A Passage between Earth and Sky

for 2 violins, 2 violas, and cello

JESSICA MEYER

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for 2 violins, 2 violas, and cello

15'

PROGRAM NOTE

Nature has always played a role in many of my significant memories so far. In fact, my first memory ever is posing for a photo when I was 3 years old standing next to the maple tree that served as the centerpiece of my backyard. I remember touching the bark, the super-70's corduroy pants and homemade macramé poncho I was wearing, and even the dappled light coming through the leaves. Fast forward to my late in life composition career where it has become a regular part of my practice to get into nature before starting any piece, and then it seems that nature and specific places in the world are a direct inspiration for a good portion of the material I come up with. Therefore, after meeting Michael and Erica and finding out about the life and death of their Italian Umbrella Pine "Igor", I had to find a way to write about it.

Igor was a glorious tree that provided shade and sanctuary for both humans and birds. One day PGE cut him down out of fear that he would somehow be uprooted from the soil and fly into the powerlines. I can't understand how even a diseased tree could fly away like that, yet I am also constantly reminded of the many destructive things we humans do out of fear. In this piece, I wanted to weave together sounds that are evocative of a tree extending their roots into the earth, the birds who rest on his branches, the traumatic dismembering of Igor, and the fantasy of a supernatural force somehow allowing him to magically reassemble and fly up into the sky in order to find a new home.

"The Overstory" by Richard Powers was a book that Erica recommended I read to get into the mindset of how trees exist on the planet, how they grow, and how they can communicate with each other. Early on in the book, a quote immediately grabbed my attention – about how a tree can "be a passage between earth and sky". I cannot think of a better title for this piece.

My deep thanks to Michael Hostetler and Erica Pascal for commissioning this work for me to play with the Hausmann Quartet. I hope I have done your beloved tree justice.

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A Passage between Earth and Sky

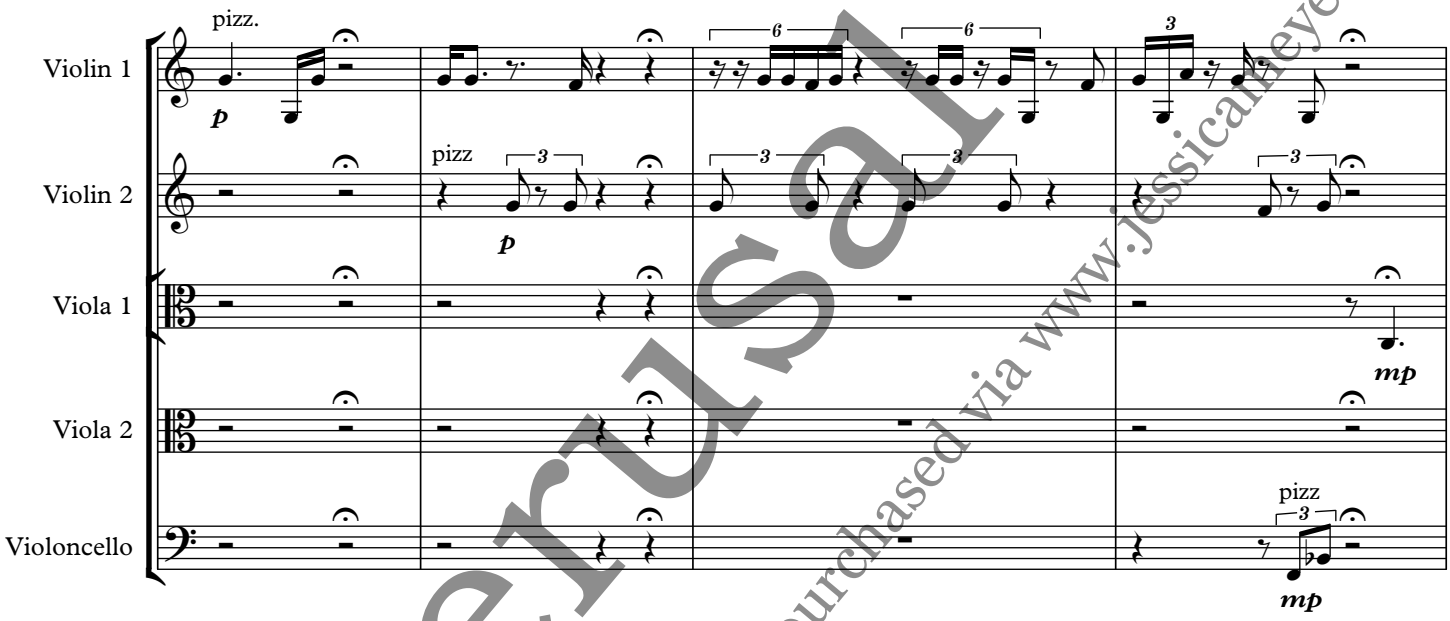
Commissioned by Michael Hostetler and Erica Pascal
for the Hausmannn Quartet

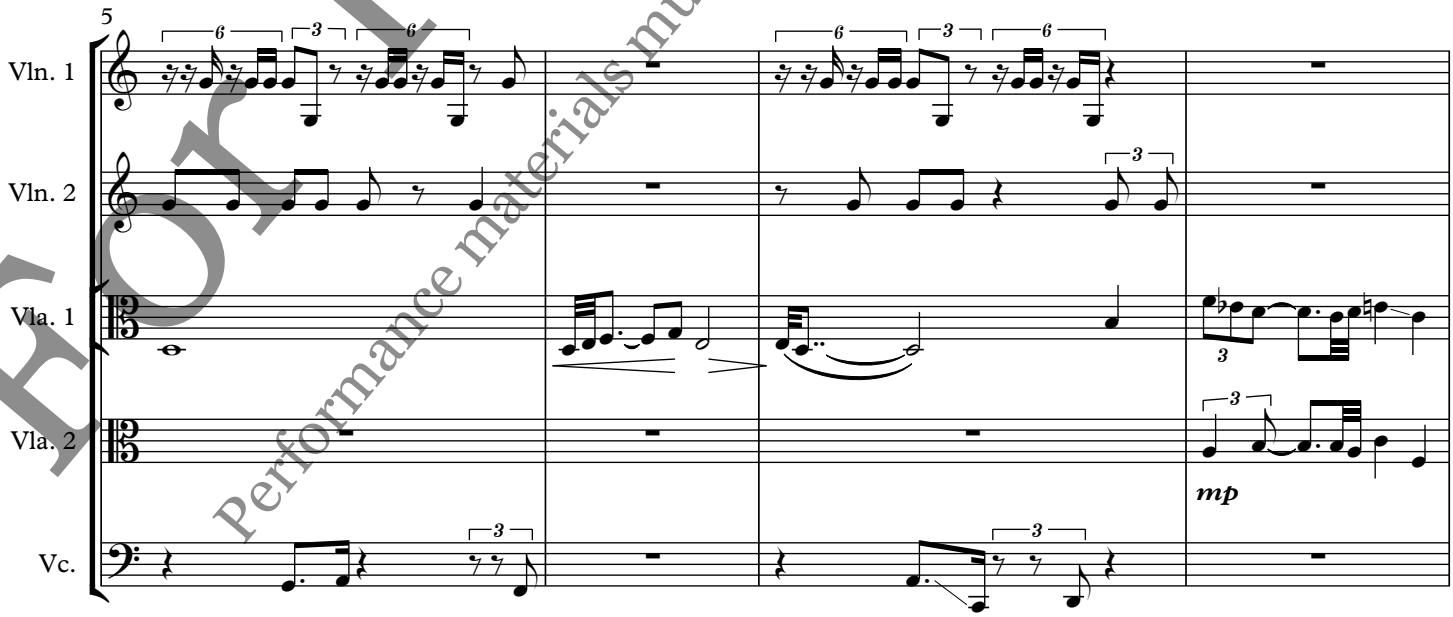
I. Sown Seeds

PERFORMANCE NOTES
- Glissandi always for entire note value
-All trills are to the next natural pitch above
-Exaggerate all accents and swells

♩ = 50 **Germinating**

JESSICA MEYER





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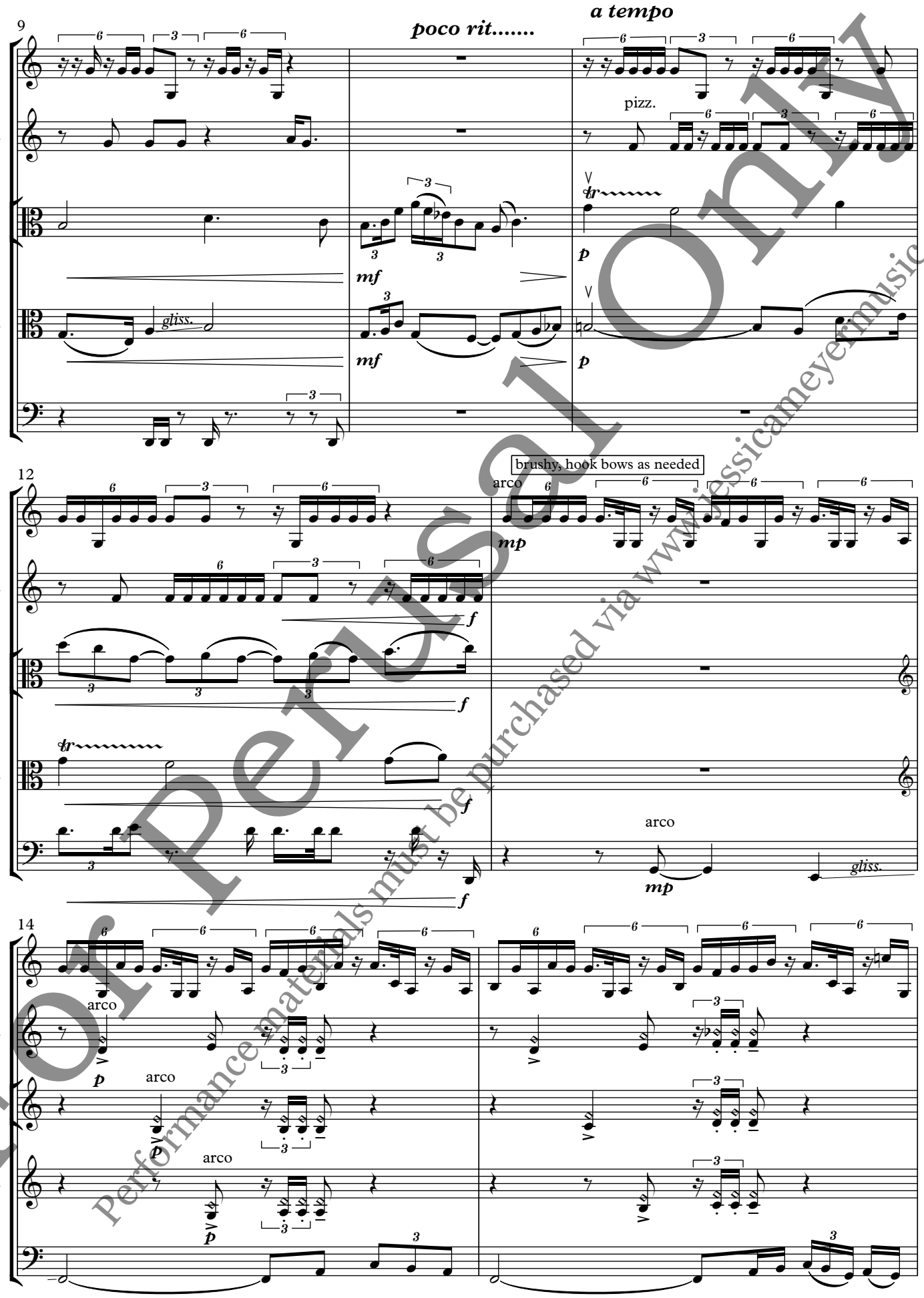

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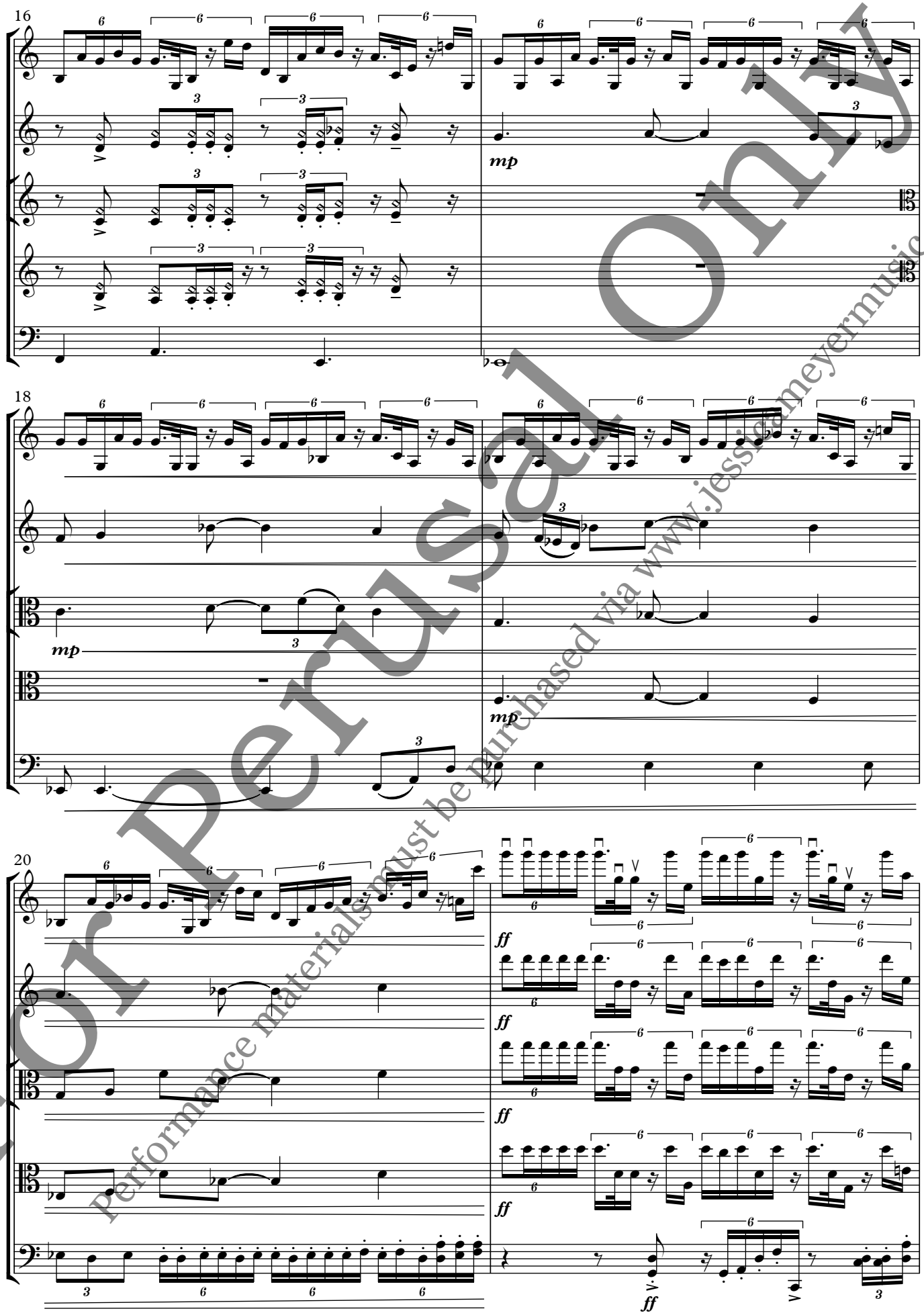

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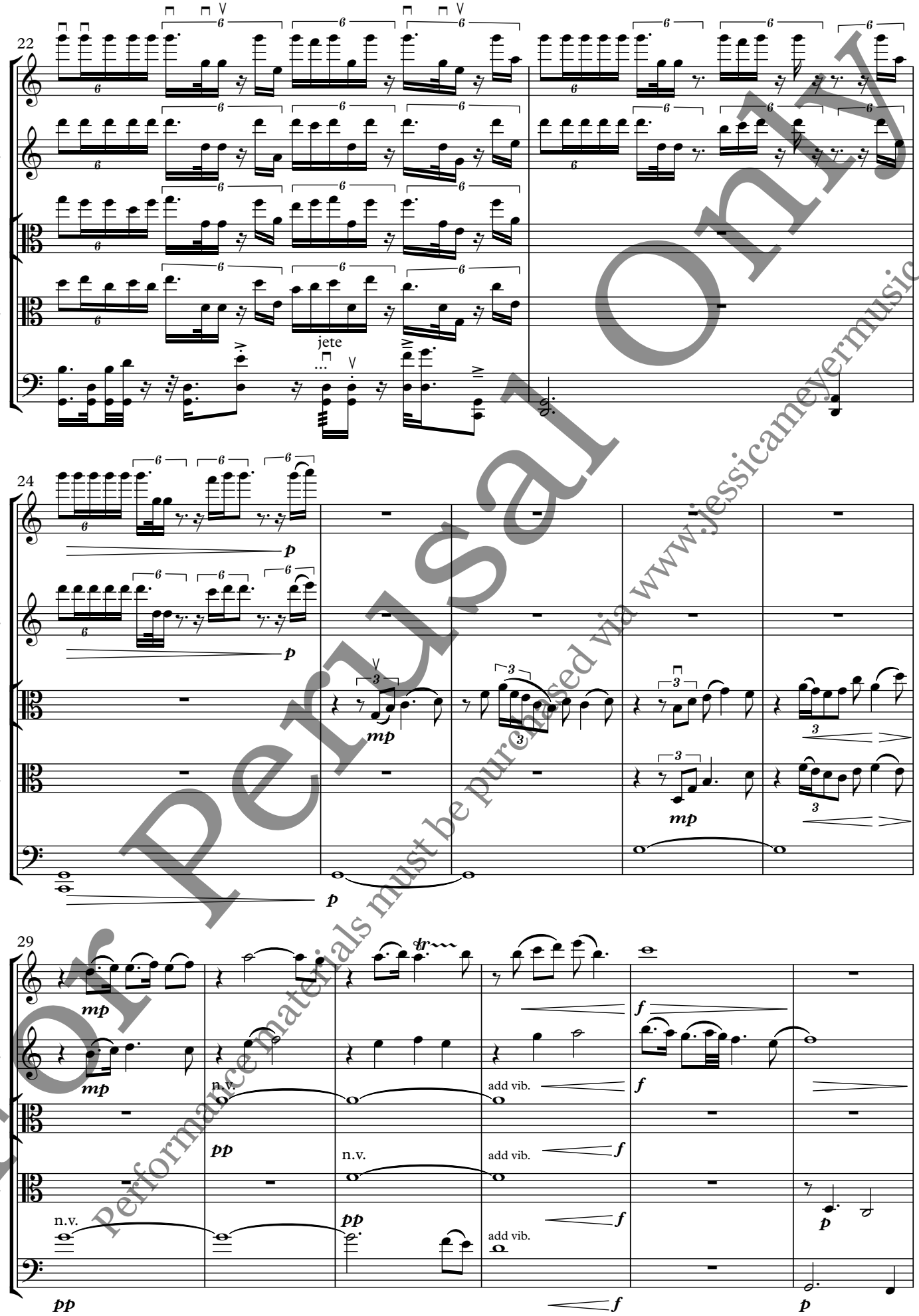

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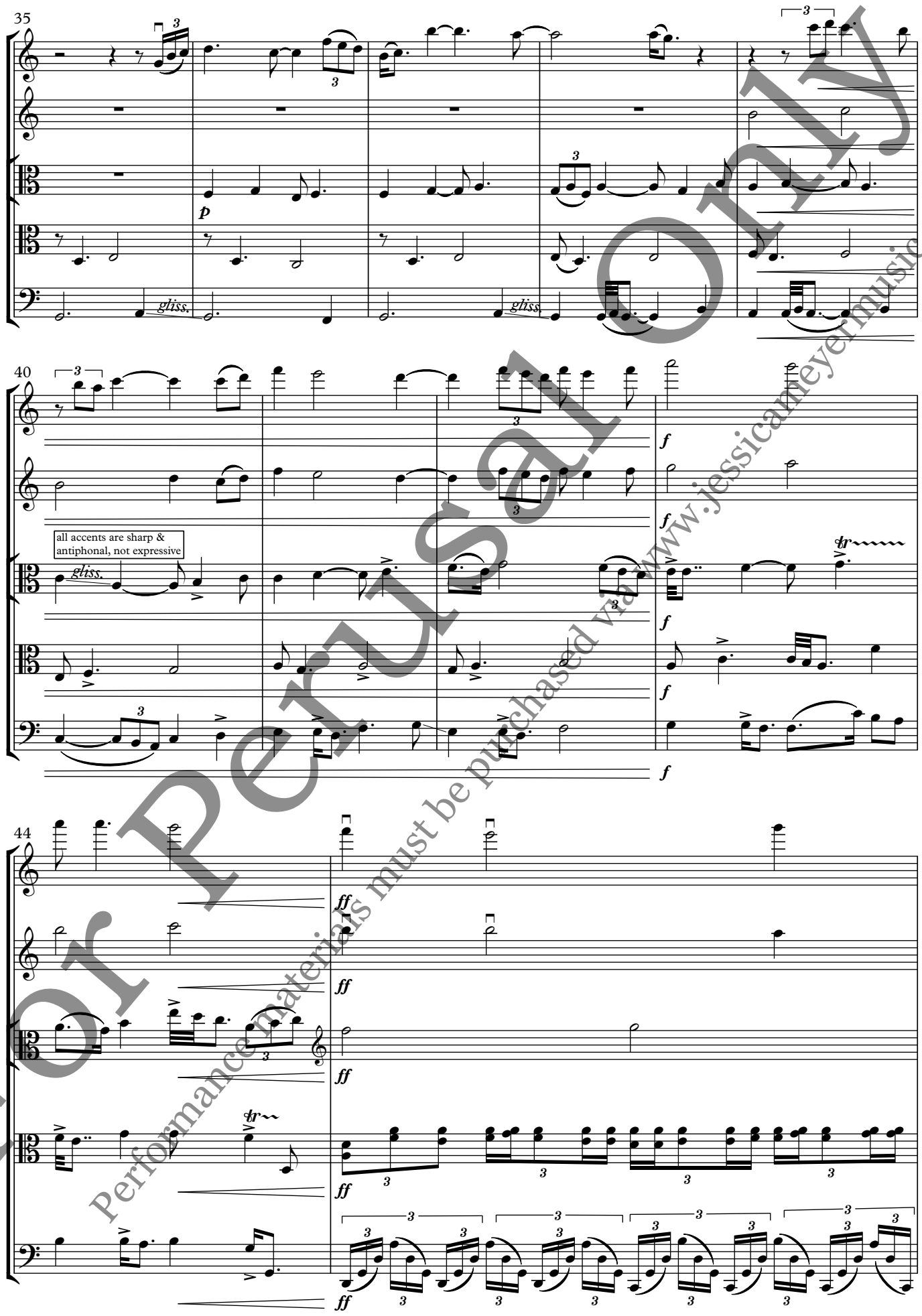

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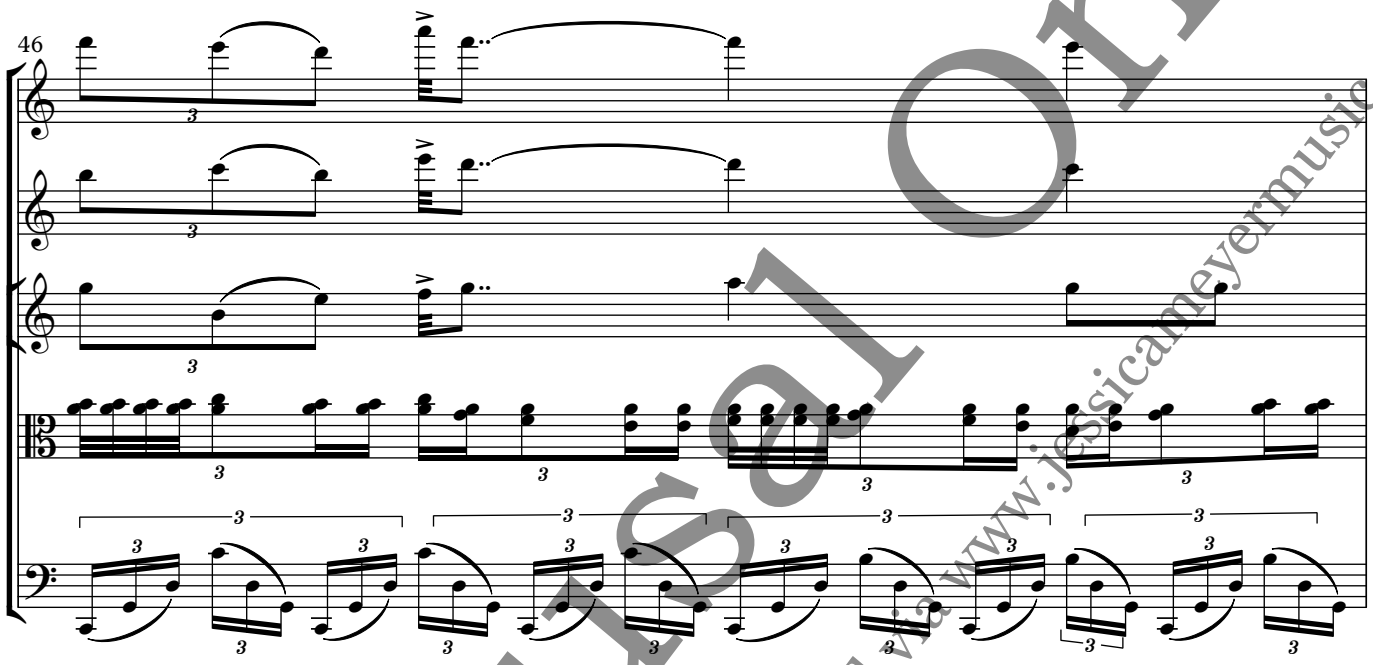

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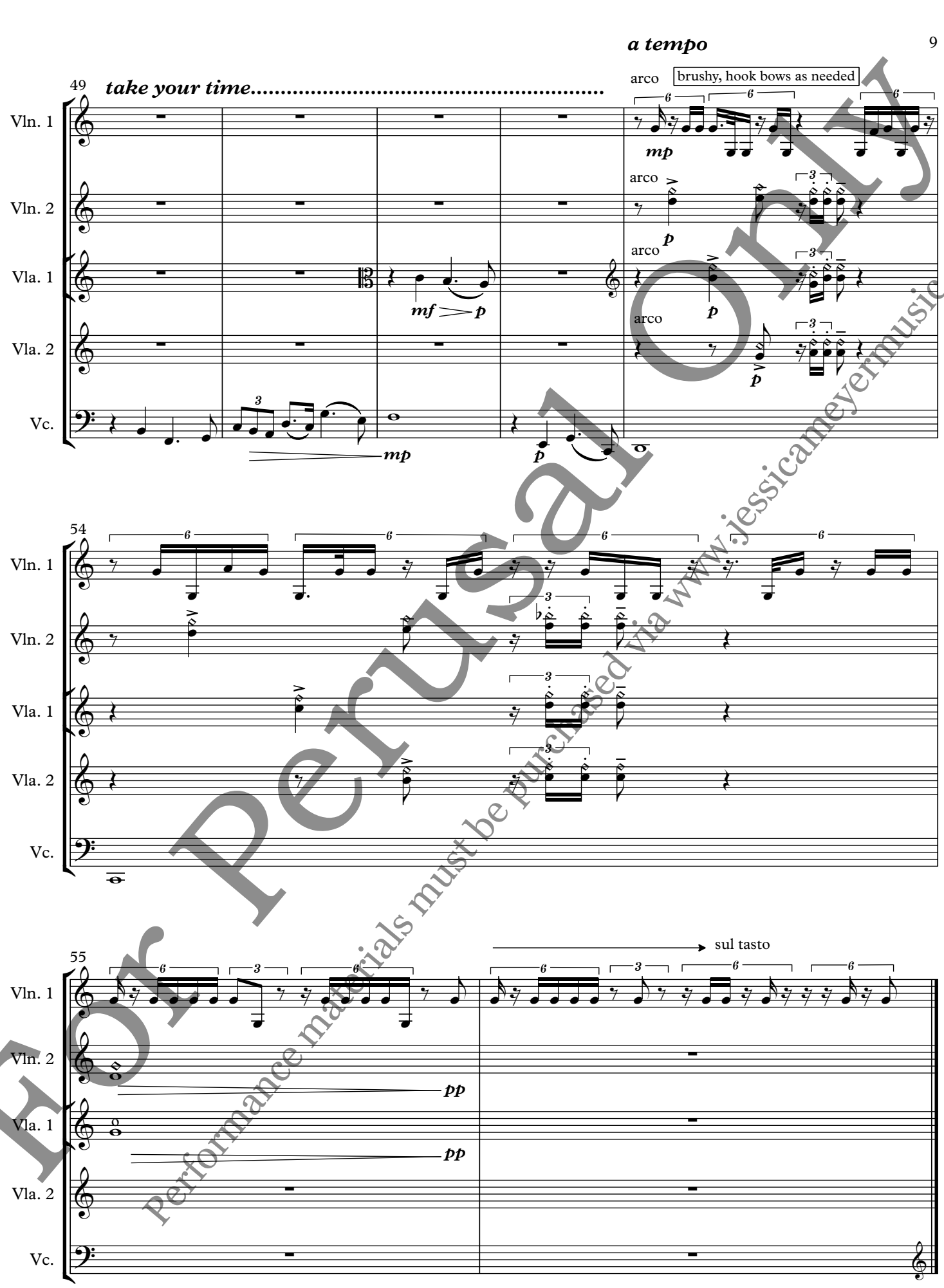

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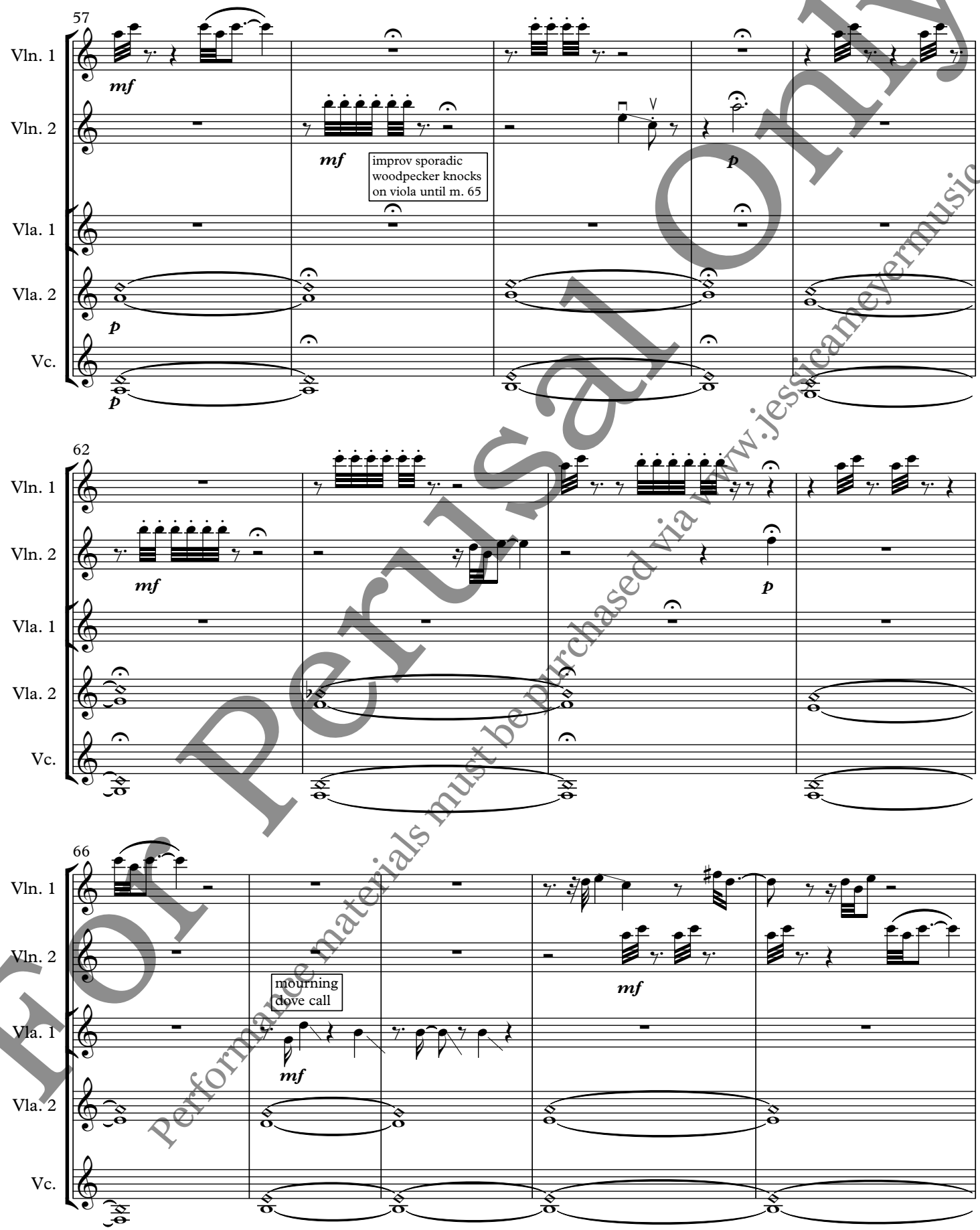
II. Zen Branches

♩ = 80 **Ethereal**



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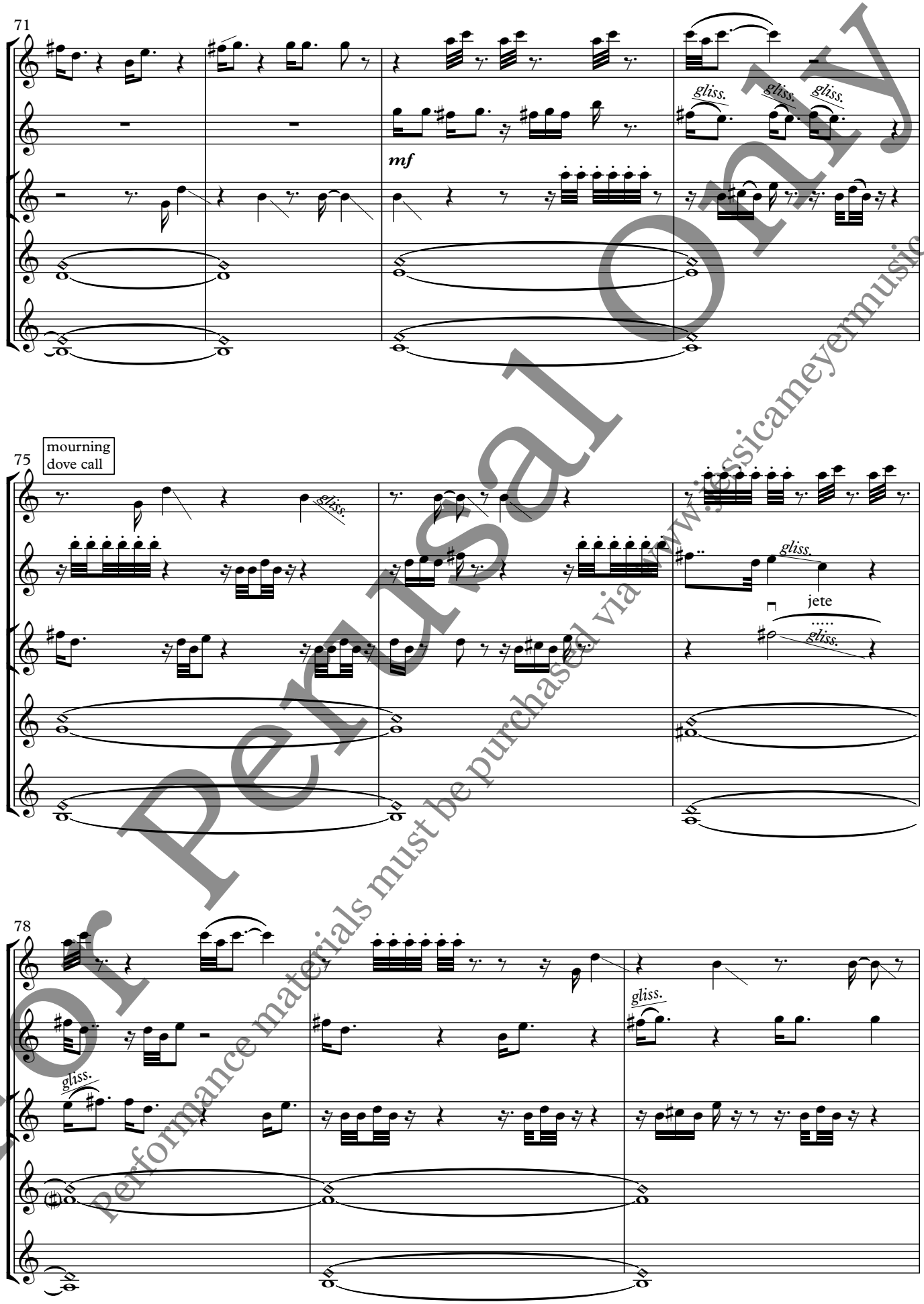

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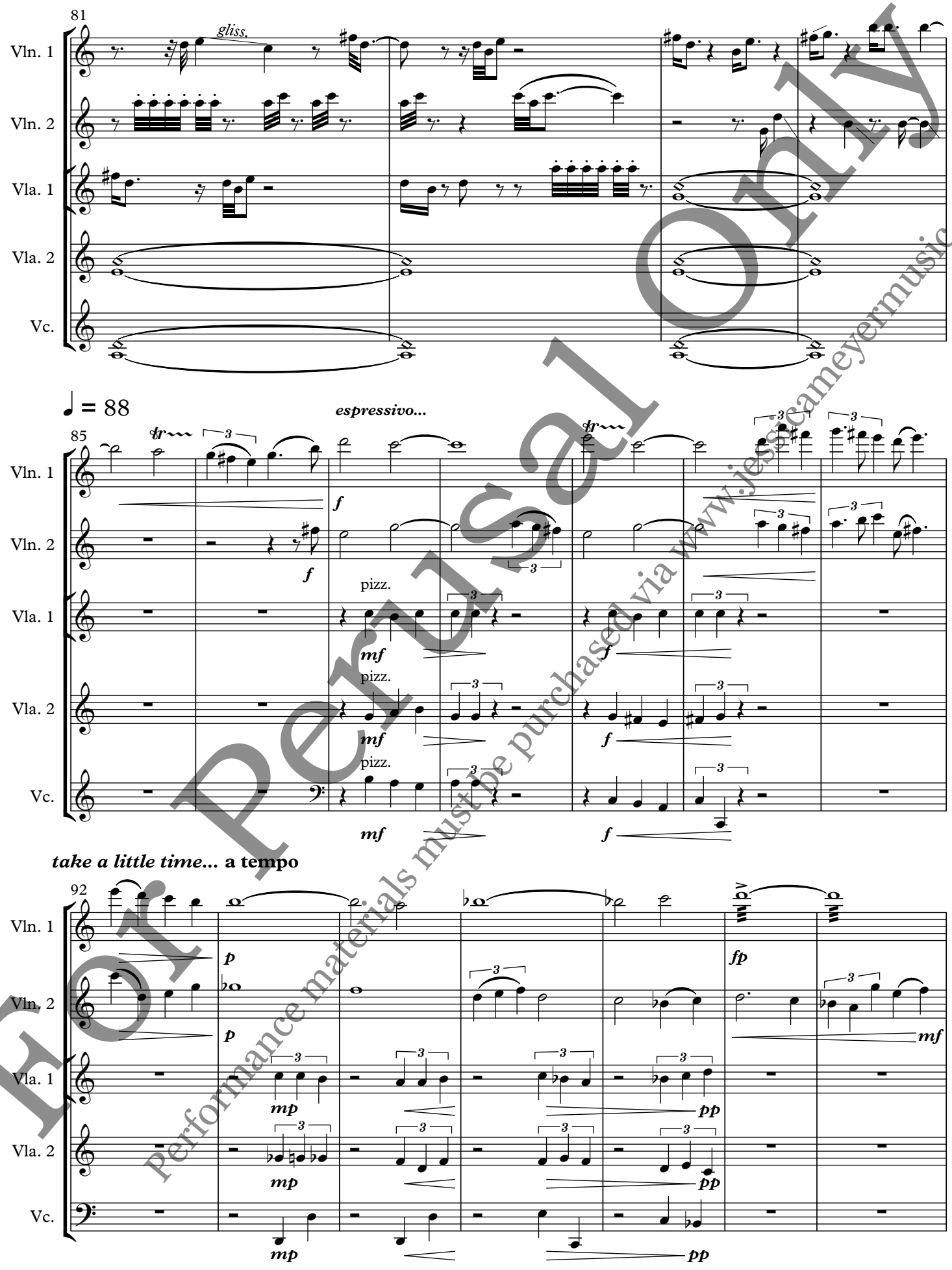

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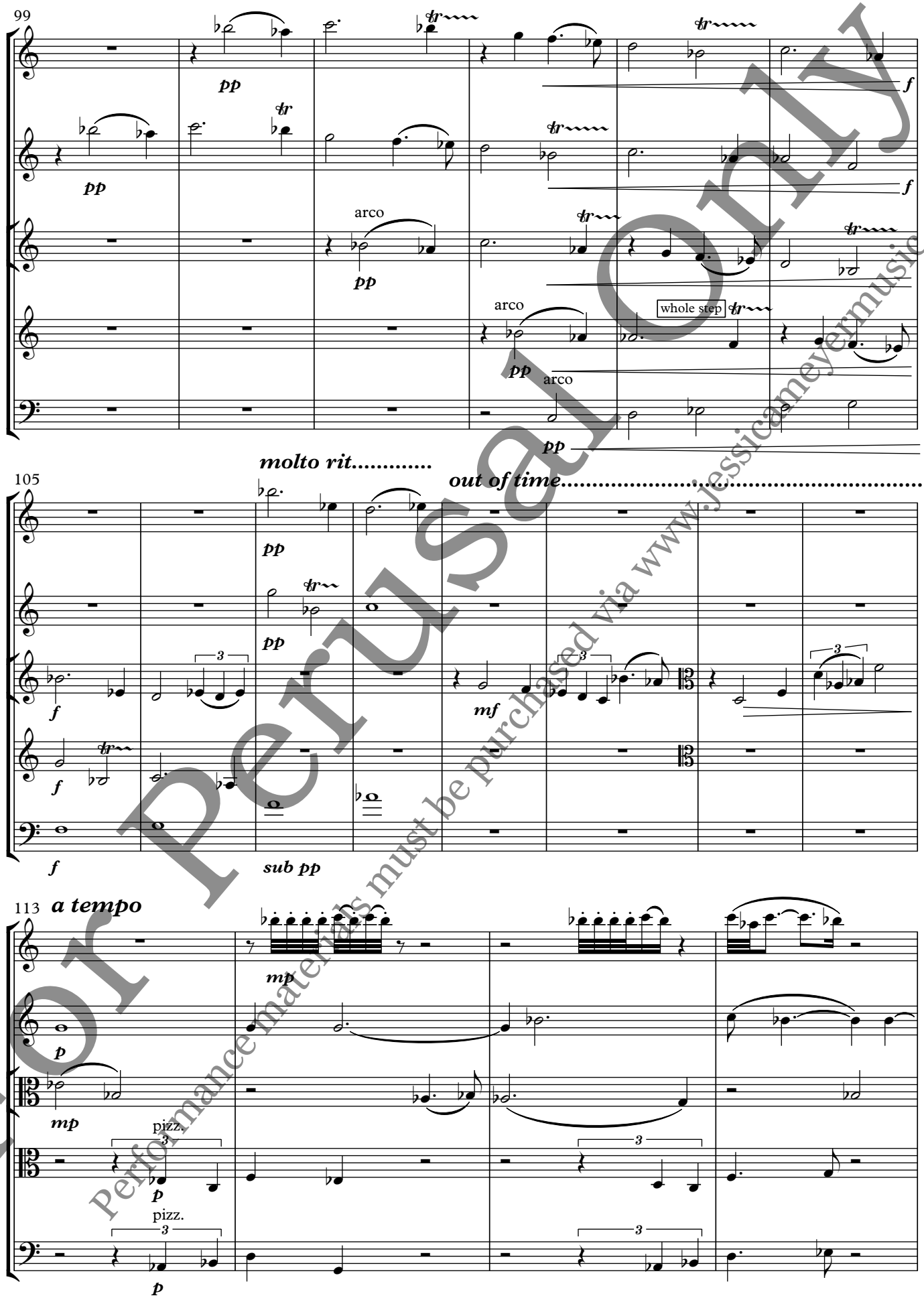

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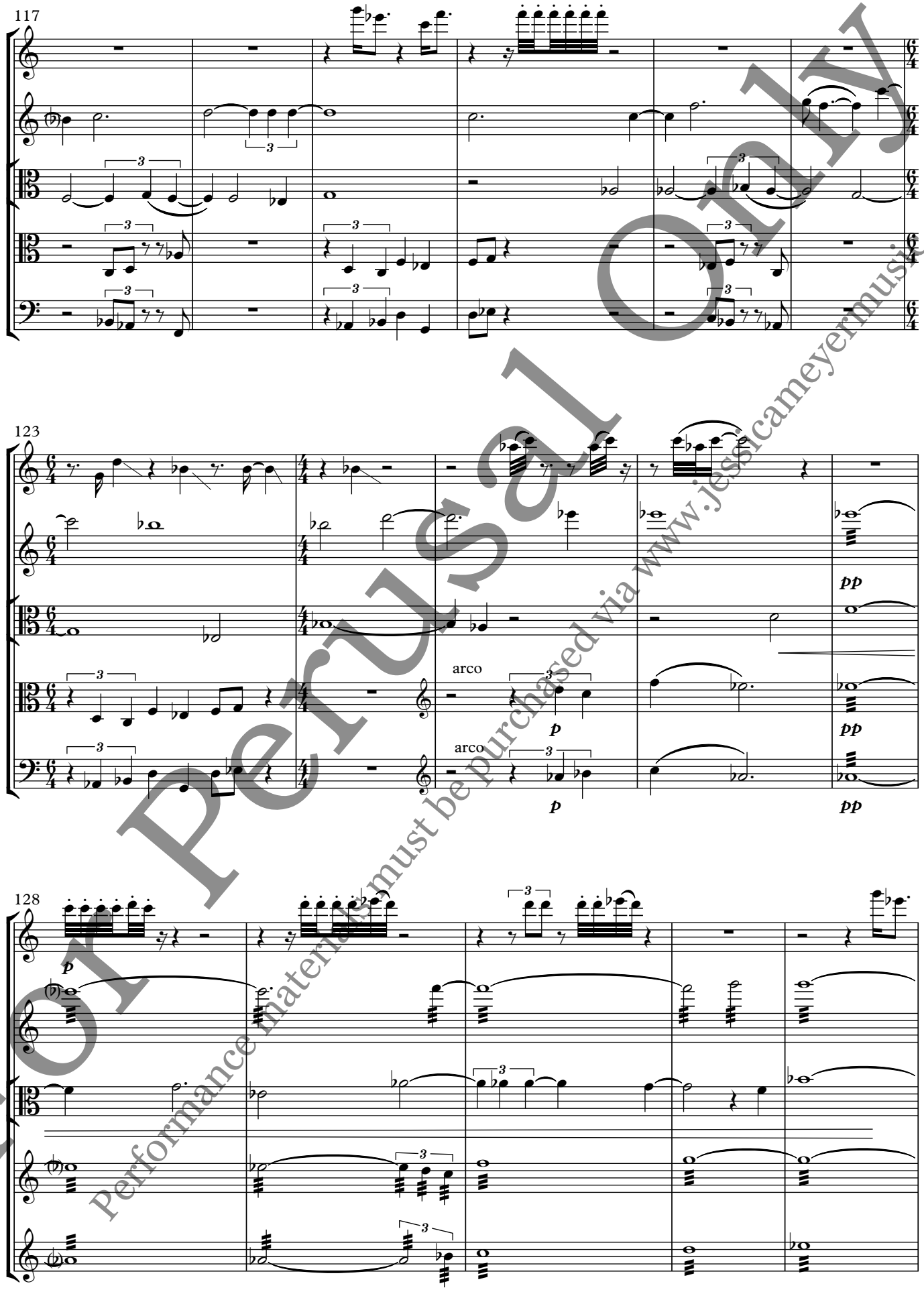

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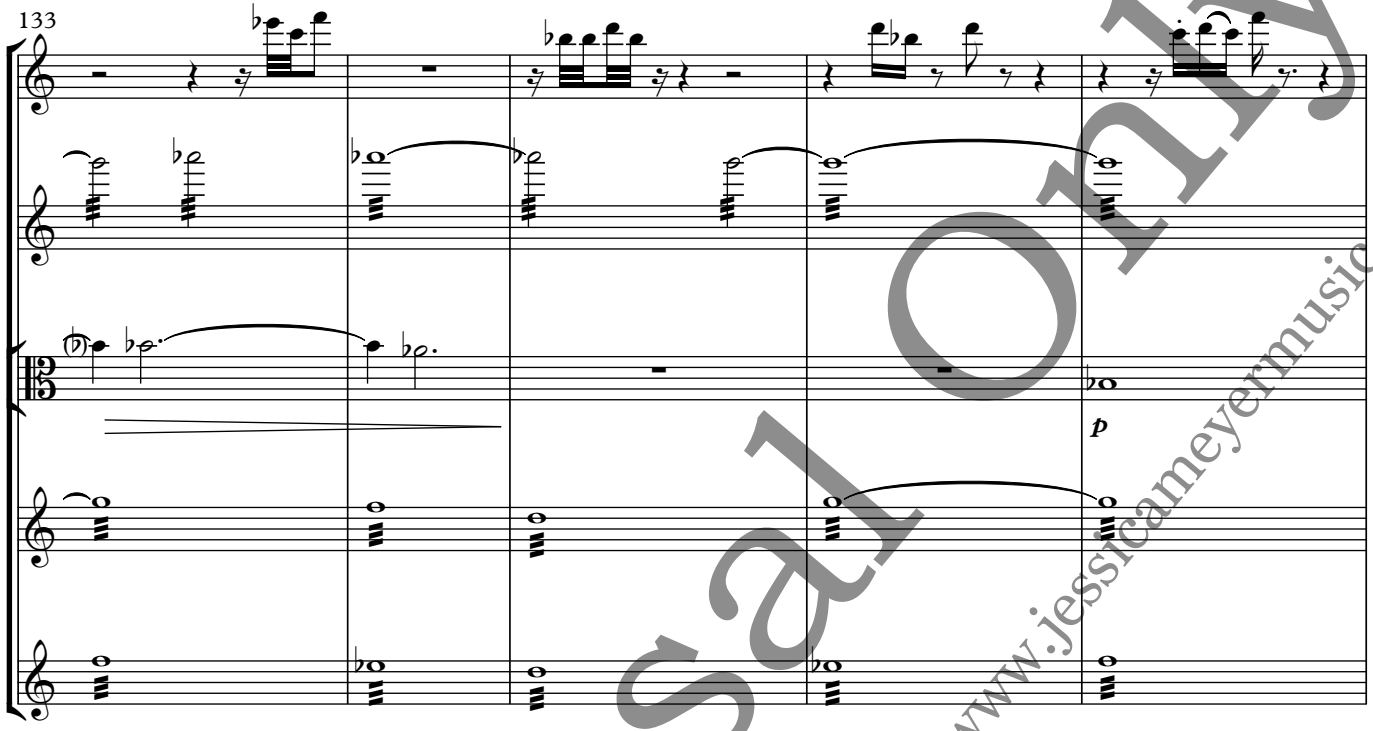

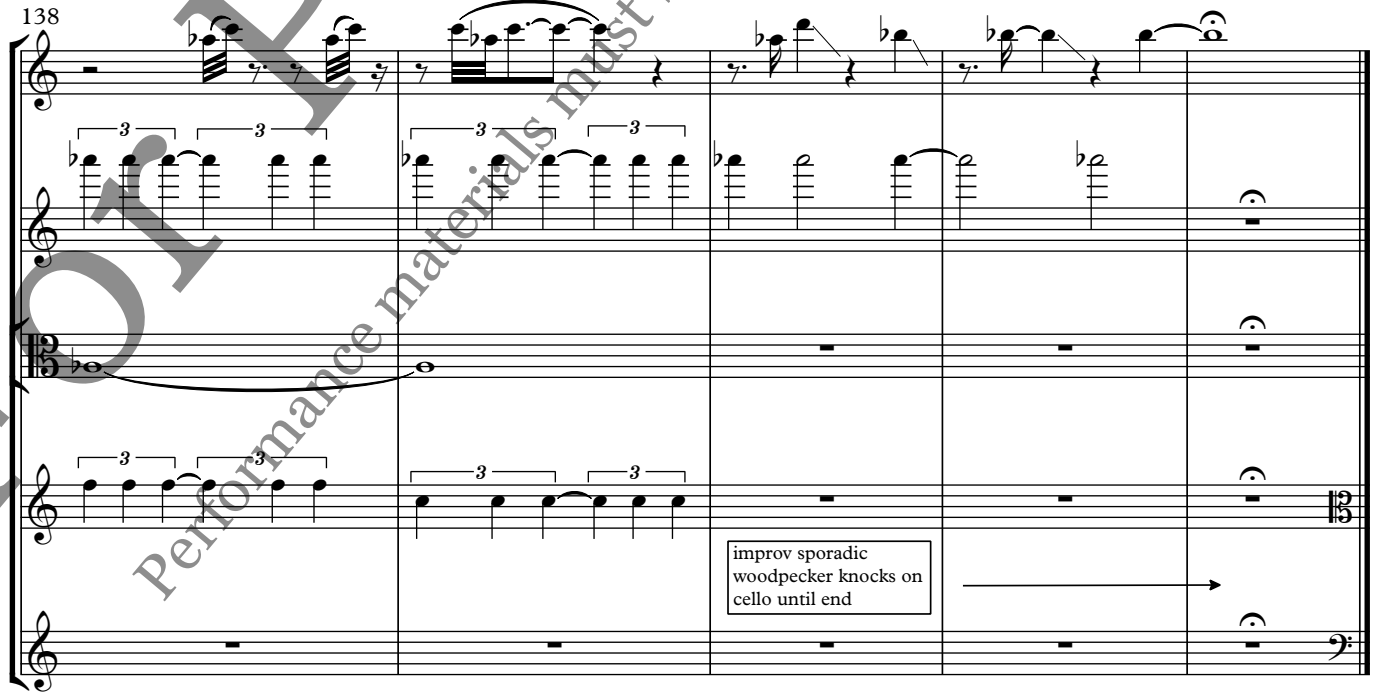

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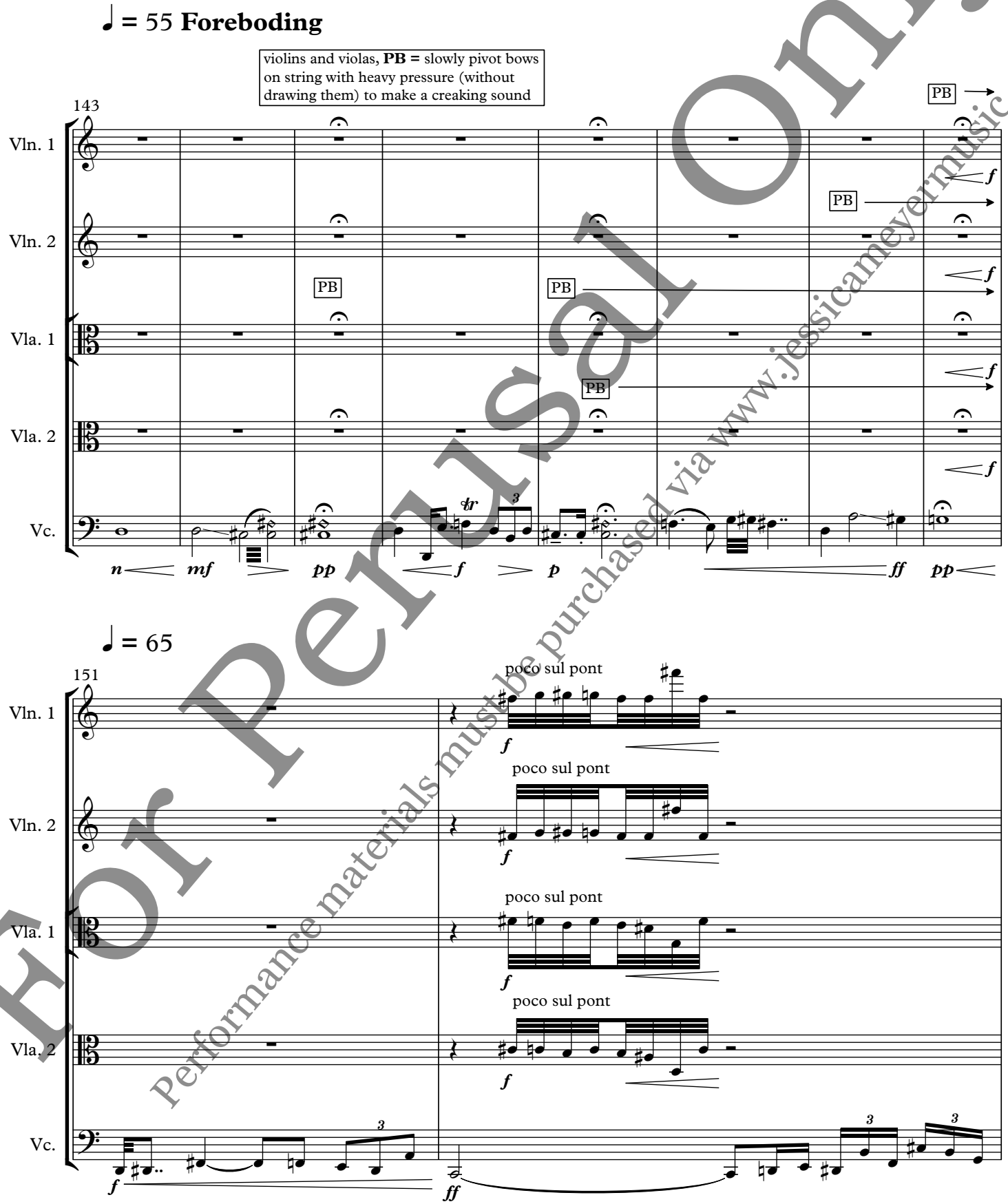
III. Dissevered



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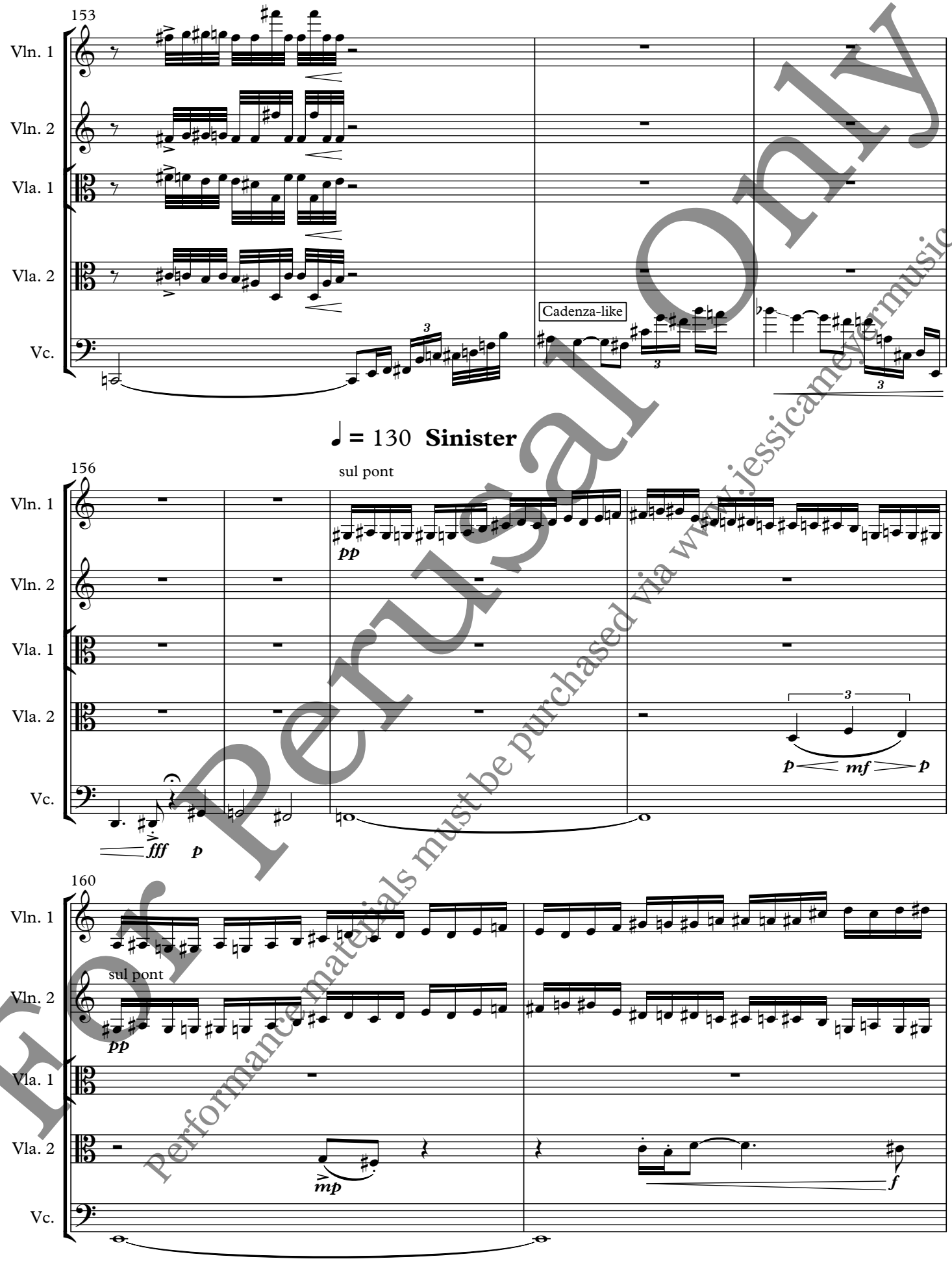

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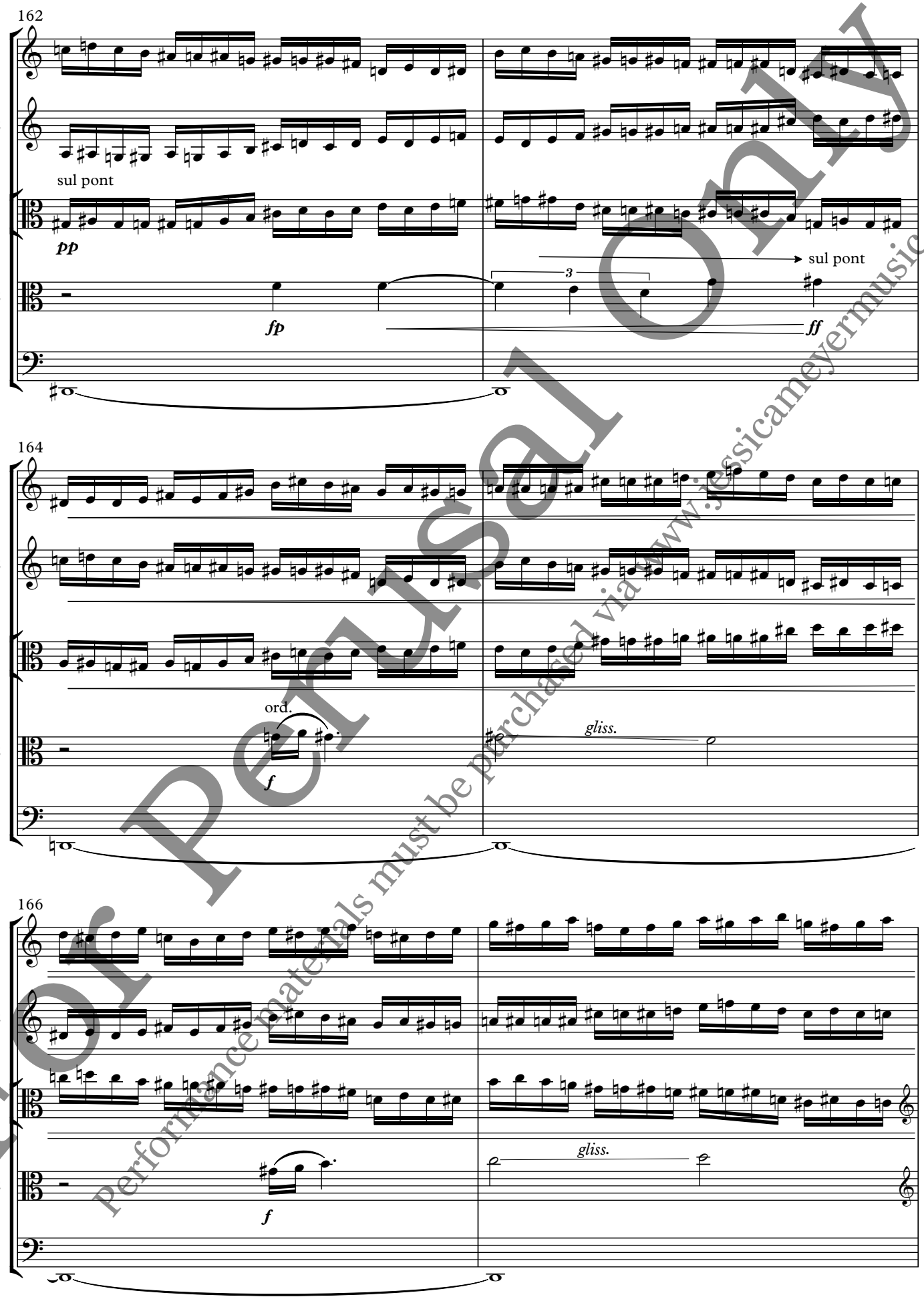

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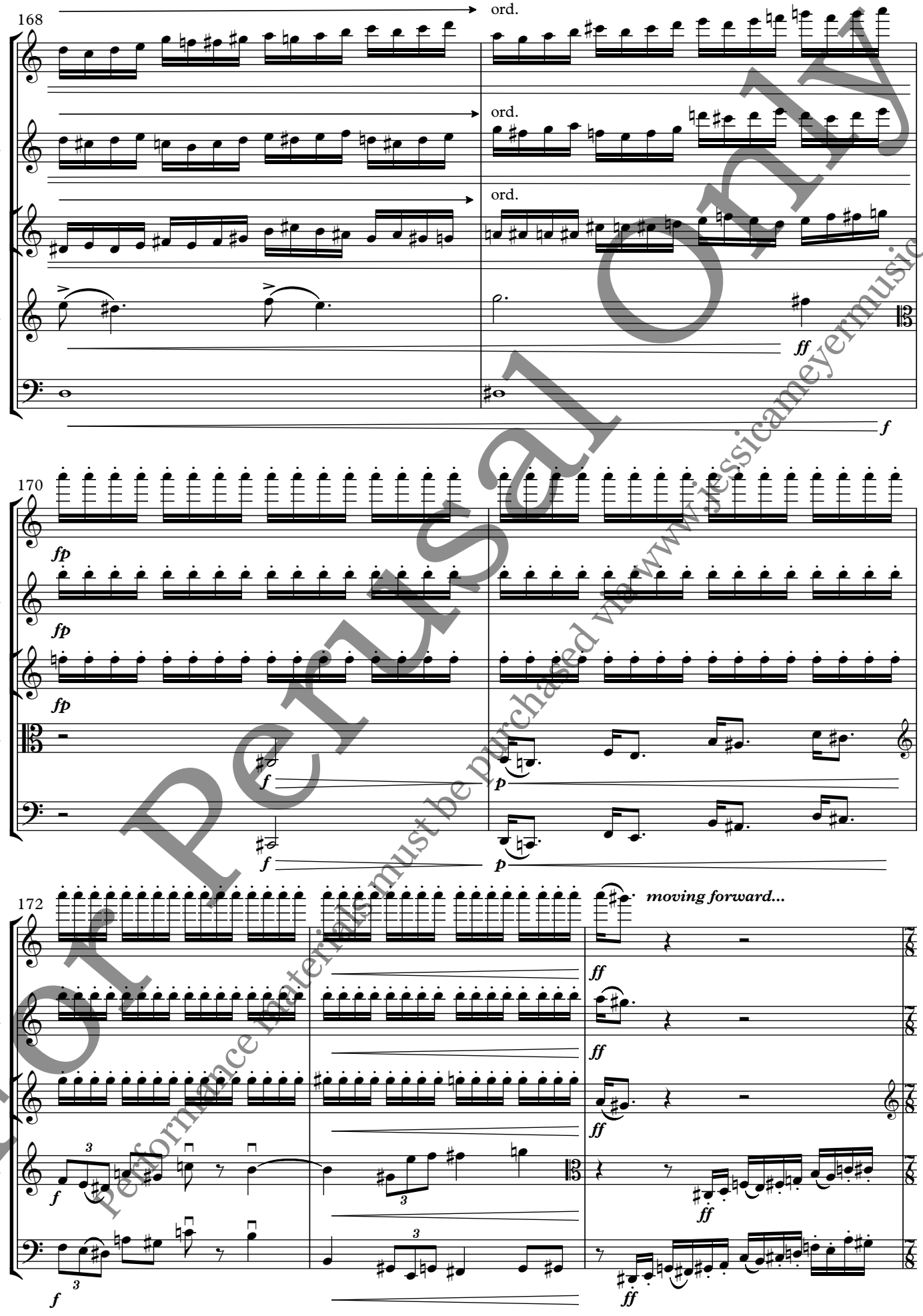

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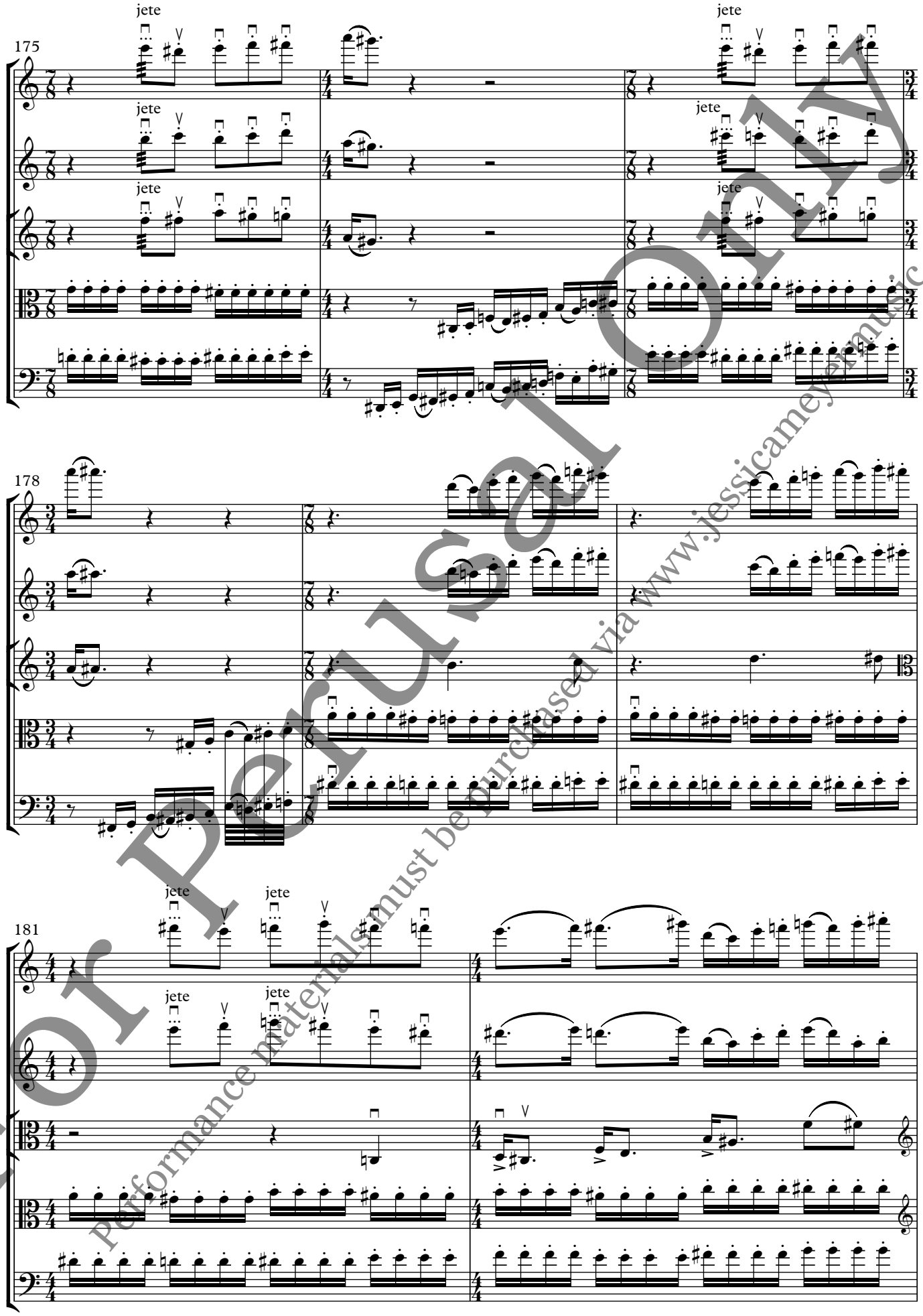

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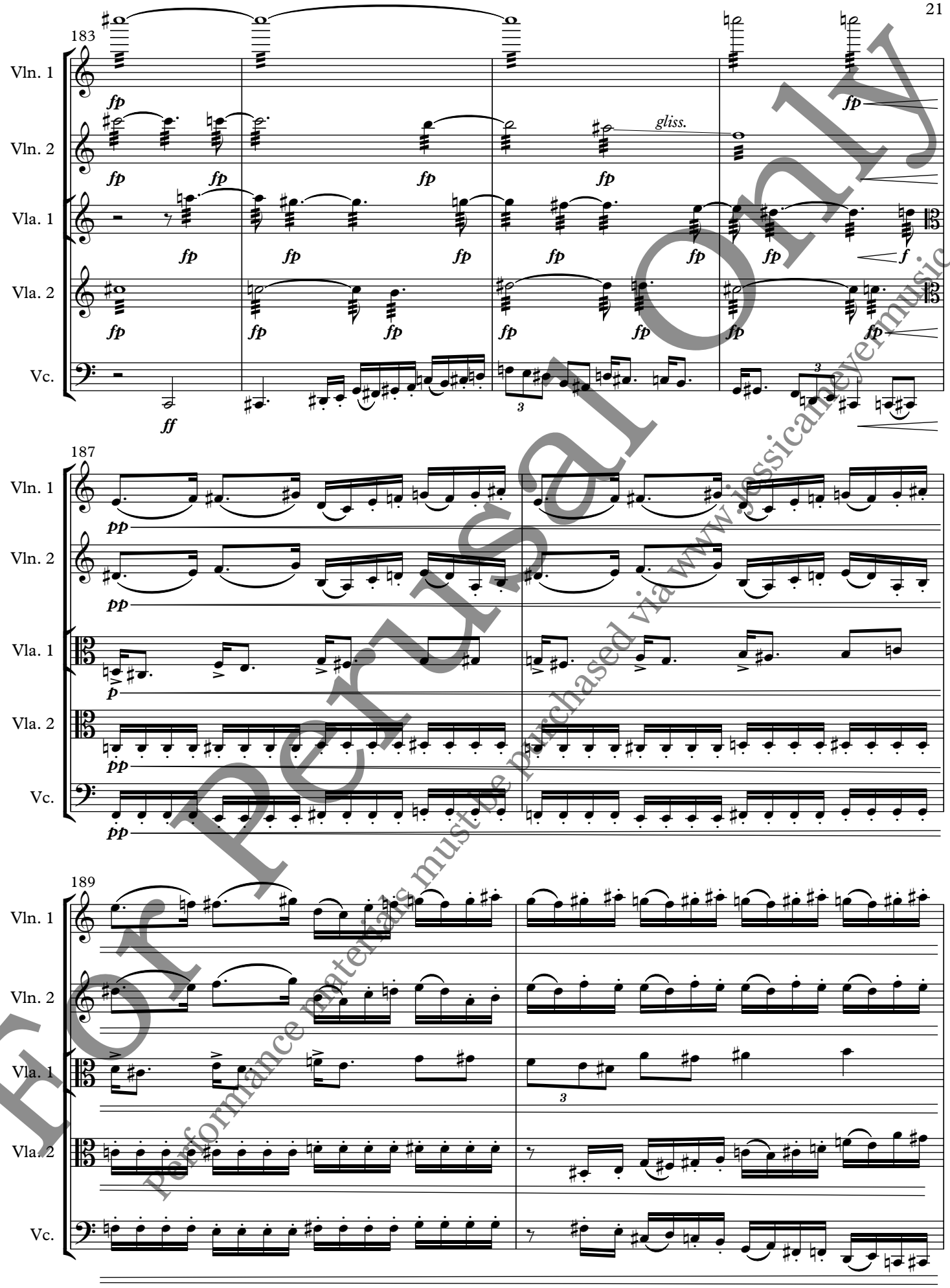

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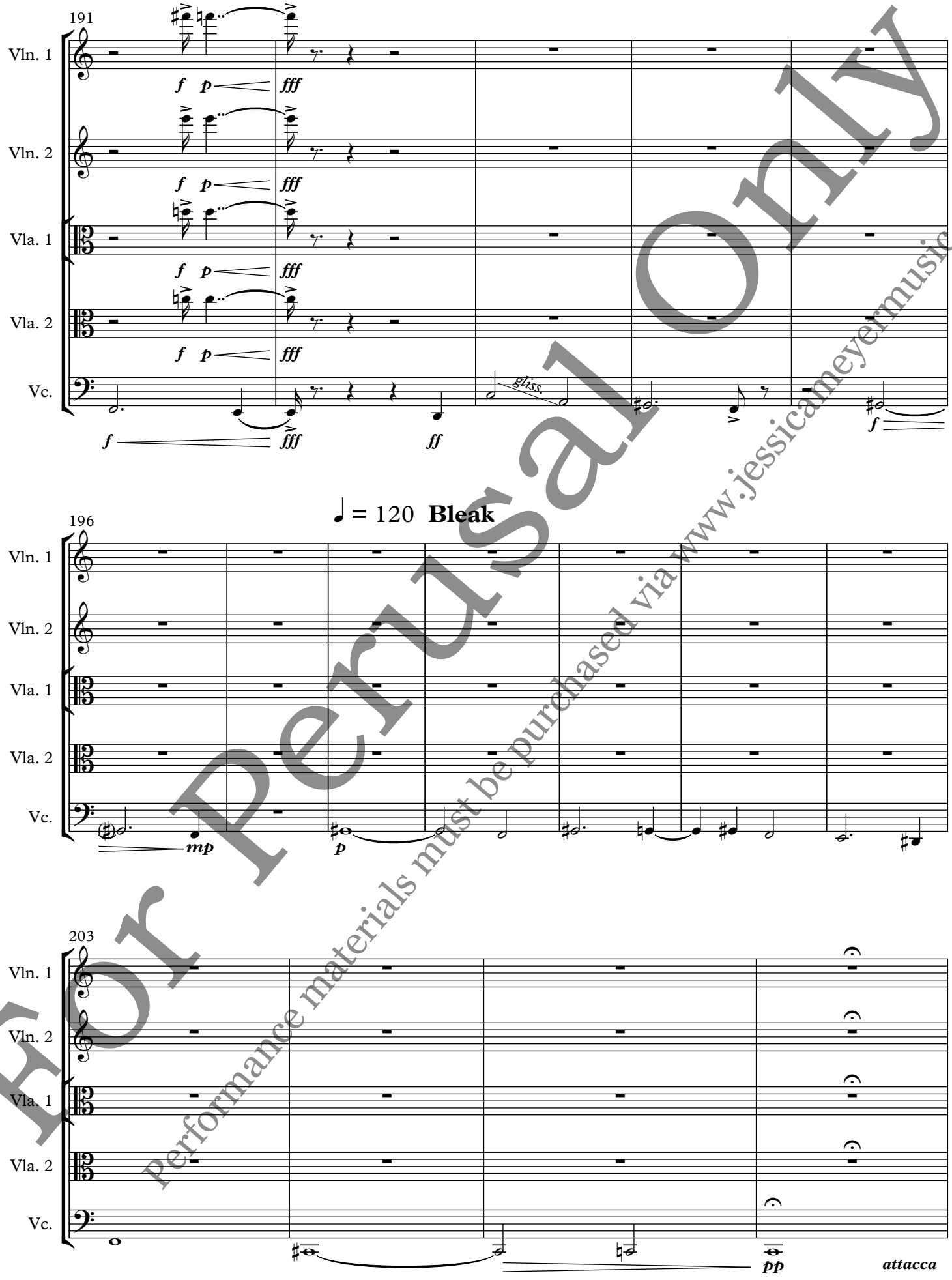

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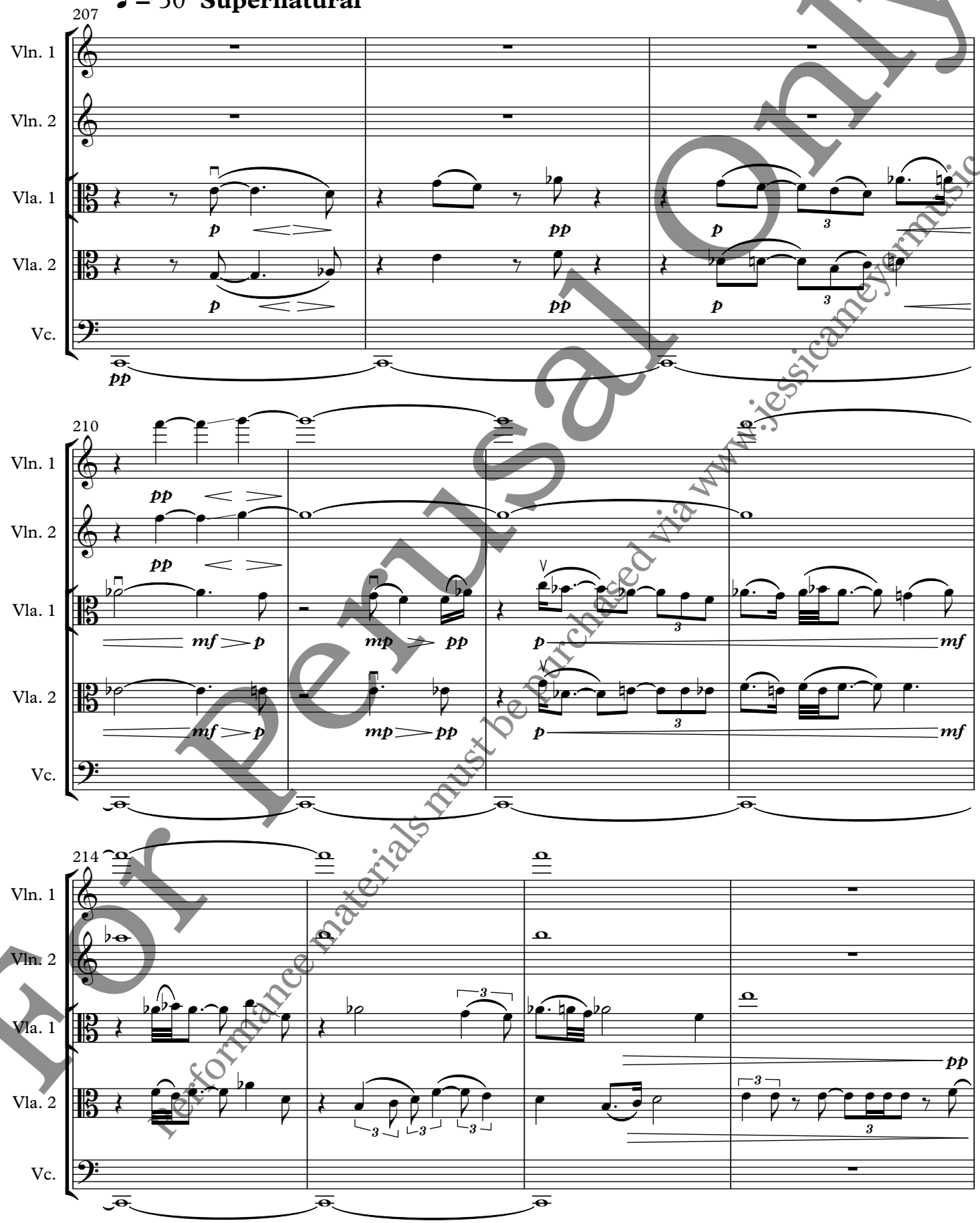
IV. Reverie of Renewal

♩ = 50 **Supernatural**



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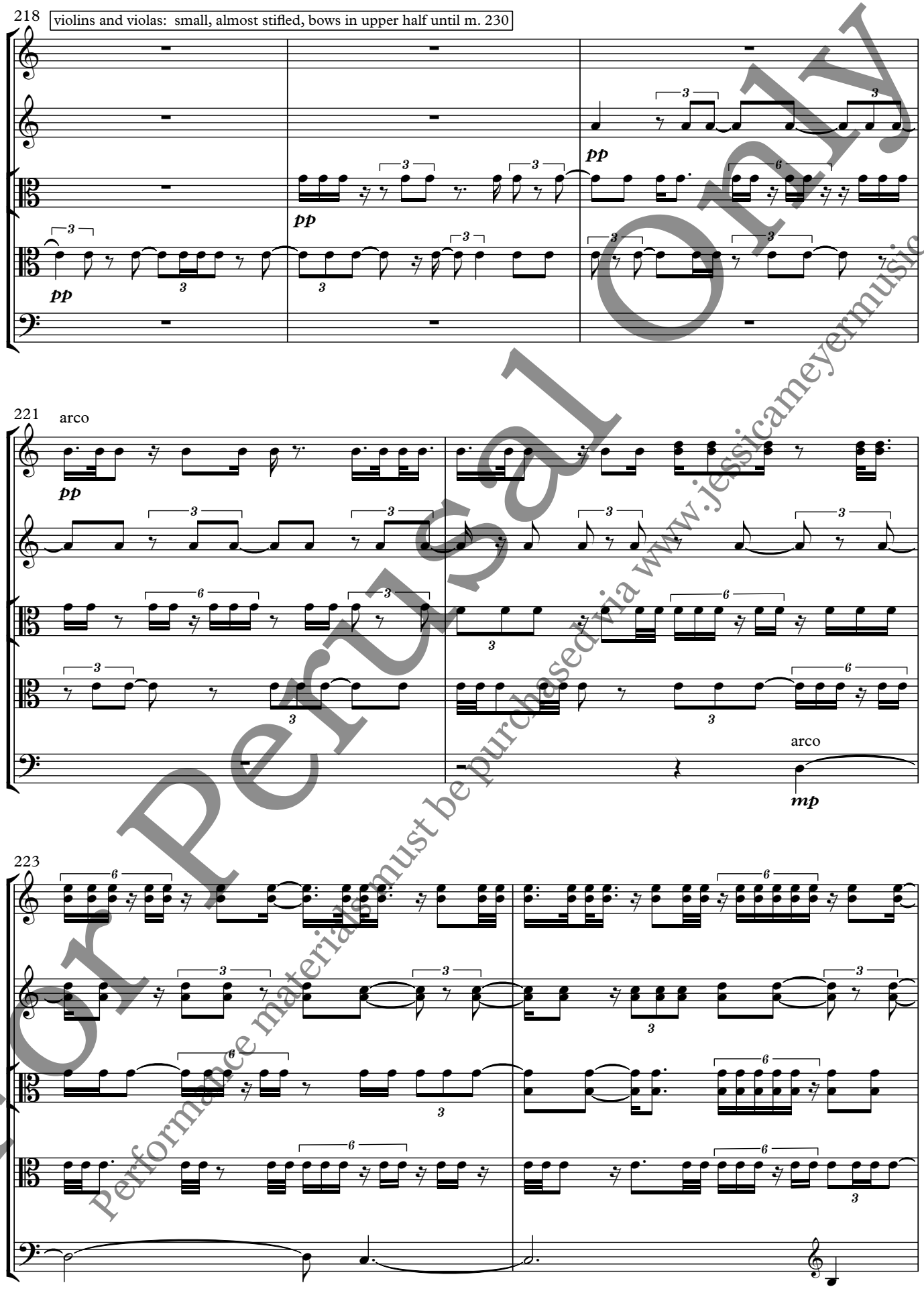

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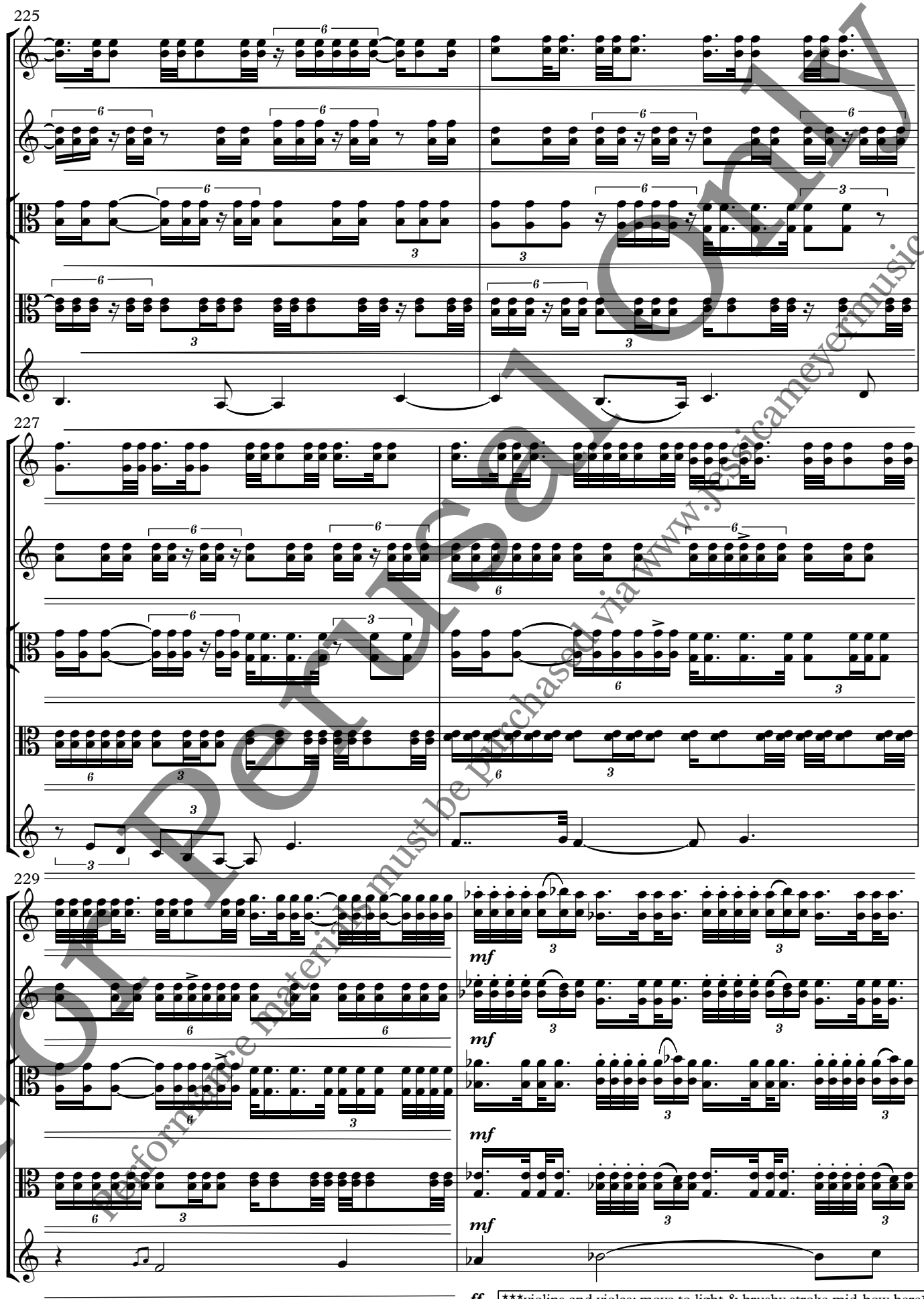

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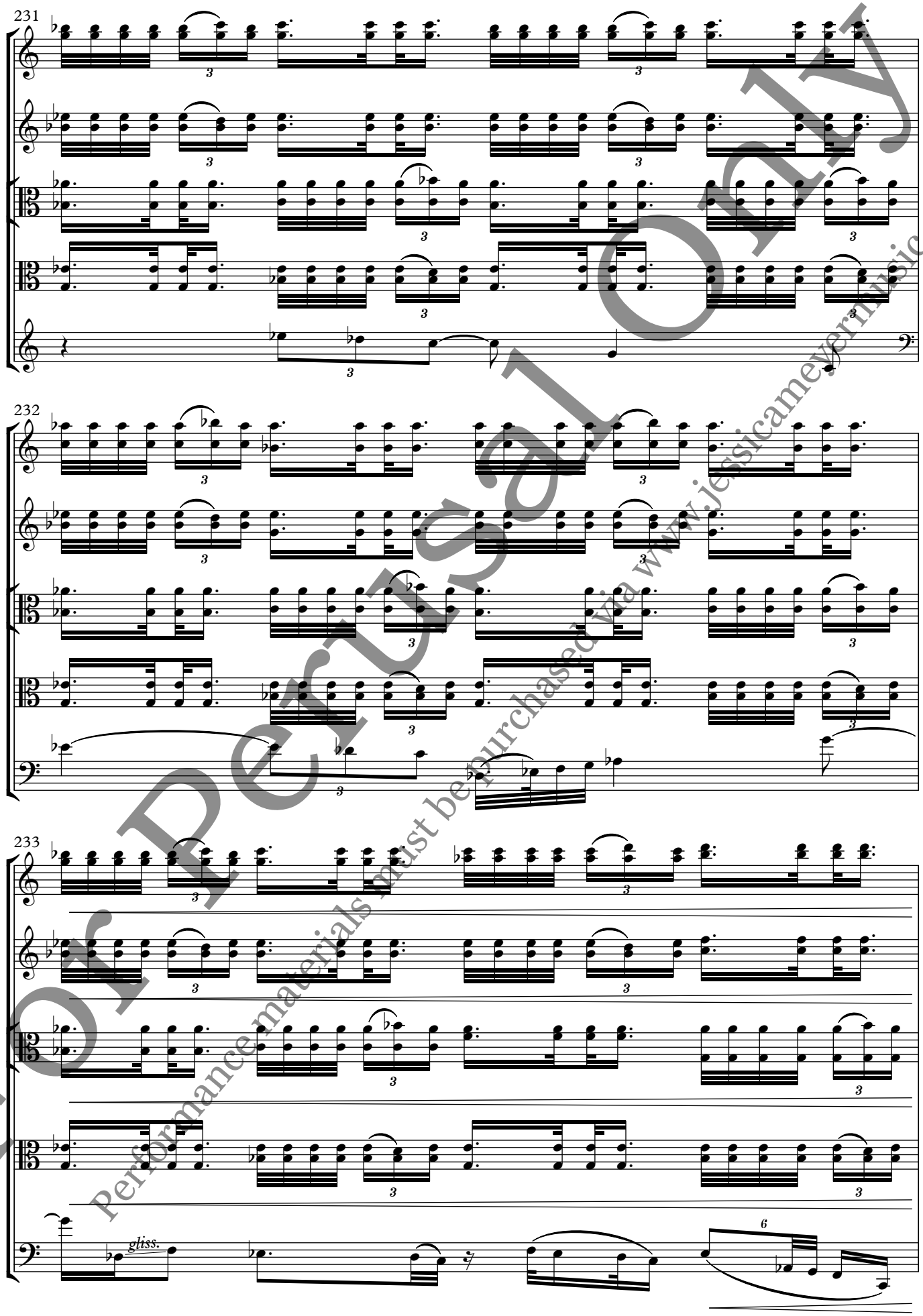

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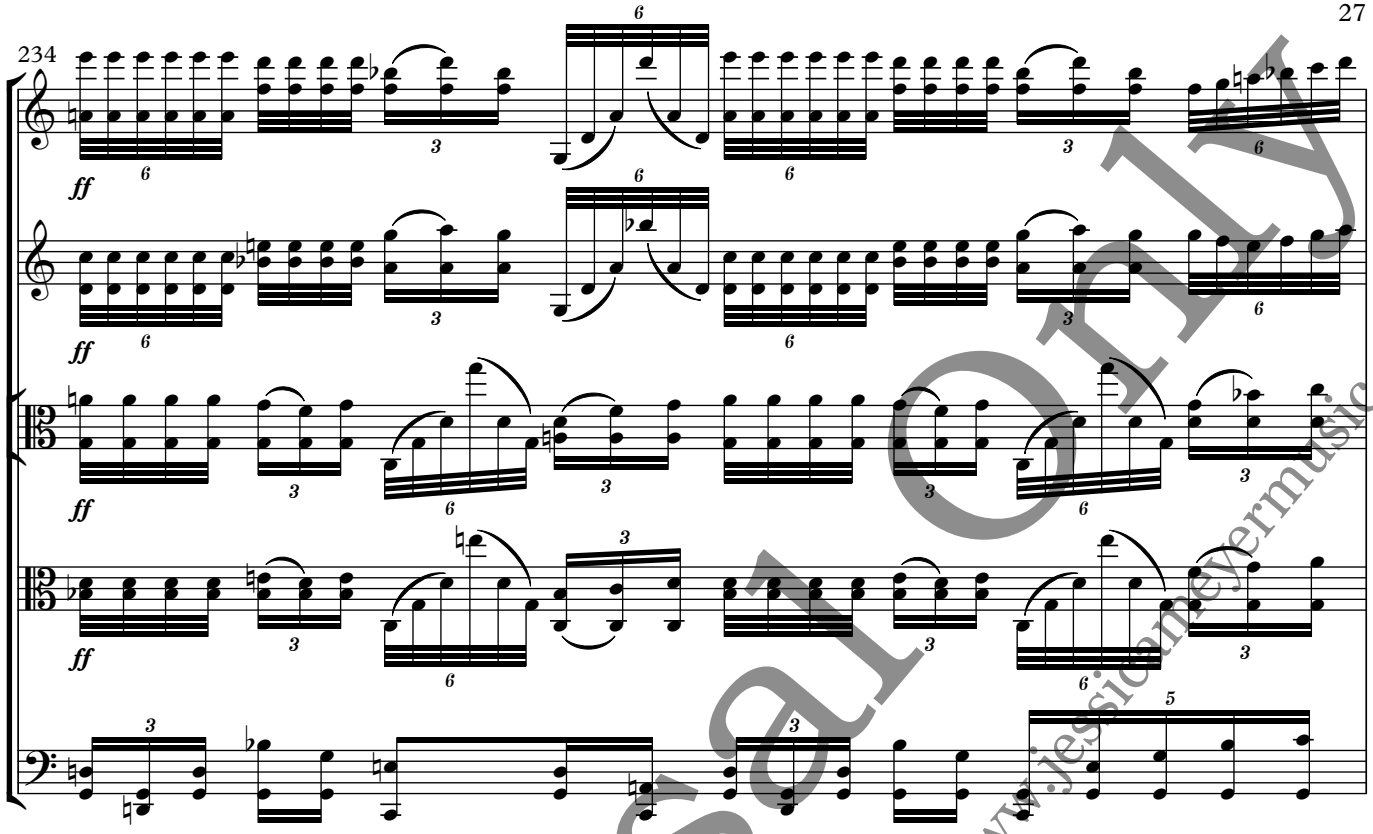

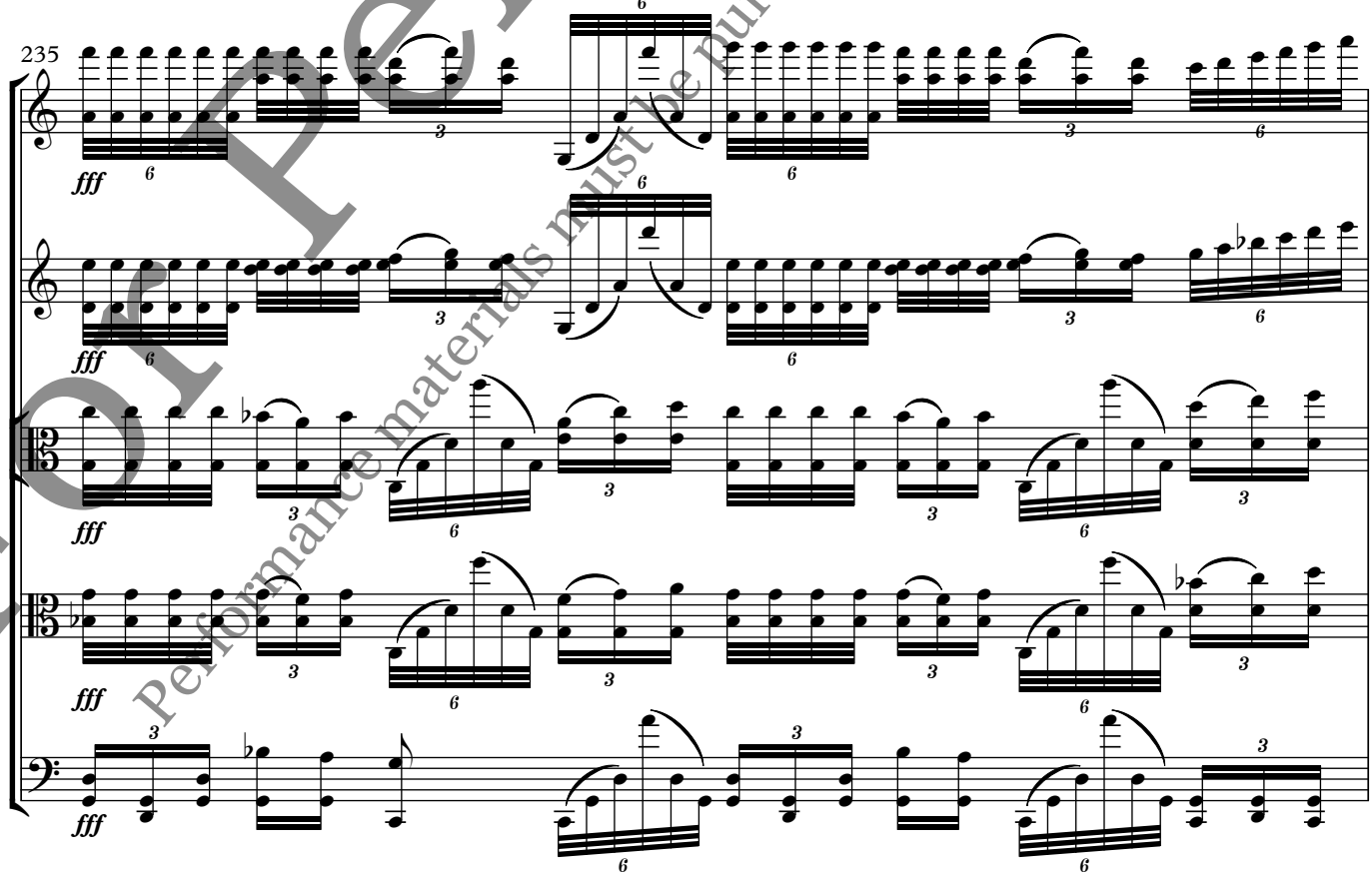

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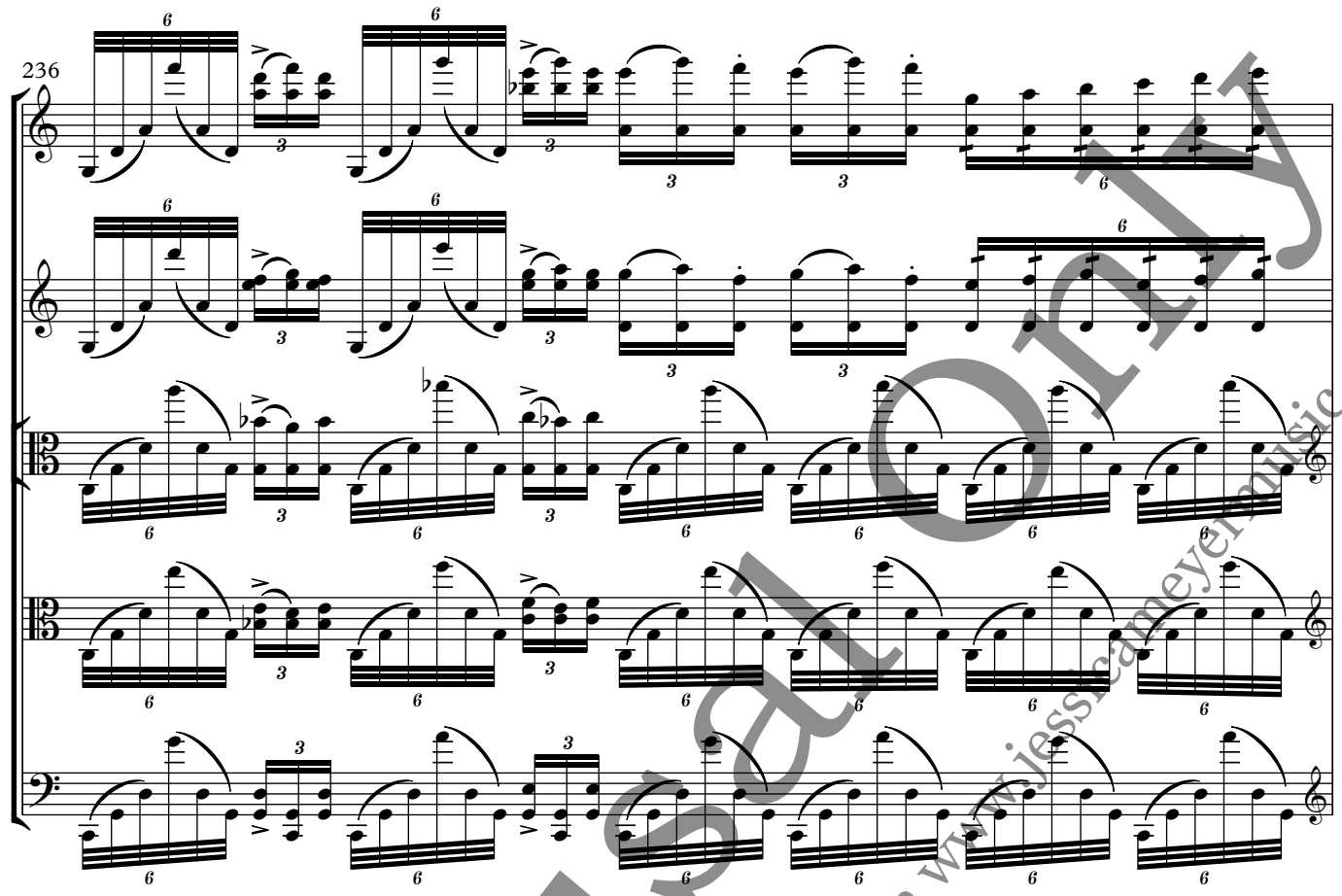

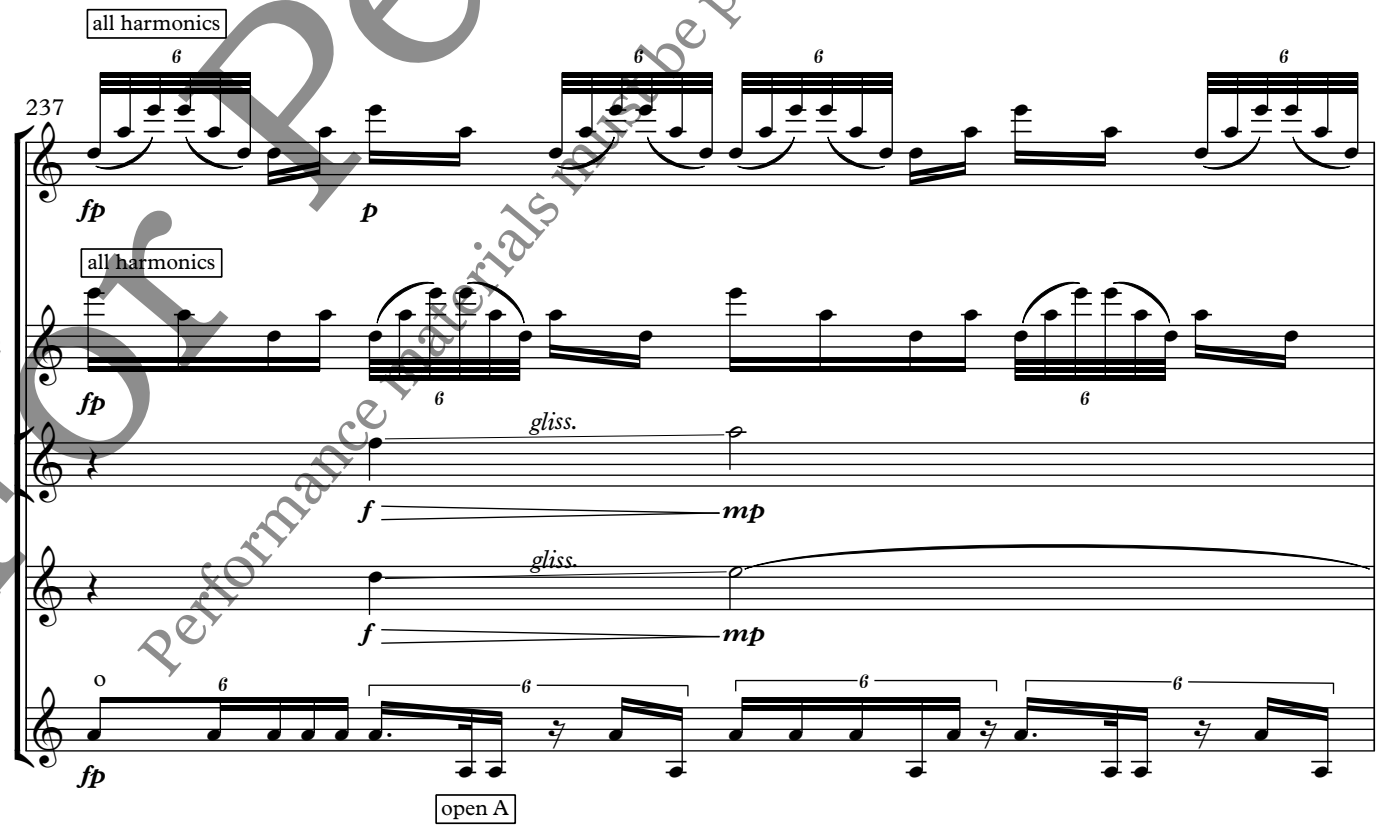

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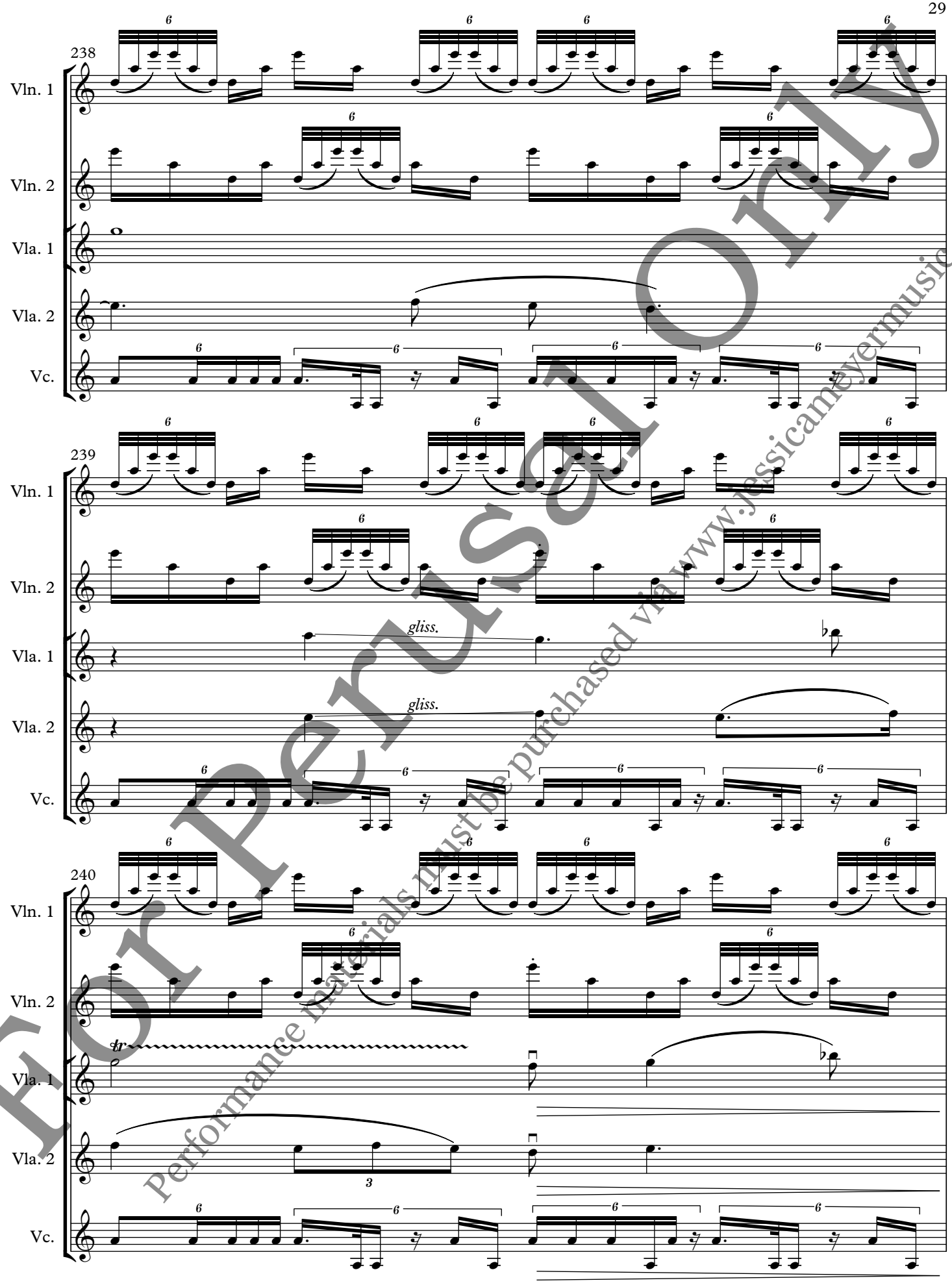

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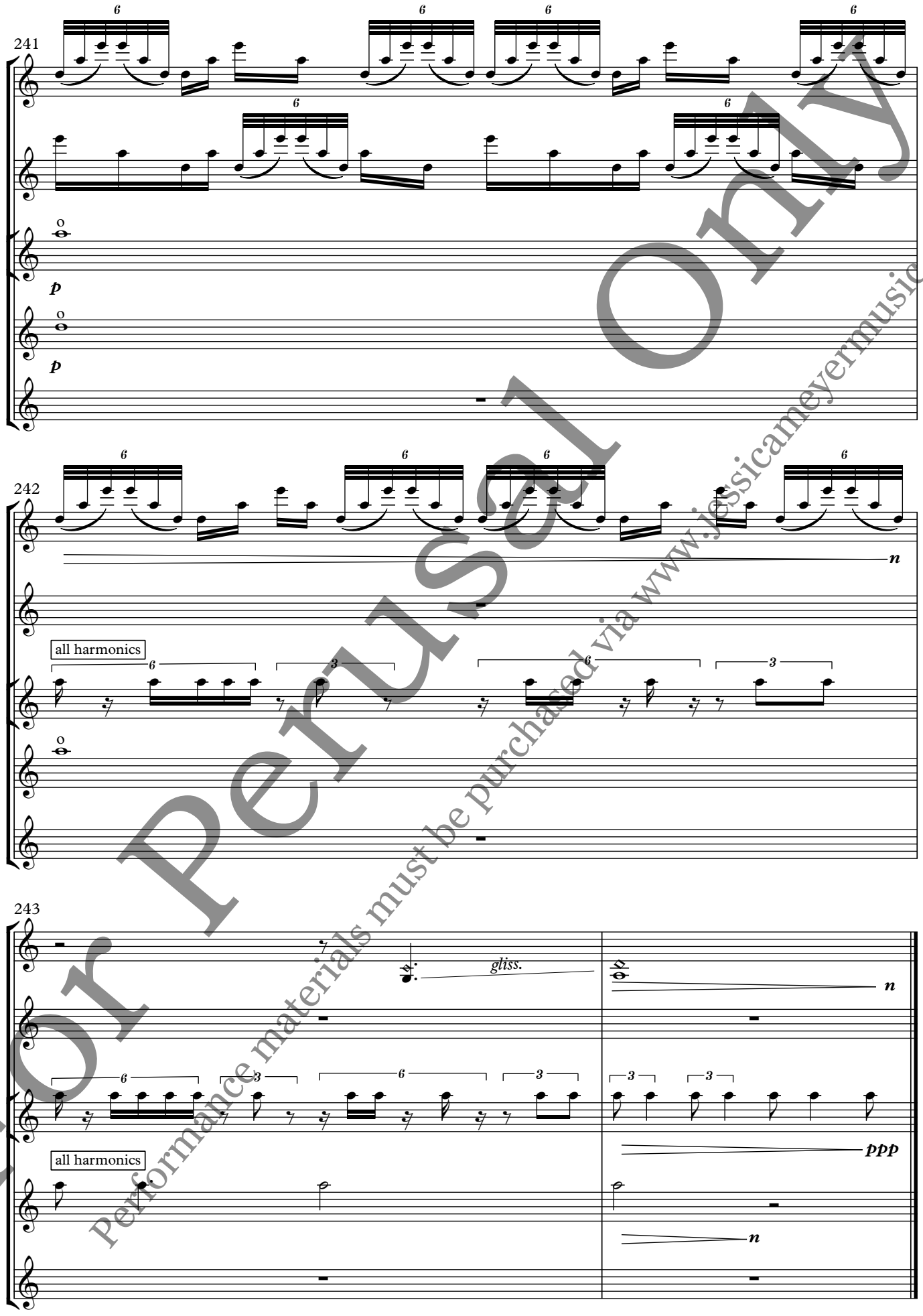

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August 30th, 2022
Moab, Utah

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