Triptych

for percussion quartet

2018

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Preface –

Triptych was commissioned and premiered by Lagan Percussion. It is comprised of three movements intended to be performed continuously. The initial movement, titled *(254)*, introduces a focal point of the composition: groupings of 2, 5, and 4 beats. All three movements are woven together through this pattern and the melodic material which makes up the entirety of the second movement (*Still*) and reprised as a short interruption in the final movement (*Burn*).

Performance time: ~8 minutes

Instrumentation –

Percussion 1:

bass drum	2 toms – mid-range and low
2 timbales	2 bongos
11 desk bells	

Percussion 2:

small kick drum	2 toms – high and mid-high
hi-hat	12 copper pipes

Percussion 3:

med. kick drum	2 temple blocks – middle and low
2 timbales	sus. cymbals
5 metal plates	

Percussion 4:

bass drum	2 toms – mid-high and mid-low
vibraphone	2 temple blocks – high and mid-high

Notes on Instruments –

Pitched Instruments

Vibraphone – motor on between low and medium.

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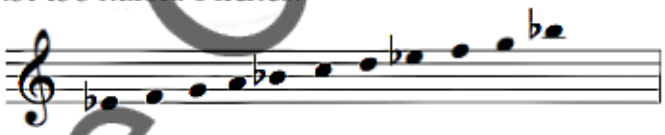
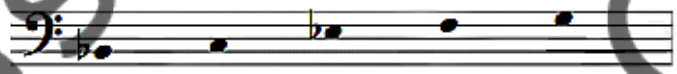
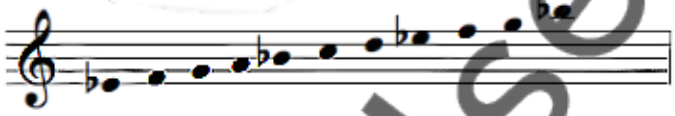
12 copper pipes – these should be warm and resonate with a clear pitch and not too harsh. Pitches:



5 metal plates – should be a brighter color than the copper pipes but still clear. If necessary, cutting pipes or using the lower range of a marimba can be used. Pitches:



11 desk bells – an inexpensive toy instrument easily found on the internet. If needed, a glockenspiel can be substituted if desk bells cannot be obtained. Pitches:



Unpitched Instruments

These are all standard instruments:

6 toms – ranged from low to high but not necessarily tuned to specific pitches. Perc 1 should have the lowest two, Perc 4 should have the middle two, and Perc 2 should have the highest two.

4 temple blocks – Perc 4 should have the highest two and Perc 3 should have the lowest two.

2 kick drums – the kick drums should be different sizes, if possible. Perc 2 should have the smaller kick drum and Perc 3 should have the larger kick drum.

4 timbales – split between Perc 1 and Perc 3.

bass drum – one small or medium sized bass drum shared by Perc 1 and Perc 4.

sus. cymbal – large suspended cymbal and bow.

Hi-hat – standard hi-hat.

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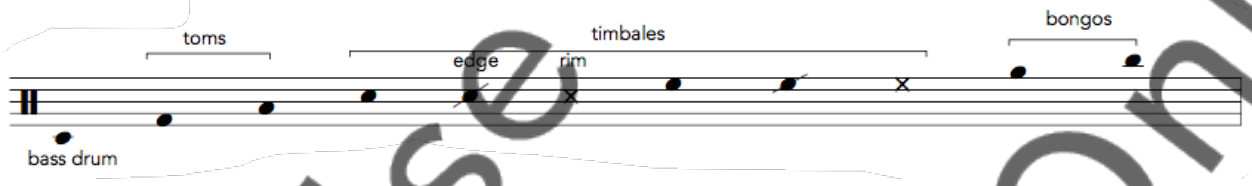
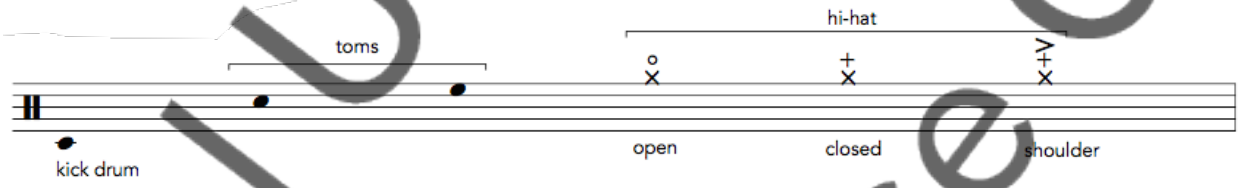
Percussion Key –

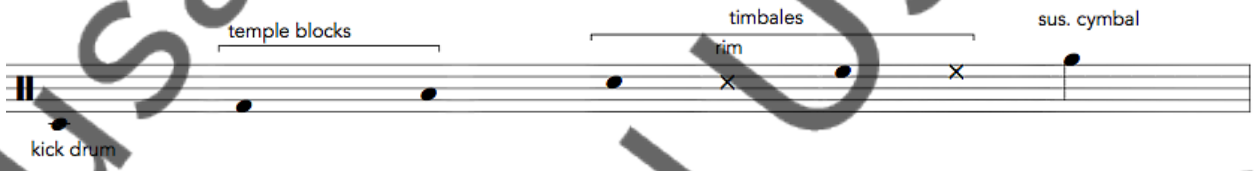
Percussion 1:



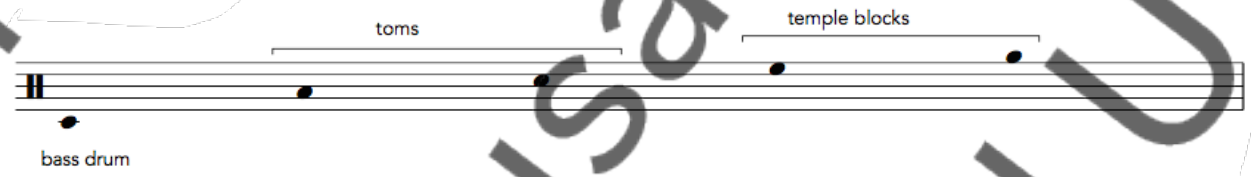
Percussion 2:



Percussion 3:



Percussion 4:



Performance Notes –

The bowed cymbal and hum of the superball mallet on the bass drum at the end of *(254)* should carry over into the beginning of *Still*. The cymbal should be left to ring without being dampened at any point.

Percussion 4 can use a weight to hold the vibraphone pedal down throughout the entire piece, if desired, rather than using his or her foot only when the vibraphone is played.

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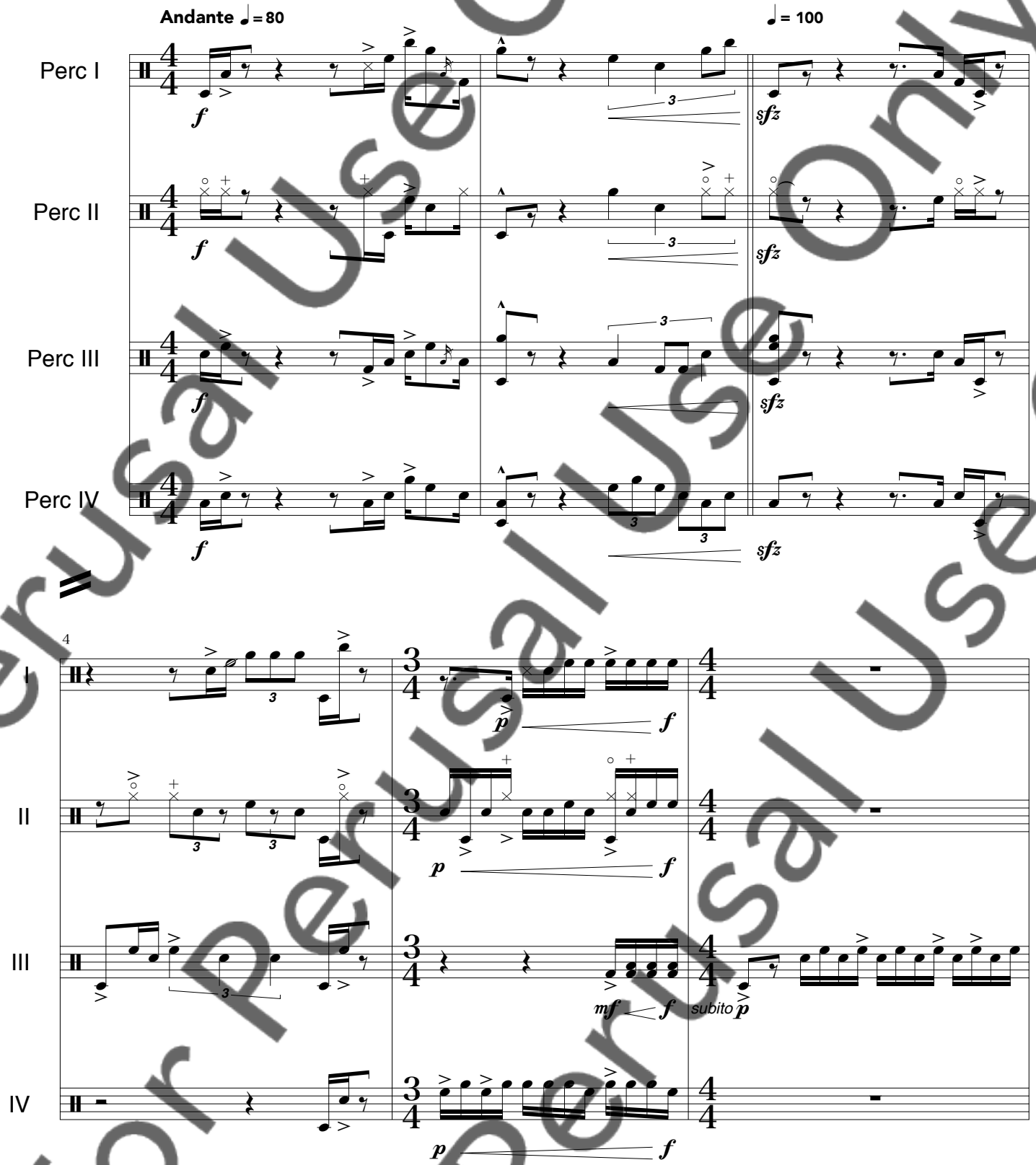
Score

I. (254)



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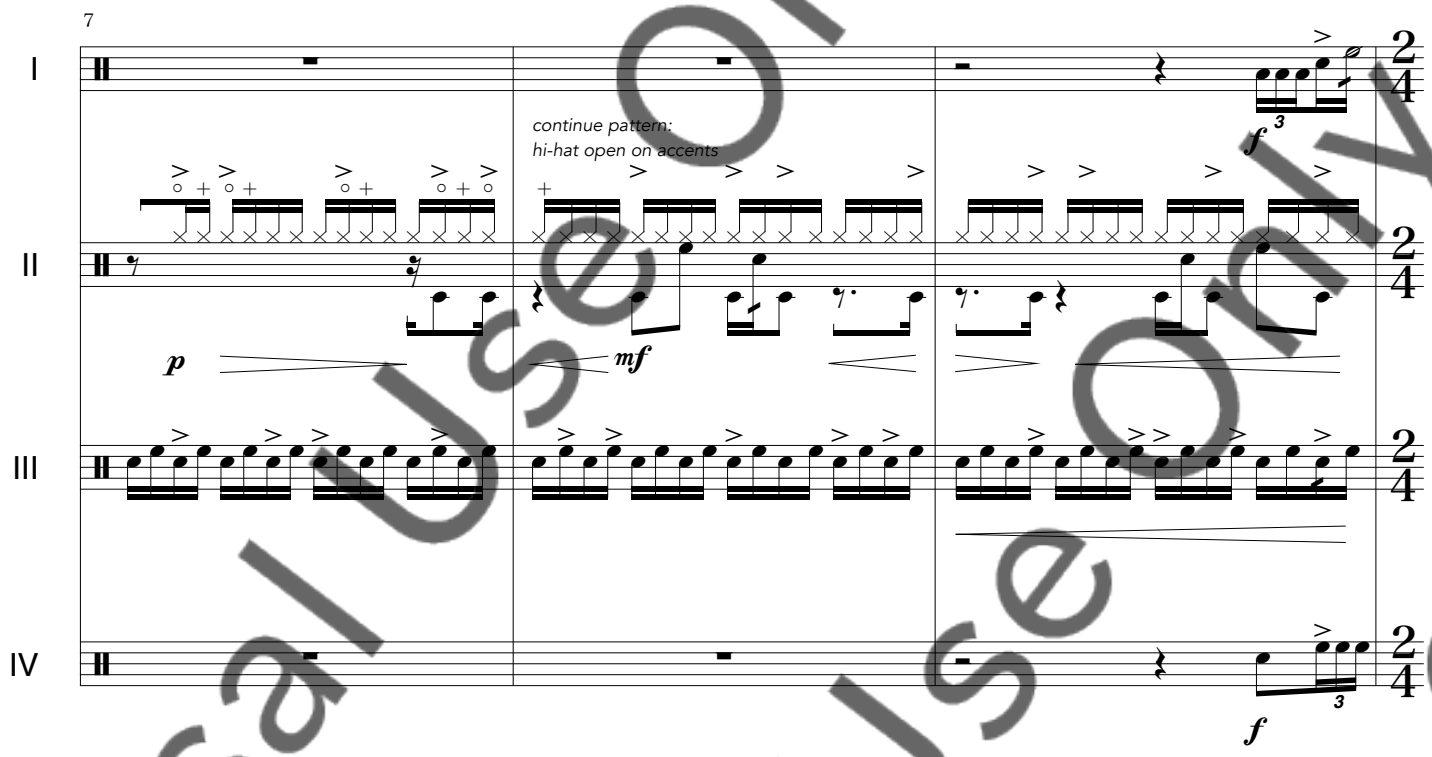

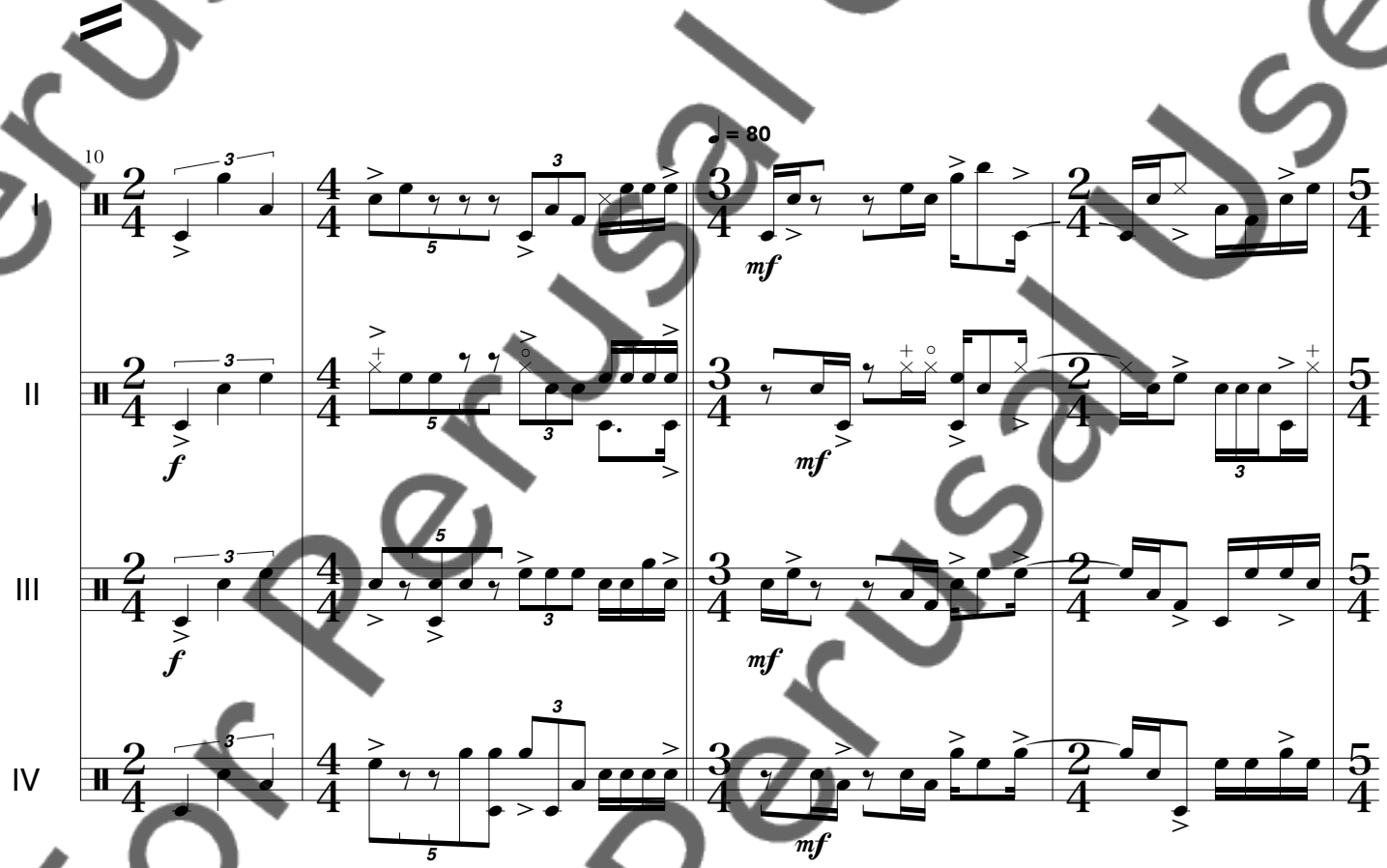

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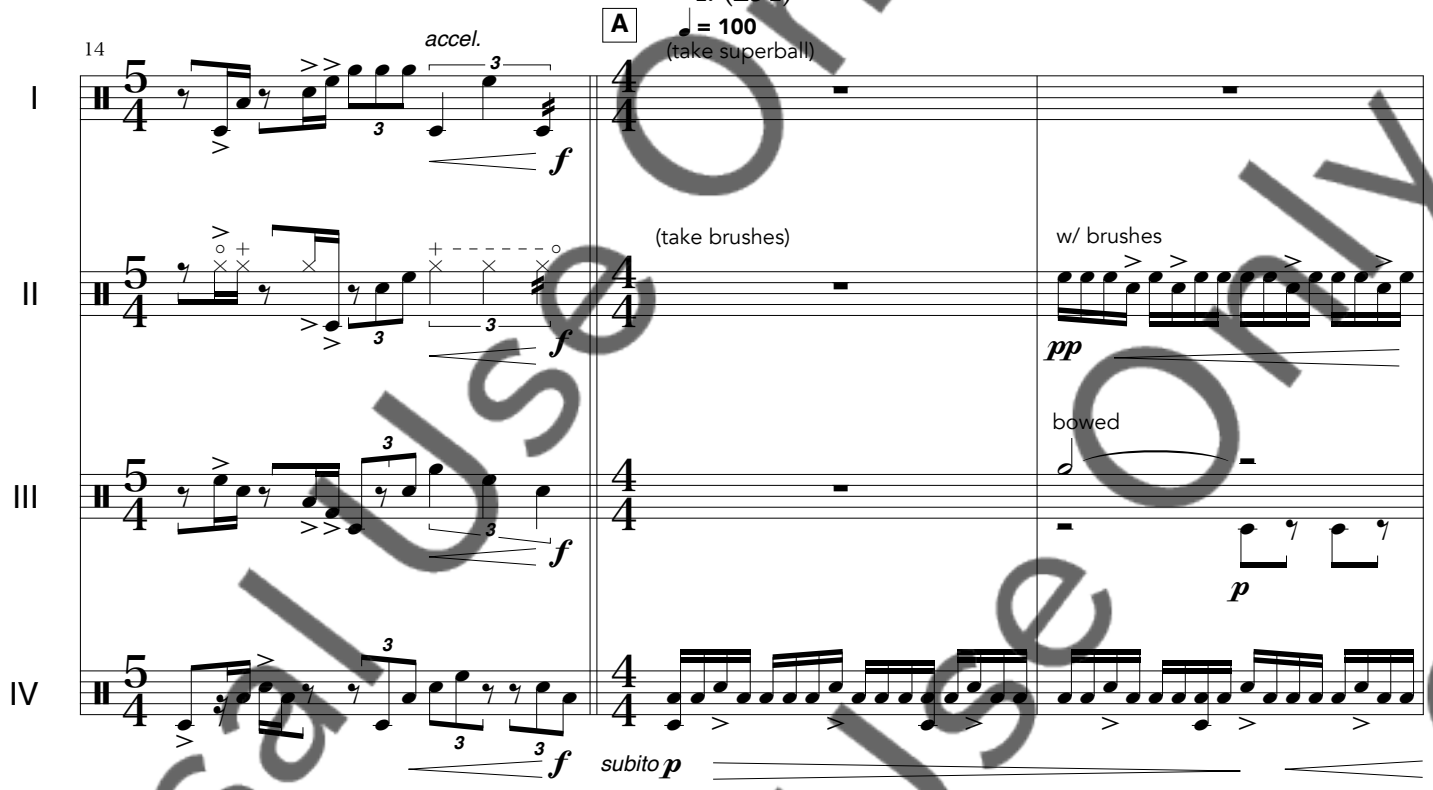

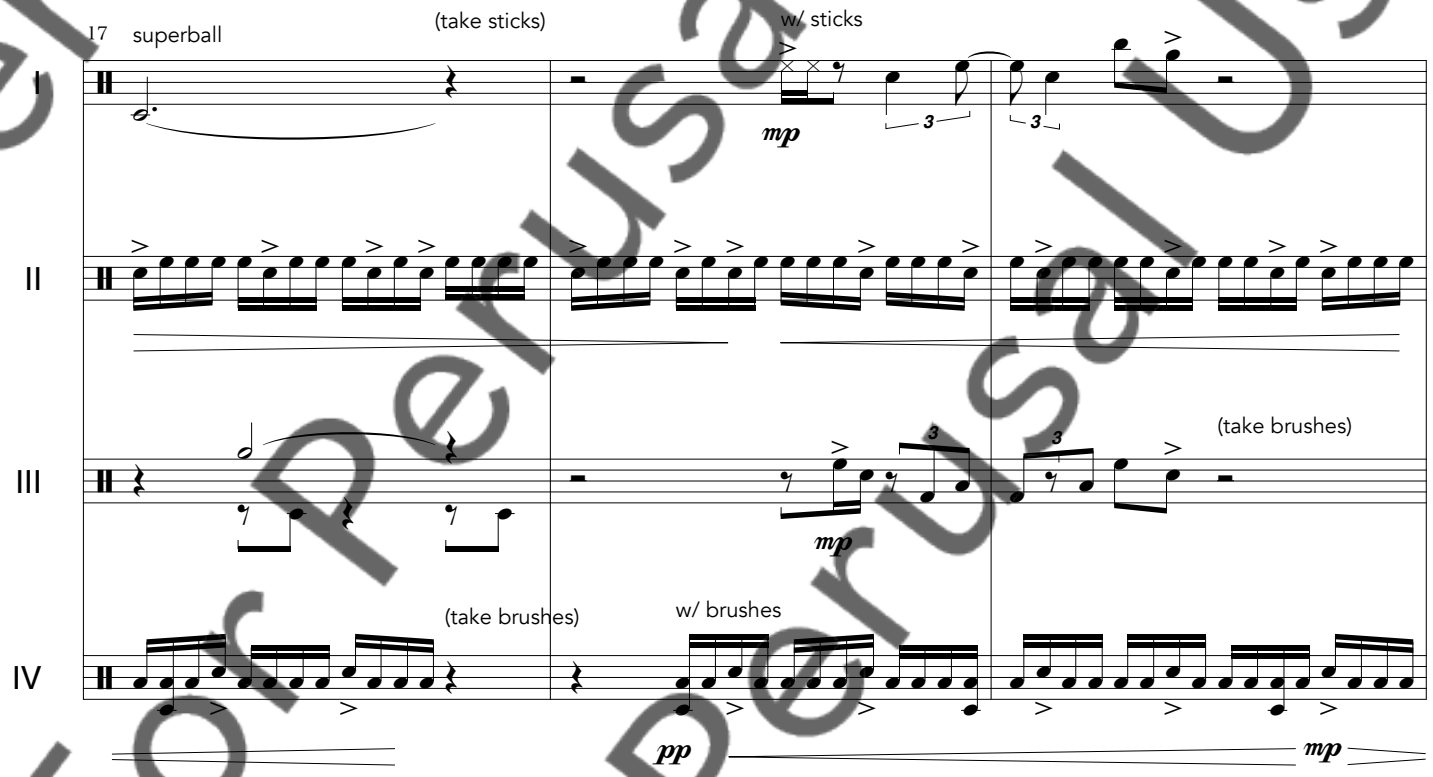

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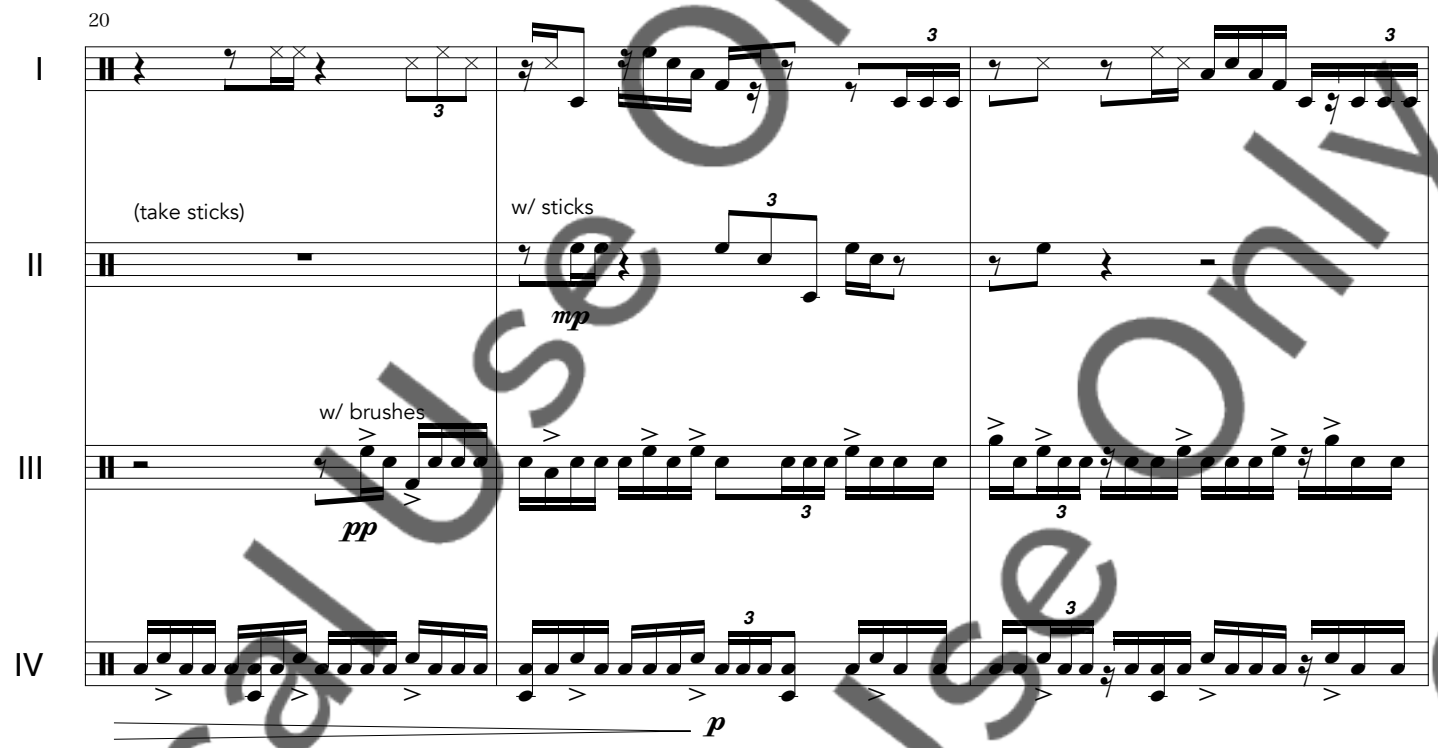

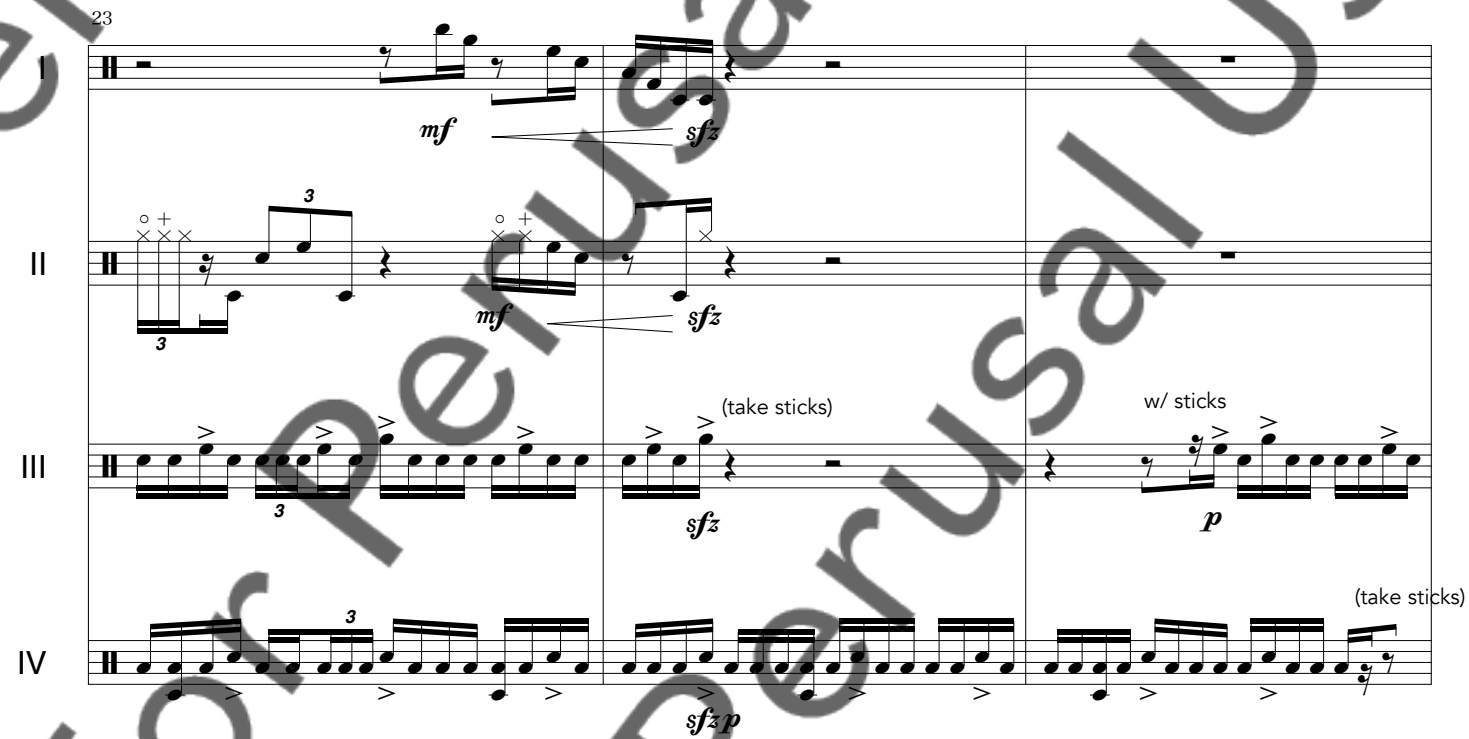

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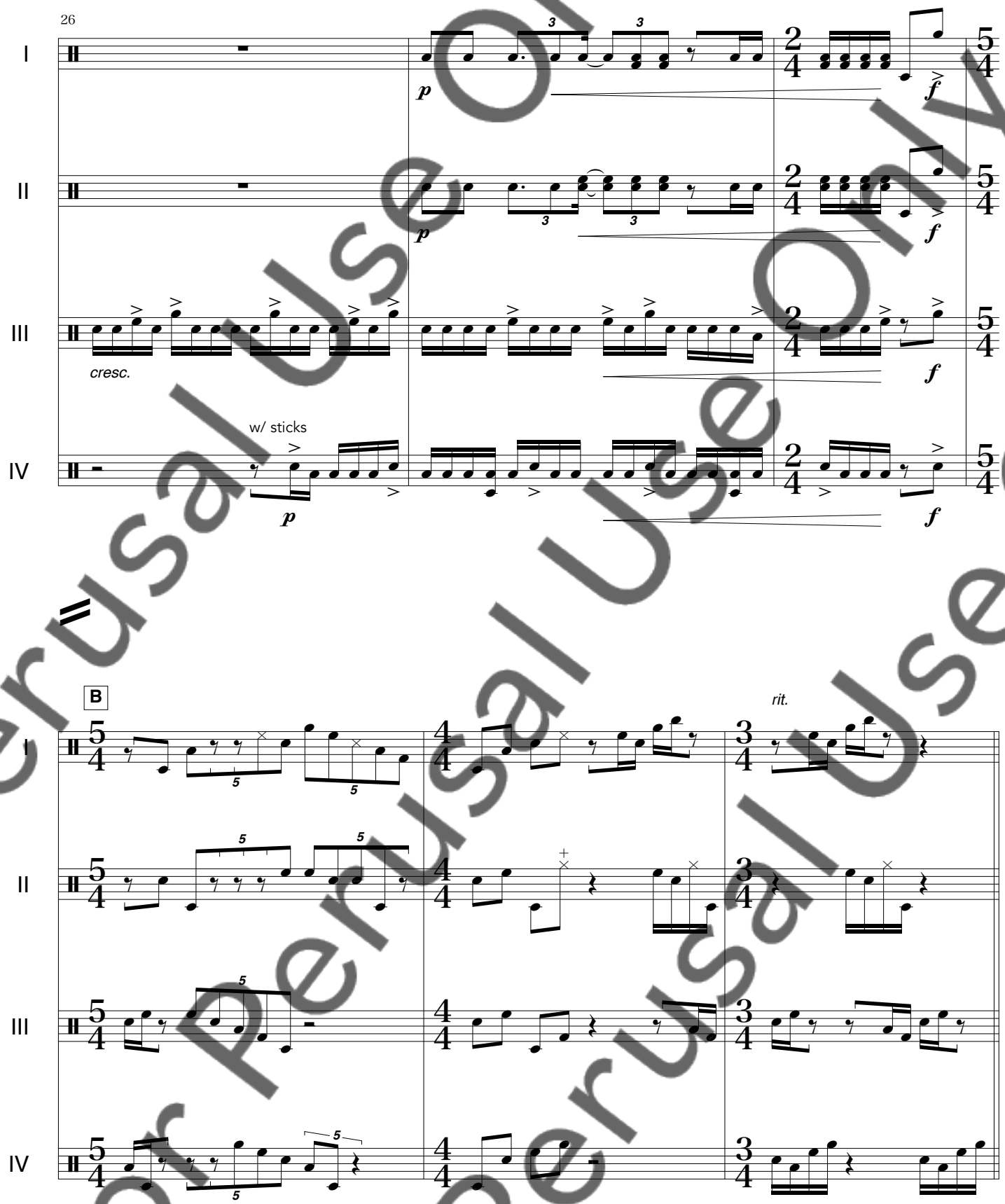

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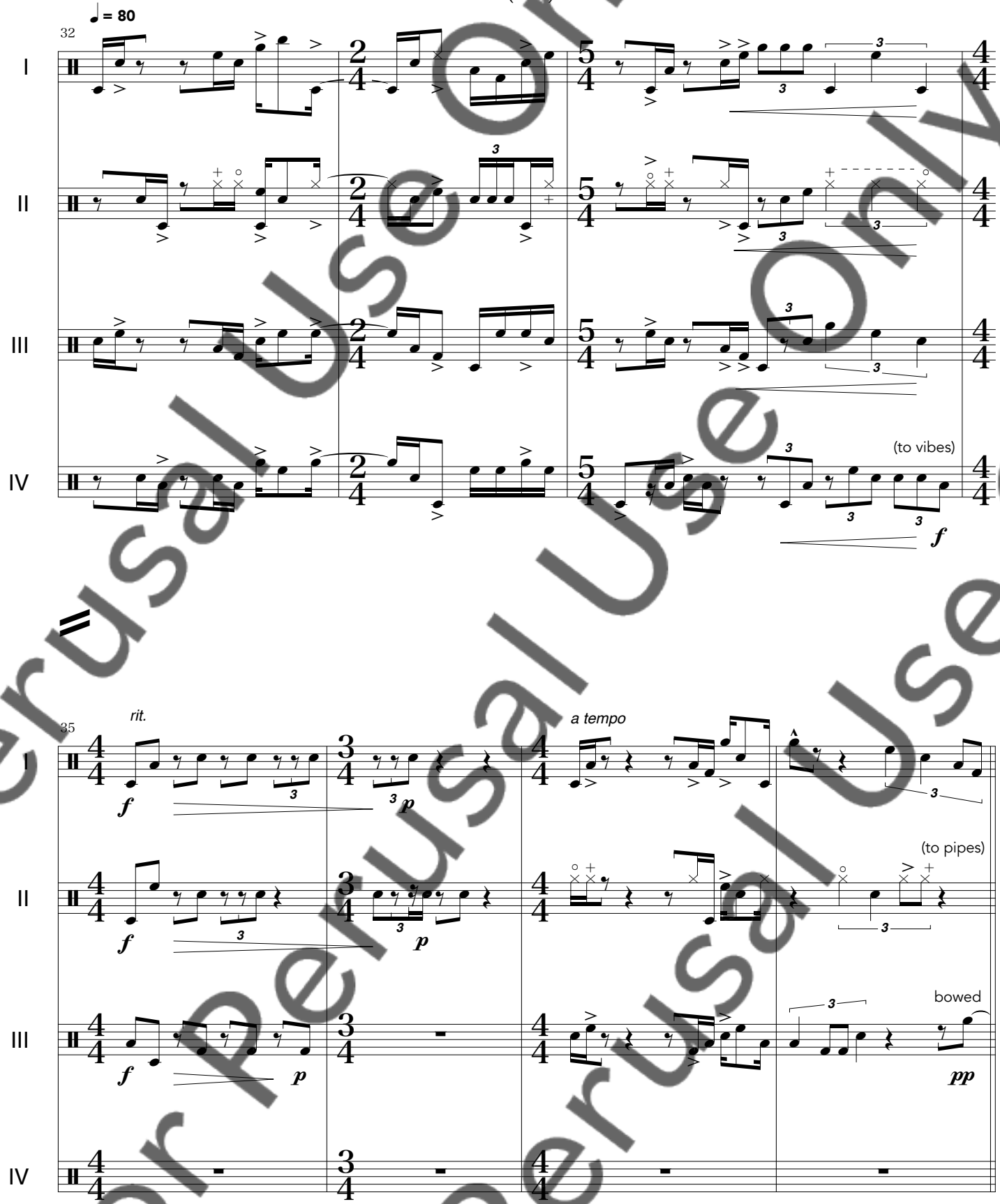

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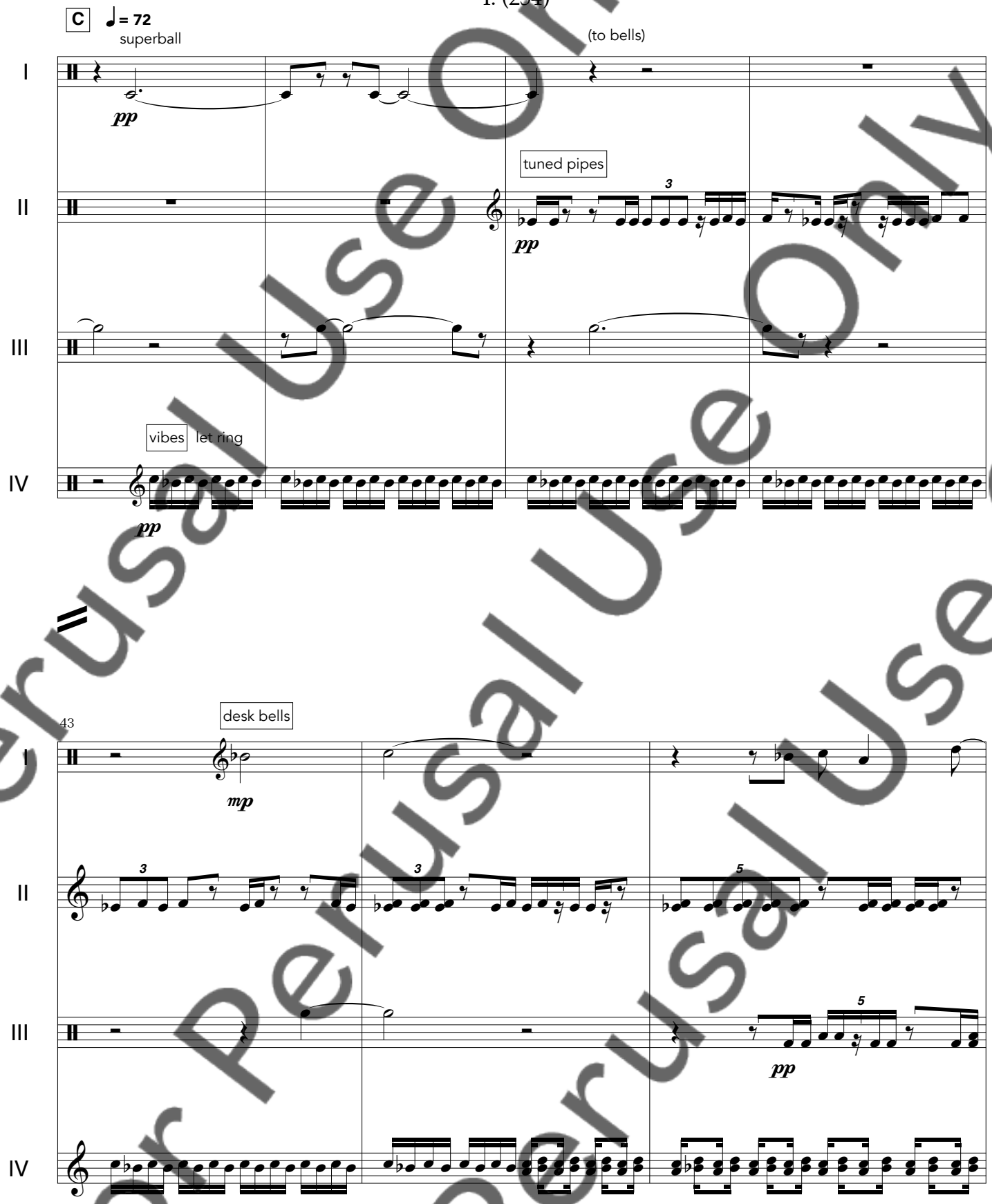

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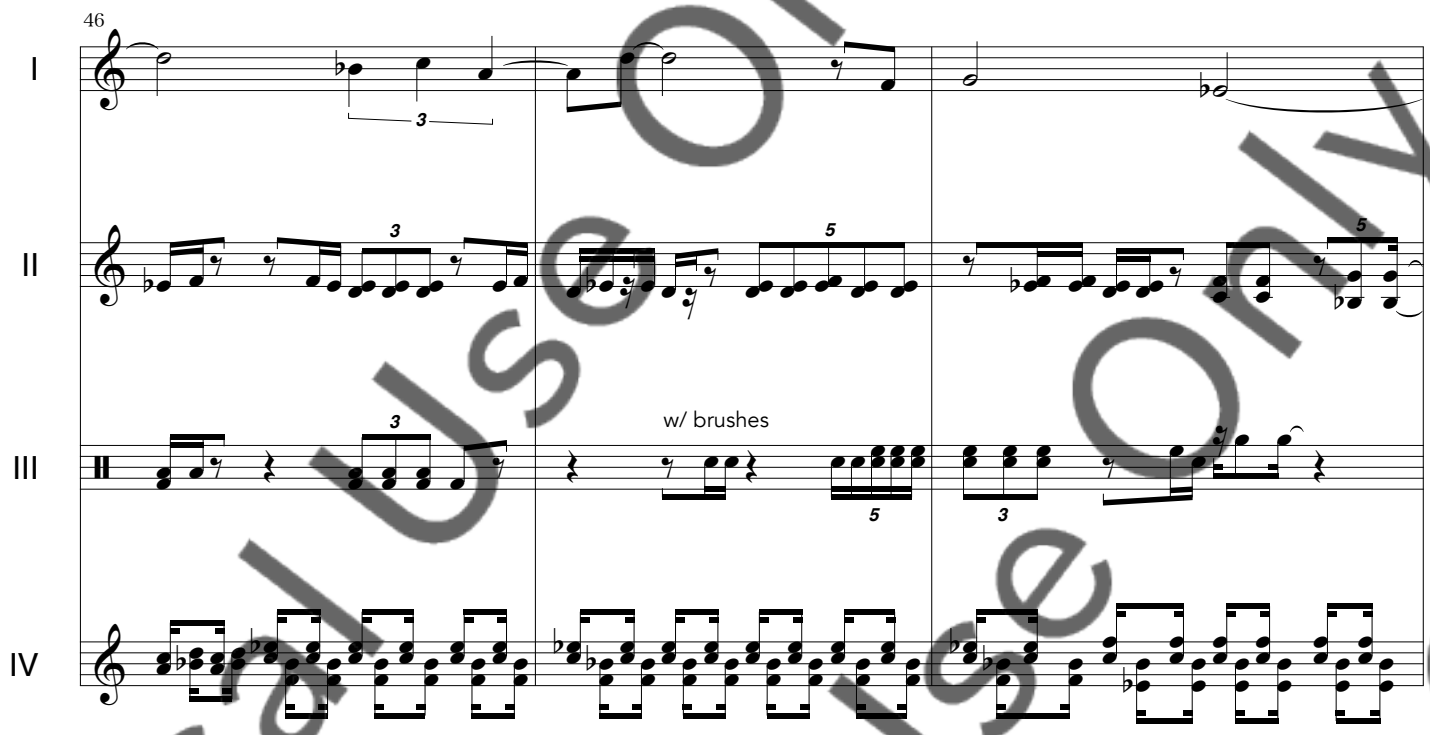

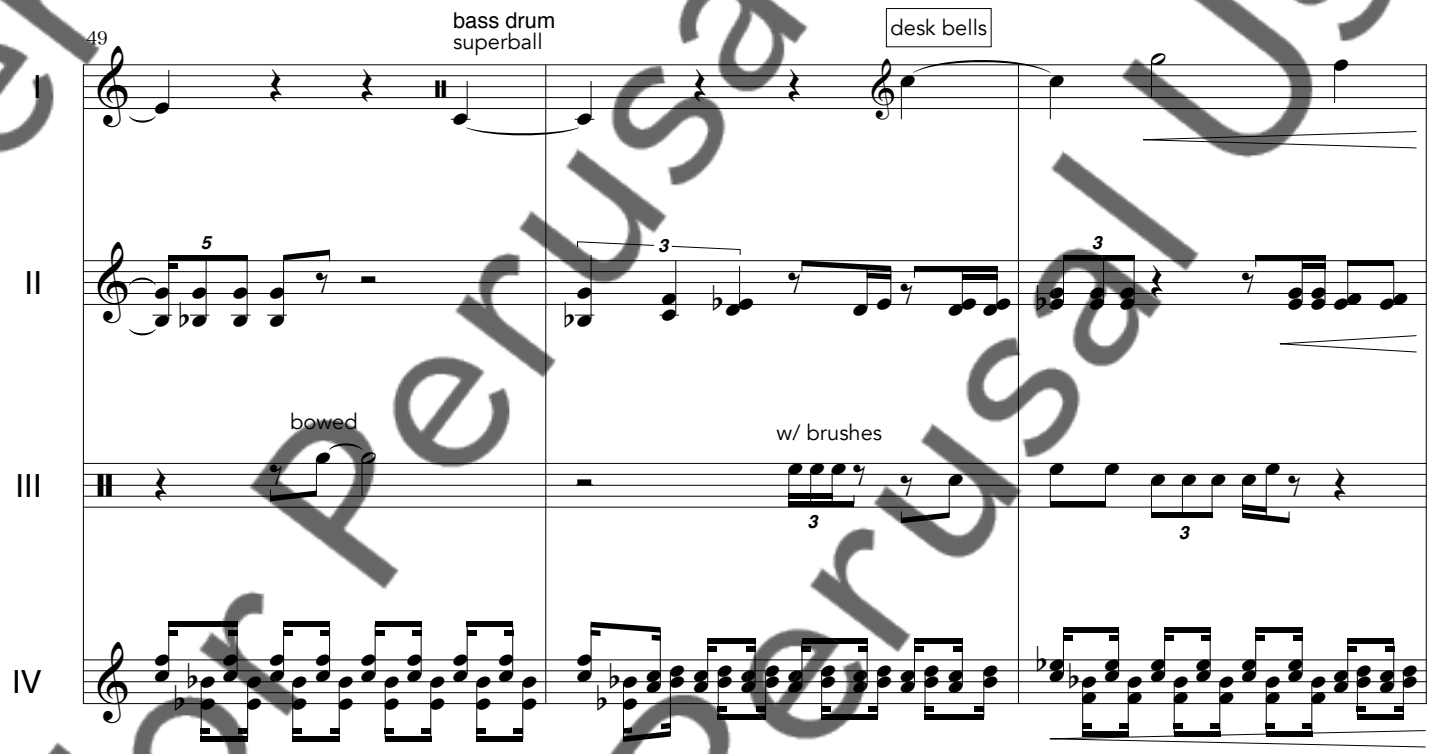

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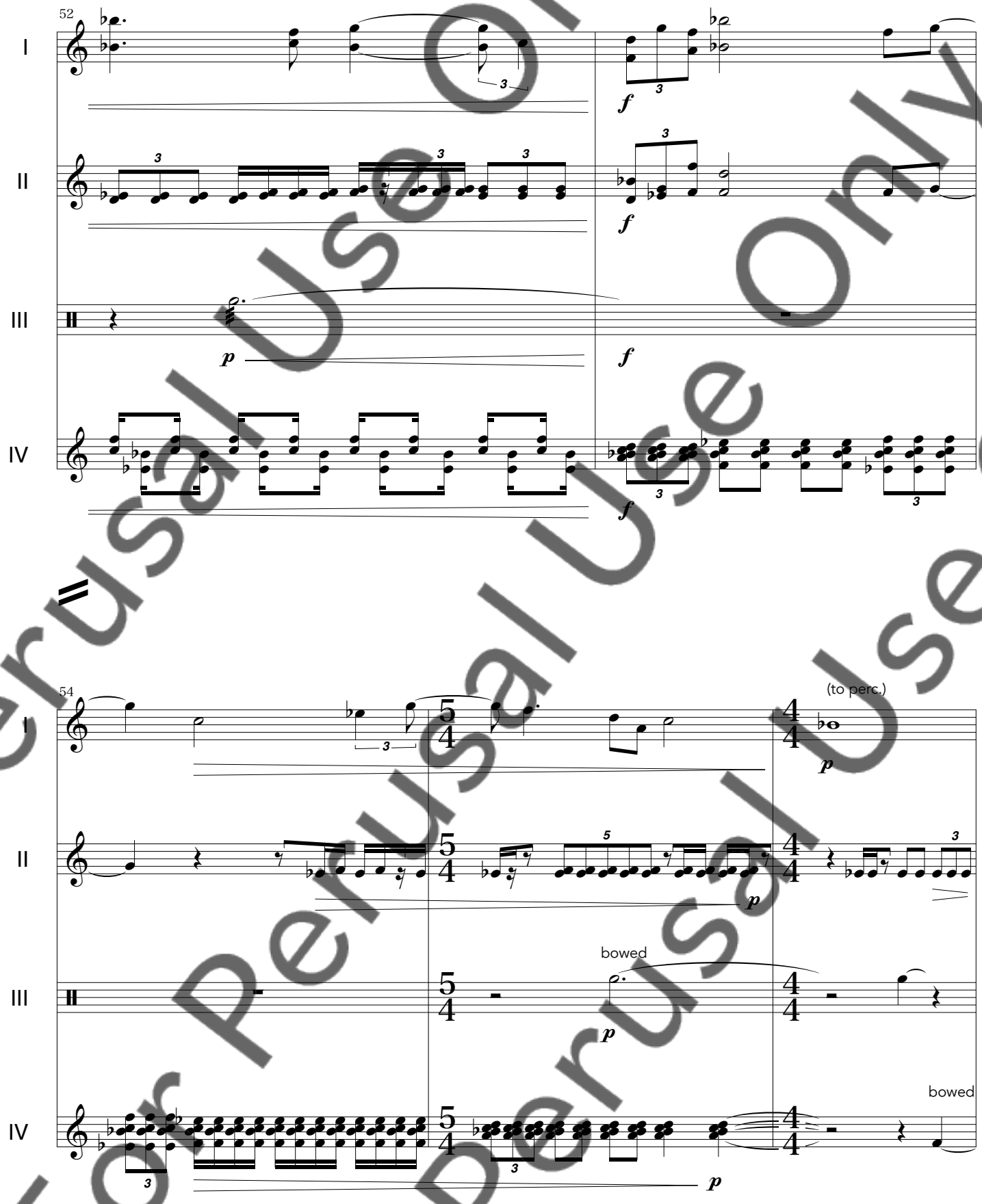

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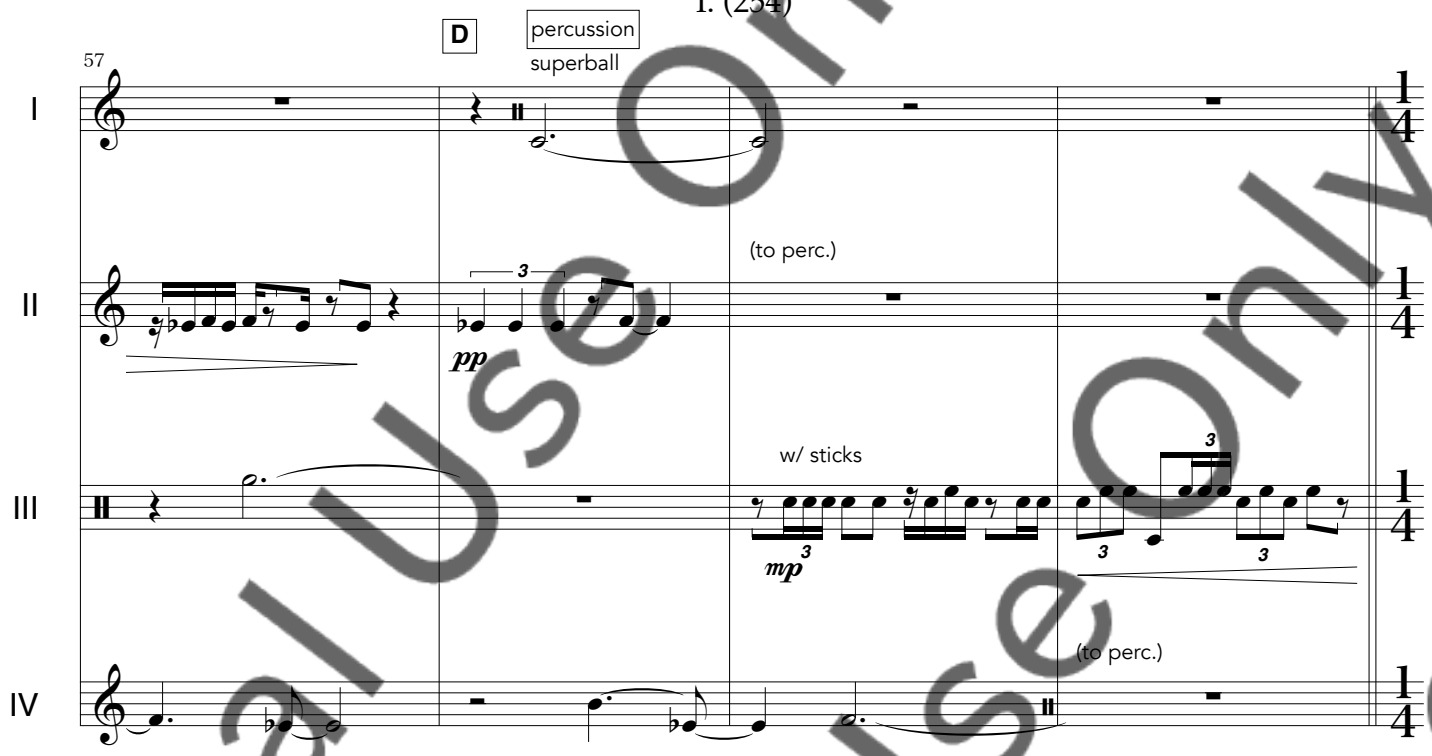

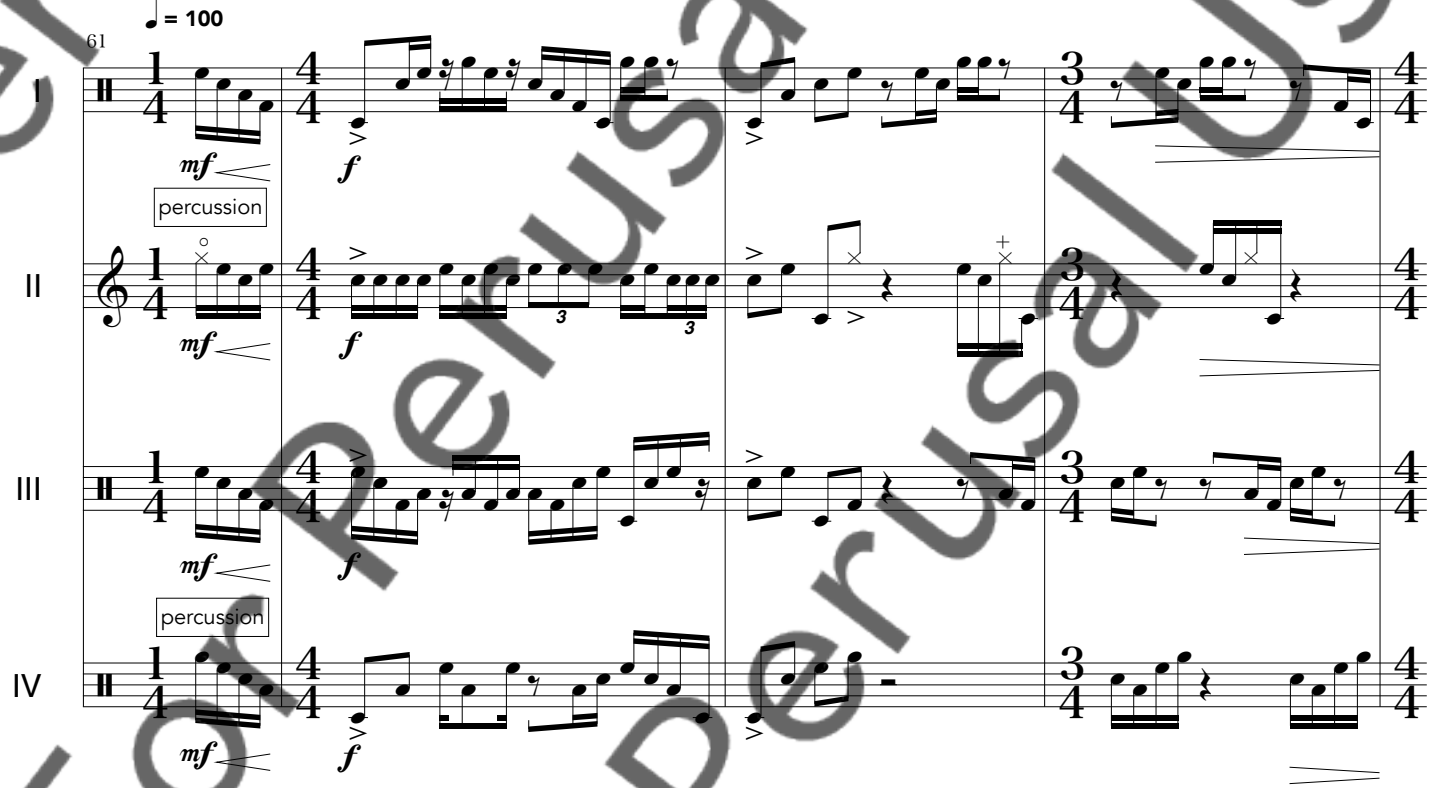

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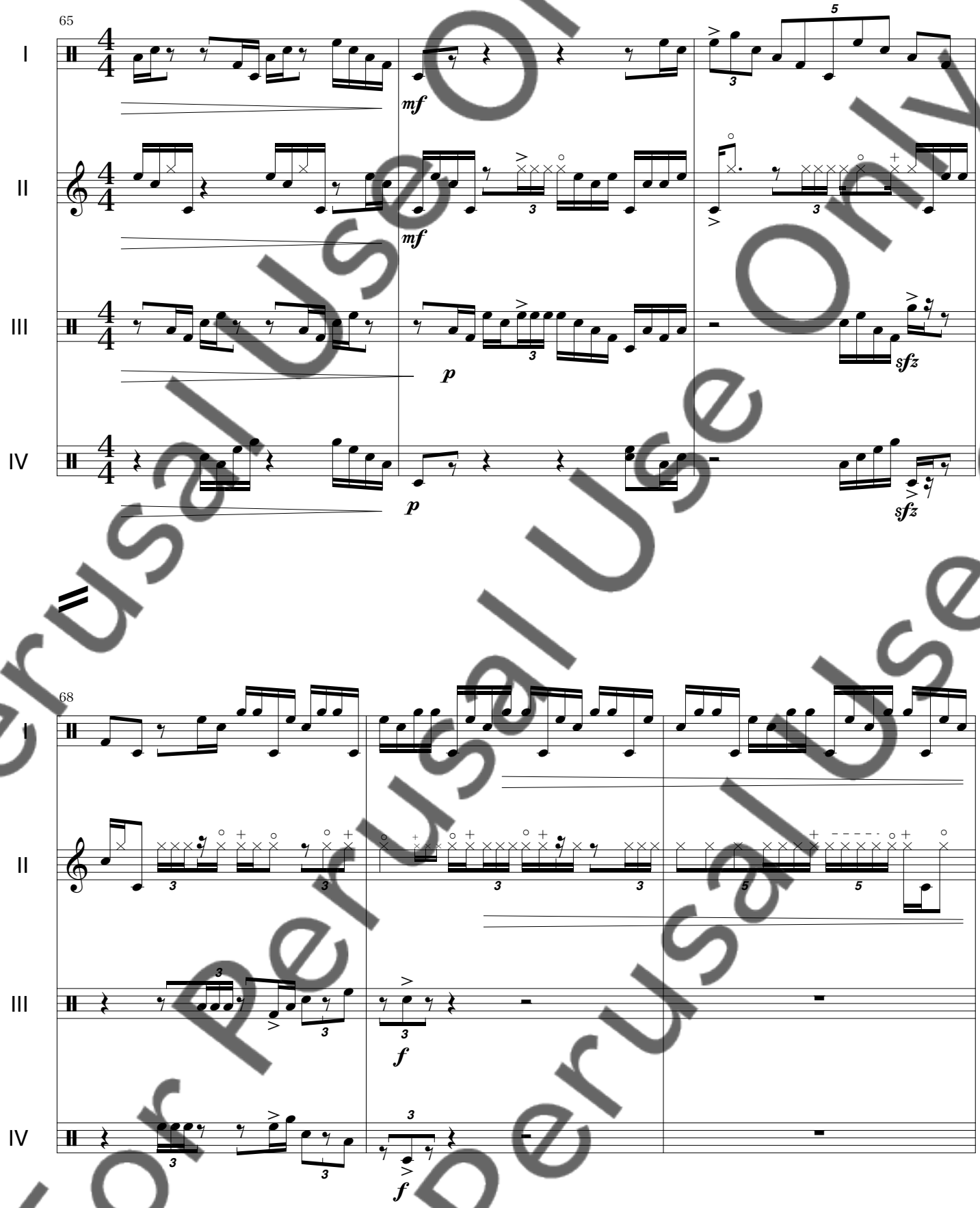

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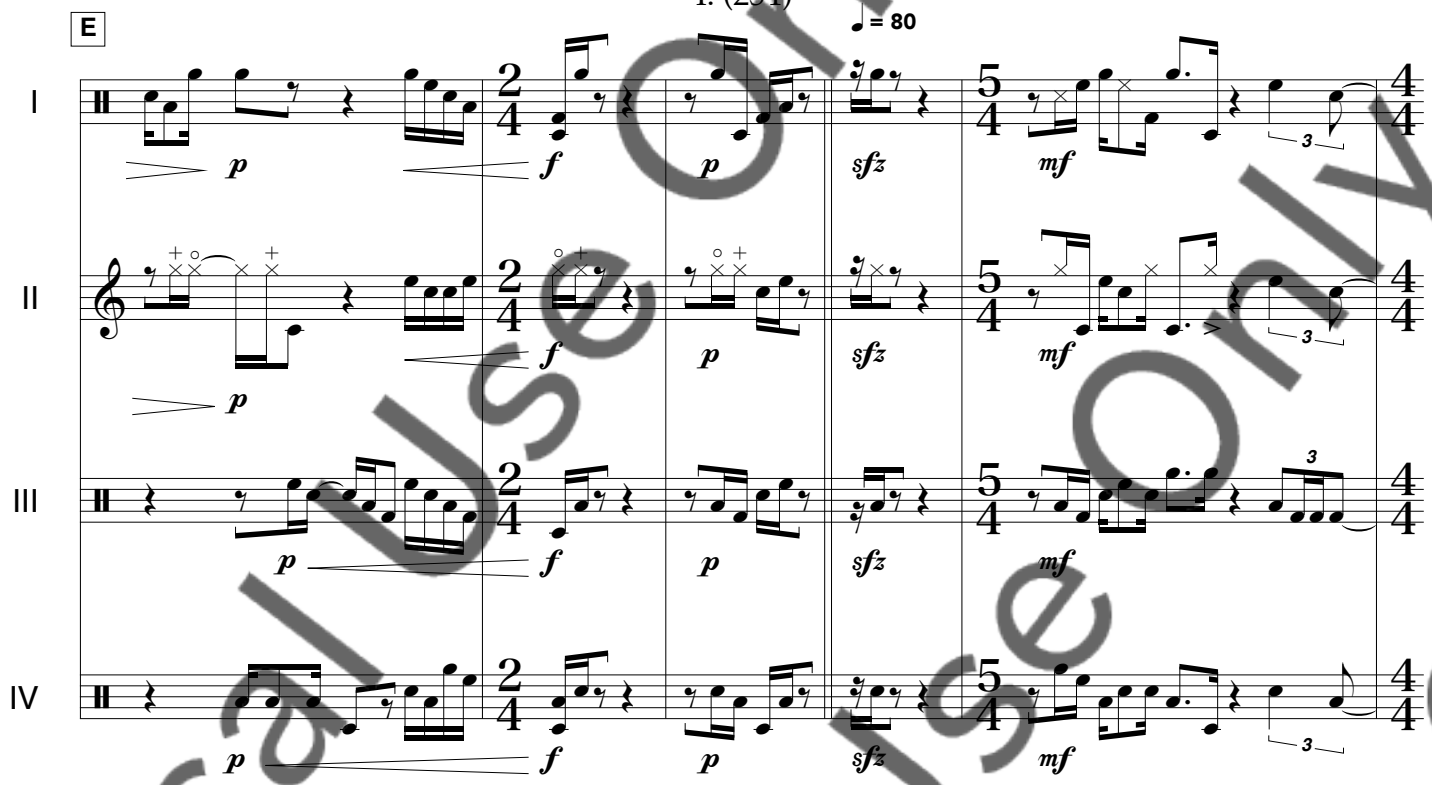

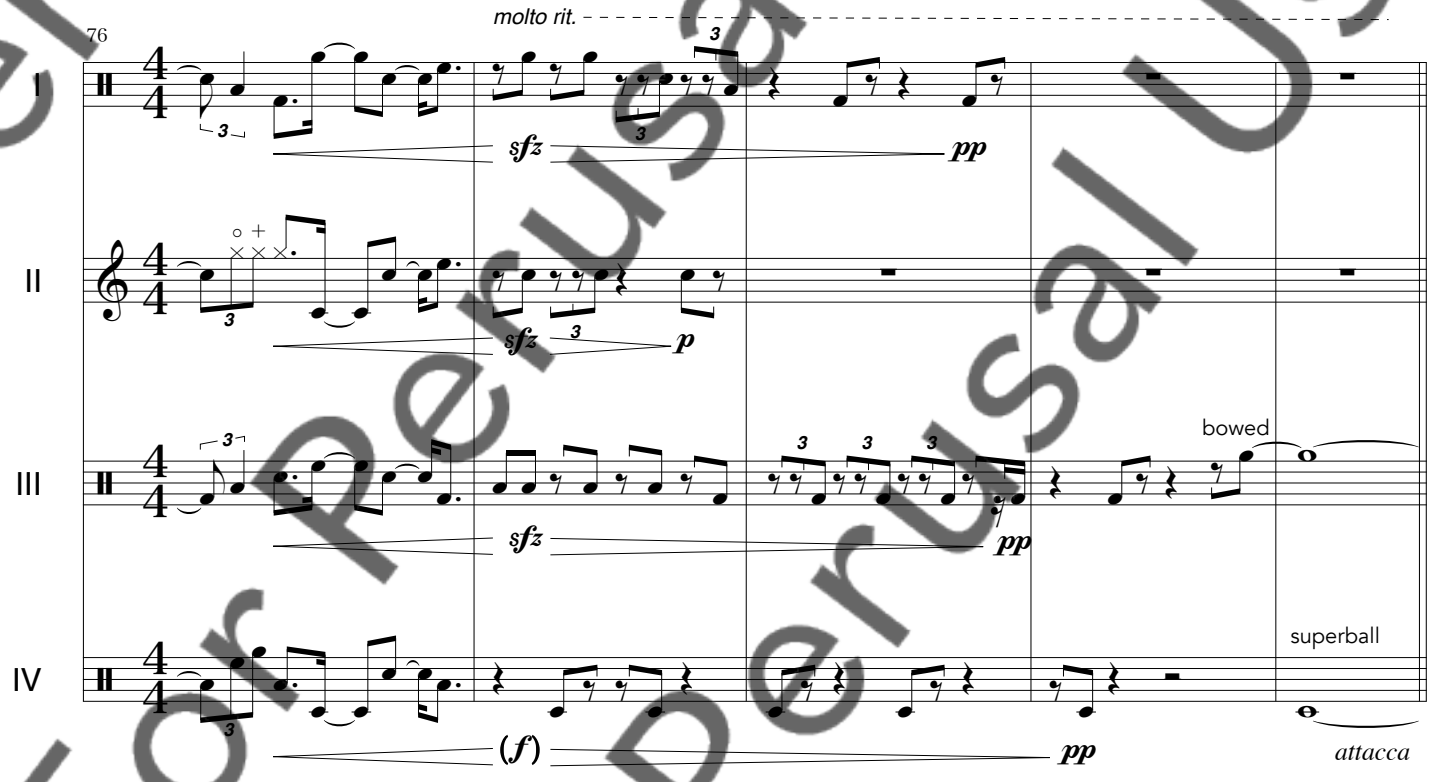

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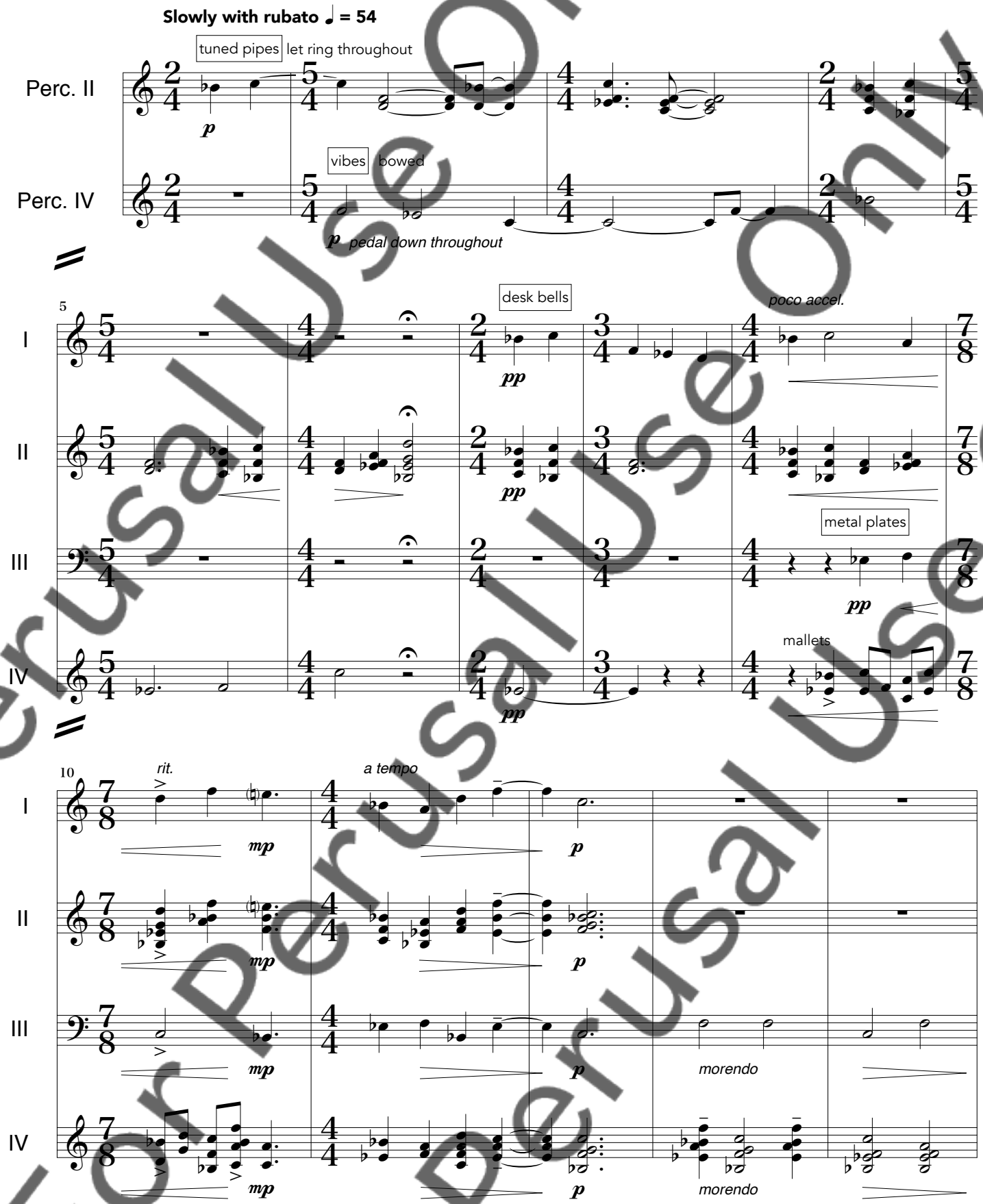
II. Still



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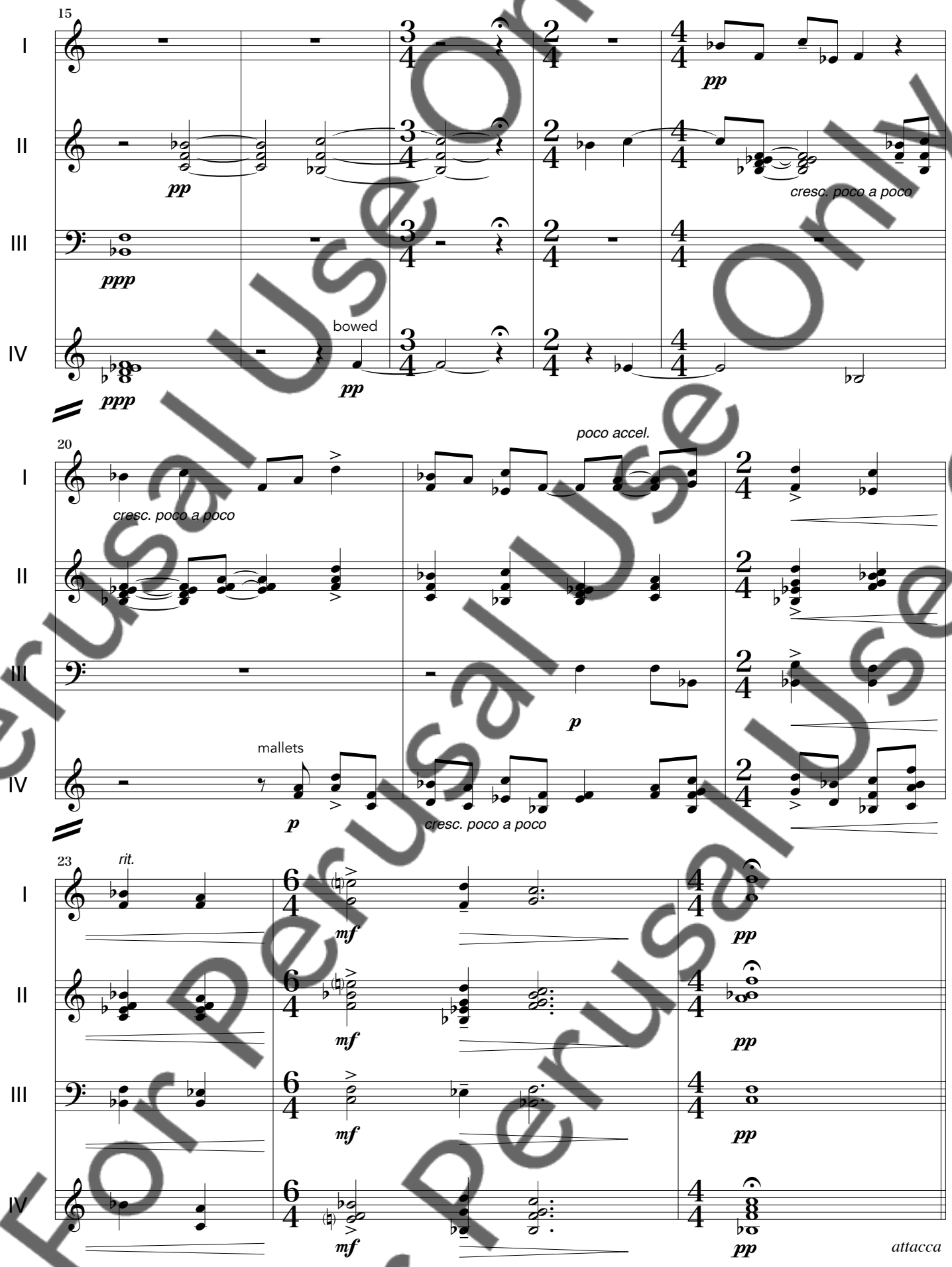

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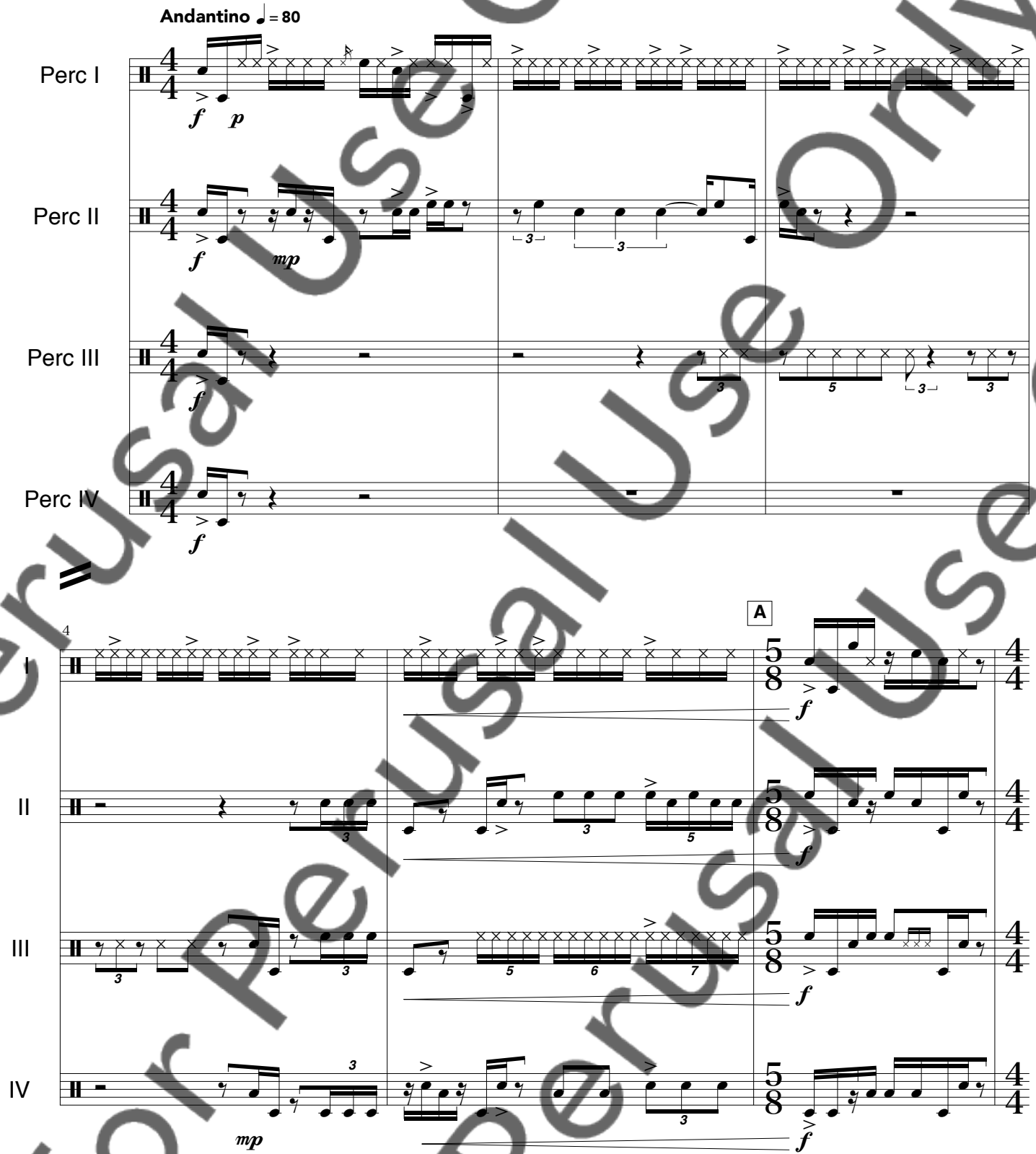
III. Burn



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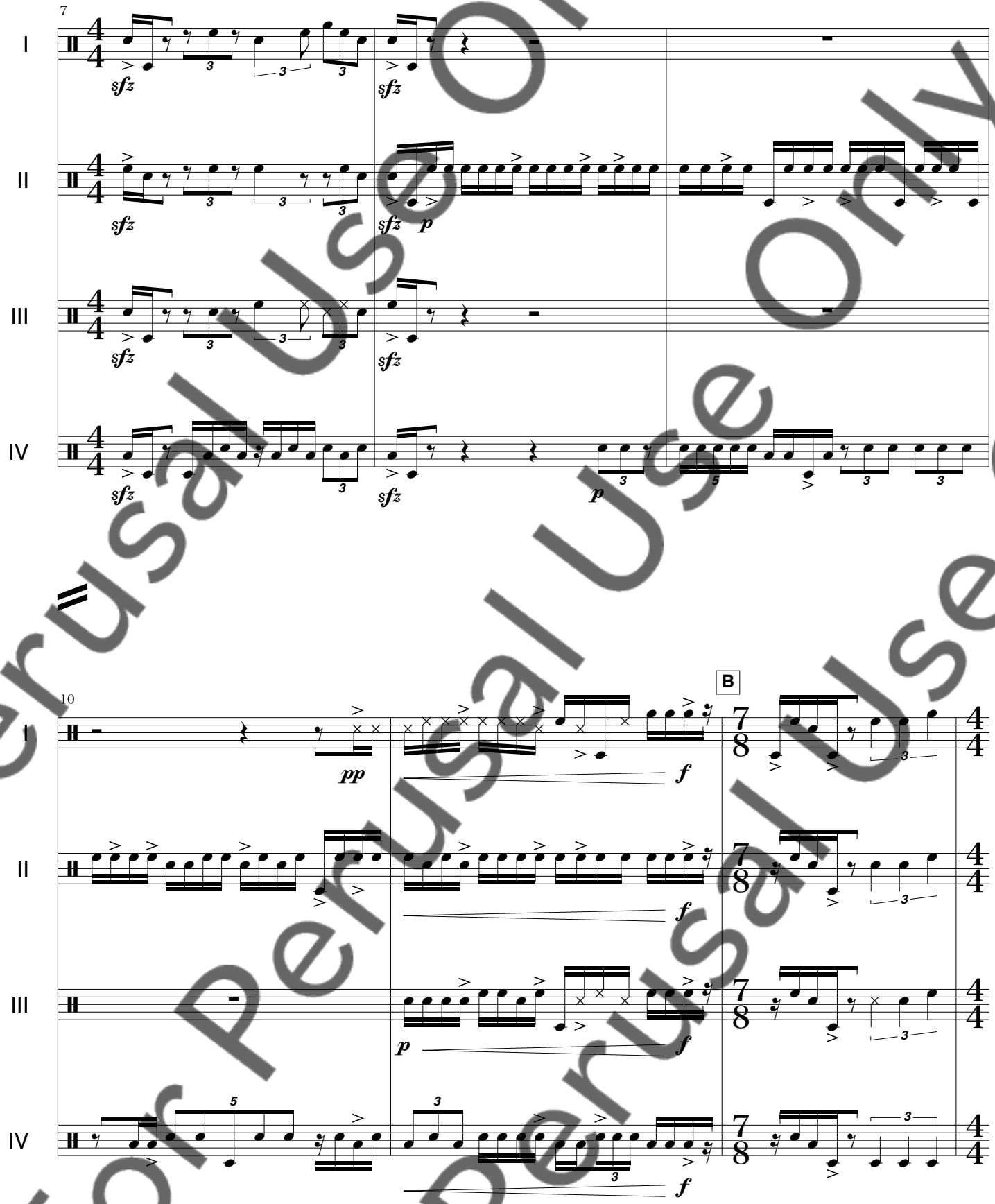

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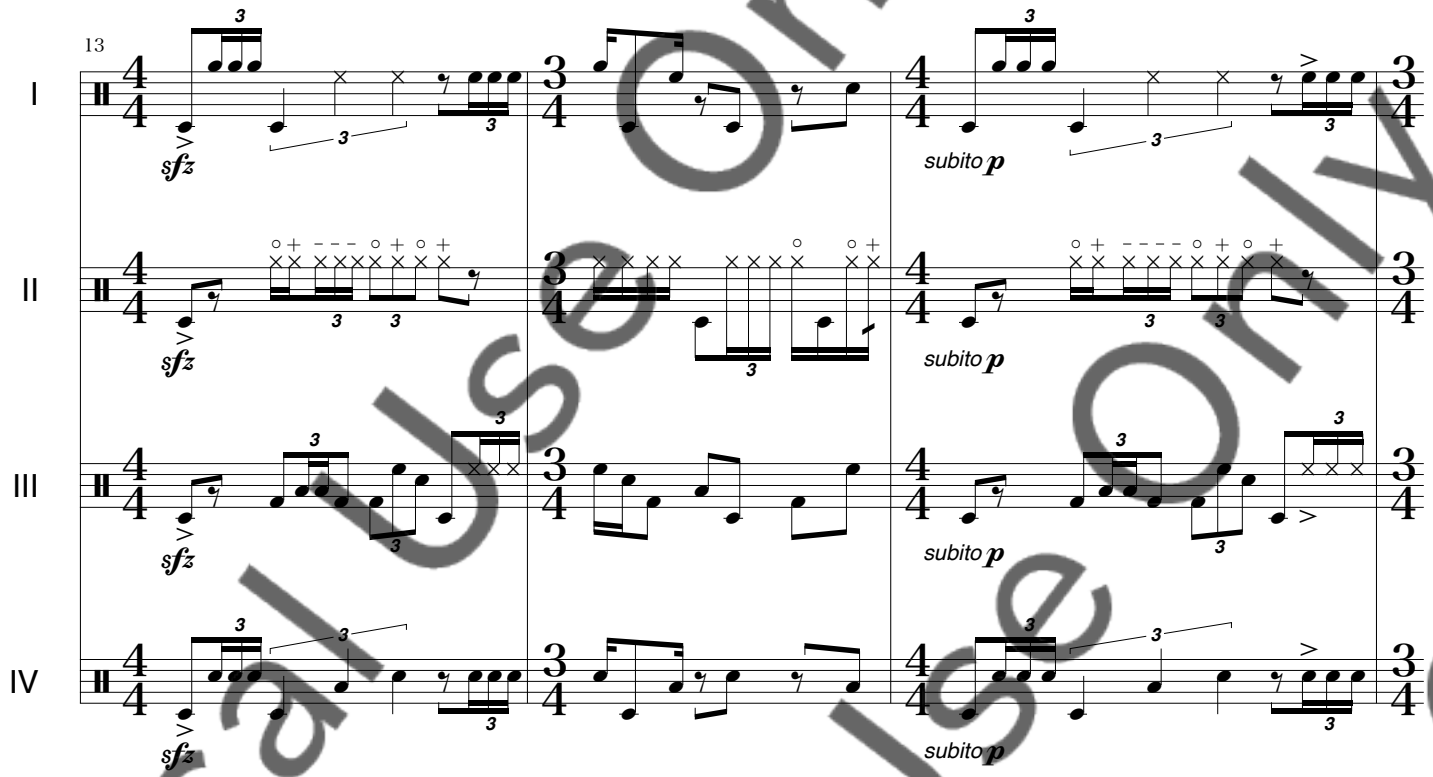

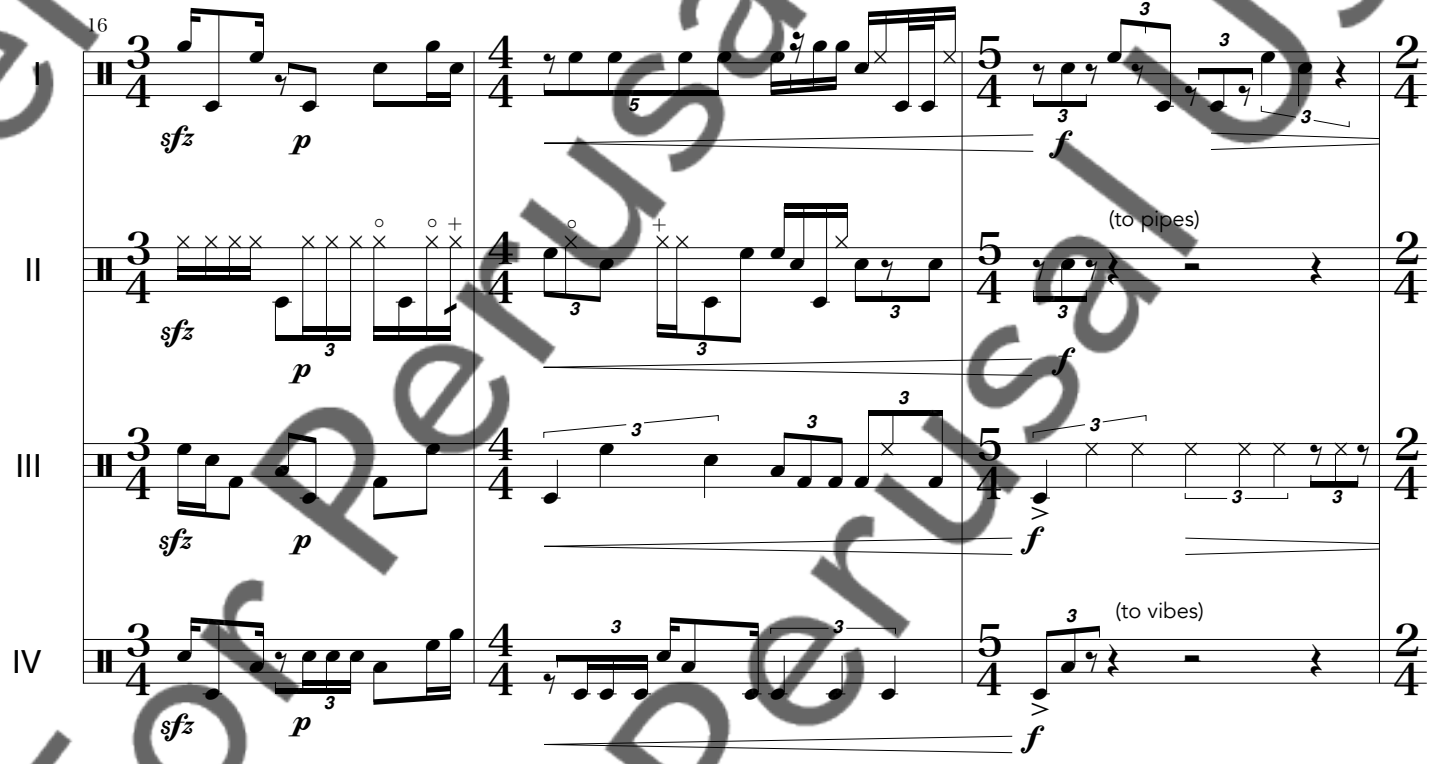

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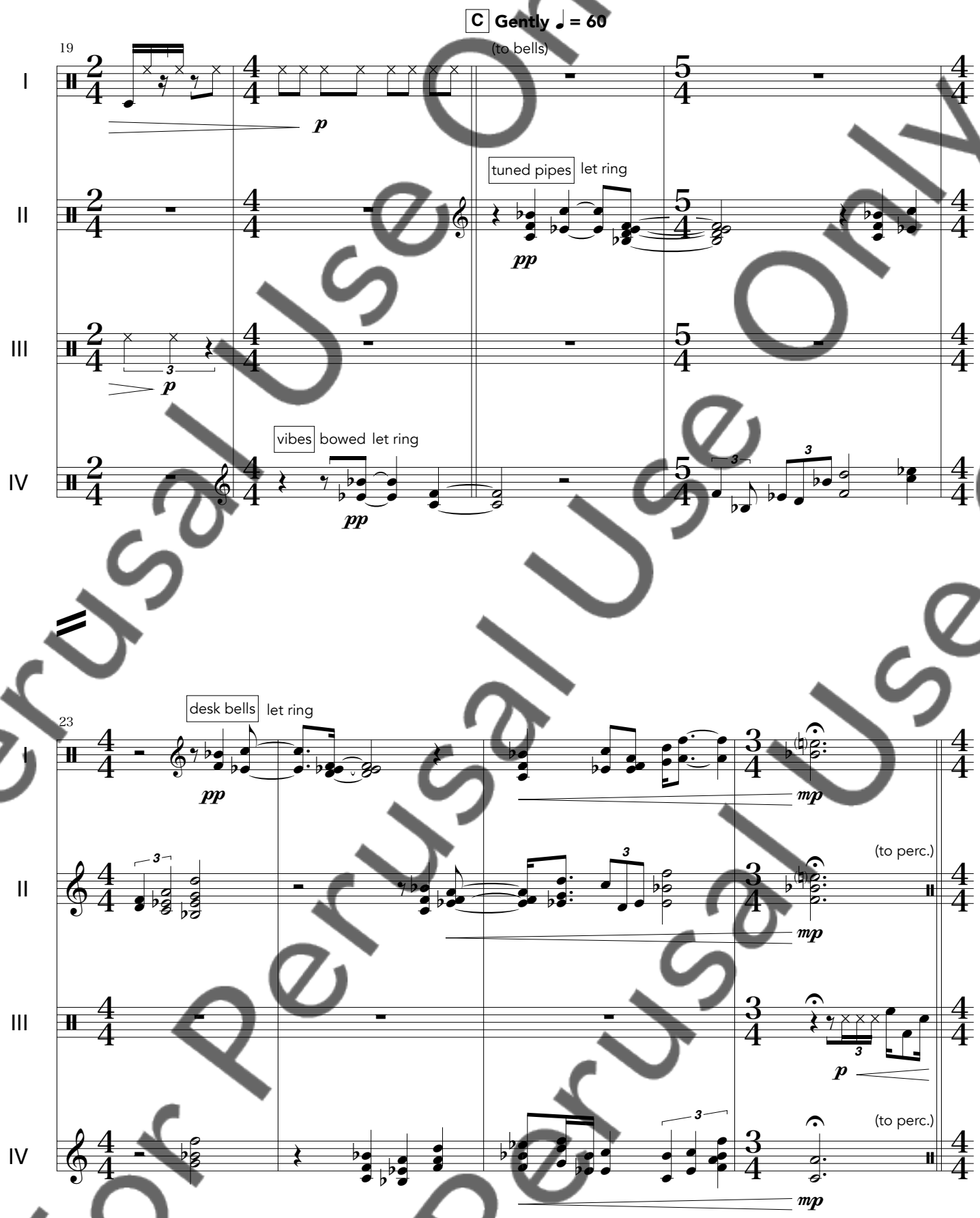

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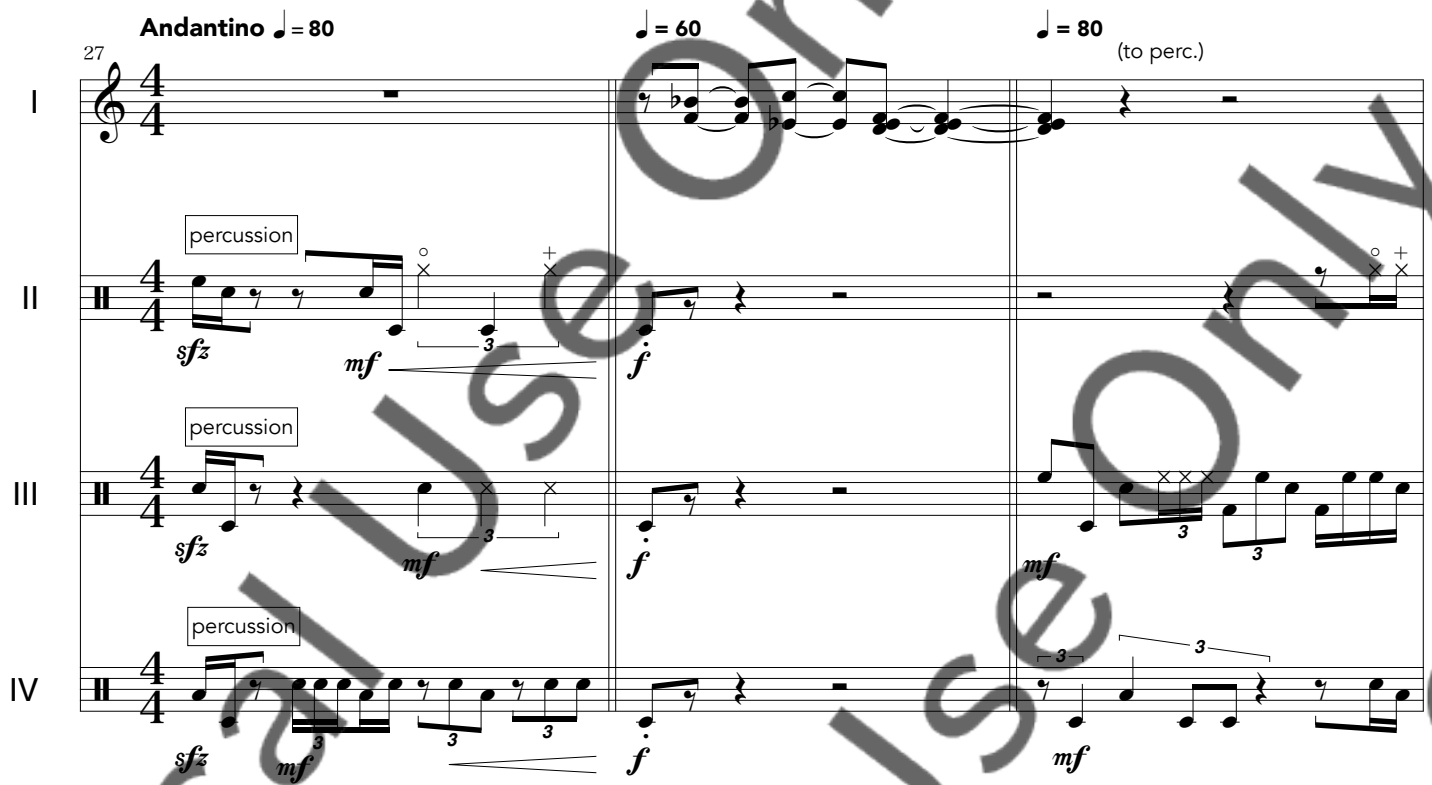

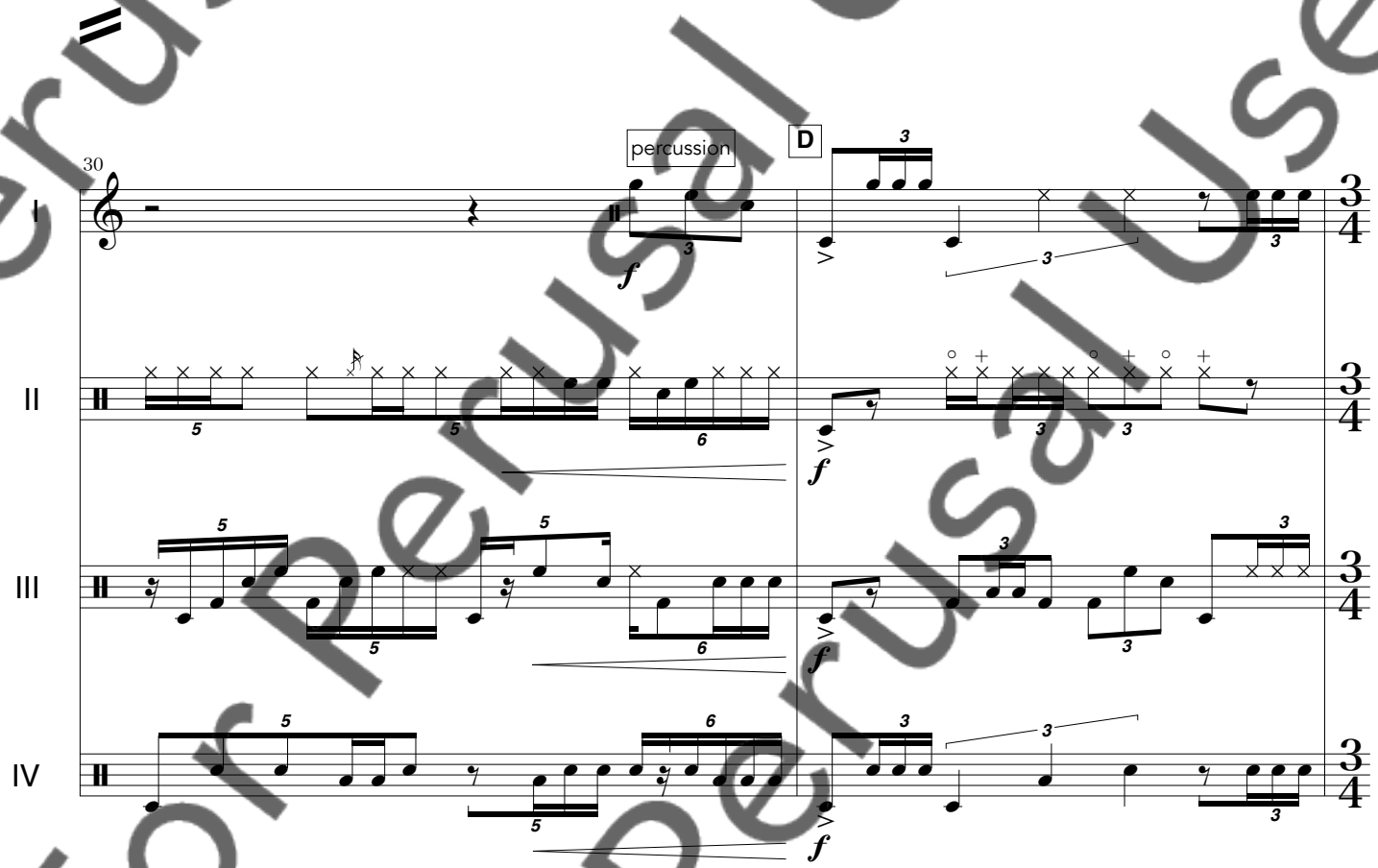

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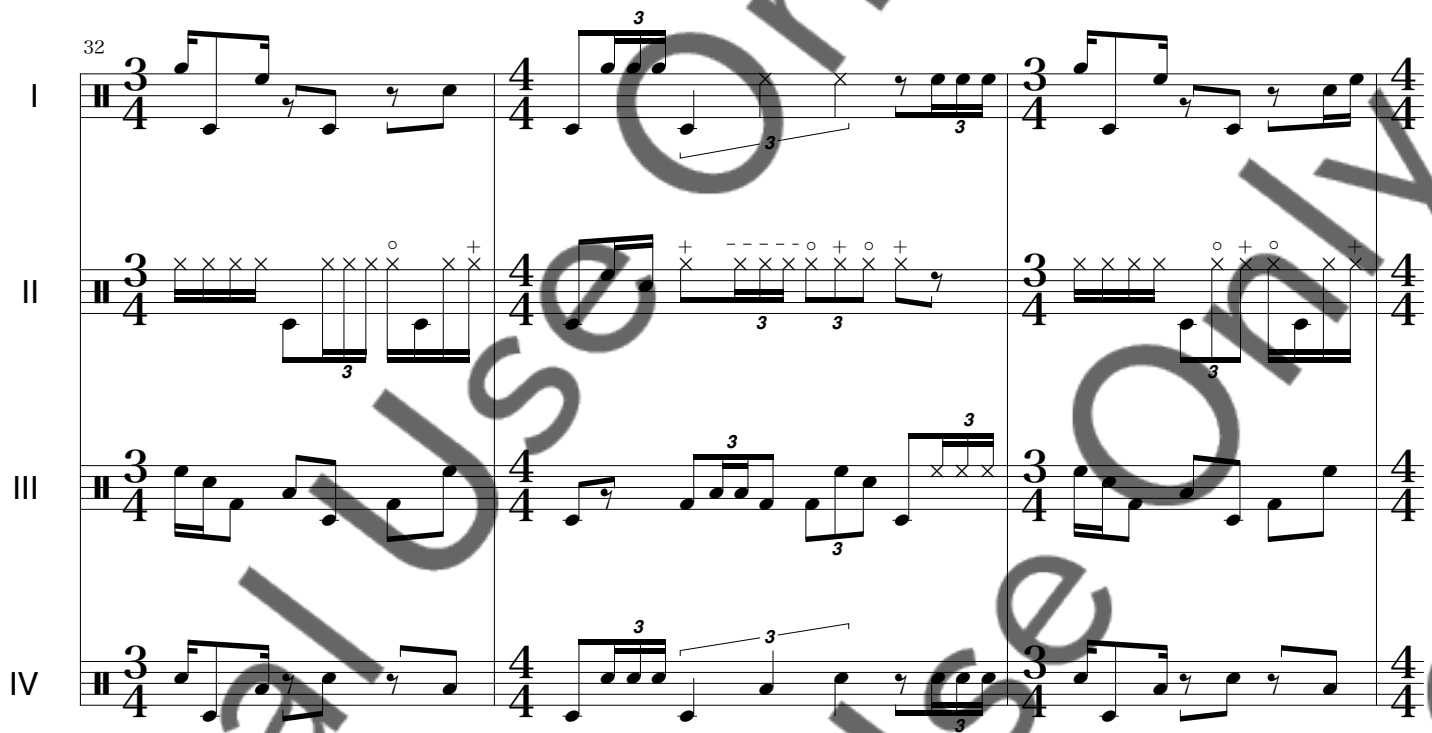

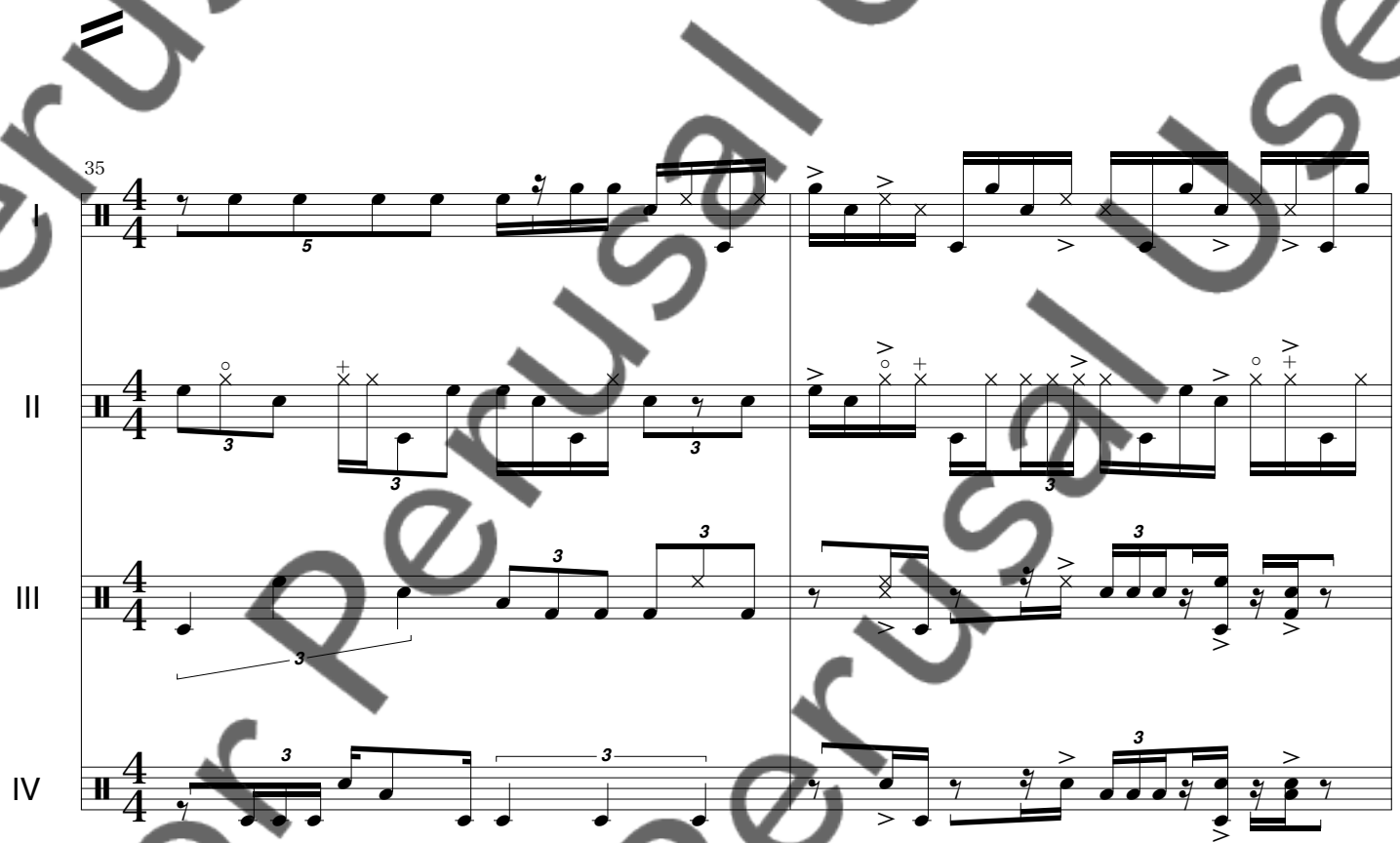

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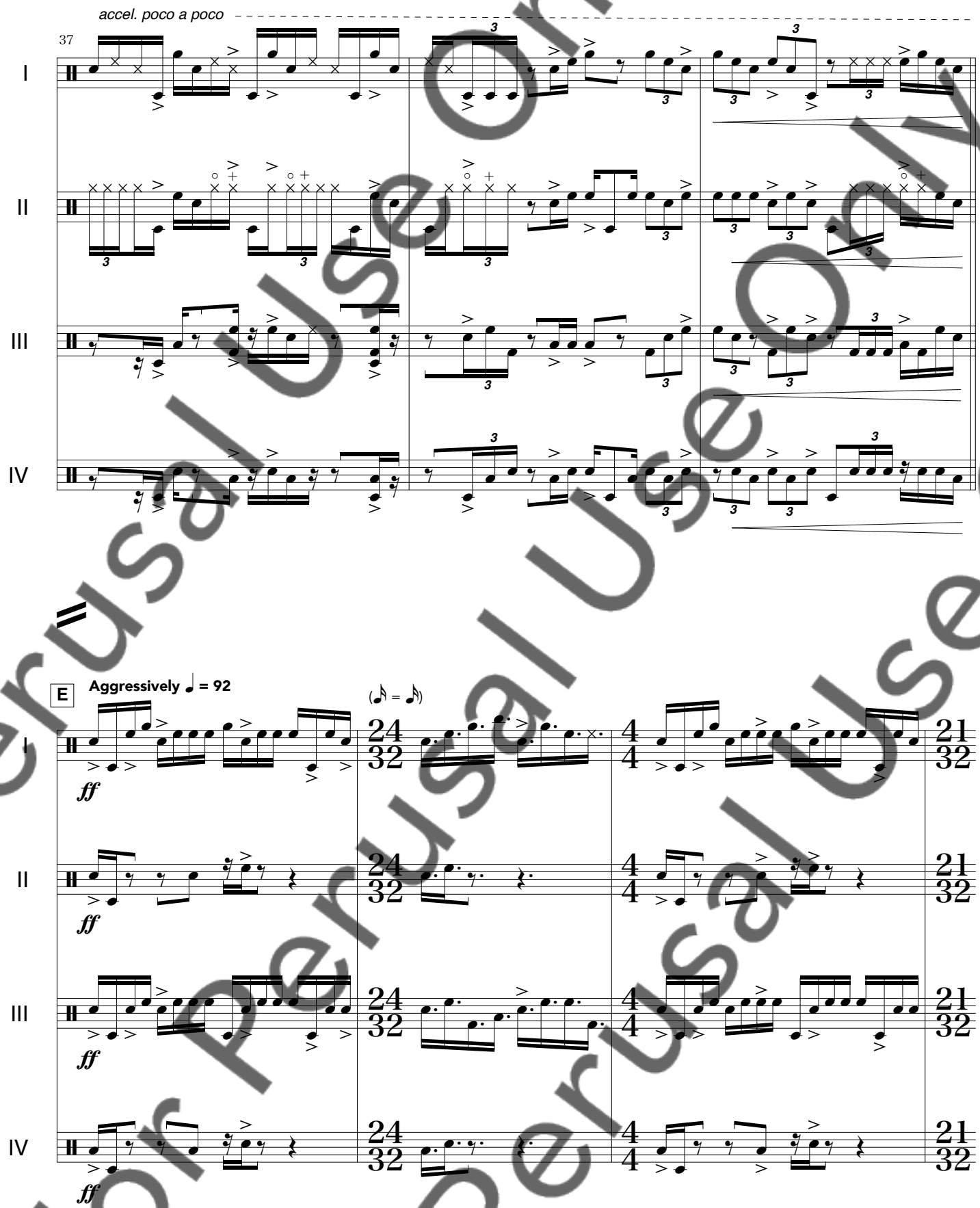

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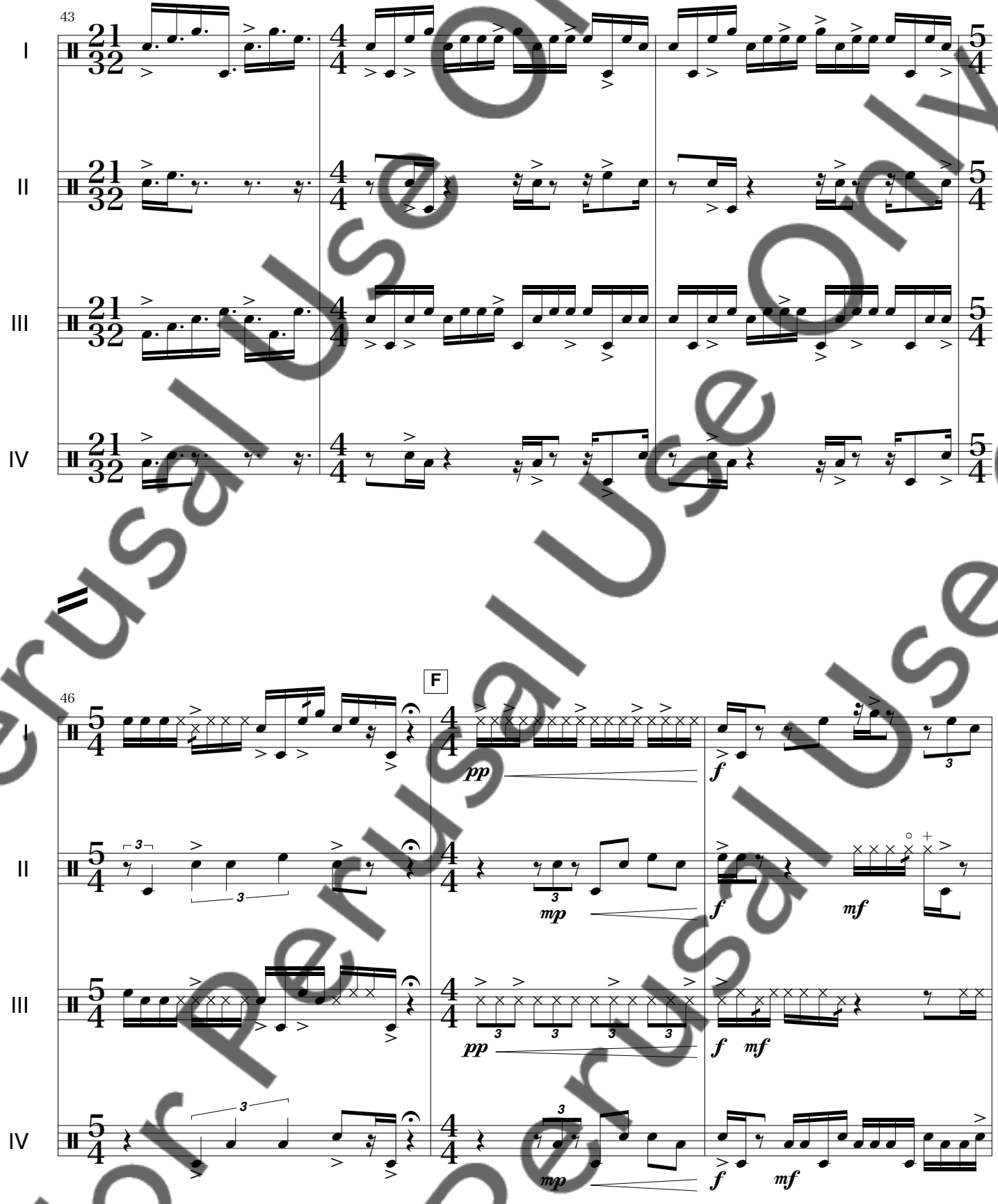

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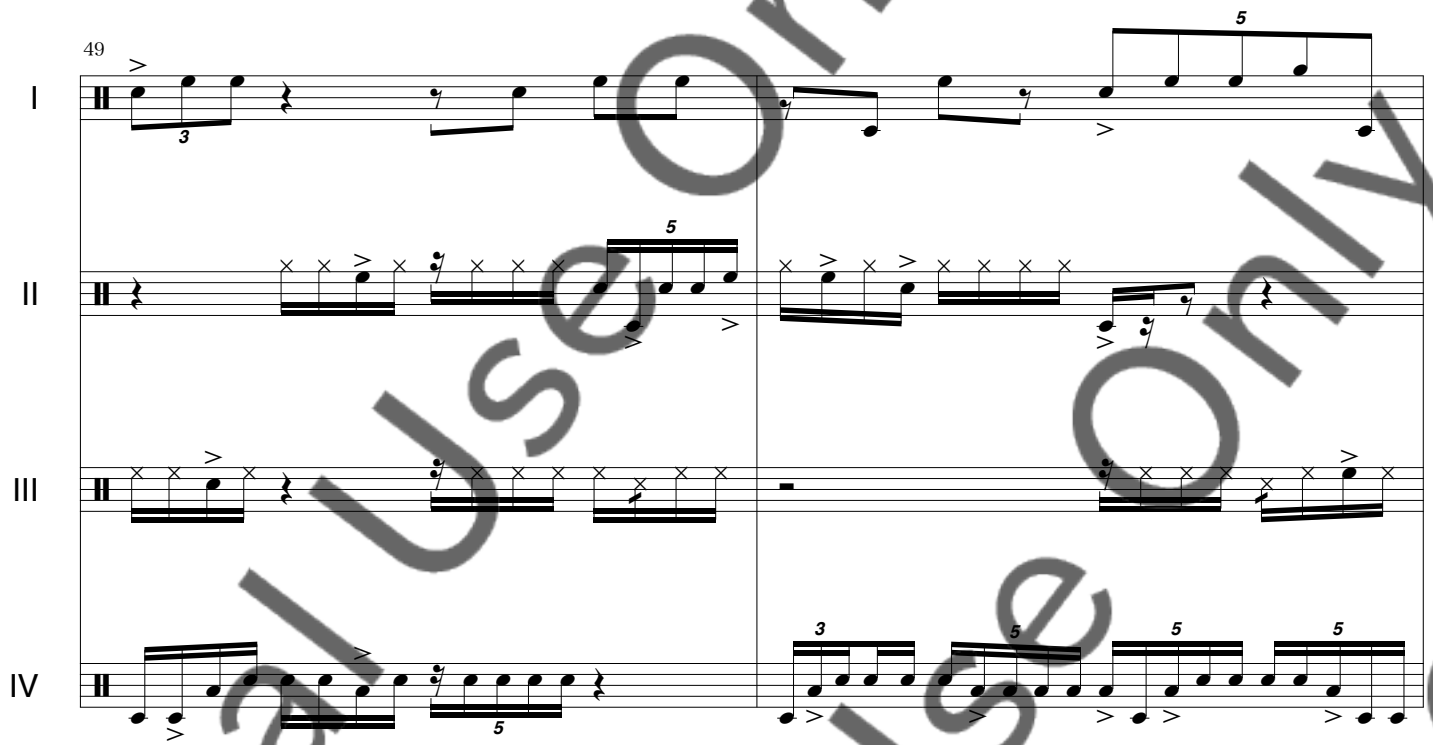

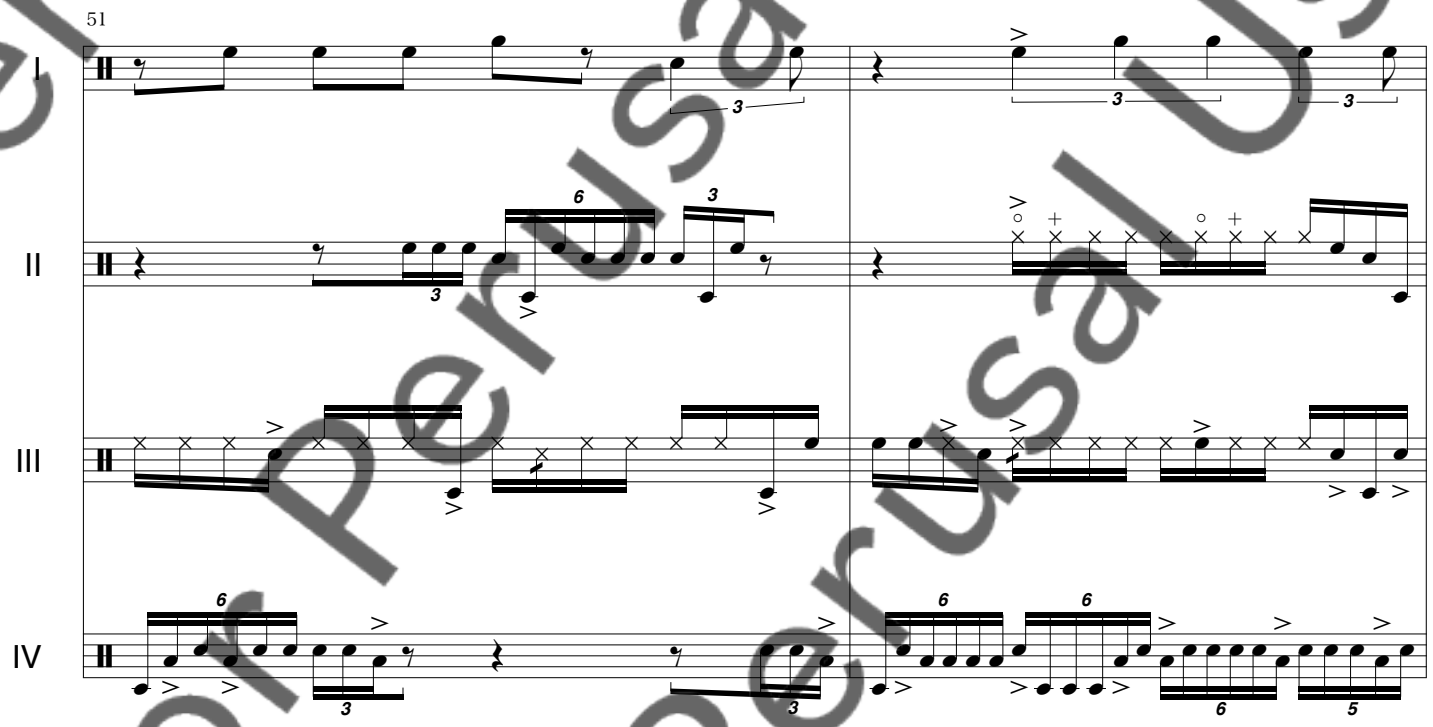

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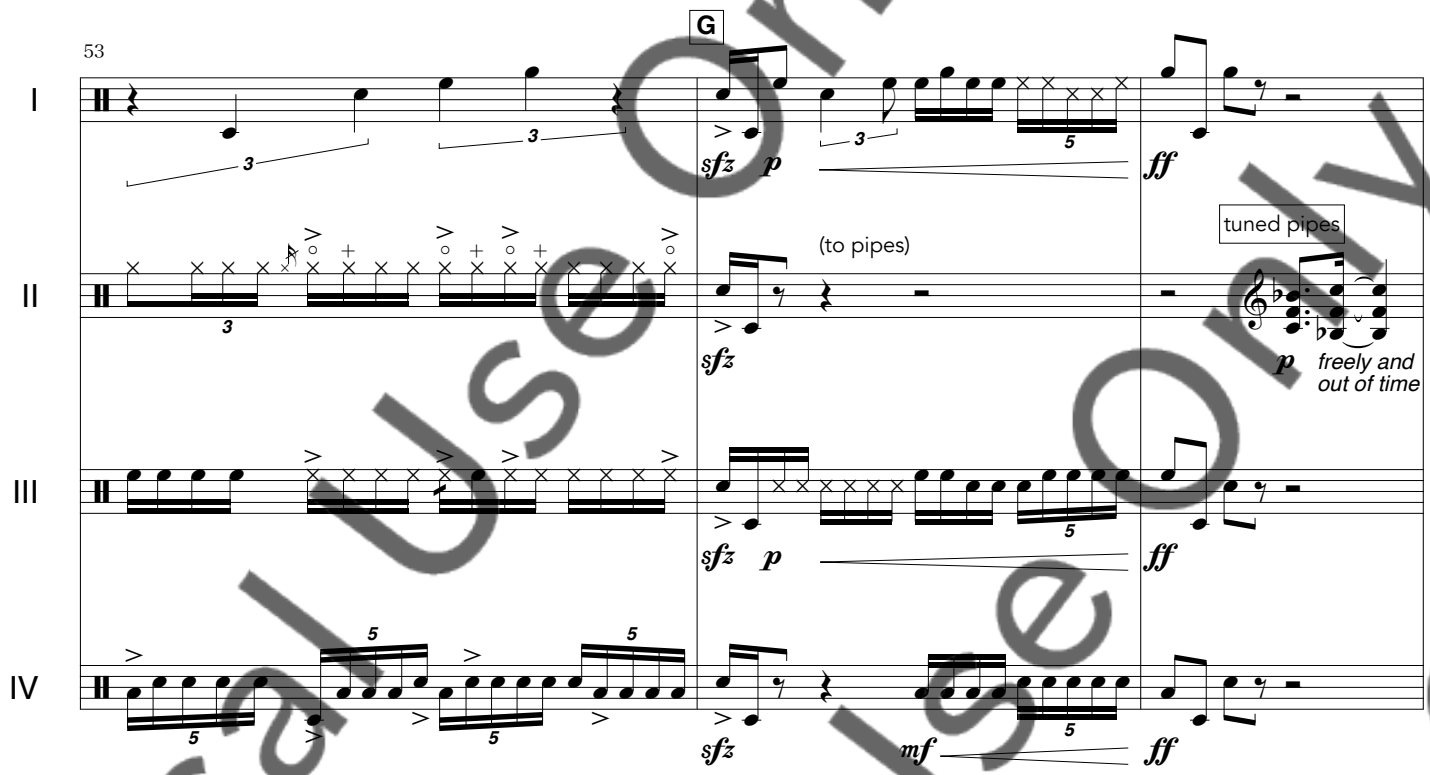

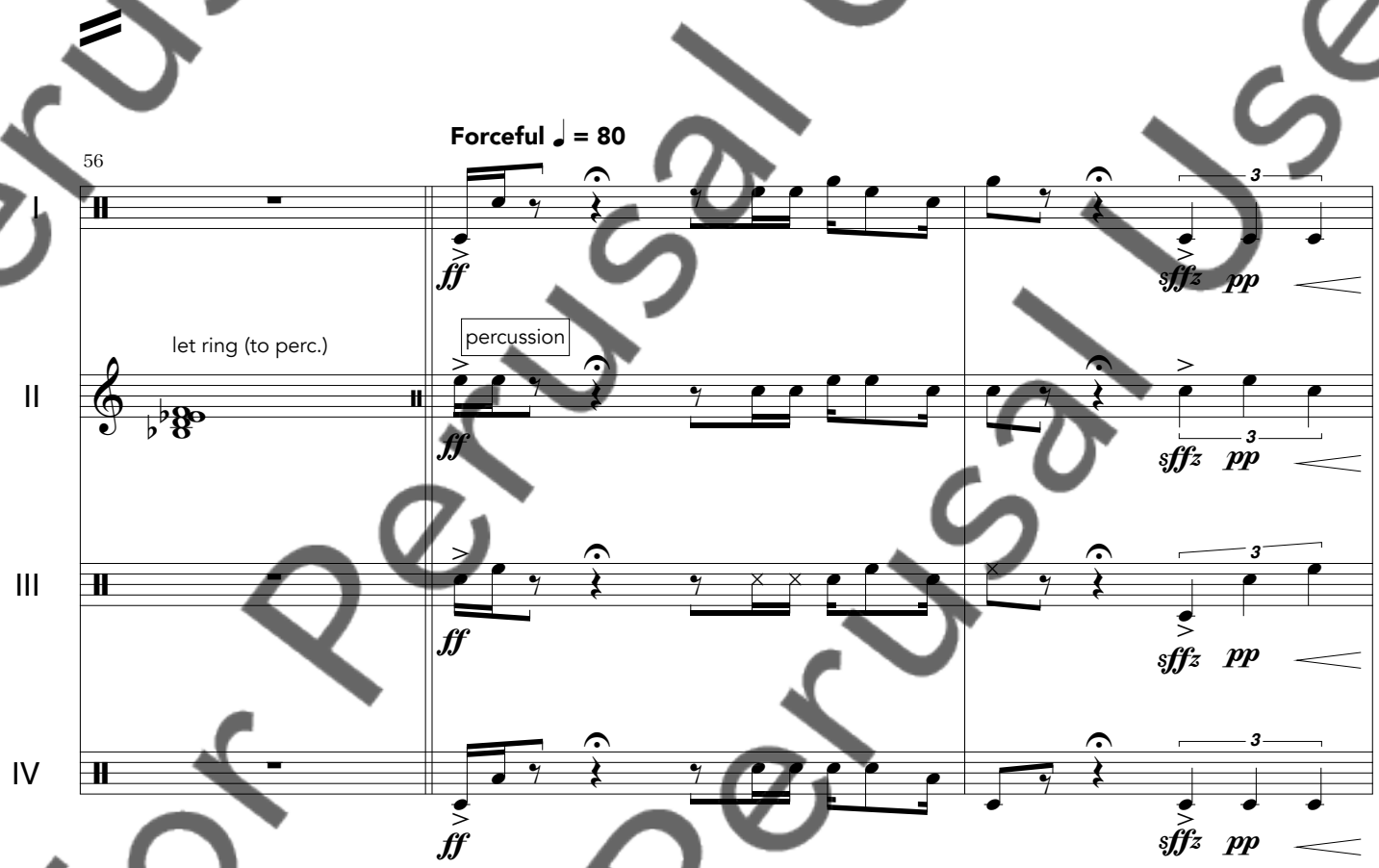

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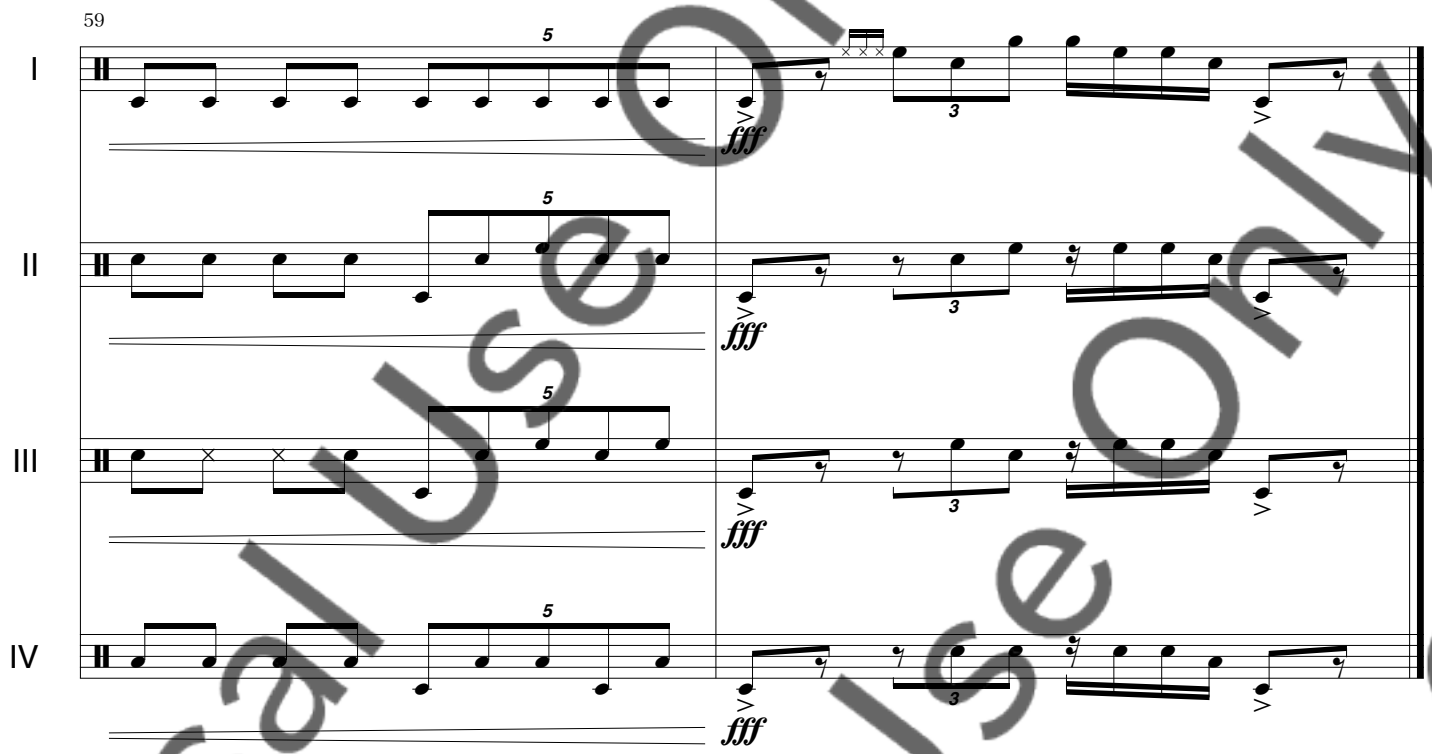

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