ANDREW LOVETT

Ophelia

for mezzo soprano and piano.

Preview File Only

Ophelia

Im Haar ein Nest von junger Wasserratten,
Und die beringten Hände auf der Flut
Wie Flossen, also treibt sie durch den Schatten
Des grossen Urwalds, der im Wasser ruht.

Die letzte Sonne die im Dunkel irrt,
Versenkt sich tief in ihres Hirnes Schrein.
Warum sie starb? Warum sie so allein
Im Wasser treibt, das Farn und Kraut verwirrt?

Im dichten Röhricht steht der Wind. Er scheucht
Wie eine Hand die Fledermäuse auf.
Mit dunklem Fittich, von dem Wasser feucht
Stehn sie wie Rauch im dunklen Wasserlauf.

Wie Nachtgewölk. Ein langer, weisser Aal
Schlüpft über ihre Brust. Ein Glühwurm scheint
Auf ihrer Stirn. Und eine Weide weint
Das Laub auf sie und ihre stumme Qual.

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Der Strom Trägt weit sie fort, die untertaucht,
Durch manchen Winters trauervollen Port.
Die Zeit hinab. Durch Ewigkeiten fort,
Davon der Horizont wie Feuer raucht.

Georg Heym.

Ophelia

The hair a nest of infant water-rats
The hands, bedecked with rings, spread on deep
Like fins, she drifts through shadows of the great
Primeval forest in its sunken sleep.

Wandering through the dusk, the sun`s last ray
Strays deep into the coffinof her brain.
Why her death? Why does she drift alone
through pools where ferns and leaves choke up her
way?

A wind in the close-standing reeds. It starts
The bats up, as a hand might, as it blows.
Their pinions moist with water-drops and dark,
They hang like smoke where the dark current flows.

Like clouds at night. An eel across her breast
Slips long and white. A glow-worm`s light adorns
Her brow. And leaves drop, as the willow mourns
Her, and an agony whose voice is lost.

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The waters close, and bear her far, through days
Where each new winter`s grieving haven sees
Her pass. Down time. And through eternities,
Where the horizon smokes, as if ablaze.

Translation C copyright Antony Hasler, 1984.

Ophelia was commissioned by the Park Lane Group. It was first performed by Adèle Paxton and Caroline Dowdle at the Purcell Room, London on the 8th January 1990.

It is dedicated to Adèle and Caroline.

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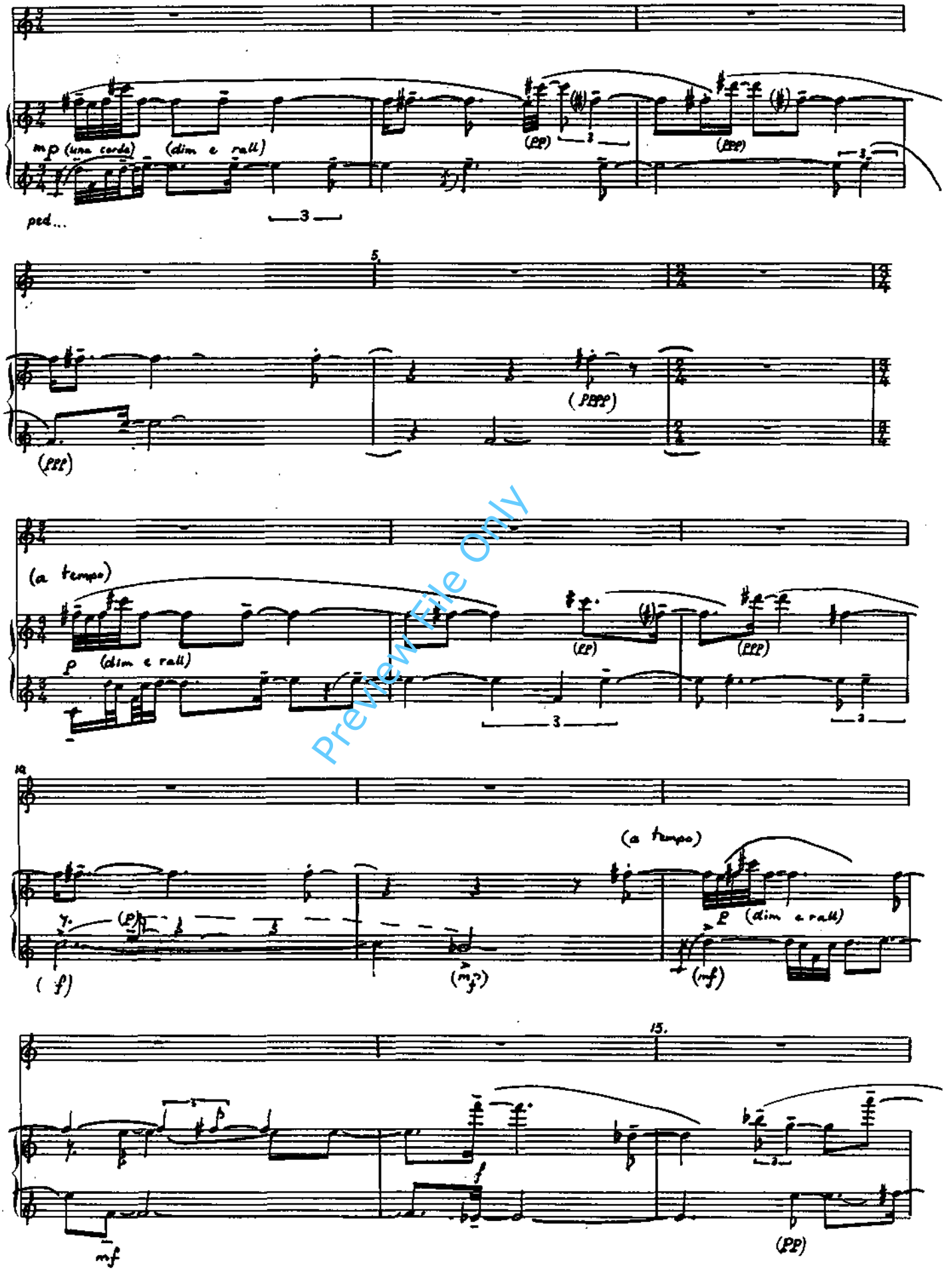
Duration; 11 minutes.

Ophelia

Andrew Lamb
words; Georg Heym.

moderate speed (♩= 72) – but very flexible.



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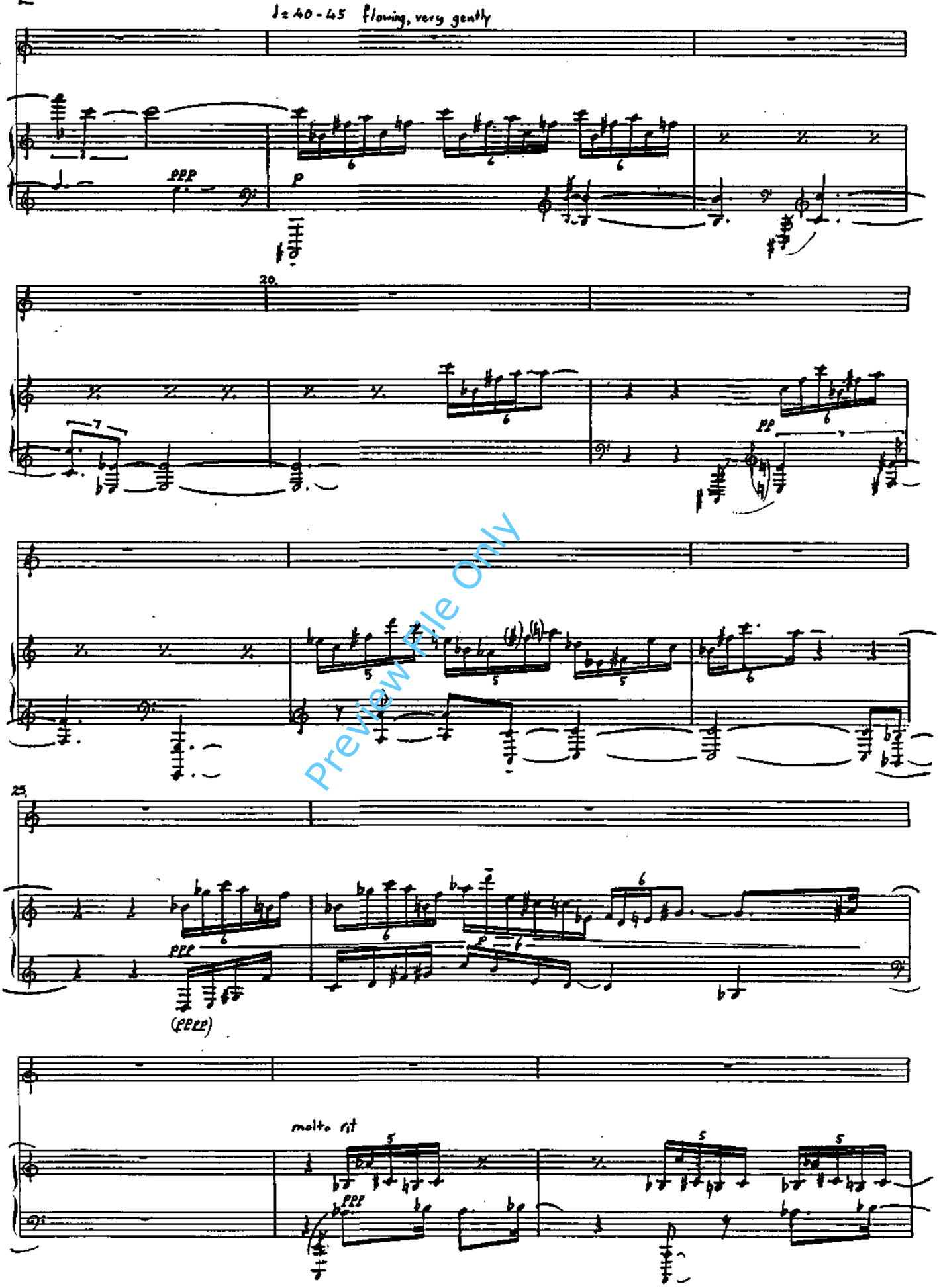

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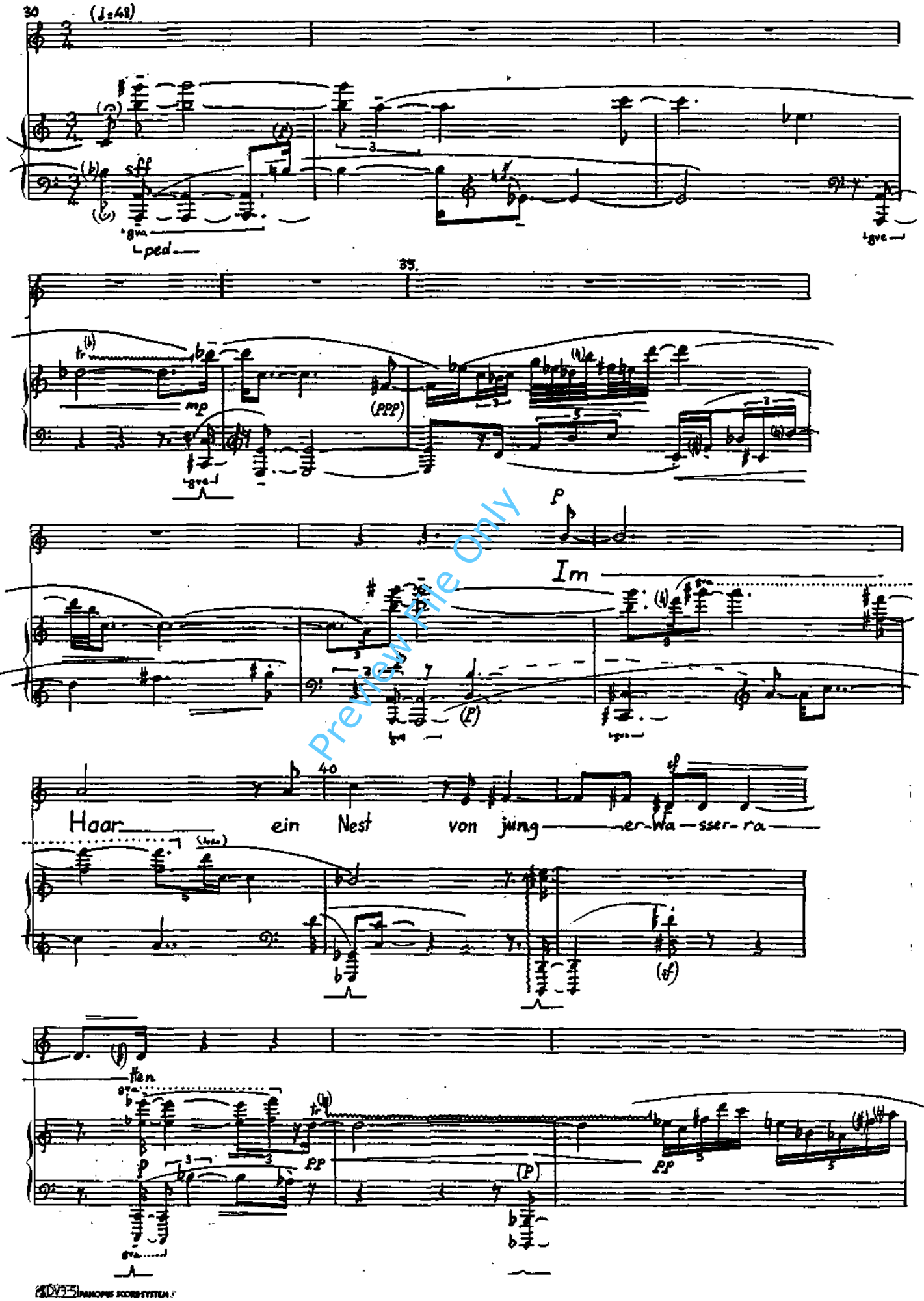

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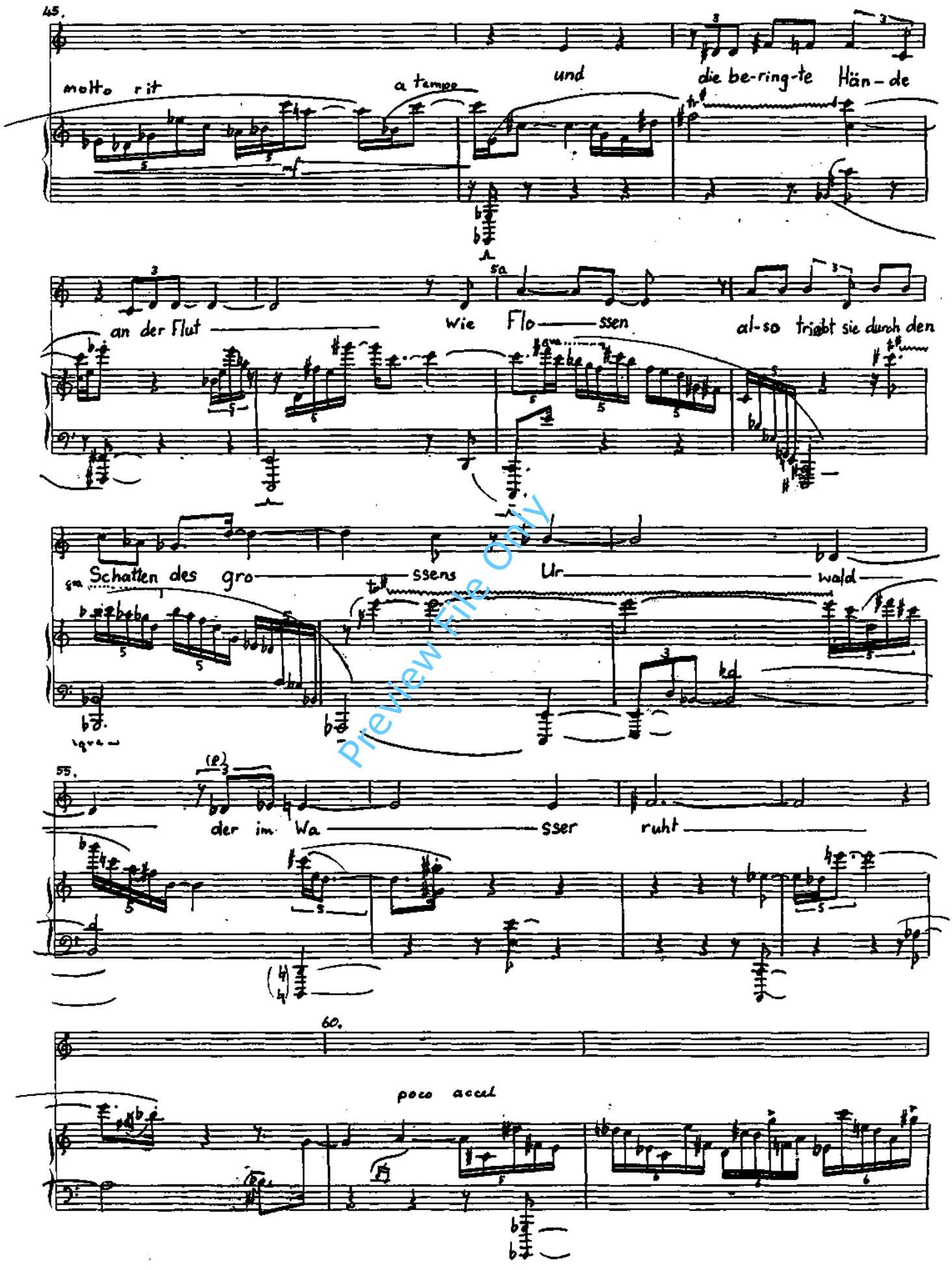

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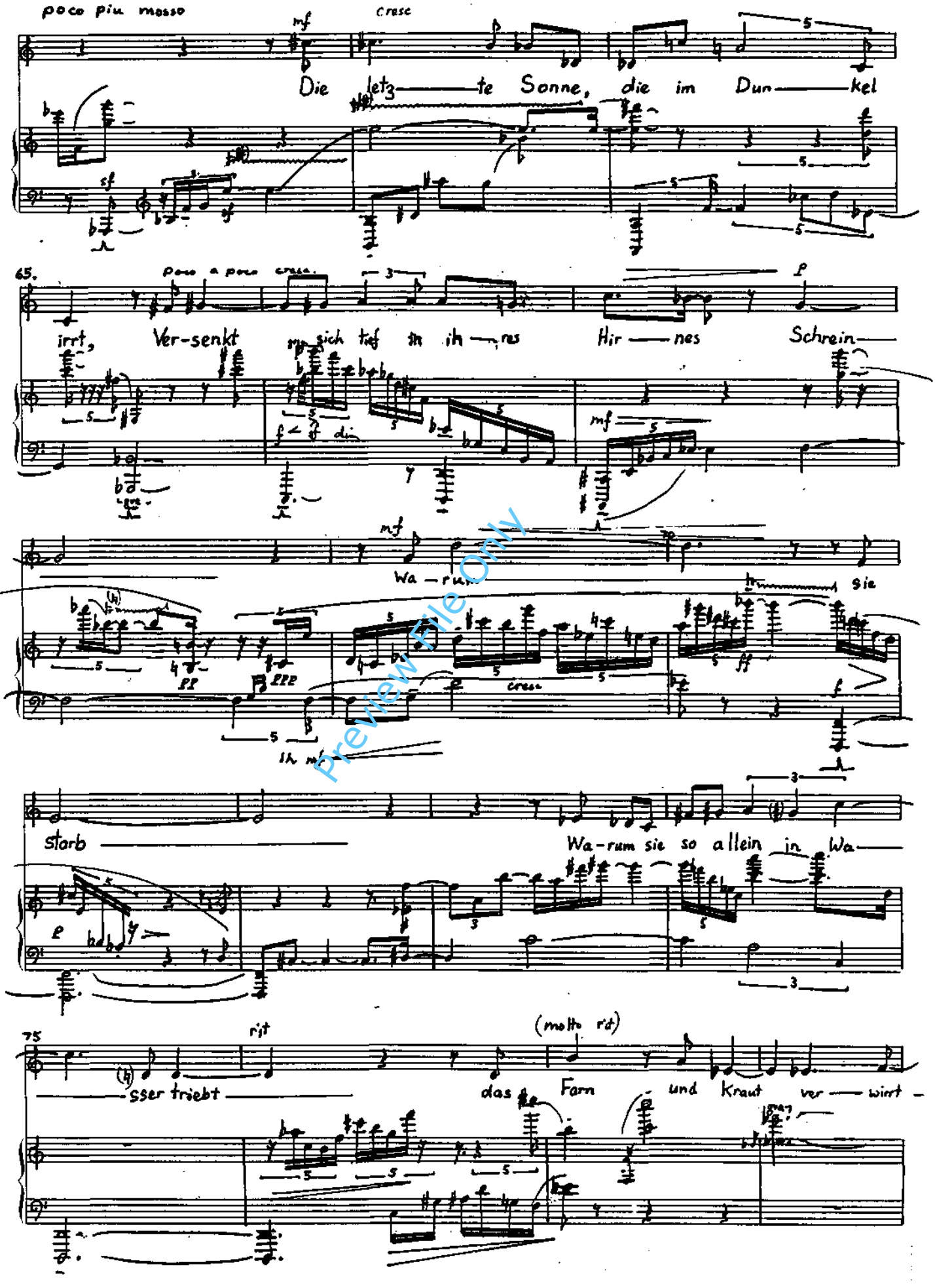

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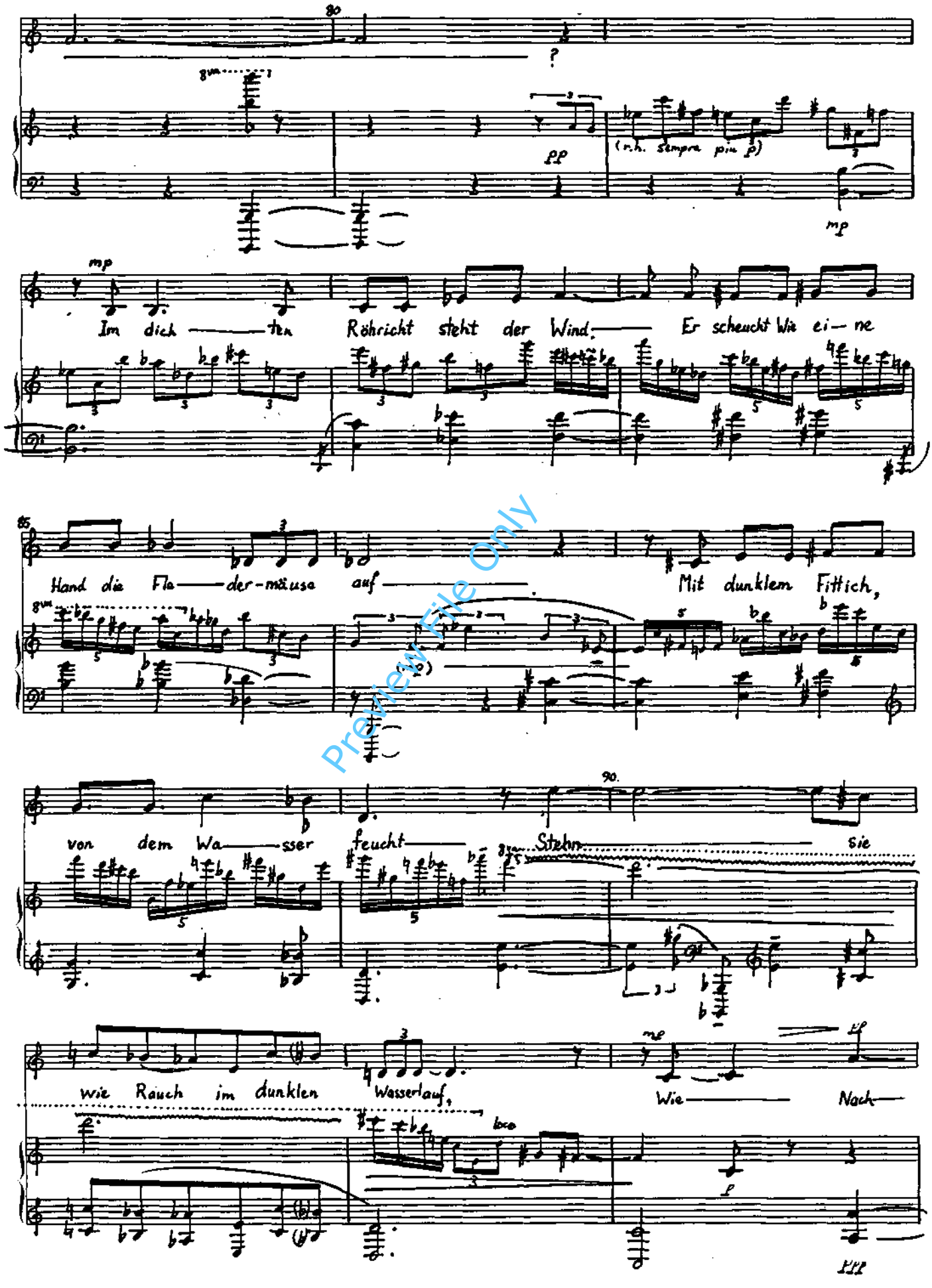

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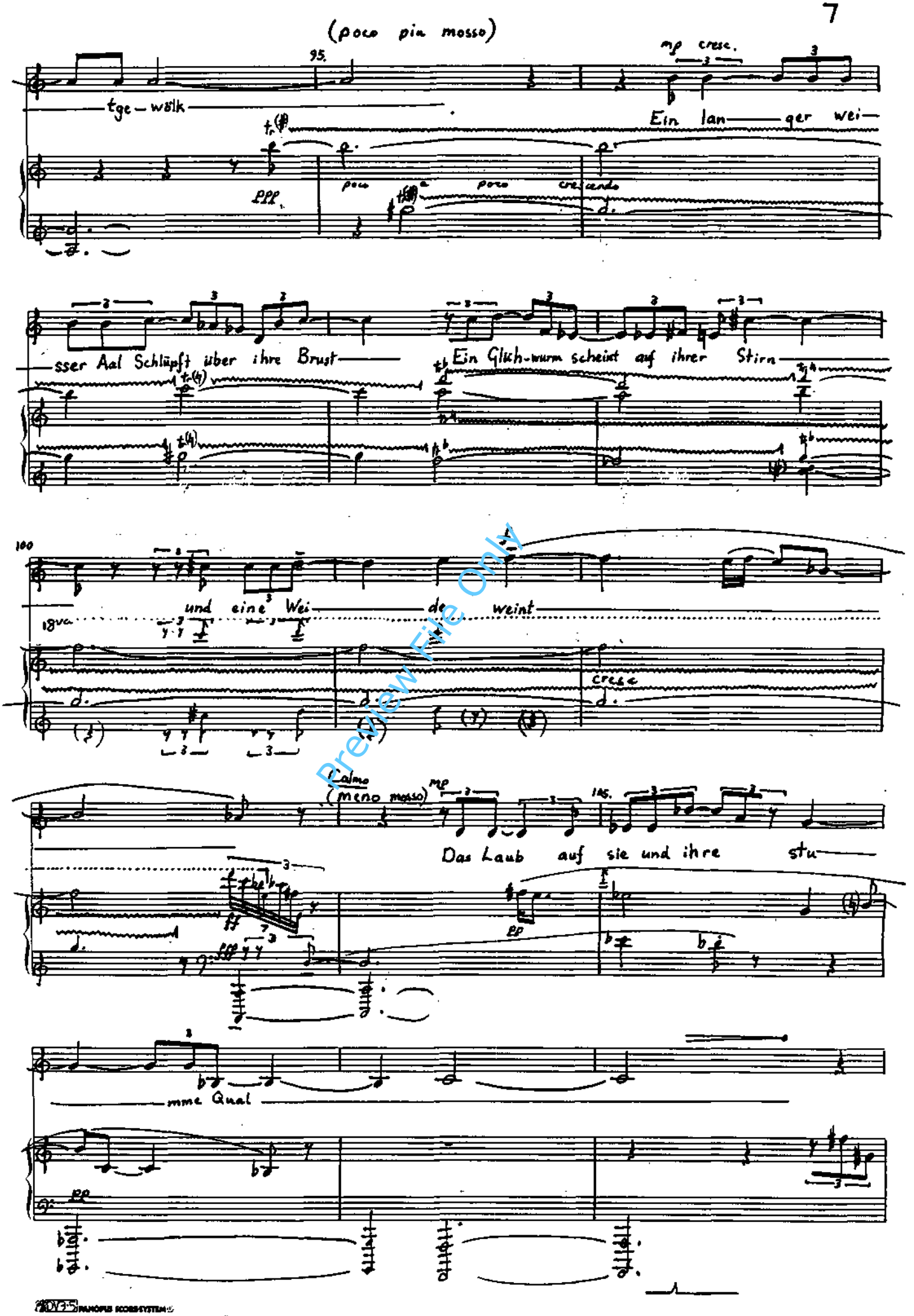

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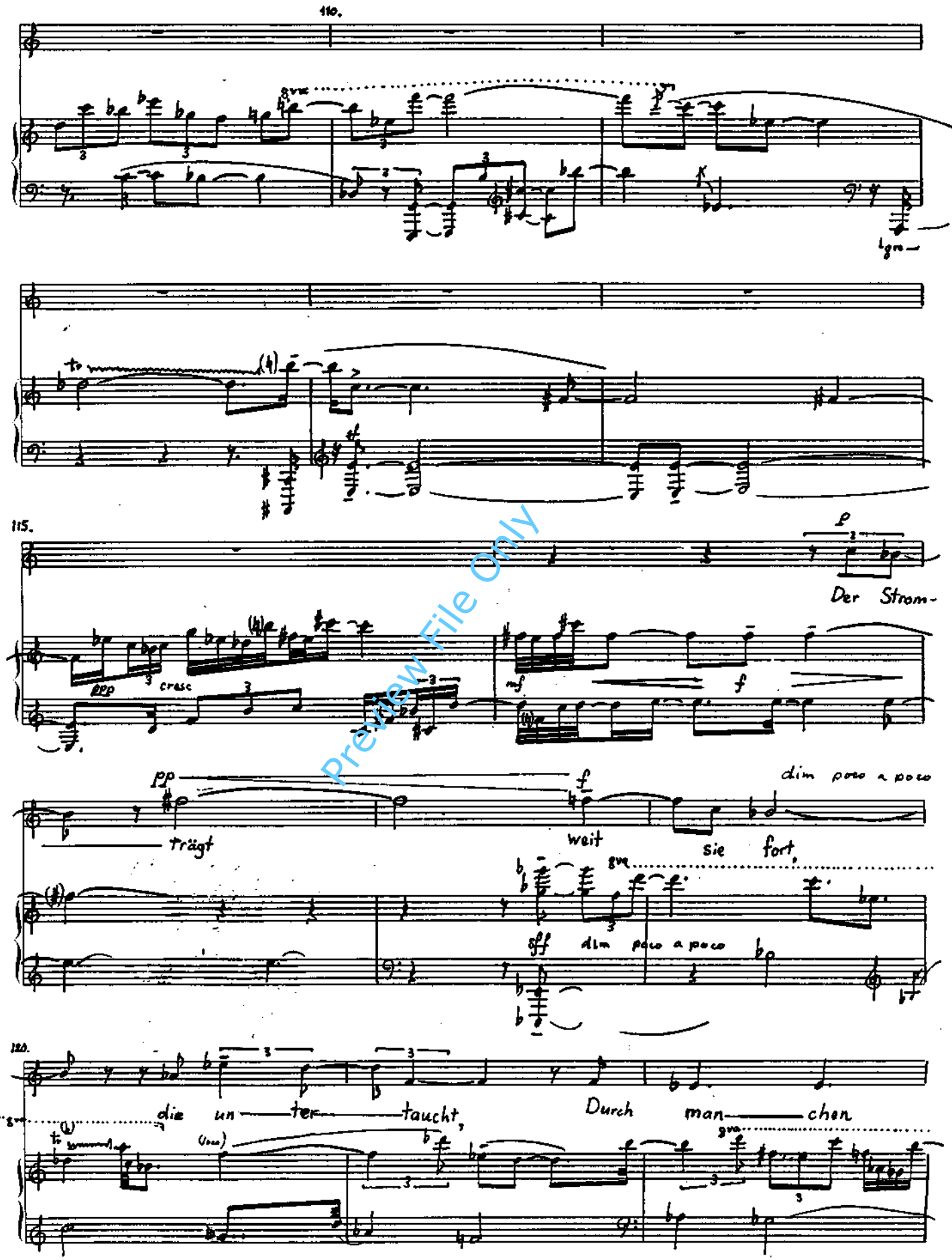

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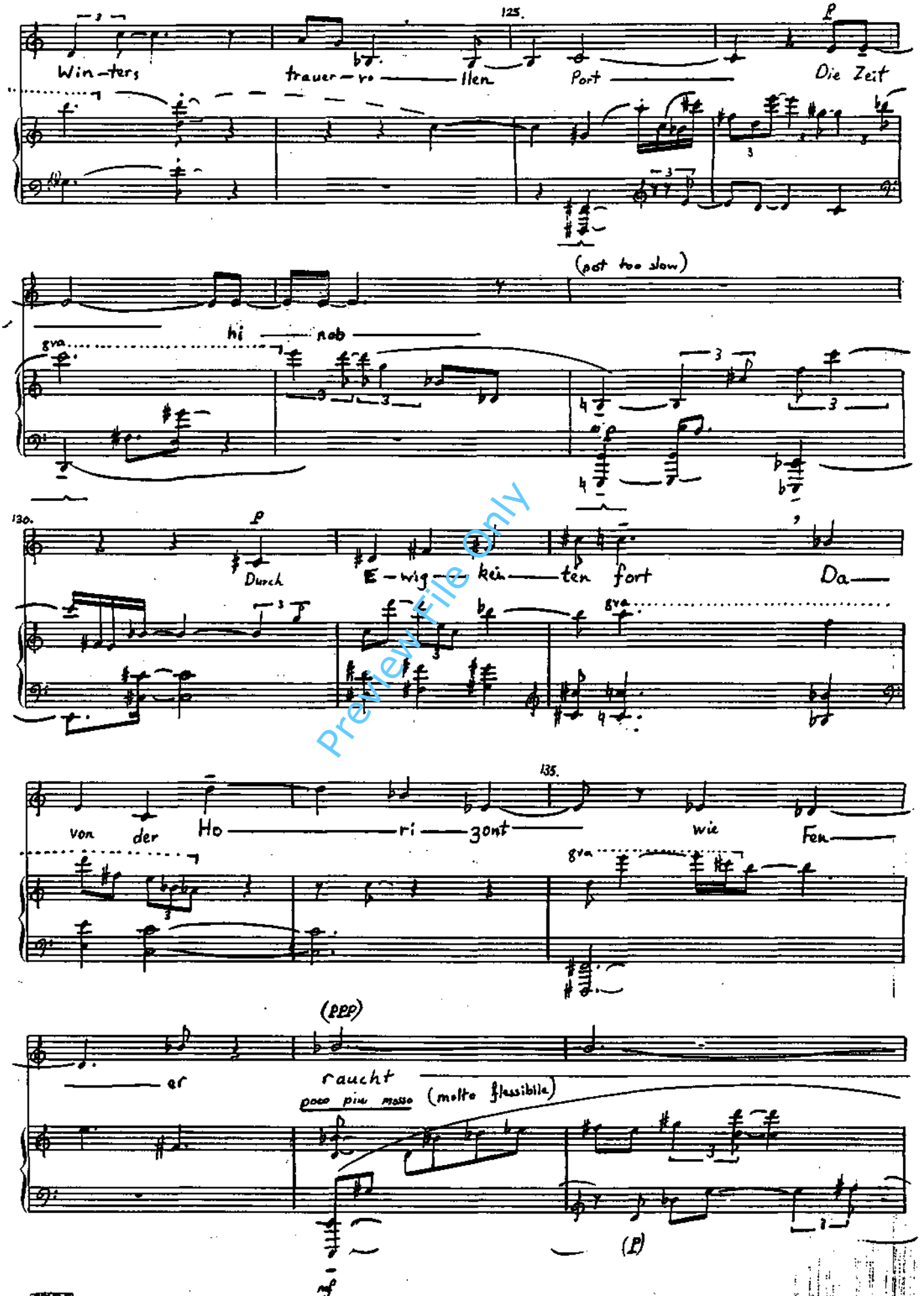

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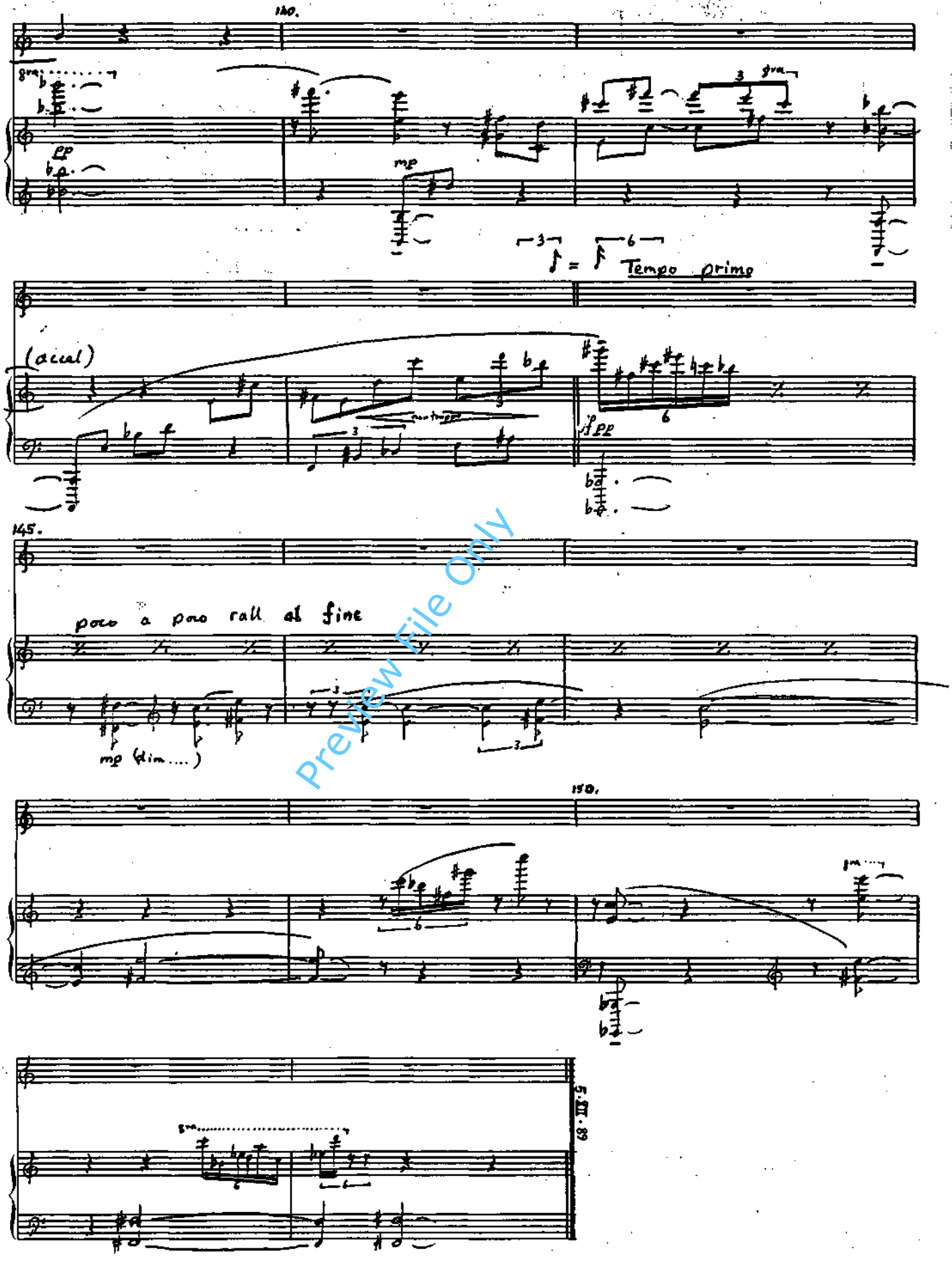

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