Patrick Andrew Thompson

The Thread You Follow

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for clarinet, violin, and piano

Premiered on October 27, 2021
at the DiMenna Center for Classical Music, New York NY
by the Zodiac Trio

COMPOSER'S NOTE

The opening lines of American poet William Stafford's "The Way It Is" read: "There's a thread you follow. It goes among things that change. But it doesn't change."

Stafford, to my mind, was speaking broadly about life, and our individual passions which endure through all of its turbulence. I found this poem while writing *The Thread You Follow* for the Zodiac Trio, and was struck not only by the broader message but by how it captured an important quality of the music I was writing. In traditional narratives, musical or otherwise, each new instance of an idea develops it in some way. Here, musical threads - whether melodies, harmonies, motives, etc. - reappear throughout the piece in often identical forms, not themselves developed but transforming in meaning through ever changing contexts until the final thread floats away to nothing.

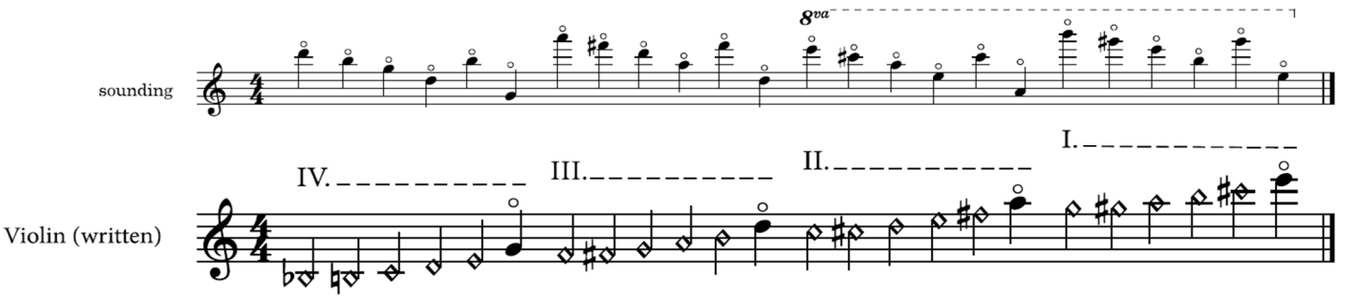
- Patrick Andrew Thompson

Duration: ca. 11 minutes

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Violin:

Diamond noteheads indicate where to touch the string to produce natural harmonics. String numbers are sometimes given for clarity.



The performer may freely substitute any written touch major 3rd harmonics with touch major 6th harmonics, which produce the same pitch and may speak better

I, II, III, and IV are roman numerals used to indicate string number. **0** indicates an open string

+ indicates left-hand pizzicato

s.p. indicates sul ponticello

⟶ indicates a gradual change from one bow technique to another

Clarinet:

The multiphonic at measure 45 appears identically in Sciarrino's *Let me die before I wake*, created by trilling between the low fundamental and a multiphonic fingering with that fundamental. The notation is maintained from Sciarrino's piece.

Piano:

+ indicates that the string should be muted inside the piano

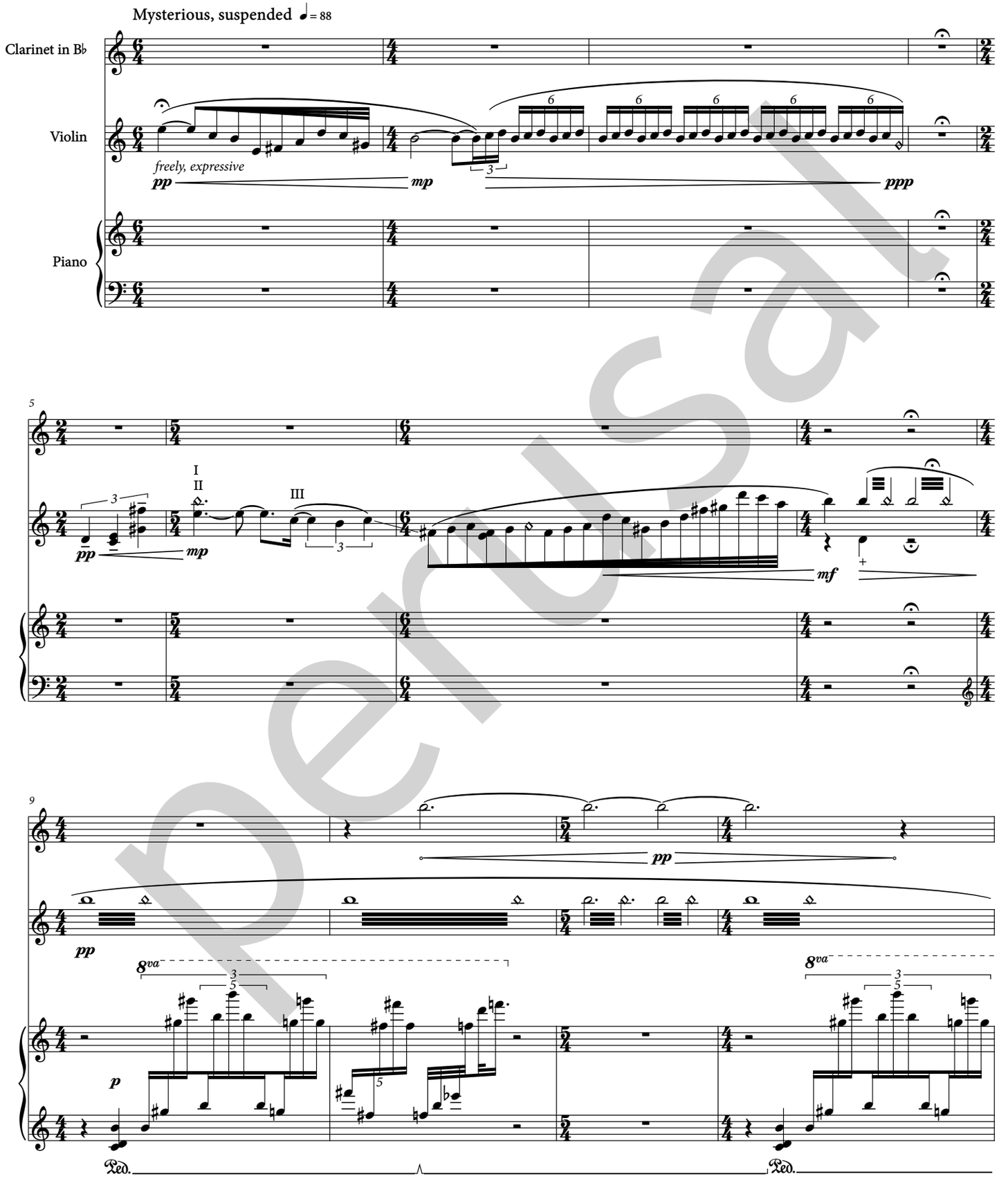
The low D string of measure 16 in particular must be muted before the start of the piece with blu-tack or similar. After this note has finished decaying, the string must be un-muted

for the Zodiac Trio

The Thread You Follow

Score in C

Patrick Andrew Thompson



perusal

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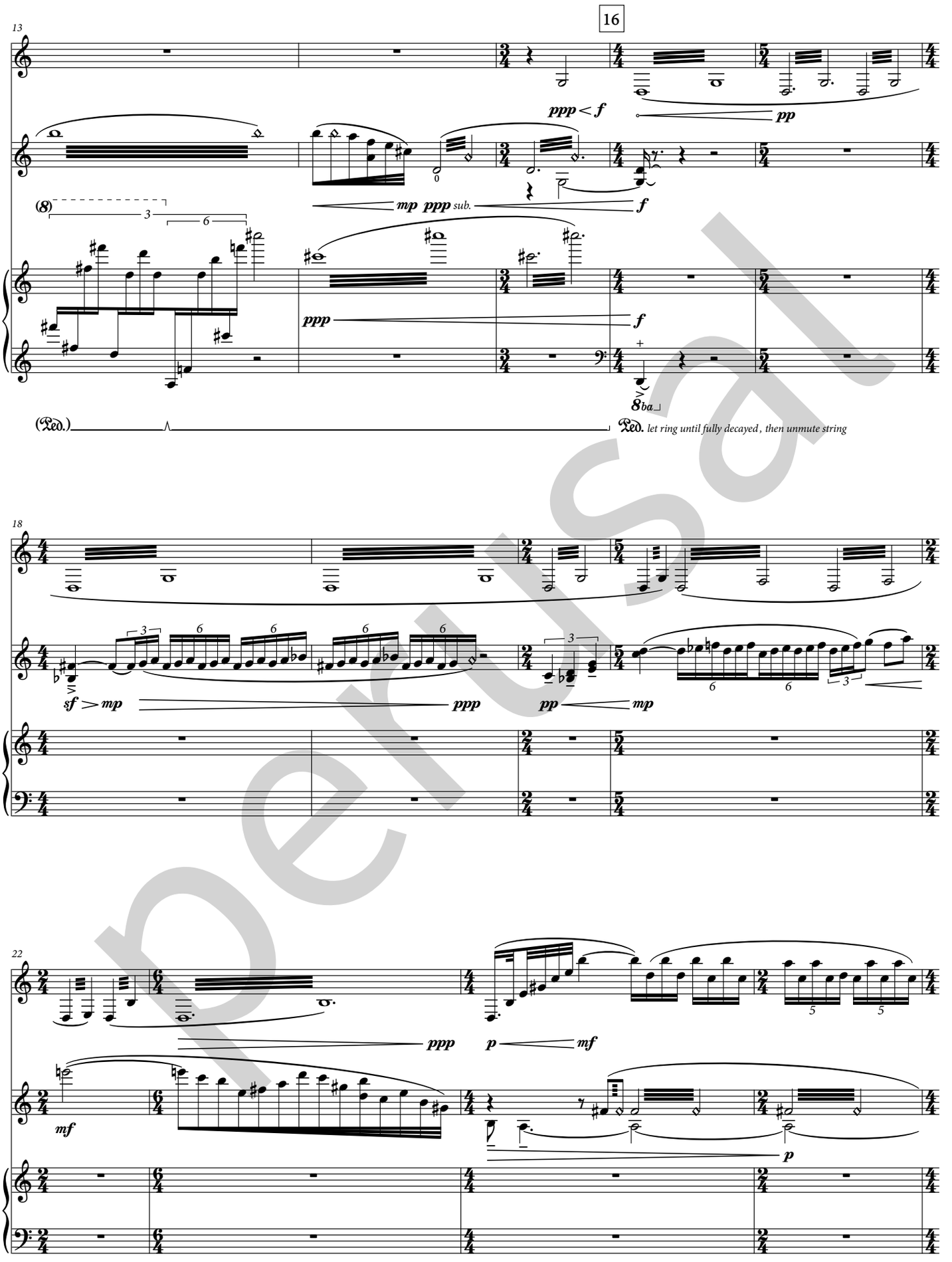
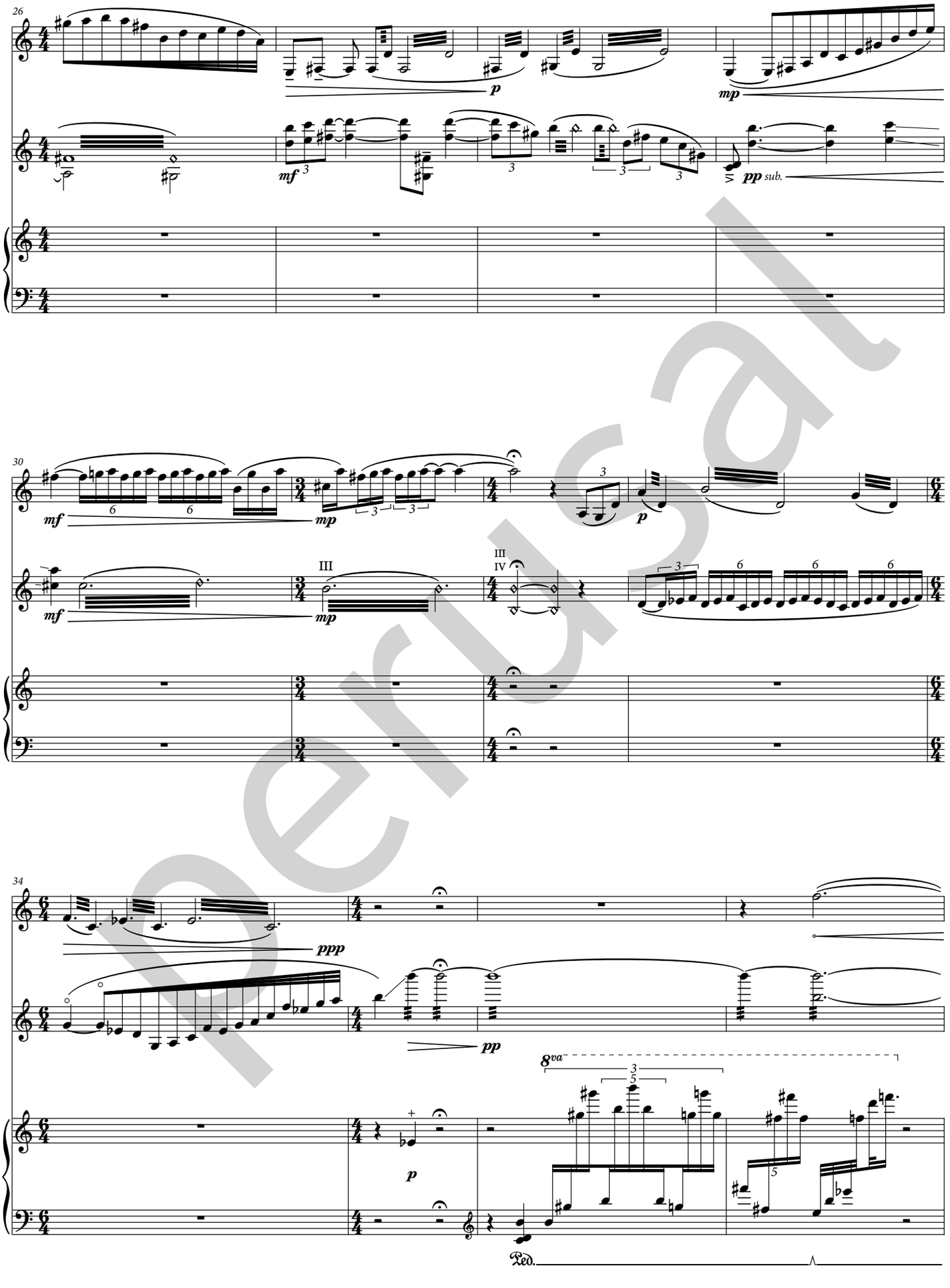
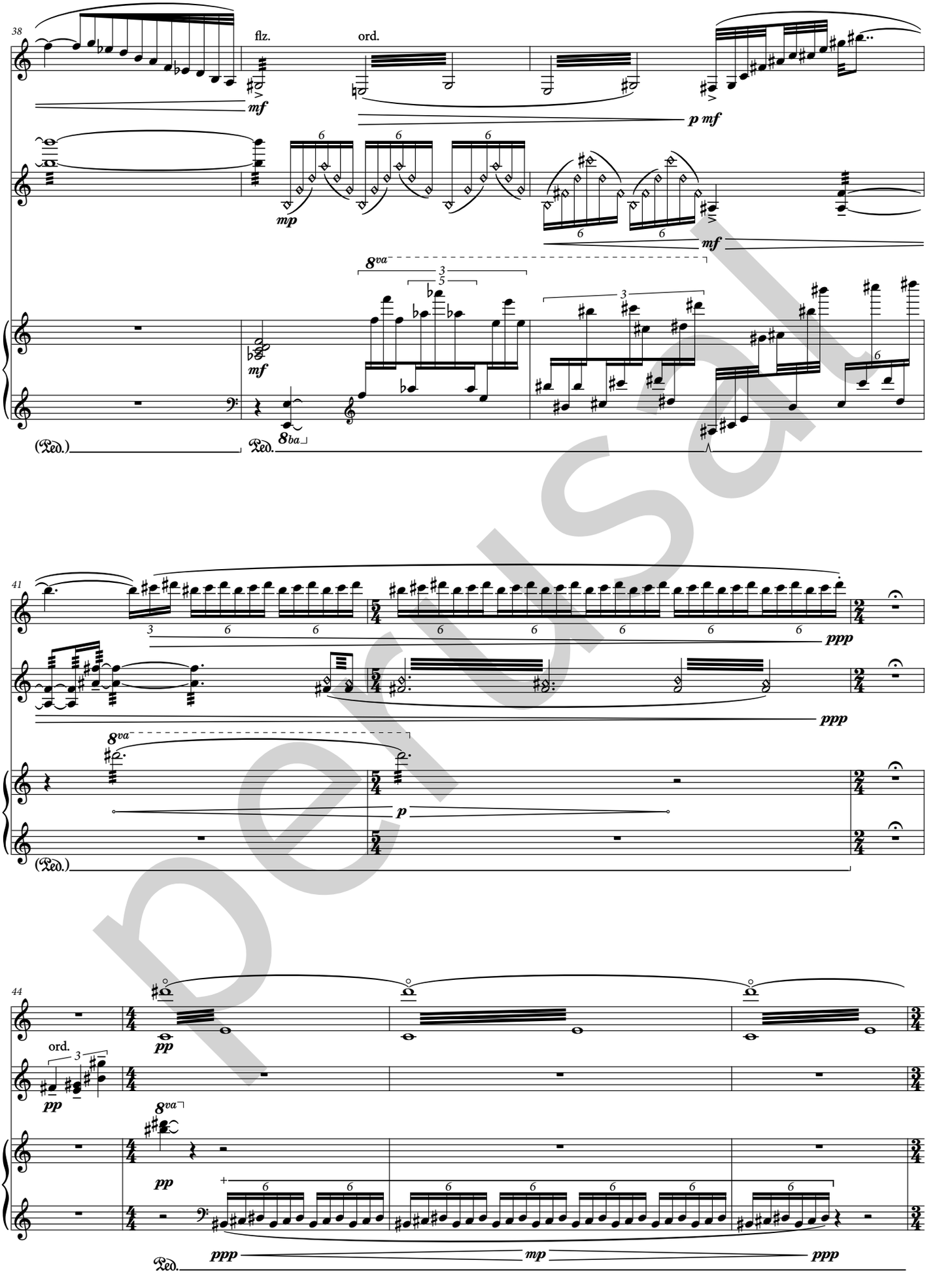

16
13
ppp < f
pp
mp ppp sub.
f
(8)
3
6
ppp
f
8ba
(Ped.)
Ped. let ring until fully decayed, then unmute string
18
sf > mp
ppp
pp
mp
3
6
22
ppp
p
mf
mf
p
5

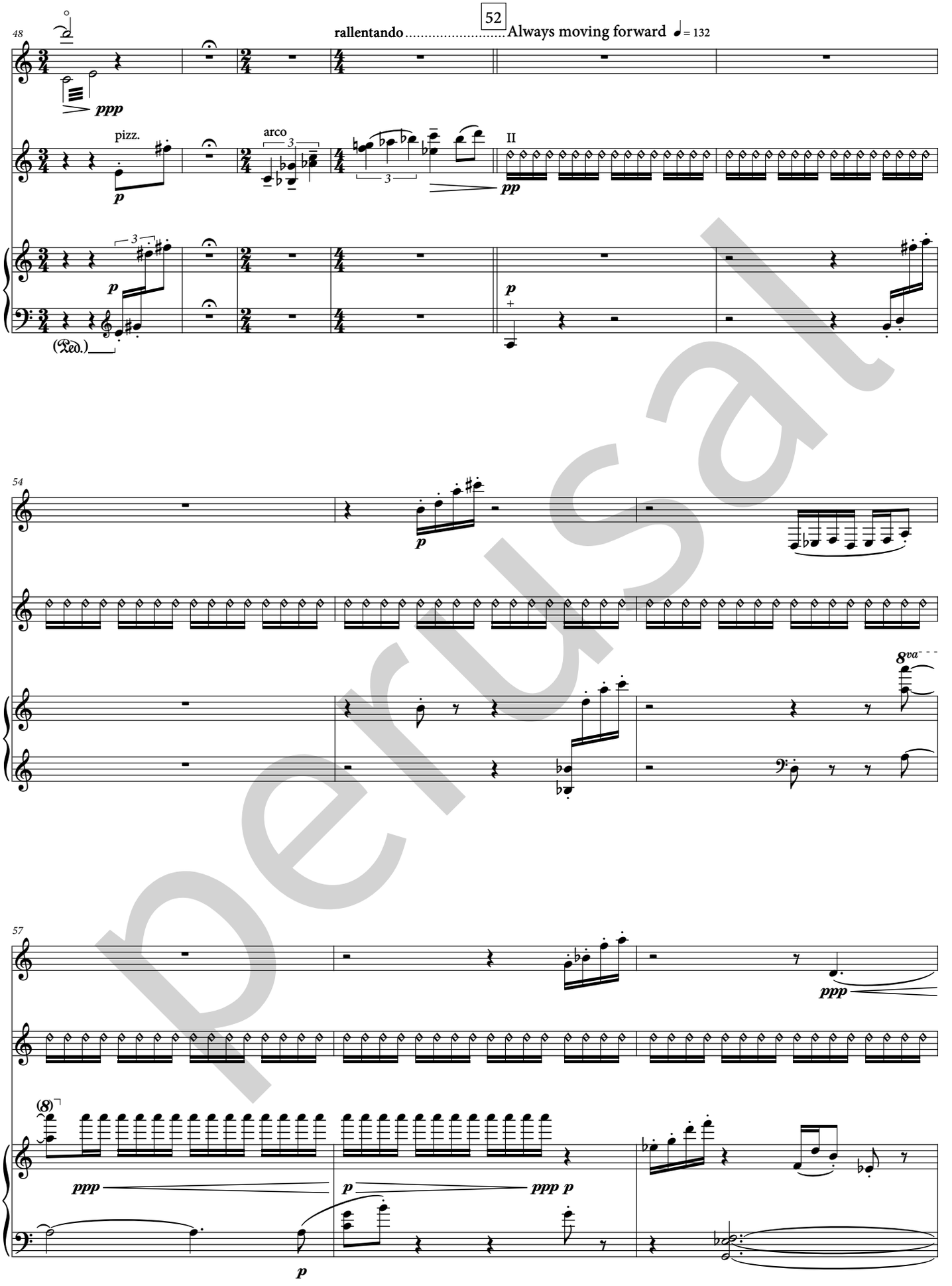
perusal



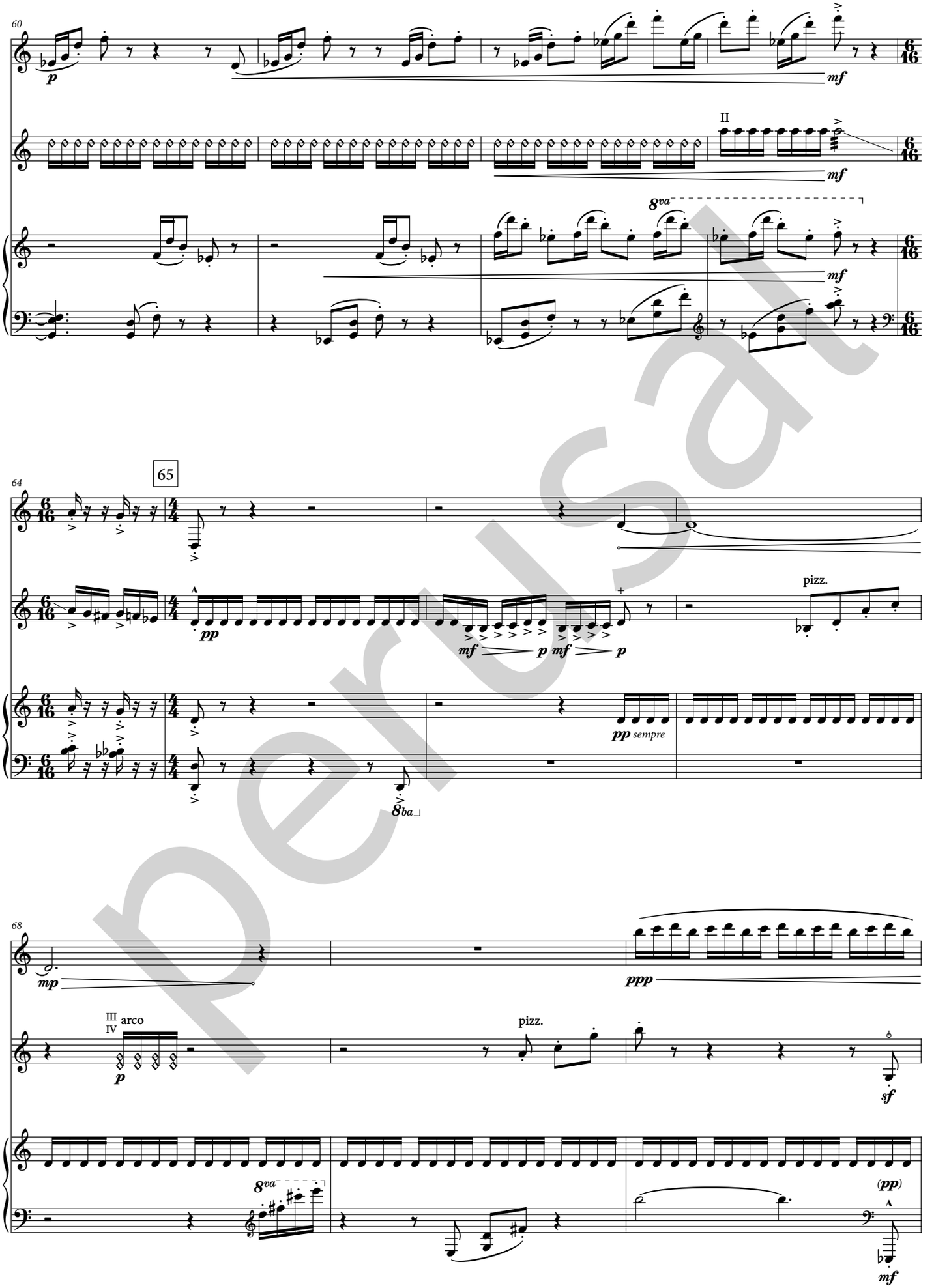
proof


38
flz.
ord.
mf
p mf
mp
mf
8va
8ba
(Ped.)
Ped.
41
ppp
ppp
8va
p
(Ped.)
44
ord.
pp
pp
8va
pp
ppp
mp
ppp
Ped.

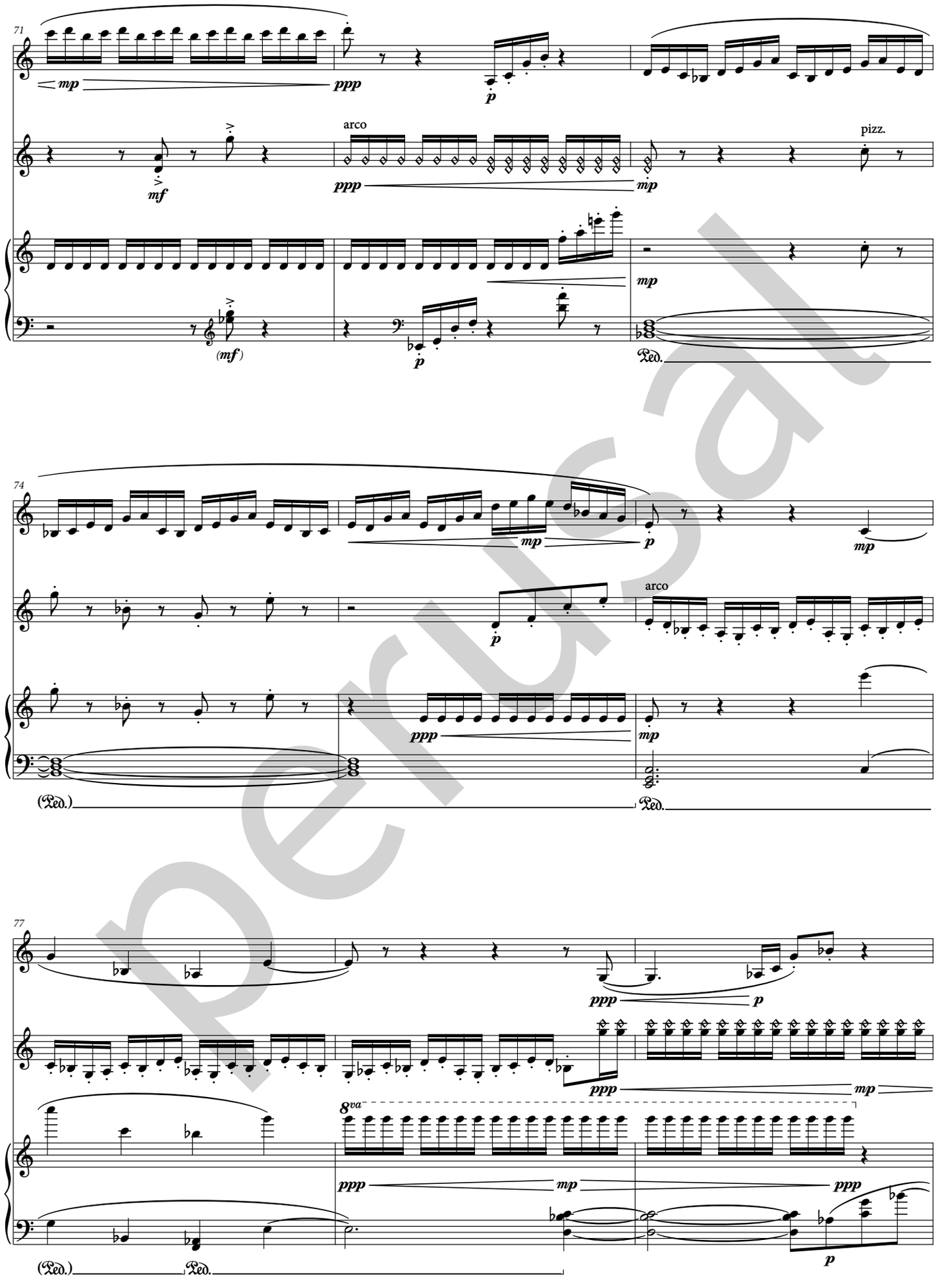
perusal


48
52
rallentando
Always moving forward ♩ = 132
ppp
pizz.
p
arco
II
pp
(Ped.)
54
8va
57
ppp
(8)

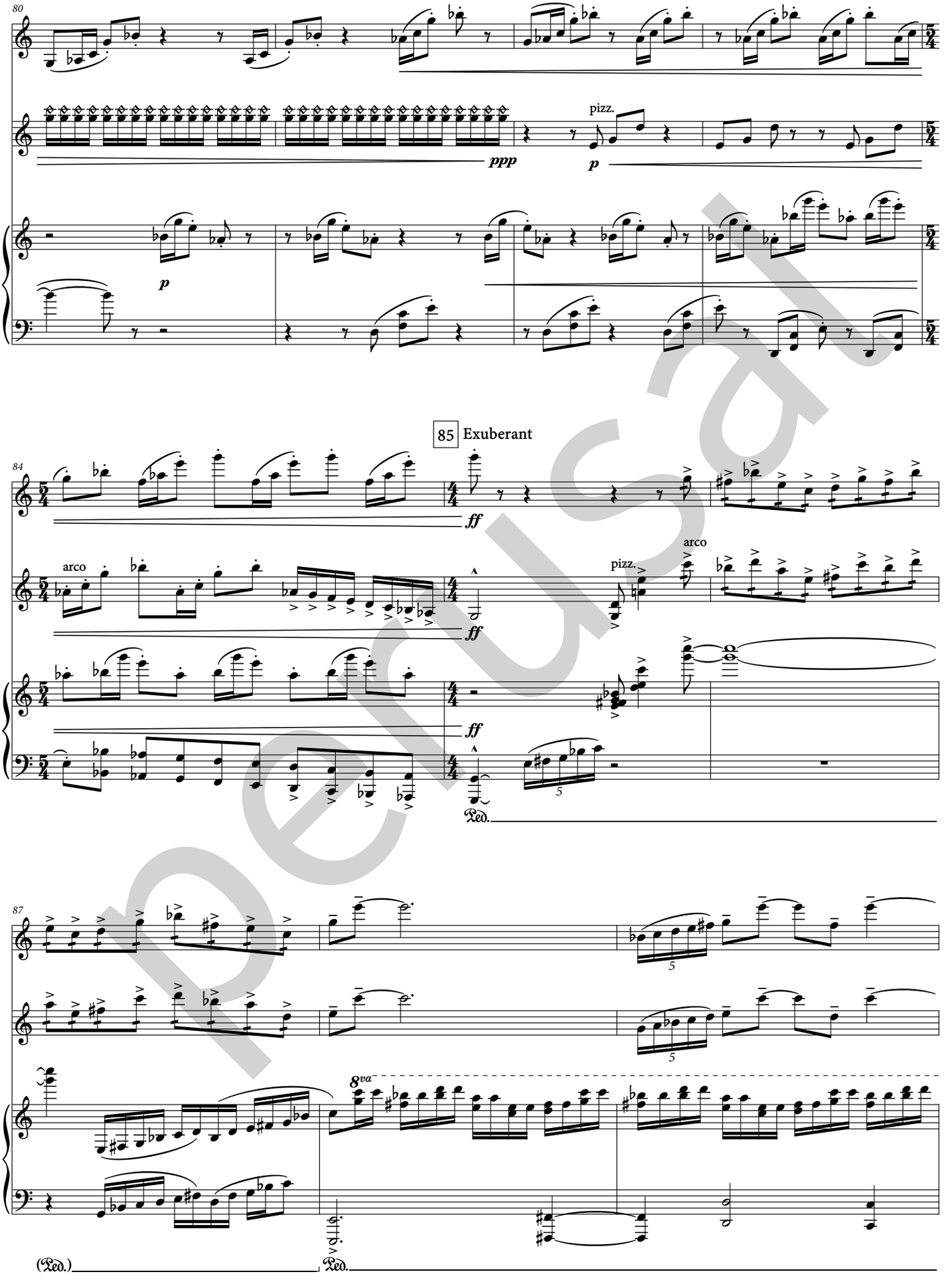
persisal


60
p
mf
II
mf
8va
mf
64
65
pp
mf
p
mf
p
pizz.
pp sempre
8ba
68
mp
ppp
III
IV
arco
p
pizz.
sf
8va
(pp)
mf

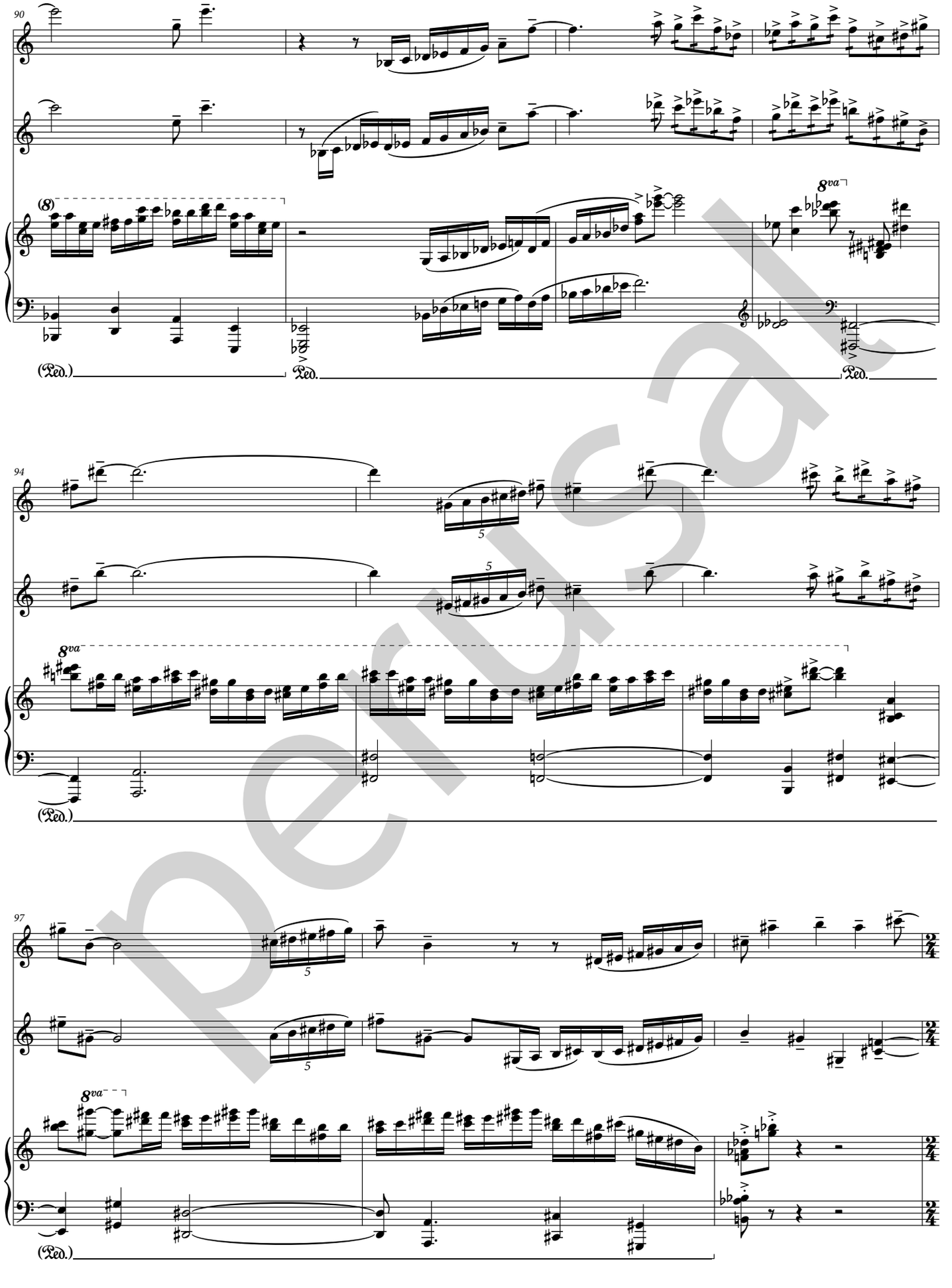
perusal


71
mp
ppp
p
mf
arco
pizz.
ppp
mp
(mf)
p
mp
Ped.
74
mp
p
mp
arco
p
ppp
mp
(Ped.)
Ped.
77
ppp
p
ppp
mp
8va
ppp
mp
ppp
(Ped.)
Ped.
p

perusal


80
ppp
pizz.
p
p
85 Exuberant
84
ff
arco
pizz.
arco
ff
ff
Ped.
87
8va
(Ped.)
Ped.

perusal



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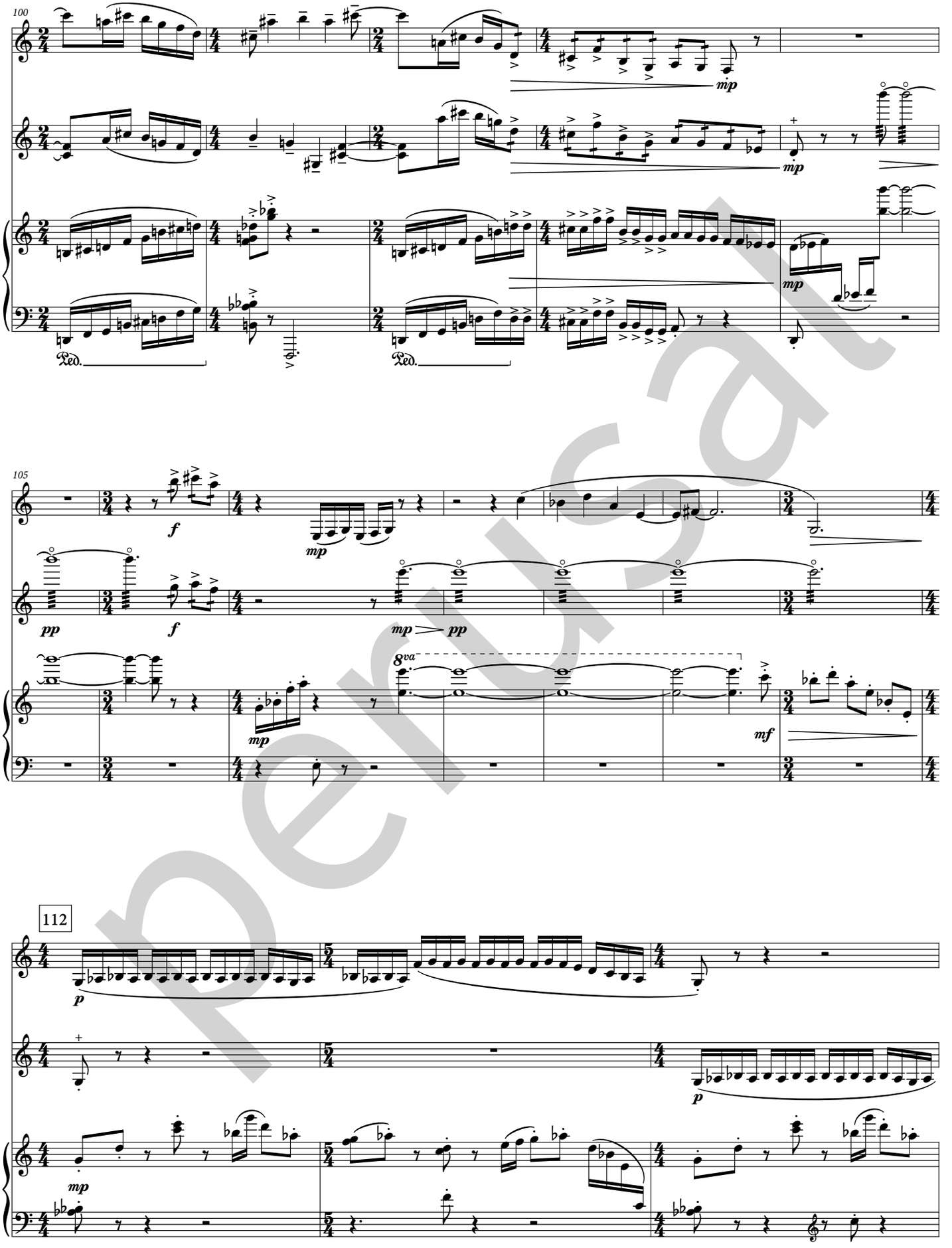

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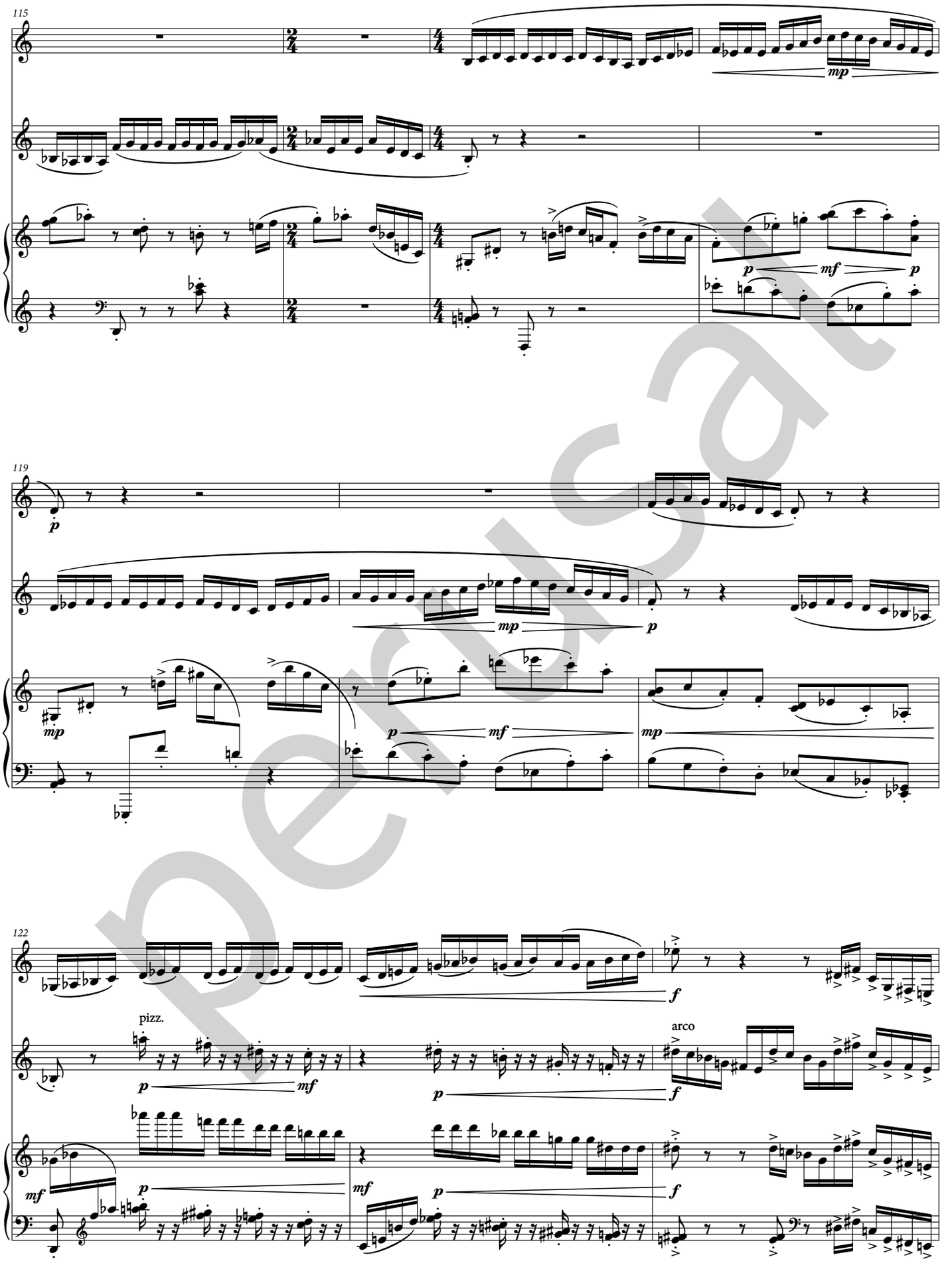

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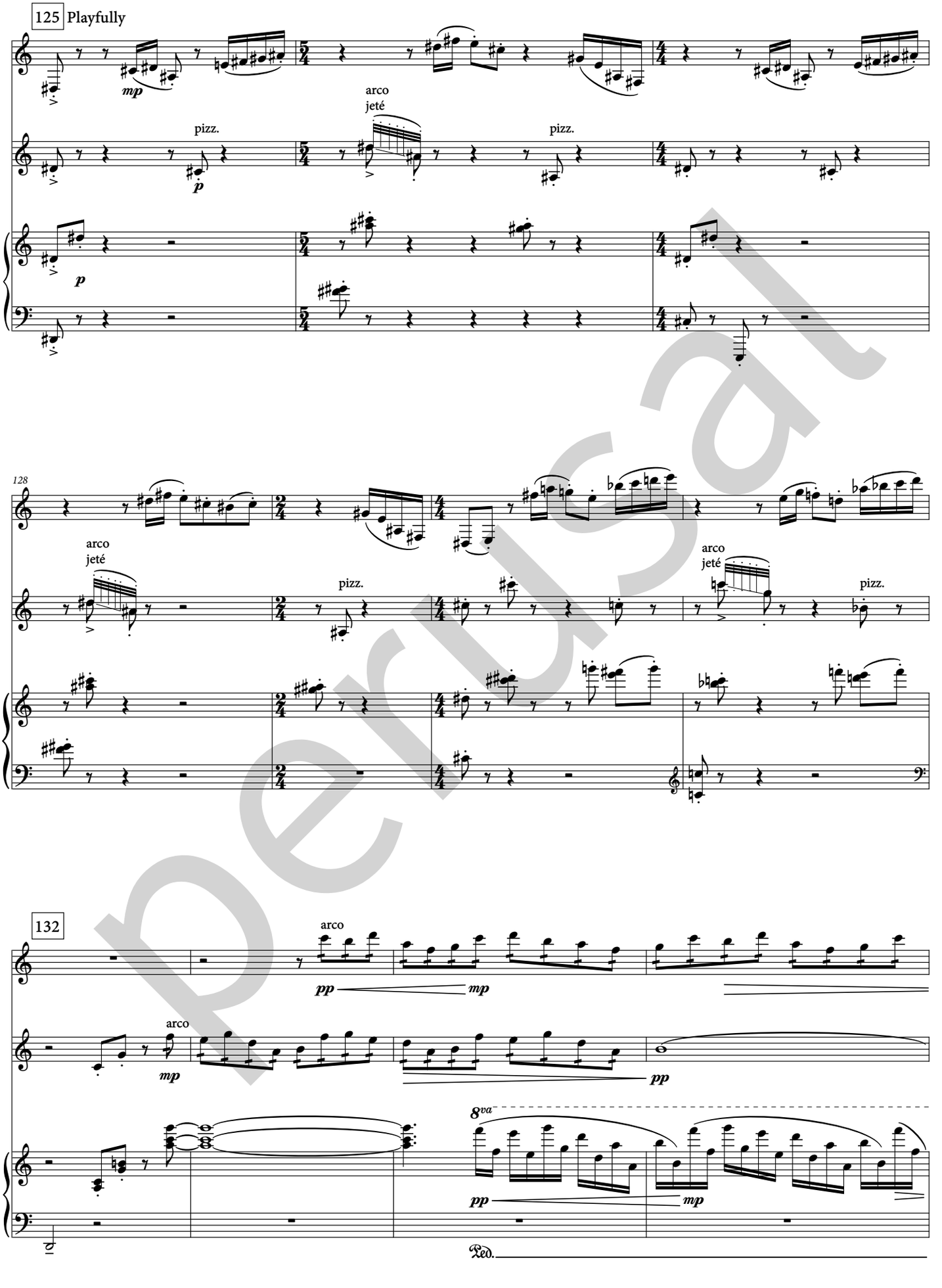
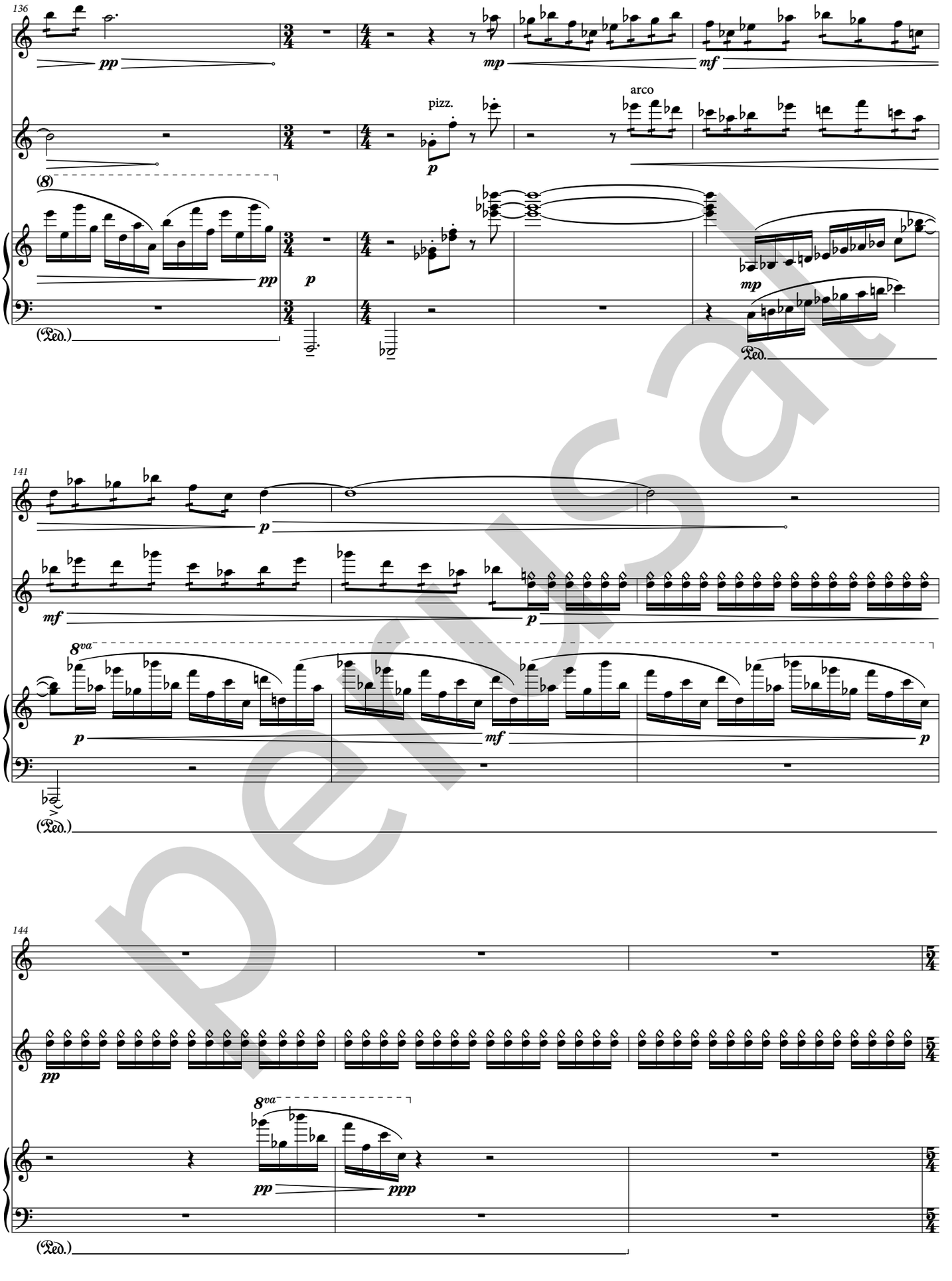
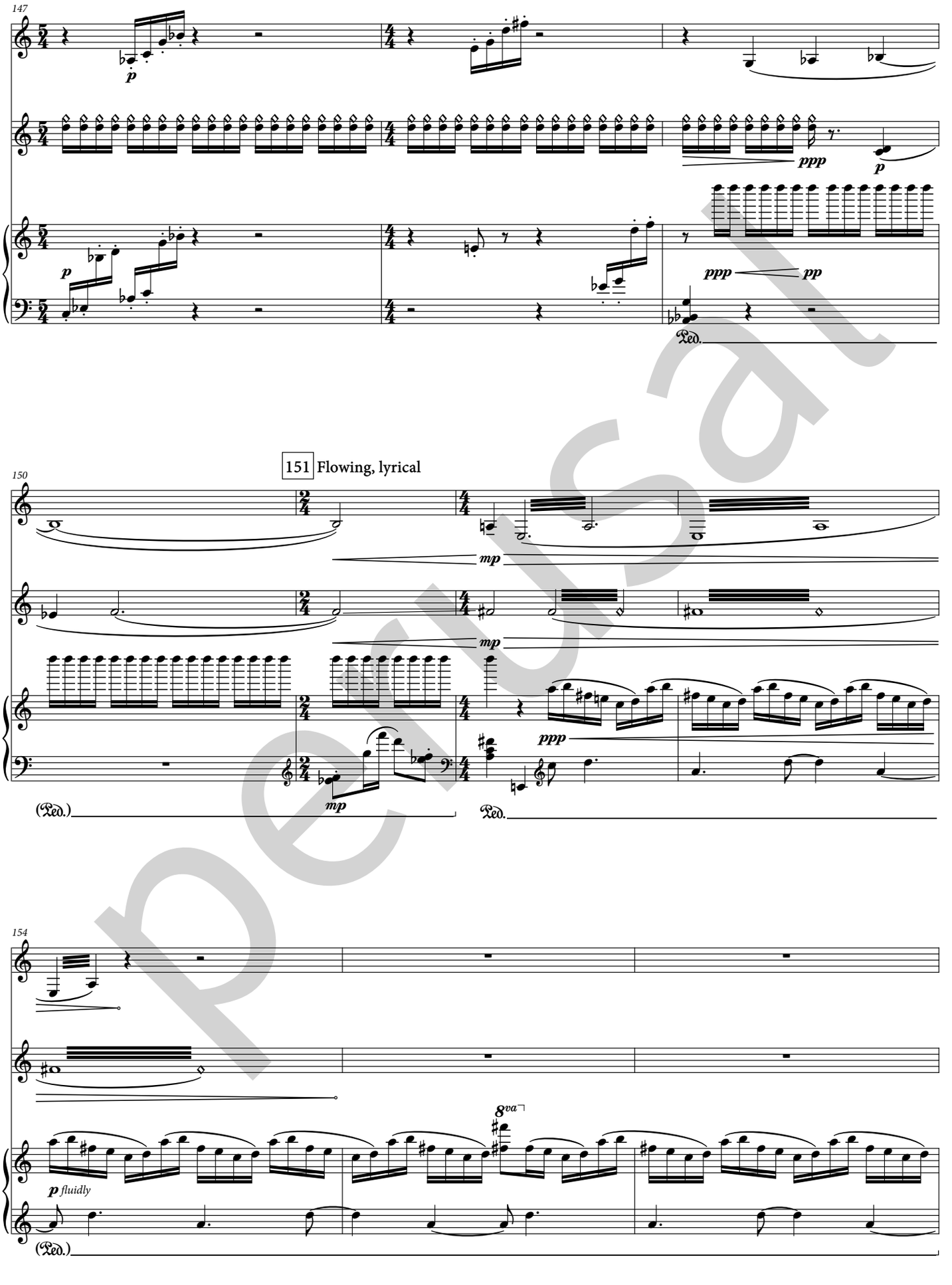

125 Playfully
mp
arco
jeté
pizz.
p
pizz.
p
128
arco
jeté
pizz.
arco
jeté
pizz.
132
arco
pp
mp
arco
mp
pp
8va
pp
mp
Ped.

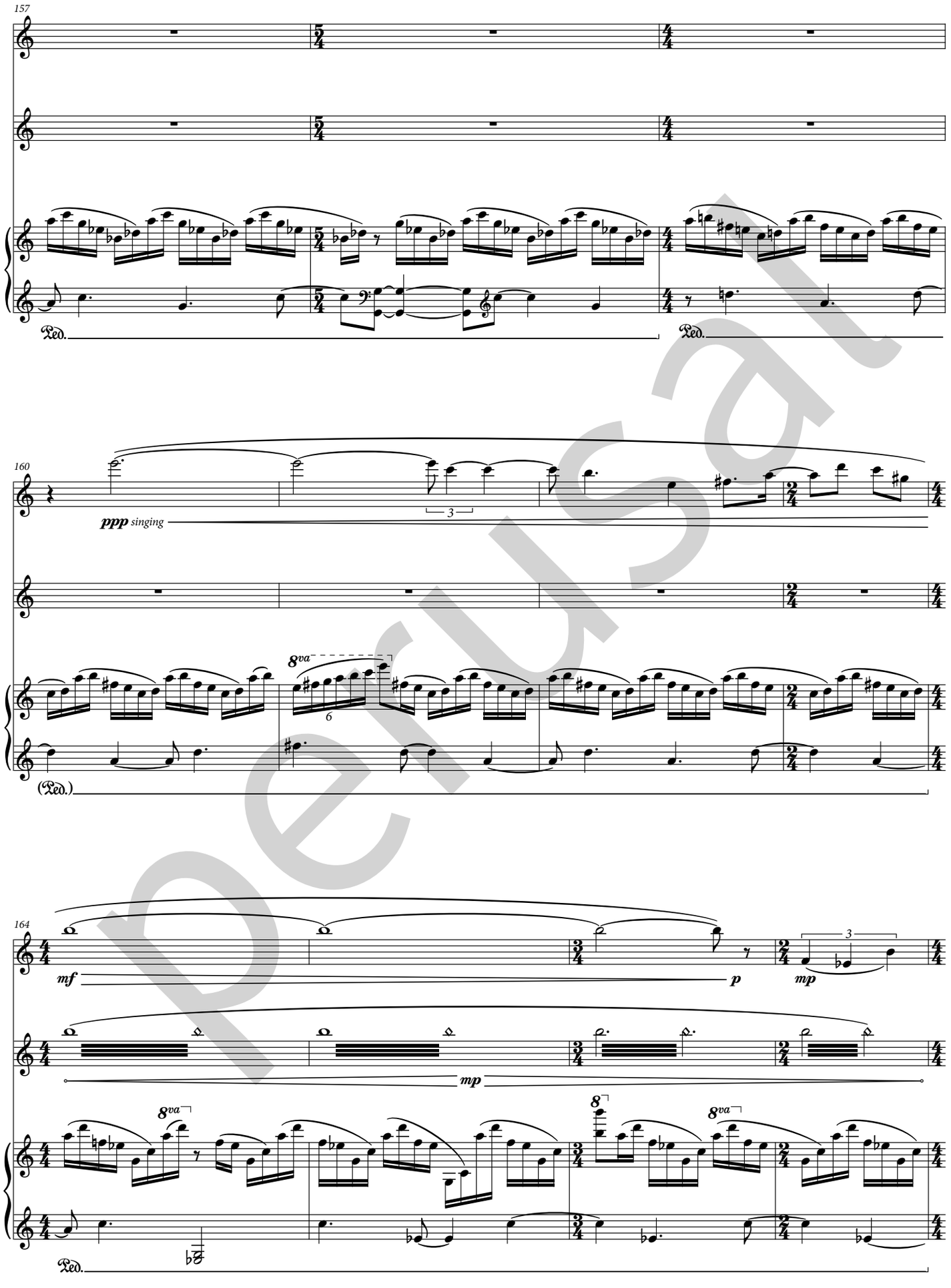
perusal


136
pp
mp
mf
pizz.
p
arco
(8)
pp
p
mp
(Ped.)
Ped.
141
p
mf
p
8va
p
mf
p
(Ped.)
144
pp
8va
pp
ppp
(Ped.)

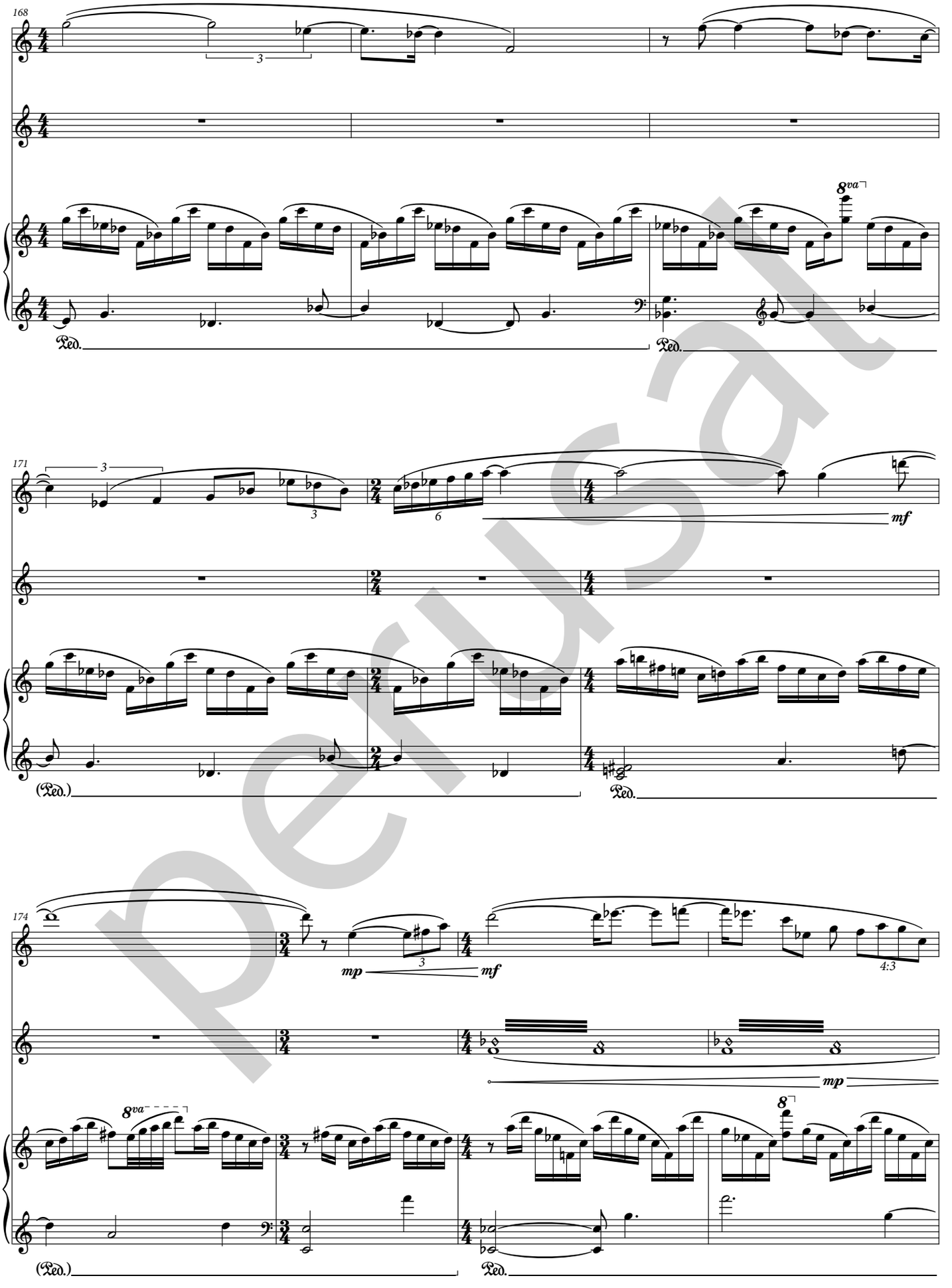
perusat


147
p
ppp
p
ppp
pp
Ped.
150
151 Flowing, lyrical
mp
mp
ppp
mp
(Ped.)
Ped.
154
8va
p fluidly
(Ped.)

perusal


157
Ped.
Ped.
160
ppp singing
3
8va
6
(Ped.)
164
mf
p
mp
3
mp
8va
8
8va
Ped.

perusal



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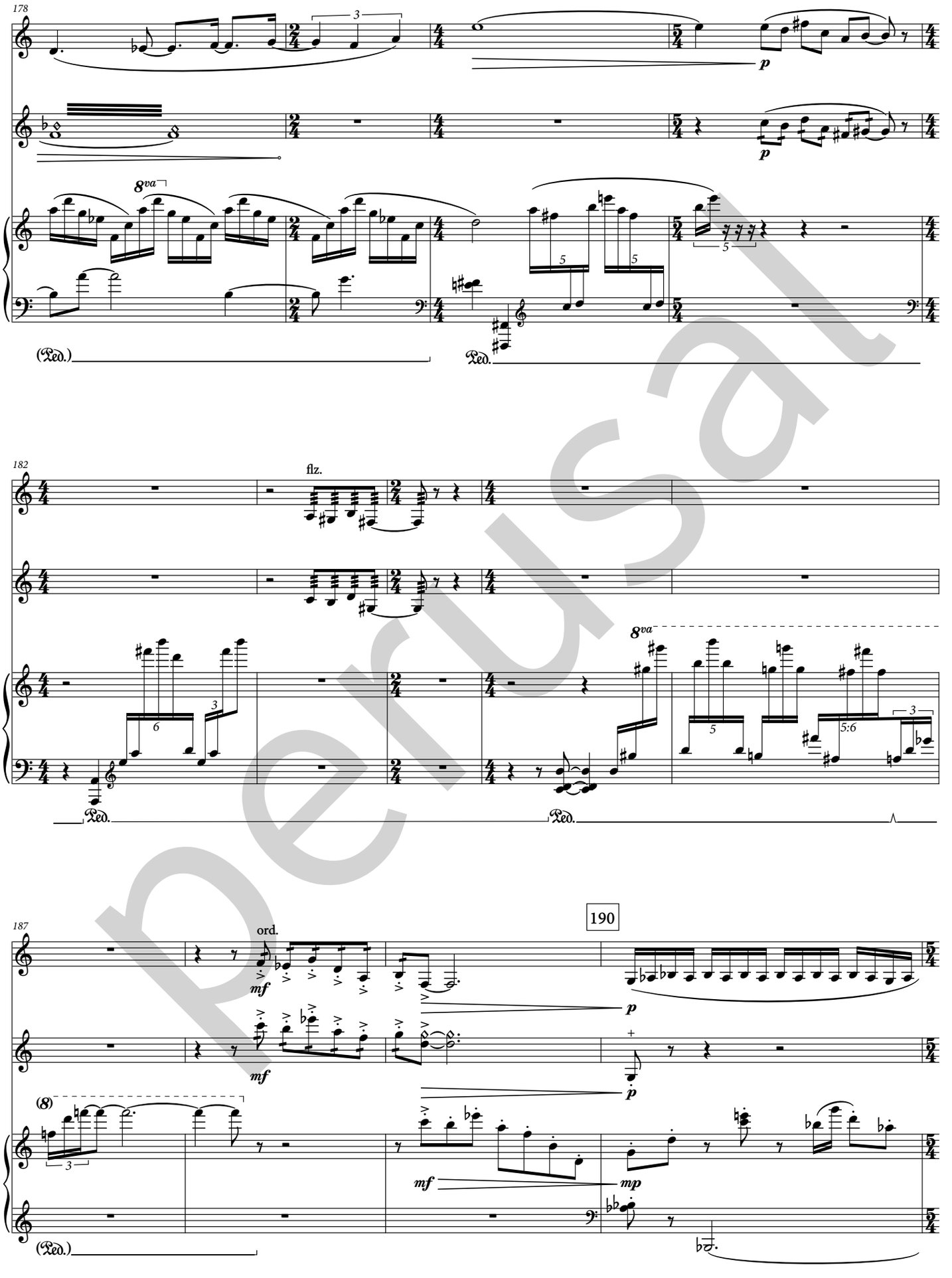

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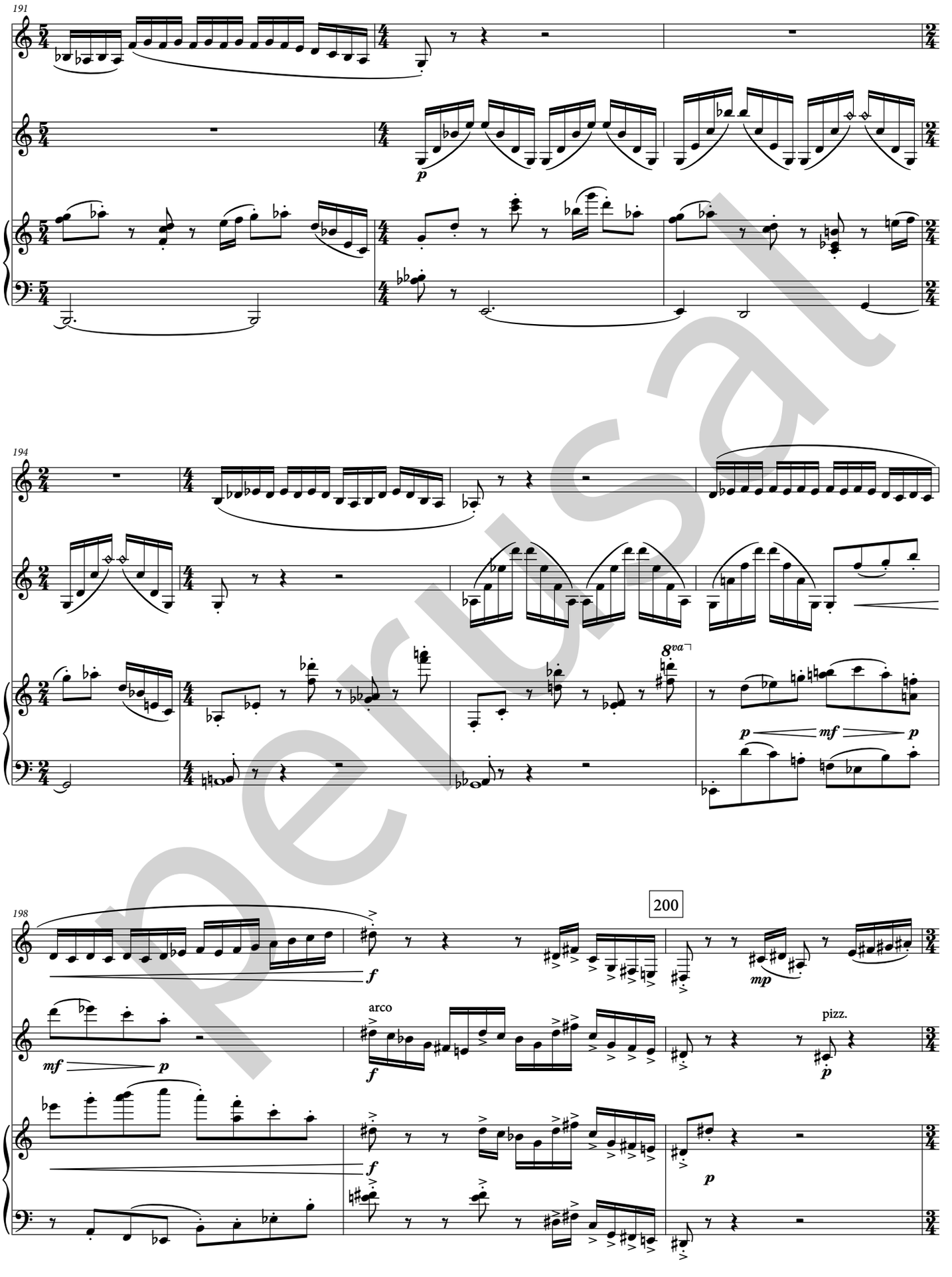
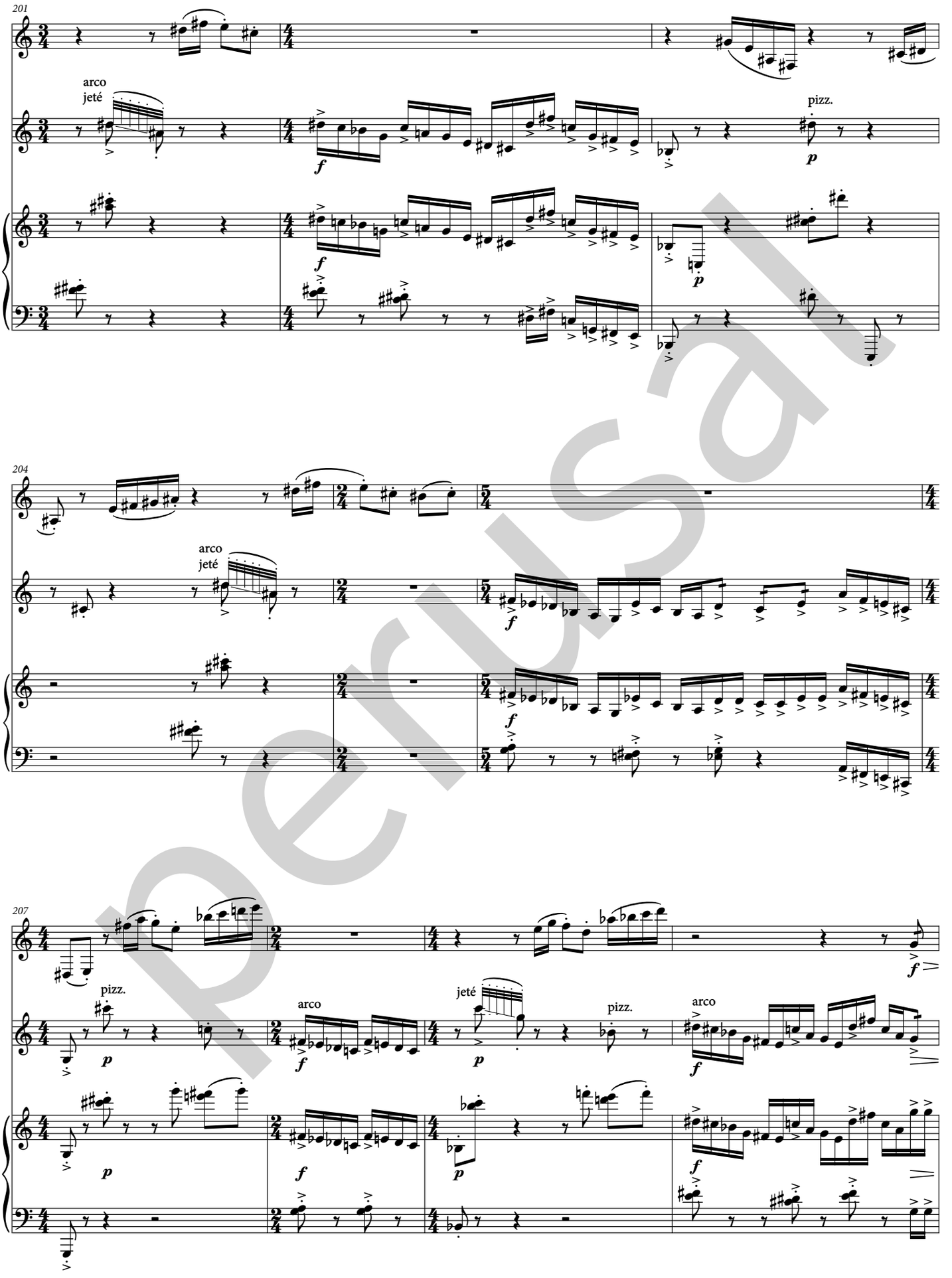
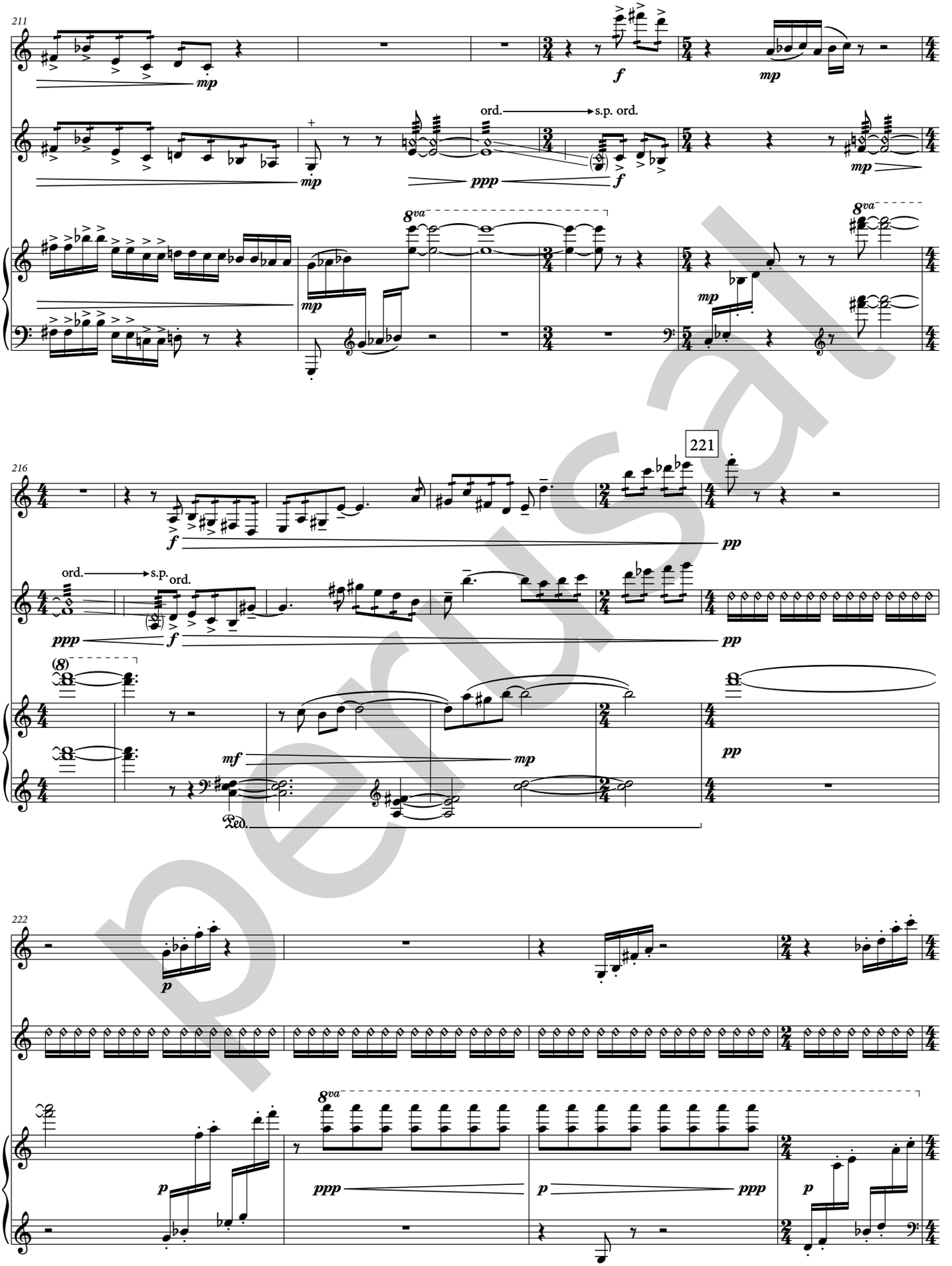


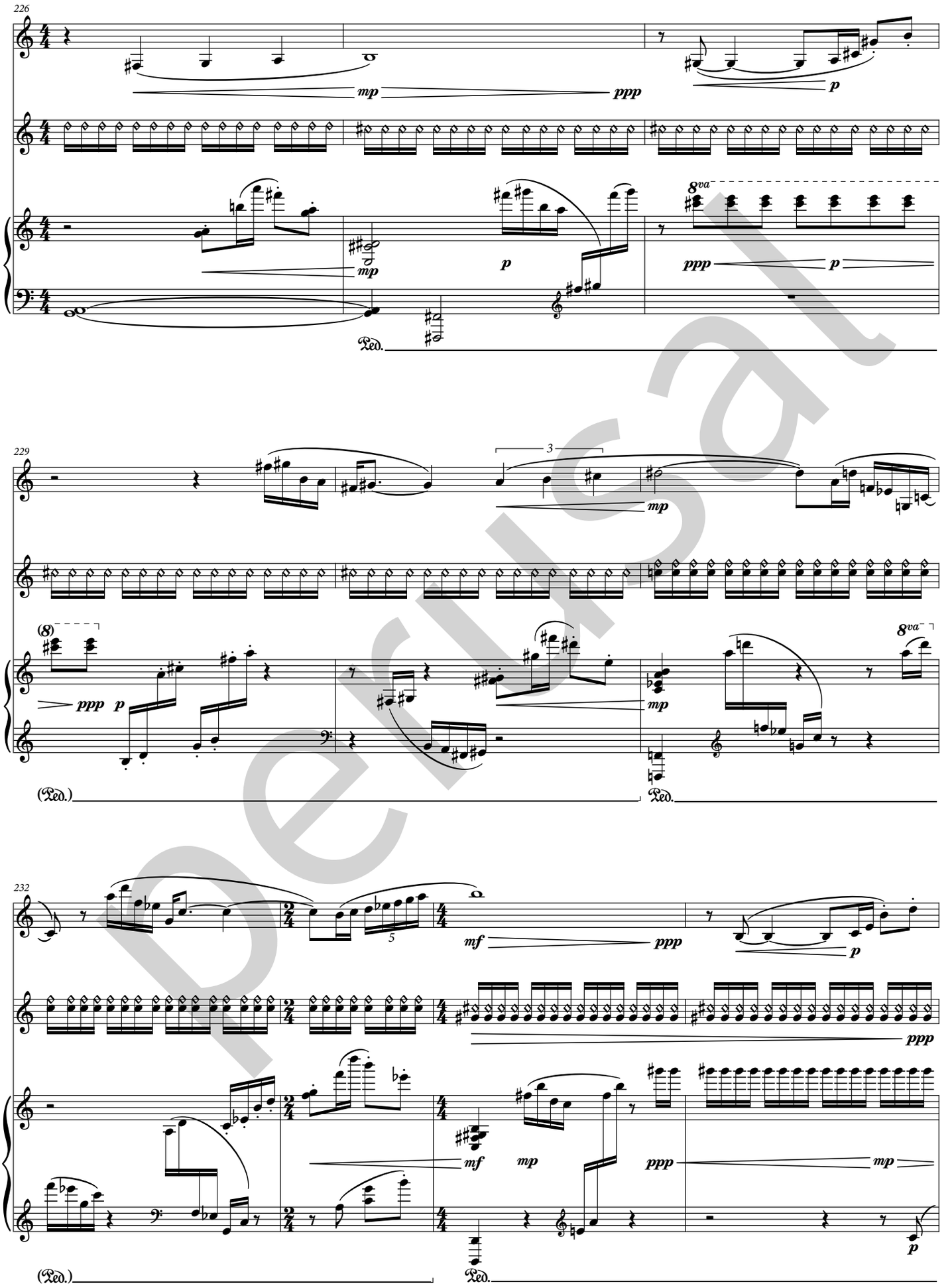
persisat



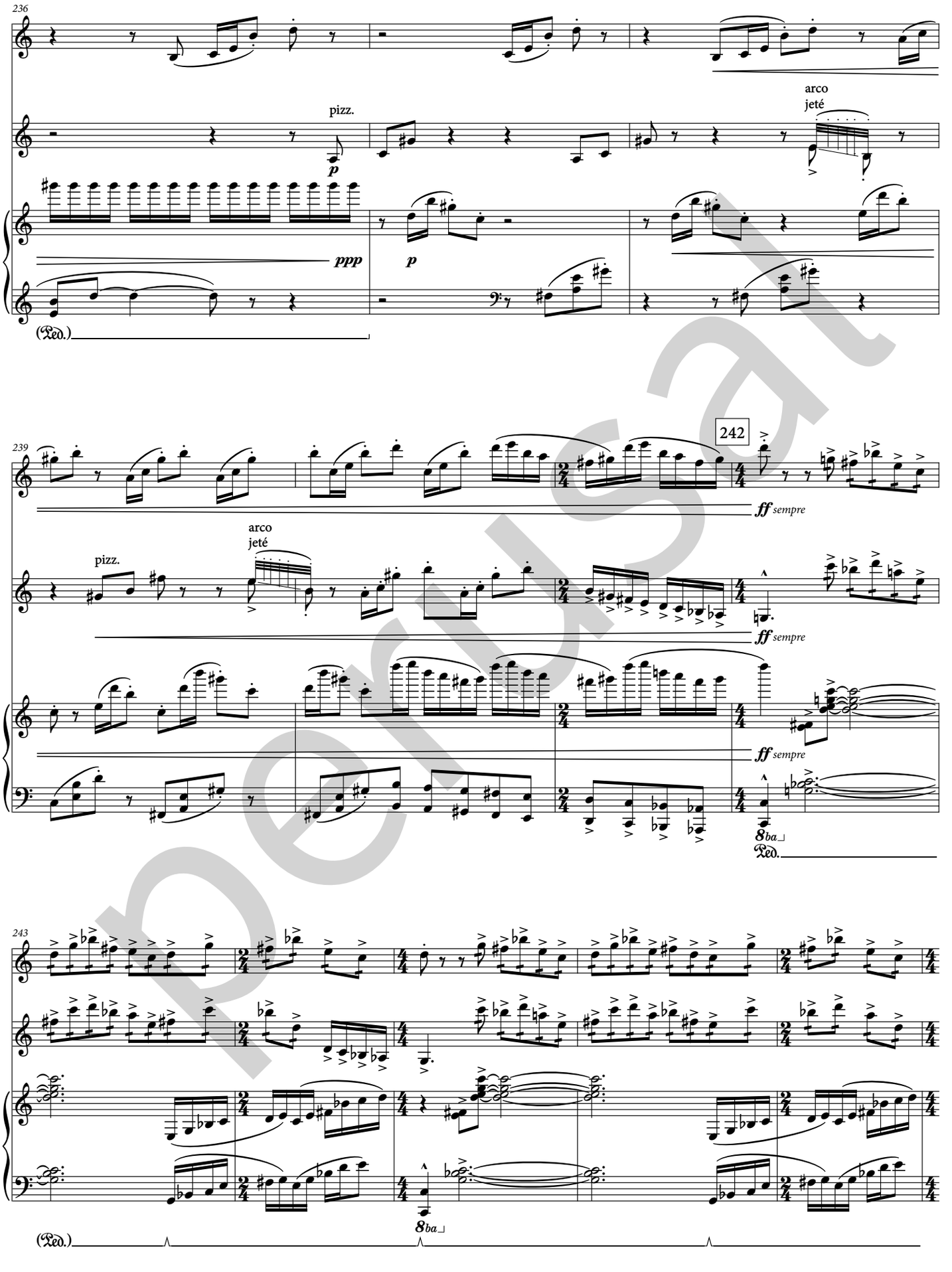
persal


211
mp
f
mp
ord.
s.p. ord.
ppp
f
mp
8va
mp
8va
216
f
pp
221
ord.
s.p.
ord.
ppp
f
pp
(8)
mf
mp
pp
Ped.
222
p
8va
ppp
p
ppp
p

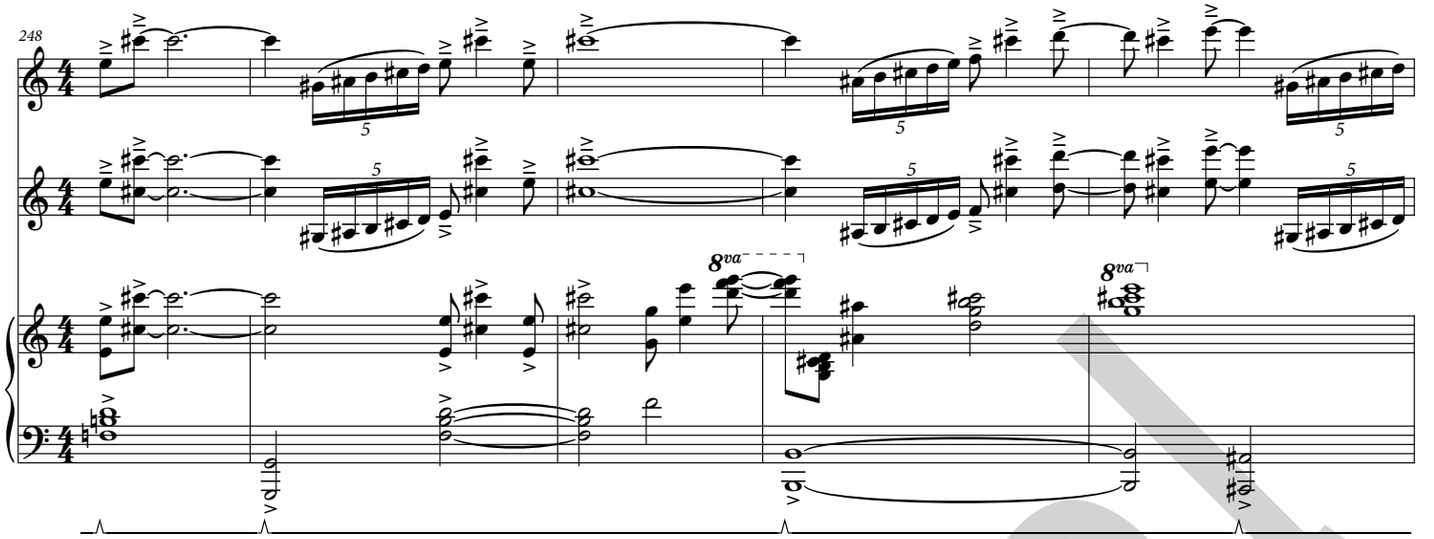
perusal

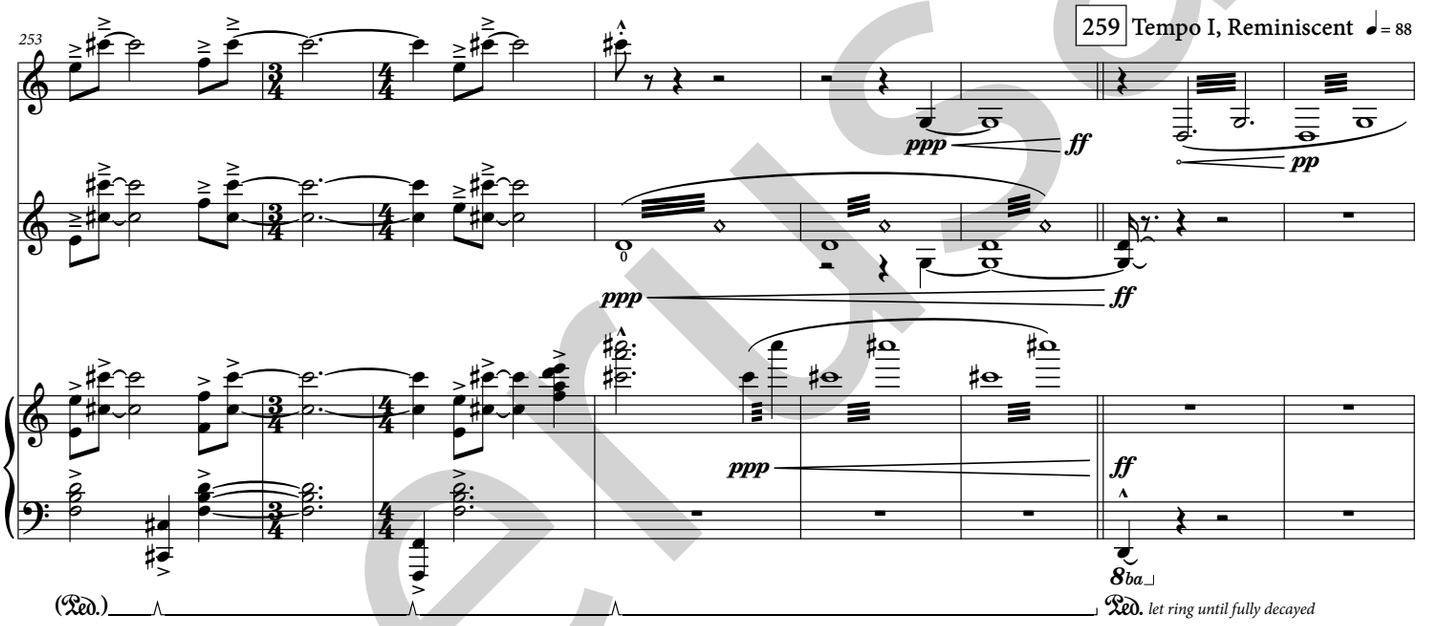

226
mp
ppp
p
8va
ppp
p
mp
p
Ped.
229
3
mp
(8)
ppp
p
mp
8va
(Ped.)
Ped.
232
mf
ppp
p
5
ppp
mf
mp
ppp
mp
p
(Ped.)
Ped.

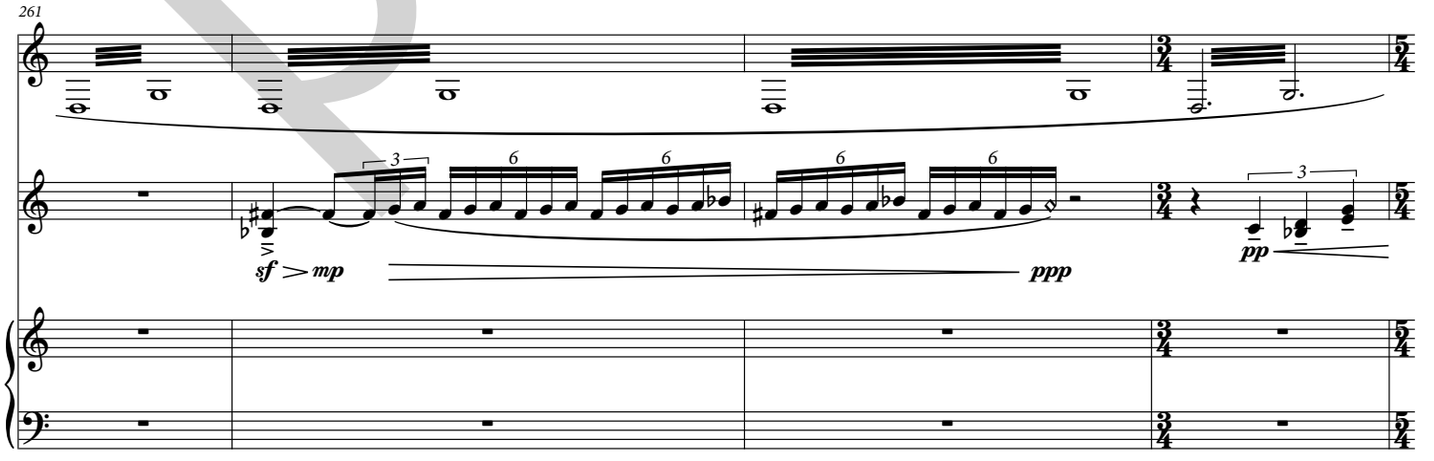
perusal


236
pizz.
arco
jeté
ppp
p
(Ped.)
239
242
ff sempre
pizz.
arco
jeté
ff sempre
ff sempre
8ba
(Ped.)
243
8ba
(Ped.)

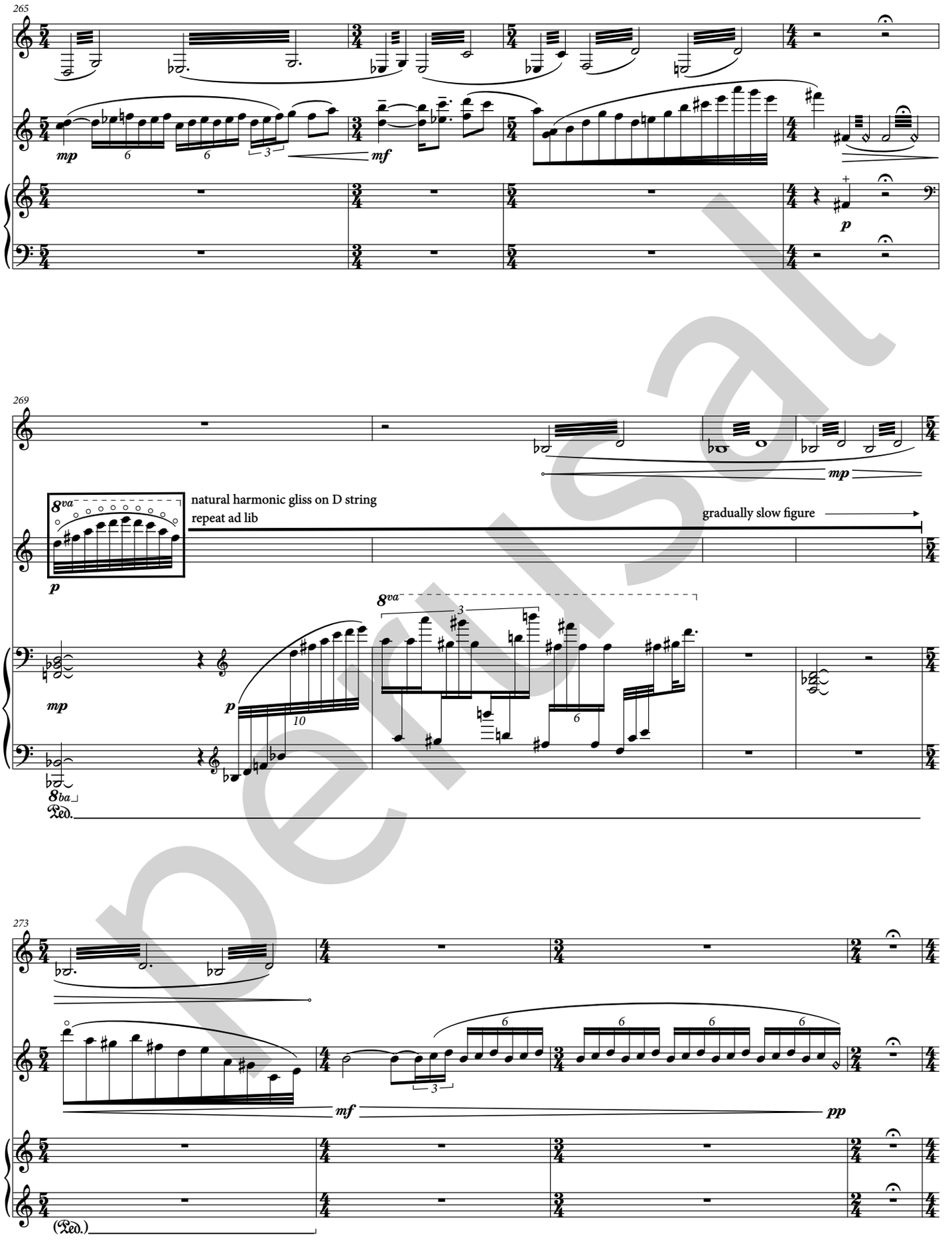
perusa


248
8va
8va

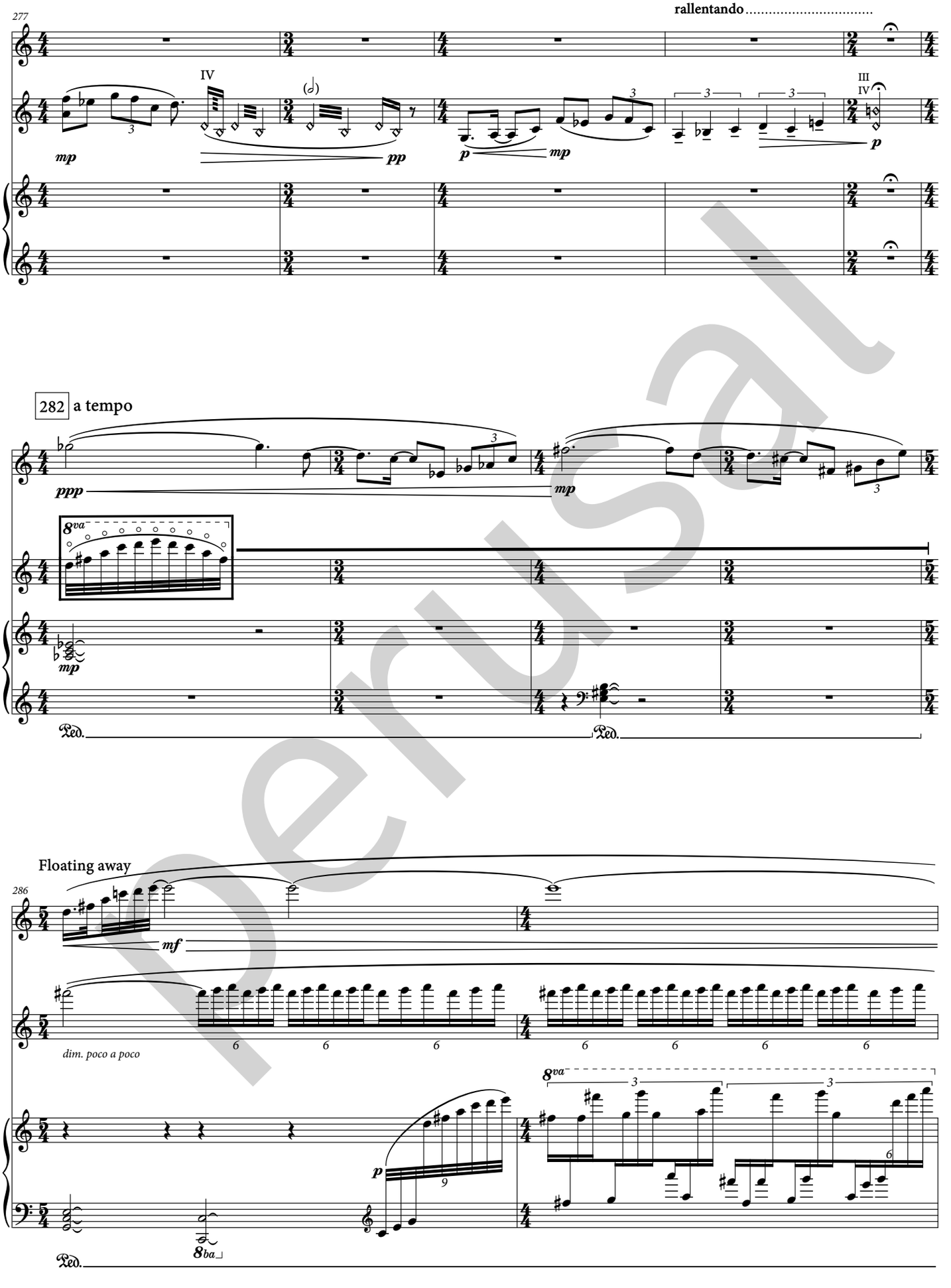

253
259 Tempo I, Reminiscent ♩= 88
ppp
ff
pp
ppp
ff
ppp
ff
8ba
(Ped.)
Ped. let ring until fully decayed


261
sf > mp
ppp
pp

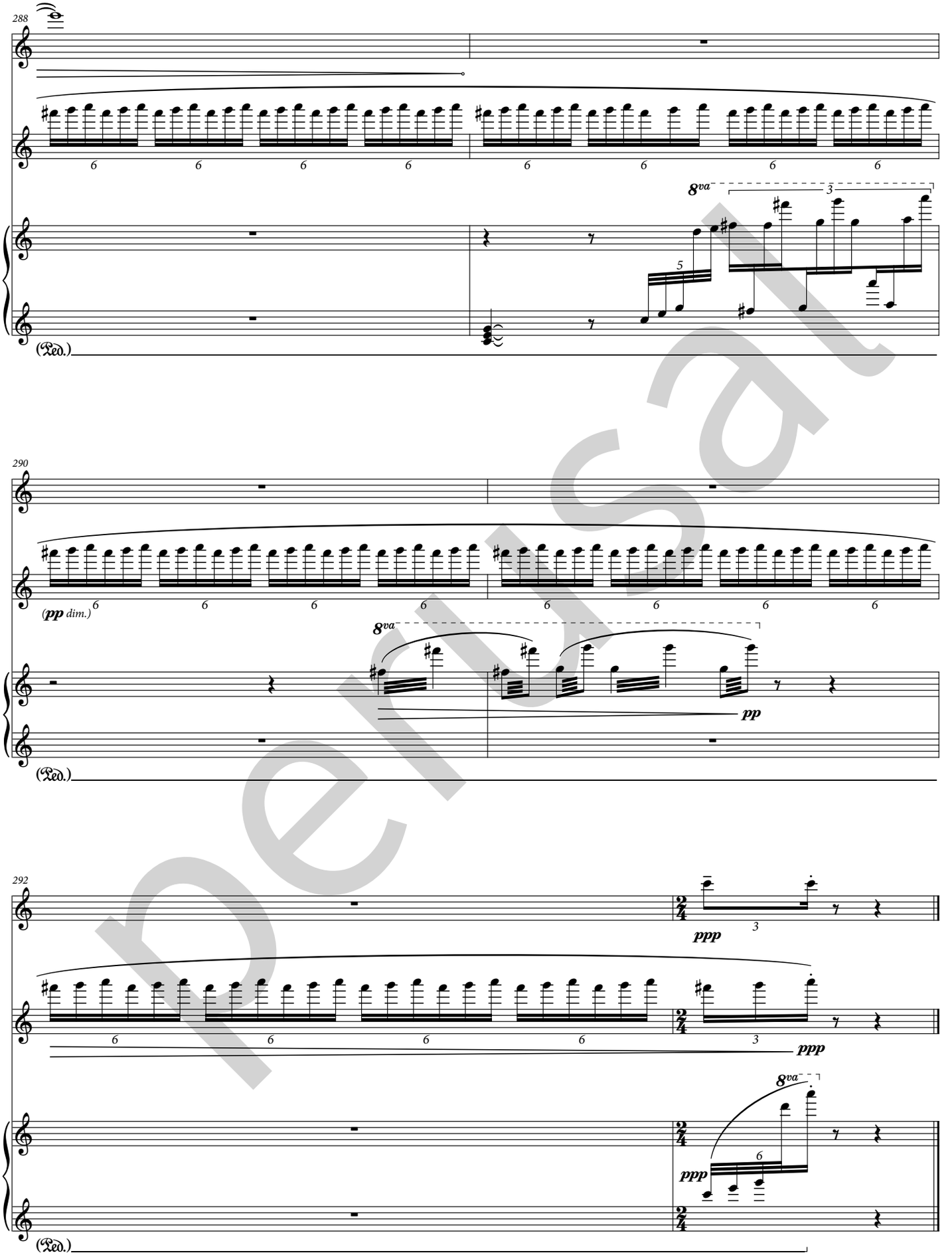
perusal


265
mp
mf
p
269
8va
natural harmonic gliss on D string
repeat ad lib
gradually slow figure
mp
p
8va
8ba
Ped.
273
mf
pp
(Ped.)

perusal


277
rallentando
IV
III
IV
mp
pp
p
mp
p
282 a tempo
ppp
mp
8va
mp
Ped.
Ped.
Floating away
286
mf
dim. poco a poco
8va
p
8ba
Ped.

perusal



perusal

August 25th, 2021
Jersey City, NJ