Eighth Note Publications

Wachet Auf
Cantata 140

Johann Sebastian Bach

Arranged by David Marlatt

THE WORK: Wachet Auf, ruft uns die Stimme is a section from J.S. Bach's (1685-1750) Cantata No. 140. Heralded as one of Bach's finest cantatas, it was written for the 27th Sunday after Trinity. What is interesting about this time is that this Sunday does not exist unless Easter is very early. Therefore, this happened only twice during Bach's years in Leipzig. The libretto is based of a hymn by Philipp Nicolai (1599) and due to the nature of the writing, this work is considered a chorale cantata.

Bach wrote many cantatas but none have maintained the popularity of this excerpt from No. 140. This is most likely due to the elegant, flowing nature of the writing that is so distinctly Bach.

THE ARRANGEMENT: The dynamic is marked fairly soft until near the end so players should strive for playing the uppermost lines effortlessly without increasing dynamic. Also the matching of articulations, trills and other musical nuances is crucial since there is quite a bit of unison and octave writing.

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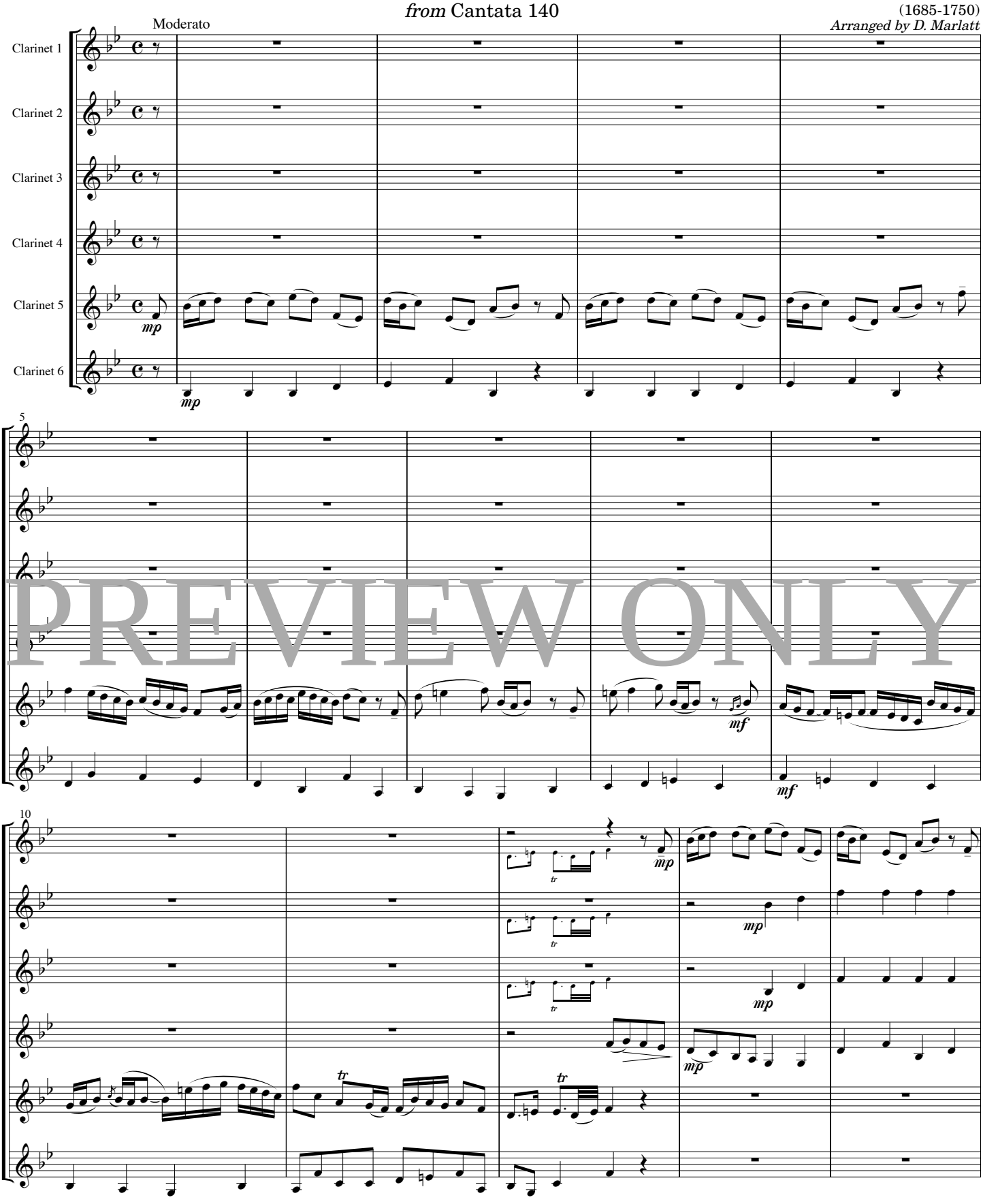
6 Clarinets

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

from Cantata 140

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)
Arranged by D. Marlatt



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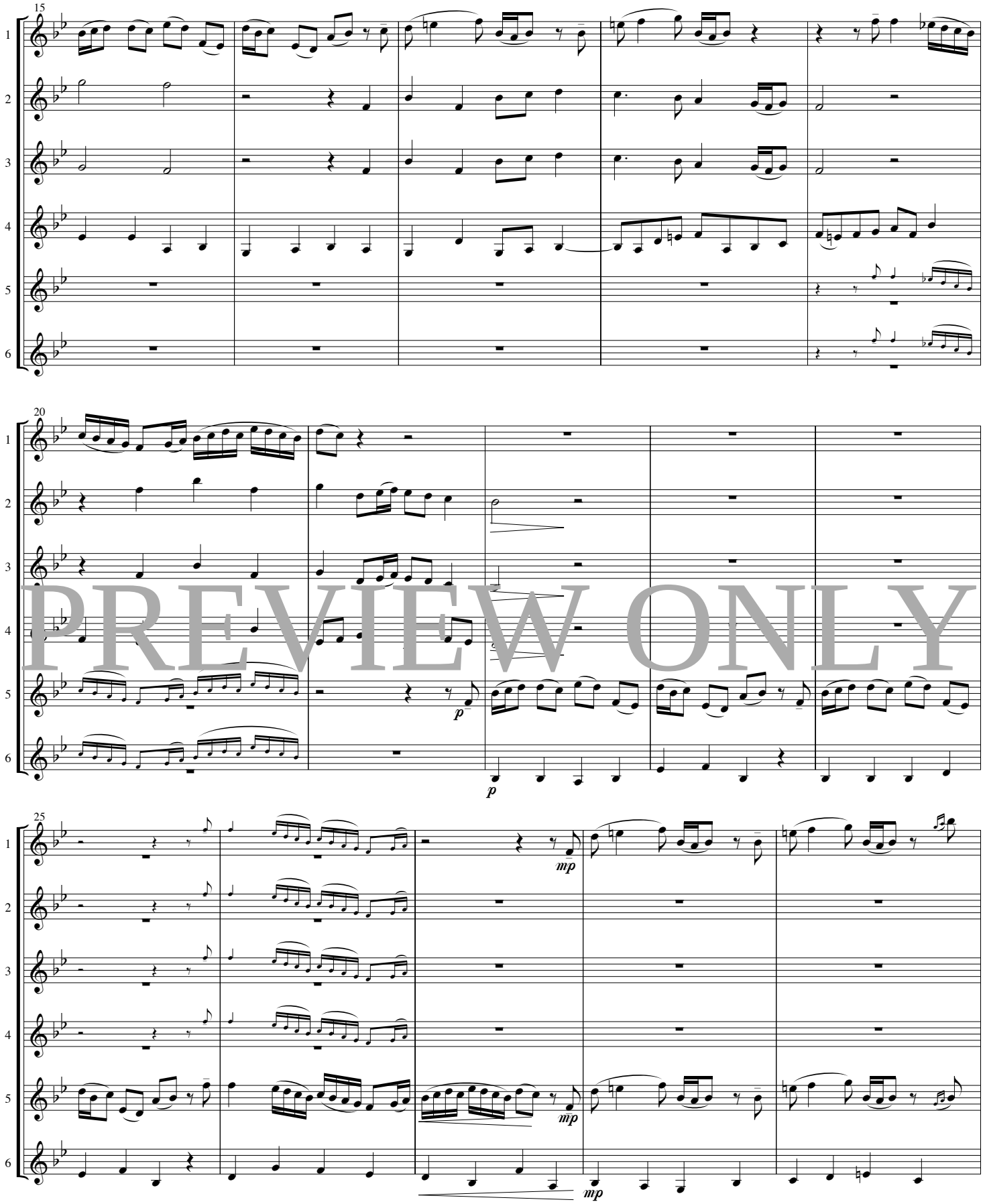

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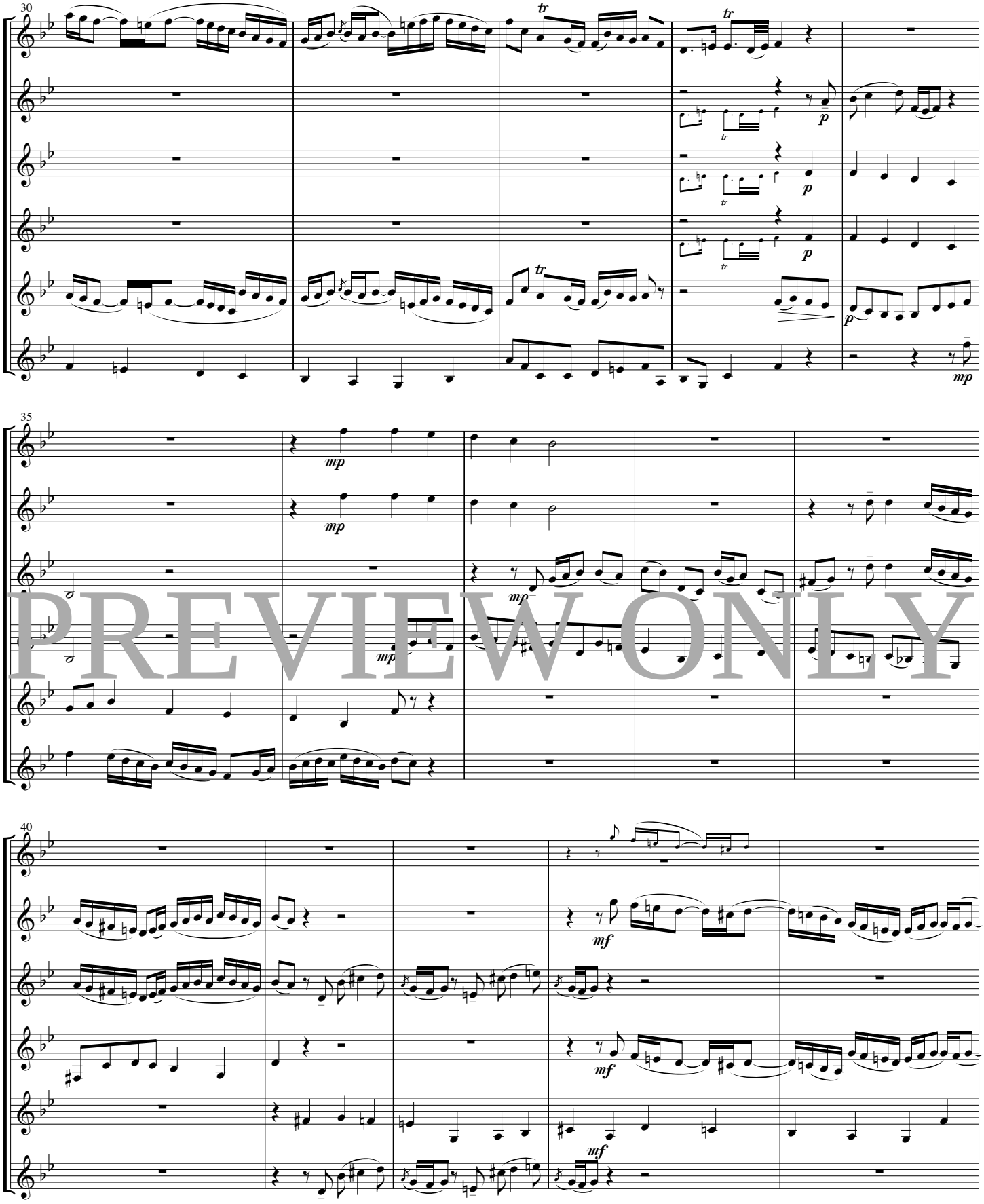
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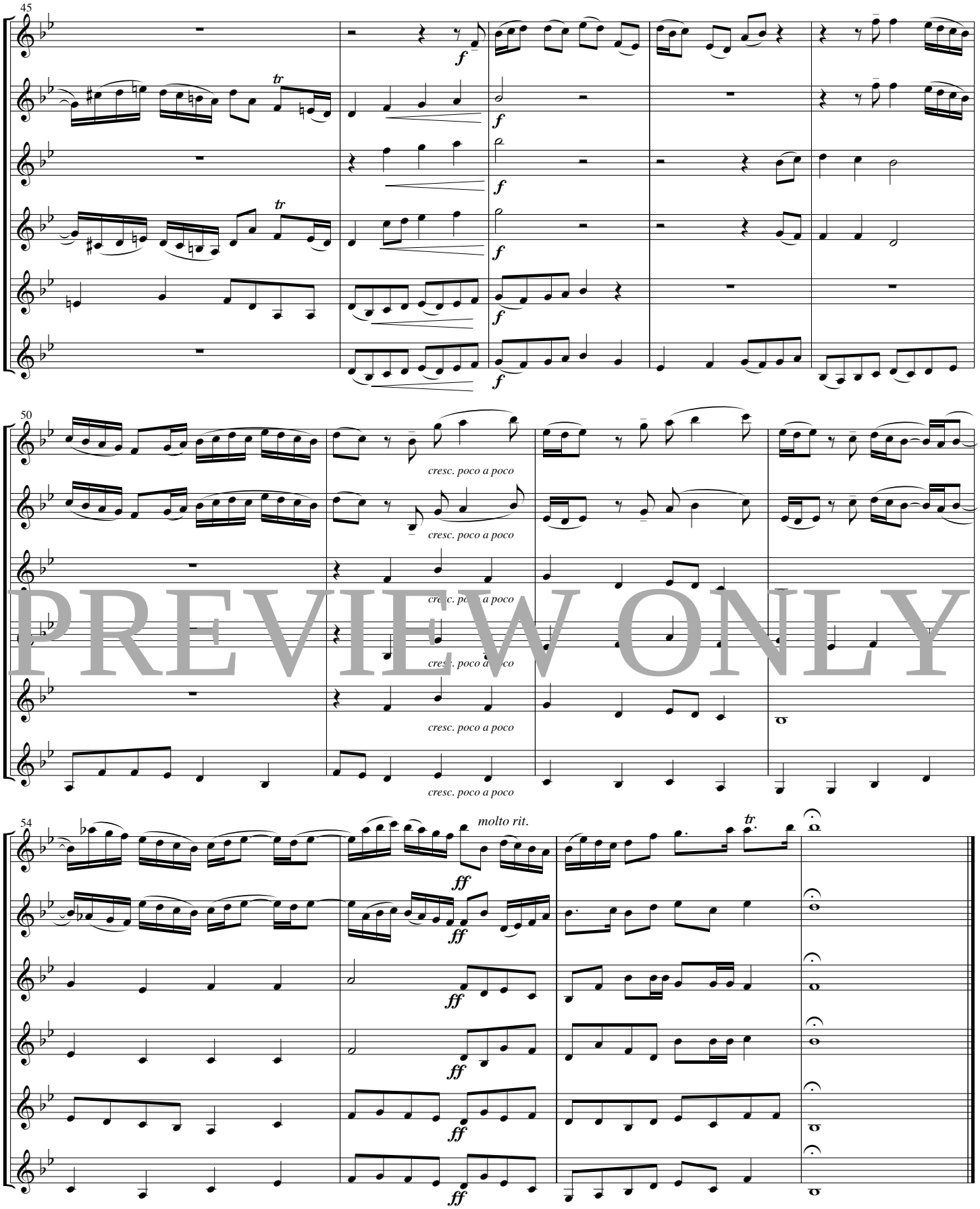

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