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Josh Trentadue

MUSINGS

a theme and variations for solo piano

M. O. T. I. F.
MUSIC OF THE INTROSPECTIVE FIELDS

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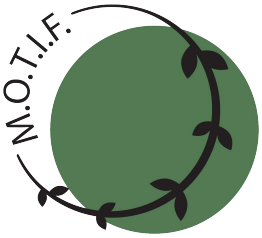

Josh Trentadue

Musings

A Theme and Variations for Piano

(2015)

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PROGRAM NOTES

Musings was composed in reaction to the various styles, genres, and composers of the 20th century. It is a period of time in music history I am deeply fascinated by, mostly because of how many of these composers began to experiment with time, temporal space, chromaticism, extreme instrumental ranges & extended techniques farther than had ever been done at that point. This kind of experimentation stretched to avant-garde music, some forms of jazz, and even to progressive rock bands such as Yes; even now, it still continues today in all kinds of music.

This piece is built on an inner sense of frustration as the music tries to comprehend the nature of its own existence. Its theme is inspired by the style of 12-tone music and is transformed into three subsequent variations, each with their own individual characteristics. The form is described below:

THEME - The initial theme is built on an inner sense of foreboding doom, characterized in the form of a funeral dirge. The theme gradually builds into an even greater sense of dread with each rendition while texture and rhythmic complexity grows with it. The piano's fullest range is explored in the form of clusters, some more alarming than others as well as adding to the inherent frustration within the music.

VARIATION I - A scherzo takes over, jolted and quirky yet maniacal and jarring to the senses. It gradually dies down, transitioning into...

VARIATION II - The theme is built into harmonies familiar to the ears, structured in an alien, ethereal soundscape engulfed in isolation. The music plods along in uncertainty, before pausing to reflect a dreamlike quality of nostalgia.

VARIATION III - Computer-like, pointillist music rapidly enters the fray as the theme struggles to make its appearance known amidst the chaos. Other moments from the previous variations are recalled in scattered fragments throughout this variation, lost in translation as the cacophony of sound catapults its way to the very end.

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PLEASE DIRECT ALL QUERIES TO:
josh@joshtrentadue.com
(artistic and technical questions, errata submissions, purchasing music, commissions/arranging, submitting performances, additional licensing requests such as for commercial recordings or marching band performances, live and virtual residency/workshop scheduling, saying hello, sending food/drink/music/book/video game recommendations, and more!!)

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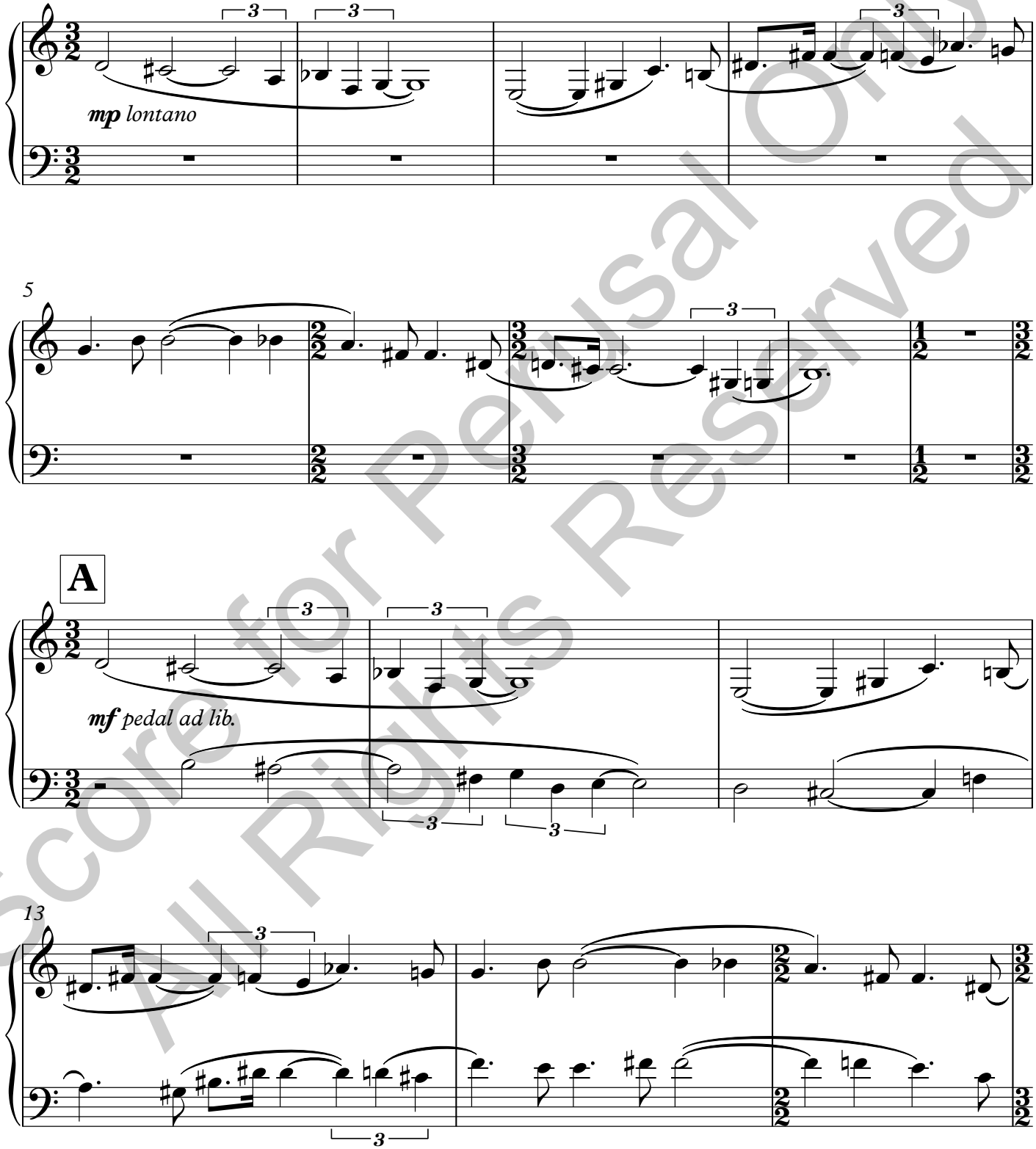
THEME

Largo 𝅗𝅥 **= 54**



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16

rit.

B **Slightly Slower**

f

22

25

rit.

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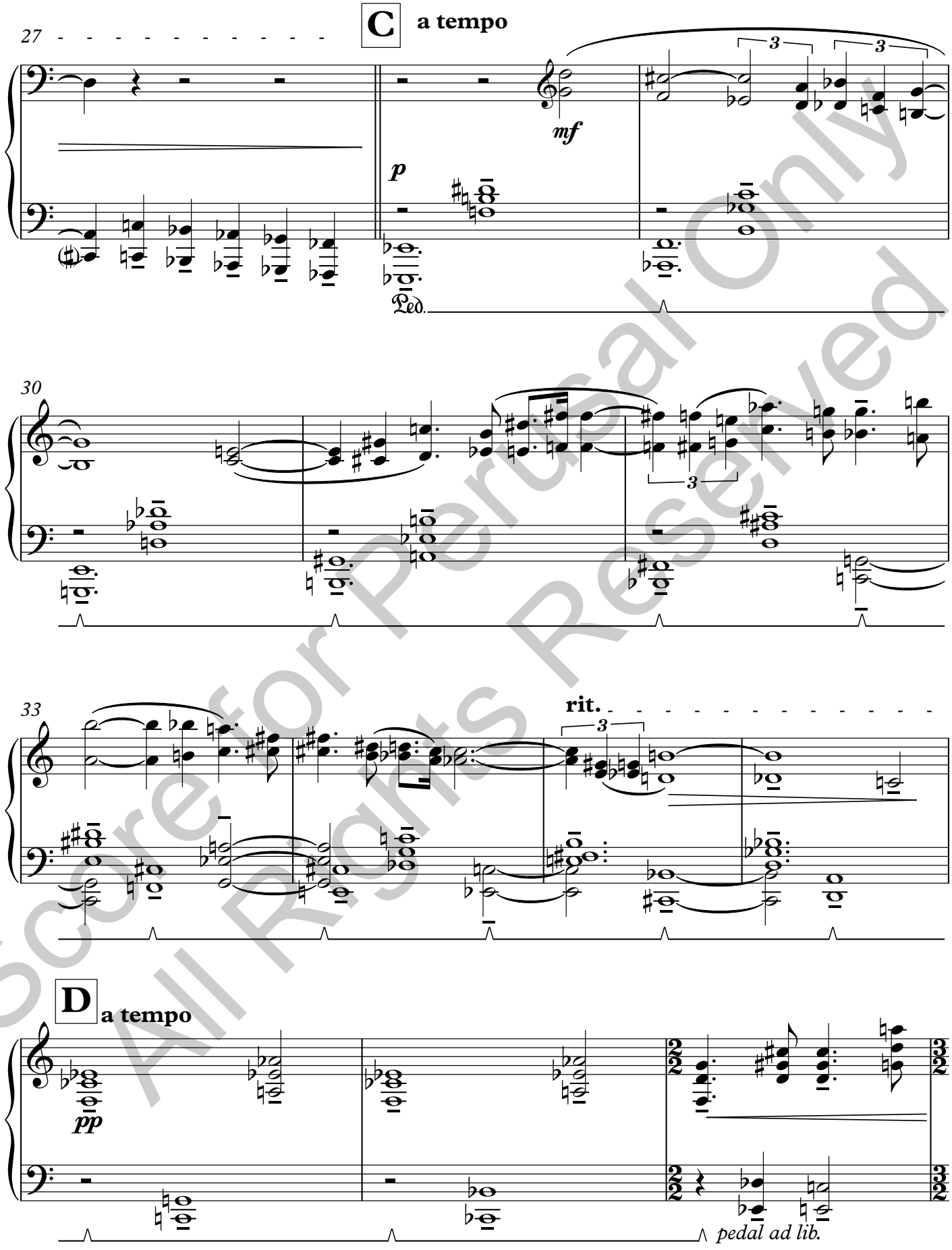

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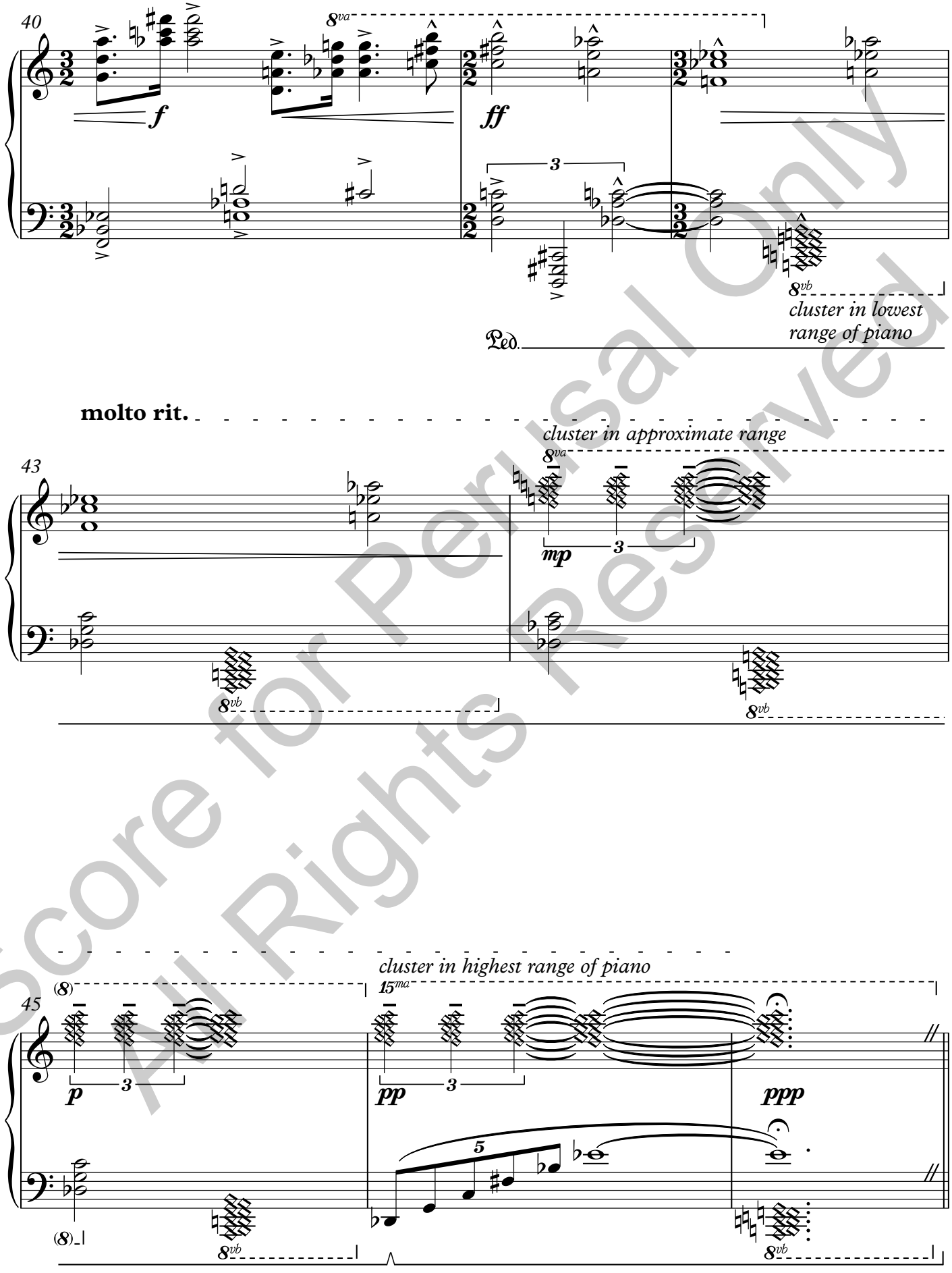

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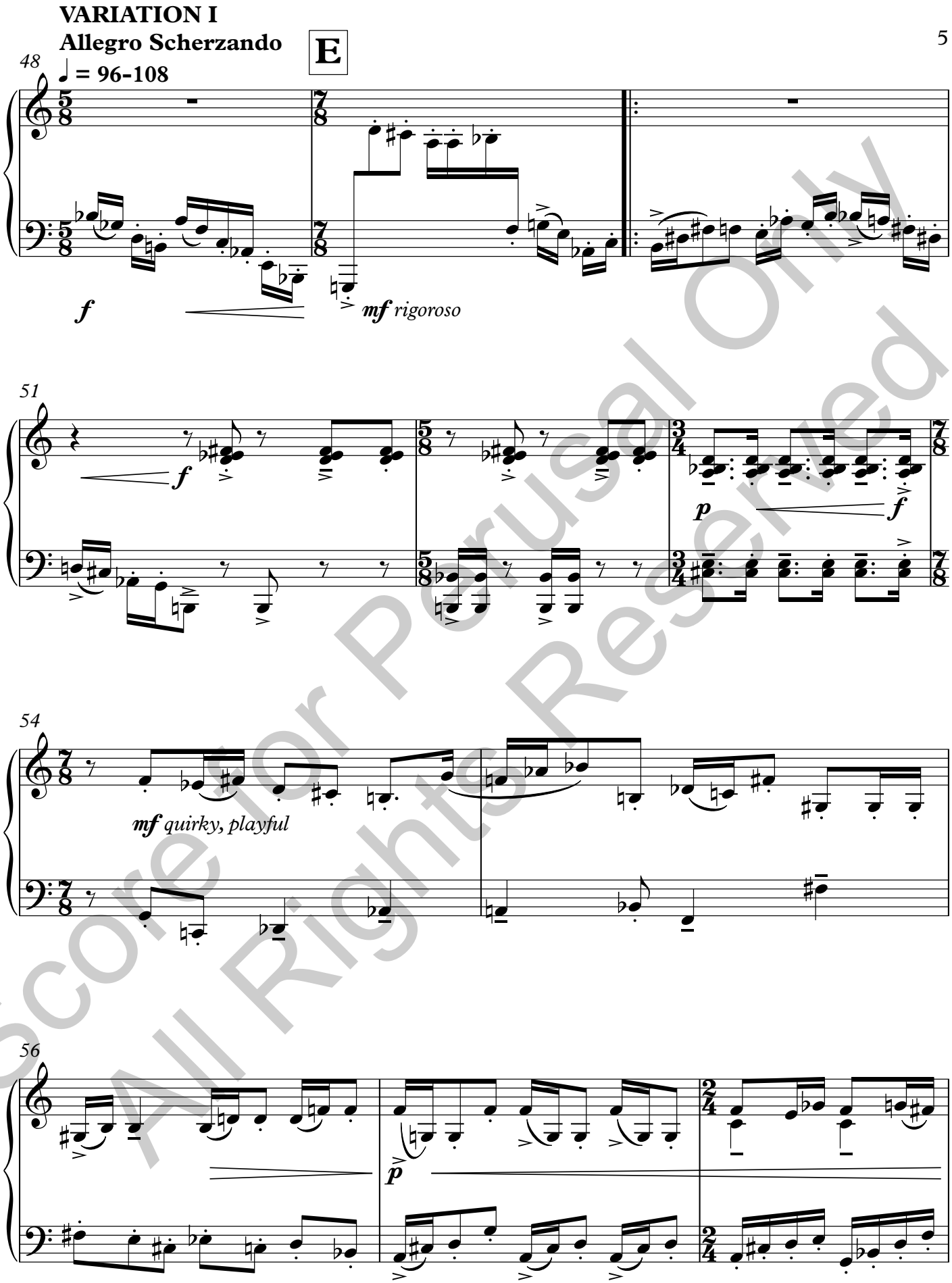
VARIATION I
Allegro Scherzando

mf rigoroso

mf quirky, playful

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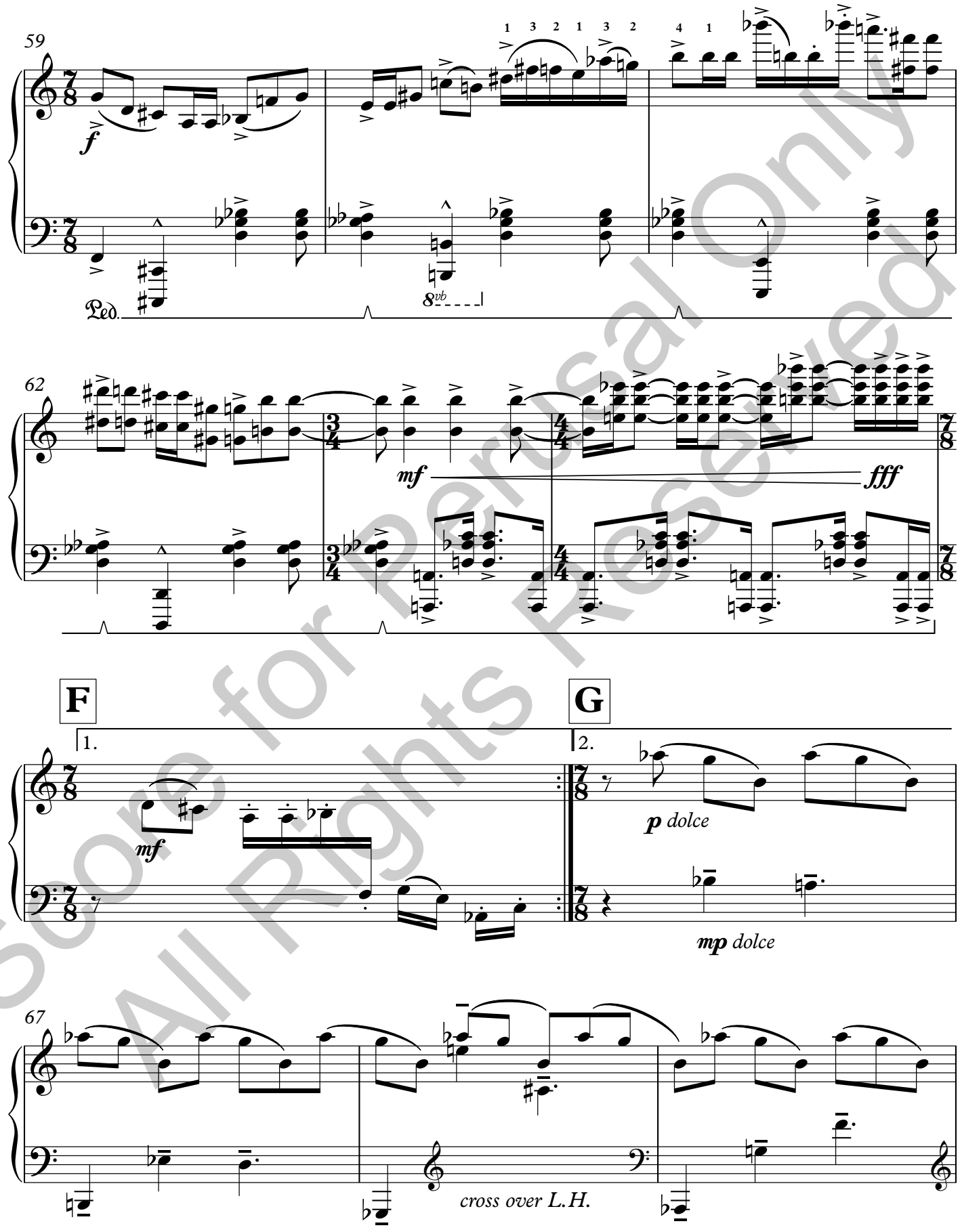

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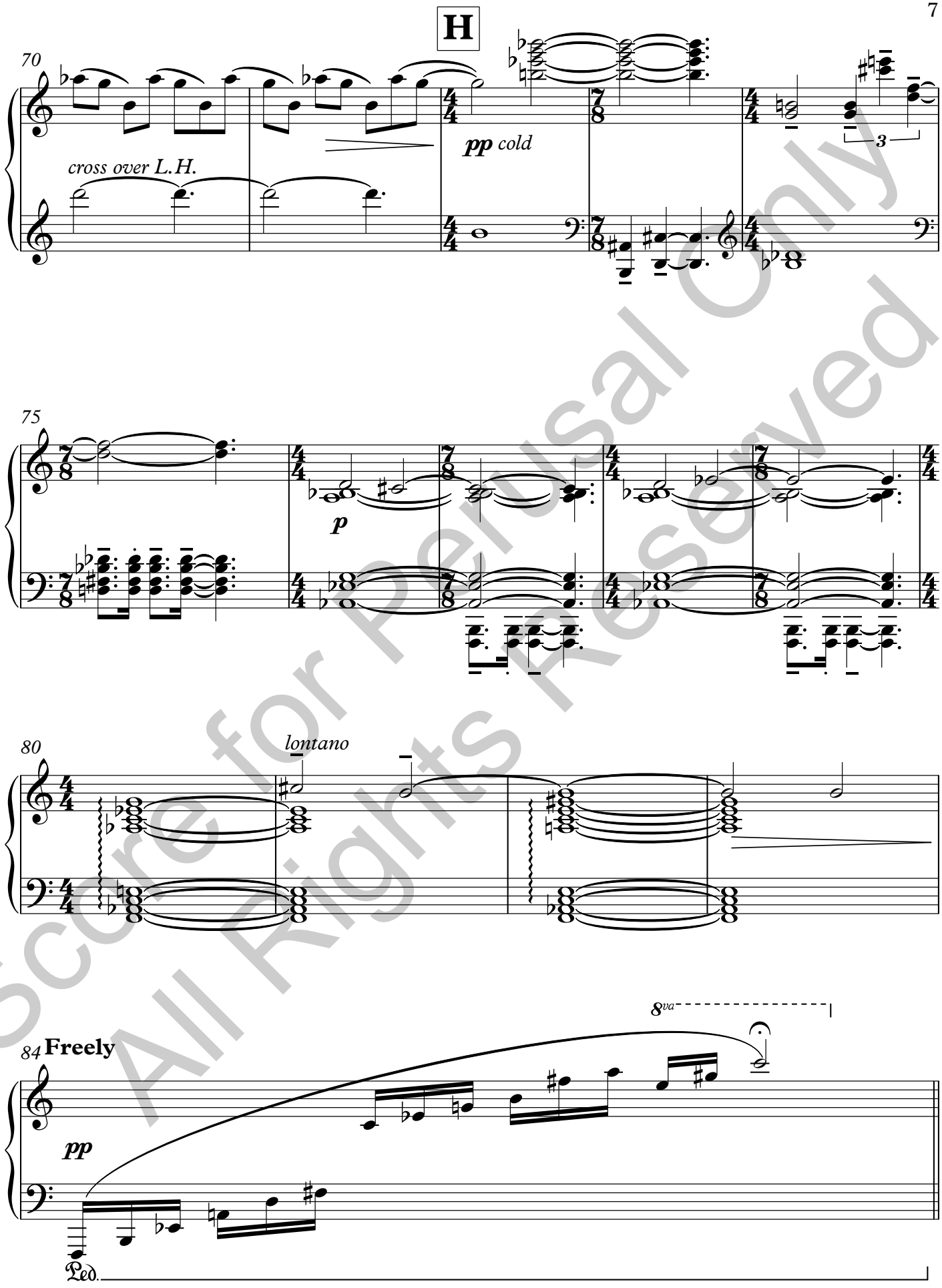

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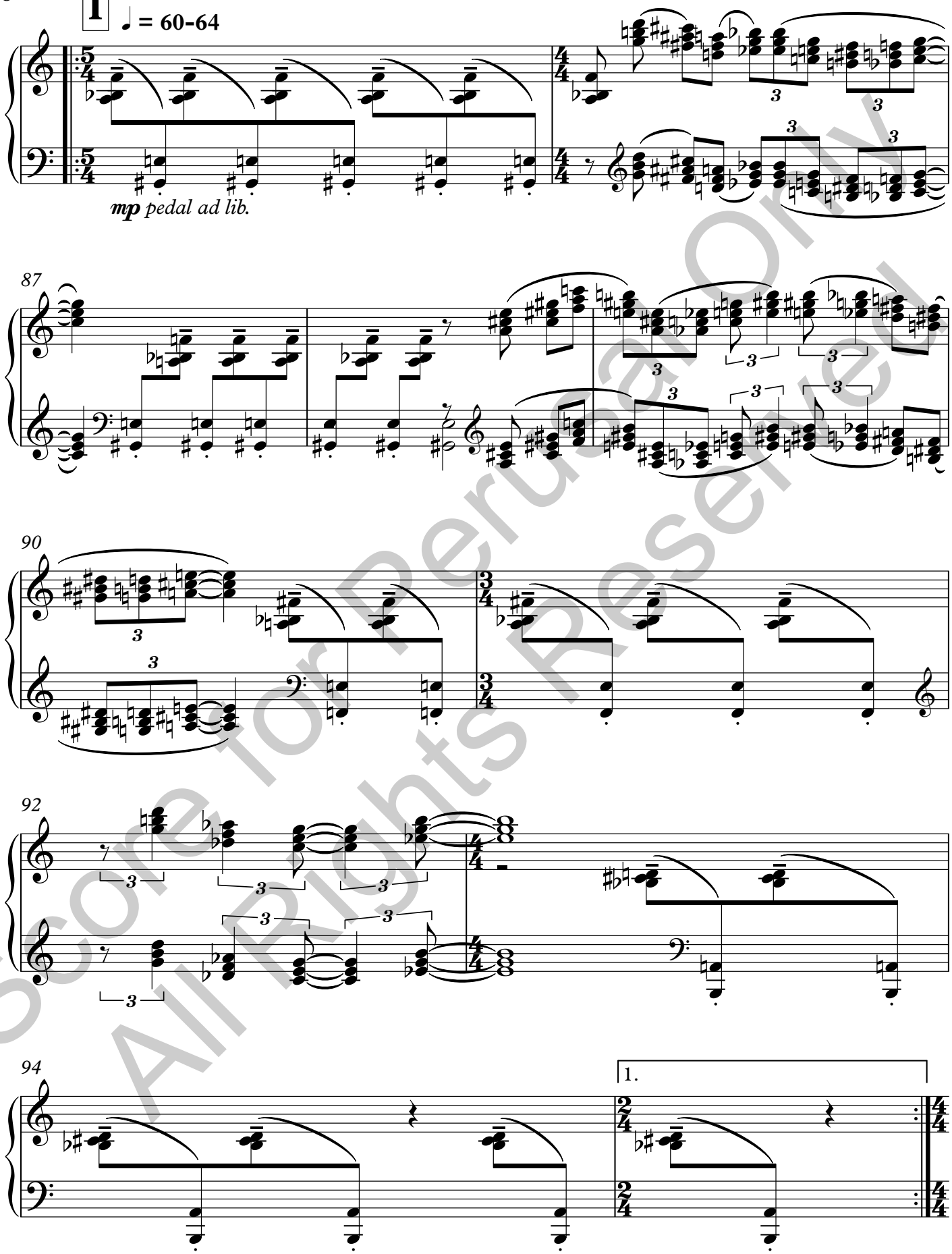
VARIATION II

I **A Piacere**

♩ = 60-64



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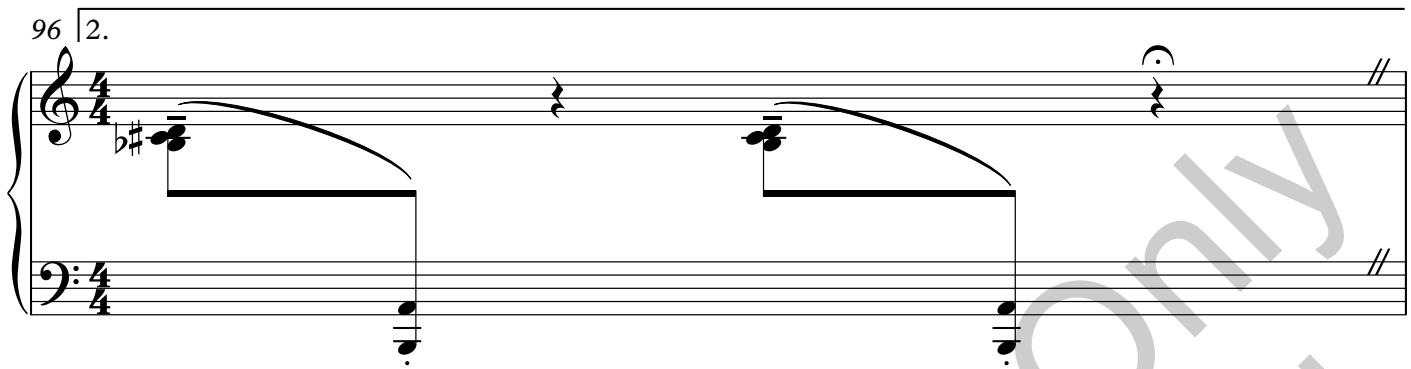

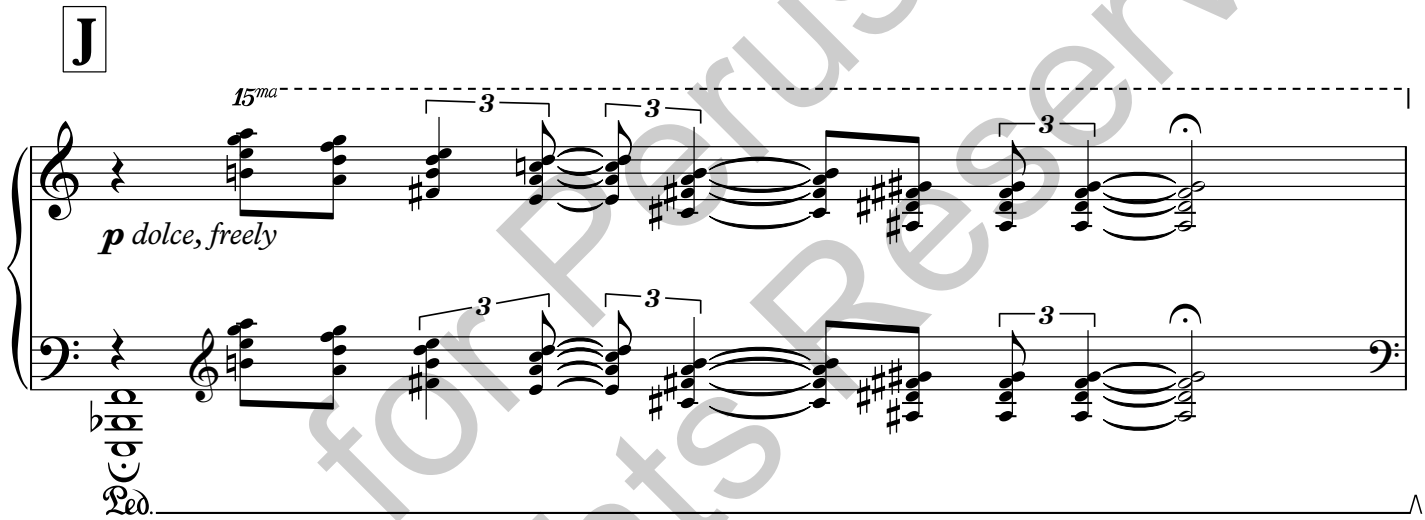

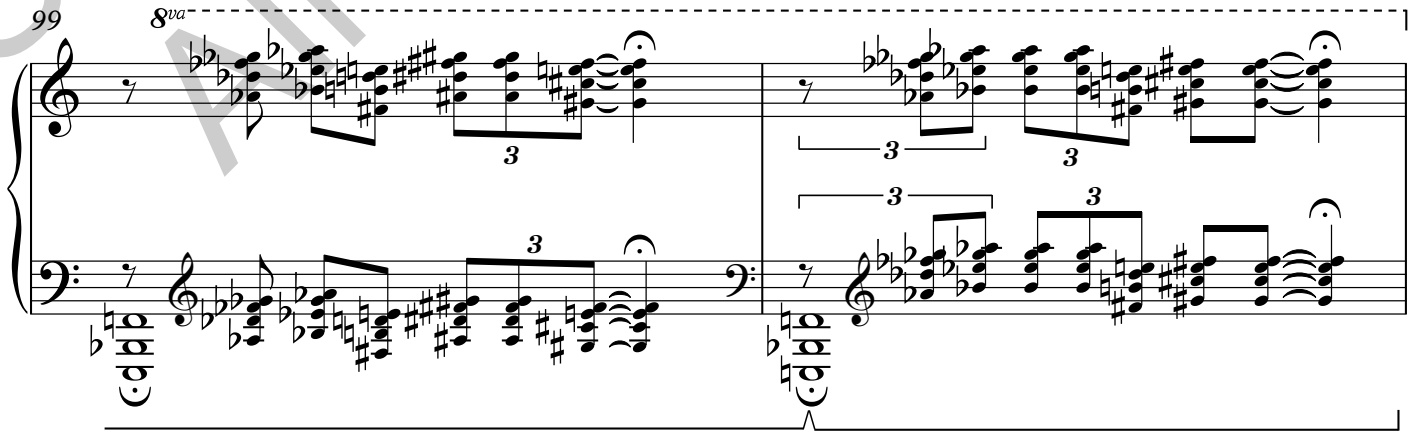

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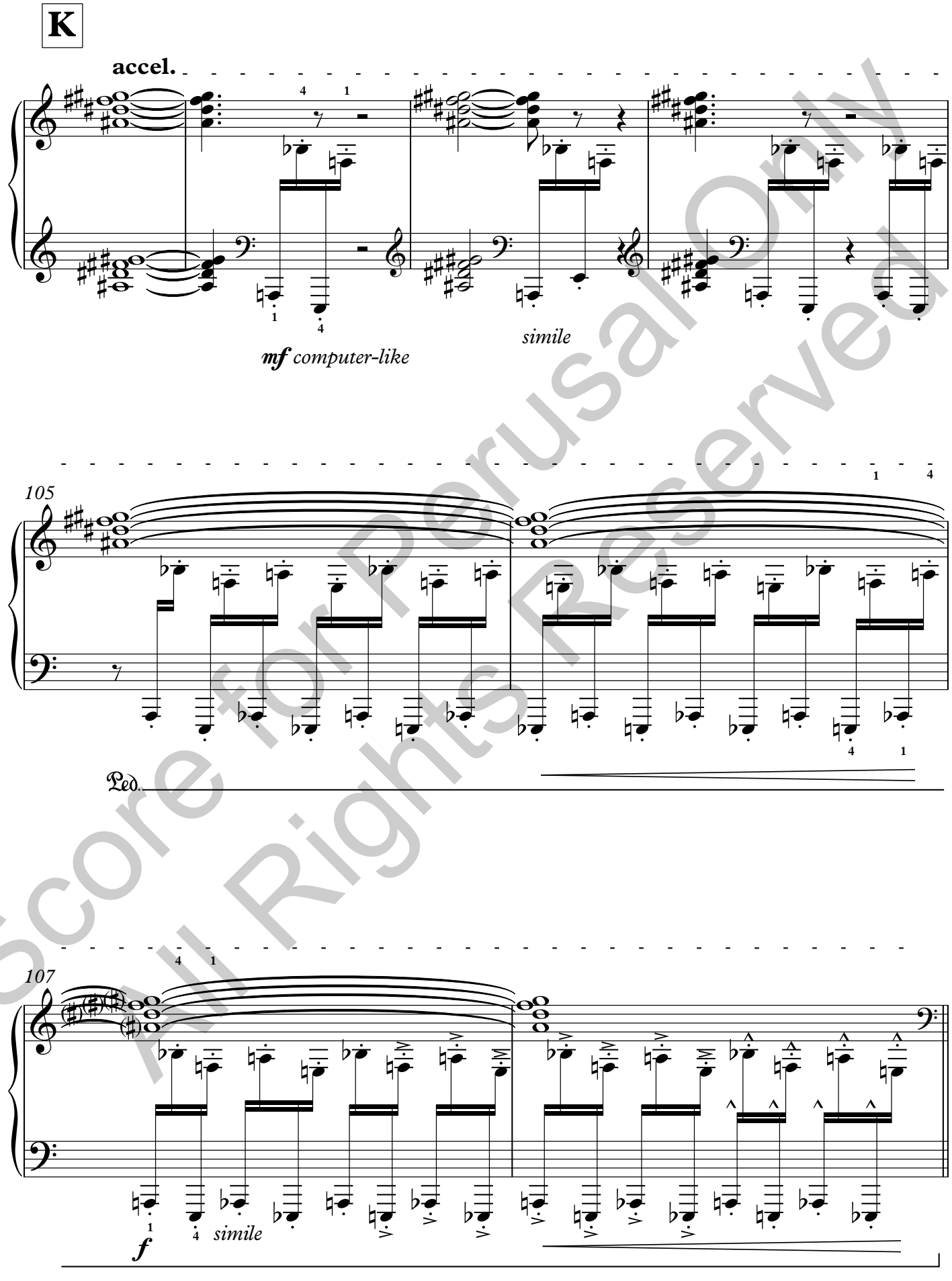

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VARIATION III
Vivace
L
♩ = 160-172

simile

ff *no pedal*

111

simile

simile throughout

113

pp

M

115

mf

ff

mp

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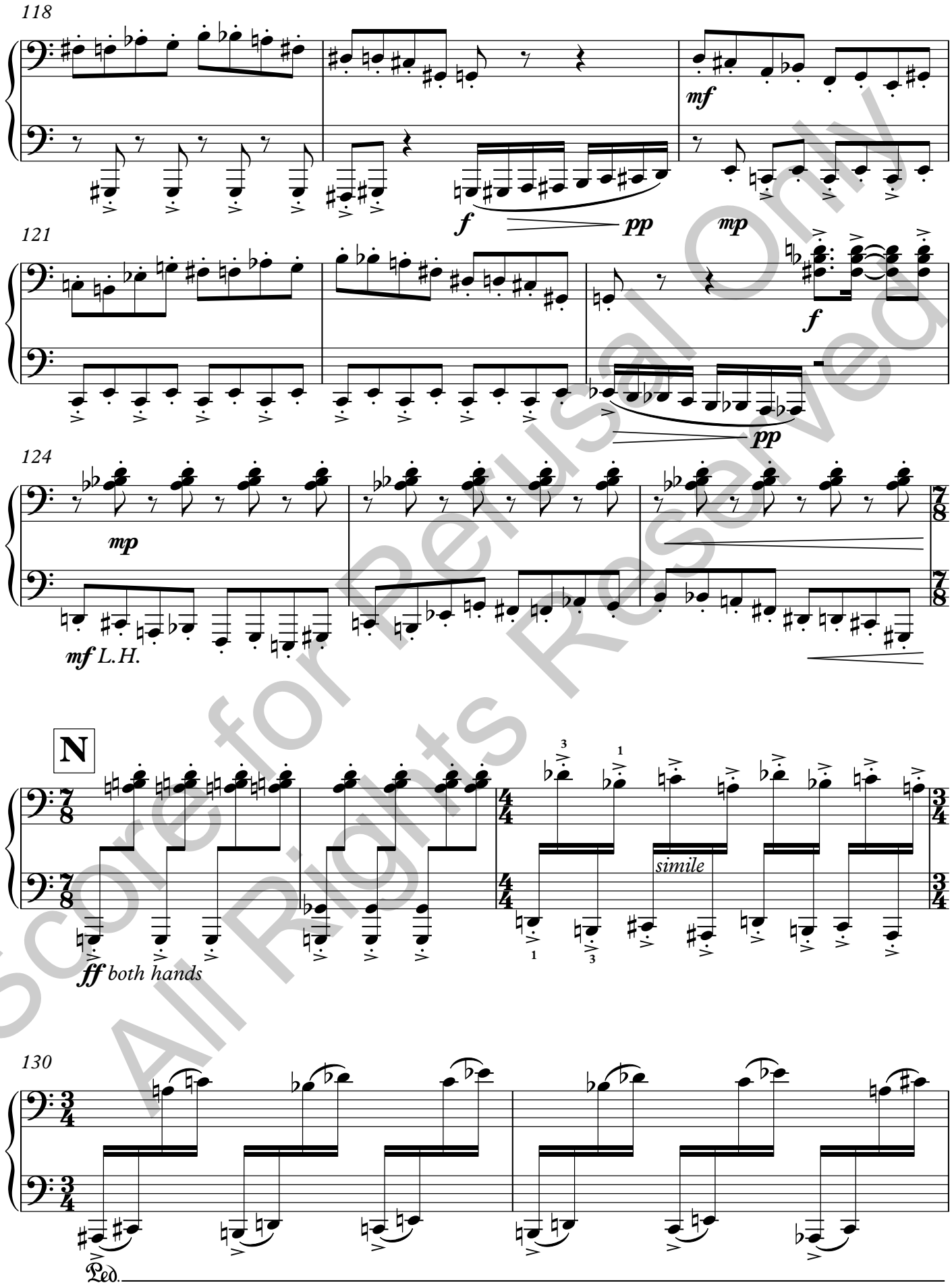

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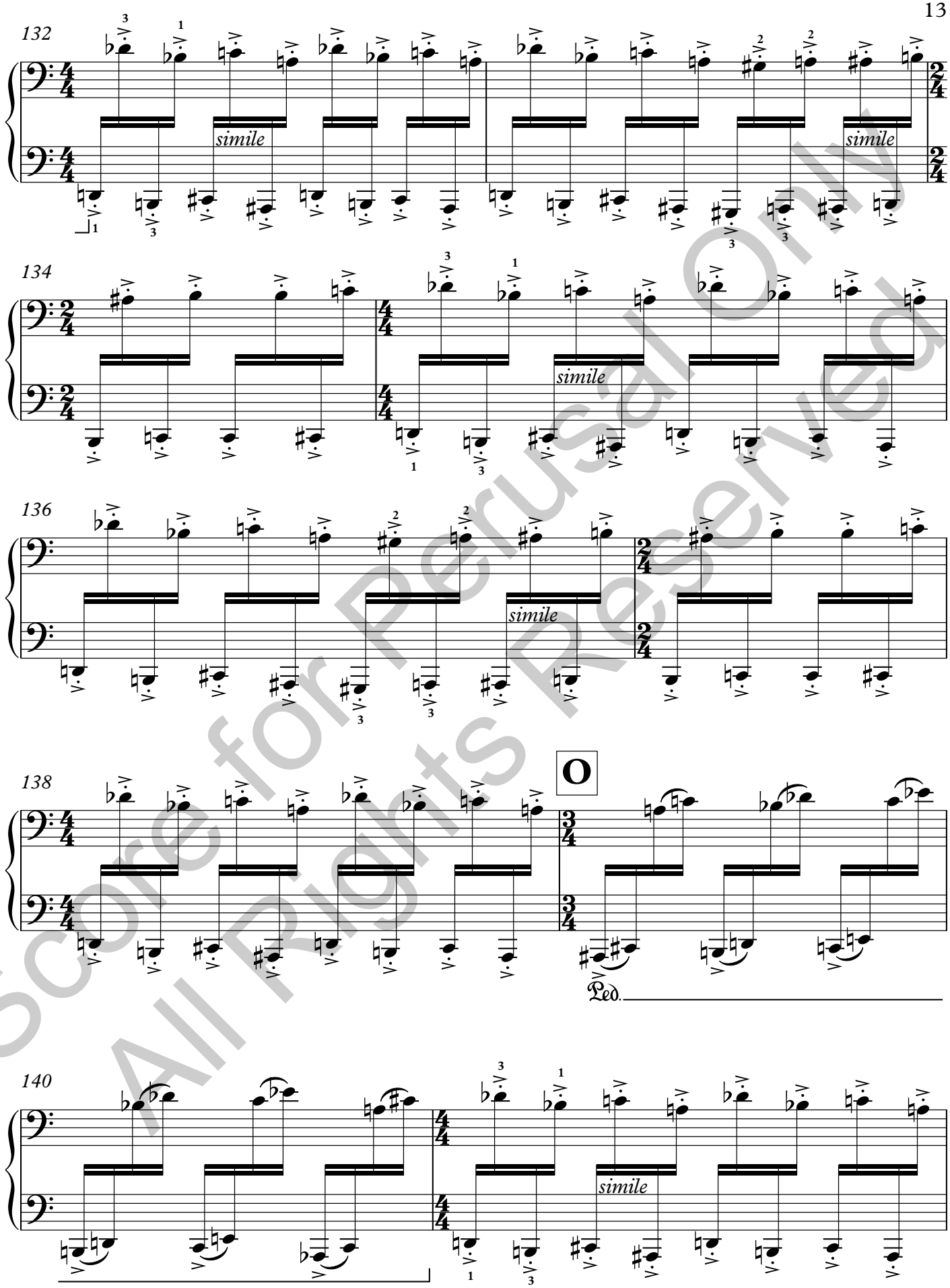

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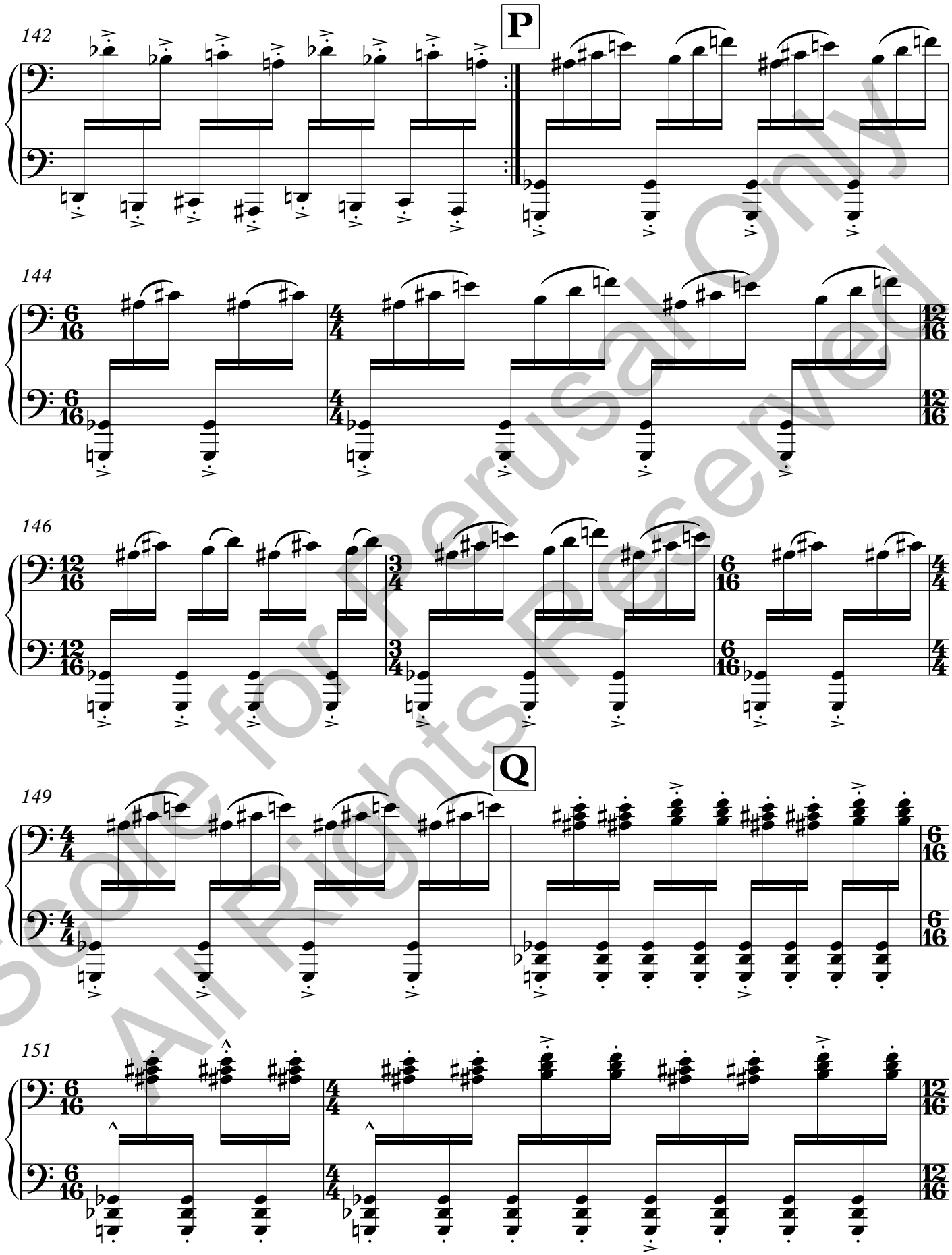

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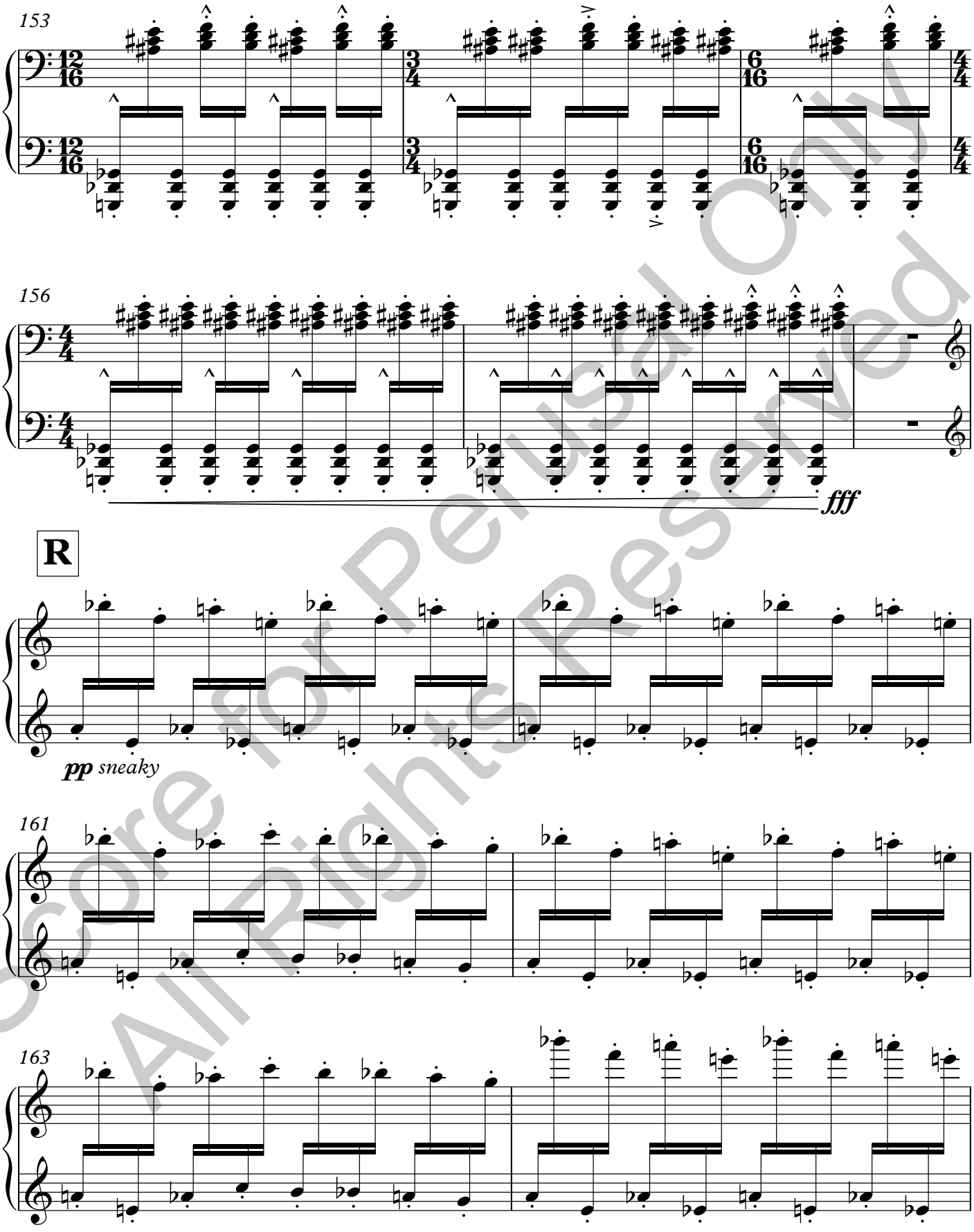

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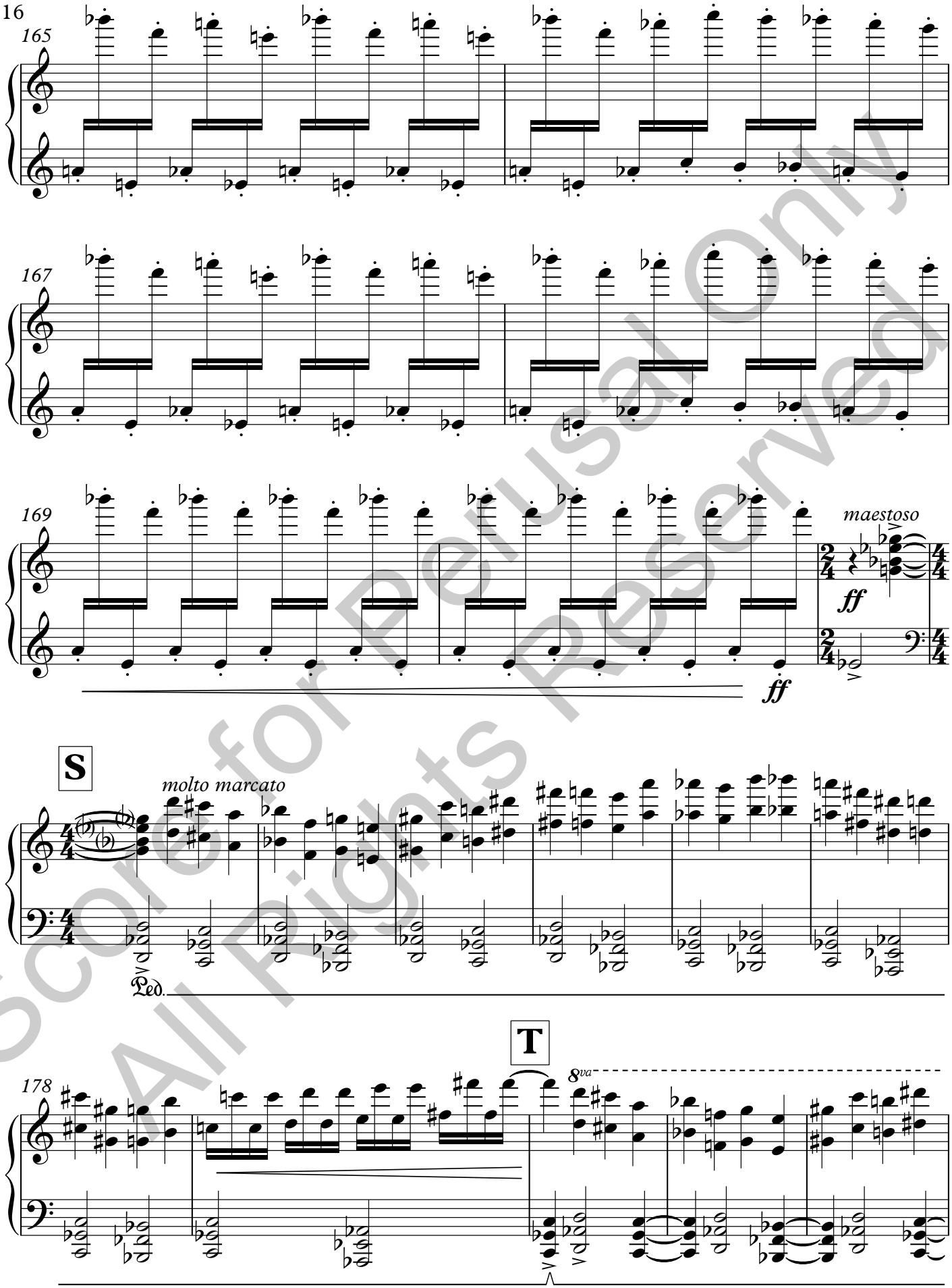

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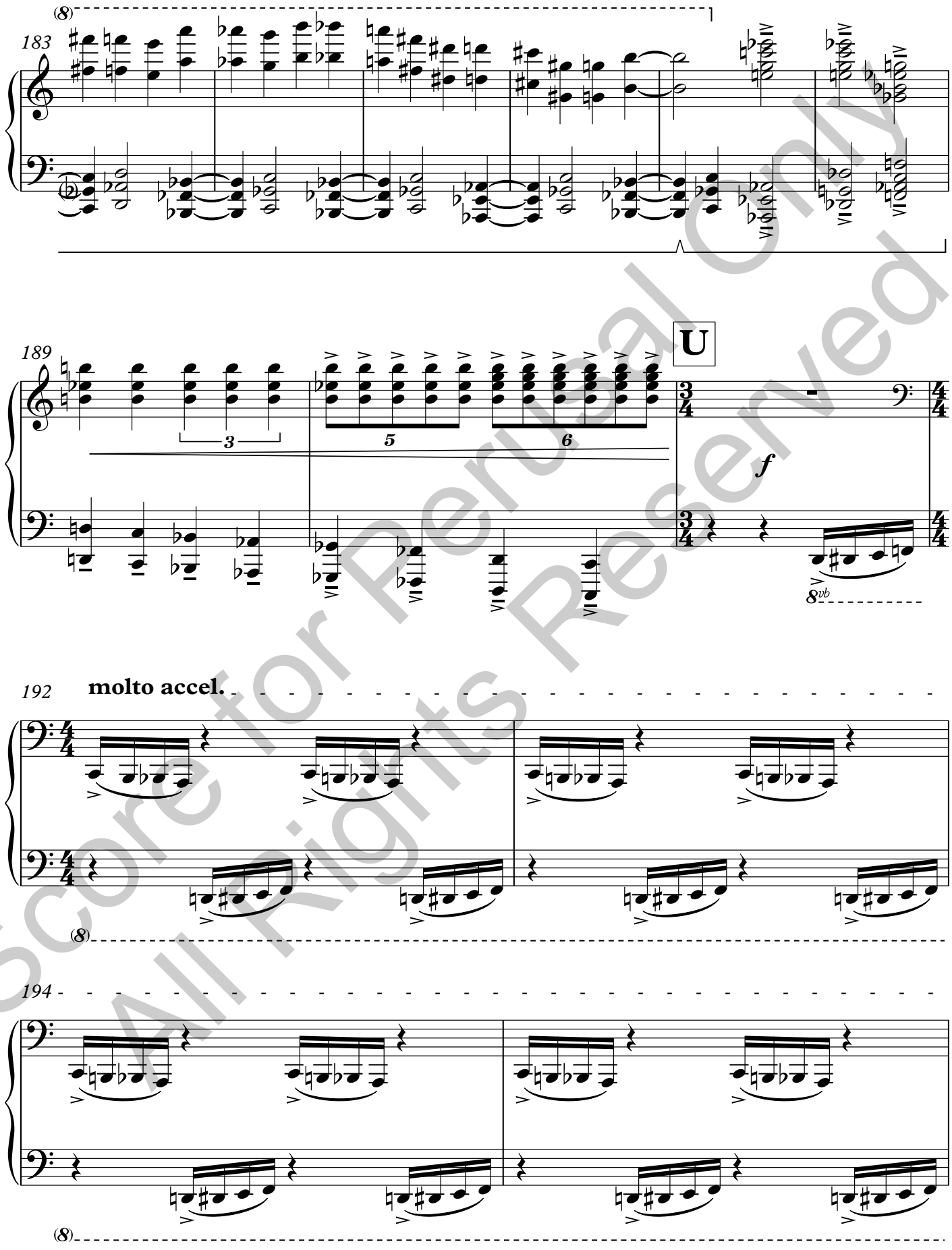

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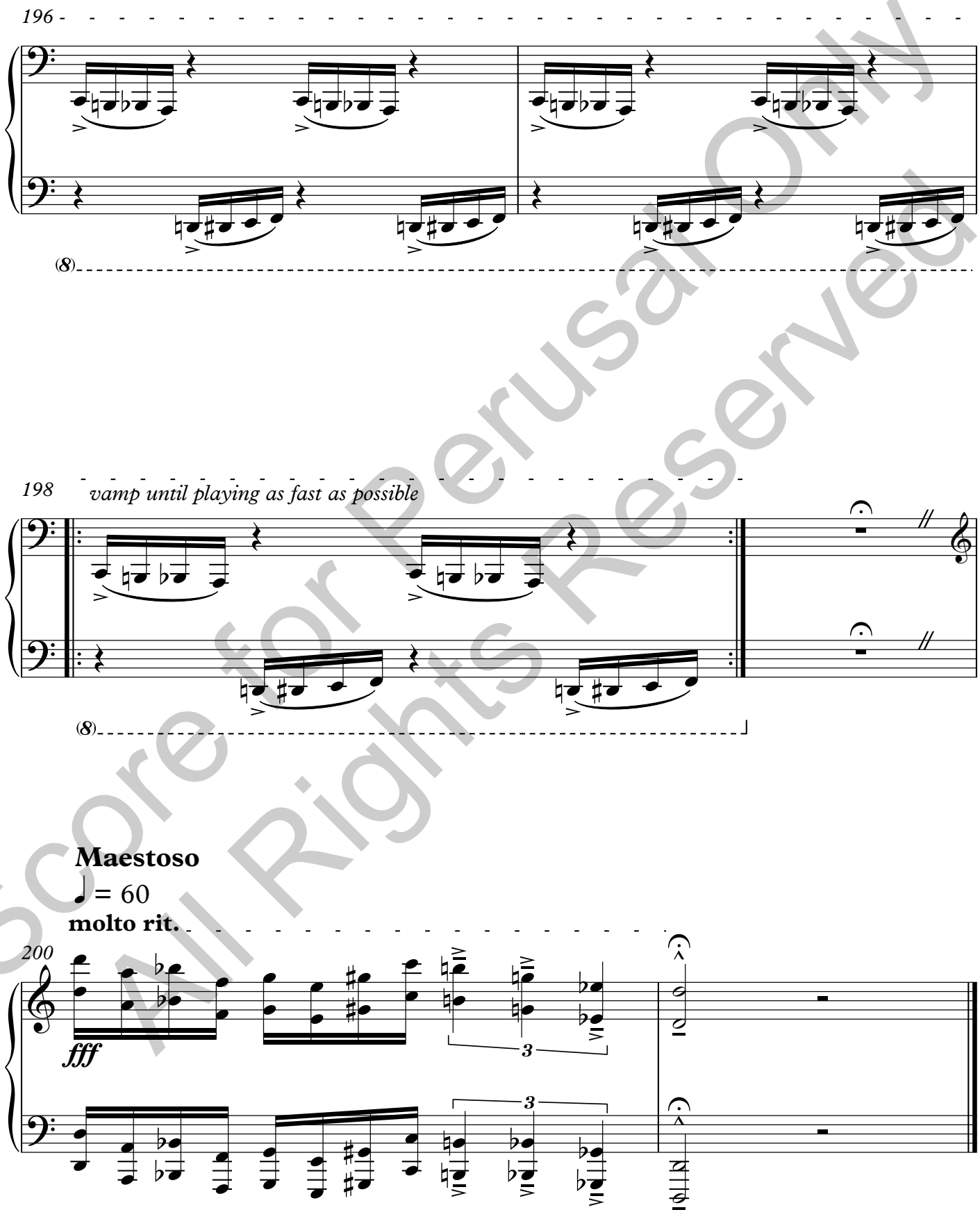

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