Duduk I

for

Soprano Saxophone

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Gabriel ERKOREKA

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Duduk I

for Soprano Saxophone

(2000)

to Josetxo Silguero

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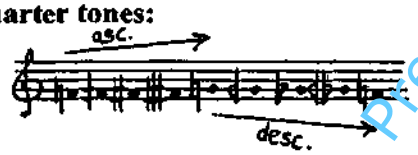
PERFORMANCE NOTES:

-quarter tones:



(special fingerings should be found, where possible)

-trills and **tremolos** should be played very fast.

-grace-notes:

-preceding a note (should be played very fast)

-following a note (take their time-value from the main note and return to it as fast as possible)

-indicates the end of a glissando (must <u>not</u> be re-articulated)

-voice (sung):

-notes with excess of air:

Dur: 8' 30"

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Programme Notes

Duduk I is the first of three projected pieces, the other two being for saxophone quartet and oboe trio, whose material is based on the traditional modes/scales of Armenia. These modes nourish Armenian popular music as well as liturgical chant. Duduk is the name of the Armenian oboe, traditionally made of apricot wood. It is never played alone, but is normally accompanied by slightly bigger instruments called 'drone-duduks' which function as harmonic support to the main player only by holding drones for un unlimited period of time, the musicians using 'circular breathing'.

The mellow and somewhat mournful sound produced by the duduk (although being a double-reed instrument) is most similar to the timbre that, by the use of certain techniques, can be achieved by the soprano saxophone.

The piece deals with the 'problem' of providing drones that are not present as such, and sets its task to give the illusion that there is one. At the same time, this polarization between drone and melody, carried to the extremes, wills to experiment with the material in a way to reflect an equally extreme emotional background: The trauma stemming from a yearning for a lost homeland along with a sense of survival against all odds which characterize the Armenian psyche.

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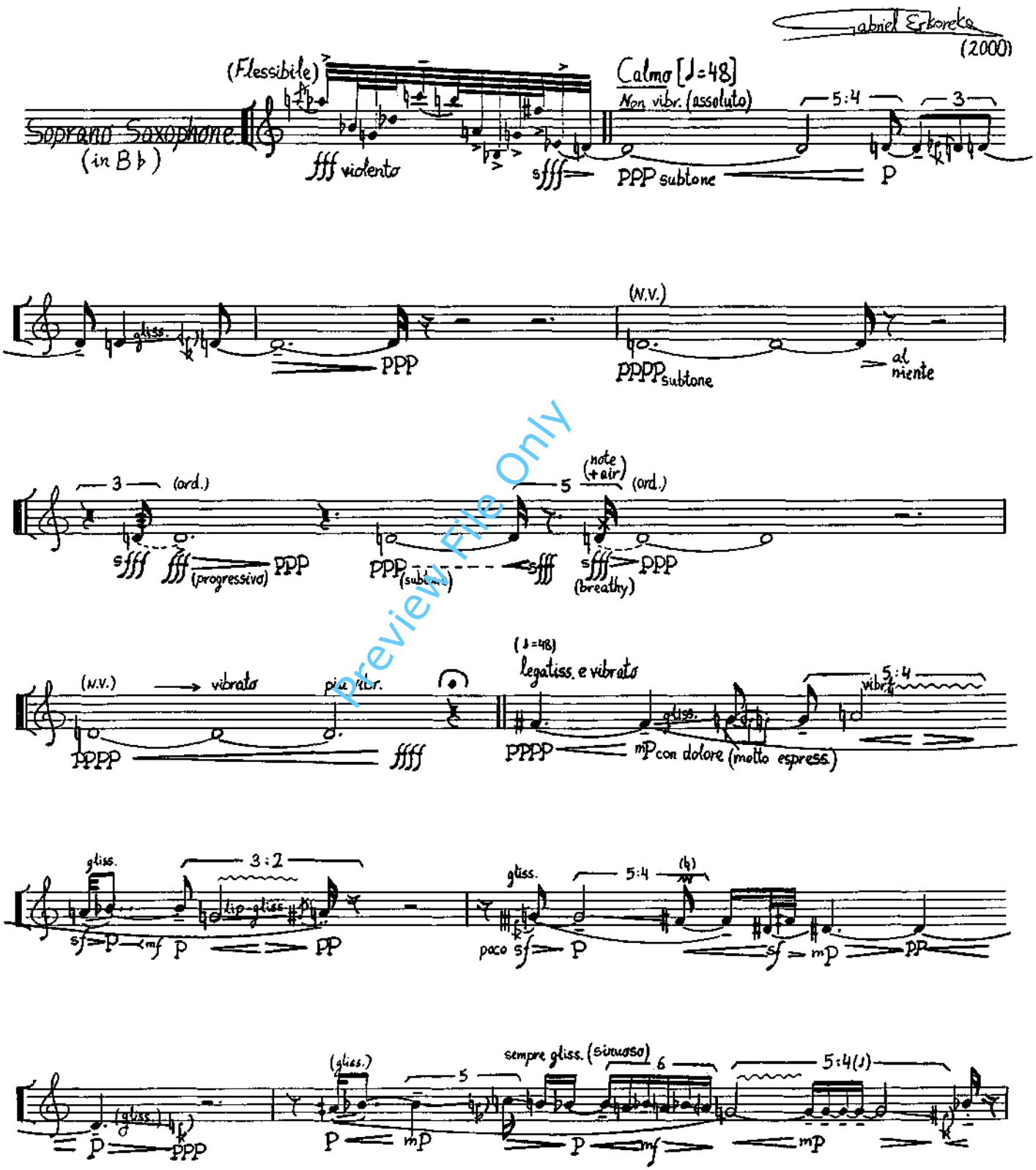
Duduk I



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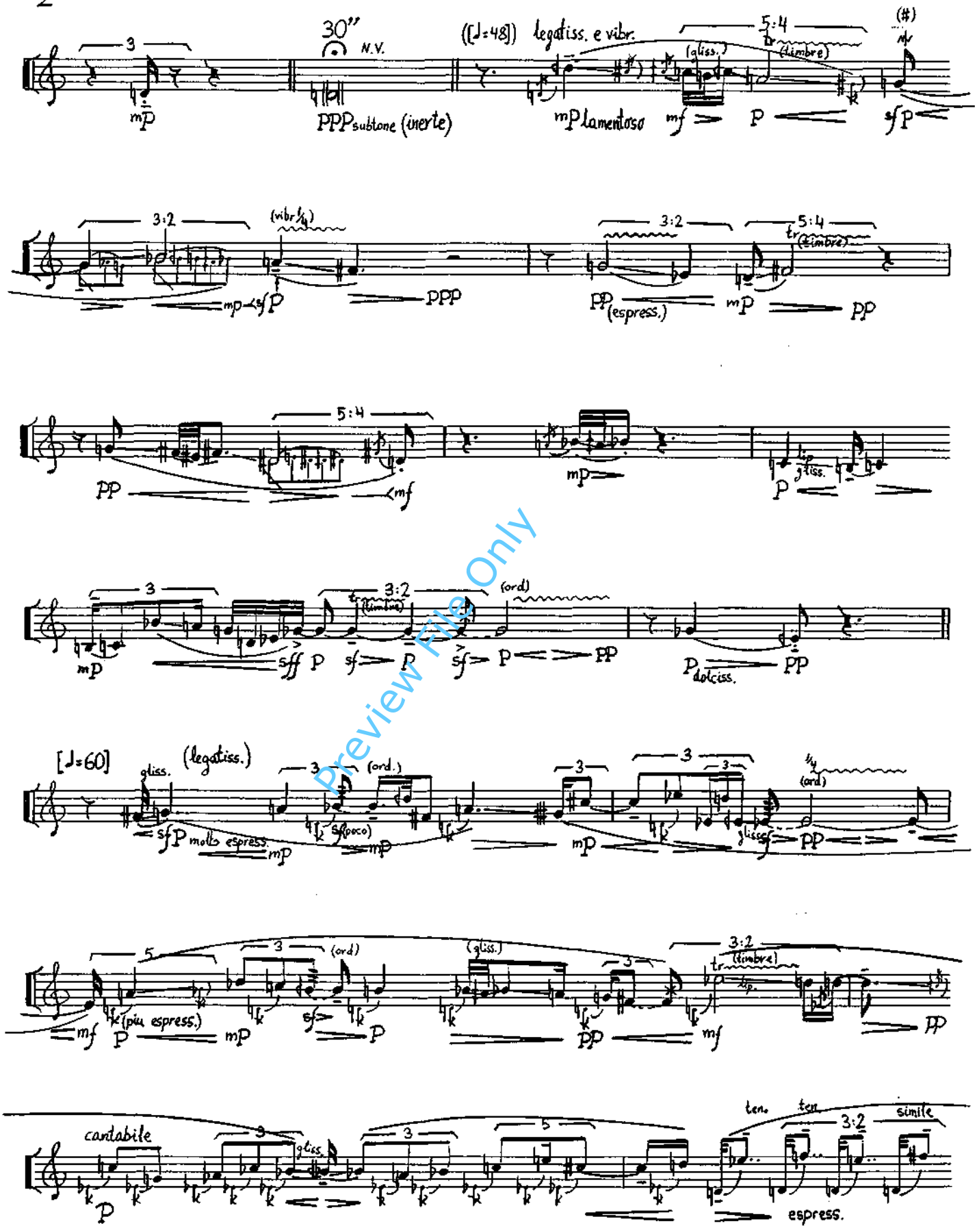

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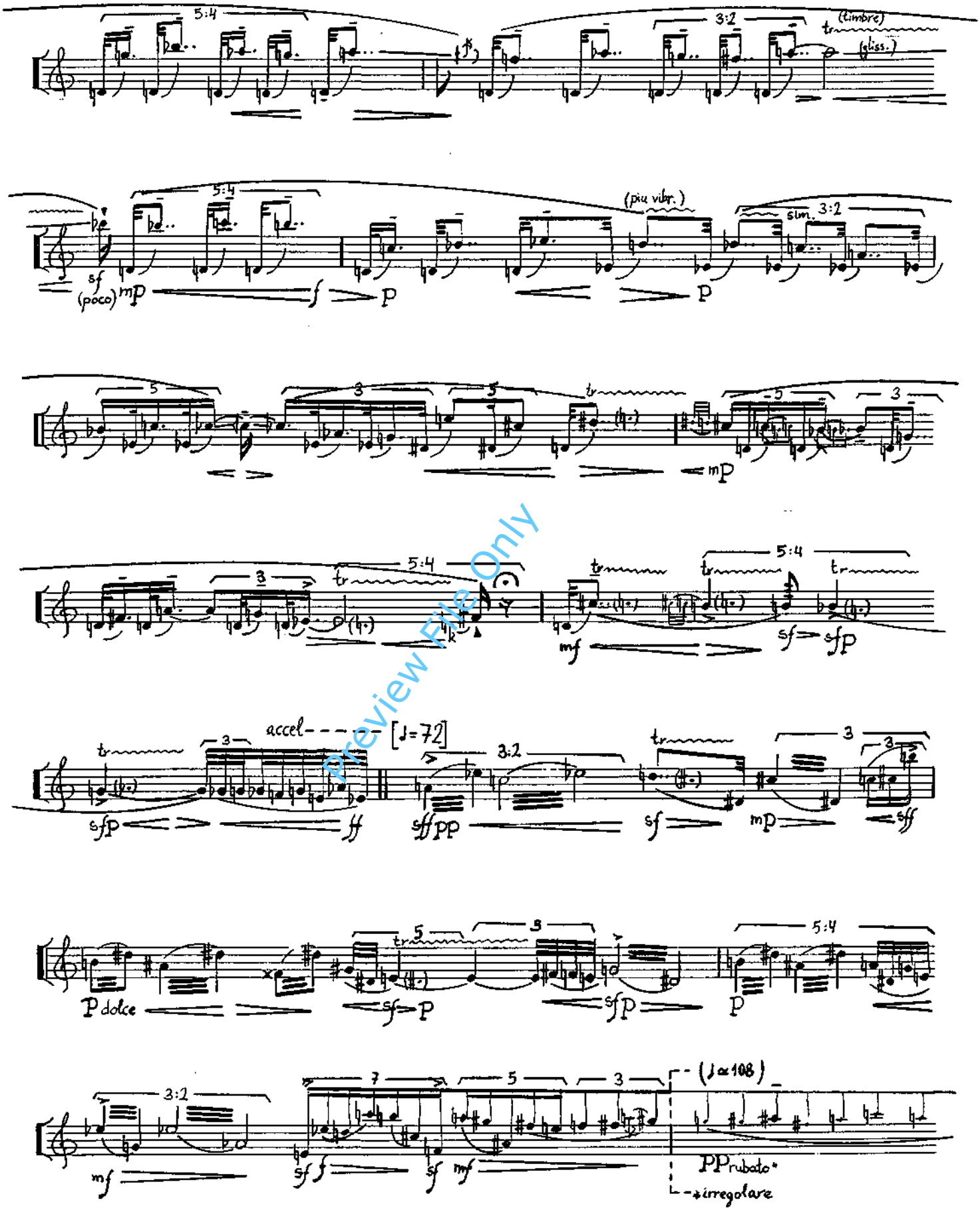

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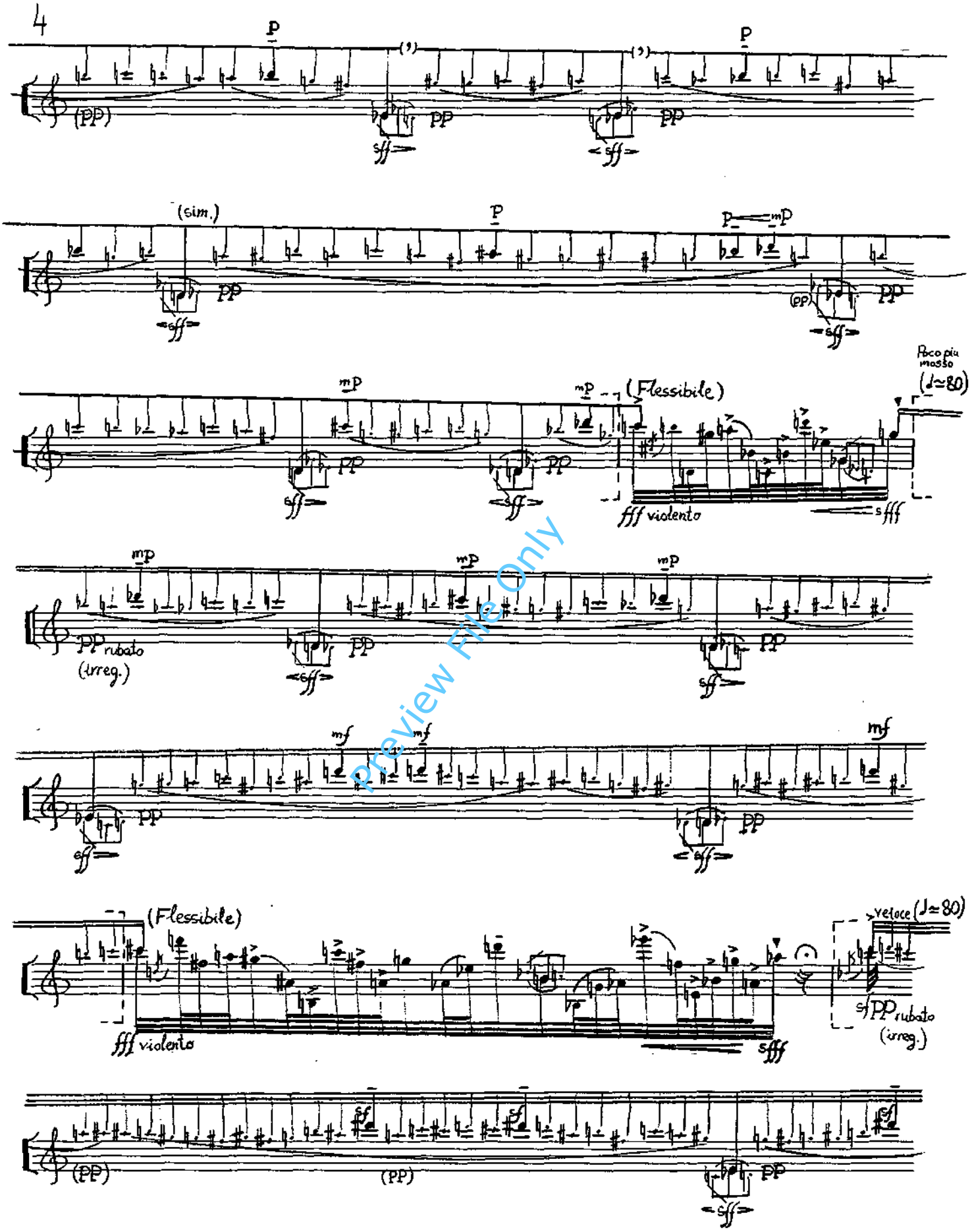

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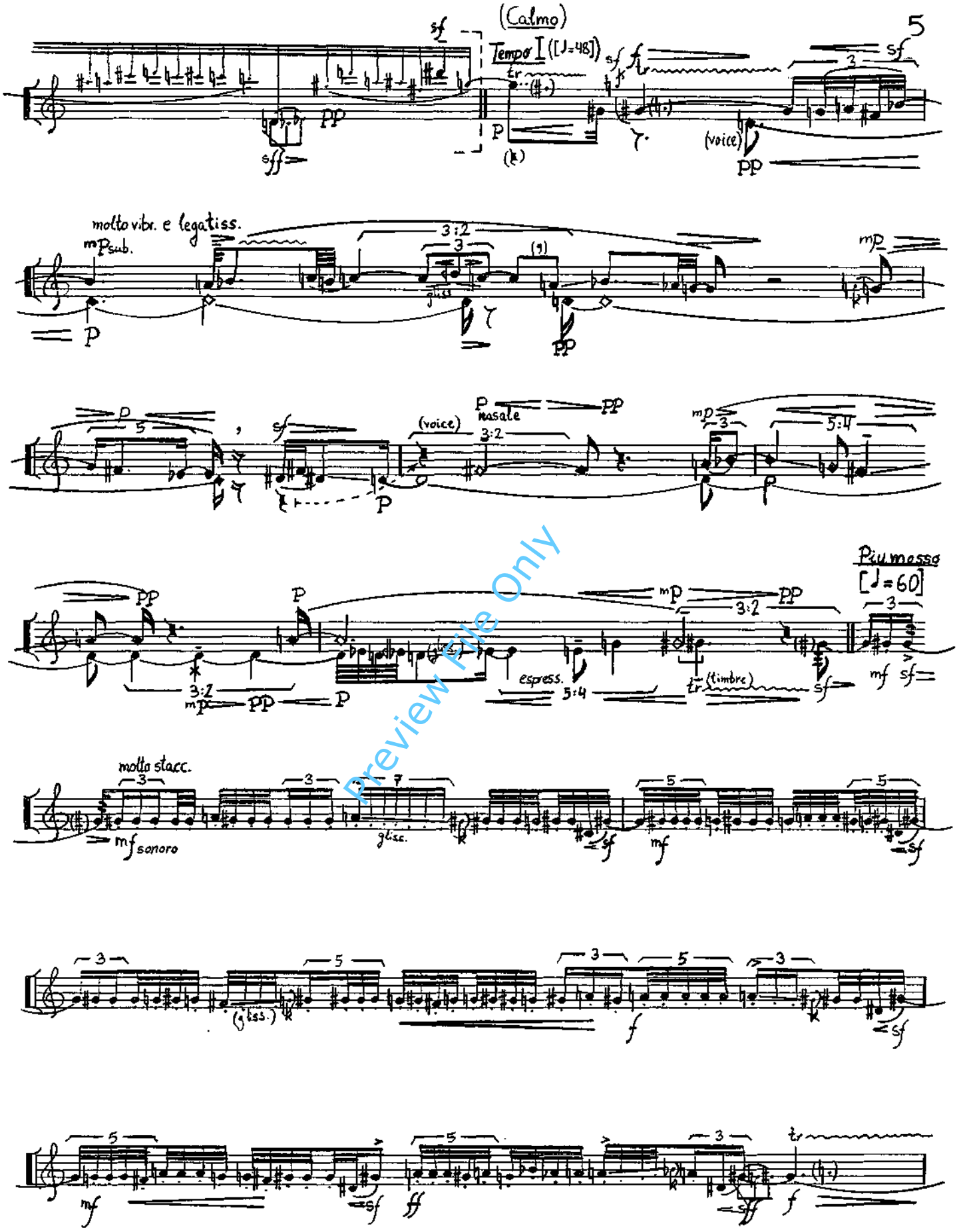

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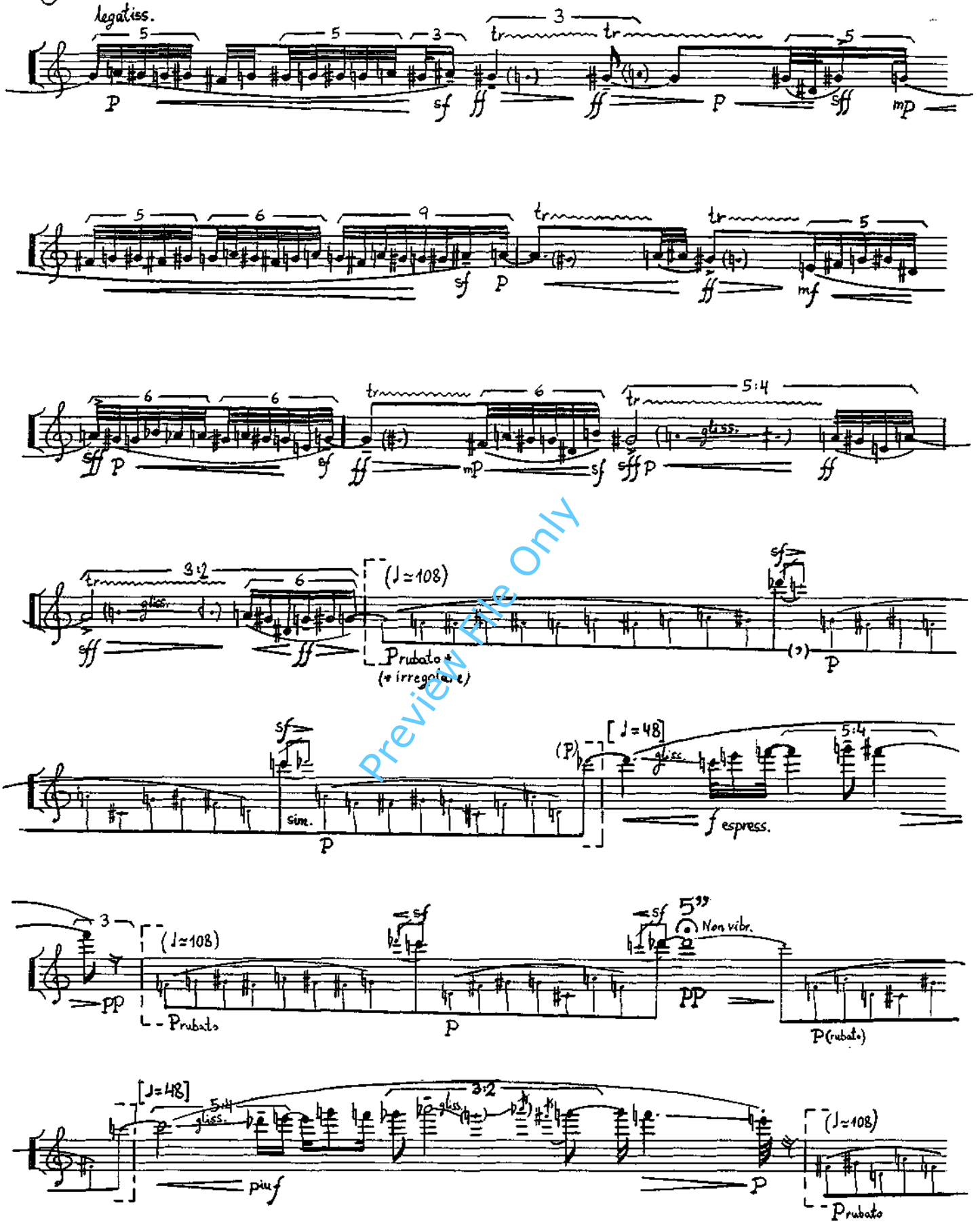

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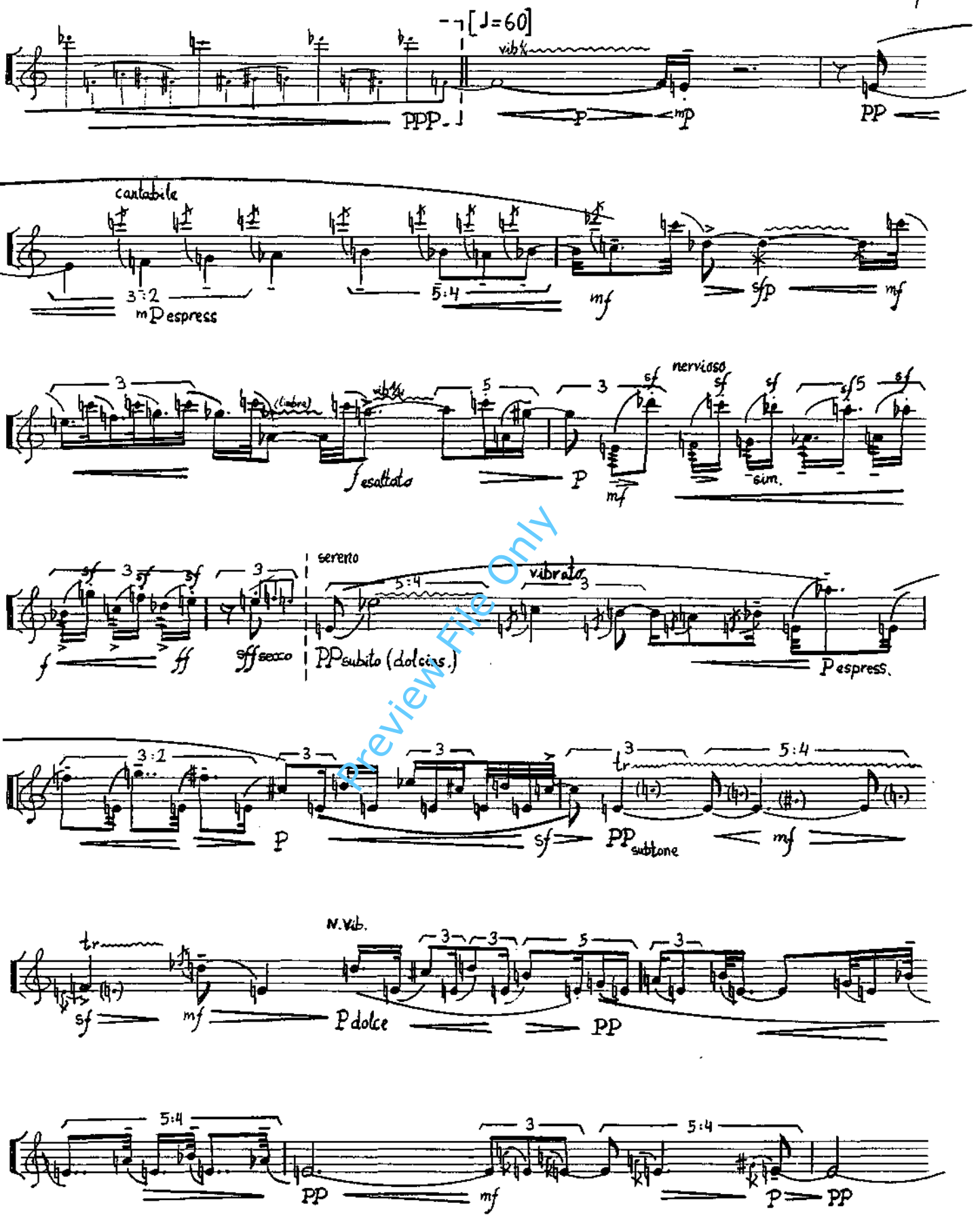

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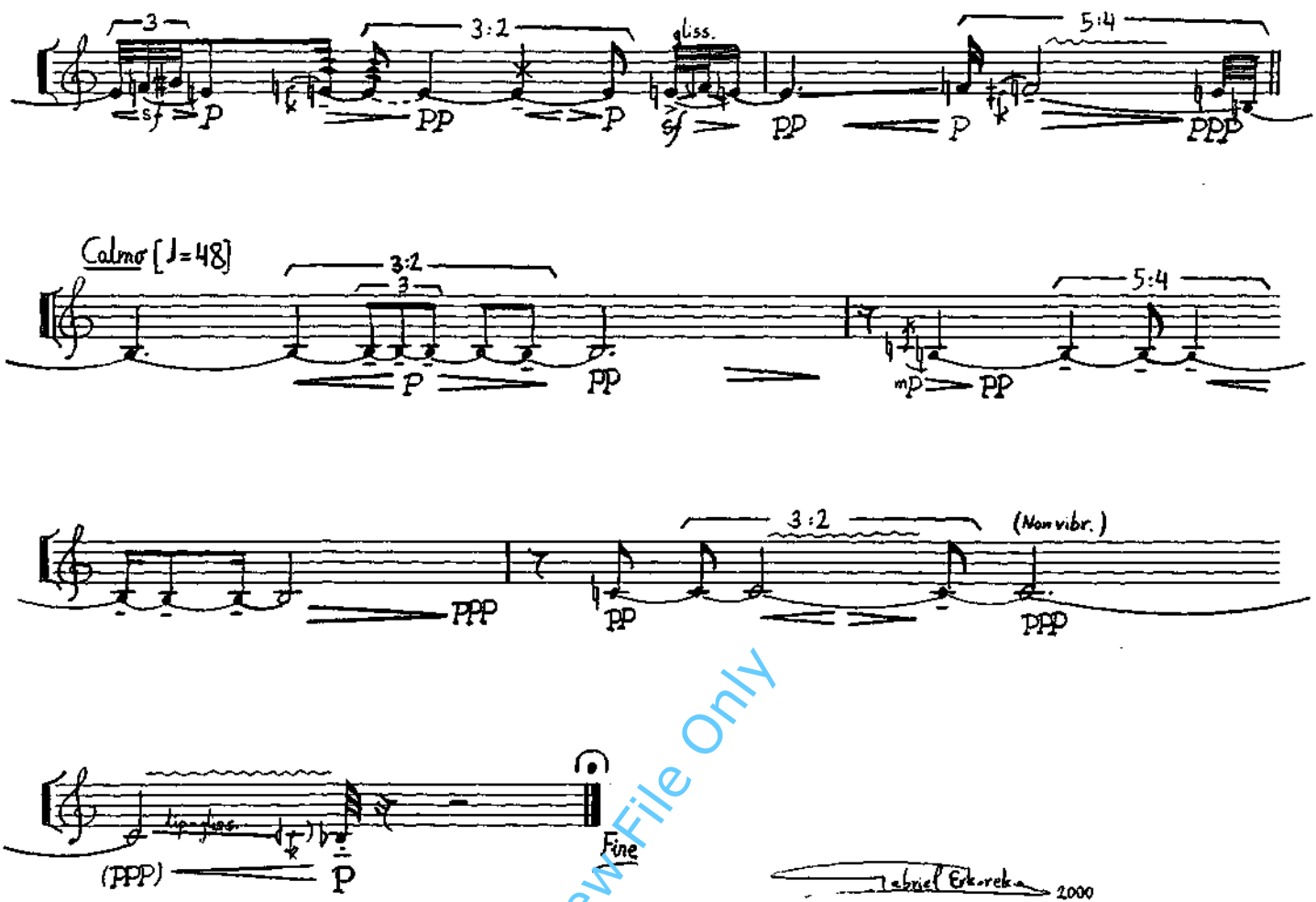

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