UNACCOMPANIED SAXOPHONE

Václav's Dream,

a Balkan Hoedown

RICK HIRSCH

PREVIEW

DURATION: 4 minutes

LEVEL: Advanced

HIRSCHMUSIC PUBLICATIONS

About *Václav*

As far as I know, there is no Václav. But if there were, he would have had this dream many times over.

In it Václav fantasizes that he becomes the life of the party at a local dance. This is no small achievement as he is one shy dude. Anyhow, while the band plays on and everyone else dances up a storm Václav privately builds up the nerve to get on his feet. He begins rather hesitantly, eventually gaining his footing and his self-confidence. Before long he's the center of attention on the dance floor, puts on an unforgettable show, and ends triumphantly.

Václav, incidentally, is from that part of Eastern Europe where the folk music uses exotic melodic modes, unusual meters, and a lot of fanciful ornamentation. And the instrumentalists express melody with voice-like gestures.

Lastly, *Václav* is dedicated to my dear friend Alex Meixner, an extraordinary musician and man who has taught me much about Eastern European music.

I hope *Václav* brings much joy to you and your audiences, and that you find it a rewarding piece to sink your teeth into.

~ Rick

Performance Notes and Suggestions

1. Though this music is more Gypsy than Jewish, you might consider a *Klezmer-like* approach to the phrasing and gestures.
2. Try to make your performance fluid and voice-like. If you're not sure how to do this, try singing a phrase in a loose, expressive fashion. Then try to emulate this vocal phrasing on your saxophone.
3. Look up the great Turkish-Bulgarian-Romani saxophonist **Yuri Yunakov**.
4. Watch the video of Hirsch performing *Václav* (online) if you'd care to hear how he approaches this piece.
5. As far as one can tell, *Václav* sounds good performed on any of the saxophones.

About the Composer

Rick Hirsch (b. 1970) is an award-winning composer, arranger, educator, and saxophonist based in State College, Pennsylvania. He specializes in writing music for saxophones. And he welcomes you to contact him directly with feedback or questions.

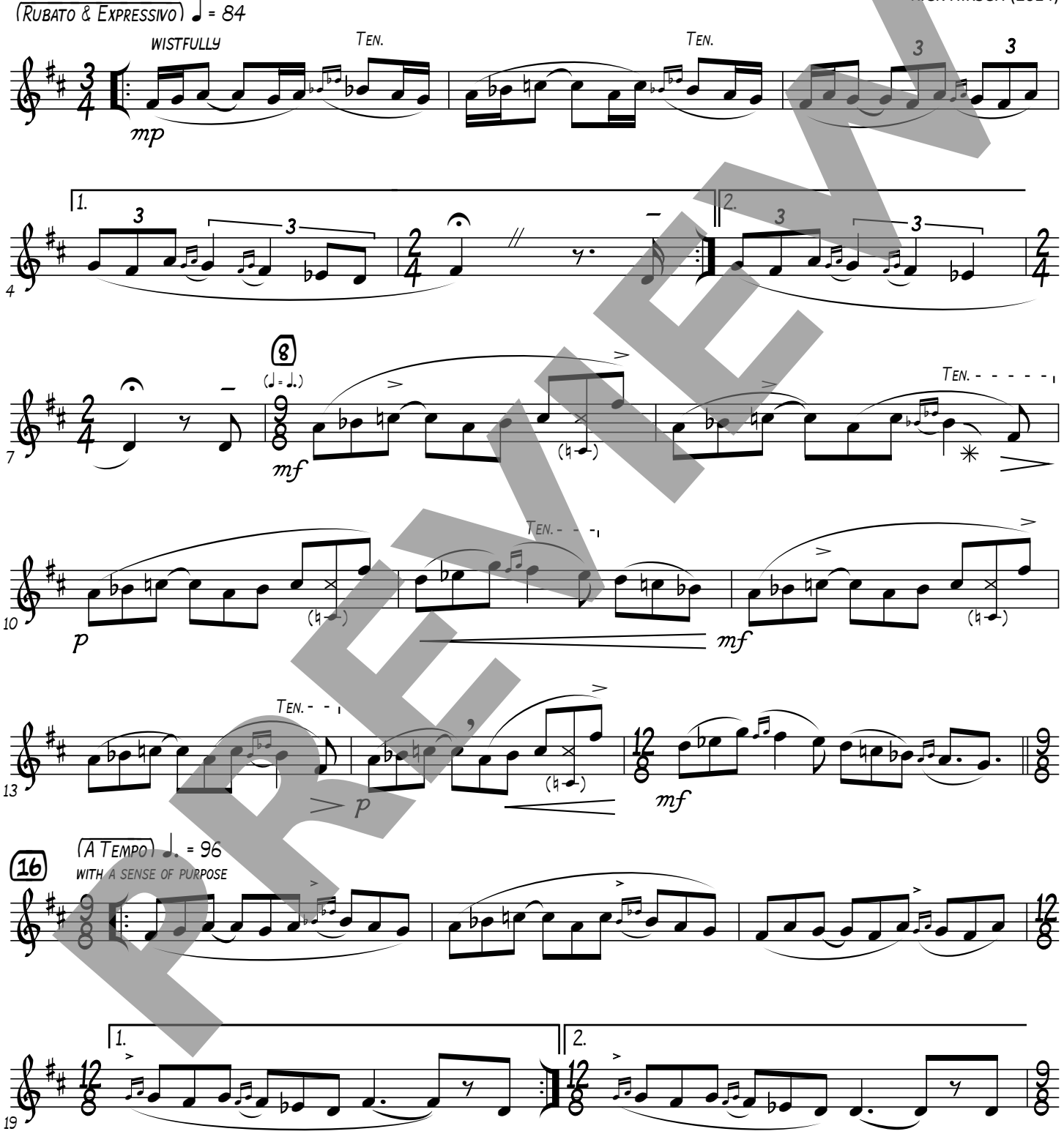
PREVIEW

Unaccompanied Saxophone

to Alex Meixner

Václav's Dream,
a Balkan Hoedown

RICK HIRSCH (2014)



✳ m.9: This gesture is a downward pitch bend, like a musical sigh. It is not a "fall-off" or "drop" like you would find in jazz music. It is produced with some combination of dropping your jaw and lowering your voicing (in your throat).

PREVIEW

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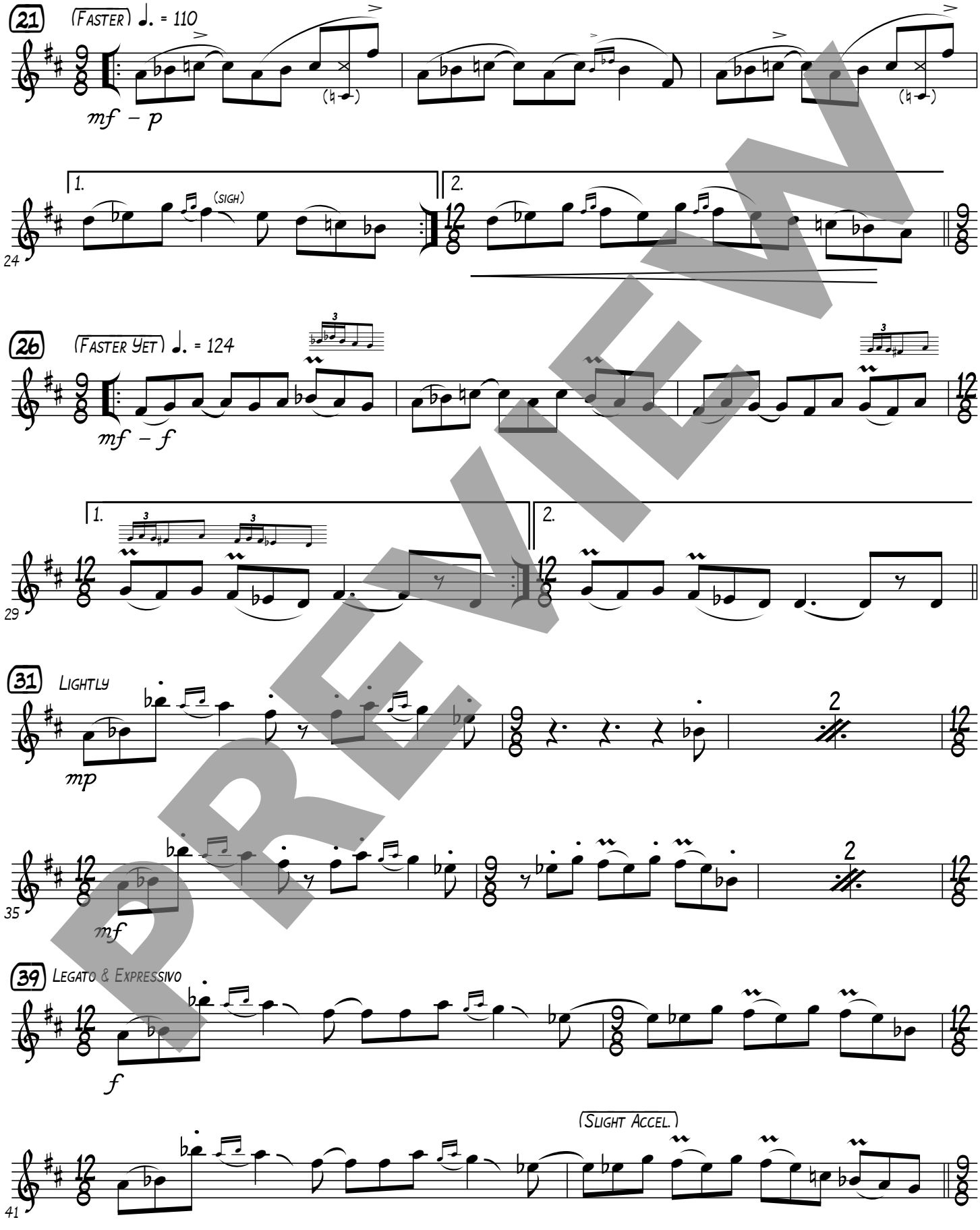
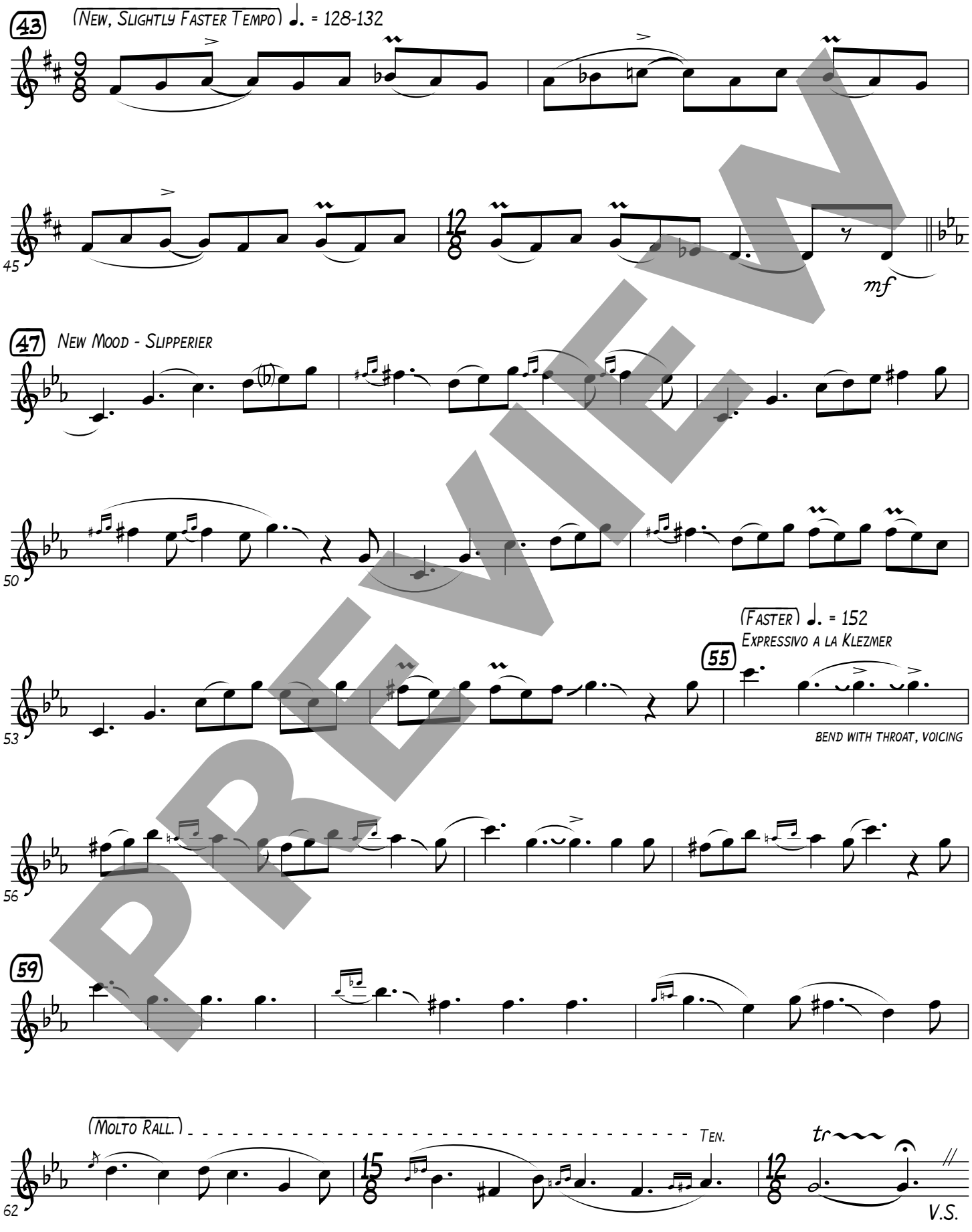
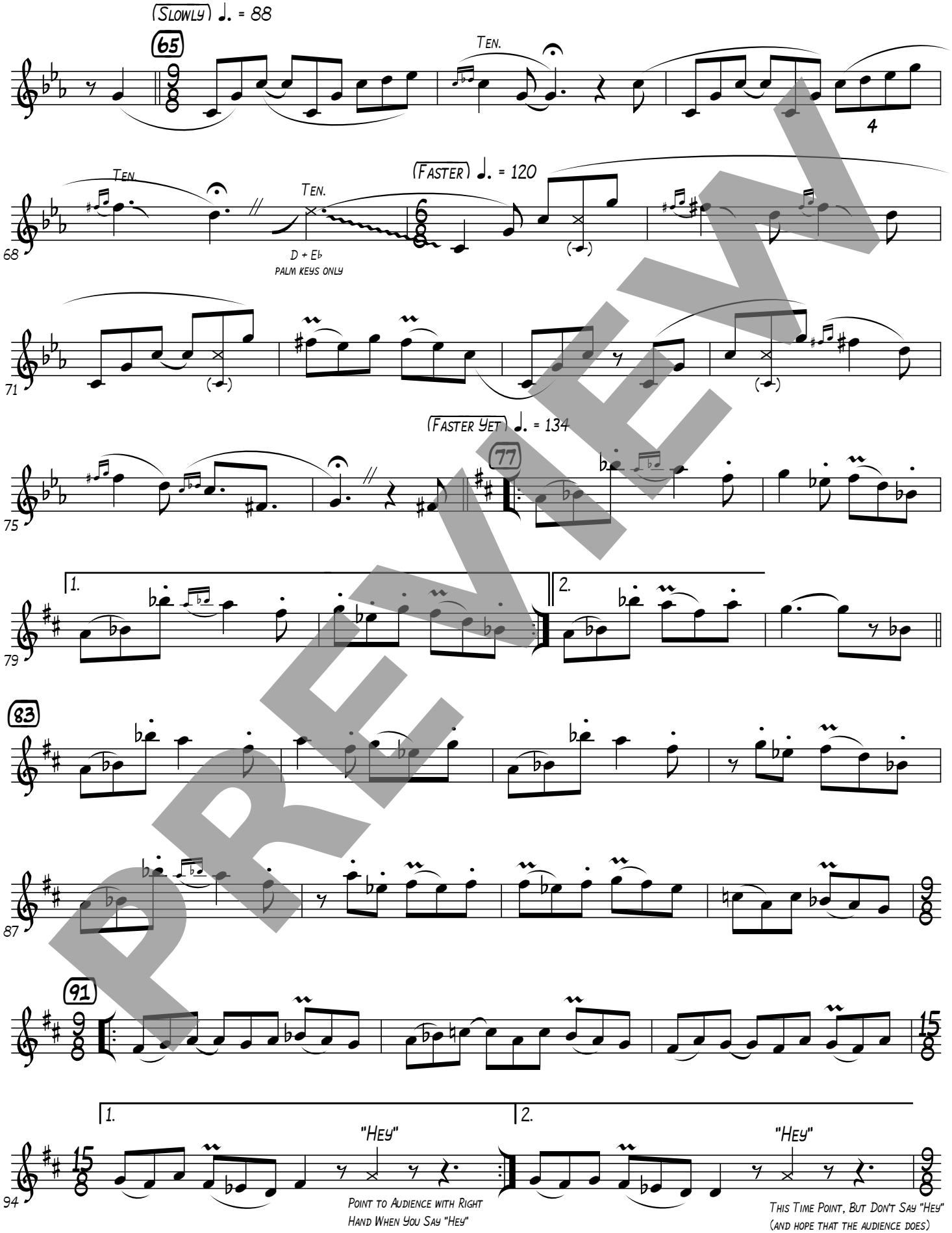

21
(Faster) ♩. = 110
mf – p
(sigh)
1.
2.
24
26
(Faster yet) ♩. = 124
mf – f
1.
2.
29
31
Lightly
mp
2
35
mf
39
Legato & Expressivo
f
(Slight Accel.)
41

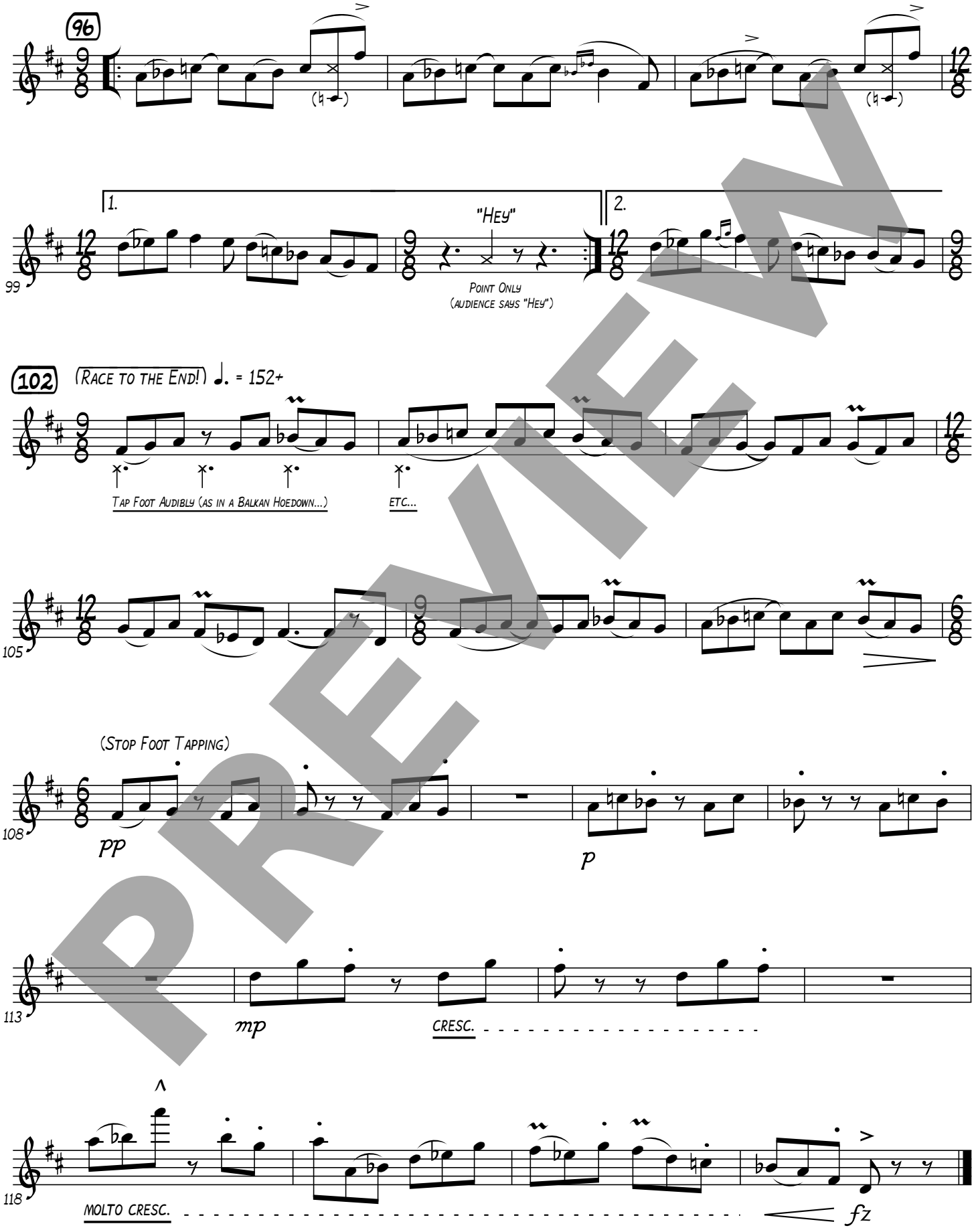
PREVIEW


43
(New, Slightly Faster Tempo) ♩. = 128-132
45
mf
47
New Mood - Slipperier
50
53
(Faster) ♩. = 152
Expressivo a la Klezmer
55
BEND WITH THROAT, VOICING
56
59
(Molto Rall.)
Ten.
62
V.S.

PREVIEW


(Slowly) ♩. = 88
65
Ten.
4
Ten
Ten.
(Faster) ♩. = 120
68
D + Eb
palm keys only
71
(Faster Yet) ♩. = 134
77
75
1.
2.
79
83
87
91
15
94
"Hey"
"Hey"
Point to Audience with Right Hand When You Say "Hey"
This Time Point, But Don't Say "Hey" (and hope that the audience does)

PREVIEW


96
1.
"Hey"
2.
99
Point Only
(audience says "Hey")
102
(Race to the End!) ♩. = 152+
Tap Foot Audibly (as in a Balkan Hoedown...)
etc...
105
(Stop Foot Tapping)
108
pp
p
113
mp
cresc.
118
molto cresc.
fz

PREVIEW