MICHAEL SCHACHTER

CANTORIAL AIRS

for String Quartet

(2006)

PERUSAL SCORE

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INSTRUMENTATION

2 Violins
Viola
Violoncello

DURATION

8 minutes

PERUSAL SCORE

PERFORMANCE NOTES

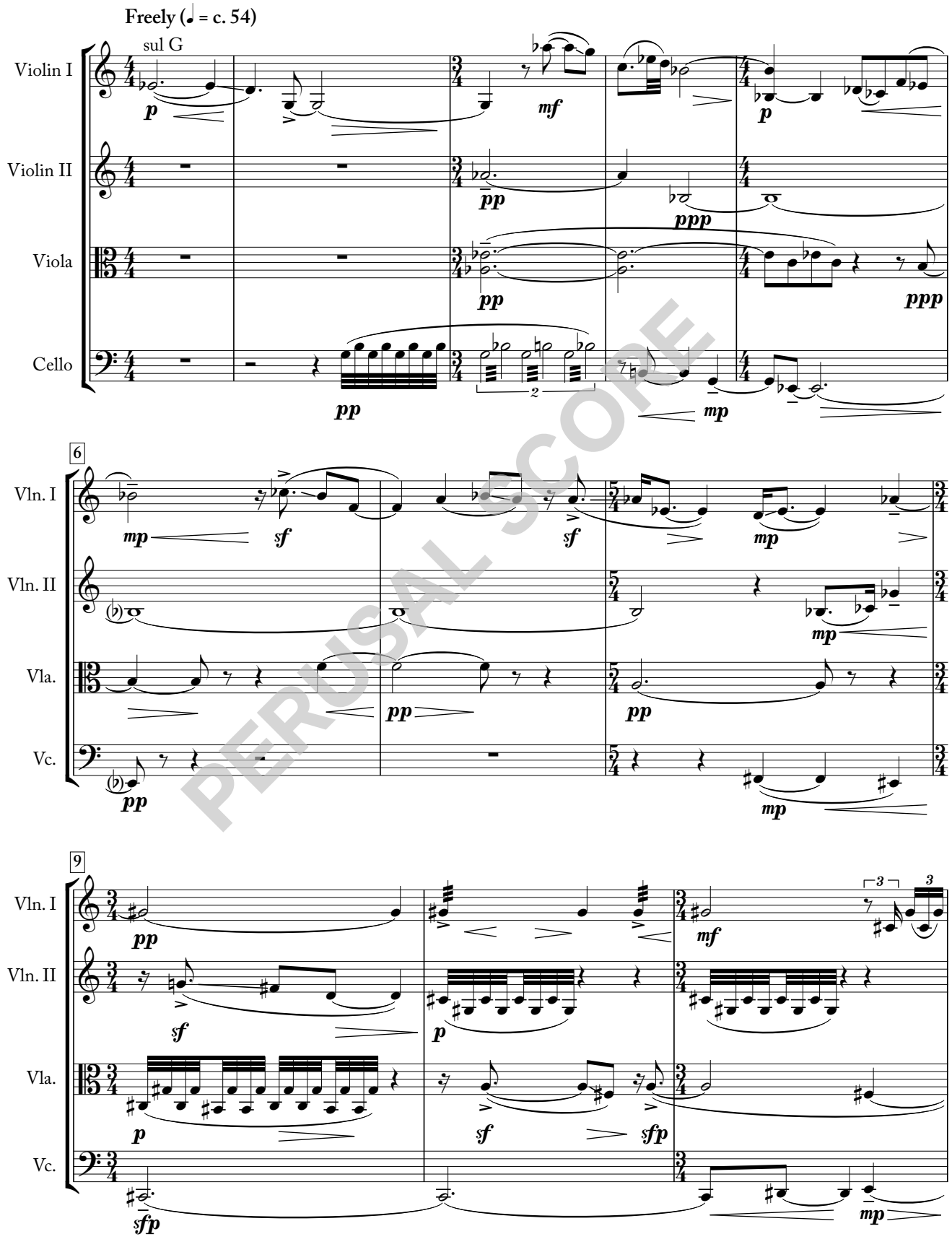
Cantorial Airs takes its inspiration from traditional Jewish cantillation practices (solo liturgical singing). In addition to incorporating elements of Middle Eastern modal language, including the characteristic augmented-second interval and *glissandi* between fixed pitches, the work also evokes the mournful affect and mystical sublimity of the great cantors. The piece consists of a single rhapsodic movement, alternating between sections of meditative repose and sections of more frenetic energy.

Cantorial Airs was completed in January 2006, during the composer's freshman year at Harvard University. It was read by the Ying Quartet in the spring of the same year and premiered in concert by the White Rabbit New Music Ensemble (Eric Hewitt, conductor) in February 2007. The present edition was prepared for a collaborative project between the University of Michigan Composition and Strings departments in the spring of 2015. The original conception of the composition remains virtually intact, with changes primarily consisting of simplifying unnecessarily complicated notation and clarifying musical intention.

PERUSAL SCORE

CANTORIAL AIRS

Michael Schachter (b.1987)



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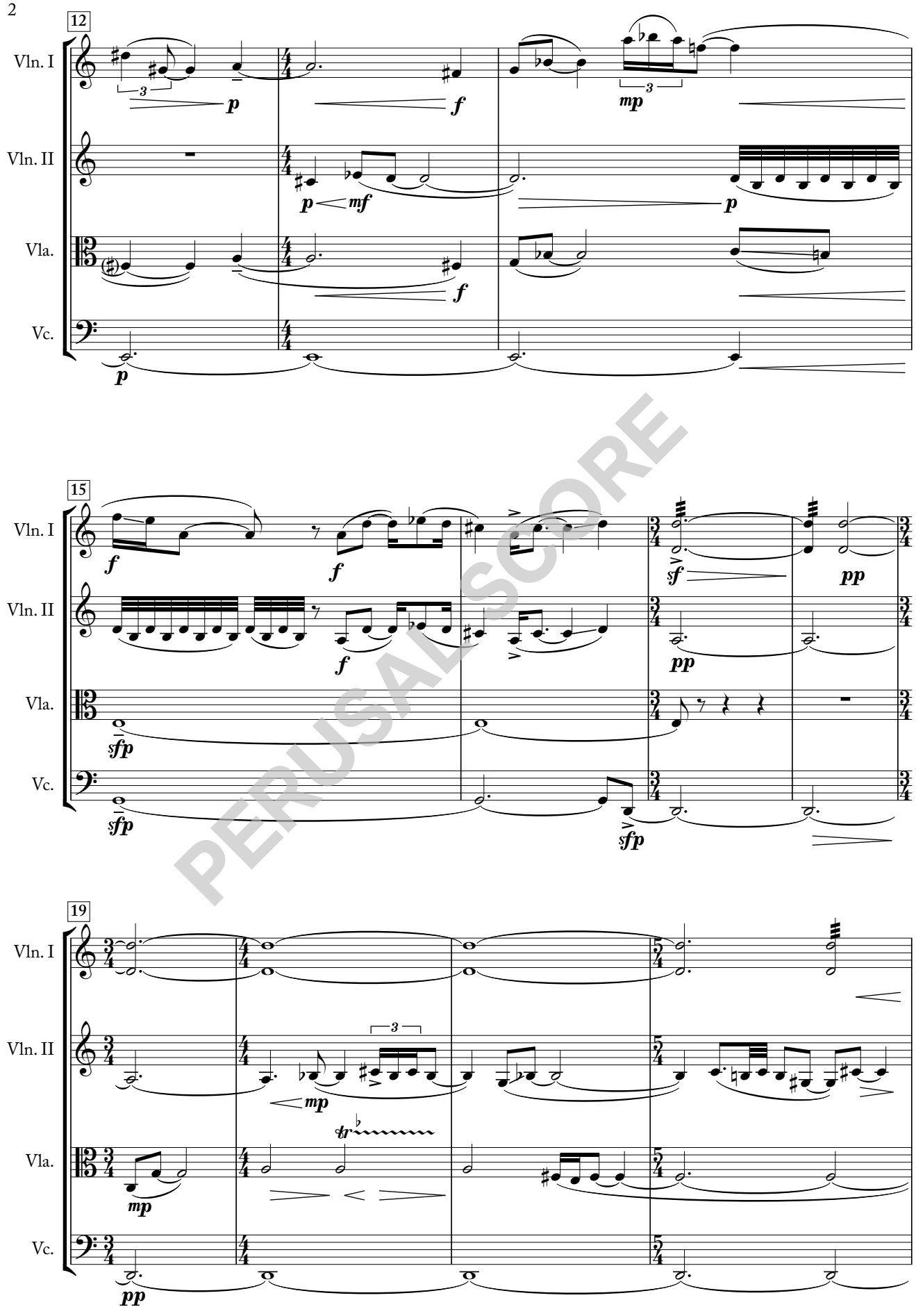

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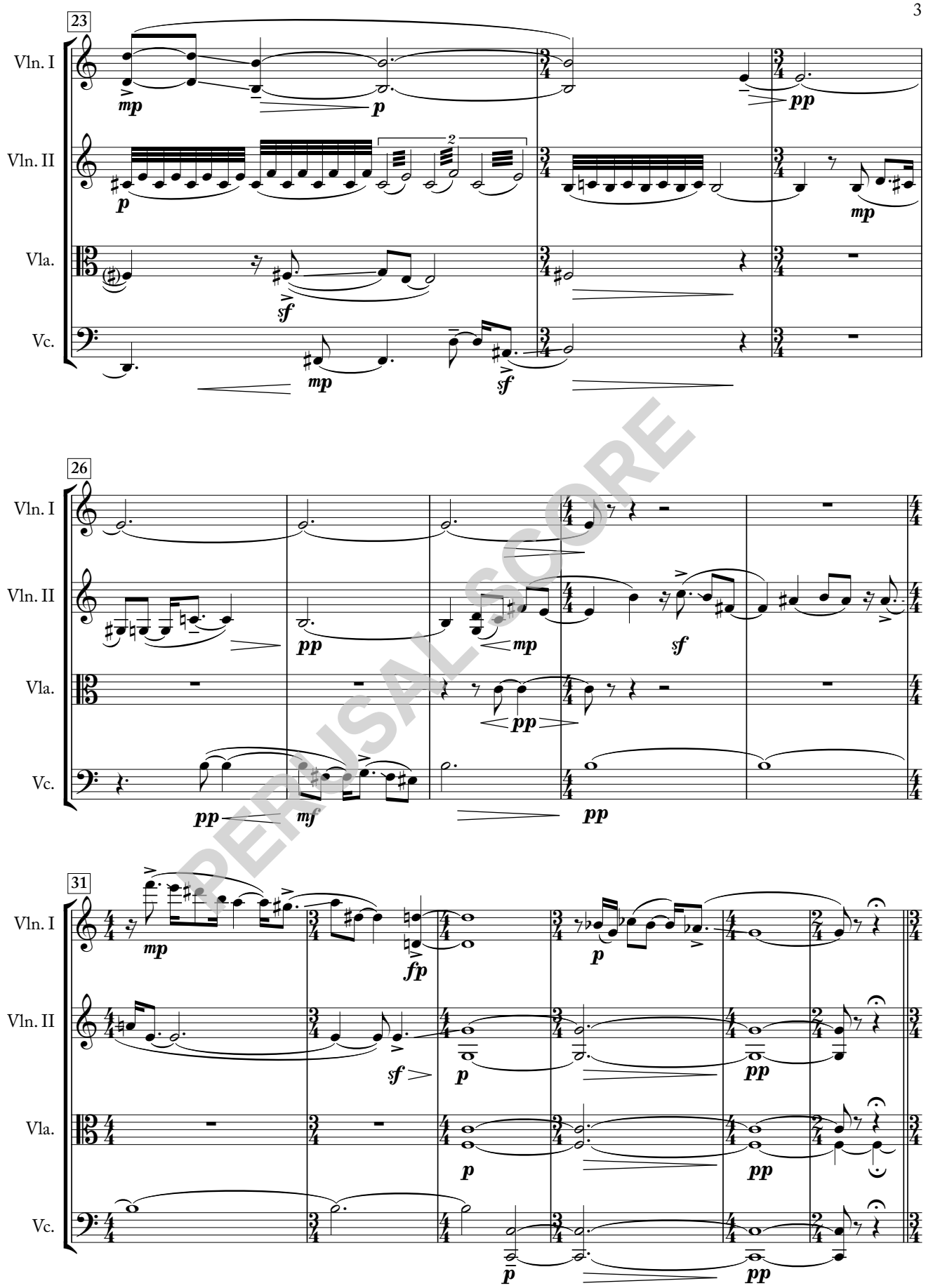

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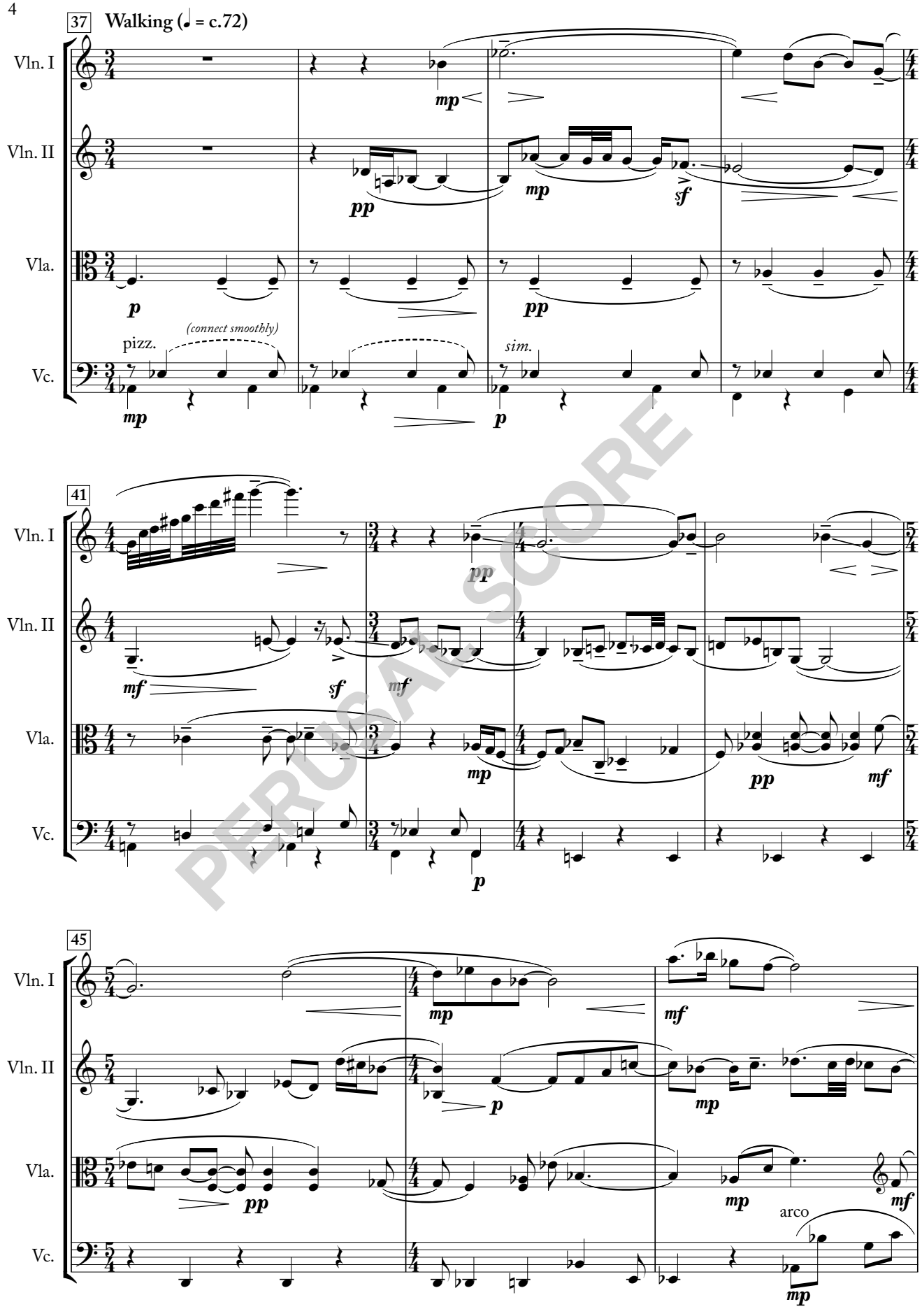

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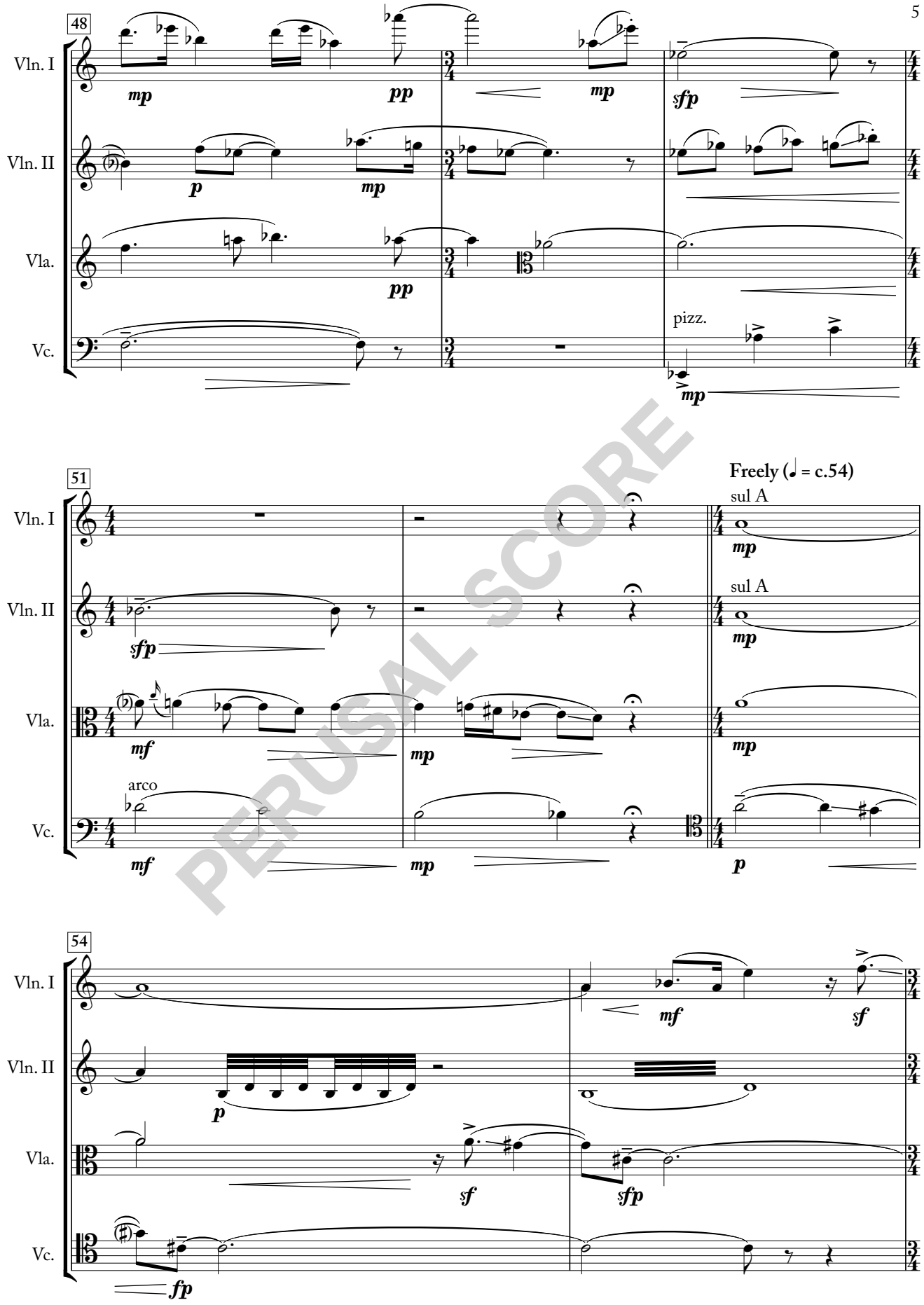

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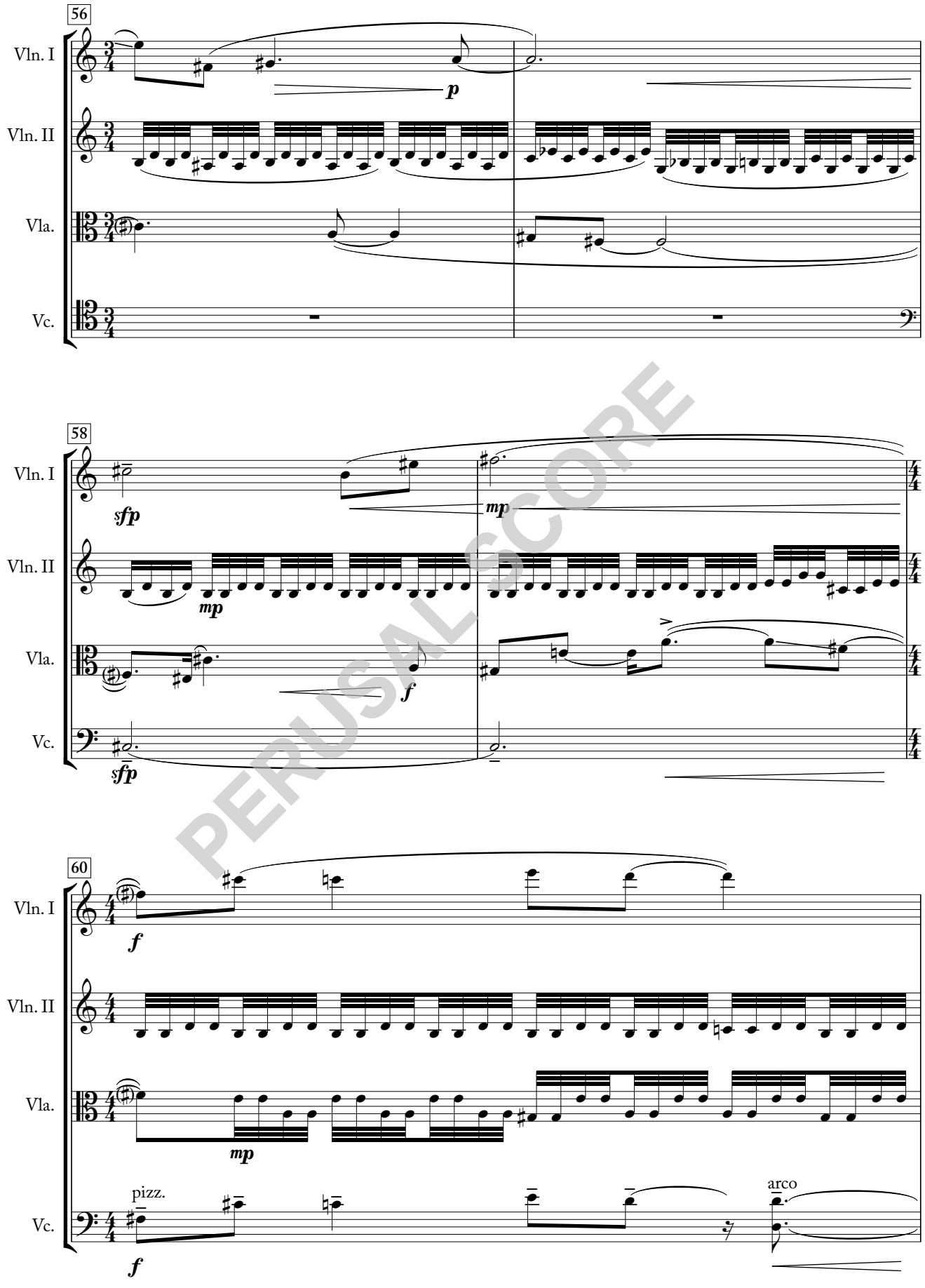

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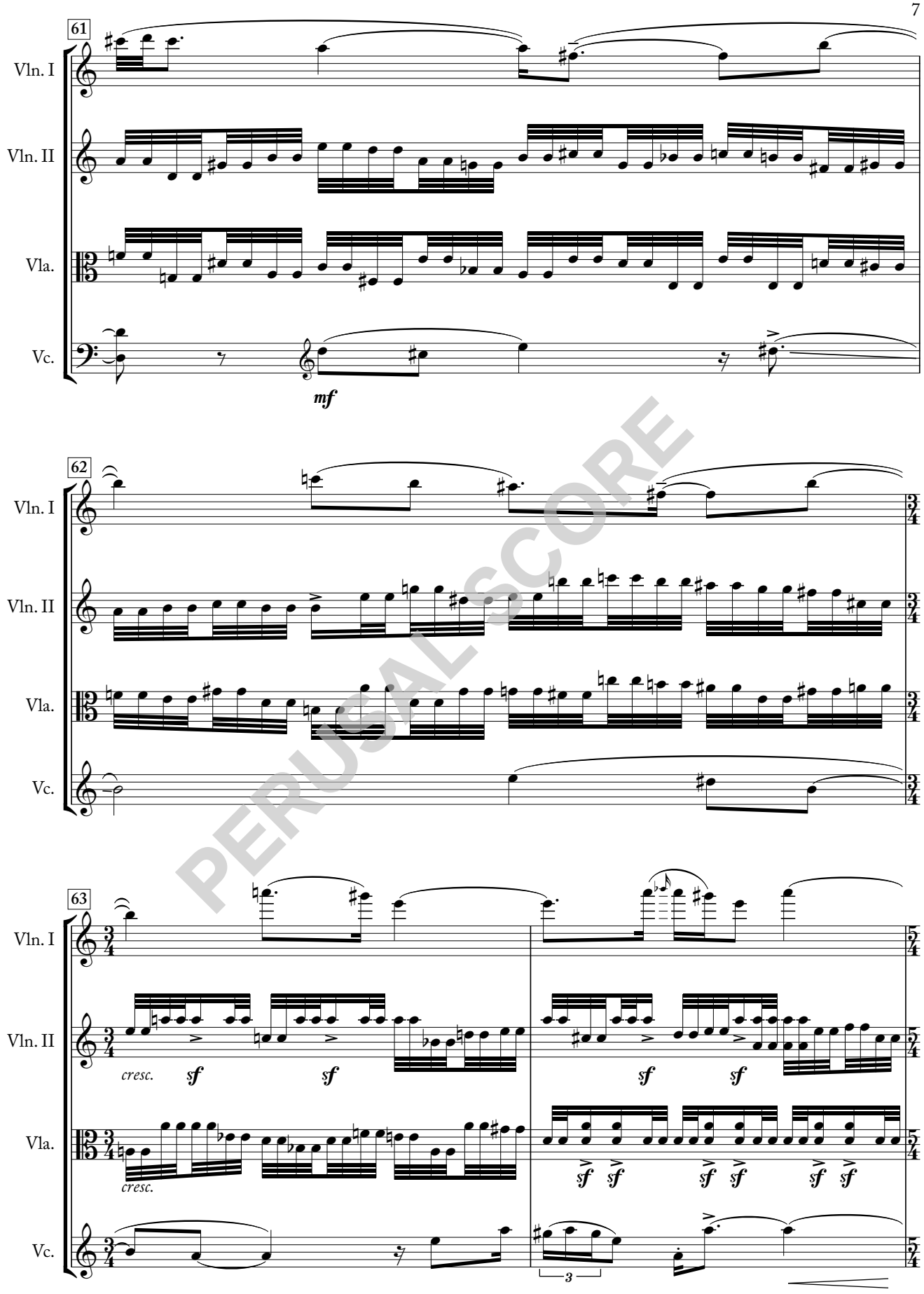

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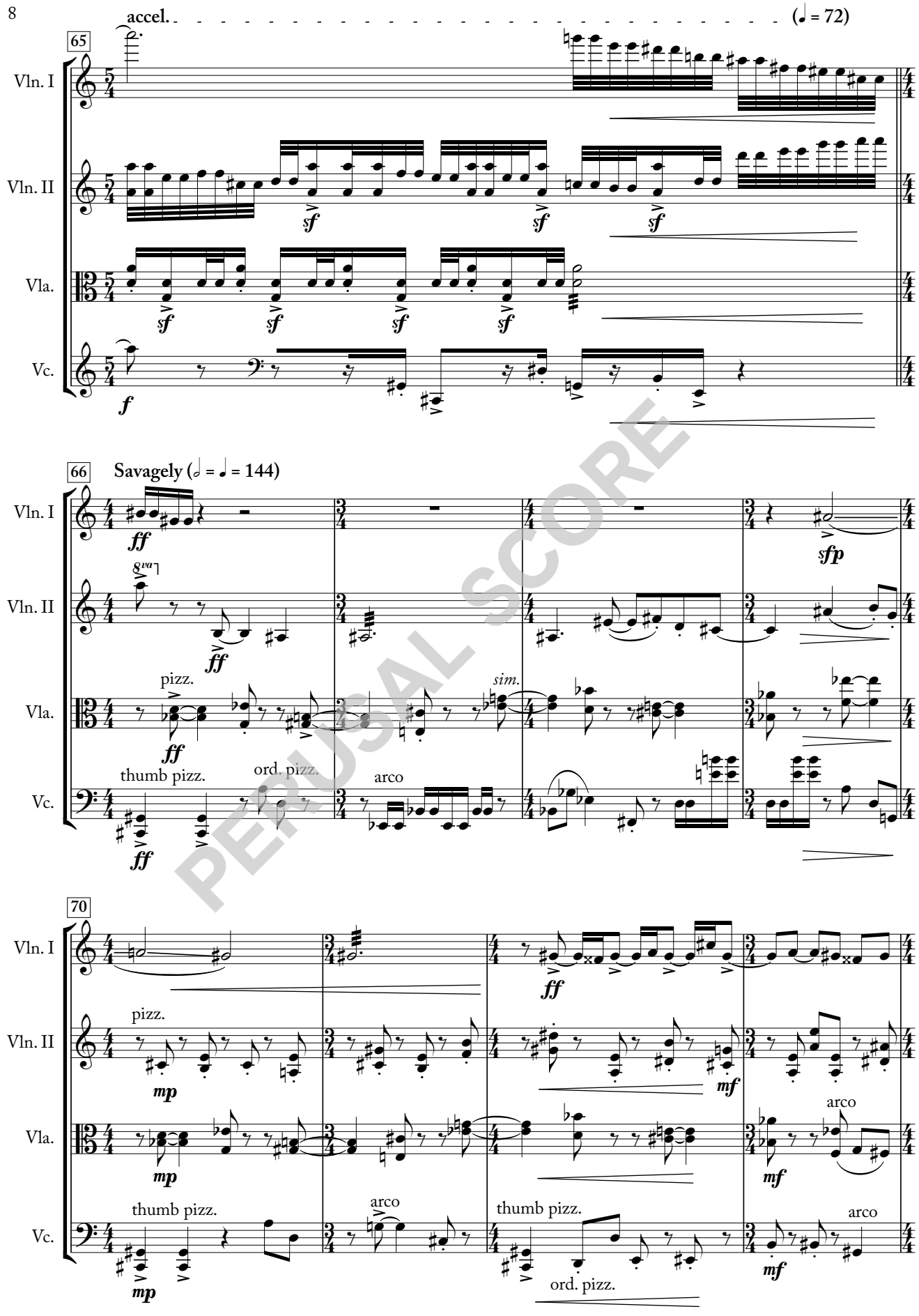

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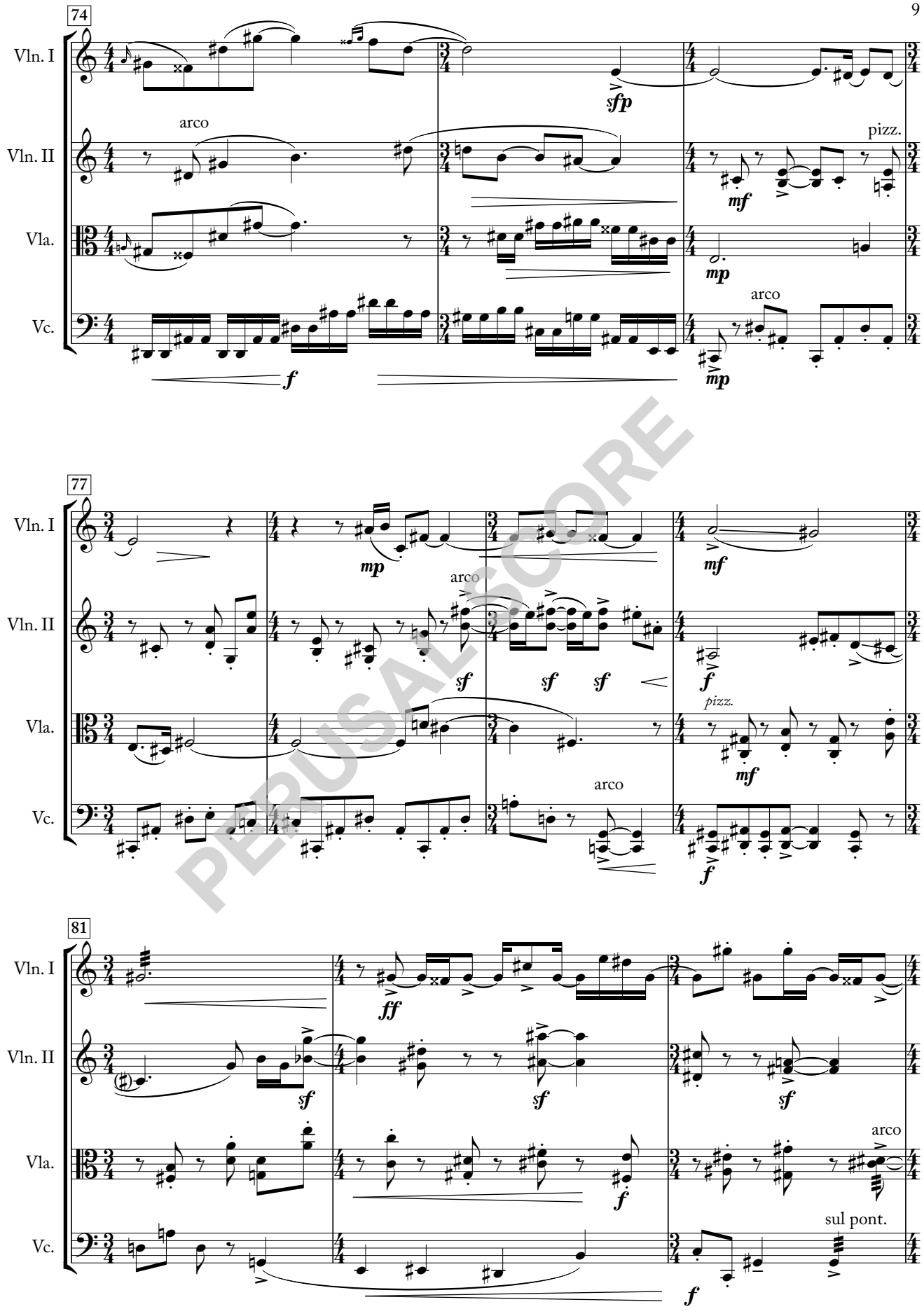

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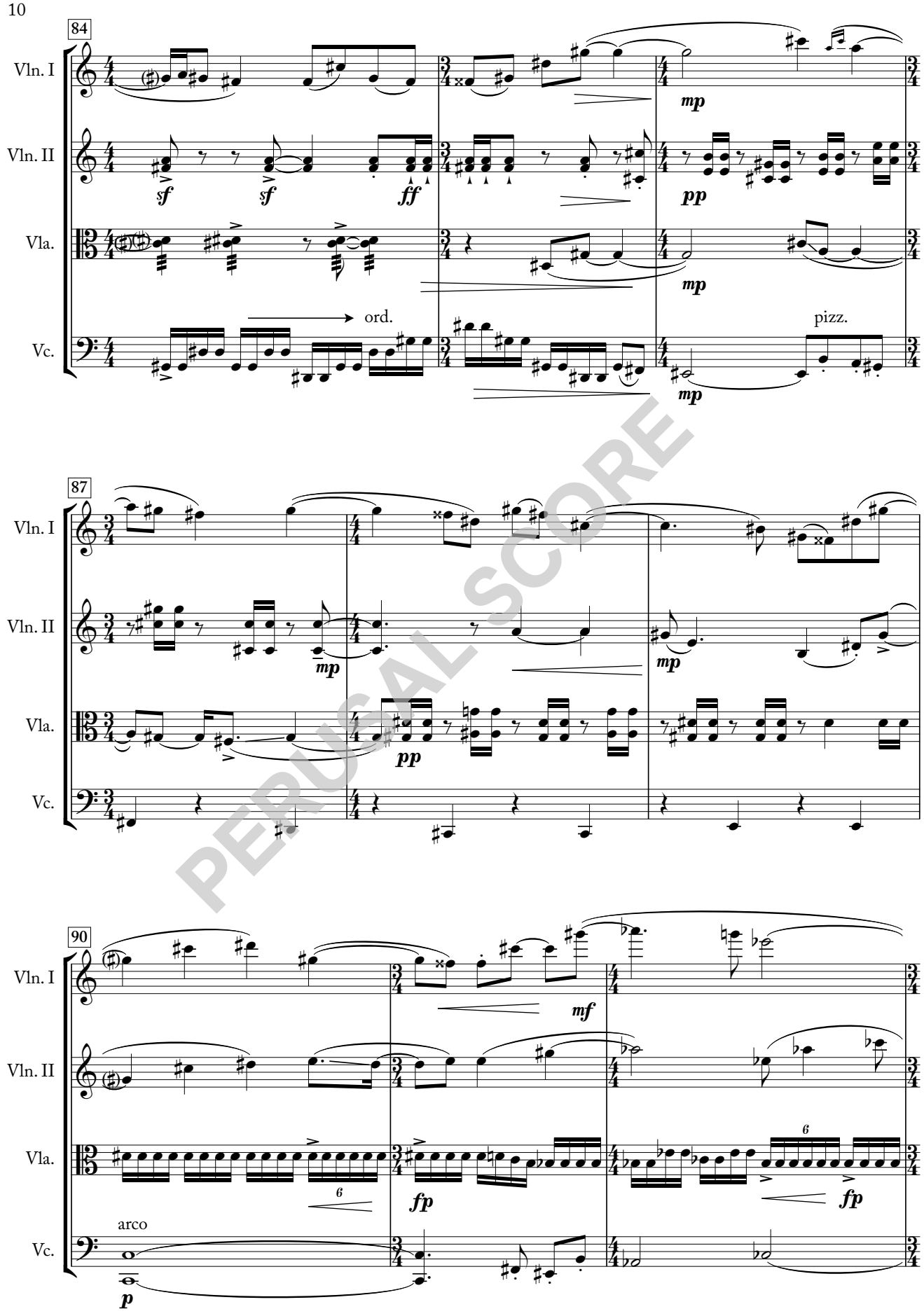

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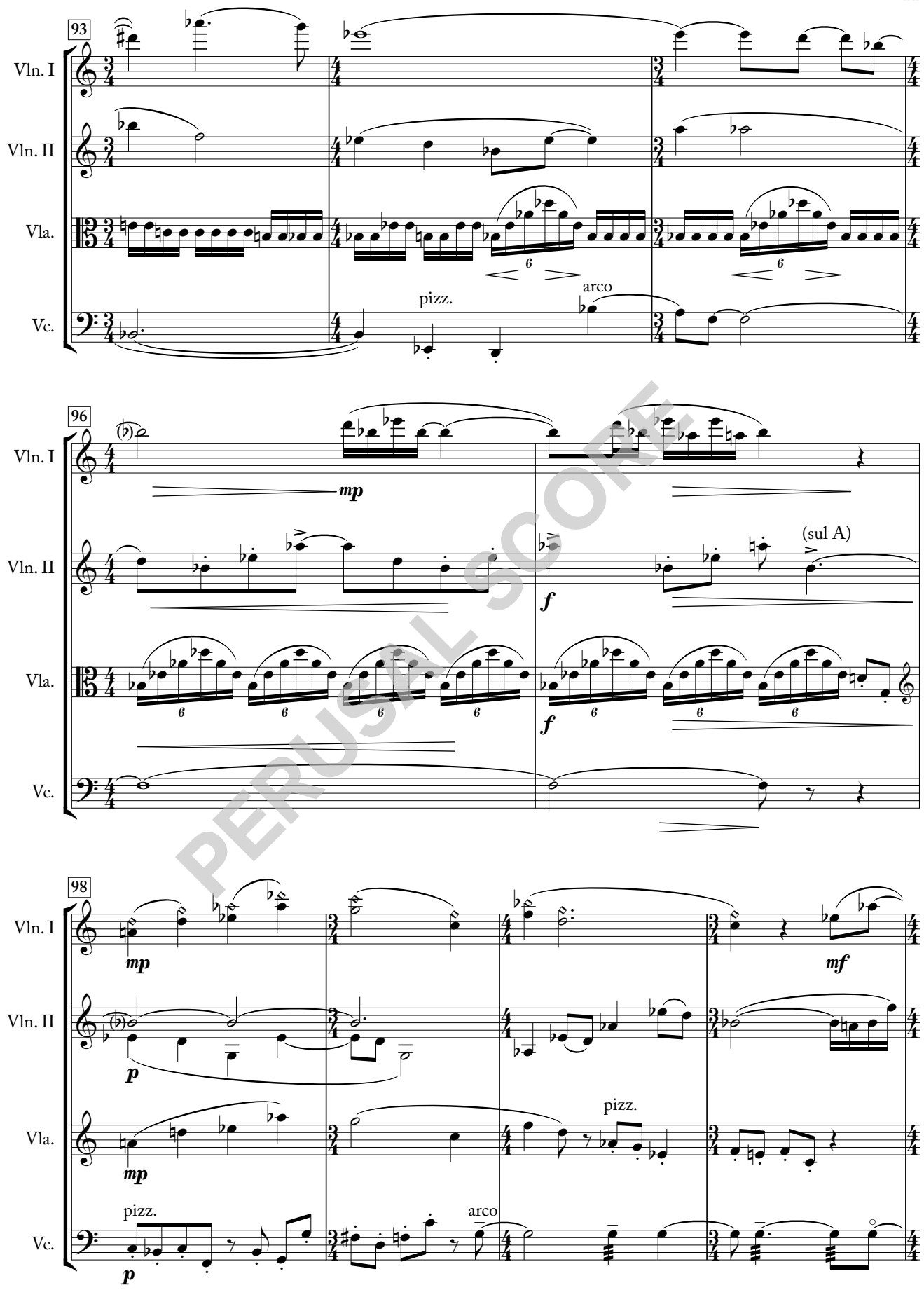

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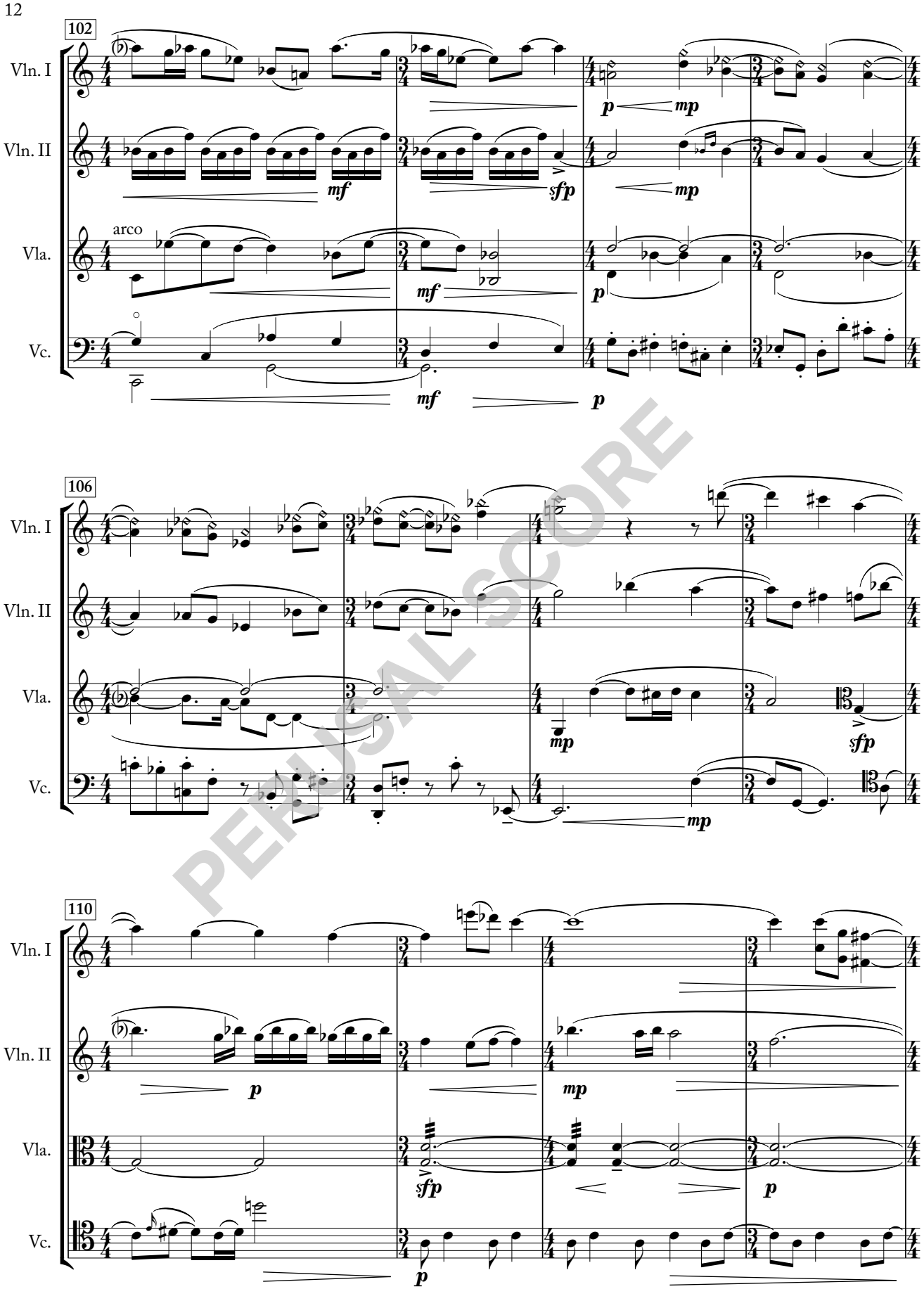

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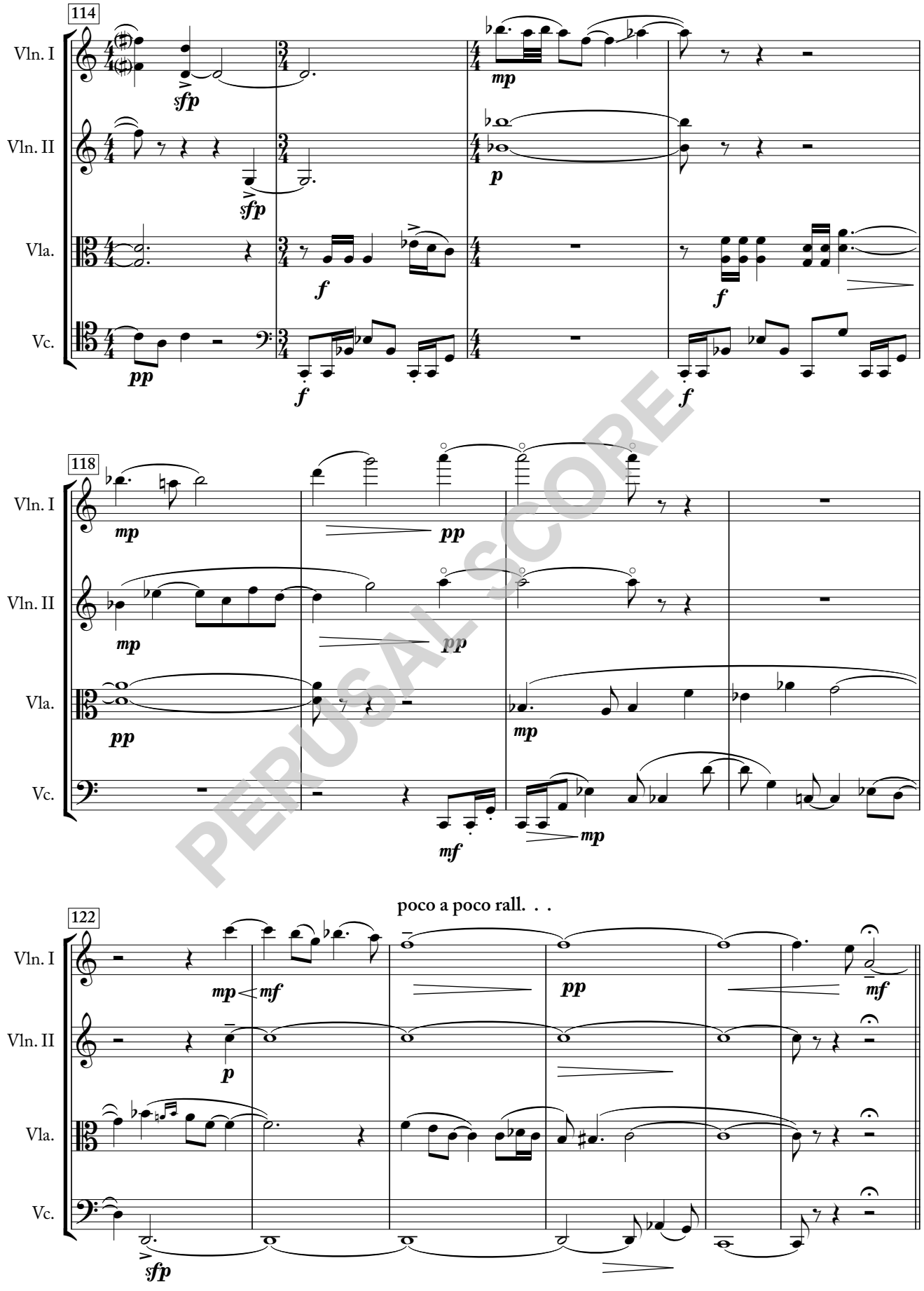

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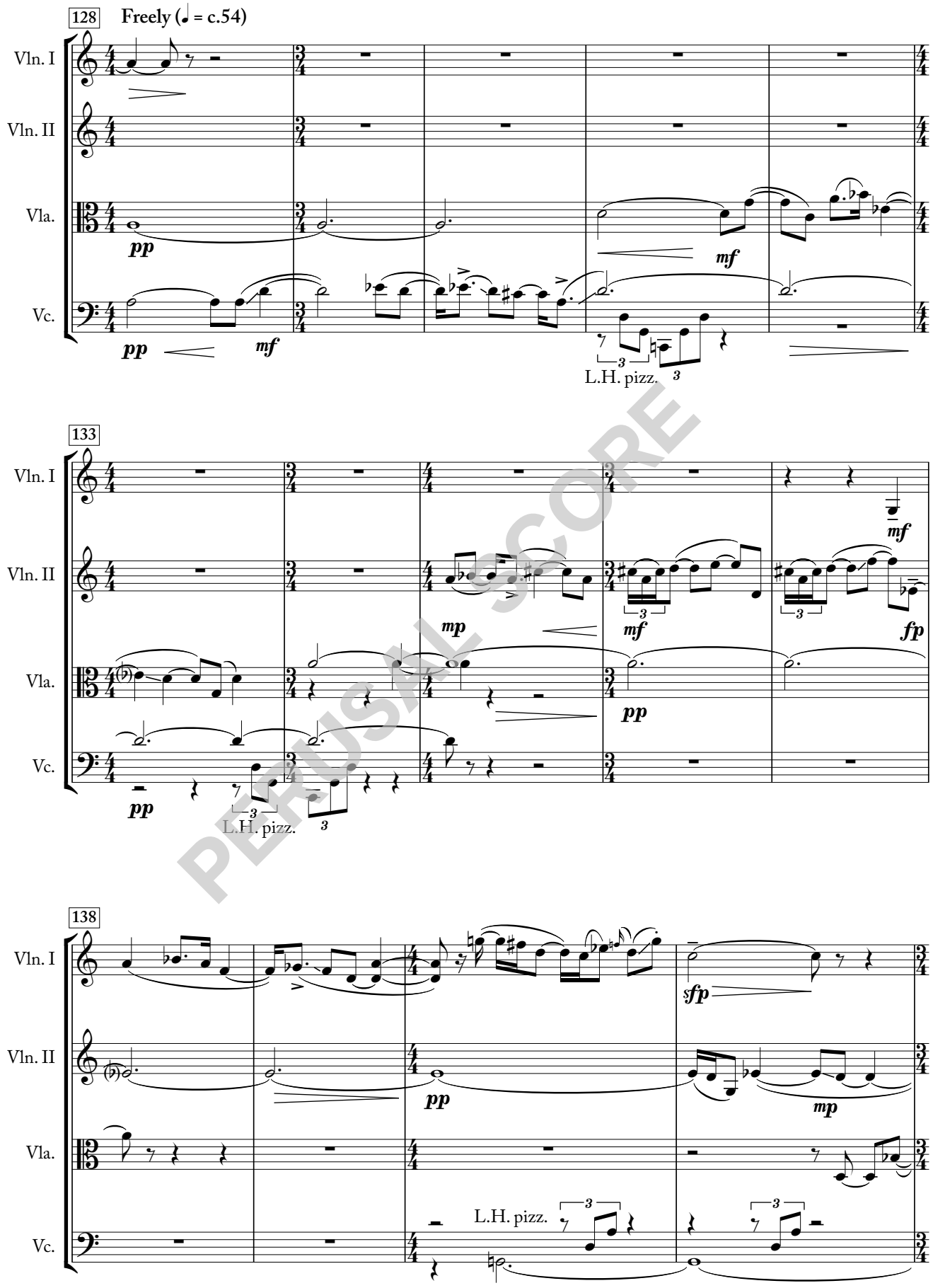

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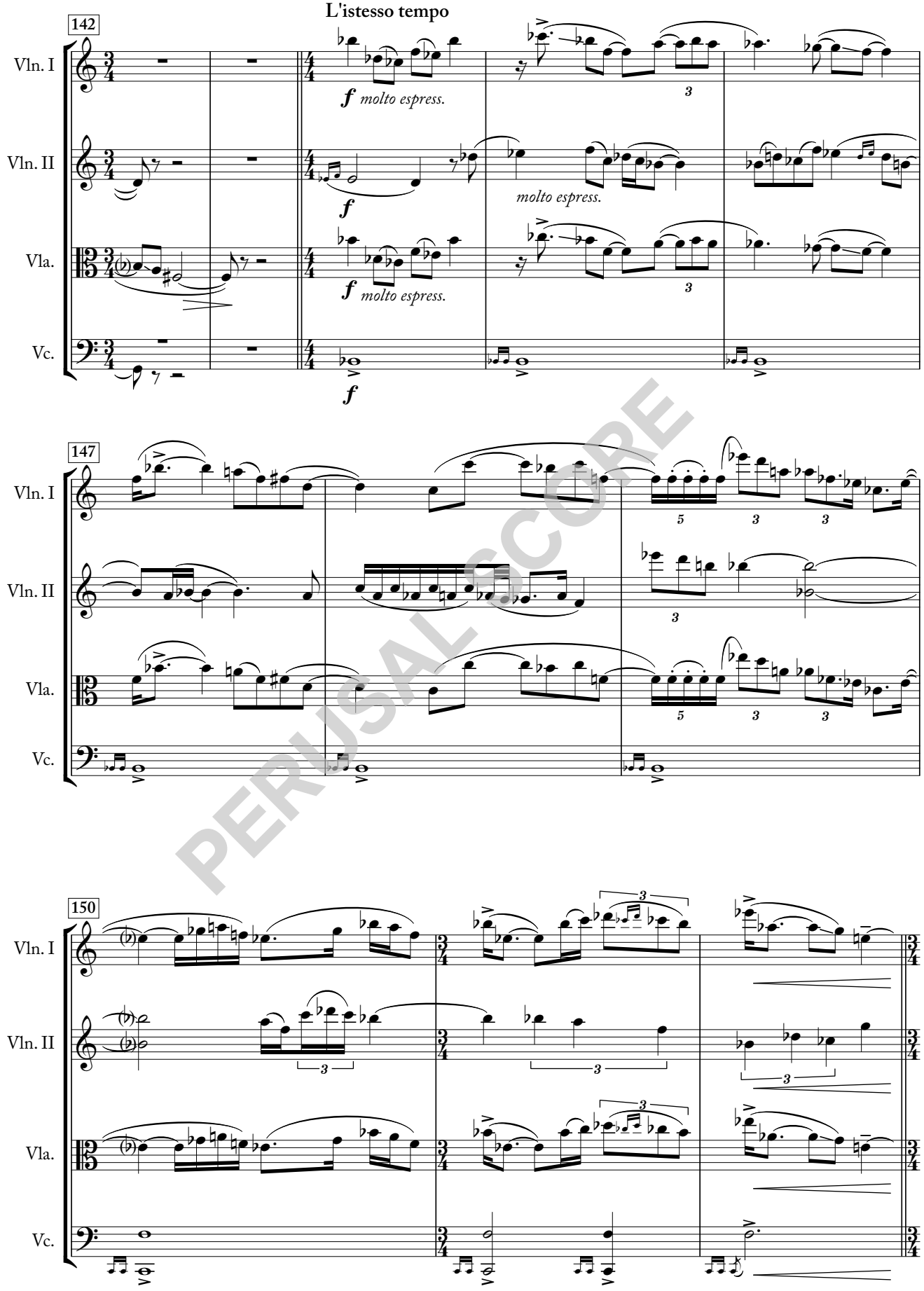

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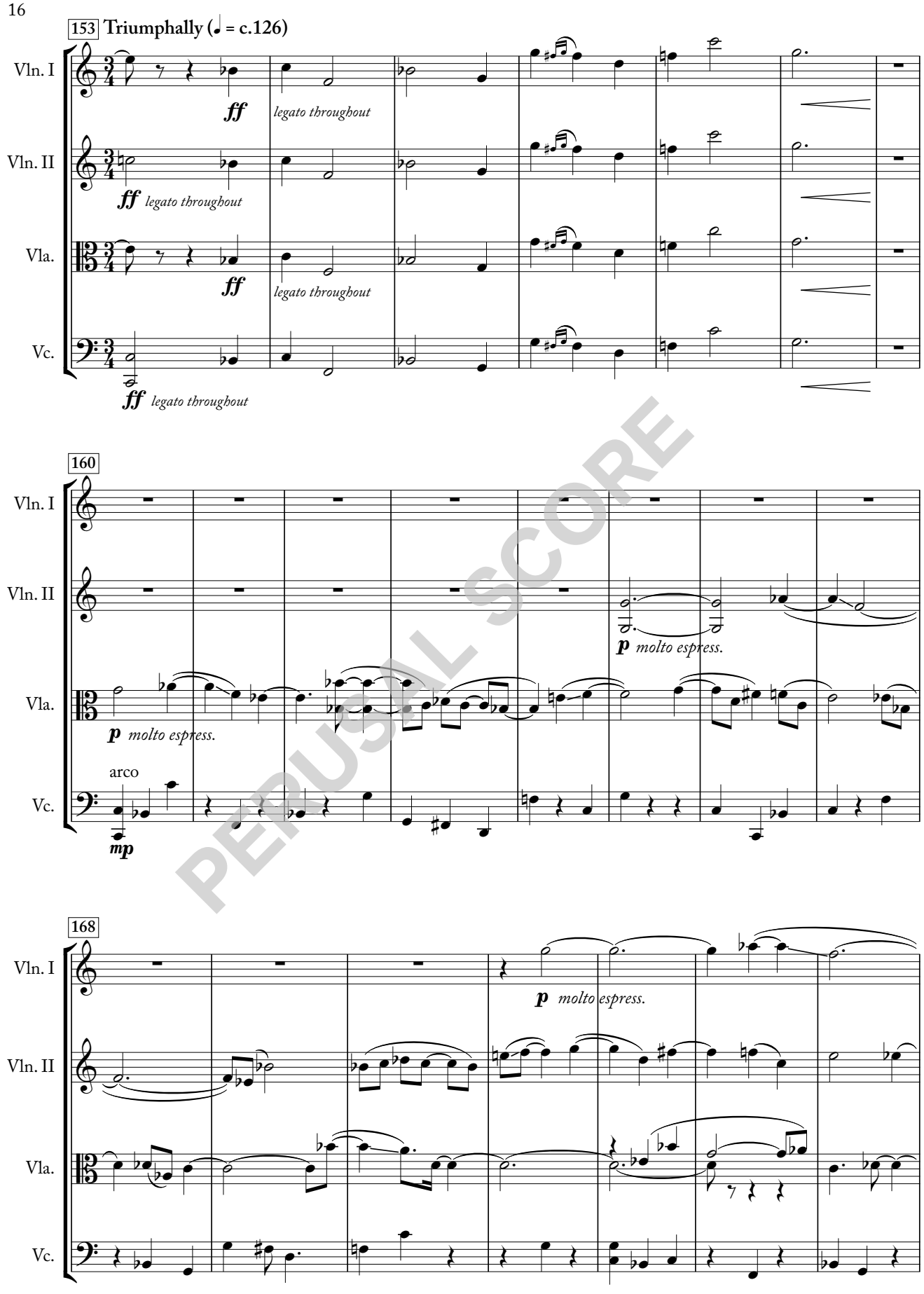

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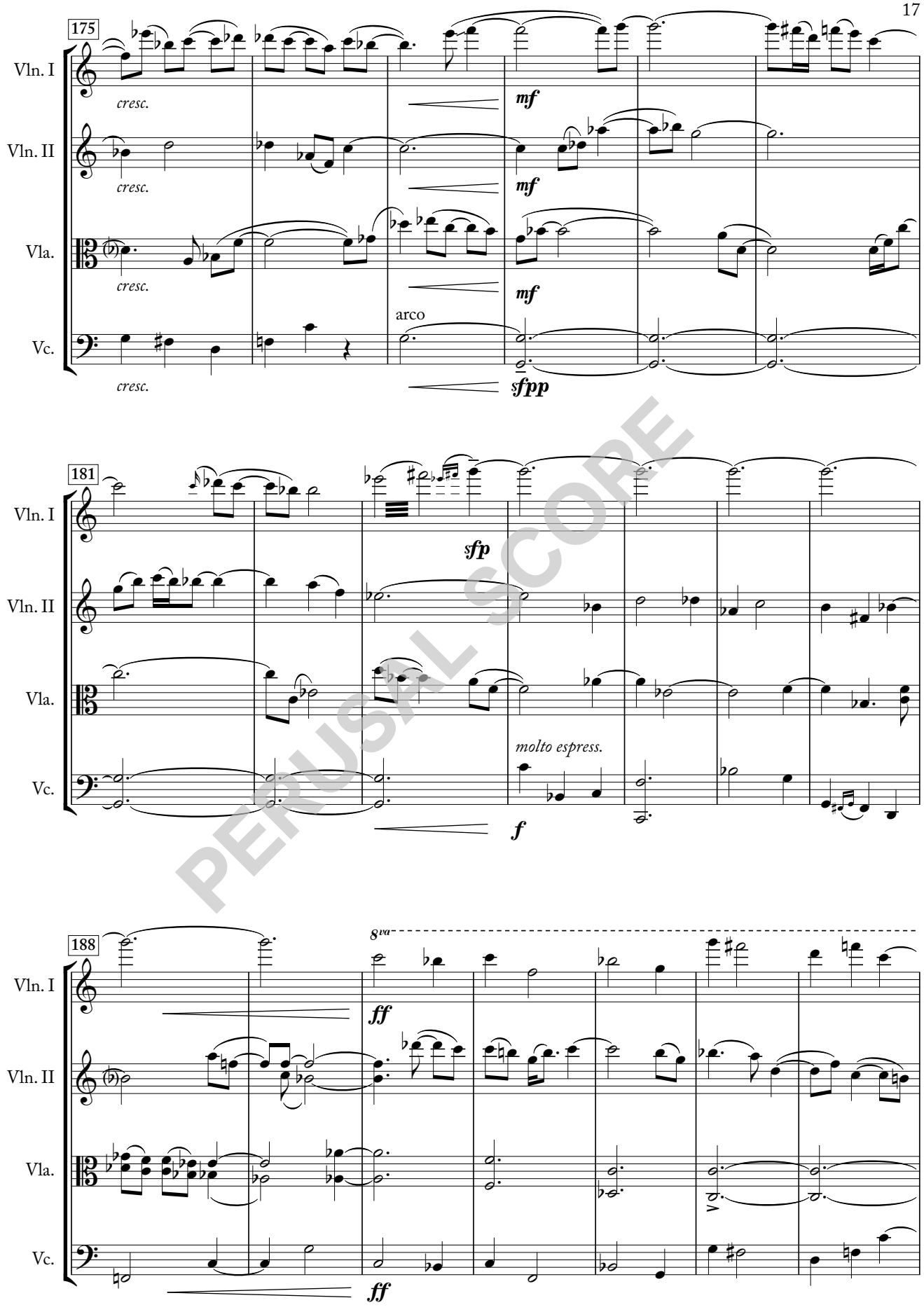

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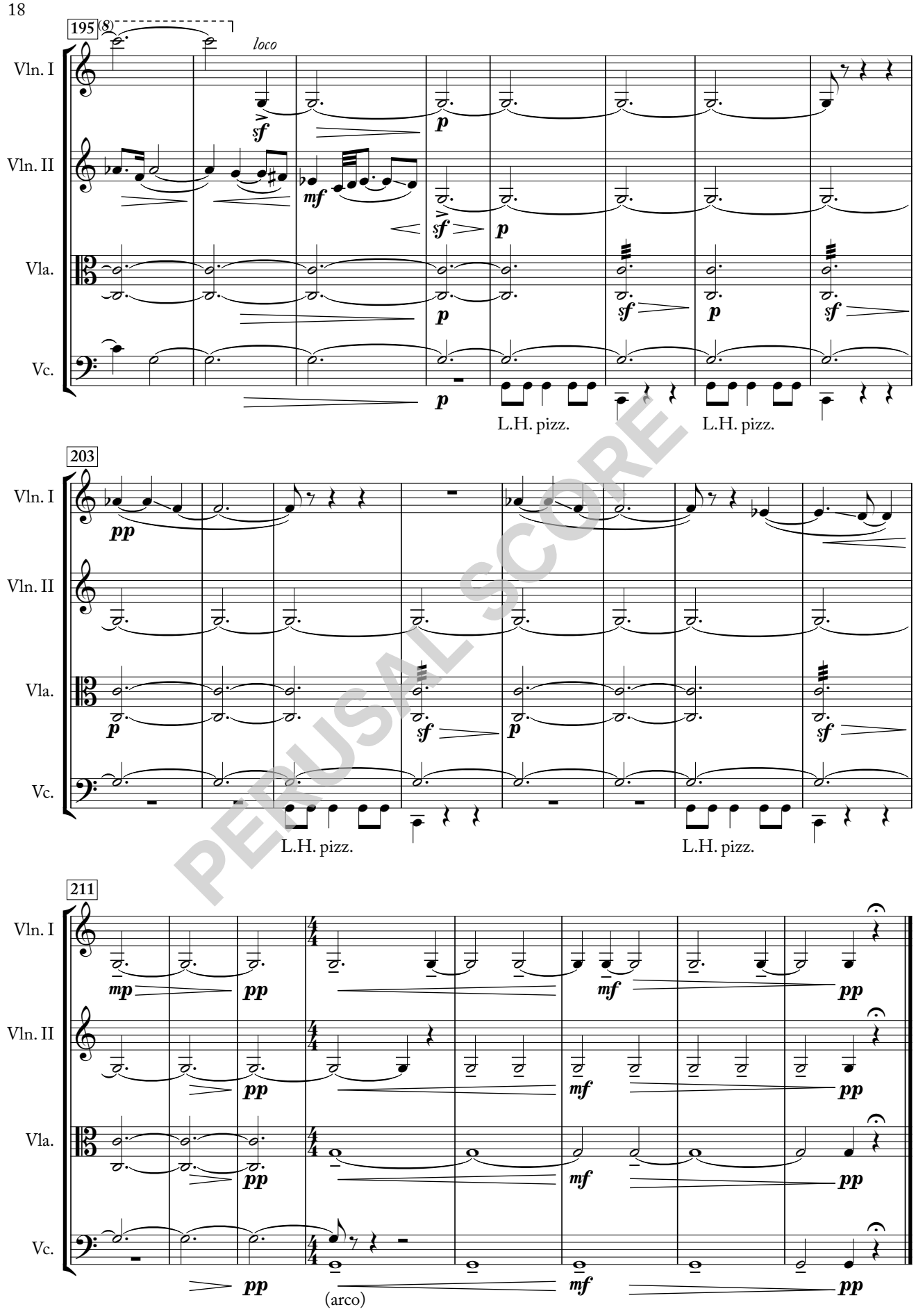

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