BRITISH MUSIC INFORMATION CENTRE,
10, Stratford Place, London, W.1

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Jean Hasse

Five Poems from the Japanese

for Mezzo-soprano, Clarinet and Piano (1991)

Visible Music

Five Poems from the Japanese

These poems are taken from two wonderful volumes translated by Kenneth Rexroth. Although the authors and the centuries in which they lived are different, the sentiments expressed in the five poems seem similar to me. I began setting the poems to music in August 1990 at the MacDowell Colony, New Hampshire, and completed them in October 1991. They were written for the Soli Espri Trio, who premiered them in Cambridge, Massachusetts on 31 October 1991.

— *Jean Hasse*

I
When I went out in
The Spring fields to pick
The young greens for you
Snow fell on my sleeves.
— *The Emperor Koko, 9th C.*

II
I should not have waited.
It would have been better
To have slept and dreamed,
Than to have watched night pass,
And this slow moon sink.
— *Lady Akazome Emon, 11th C.*

III
Swifter than hail,
Lighter than a feather,
A vague sorrow
Crossed my mind.
— *Yosano Akiko, 1878-1942*

IV
Is it your command
That we must pass through this life
Not meeting, even
For a space short as the nodes
Of the reeds of Naniwa?
— *Lady Ise, 9th C.*

V
The cricket cries
In the frost.
On my narrow bed,
In a folded quilt,
I sleep alone.
— *The Regent Fujiwara no Go-Kyogoku, 12th C.*

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From Kenneth Rexroth: *One Hundred Poems from the Japanese* and *One Hundred More Poems from the Japanese*. Copyright 1974, 1976 Kenneth Rexroth. Used with permission of the publisher, New Directions Publishing Corporation.

Note to performers: The quarter and dotted-quarter note beats should be slightly accented throughout the piece. When slurs are placed across beats, however, the beginning of each phrase should be stressed, except where accents are already notated.

Duration: ca. 10:00
Publication No.: VM [illegible]07

Score in C

Five Poems from the Japanese

I

Jean Hasse
(1991)

Fast, clean ♩. = ca. 80

Mezzo Soprano

Clarinet

Piano

mf

When, _ when, _____ when, _

(accented)

mf

mf

Ped. *ad lib.* (for resonance)

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When I went, _ When, _ when, _____ when I went, _____ When, _ when

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A

I went _____ out _____ When, _

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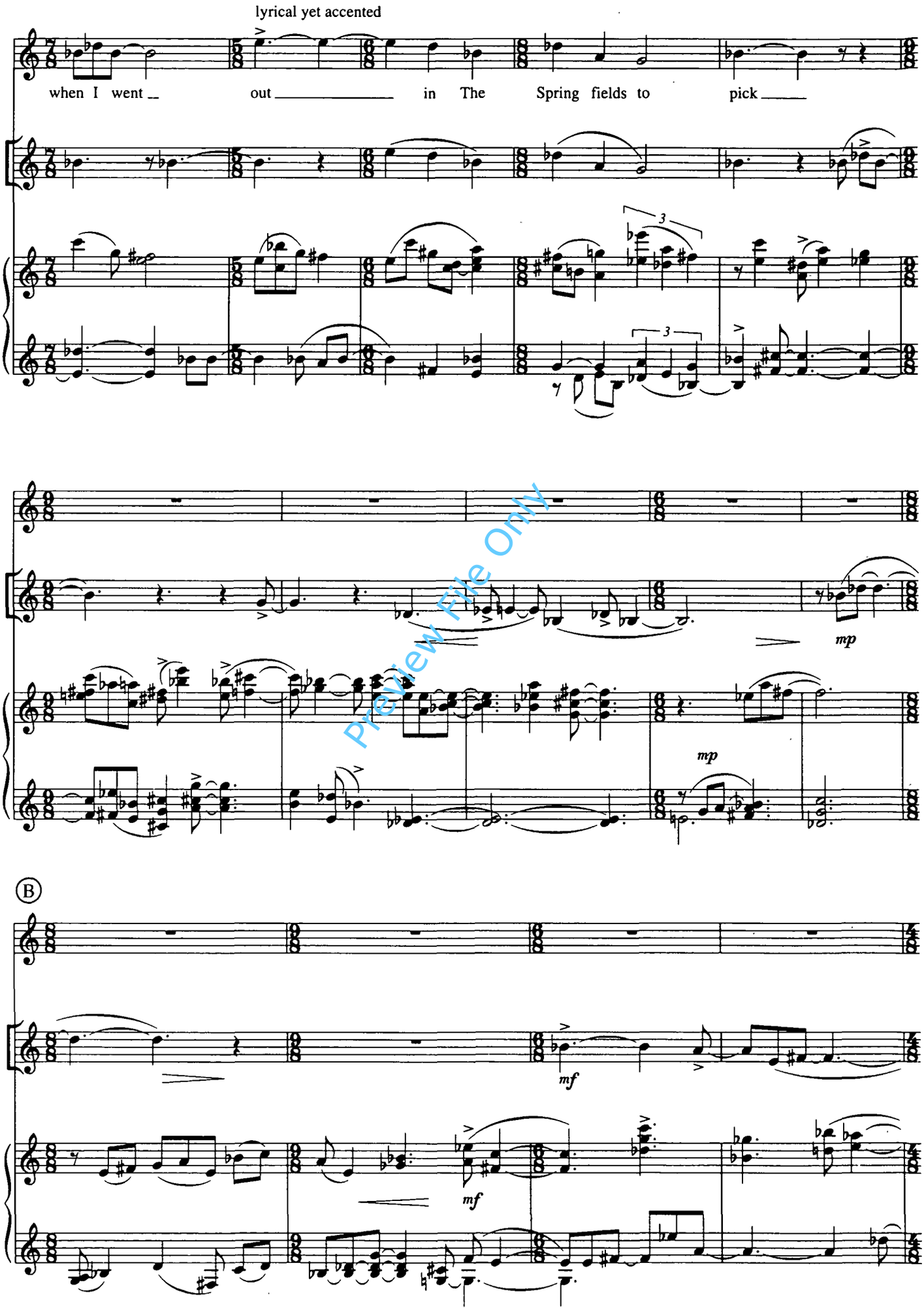

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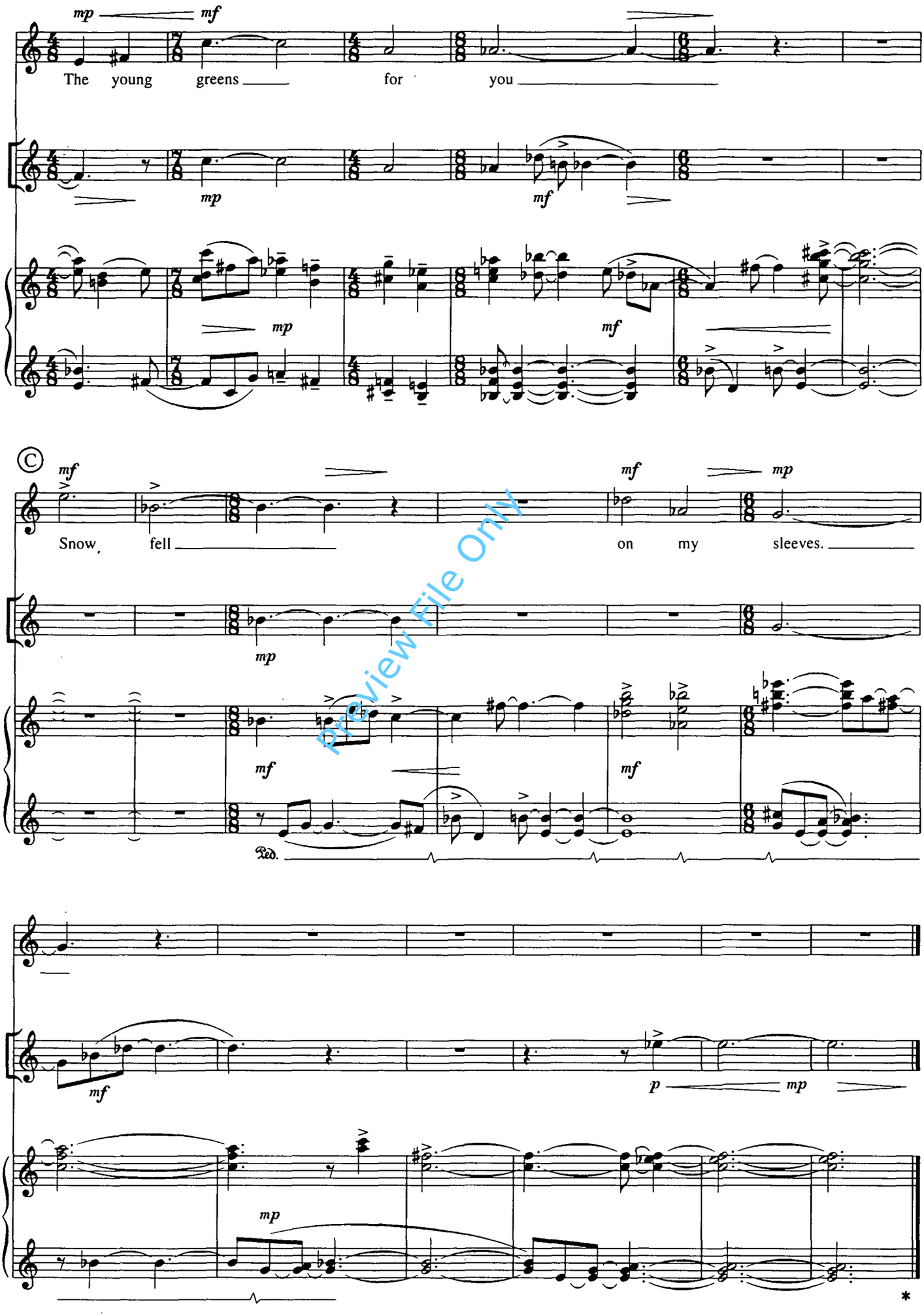

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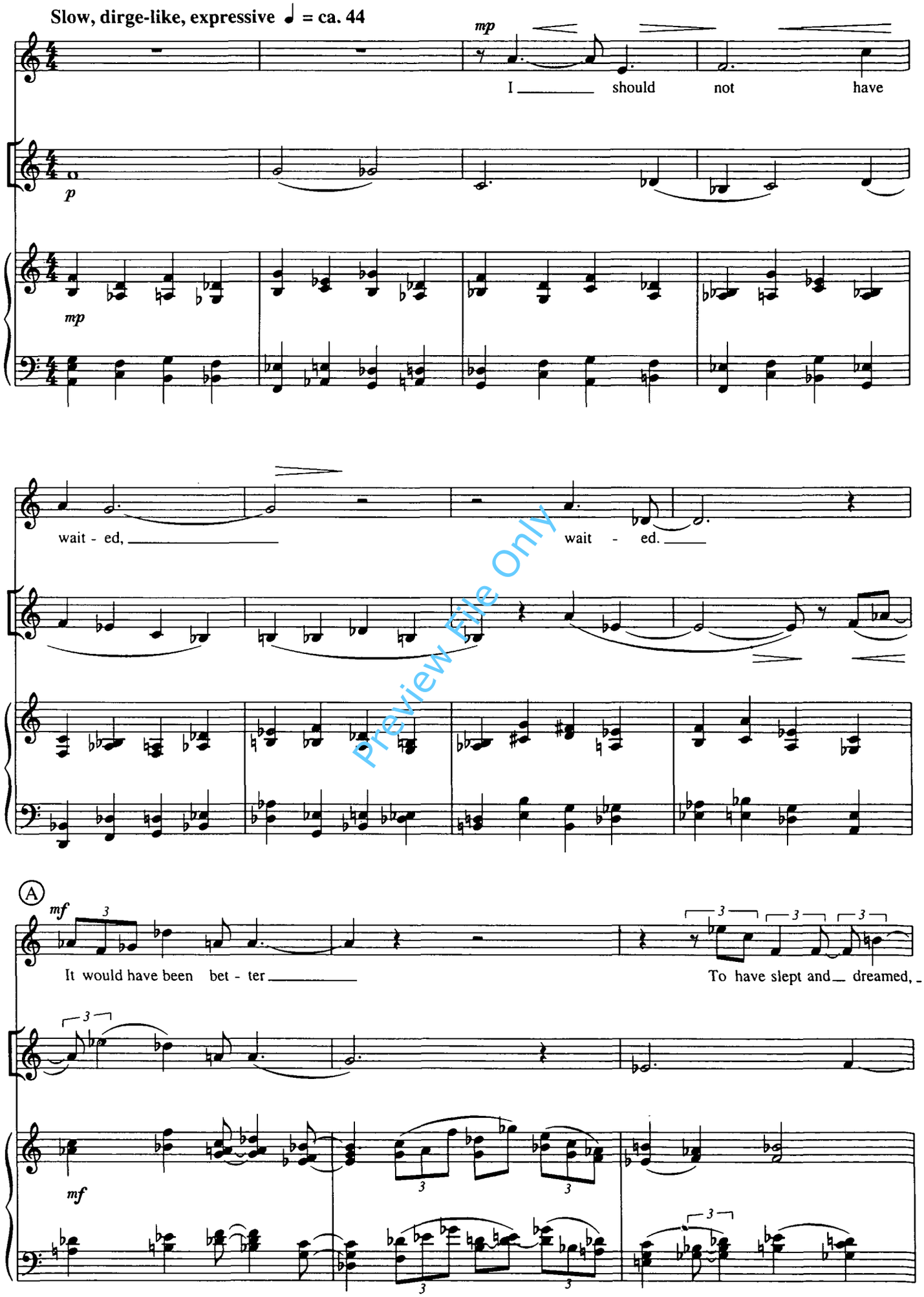

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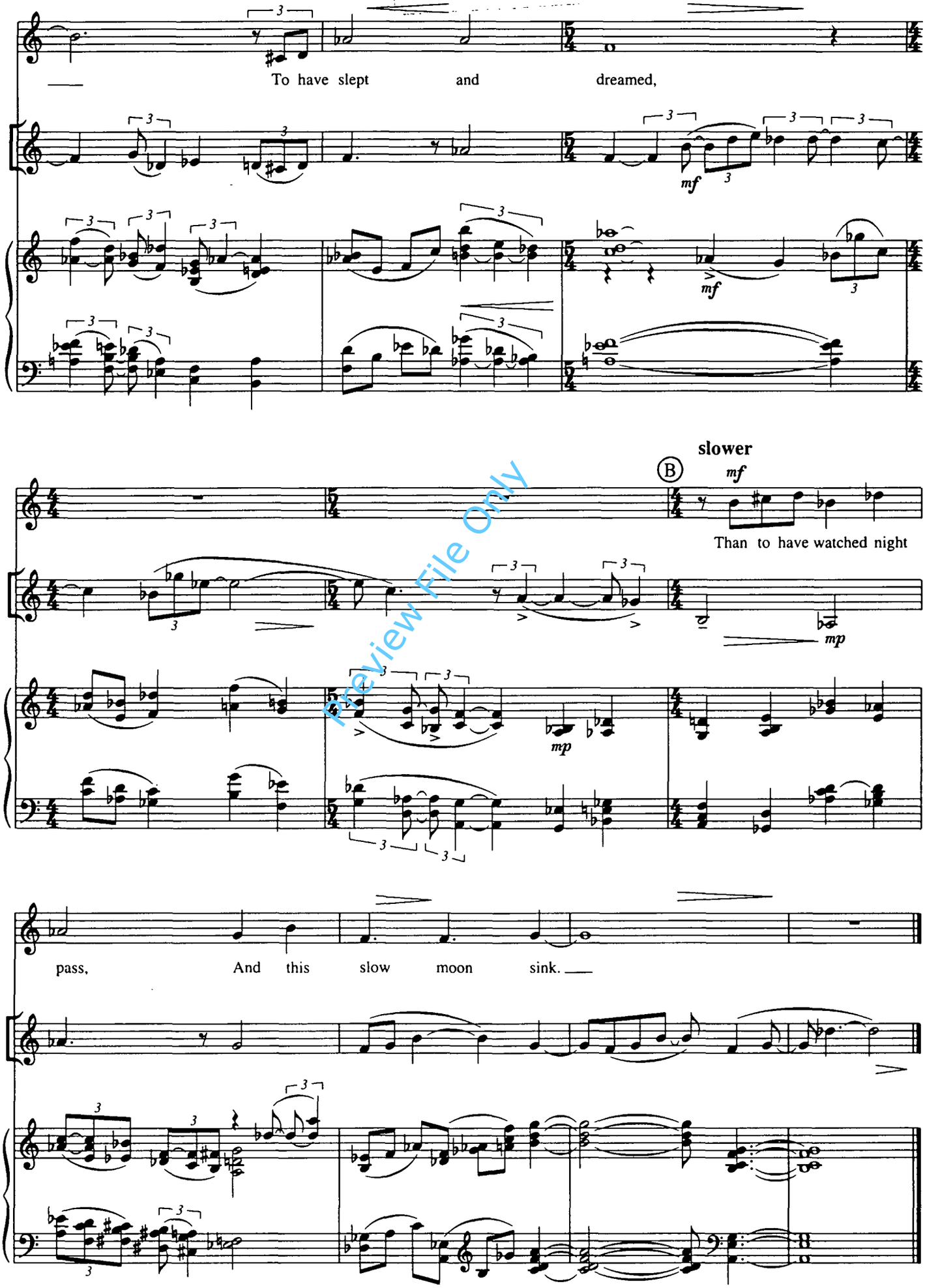

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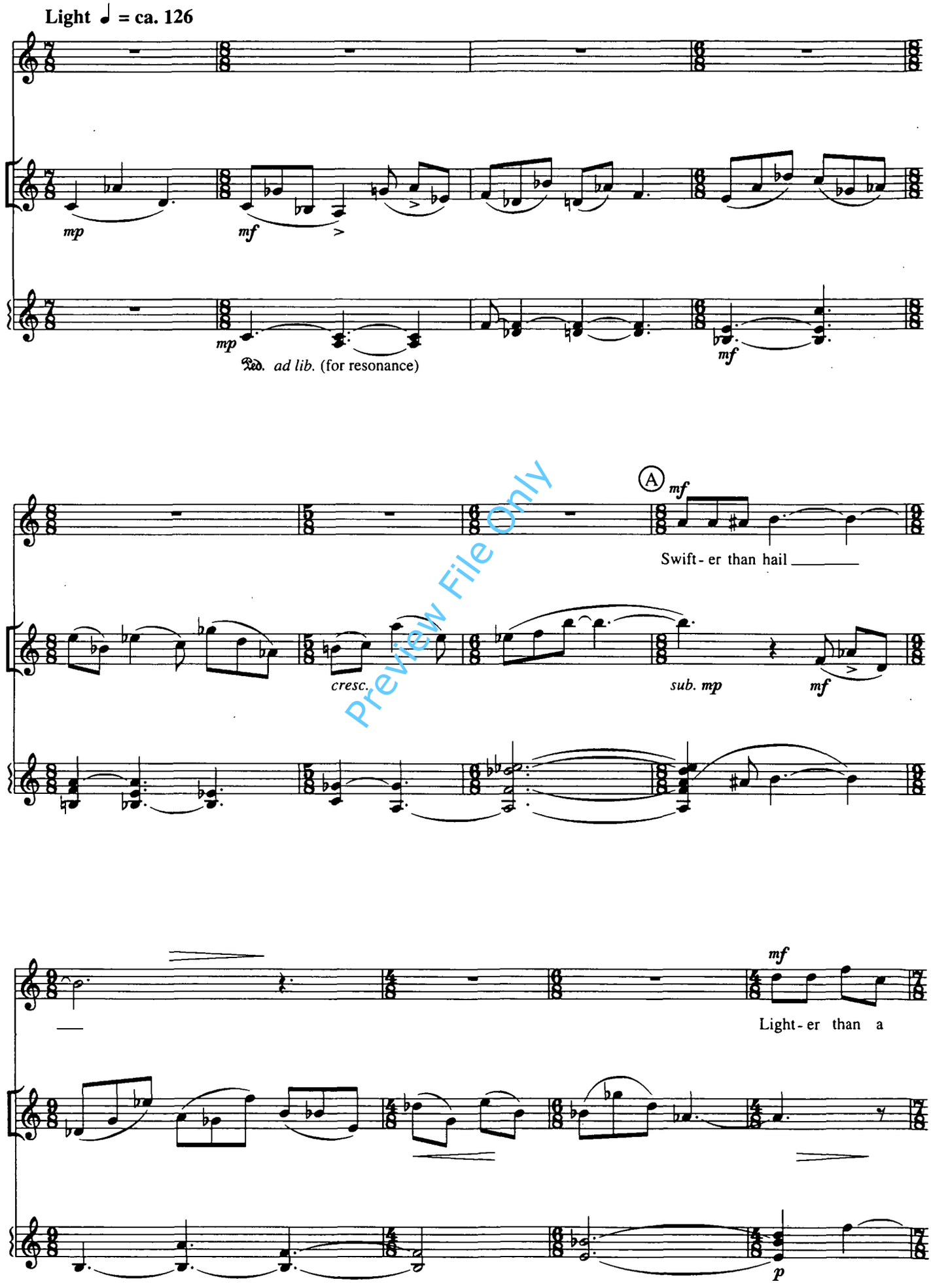

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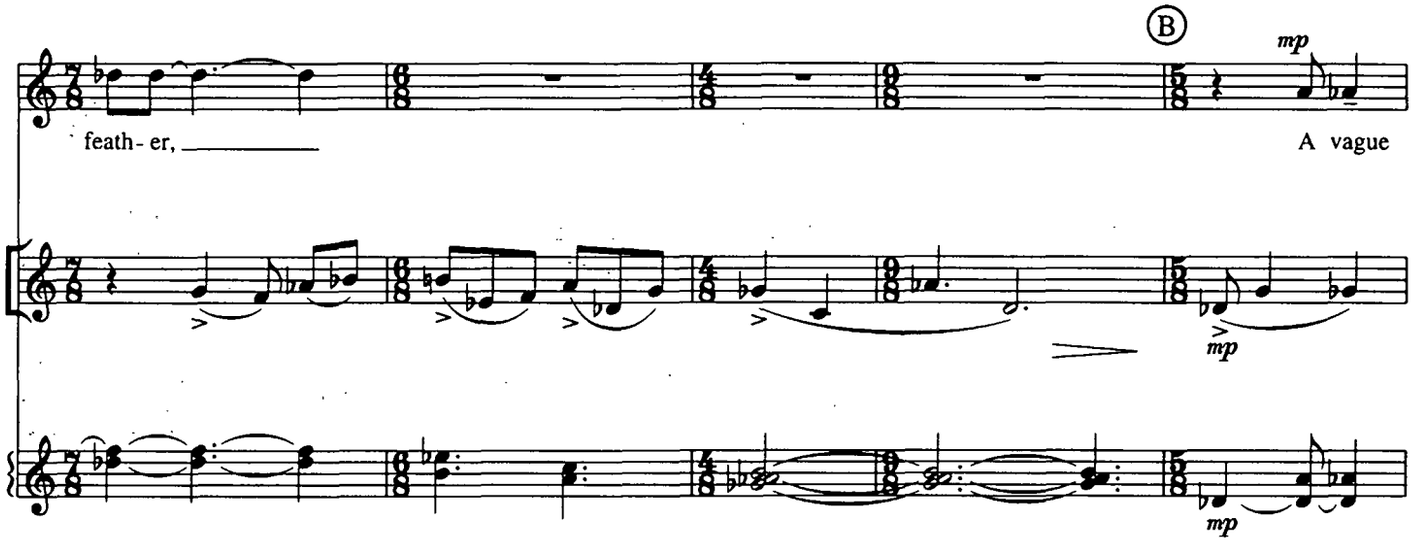

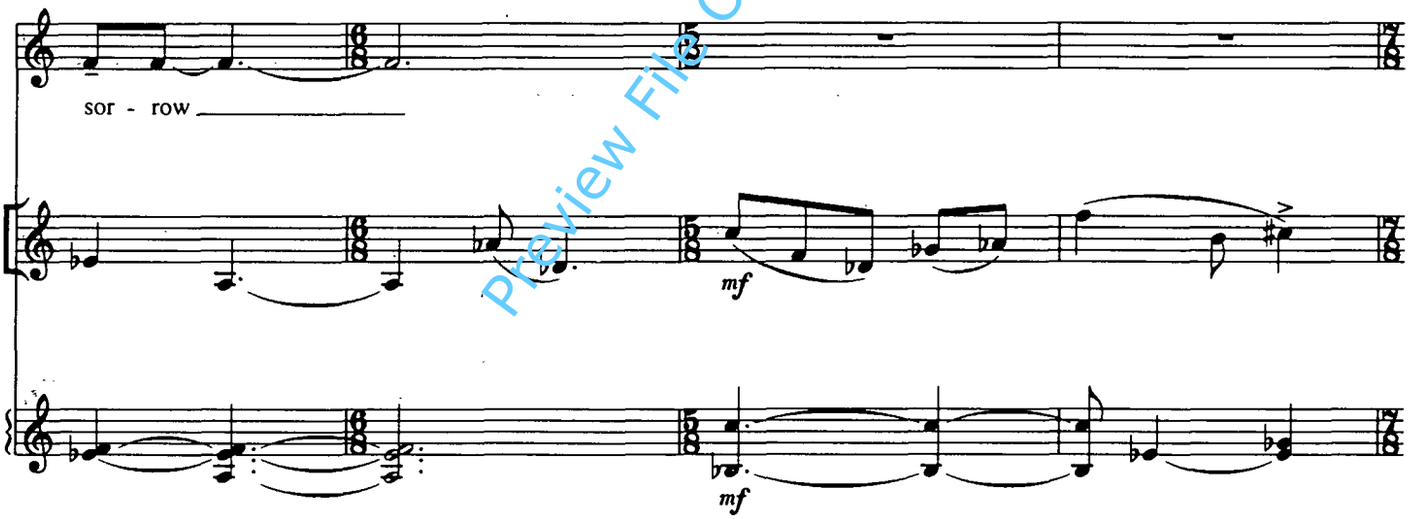

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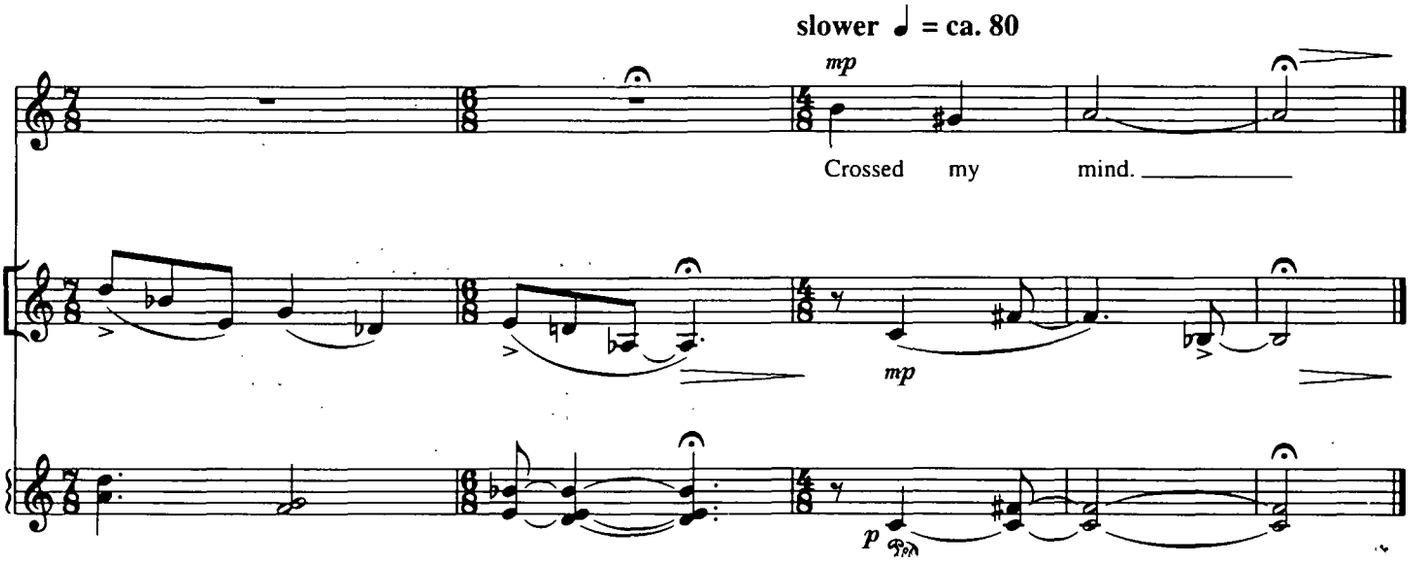

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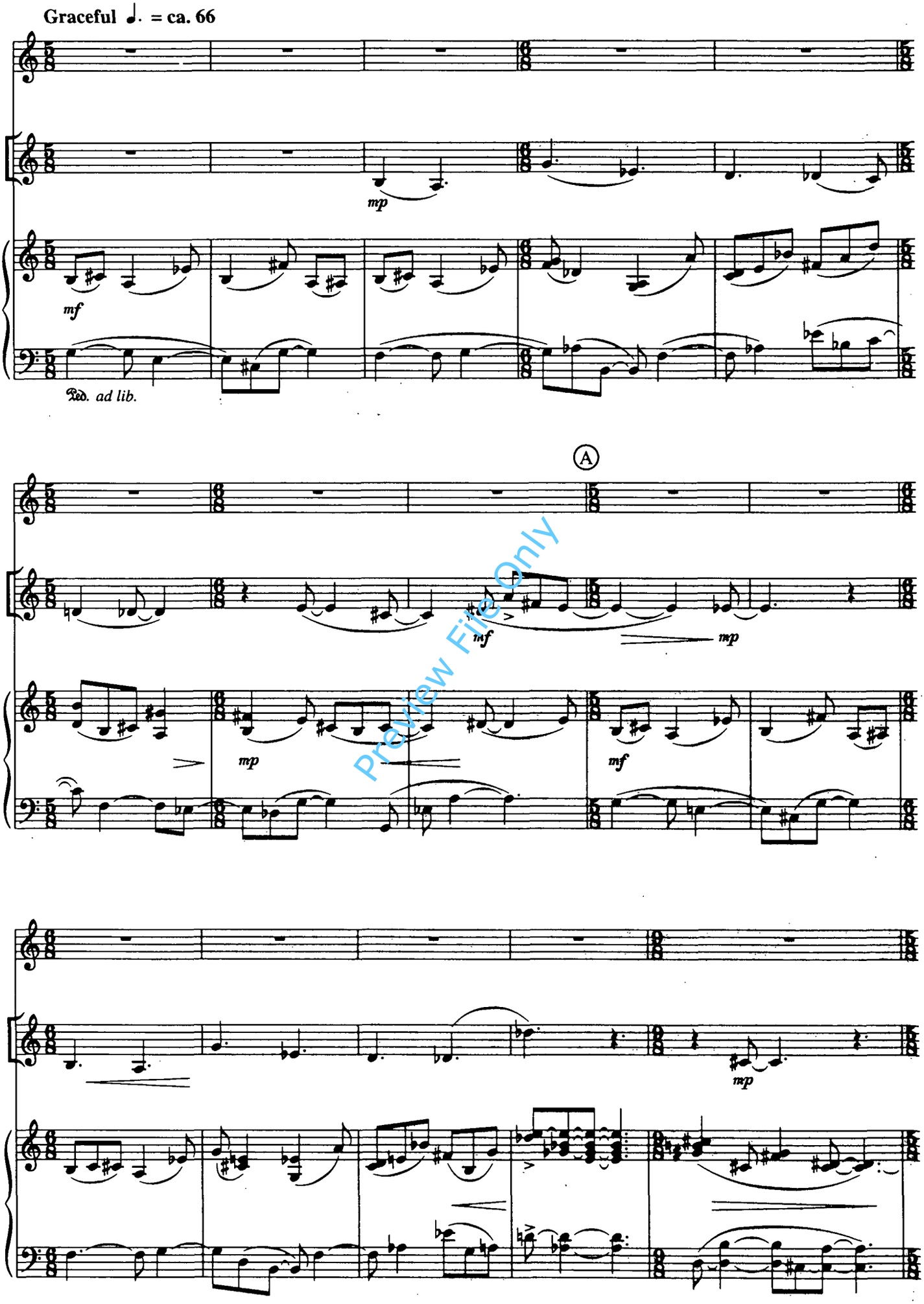

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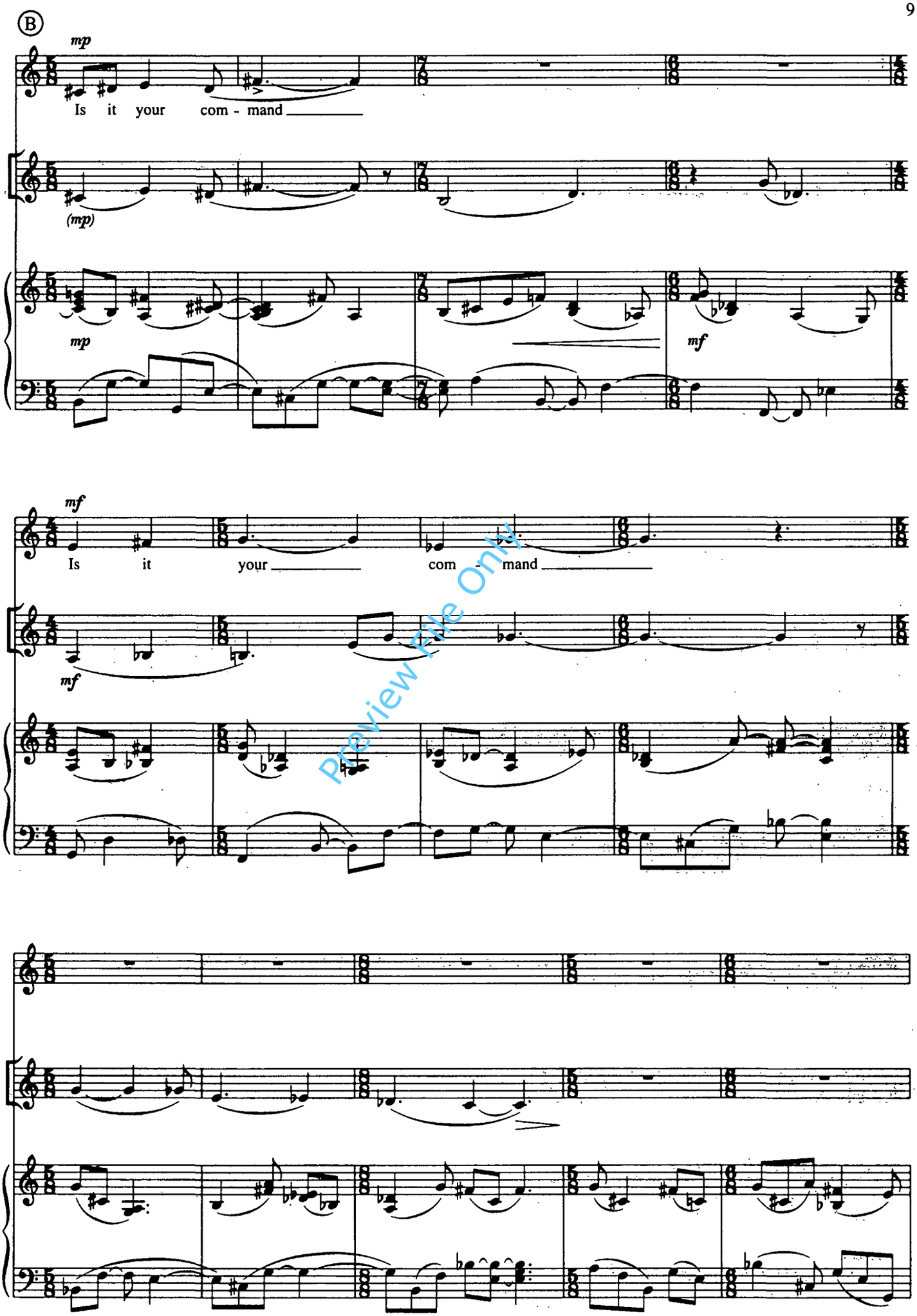

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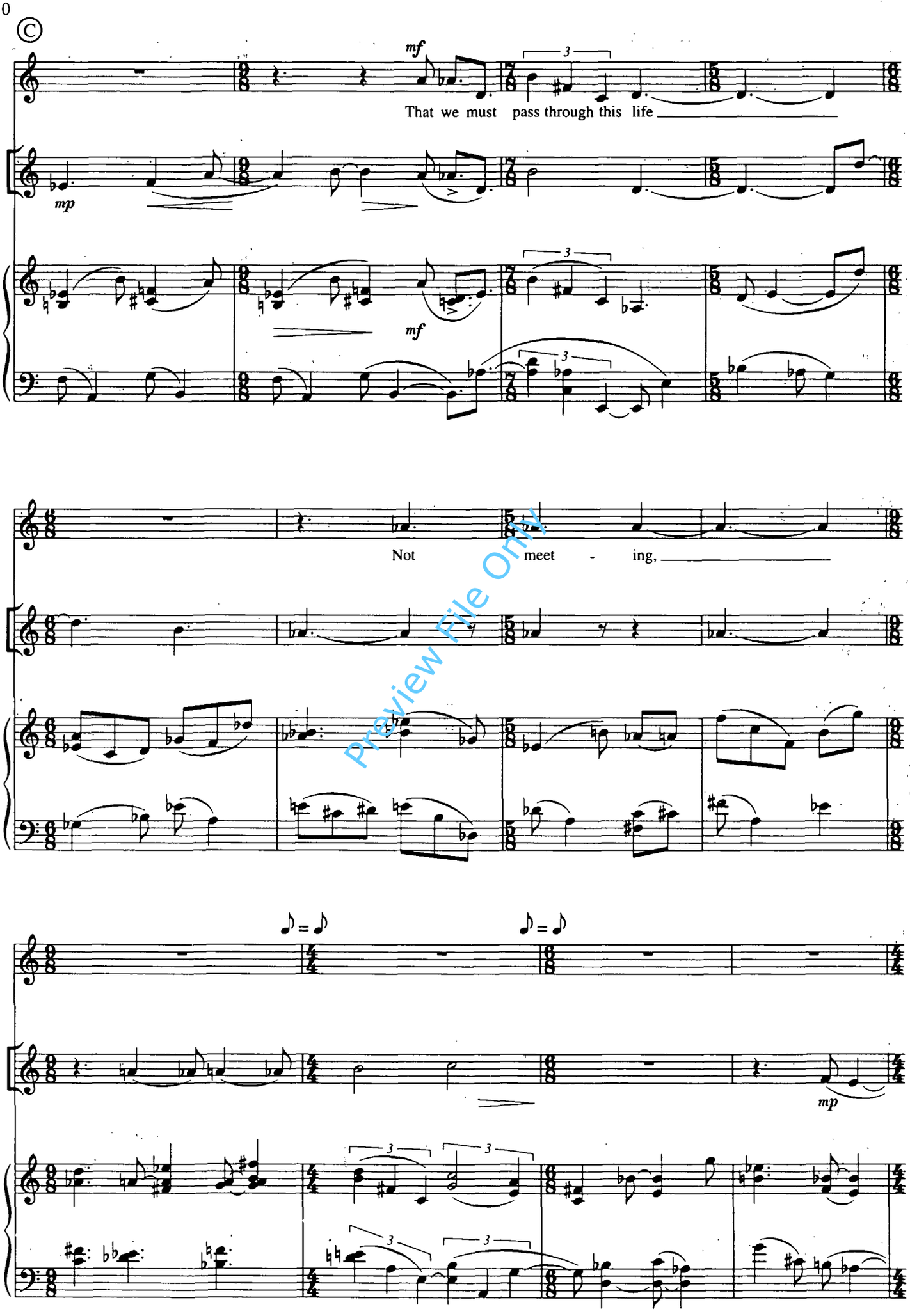

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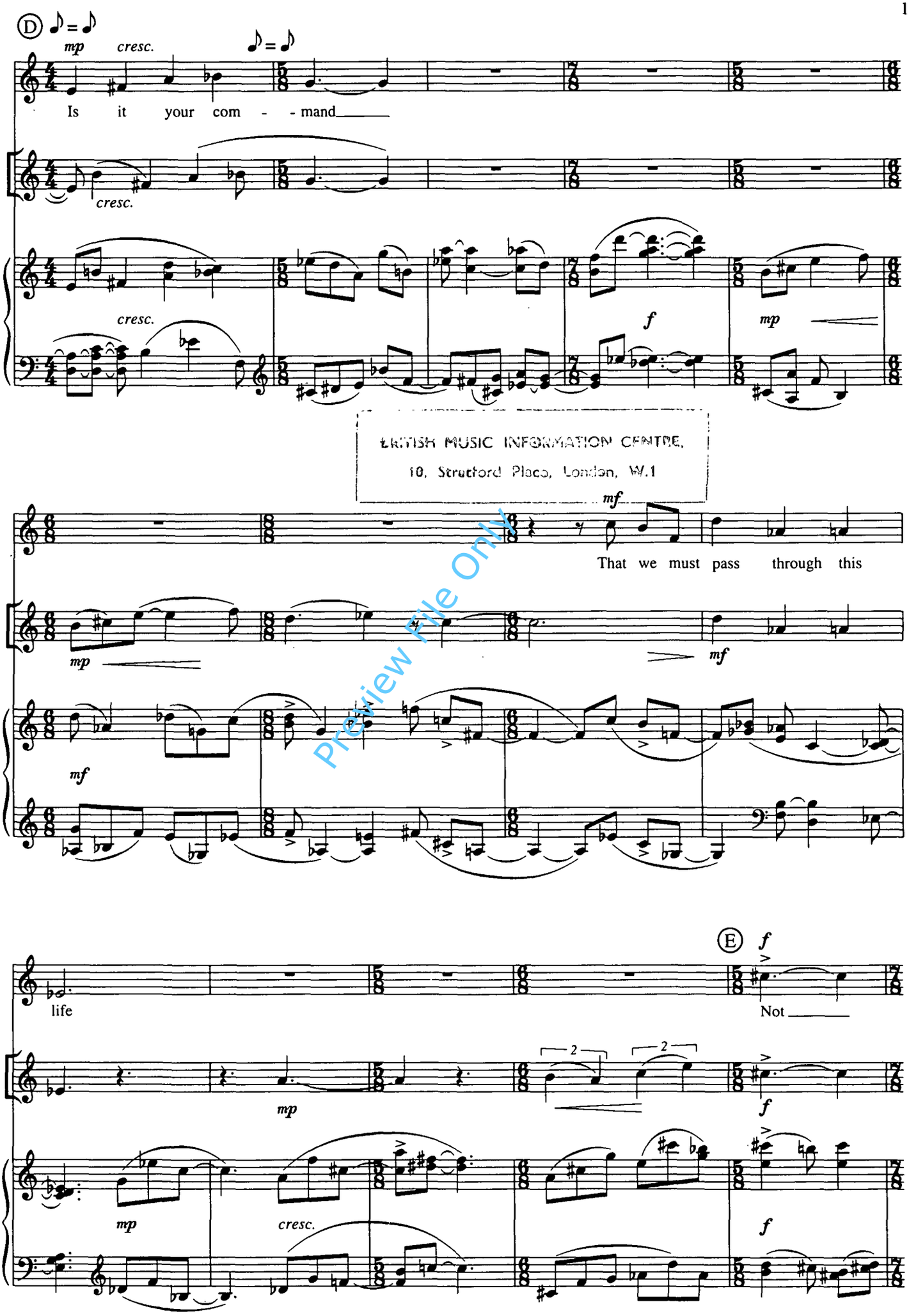

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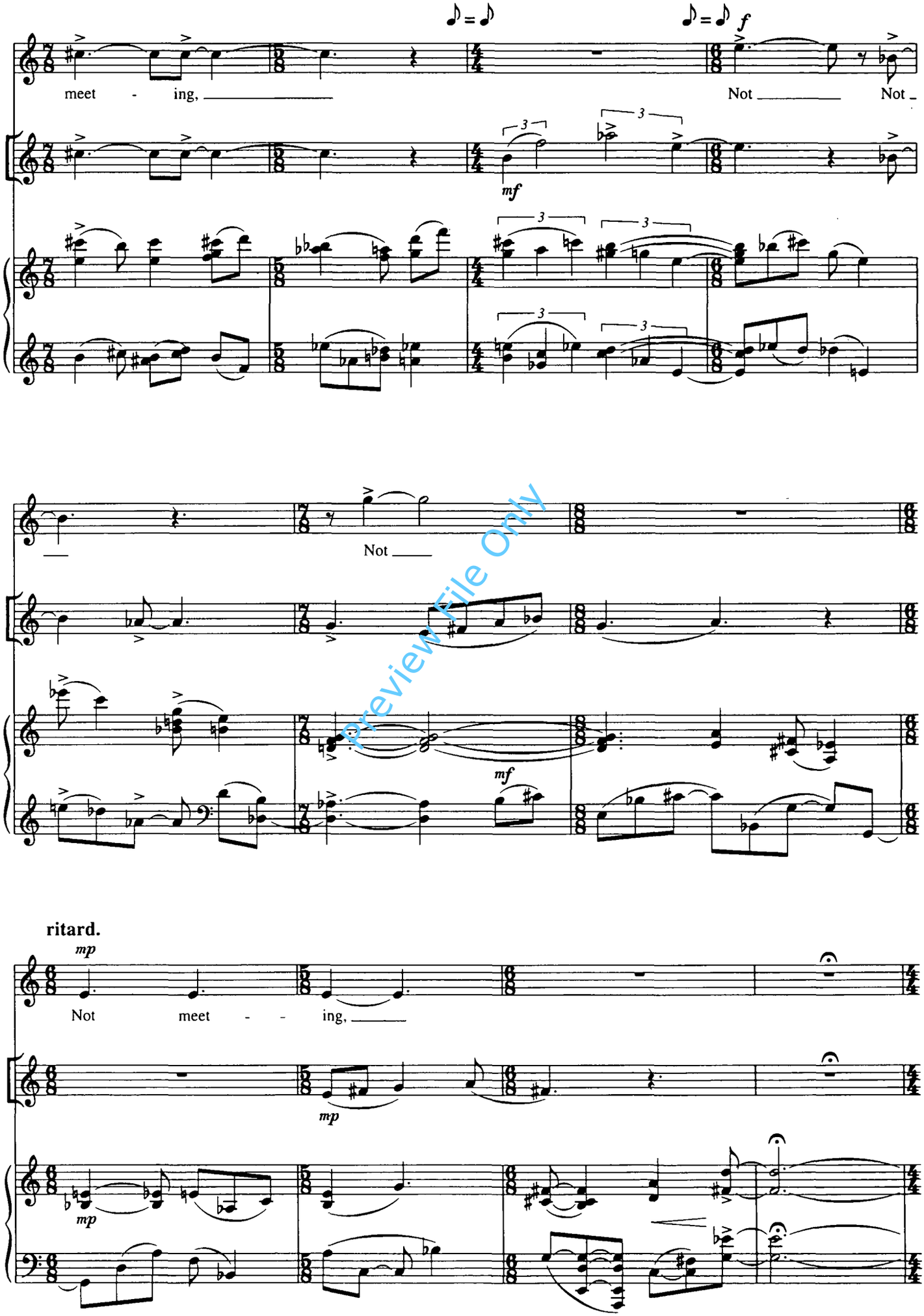

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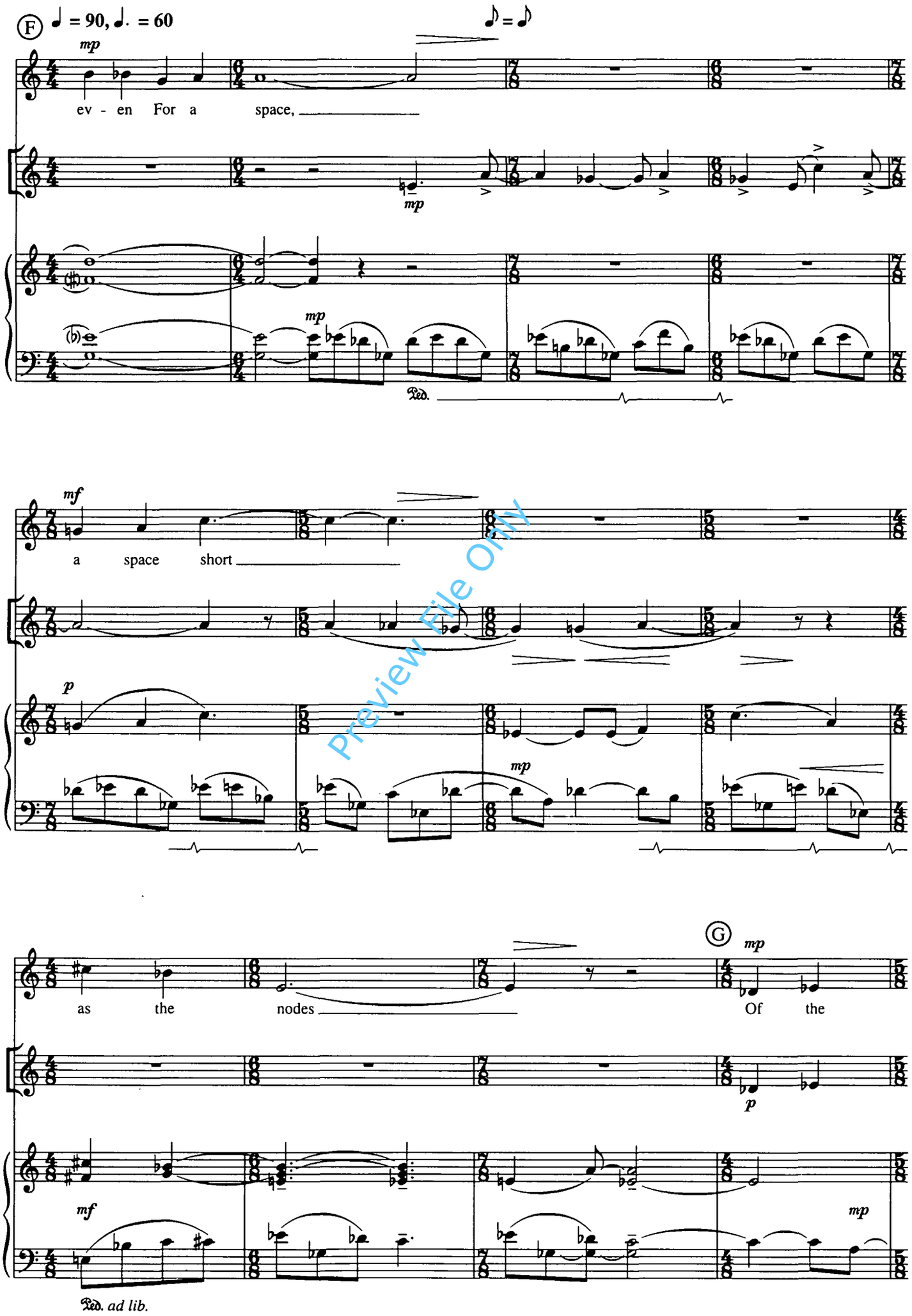

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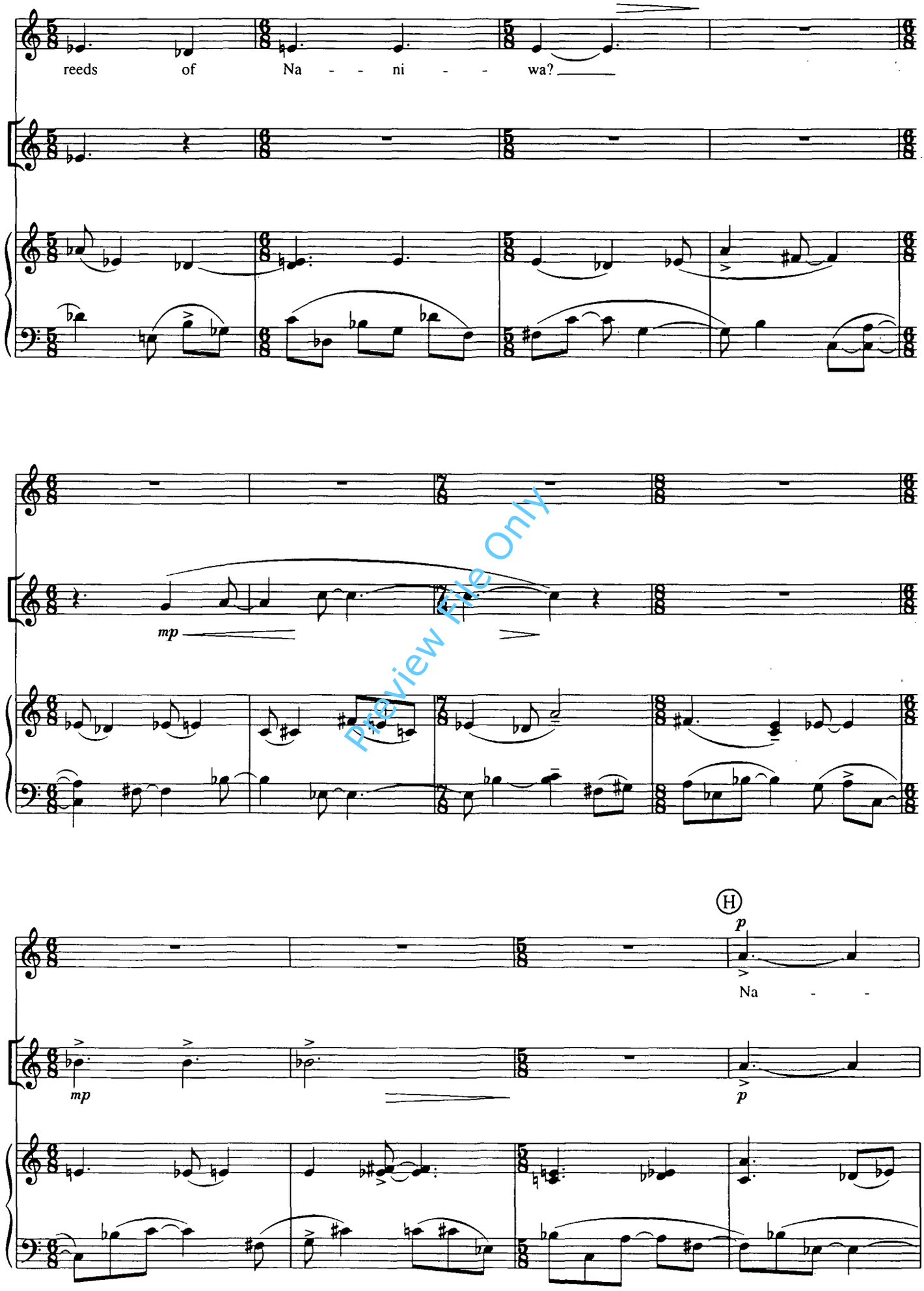

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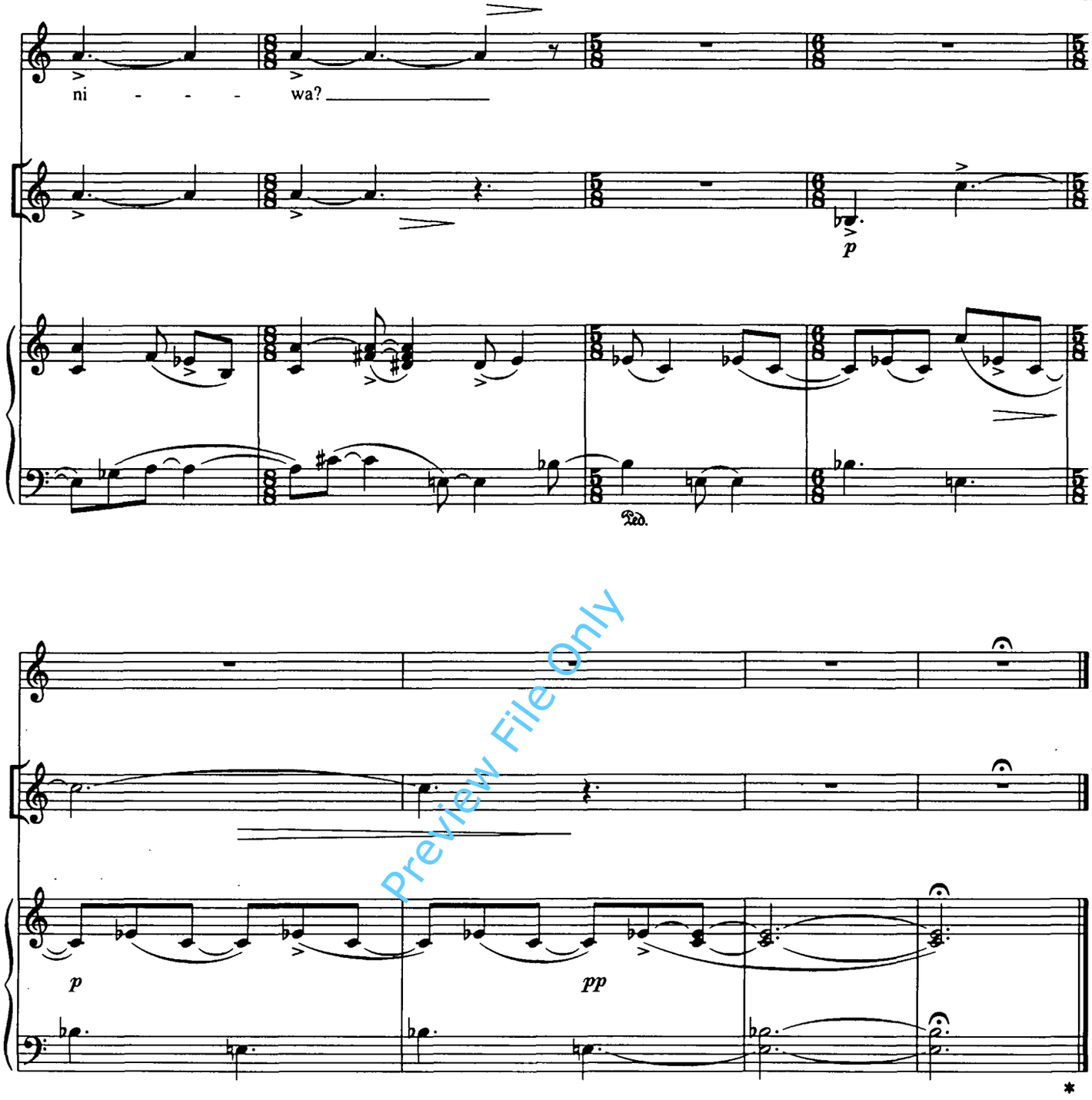

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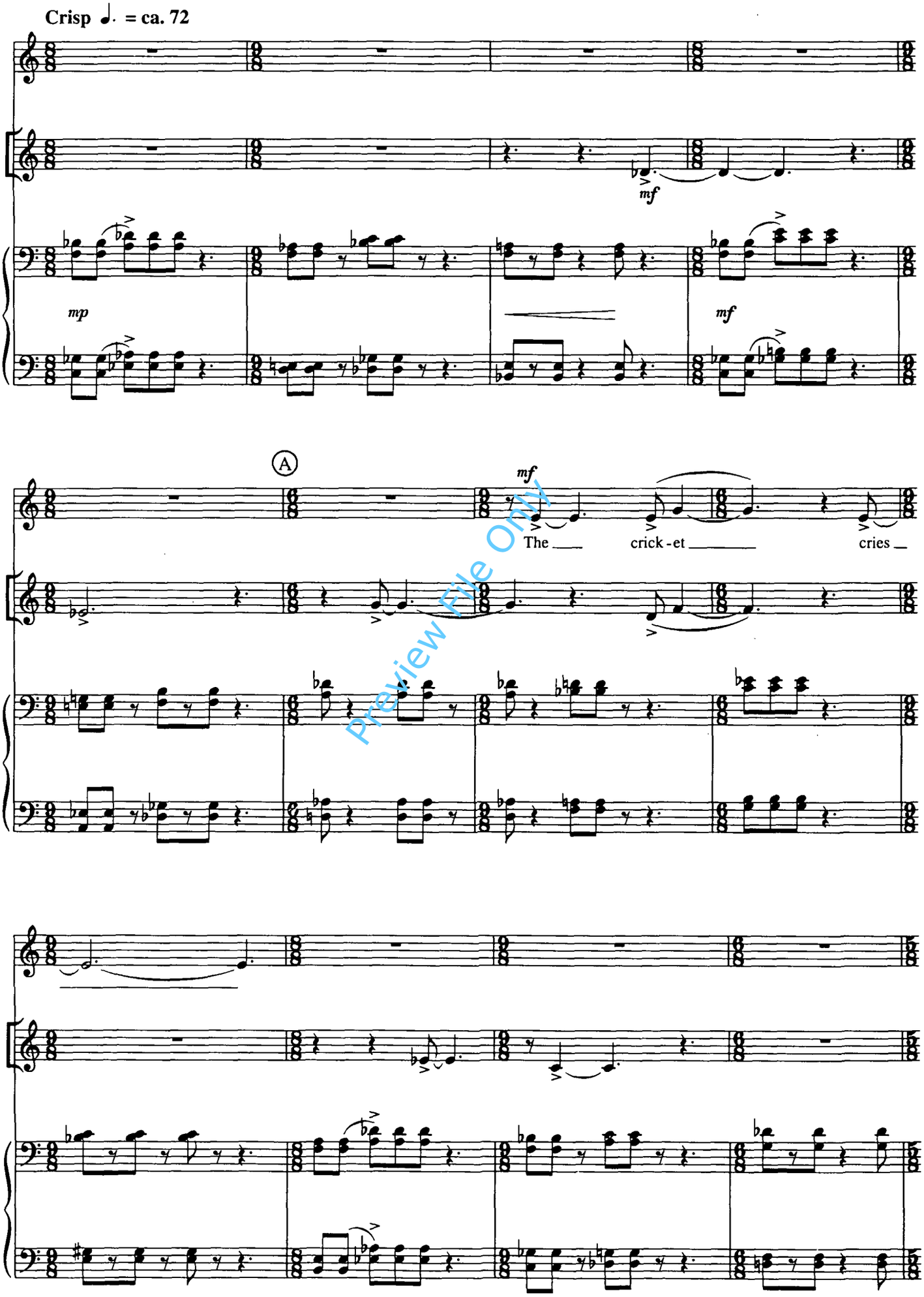
V



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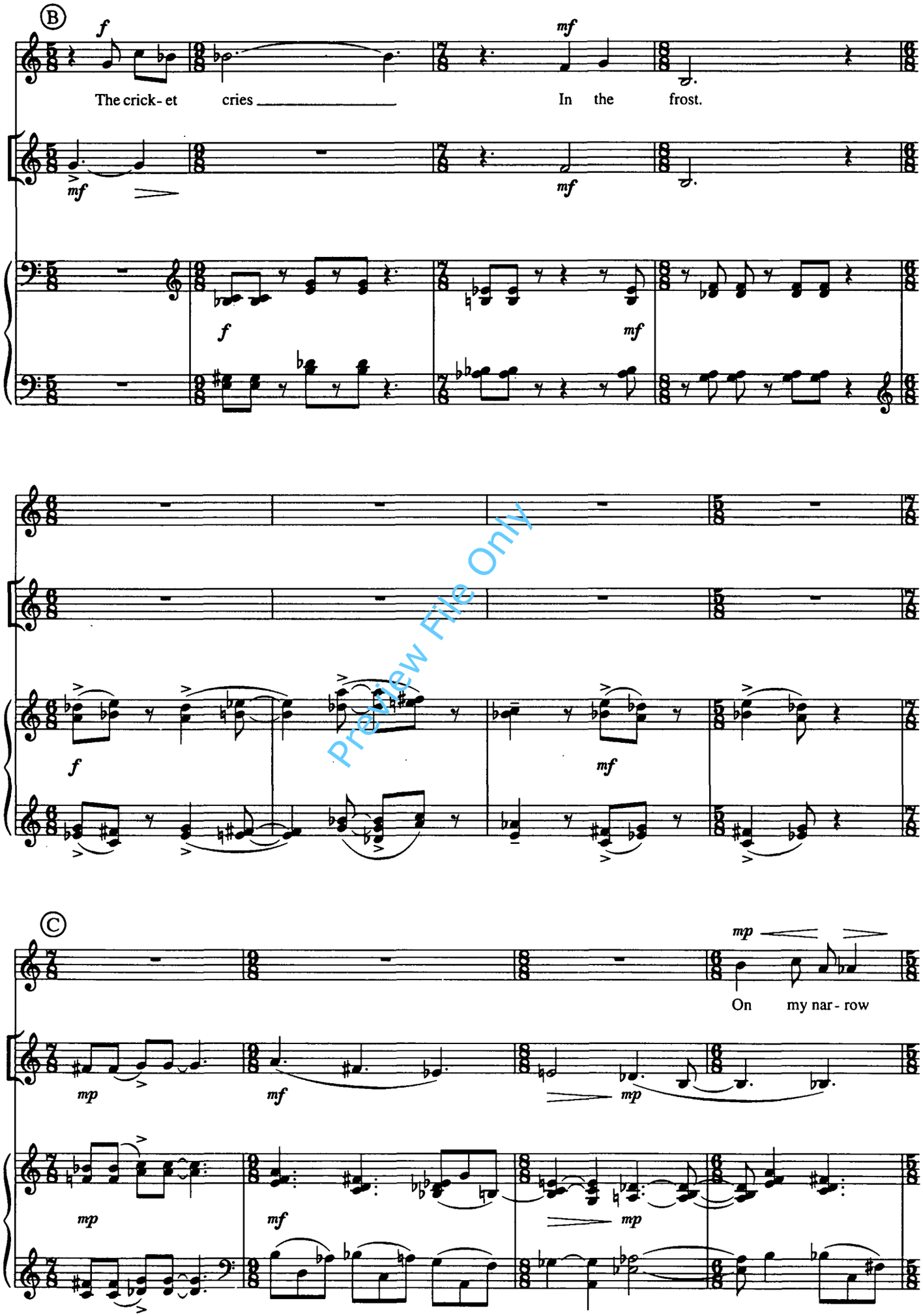

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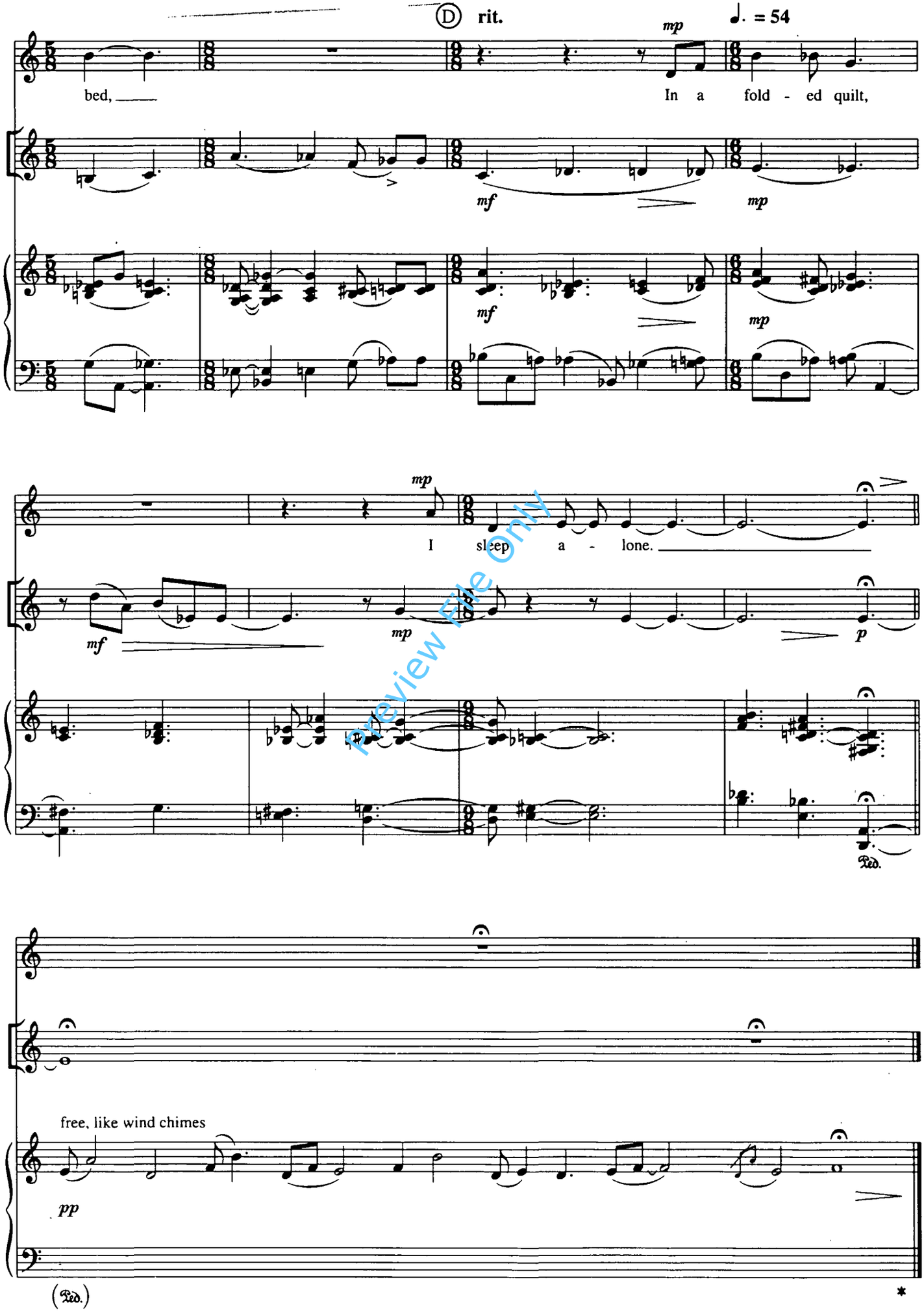

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