Alex Stephenson

LOGARITHMS OF A LANDSCAPE

(2025)

six short movements for string quartet

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

Score
2025.07.29.1

DURATION: 11 minutes

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TO CONTACT THE COMPOSER

alex@alexstephenson.com

PROGRAM NOTE

In his poem "Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror," John Ashbery describes New York as a "logarithm of other cities." Logarithms distill: the logarithm of 100 is just 2; the logarithm of 1000 just 3. In a way these six short, contrasted movements for string quartet are like logarithms, too. Although each one has a distinct character, under the surface there are connections between them. I think of them as distillations (logarithms) of some larger musical "landscape," glimpsed from different vantage points. The second, third, and fifth movements are idiosyncratic dances of various kinds; the first, an intense burst of energy; the fourth, a hymn that evolves into a playful variation on the first; and the sixth, a melancholic conclusion referencing the sound of an ancient viol consort.

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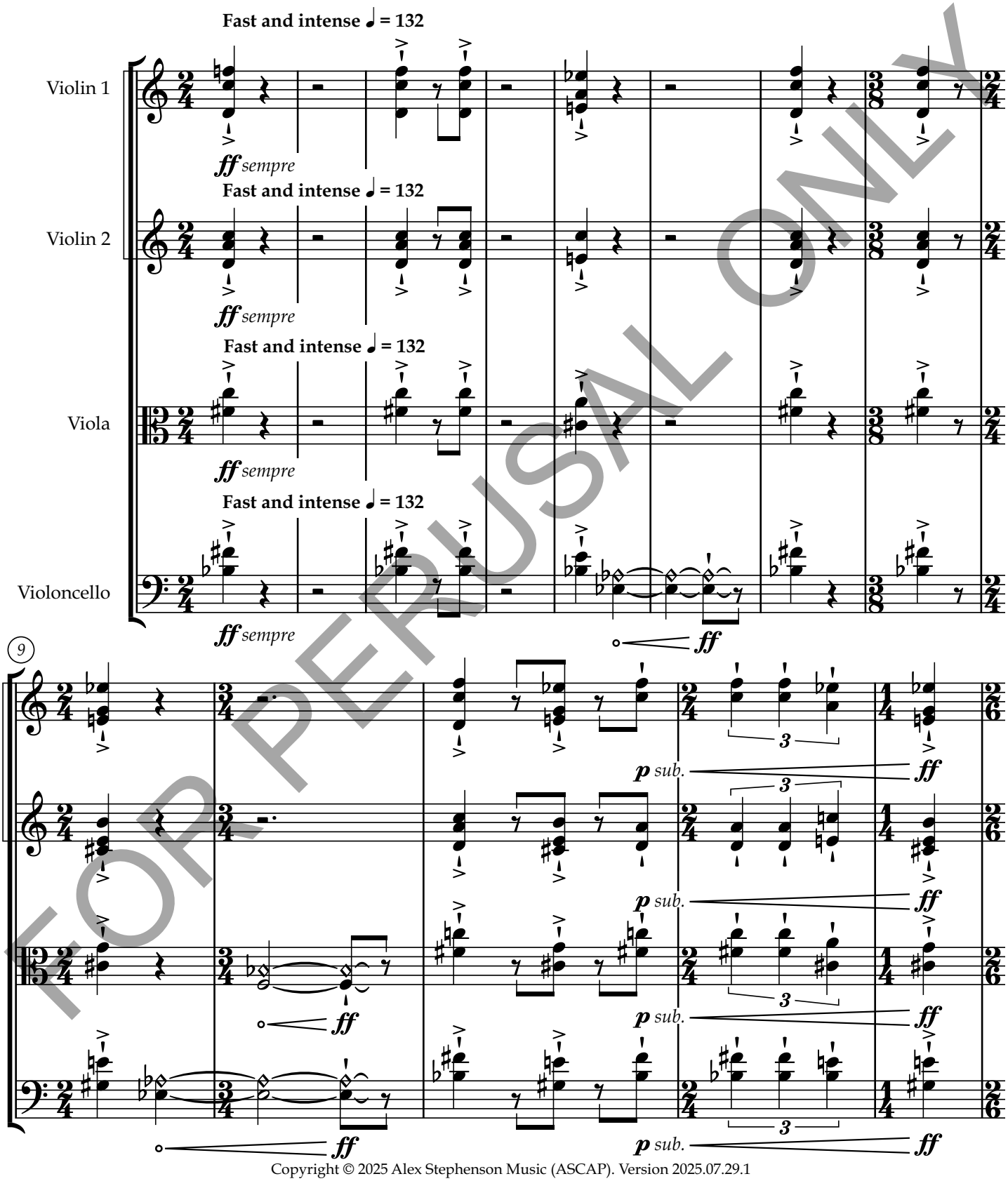
I



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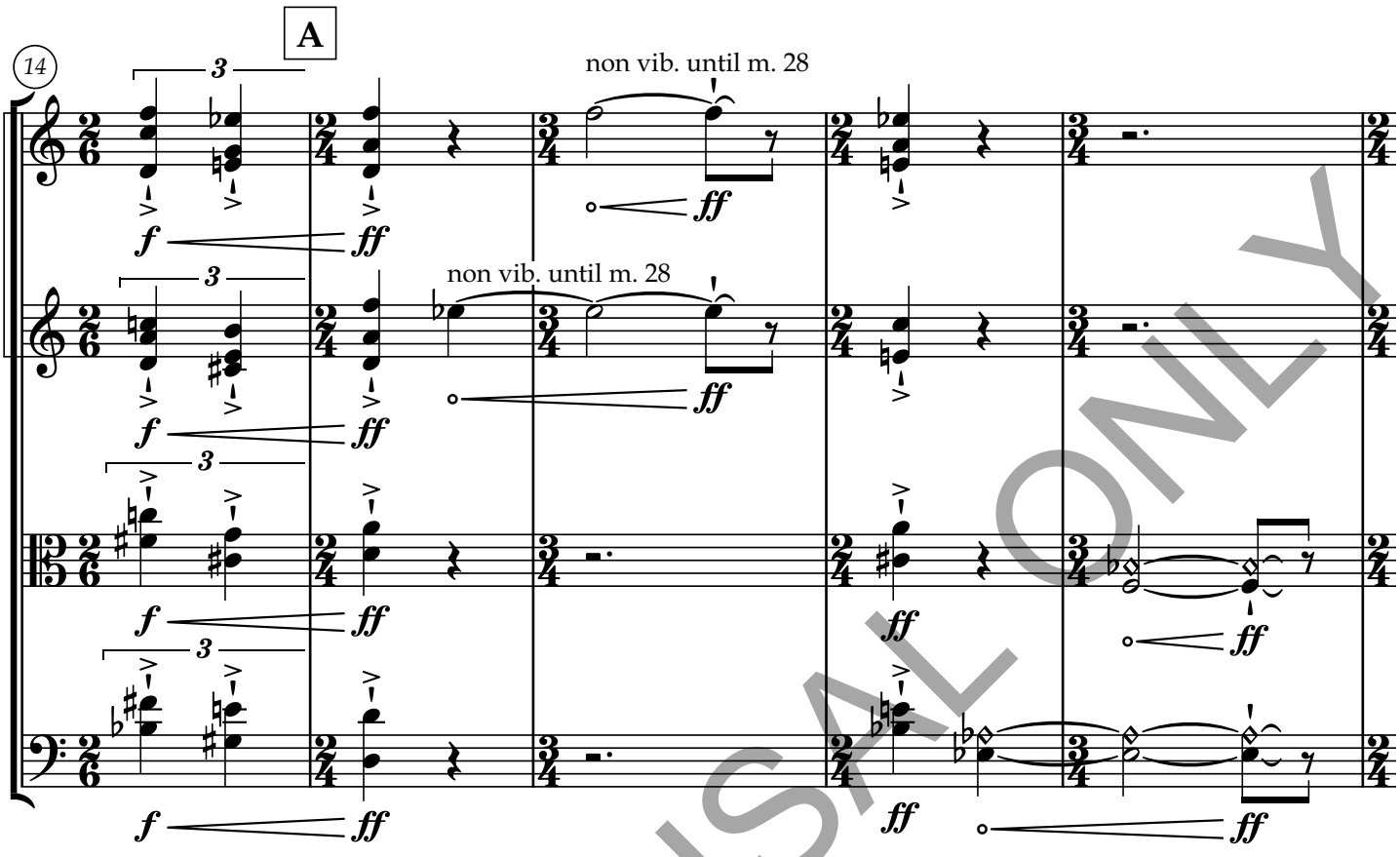

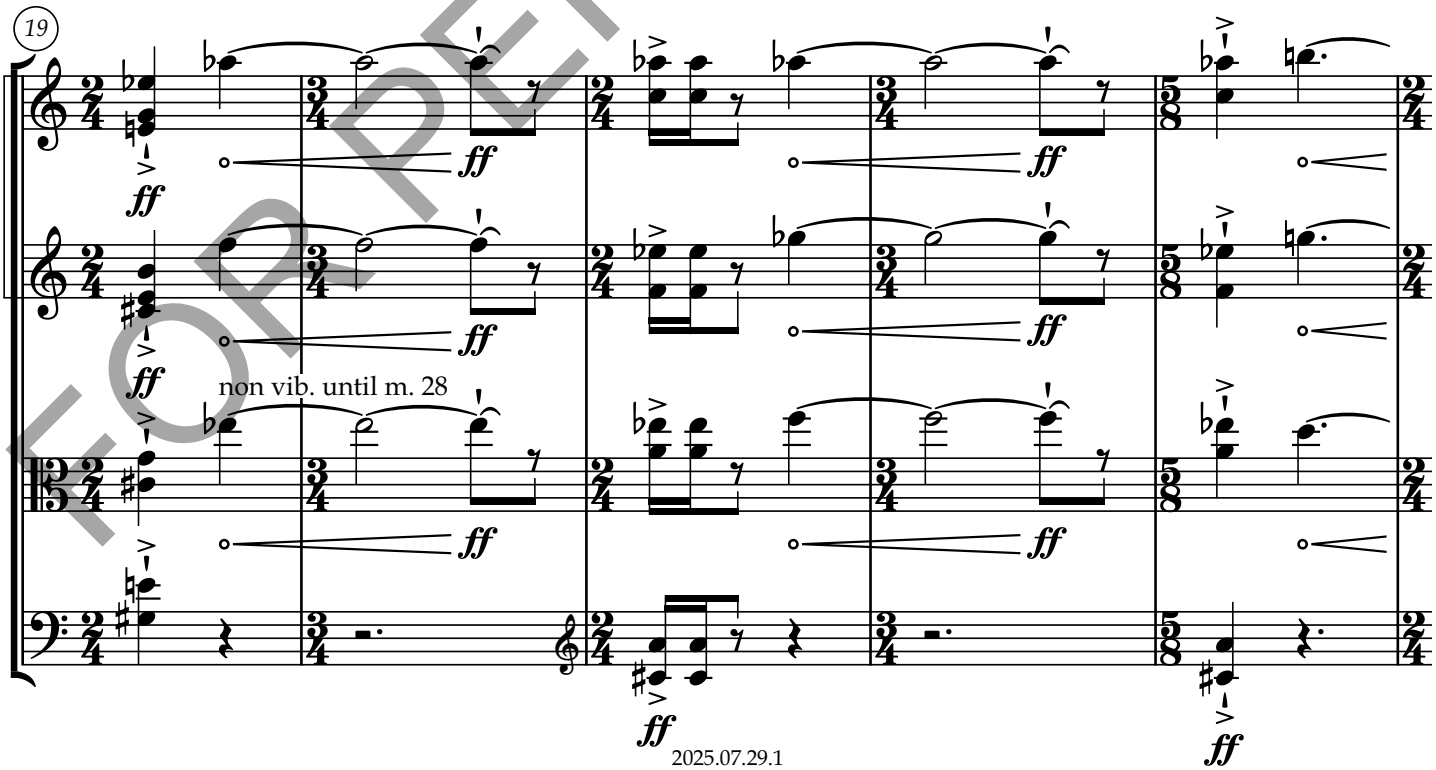

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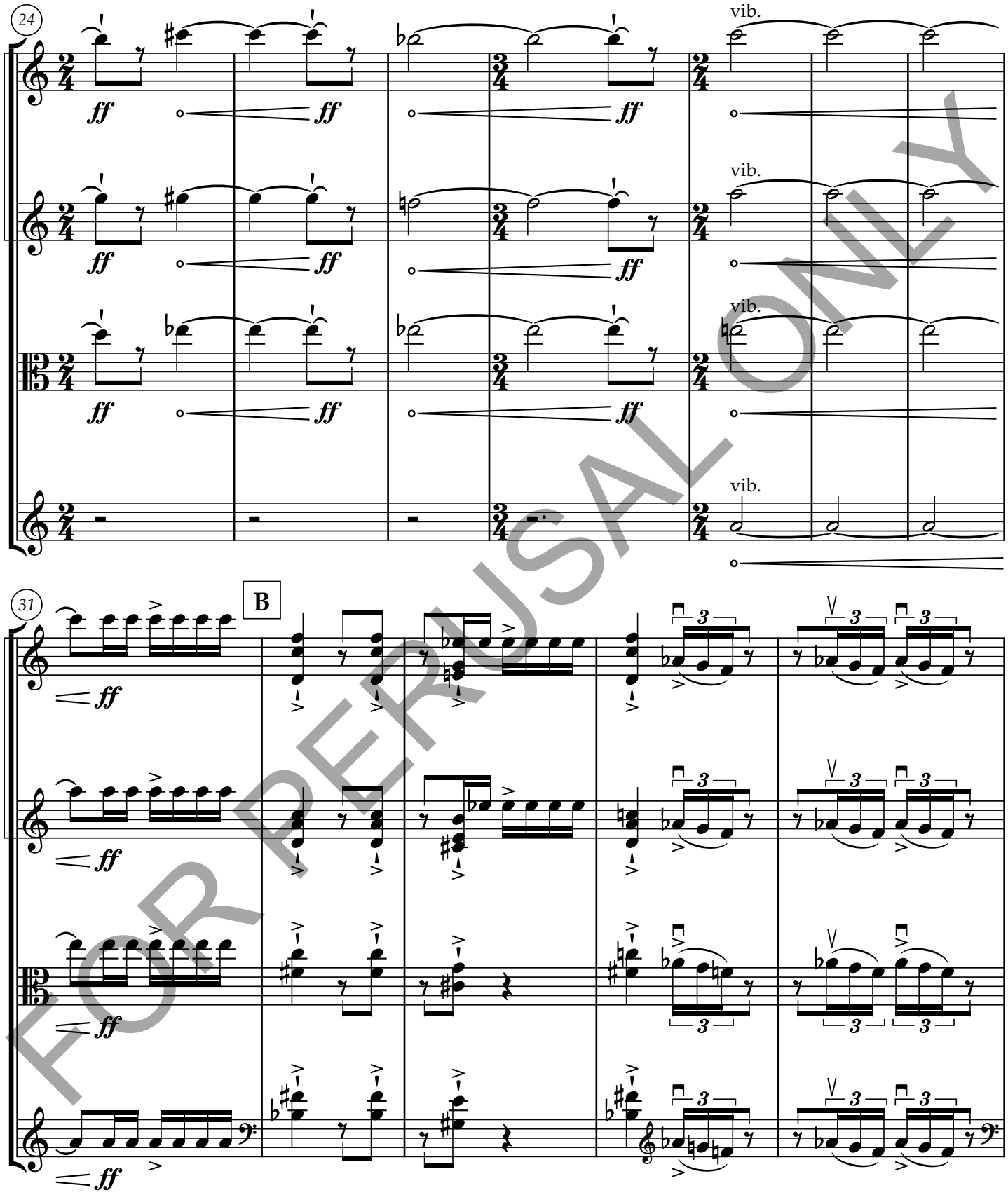

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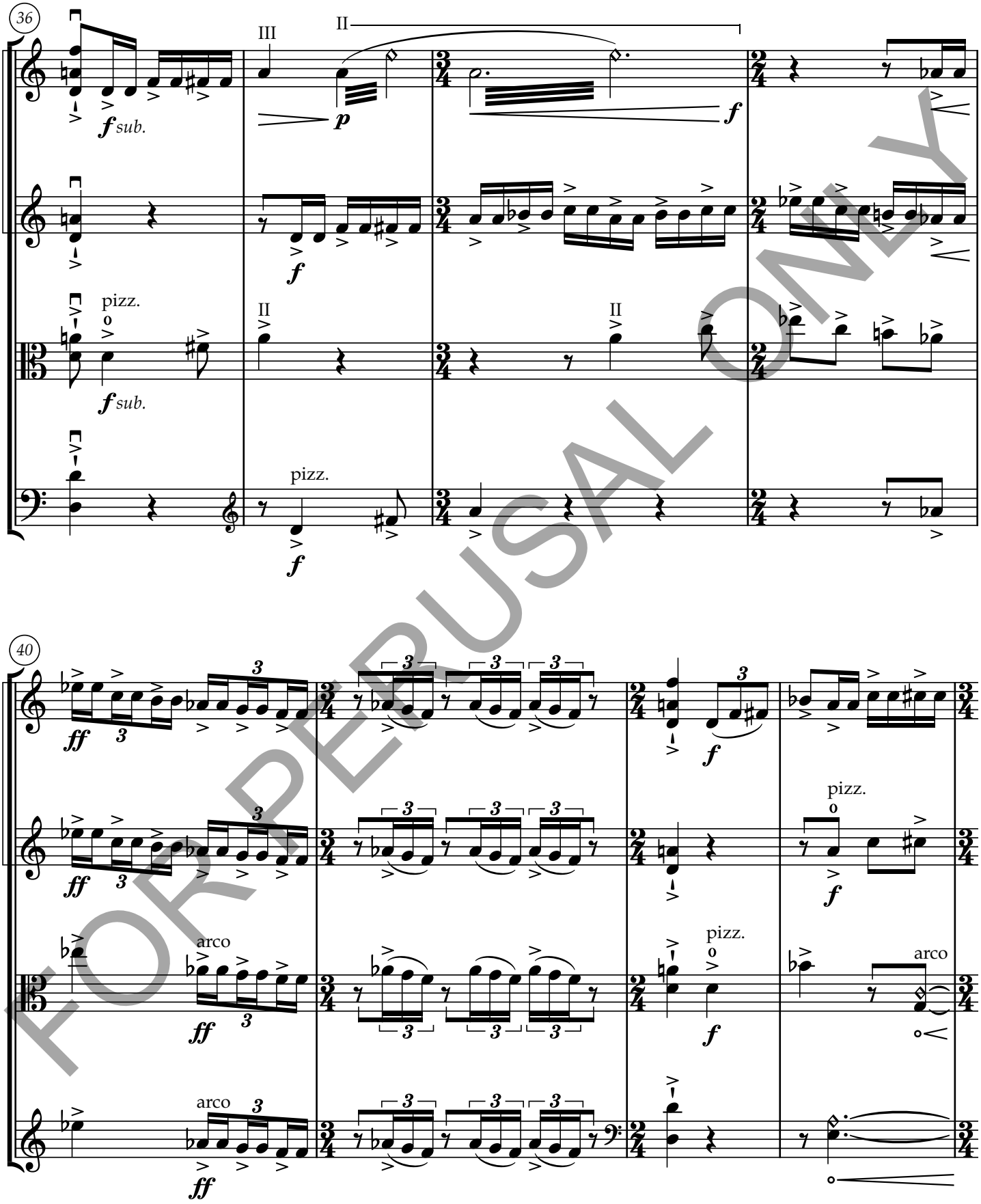

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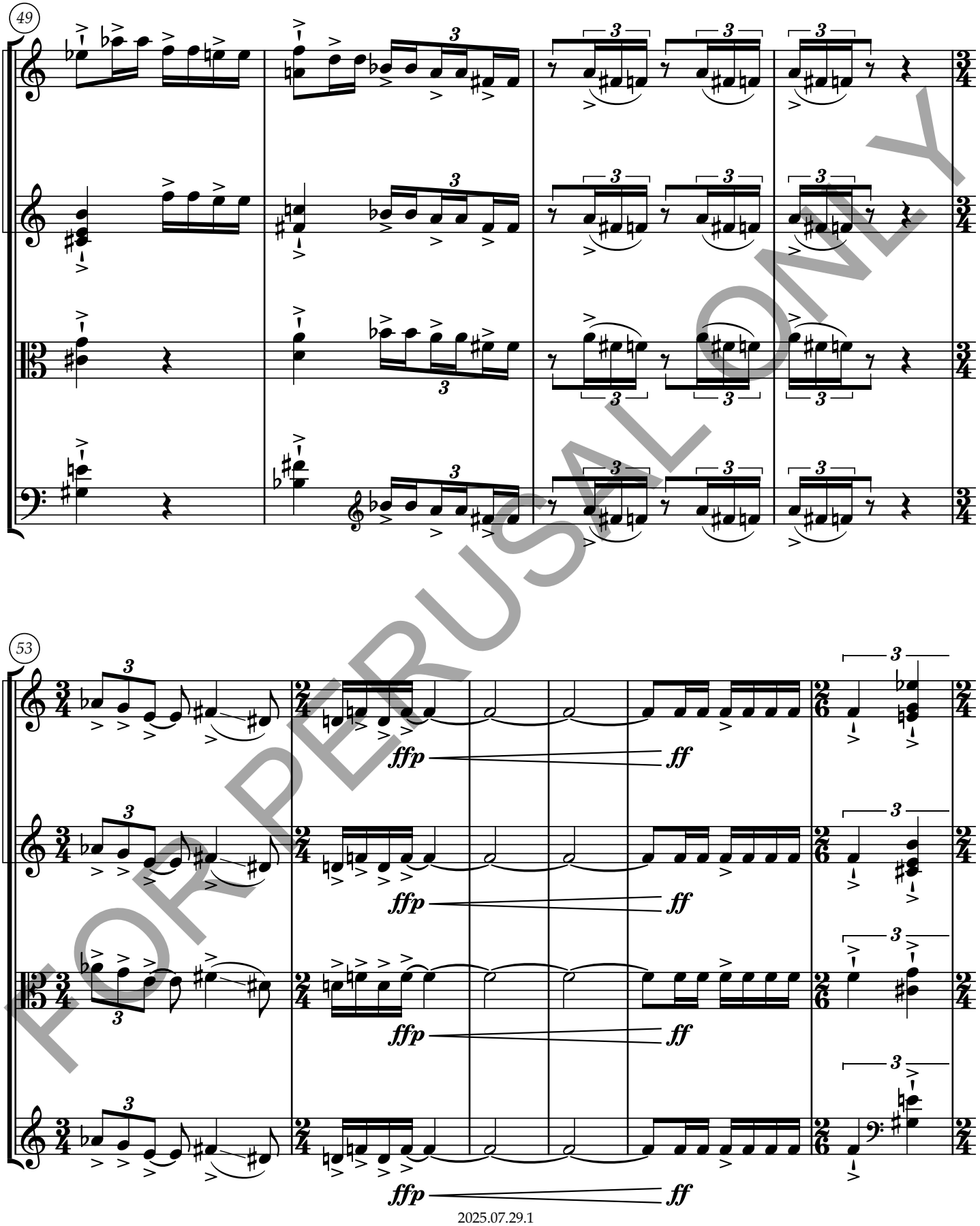

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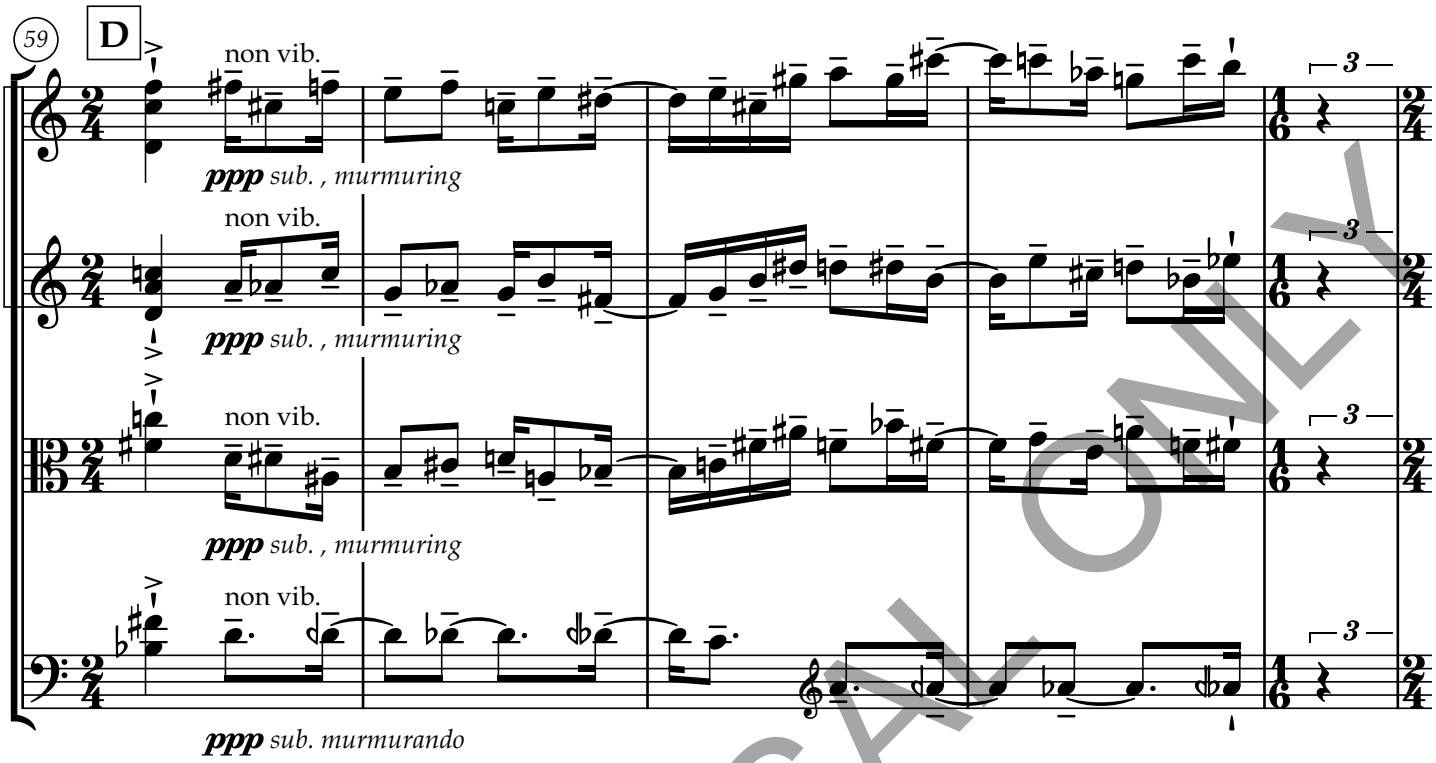

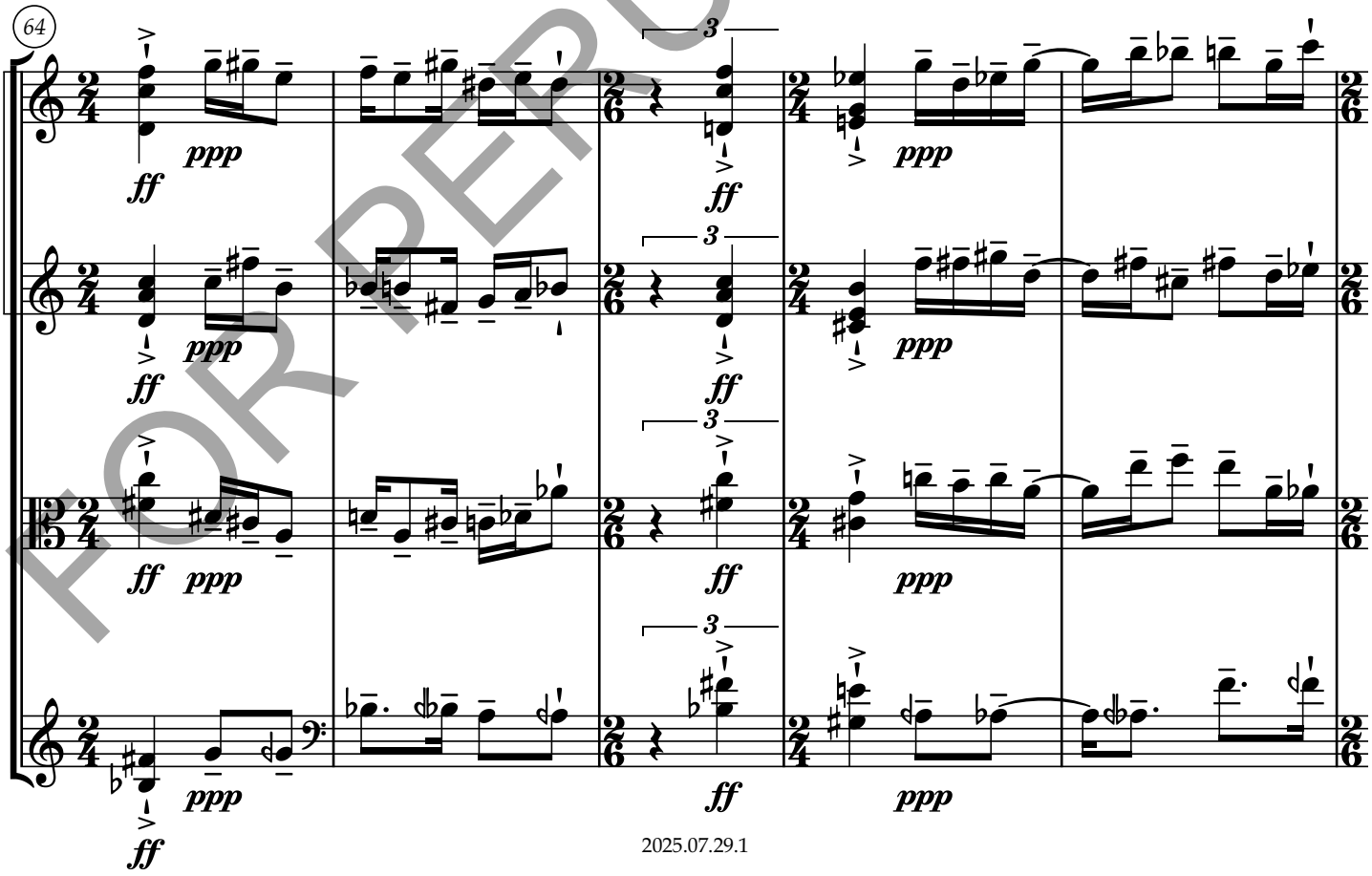

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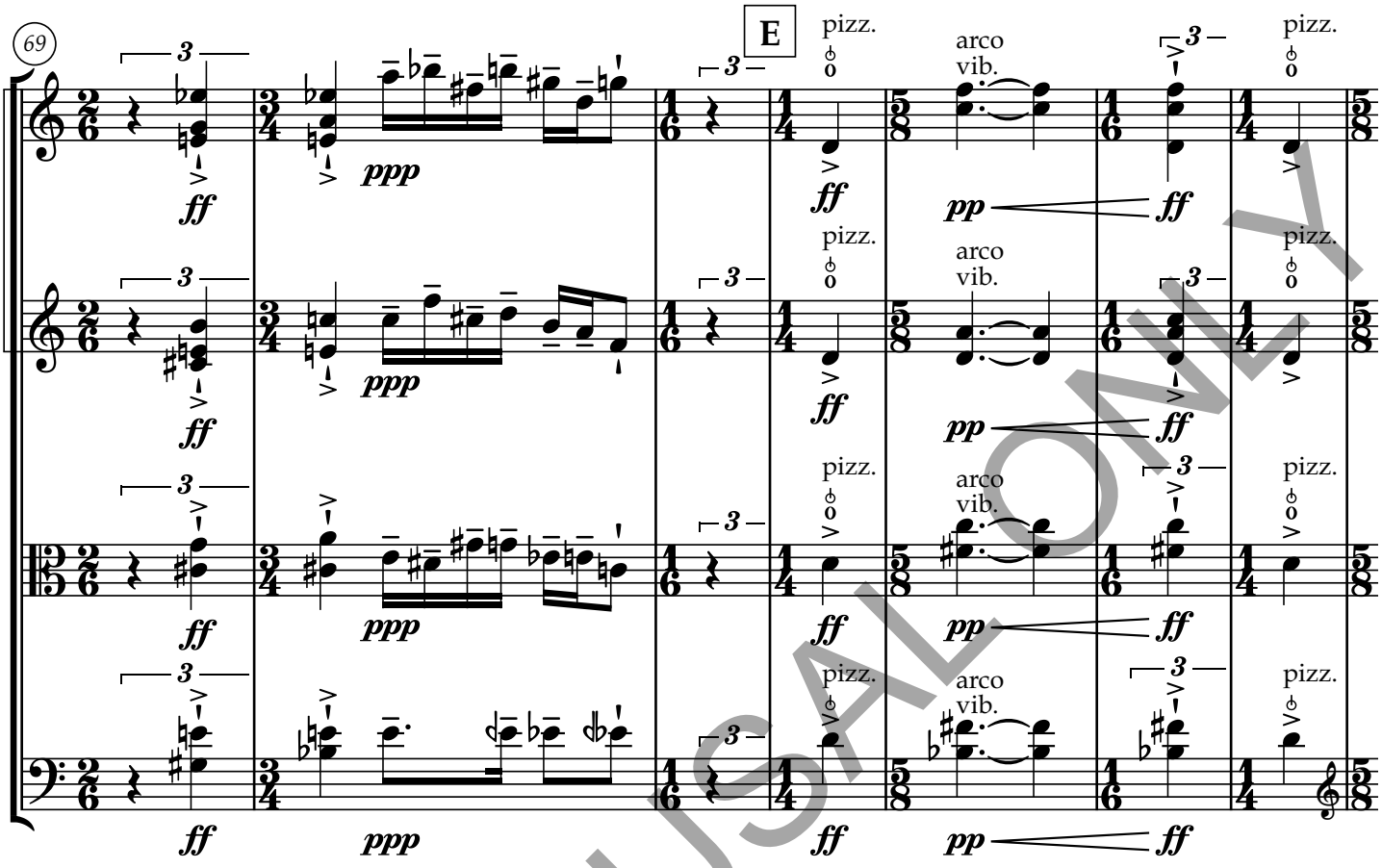

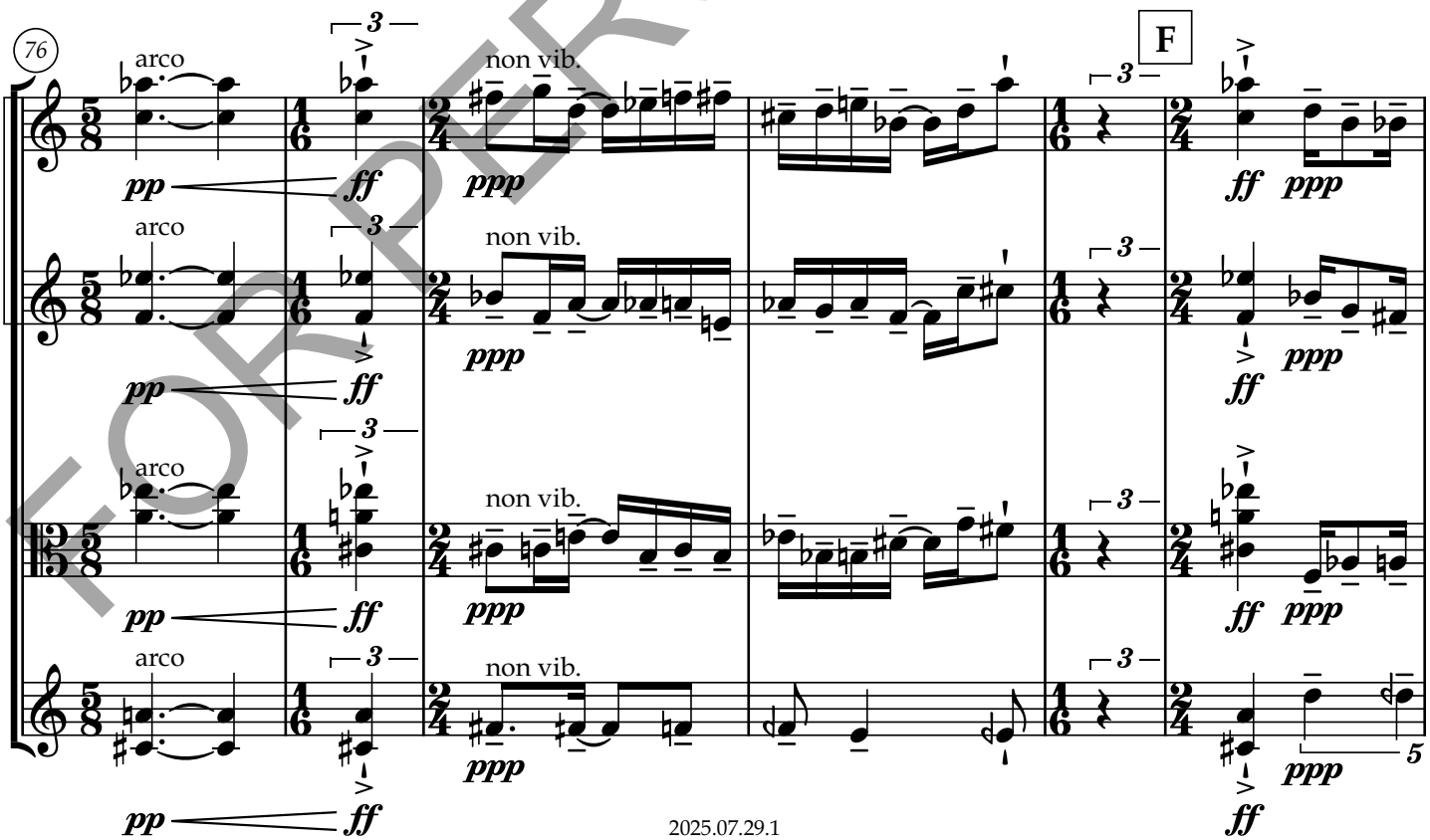

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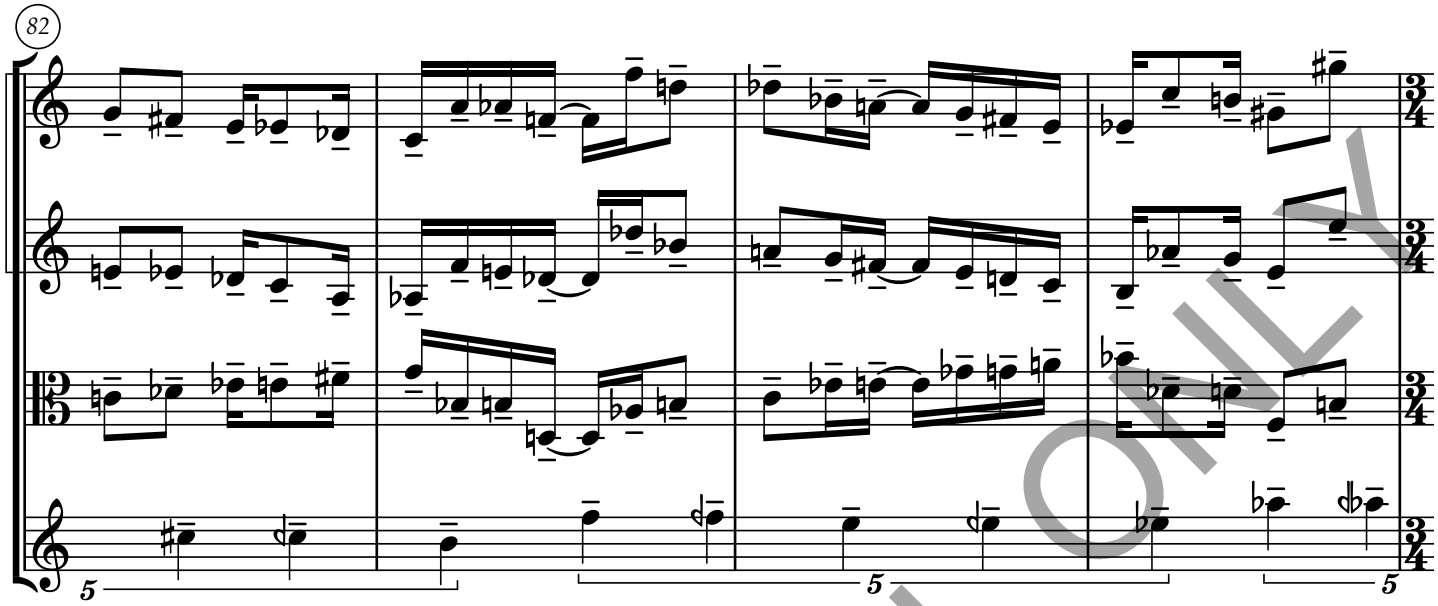

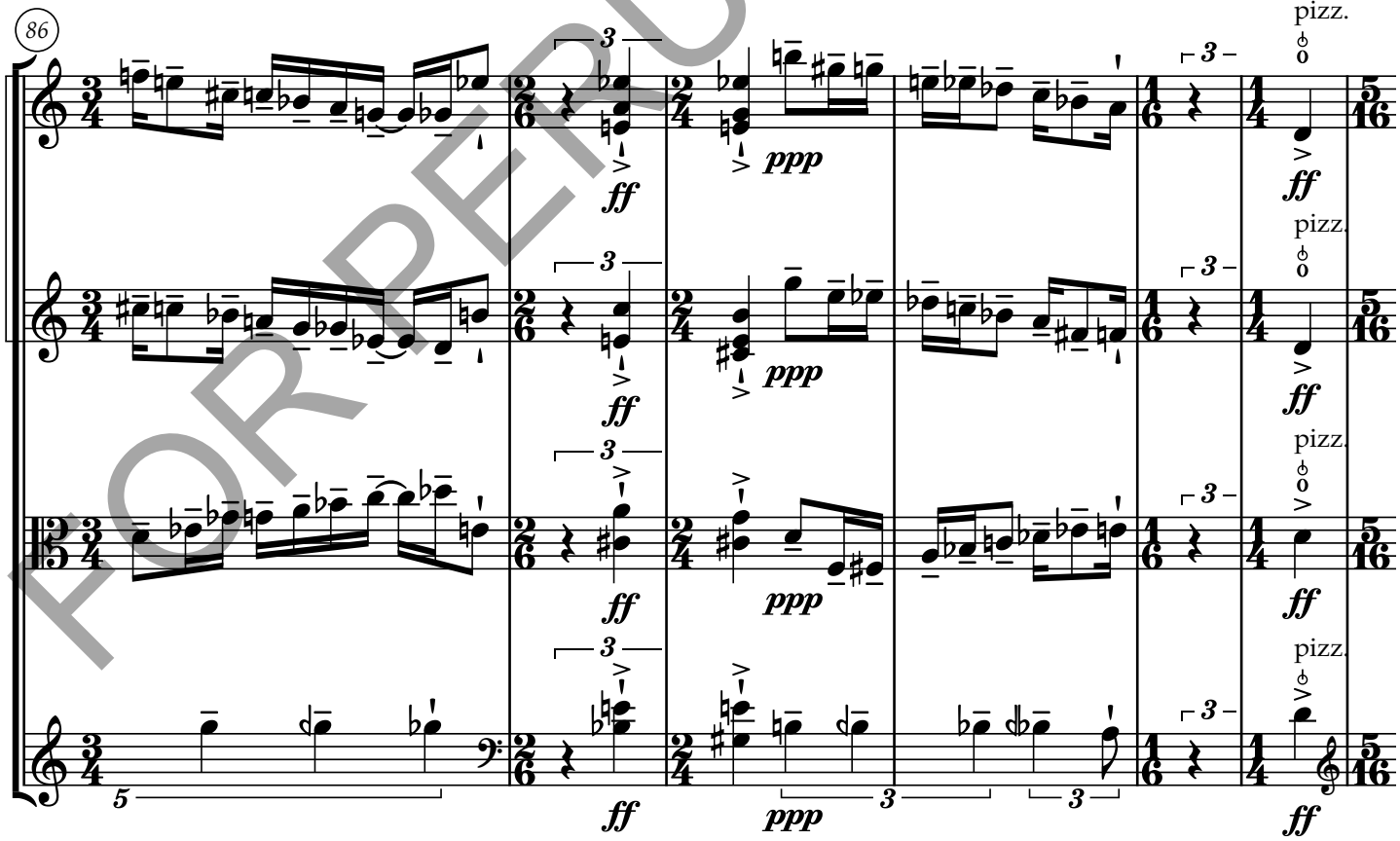

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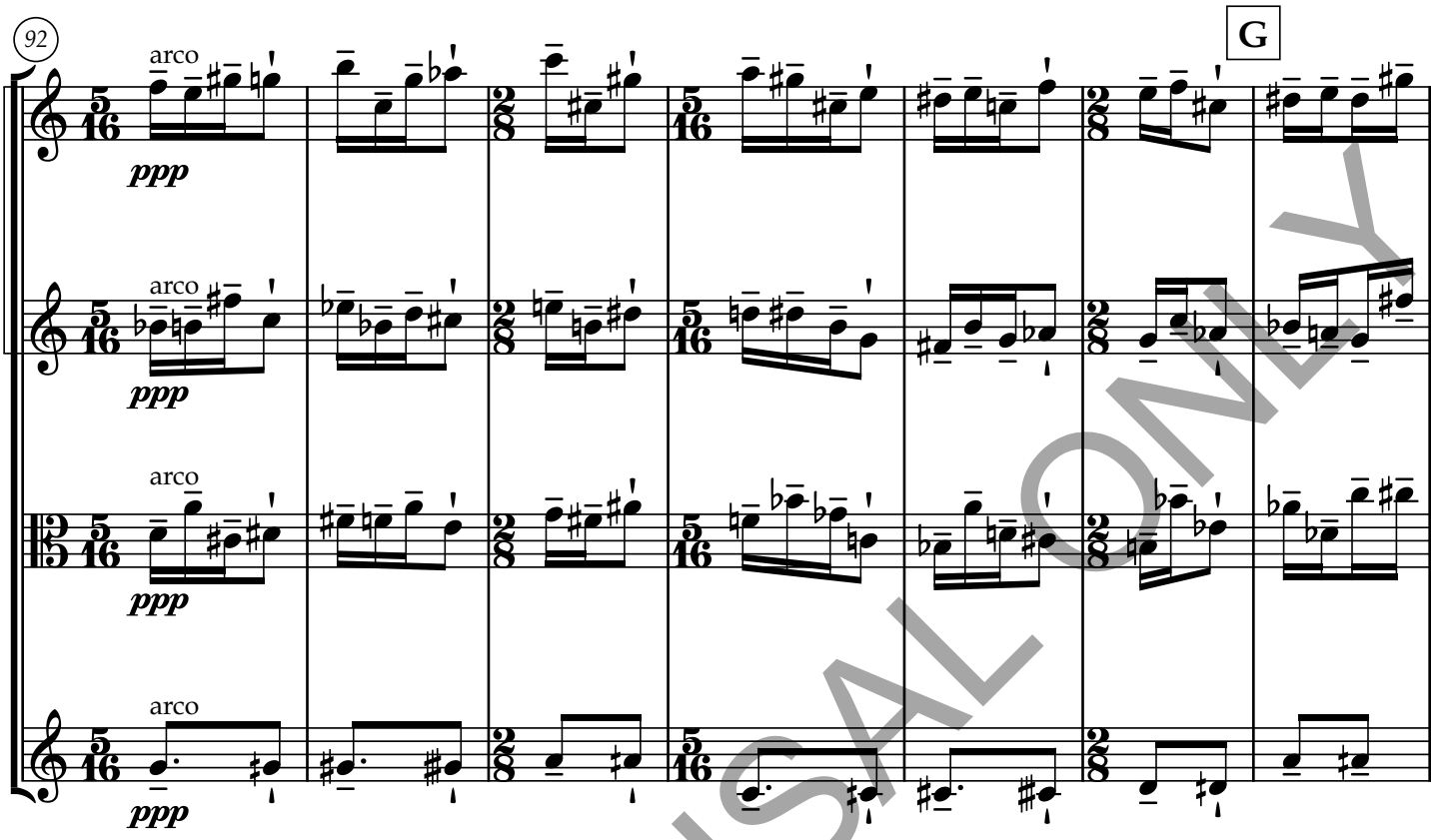

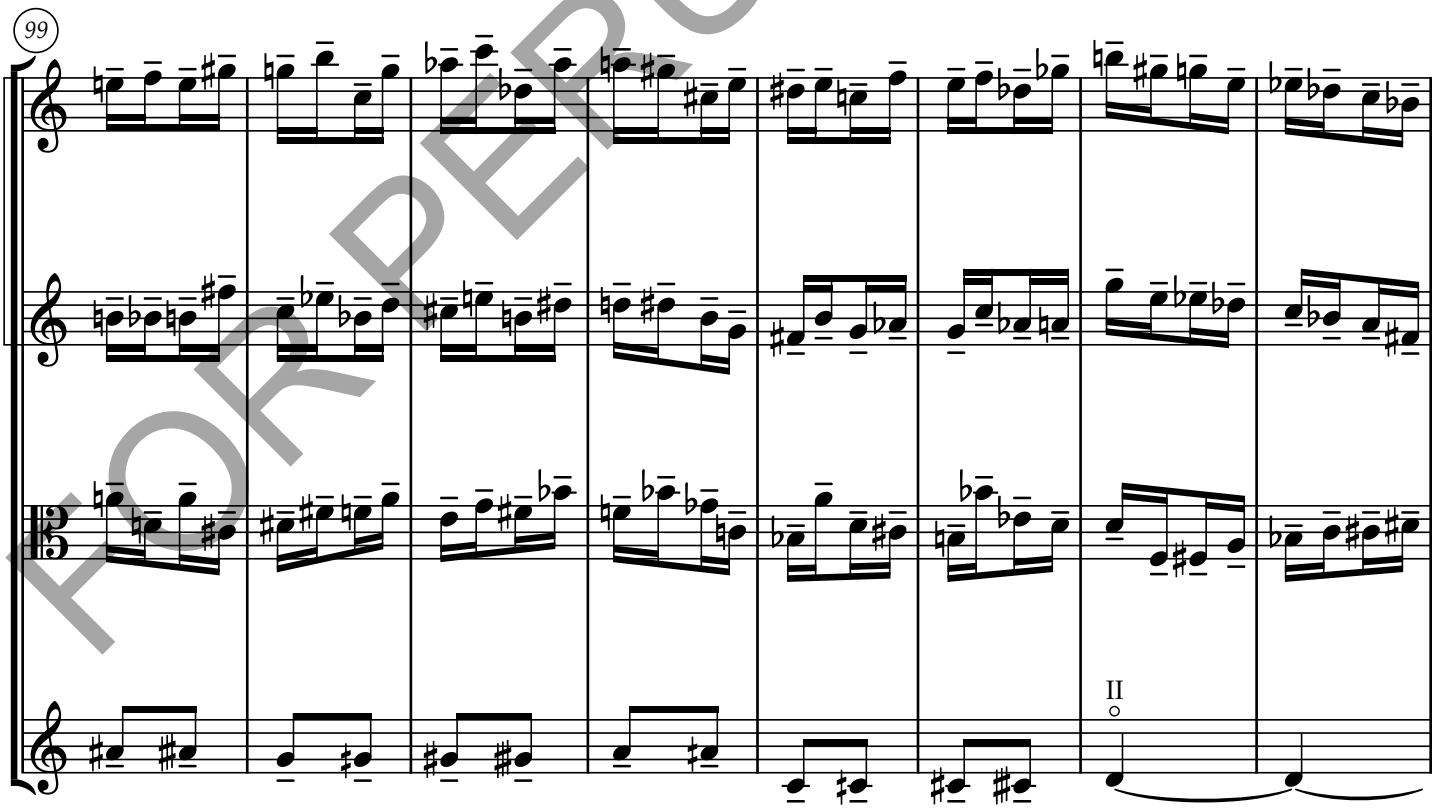

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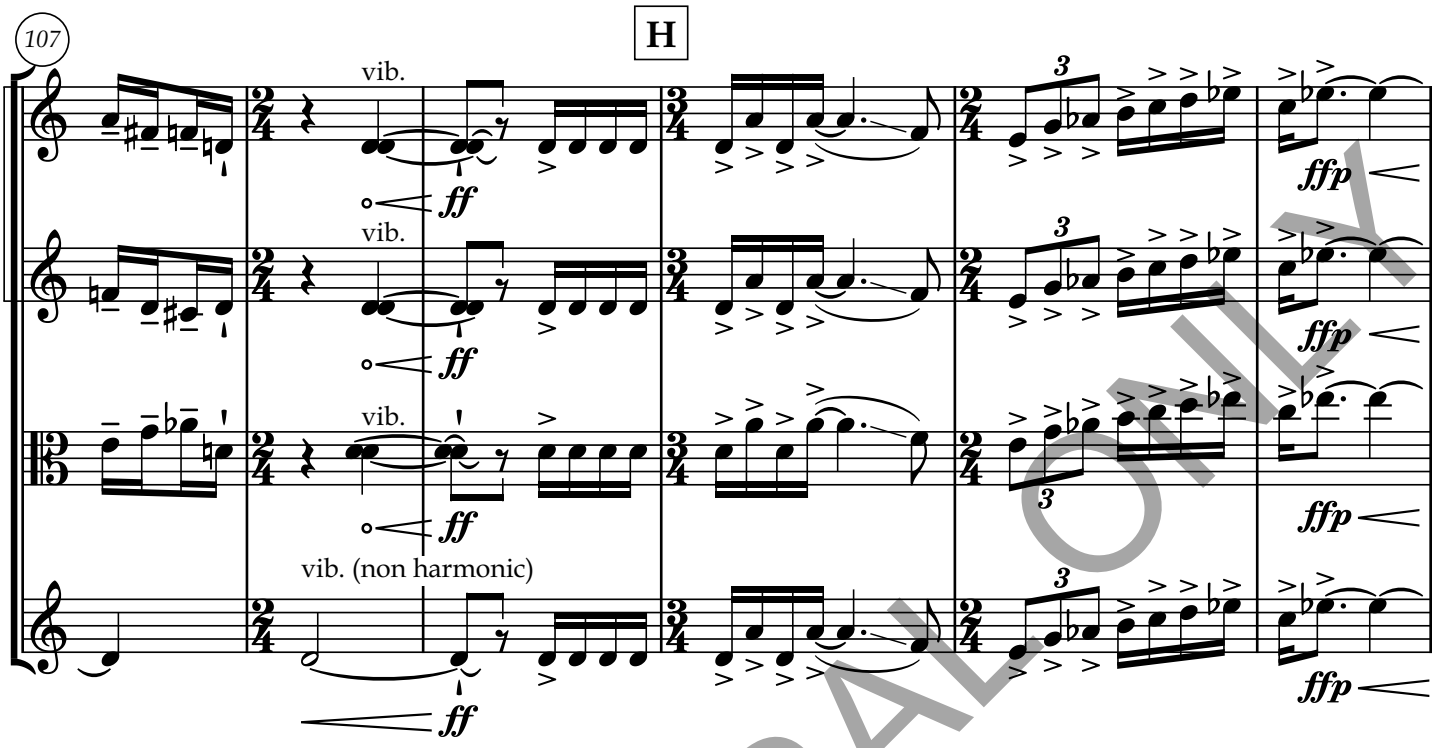

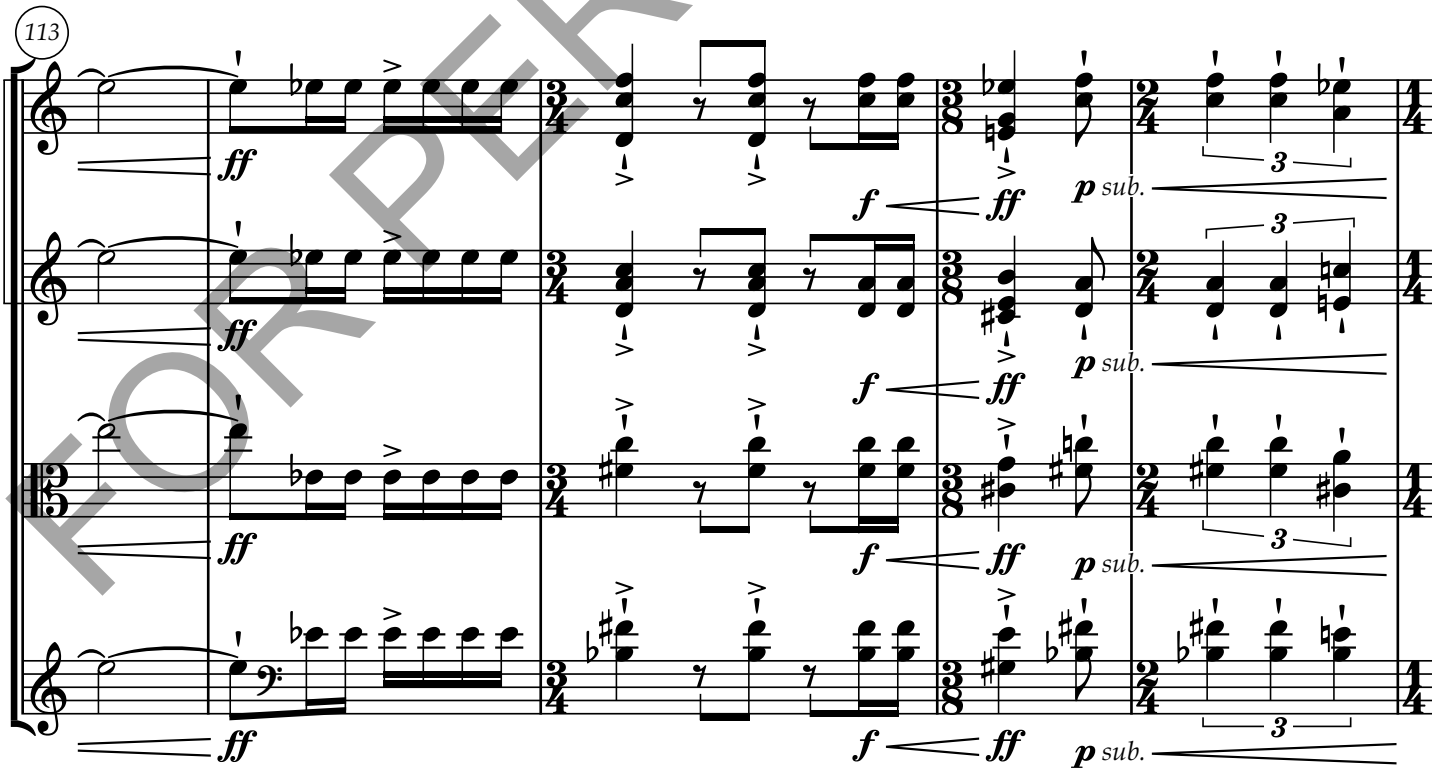

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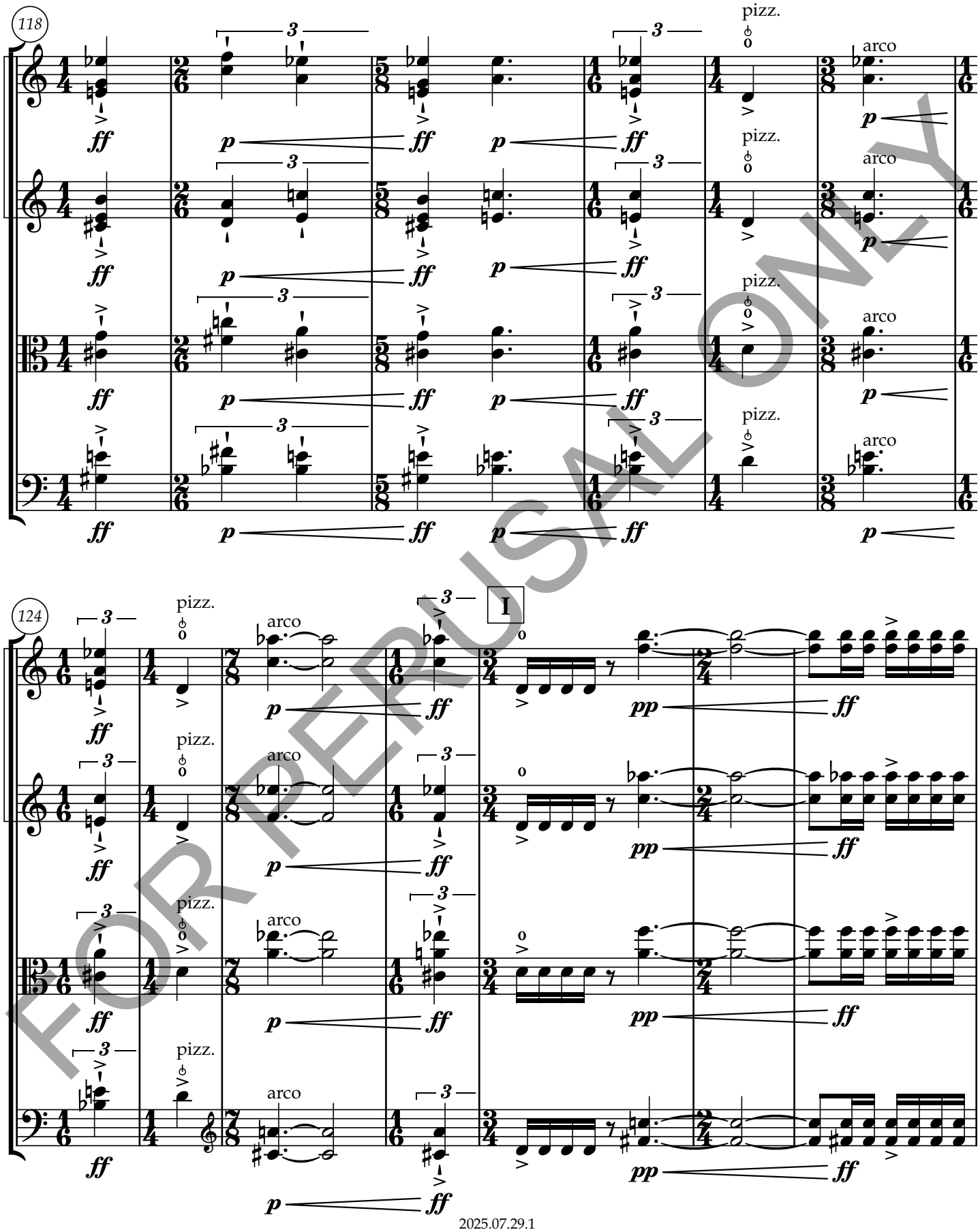

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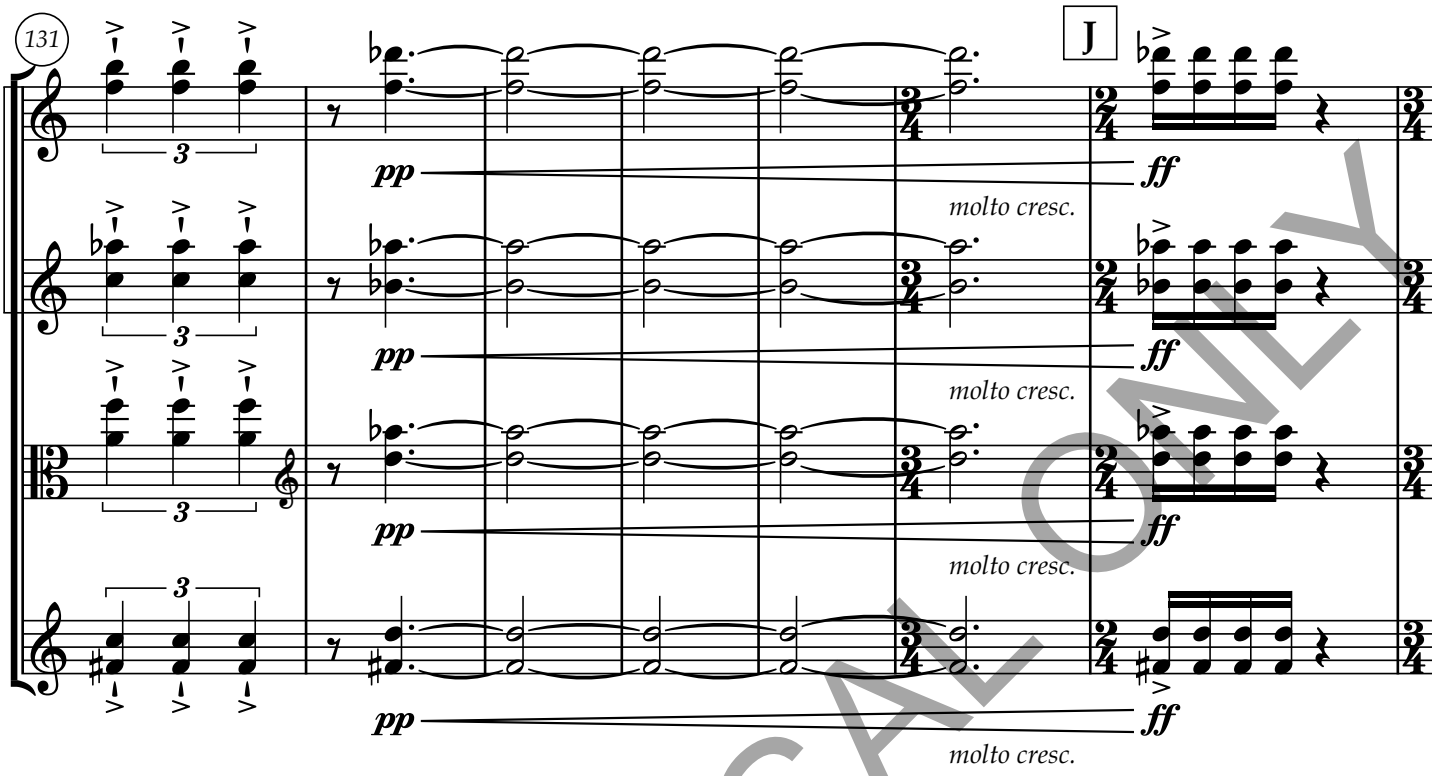

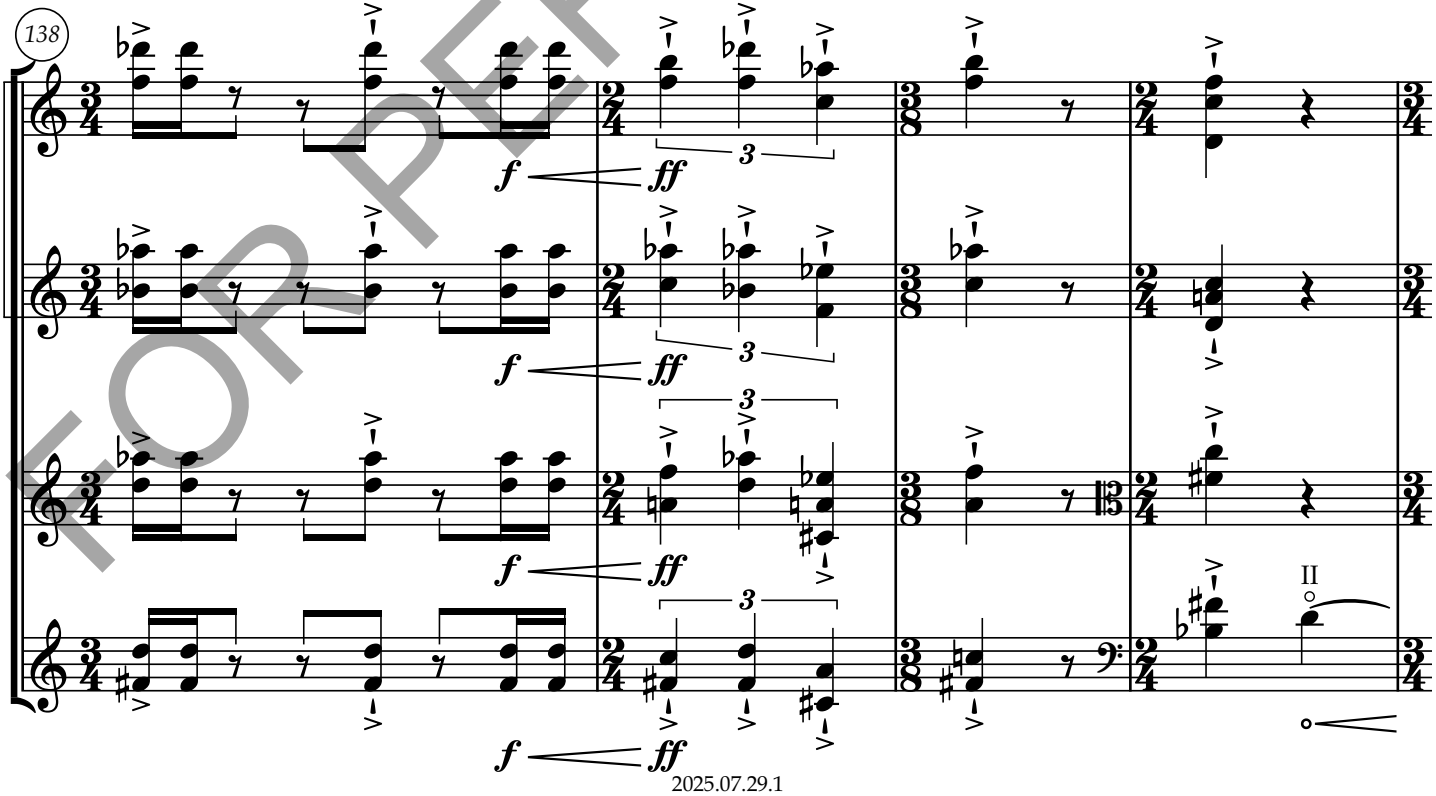

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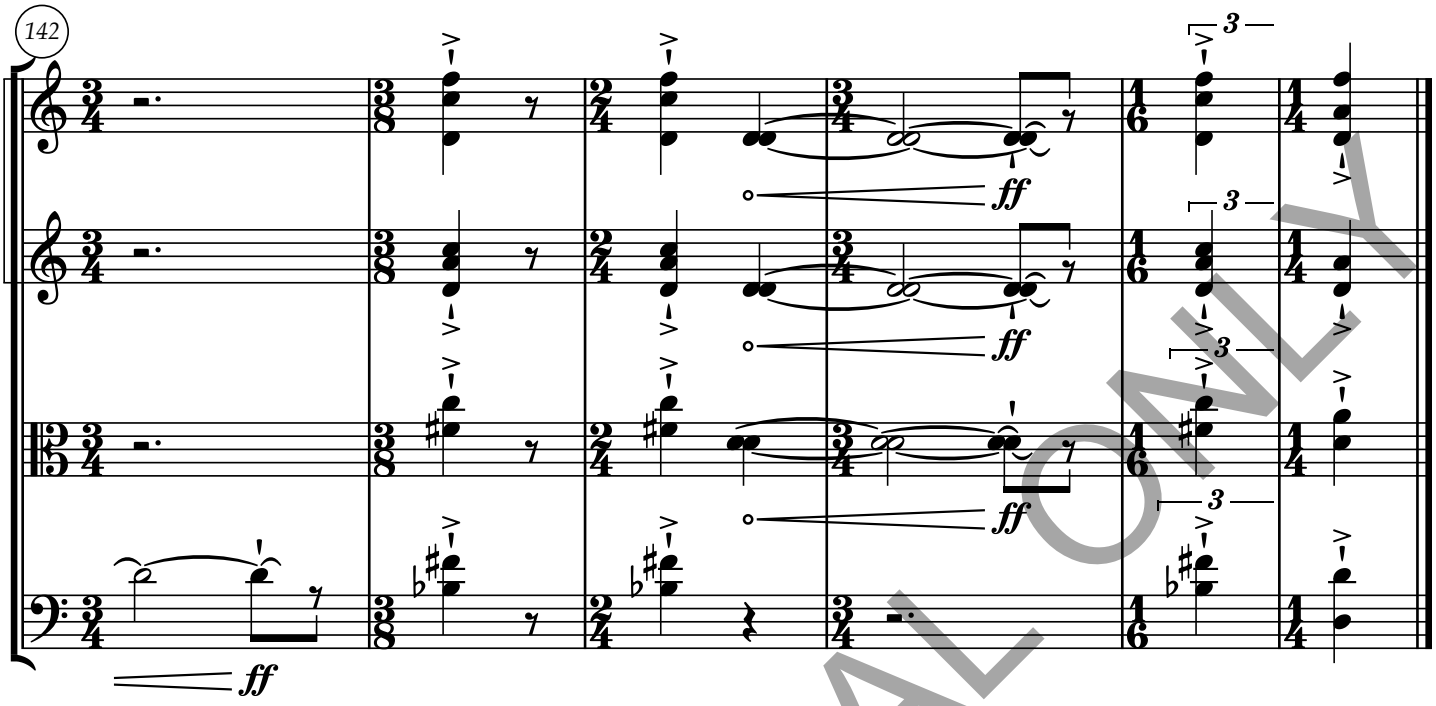

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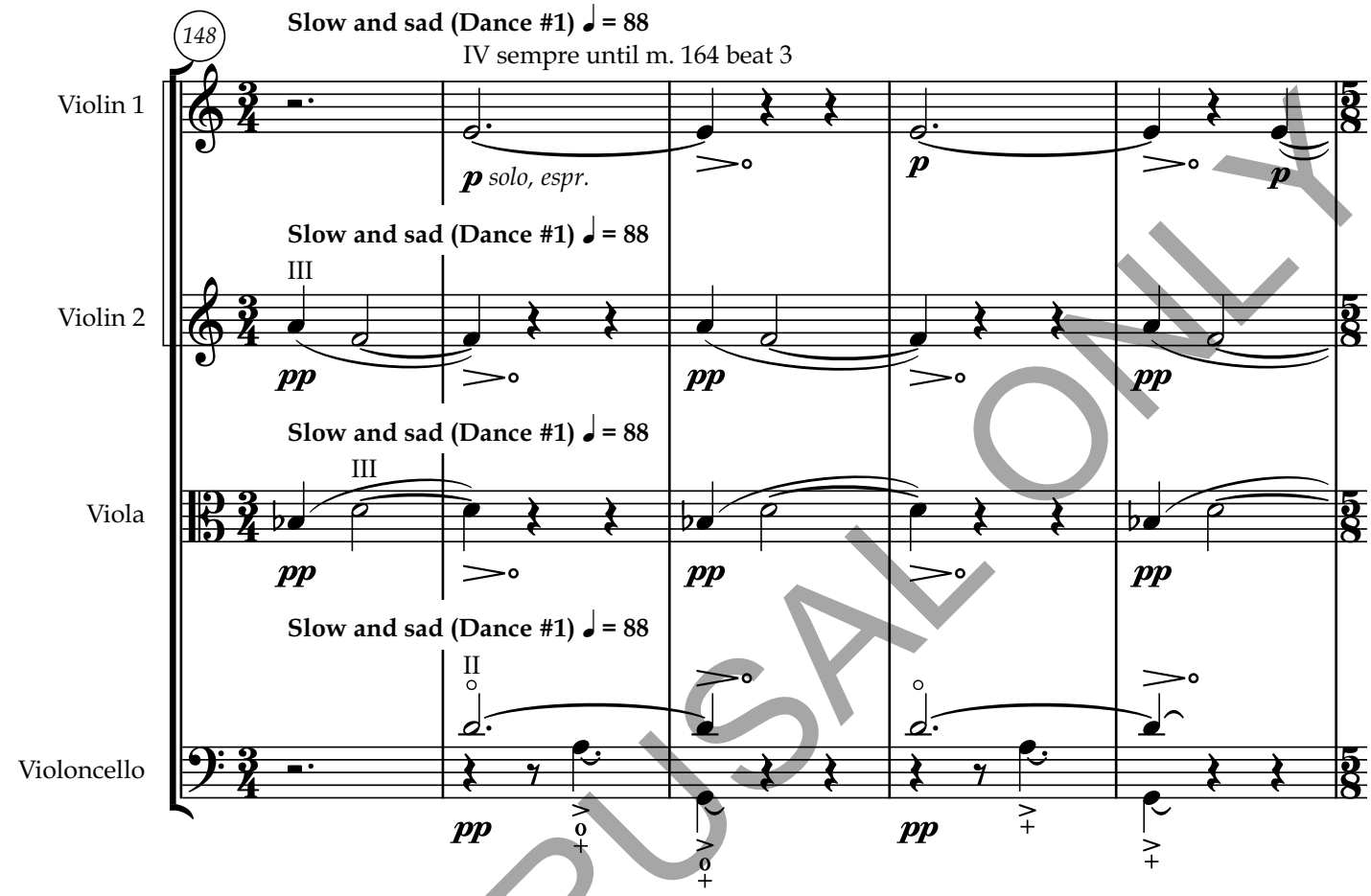

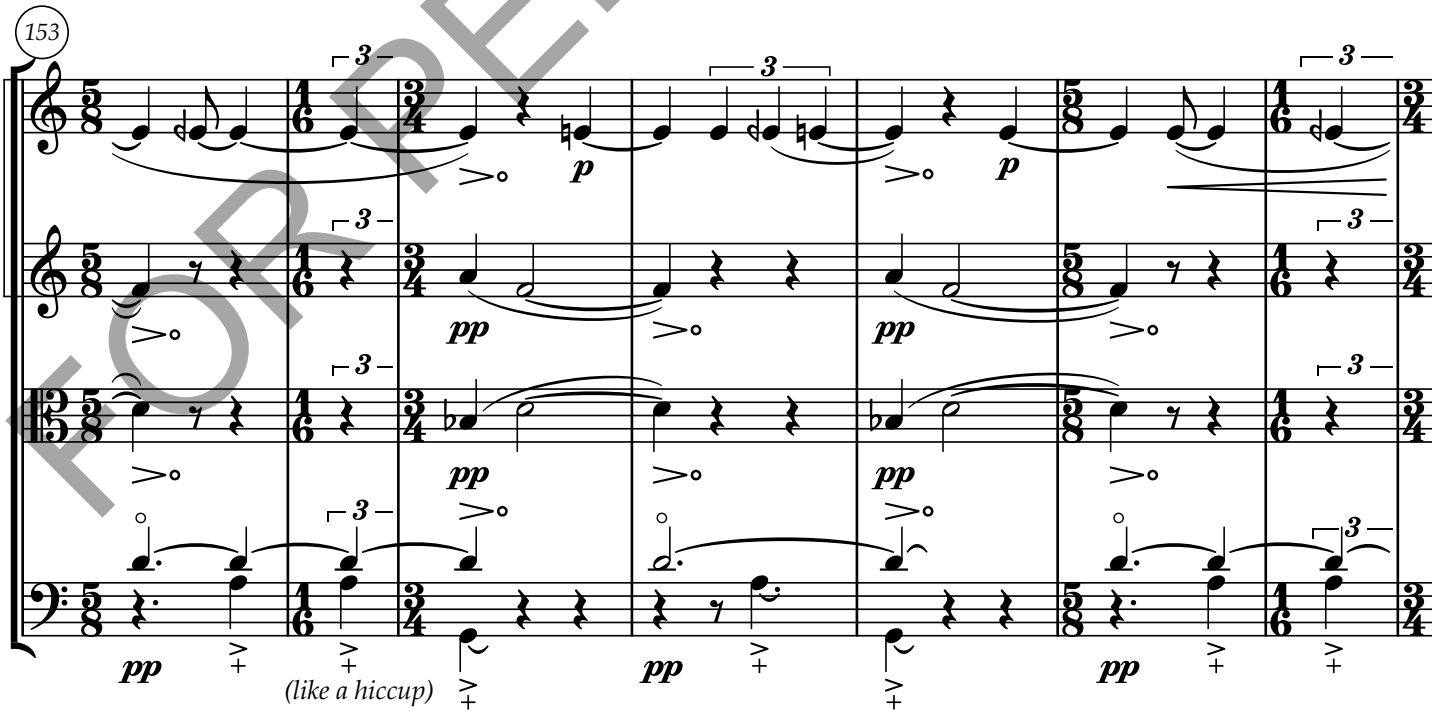

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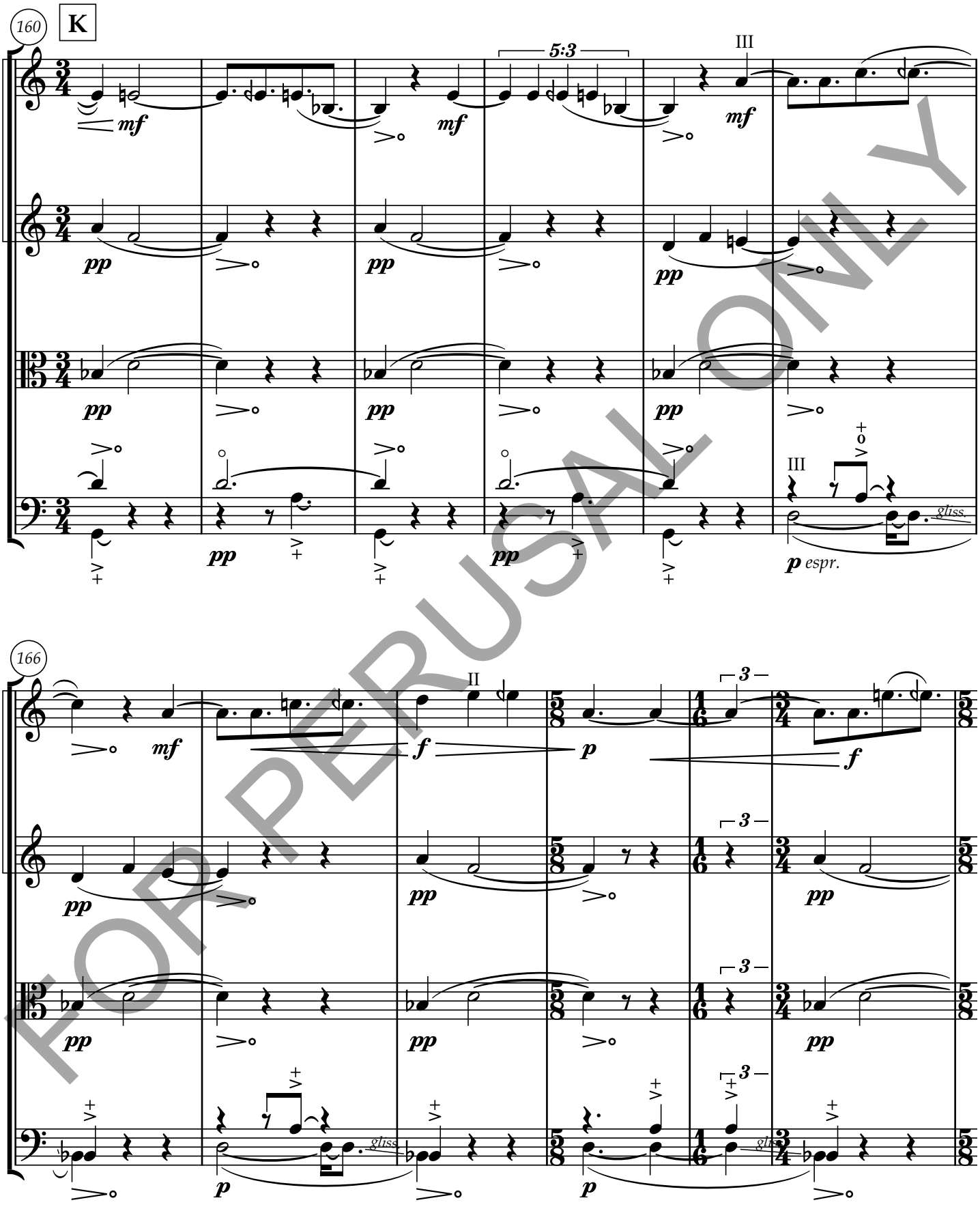

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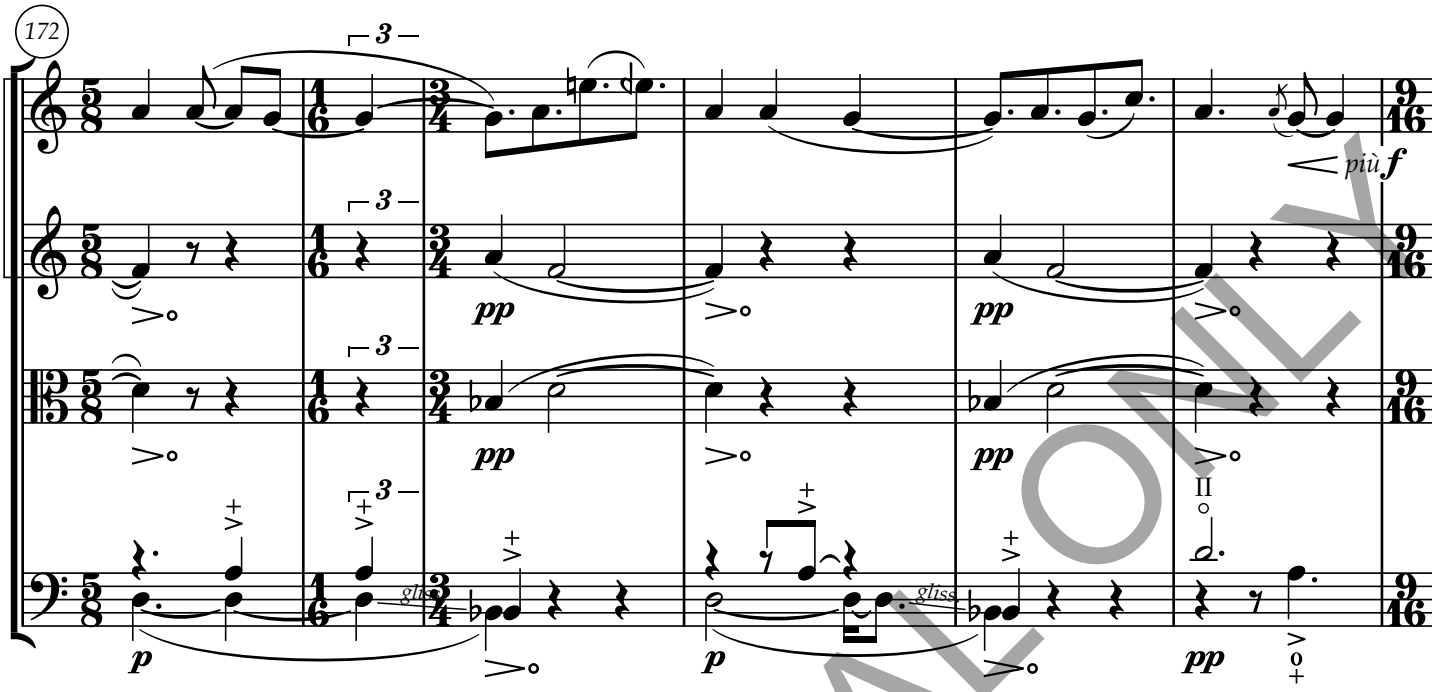

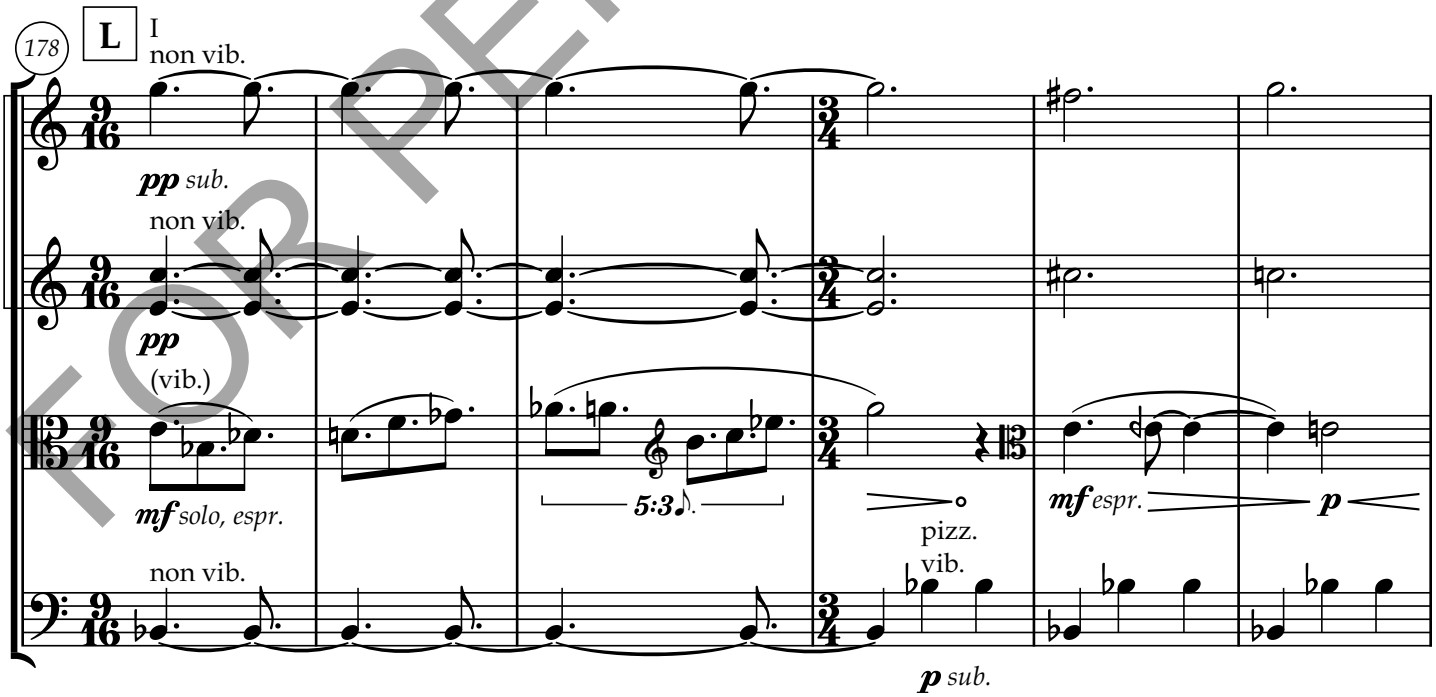

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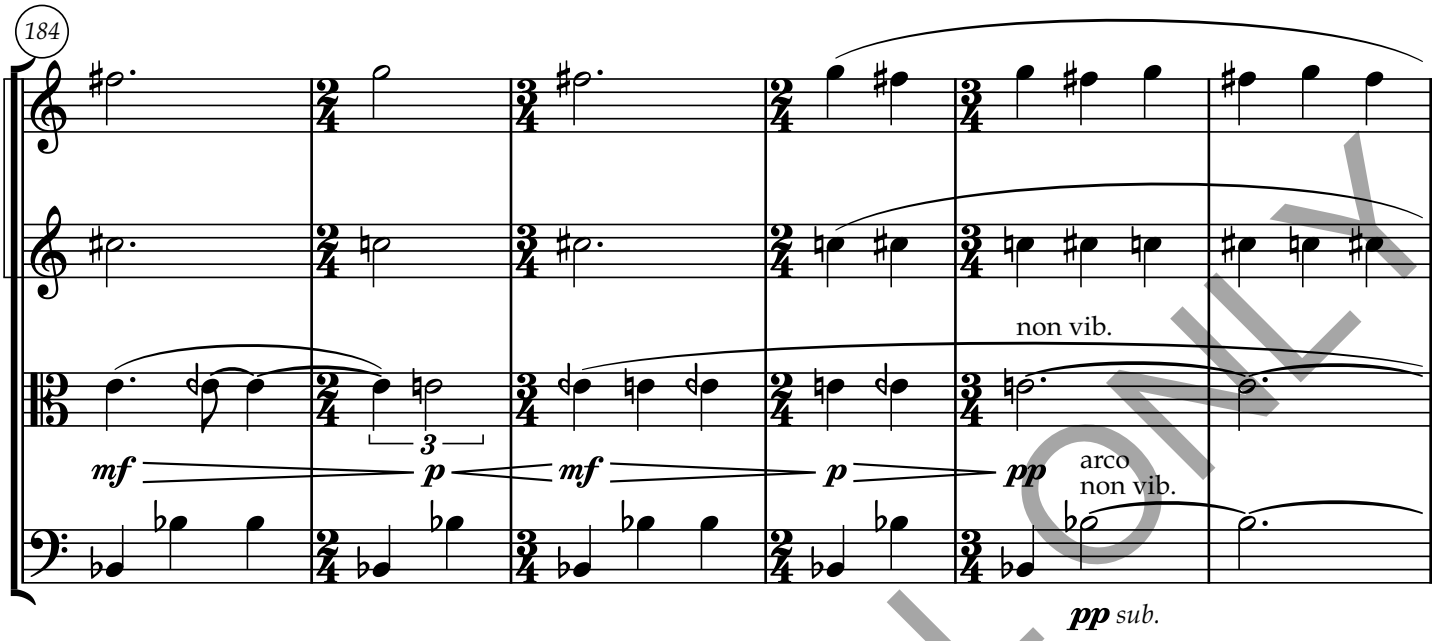

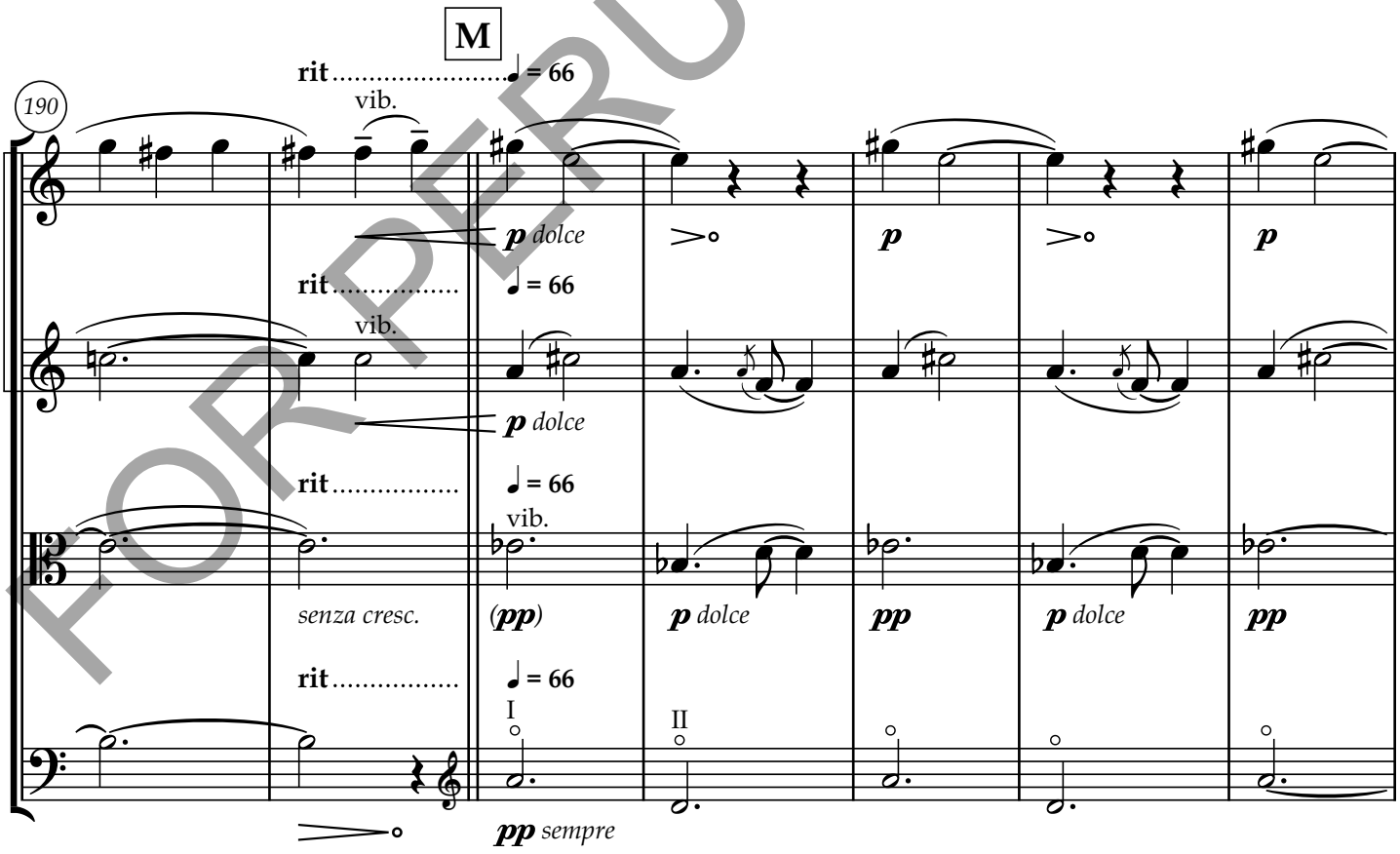

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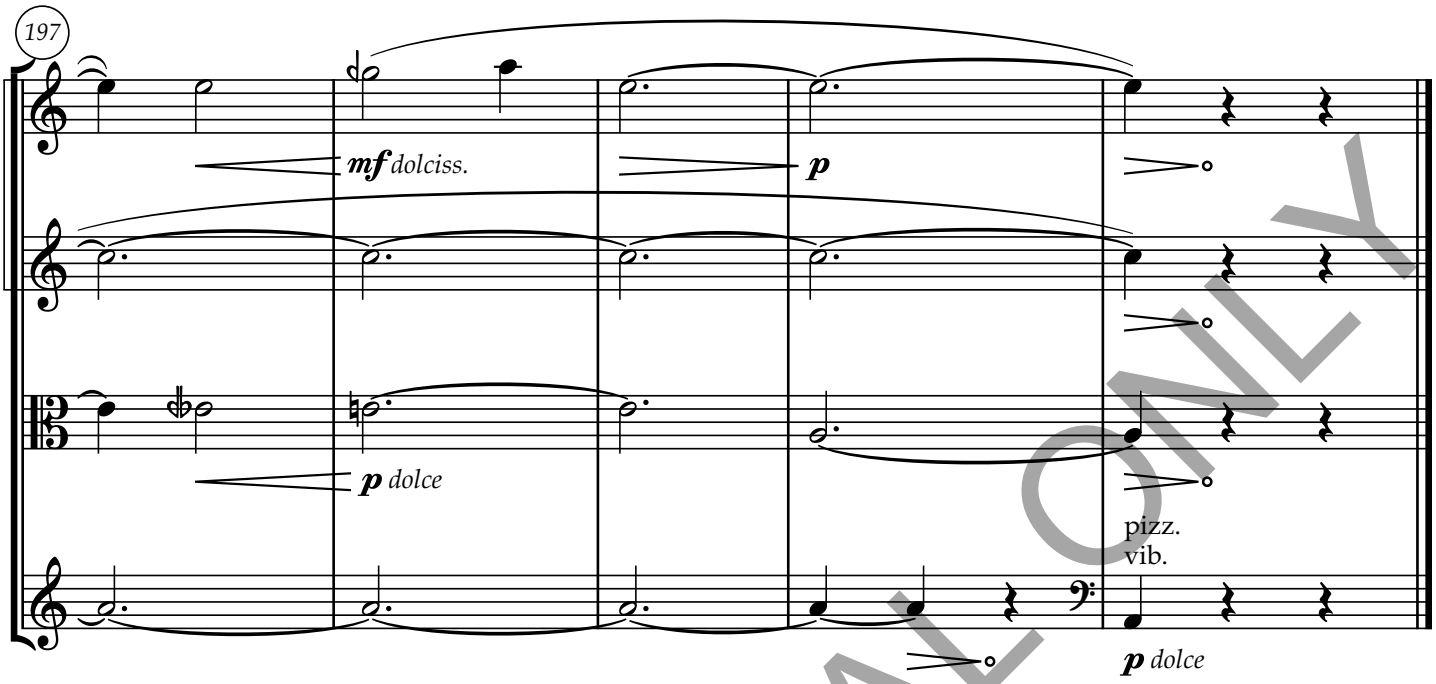

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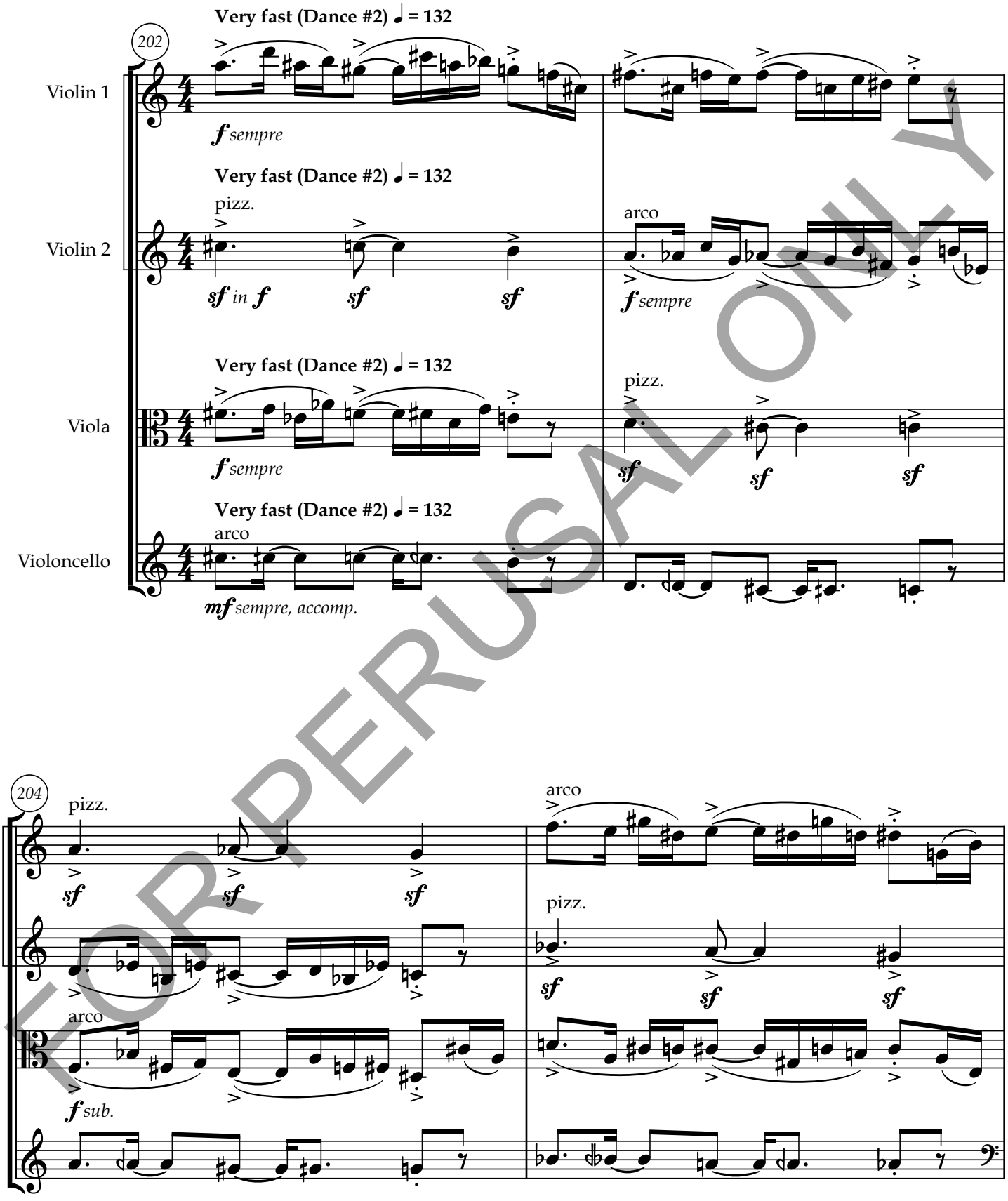

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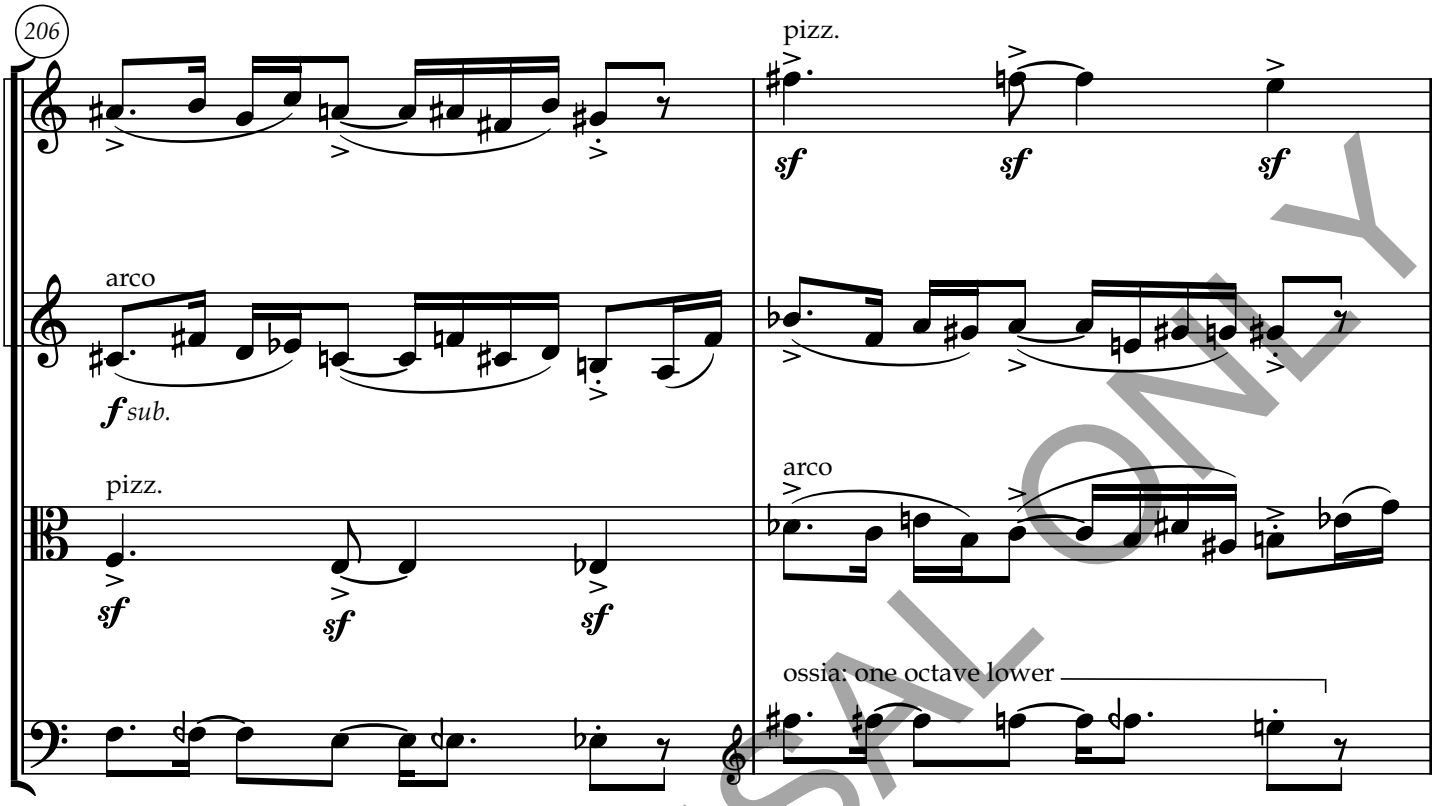

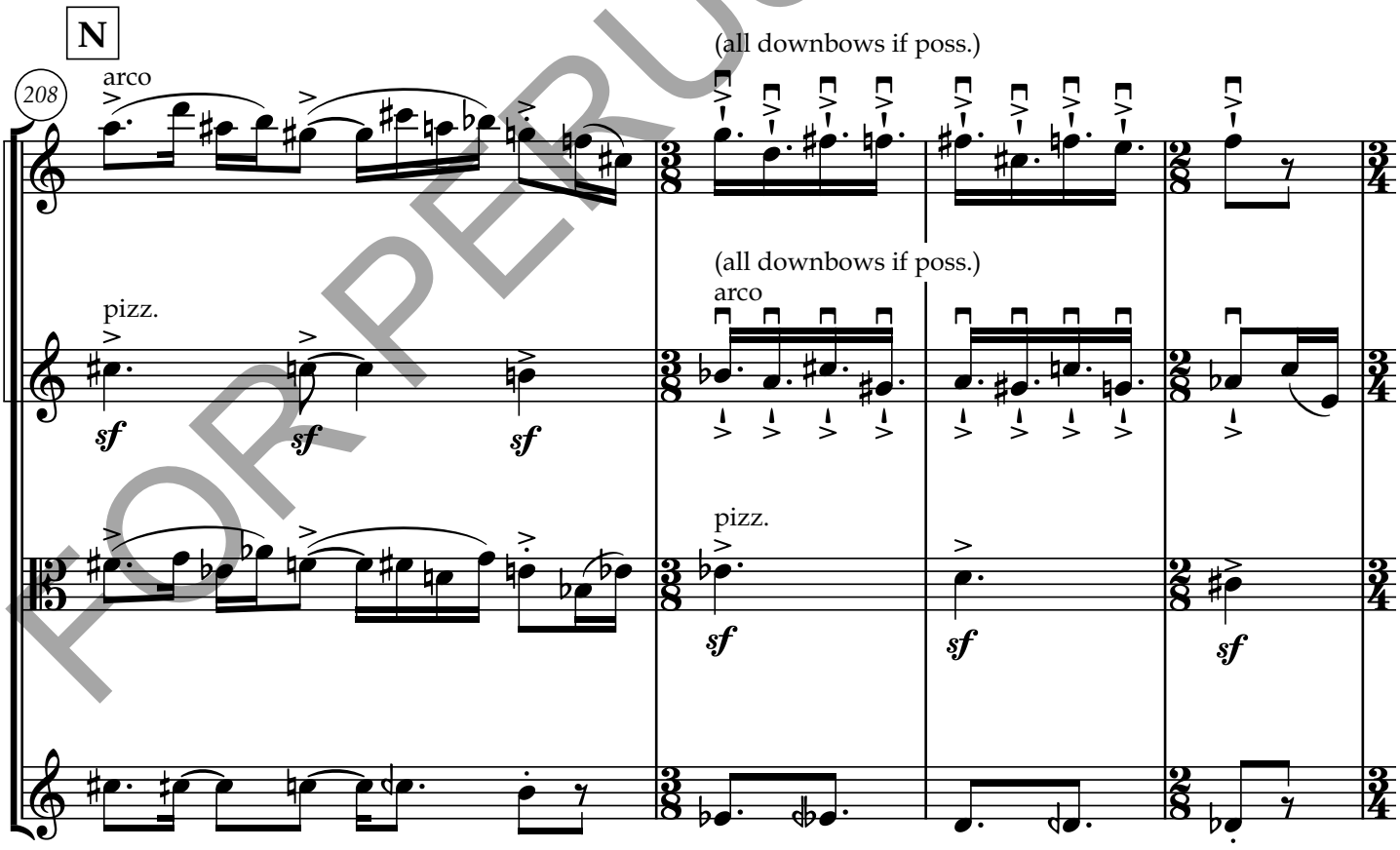

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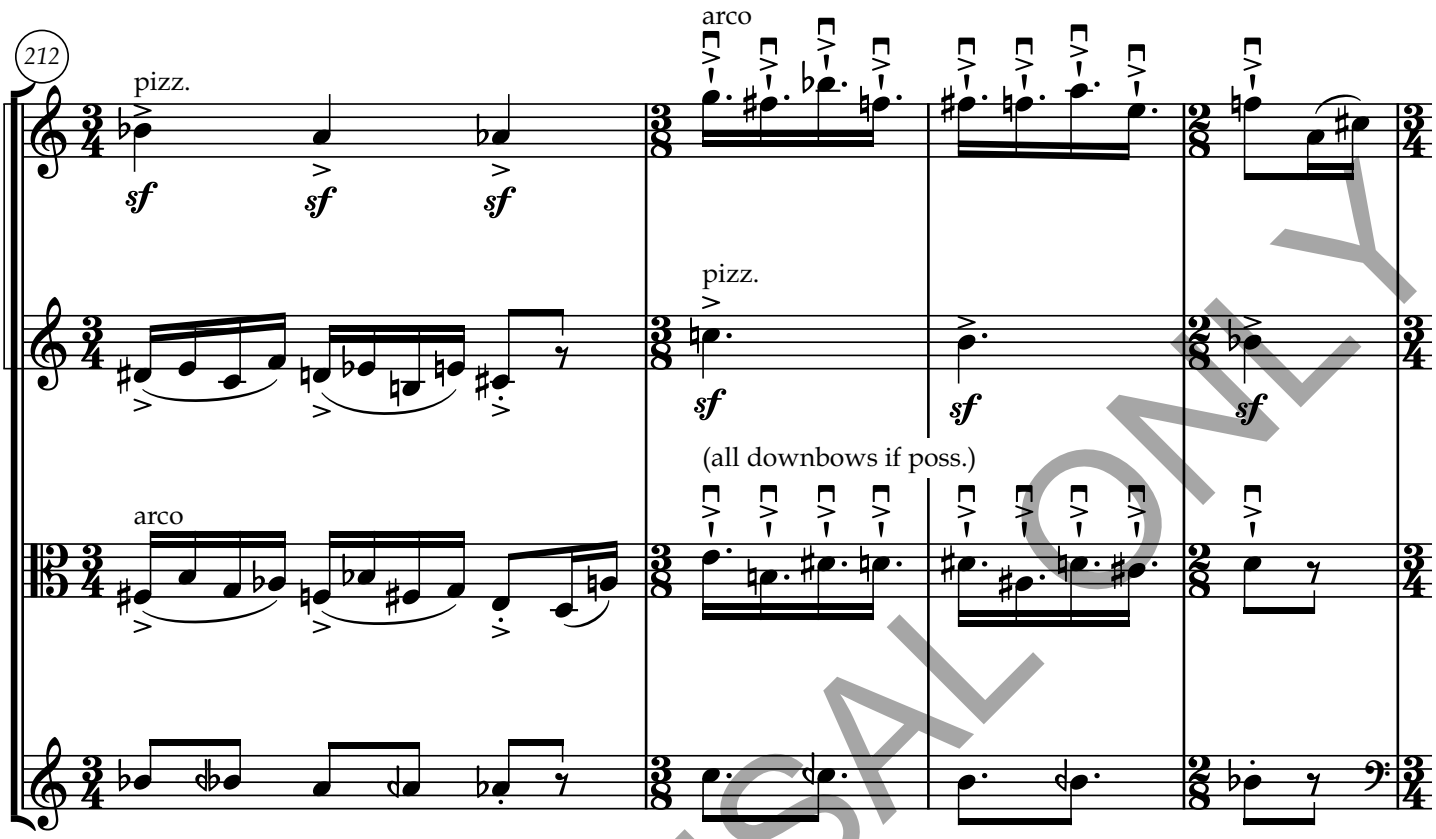

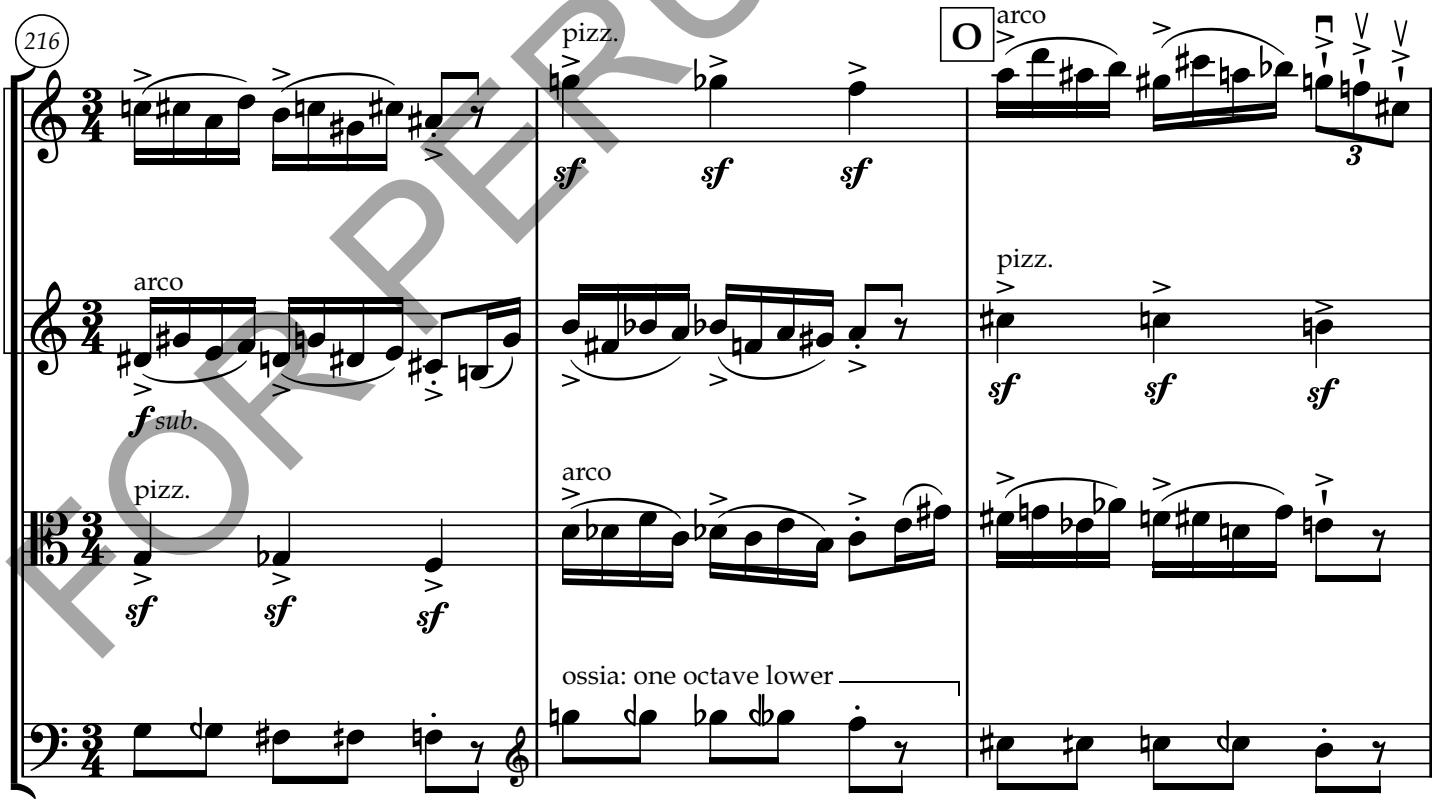

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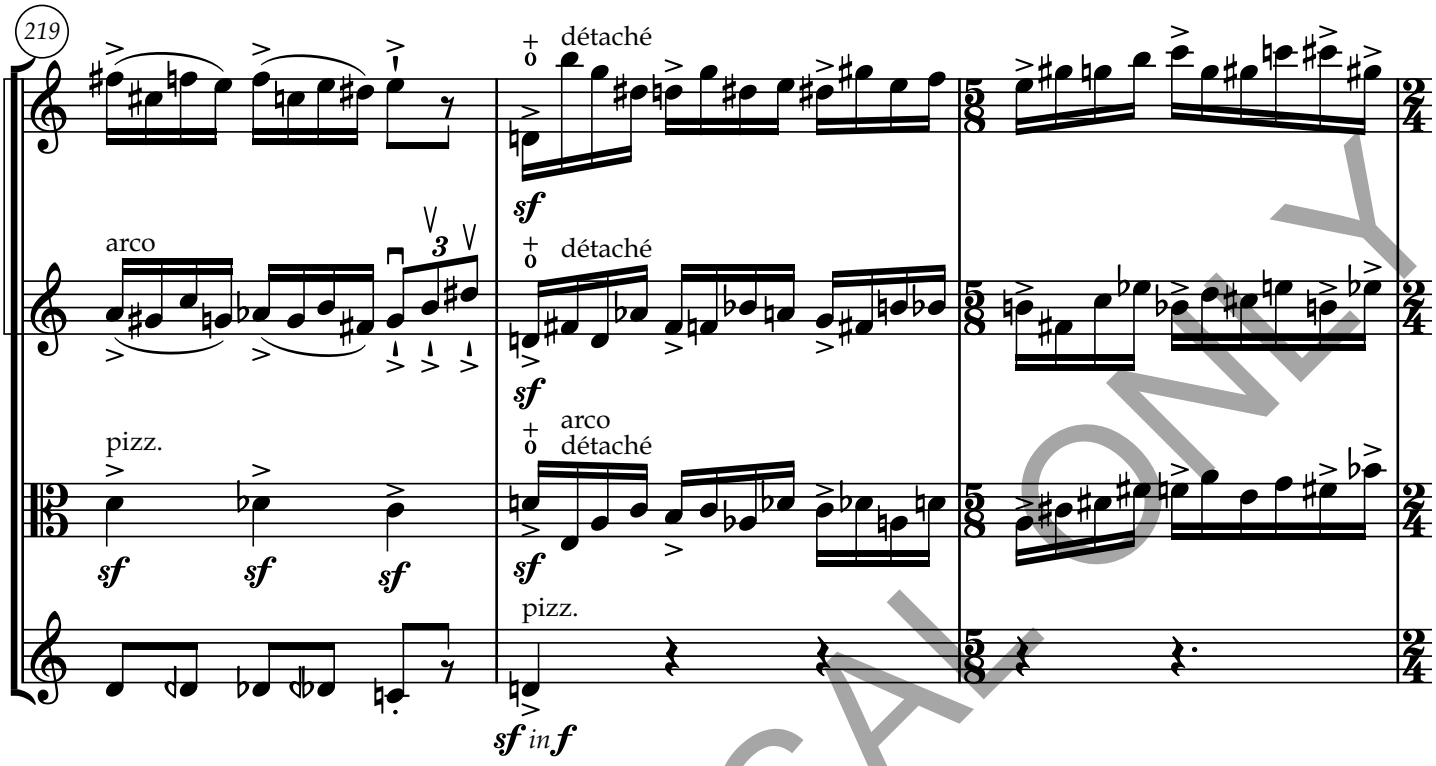

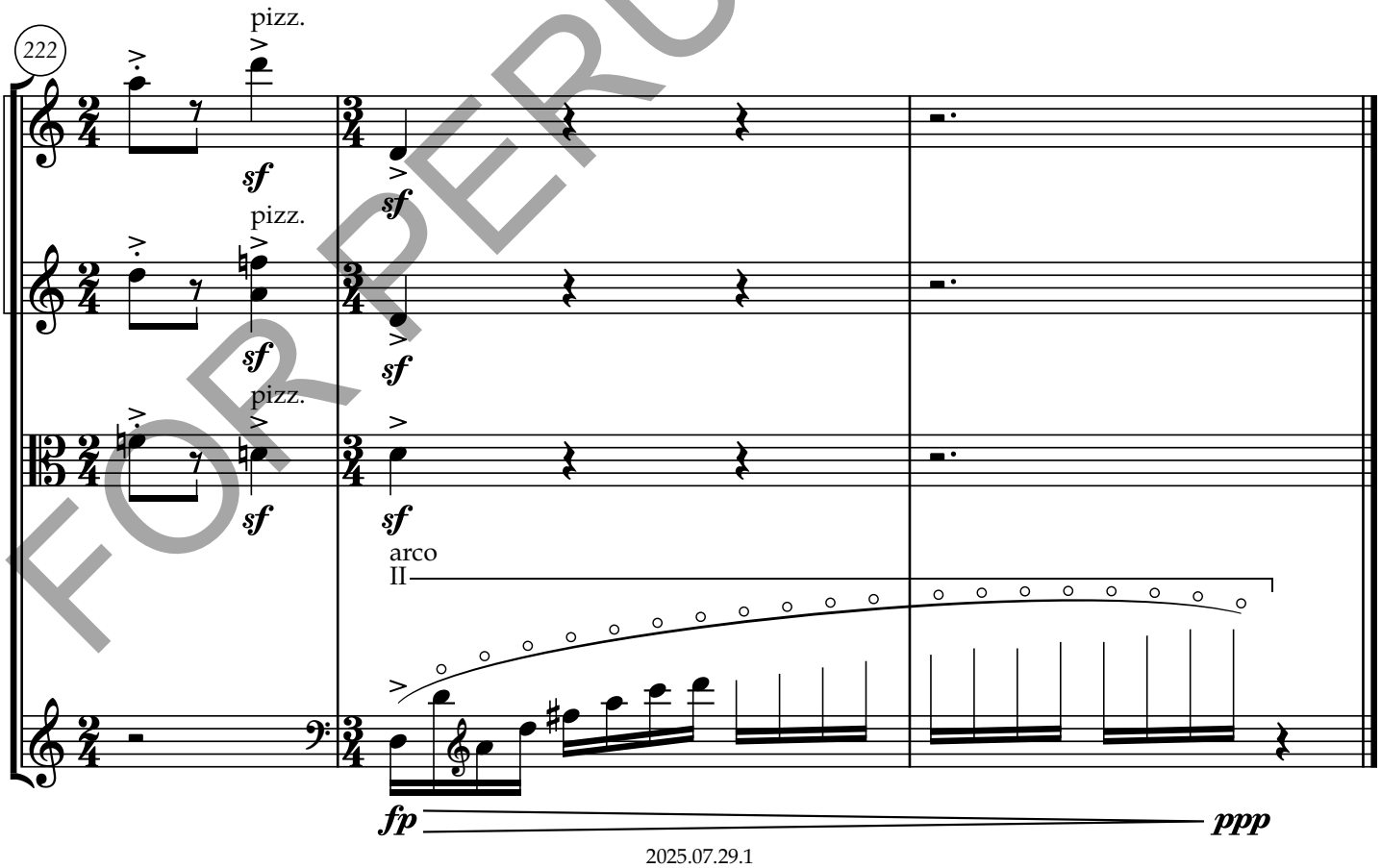

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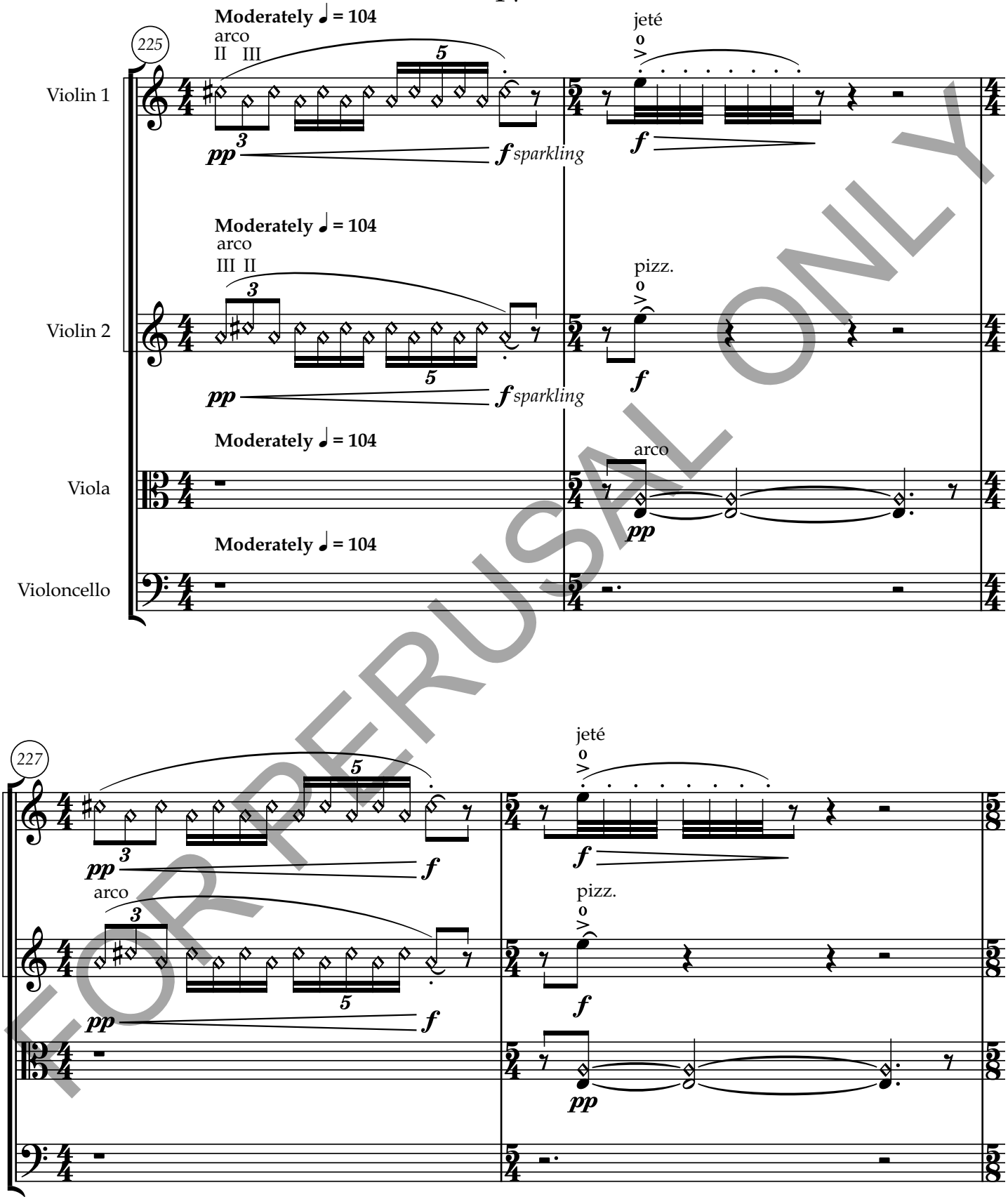

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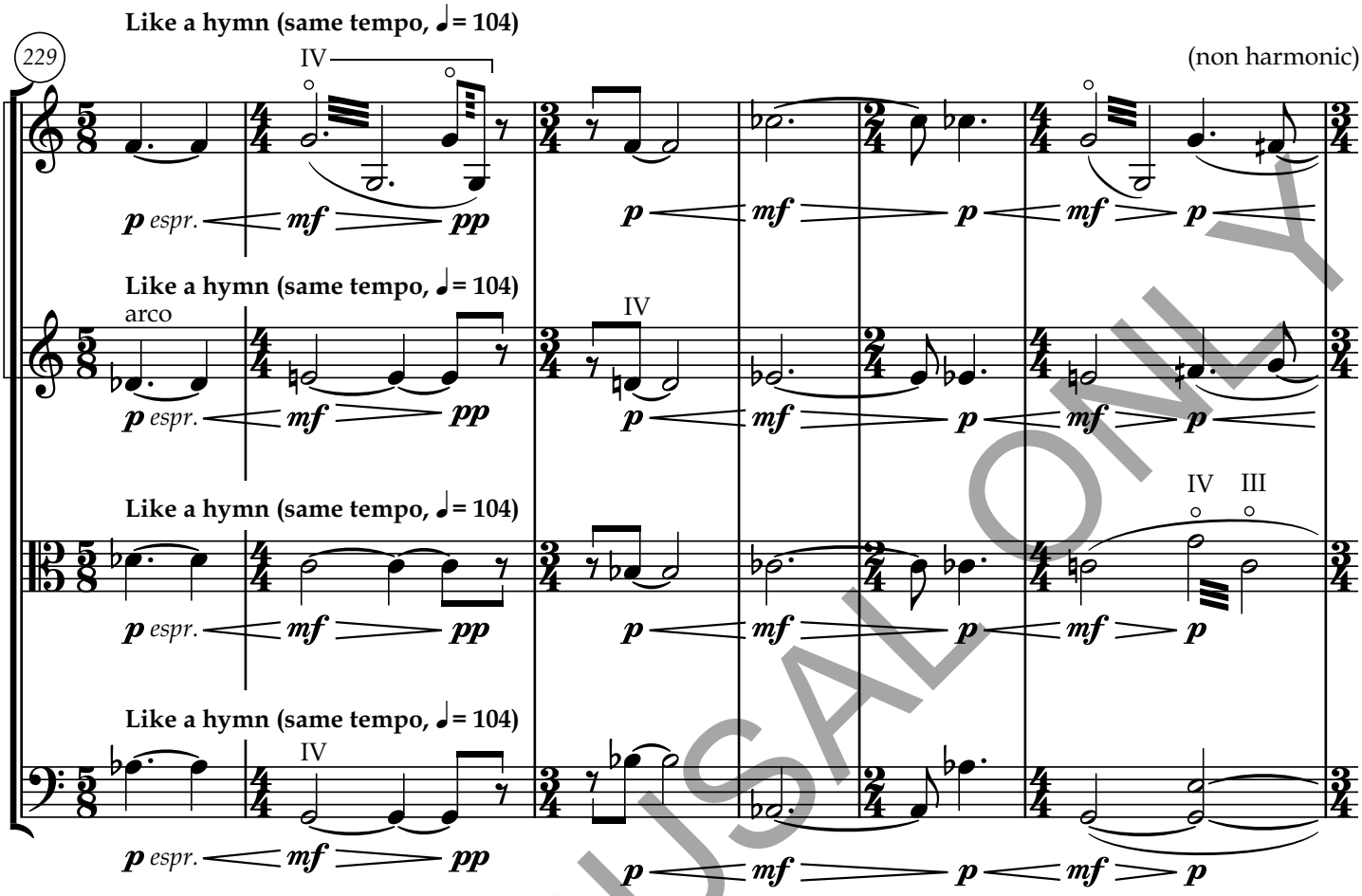

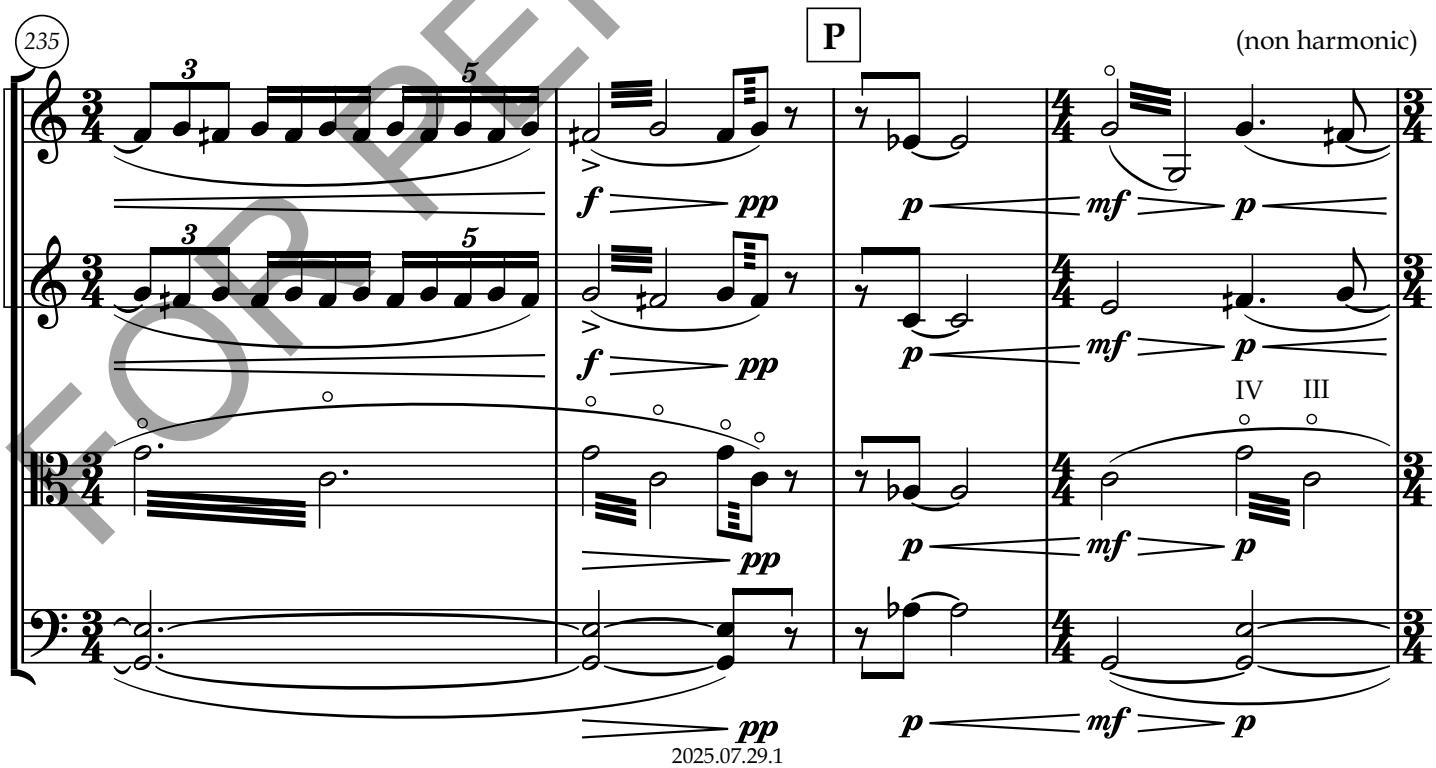

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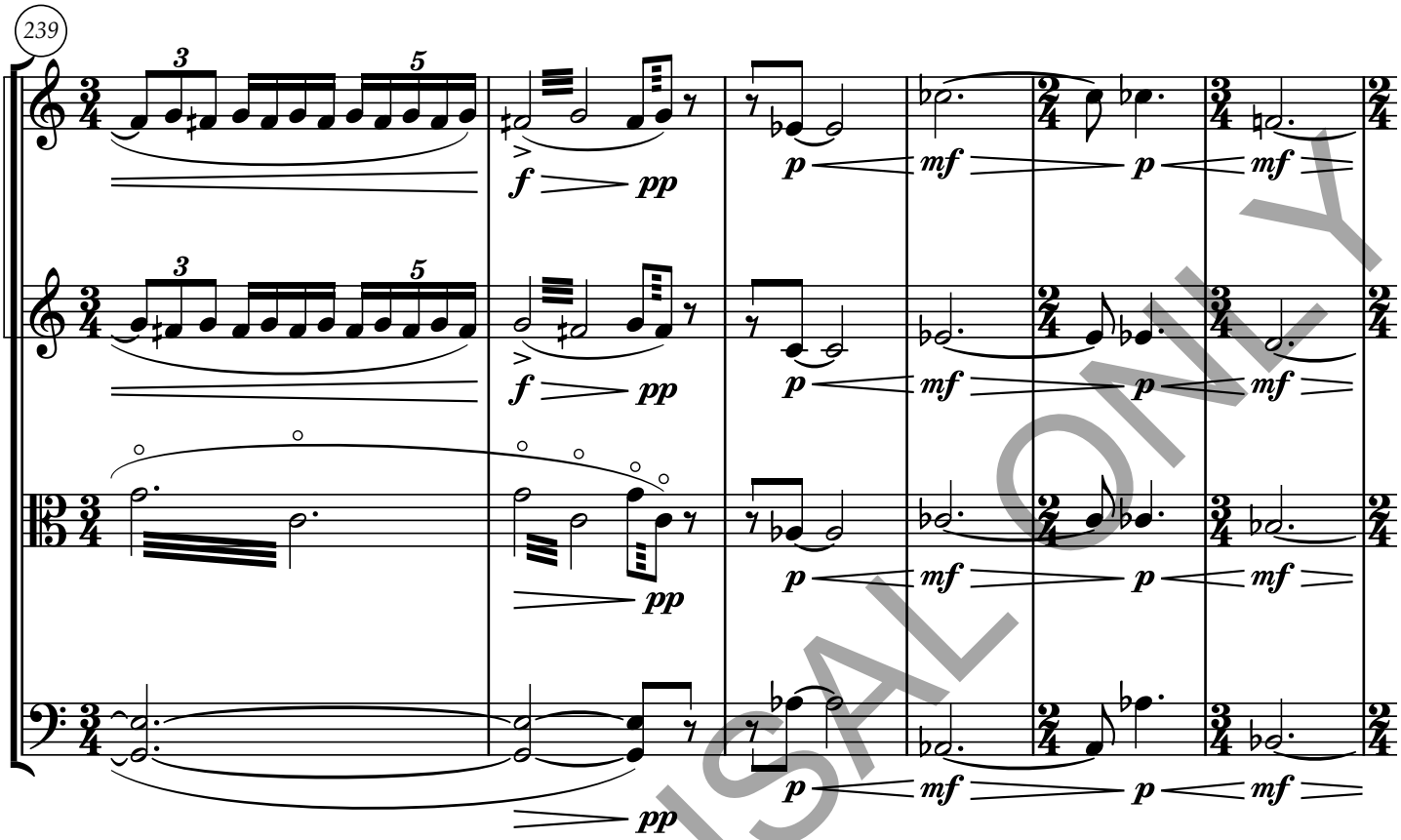

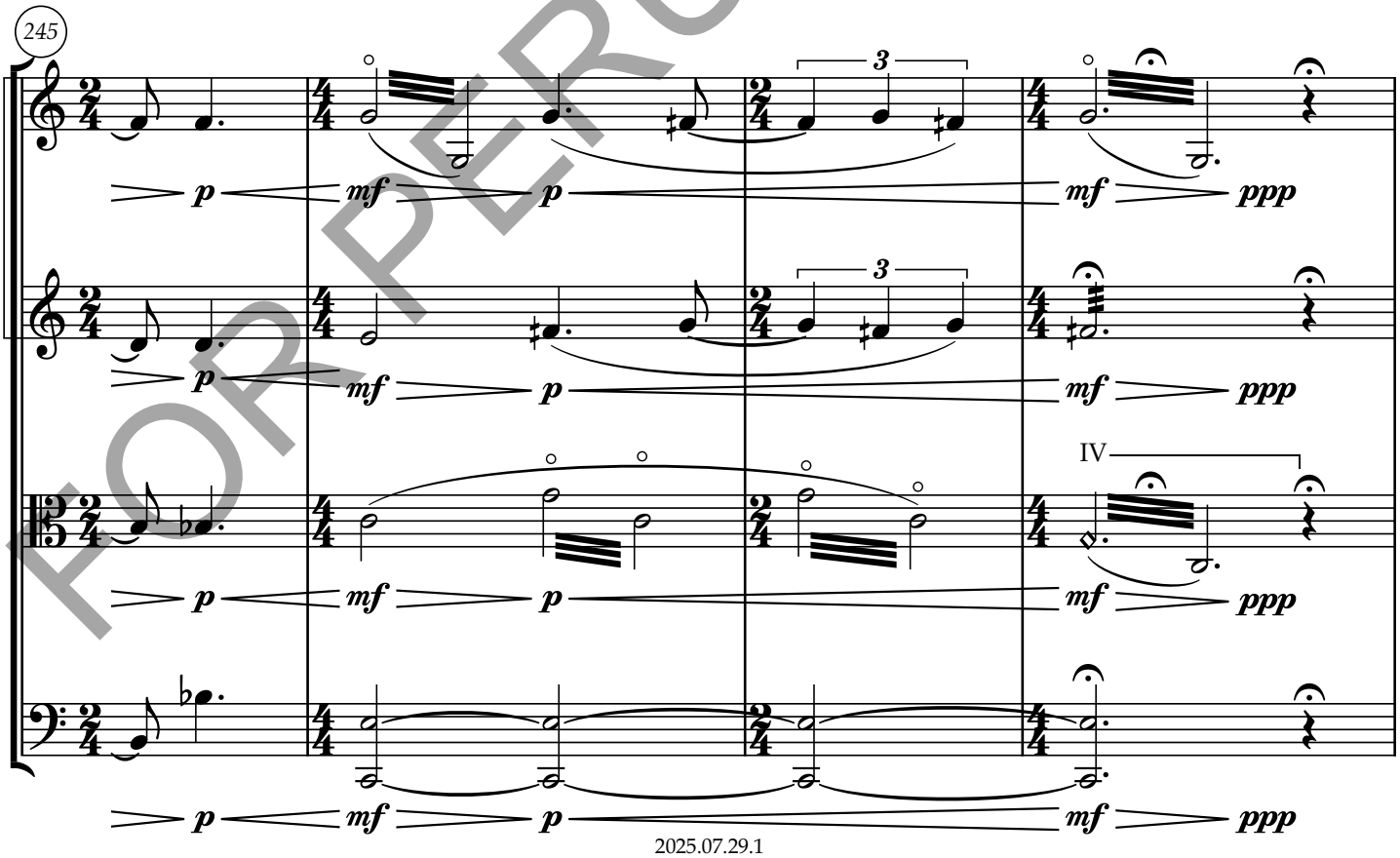

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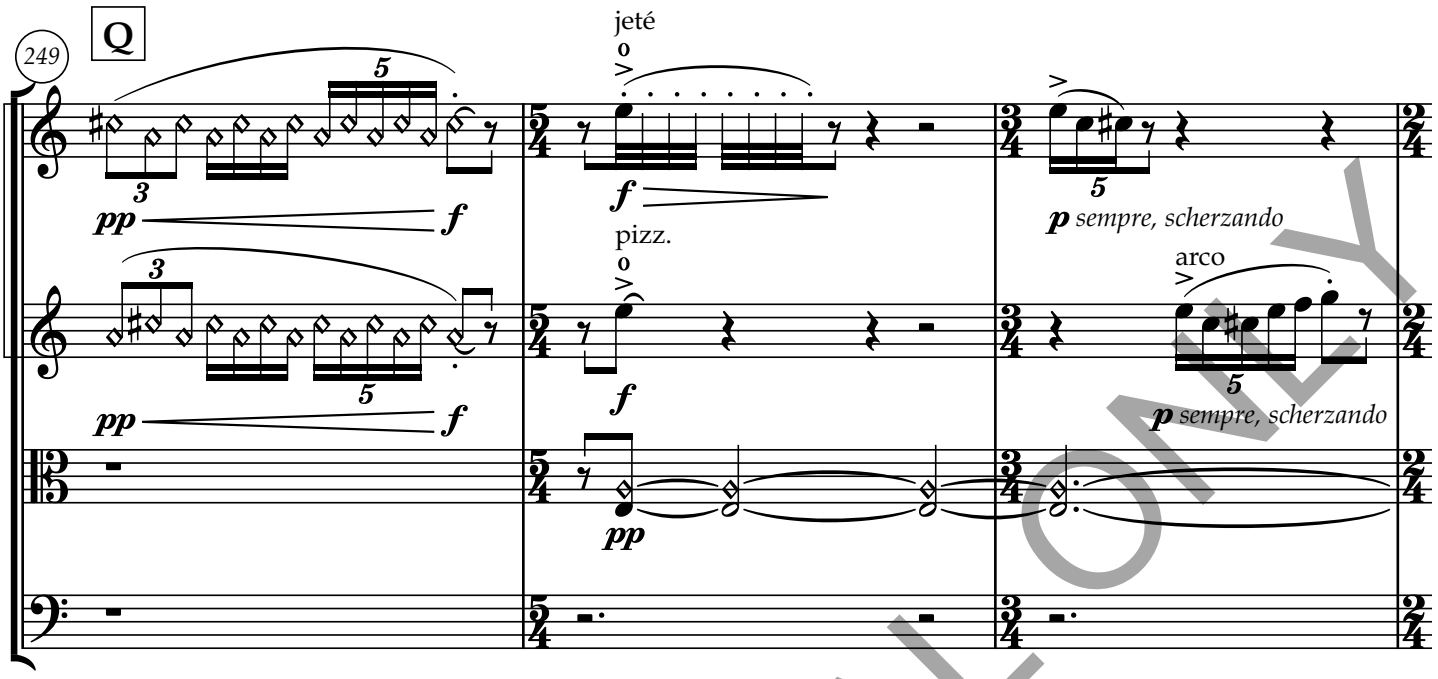

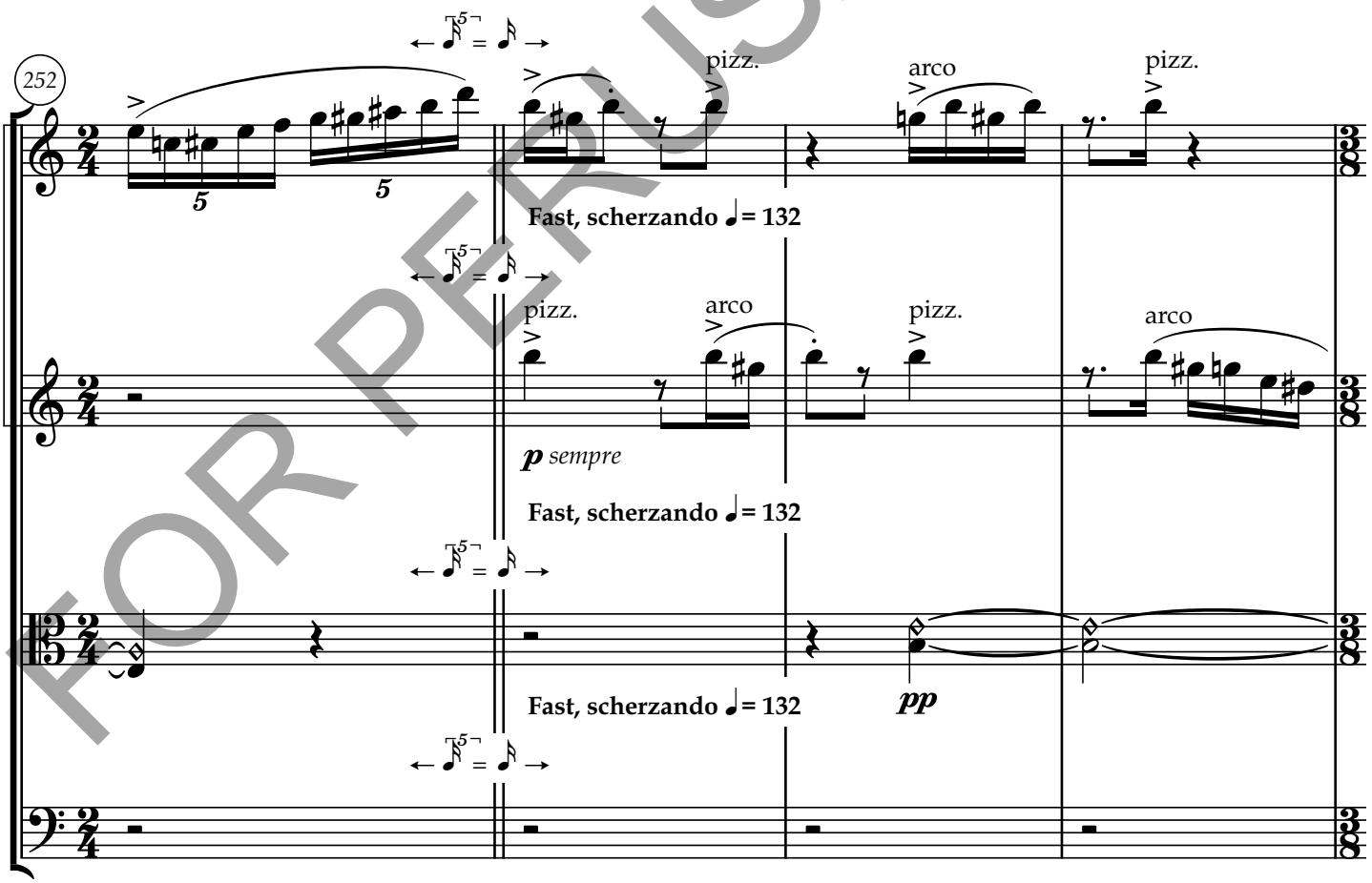

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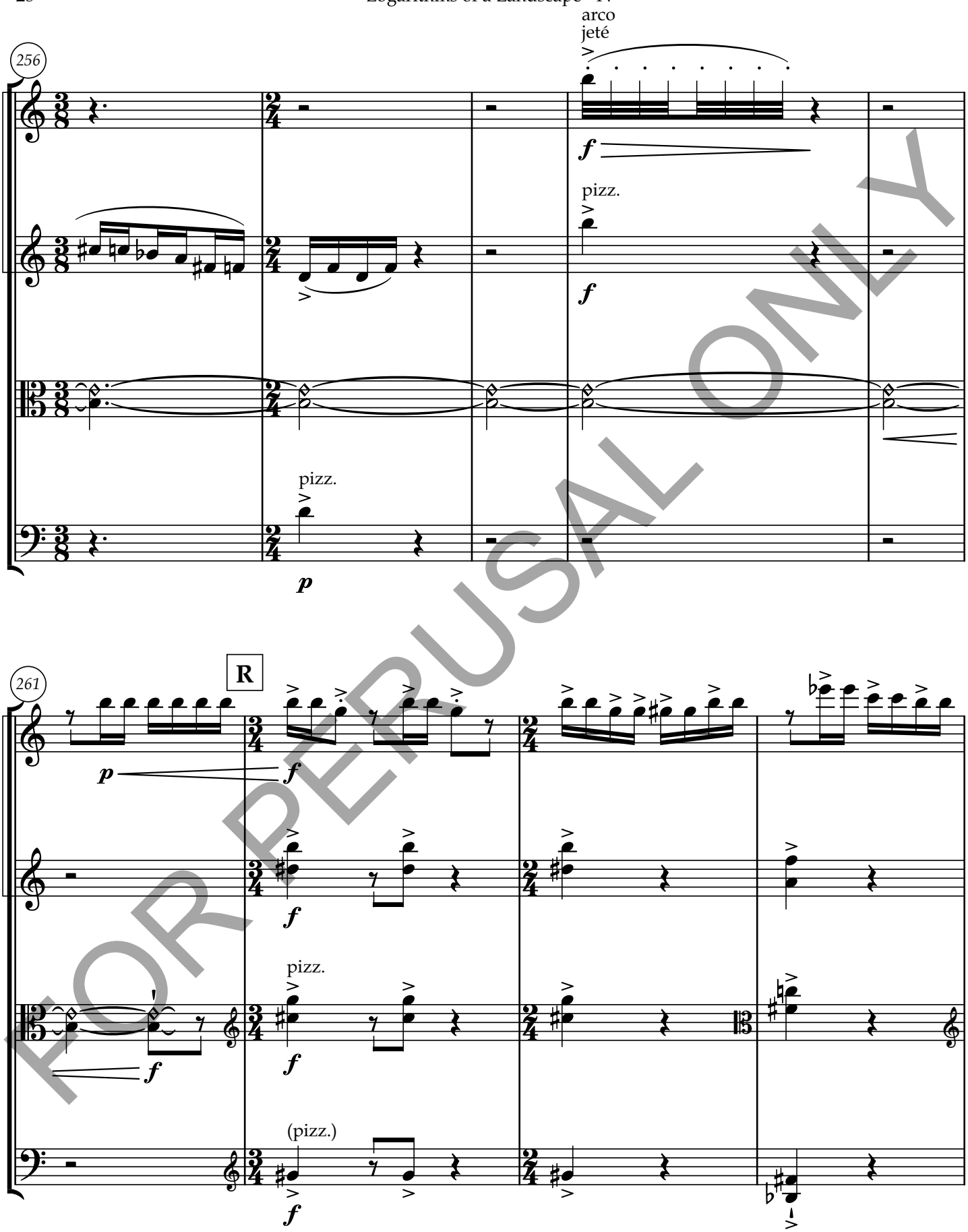

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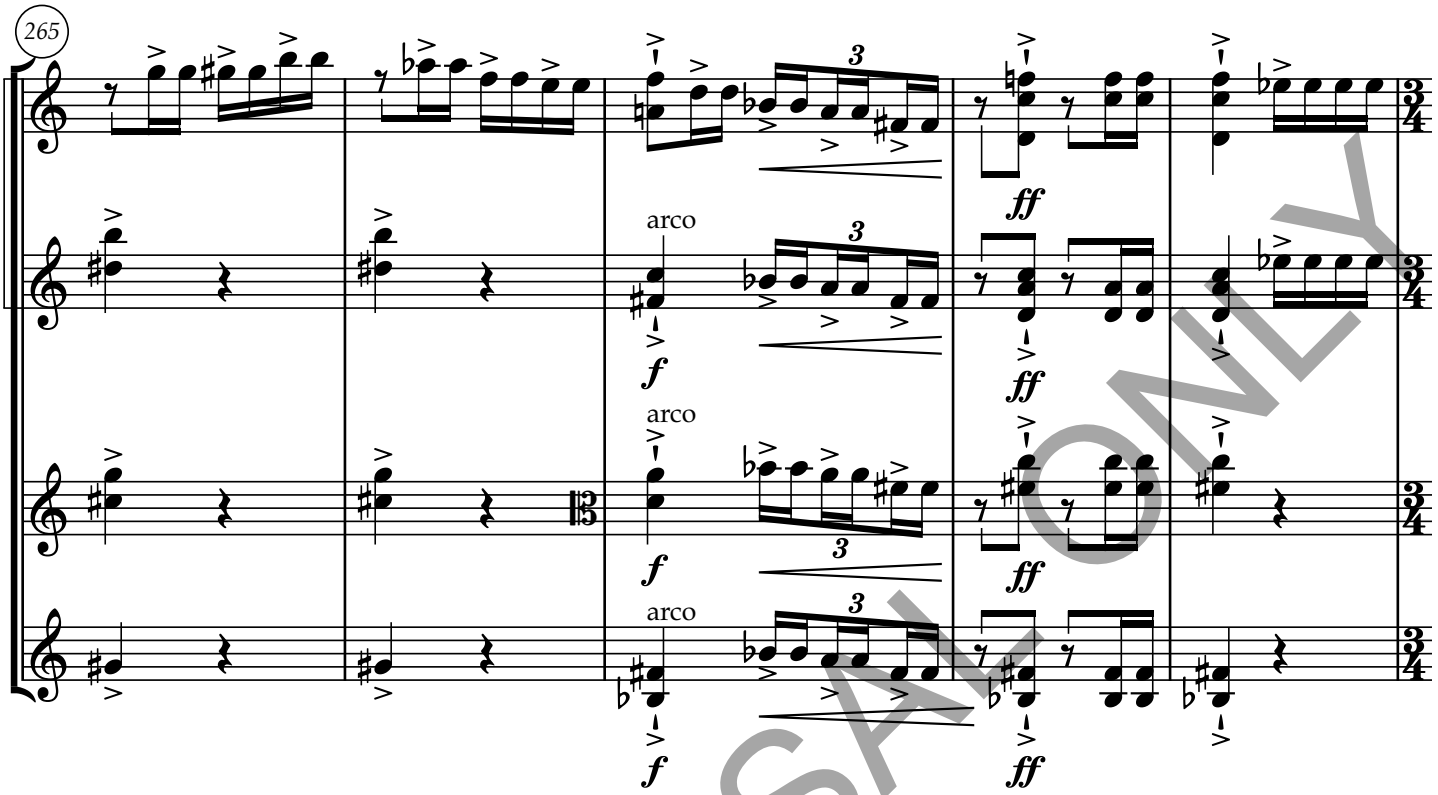

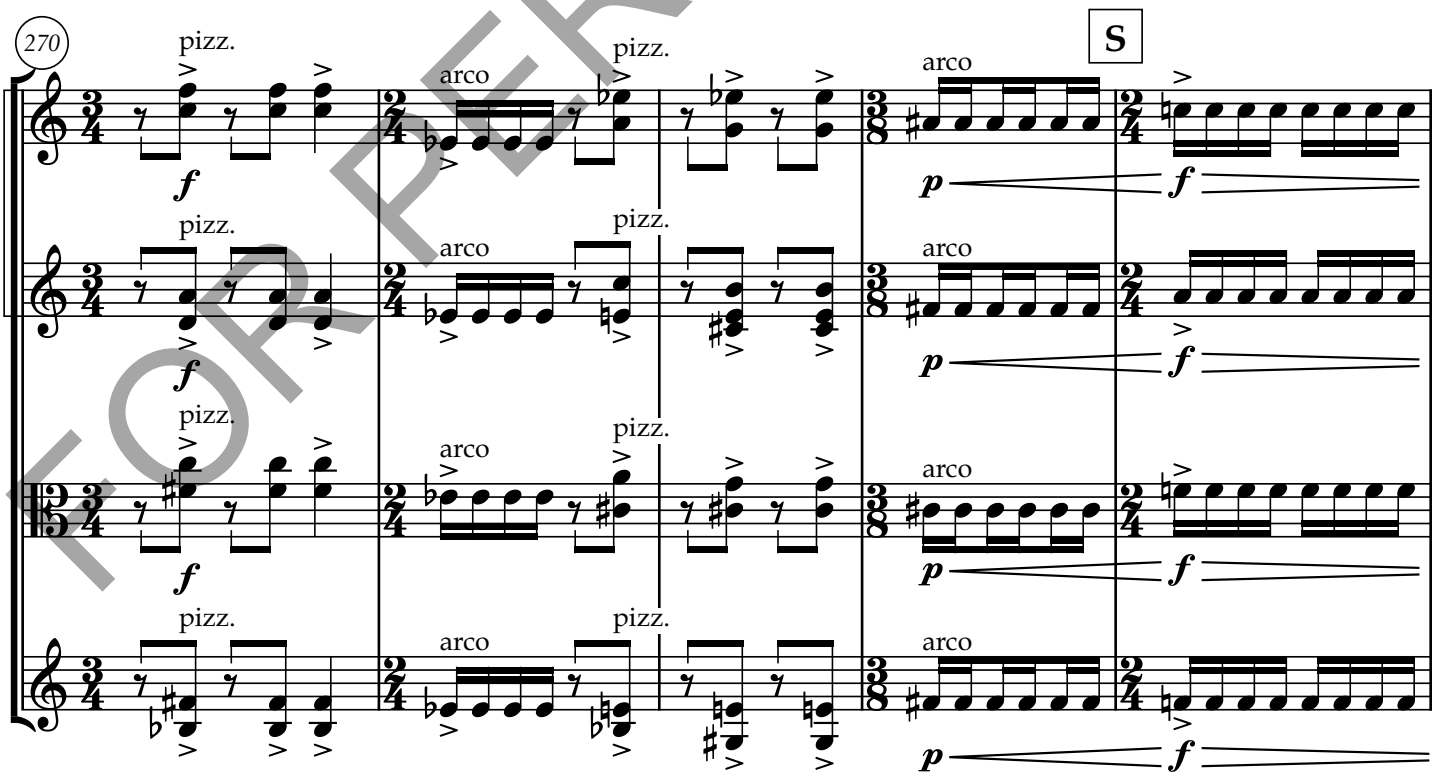

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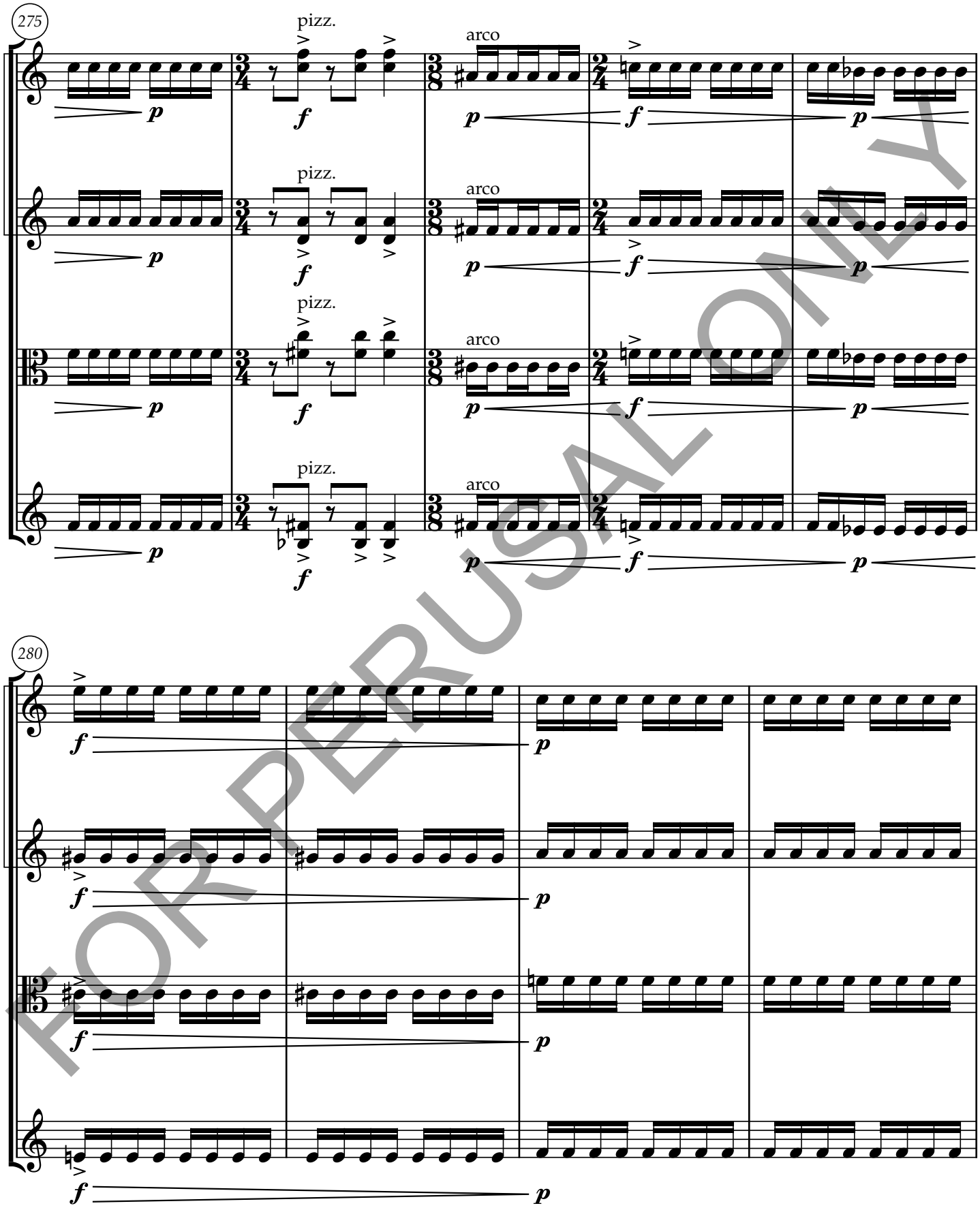

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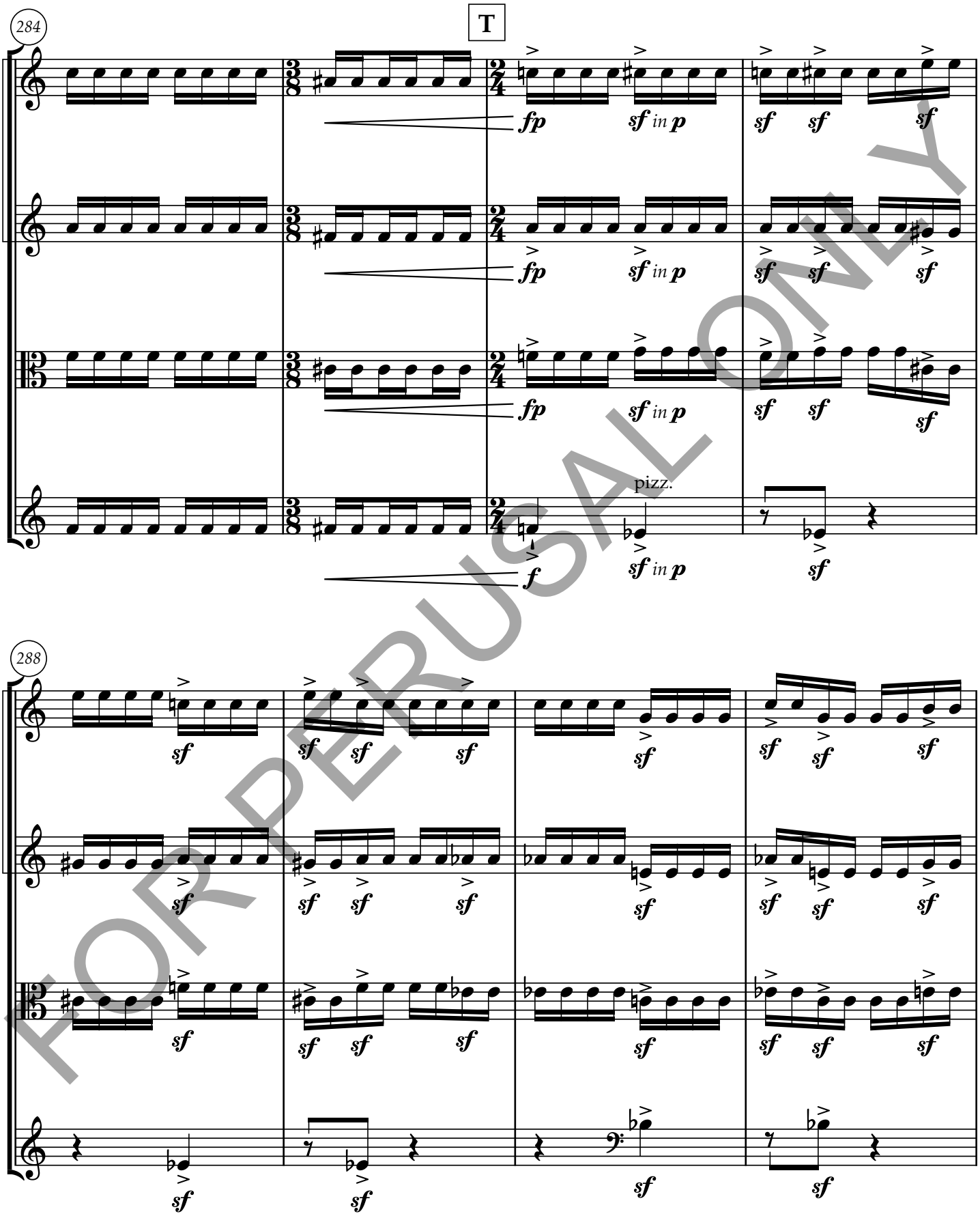

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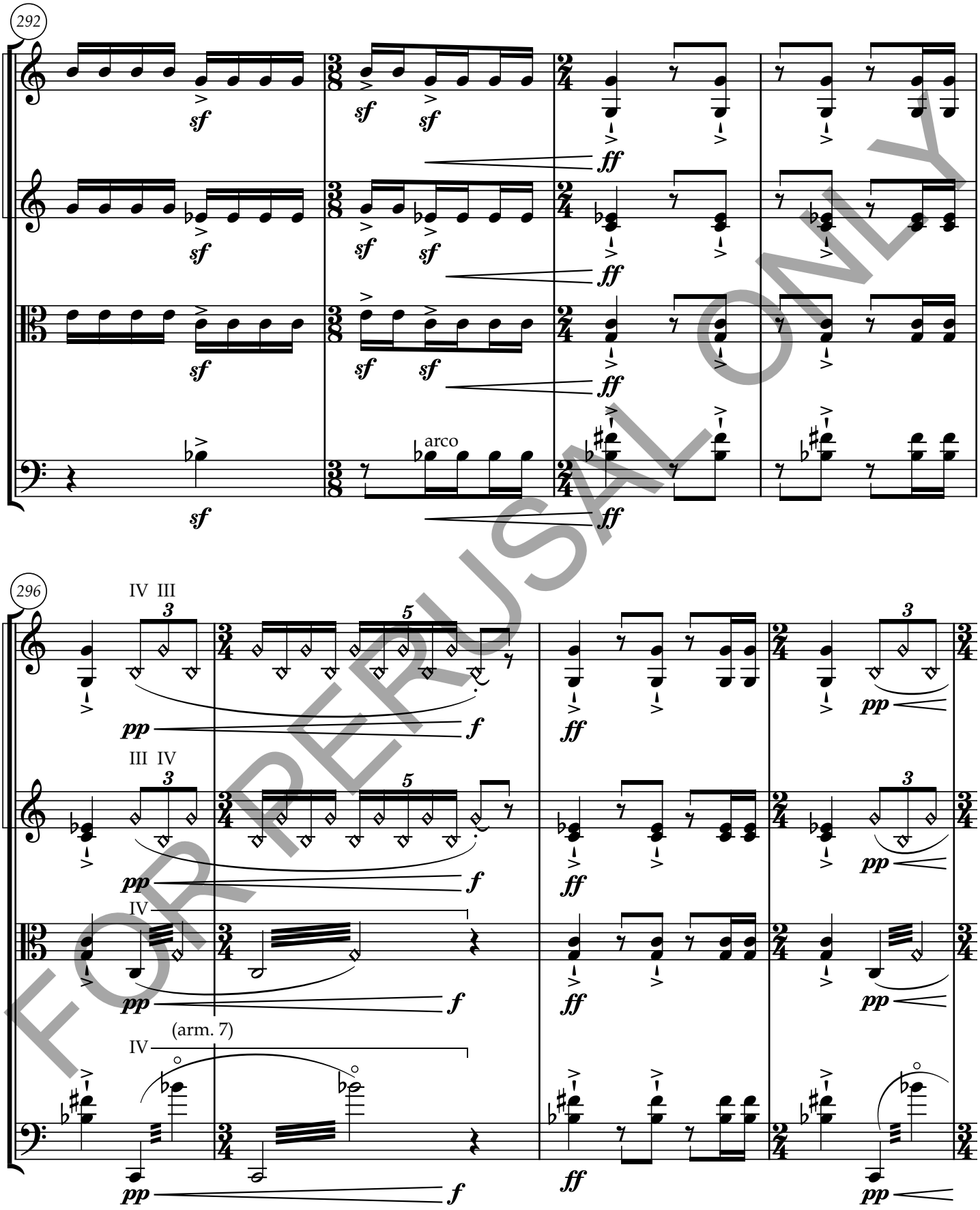

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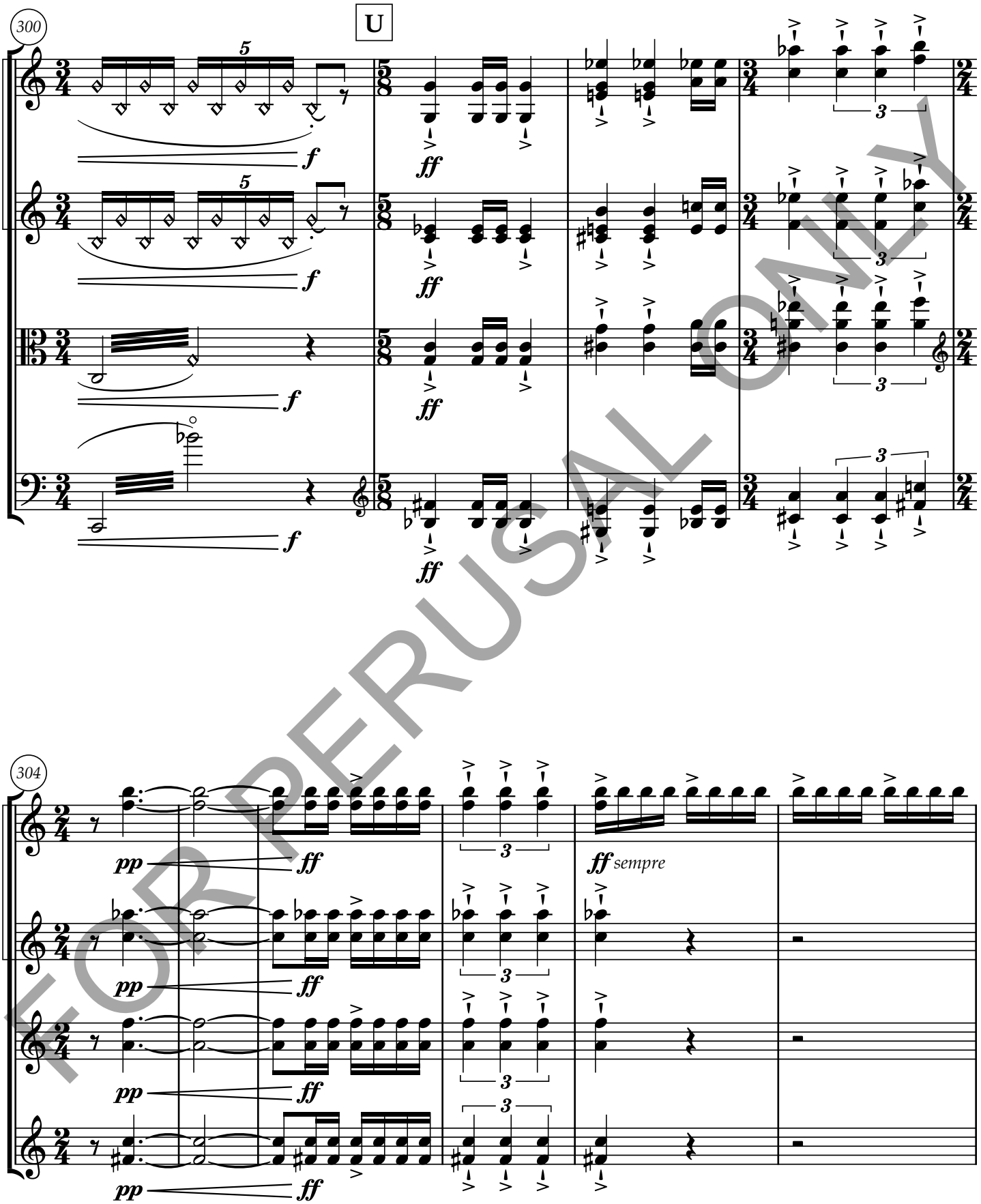

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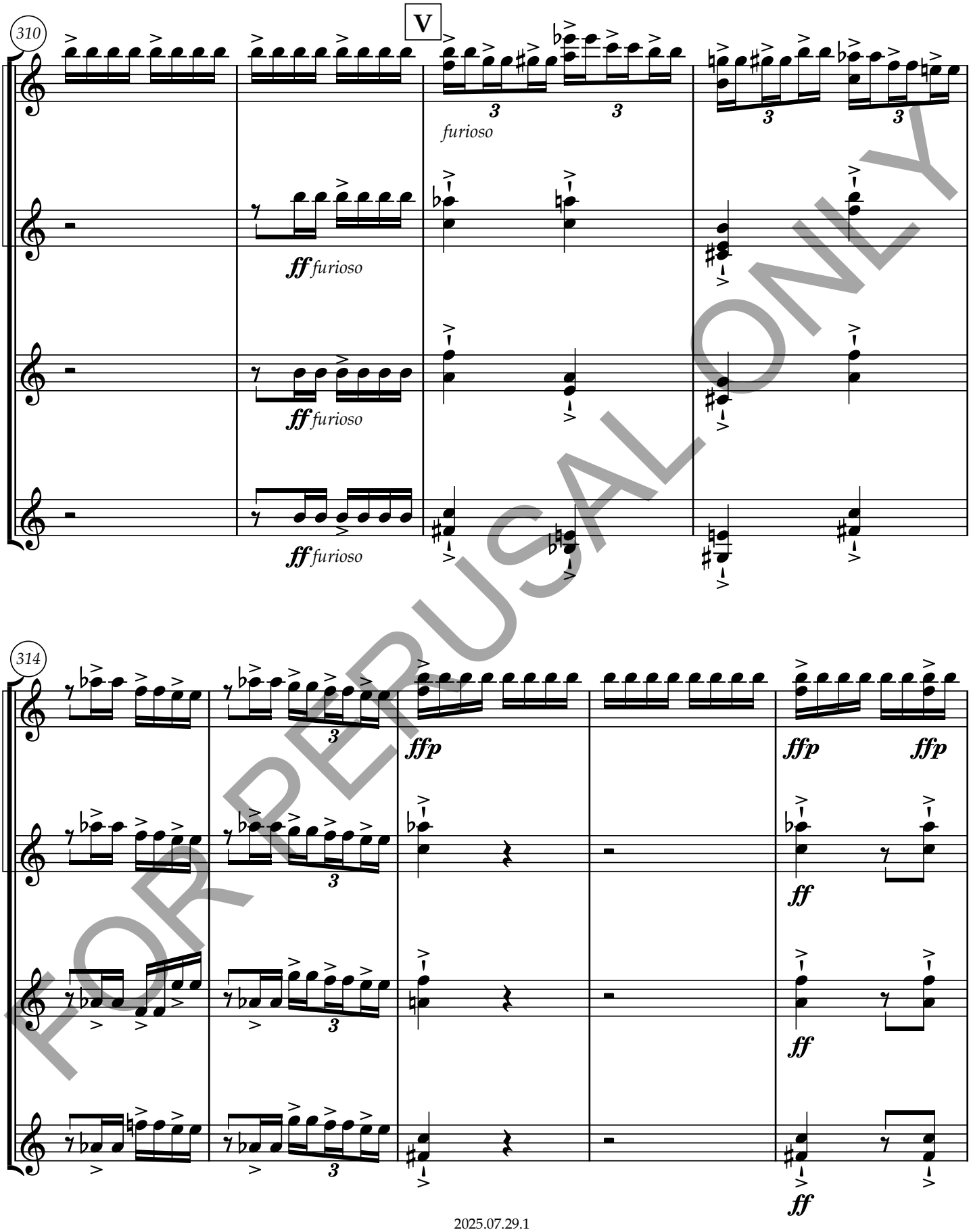

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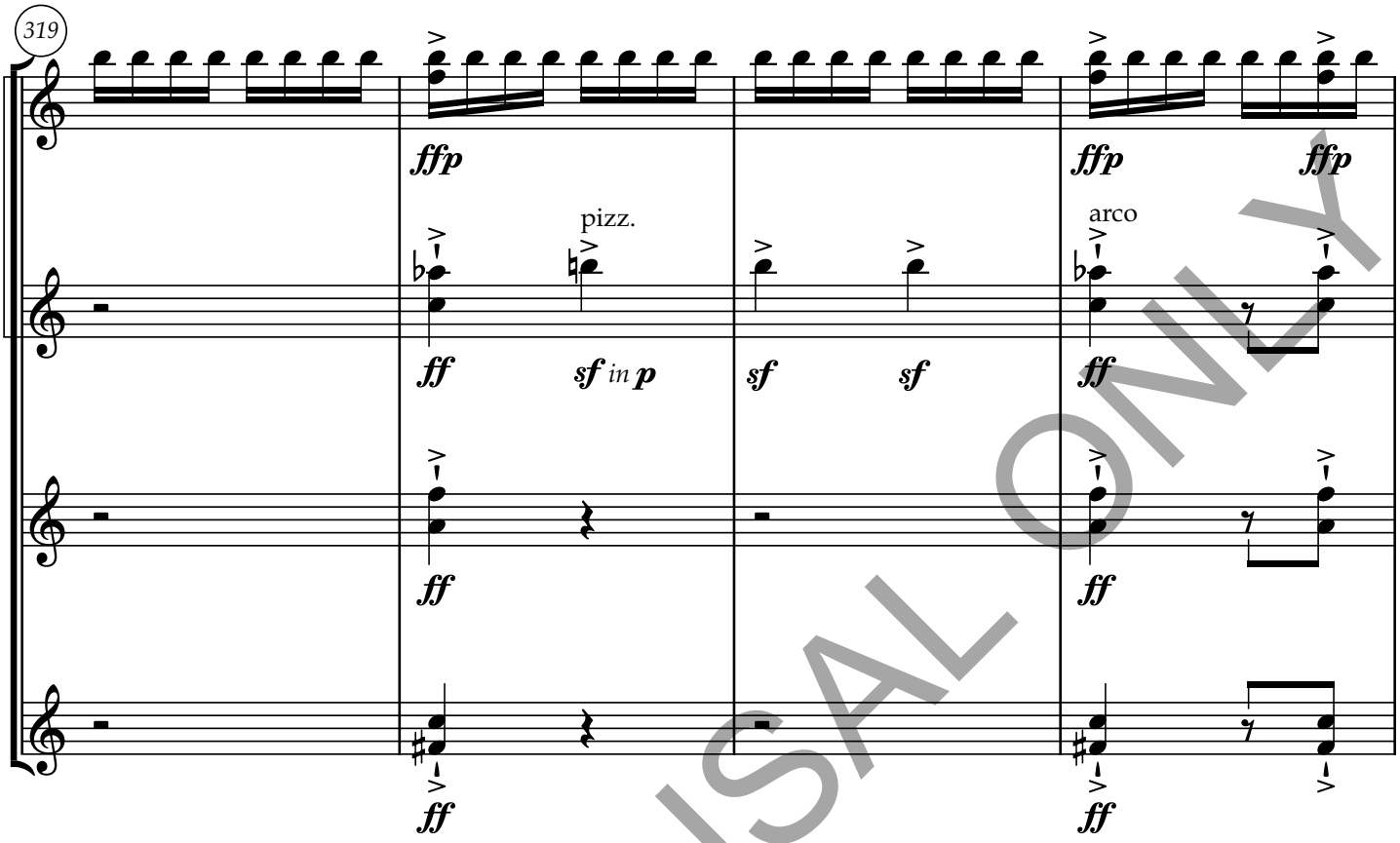

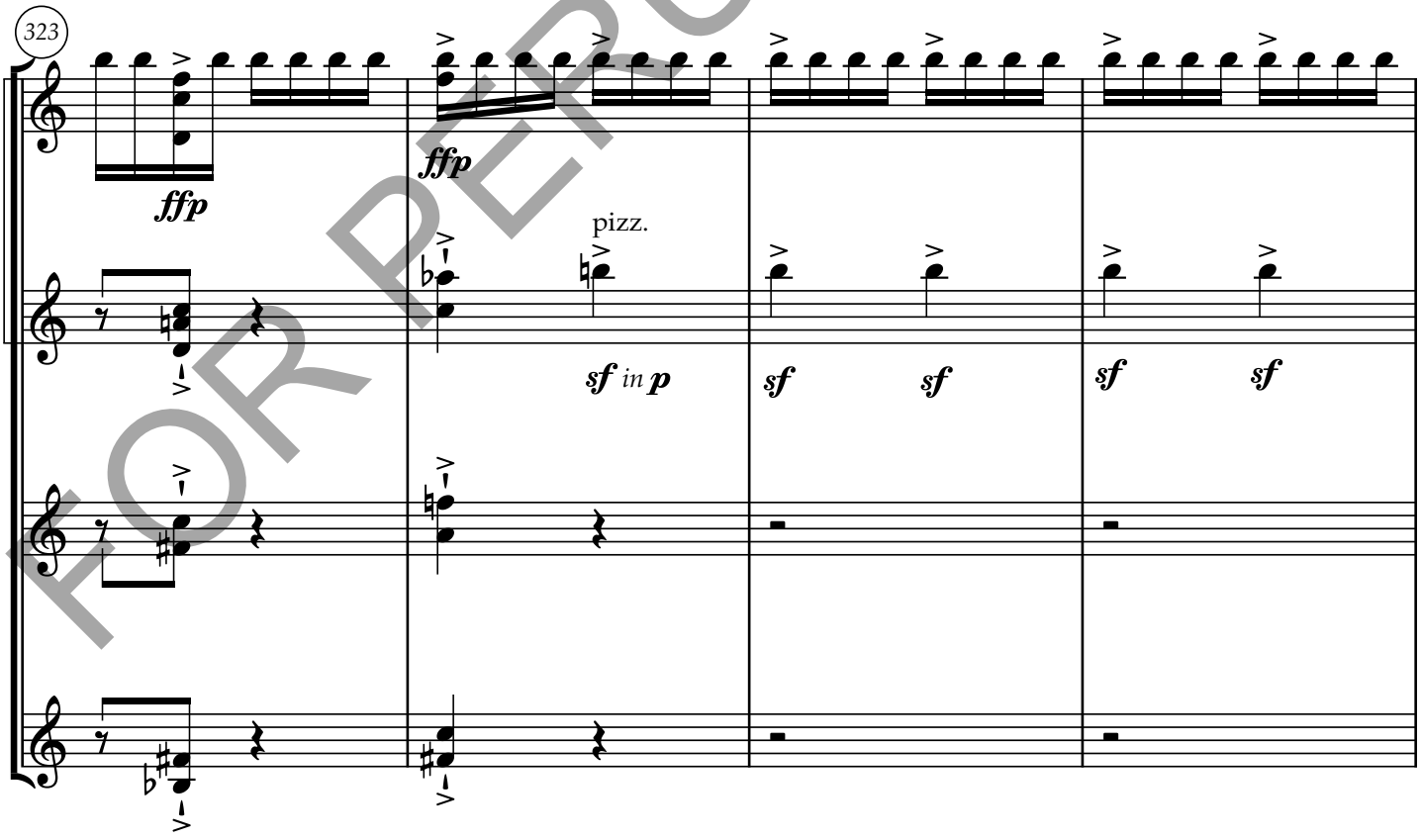

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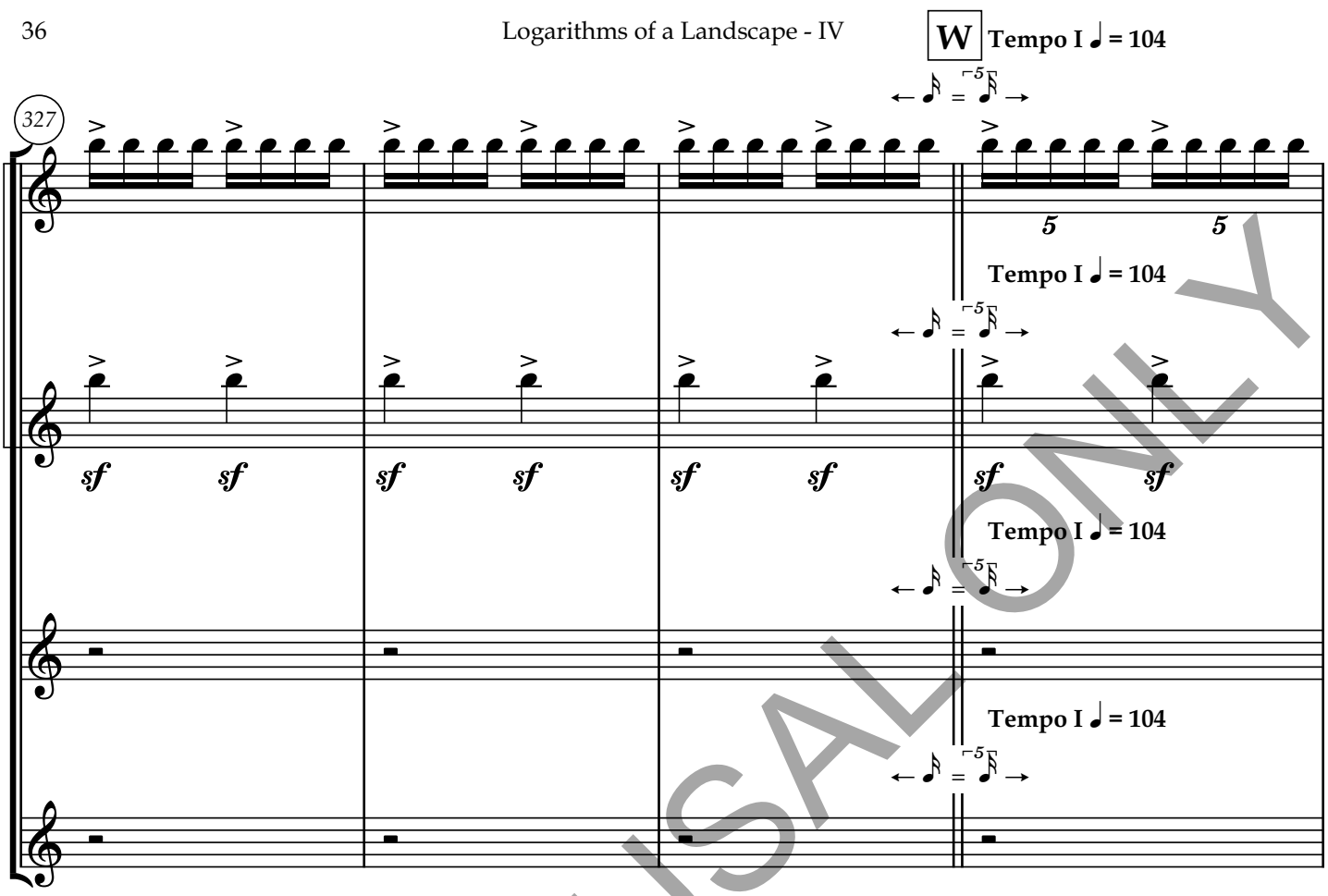

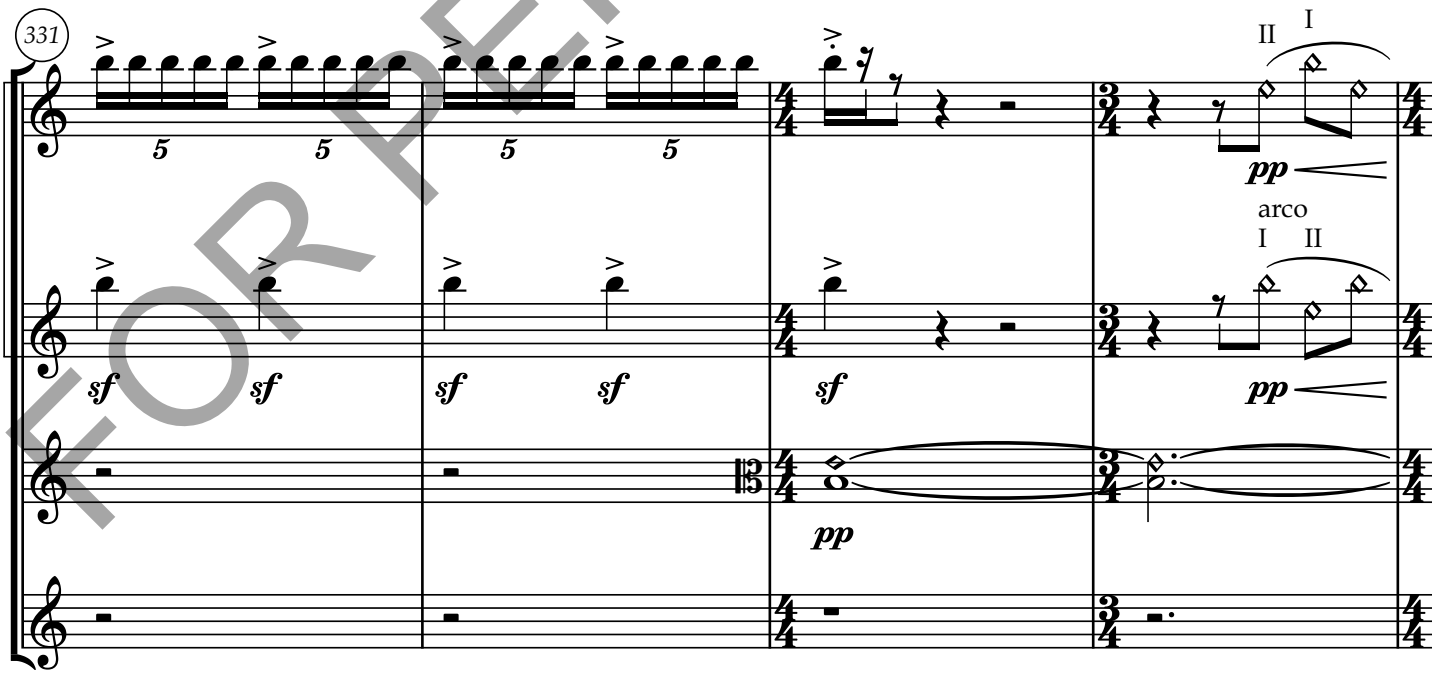

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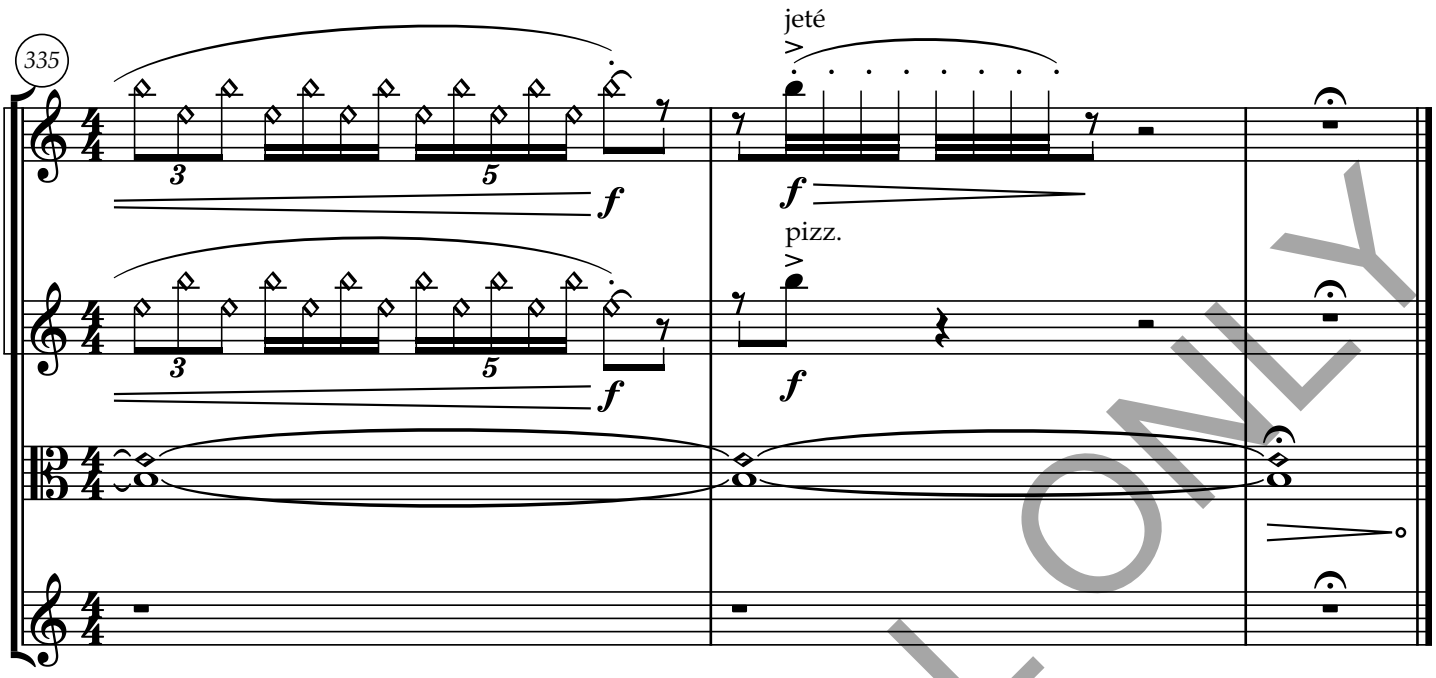

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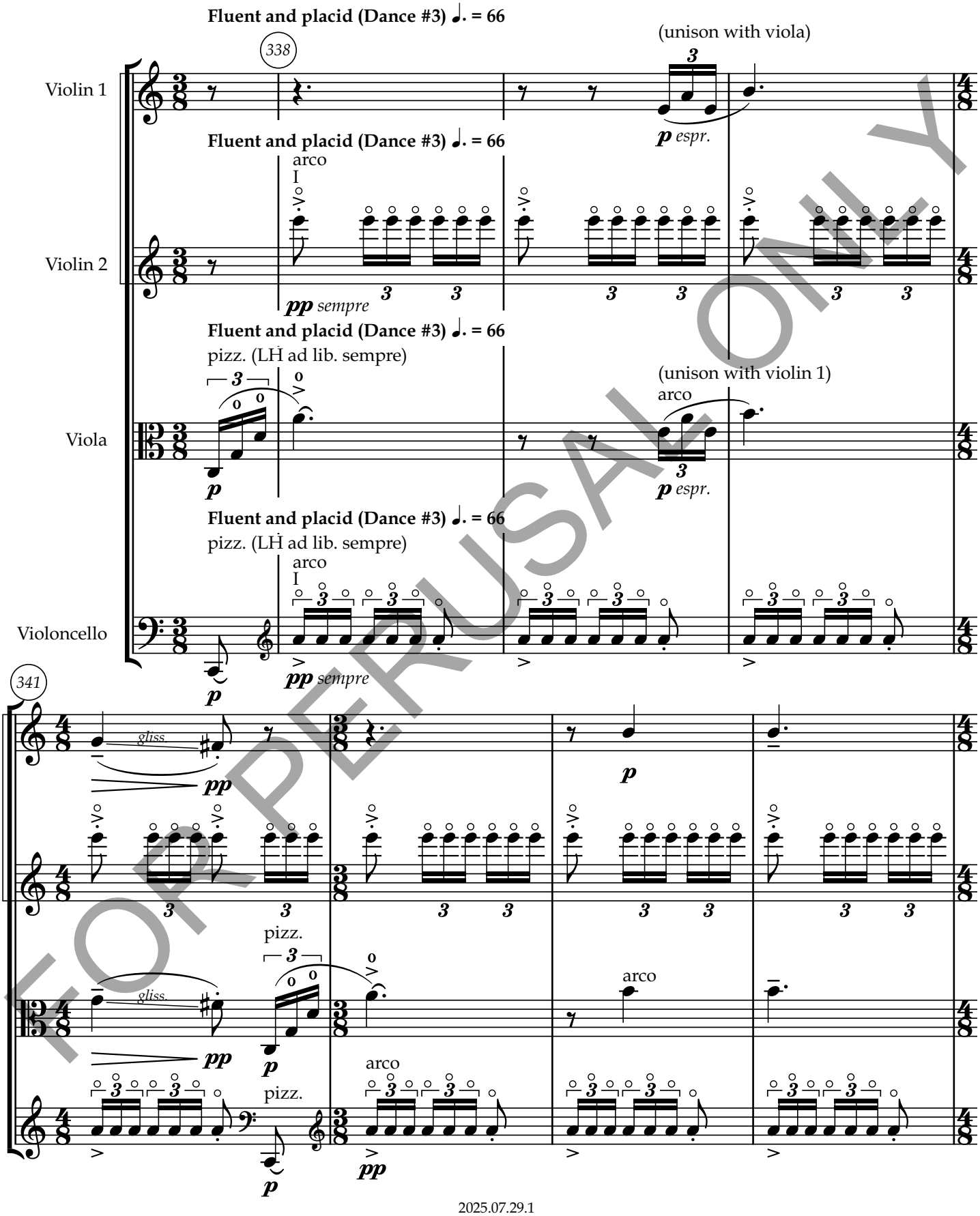

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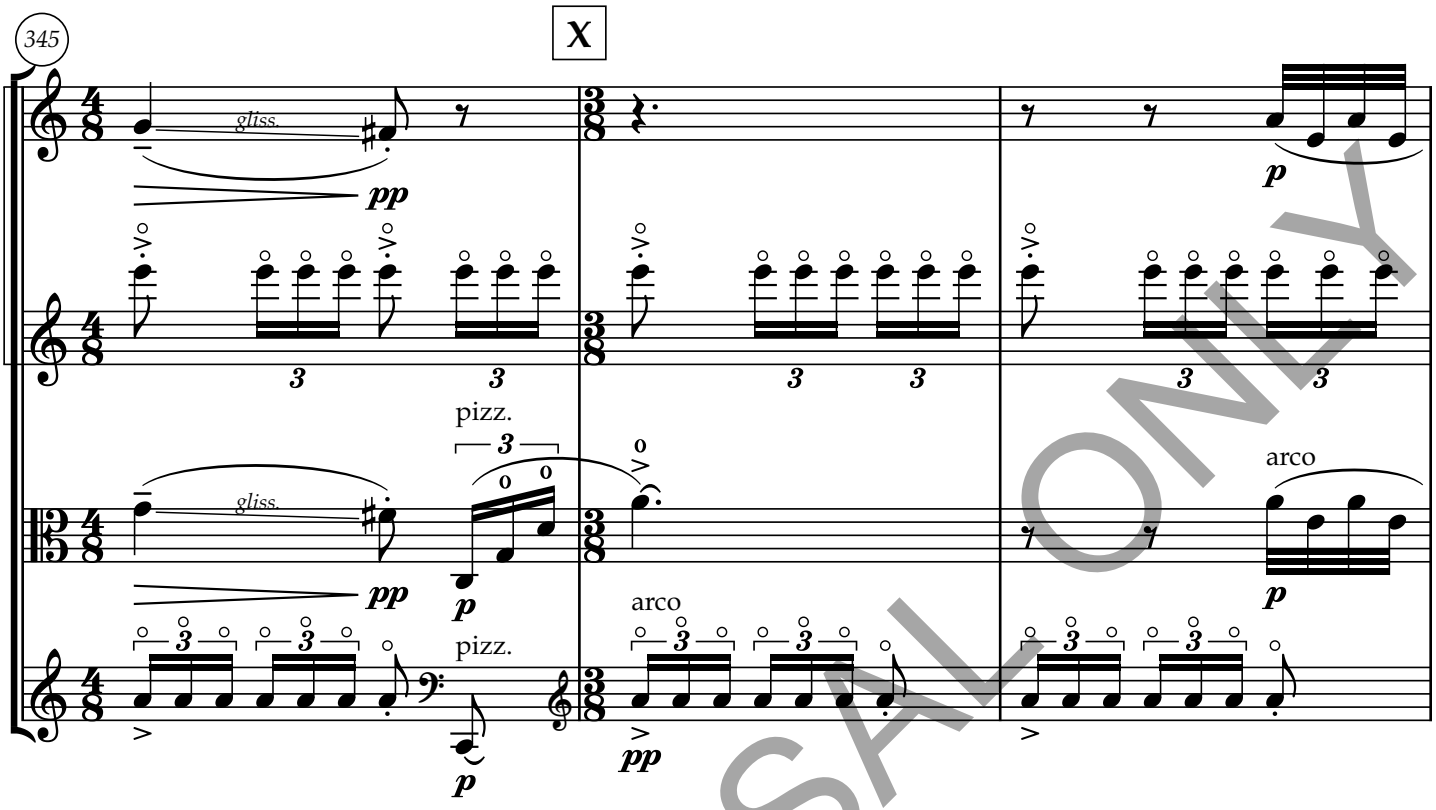

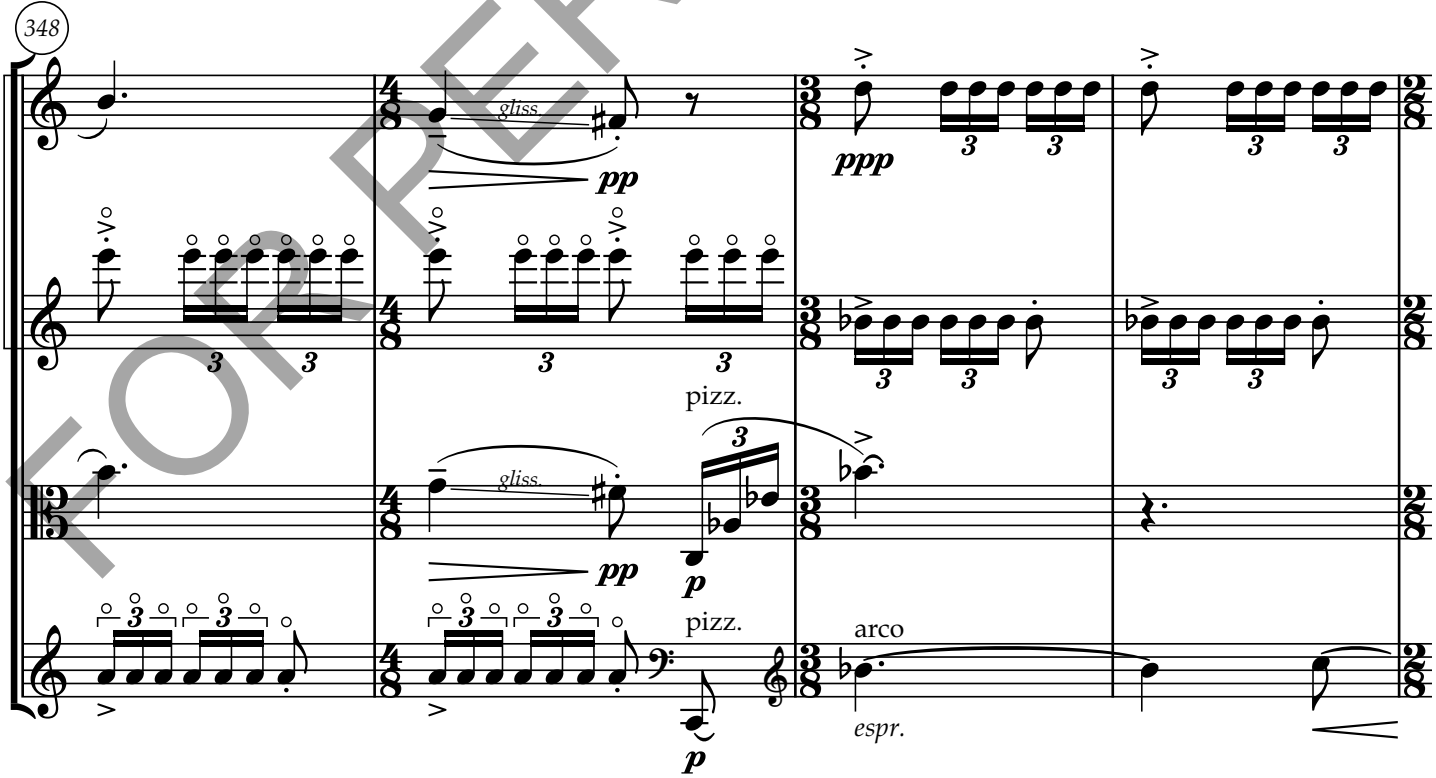

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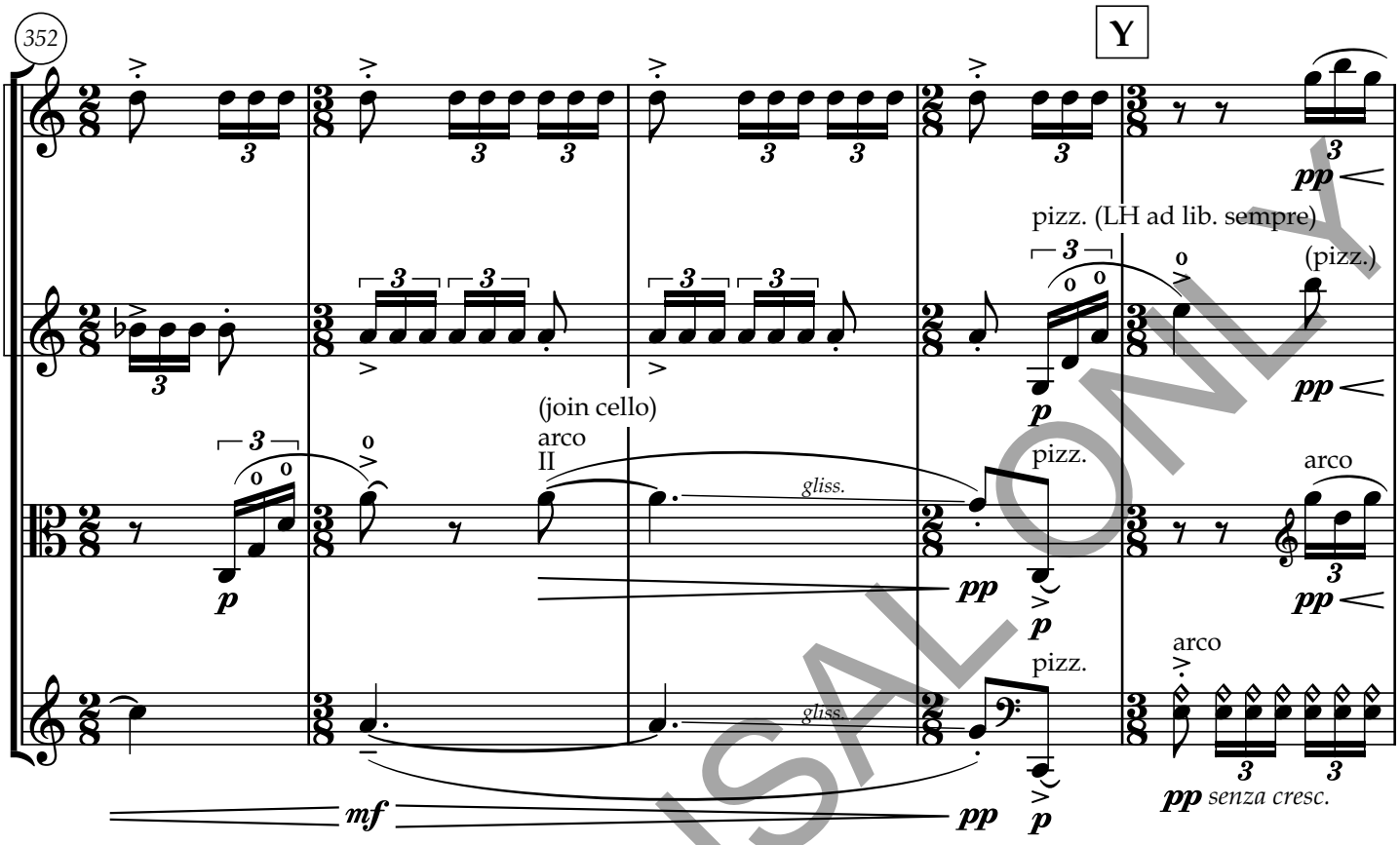

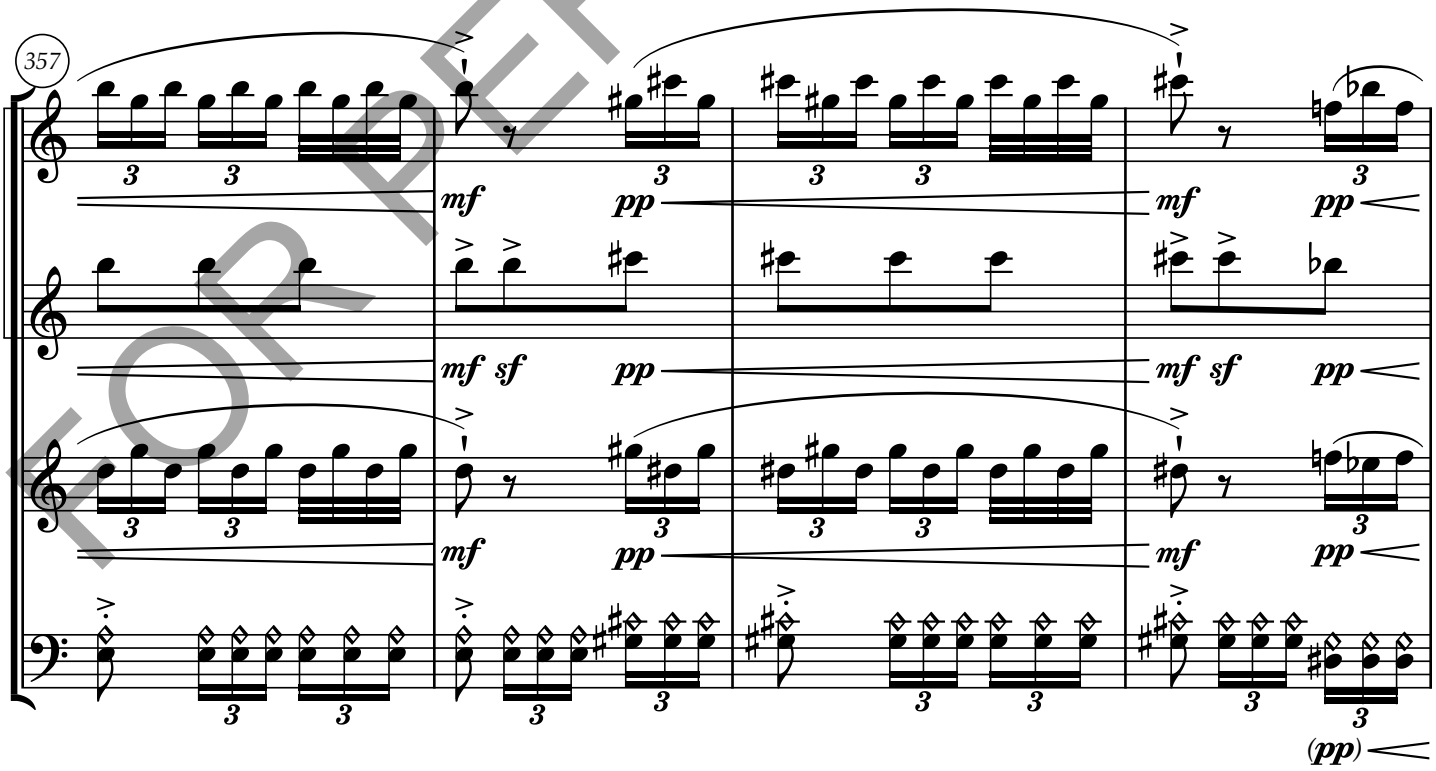

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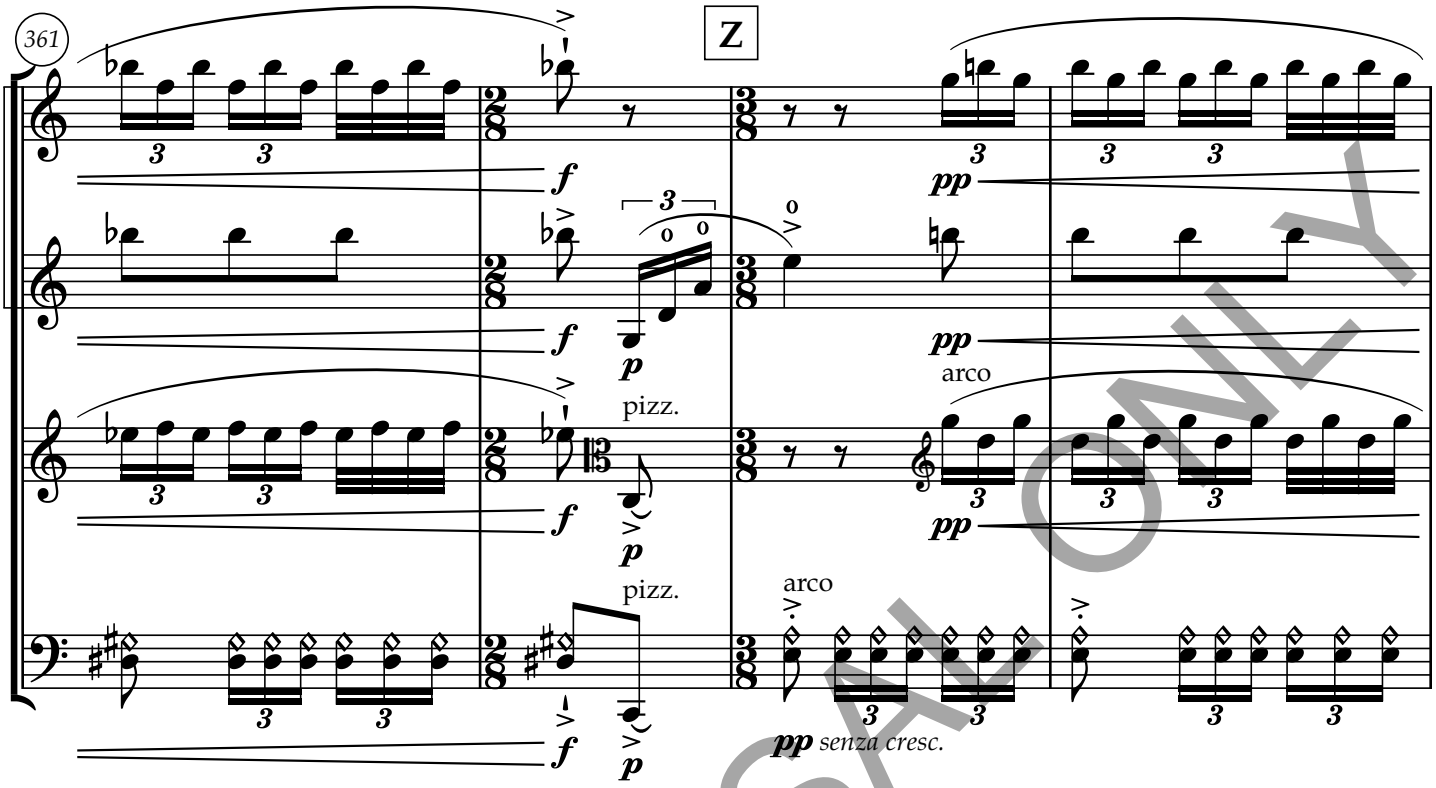

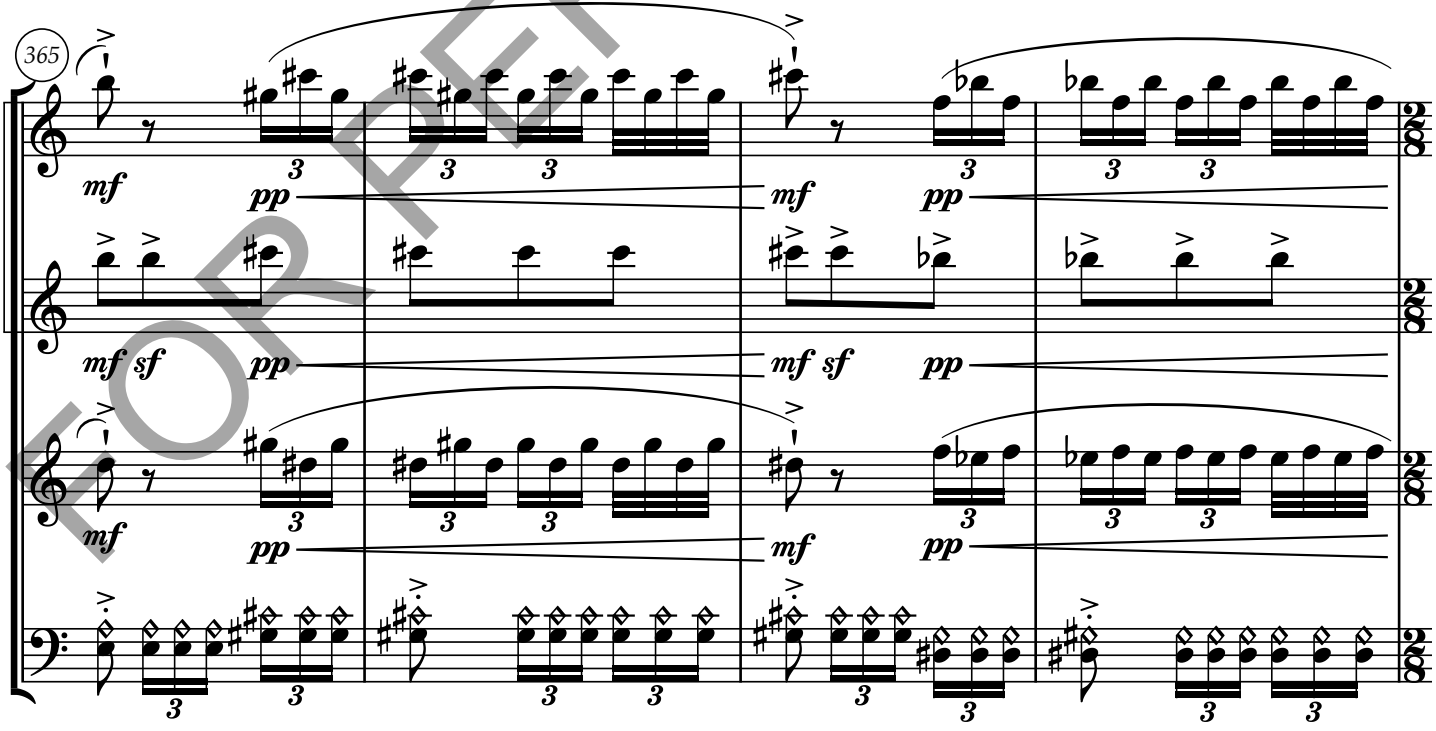

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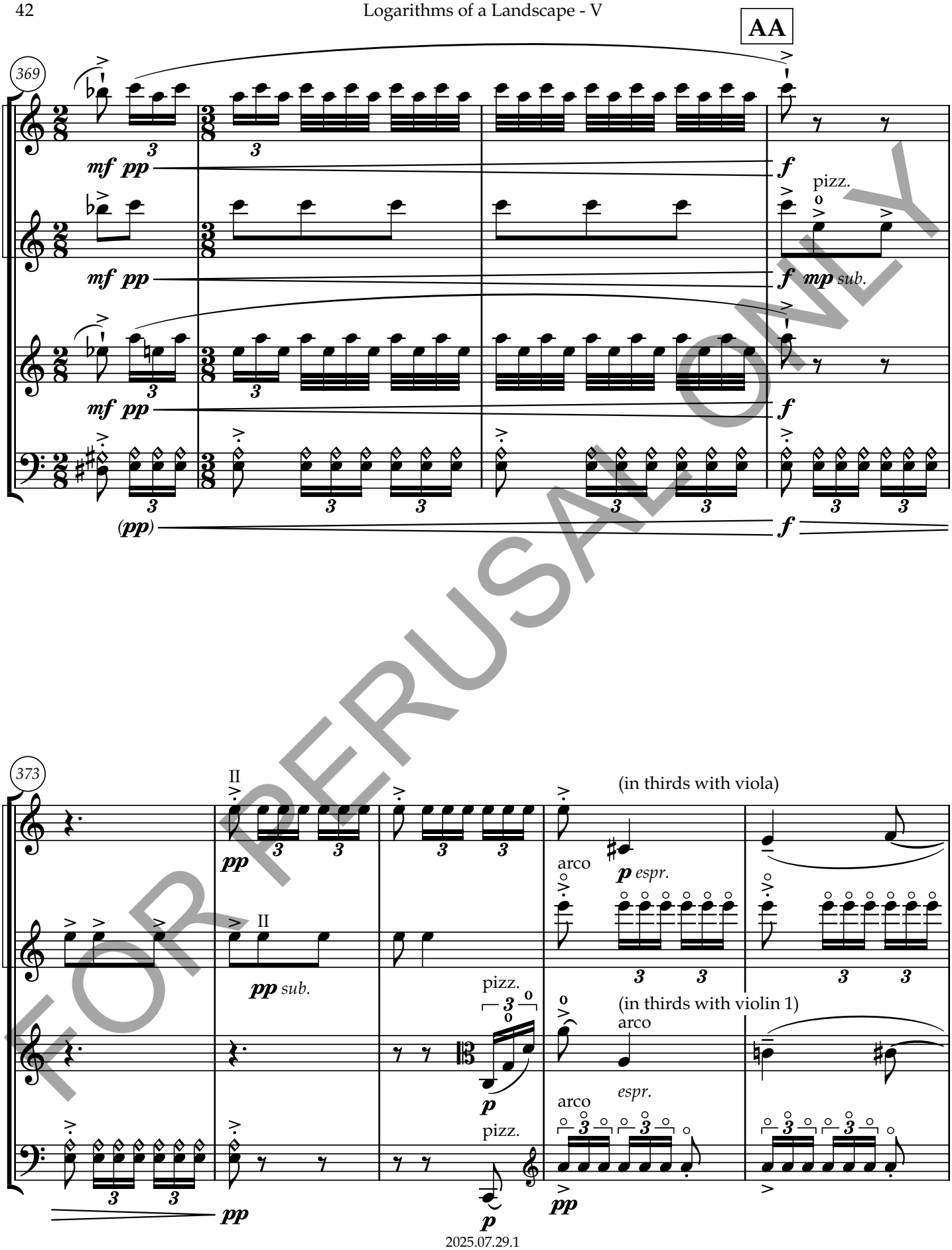

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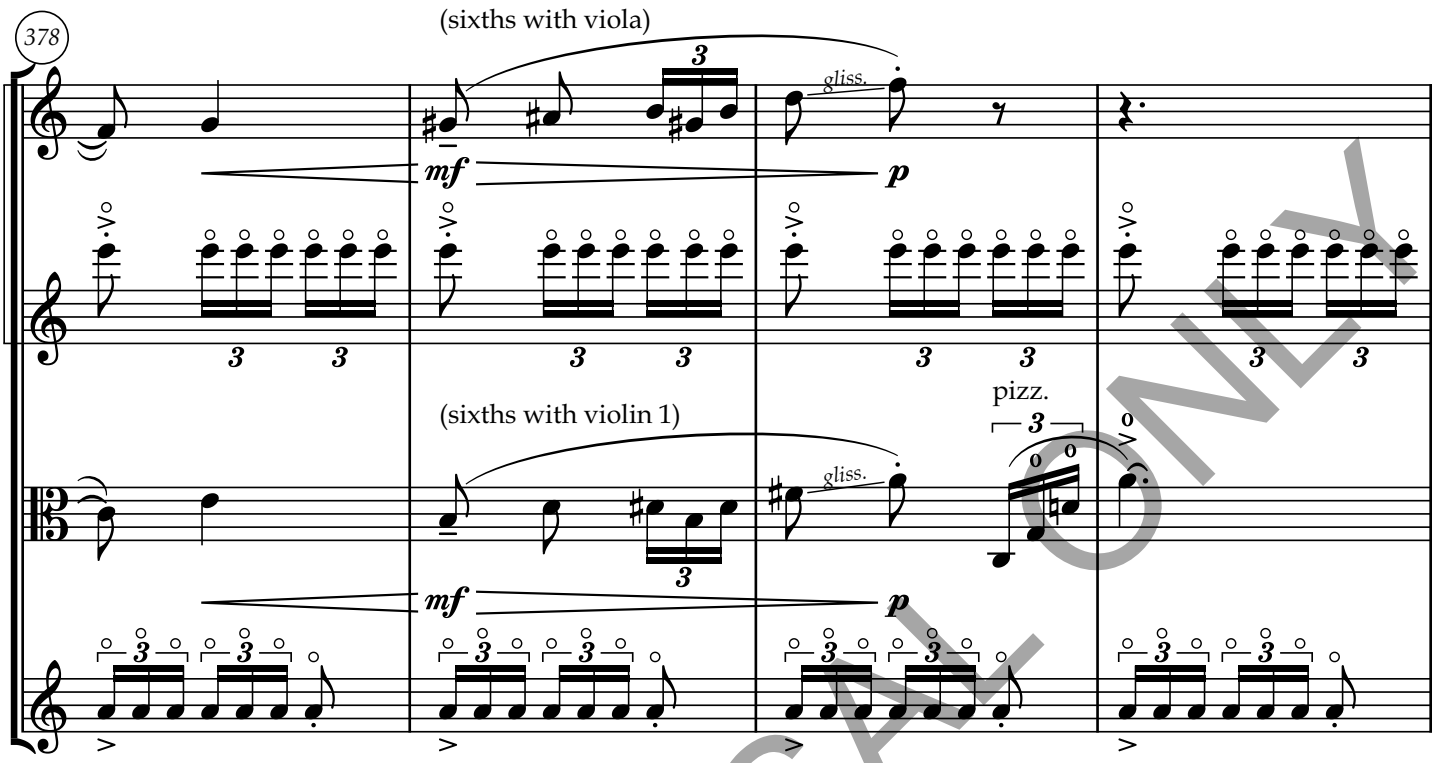

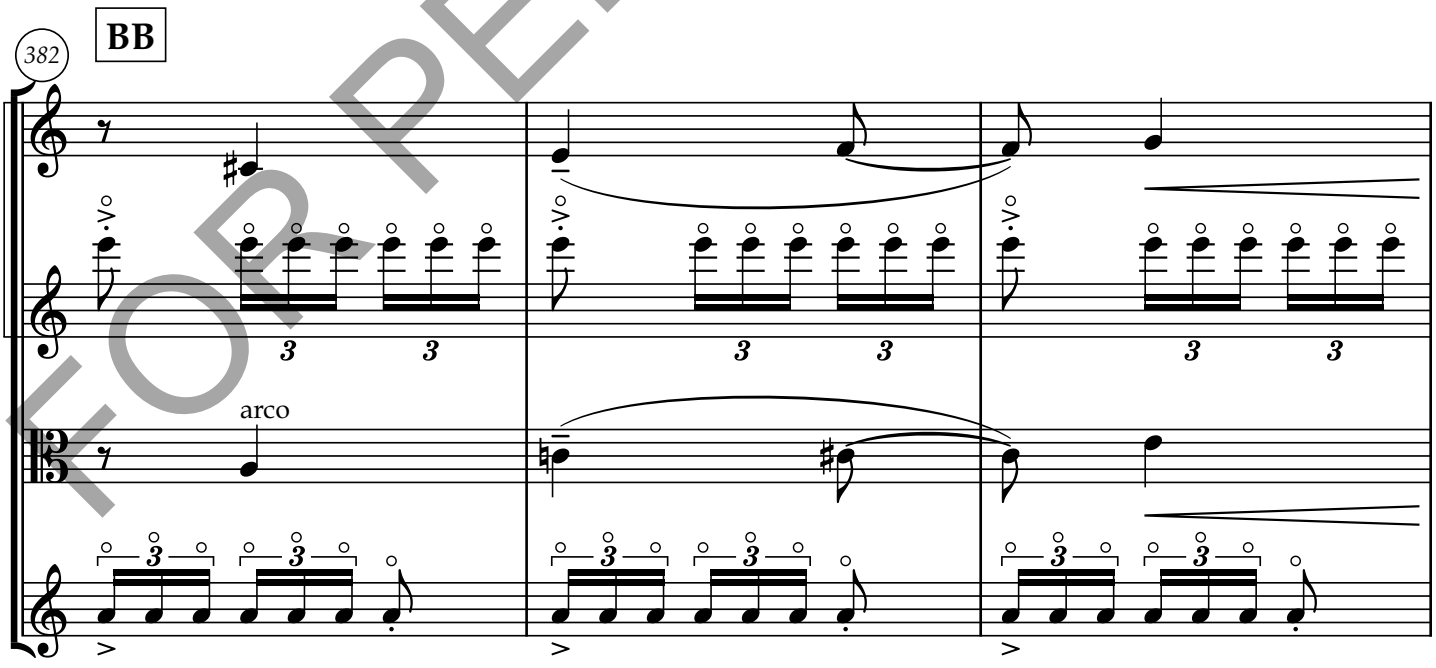

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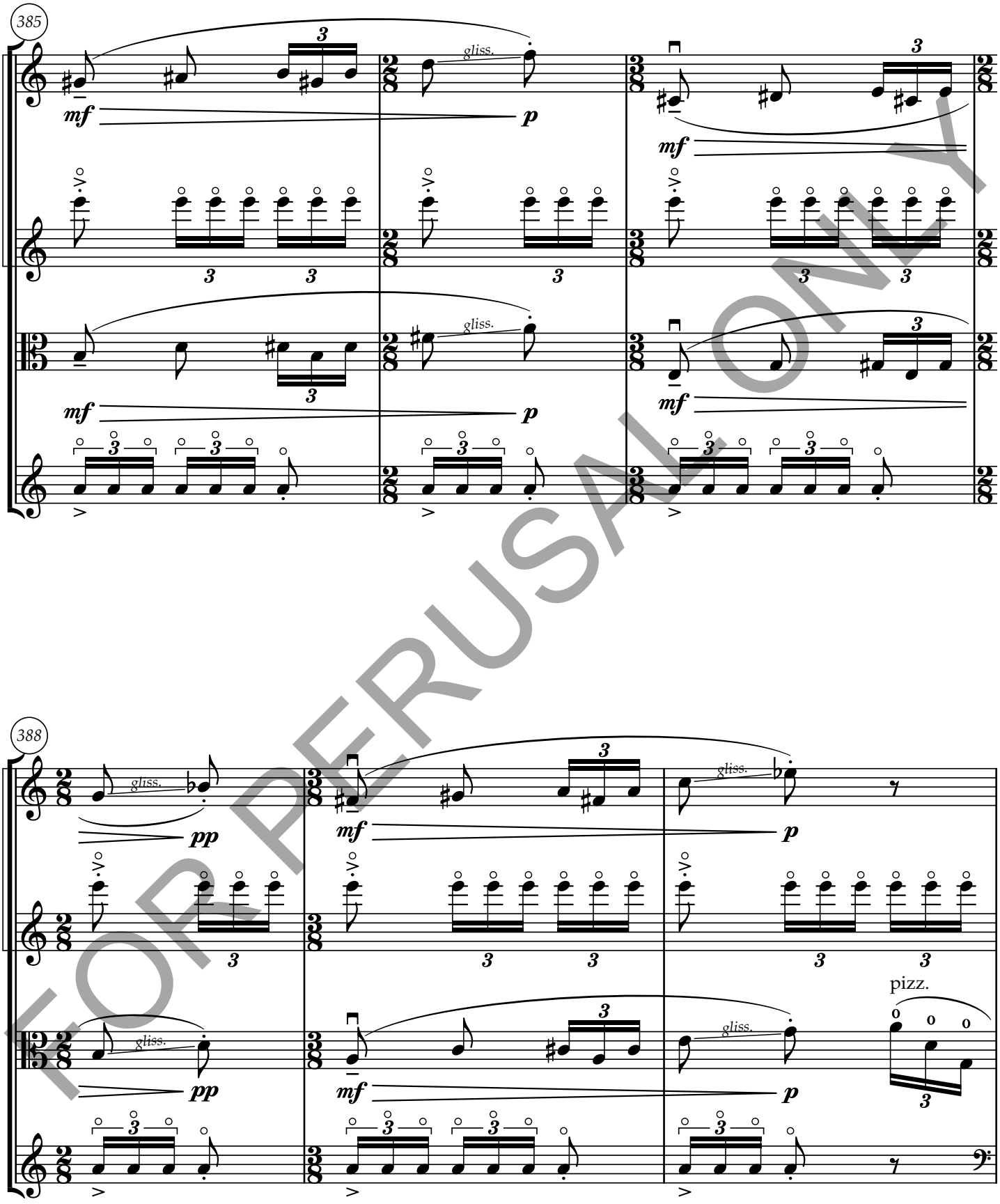

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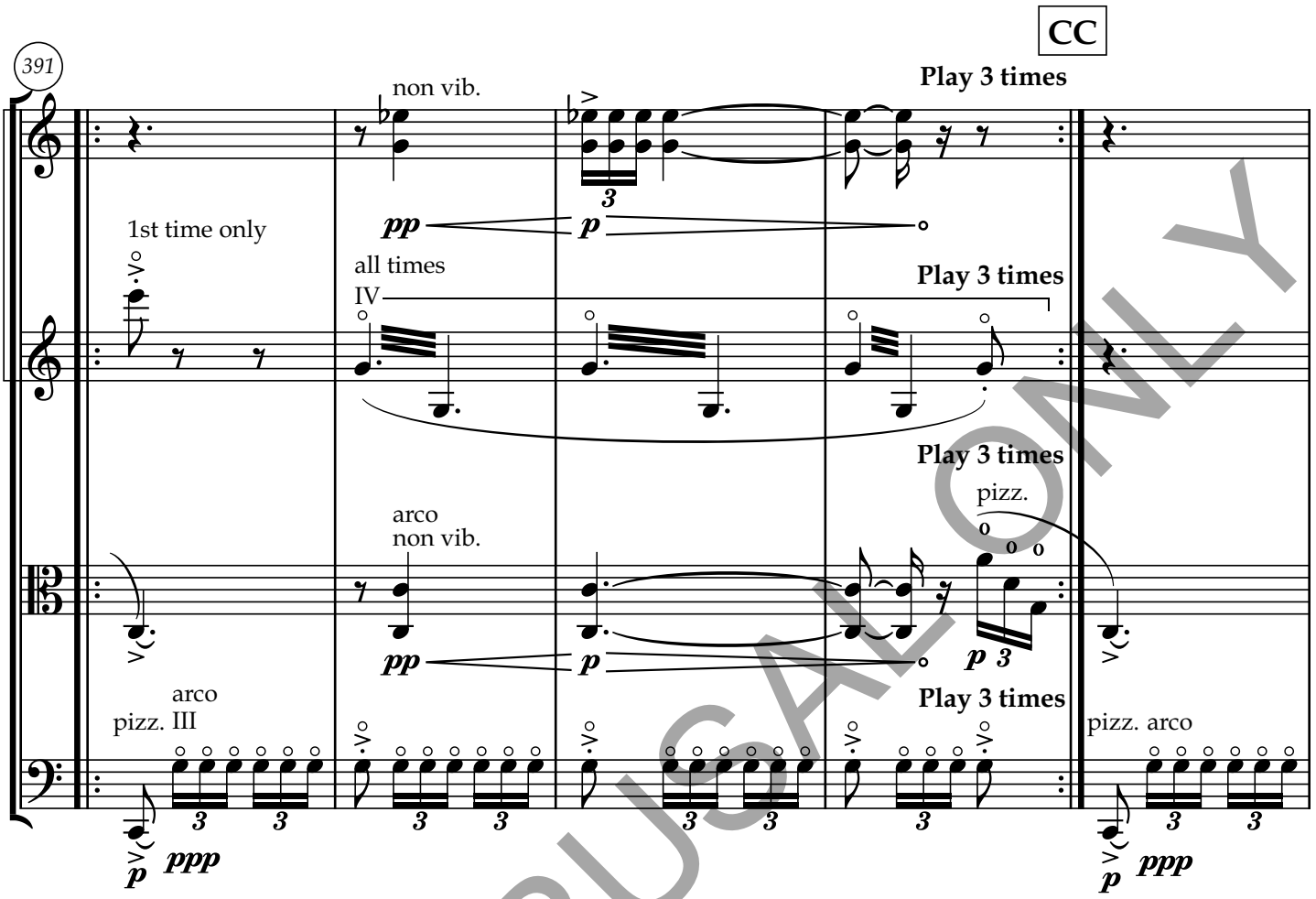

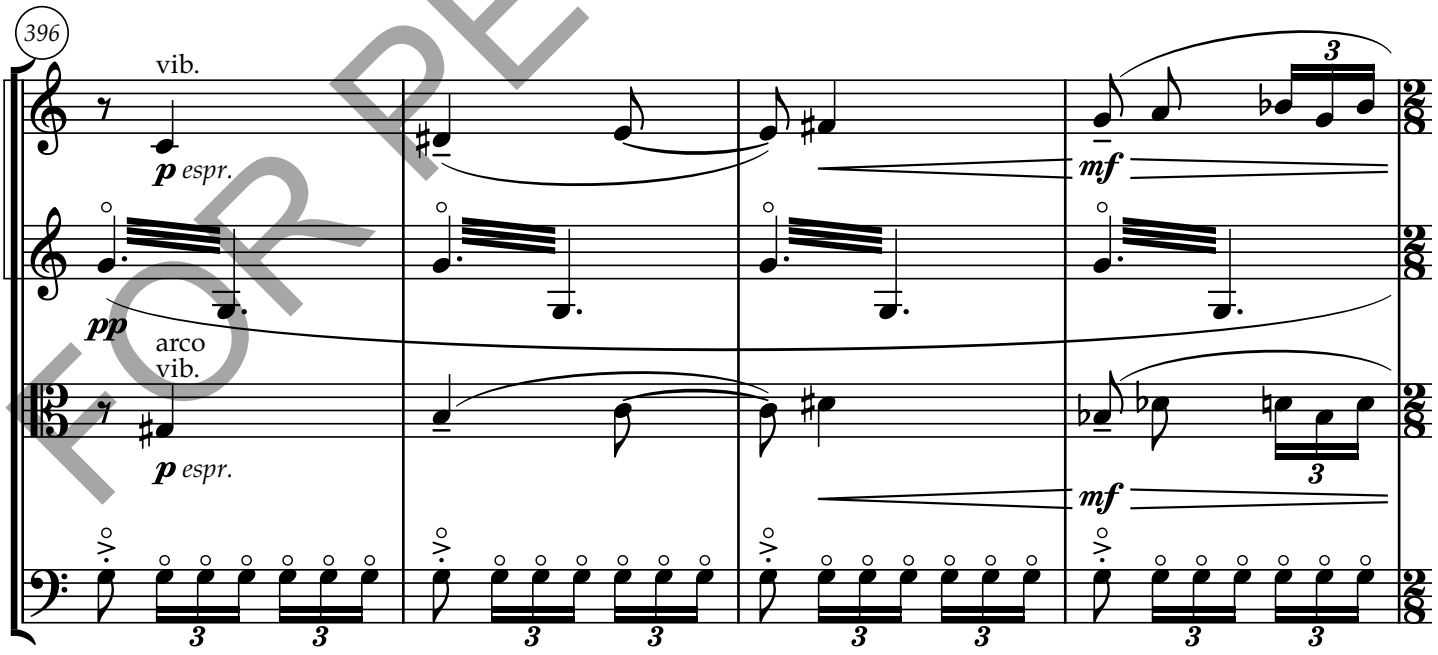

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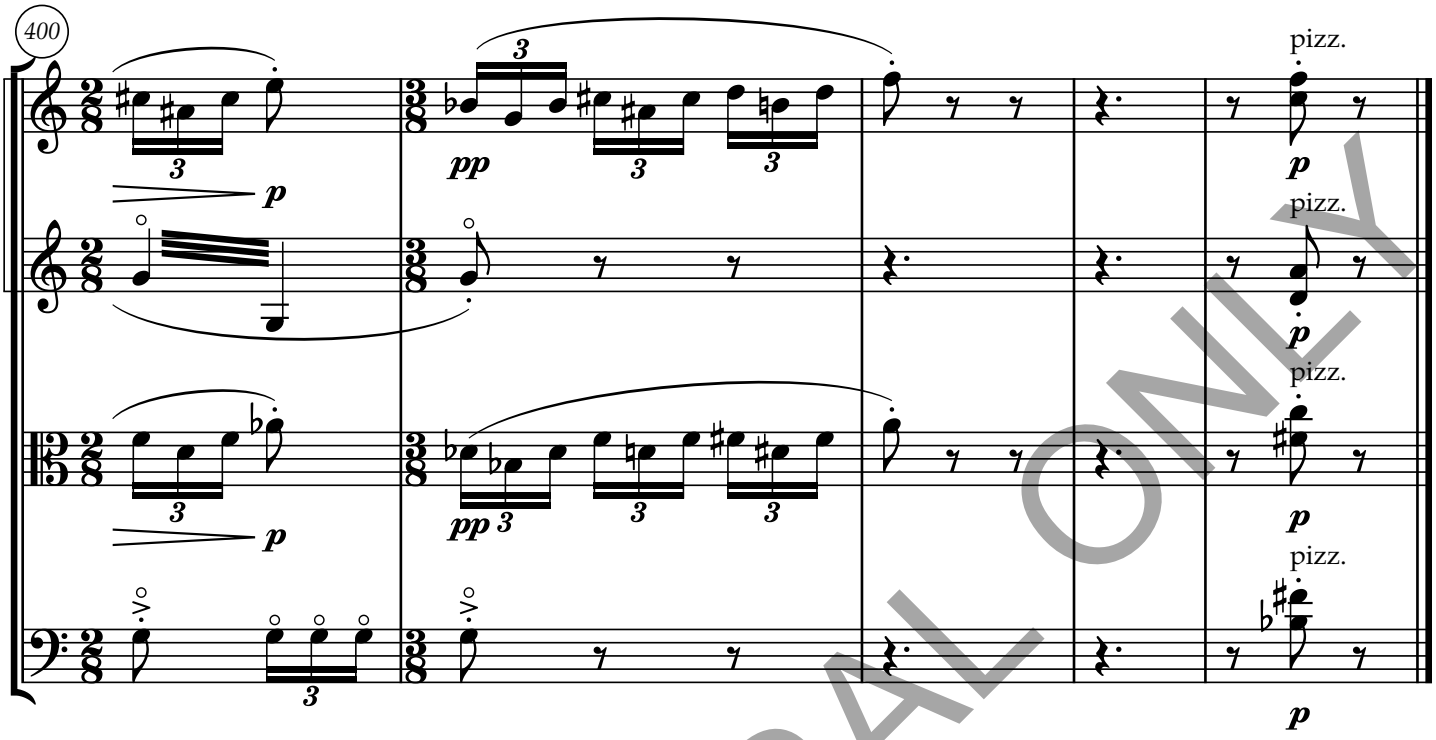

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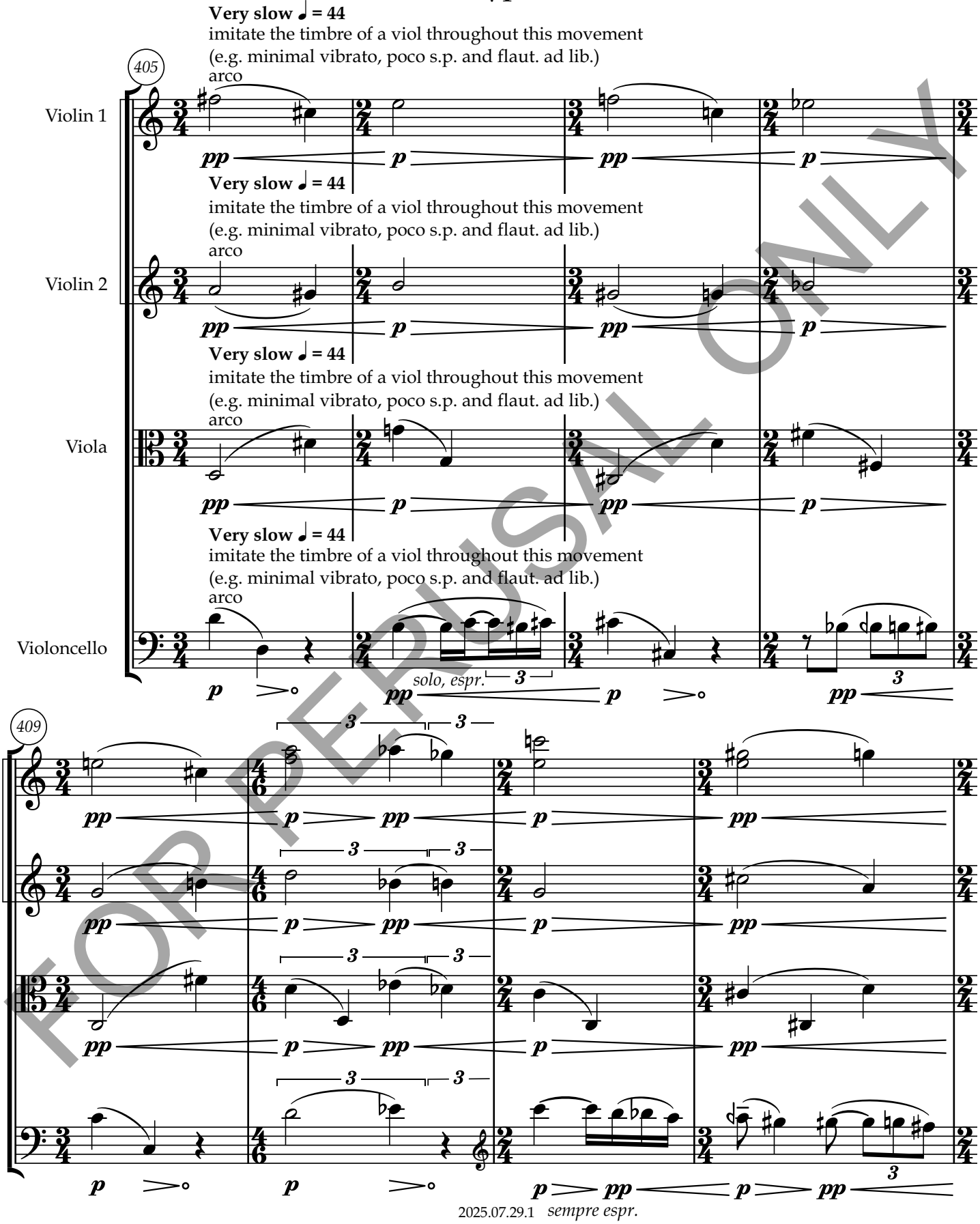

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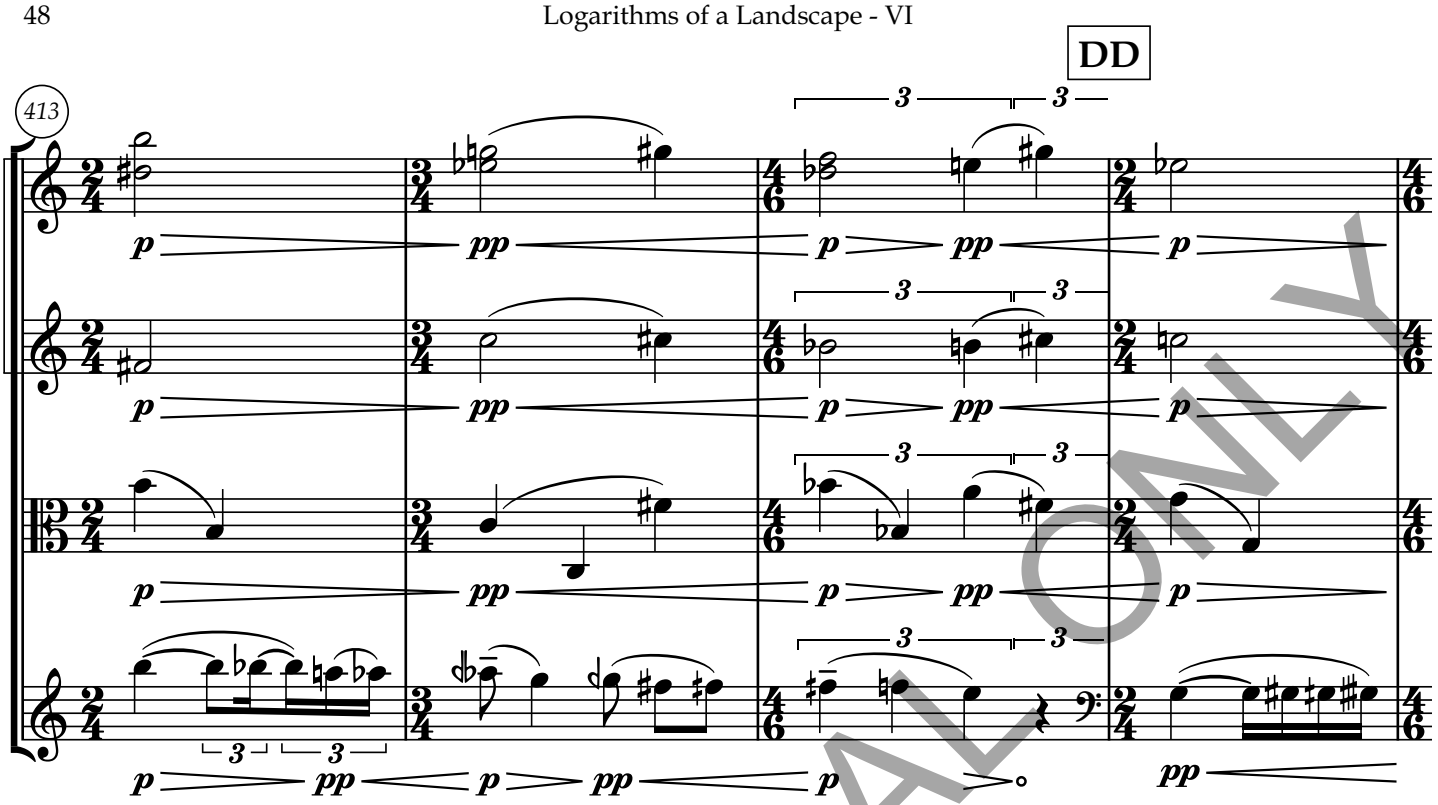

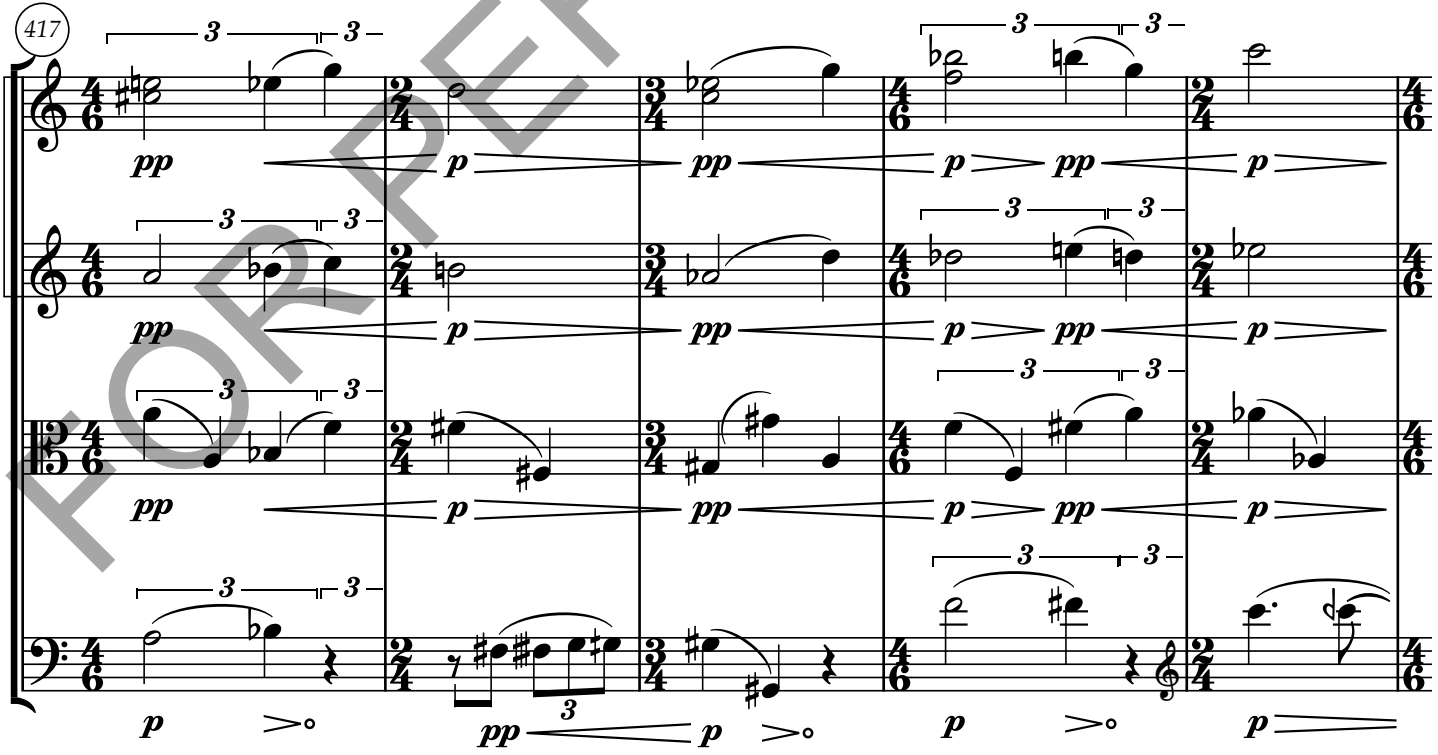

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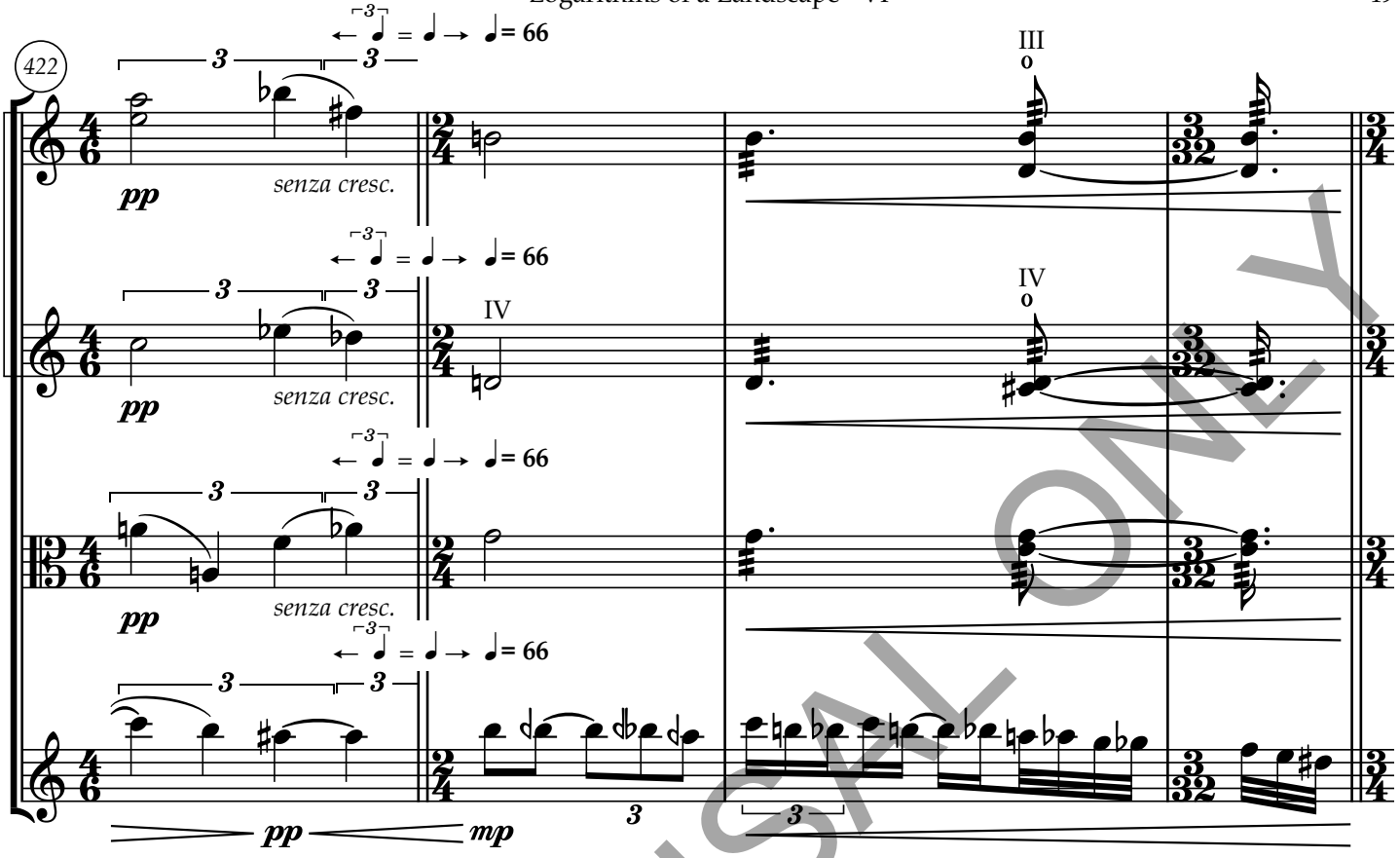

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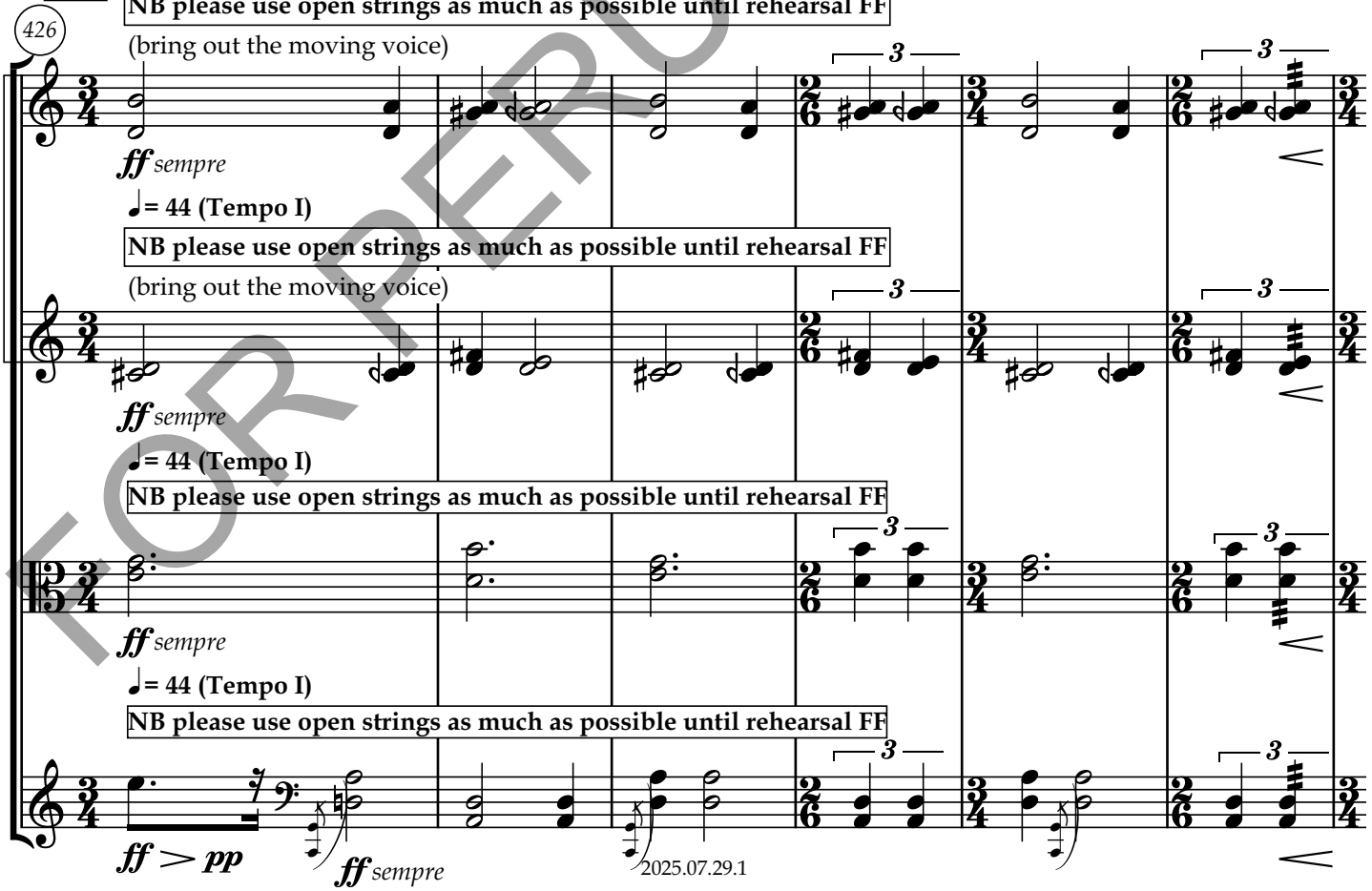

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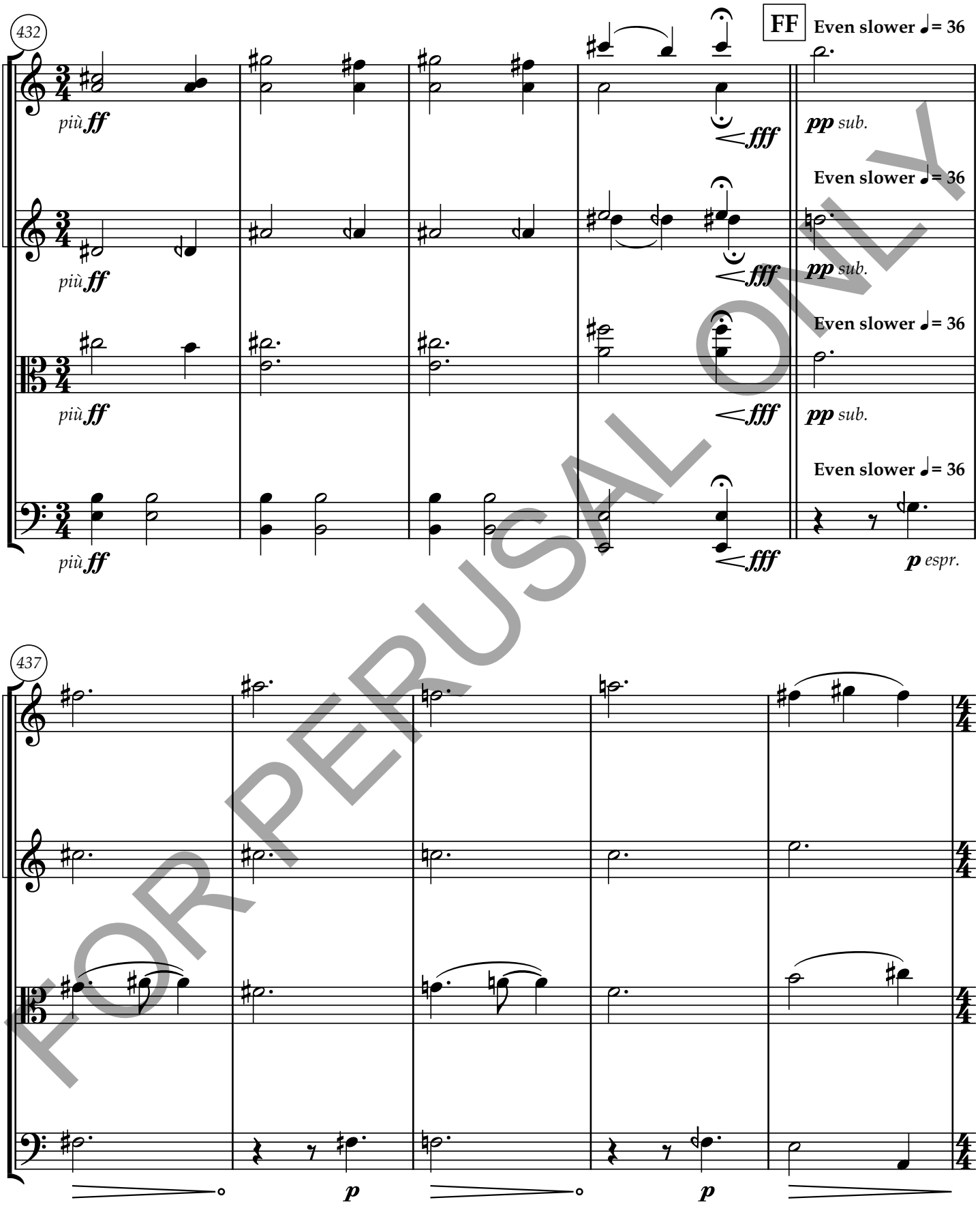

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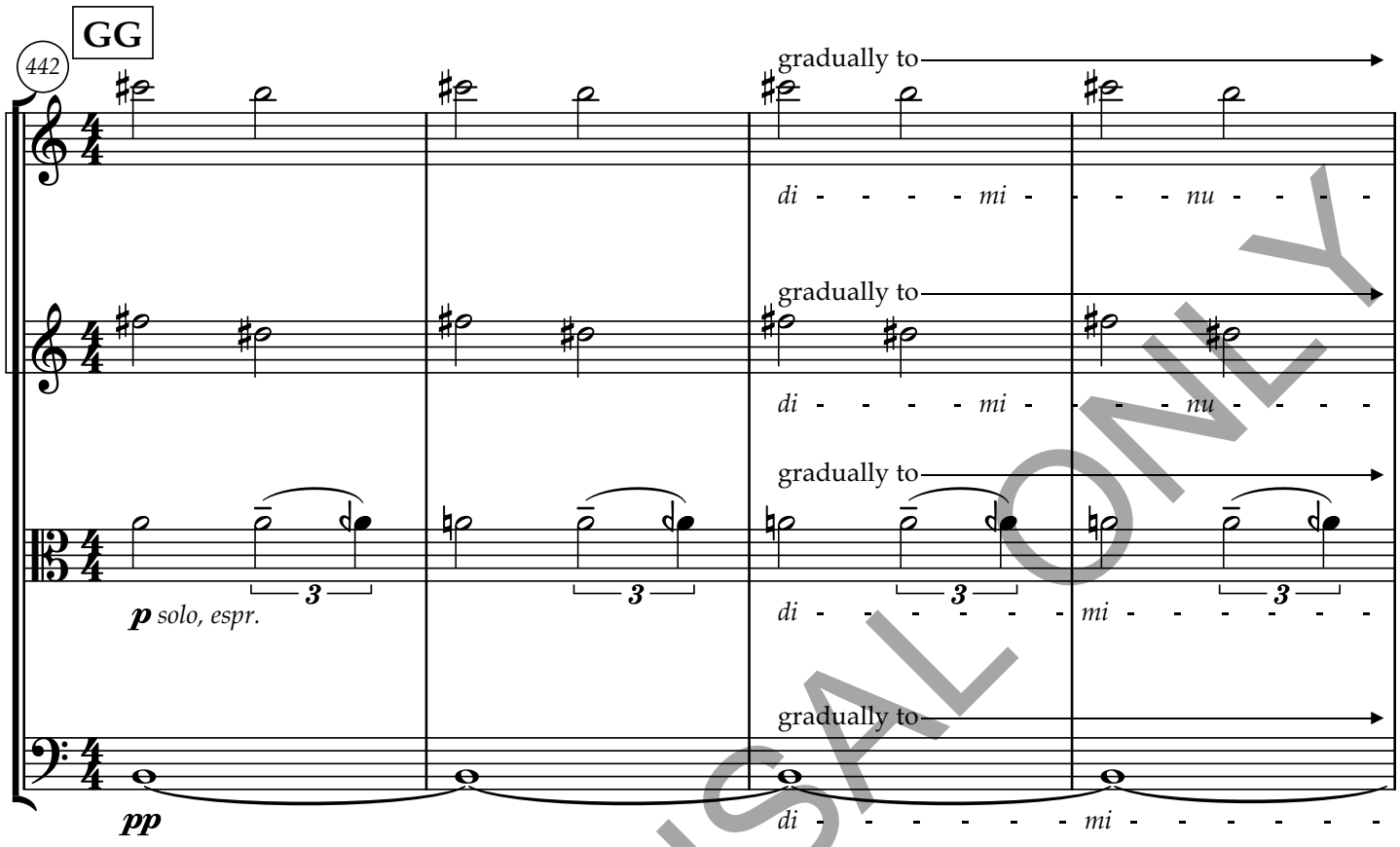

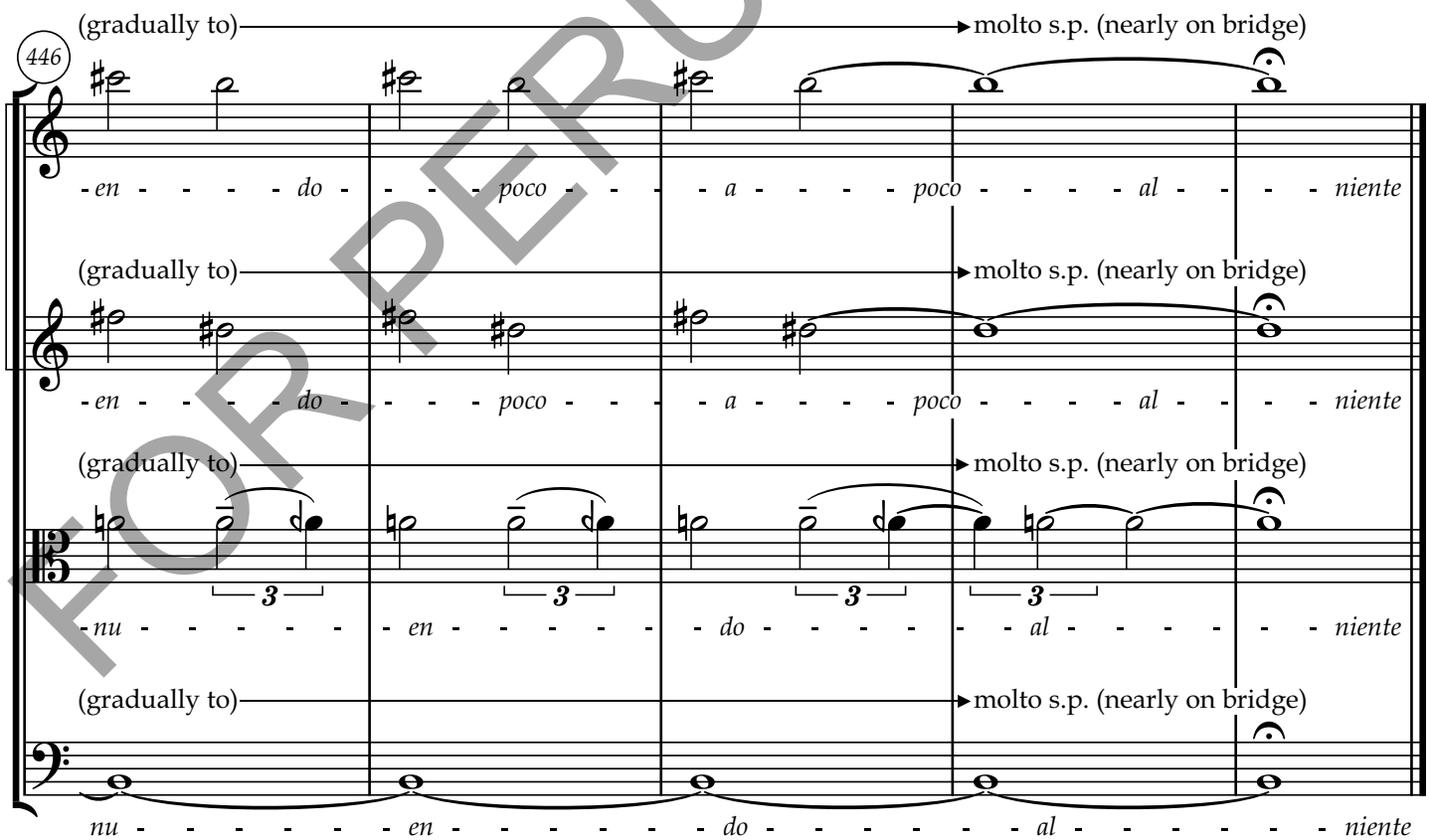

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July 26, 2025
Bergland, Michigan