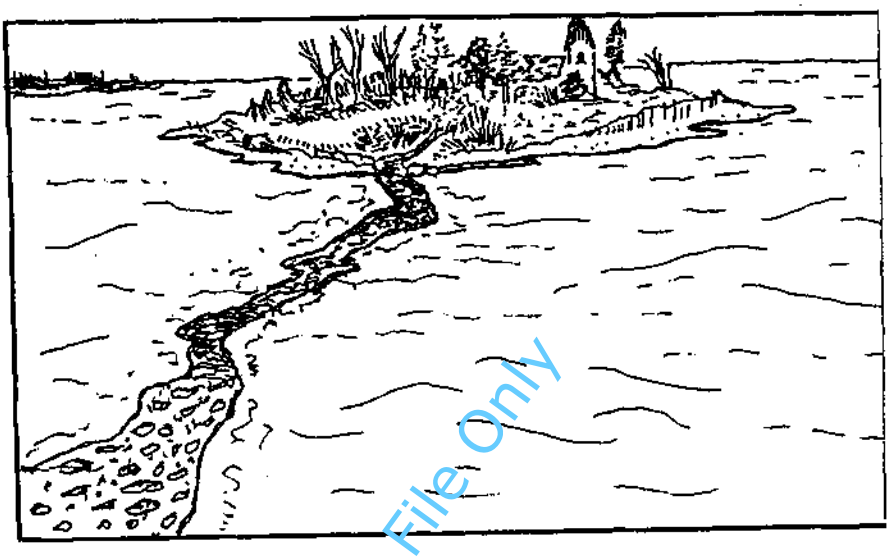
Julia Usher



THE CAUSEWAY

Preview File Only

For Soprano, Trumpet, String Trio

primavera

THE CAUSEWAY

For SOPRANO, TRUMPET, STRING TRIO

by Julia Usher

This piece was written in 1984,
on texts by the composer, and Charles Dickens.

It has not been performed.

Our family has spent much time
sailing in the area of the Blackwater River,
in Essex, out of the small port of Tollesbury.

We have got to know the shallows and tidal streams of
this historic coast,
and have often observed the covering and
uncovering of the Causeway which
allows access to Northey Island from
Maldon.

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It was this causeway that was the setting of a terrible battle in the
as recounted in one of the earliest Anglo Saxon Poems,
The Battle of Maldon.

I was interested in the idea of a place
that is cut off at regular intervals from contact
with the mainland.

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" People can't die along the coast, except when the tide's pretty nigh out. They can't be born, unless it's pretty nigh in - not properly born, til flood....."

....." He's going out with the tide....."

Charles Dickens, David Copperfield

"To return from the Island,
A place cut off from the passage of time;
A sanctuary
Out of range
Of the running human tide:
You should know which way the wind is blowing;
Wait
For solid ground to emerge,
And in the brief space
Between the washes of separation,
Trust
That the crossing of the Causeway
Will not destroy
The fragile hold you have on the land,
Nor the people,
Who have grown in your absence. -Julia Usher

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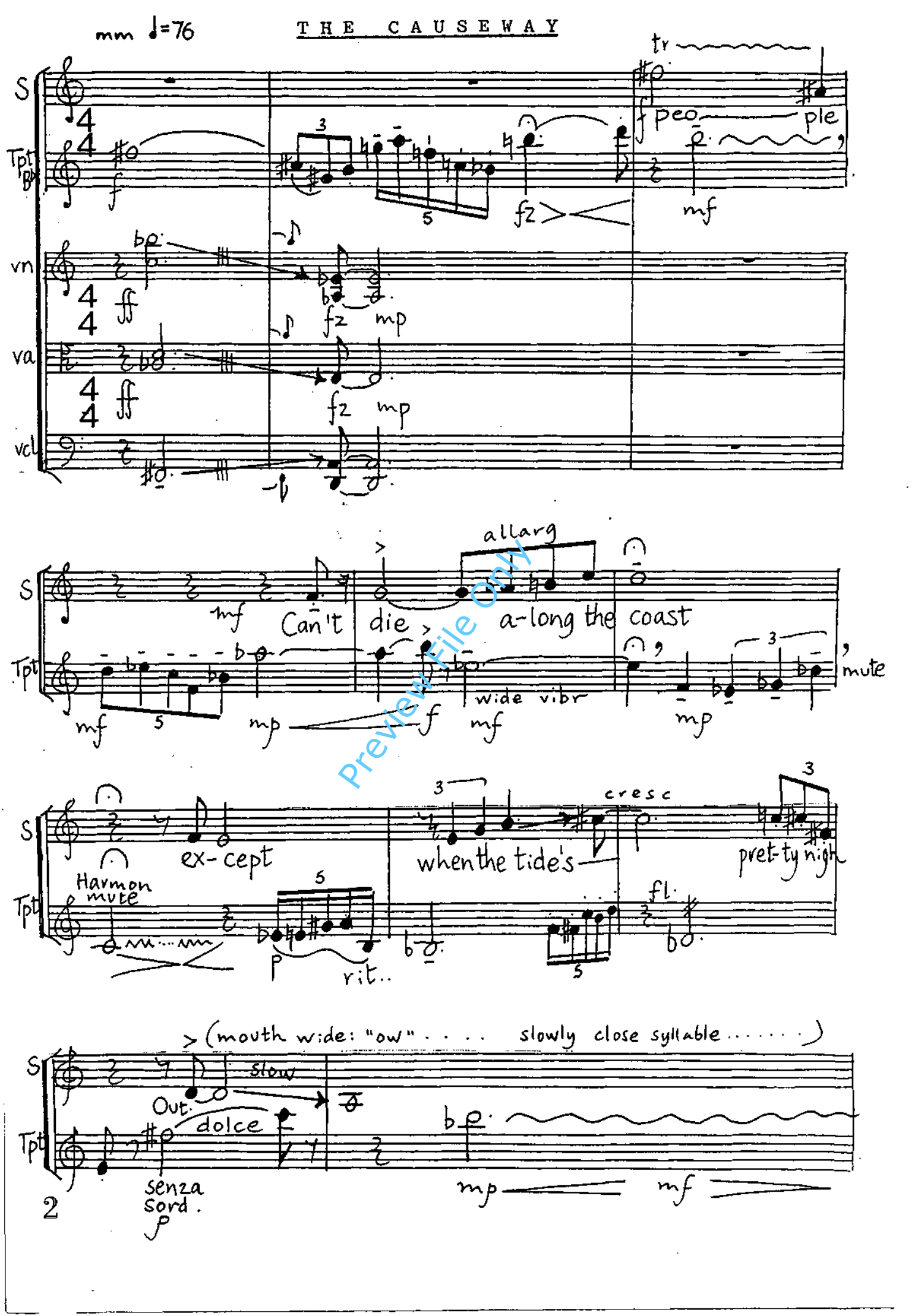
In the year 991 A.D., Vikings invaded the Blackwater Estuary in Essex, securing themselves on Northey Island off the town of Maldon. The island was separated from the town by a tidal causeway. The defending force of Anglo-Saxons, led by Earl Brythnoth, in a chivalrous spirit, allowed the Vikings to cross on a favourable tide to equal ground; the Earl and most of his followers were then slain.

The trumpet part is transposed in the score.

In the senza misura sections, the players must relate their entries to each other: a conductor should not be necessary. Even in the metred sections, flexibility and rubato should be cultivated, for a fluid, watery atmosphere.



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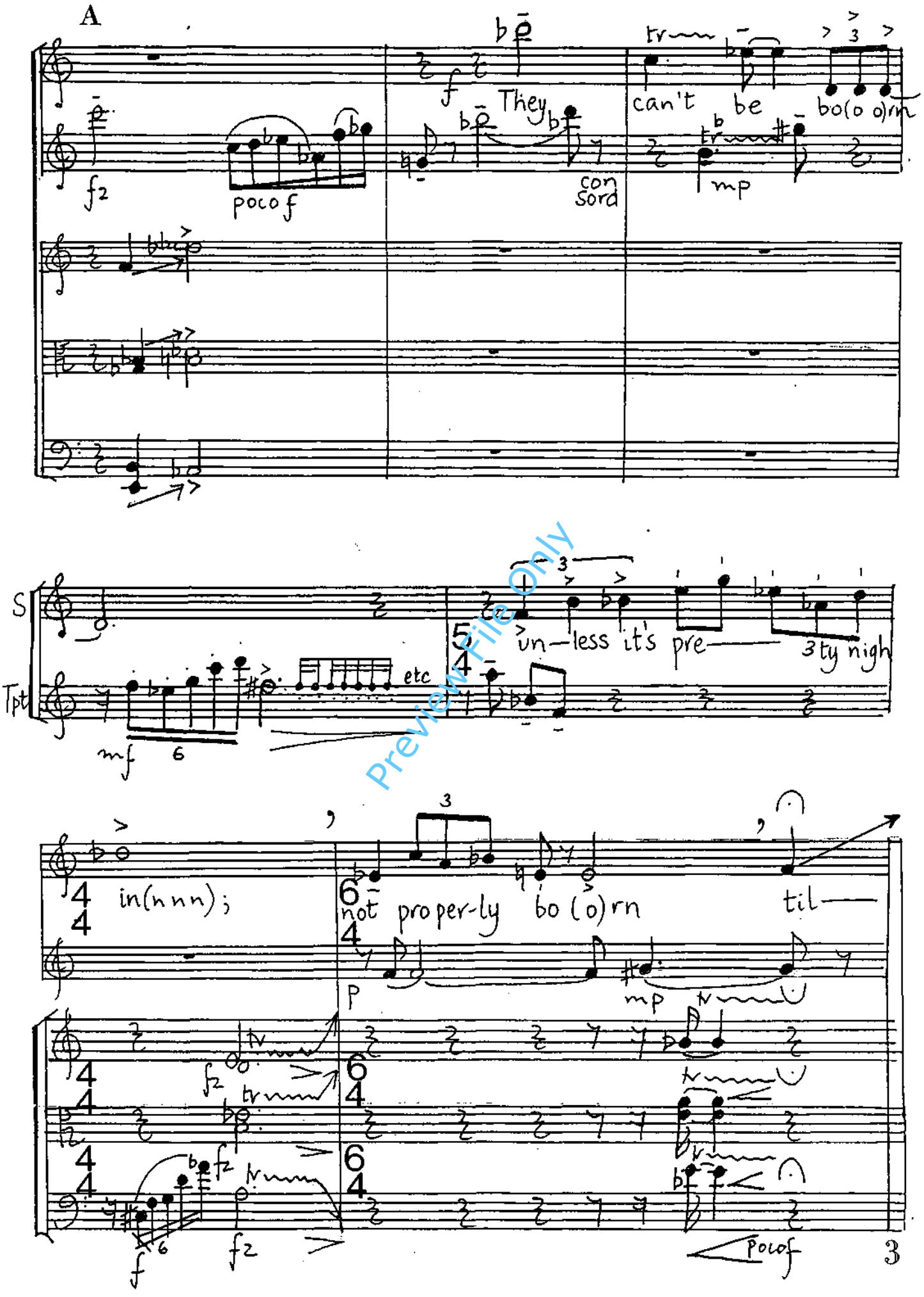

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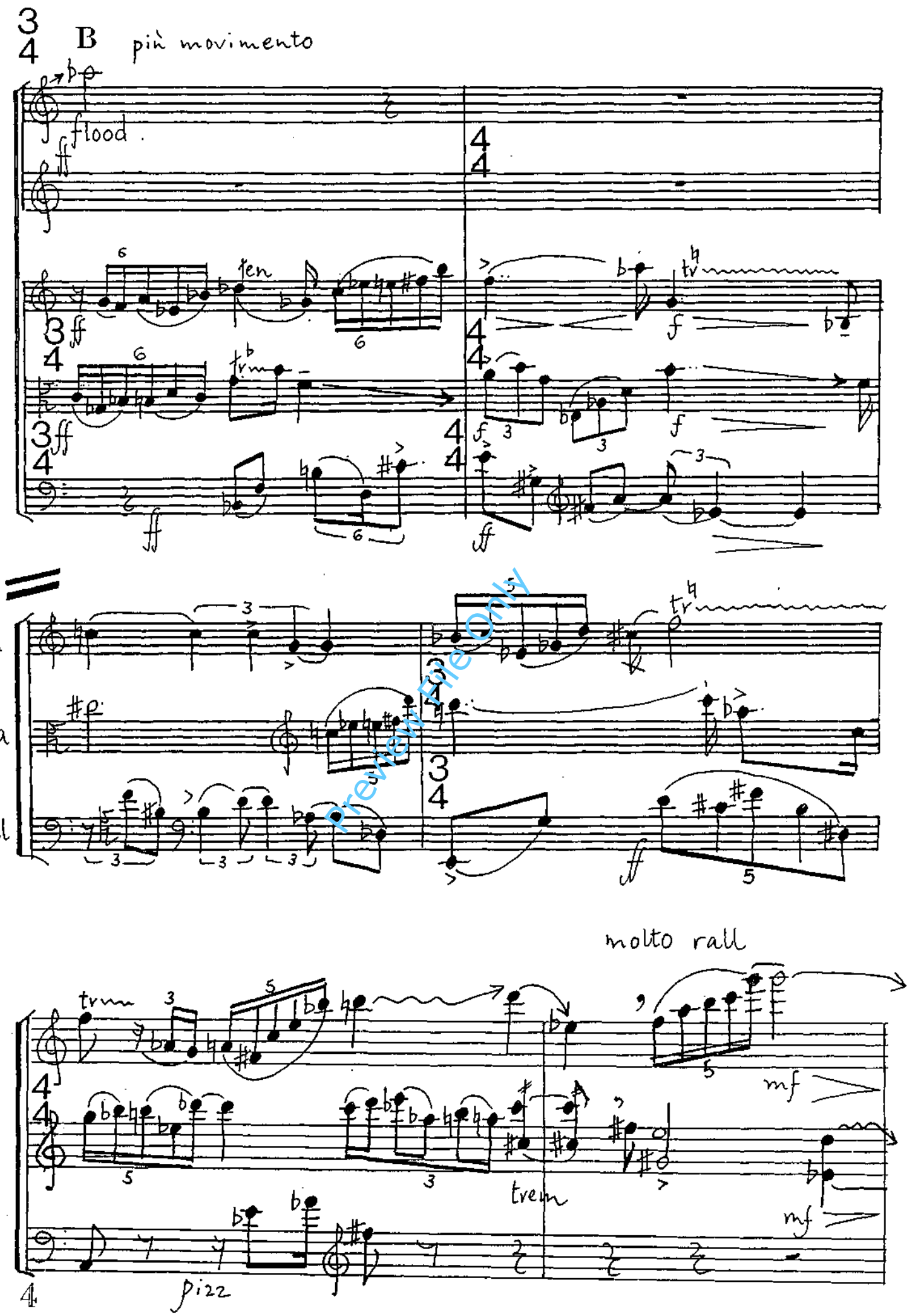

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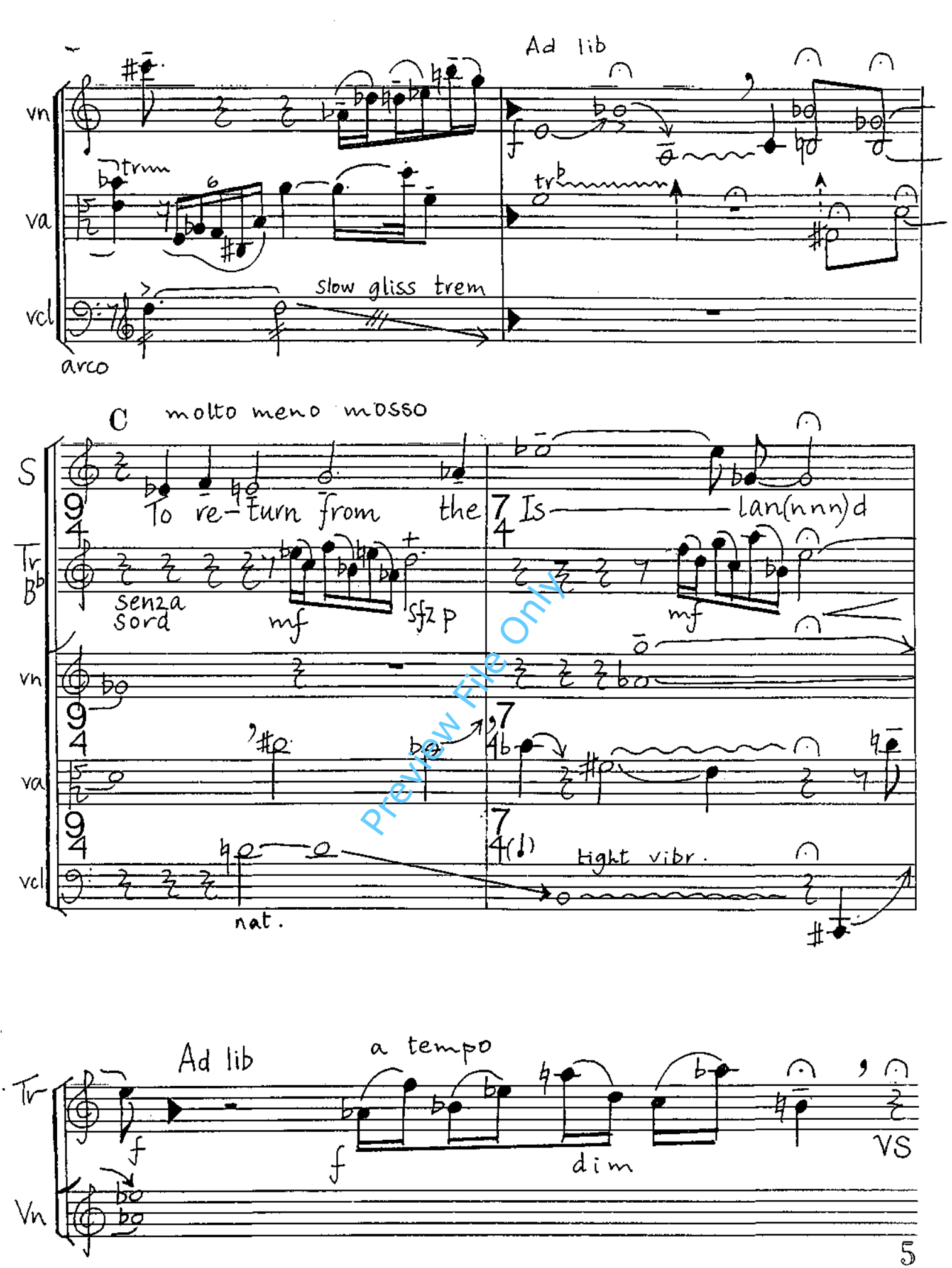
Ad lib
vn
va
vcl
trmn
trb
Slow gliss trem
arco
C molto meno mosso
S
To re-turn from the
Is lan(nnn)d
Tr
B♭
senza sord
mf
sfz p
mf
vn
va
vcl
Light vibr.
nat.
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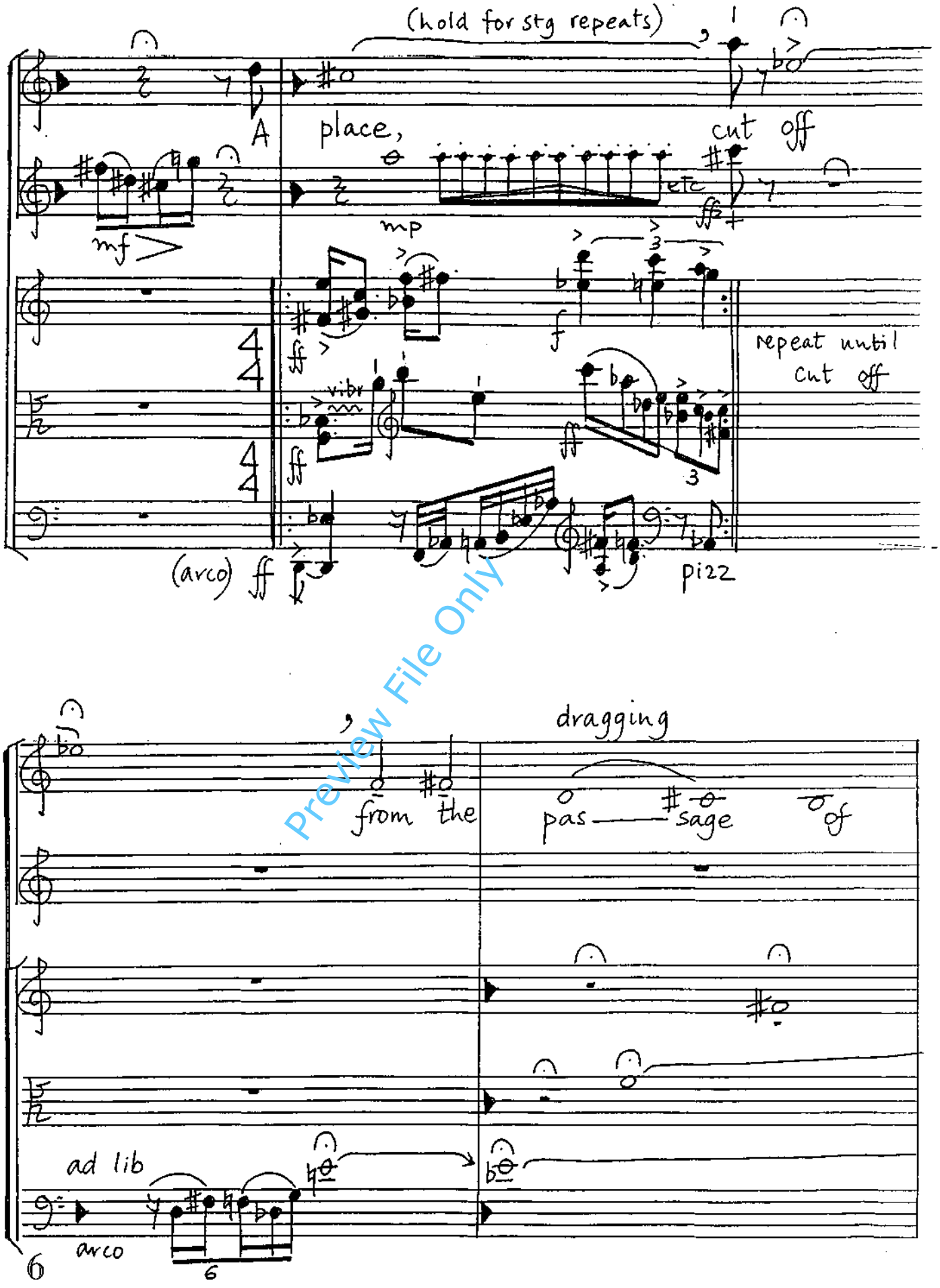
Ad lib
a tempo
Tr
Vn
f
f
dim
VS



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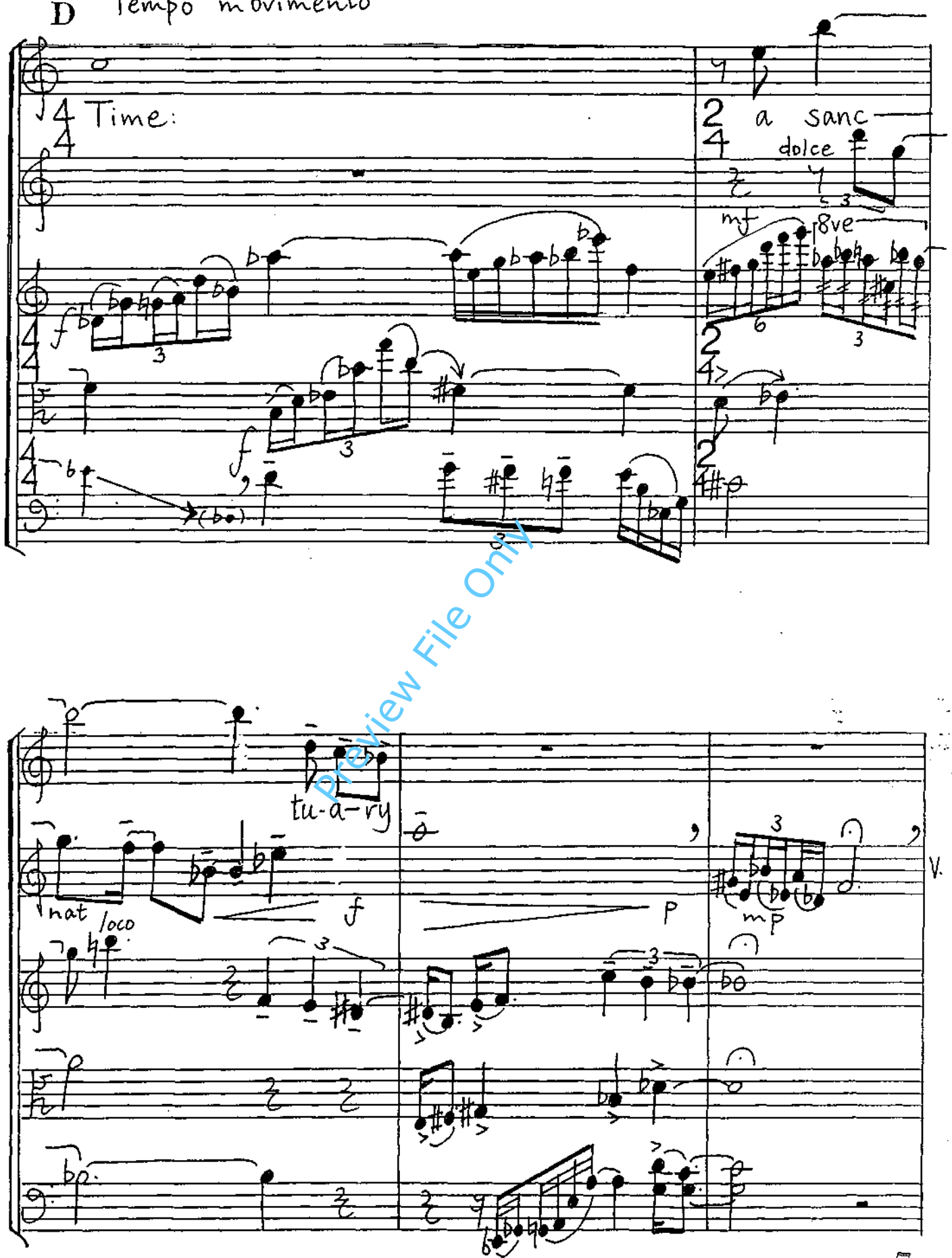

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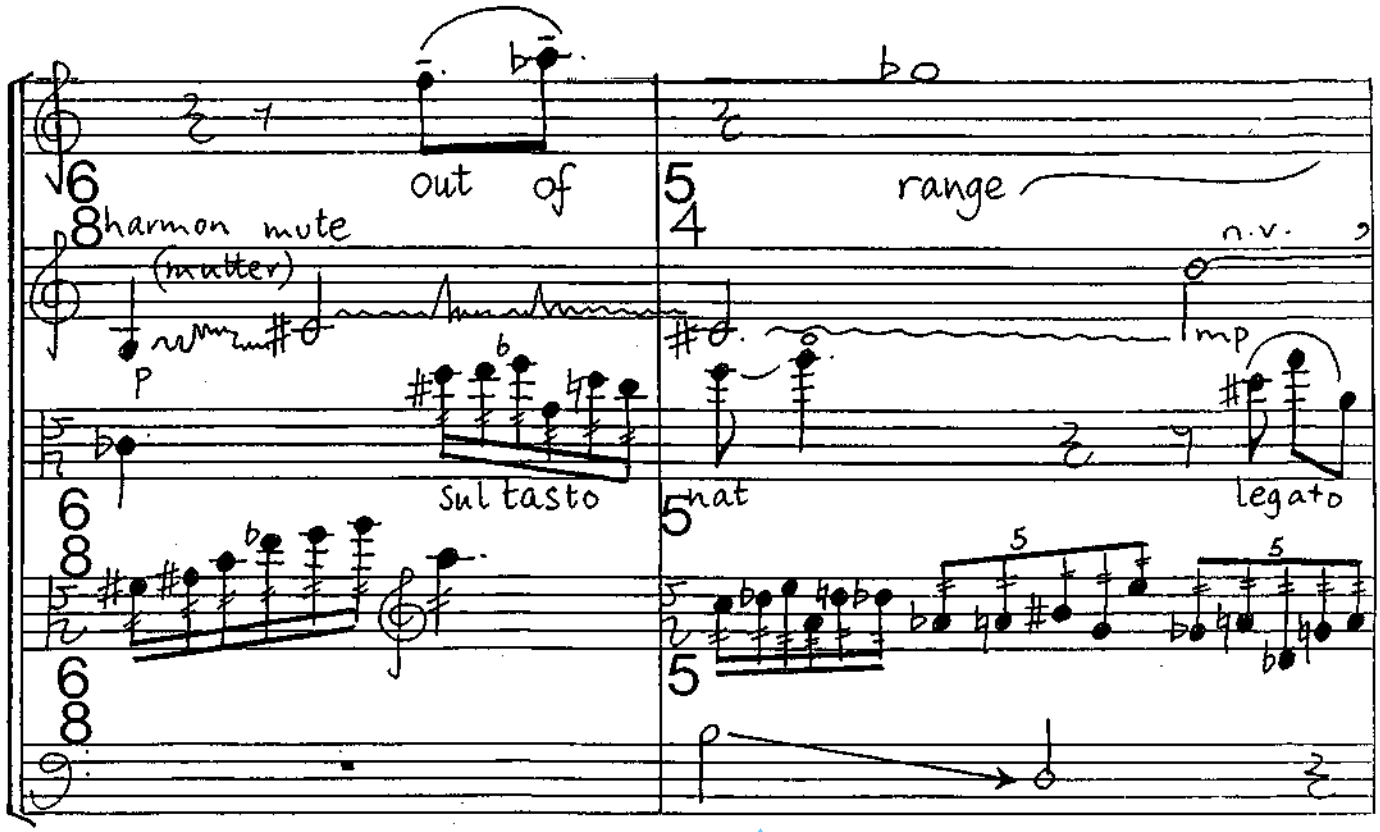

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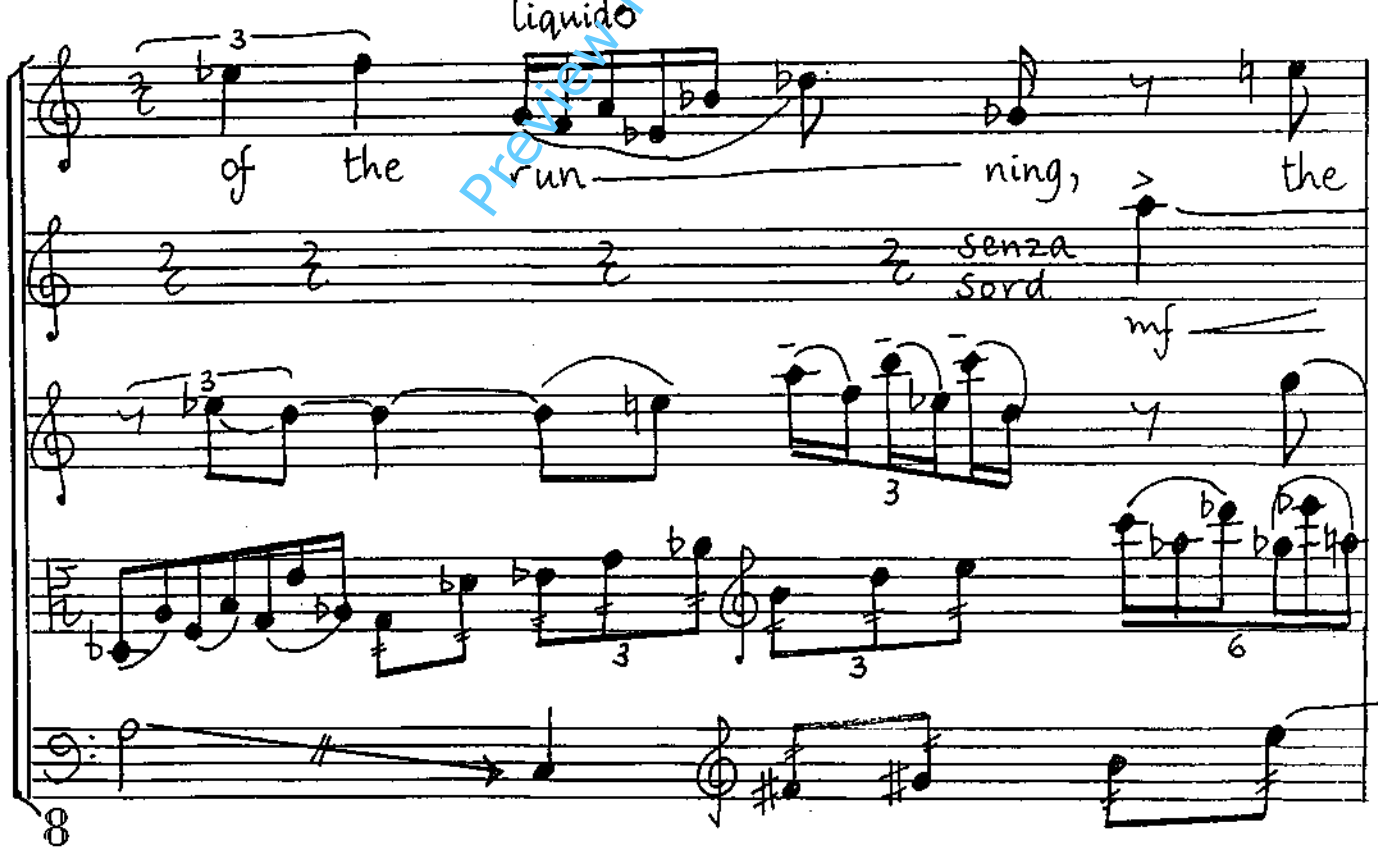

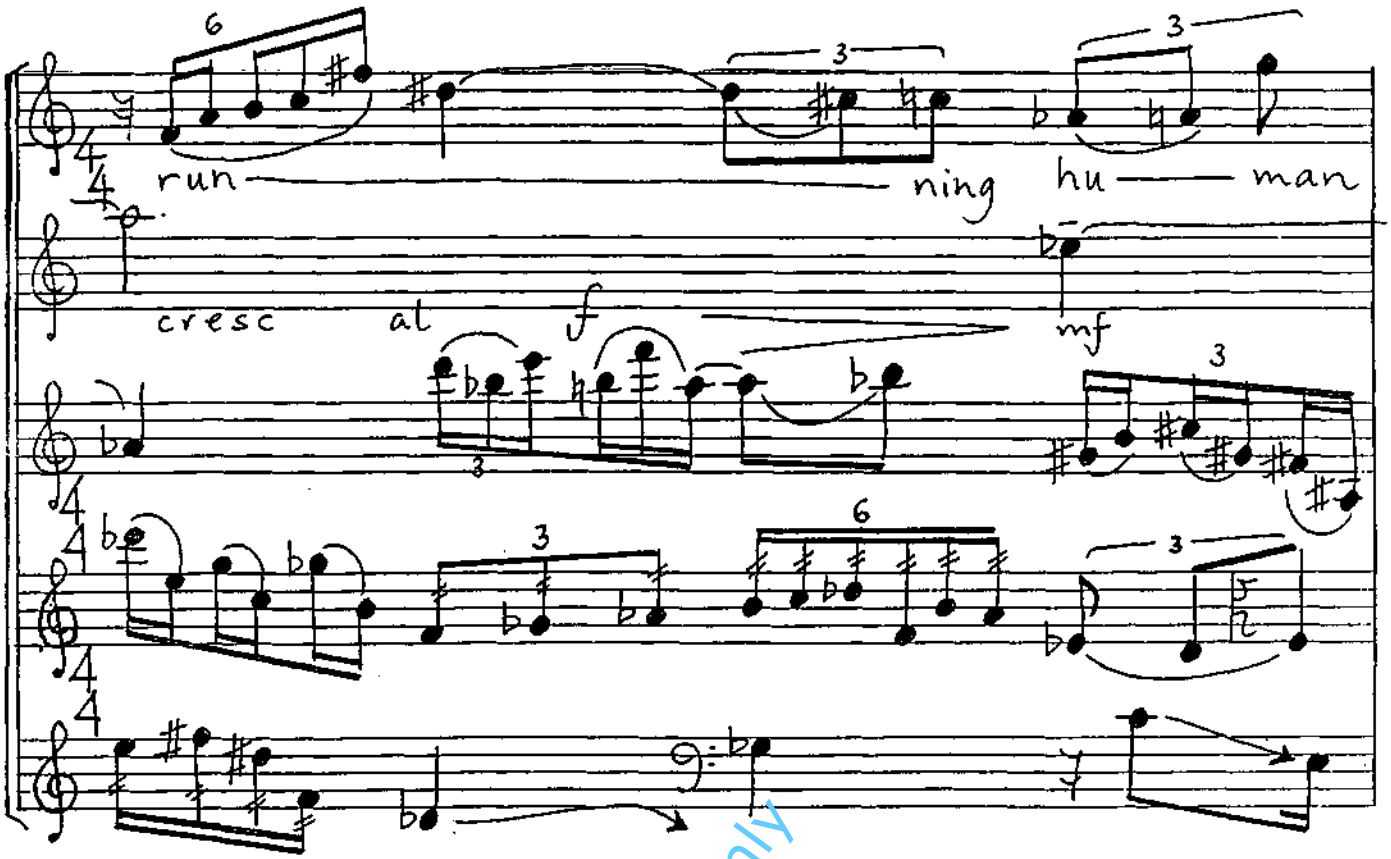

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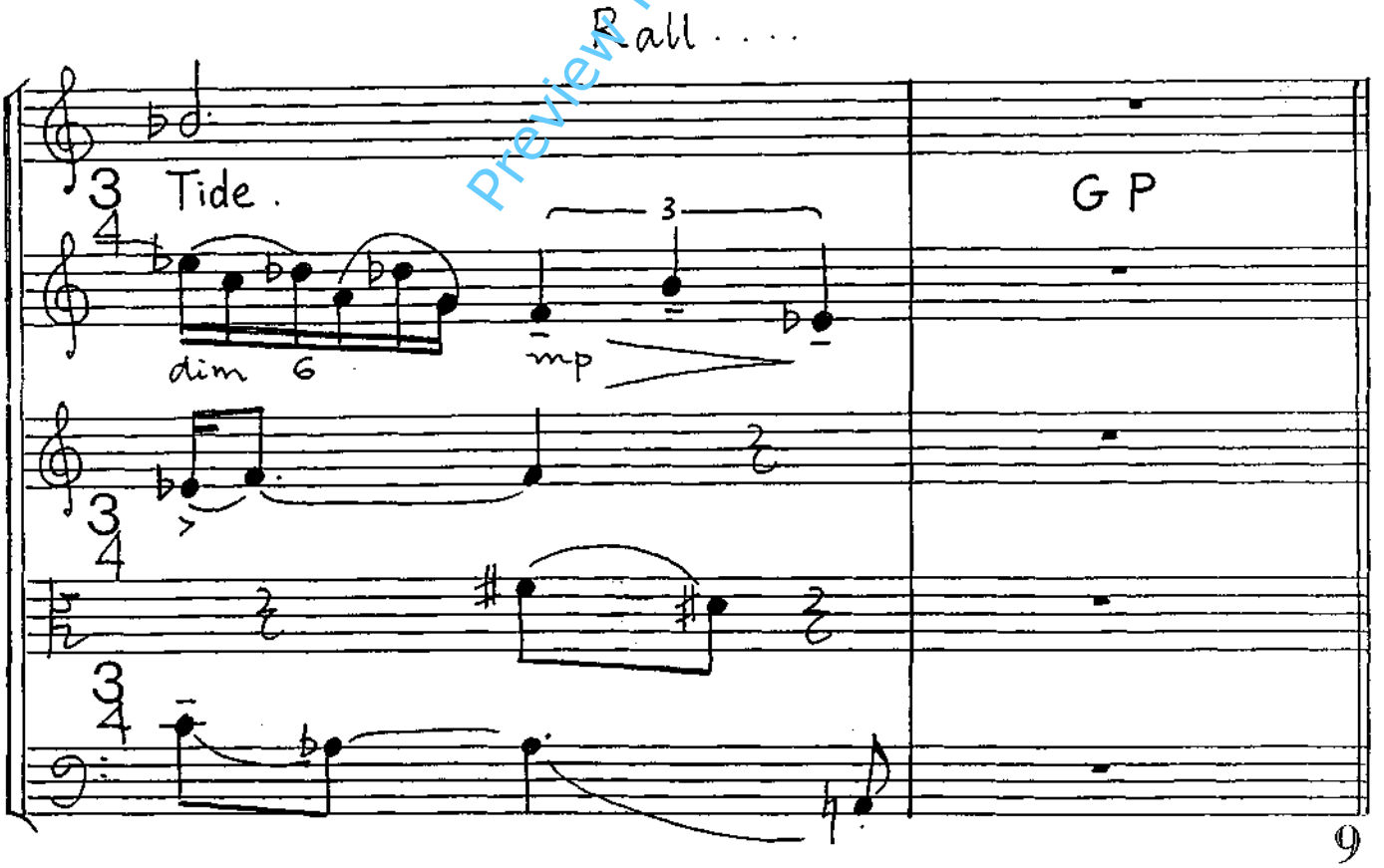

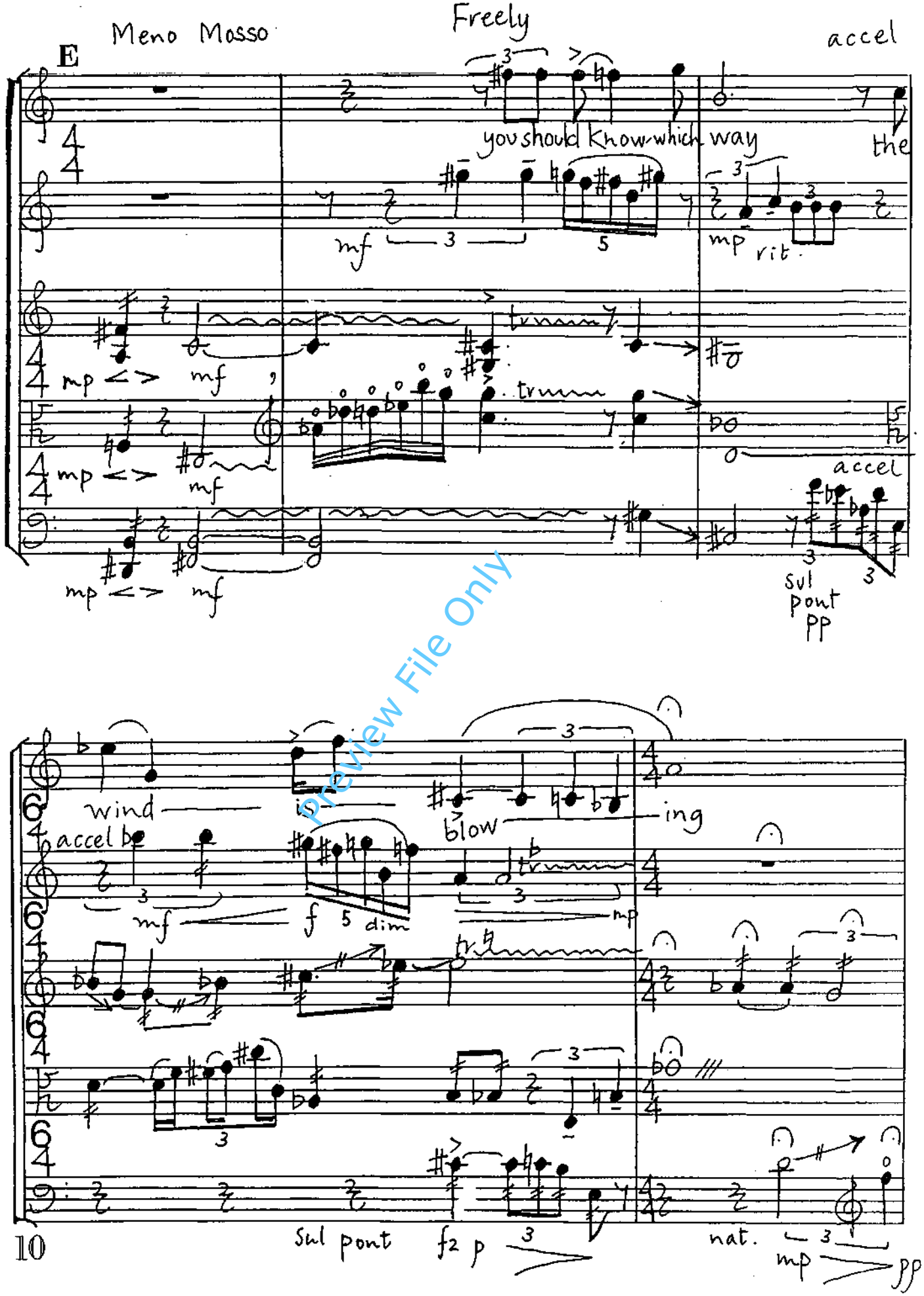

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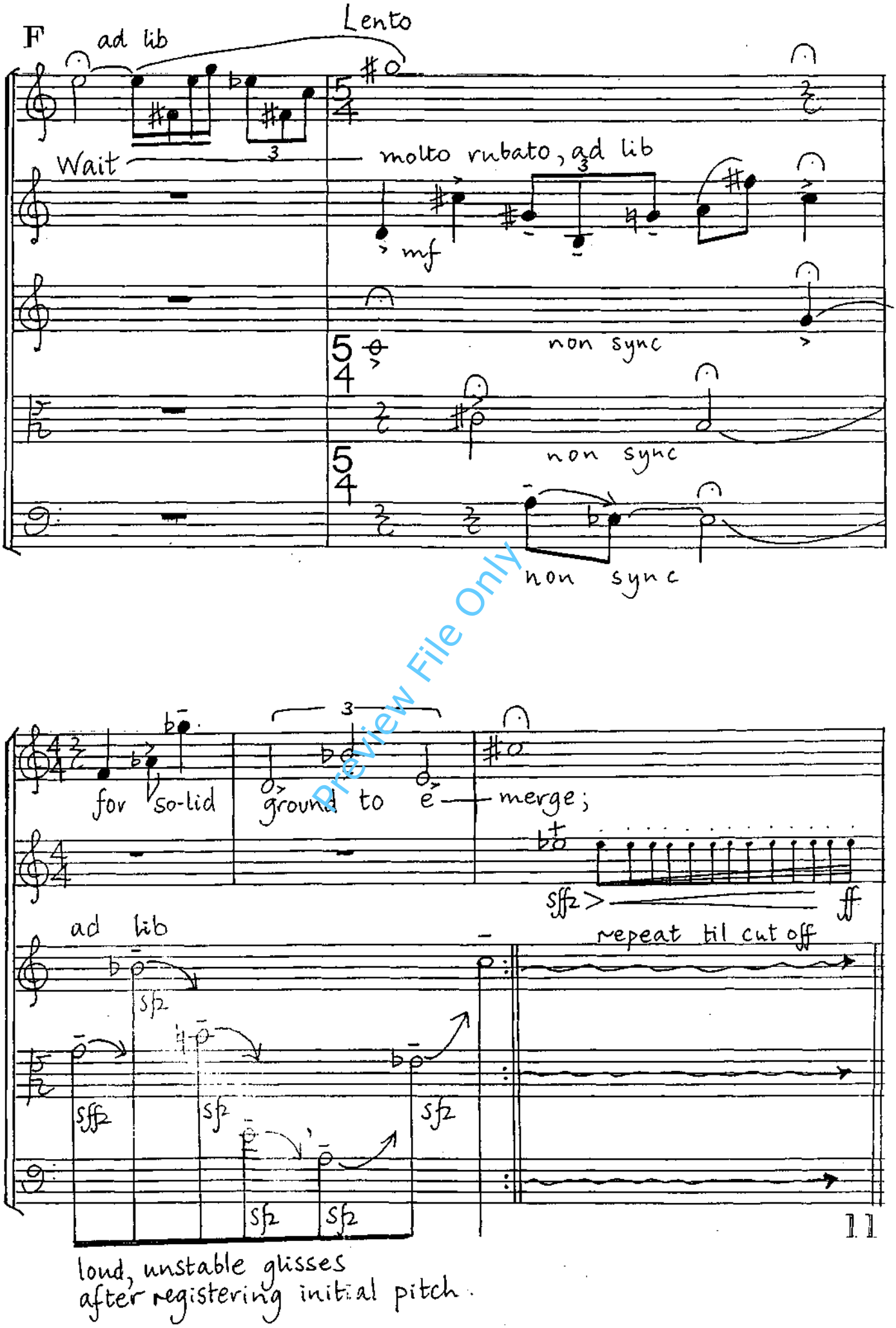

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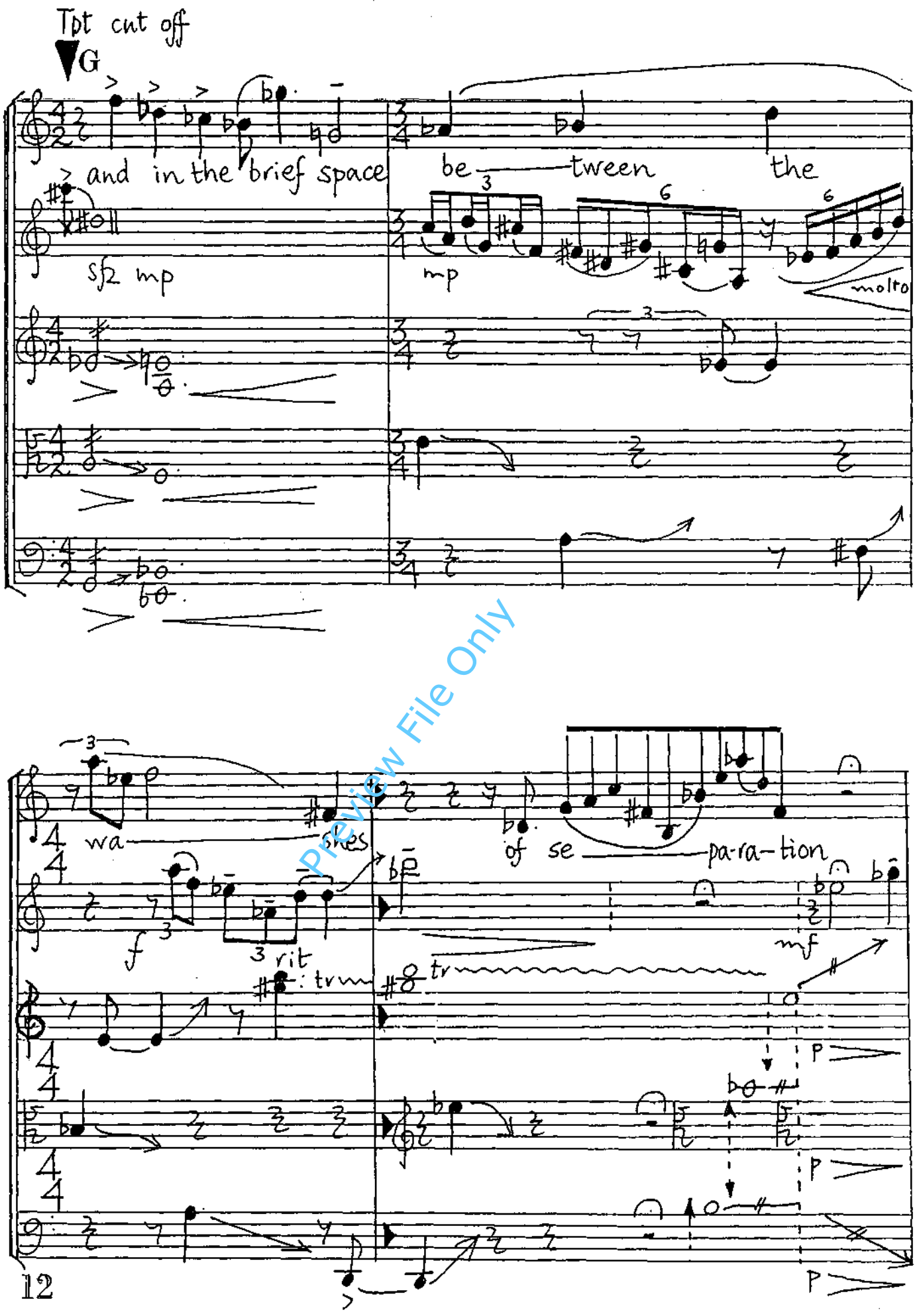

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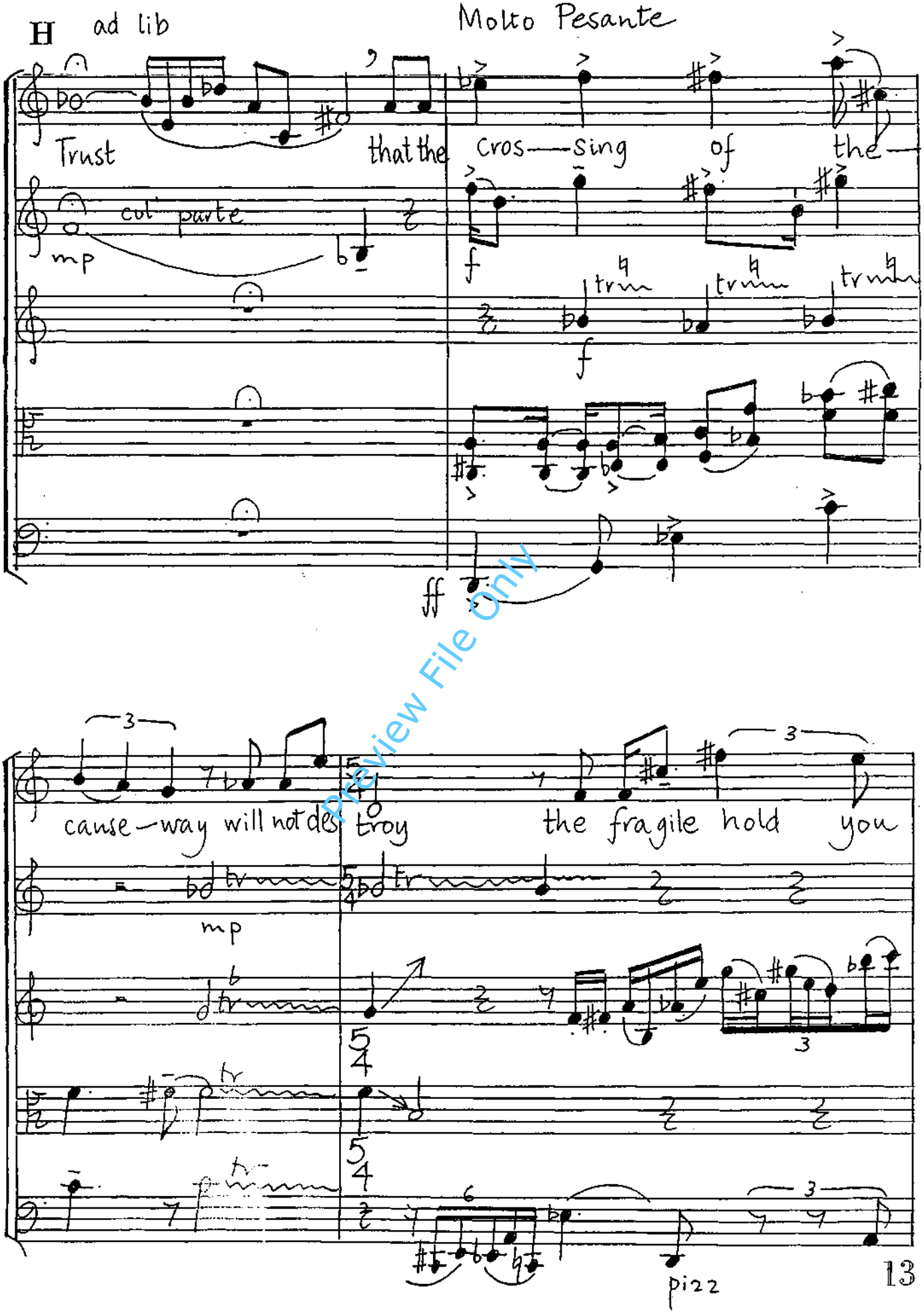

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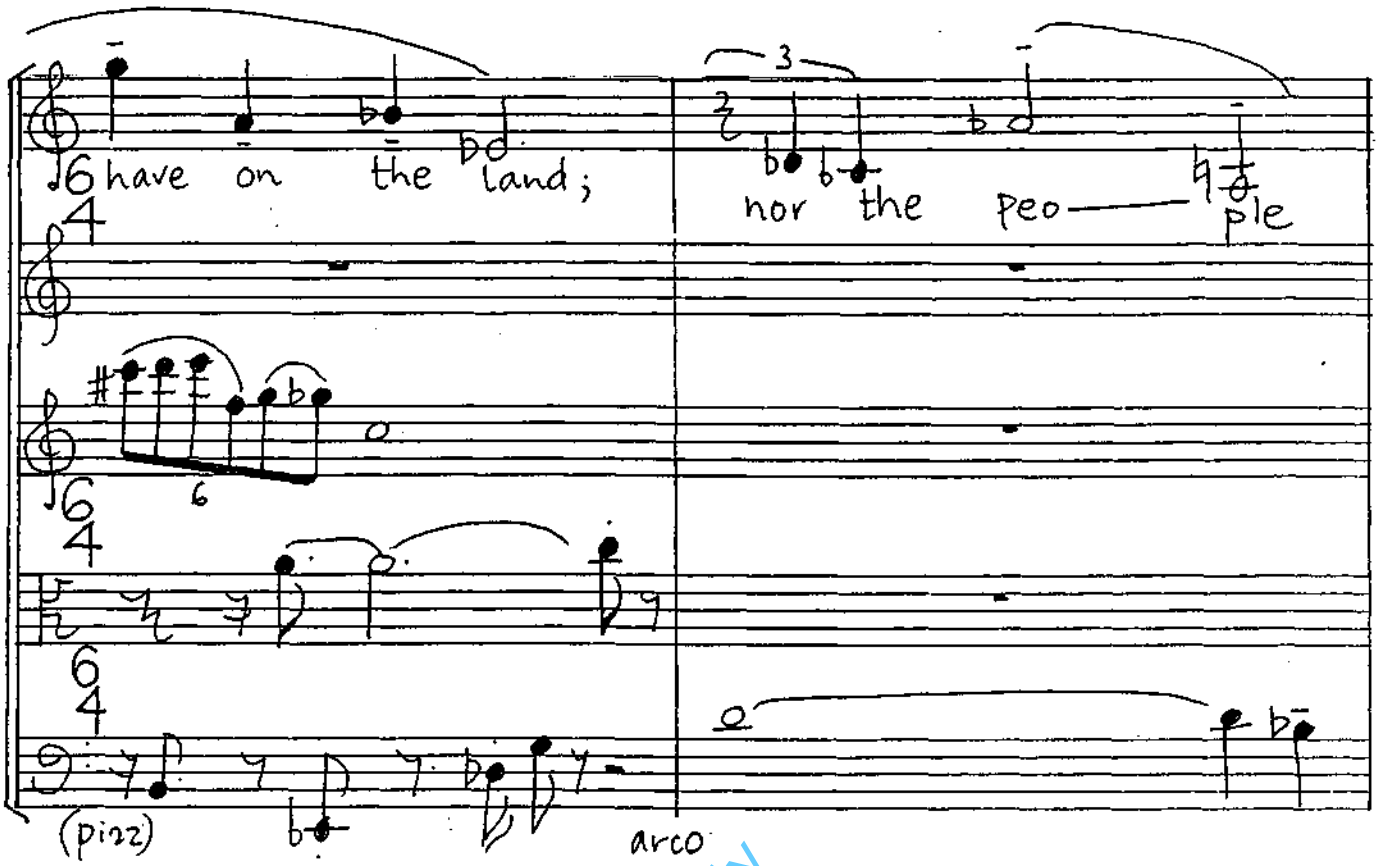

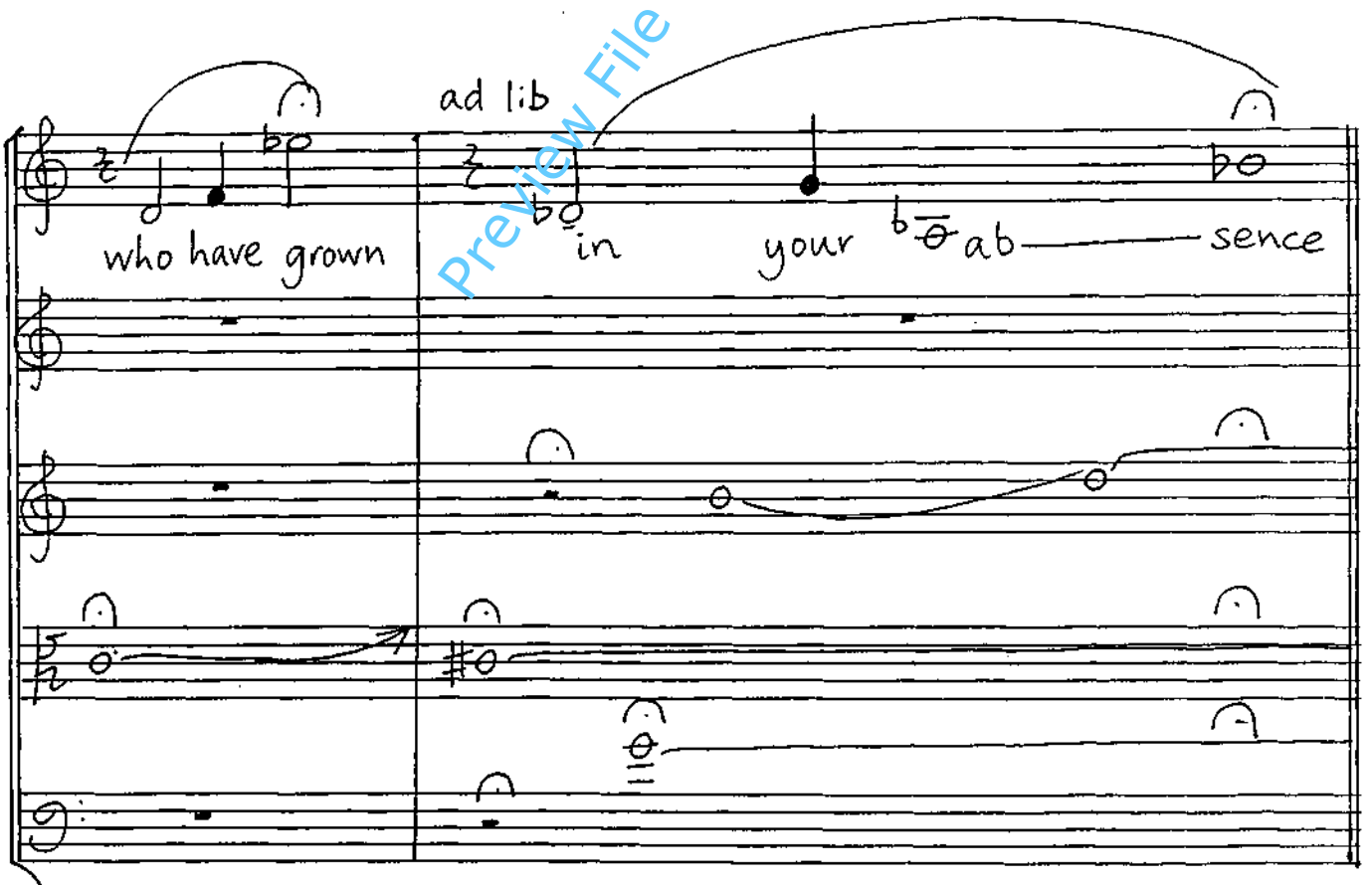

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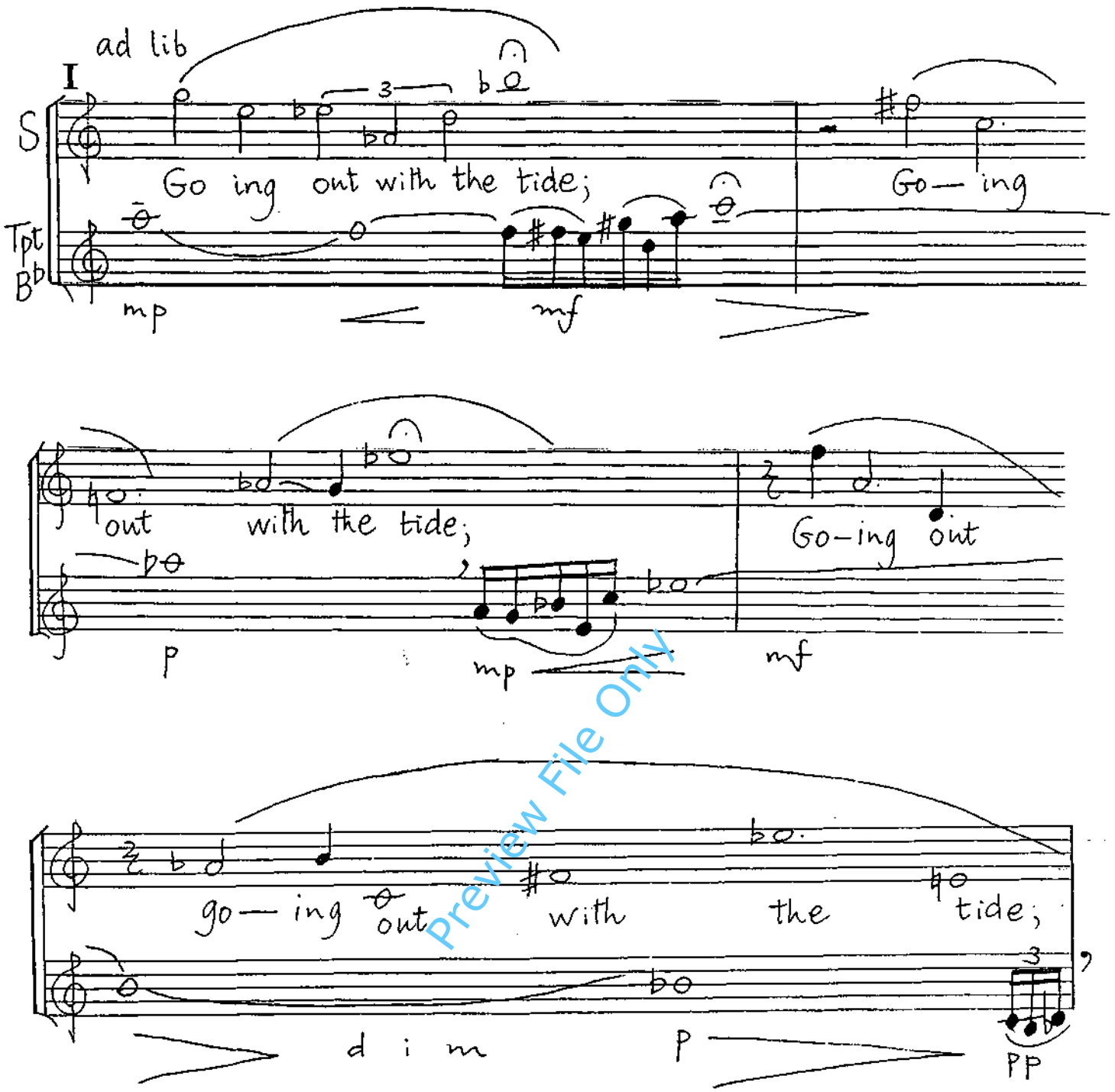

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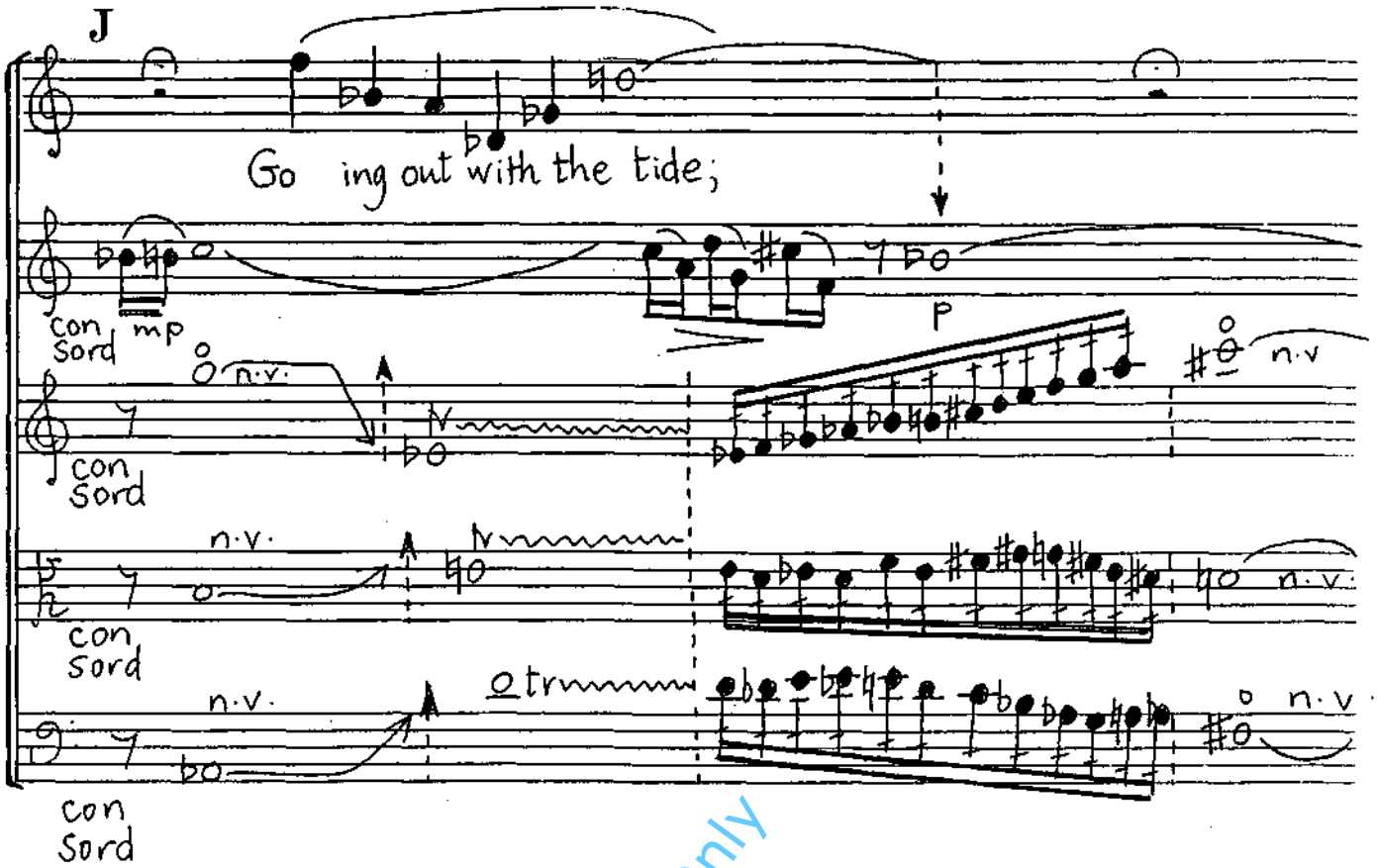

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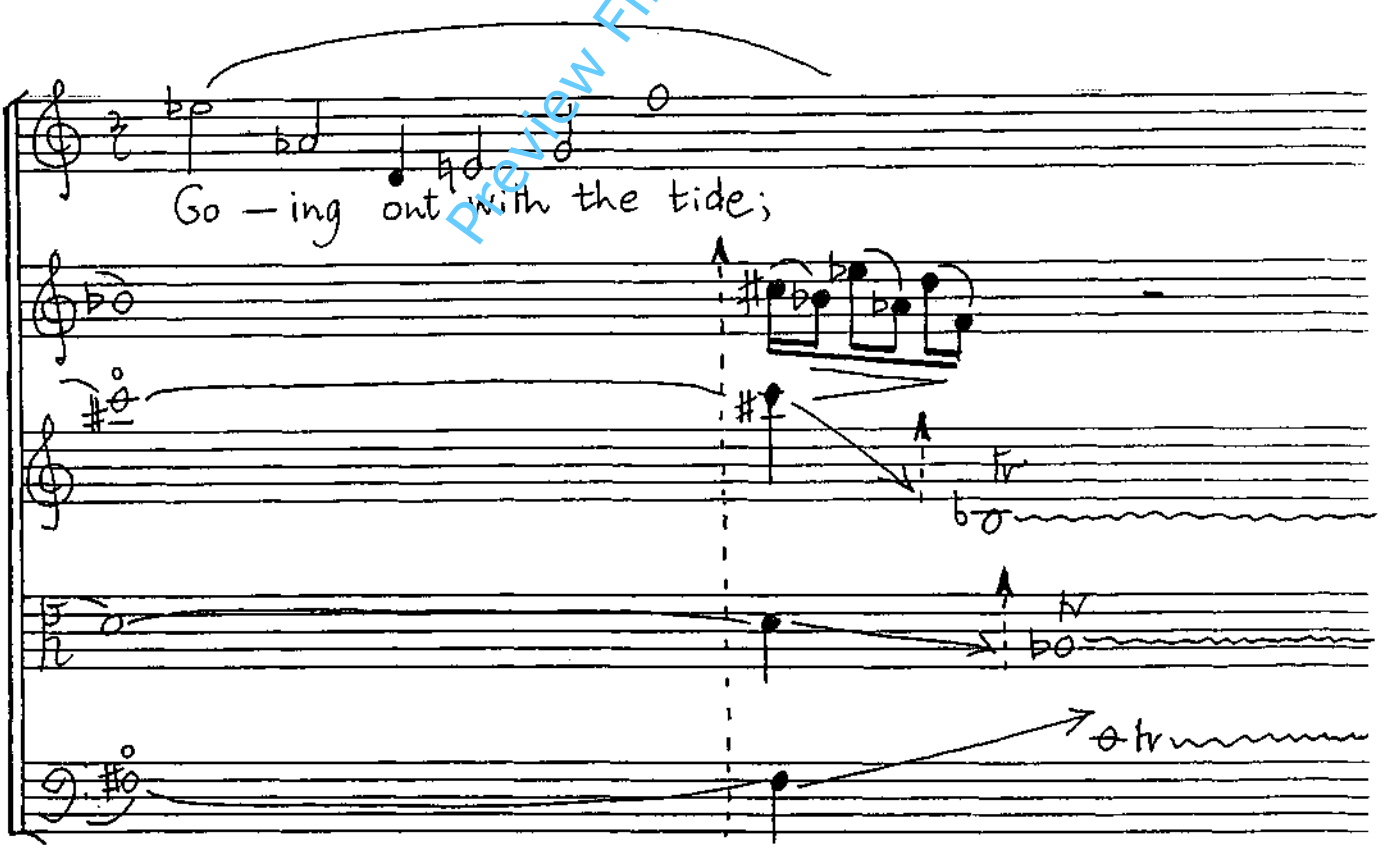

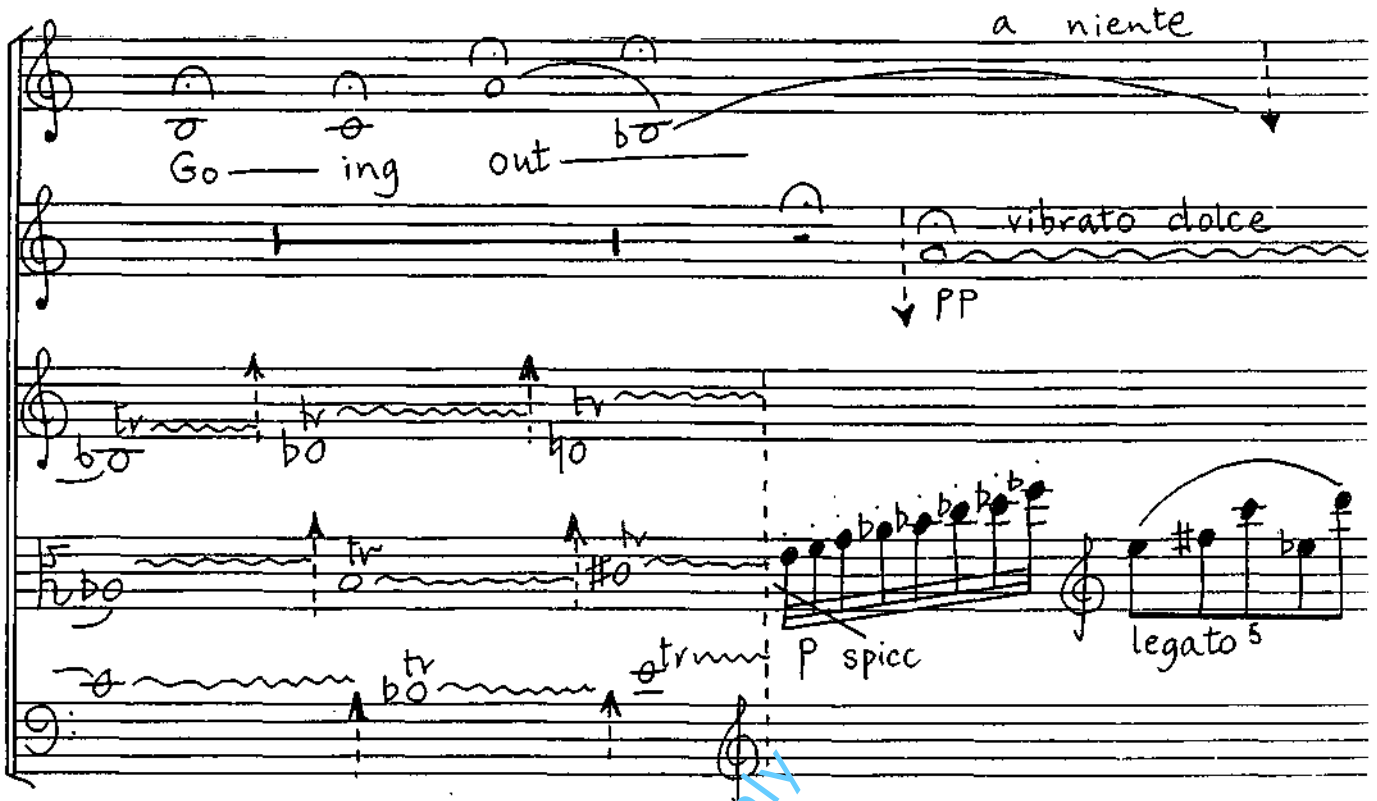

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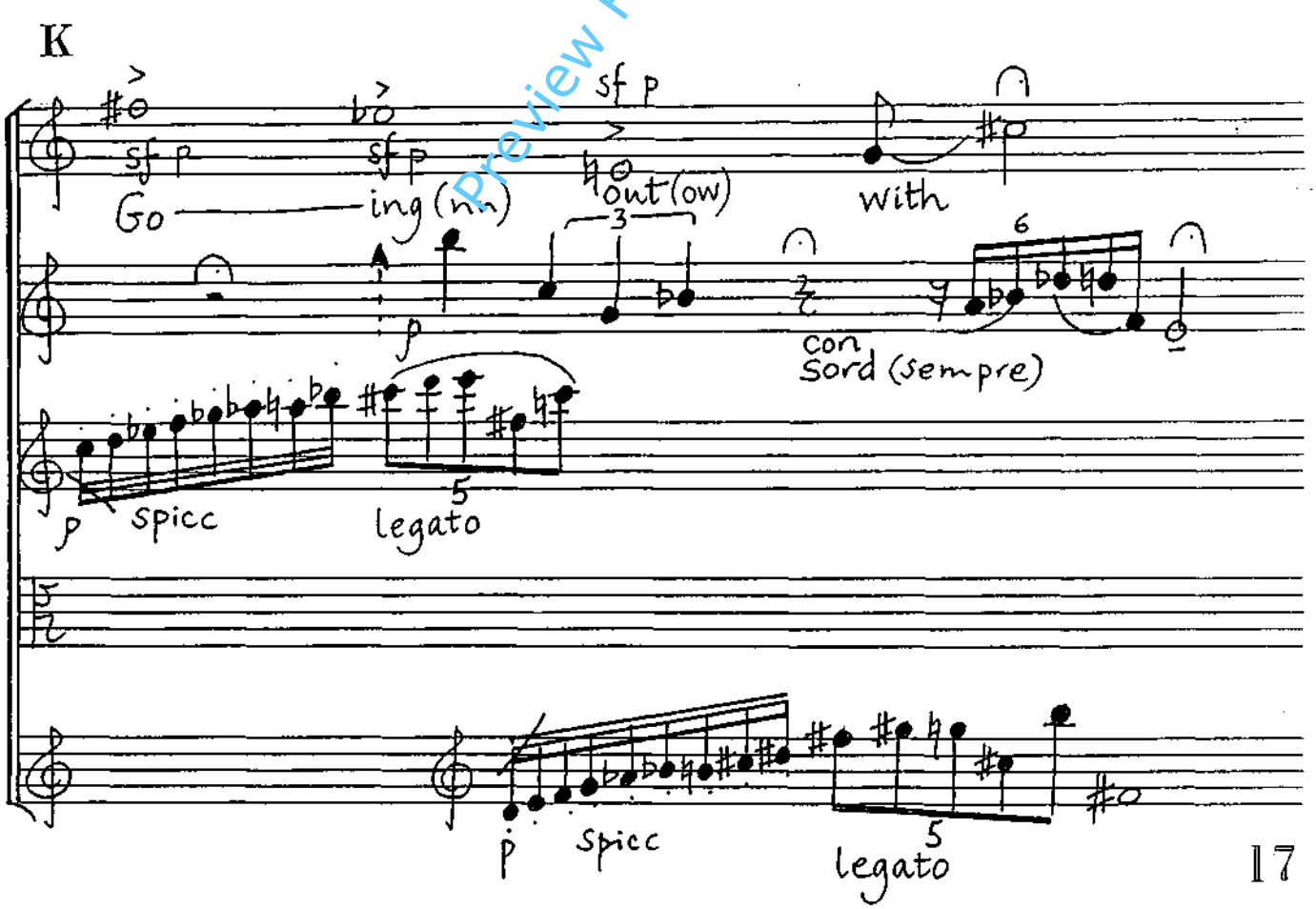

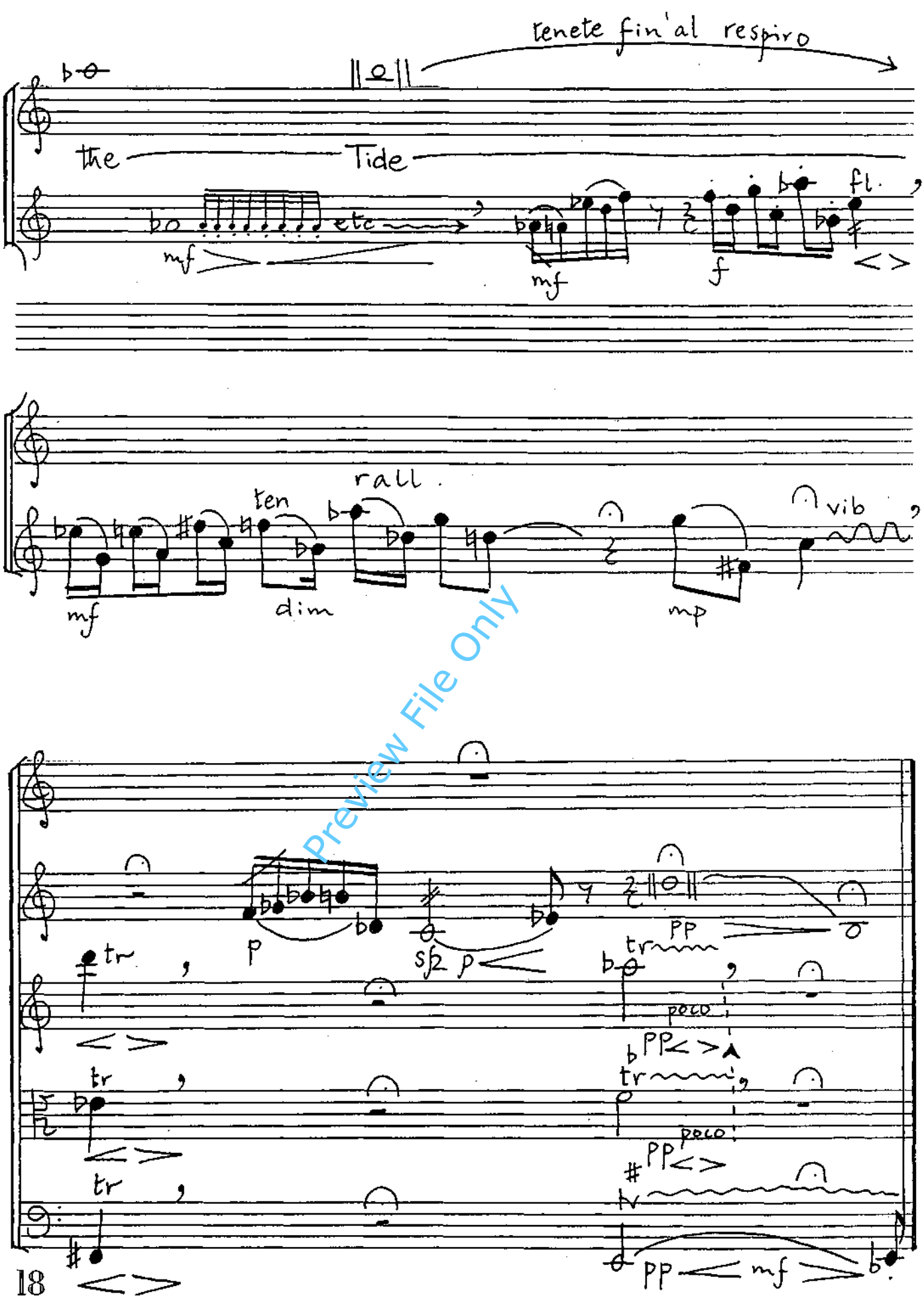

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May, 1984

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