

The Tree

Trumpet & Organ

LUKE CARLSON MUSIC

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(2020)

Duration: 10 minutes

Written for Bob Smither and Bryan Anderson
Commissioned by Bryan Anderson

LUKE CARLSON MUSIC

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Program Notes

The imagery of an aged and gnarled tree writhing and reaching, bending and bowing, communicates something about long life lived, a life inevitably marked by tension and struggle. The sinewy “Cypresses” by Van Gogh captures much of this sentiment; the swirl of the branches in the wind ripples through the entire painting—the reverberation of growth and life in every brush stroke.

A straightforward musical representation of the painting is not the goal of this piece. The music is an interpretation of the sentiment behind struggled growth and the vibrant rhythms of life. Breath from the organ and brass pulsate with life in the music like Van Gogh’s vision of light and color vividly play on the strange but lifelike canvas. The image of a tree becomes the idea of a tree; life marked by pain, life burnished by joy, life seeking to flourish and live.

for Bob Smither and Bryan Anderson

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Trumpet and Organ

Luke Carlson

Organically ♩ = 66

Trumpet in C

Organ

II: 8' Flute Couverte, 8' Viole Celeste

Add gradually

III: 8' Dulciana

8' Still Gedeckt + III to Ped.

I: 8' Trumpet, 4' Octave

II: + reeds

-III to Ped., + II to Ped.

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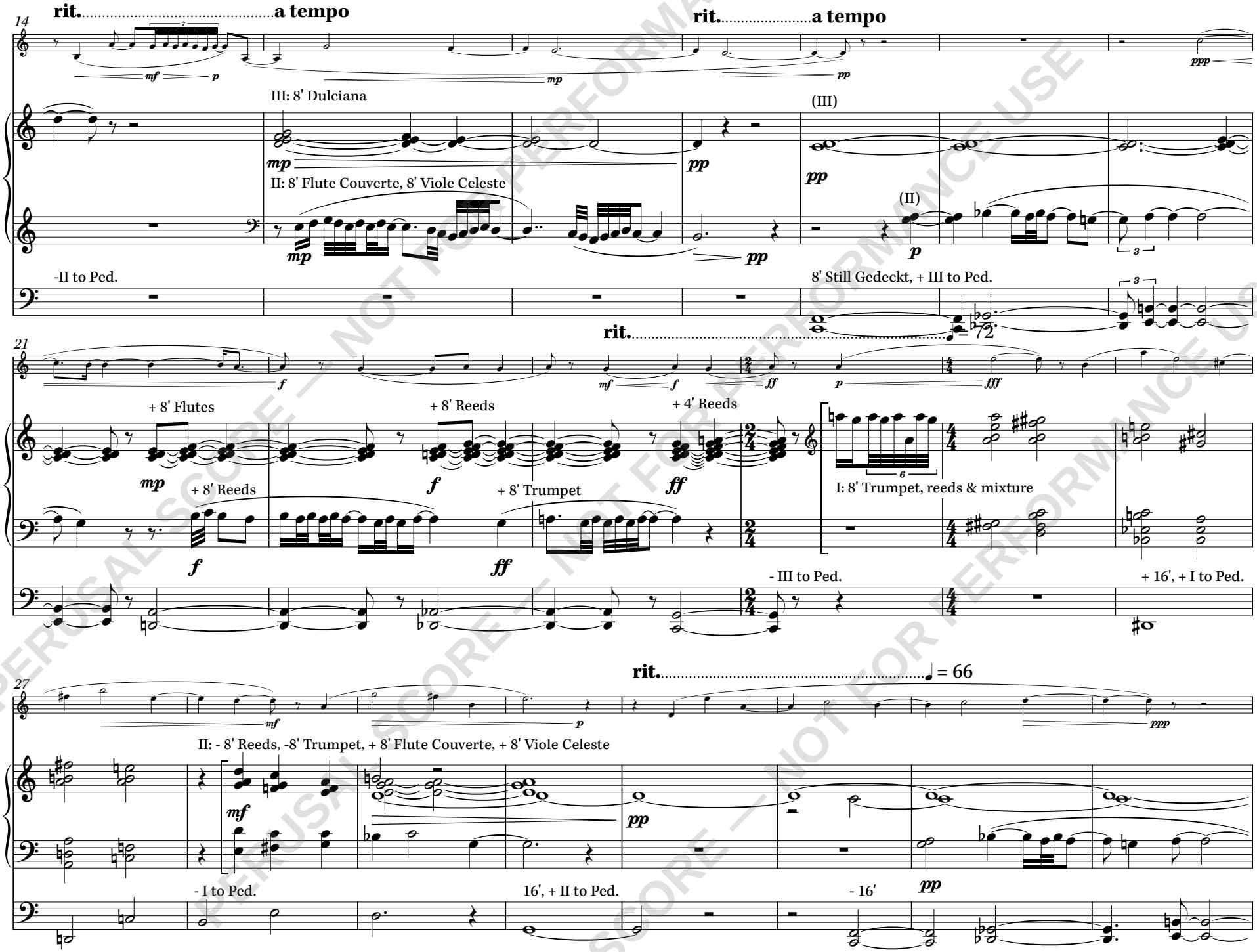

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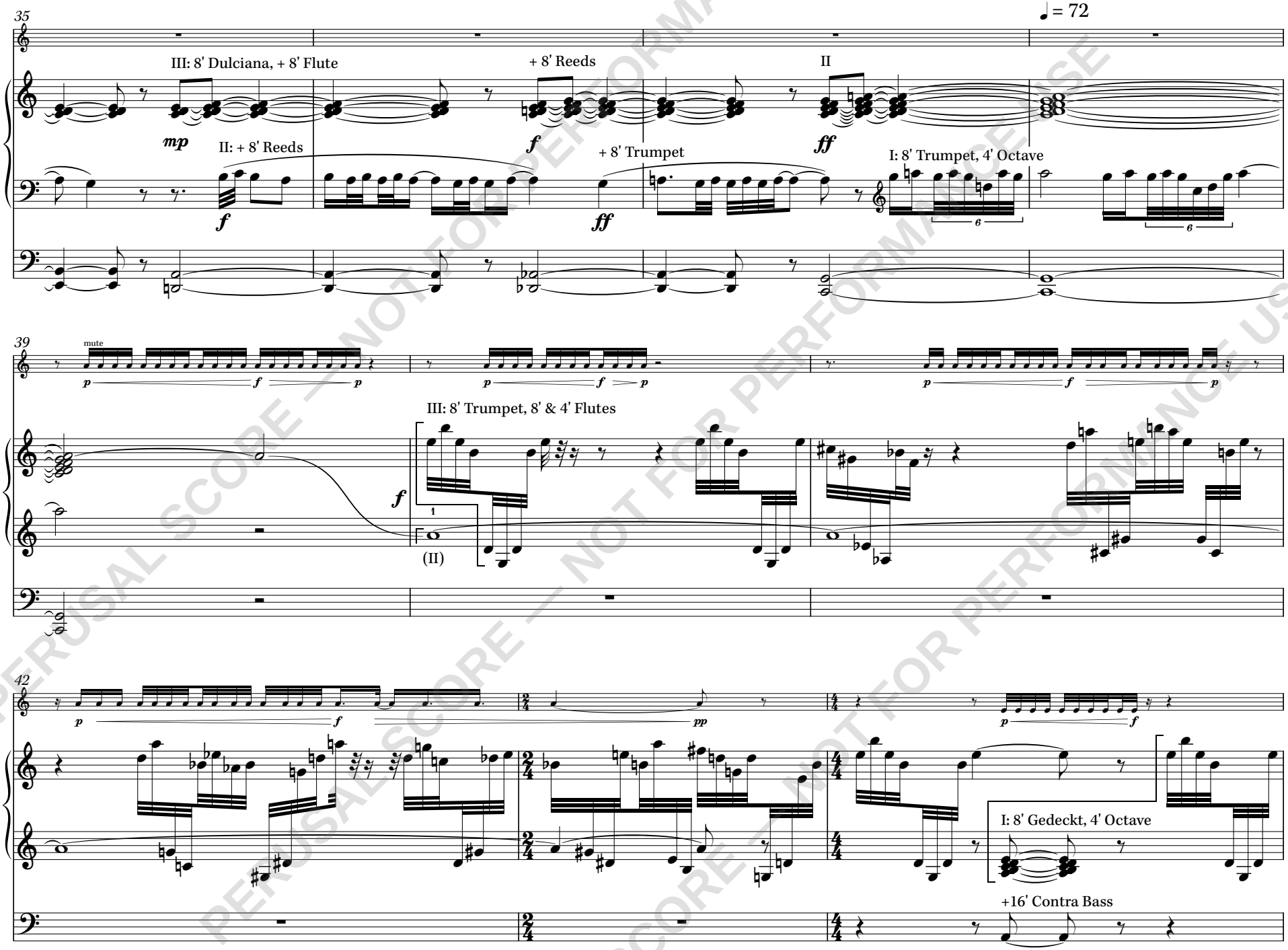

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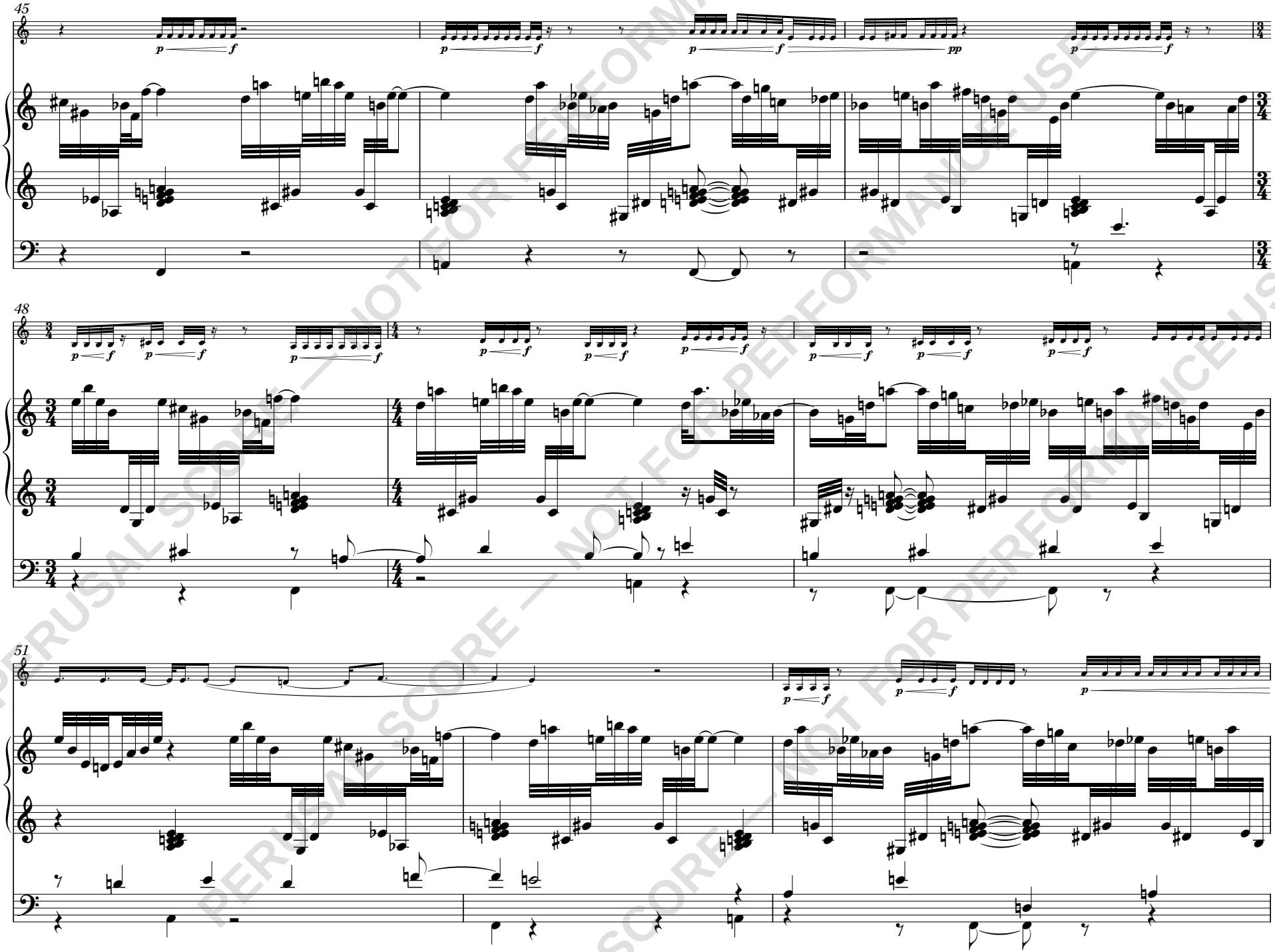

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