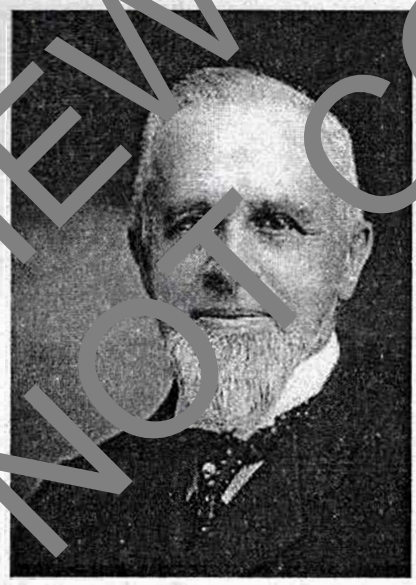
PIANO SOLOS

Near the Cross

The Best-Loved Hymn Tunes
of
William Howard Doane



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Arranged for intermediate level piano solo
by
Doug Little

Near the Cross

The Best-Loved Hymn Tunes
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I Am Thine 29
More Love to Thee 26
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About this collection...

The 19th century produced a uniquely American genre of gospel hymnody. The flow of spiritual passion contemporary with the revival movement led by Dwight L. Moody stirred the pens of text writers such as Fanny Crosby, Ira Sankey, Philip P. Bliss, and others. The contribution of the composers who provided the musical vehicle for these new texts is often overshadowed by emphasis on the hymn authors. But in many cases, it was the tune that inspired the text. And certainly the marriage of text and tune was so effective that they are seldom distinguished apart from each other.

These hymns are known primarily for their texts. The styles of these beloved hymn authors are commonly studied and discussed by church musicians. But the stylistic characteristics of hymn tune composers have rarely been considered. And to that end this collection is devoted, for these compositions of William Howard Doane are marked by common characteristics that are not only discernible, but noteworthy.

Doane preferred that a gospel hymn have a refrain. Refrains were not typical of the hymns written before his generation. His effectiveness in using them and encouraging hymn authors to write them shaped American gospel hymnody for all future generations.

I hope that these arrangements provide the pianist an intermediate-level variety of techniques that can be mastered without excessive difficulty and also be worthy of both private enjoyment and public performance. The pianist should strive to allow the familiar melody to ring clearly, supported by the rhythmic and harmonic textures. Reviewing the text associated with each hymn tune will help determine appropriate stylizing of the score. Since hearing these tunes evoke favorite hymn texts, performance will be enhanced by the pianist's own contemplation of the words as the music is played.

As the 21st century leads the American church to new forms and styles of music, may the music of William H. Doane never cease to warm our hearts with the love of Christ and always lead us to the foot of the cross.

-- Doug Little

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William Howard Doane

William Howard Doane was born February 3, 1832, in Preston, Connecticut, son of Joseph H. and Frances Treat Doane. He was educated at Woodstock Academy in Connecticut.

Although he considered music nothing more than an avocation, he was recognized as a gifted musician. His contribution to American hymnody includes his composition of over 2000 hymn tunes. His friendships with hymn-writing contemporaries such as Fanny Crosby and Philip P. Bliss were a source of inspiration and collaboration that produced some of the American church's best-loved hymns. Among his circle of friends were also numbered Ira Sankey and Dwight L. Moody.

His secular career began in 1847 as secretary of Industry Company cotton mills. In 1861 he became president of the J.A. Fay & Company, a woodworking machinery manufacturer, and was a highly successful businessman. He held American and foreign patents on wood-working machinery and membership in several professional societies. He served as president of Central Trust and Safe Deposit Company and head of the Ohio Baptist Convention Ministers Aid Society. In 1889 he was awarded the Chevalier Legion of Honor of France. His business success and compassionate spirit prompted his to become an avid philanthropist, bequeathing large sums to numerous causes.

Doane learned music early in church choirs and under the tutelage of Kanboysen Kingsley and B.F. Baker of Boston. Denison University awarded him a doctorate of music degree in 1875. In addition to his hymn tune composition, Doane edited forty-three collections of hymns. He also composed cantatas, anthems, duets, ballads, and secular songs.

He served the Mount Auburn Baptist Church in Cincinnati as Sunday School superintendent and choir director.

He died on December 23, 1915, in Rhode Island, at the age of 83. His remains were buried at Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum in Cincinnati. The Doane Memorial Music Building in Chicago, Illinois, was named after him. Collections of his papers are housed at the Billy Graham Center in Wheaton, Illinois.

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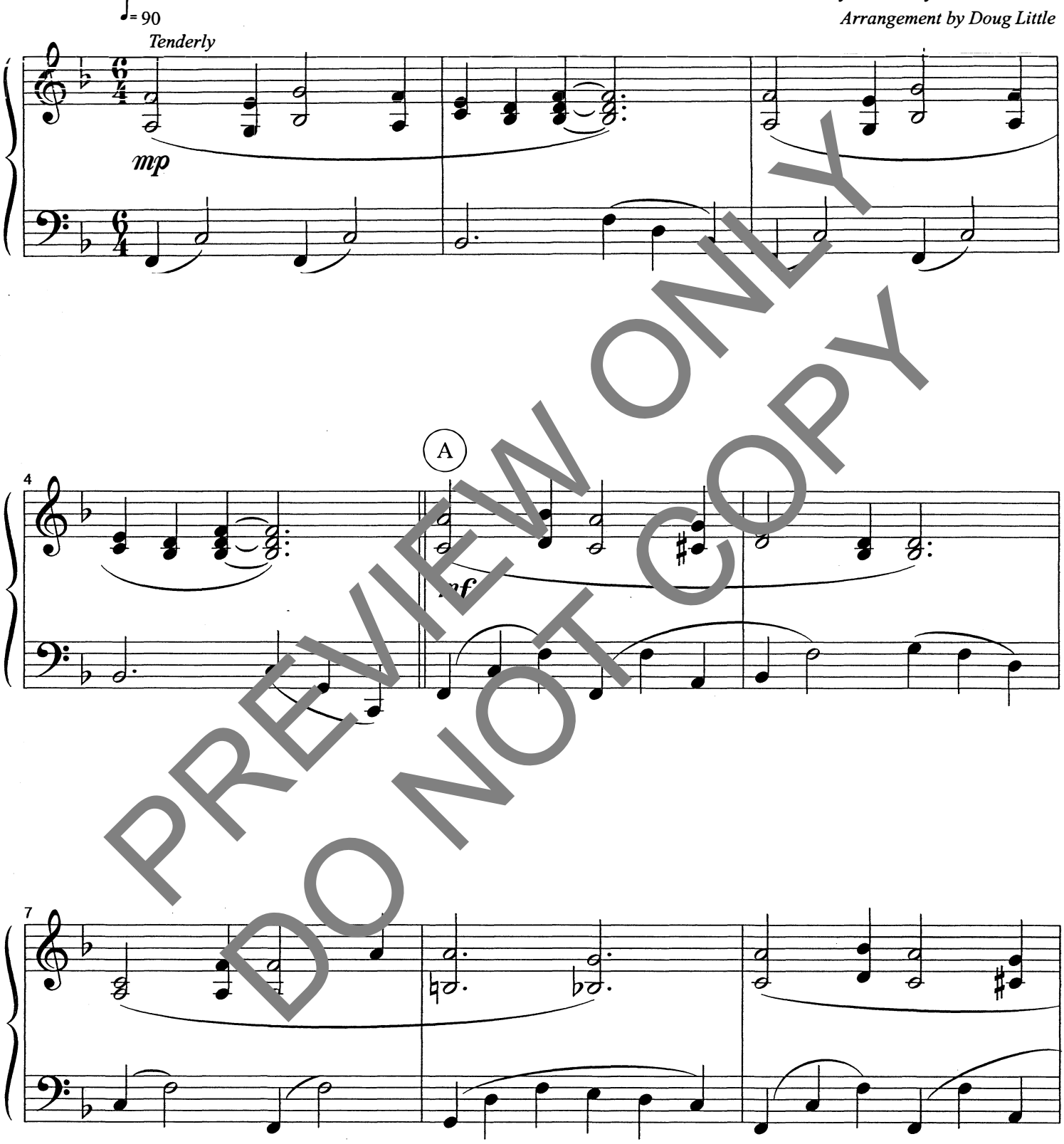
(*Sources:* web site: http://www.cyberhymnal.org/bio/d/o/doane_wh.htm; web site: http://www.wheaton.edu/bgc/archives/GUIDES/194.htm)

Near The Cross

Hymn tune by Wm. H. Doane
Arrangement by Doug Little



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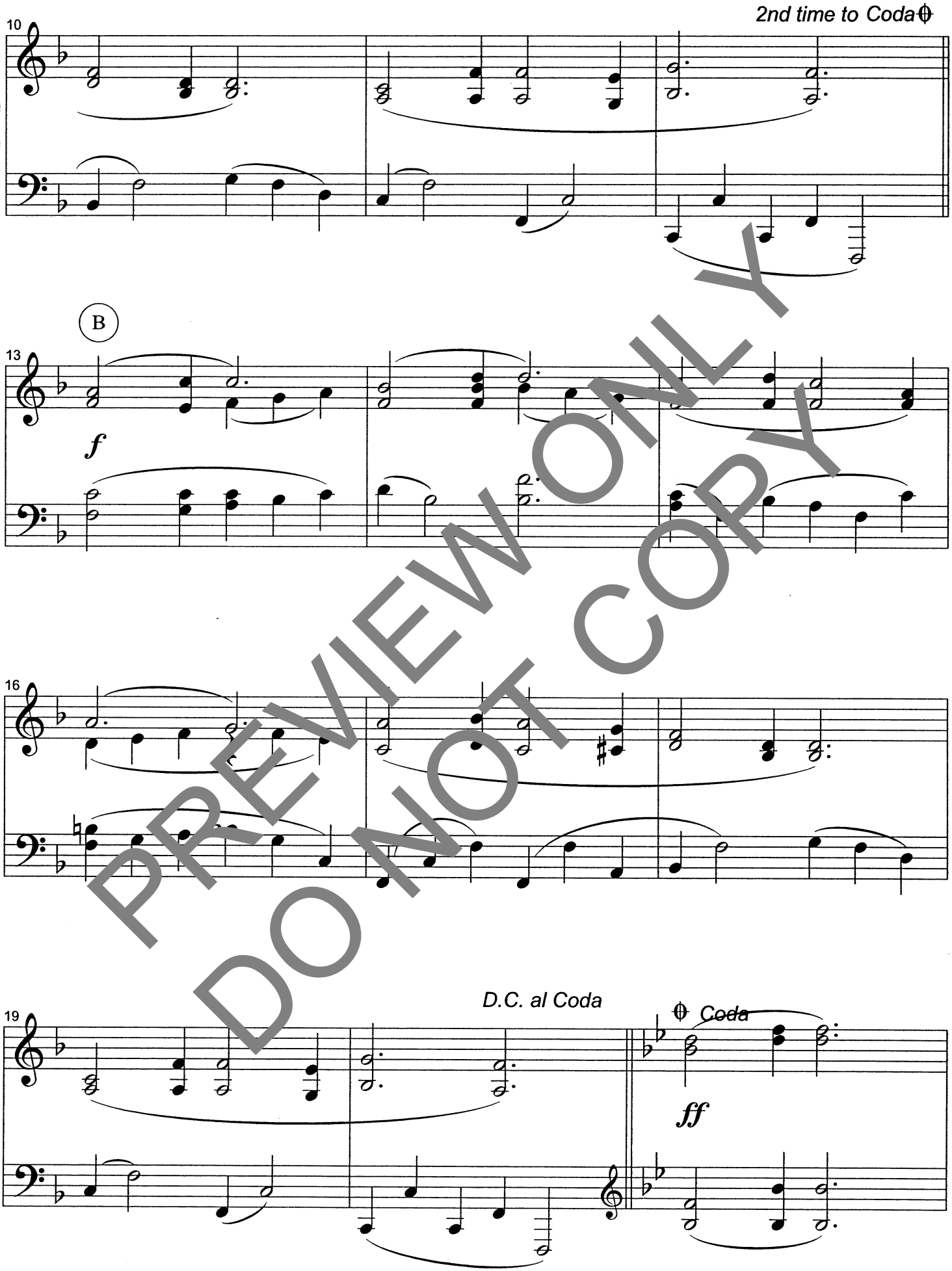

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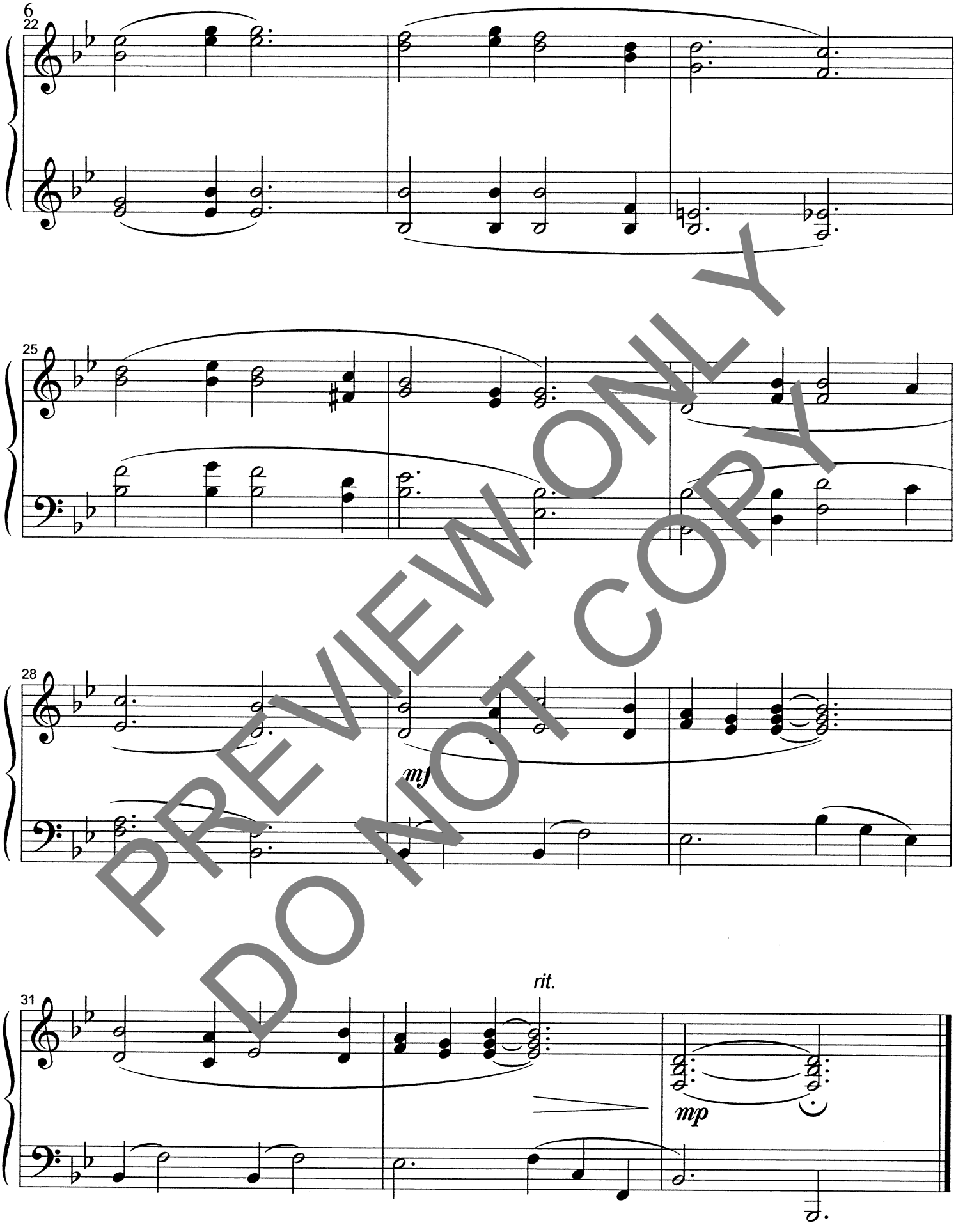

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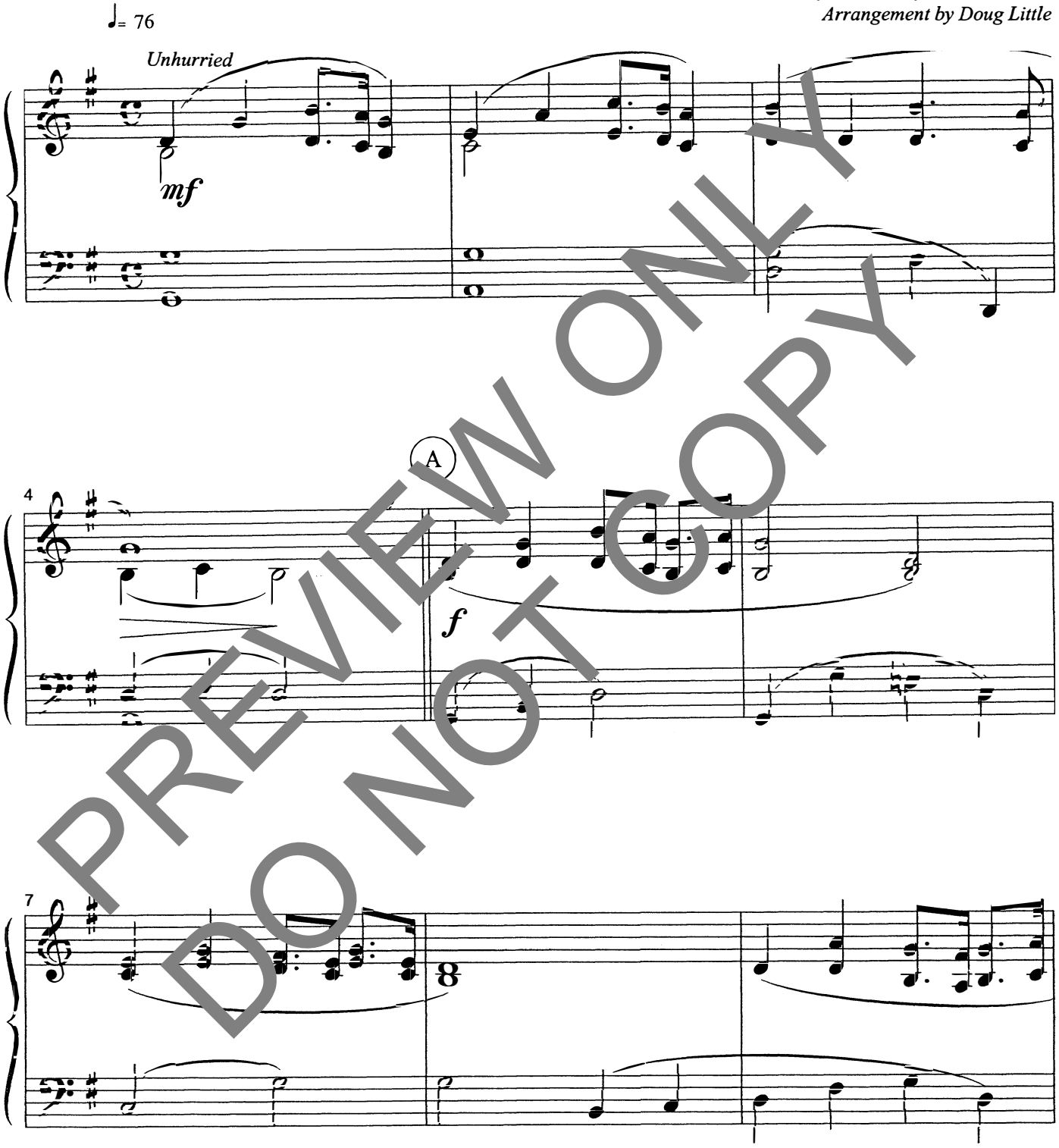
Precious Name

Tune for *Take the Name of Jesus with You*

Hymn Tune by Wm. H. Doane
Arrangement by Doug Little



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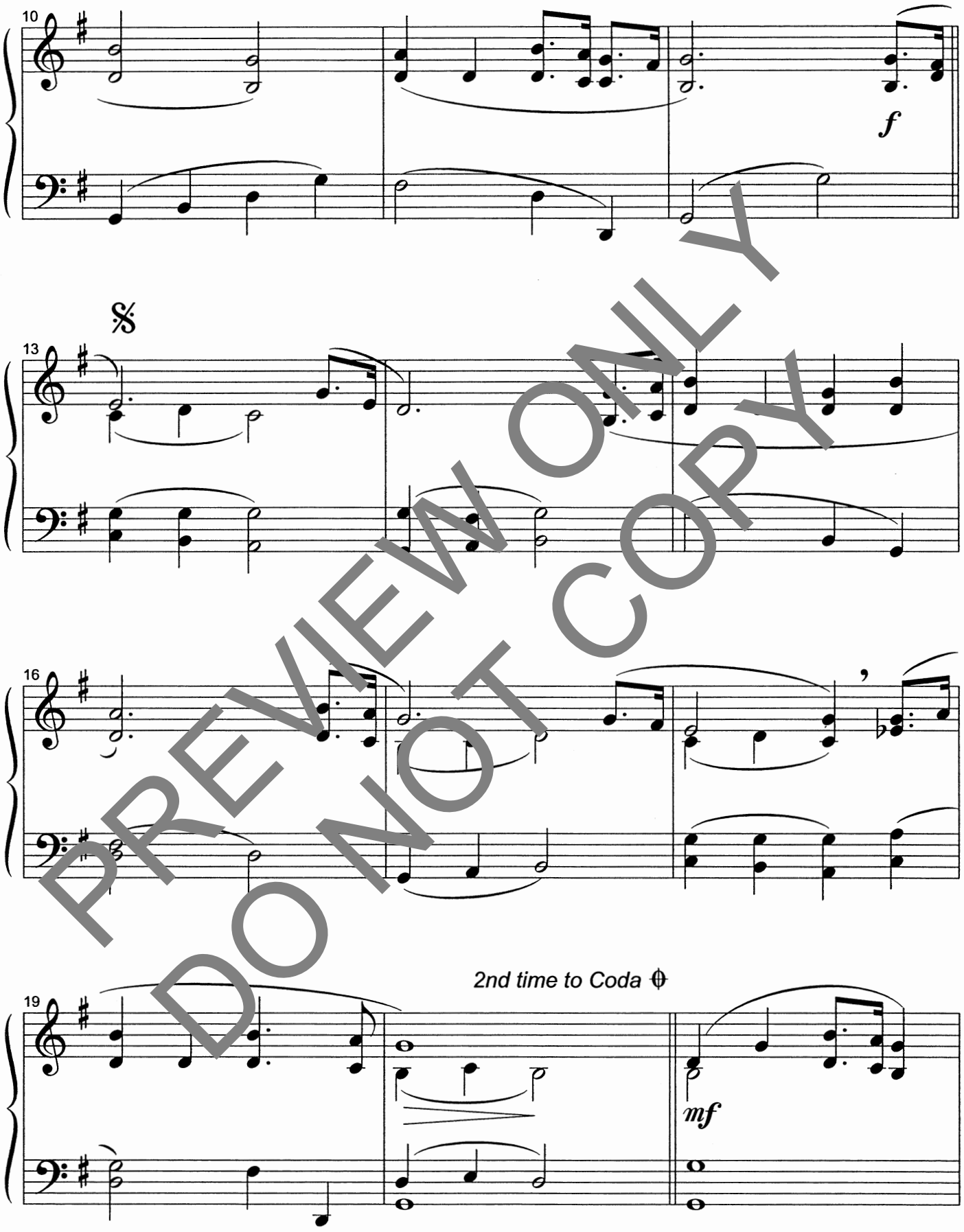

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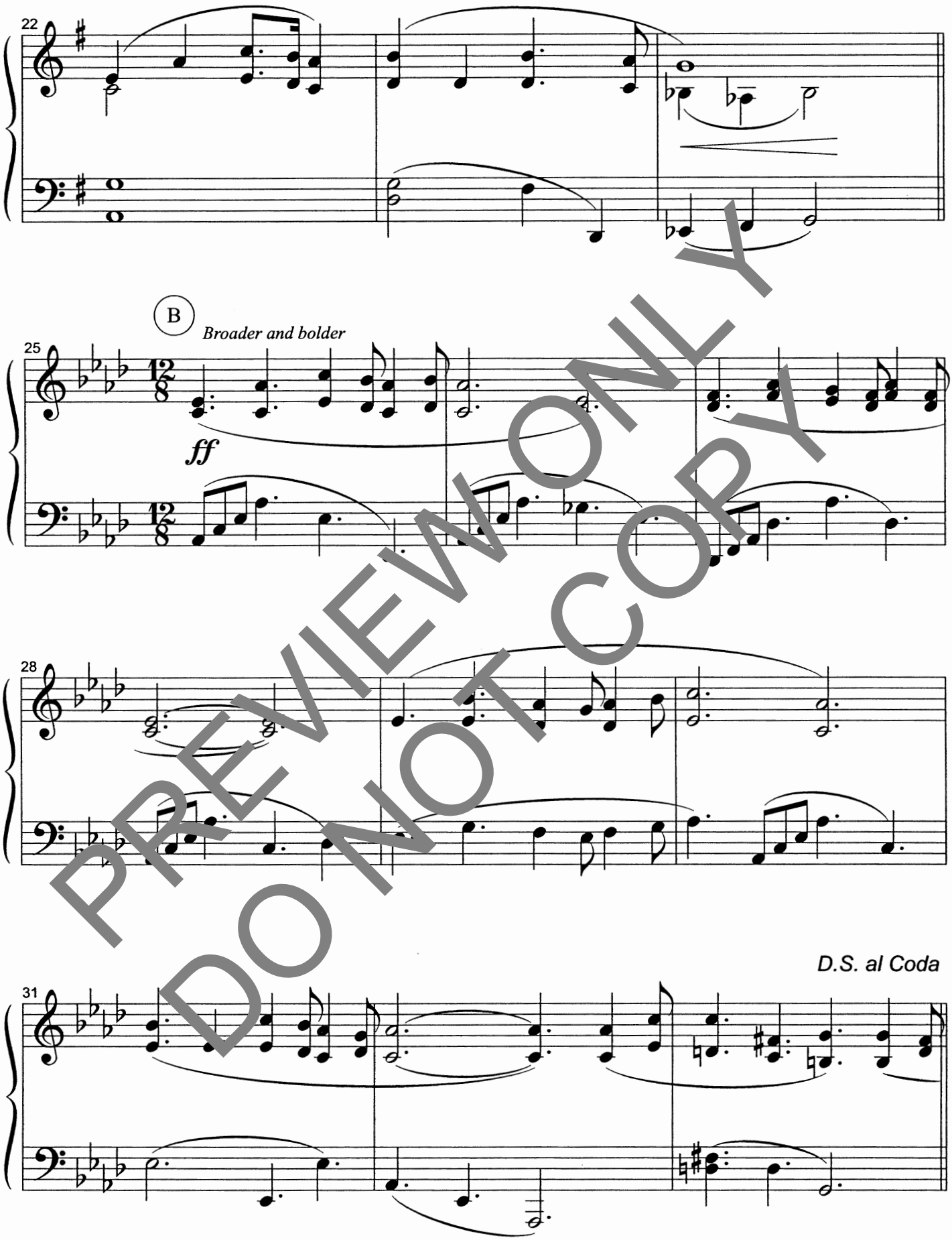

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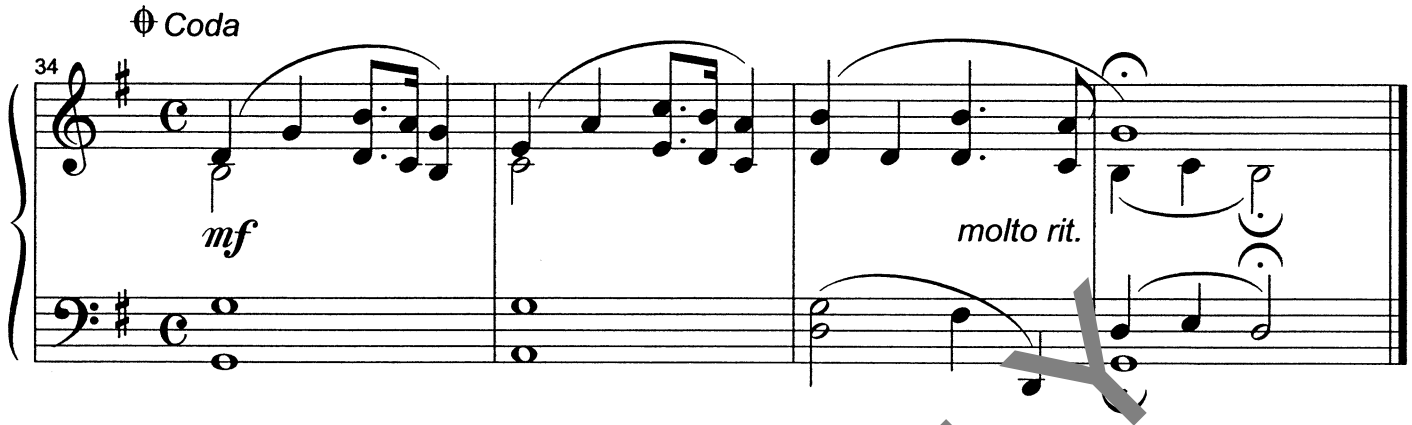

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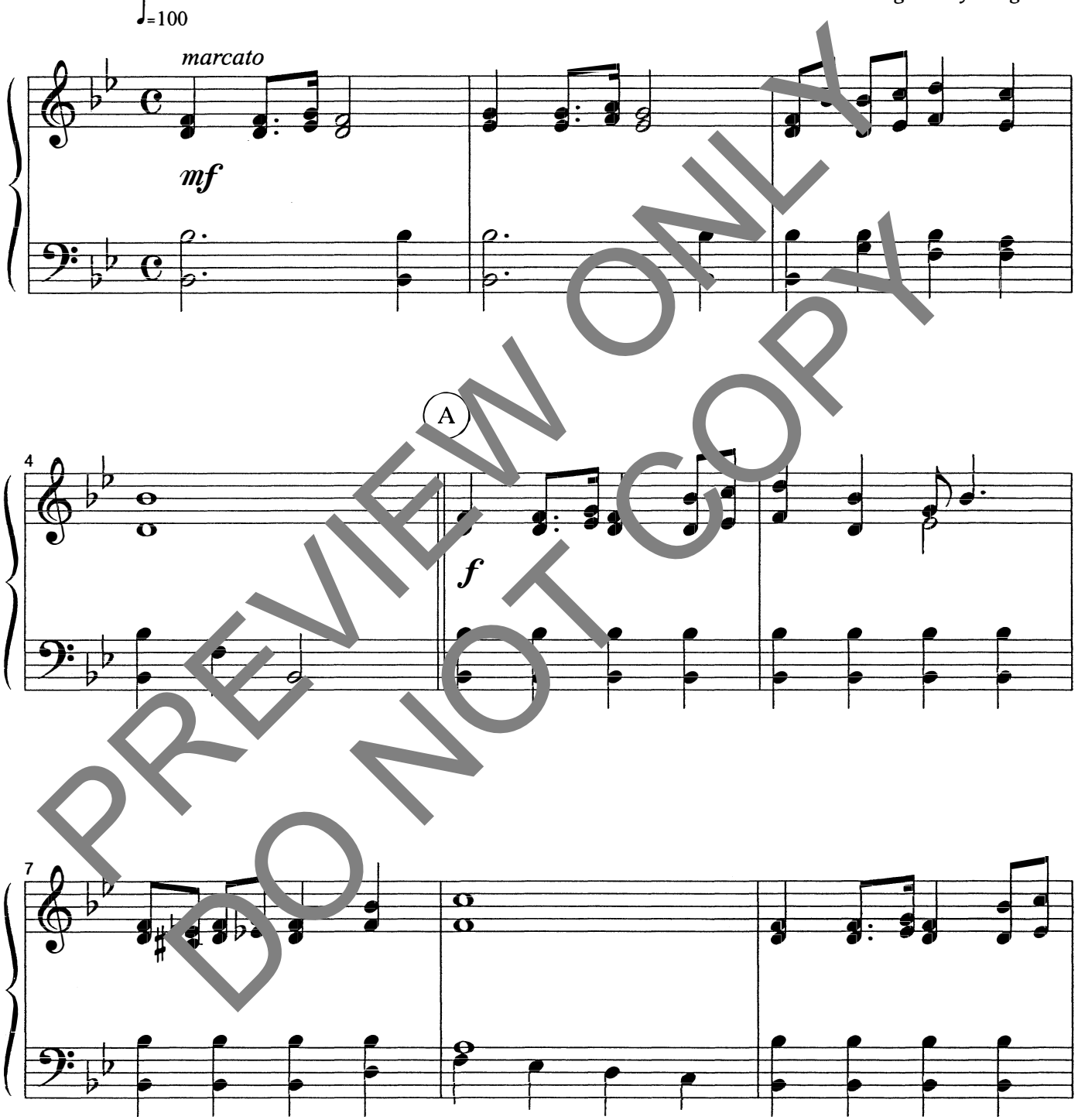
Woodstock

Tune for *Will Jesus Find Us Watching?*

Hymn tune by Wm. H. Doane

Arrangment by Doug Little



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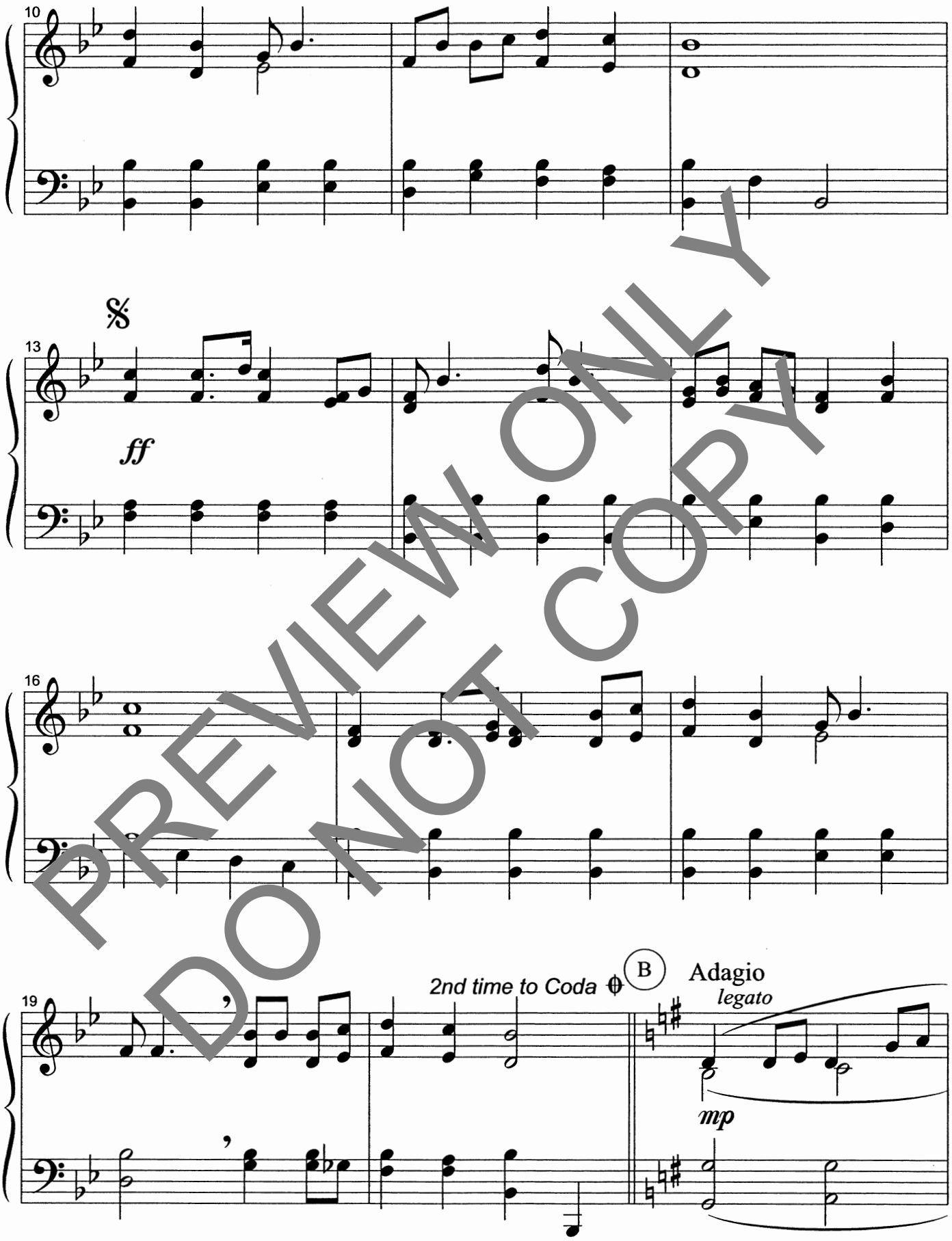

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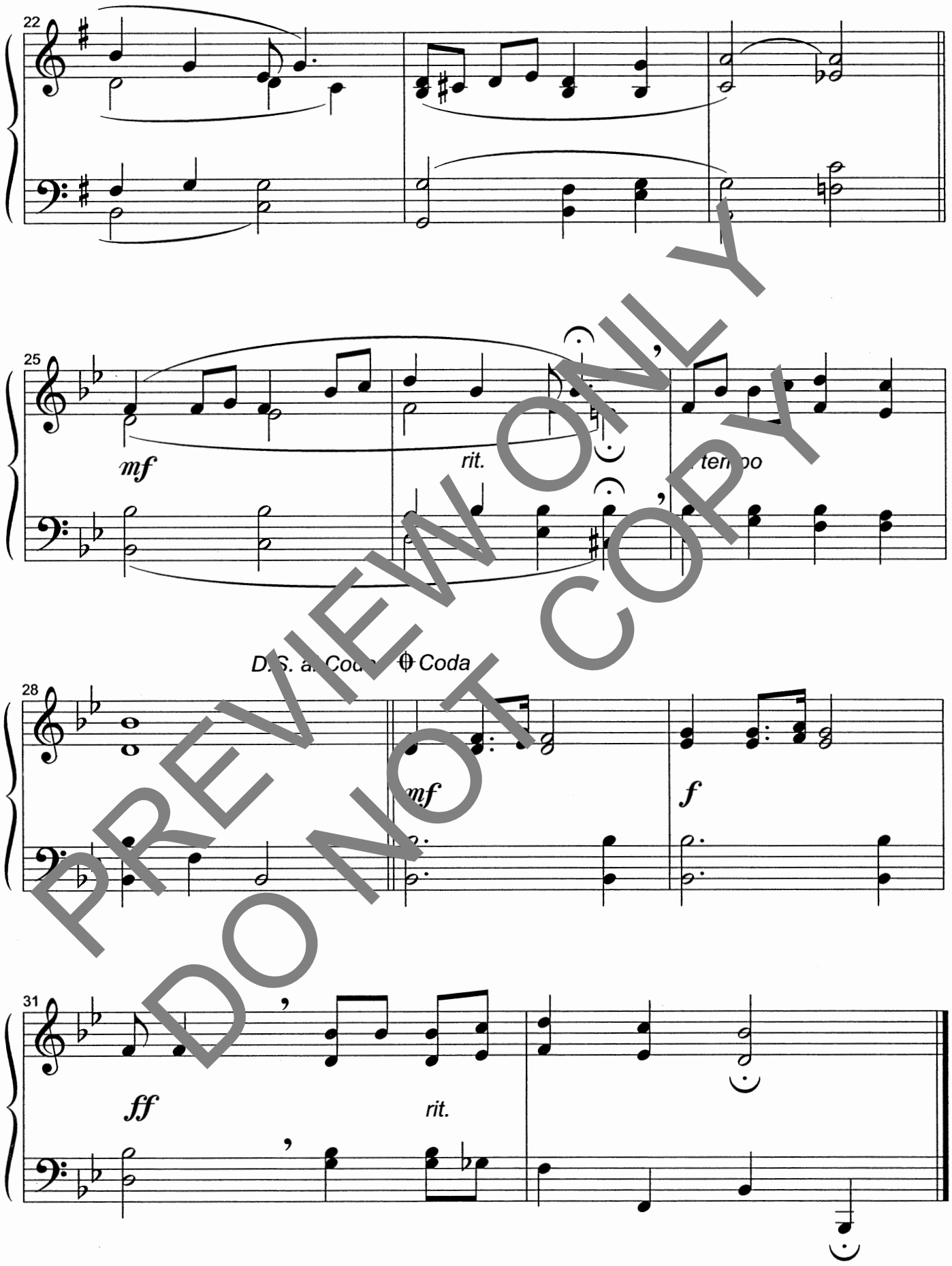

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To God Be The Glory

Hymn tune by Wm. H. Doane

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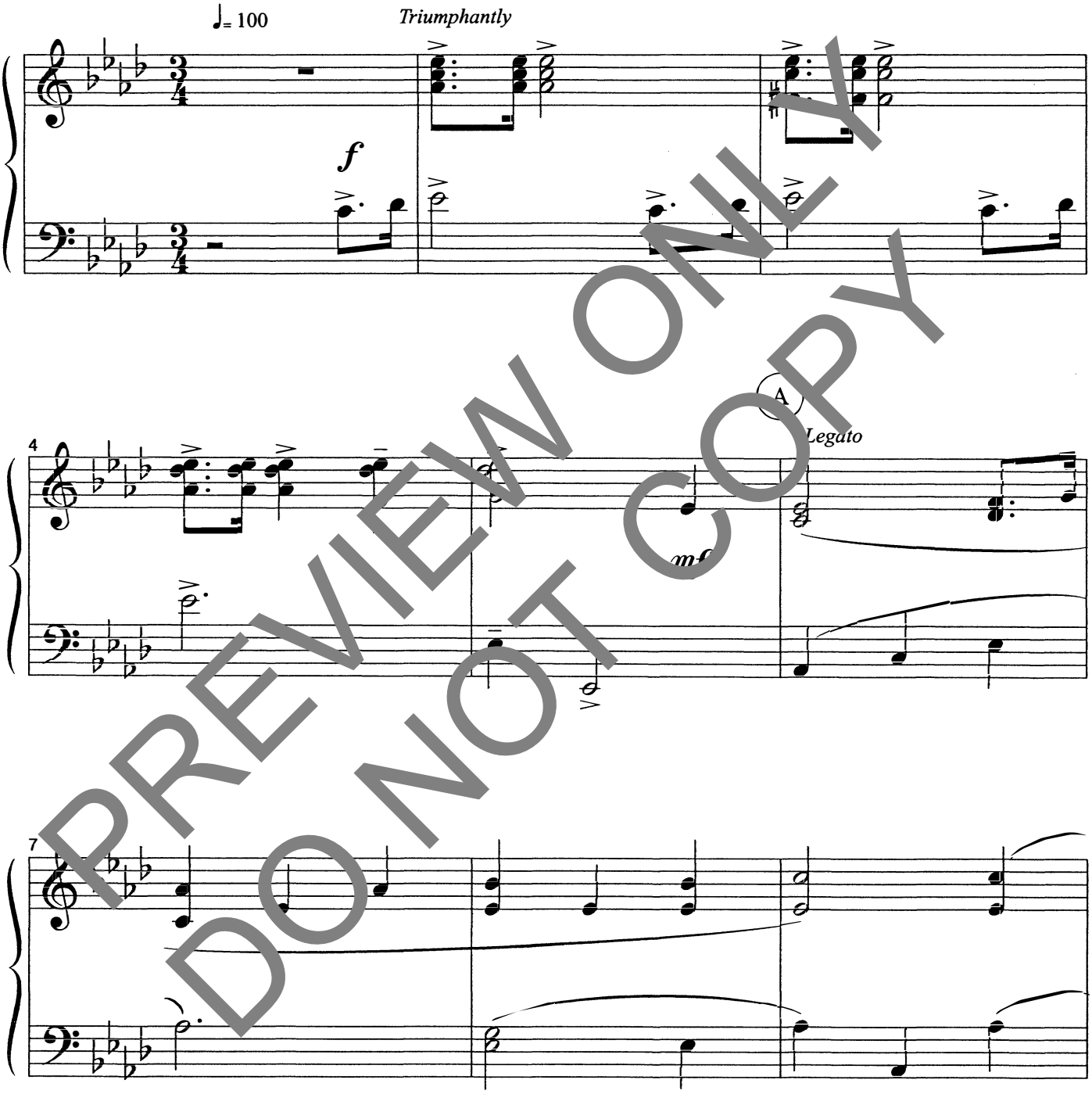

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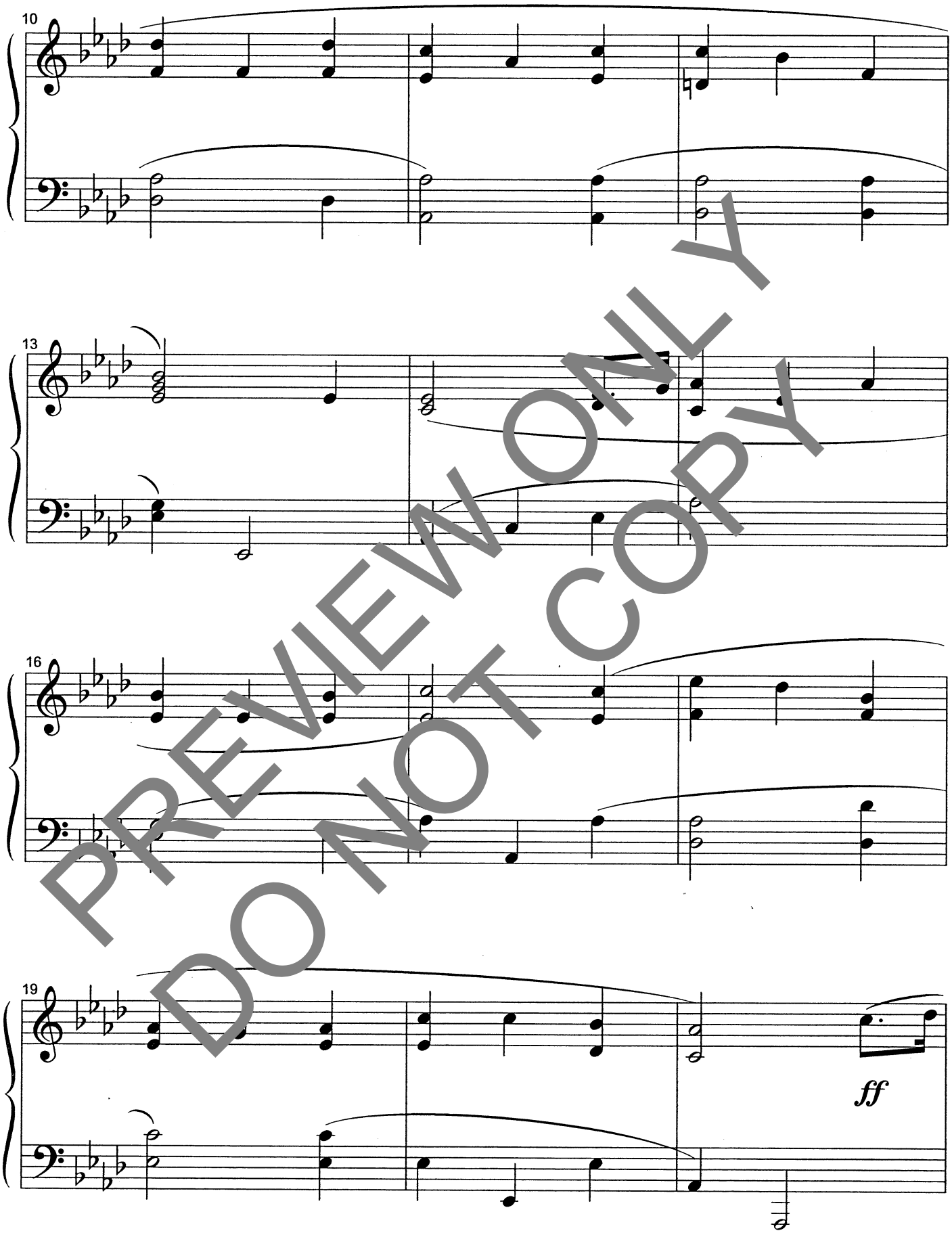

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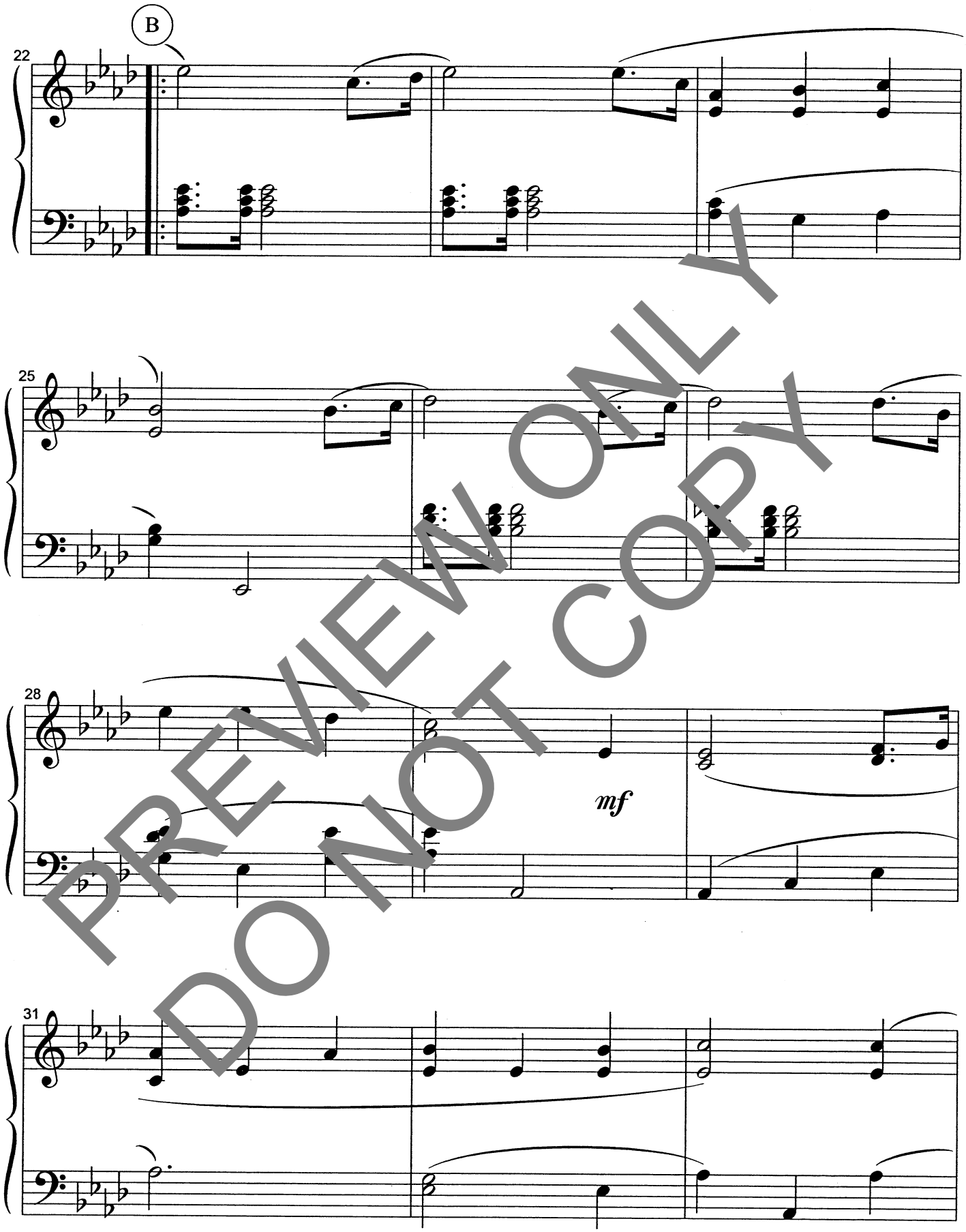

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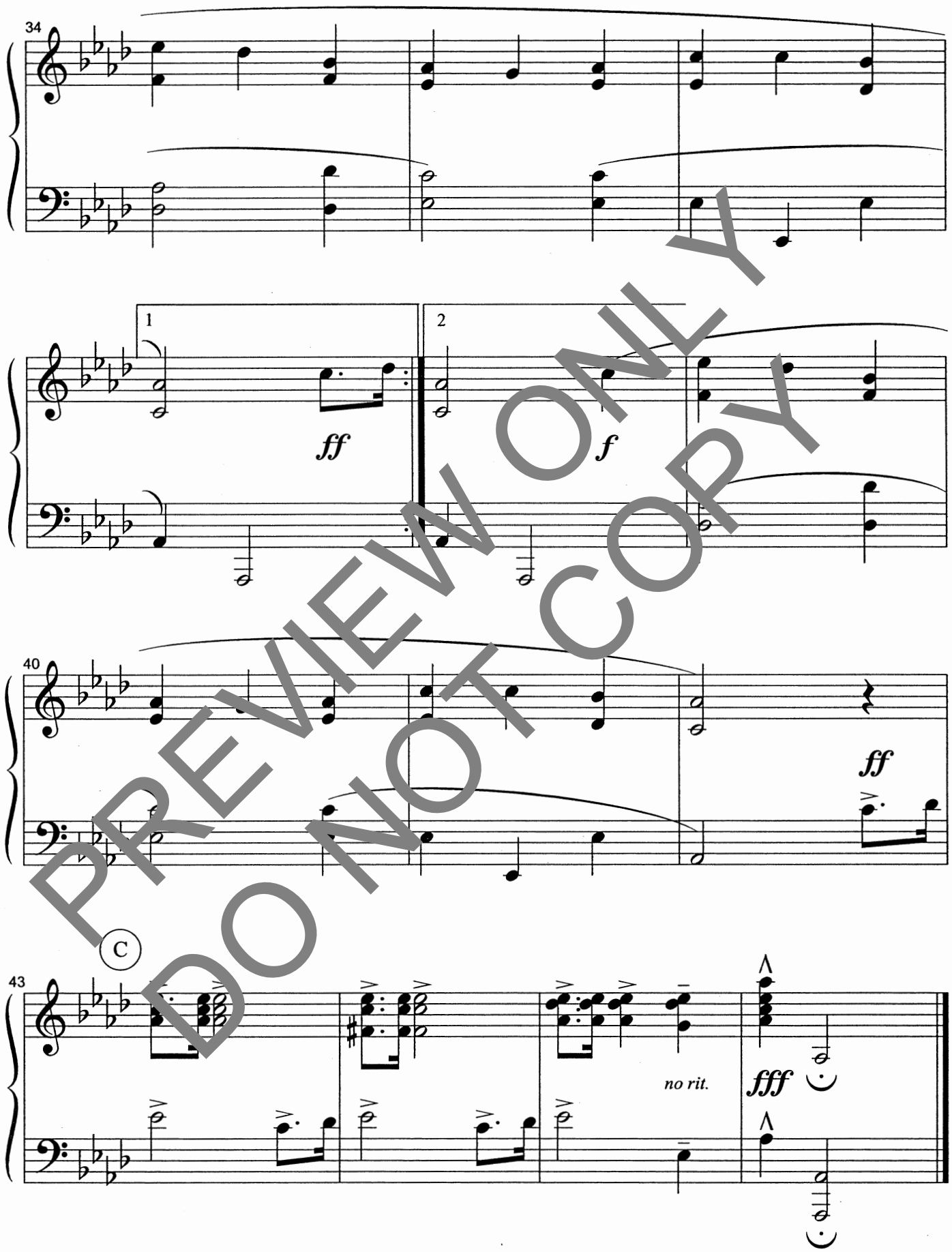

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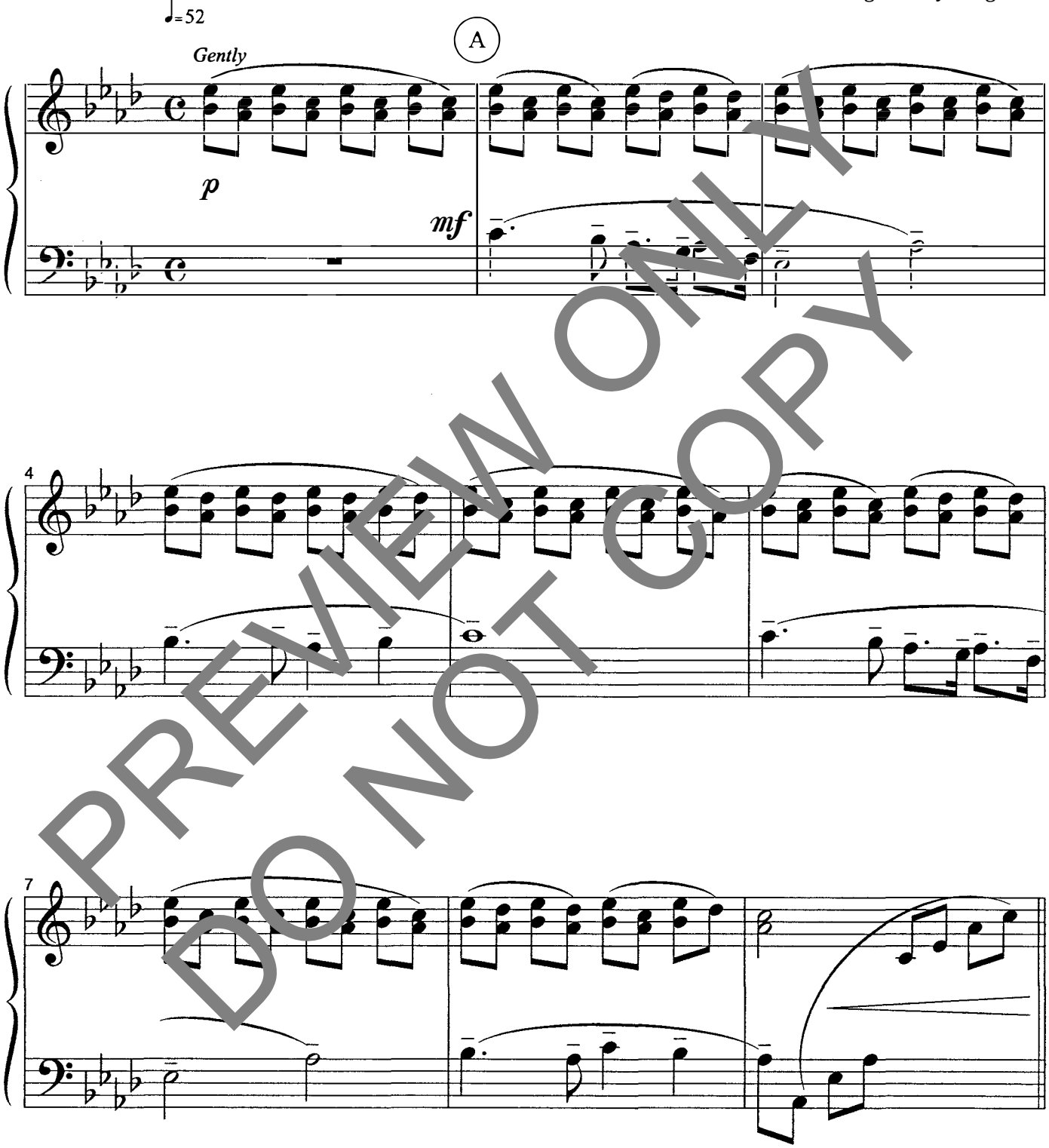
Pass Me Not

Hymn tune by Wm. H. Doane
Arrangement by Doug Little



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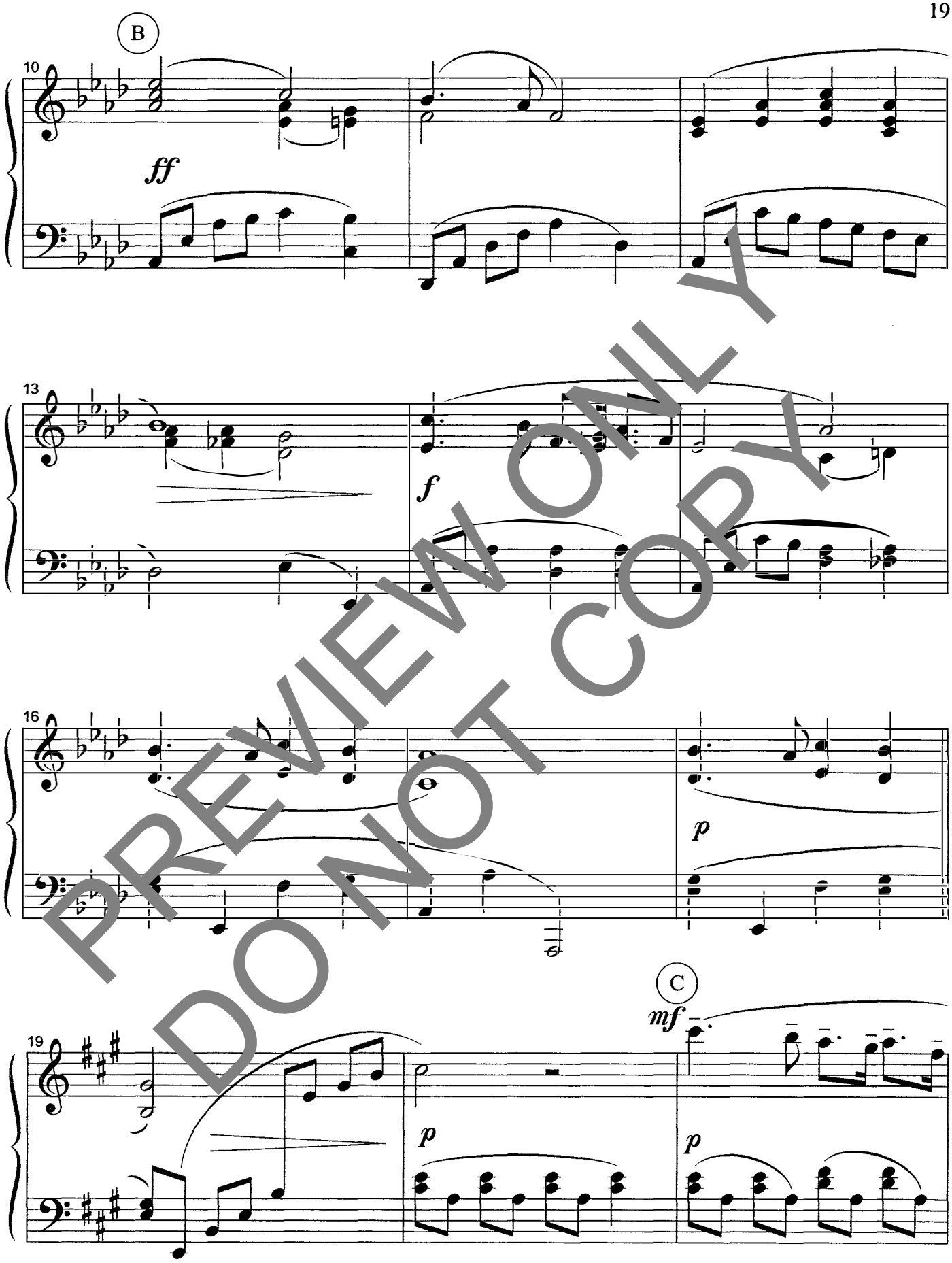

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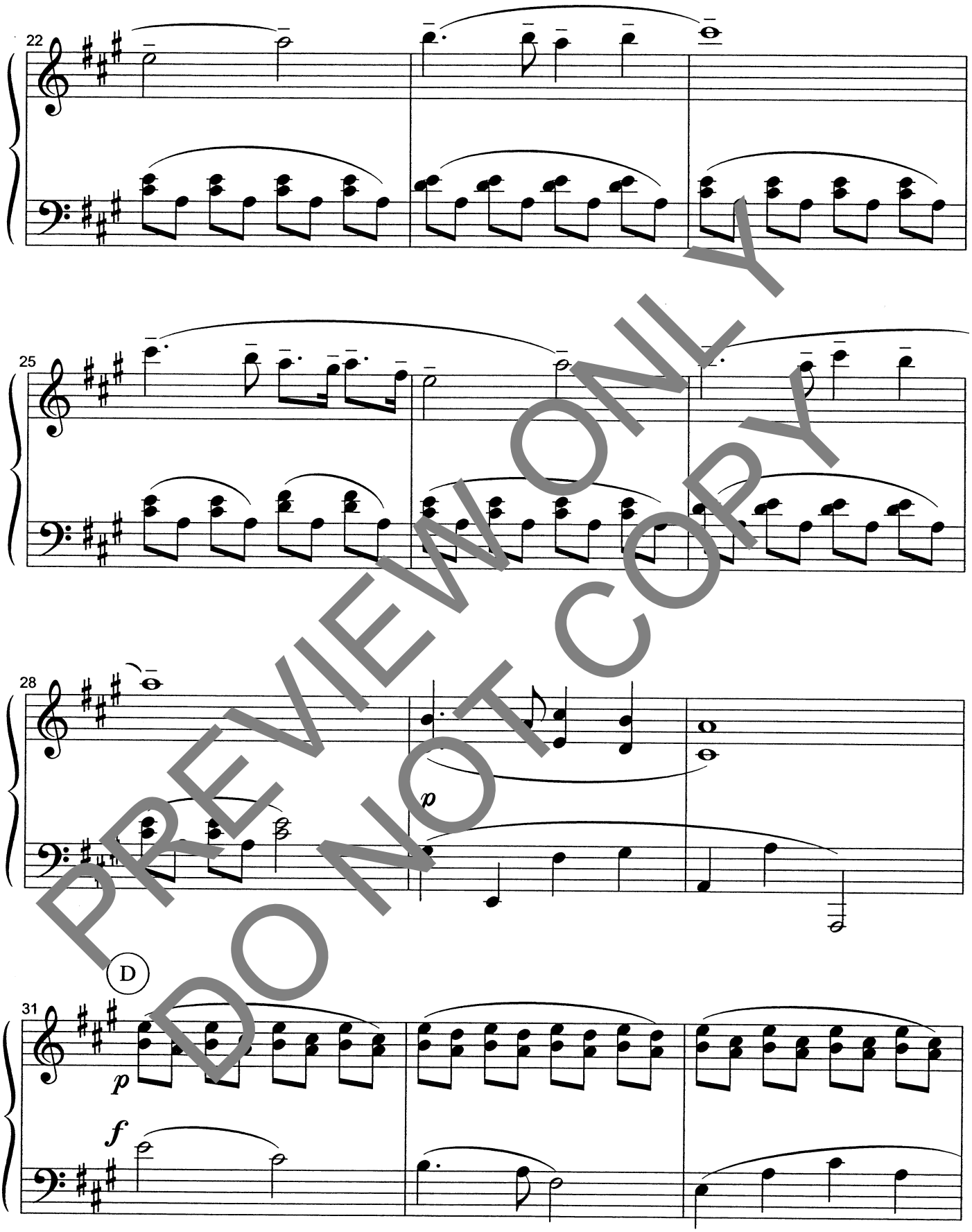

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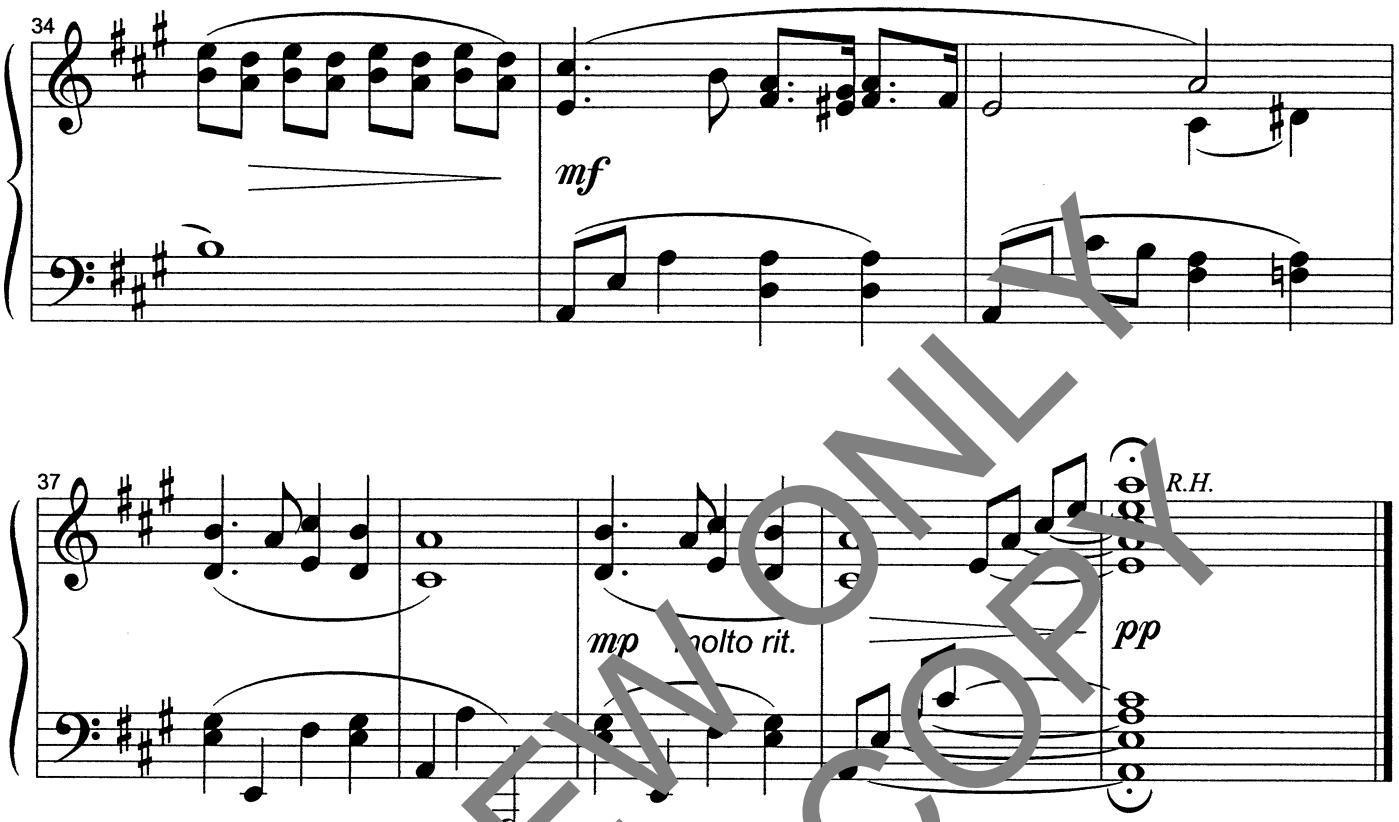

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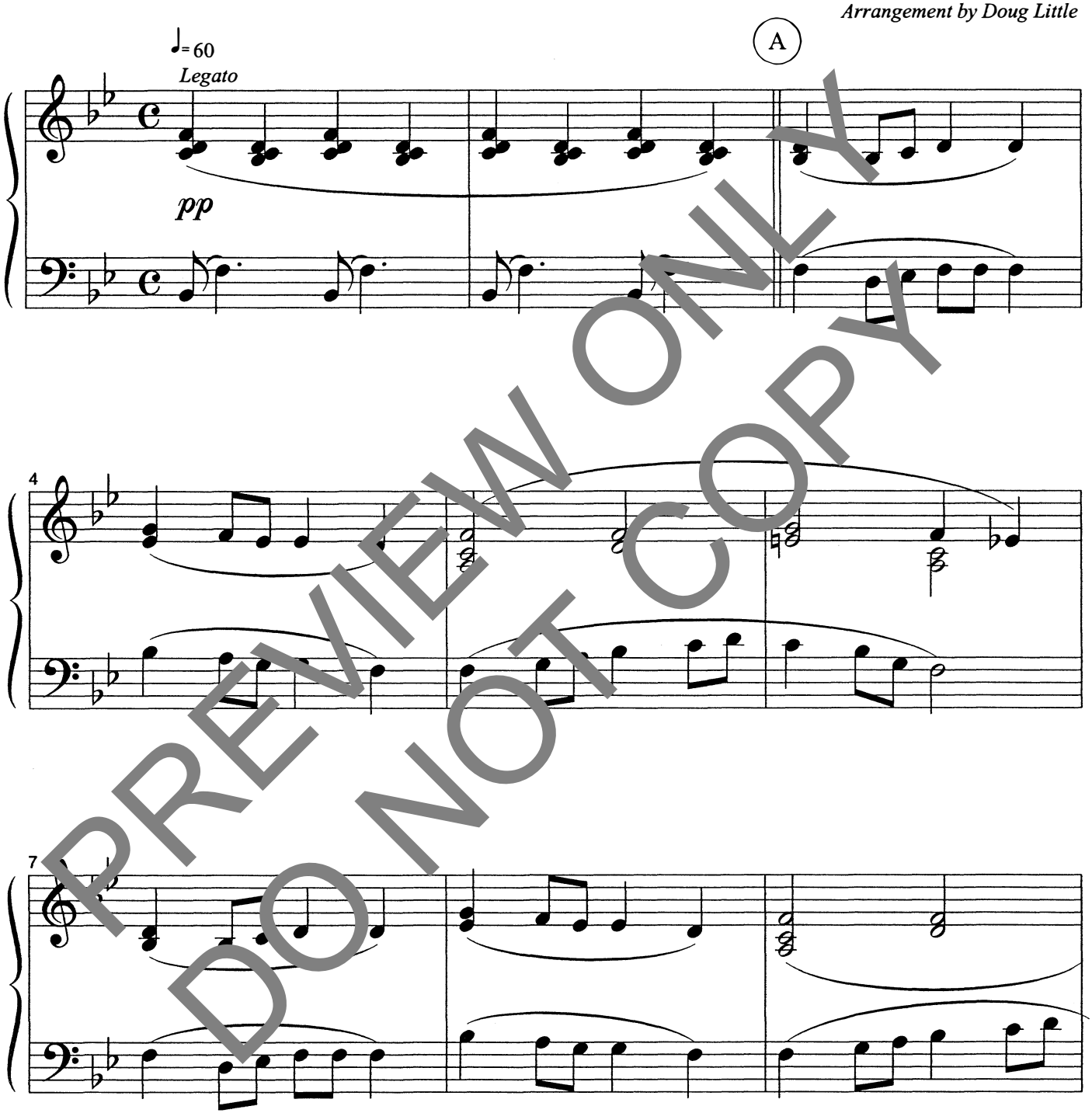
Rescue

Tune for *Rescue the Perishing*

Hymn tune by Wm. H. Doane
Arrangement by Doug Little



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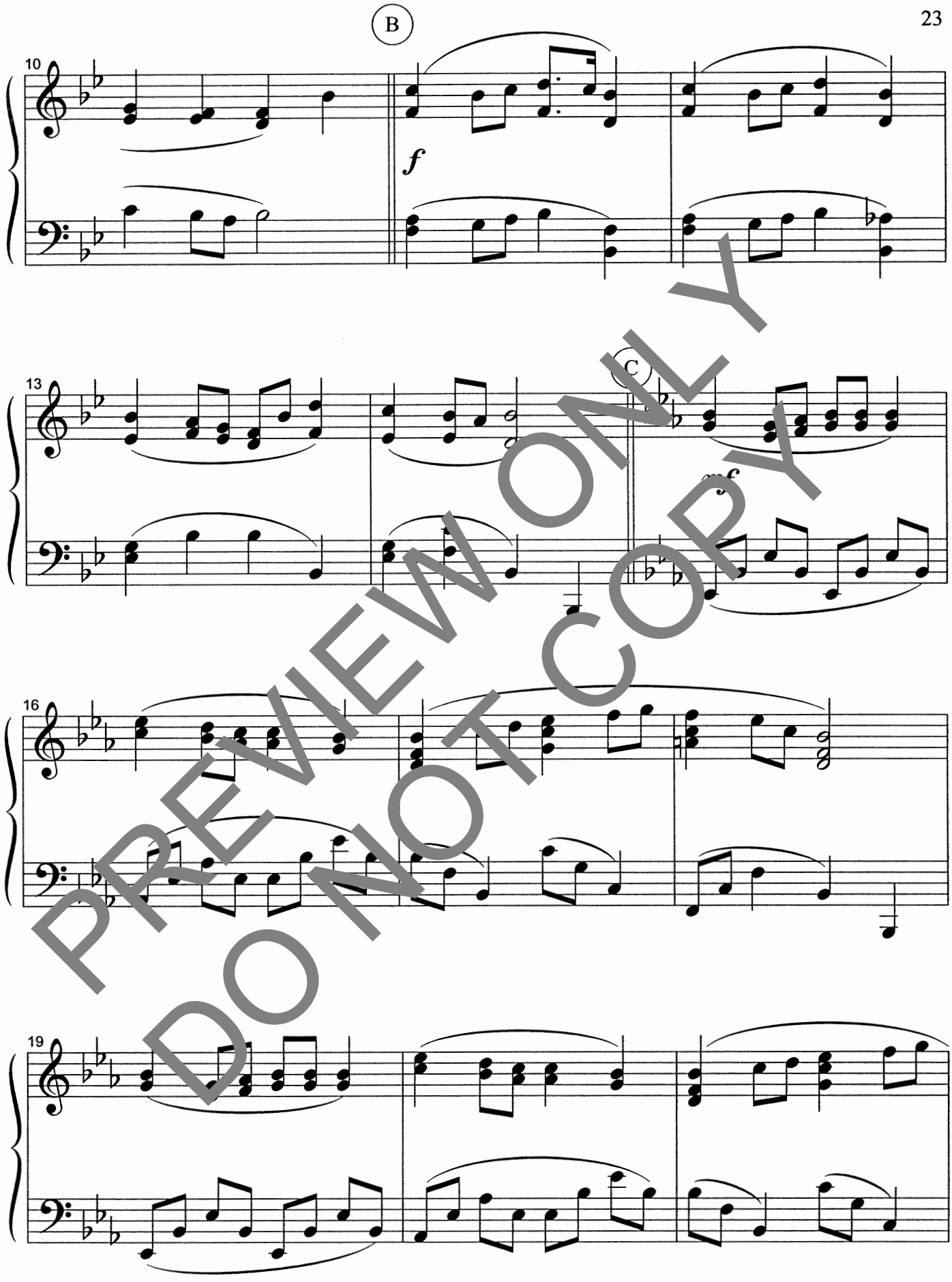

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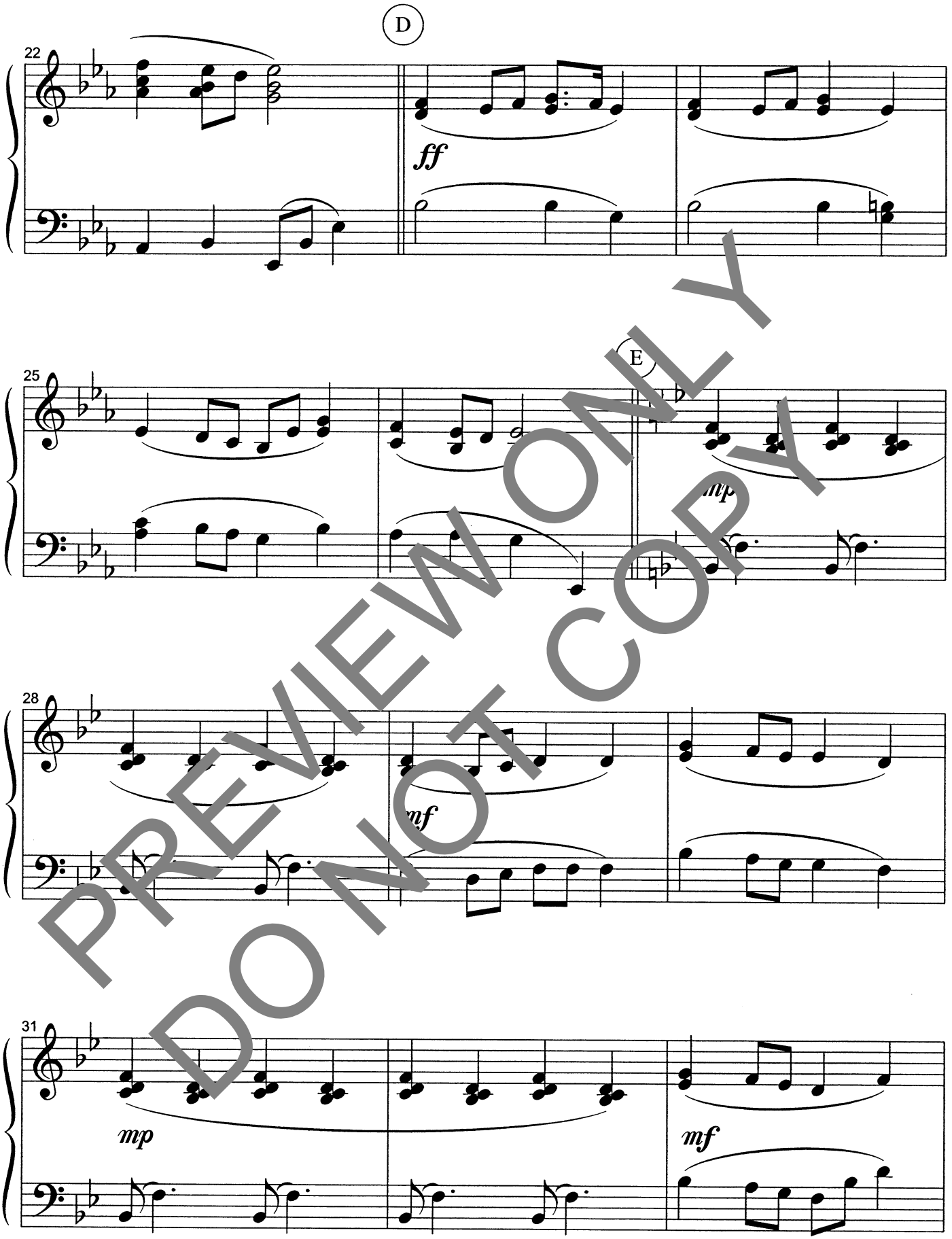

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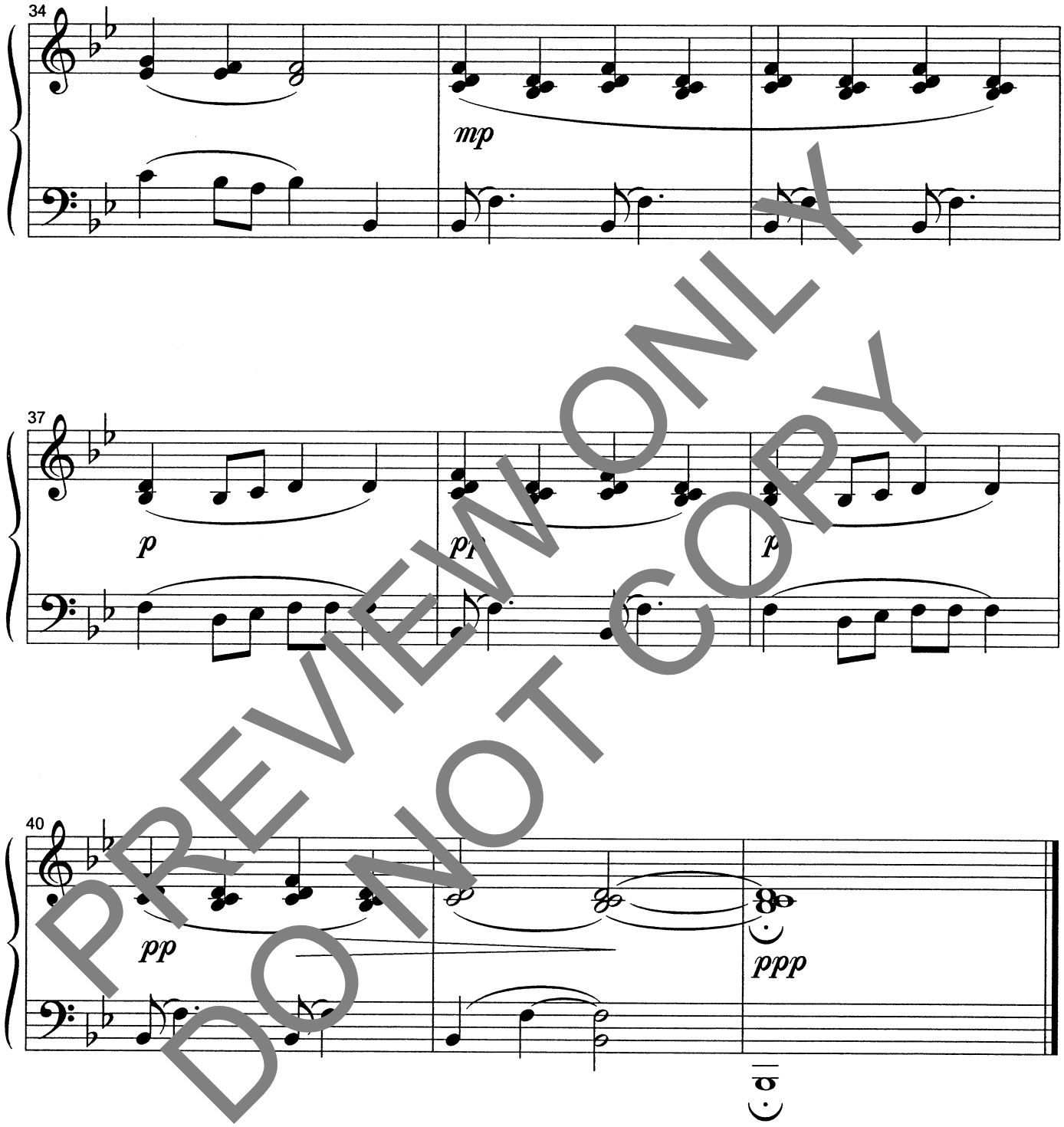

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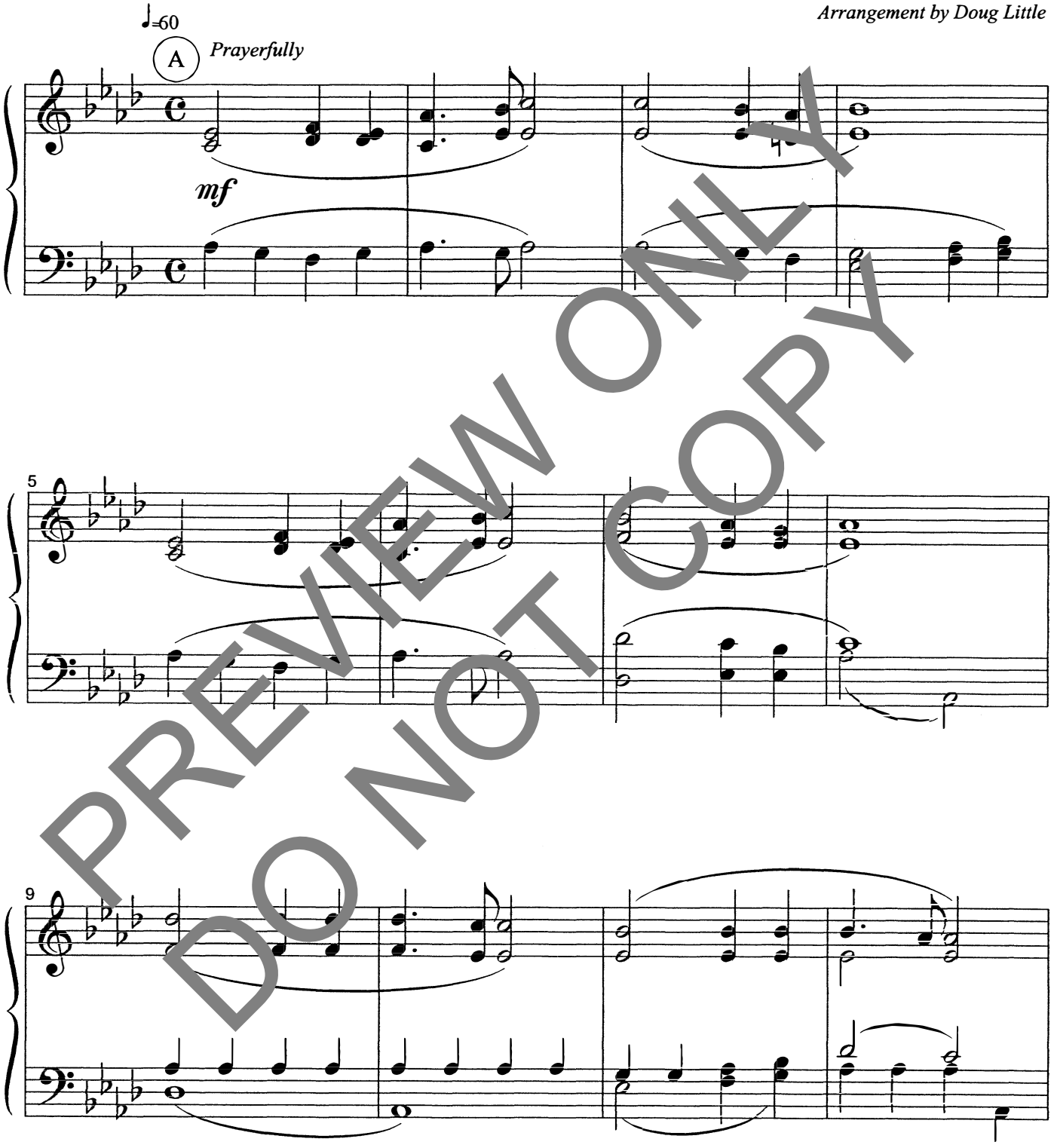
More Love to Thee

Hymn tune by Wm. H. Doane

Arrangement by Doug Little



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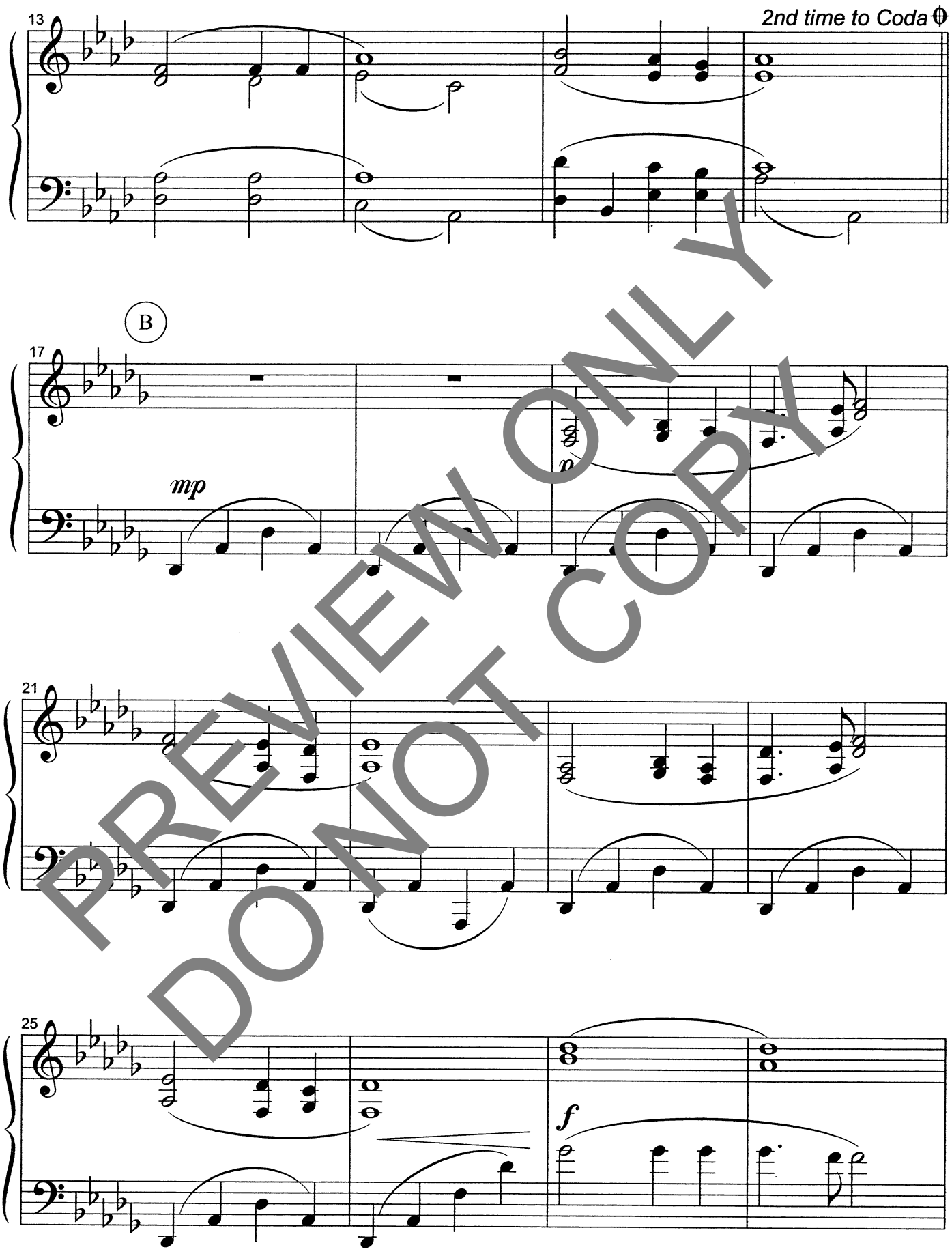

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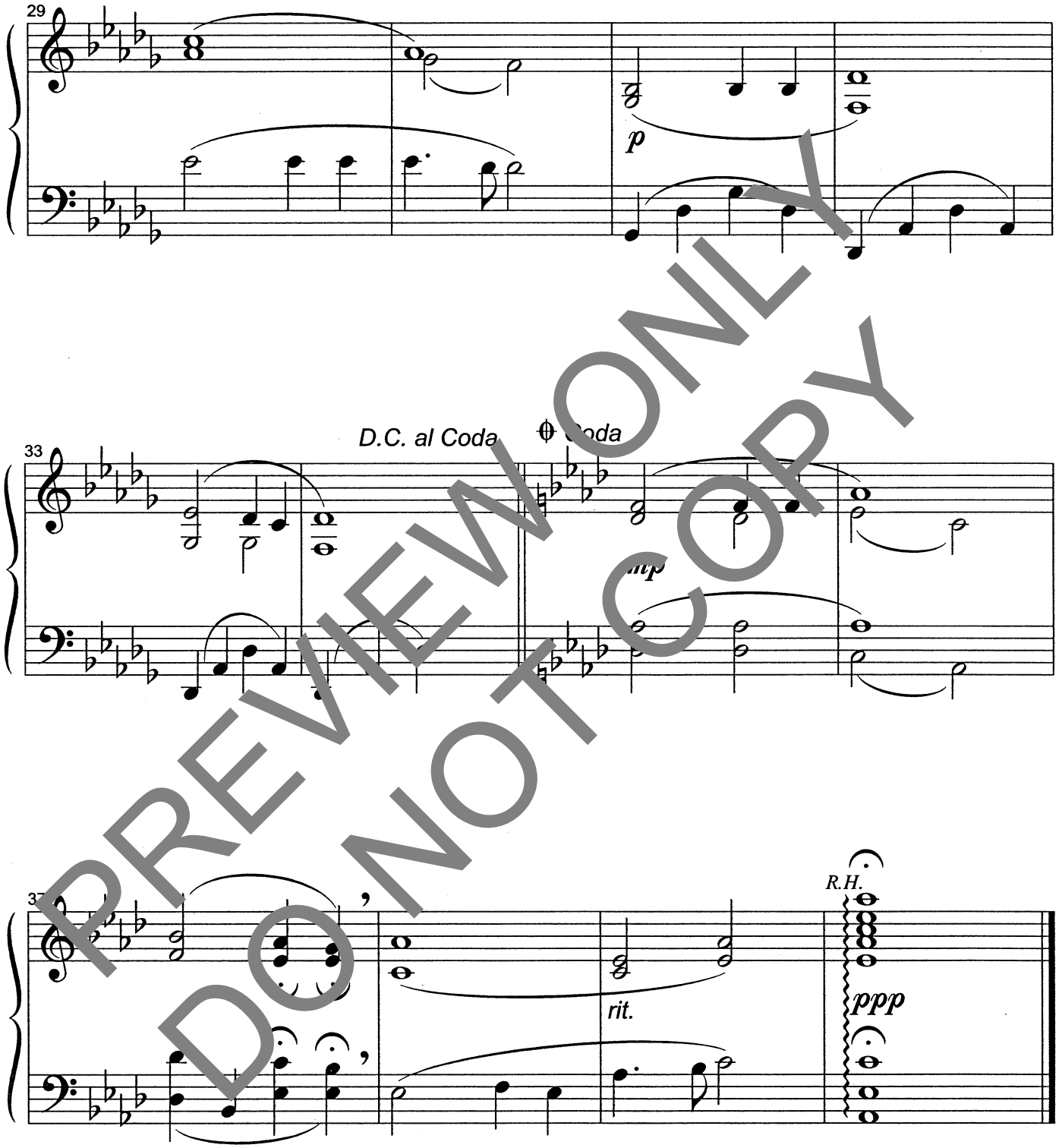

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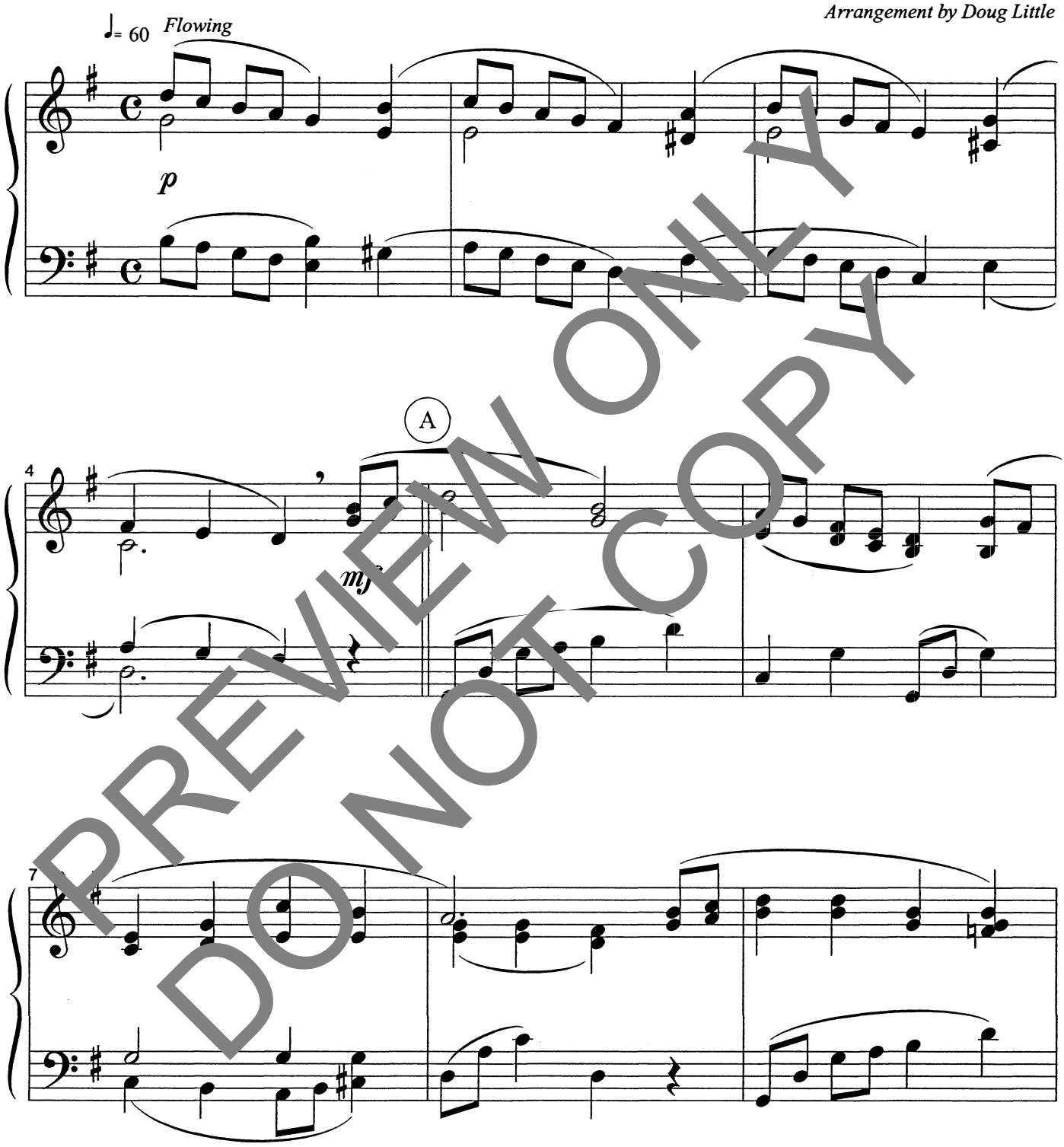
I Am Thine

Tune for *I Am Thine, O Lord*

Hymn tune by Wm. H. Doane

Arrangement by Doug Little



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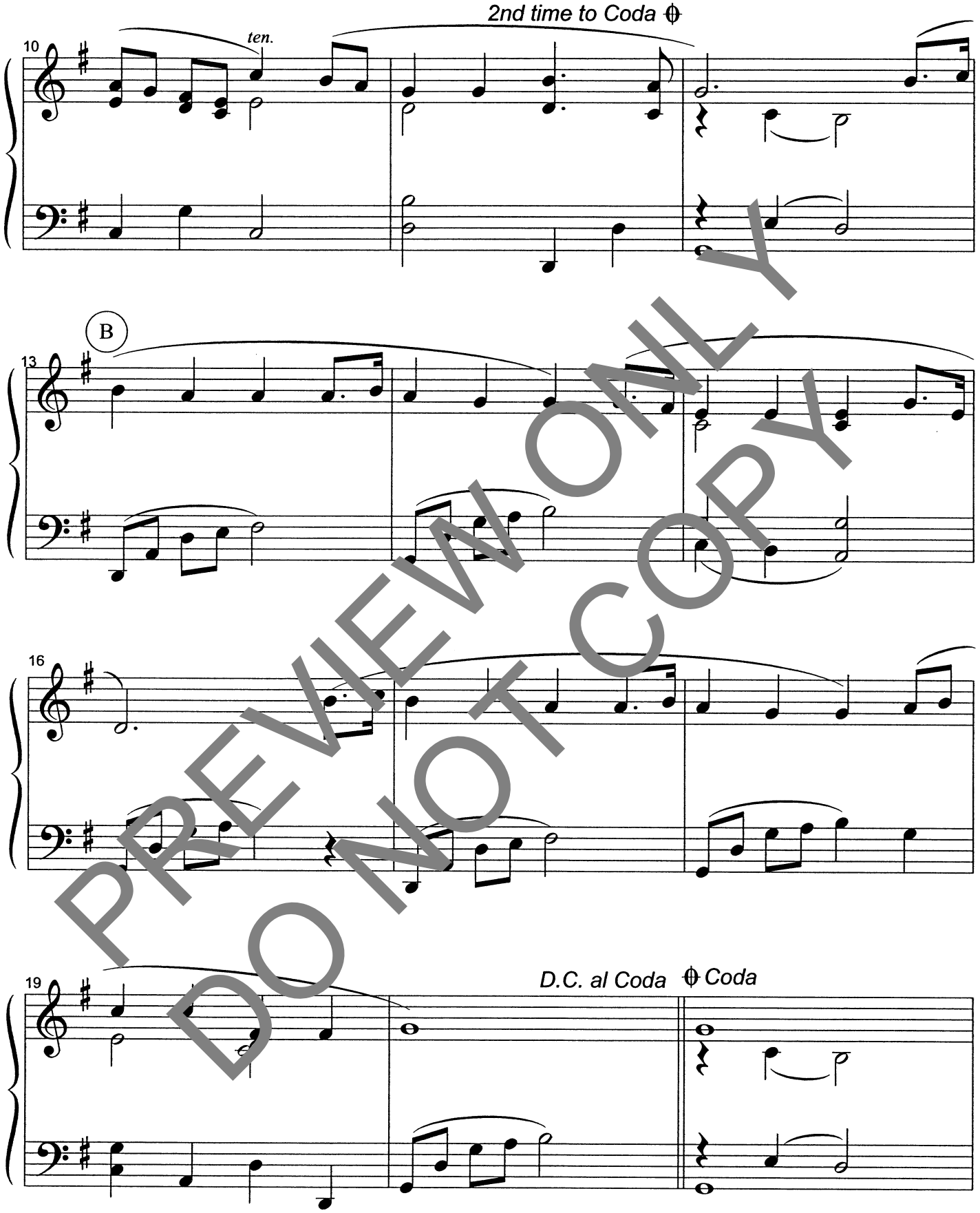

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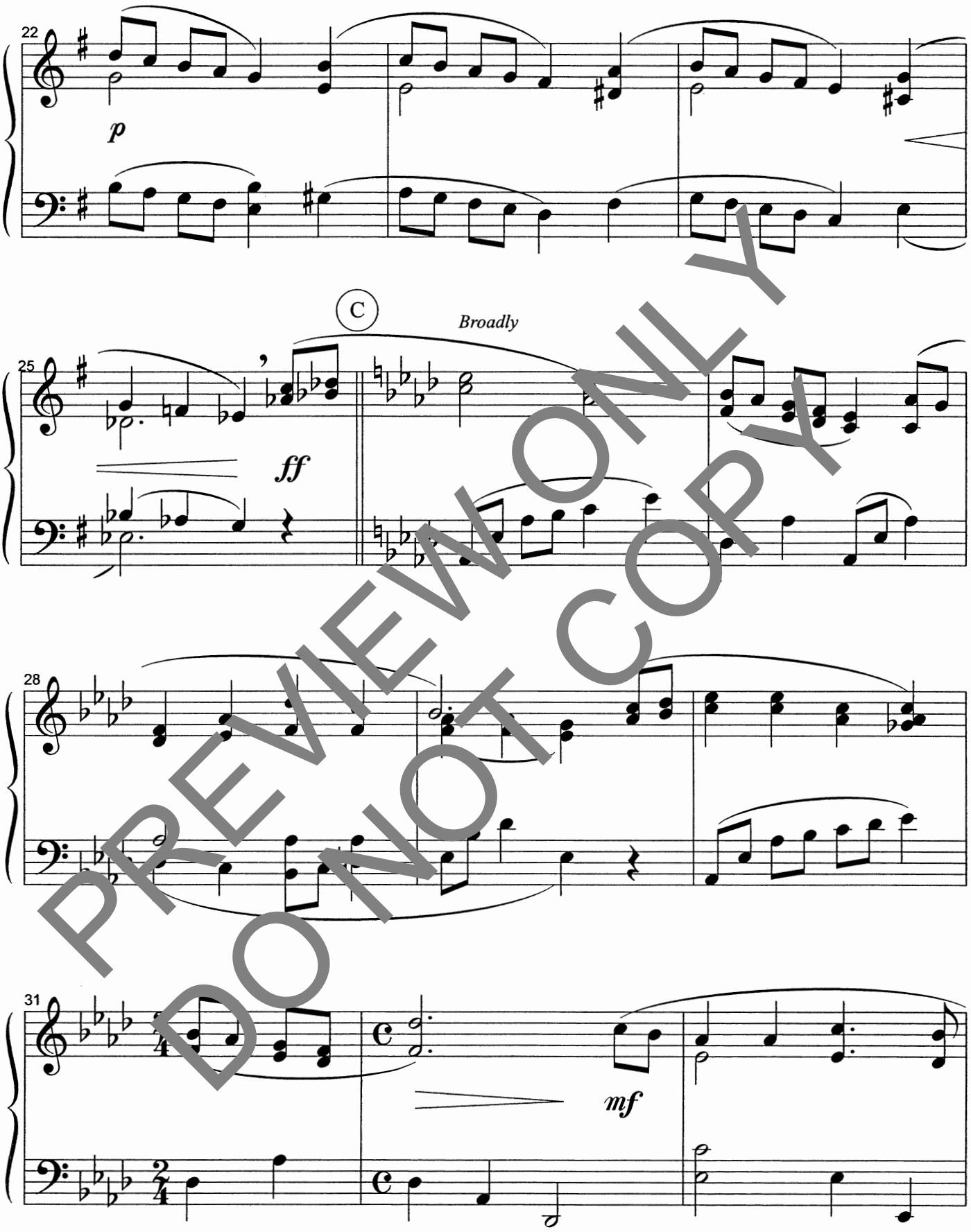

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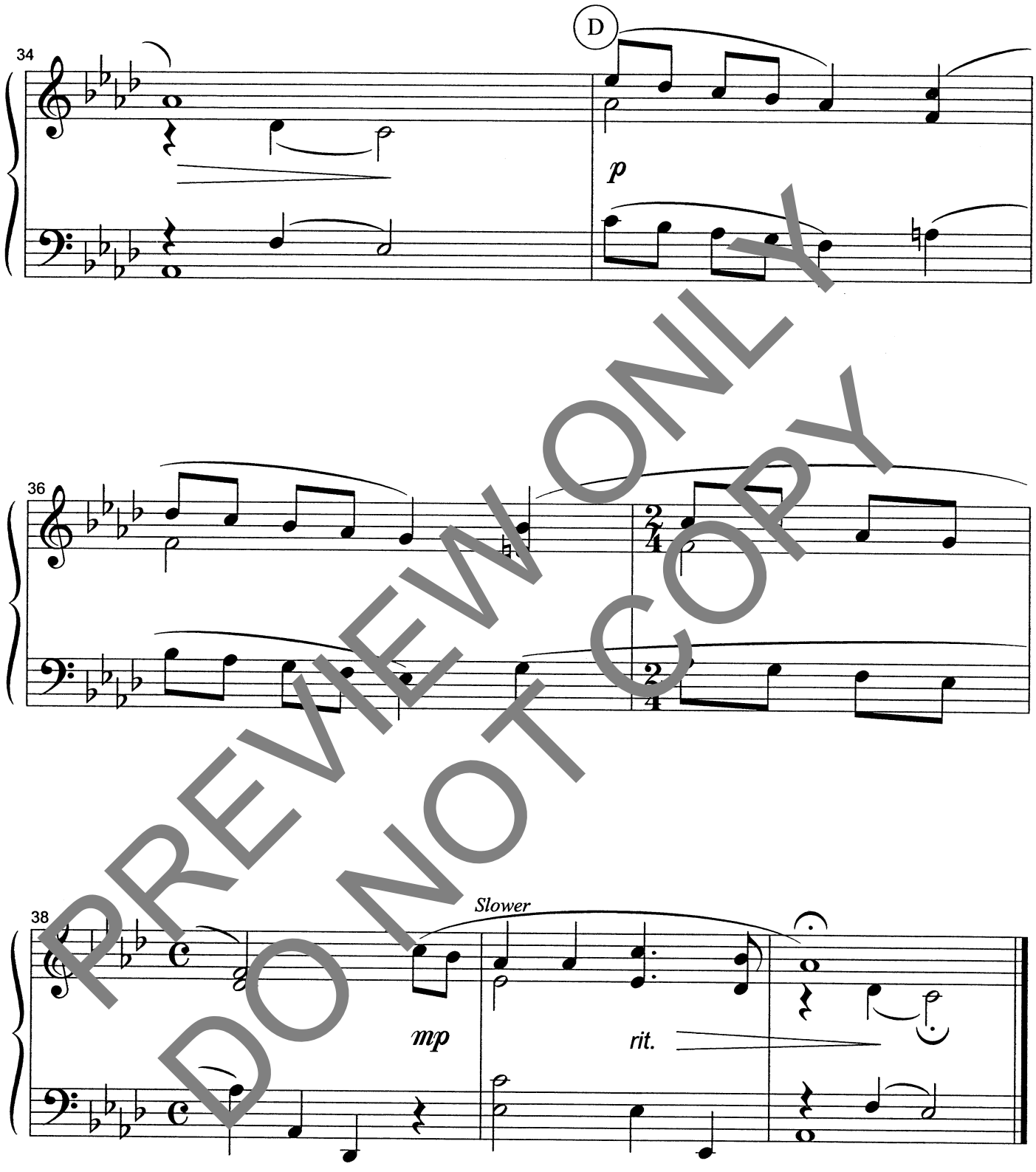

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Safe In The Arms

Hymn tune by Wm. H. Doane
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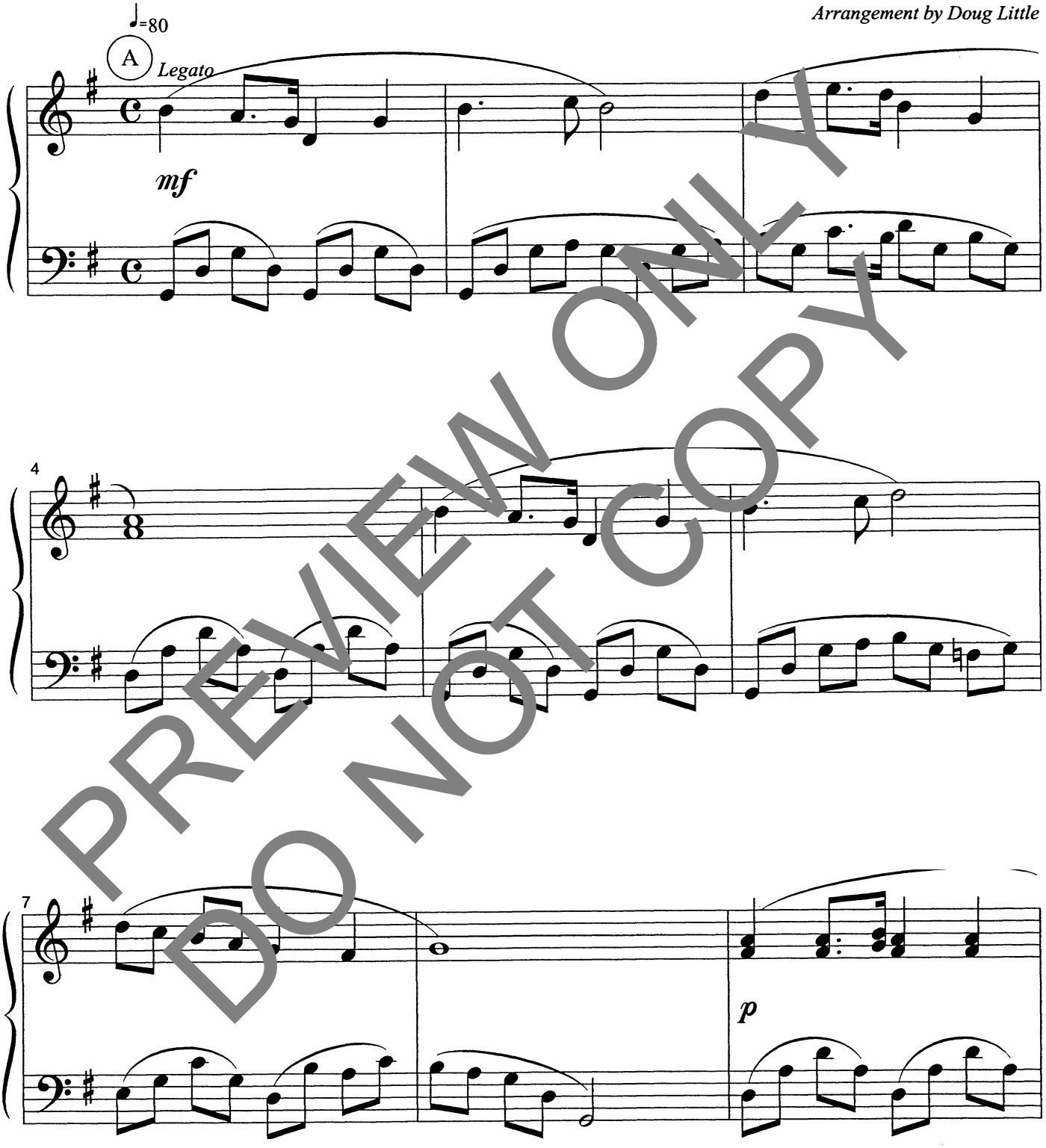

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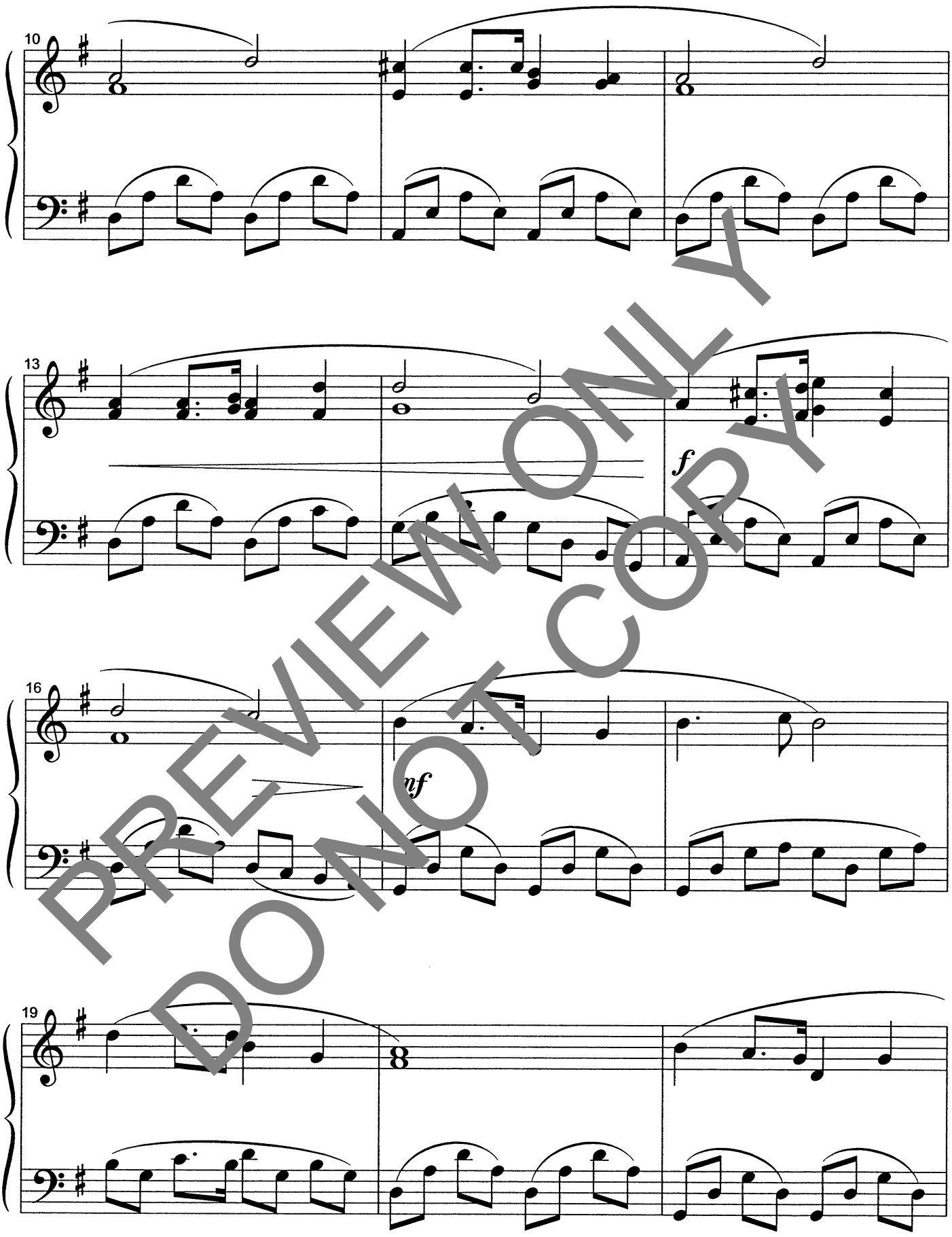

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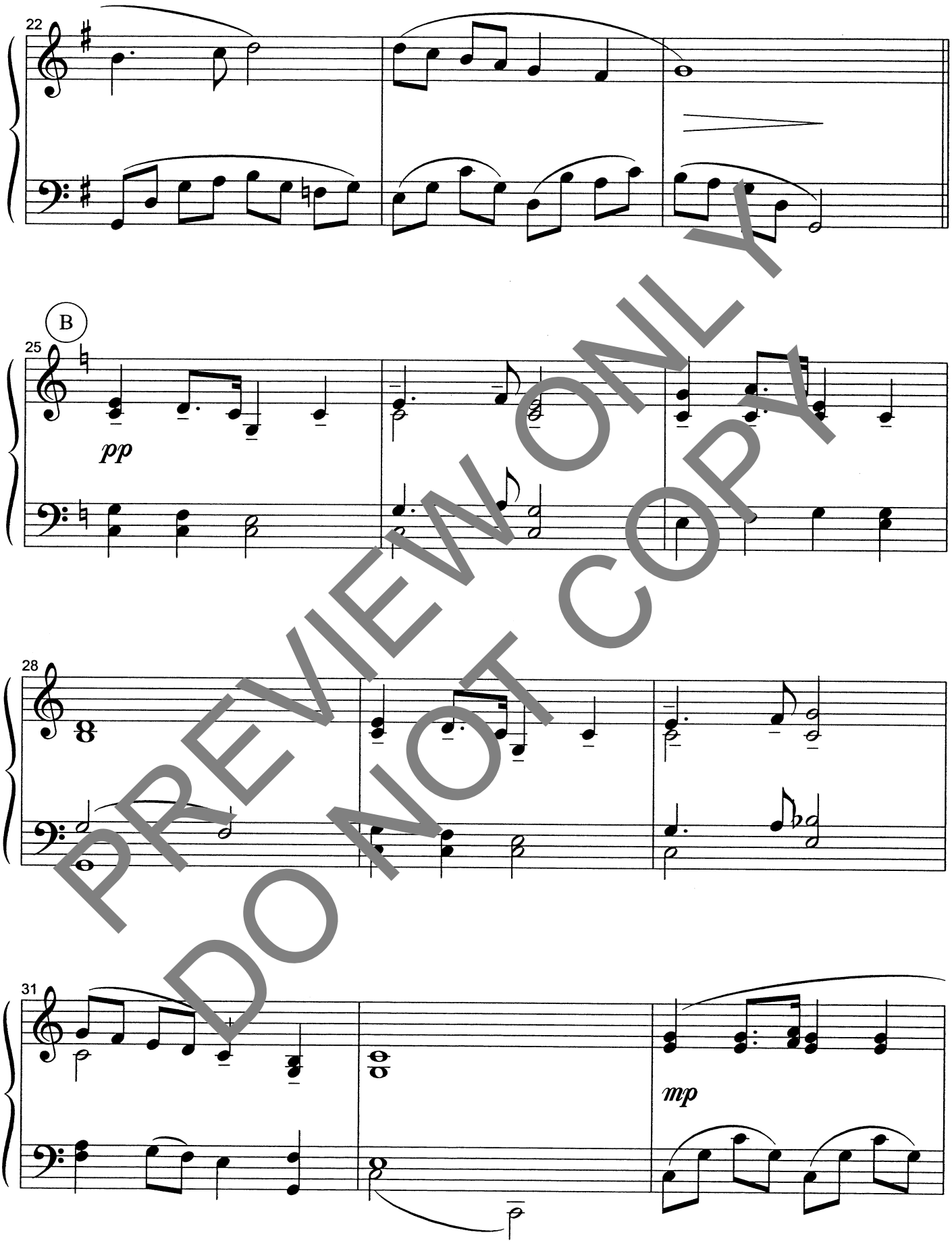

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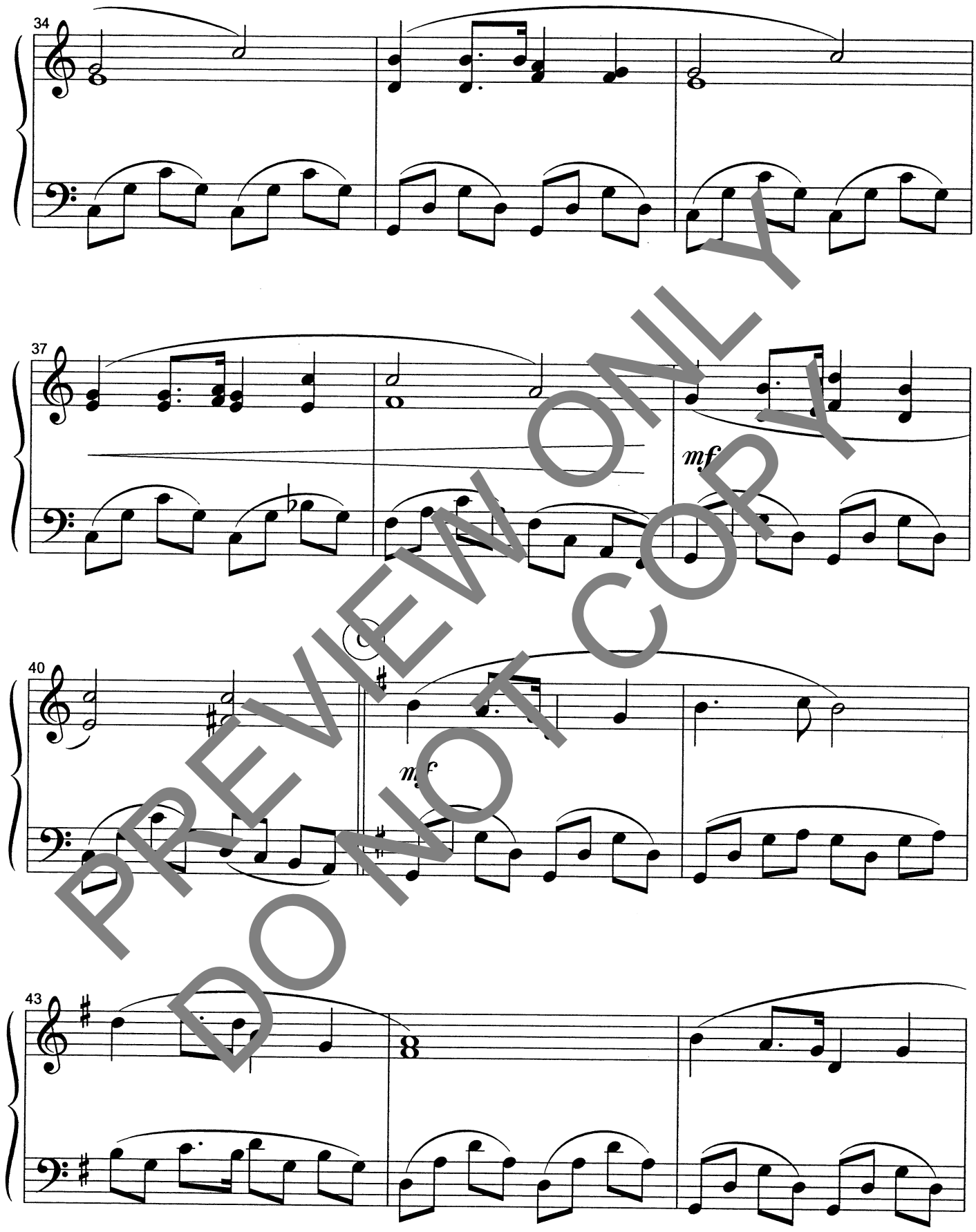

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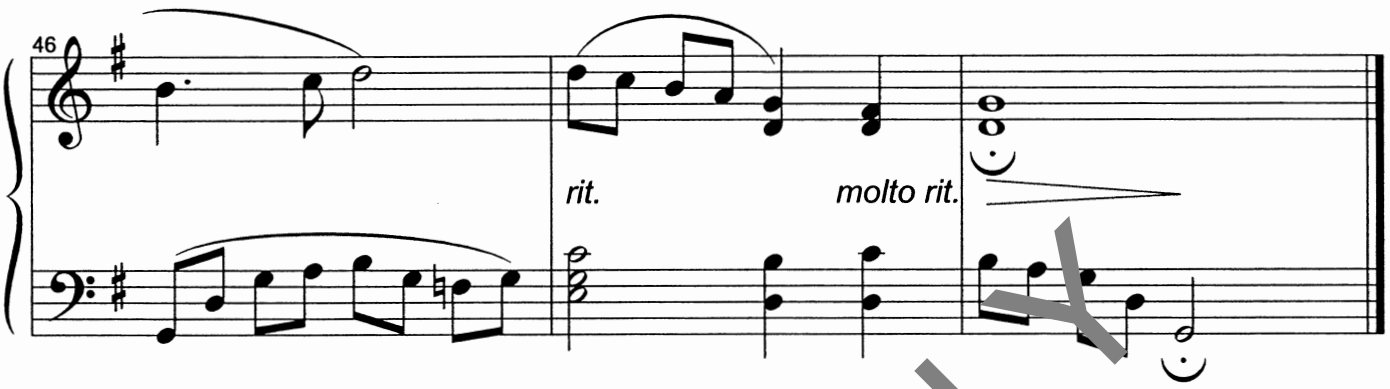

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