Eighth Note Publications

Le Bouffon Triste

Henri Savard

Most circus clowns assume a happy, even silly, mien even if they are feeling sad. That is their job! The bassoon (the so-called "clown of the orchestra") can certainly portray a humorous, jocular role, but there are few orchestral instruments who can so successfully capture a melancholy, wistful, or pompous, scholarly mood.

Our "bouffon" can't seem to decide whether to be sad or playful. Here the solo bassoon begins in a somewhat tentative, depressed fashion, then tries desperately to drown his sorrow in the happy, carefree rhythm of a Viennese waltz, but gradually succumbs to grief, returning finally to a state of wistfulness and melancholy.

The soloist must aim to disclose convincingly these mood changes and the accompanying instruments must be sympathetic and supportive and "play along" accordingly, excepting for their short flings at leadership in bars 41 to 56, 75-76 and 79-80. Please observe the dynamics and the tempo changes and be happy (or sad) in your music even when you don't feel like it.

PREVIEW ONLY

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DURATION: 2:30
DIFFICULTY RATING: Medium
Woodwind Quintet

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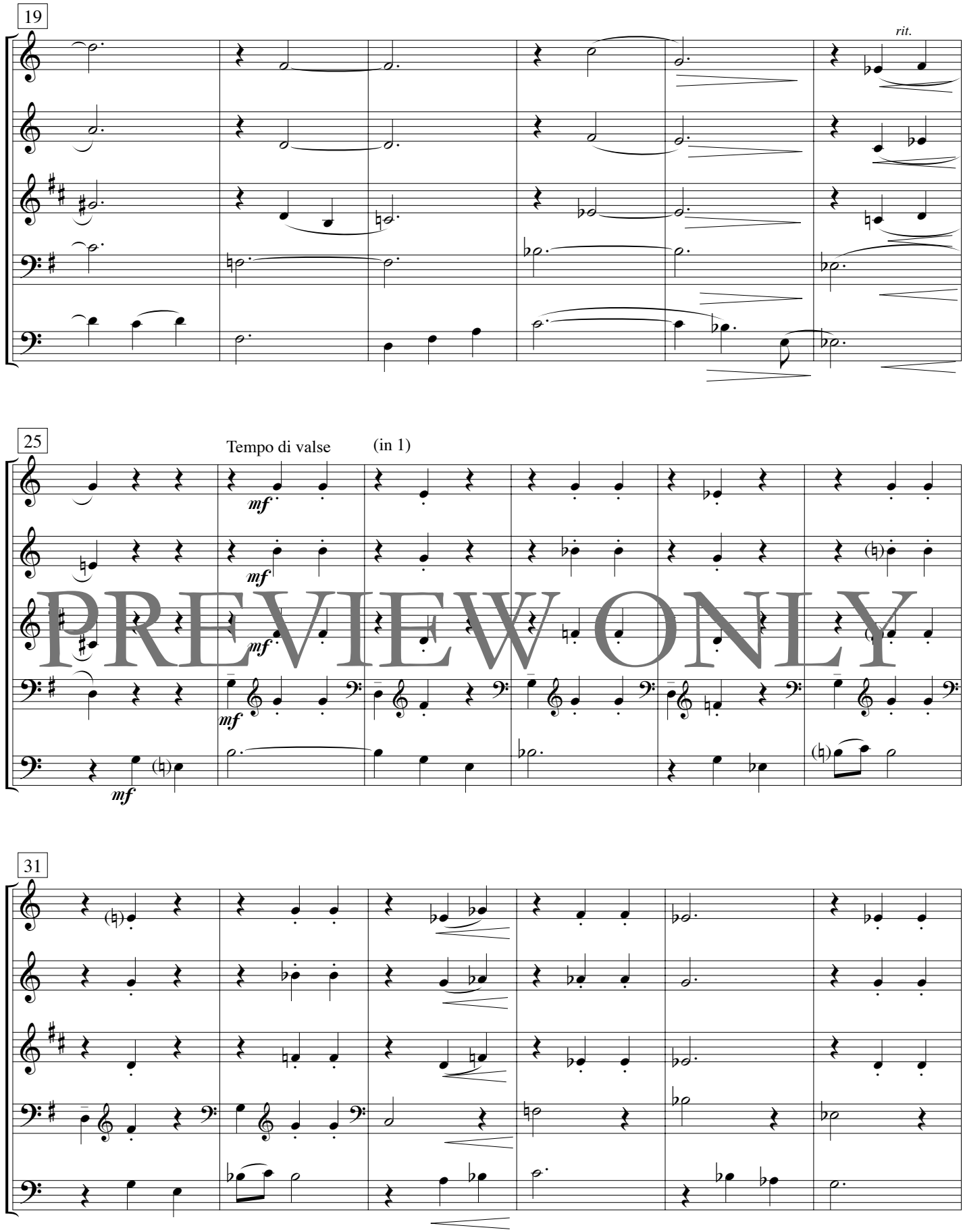

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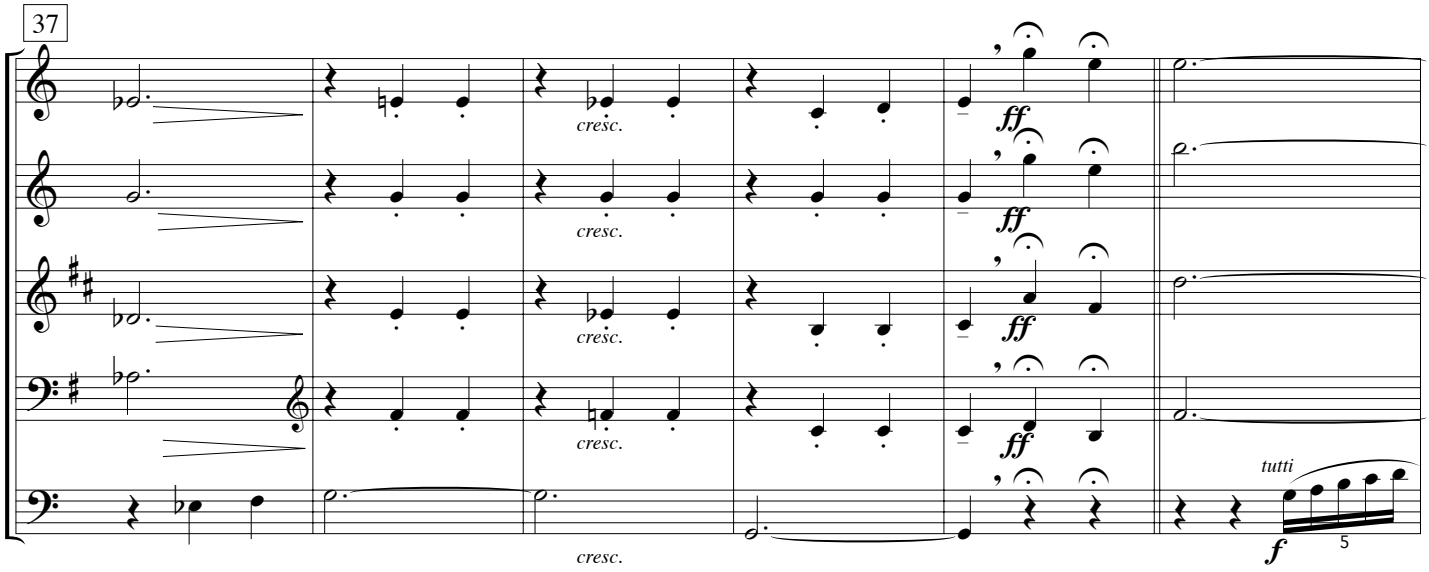

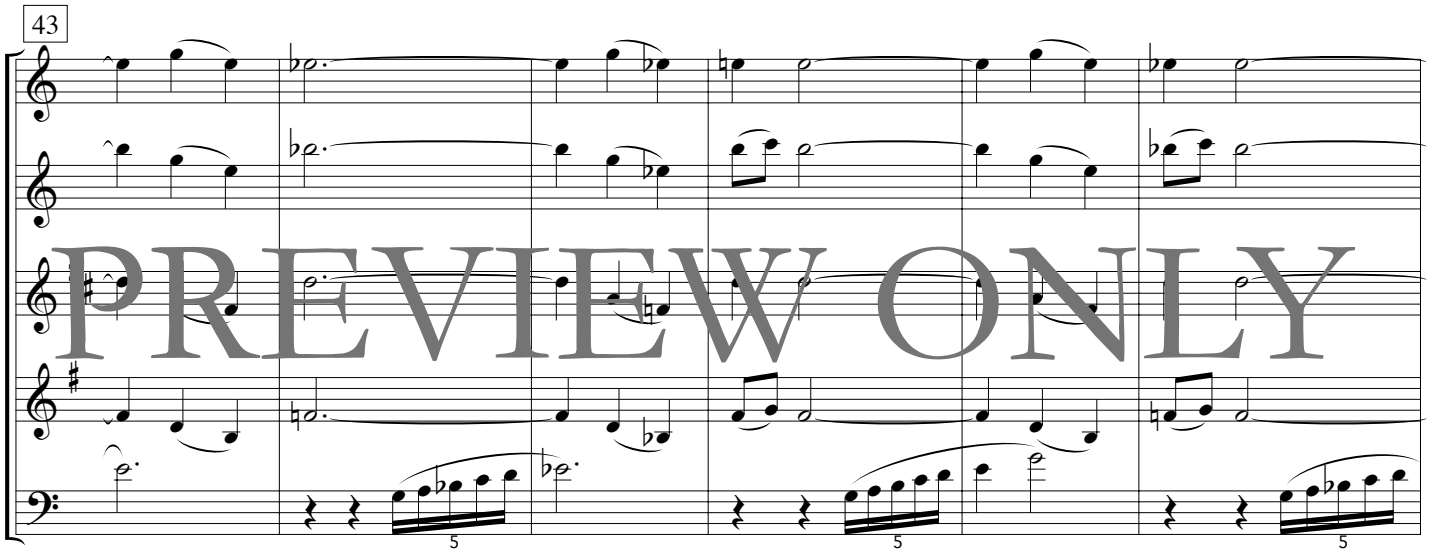

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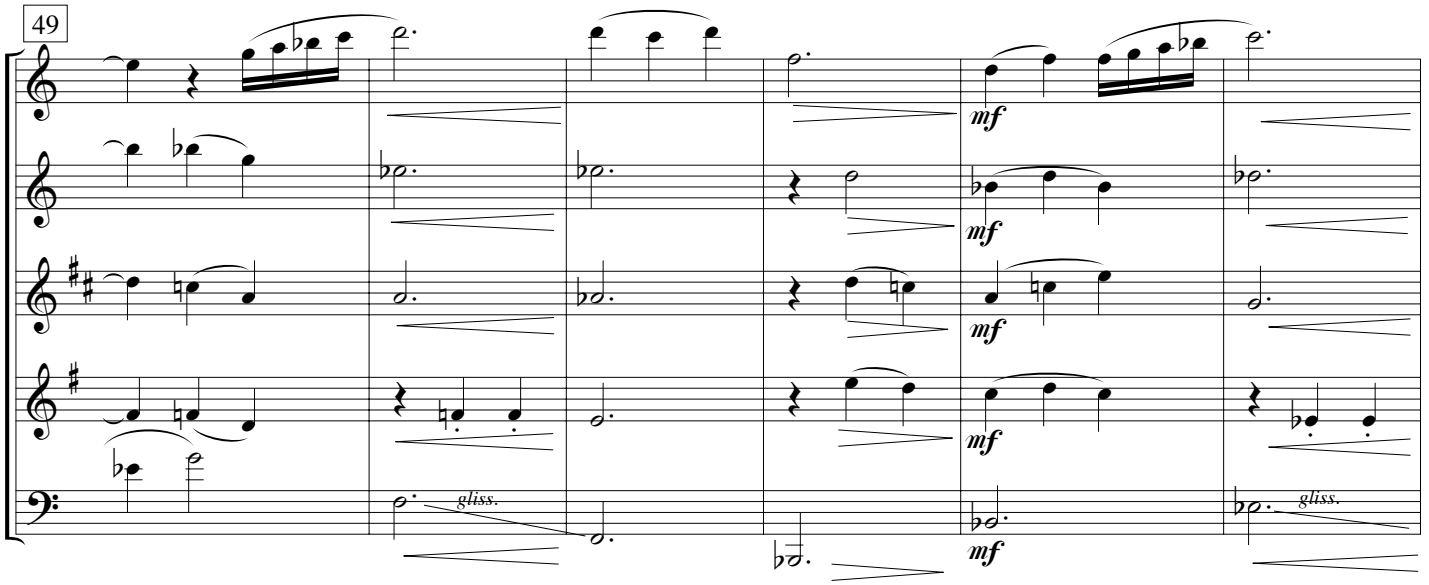

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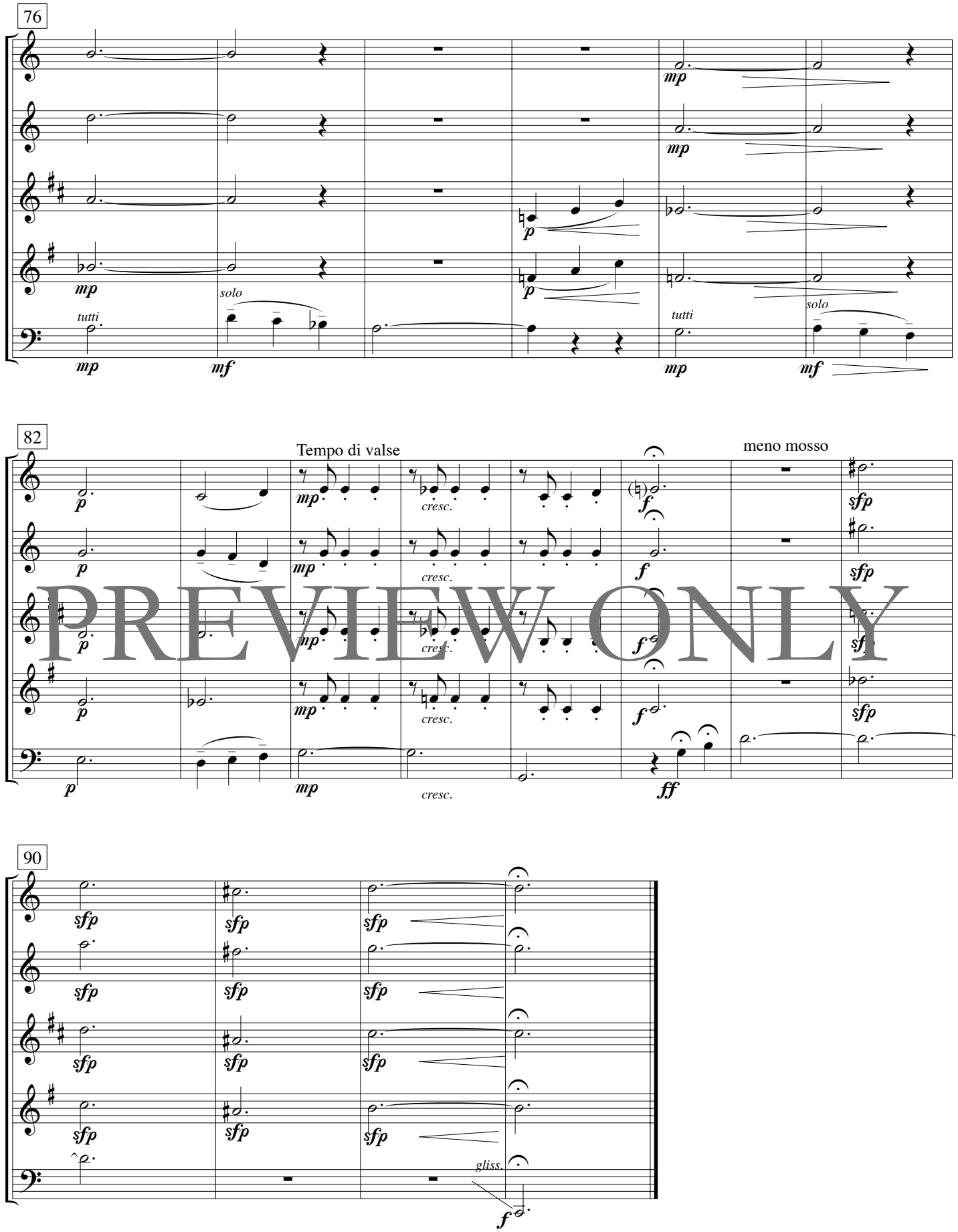

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