Set No. 1

Saad Haddad

VIGNETTES

for solo piano

(2020)

FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY

Los Angeles | New York

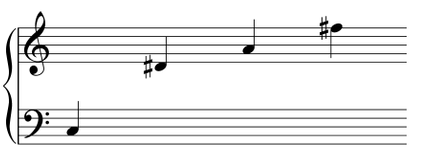
www.saadnhaddad.com

INSTRUMENTATION

solo piano

TUNING

These 4 pitches should sound one quarter-tone lower than indicated:



PERFORMANCE NOTES

White diamond shaped notehead	Depress the key silently and hold
Black diamond shaped notehead	Un-depress the key silently
Arrow	Gradually change technique
g.d.p.	Gradually depress pedal
g.r.p.	Gradually release pedal

Eighth and sixteenth note grace notes denote the same "as short as possible" duration unless otherwise indicated; additional performances notes are indicated in the score.

Duration: *ca.* 12 minutes

PROGRAM NOTE

Vignettes is scored for *scordatura* piano, requiring re-tuning four of its pitches to achieve a harmonic vocabulary that is analogous to the musical language that I primarily compose in: the extended *maqamat*, or Arab modes. The pitches are lowered a quarter tone to create microtonal-inflected scales, idiomatic of Arab instruments like the *oud* (lute), *qanun* (zither), and *nay* (flute). Through the mechanical manipulation of C3, D#4, A4, and F#5, I aim to evoke the nuanced gestures that find its origin from that part of the world. All the scenes in this work depict many styles of Western-centric music which are explored through the lens of this aural manipulation, from Bach to Debussy to Cage, and several others in between. The question I posed to myself while writing this work: what would these composers do if they had access to this harmonic landscape? The result is my own personal reflection on these masterworks for the piano that we all love.

This work was commissioned by Young Concert Artists, Inc. for Aristo Sham. The world premiere performances were given by Aristo Sham on April 7, 2020 at Merkin Hall and April 28, 2020 at the Kennedy Center.

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for Aristo Sham

VIGNETTES

Saad Haddad

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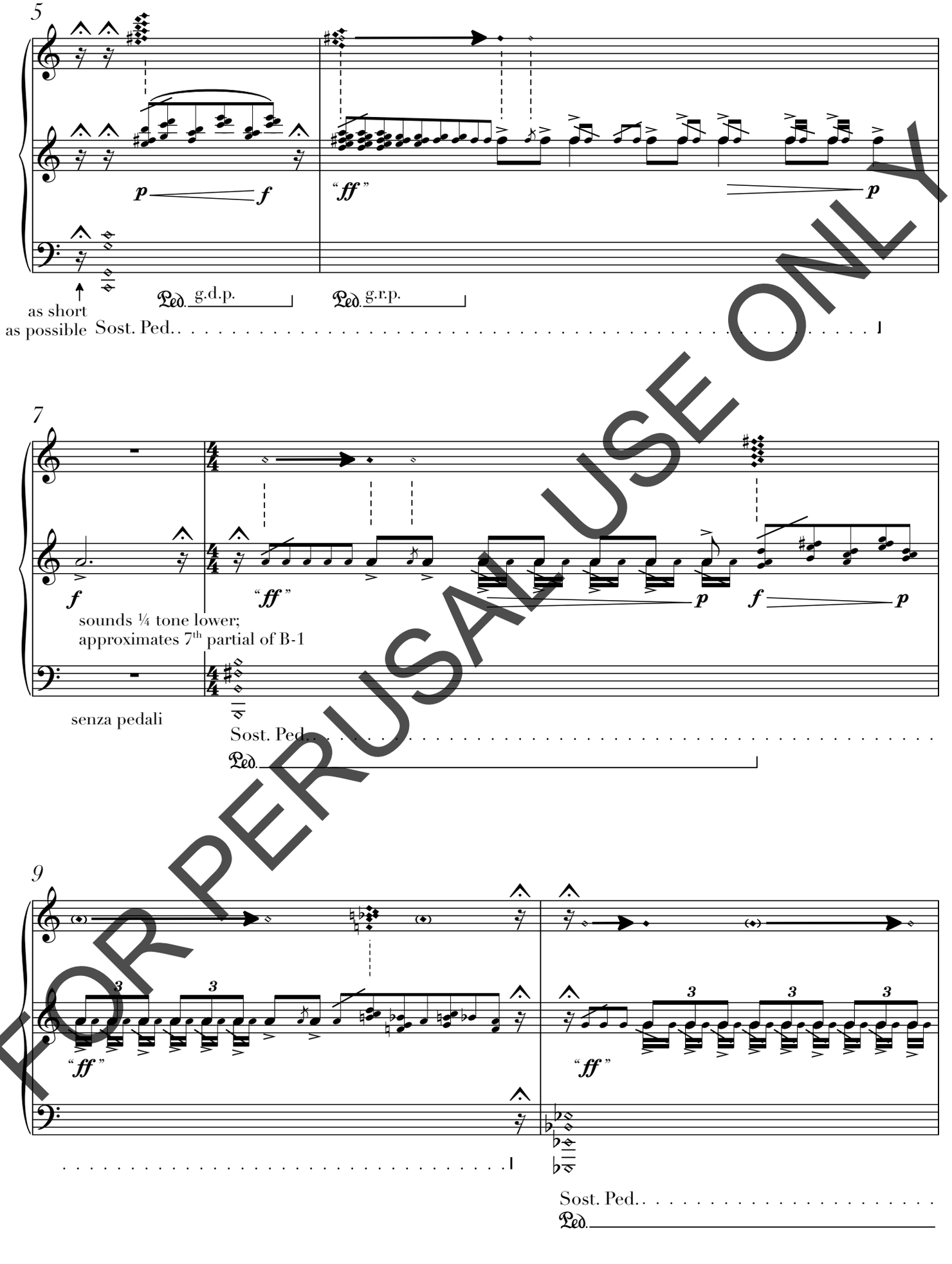

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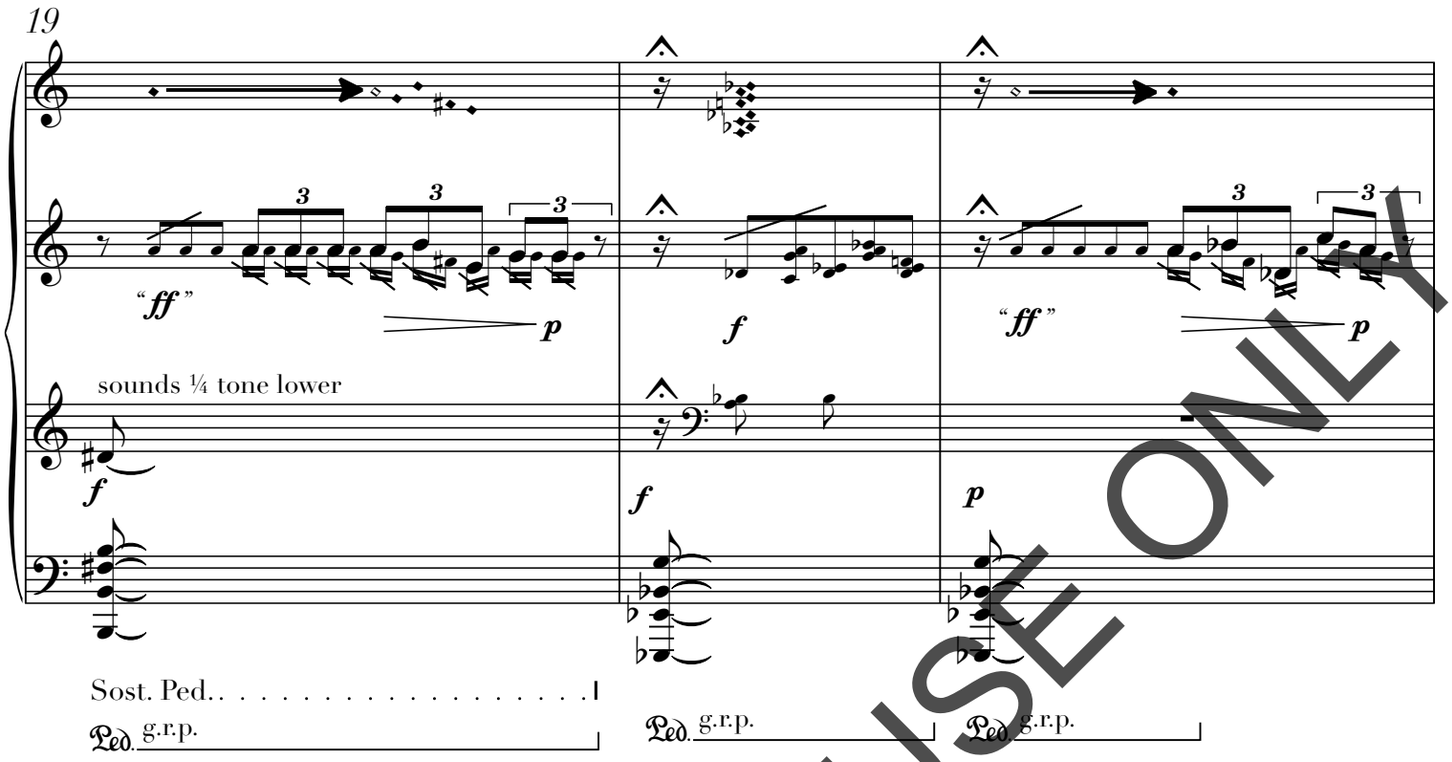

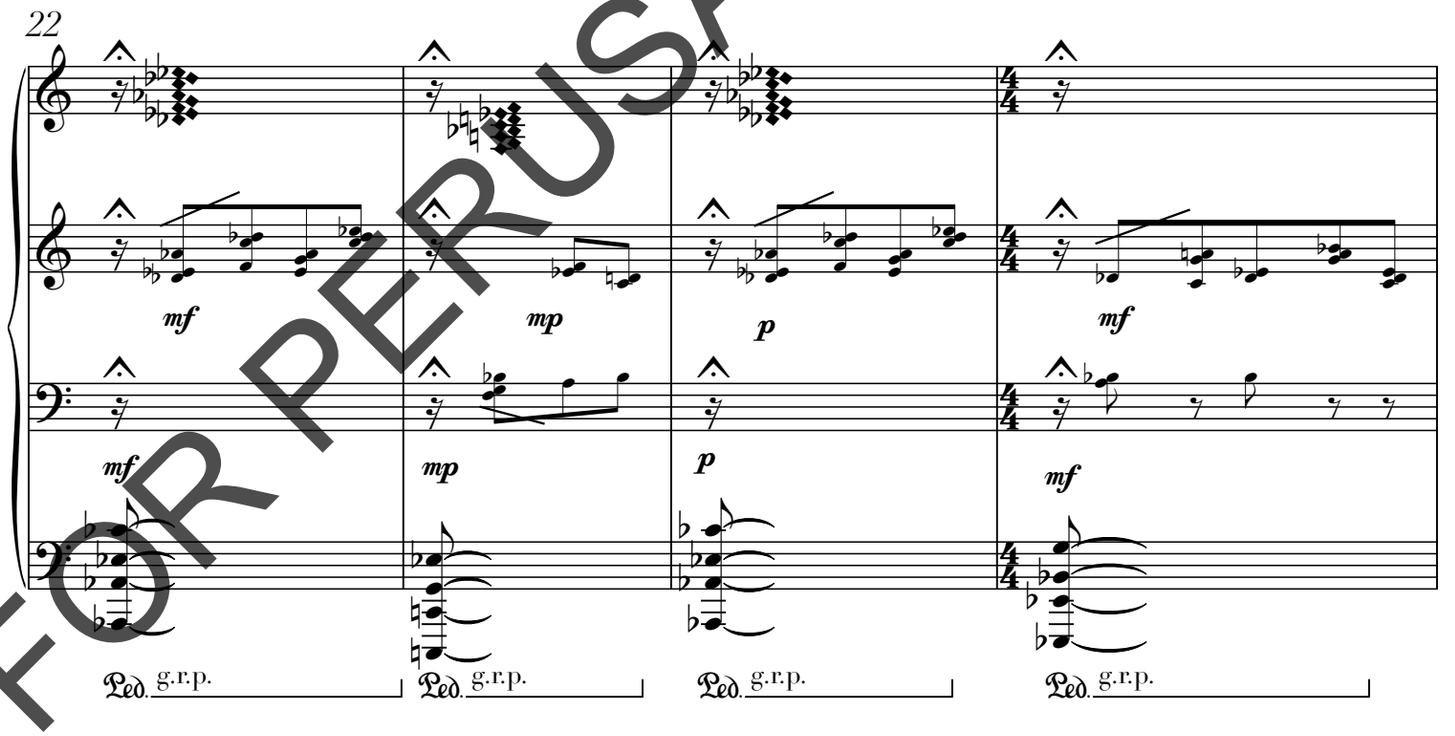

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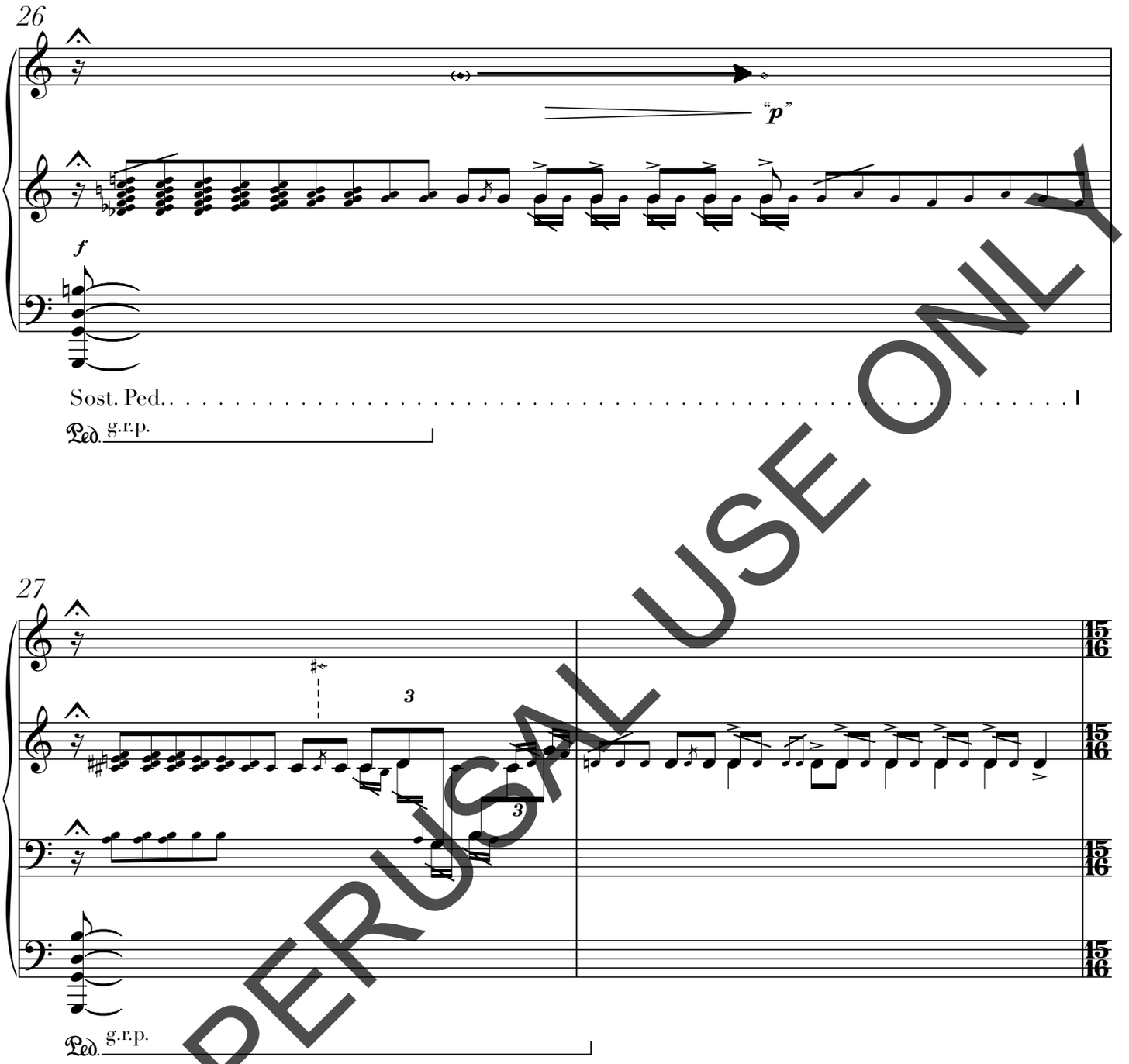
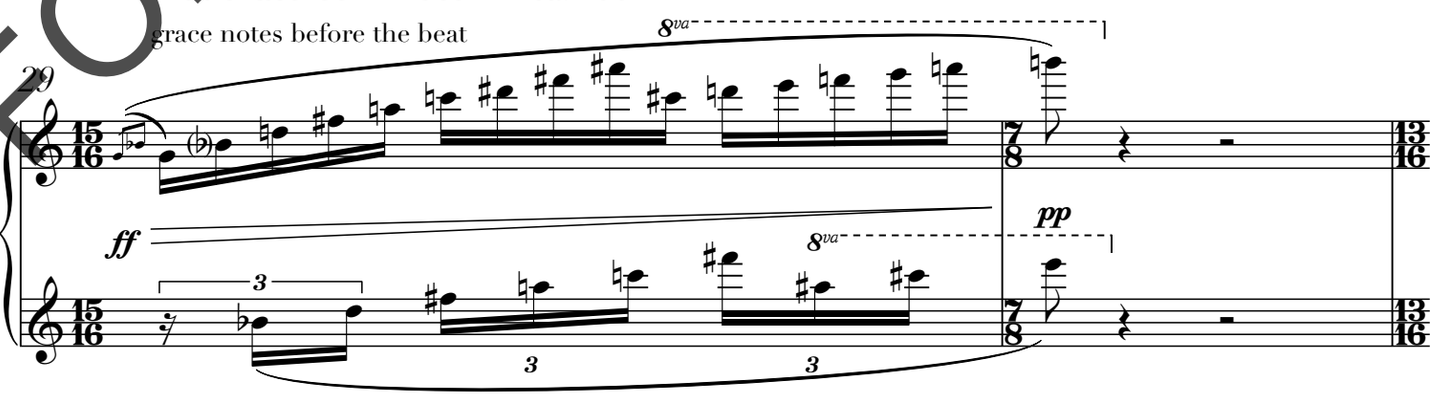


Moderato con moto ♪ = ca. 290

grace notes before the beat



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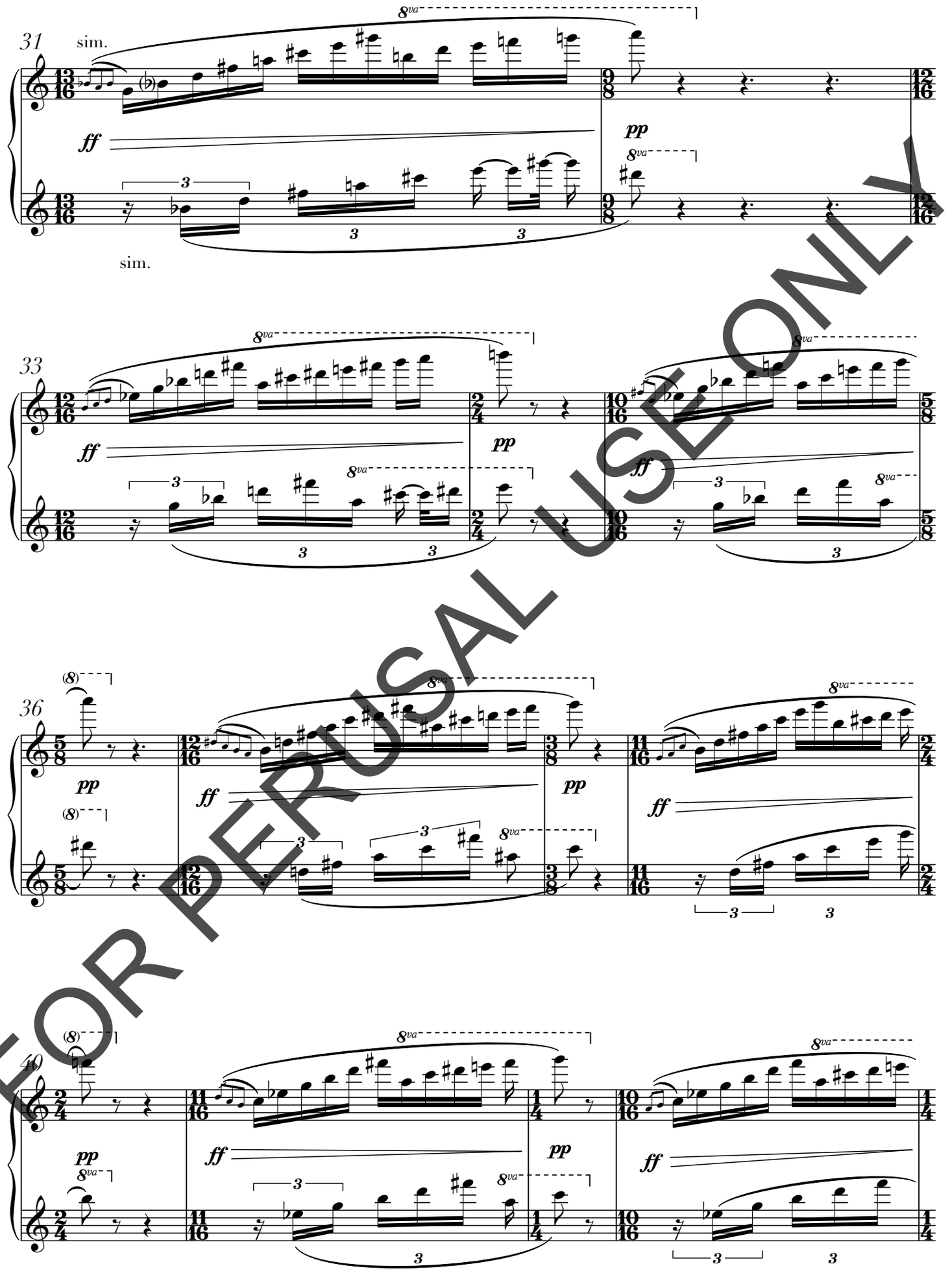

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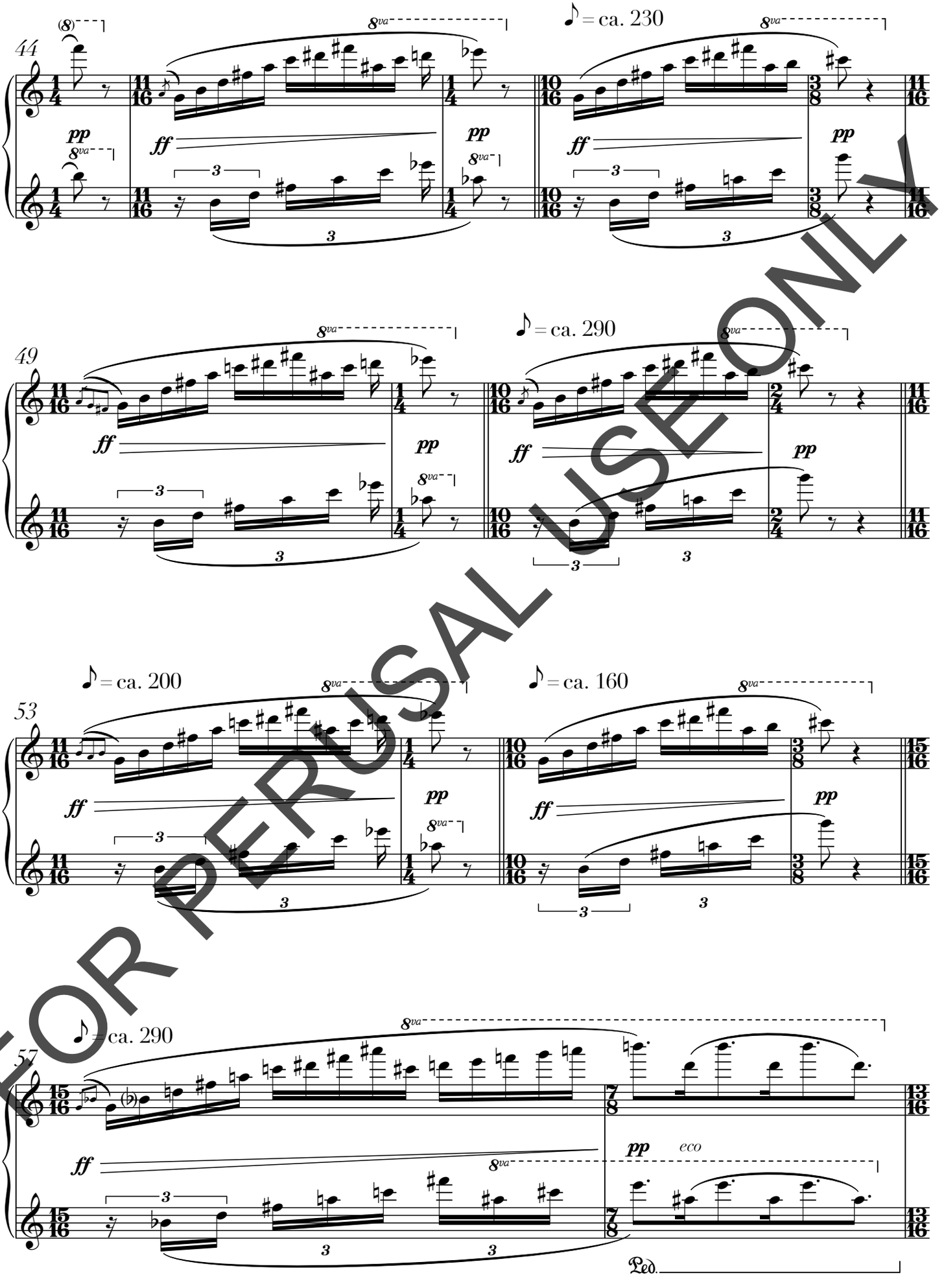

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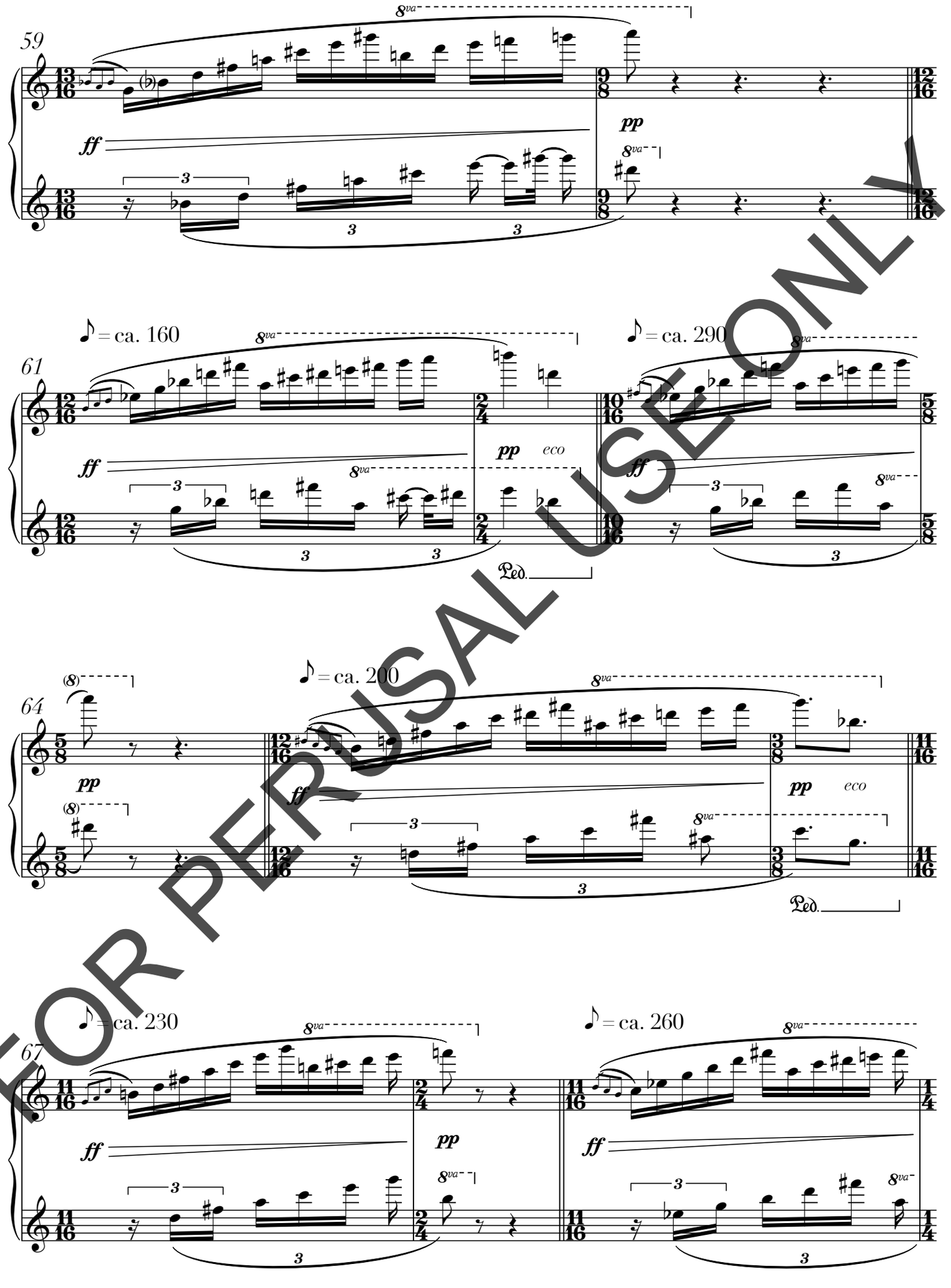

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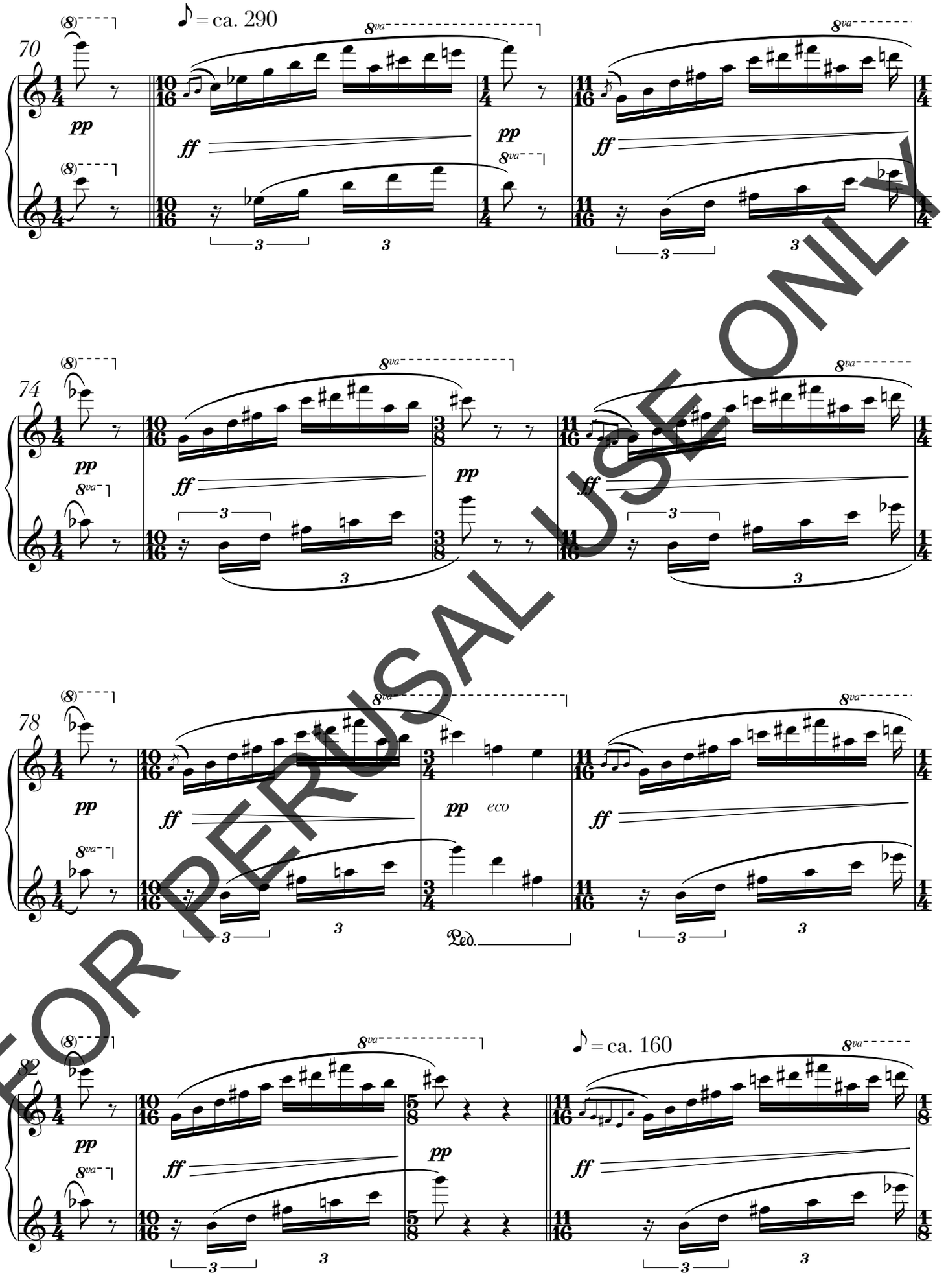

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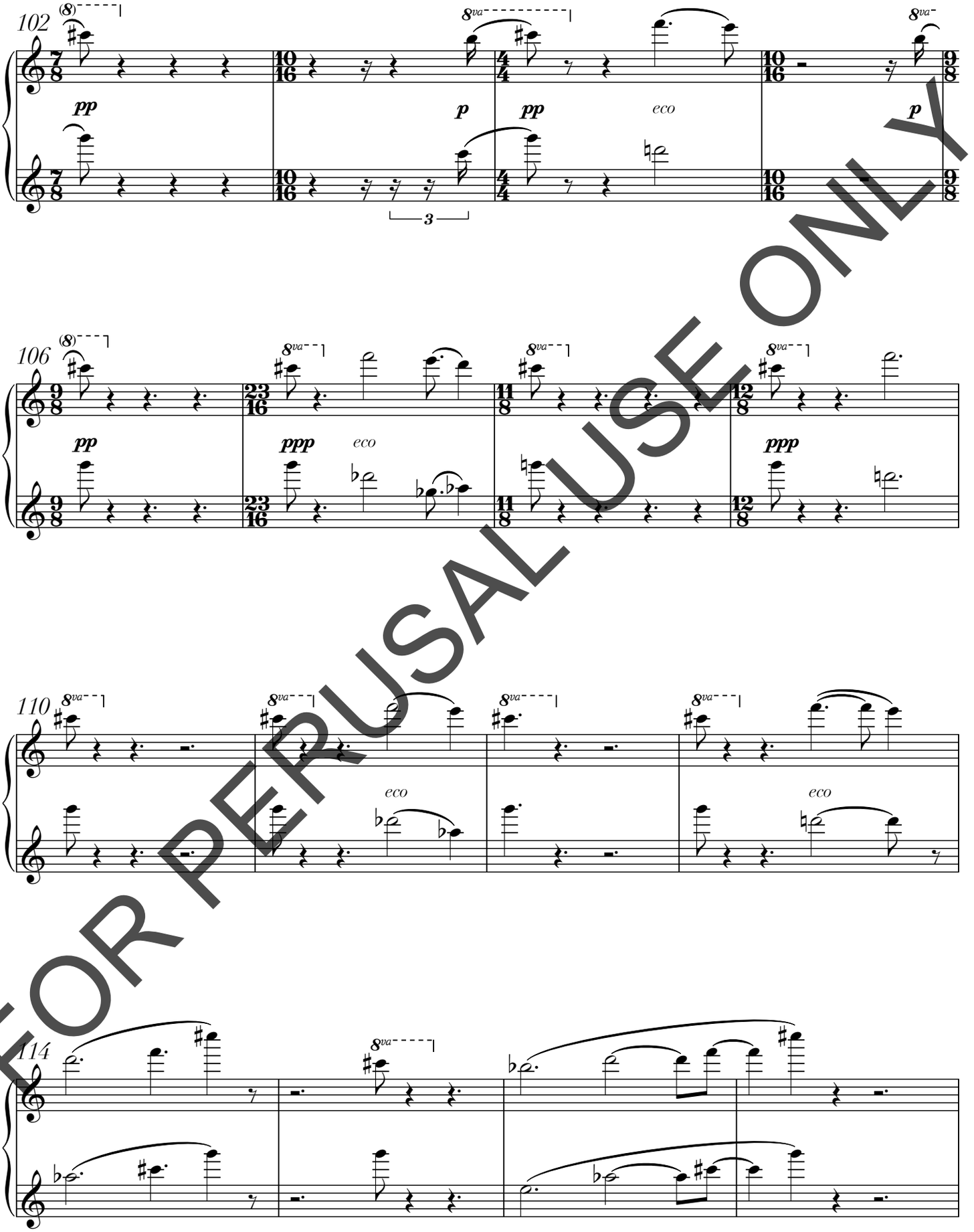

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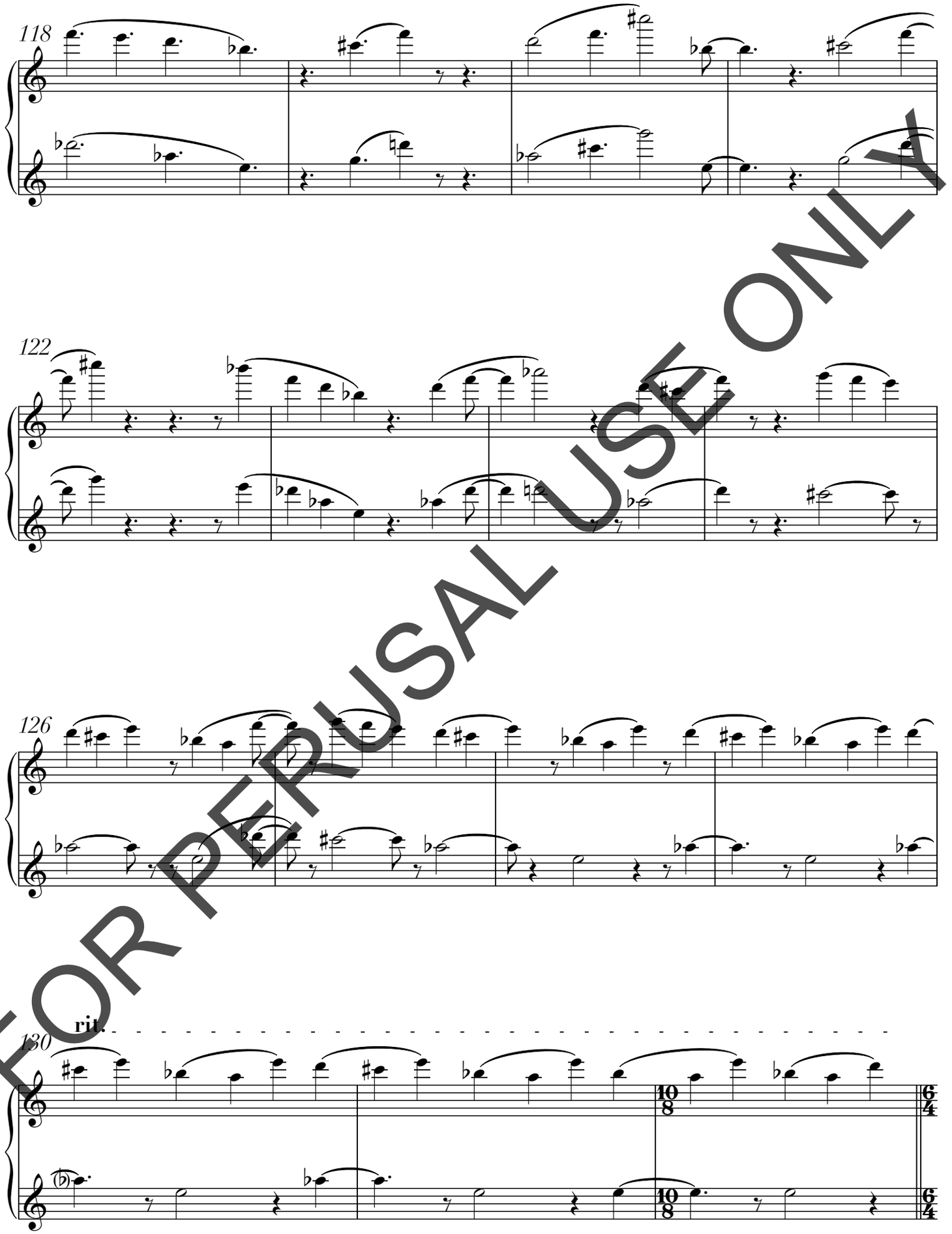

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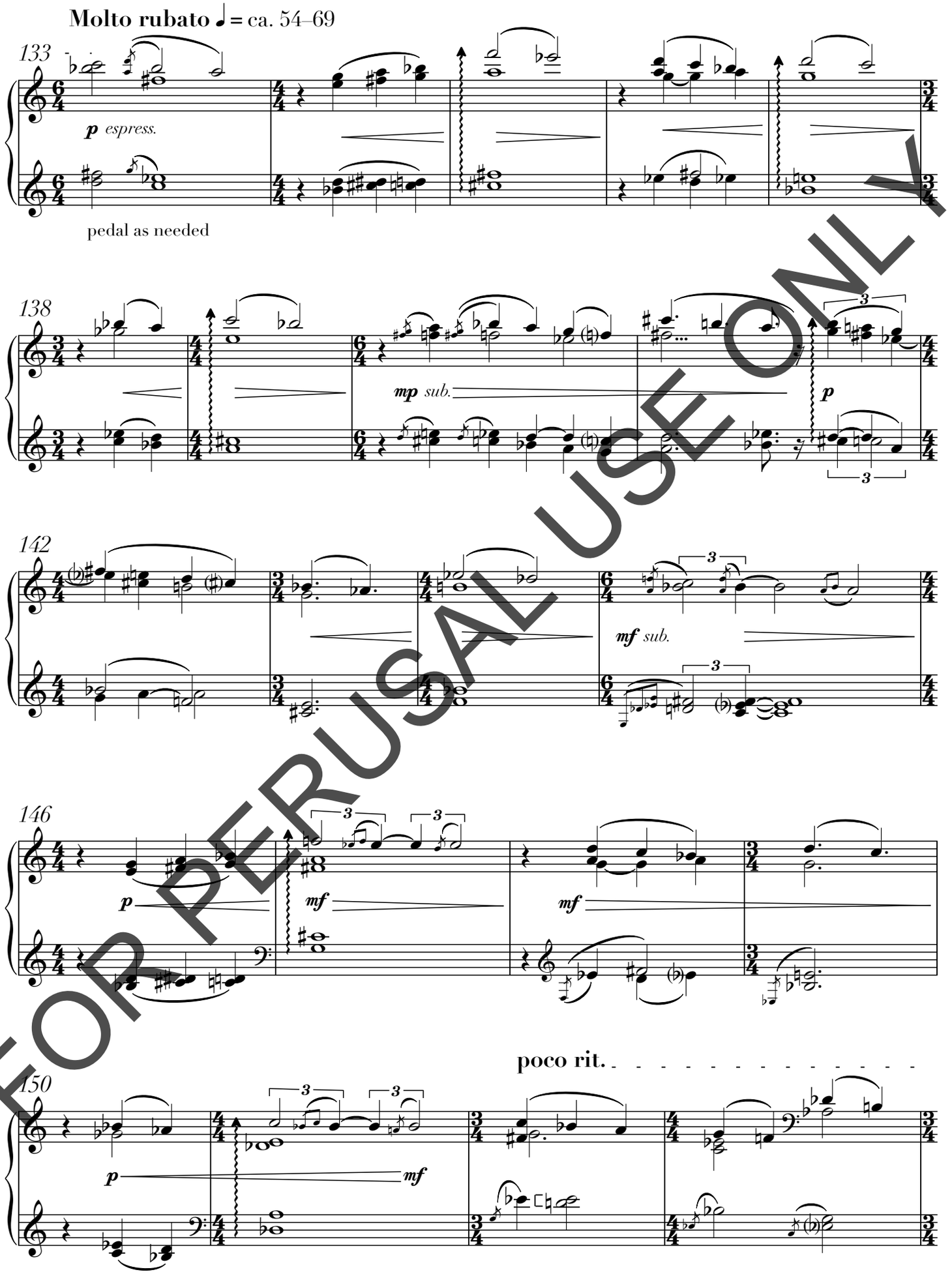

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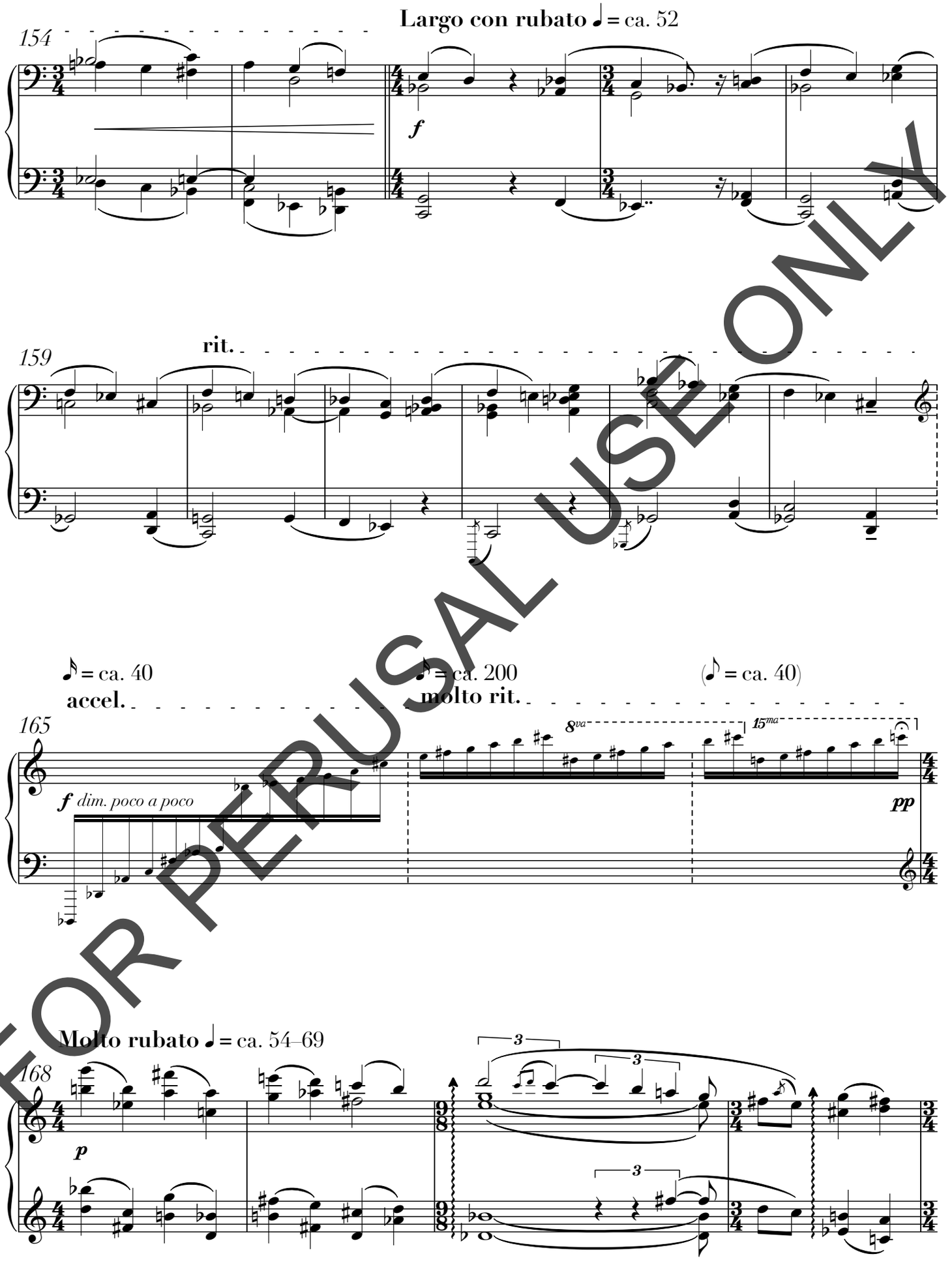

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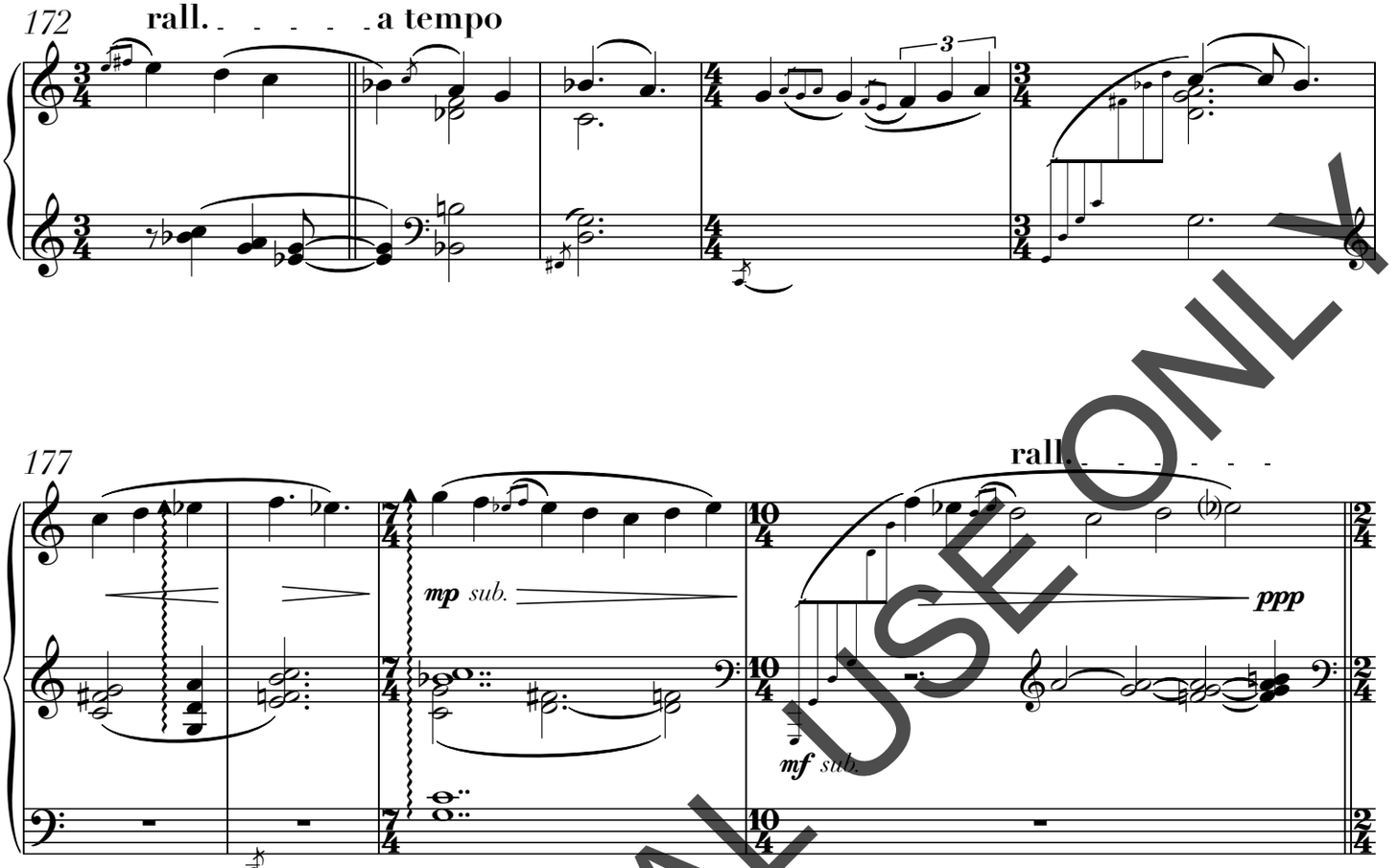

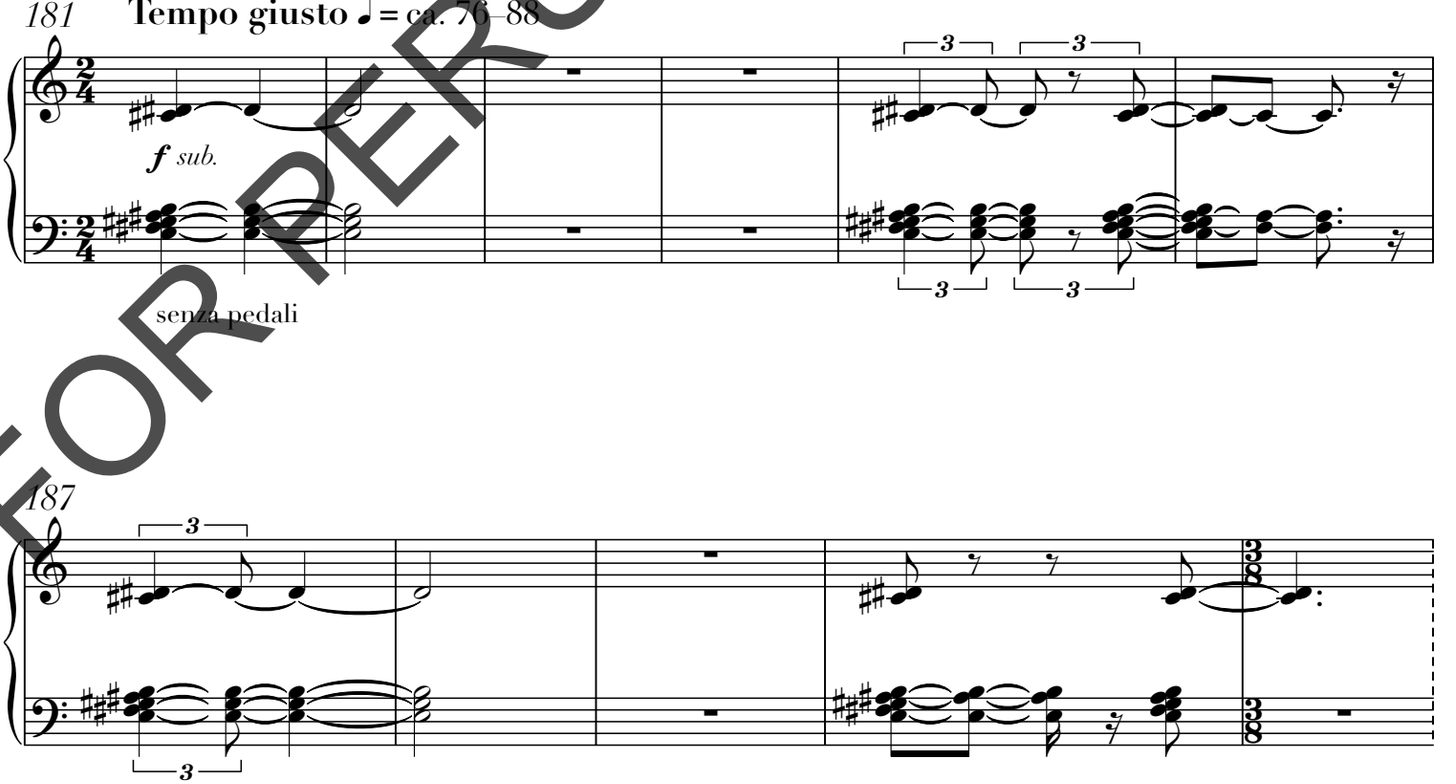

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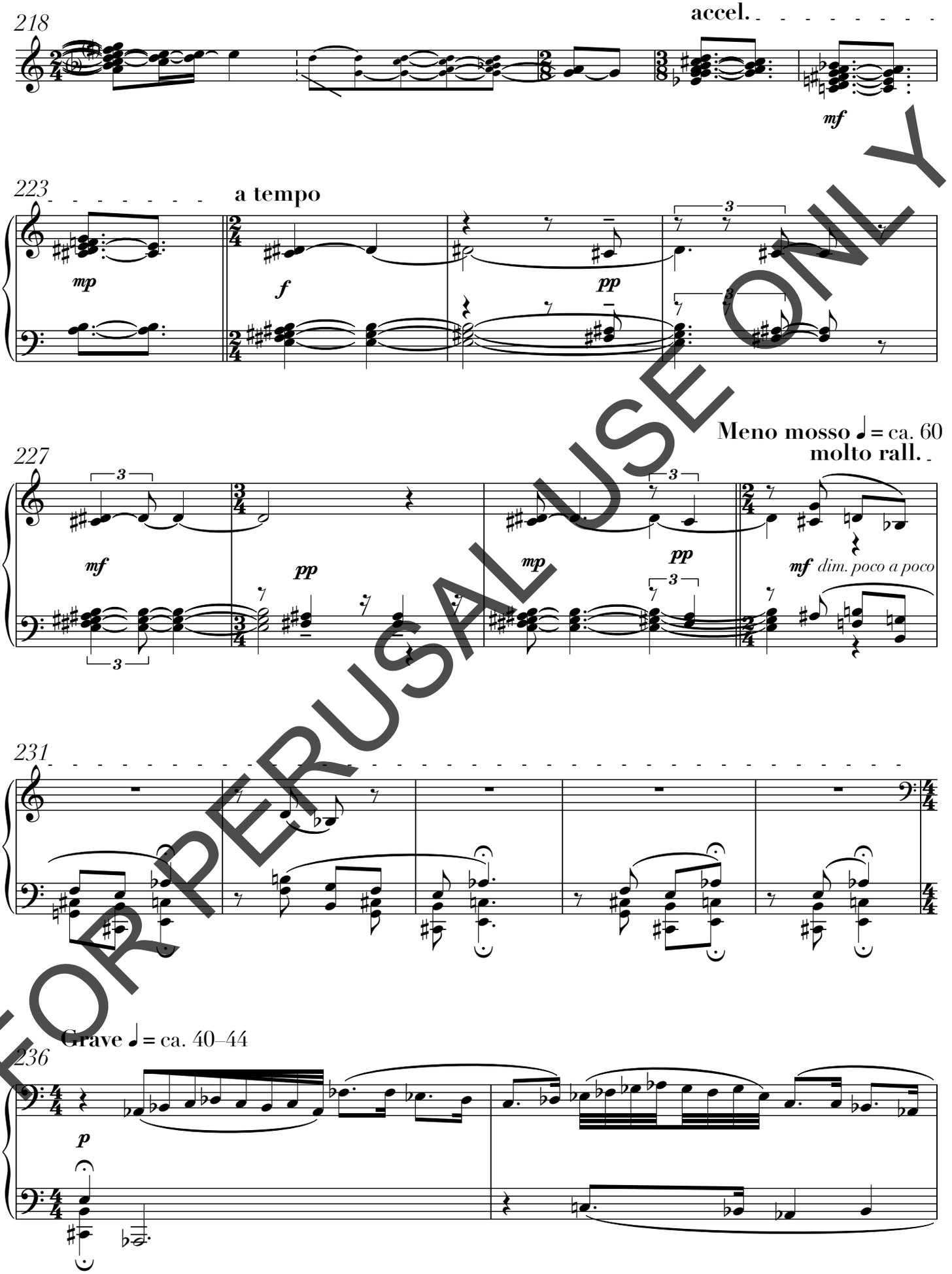

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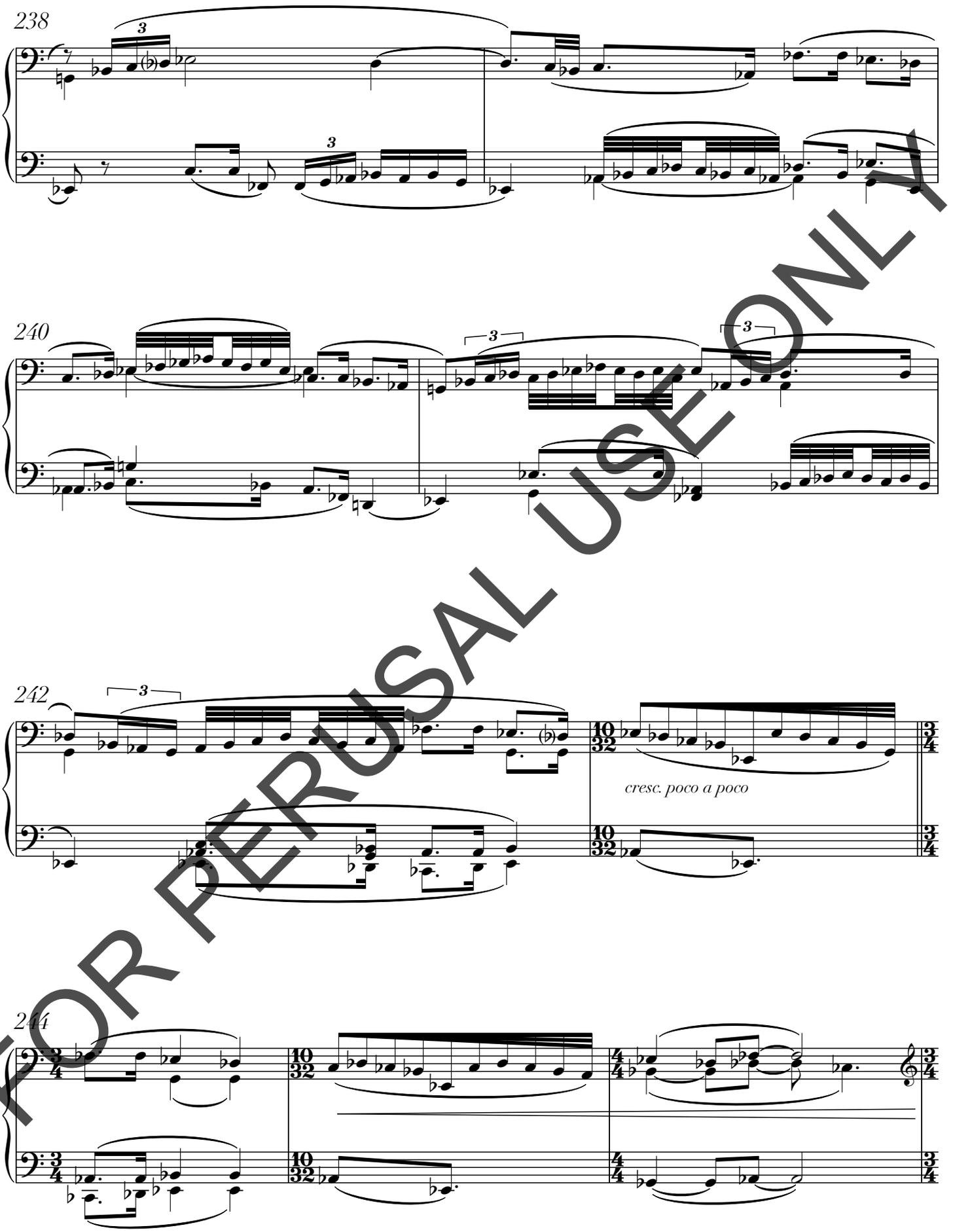

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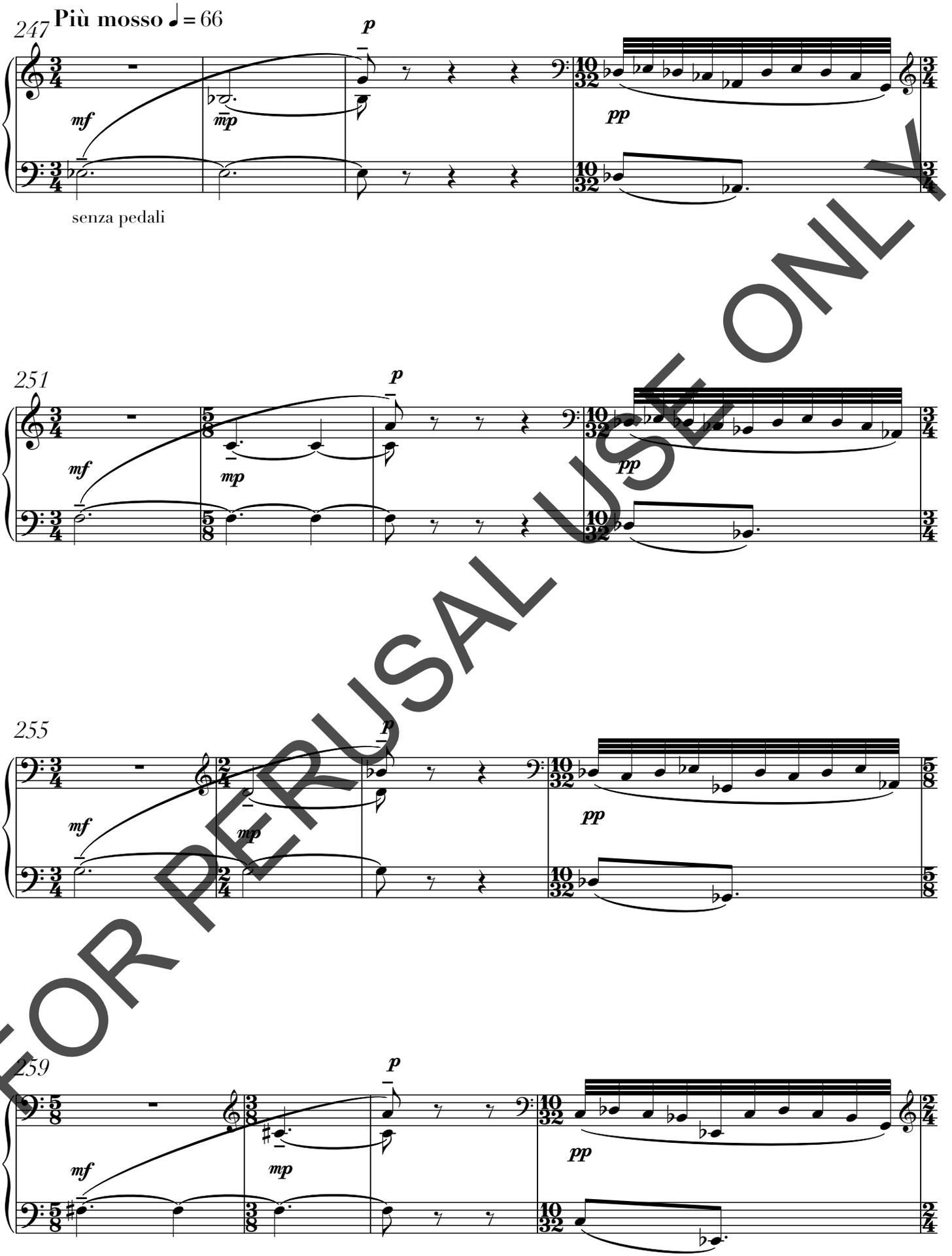

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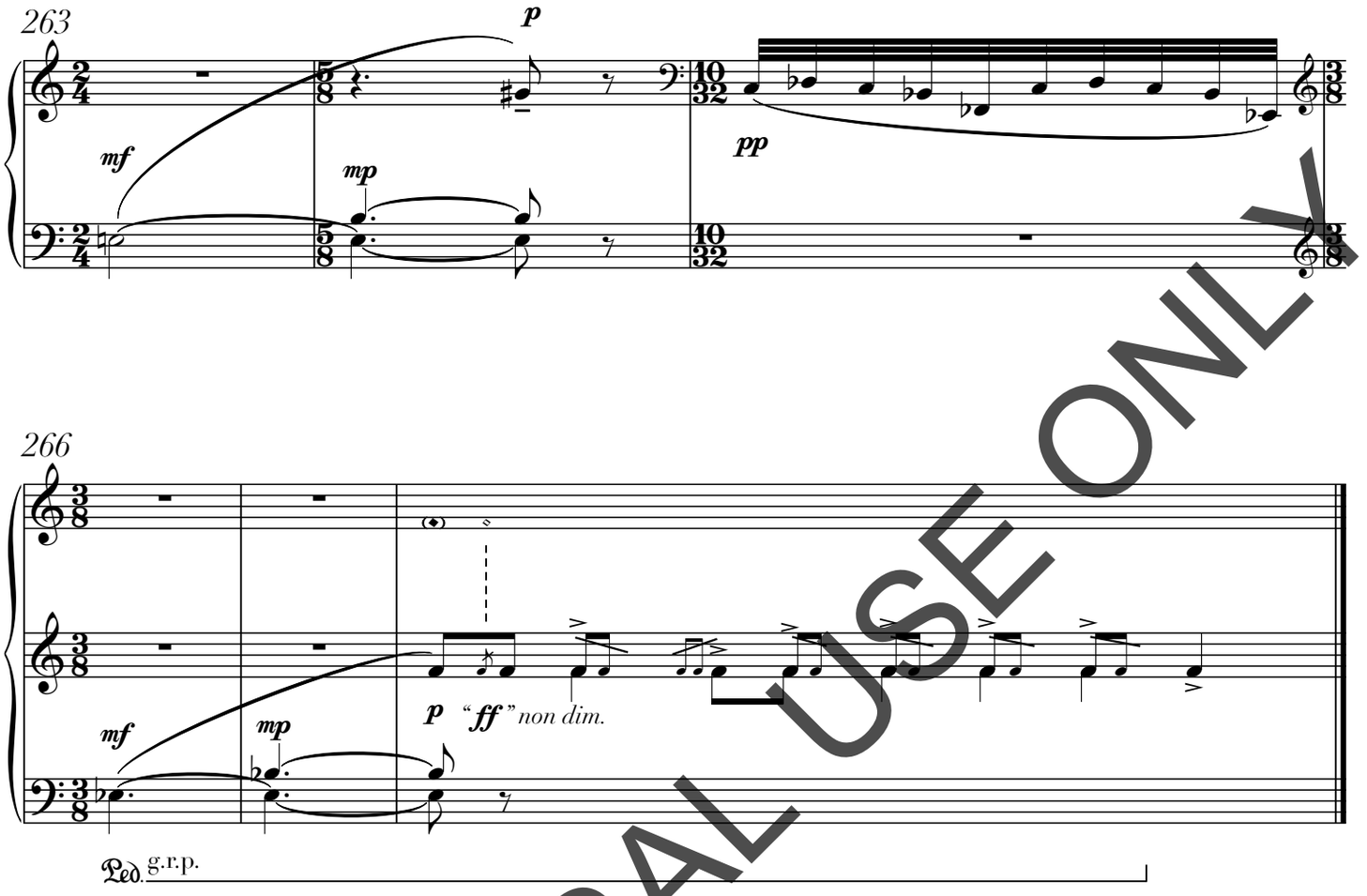

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