Gammer Gurton's Garland

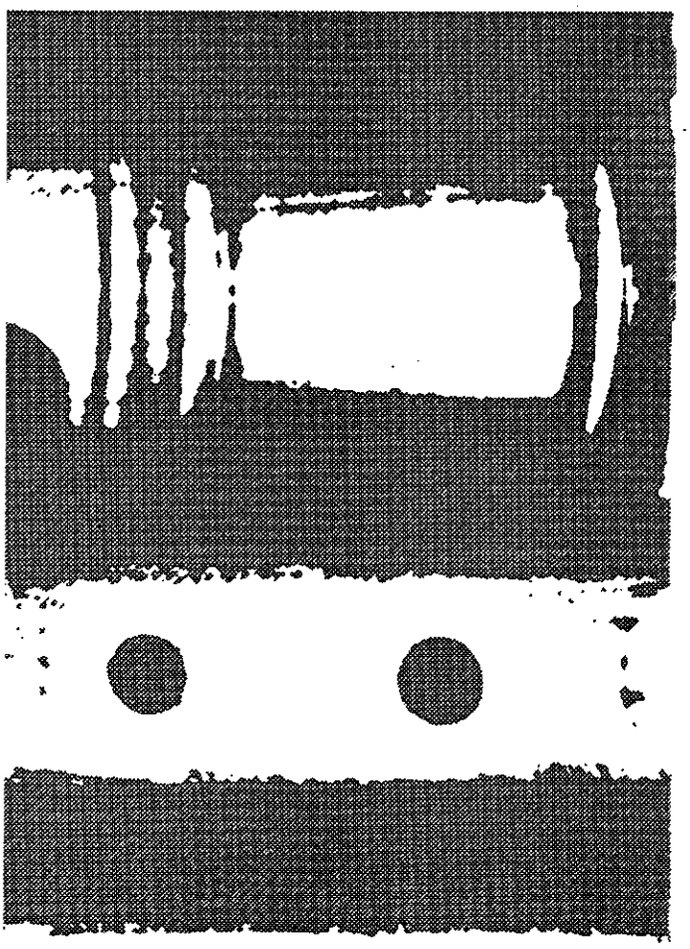
for Treble Recorder and Piano

Trevor Hold

BRITISH MUSIC INFORMATION CENTRE,
10, Stratford Place, London ...

Preview File Only

Five nursery tunes magically and subtly transformed by Trevor Hold, who has long delighted in these disarmingly simple pieces. Among the tunes used are, "The Twelve Days of Christmas", "Hush-A-Bye Baby" and a very lively "O Dear, what can the matter be?".



THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS
GREEN GRAVEL
HUSH-A-BYE, BABY
OVER THE HILLS AND FAR AWAY
O DEAR, WHAT CAN THE MATTER BE?

FORSYTH RECORDER MUSIC SERIES EDITOR JOHN TURNER

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FOREWORD

Trevor Hold was born in Northampton in 1939 and studied music at the University of Nottingham with Ivor Keys and Basil Smallman. He has held teaching posts at the Universities of Aberystwyth (1963-5), Liverpool (1965-70), and Leicester (1970-89), and now works as a freelance composer, lecturer and writer. His compositions range from keyboard music, chamber music and song-cycles to large scale orchestral and dramatic works. He is also a poet and, as well as supplying the libretti for his own song-cycles and operas, has published three collections of poetry, the most recent being Mermaids and Nightingales (1991).

The composer writes of the present work: "Nursery tunes are the first music most of us hear in our lives, the first music we really get to know and ergo the music we will have known the longest. They have a disarming simplicity and pithiness; their whole aim is to be tuneful, so that they can be memorable; and in their very essence they are a source of instant nostalgia. For all these reasons nursery tunes delight me, and on many occasions I've incorporated them into my music, though never so directly as here. The tunes I've used should all be recognisable at some point in each piece, though all undergo a certain amount of transformation (Hush-a-bye, baby for instance has become a passacaglia theme). Gammer Gurton's Garland, or; The Nursery Parnassus is the splendid title which the great antiquarian, Joseph Ritson, gave to his pioneering collection of nursery-rhymes published in 1784. It includes the texts of two of the tunes I've used: Hush-a-bye, baby, which he calls The Nurse's Song, and Dong dong bell, which makes a brief unscheduled appearance (as a possible answer to O dear, what can the matter be?) in the final movement."

The work was composed for John Turner in 1996, and received its first performance at the Lichfield International Arts Festival on 4th July 1998, when the performers were John Turner (recorder), and Keith Swallow (piano).

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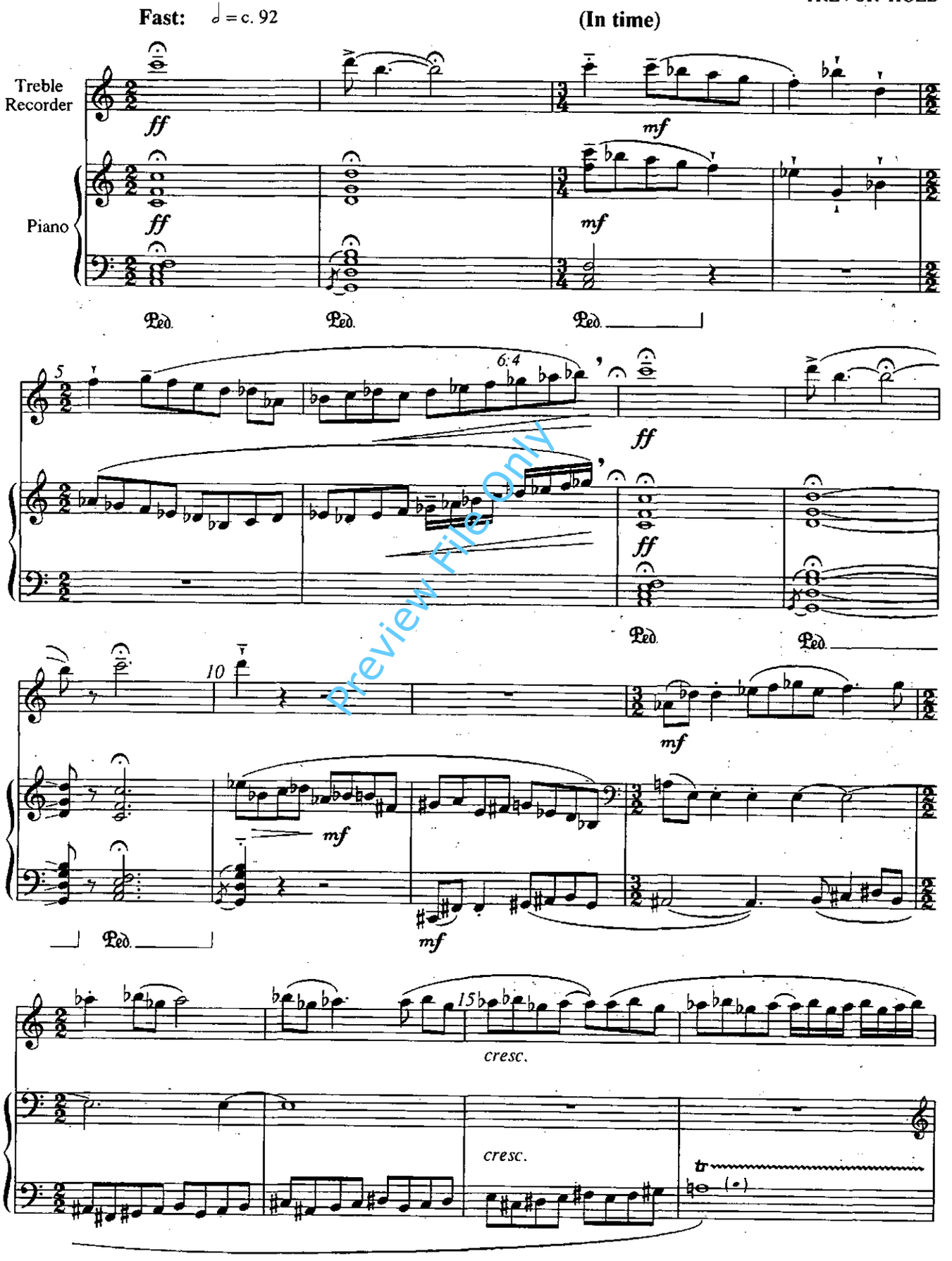
GAMMER GURTON'S GARLAND

1. THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

TREVOR HOLD



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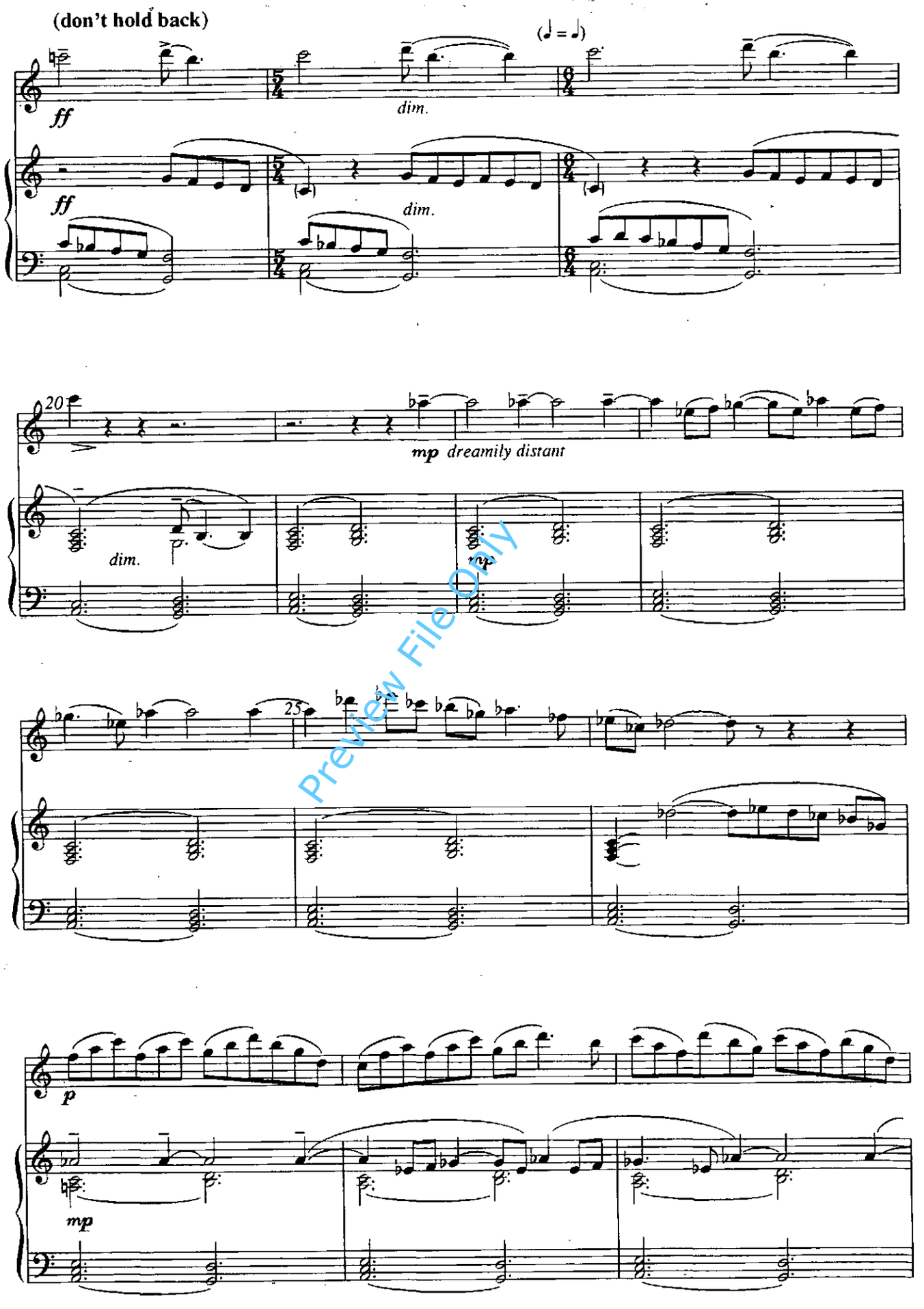

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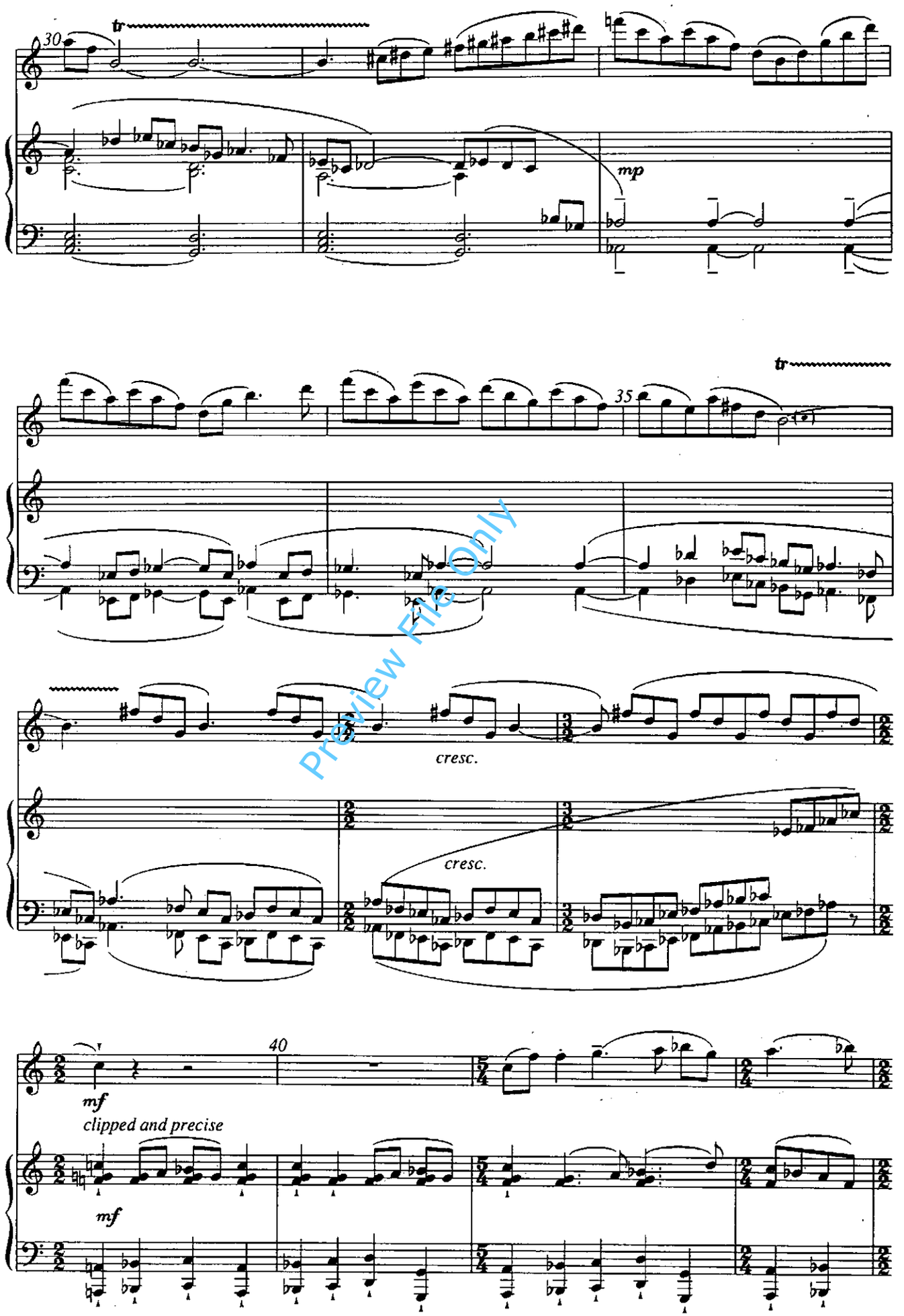

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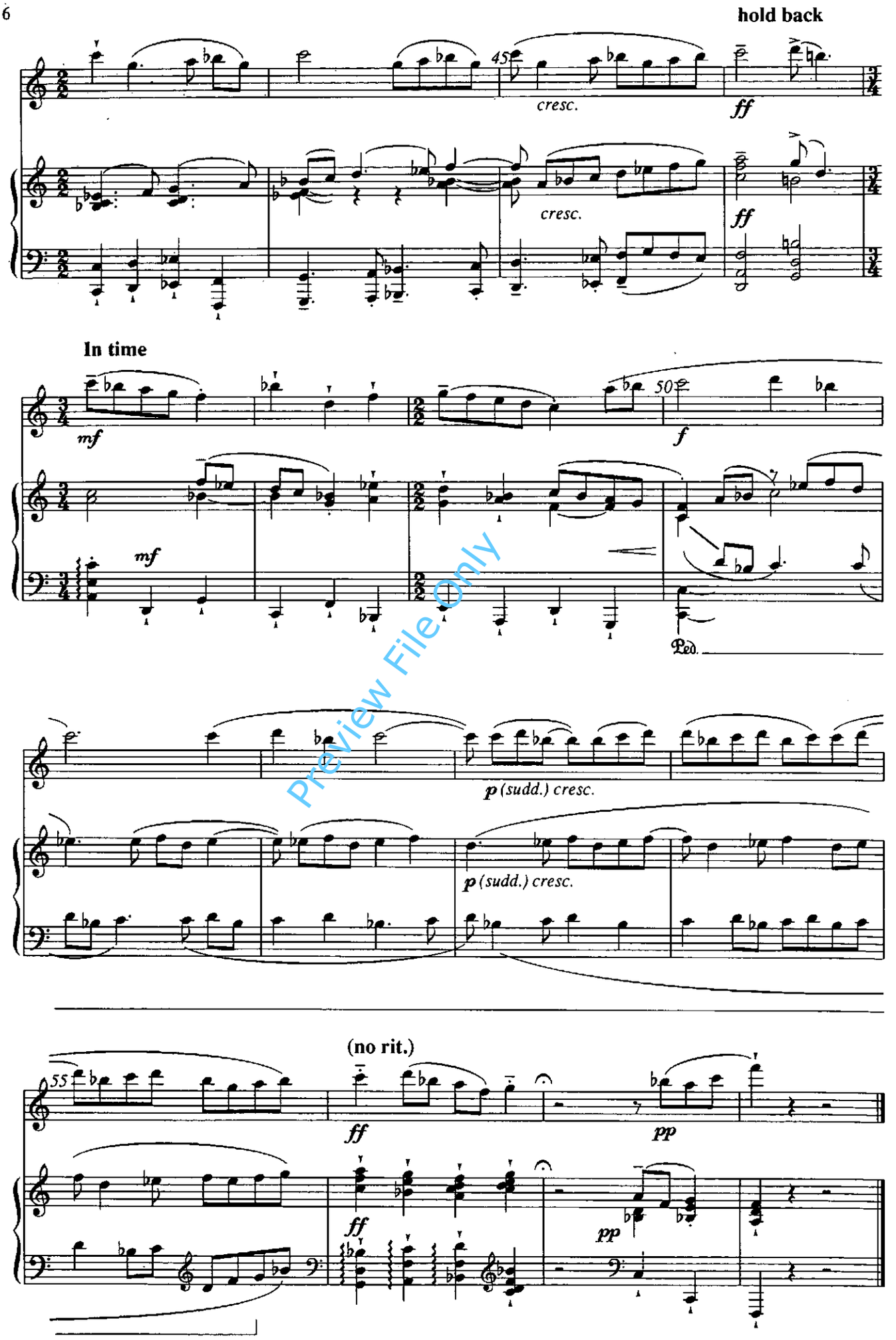

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2. GREEN GRAVEL

incorporating "On the Mountain"

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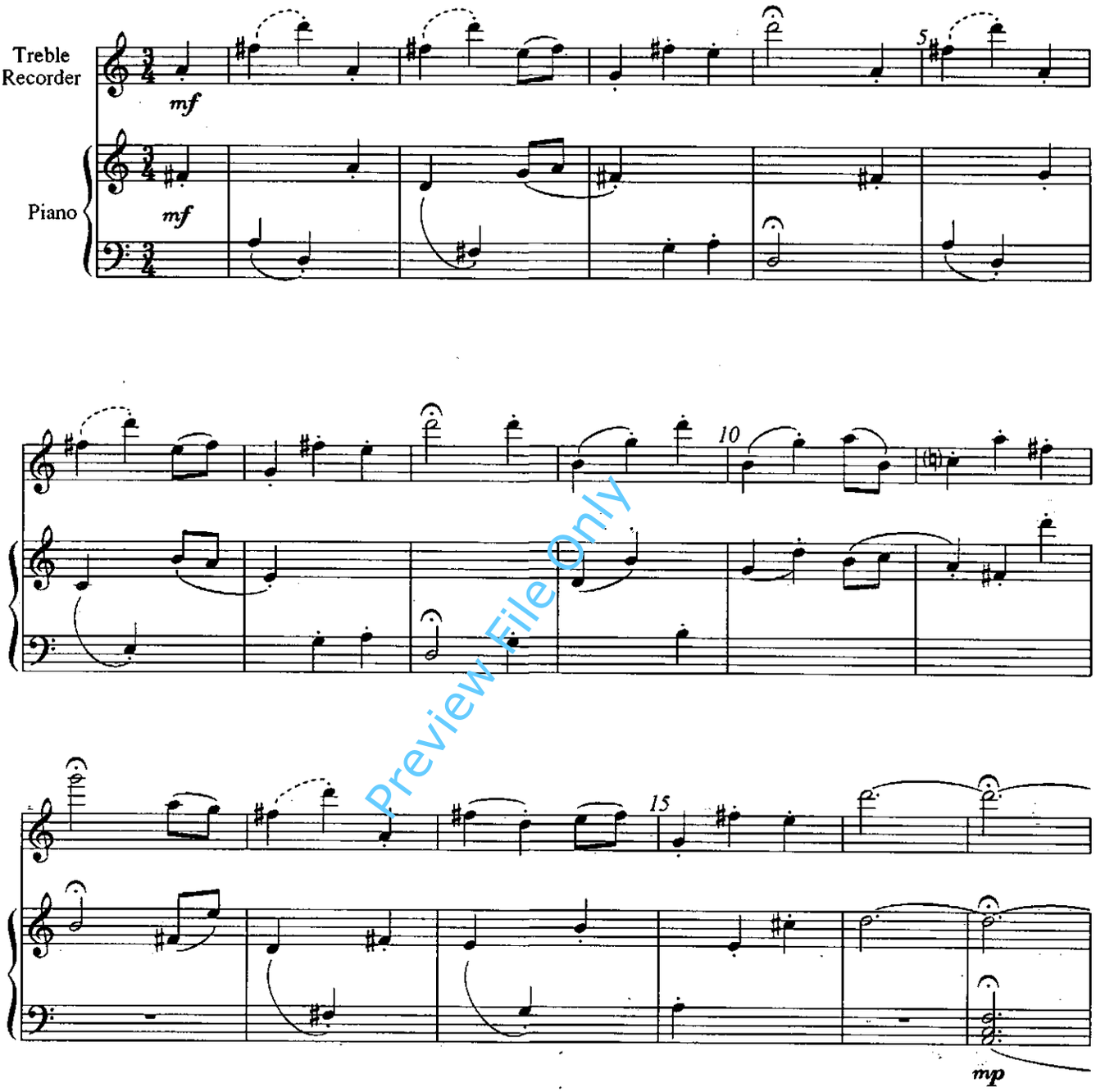

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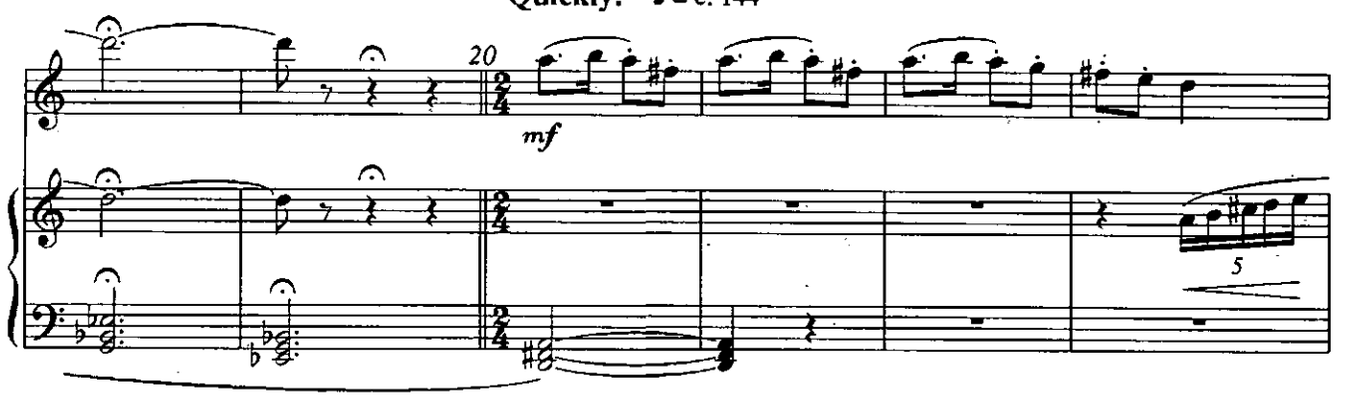

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