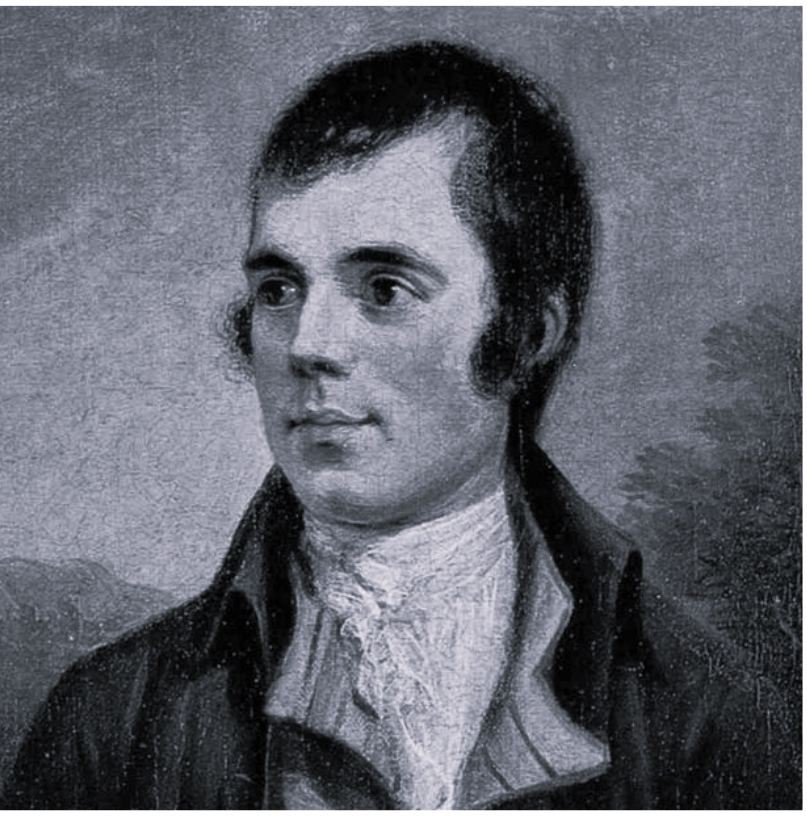
WOODWINDLY

Robert Burns Suite

Four Burns Songs

TRADITIONAL (HUGH LEVEY)



WIND QUINTET

SCORE & PARTS

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Robert Burns Suite

TRADITIONAL (HUGH LEVEY)

The Robert Burns Suite for Wind Quintet by Hugh Levey is a four movement work, based on the well-known Burns' songs; My Love She's But a Lassie Yet, Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon, The Deil's Awa' Wi' the Exciseman, and Auld Lang Syne. Although Burns wrote the words of the songs, he set them to existing Scottish traditional tunes.

1. My Love She's But a Lassie Yet (Lady Badinscoth's Reel)
2. Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon (The Caledonian Hunt's Delight)
3. The Deil's Awa' wi' the Exciseman
4. Auld Lang Syne (for recital or to accompany singing)

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The movements can be played separately but are presented here as a suite, with a suggested order. Movement 1 begins with a stately 'classical' arrangement of My Love She's But a Lassie Yet, but as it develops the tune combines with another traditional melody, followed by some operatic quotations, and a fugue. It ends with an embellished restatement of the opening.

Movement 2 opens with gentle chords to accompany the flute which plays the simple yet beautiful melody, Ye Banks and Braes. In the middle section, the Horn leads with the clarinet playing a counter melody. They are joined by the Oboe and Flute playing playing in canon with them. The flute resumes the melody in verse 3 with slightly altered chordal accompaniment.

Movement 3 begins with oboe and bassoon playing the tune and bass line, almost exactly as they appeared in The Scots Musical Museum, published by James Johnson & Co between 1787 and 1803. The other instruments all get the opportunity to play the melodic line in the ensuing 5 verses, as the arrangement gets more complex and fun. The composer makes great use of the tritone; or "devil's interval" as it is often known because of its unsettling presence. However, in this arrangement it merely adds to the fun and excitement.

Movement 4 is a simple arrangement of Auld Lang Syne, in a key suitable for solo or community singing. After a short introduction by Bassoon, the Flute and Oboe play verse 1 accompanied by 'bagpipe' drones. Oboe and Clarinet take over the tune for the chorus and the final verse is in majestic four part harmony to bring a rousing end to this popular Burns song and the suite.

Duration: 9' to 10'

Cover images: (1) Robert Burns by Alexander Nasmyth, 1787, via Wikimedia Commons, (2) Instruments, Yamaha Corporation, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

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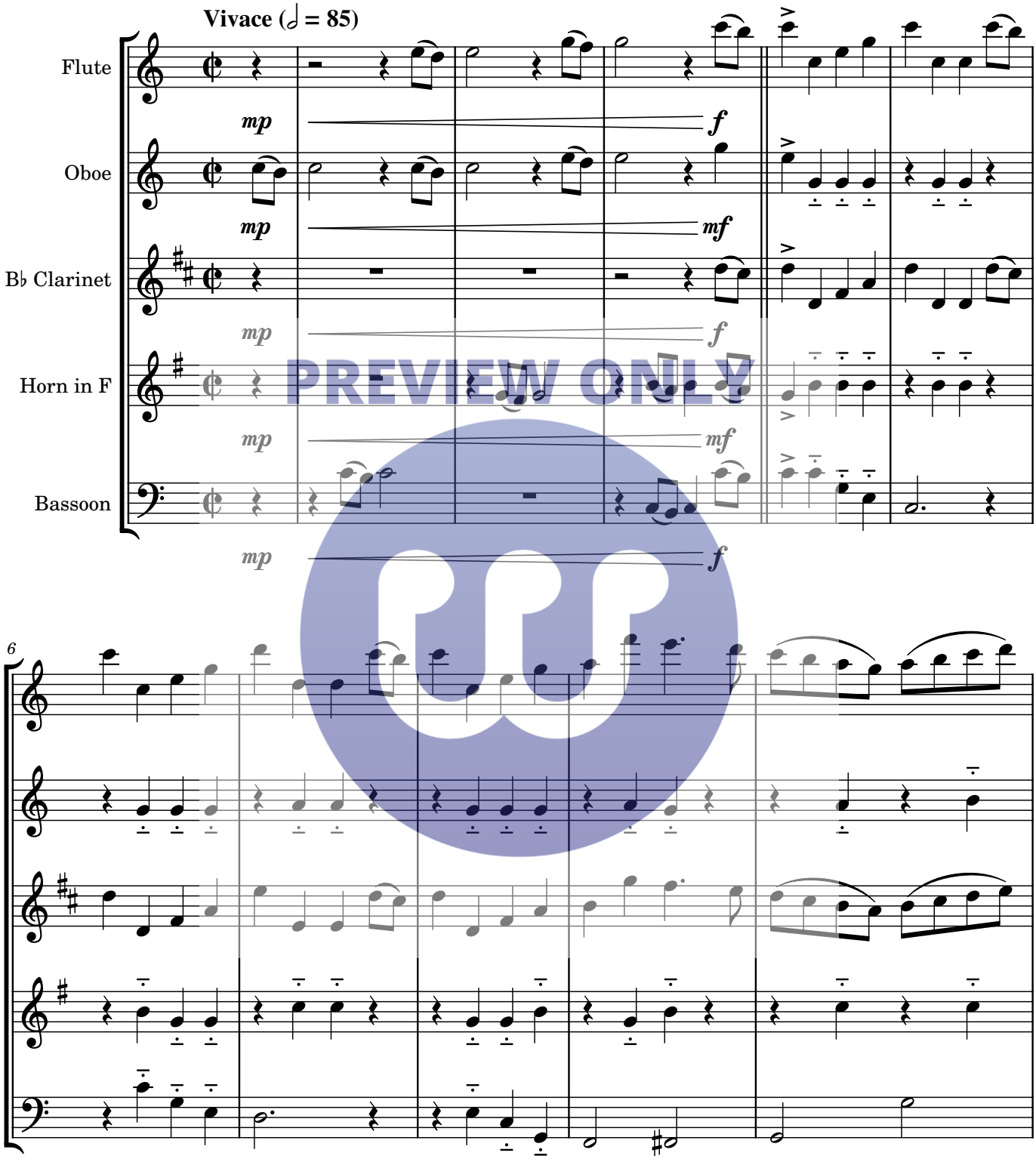
My Love She's But a Lassie Yet

Lady Badinscoth's Reel

Robert Burns

Trad. Scottish (arr. Hugh Levey)



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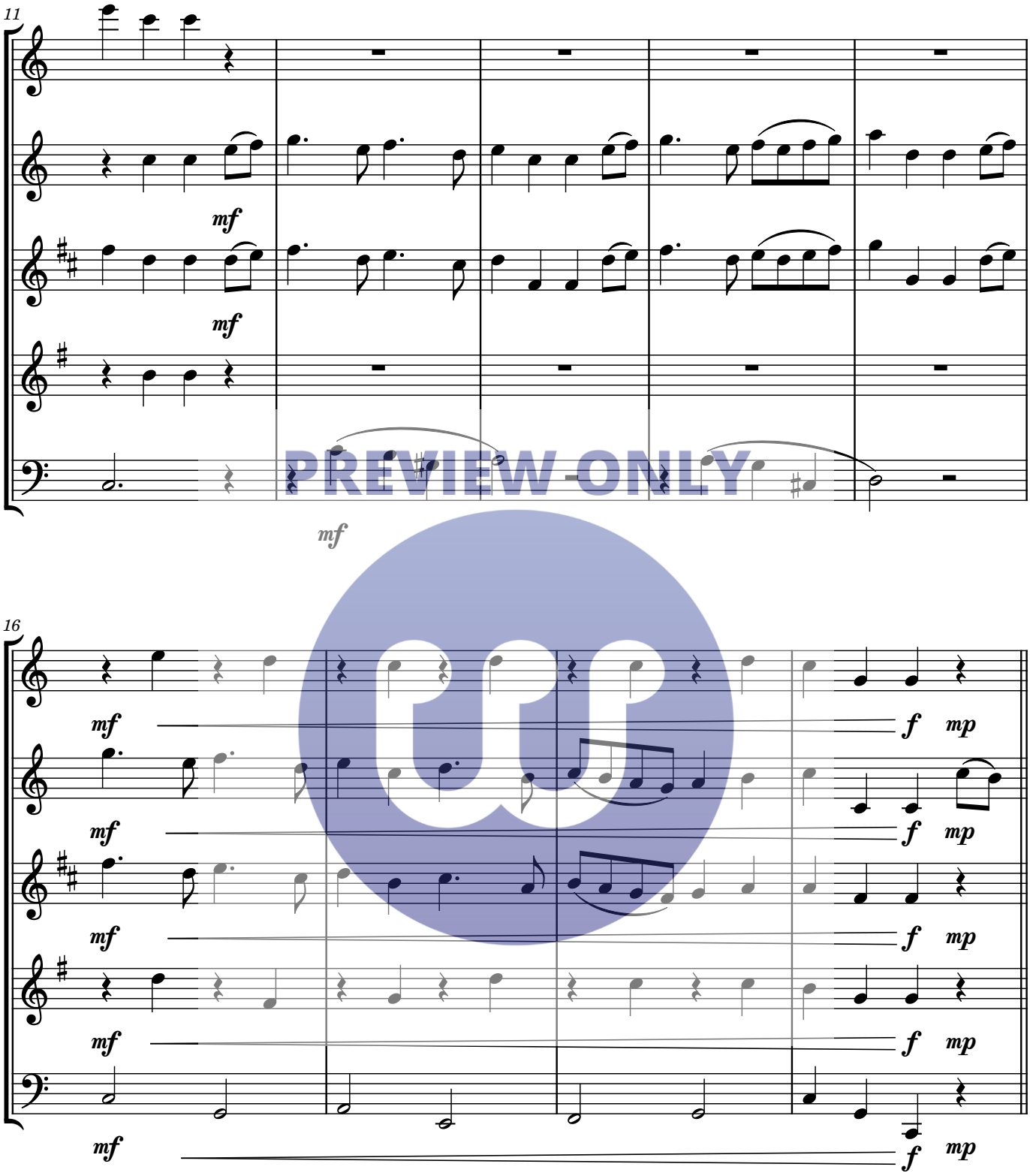

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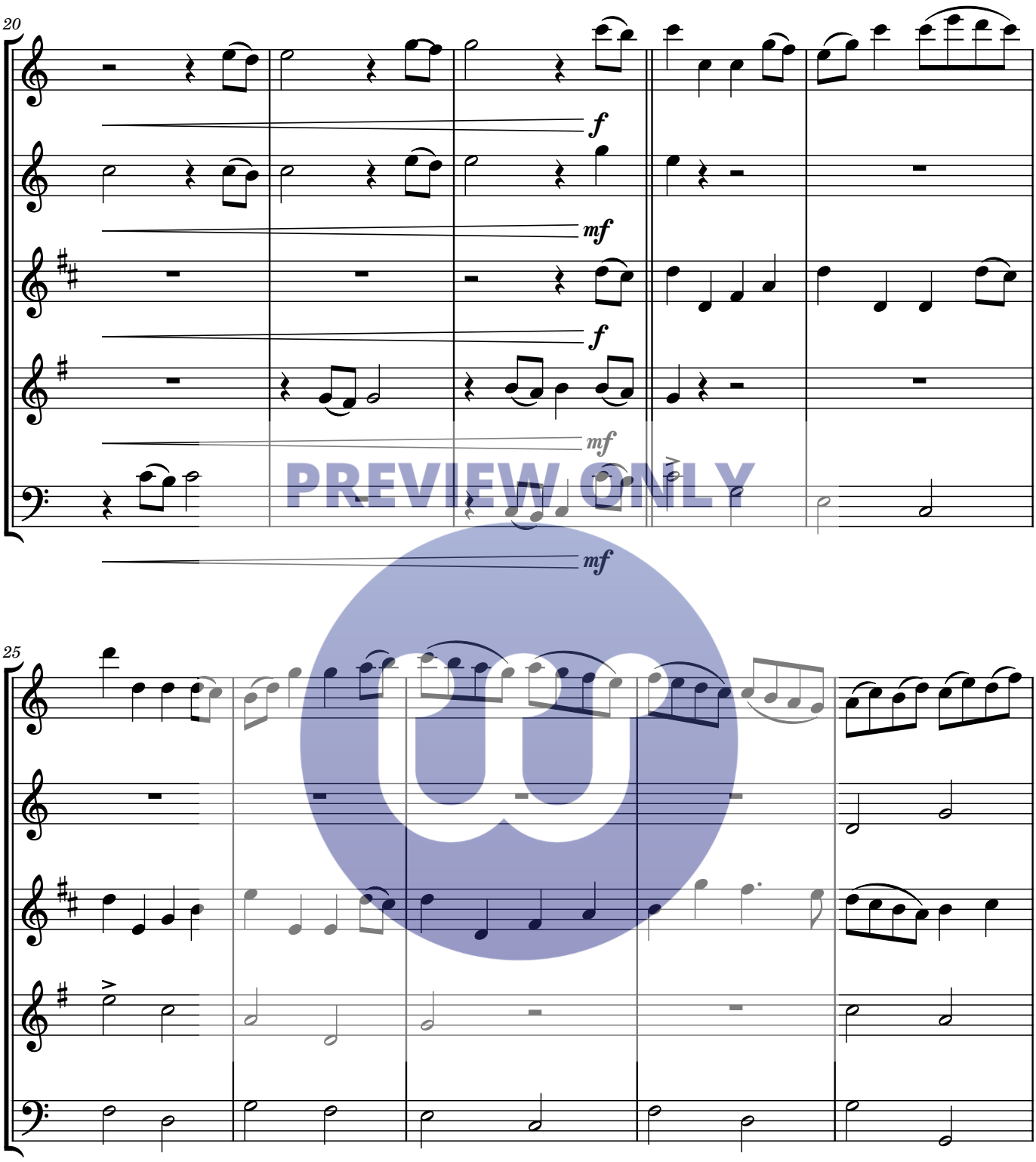

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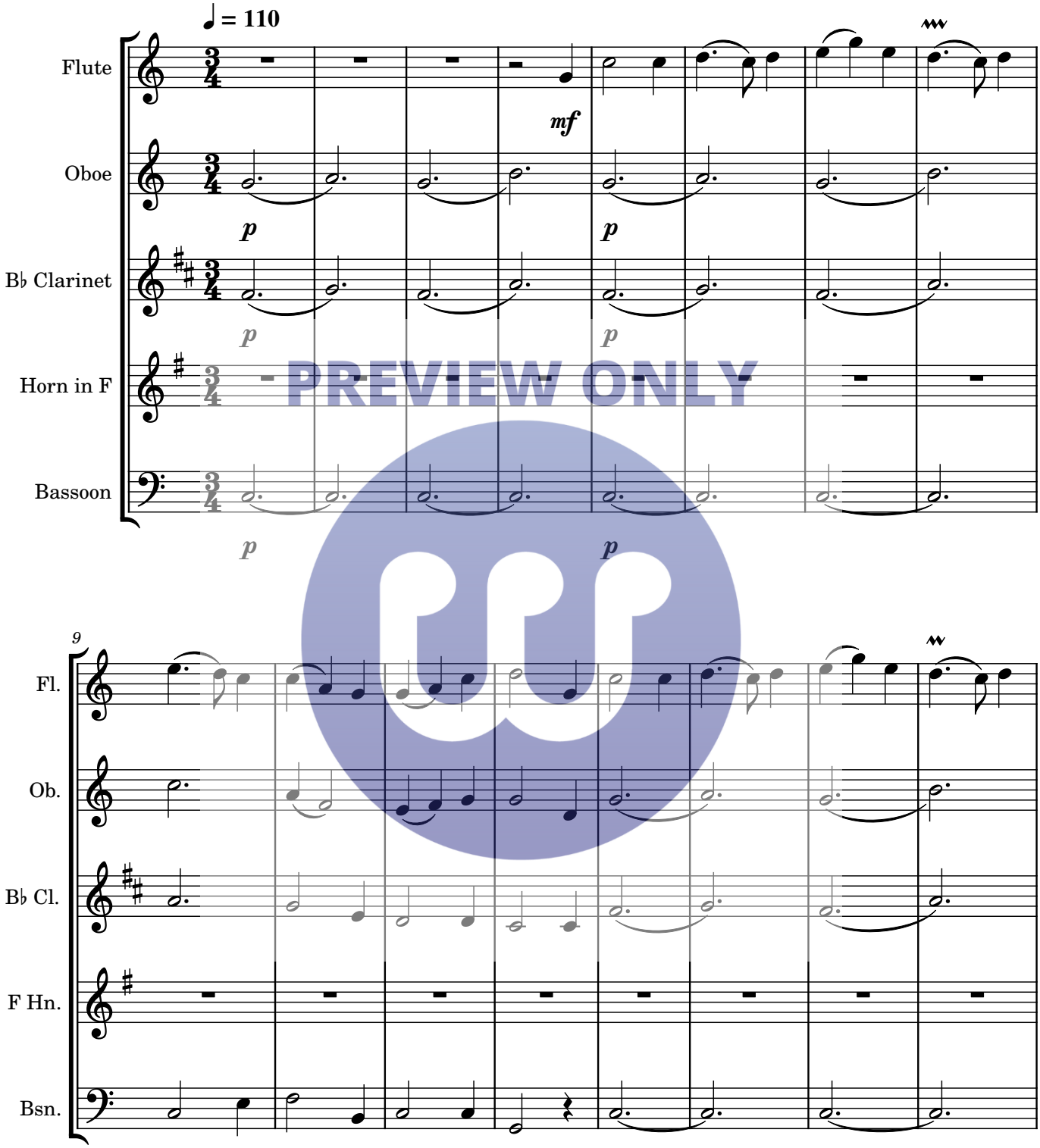
Ye Banks and Braes o Bonnie Doon

Lyrics: Robert Burns

Traditional (arr. Hugh Levey)



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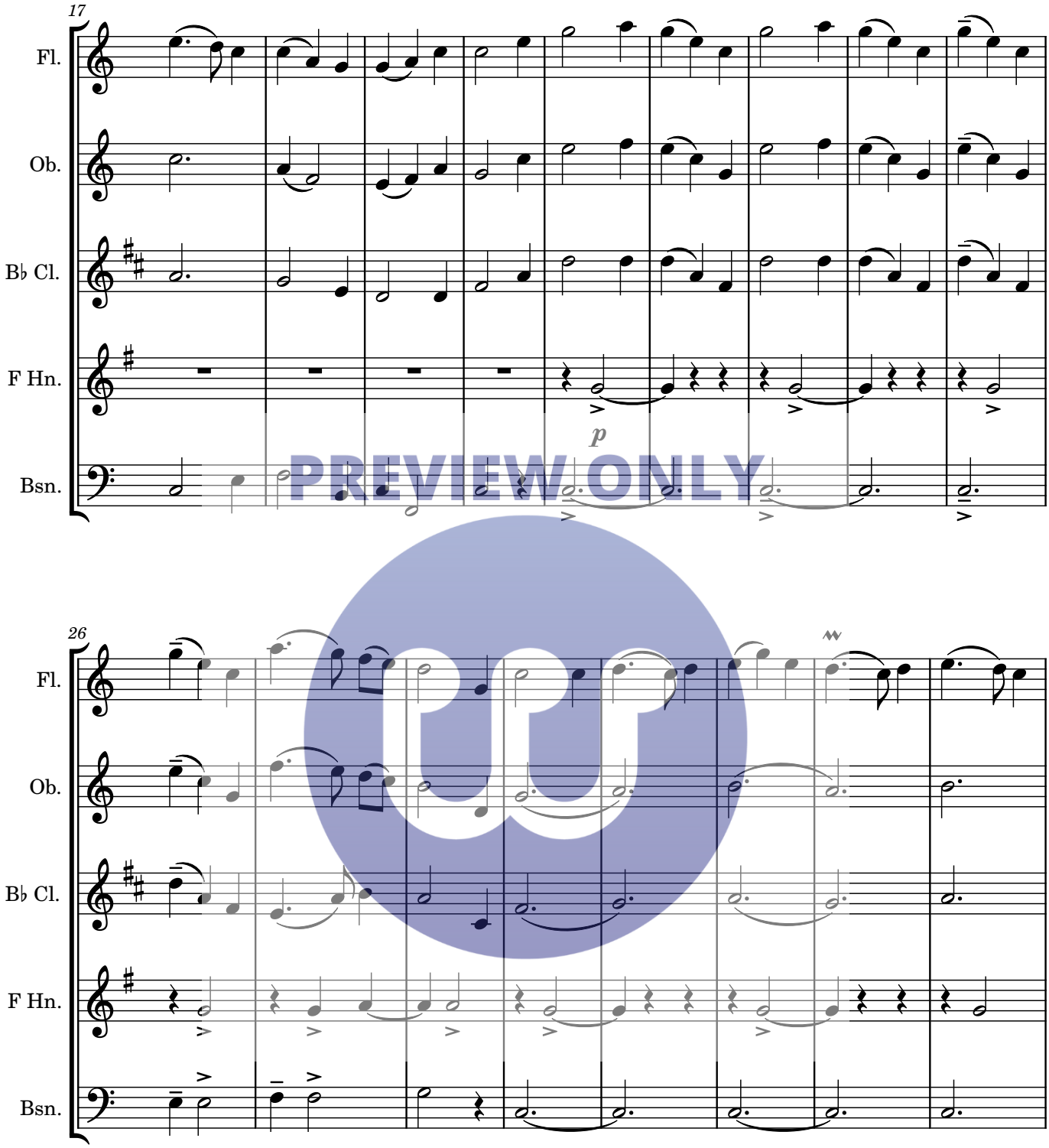

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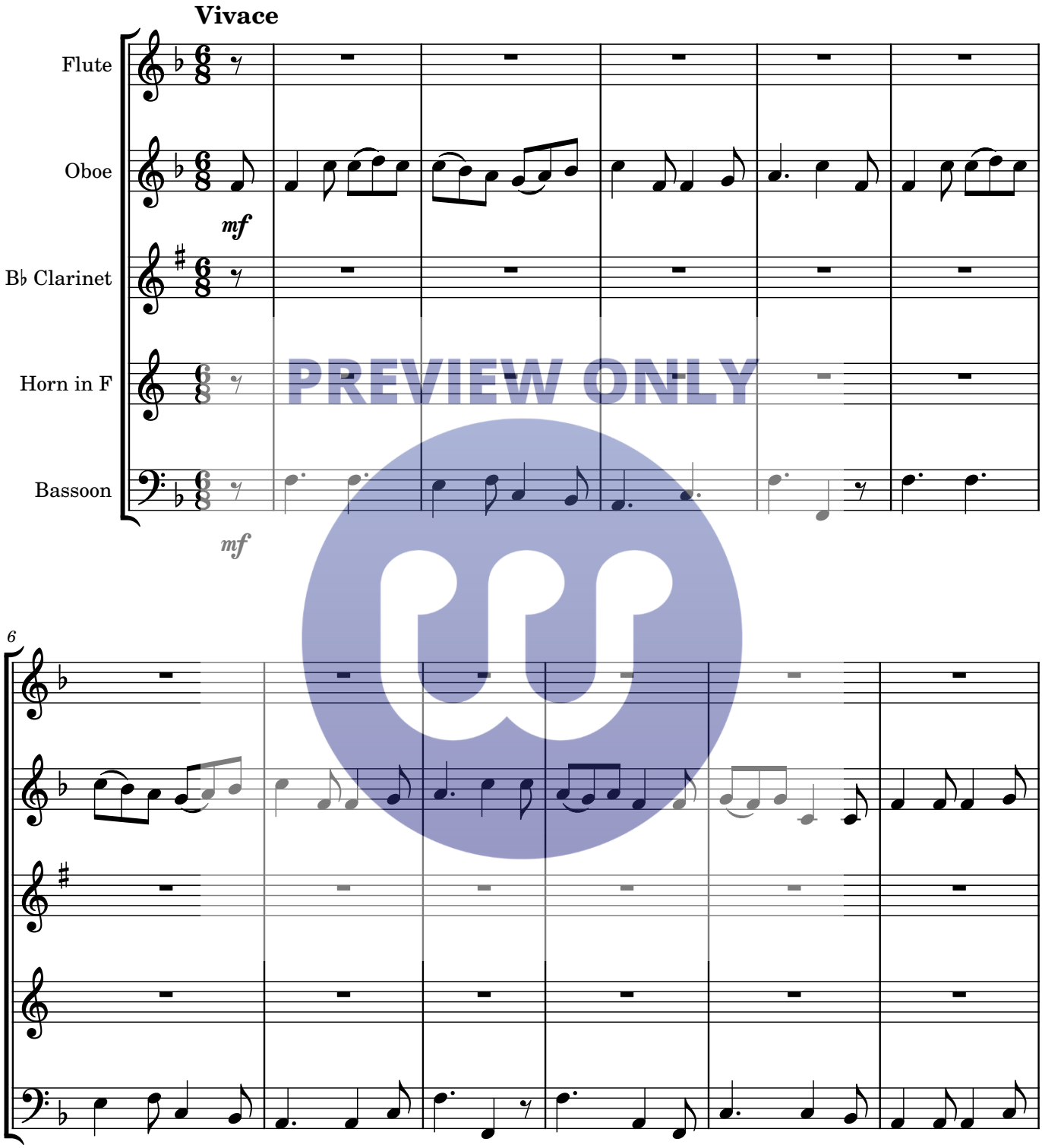
The De'il's awa' wi' the Exciseman

Robert Burns

Traditional Scottish (arranged Hugh Levey)



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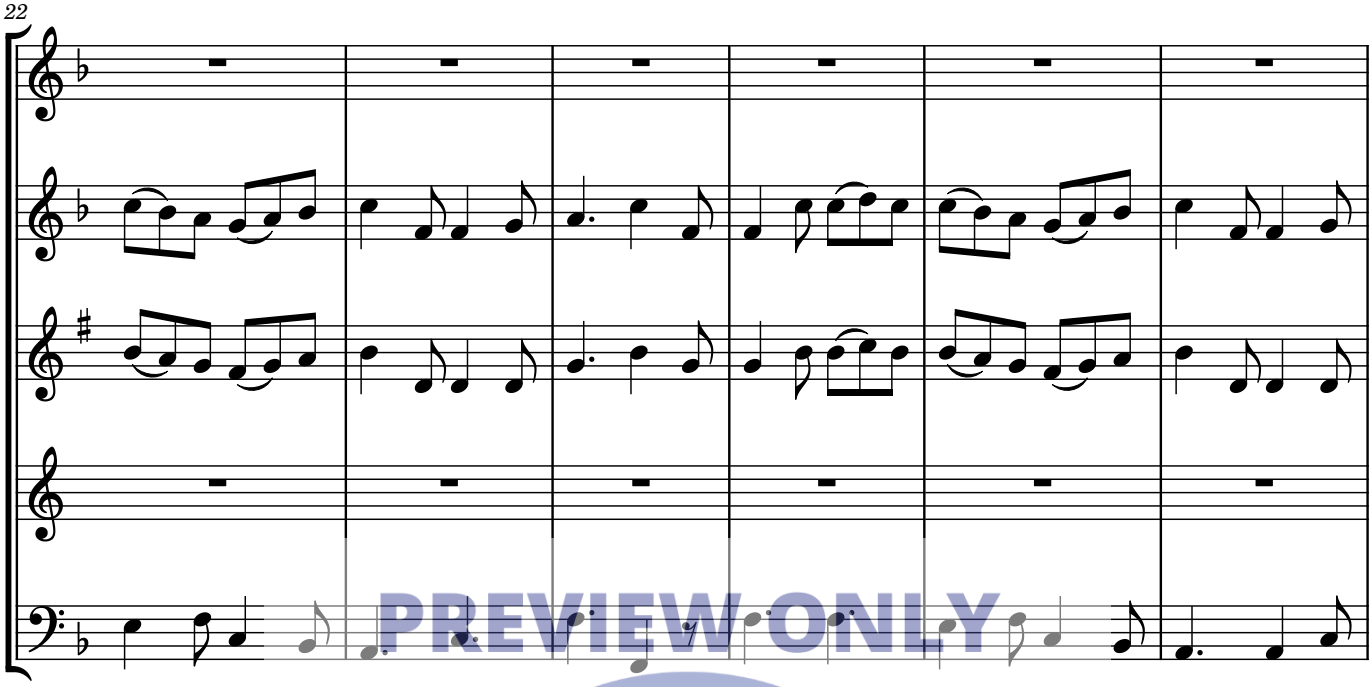

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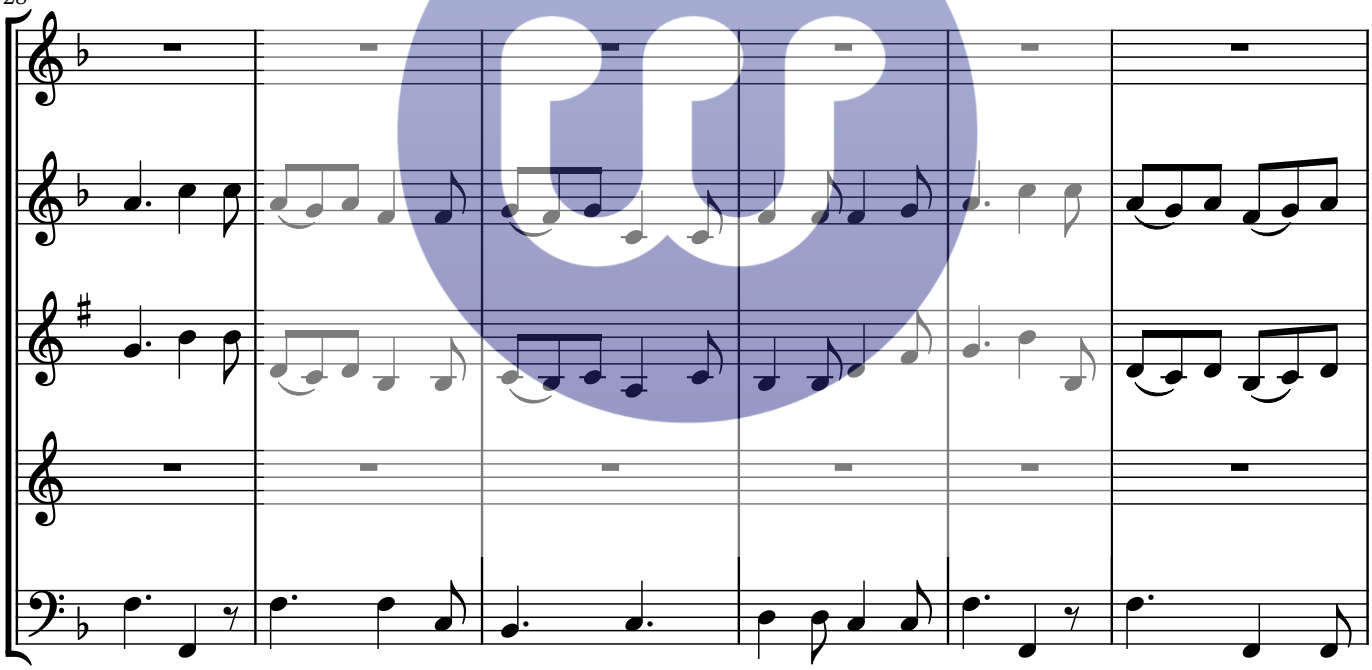

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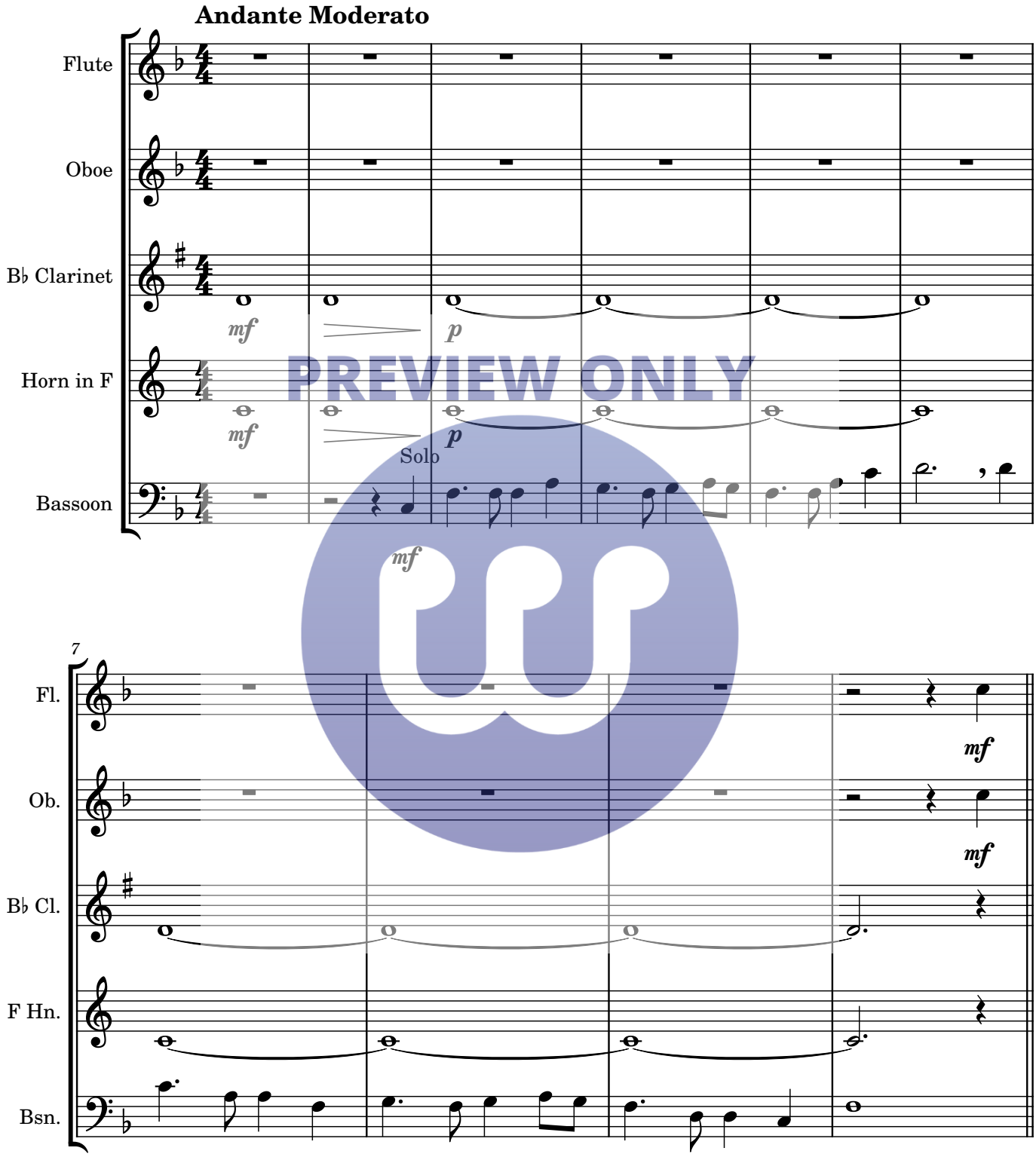
Auld Lang Syne

Instrumental or to accompany singing

Robert Burns

Traditional arr. H. Levey



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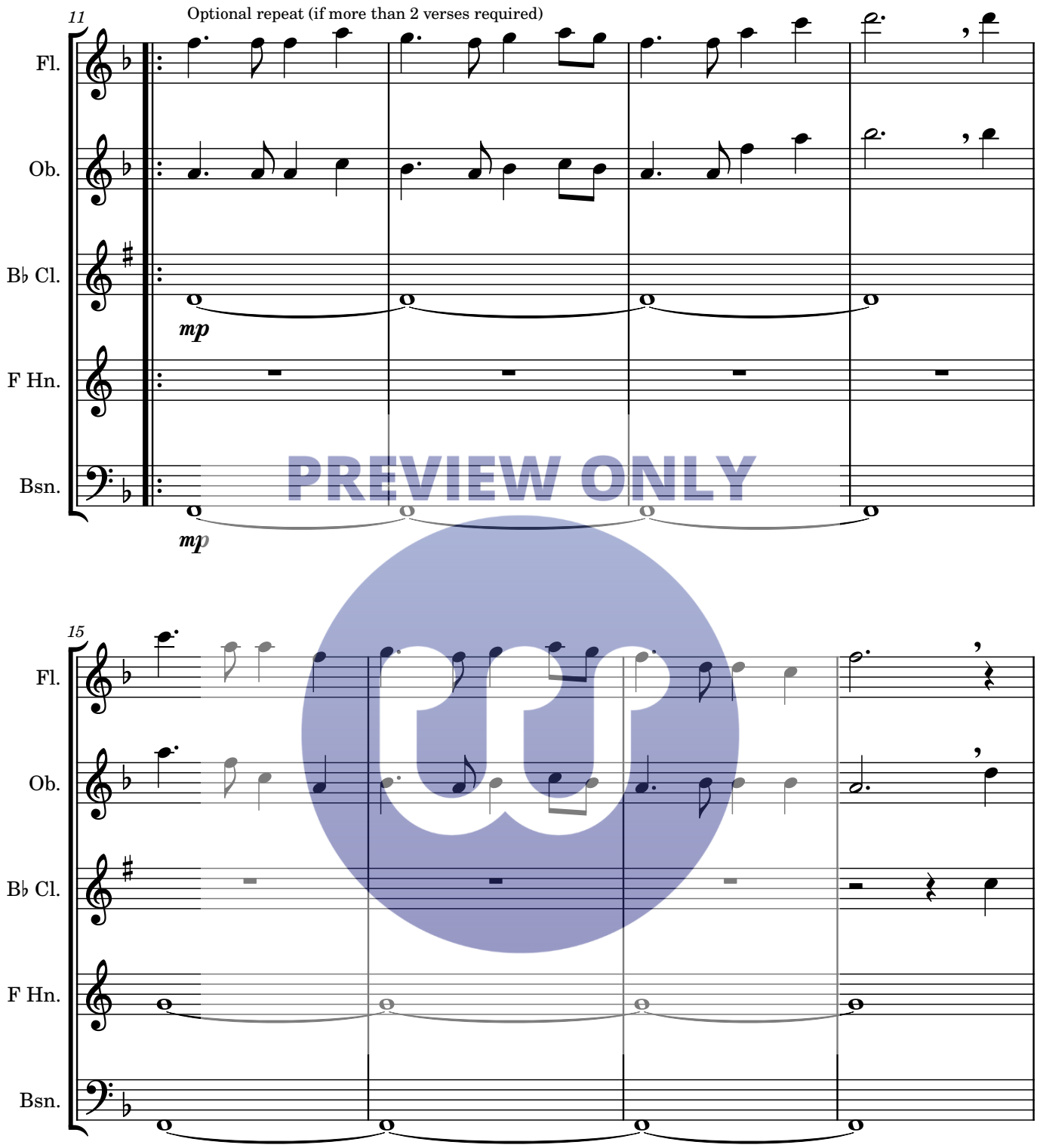

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