

Axius

Oboe & Electronics

LUKE CARLSON MUSIC

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(2011)

Duration: 8 minutes

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Program Notes

Axius, from the Greek for "black, or dark water," is a river mentioned in Homer's *Iliad*. The imagery of this ancient body of "dark water" seemed like a fitting description of the overall mood and flow of the piece's formal architecture. The oboe is the lyrical narrator and the electronics (both fixed and interactive) support its journey through the "dark waters."

The piece opens with material that is carefree and dance-like, interacting with live electronic manipulations. The mood gradually shifts to one of introspection and is further weighted by a low chorale, which sets the lyrical oboe in stark contrast. As the chorale fades away, the oboe returns to a state of deep introspection. This moment of repose is juxtaposed with an explosive outburst of synthesized gestures, as the oboe comments in sweeping melody. After an intense climax, the oboe returns to a state of inward reflection but is "washed" of electronic manipulation and resumes its poignant, lyric melancholy over the return of the rich, sonorous, and "dark" chorale.

Performance Notes

Axius is designed to be performed in conjunction with Max/MSP. A second performer is needed to advance the cues notated in the score by pressing the spacebar on the computer at each indicated cue number. Cues enclosed in circles trigger real-time effects within Max/MSP that interact with the oboist's live signal. Cues enclosed in squares trigger the playback of fixed sound files through the speakers.

The Max/MSP patch and accompanying sound files are provided free of charge upon request for performance purposes; please contact the composer at luke@lukecarlsonmusic.com.

The patch's audio output is stereo, though it may be augmented by additional speakers depending on the size of the performance space and audience.

Axius

for Oboe and Electronics

Luke Carlson
Summer – 2011

sets audio

① ②

Quick, Playfully ♩ = 144

Oboe



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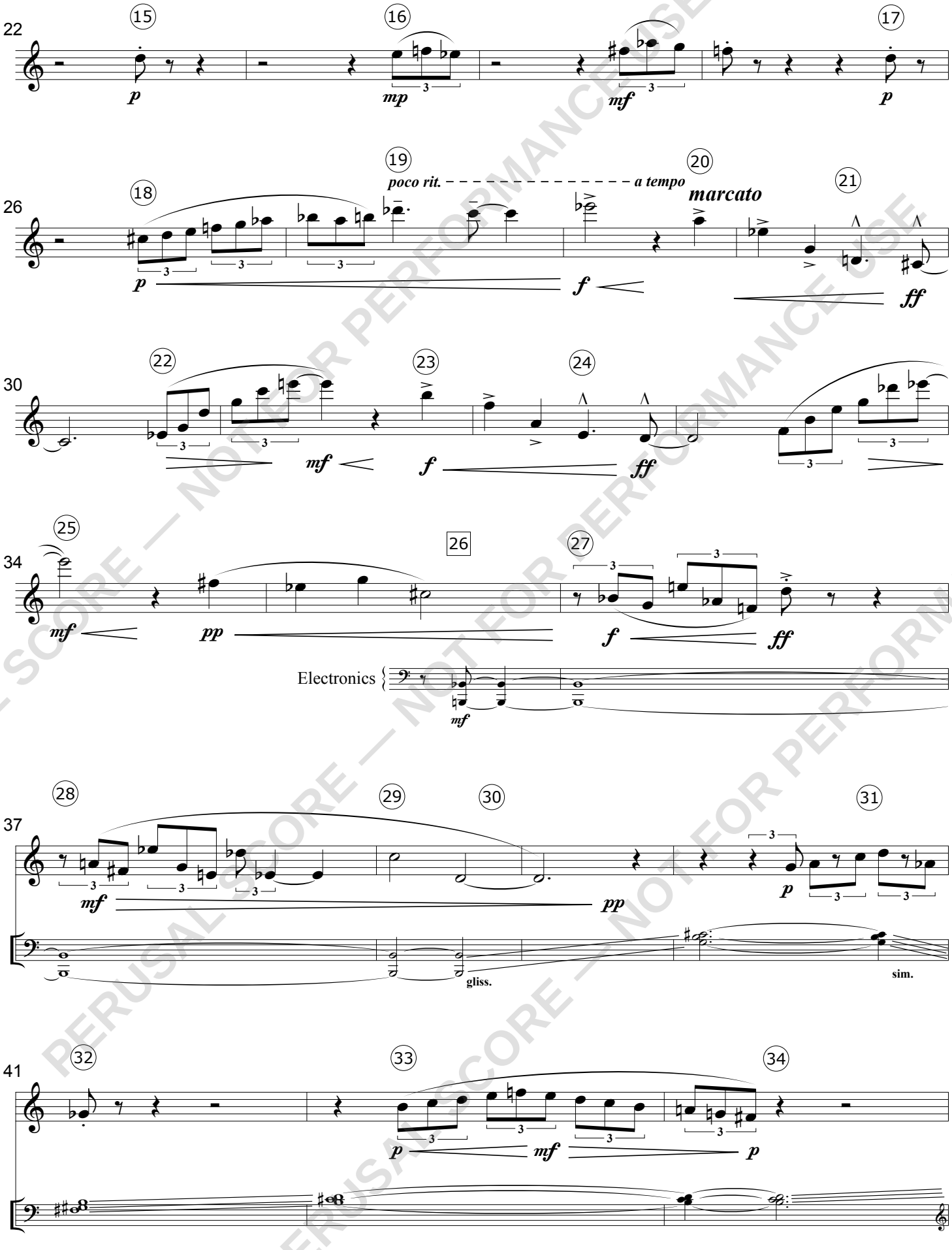

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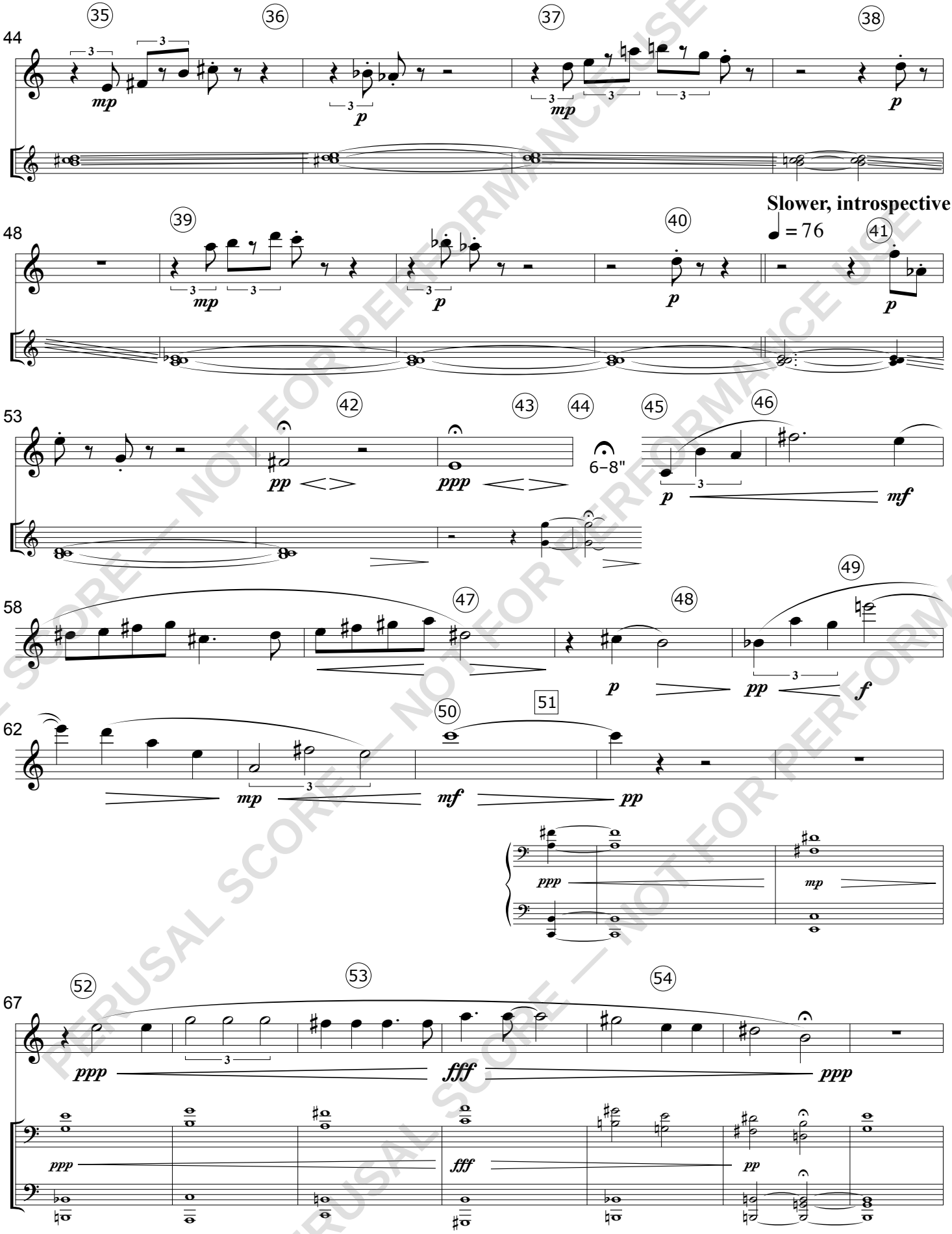

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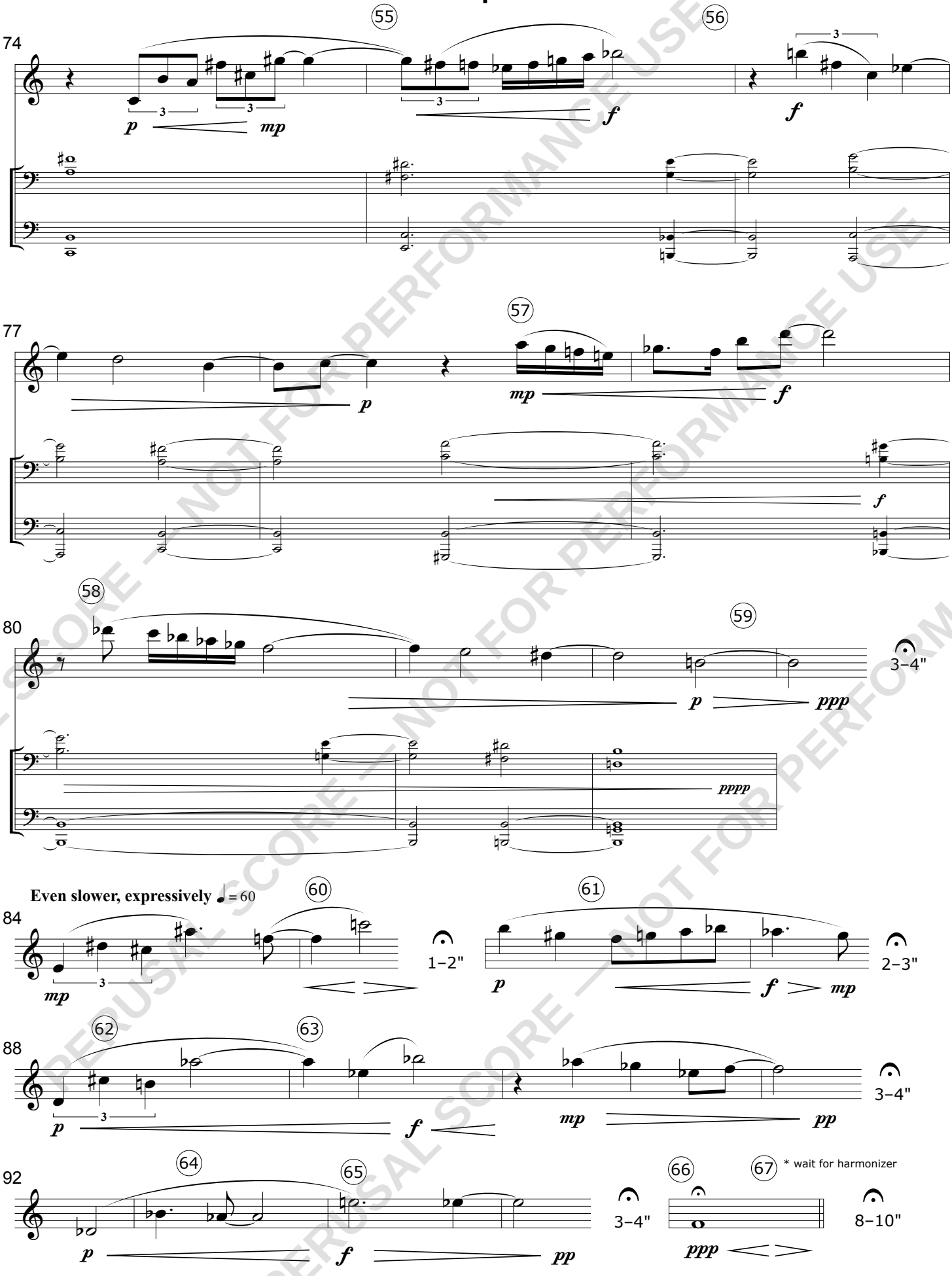

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