Eighth Note Publications

Wachet Auf
Cantata 140

Johann Sebastian Bach
Arranged by David Marlatt

Wachet Auf 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 cantata's but none have maintained the popularity as this excerpt from No. 140. This is most likely due to the elegant, flowing nature of the writing that is so distinctly Bach.

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DIFFICULTY RATING: Medium
2 Flutes, 2 Clarinets

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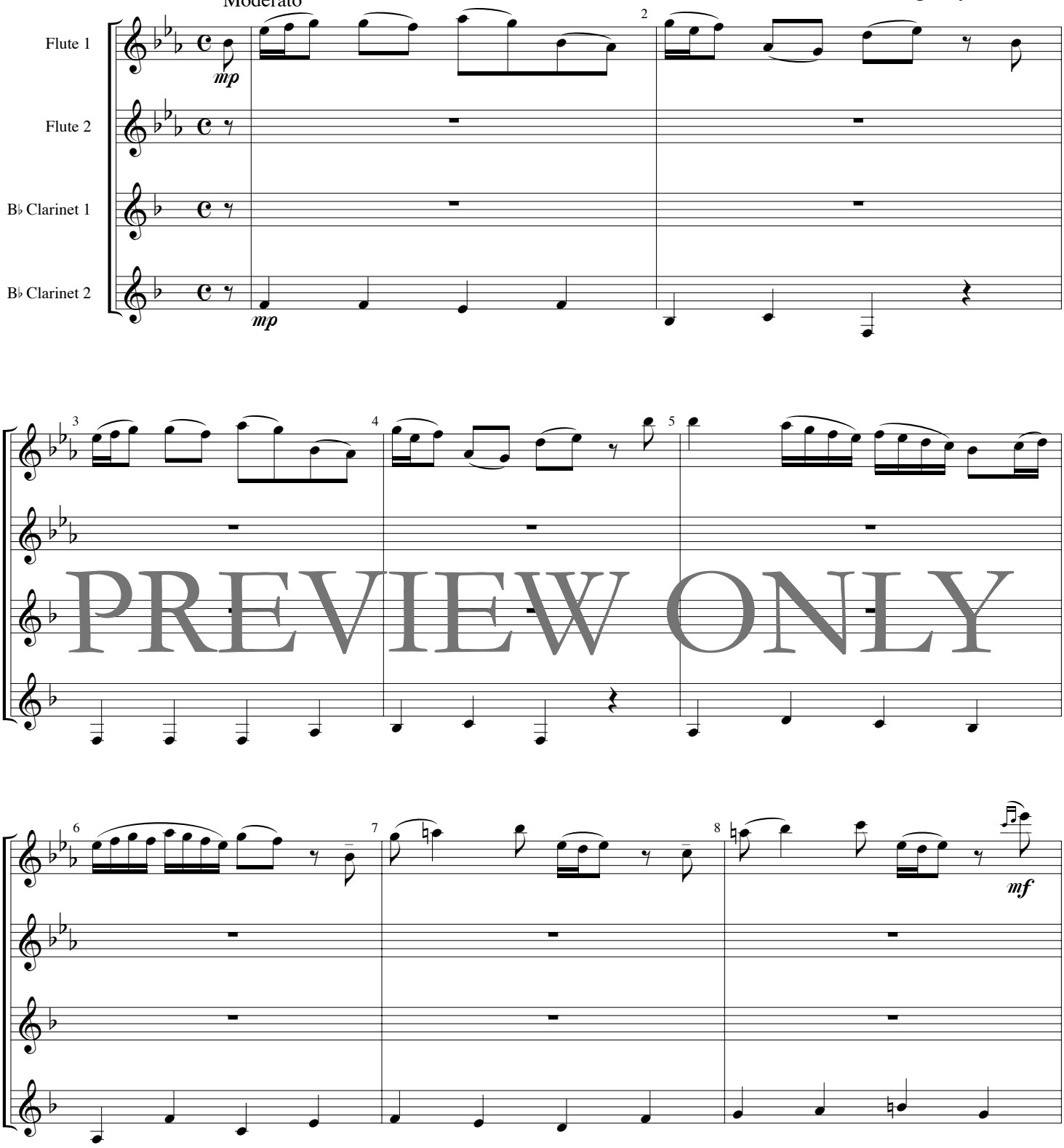
Moderato



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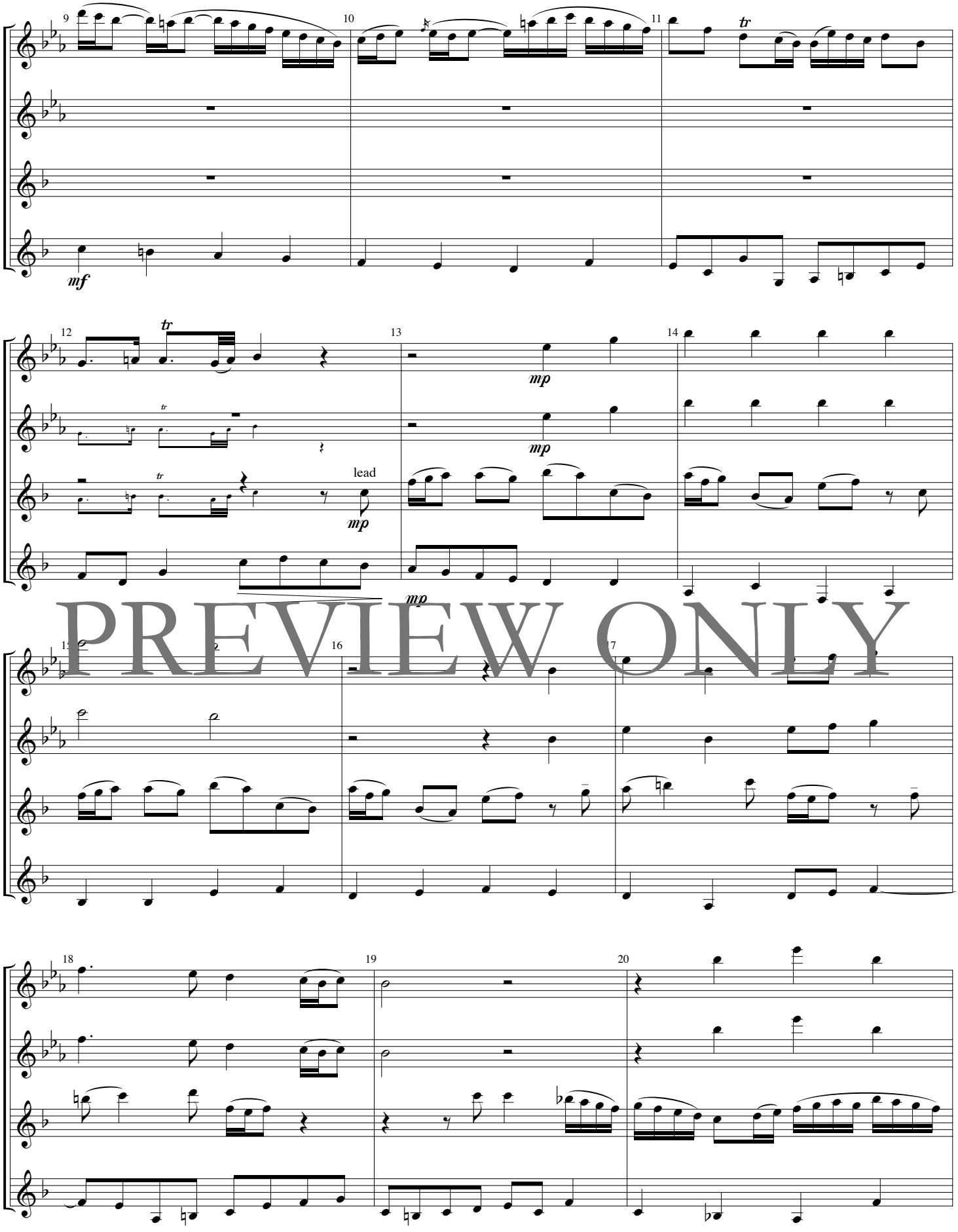

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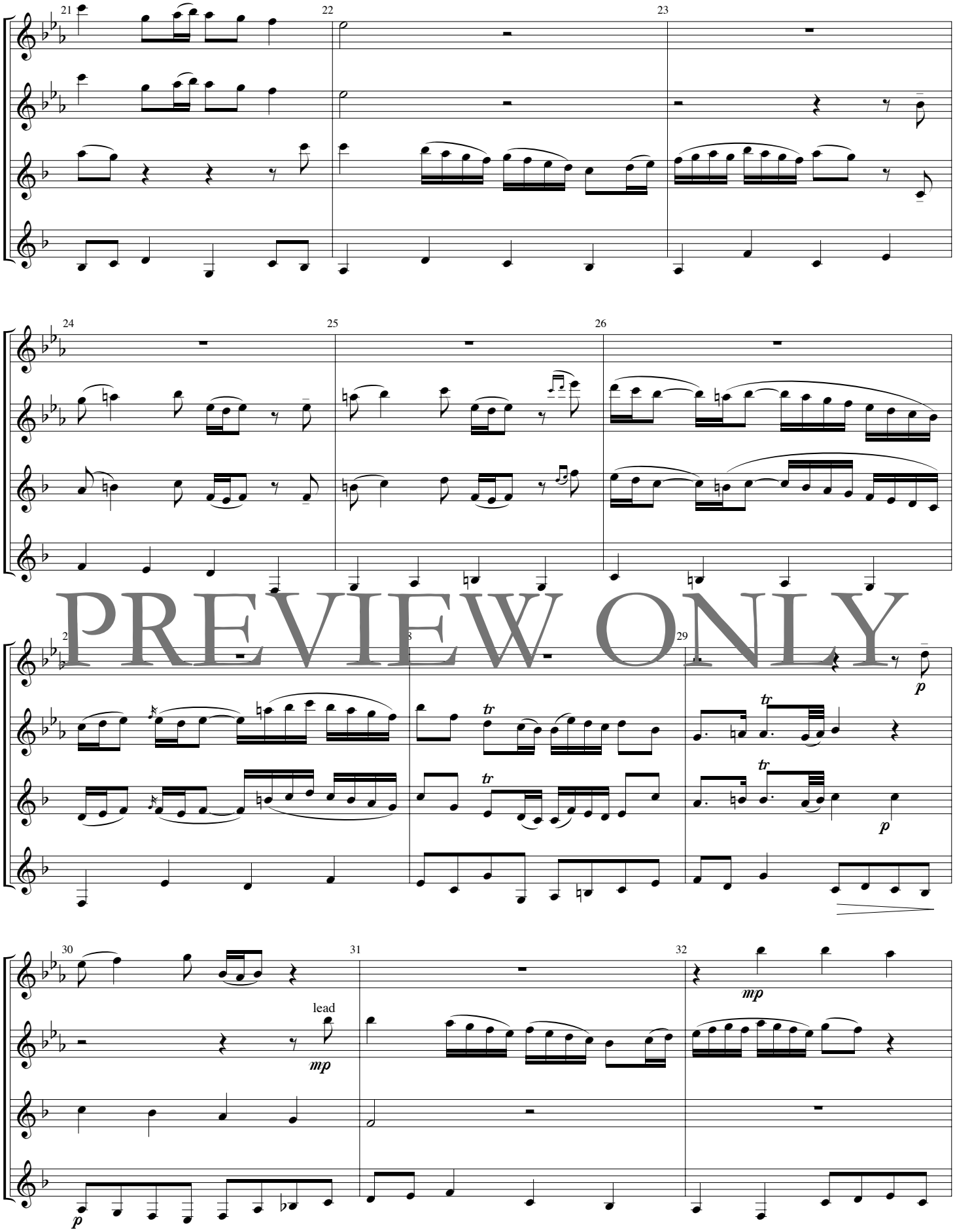

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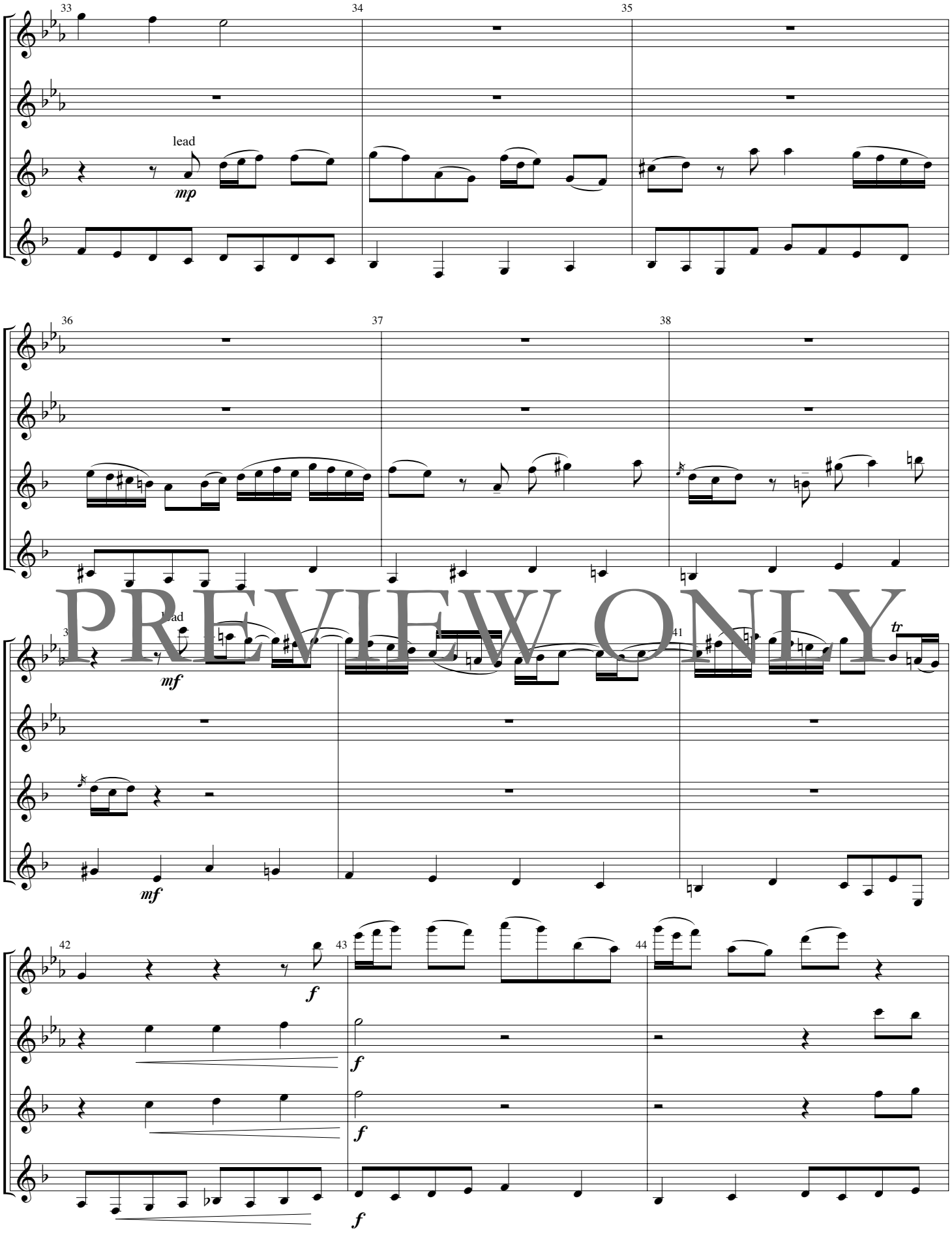

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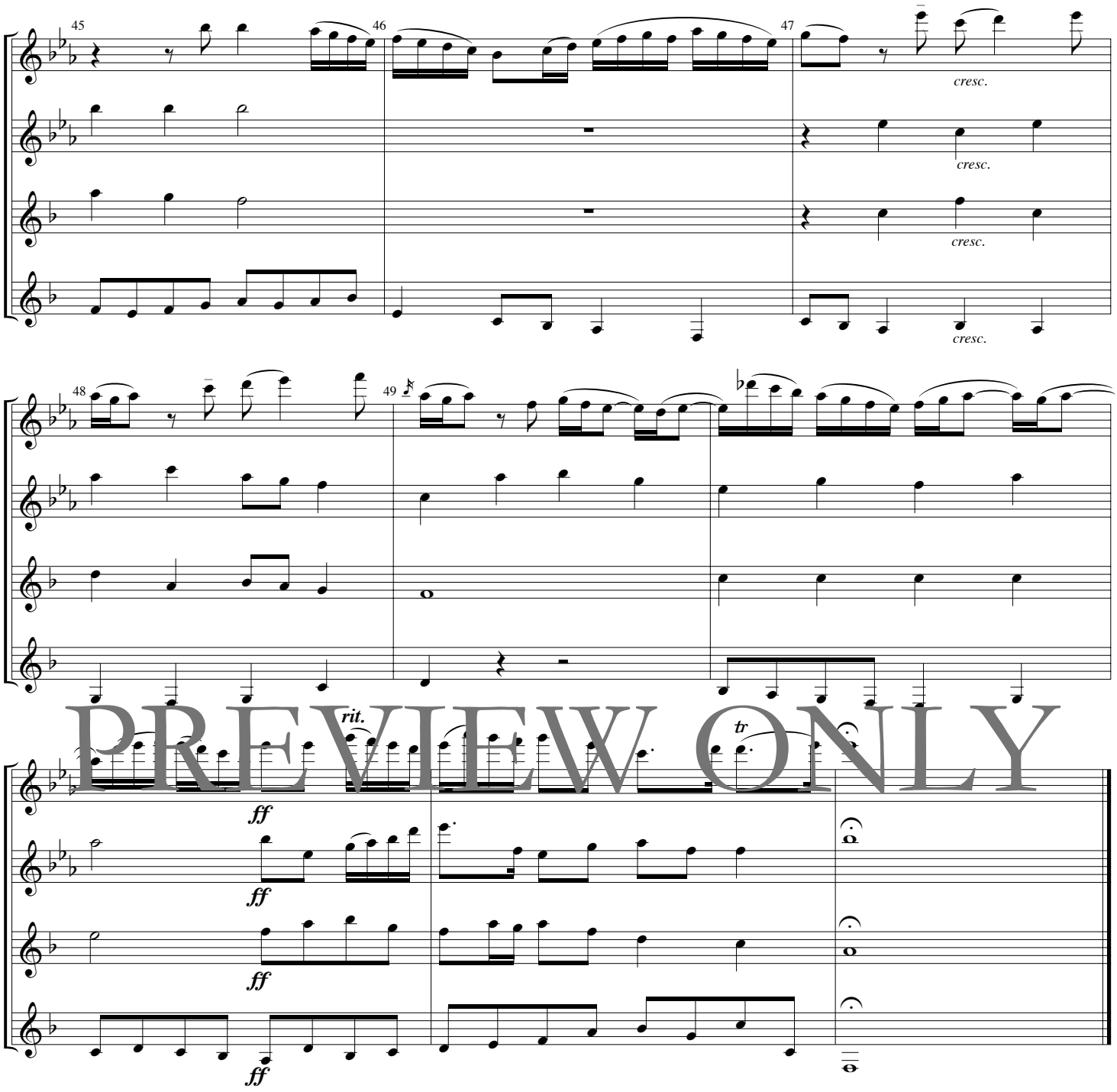

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