Full Score

Gilad Cohen

Moonrhymes

for 3 violins, viola and piano

(2018)

Commissioned by Parlance Chamber Concerts

for Kerry McDermott, Oliver Neubauer, Clara Neubauer, Paul Neubauer, and Anne-Marie McDermott

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Gilad Cohen

Moonrhymes

Program notes:

Written with the theme of family in mind, *Moonrhymes* is based on nursery rhymes from different cultures. The piece is comprised of three movements (, in addition to an introduction and a finale, all played without a break): each of them focuses on a traditional song from a different origin: the English-Irish "Danny Boy," the Latin "A La Nanita Nana," and the Israeli-Yiddish "Numi Numi." While such tunes have been sung as lullabies for many years, their lyrics are often more bleak than what might seem appropriate for bedtime. My treatment of these melodies takes them thus to mysterious, reflective, and dark places, using folk elements from various cultures.

Moonrhymes plays with the question of what rhyming could mean in instrumental music. Literal rhymes feature similarities in sound between words: the endings of rhyming words usually sound identical, while the beginnings are different. Likewise, the themes of the piece are very similar to the original tunes, but each carries a significant musical difference in pitch, rhythm etc. Additionally, many moments in the piece "rhyme" with one another: Accompaniment figurations reoccur while supporting different tunes (such as a repeated arrpegiated minor-7th chord), sounds and textures repeat through the piece (such as "glassy" chordsin the violins using harmonics), and musical themes float again and again into the surface (such as the melody of "Rock-a-bye Baby," another popular lullaby that features disturbing lyrics and serves as a transition between the movements).

In the finale, all tunes—and cultures—join together: The Yiddish-based "Numi Numi", with its Phyrygian mode, is heard in the bass and provides the foundation for "Danny Boy" an its iconic English-American use of the pentatonic scale, while also supporting figurations from both "Nanita" (featuring a highly-embellished minor-scale Spanish melody) and "Rock-a-bye Baby" (whose sweet melody is disguised under darker harmonies).

Performance notes:

In all solos, performers may embellish the melodies and modify current embellishments as desired; in these sections, treat glissandos and small-font notes as suggestions.

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Moonrhymes

for 3 violins, viola and piano

(est. duration: 19 minutes)

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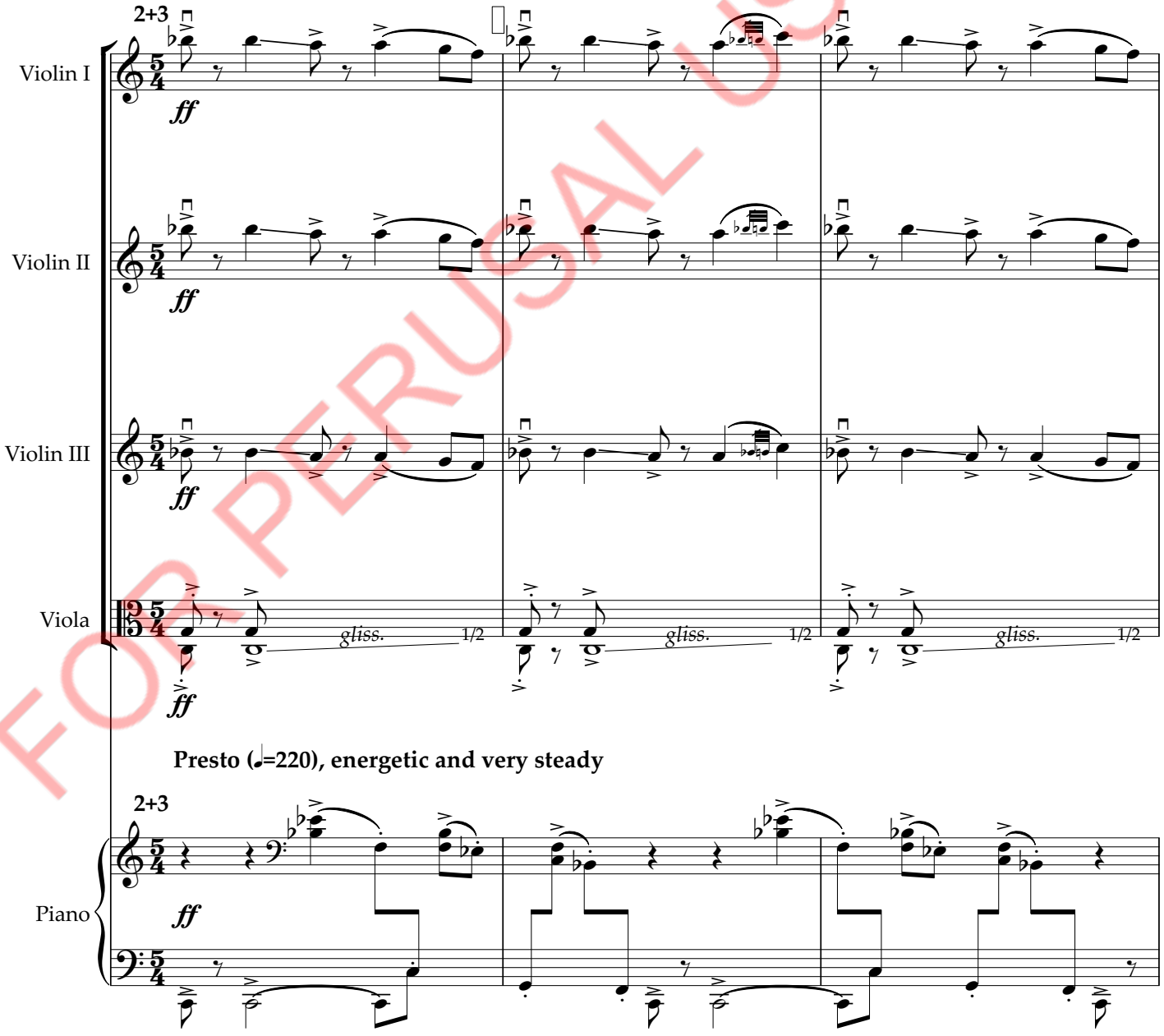
Introduction

Gilad Cohen 2018
Revised March 2023

Presto (𝅗𝅥=220), energetic and very steady



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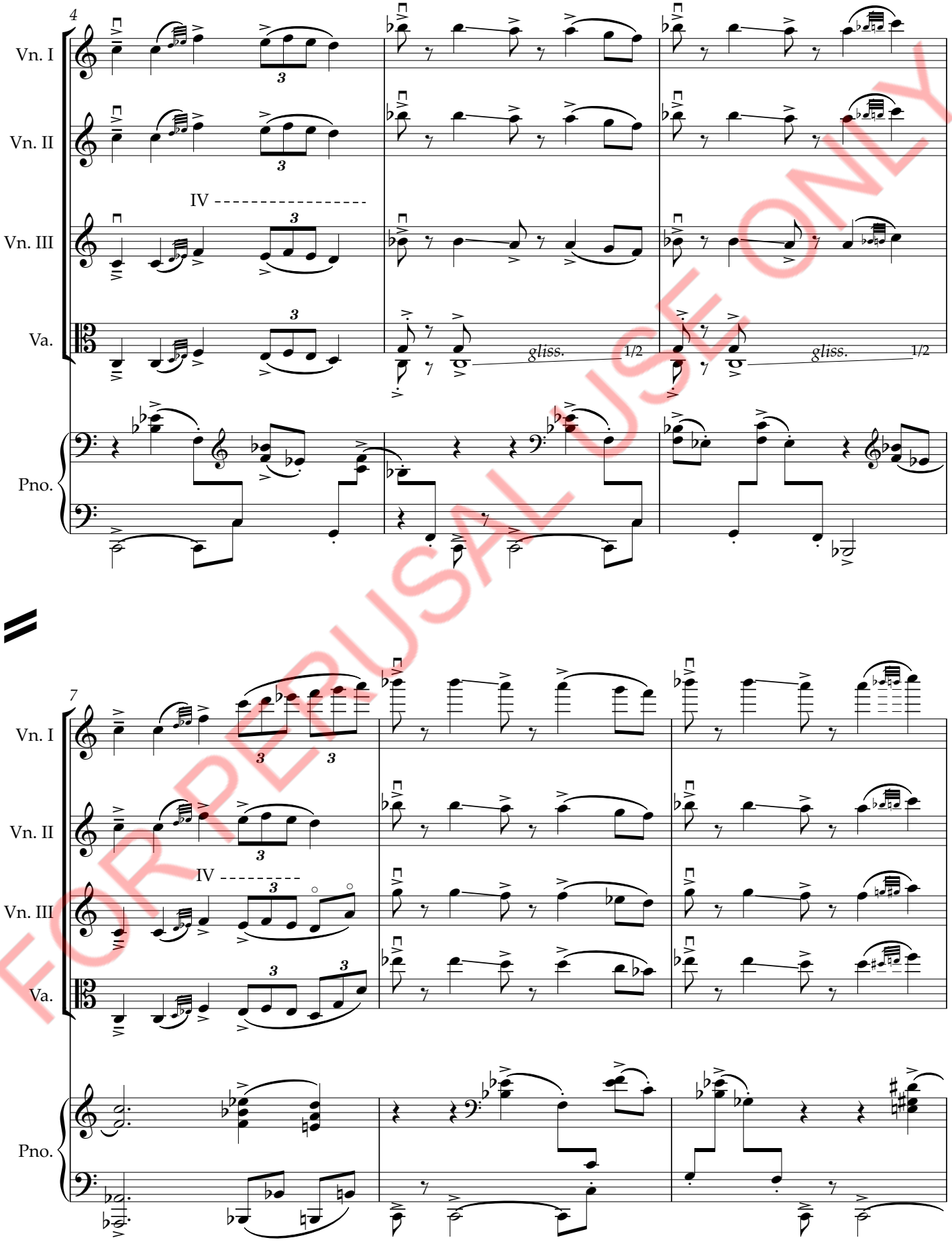

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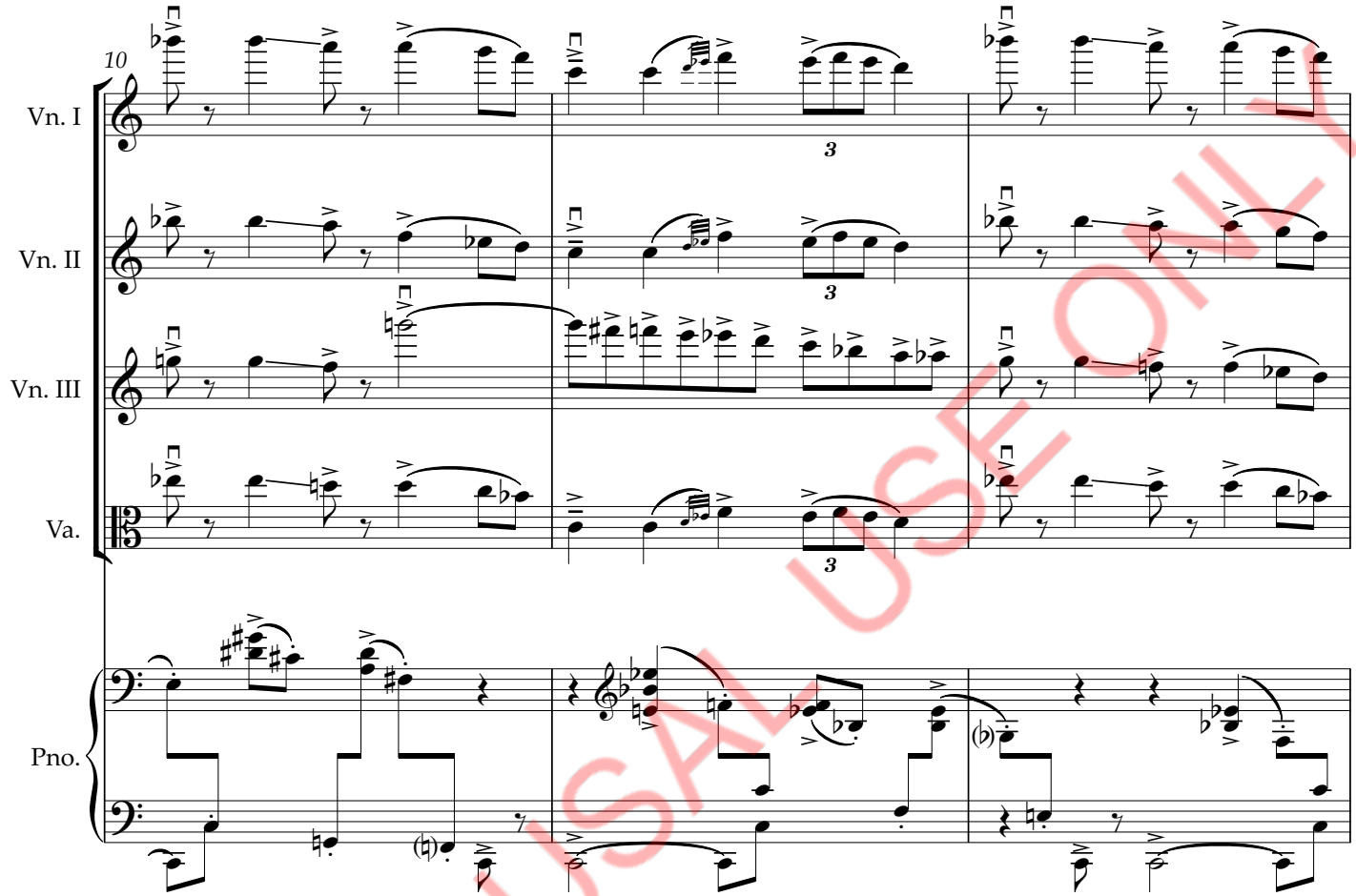

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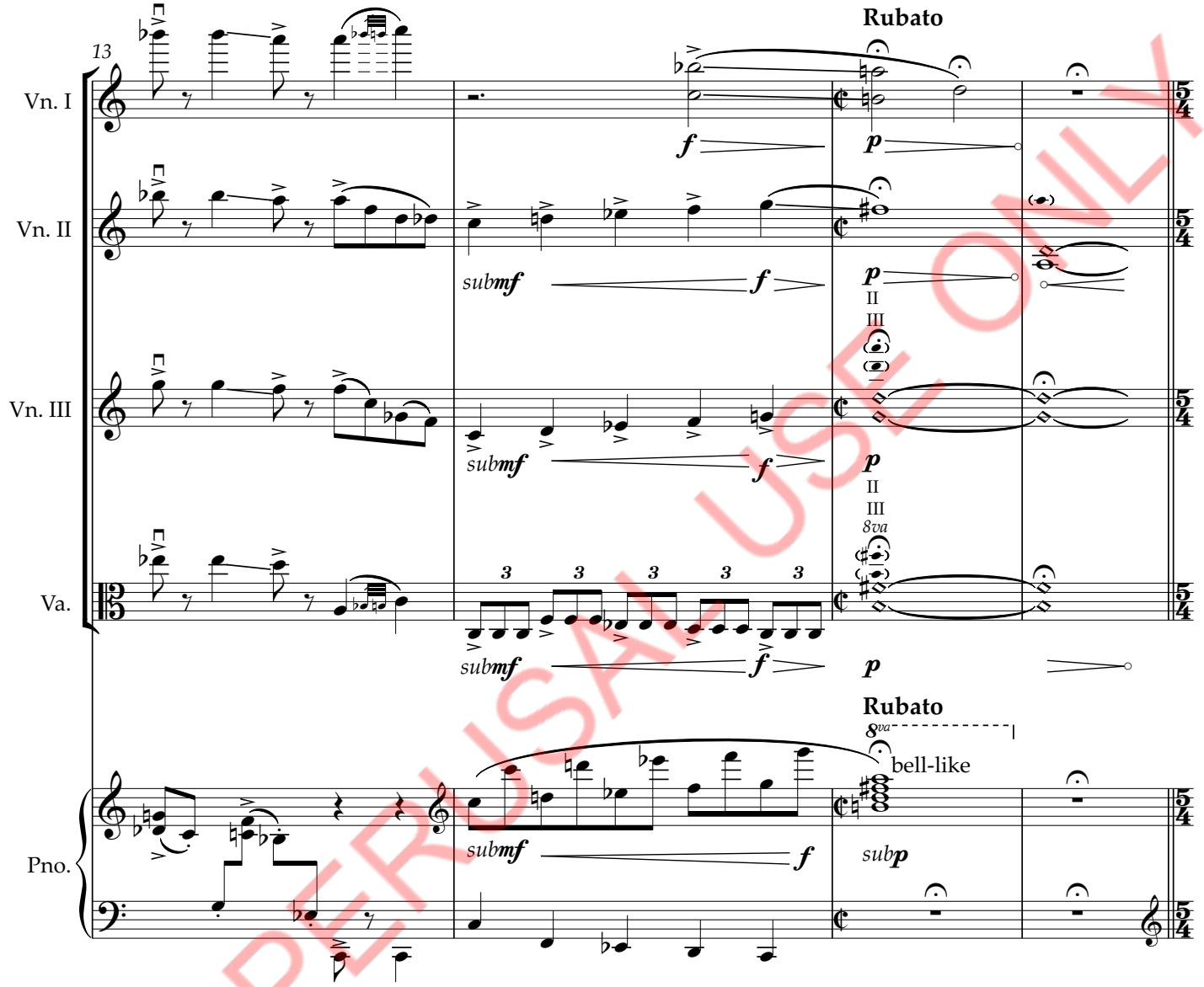

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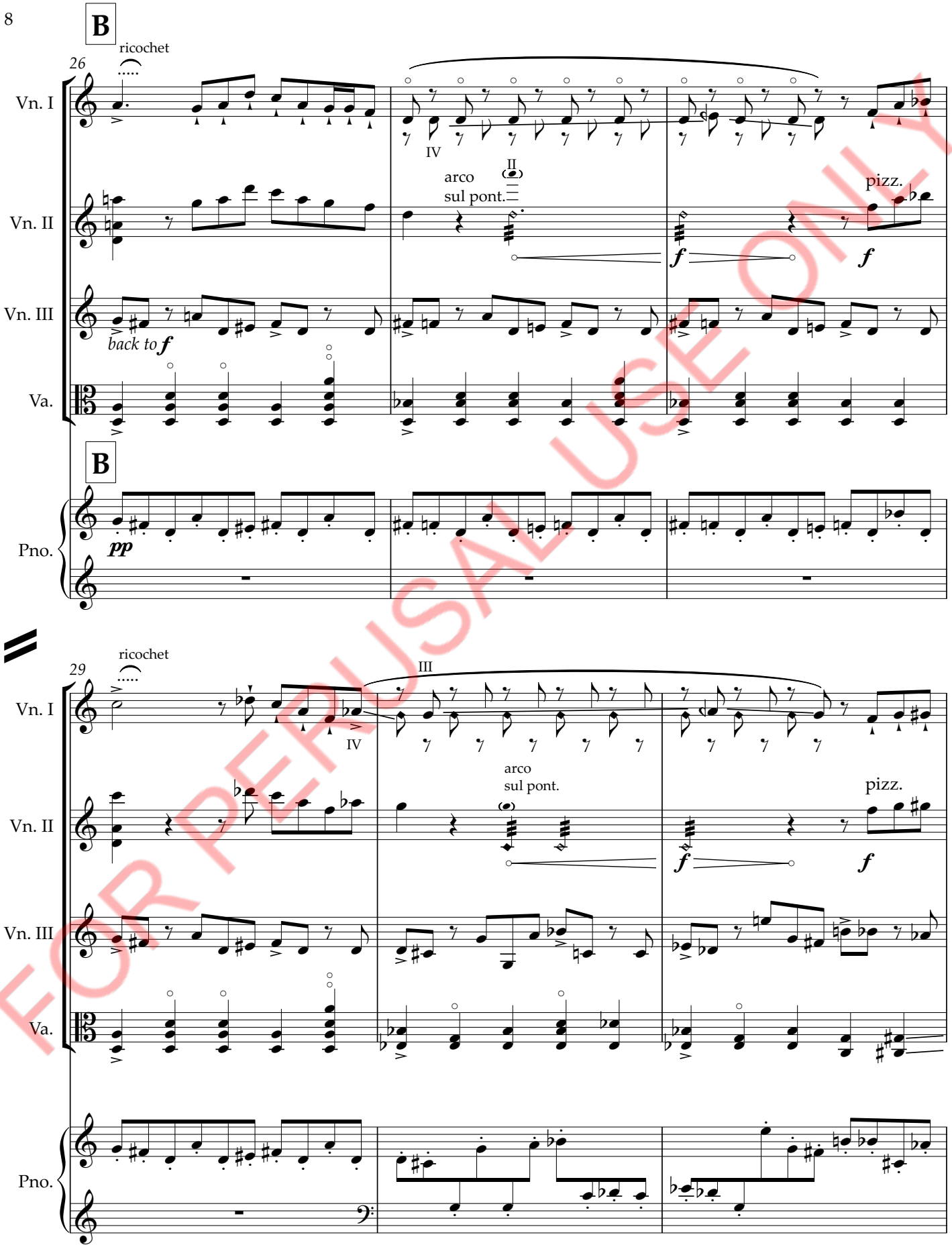

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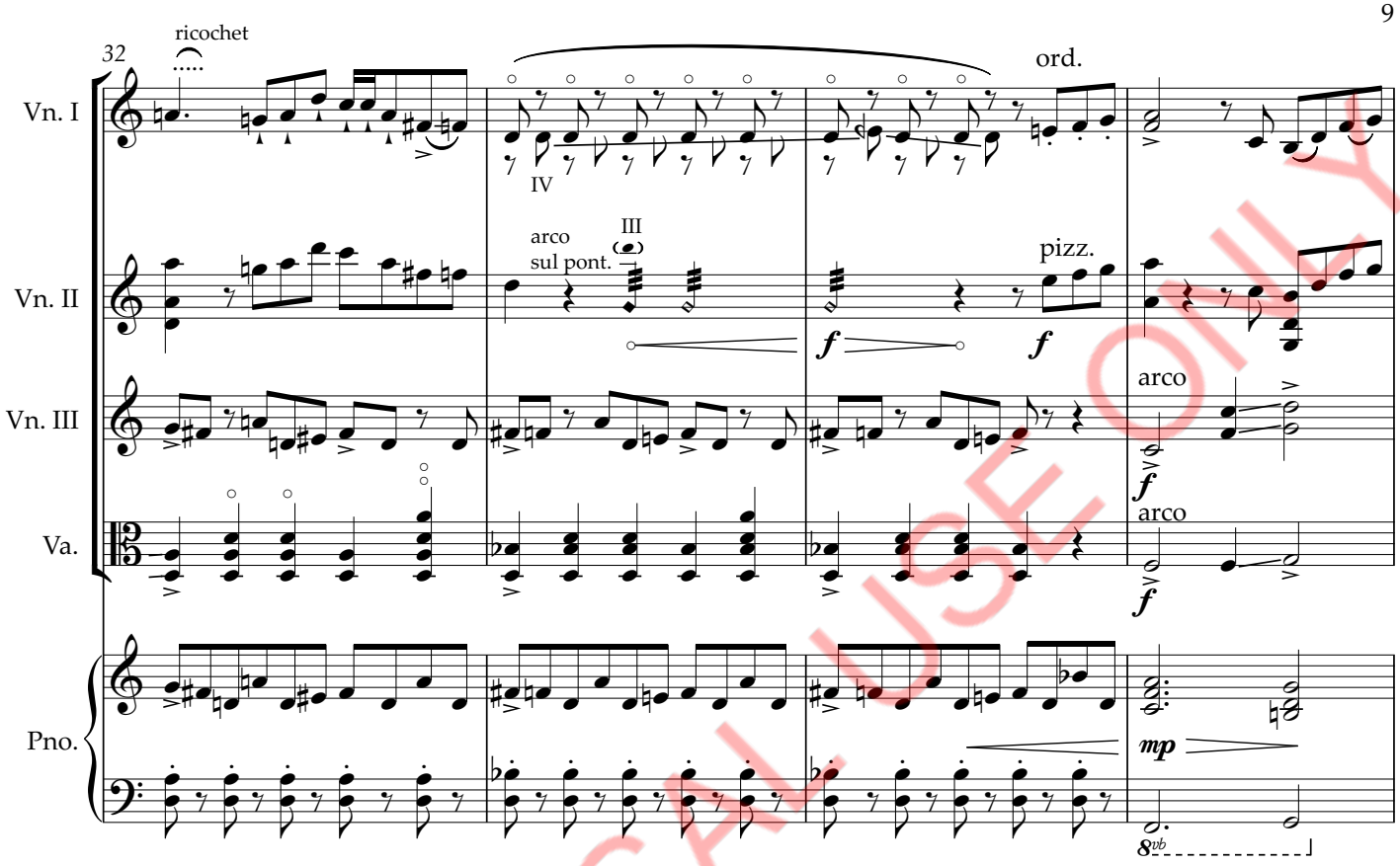

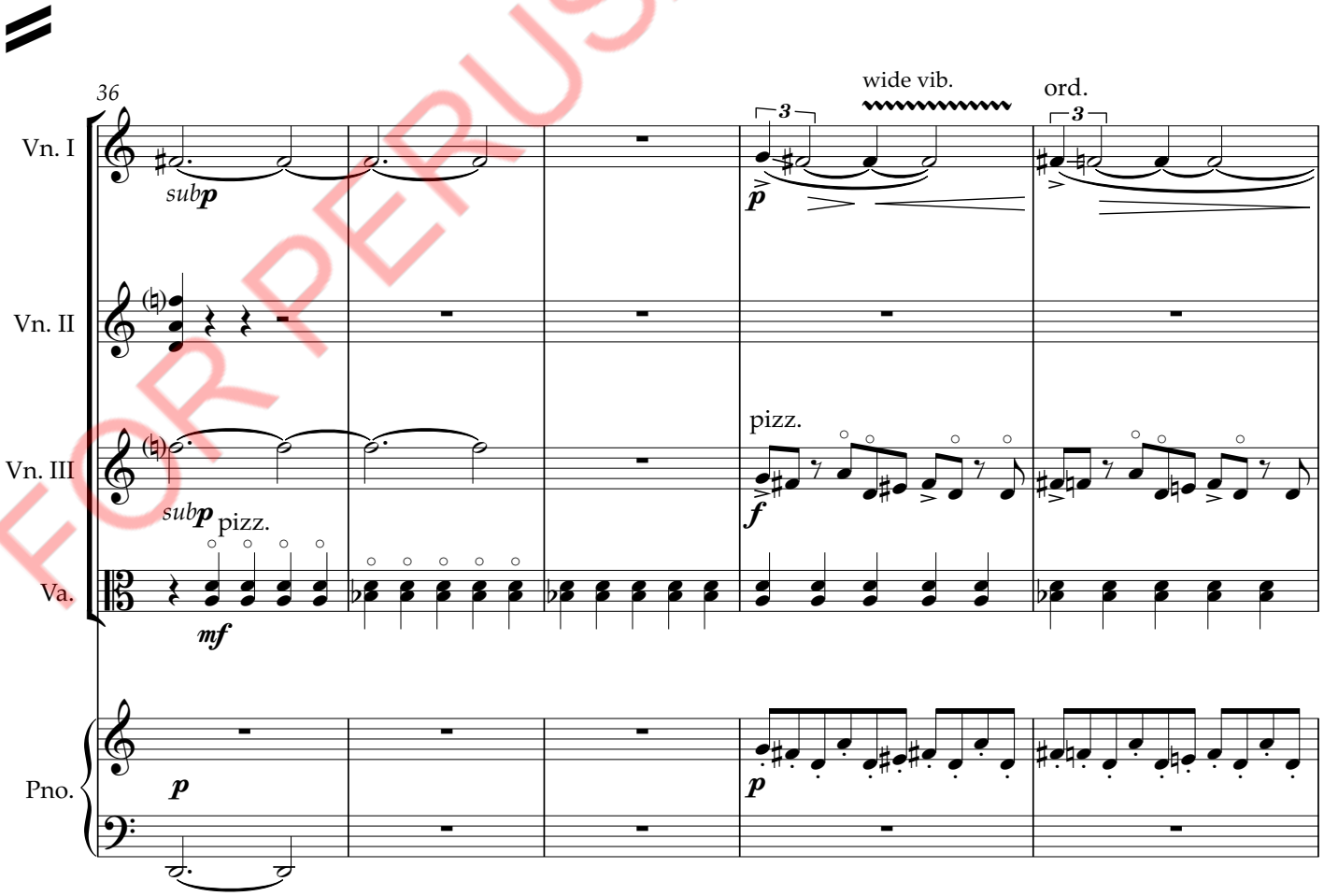

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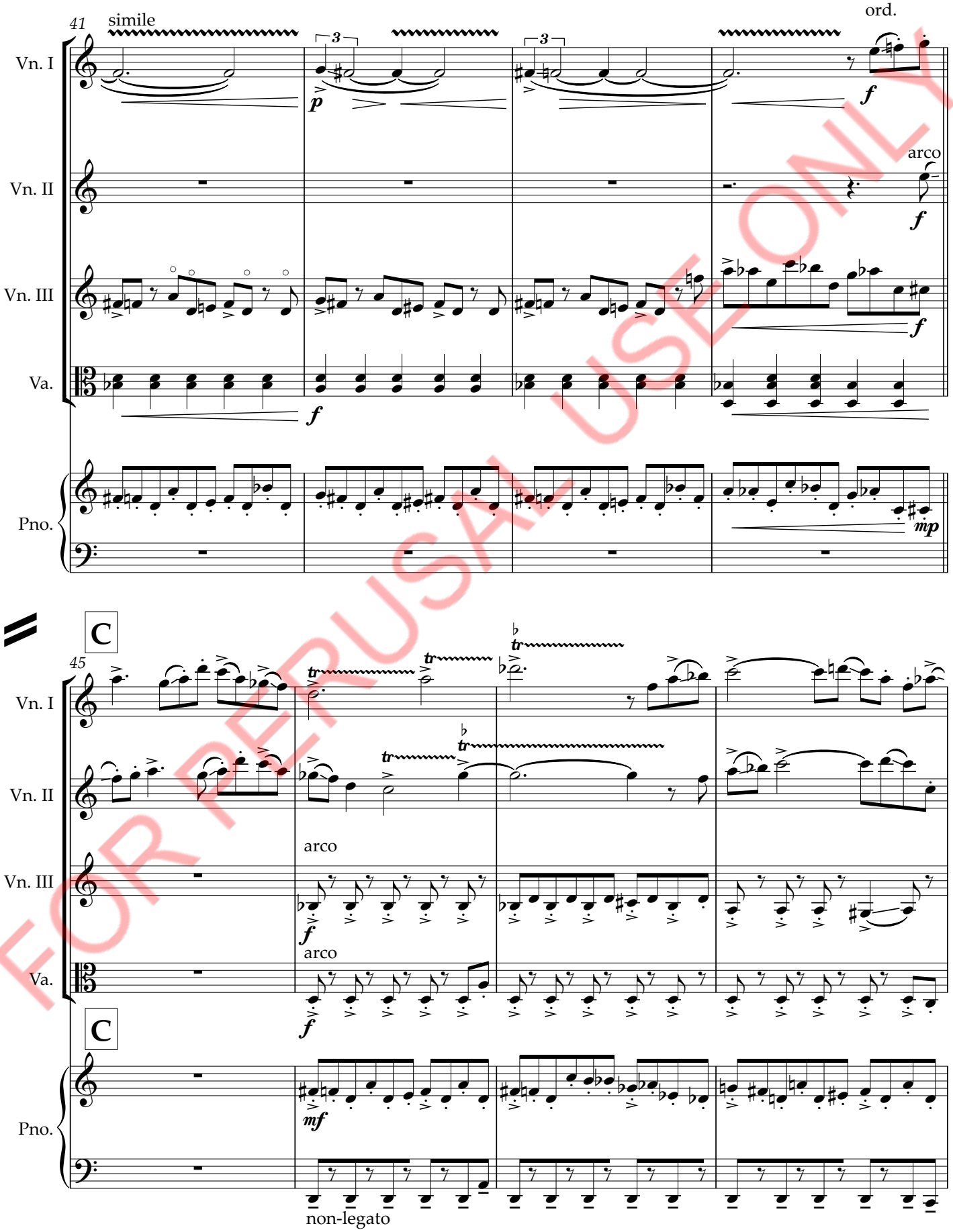

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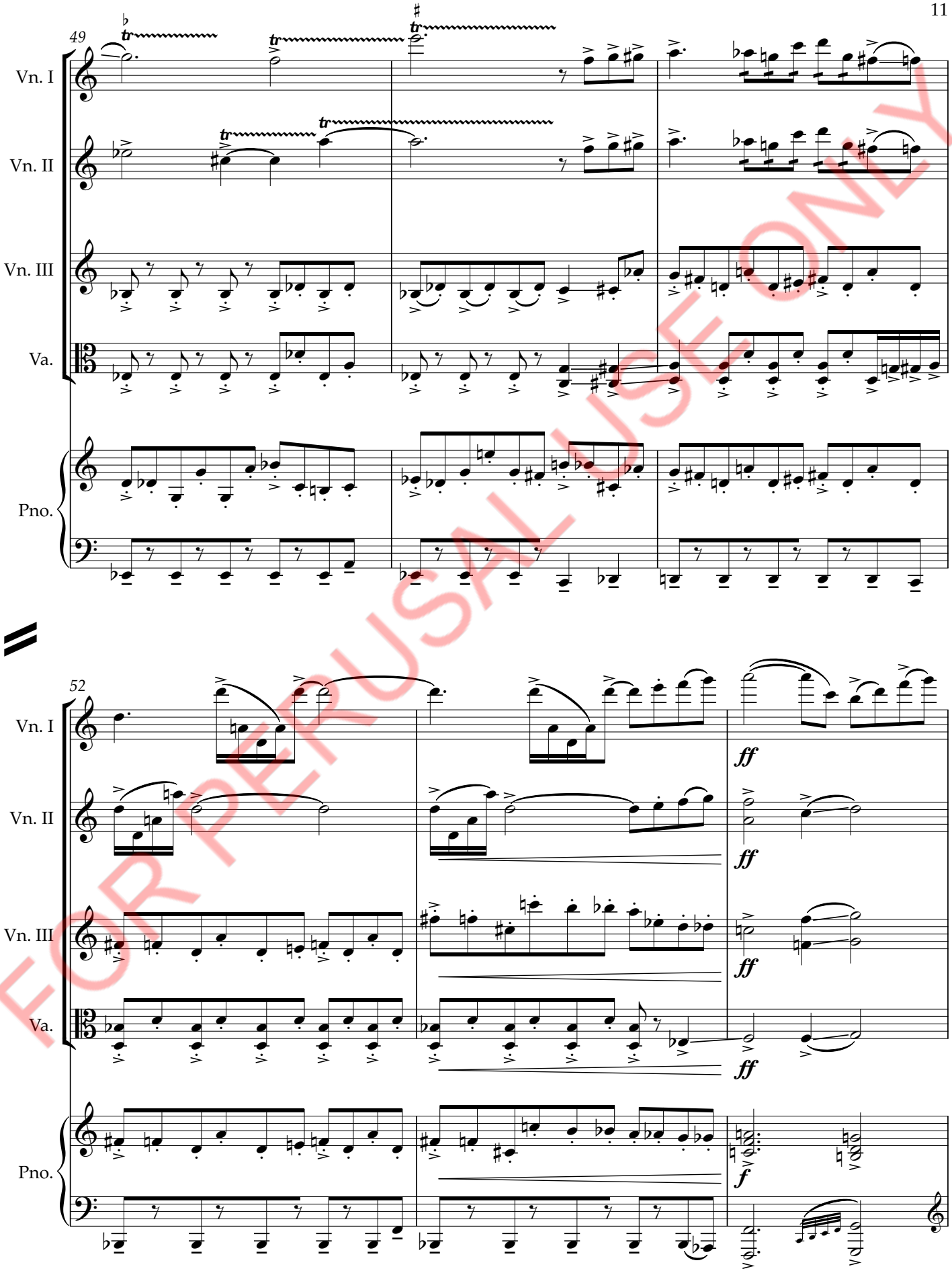

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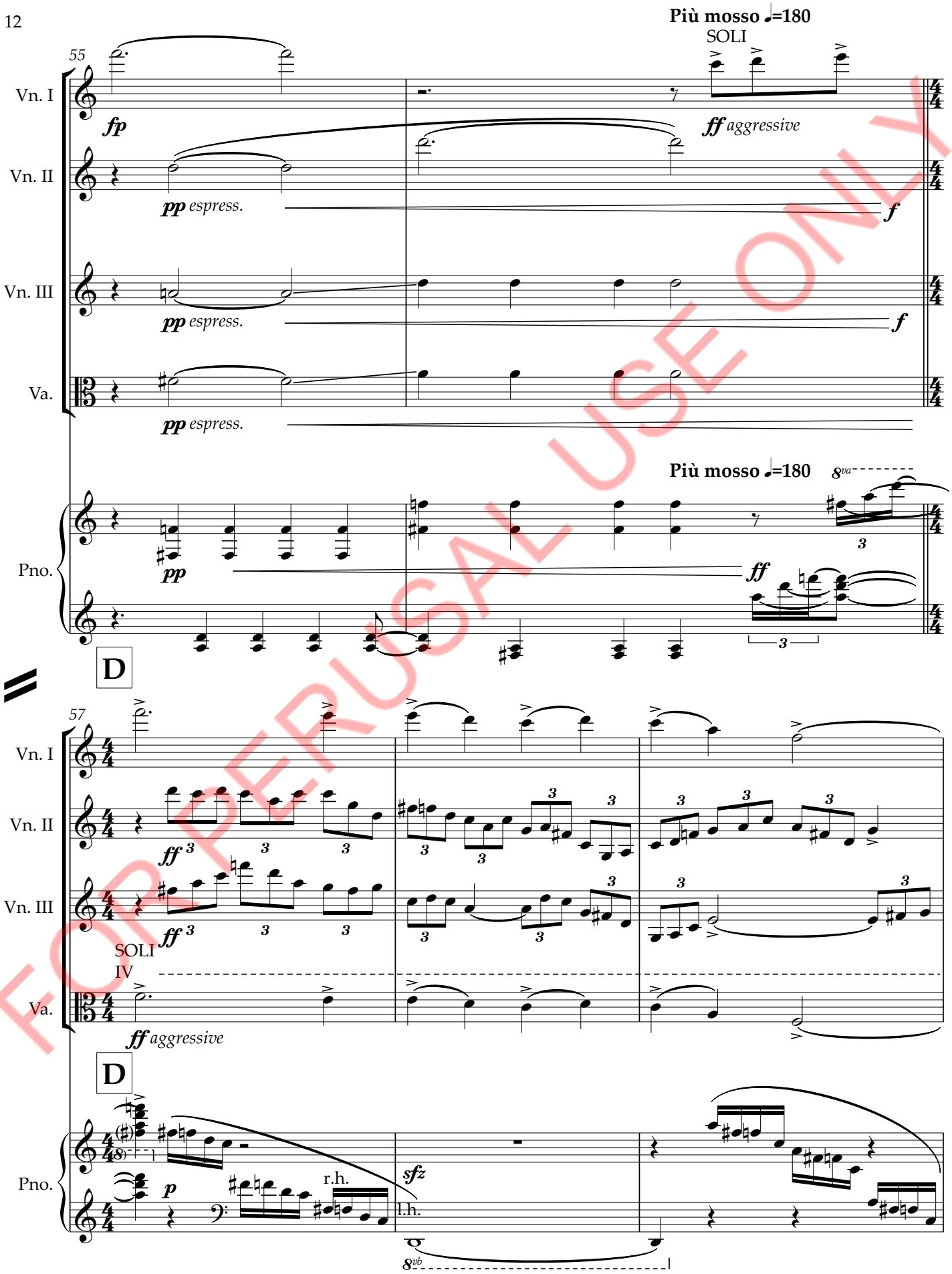

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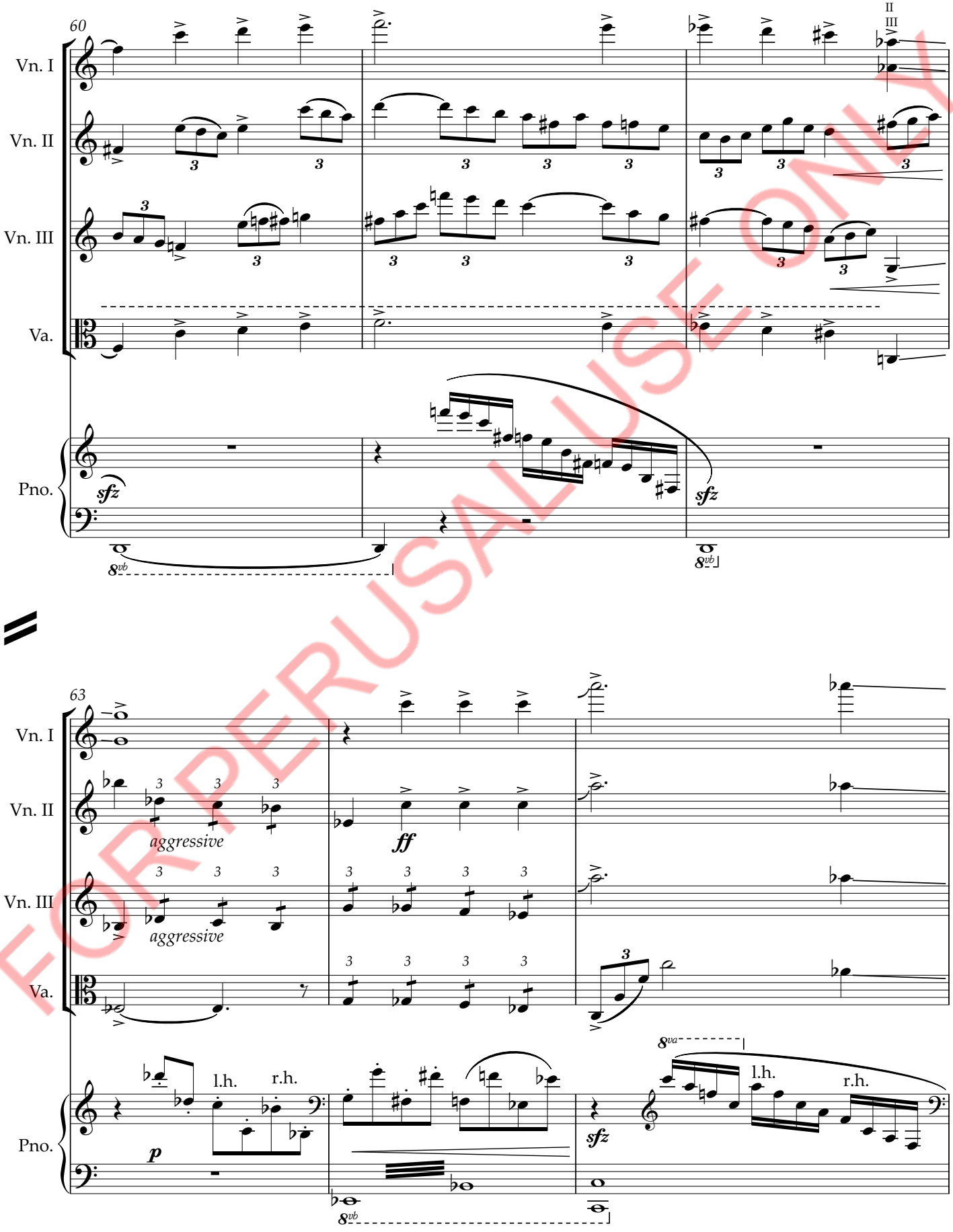

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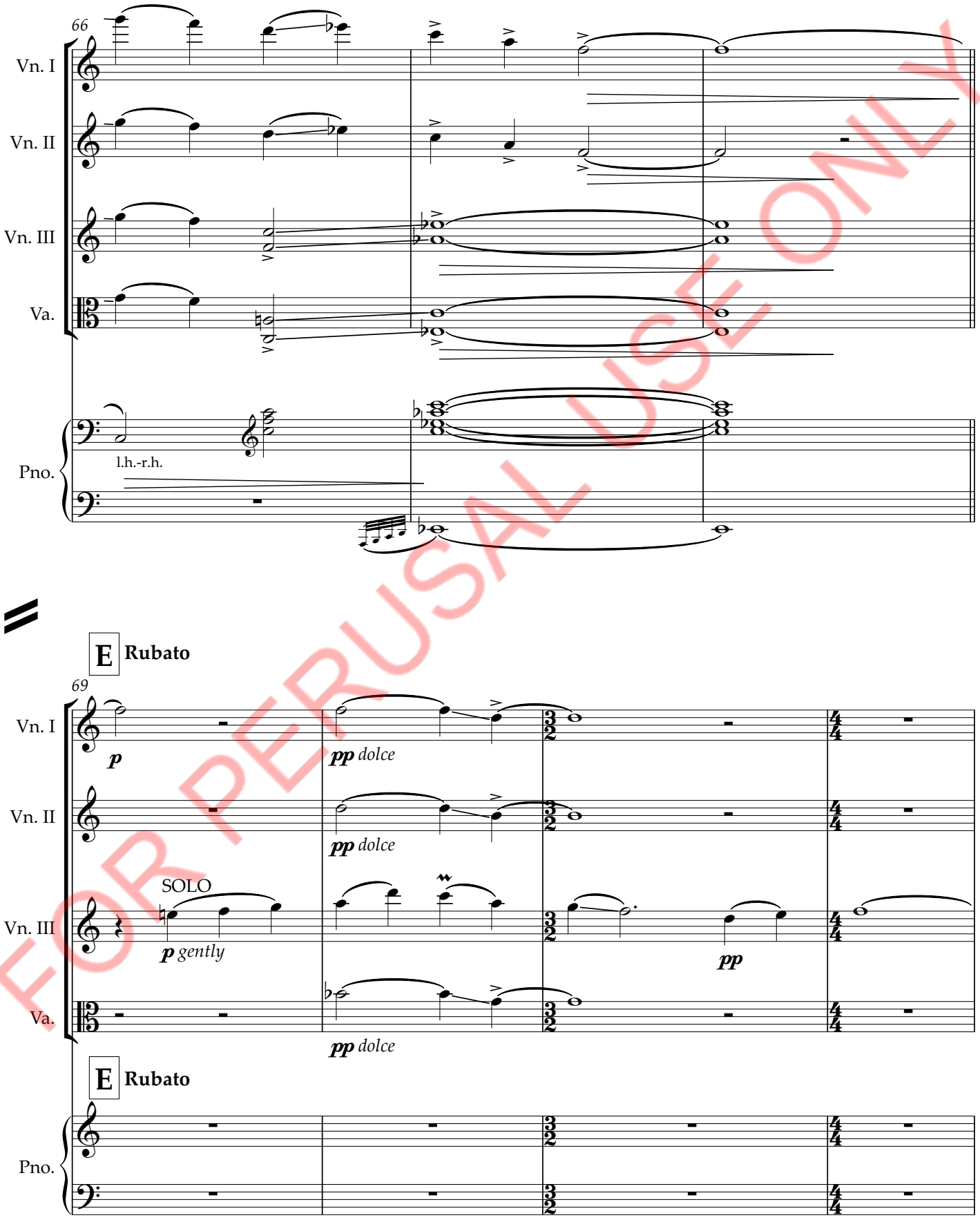

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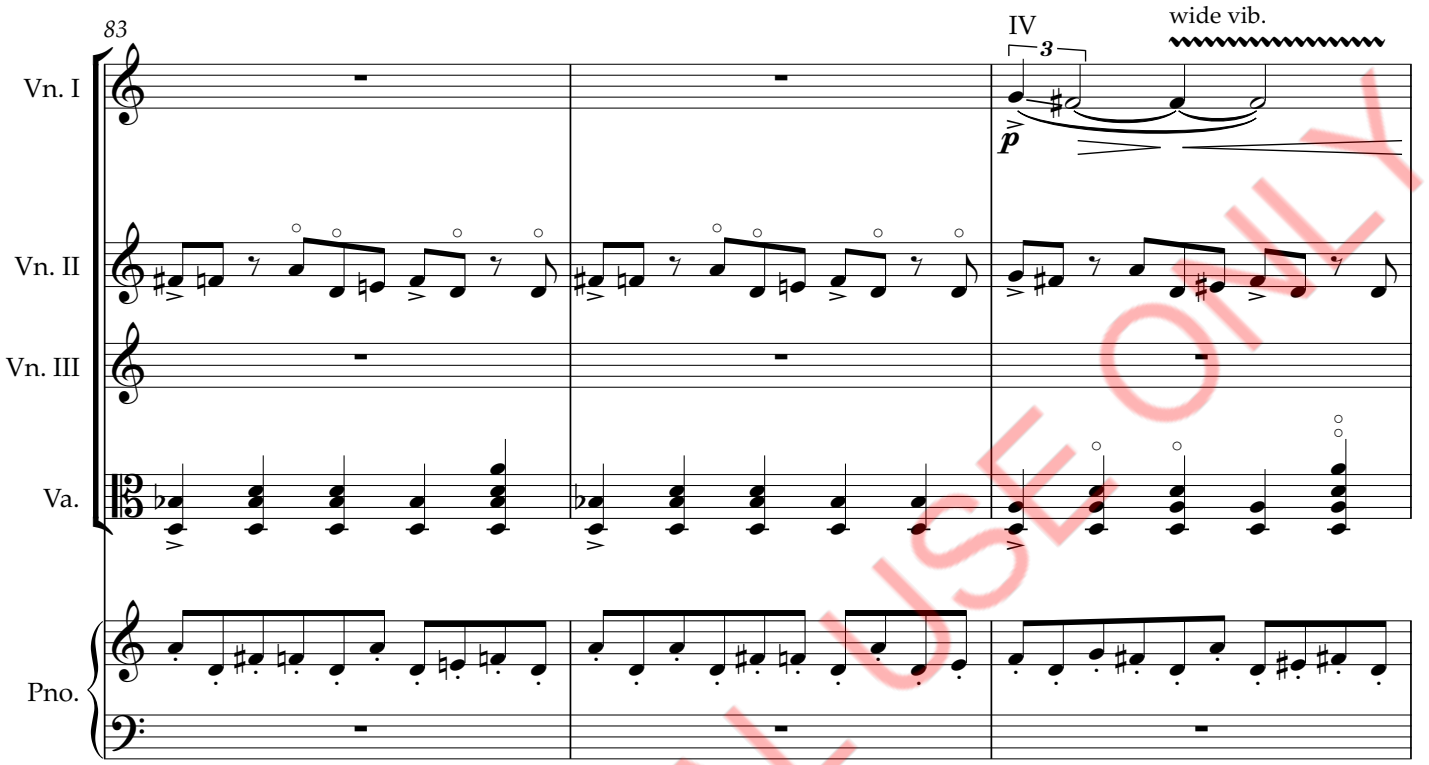

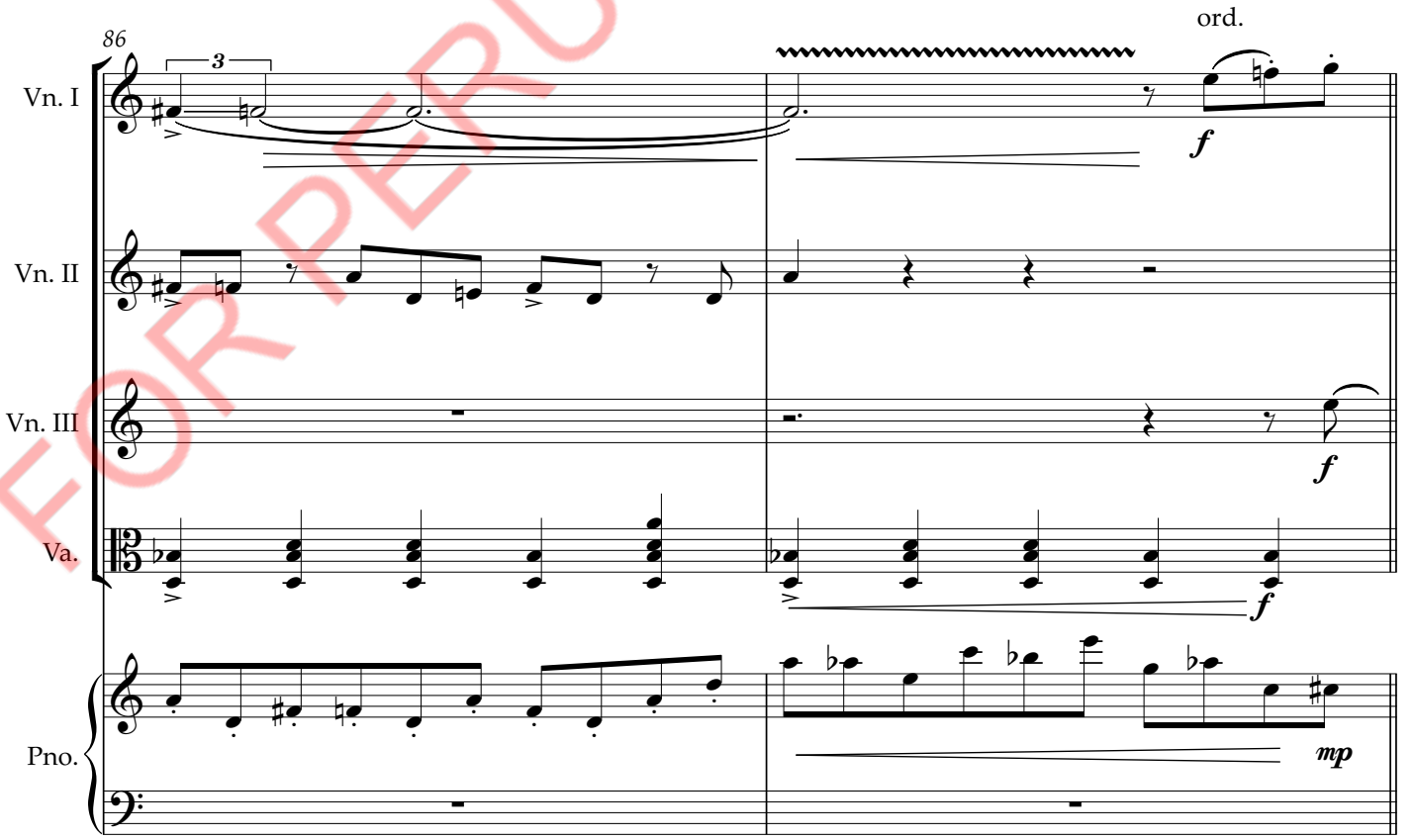

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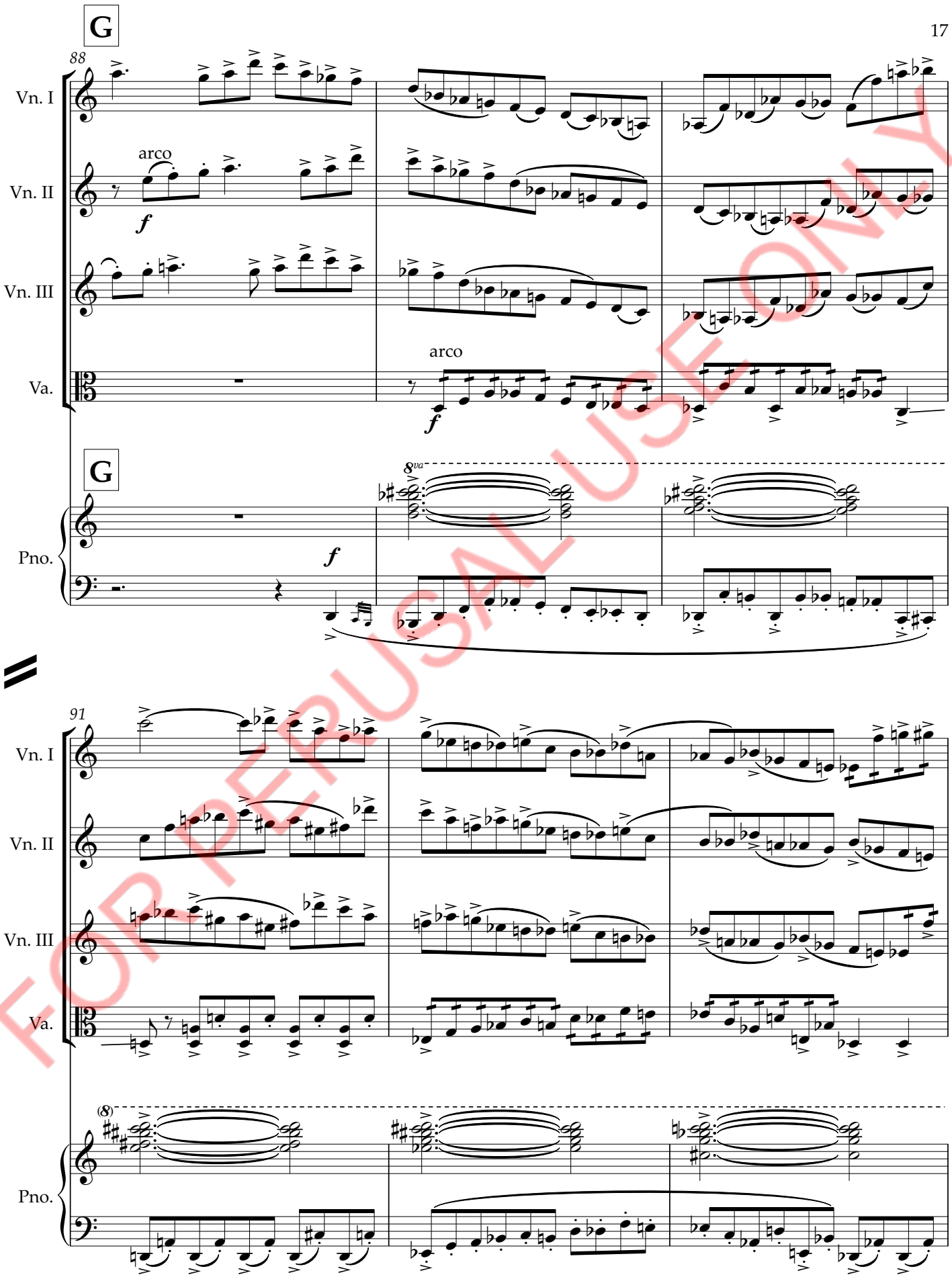

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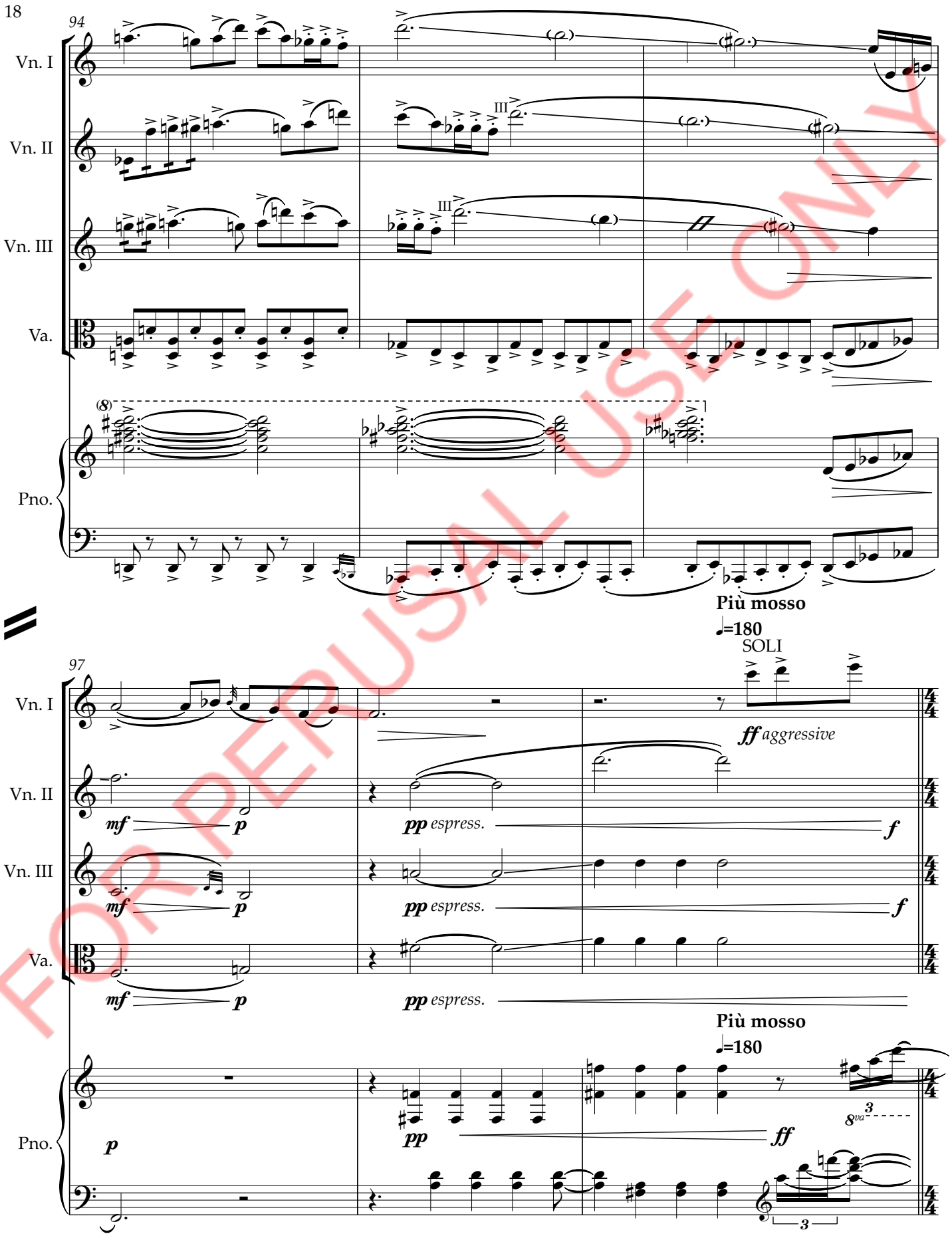

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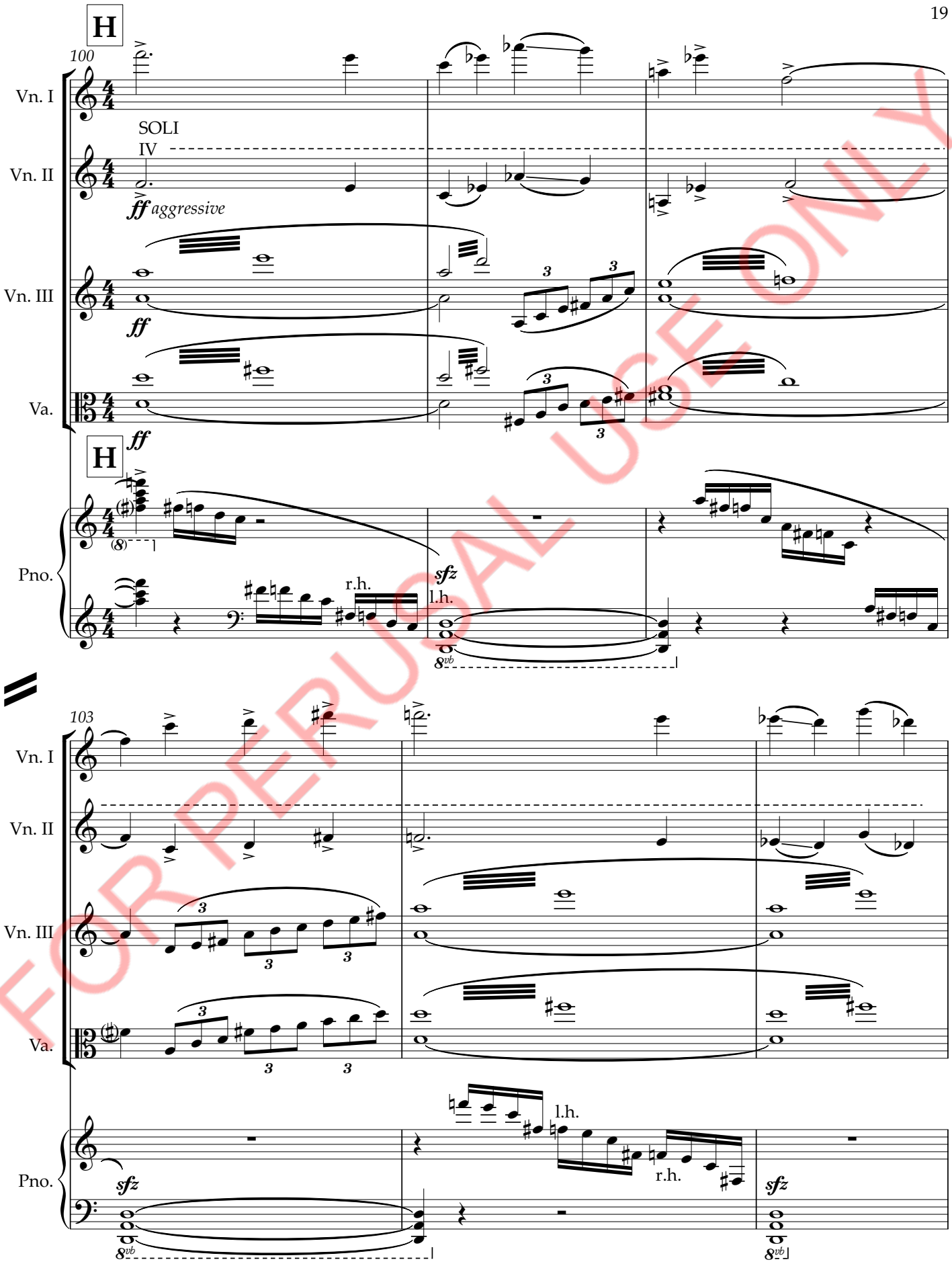

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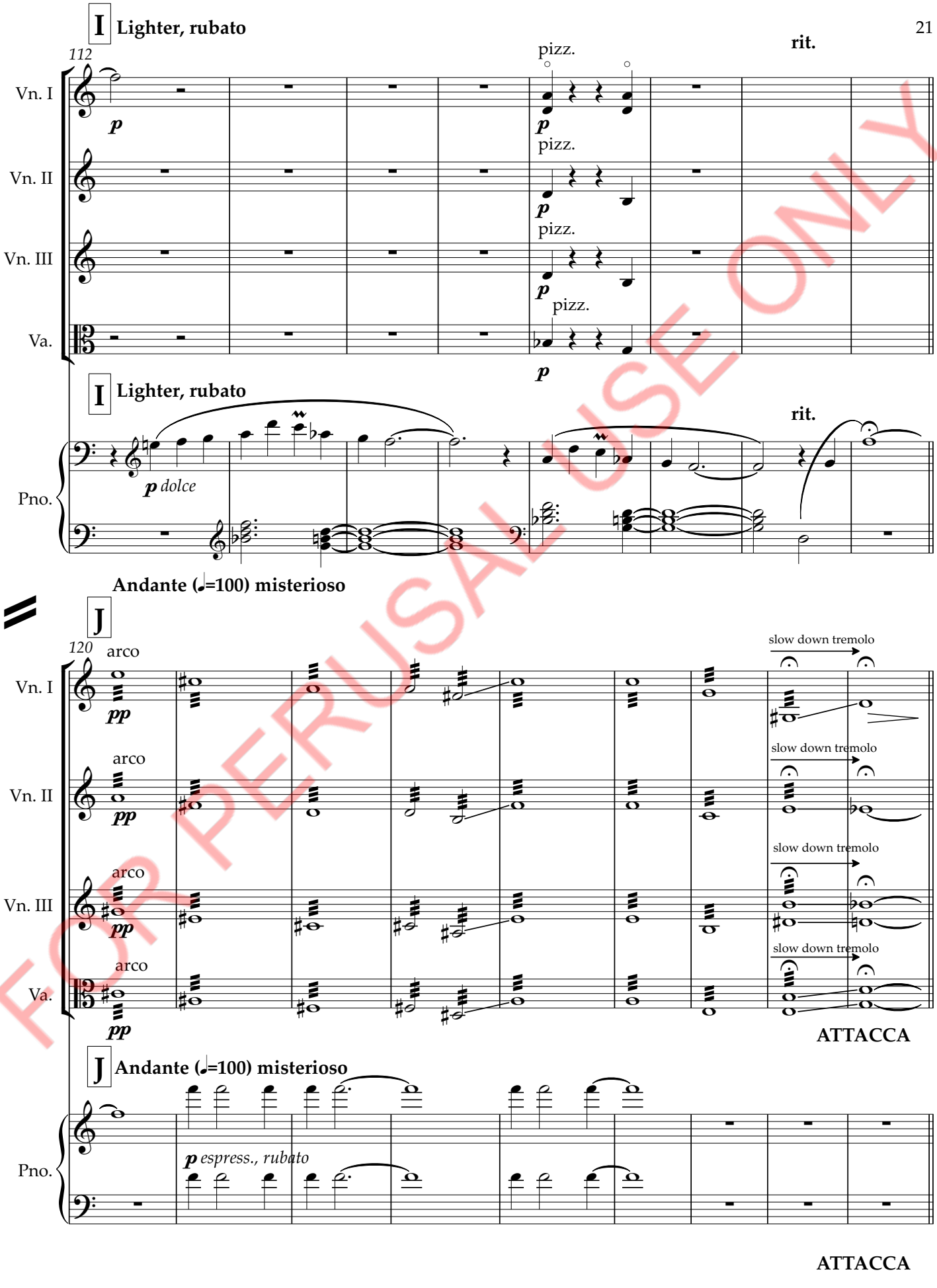

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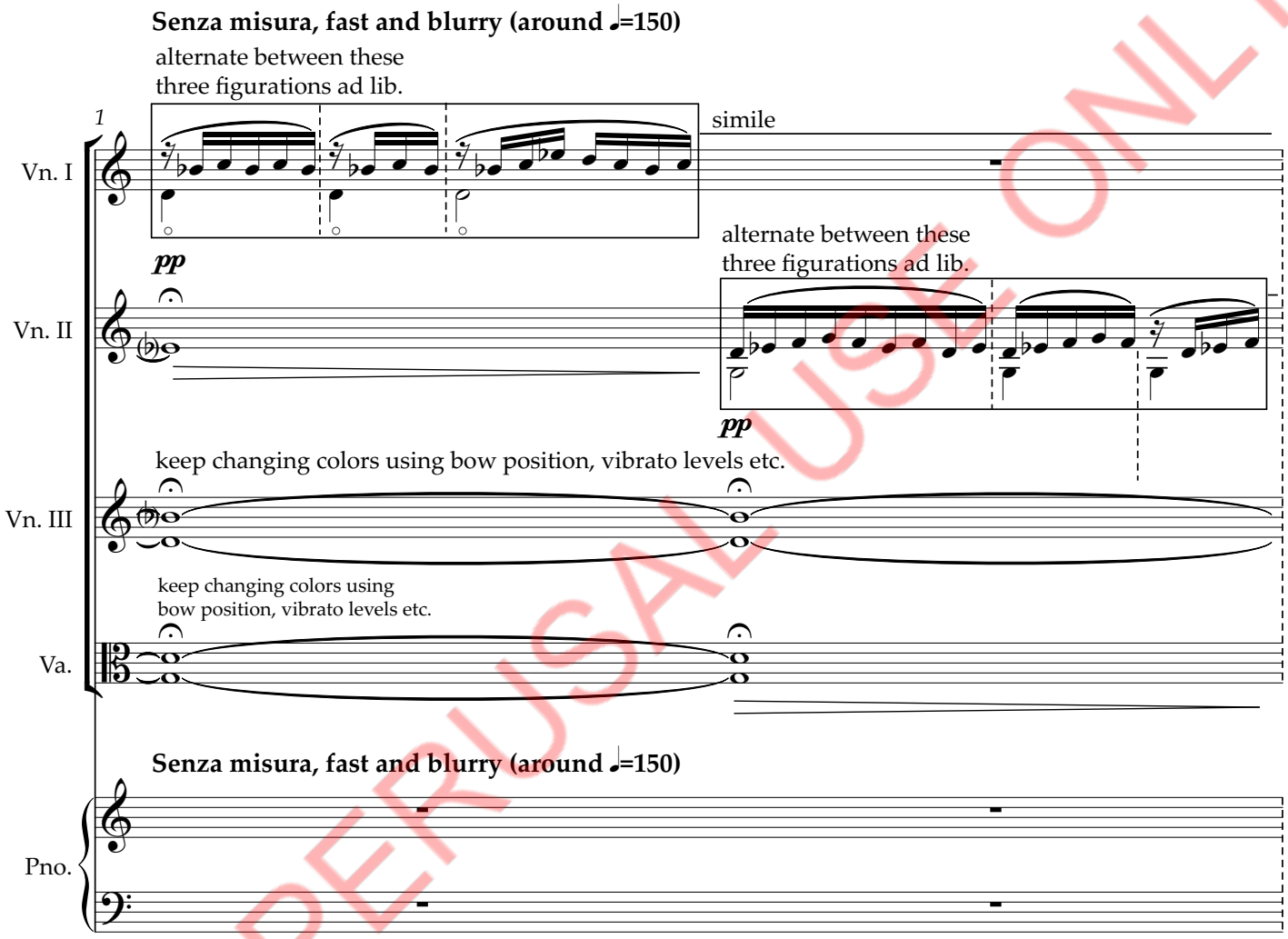

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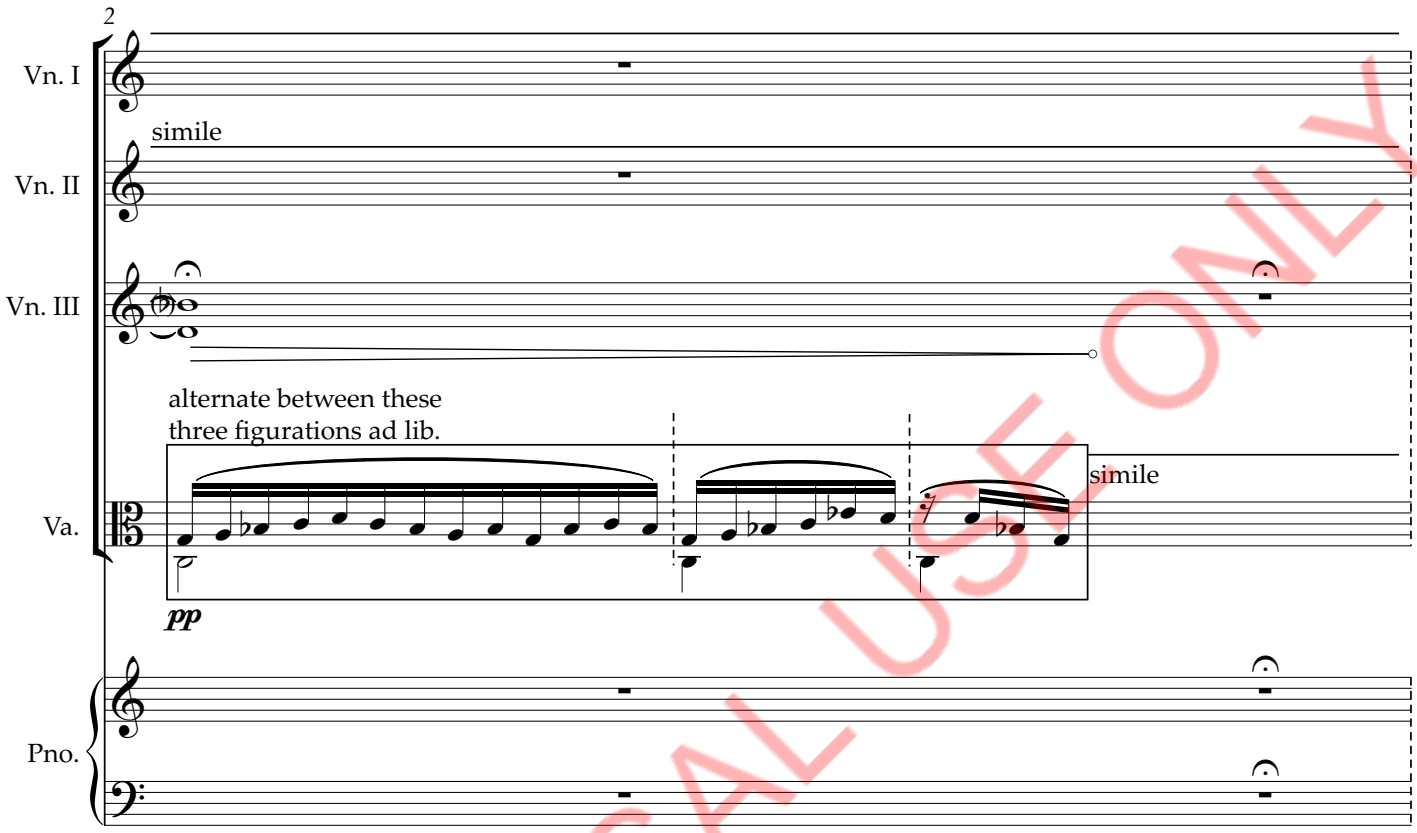

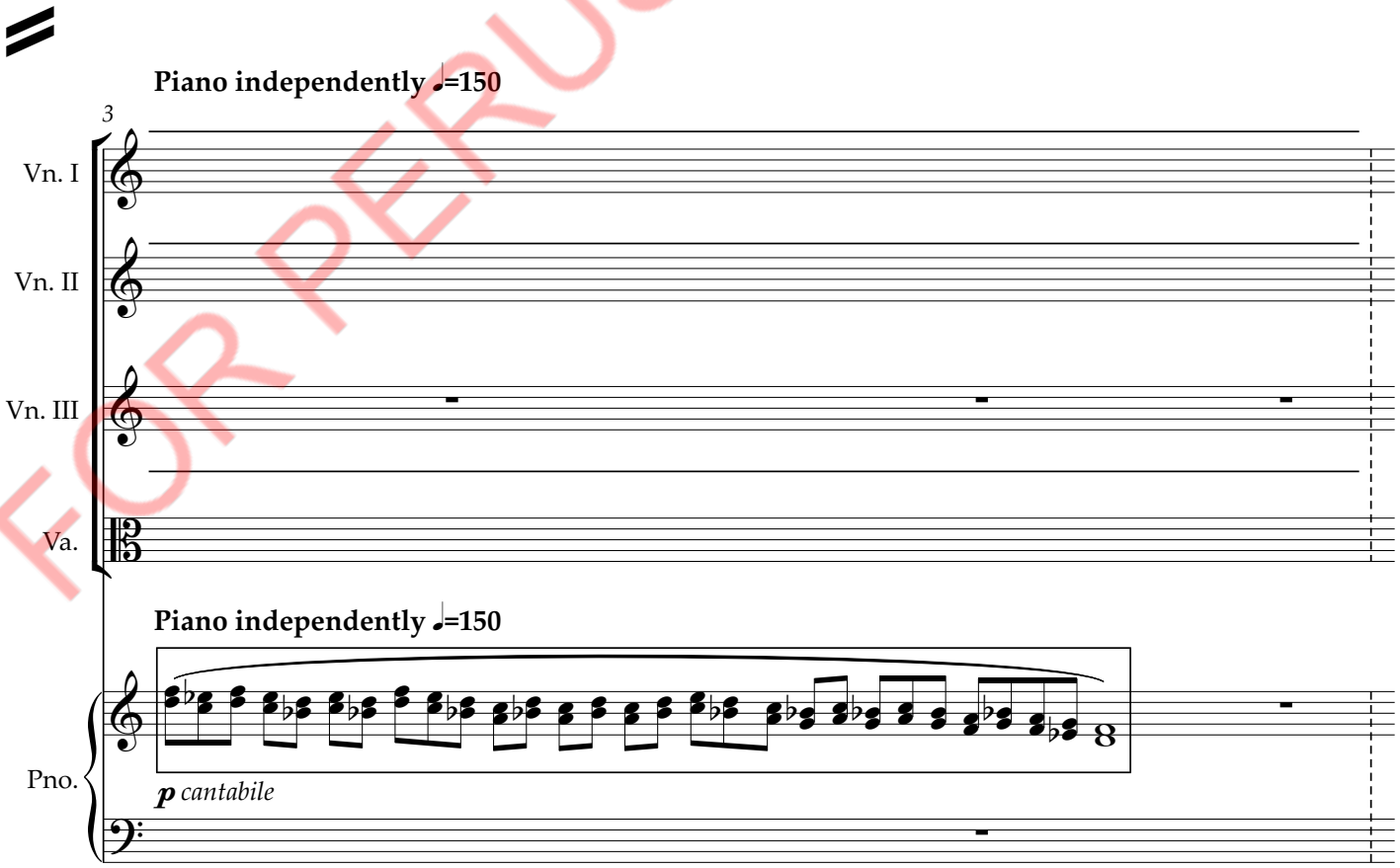

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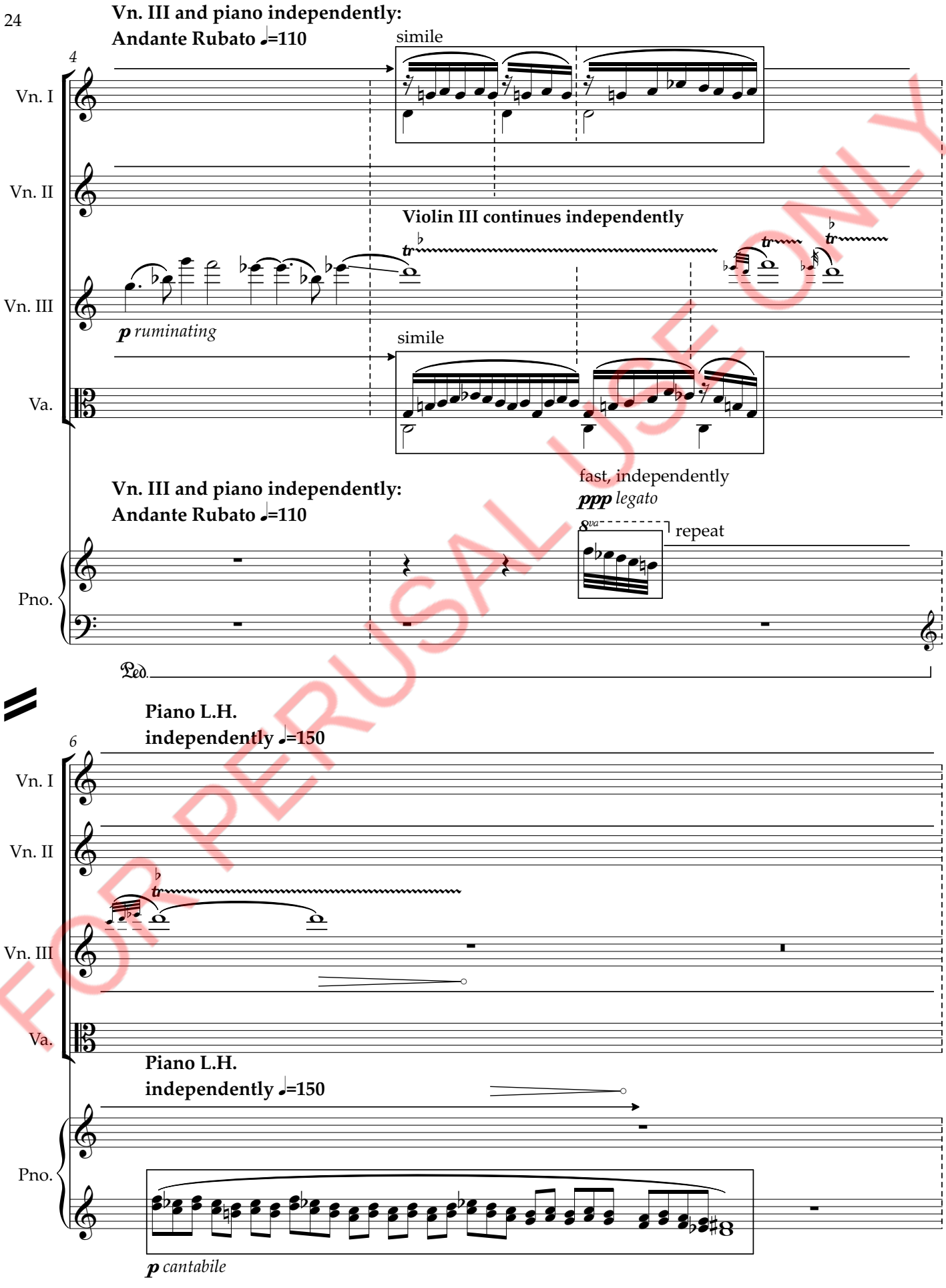

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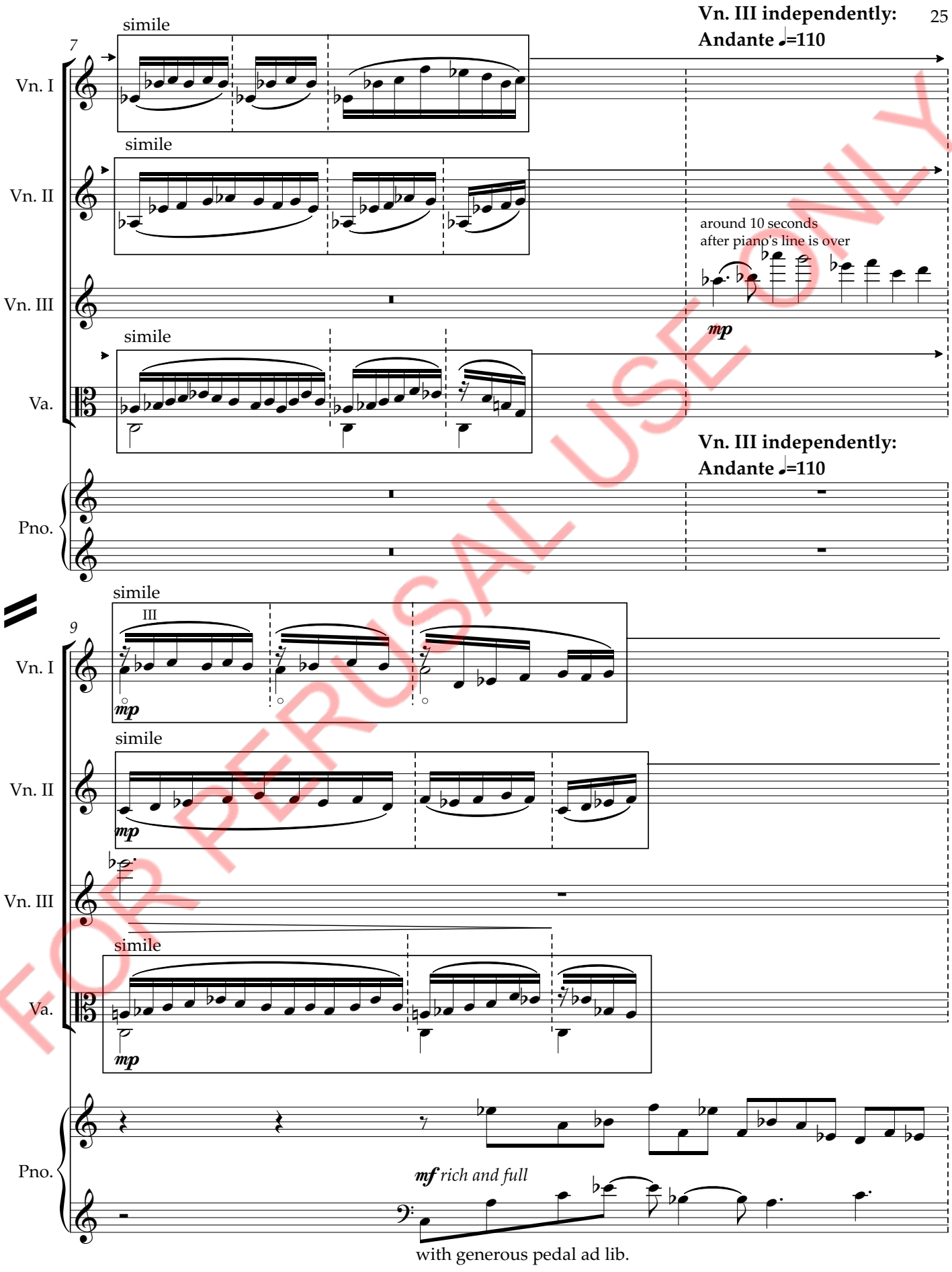

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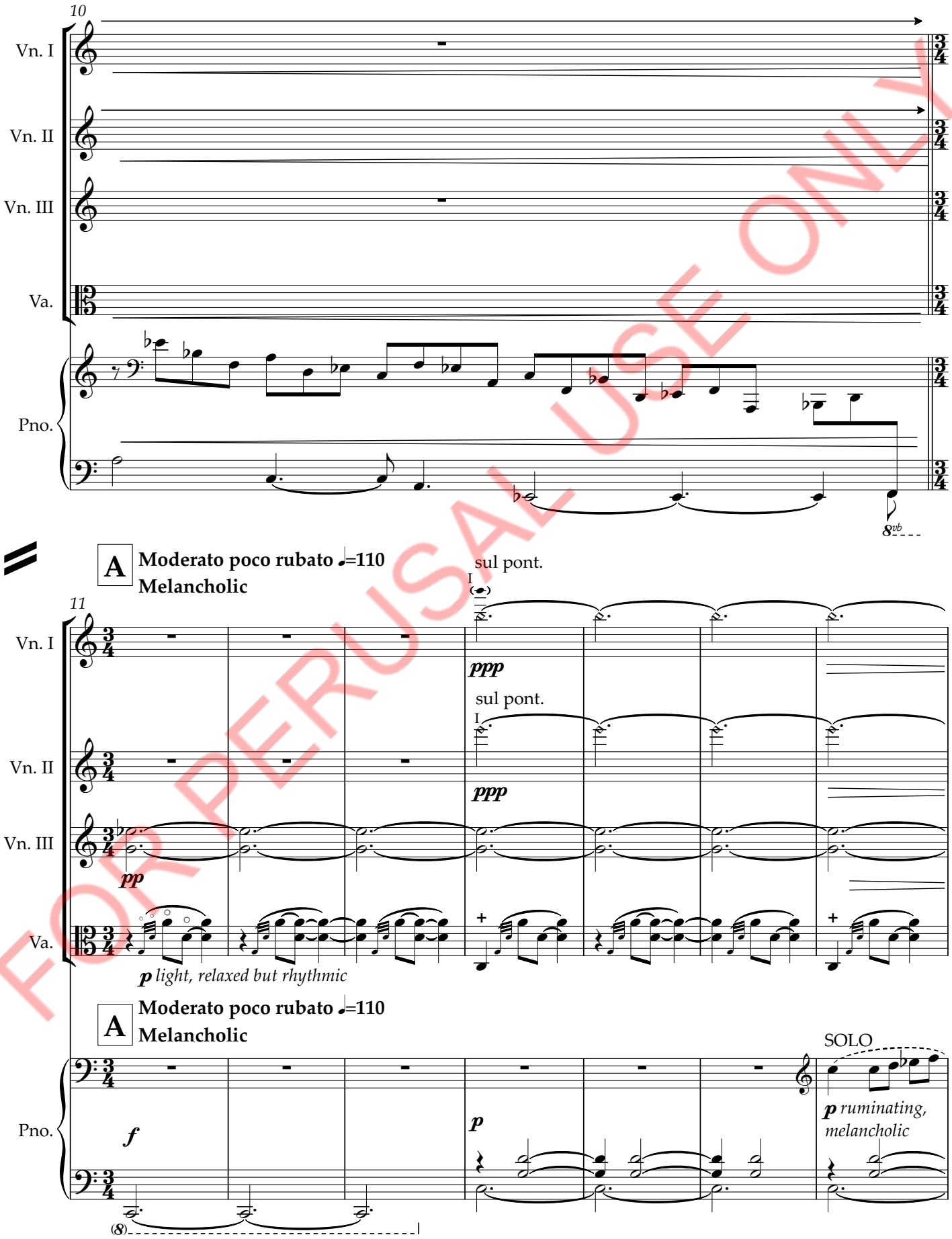

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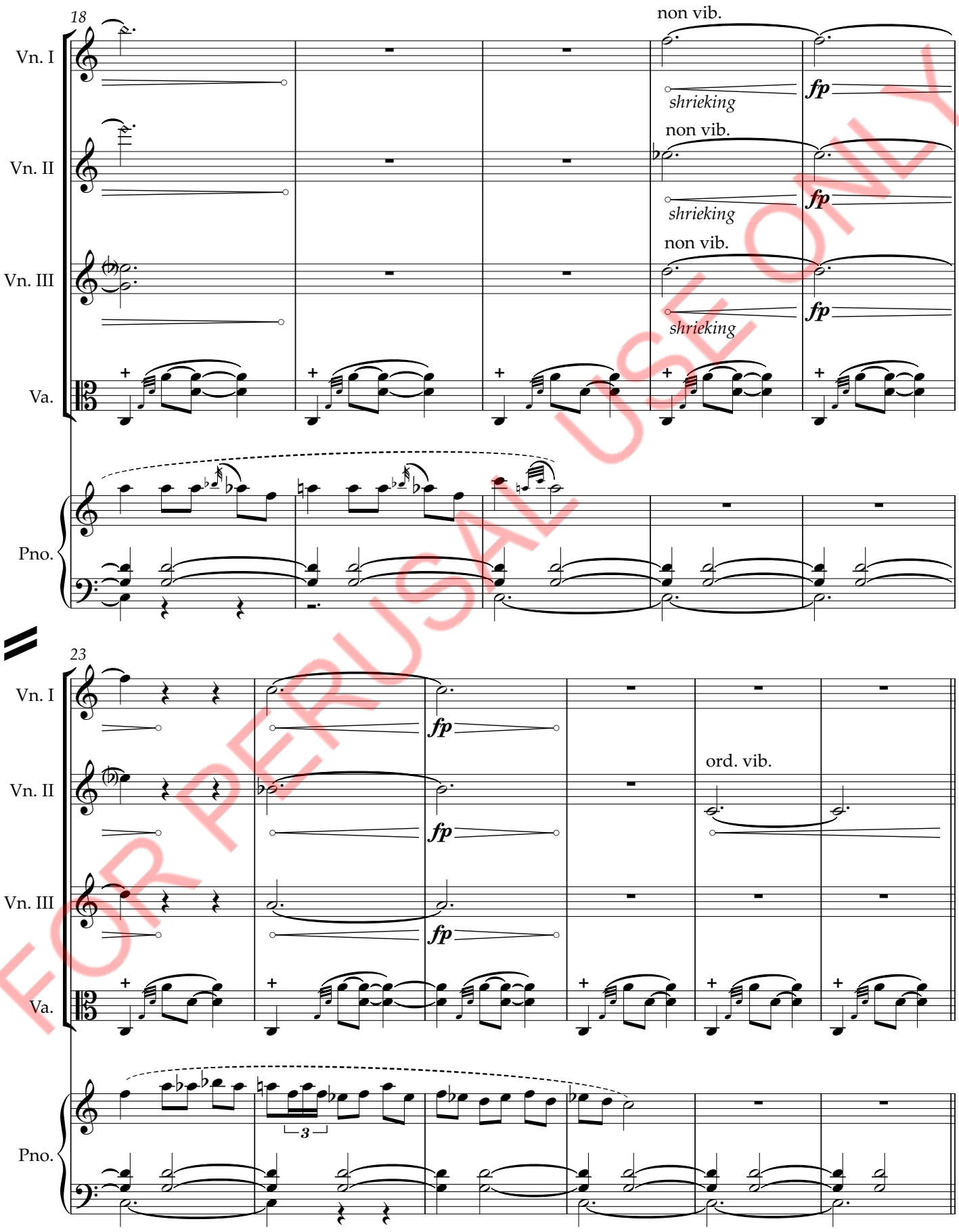

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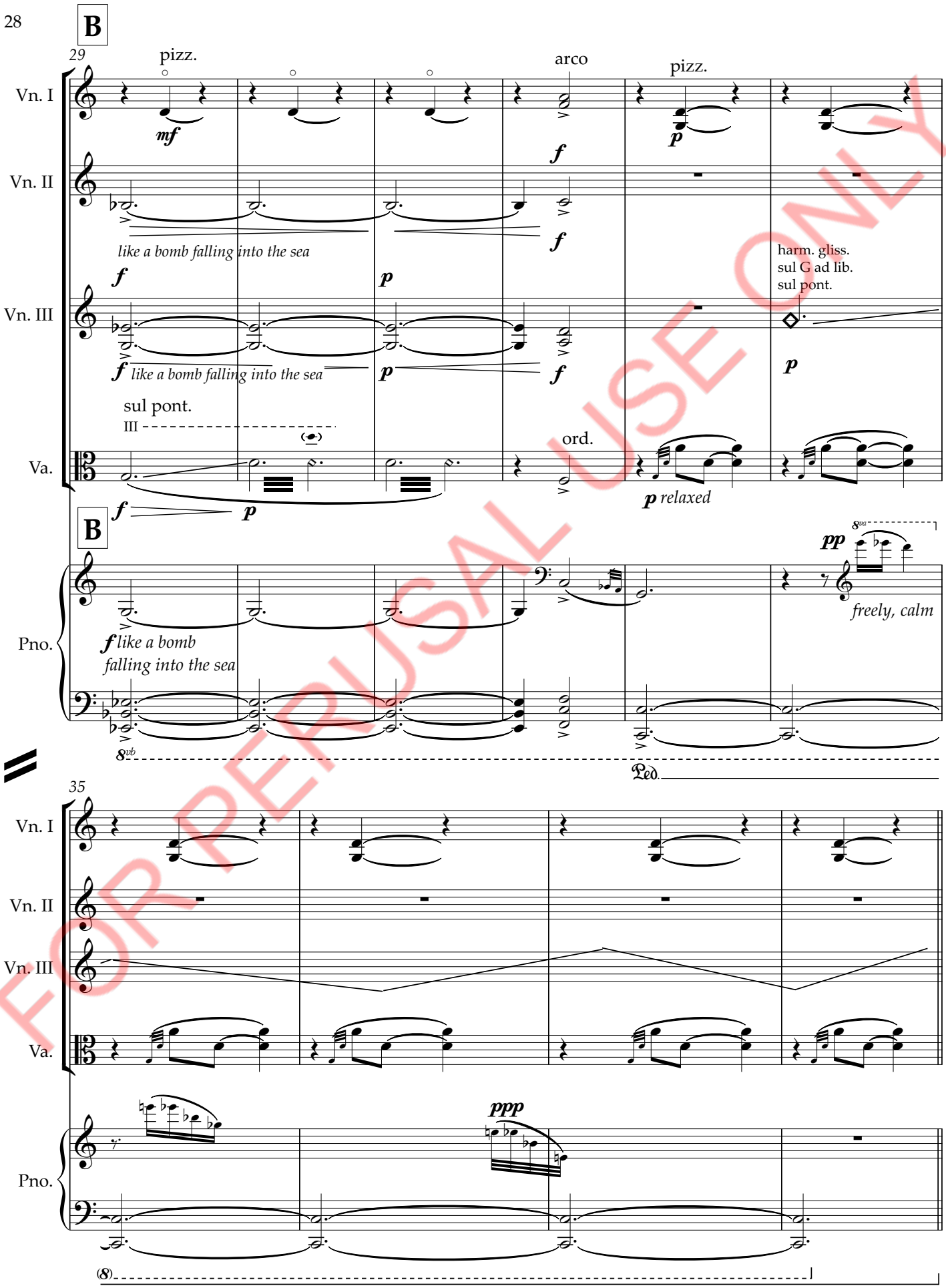

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C

39

arco
non vib.

Vn. I

non vib.

Vn. II

non vib.

Vn. III

Va.

8va

Pno.

p ruminating, melancholic

44

Vn. I

fp *f*

Vn. II

fp *f*

Vn. III

fp *f*

Va.

Pno.

3

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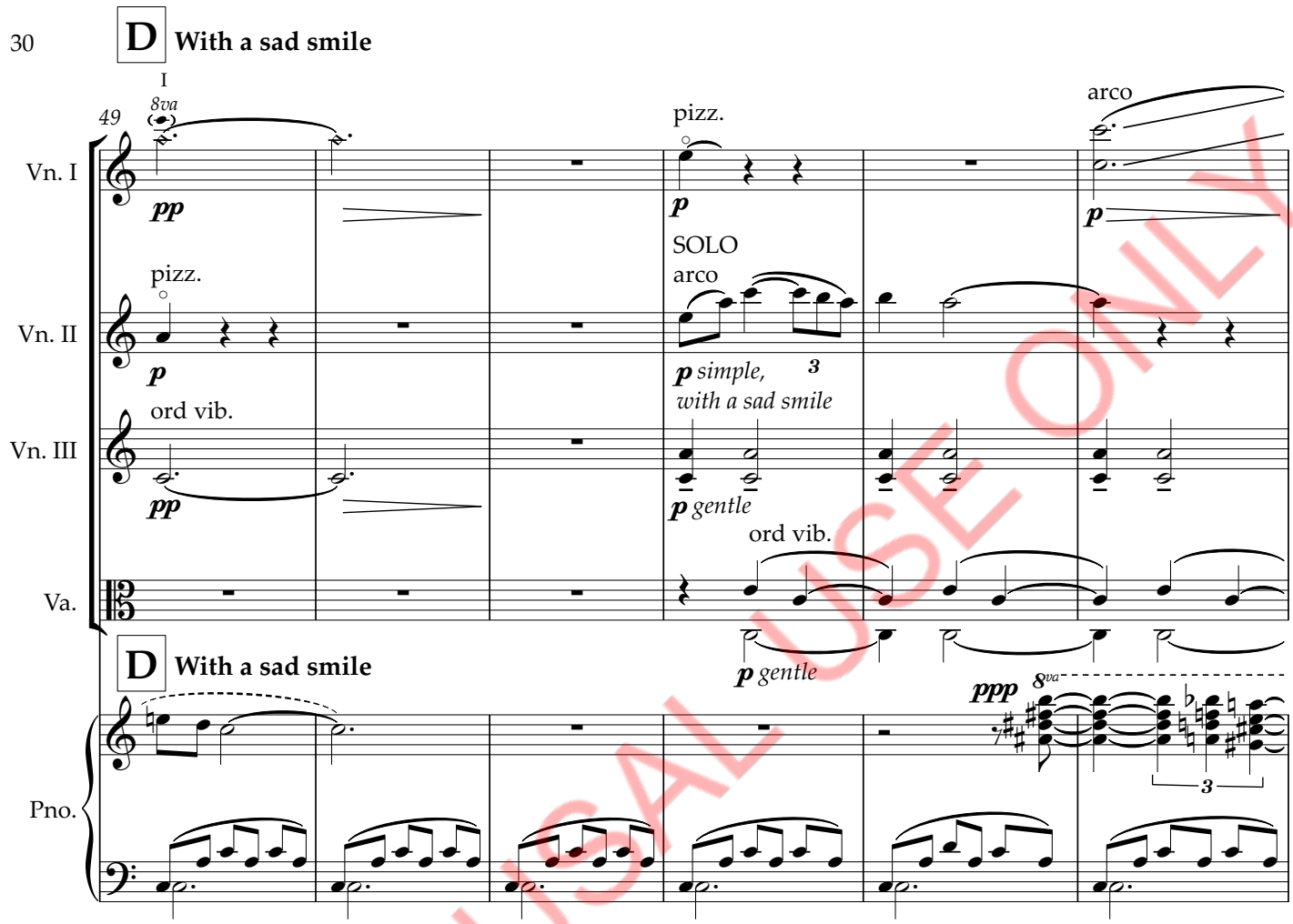

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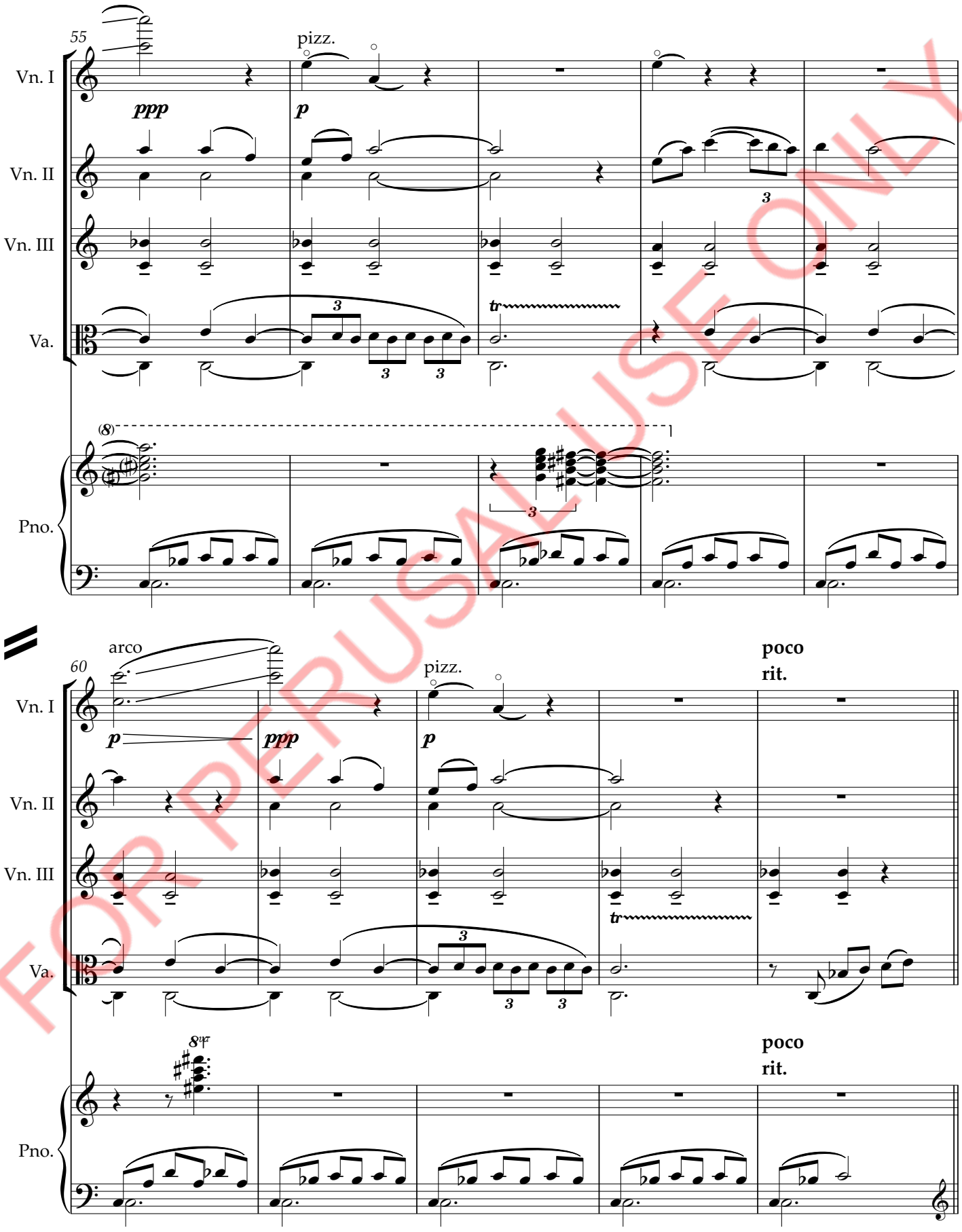

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E **Rubato**

65

Vn. I — arco — (switch to IV) — *pp mysterious*

Vn. II — SOLO — *p espress.*

Vn. III — *pp mysterious*

Va. — *pp mysterious* — gliss.

E **Rubato**

Pno. — 8va — *p* > *ppp* (3)

F **Senza misura, blurry**
Piano L.H.: Andante 𝅗𝅥=70-80

71

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vn. III

Va.

F **Senza misura, blurry**
Piano L.H.: Andante 𝅗𝅥=70-80

Pno. — independently — repeat — *p flowing* — generous pedal ad lib.

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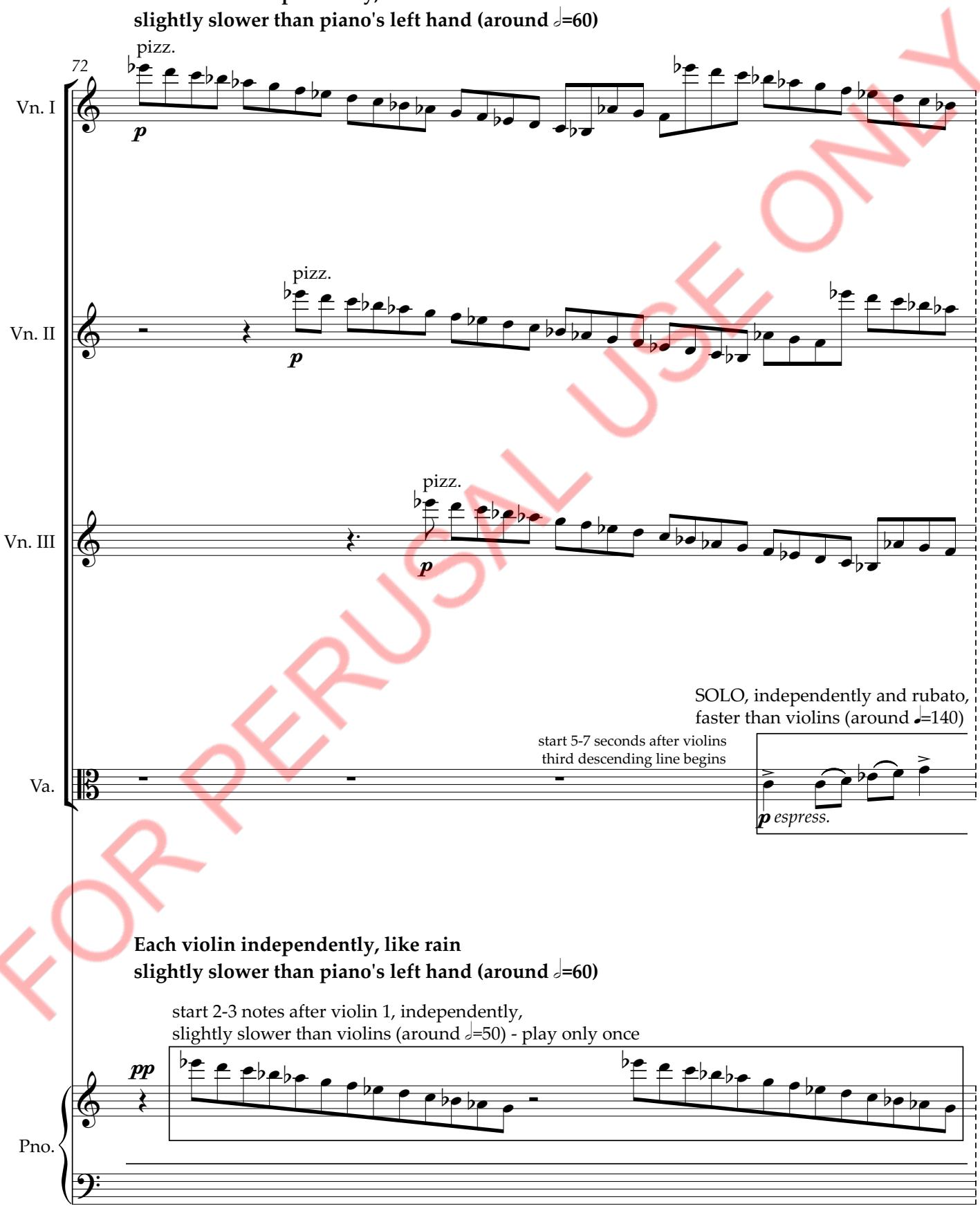

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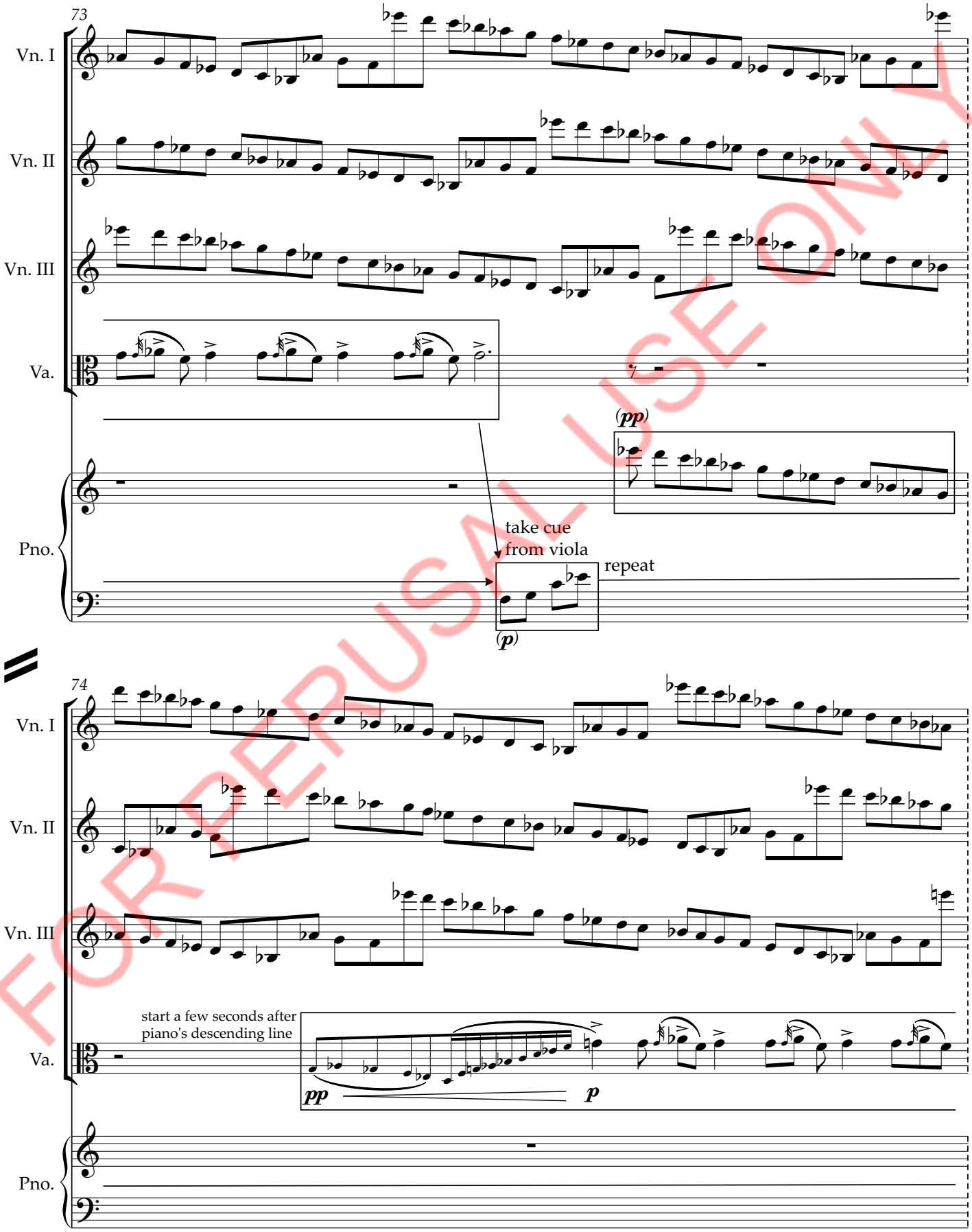

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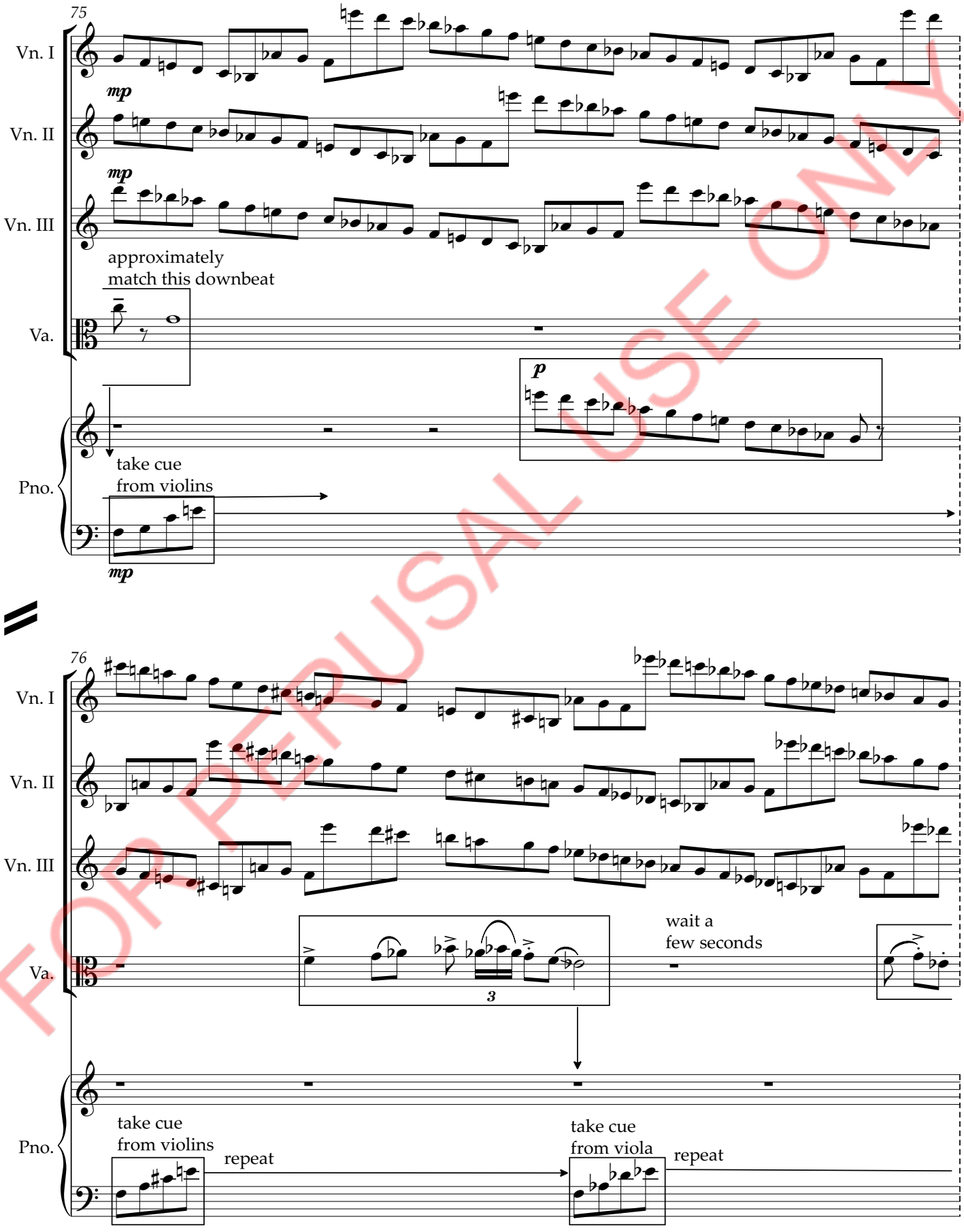

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77

Piano: poco accel.

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vn. III

Va.

Piano: poco accel.

take cue
from viola

Pno.

8vb

G

Moderato poco rubato ♩=110

As before

78

arco

Vn. I

fp warm

f

arco

Vn. II

fp warm

f

gradually to

p

pizz.

arco

Vn. III

fp warm

f

p

sul pont.
weird, with
scratchy sounds

SOLO

Va.

f

mf

ff

p

G

Moderato poco rubato ♩=110

As before

8va

Pno.

f falling bomb

8vb

sfz

p

3

freely
mysterious

Ped.

FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY

84

Vn. I

Vn. II

Vn. III

Va.

Pno.

sul pont., weird,
scratchy sounds

H **Violins: independently as a group, slightly faster than viola**

87

SOLO

mp light, dance-like

mp light, dance-like

arco

mp light, dance-like

pizz.

f warm

H **Violins: independently as a group, slightly faster than viola**

independently,
rubato

3

f painful

Ped.

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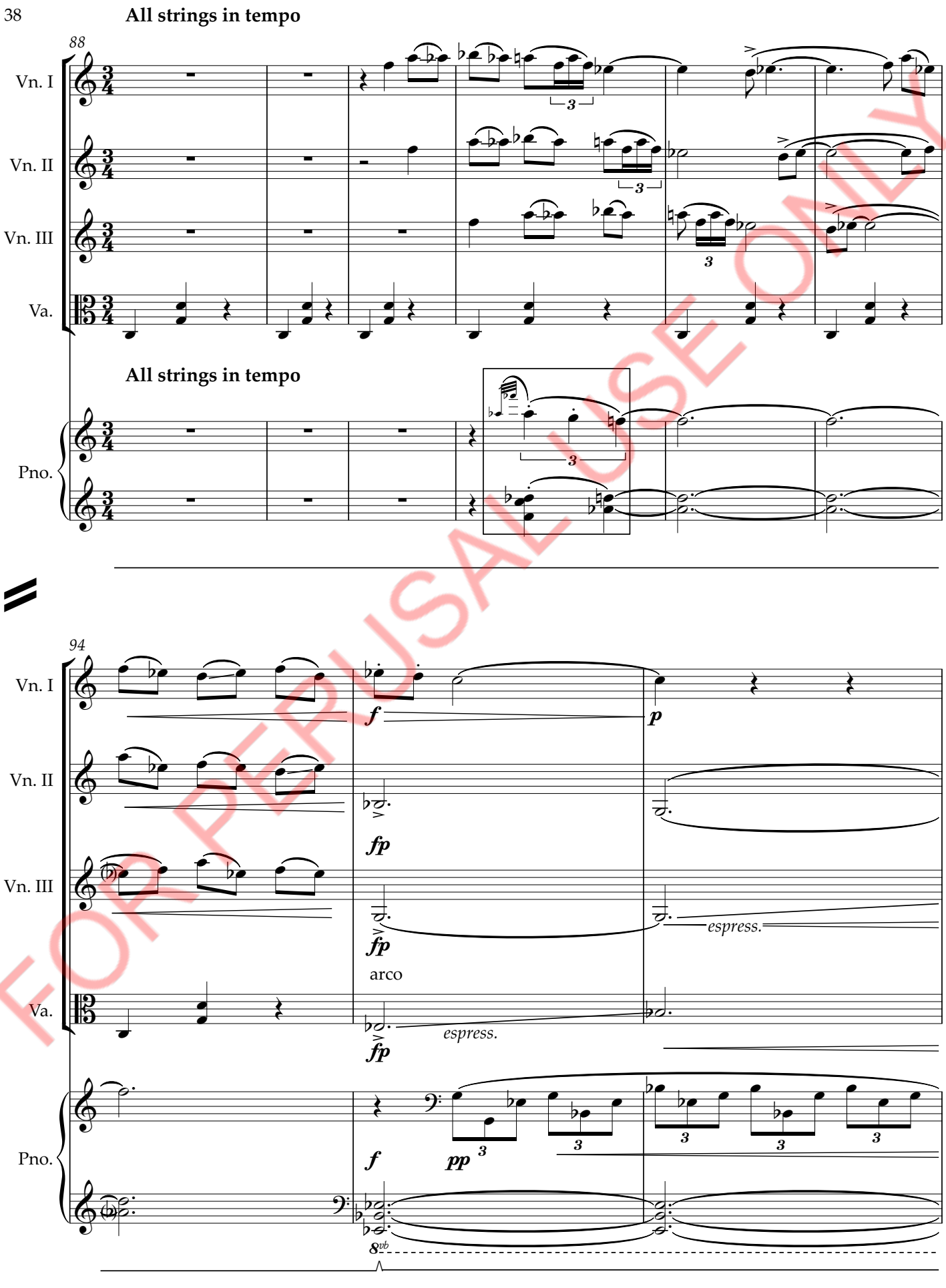

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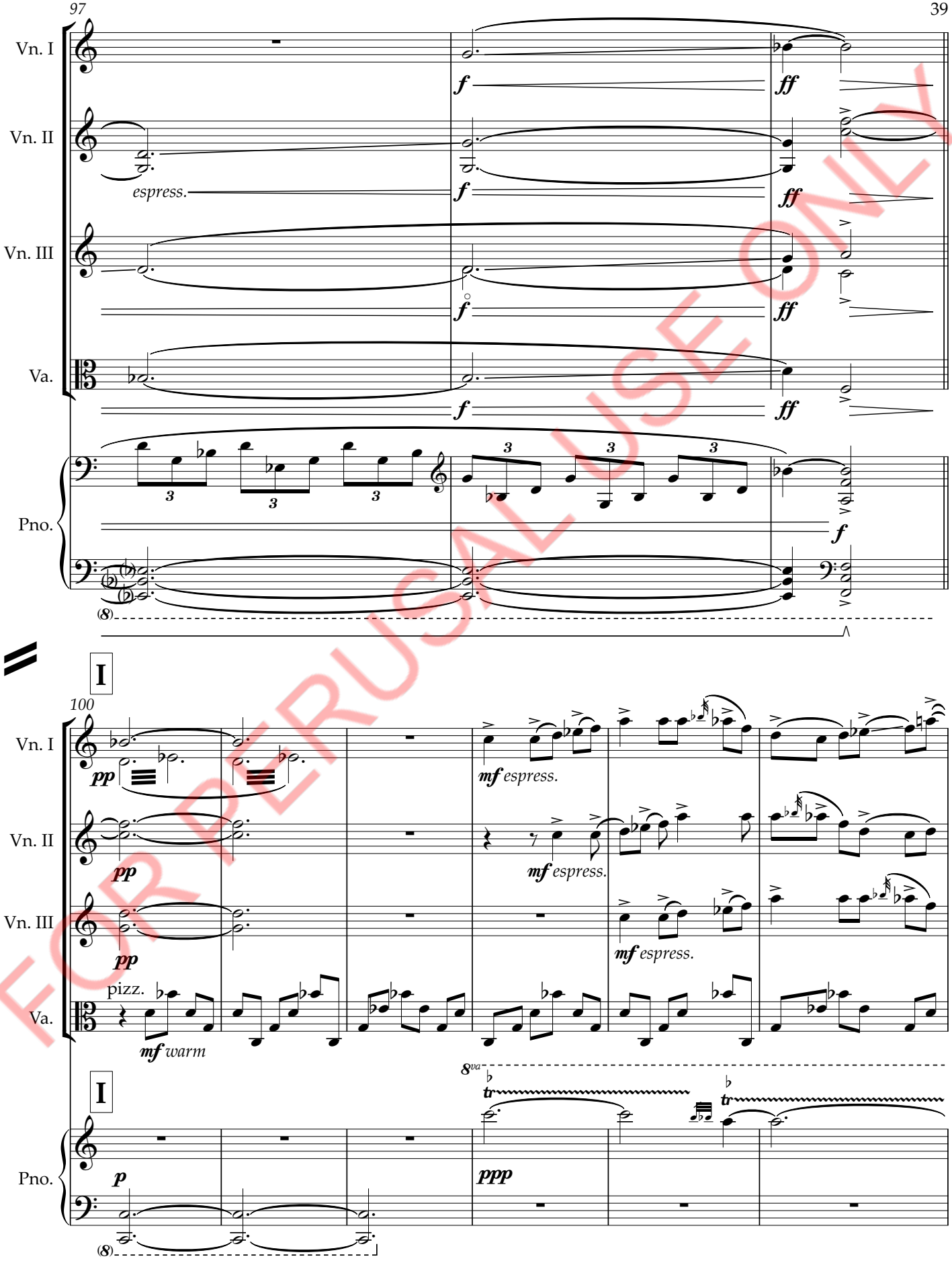

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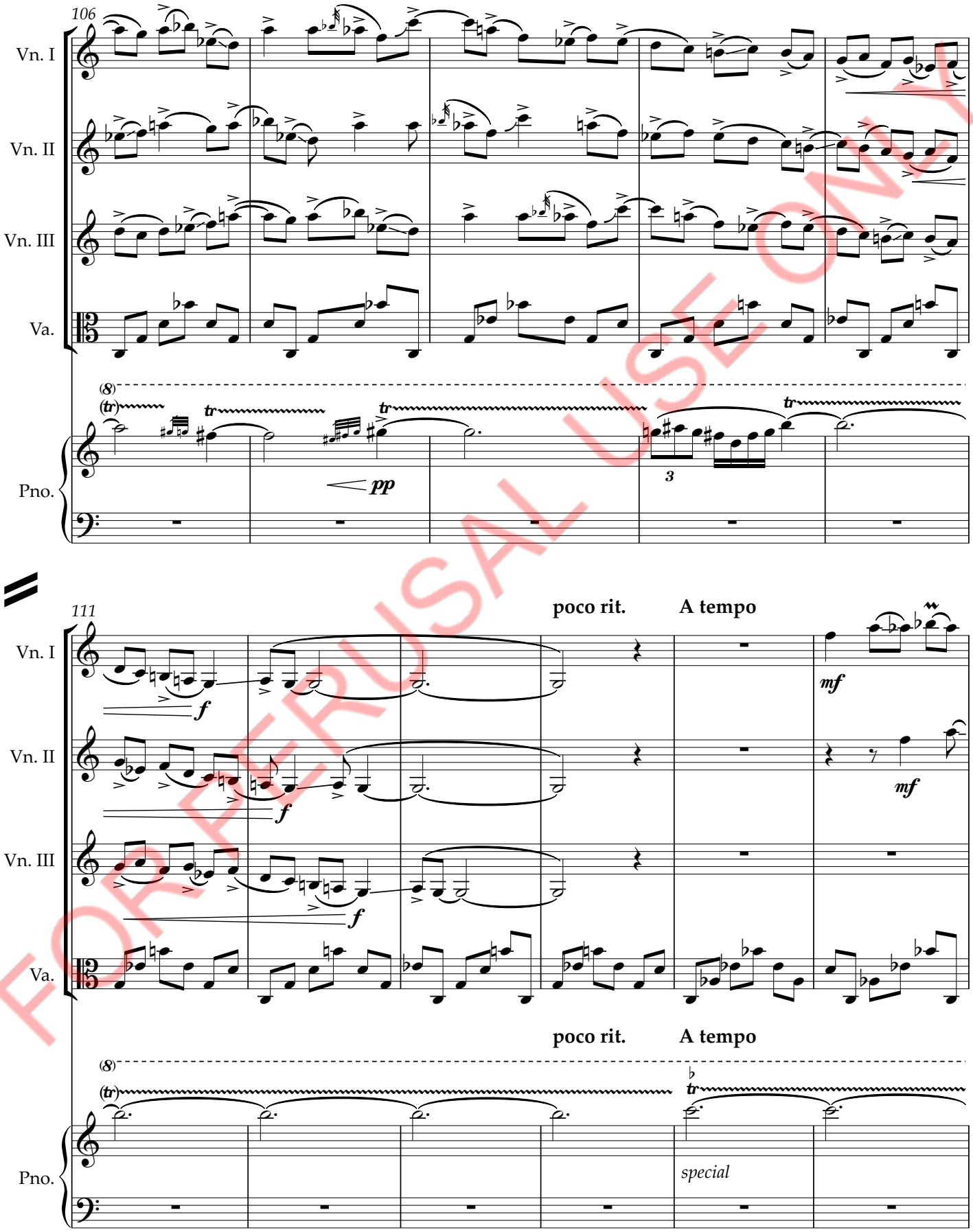

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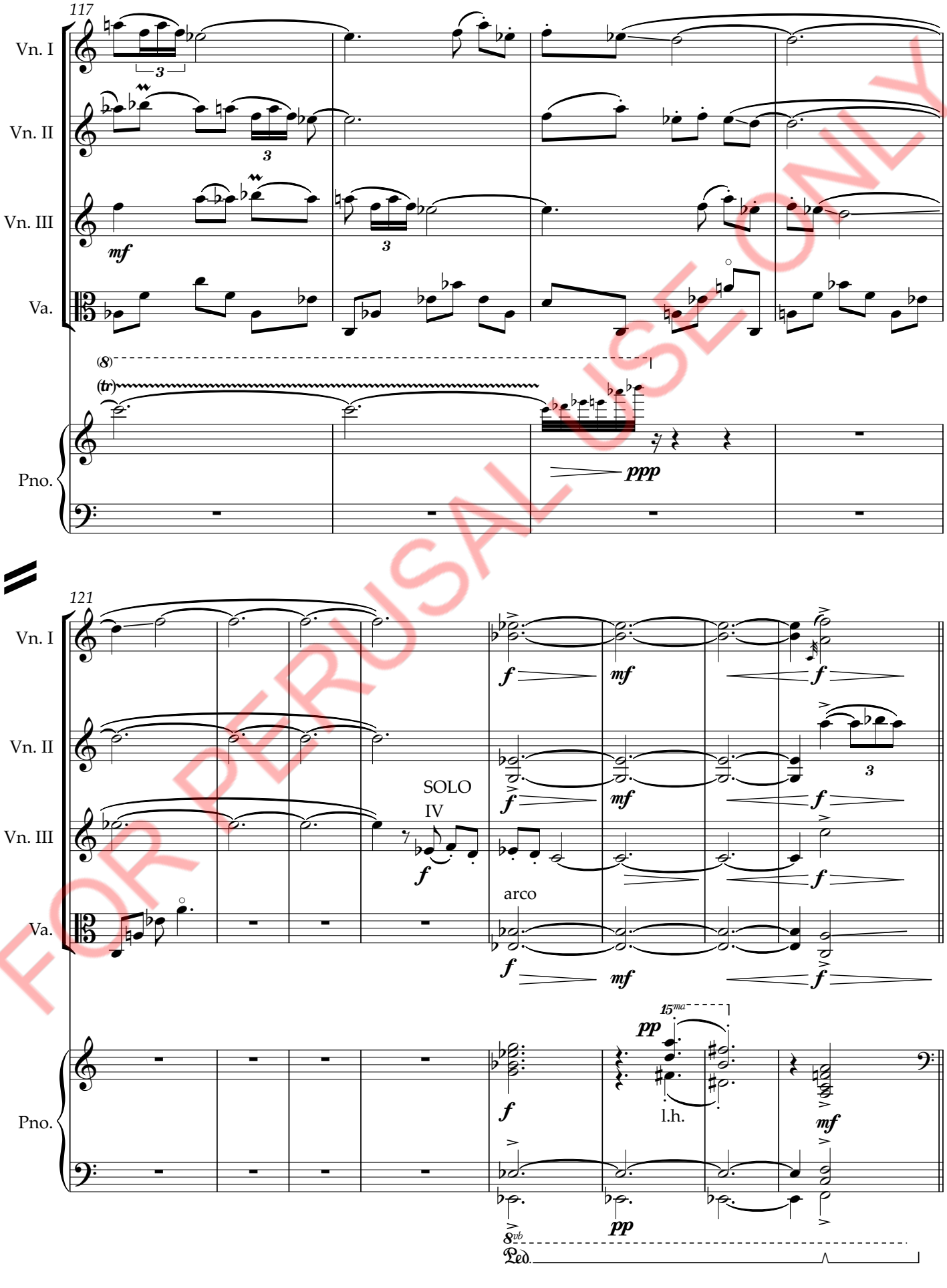

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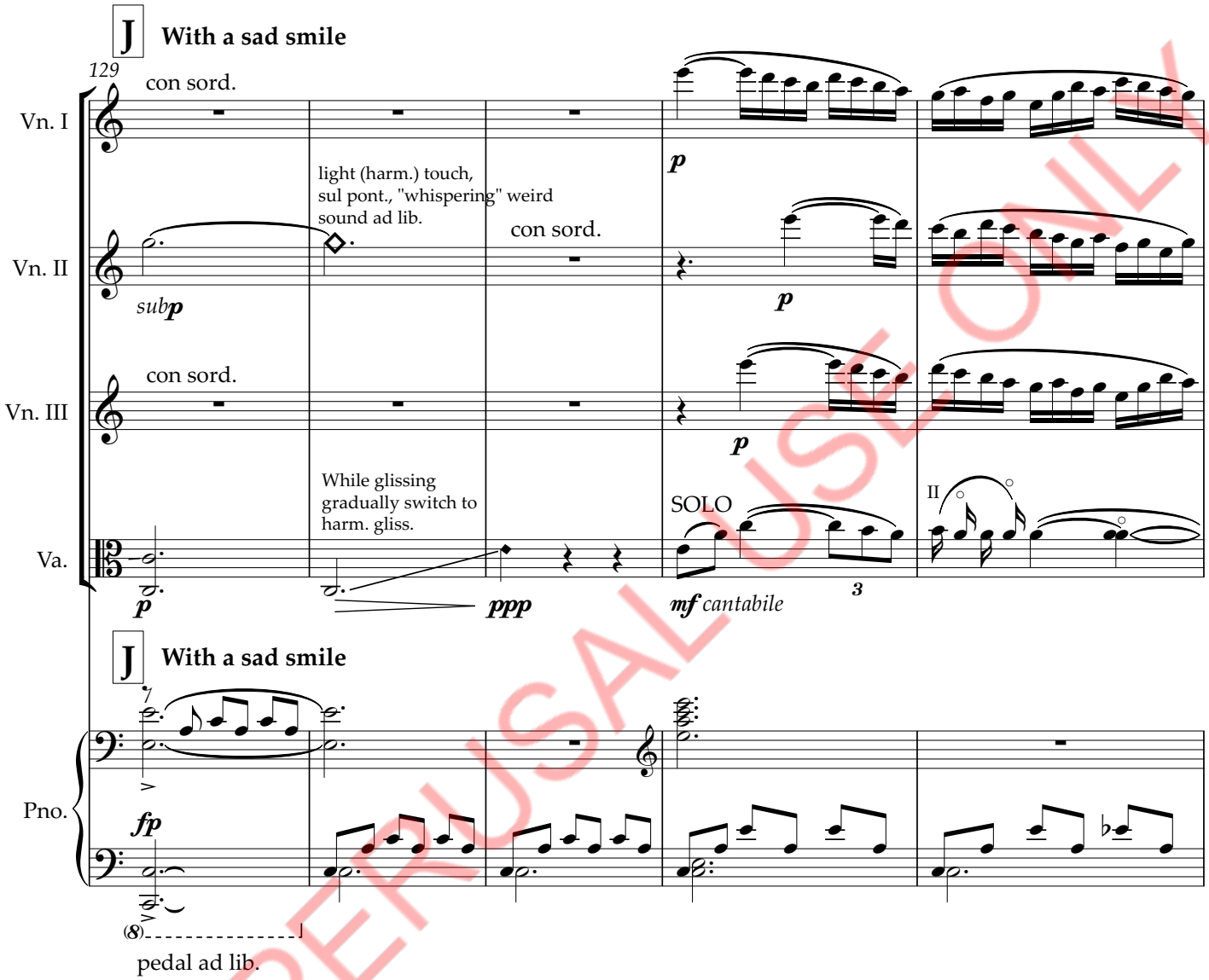

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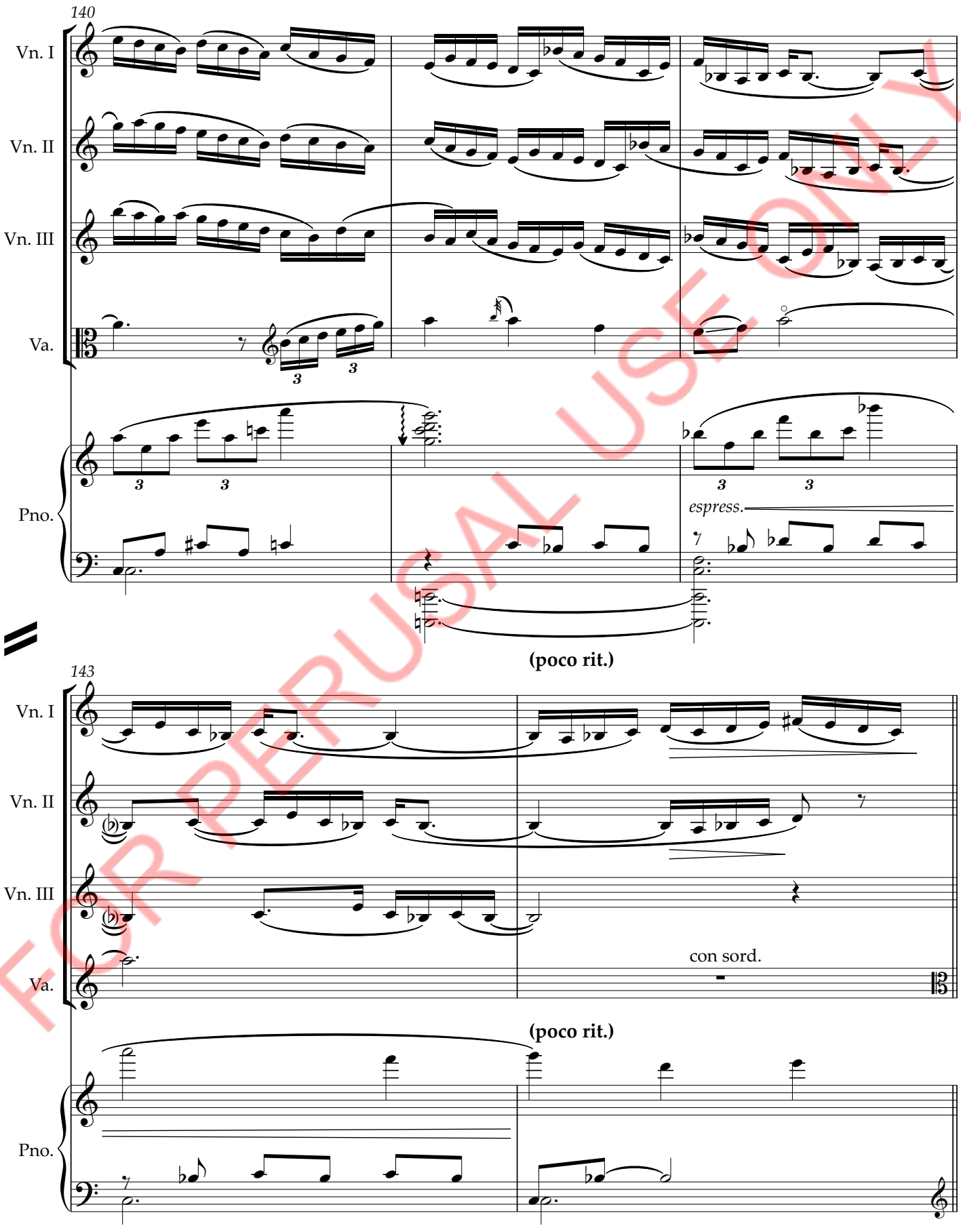

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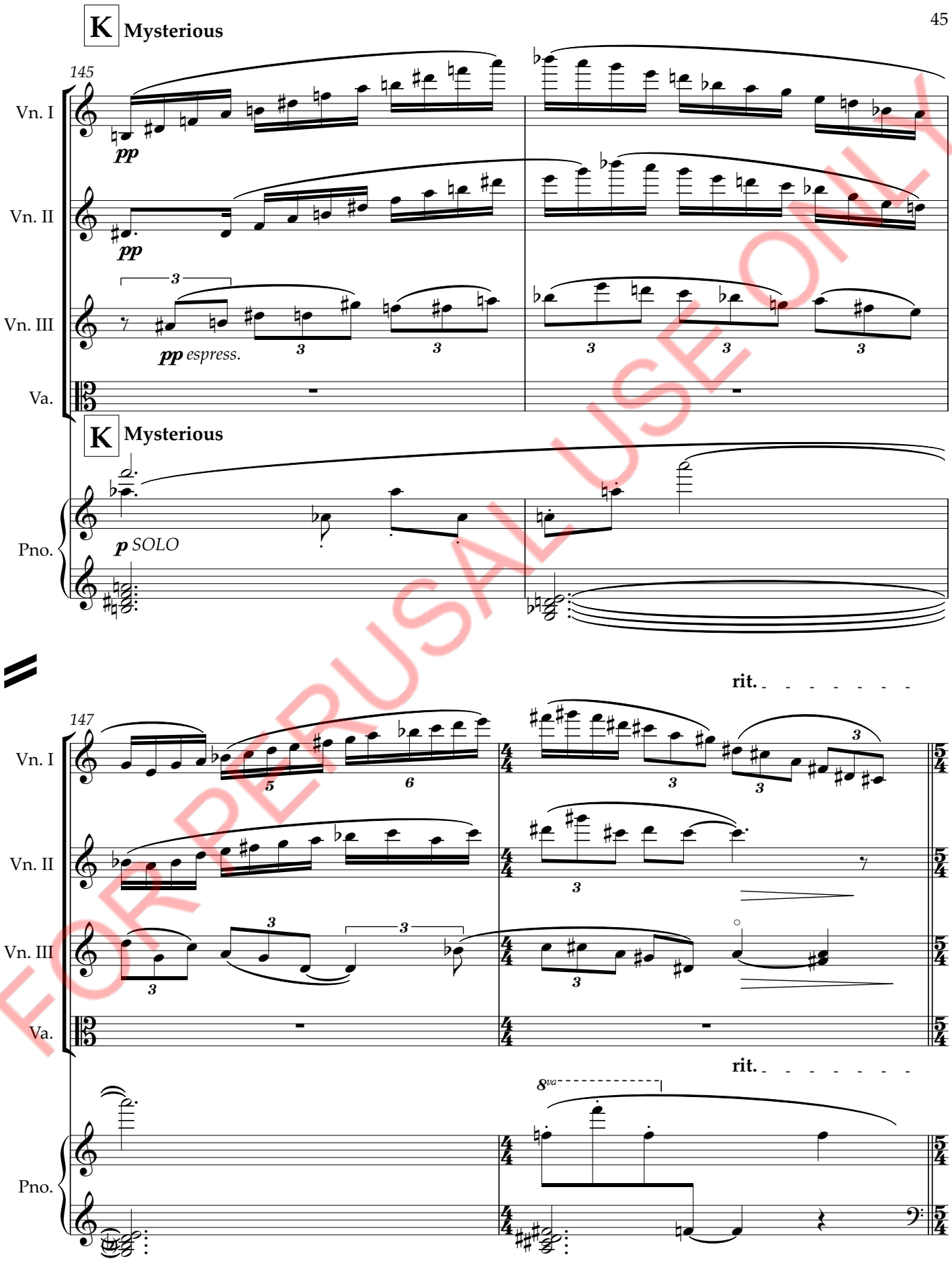

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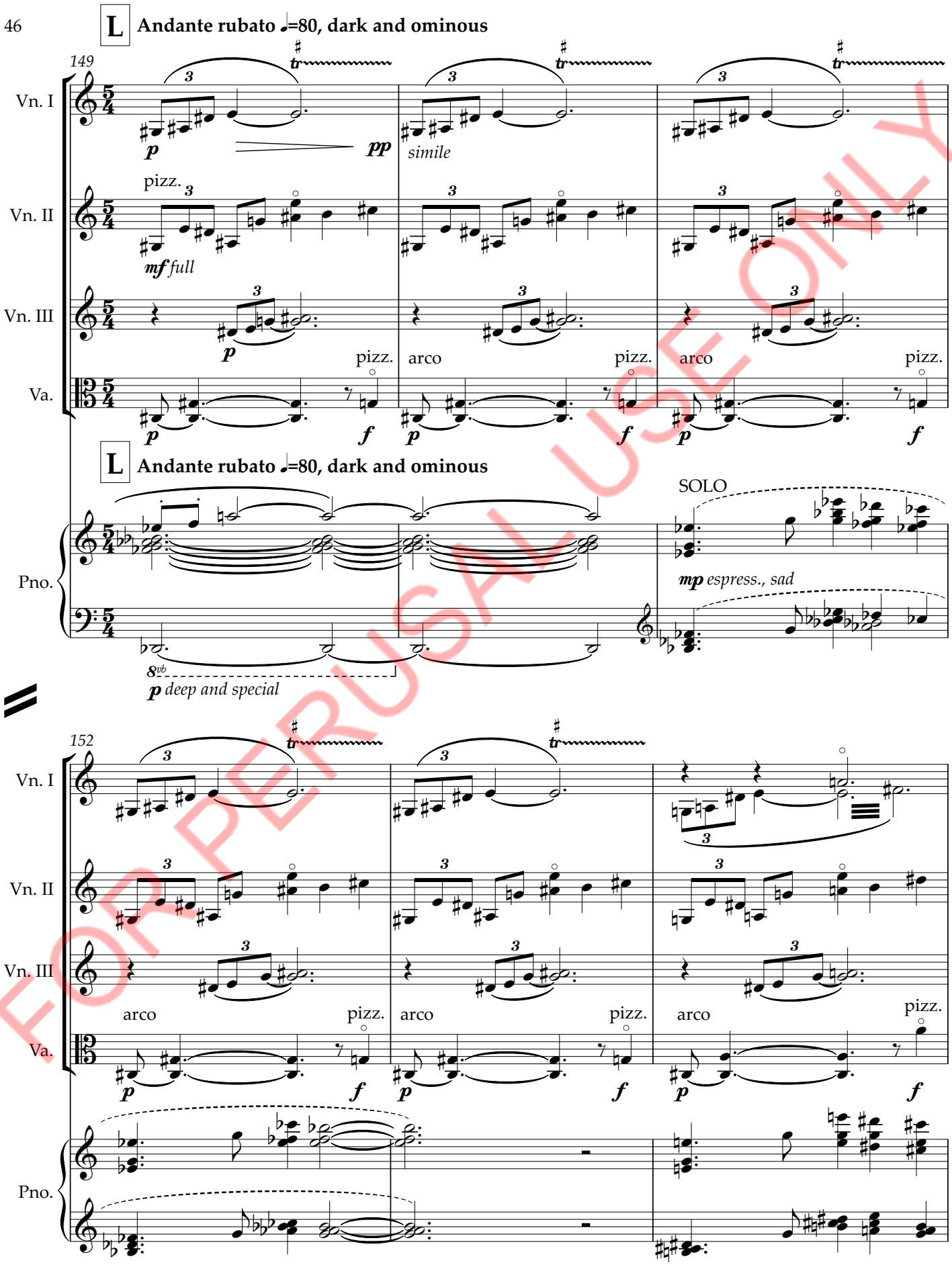

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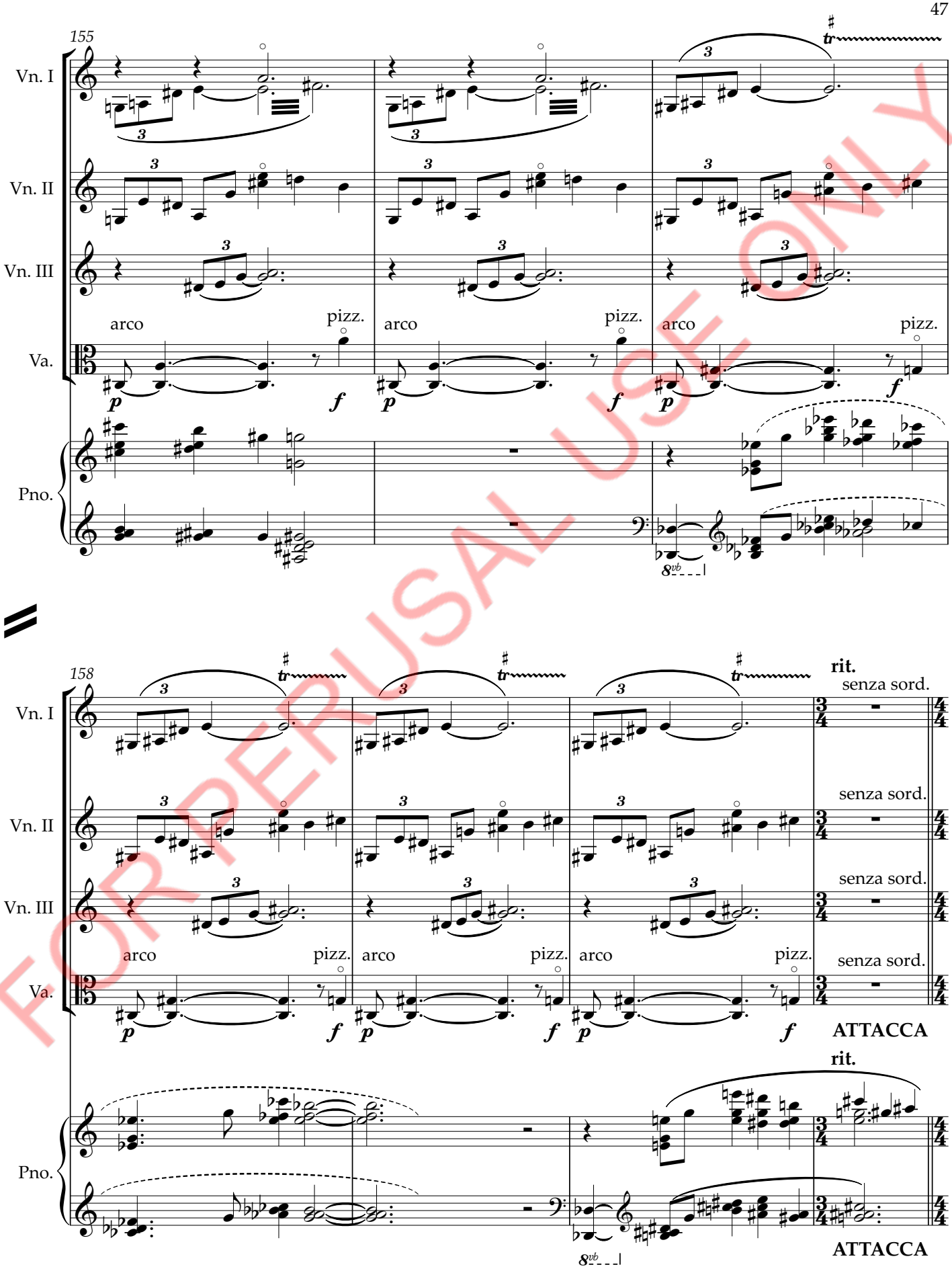

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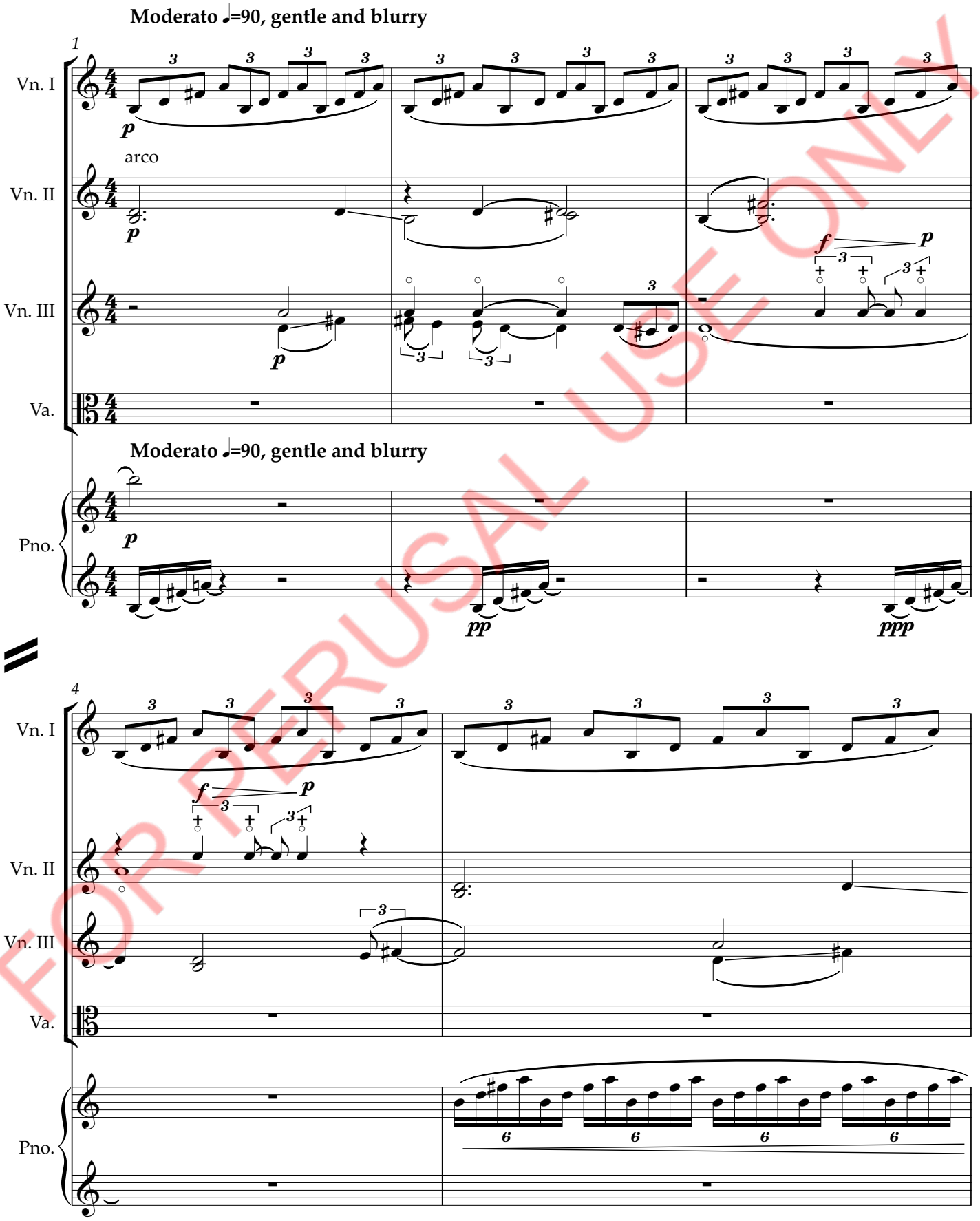

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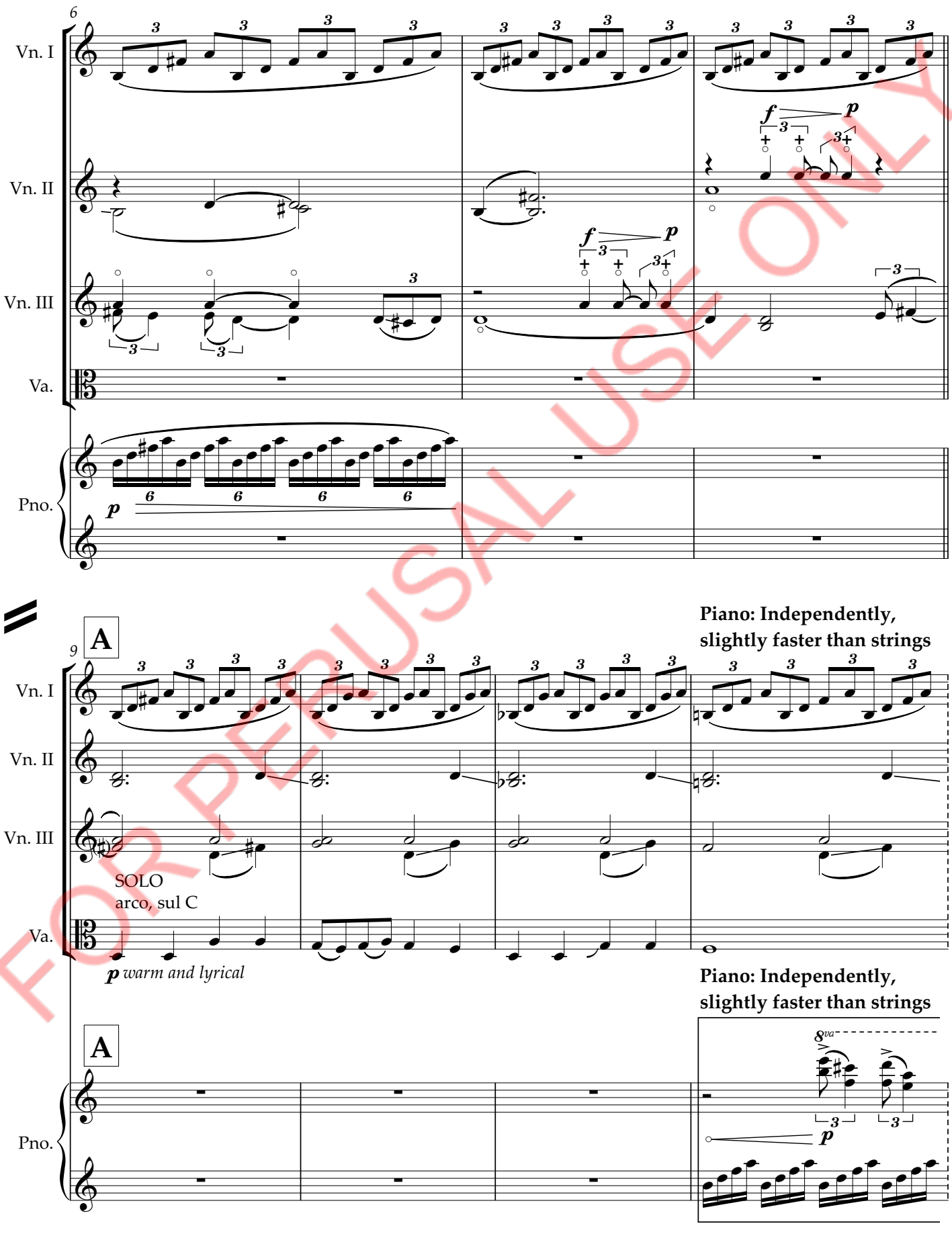

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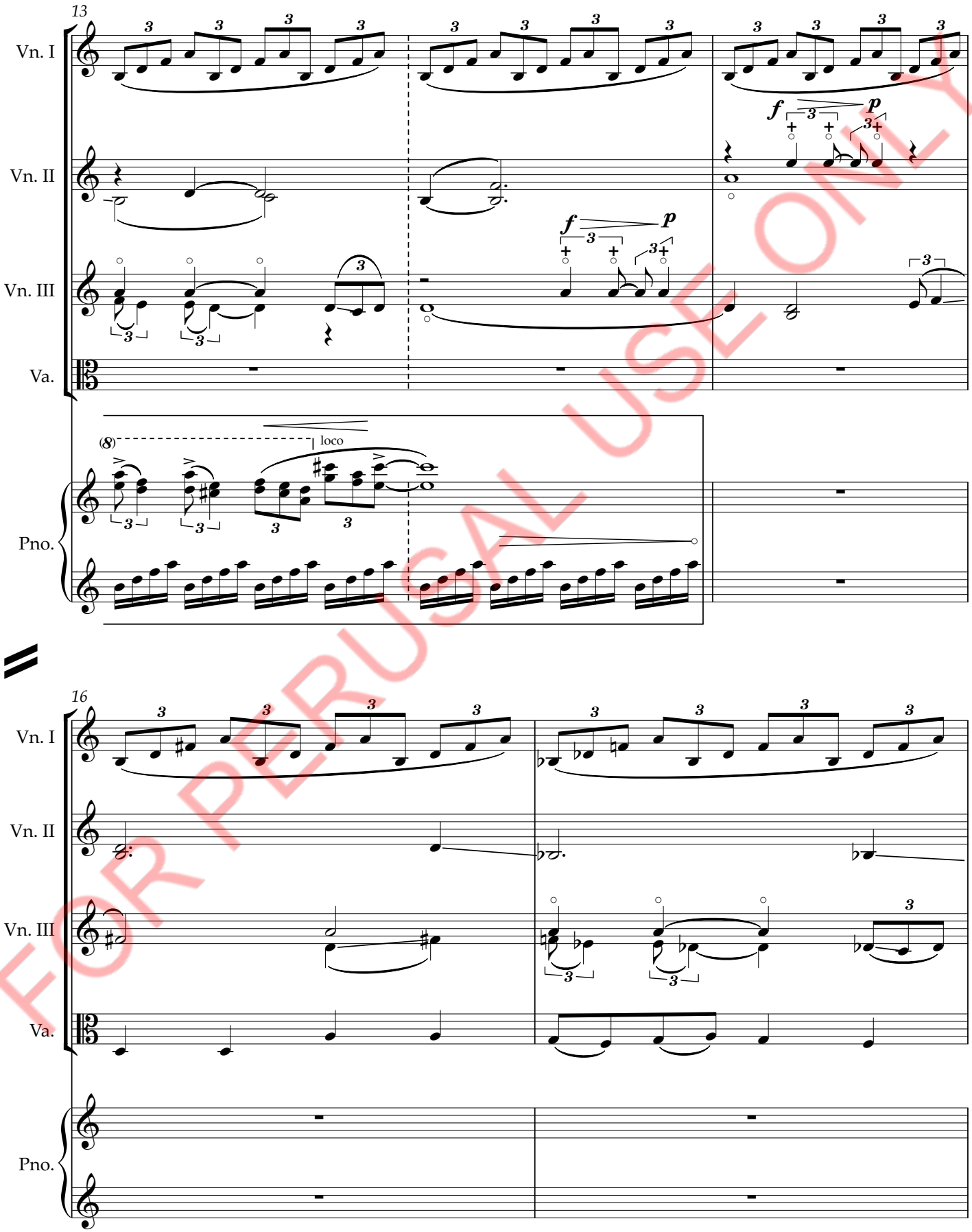

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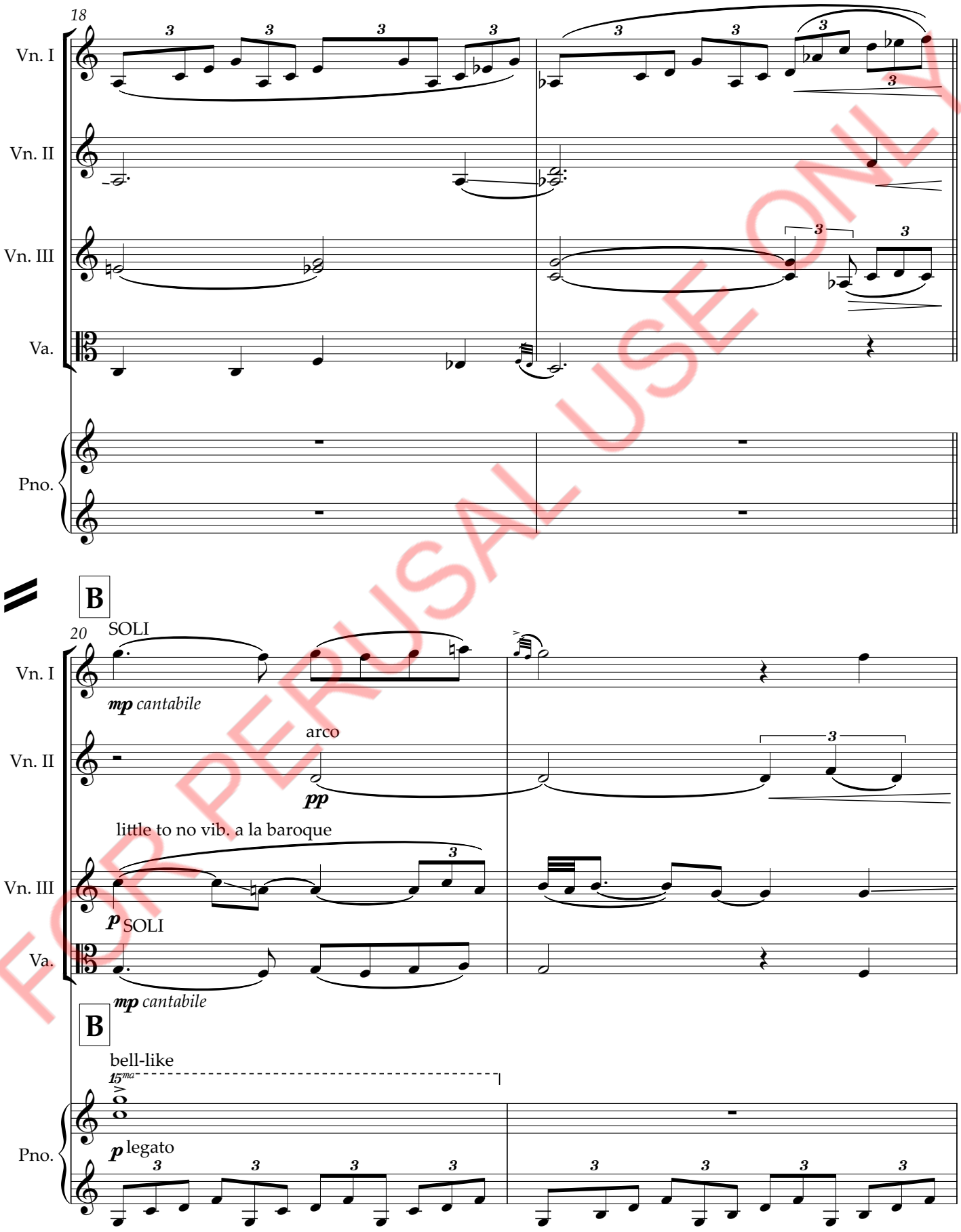

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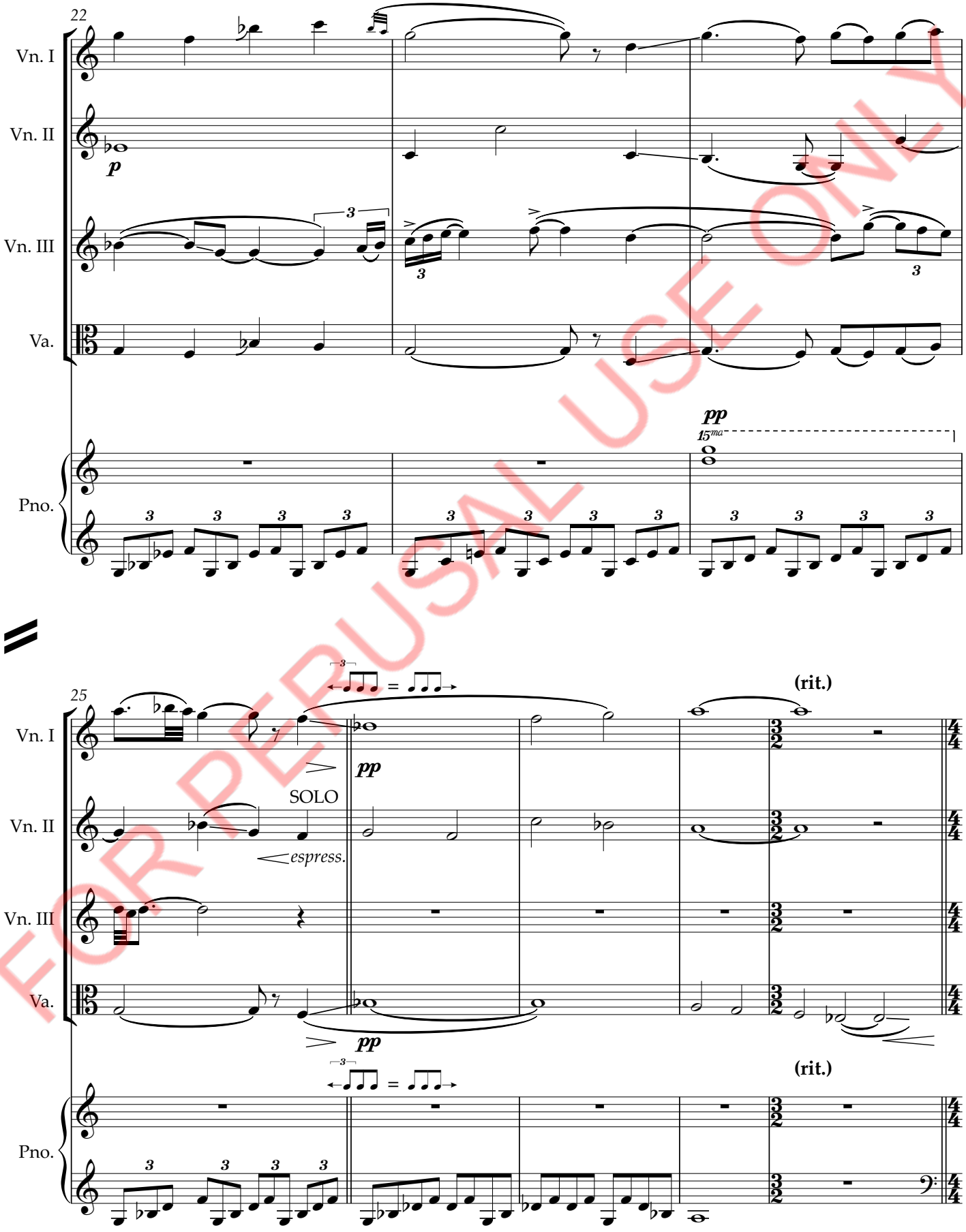

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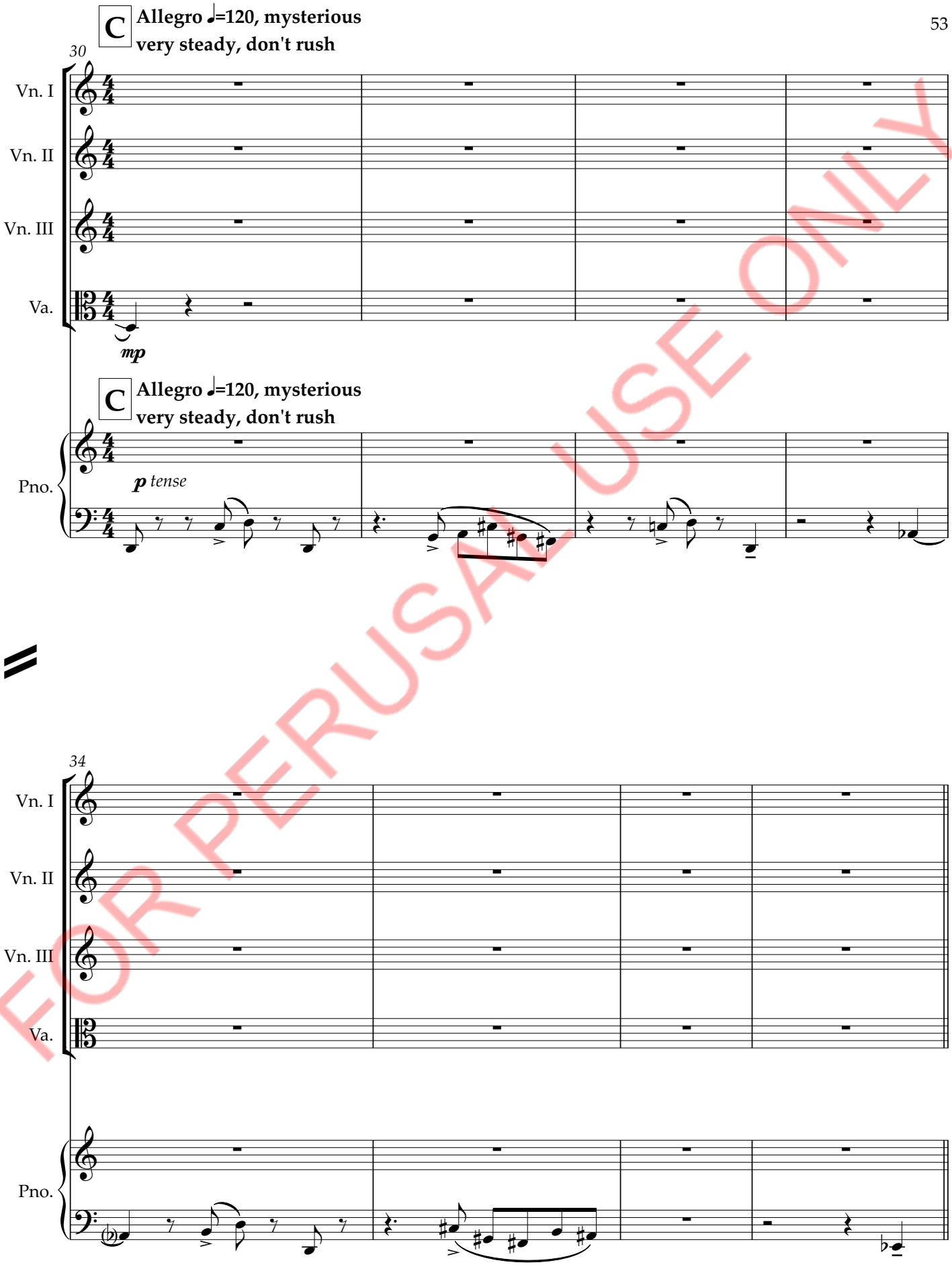

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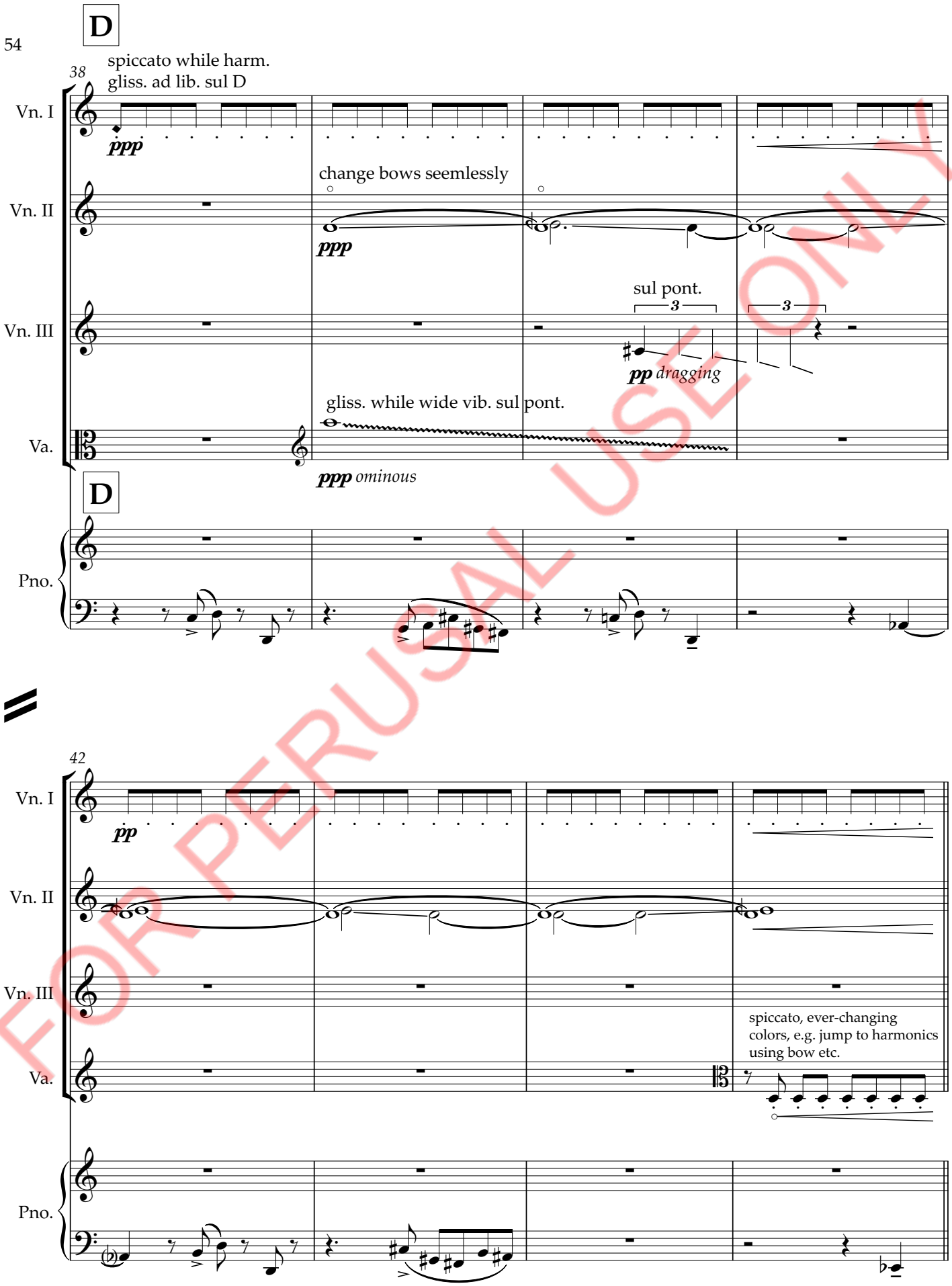

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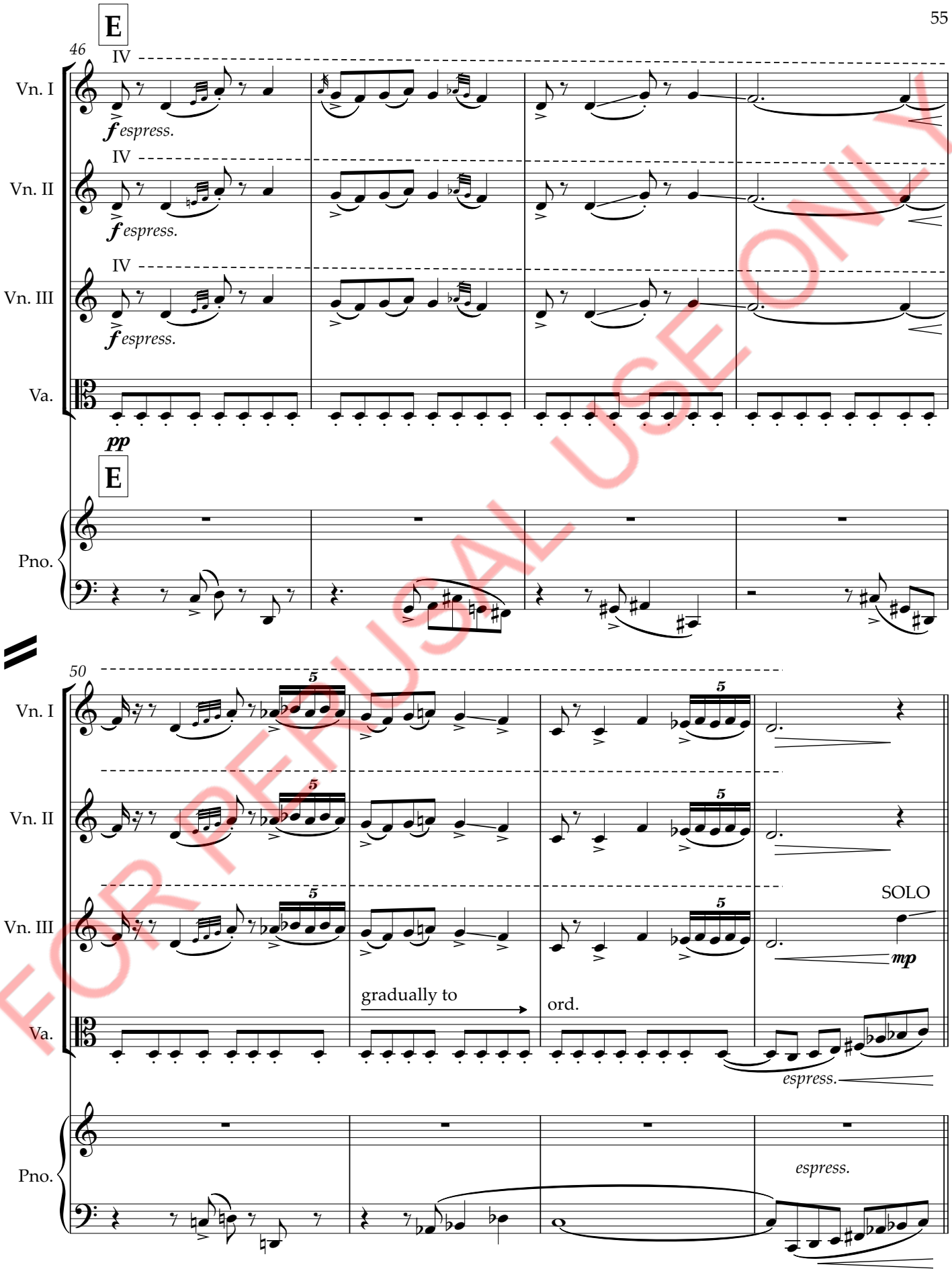

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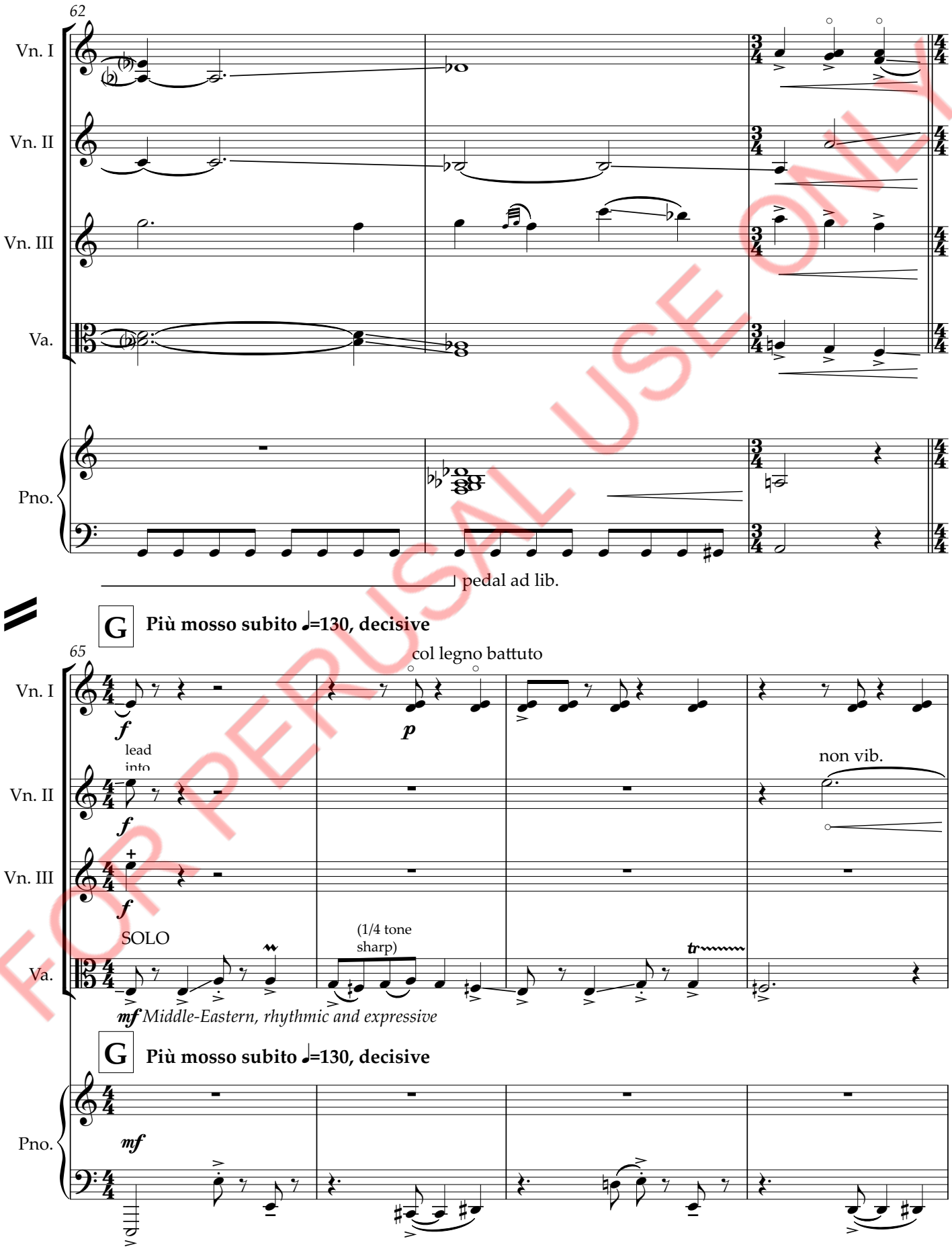

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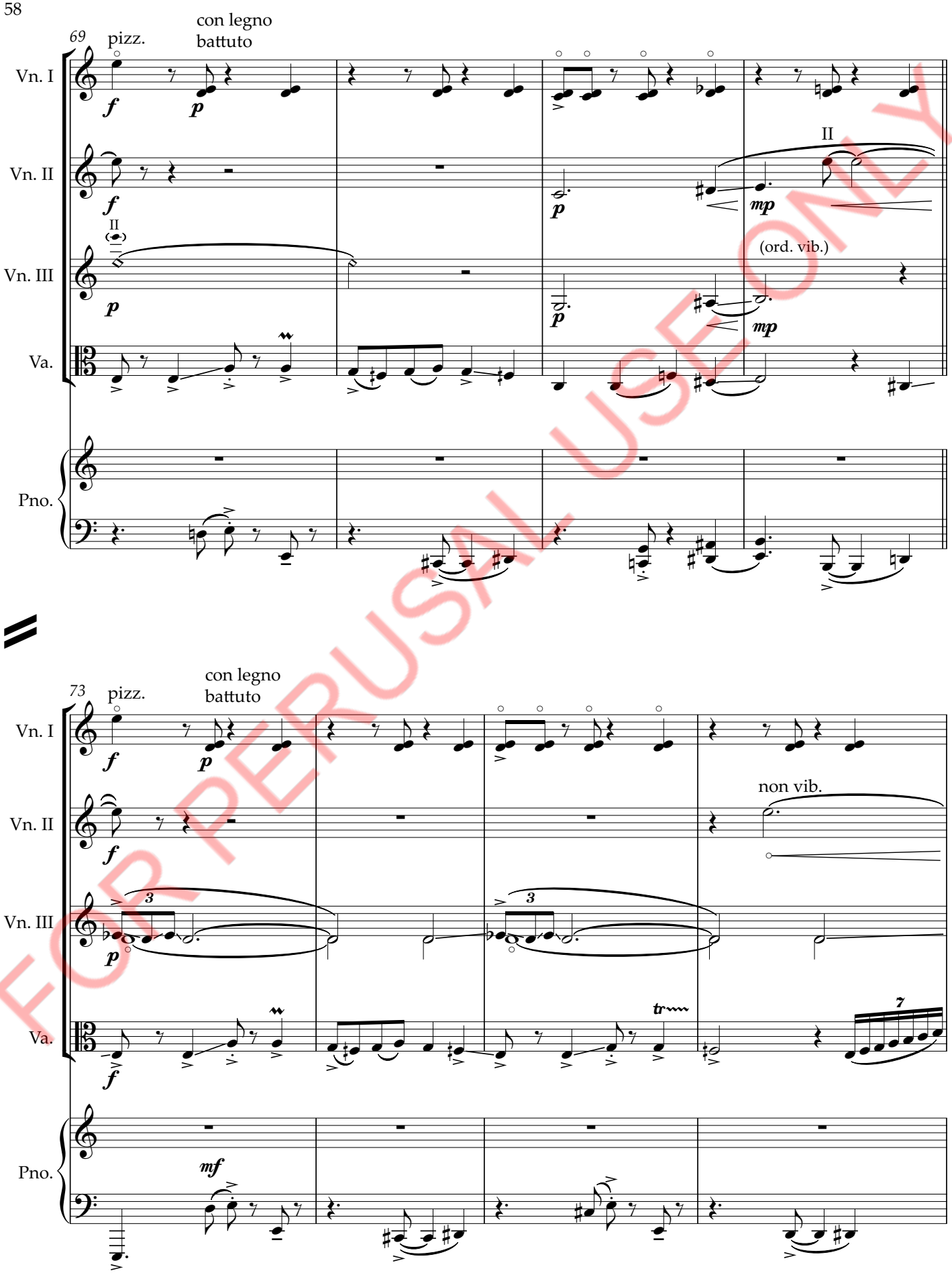

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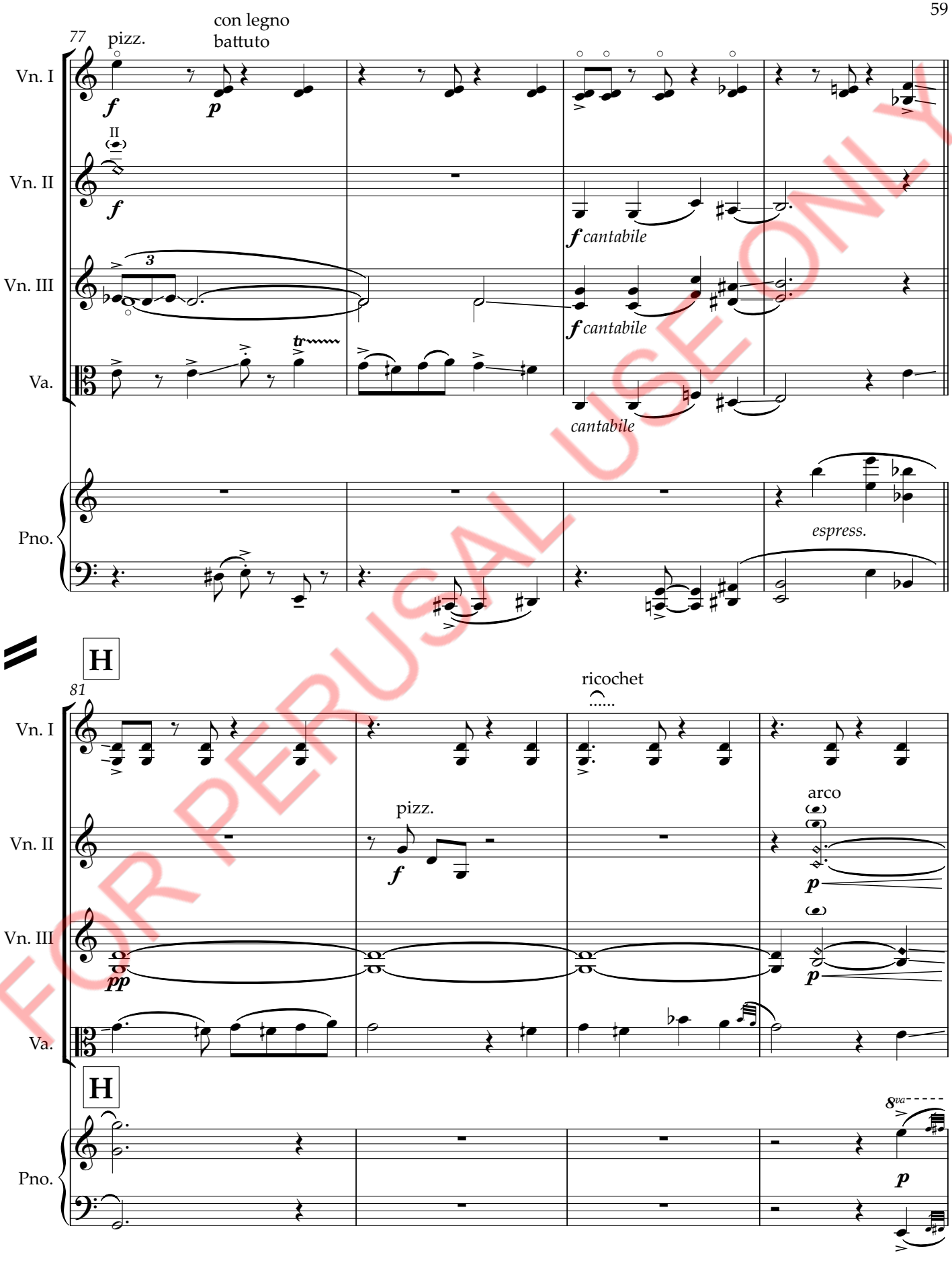

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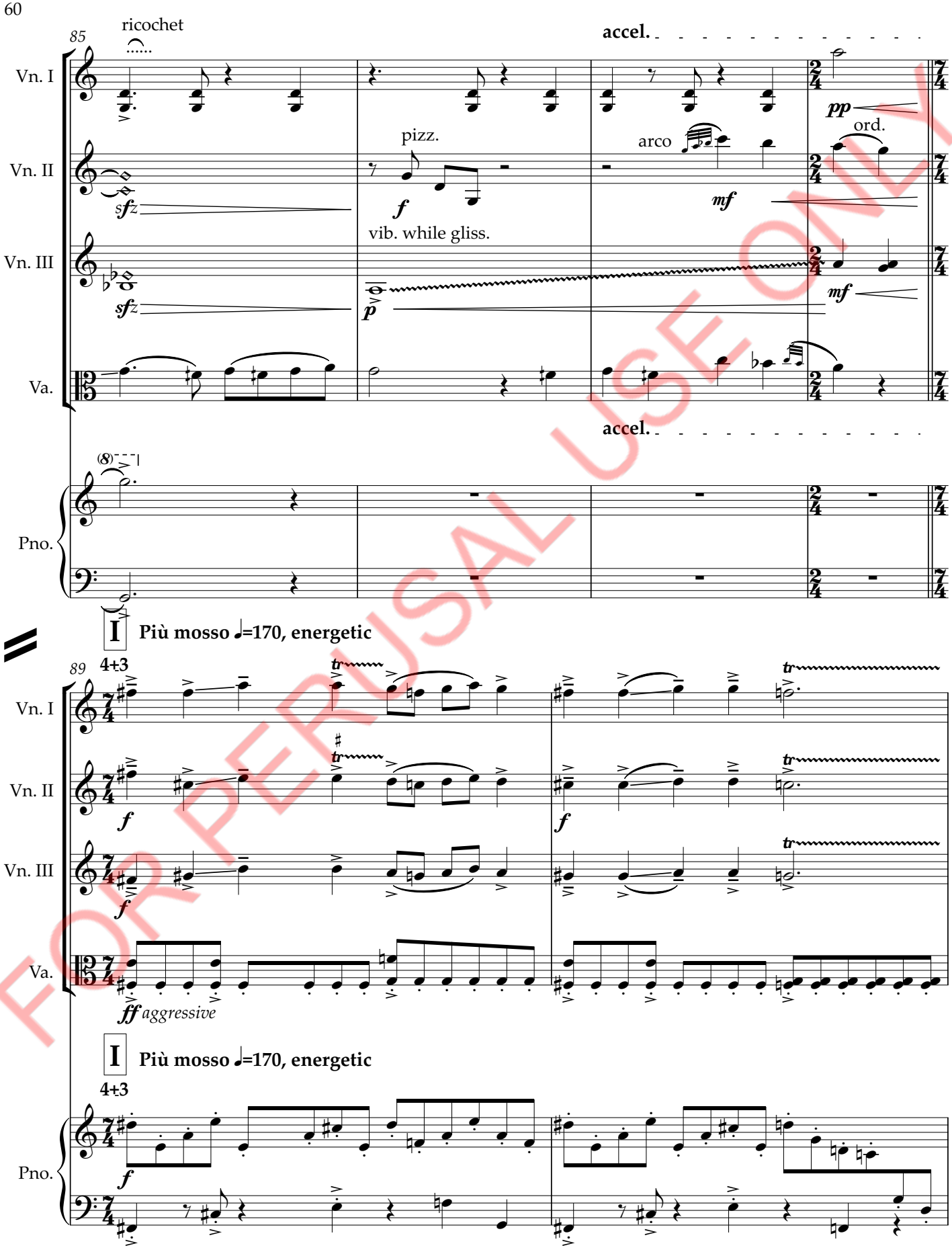

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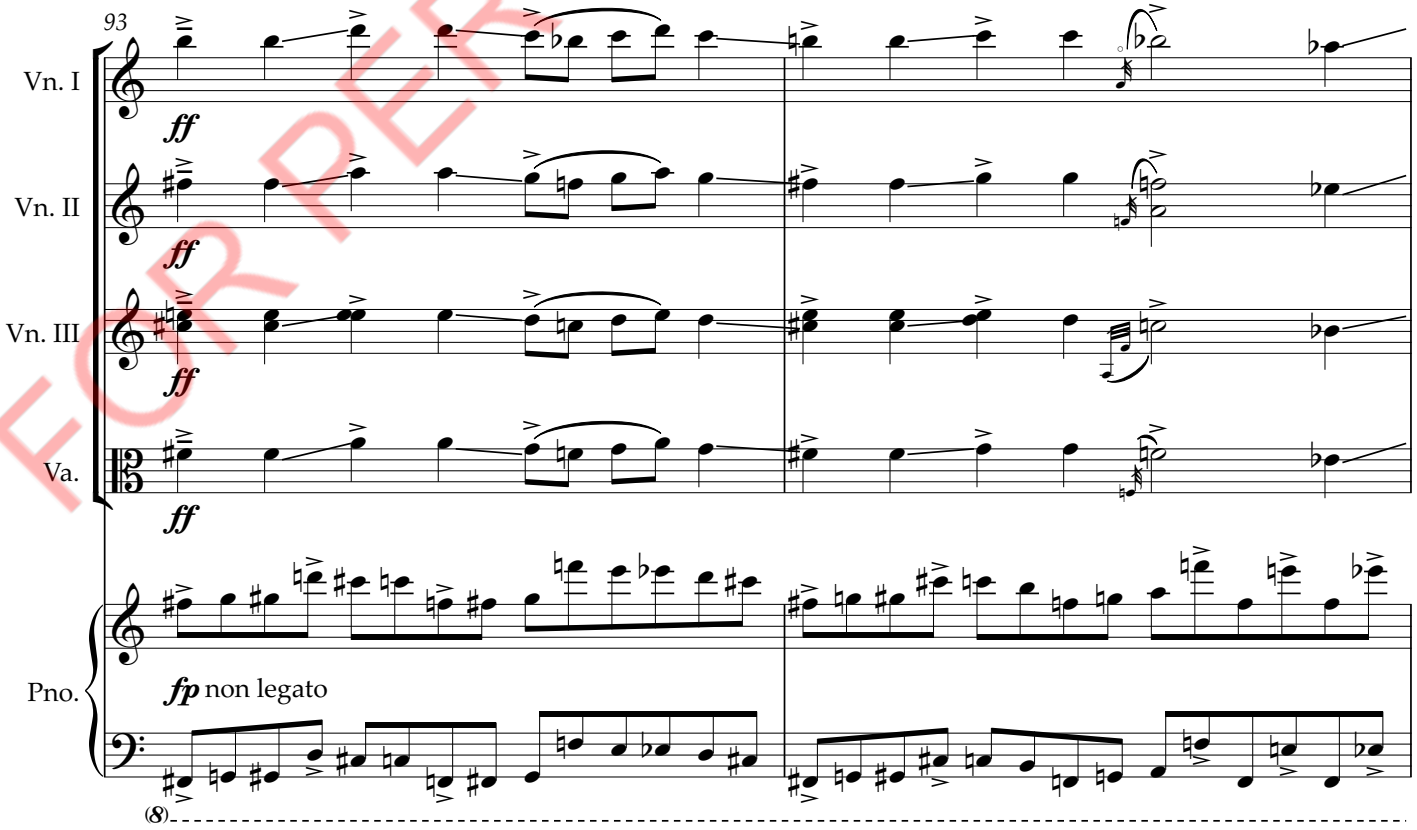

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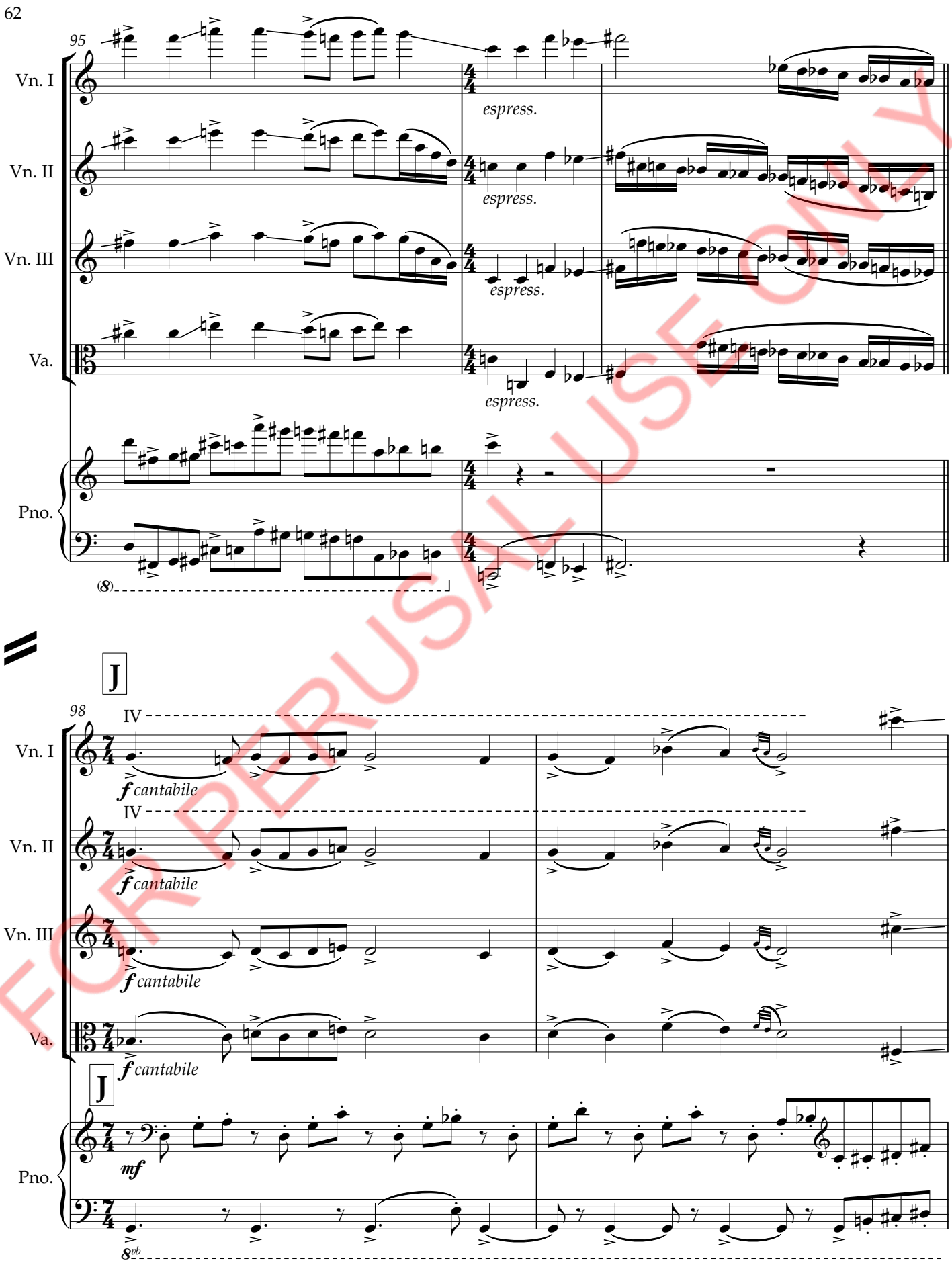

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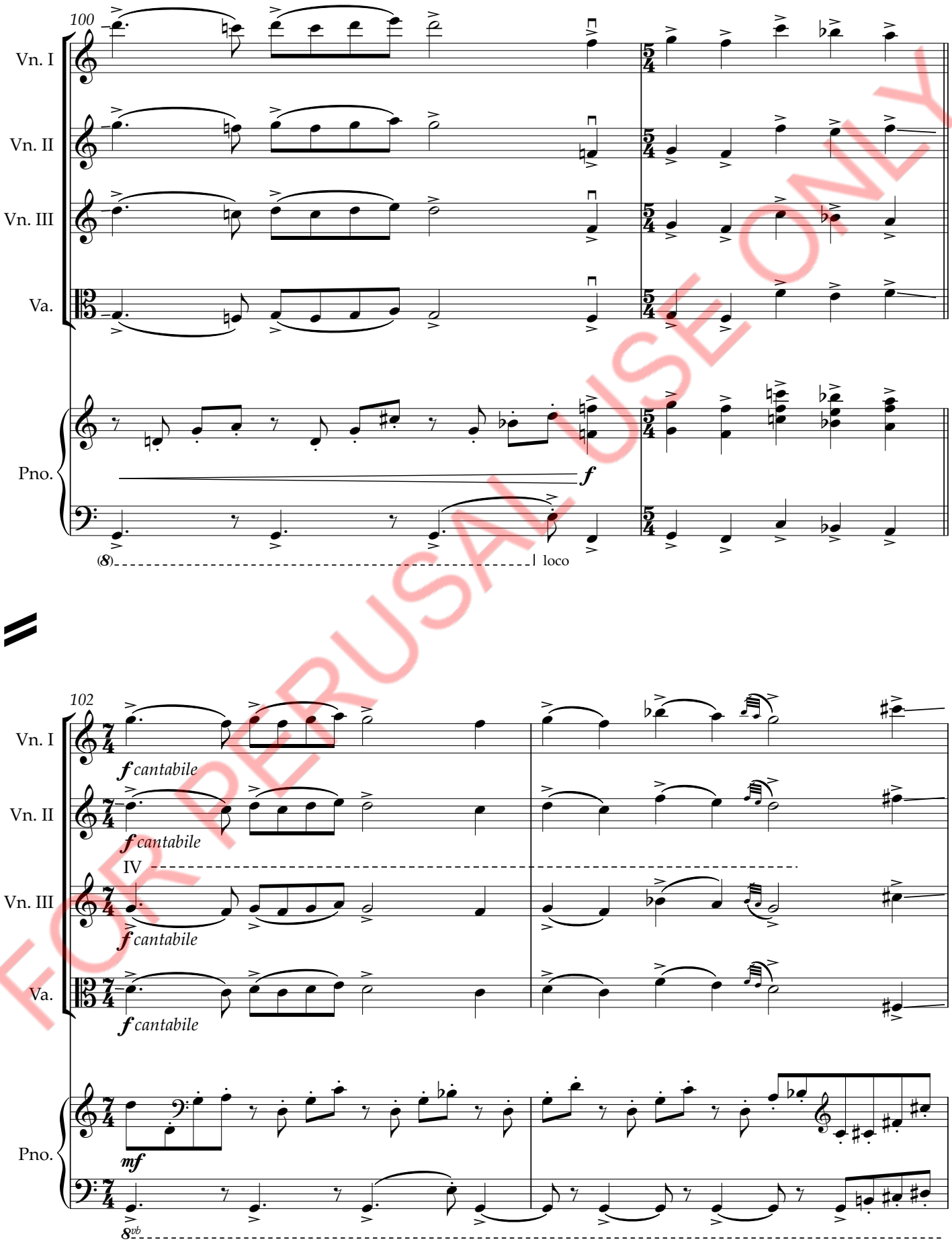

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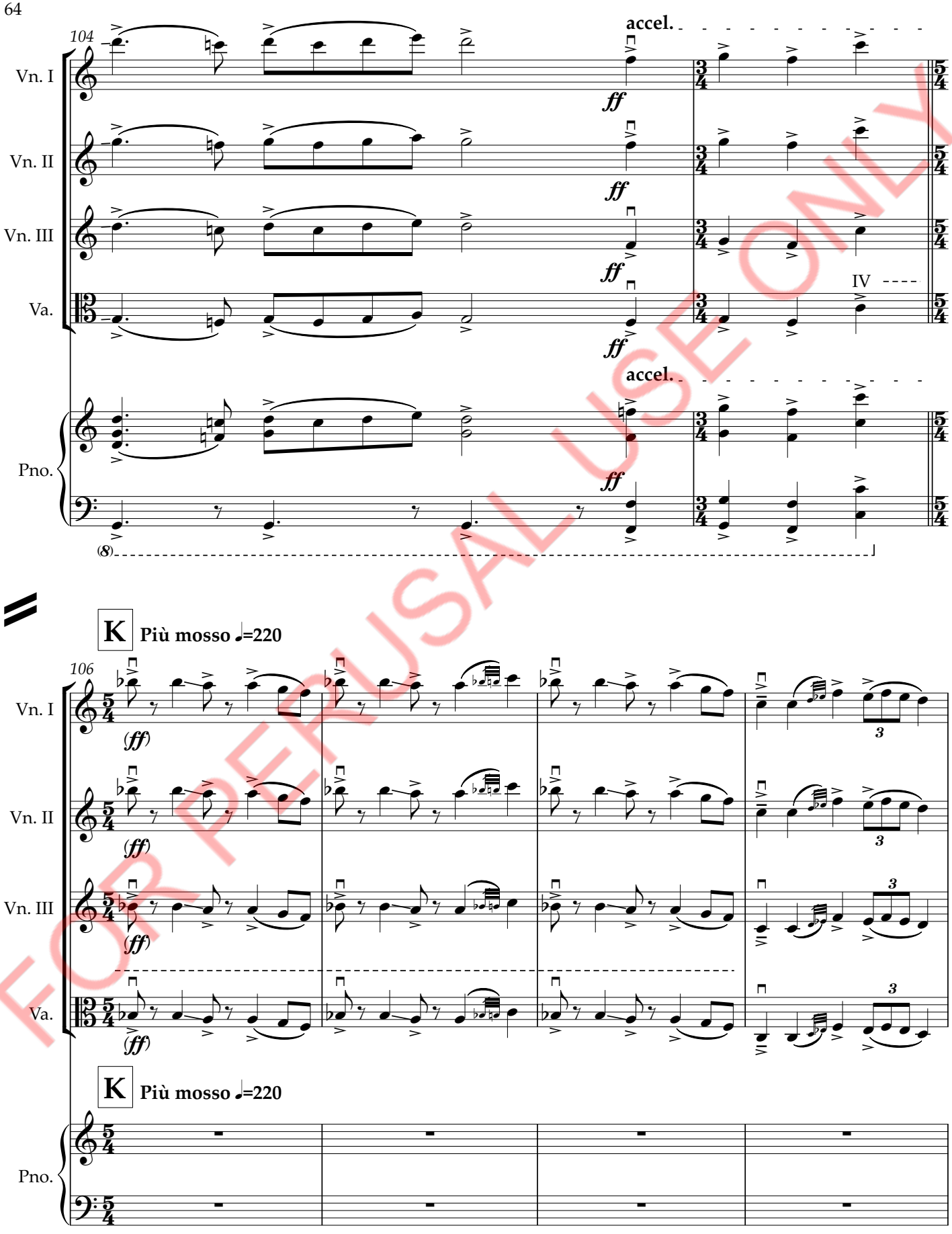

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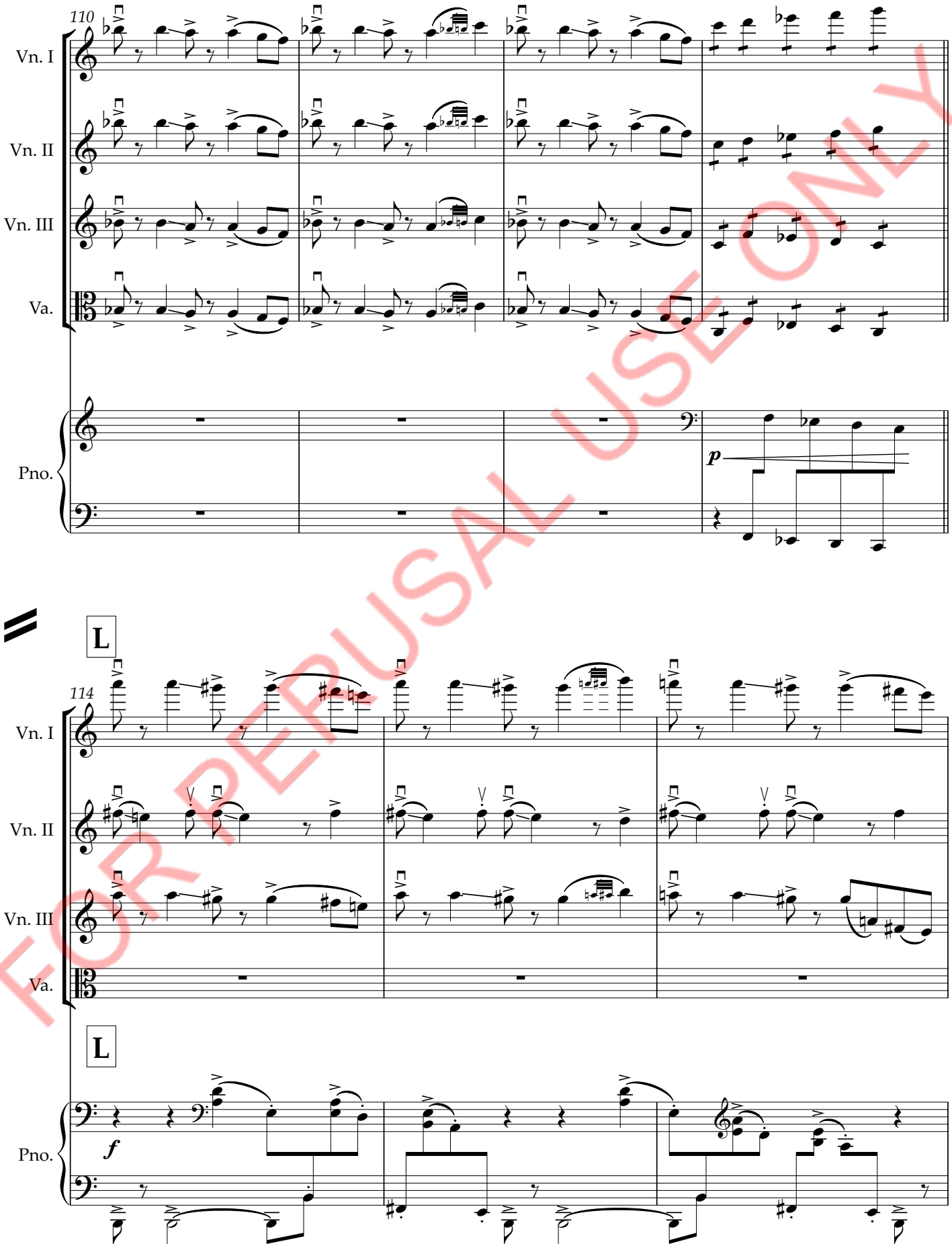

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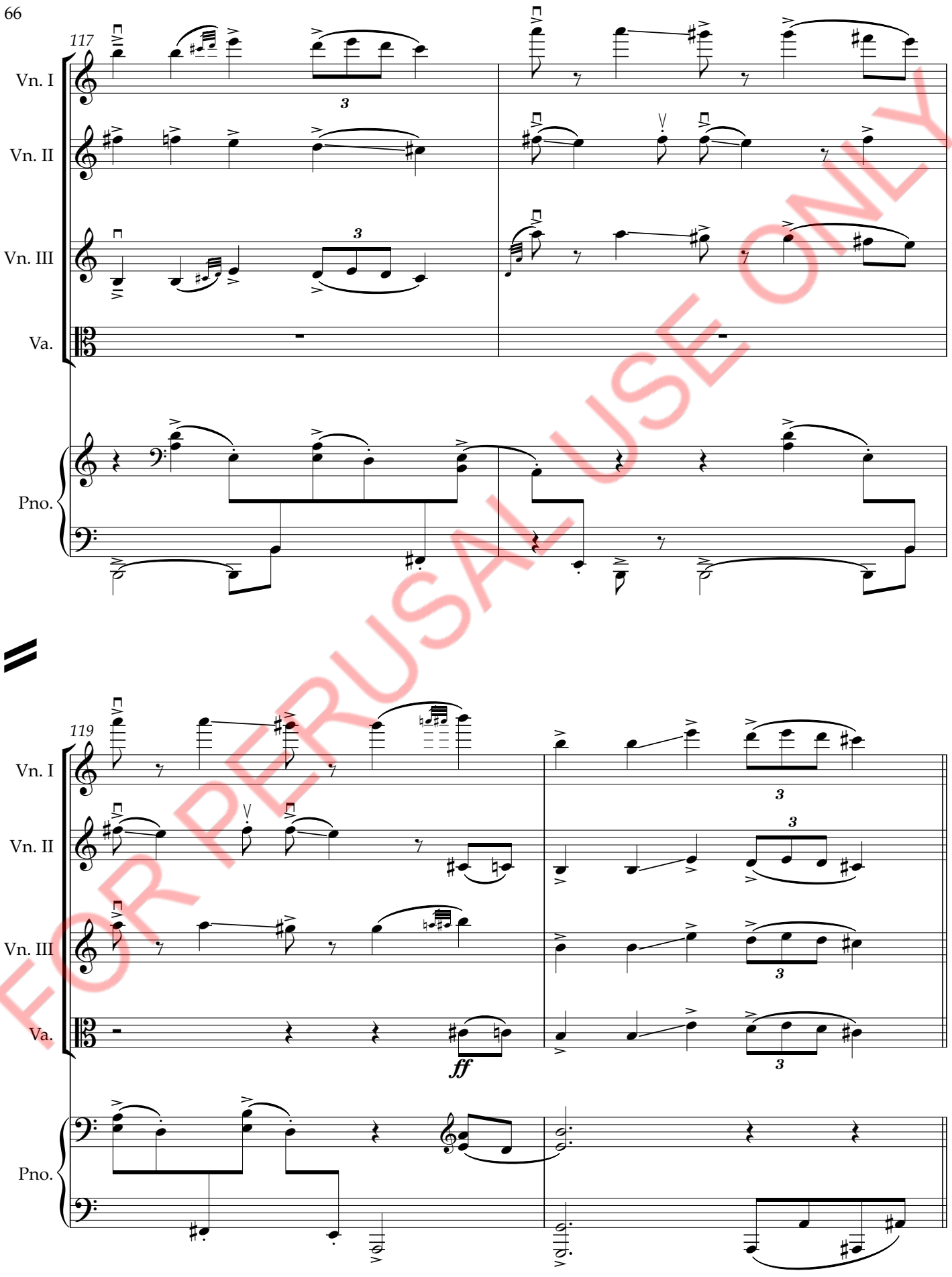

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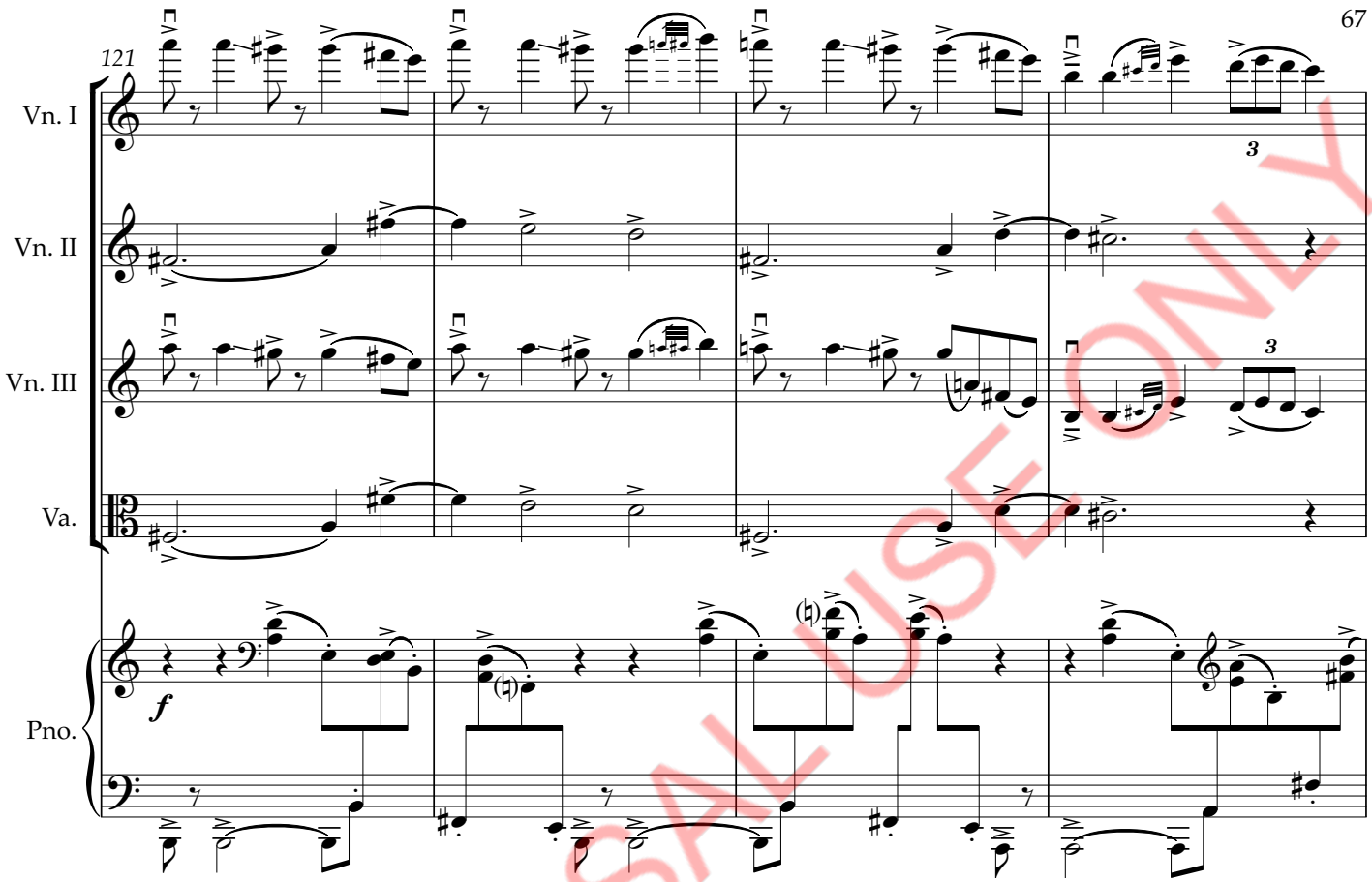

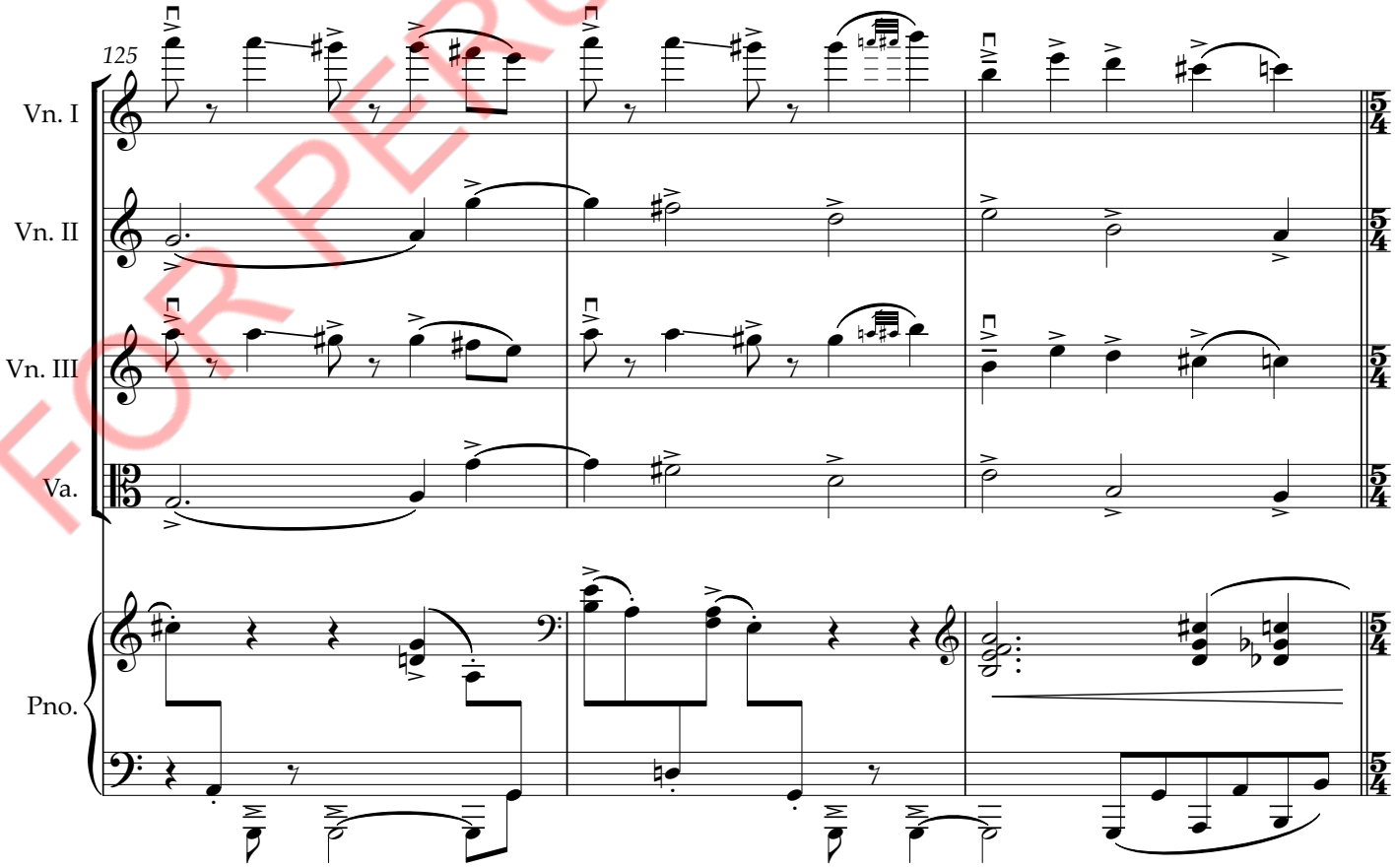

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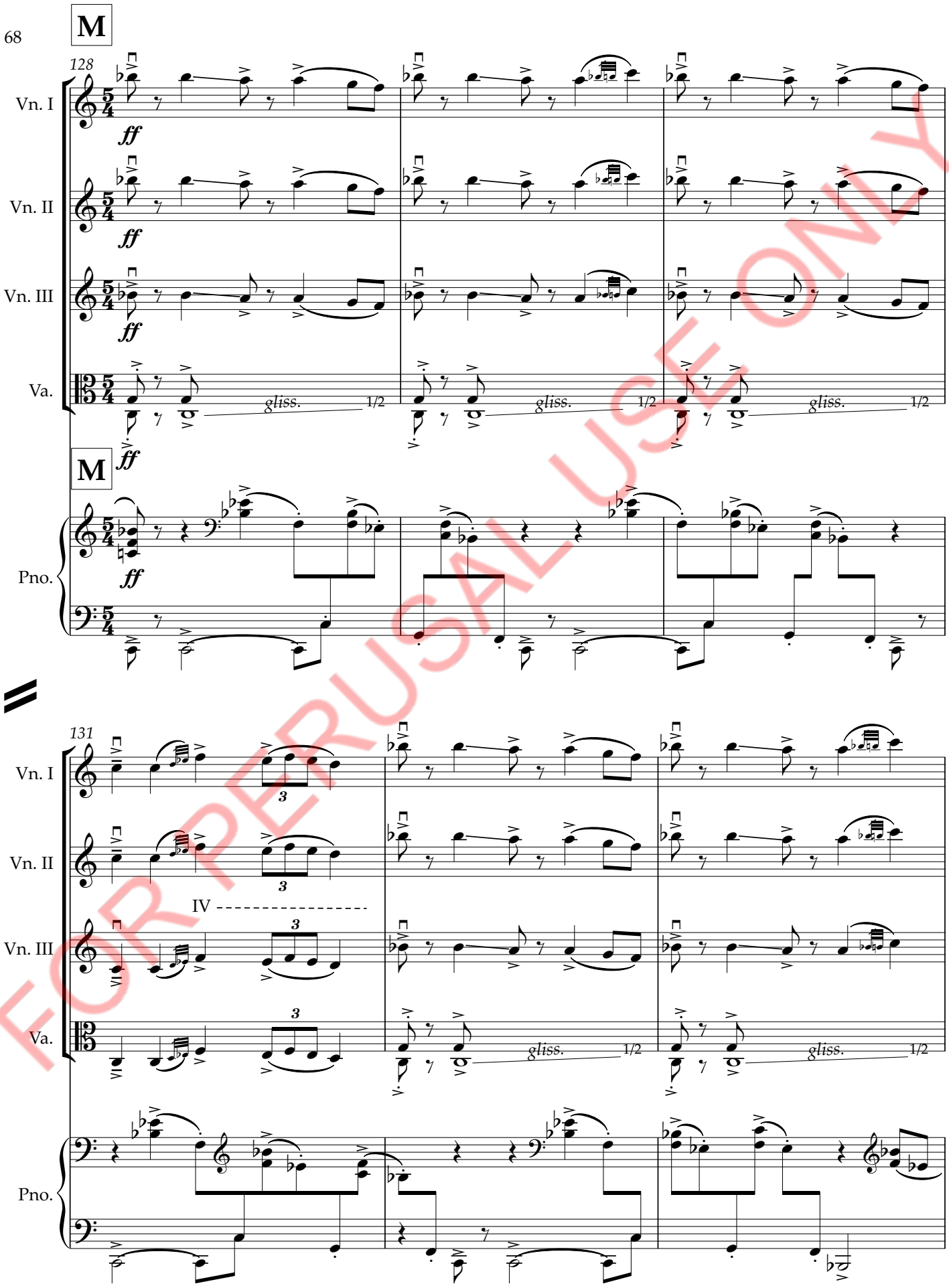

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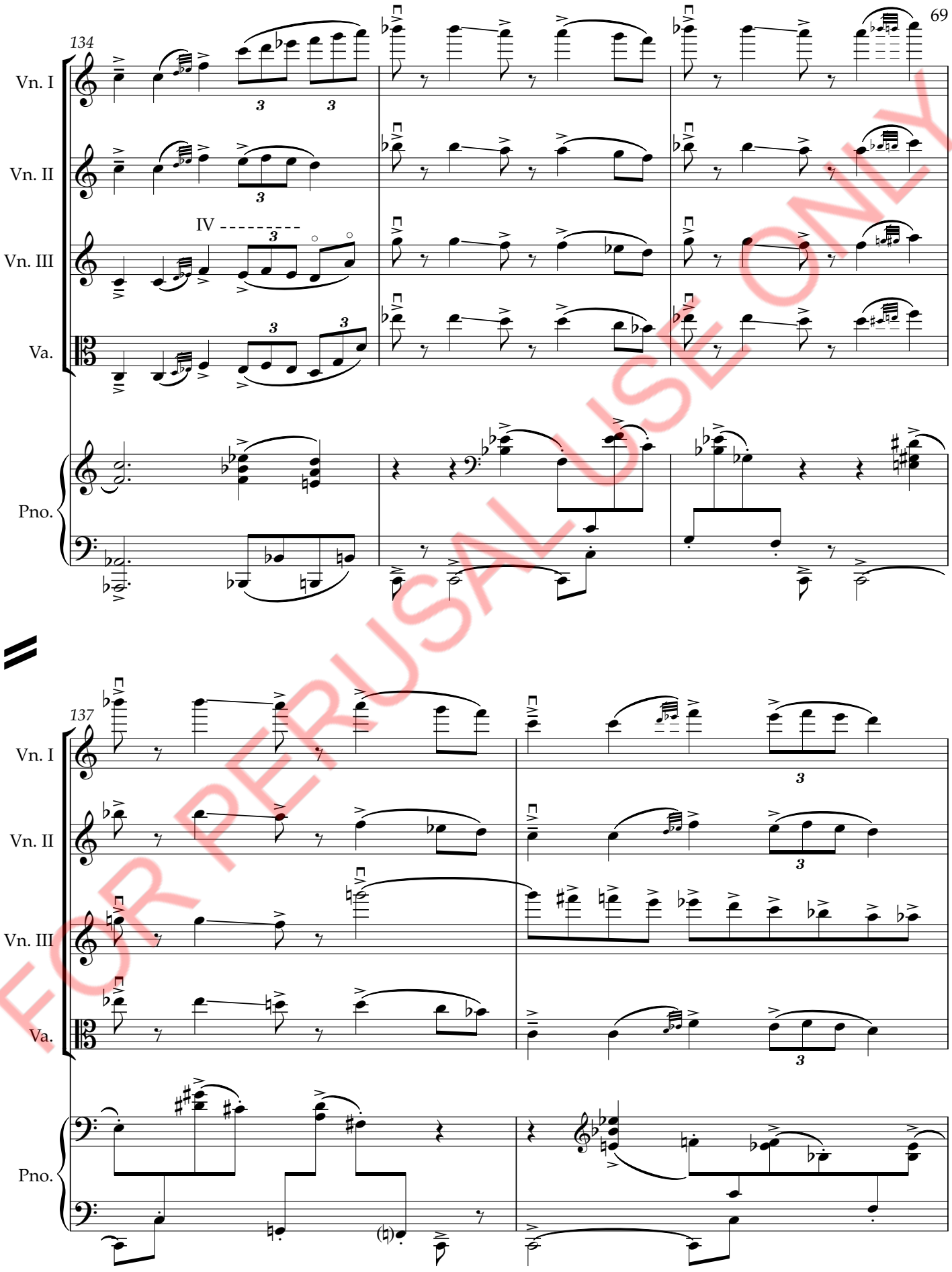

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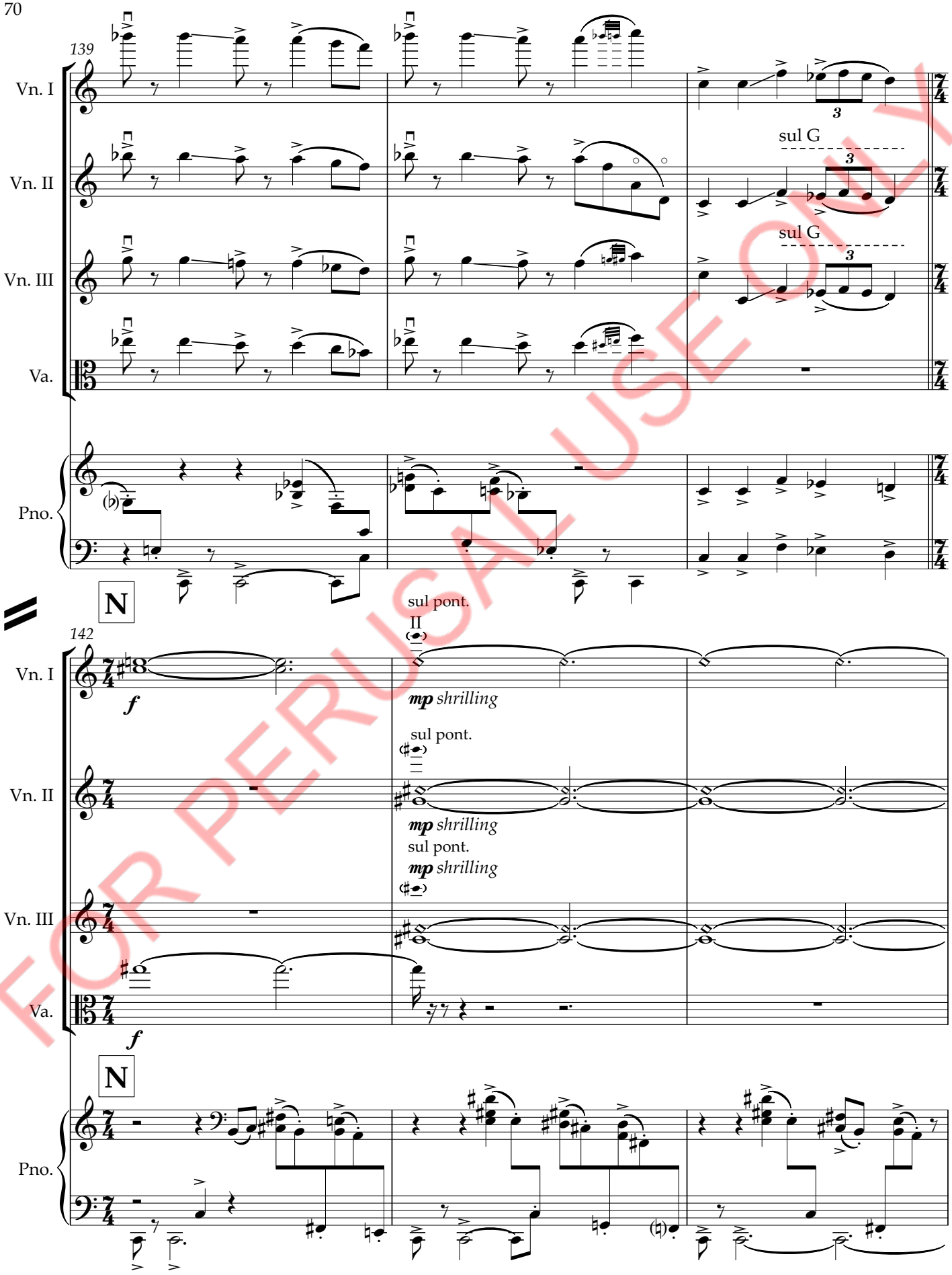

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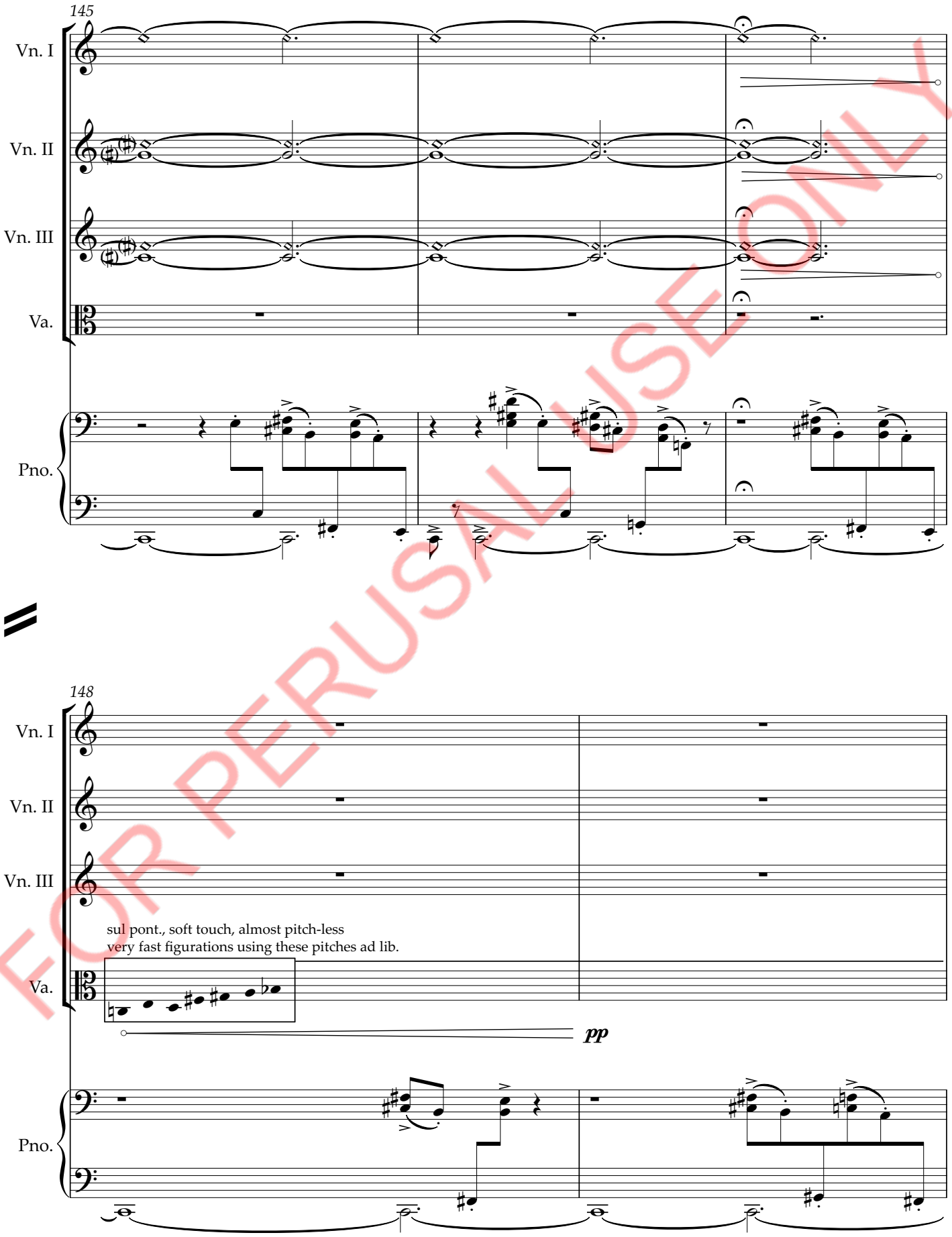

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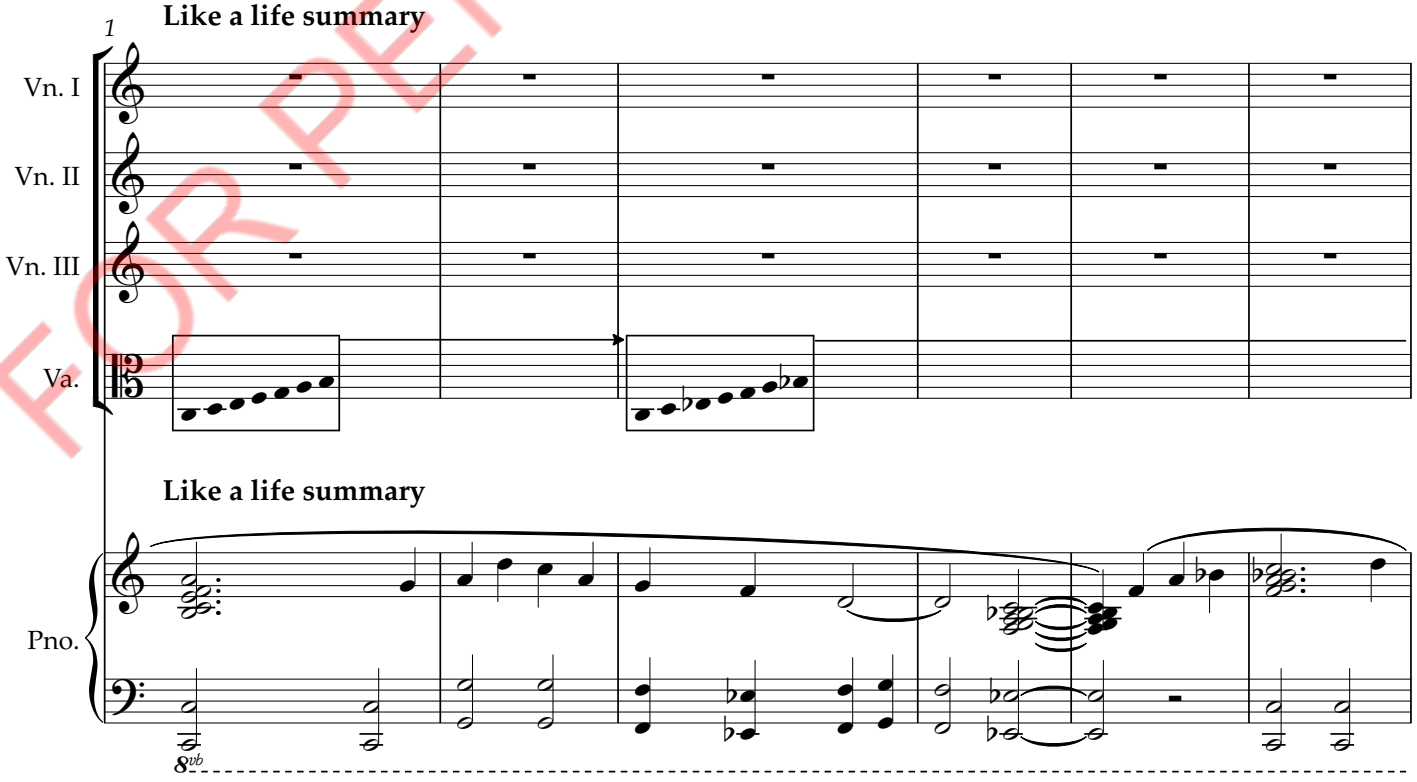

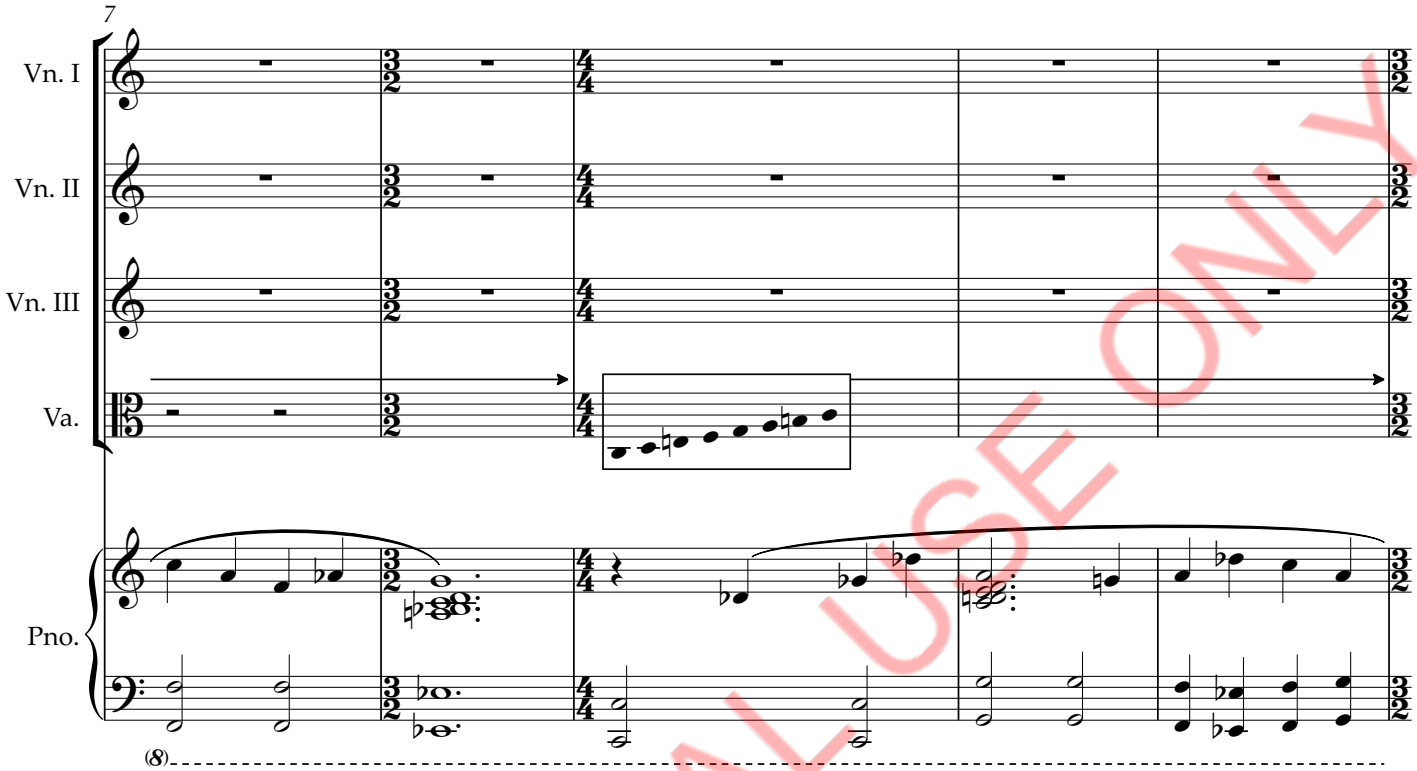

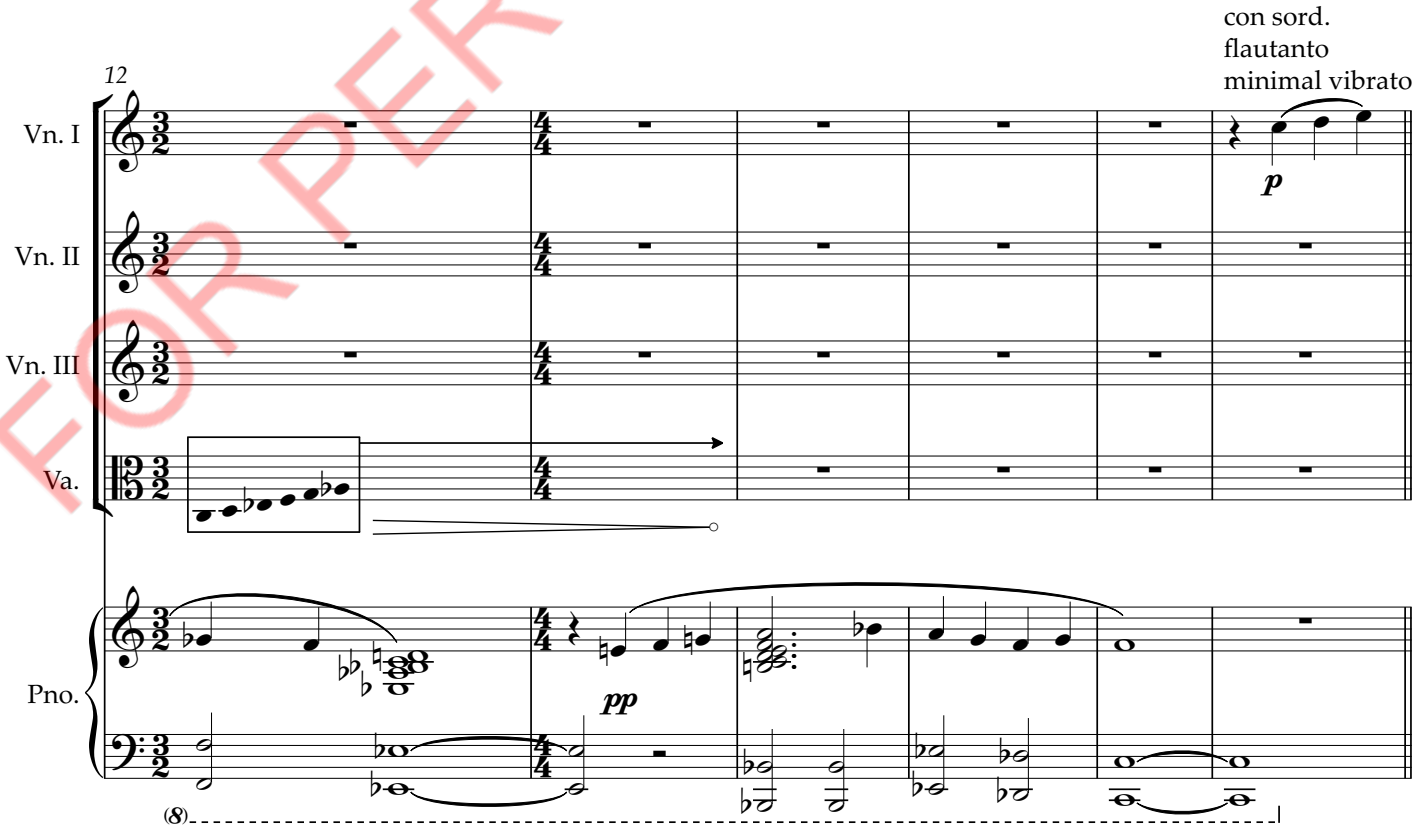

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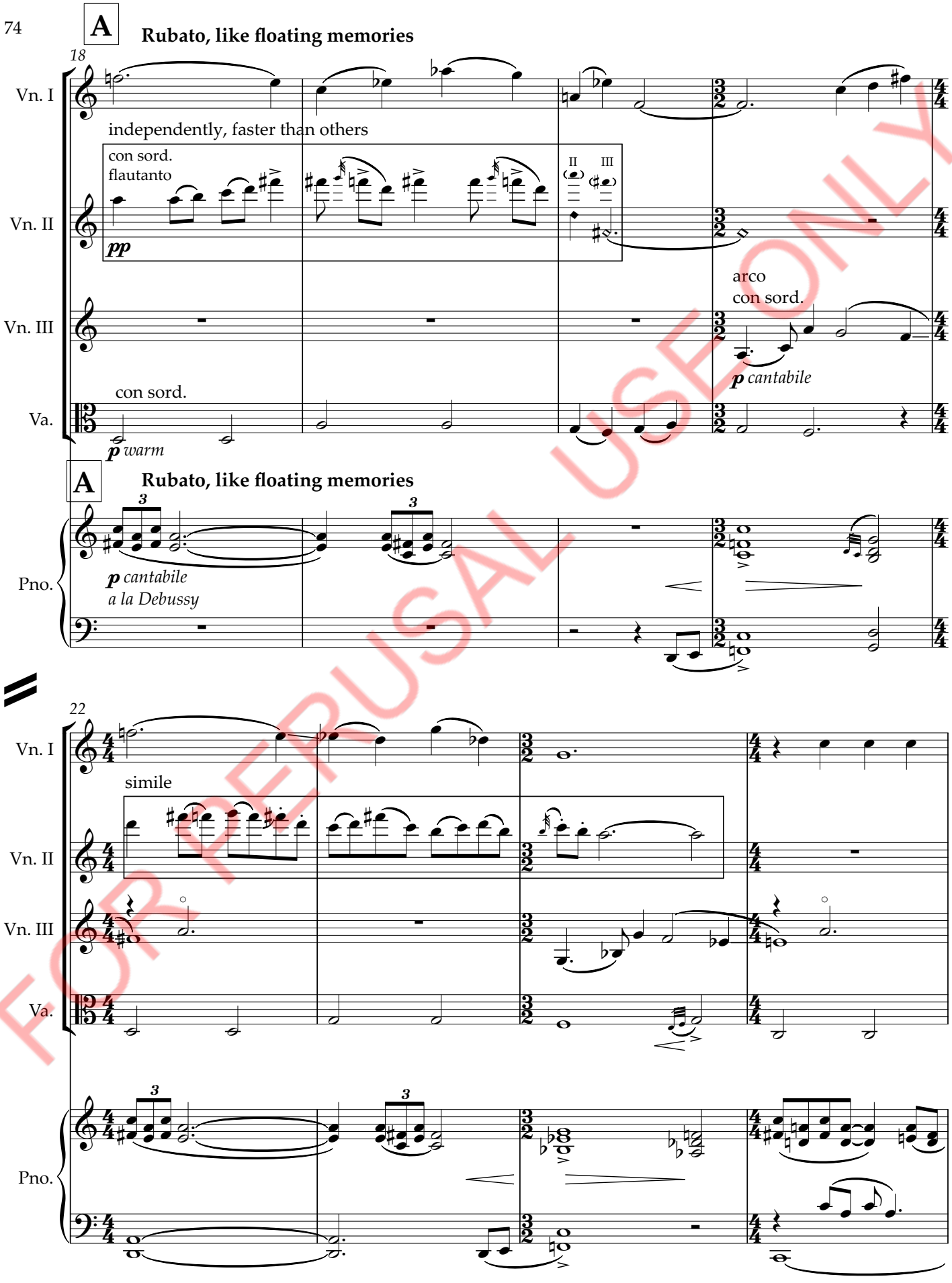

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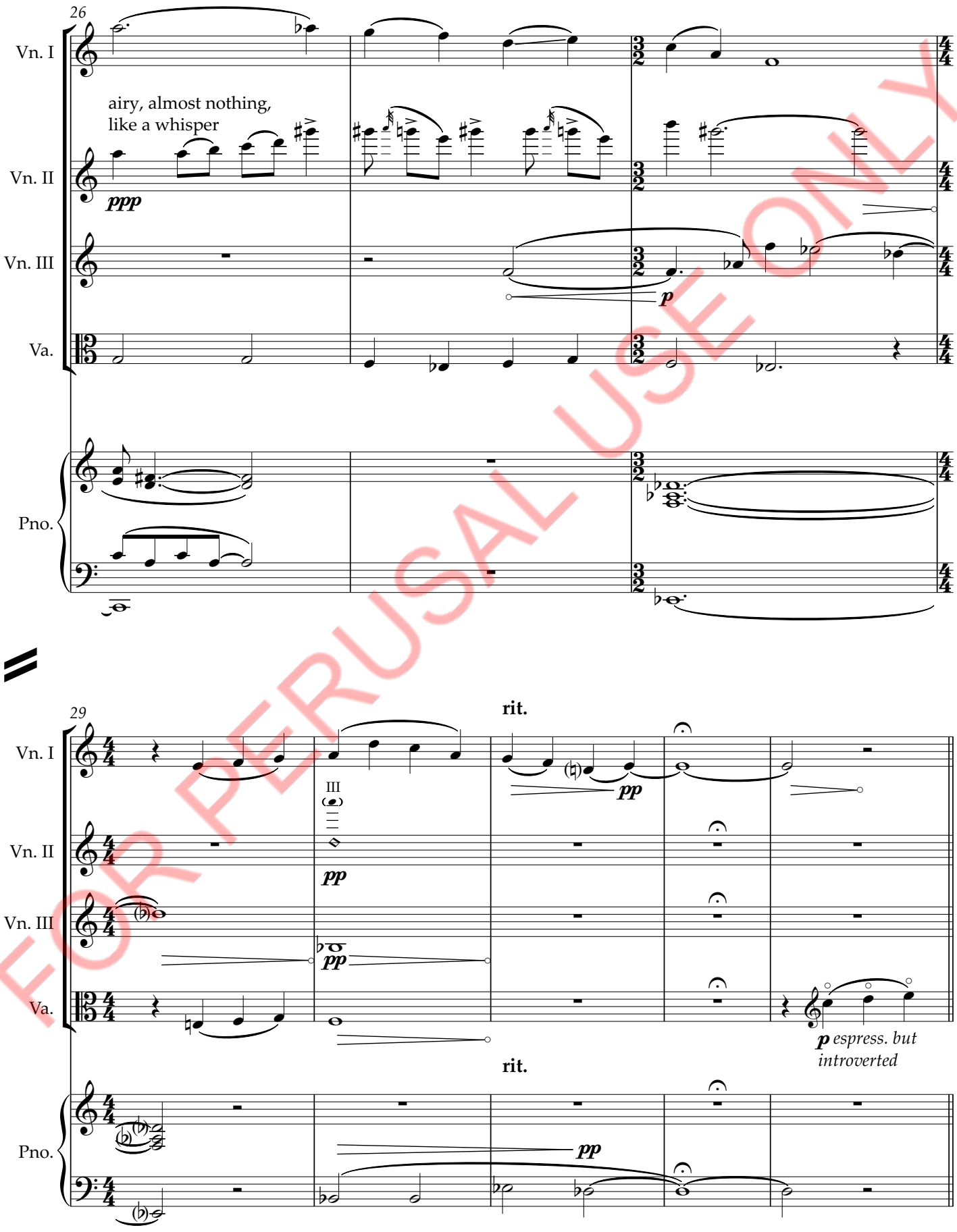

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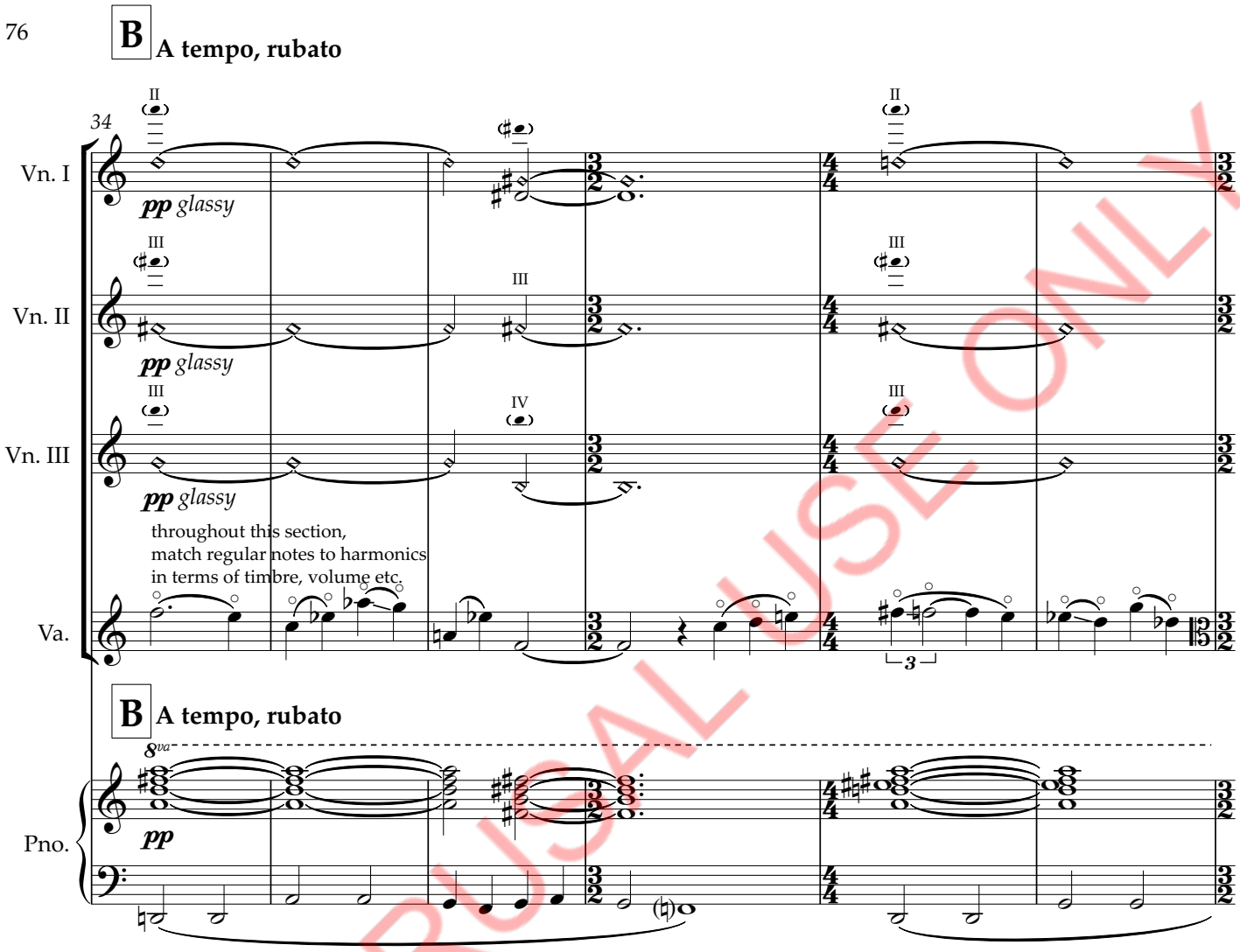

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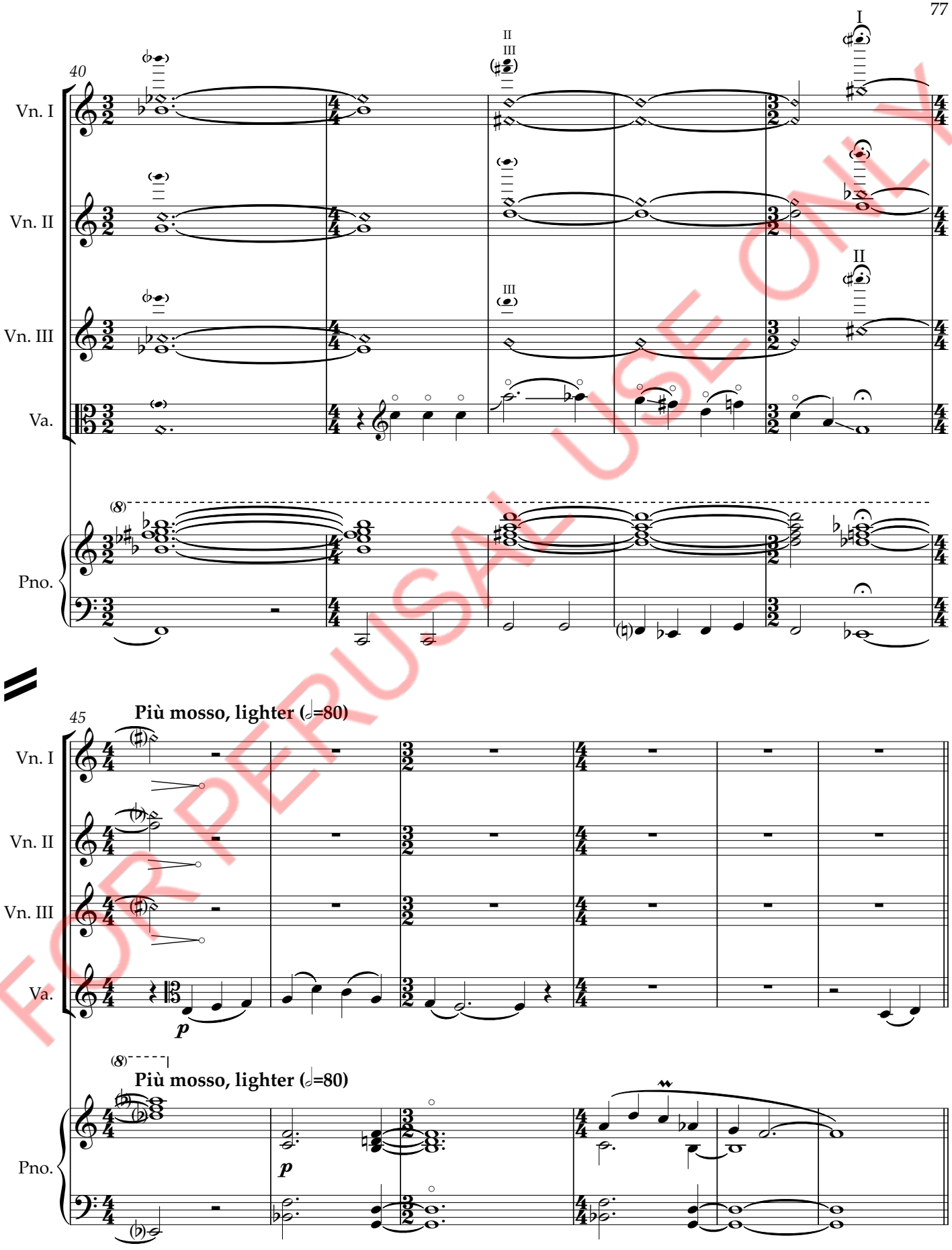

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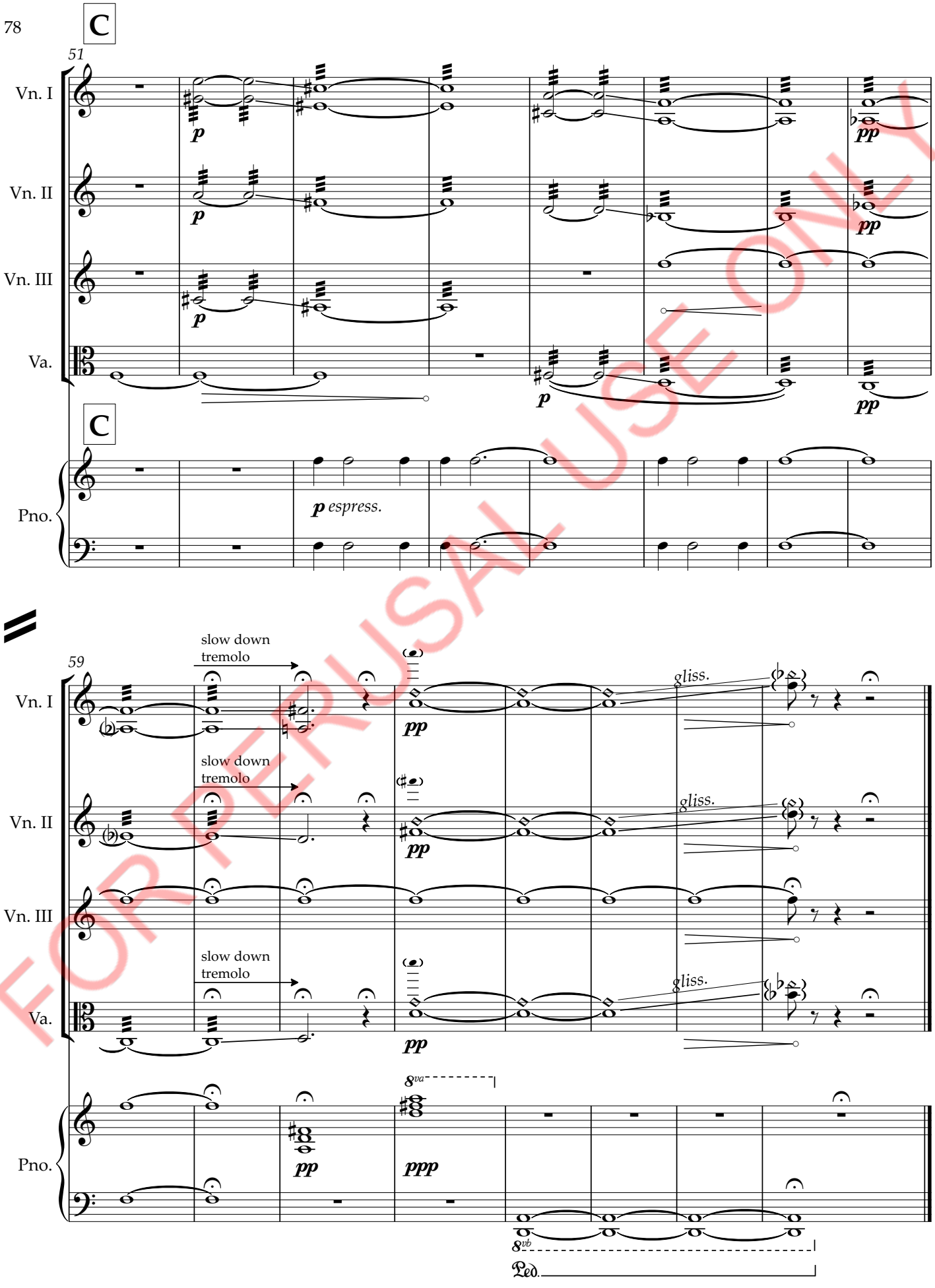

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