SAM GREENING

SHATTER

for violin and piano

(2022)

Perusal Score

First performed by Liz Merrifield and Yuki Hammyo on Thursday 24th March 2022 in Milton Court Concert Hall.

Composer's Note

shatter (verb): break apart, suddenly and violently.

SHATTER immediately confronts the audience with a dramatic opening climax, with dissonant and expressive fortissimo writing. The violin and piano perform brutal and theatrical gestures, which gradually decay into the following material. The rest of the piece gradually works through the consequences of this opening. This results in a gradual decrescendo of various elements including speed and dynamics, reversing conventional narrative structure by placing the piece's most energetic and climactic moments within the first thirty seconds. As we reach the end, the material gradually evaporates until we are left in meditative stillness.

Notes for performance

	Ricochet ad lib. Let the bow bounce freely until it no longer sounds.
	Gradual transition between techniques
	Harmonic finger pressure
M.S.P. / S.P.	Molto sul ponticello / Sul ponticello
N.	Normal bow position
S.T.	Sul tasto
	Slashed grace notes should be played before the beat

Accidentals are valid until the next bar line.

Piano Techniques

The piano part utilises a few unusual techniques which require a grand piano, including harmonic glissandi, palm hits, and using the pianist's hand to mute strings.

Where palm hits are marked using a short duration note and a laissez-vibrer tie, the hand should be removed from the strings quickly, allowing them to ring freely. Where a long duration is marked, the palm should be kept on the strings briefly, damping the effect slightly.

Harmonic glissandi (e.g. in bar 173) notate the sounding pitches of the start and end nodes in the right hand part.

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for Liz and Yuki

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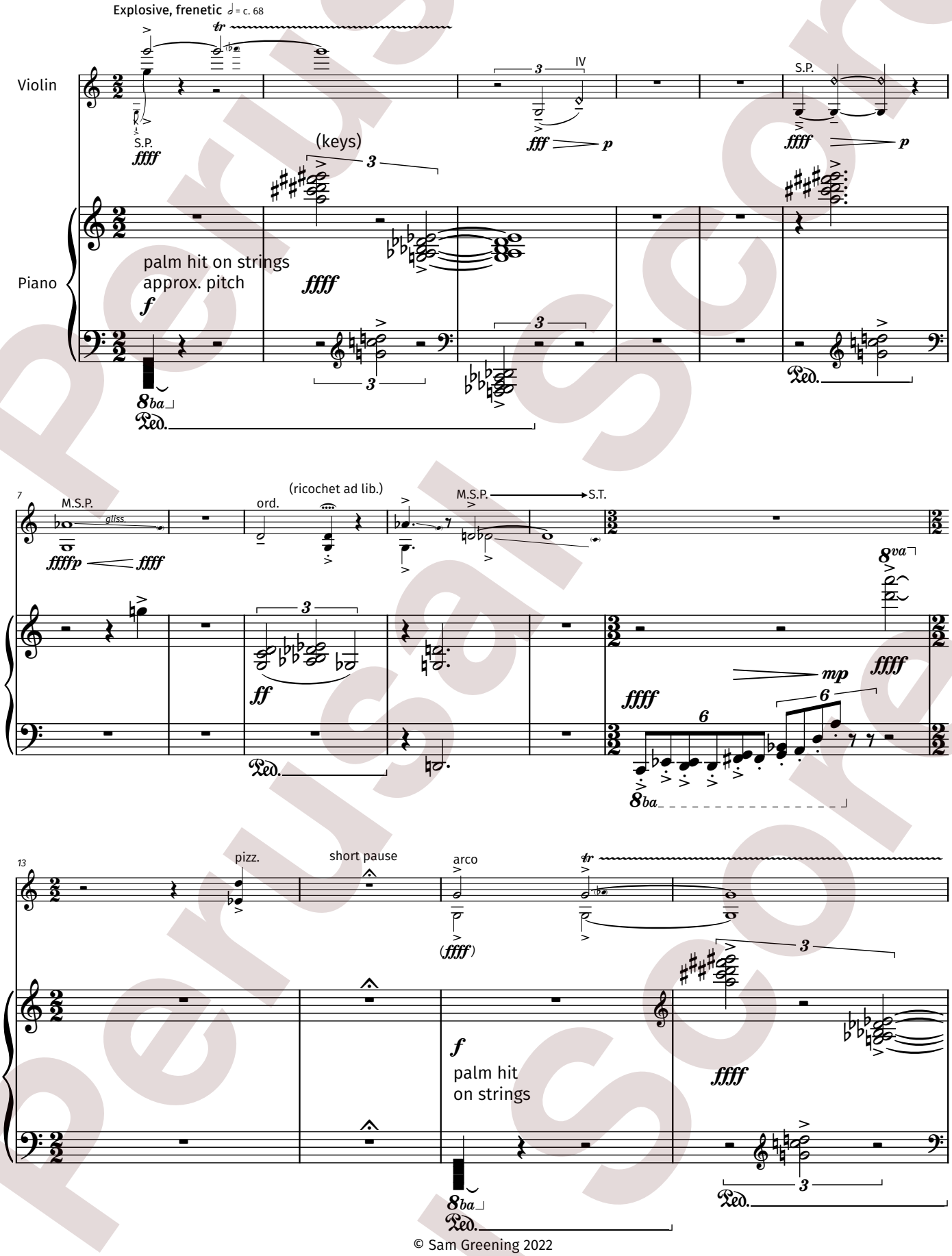

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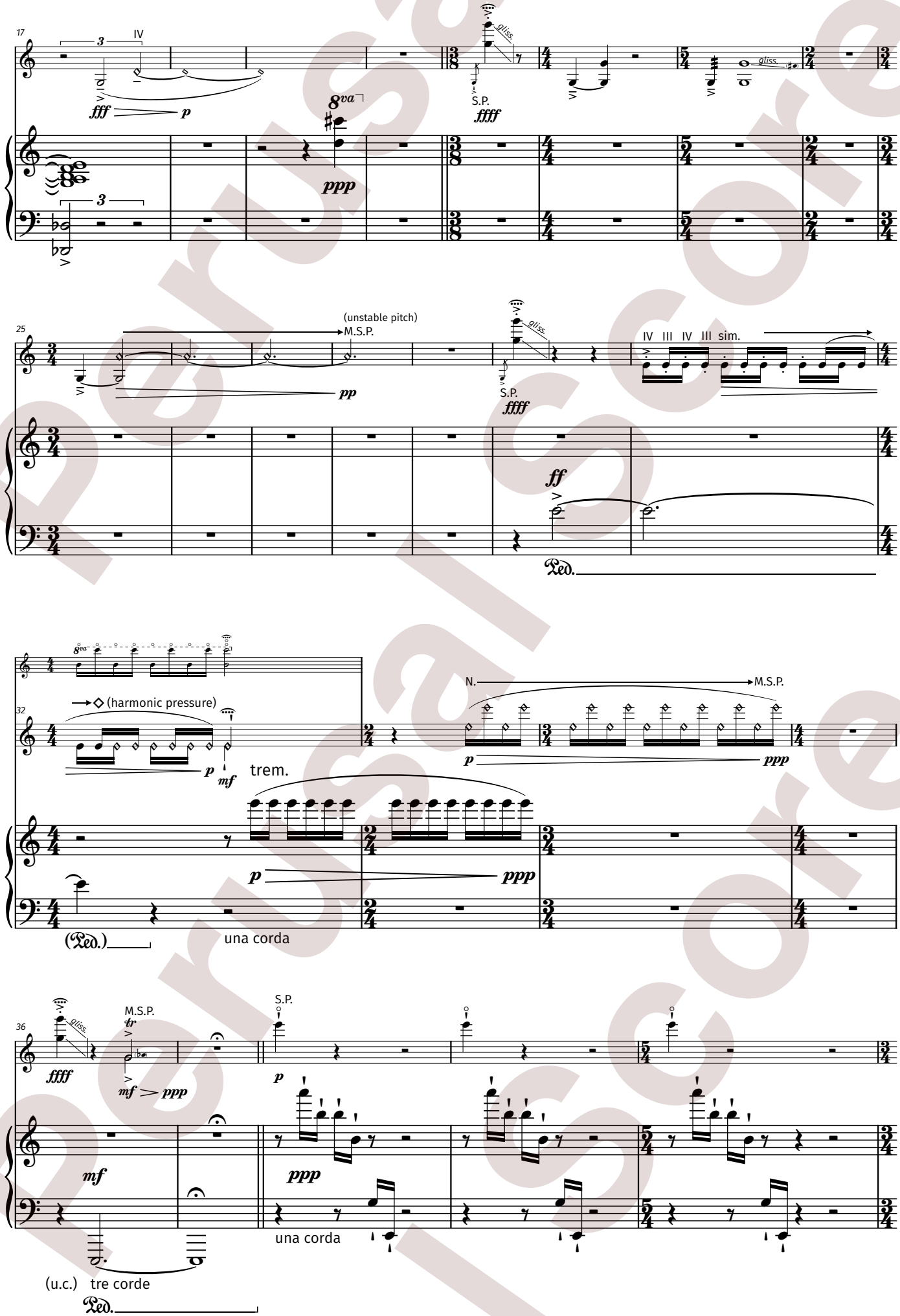

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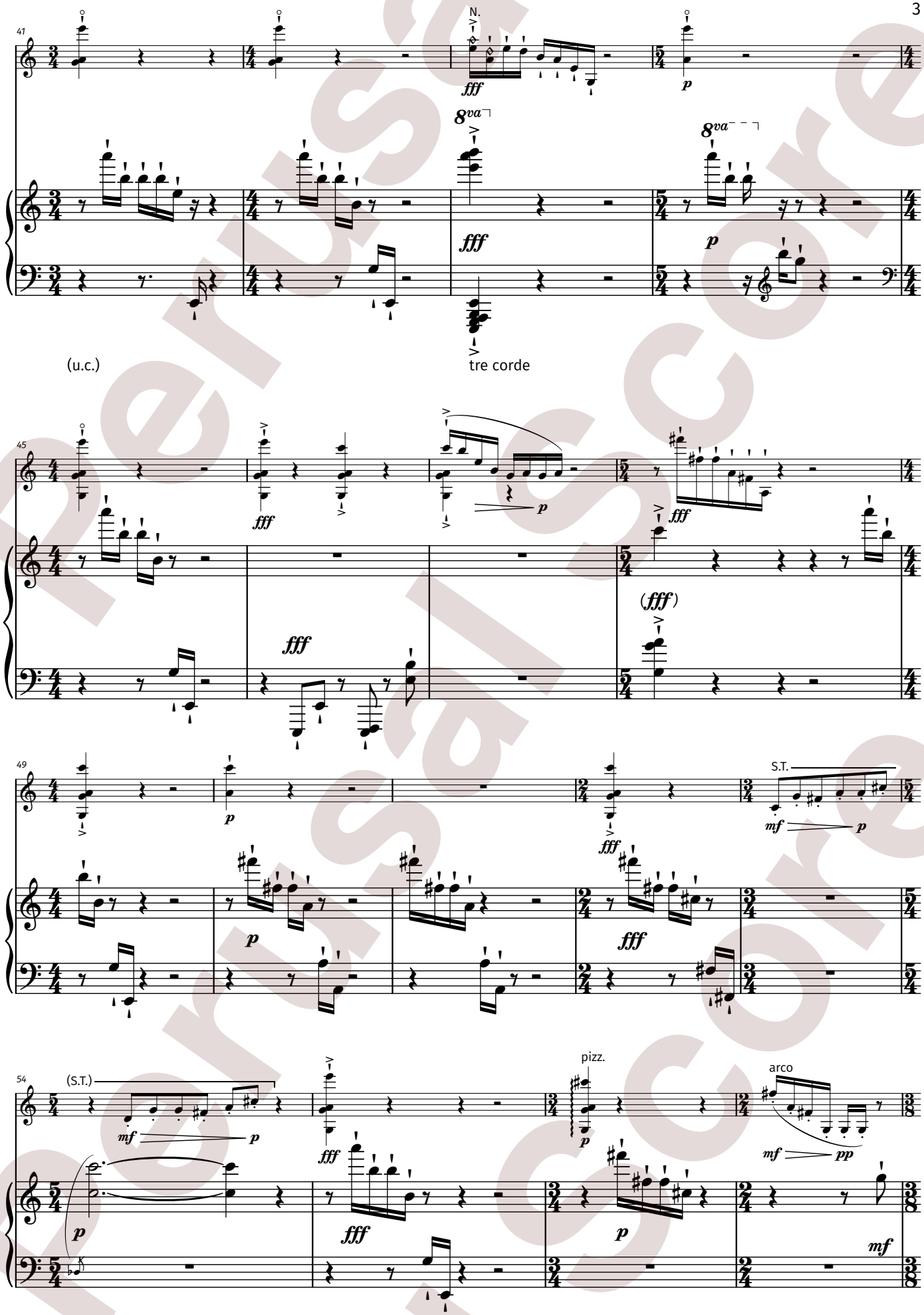

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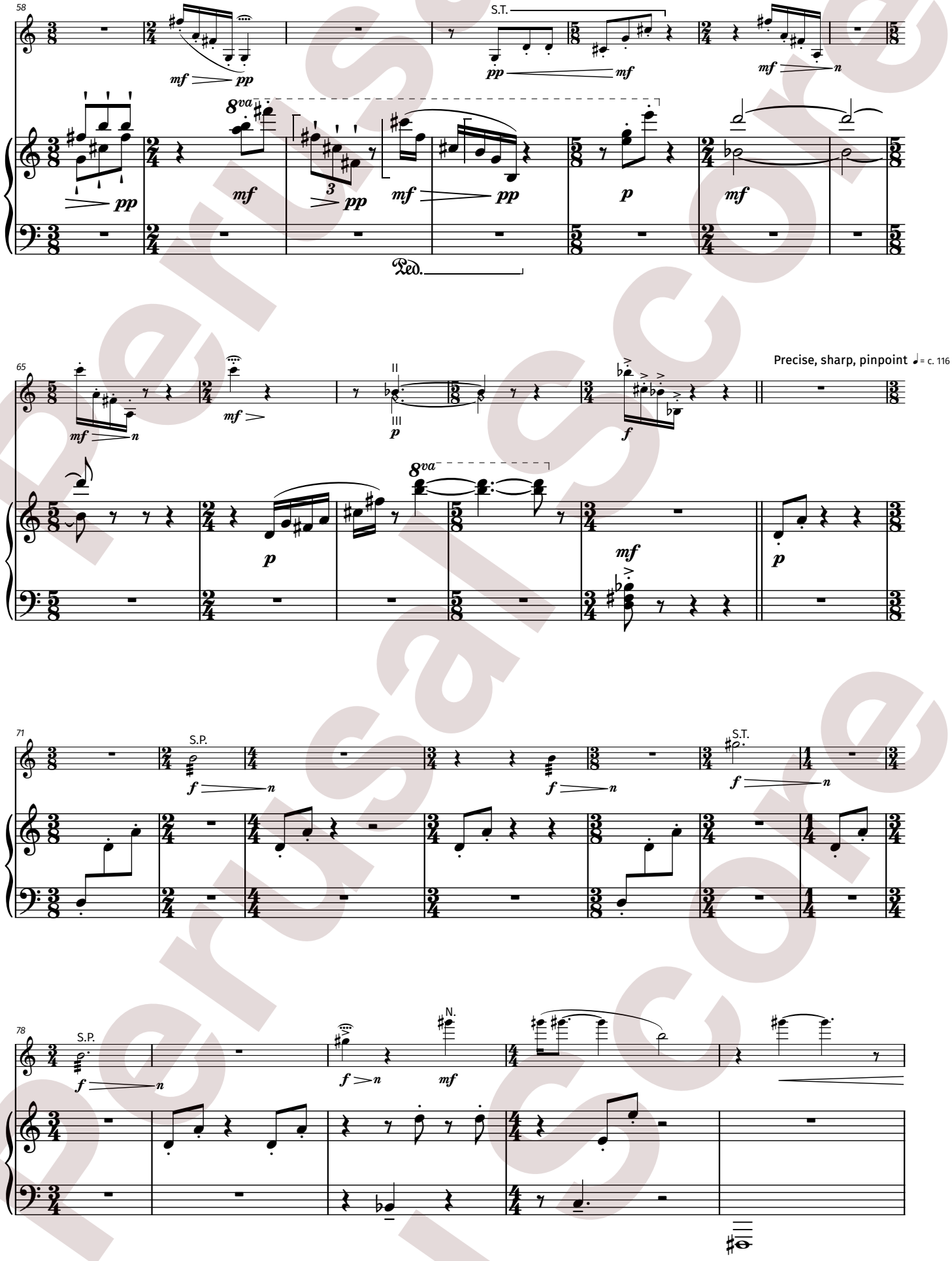

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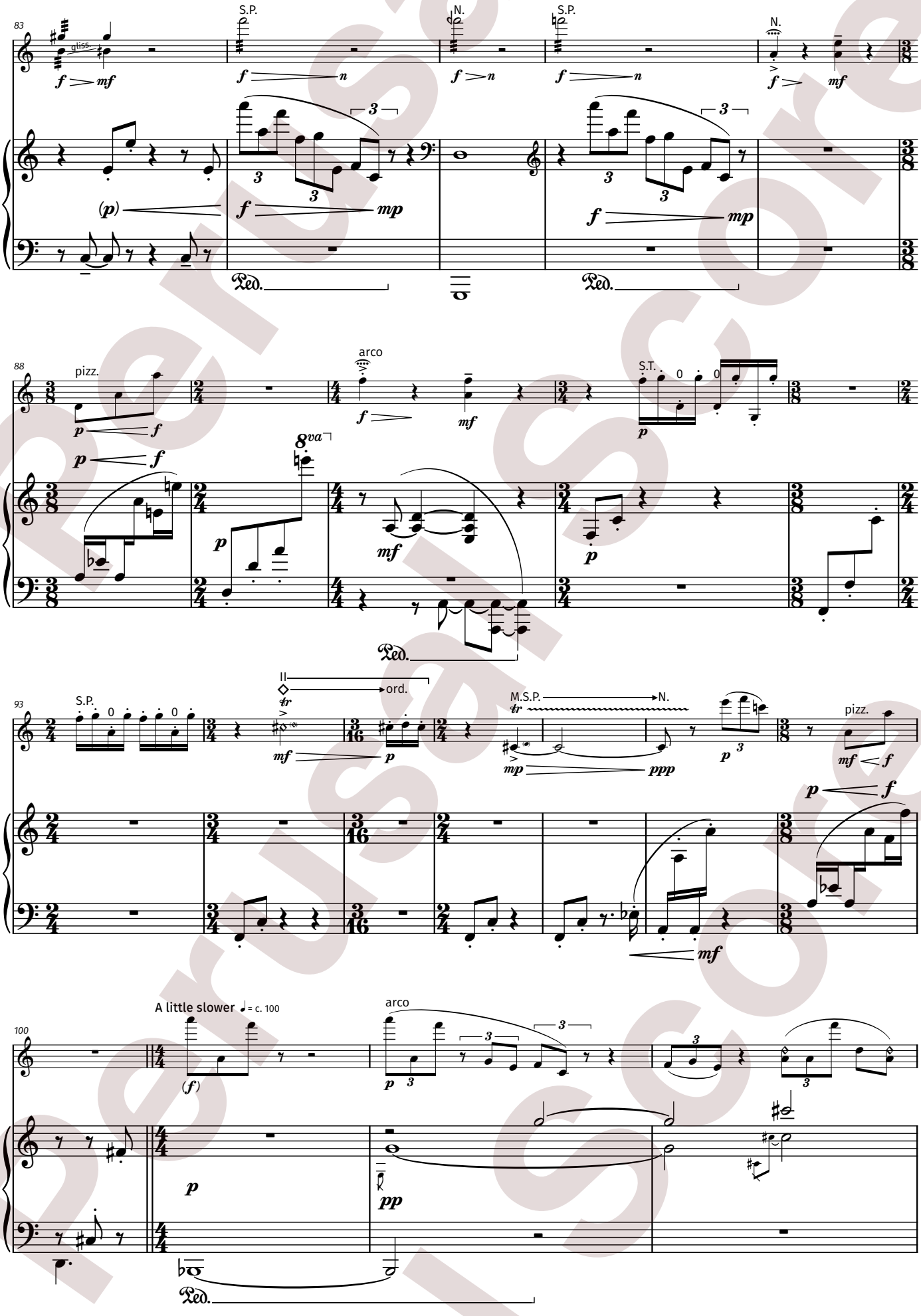

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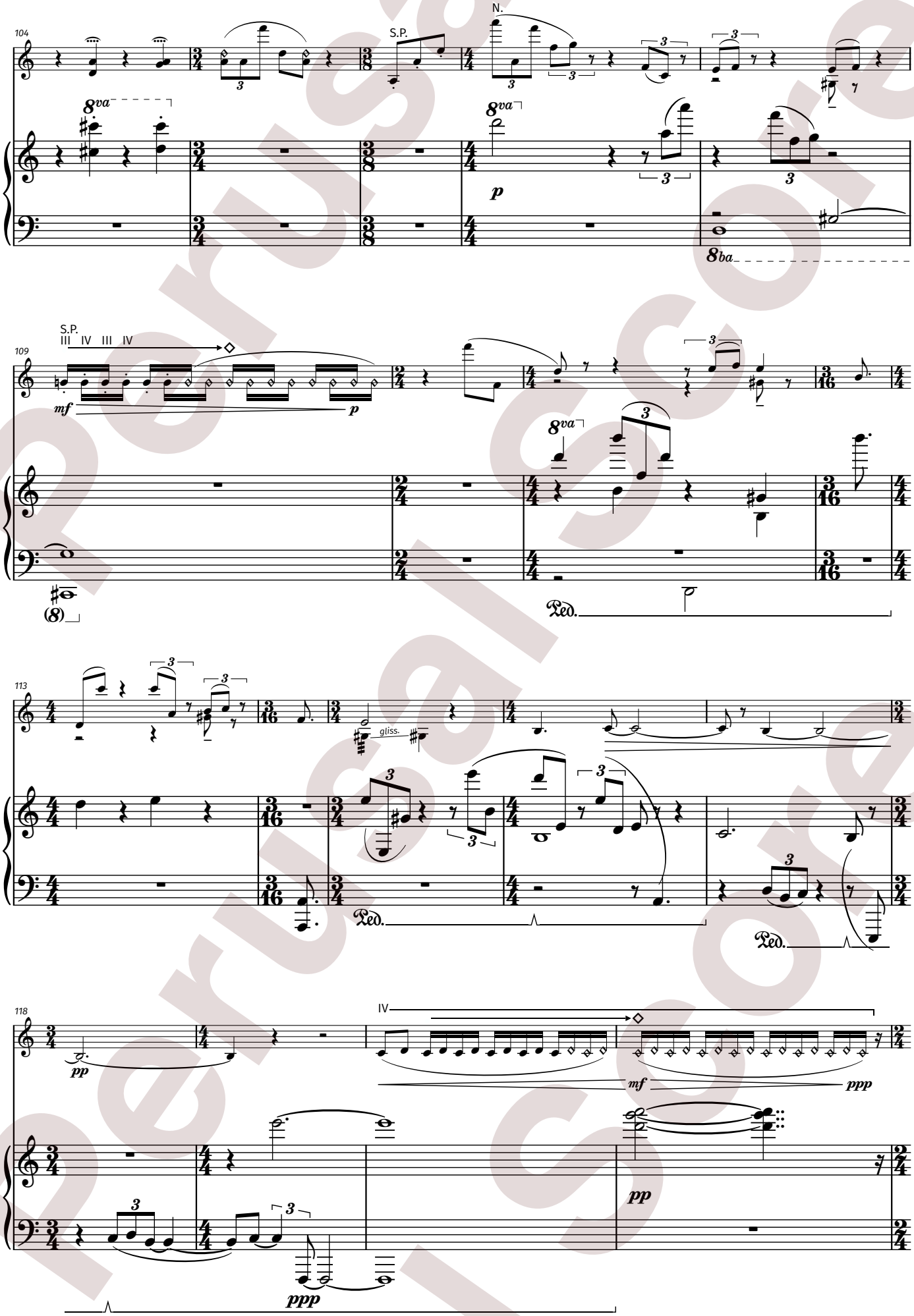

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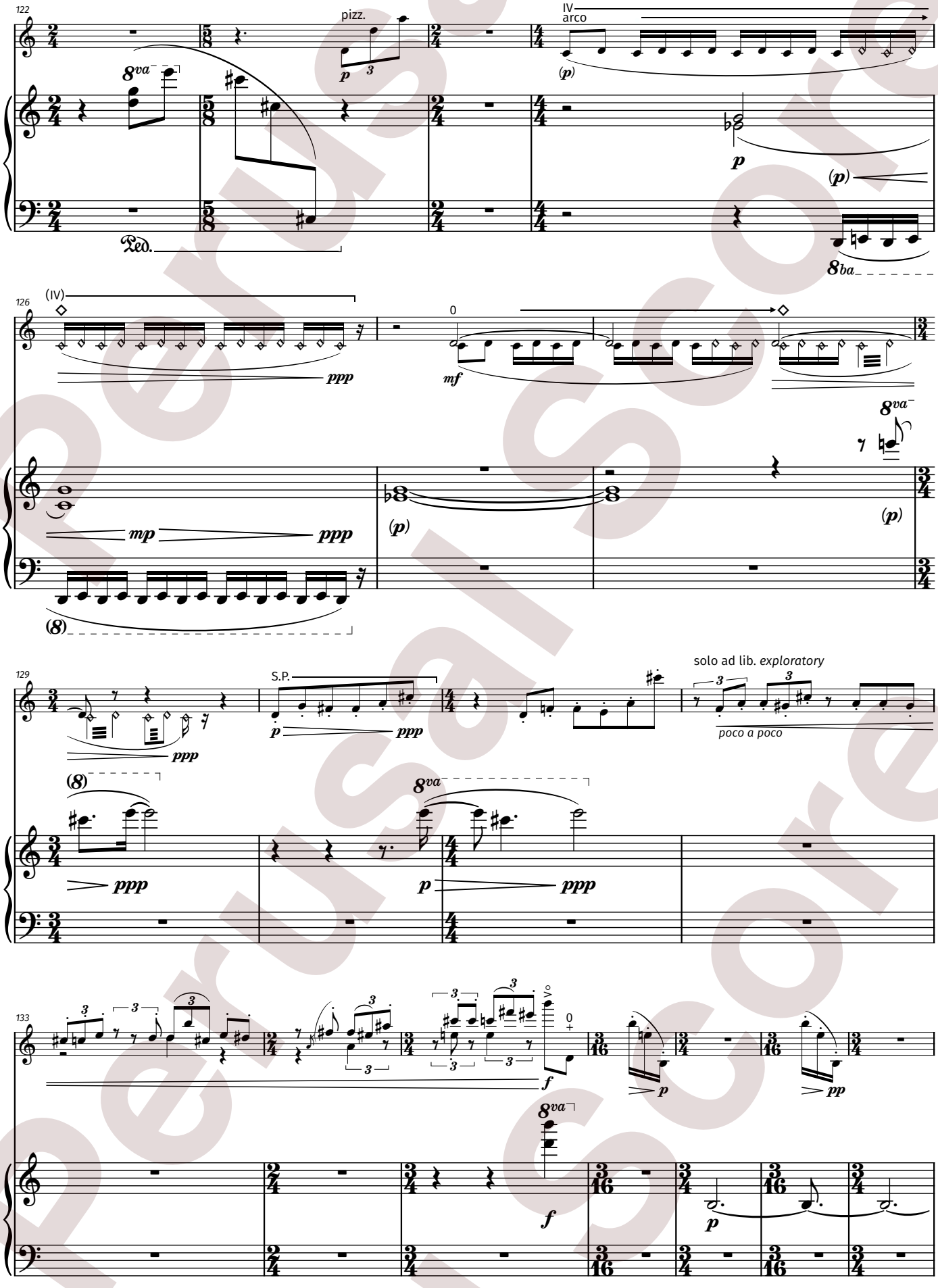

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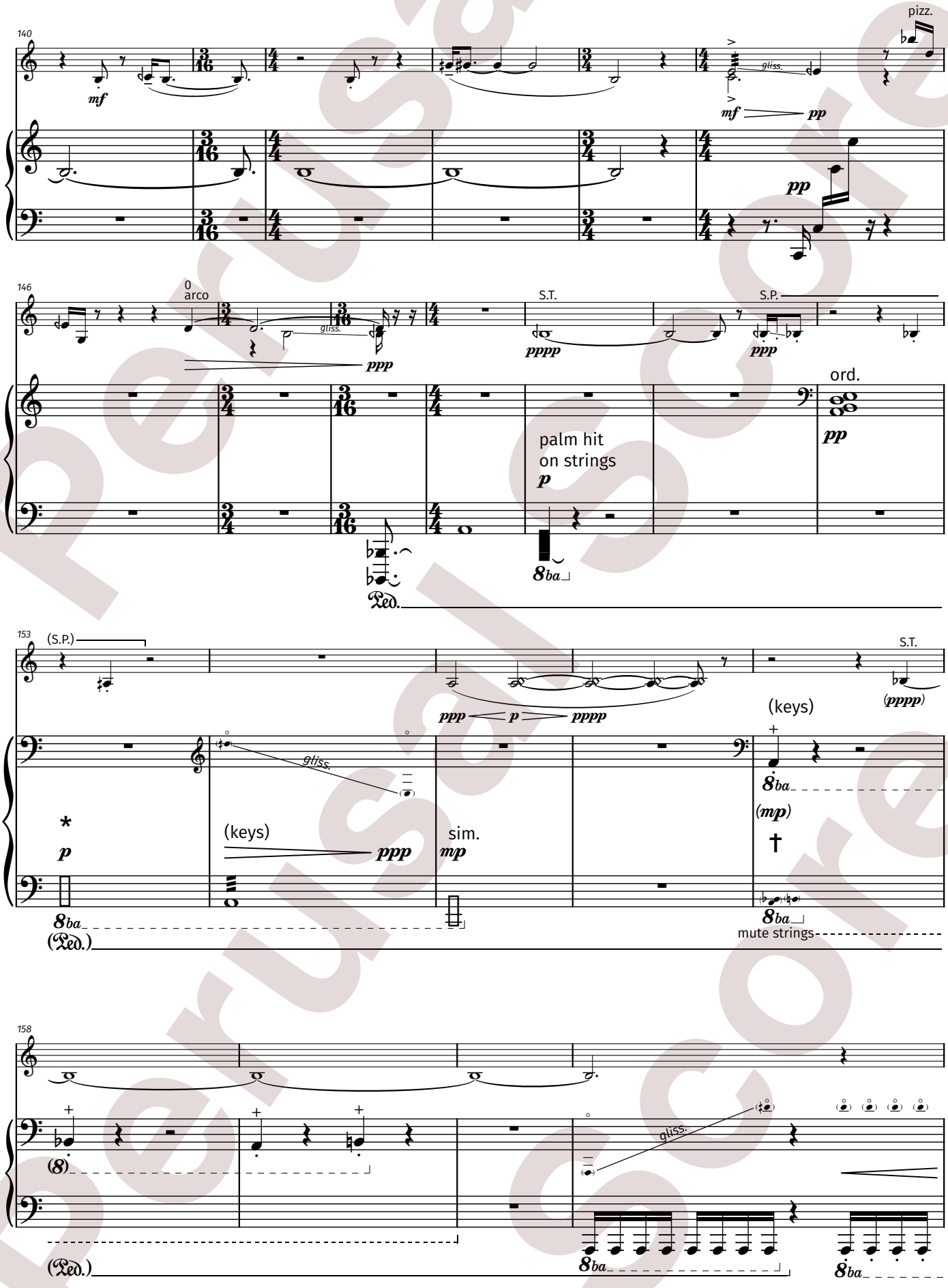

* Palm hit inside the piano. Keep the hand on the strings briefly, producing a different effect to the earlier palm hits.
† When muting strings, press close to the end of the string so that some pitch is still produced.

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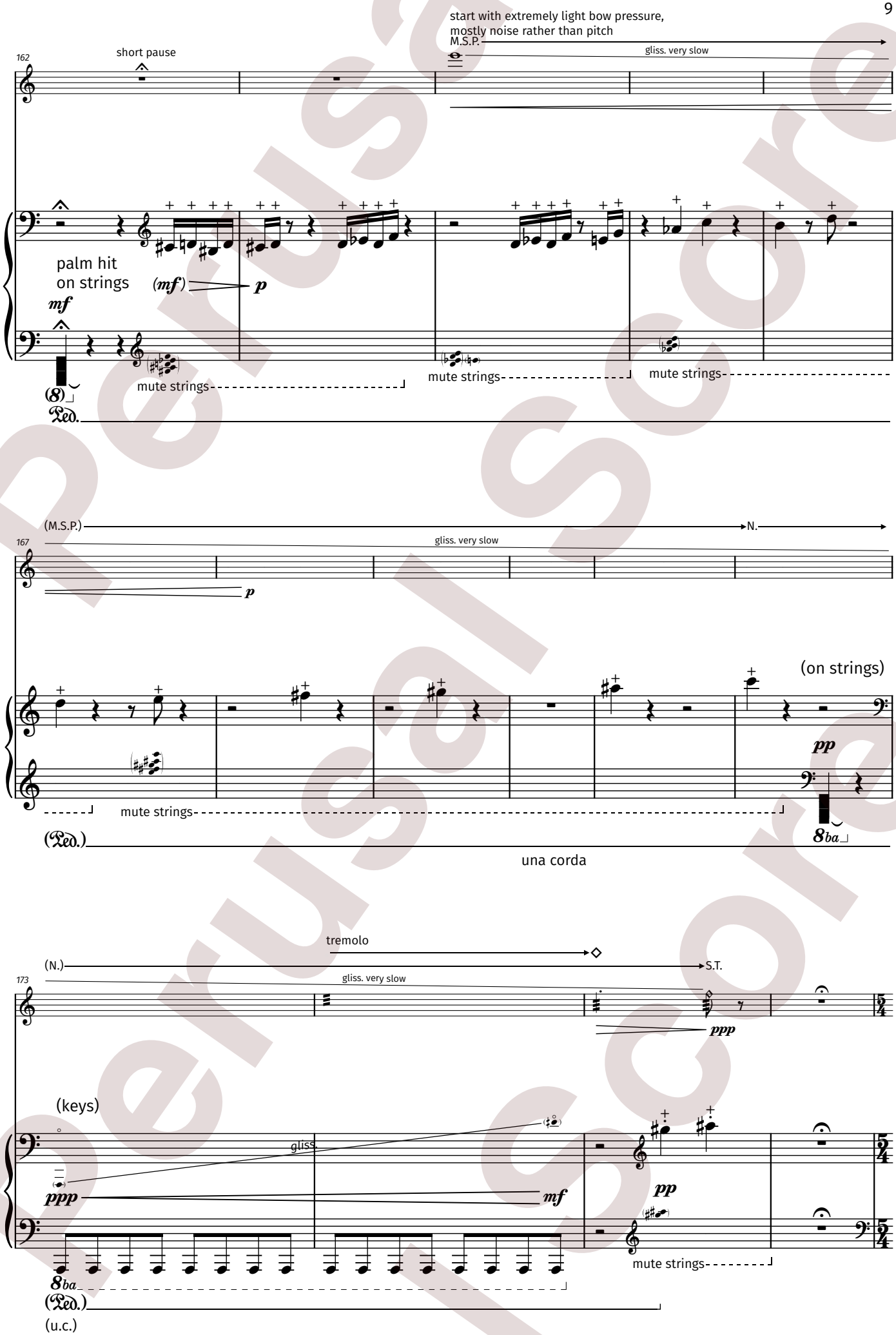

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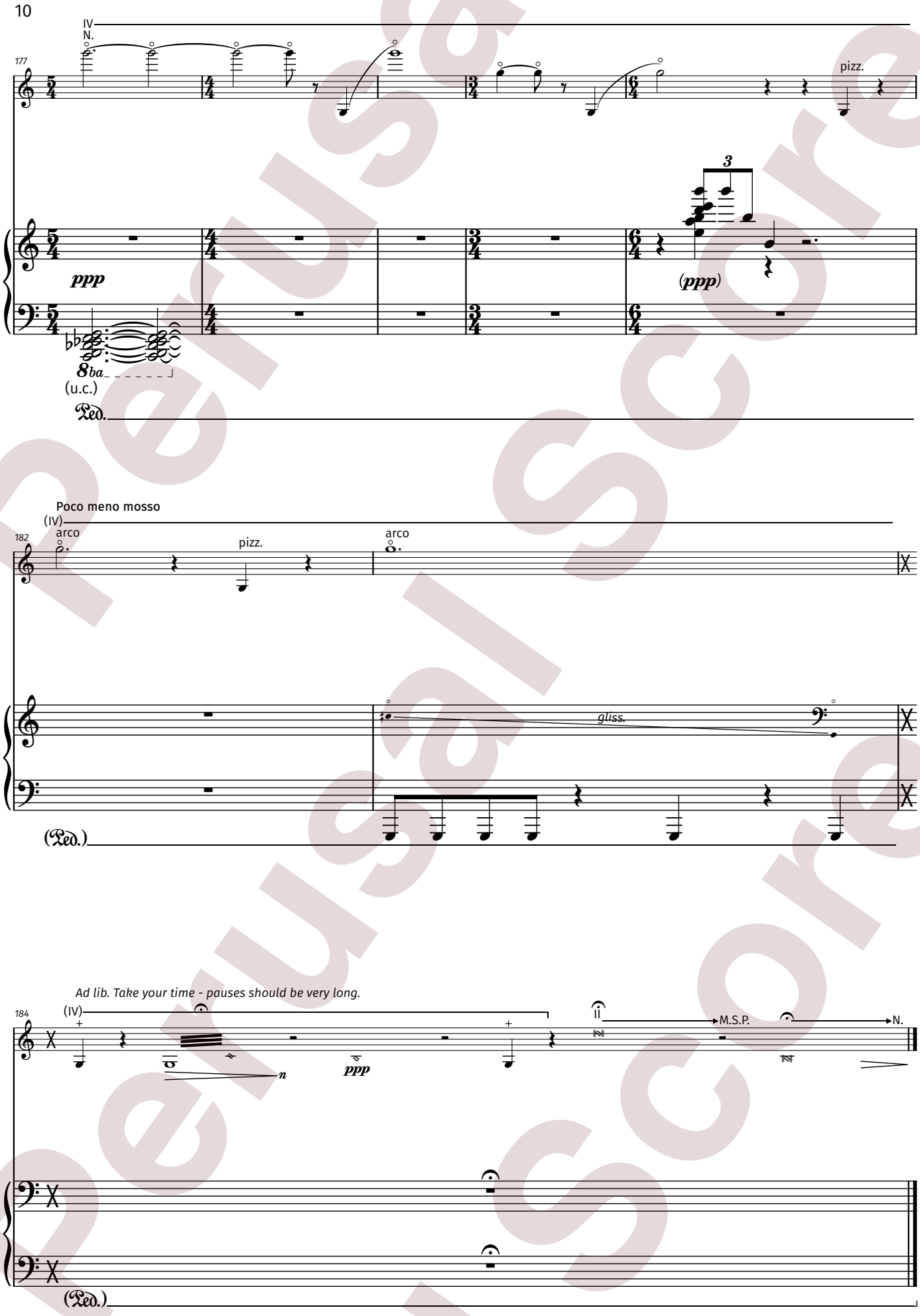

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