Judith Shatin

For the Birds

Amplified Cello and Electronics

Program Note

For the Birds, commissioned by cellist Madeleine Shapiro, is an hommage to birds, represented here by birds of the Yellowstone region. Many are in steep decline due to habitat loss and climate change. Rather than imitating their sounds, I include them, sometimes highlighting their calls, sometimes processing the field recordings to comment on their situation. The joining of the voice of the cello with that of the birds reminds us of the joining of the human world with that of the other animals we live among.

The focus on the birds of Yellowstone reflects Madeleine's love of the region and my own fascination with, and concern for, these birds. Naturalist Kevin Colver kindly shared some of his excellent recordings as source material. Each movement features a particular bird type and cello techniques that respond to them. The overall shape moves from the beckoning of songbirds, to the insistent pecking of the sapsuckers, to the ominous calls of the predators, to the voices and wing sounds of water birds as they rise in flight.

1-Songbirds
2-Sapsuckers
3-Birds of Prey
4-Water Birds

World Premiere
Madeleine Shapiro,
TechnoSonics Festival
Old Cabell Auditorium
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA
11/3/2005

Duration: 15:00

Performance Notes

The cello should be amplified in order for all of the timbres to be audible, and the output blended lightly with the sound of the electronics so they inhabit the same sonic environment.

Timings are indicated in seconds, and the performer should base the temporal flow of the cello part on the electronics cues. Square notes give approximate pitches in the electronic part. Rhythmic notation is specifically indicated in parts with clear synchronization with the electronic part, especially in movement 2. There is always flexibility in the motion, with the durational notation of the electronics given as proportional/suggestive temporal cues.

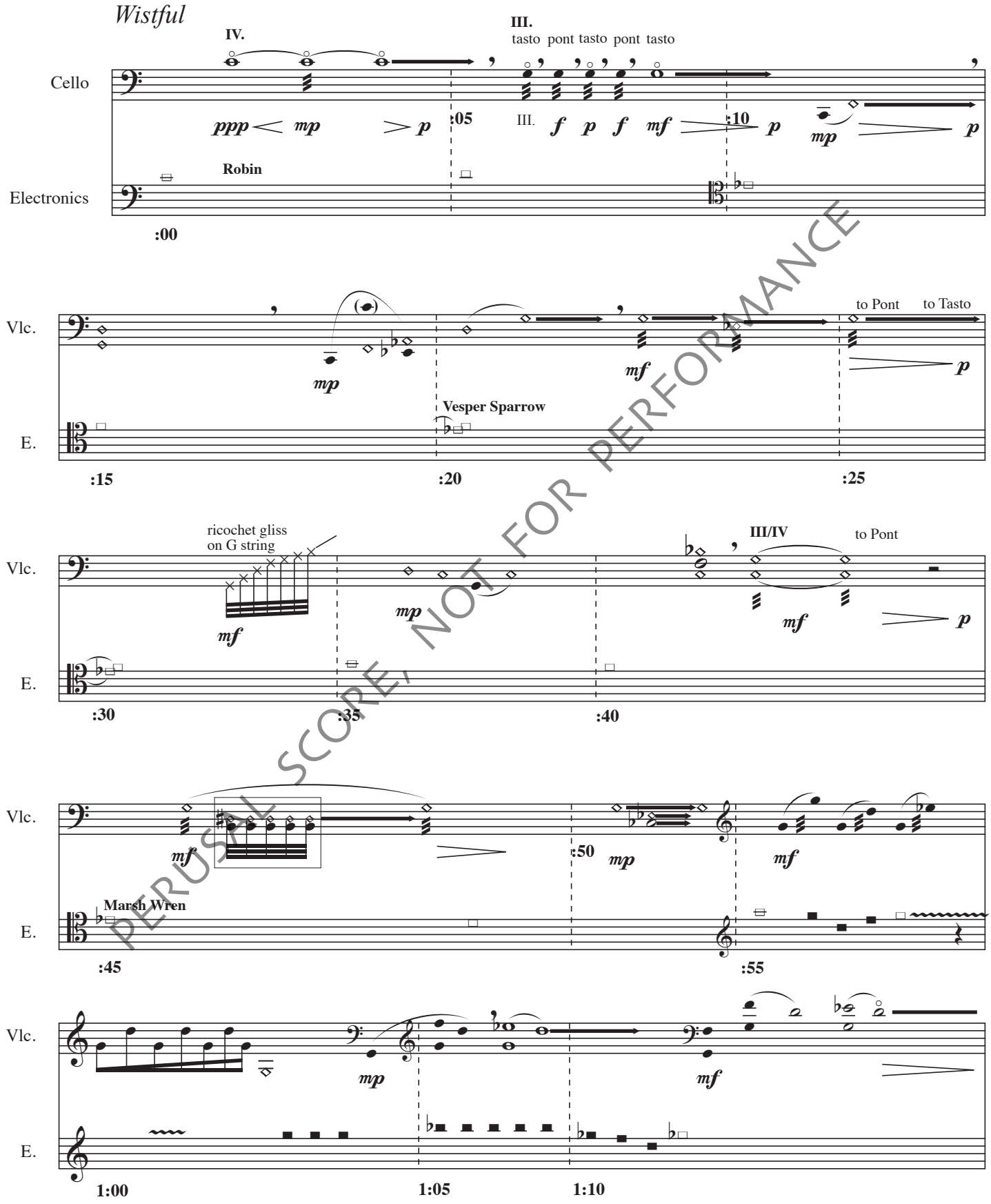
There are a variety of tapping locations on the cello and tappping patterns in movement 2. L stands for left hand, R for right. Other technque markings include the following:

FF	finger flick (use nail) the string
FB	finger flick on/close as possible to the bridge
C.L.	*Col Legno*
tasto	*sul tasto*
pont	*sul pont*
~	*pizz. vibrato*
	bridge

For The Birds

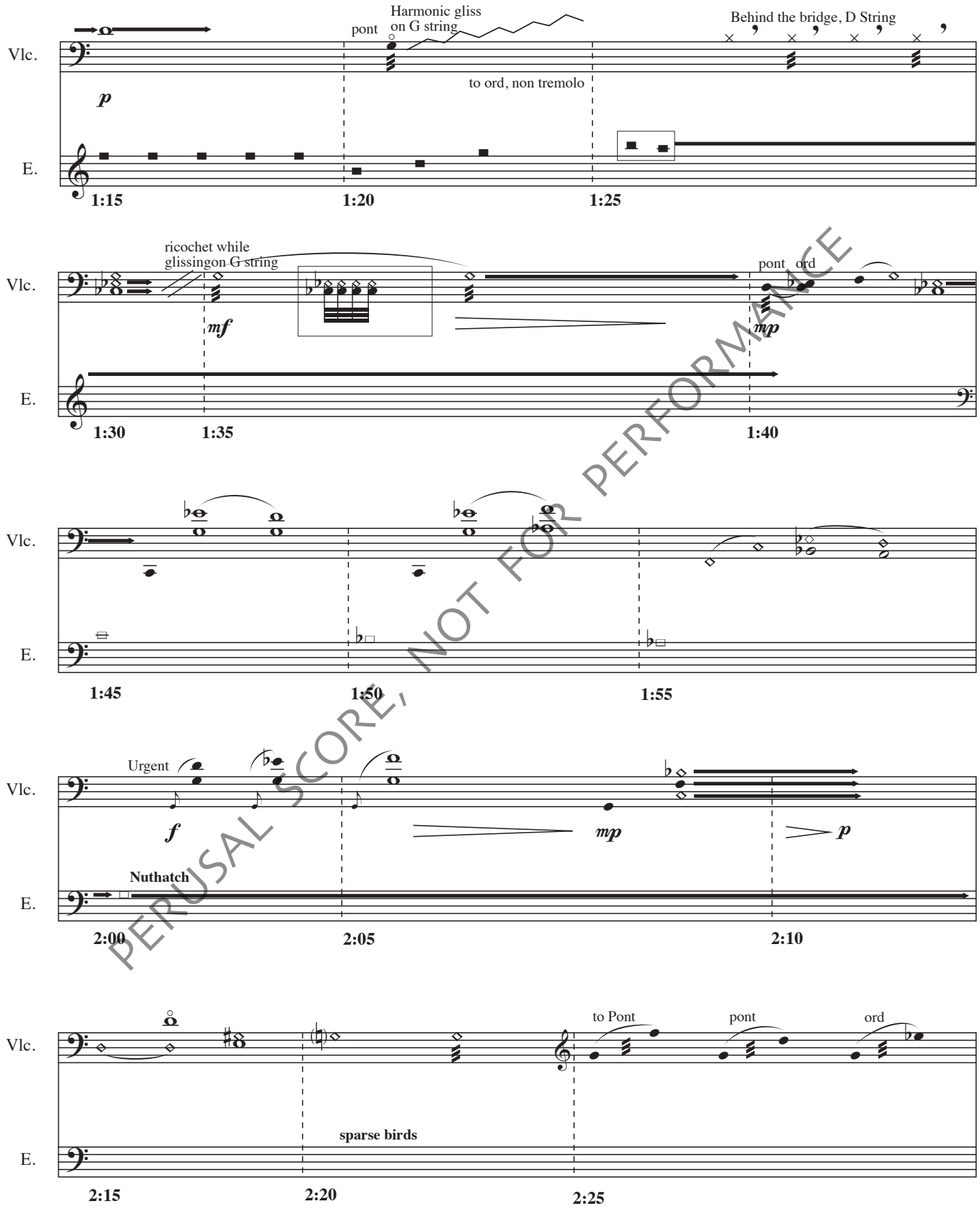
I. Songbirds

Judith Shatin

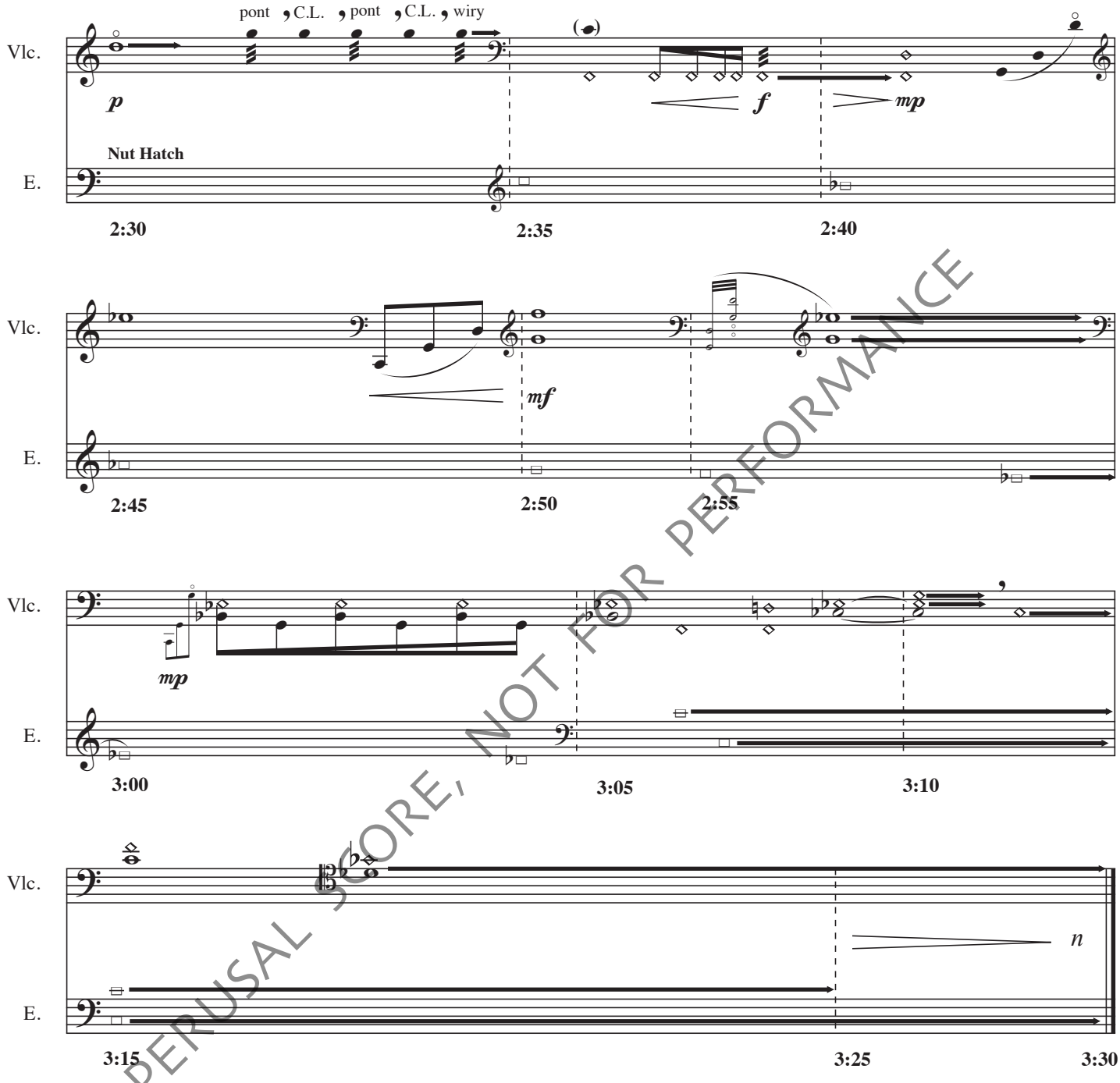


PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

© 2005 Wendigo Music (BMI) All Rights Reserved

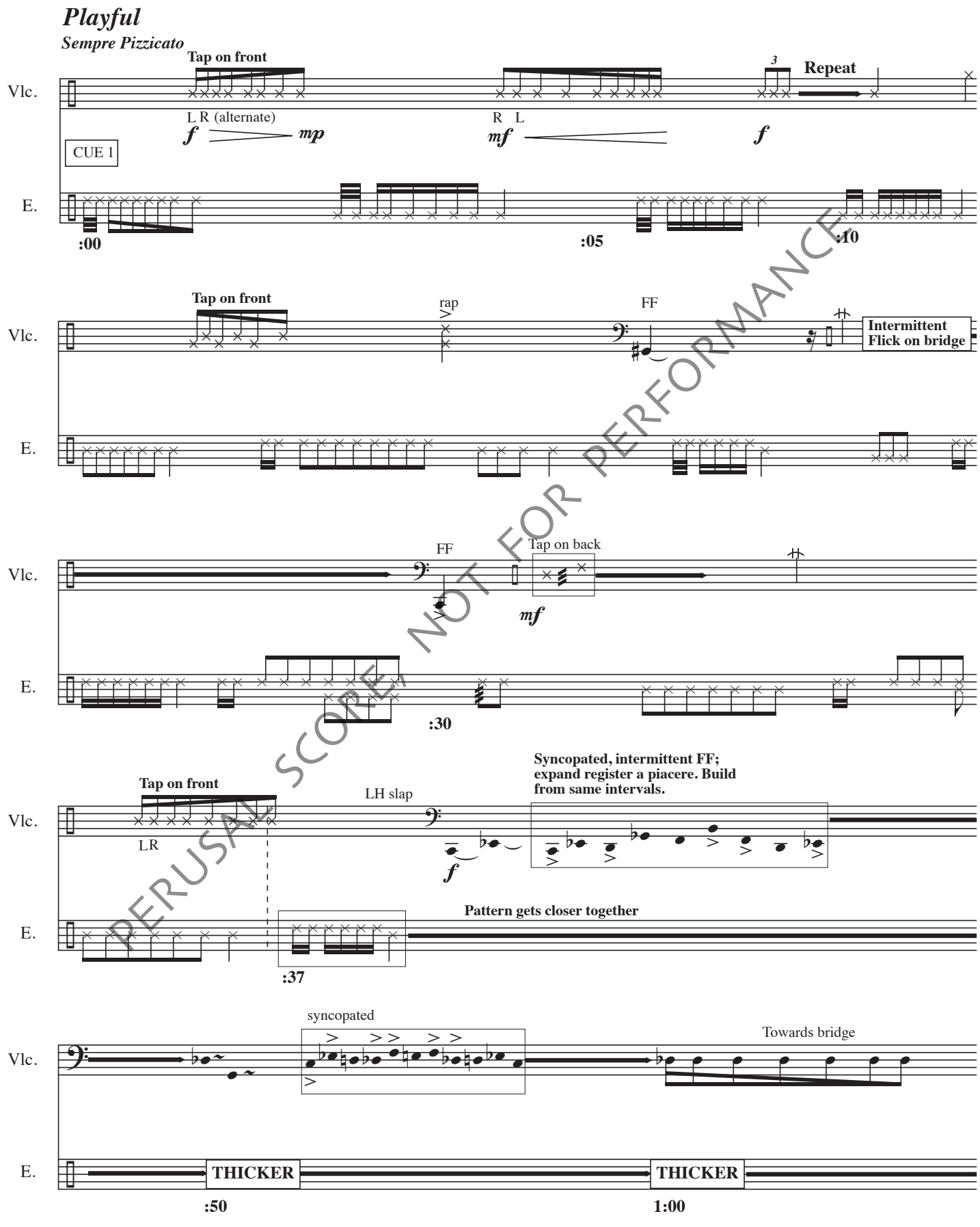


PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

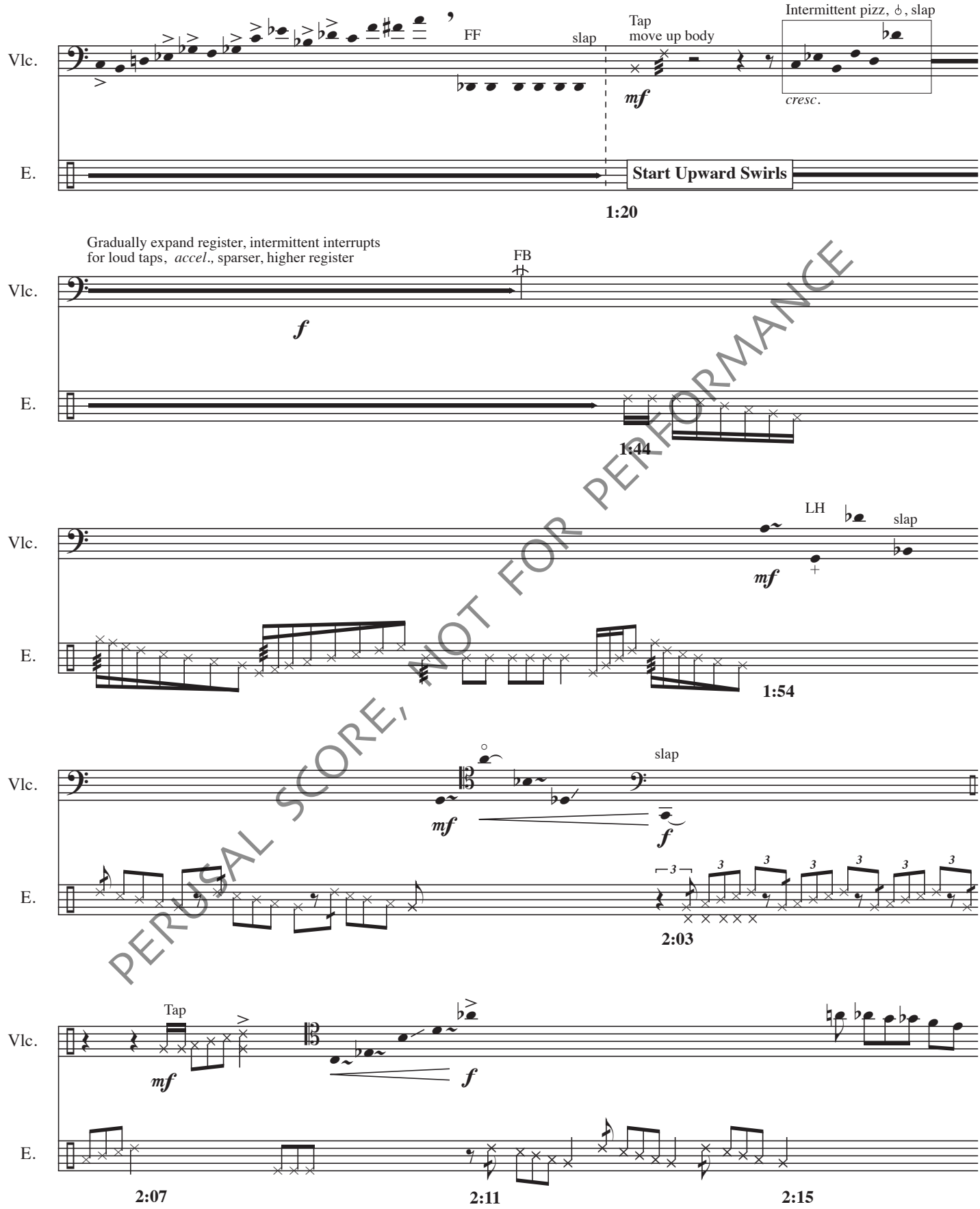


PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

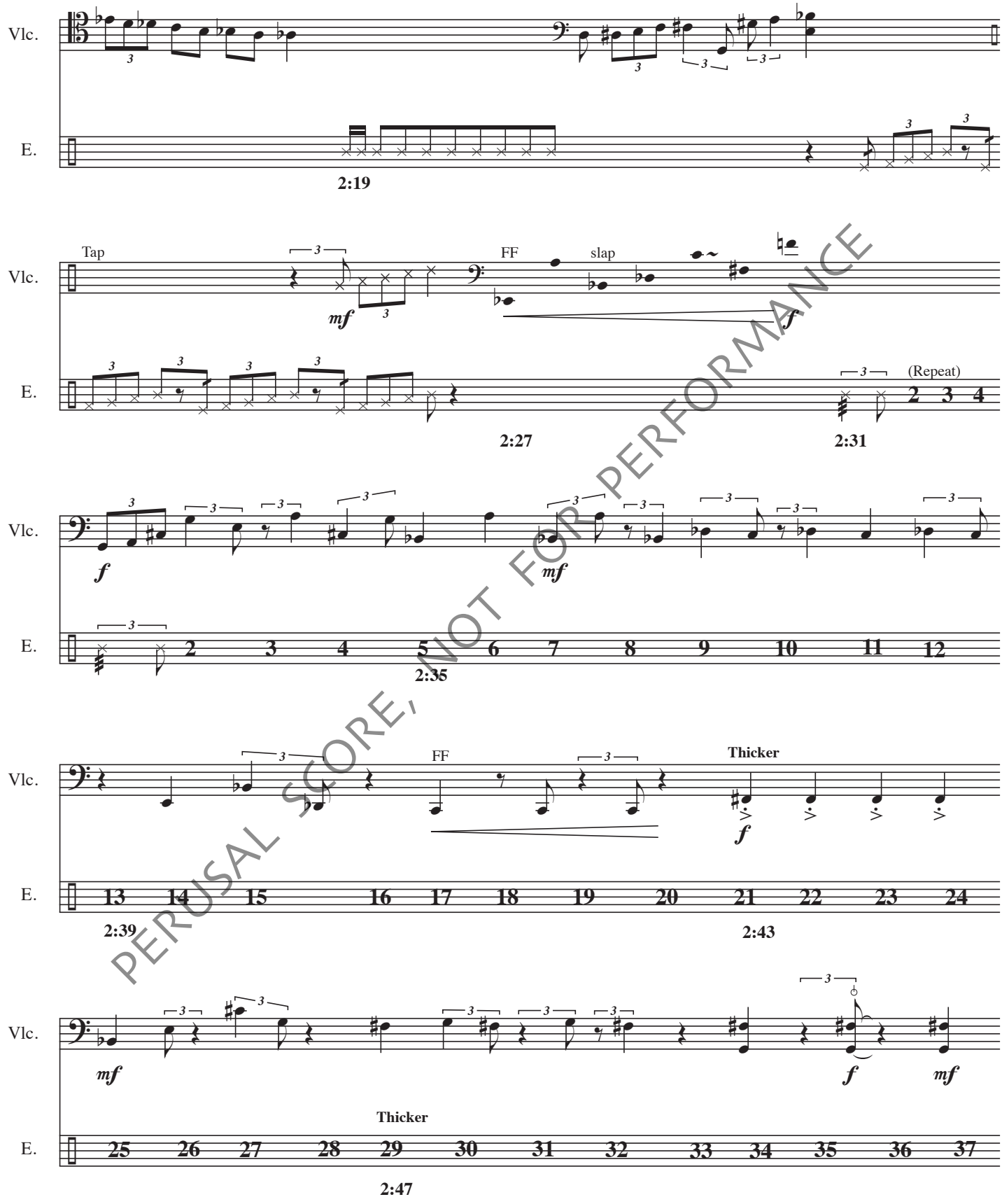
II. *Sapsuckers*



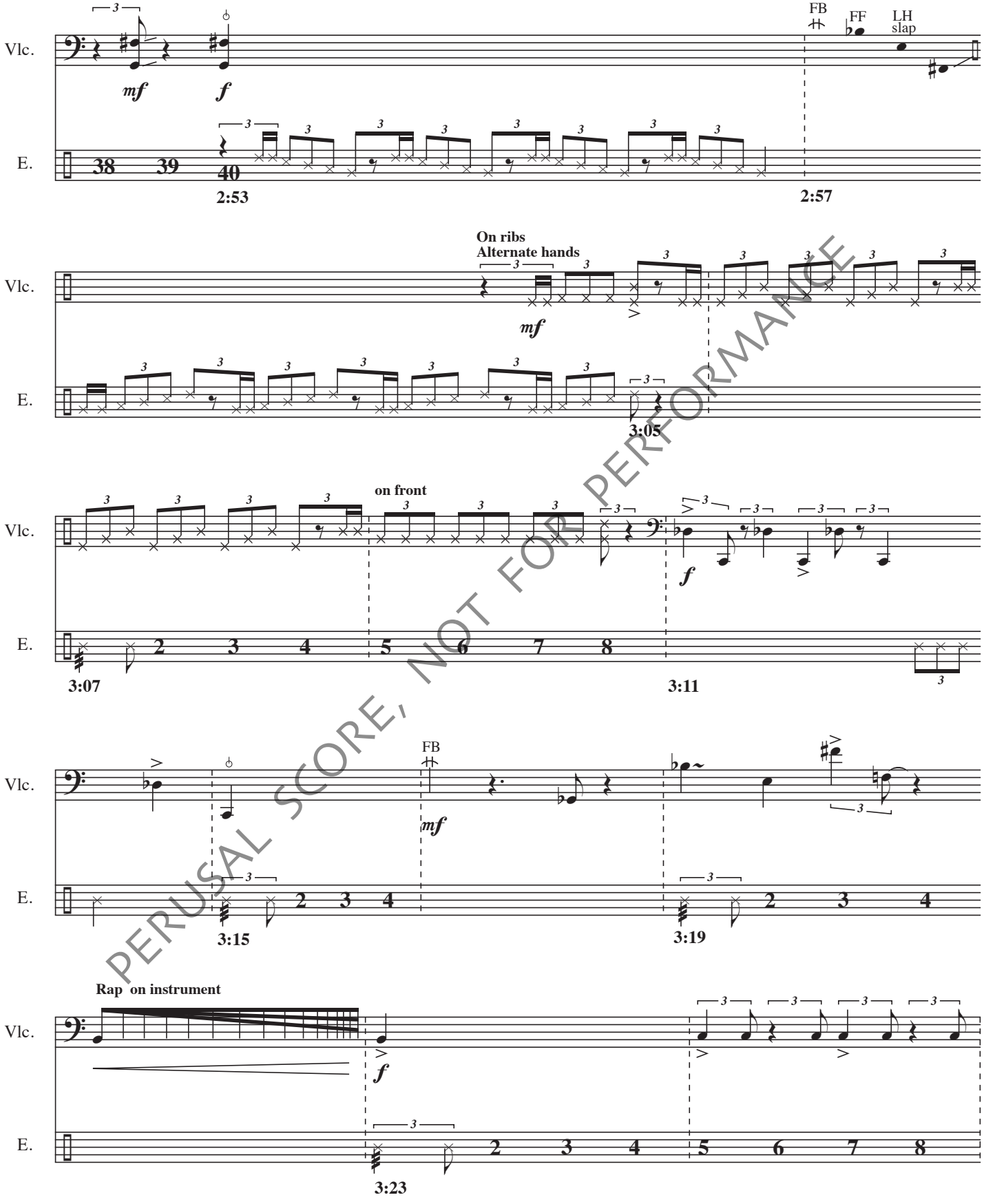
PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE



PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE



PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

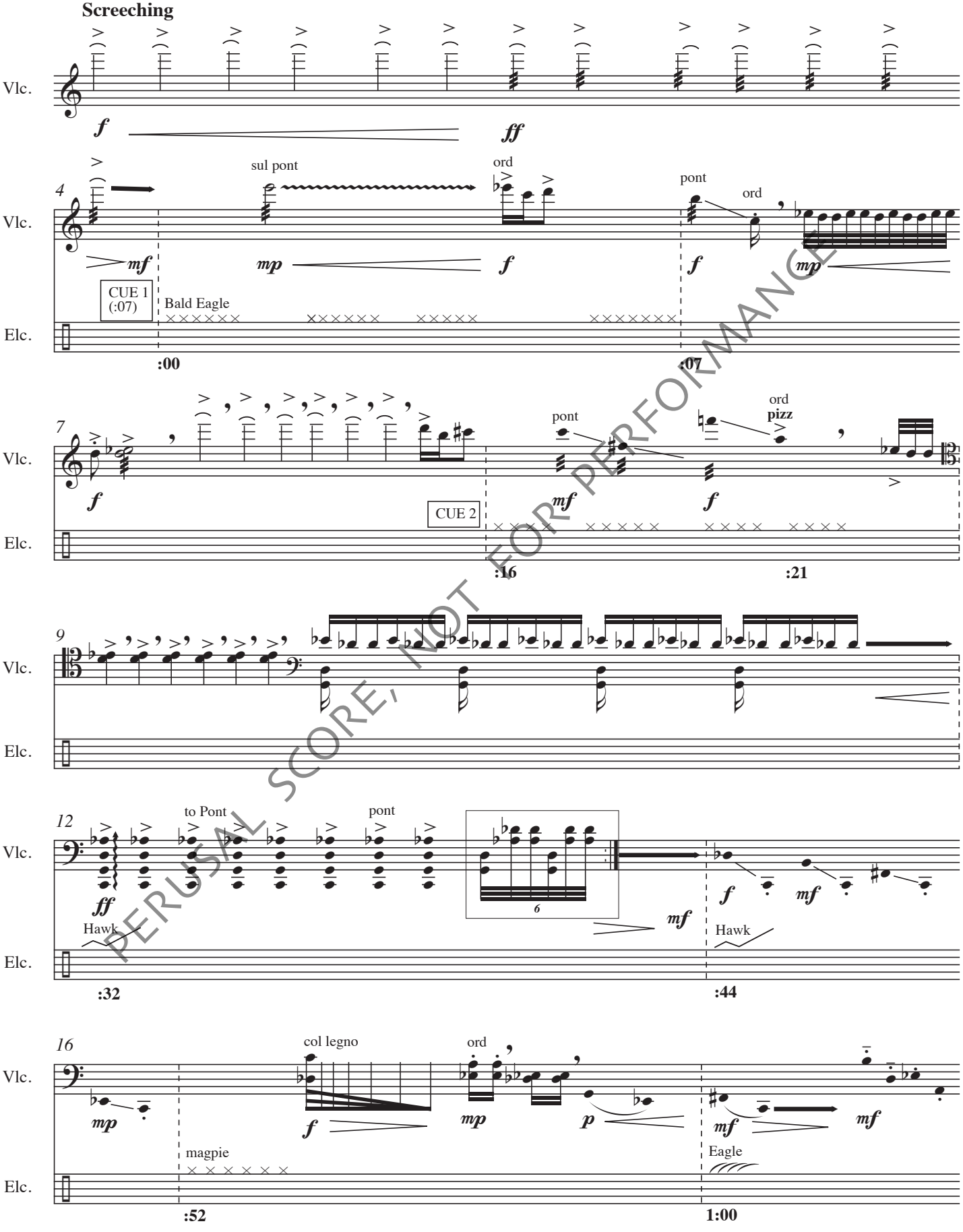


PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

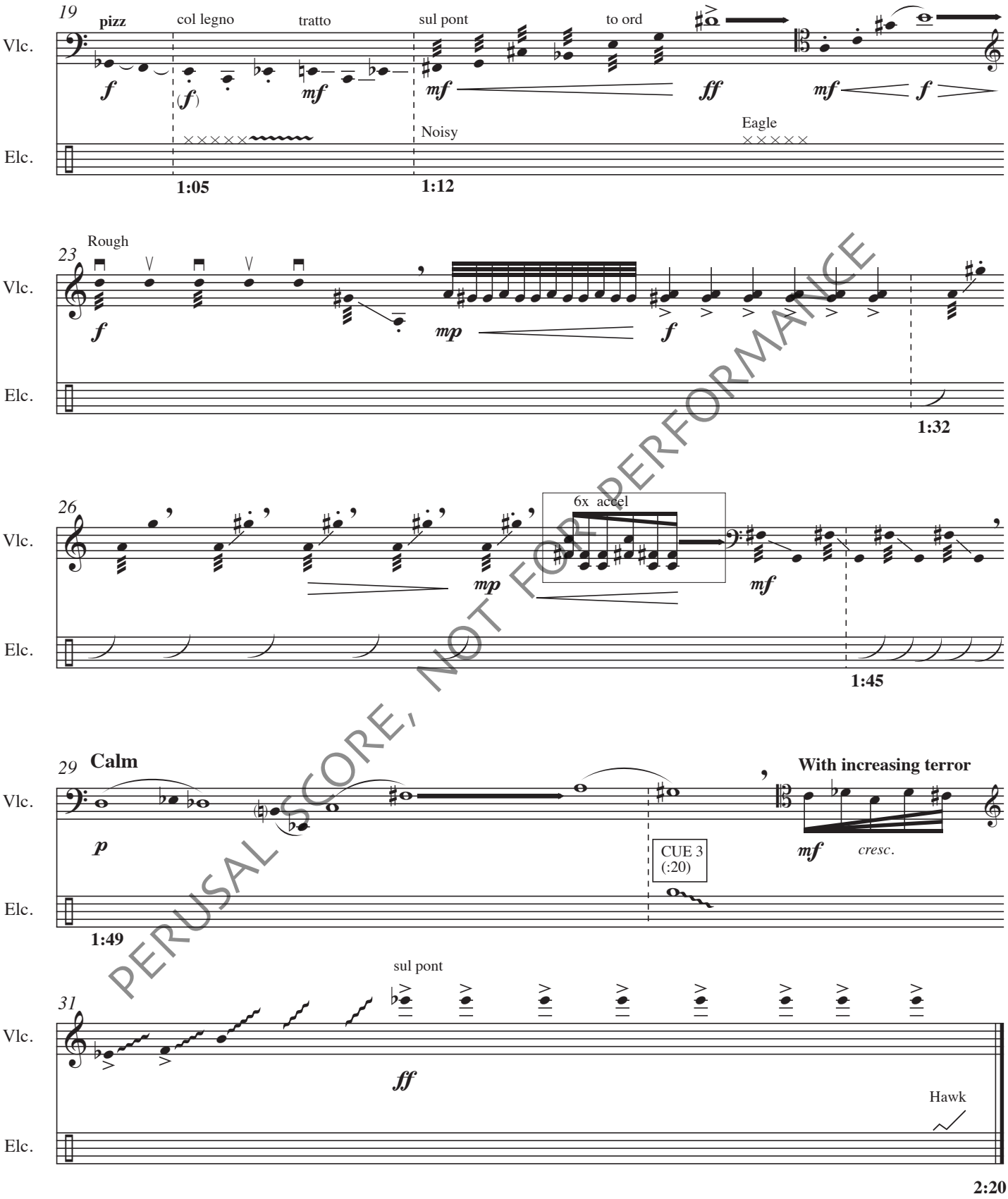
PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

III

Screeching

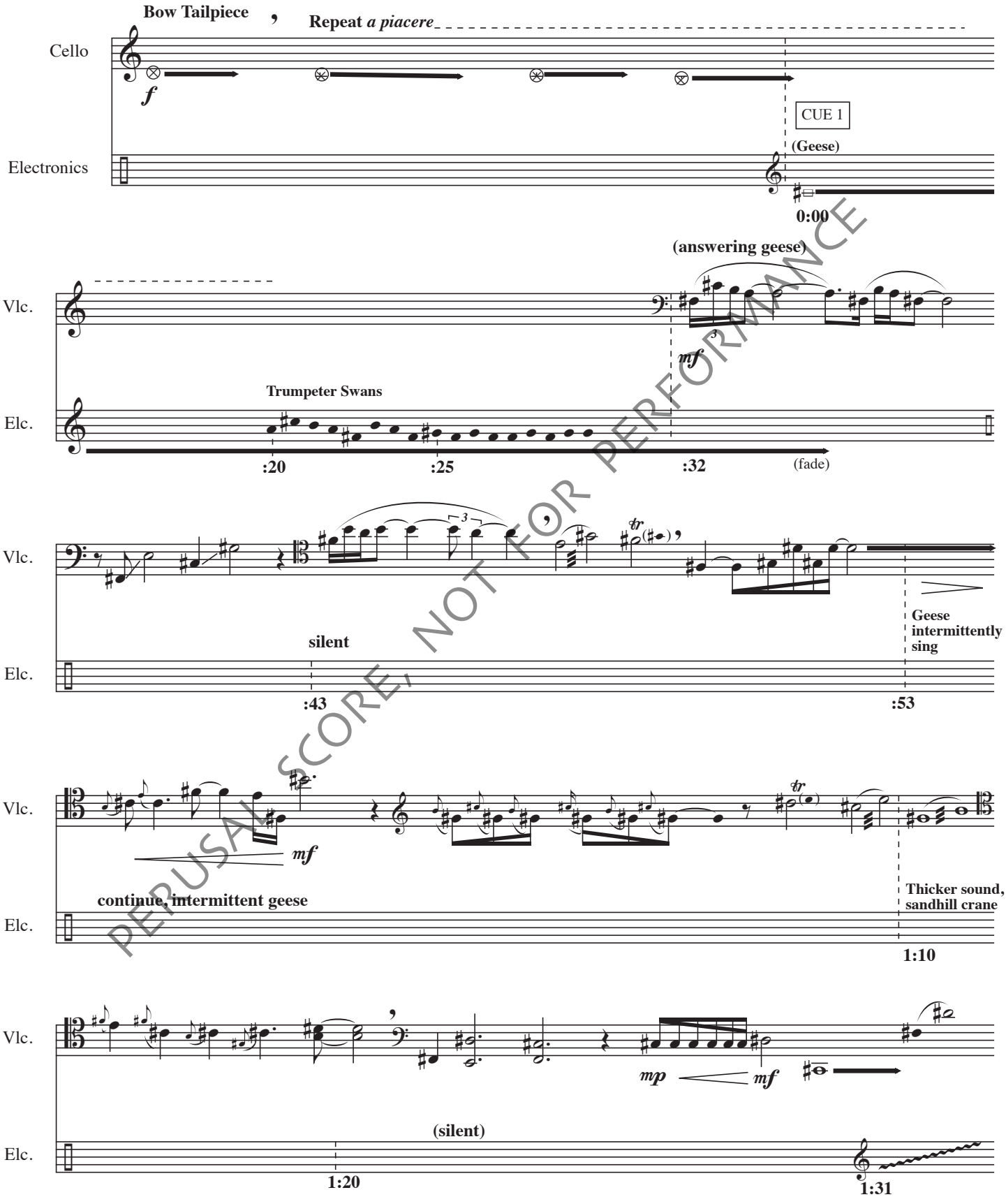


PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

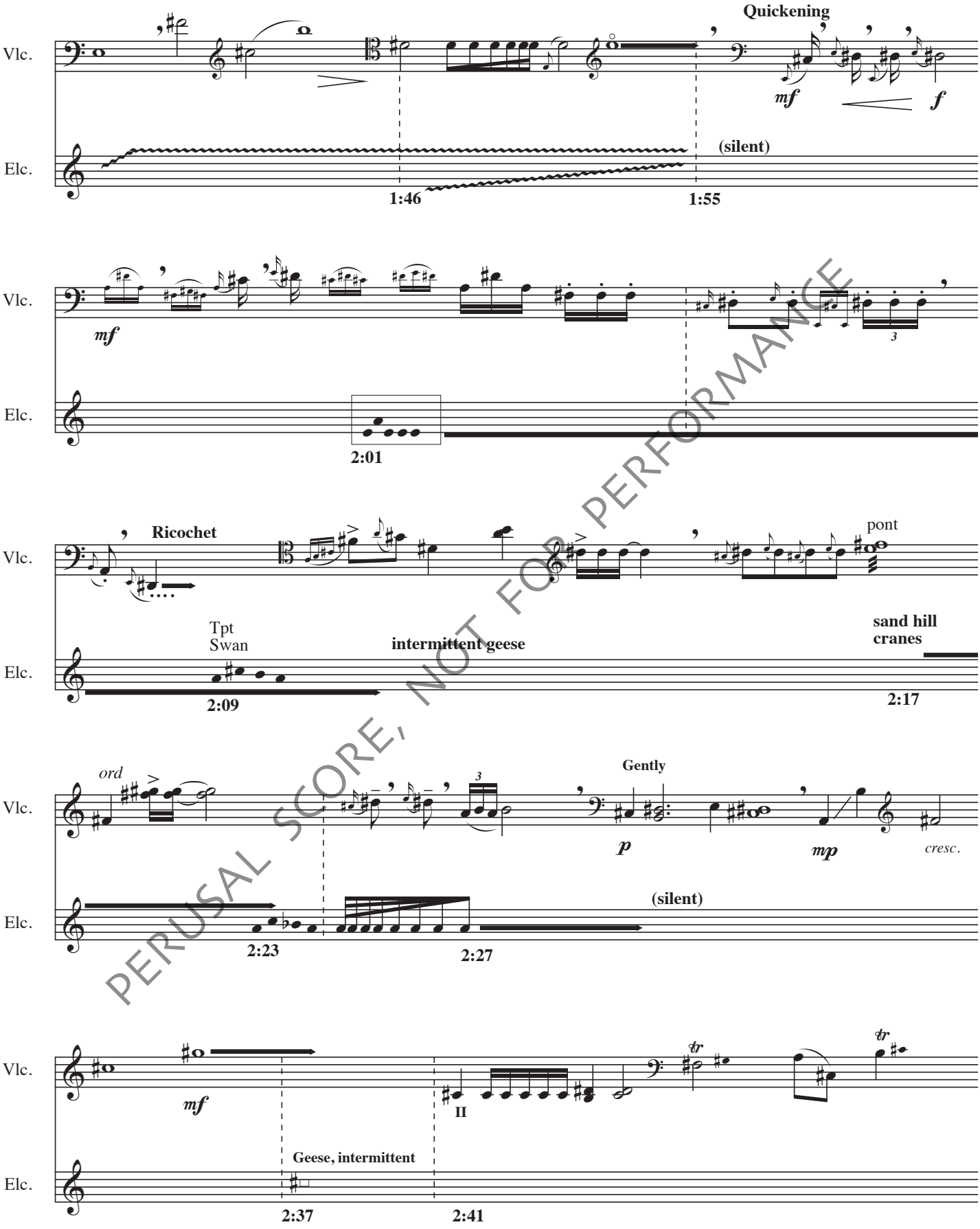


PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

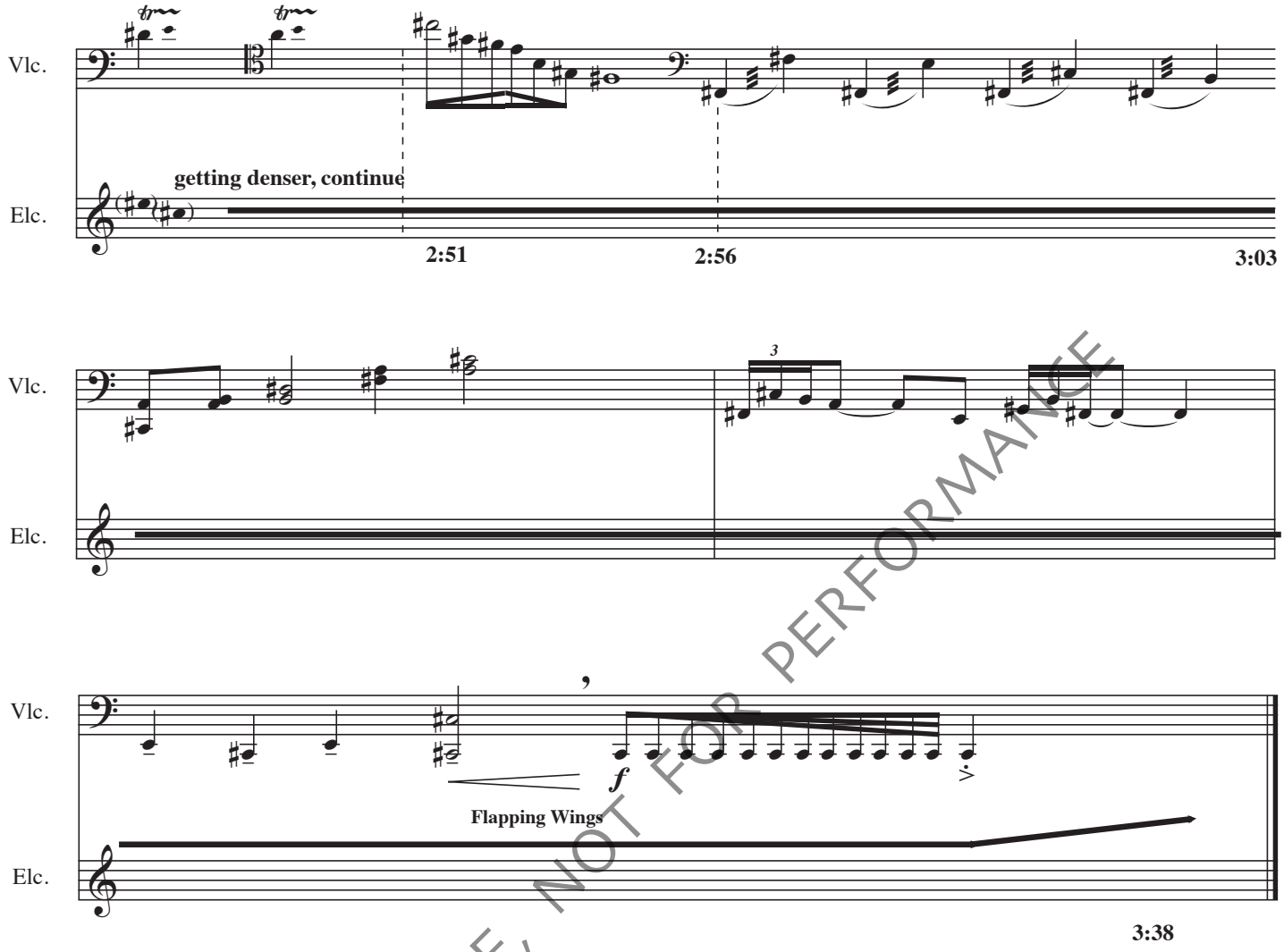
IV. Water Birds



PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE



PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE



PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE