CAROL BARNETT

VIGNETTES, AFTER PIERIDES

for Flute, Cello and Piano

BEADY EYES PUBLISHING
www.carolbarnett.net

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VIGNETTES, AFTER PIERIDES

for Flute, Cello and Piano

Commissioned in celebration of the Minnesota Teachers Association's 100 years of servise to music education

Premiered June 17, 2001 by Claudia White, flute; Laura Sewell, cello; and Marianne Fleming Bryan, piano
at the Minnesota History Center, St. Paul, MN

c. 16 minutes

I. The Incorrigible
II. Auto-da-fé
III. A Song for Aunt Chrystallou

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For more information about this piece and other music by Carol Barnett visit www.carolbarnett.net.

PROGRAM NOTE:

One day in 1999, shortly after I had been approached by the Minnesota Music Teachers Association to write a trio for their 100th Anniversary concert, I received a book from Theofanis G. Stavrou, professor of Russian history and director of the Modern Greek Studies Program at the University of Minnesota. He hoped that its contents might spark some musical ideas. And so they did.

VIGNETTES, AFTER PIERIDES

three movements for flute, cello and piano
based on Tetralogy of the Times: Stories of Cyprus
by George Philippou Pierides

I. The Incorrigible

"...to leave, to climb up by himself to the clean air of the mountain, to leave behind him the garbage of the city and the incomprehensible hierarchy of its values."

Much of this story takes place at the annual dance of the Hunter's Club. The music, based on two folk songs (Oniro, about a beautiful garden, and Karpasitissa, about a lonely person far from home), seeks to evoke the close connection of the main character, a writer, to nature and the land. These tunes are later twisted by short, brittle dance rhythms into a noisy party. The movement ends with a return to the simple melody of Karpasitissa.

II. Auto-da-fé

"The ancient land was shaken, and from the depths again emerged dark, hard times."
"...hard times have come, and enmity and fear have throttled everything."

In "Auto-da-fé," the often-violent confrontation between those who want to keep things as they are and those who are dedicated to social change is described by an incident in which a poor leftist workman is stoned to death by his fellow villagers. Musical materials include the underlying tension of perpetual sixteenth notes, fragments of psalter hymns (the few voices of reason) and strong repeated quarter notes (the defiant stance of the outcast worker), all finally overwhelmed by the brutal punctuations of the piano.

III. A Song for Aunt Chrystallou

"...your life...stood solidly because it was rooted in something true and necessary and real...which springs from yesterday and leads us into tomorrow."

"A Song for Aunt Chrystallou" is a paean to one of those admirable older women who, if we are lucky, we can find in our own lives--aunts, mothers, grandmothers, women who are the spiritual center of the family and the lifeblood of the community. Perhaps the music is more nostalgic than I had planned. Yet so often the best things we do in life are done to remember and honor the past, and to build on it. The folk song used in this movement is Mas o Klithonas, sung by young girls while fortune-telling on St. John's Day in the spring. Karpasitissa, used in the first movement, also makes a partial appearance.

I am most grateful to the Minnesota Music Teachers Association for commissioning this work, to Professor Stavrou for his inspiration and for making my research trip to Cyprus a wonderful reality, and to the Inter-University Committee on Cyprus for its substantial support of that trip.

Tetralogy of the Times: Stories of Cyprus by George Philippou Pierides is available from Nostos Books, Box 19086, Minneapolis, MN 55419.

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Vignettes, After Pierides

I. The Incorrigible

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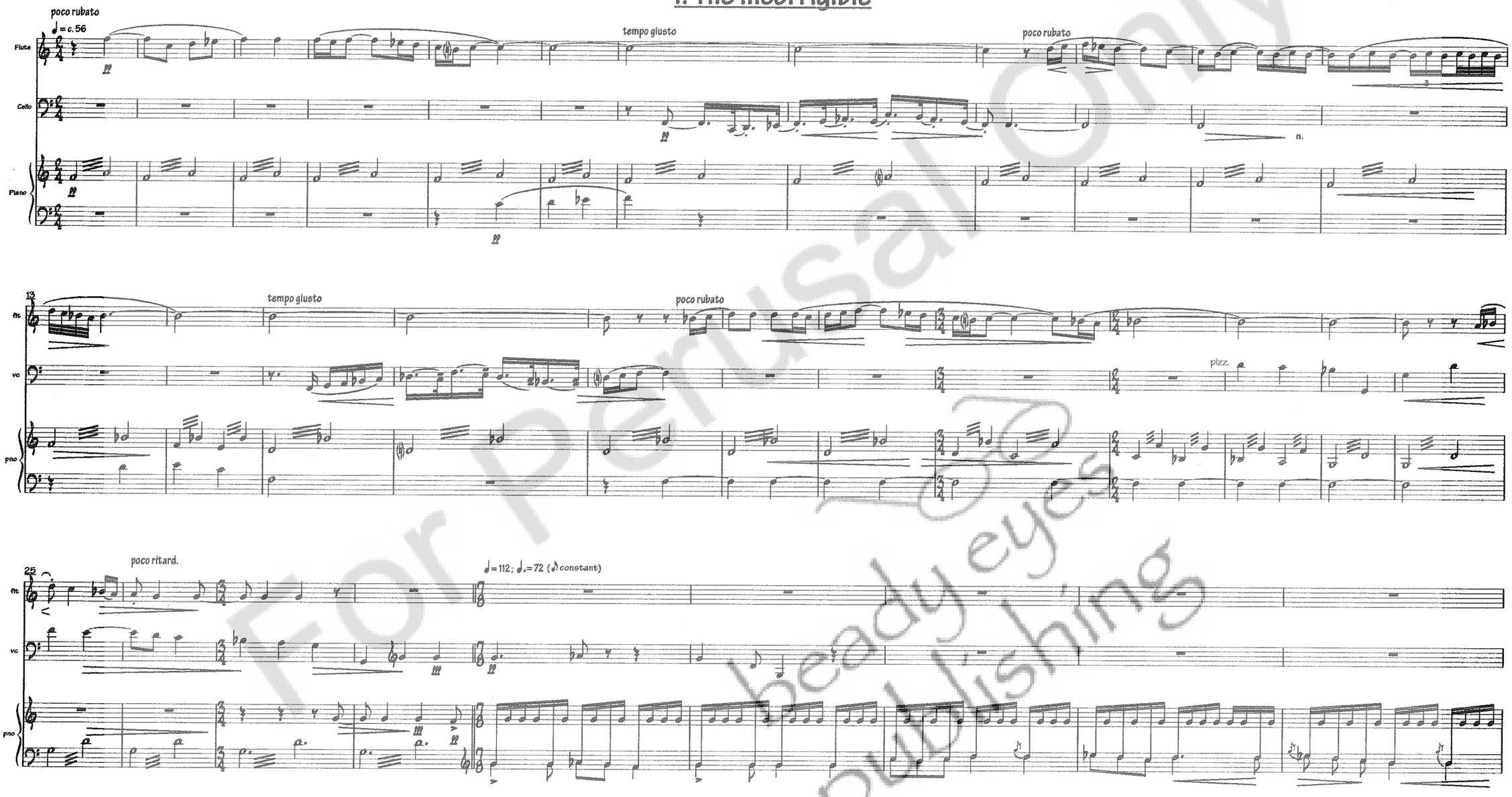

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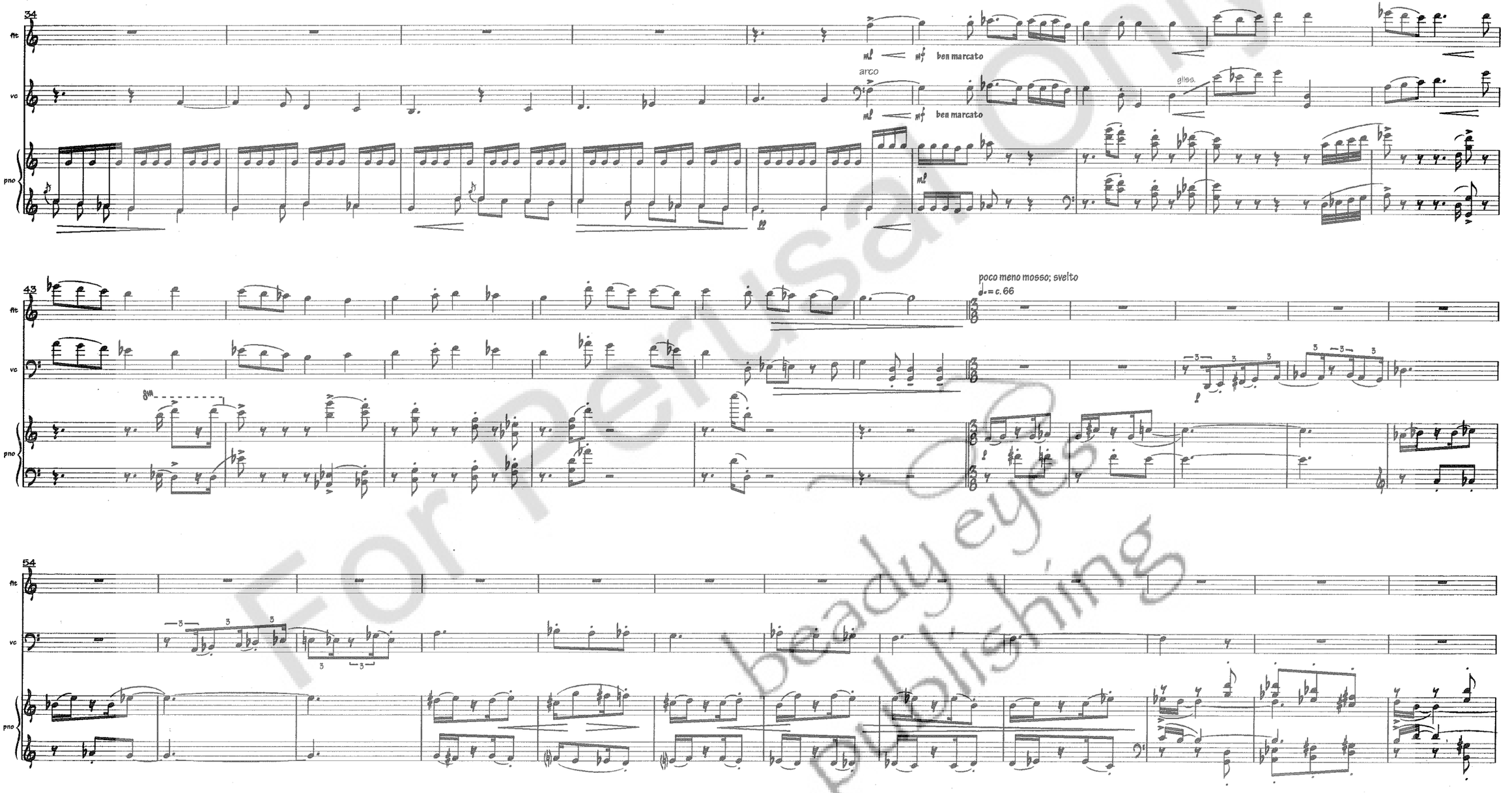

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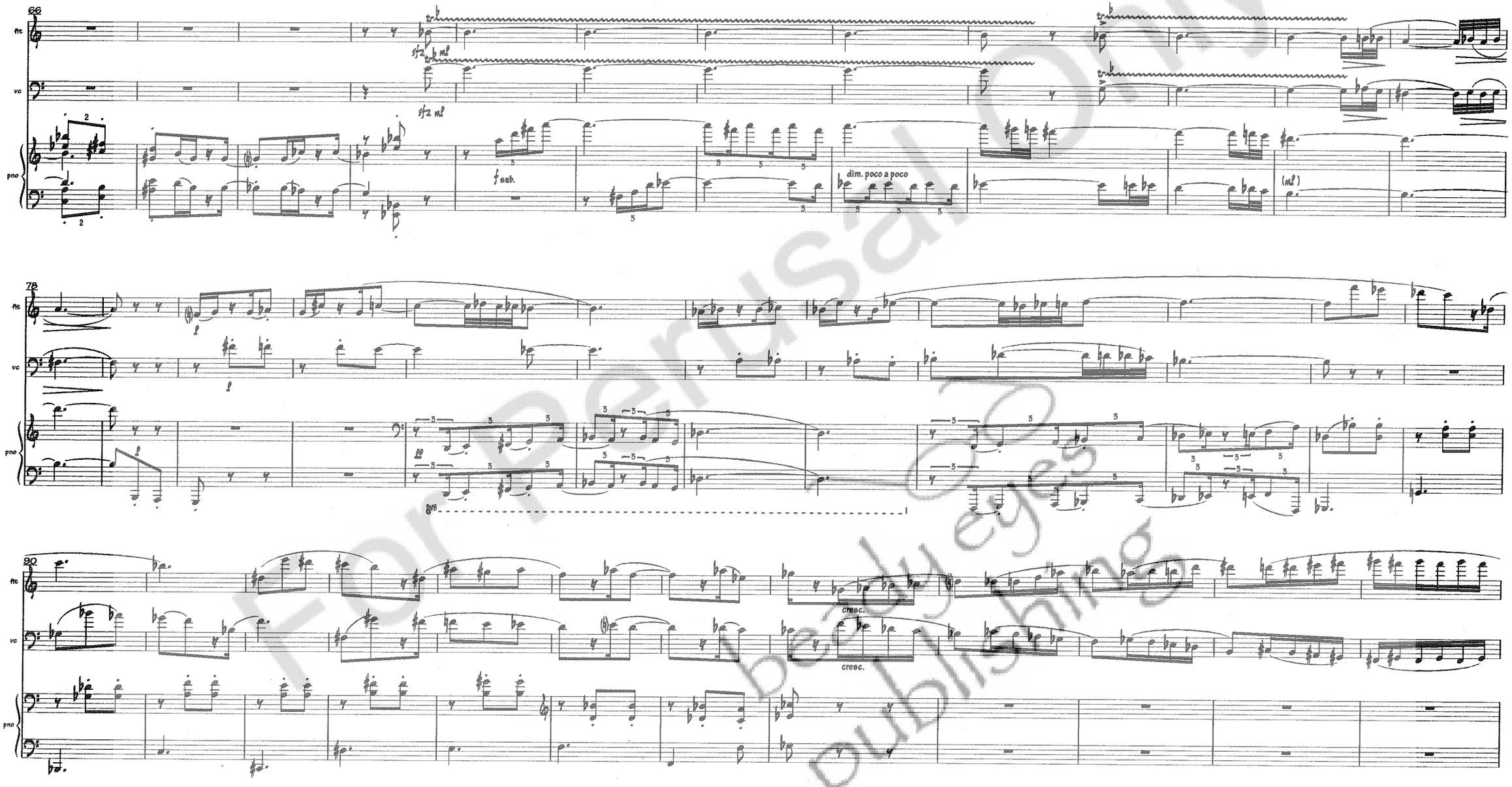

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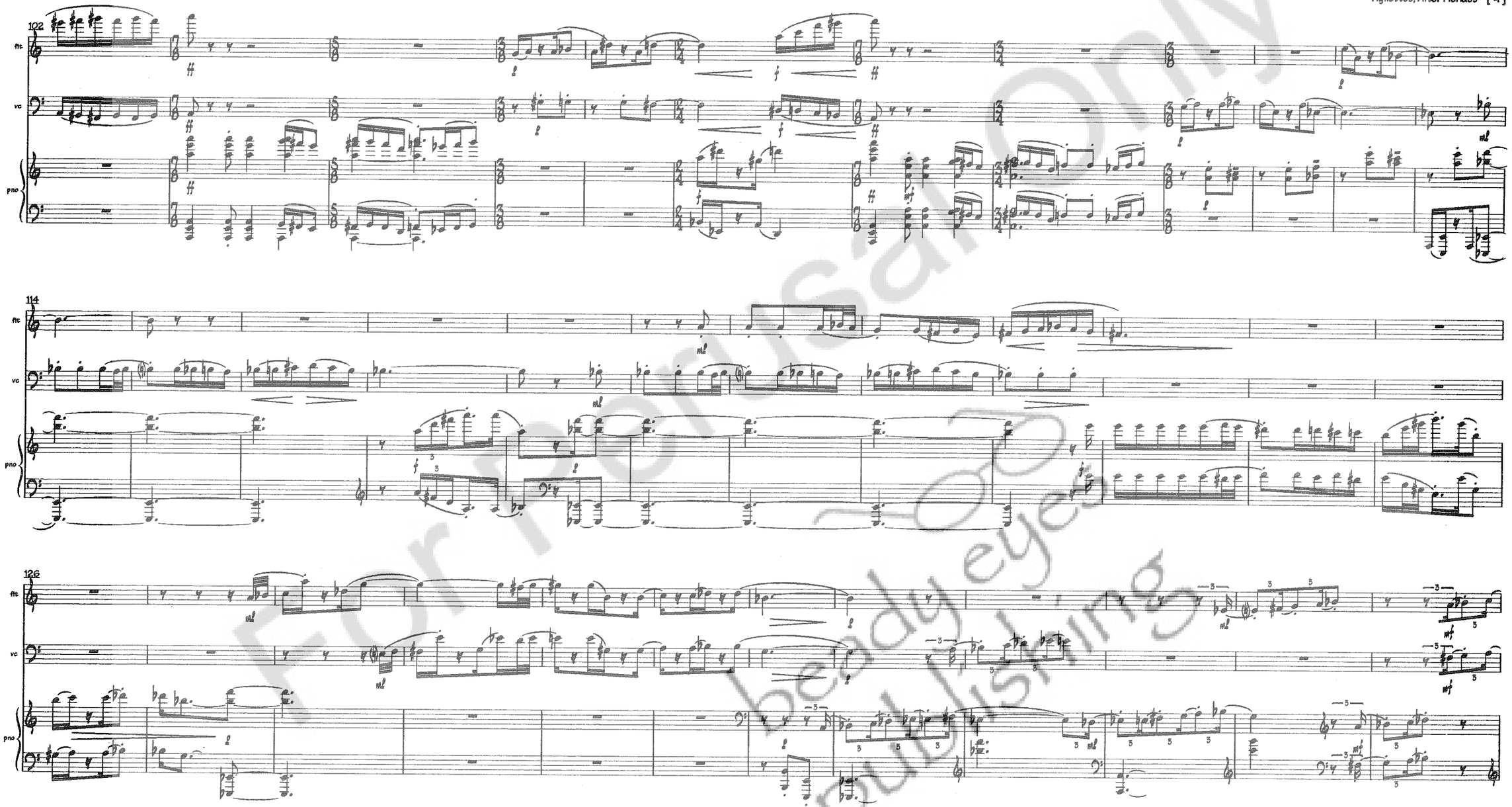

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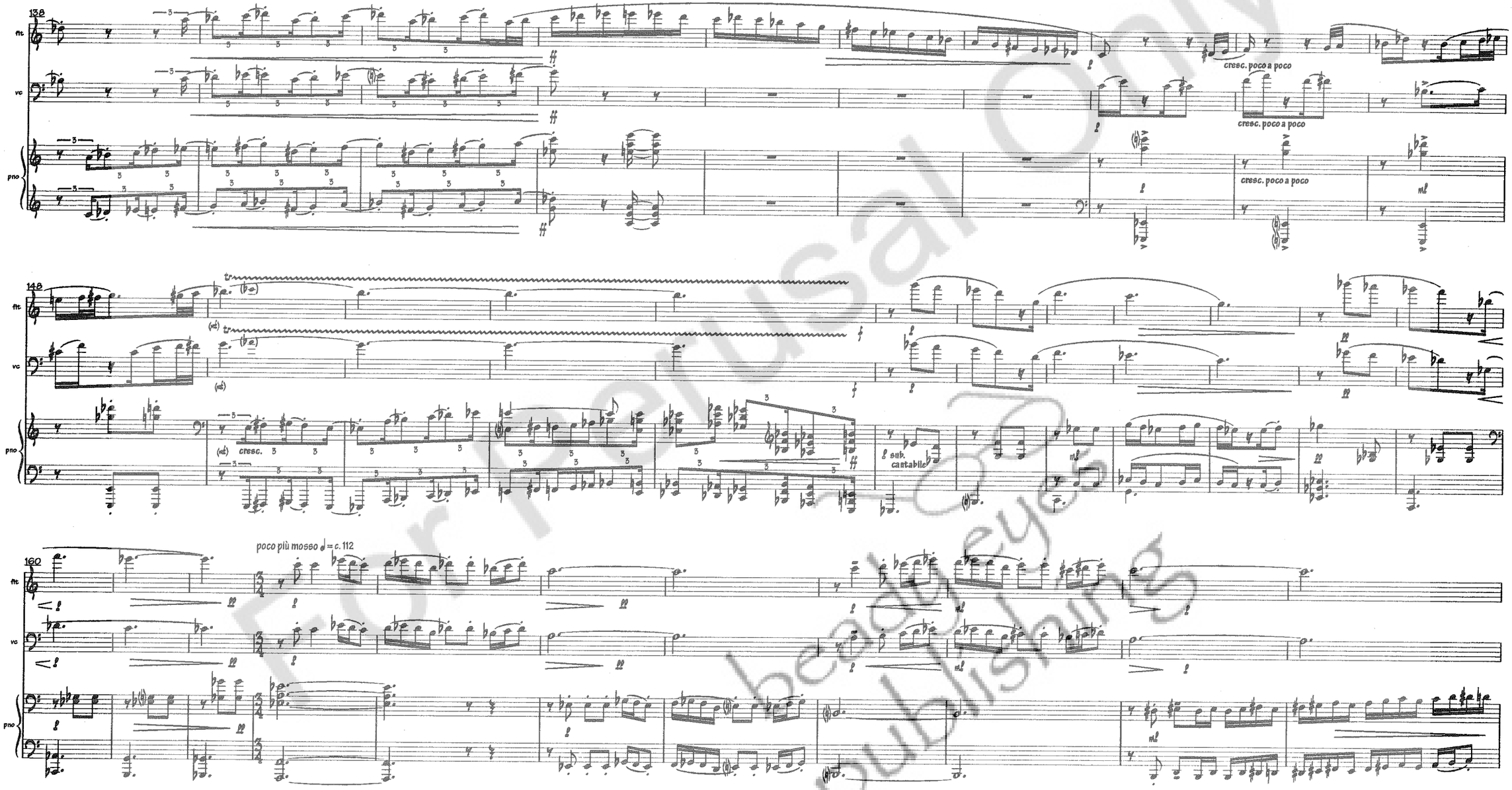

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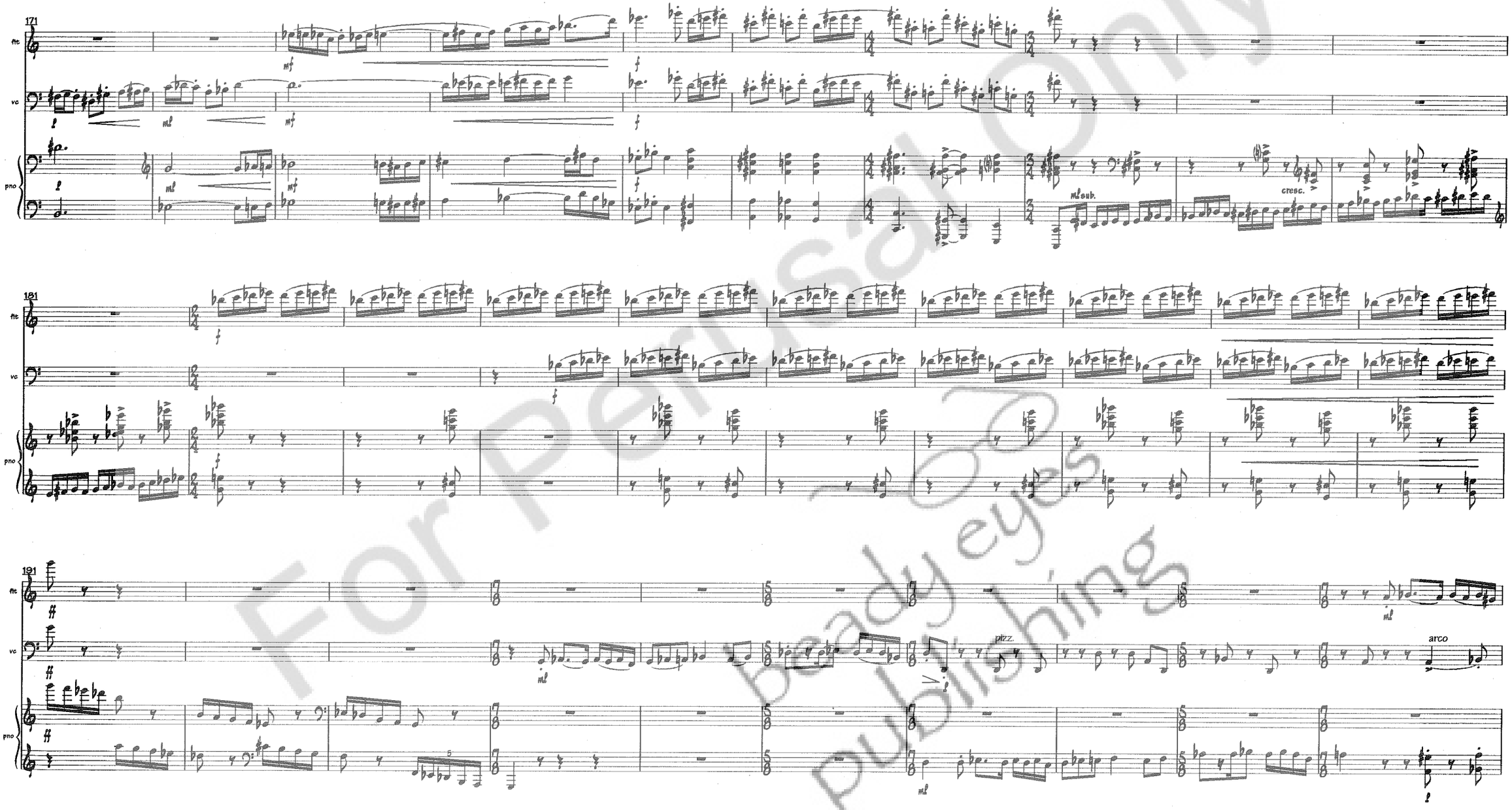

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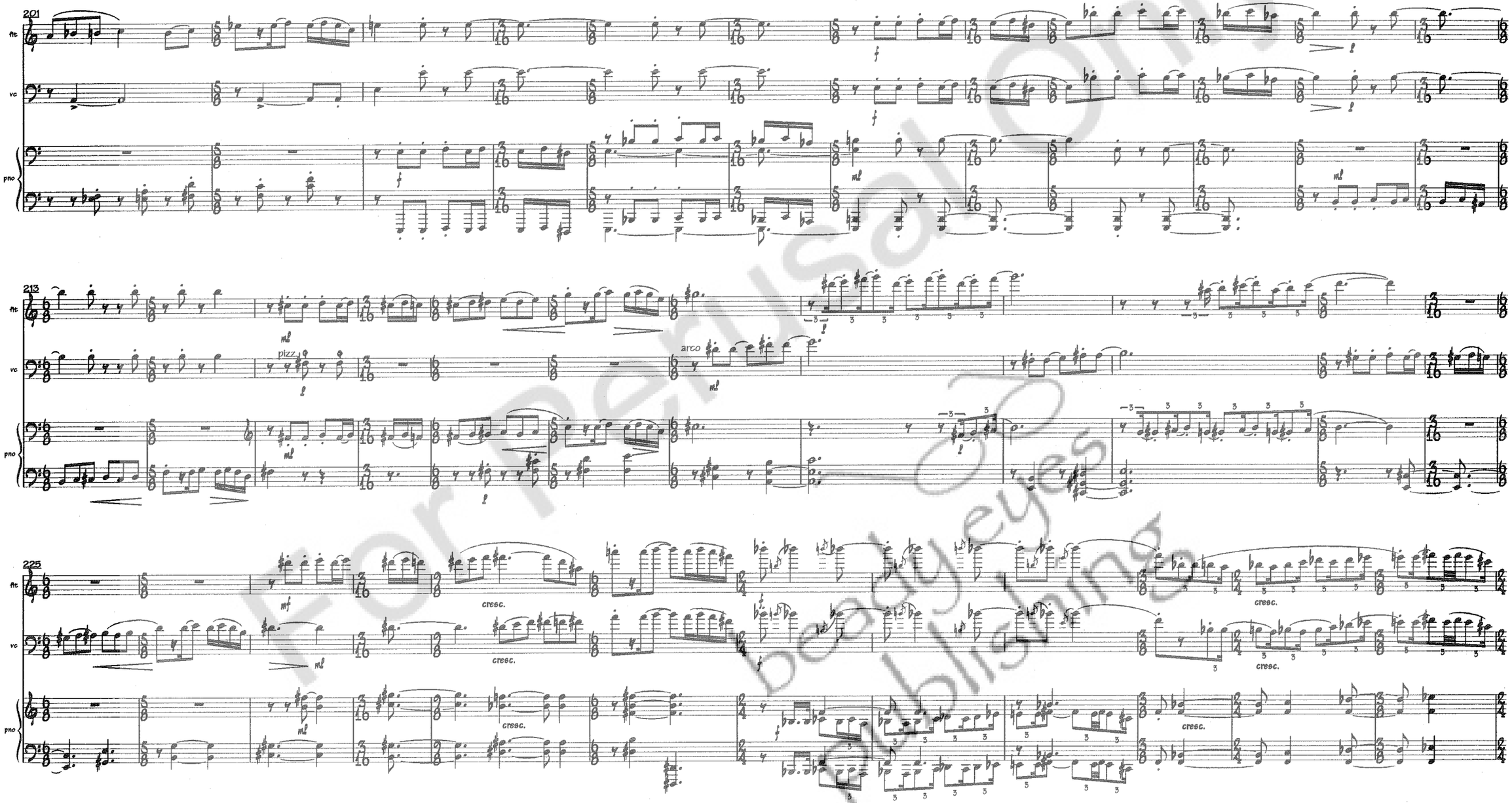

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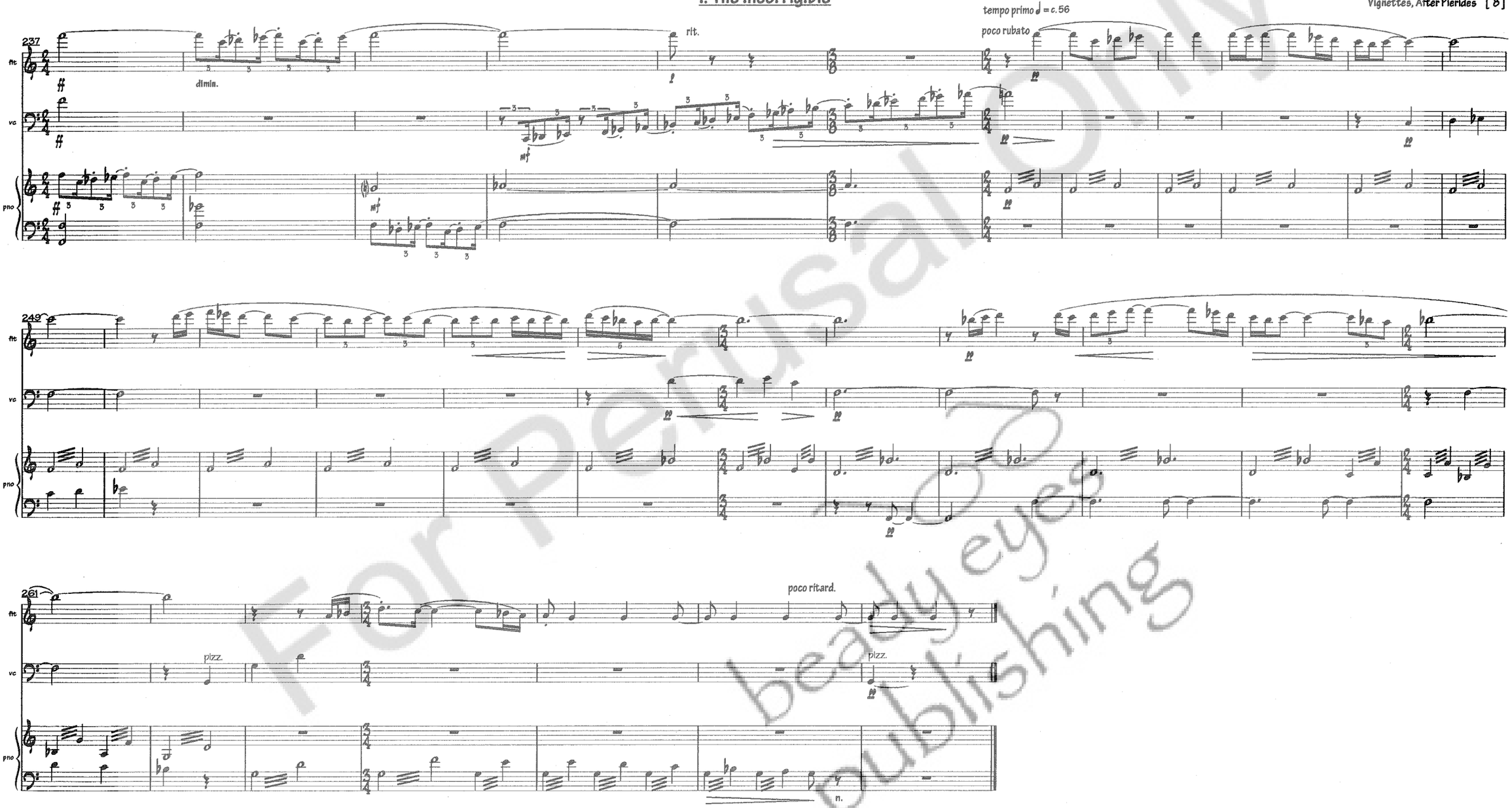

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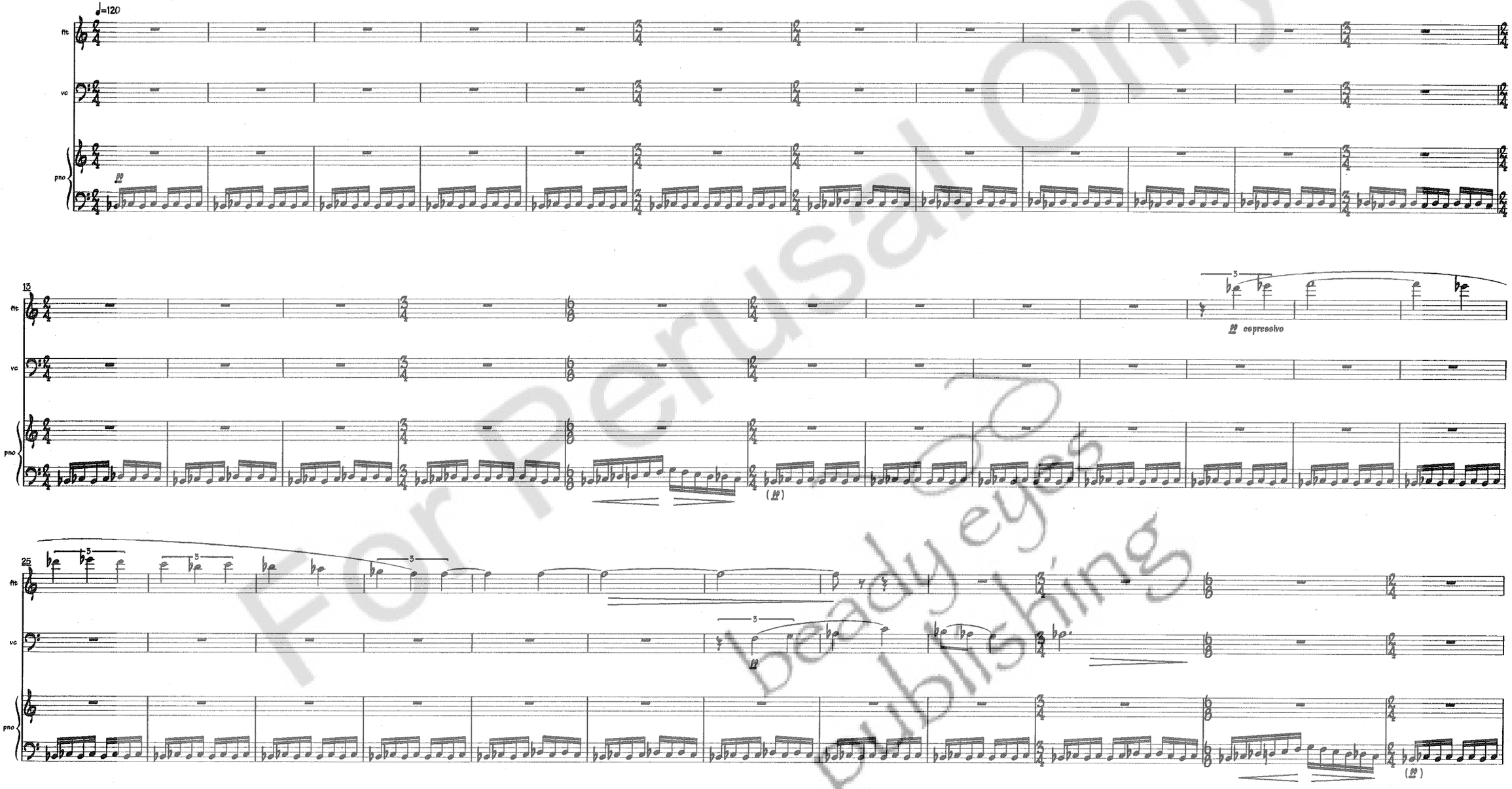

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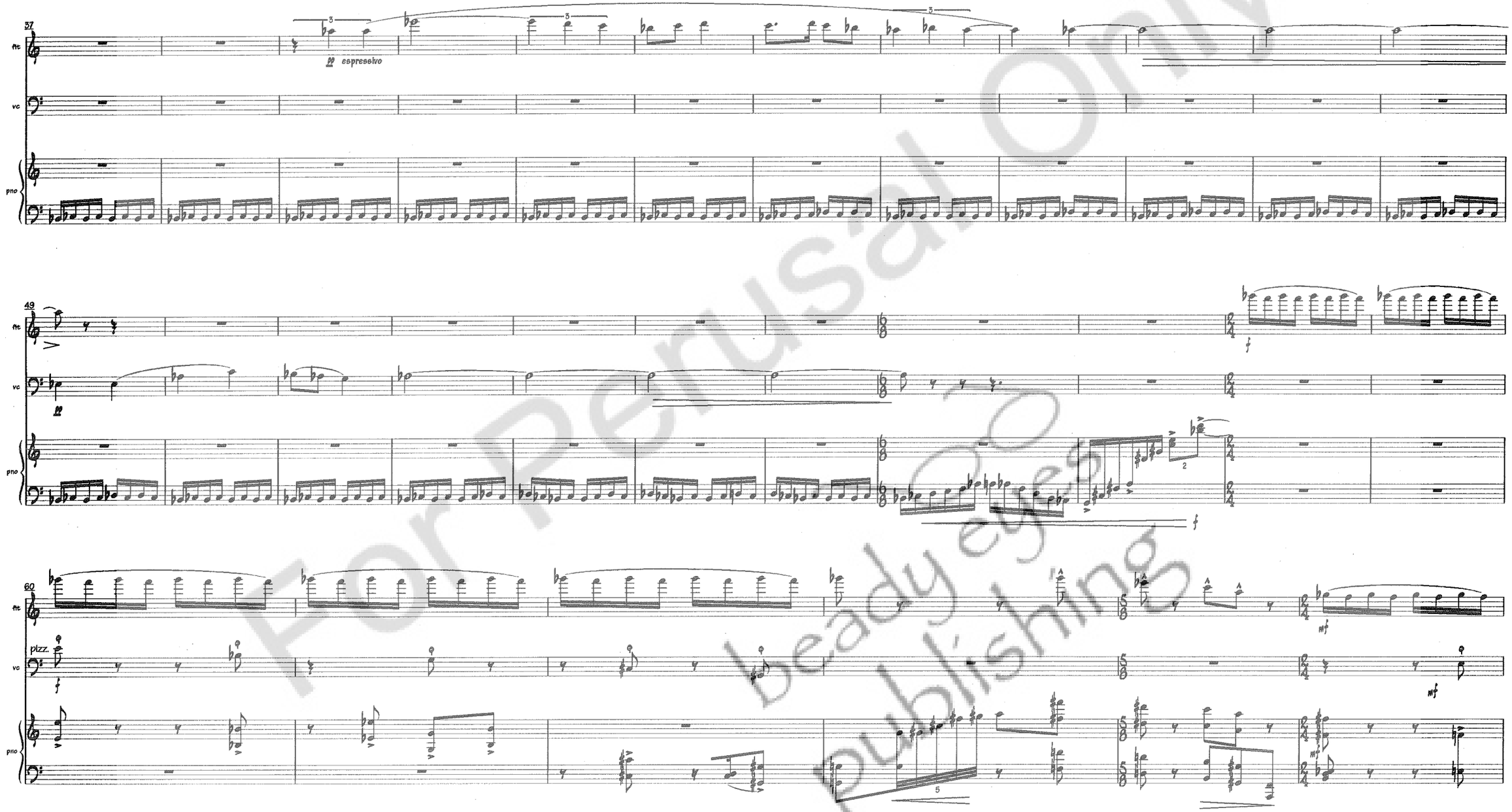

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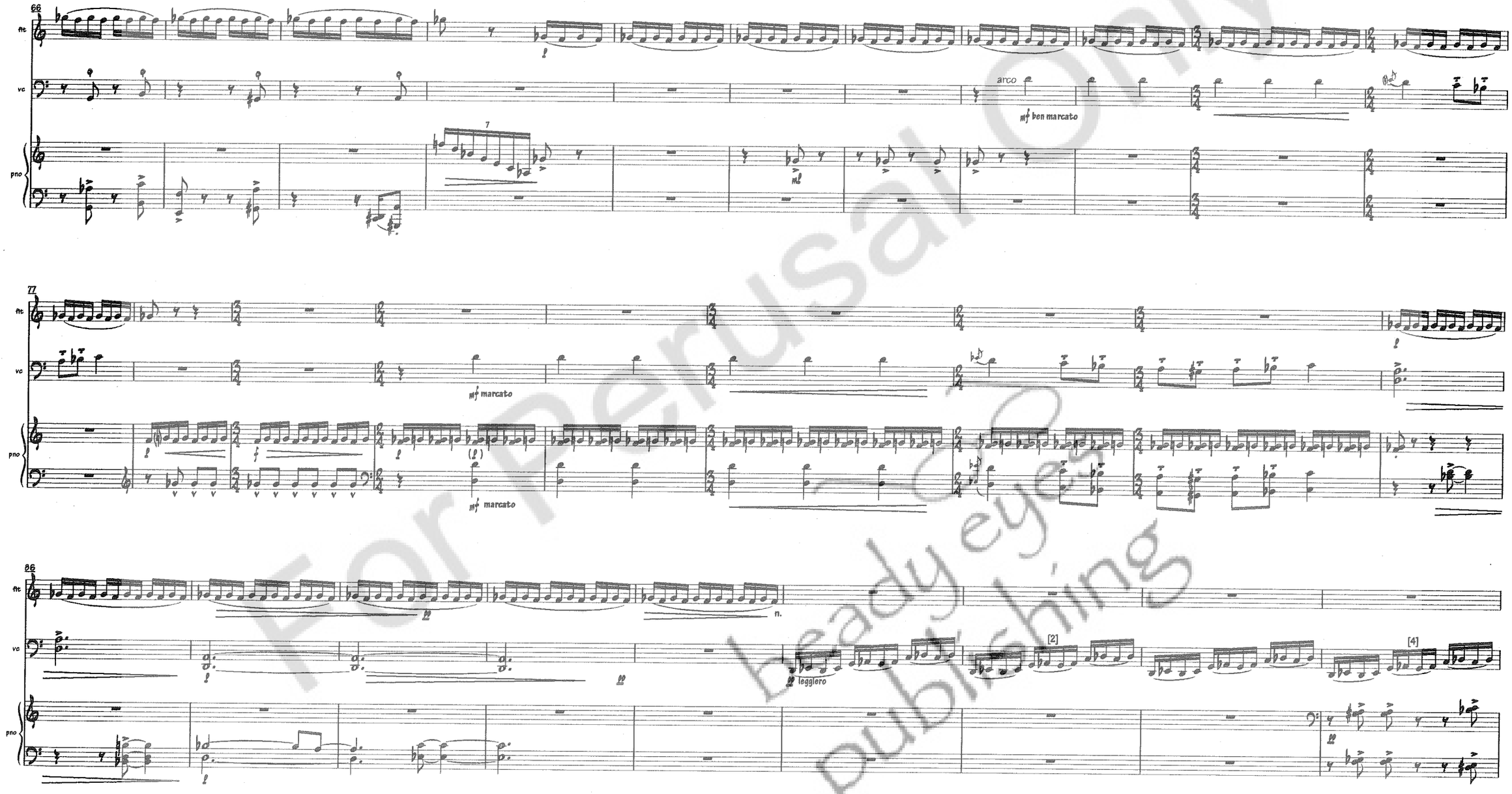

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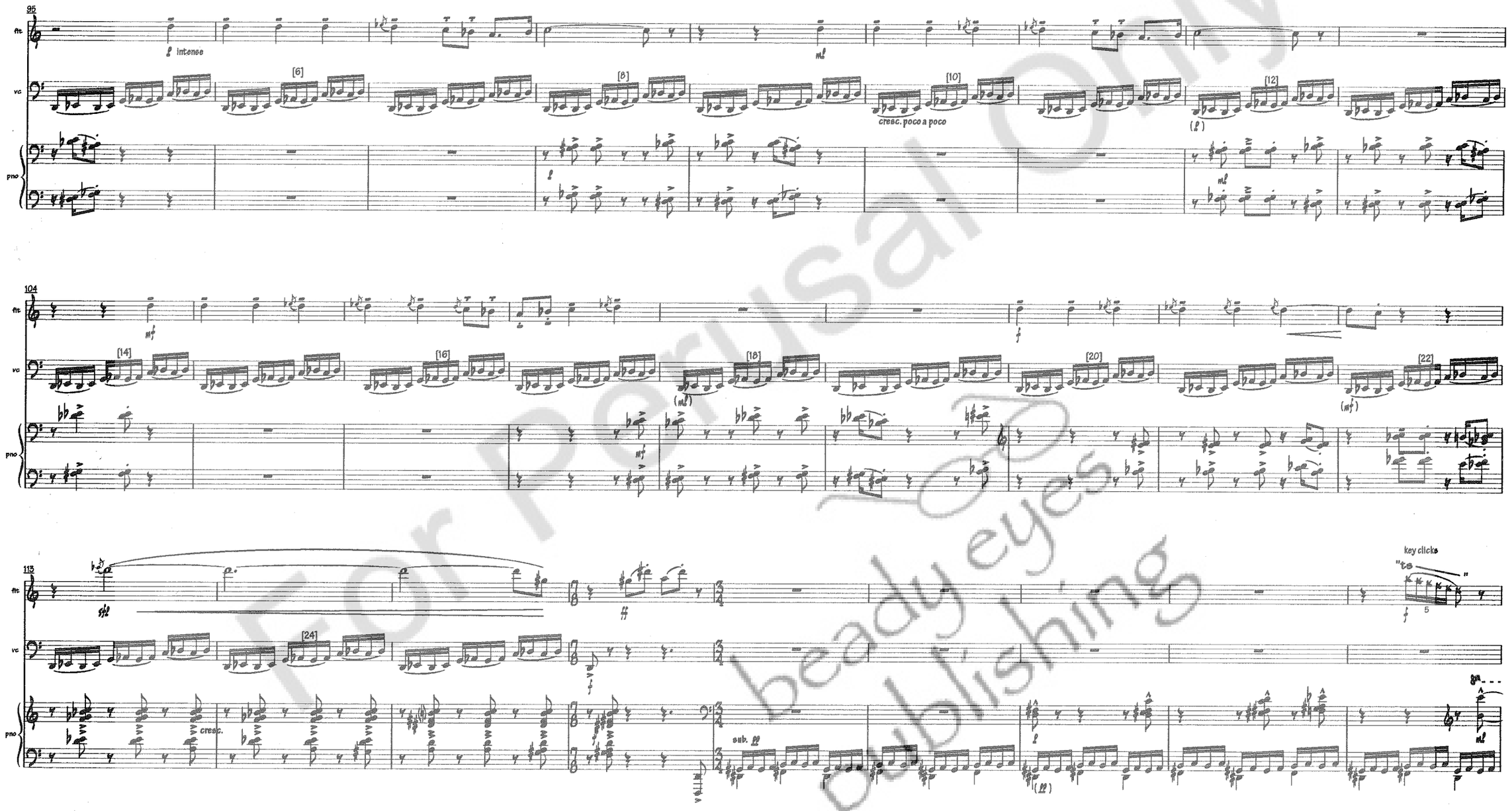

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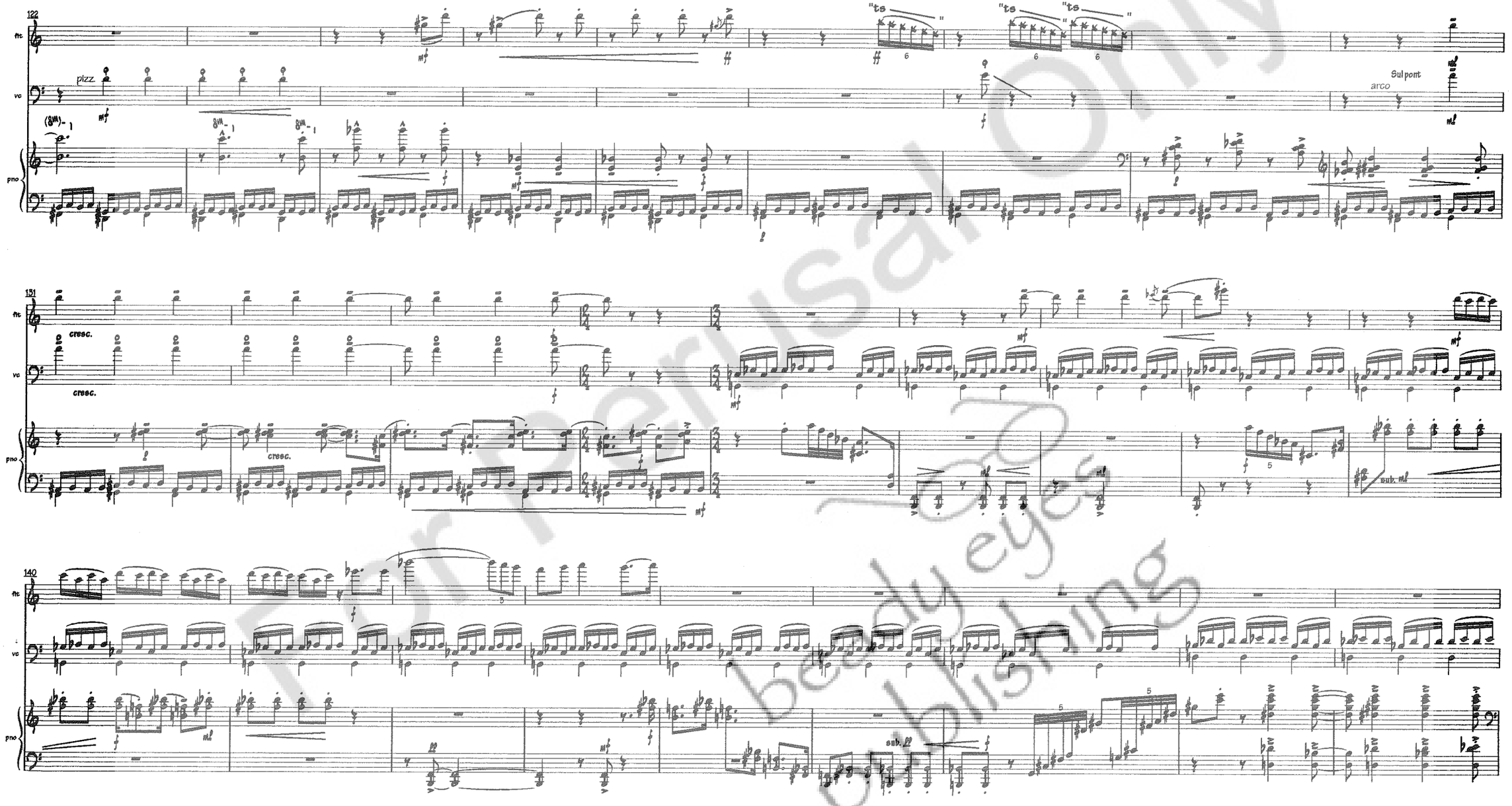

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II. Auto - da - fé

149

fl

vc

pno

sub. mf

palm: black keys

forearm: white keys low, black keys high

palm: white keys

forearm: white keys low, black keys high

157

(fl. t.)

Sul pont

lunga

♩= c.42

gliss.

'flp' down

più mosso

♩= c.48

166

poco rubato

espressivo

espressivo

Attacca

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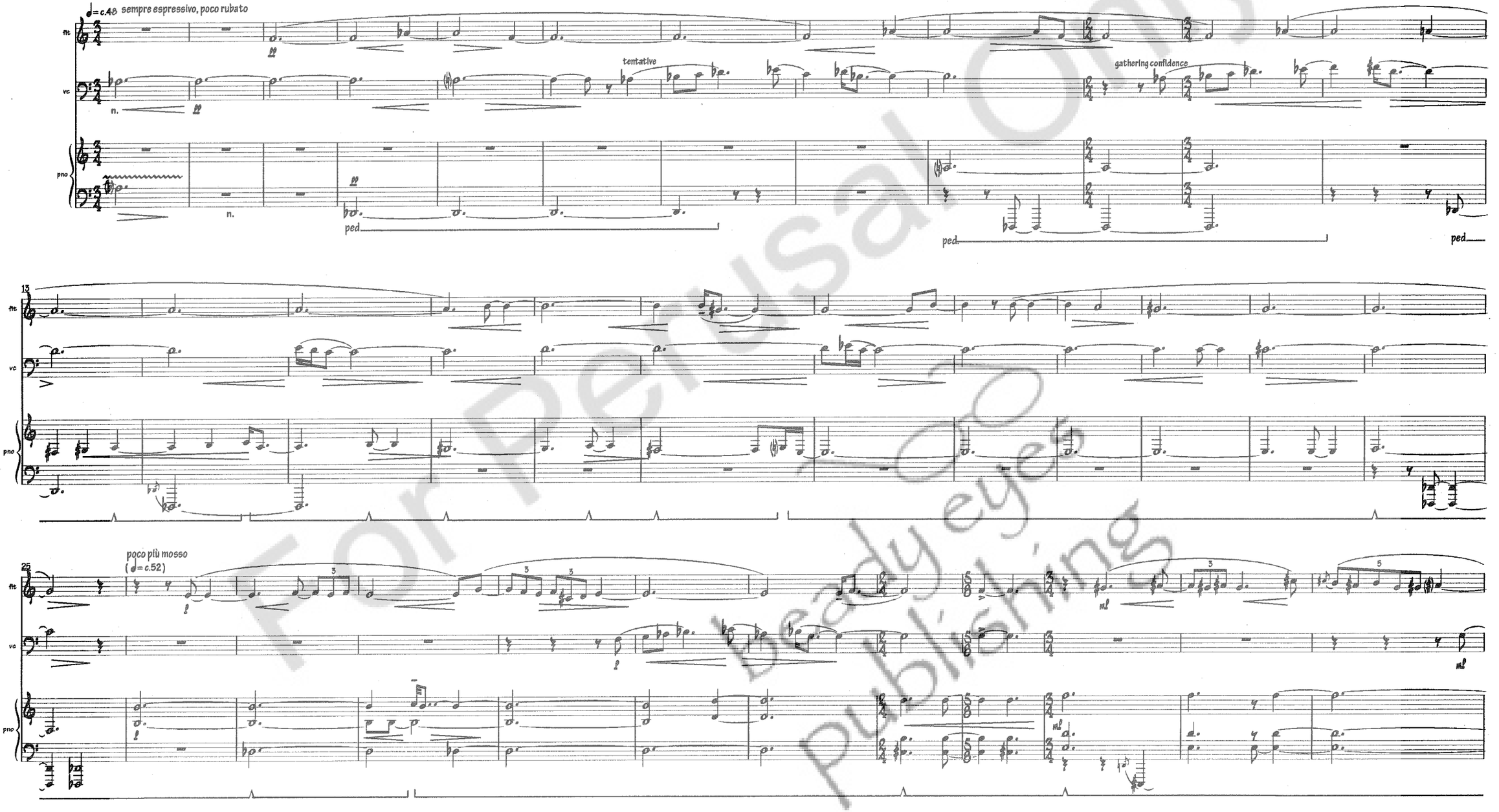
III. A Song for Aunt Chrystallou



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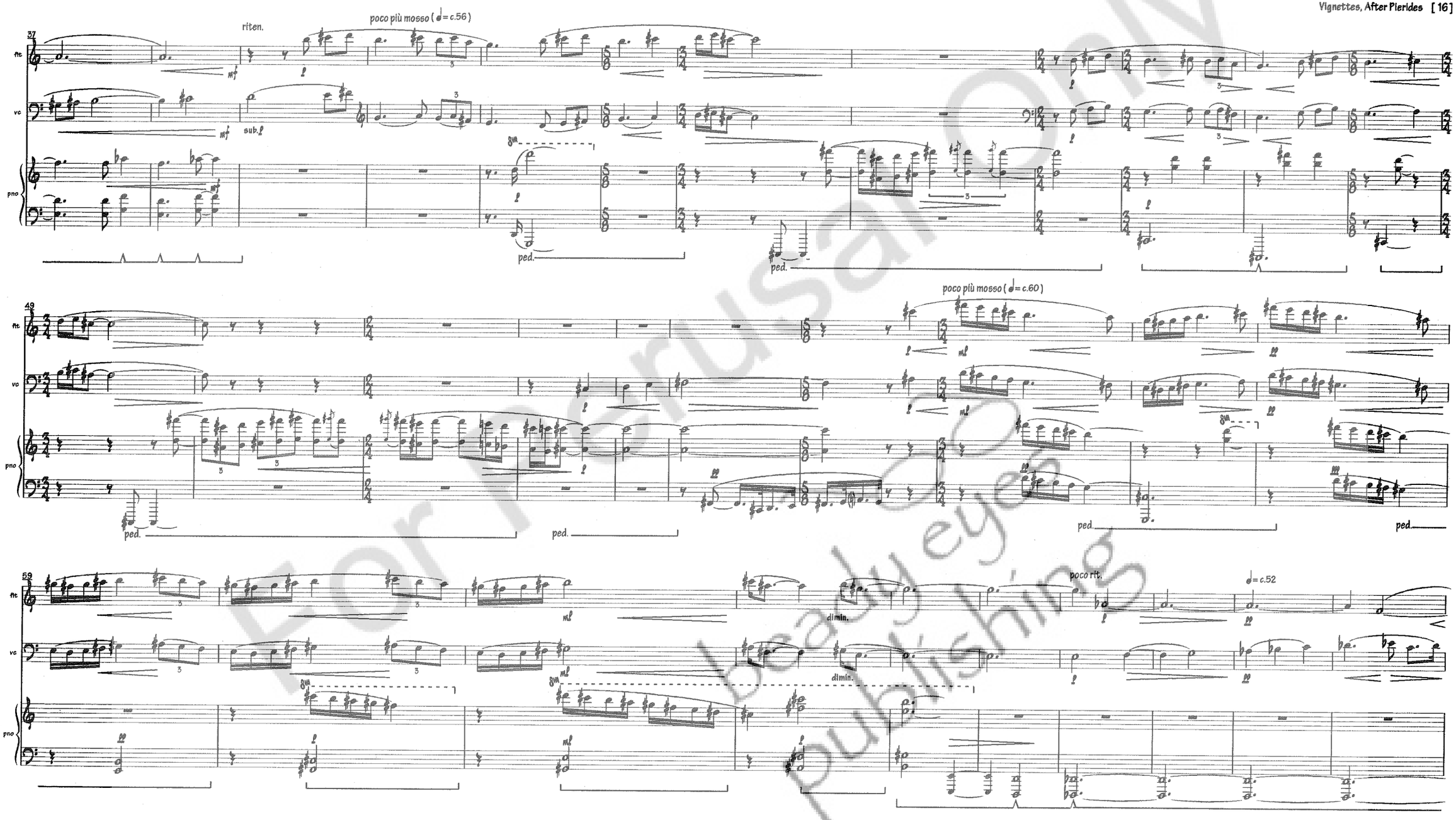

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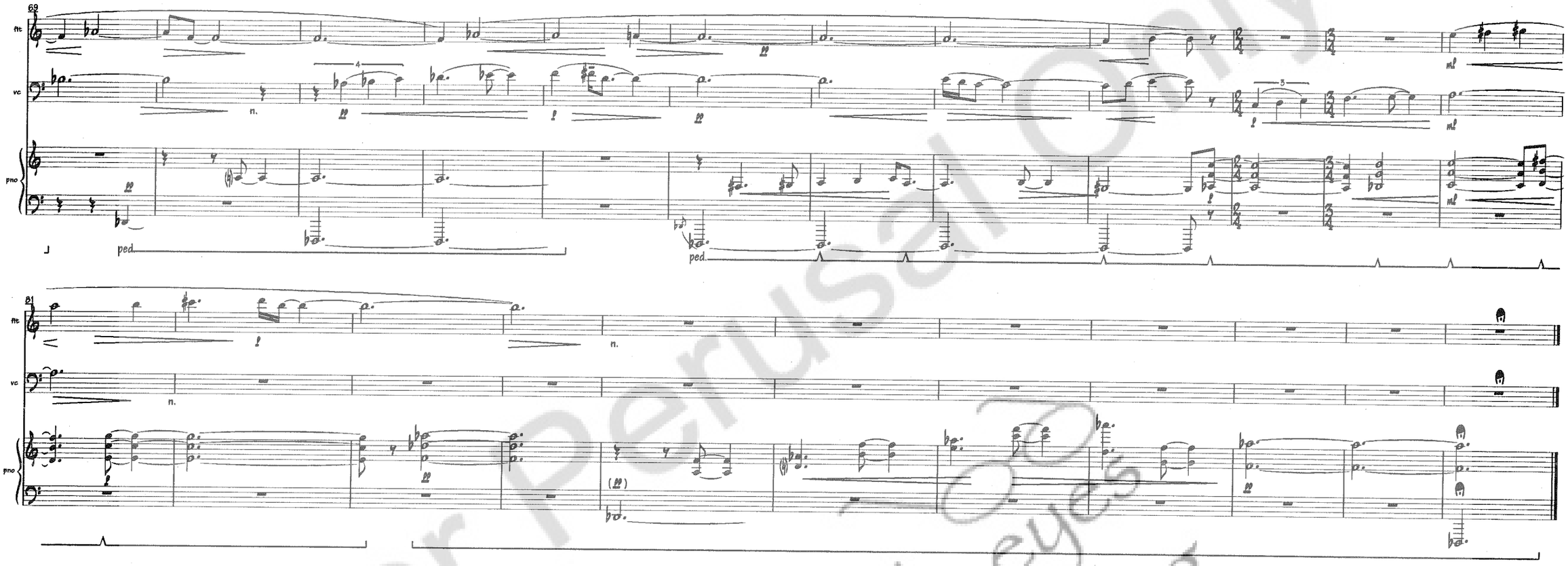

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