JILIN ZHANG

Portraits of a City

For Clarinet, Violin, and Piano Trio

November 2024

i. Spiraling Architecture

ii. Life Moves Pretty Fast

ca. 6′

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Portraits of a City

For Clarinet in B♭, Violin, and Piano

ca. 6′

Program Notes

This piece is a reflection on my experiences from when I lived in New York City when I was younger. There were certain emotions that simply being in the city would evoke in any person experiencing it. The two movements are of contrasting style and each have their own musical influences as well as extramusical influences. The musical material in each movement reflects the experiences I wanted to capture.

The first movement begins with an empty and ambiguous sound, to reflect the uncertainty that one might have while navigating the city. The music quickly grows to an expansive volume and range, representing the massive and looming buildings of downtown. The second movement is a fanfare, conveying the triumphant feeling of standing atop a skyscraper and looking over the city, above it all. The title of the movement is, of course, also a quote from Ferris Bueller's Day Off, which is itself a tribute to the city of Chicago.

These two musically distinct movements come together to convey the unique and invigorating feelings of the city, whether as a person living in the city or as a tourist, visiting to see the sights.

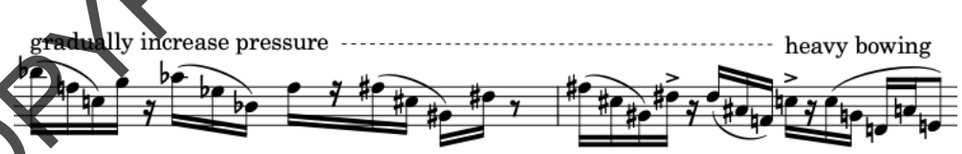
Performance Notes

Both movements: ♩= ♩ always, any time there is a time signature change.

Breath marks are indicated in the clarinet part as suggested breathing places.

Violin:

Alternate between the two notes at increasing and decreasing speeds, as indicated by the beams.



Gradually increase the pressure used to bow on the strings, until reaching a quasi-overpressure sound. Return to normal bow pressure where indicated.

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Portraits of a City

For Clarinet, Violin, and Piano trio

Transposed Score

Jilin Zhang

1. Spiraling Architecture

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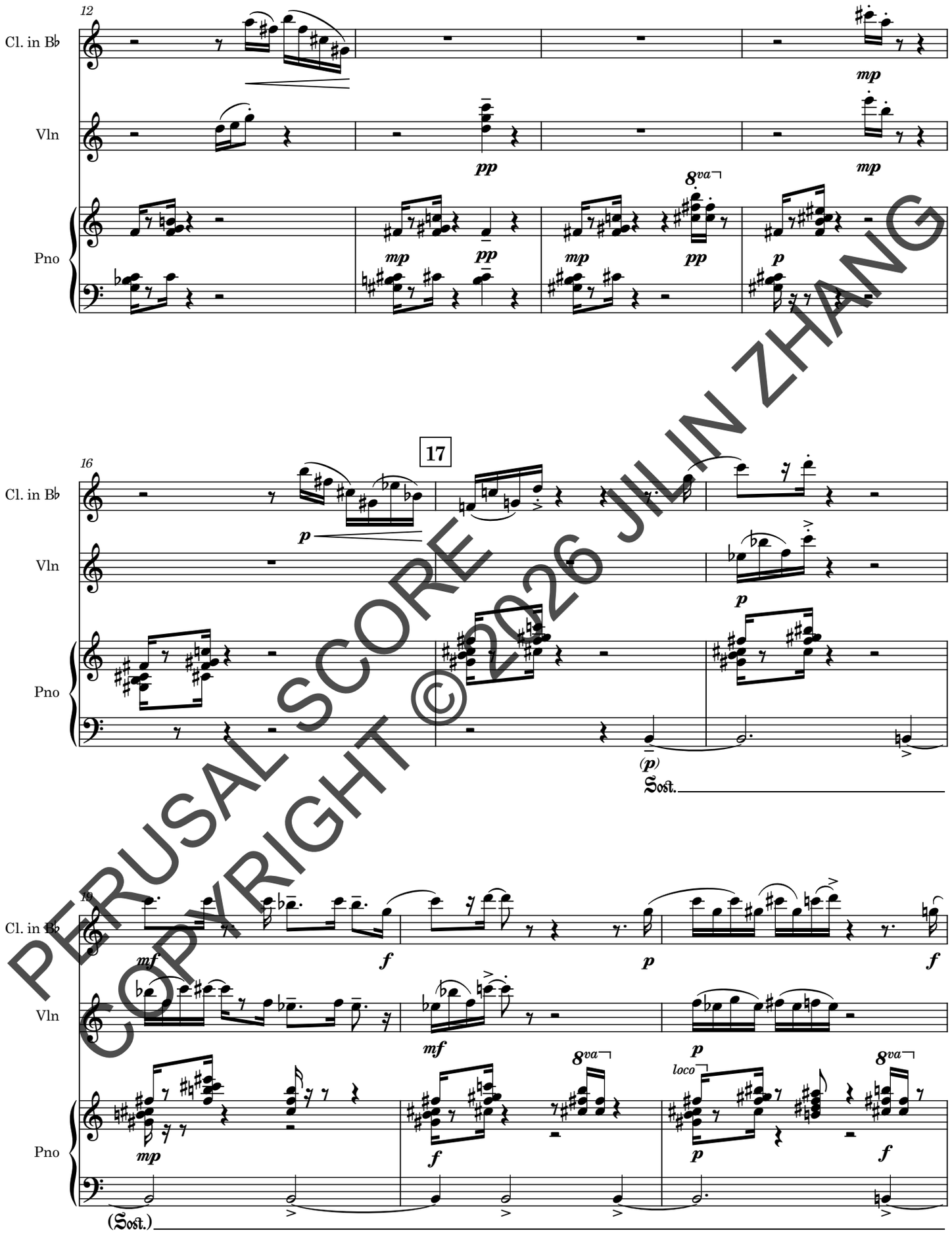

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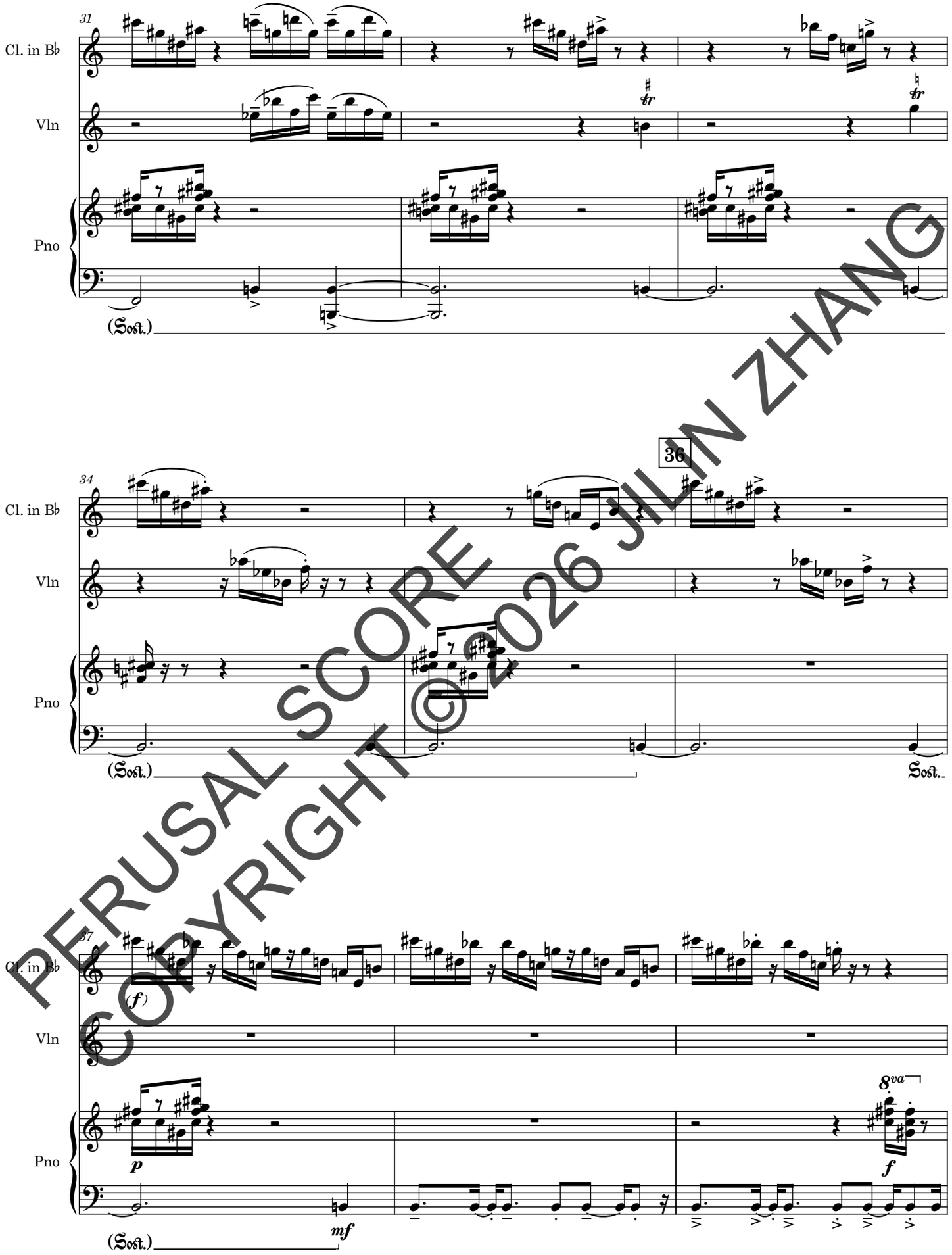

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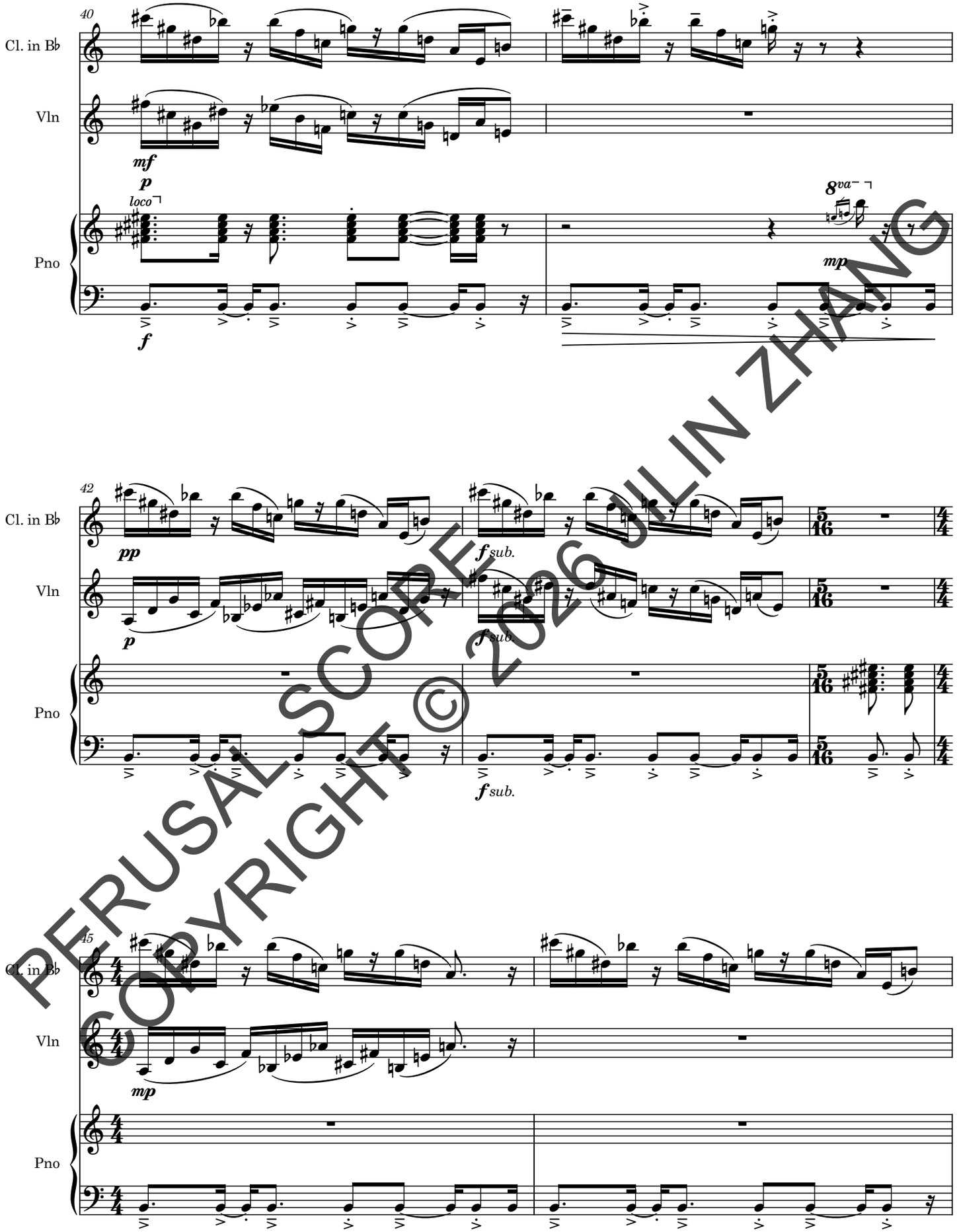

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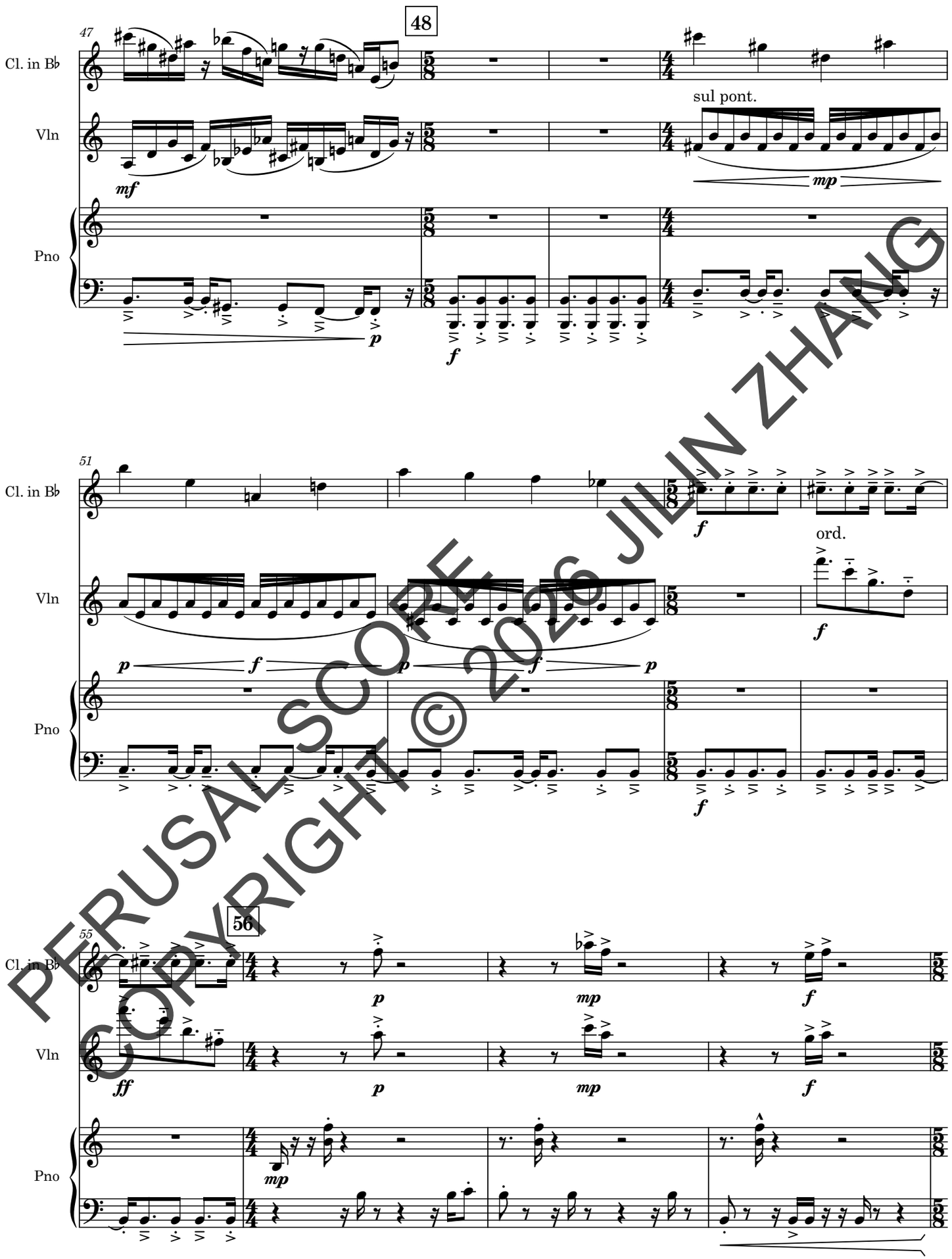

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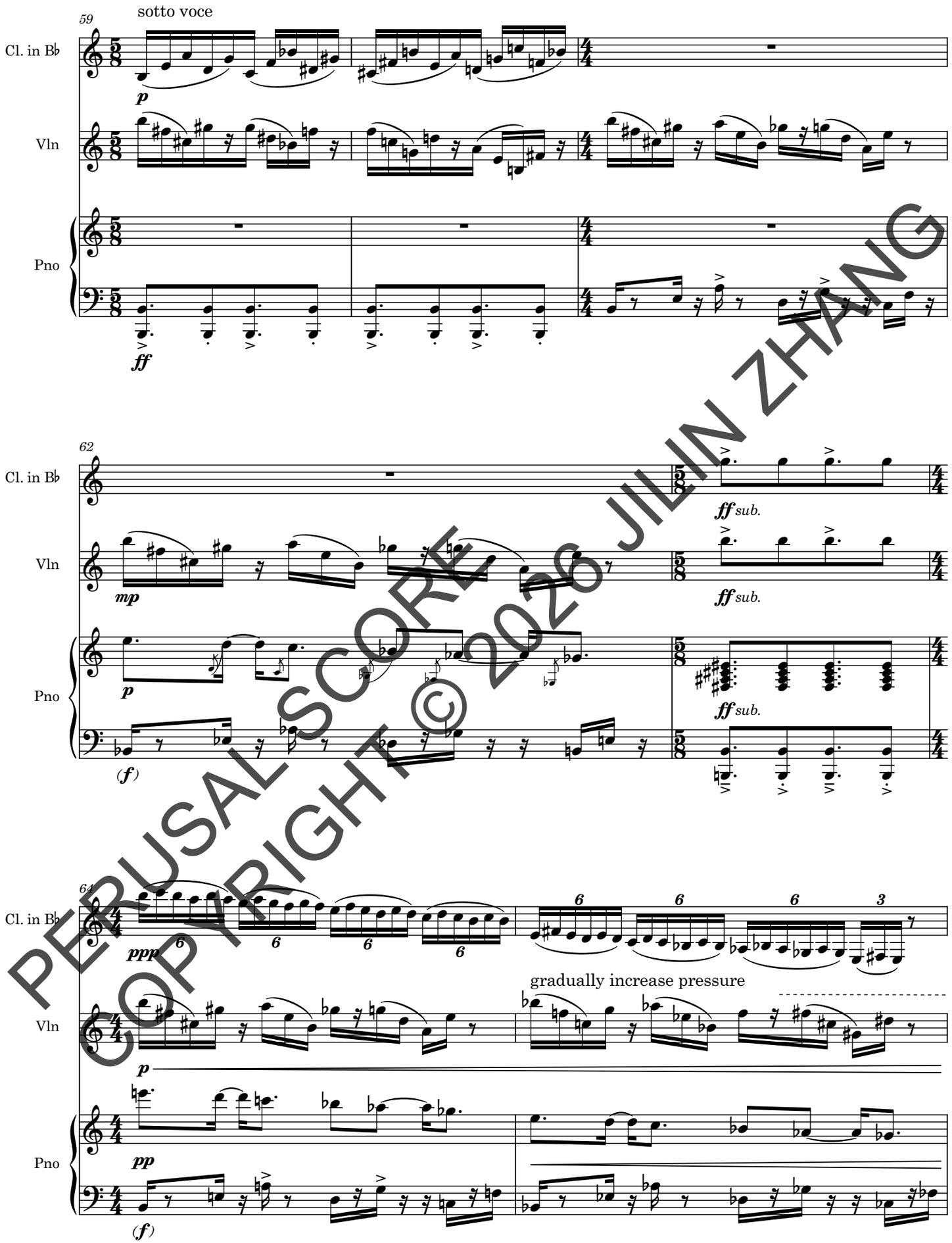

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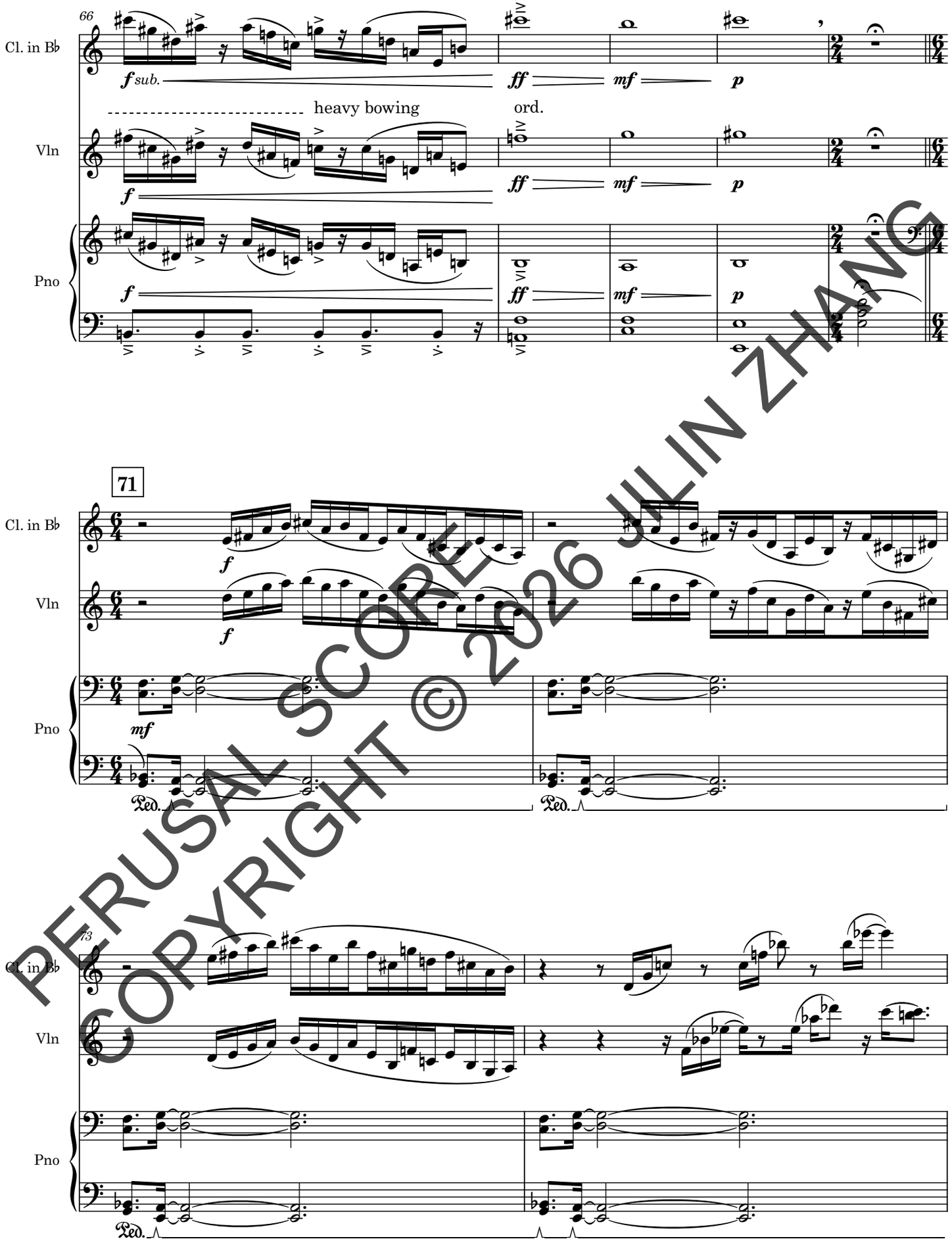

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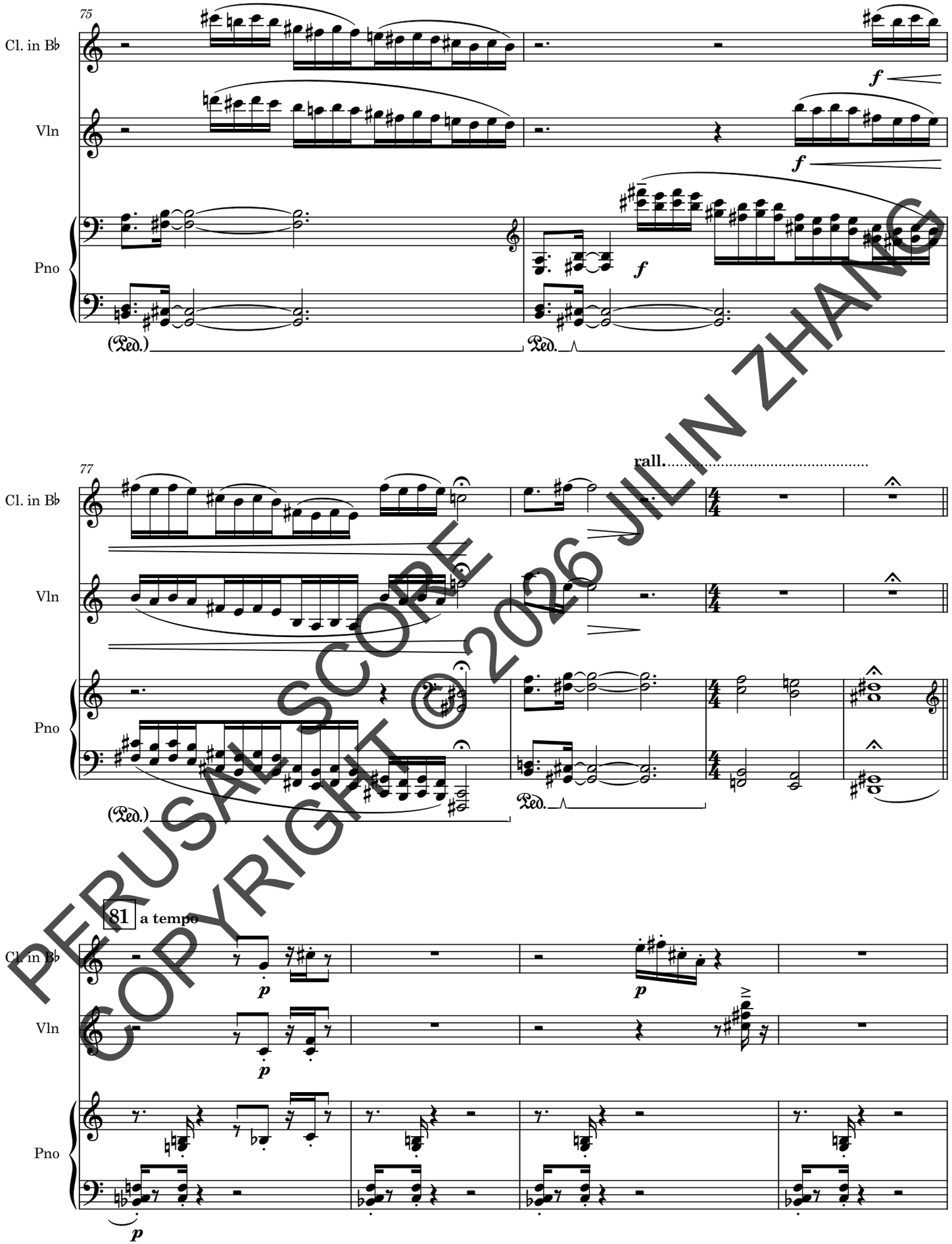

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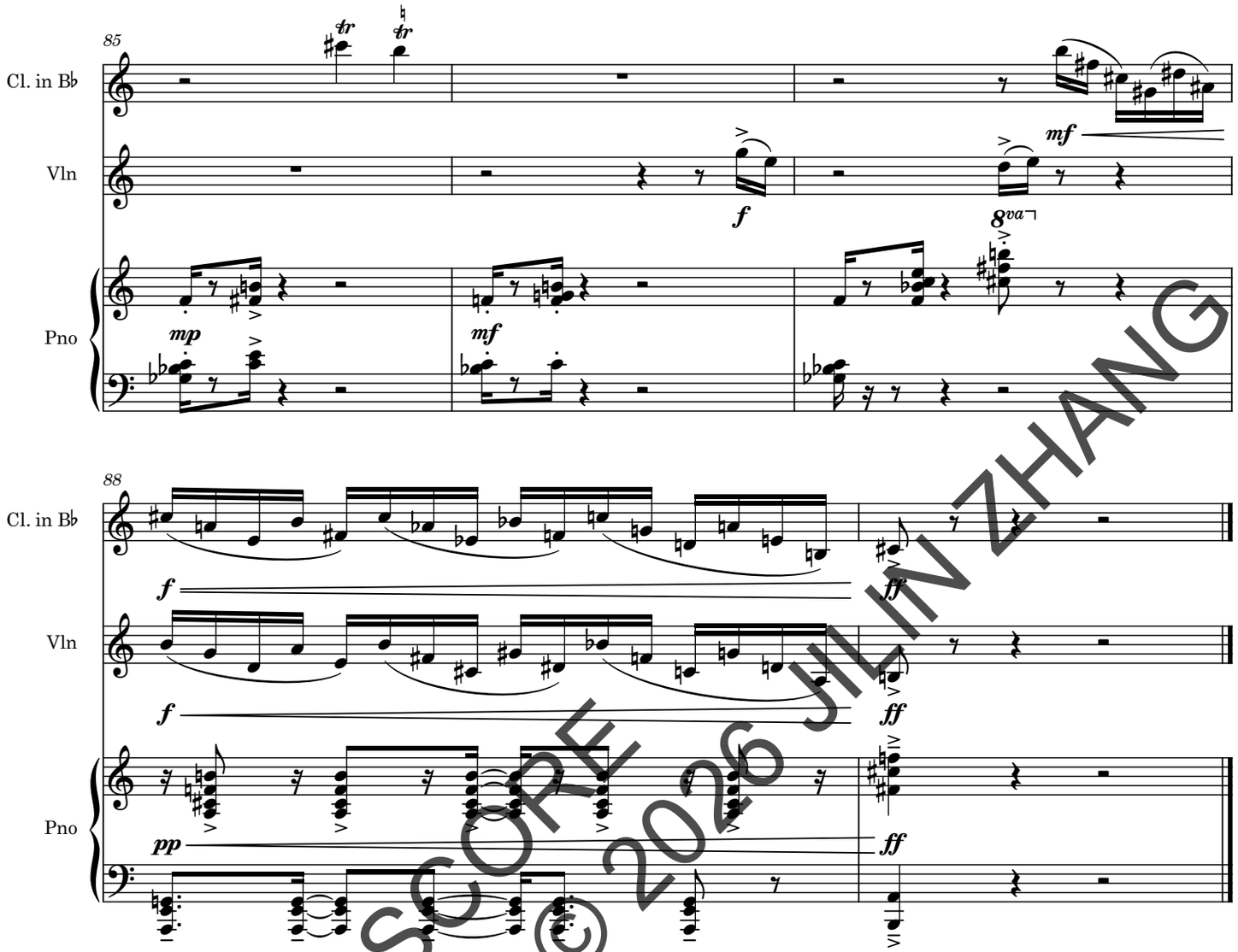

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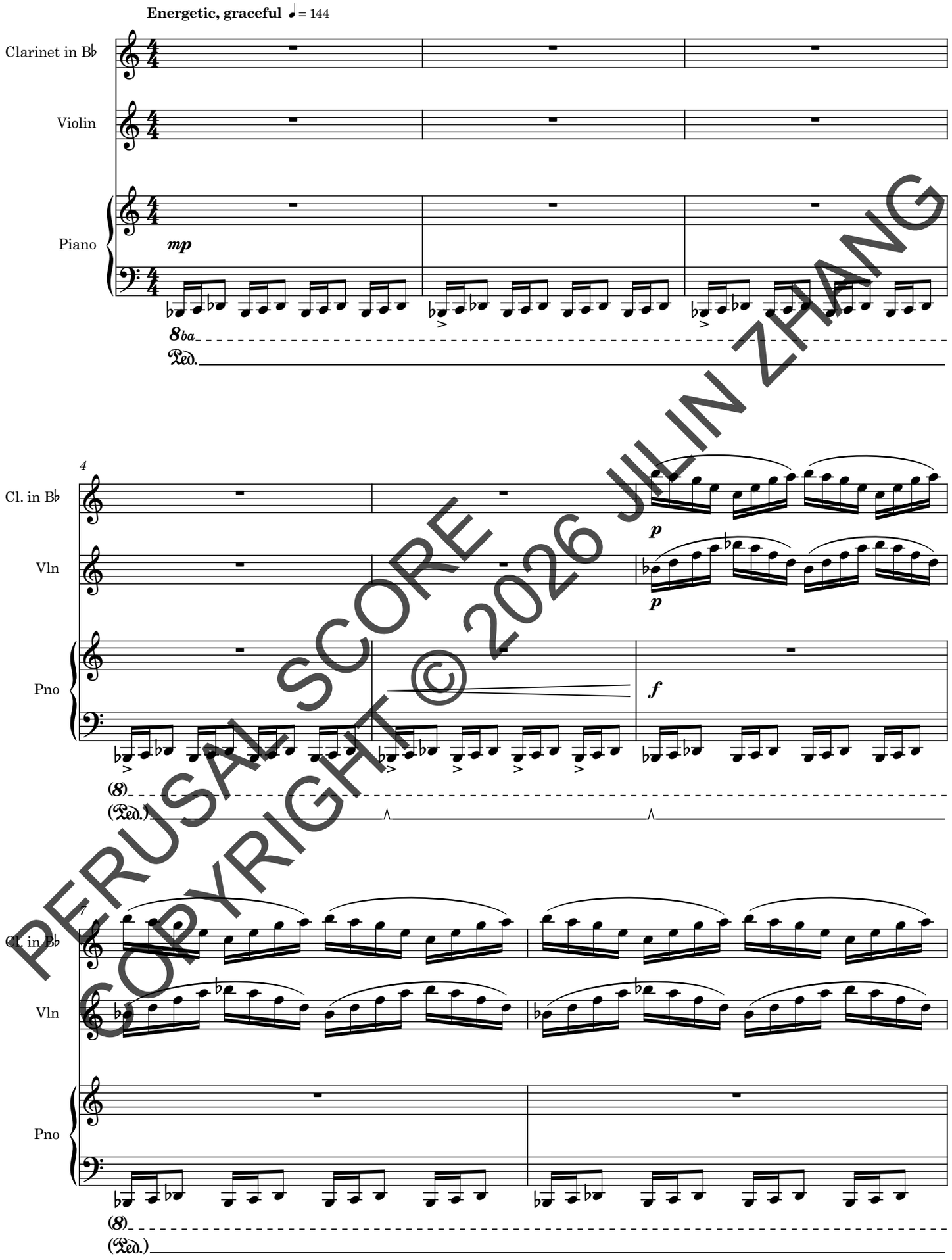
2. Life Moves Pretty Fast



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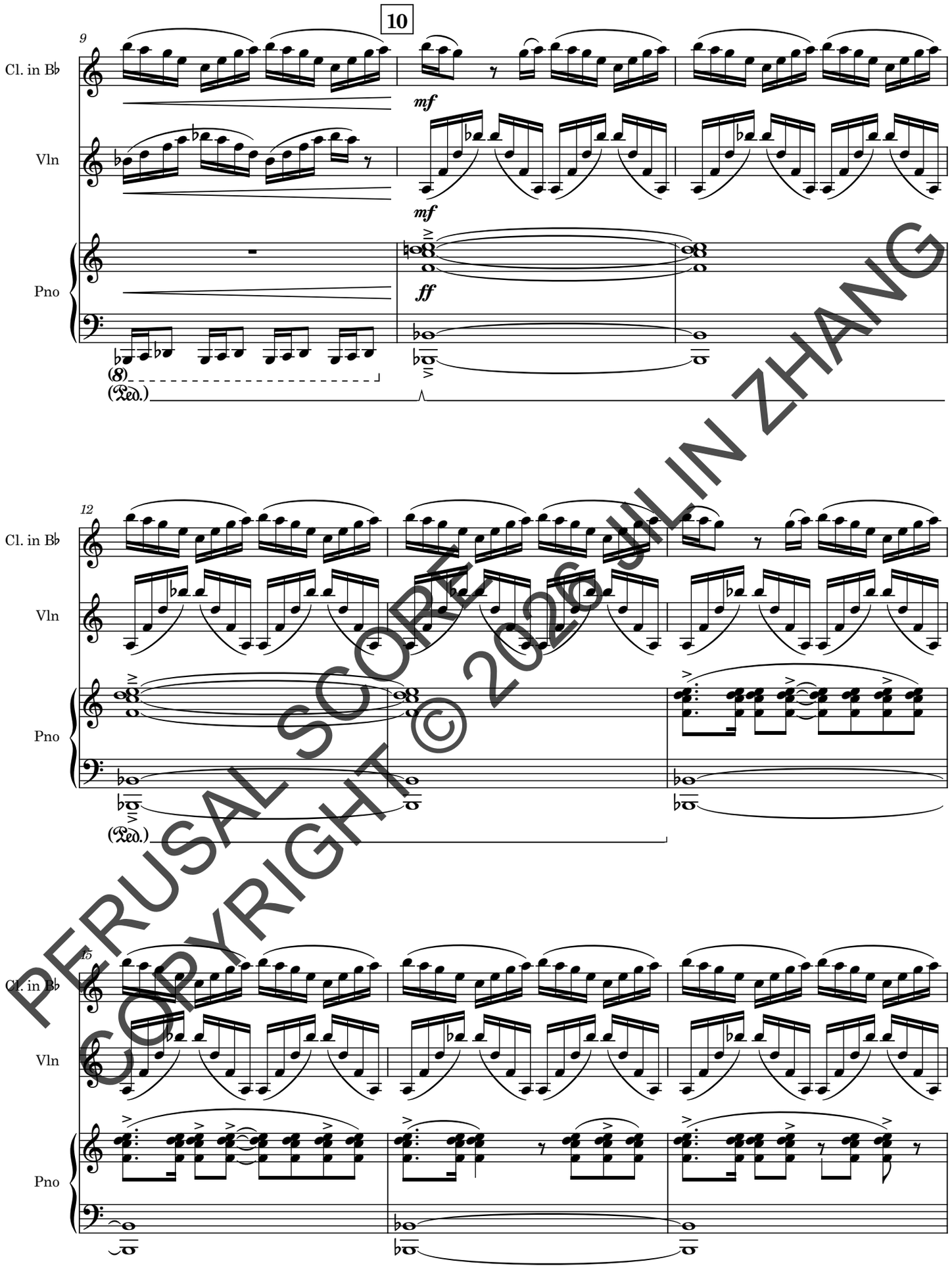

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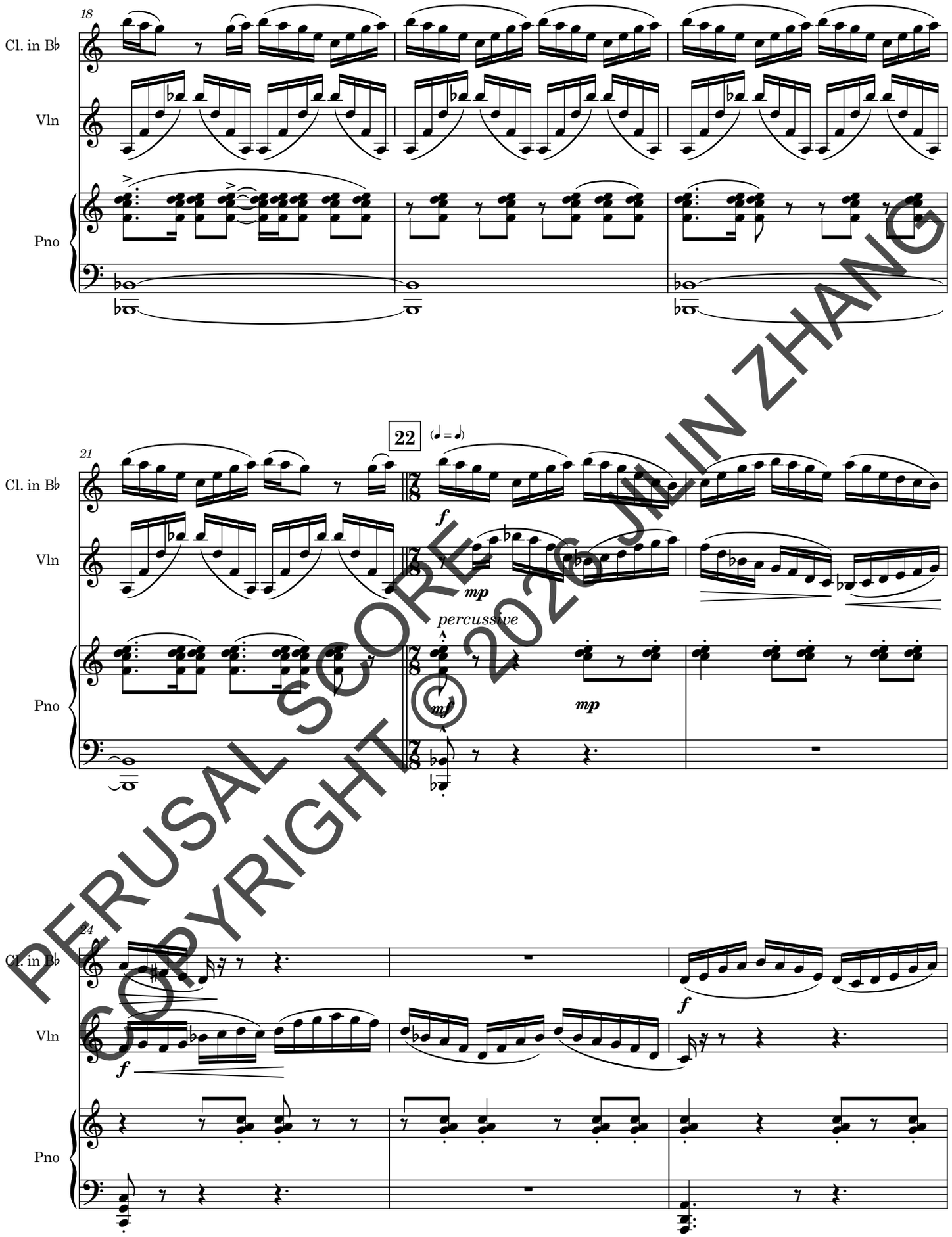

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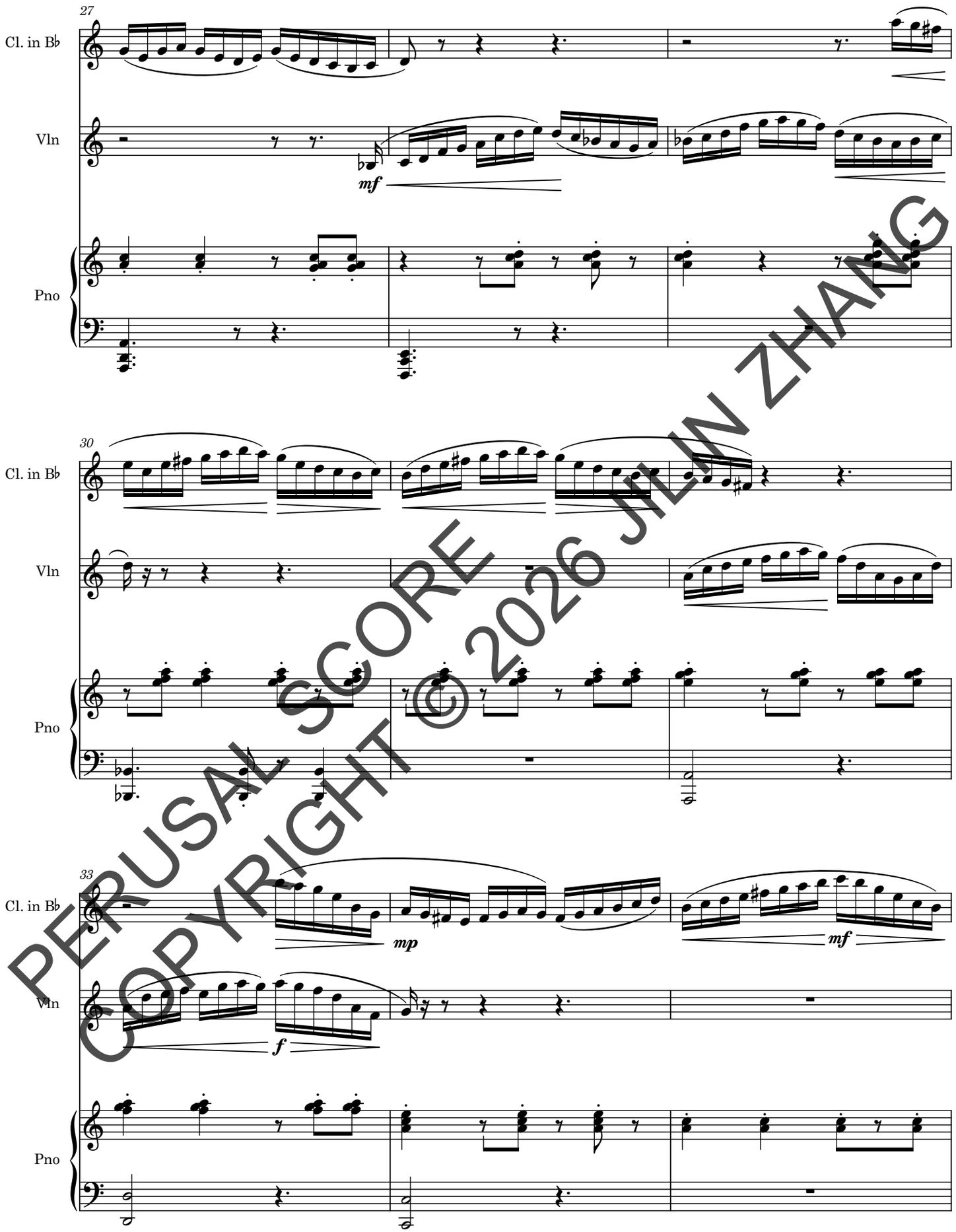

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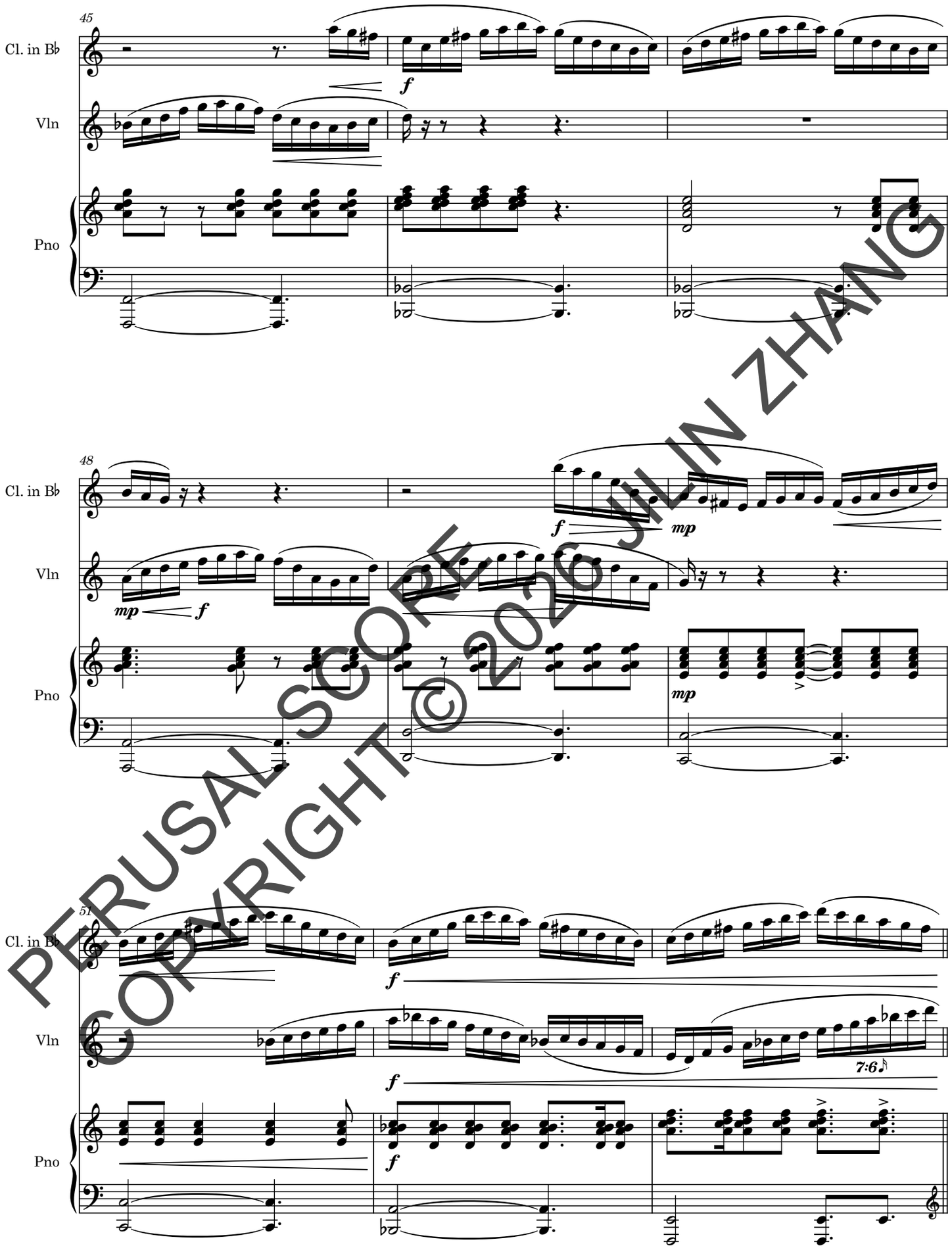

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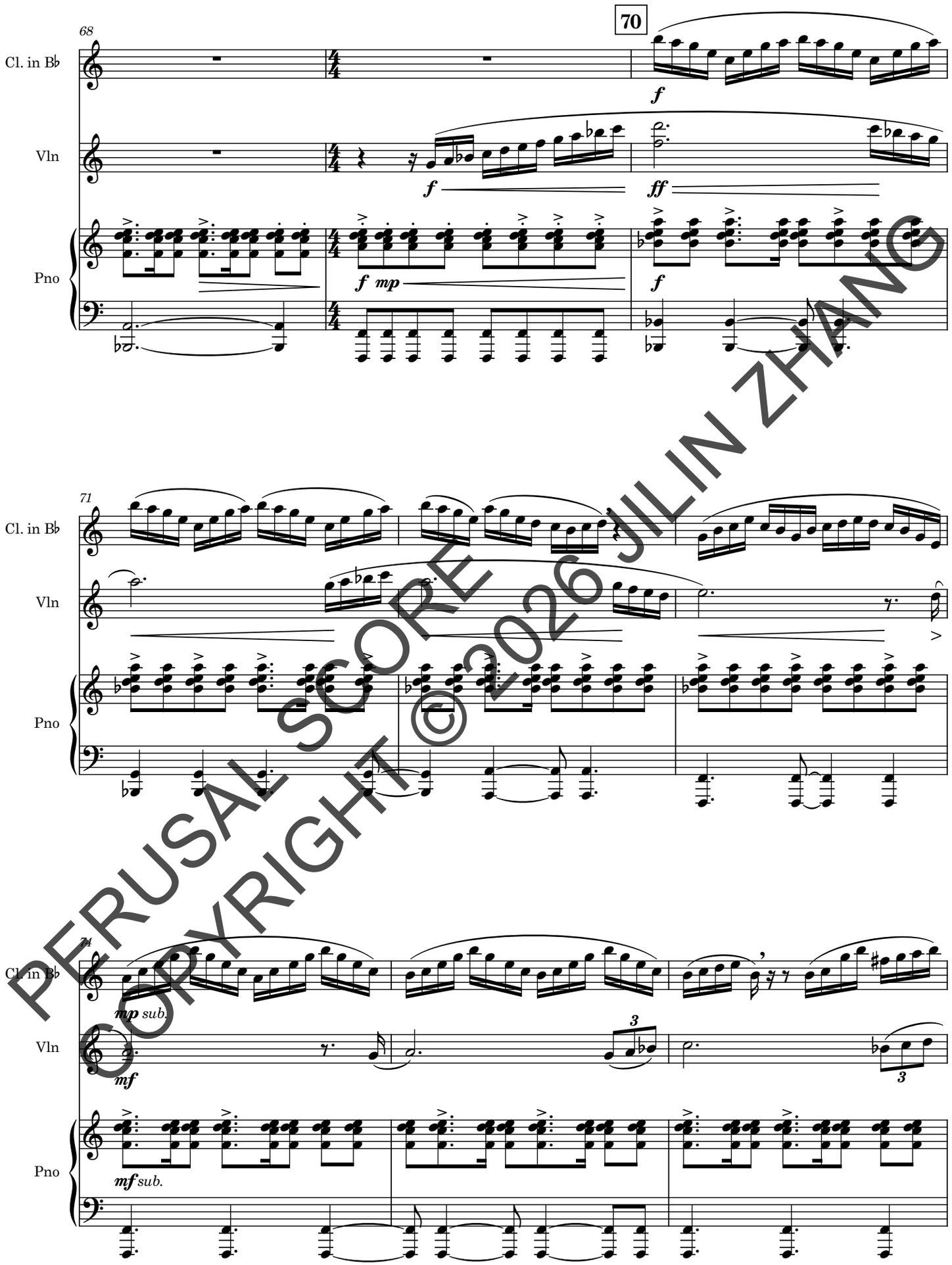

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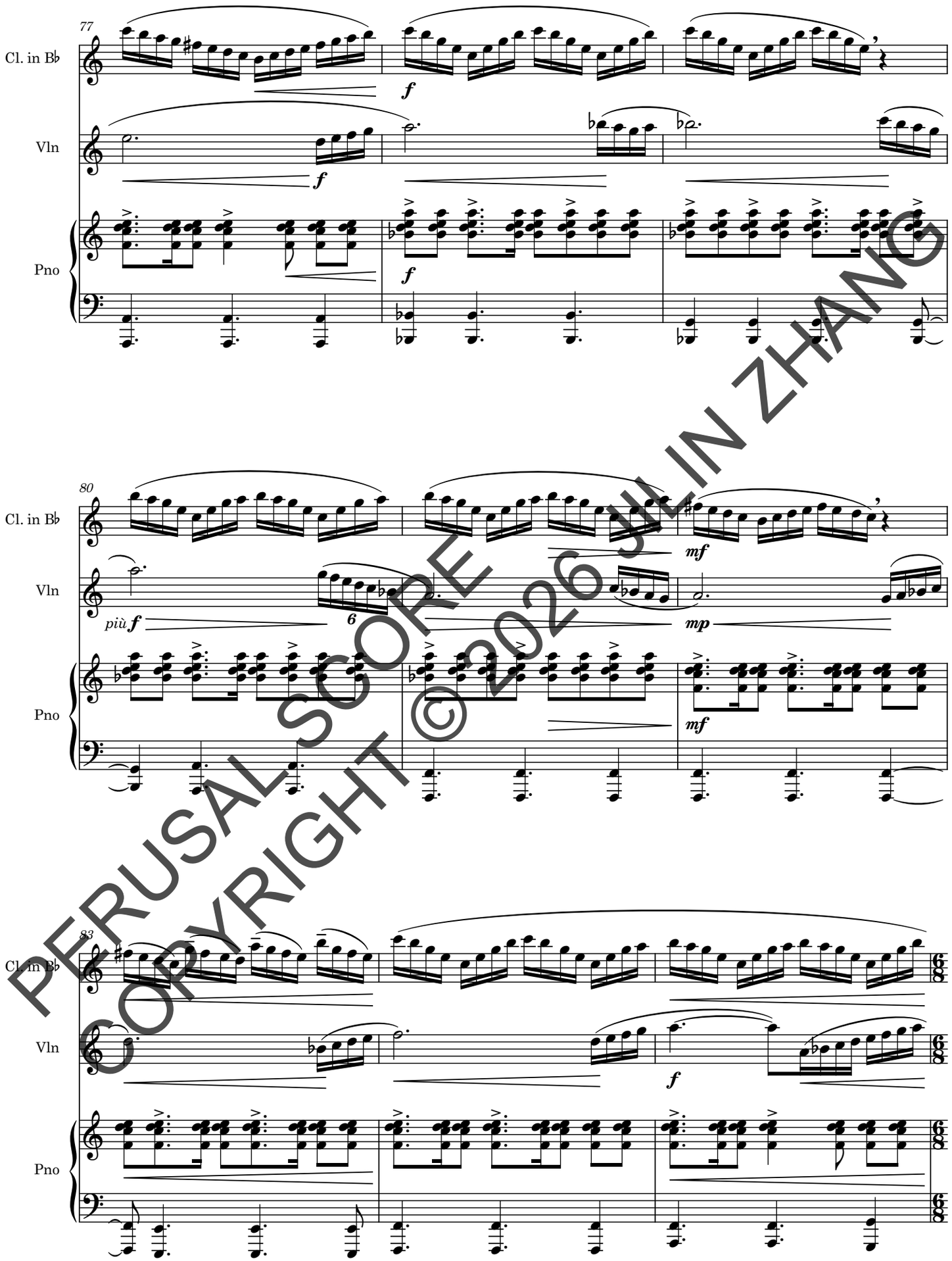

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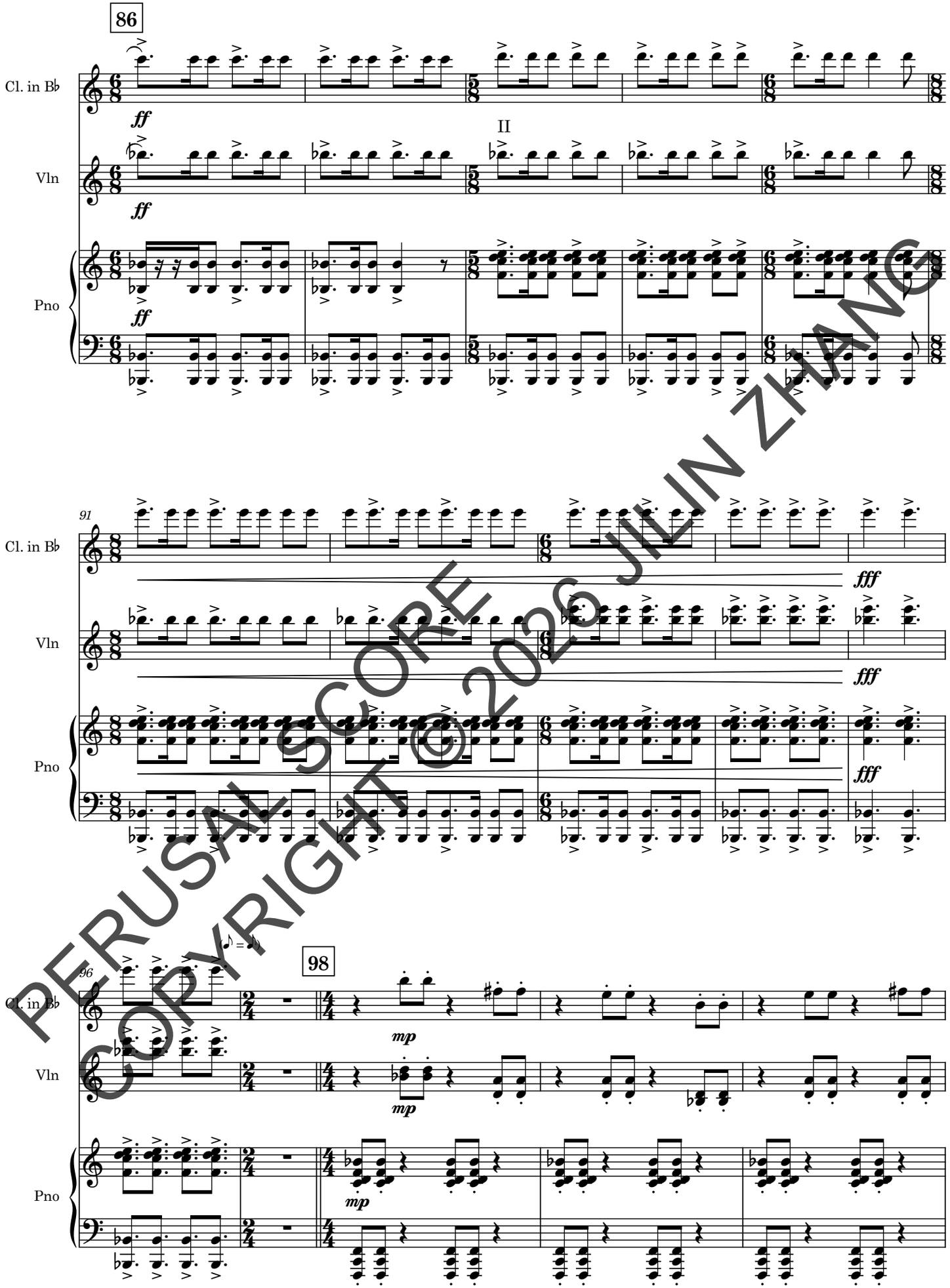

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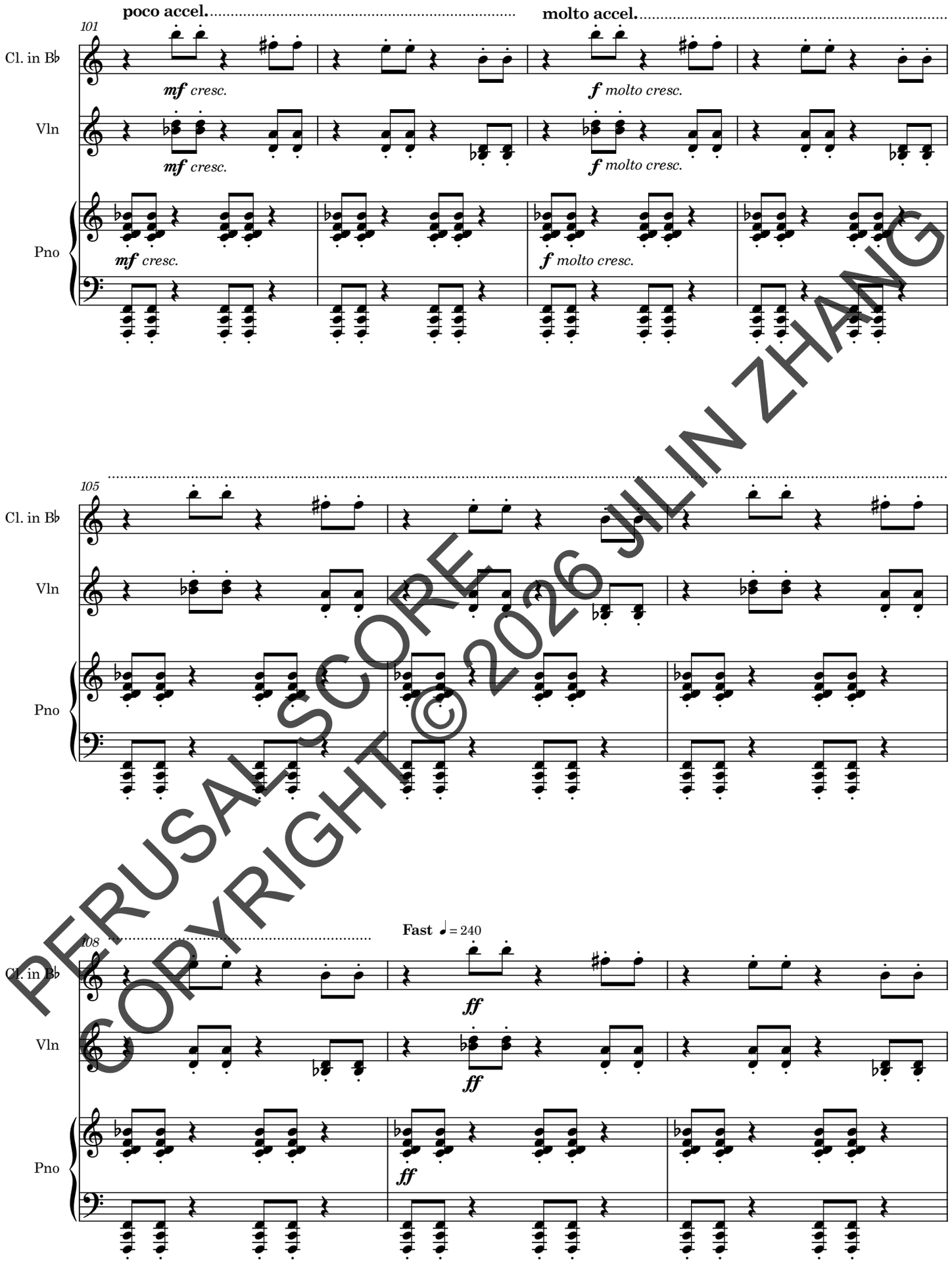

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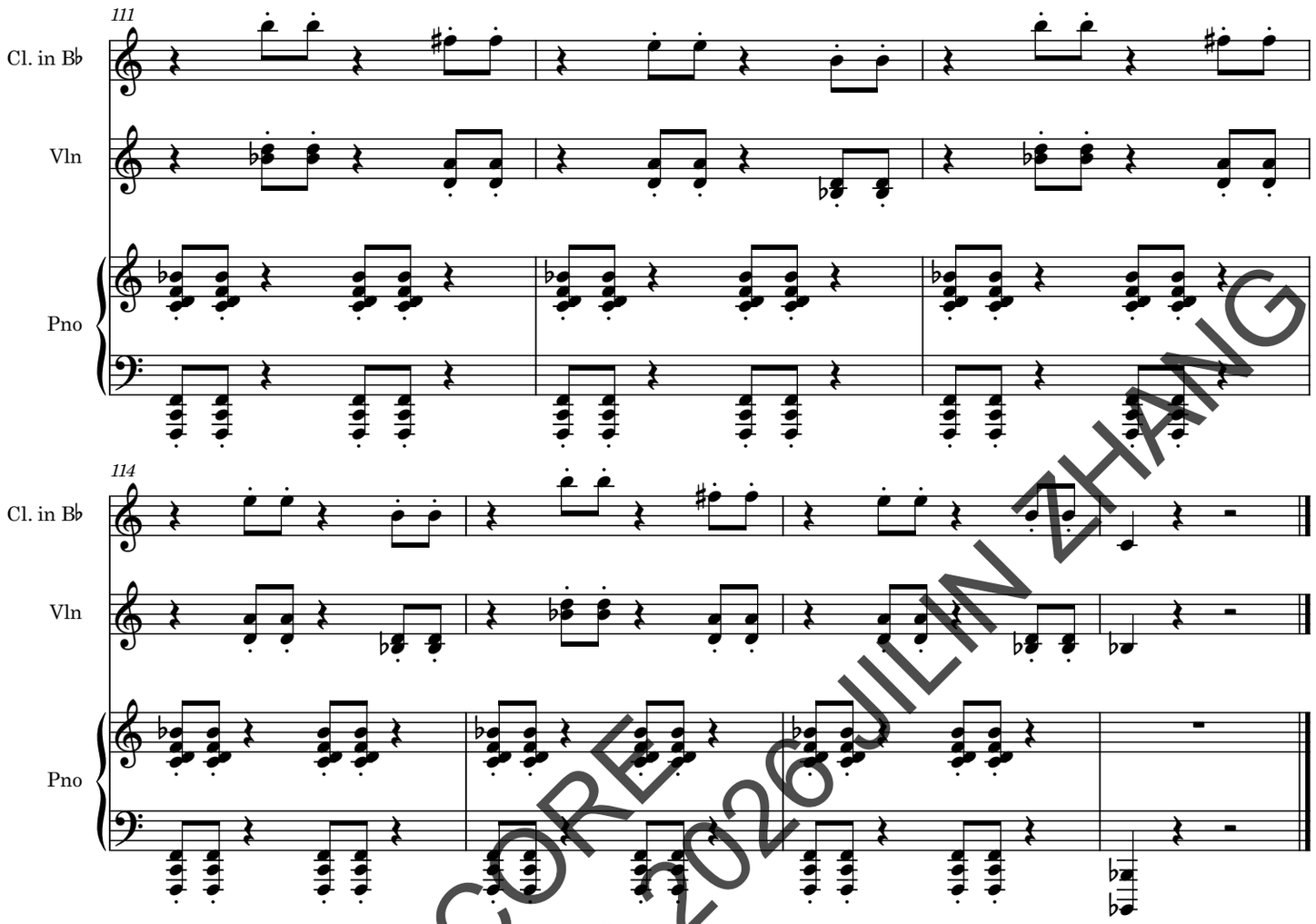

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