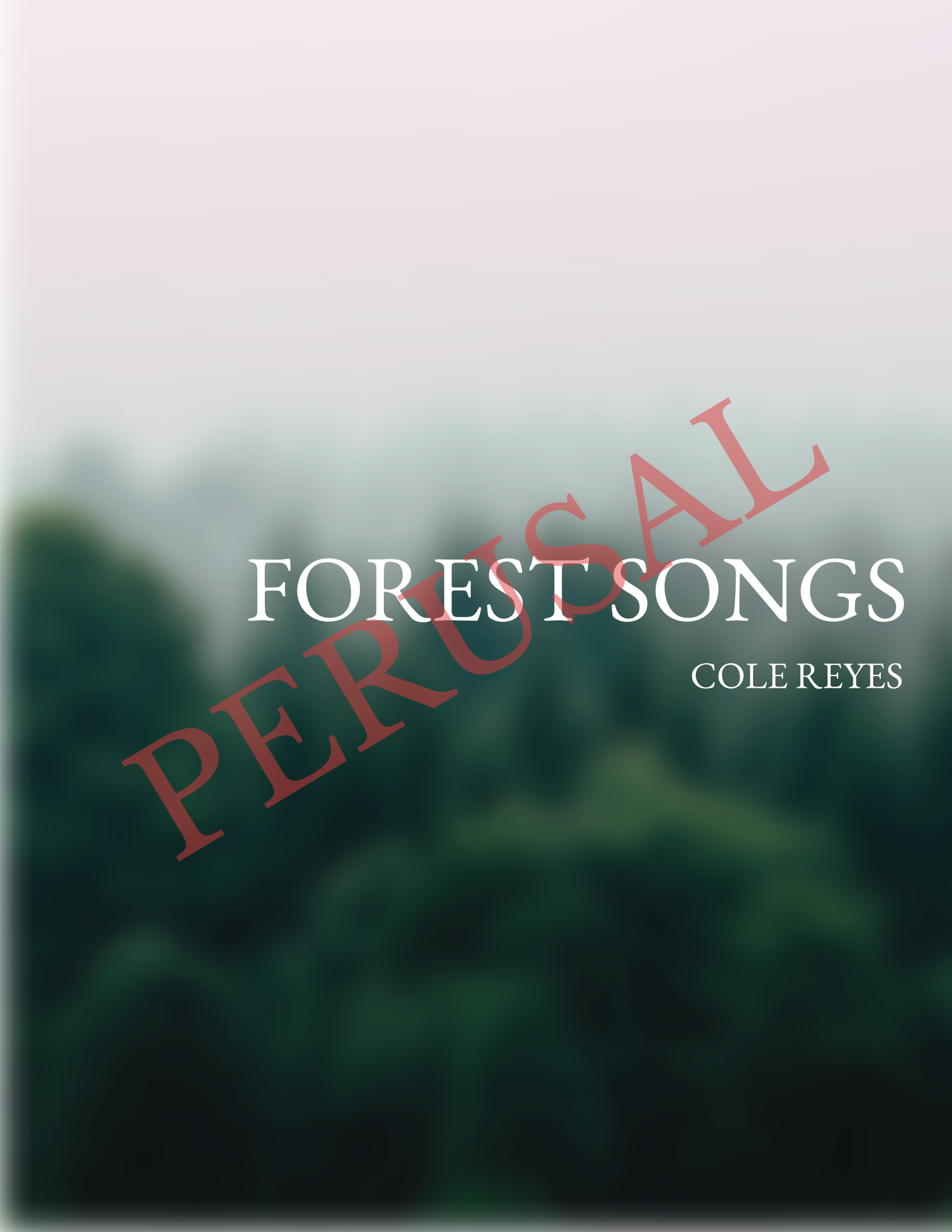

FOREST SONGS

COLE REYES

PERUSAL

PERUSAL

Forest Songs

(2024)

Duration: 10 minutes

Cole Reyes

for soprano and string quartet

PERUSAL

Orchestration:

1 Soprano Voice
2 Violins
1 Viola
1 Violoncello

Program Note:

"Forest Songs" is a meditation on three texts. One by e.e. cummings, one by Emily Dickinson, and one which I wrote in response. Each captures a unique way in which we might interact with the forest, from appreciating its natural beauty to cutting it down to build condos. Throughout the piece the string quartet and the soprano voice are in dialogue, commenting on the text and elucidating further our fraught relationship with nature.

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Text:

the sky a silver
dissonance by the correct
fingers of April
resolved

        into a
clutter of trite jewels

now like a moth with stumbling

wings flutters and flops along the
grass collides with trees and
houses and finally,
butts into the river

- e.e. cummings

These Fevered Days—to take them to the Forest
Where Waters cool around the mosses crawl—
And shade is all that devastates the stillness
Seems it sometimes this would be all—

- Emily Dickinson

I found
I found free
I found free the branches melting into firmament

Finding fresh
Finding fresh the tendrils acquainting abundantly

The sky I see overwhelmed

The sky
That frees flowers from the invaders
Who come clear crass courses and take it all away.

- Cole Reyes

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Instructions:

Strings

In measure 1 and consequent measures, repeatedly pizz., not aligning, while getting faster or slower depending on the direction of the feathered beaming. The exact number of pizzicati does not need to be consistent.

All accented cutoffs should be performed with an acute sharpness. They often come on harmonics which the performer should let ring.

At the beginning of the third movement, all string players will have a moment where they are creating a slow-bow/unpitched creaking sound. This sound can be heard at the beginning of Caroline Shaw's "Three Essays: Second Essay (Echo)."

Unmeasured ricochets may have several bounces, and not necessarily exactly following the feathered 8 articulations. Let the bow bounce and increase the speed of rearticulations.

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colereyesmusic.com

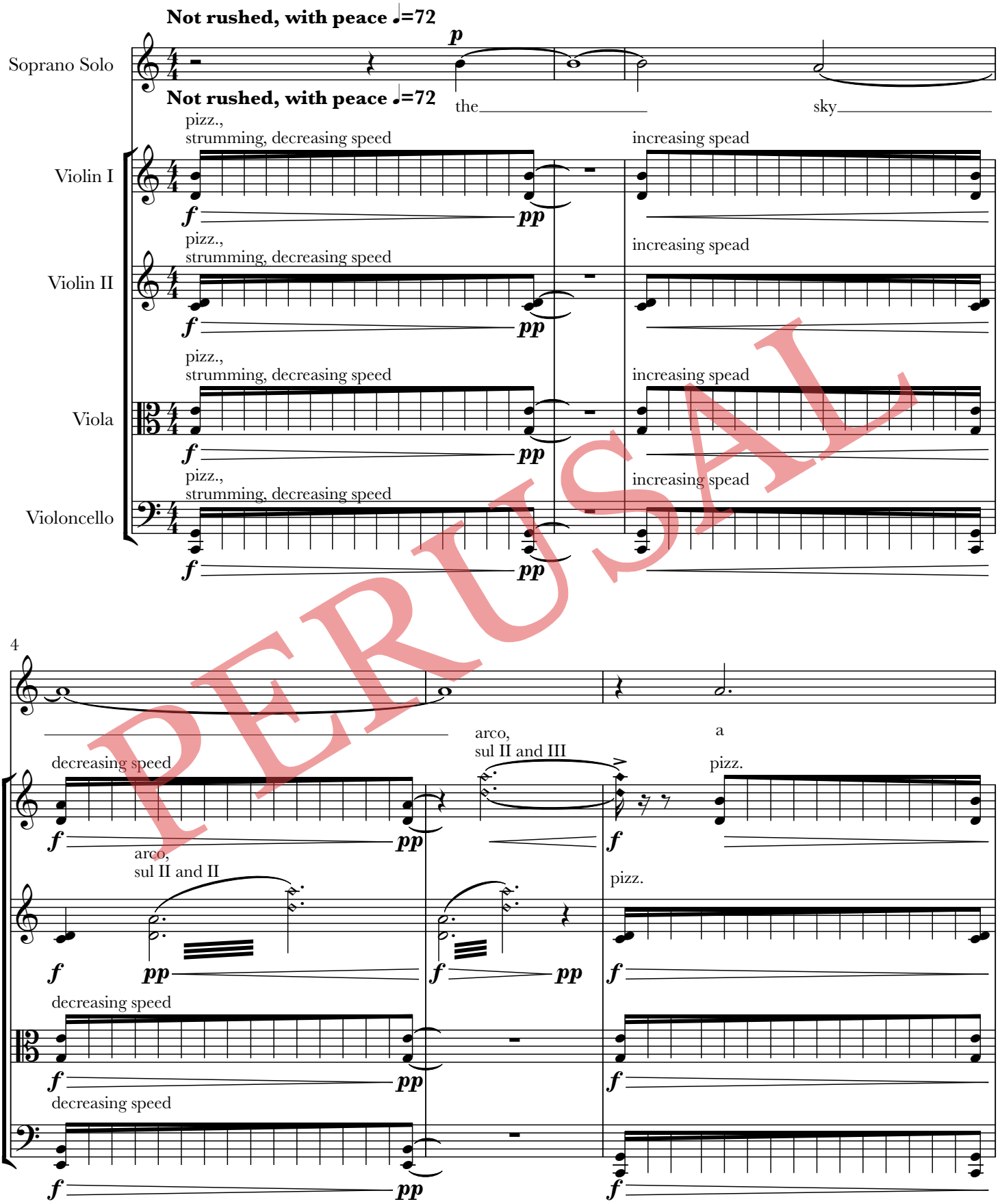
for Mikeila McQueston

FOREST SONGS

I. THE SKY A SILVER

e.e. cummings
EMILY DICKINSON
COLE REYES

COLE REYES



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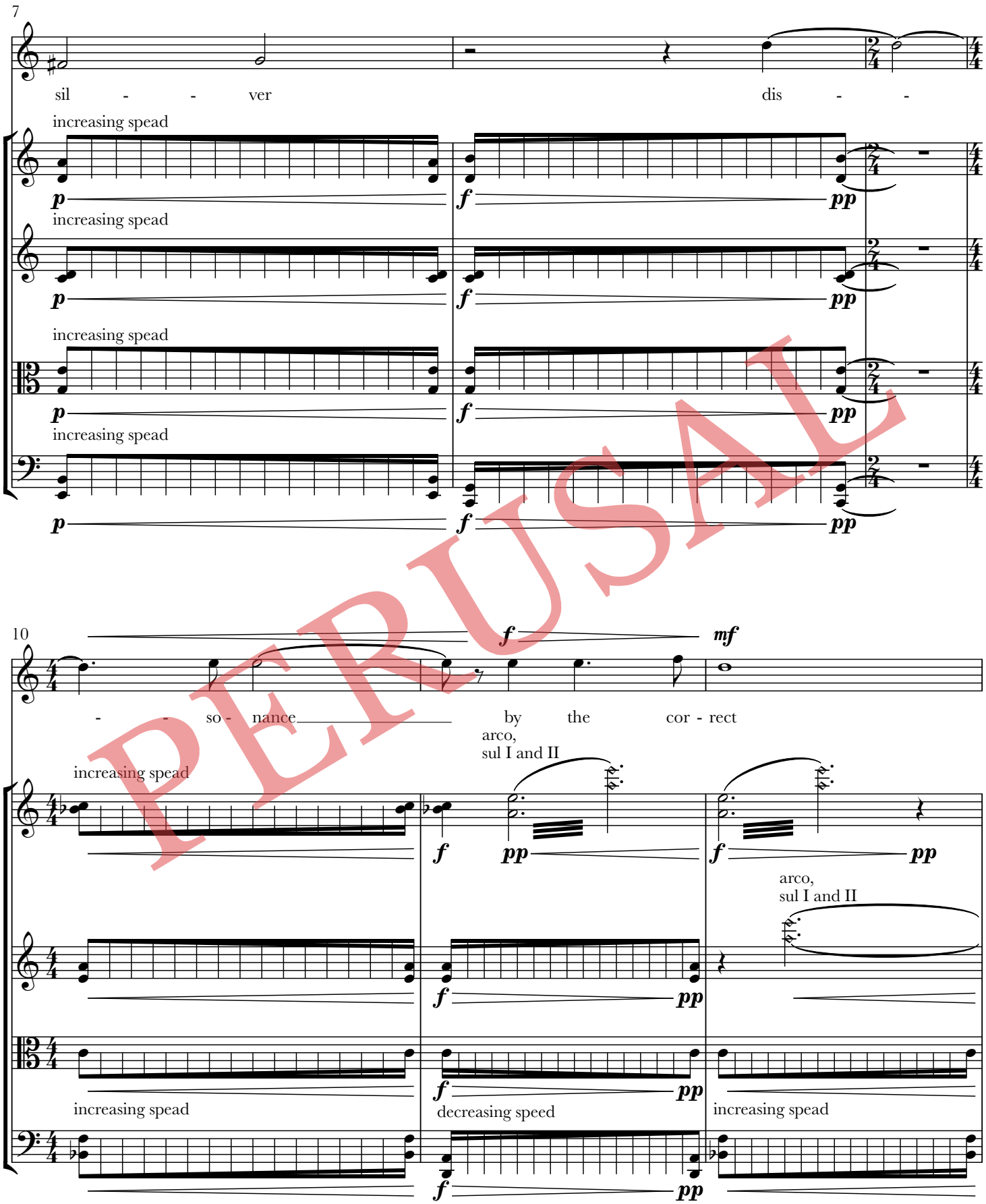
7
sil - - ver
dis - -
increasing spead
increasing spead
increasing spead
increasing spead
10
- - so - nance
by the cor - rect
arco,
sul I and II
increasing spead
arco,
sul I and II
increasing spead
decreasing speed
increasing spead

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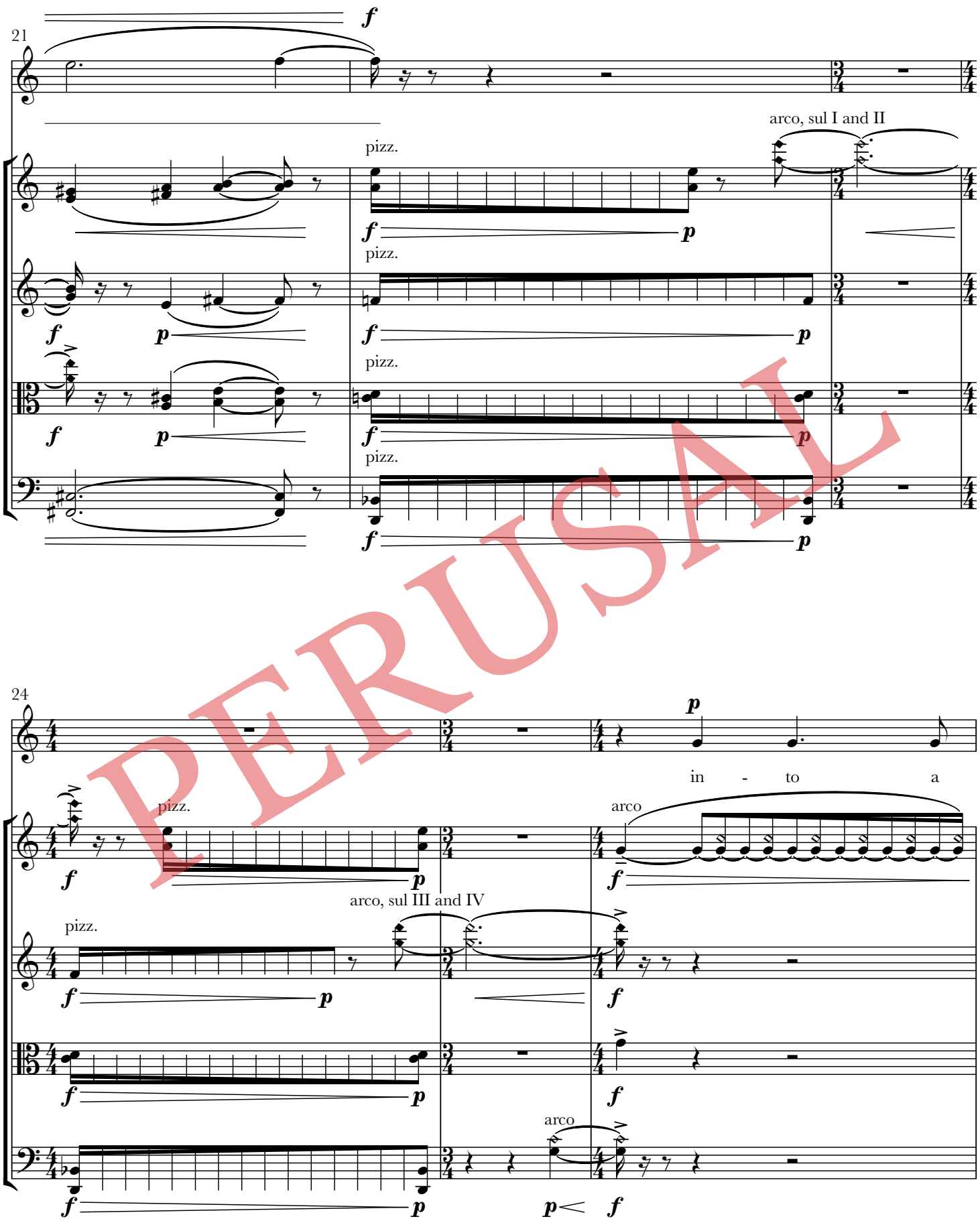
13
fin - gers of A - - - pril
pizz.
arco, sul I and II
arco
decreasing speed
17
re - solved

PERUSAL



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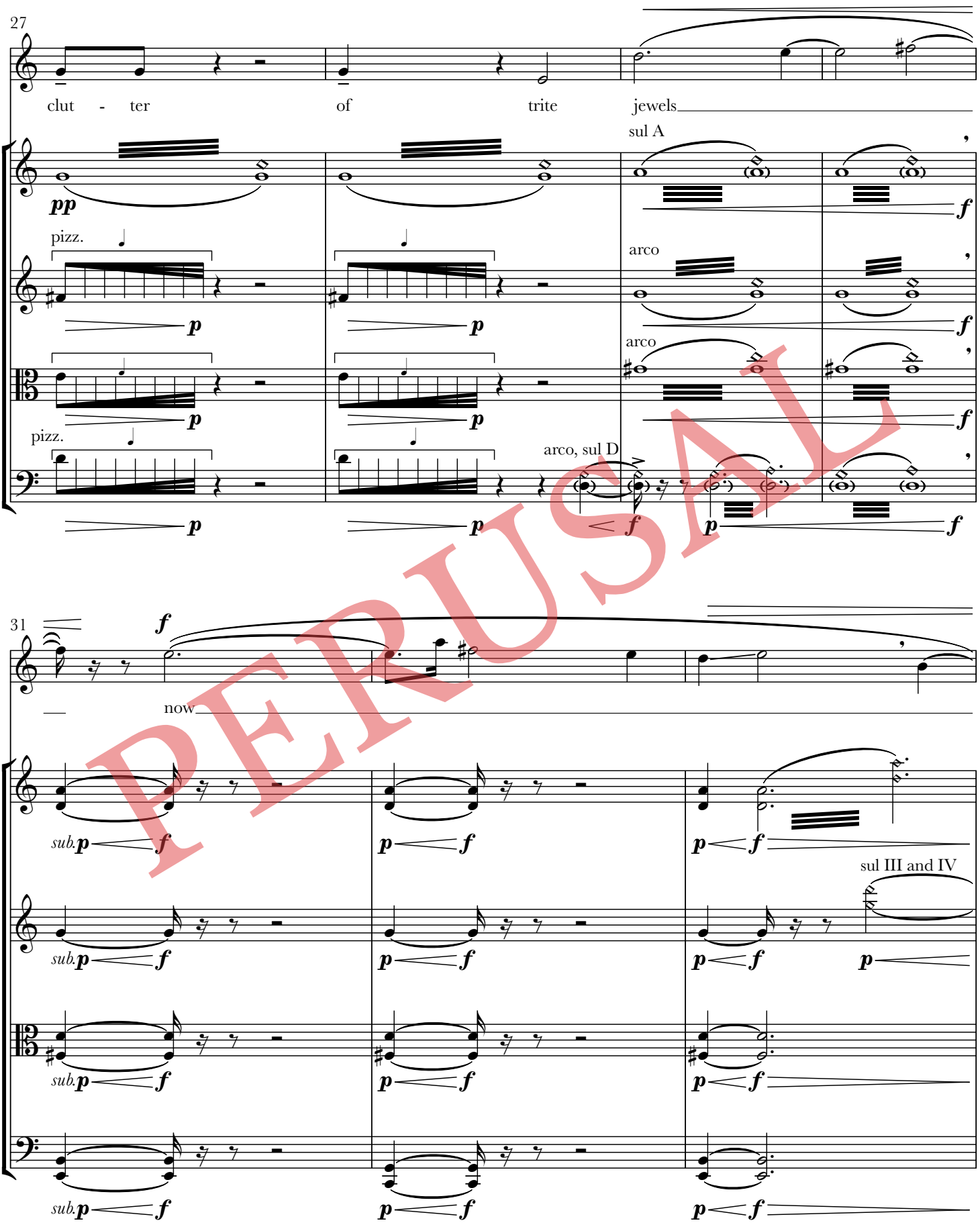
27
clut - ter of trite jewels
pp
sul A
f
pizz.
p
arco
arco
pizz.
arco, sul D
31
f
now
sub. p f
sul III and IV

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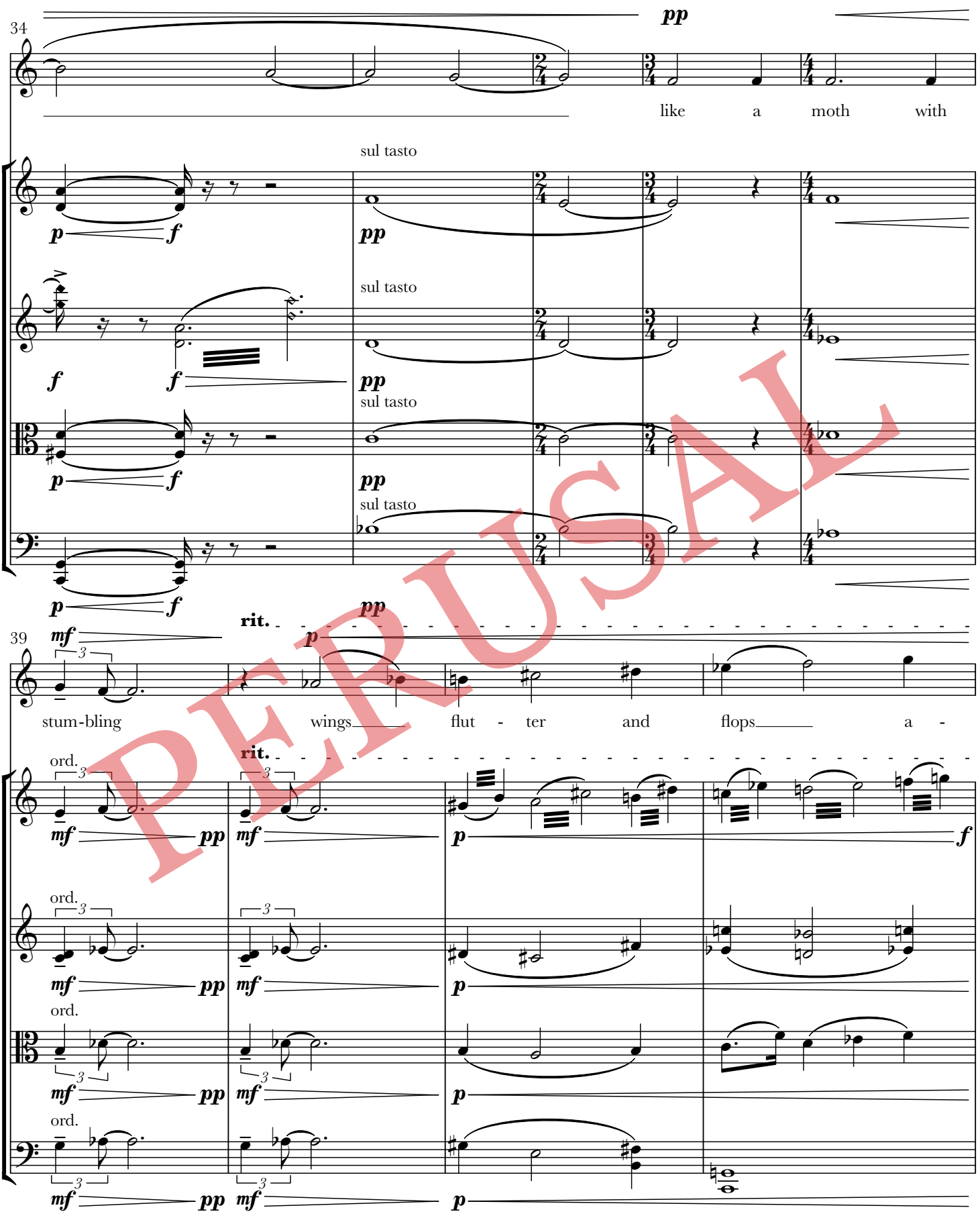
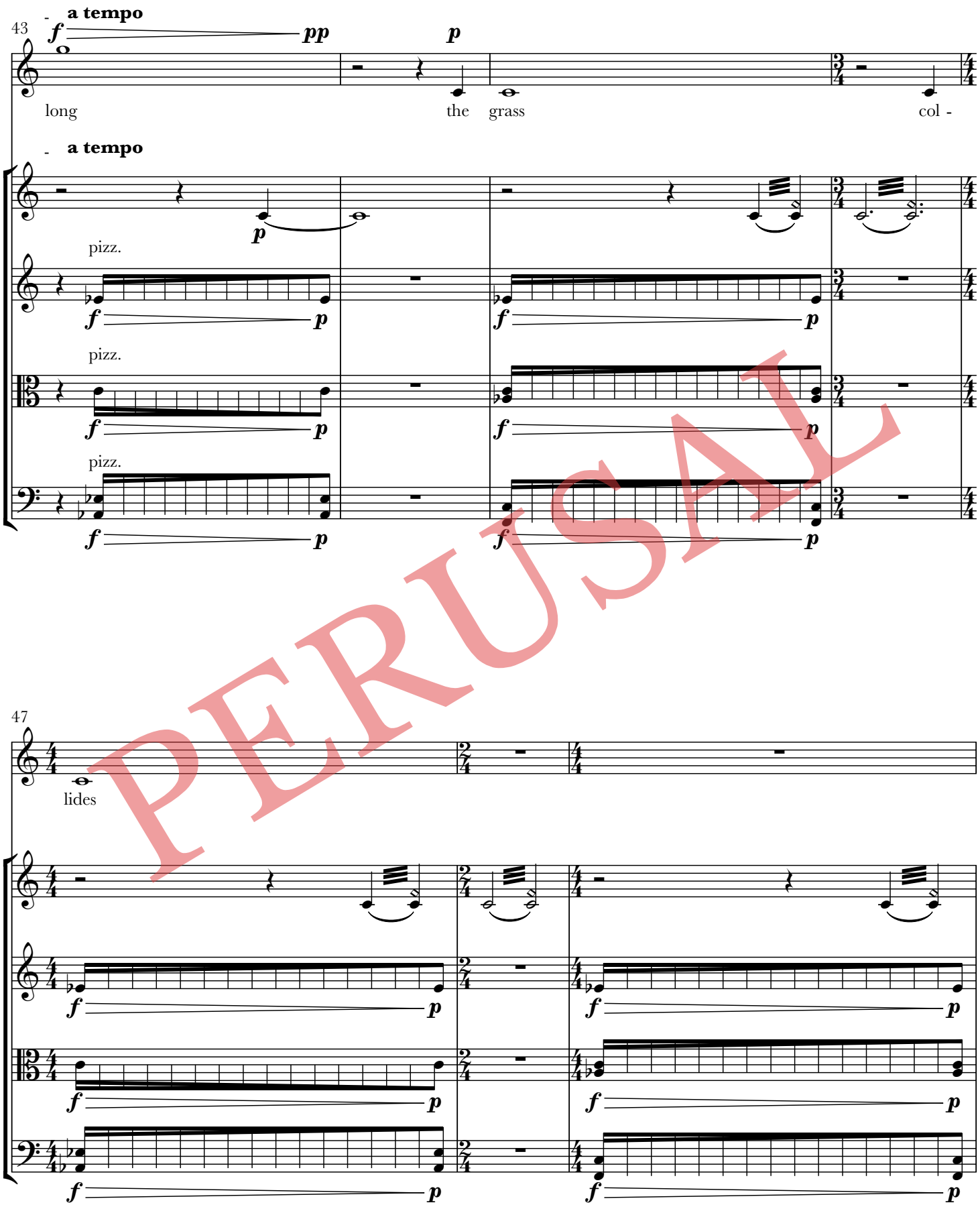

34
pp
like a moth with
sul tasto
p f
pp
f f
sul tasto
pp
sul tasto
p f
pp
sul tasto
p f
pp
rit.
39
mf
p
stum-bling wings flut - ter and flops a -
ord.
rit.
mf pp
mf
p f
ord.
mf pp
mf
p
ord.
mf pp
mf
p
ord.
mf pp
mf
p

PERUSAL



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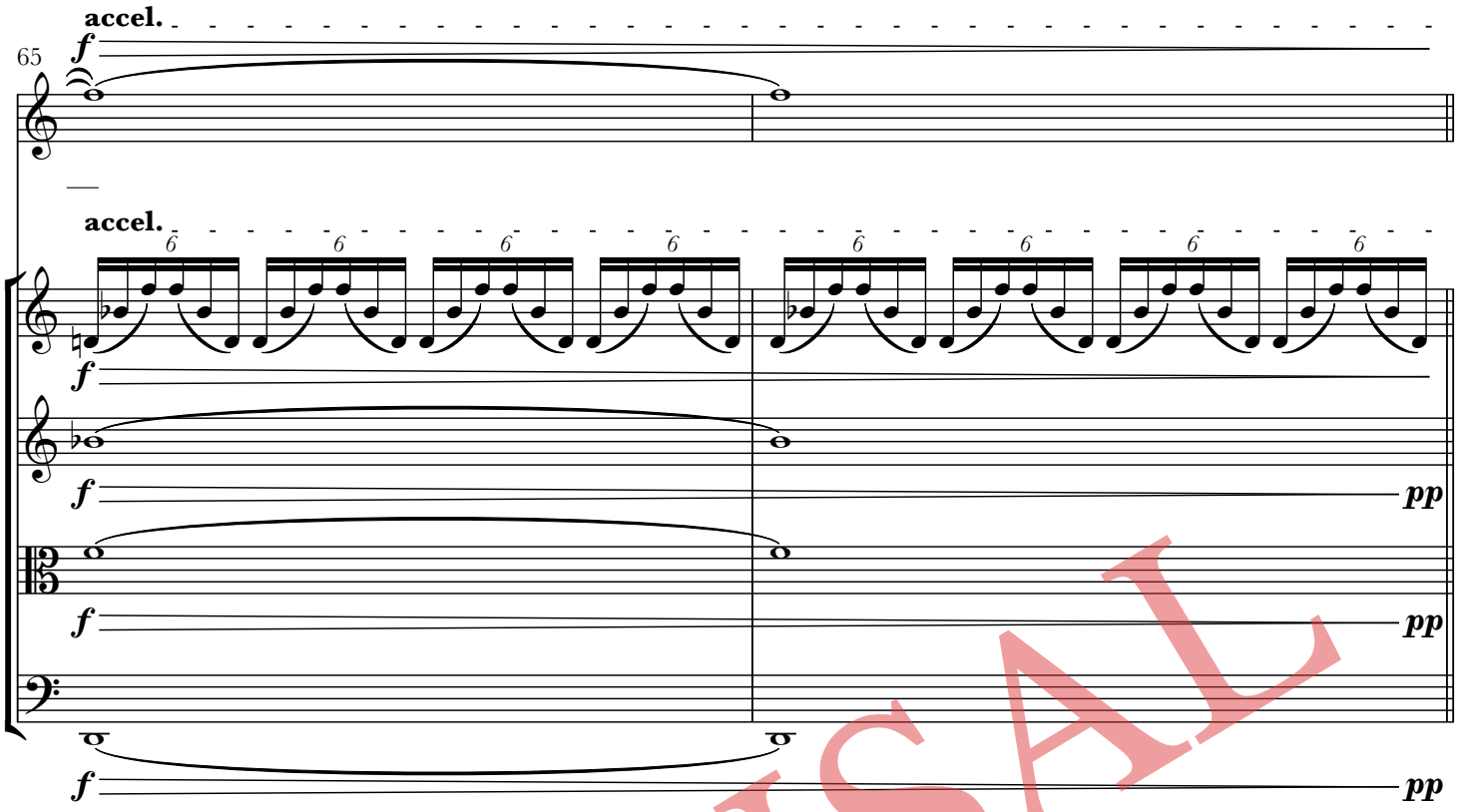
50
with the trees
arco
arco
arco
55
and hou - ses and
fi - nal - ly
3
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
pizz.
arco

PERUSAL

PERUSAL



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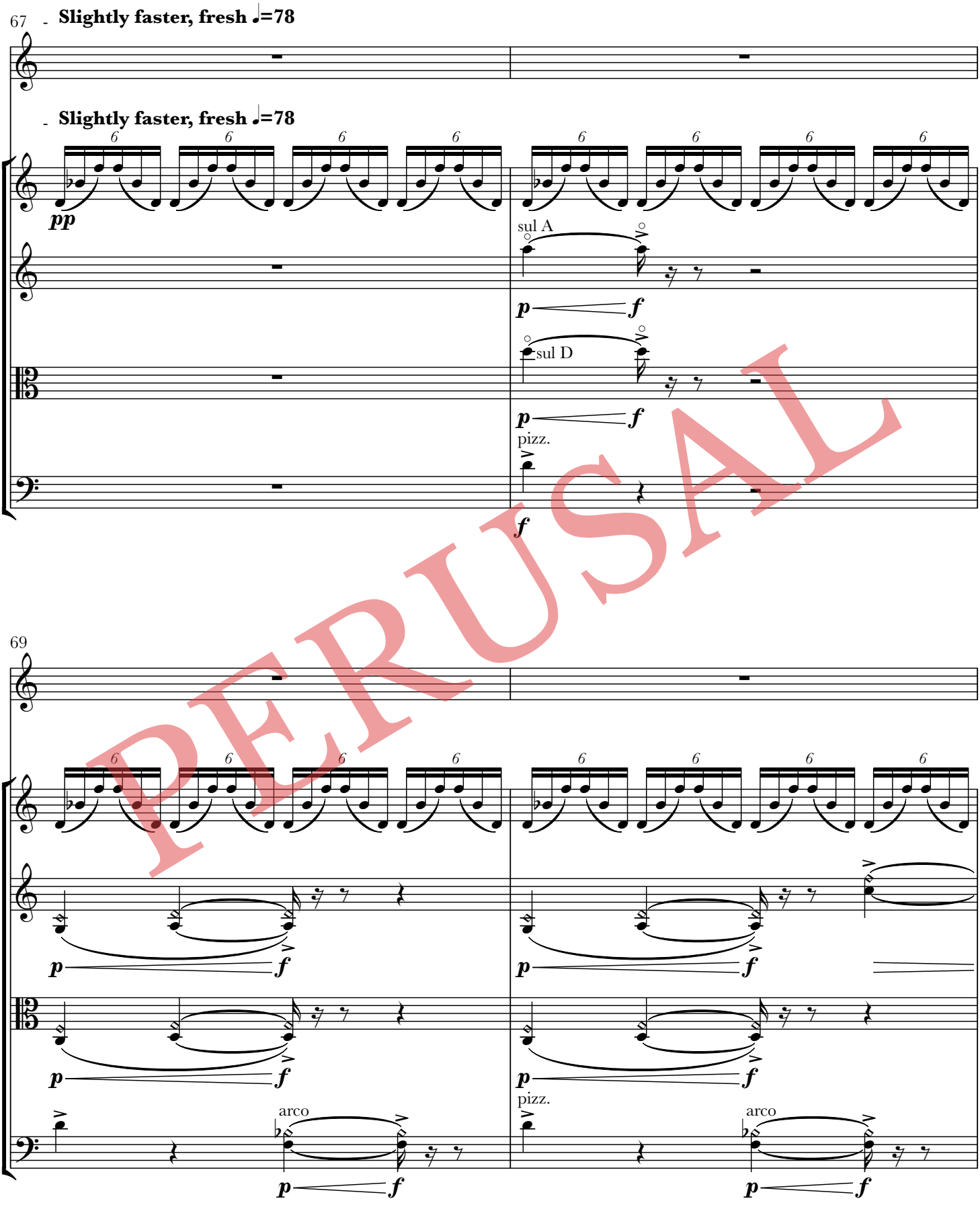
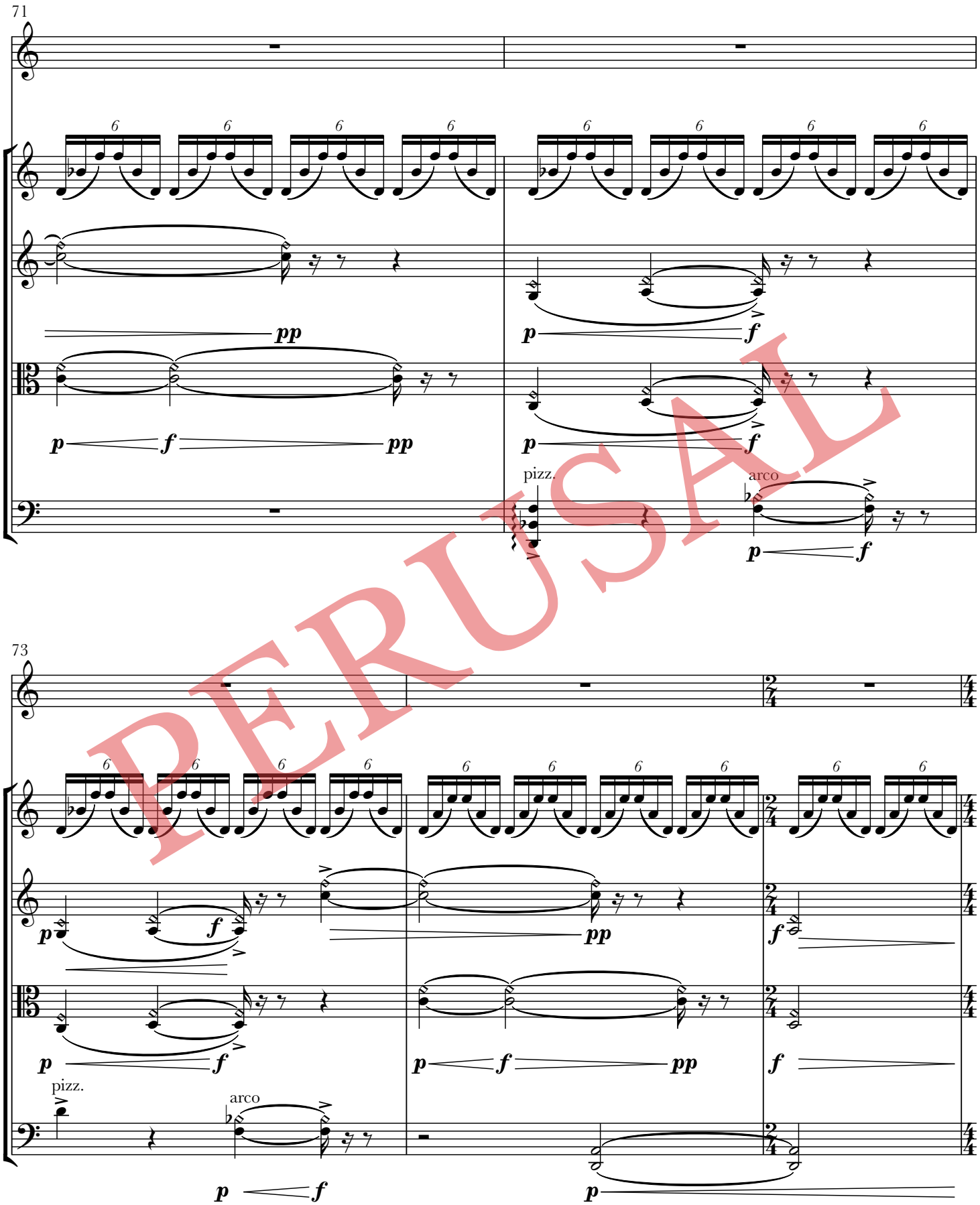

67
Slightly faster, fresh ♩=78
Slightly faster, fresh ♩=78
pp
sul A
p f
sul D
p f
pizz.
f
69
p f
p f
p f
p f
arco
pizz.
arco
p f
p f

PERUSAL



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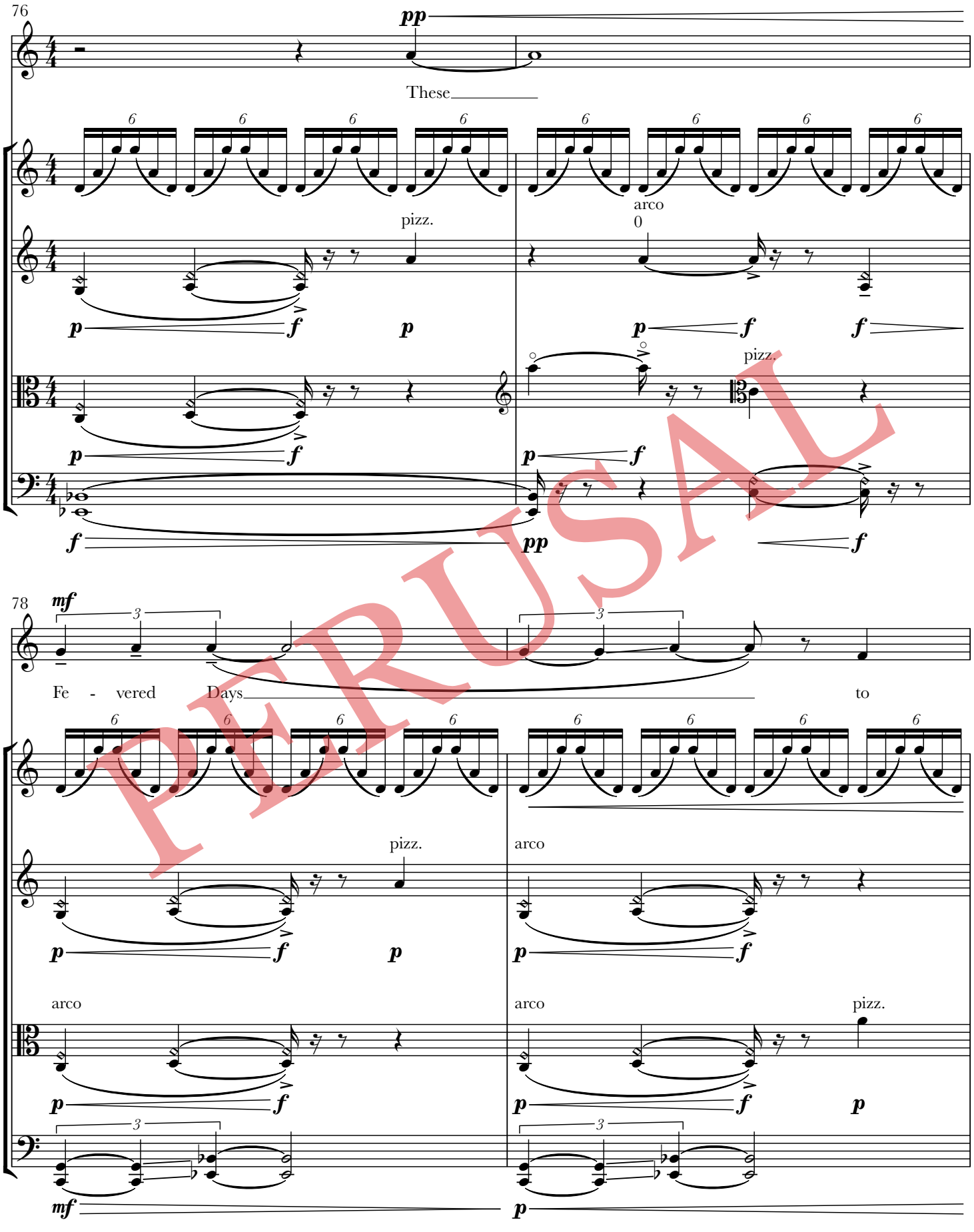
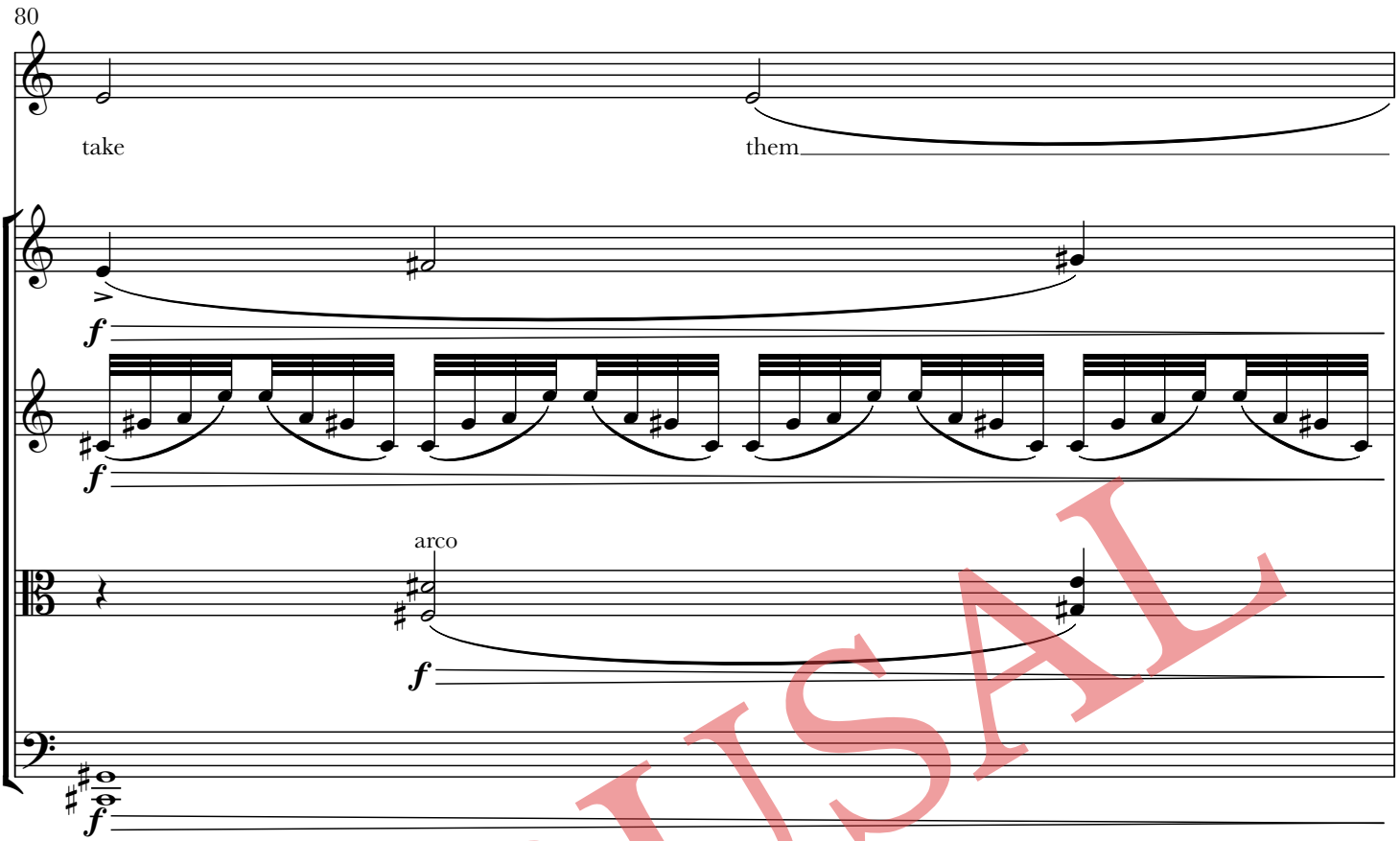
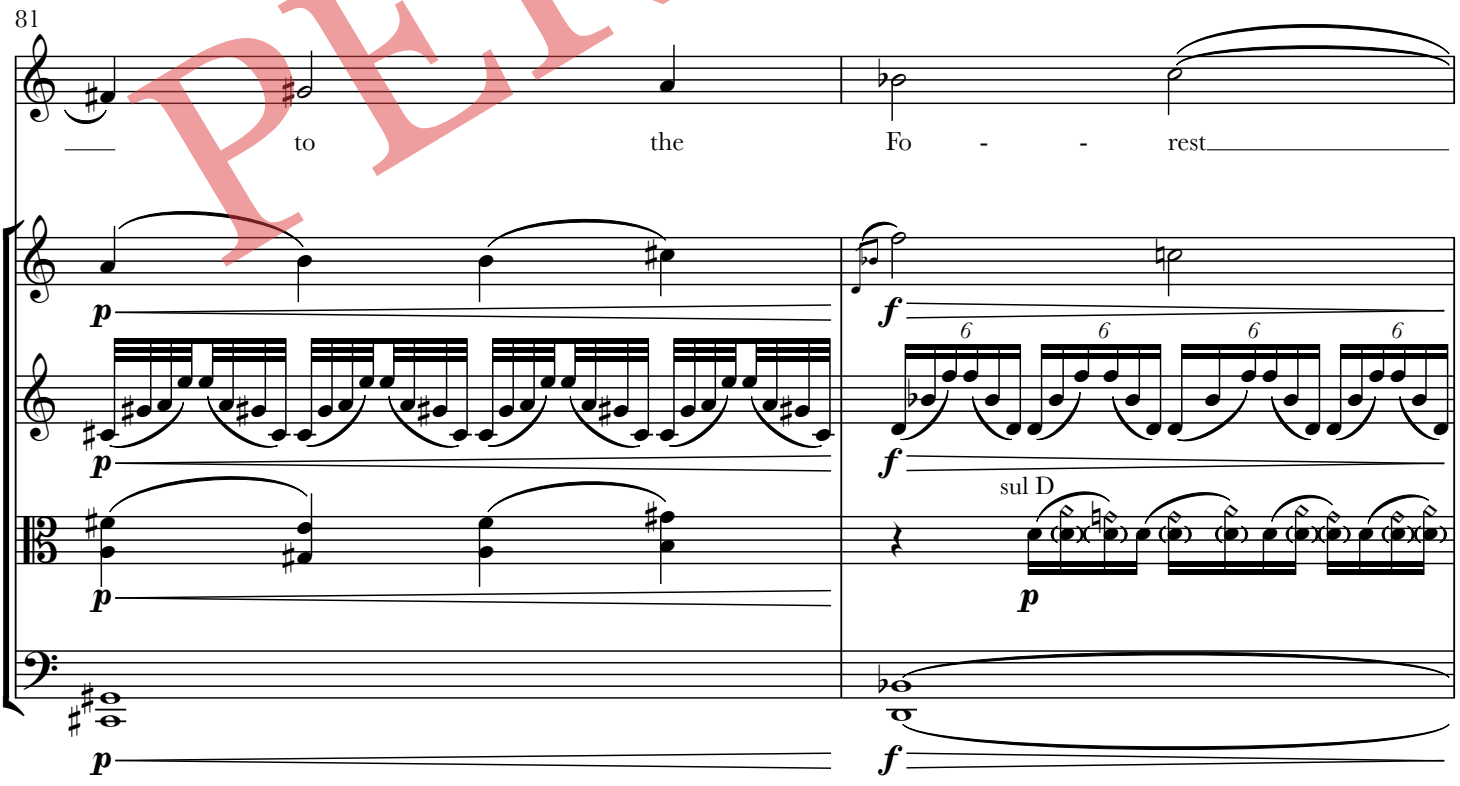

76
pp
These
pizz.
arco
0
78
mf
Fe - vered Days
to
pizz.
arco
arco
arco
pizz.

PERUSAL

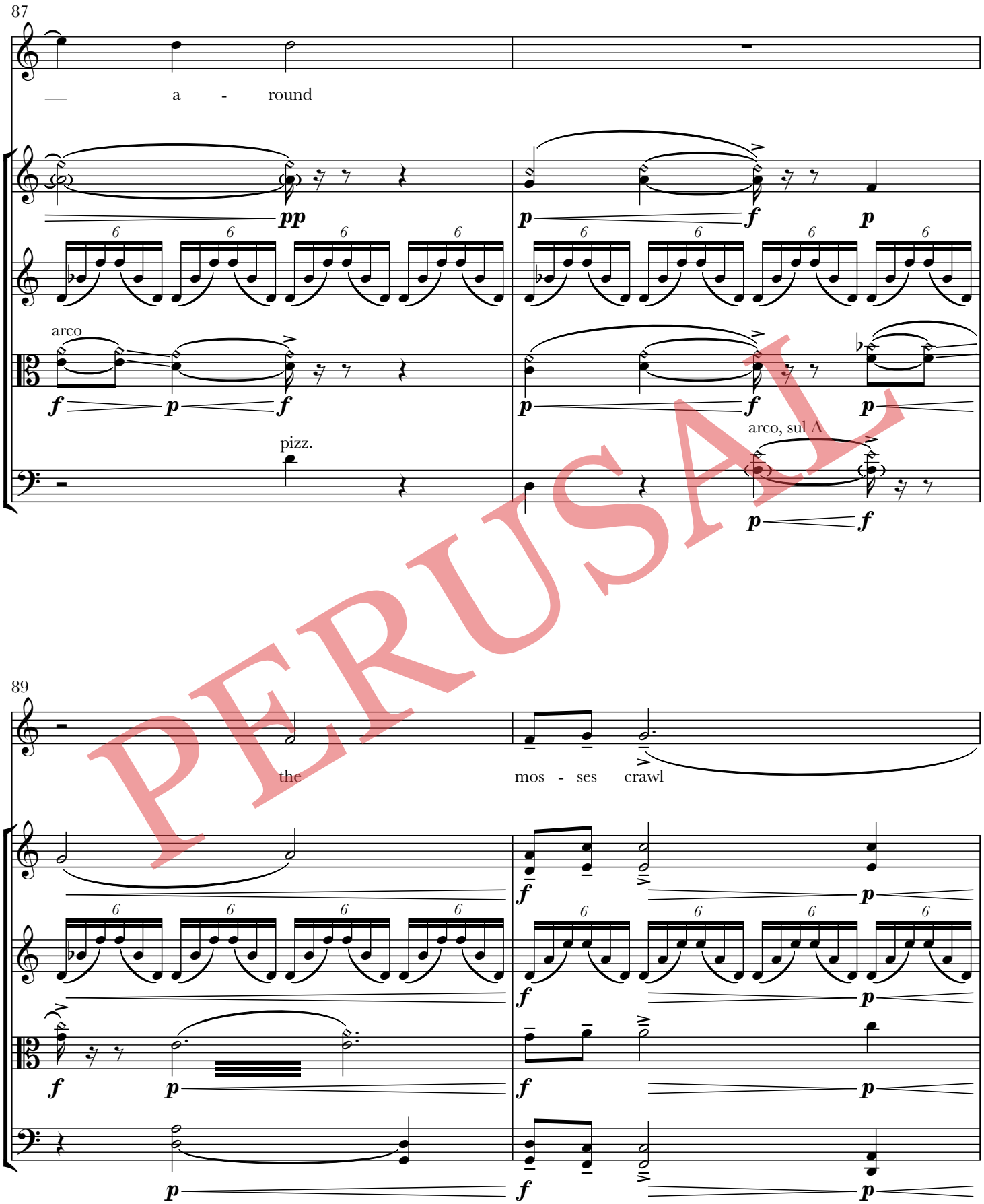




PERUSAL

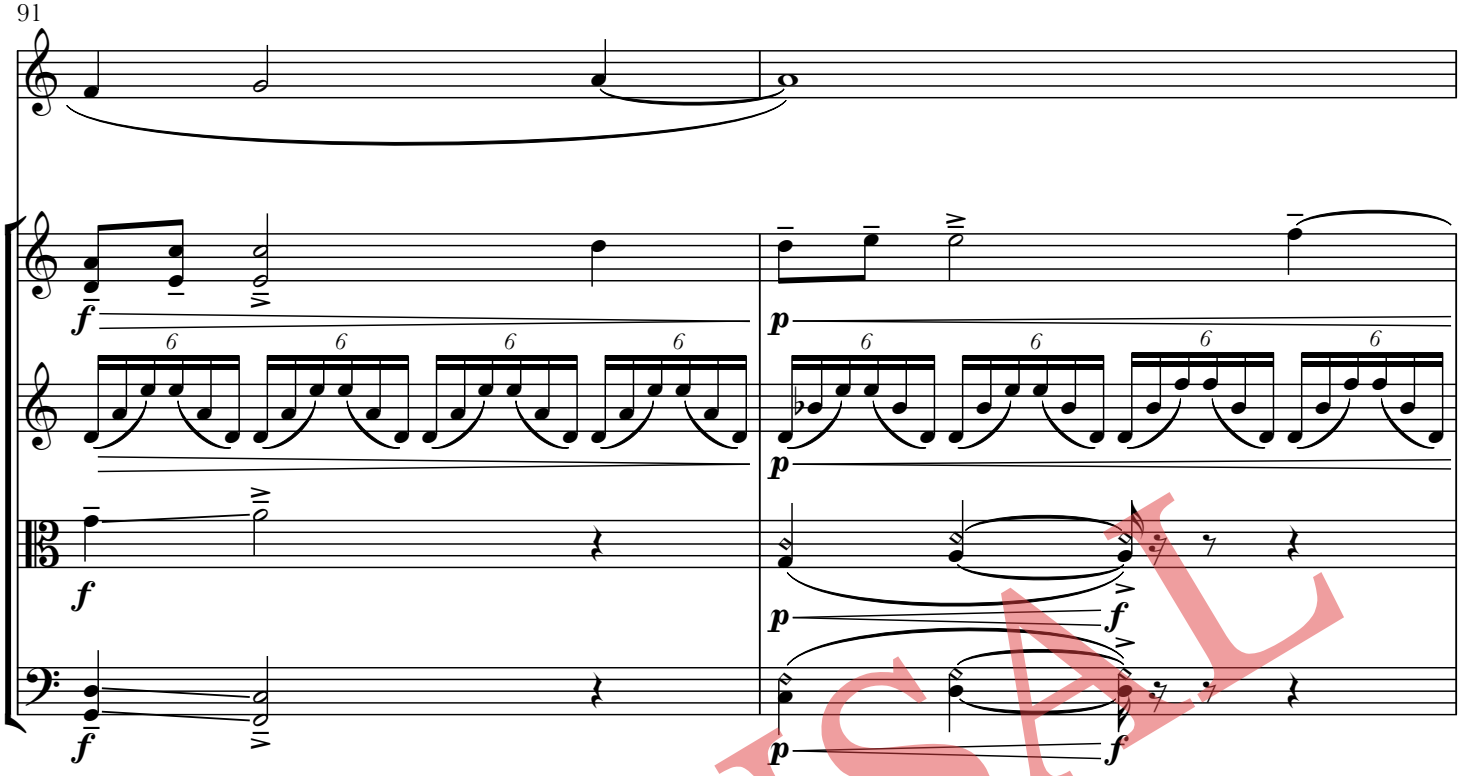
83
p
mf
p
p
sul D
pp
85
Where
Wa - ters cool
poco gliss.
mf
p
f
sul A
pizz.
p
f

PERUSAL

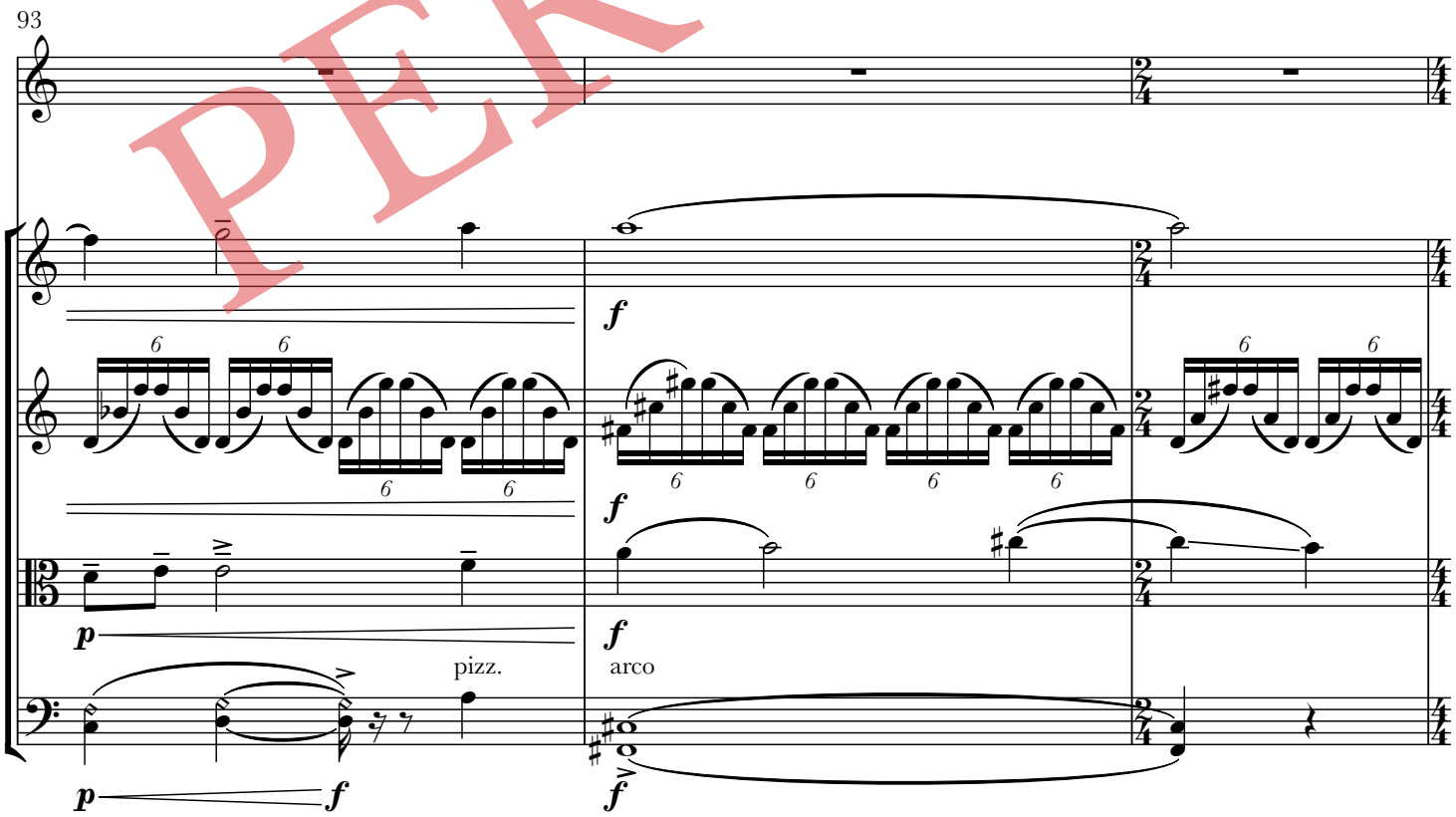

87
a - round
pp
p
f
p
arco
f
p
f
p
f
p
arco, sul A
pizz.
p
f
89
the
mos - ses crawl
f
p
f
p
f
p
f
p
f
p
f
p

PERUSAL

91



93



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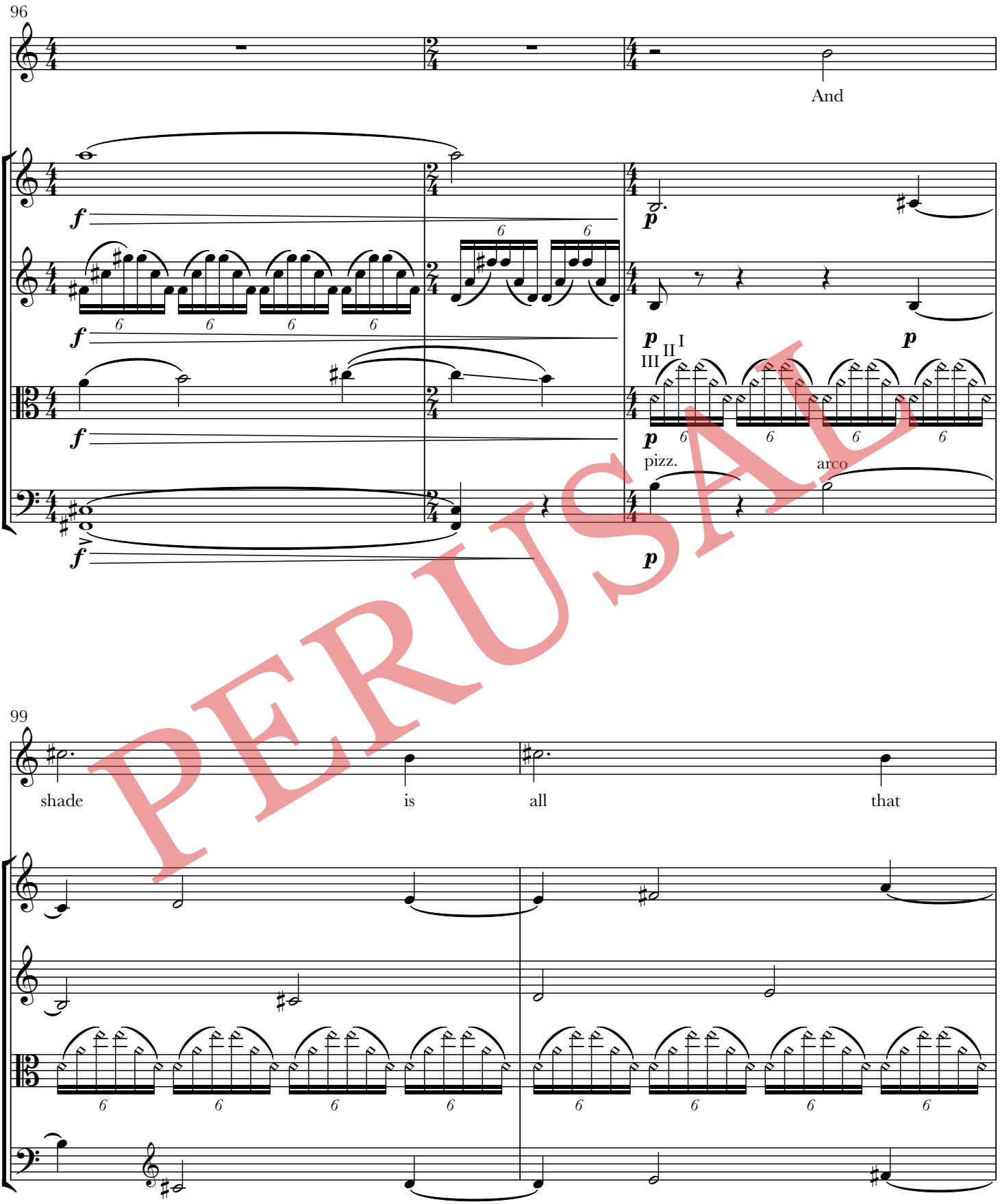

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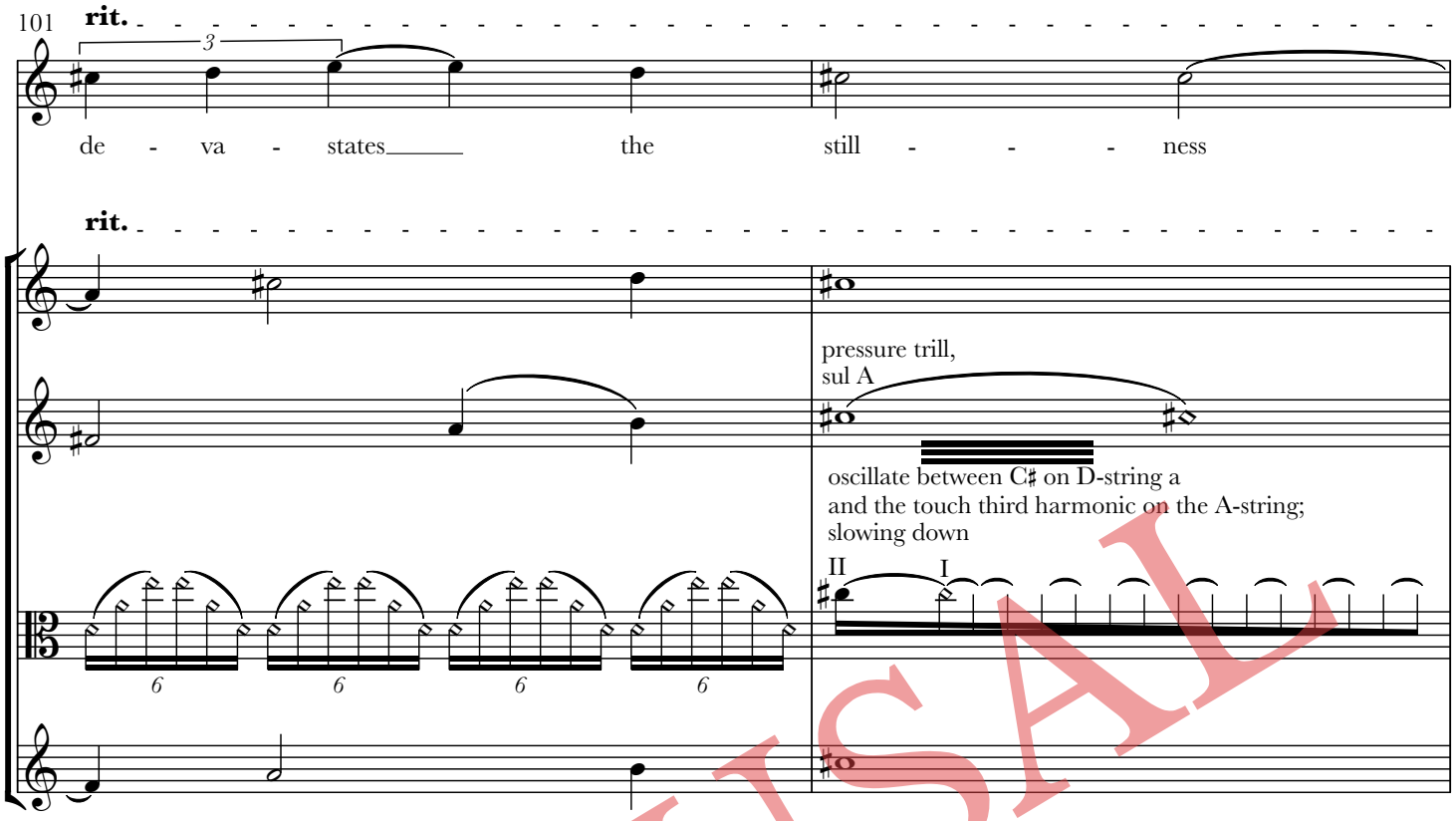
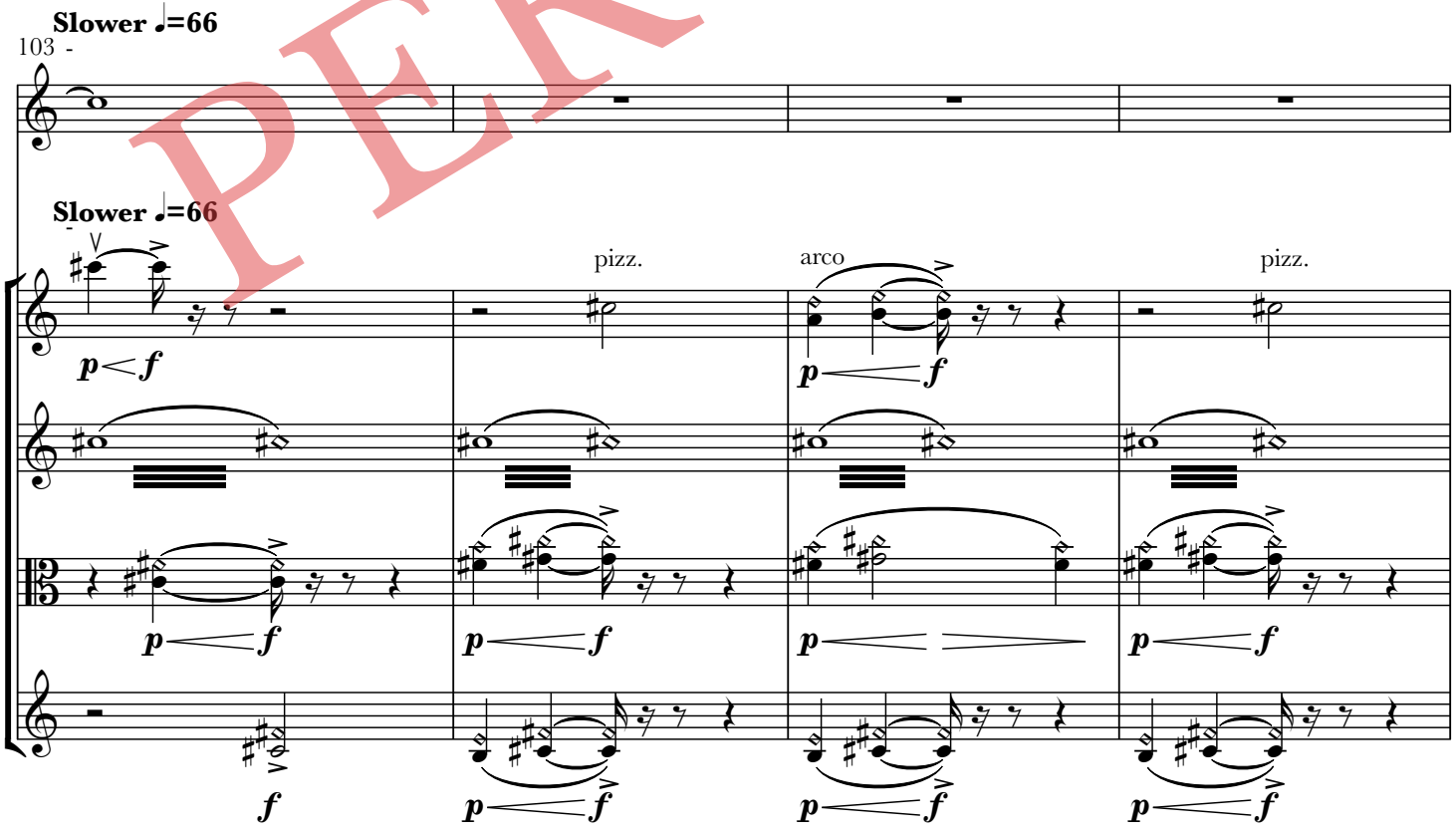
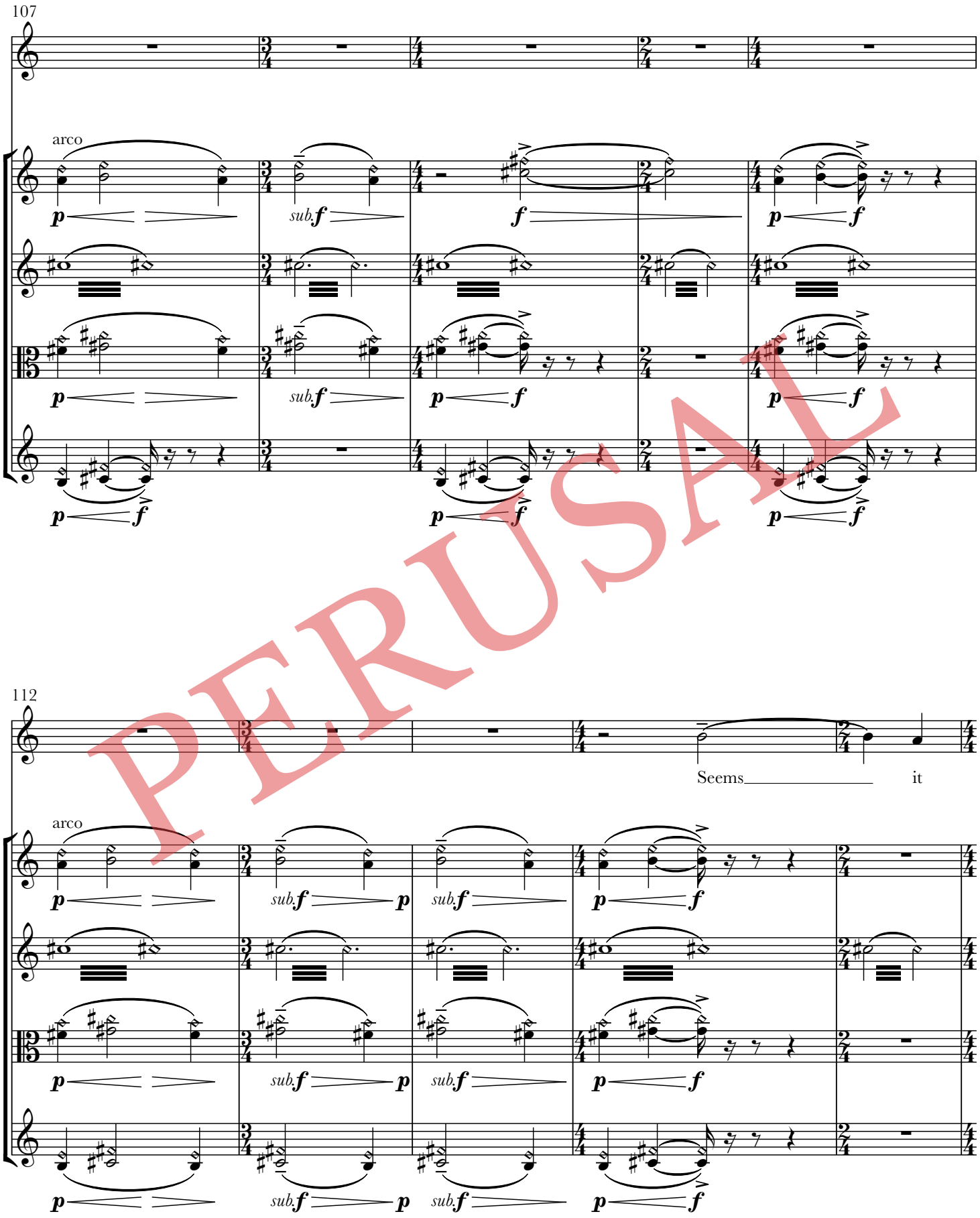

101
rit.
3
de - va - states the still - - - ness
rit.
pressure trill,
sul A
oscillate between C♯ on D-string a
and the touch third harmonic on the A-string;
slowing down
II
I
6
6
6
6


Slower ♩=66
103
Slower ♩=66
pizz.
arco
pizz.
p
f

PERUSAL



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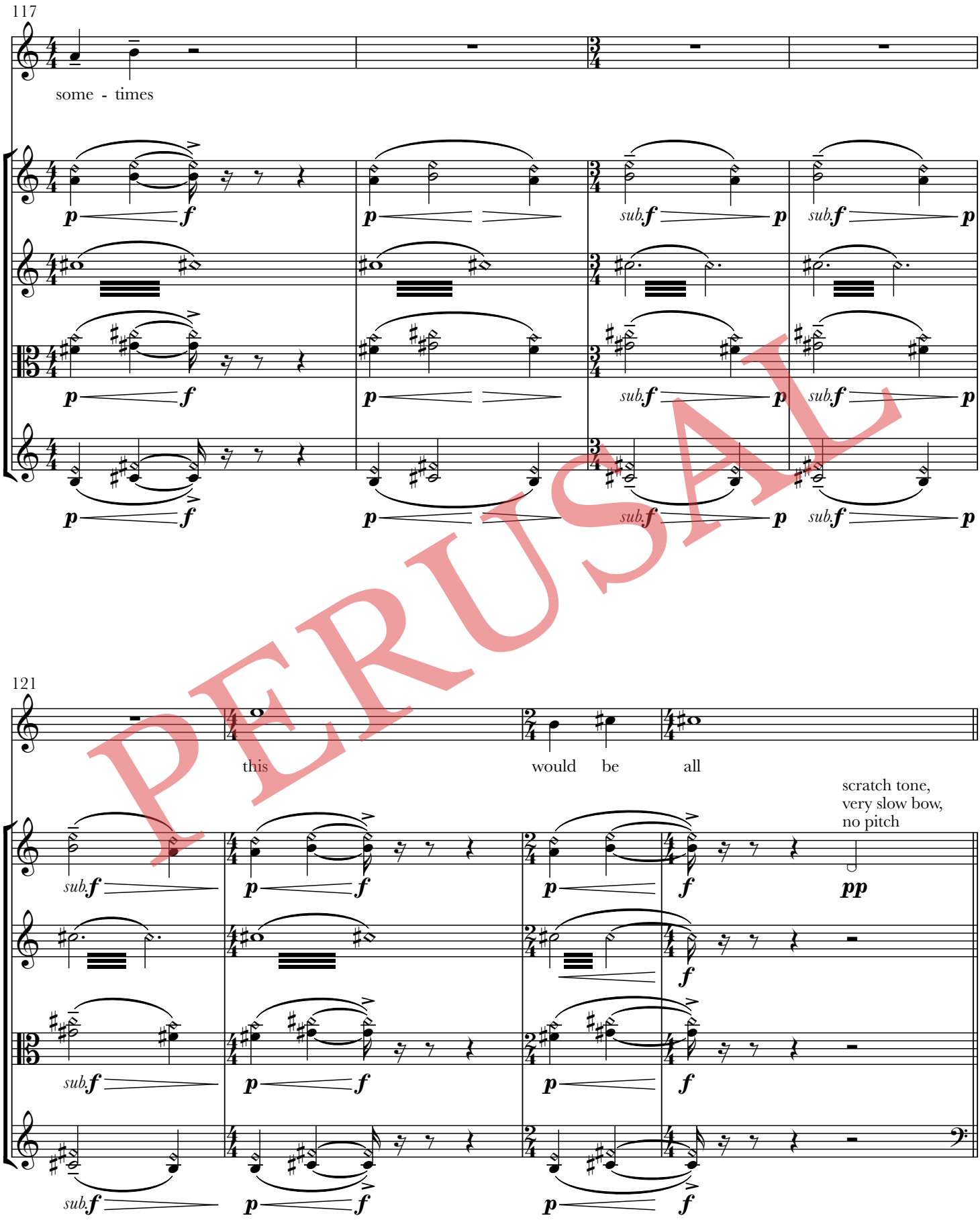
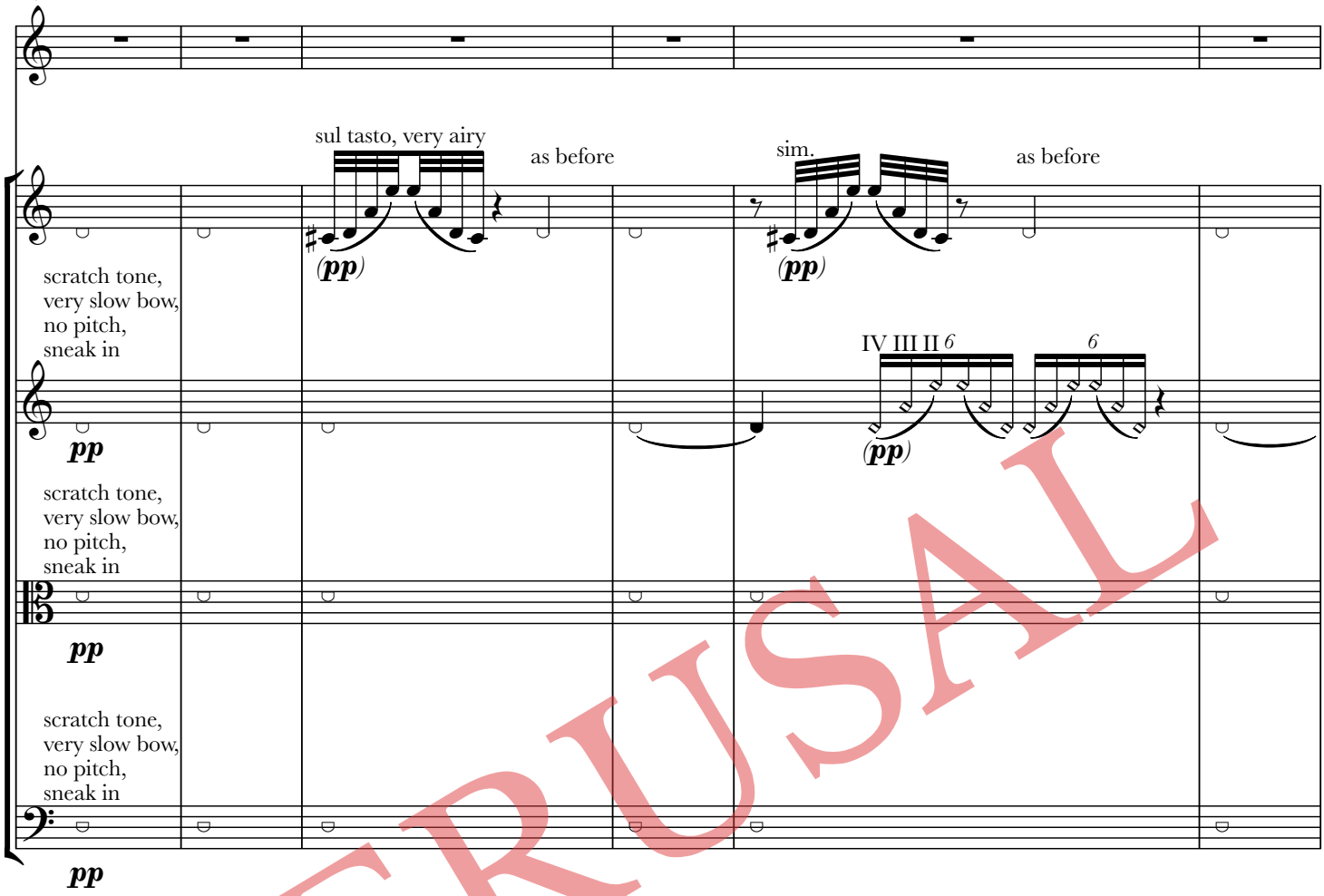

117
some - times
sub.f
p
121
this
would be all
scratch tone,
very slow bow,
no pitch
pp

PERUSAL

III. OVERGROWTH

125



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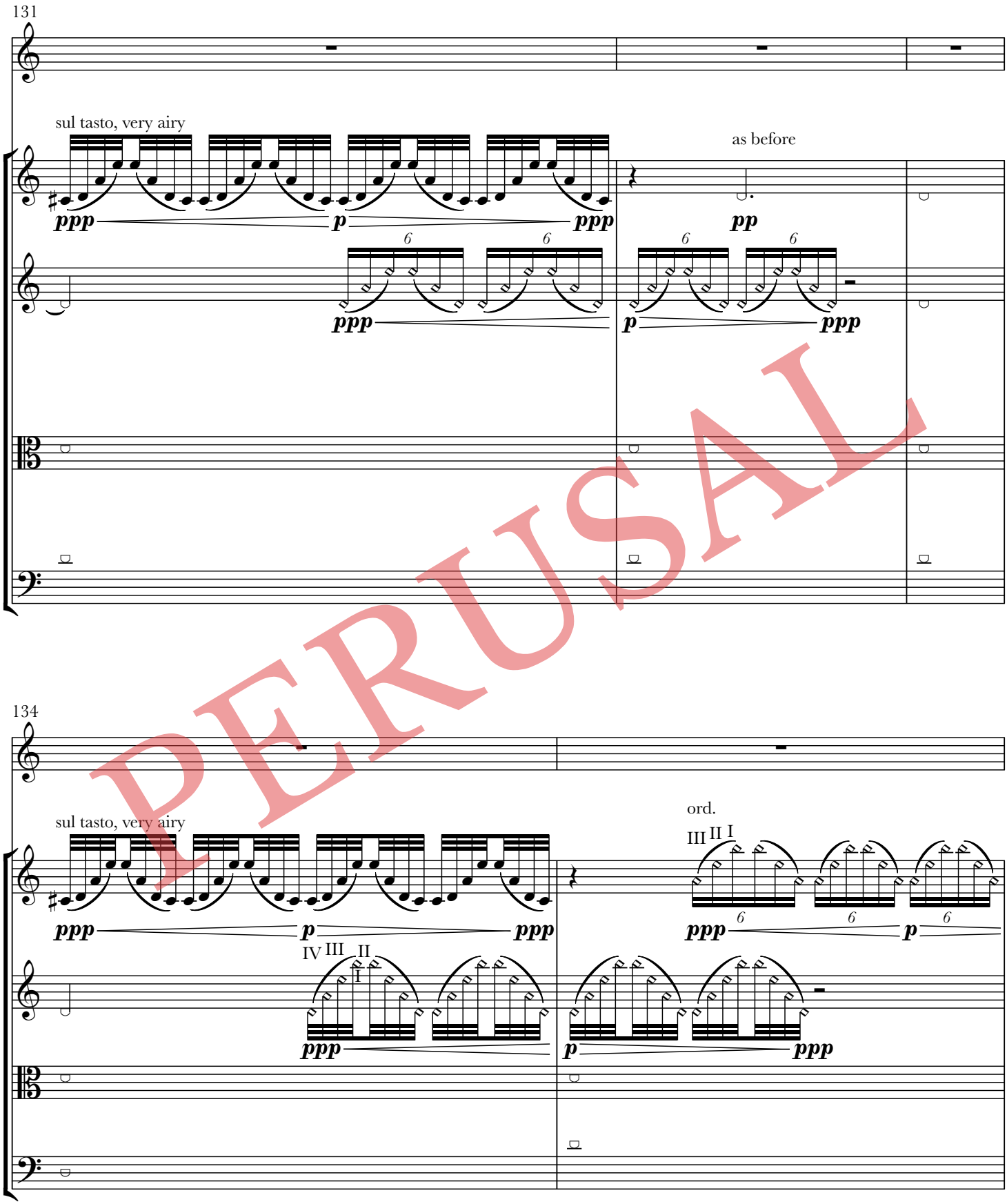

131
sul tasto, very airy
ppp
p
ppp
as before
pp
ppp
p
ppp
134
sul tasto, very airy
ppp
p
ppp
ord.
III II I
ppp
p
IV III II I
ppp
p
ppp

PERUSAL

136
I
slowly beginning to reveal pitch
ord.
ppp
pp
slowly beginning to reveal pitch
ord.
pp
III II I
ppp
p
ppp
III I II
ppp
p
ppp
139
found
I
found
free
3
III II I IV
ppp
p
ppp
III I II
ppp
p
ppp
III II I
ppp

PERUSAL

142

I

sul tasto, very airy

ppp p ppp

ppp p ppp

p ppp

144

found free the

p

p

ppp

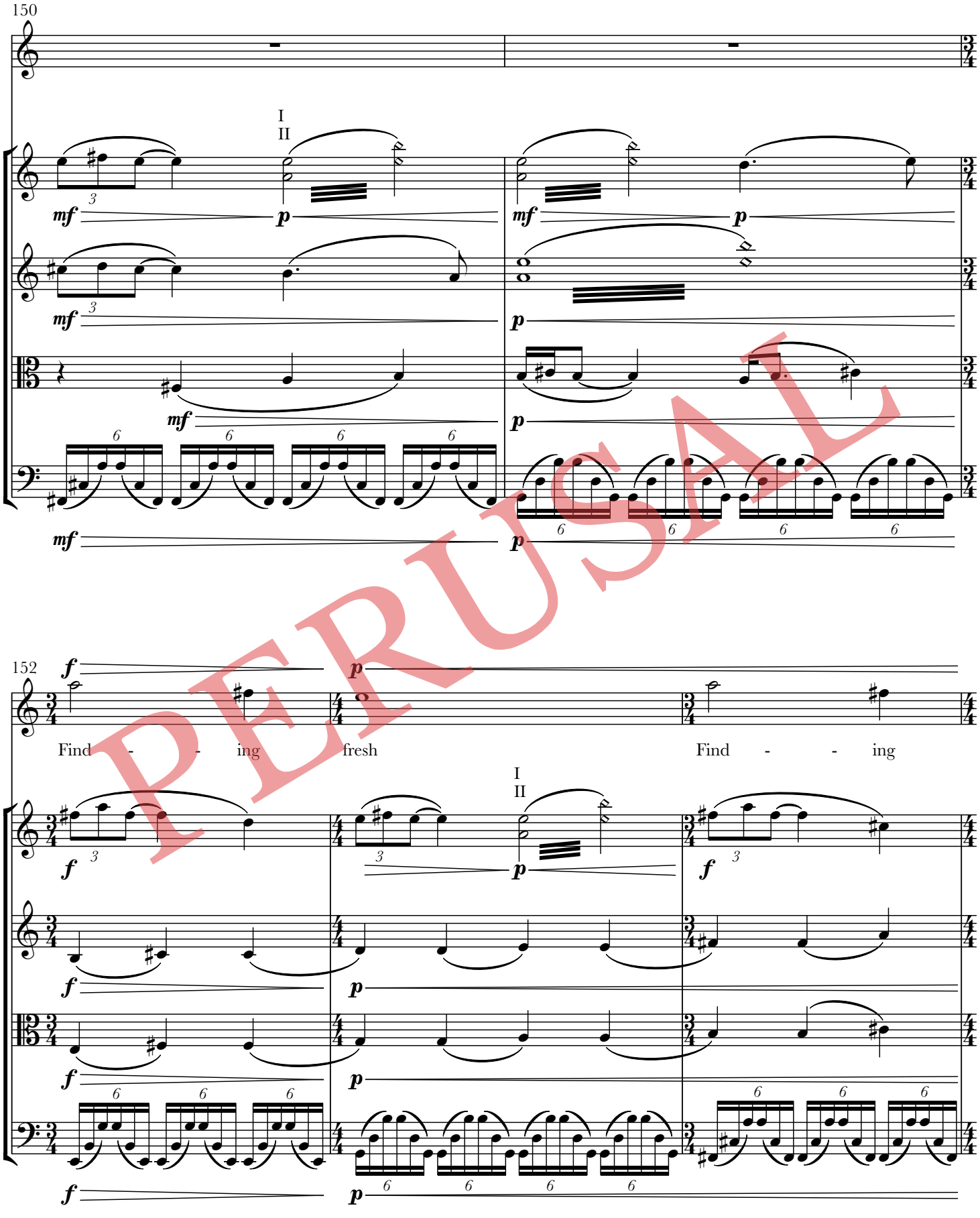
p

ppp

p

PERUSAL

PERUSAL

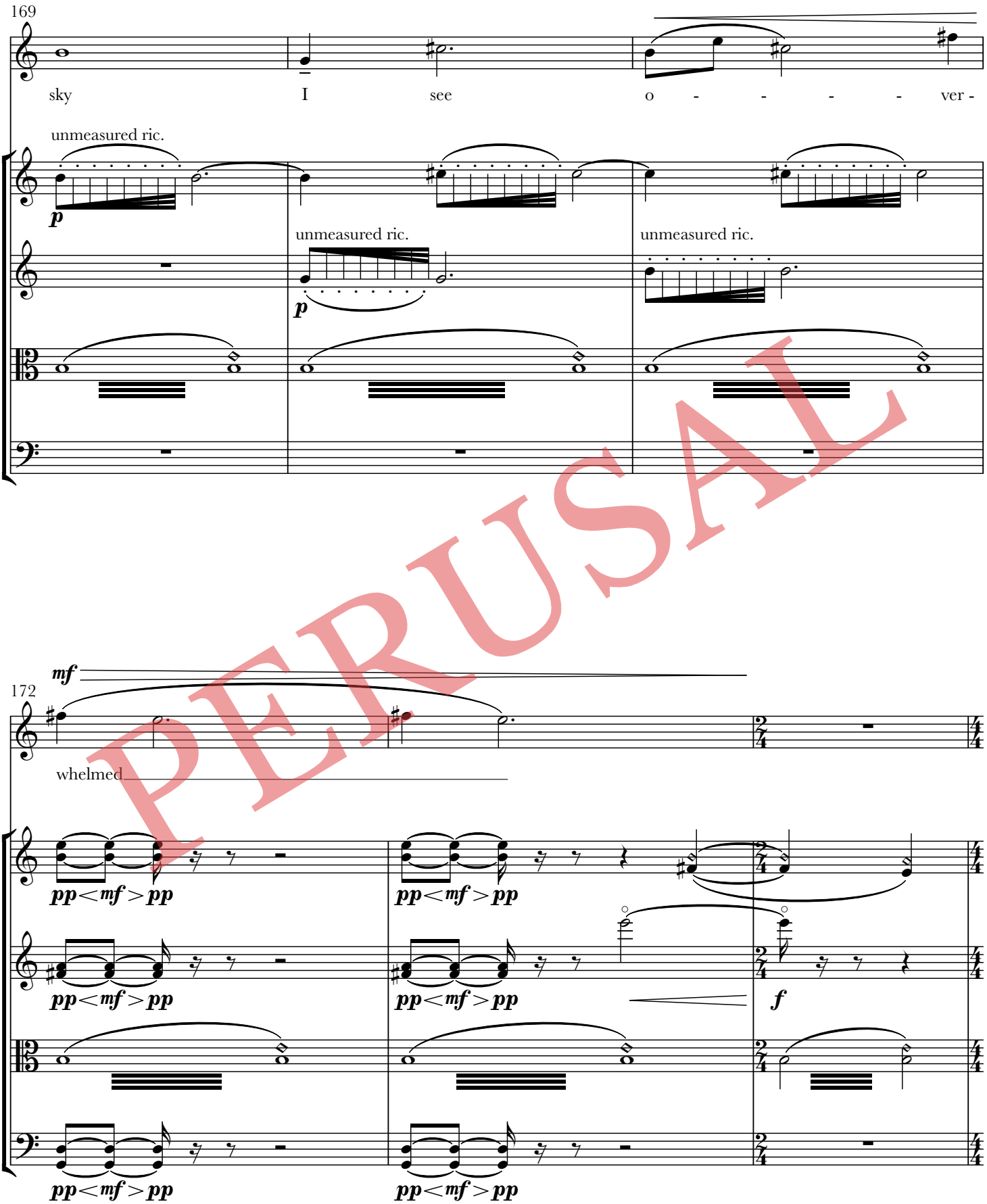


PERUSAL

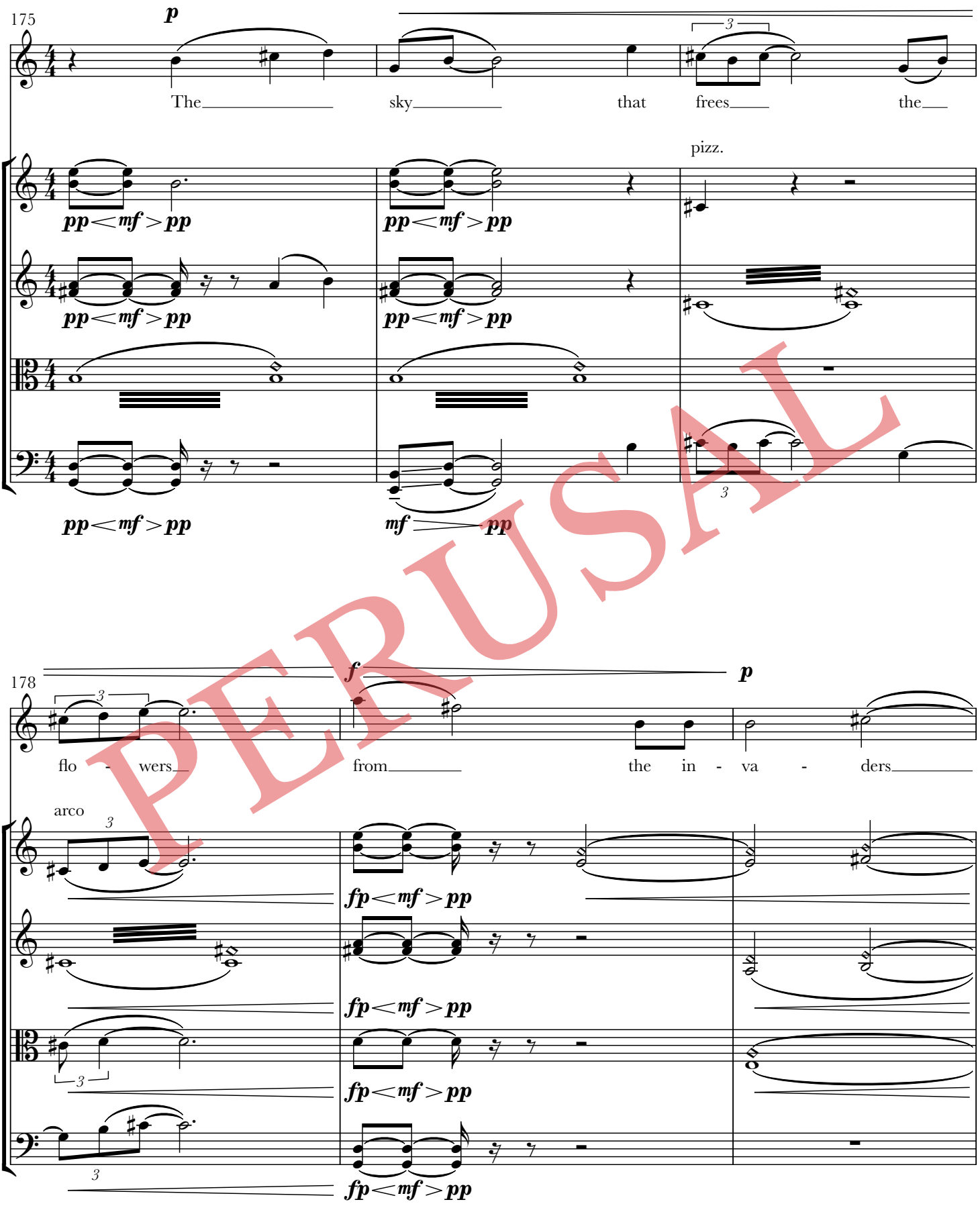
155
fresh the ten - drils
I
II
157
ac - quain - ting a - bun-dant-ly
rit.
rit.

PERUSAL

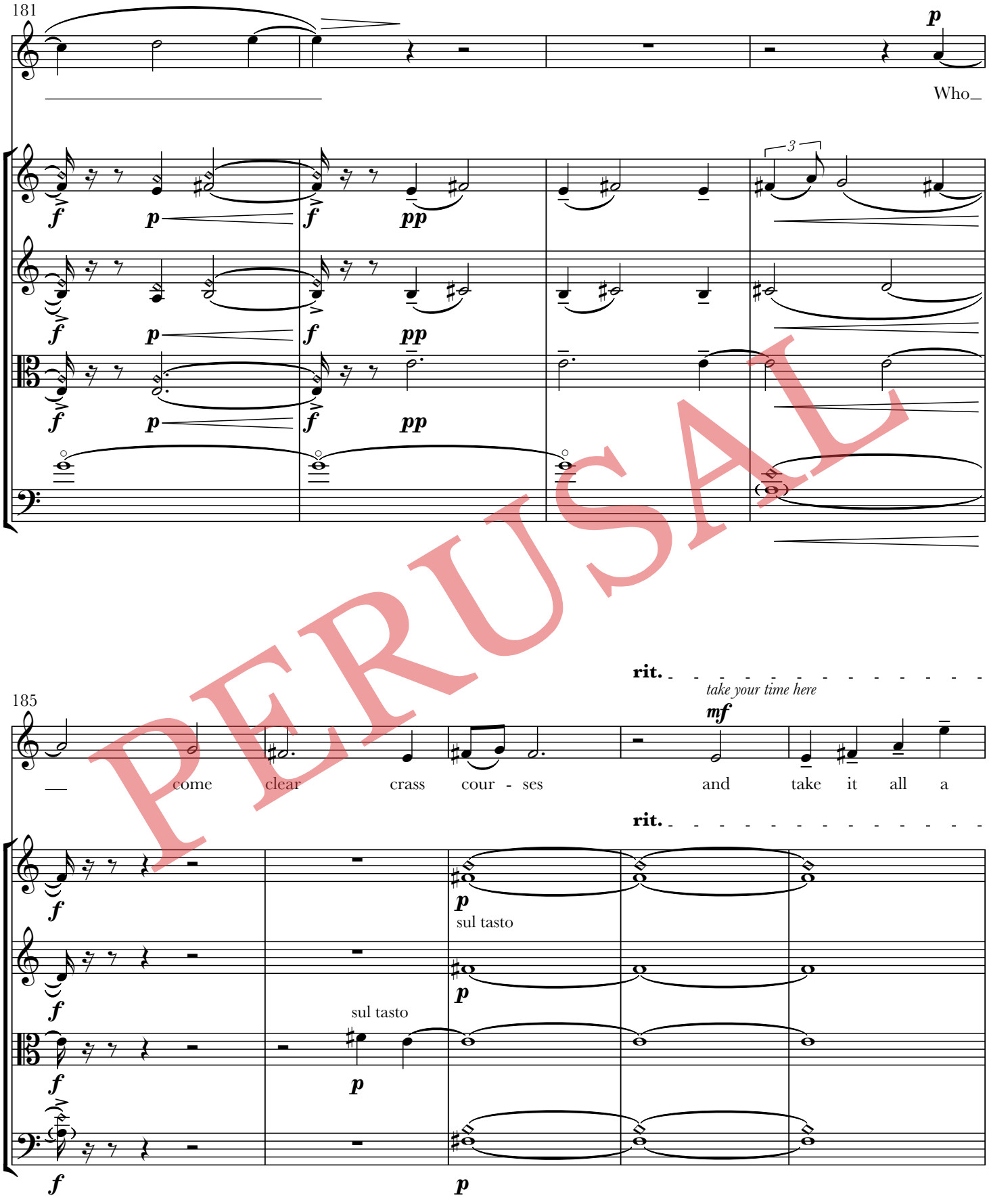
PERUSAL


169
sky
I
see
o - - - - ver -
unmeasured ric.
p
unmeasured ric.
p
unmeasured ric.
172
mf
whelmed
pp<mf>pp
pp<mf>pp
pp<mf>pp
pp<mf>pp
f
pp<mf>pp
pp<mf>pp

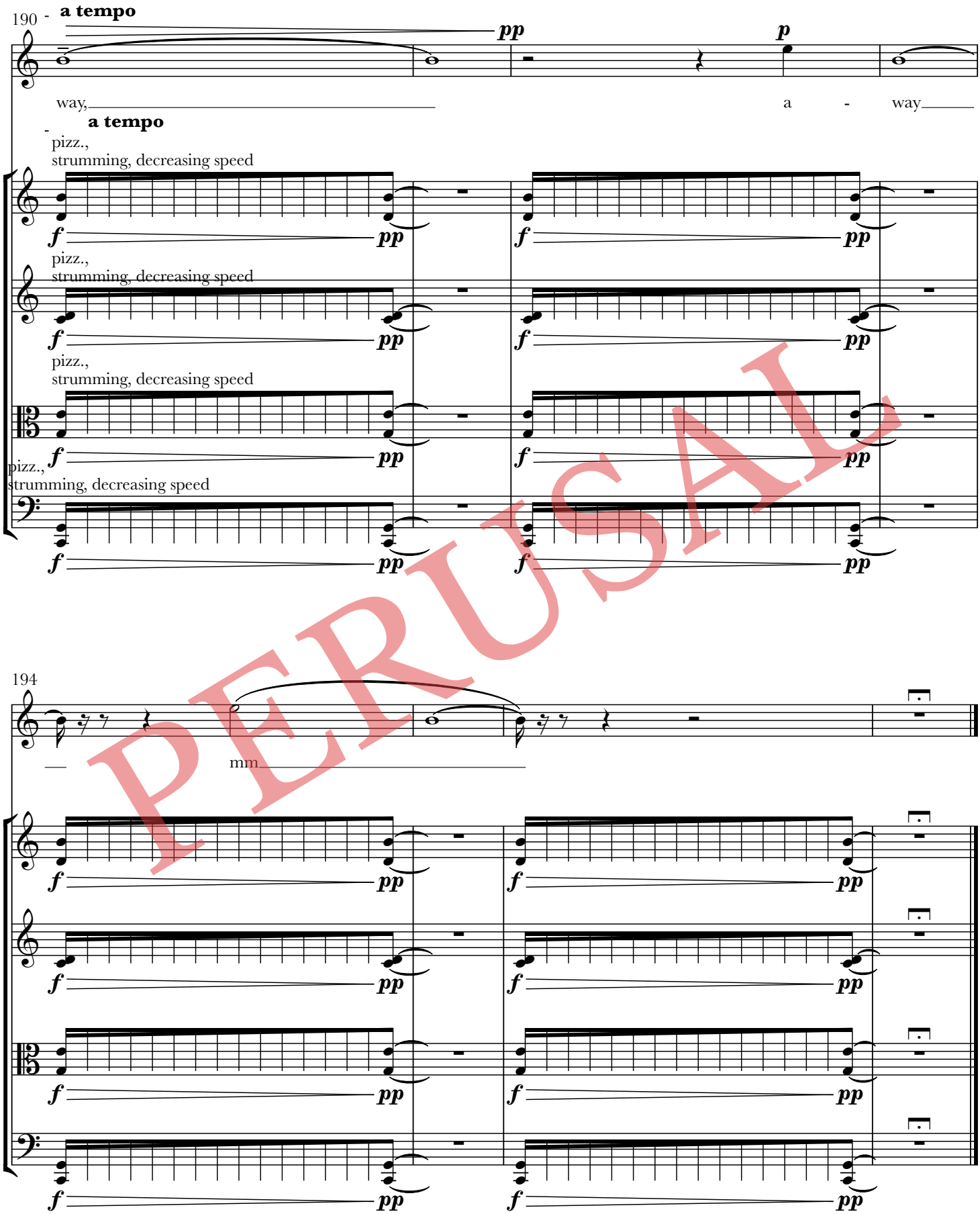
PERUSAL


175
p
The sky that frees the
pizz.
pp < mf > pp
mf pp
178
f
p
flo - wers from the in - va - ders
arco
fp < mf > pp

PERUSAL


181
p
Who_
3
f
p
pp
185
rit.
take your time here
mf
come clear crass cour - ses and take it all a
rit.
sul tasto
sul tasto

PERUSAL


190
a tempo
pp
p
way,
a - way
a tempo
pizz.,
strumming, decreasing speed
f
pp
194
mm

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