Thomas Metcalf

DISSOLUTION

for organ

2020

PERUSAL SCORE

PERUSAL SCORE

Composer's Note

DISSOLUTION is a musical exploration of the visual process of pixelation on a map of the River Thames. The pixel size of the original image, used in the first piece, is gradually increased over the course of the next 11. This is reflected in the pitch material of each piece, which uses an 'averaging' process similar to that of a pixelation algorithm. A tone row was generated using the River Thames as a pitch–time graph, then adjacent pitches/chords are 'averaged' by taking their midpoint and, in this case, rounding up if it results in a microtone.

The pixelated graphics determine many aspects of composition, and pieces become increasingly dependent upon them. By XII, there is a single pixel as an input, resulting in the relegation of certain sonic aspects to the organist to reflect the culmination of data–loss in the image.

Part One (I–III) | Representation
The image is clear; it sounds its music with detail and excitement.

Part Two (IV–VIII) | Pixelation
The image is pixelated; its music begins to rely on its own failed representation, and empty spaces.

Part Three (IX–XII) | Obfuscation
The image no longer exists; its music becomes filled with glitches as total failure becomes inevitable.

The performer is encouraged to find the most creative approach to registration possible with their instrument with respect to the above; descriptive indications are given as prompts. A collaborative recording, made by the composer and organist, is avaiable to demonstrate the rich possibilities: www.thomasmkmetcalf.com/dissolution

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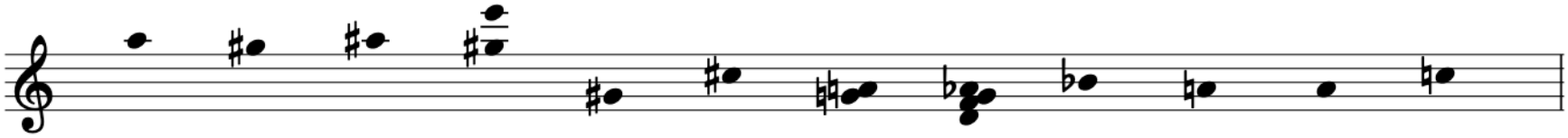
This piece was written for, and is dedicated to, Daniel Mathieson whose insights throughout were invaluable.

Duration: c. 26'

PERUSAL SCORE



PERUSAL SCORE

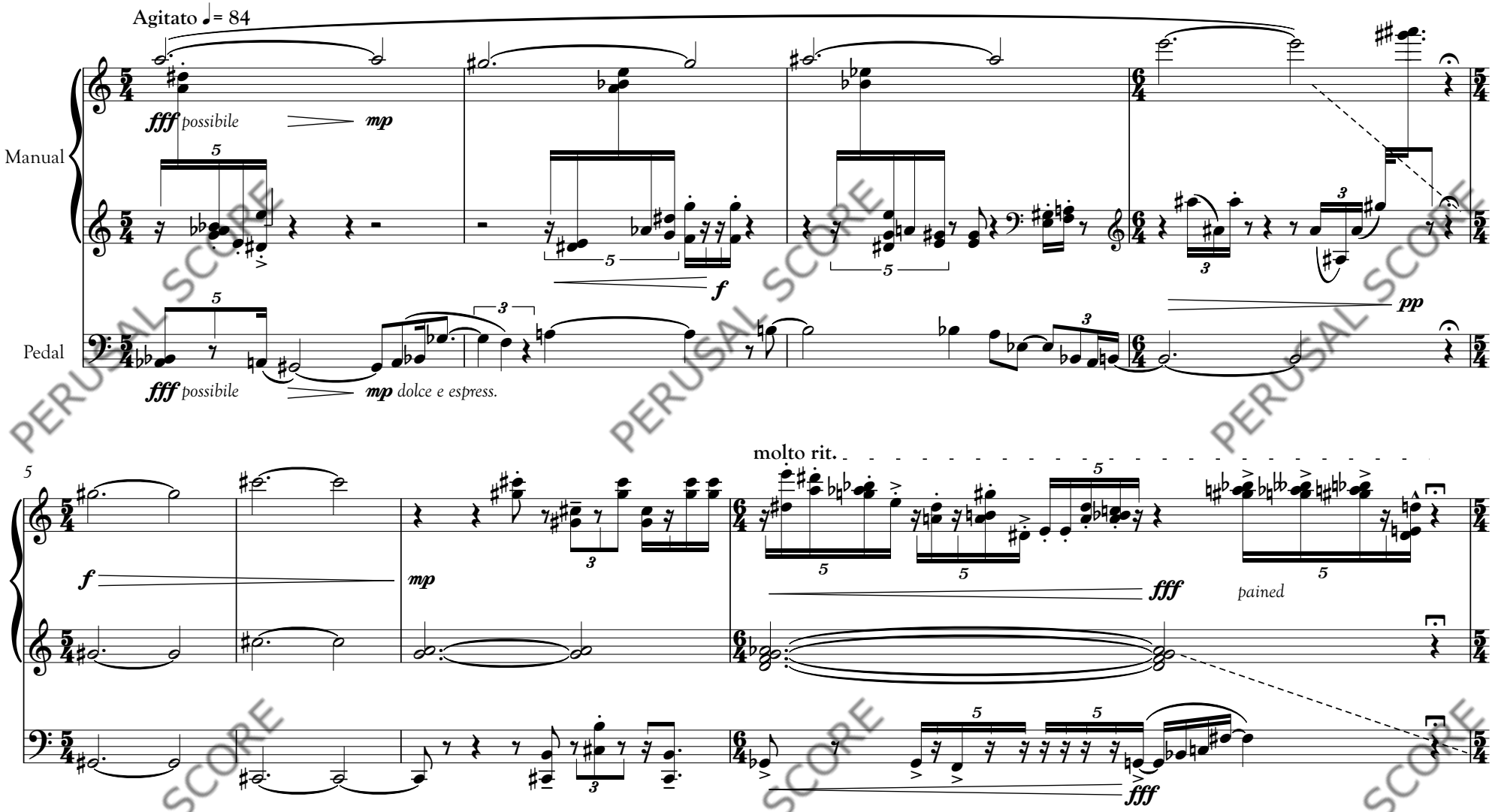
for Daniel Mathieson, in friendship and admiration.

DISSOLUTION

Part One | Representation

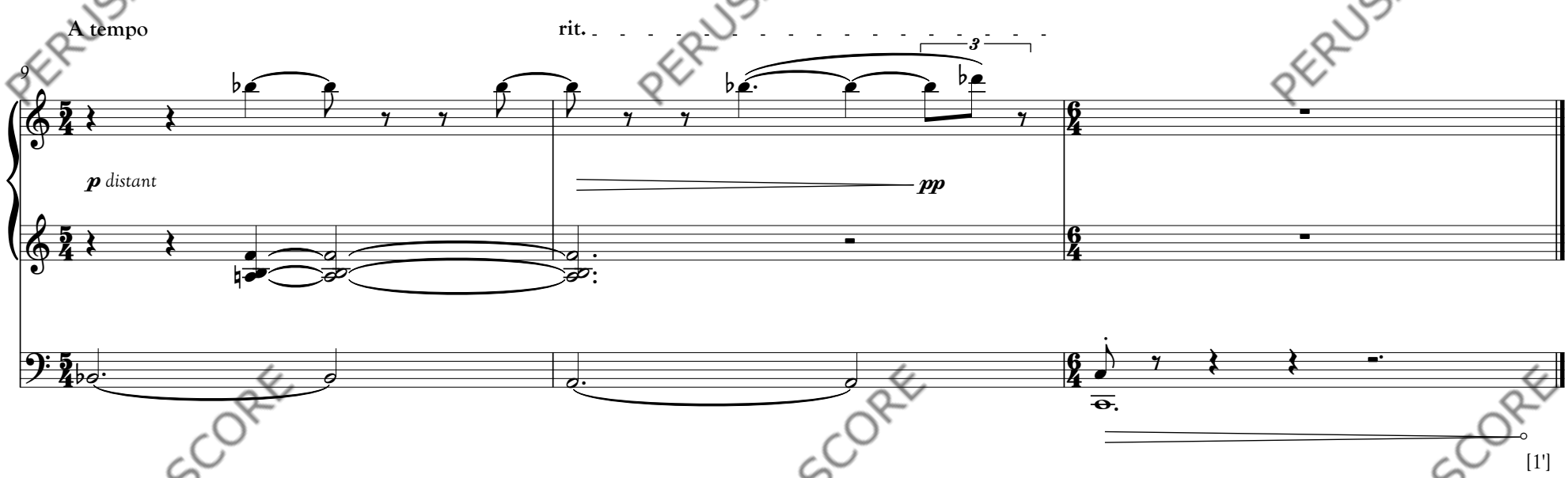
I

Thomas Metcalf (b. 1996)



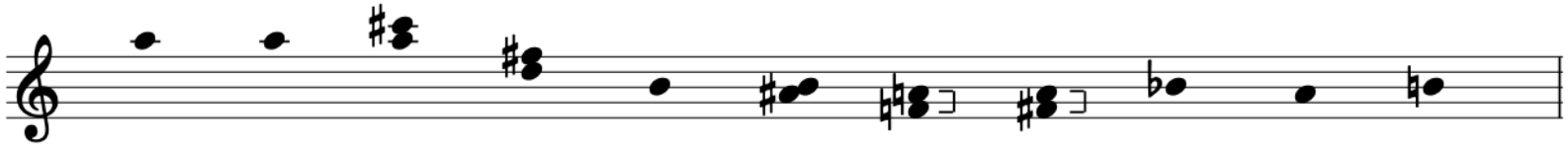
© 2020, Thomas Metcalf

PERUSAL SCORE



PERUSAL SCORE

PERUSAL SCORE



PERUSAL SCORE

II

Grazioso ♪ = 116

pp sempre, semplice

mp

9

p sempre

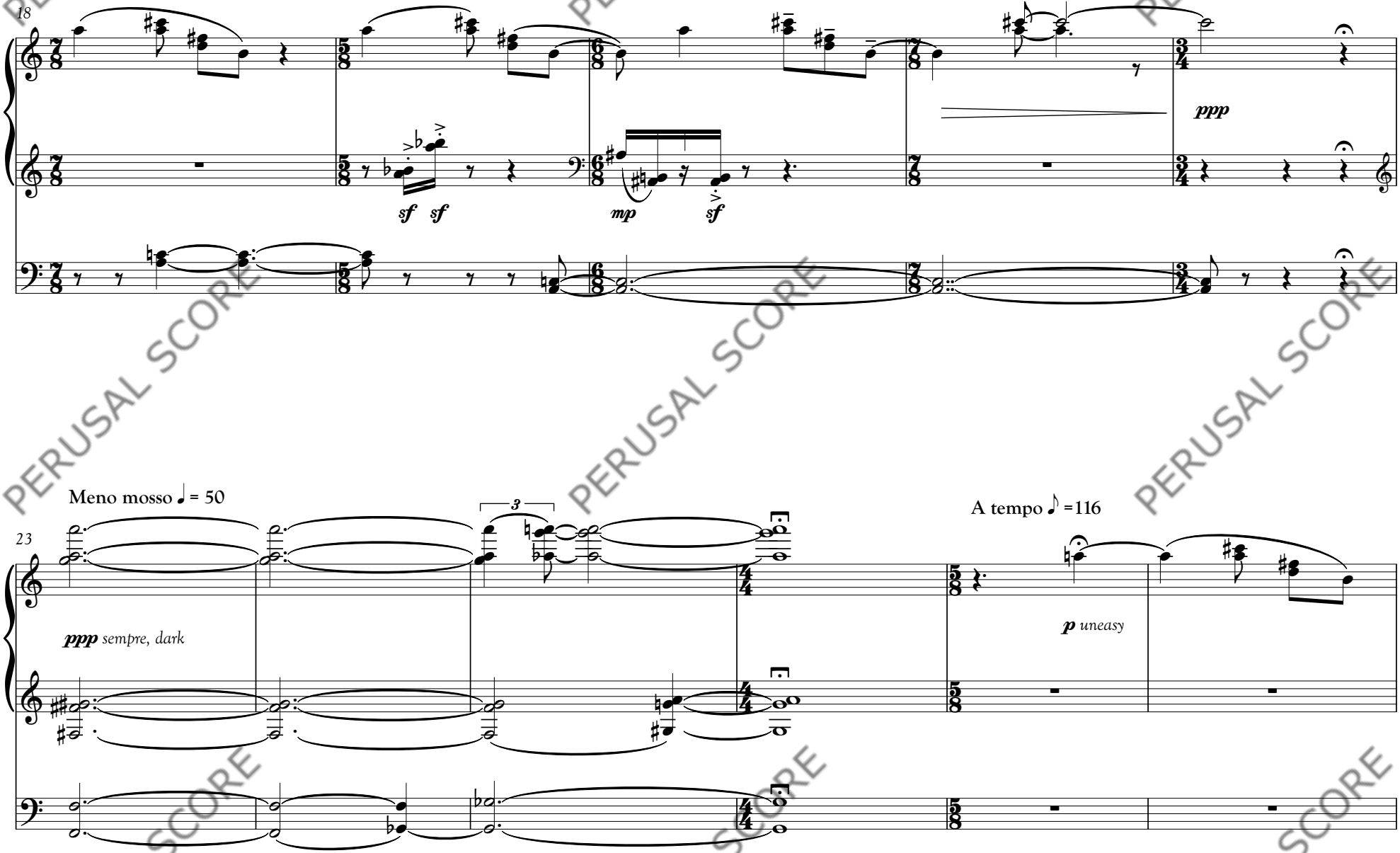
mf

mf

p *mf* *mp* *mf*

p

PERUSAL SCORE



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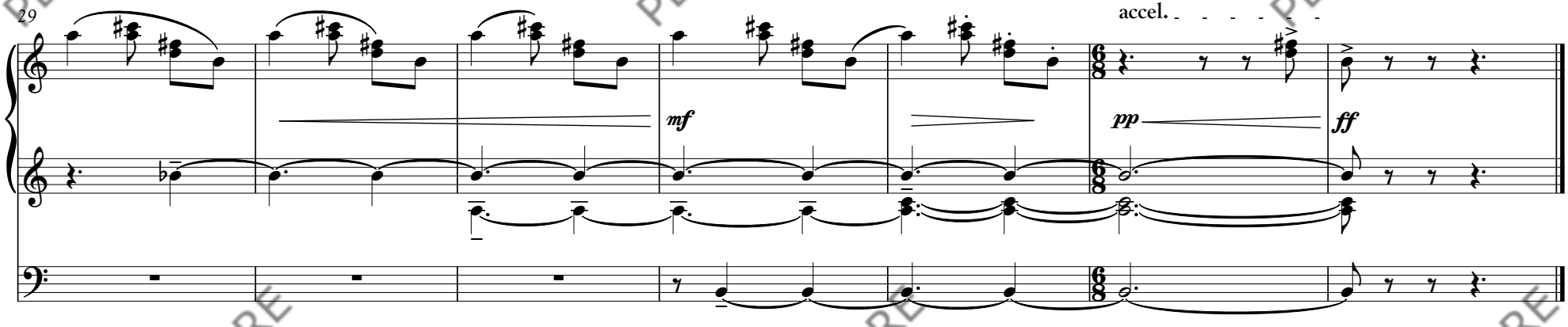
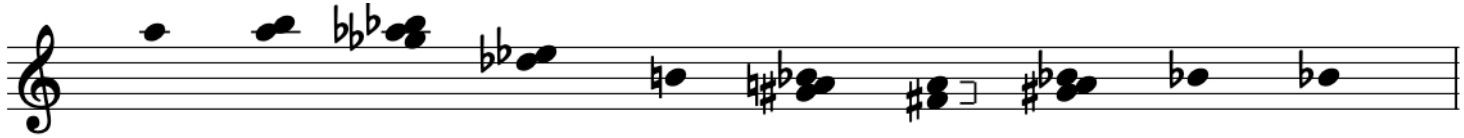


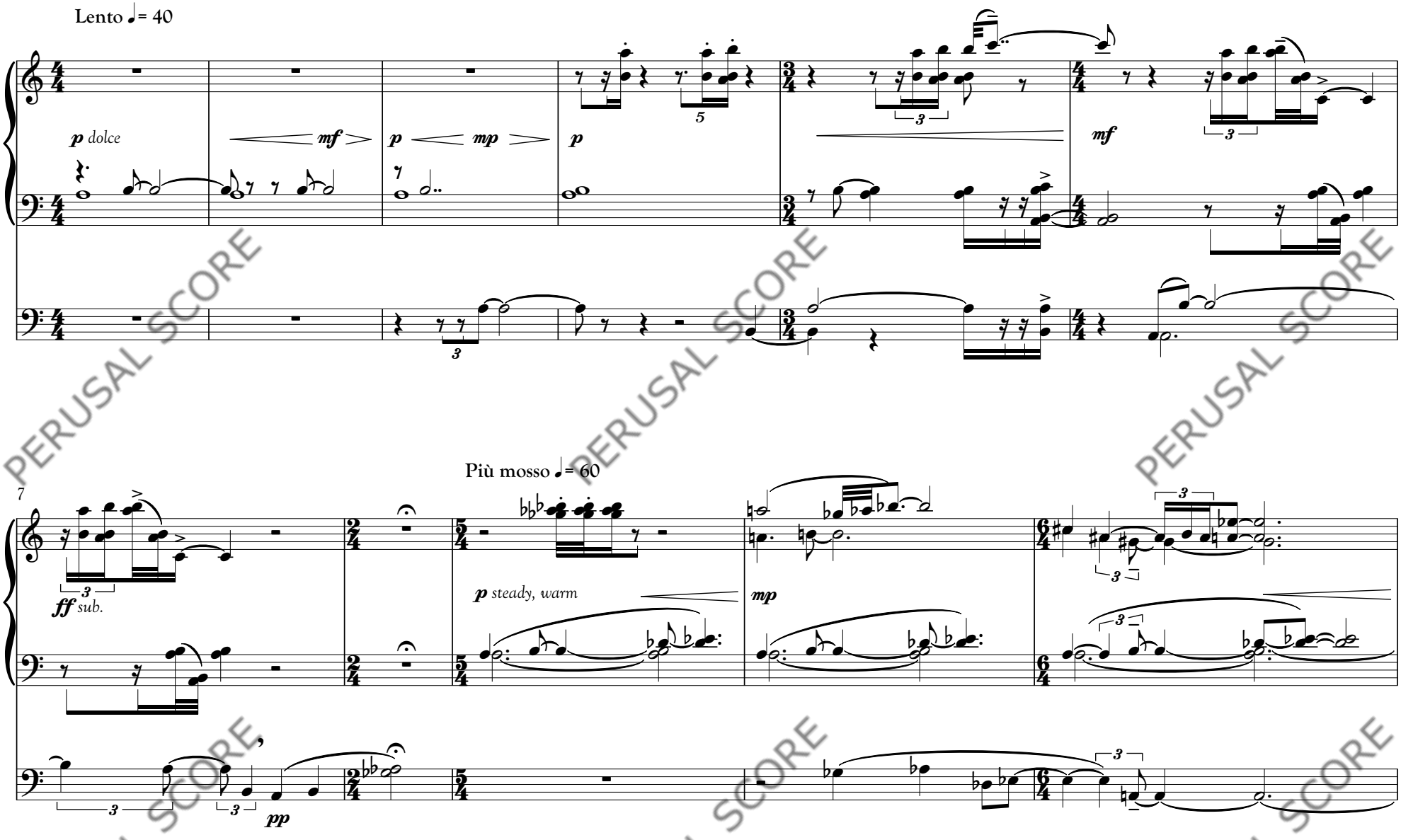
[2']

PERUSAL SCORE



PERUSAL SCORE

III



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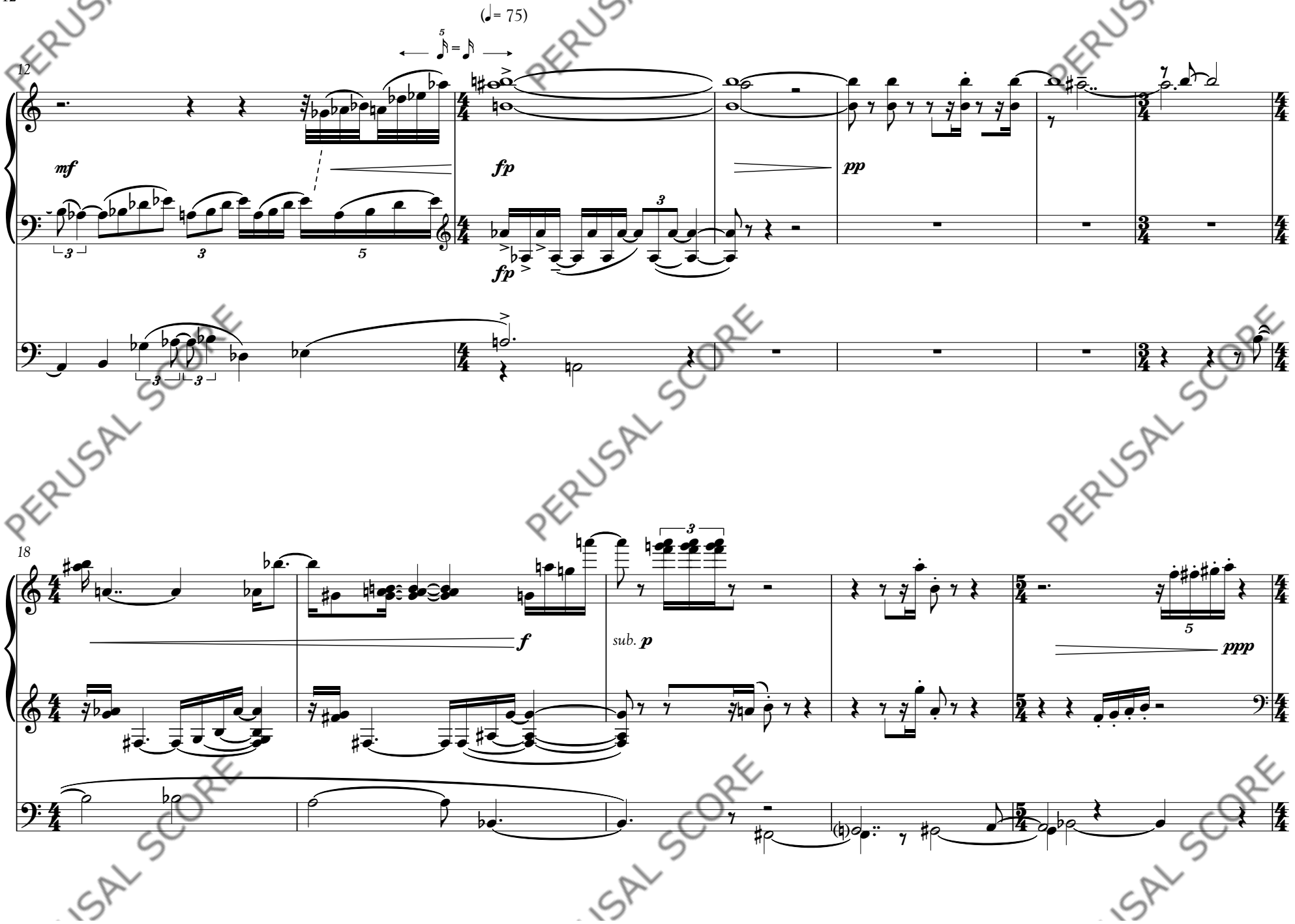

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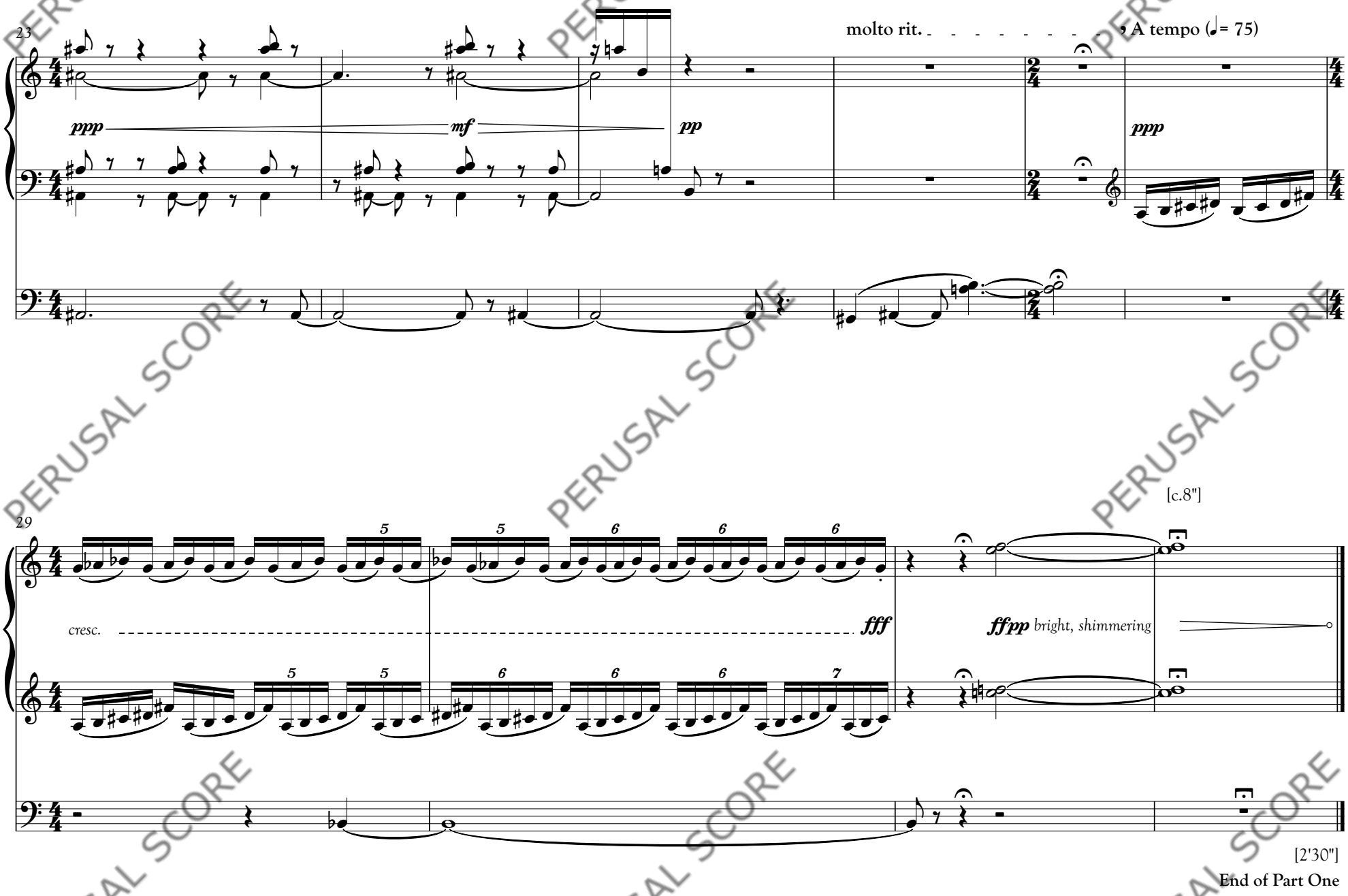

PERUSAL SCORE

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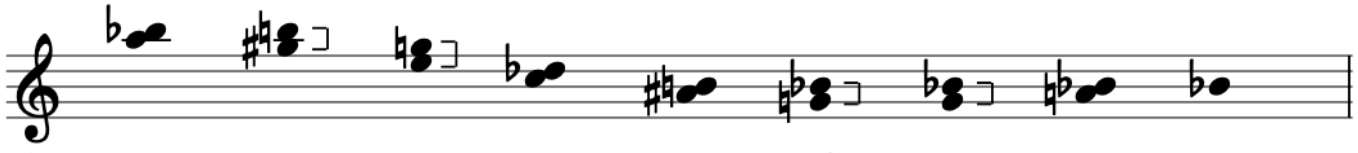
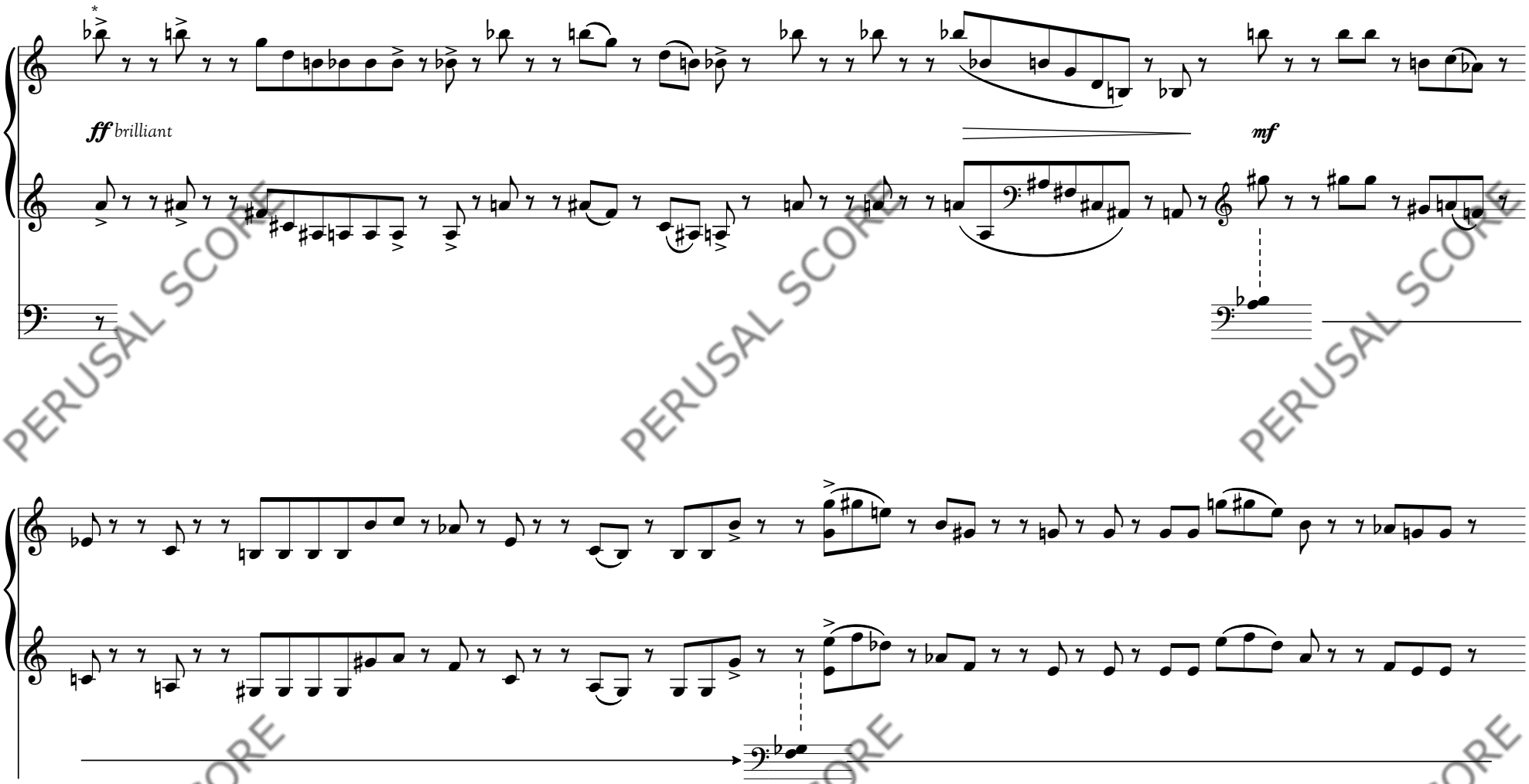


Part Two | Pixelation

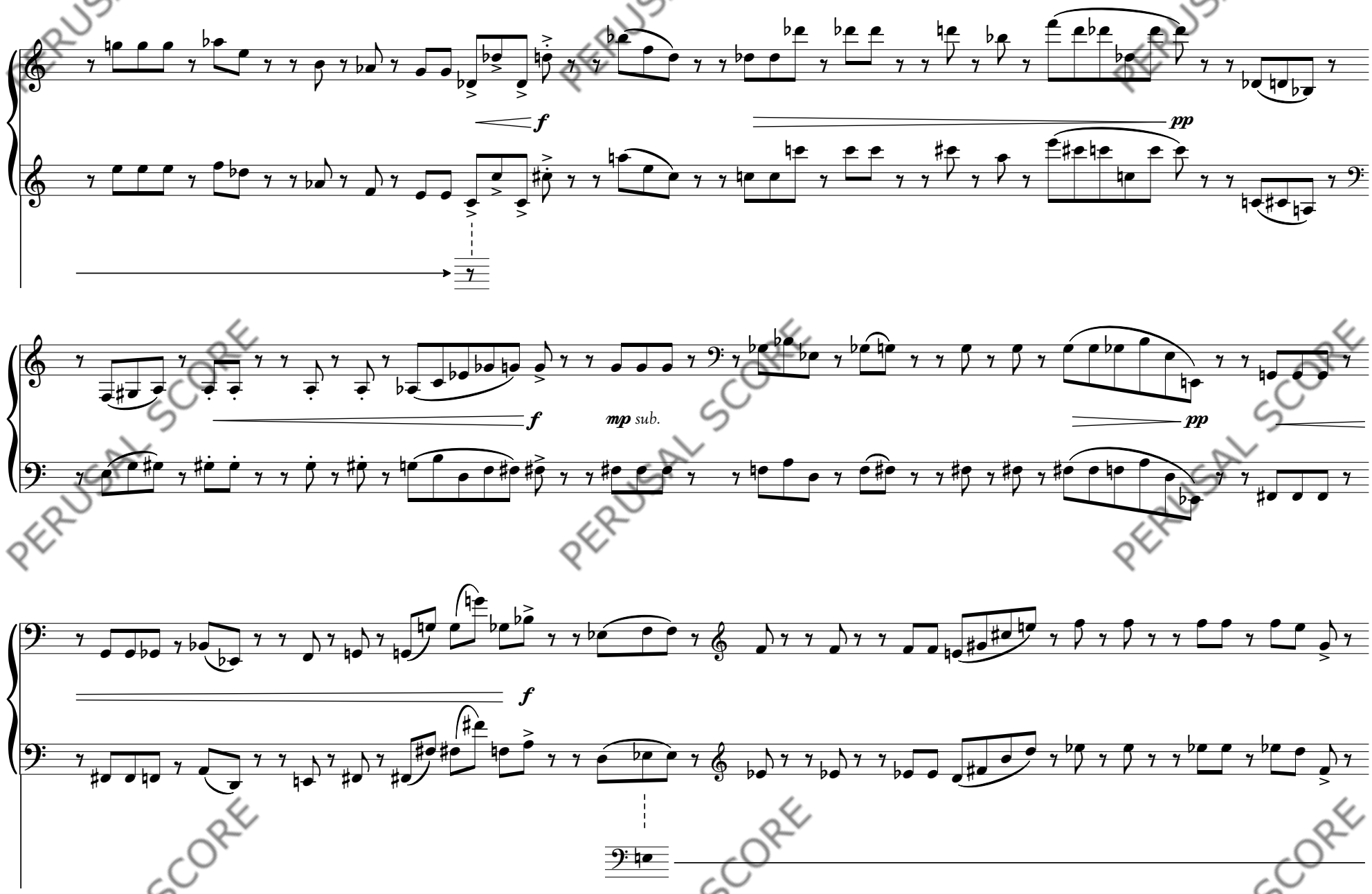
IV

Molto energico, tempo giusto ♪= 344, ♩ = 172



*accidentals apply to duration of beamed groups

PERUSAL SCORE



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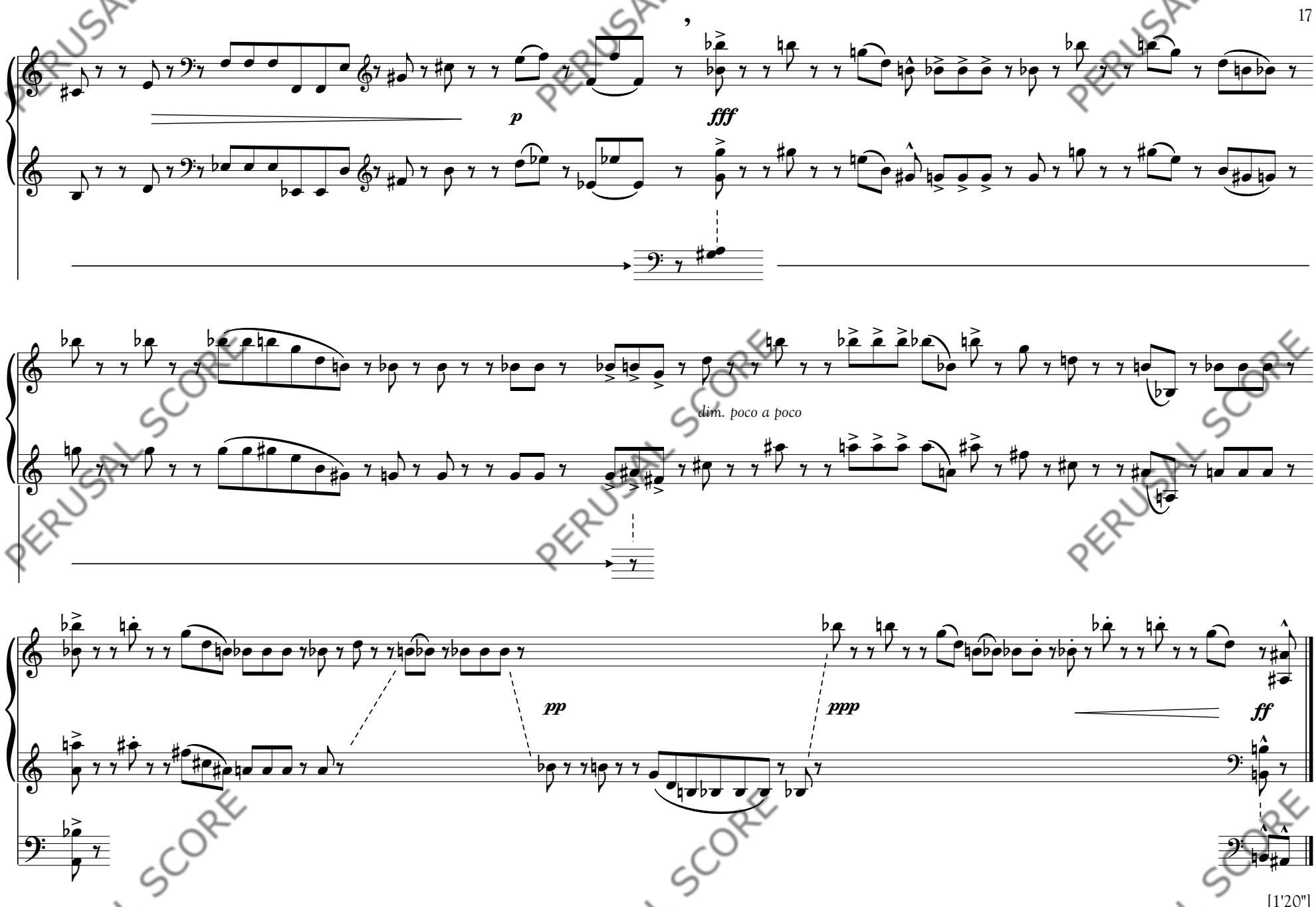
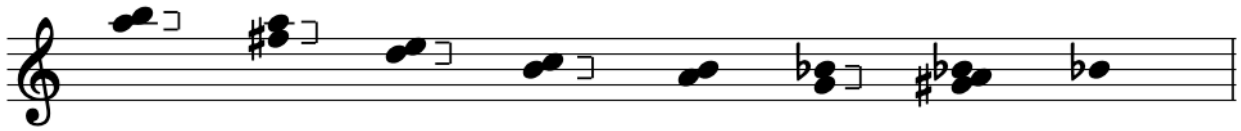


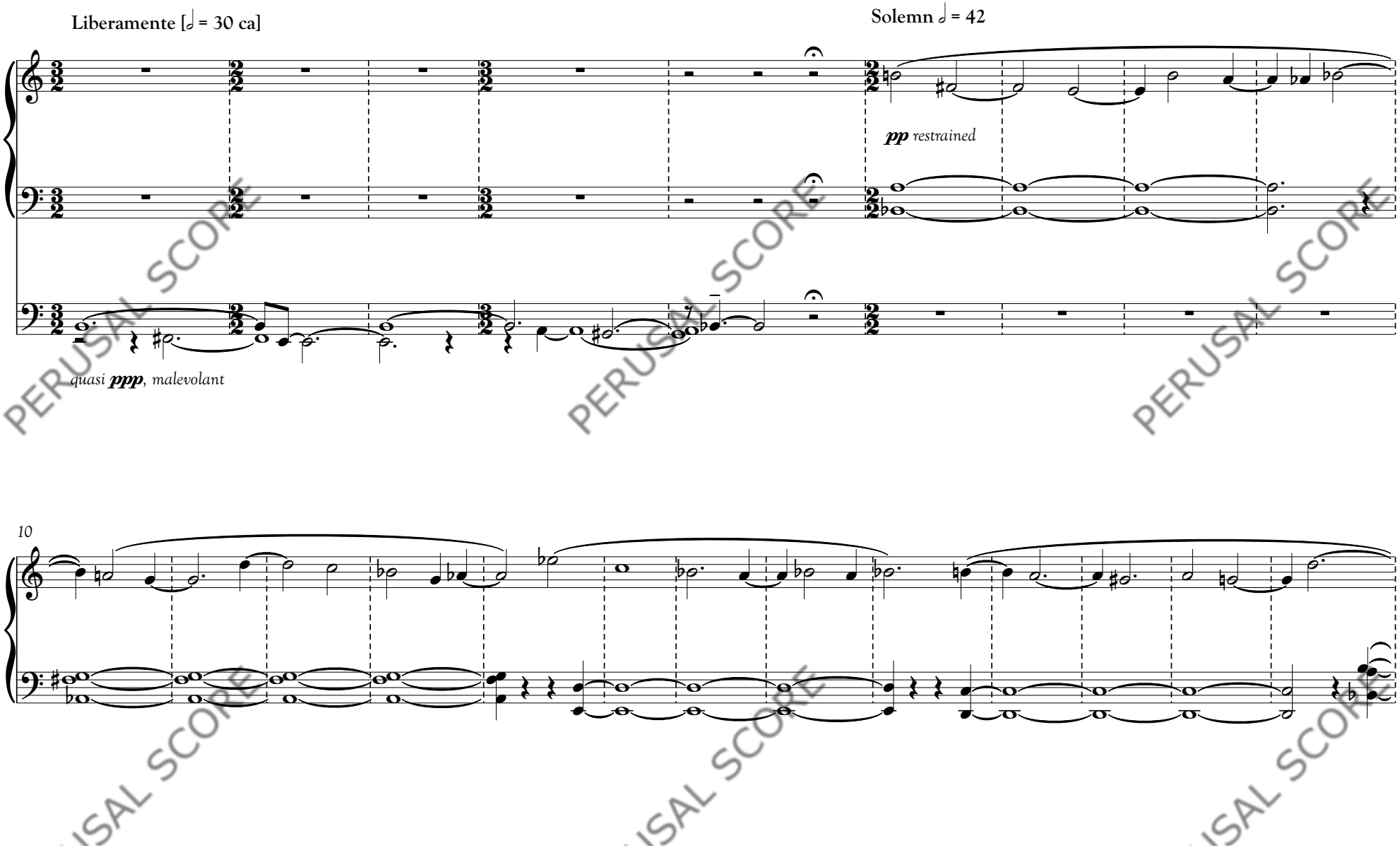
[1'20"]

PERUSAL SCORE



PERUSAL SCORE

V



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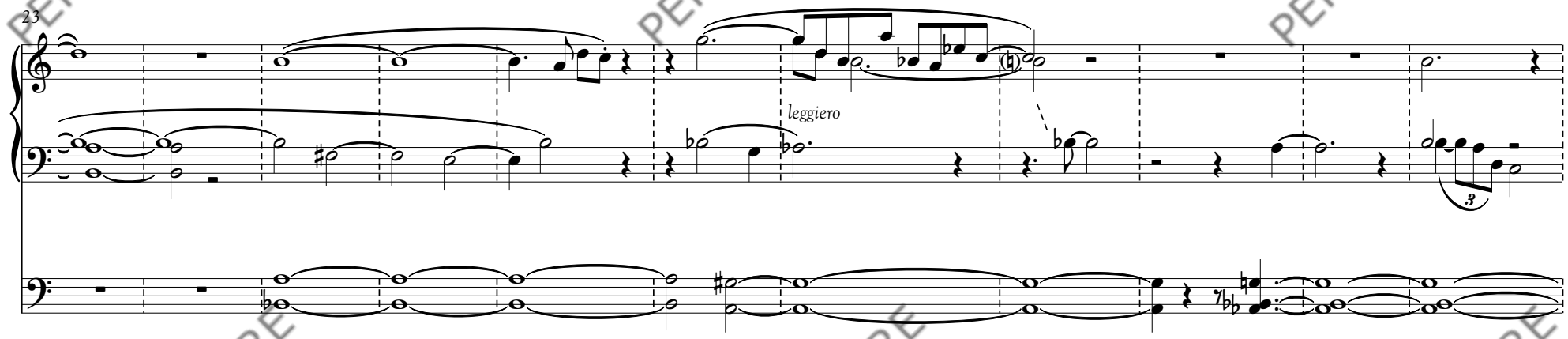
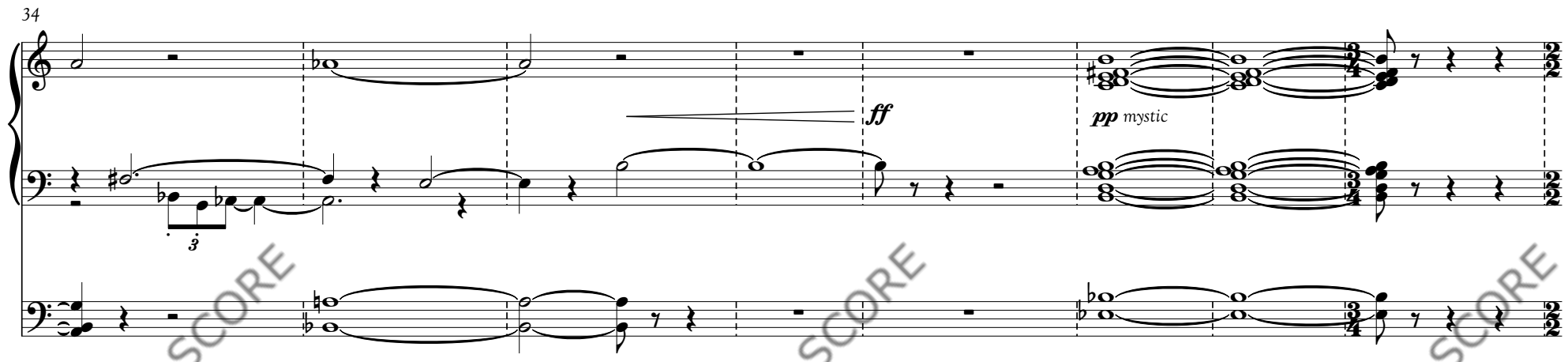
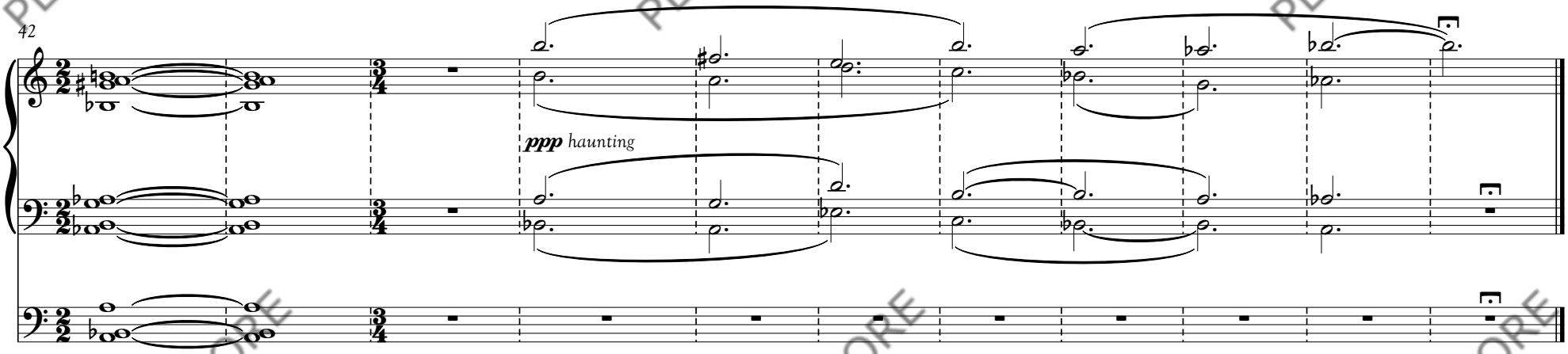




PERUSAL SCORE

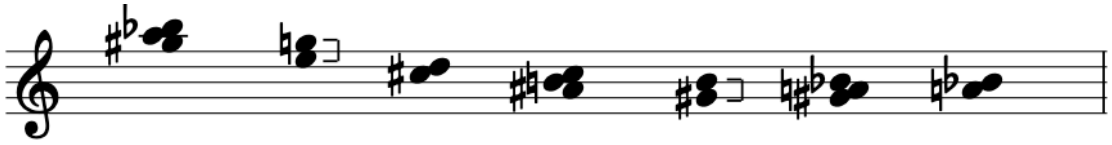
Meno mosso (♩ = 66)

42



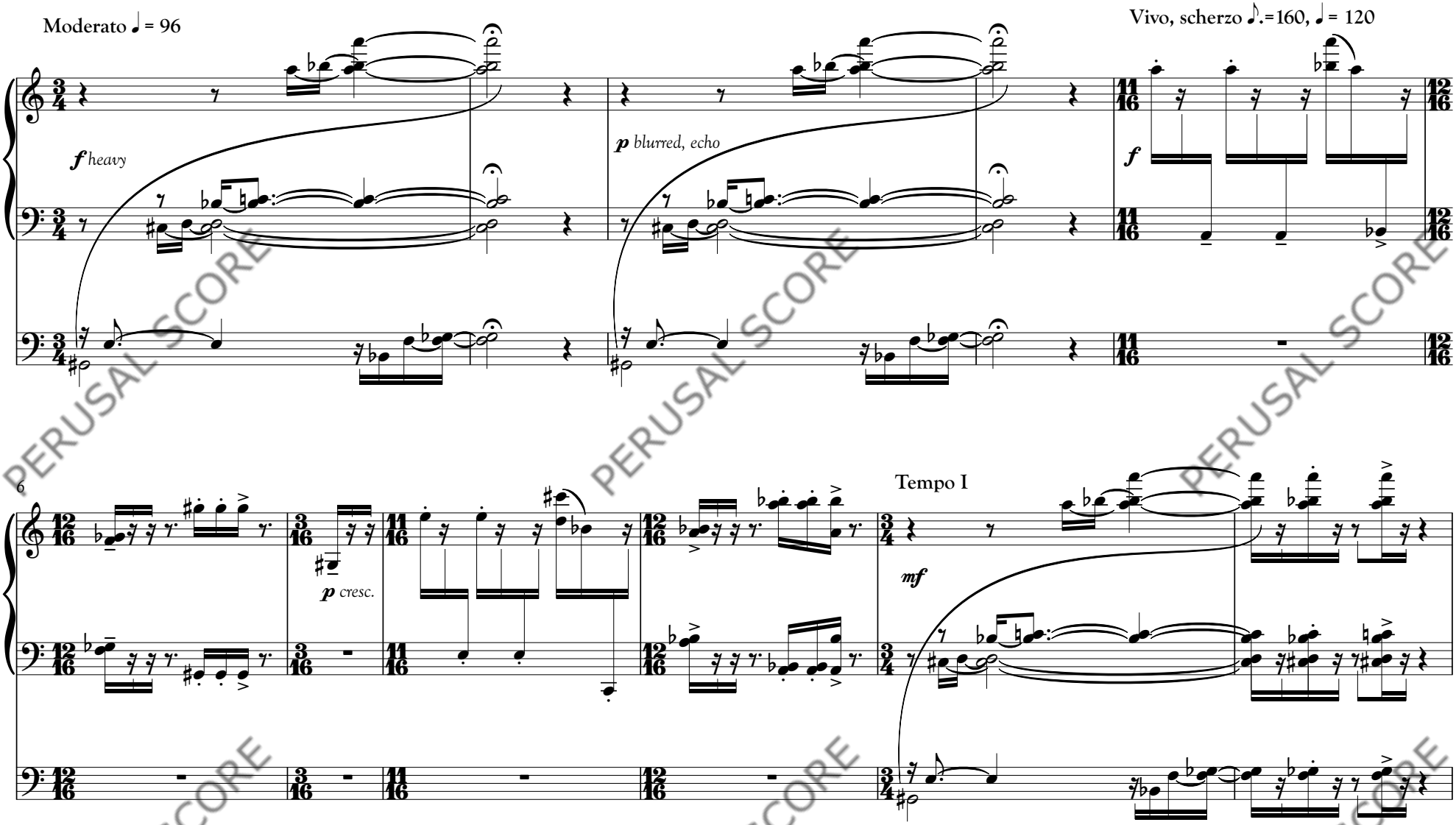
[3'20"]

PERUSAL SCORE



PERUSAL SCORE

VI



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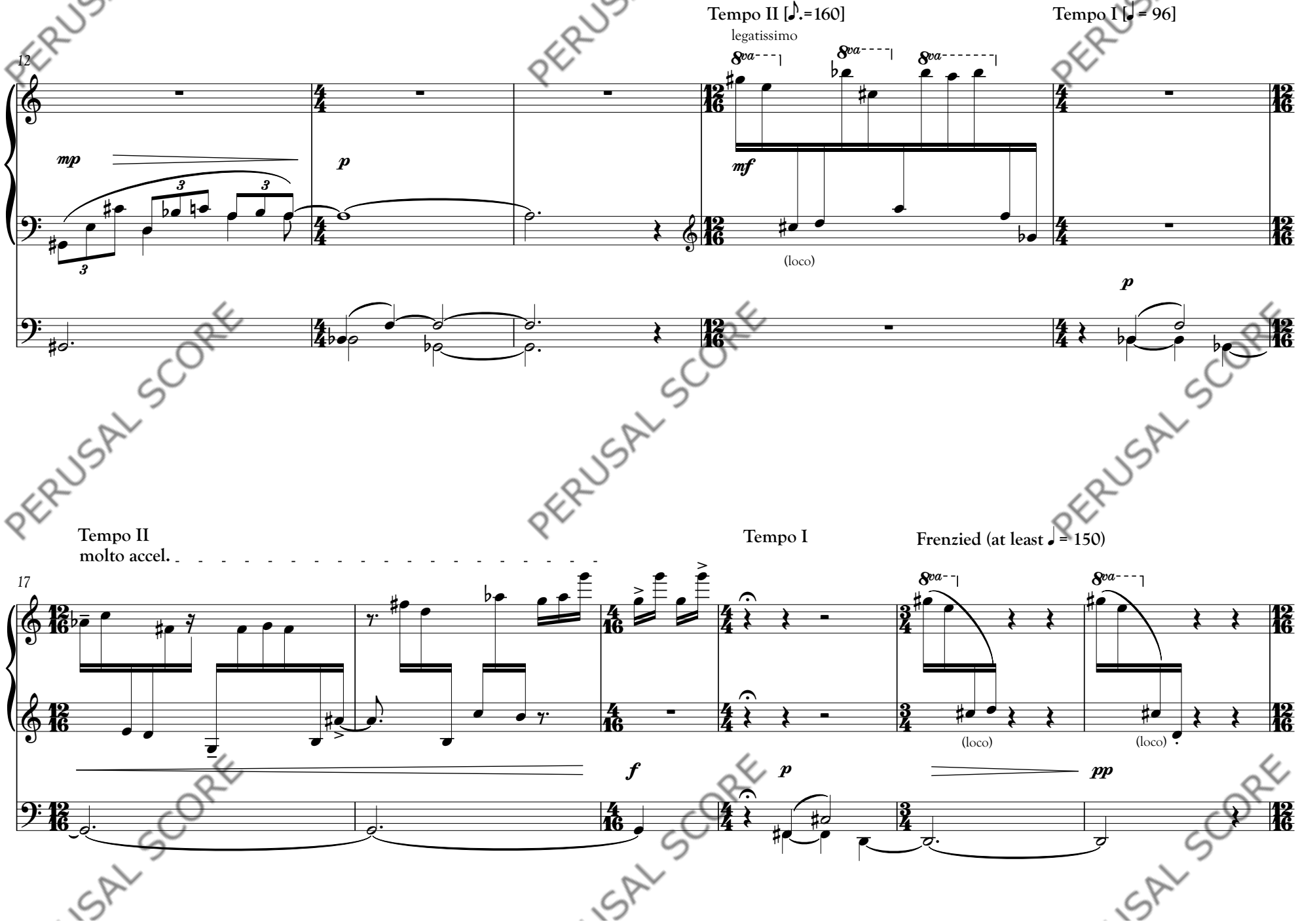

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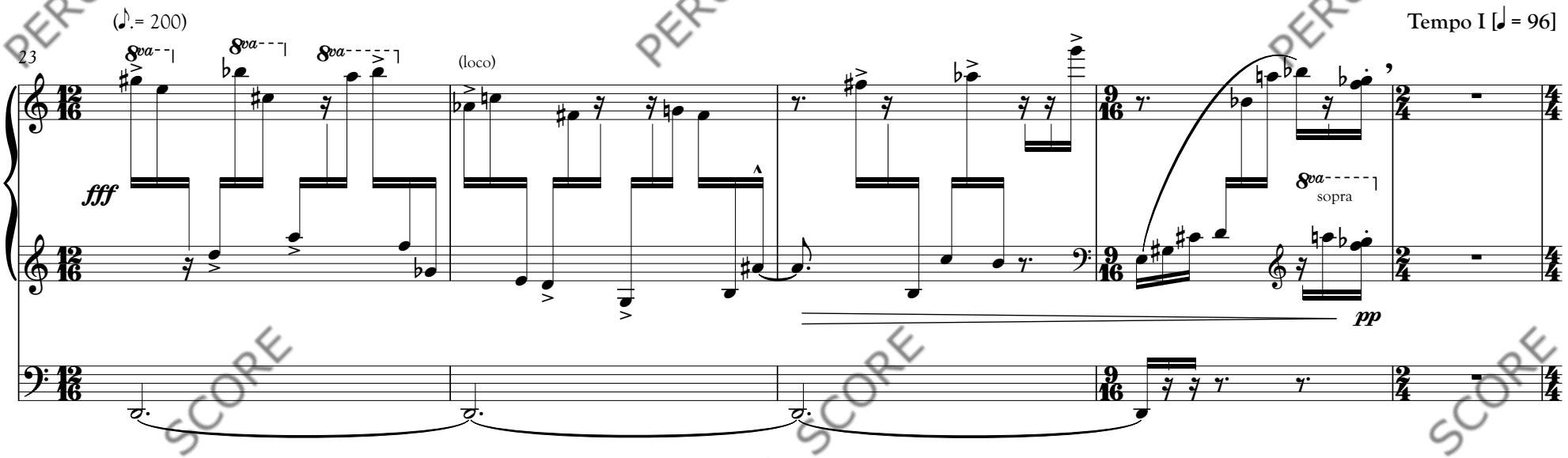

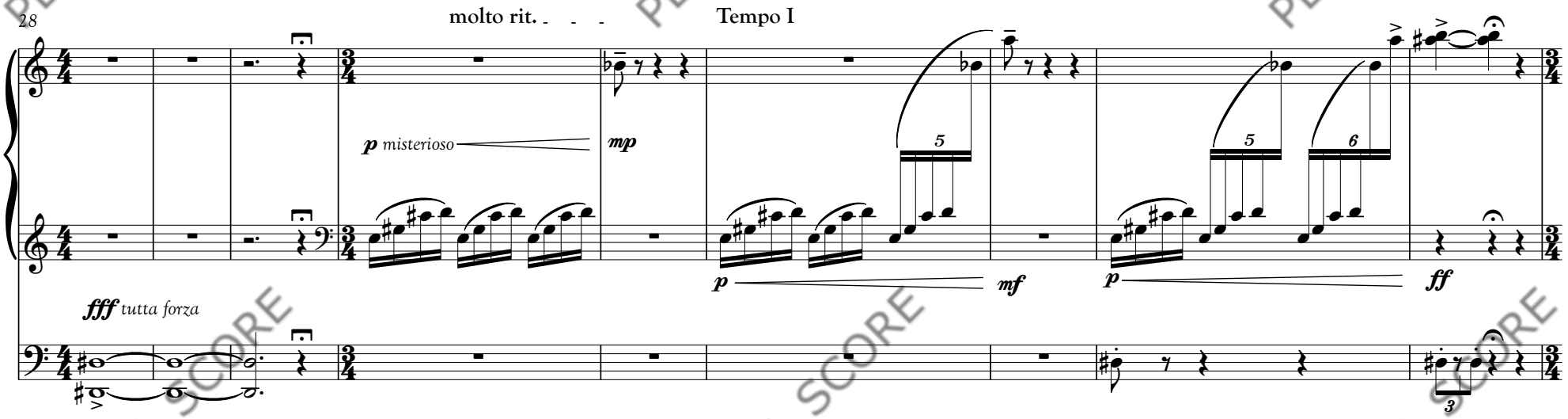

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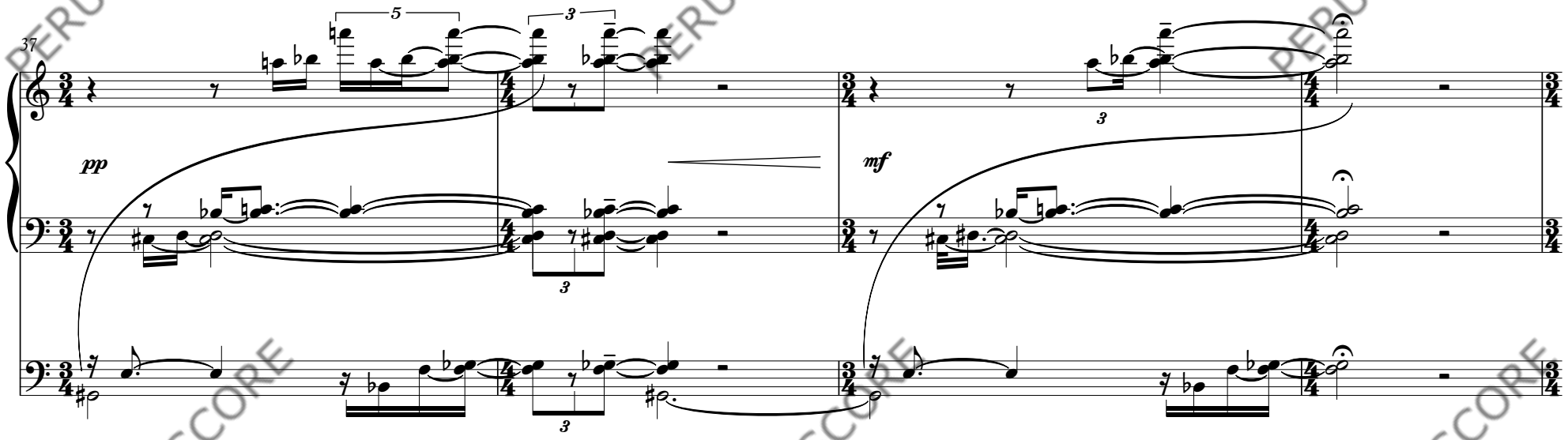
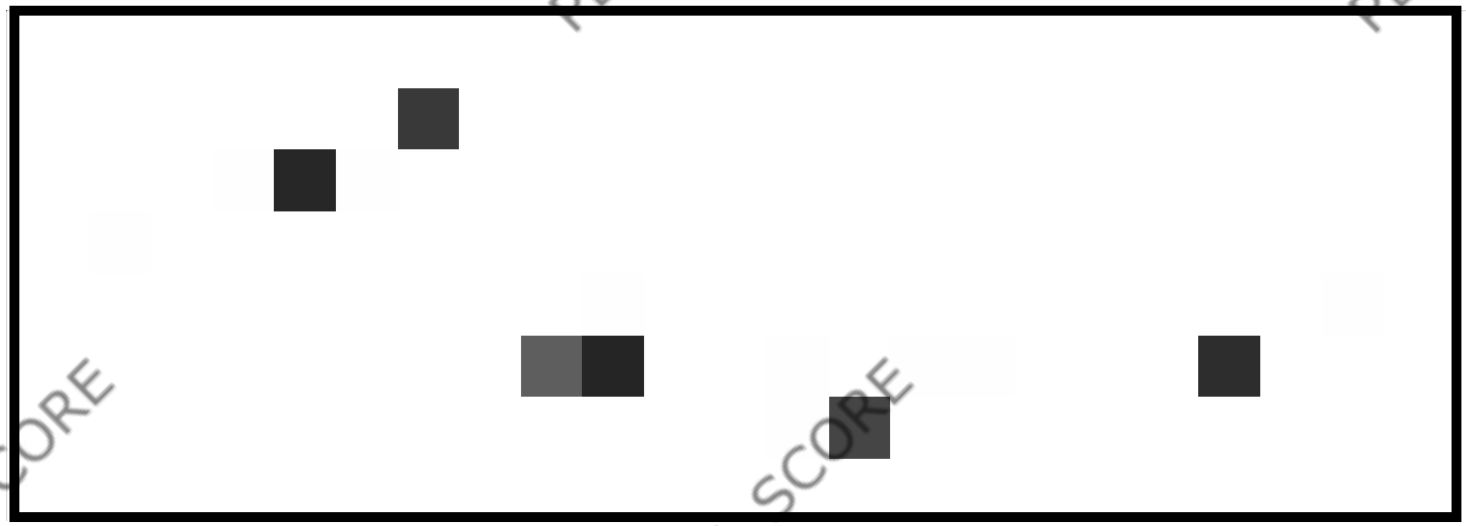


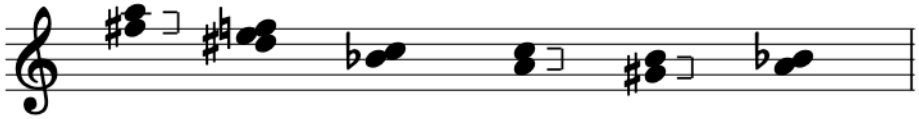
Poco meno mosso (♩= 84)

molto rit.

PERUSAL SCORE

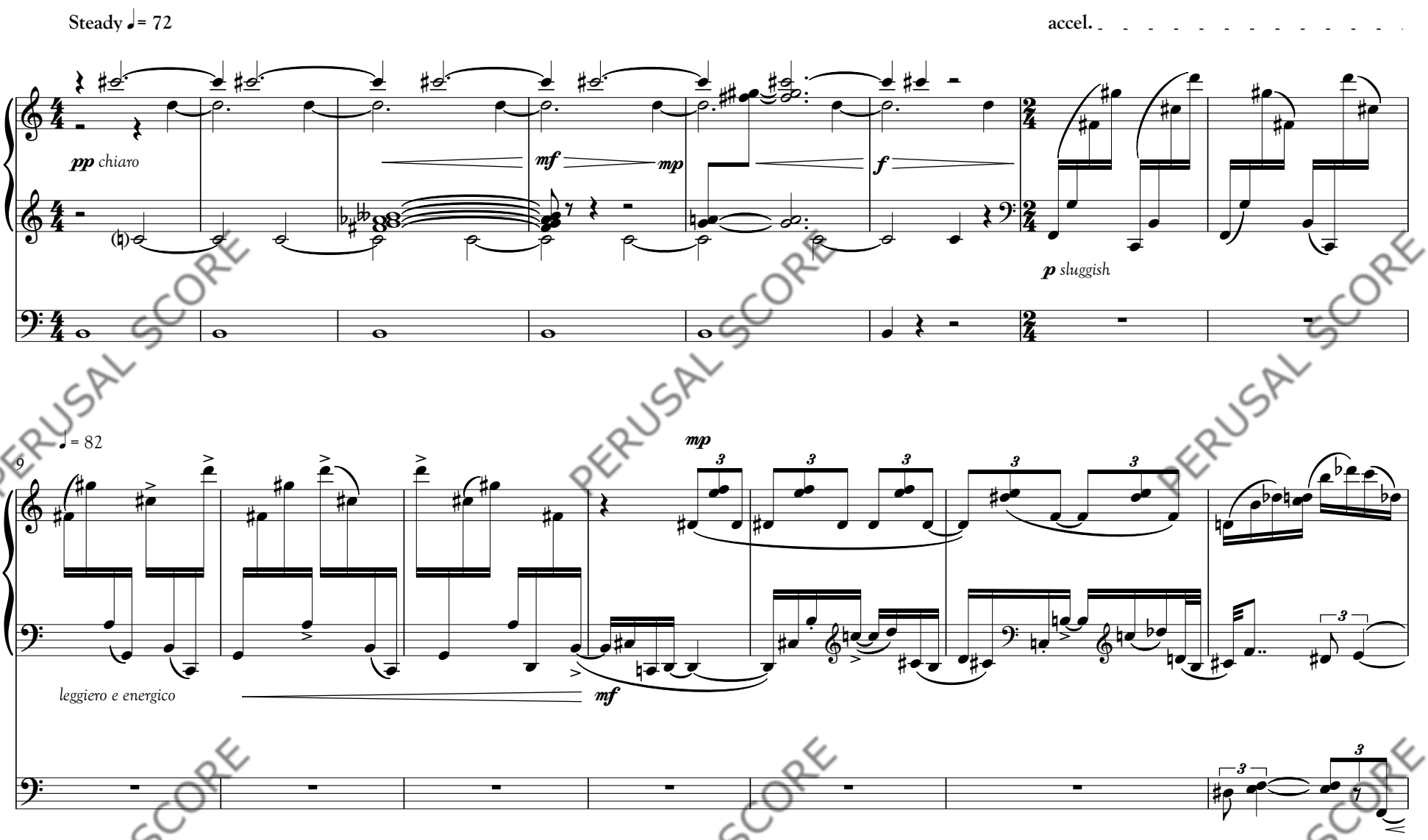
PERUSAL SCORE





PERUSAL SCORE

VII



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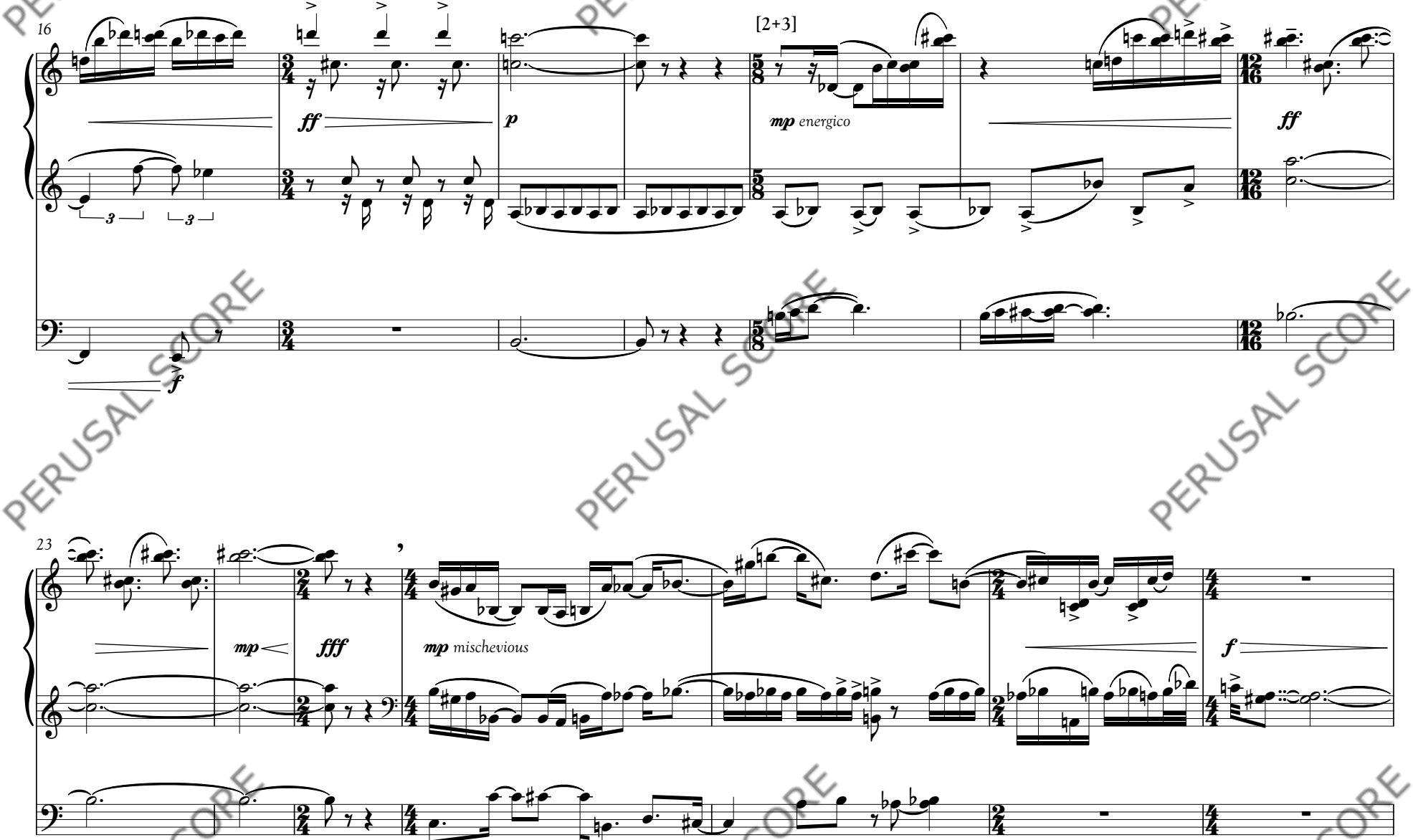

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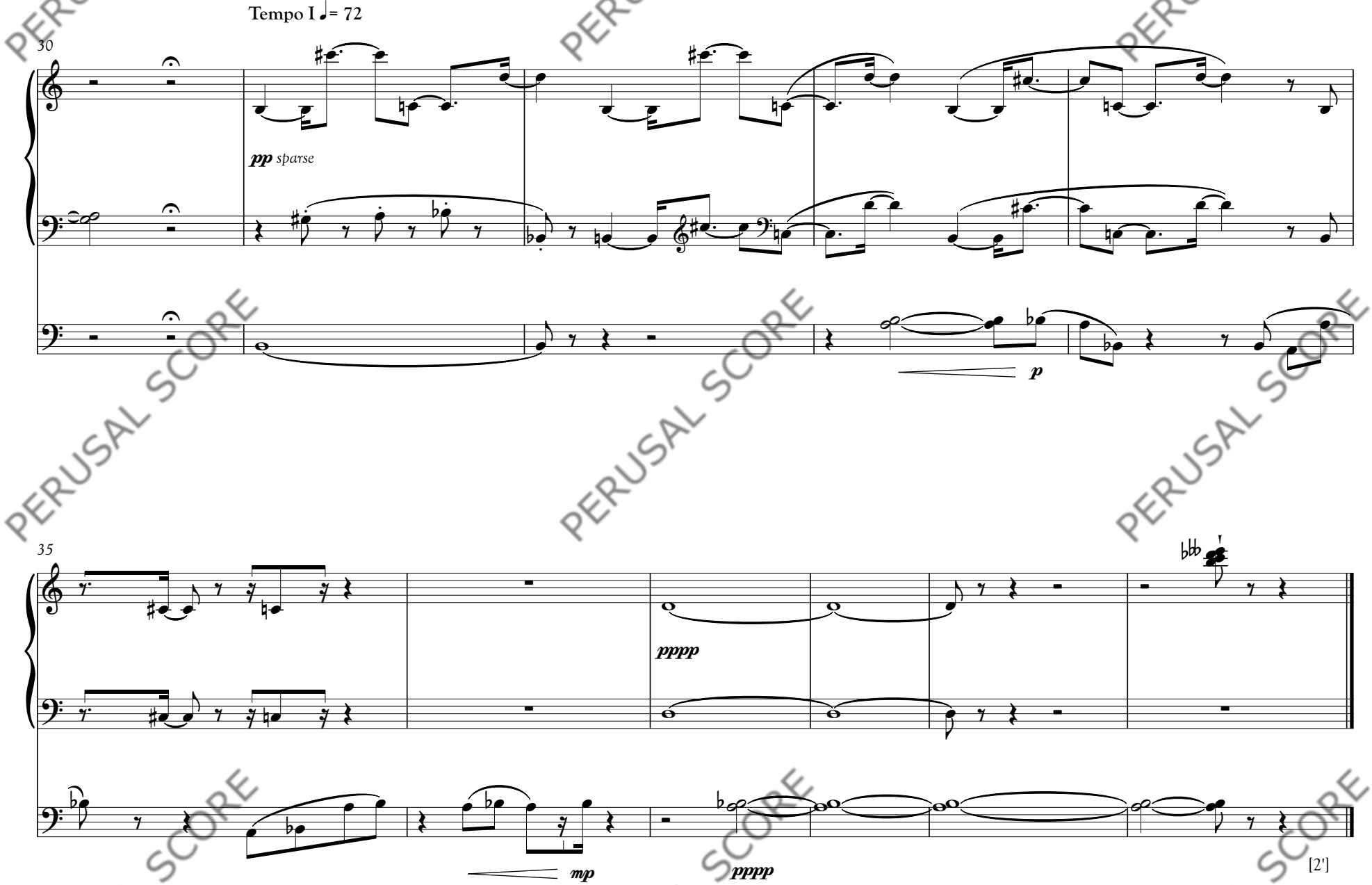

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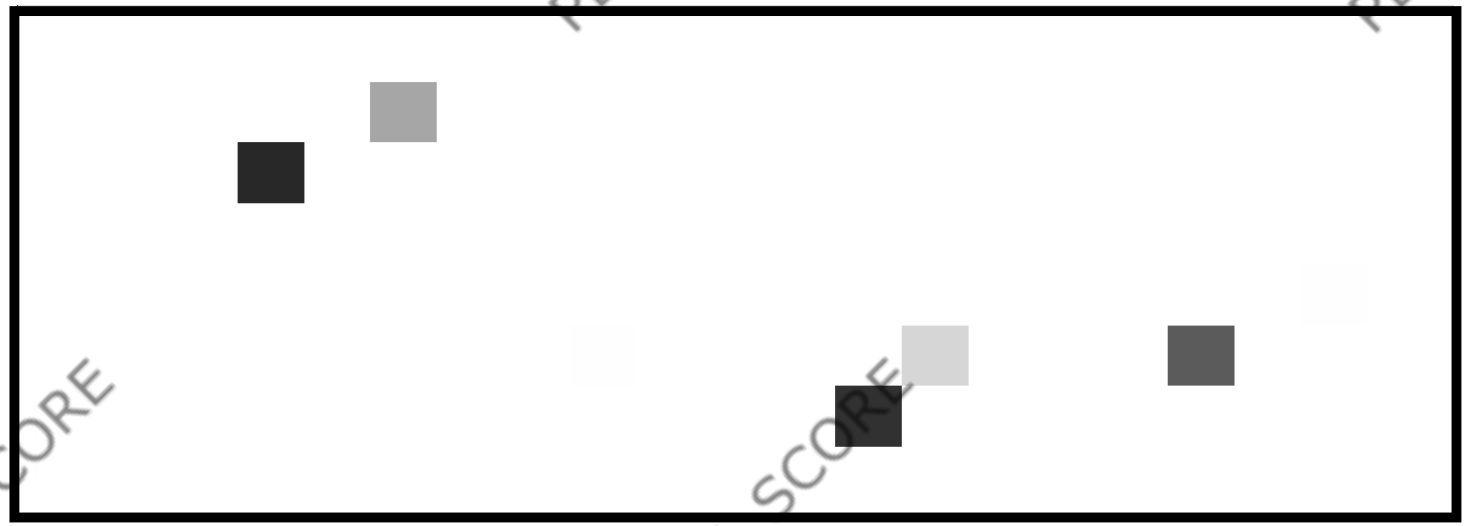
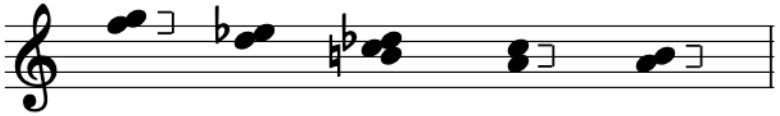




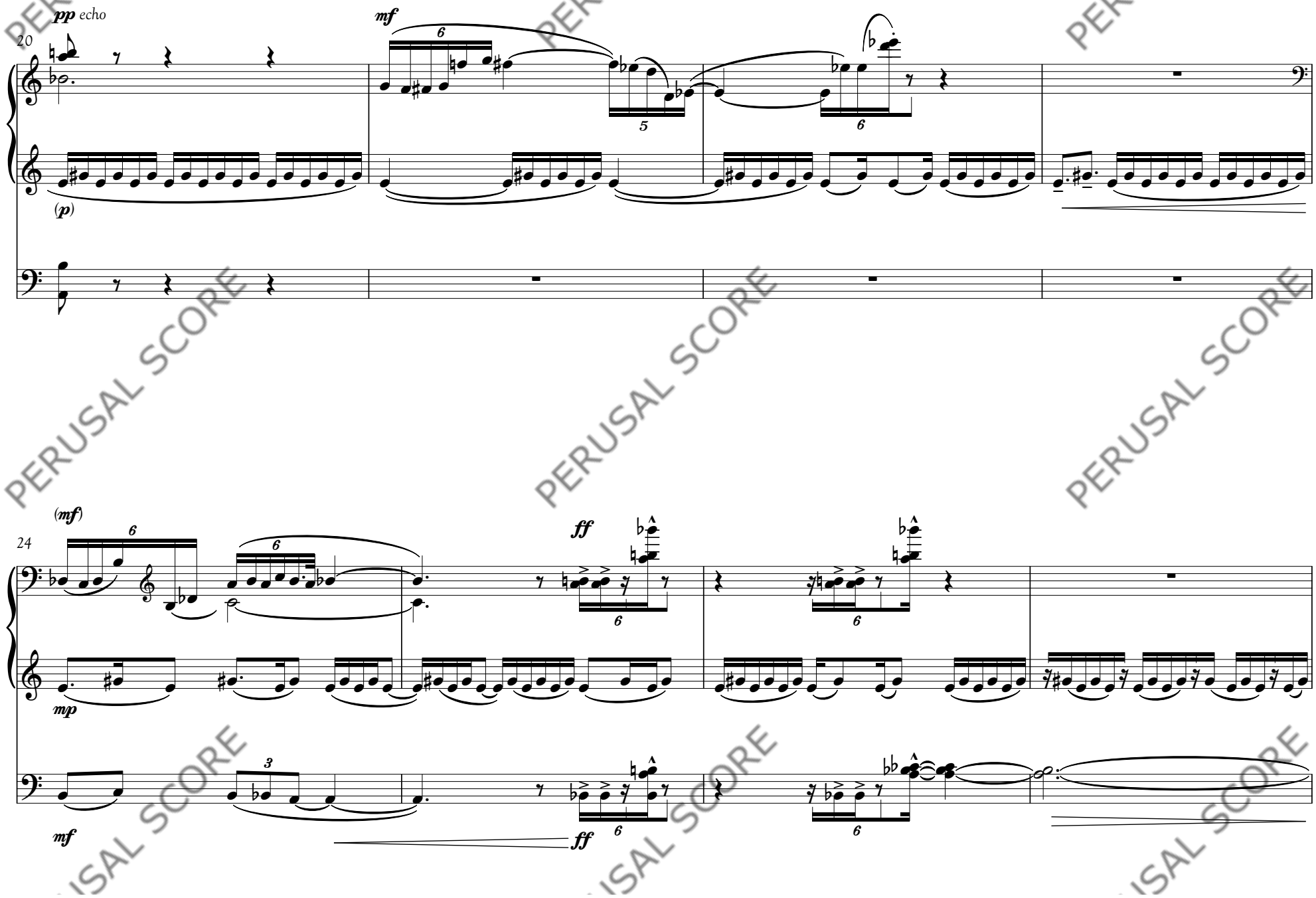
PERUSAL SCORE

VIII

Flowing ♩ = 56

PERUSAL SCORE

PERUSAL SCORE



PERUSAL SCORE

PERUSAL SCORE

28

Chaotic (𝅗𝅥 = 56)

fff *cacophonous*

p

33

8va

Flowing ♩ = 56

ppp *sempre*

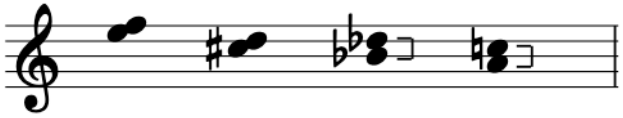
[c. 10"]

ffff

[2'15"]

End of Part Two

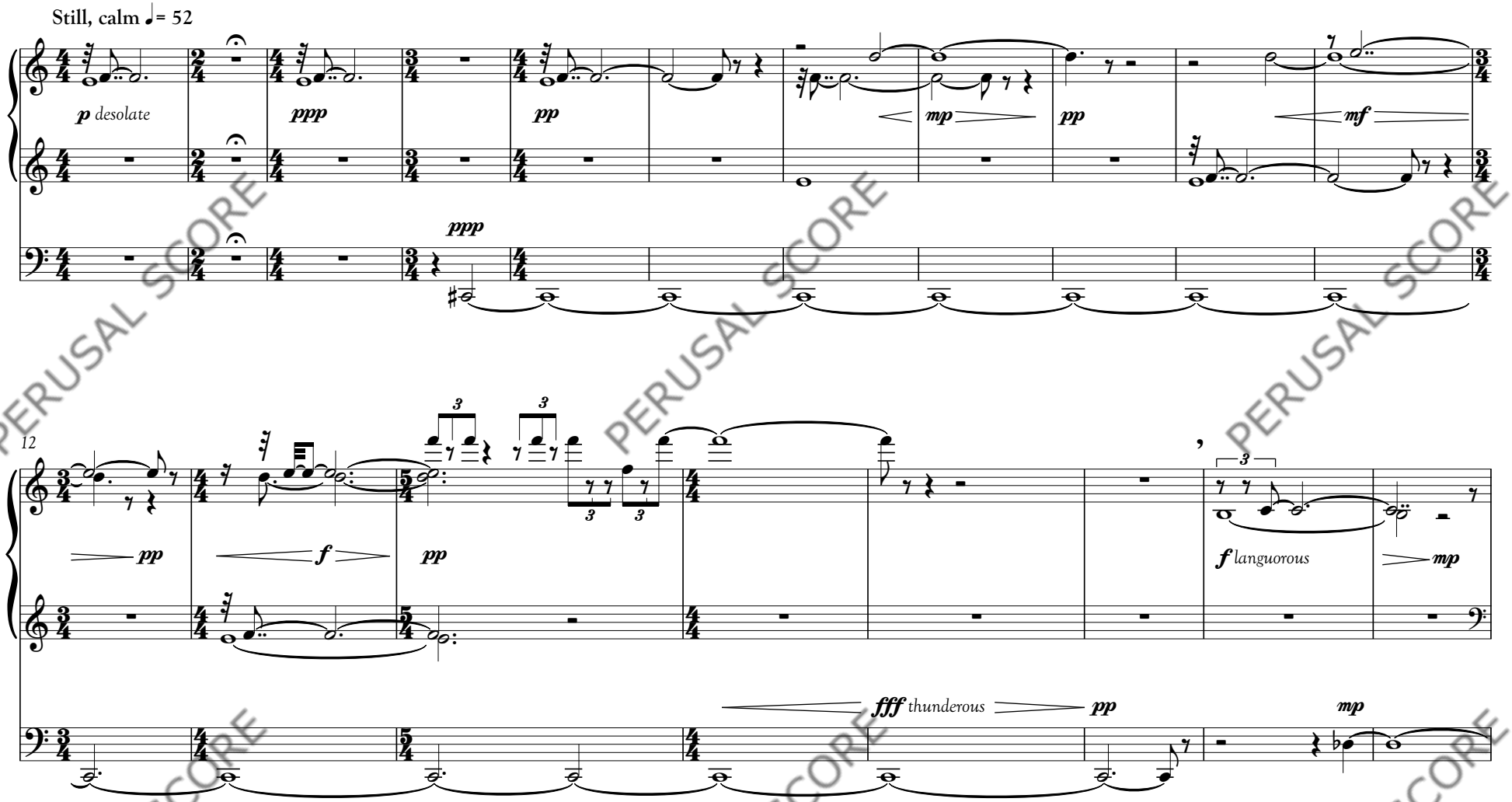
PERUSAL SCORE



PERUSAL SCORE

Part Three | Obfuscation

IX



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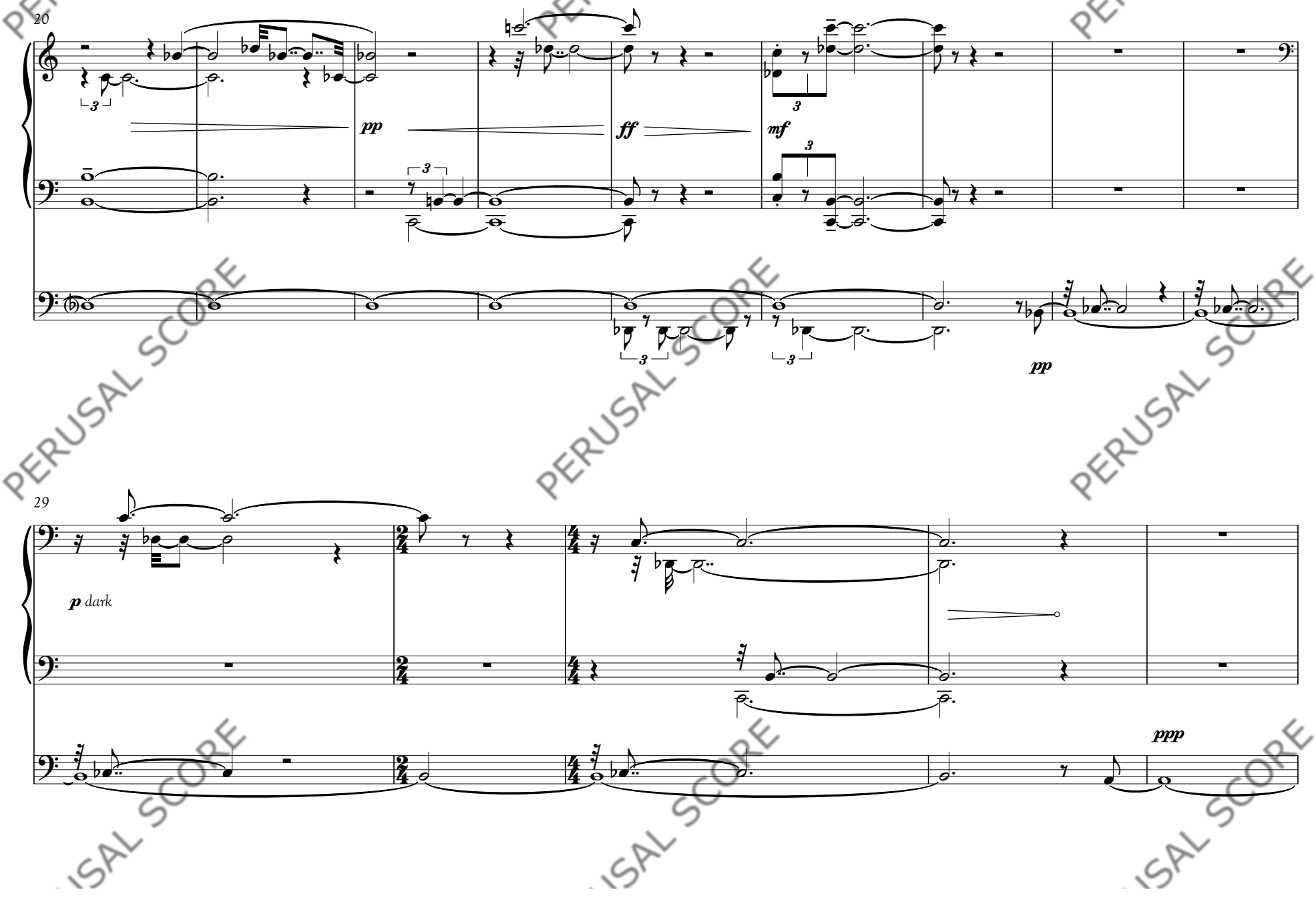

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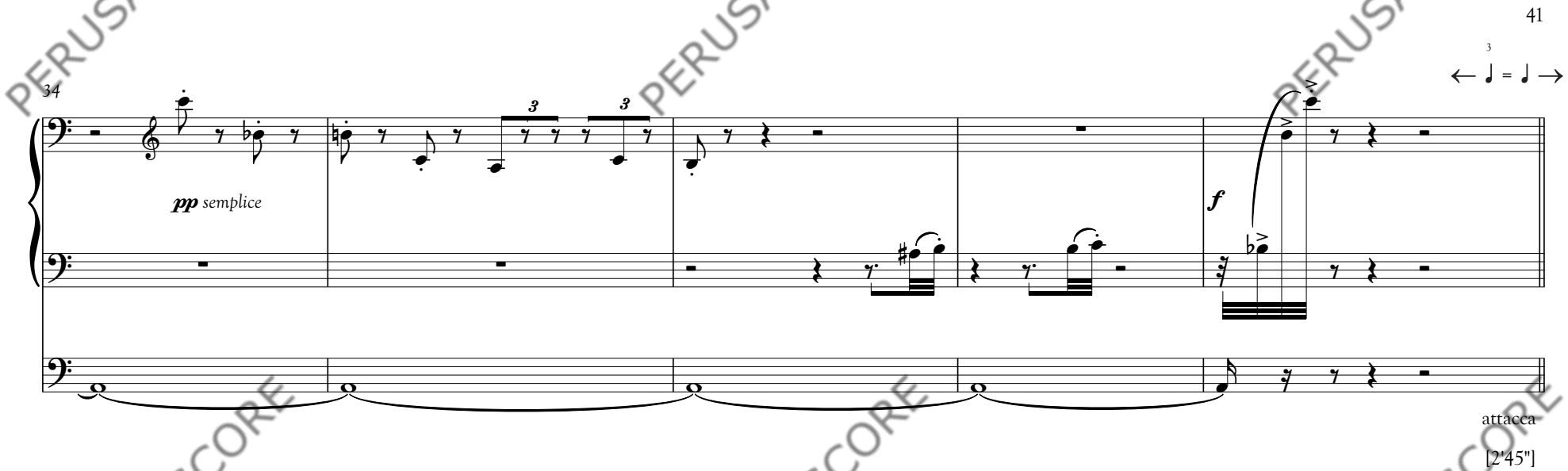
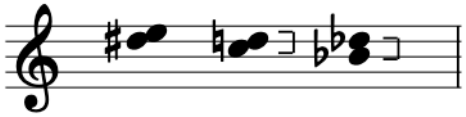


attacca

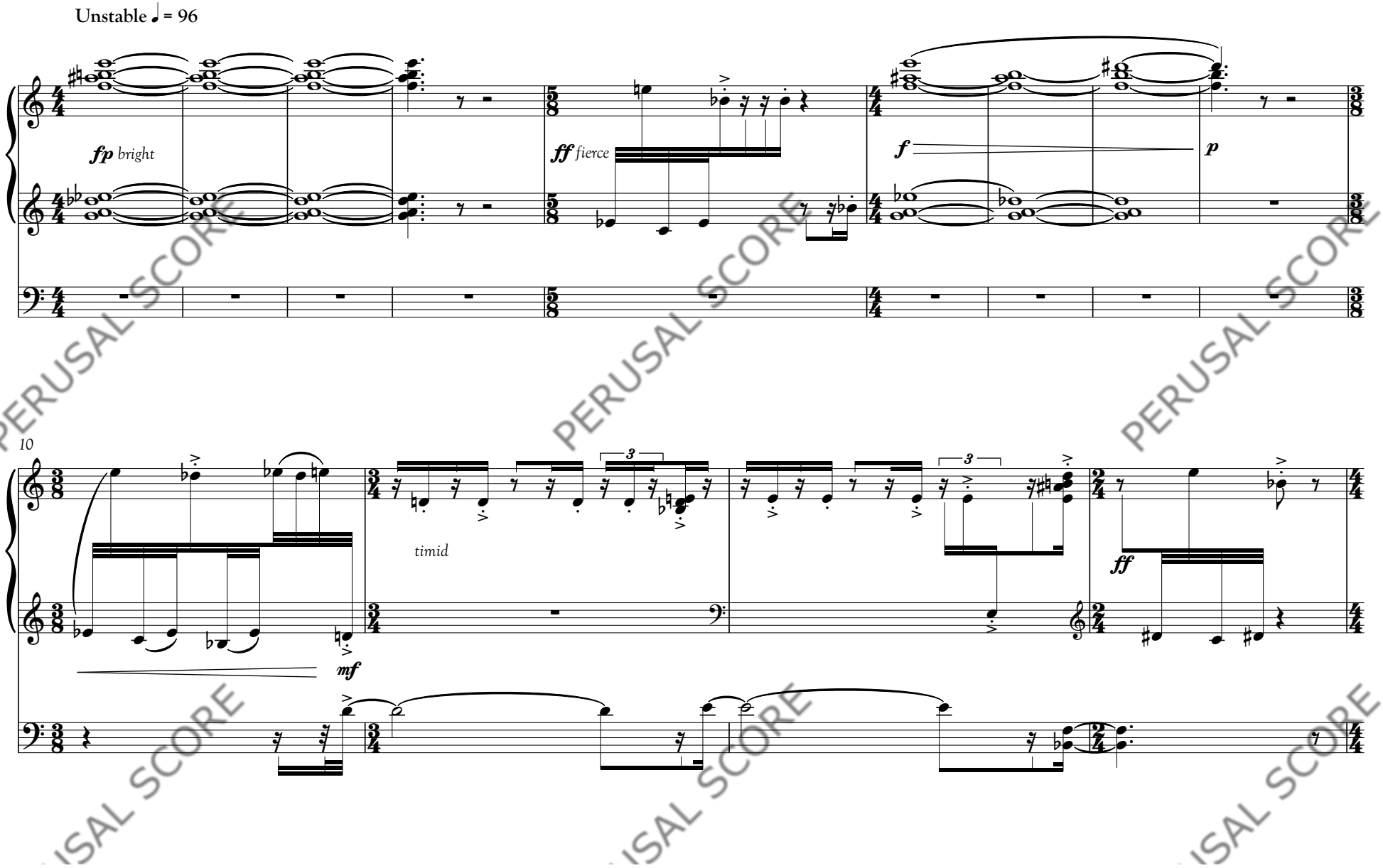
[2'45"]

PERUSAL SCORE



PERUSAL SCORE

X



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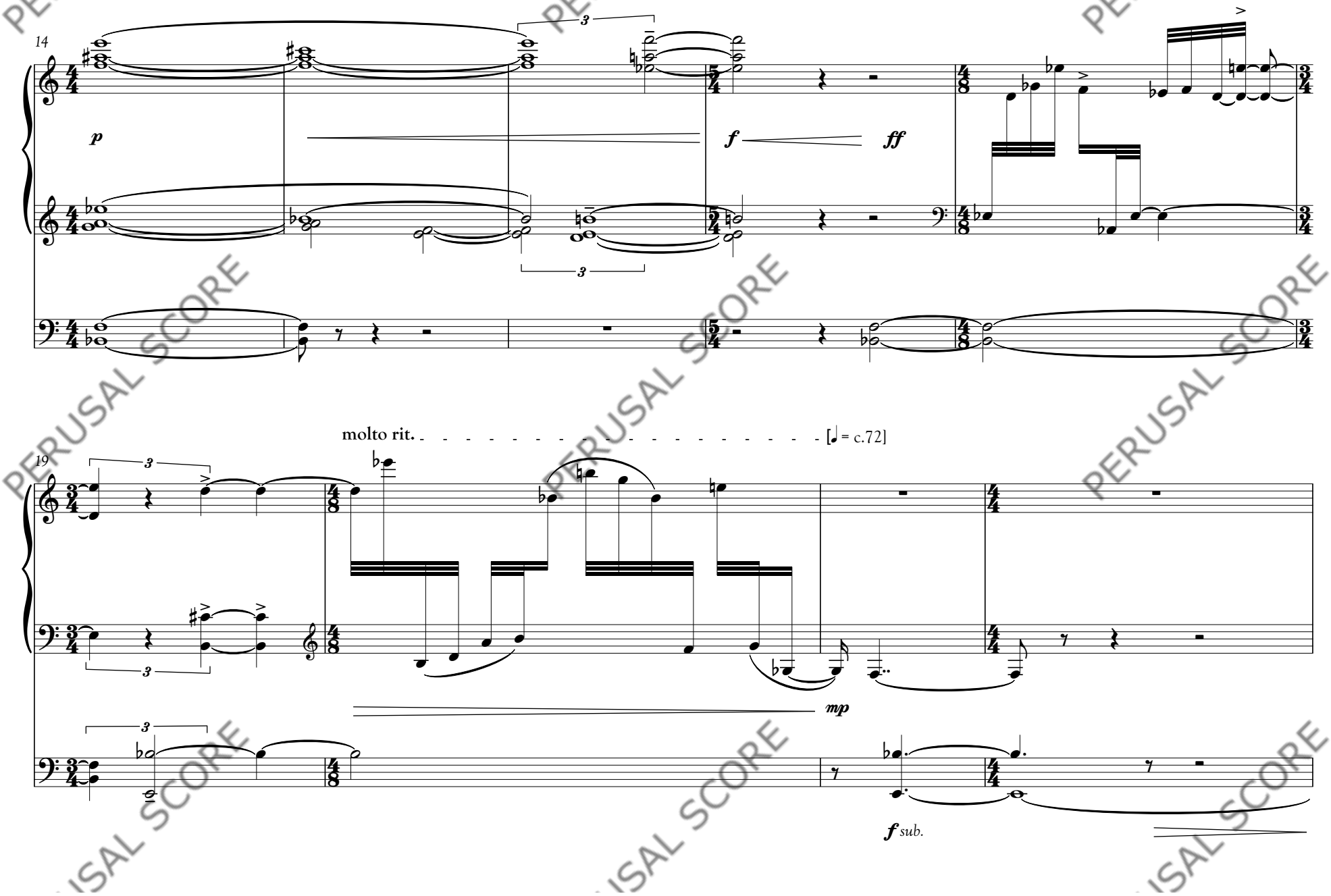

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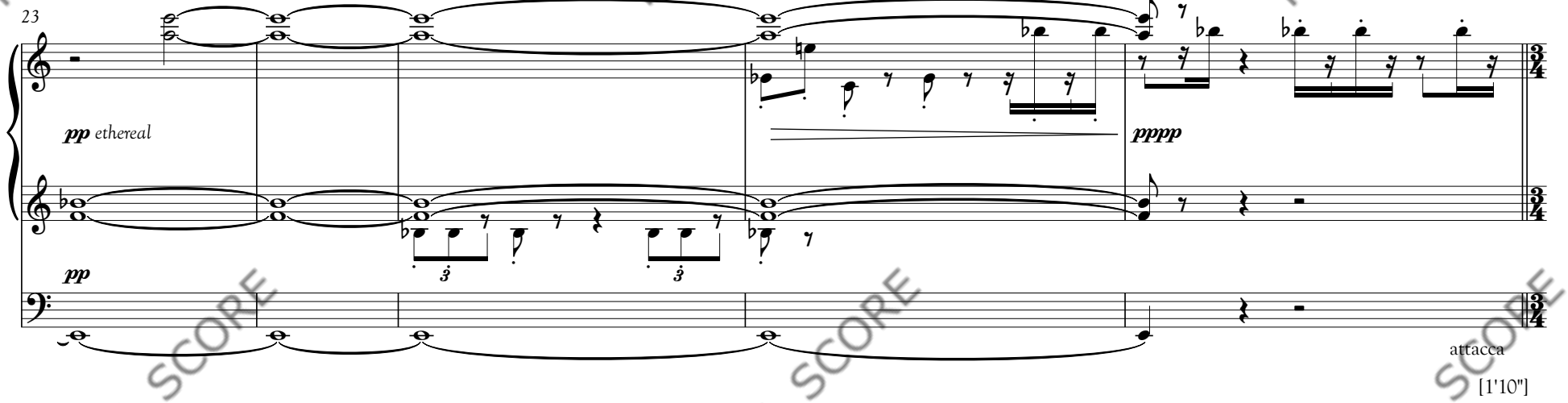

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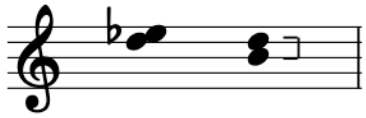
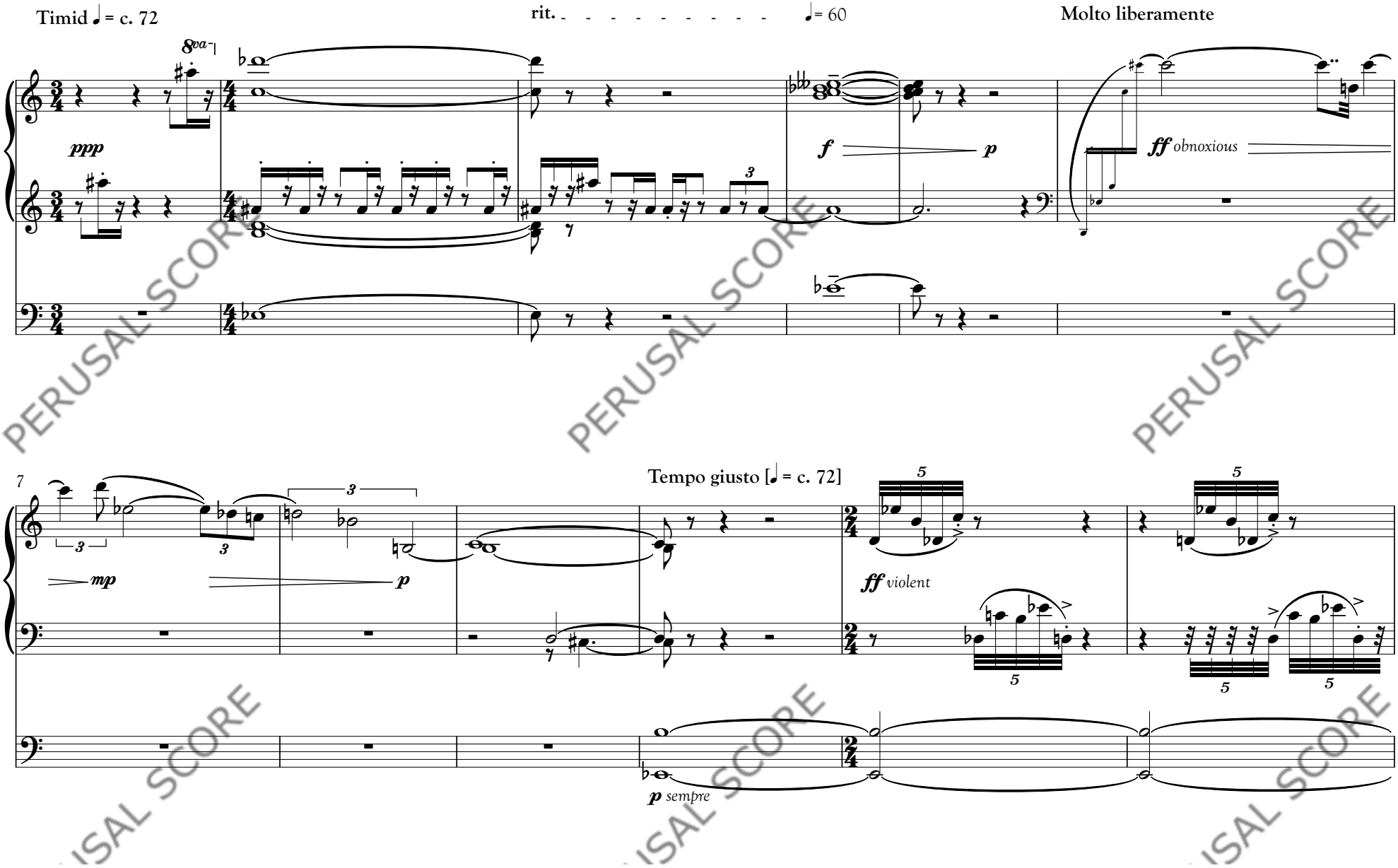


PERUSAL SCORE

XI



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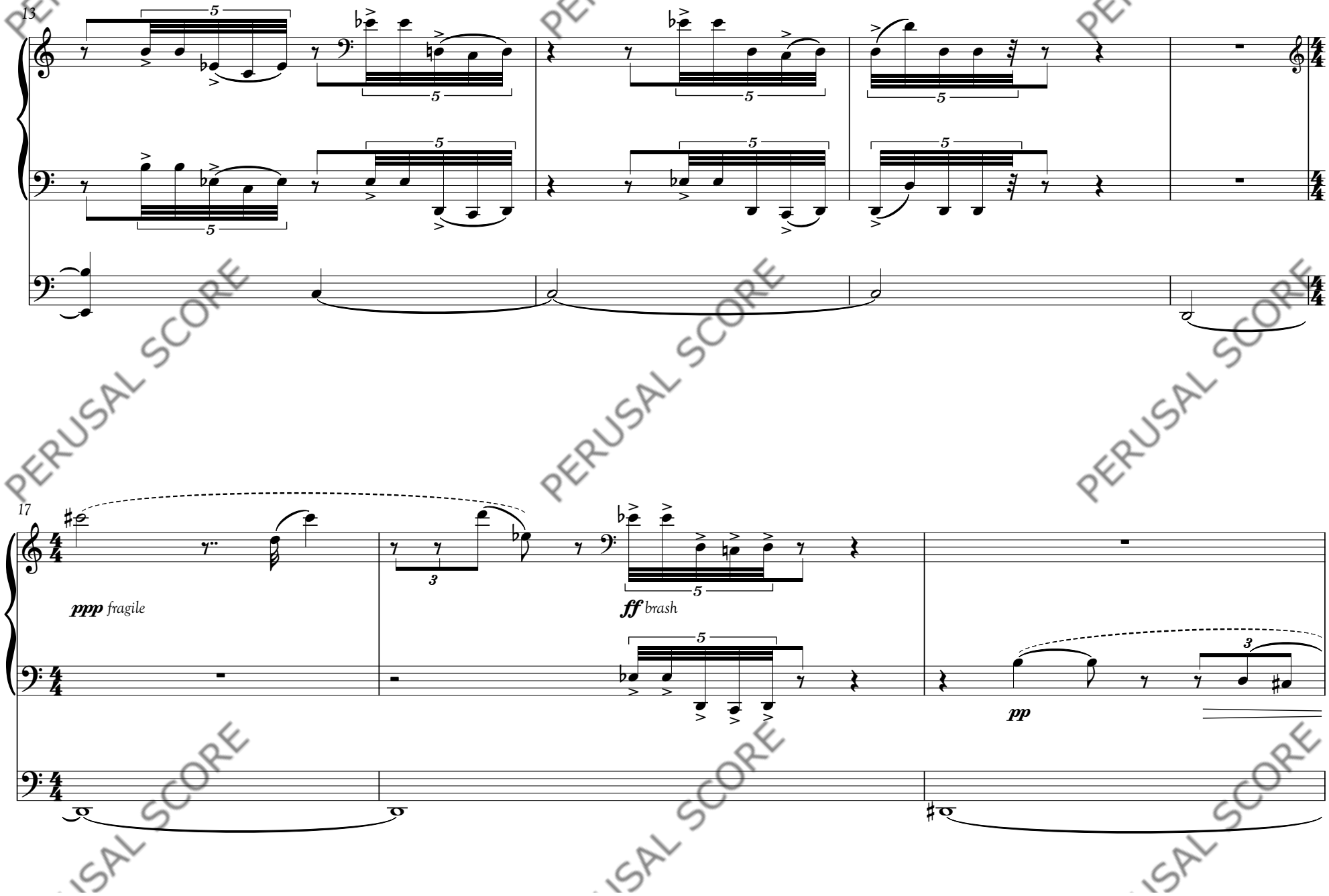

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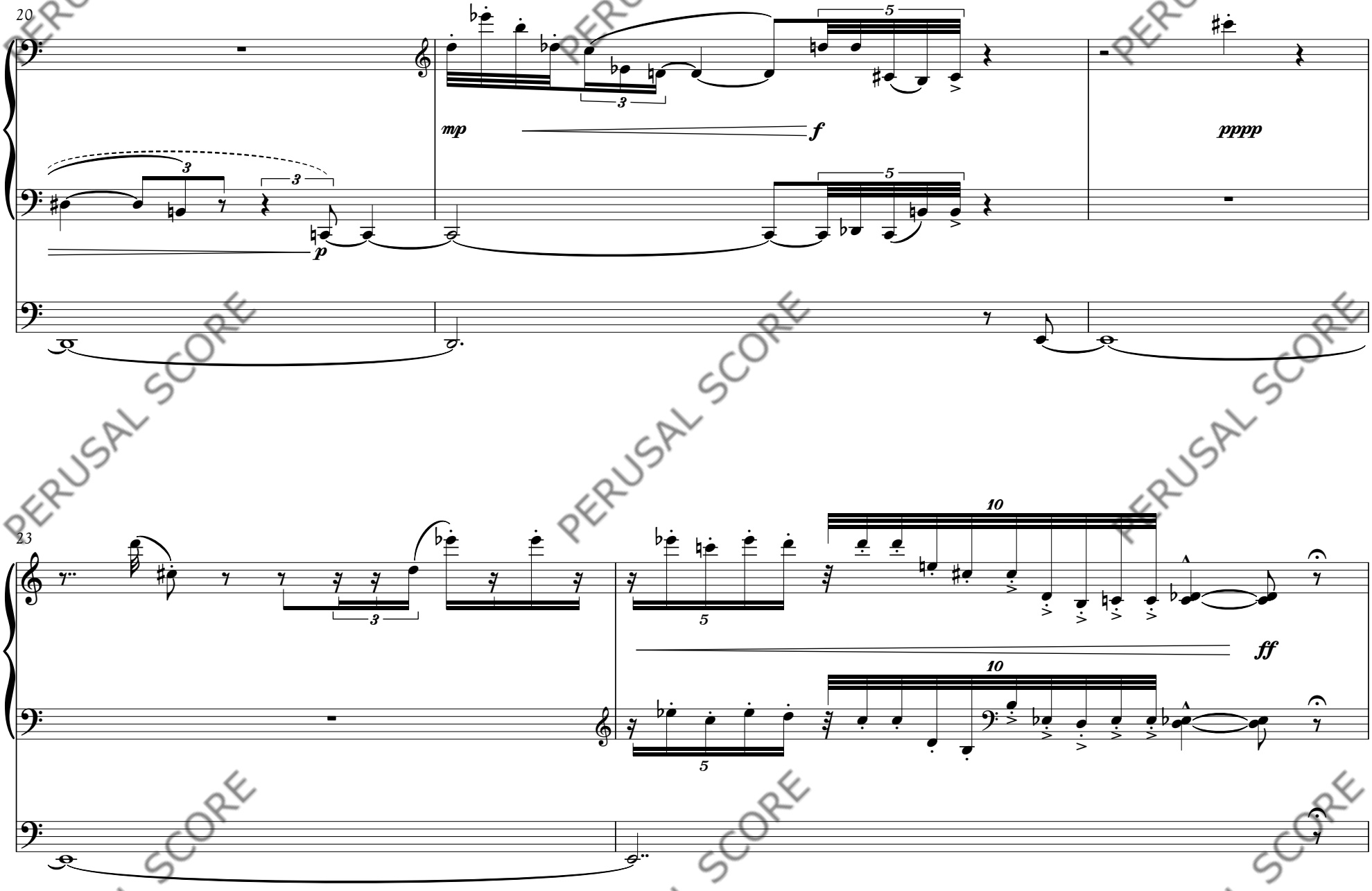

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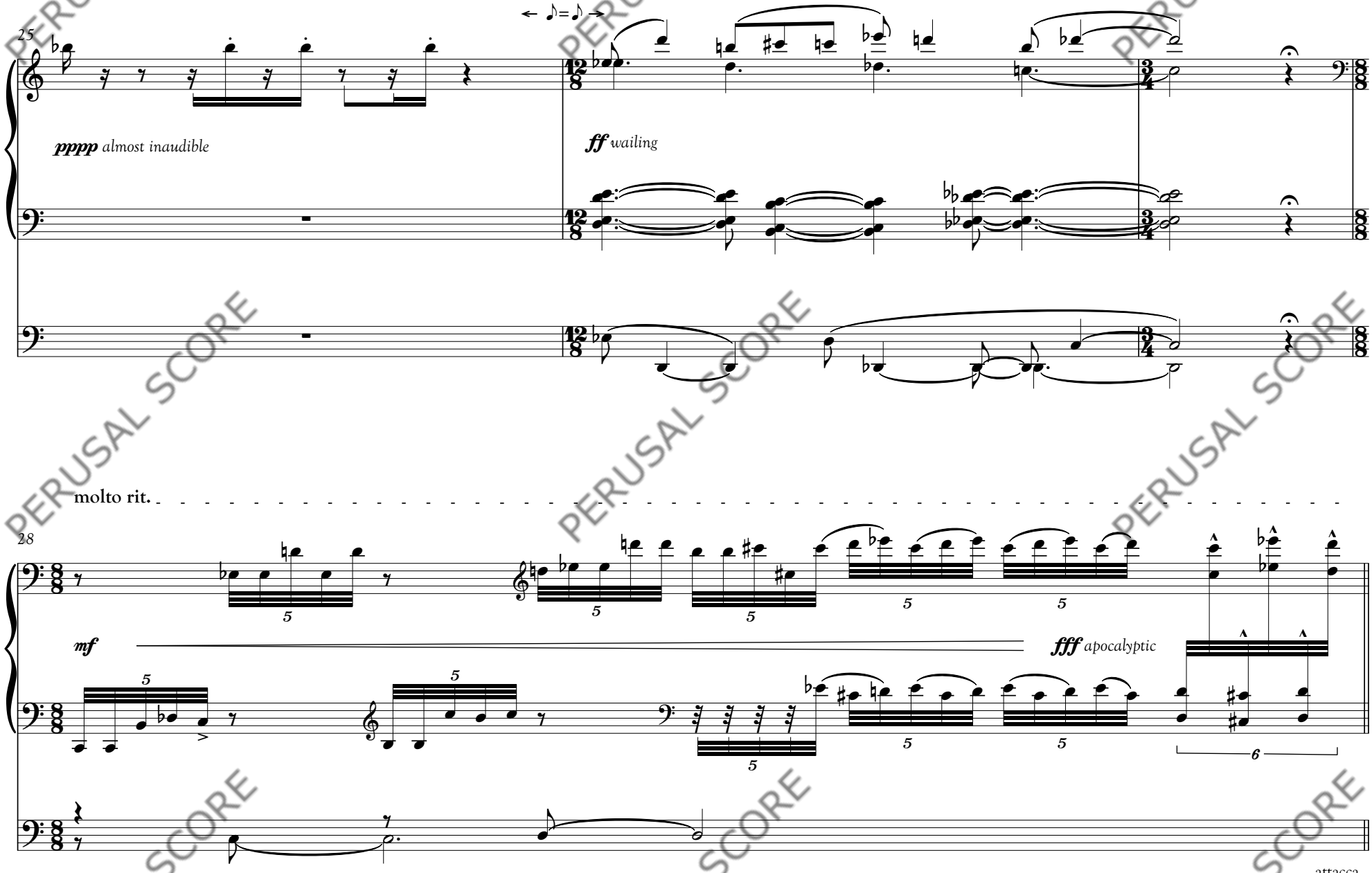

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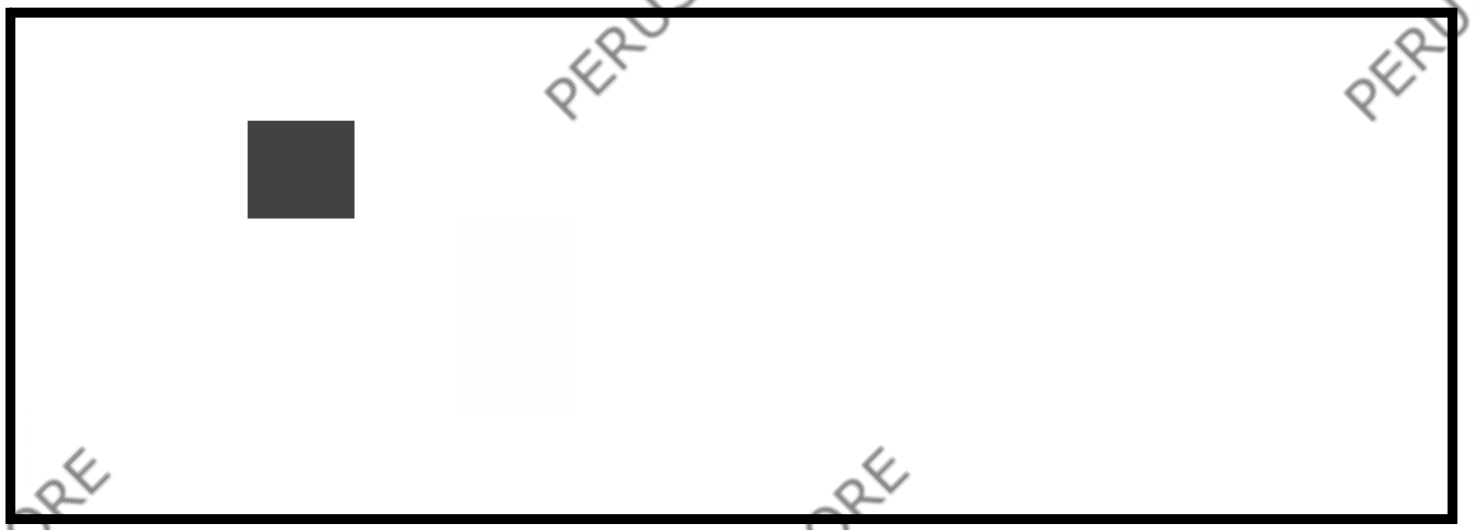
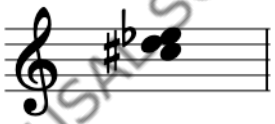




Performance instructions

The hand must be replaced by weights, which maintain the cluster for the entirety of the piece.

The dynamic and timbre of the instrument should be adjusted according to the graphic below the stave. Referential expression markings have been provided to allow for a general structure using the graphic, and to assist the performer in their own interpretation.

The minimum suggested performance time is 2', which gives each 'bar' a duration of around 5 seconds. Liberties can be taken to reflect the specifics of the acoustic and the instrument, but the upper durational limit should be no more than 3'.

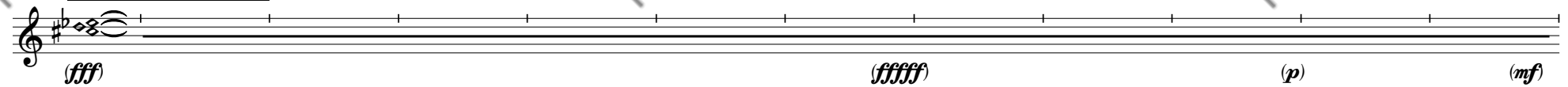
The focus of this piece is to explore the sonic possibilities of the organ whilst reflecting the instructions of the graphic. The performer is encouraged to be creative with registration, and to exploit unusual sound combinations (e.g. pulling stops halfway).

PERUSAL SCORE

XII

Pitch

Replace hand with two weights without any break in the sound.



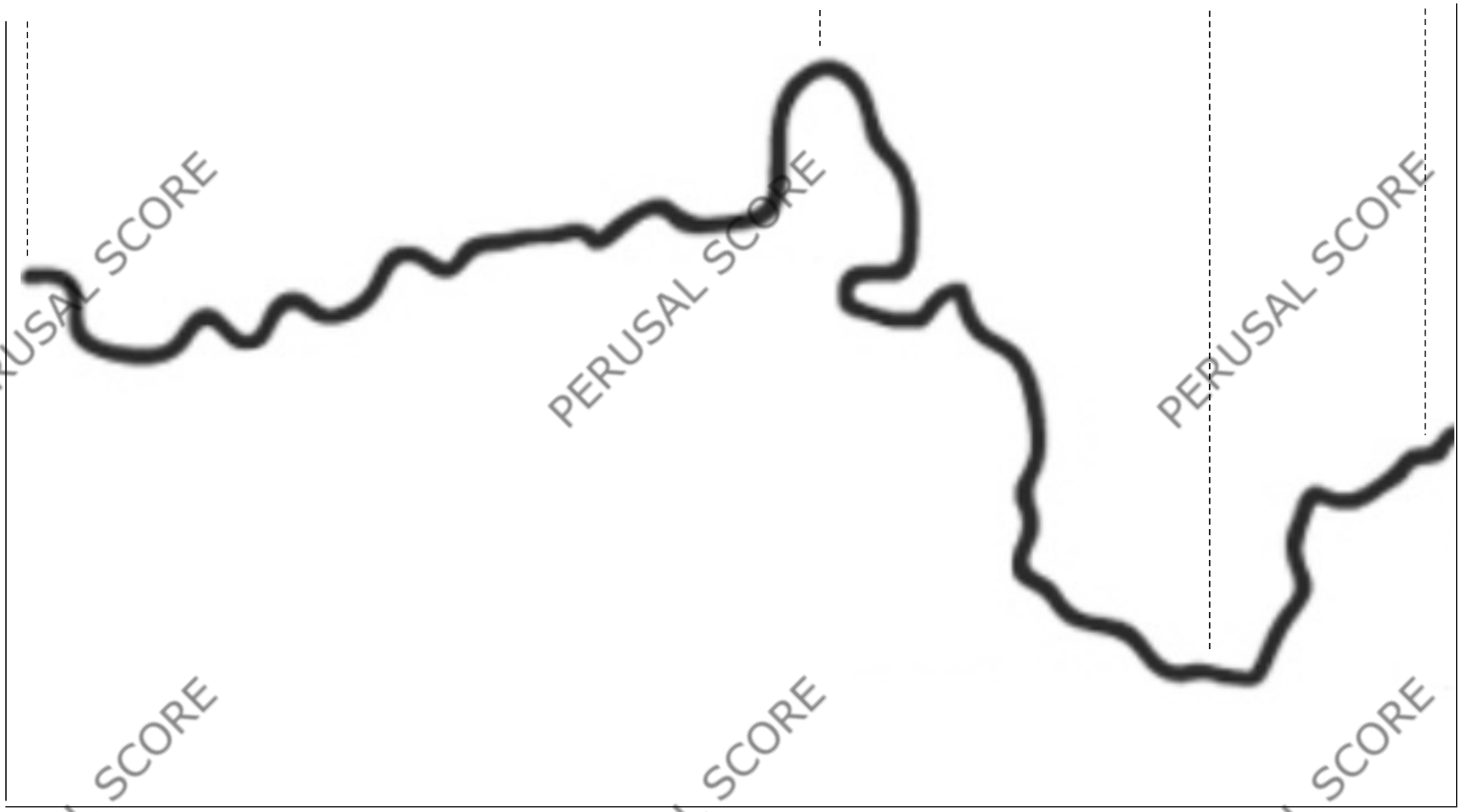
(***fff***)
apocalyptic

(***fffff***)
glorious, otherwordly

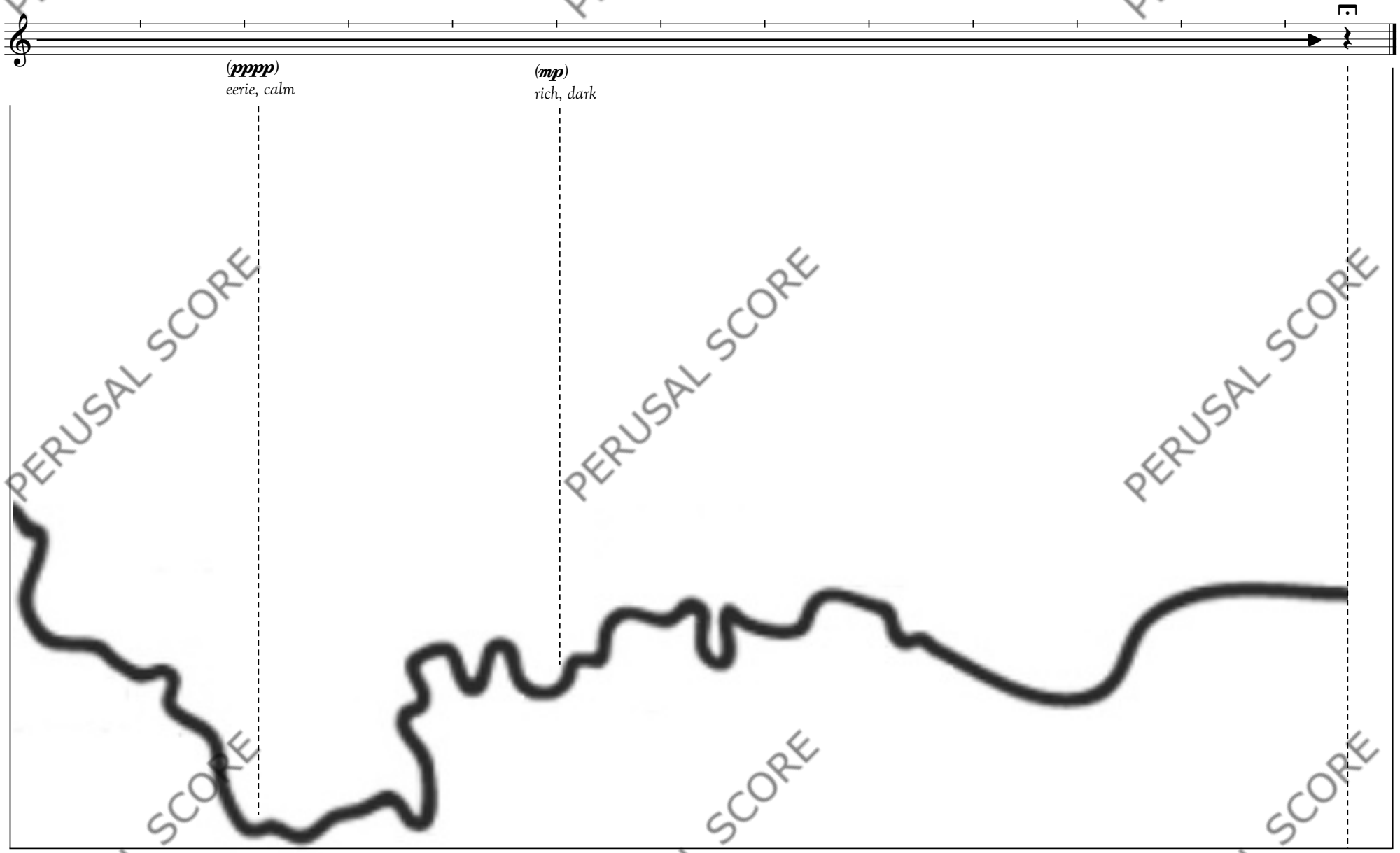
(***p***)
solemn

(***mf***)
brassy

Dynamics | Timbre



PERUSAL SCORE



[c. 2']

PERUSAL SCORE