Biography of the Composer
George Frederick Handel

1685: born in Halle on the Saale on 23 February. Learned to p[illegible] the clavichord in secret, because his father, a doctor, thought [illegible] a musician would be poorly paid, insecure and [illegible] in stat[illegible]

1693: the Duke of Saxe-Weissenfels, pleased with Ha[illegible] sent him to study with the organist F. W. Zachov[illegible]

1702: studied Law at the University of Halle a[illegible]

1703: second violinist in the Hamburg opera orc[illegible] appointed *Maestro al Cembalo* so[illegible]

1705: first major triumphs as an oper[illegible]

1706: studied and wrote music in Flo[illegible] Venice

1710: left Italy as one of the m[illegible] celebr[illegible] Europe. Director of music at the Electoral [illegible] in Ha[illegible] to London.

1712: settled permanently [illegible] Lond[illegible]

1719: Artistic Director at th[illegible] music (until [illegible]), with the task of introducing Ita[illegible] Sensationally successful operas; the [illegible] celeb[illegible] of his [illegible]

1727: grante[illegible] British [illegible]

1741: turn[illegible] away from the [illegible] opera to c[illegible]trate on religious oratorios

1753: w[illegible]

1759: died [illegible] Buried [illegible] grandeur of Westminster Abbey [illegible] desirable for [illegible]

PREVIEW
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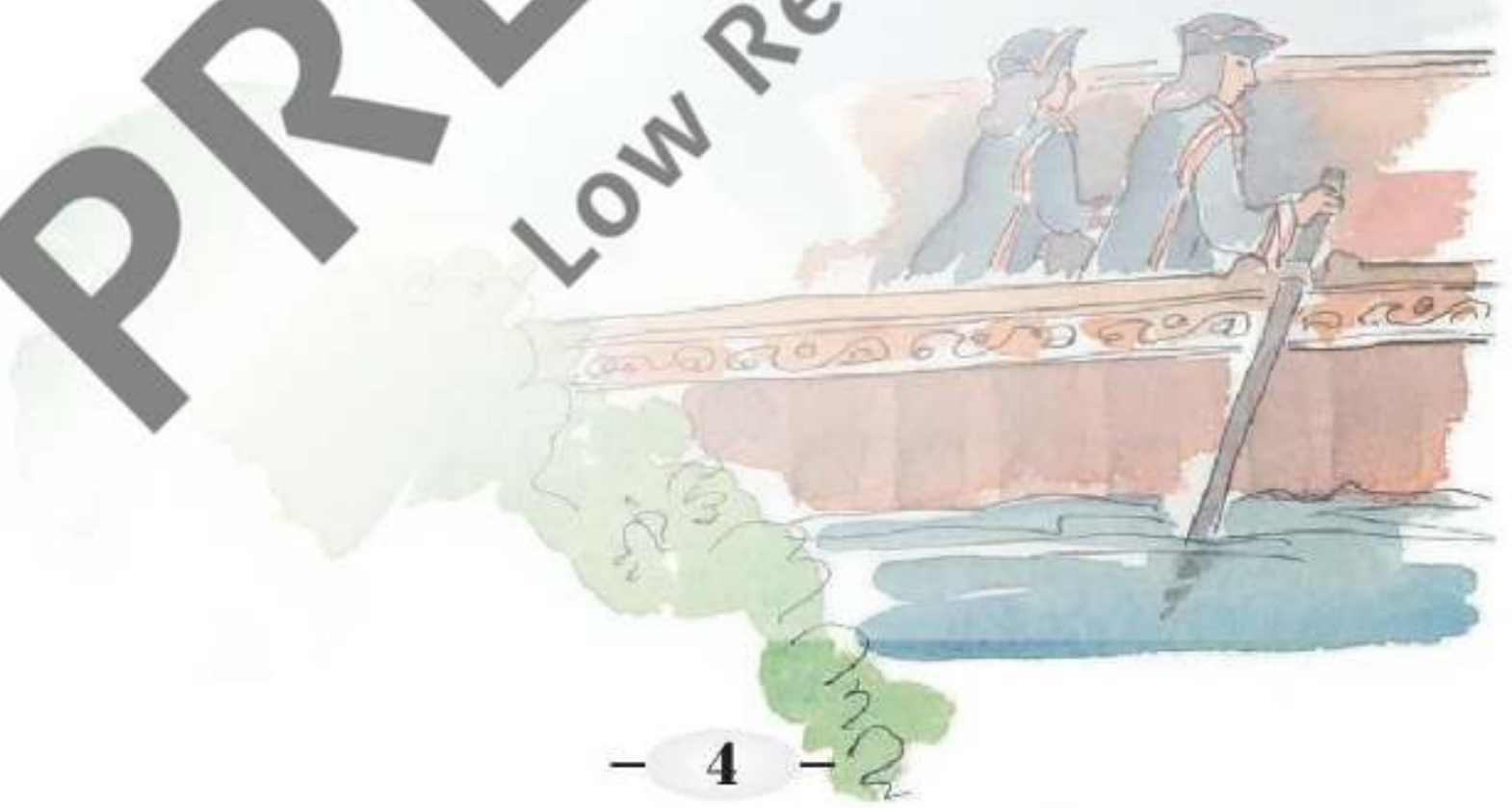
History of the work: Water Music

There are three suites with 22 movements altogether (HWV 348–350).
The suites were written at various different times. The exact dates of comp[illegible] can[illegible] be established beyond doubt, as almost all the original manuscri[illegible] scores ([illegible] out by Handel himself) have been lost. This also makes it impos[illegible] structure or the order of pieces in the suites.
King George I took three royal barge trips on the Thames [illegible] which [illegible] the accompaniment of the *Water Music*:
The first barge trip was on 22 August 1715 from Wh[illegible]hall to [illegible] trip Handel is said to have been reconciled with the [illegible], his former [illegible] Hanover. The rift between them had been caused by Ha[illegible] for London.
The second barge trip was on 17 June 1717 from [illegible] and back. On this second trip the King liked the music so [illegible] twice.
The third barge trip was on 26 April 1736, [illegible] Prince Frederick and Princess Augusta of Saxe-Coburg-G[illegible]

The instrumentation varies in the three [illegible]
Suite No. 1 in F major: 2 ho[illegible] strings, harpsichord
Suite No. 2 in D major: [illegible] bassoon, strings, harpsichord
Suite No. 3 in G ma[illegible] flute, piccolo, [illegible] harpsichord



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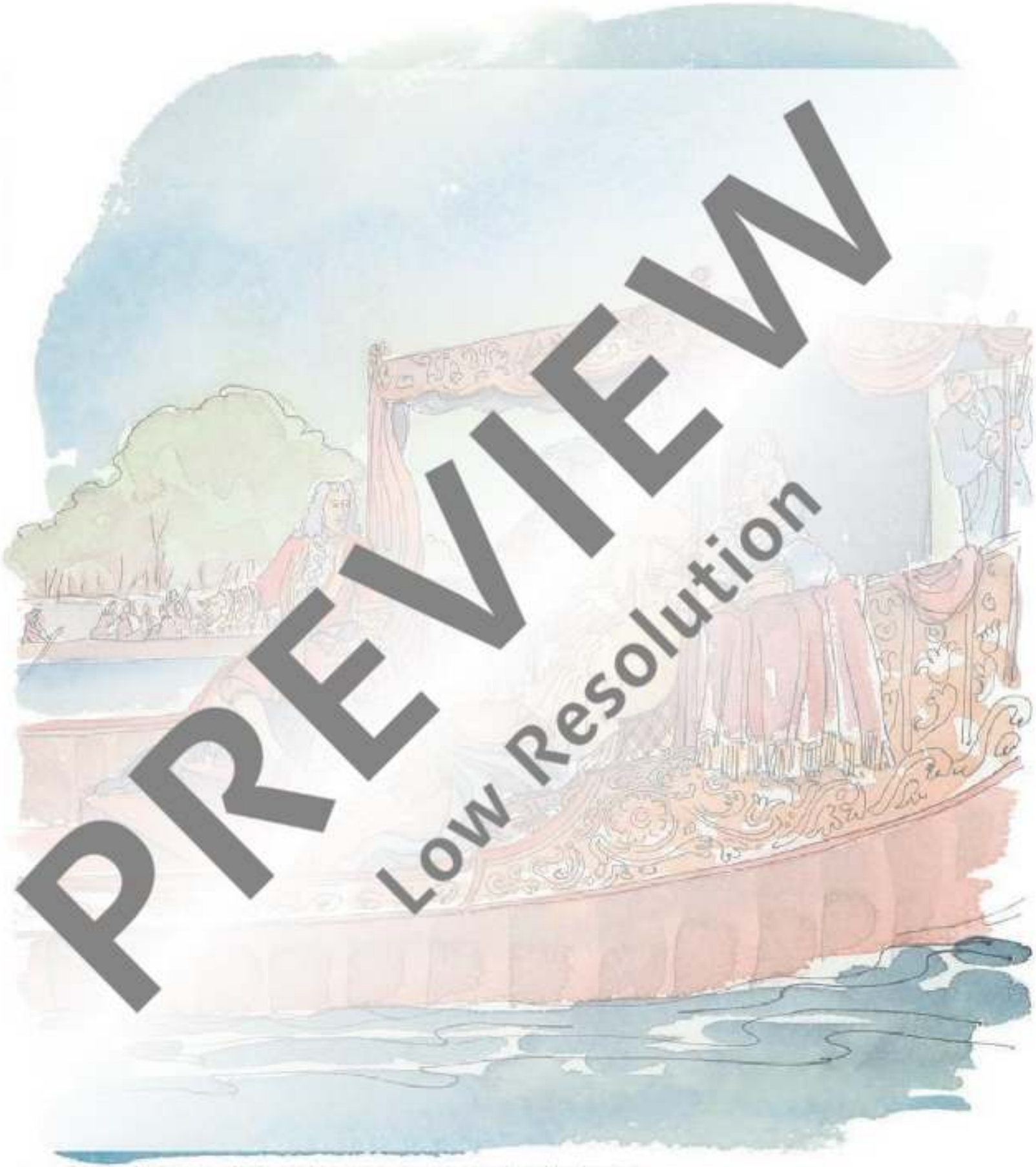

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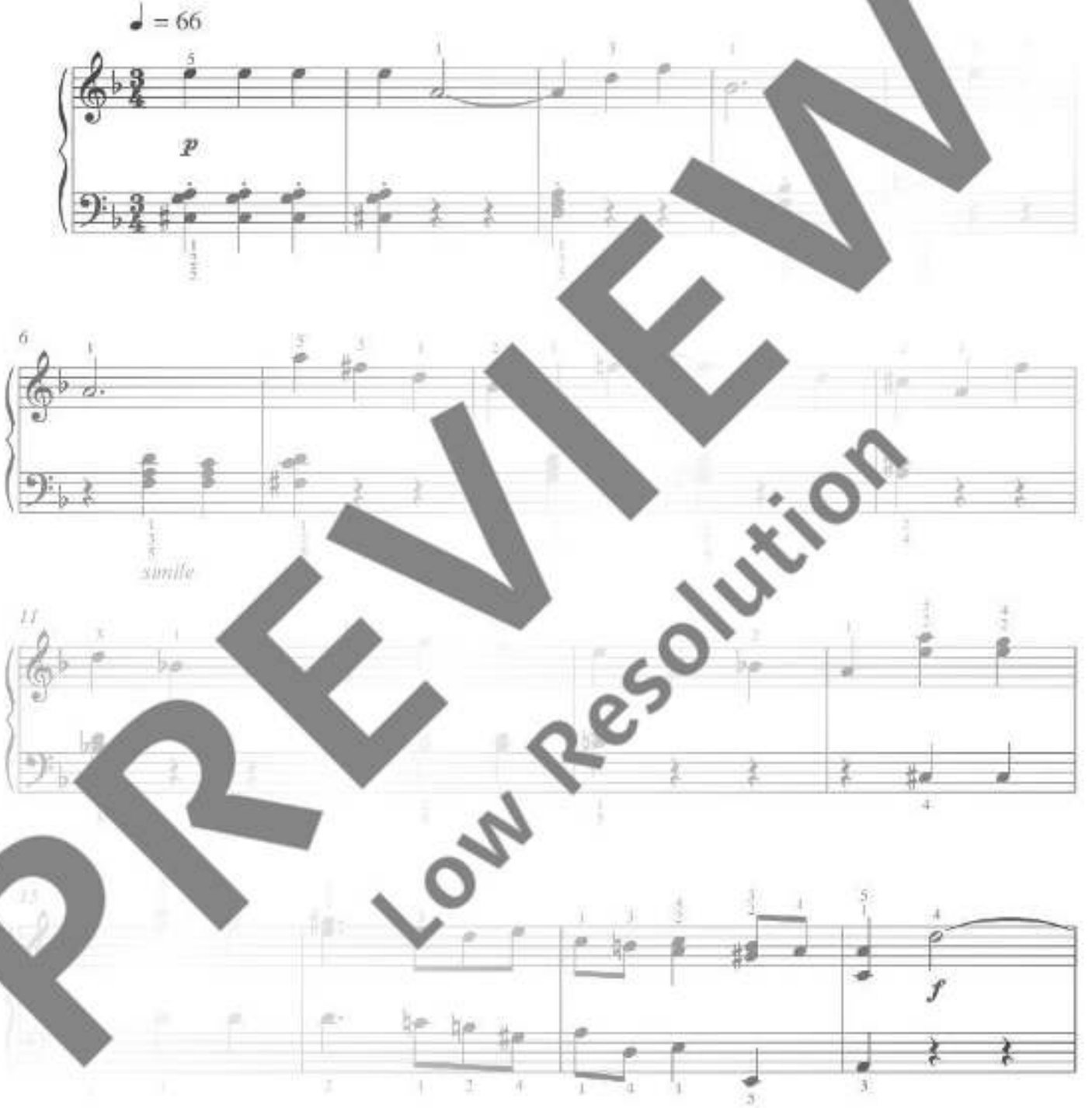
Handel and King George I of England on the Thames during a performance of Handel's *Water Music*.

Adagio e staccato

from Suite No. 1 in F major HWV 348, 2nd movement



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