# *Ghosts*

*for solo amplified steel pans (double second)*

For Perusal Only

***Timothy Kramer***

**2022**

## Performance Notes

- Accidentals carry through the measure, but never in a different octave.
- The strikes on the outside of the pans should be low on the sides so that they can ring longer. If possible, the player should use a soft yarn stick, especially if there is time to switch mallets. Under no circumstances should the tempo be changed to accommodate the stick change.
- This piece requires a microphone (or two pan pickups/ magnetic contact mics), an amplifier, and a simple reverberation unit and speakers. The reverberation should be set between 3 and 4 seconds in decay.
- On the rare instance that this piece is played inside a large, reverberant hall (such as a cathedral), there will be no reason to add reverberation. Amplification is at the player's discretion.
- The ossia notes in measure 191 are for players who do not have a low F on their instrument.

## Duration: 7 minutes, 30 seconds

## Program Notes

The steelpan tradition offers a rich and fascinating history. Here we have a musical culture informed from ancestors who were taken from their home, and whose descendants created a new music built on the materials at hand. From African drumming to bamboo to the use of steel drums, the music out of Trinidad and Tobago is a testament to the power of this music to transcend time. When I first listened closely to the instrument (the double second) I noticed the ringing of whole tones. This sounded haunting to me, and somewhat delicate, but the sounds of steelpan orchestras are infused with lively rhythms, the intervals of thirds (and sixths), and driving melodies. These two ideas act in balance in this piece.

***Ghosts*** tries to honor the legacy of these musical ancestors through interpolations of music, some floating and distant, some rhythmic and percussive. The sounds of the steelpans are new, but familiar patterns of its music echo in our memories. The only difference between the past and the present is simply a matter of time.

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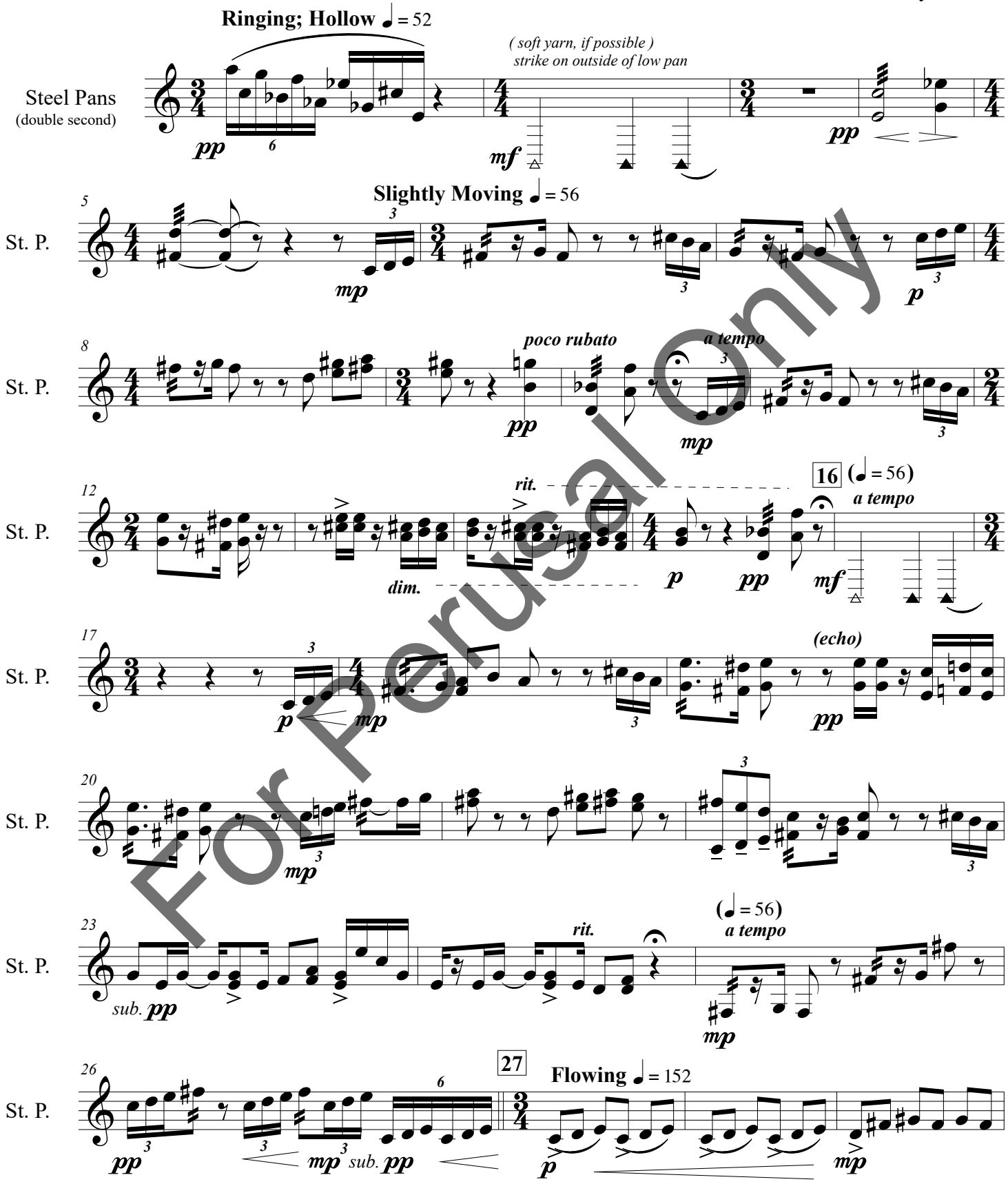
*Honor those who have come before us.*

# Ghosts

Commissioned by Tyler Carpenter, Matthew Dudack, and Jared Allen

Timothy Kramer

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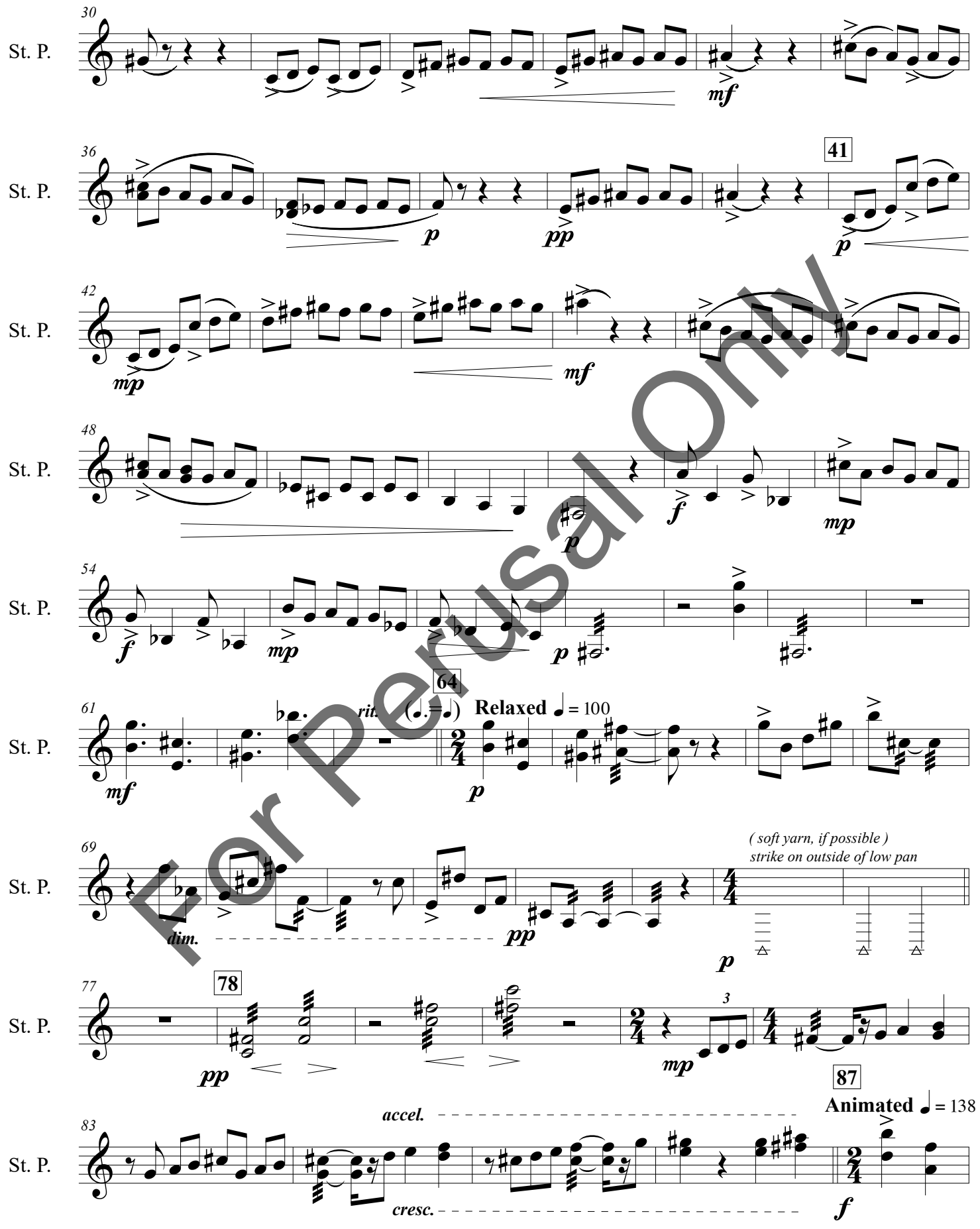


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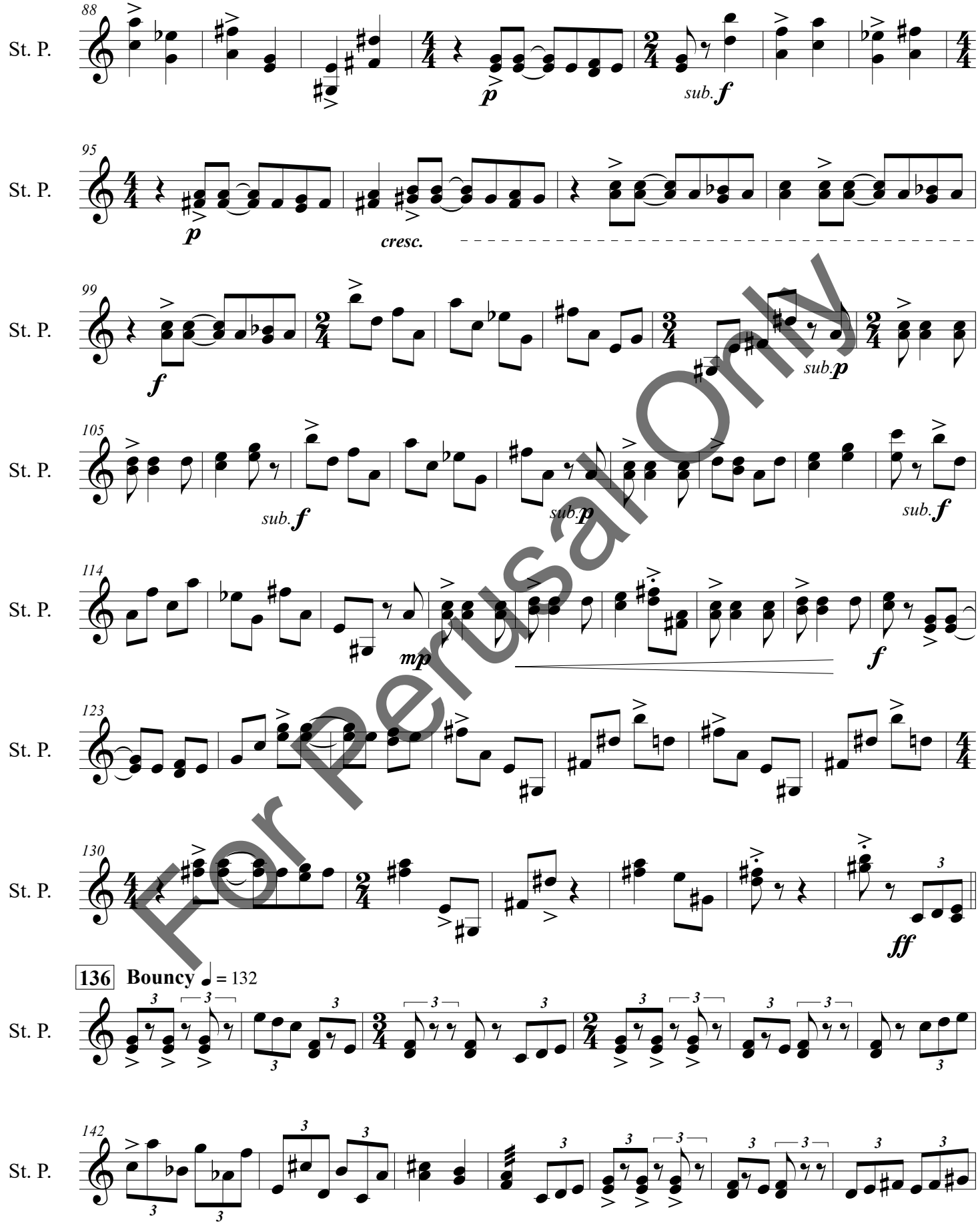


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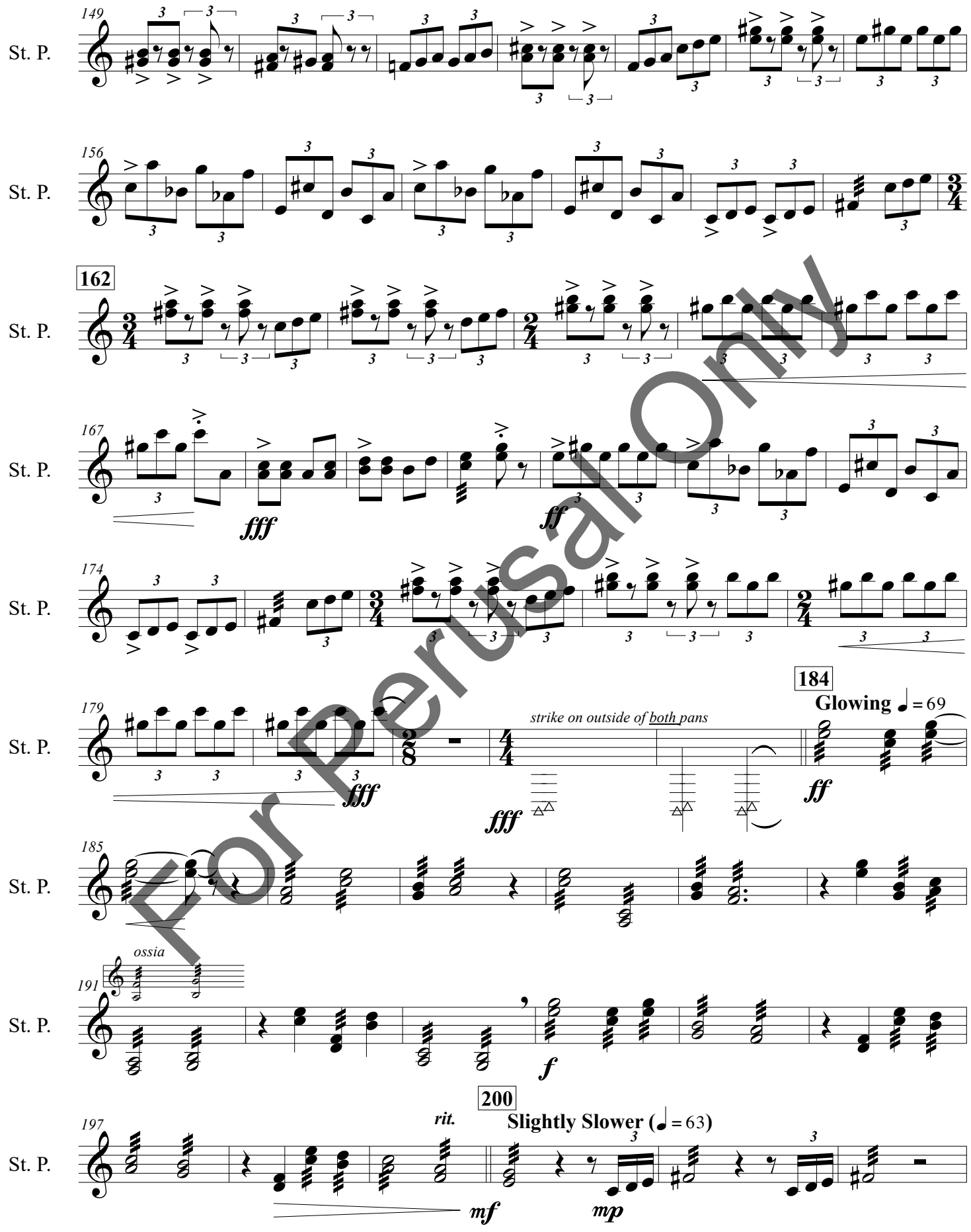


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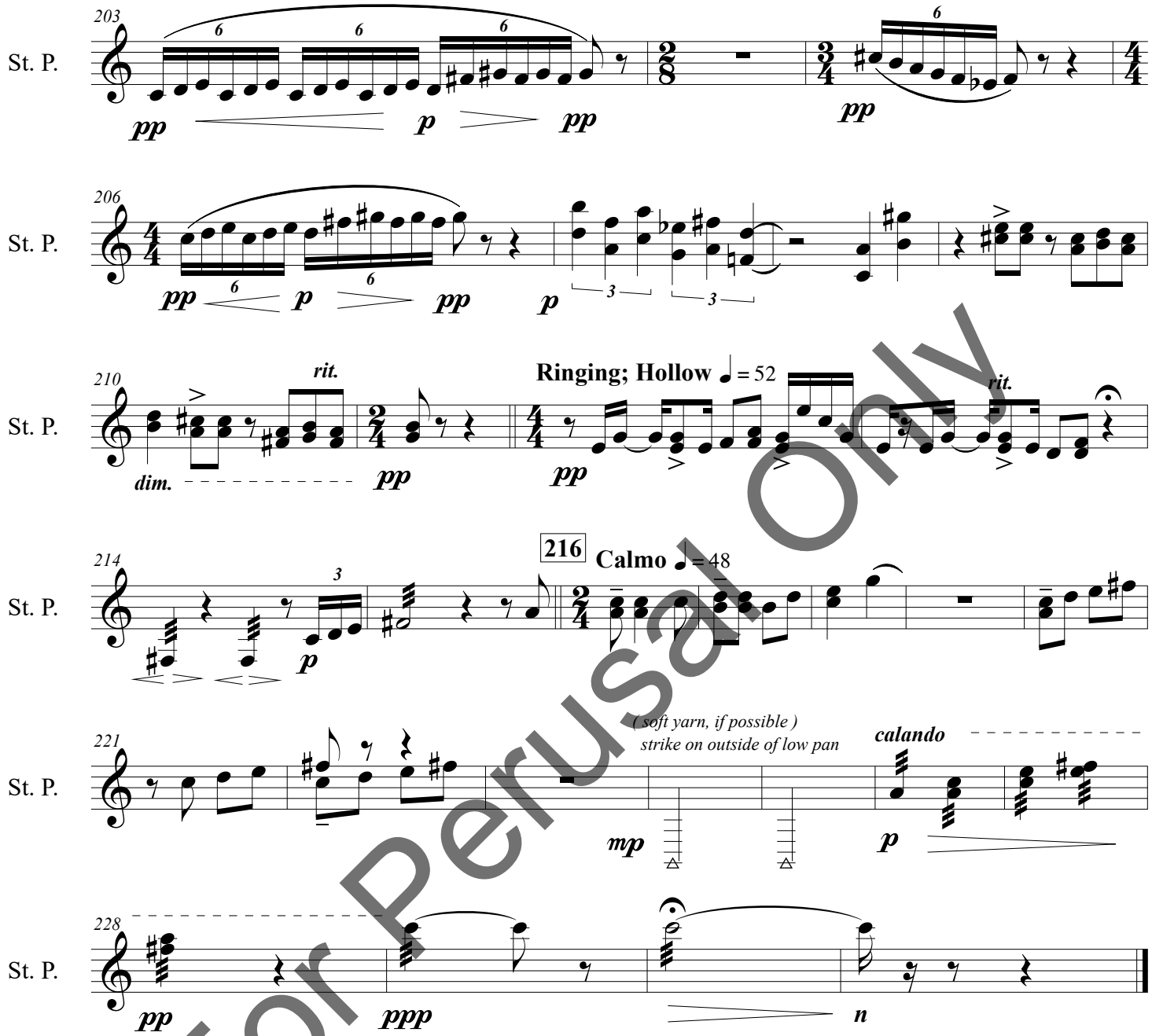


*Jacksonville, Illinois*
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