EIGHTH NOTE PUBLICATIONS

Trilogy

Donald Coakley

Trilogy for Trumpet, Horn and Piano was commissioned by Alternate Scarborough Education II for three talented students at the school as a means of stimulating interest in the fledgling instrumental program being developed at the school.

Cast in three movements, the forms chosen Canzone, Passacaglia and Toccata harken back to the Renaissance. The first movement is based on the Italian canzones of the thirteenth through seventeenth centuries which were lyrical poems. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries these poems evolved into songs. While set at a vigorous tempo, the Canzone presented here retains the lyrical nature of its forehears, contrasted with driving rhythmic figurations. Of course, all these elements are set in the harmonic language of the twentieth century. The performers should exploit the lyricism and the contrasting rhythmic gestures.

The second movement Passacaglia in contrast to the Canzone, is set in a slow tempo. The passacaglia is a repeated rhythmic figure over and under which variations are played. The passacaglia theme should always be heard no matter in which instrument it occurs. The variations should be prominent and exploited for their contrasting ideas.

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The Toccata is the final movement of Trilogy and is in the style of a march or processional. Fanfare figures occur throughout. The toccata of the Renaissance was a virtuoso work for any of the keyboard instruments available at the time. Unlike its keyboard ancestors which were distinctly contrapuntal, occasionally with homophonic passages, this Toccata is entirely homophonic in style. The harmonic language again refers to the twentieth century. The performers should make the most of the processional or march-like character of this movement.

Donald Coakley studied at the Crane School of Music at the State University of New York in Potsdam, New York, the School of Music at Temple University and the Philadelphia Conservatory of Music. While studying at the Conservatory, he was a composition student of Vincent Persichetti and studied trombone with Henry Charles Smith, principal trombone of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Following graduate school, he taught at Cardinal Dougherty High School in Philadelphia, and also served as conductor of the Camden Choral Arts Society in Camden, New Jersey. After a successful tenure at Cardinal Dougherty, Coakley joined the faculty of the School of Music at Temple University.

In the early 1970s, Coakley was invited to join the Music Department of the Scarborough School System, becoming Assistant Coordinator of Music shortly thereafter. As such, he was responsible for the elementary instrumental music program in the school system. He also headed the instrumental wing at the Scarborough Music Camps. In 1970 he founded the Scarborough Schools Symphony Orchestra and subsequently oversaw the inception of four other All-City instrumental ensembles.

Donald Coakley has written successfully for school, university and professional groups. He is a member of the Canadian League of Composers, as well as an Associate Composer with the Canadian Music Centre. In 1977, Coakley received the Distinguished Service to Education Award from the State University of New York; and in 1994 he received the Anson Taylor Award for excellence in teaching from the Scarborough Board of Education.

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DIFFICULTY RATING: Medium
Trumpet, Horn, Piano

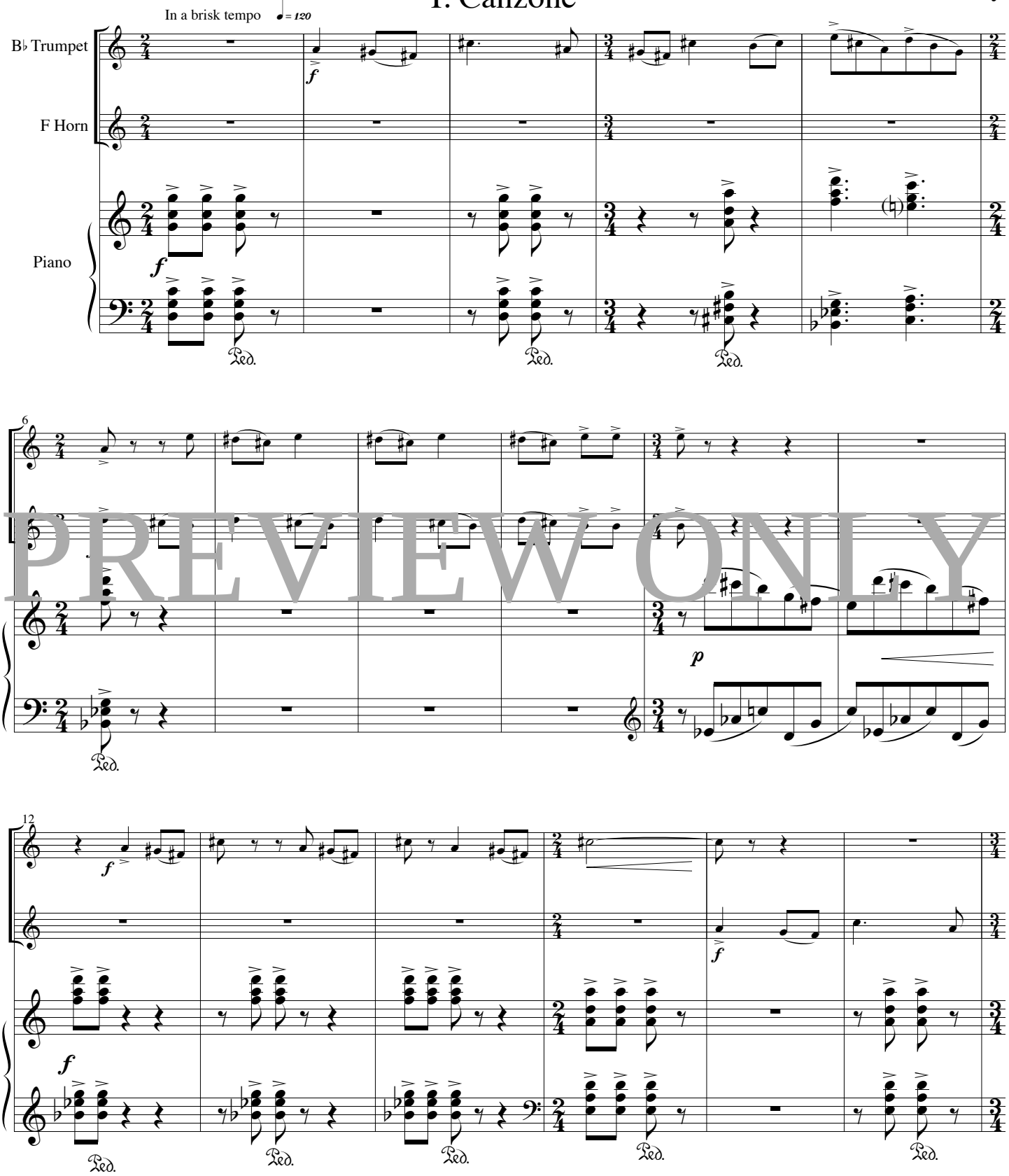
Commissioned by Alternate Scarborough Education II

Trilogy

for Trumpet, Horn and Piano

I. Canzone

Donald Coakley



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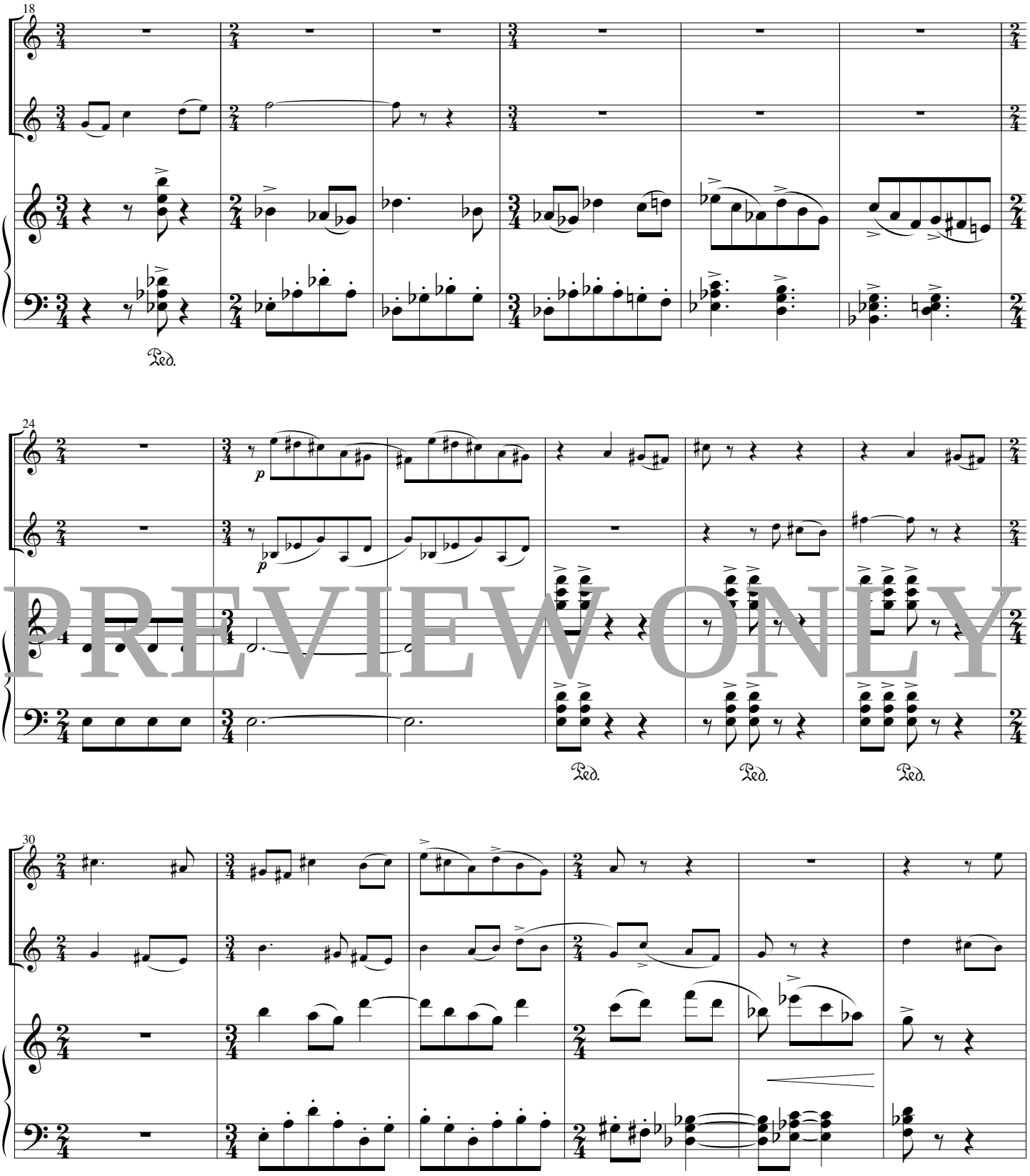

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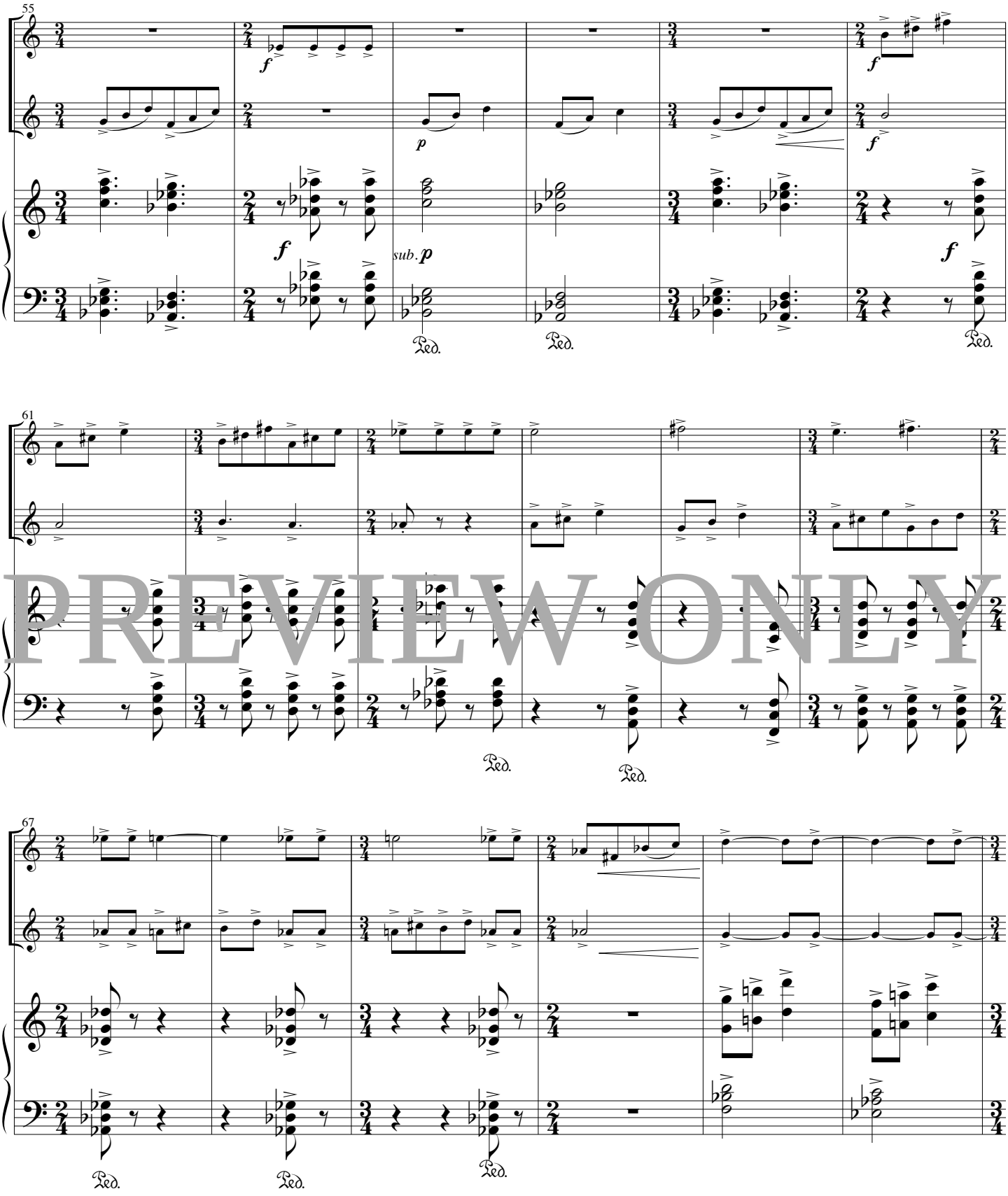

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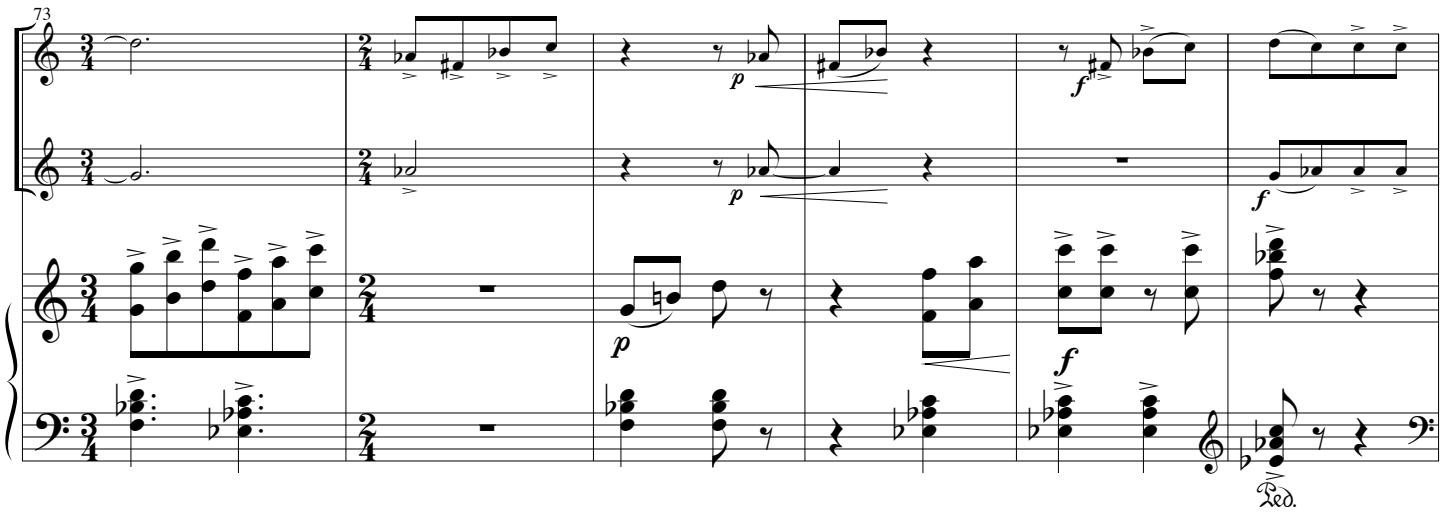

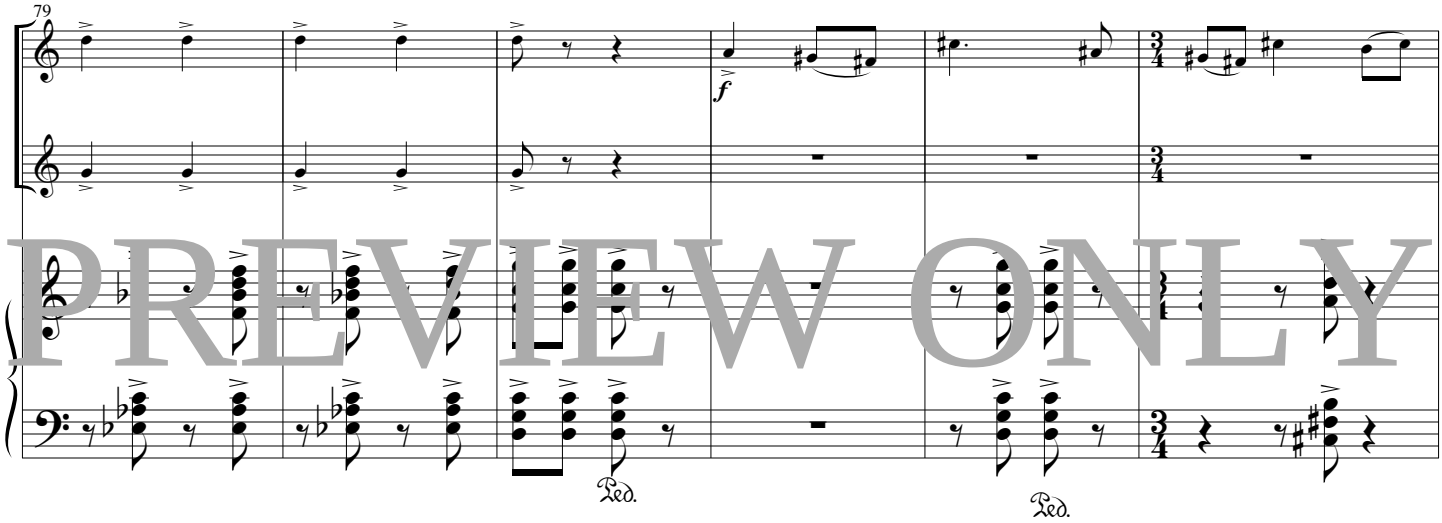

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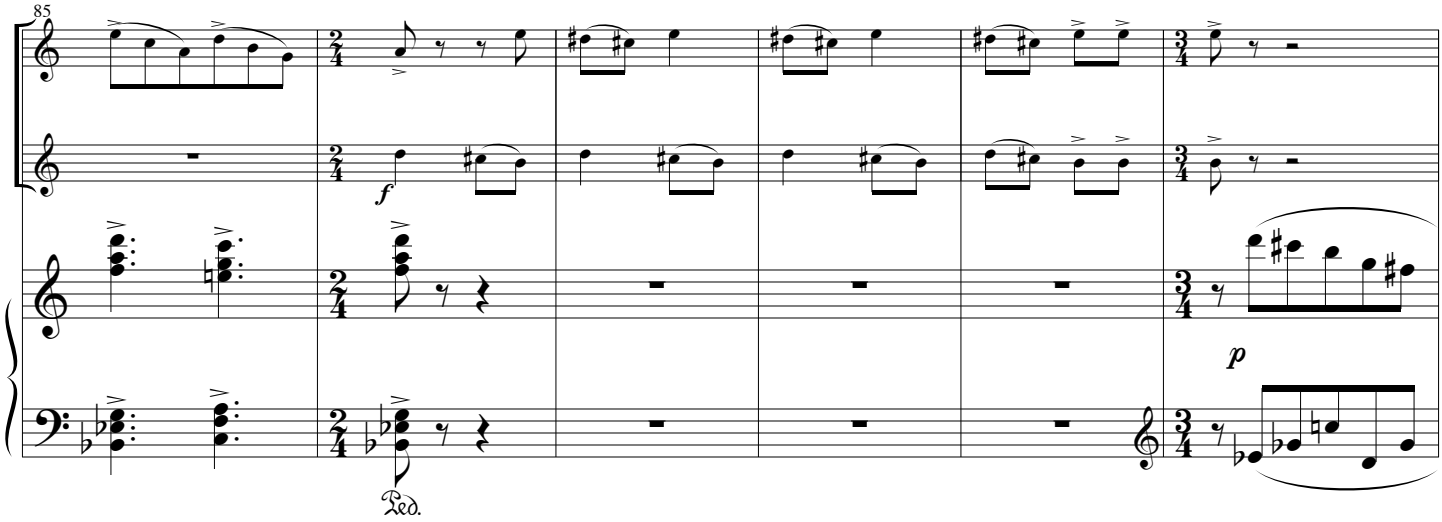

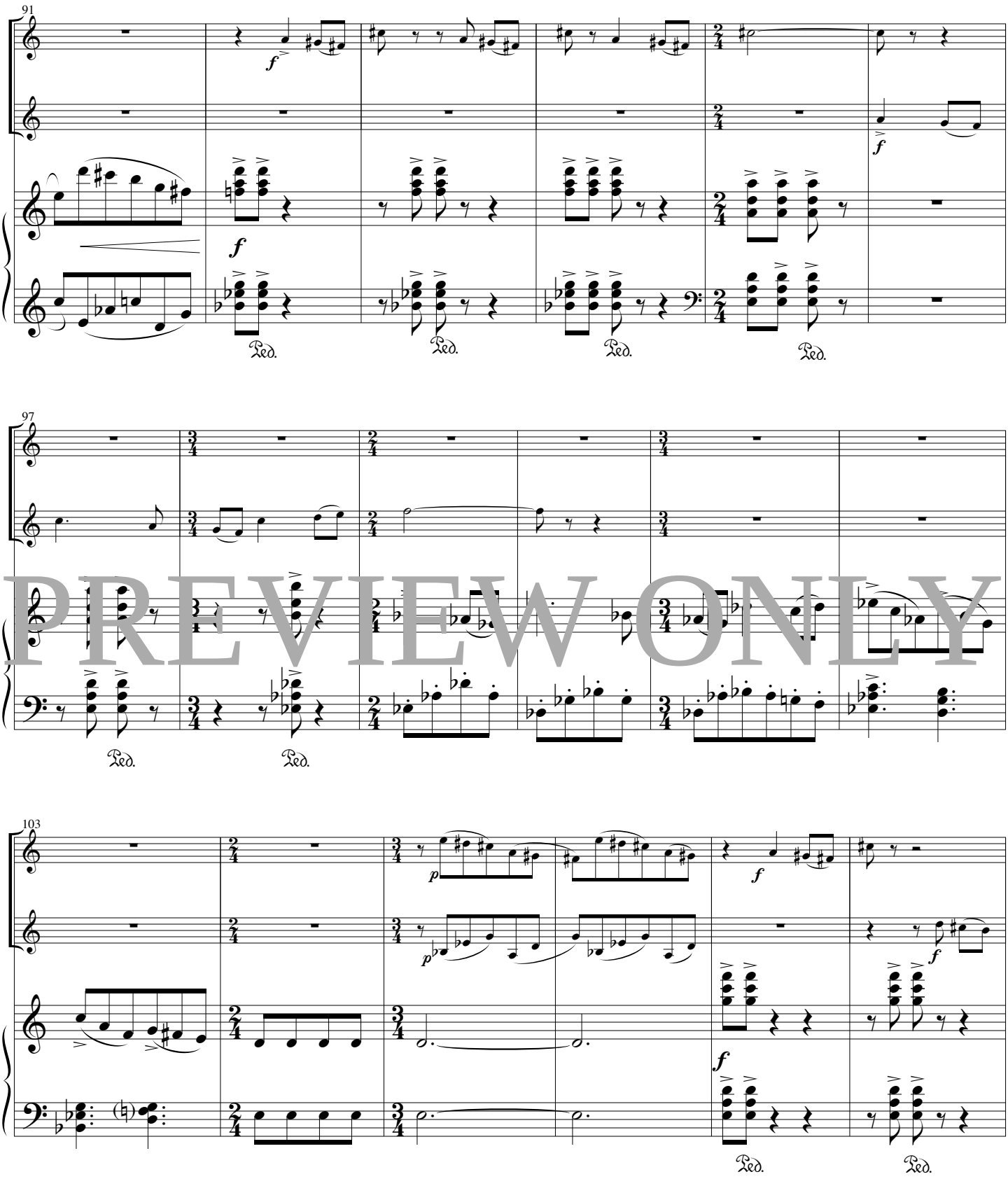

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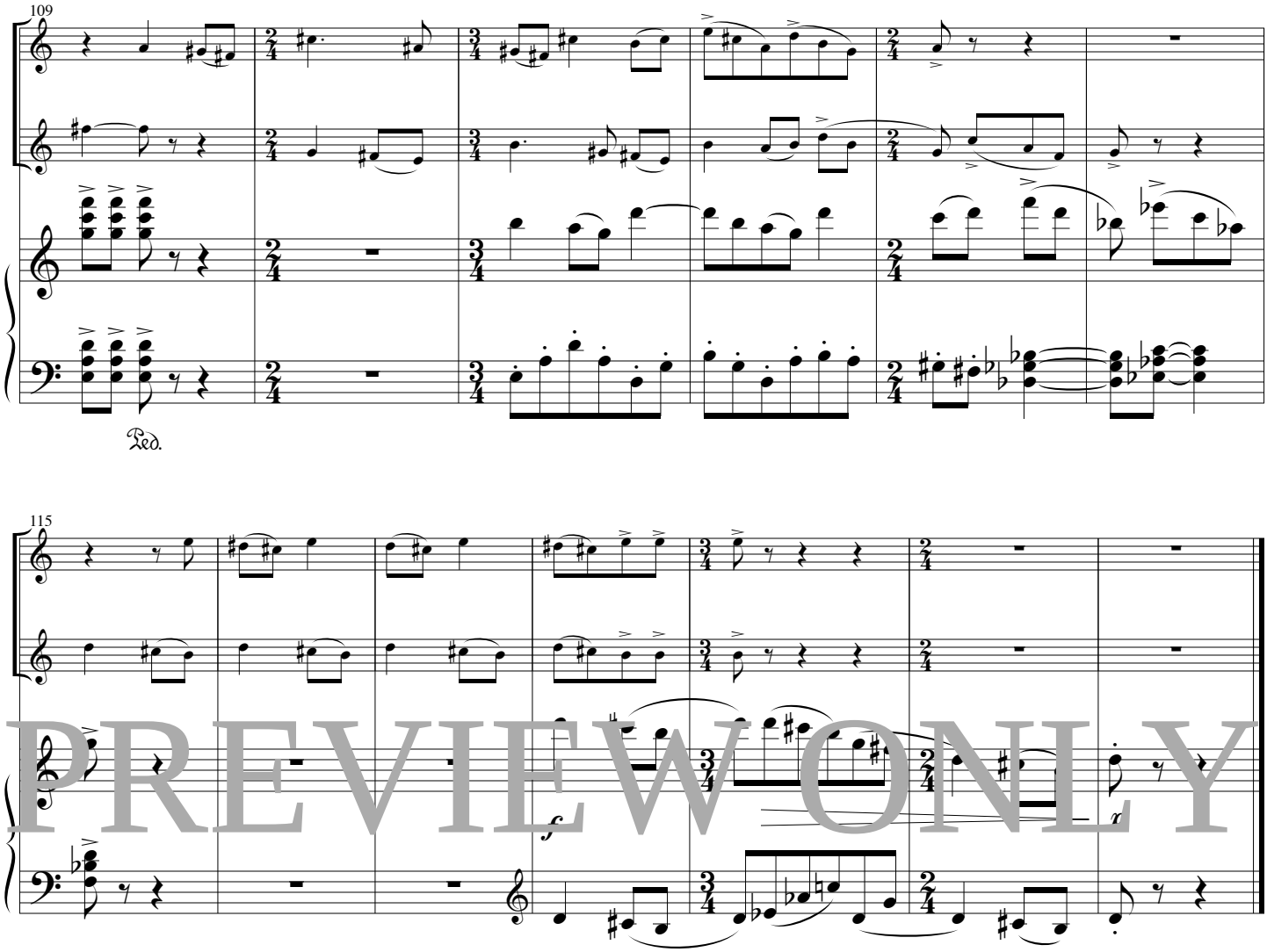

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II. Passacaglia

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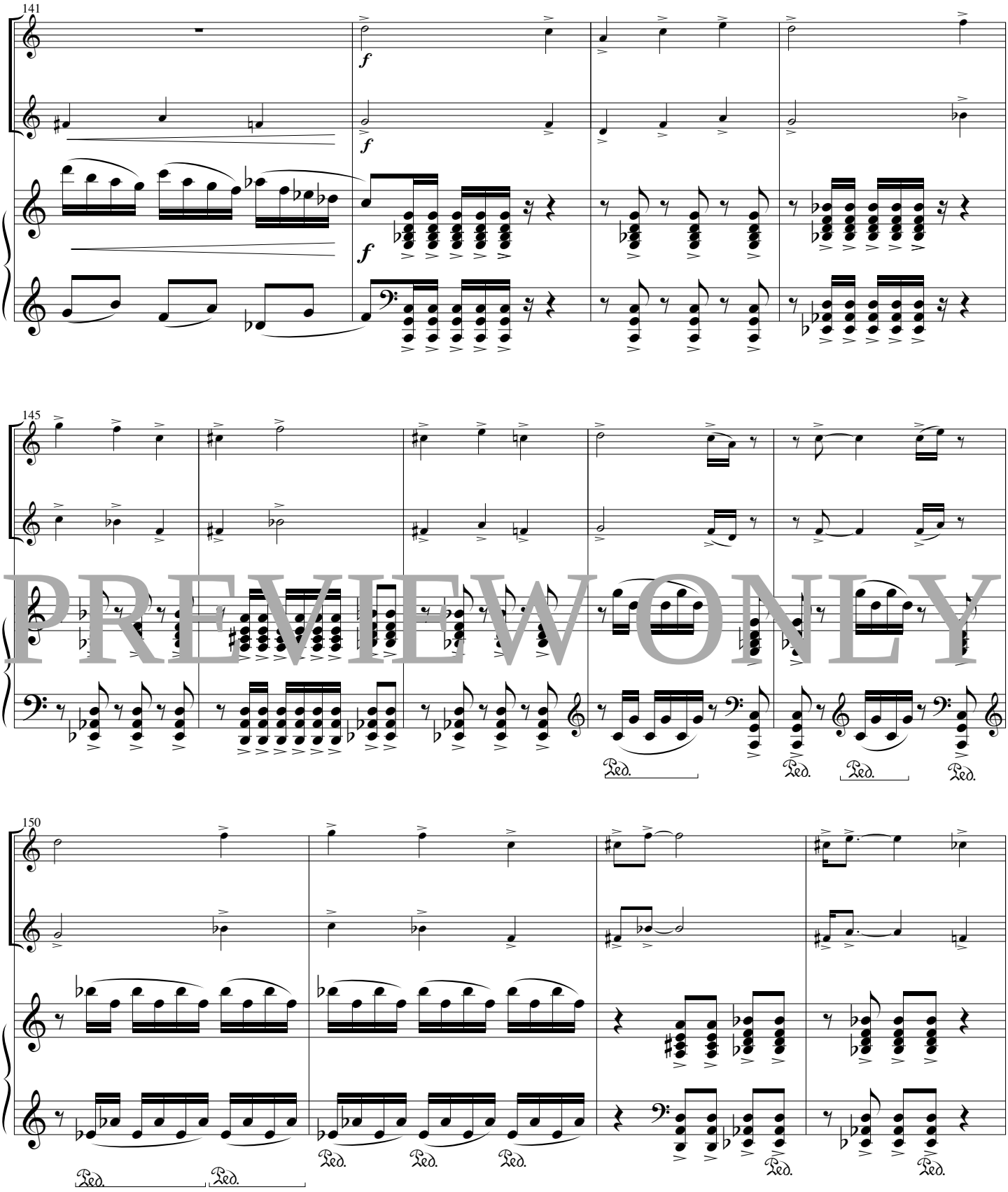

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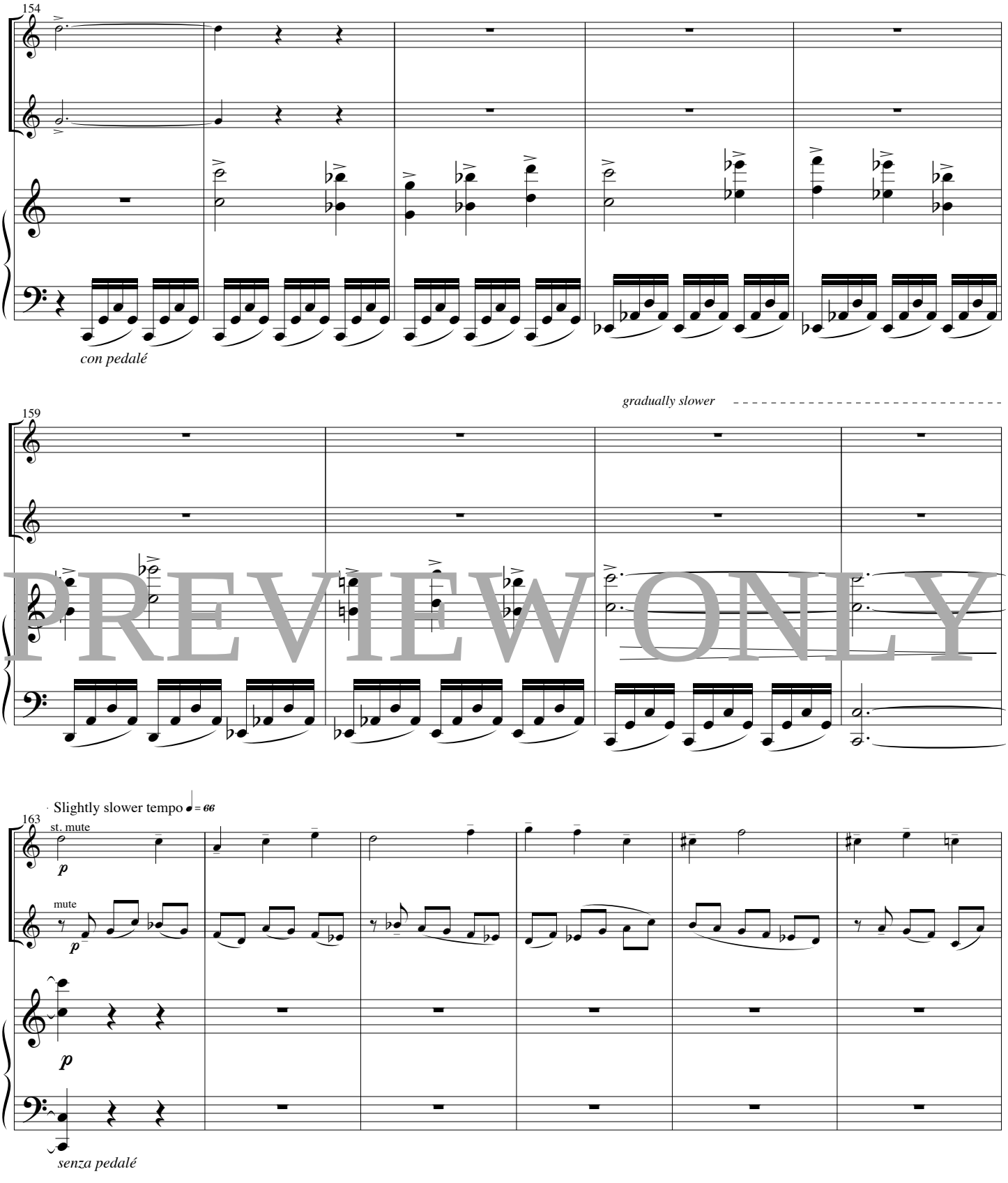

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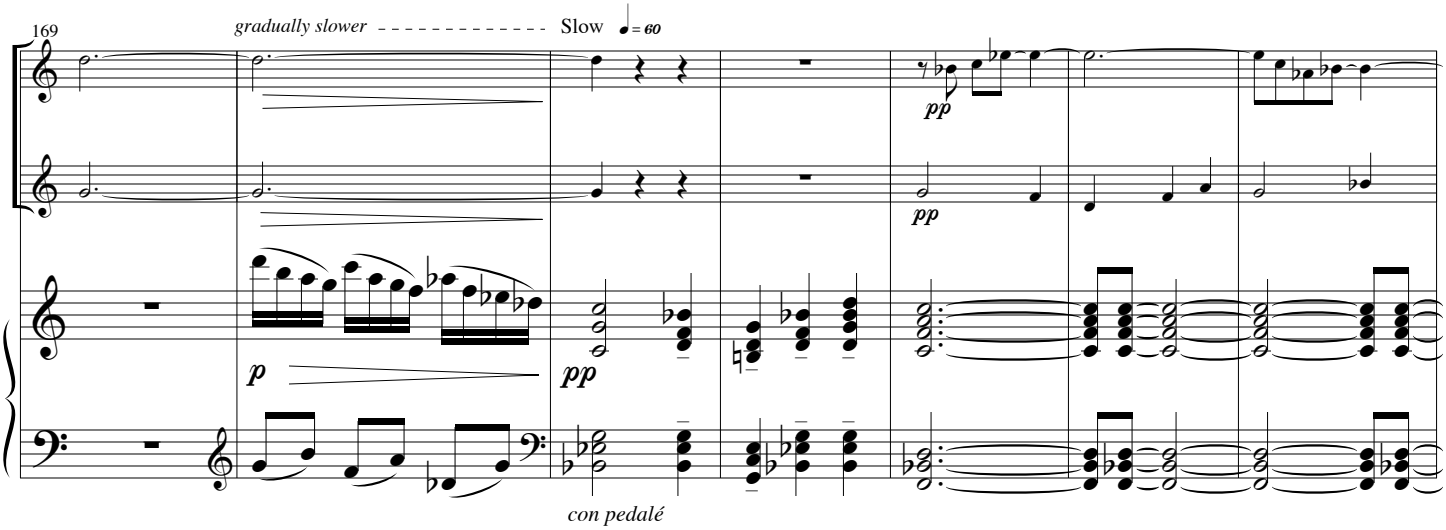

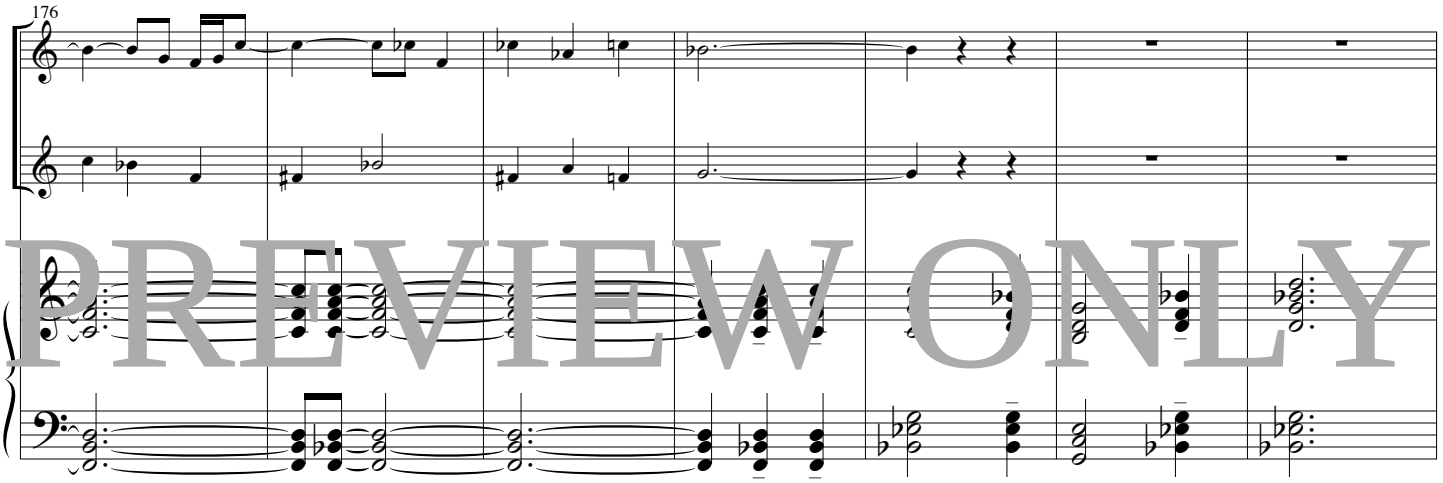

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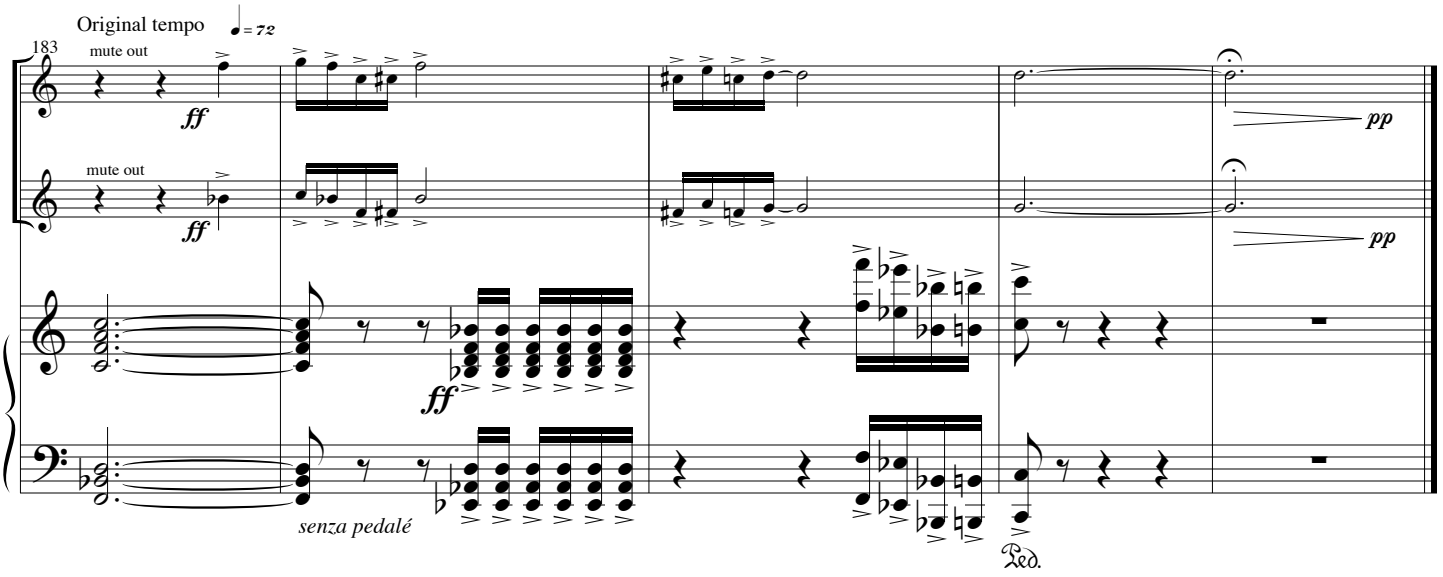
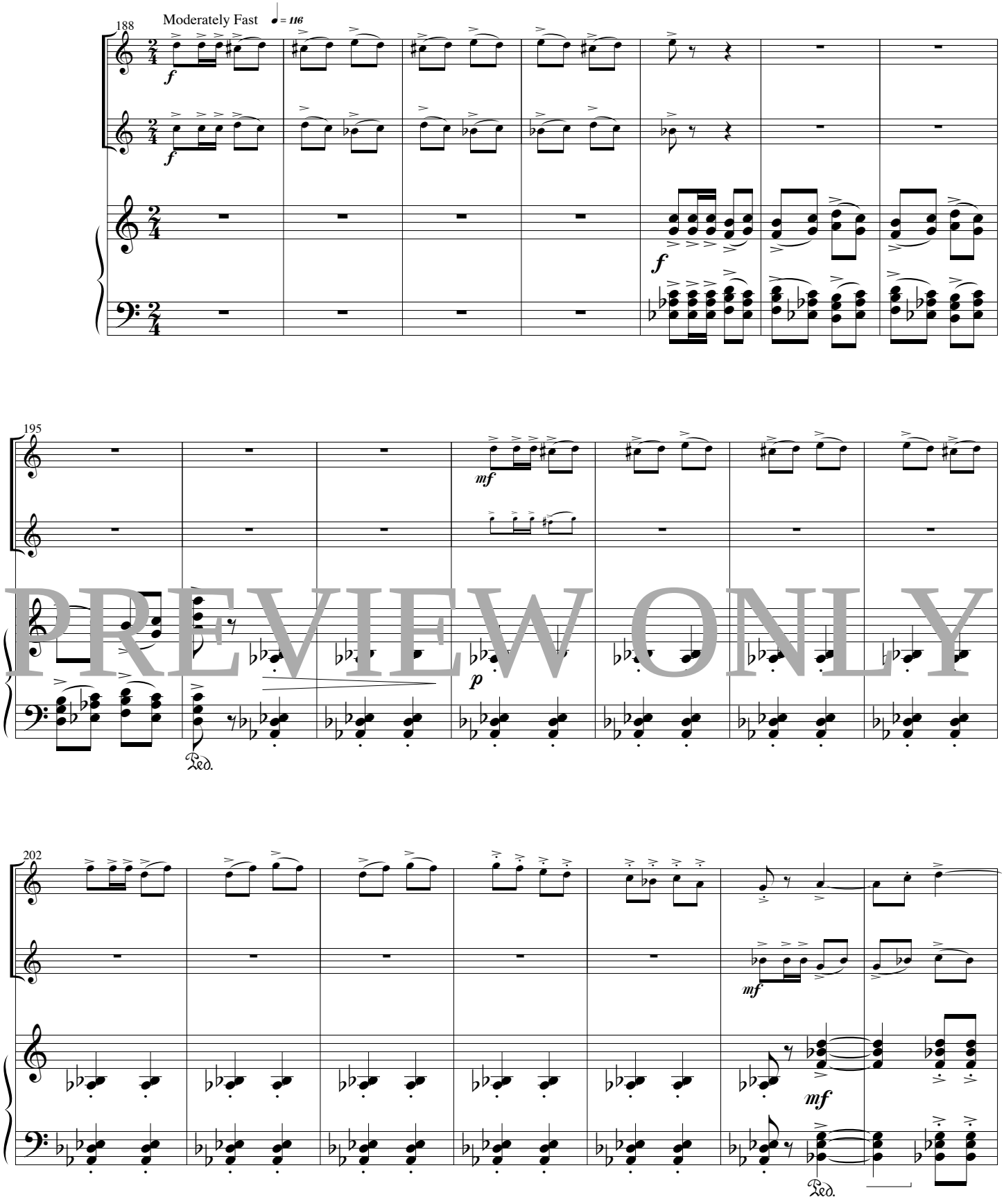


III. Toccata



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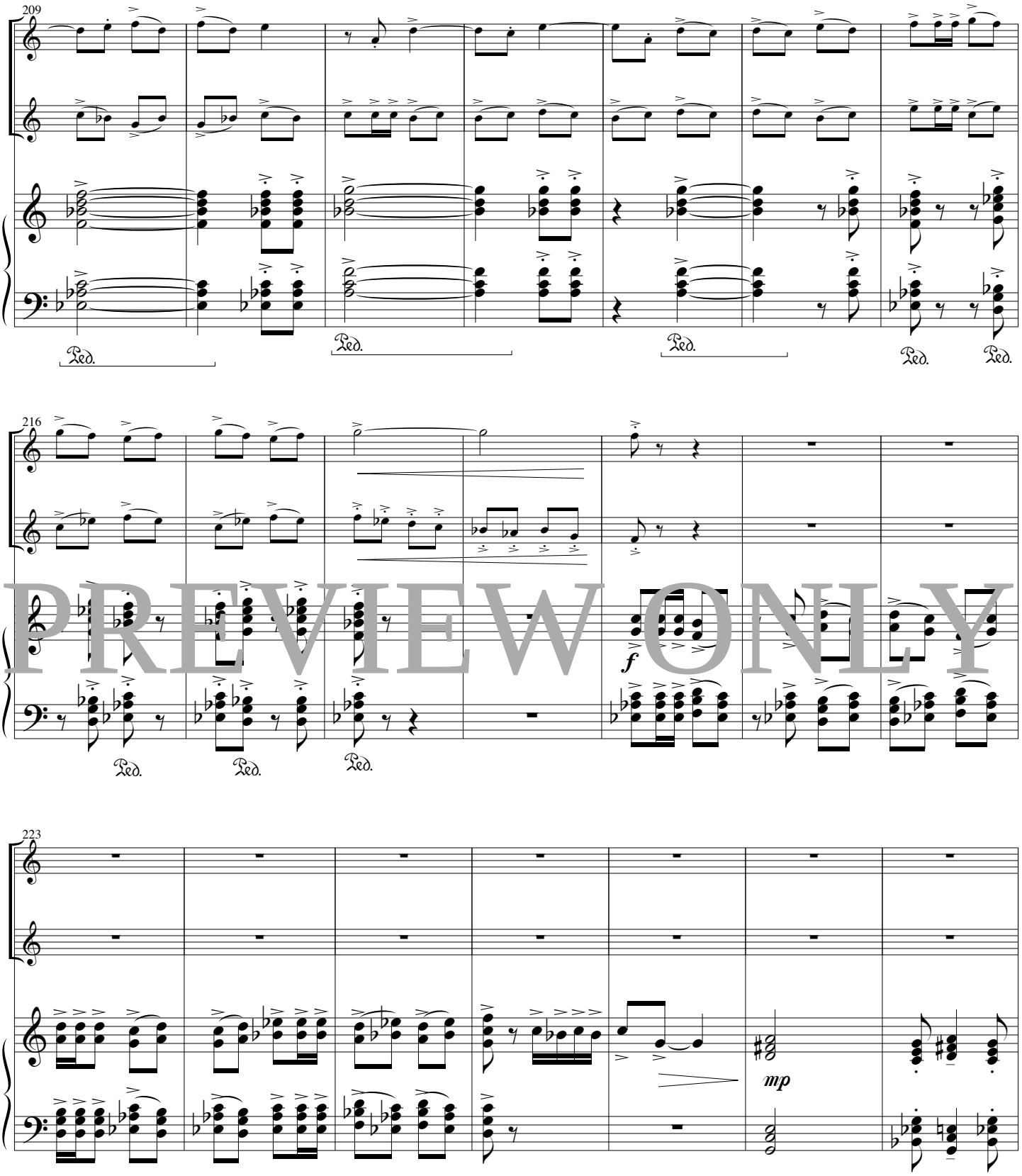

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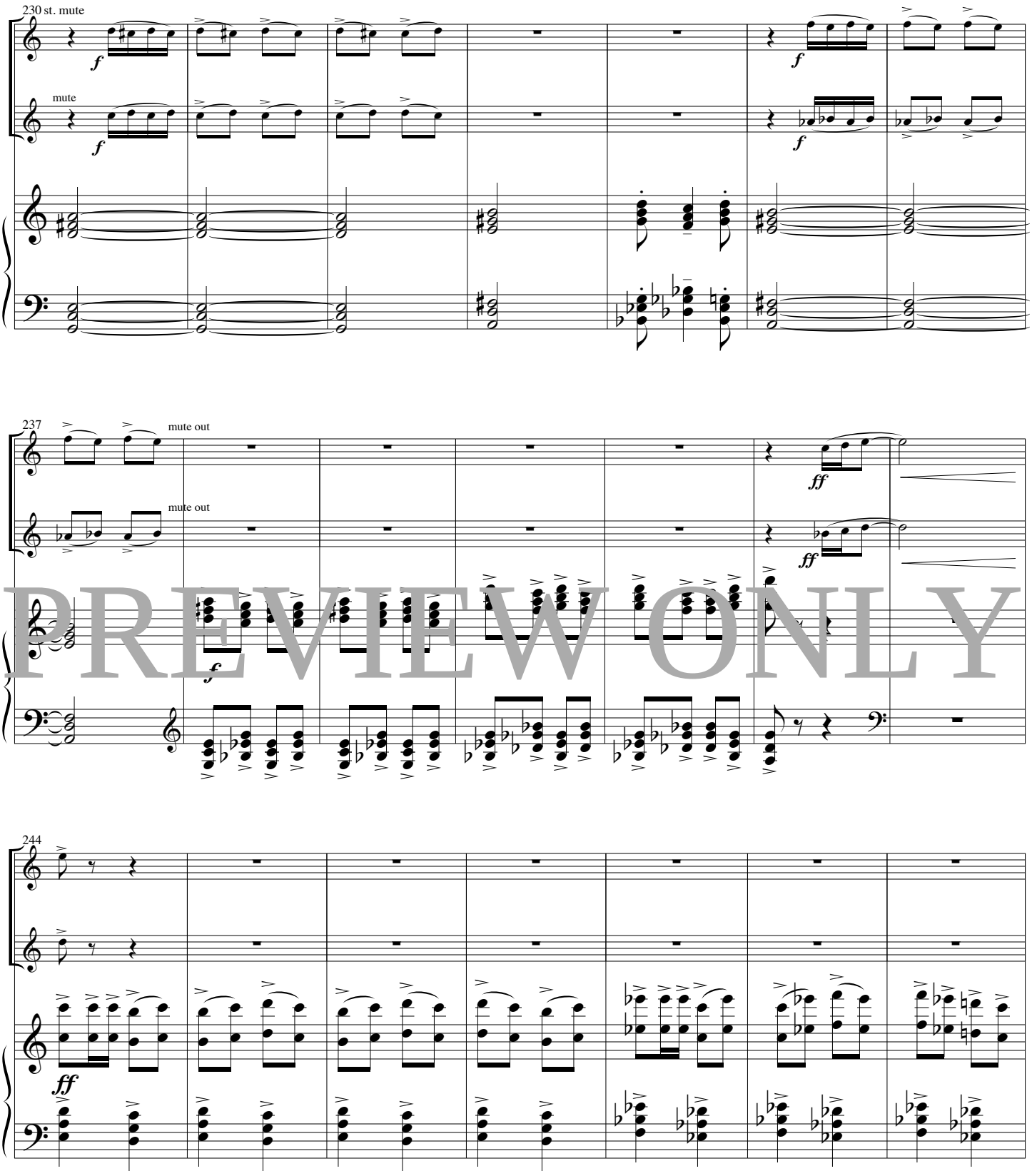

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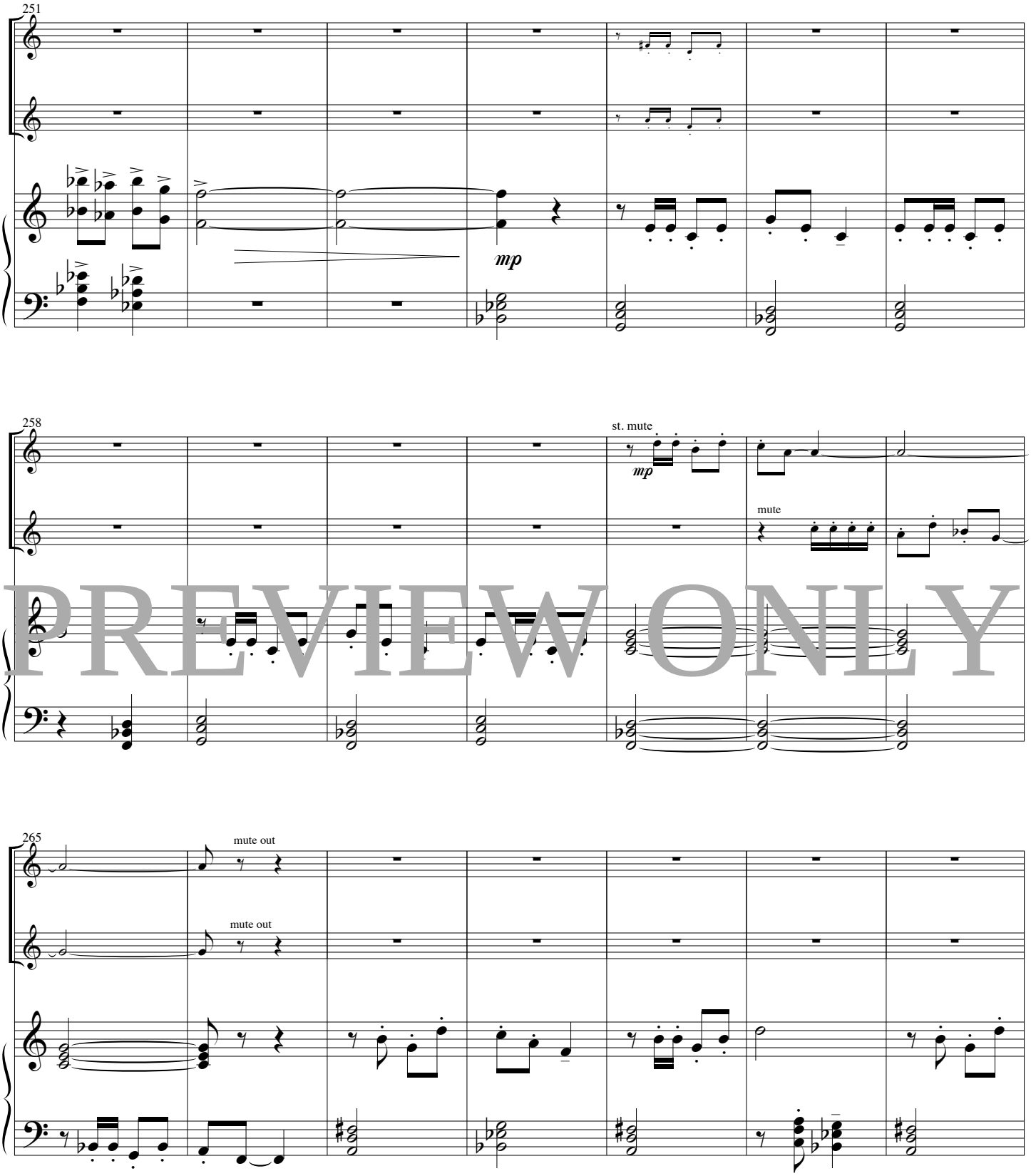

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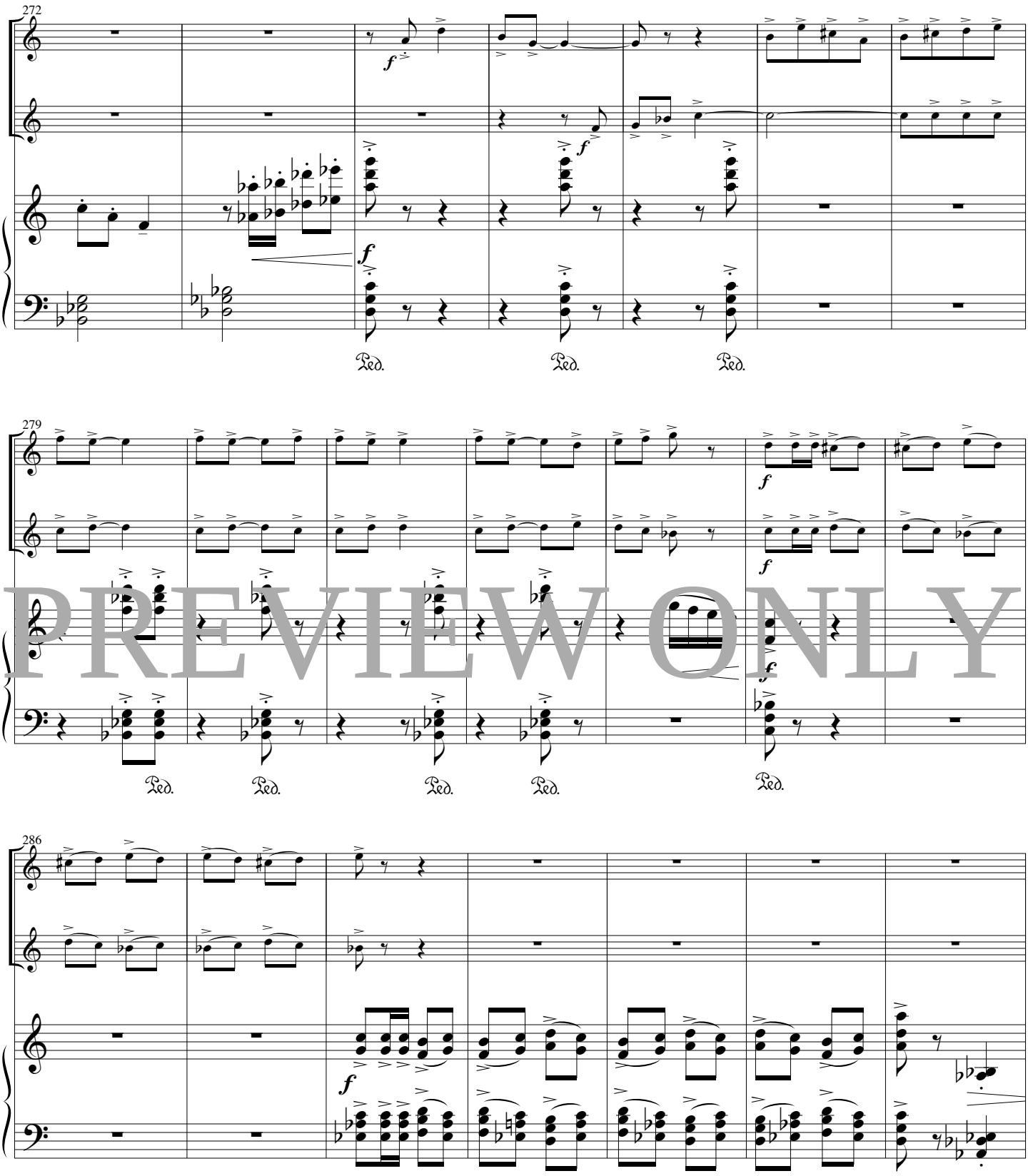

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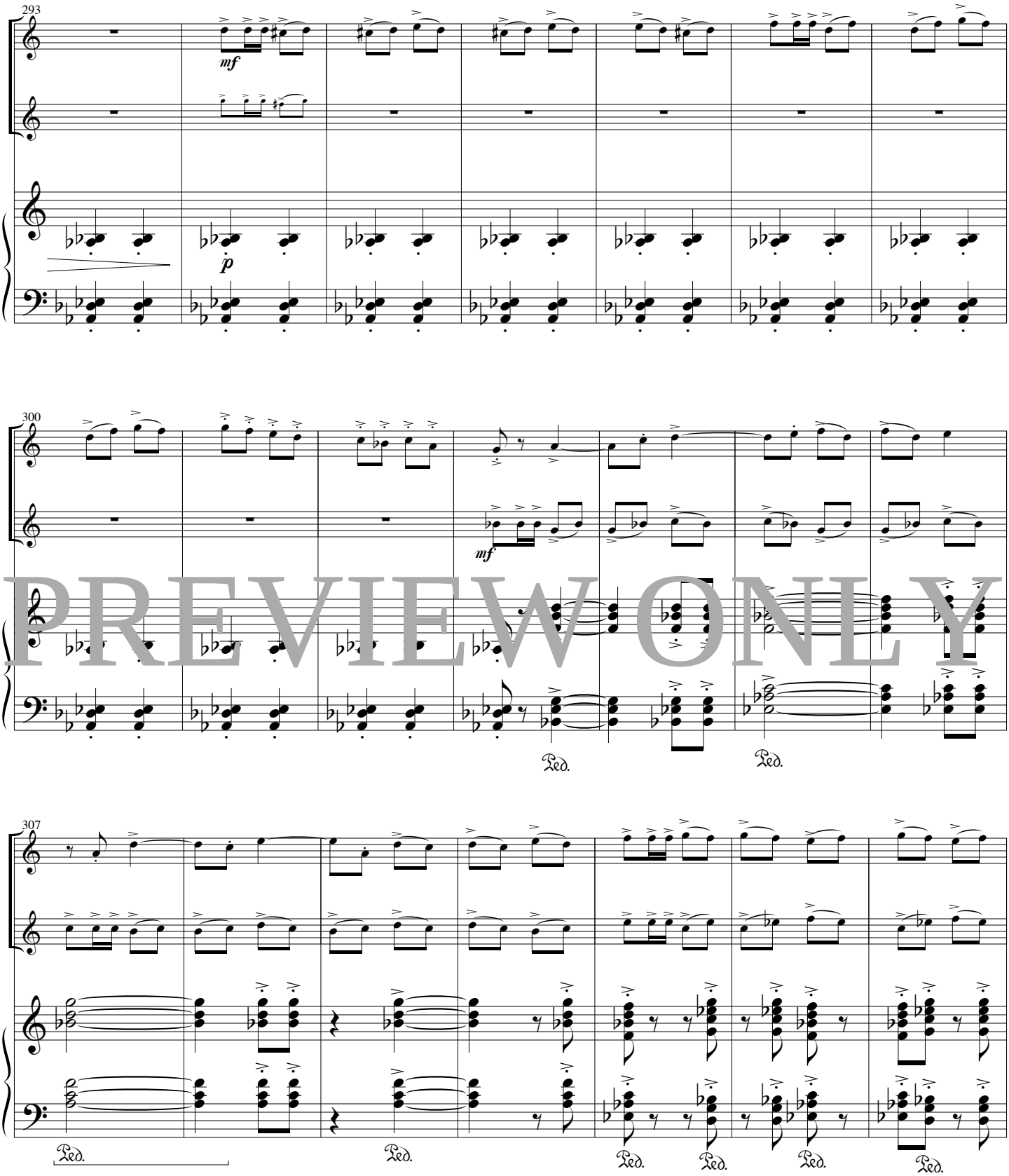

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