# *Grasping for Light*

*for 18 solo strings*

JESSICA MEYER

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# *Grasping for Light*

***for 18 solo strings***

**5'30"**

9 violins
4 violas
3 cellos
2 basses

This short string orchestra work for A Far Cry is based on Whistler's "Nocturne, Blue and Silver: Battersea Reach" that is found in the Yellow Room of the Gardner Museum.

After the death of her only child, Ms. Gardner fell into a debilitating depression, for which her doctor eventually prescribed travel and new experiences. It was her emergence from this tragic experience and her subsequent travels around the world that rekindled her passion for art and kickstarted her mission for collecting it.

This piece, inspired by the painting, serves as a metaphor for how Isabella was able to move through the stagnant mist of her mental state towards the light of who she was supposed to be.

Many, many thanks to George Steel of the Gardner Museum, Jae Cosmos Lee, and the amazing musicians of A Far Cry for the opportunity.

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# *Grasping for Light*

*Commissioned by the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum for A Far Cry*

JESSICA MEYER

**Distraught**

♩ = 50 (pulse always stays the same)

**In Shock**

tutti glissandi are always for the entire duration of the note

tutti non. vib

Violin 1
Violin 2
Violin 3
Violin 4
Violin 5
Violin 6
Violin 7
Violin 8
Violin 9
Viola 1
Viola 2
Viola 3
Viola 4
Violoncello 1
Violoncello 2
Violoncello 3
Contrabass 1
Contrabass 2

*mf*

*molto rit...*

*a tempo*

*p*

gliss.

hold next note as long as you can until pizz.

pizz.

*ff*

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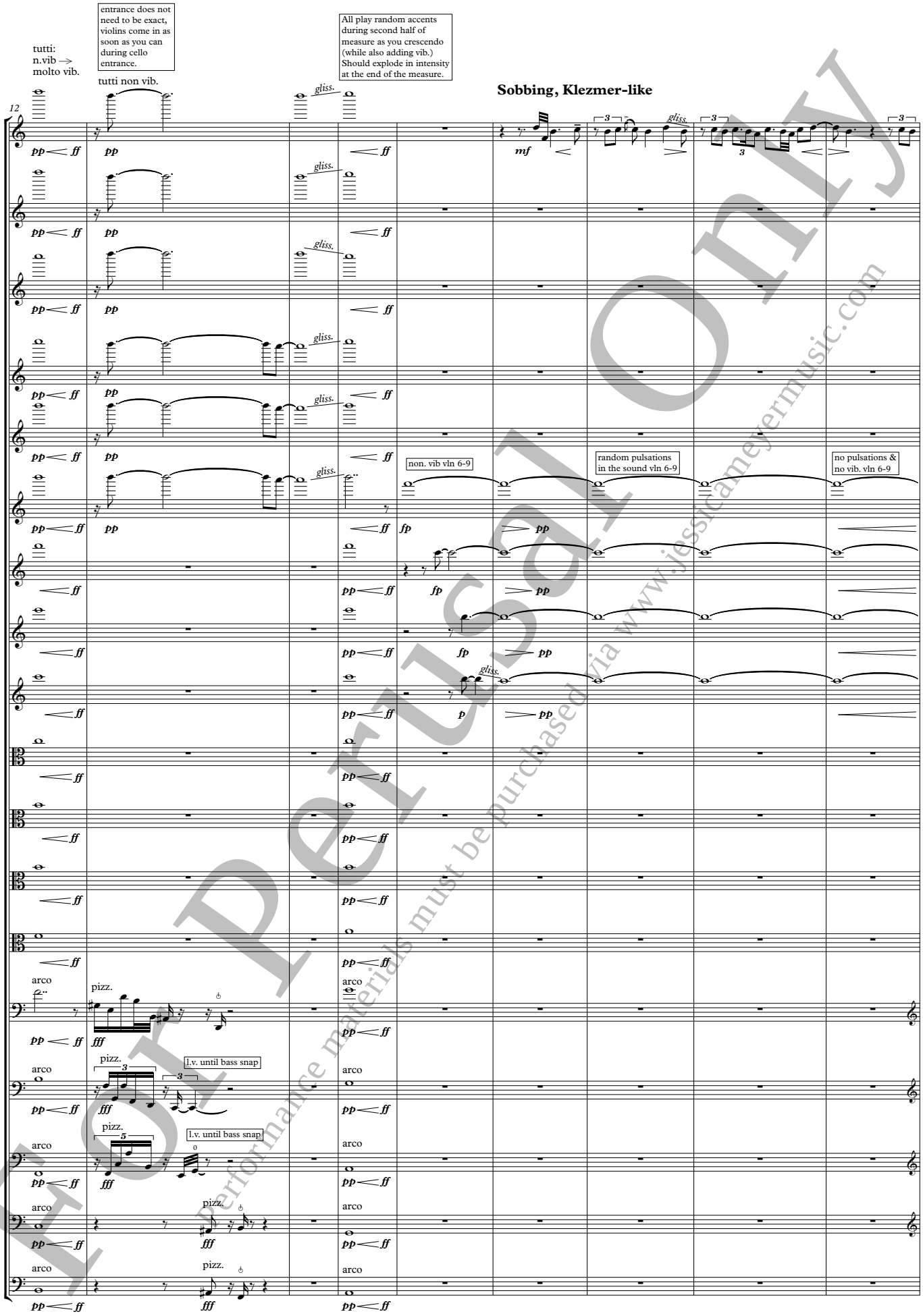


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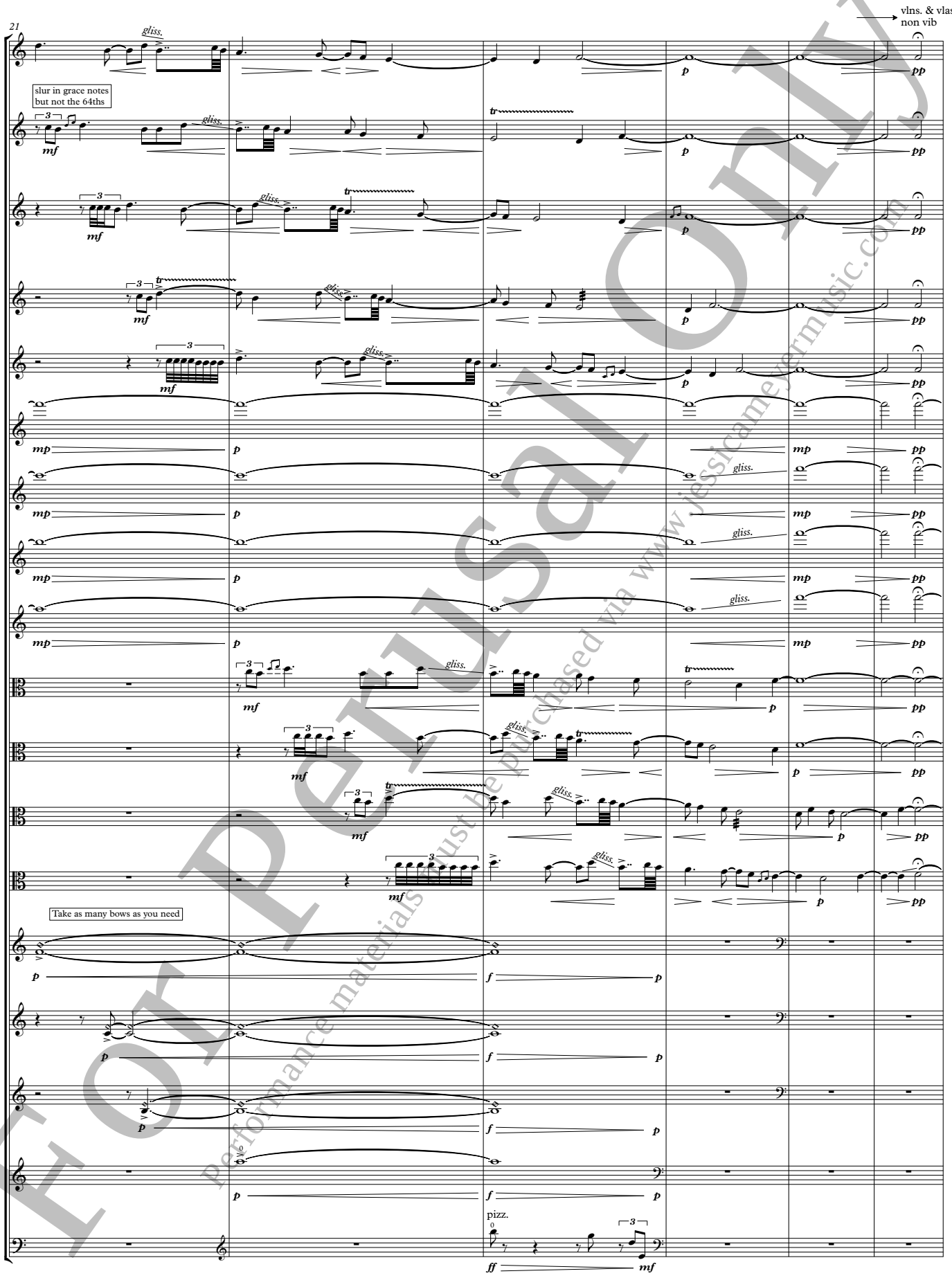


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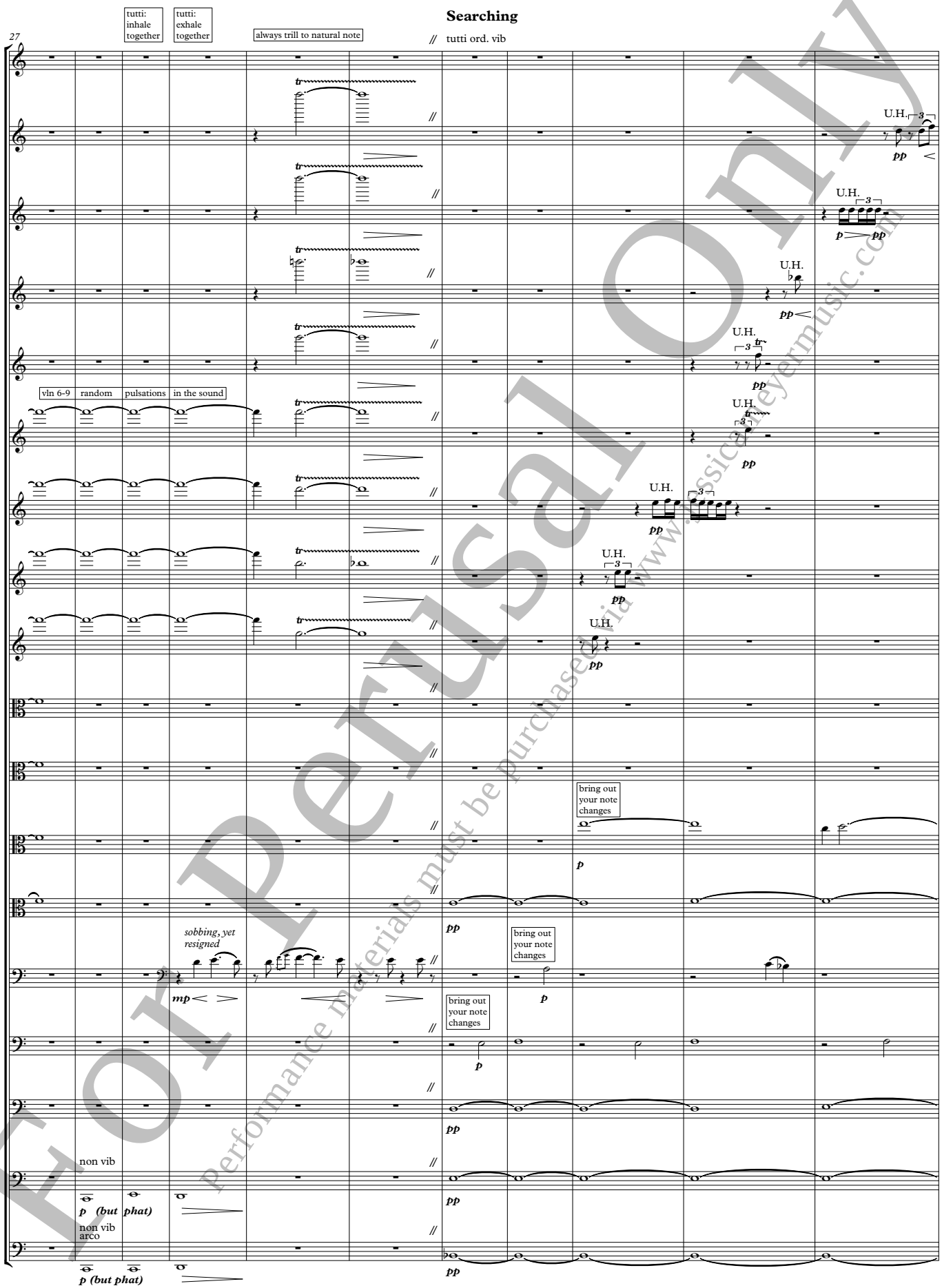


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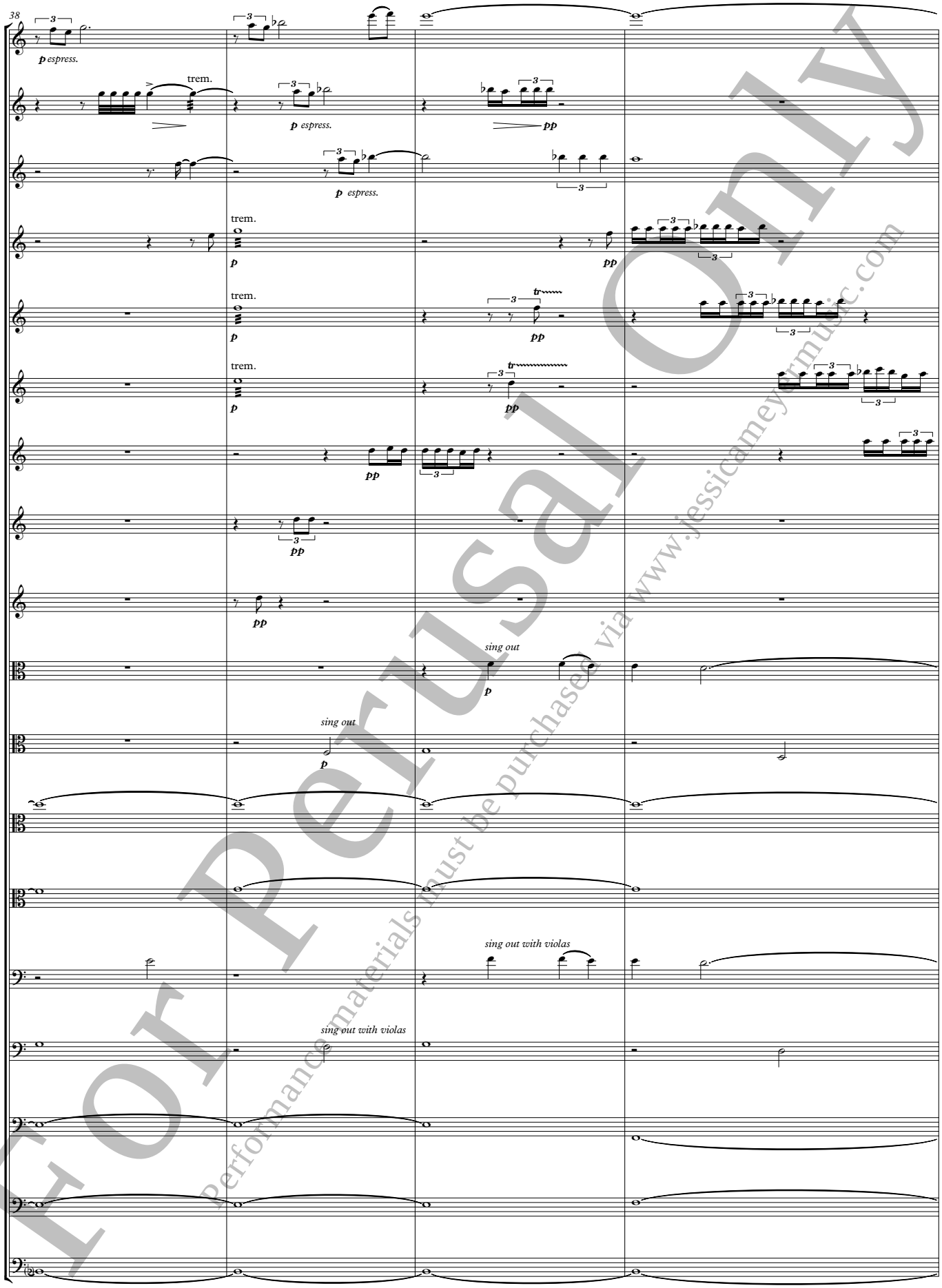


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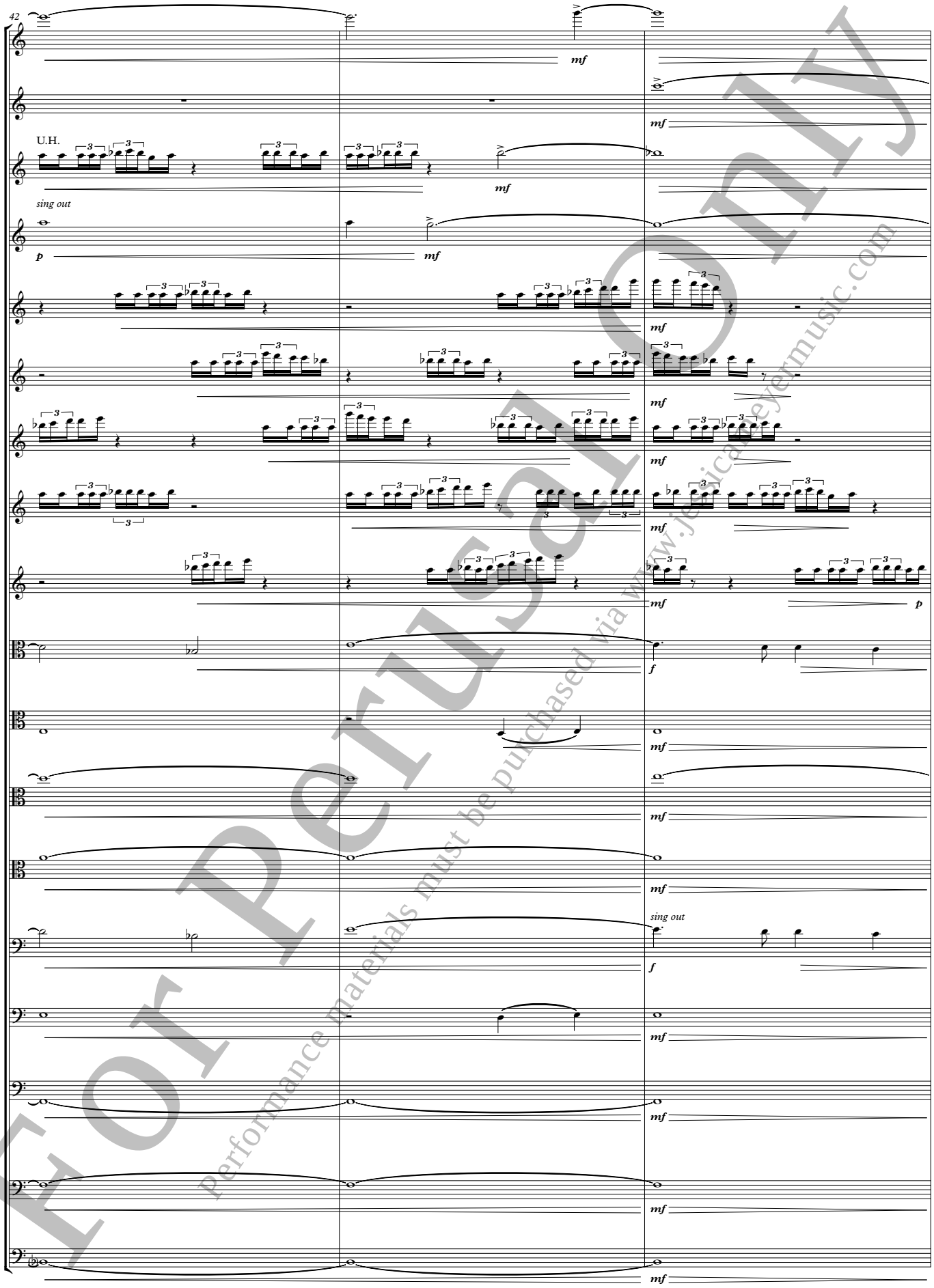


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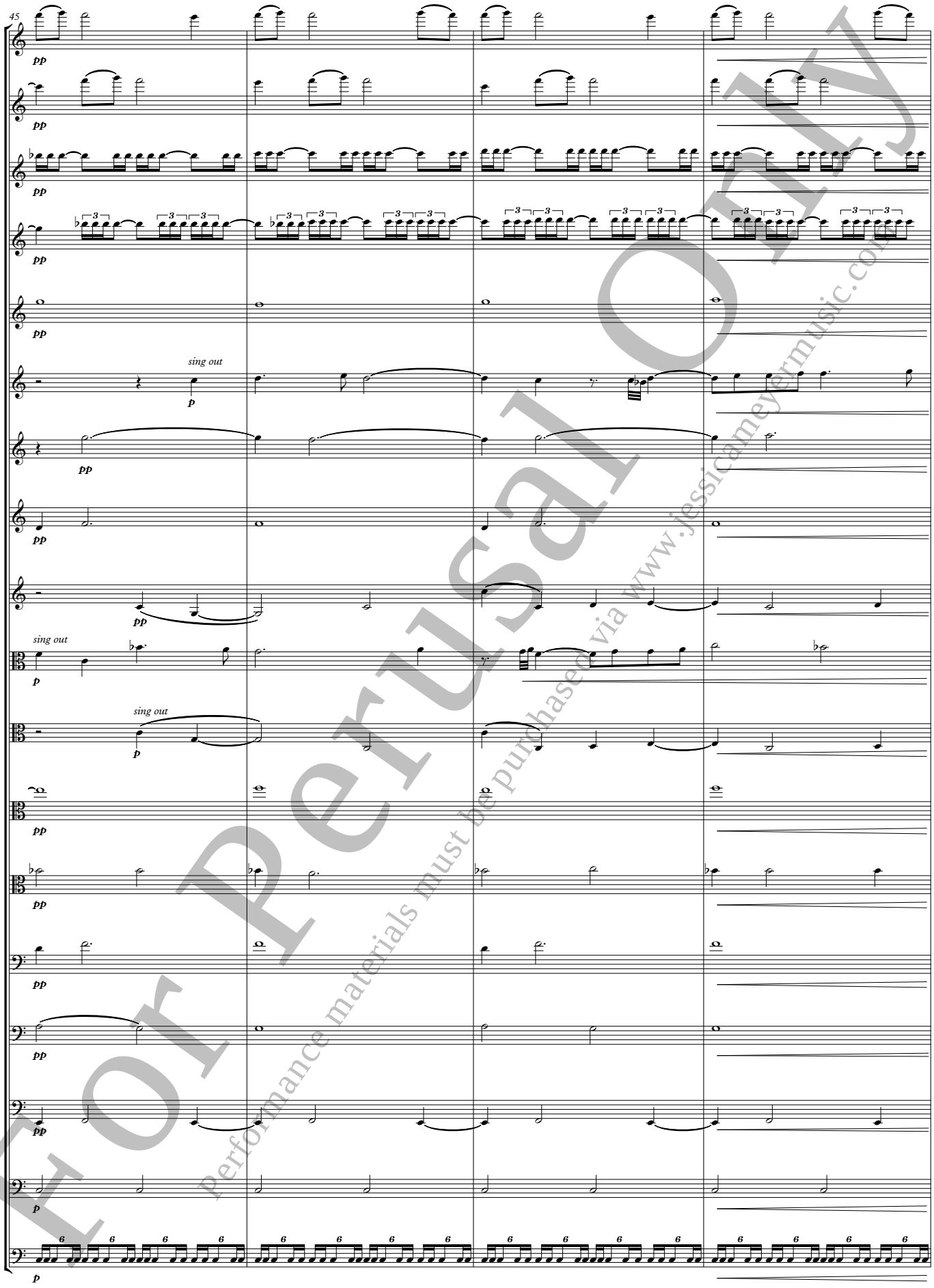


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## Gaining Momentum

tutti vln: do not slur-in grace notes

49

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vln. 3
Vln. 4
Vln. 5
Vln. 6
Vln. 7
Vln. 8
Vln. 9
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
Vla. 3
Vla. 4
Vc. 1
Vc. 2
Vc. 3
Cb. 1
Cb. 2

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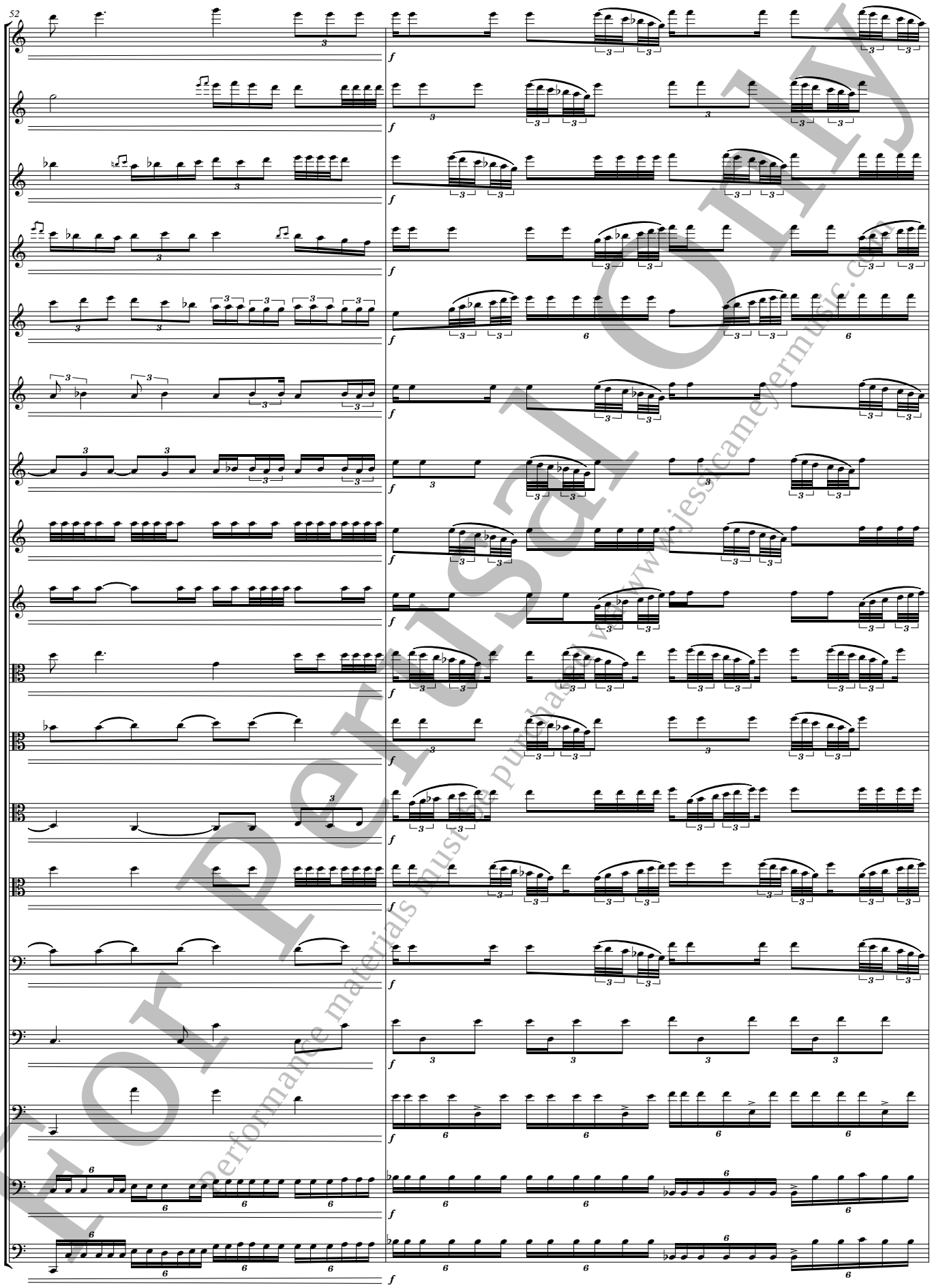


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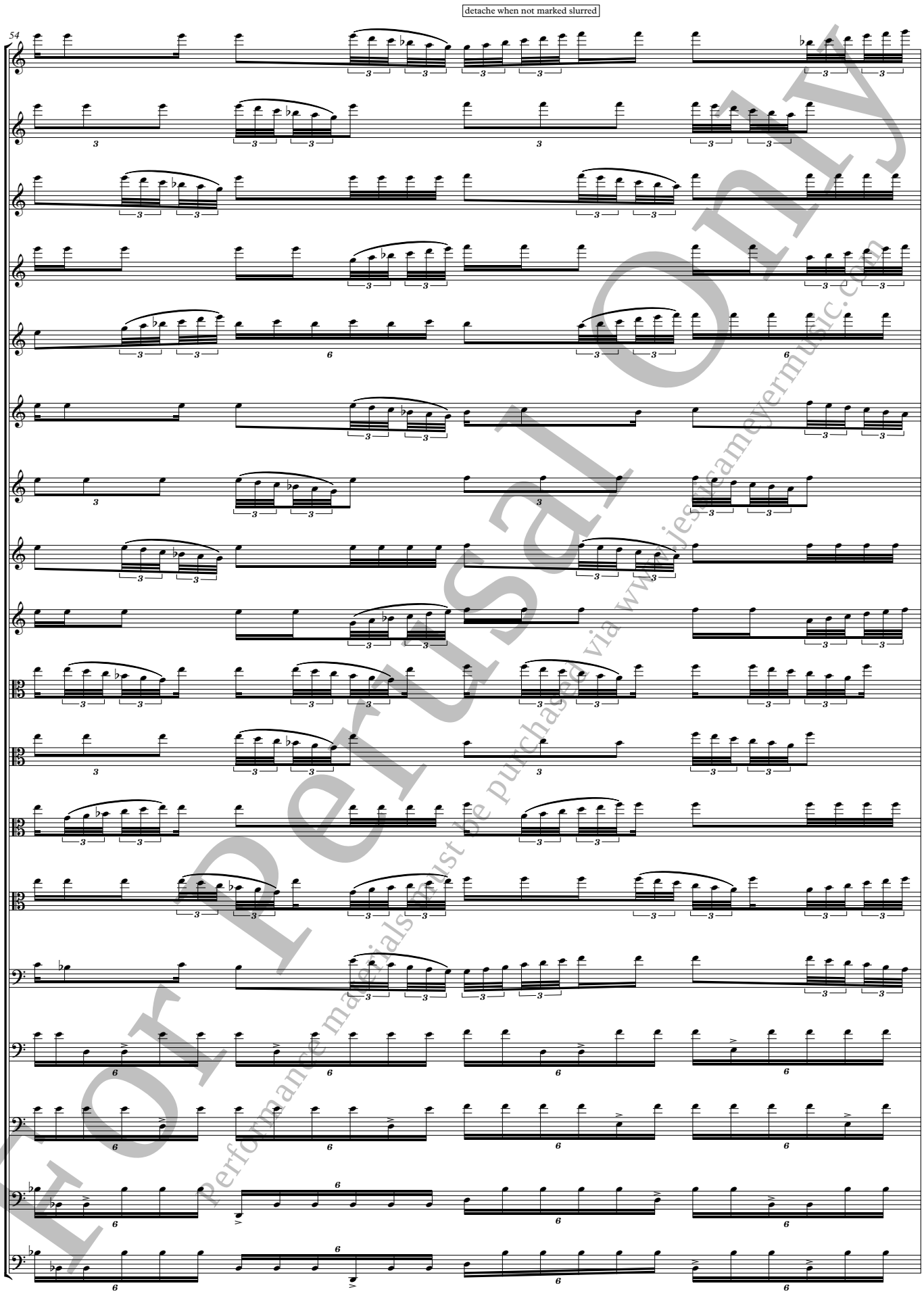


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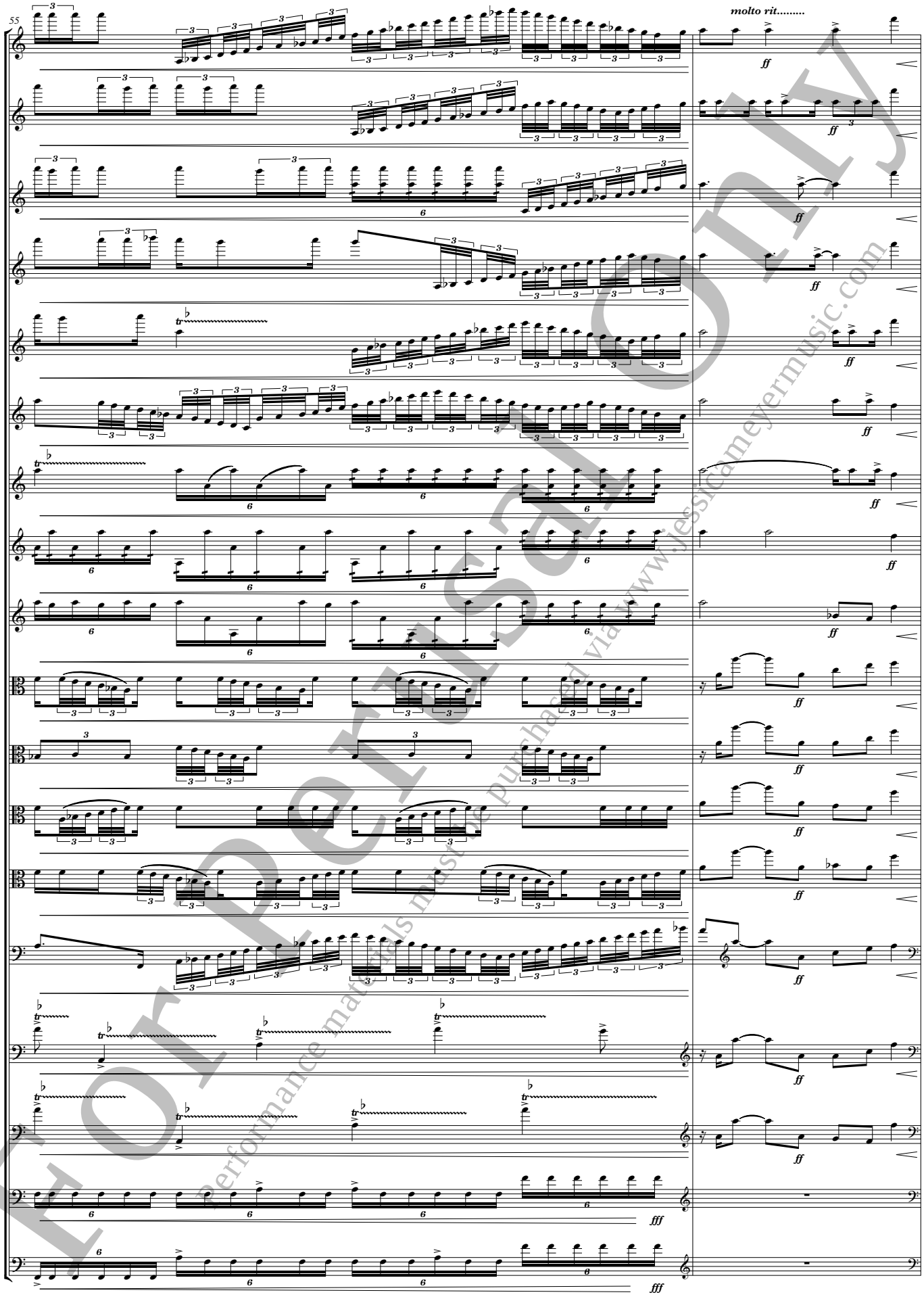


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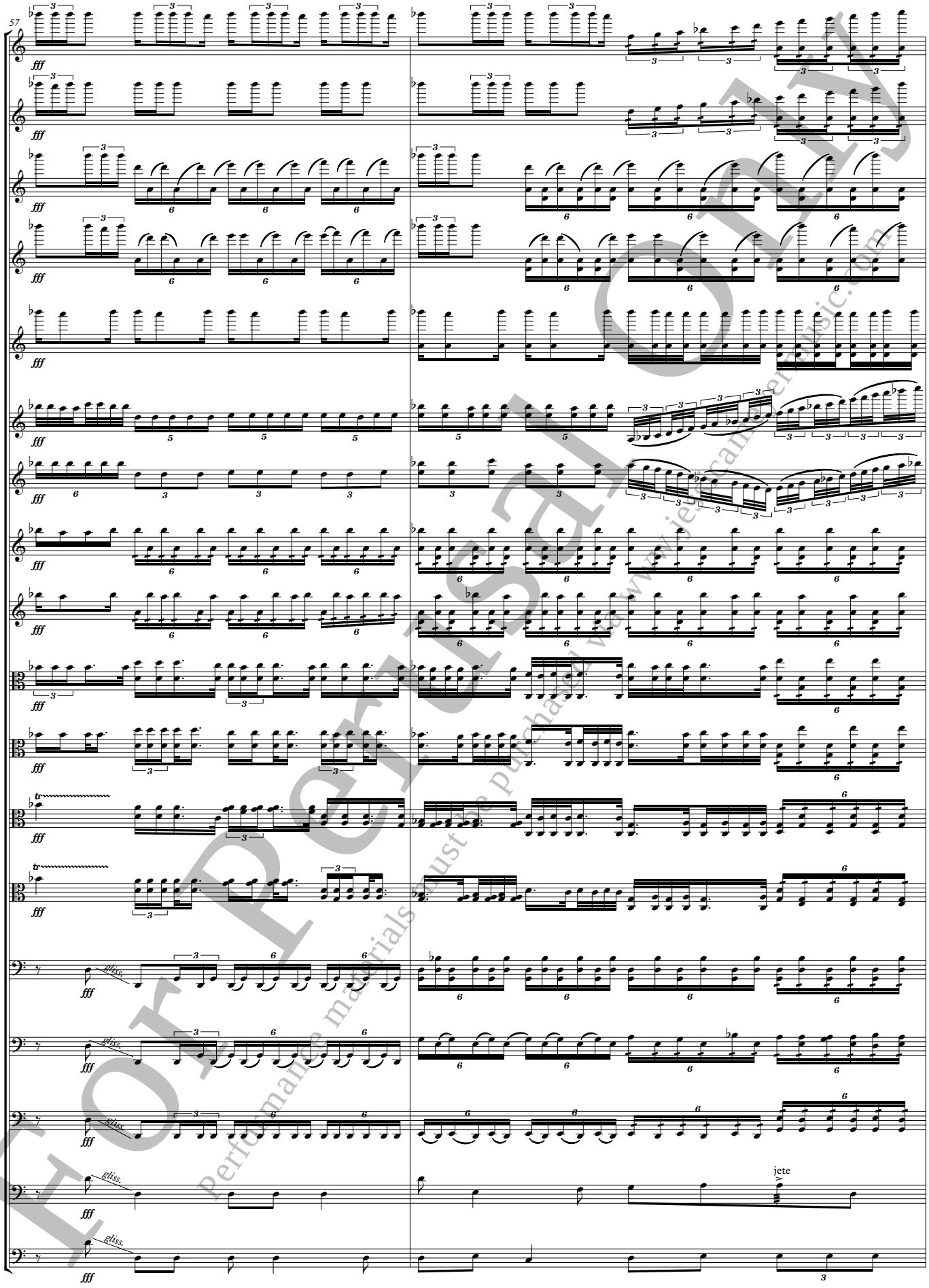
**Overjoyed**

*a tempo*

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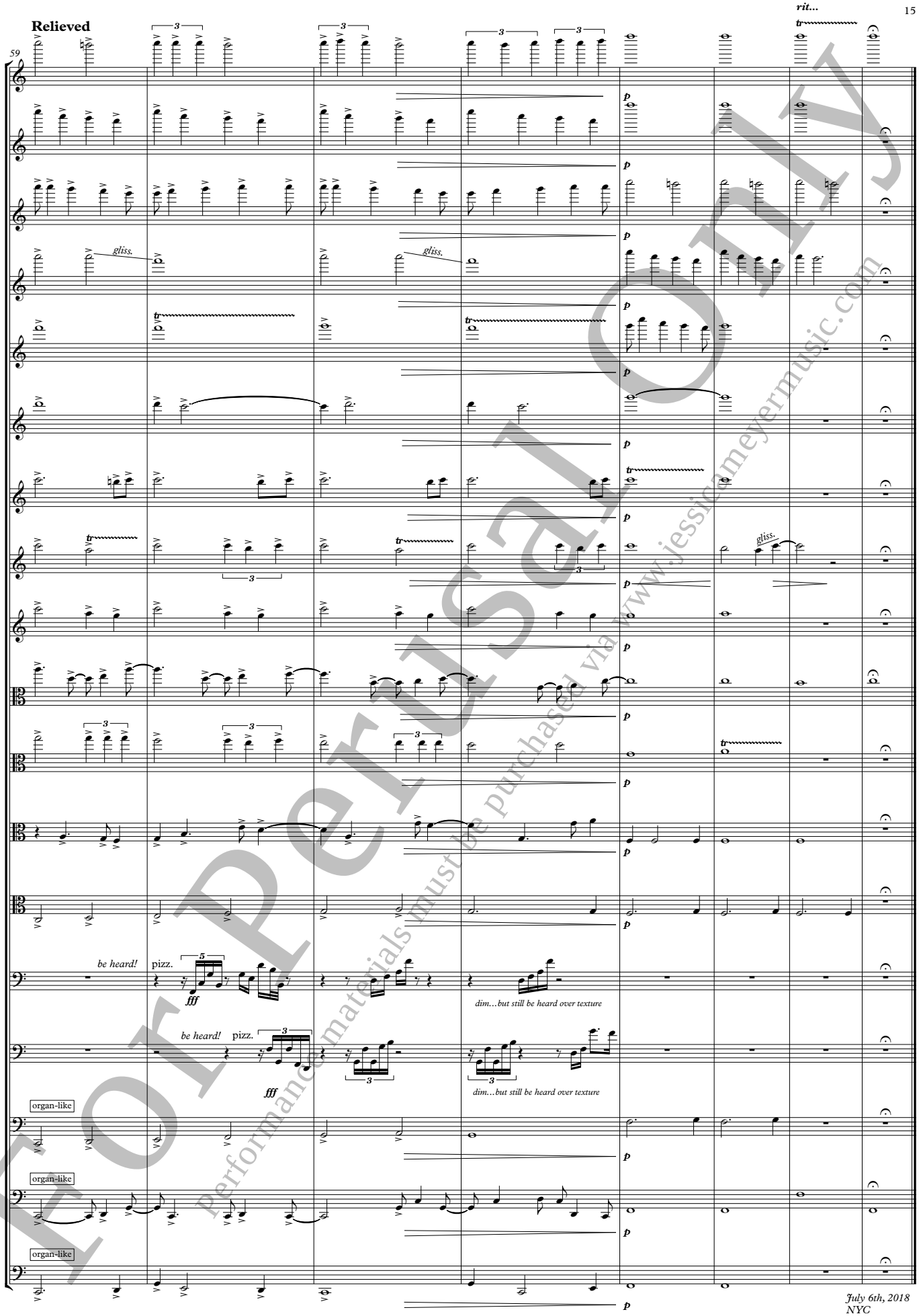


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