JUDITH SHATIN

To the Bird from a Distant Land

Piano Trio

Wendigo Music

Program Note

To the Bird from the Distant Land was composed in response to Hayim Nahman Bialik's poem *To the Bird* (*El HaTzipor*) on commission from the Atar Trio. When pianist and director Ofer Shelley approached me to create a piece for an upcoming Bialik program, I was particularly drawn to this poem. Written when Bialik was just nineteen and had recently moved to Odessa, there is a strong undercurrent of homesickness for the Biblical land of Israel he imagined. The poem, addressed to a bird that serves as a bridge between the distant land and his current home, is episodic – variously referring to the Bialik's imaginings of this distant land in both its beauty and potential difficulties, while contrasting it again and again with his current perilous situation. His ruminations move back and forth, taking flight like the winging bird he calls to, yet also crashing down on his current reality. My response to the poem became a song without words, with the flight of the bird sometimes soaring, while at other times caught in the darker net of Bialik's musings before taking wing again.

Performance Notes

Accidentals pertain throughout the bar in register.

Trills are diatonic unless the trill icon shows a flat above, indicating a ½ step move to the flattened diatonic note.

Piano Techniques

Pluck the string with your fingernail, typically the right-hand index finger.

\+ Mute the string at the point closest to the front, creating the strongest resonance.

Move your finger up the string about ½" and back; experiment for the best timbral change.

String Techniques

Indicates a strong increase of pressure, with increasing noise content.

X Chopped, strong pressure on shorter note, mainly noise, with slight pitch.

sp. sul pont.

World Premiere
The Atar Trio
Studio Annette
Felicia Blumenthal Music Center
Tel Aviv, Israel
06/02/2023

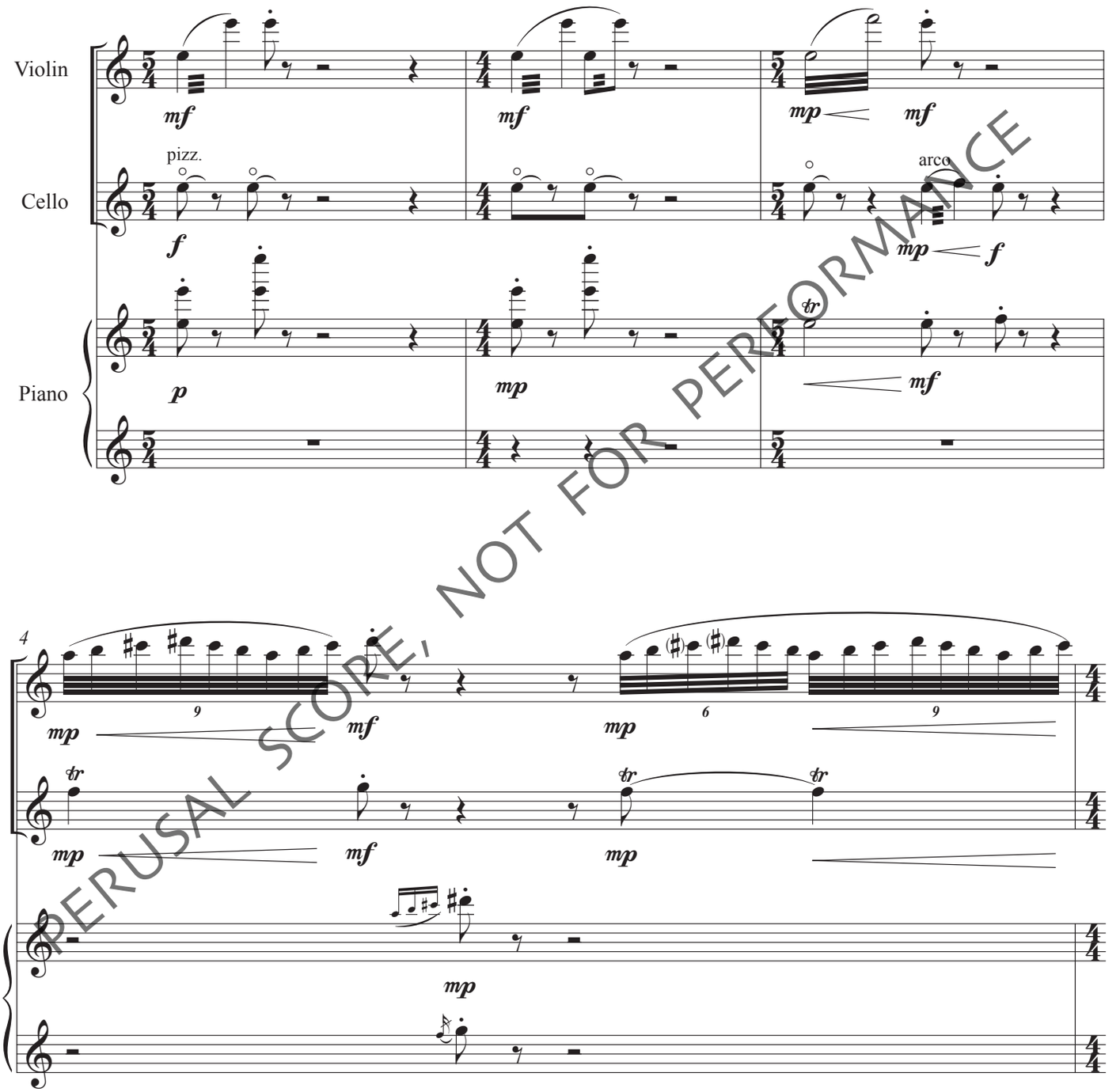
Cello

To Ofer Shelley

To the Bird From a Distant Land

Featherlight ♩= 72

Judith Shatin



PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

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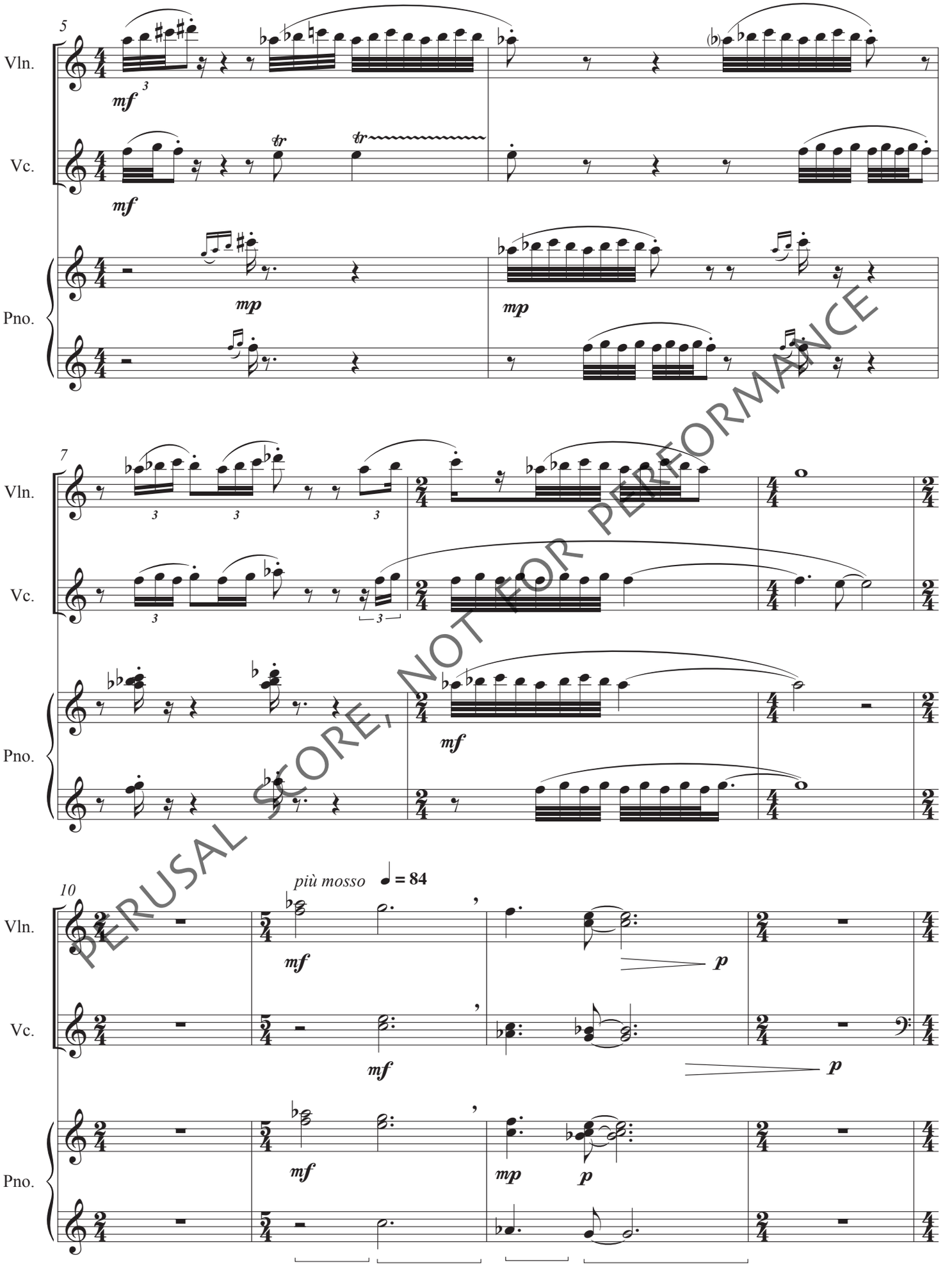

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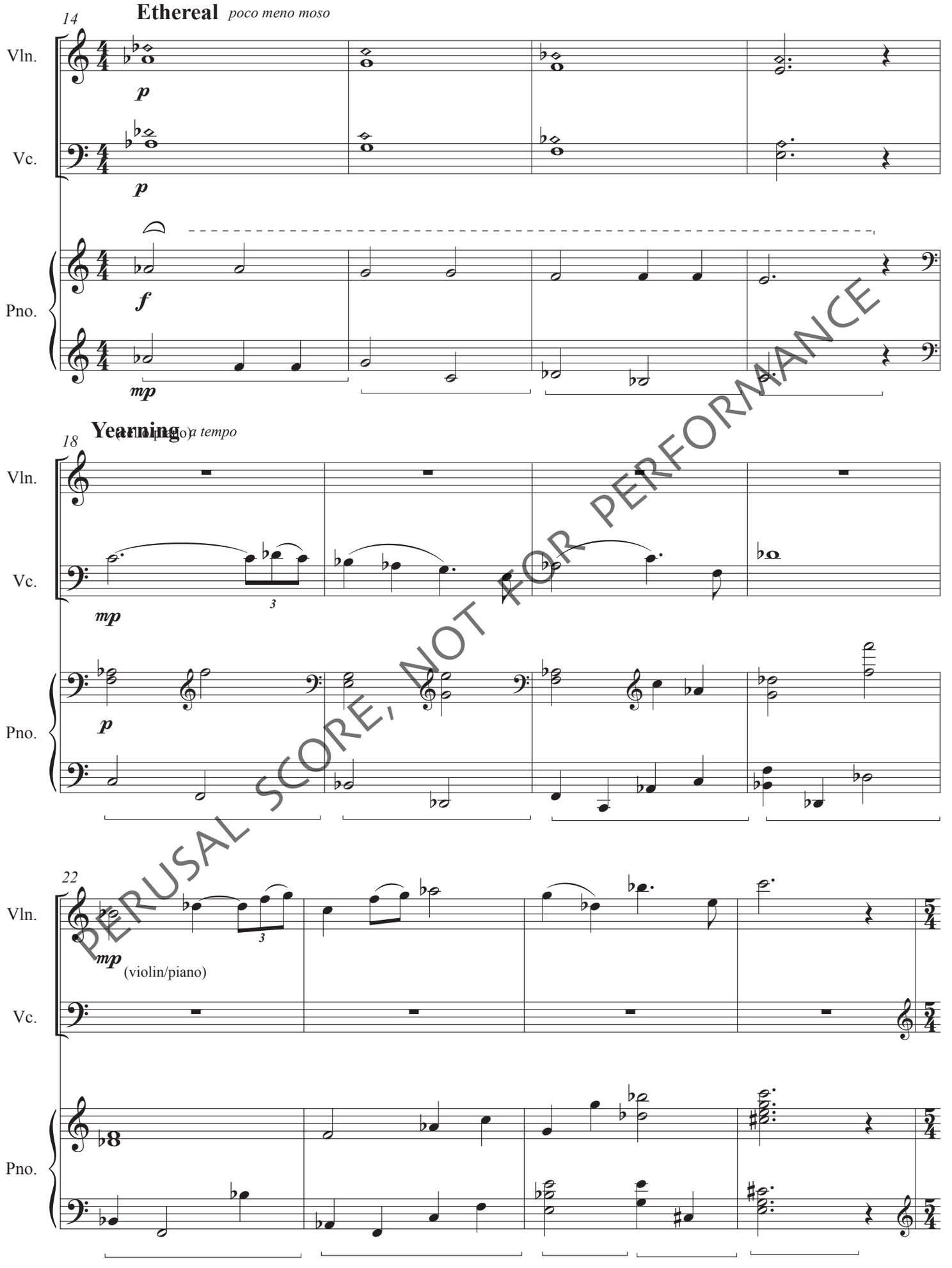

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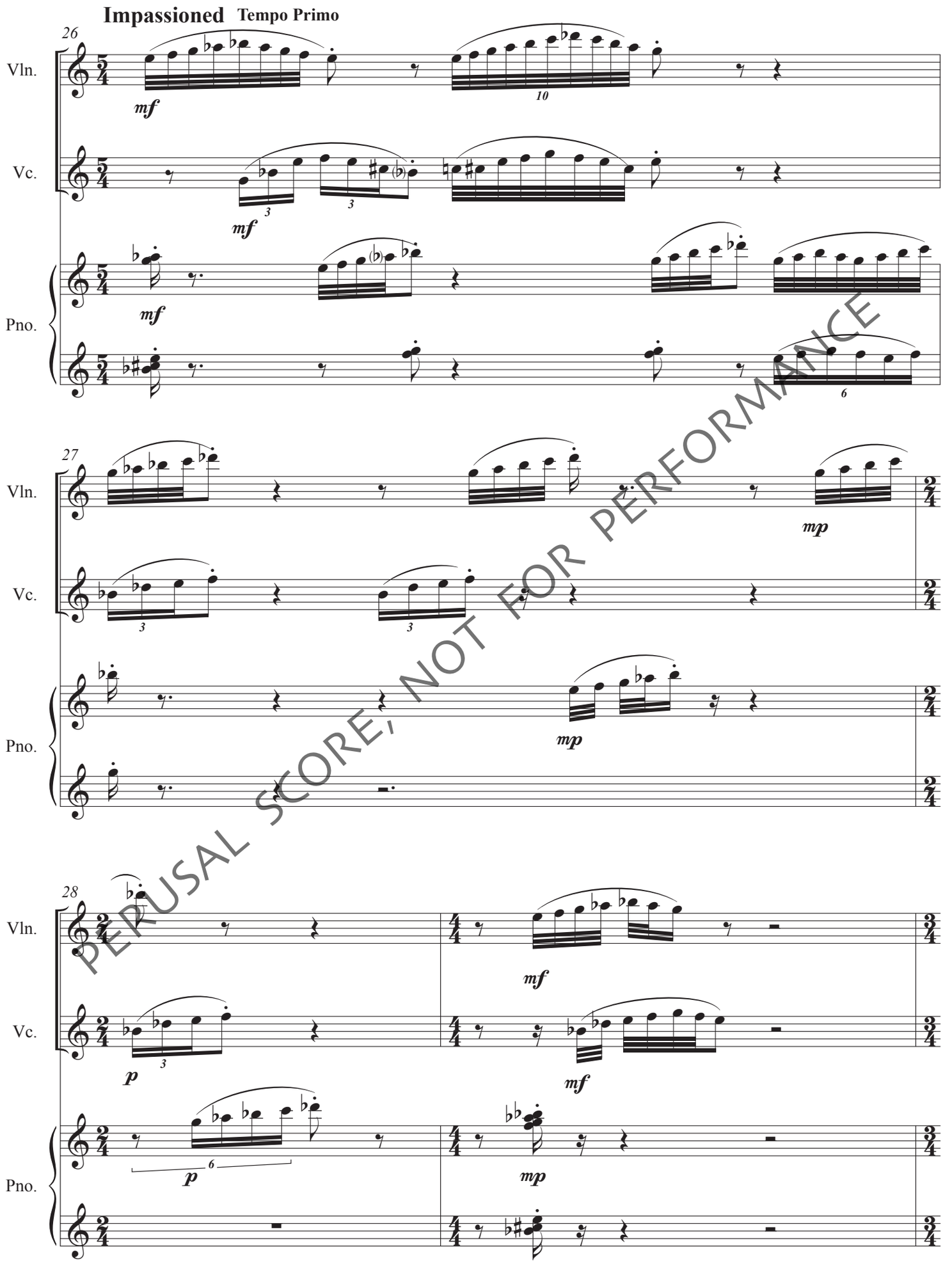
Impassioned Tempo Primo
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Vln.
Vc.
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3
6
27
mp
28
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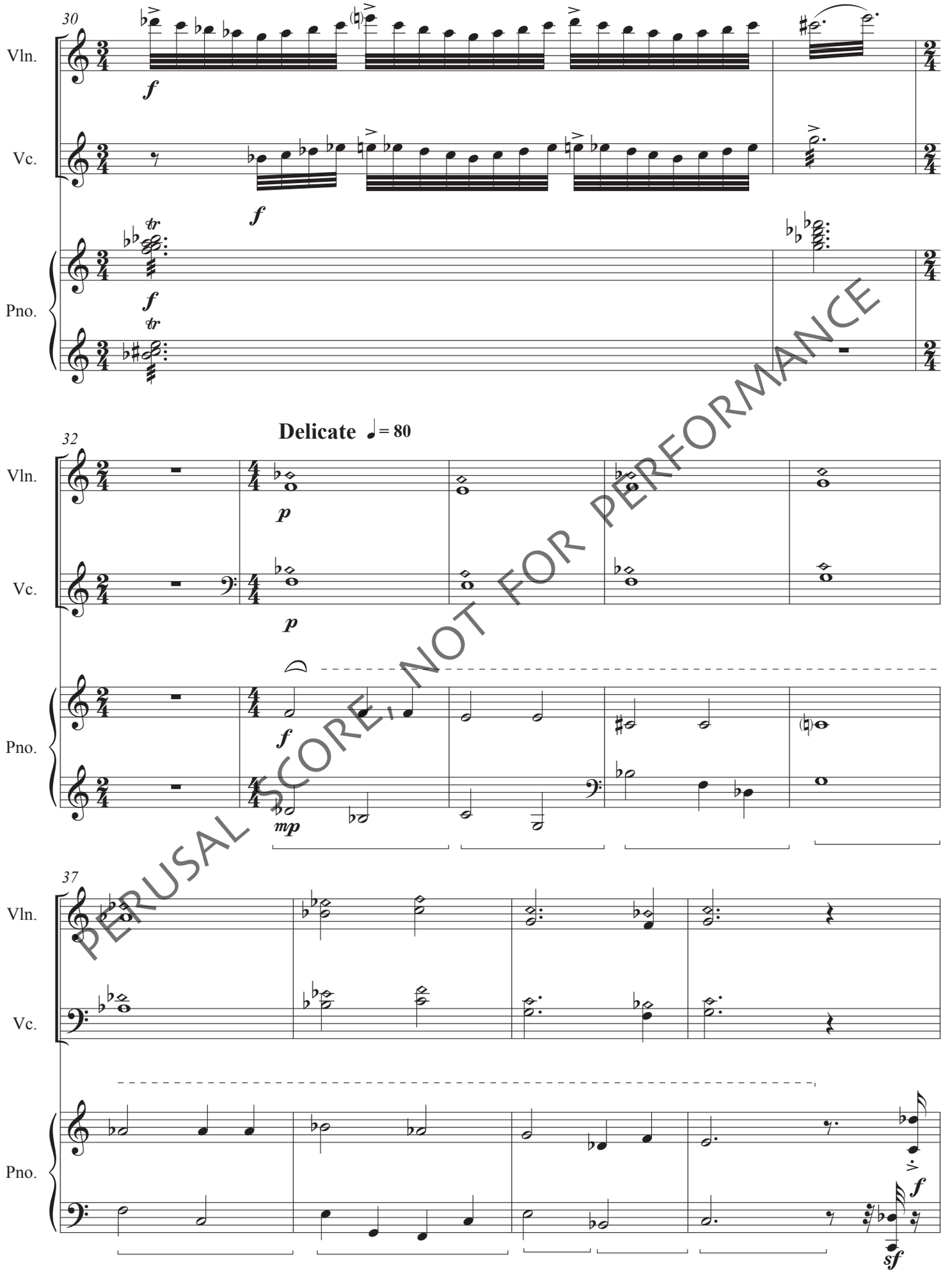

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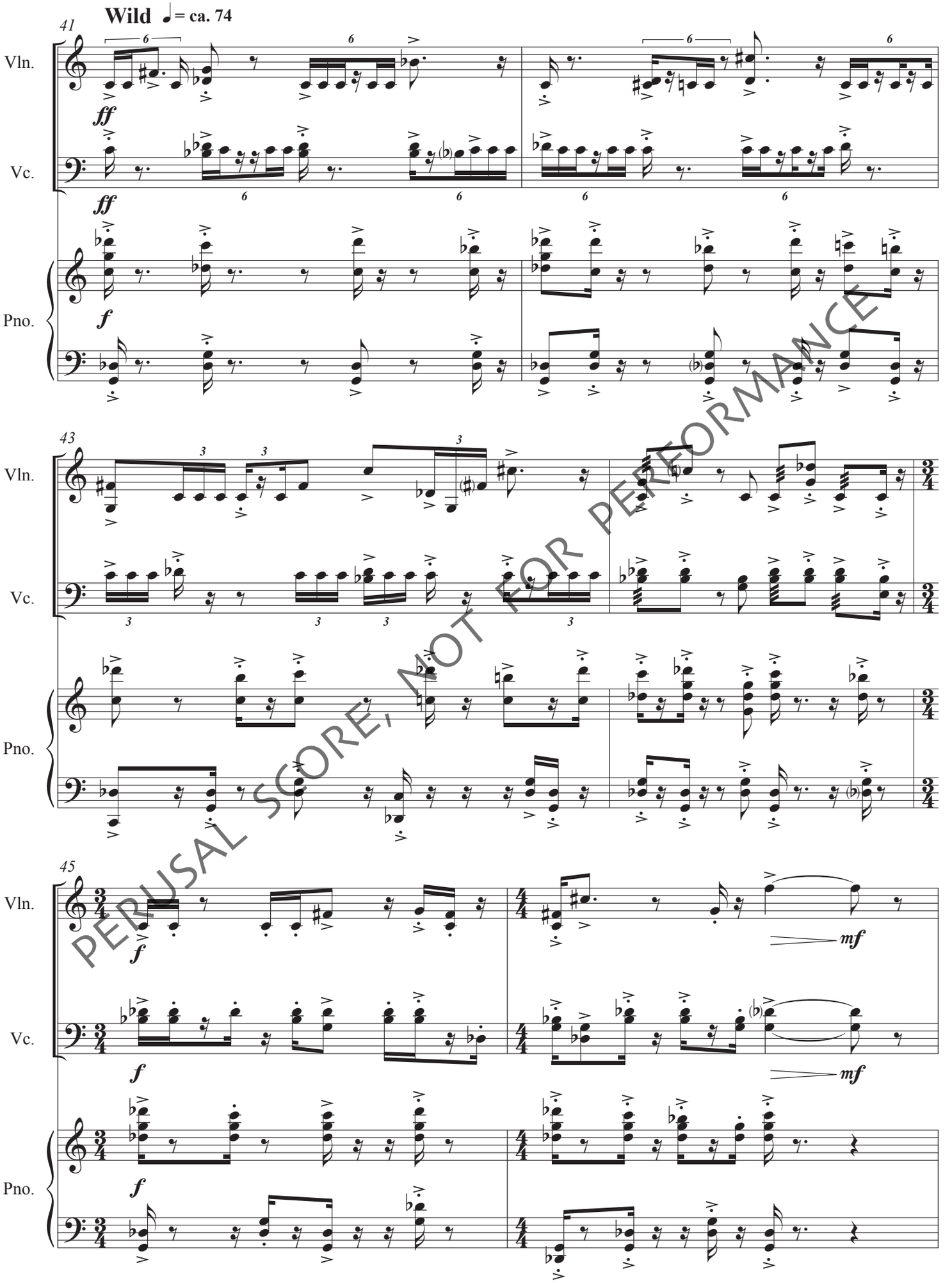

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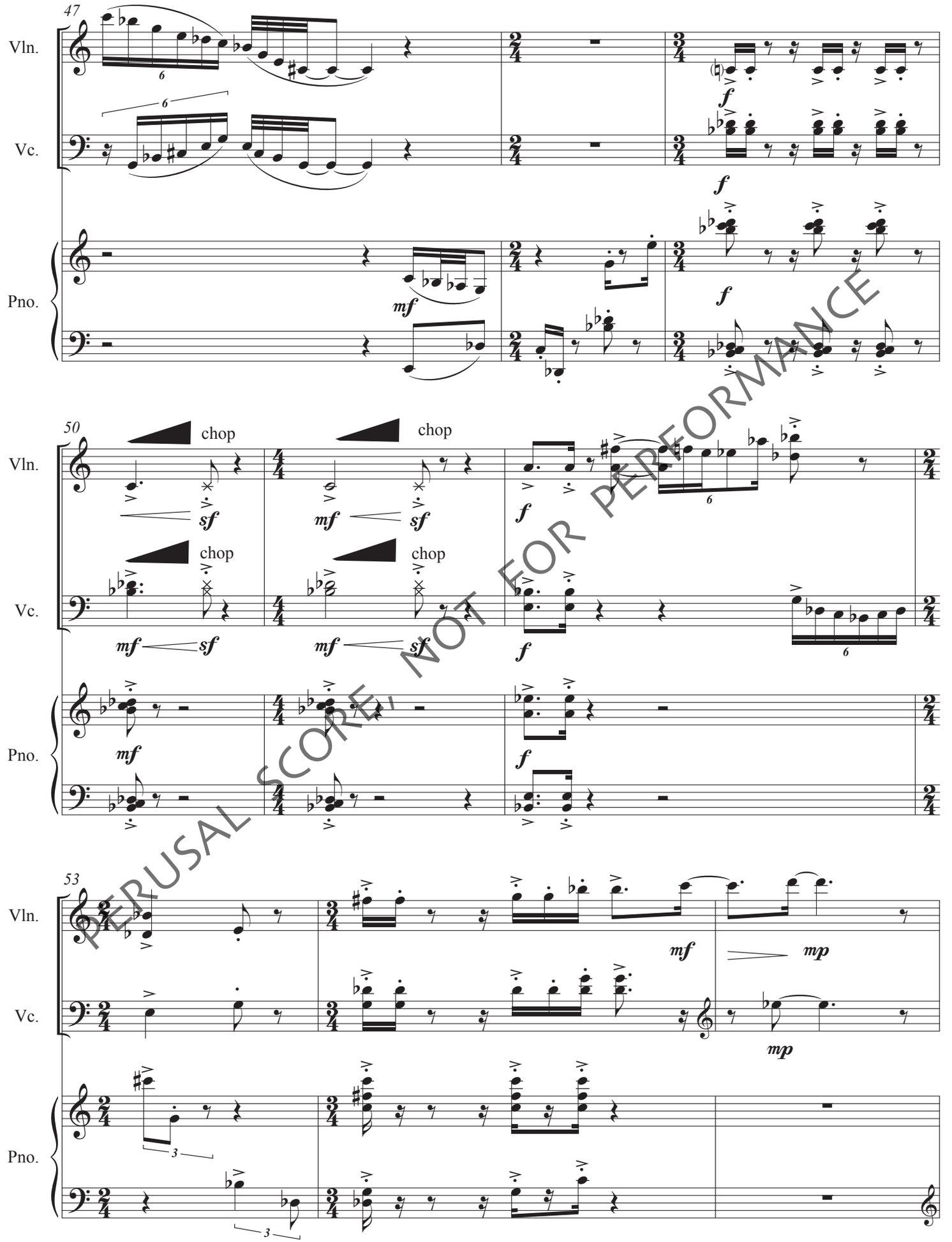

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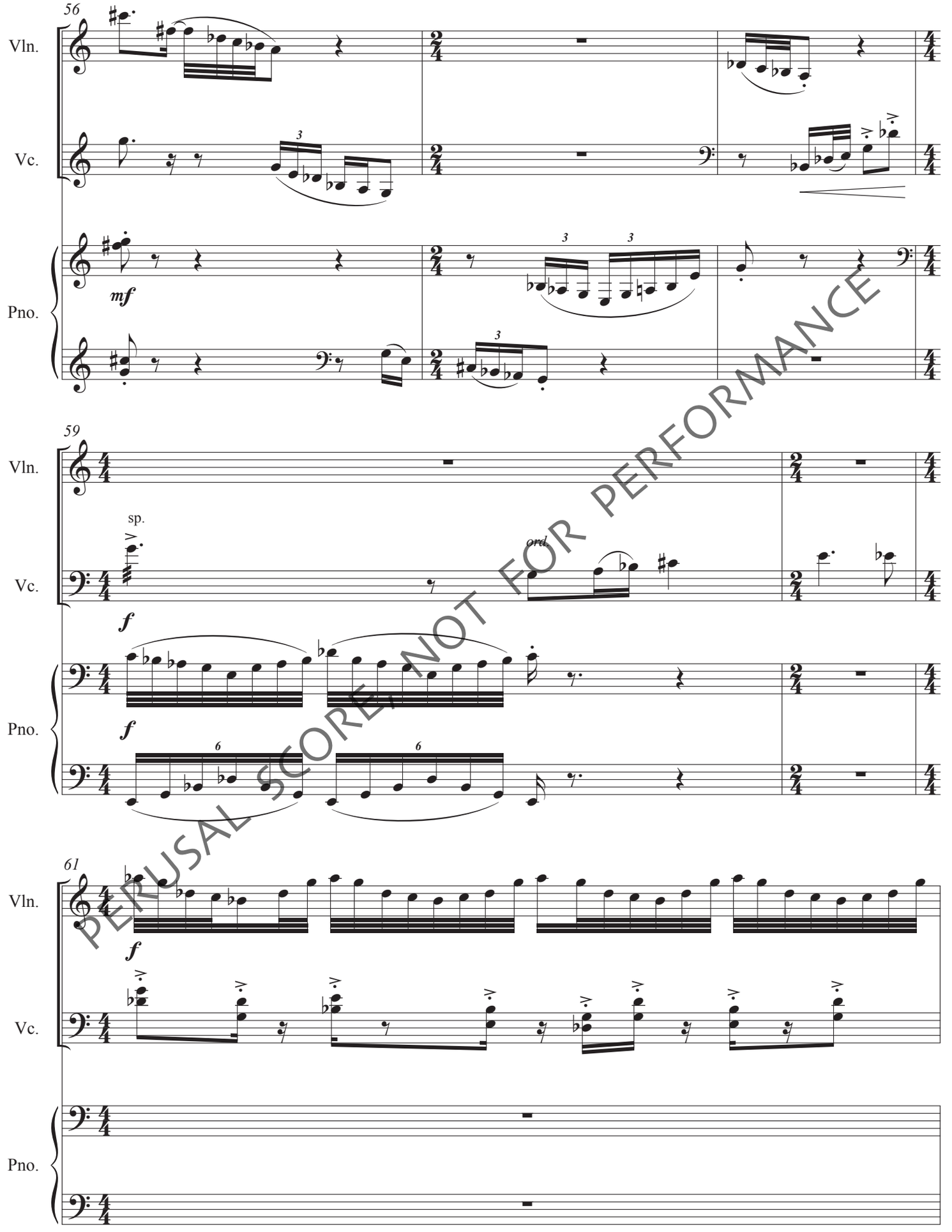

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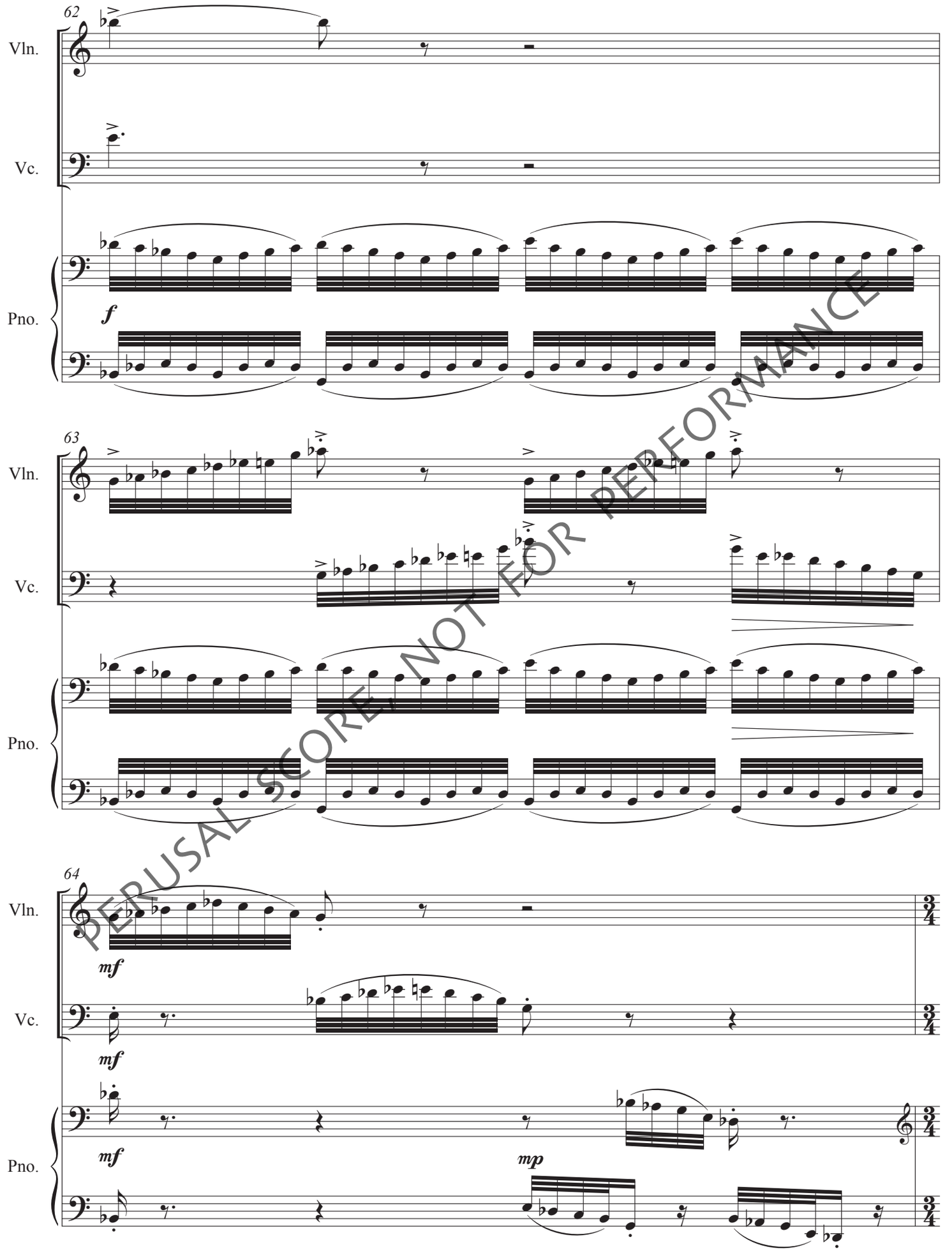

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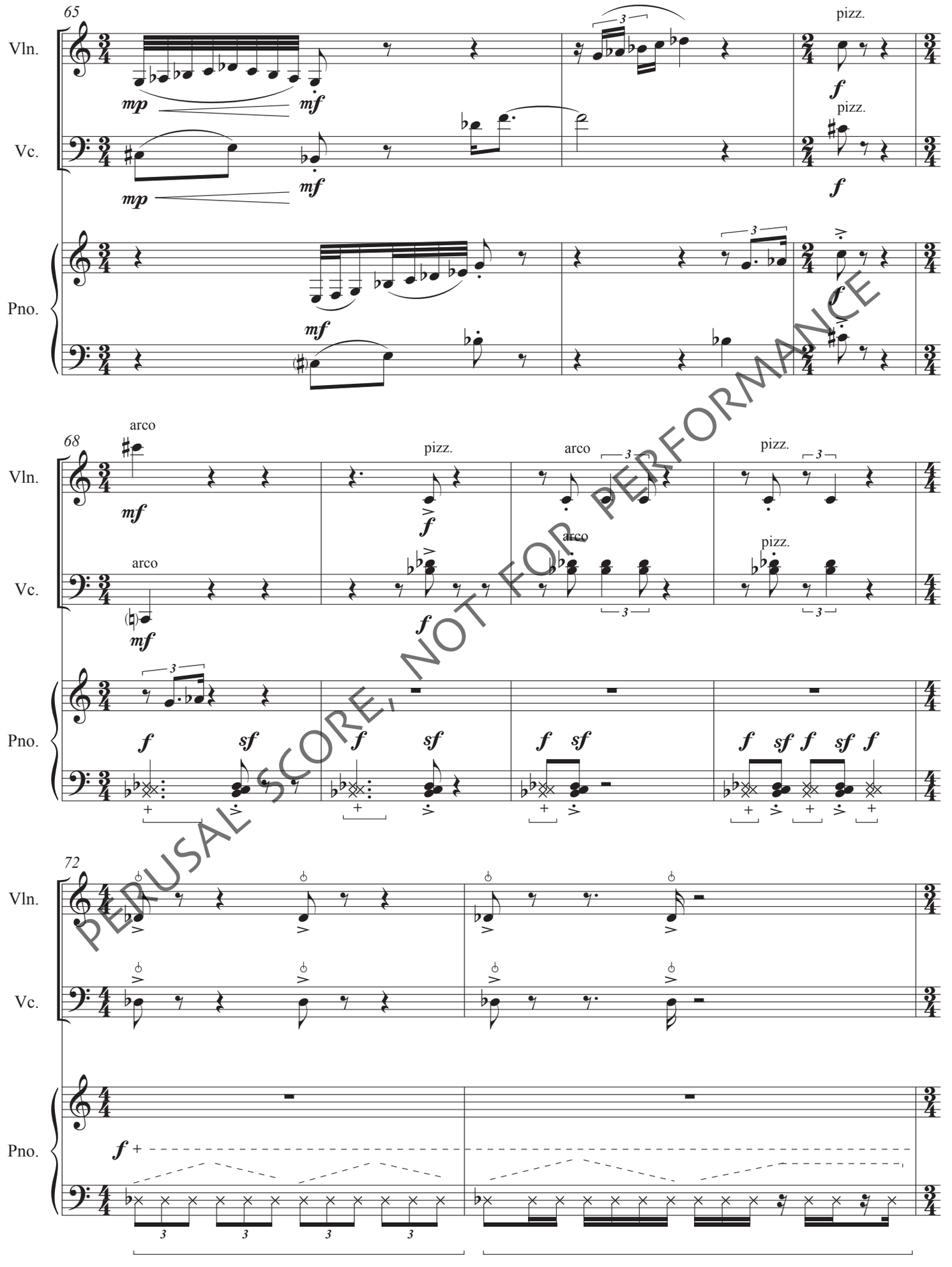

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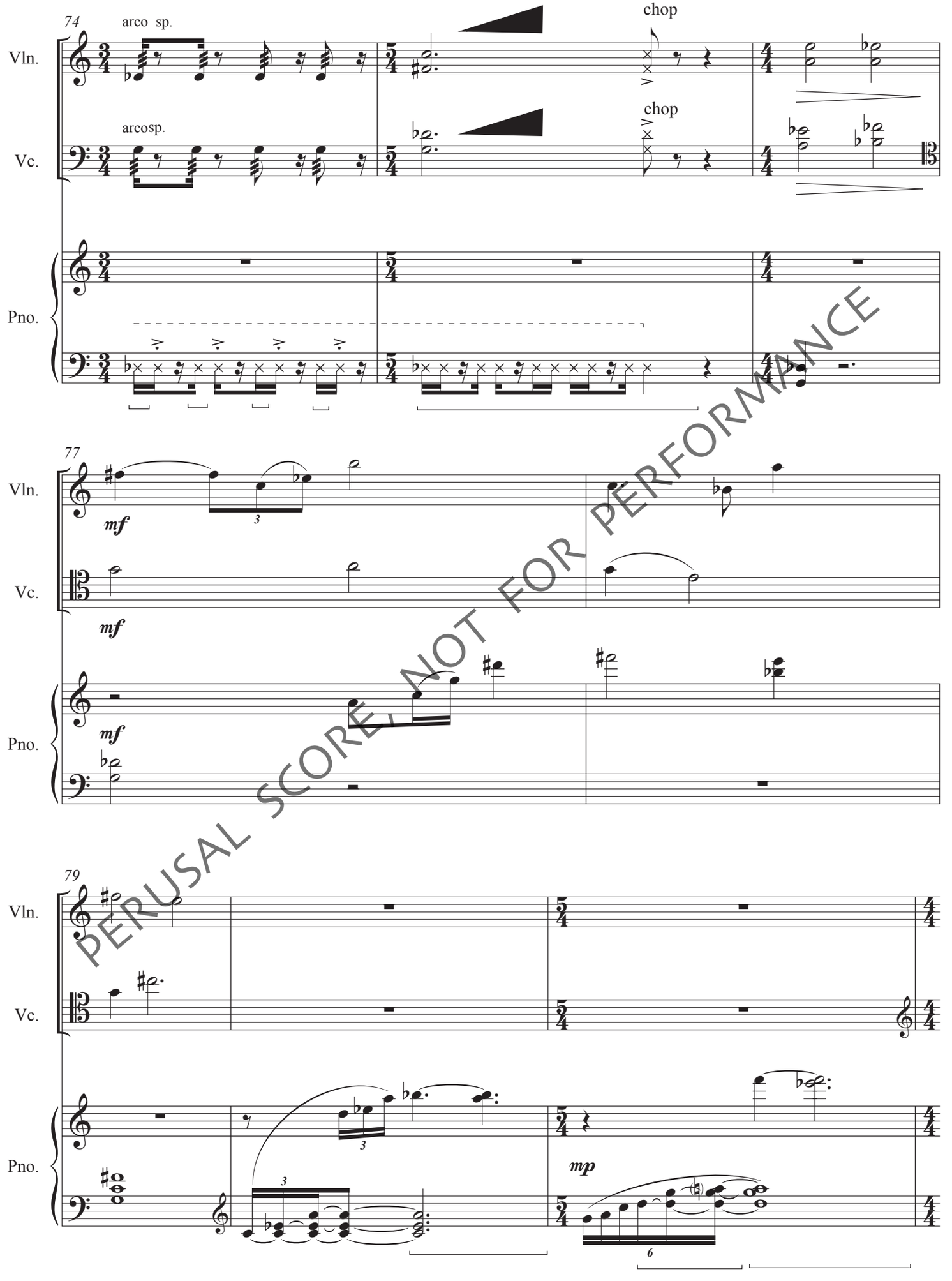

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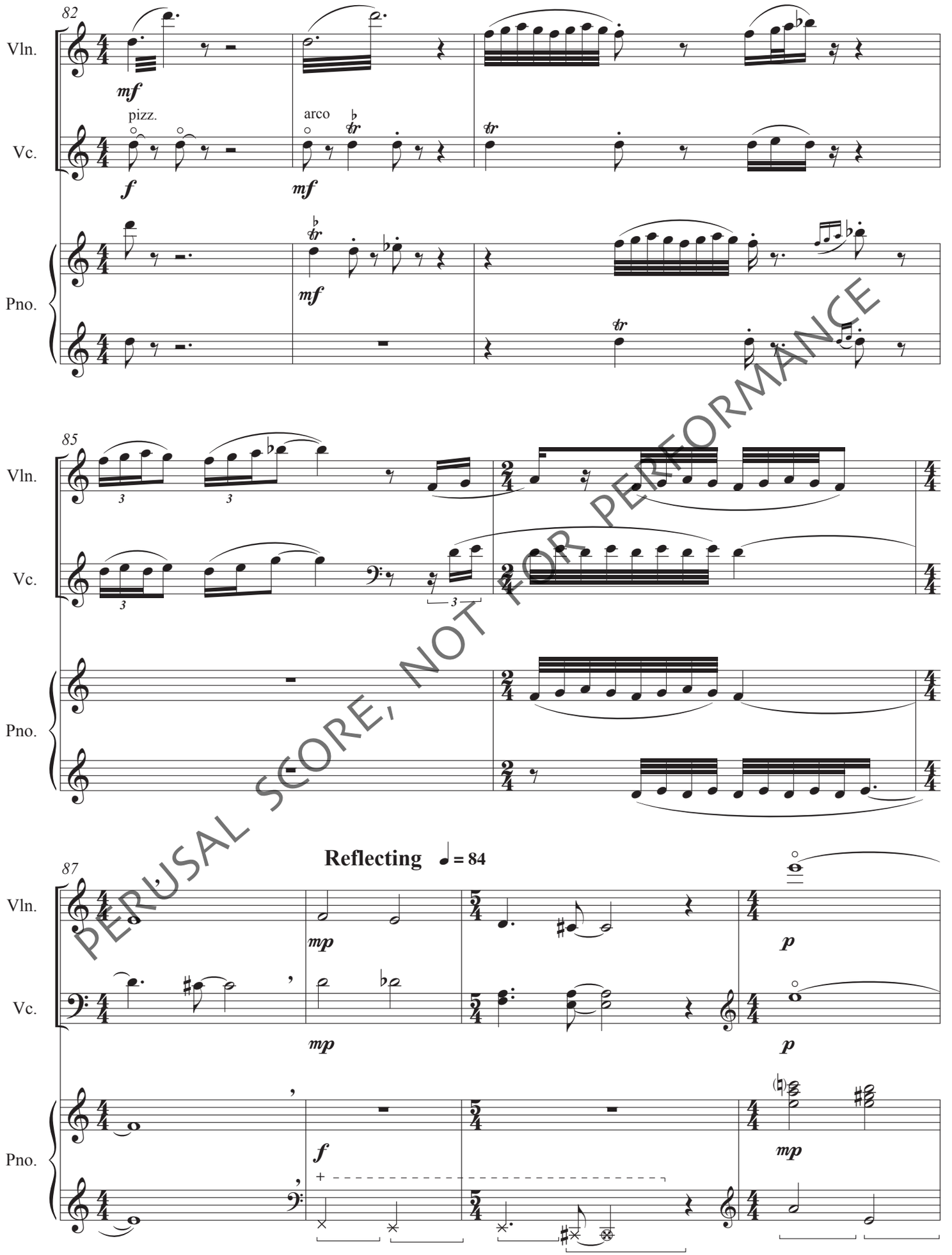

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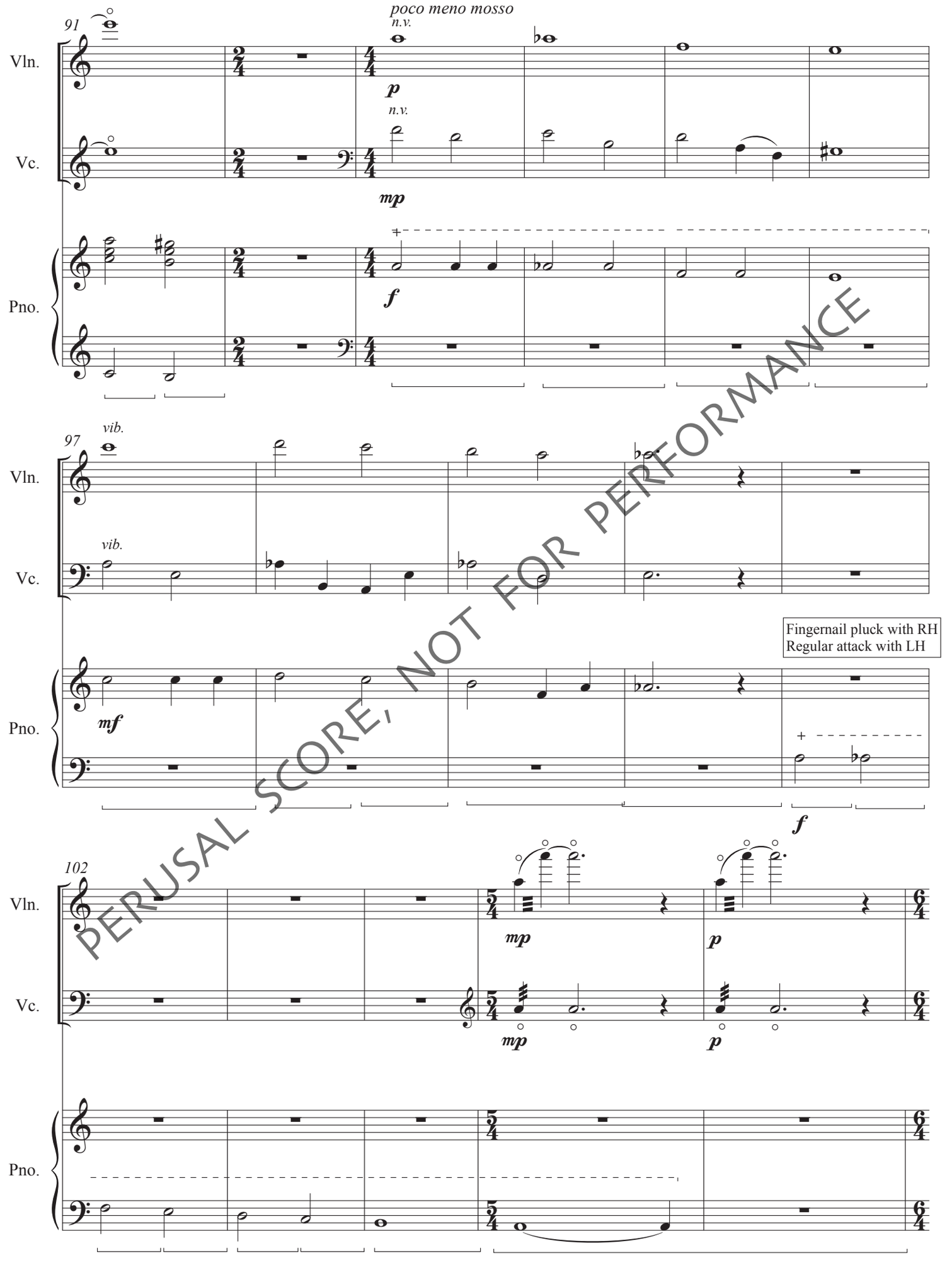

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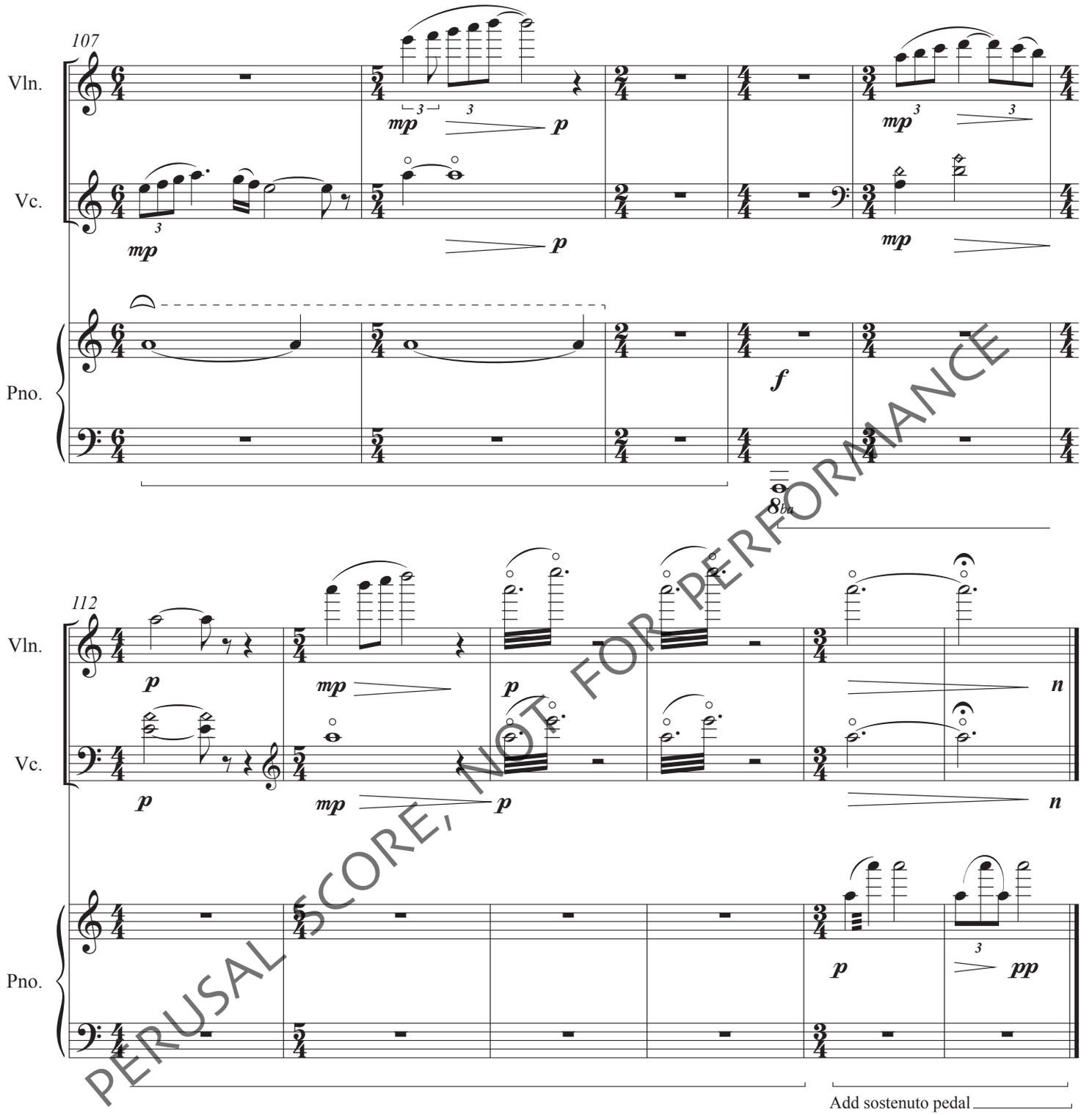

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