jeffrey ryan

string quartet #4: inspirare

commissioned by Jennifer Taylor and *Music* TORONTO
for the Tokyo String Quartet

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Performance notes:

Total performance time ca. 16'15"

throughout

give note a slight rhythmic and dynamic stress

note ends with sharp accent but no bow change

alternate rapidly between fundamental and harmonic

with "gl" marking = normal glissando. Begin immediately after first pitch is sounded. Glissandi of duration greater than a quarter note are notated with an opening eighth note along with the required duration. With or without bow change, as indicated

without "gl" marking = short glissando to next note, similar to an obvious portamento. With or without bow change, as indicated

s.t. = sul tasto
s.p. = sul ponticello

In *senza misura* sections:
Accidentals hold within each beamed group
Approximate timings are given for the duration of each section

Unlike traditional grace notes, these grace notes do not borrow time from the previous note; rather, sustained notes are held for their full value and the grace notes take as much time as they need, depending on the number of notes each gesture. For this reason, grace notes in *senza misura* sections are notated full size. (Note that in measured sections, grace notes are executed traditionally and notated in reduced size.)

Other performance notes are given as required in the score and/or part.

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Programme Note:

The Latin *inspirare* means "to breathe into" and it is breath that has inspired this single-movement work for string quartet. A smooth relaxed breath, a quick breath, a soft gentle breath, a heavy sigh, a whispering breath, a held breath, a ragged breath, a determined breath, even the physical expansion and contraction of breathing—all have found expression in this piece.

The three major ensemble sections are framed by four extended solos, each with a different character and rooted in the pitch of a different open string. Beginning with the first violin, proceeding across the ensemble through second violin and violoncello, and closing with the viola, the spotlight is shone in turn on each member of the quartet, while the ensemble sections bring all four together in varied combinations.

String Quartet #4: Inspirare was commissioned by Jennifer Taylor and *Music* TORONTO for the Tokyo String Quartet. It was premiered September 15, 2011, by the Tokyo String Quartet at Walter Hall, University of Toronto Faculty of Music, in Toronto, Canada.

to Music TORONTO, *for 40 years and counting,*
and to the Tokyo String Quartet, for 42

string quartet #4: inspirare

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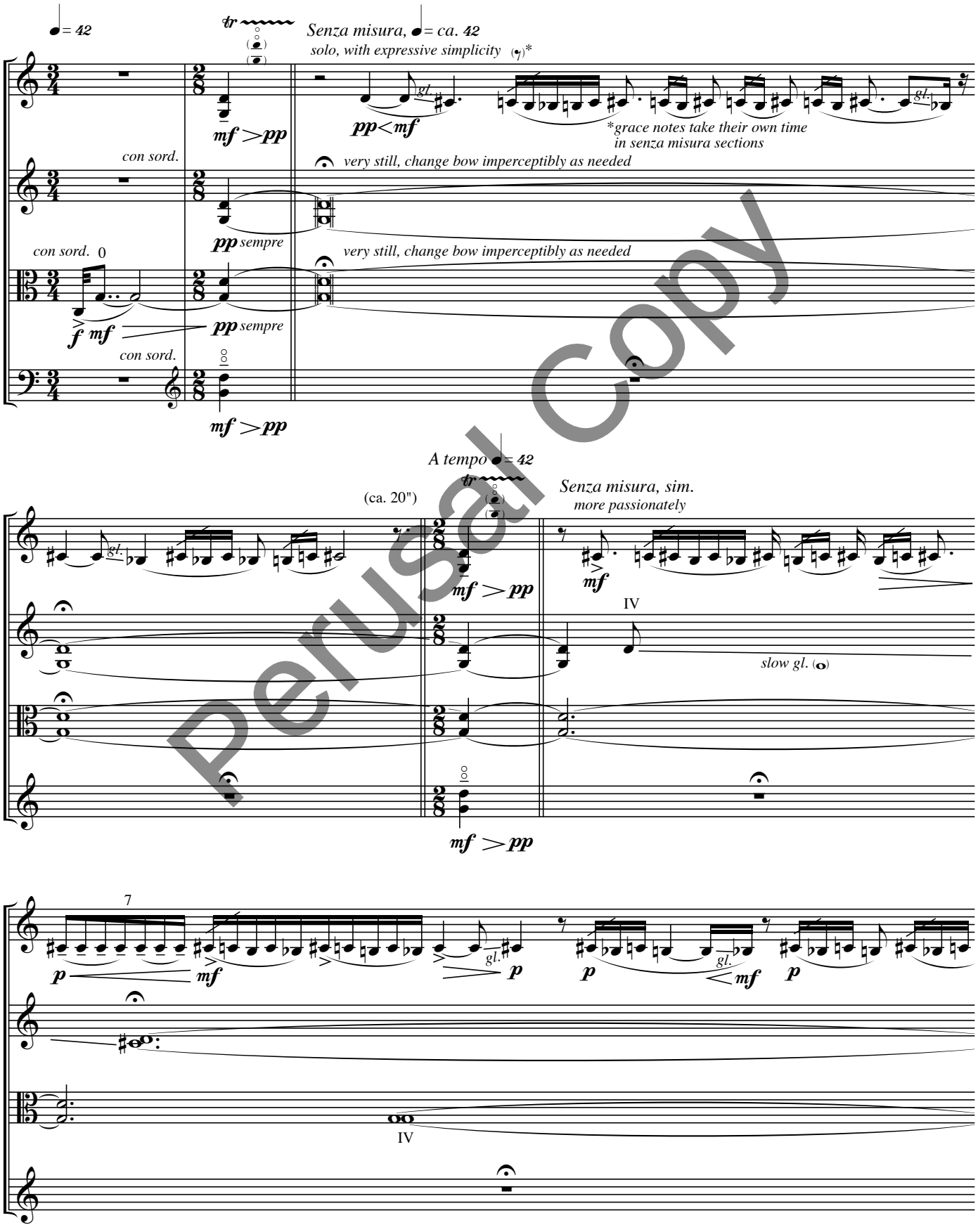

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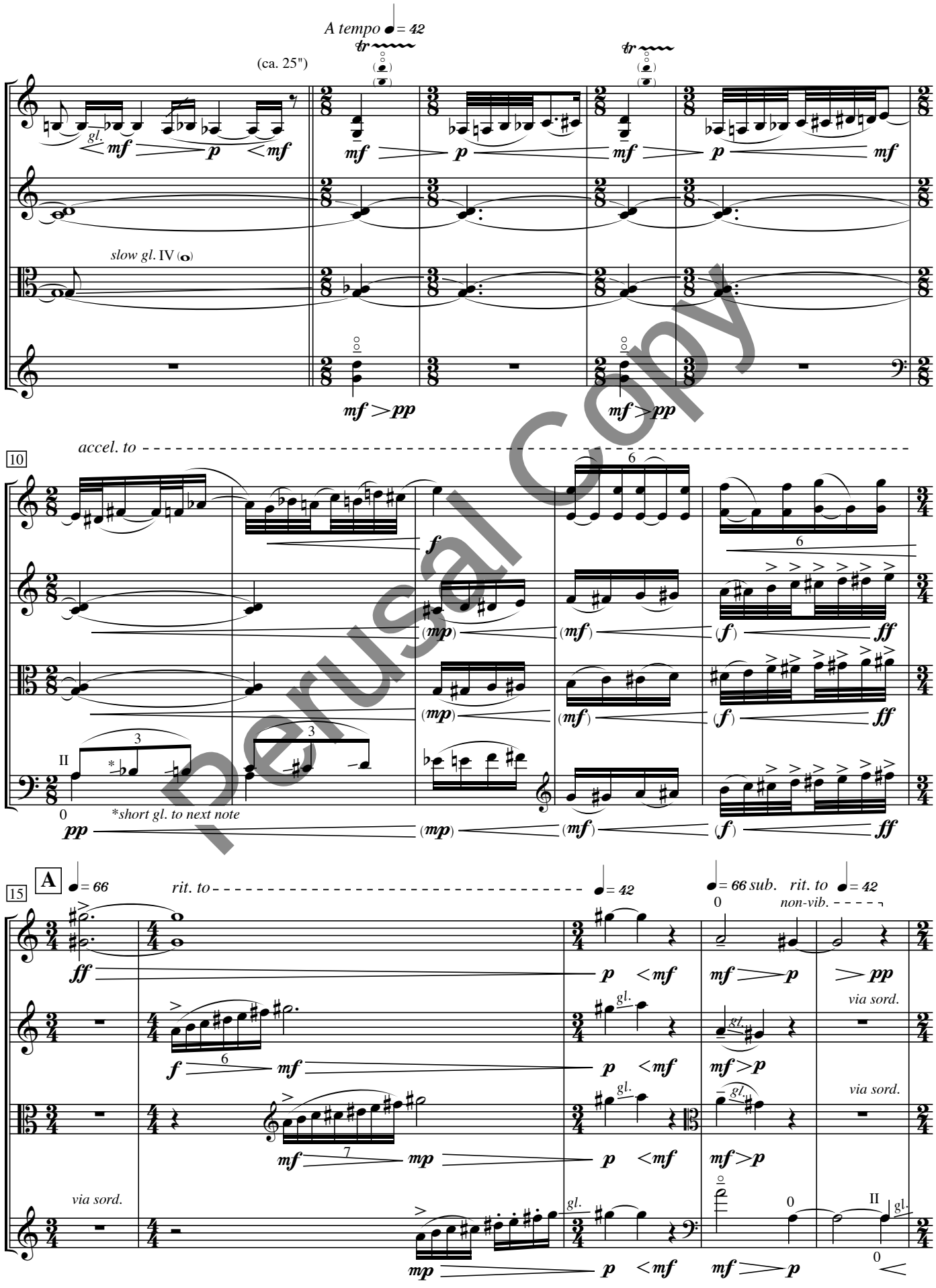

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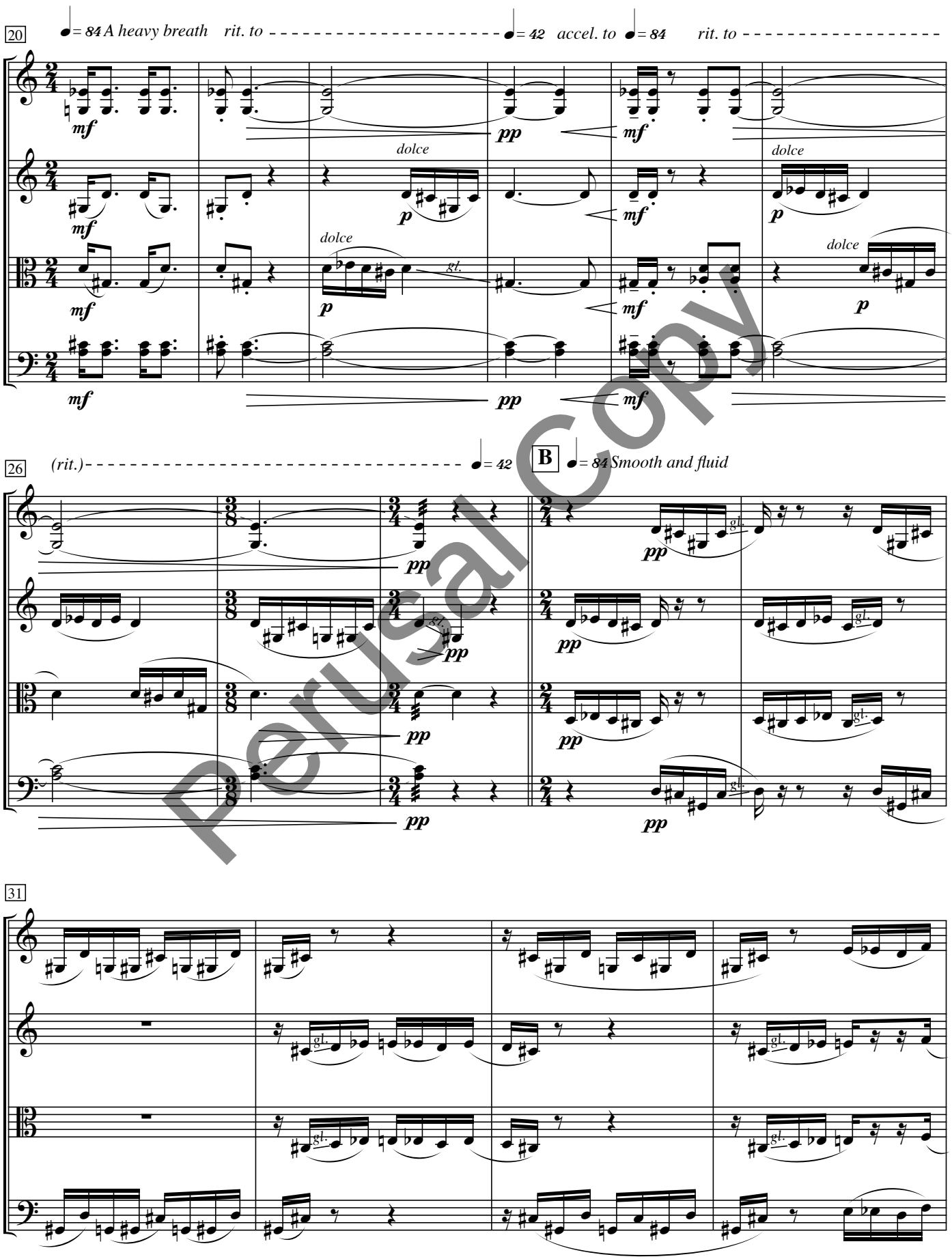

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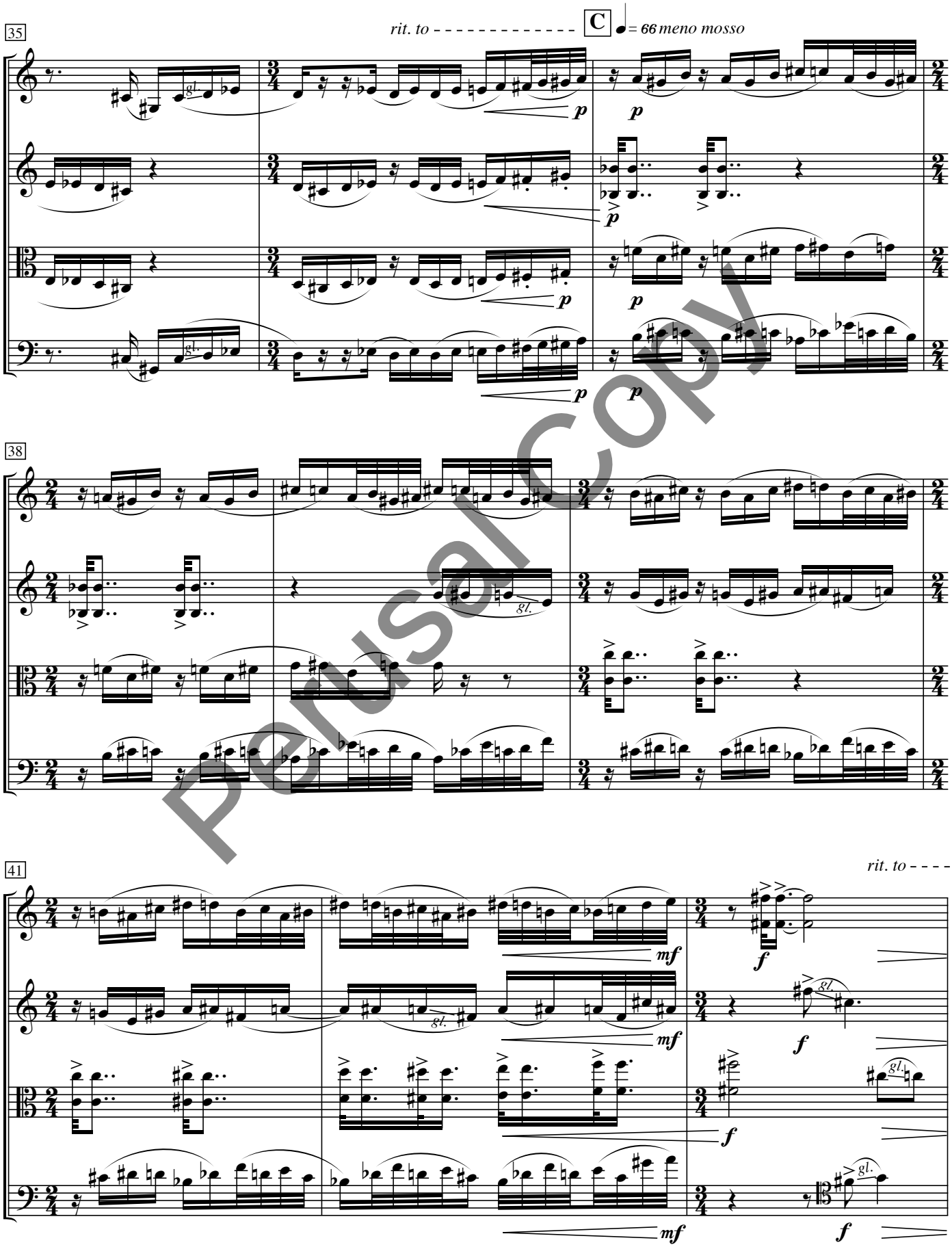

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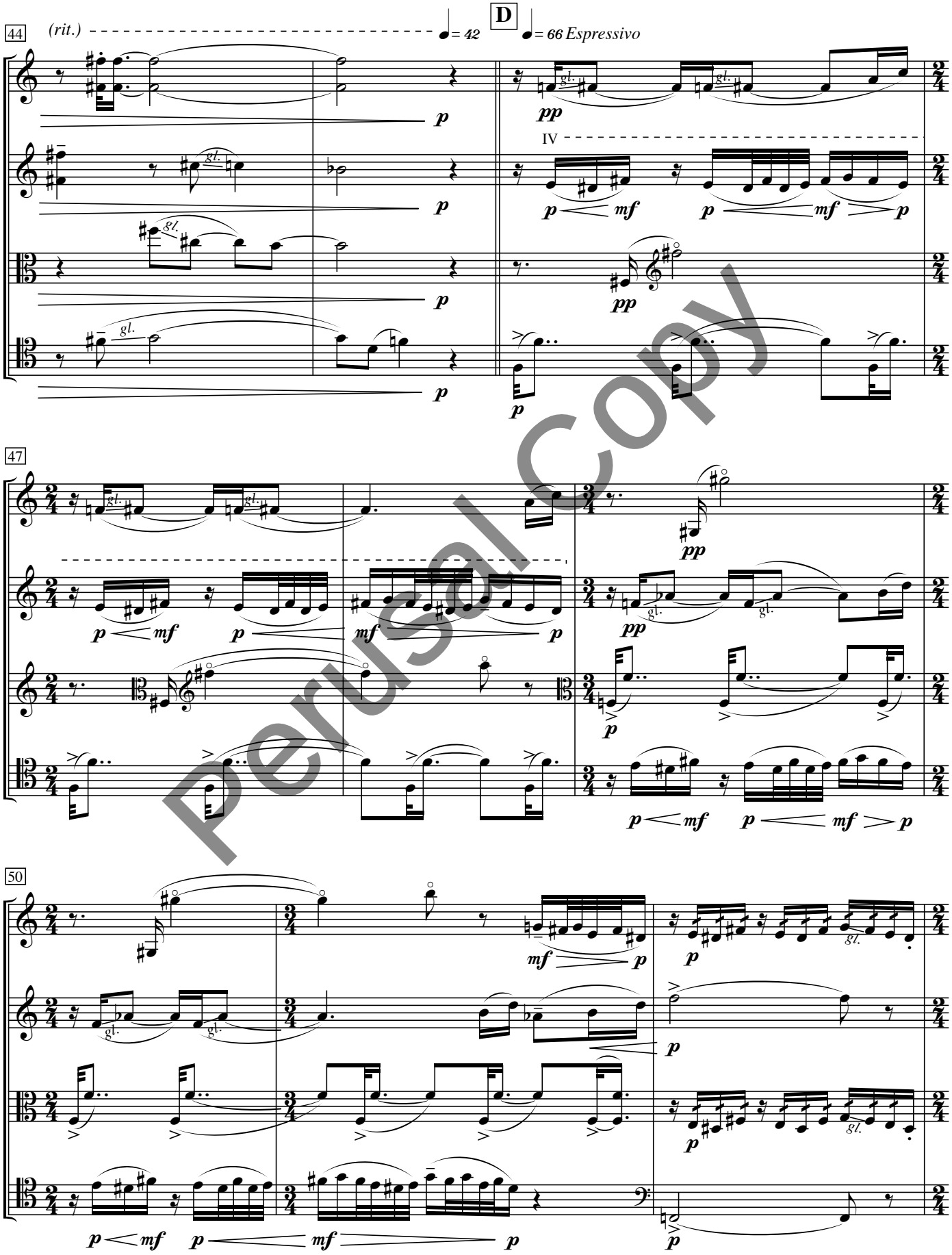

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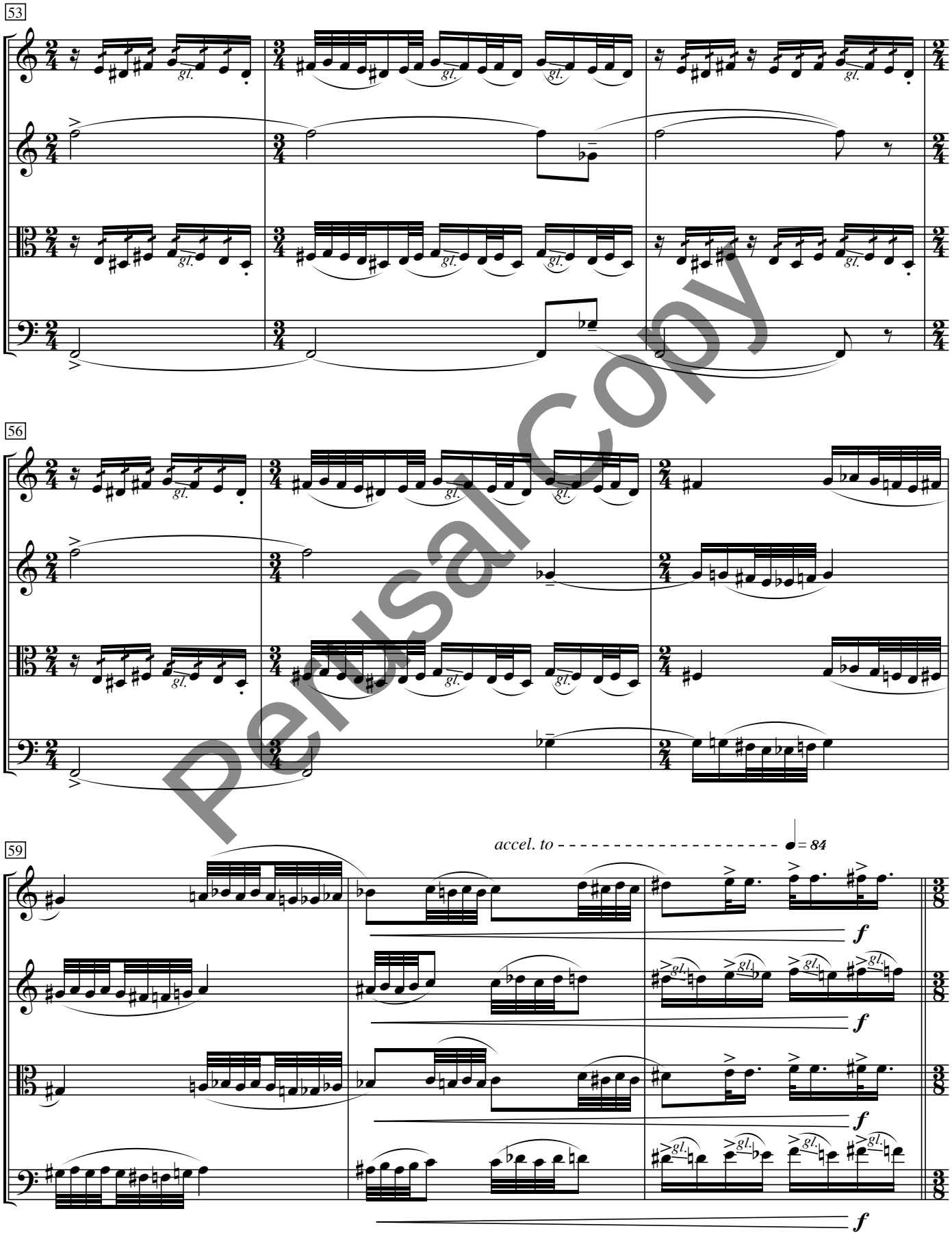

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62 **E** ♩= 66 *sub., leggiero* (♪= 132) ♪=♪

pp

pp

pp

pizz. *arco*

pp *pp*

67

pp

pp

pizz. *arco*

pp *pp*

72 *rit. to* - - - - - - - - - -

gl.

gl.

gl.

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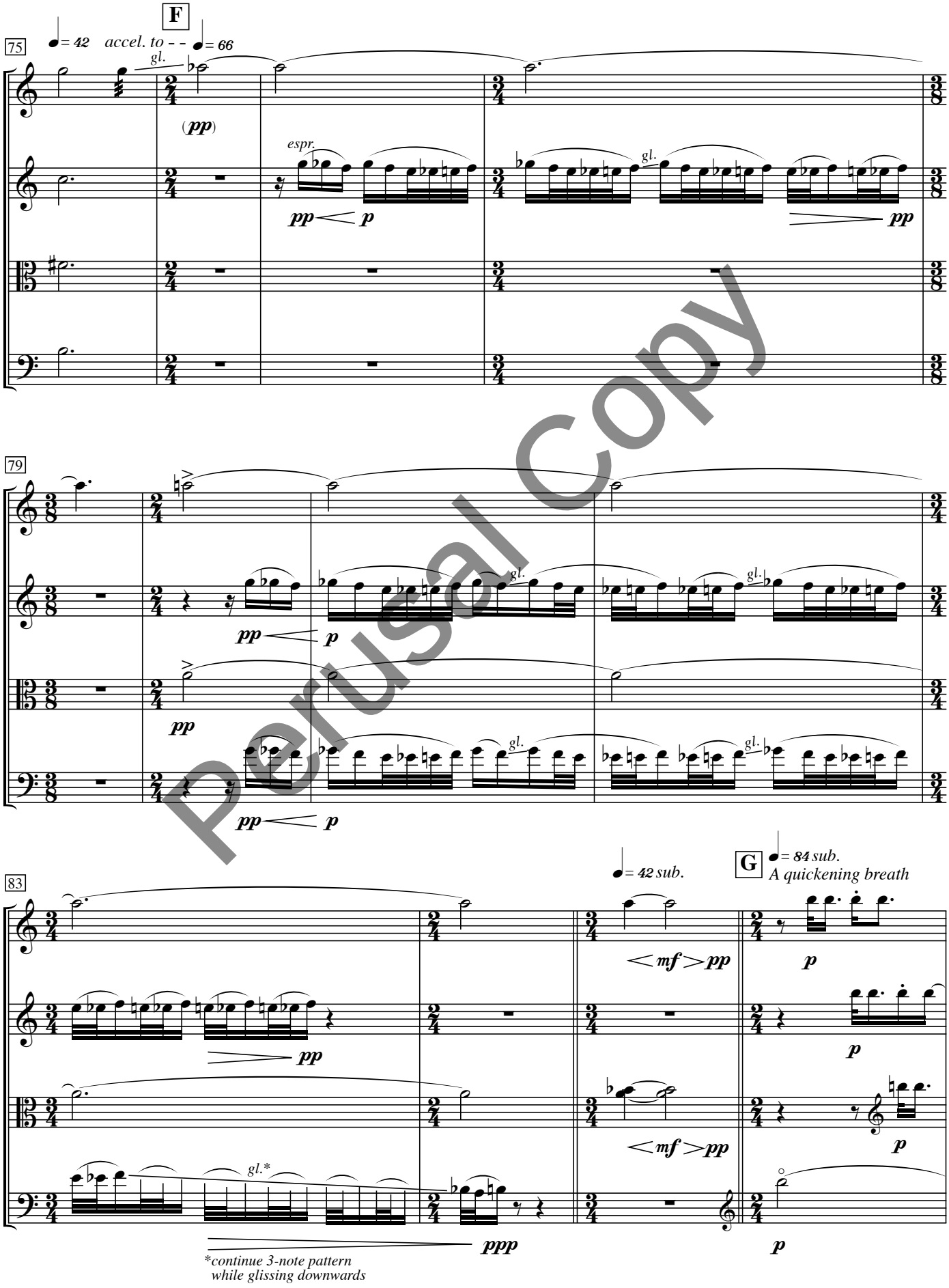

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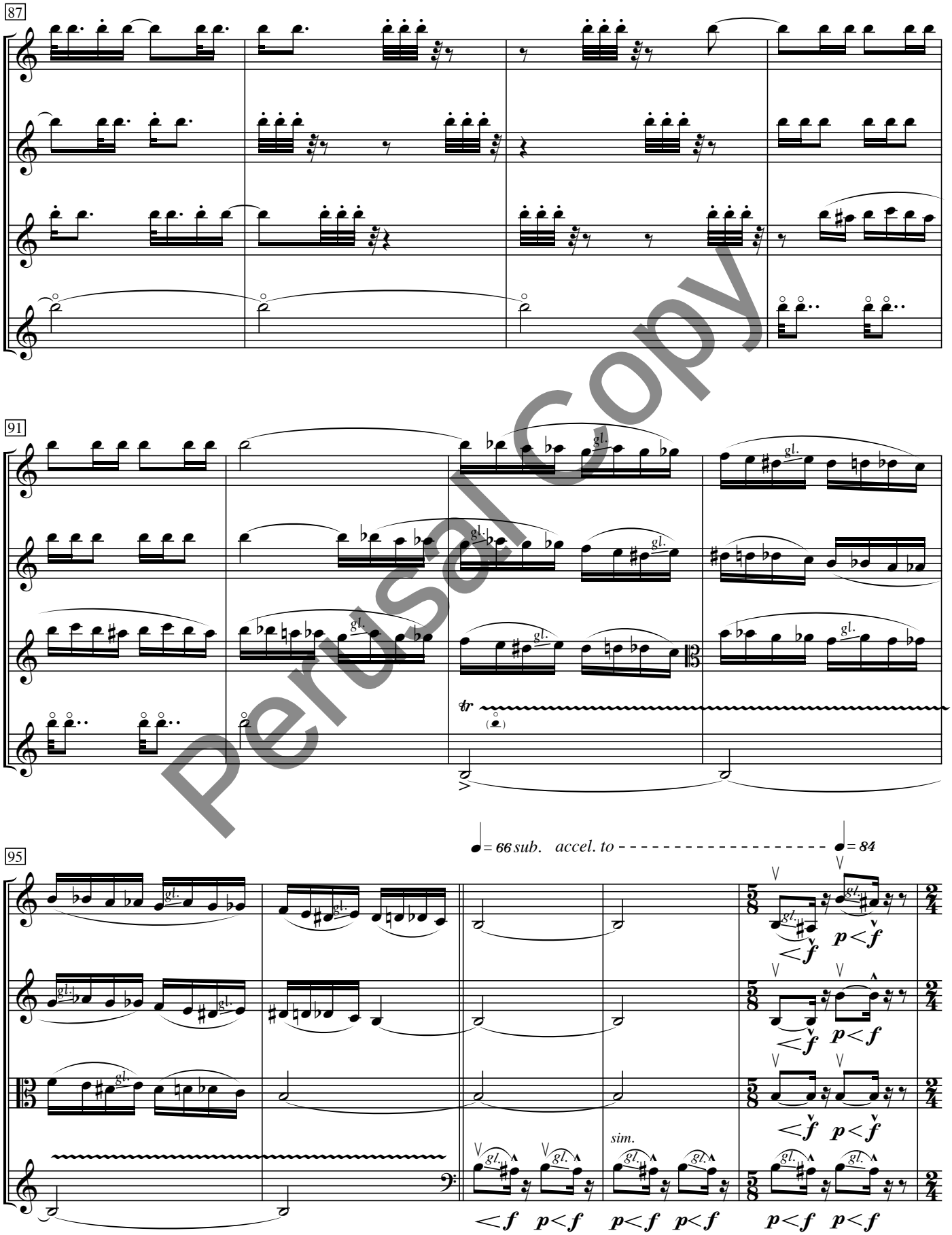

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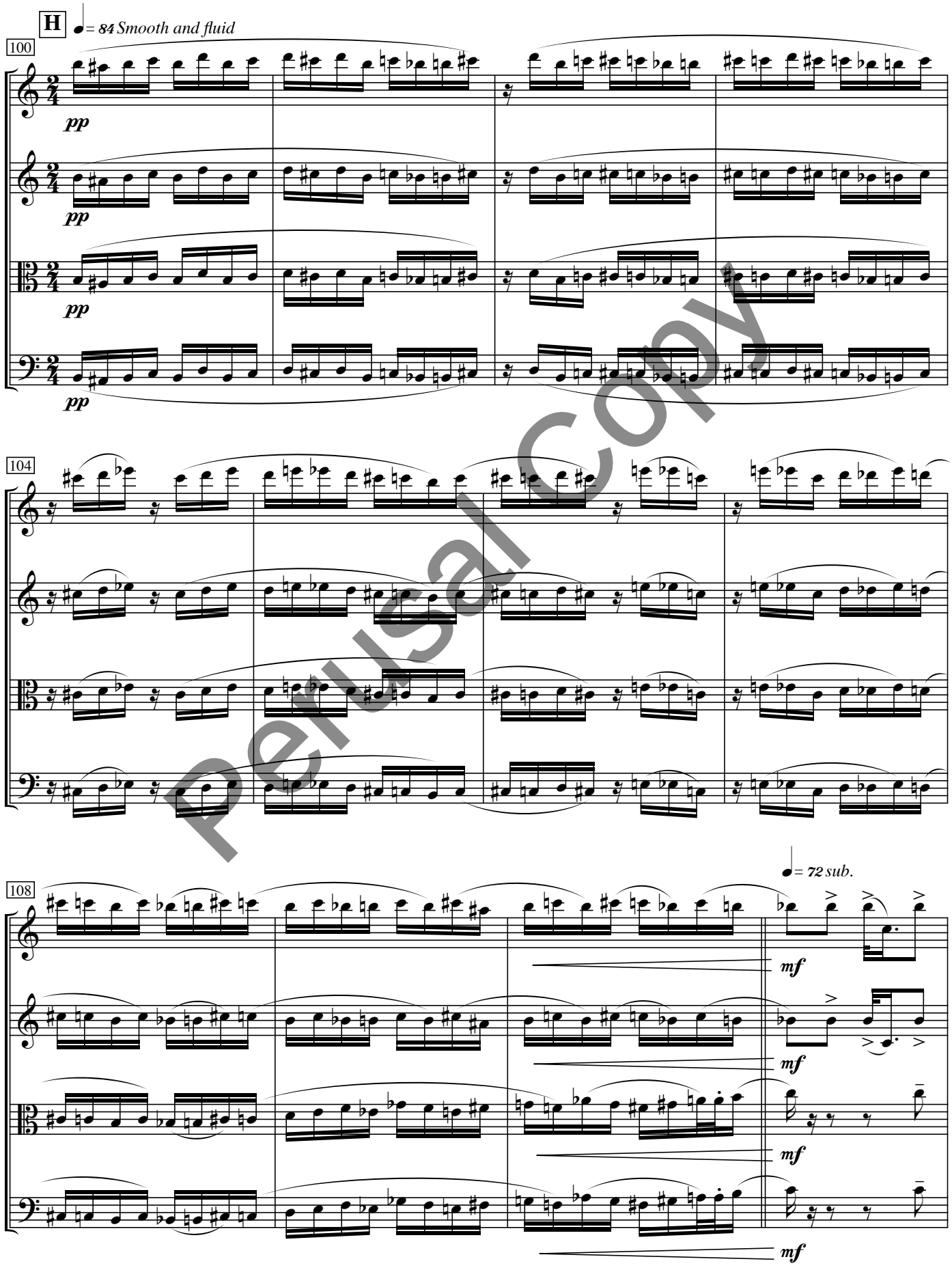

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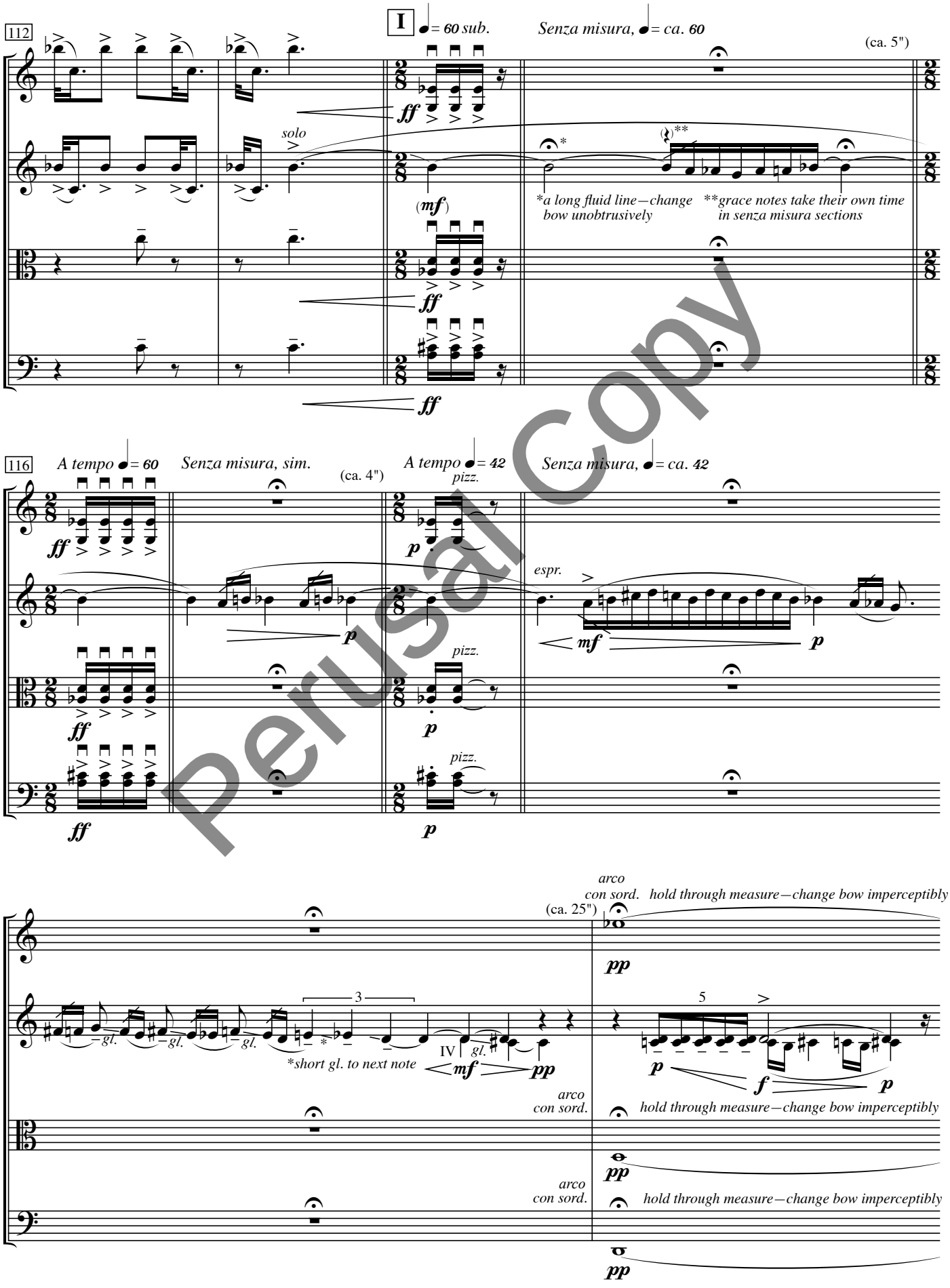

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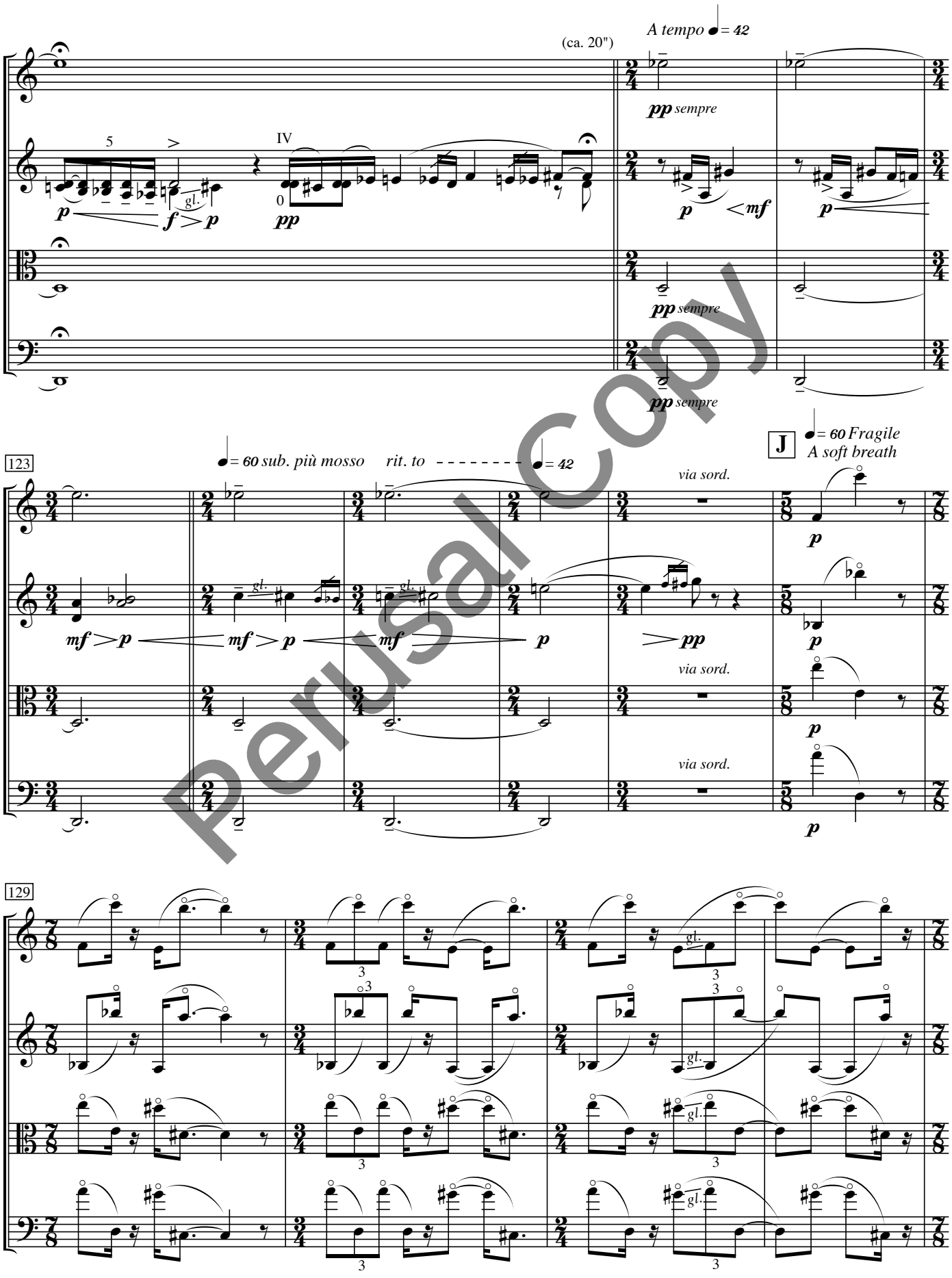

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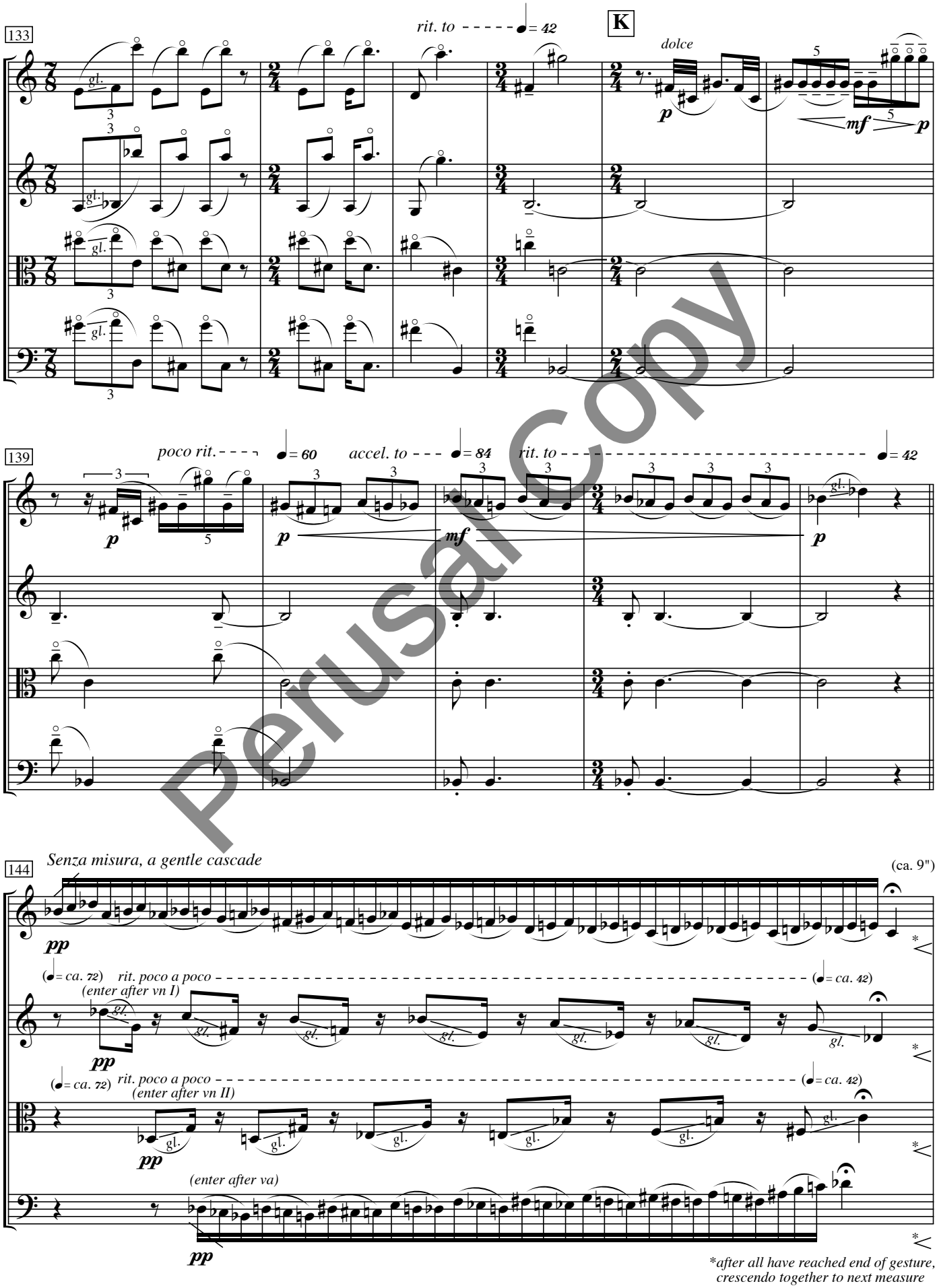

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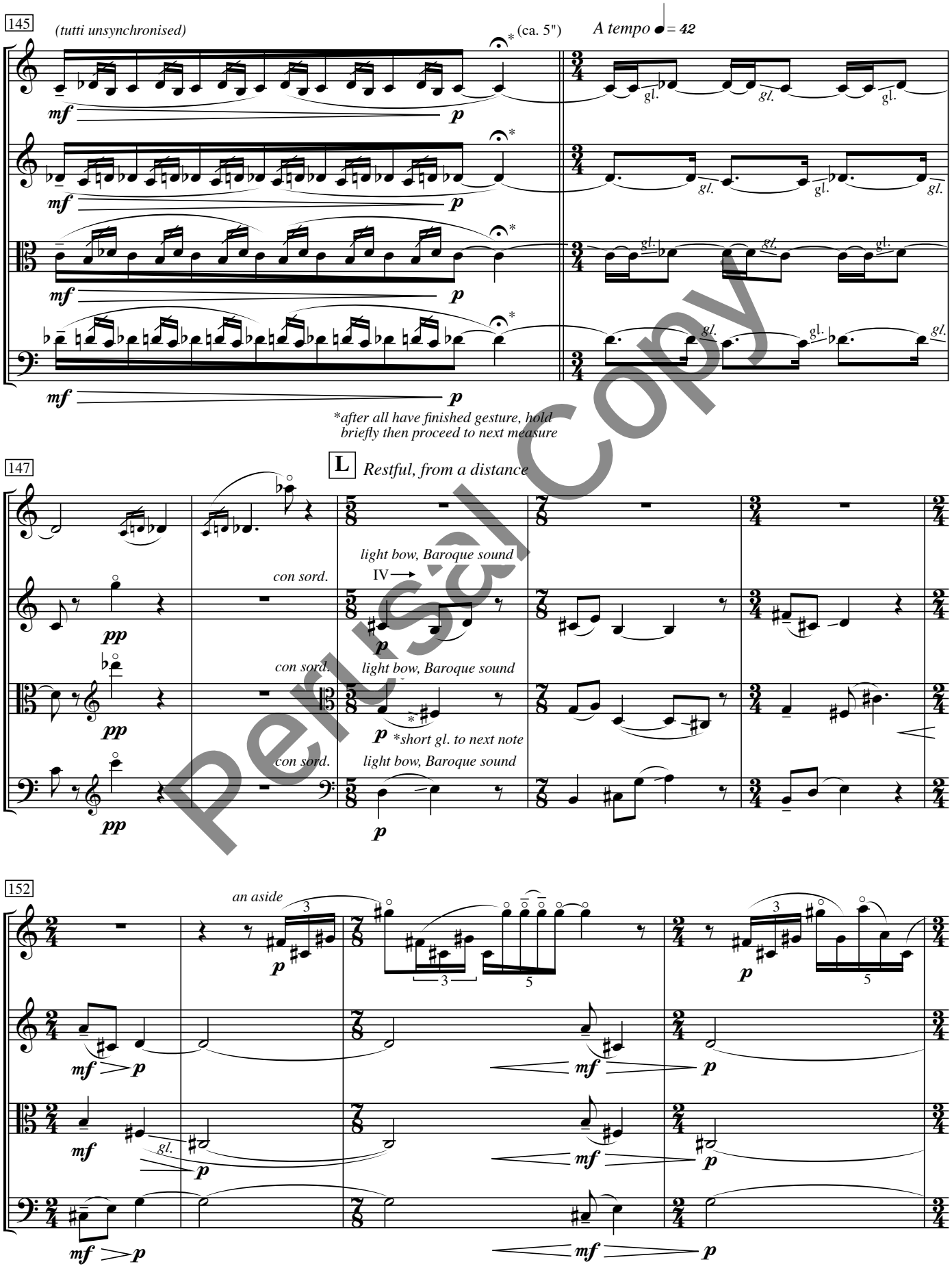

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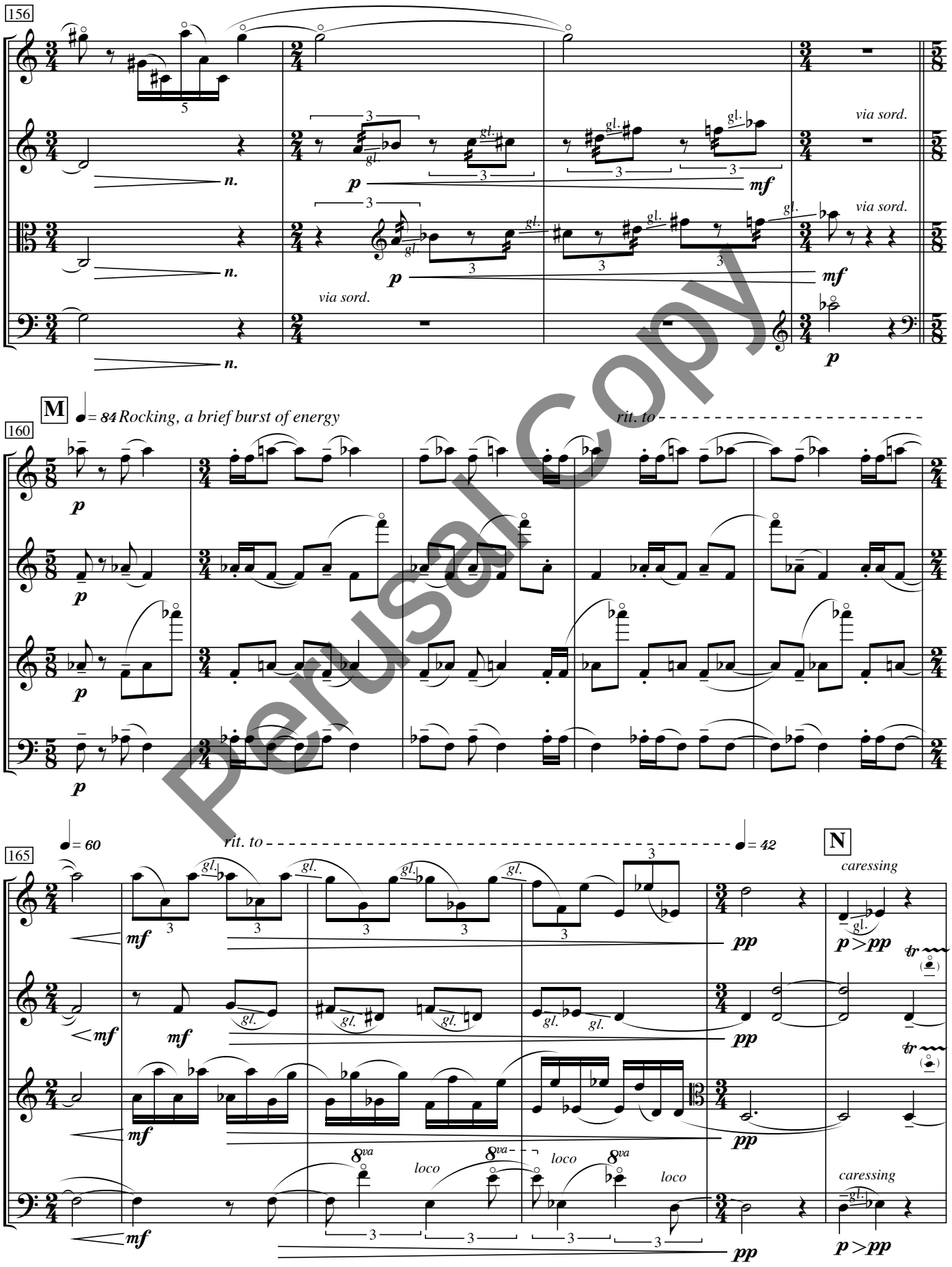

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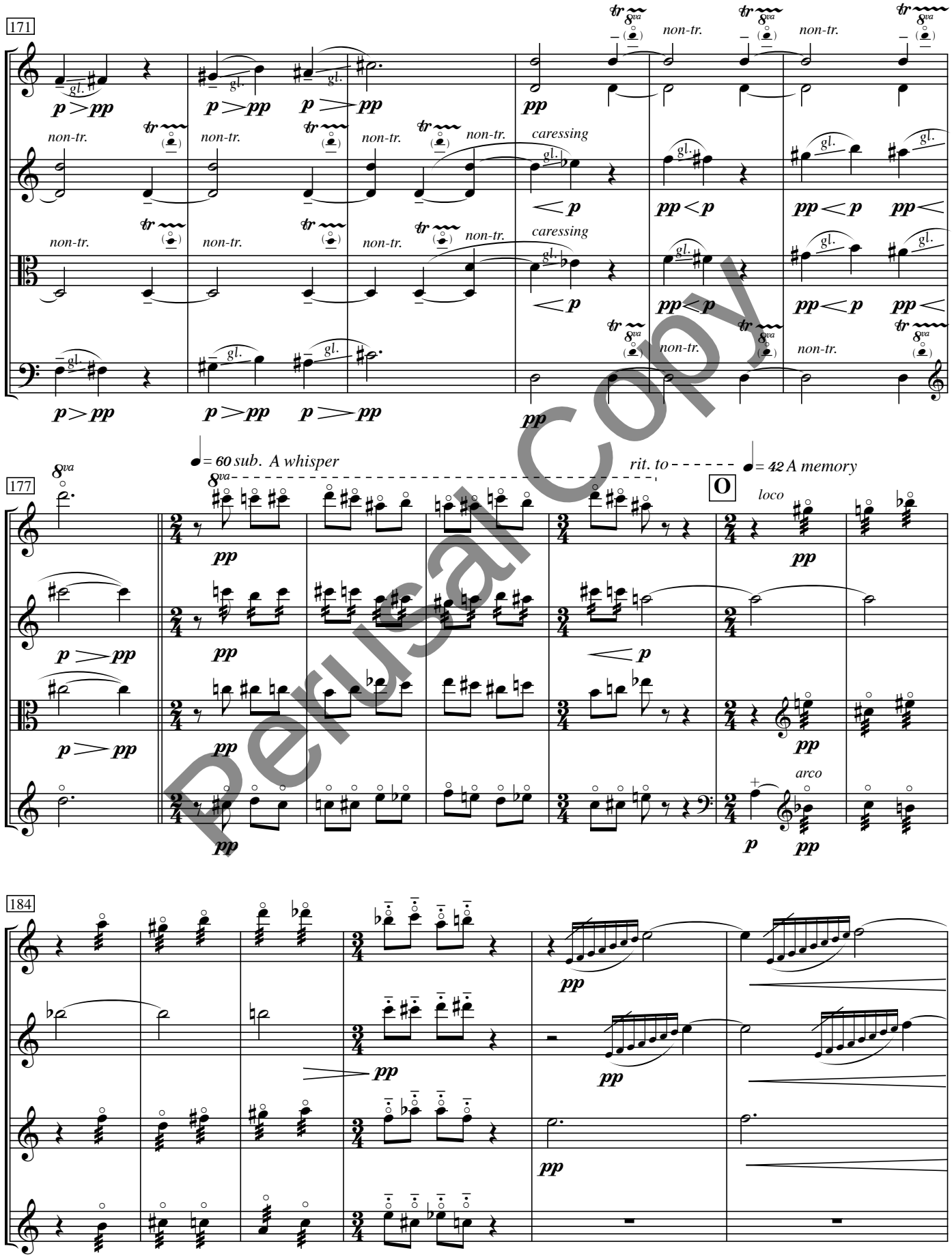

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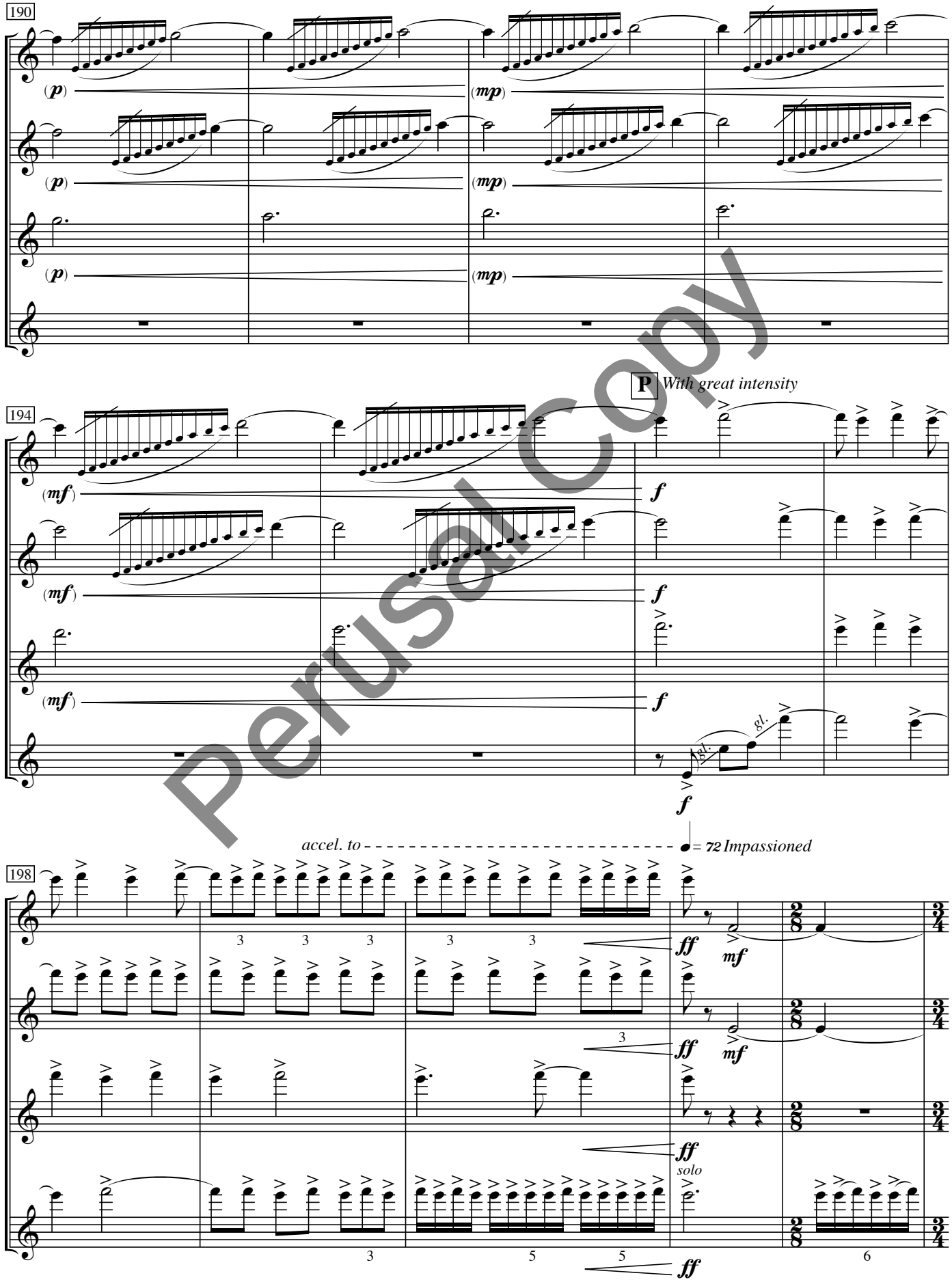

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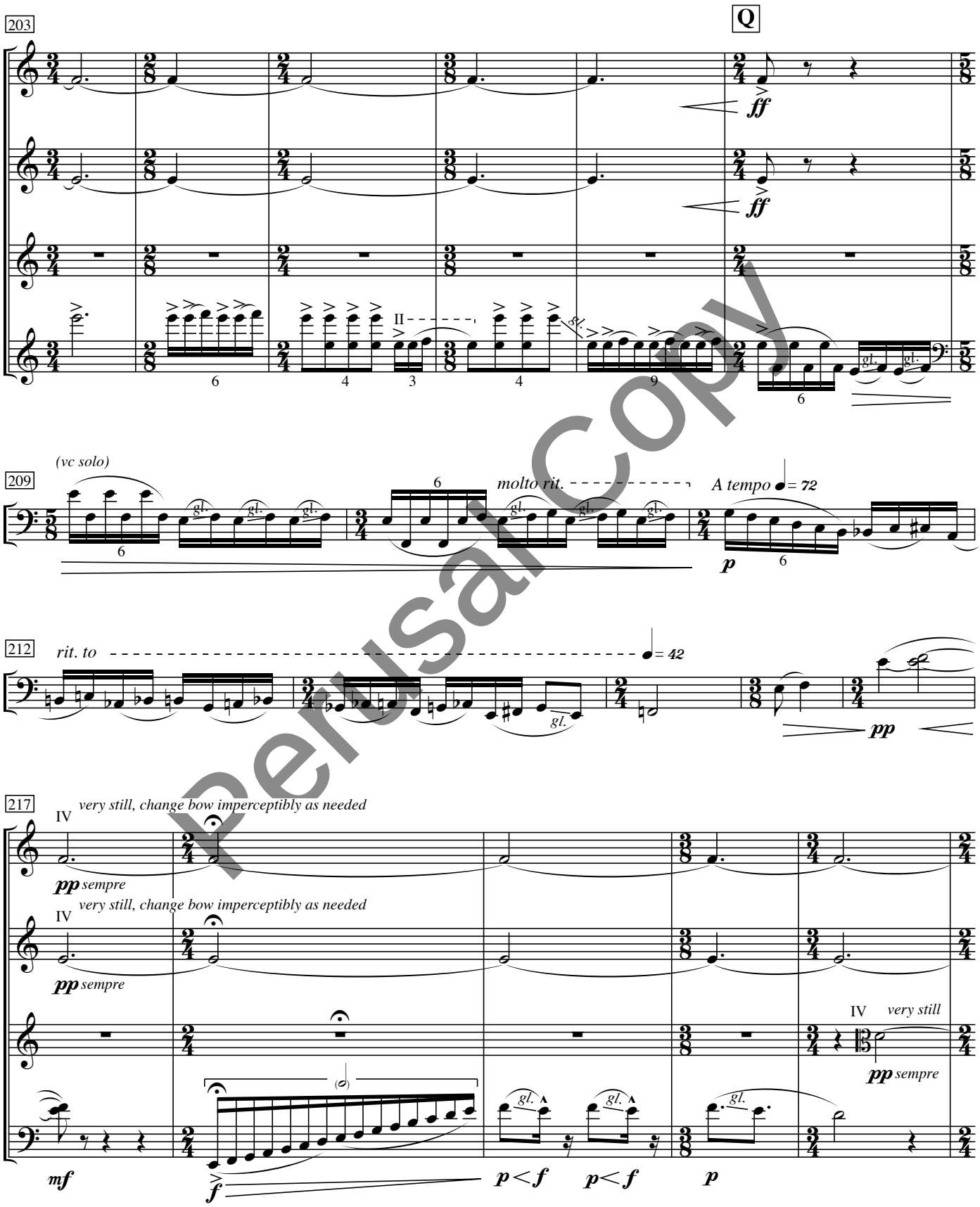

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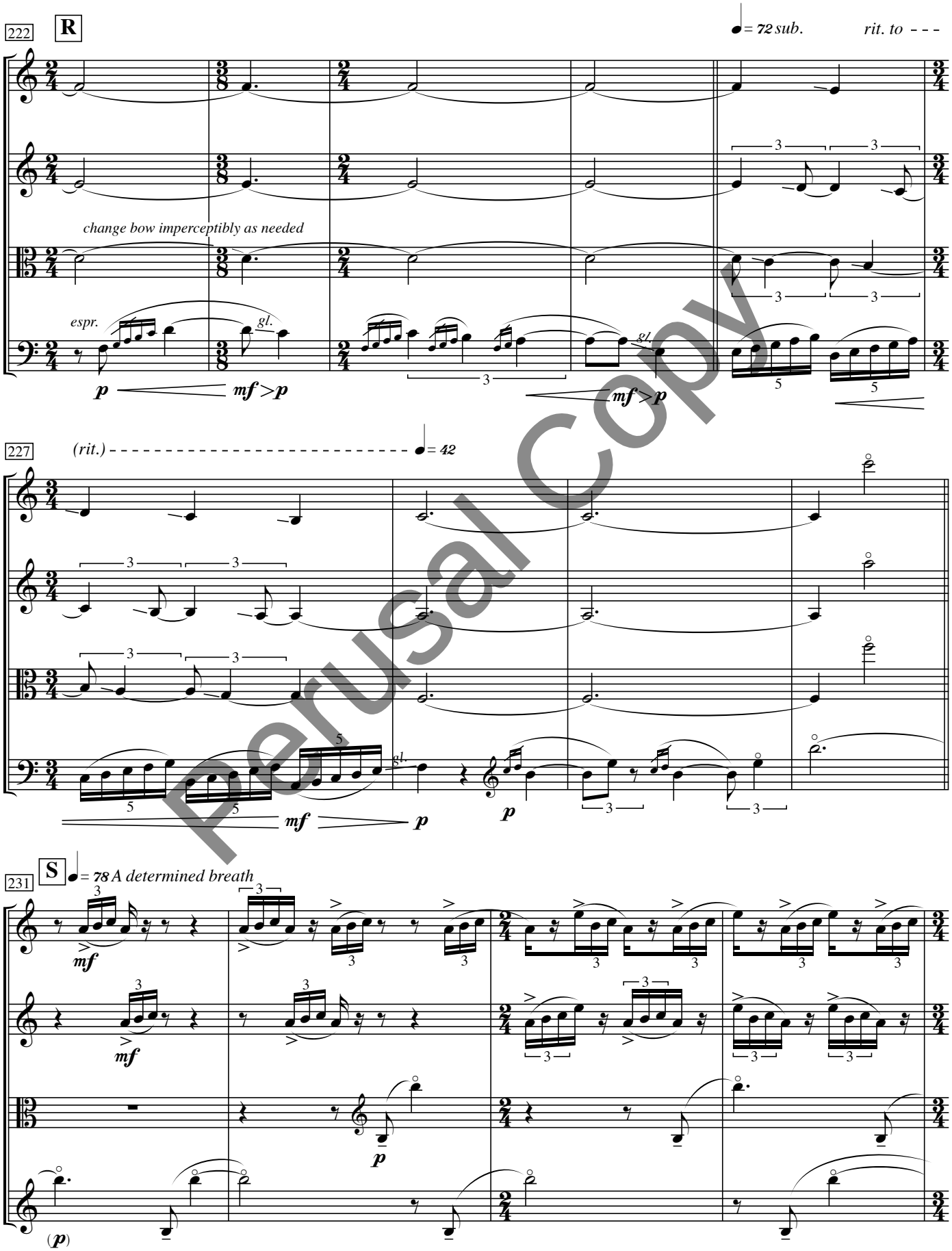

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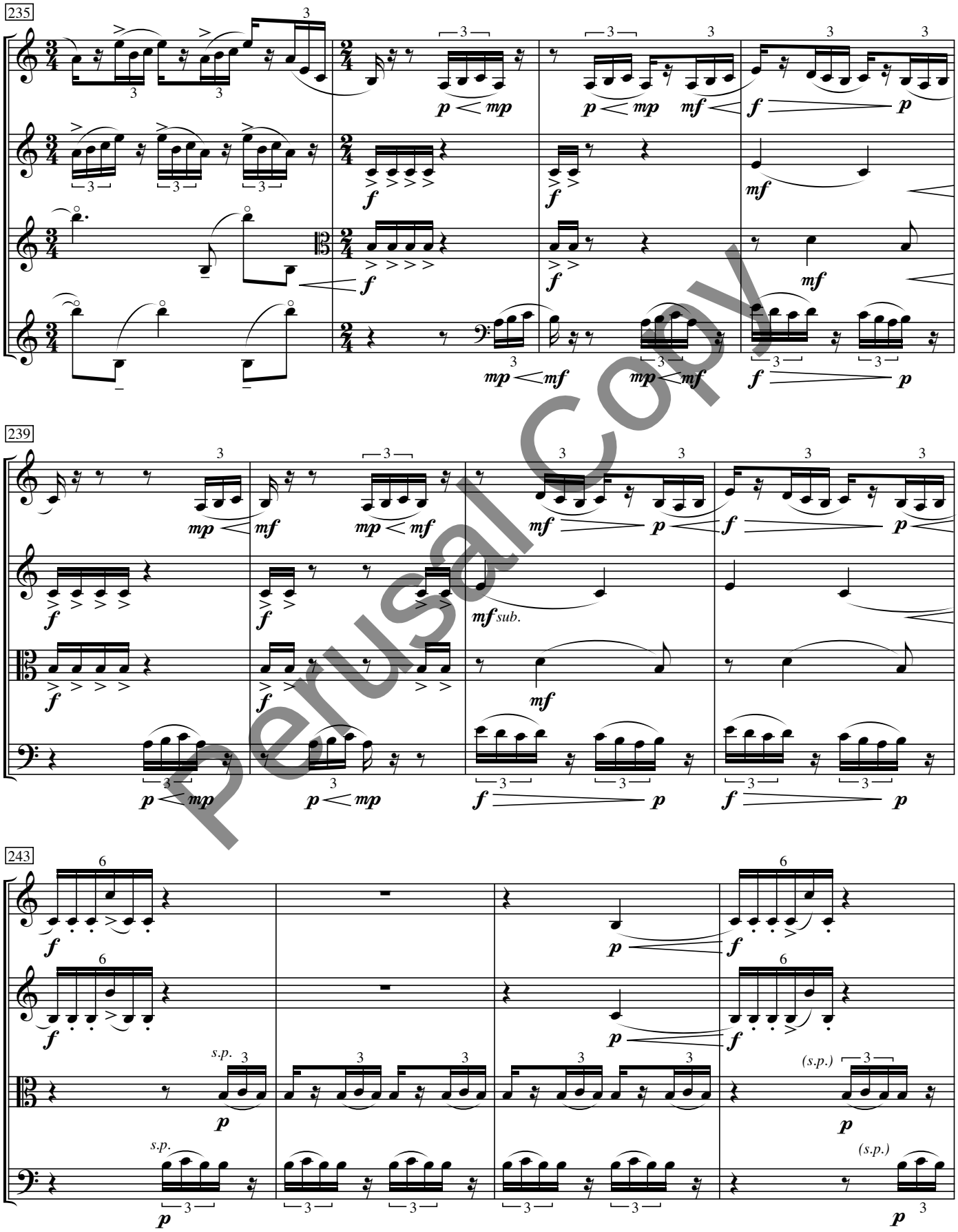

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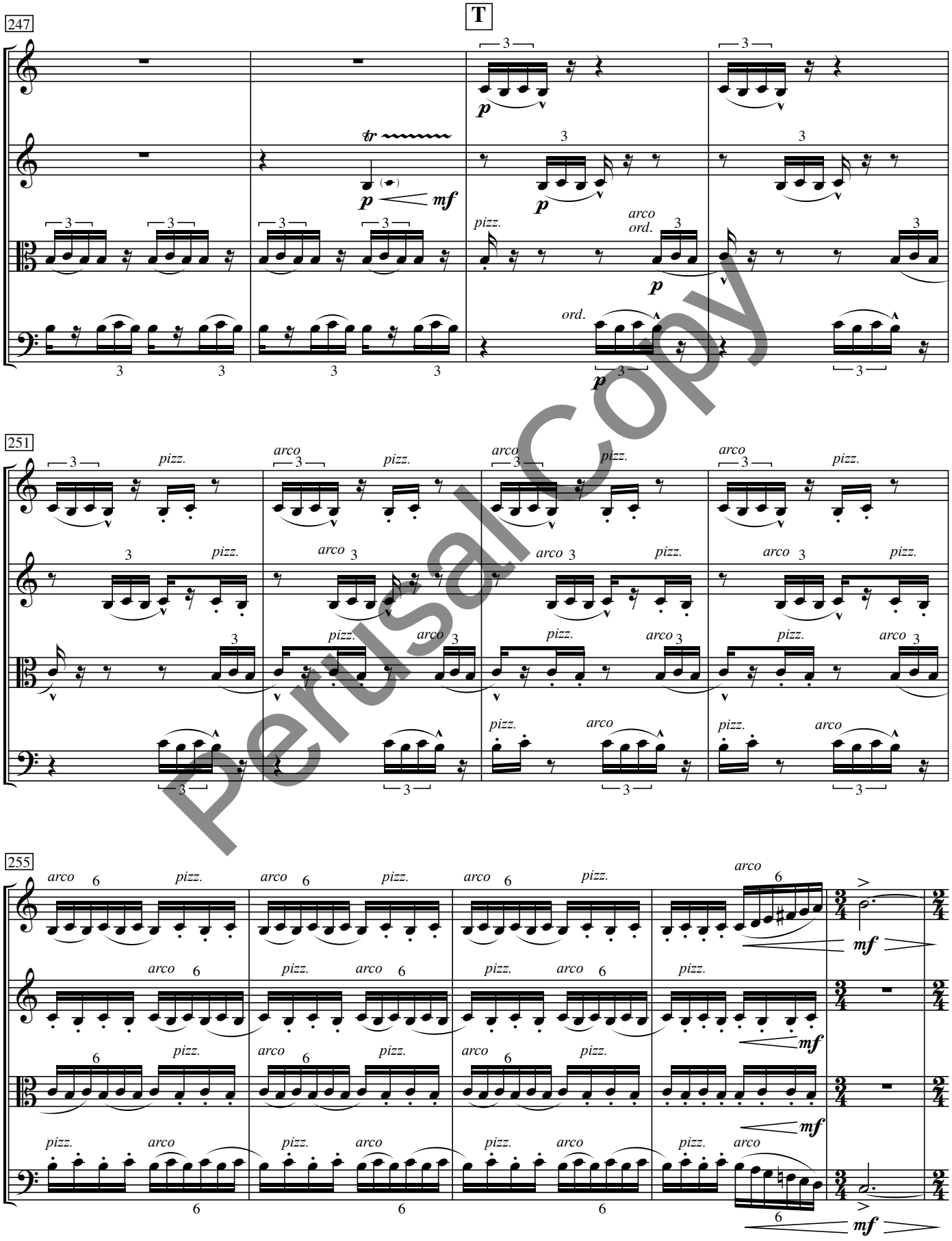

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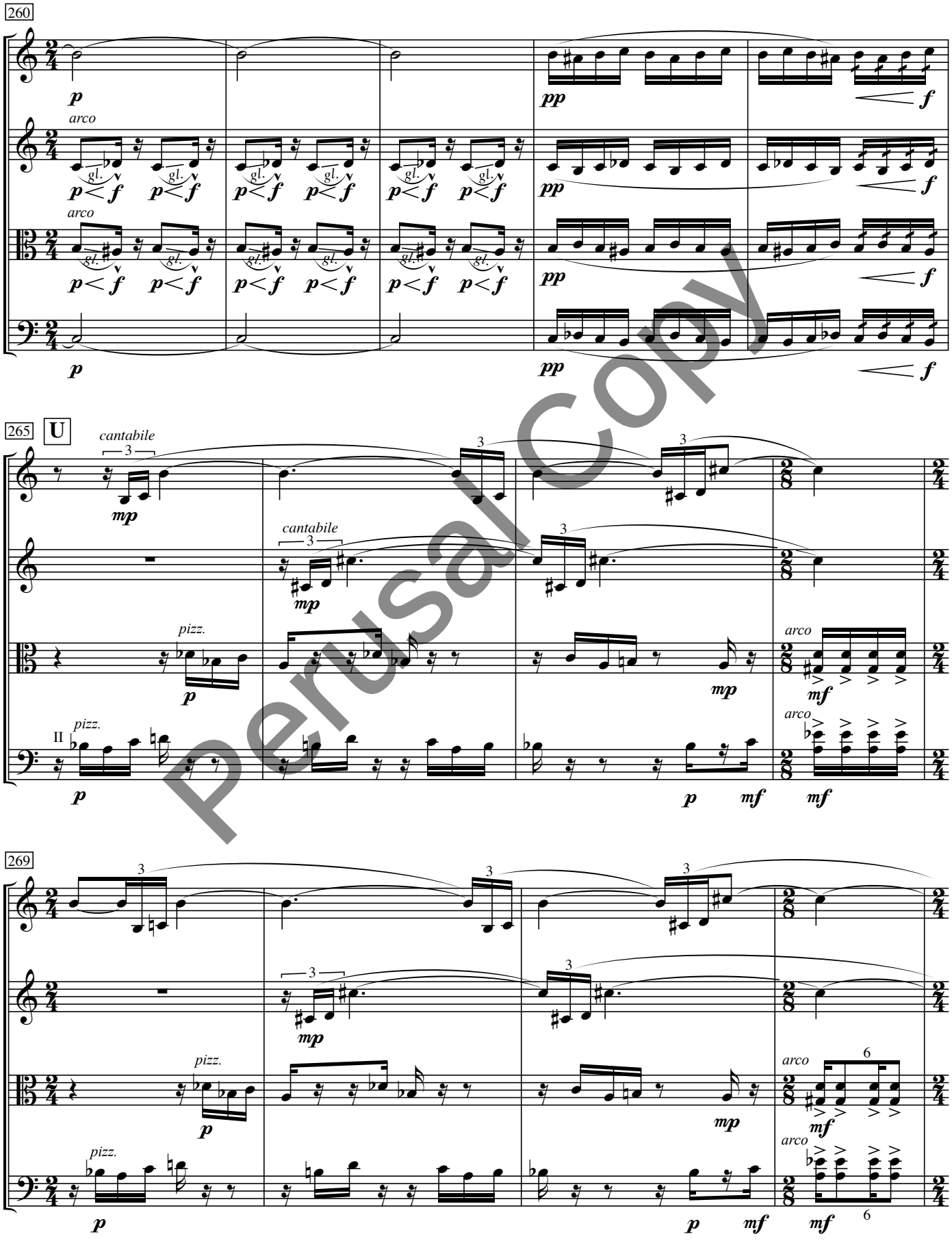

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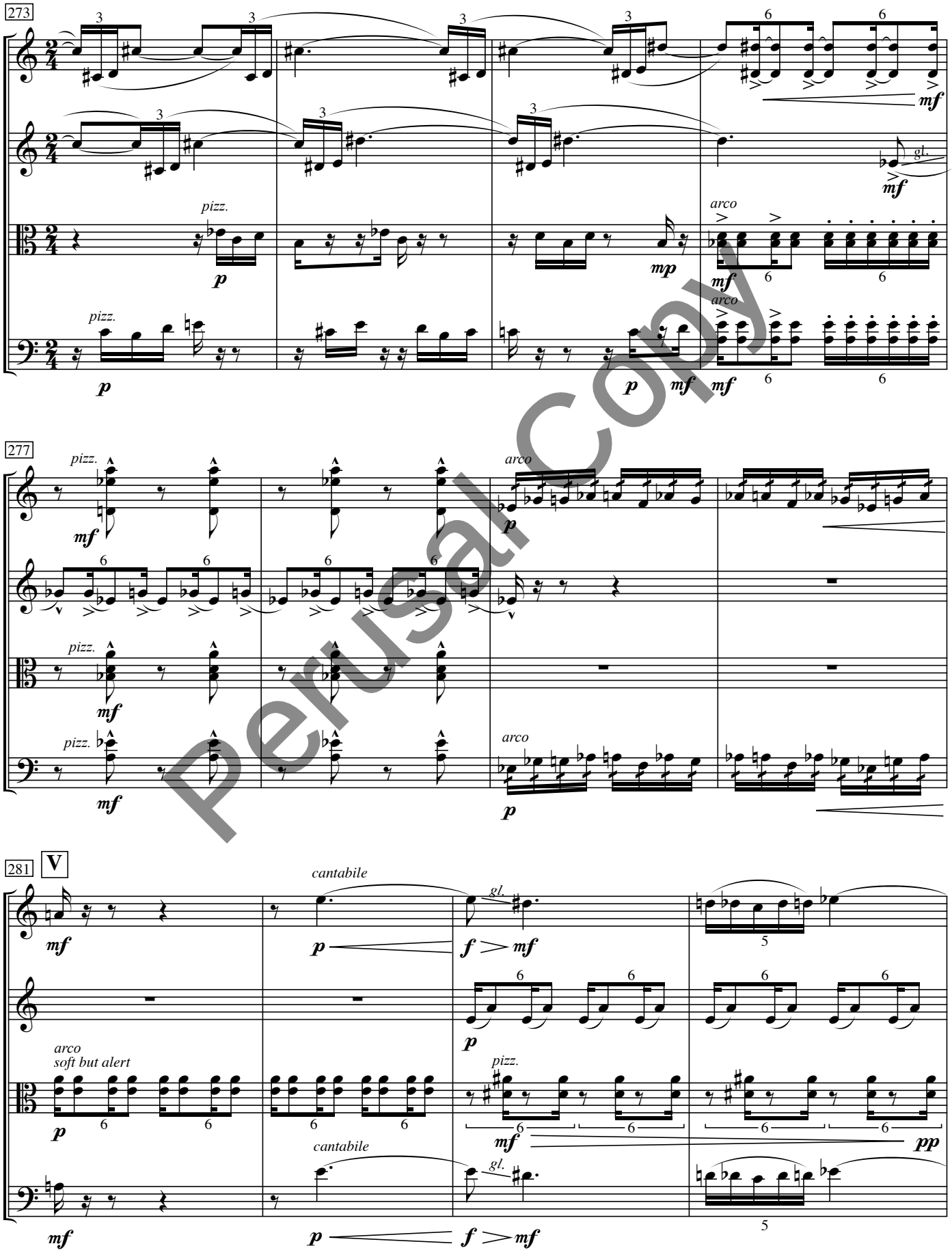

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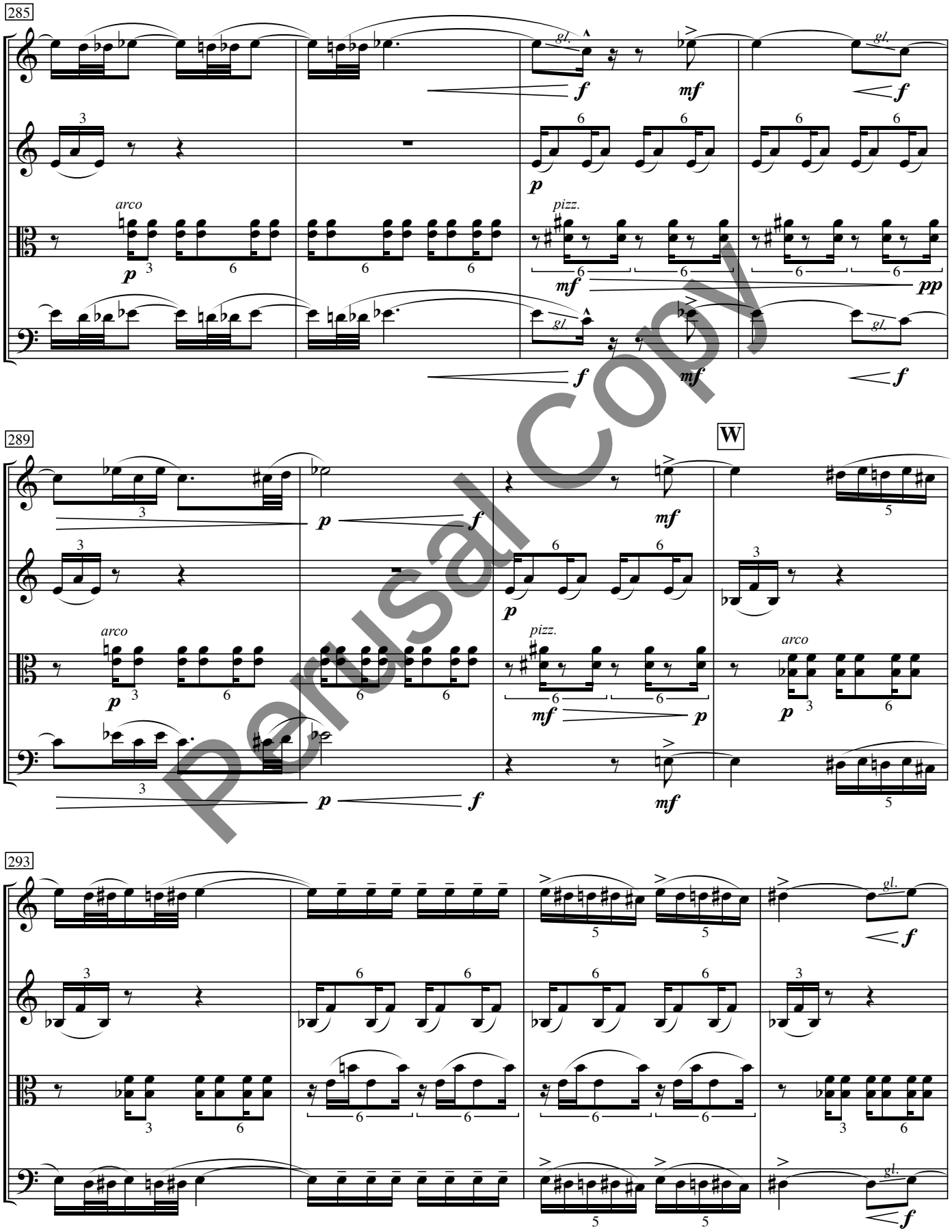

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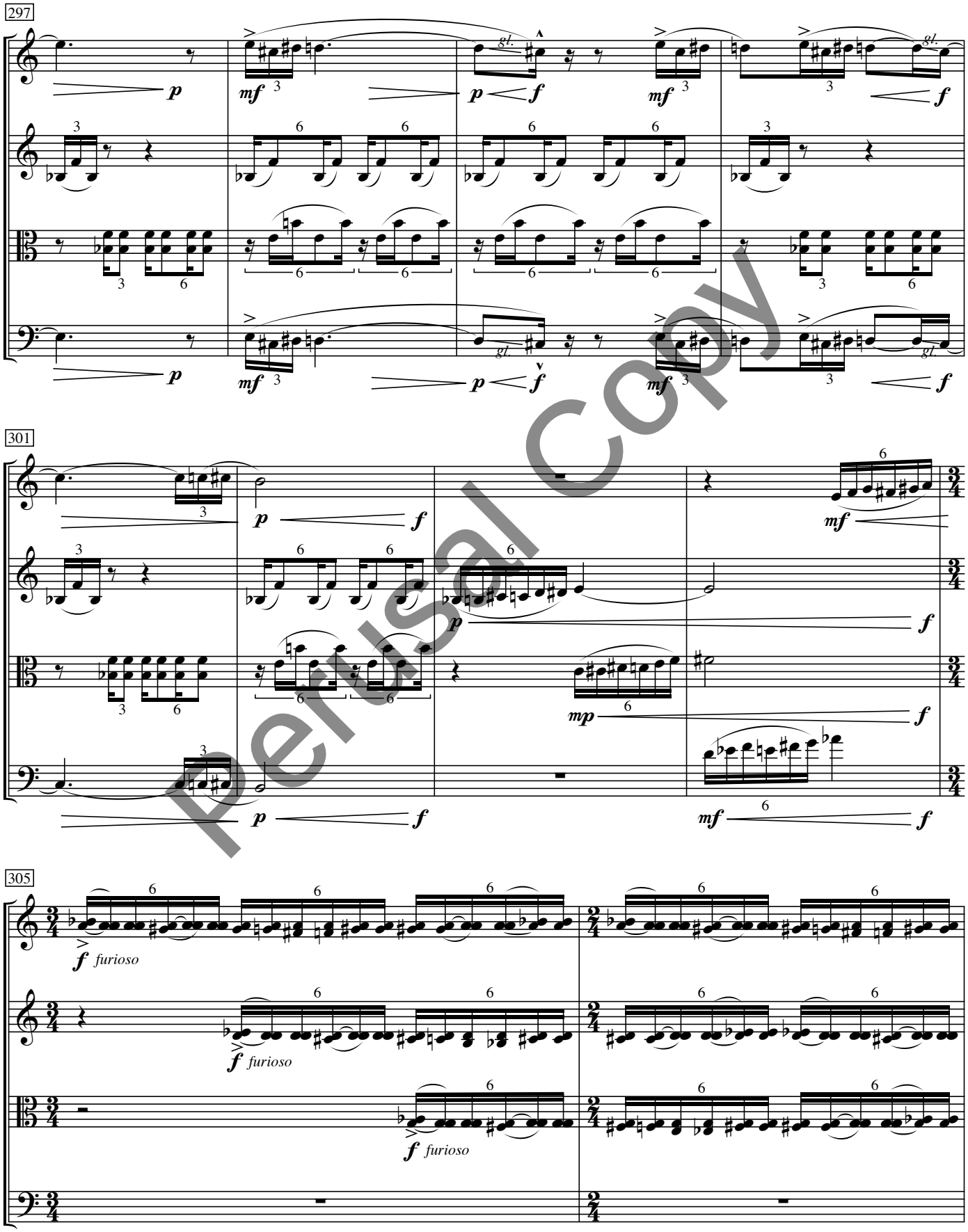

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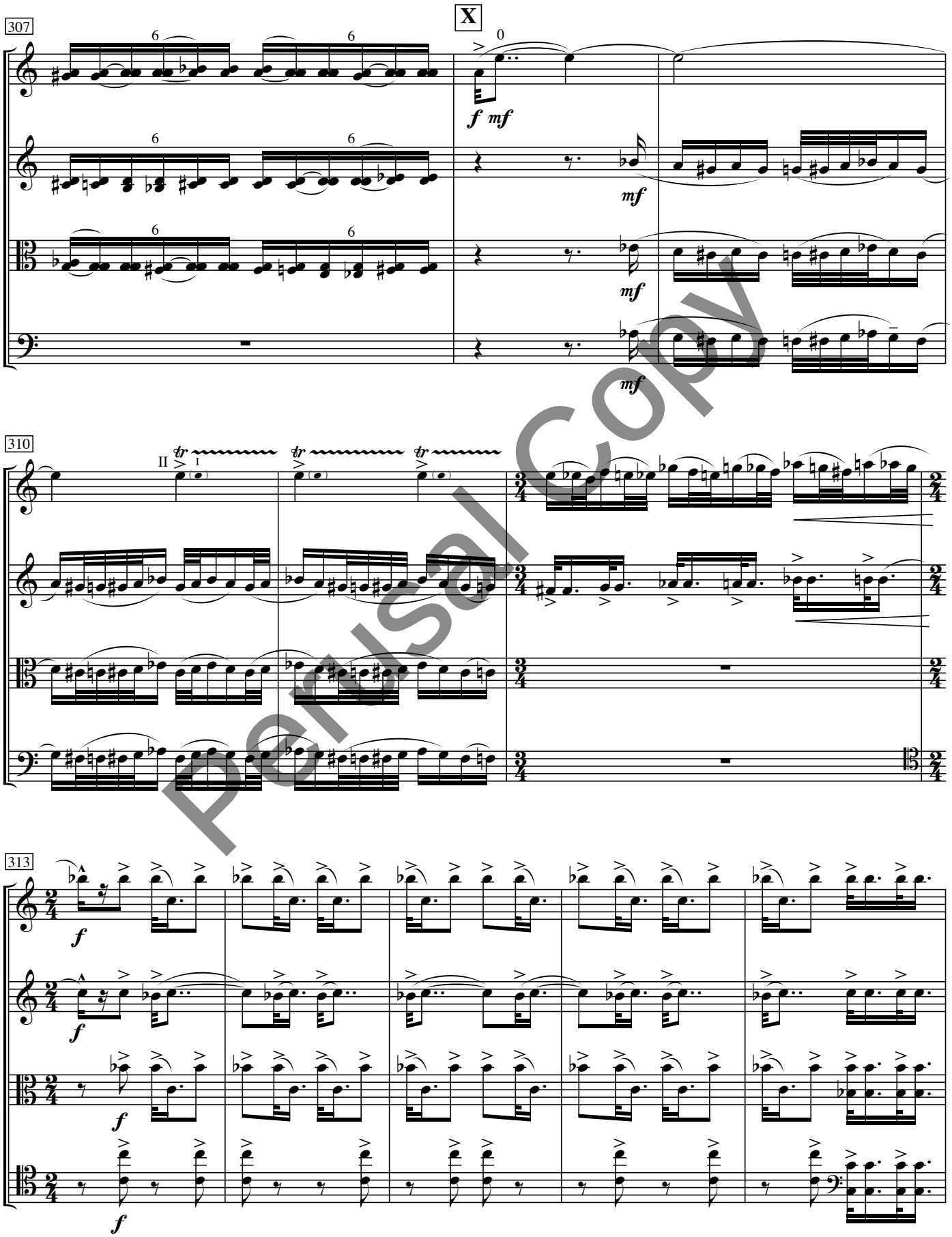

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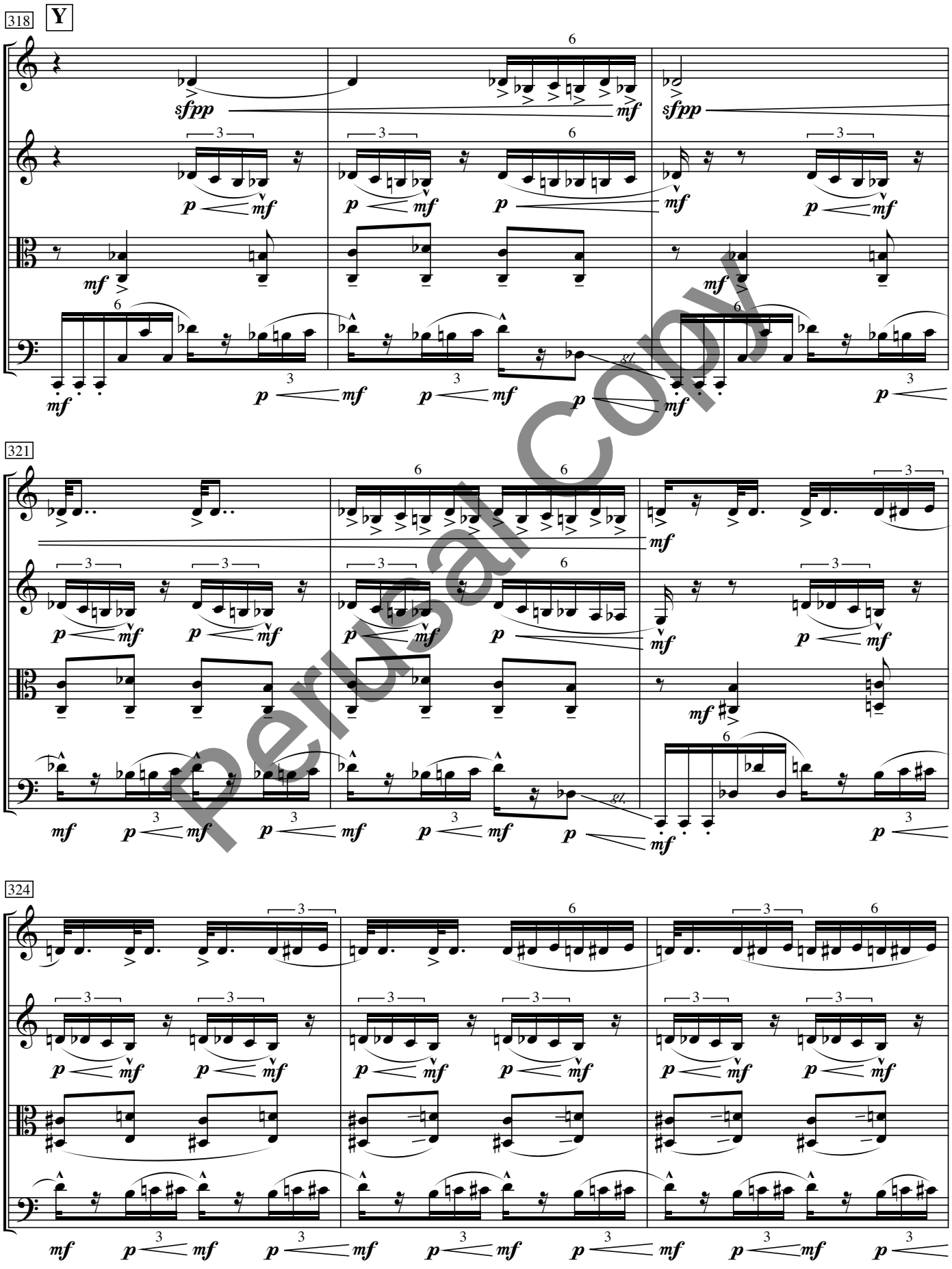

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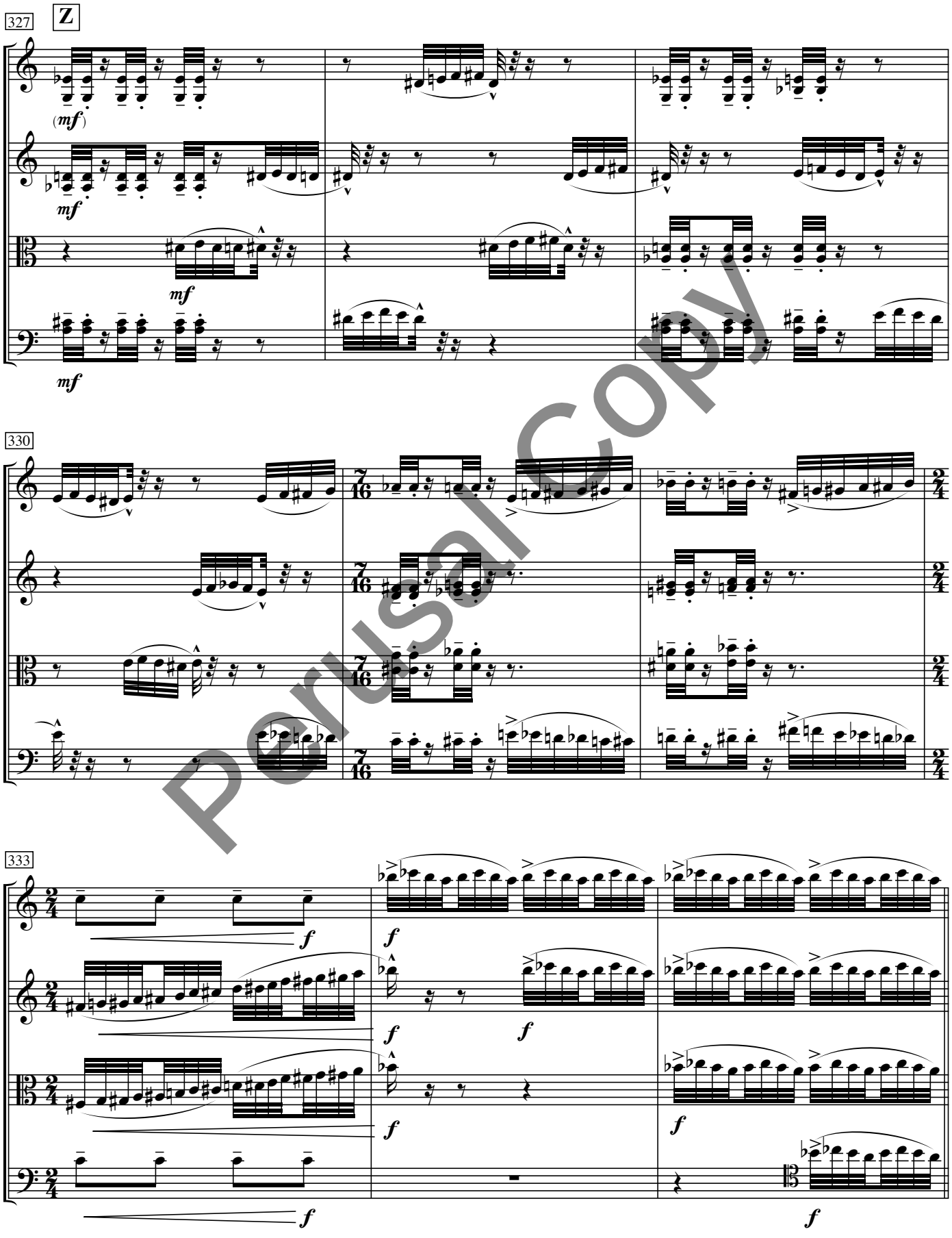

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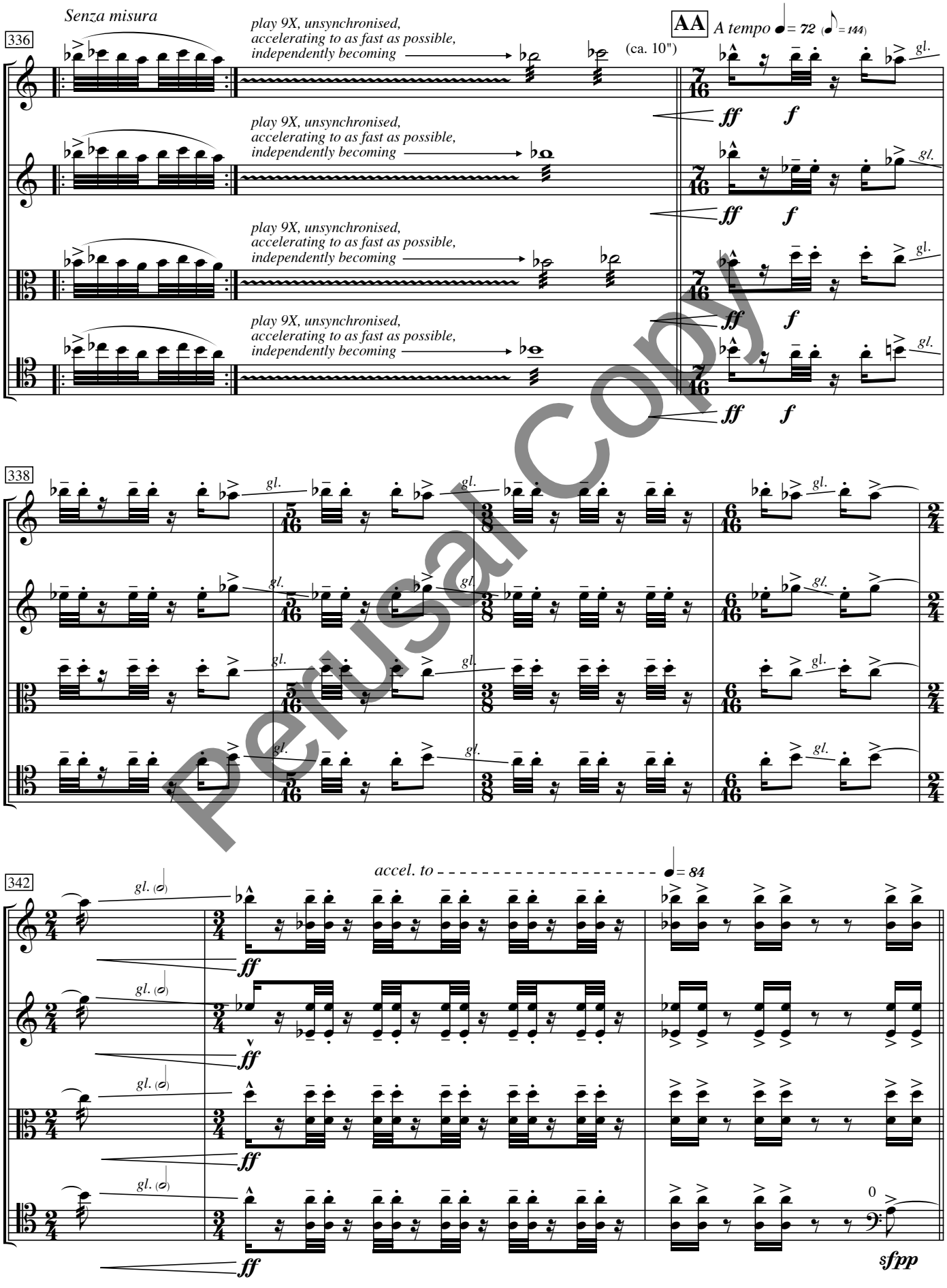

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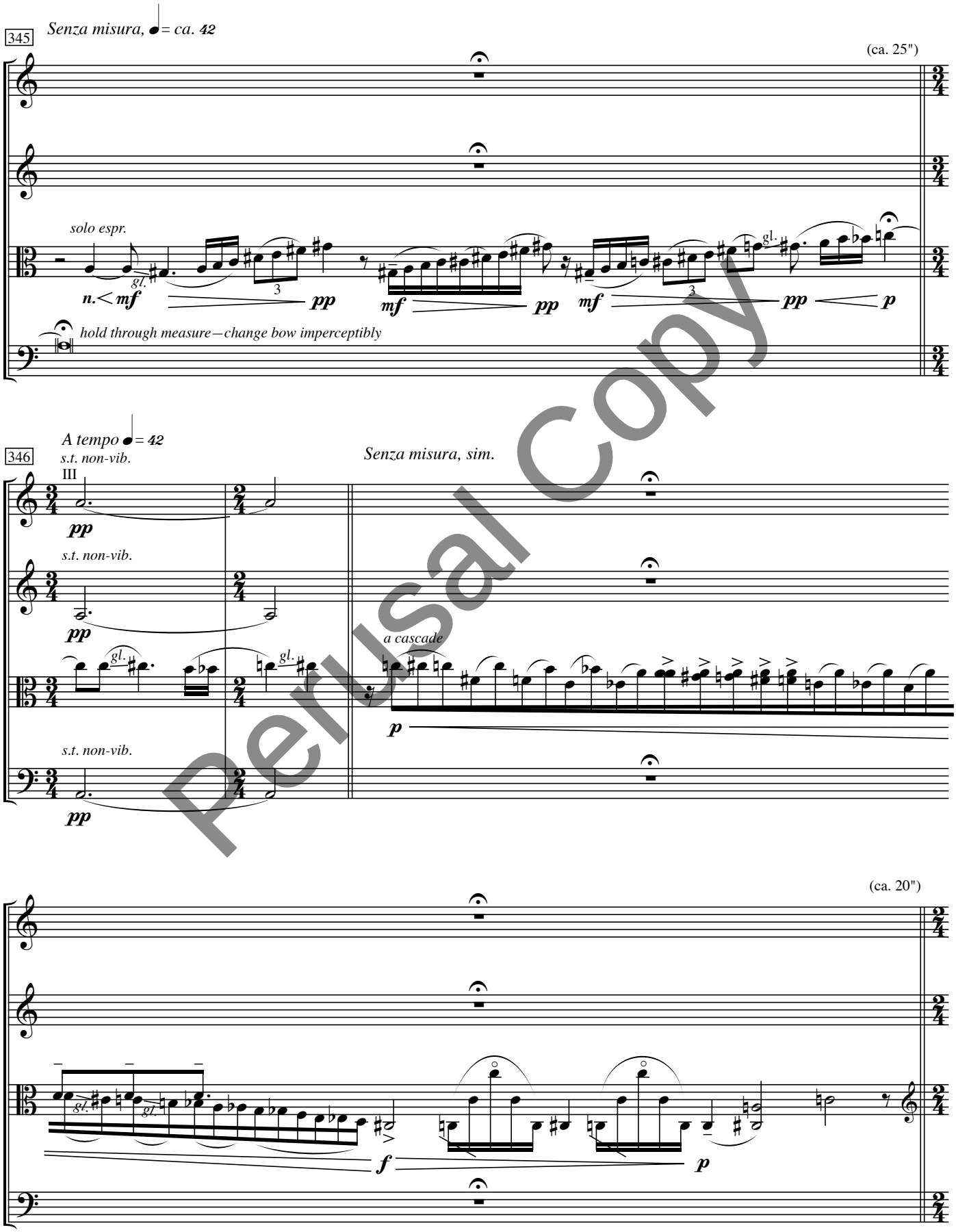

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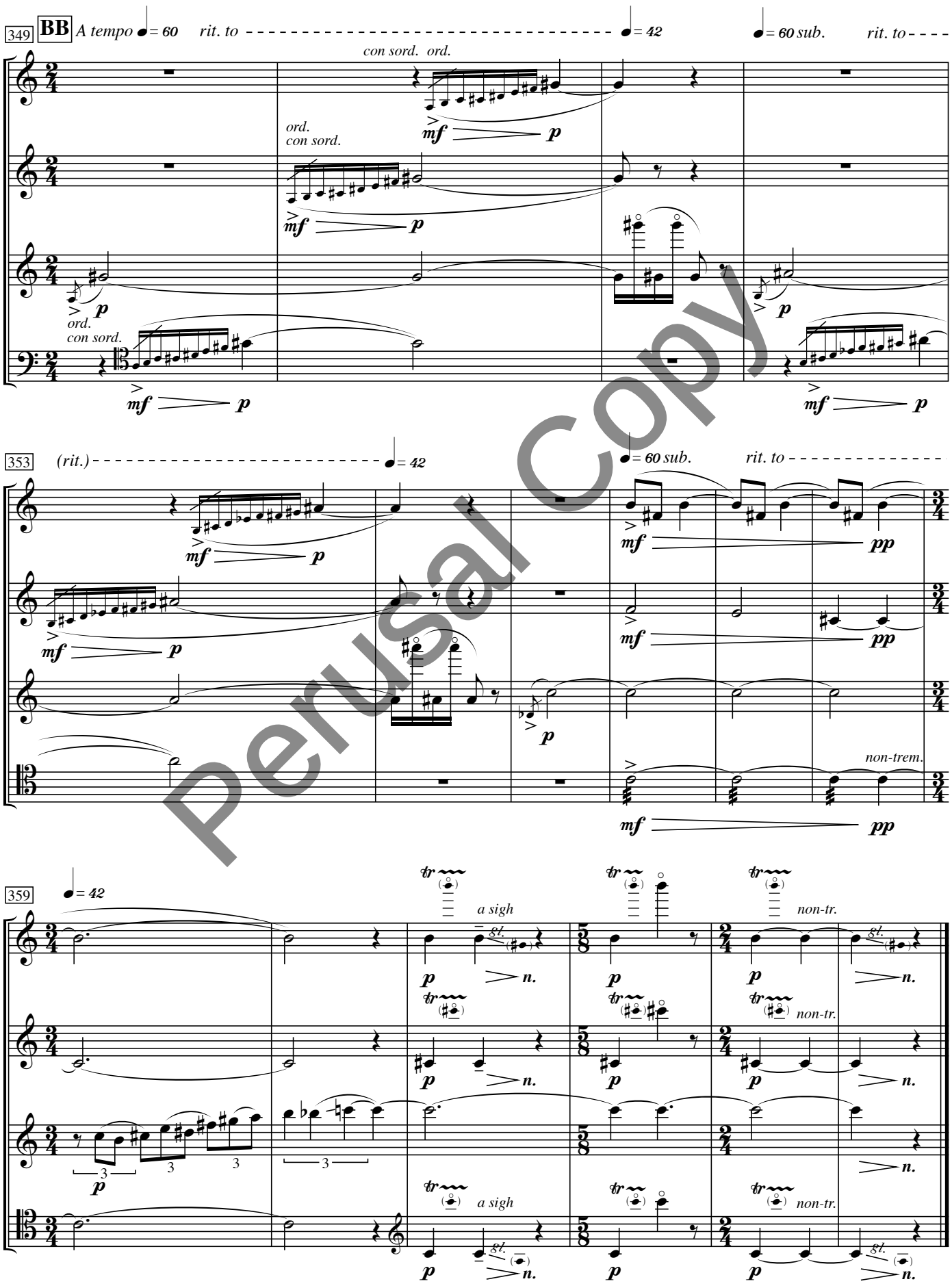

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