piano solo

Jeffrey Ryan

Observer of Beautiful Forms

for piano and orchestra

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Observer of Beautiful Forms

Performance notes:

Total performance time 15 minutes.

note ends with a breath accent for winds; no bow change for strings

 give note a slight rhythmic and dynamic stress

All glissandi begin immediately after the first pitch is sounded. Glissandi of duration greater than a quarter note are notated with an opening eighth note along with the required duration.

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

Programme note:

In 1817, Scottish inventor David Brewster patented a new optical instrument "for exhibiting and treating beautiful forms and patterns." He called his invention a "kaleidoscope," derived from the Greek *kalós* (beautiful), *eidos* (form) and *skopeô* (to see)—together, "observer of beautiful forms." Colour, form and pattern play important roles in my music, so this made a fitting inspiration for this new work for piano and orchestra. Of course, such instrumental resources certainly offer a kaleidoscope of possibilities, but "observer of beautiful forms" spoke to me of something greater and broader, of seeing the wonder of beauty and form in all its manifestations, in art and architecture and the world around us.

The first movement, *Kalós*, opens (perhaps unexpectedly for a piano concerto) with an extended gentle flute solo, from which the solo piano emerges in search of beauty, in a slow song that unfurls over shifting harmonies. The second movement, *Eidos*, creates structures out of motivic building blocks, in playful dance music reminiscent of an out-of-tune circus calliope. The final movement, *Skopeô*, opens with a cadenza for the solo pianist, leading into a fast toccata that evokes the swirling, circling shapes and patterns of the kaleidoscope, which shift into new configurations with each turn.

Observer of Beautiful Forms was commissioned by EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts in celebration of its 25th anniversary, with assistance from the Canada Council for the Arts. It was premiered by pianist Georgy Tchaidze (2009 Honens Competition First Laureate) and the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Mélanie Léonard.

Observer of Beautiful Forms is dedicated to Founders Dr. Martha Cohen, Ms. Sandra LeBlanc and Mrs. Vera Swanson, whose vision and dedication to a cultural centre in Calgary made an architectural Beautiful Form possible.

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on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, and dedicated to Founders
Dr. Martha Cohen, Ms. Sandra LeBlanc and Mrs. Vera Swanson
in celebration of their vision and leadership

piano solo

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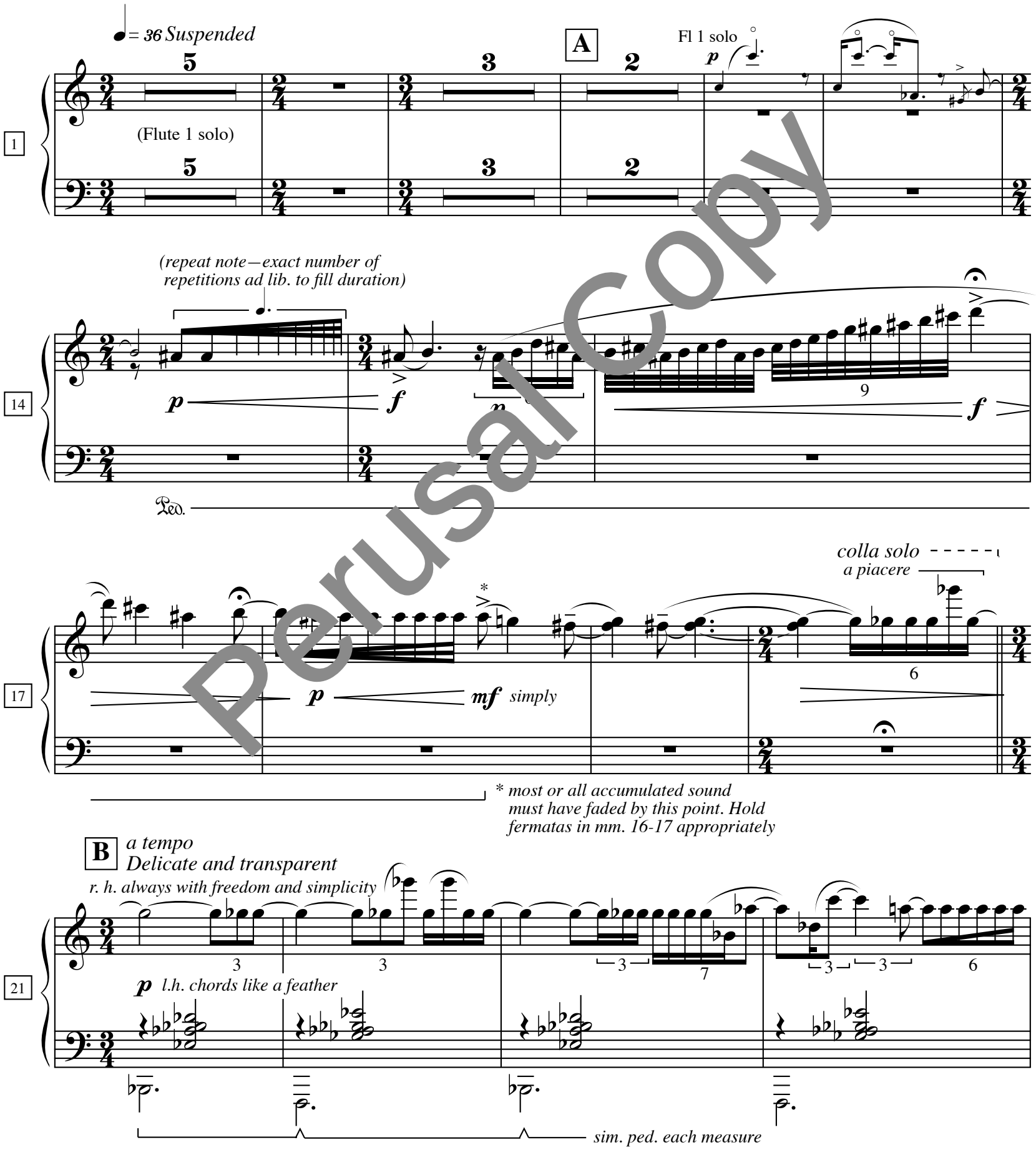
I: Kalós



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25

28

C

31

35

D

39

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poco rit.

E

a tempo, broadly

deliberately, with increasing passion and intensity

42

f

5

ff

6

grace notes with l.h.

poco rit.

a tempo

Transparent again

F

46

p

51

3

3

3

3

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II: Eidos

♩ = 132 Not too fast

Light and playful; an out-of-tune calliope

1

mf

6

A

10

(mf)

14

B

18

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22

26

C

f

32

3

3

f

f

38

D

mf

43

f

ff

f

ff

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E

47

mf

52

F

58

mf

63

mf

67

mf

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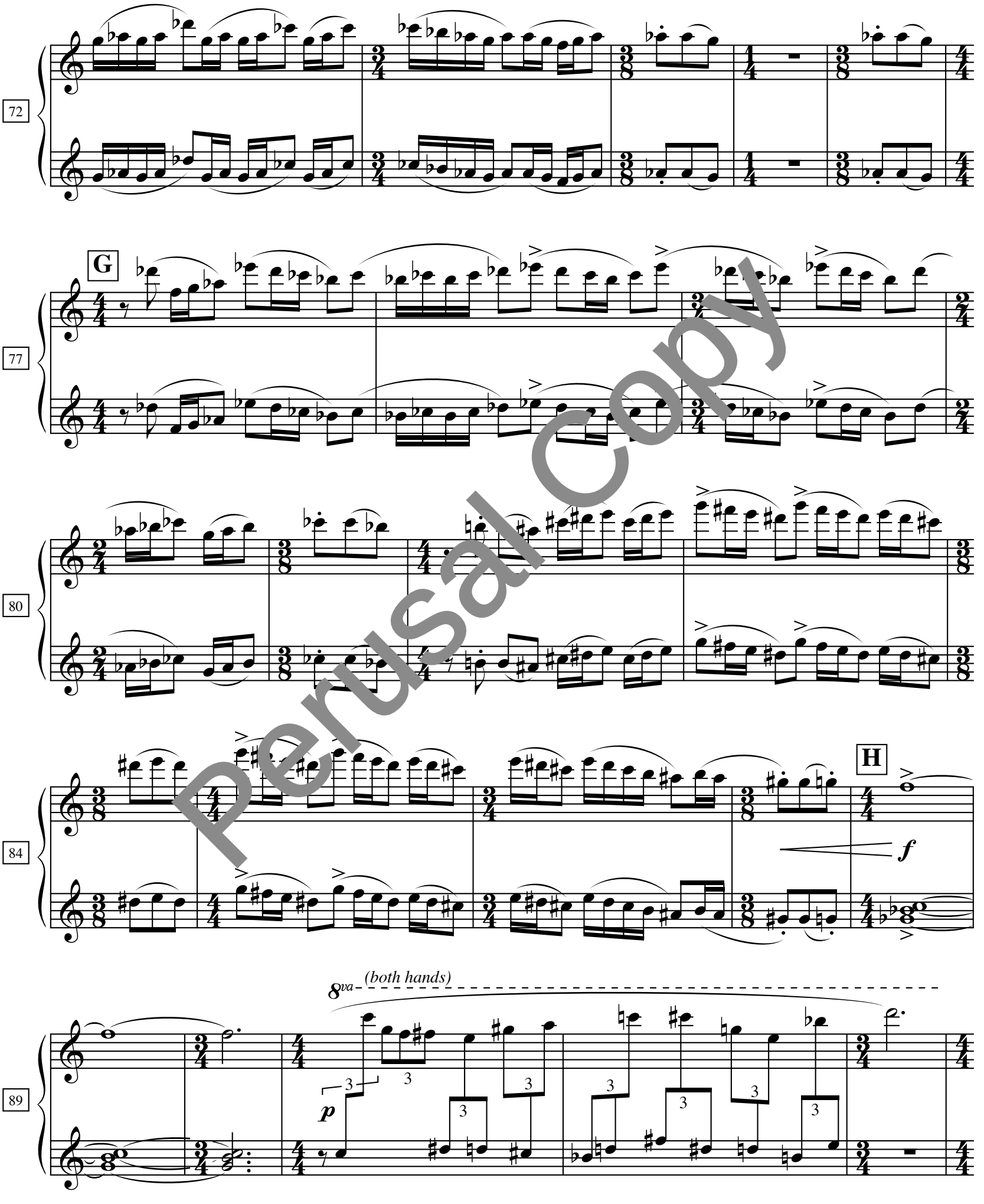

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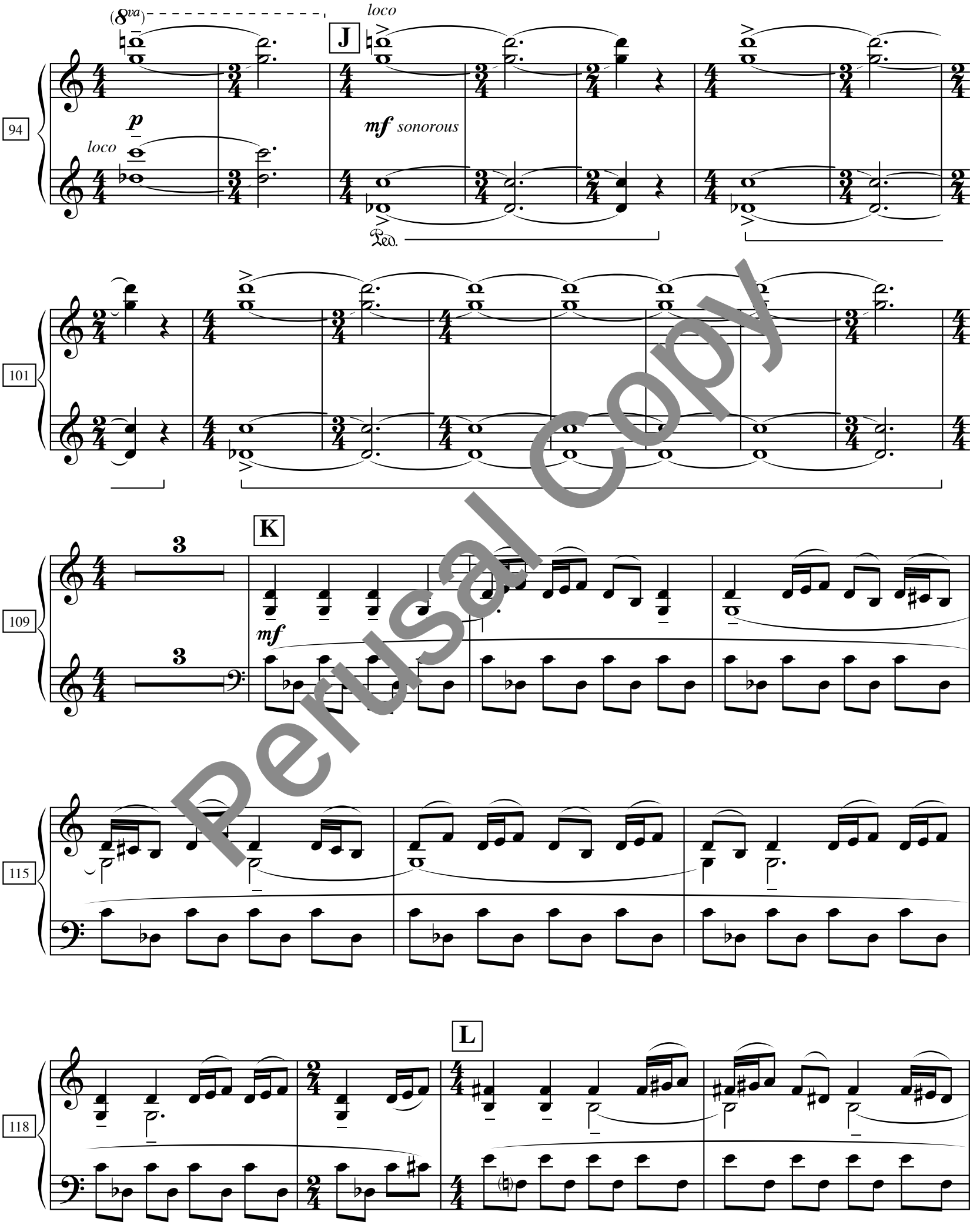

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122

125

M

f

129

f

133

N

ff

6

p

140

p

p

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147

p

151

O

ff *pp*

155

8va *loco*

ff *pp*

8vb

159

8va *loco*

ff *pp*

8vb

163

P

f

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167

172

Q

ff

175

p saucily

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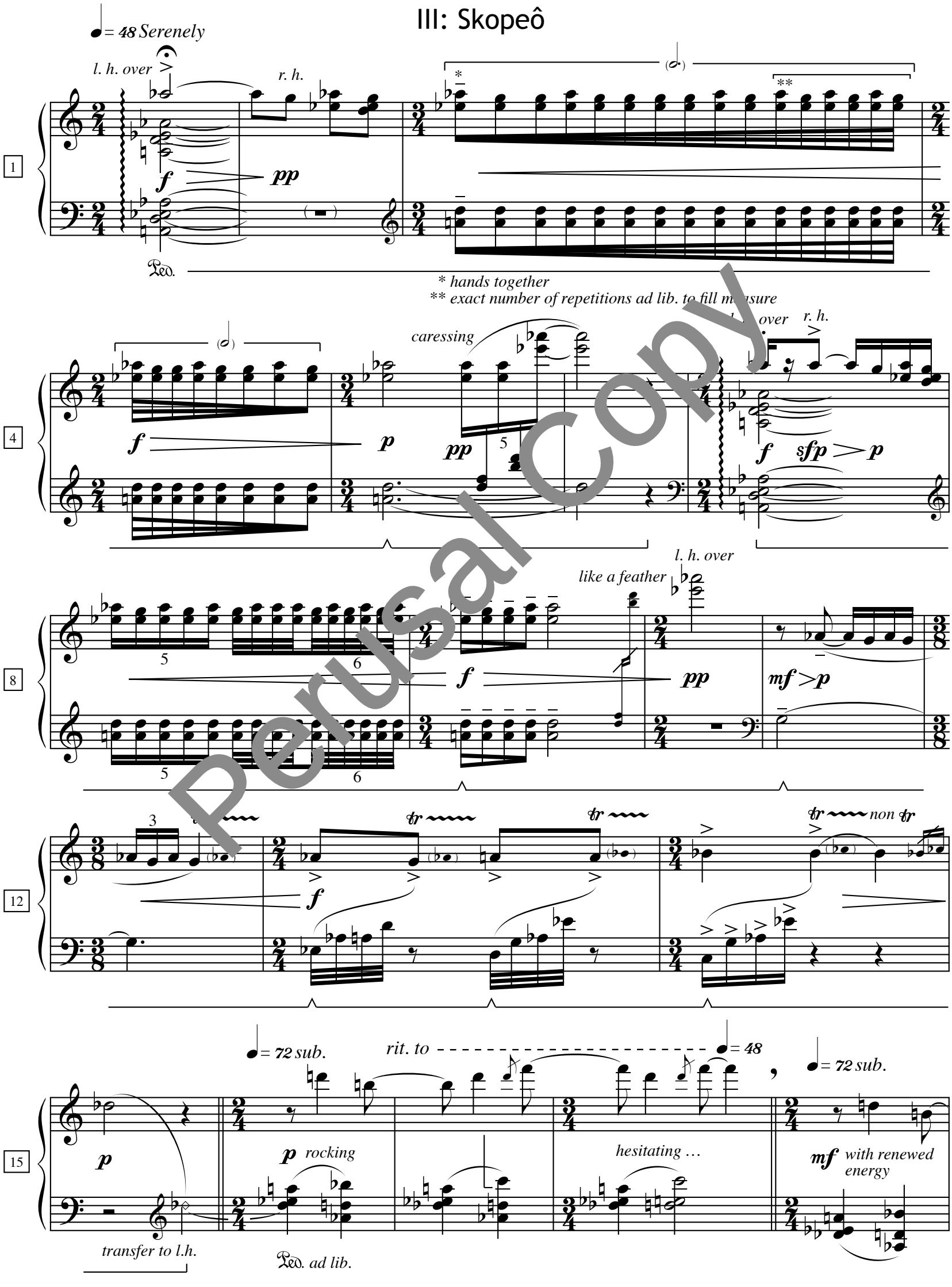
- piano solo -

III: Skopeô



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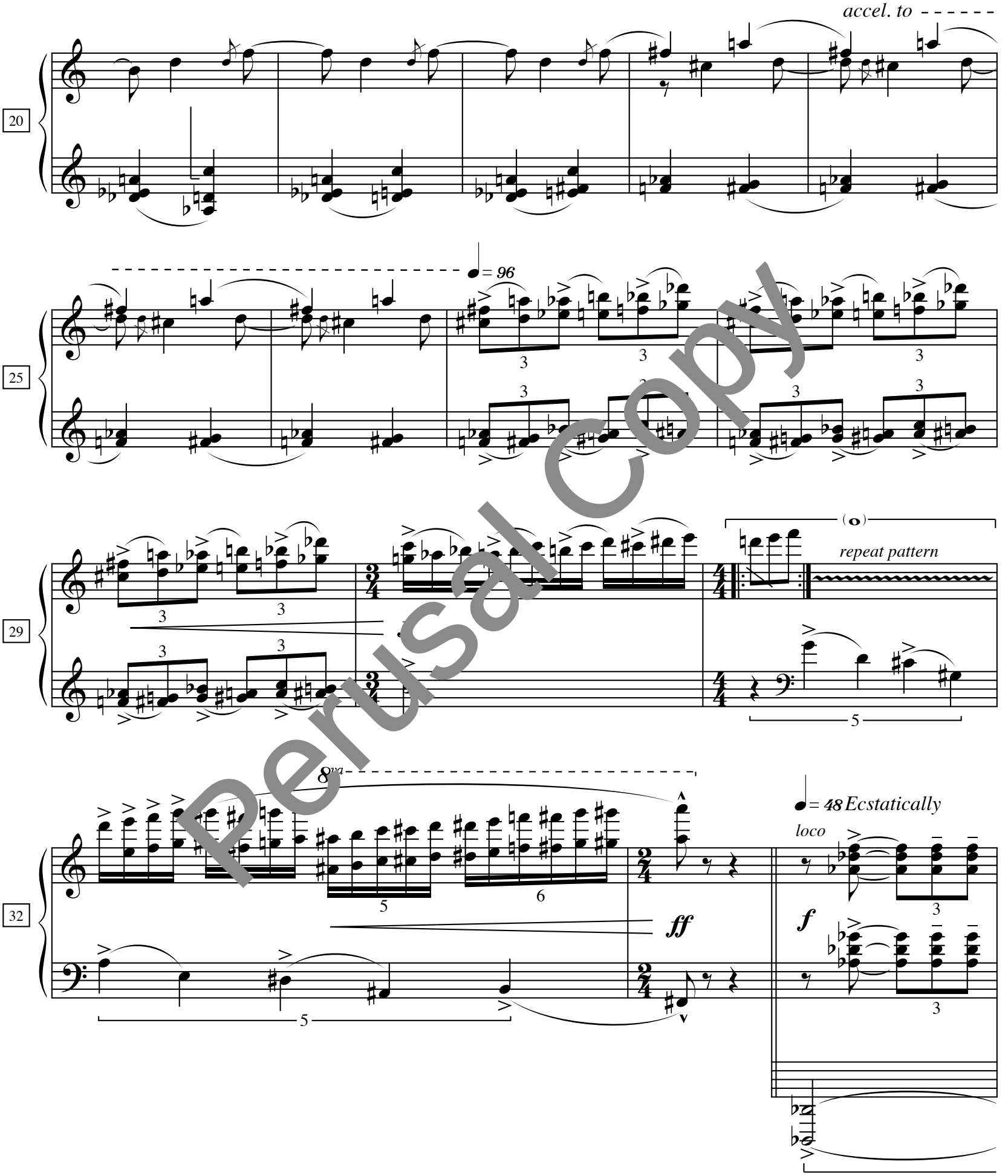

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35

6

6

6

6

37

a tempo

41

mf *sonorous*

45

A ♩= 150 *Swirling*

mf *leggiero*

f *sub.*

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49

mf sub.

f sub.

53

B

57

mf sub.

f sub.

61

mf sub.

f sub.

mf sub.

f sub.

C

65

mf sub.

f

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71

3

3

D

80

mf

leggiero

E

86

F

92

98

G

104

f *p* *f* *p* *f*

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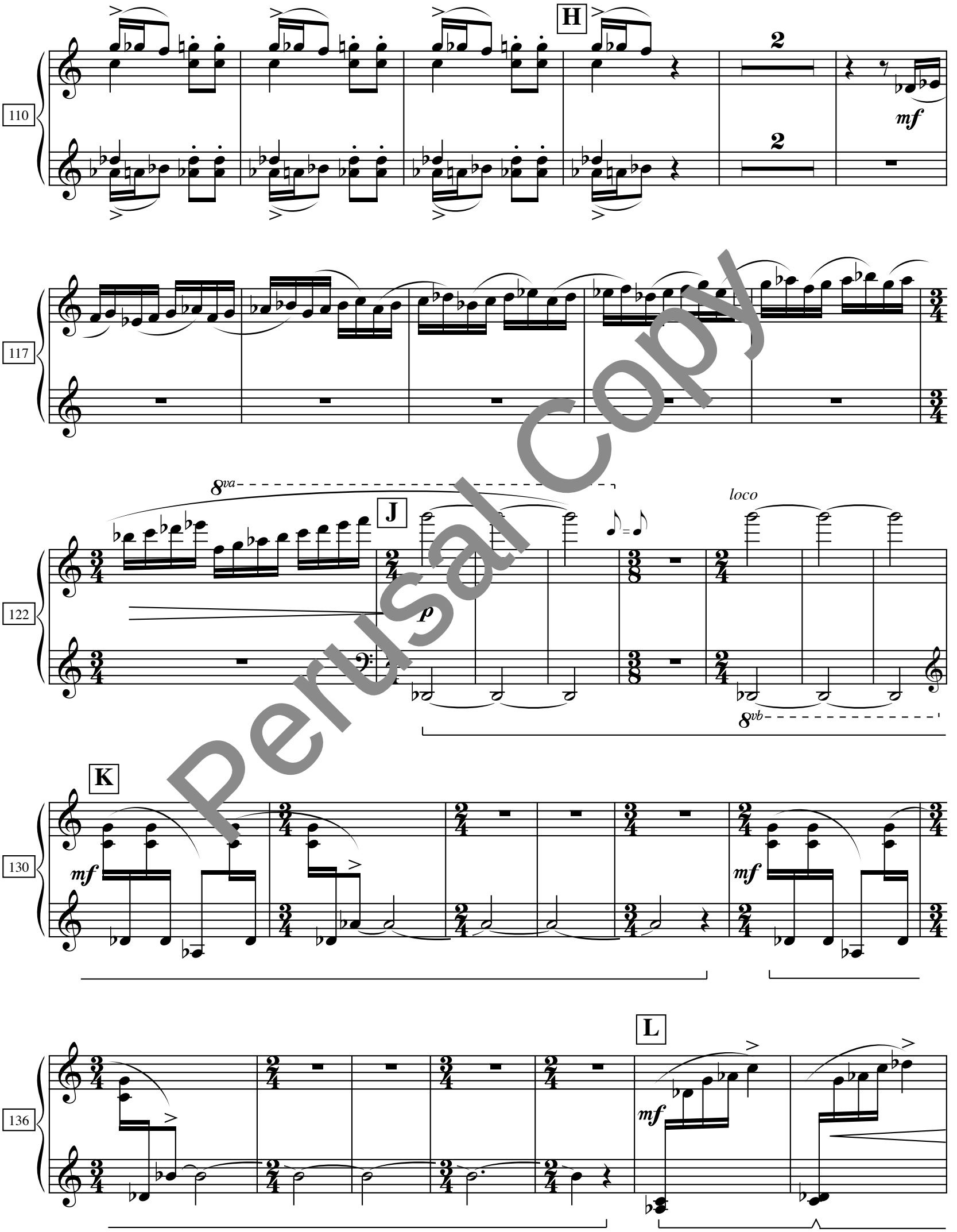

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143

hammered

f

ff

148

M

r.h. ***mf*** *sempre*
give each note weight

152

l.h. ***p***

N

159

ff

p *sub.*

O

166

ff

p *sub.*

P

173

ff

p *sub.*

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180

187

Q

f

ff

193

199

R

205

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211

217

S

f

222

226

230

8va

T

loco

ff *f*

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235

240

U

247

V

f

253

W

ff

259

264

X

5

5

f

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Y

273

279

3

Z

f

286

ff

291

2

p

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