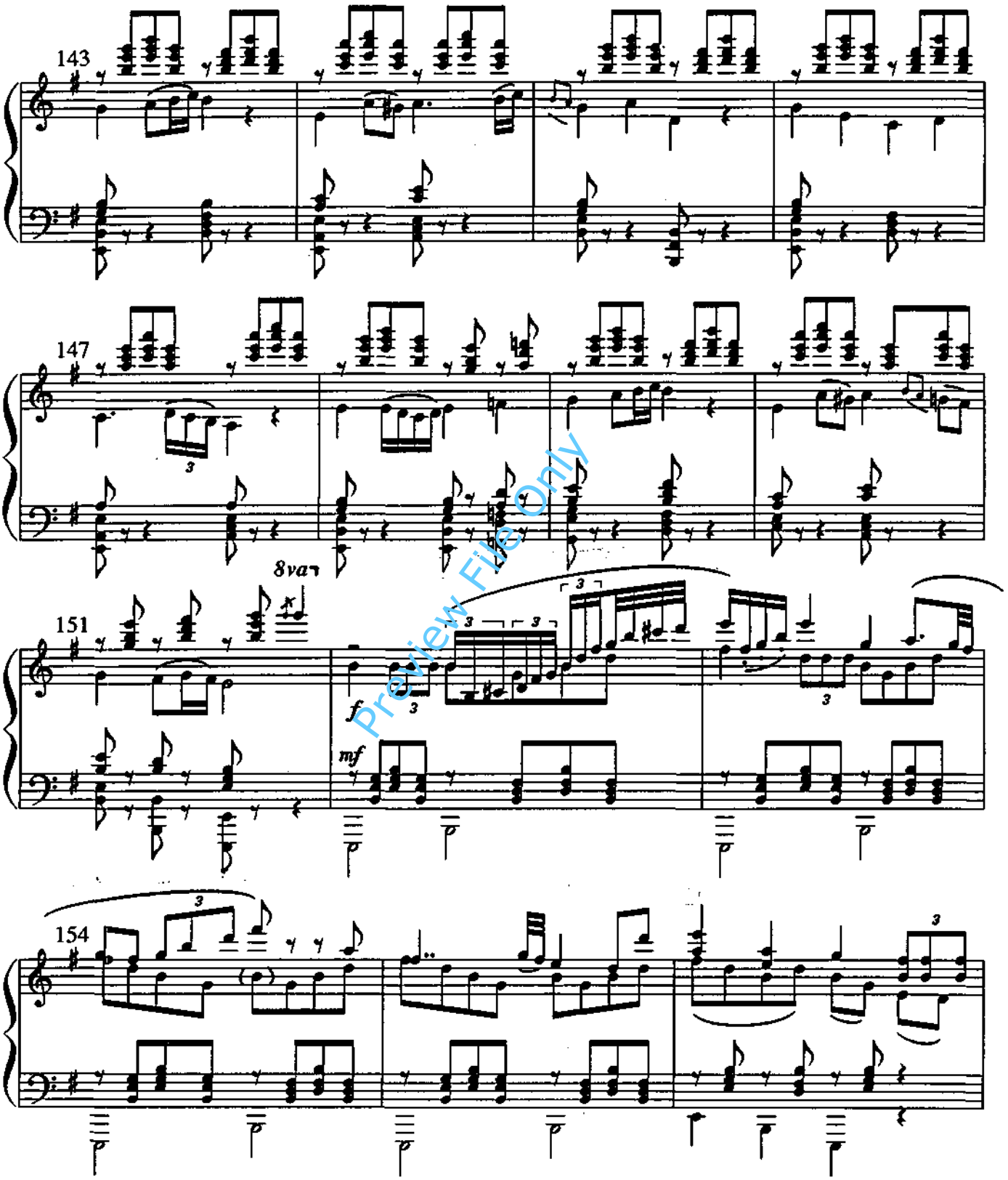

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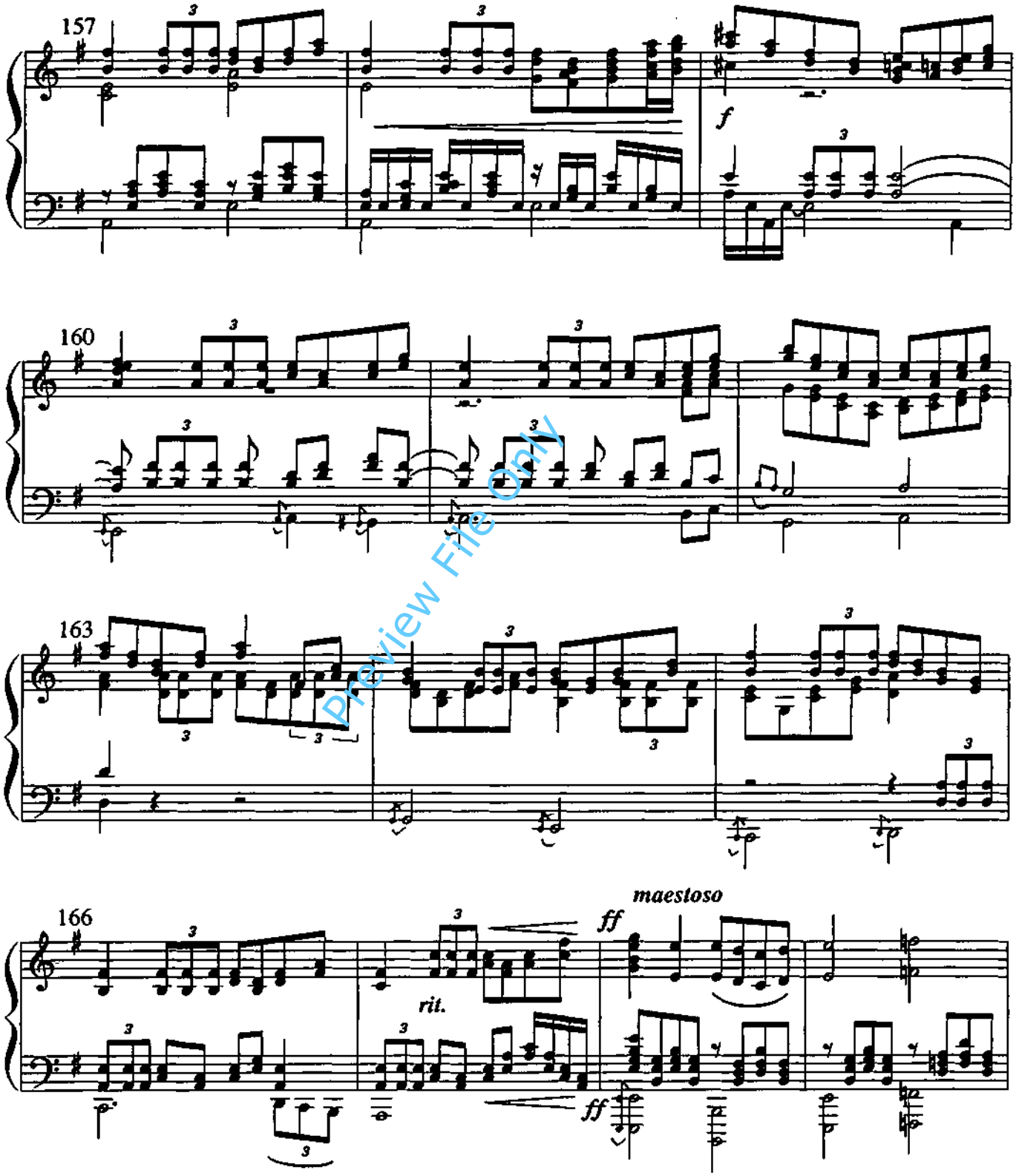

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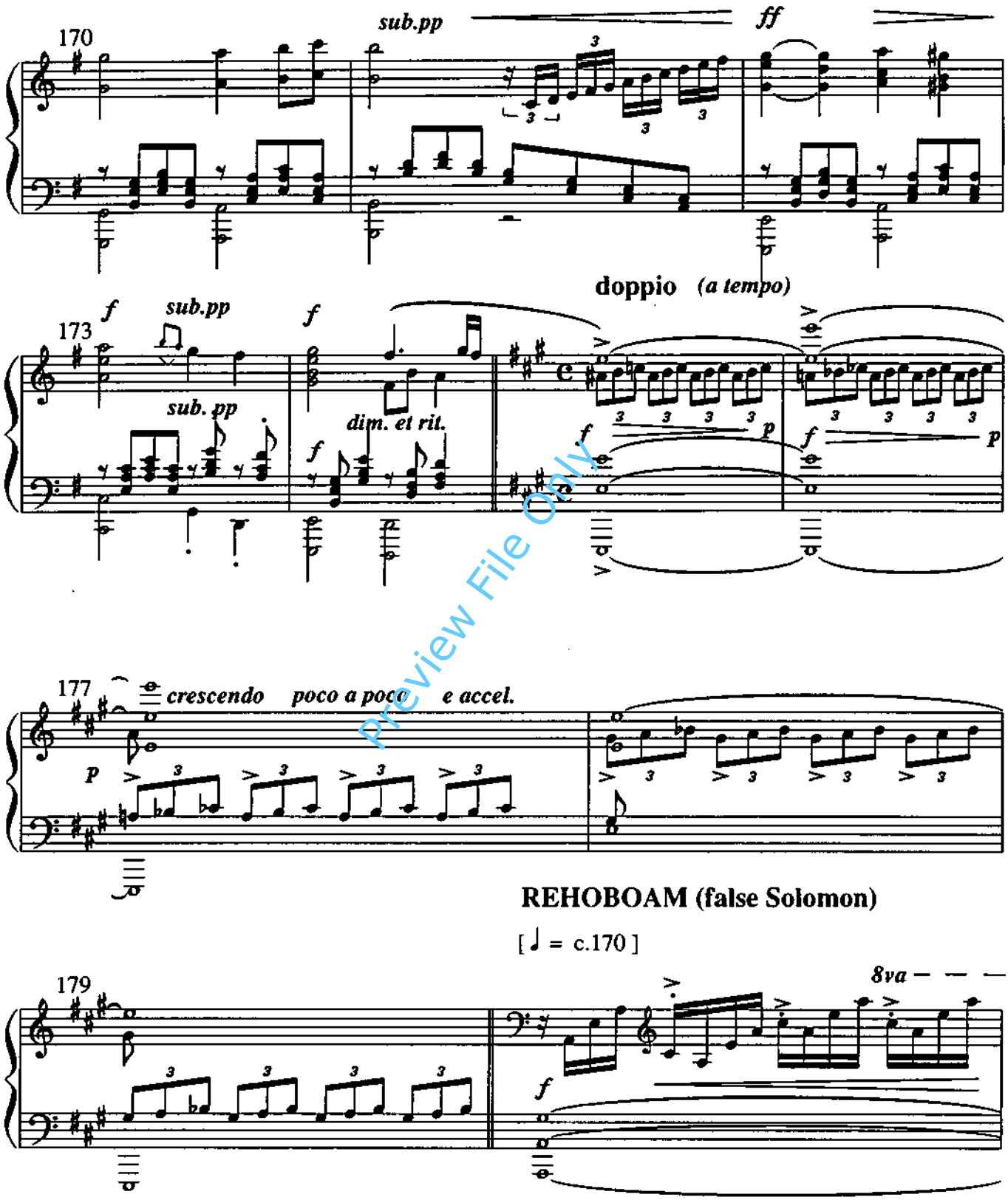

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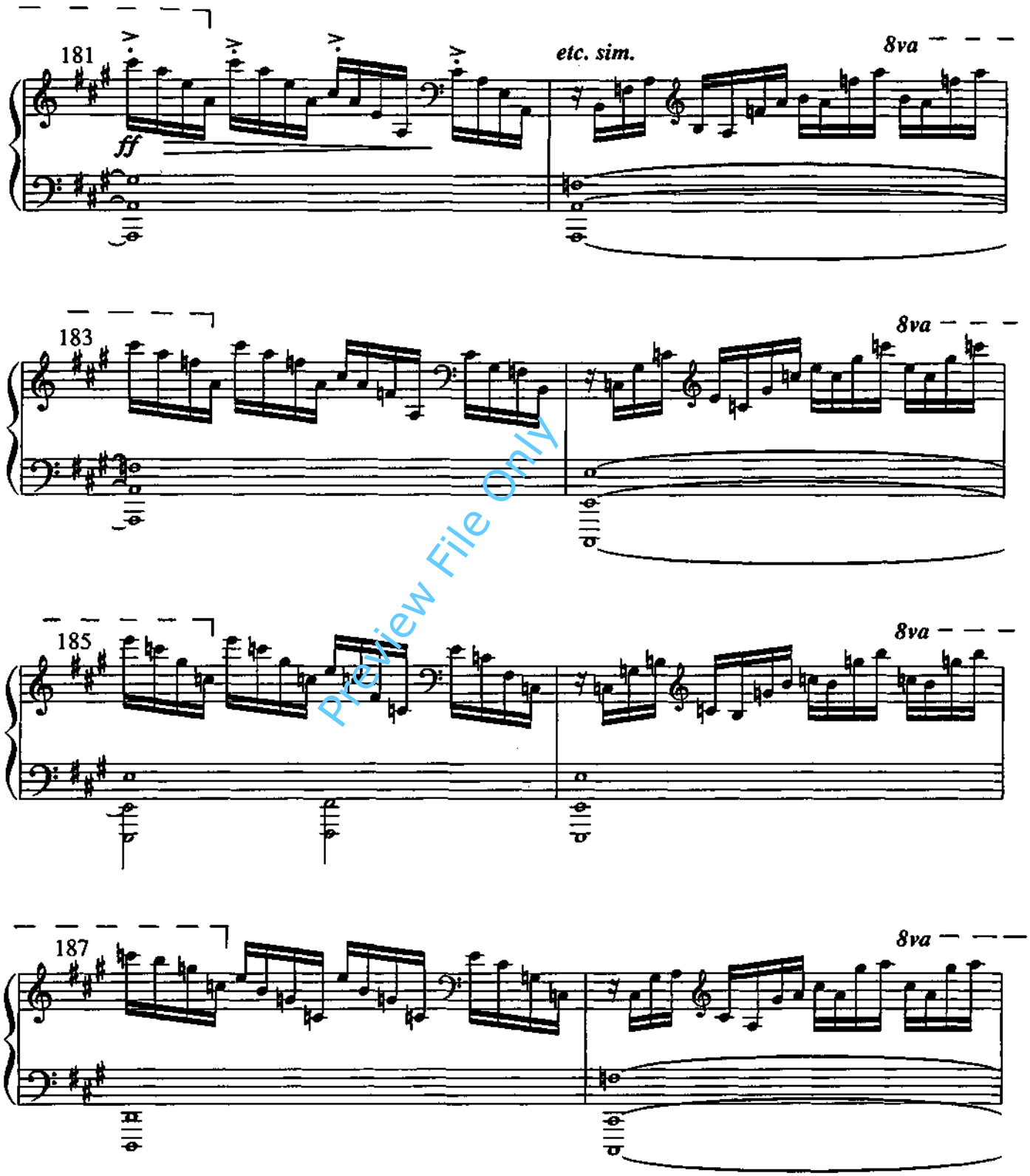

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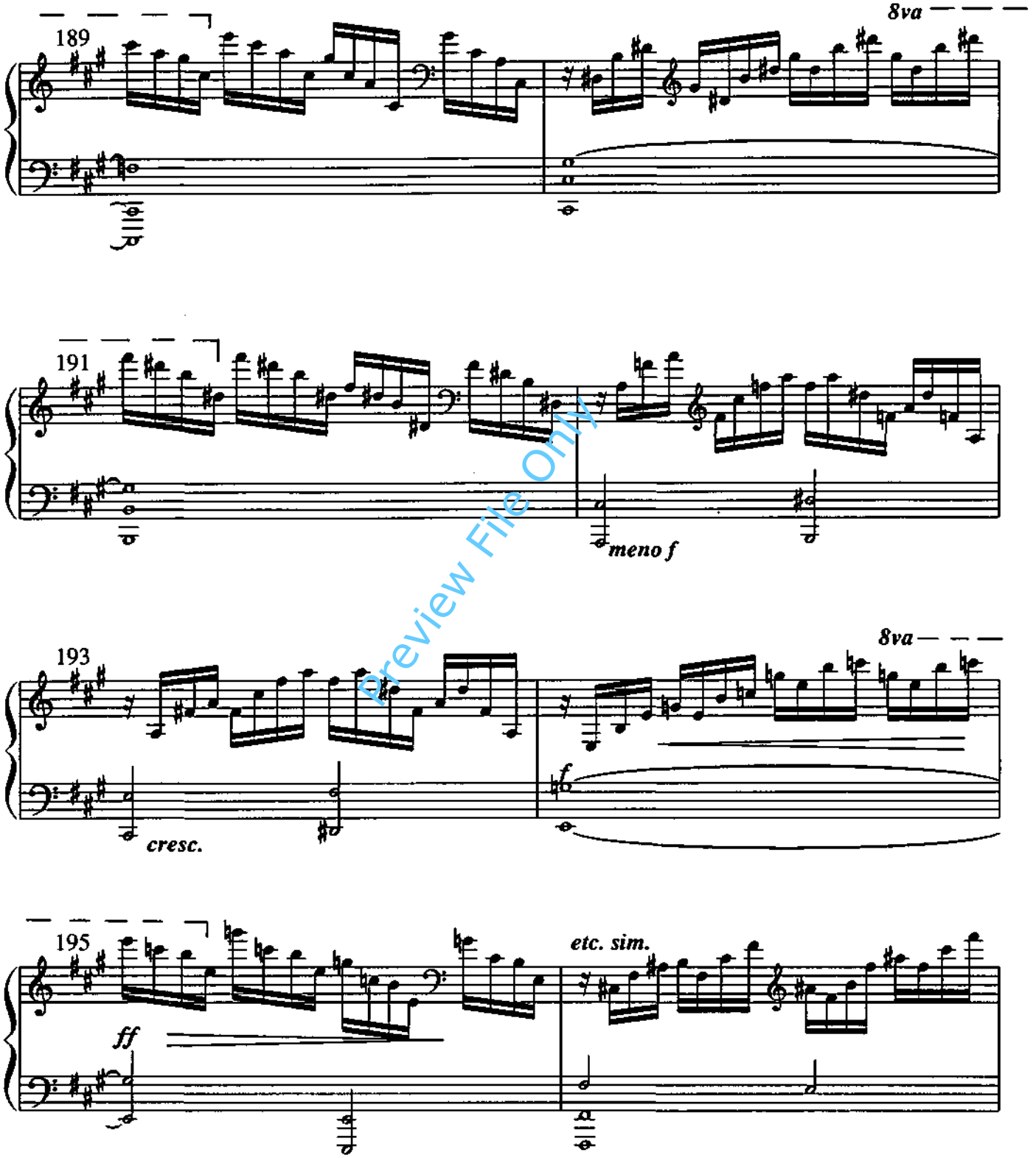

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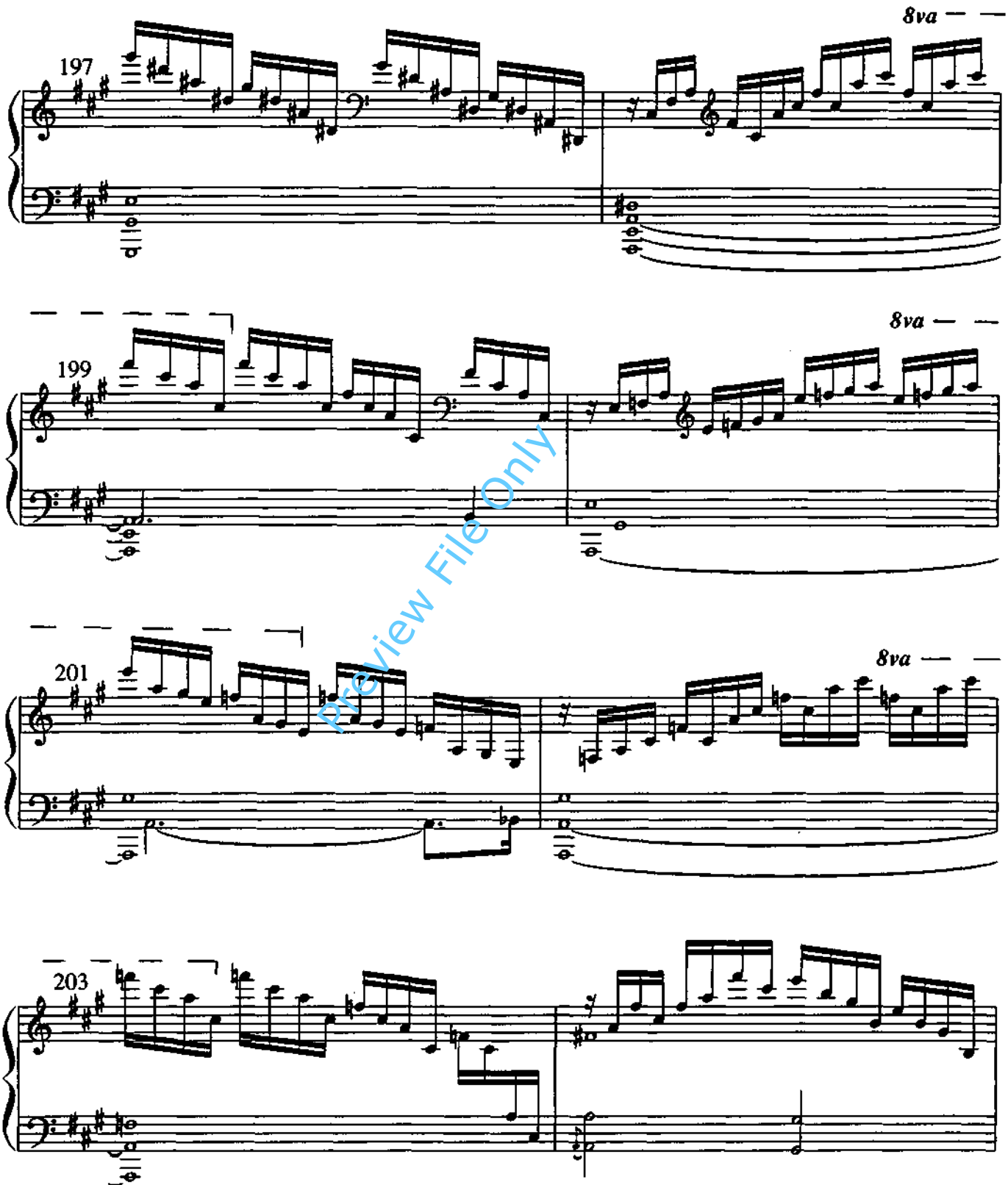

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