Colors from a Changing Sky

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Timothy Kramer *1994*

Colors from a Changing Sky

Piano Solo (1994)

This work was commissioned as a competition piece for the 1994 San Antonio International Piano Competition. Inspired by the vivid images of a Texas sky, this piece began under the working title *Etude Gris* (Grey Etude). I was initially interested in how black and white keys could interlock to generate passages that would sound difficult but were very pianistic and fairly easy to play. I was also interested in designing a competition piece that would challenge each pianist with different aspects of playing. Hence, the opening section presents questions about phrasing and quick dynamic contrasts, the central section demands sheer athletic strength, and the closing passage calls for a sensitivity to both color and line. In order to tie the sections together, a melodic "spine" runs throughout the piece. Initially present in two and three note cells, it expands in the central section to five notes and eventually blooms against slow harmonic motion in the ending. Seemingly disparate elements soon coalesce into and overwhelming force and then slowly dissipate, a drama often played our in the sudden changes of weather.

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Performance Notes

1. Accidentals carry through the measure. Some have been added for ease of reading.

2. Pedaling may be slightly altered in order to accommodate different pianos and halls.

3. In particular, if the work is performed on a smaller piano, the opening gesture may require partial use of the damper pedal (1/4 Ped.) in order to achieve the proper effect. If this is done, release the pedal slowly into the third beat of the first measure.

4. While all tempi in this work are given with metronome markings, those marked *circa* (ca.) are - within reason - open to some interpretation.

5. The expanding ligatures on page 7 represent accelerations in rhythm (not tempo) across the broader pulse of a dotted half-note or a dotted whole-note (two dotted half-notes).

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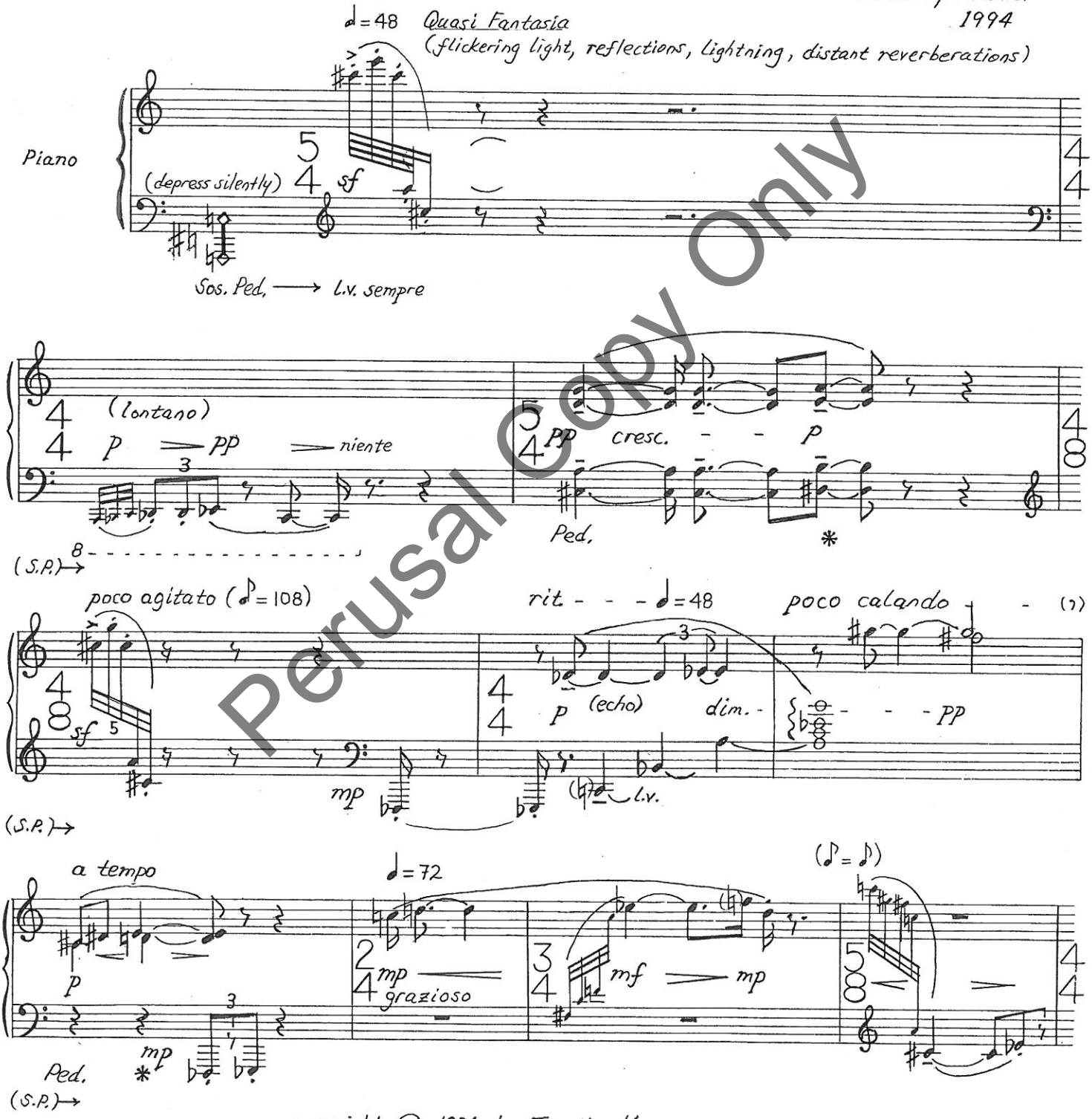
COMMISSIONED FOR THE SAN ANTONIO
INTERNATIONAL KEYBOARD COMPETITION
In Memory of Andrew Russell Gurwitz

Timothy Kramer
1994



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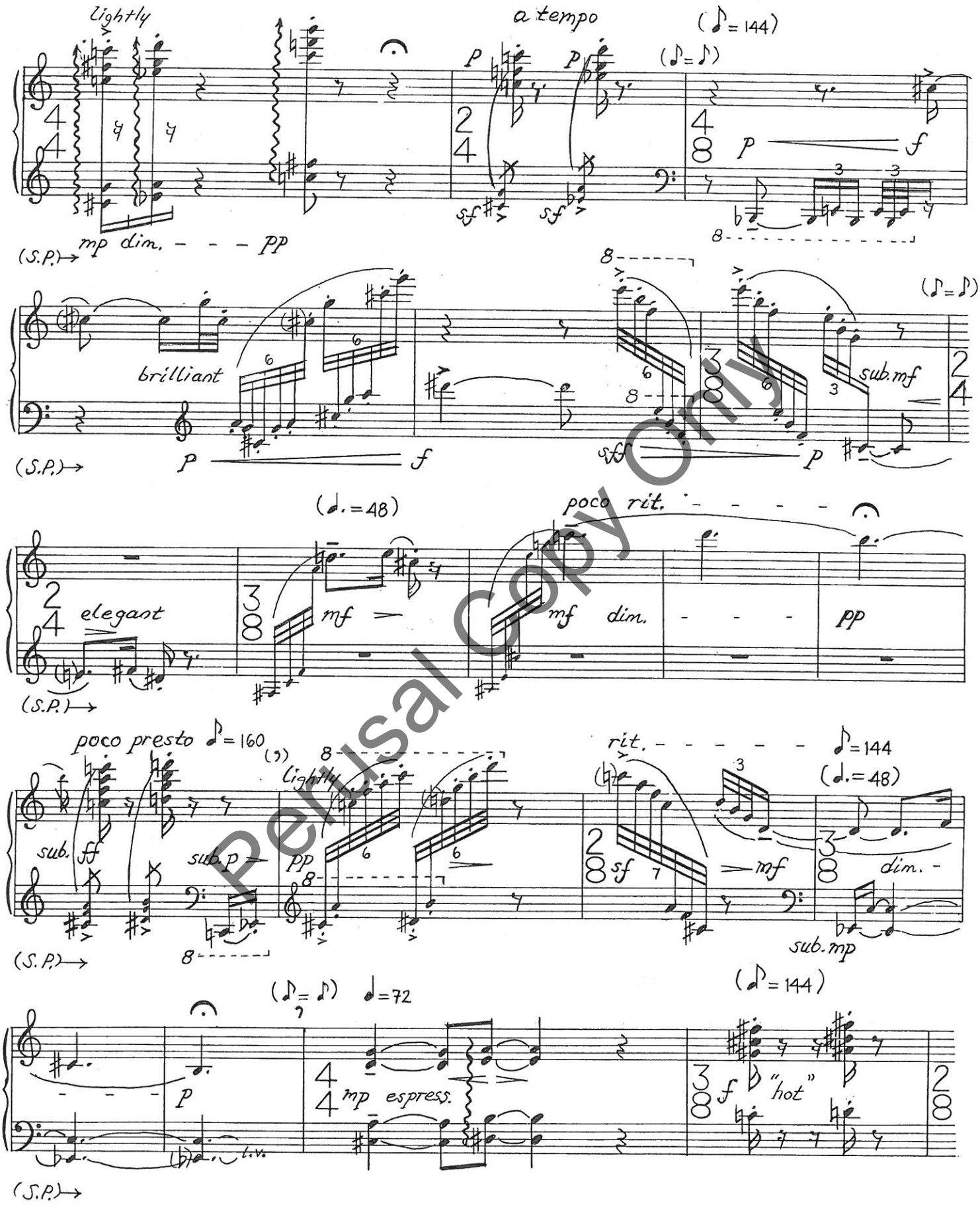

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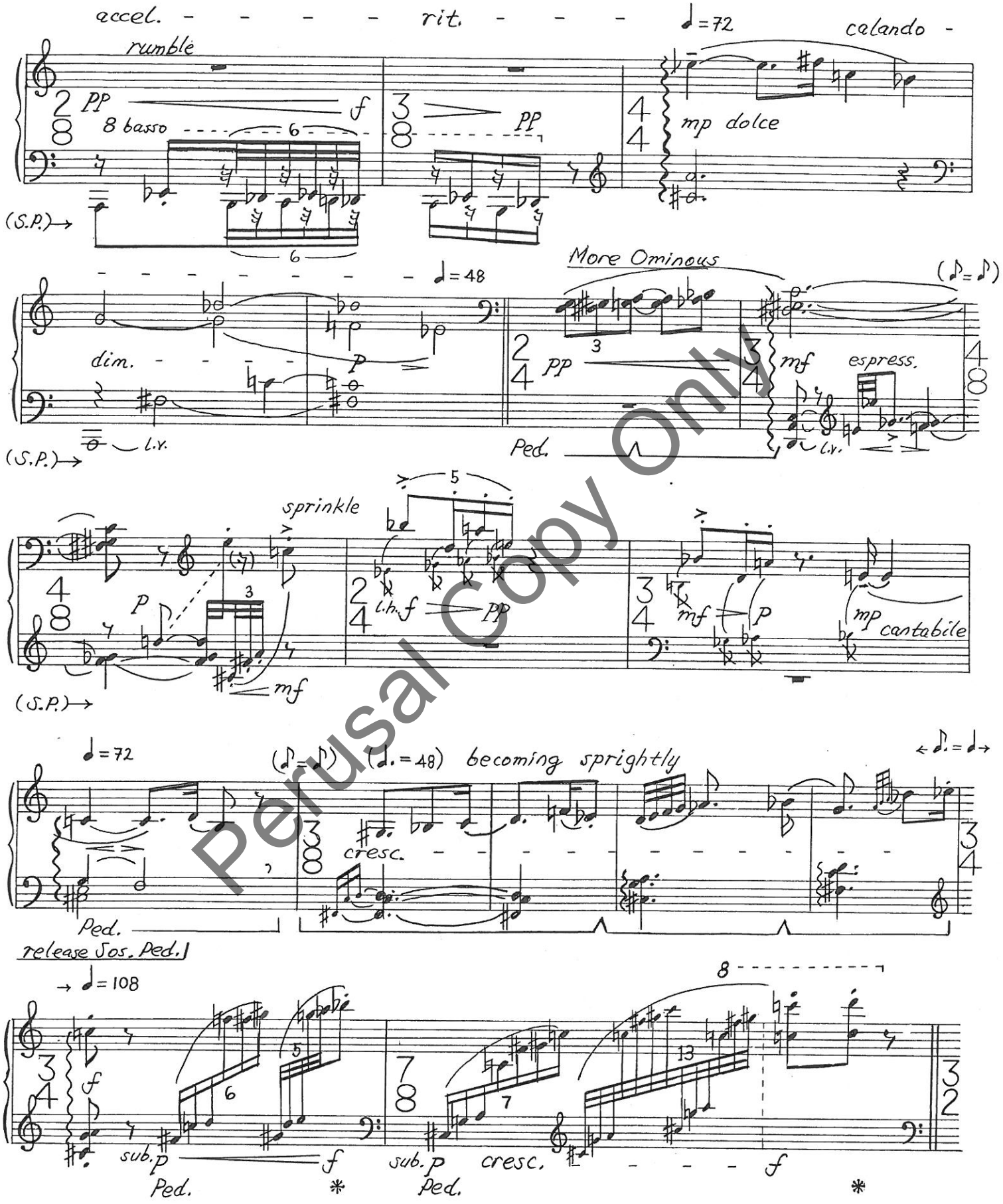

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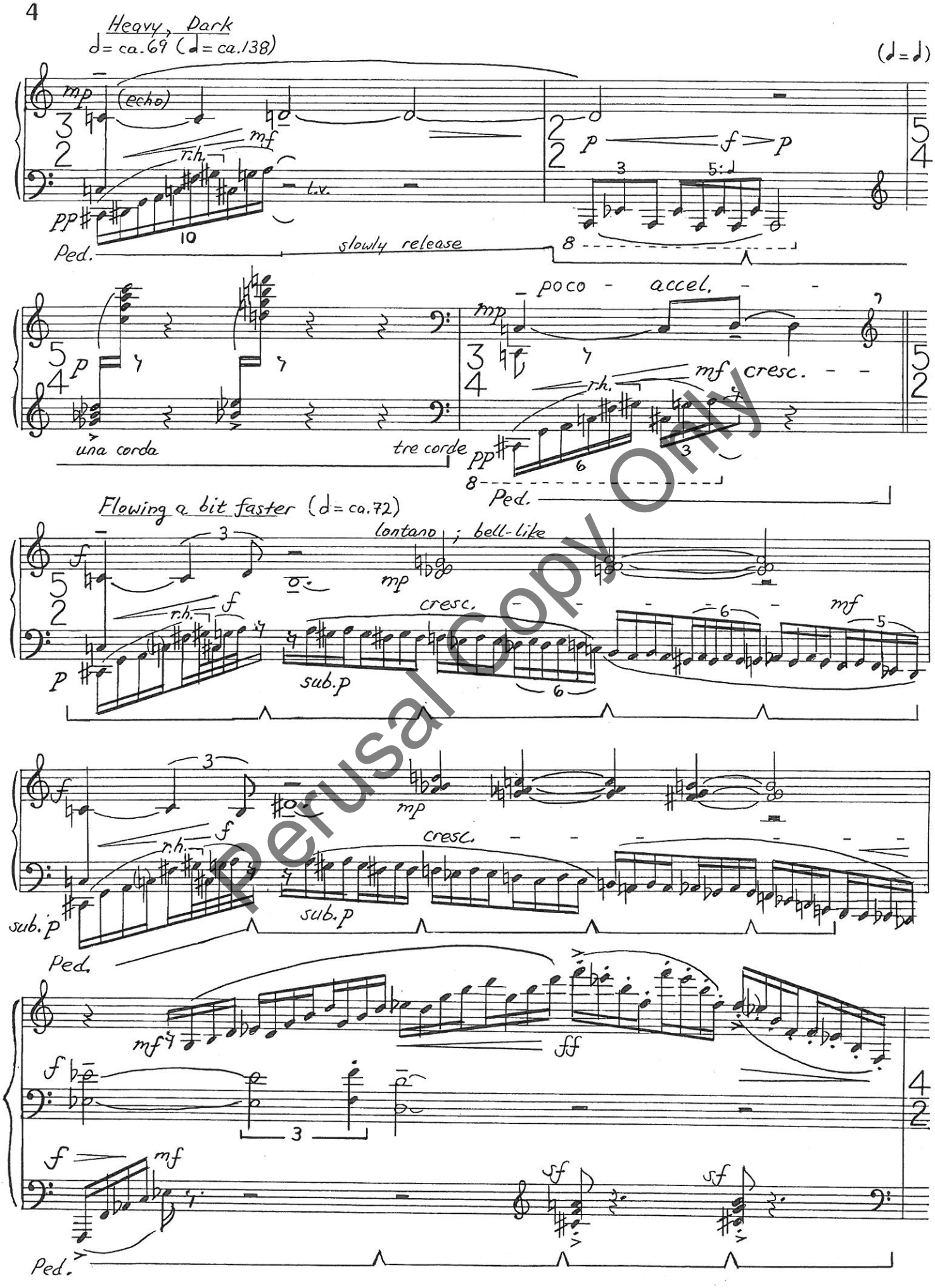

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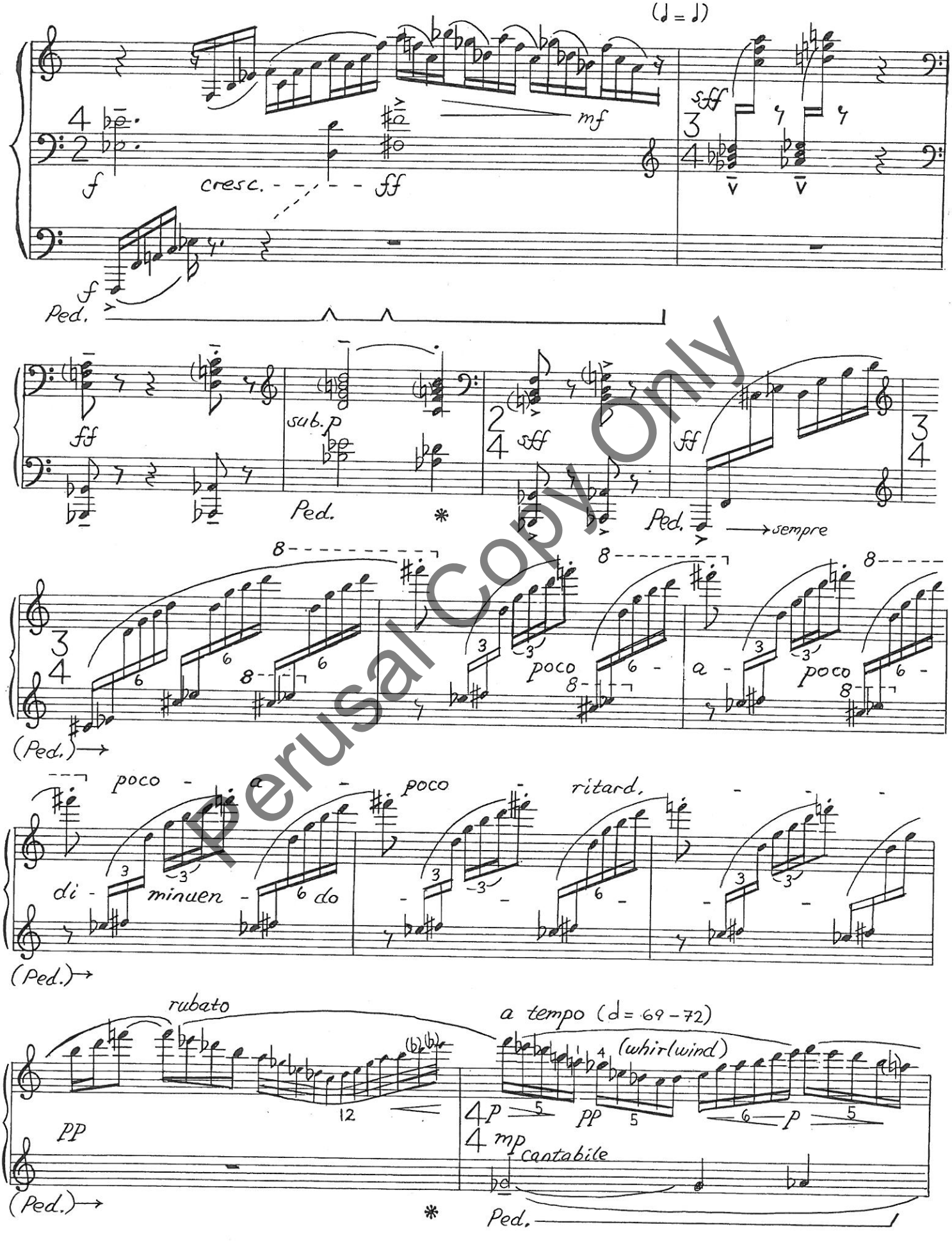

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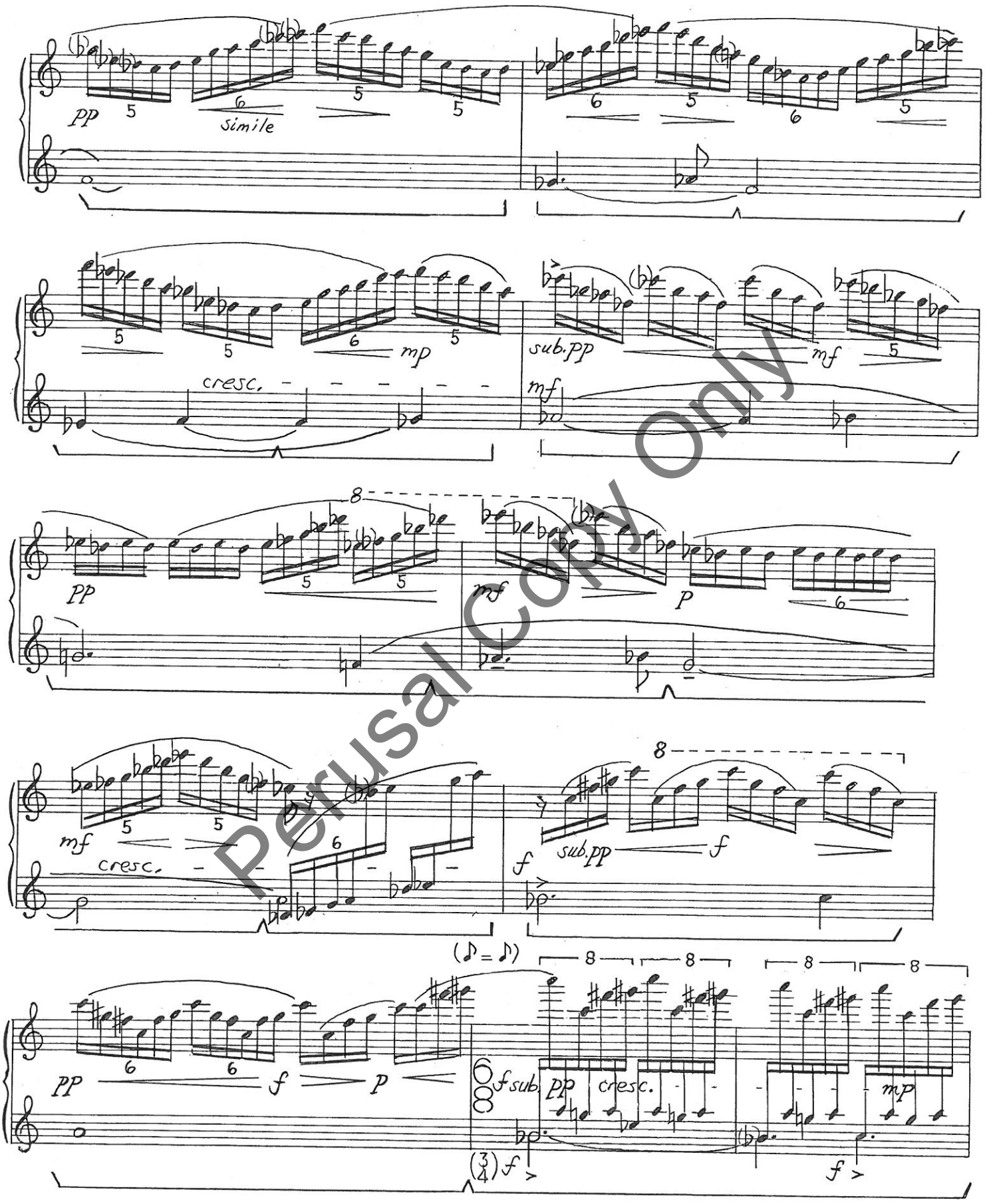

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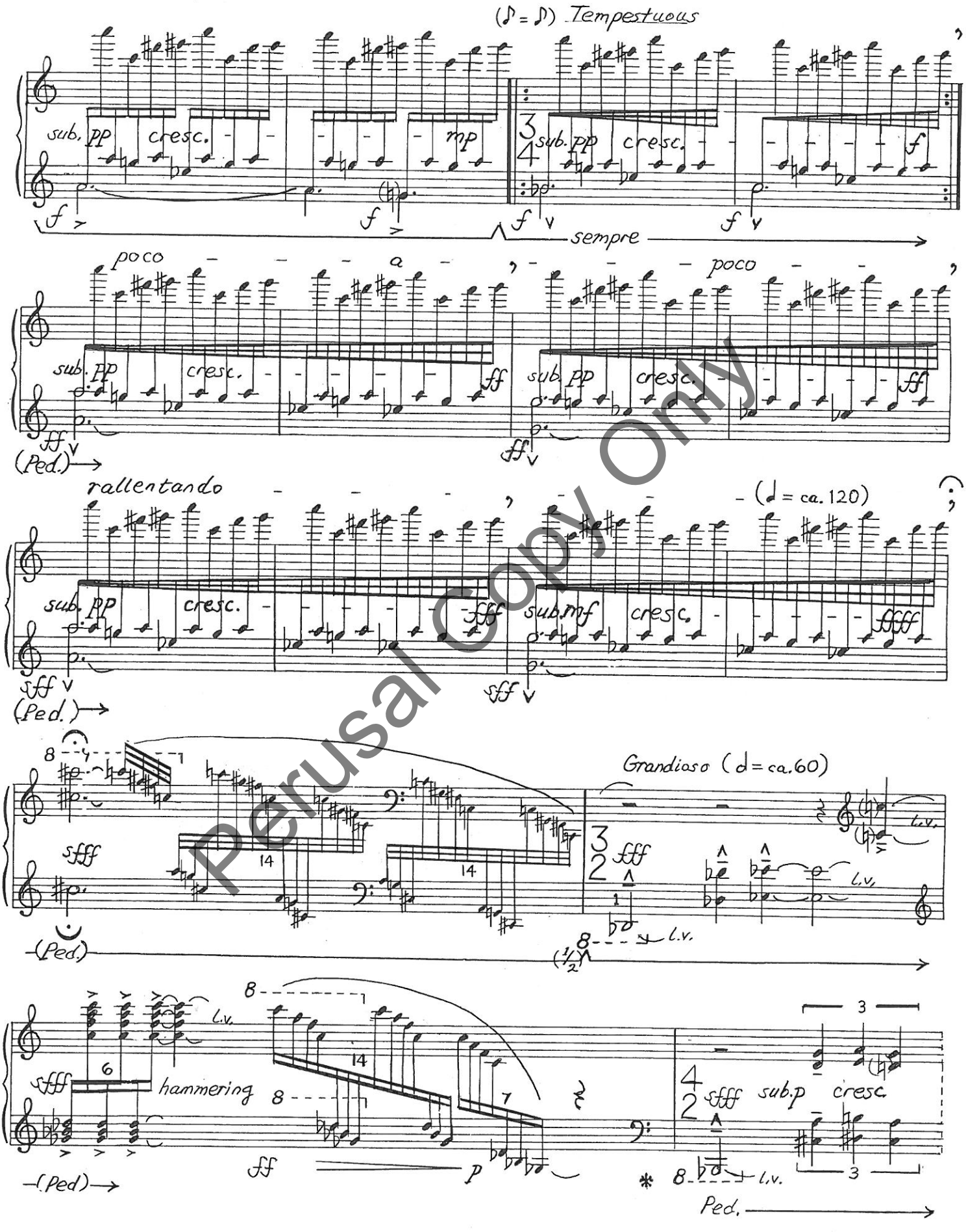

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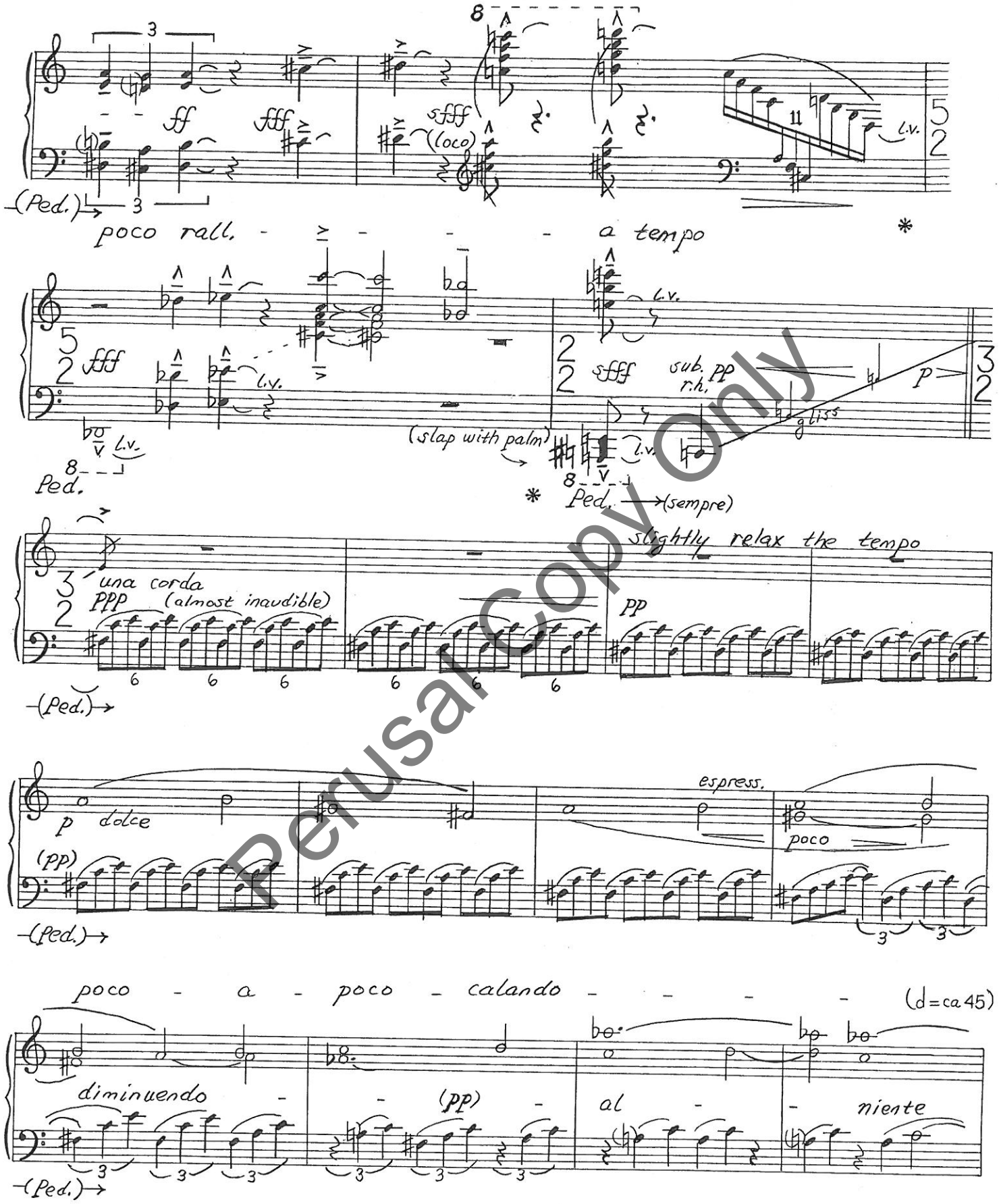

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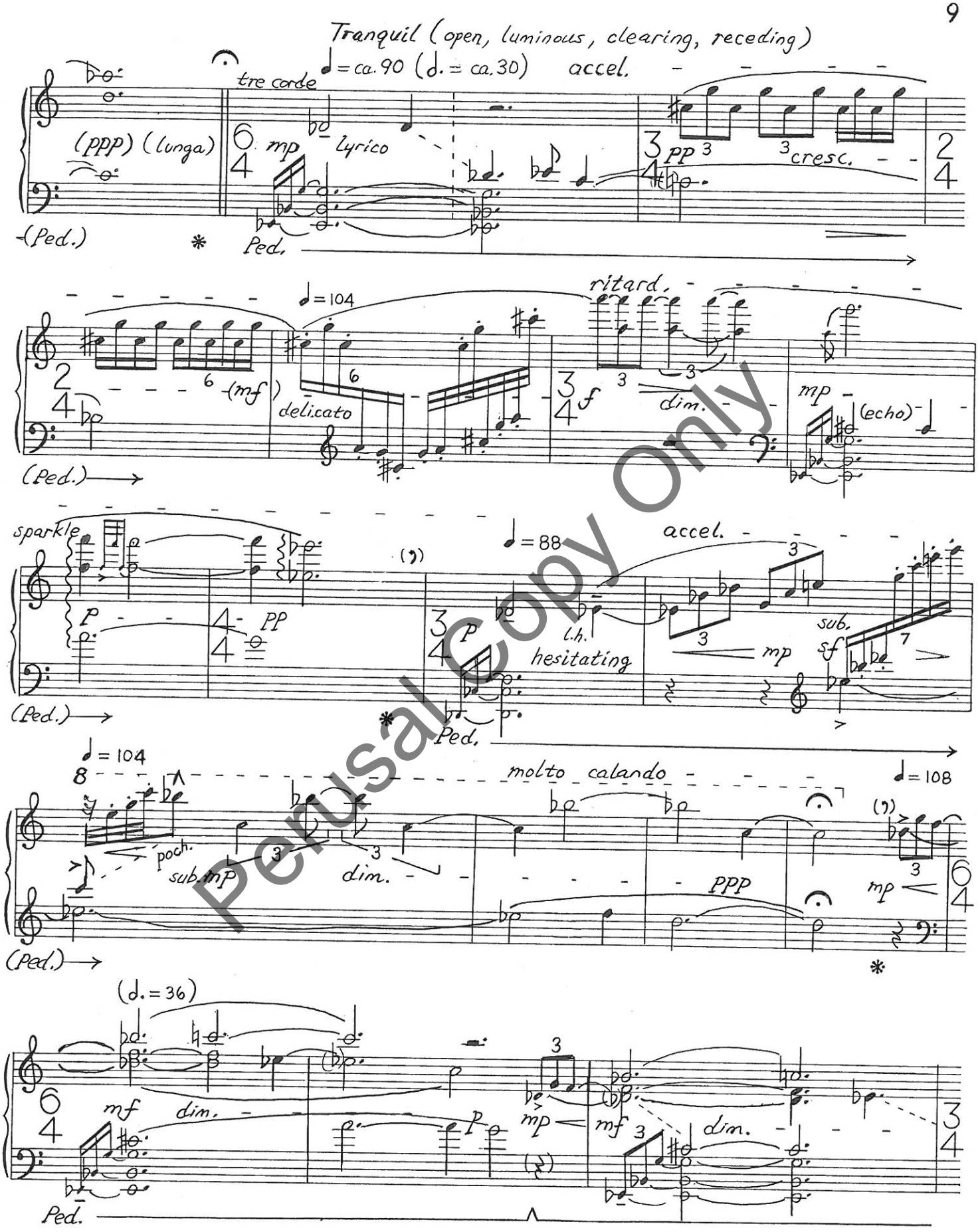

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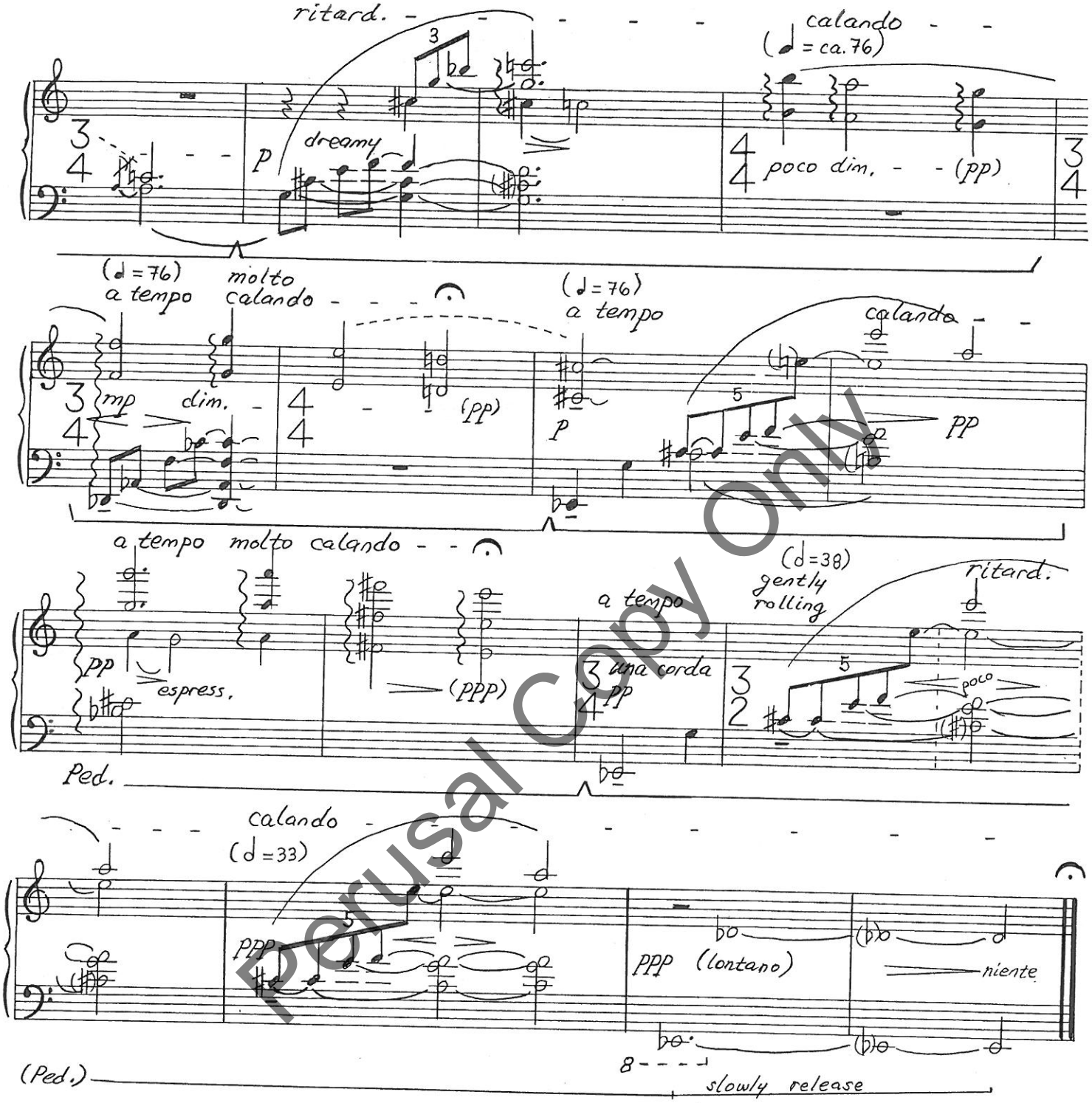

San Antonio
July 25, 1994

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