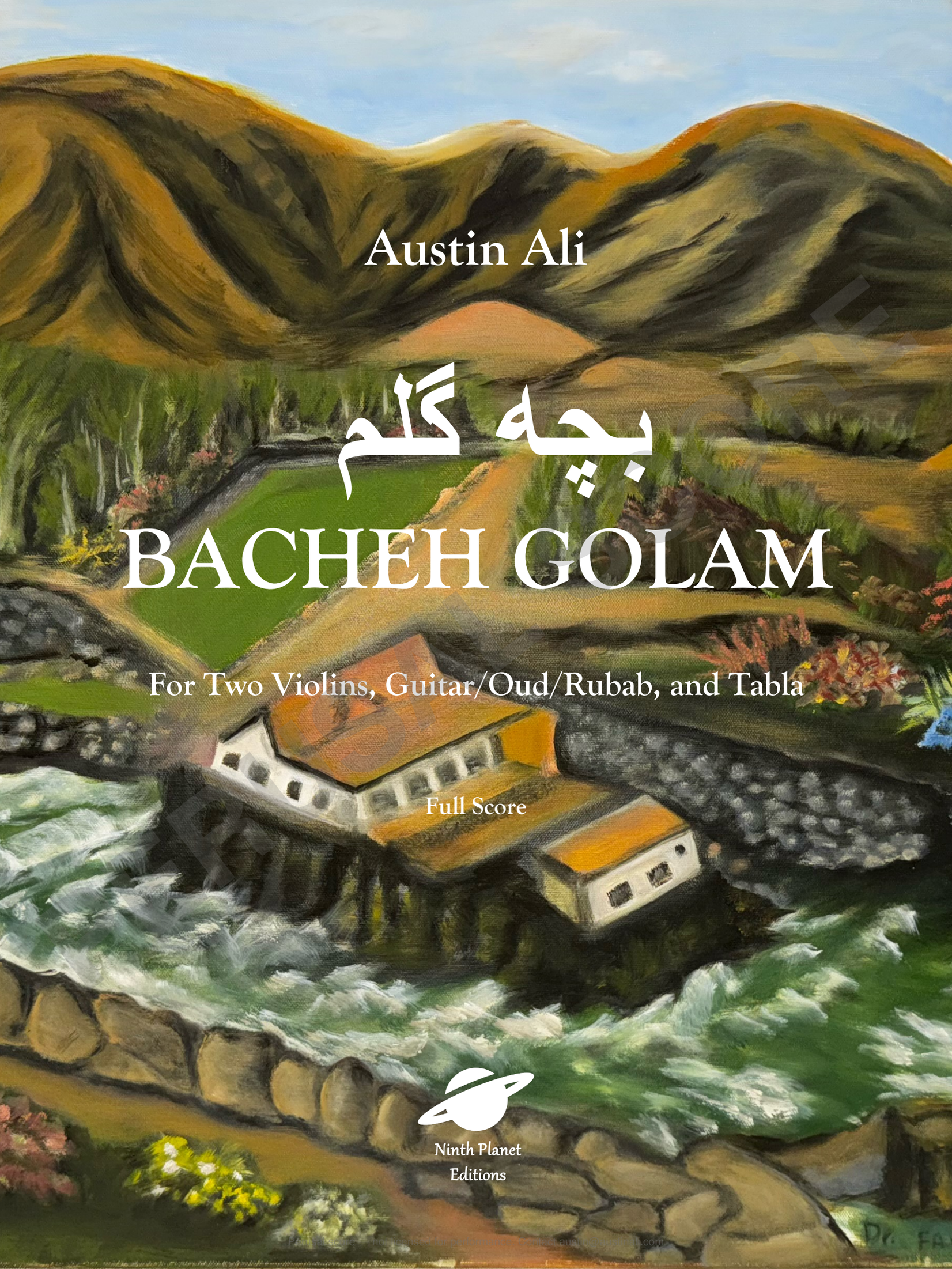
Austin Ali
بچه گلم
BACHEH GOLAM
For Two Violins, Guitar/Oud/Rubab, and Tabla
Full Score
Ninth Planet
Editions

PERUSAL SCORE

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Austin Ali

بچه گلم

BACHEH GOLAM

For Two Violins, Guitar/Oud/Rubab, and Tabla

(2024, rev. 2025)

Full Score

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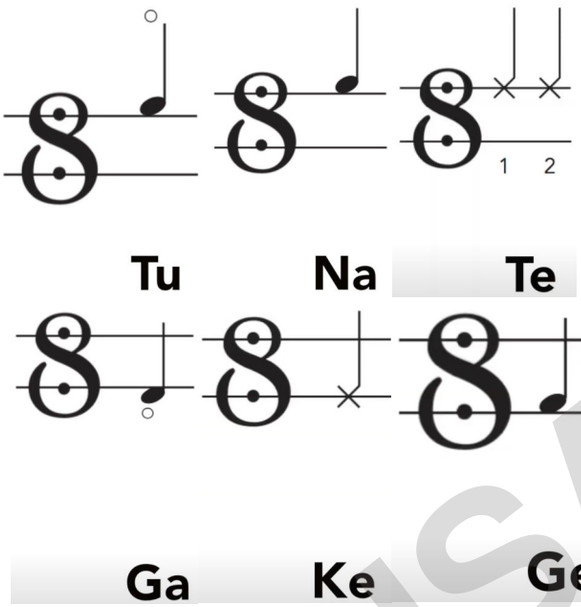
PROGRAM NOTES

Bacheh Golam (بچه گلم) literally translates to "my flower child" in Afghan Farsi (Persian) and is the term of endearment my grandmother Dr. Fawzia Ali (the cover artist) calls all her nine grandchildren. The piece traces its roots to the music of Afghanistan, drawing from the infectious rhythms of the tabla and the melodies of the rubab, the national instrument of Afghanistan. This composition evokes the spirit of the rubab by retuning the violins and oud to resemble the rubab's unique assortment of three types of strings (melodic, sympathetic, and drone). *Bacheh Golam* pays homage to the soundworld of Afghanistan and the hope and optimism for a brighter future for the Afghan diaspora.

PERFORMANCE NOTES (~5 min.)

1. Tabla Notation



The tabla part is notated following the Mugholi Taal (7-beat cycle) with the following bols:

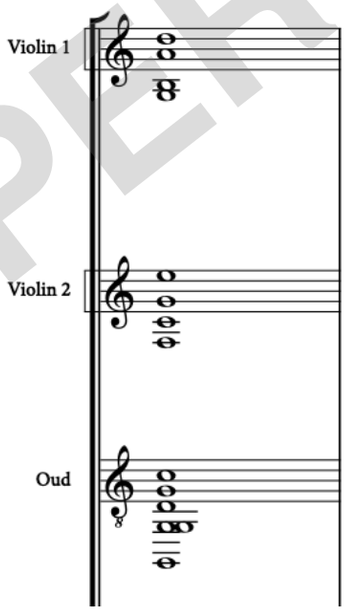
1. Main: Thin (–) Na Dhin Dhin Dha Dha
2. Variation: Thin Thin Na Dhin Dhin Dha Dha-Dha

All of the notated music for the tabla is ad lib. to the extent that additional rhythms may be added for embellishment; however, the player must always keep time for the ensemble.

In sections where the tabla part is marked "groove," the player is free to rhythmically accompany the ensemble as they see fit.

In sections where the tabla part is marked "solo," the player is free to improvise a solo.

2. Tuning Systems



Please tune the string instruments to the following:

Violin 1: **G3, B3, A4, D5**

Violin 2: **F3, C4, G4, E5**

For the two *scordatura* violin parts, the instruments are written in the score as transposing instruments—with the sounding pitch written in an *ossia* staff above the main staff. I defer to violinists for the choice of string for each note, but I included string suggestions for each passage, labeled "I," "II," etc.

Oud: **G1, G2, G2, D3, G3, C4**

The oud part is written as a concert pitch instrument (still sounding one octave lower, like the guitar) because the bottom three courses act as drones with few fingered pitches. The top three strings serve as the melodic strings (mirroring the three melodic strings of the rubab).

Please feel free to reach out to me at 214-766-0179 or austin@austinali.com if you have any questions—thank you for playing my piece!

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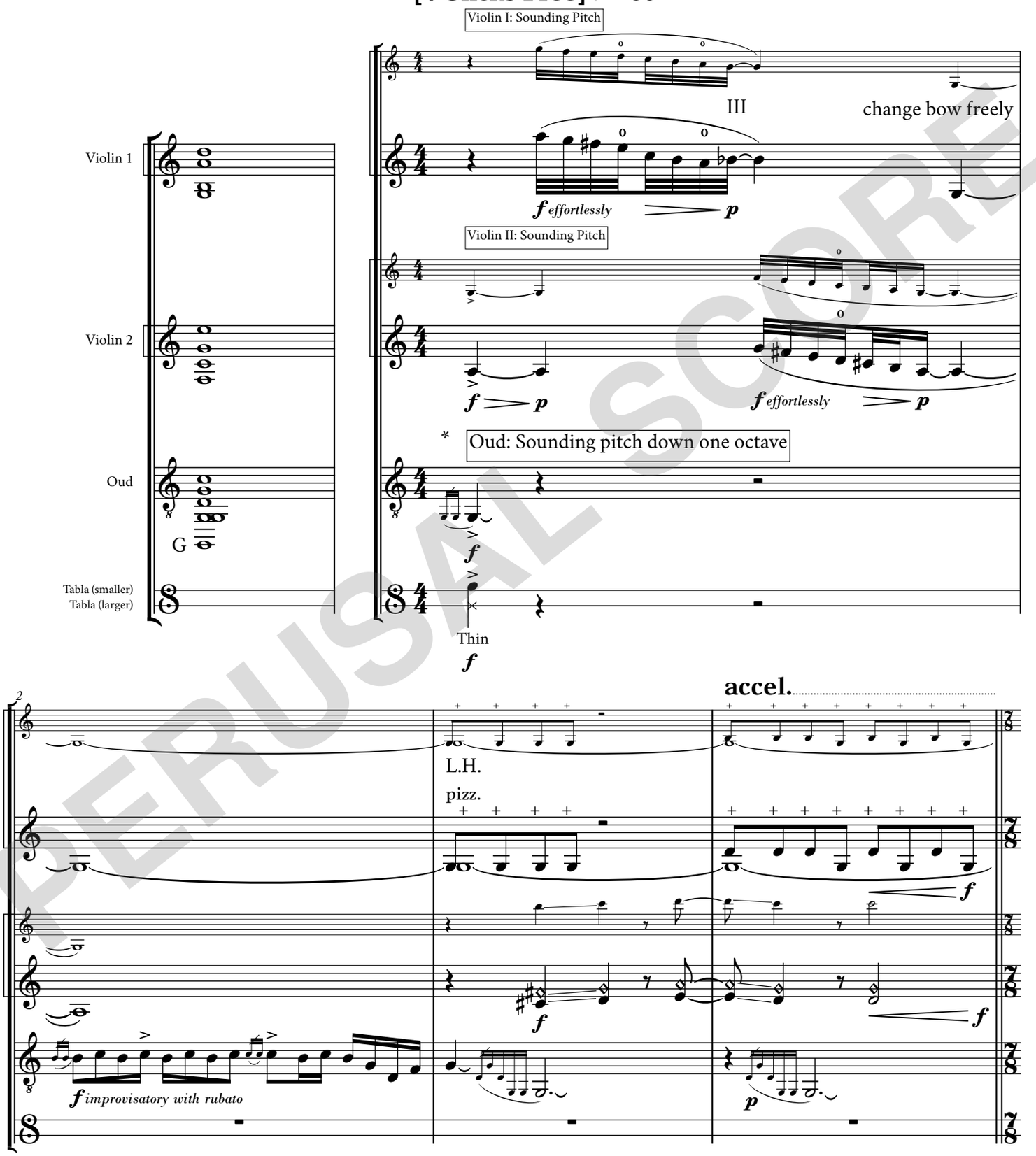
(transposed)

For Bridge to Everywhere

BACHEH GOLAM بچه گلم

Austin Ali
(2024, rev. 2025)

[4 Clicks Free] ♩ = 60



*all grace notes occur before the beat

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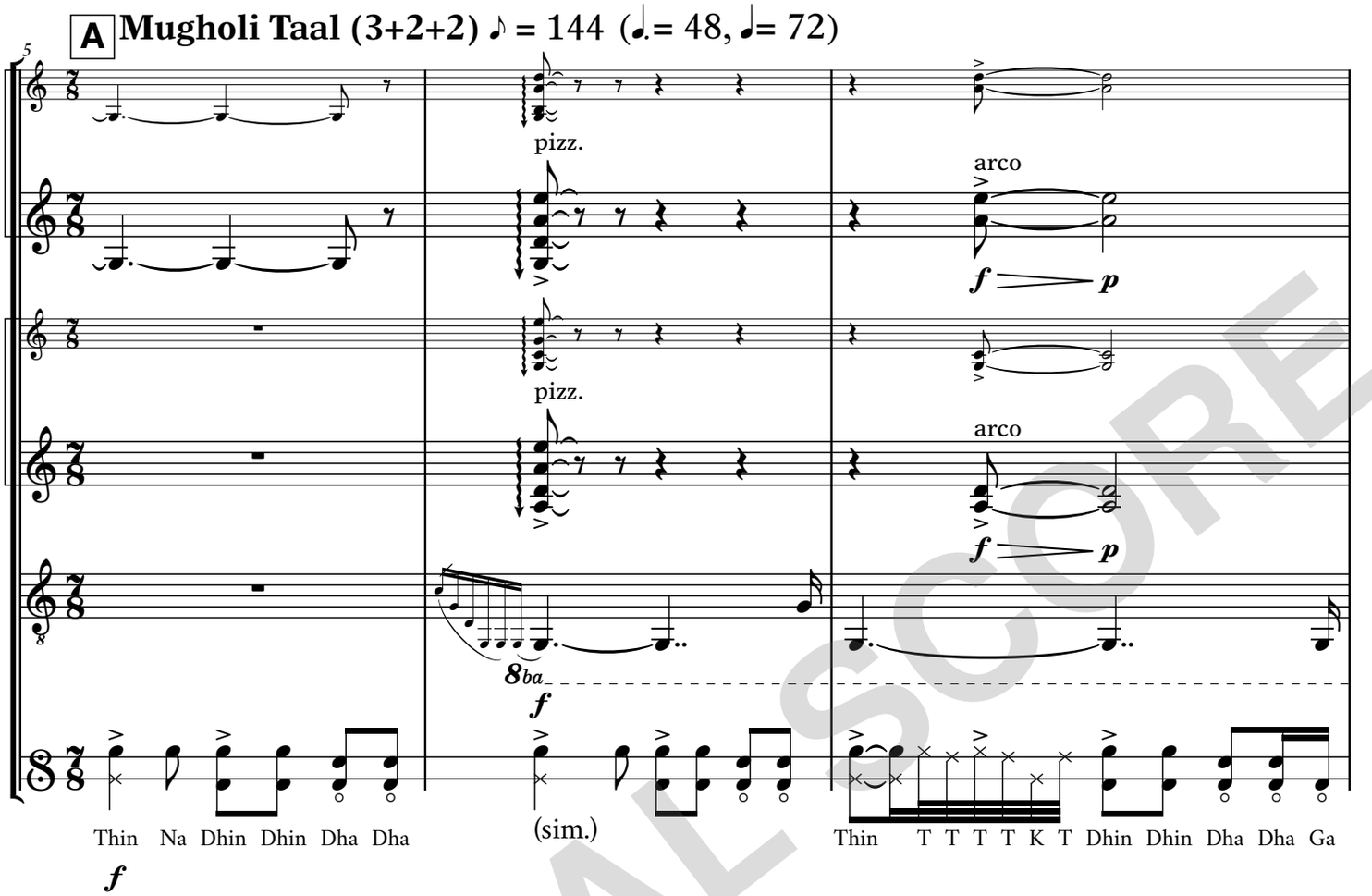

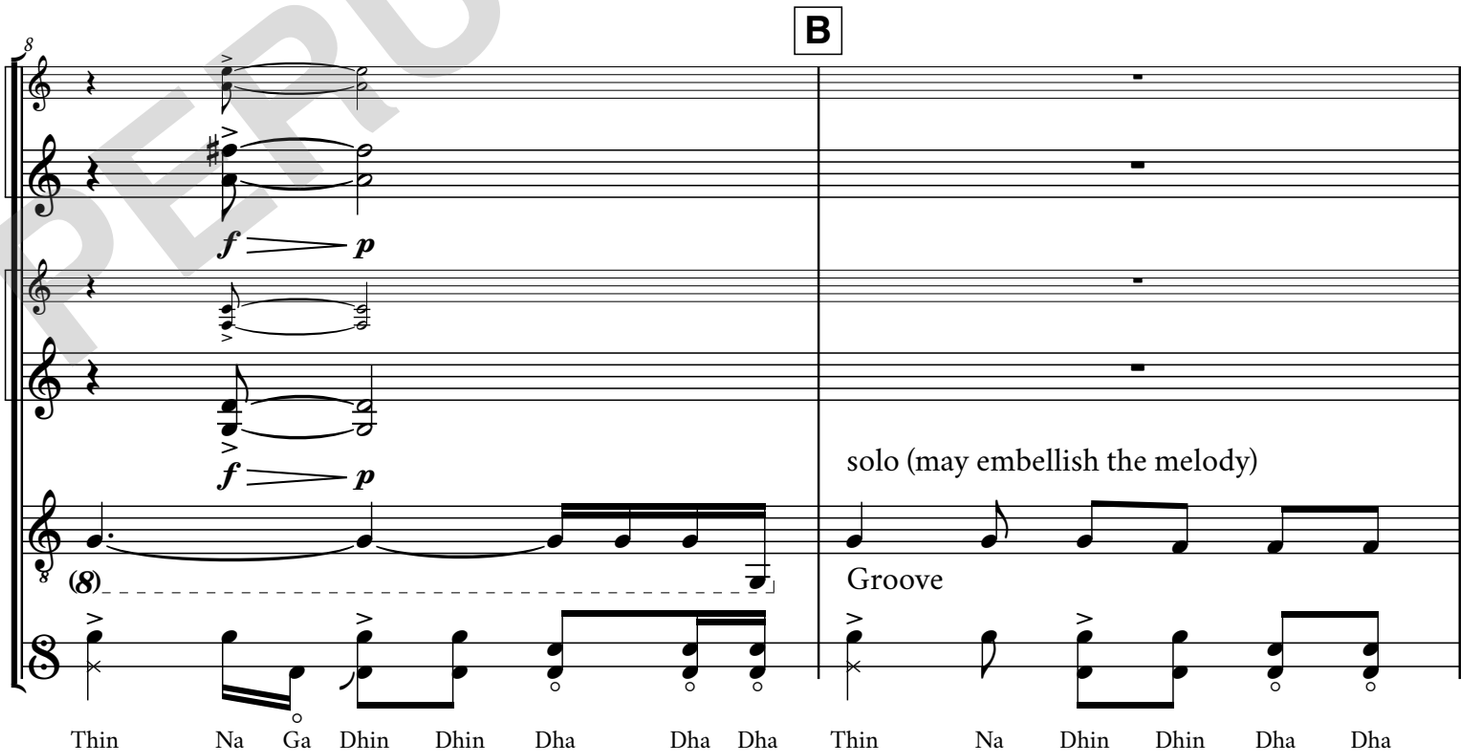

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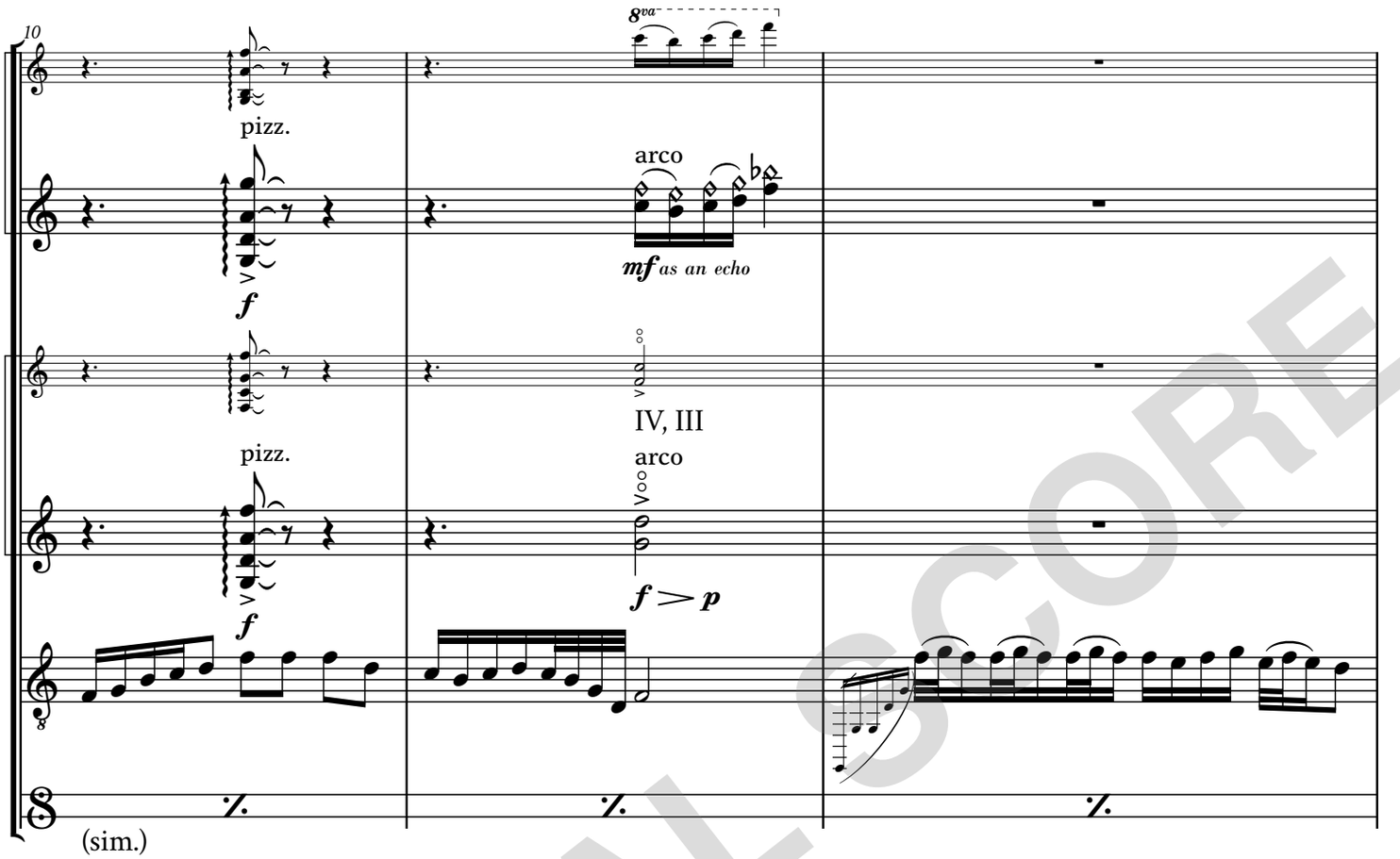

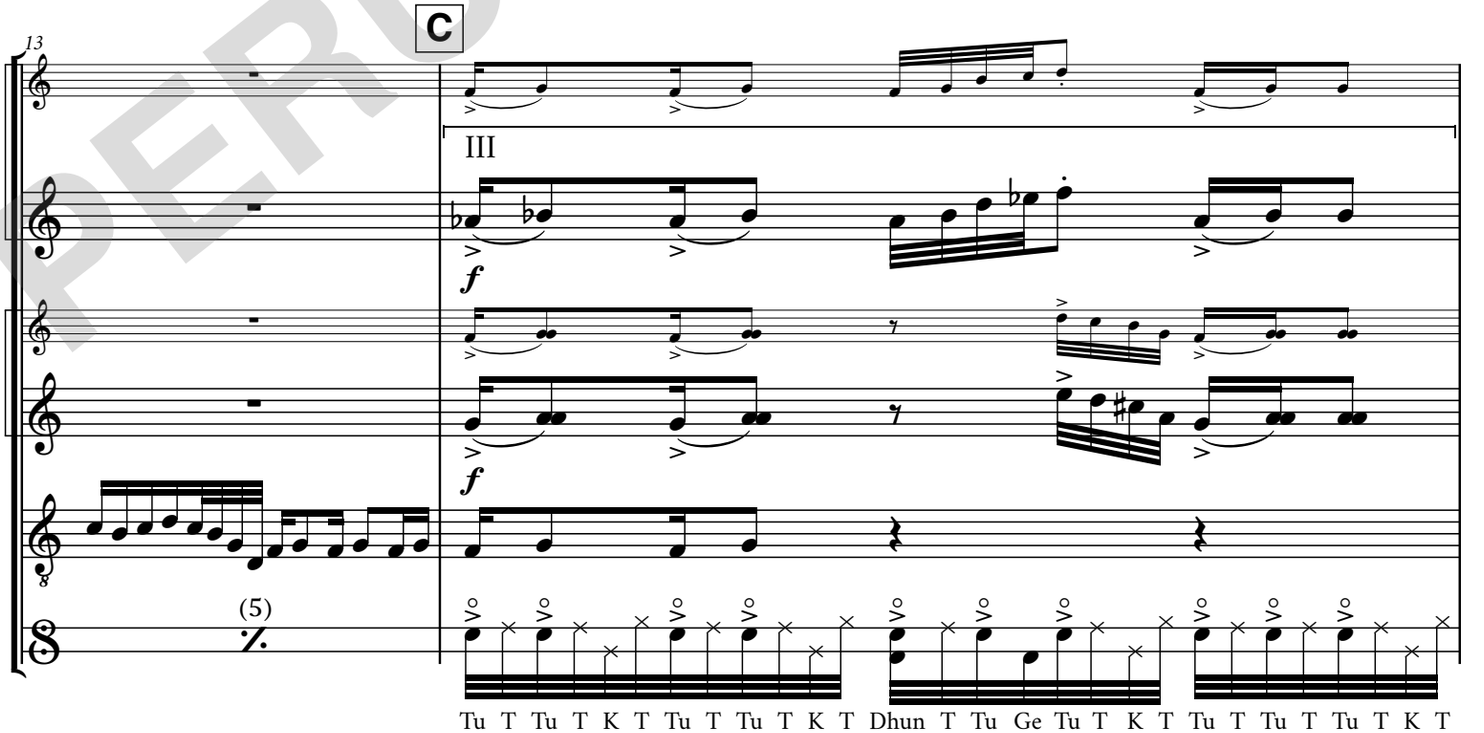

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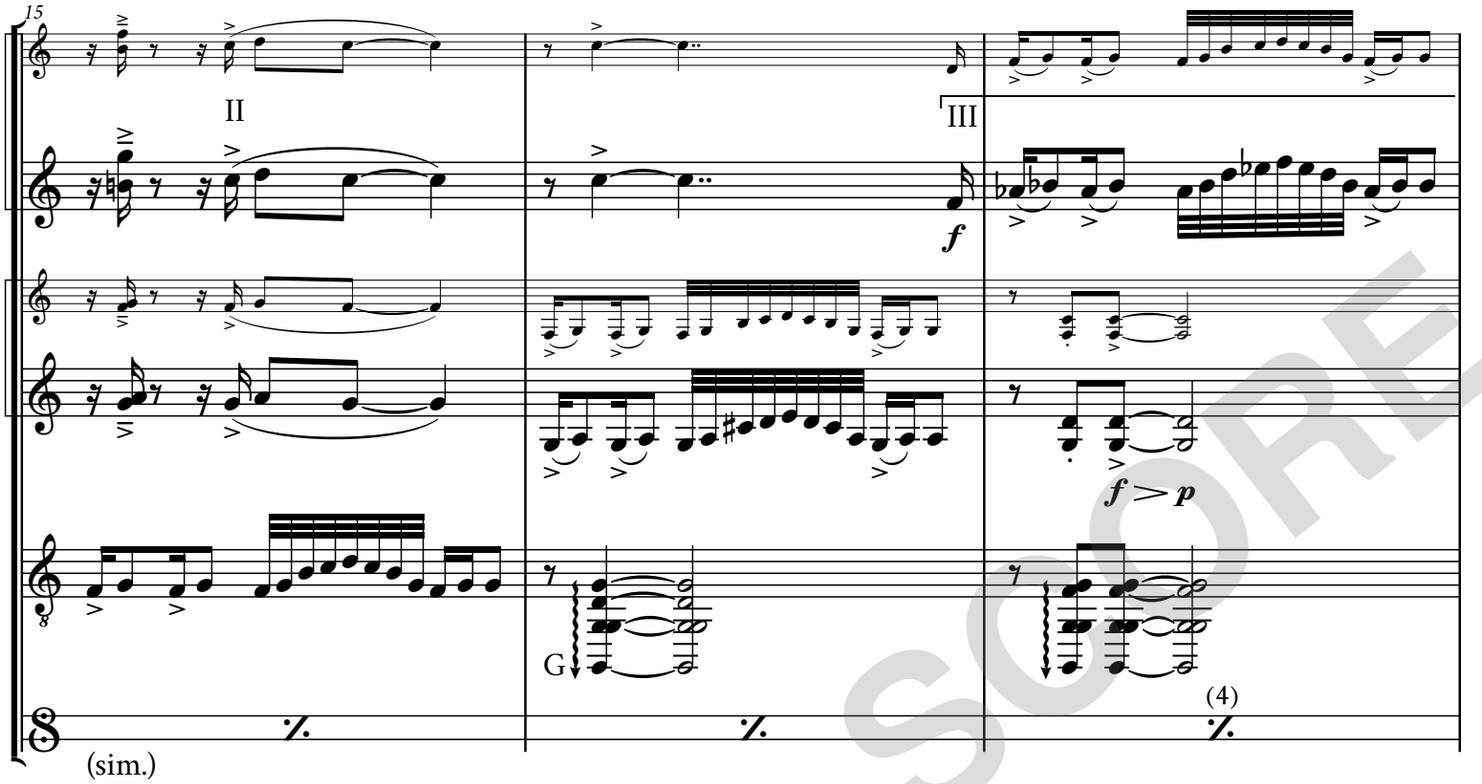

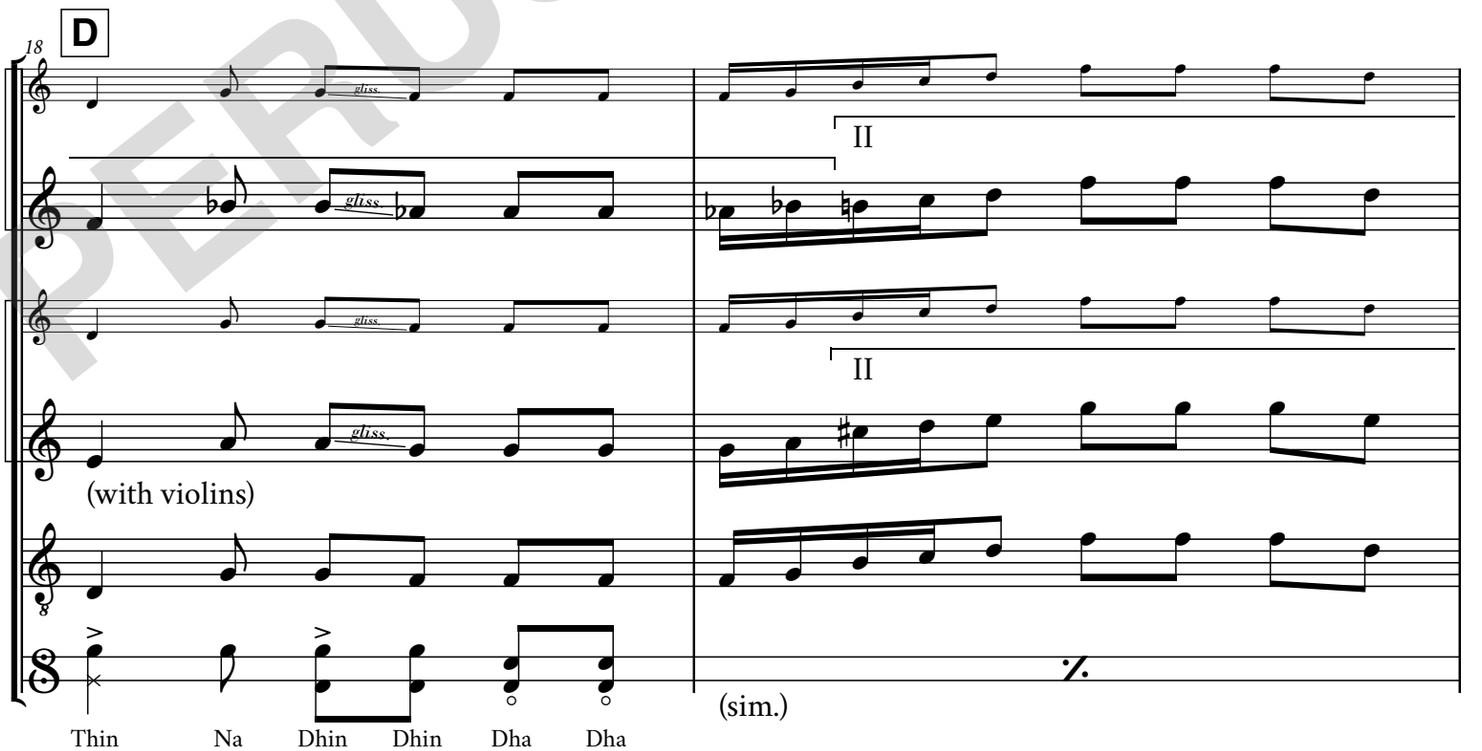

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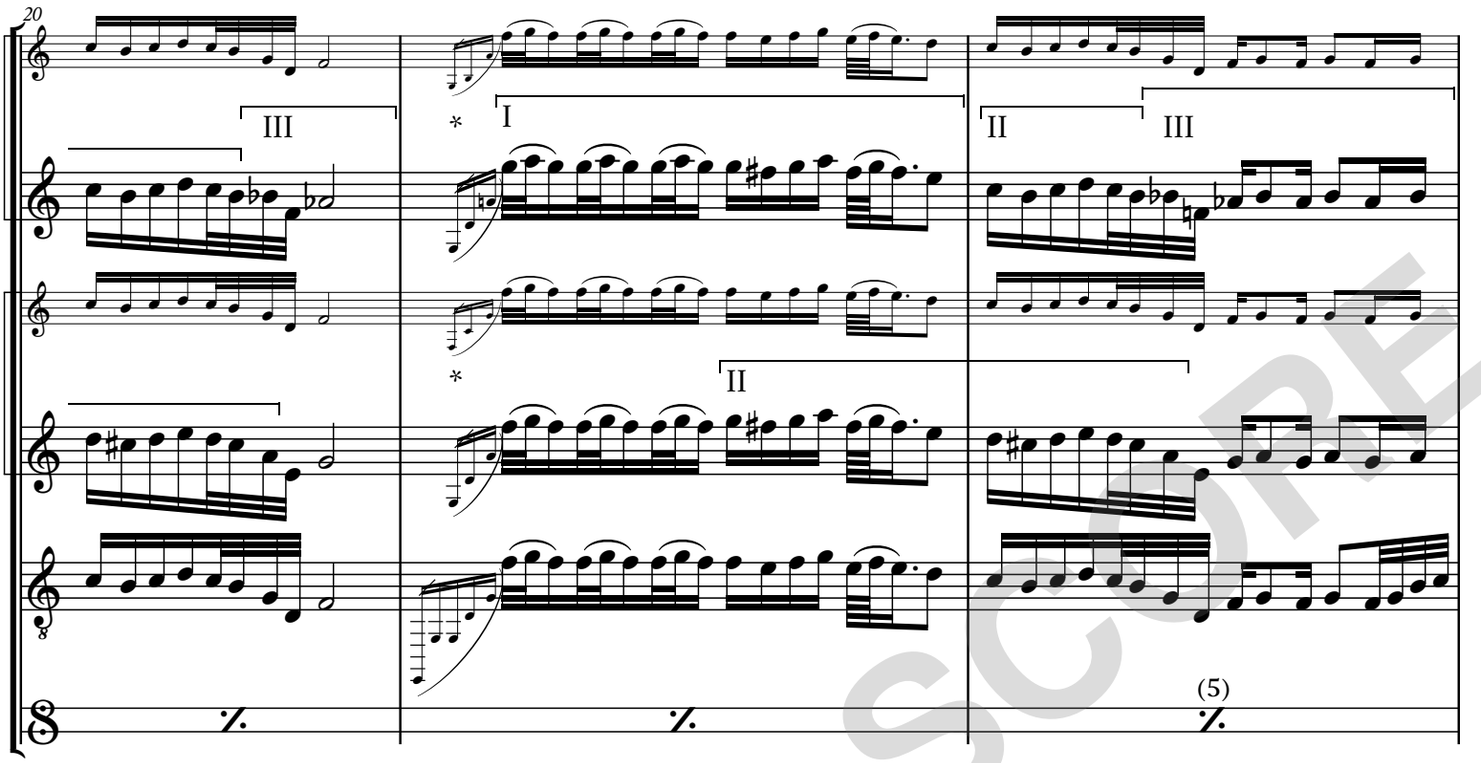
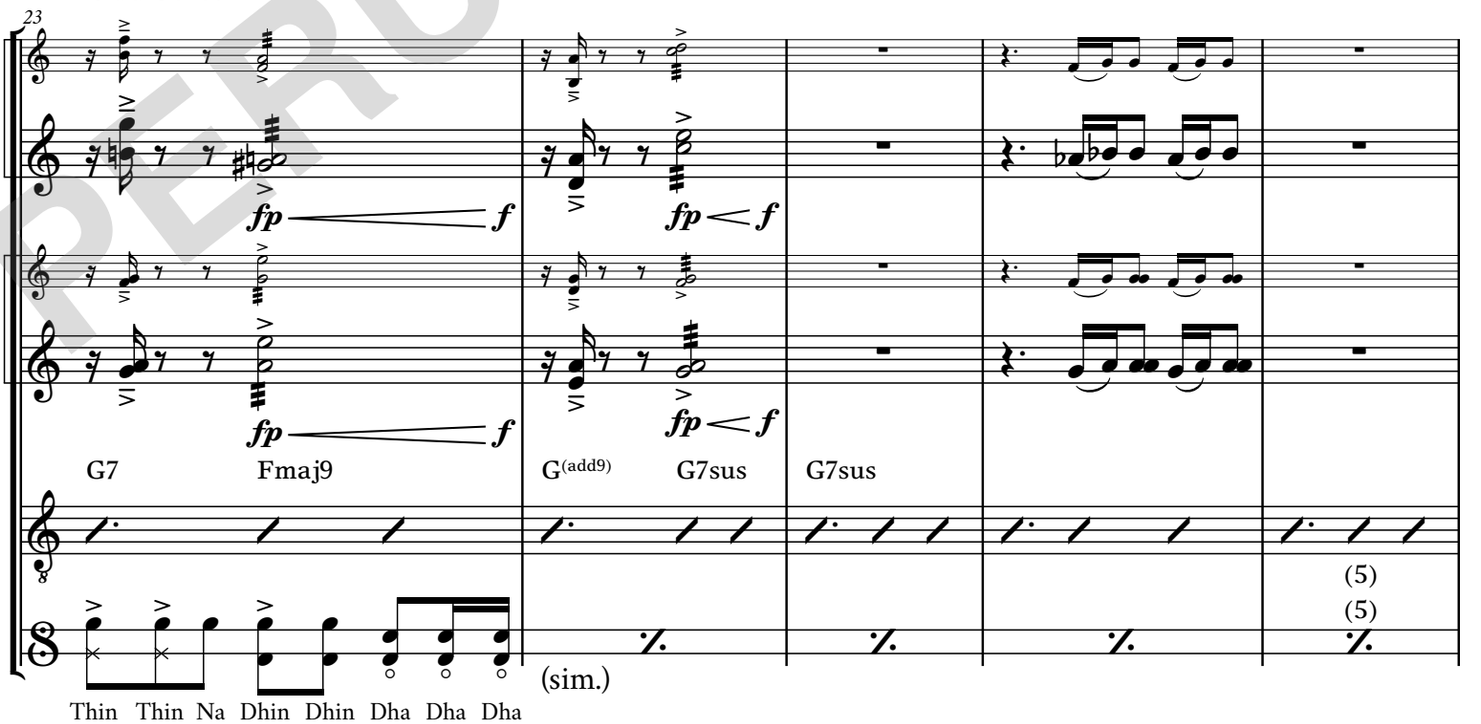


E

Oud Solo!



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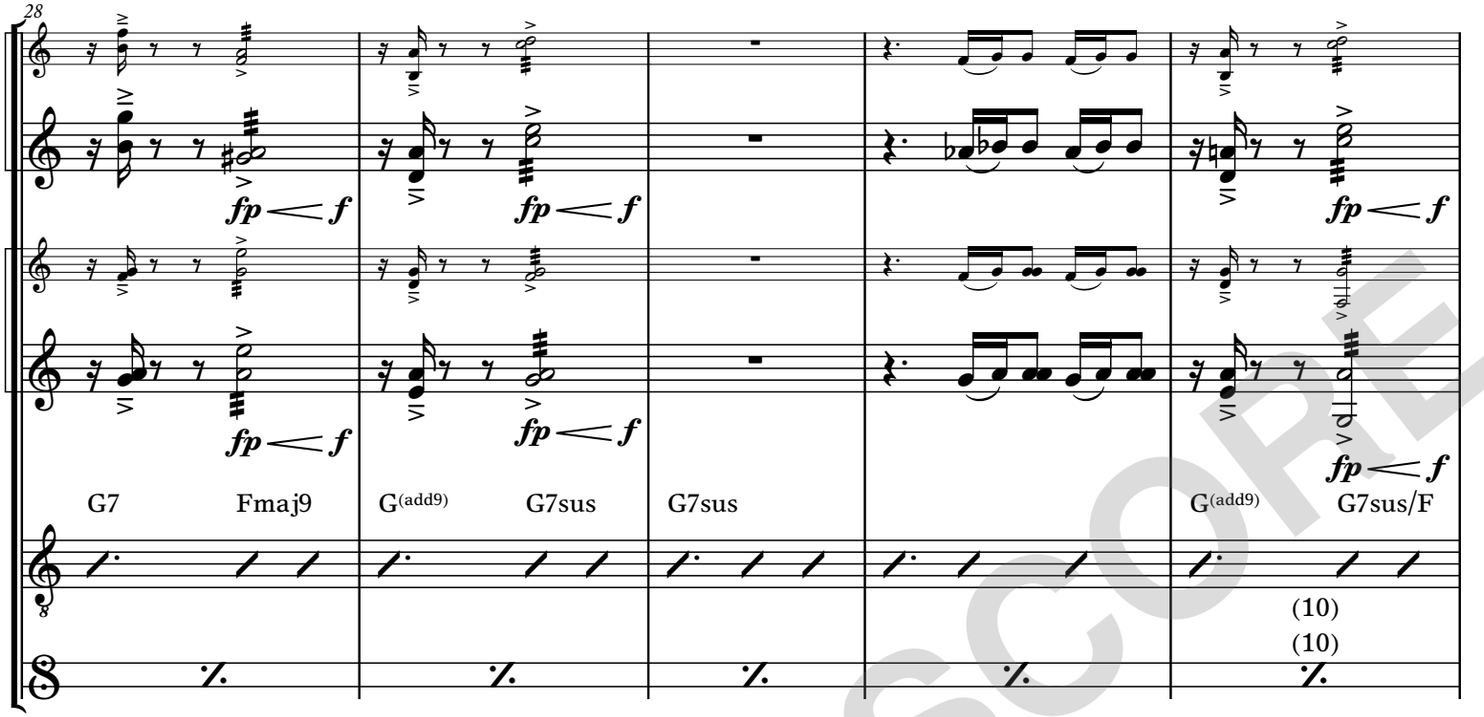

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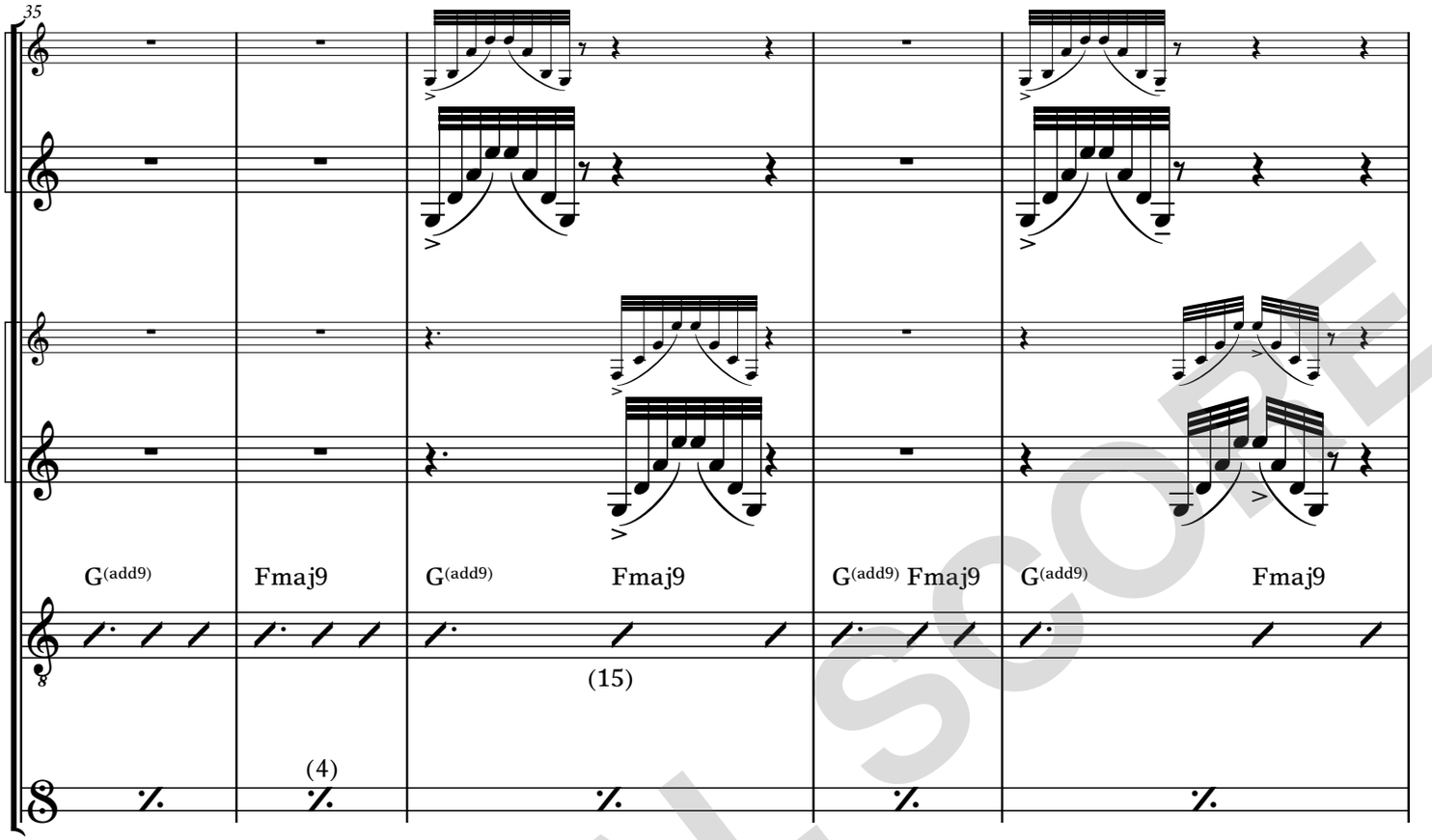

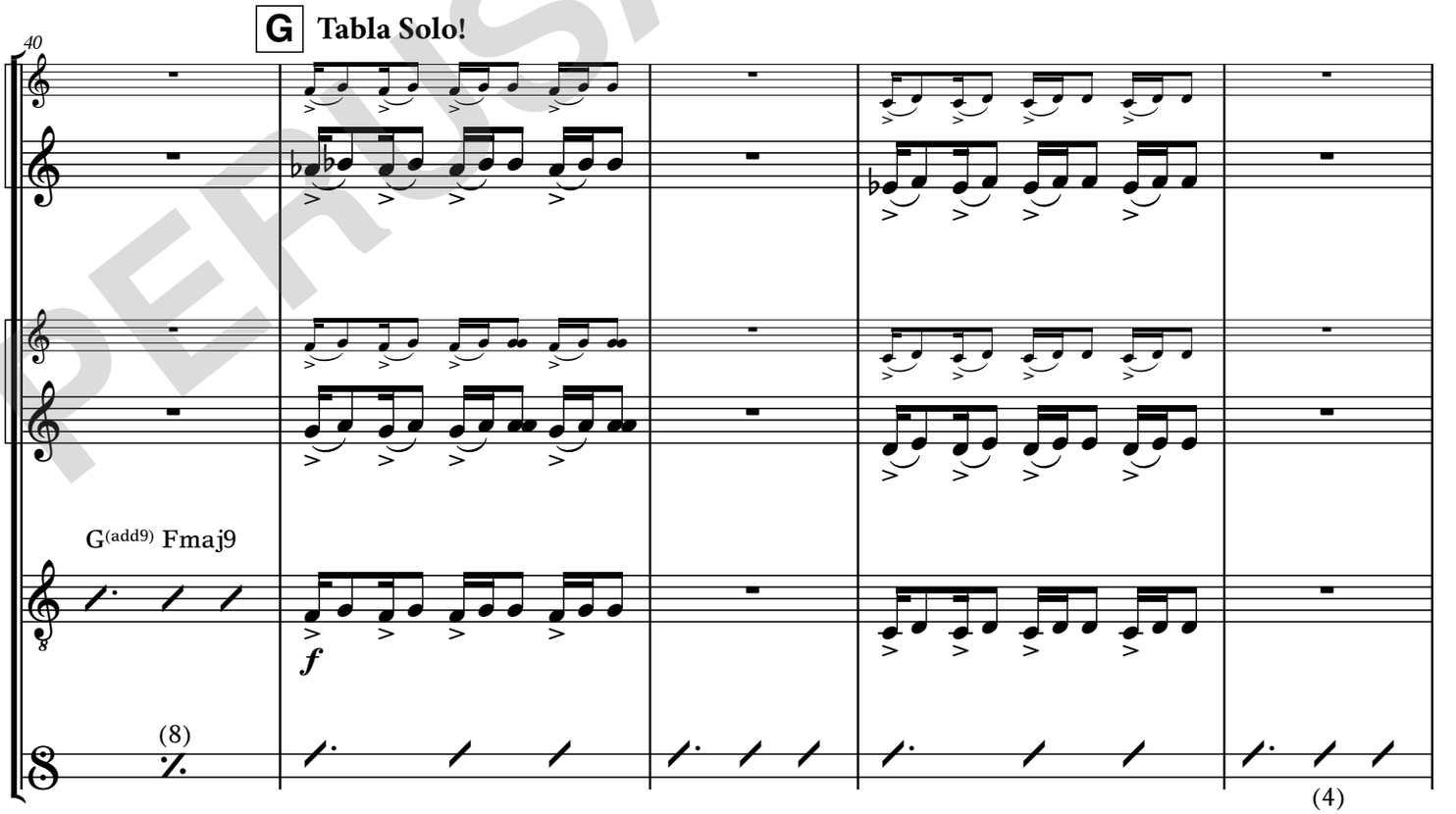

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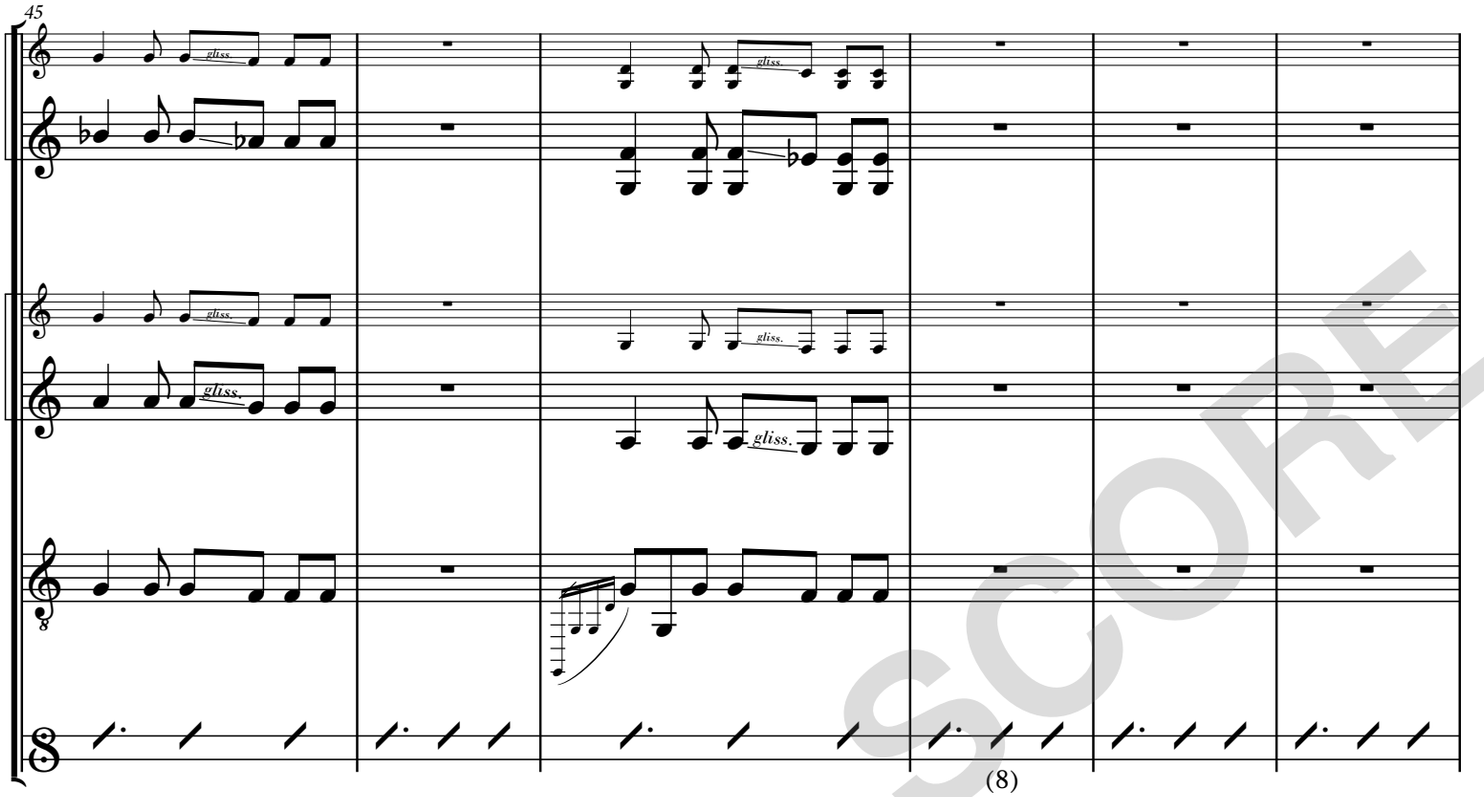

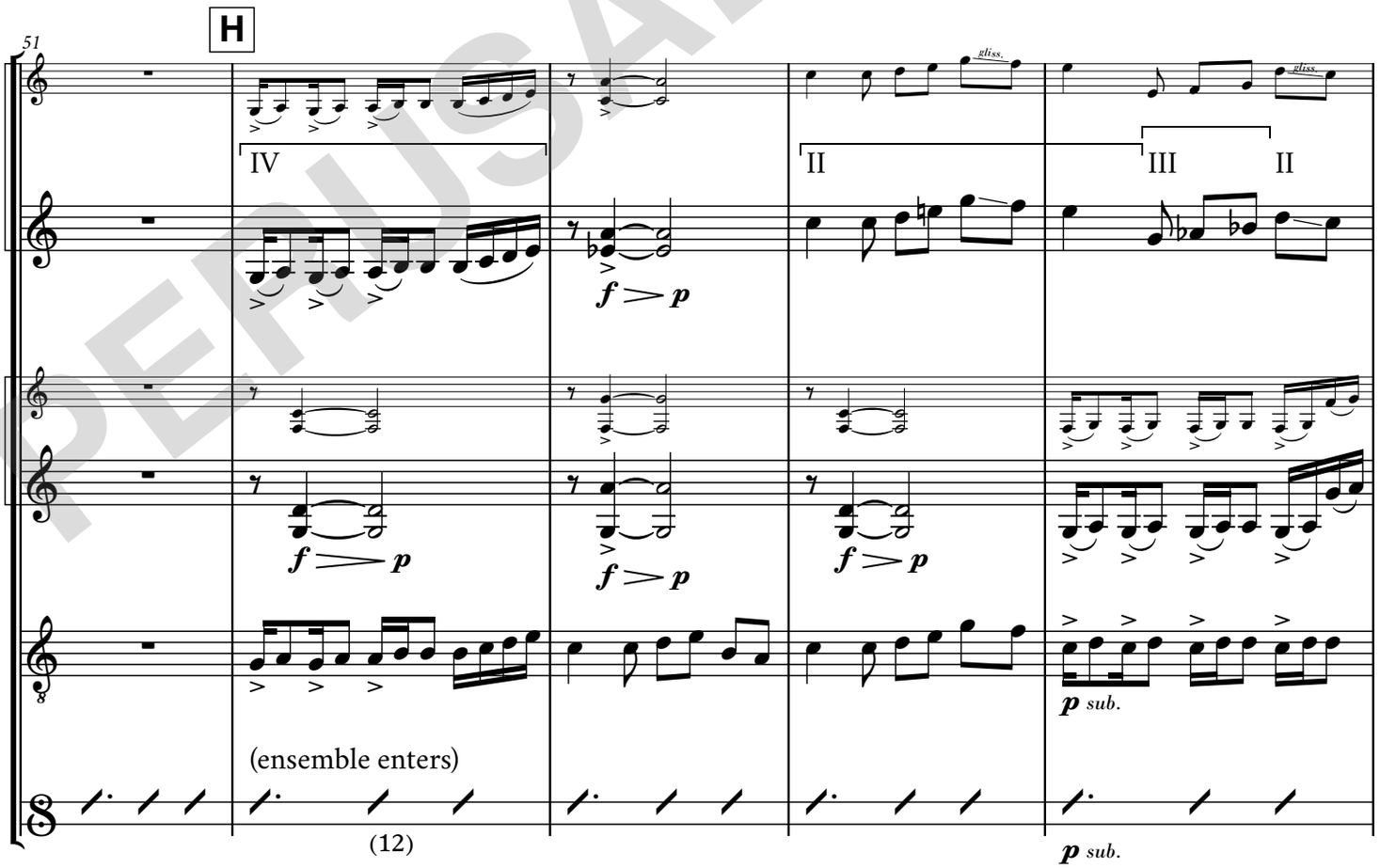

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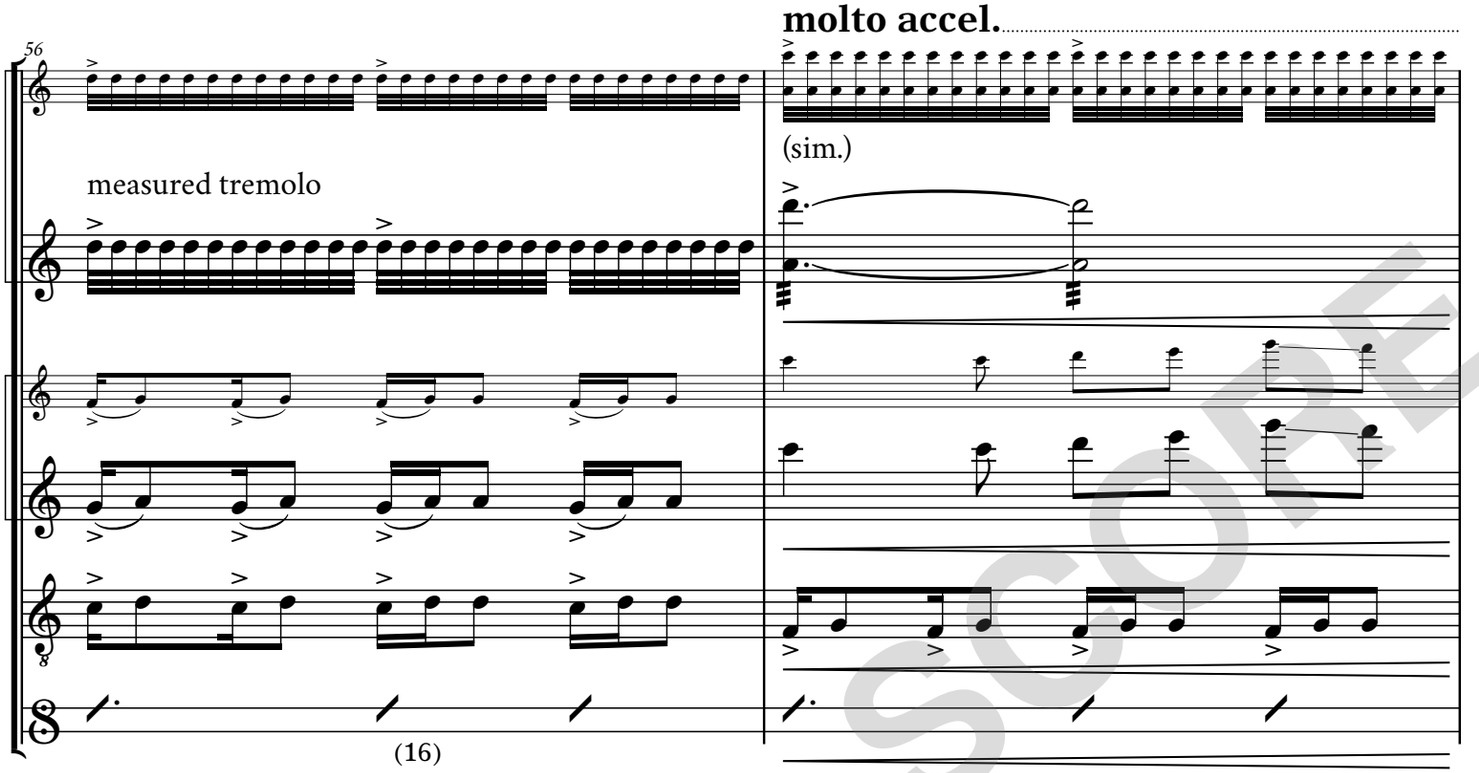

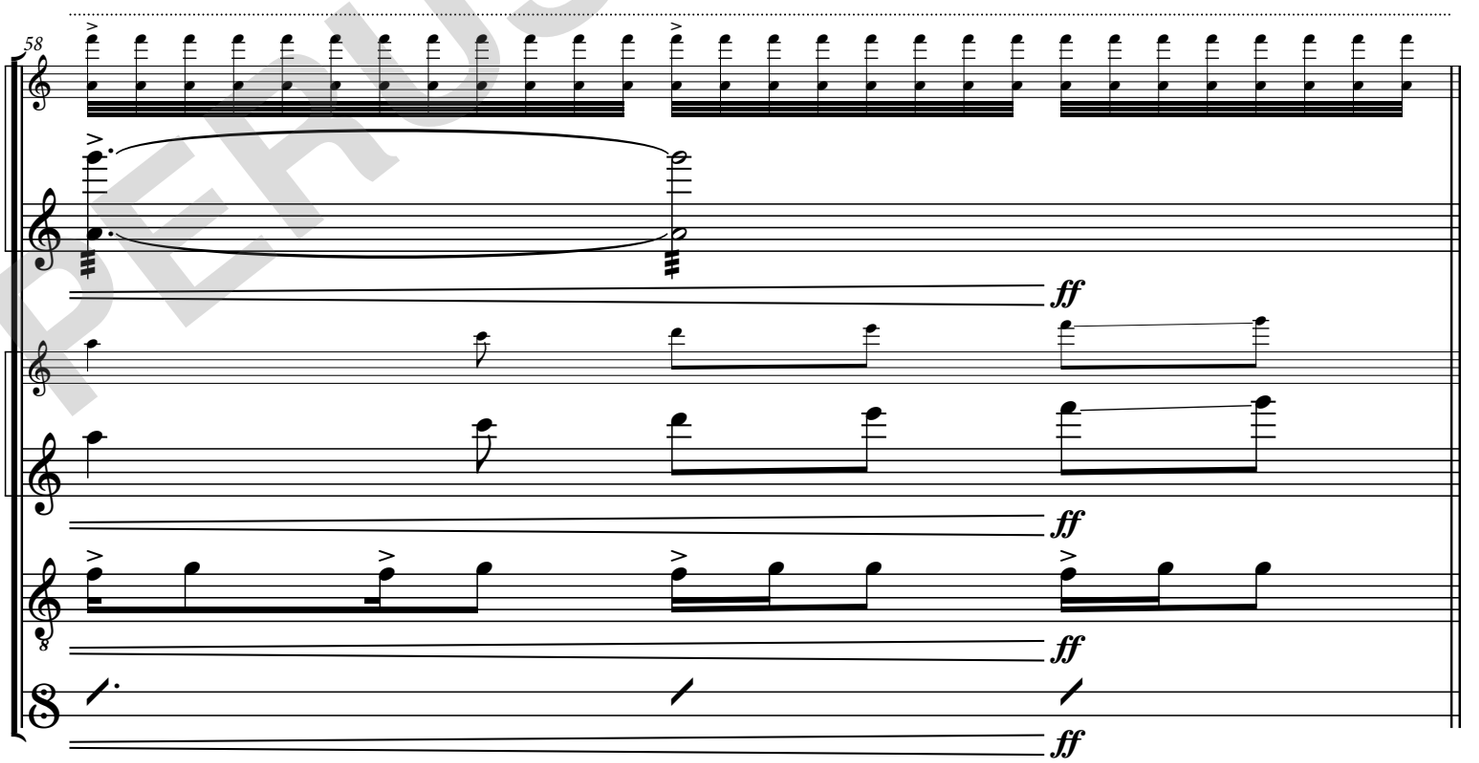

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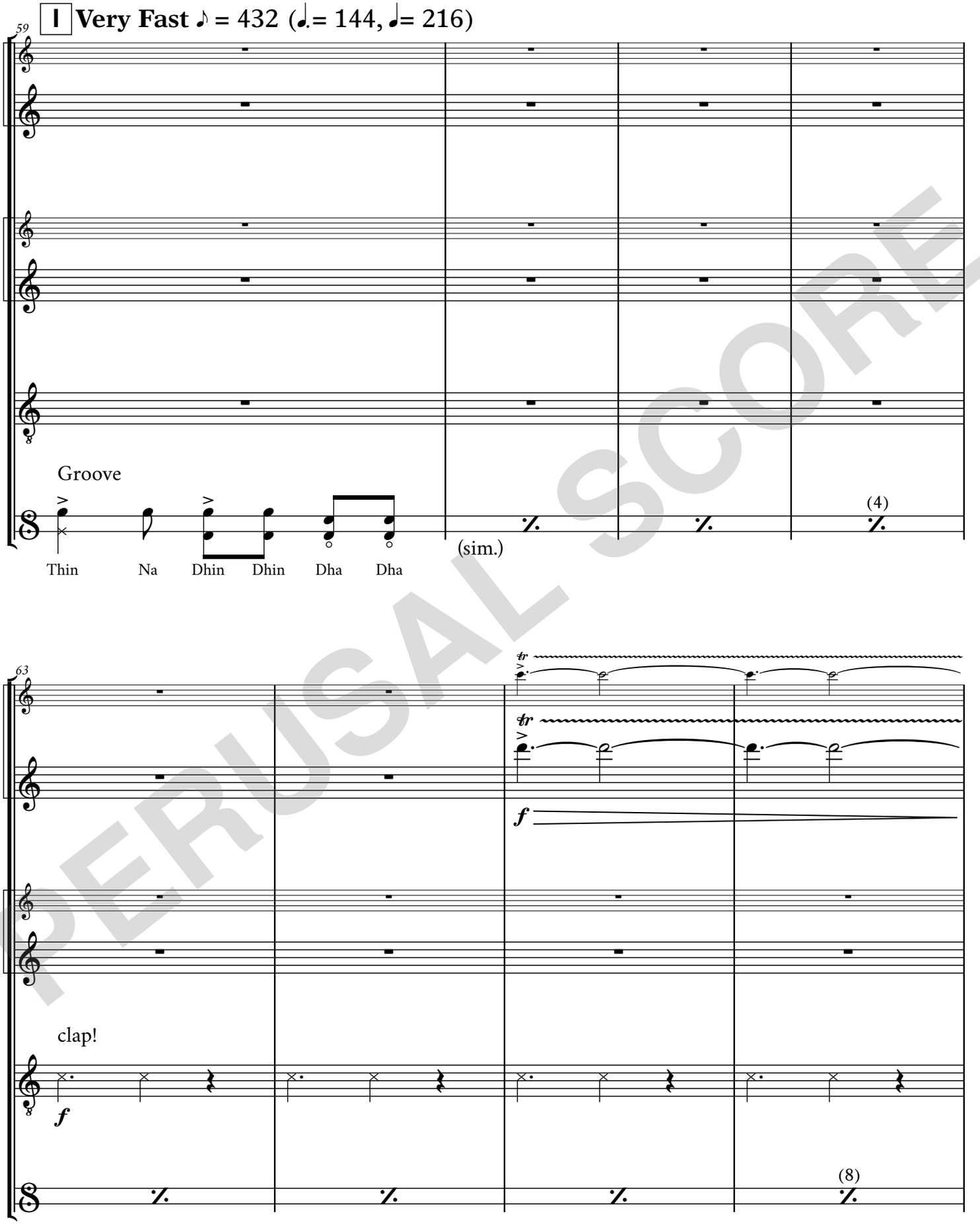

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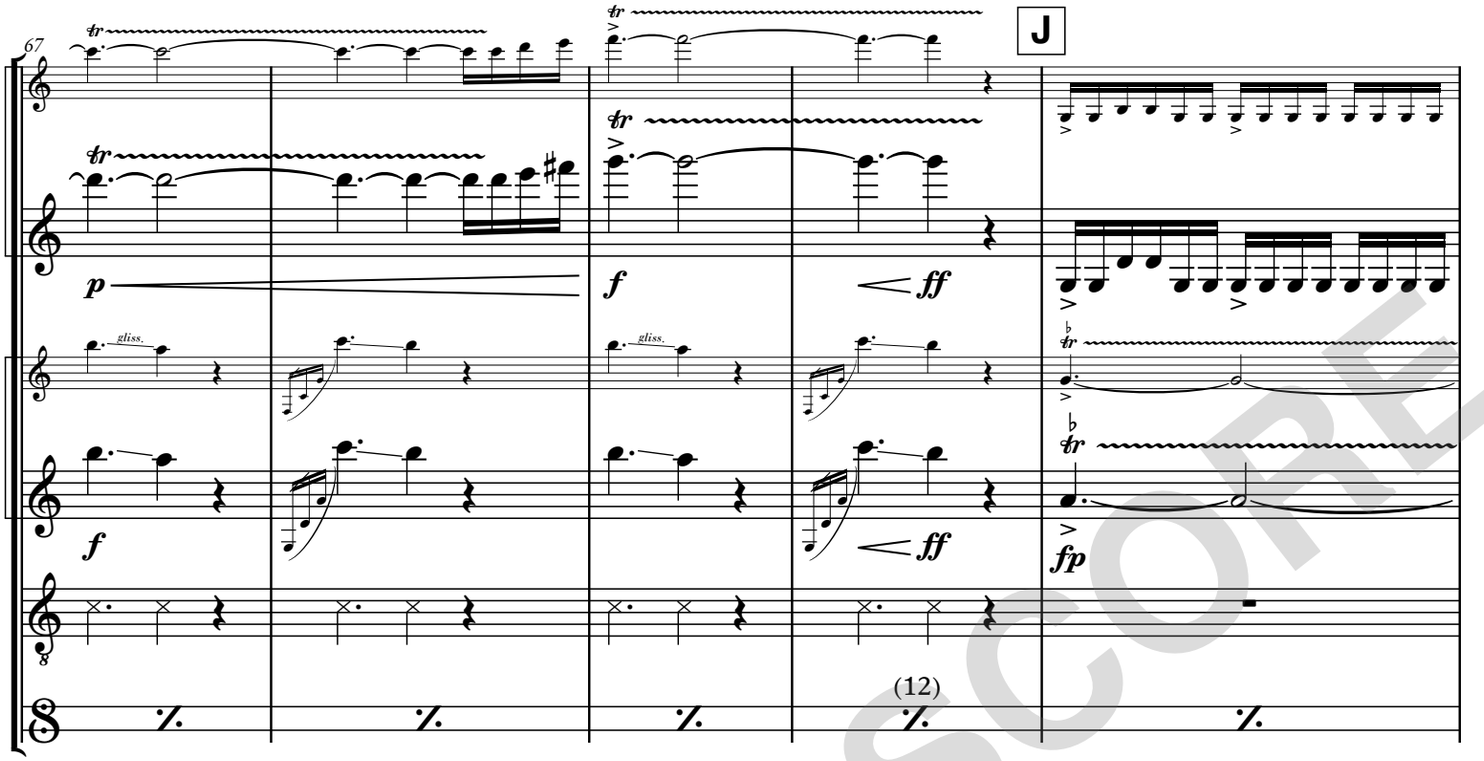

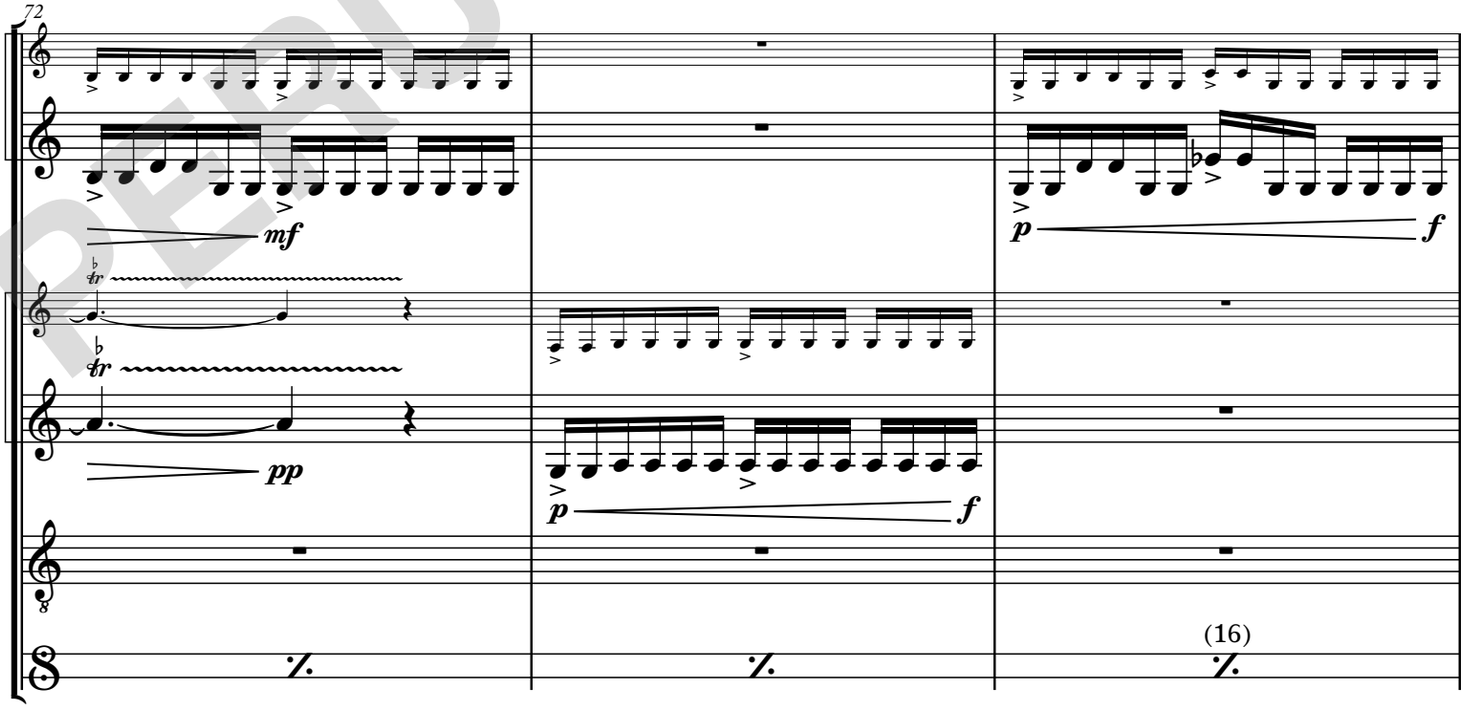

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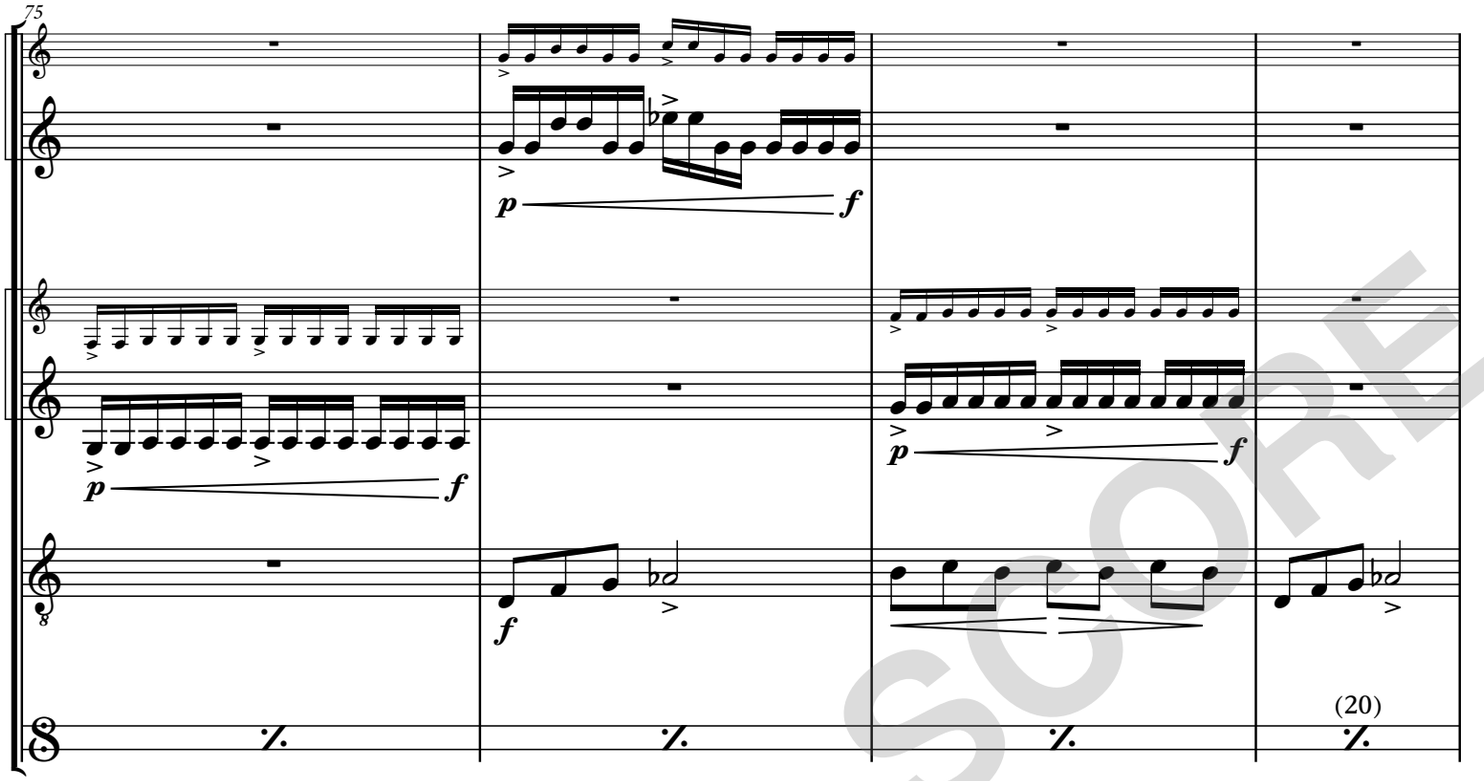

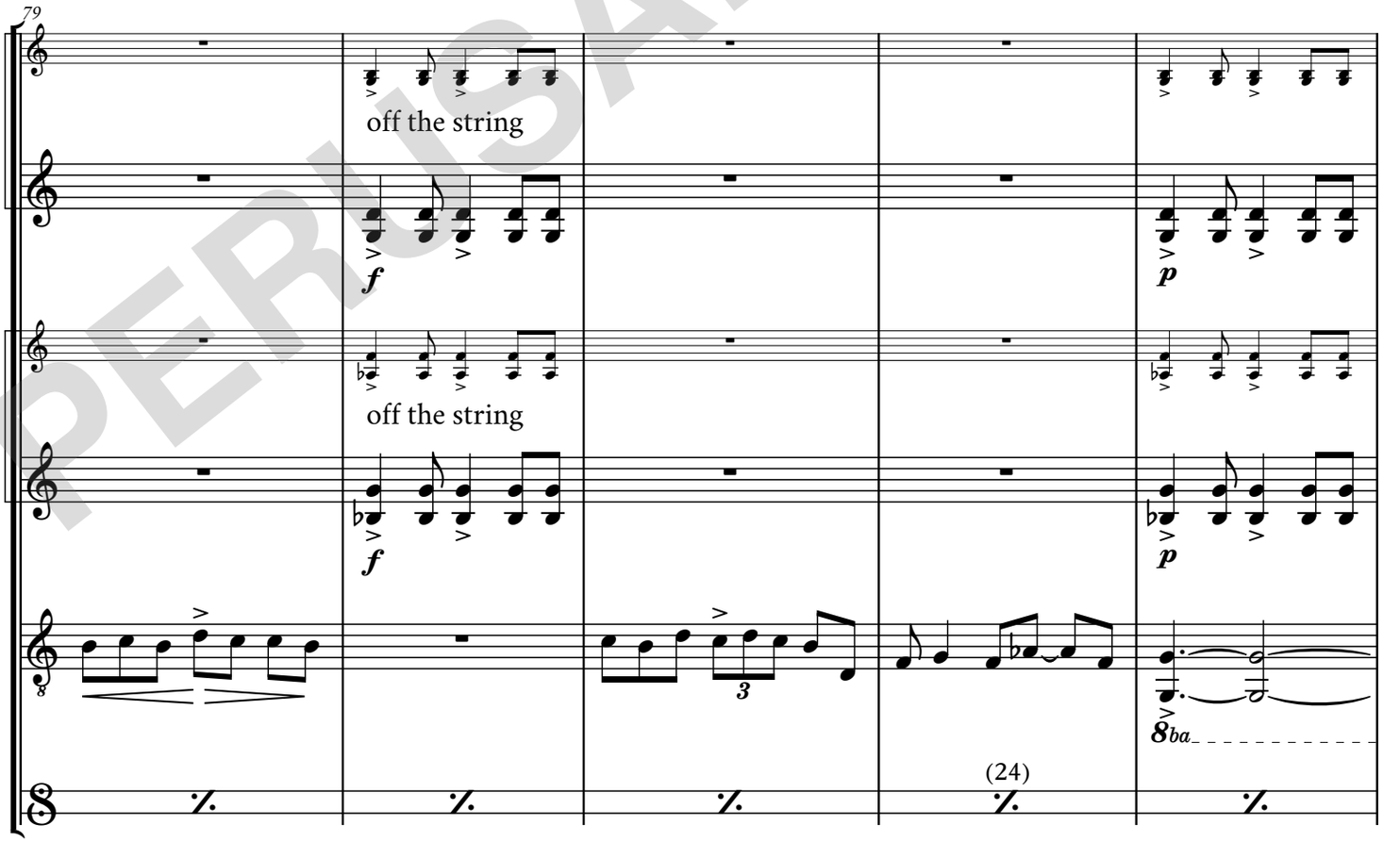

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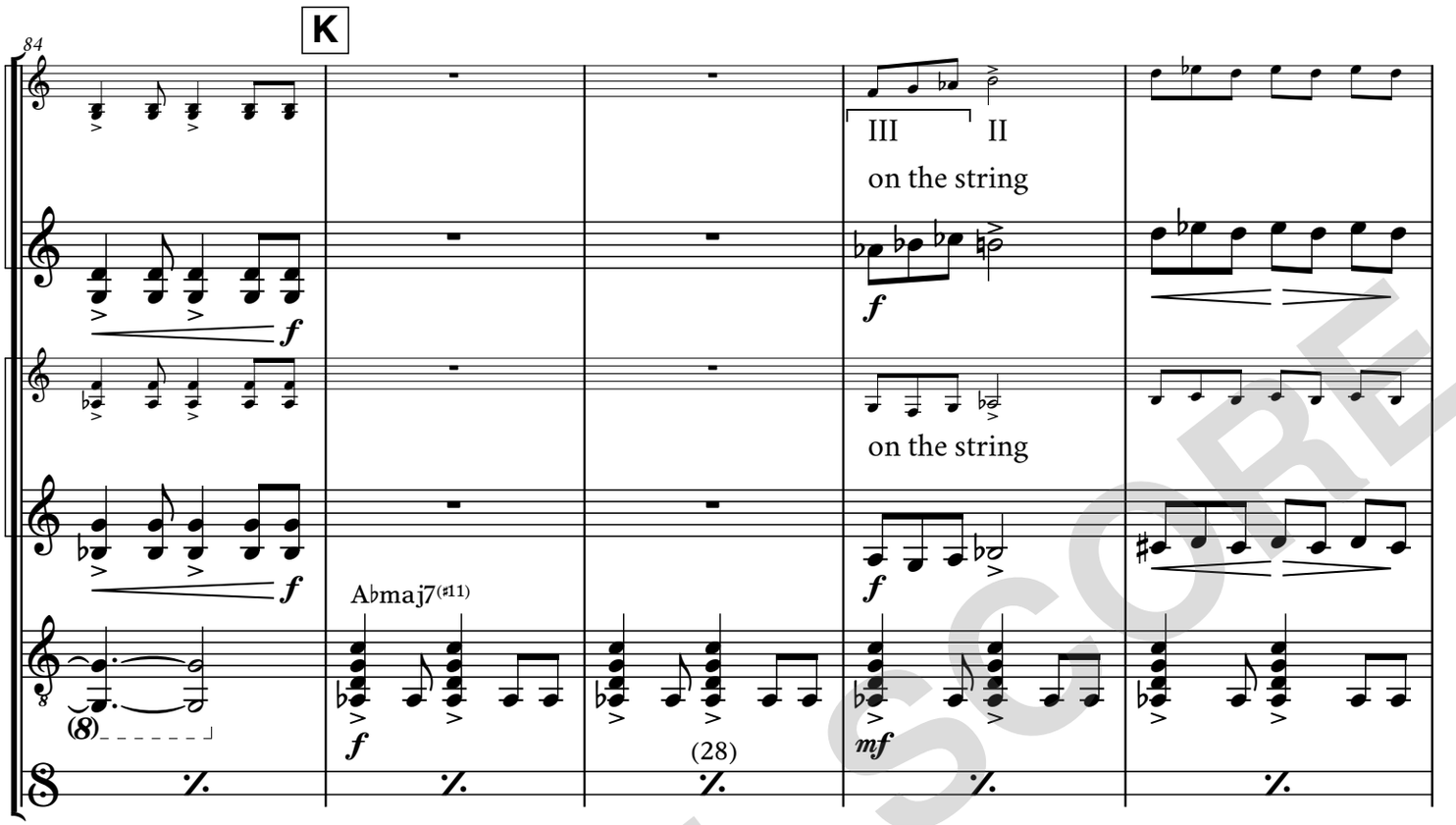

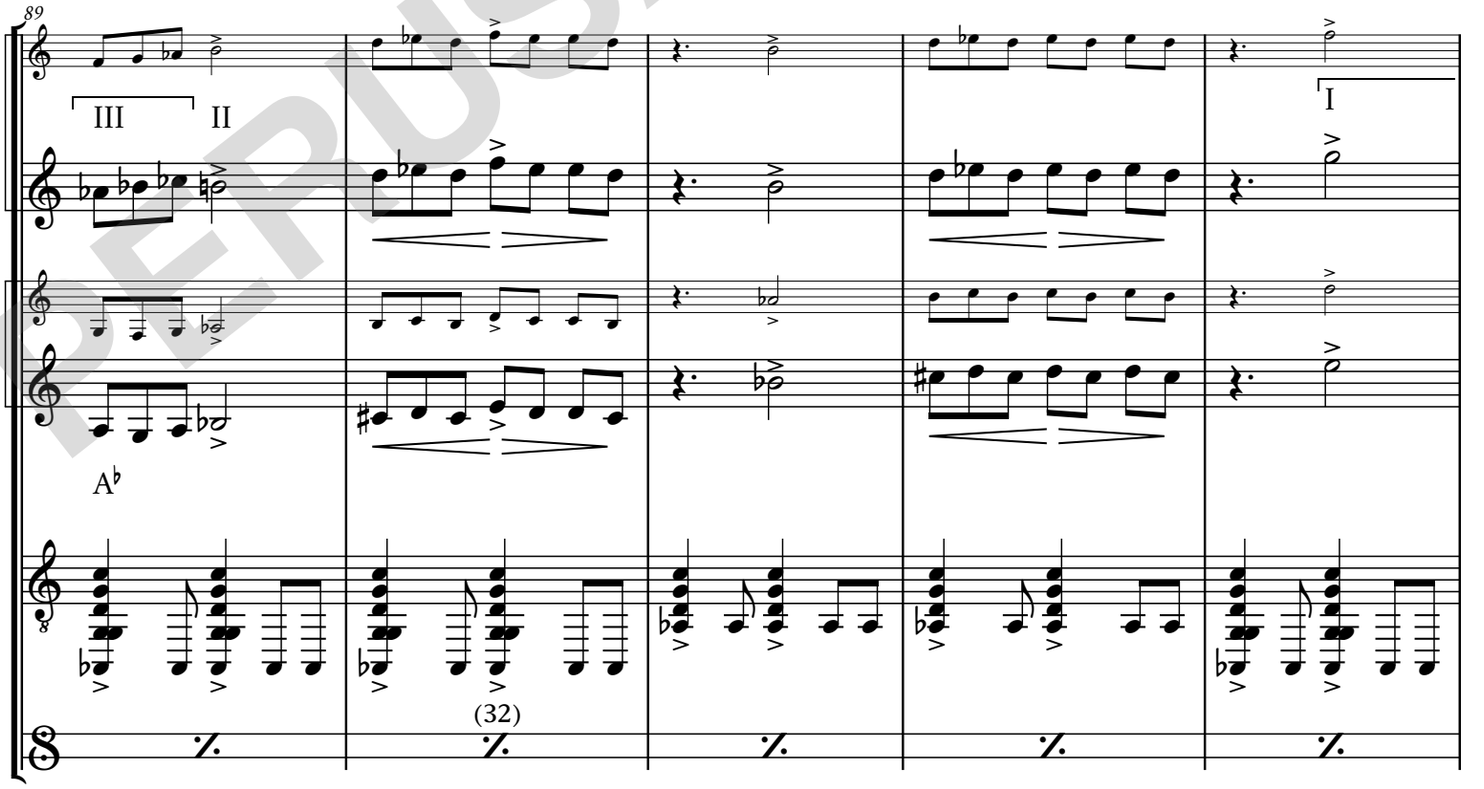

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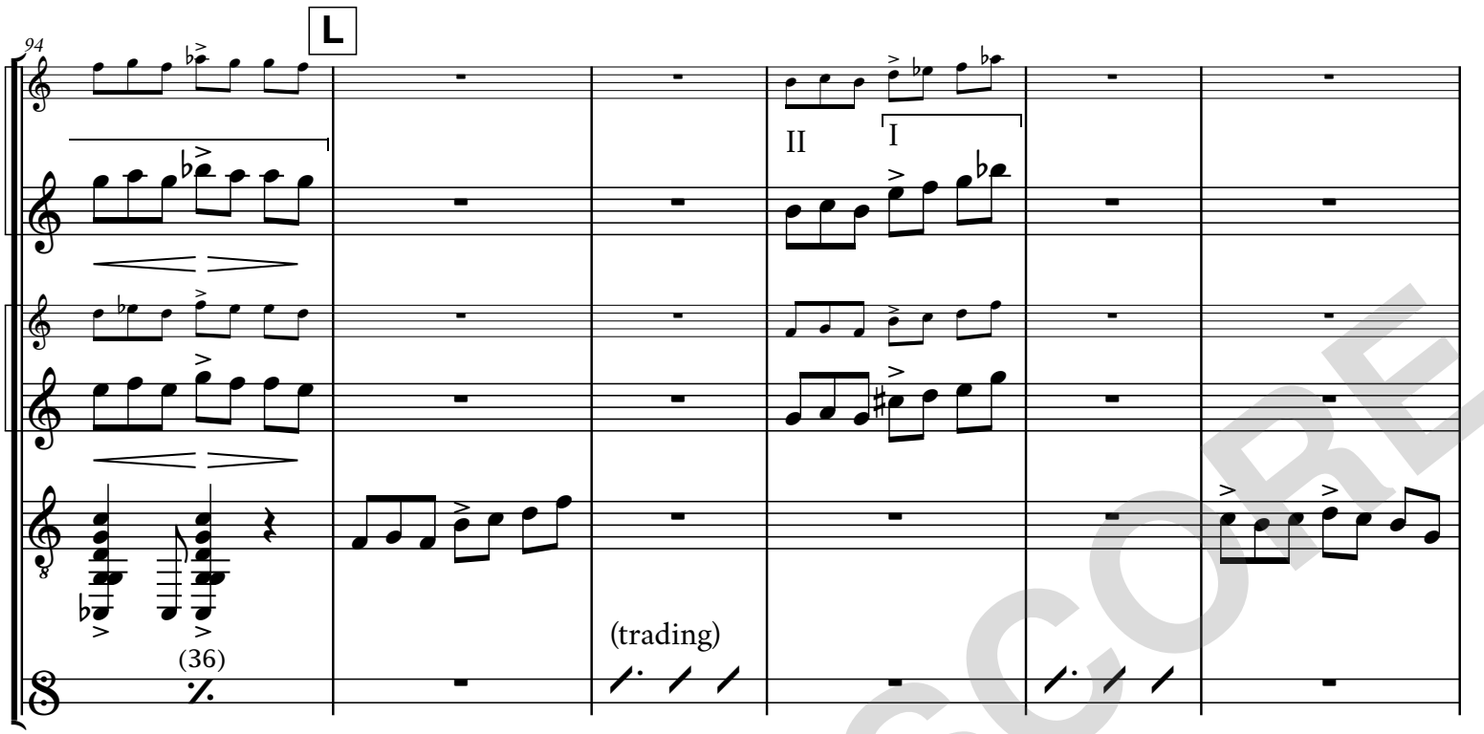

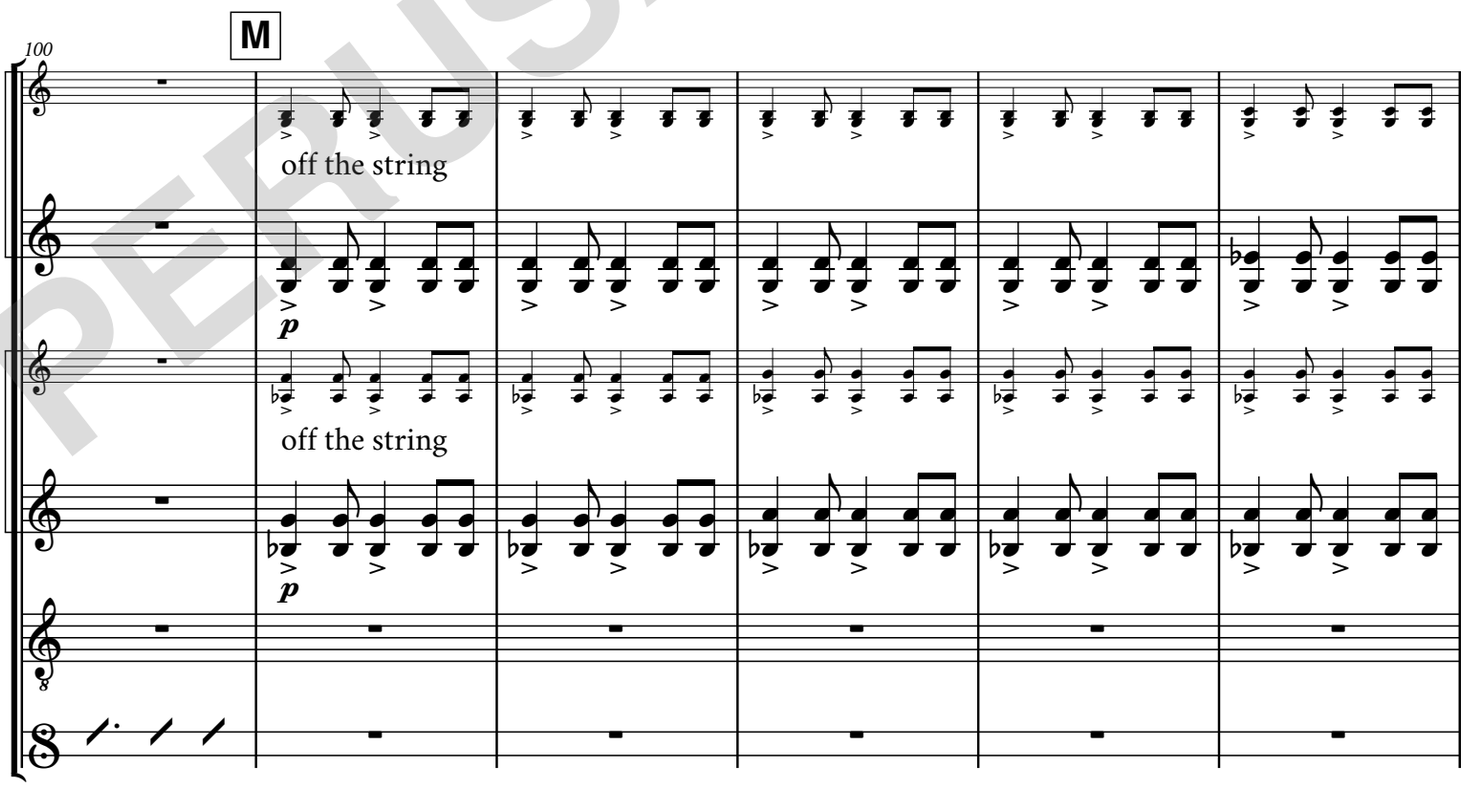

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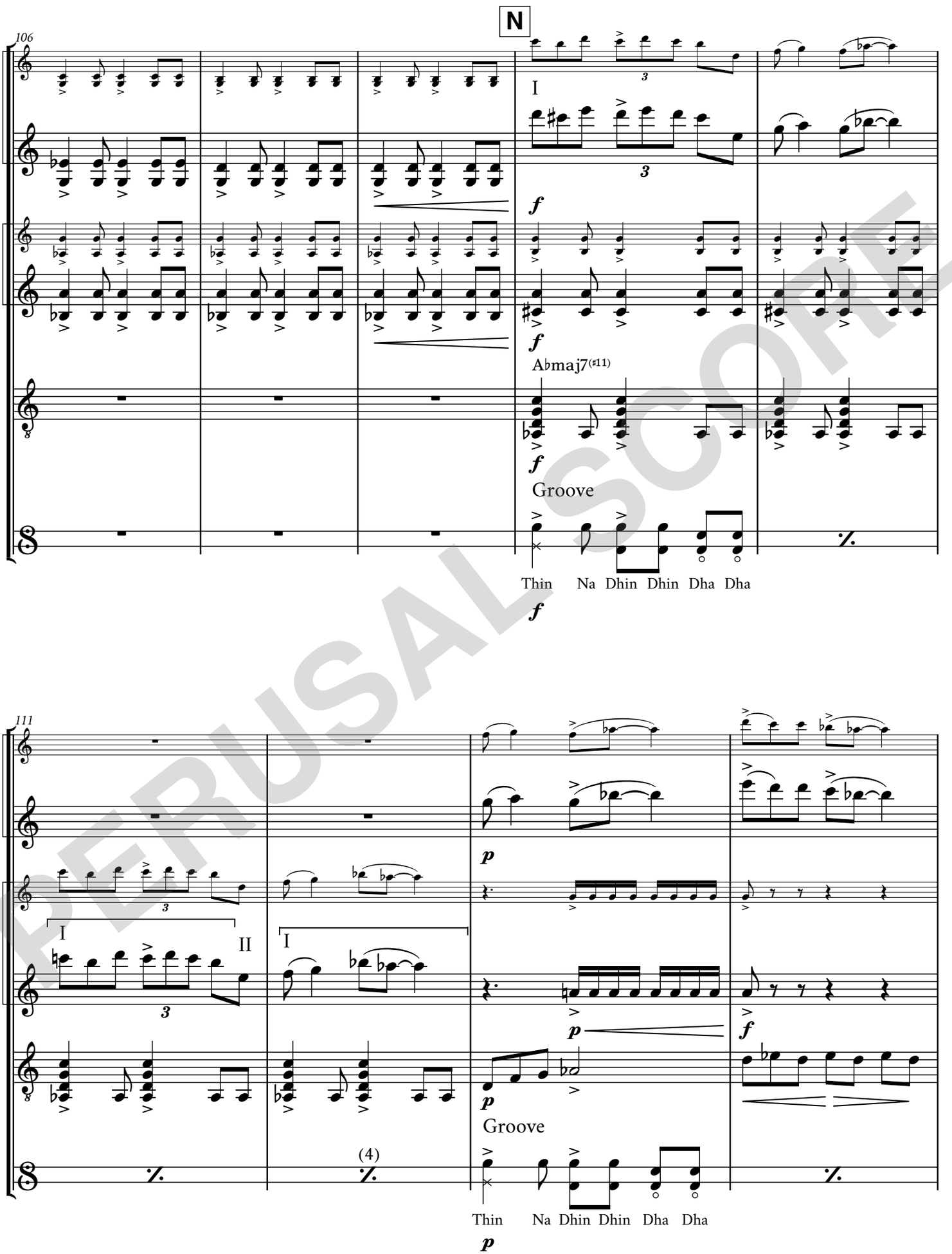

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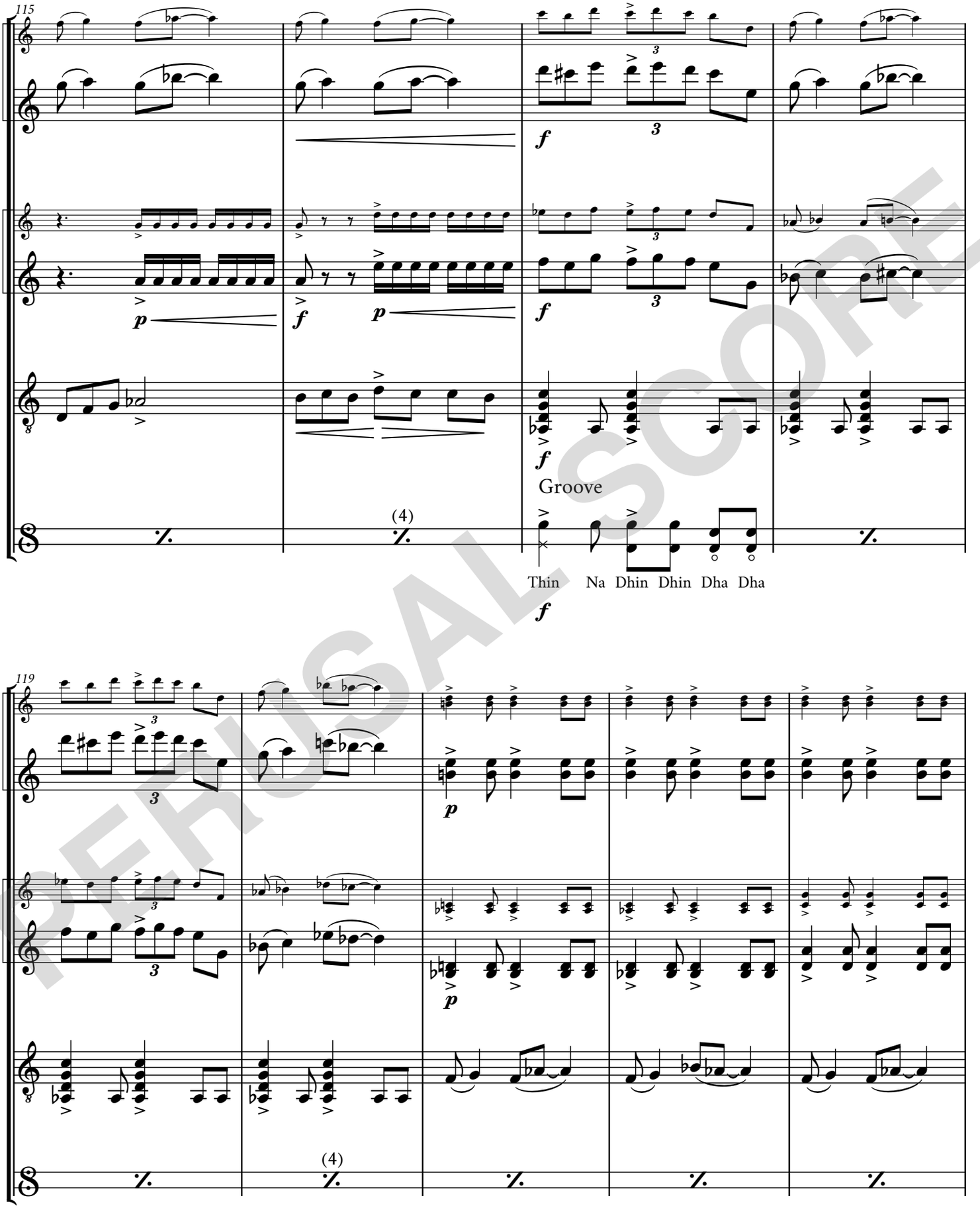

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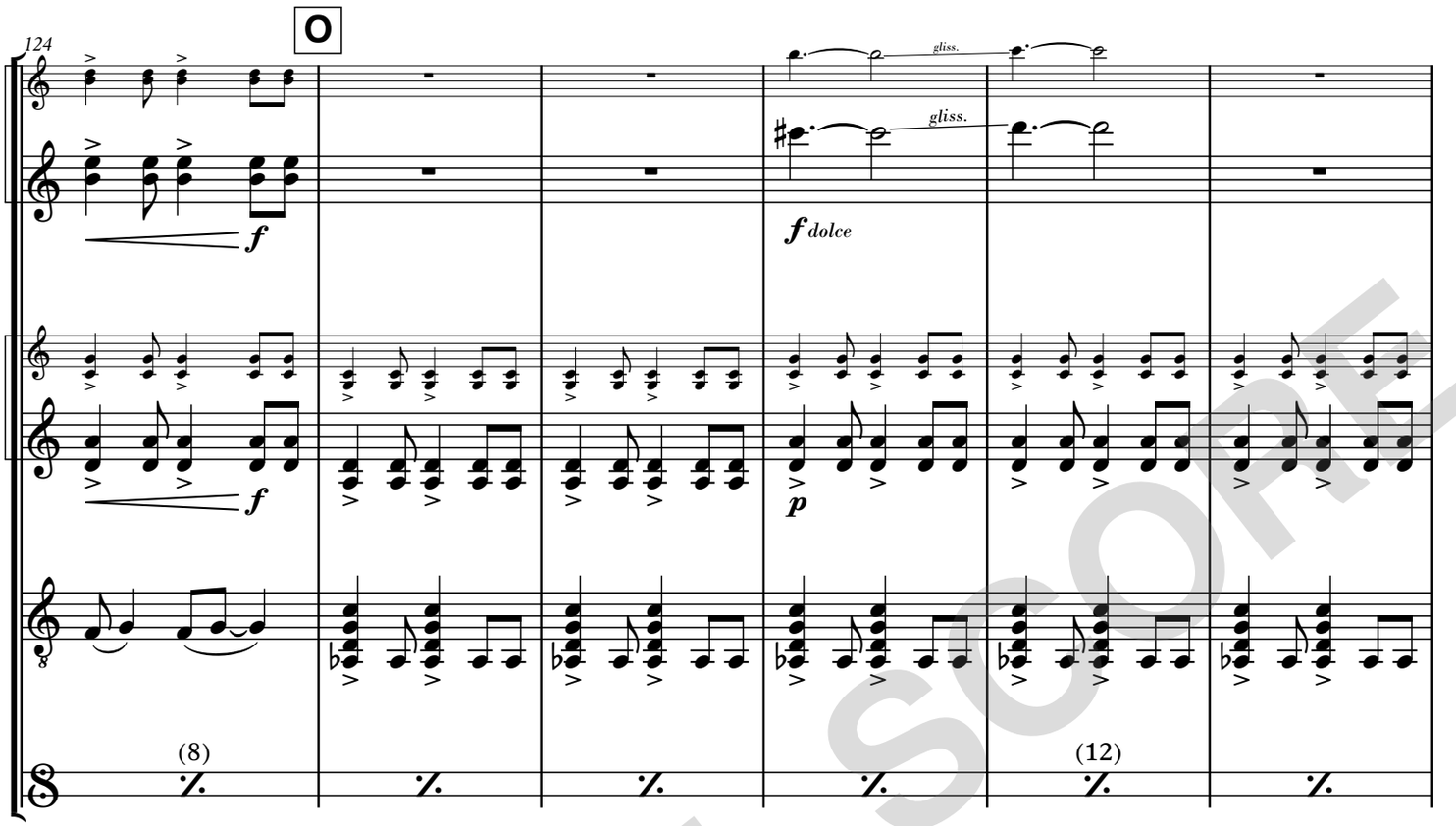

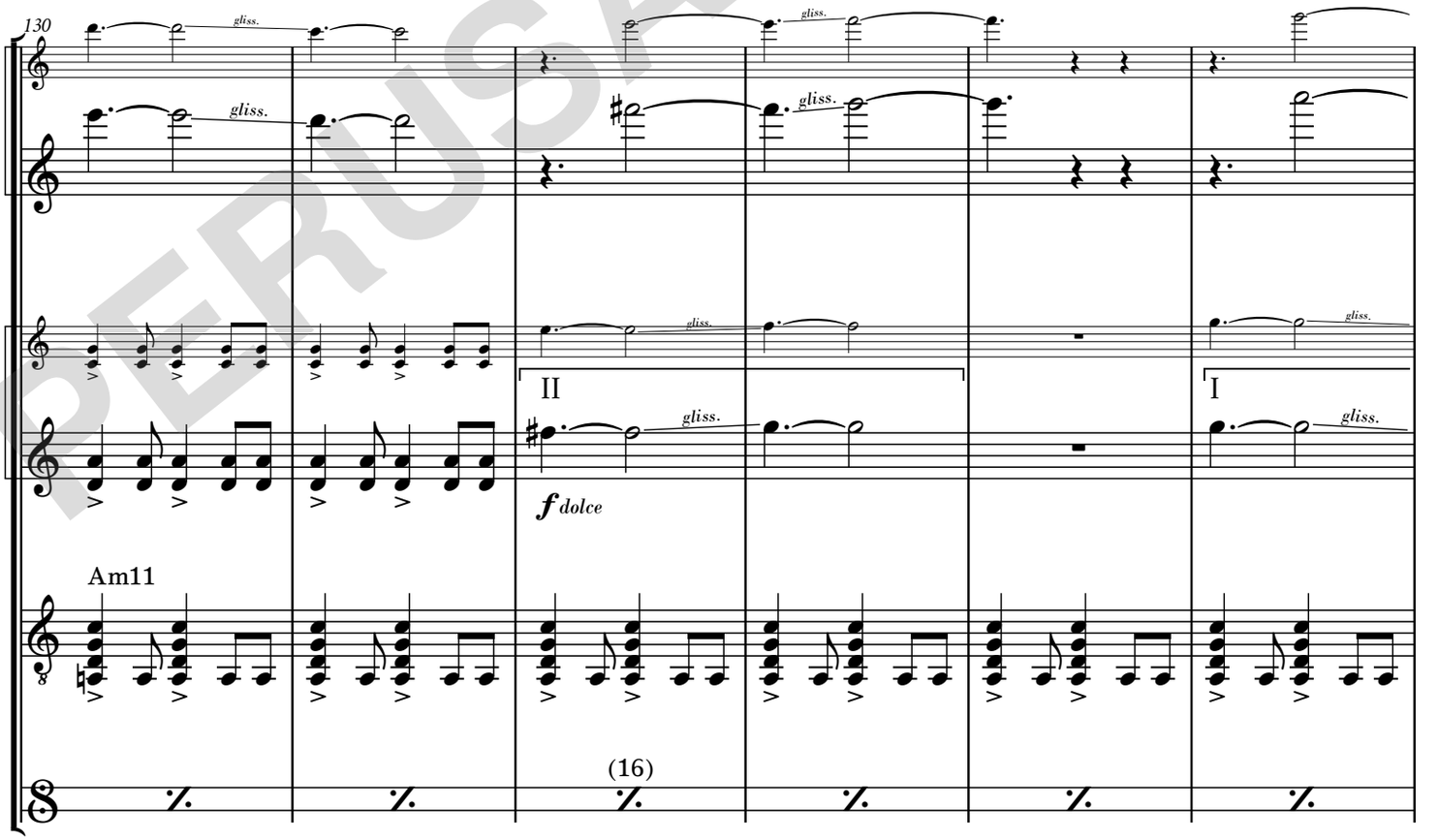

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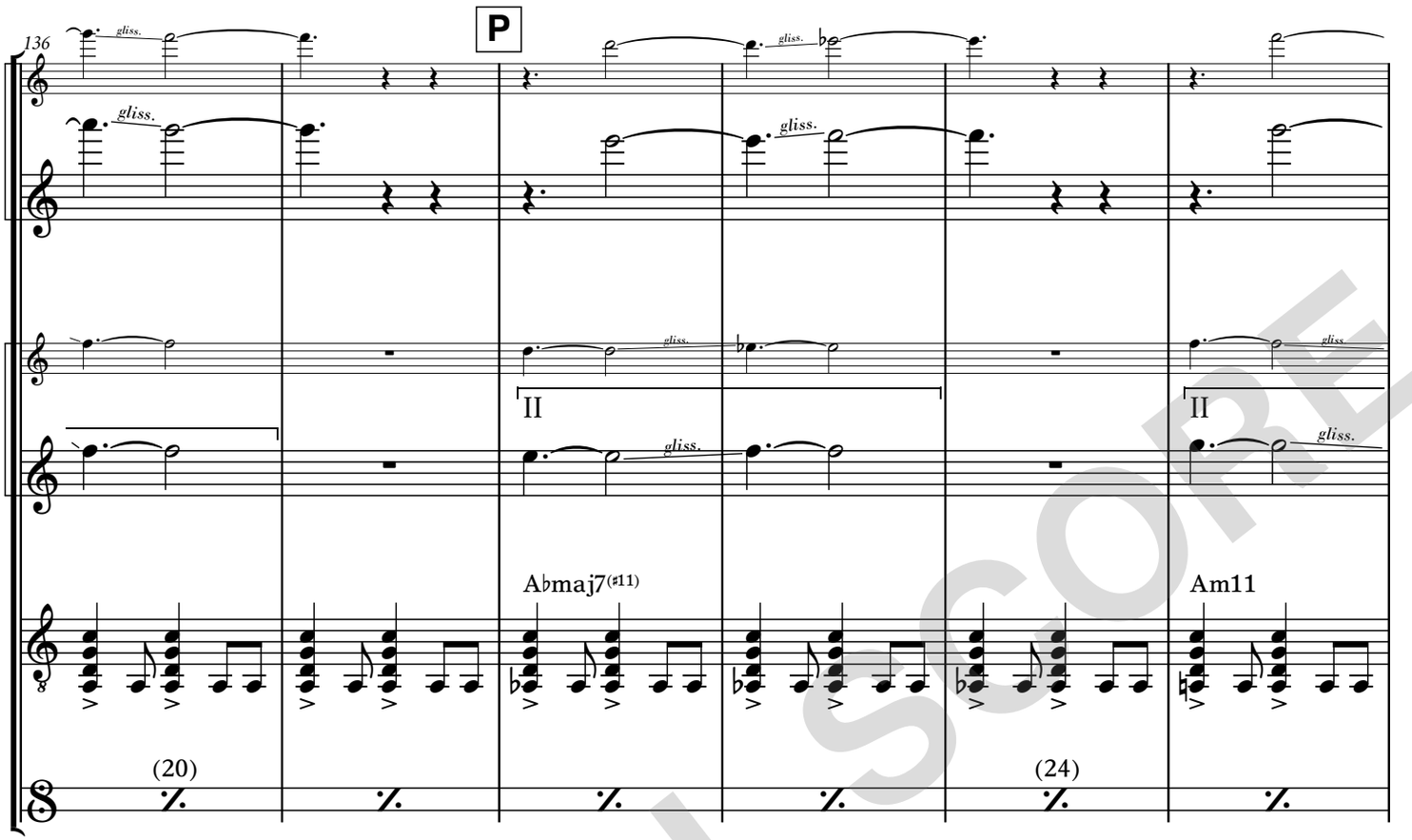

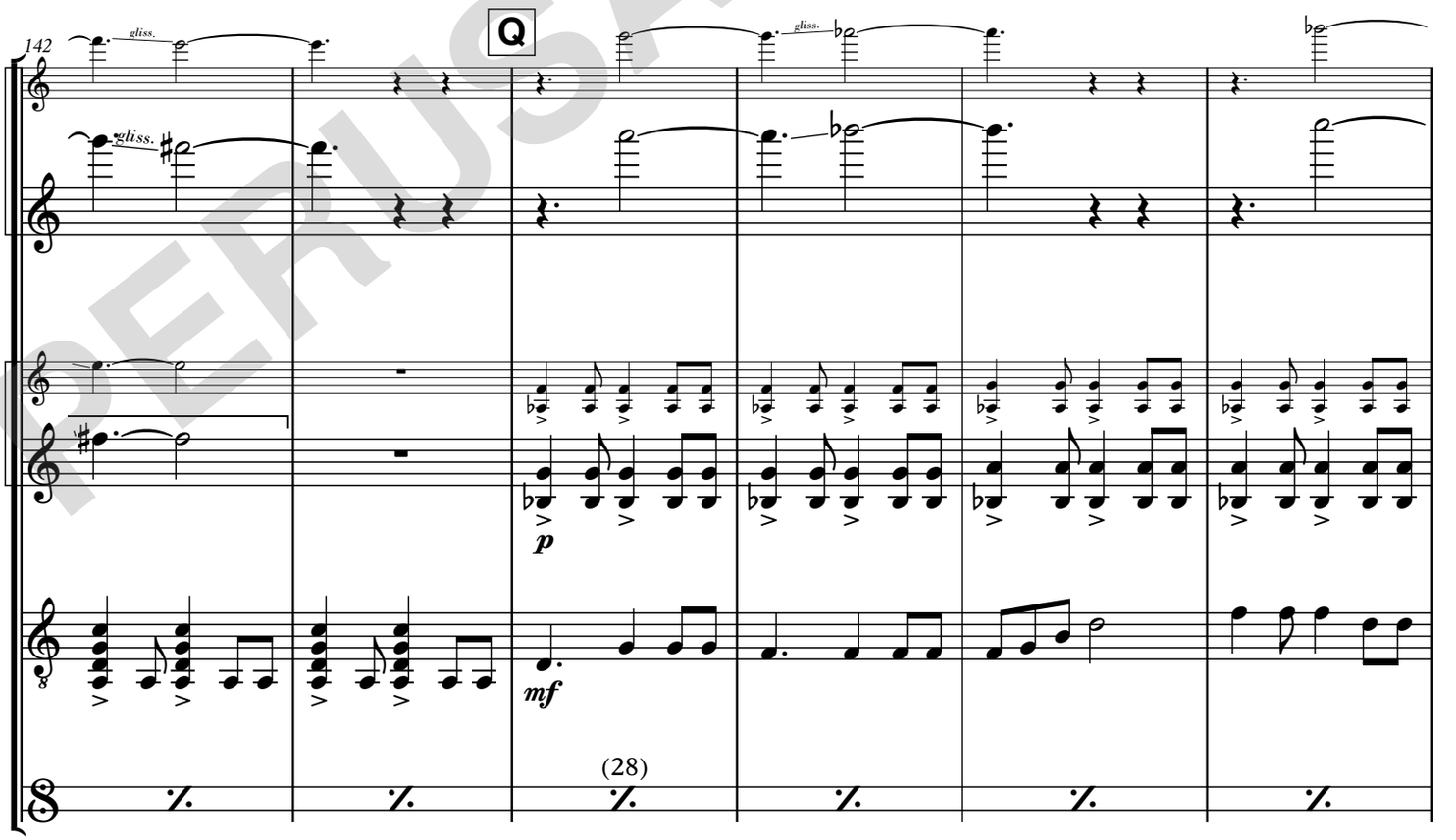

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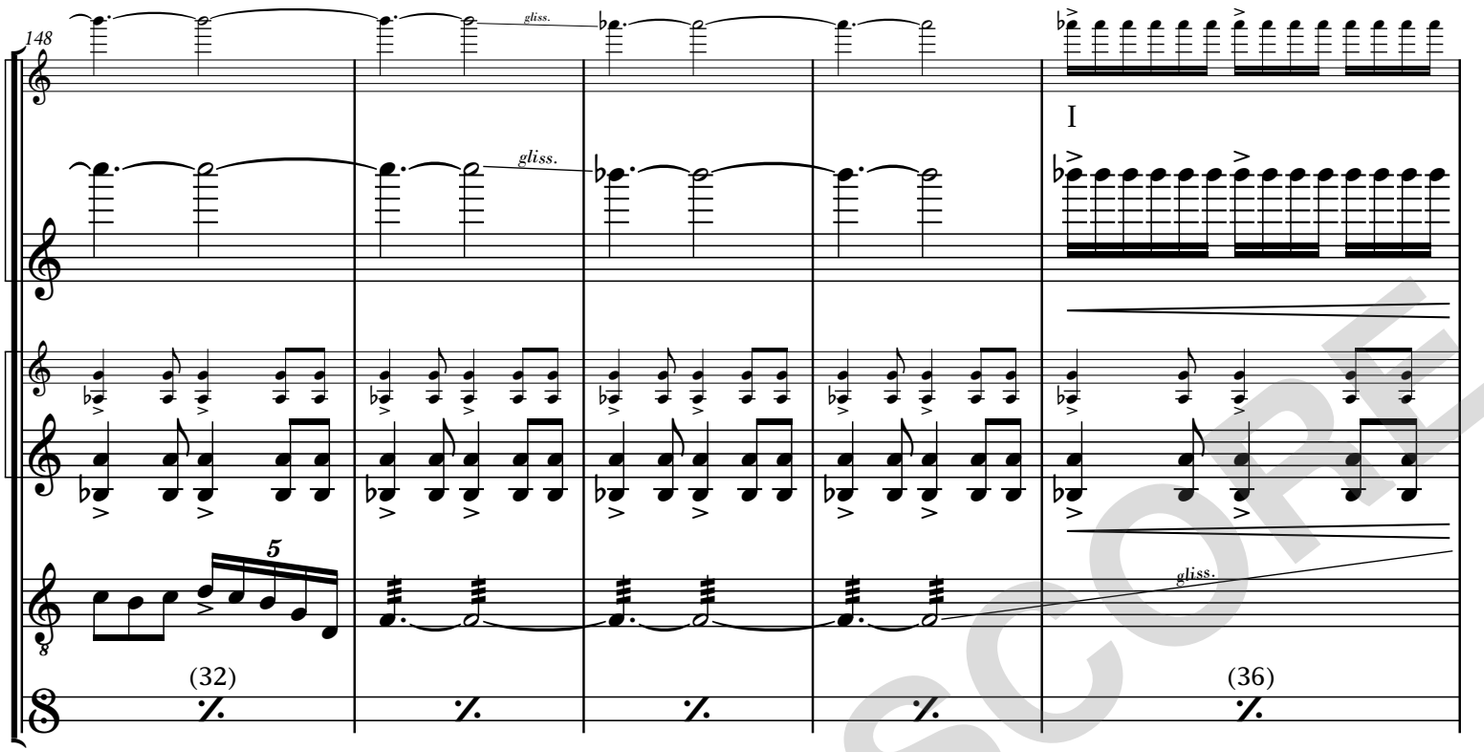
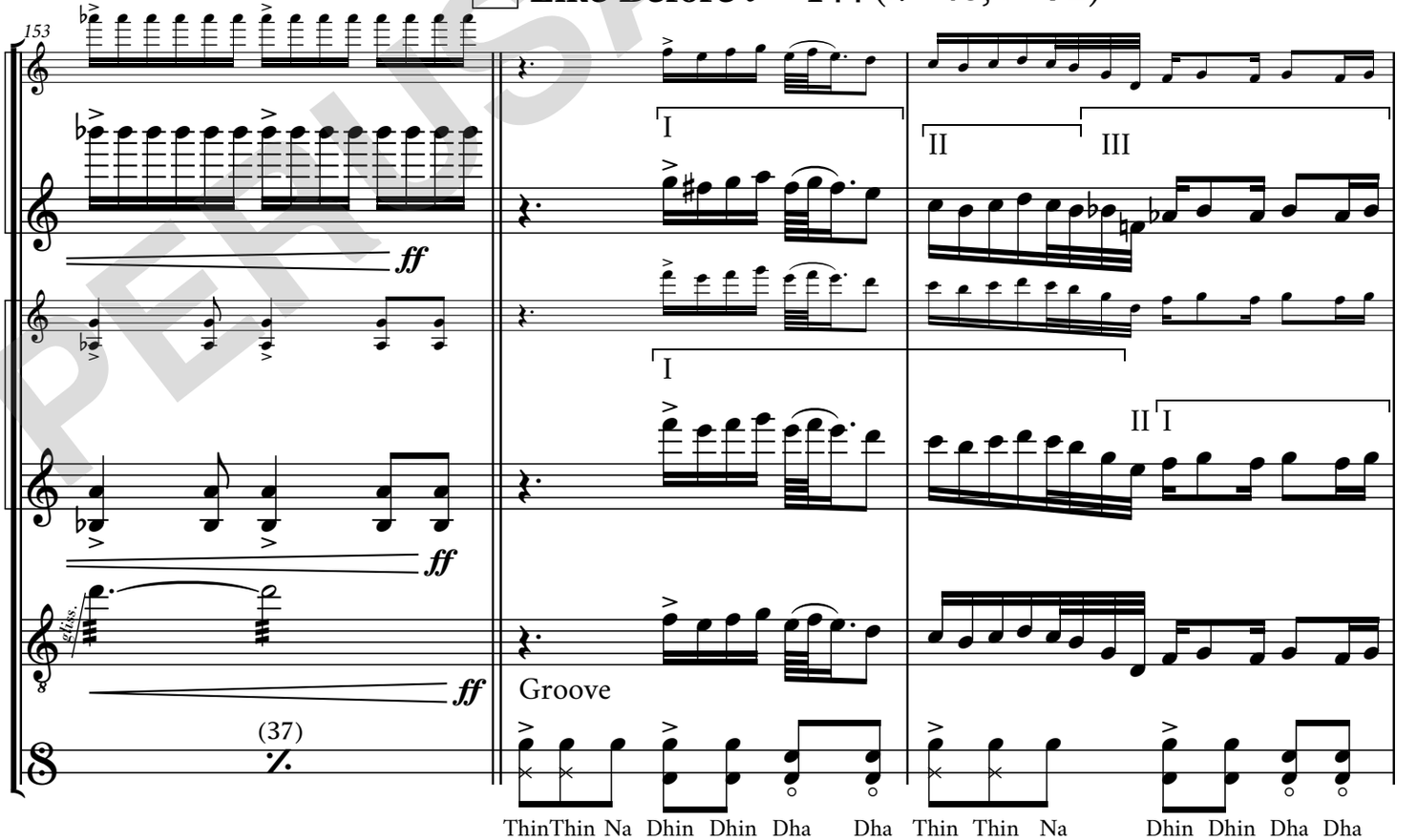


(♩. → ♪)

R **Like Before** ♪ = 144 (♩.= 48, ♩= 72)



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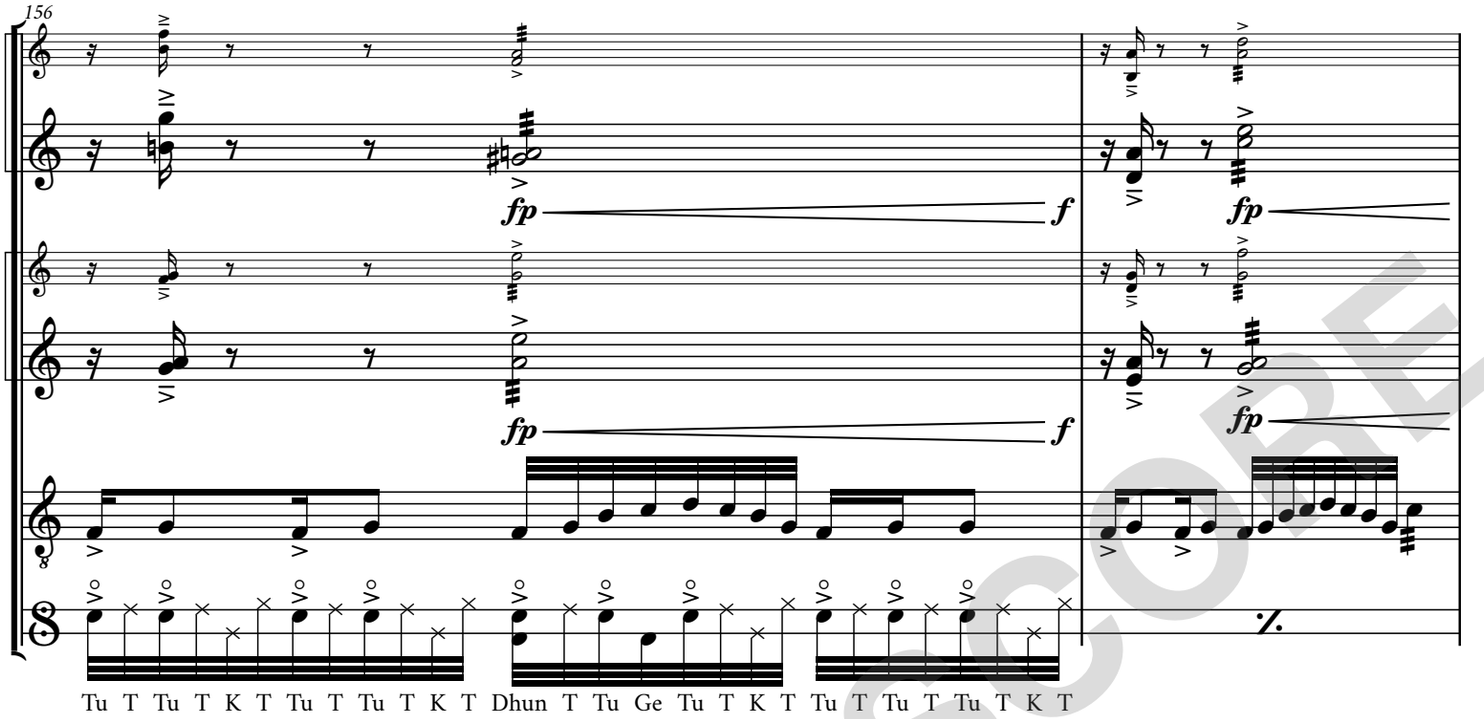

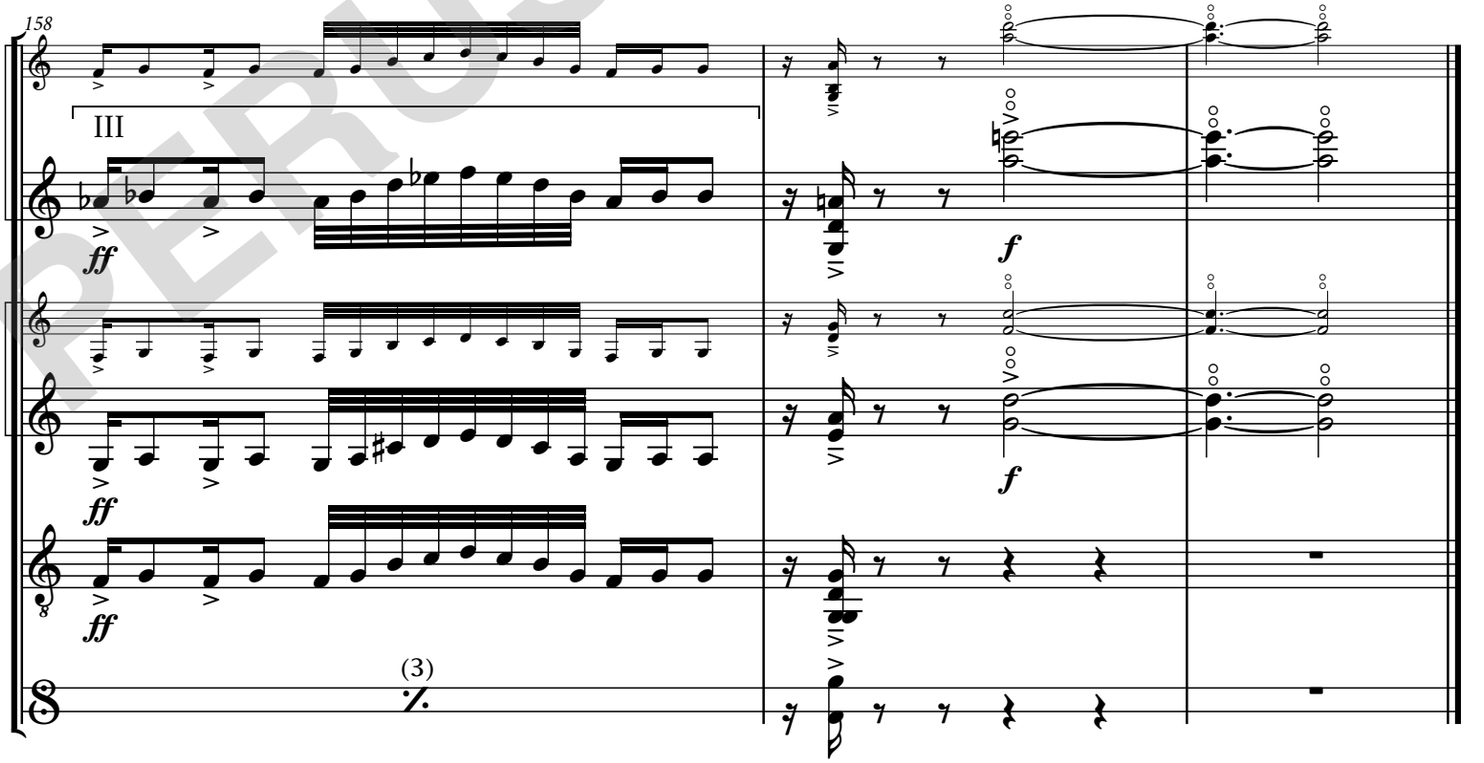

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