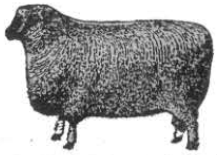
Full Score (JACK FORMAT)

Charlie Kreidler *2023*

A MUSIC BOX OF MANY

"String Quartet No. 1"

PERUSAL



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Note

"String Quartet No. 1" begins with an introductory movement titled *I. Explosion*. This movement functions much like an Overture. Within these opening minutes, a melodic assortment unfolds, showcasing a span of themes and moods that are later developed throughout subsequent movements. However, composing this quartet felt a little unusual because the introduction was the first part of the piece I composed. I found myself with approximately three minutes of material that was saturated with feelings of brightness, darkness, longing, stabbing, and moments of ambiguity. It became clear that my task was to give life into these initial fragments, and allow them to evolve organically throughout the quartet's subsequent movements and interludes. Ultimately, this piece represents my own exploration in form, resulting in both a creative challenge and an ode to my love of colorful expression and the connection of varied narratives in music.

- CK

Structure

I. EXPLOSION

An explosion of emotion, piled into a short "overture-like" movement. A great emphasis on rubato textures and very expressive phrases. *This movement is dedicated to Ruth Crawford-Seeger, whose work I deeply admire.*

II. LAMENT

Lament uses its time to process all that the *Introduction* has given us before spitting them right back out again. Time slows down, and a slow descending motif is presented and then further extrapolated upon. The material finds itself dealing with a bottled-up sense of grief that by the end cannot be contained.

Interlude (I.)

To help the quartet transition to the next movement, this Interlude ramps up the energy and cuts deep.

III. TREPIDATION

Shy to get started, but finds its footing as the movement continues. A pointed 16th note theme quickly sets the tone and gives new life to a familiar melody once heard in I. Anxious, but dying to be heard.

Interlude (II.)

The quartet finds itself in a familiar haze. Slowly, but surely, it finds its way out of the fog and sul ponticello.

IV. RUSSIAN MUSIC BOX

A fragment that has been heard over and over again is finally allowed a chance to sing. One of my favorite pieces for strings is Tchaikovsky's *Serenade for Strings* and I wanted to weave one if his theme's into my quartet as a tribute. Before, only allowed around 2 measures, this opening theme from *I. Andante non troppo* suddenly becomes clear as it is fully played out in a strange, eerie, music box manner. A very contrasting mood, the quartet finds itself eyeing this small box and its winding handle. All the energy from before finds a way of seeping into the texture, and strikes of col legno remind the listener of the piece's musical past before the first few measures of the *Introduction* are played once more. A pizzicato variation closes the piece, and the winding of the music box comes to an end.

Duration: 16 min, 30 secs.

PERUSAL

A MUSIC BOX OF MANY

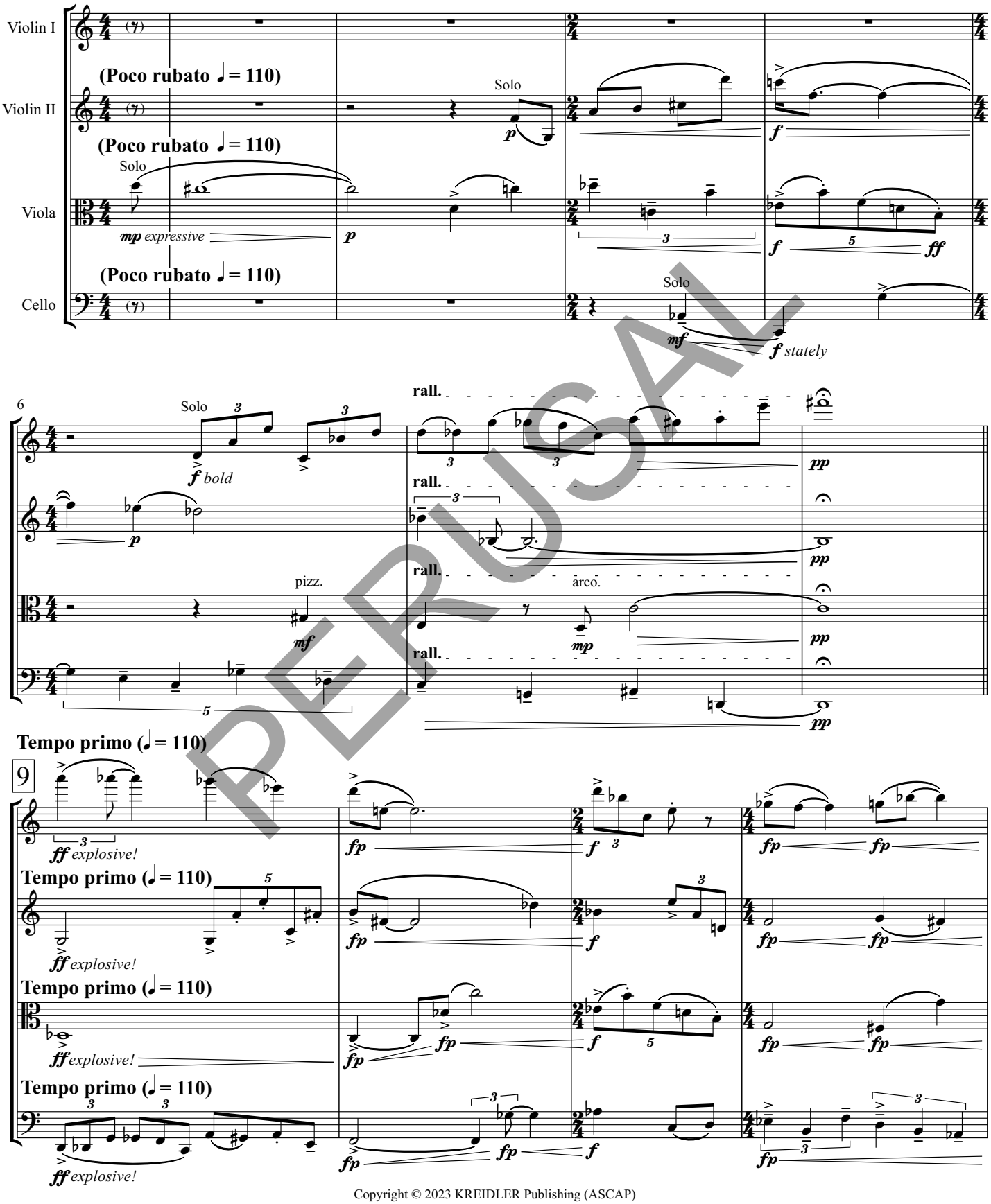
"String Quartet No .1"

I.

Explosion

(Poco rubato ♩ = 110)

Charlie Kreidler



PERUSAL

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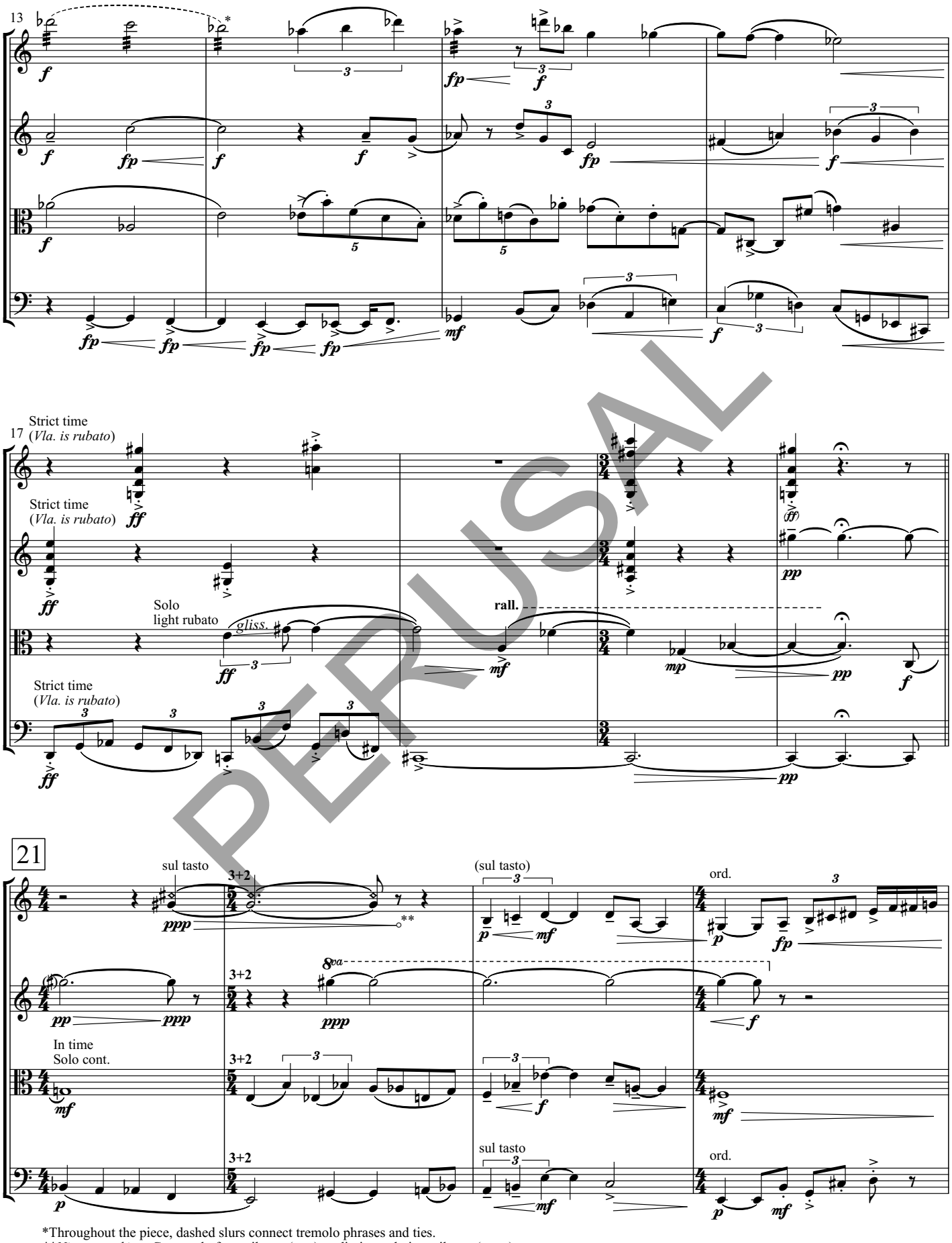
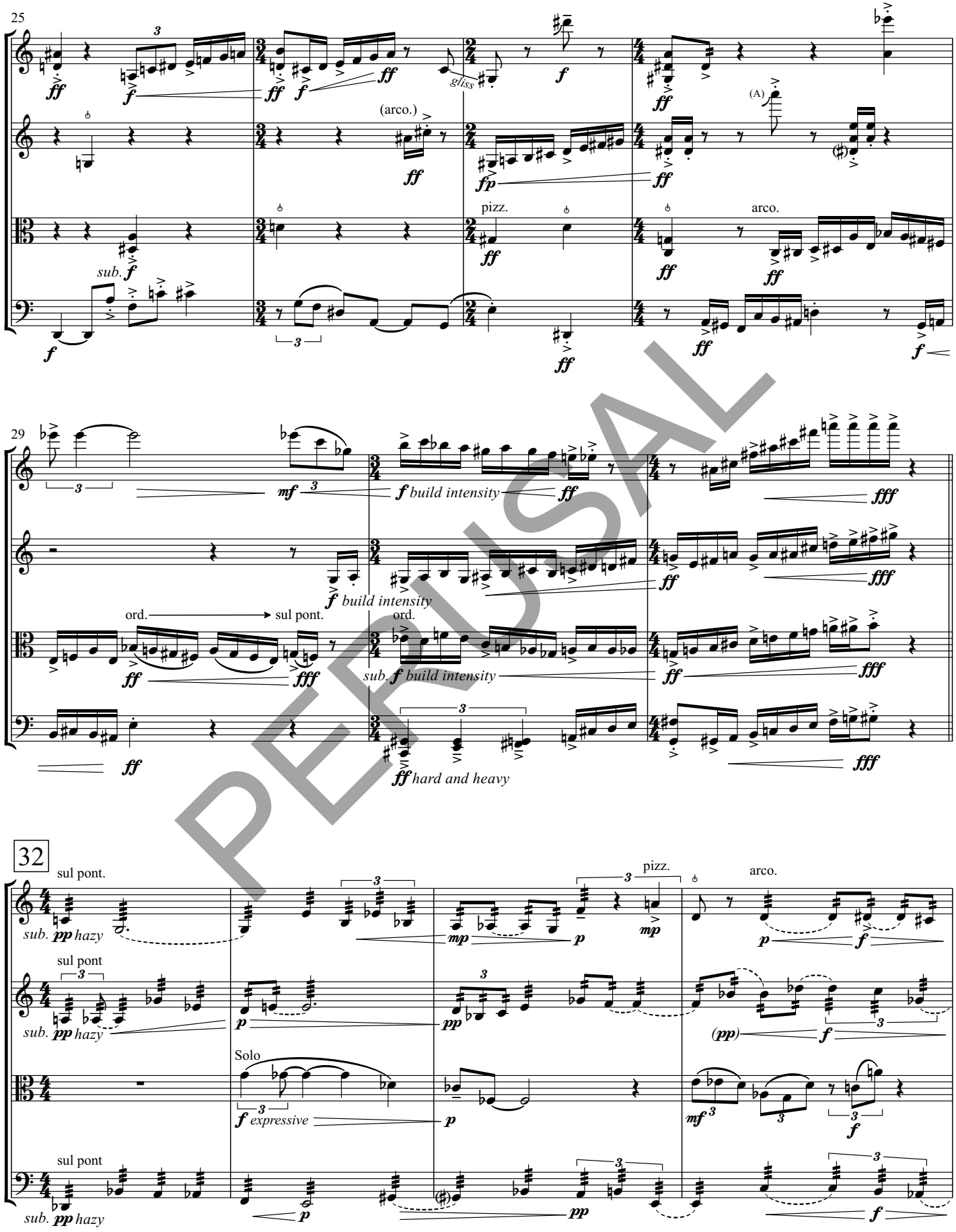
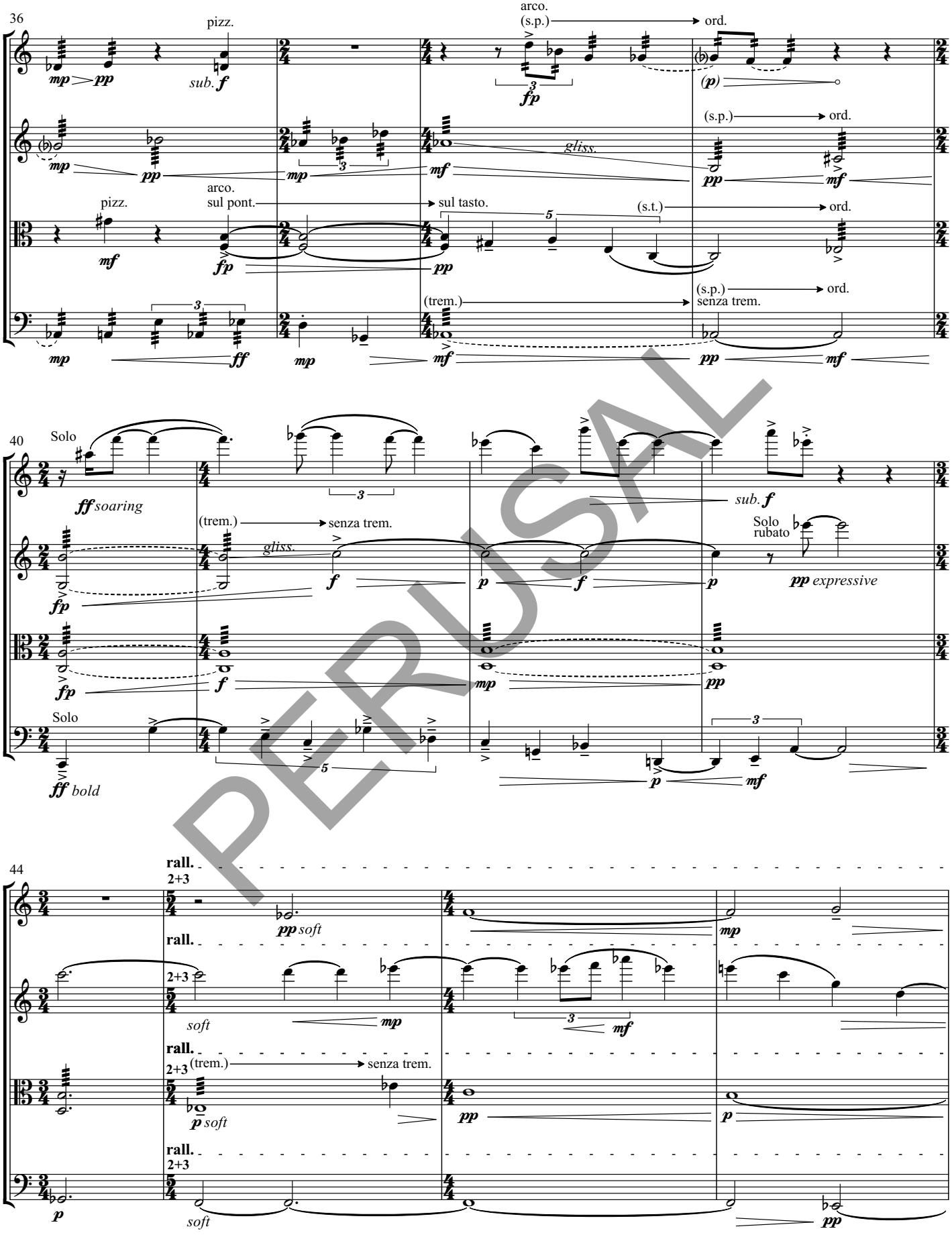


PERUSAL

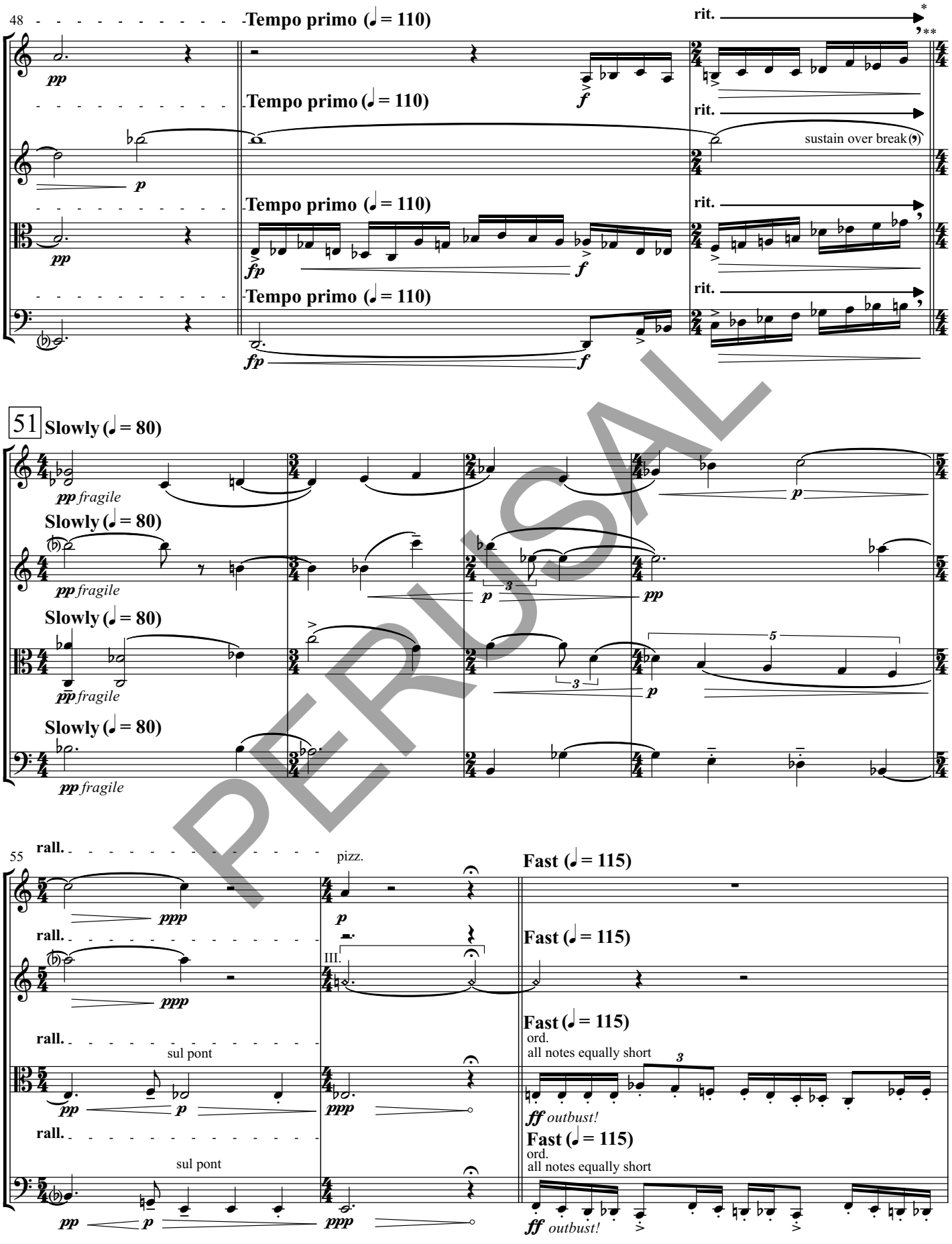
*Throughout the piece, dashed slurs connect tremolo phrases and ties.
***Niente marking:* Crescendo from silence (o<) or diminuendo into silence (>o)


25
(arco.)
pizz.
arco.
sub.
gliss
(A)
29
build intensity
ord.
sul pont.
sub.
hard and heavy
32
sul pont.
sub. pp hazy
sul pont
Solo
expressive
pizz.
arco.

PERUSAL

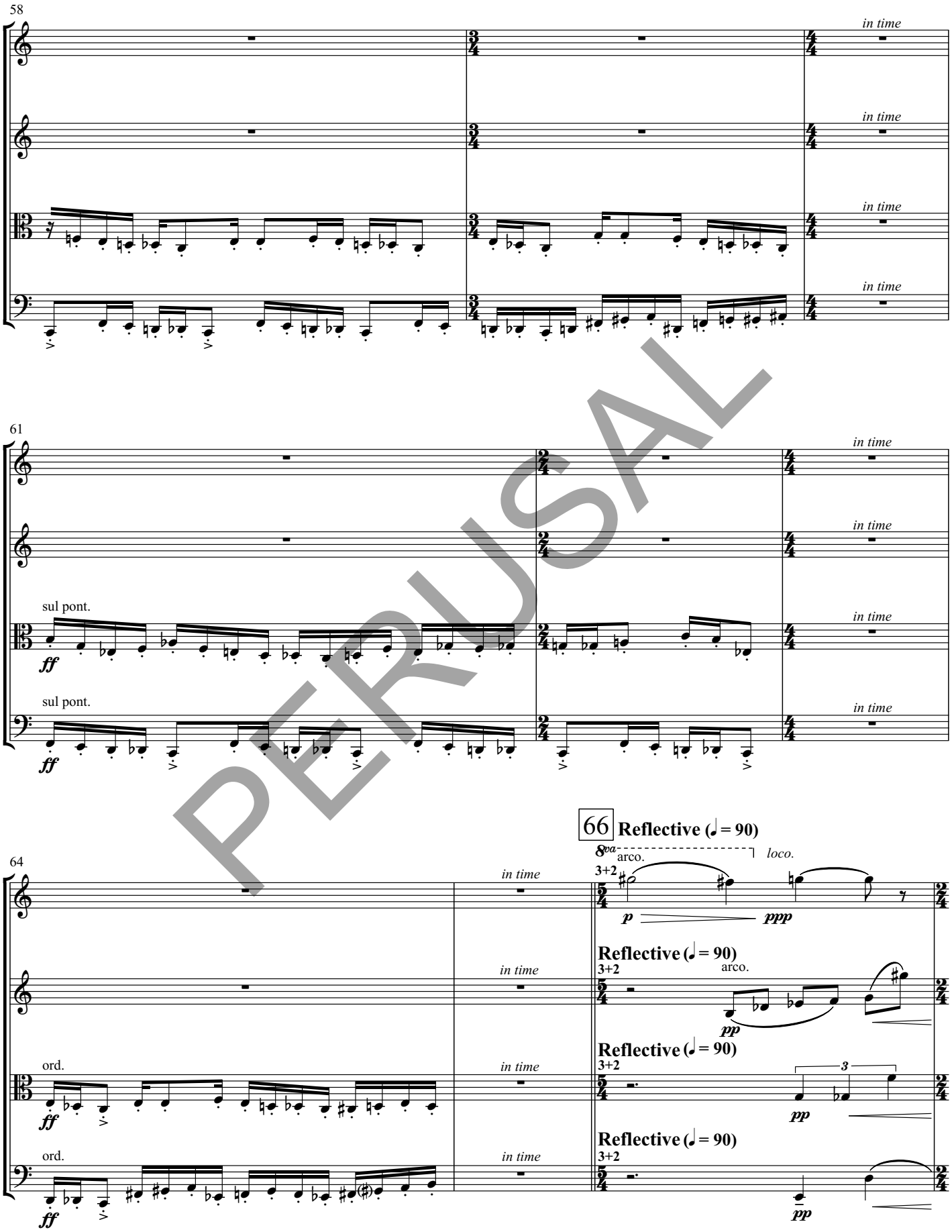

36
pizz.
arco.
(s.p.)
ord.
sub. f
fp
(p)
gliss.
(s.p.)
ord.
arco.
sul pont.
sul tasto.
(s.t.)
ord.
pizz.
(trem.)
(s.p.)
ord.
senza trem.
40
Solo
ff soaring
(trem.)
senza trem.
gliss.
sub. f
Solo
rubato
pp expressive
Solo
ff bold
44
rall.
2+3
pp soft
mp
soft
mf
(trem.)
senza trem.
p soft
pp
p
soft

PERUSAL

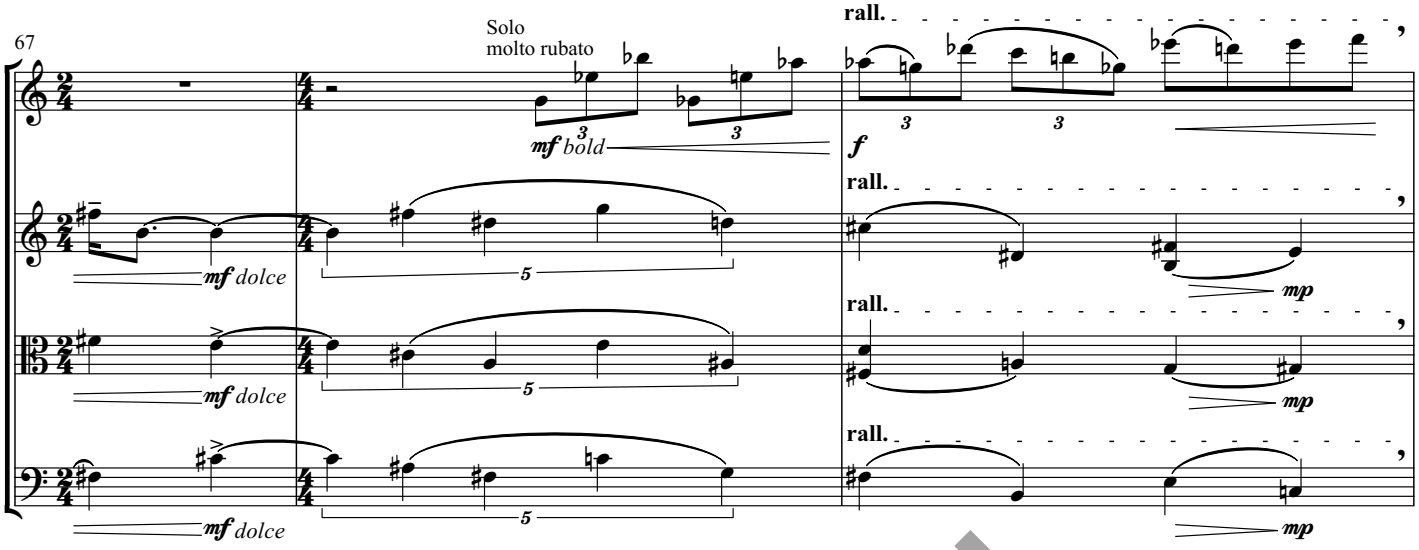


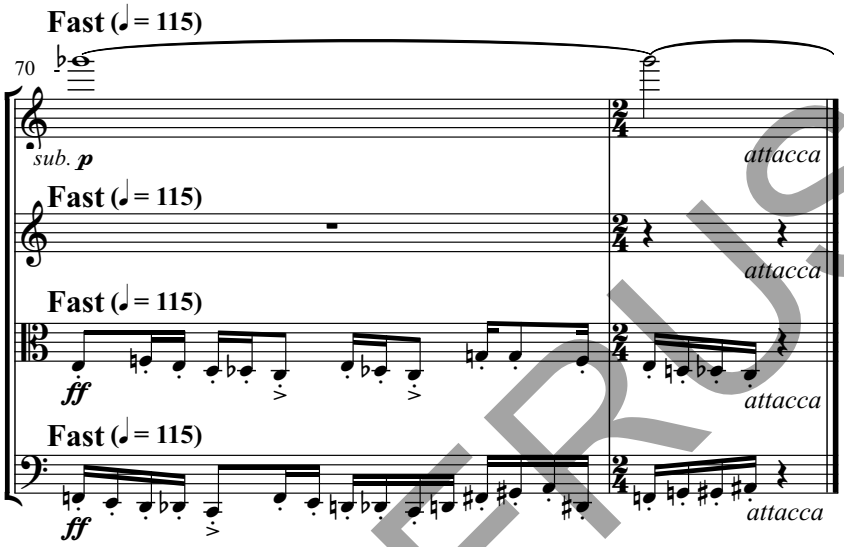
PERUSAL

*Arrow (⟶) indicates a smooth and equal transition into new tempo
**Breath mark (,) denotes short pause. Like a breath.

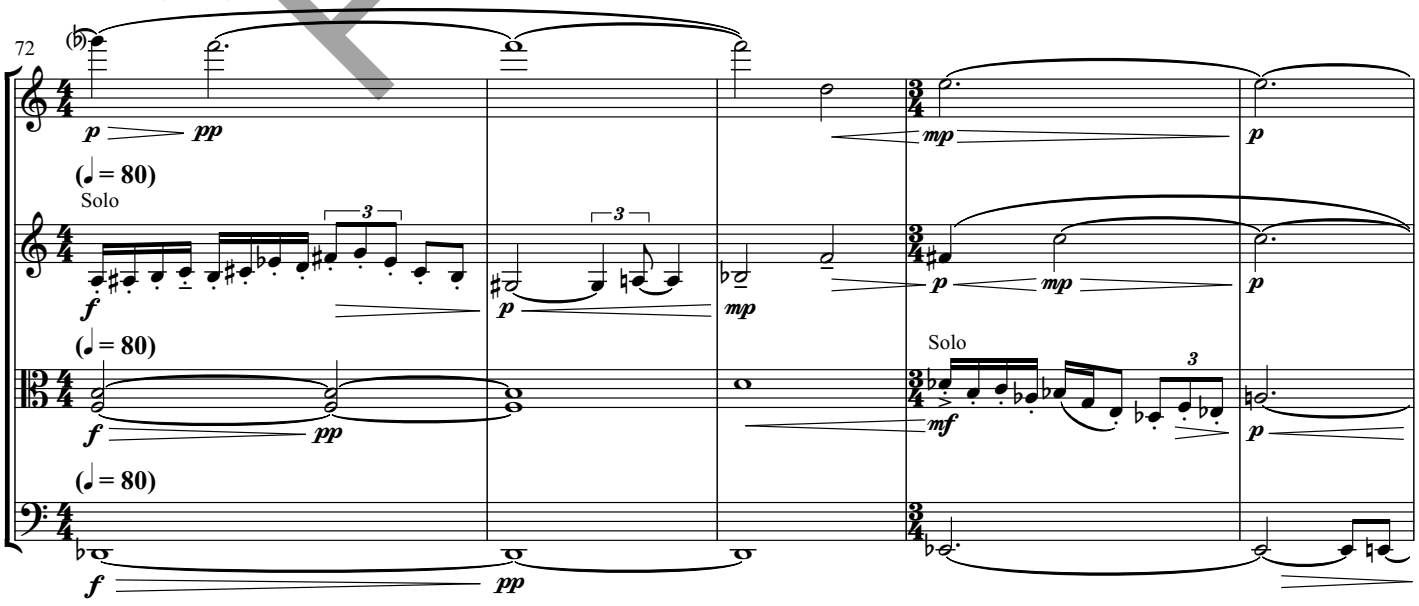

58
in time
in time
in time
in time
61
in time
in time
sul pont.
ff
in time
sul pont.
ff
in time
64
in time
in time
ord.
ff
in time
ord.
ff
in time
66 Reflective (♩ = 90)
8va
arco.
loco.
3+2
p
ppp
Reflective (♩ = 90)
3+2
arco.
pp
Reflective (♩ = 90)
3+2
3
pp
Reflective (♩ = 90)
3+2
pp

PERUSAL

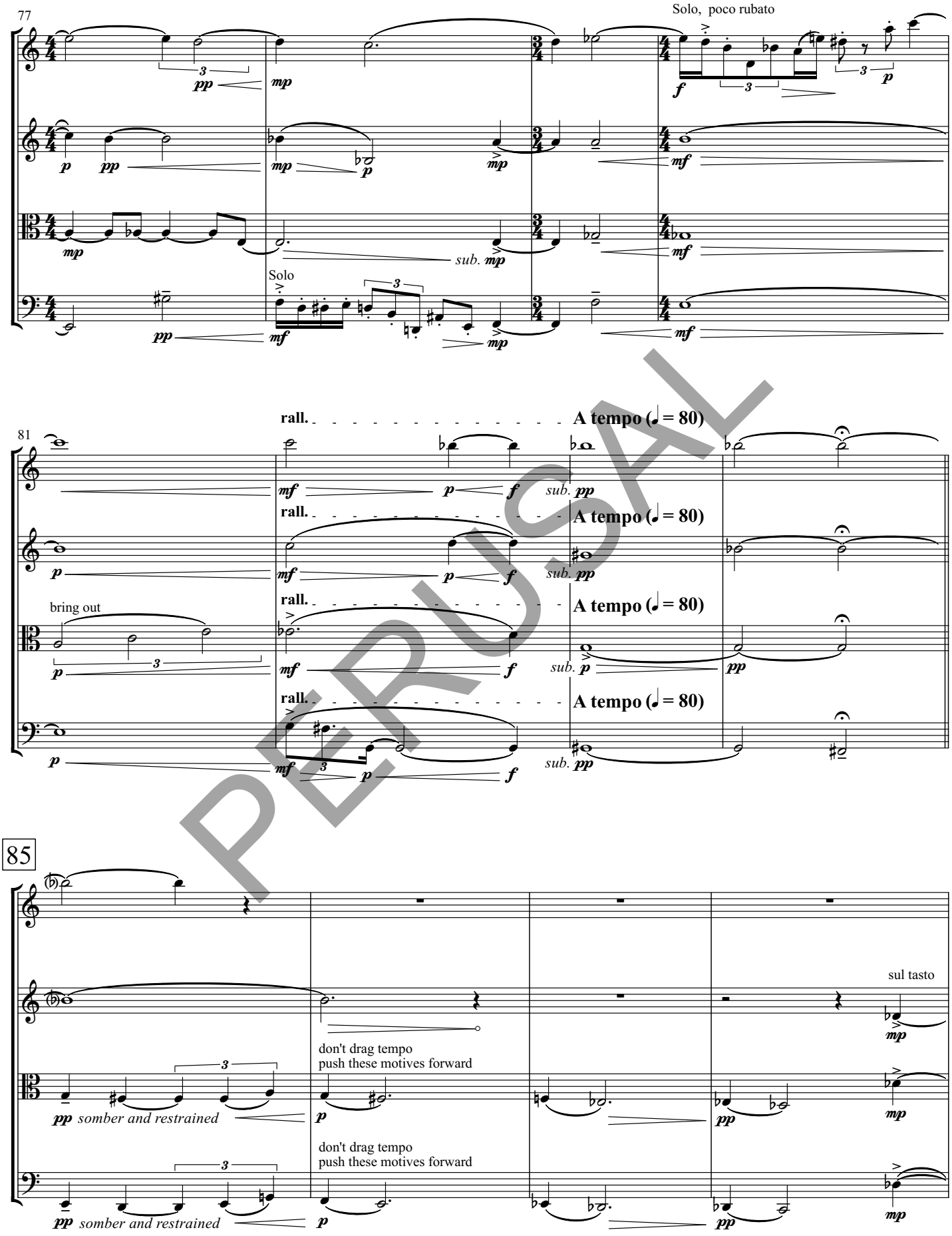




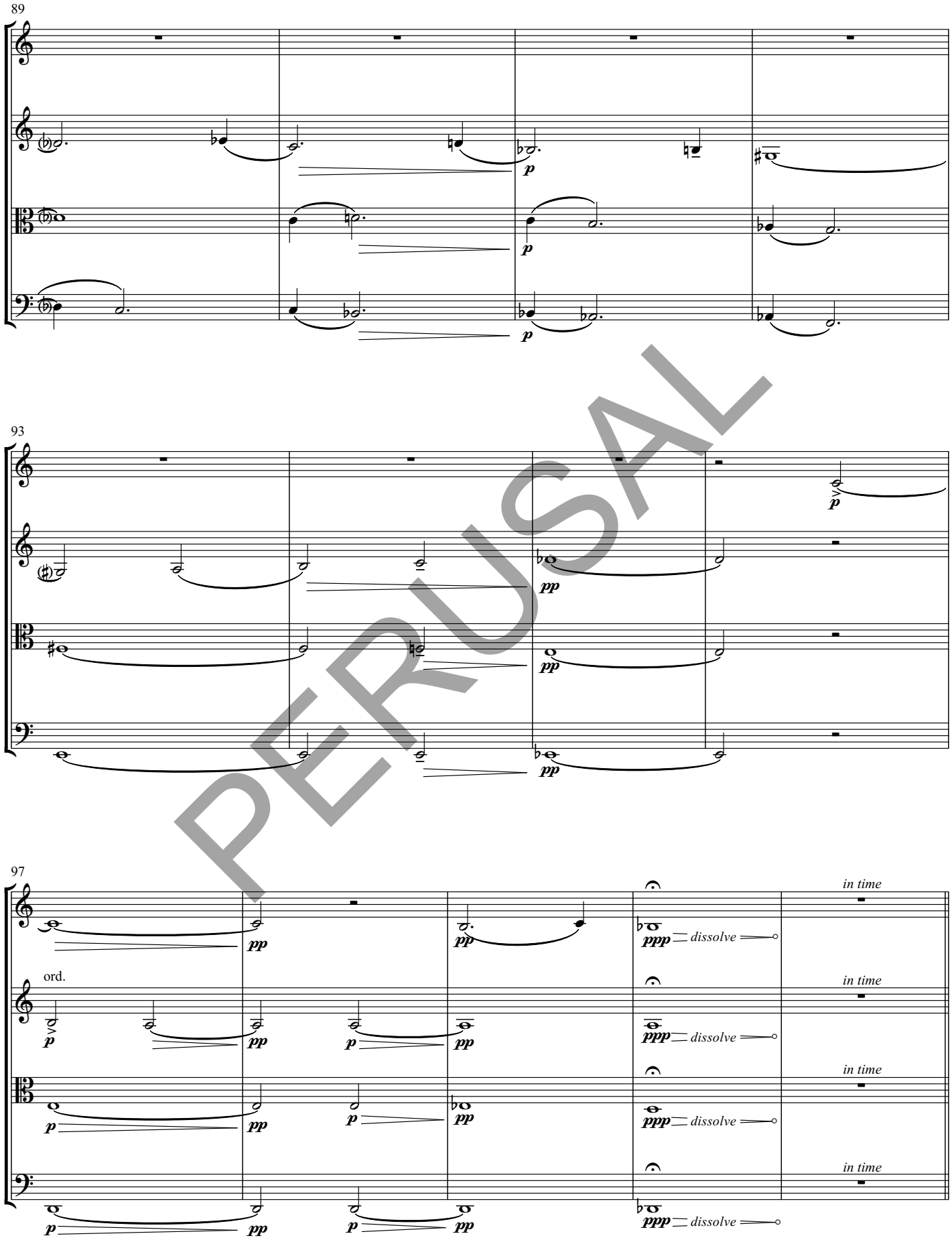
II.
Lament (♩= 80)



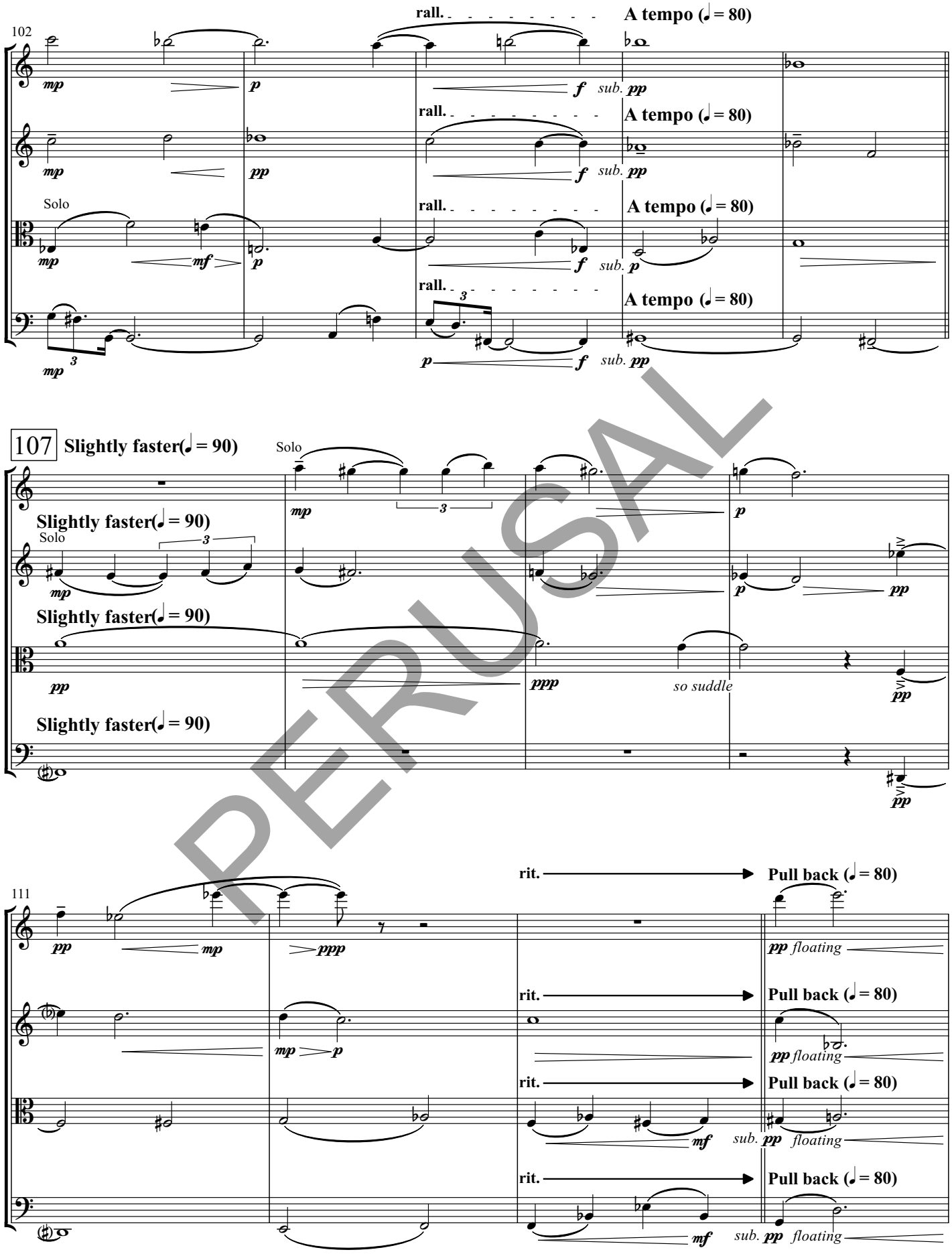
PERUSAL


77
Solo, poco rubato
Solo
sub. mp
81
rall.
A tempo (♩ = 80)
sub. pp
bring out
85
sul tasto
don't drag tempo
push these motives forward
pp somber and restrained

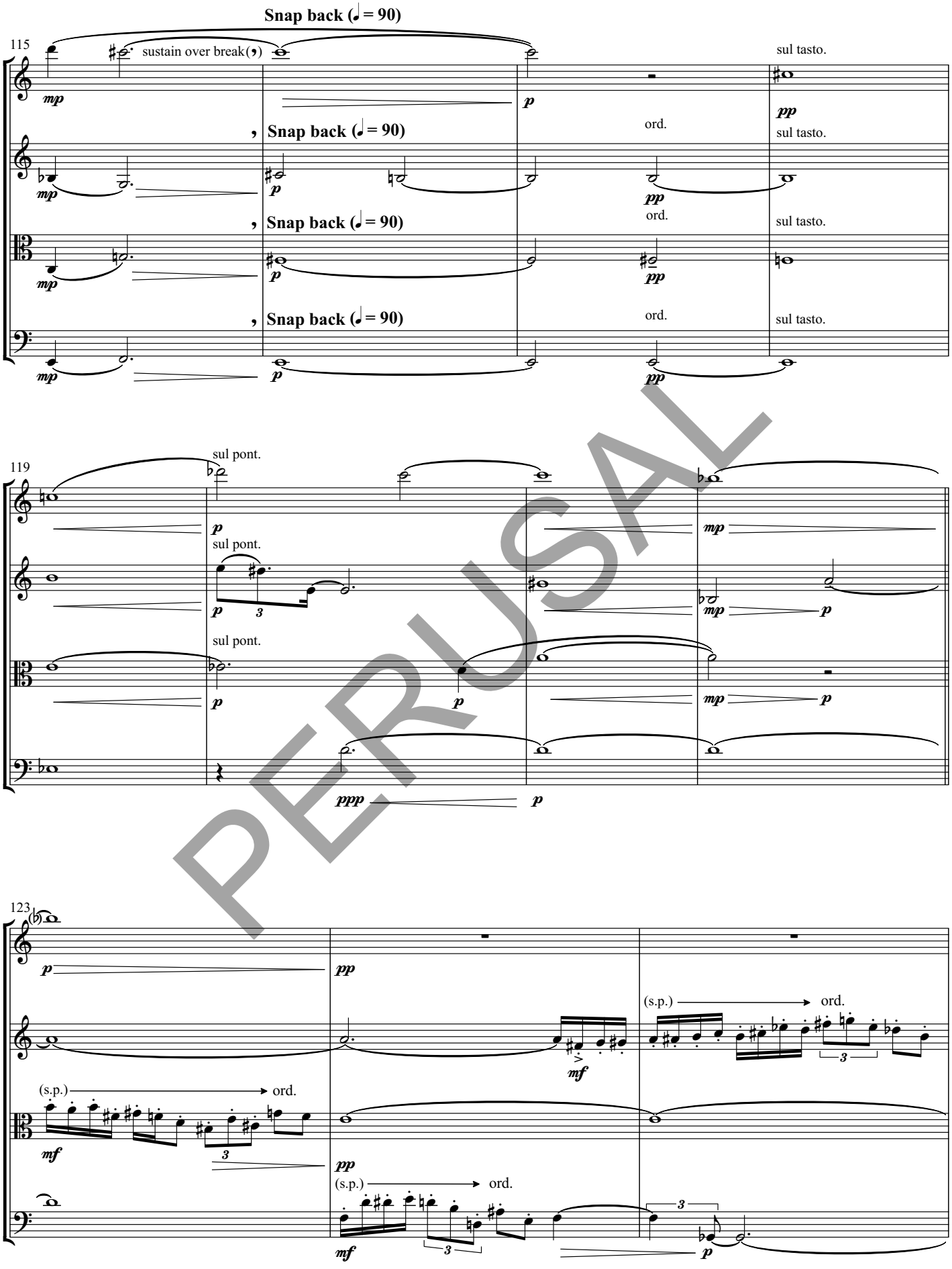
PERUSAL


89
p
p
p
93
p
pp
pp
pp
97
pp
pp
ppp dissolve
in time
ord.
p
pp
p
pp
ppp dissolve
in time
p
pp
p
pp
ppp dissolve
in time
p
pp
p
pp
ppp dissolve
in time

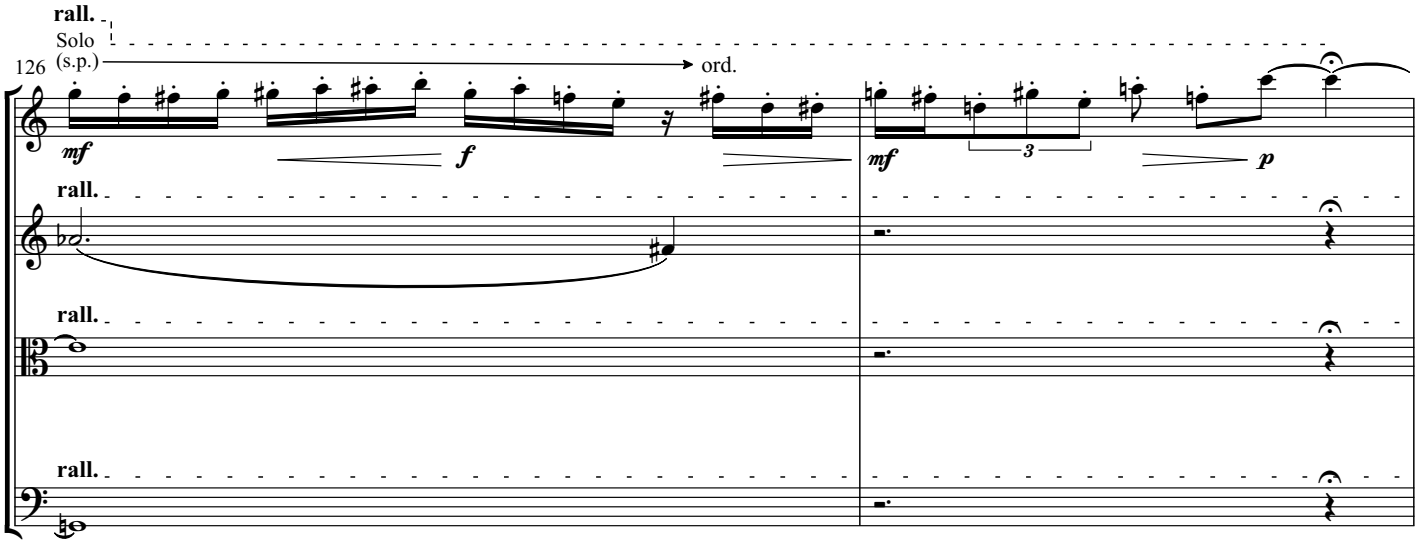
PERUSAL

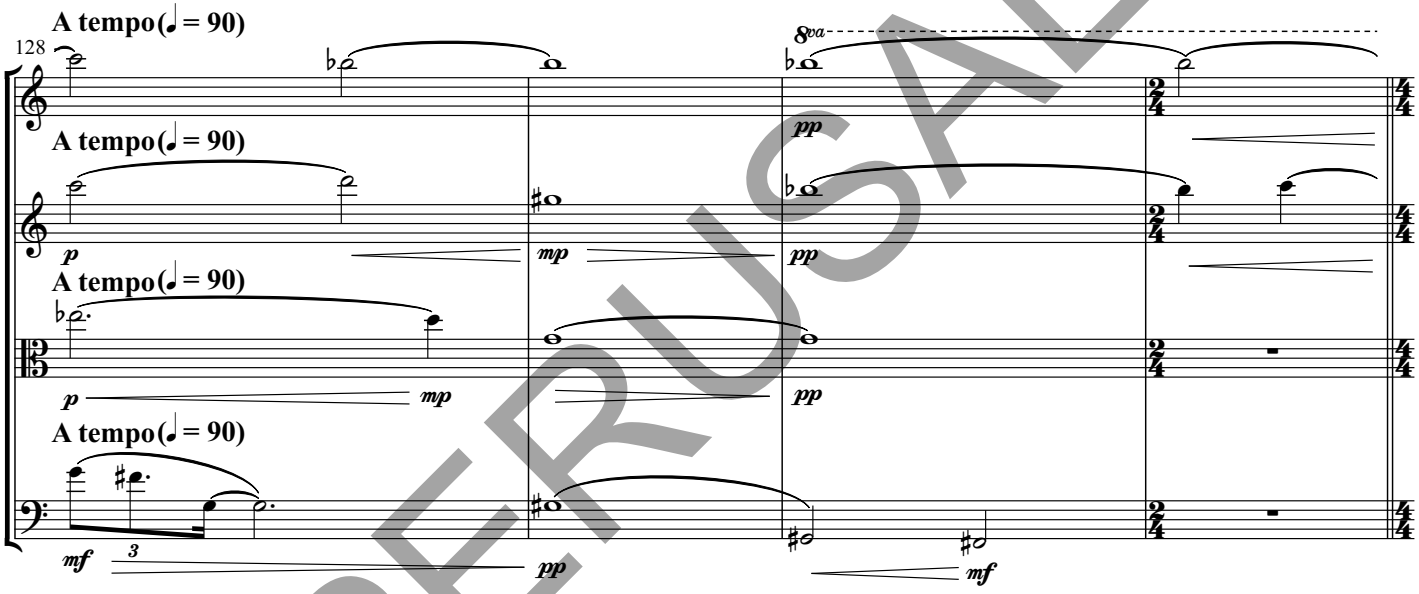

102
rall.
A tempo (♩ = 80)
mp
p
f
sub. pp
Solo
mf
107
Slightly faster(♩ = 90)
ppp
so suddle
111
rit.
Pull back (♩ = 80)
floating

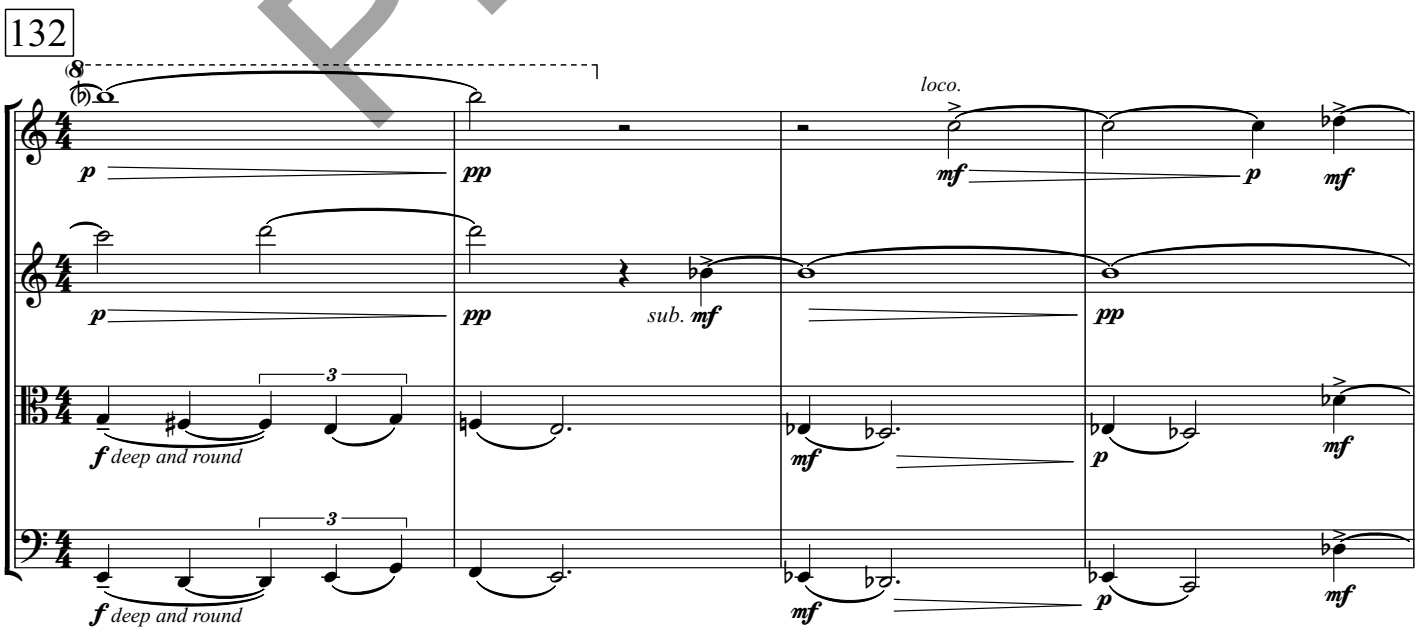
PERUSAL


Snap back (♩ = 90)
115
sustain over break (,)
mp
p
sul tasto.
pp
, Snap back (♩ = 90)
ord.
sul tasto.
, Snap back (♩ = 90)
ord.
sul tasto.
, Snap back (♩ = 90)
ord.
sul tasto.
119
sul pont.
p
mp
sul pont.
3
sul pont.
ppp
123
(s.p.)
ord.
mf
(s.p.)
ord.
3

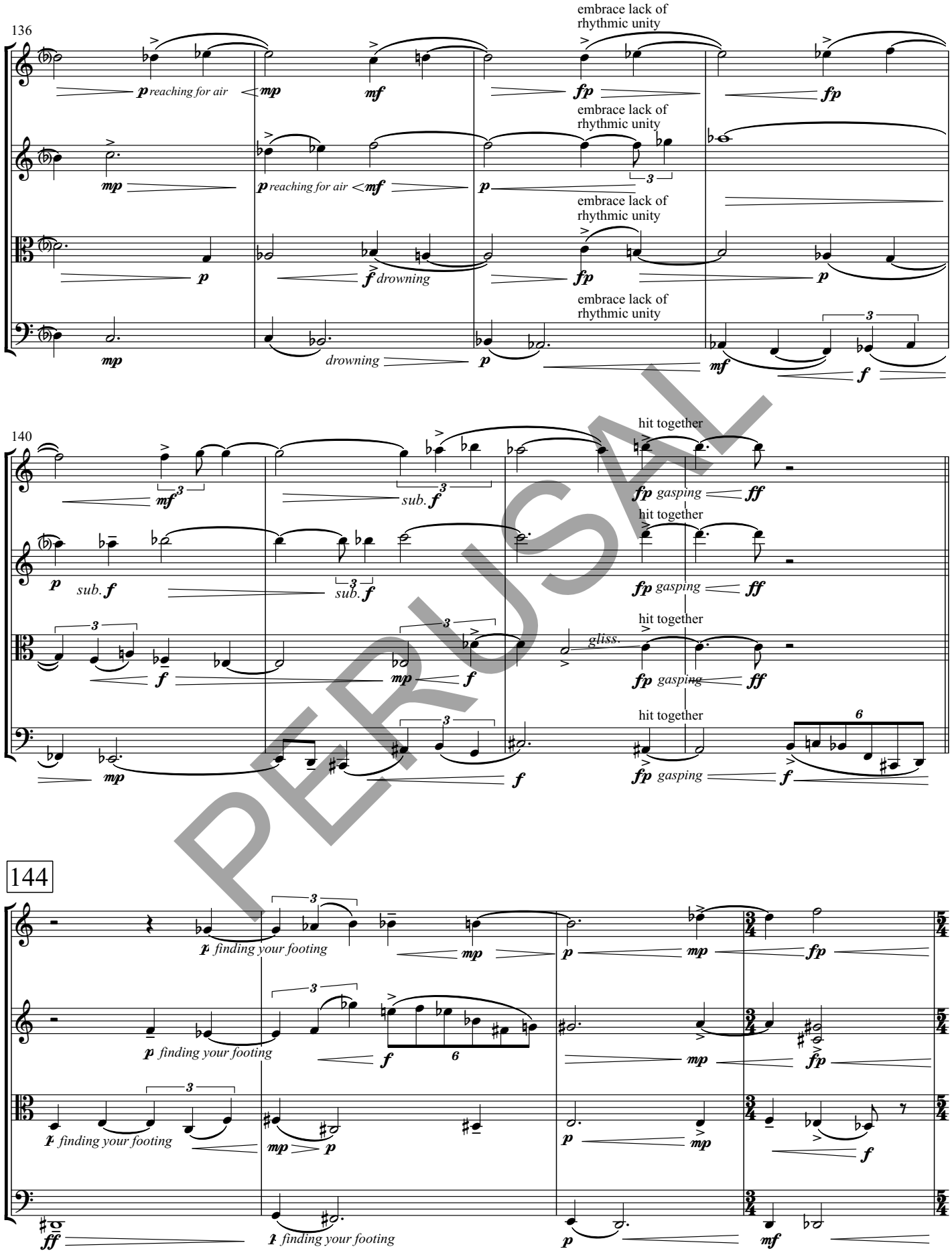
PERUSAL


rall.
Solo
(s.p.)
126
ord.
mf
f
mf
3
p
rall.
rall.
rall.

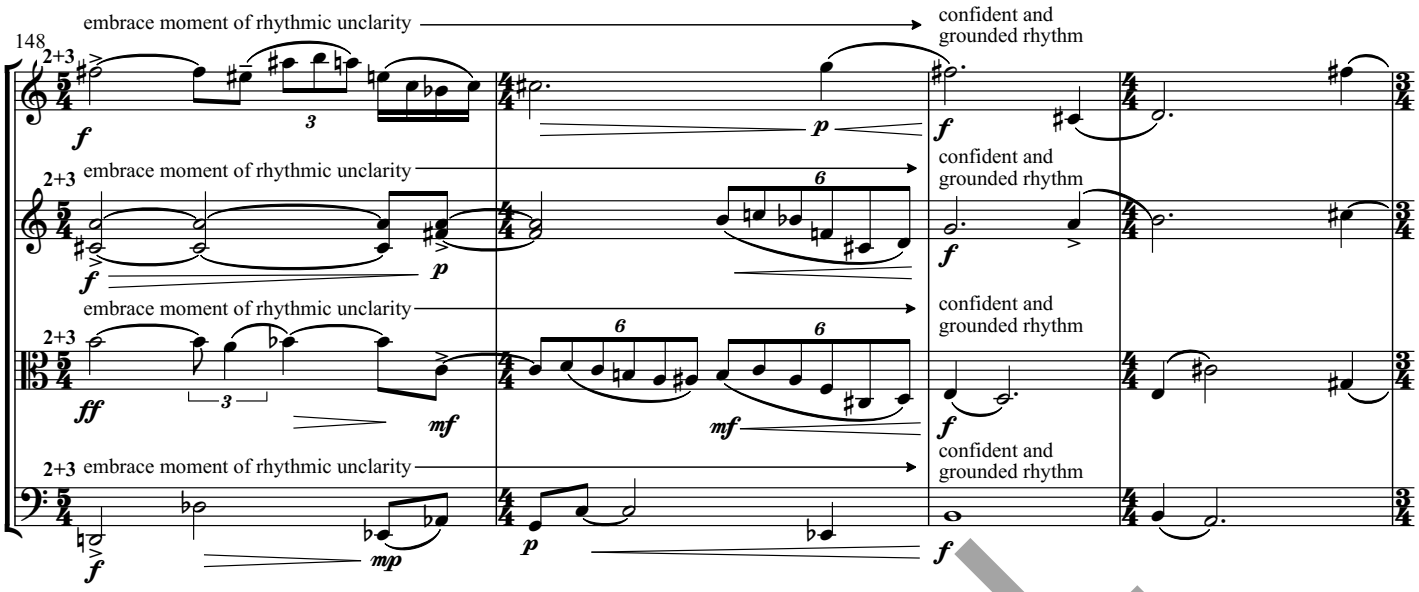

A tempo(♩= 90)
128
8va
pp
A tempo(♩= 90)
p
mp
pp
A tempo(♩= 90)
p
mp
pp
A tempo(♩= 90)
mf
3
pp
mf

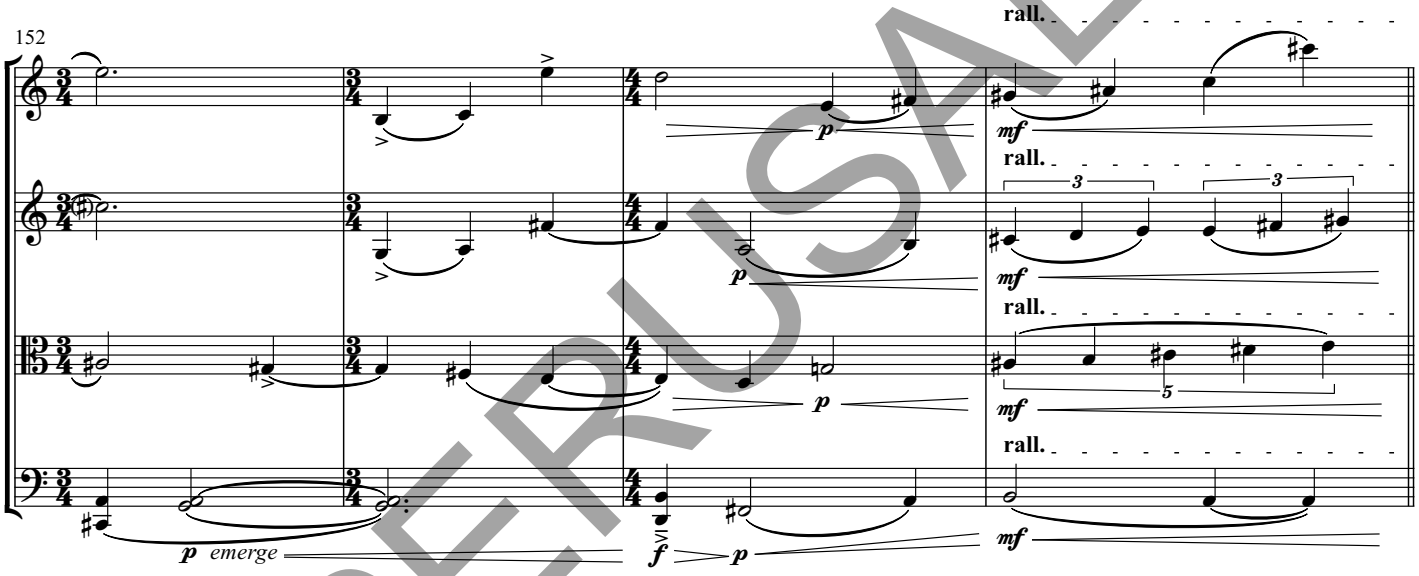

132
8
p
pp
loco.
mf
p
mf
p
pp
sub. mf
pp
3
f deep and round
mf
p
mf
3
f deep and round
mf
p
mf

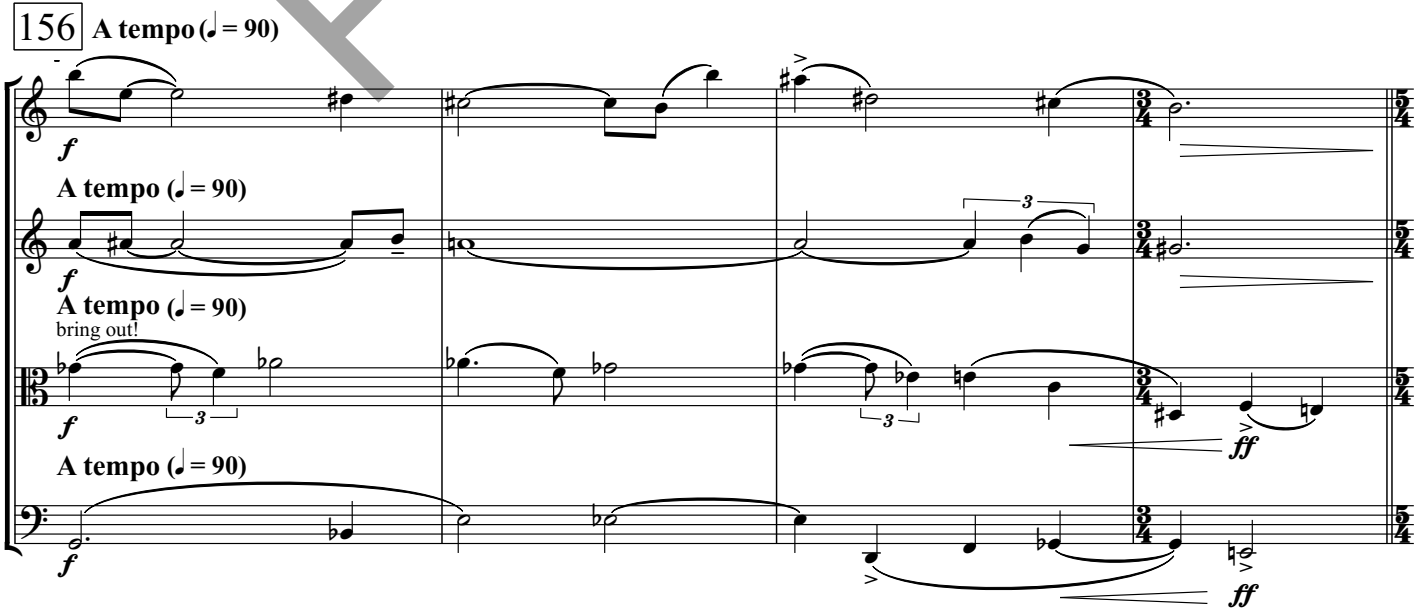
PERUSAL


136
p reaching for air
mp
mf
fp
embrace lack of rhythmic unity
f drowning
drowning
140
sub. f
hit together
fp gasping
ff
gliss.
144
finding your footing
ff
mf

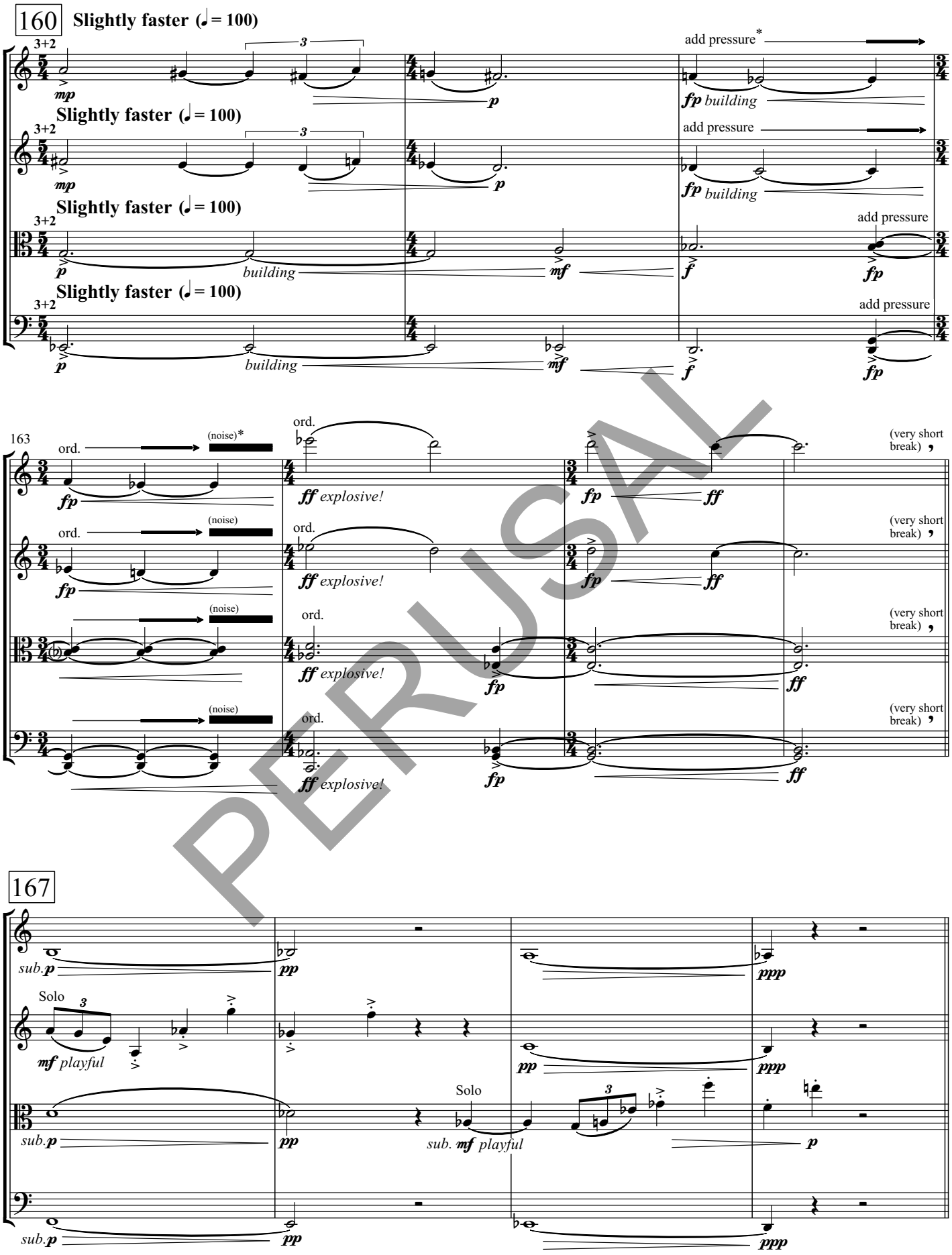
PERUSAL


148
2+3
embrace moment of rhythmic unclarity
confident and grounded rhythm
f
p
ff
mf
mp


152
rall.
p
mf
f
emerge

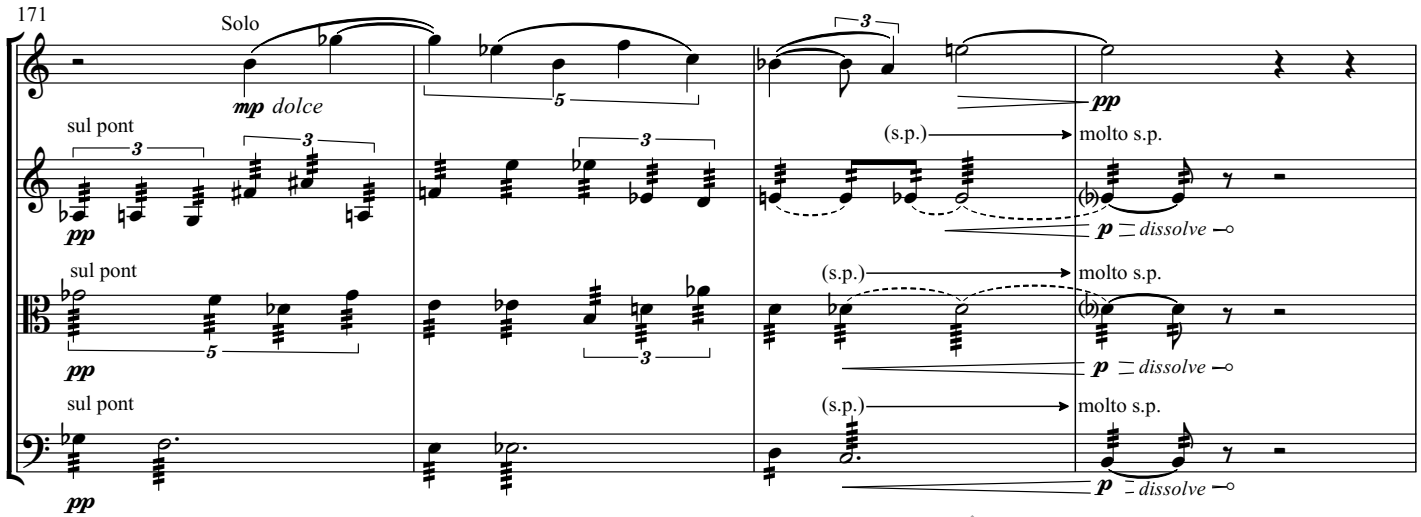

156
A tempo (♩ = 90)
bring out!
f
ff

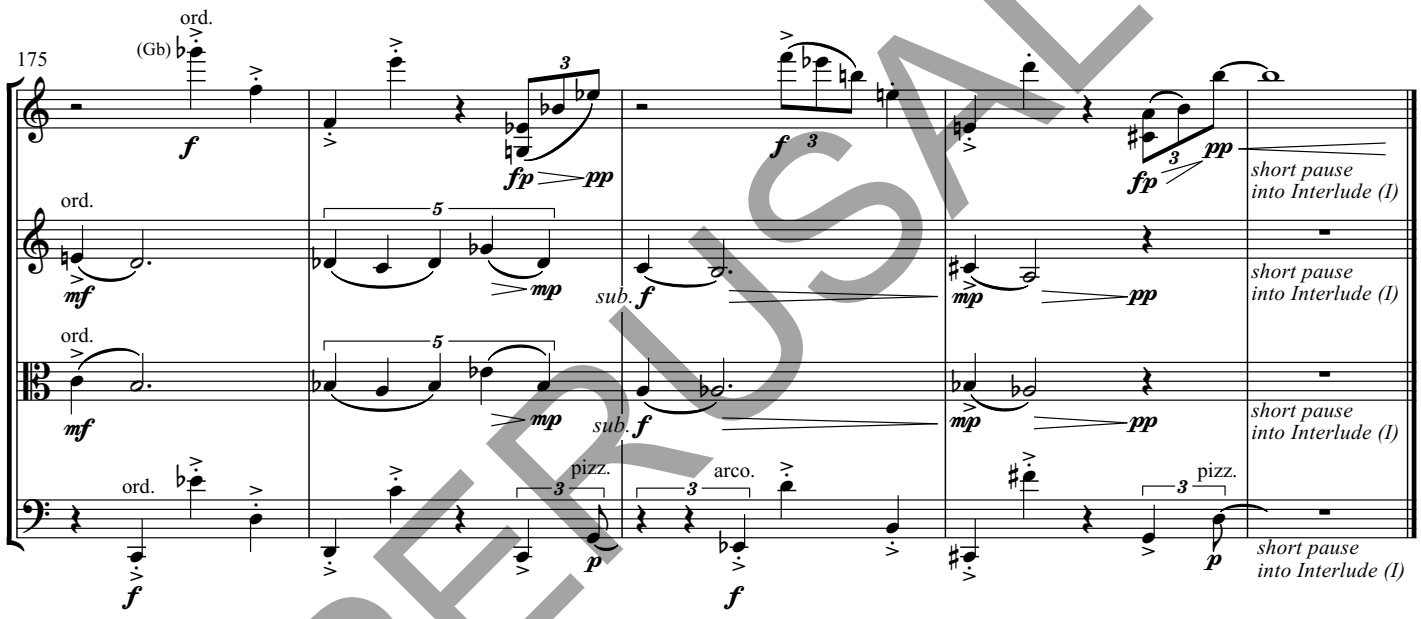
PERUSAL



PERUSAL

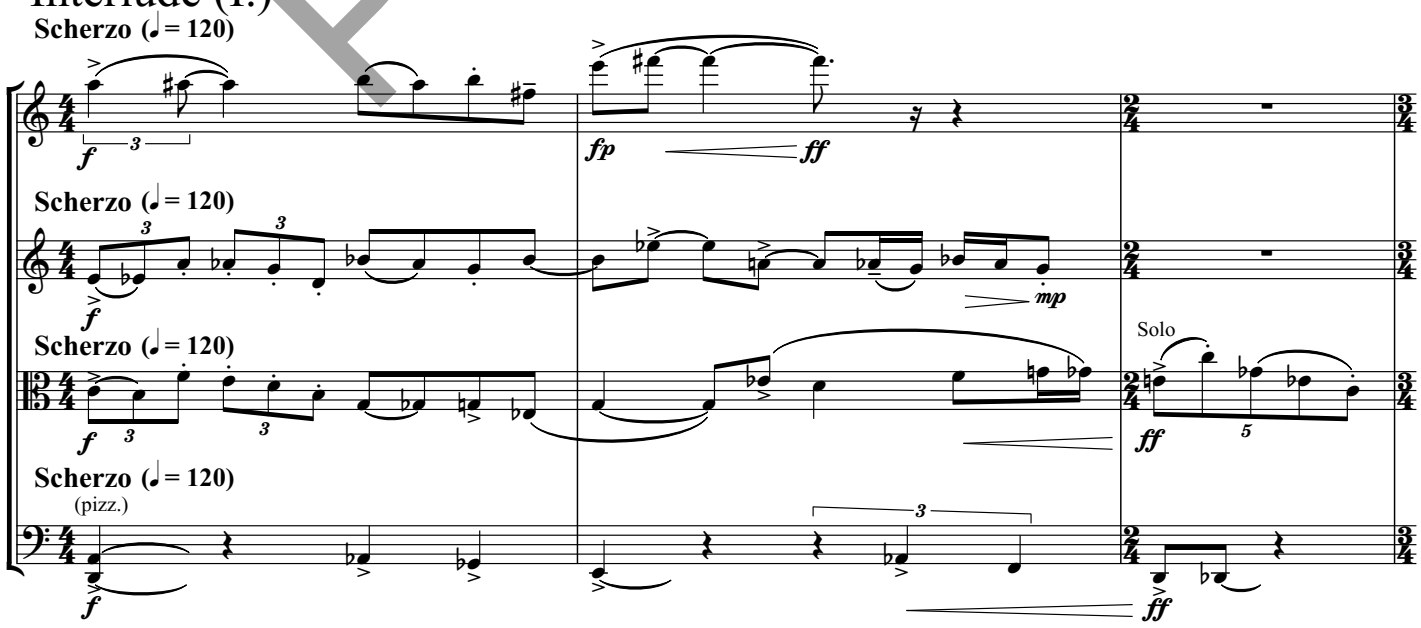
* Add gradual bow pressure. Line thickness denotes greater pressure.
** *Noise*: As much pressure as possible. No pitch is audible.

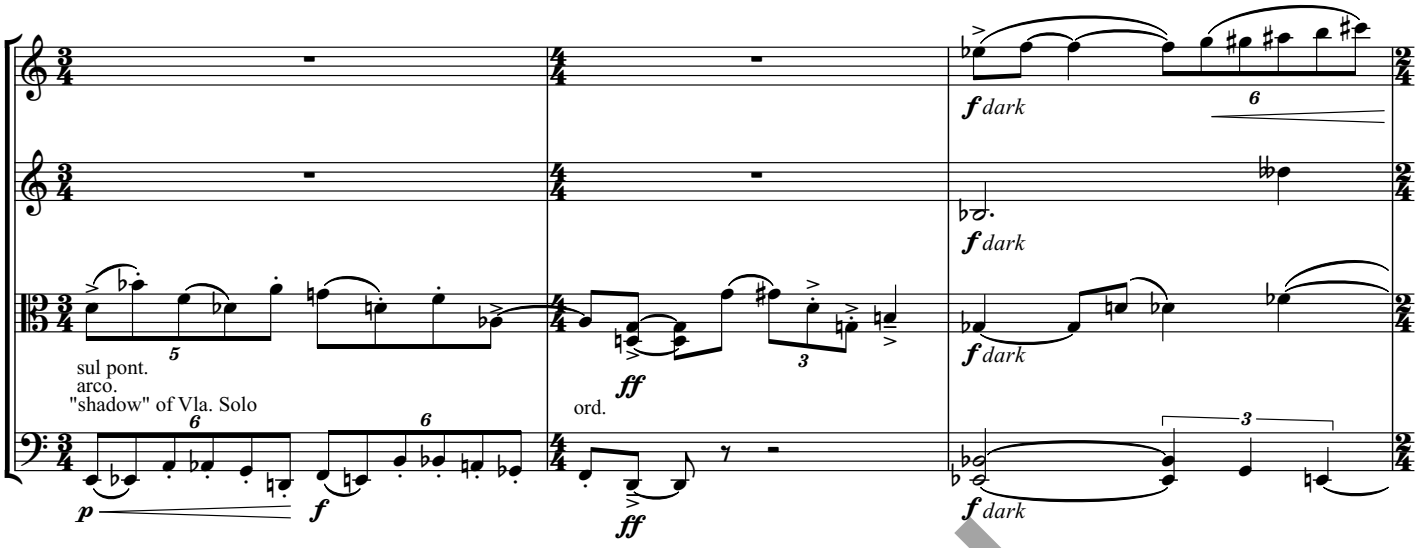


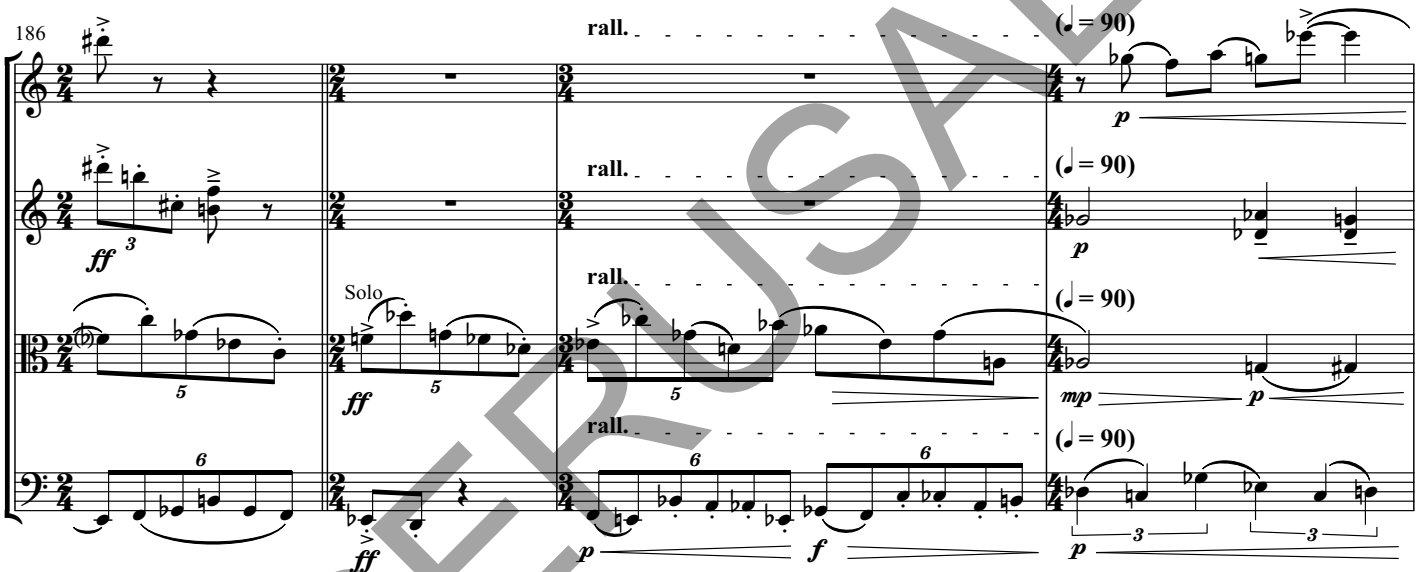


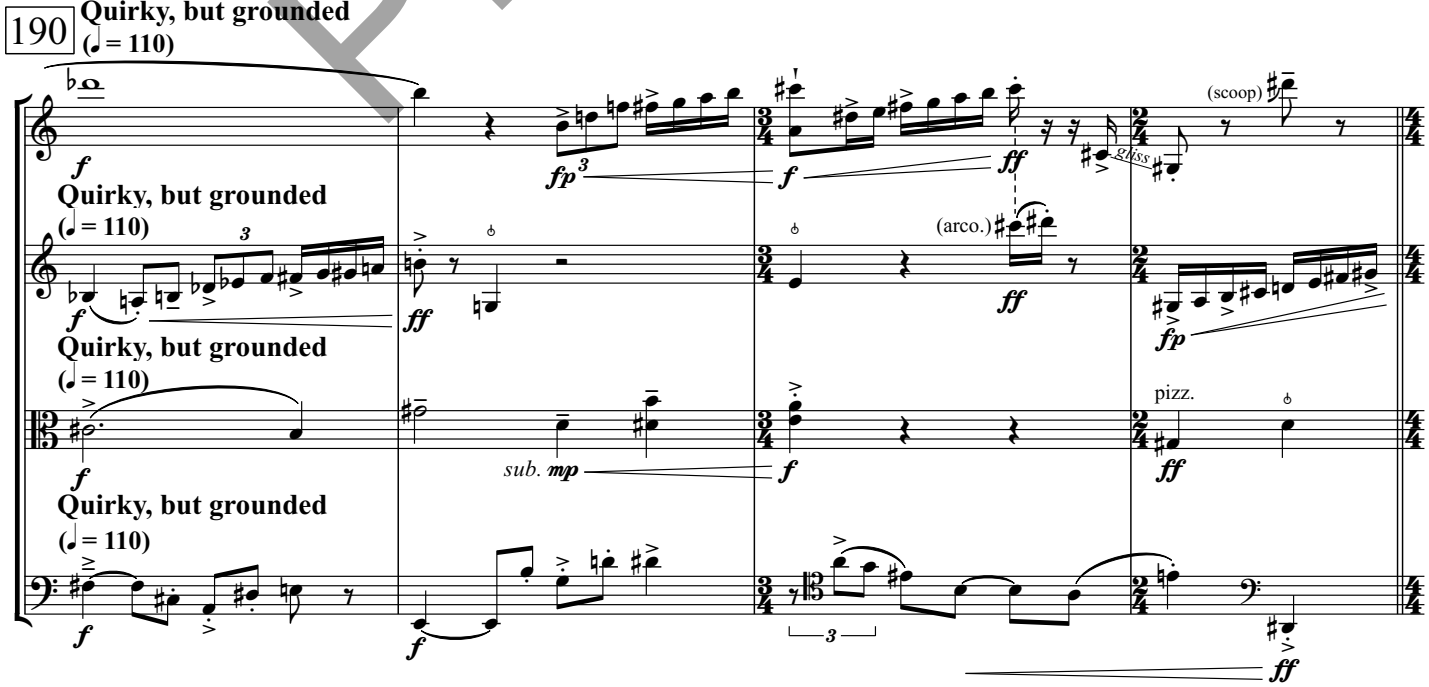
PERUSAL

Interlude (I.)

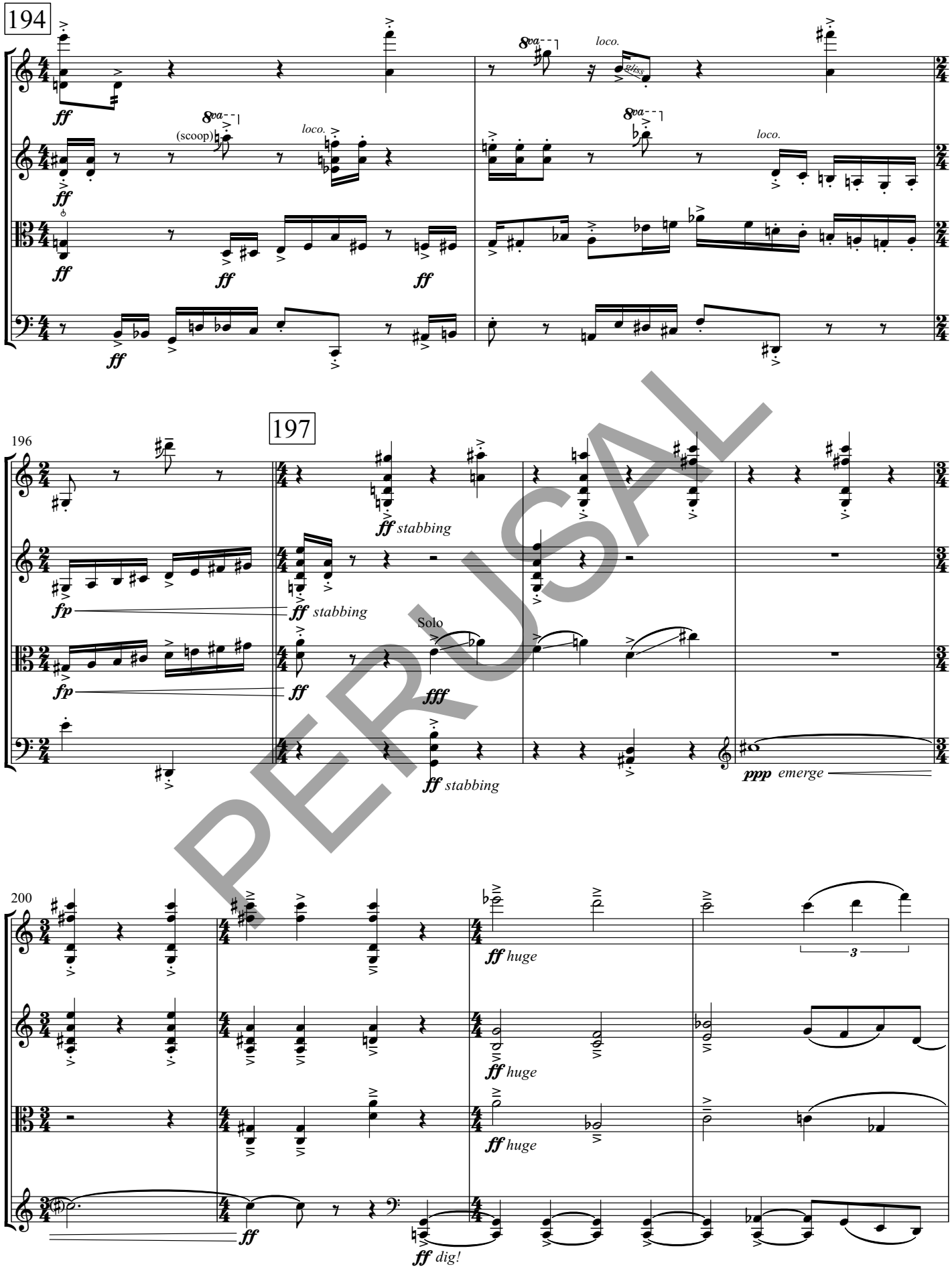



f dark
sul pont.
arco.
"shadow" of Vla. Solo
ord.
ff
p
f

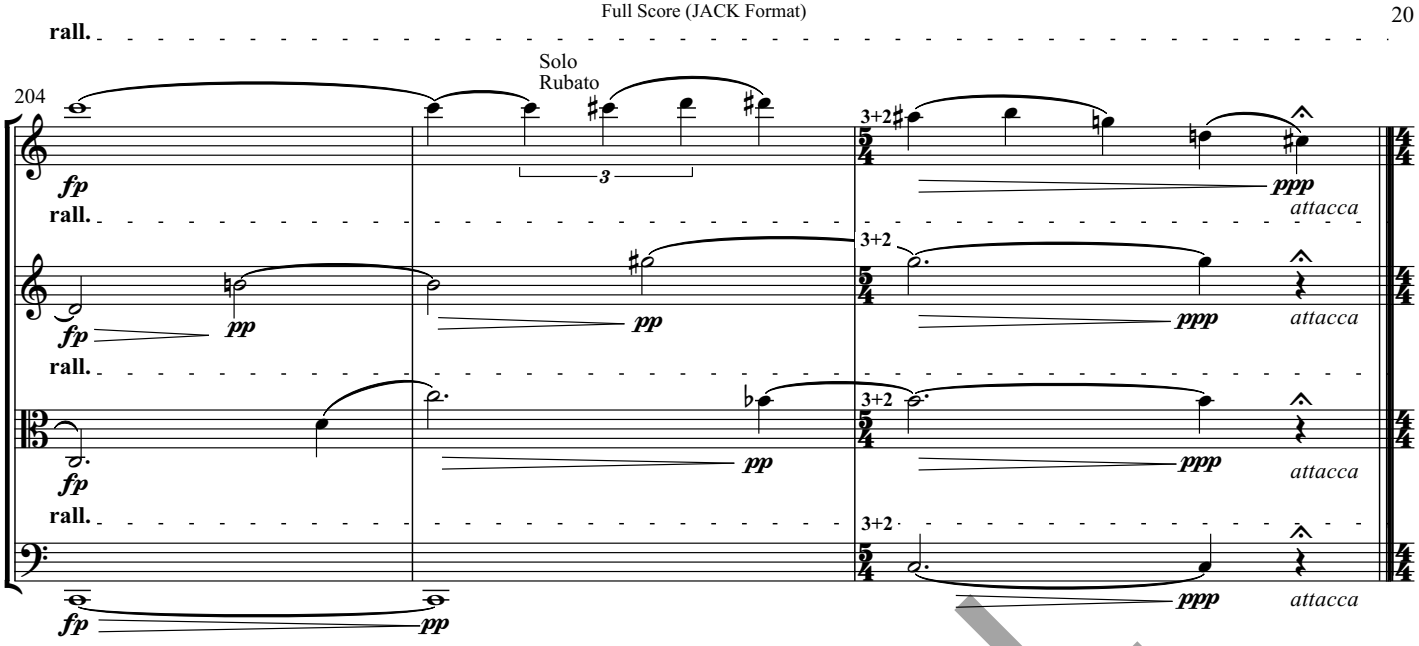

186
rall.
(♩ = 90)
Solo
ff
p
f
mp


190
Quirky, but grounded
(♩ = 110)
fp
ff
(scoop)
gliss
(arco.)
sub. mp
pizz.

PERUSAL

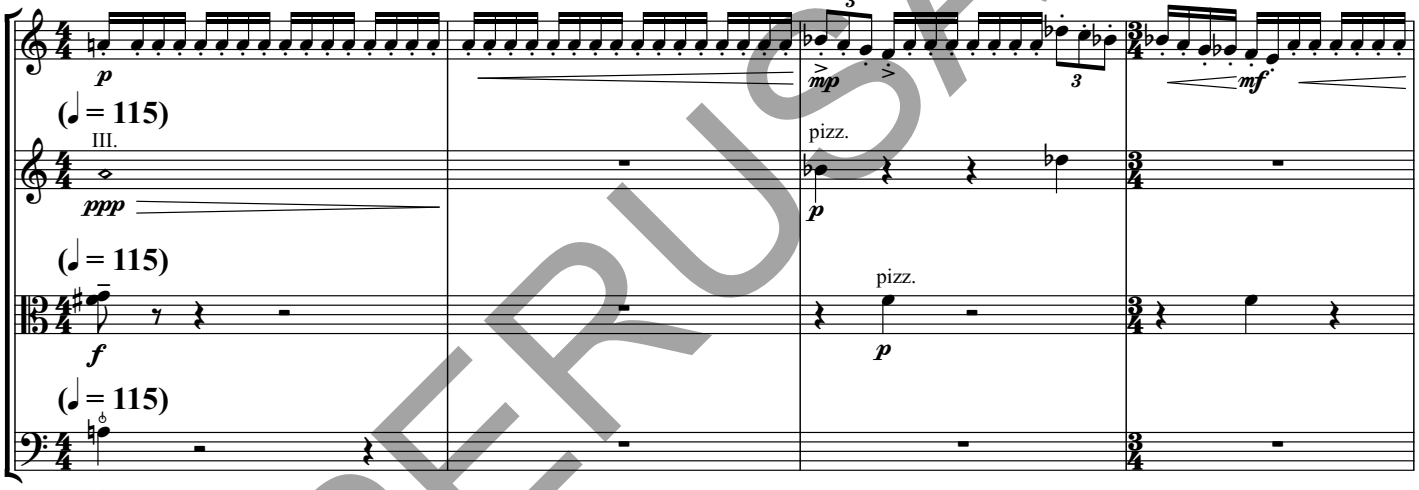

194
8va
loco.
(scoop)
ff
196
197
fp
ff stabbing
Solo
fff
ppp emerge
200
huge
dig!
3

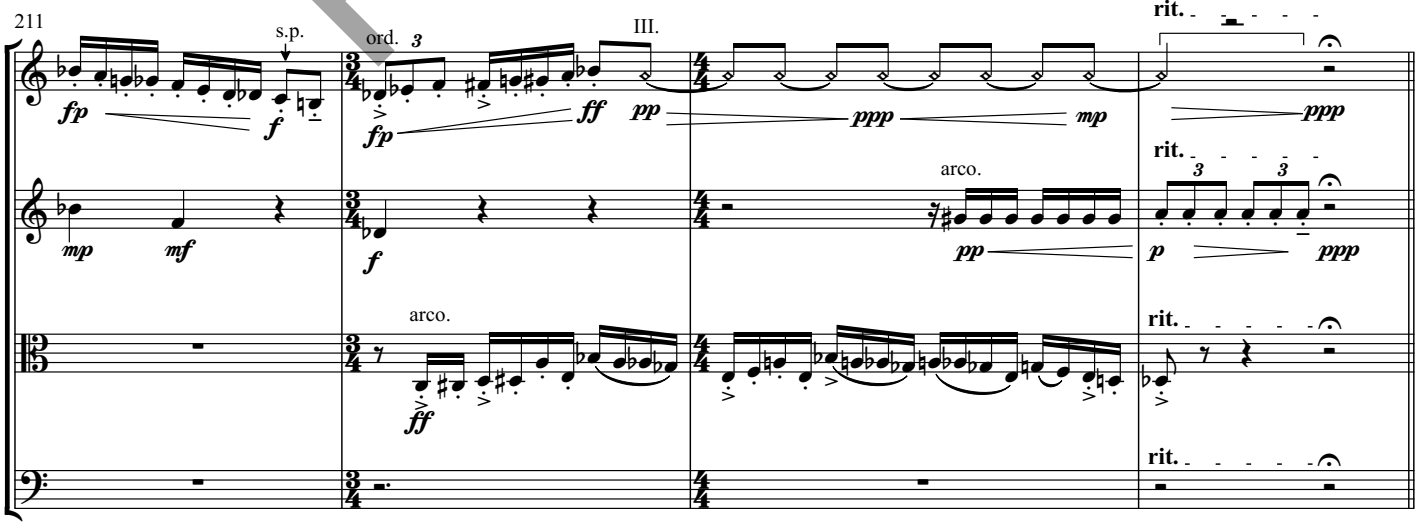
PERUSAL



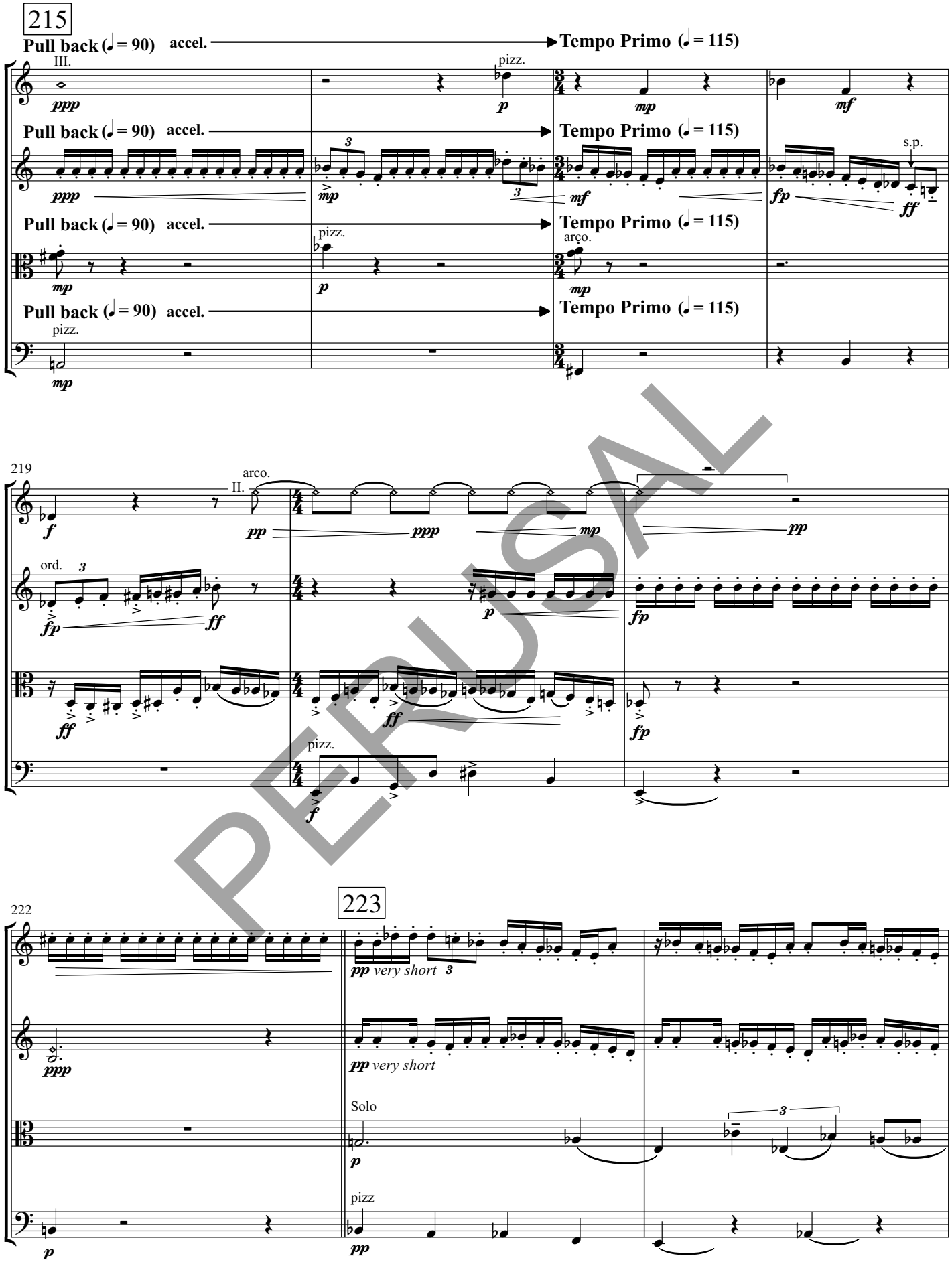
III.

Trepidation (♩ = 115)

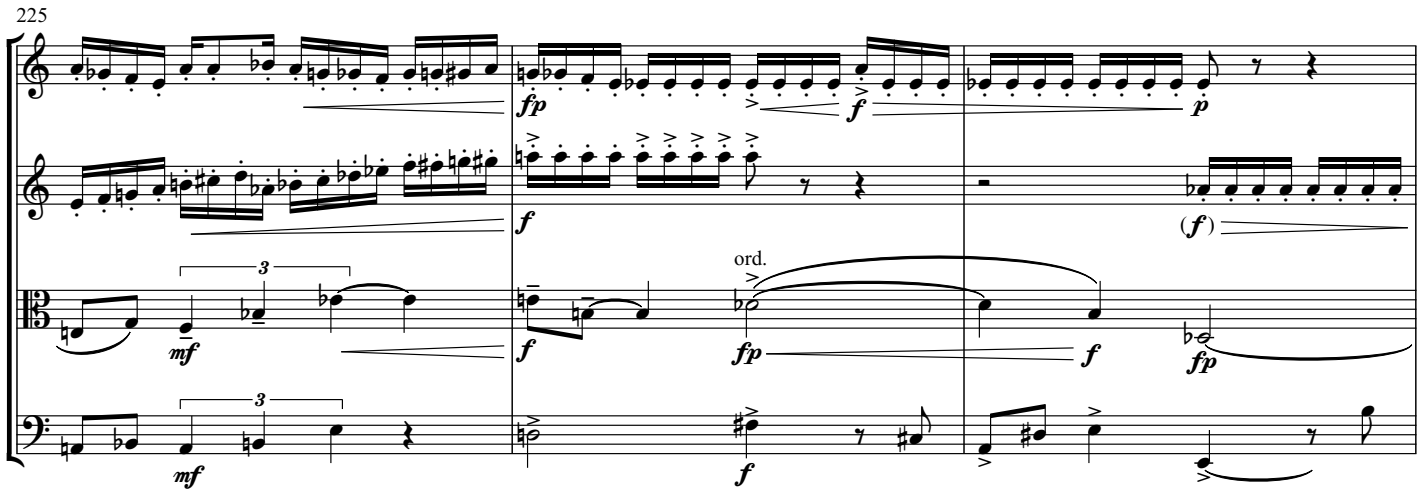


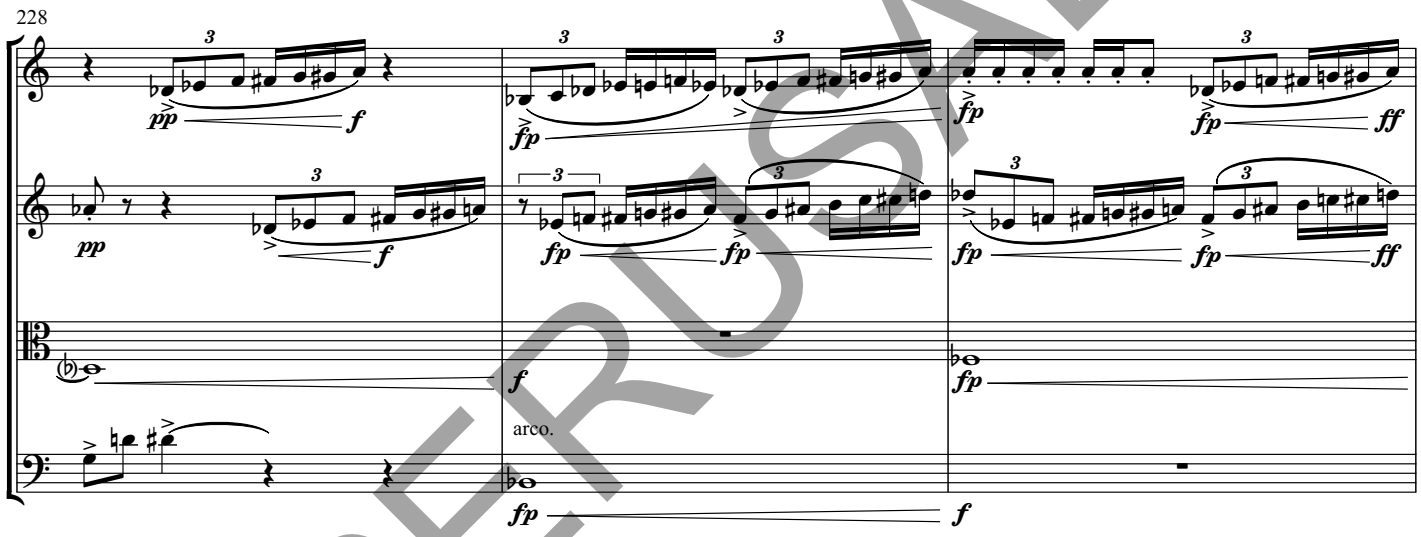


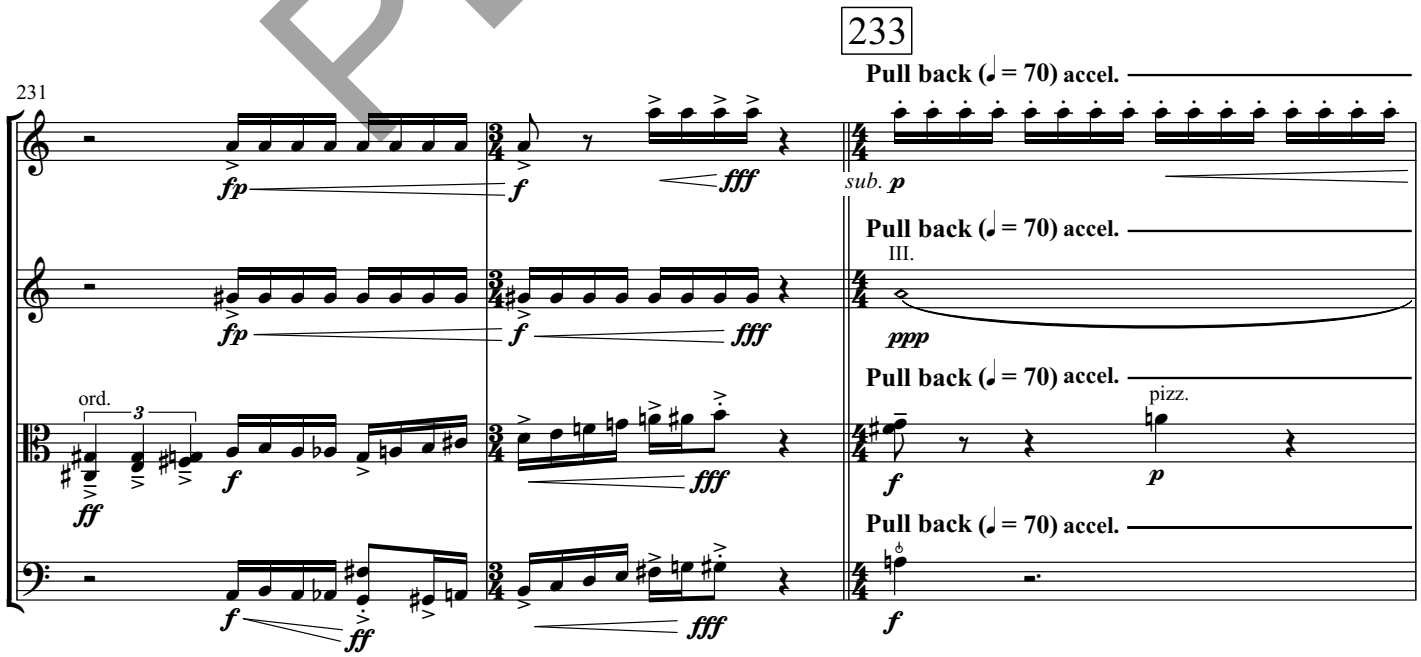
PERUSAL


215
Pull back (♩ = 90) accel.
Tempo Primo (♩ = 115)
III.
pizz.
arco.
s.p.
219
II.
ord.
222
223
very short
Solo
pizz

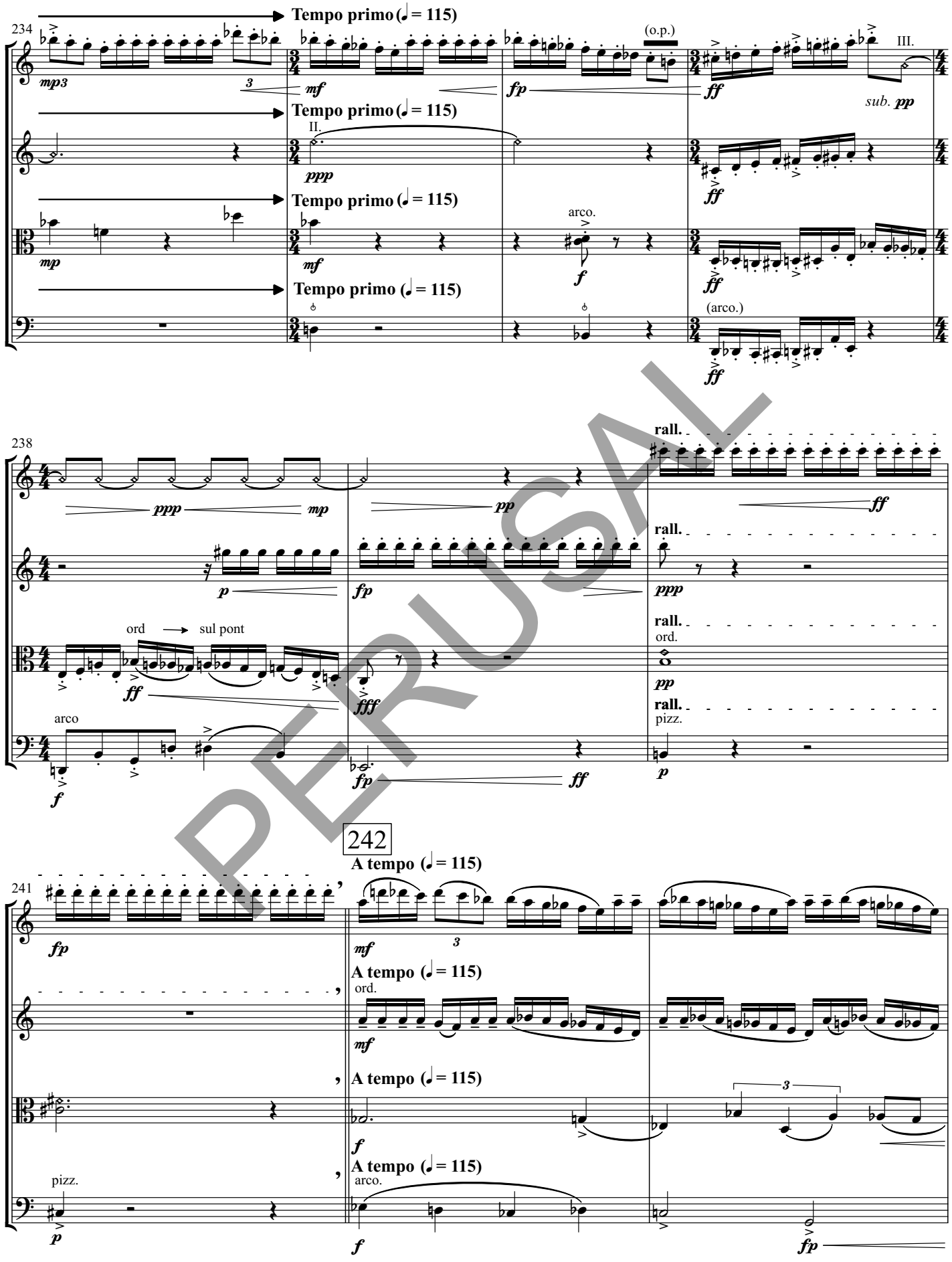
PERUSAL


225
fp
f
p
mf
ord.
fp
(f)

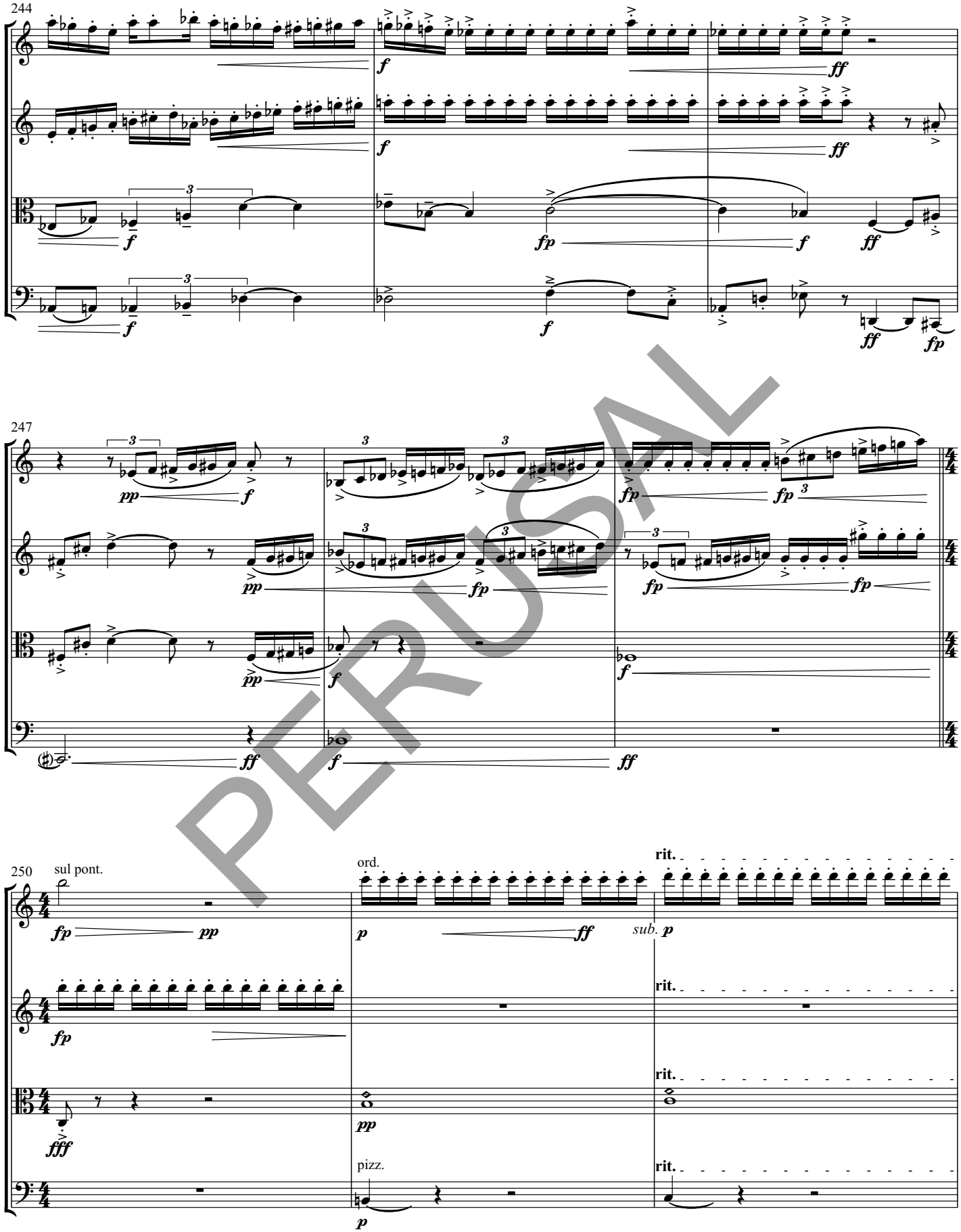

228
pp
f
fp
ff
arco.

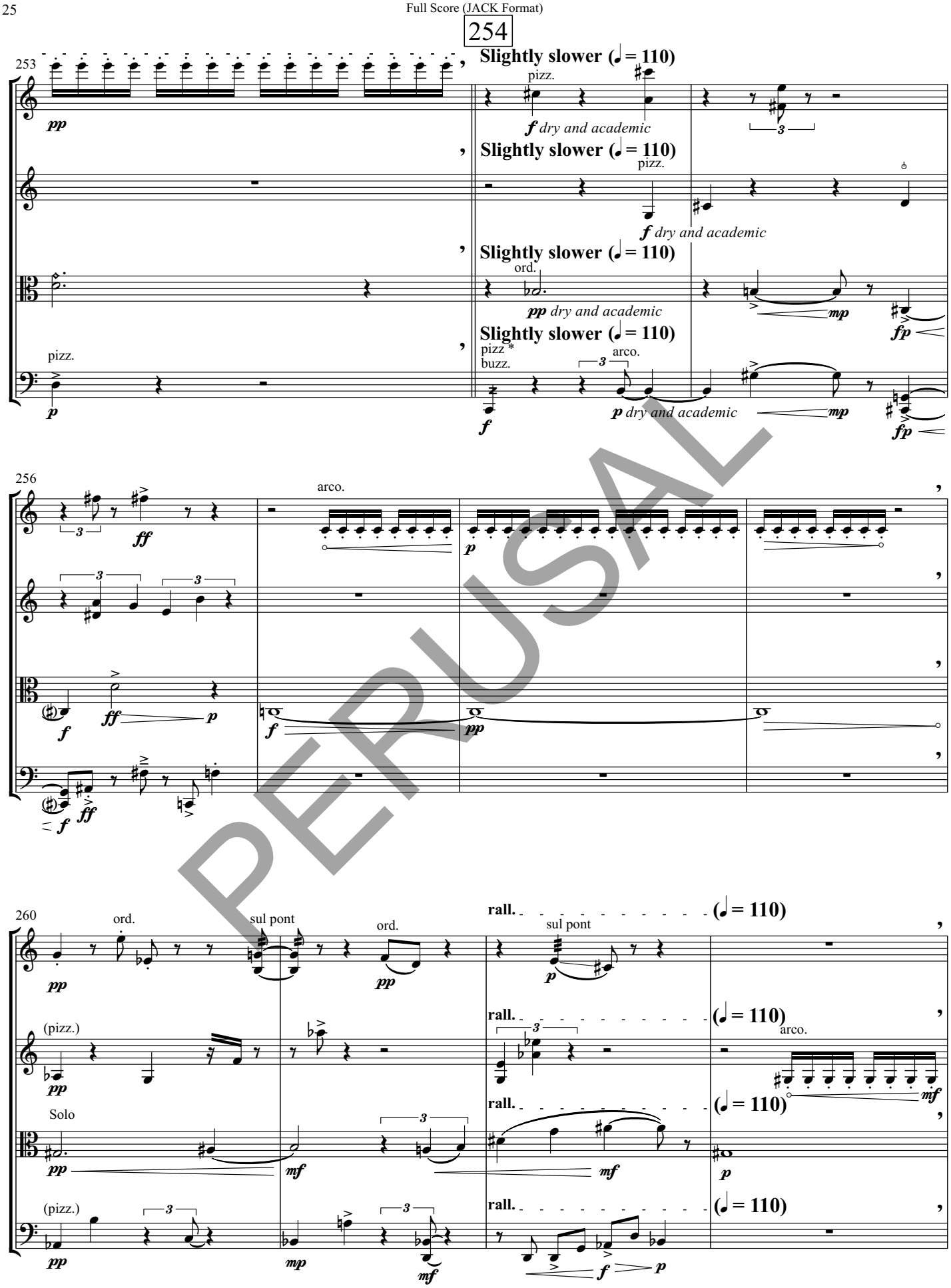

231
233
Pull back (♩ = 70) accel.
fp
f
fff
sub. p
III.
ppp
ord.
ff
pizz.
p

PERUSAL


234
Tempo primo (♩ = 115)
(o.p.)
III.
sub. pp
II.
arco.
(arco.)
238
rall.
ord → sul pont
ord.
pizz.
arco
242
A tempo (♩ = 115)
241
pizz.
arco.

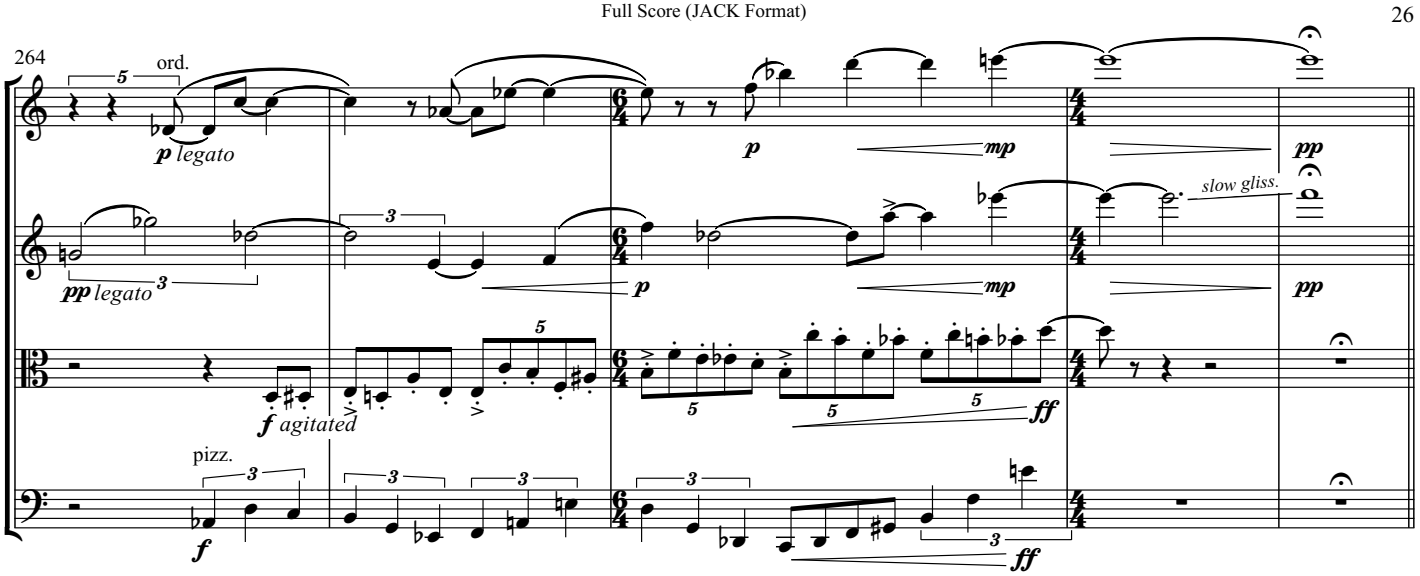
PERUSAL

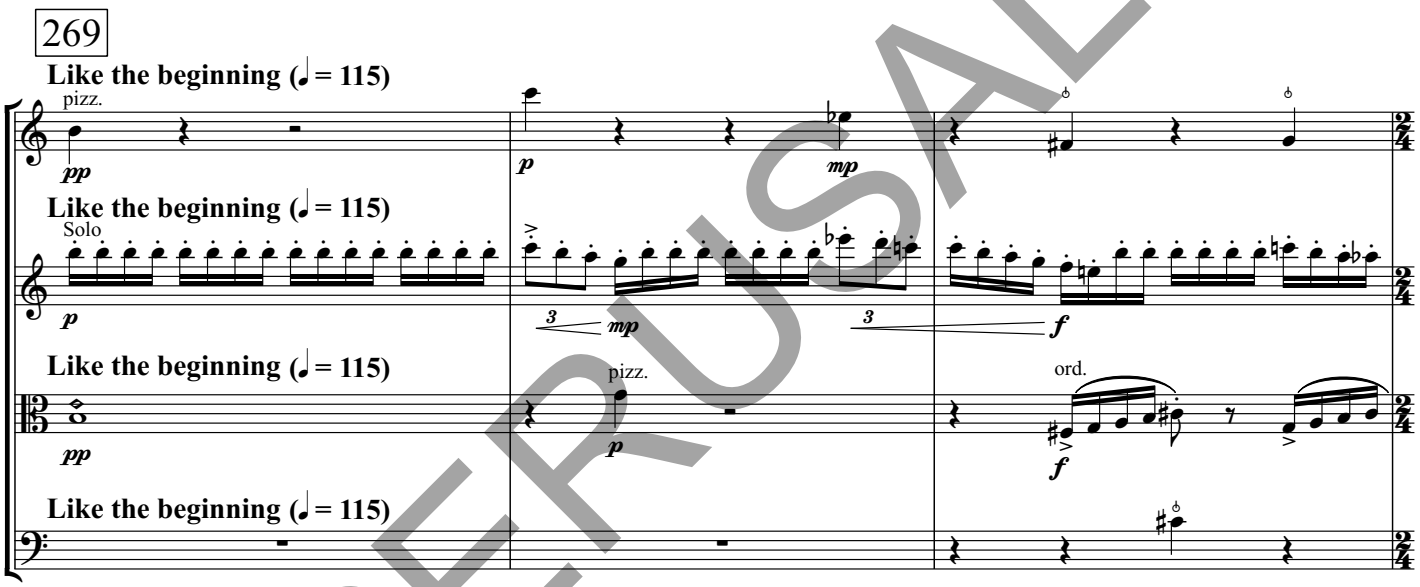

244
247
250
sul pont.
ord.
sub.
pizz.
rit.
PERUSAL

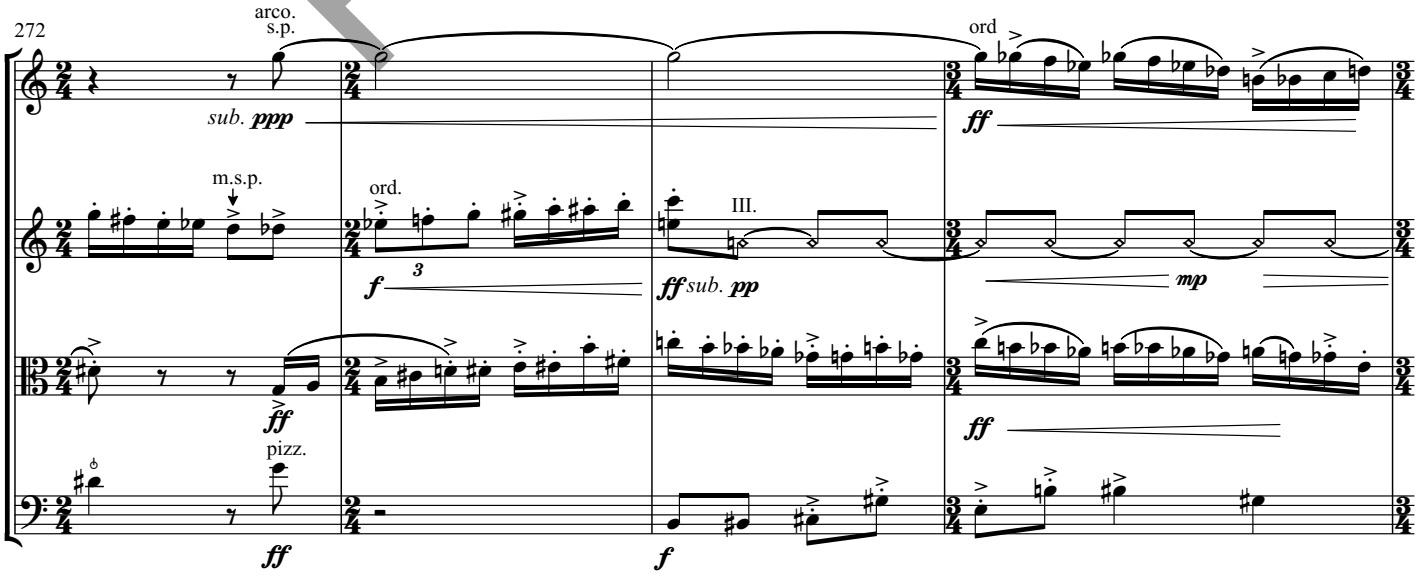


PERUSAL

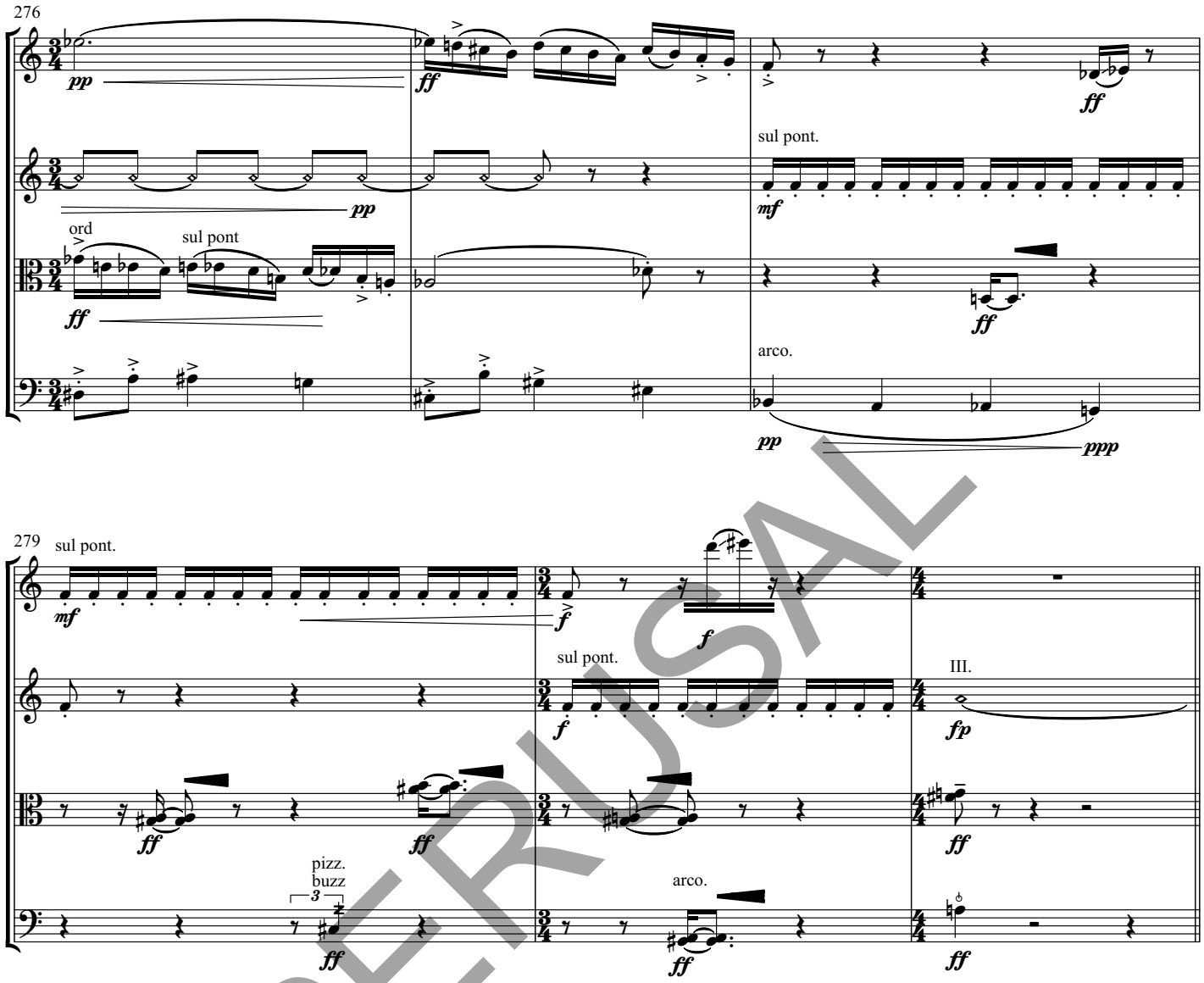
Pizz buzz (𝄩) After pizz, quickly place tip of the frog near the bridge of the corresponding string.


264
ord.
p legato
p
mp
pp
slow gliss.
pp legato
f agitated
ff
pizz.
f
ff

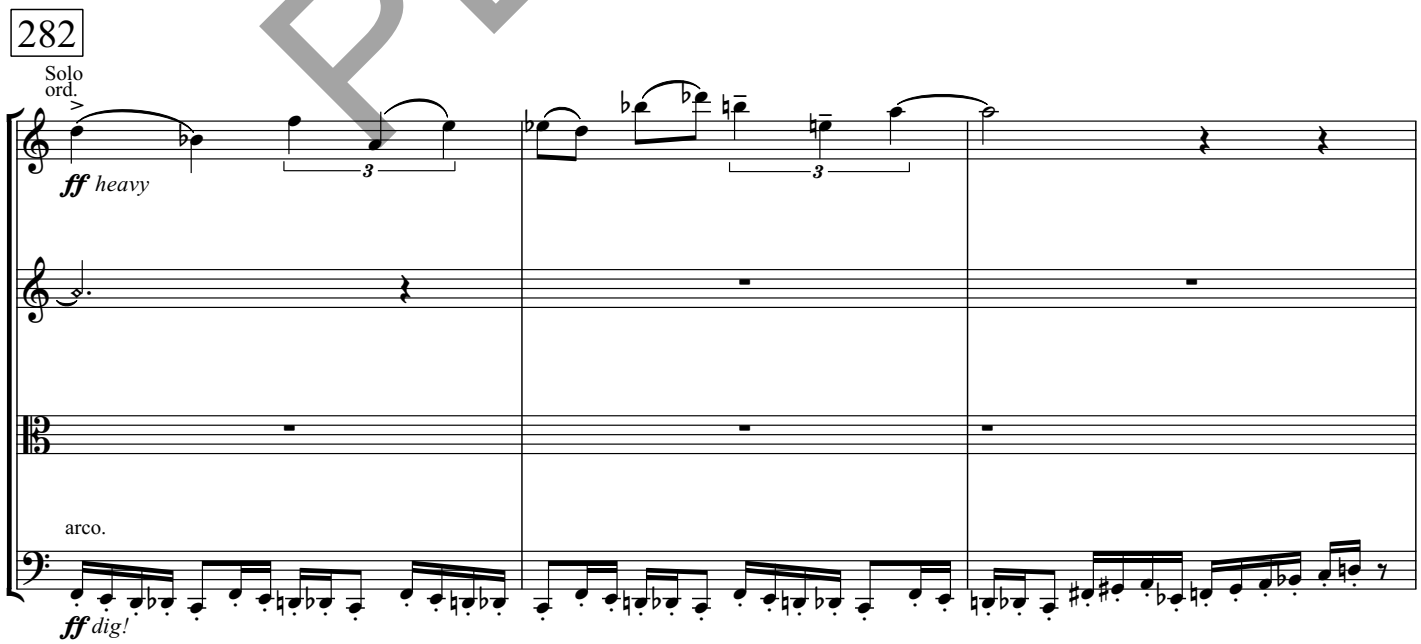

269
Like the beginning (♩ = 115)
pizz.
pp
p
mp
Like the beginning (♩ = 115)
Solo
f
Like the beginning (♩ = 115)
pizz.
ord.
Like the beginning (♩ = 115)


272
arco.
s.p.
ord
sub. ppp
ff
m.s.p.
ord.
III.
f
ff sub. pp
mp
pizz.
ff
f

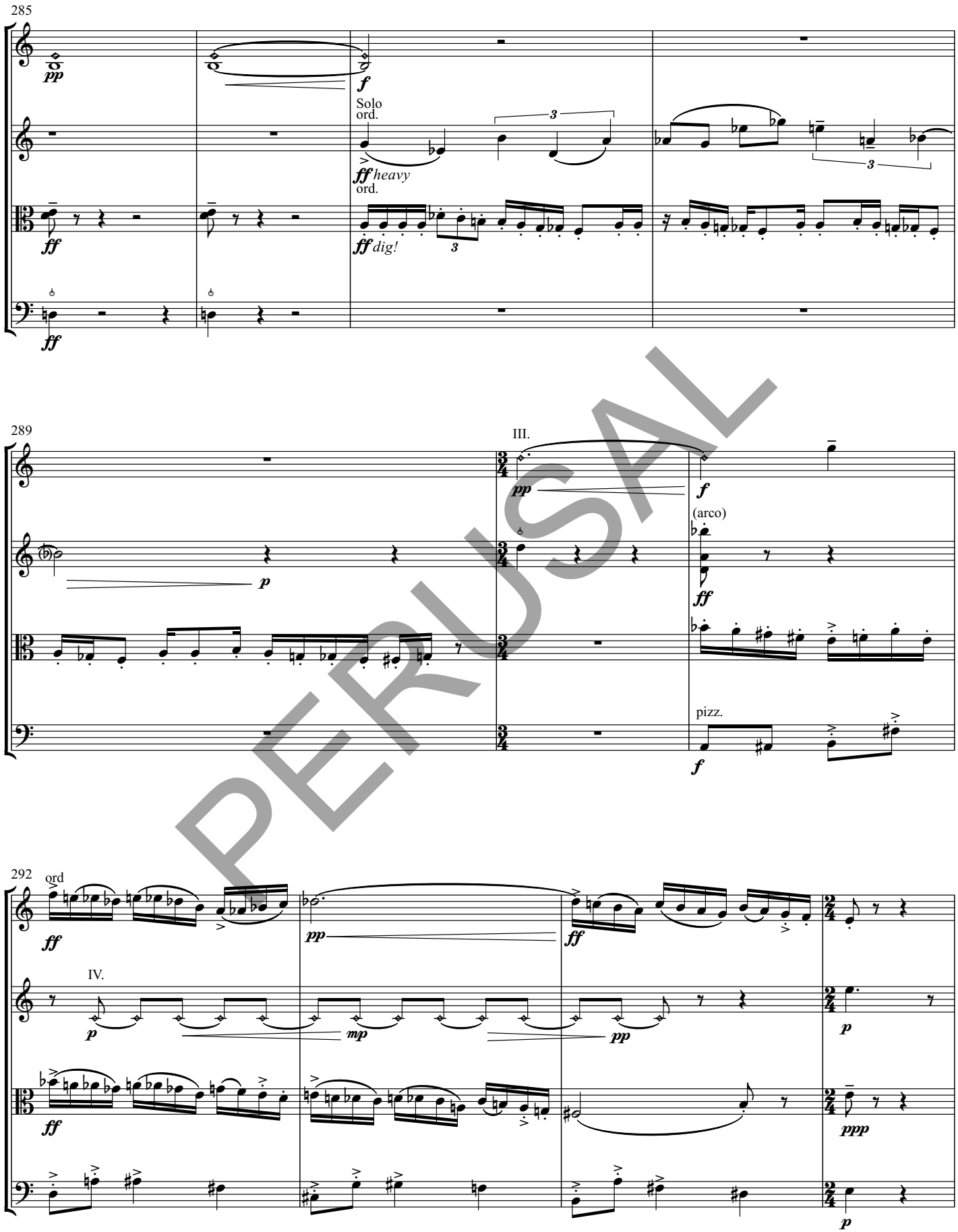
PERUSAL


276
pp
ff
sul pont.
mf
ord
sul pont
ff
arco.
pp
ppp

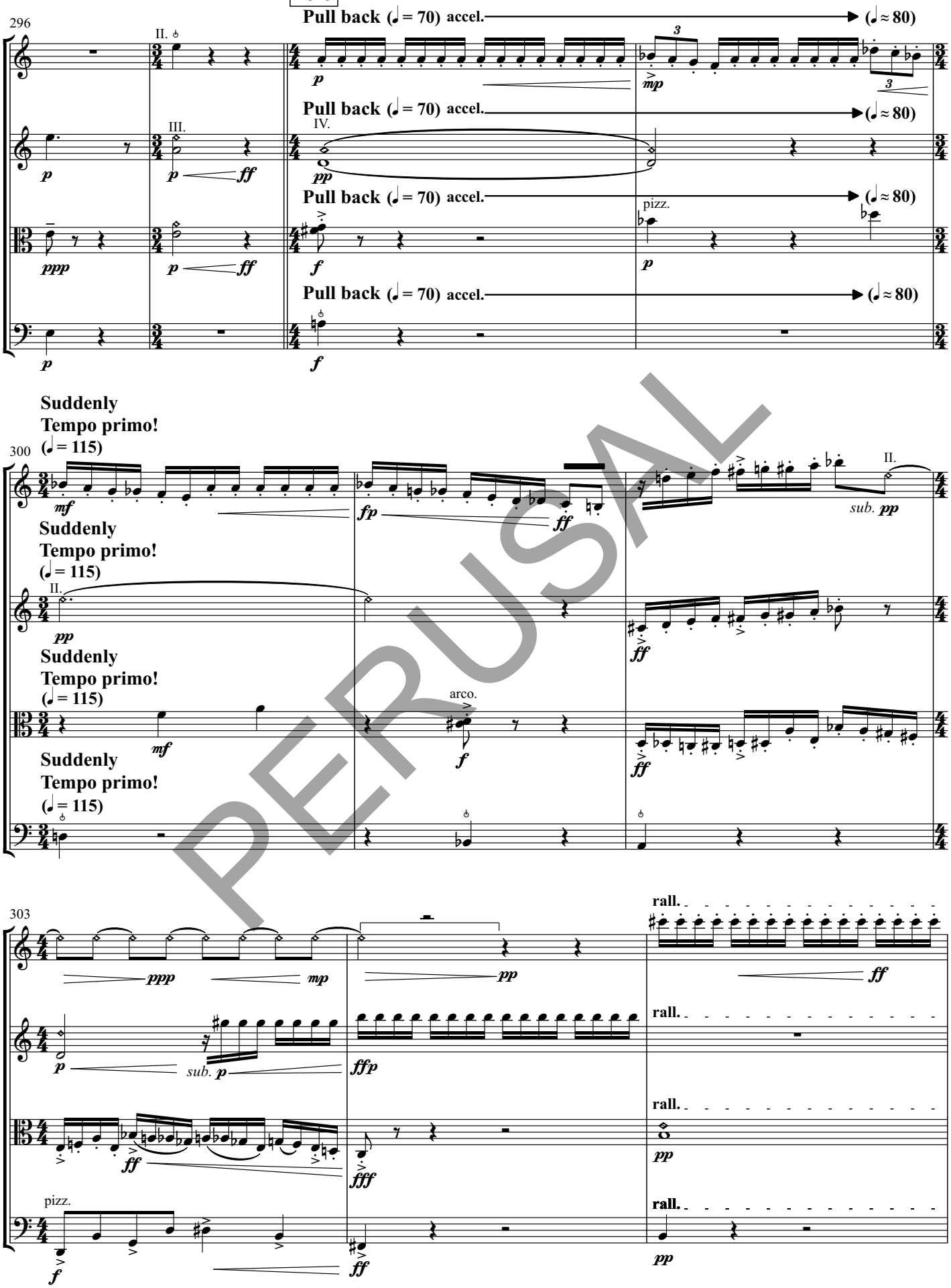
279
sul pont.
mf
f
sul pont.
III.
fp
ff
pizz.
buzz
3
arco.


282
Solo
ord.
ff heavy
3
arco.
ff dig!

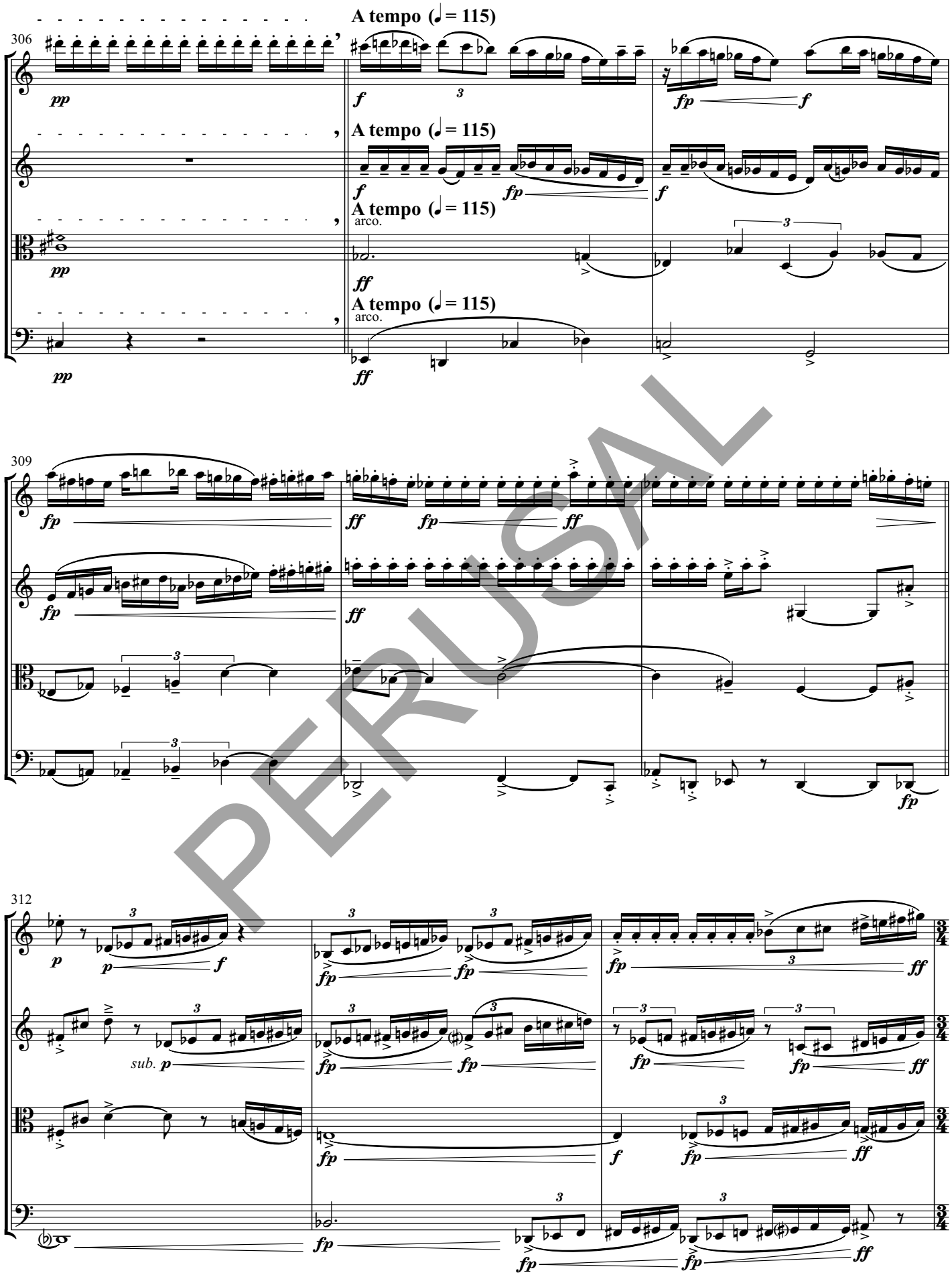
PERUSAL

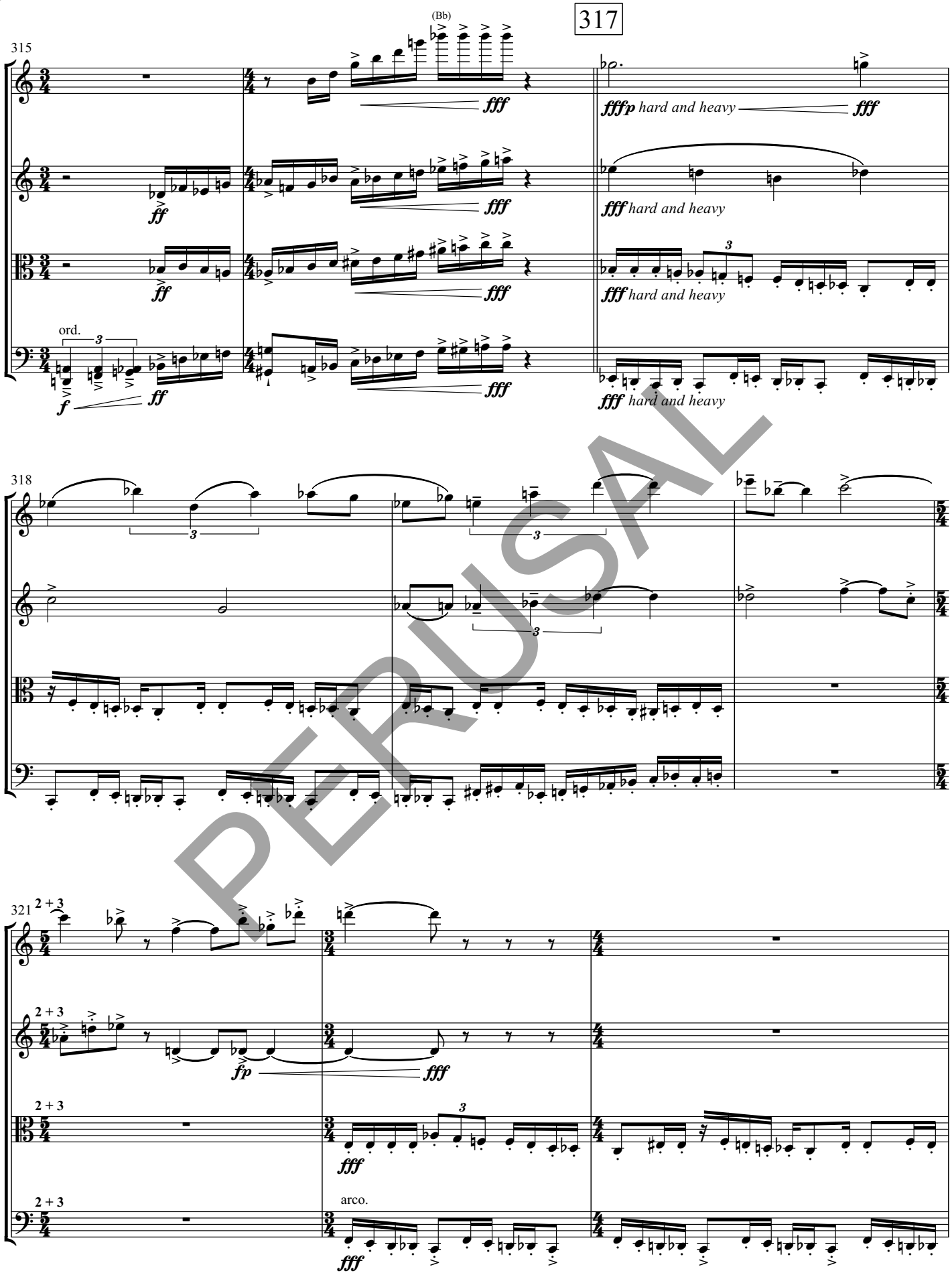


PERUSAL

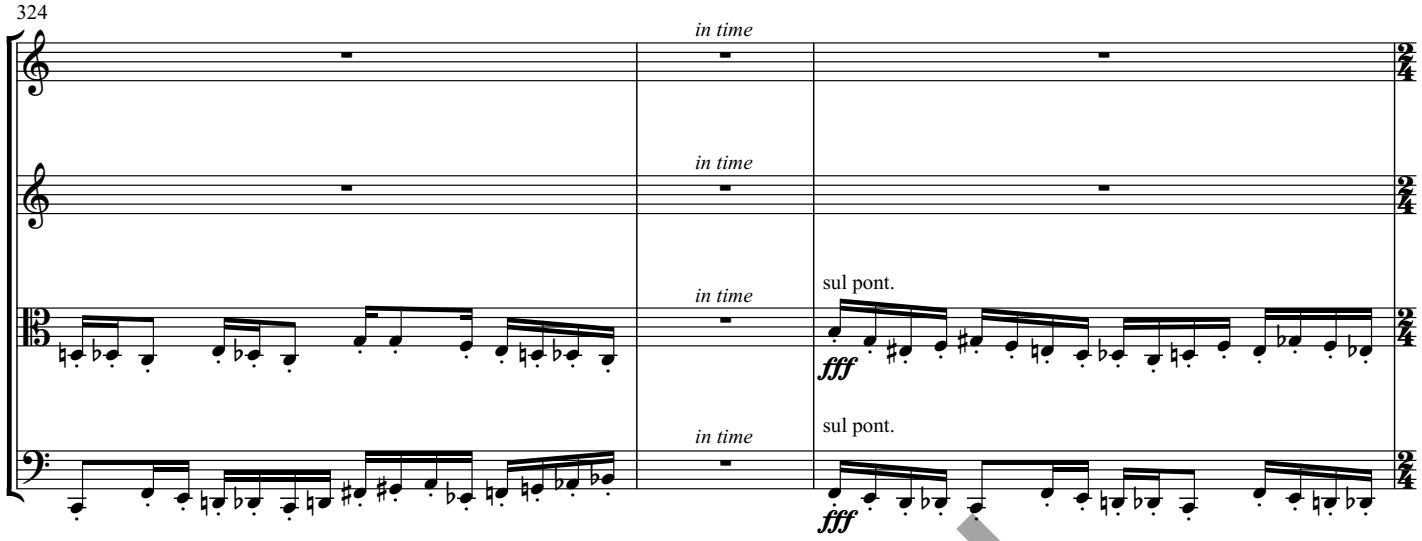

296
Pull back (♩ = 70) accel. (♩ ≈ 80)
II.
III.
IV.
pizz.
300
Suddenly
Tempo primo!
(♩ = 115)
arco.
sub. pp
303
rall.

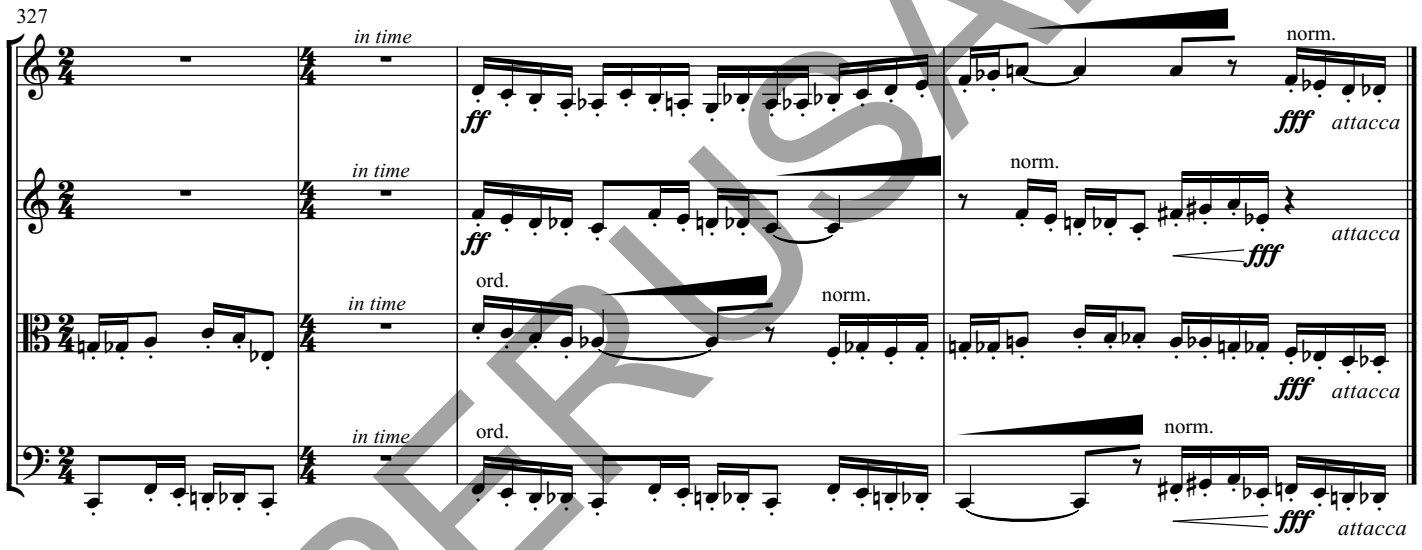
PERUSAL


306
A tempo (♩ = 115)
A tempo (♩ = 115)
A tempo (♩ = 115)
arco.
A tempo (♩ = 115)
arco.
309
312
sub. p
PERUSAL


317
(Bb)
315
fff
fffp hard and heavy
fff
ff
fff
fff hard and heavy
ff
fff
fff hard and heavy
ord.
f
ff
fff
fff hard and heavy
318
321
2 + 3
fp
fff
fff
arco.
fff

PERUSAL

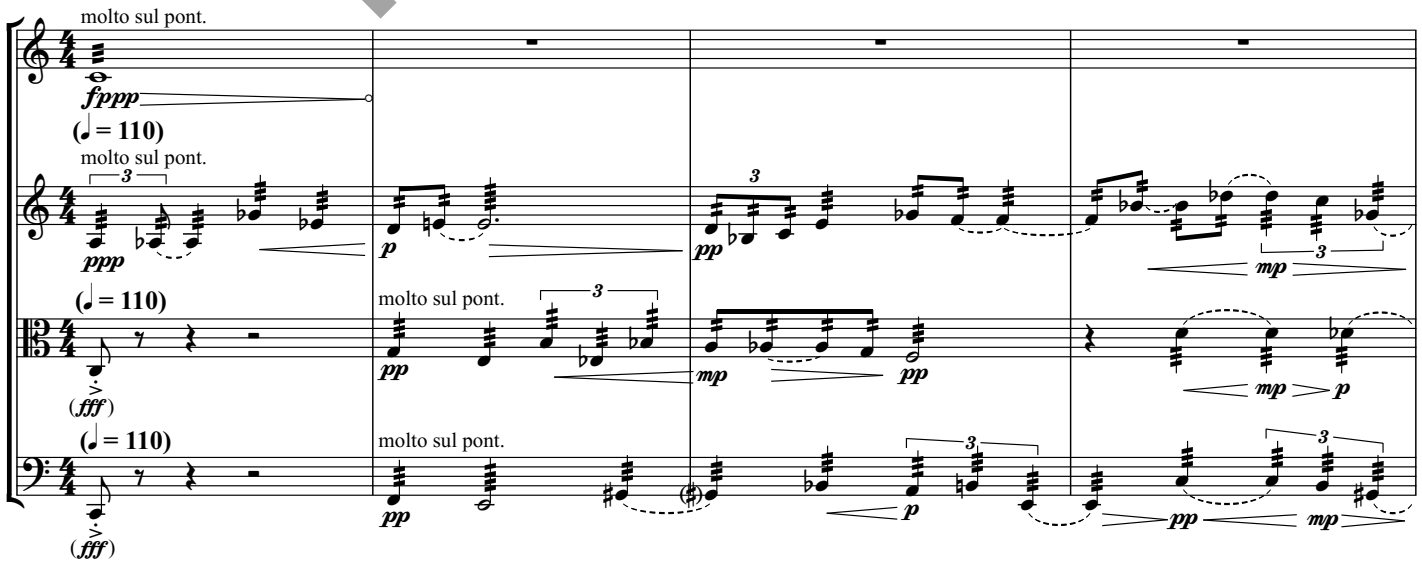


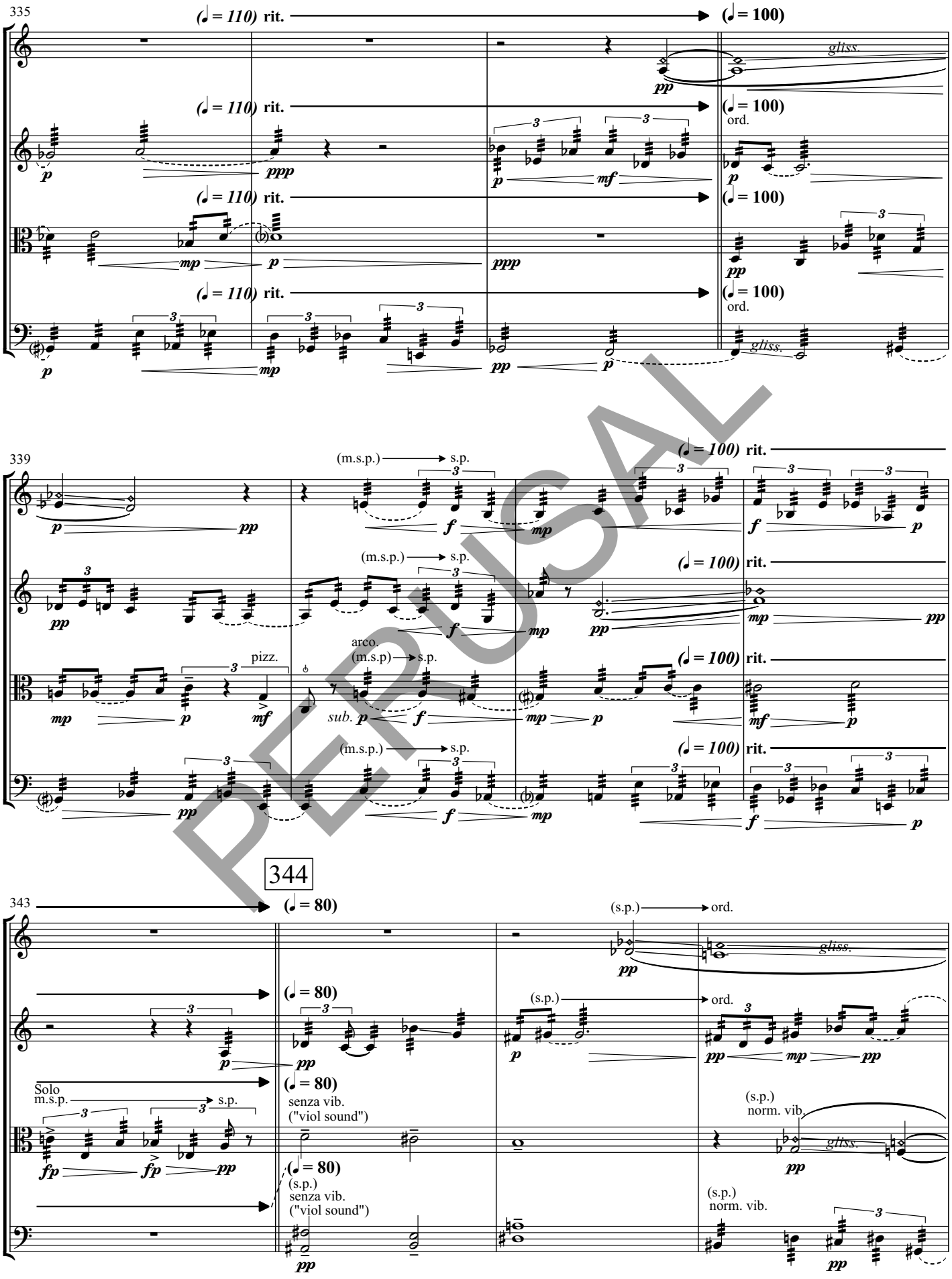


PERUSAL

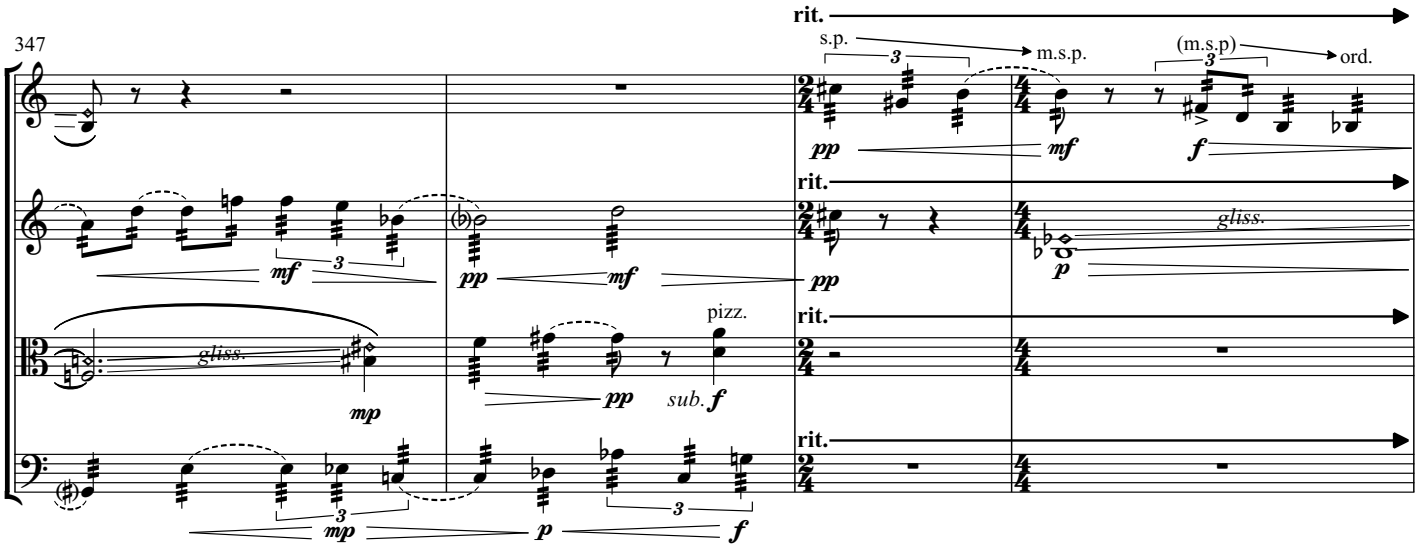
Interlude (II.)

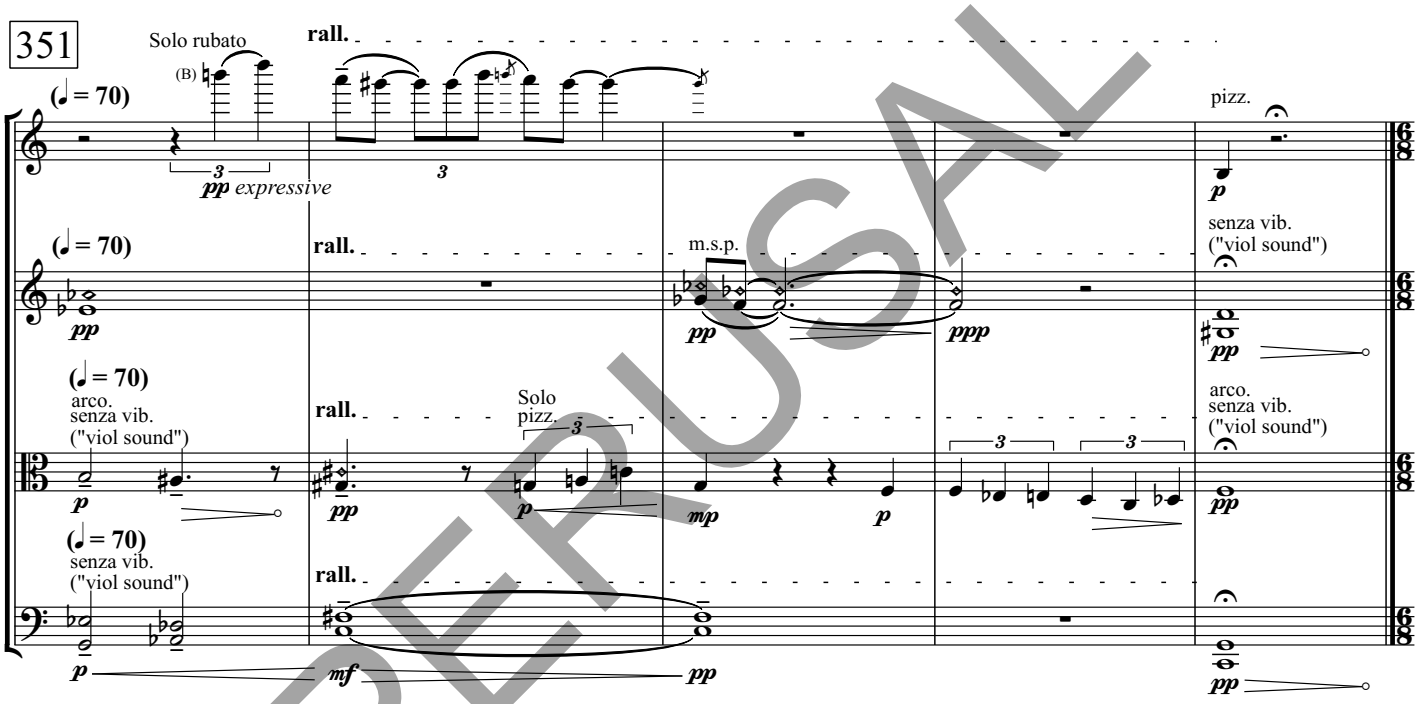
Hazy (♩ = 110)




335
(♩ = 110) rit.
(♩ = 100)
gliss.
ord.
339
(m.s.p.) → s.p.
pizz.
arco.
sub.
344
343
Solo
m.s.p. → s.p.
senza vib.
("viol sound")
(s.p.)
norm. vib.
(s.p.) → ord.

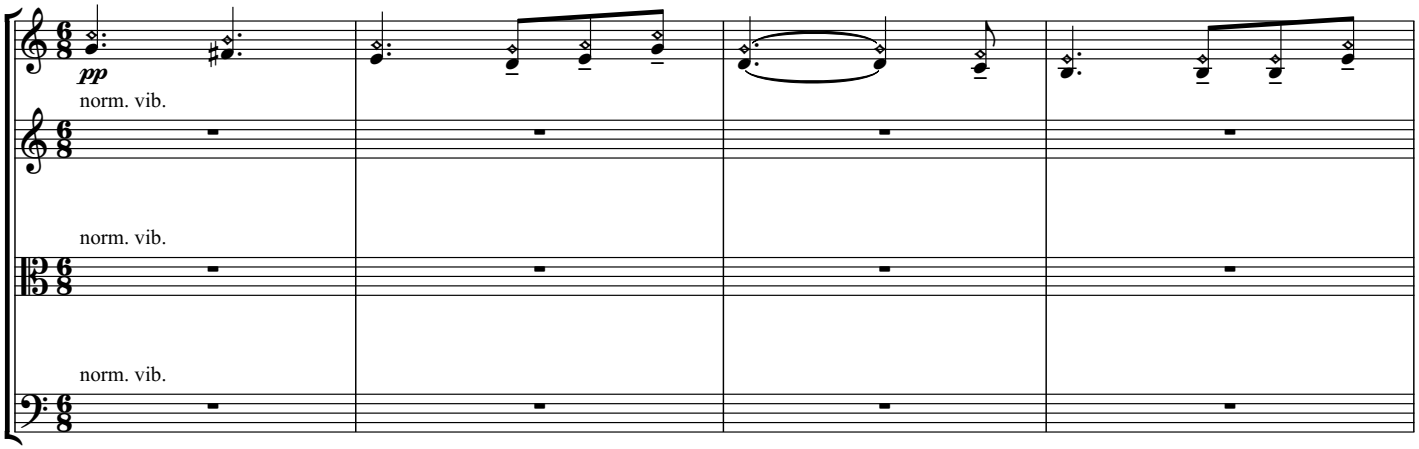
PERUSAL





IV.

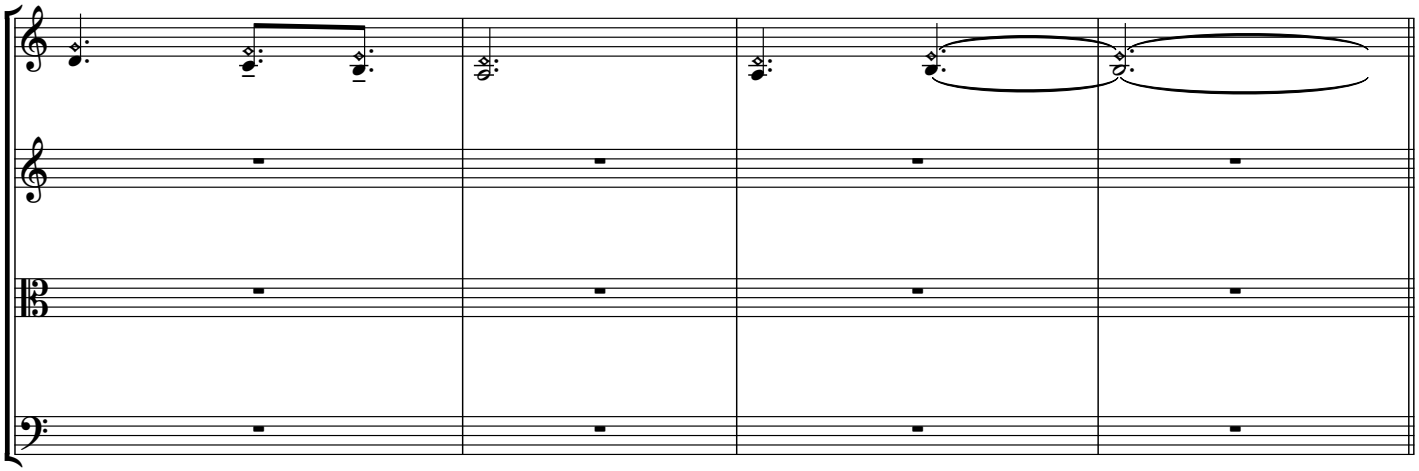
Russian Music Box (♩ = 100)



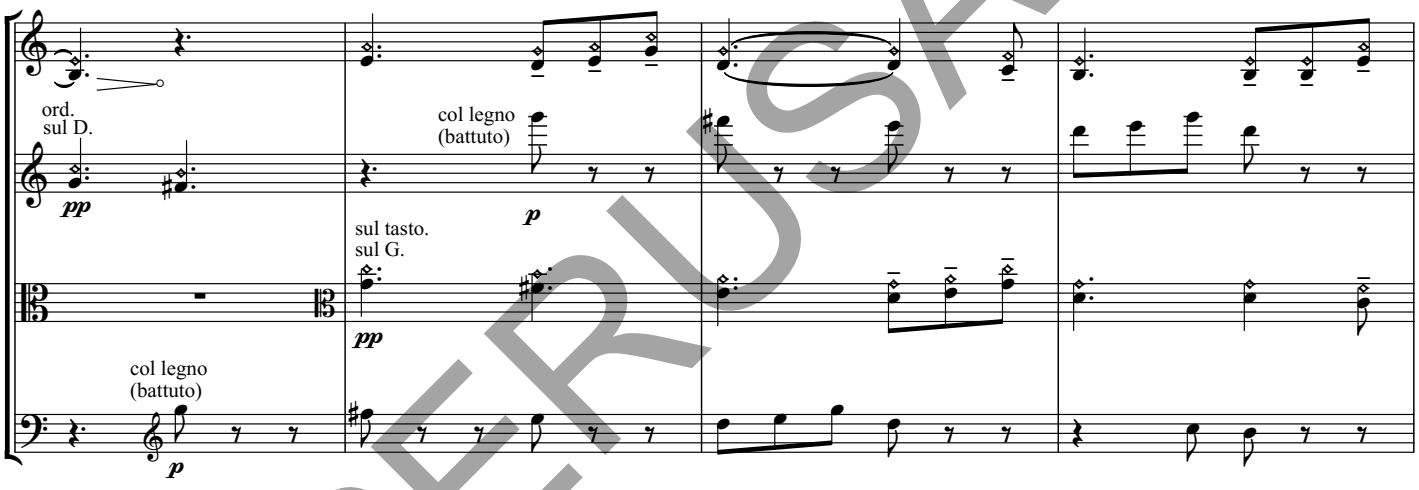
*Tchaikovsky, *Serenade for Strings* Op. 48

PERUSAL

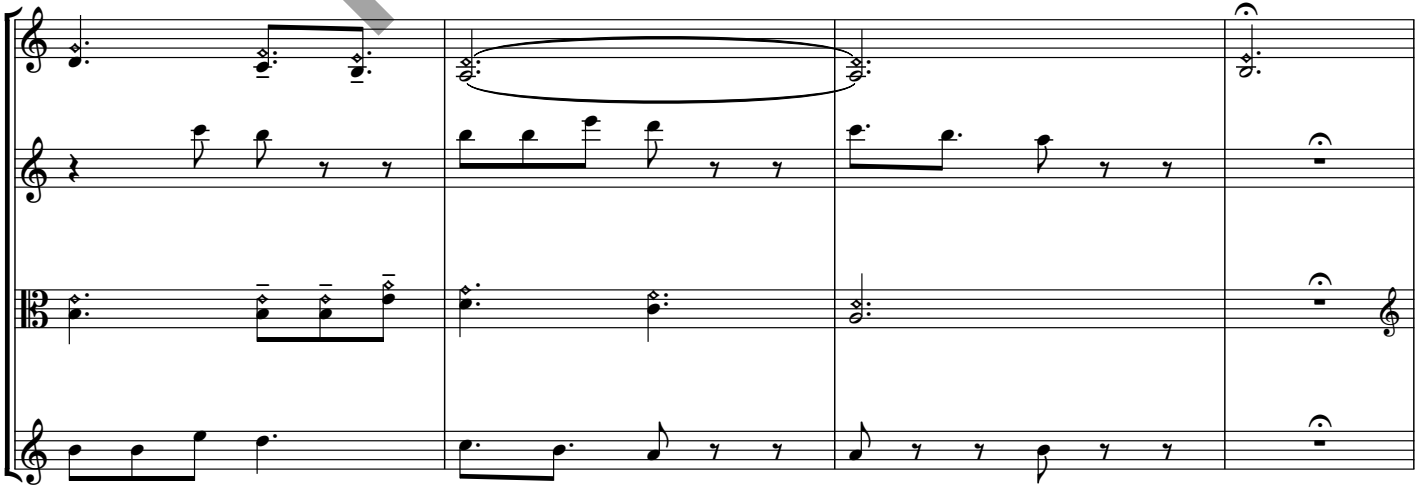
360



364

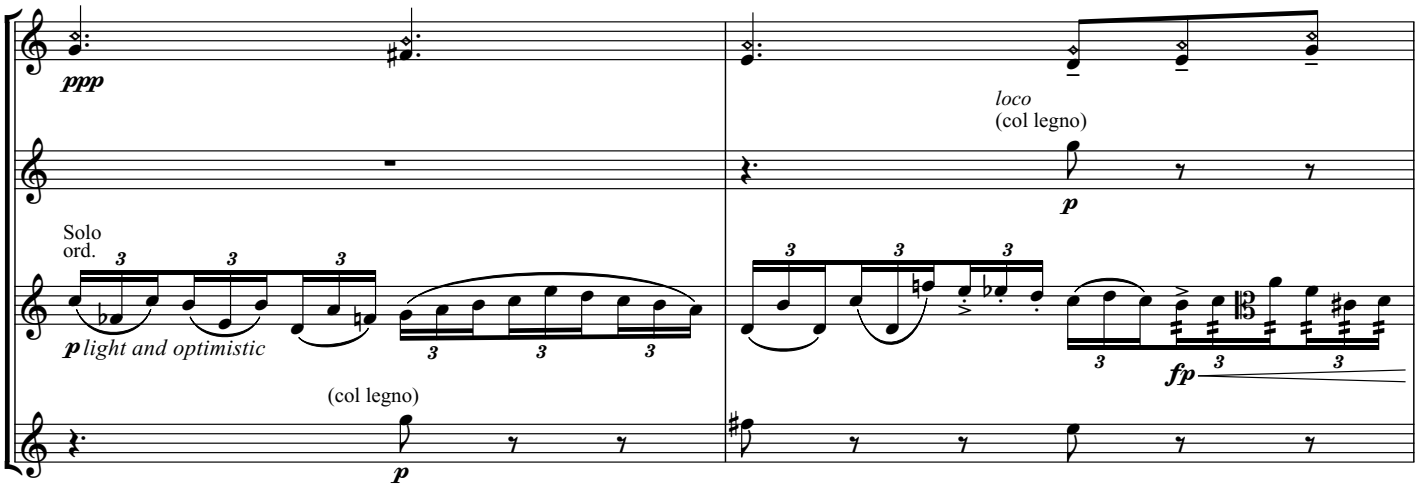


368

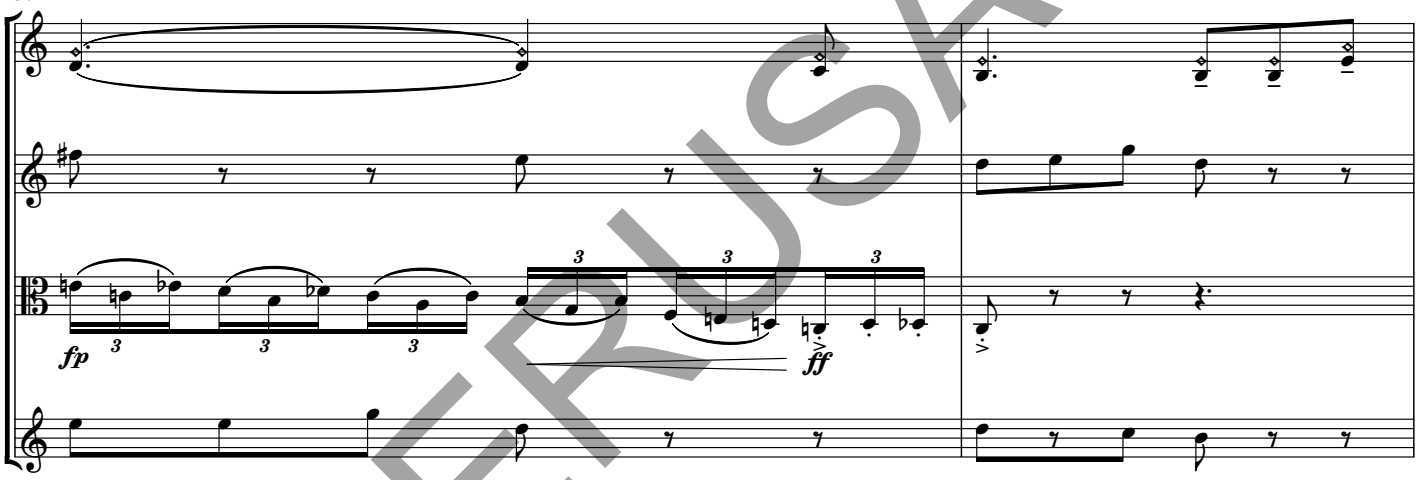


PERUSAL

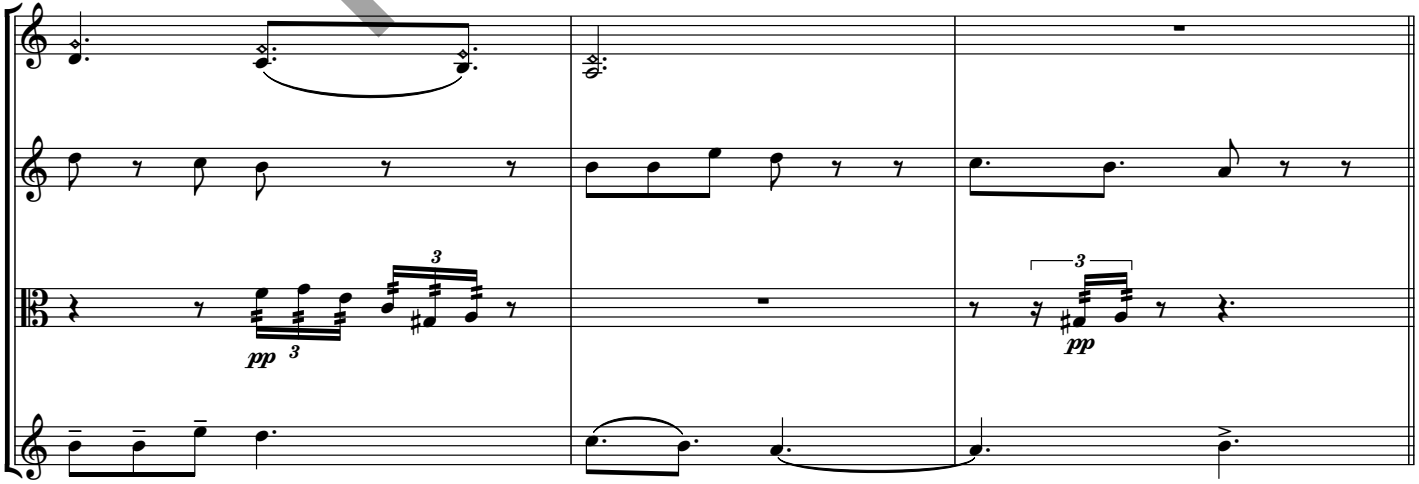
372



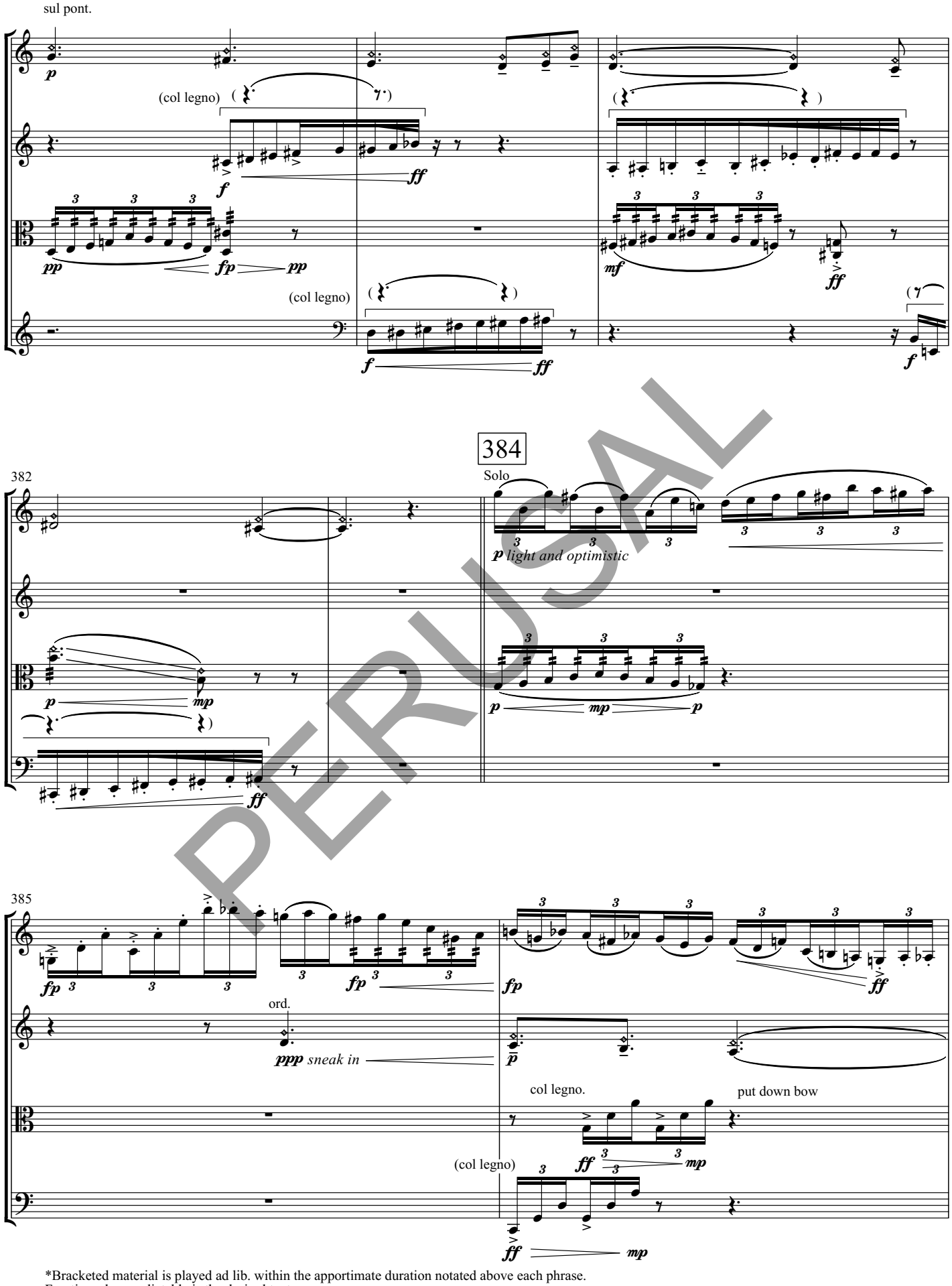
374



376



PERUSAL

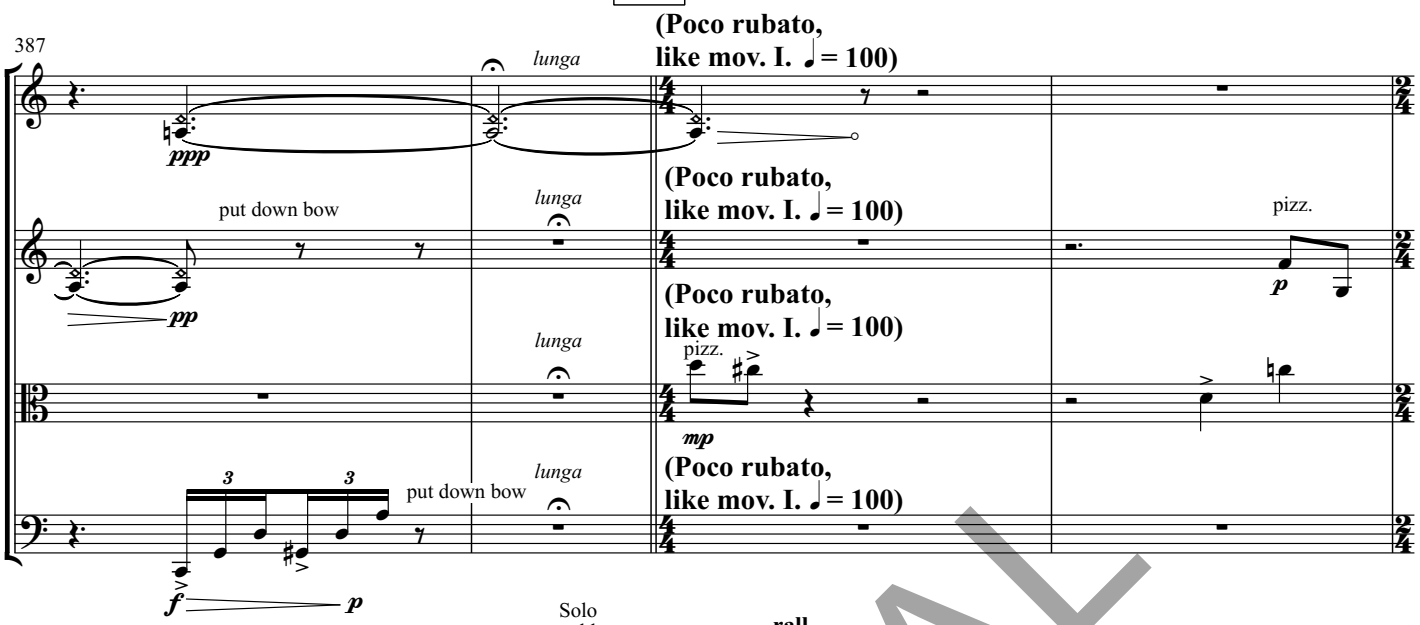


PERUSAL

*Bracketed material is played ad lib. within the apportimate duration notated above each phrase.
Frantic and unpredictable is the desired texture.

389

387



PERUSAL