I once beheld on earth celestial graces

for voice & piano

Justin Lapierre

Waterloo, ON © 2021

PERUSAL SCORE DO NOT PRINT

Contents

Part One: Medicine

I.	**On Breathing**		**piano solo**
II.	**The Master**	The Master has said: Isn't it a pleasure to study and practice what you have learned? Isn't it also great when friends visit from distant places? If one remains not annoyed when he is not understood by people around him, isn't he a sage? *- Confucius, Analects: Chapter I (ca. 500 BCE)*	**voice, piano**
III.	**Admonishment Letter**	We are now filing an official warning and admonishment to you on the illegal issue of sharing untrue statements on the Internet according to the Law. Your behavior severely disrupted social order. Your behavior had exceeded the scope permitted by the law and violates the relevant provisions of the Public Security Administration Punishment Law of the Republic of China, which was an illegal act! The Public Security organ hopes that you can cooperate with our work, listen to the admonishment by the police officers and stop conducting illegal activities. Do you understand? *- Wuhan Police Bureau's letter of admonition to Dr. Li Wenliang written by Hu Guifang (January 3, 2020)*	**voice, piano**

Part Two: Ancestors

IV.	**Stars**	The high tower is a hundred feet tall, from here one could reach out with their hand and pluck the stars out of the sky. I do not dare to speak in a loud voice, I fear to disturb the people in heaven. *-Li Bai, Spending the Night in a Mountain Temple (8th century CE)*	**voice, piano**

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V.	**Berceuse**	They've turned off the lights, I'm tired; I thought bedtime was three hours ago, but I'm still in my wheelchair, I don't understand. Bedtime was three hours ago; everyone's just walking around us. Have the nurses gone home without us? I don't mind sleeping here again, the smell in my room, it keeps me awake at night. *-written by the composer, based on the abandonment of the Résidence CHSLD Herron in Montréal in 2020*	**voice, piano**

Part Three: Selfishness

VI.	**Business**	Business, in every age of the world, has been the chief pioneer in the march of man's civilization. Blessings everywhere follow its advancing footsteps. It travels over no blood-stained fields to secure its noble ends. We love our energetic businessmen; pull them that way, then this way, they only bend but never break. Never yawning away existence, they build our ci-ties, they whiten the ocean with their sails, they blacken the heavens with their smoke of their steam vessels and furnace fires. *-J. E. Hansford, from the Preface of 'The Business Guide, or, Safe Methods of Business' (published 1892, Toronto, ON)*	**voice, piano**
VII.	**Freedom**	This is mine, that is his, say the small minded. The wise believe that the entire world is but one family. Be detached from arrogance, be high-minded, lift up your spirit, and enjoy the fruit of universal freedom. *- Maha Upanishad: Hymn 6, Lines 71-5 (ca. 2000 BCE)*	**voice, piano**

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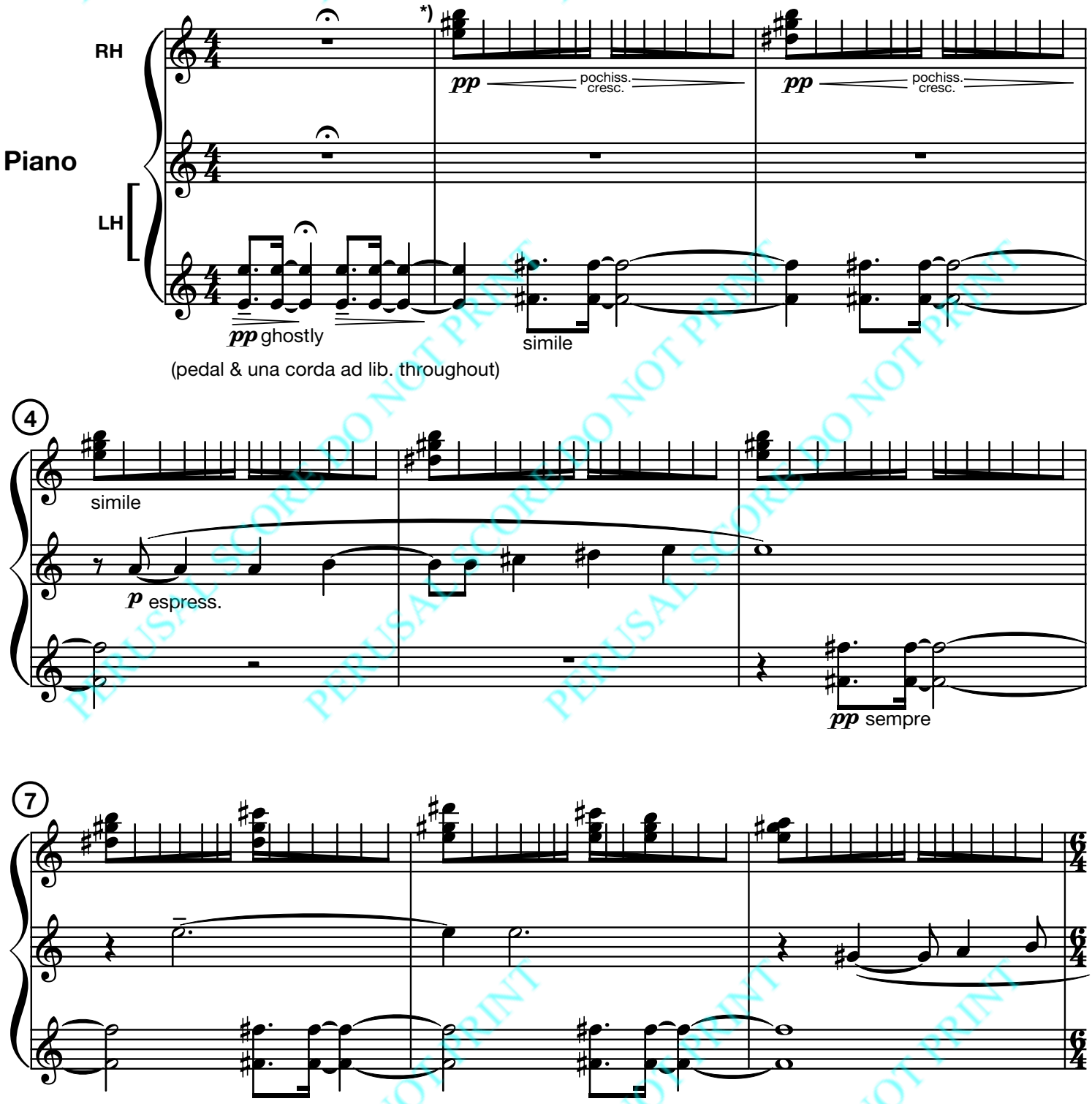
I.
On Breathing

Slow, meditative

Justin Lapierre (b. 1998)



*) **Growing and shrinking feathered beams:** speed up and slow down seperate from the established tempo. Do not bother counting the exact number of repetitions of each chord as long as the chord changes somewhat line up with the other voices (the repeated headless notes only display the overall gesture - they are not an exact representation).

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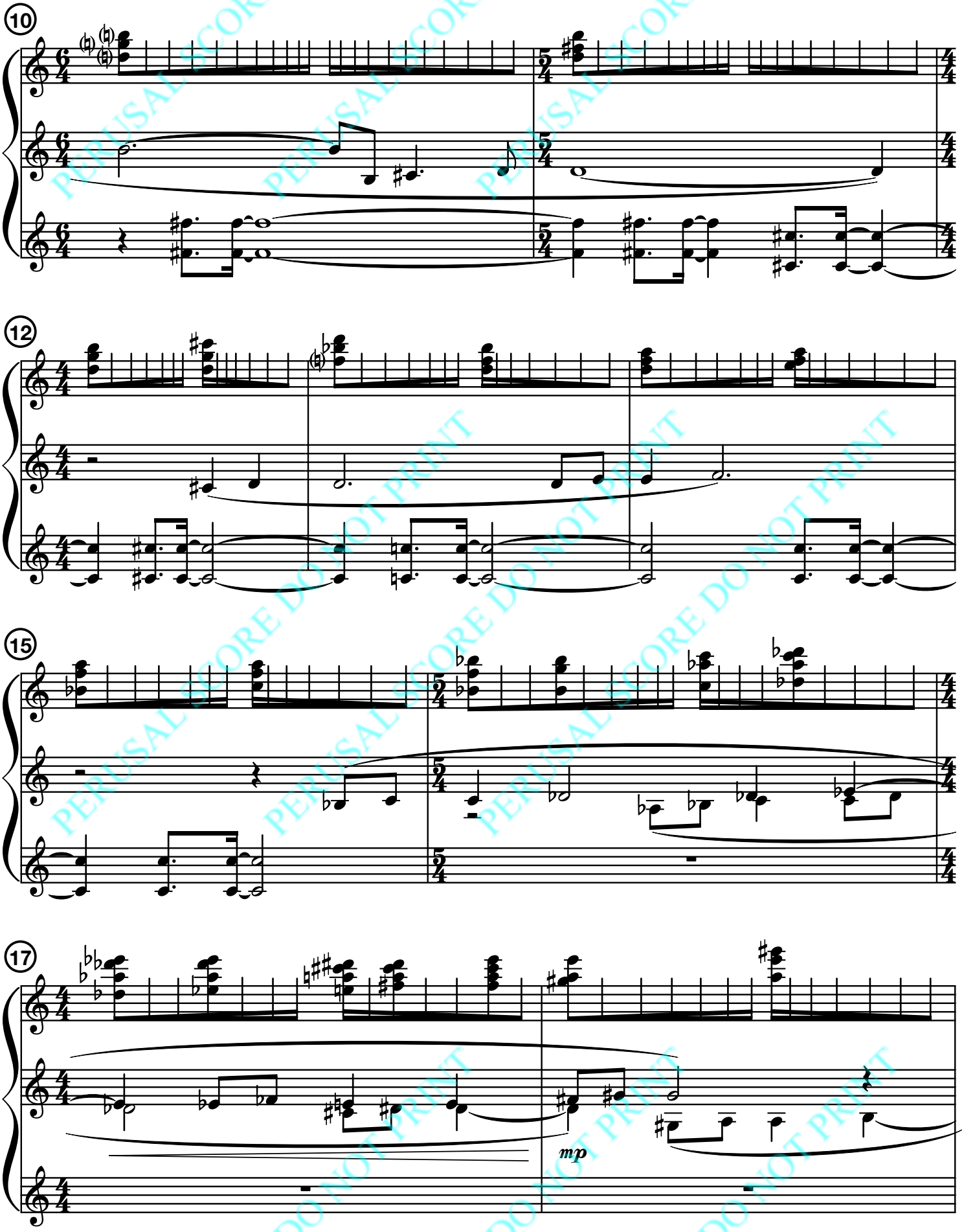

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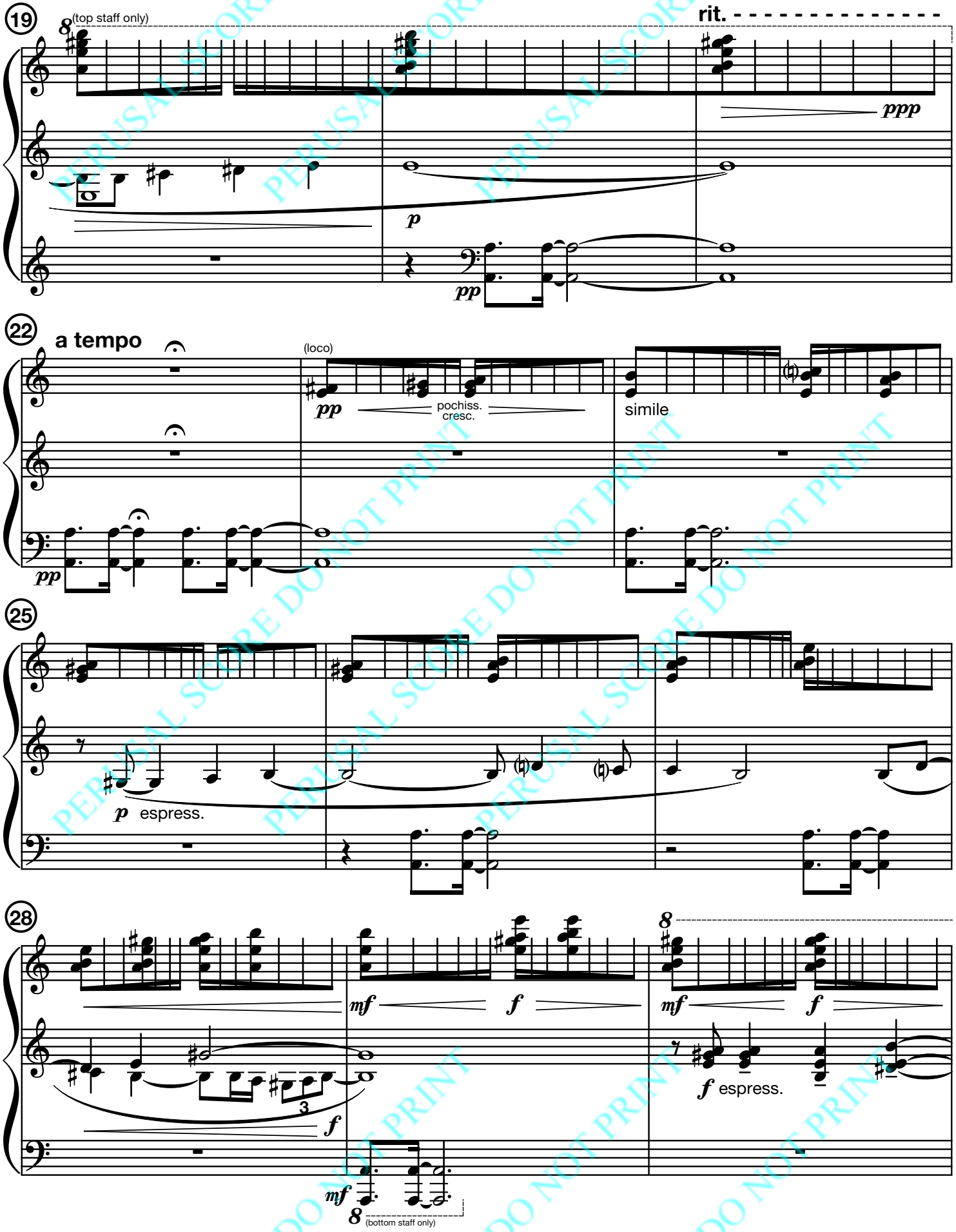

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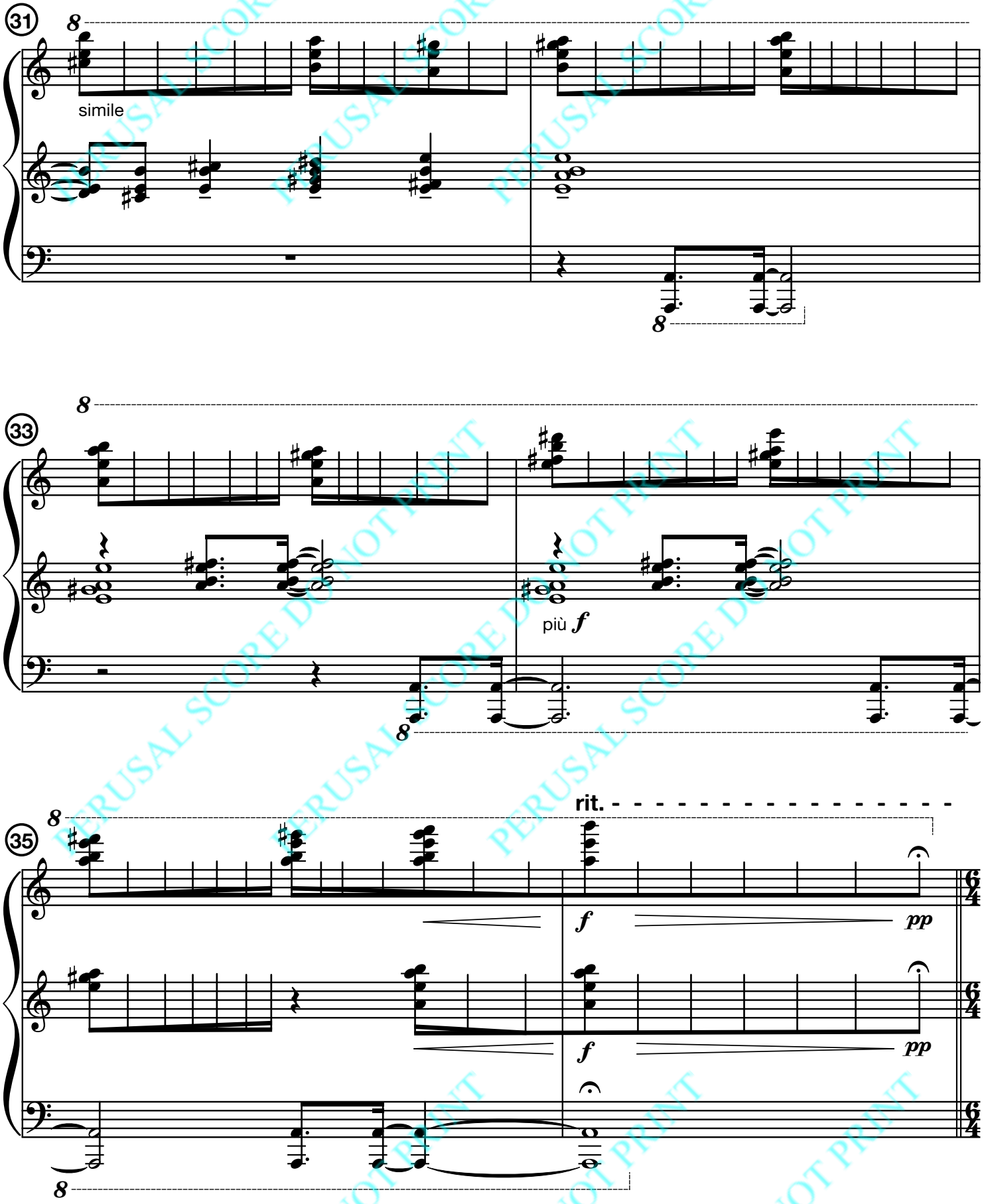

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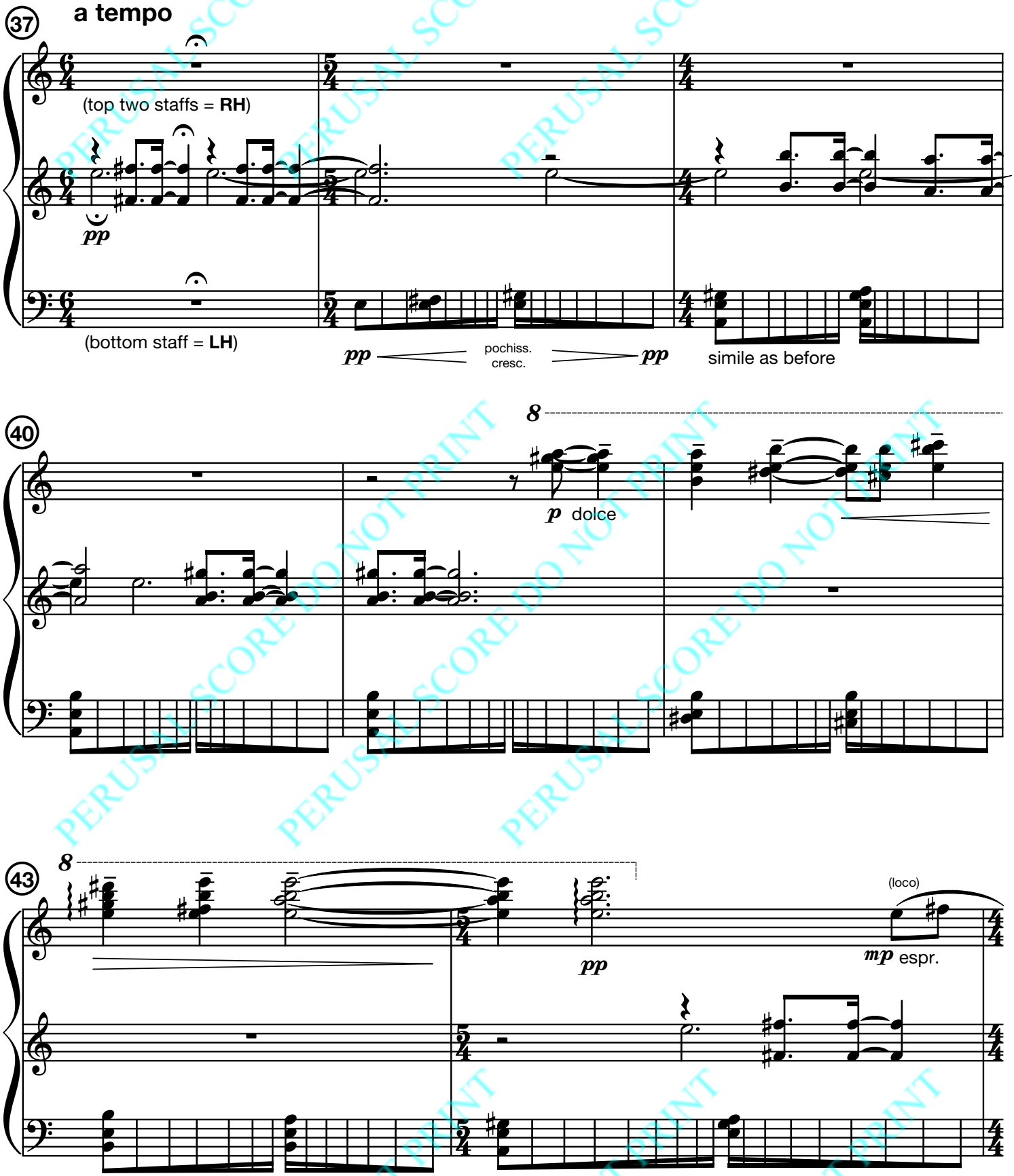

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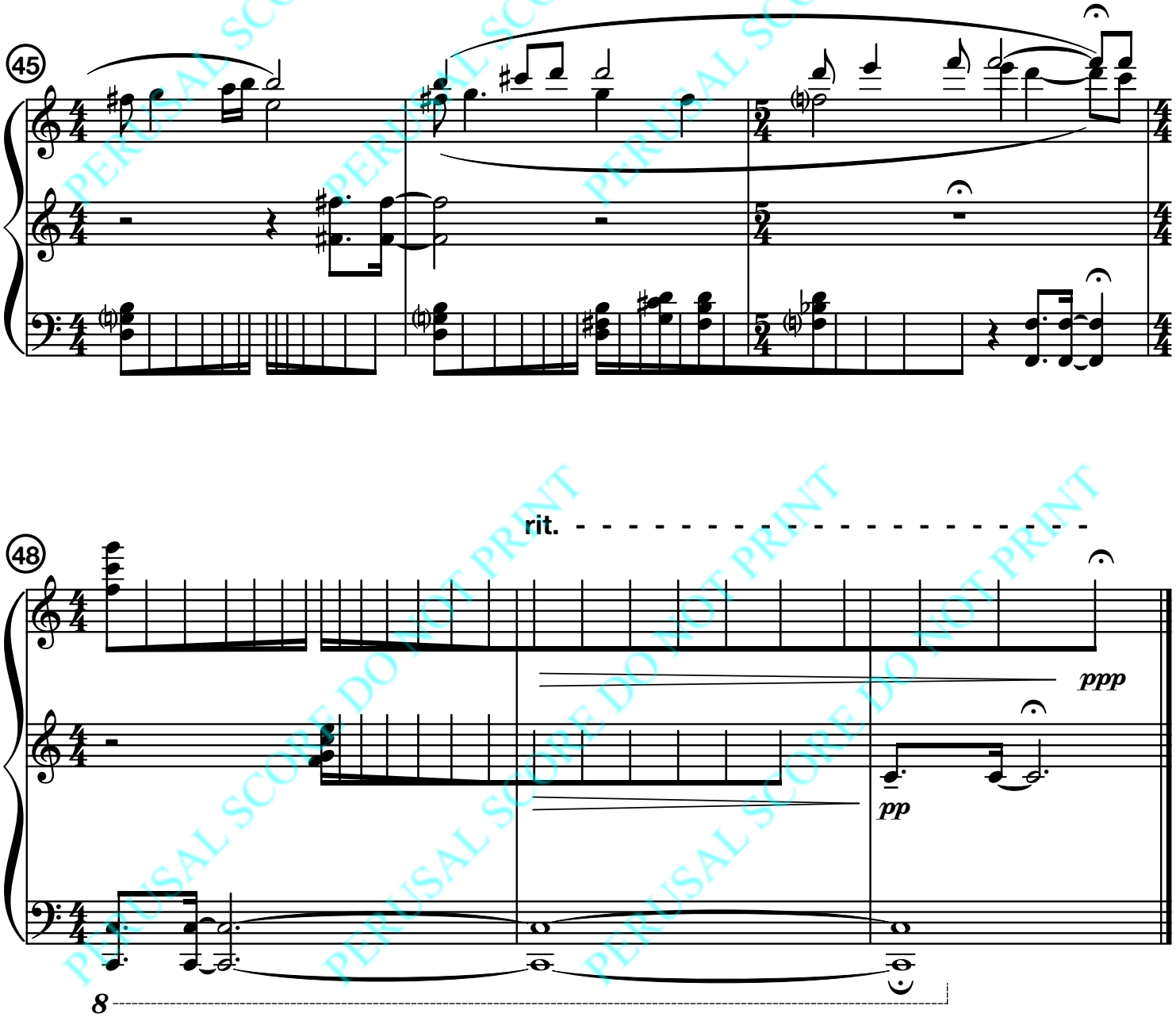

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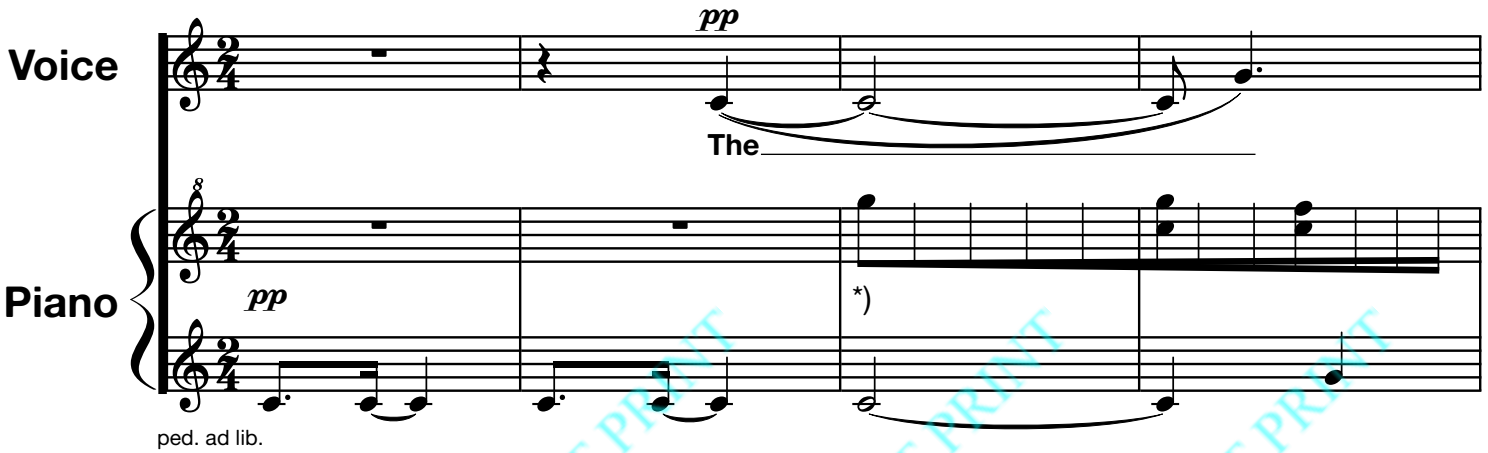
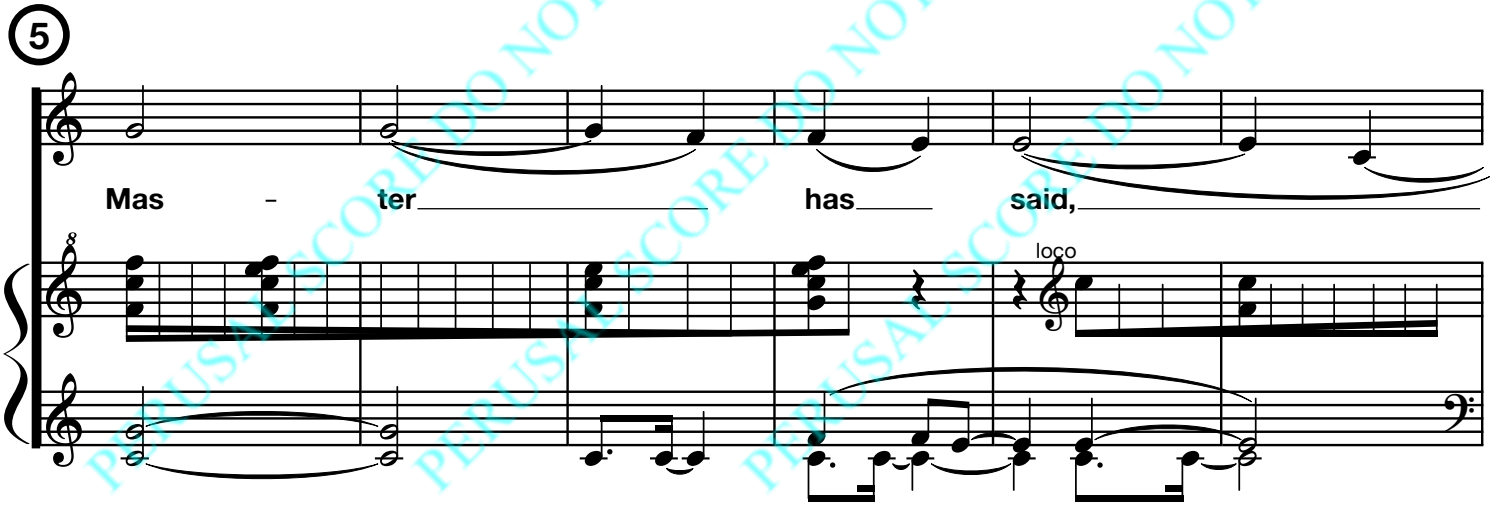
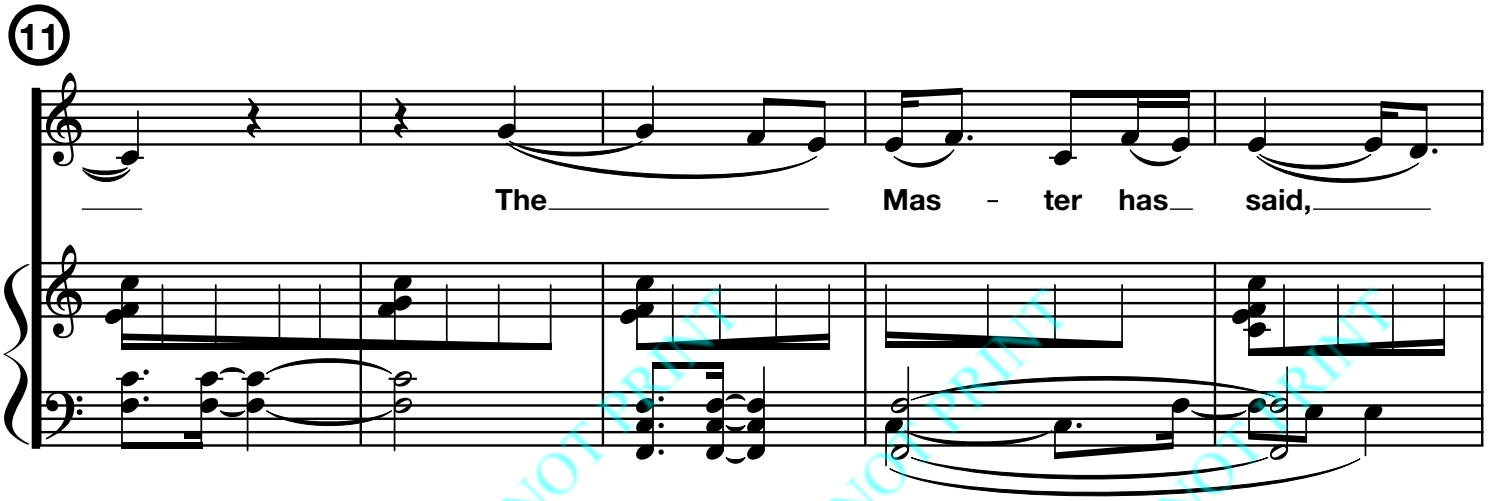
The Master

Pensive, mysterious (♩ = 52)







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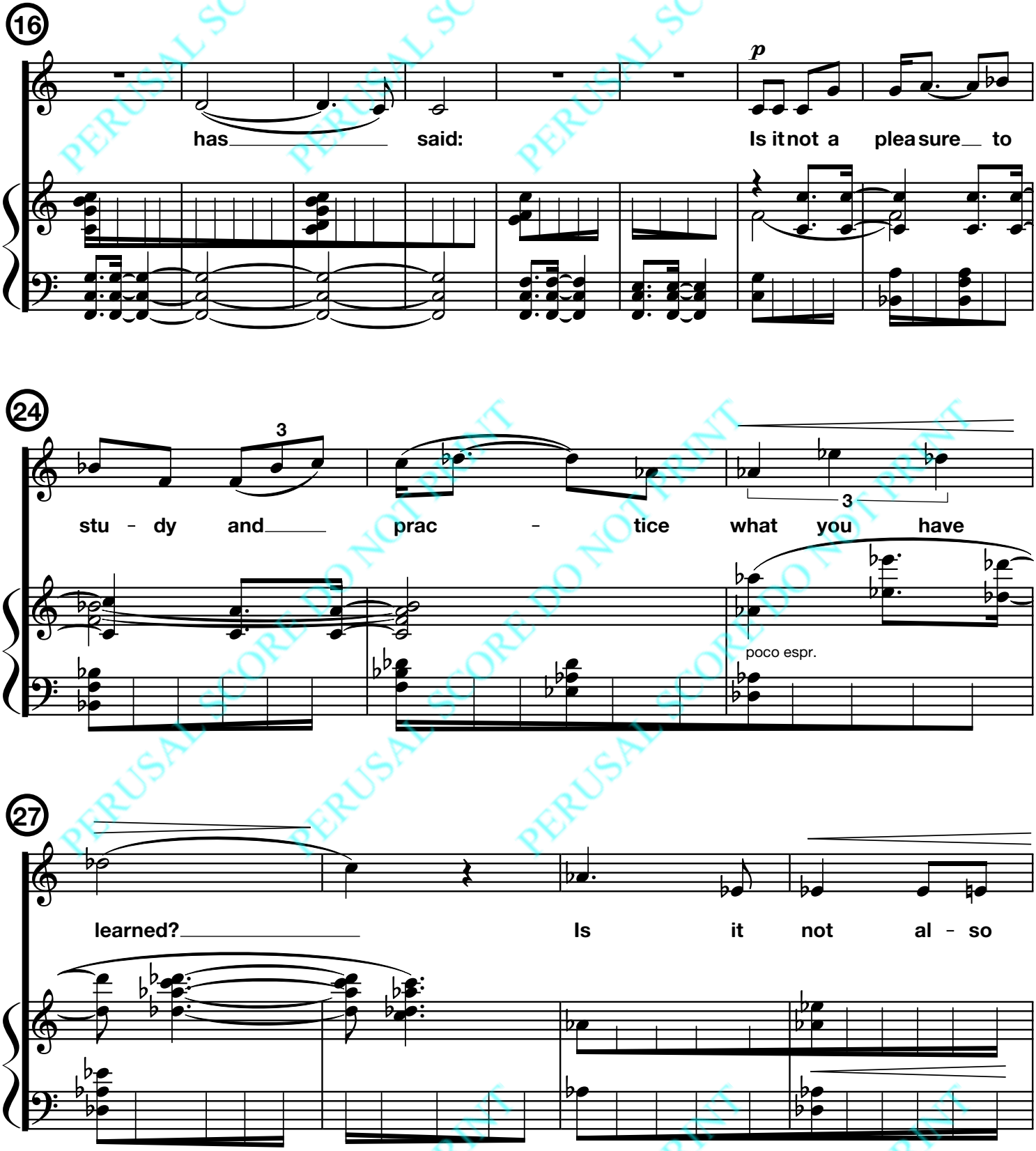

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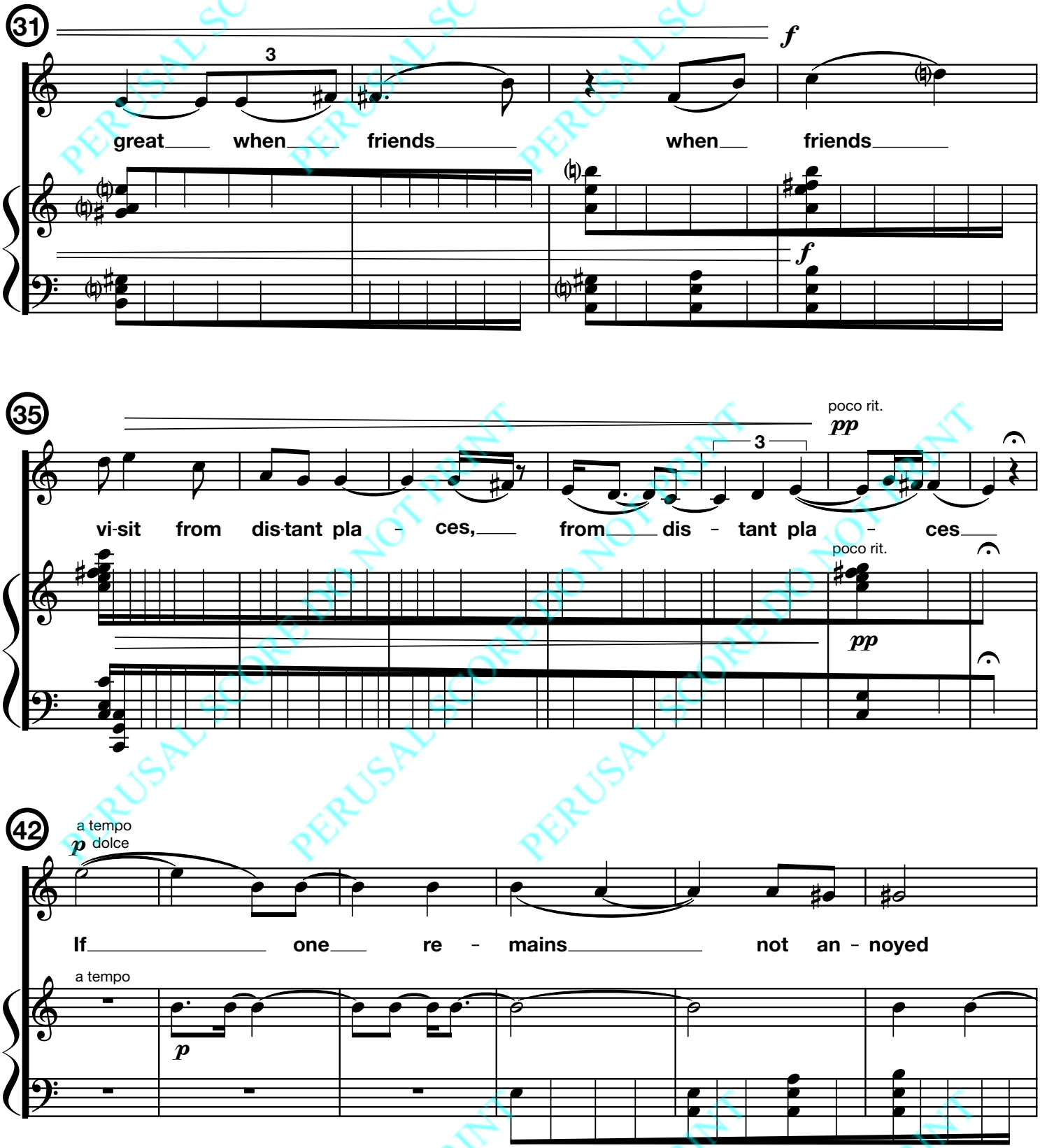

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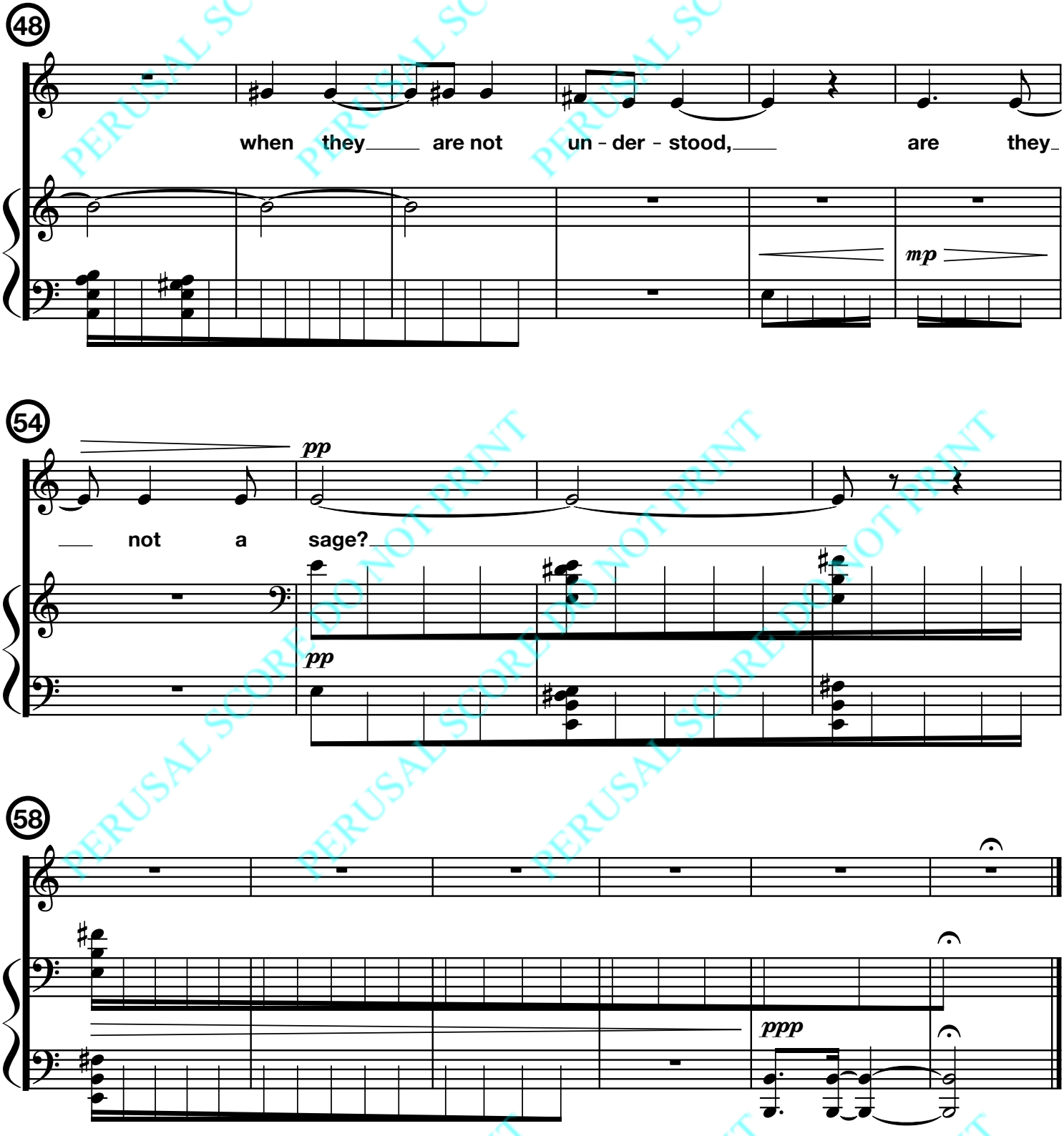

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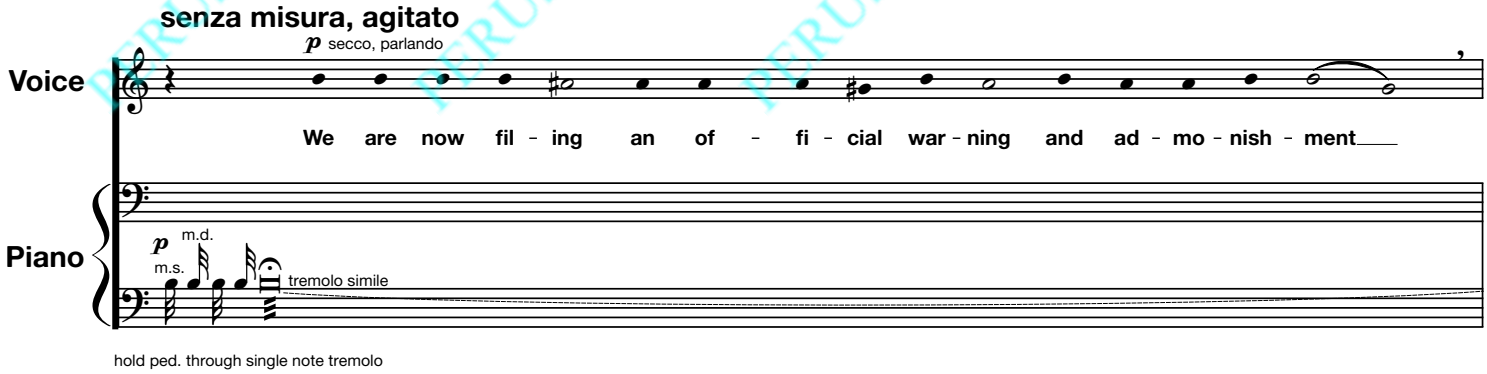
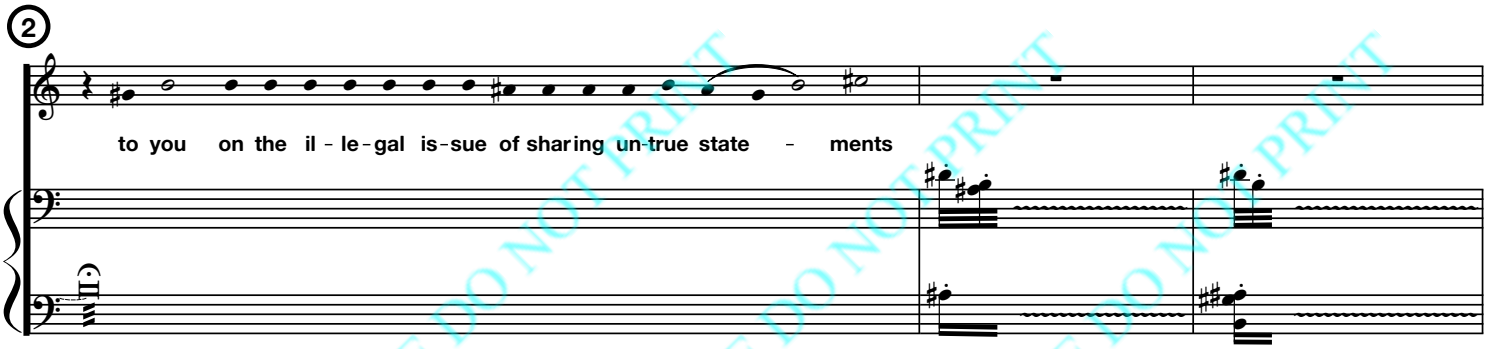
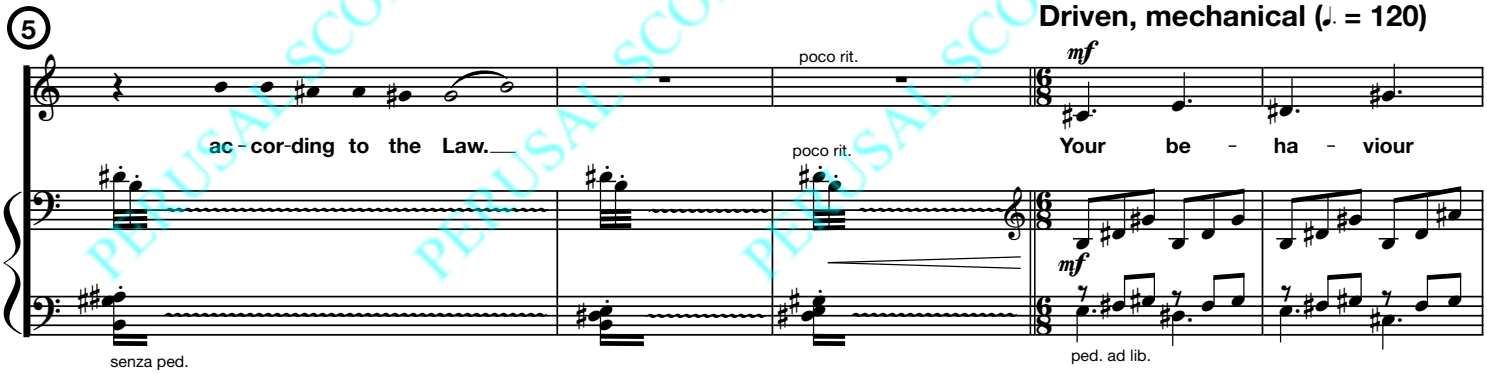
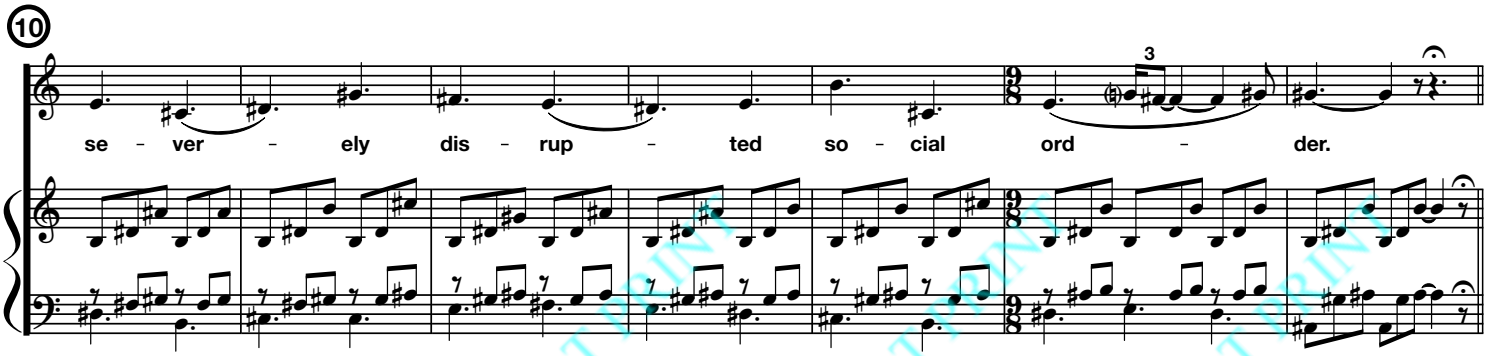
Admonishment Letter









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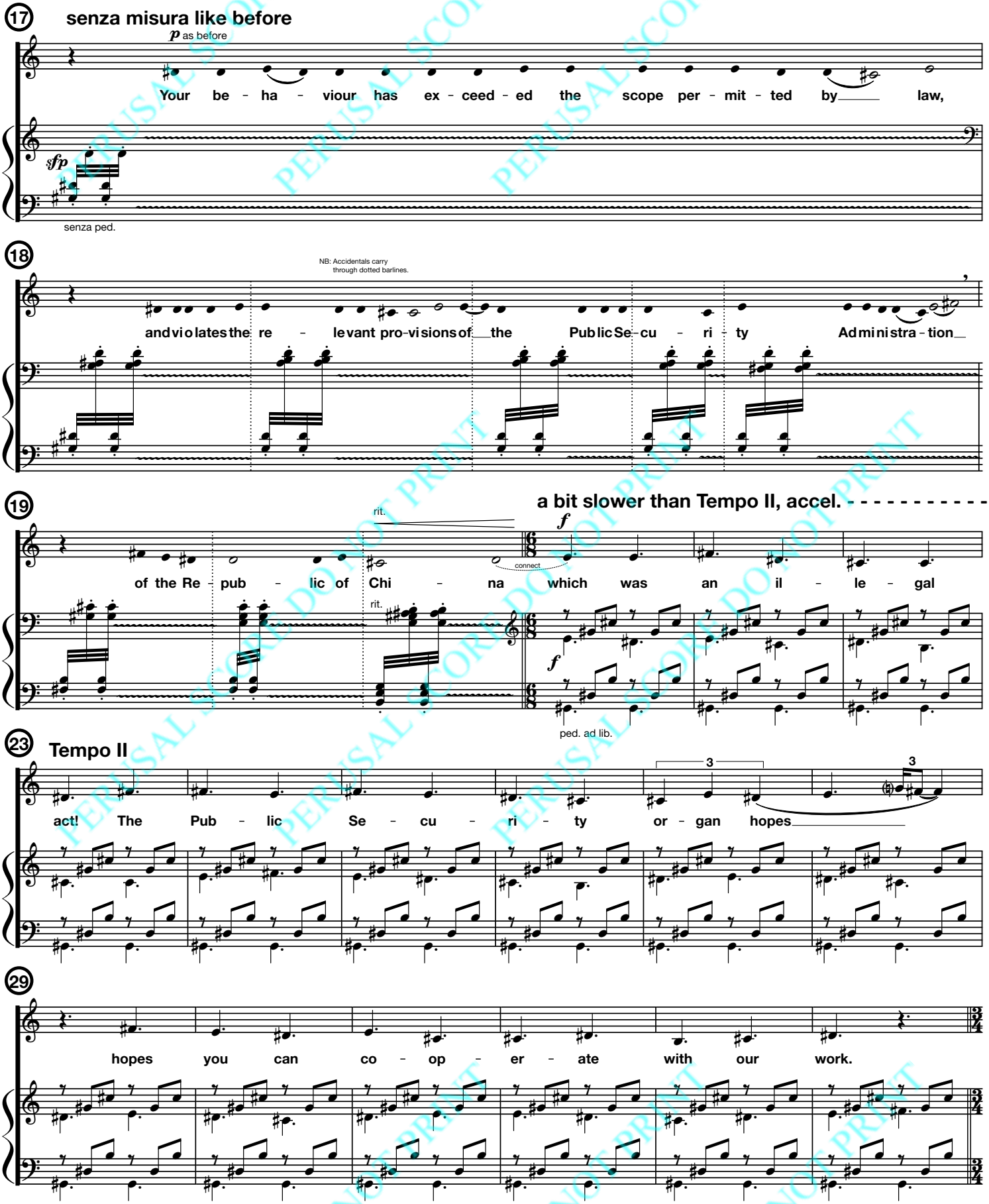

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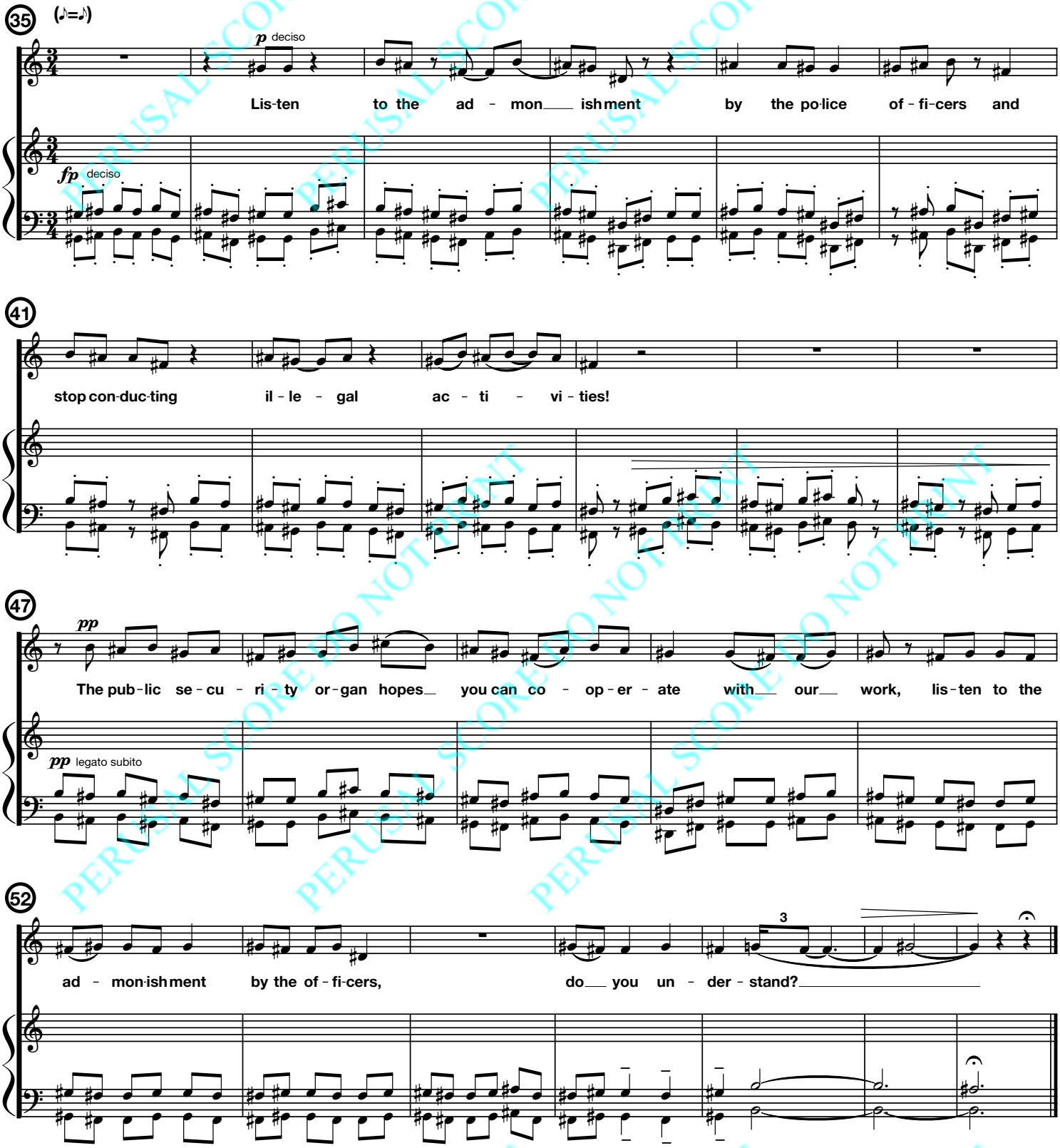

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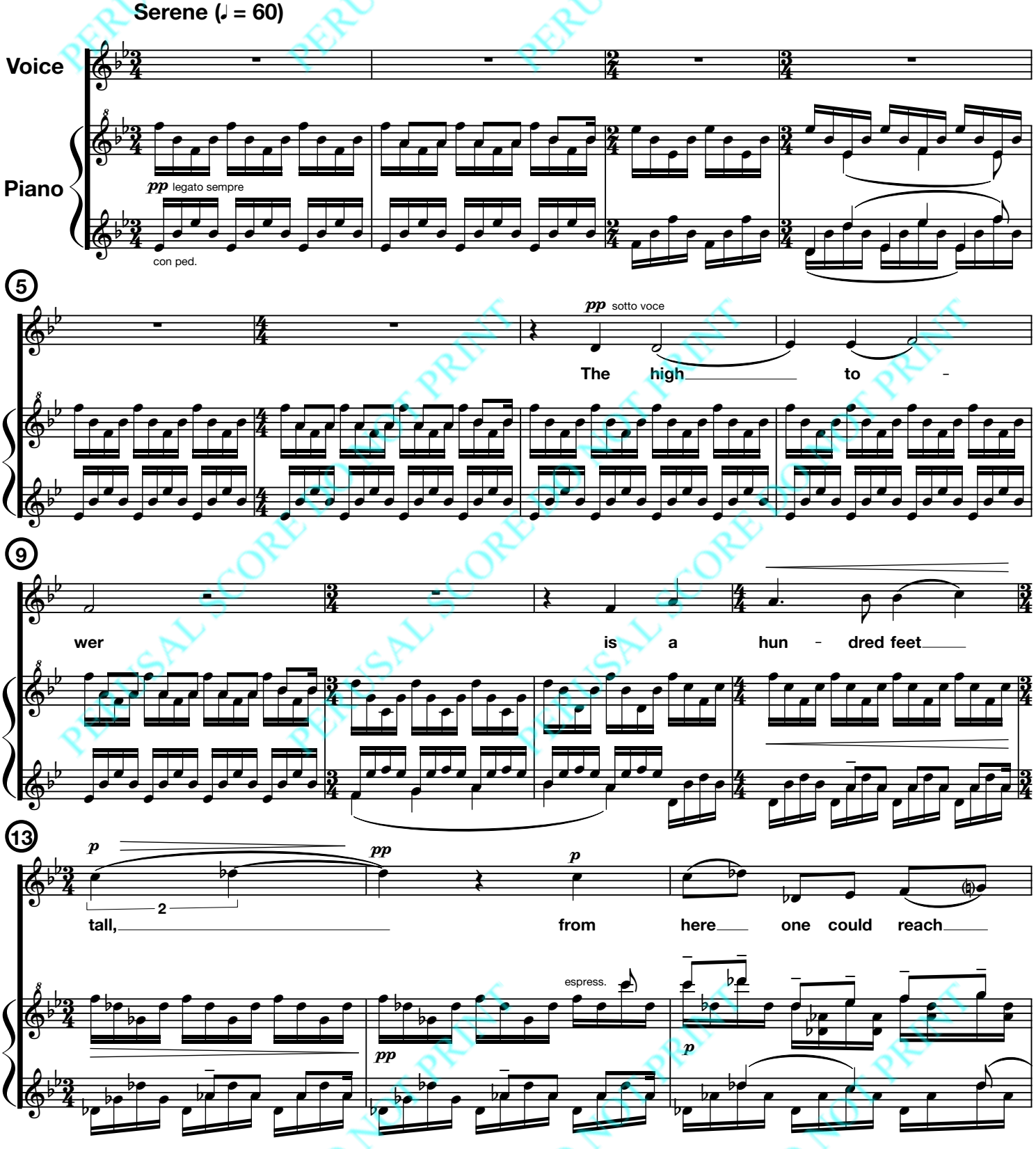
Stars



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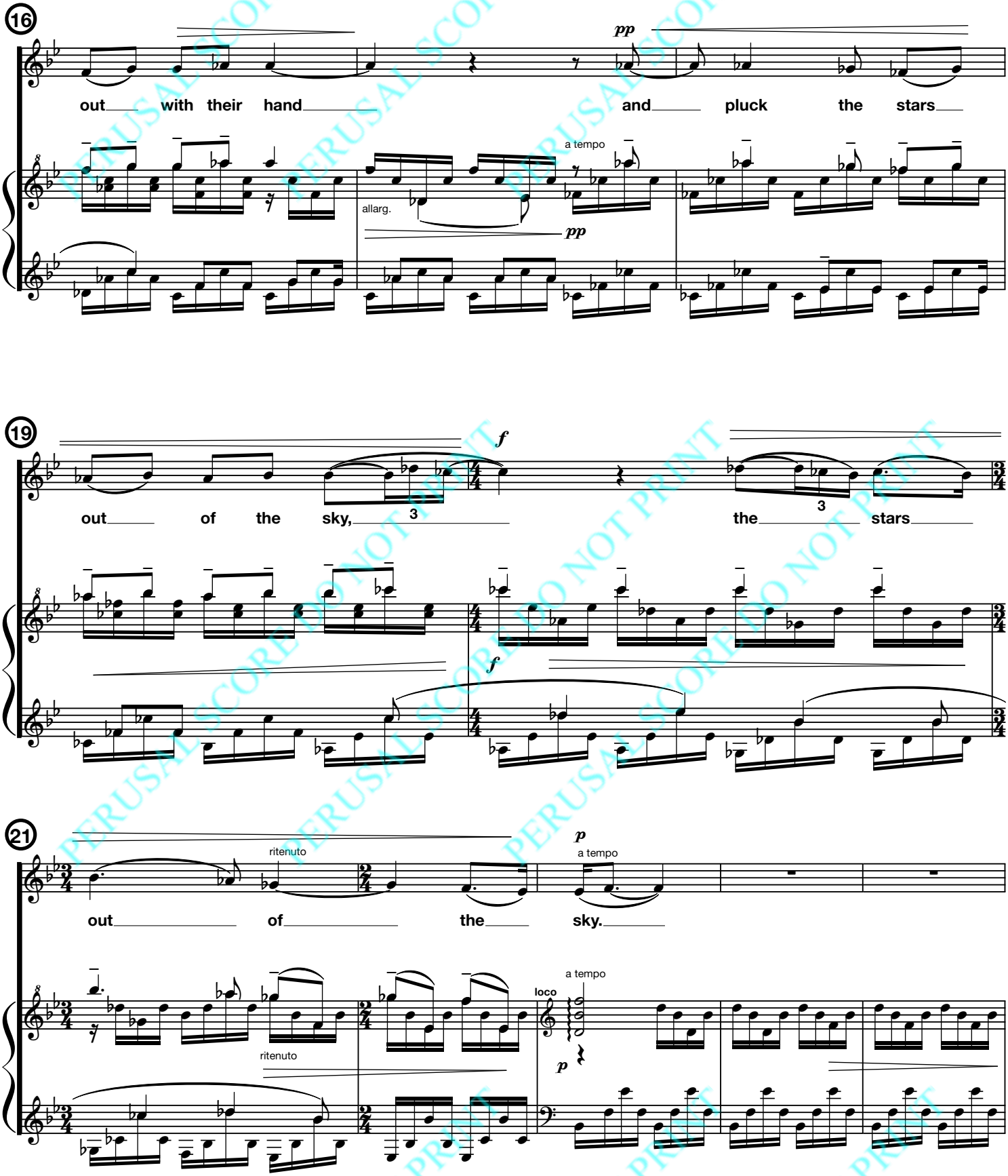

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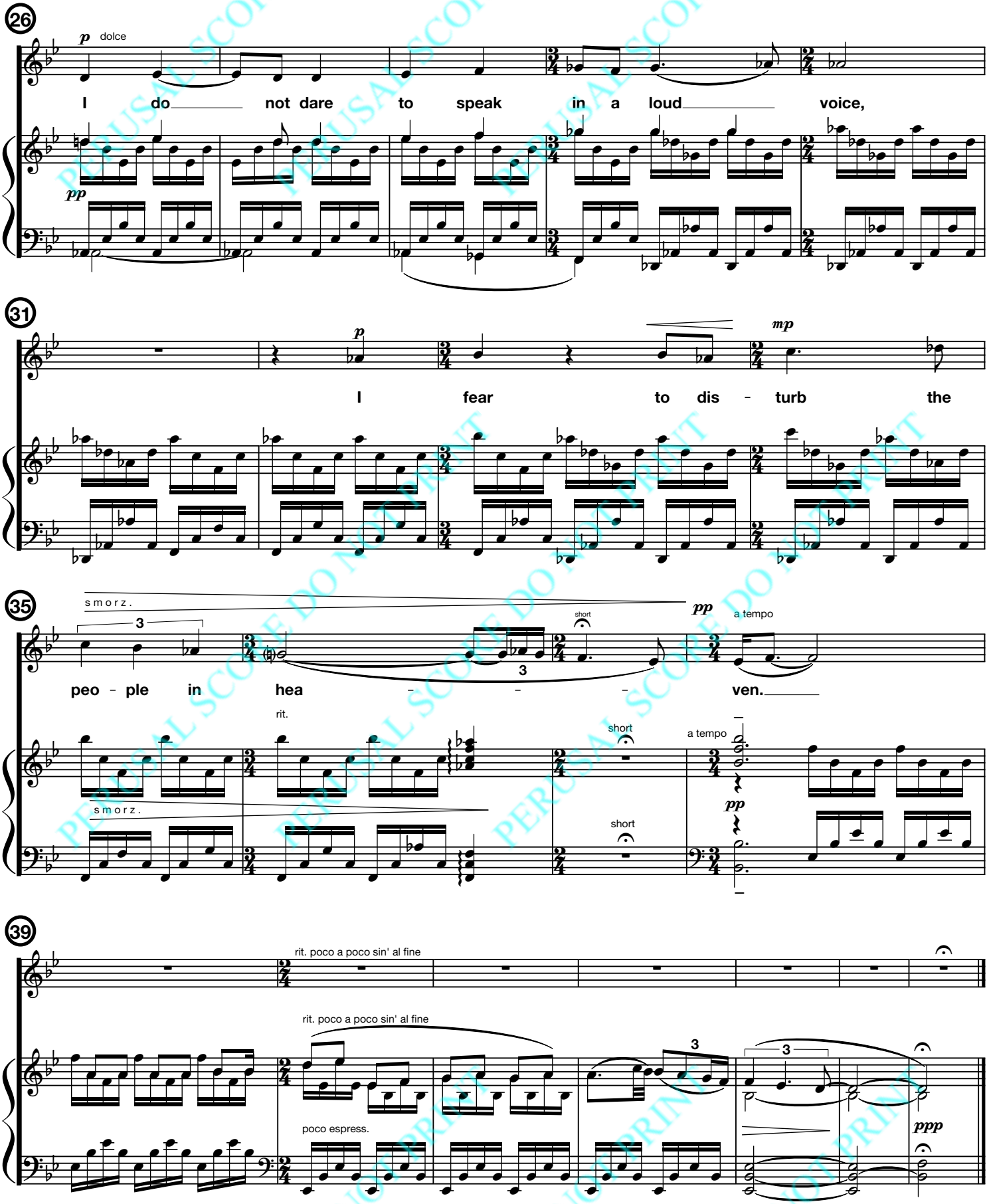

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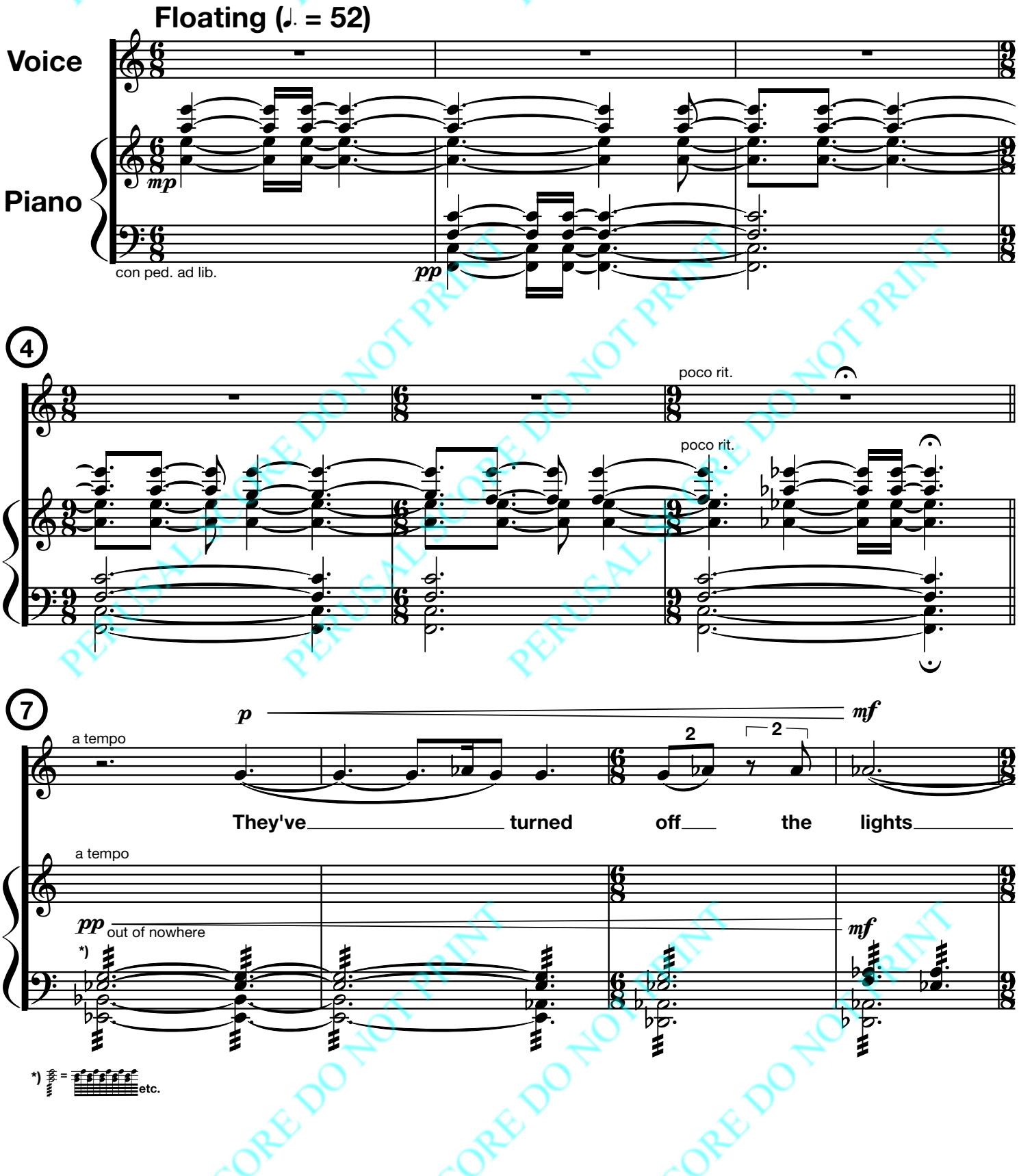
V.
Berceuse



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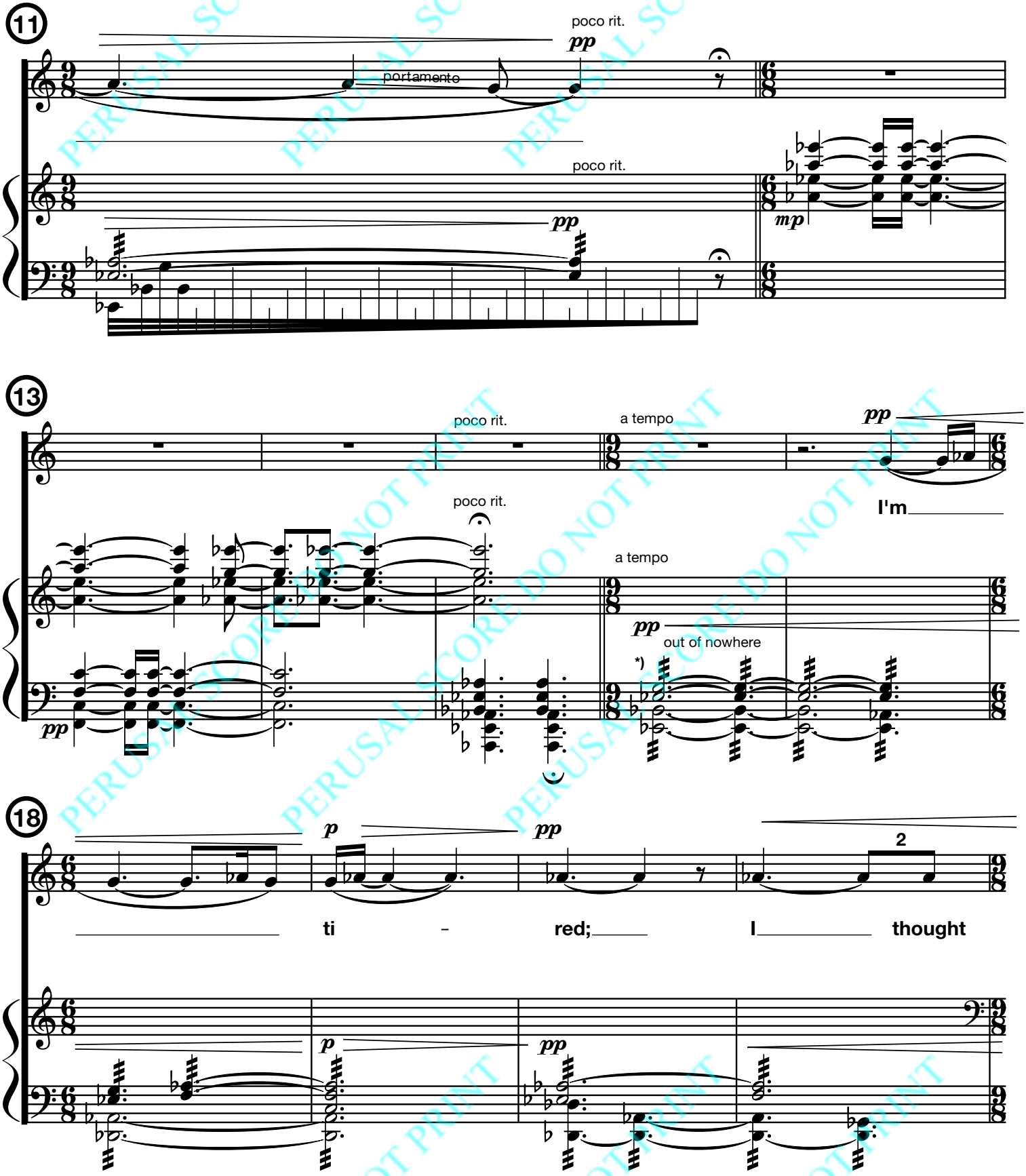

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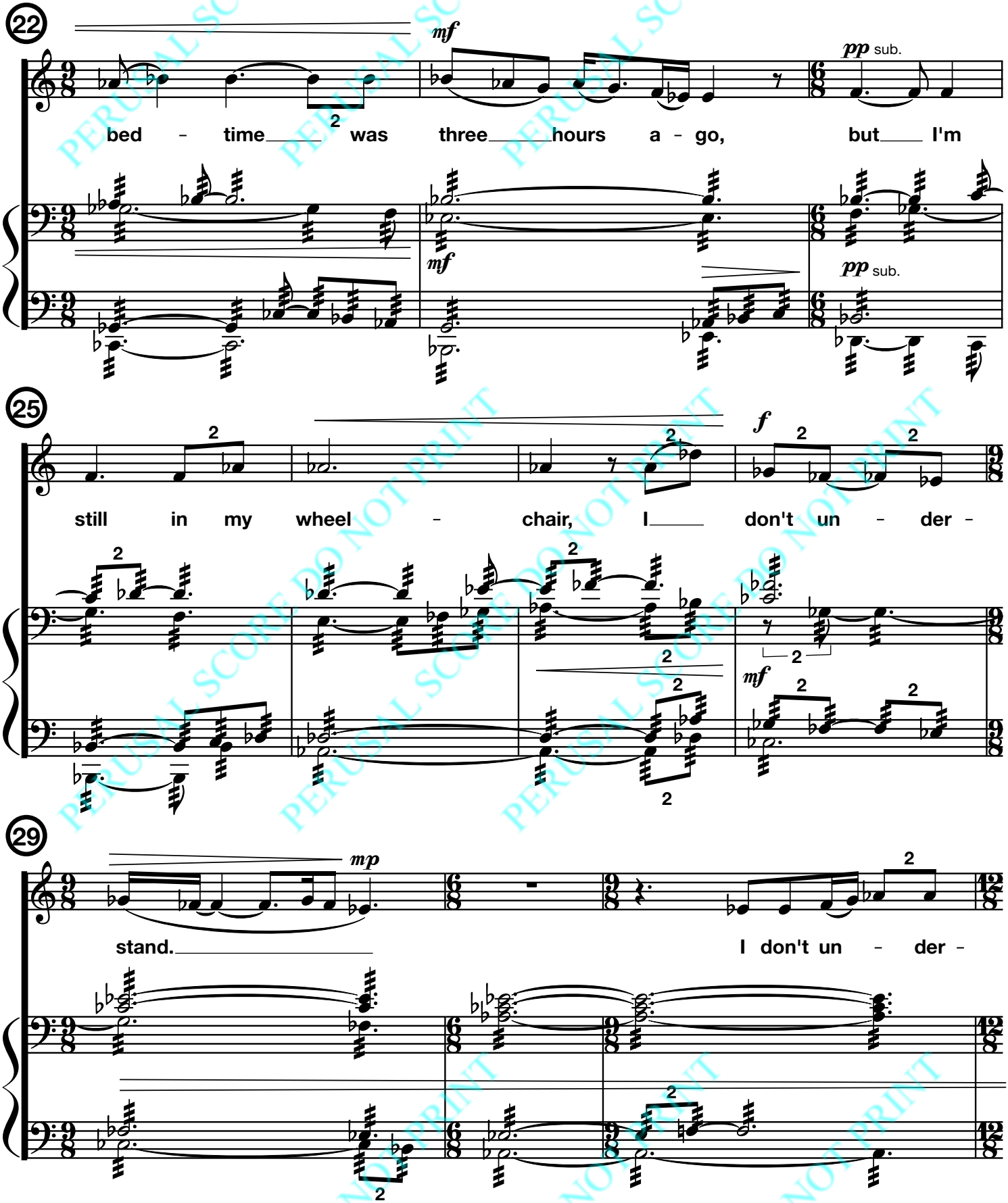

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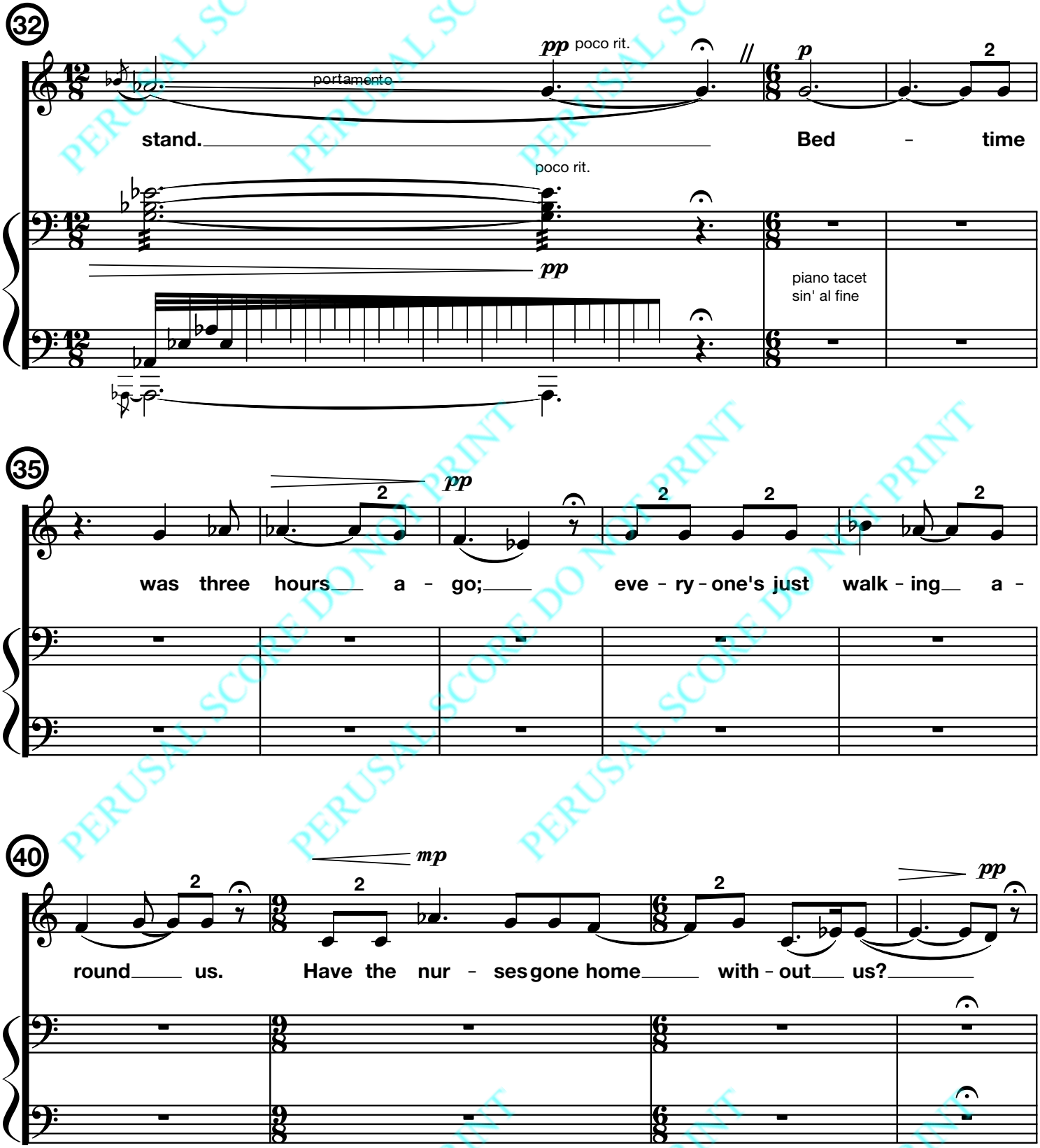

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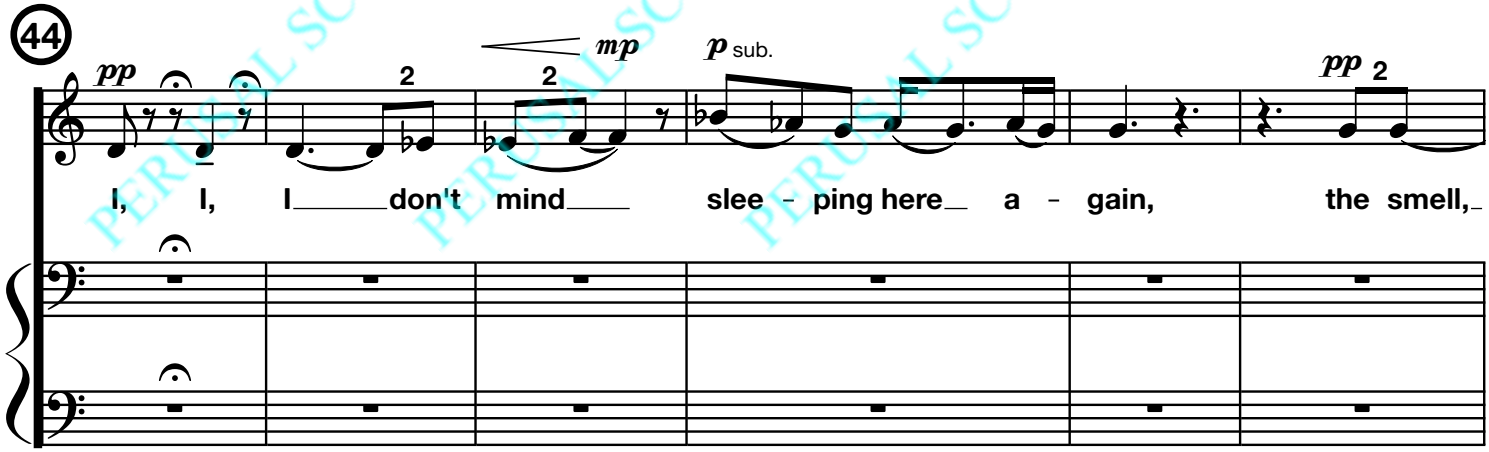

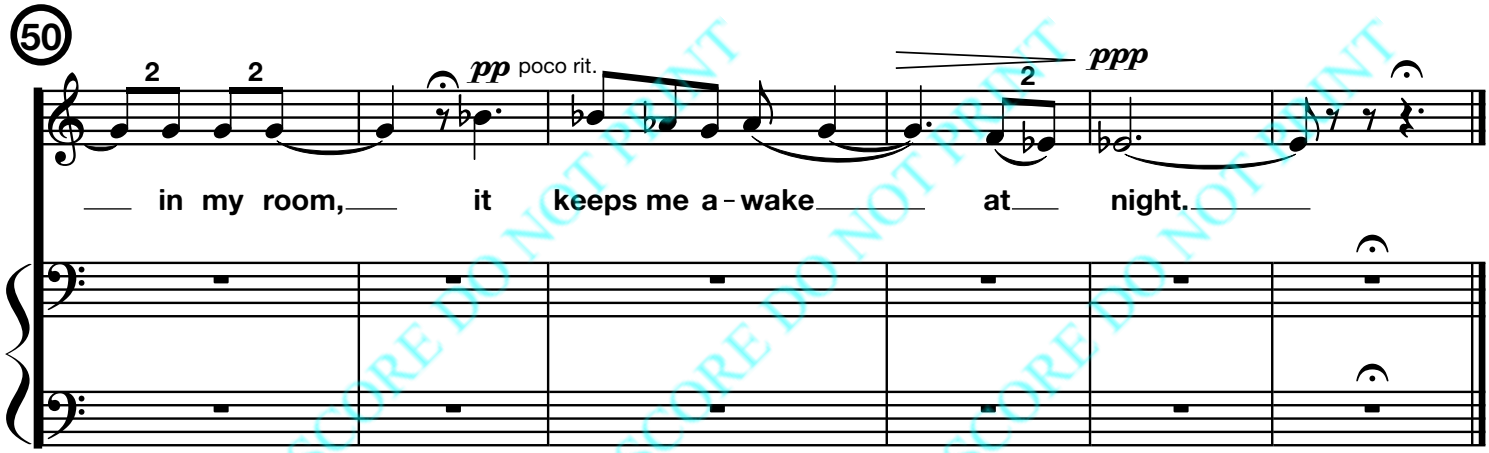

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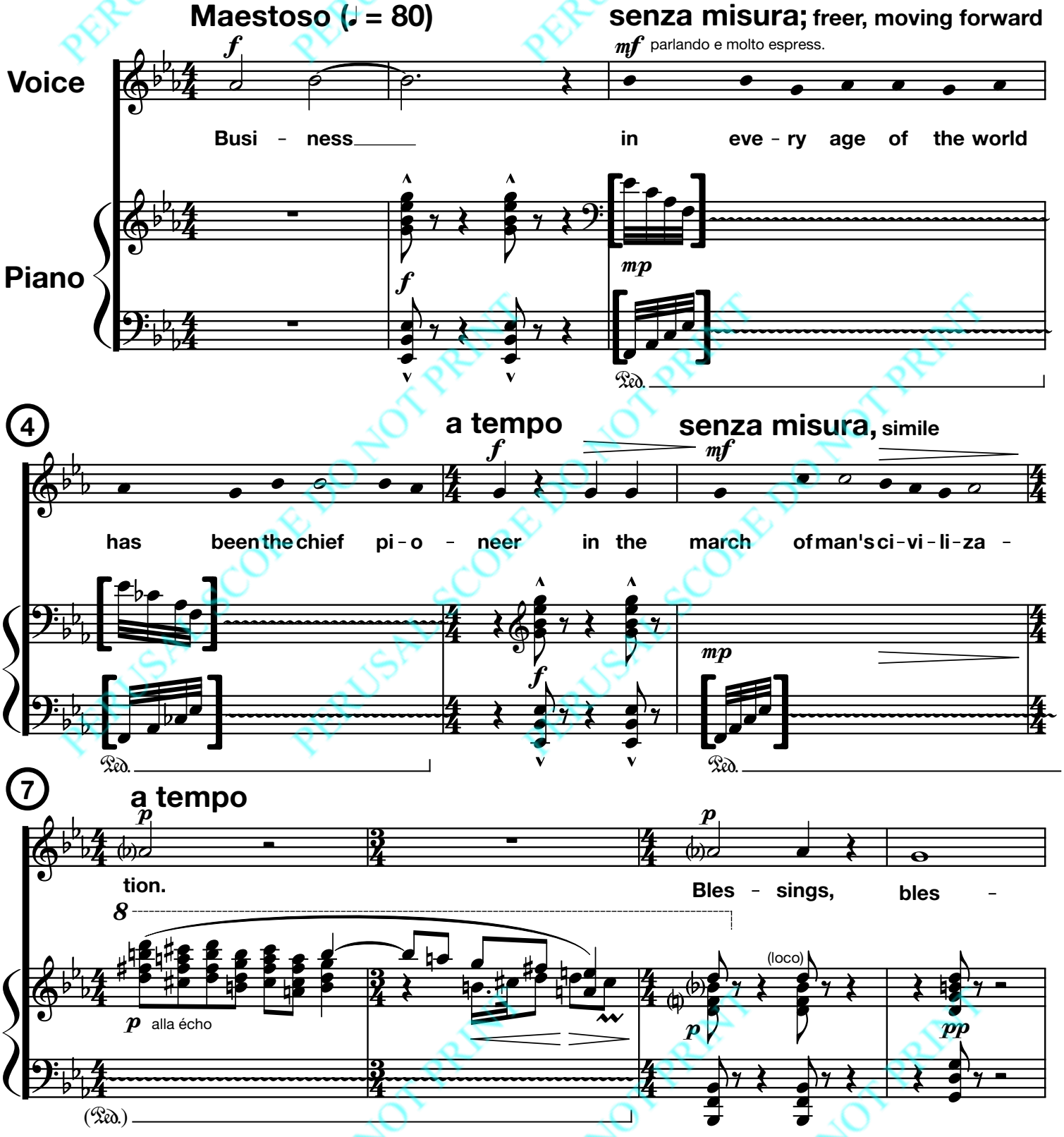
VI.
Business



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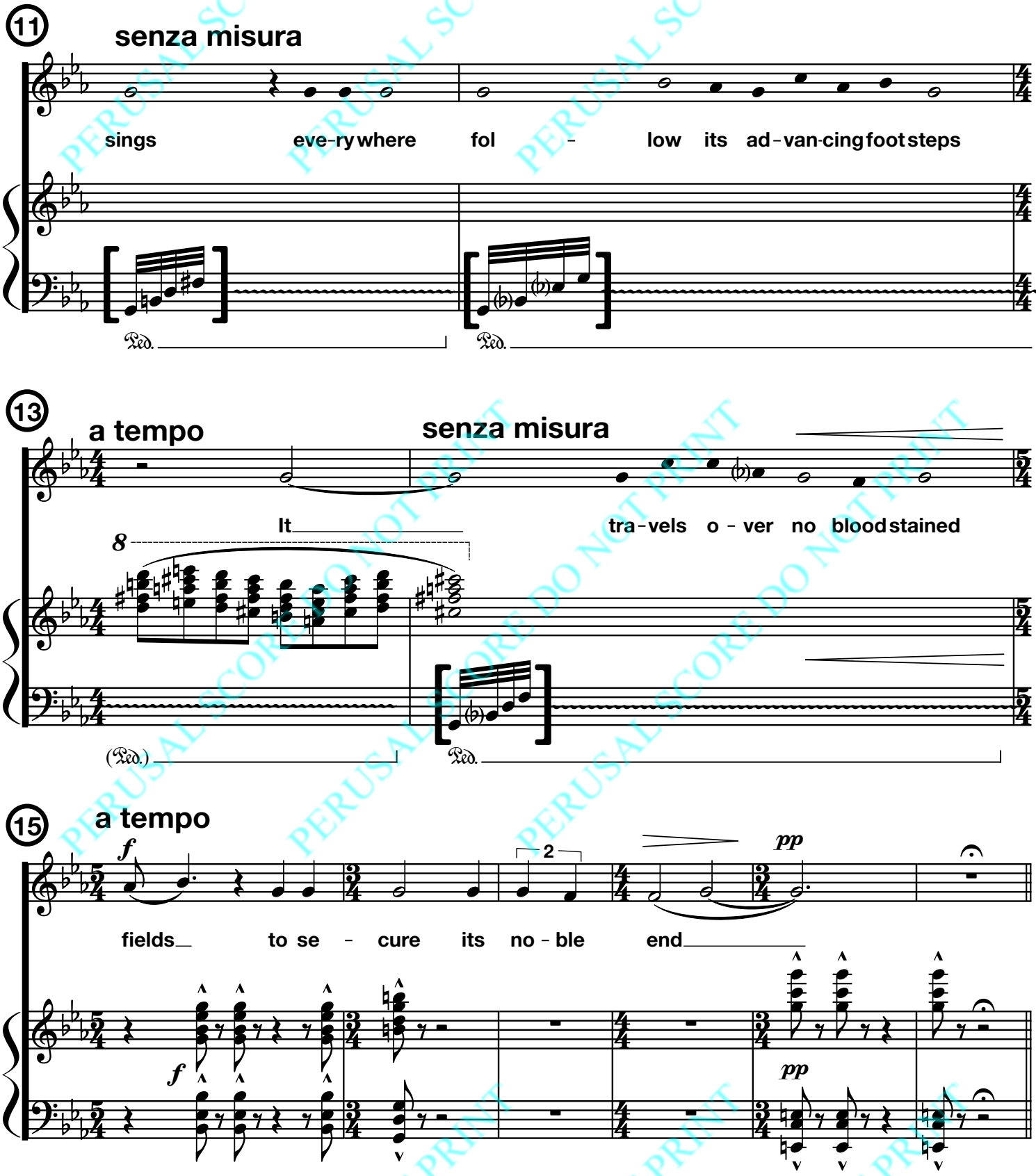

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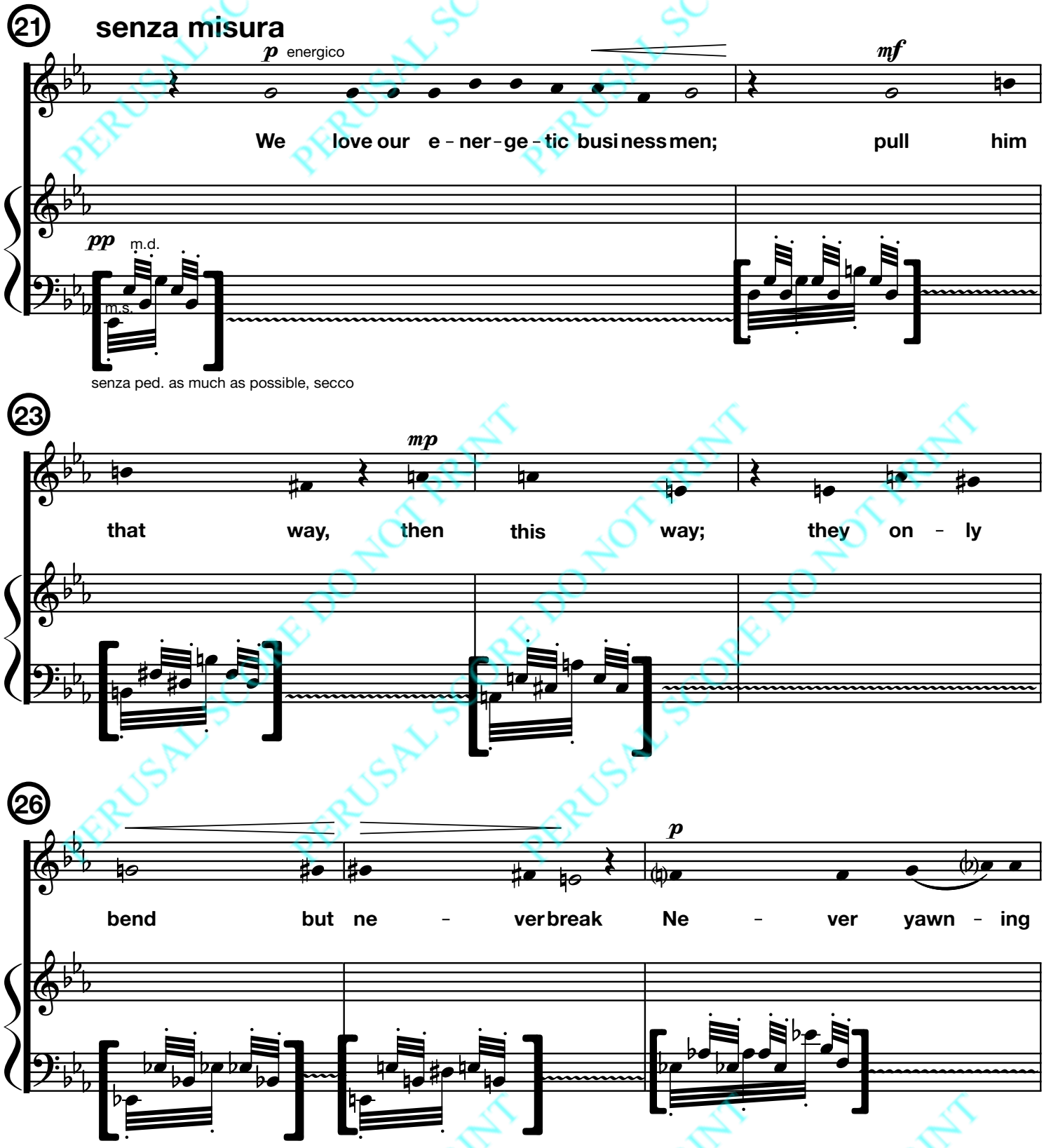

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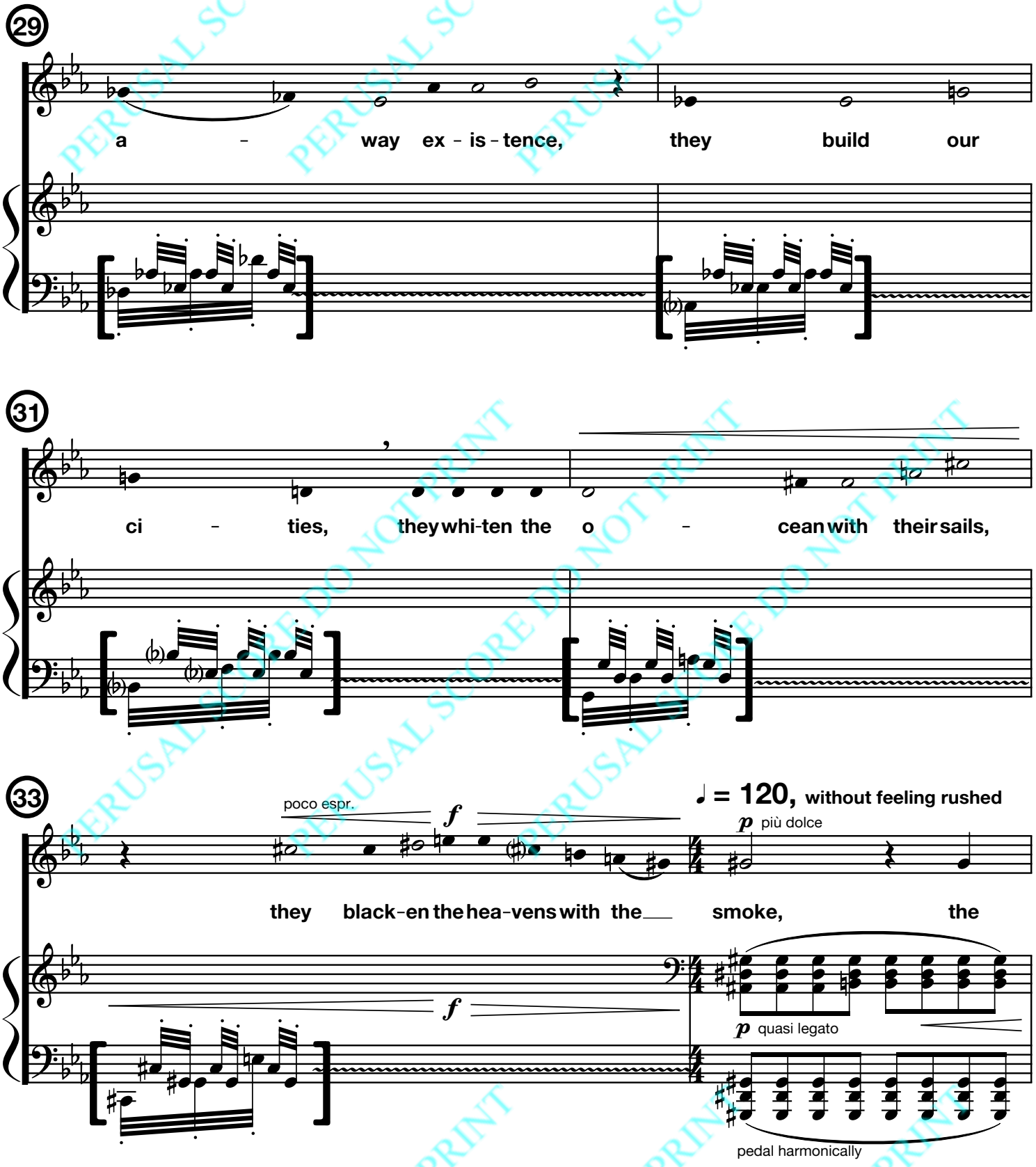

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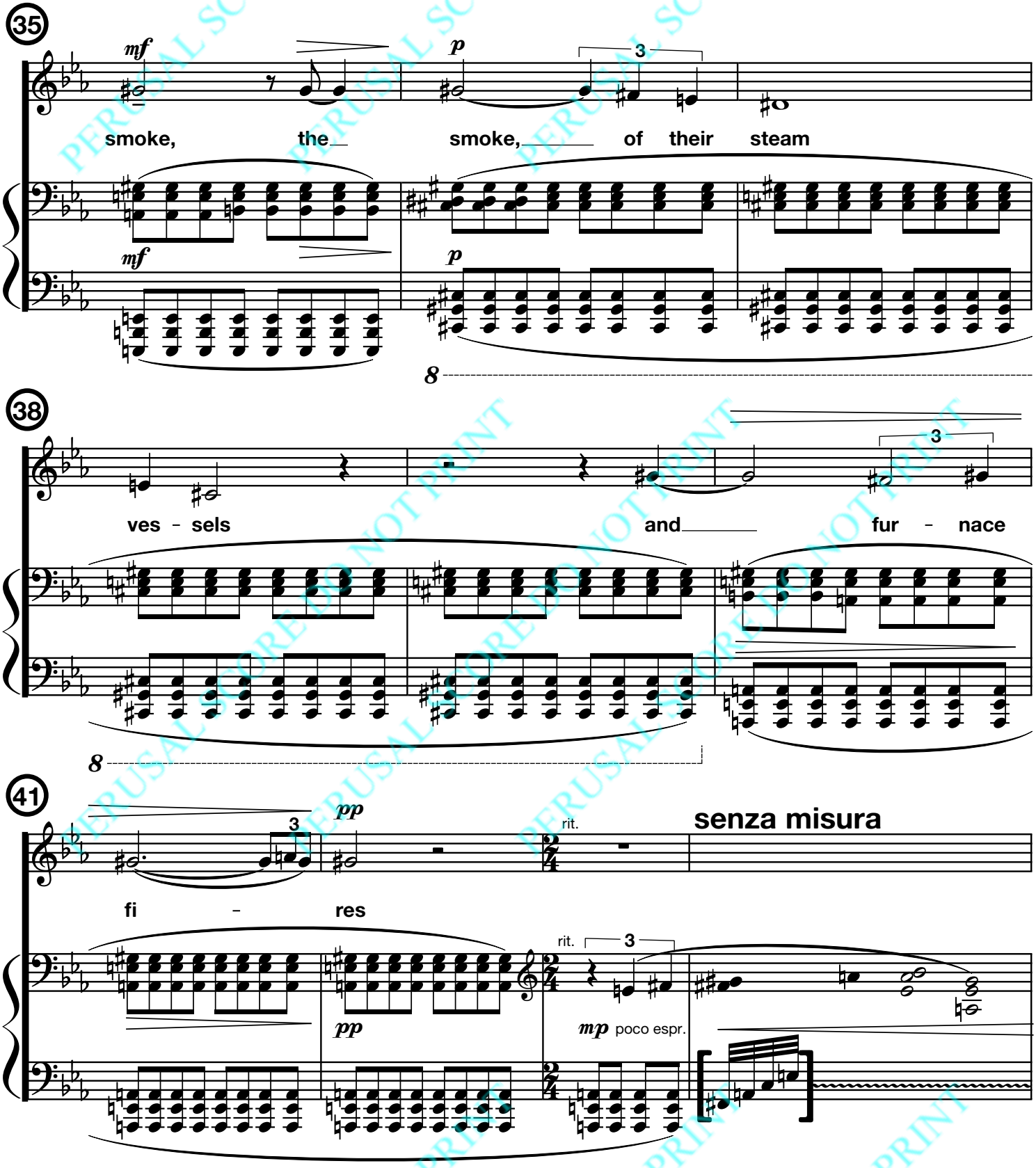

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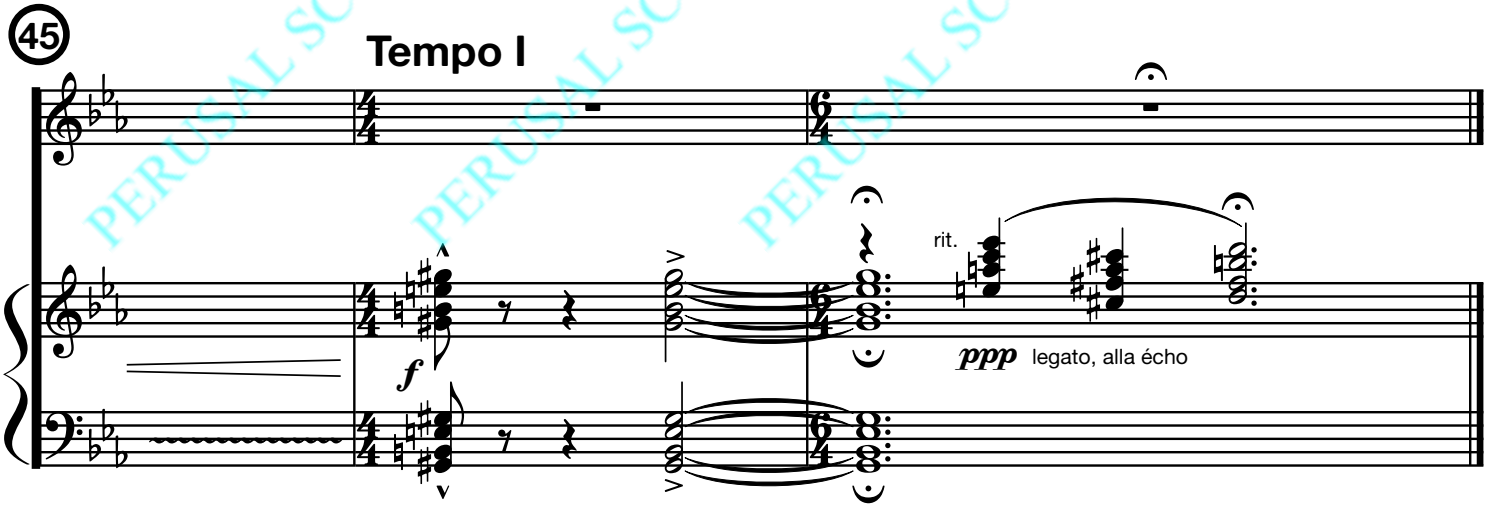

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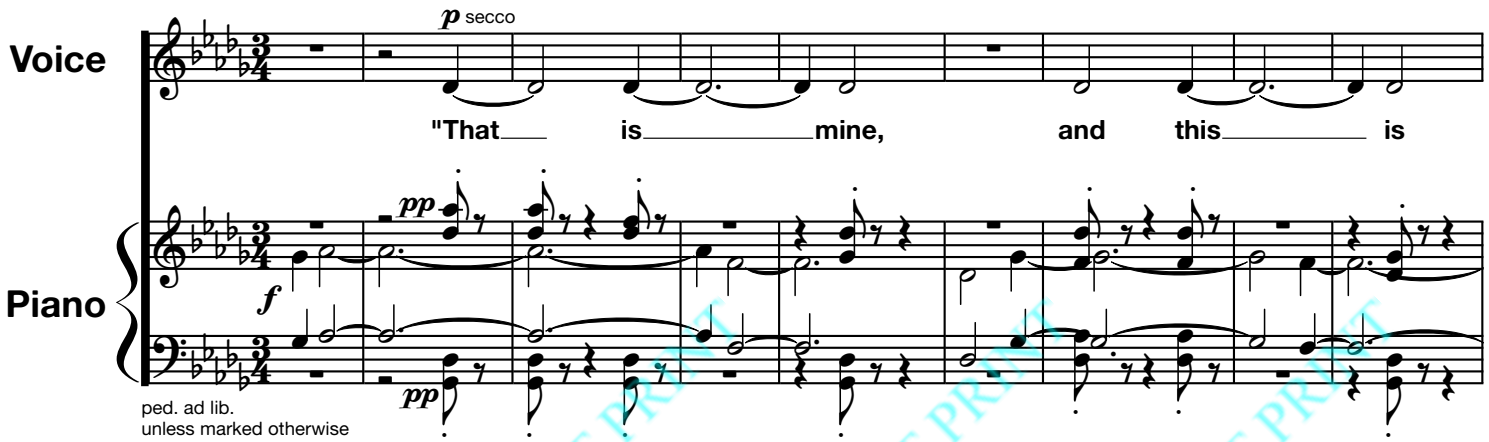
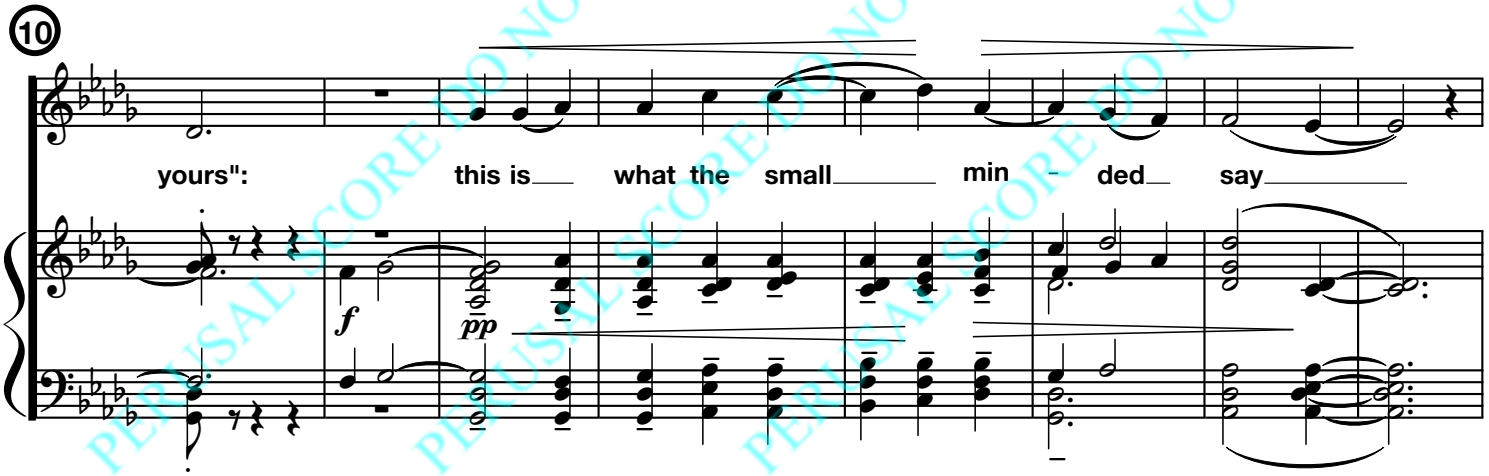
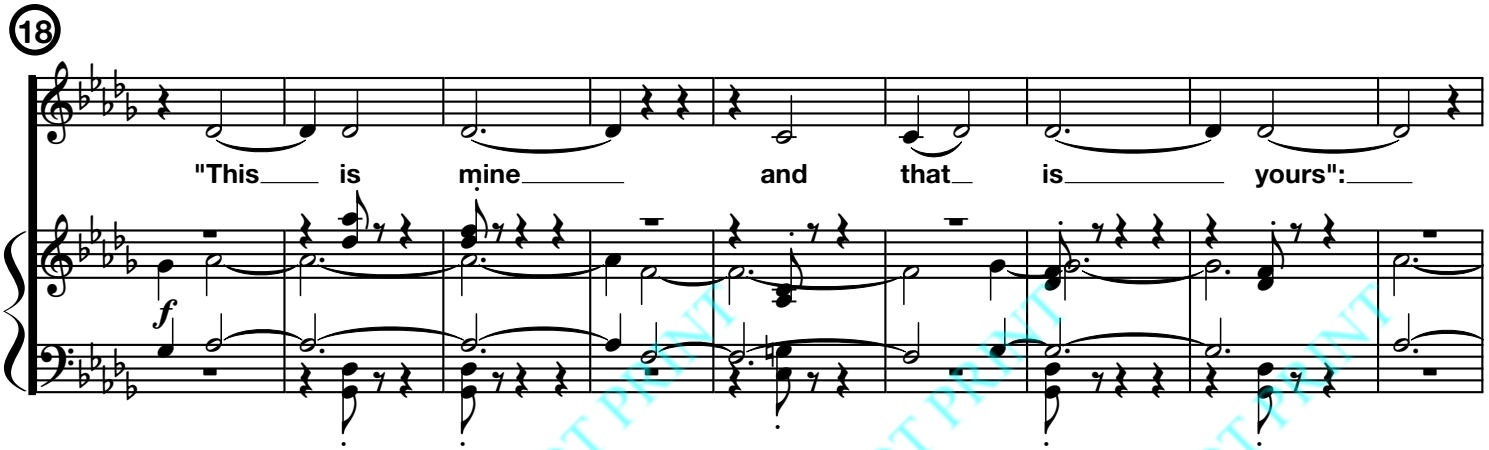
VIII.
Freedom

Dryly (♩ = 72)







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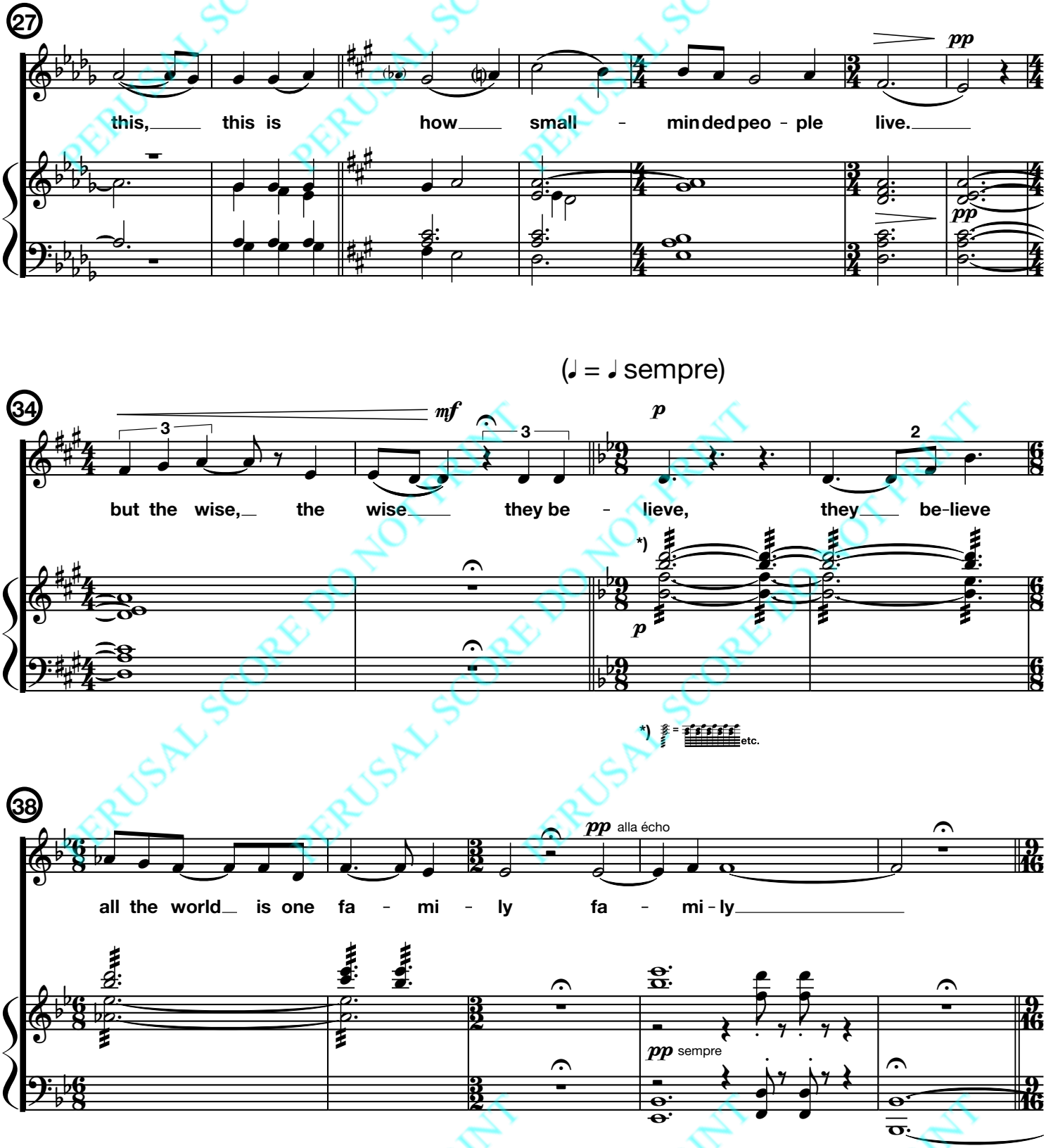

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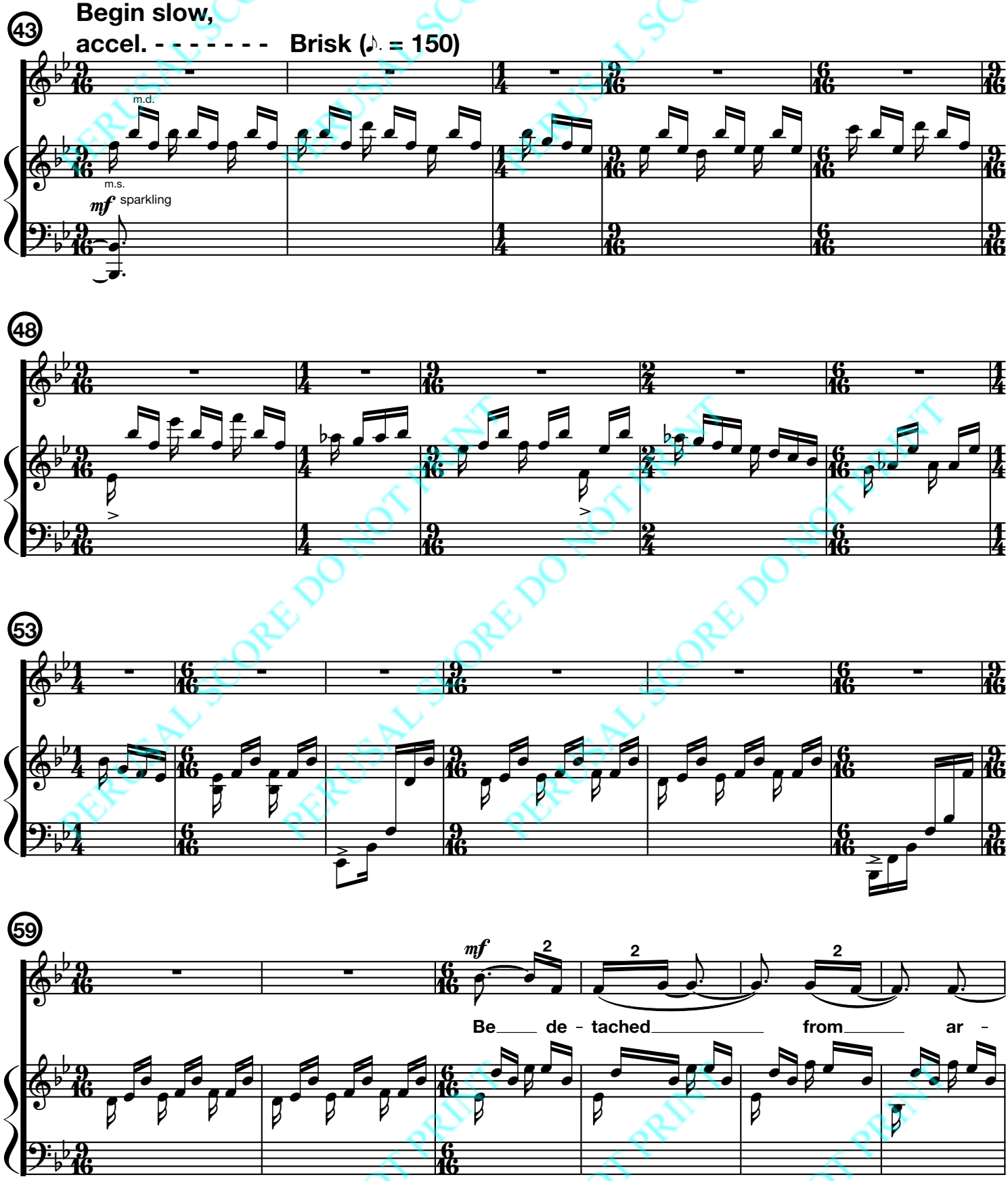

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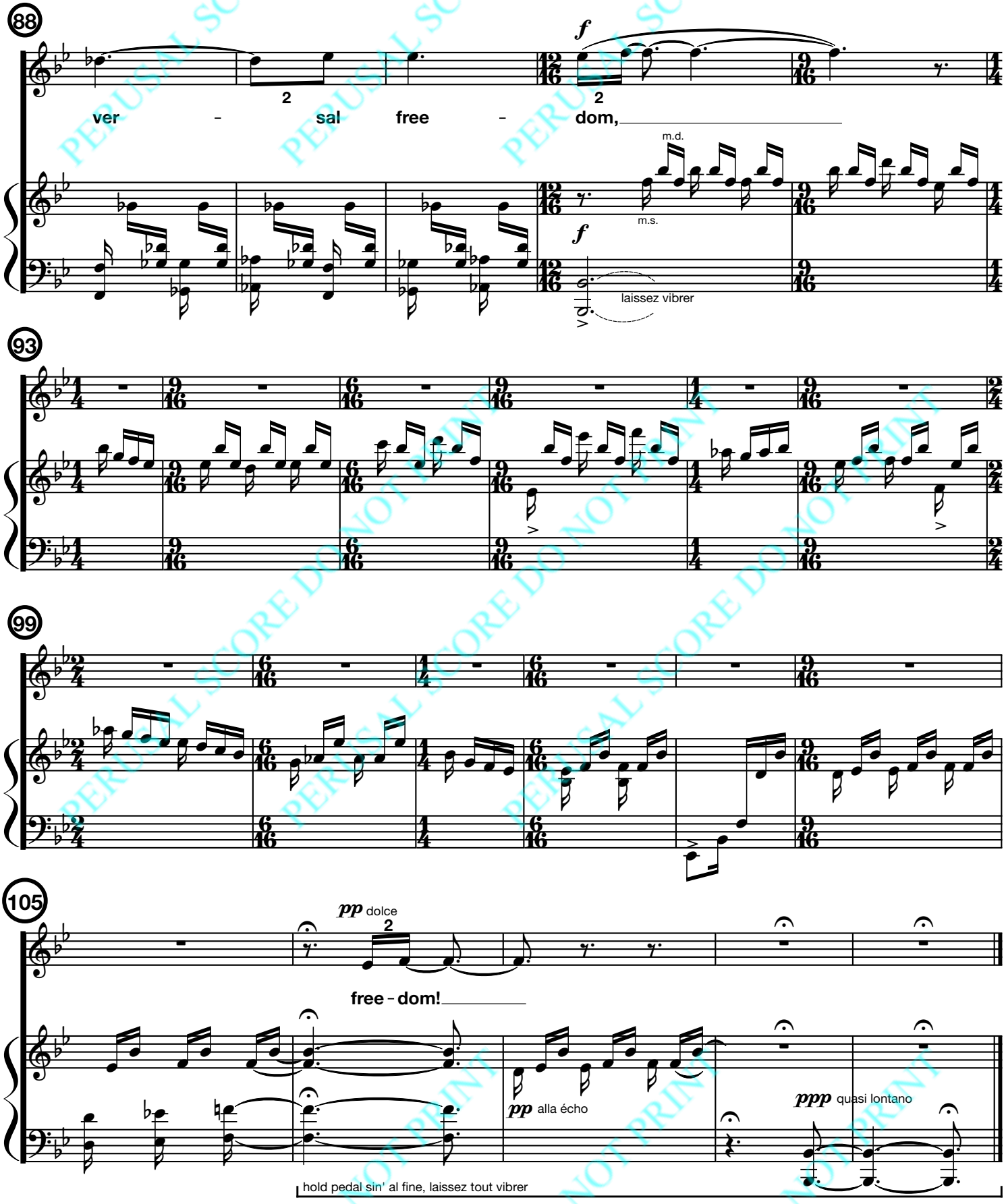

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