Alex Stephenson

SHADOW FIGURES

(2021/2024)

three pieces for piano and synthesizer
(one player)

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

2026.10.10.1

Composed for Shaoai Ashley Zhang

First performance of the original version (under the title *Three Reflections*)
by Shaoai Ashley Zhang
UC San Diego, La Jolla, California
February 2, 2022

First performance of the current version by Shaoai Ashley Zhang
Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois
January 22, 2025

DURATION: 12 minutes

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PERFORMANCE NOTES

Synthesizer

The synthesizer is controlled by a touch-sensitive, 88-key MIDI keyboard with pedal. No sound from the keyboard's onboard system should be heard. Instead, the keyboard should be connected as a controller to a computer running a Max 8 patch, which is available from the composer. Pianoteq, a physical modeling piano synthesis program, should also be installed on the computer for use within the Max patch. **Both the lowest (A0) and highest (C8) keys of the keyboard are silent. To advance the patch cues at the moments indicated in the score, the performer may press either one of these keys.** Audio from the patch should be diffused through a single (mono) loudspeaker placed under the piano.

TO CONTACT THE COMPOSER
alex@alexstephenson.com

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for Shaoai Ashley Zhang
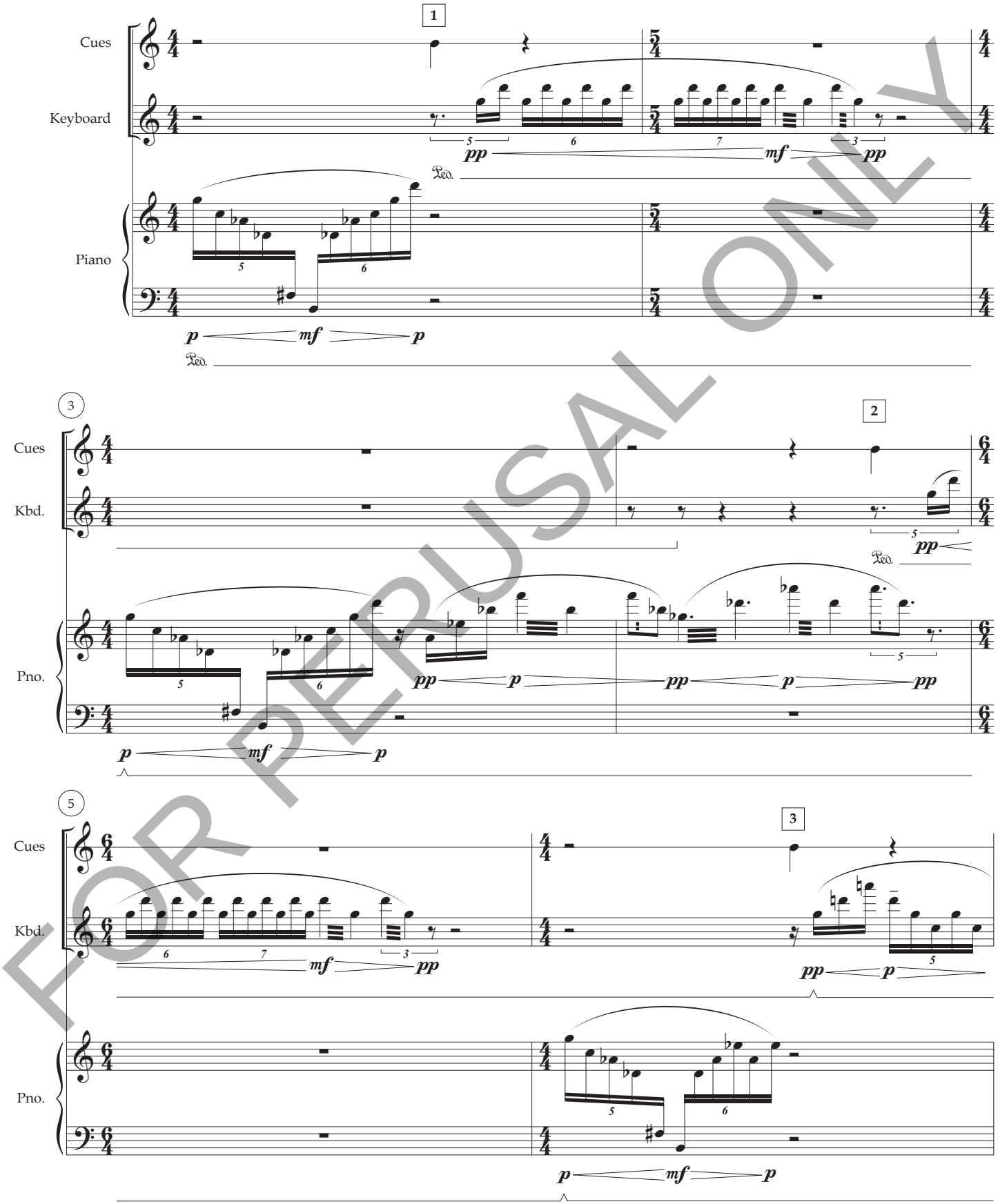
Shadow Figures

three pieces for piano and synthesizer (one player)

No. 1 – Prelude (after Ives)
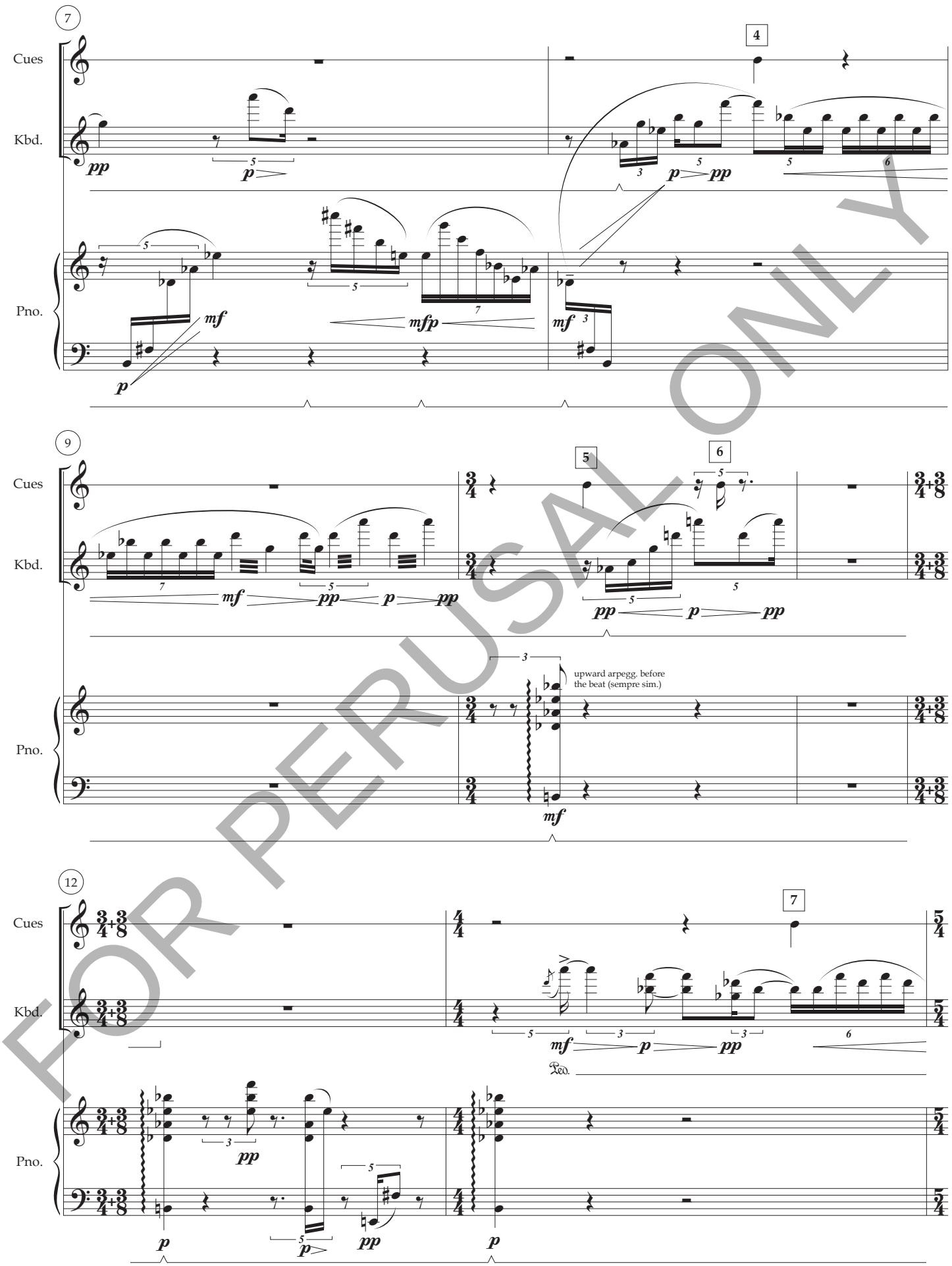
Alex Stephenson (2021/2024)

Always calm and flexible (♩=c.60)
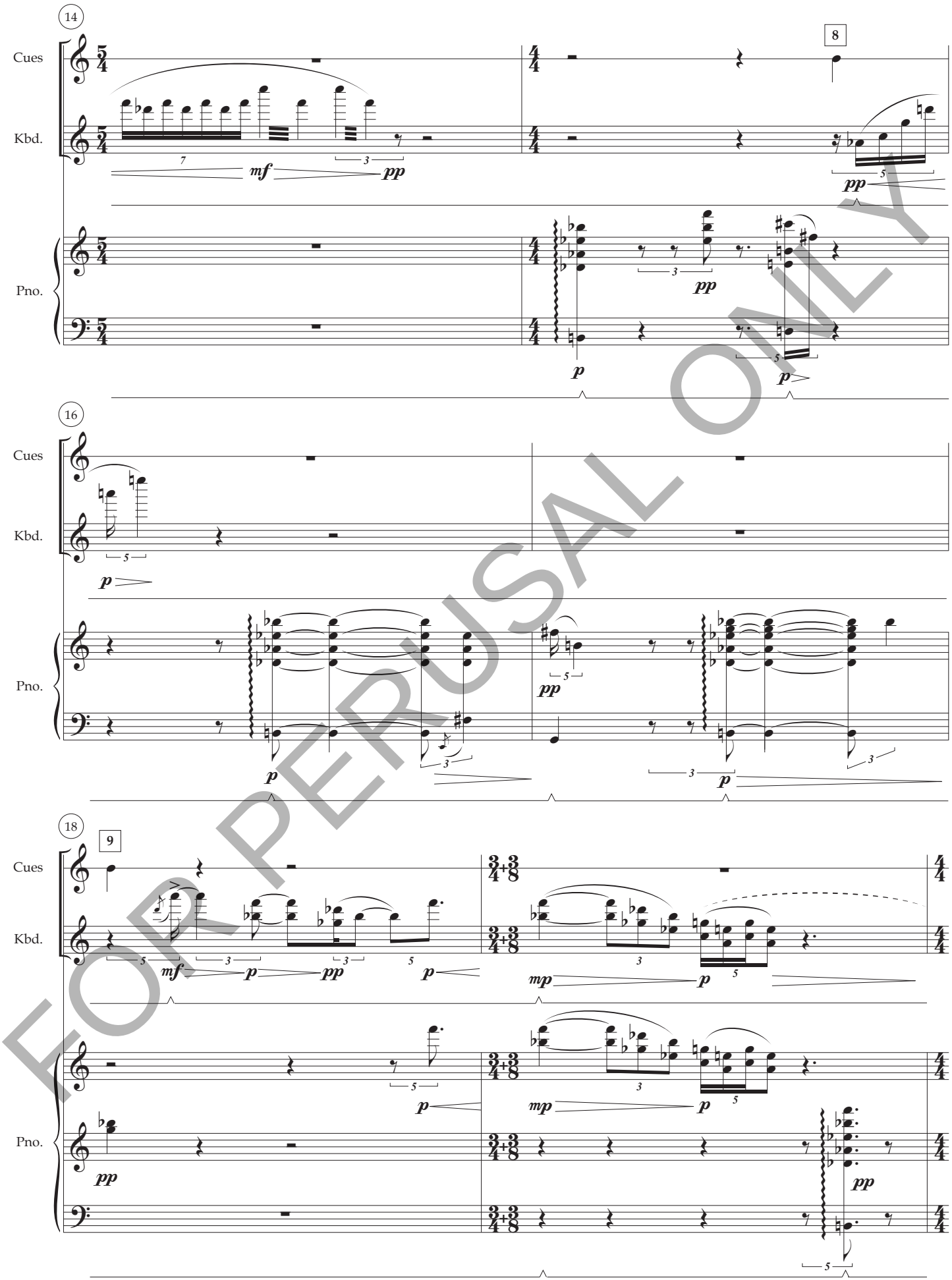


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20

10

11

Cues

Kbd.

pp *mf* *pp*

Pno.

22

12

A bit slower (♩=c.54)

Cues

Kbd.

mf *pp* *p* *pp*

Pno.

p *pp* *pp* *p*

25

13

Cues

Kbd.

ppp *mf* *pp*

Ped.
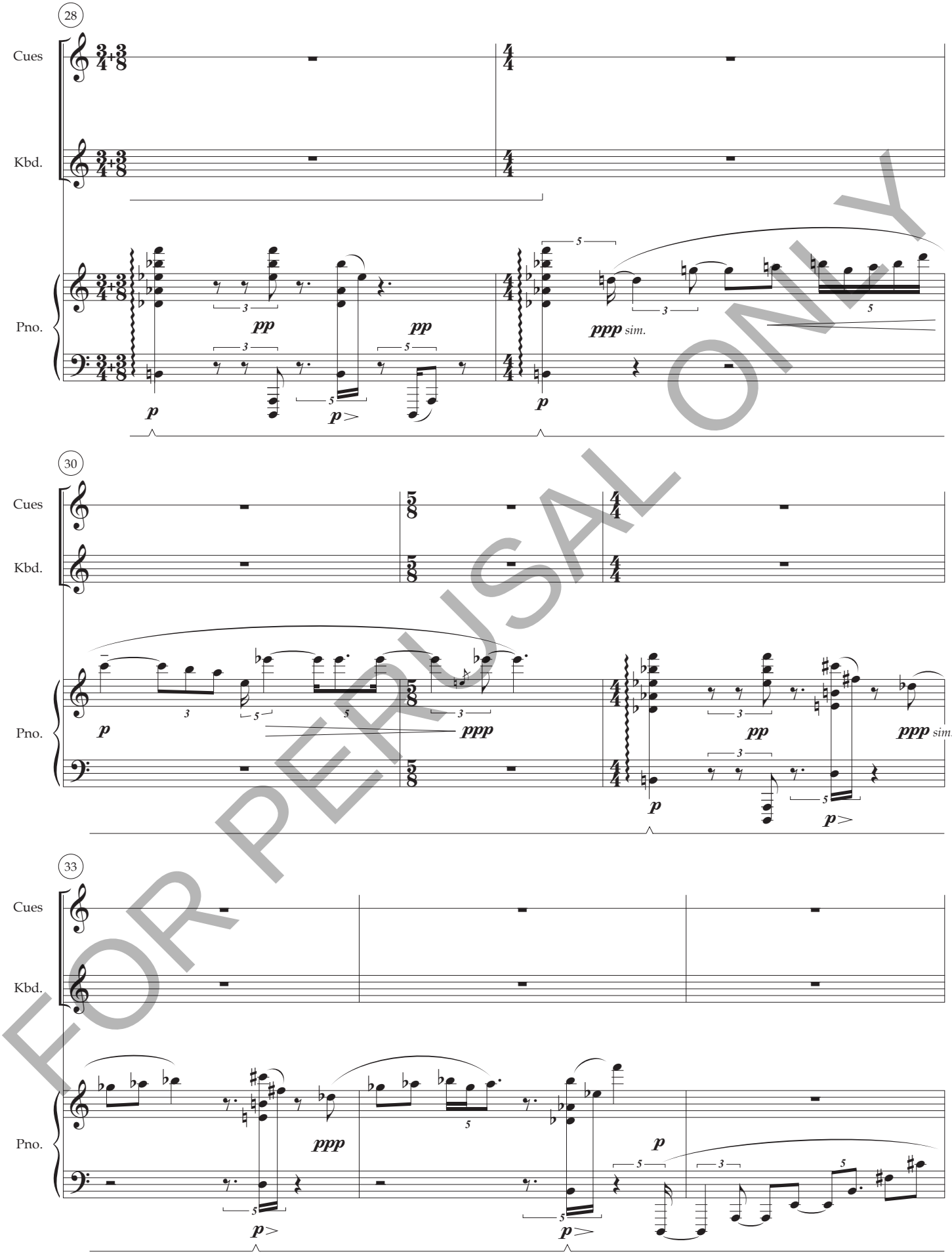
Pno.

short

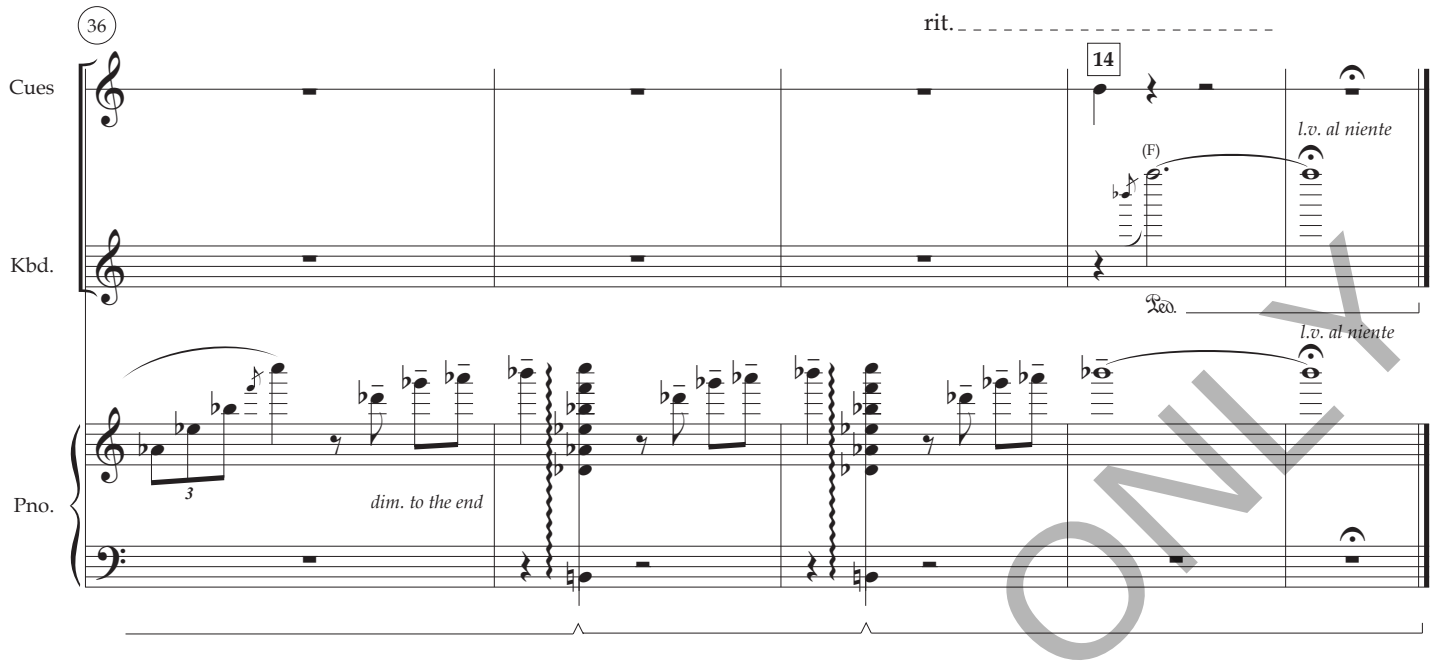
(Ives, "Religion")

p *ppp* *innocente, cantabile, quasi da lontano*

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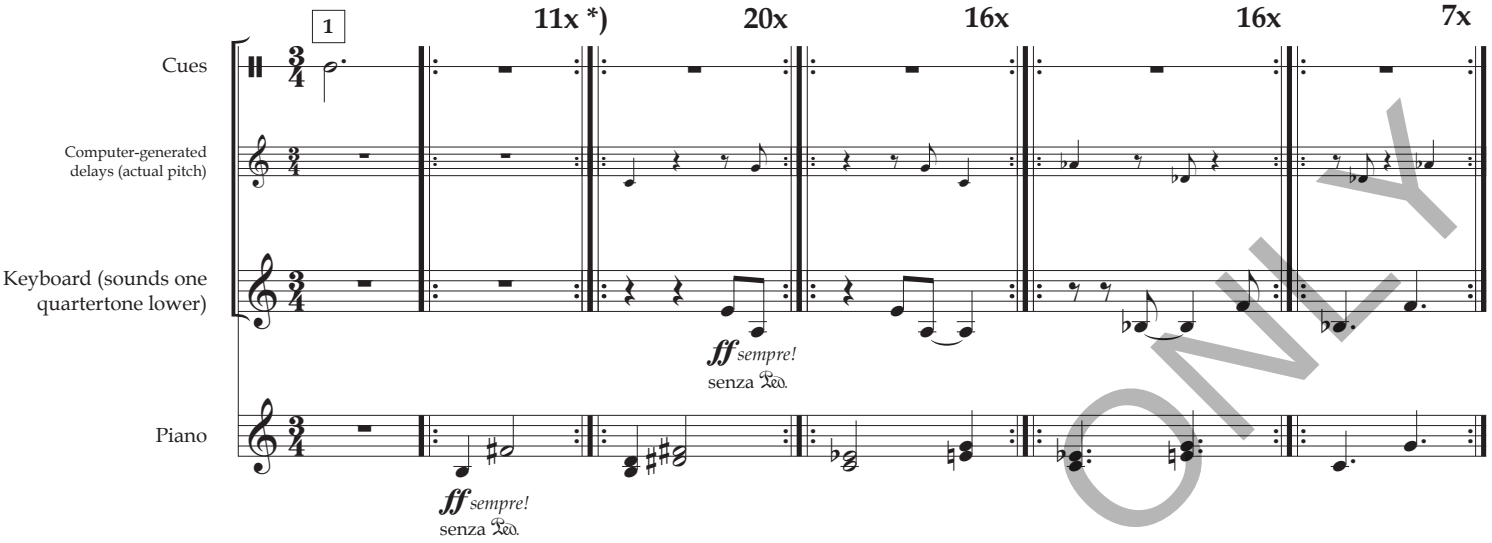
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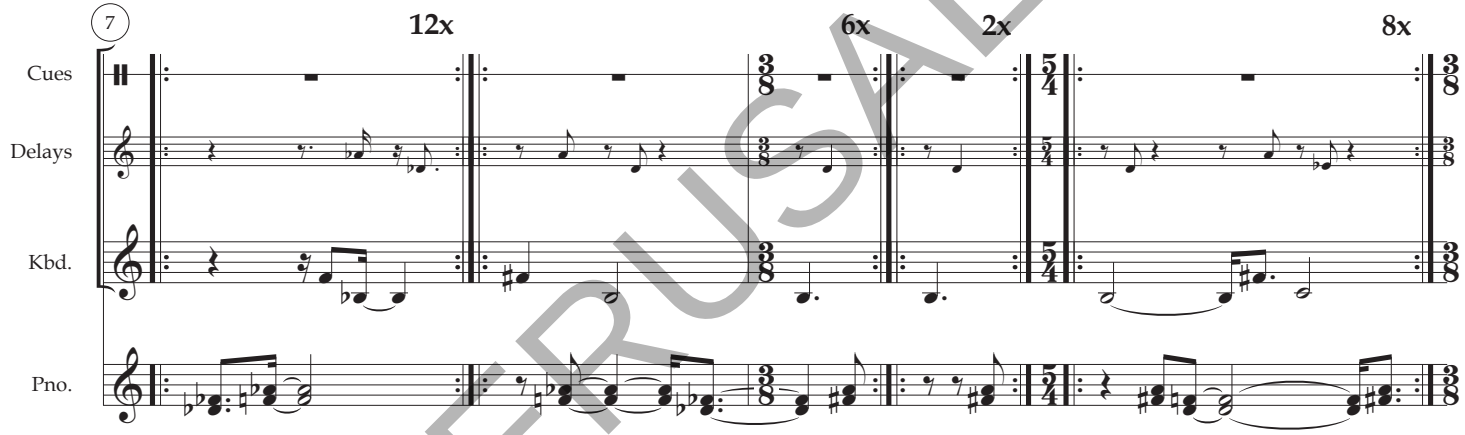


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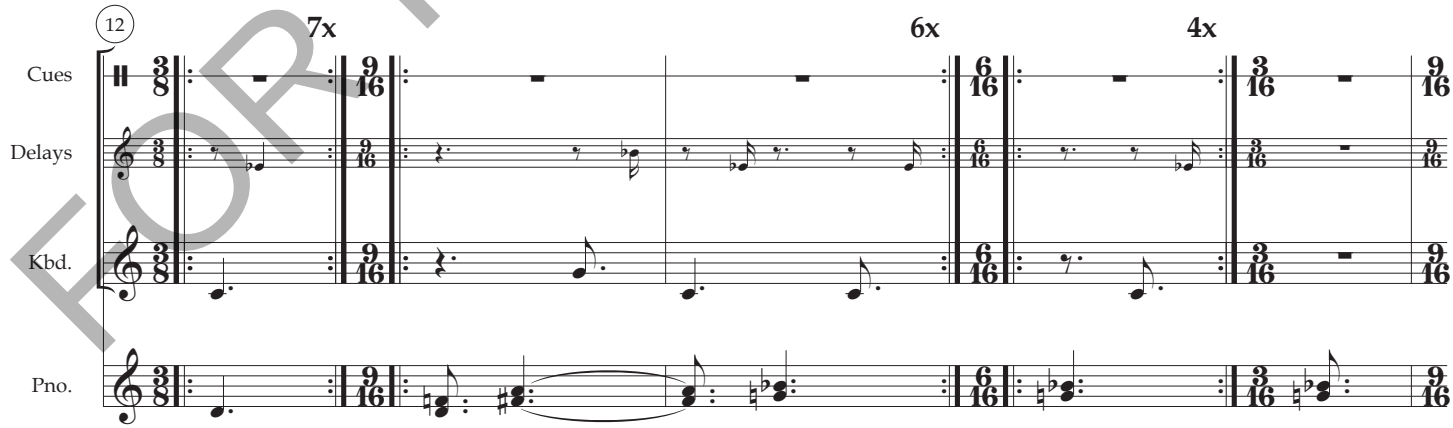
No. 2 – Machine

Very fast, like a wild and glitchy machine (𝅗𝅥.=84; ♩=252)
Tempo giusto sempre!
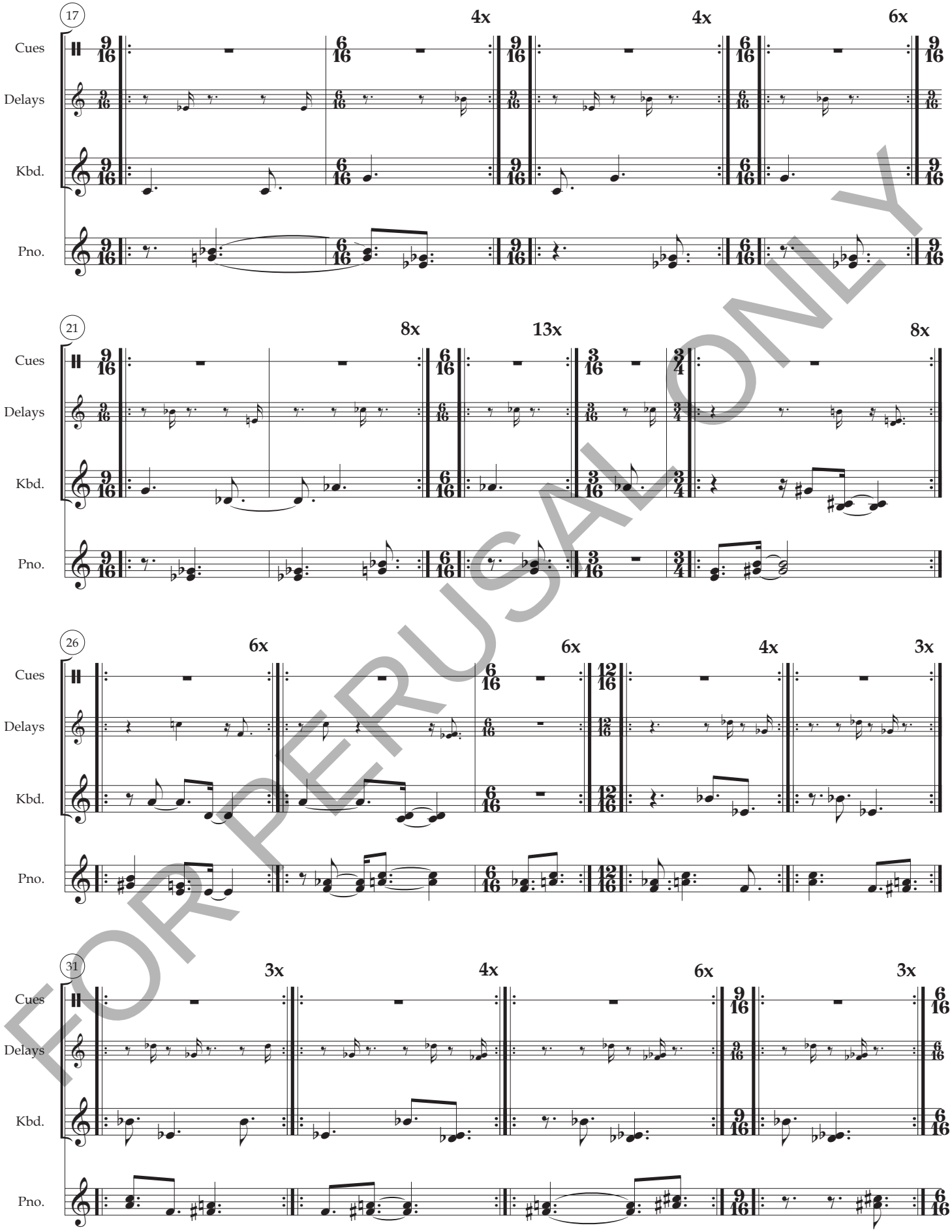


*) i.e. play 11 times total, including the first time (sempre sim.)
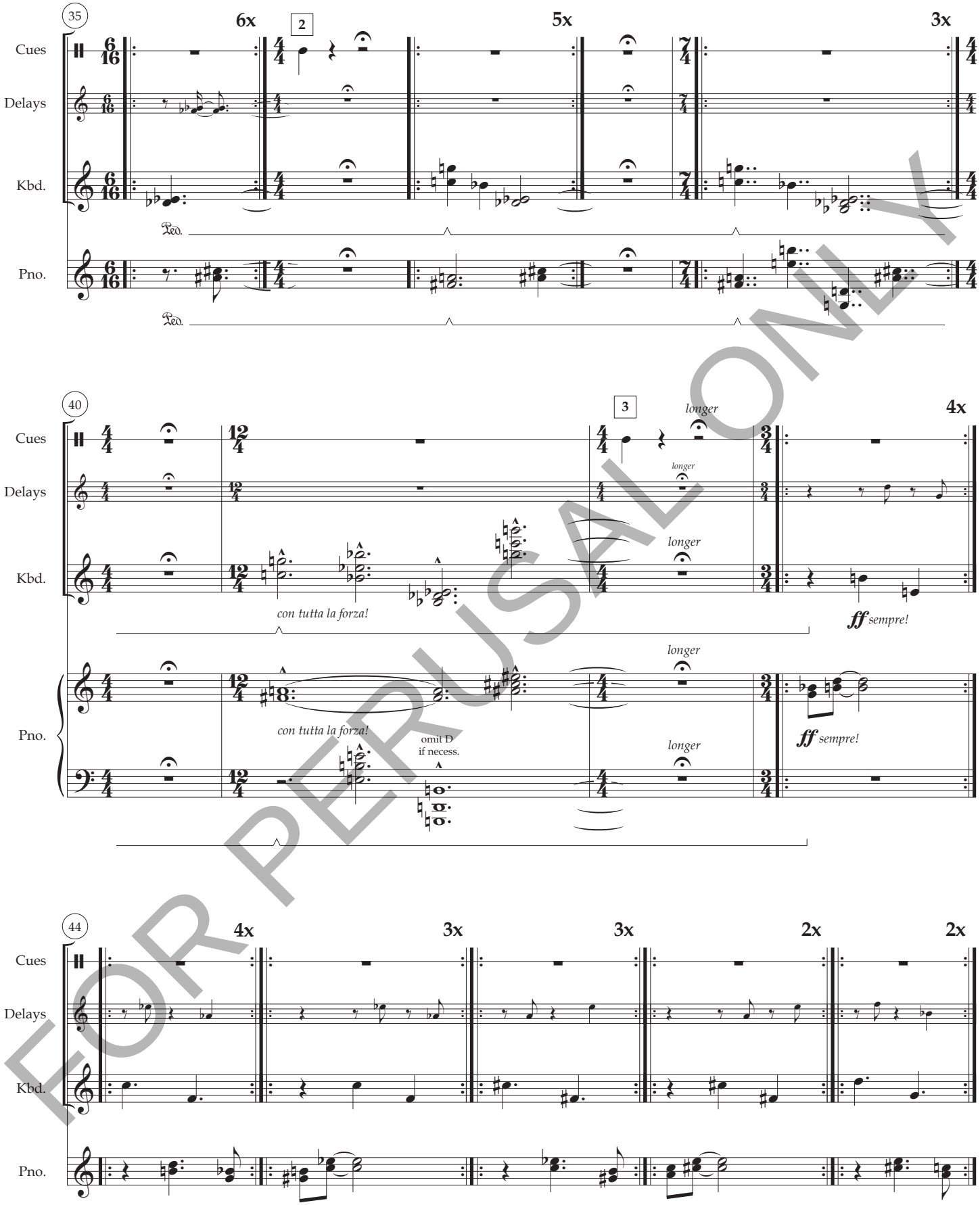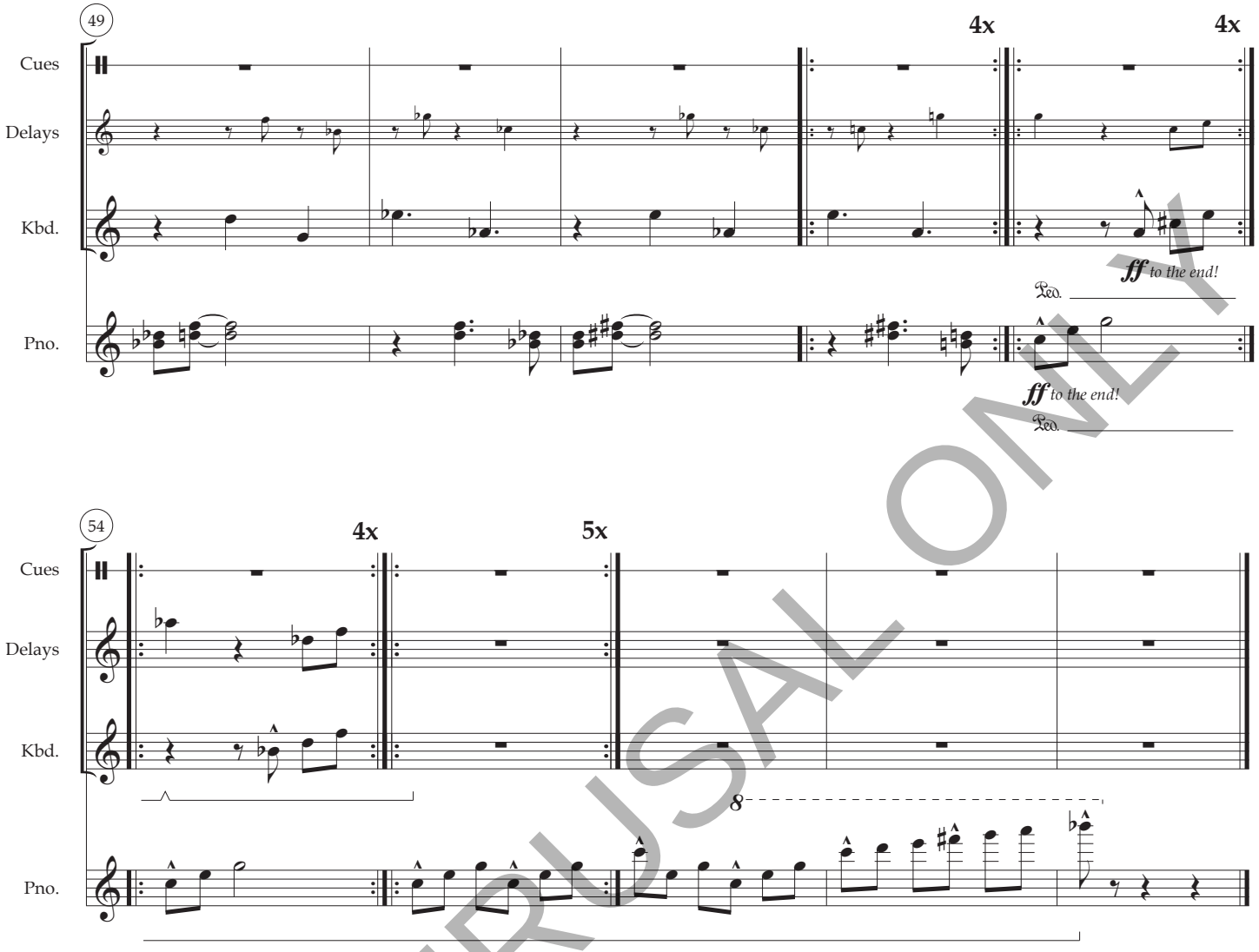




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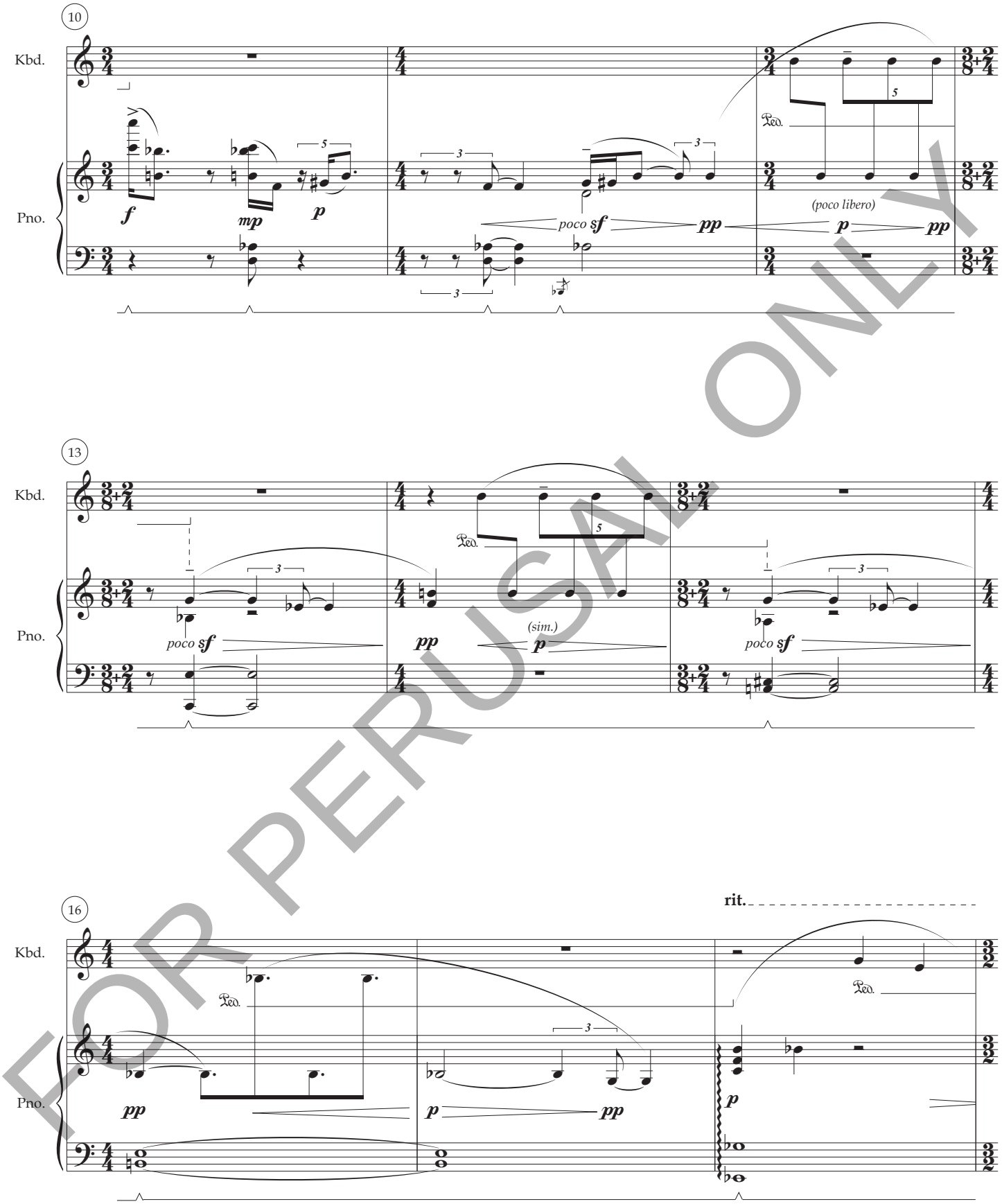


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No. 3 – Night (after Berg)
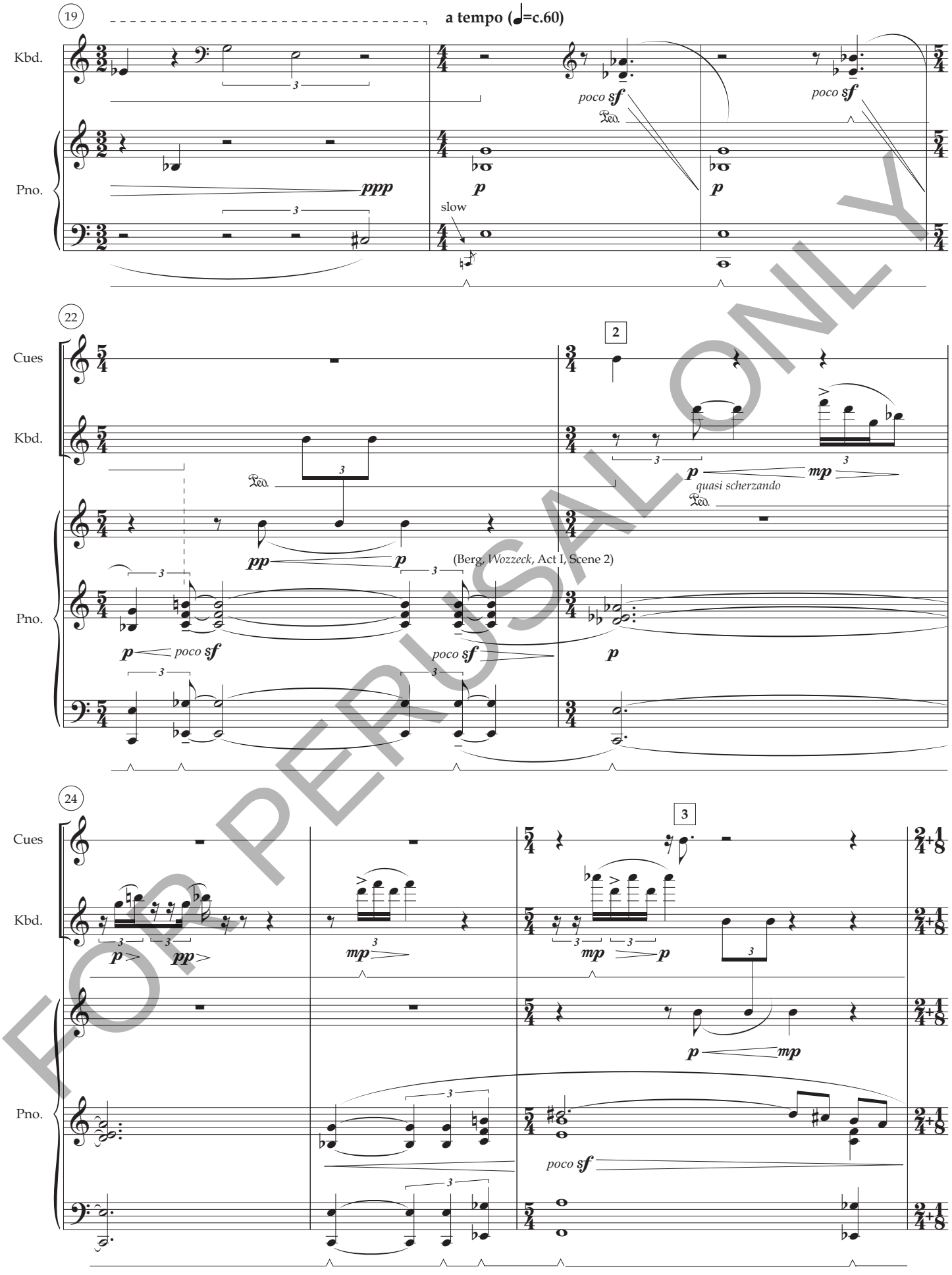
Slow, somber, expressive (♩=c.60)
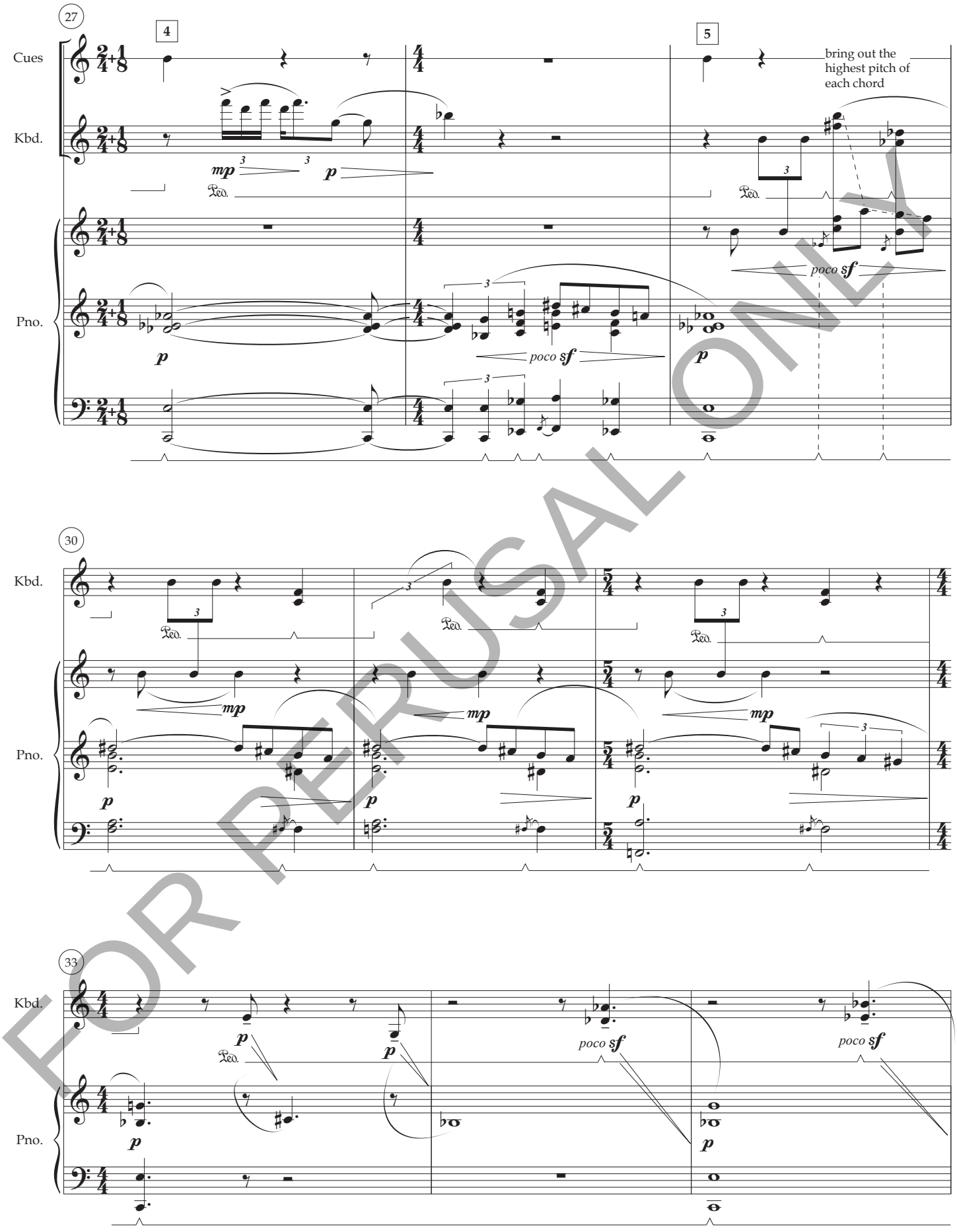


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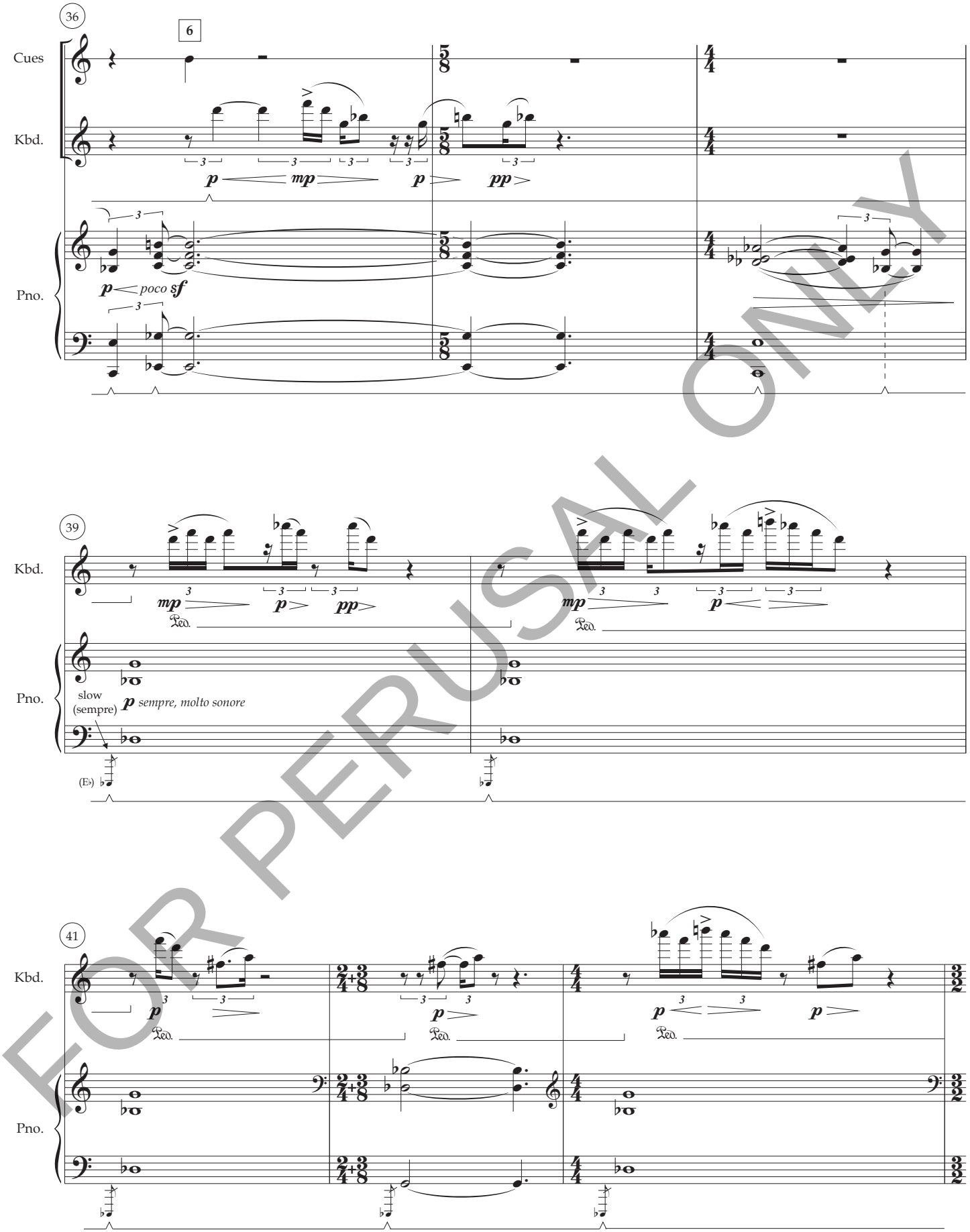


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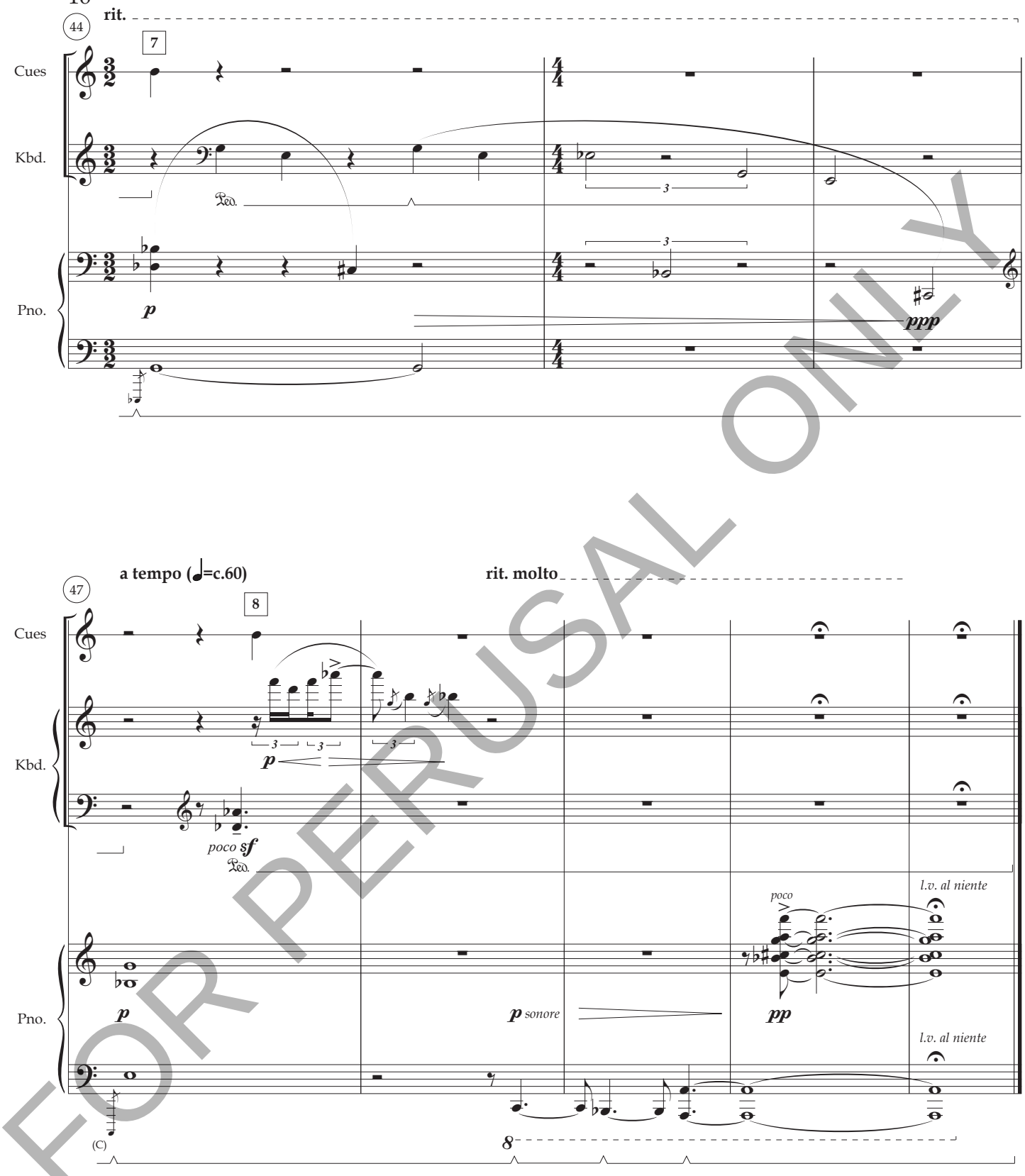


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July 7, 2024
San Diego, California