MATTHEW DeCHANT

PRESENTS

3 Meditations on *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*

For solo piano, in 3 movements

1. LangUAGE
2. Storytelling
3. DEATH

TOTAL PERFORMANCE TIME: 11 MINUTES

PREVIEW

Movement 1: Language

> ROSENCRANTZ: “What are you playing at?”
> GUILDENSTERN: “Words. Words. They're all we have to go on.”
> - Tom Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*

A movement about the author’s experience with a lifelong stutter, and the author’s experience as a person who communicates through language. You are also a person who communicates through language, an inherently inadequate and absurd thing. Isn’t that funny?

Movement 2: Storytelling

> THE PLAYER: “We're more of the love, blood, and rhetoric school. Well, we can do you blood and love without the rhetoric, and we can do you blood and rhetoric without the love, and we can do you all three concurrent or consecutive. But we can't give you love and rhetoric without the blood. Blood is compulsory. They're all blood, you see.”
> - Tom Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*

All music is theatre, and thus is also composed of love, blood, and rhetoric. This act simply elucidates that. A performance inside of a performance inside of a performance, all bleeding the same blood.

Movement 3: Death

> ROSENCRANTZ: “We might as well be dead. Do you think death could possibly be a boat?”
> GUILDENSTERN: “No, no, no... Death is...not. Death isn't. You take my meaning. Death is the ultimate negative. Not-being. You can't not-be on a boat.”
> ROSENCRANTZ: “I've frequently not been on boats.”
> GUILDENSTERN: “No, no, no--what you've been is not on boats.”
> - Tom Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*

For as long as people have lived, people have died, and people haven’t known what to make of it. Who says we need to make anything at all of it?

PERFORMANCE NOTES

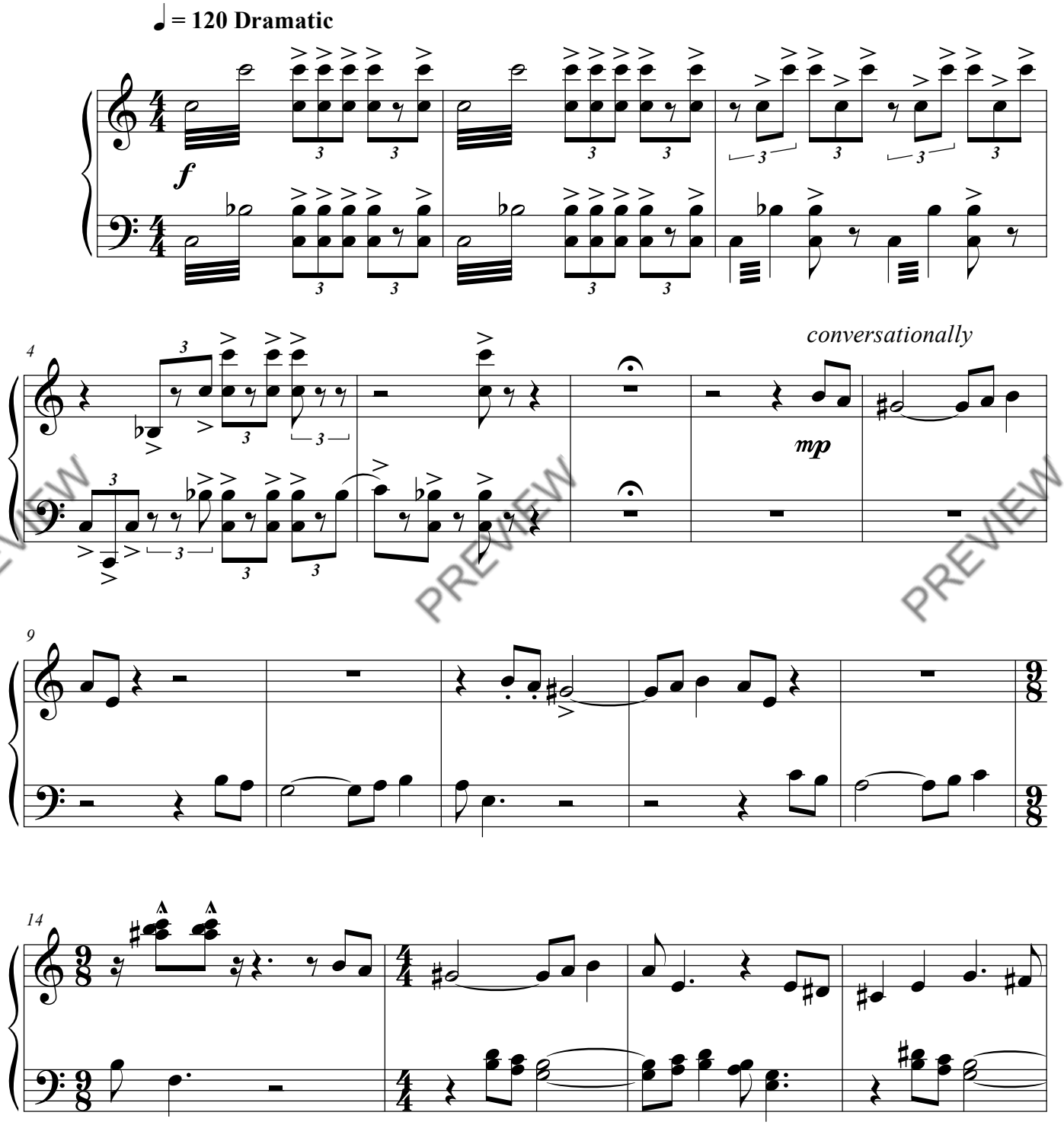
This piece must be performed with the utmost theatricality, yet also with the knowledge that theatre is dead, theatre remains dead, and we have killed it. Above all, in spite of it all, the performer must perform.

PREVIEW

3 Meditations on "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead"

1. Language

Matthew DeChant



PREVIEW

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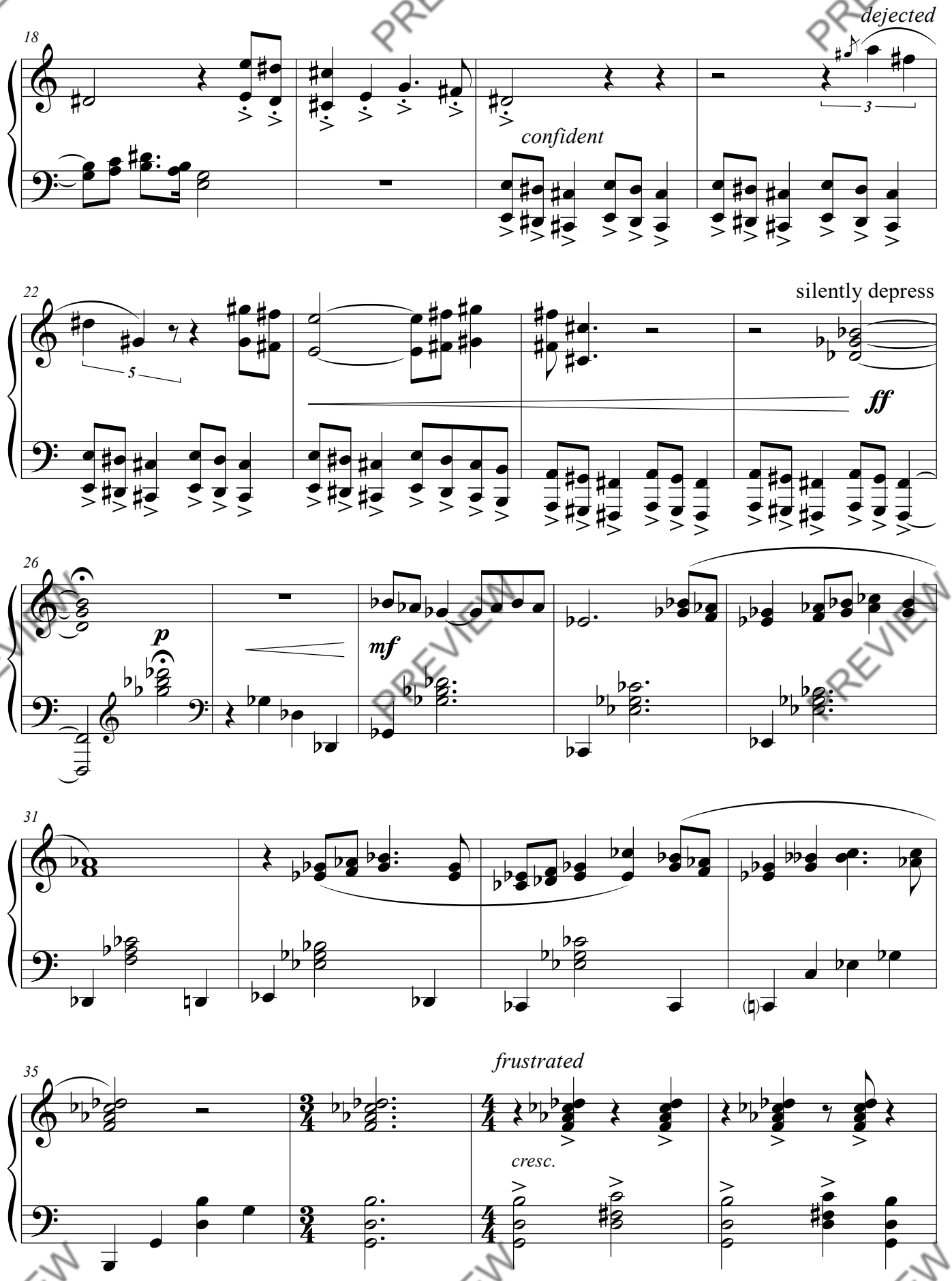
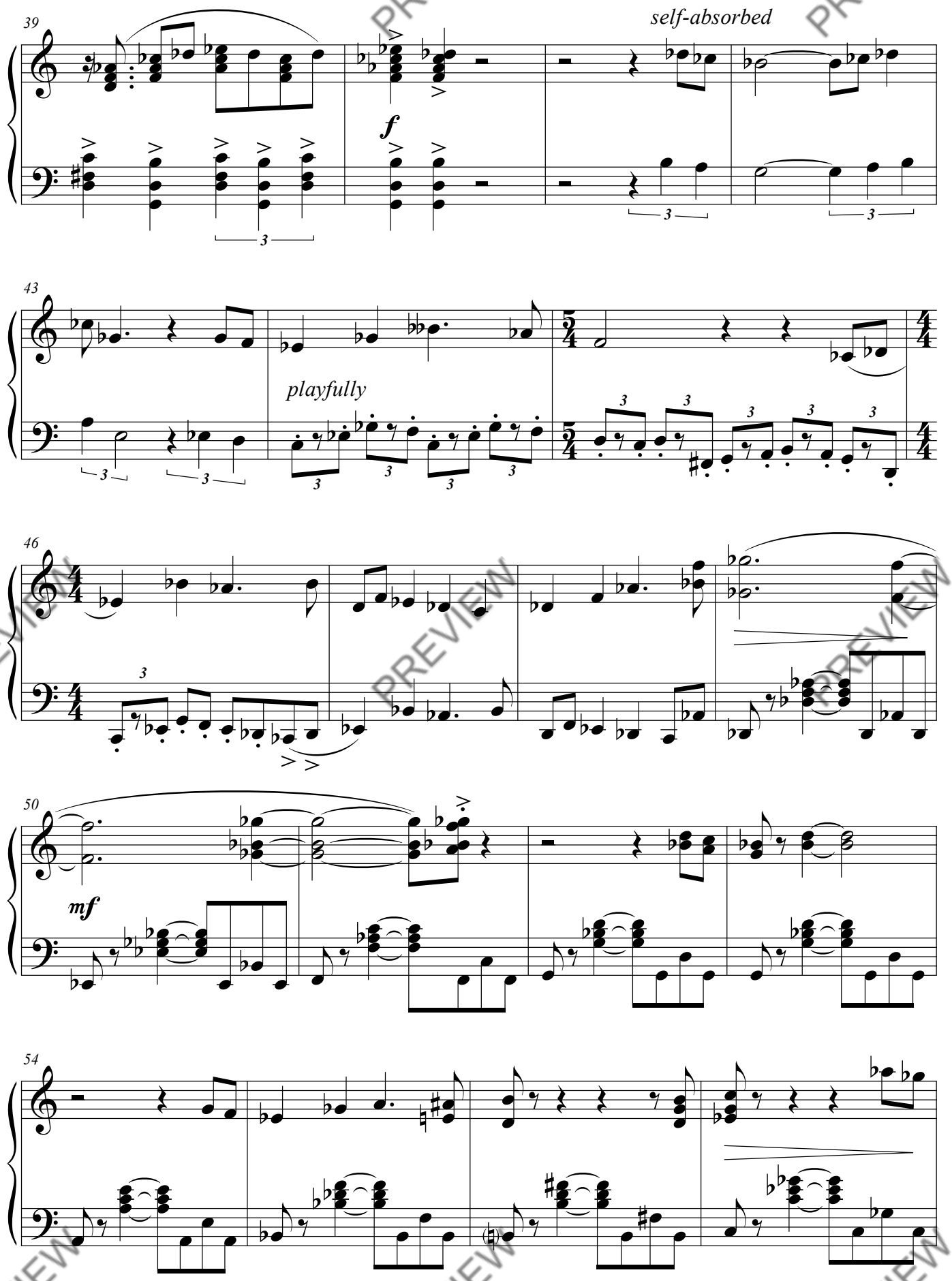

18
dejected
confident
22
silently depress
ff
26
p
mf
31
35
frustrated
cresc.

PREVIEW



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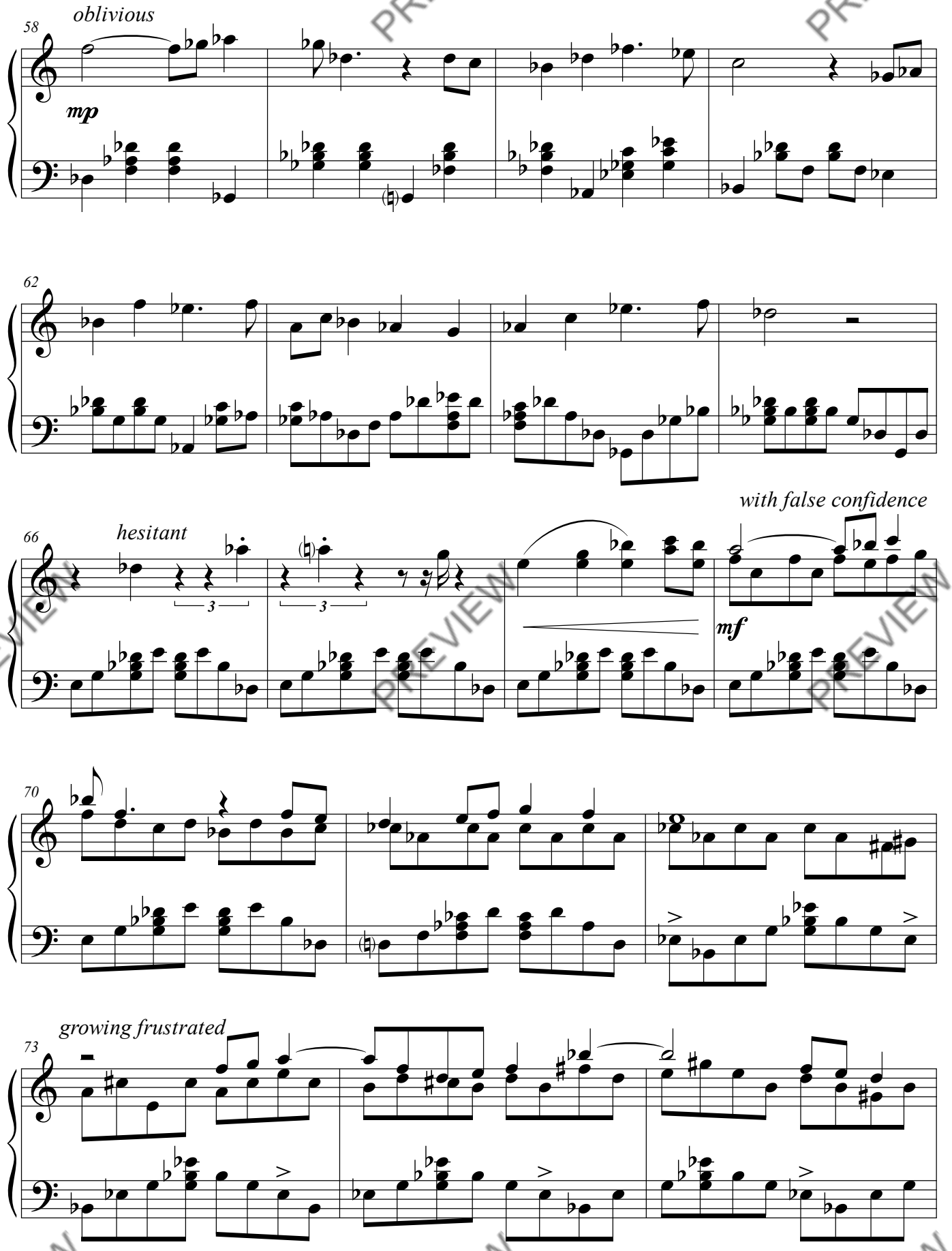
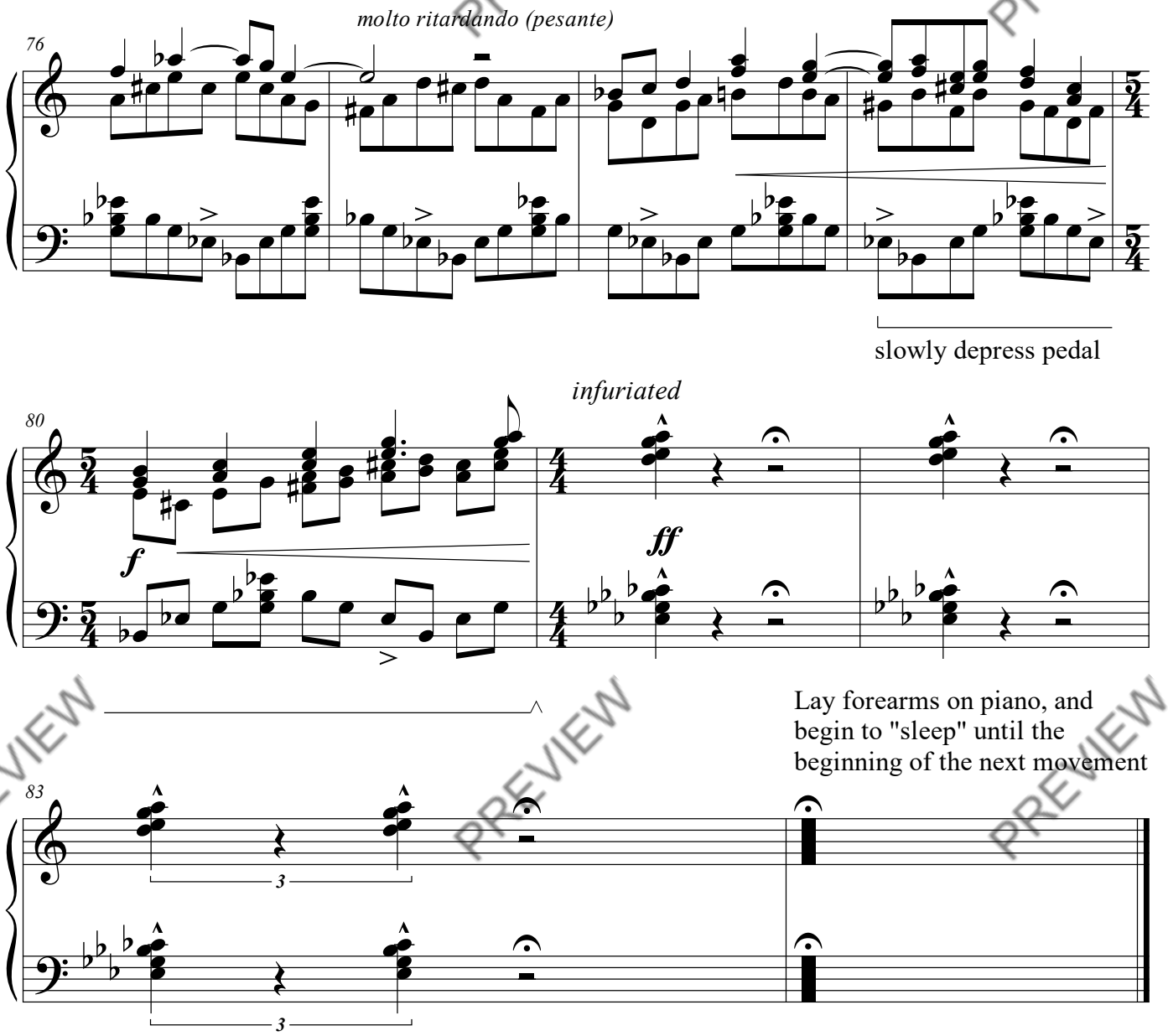
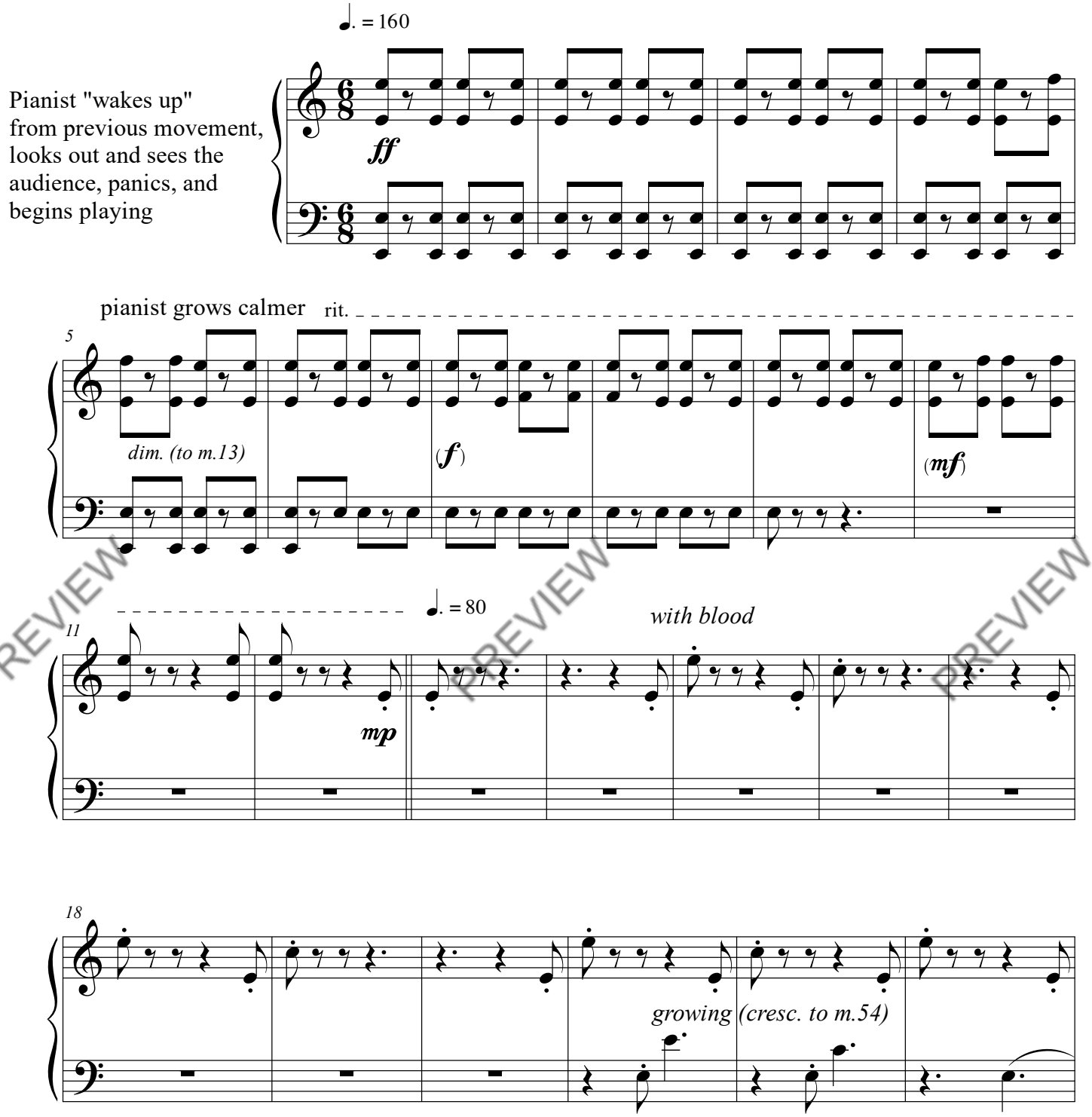

oblivious
58
mp
62
with false confidence
66
hesitant
3
3
mf
70
growing frustrated
73

PREVIEW


molto ritardando (pesante)
76
slowly depress pedal
infuriated
80
f
ff
Lay forearms on piano, and
begin to "sleep" until the
beginning of the next movement
83
3
3

PREVIEW

2. Storytelling



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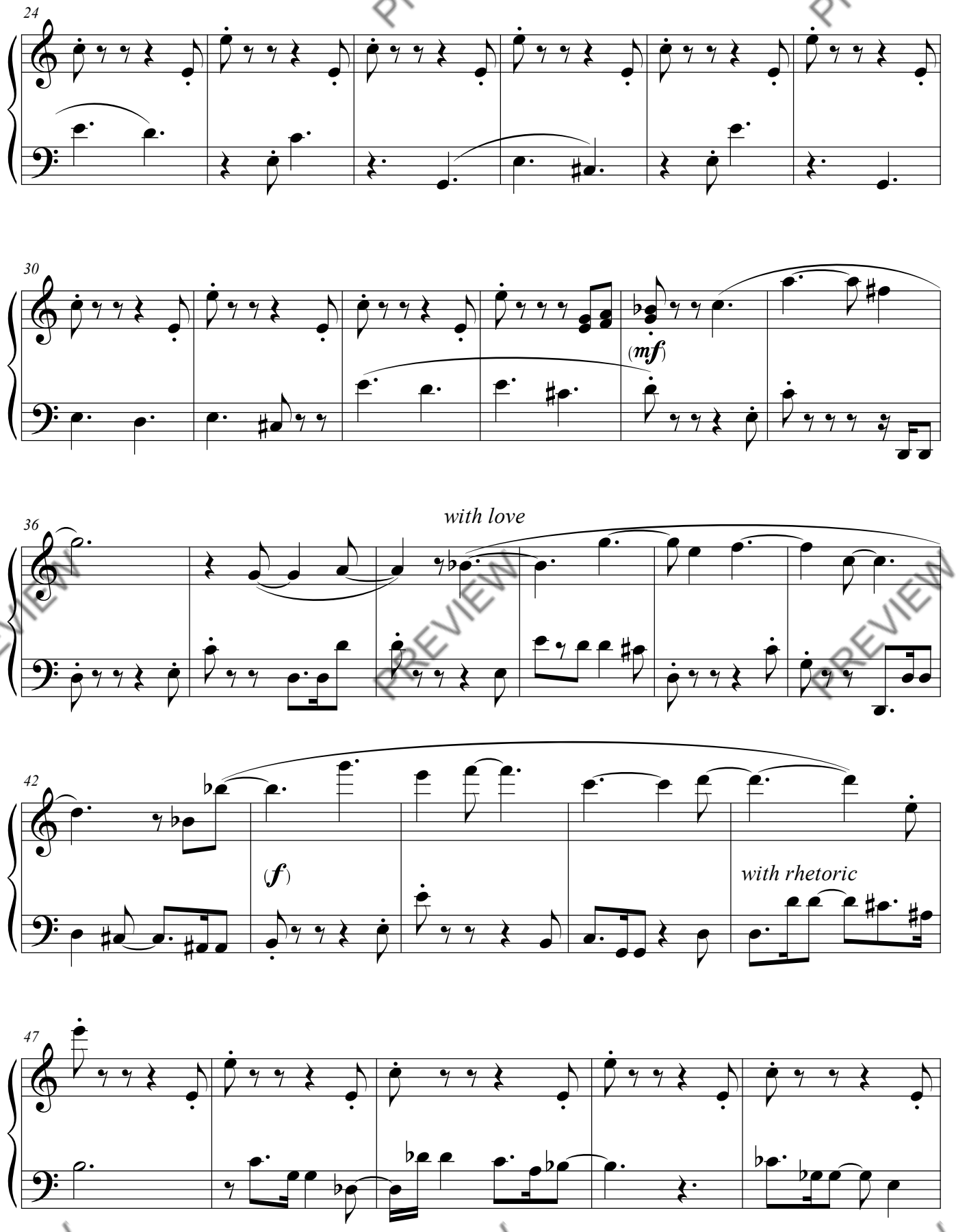

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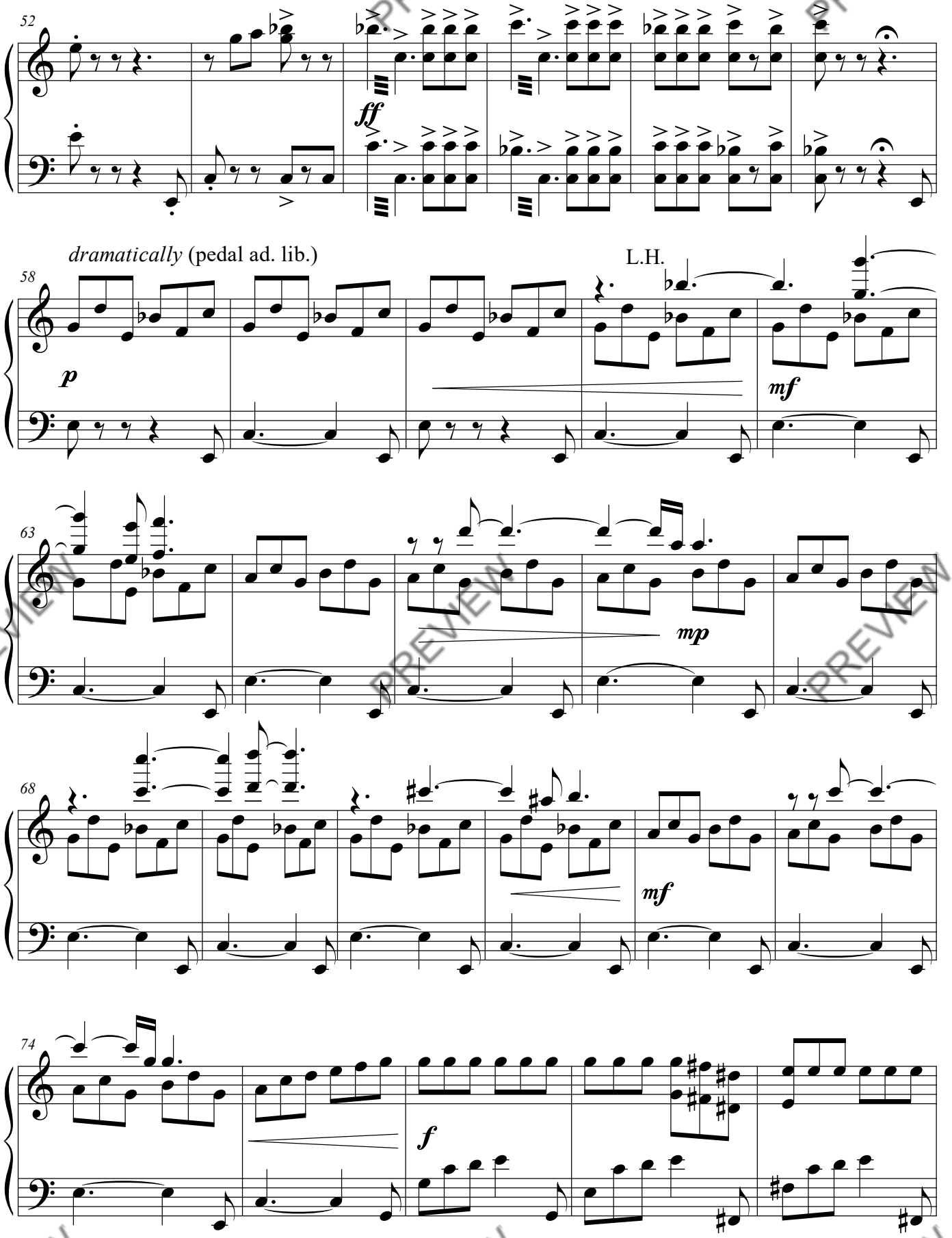

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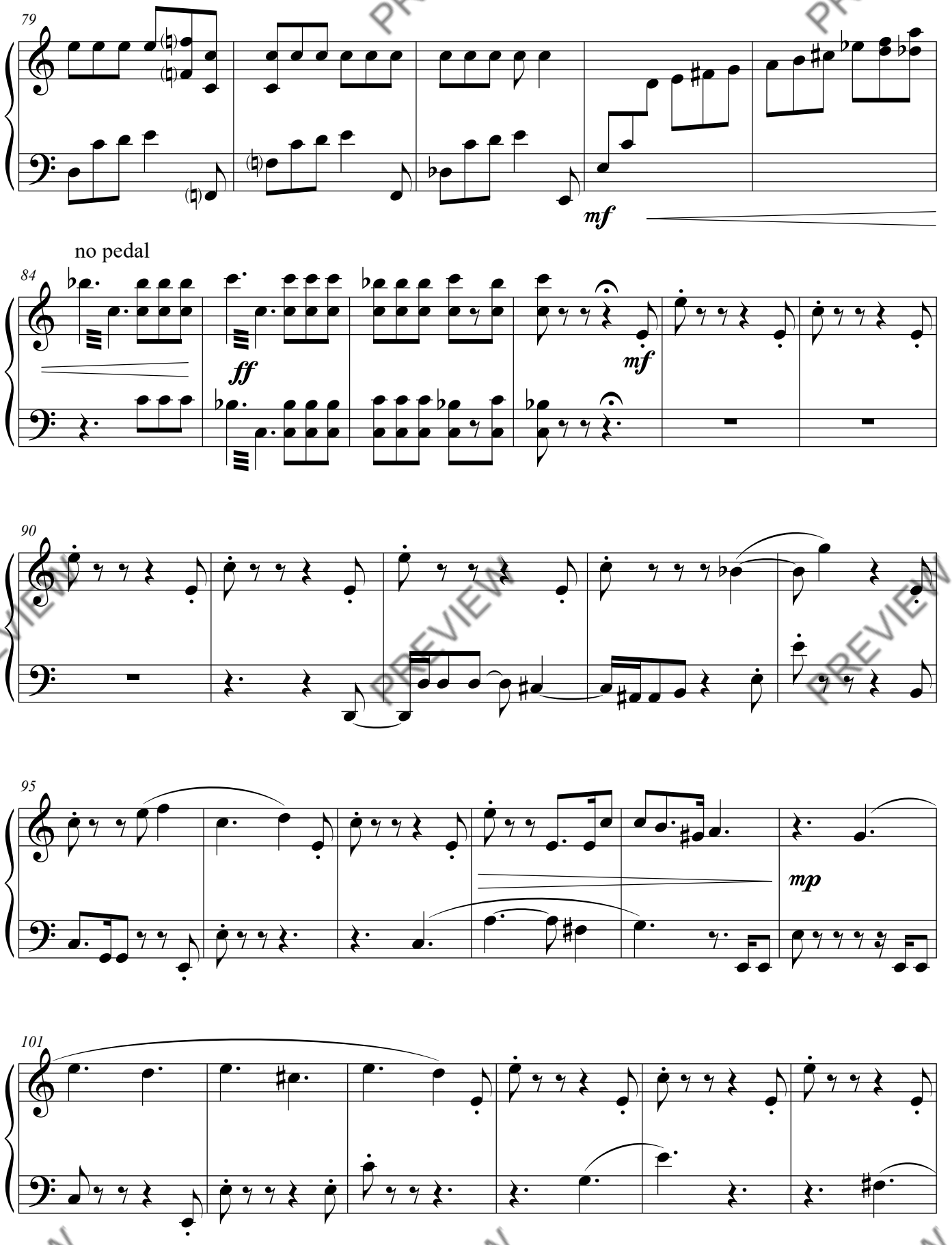

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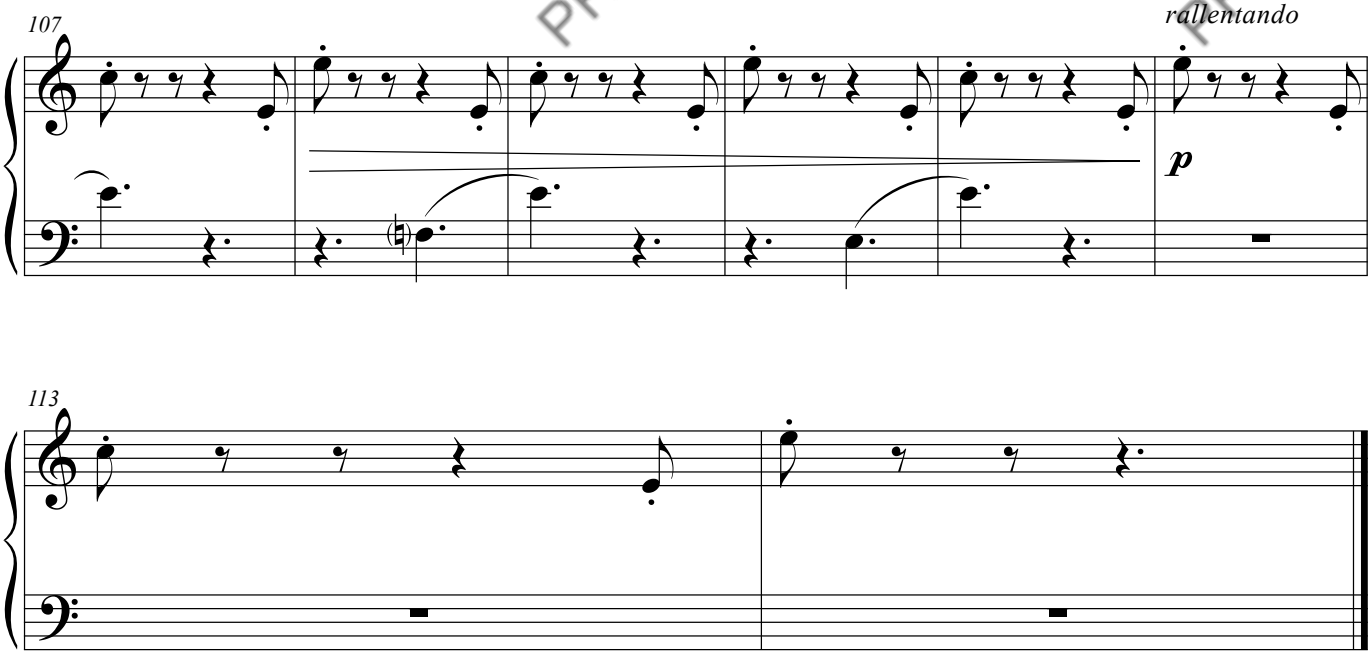
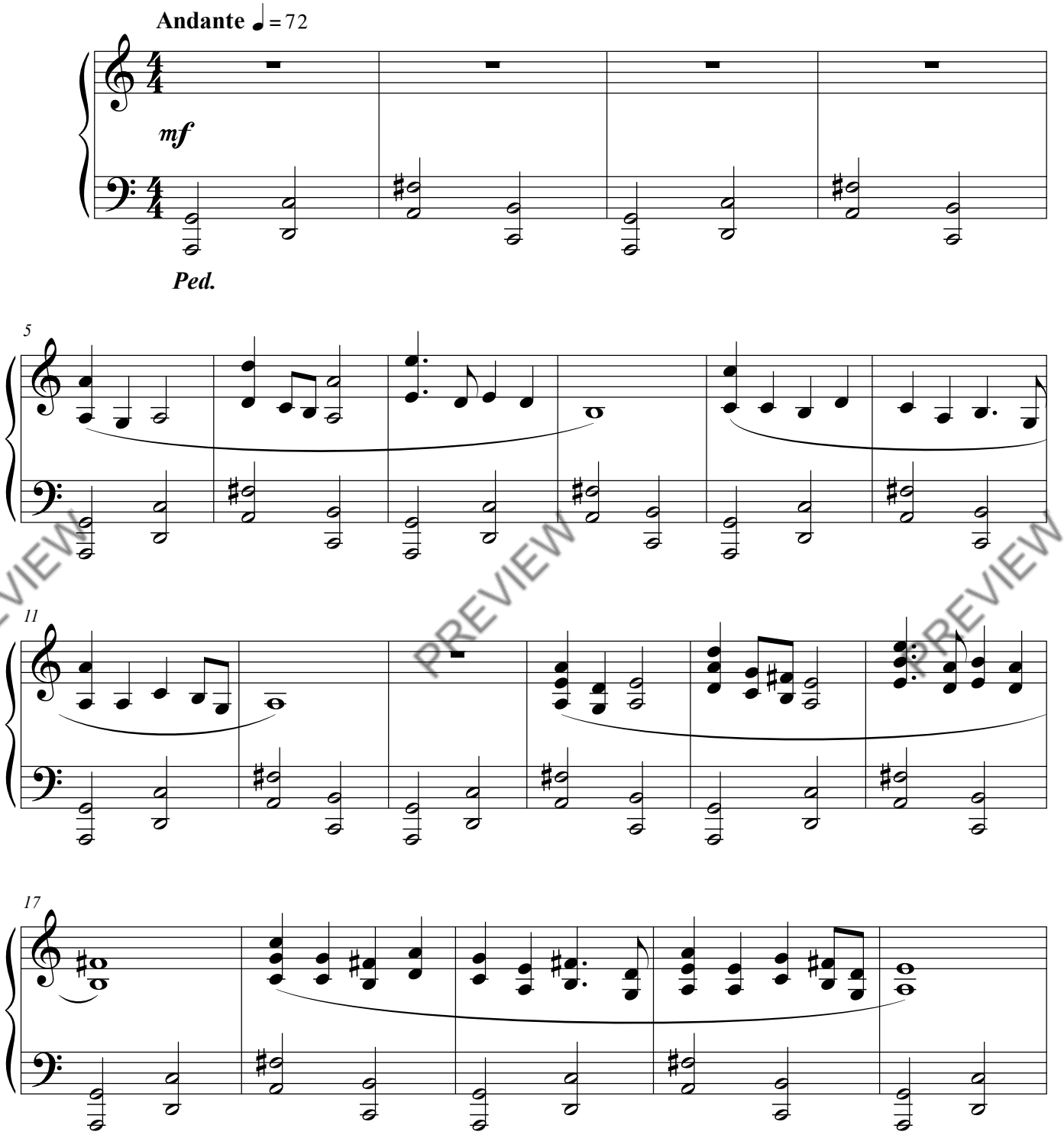


PREVIEW

3. Death



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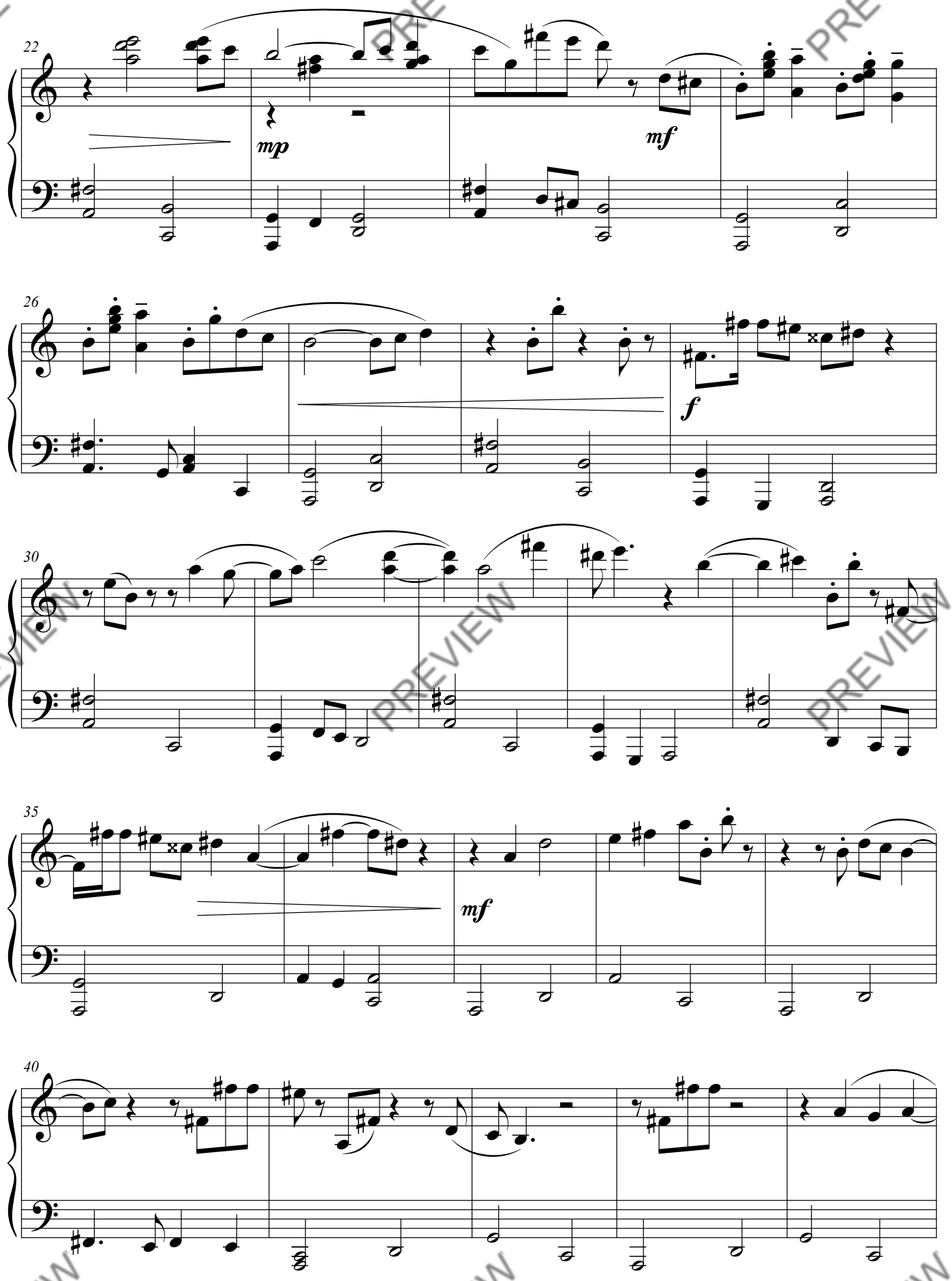

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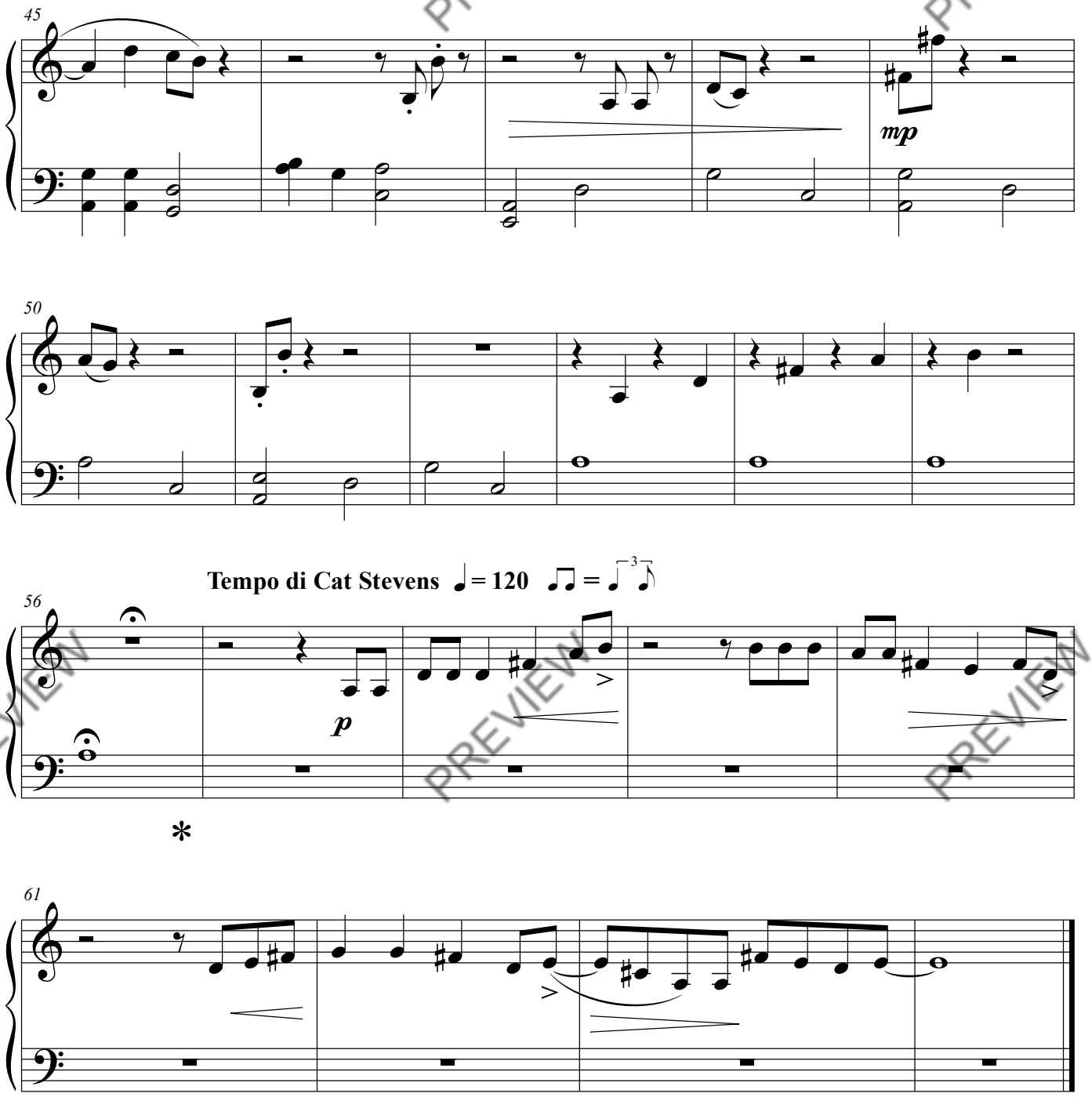

PREVIEW