Novenarium

3x3 short pieces
for the ninth birthday of
Joseph Erber (15 12 1993)

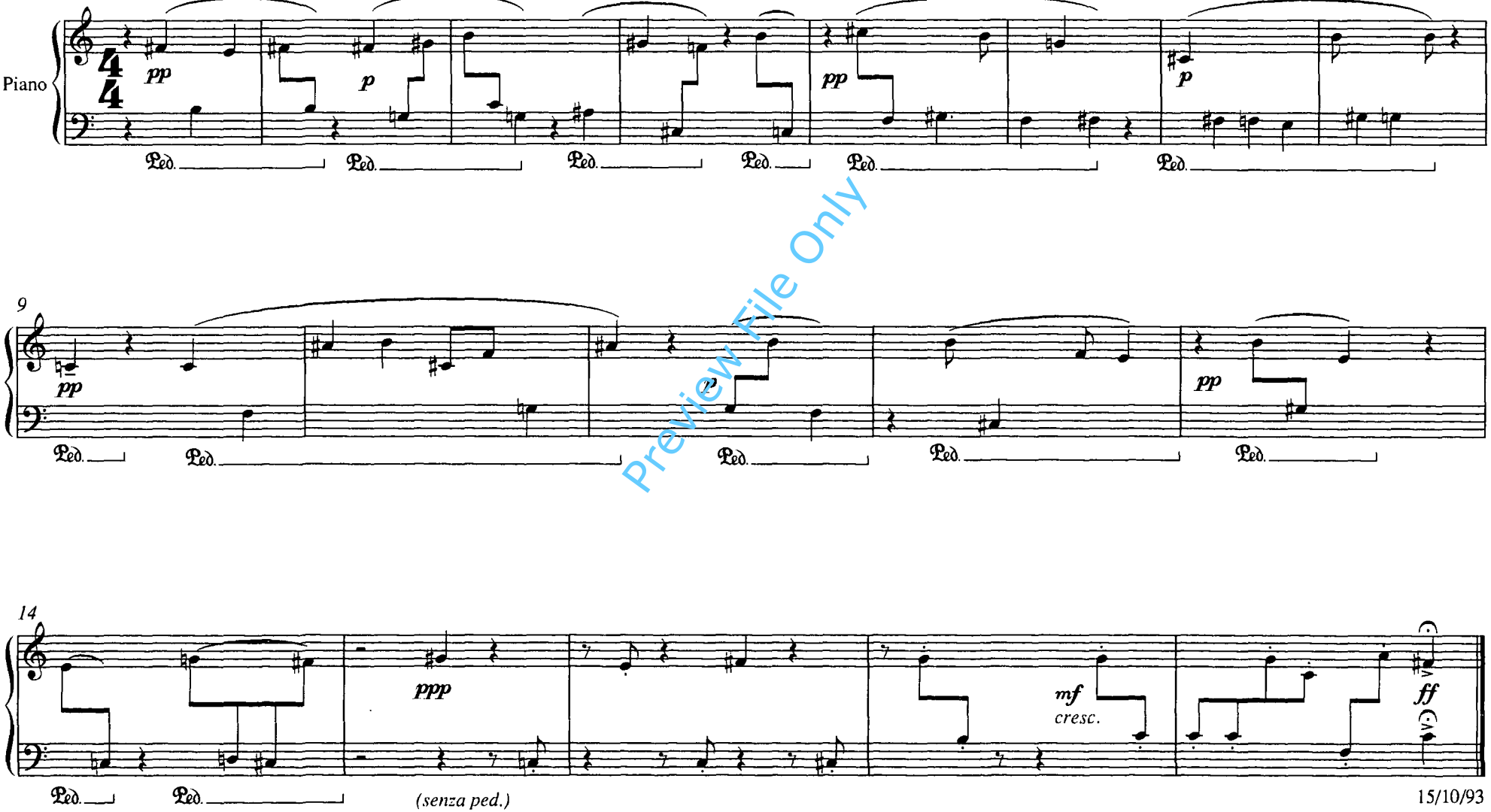
I

Olam ha-nekudot

Fairly slow
(♩=50)

James Erber

Piano



Preview File Only

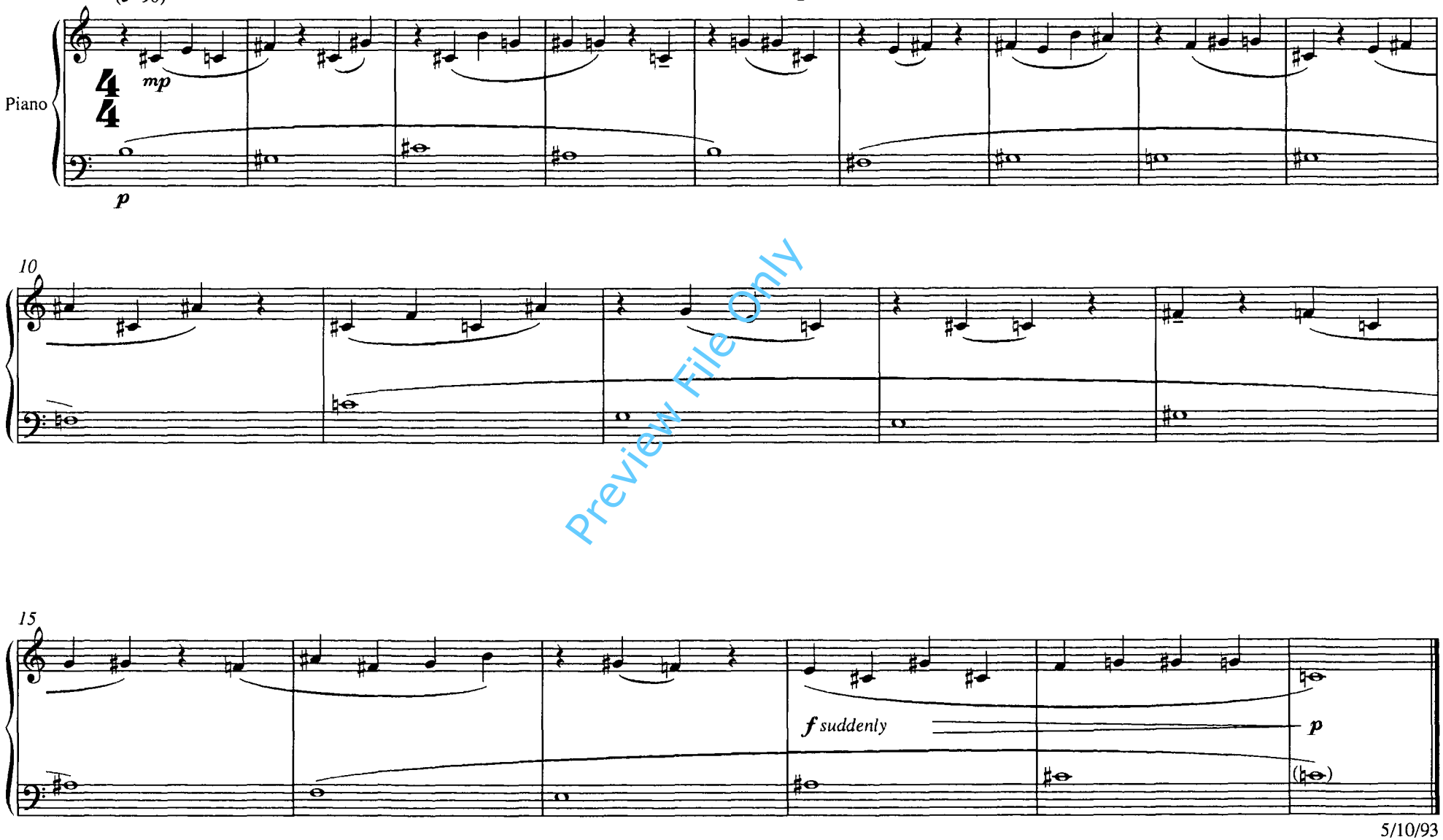
15/10/93

II

On the Plainsong

Quite fast

(♩=90)



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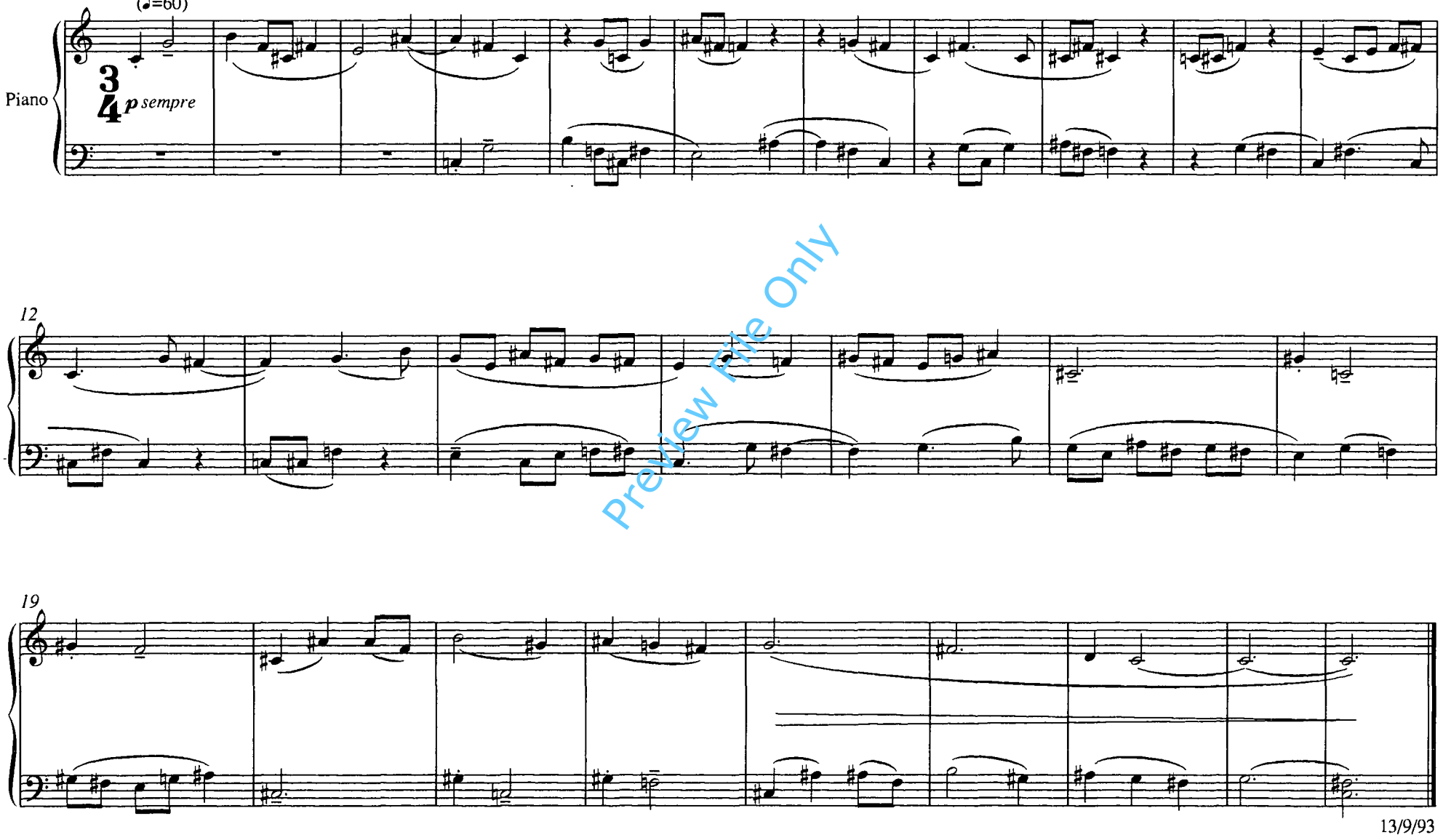
5/10/93

III

Canon 1
(at the octave)

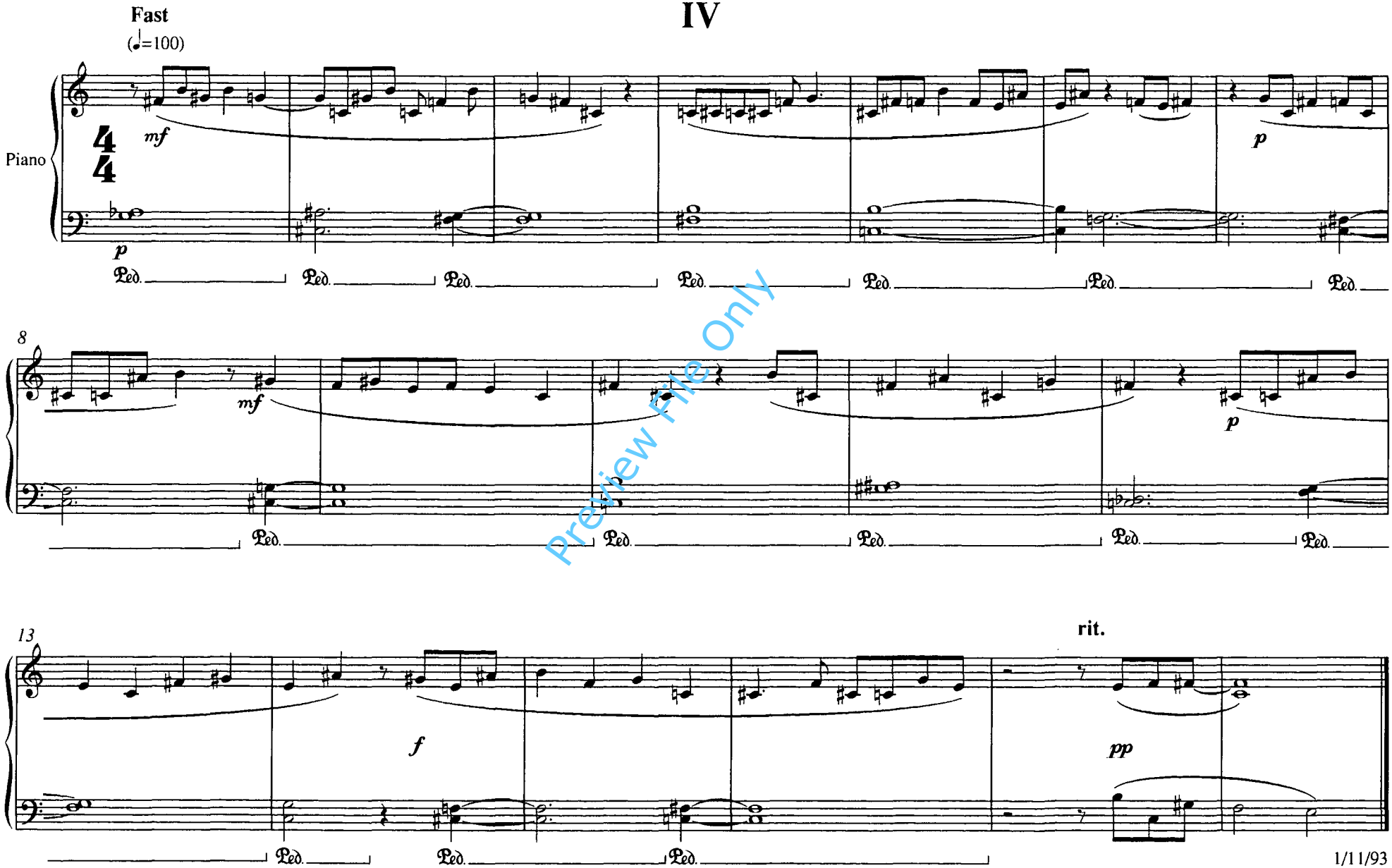
Not too fast
(♩=60)



Preview File Only

13/9/93

IV

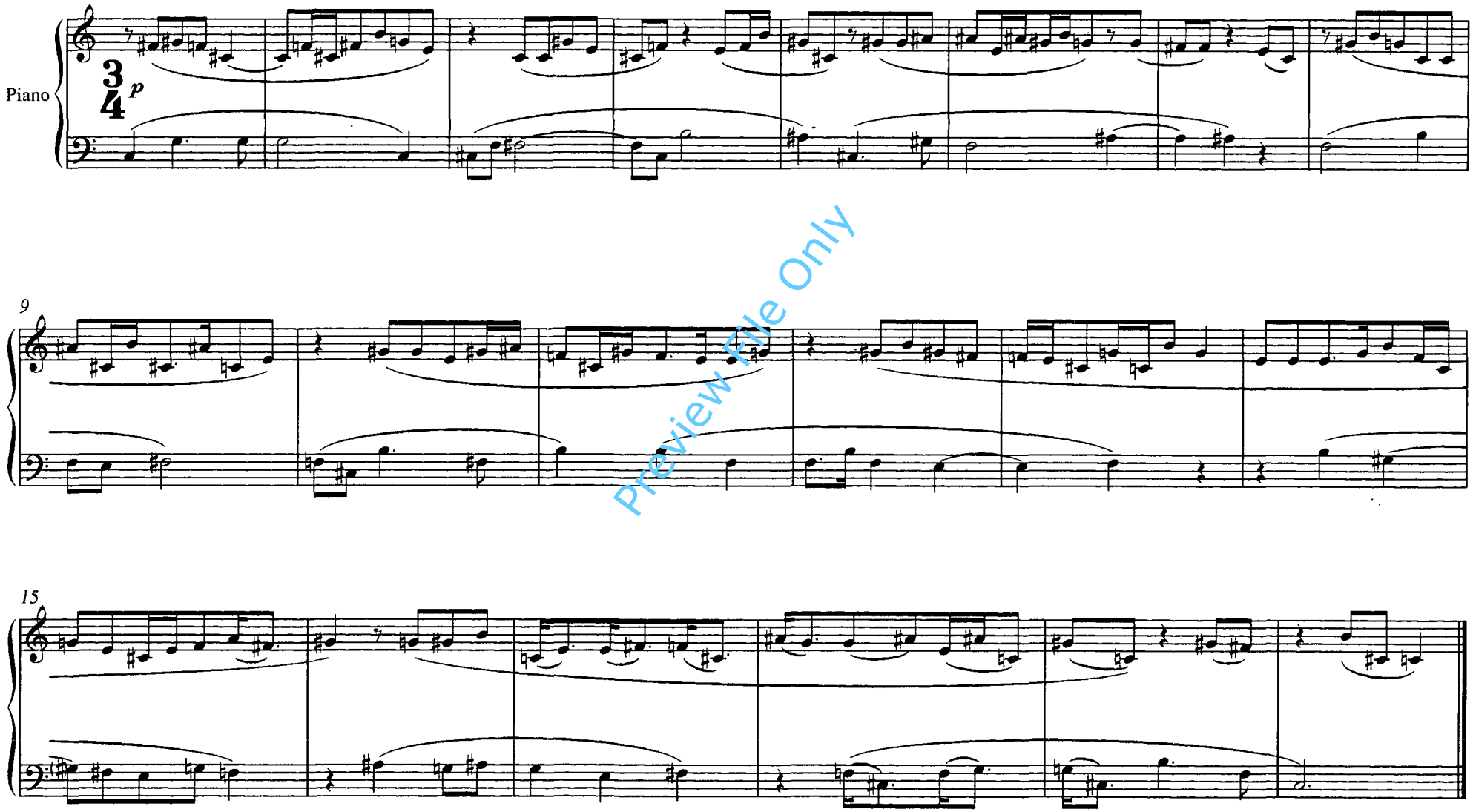


Preview File Only

V

Fairly slow

(♩=50)



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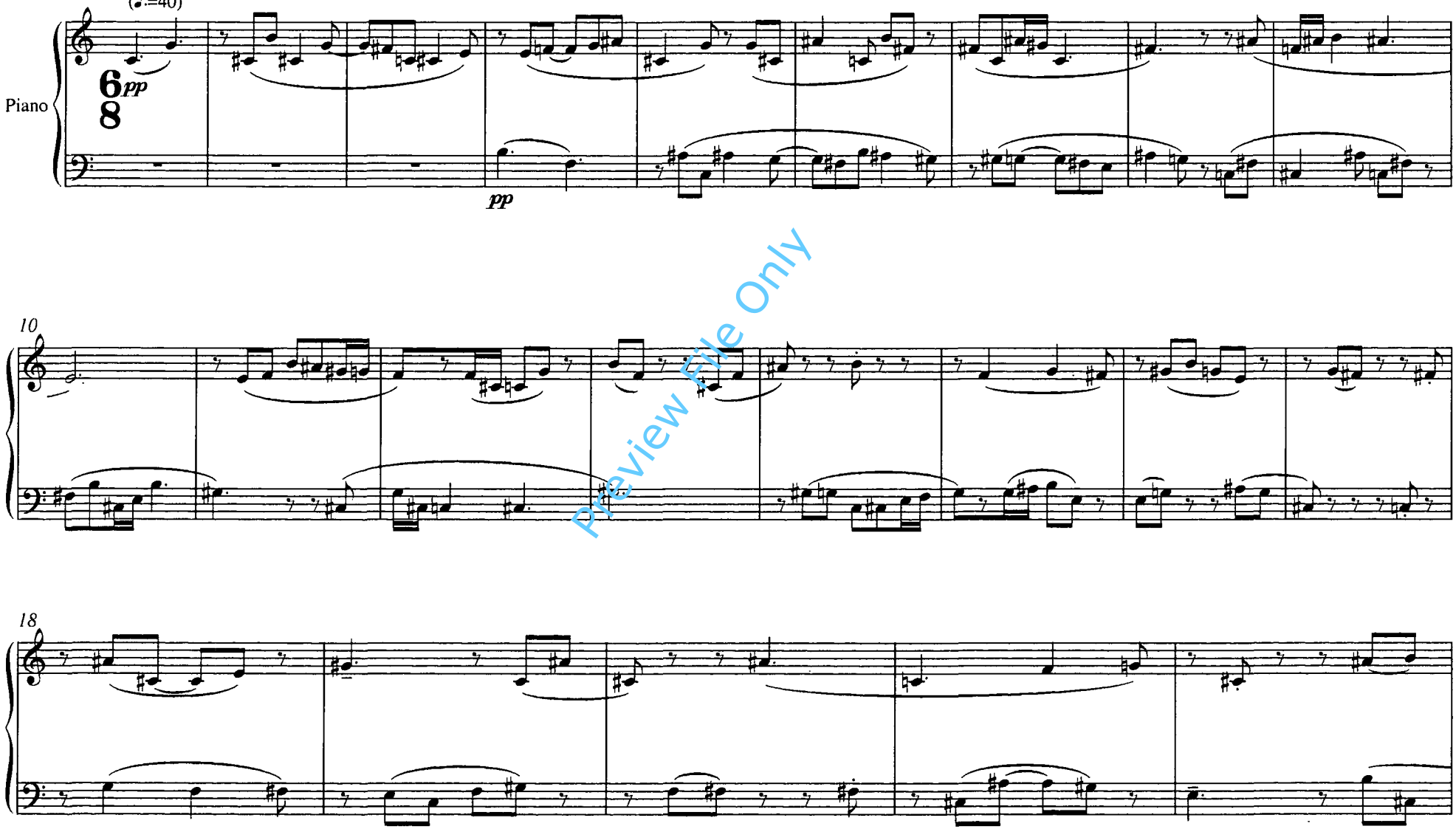
8/11/93

VI

Canon 2
(by inversion)

Easily flowing
(♩.=40)

Piano



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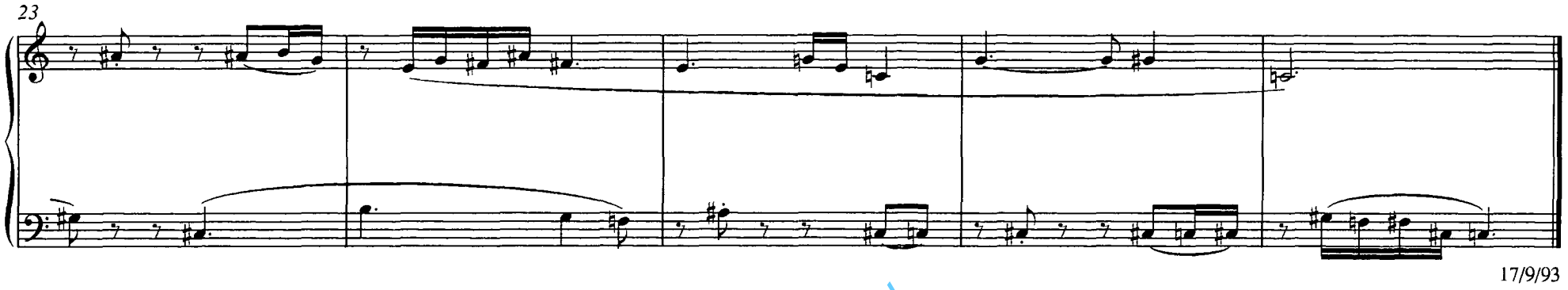

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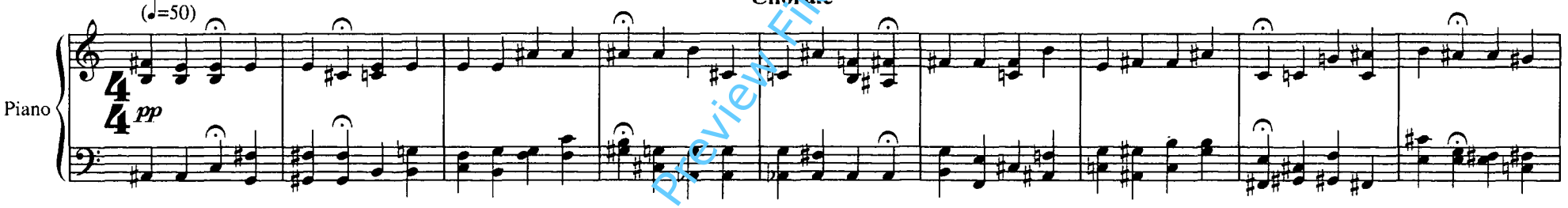
VII

Chorale

Rather slowly and smoothly



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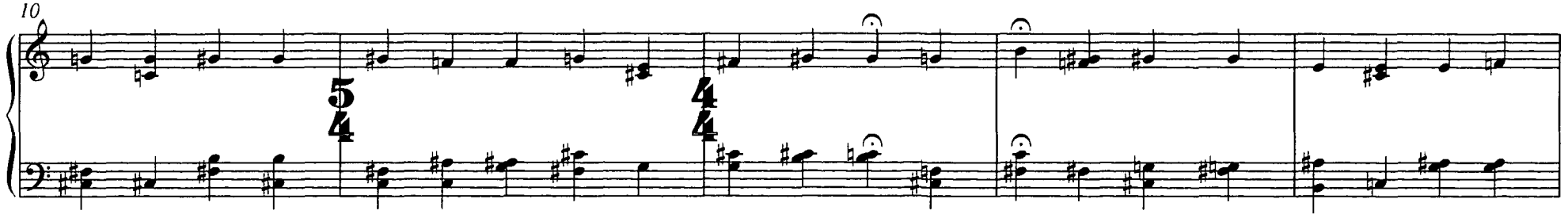

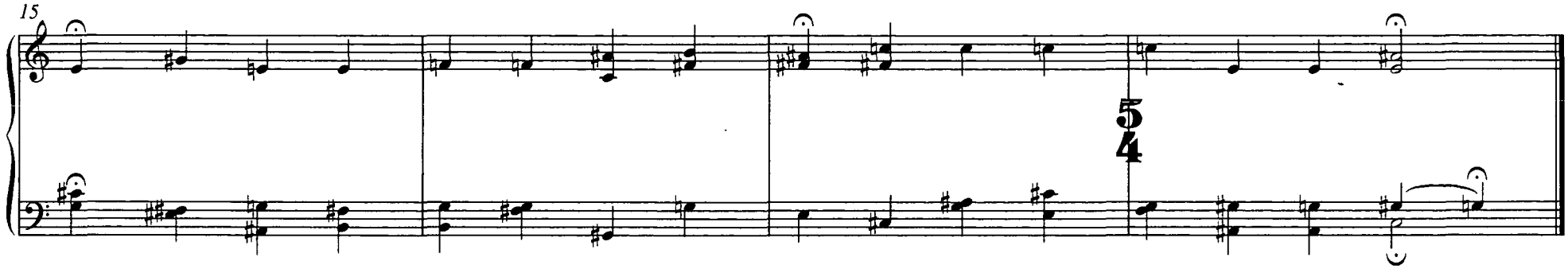

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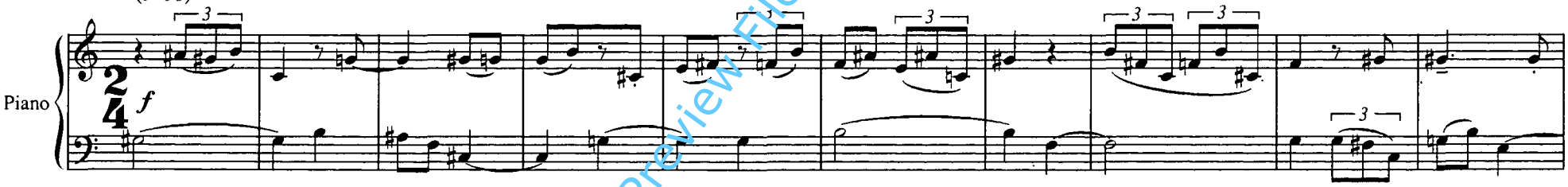
VIII

Quite fast

(♩=90)



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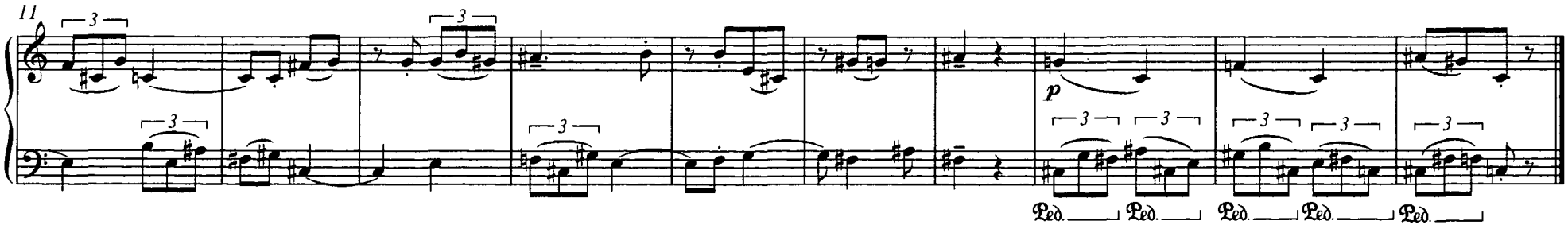
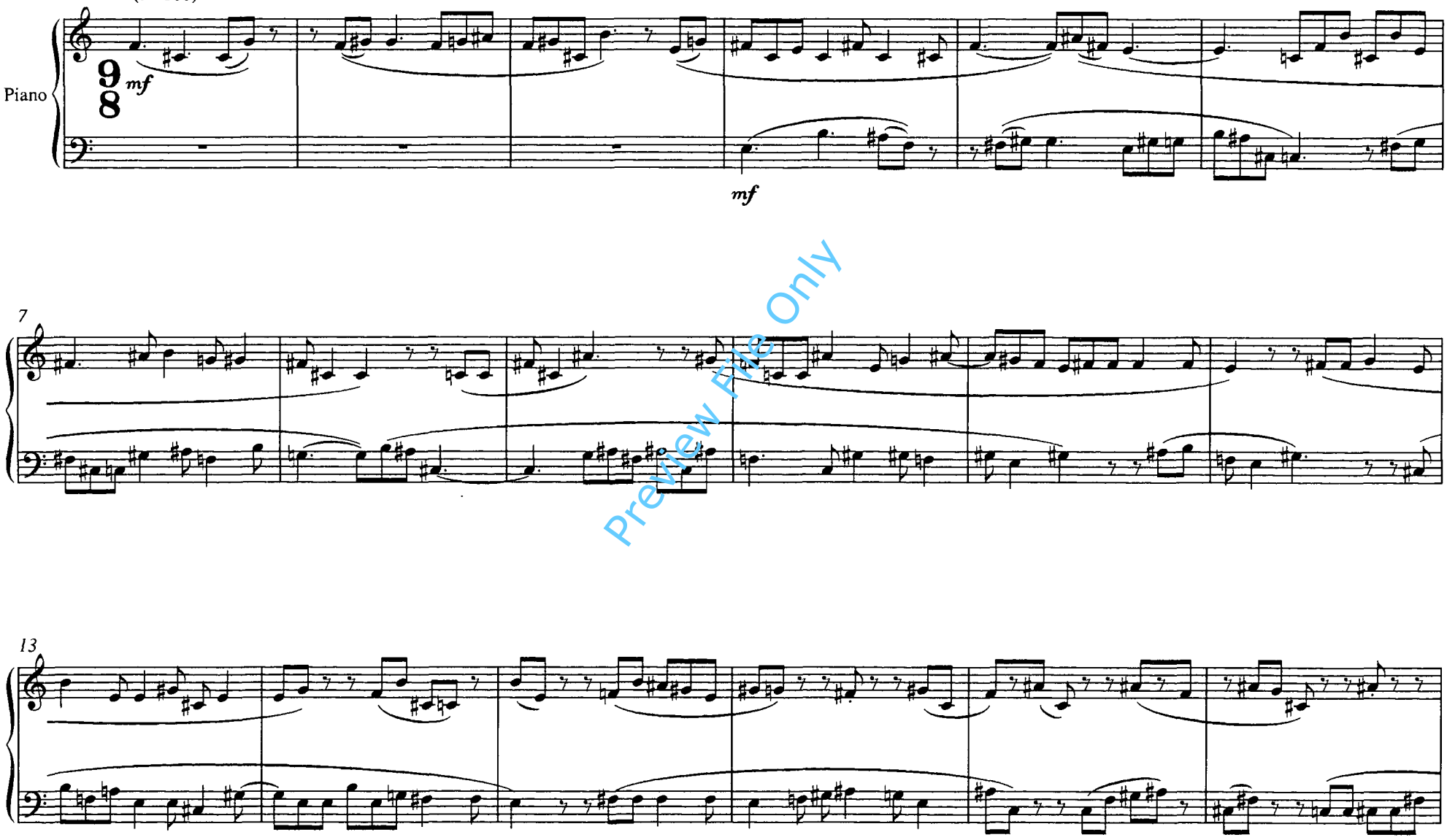


12/11/93

IX

Canon 3
(by retrogradation)

Not too fast
(♩.=100)



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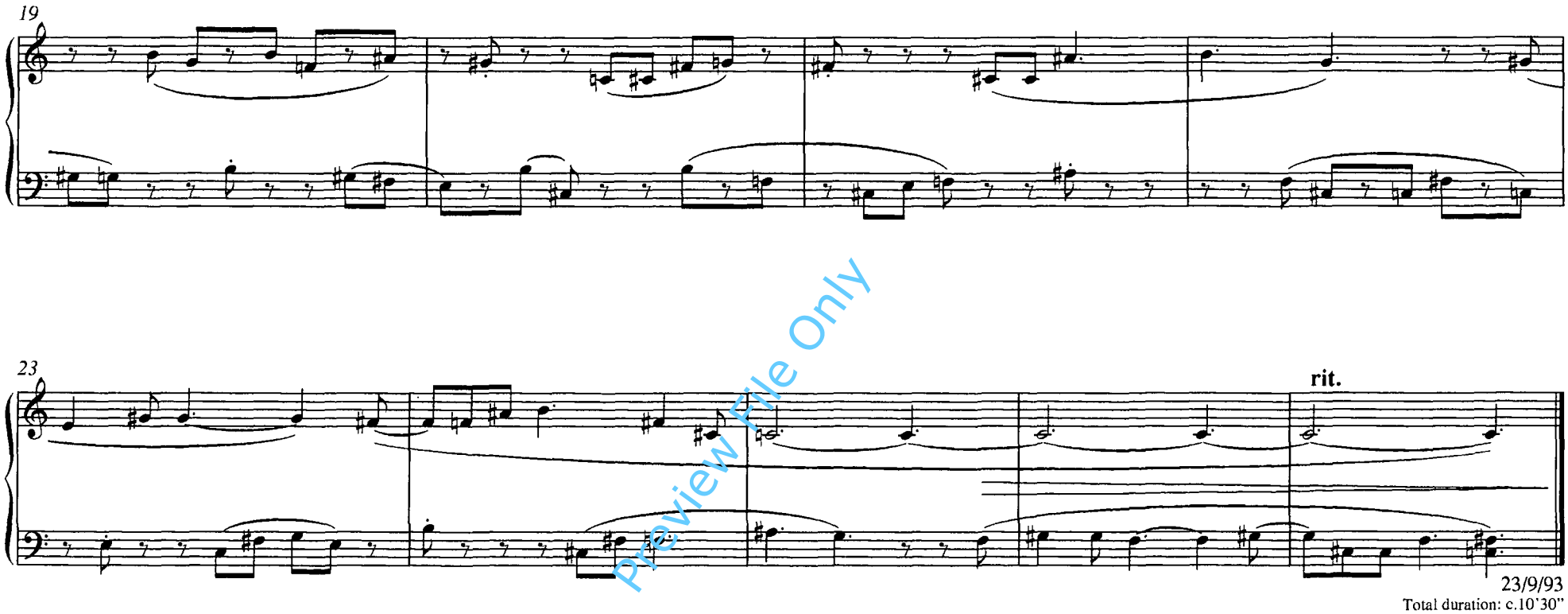

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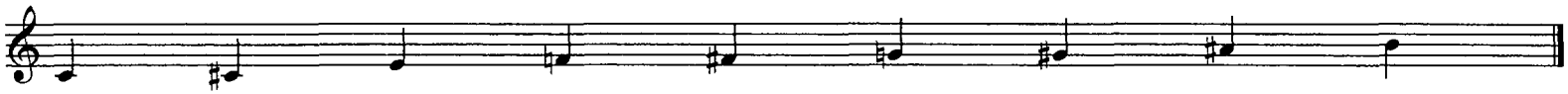
23/9/93

Total duration: c.10'30"

Novenarium for solo piano: notes

"Novenarium" - the title is a 12th century Latin word meaning "a set of nine" - was written between September and November 1993 as a ninth birthday present for my son Joseph. The pieces are all based on the following nine note mode:



Like Bach's Goldberg Variations, "Novenarium" is divided into groups of three pieces, consisting in this instance of a character piece, a piece in free contrapuntal style and a canon.

Some of these titles may need a word of explanation. Olam ha-nekudot (no.I) is taken from the writings of the 16th century cabbalist Isaac Luria and means "the world of points". This describes the primordial chaos from which the universe was created and refers to the pointillistic style of the piece. II (on the plainsong), with its left hand part consisting entirely of long notes, is a tribute to the wealth of 16th century English instrumental music based on plainsong. Chorale, the title of the 7th item, should be self explanatory.

This edition was processed between 10-12th September and corrects one or two minor errors in my ms. JE

Preview File Only