JUDITH SHATIN

Chai Variations on Eliahu HaNavi

Solo Piano

Wendigo Music

Program Note

Chai Variations on Eliahu HaNavi was inspired by the folk song *Eliahu HaNavi* (Elijah the Prophet), often sung during the closing service of the Jewish Sabbath. The letters of "Chai," which means "life" or "living" in Hebrew, symbolically stand for the number 18; hence, 18 variations. I have given the choice of variation order to the performer as a reflection of my deep sense of performance as a collaboration between performer and composer (and, for that matter, listener). It also reflects my effort to open the musical form. This results in 18! or 6,402,373,705,728,000 possible orderings! The particular order in which the variations are ordered in the grouping below has no bearing on an expected or desired order. One of my fascinations in this approach is the formal structure that each performer creates.

I composed these variations while in residence at Brahmshaus in Baden-Baden during the summer of 1995. It is dedicated to the Abel family. Their warm welcome will not be forgotten, nor Herr Abel's efforts to establish and maintain this studio, where the spirit of Brahms is palpable. For more information, visit judithshatin.com.

World Premiere
Mary Kathleen Ernst
Derrière Garde Festival
Graham Foundation
Chicago, IL

Duration: 21:00

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Errata

1. On the 2nd beat of the 6th measure of *Whimsical*, the left hand should play a 7th (G and F).

2. In the third measure of *Lighthearted*, the first eighth-note should be an Eb.

CHAI VARIATIONS

on Eliahu HaNavi

Judith Shatin

THEME

Simply ♩ = 56

mf

Ped. ad lib.

poco rit.

p

PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

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Dark ♩ = 100

ff

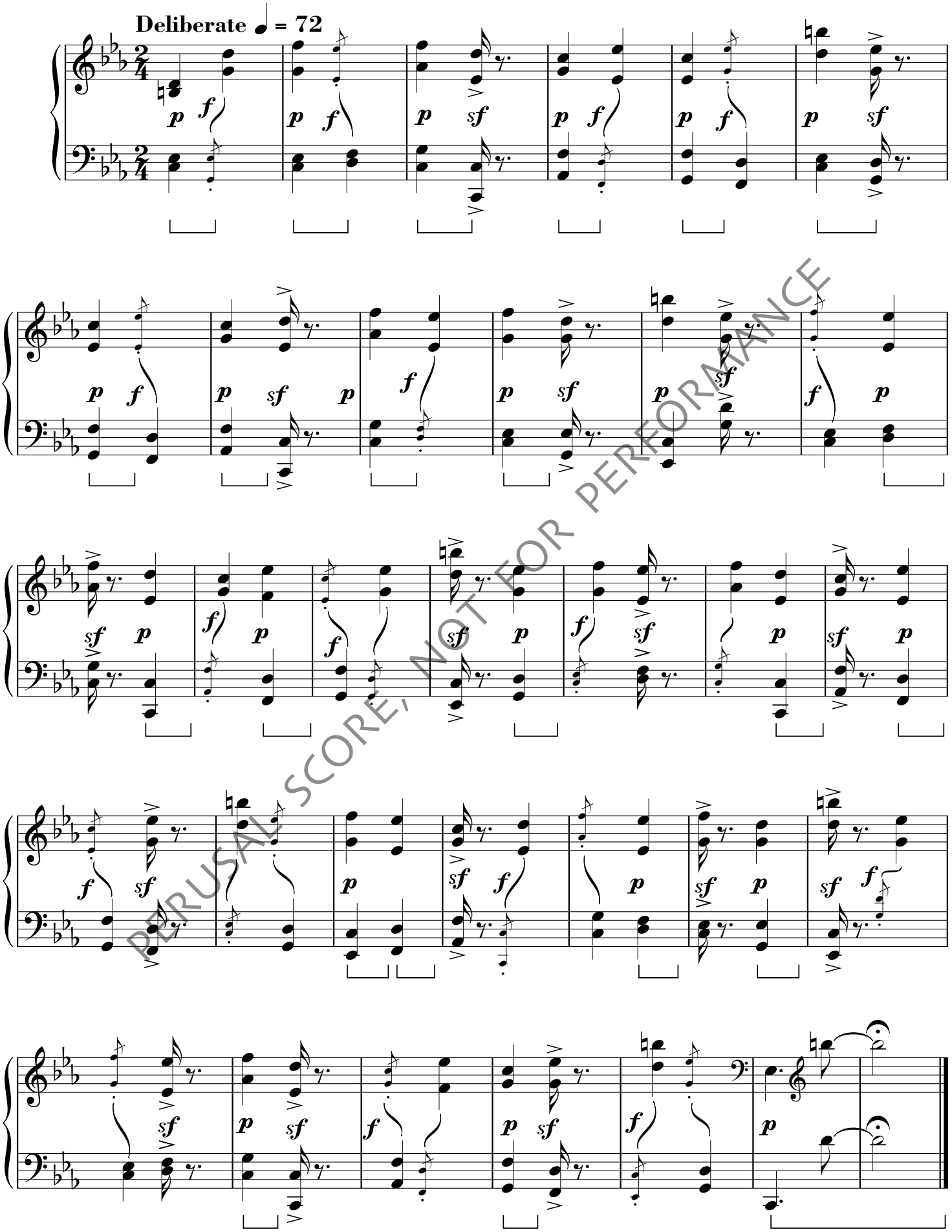
f

sim.

sim.

ff

PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE



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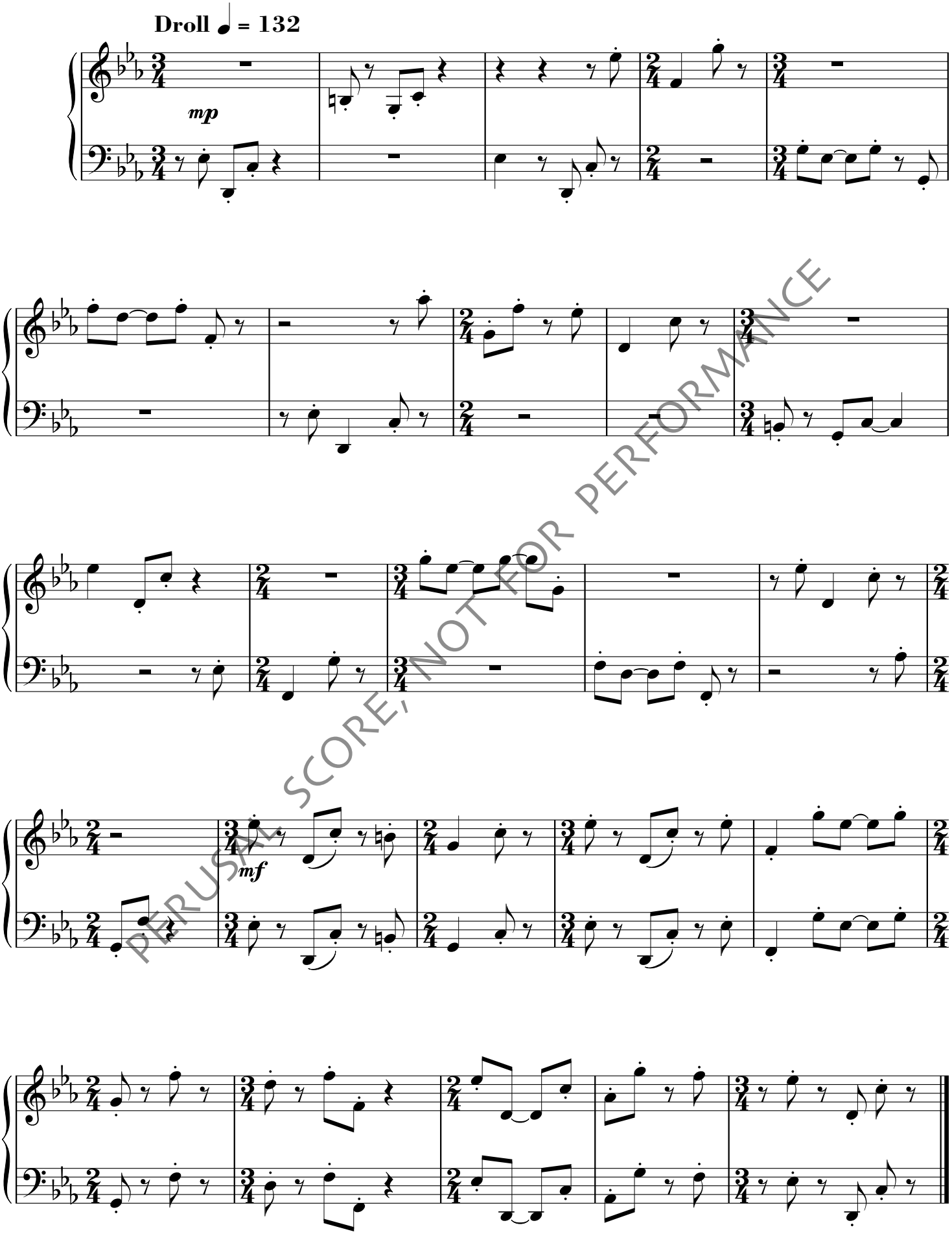

PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

Flamboyant ♩ = 132

f

sim.

sim.

sim.

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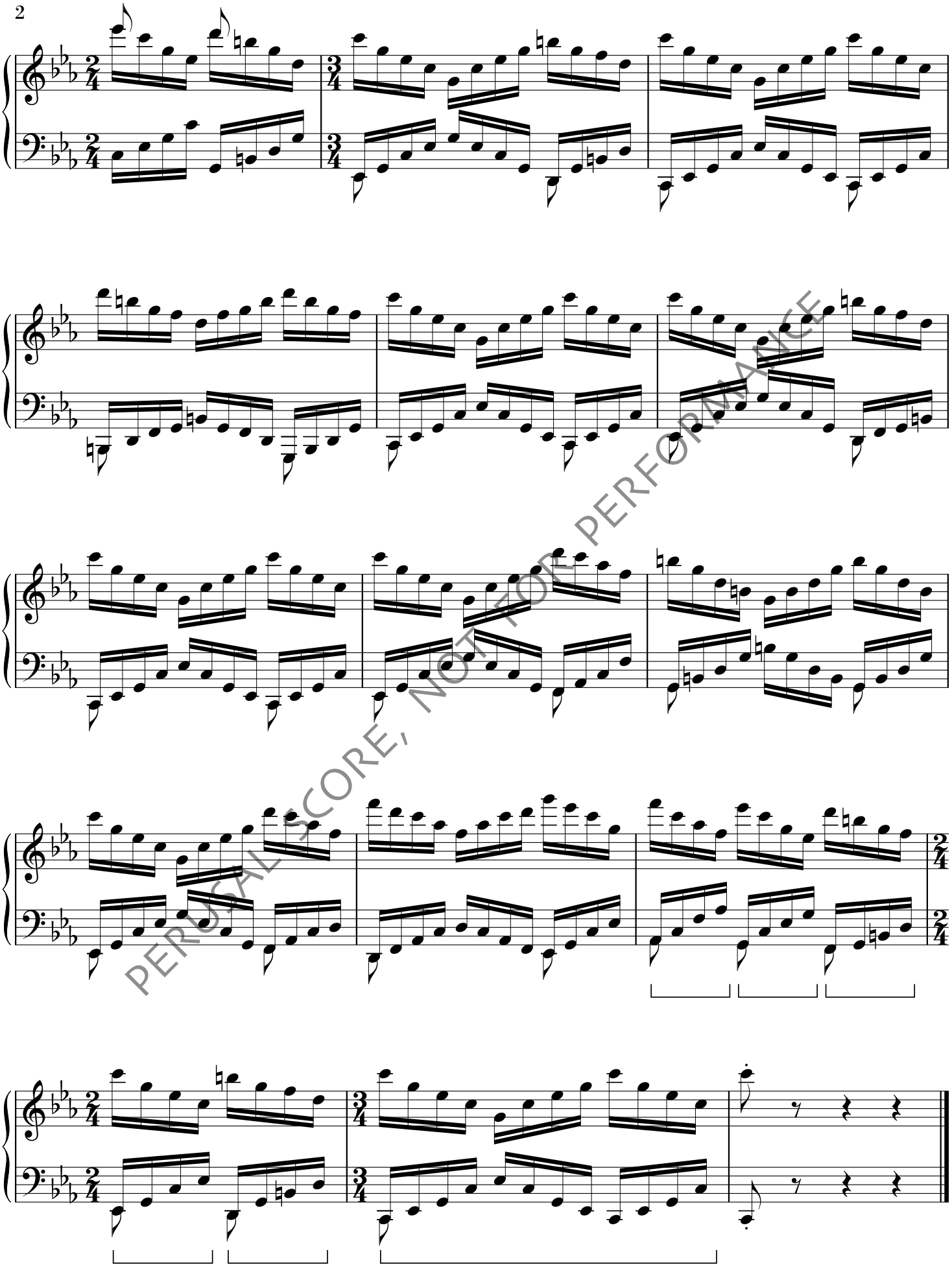

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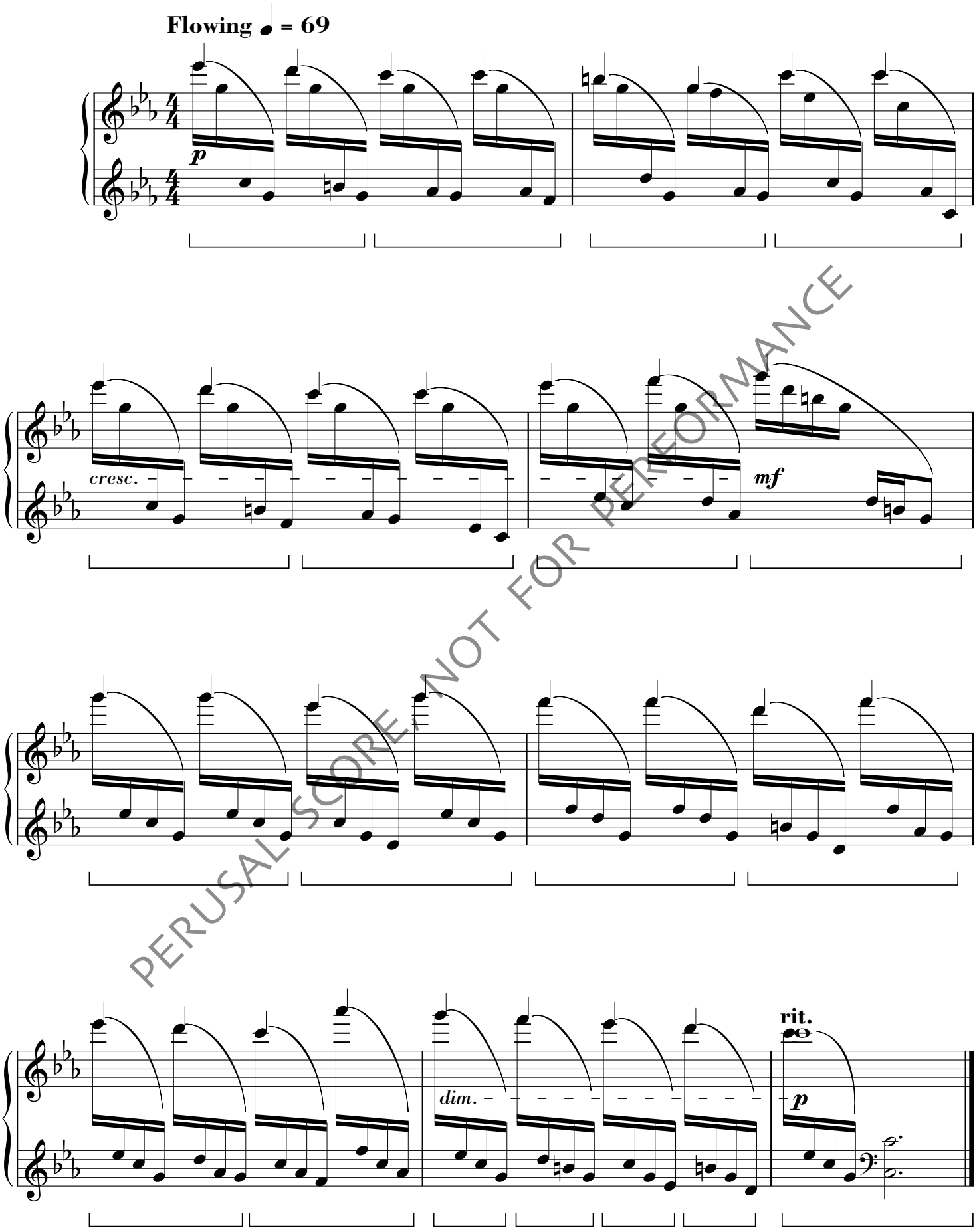

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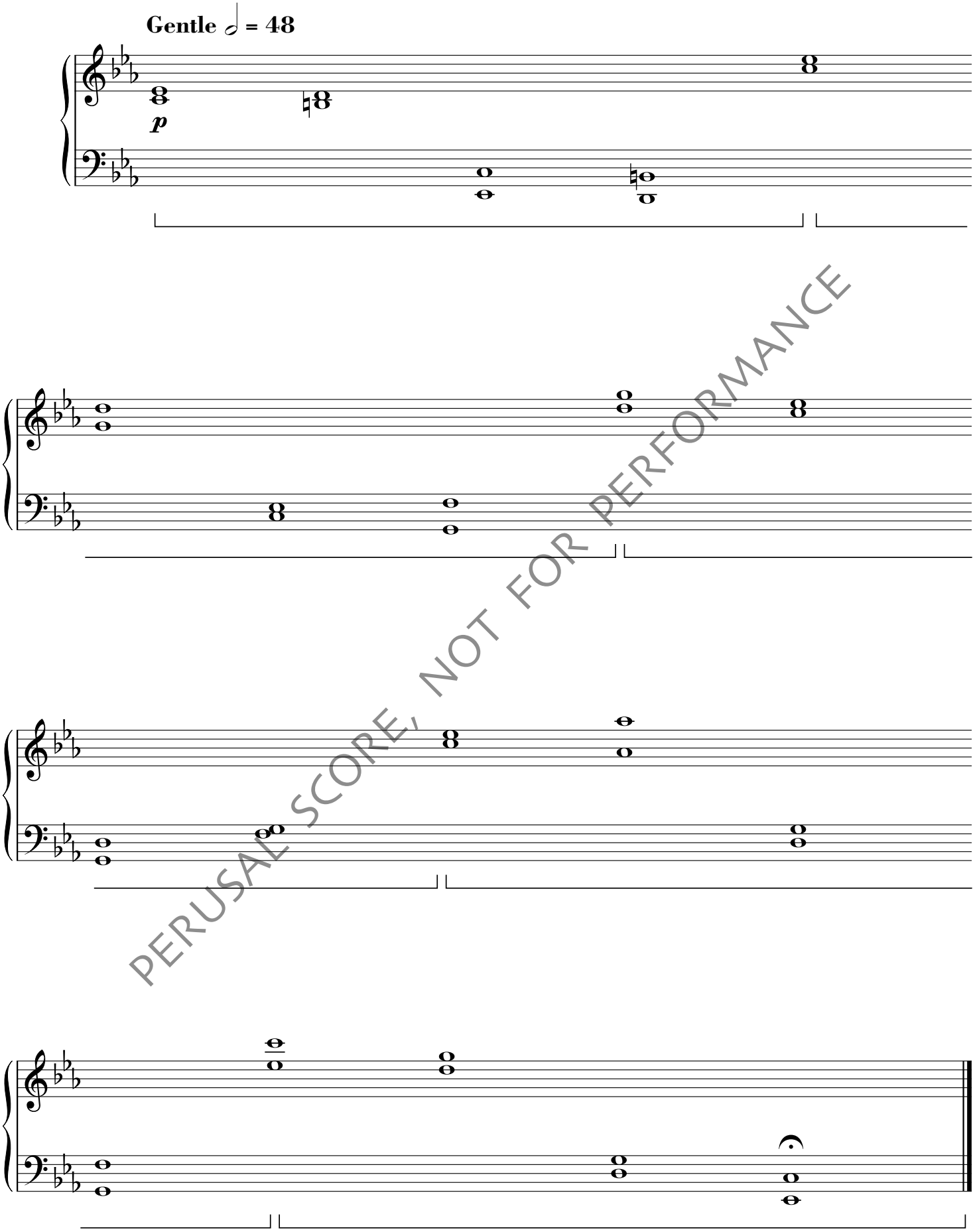

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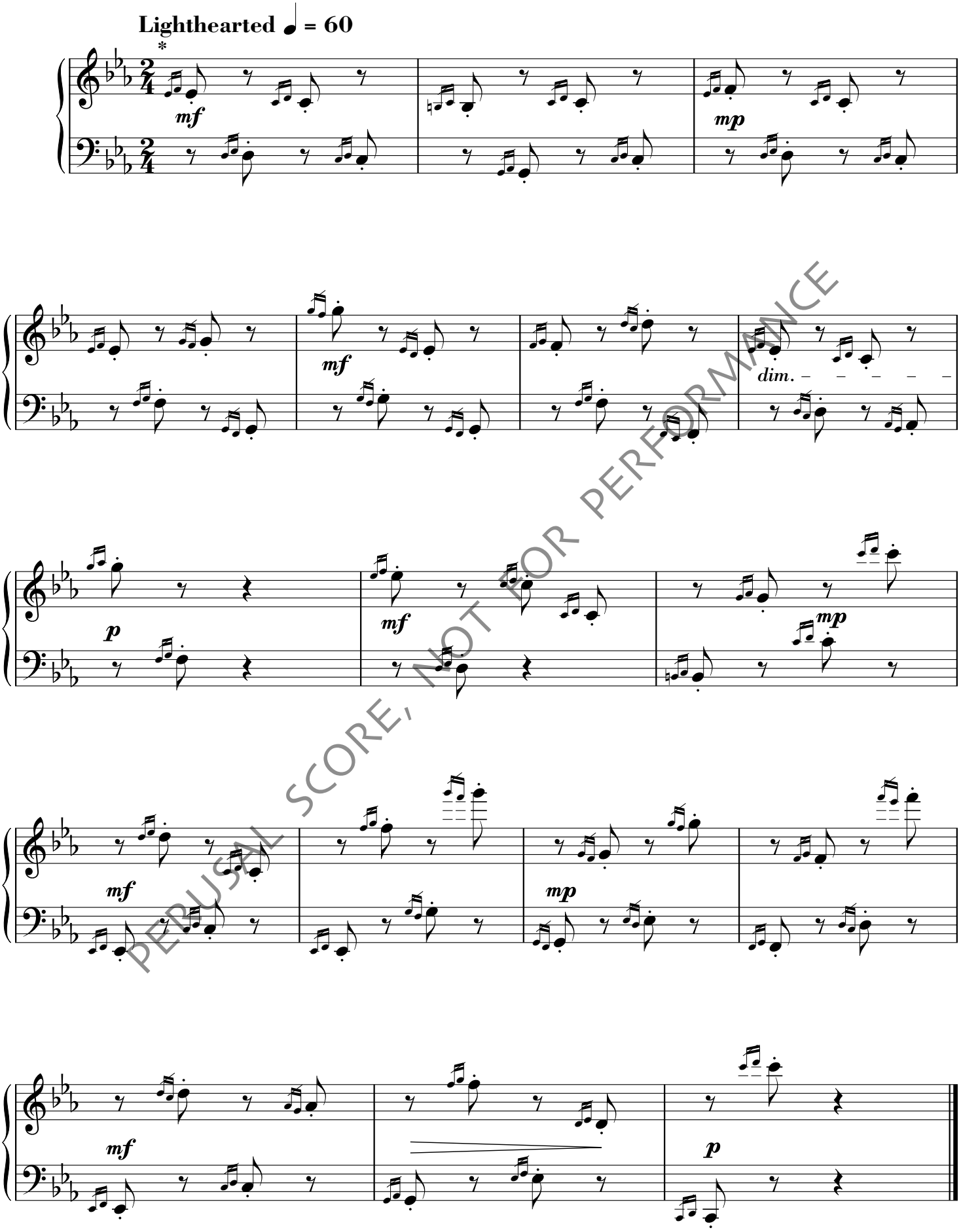
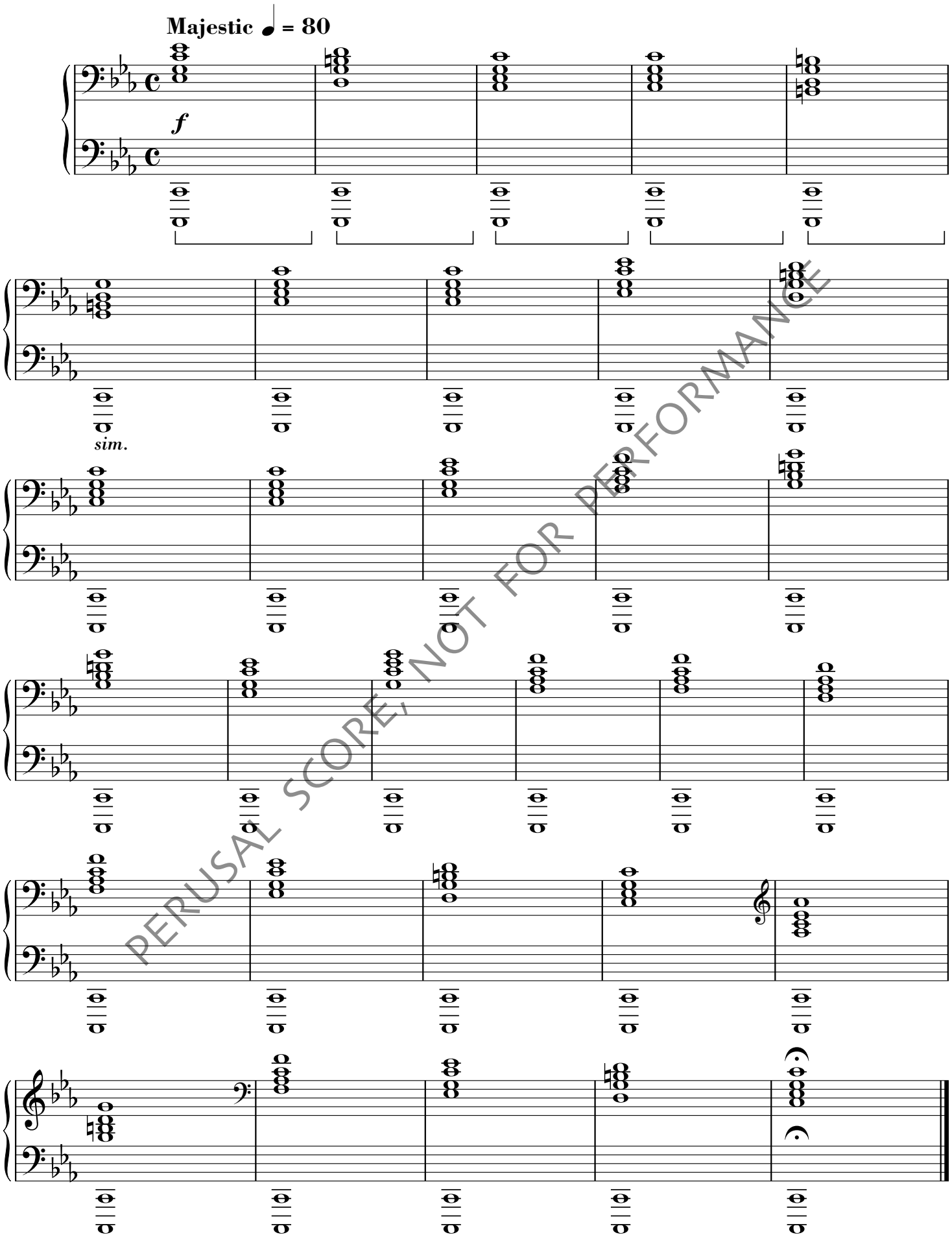


PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

* All grace notes should be played before the beat



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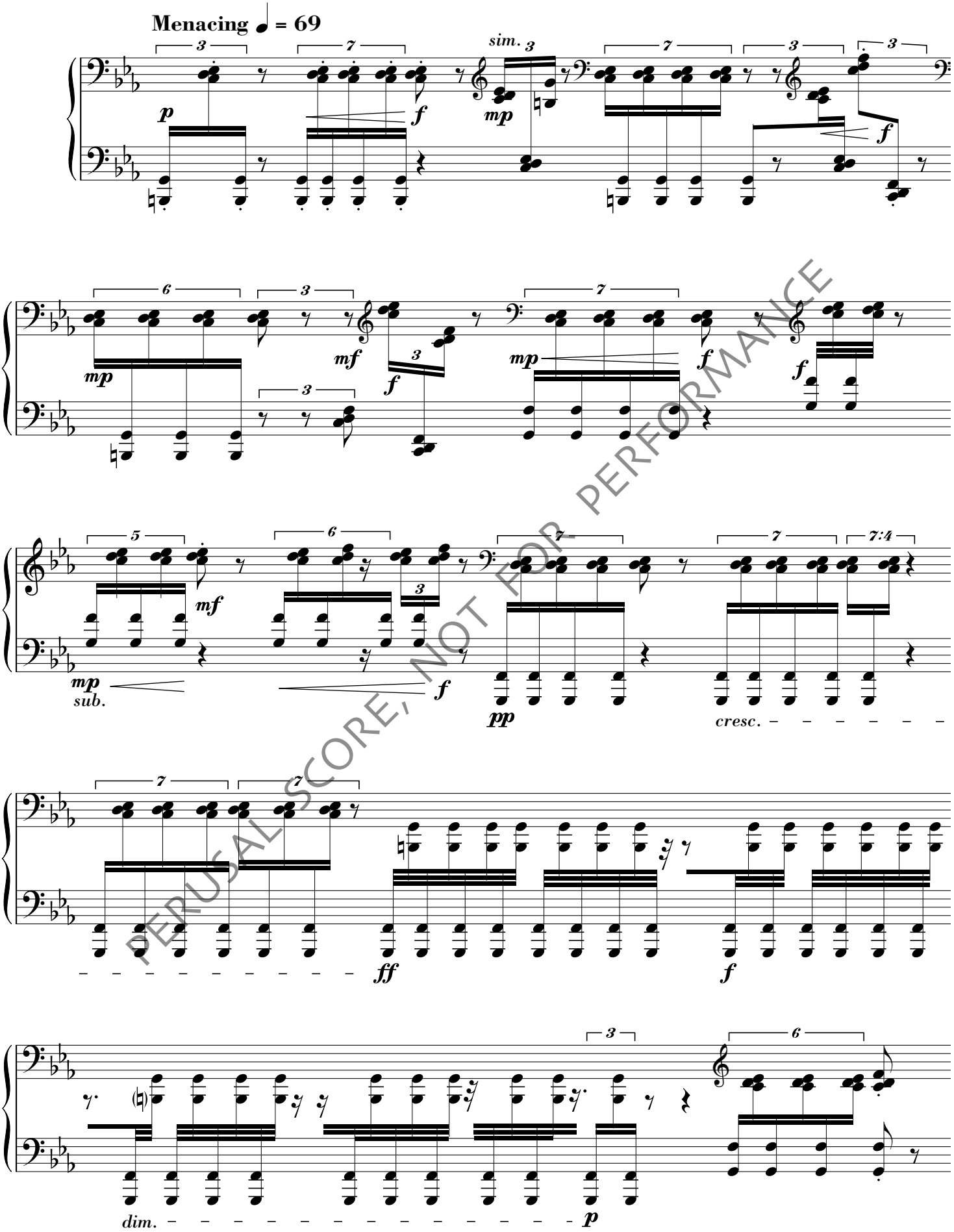

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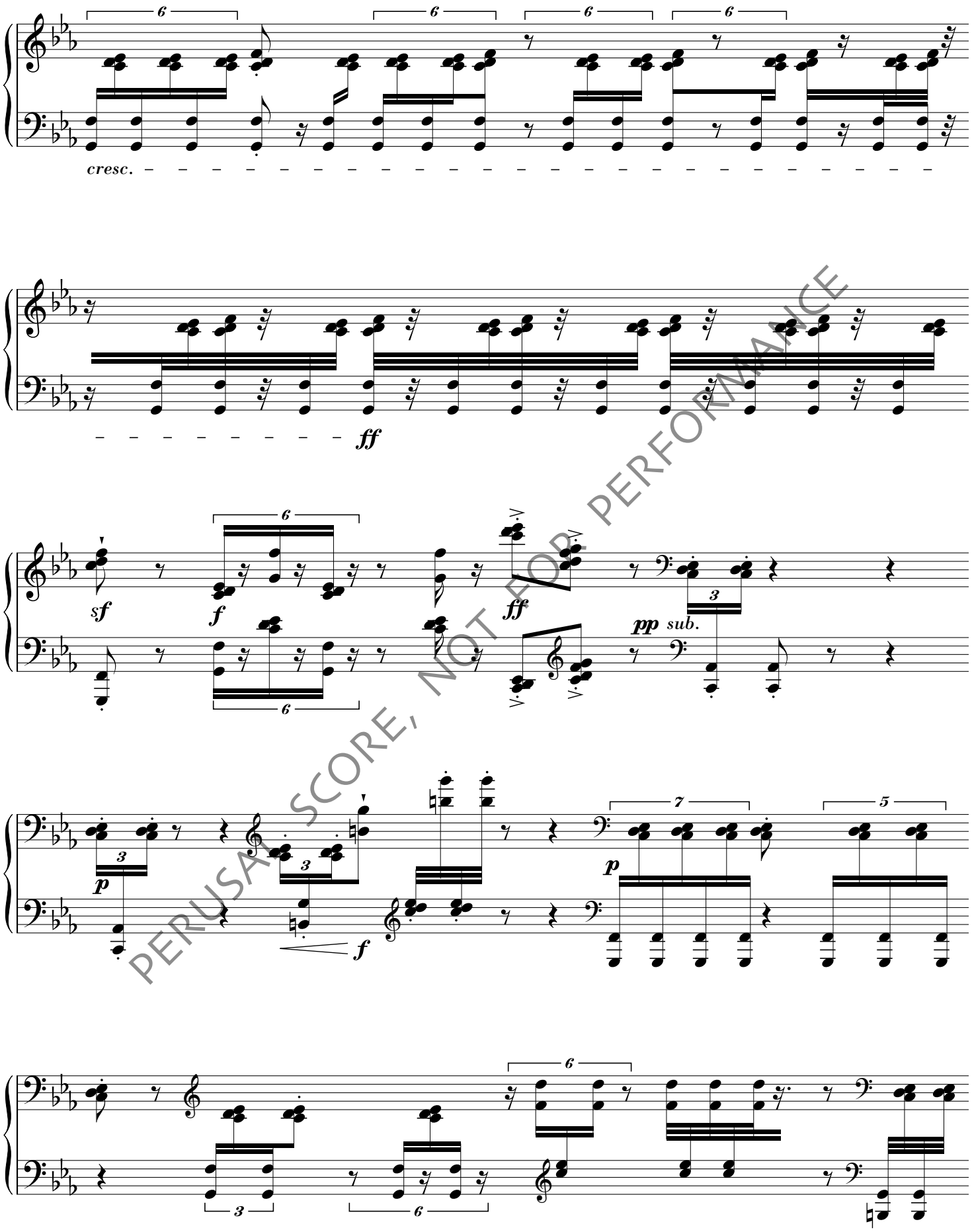

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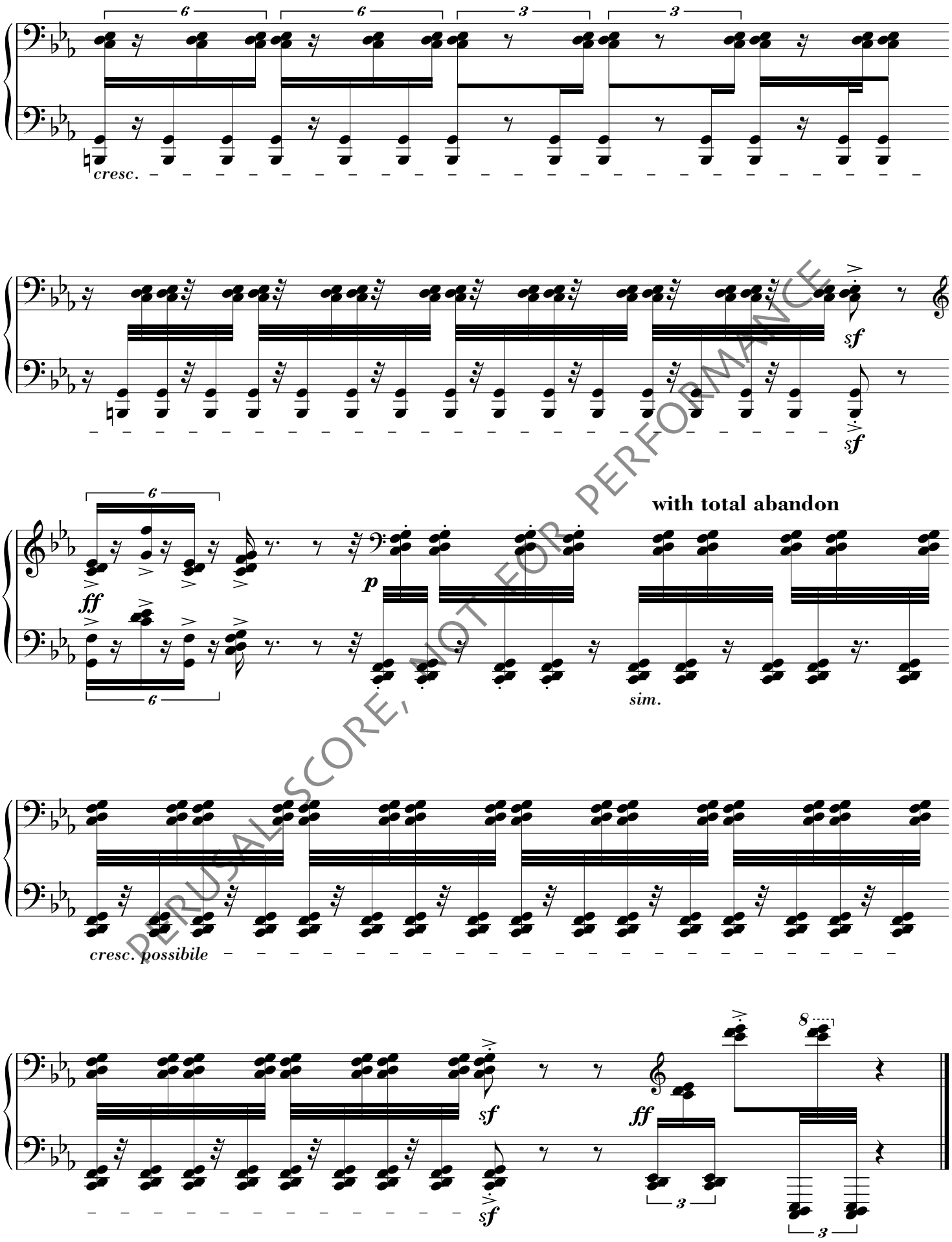


PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

Duration = c. 2'
Mysterious

Depress silently*

let sound sustained by pedal decay to almost nothing

PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

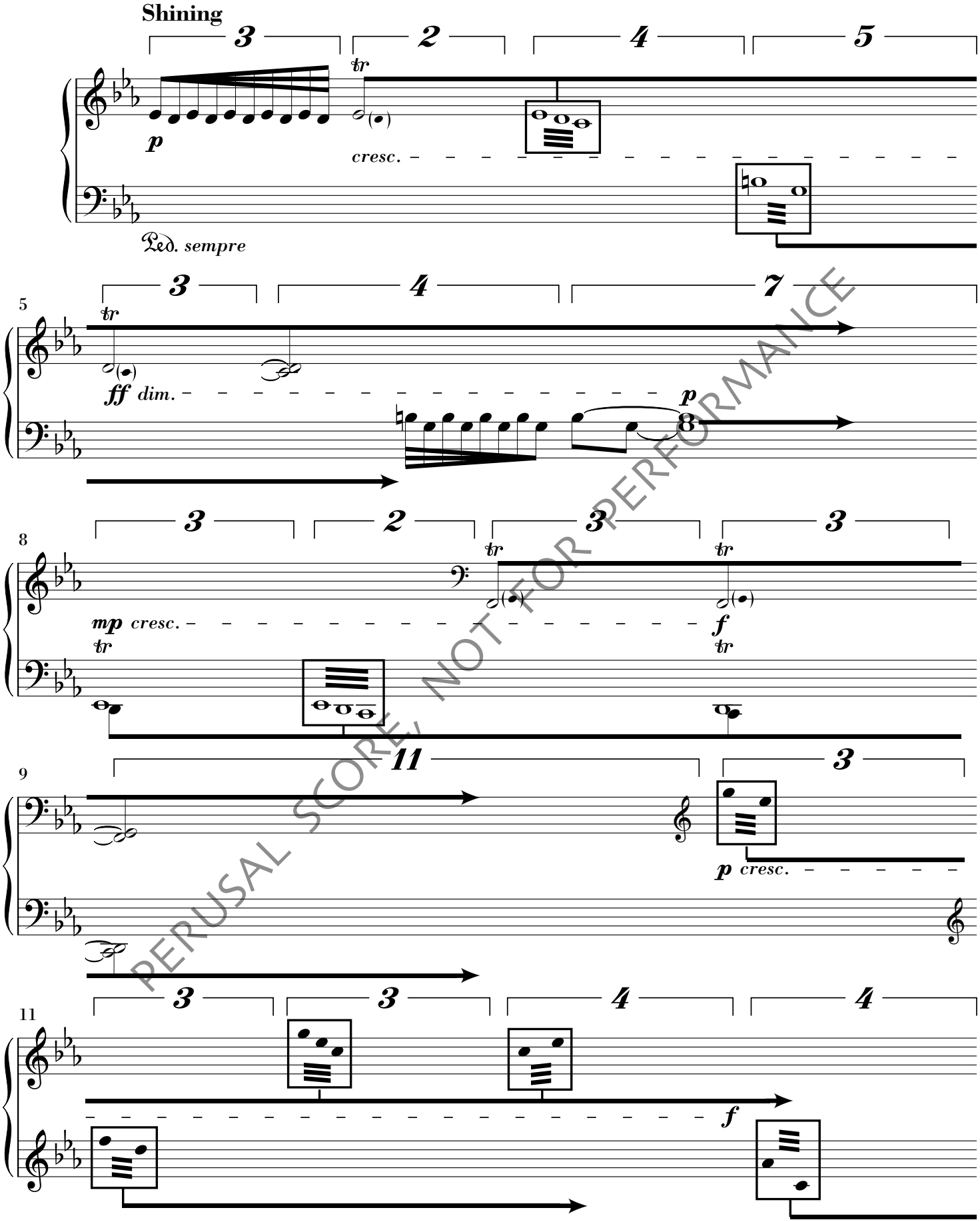
*Diamond-shaped notes should be depressed silently.
†Play as you lift the pedal.
‡Play as you lift the pedal and put the pedal back down just after you release the note, catching an afterimage of the note's sound.

Pensive ♩ = 72

pp

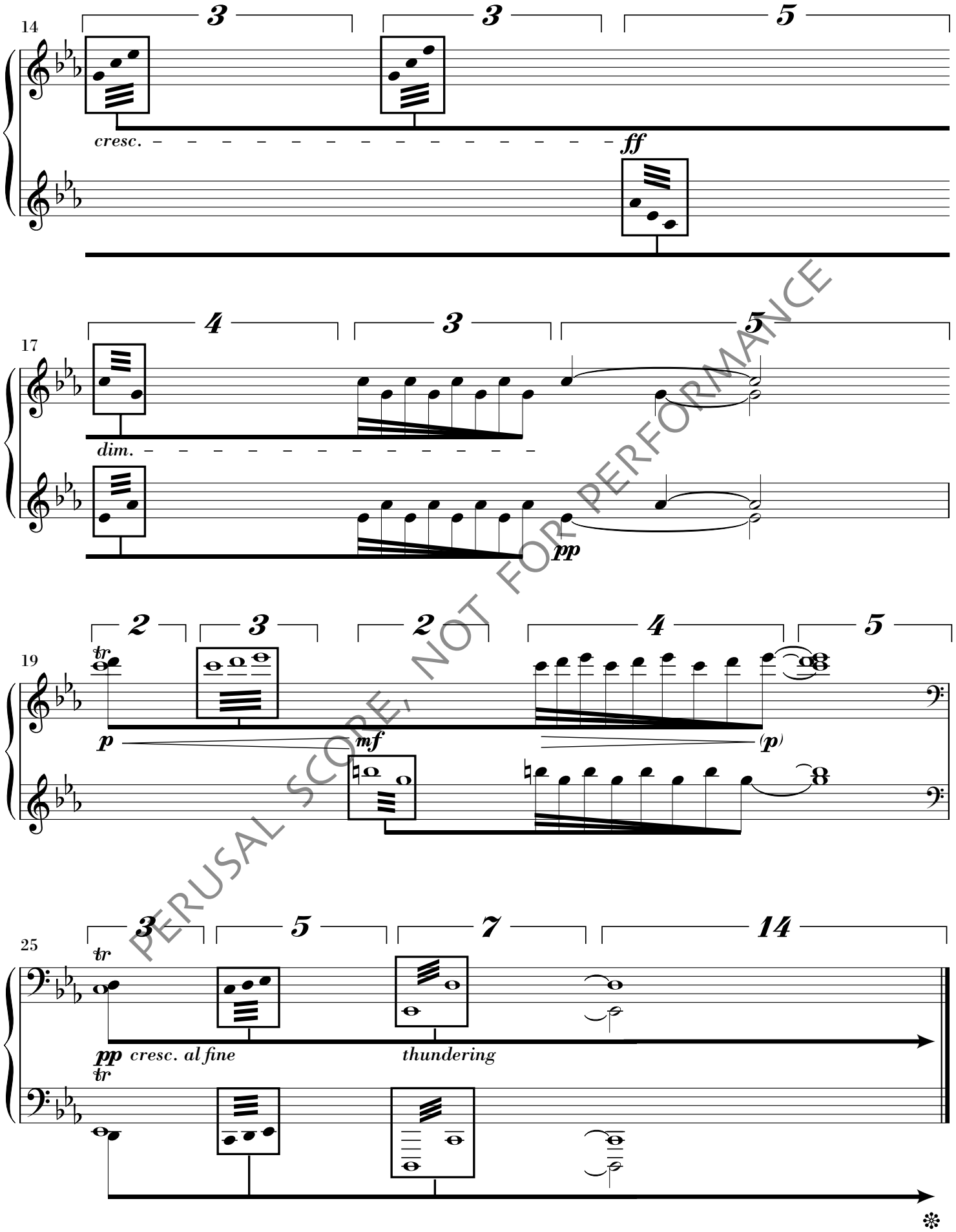
Ped. *sempre*

PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE



PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

The notes in boxes are to be trilled. Connecting lines between trilled notes outside of boxes and those inside boxes indicate smooth transitions. Typically, these involve the addition or subtraction of a note or notes to an ongoing trill.



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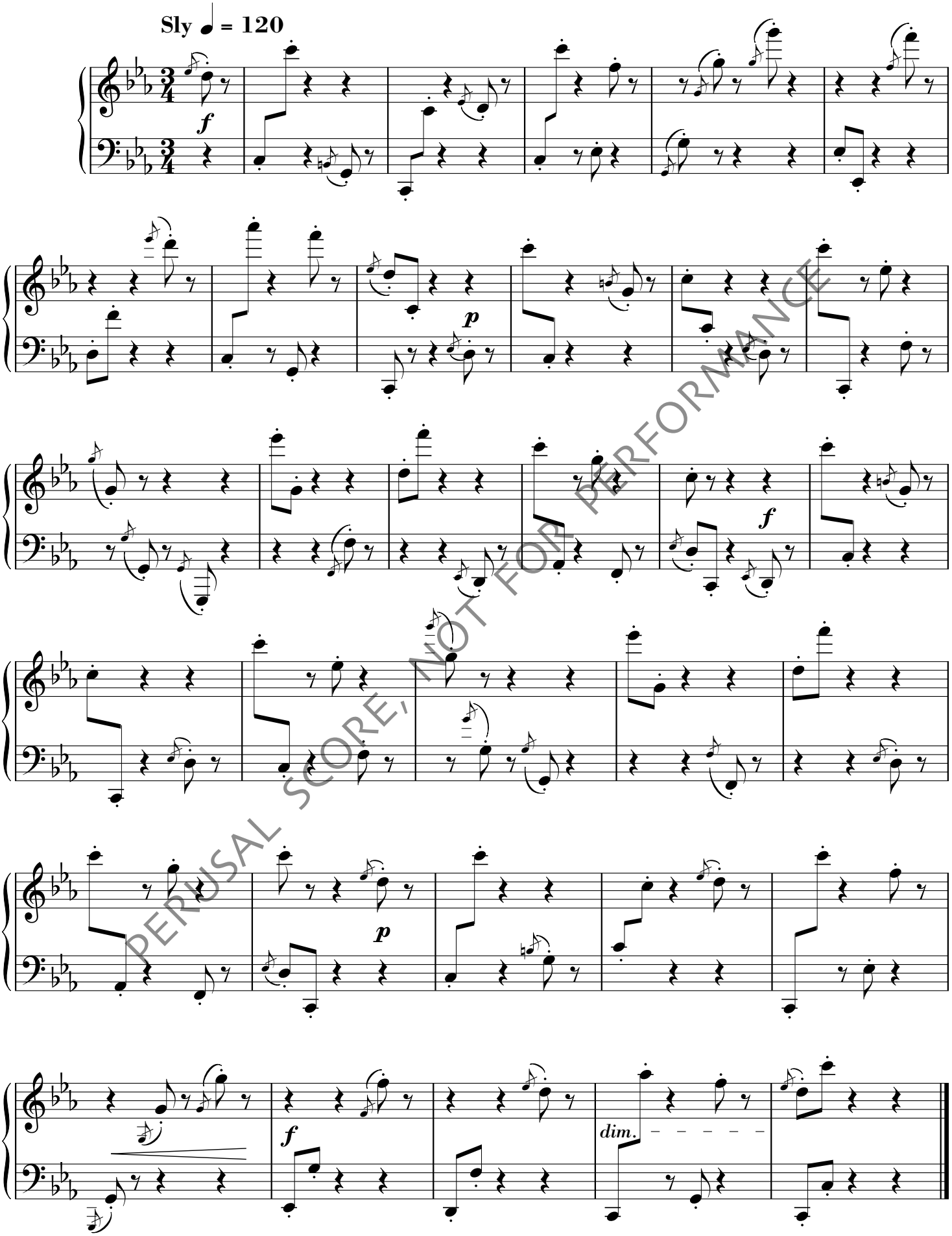

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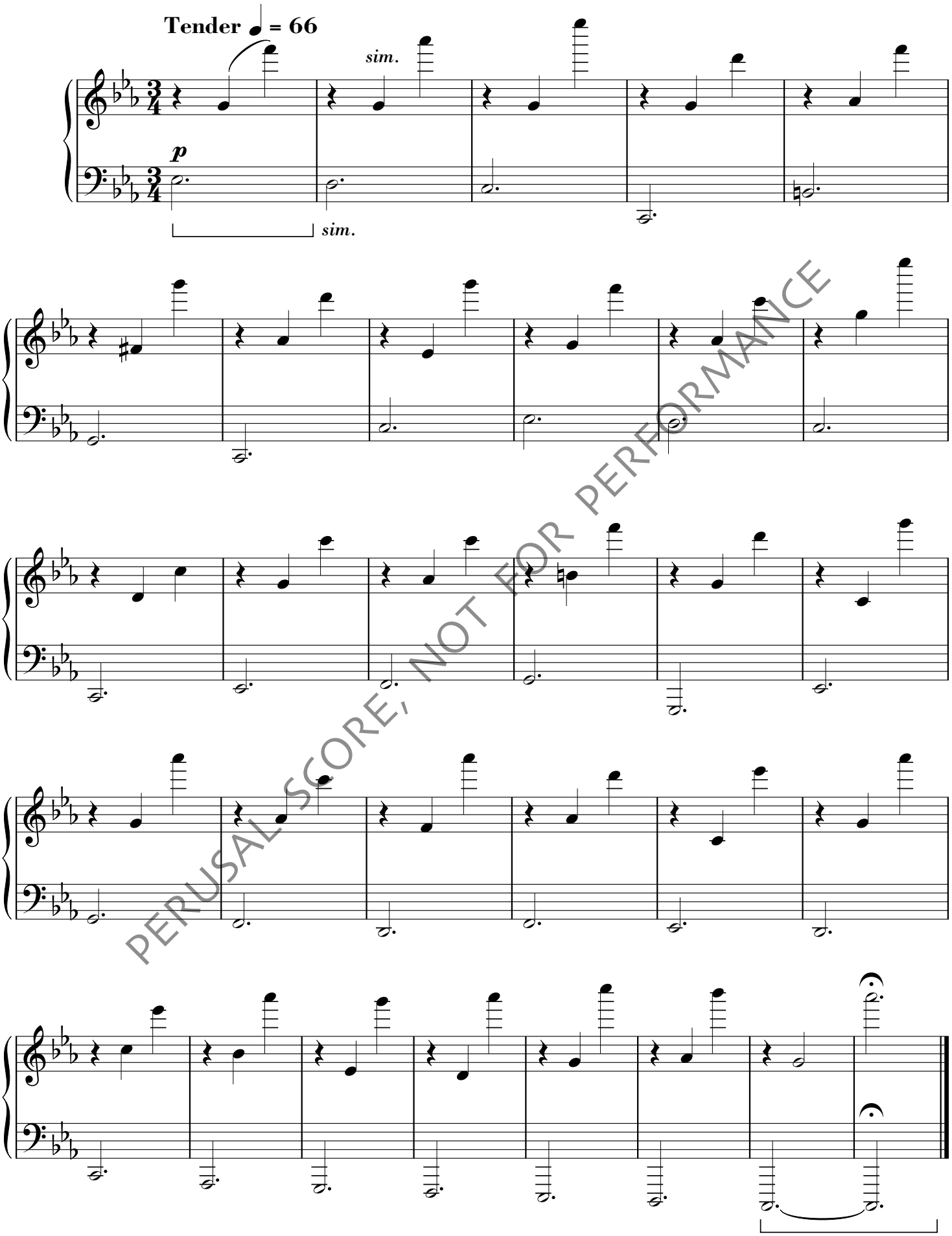

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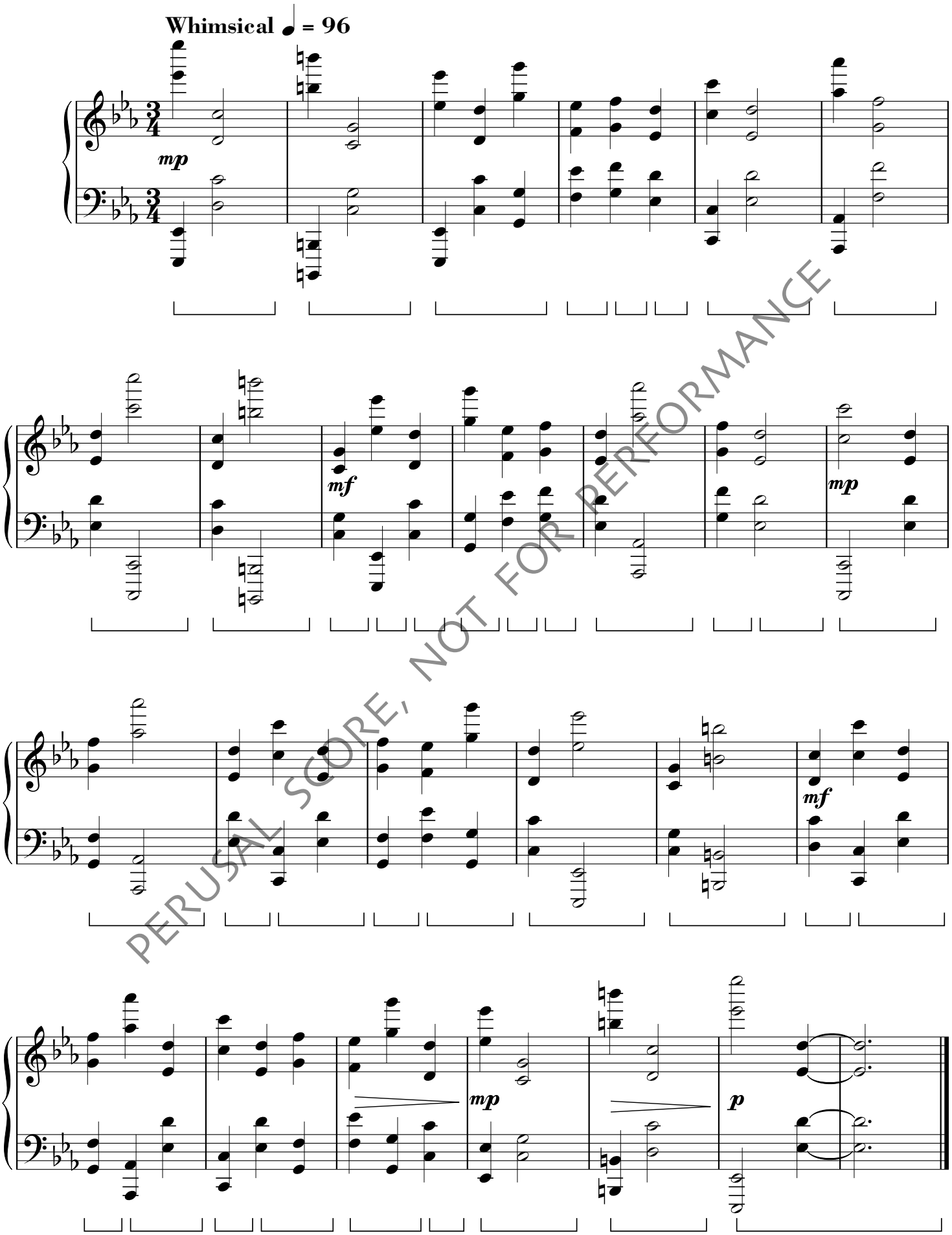

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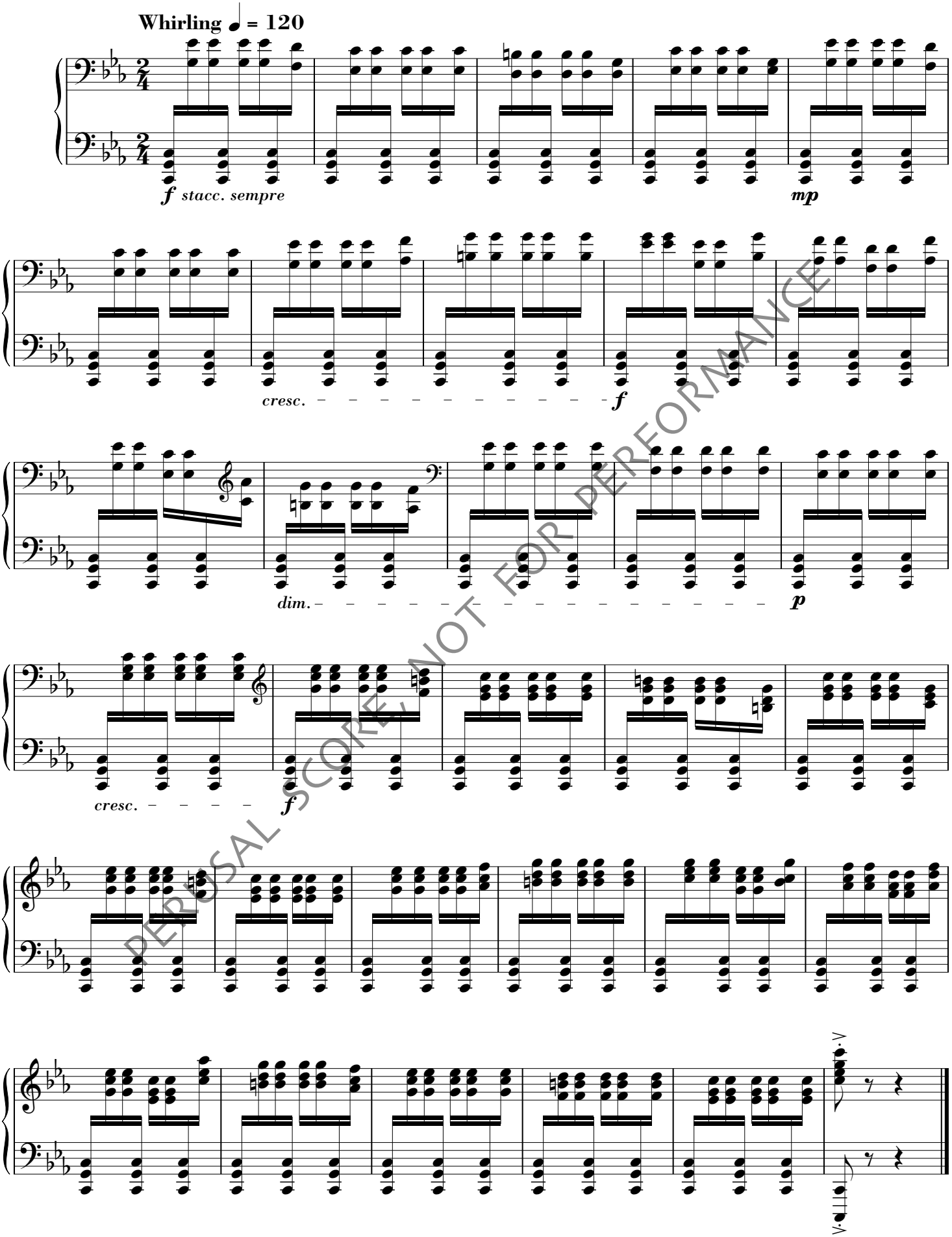
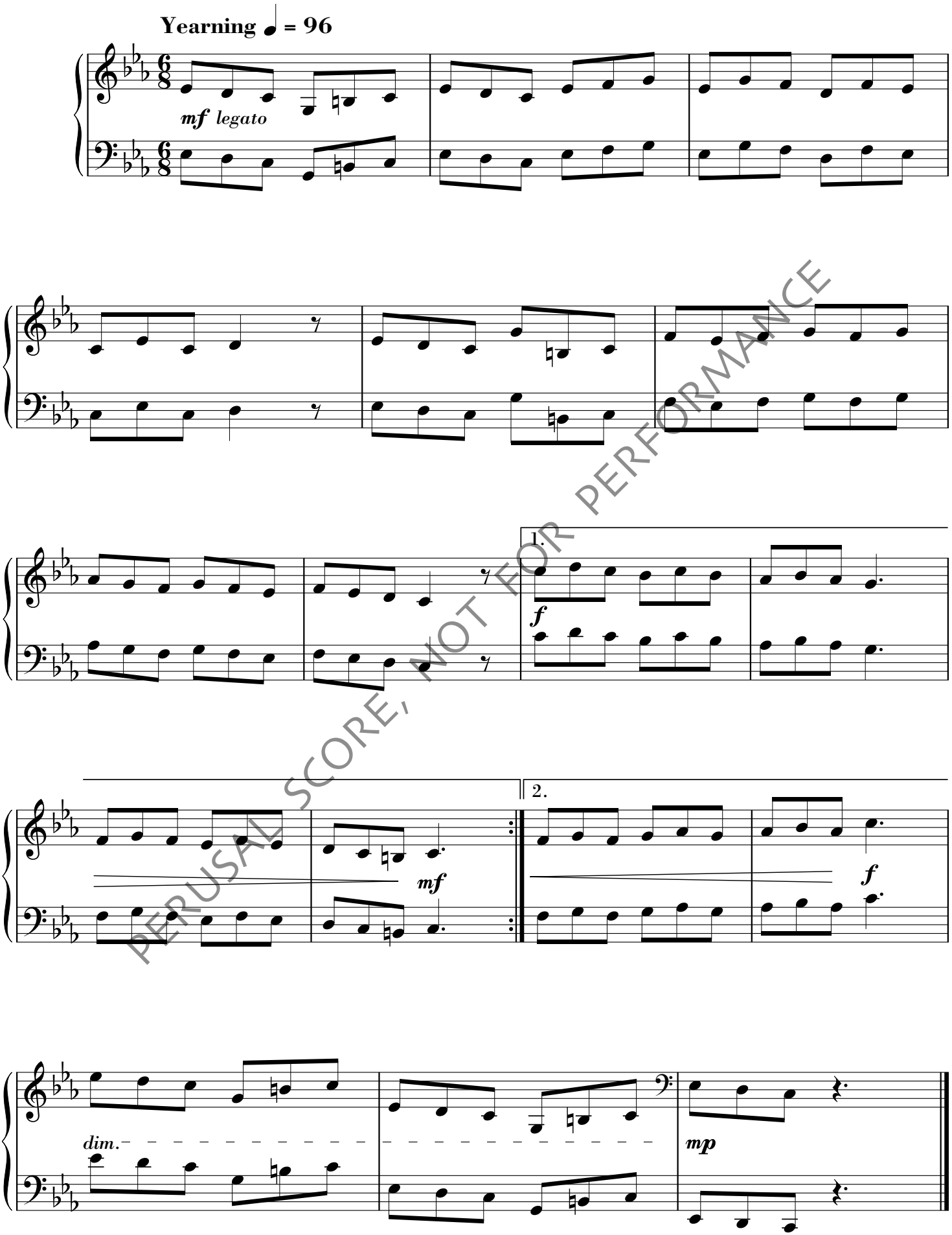


PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

With cunning ♩ = 80

PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE



PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

THEME
Singing

Ped. ad lib.

7

rit.

PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE