Fáinne Geal an Lae

The Dawning of the Day

A Theme and Variations for
String Quartet

Bryce Weber

PREVIEW

Composer's Notes

Originally sung in Gaelic, *Fáinne Geal an Lae* [fanja gæl ən lɛi] or "The Dawning of the Day" is a traditional Irish tune which today is more commonly paired with the poem, "Raglan Road." The original poem is a comic balled about a fair maiden who rejects the affections a local rake. The tale begins at dawn when a dissolute man takes a stroll through the countryside. As he admires the beauty of the landscape, he meets a fair maiden. Following a lengthy description of her fine features and a brief conversation, he asks if she will stay with him forever. She responds simply, "please go away." Each variation in this piece chronologically outlines the story with lines from the poetry.

Theme
Variation I. I Wandered Through the Townlands
Variation II. I Met a Beautiful Maid
Variation III. In the Dew She Looked so Fair
Variation IV. She Sat by My Side
Variation V. Please Go Away

Duration: 10:00

PREVIEW

Fáinne Geal an Lae

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Theme

♩ = 88

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

8

15

Attacca

♩ = ♩.

solo

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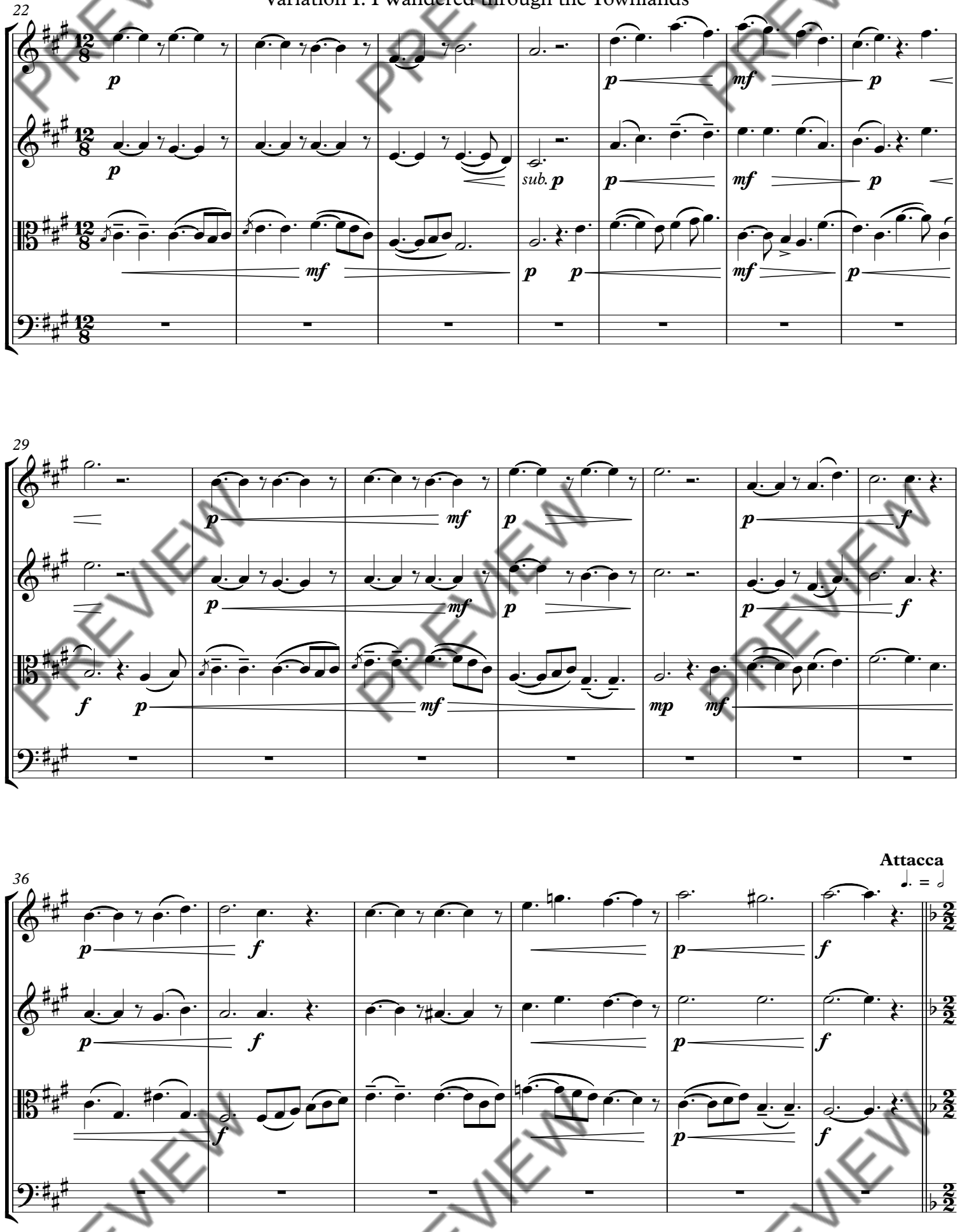
PREVIEW

Variation I. I Wandered through the Townlands



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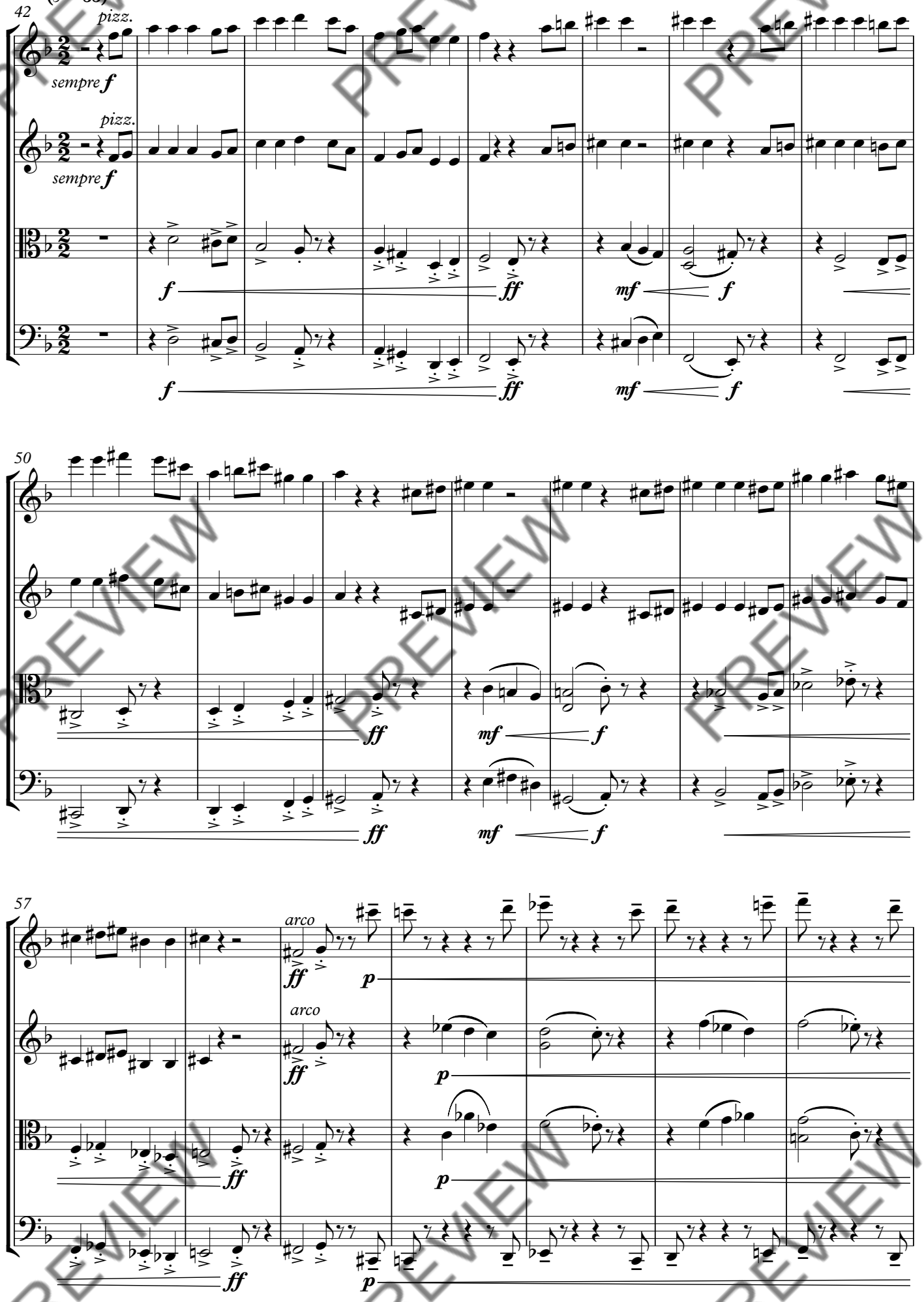
Variation II. I Met a Beautiful Maid

(𝅗𝅥 = 88)



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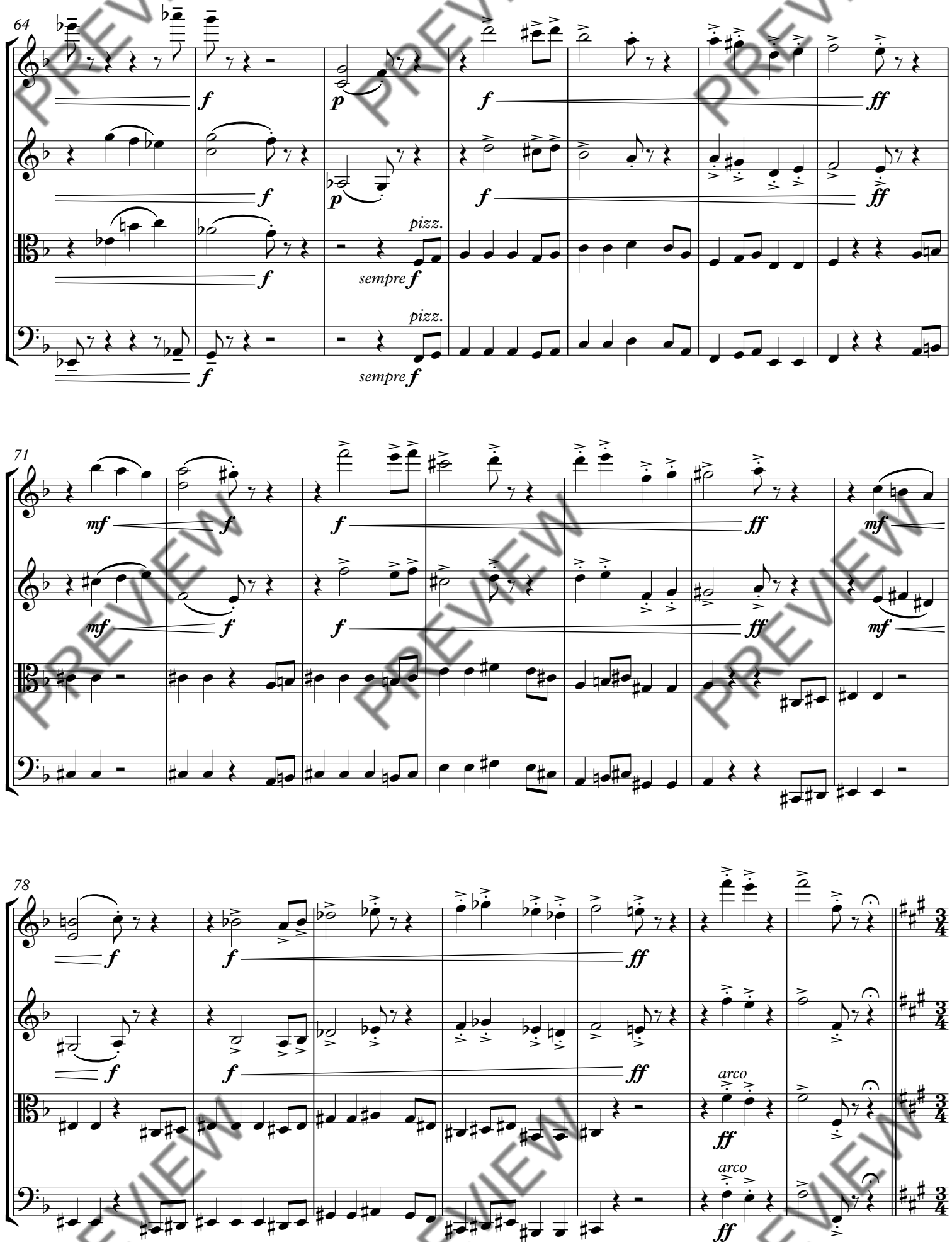

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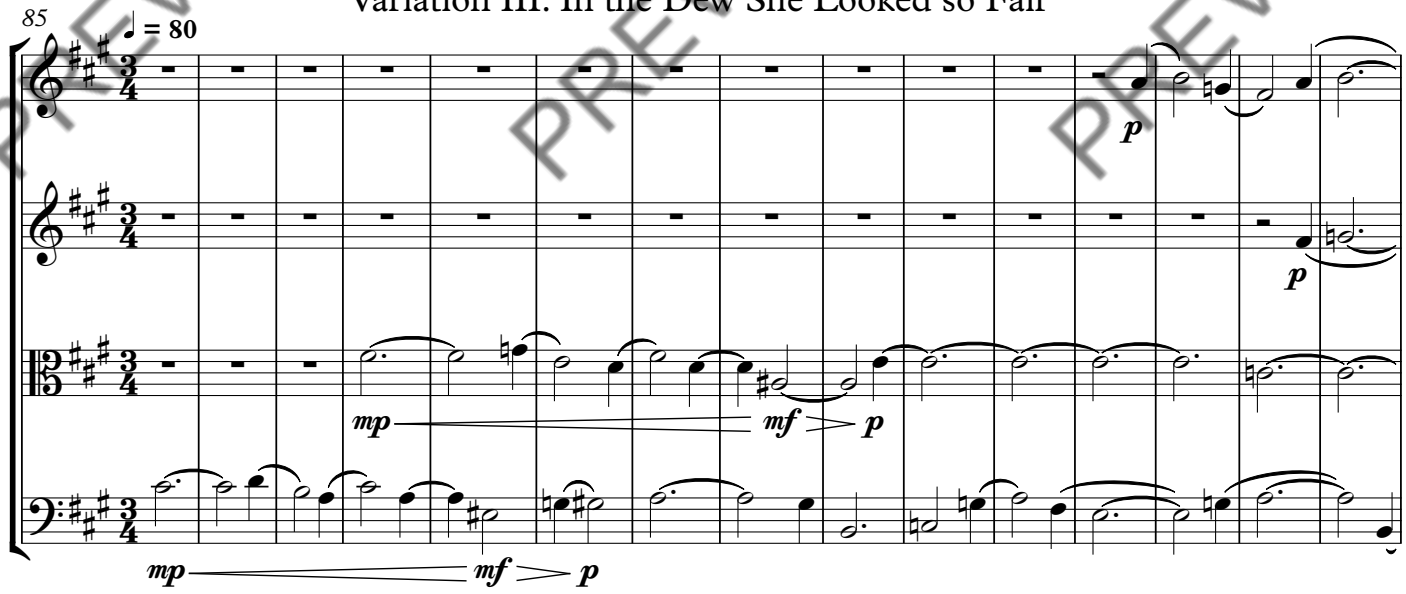
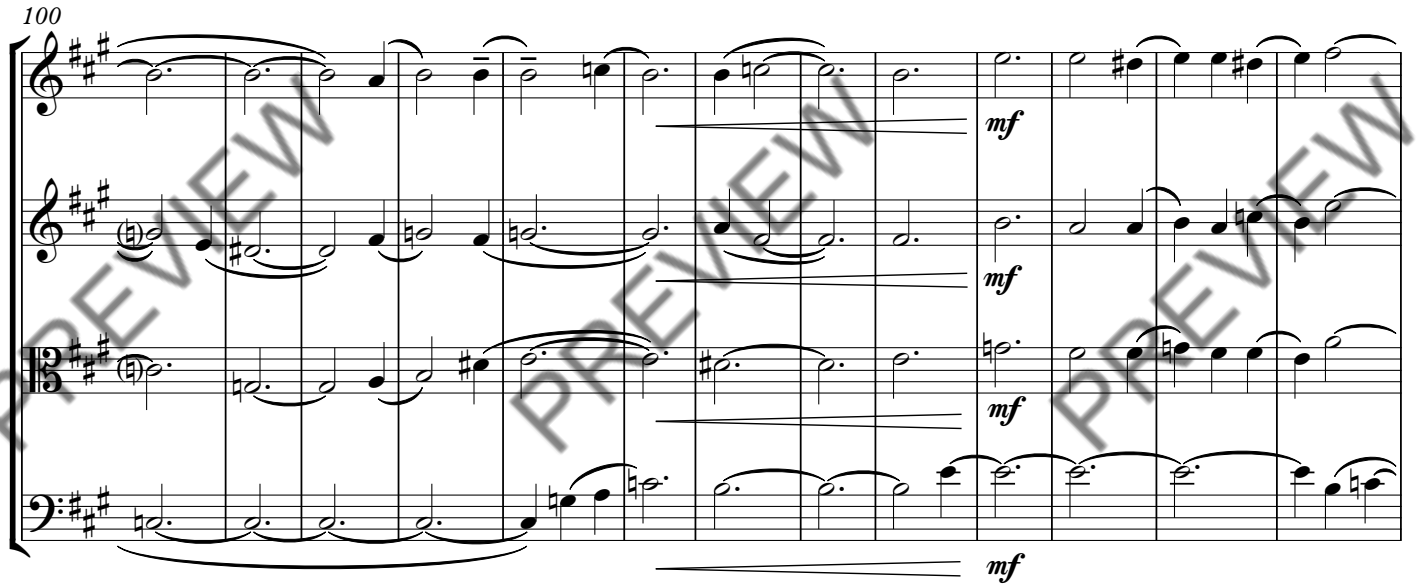
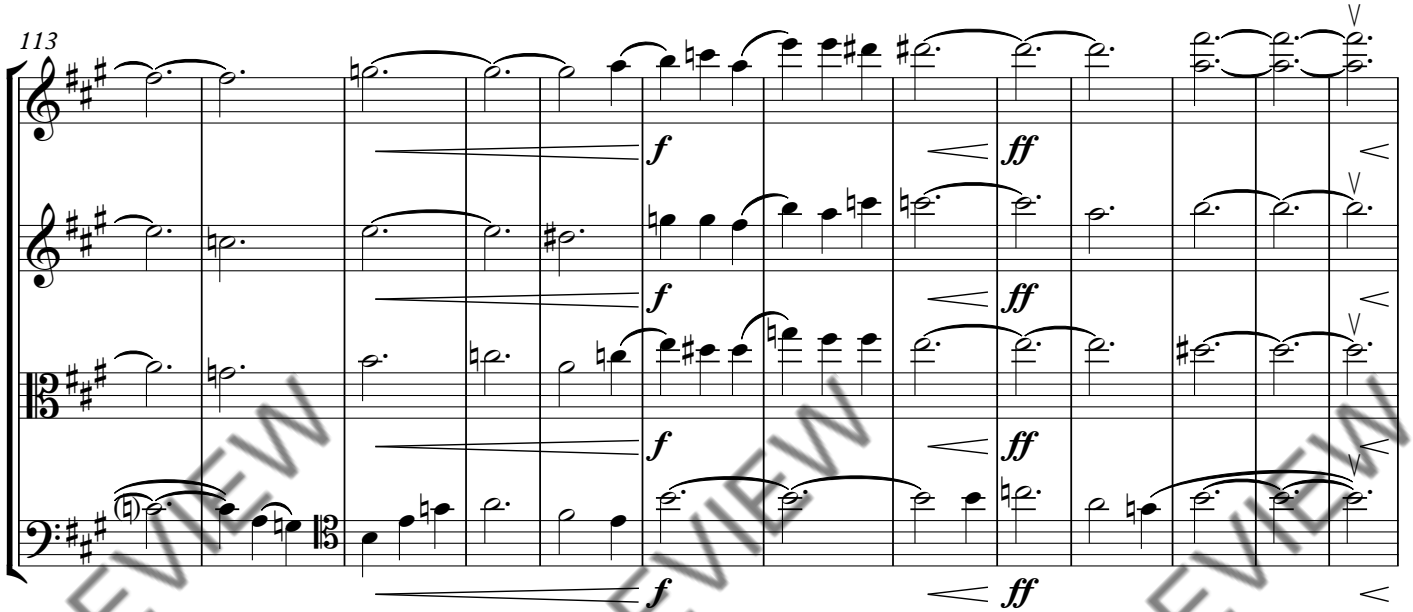
Variation III. In the Dew She Looked so Fair







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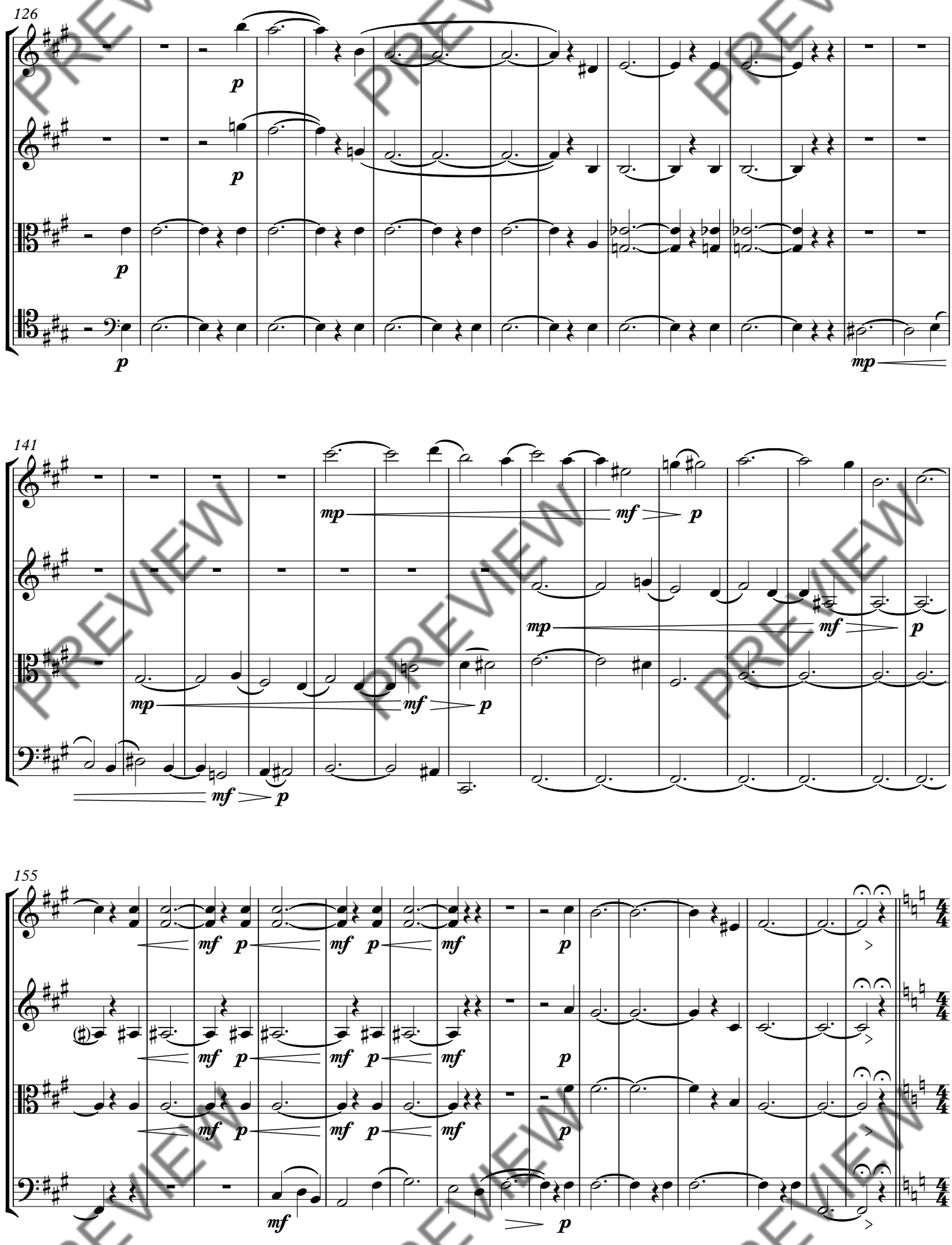

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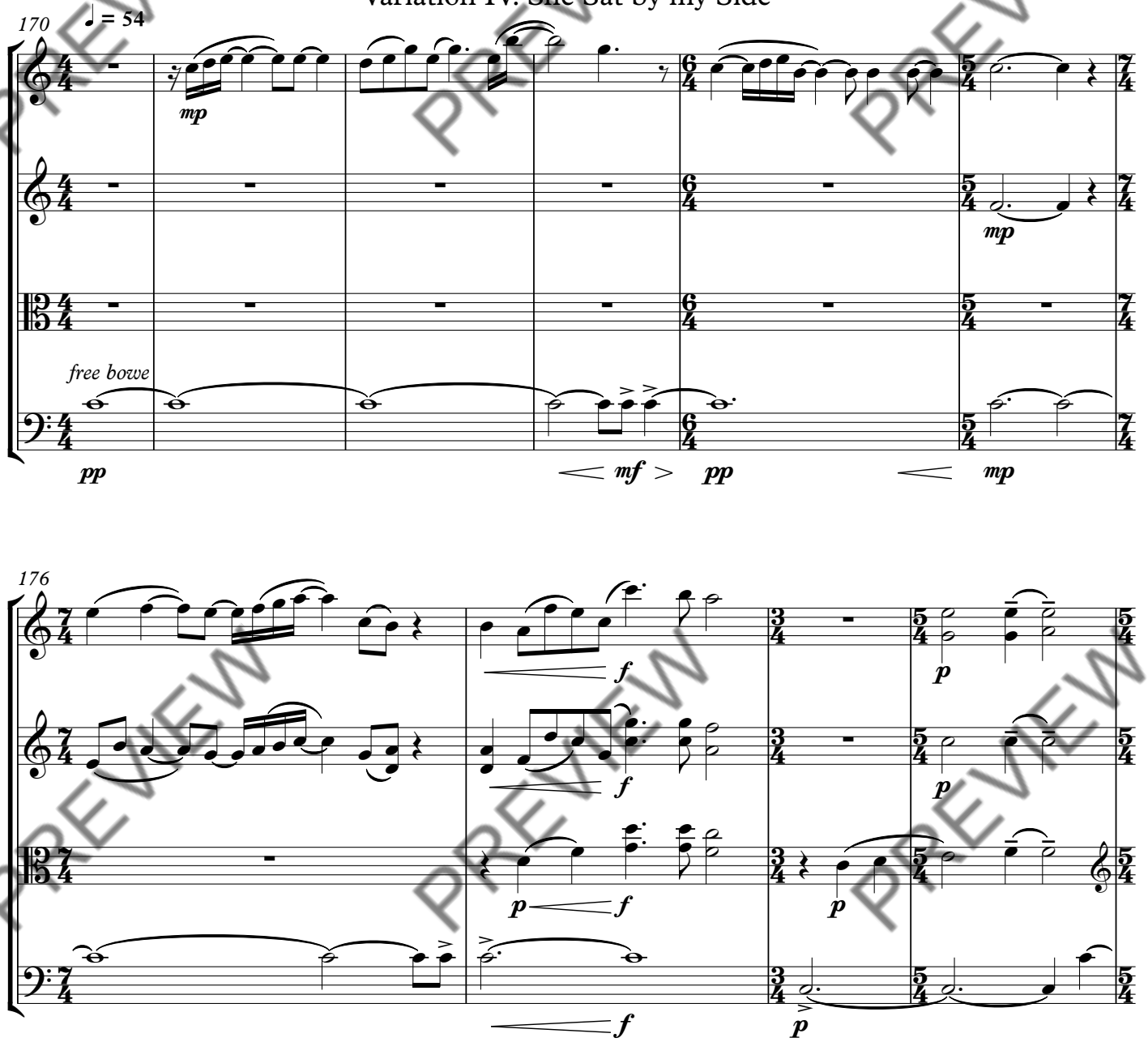

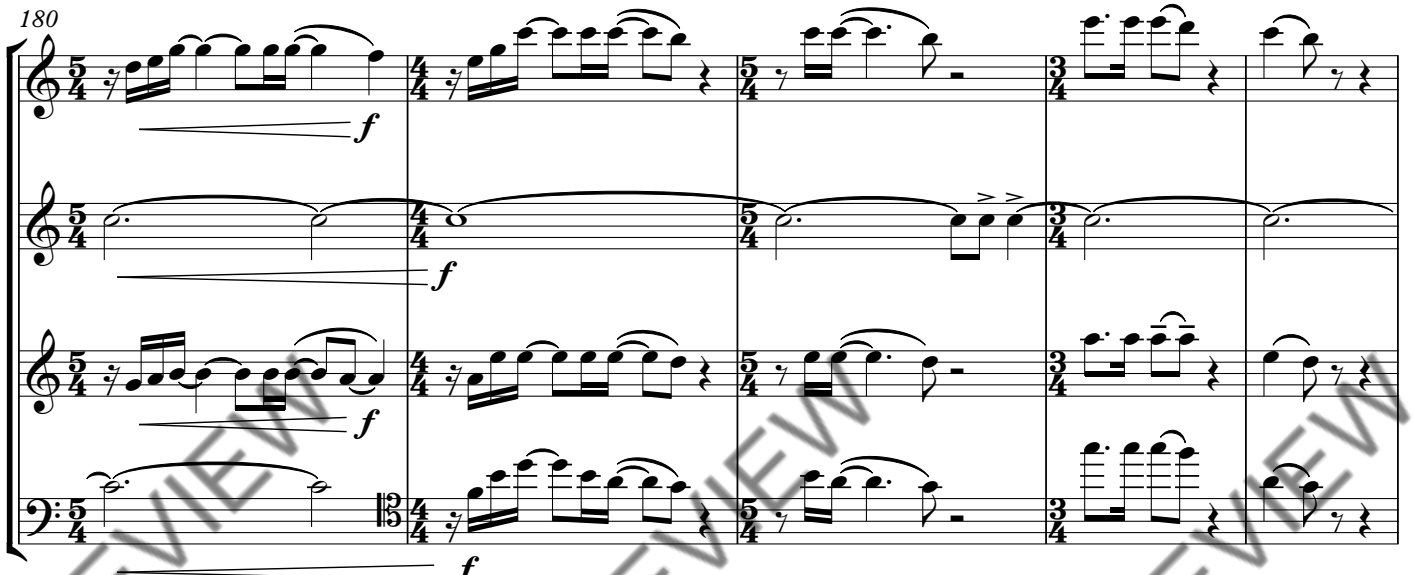

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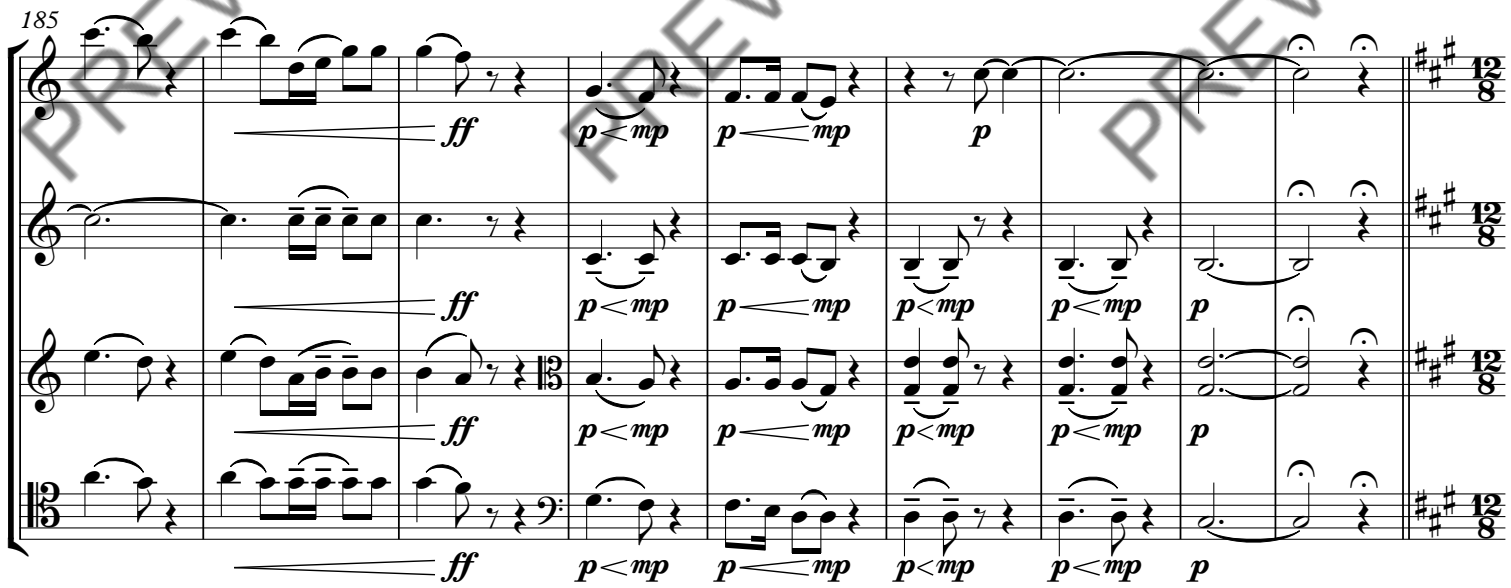
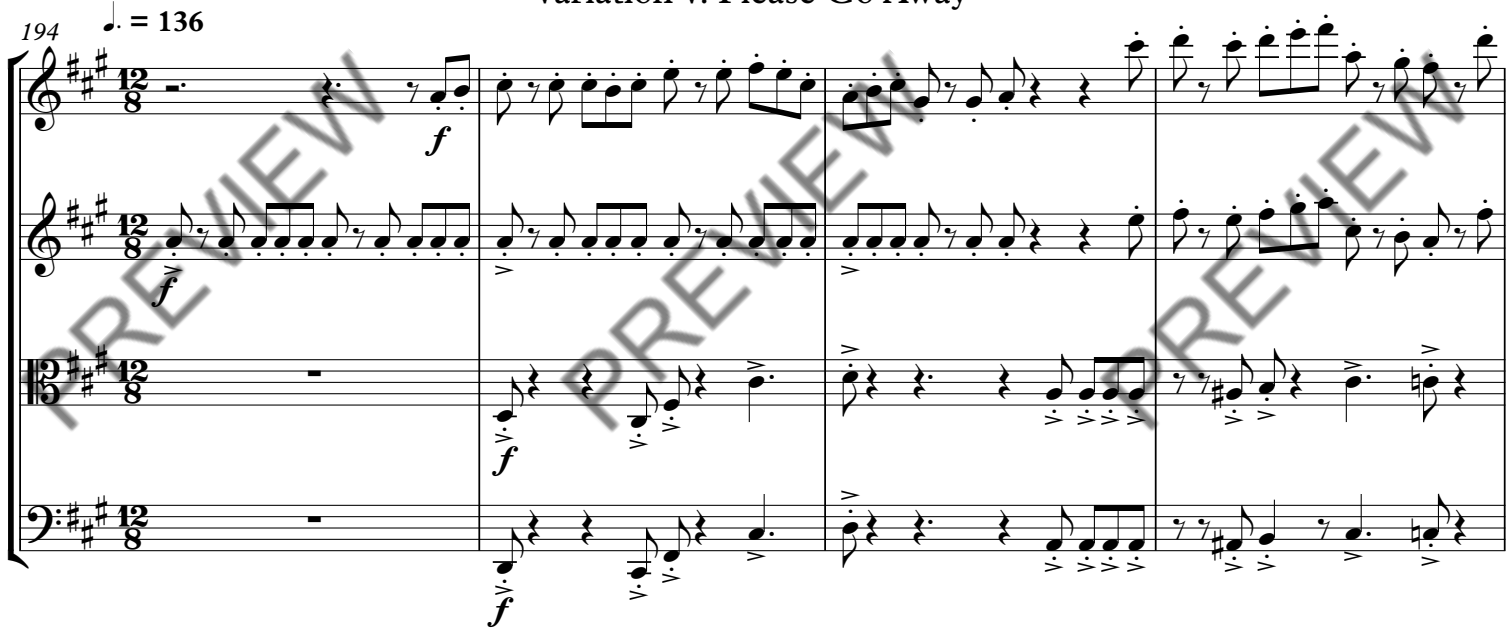
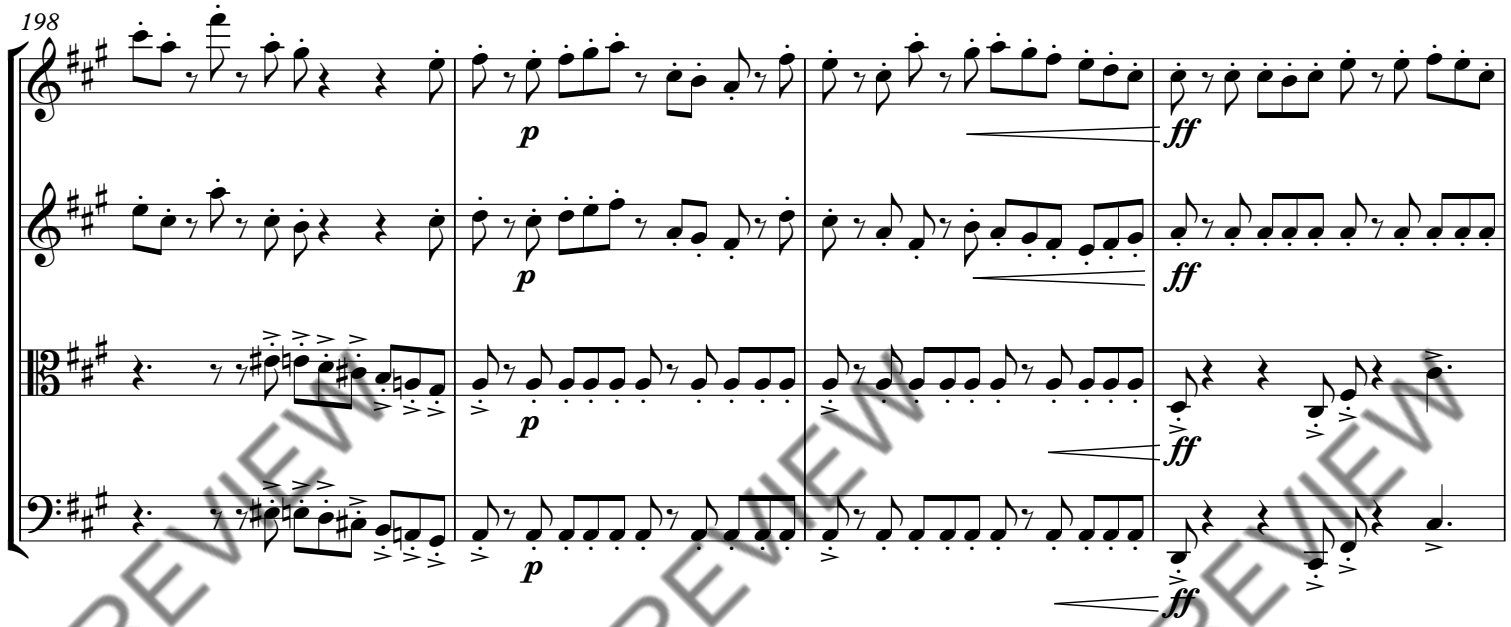


Variation V. Please Go Away





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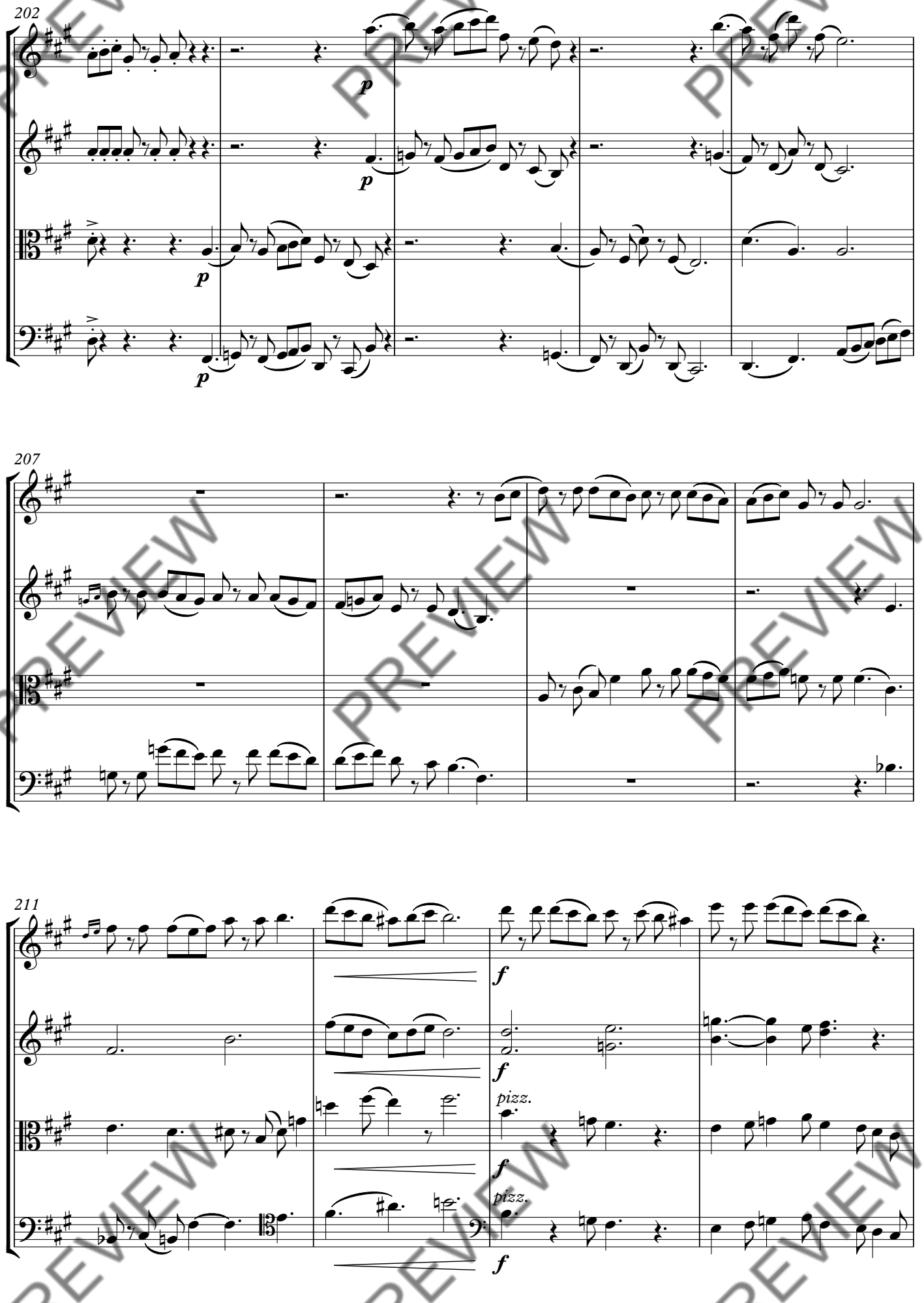

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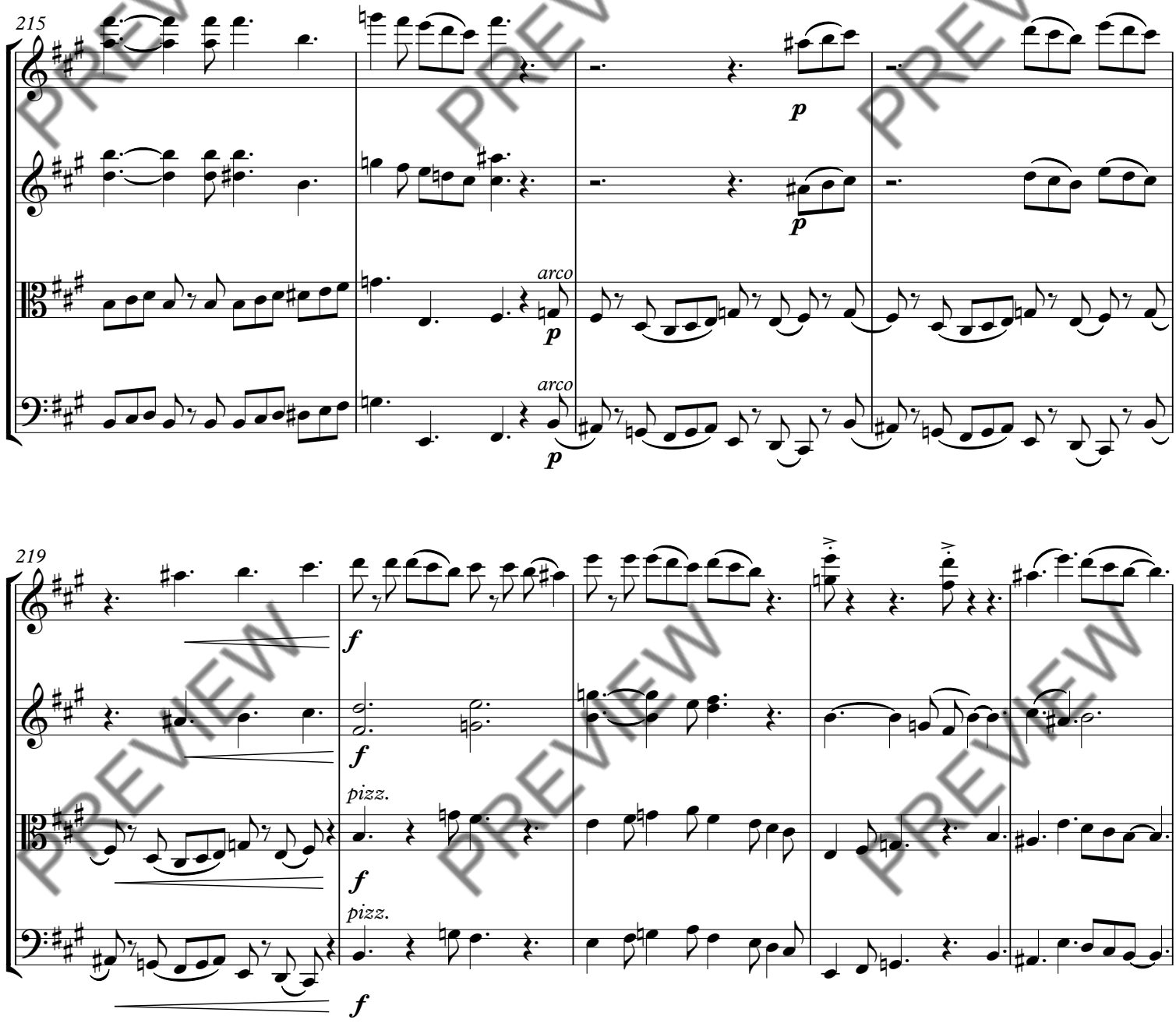

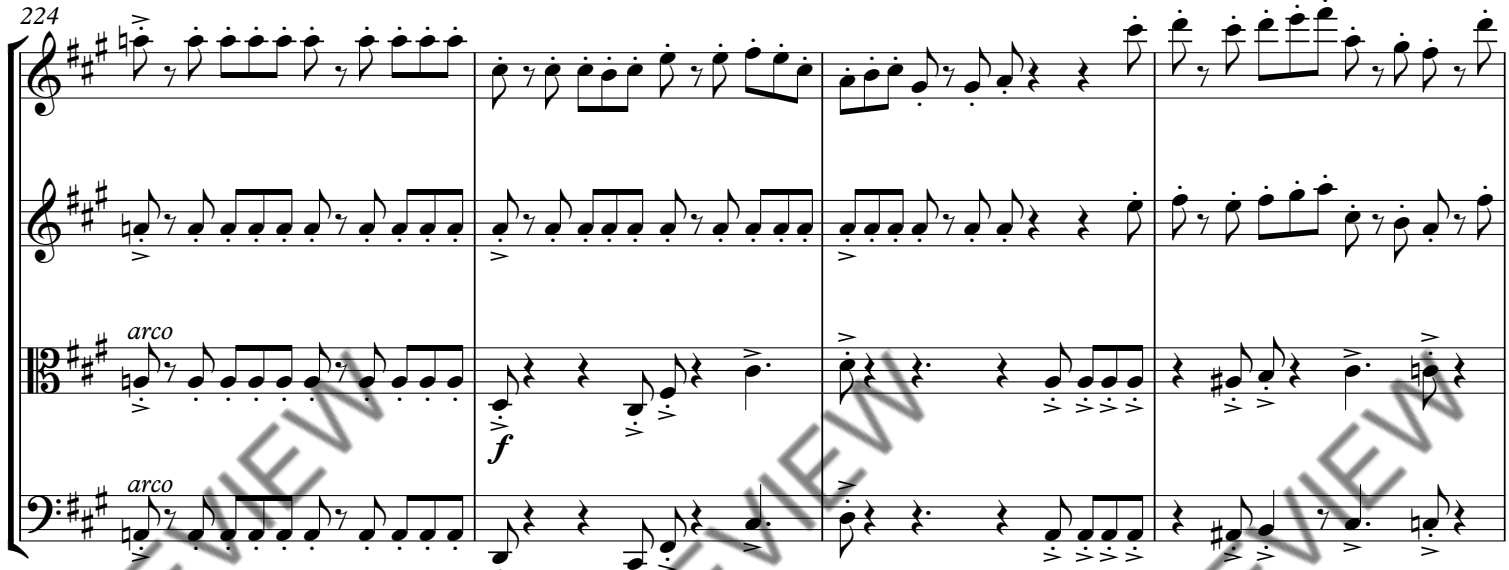

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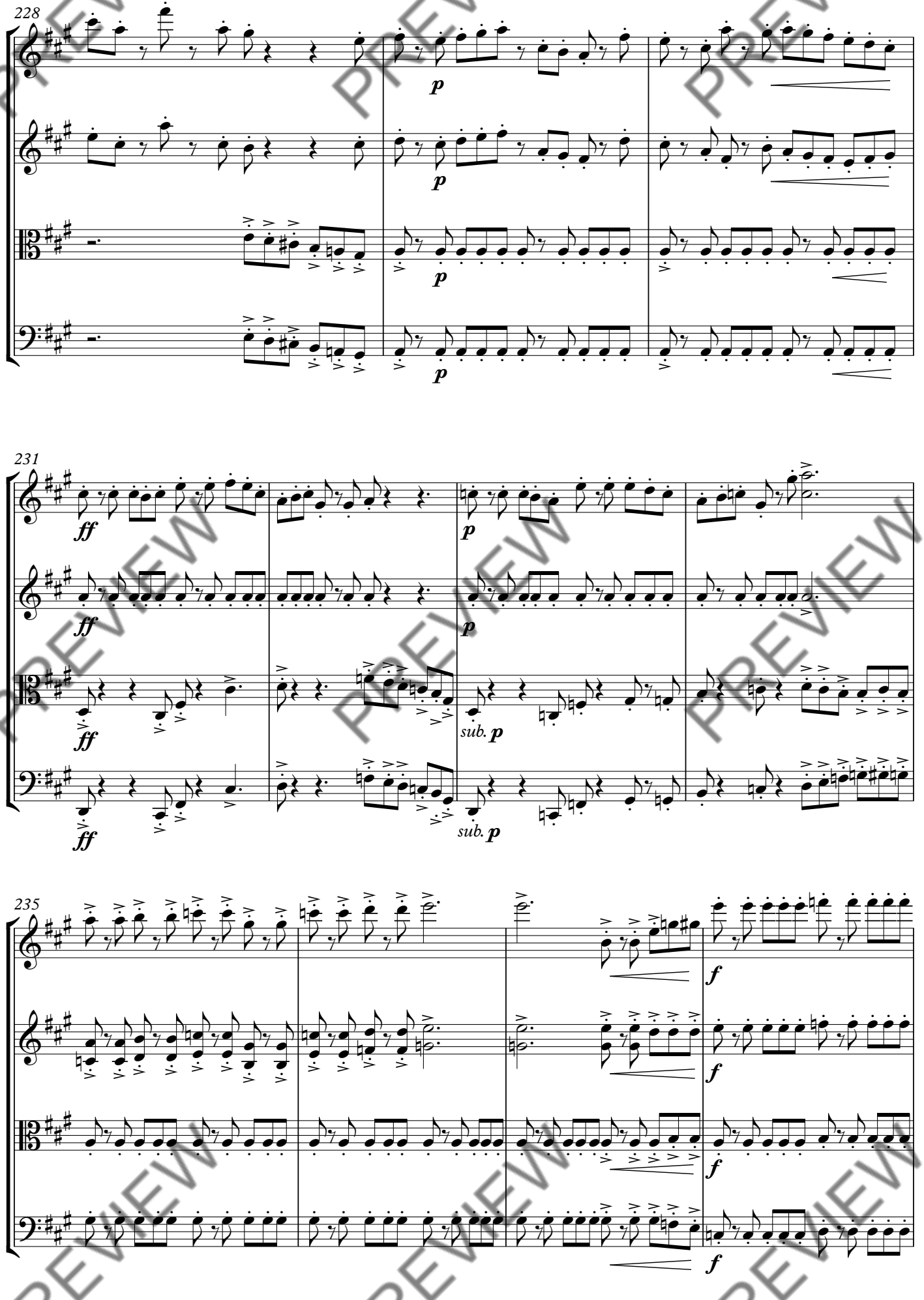

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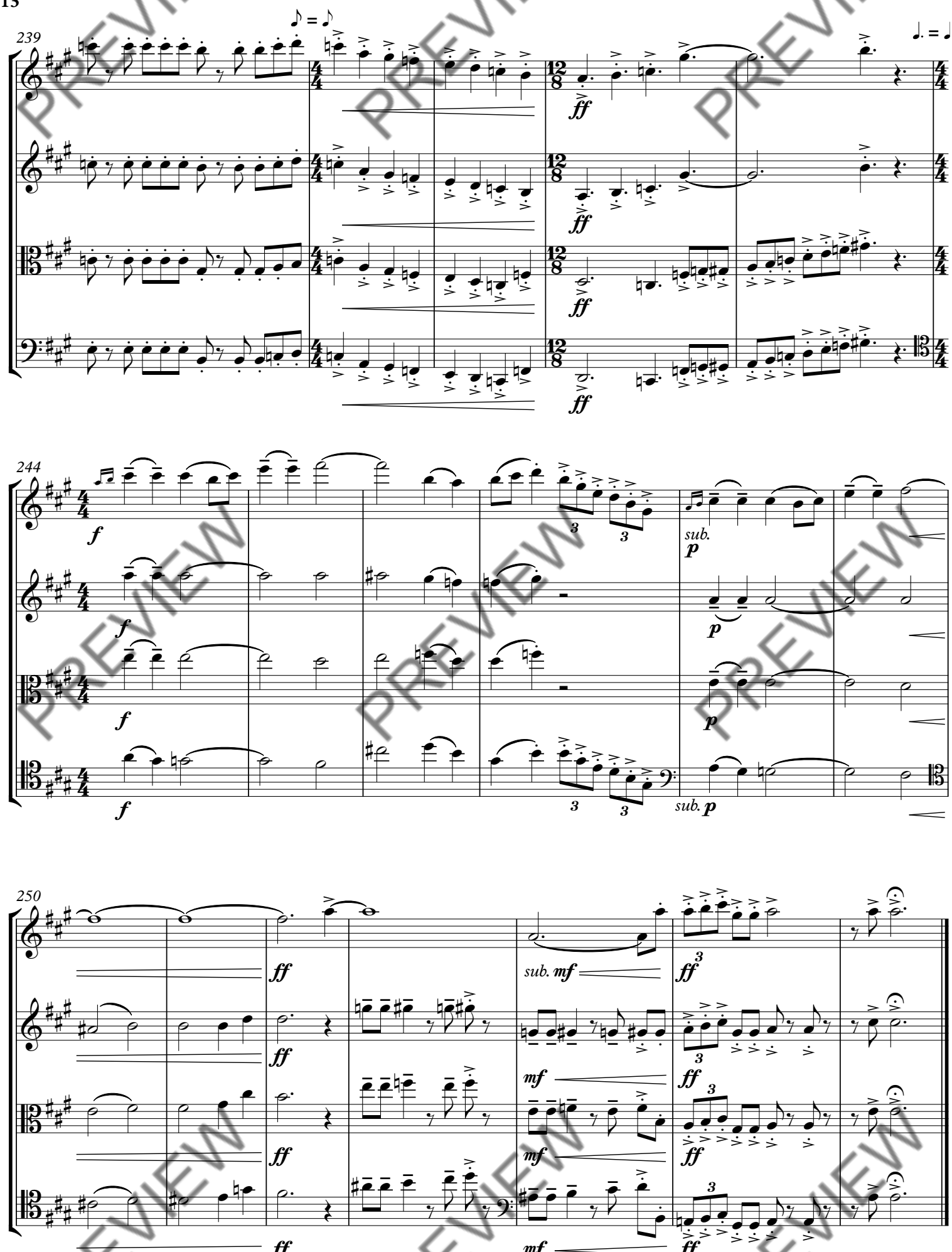

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