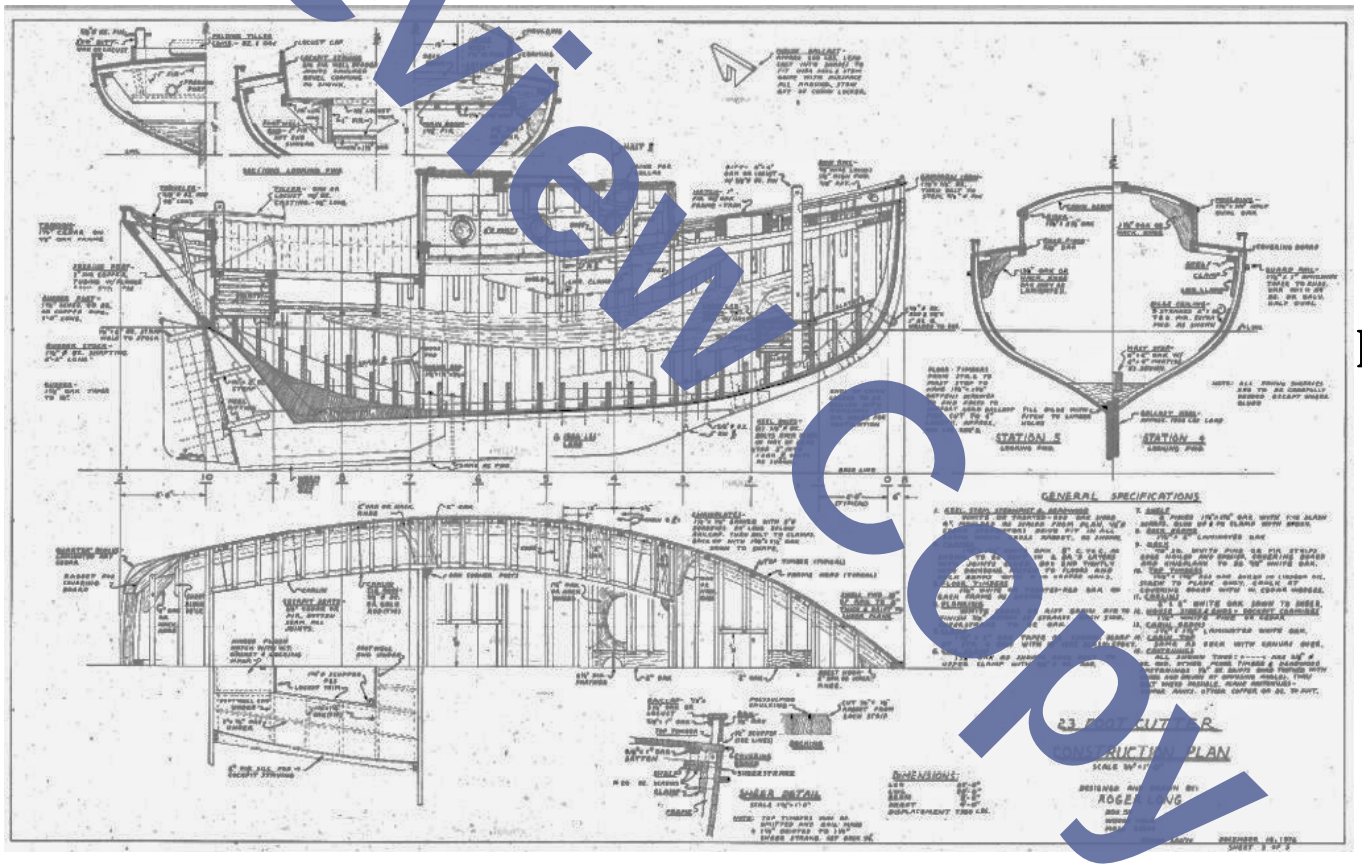
Epitaph:

After Donald Crowhurst



For Solo Organ

R. Busiakiewicz

Preview Copy

Epitaph: After Donald Crowhurst is a programmatic work based on the following events. In March of 1968 The Sunday Times announced a £5,000 prize for the first person who could circumnavigate the globe in a single-handed, non-stop yacht race. Eight of the world's most experienced and acclaimed sailors gathered in the UK to begin the potentially ten month long, isolated journey, which no human being had yet accomplished. The ninth contestant was a weekend nautical enthusiast, who sailed as an amateur and hobbyist, by the name of Donald Crowhurst. Seven of the other sailors were forced to abandon the difficult voyage before completion. Crowhurst, dealing with the dilemna of facing financial ruin if he withdrew, or certain death if he continued in a faulty and leaking boat, began an elaborate deception. He kept a fabricated log book which reported false positions and was deliberately vague in his Morse code communications. In reality he was drifting aimlessly in the mid-Atlantic waiting to join the rear of the group as they passed on their homeward stretch. After nine months at sea, presented with the real possibility of winning the prize, he had become psychologically unstable, insane and irrational. Through a hypergraphic episode of 25,000 words he wrote a disturbing pseudo-philosophic/religious account of his predicament. A month after his final log entry and suspected suicide, his boat *Teignmouth Electron* was found abandoned by a passing cargo ship.

Duration: c. 7 minutes

Preview Copy

For Simon Hogan

Epitaph:

After Donald Crowhurst

R. Busiakiewicz (October, '14)

Freely, With Easeful Movement (♪ = c.100)

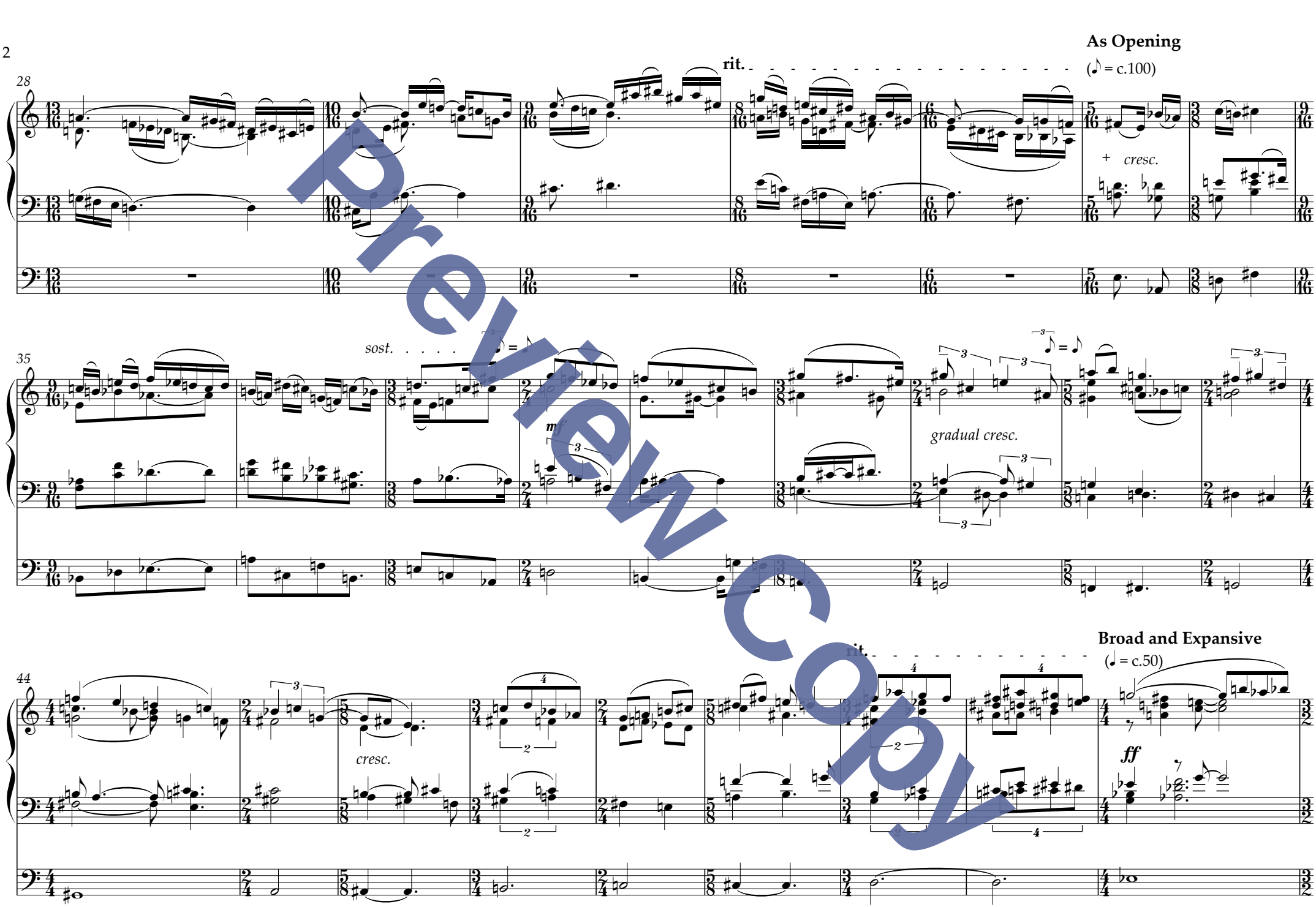
Organ

p whimsical, optimistic and smooth, direct

pp *sub.* *ff* *mf*

p as opening

Preview Copy



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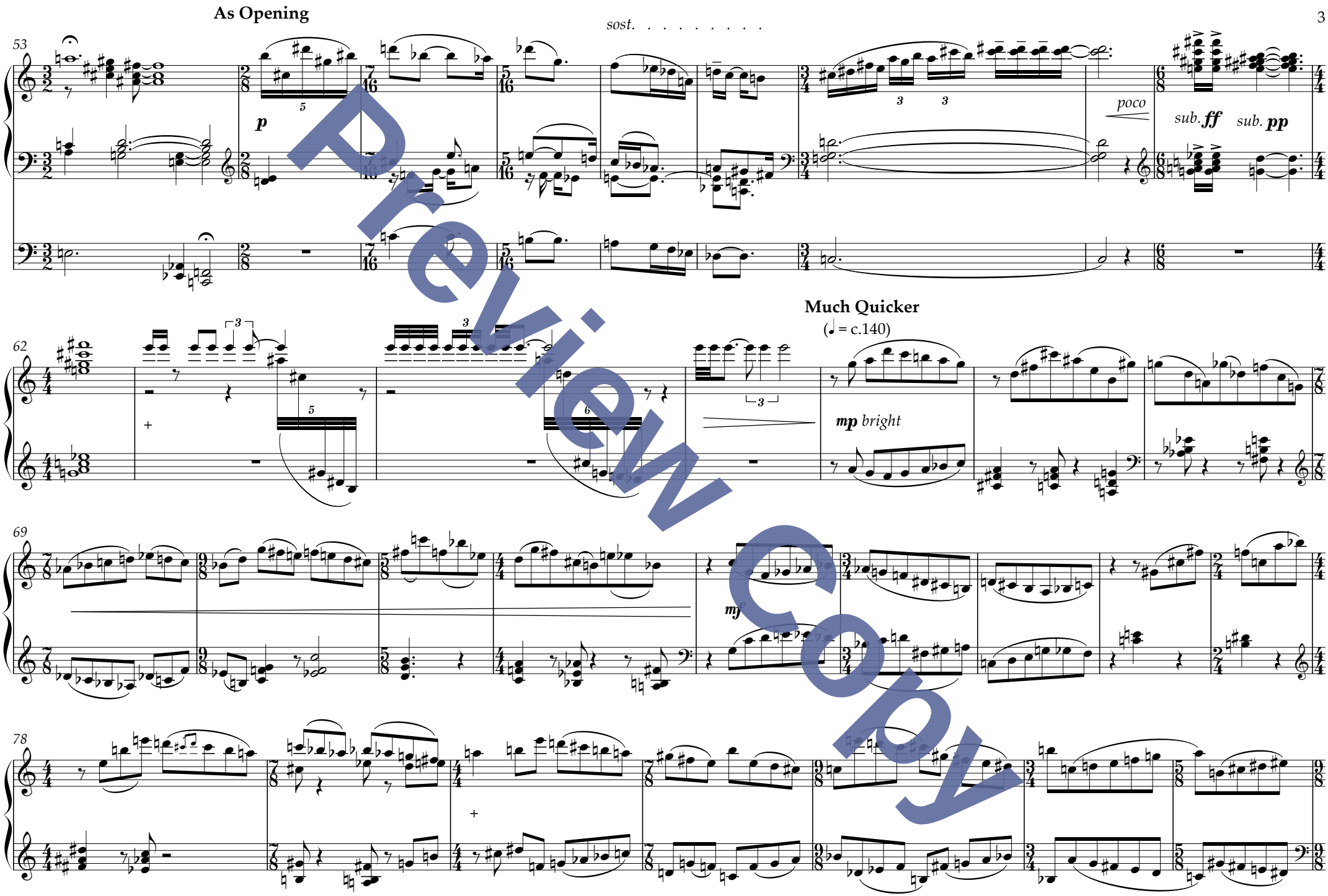

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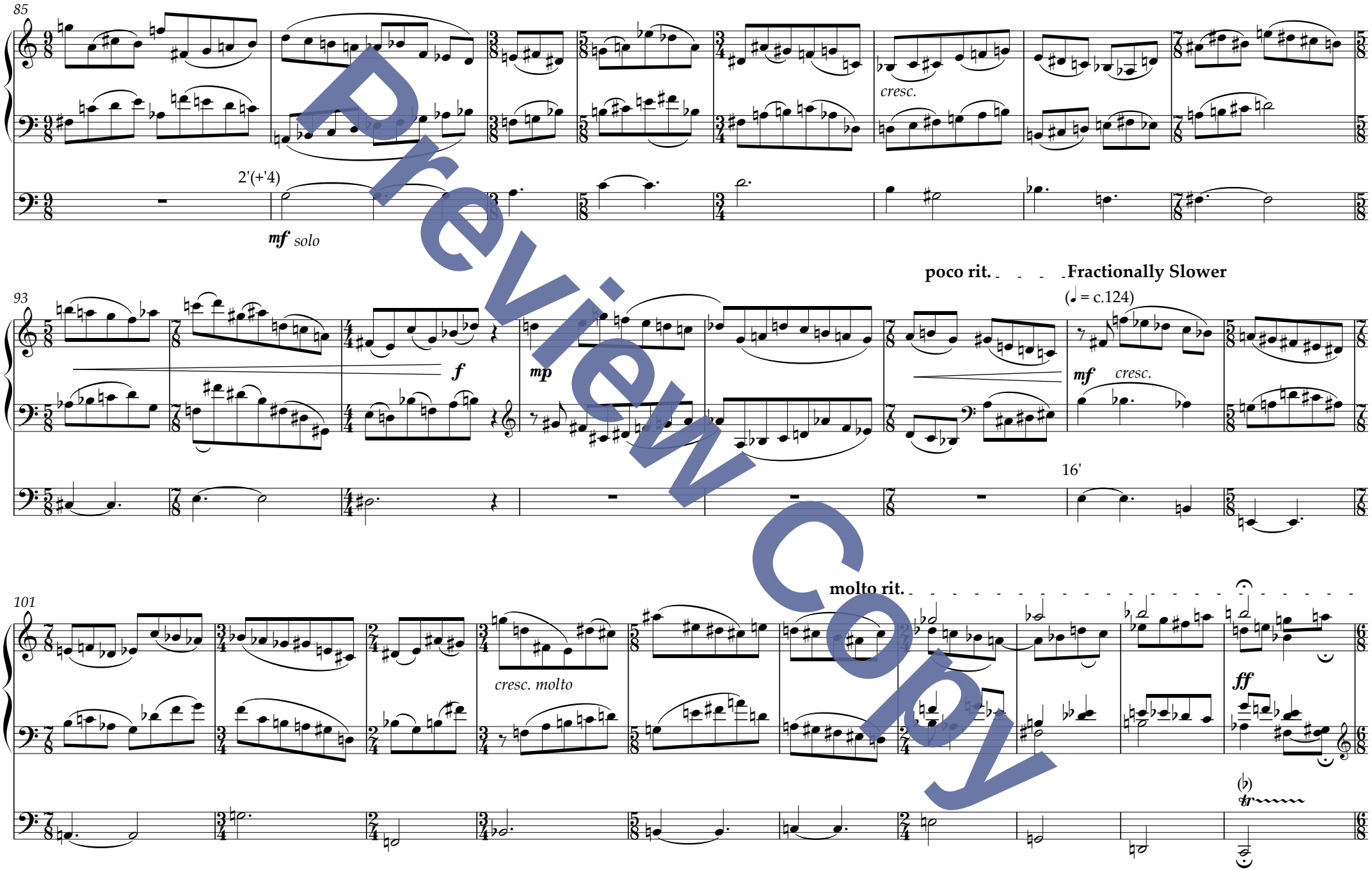


Preview Copy

Frantic, molto rubato (seasick)

(♩. = c.88+)

Gradual poco accel.

111

f

116

121

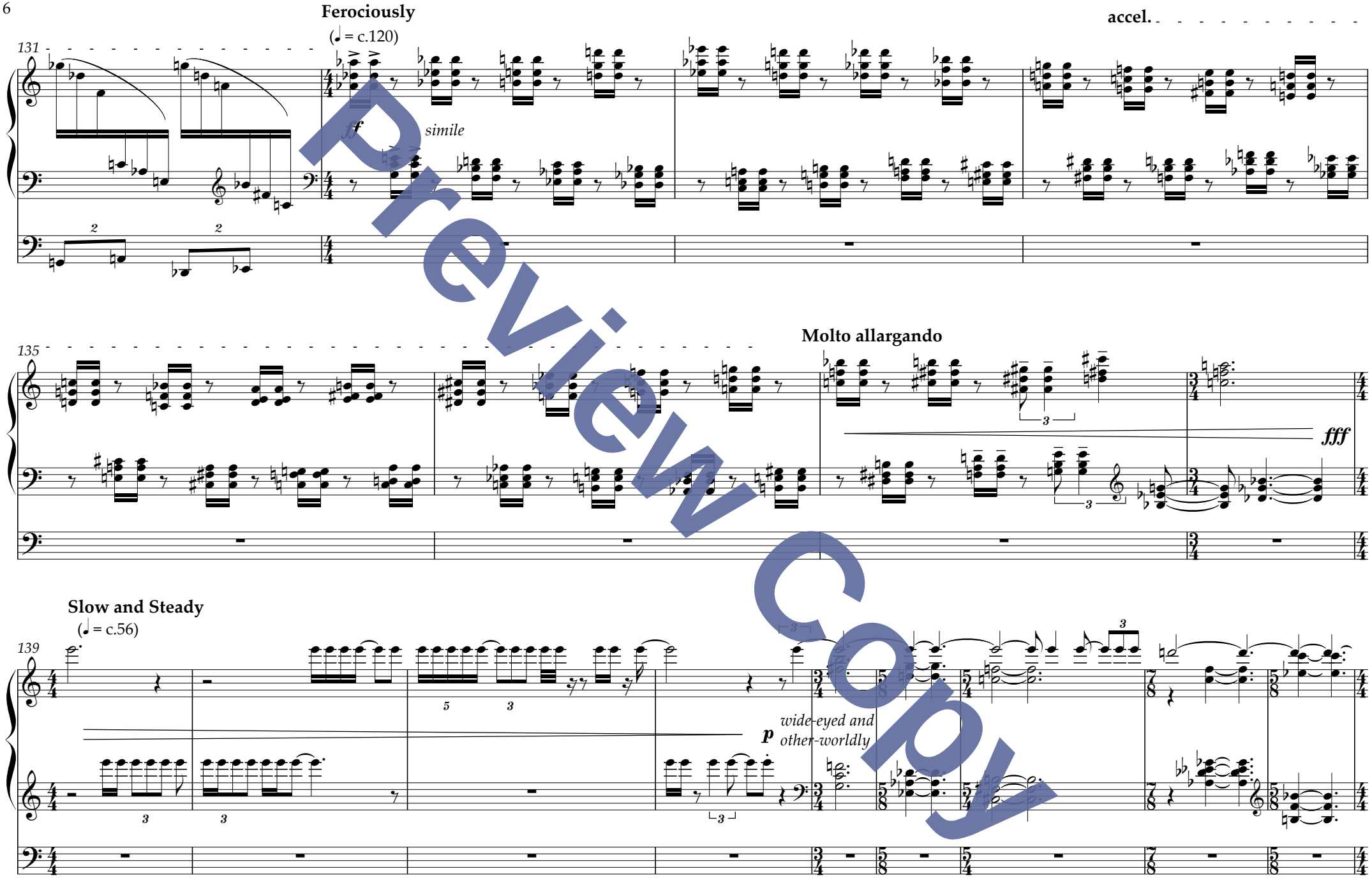
(Fastest point)

126

cresc.

poco rit.

Preview Copy



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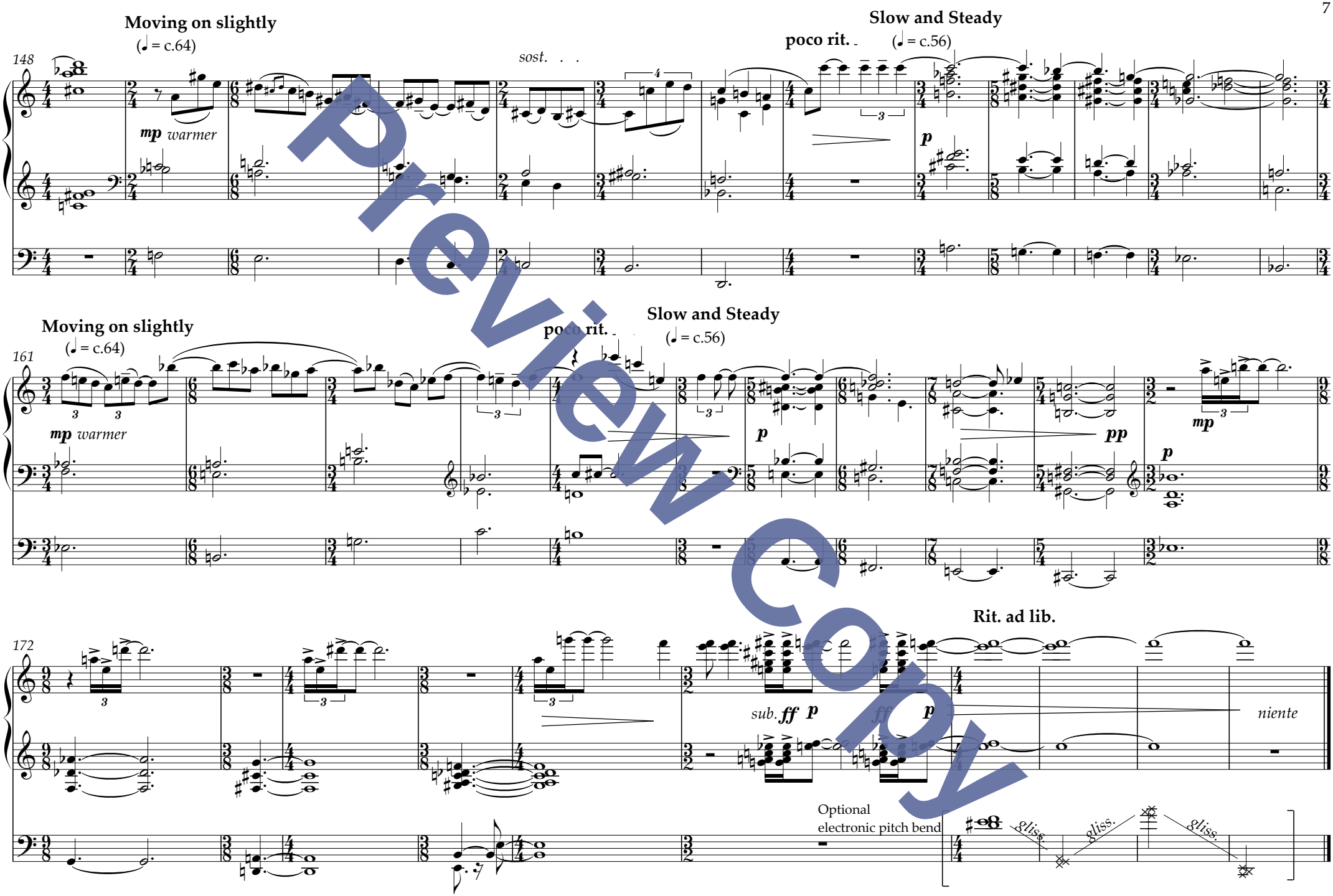

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