JEFFREY RYAN

TESSERAE

FOR ERHU QUARTET

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TESSERAE

Instrumentation:

Erhu 1/Erhu 2/Viola/Violoncello

Performance notes:

Total performance time ca. 12'

throughout

give note a slight rhythmic and dynamic stress.

tied note ends with a sharp accent (no bow change for strings).

All grace notes (including grace note glissandi) occur before the beat.

Glissandi and pitch bends 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. Note that some glissandi end under the same bow, while others have a bow change at the arrival note.

In *senza misura* sections, accidentals apply to the note they immediately precede (including ties), and within each beamed group.

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

Programme Note:

Tesserae are small four-sided tiles, typically of ceramic, glass, or stone, used since early Roman times to make mosaics. Viewed as a single tessera, a quartet too has four sides, but looking closer, each member can be considered its own tessera, combining to create something bigger than the sum of its parts. In the four connected movements of this work for erhu quartet, we zoom out to see the big picture, then zoom in to see the details of the individual, showcasing the unique timbres of erhu, viola, and cello. Together, as the final movement reverses the first to take us back to the beginning, these four players create a mosaic of colour and energy.

Tesserae was composed for the Vancouver Erhu Quartet with support from the British Columbia Arts Council.

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Supported by the Province of British Columbia

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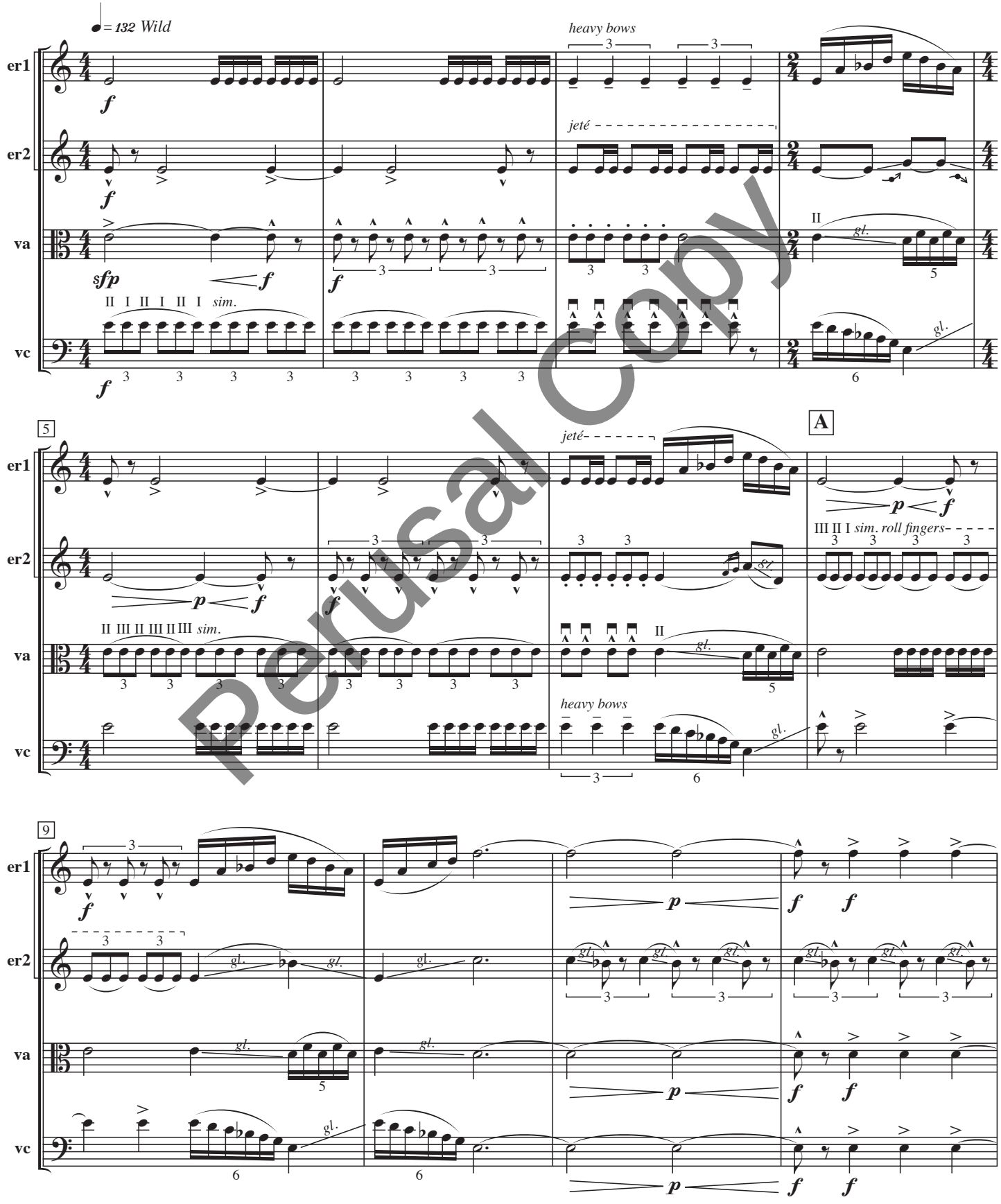
for the Vancouver Erhu Quartet

TESSERAE

JEFFREY RYAN

I: UNWINDING



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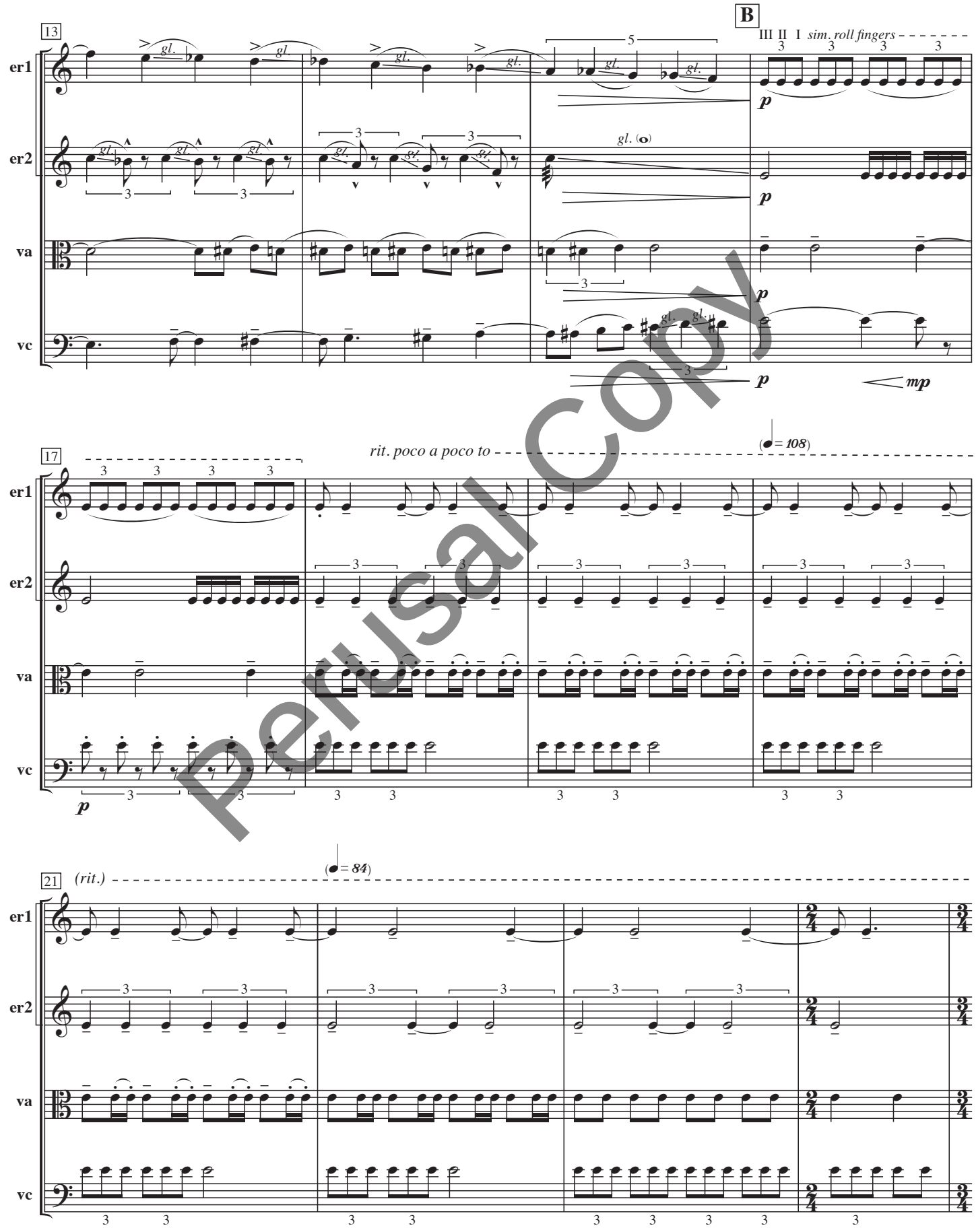

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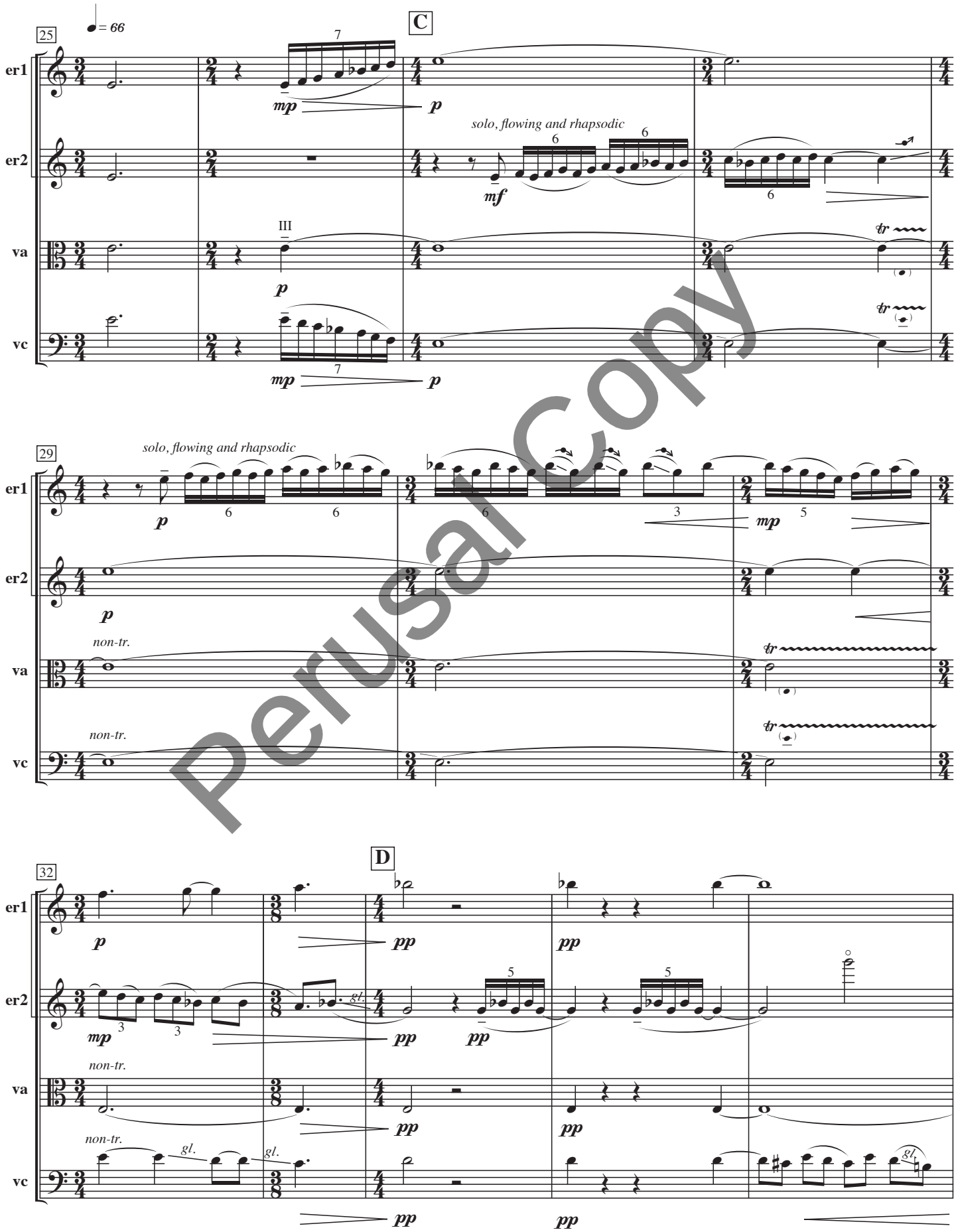

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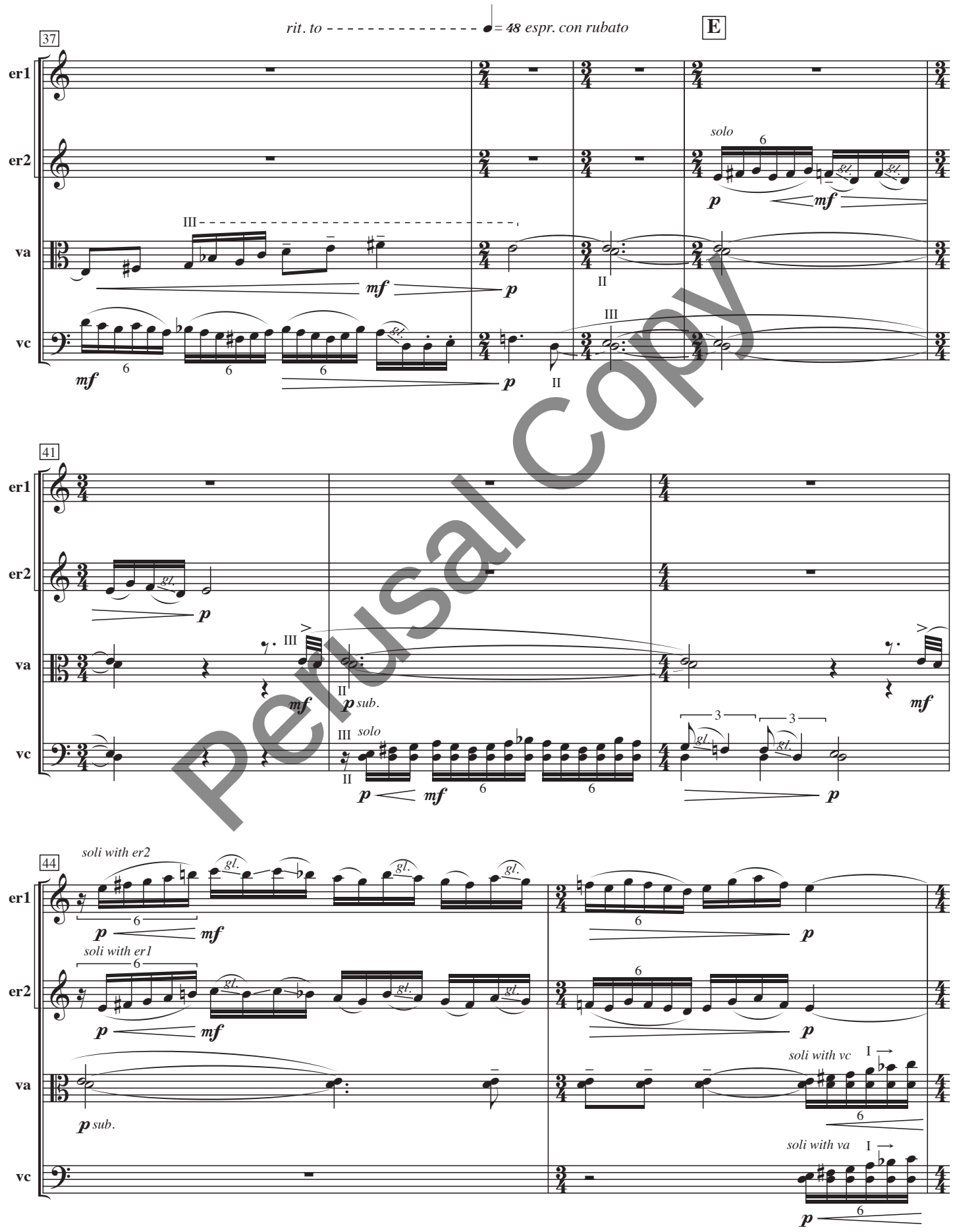

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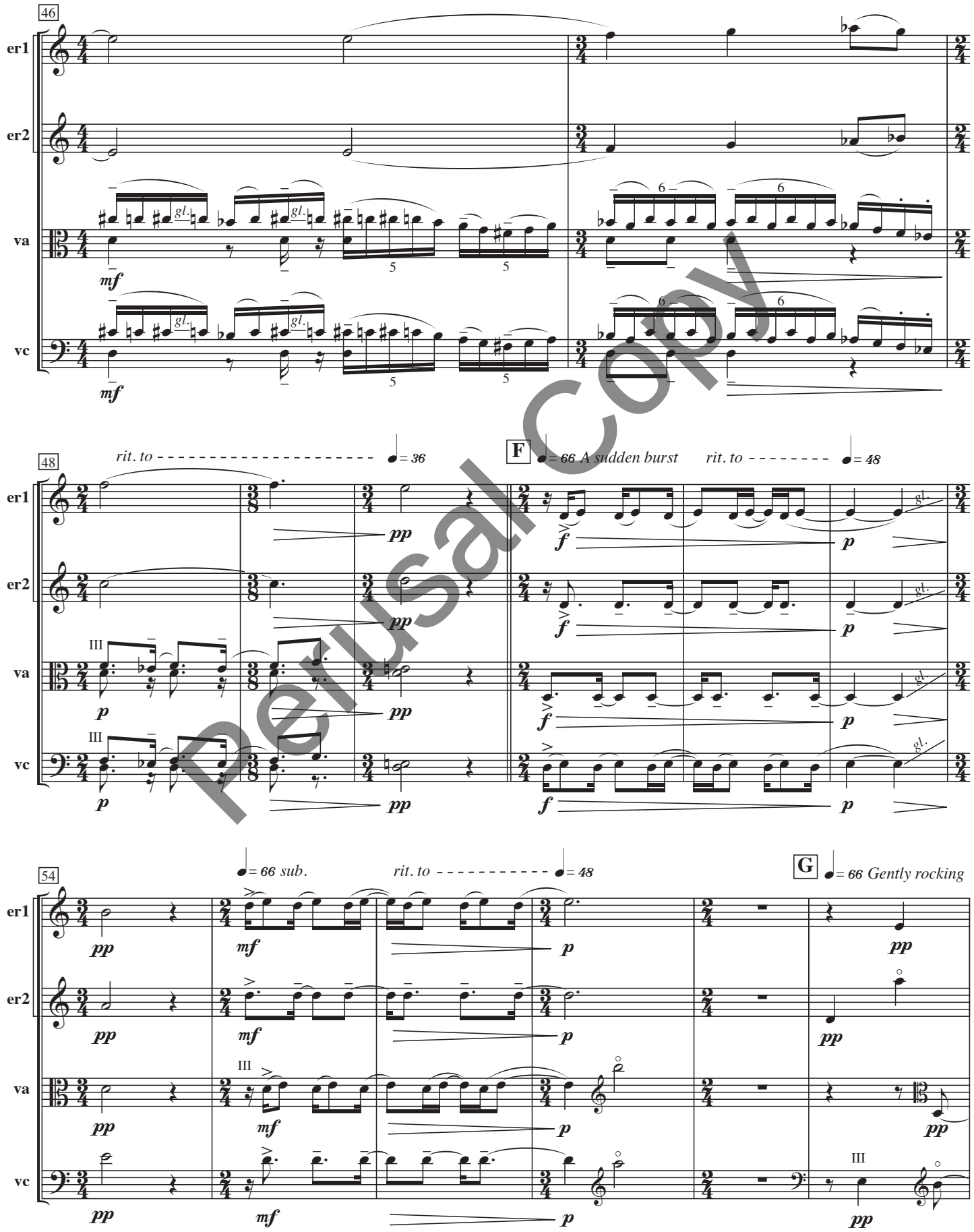

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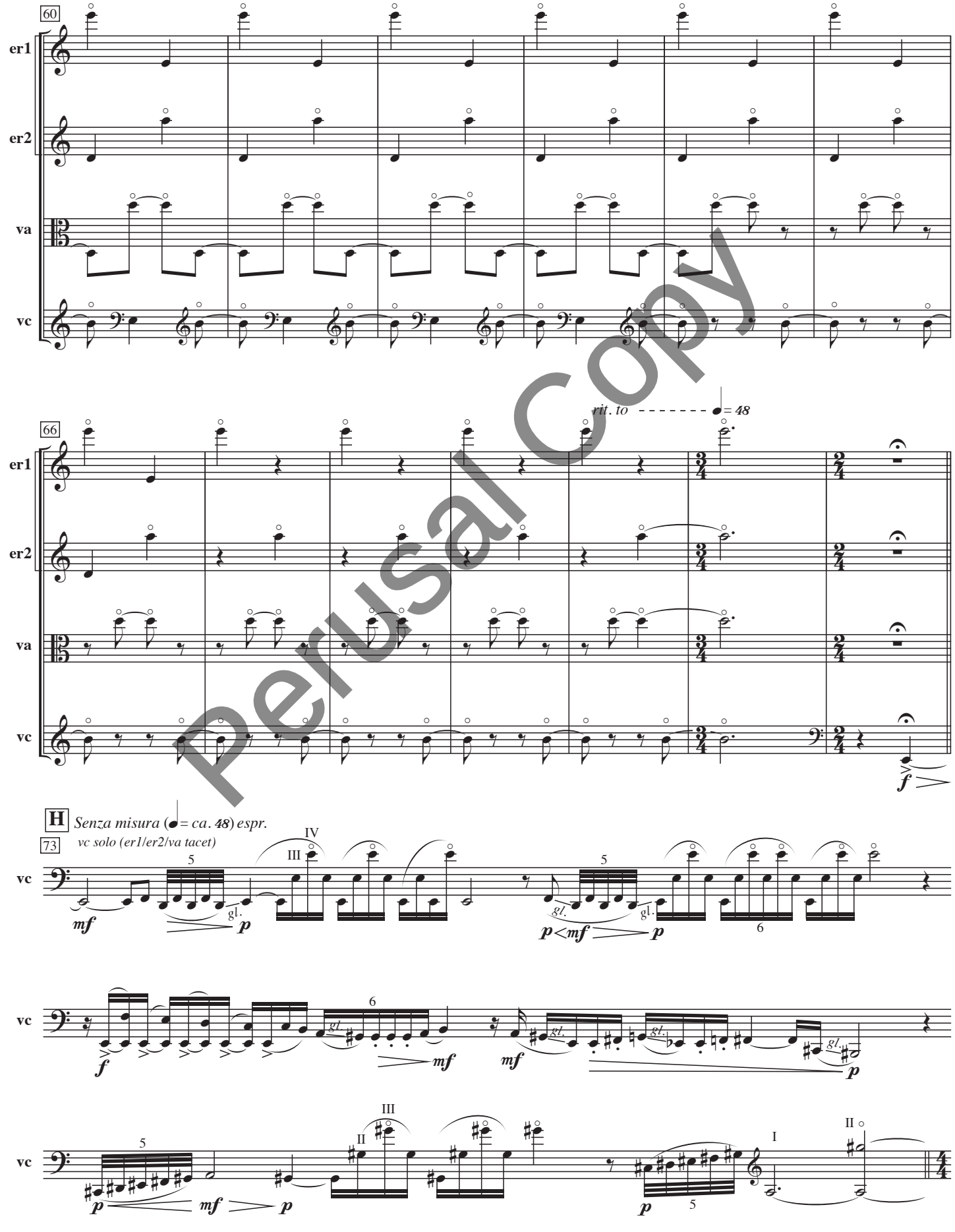

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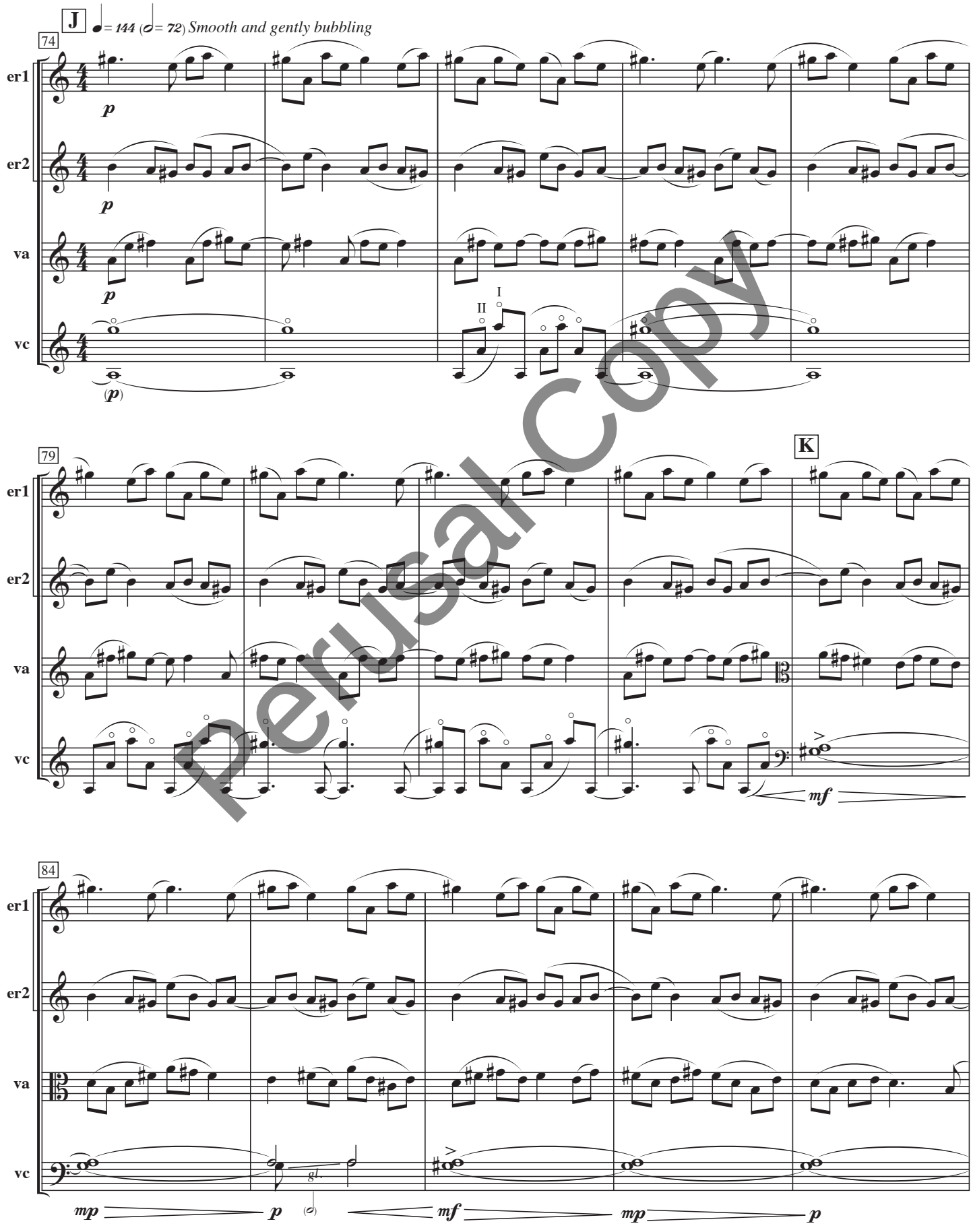

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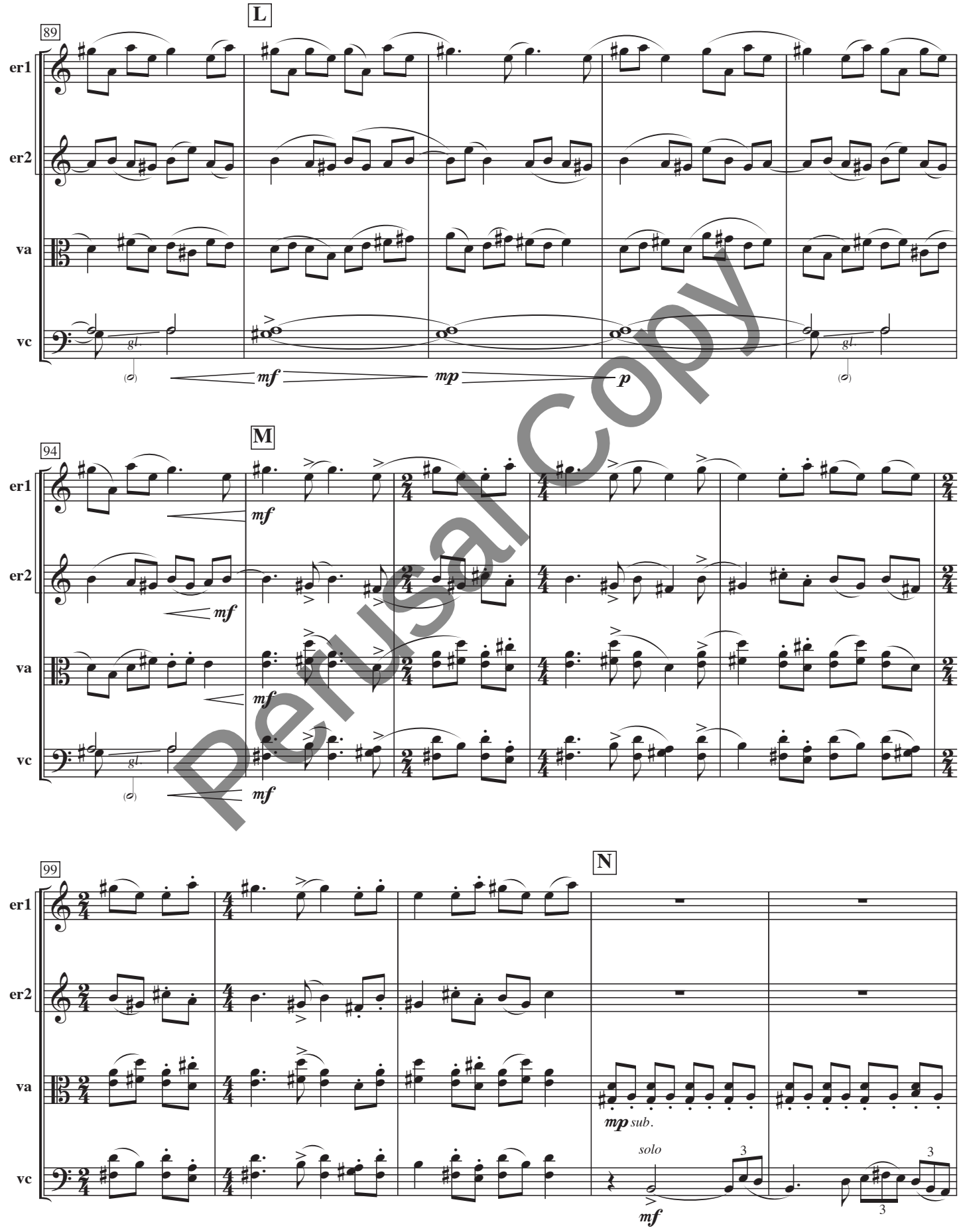

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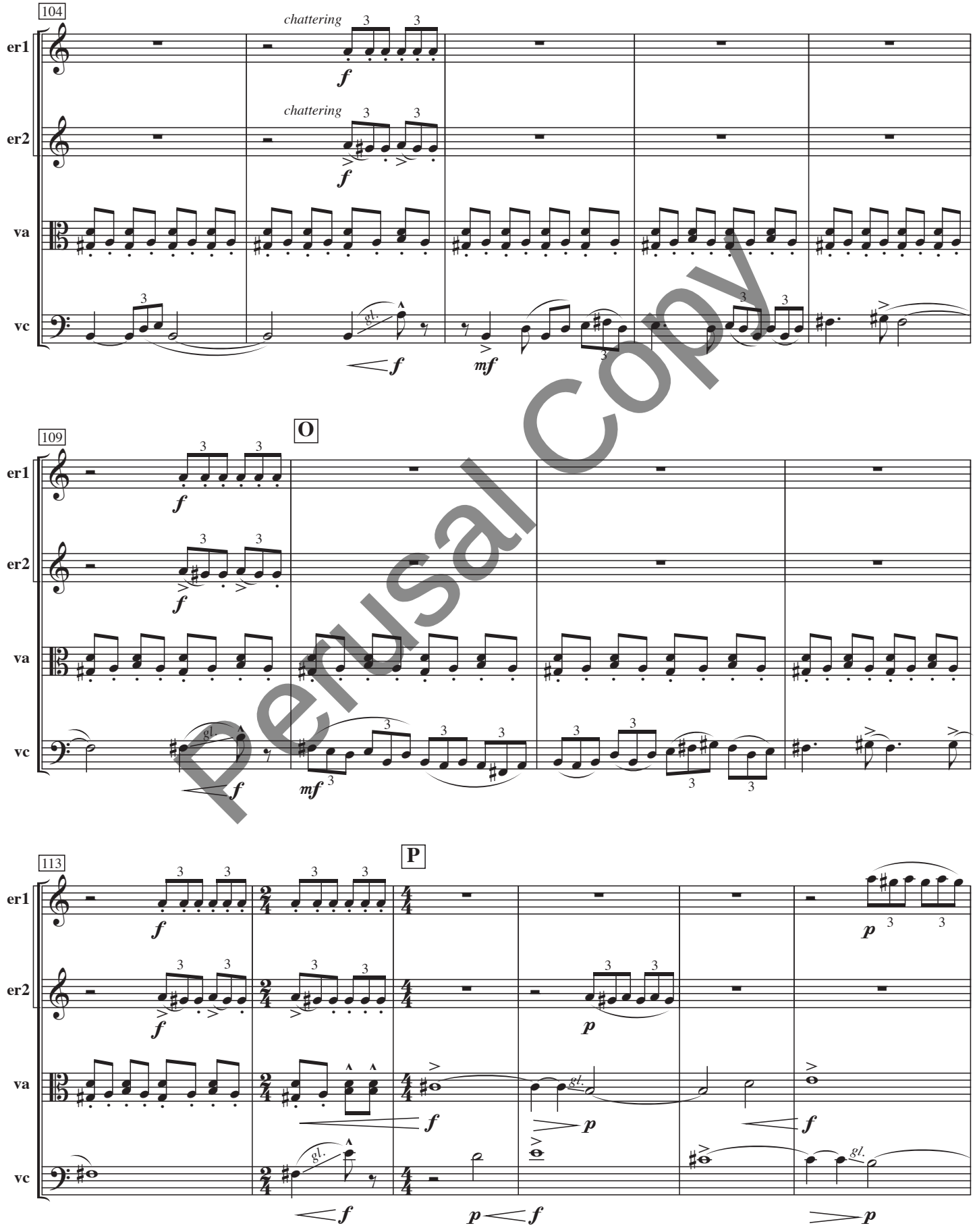

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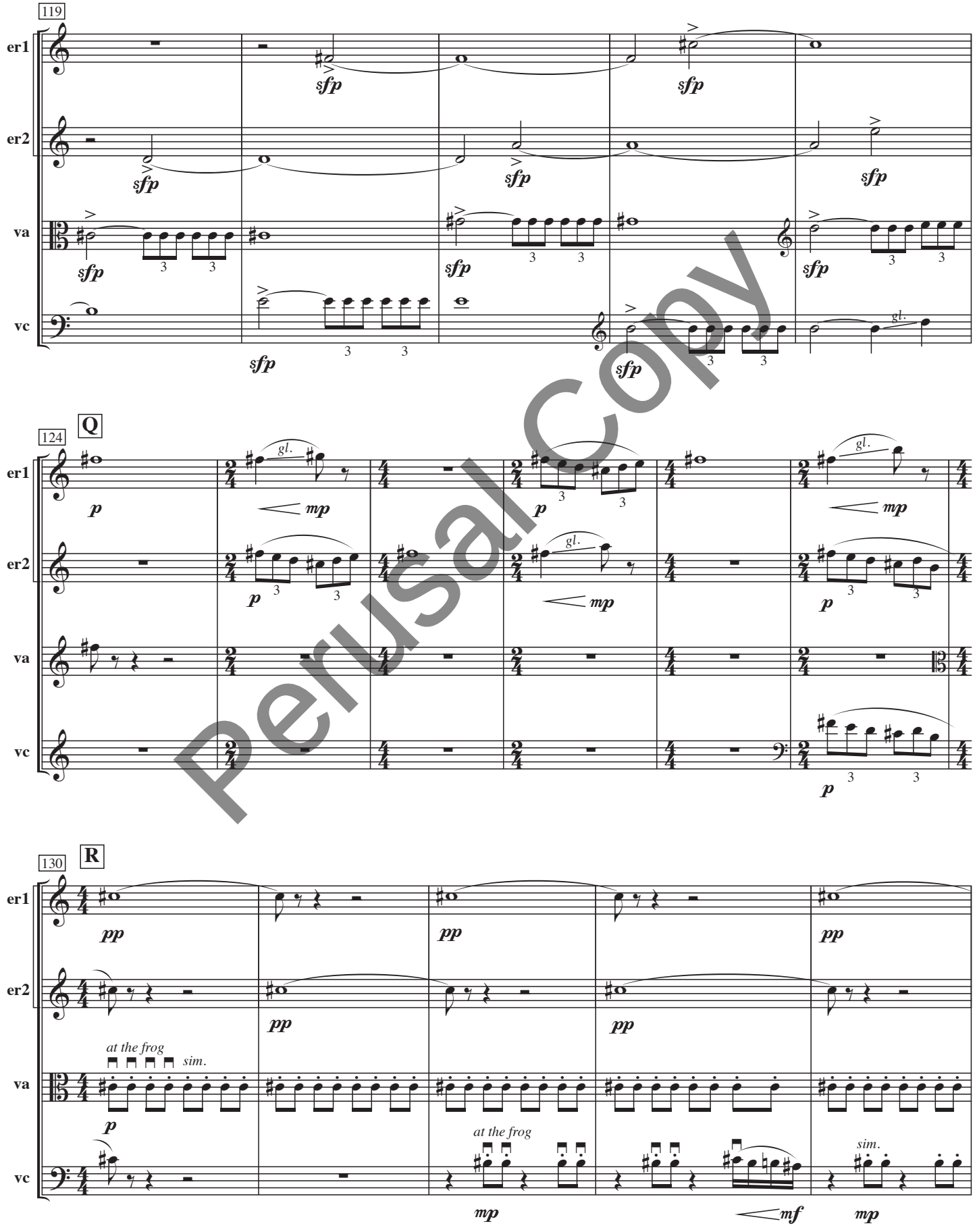

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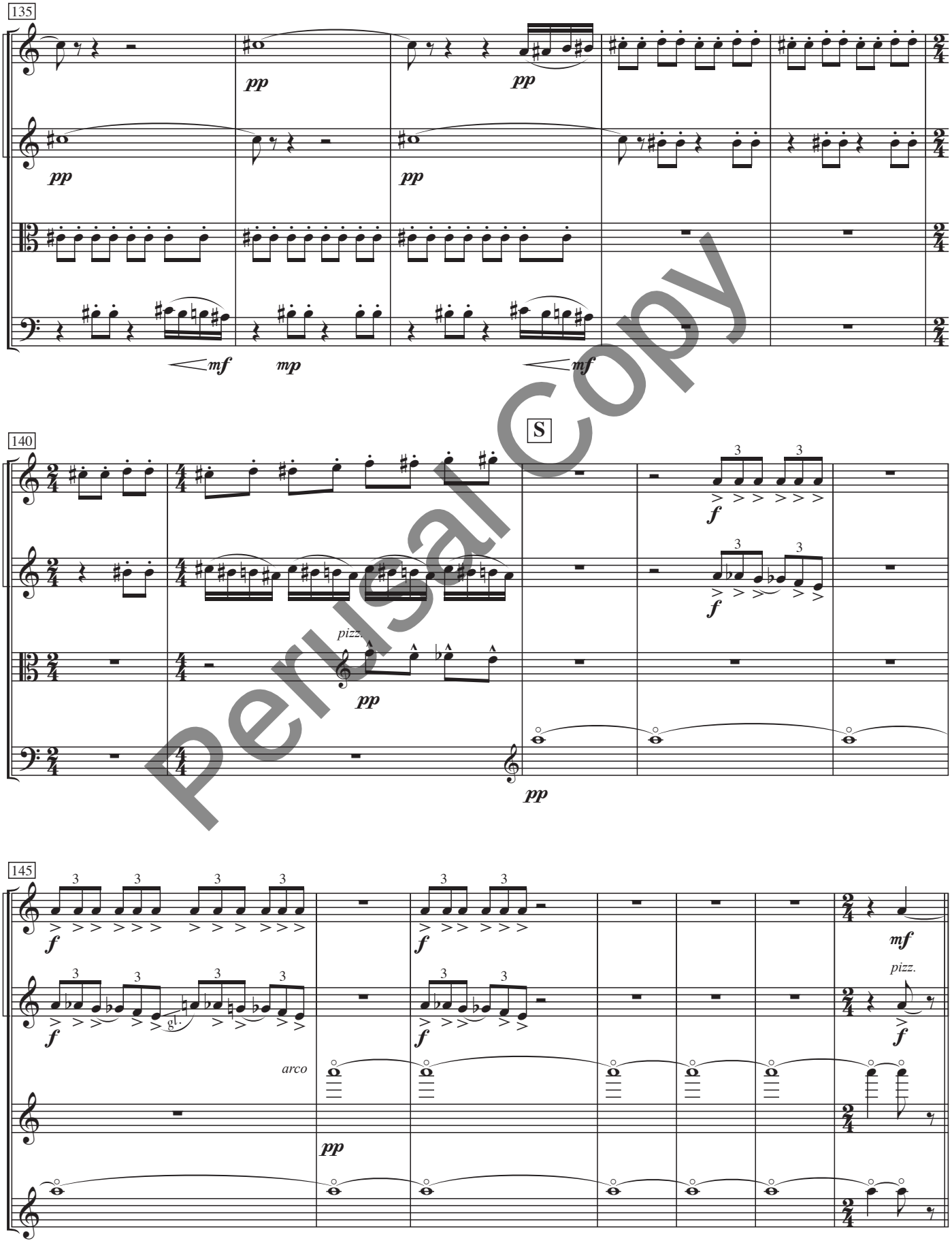

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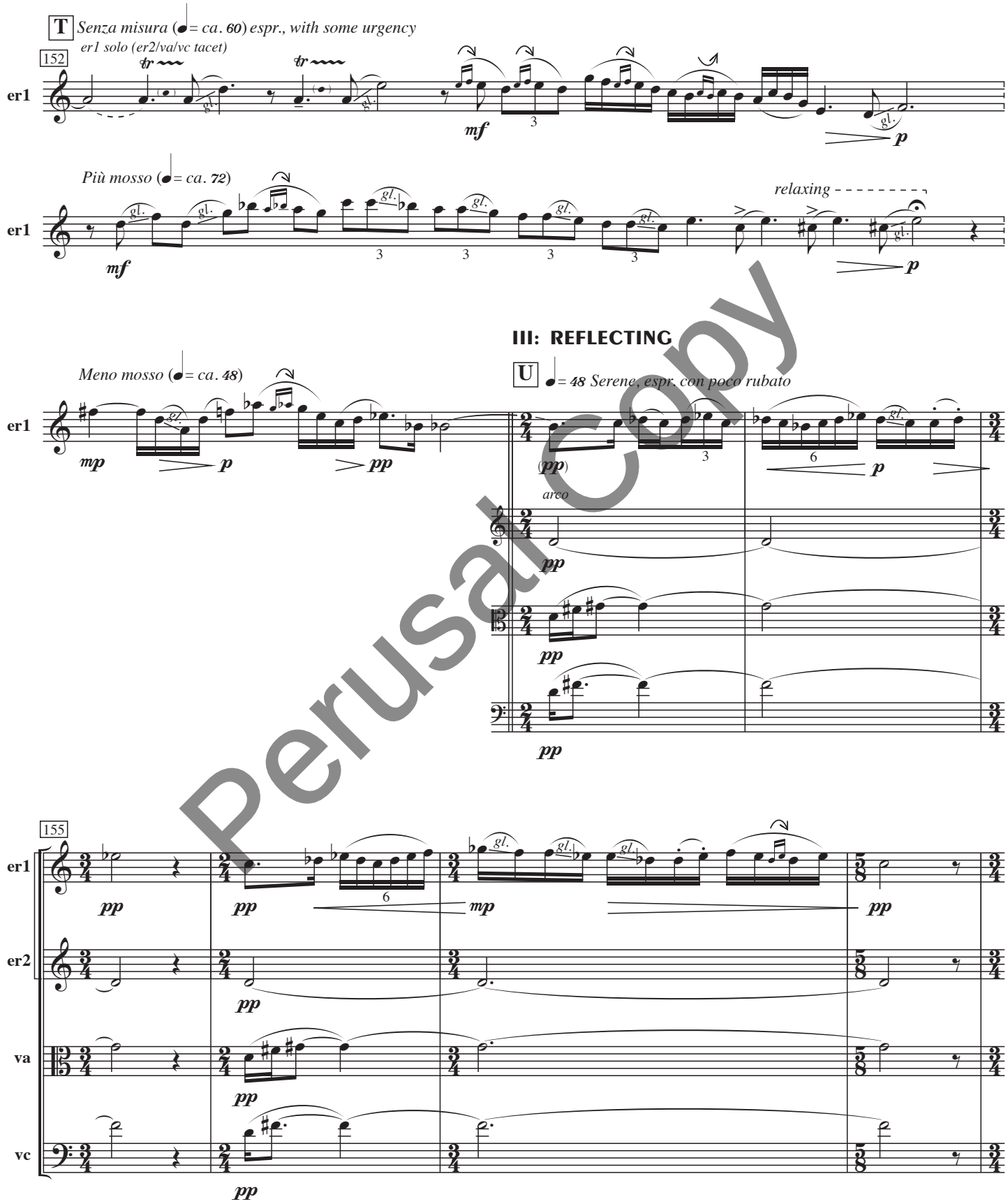

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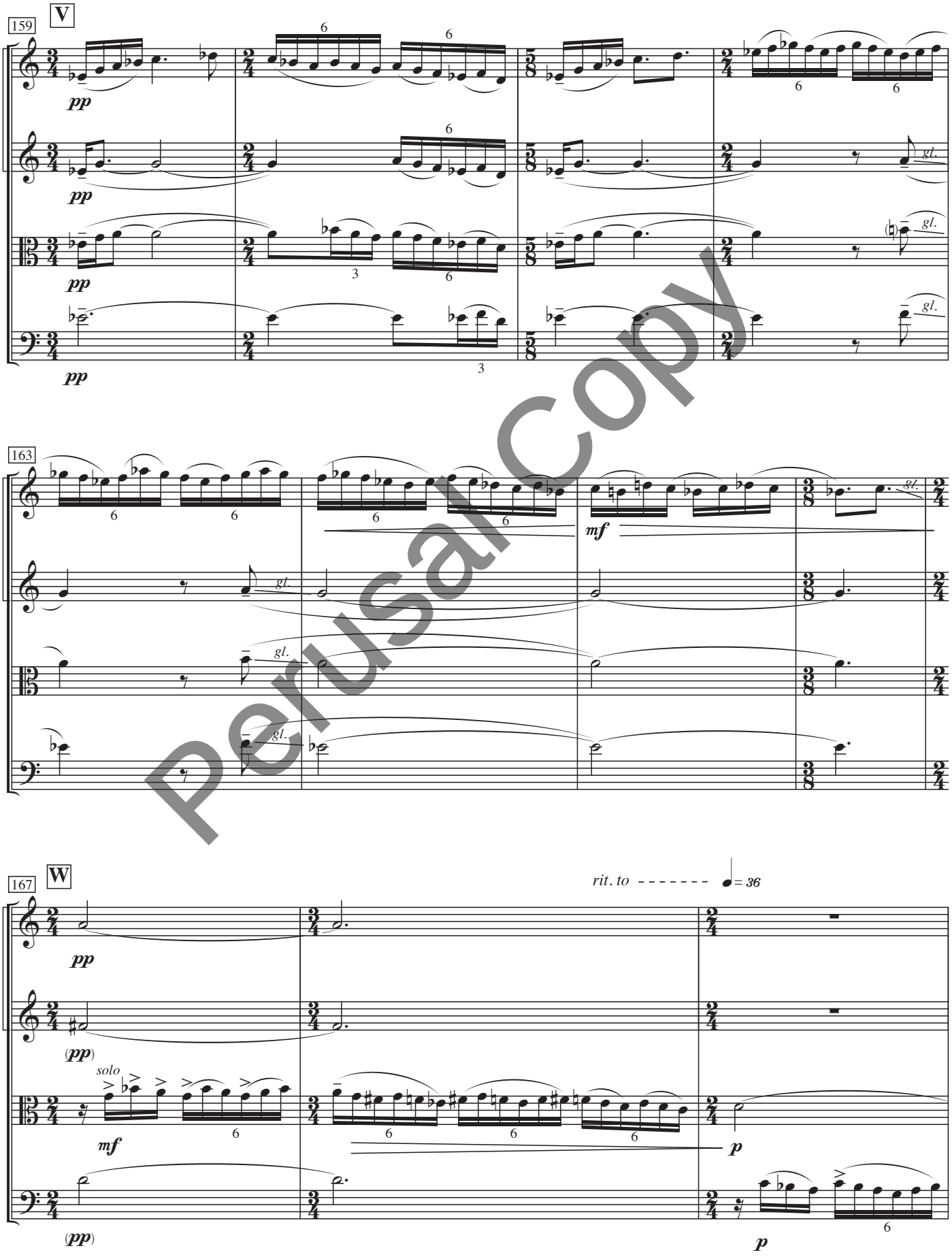

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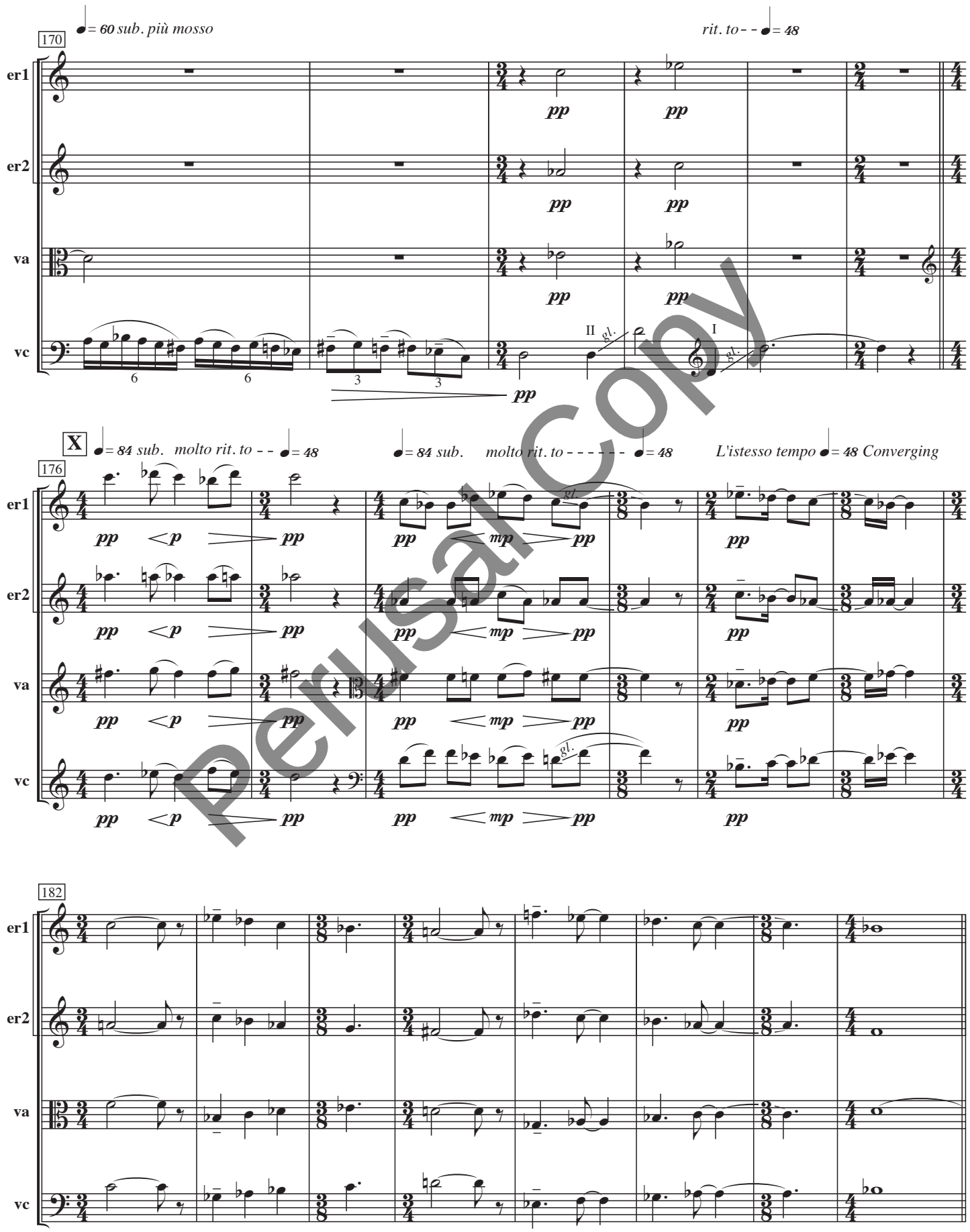

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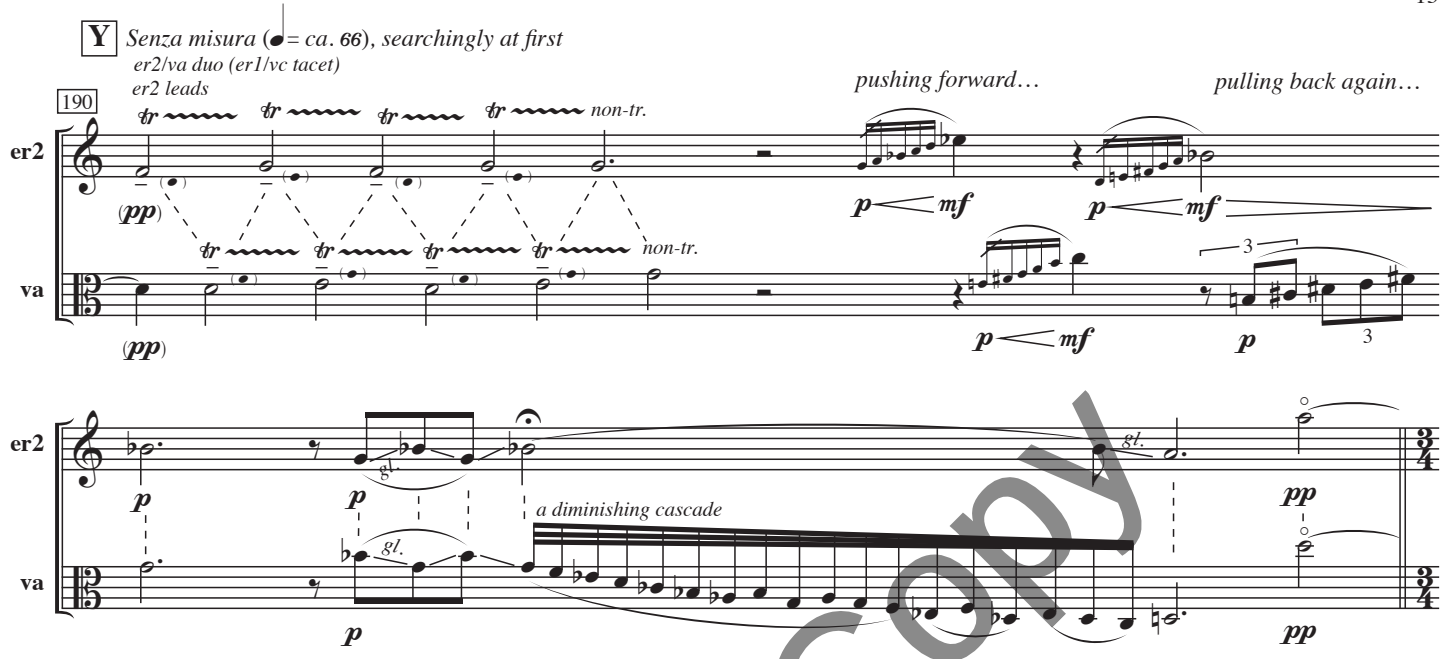

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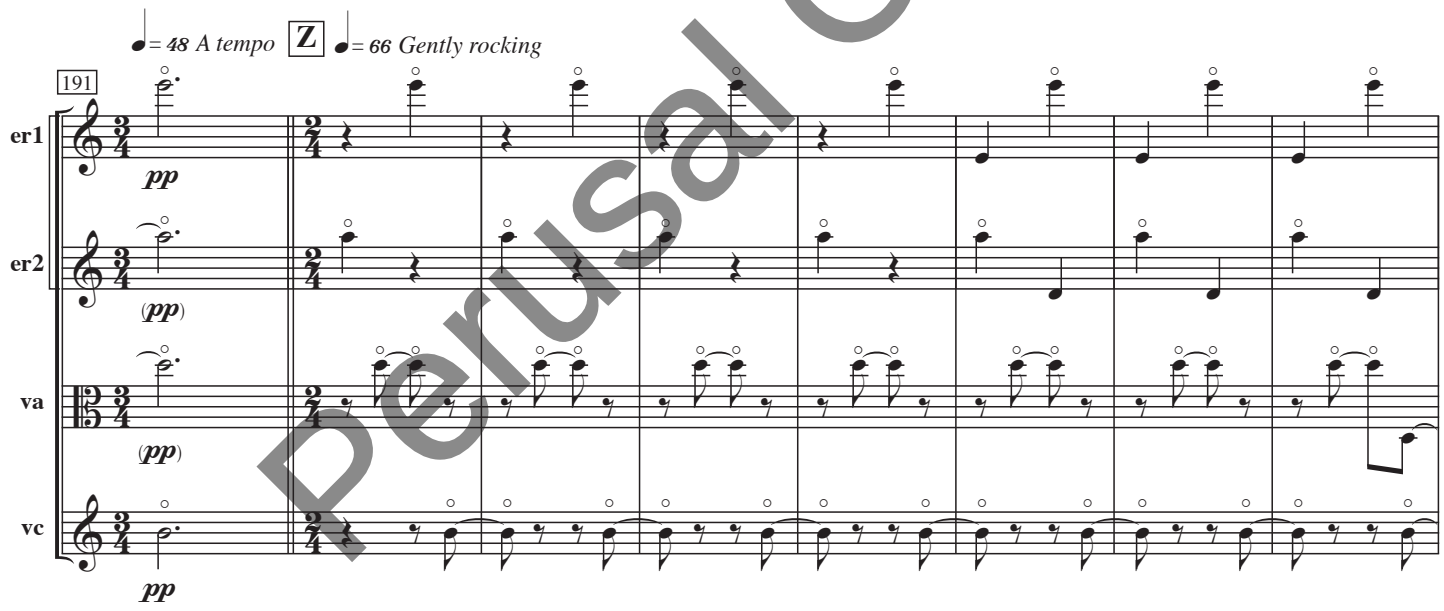

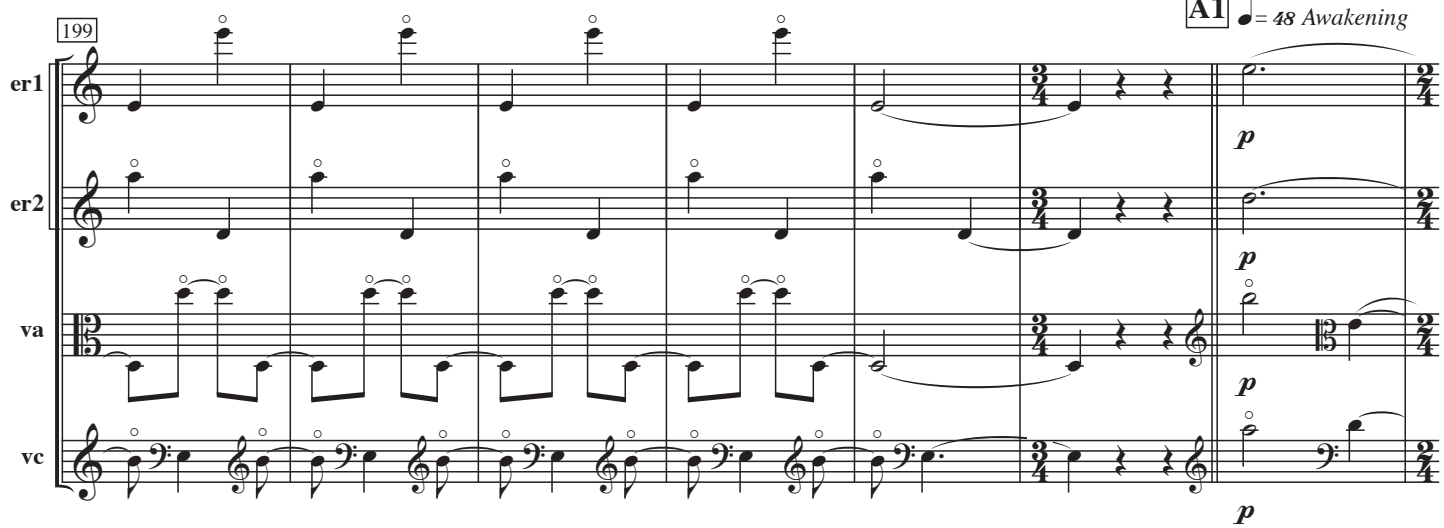

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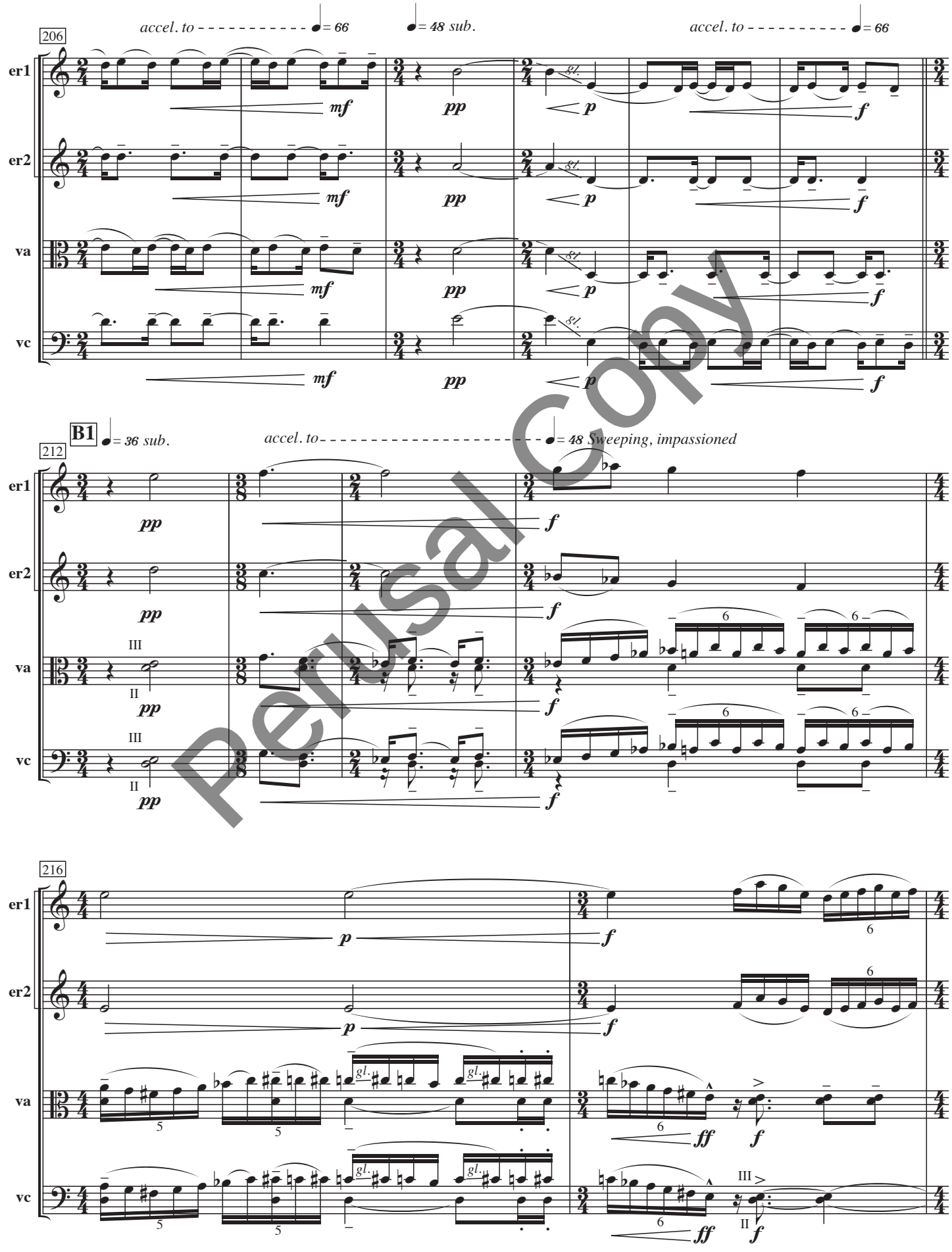

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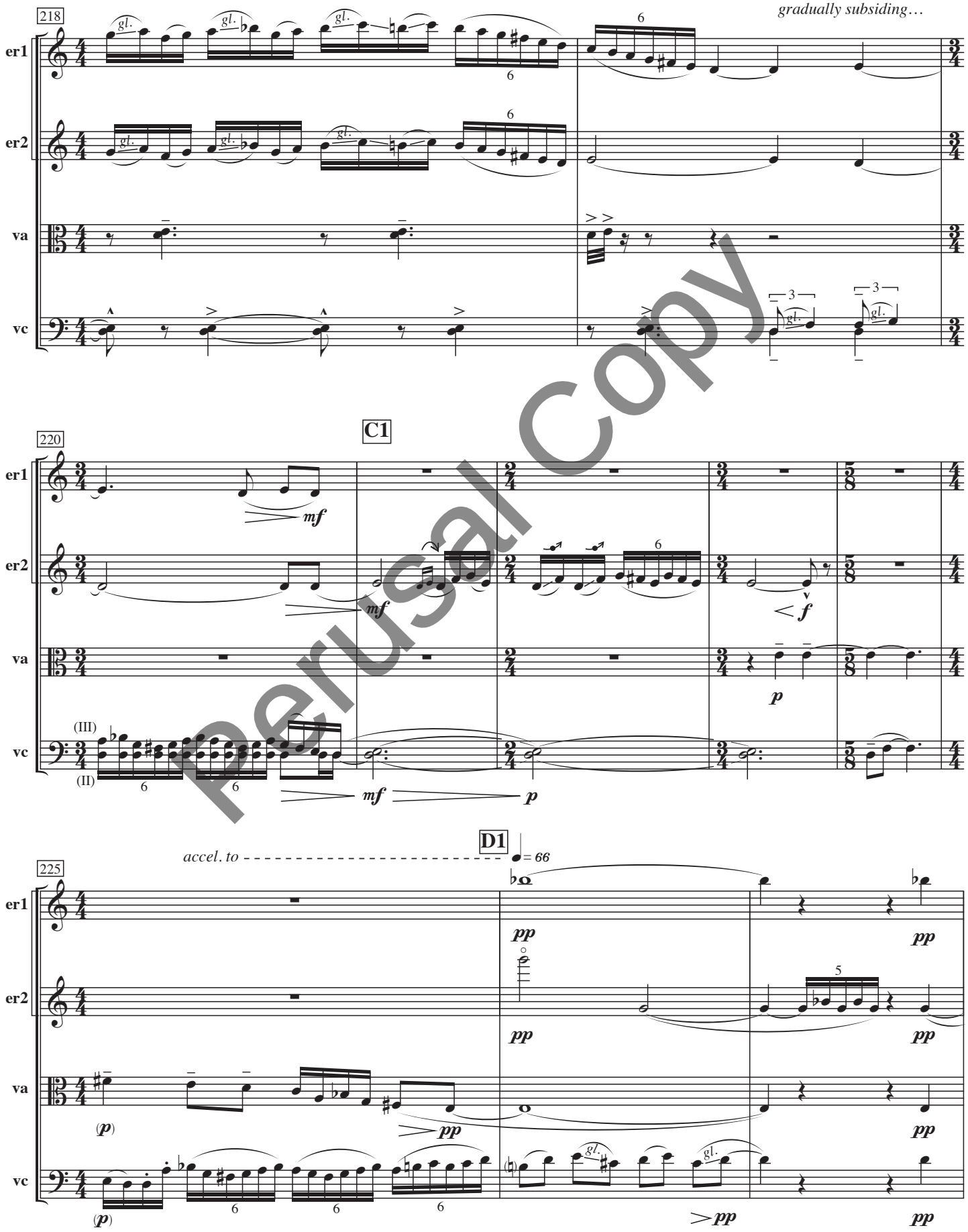

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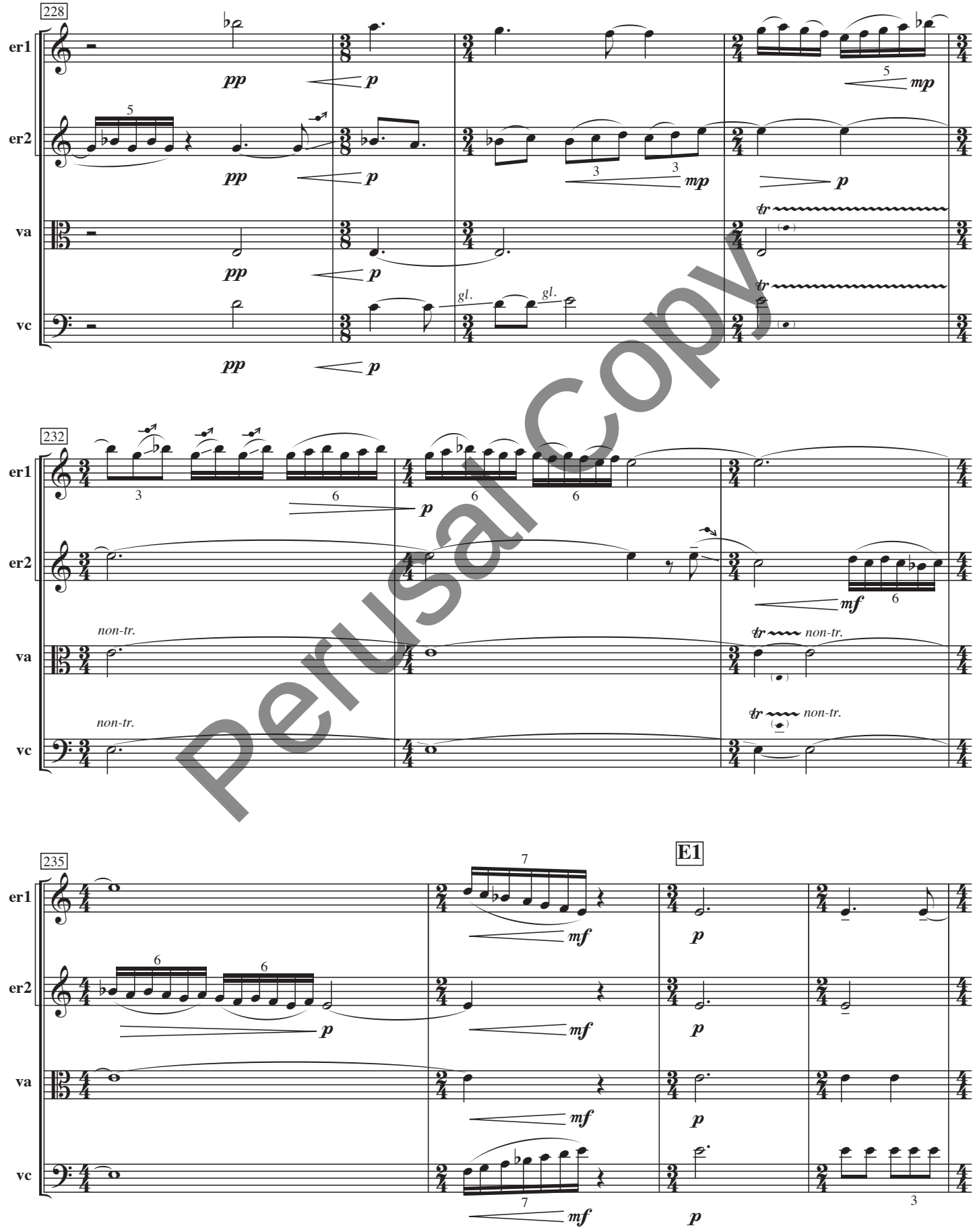

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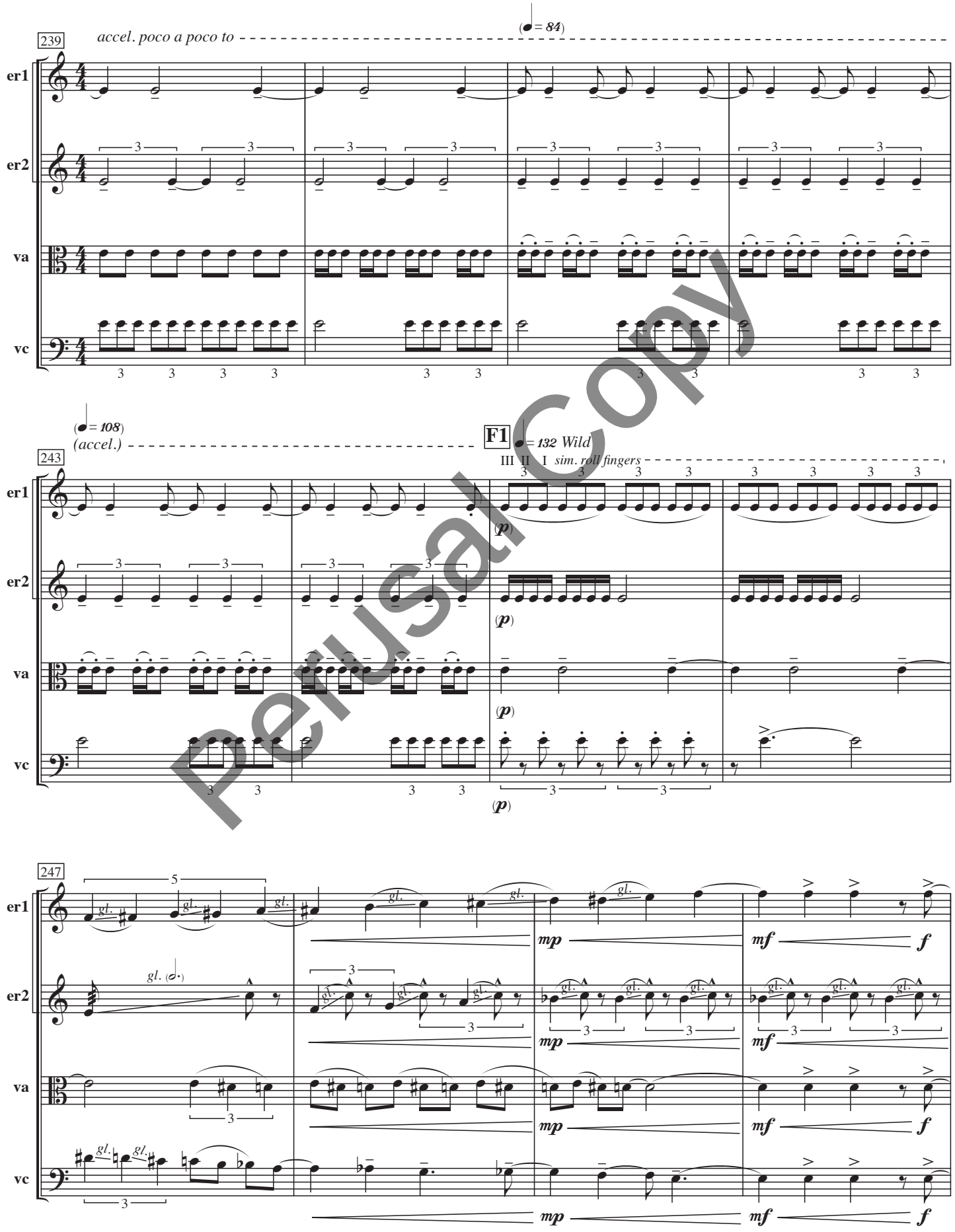

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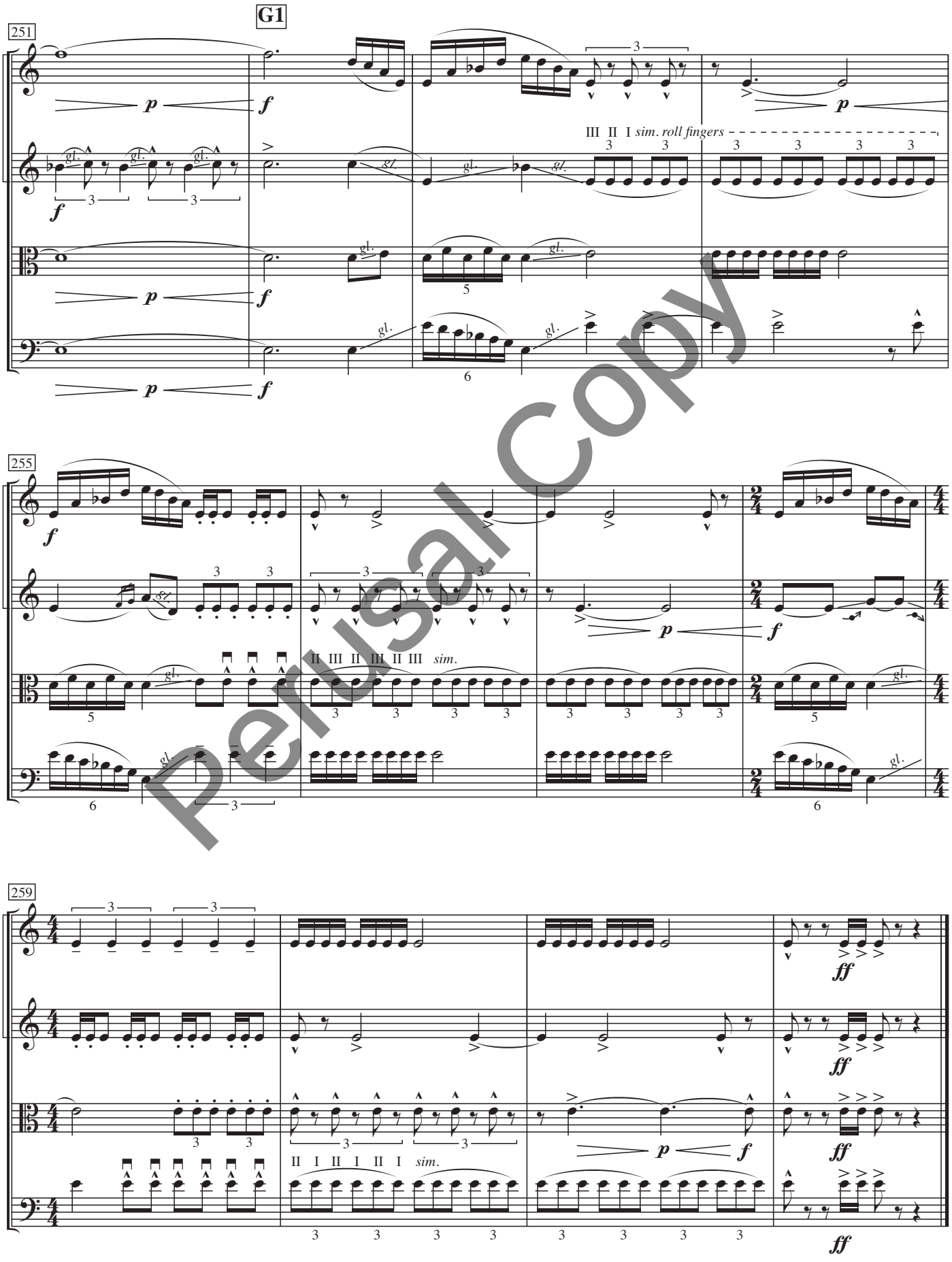

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