ACA

AMERICAN COMPOSERS EDITION

ELIZABETH R. AUSTIN

Sonata

for flute or soprano recorder

1991

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SONATA FOR FLUTE (OR SOPRANO RECORDER) (1991)

by

Elizabeth R. Austin

Duration: 14:45 ca

PROGRAM

The political upheavals during the time of the Gulf War (and sadly relevant over a decade later) may well have exerted a subconscious influence on this image of the first movement: A caged bird, beating its wings in desperation, sings all the while. In addition, one also hears a disjunct version of a nostalgic World War I *("Ich hat' einen Kameraden*") song about a fallen comrade; this juxtaposition against the futile attempts at 'winged flight' provides, in essence, the duality of the sonata principle.

The variation treatment of the Gregorian chant, *"Alma redemptoris mater"* in the second movement deals with the cross-pollination of the arpeggiated major triad of the chant theme with freer lines. The fulcrum of this central movement yields to the concluding, persevering tonal phrase. The third movement is inspired by the Chinese proverb, "Keep a green bough in your heart and a singing bird shall come". A final catharsis is left open, however, as the flutist sings/plays a phrase, hopefully questioning……"redemptoris"……, before the music breaks off.

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PERFORMANCE NOTES
for
Sonata for Flute (1991) Duration: 14:45
by
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1. c.v. : con vibrato
   s.v. : senza vibrato

2. Dynamic markings can be freely interpreted by performer.

3 Wind vibrato to be used unless otherwise noted.

4. The duration of rests is indicated by following graphics:
   - : short pause
   - : slightly longer pause
   - : fermata of medium duration
   - : long fermata

5. First Movement: 3 different tempi: p. 2 ff. (a musical collage)
   1 . very free, serene in tempo, with expressive pauses (sehr frei, im ruhigen Tempo, mit aussagestarken Pausen)
   2 . tempo primo: as in the initial theme, p. 1 (bezugnehmend auf das Anfangsthema)
   3 . quote from “Ich hat’ einen Kameraden”, smooth, metric, melodic (metrisch, gleichmässiges ruhiges Tempo)

6. Musical gestures such as the ‘weeping descending third’ unify the movements; performer is to play these figurations in a similar manner throughout the piece.

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Sonata for Flute (or Soprano Recorder)

I. A caged bird
(ein eingesperrter Vogel)

Elizabeth R. Austin

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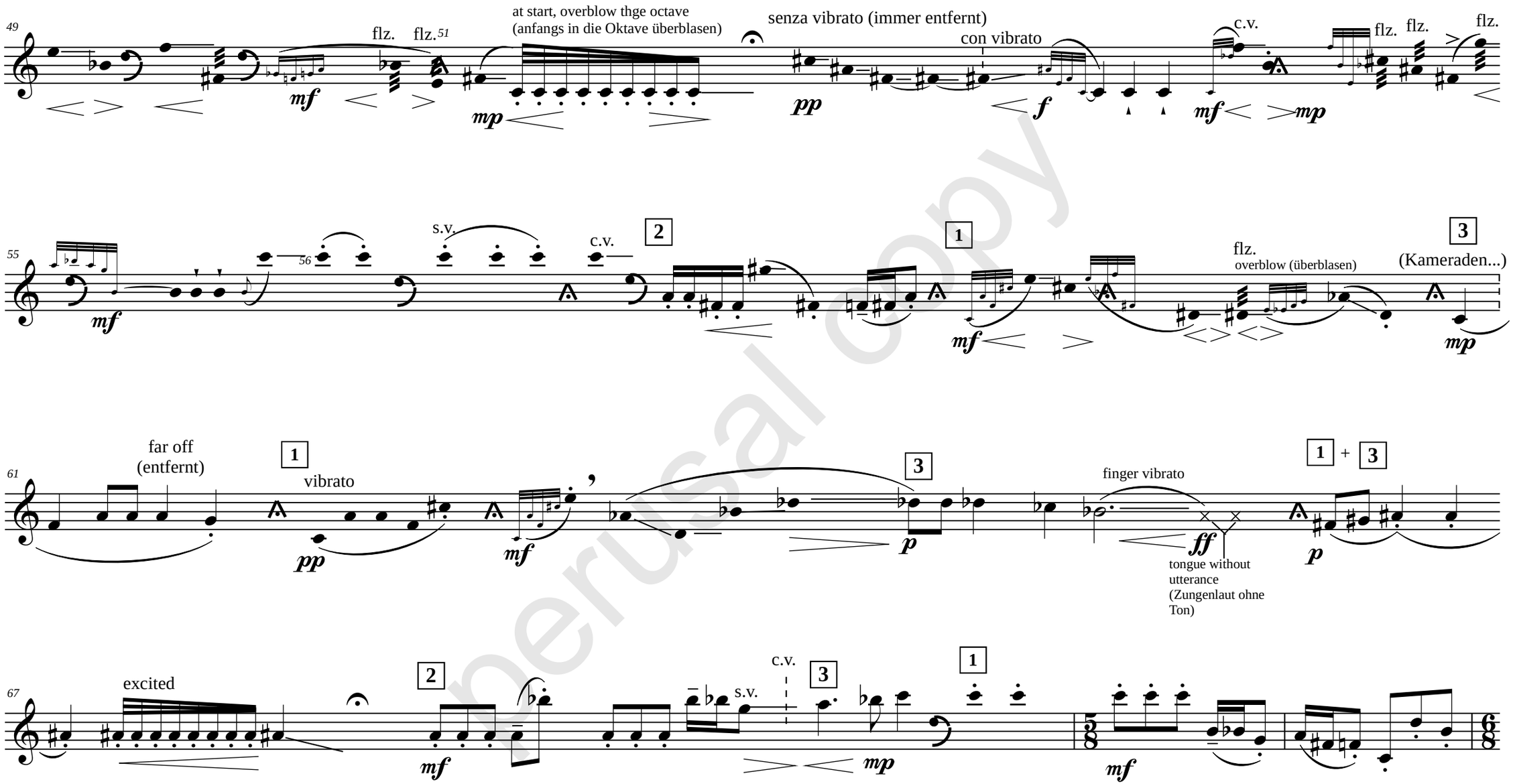

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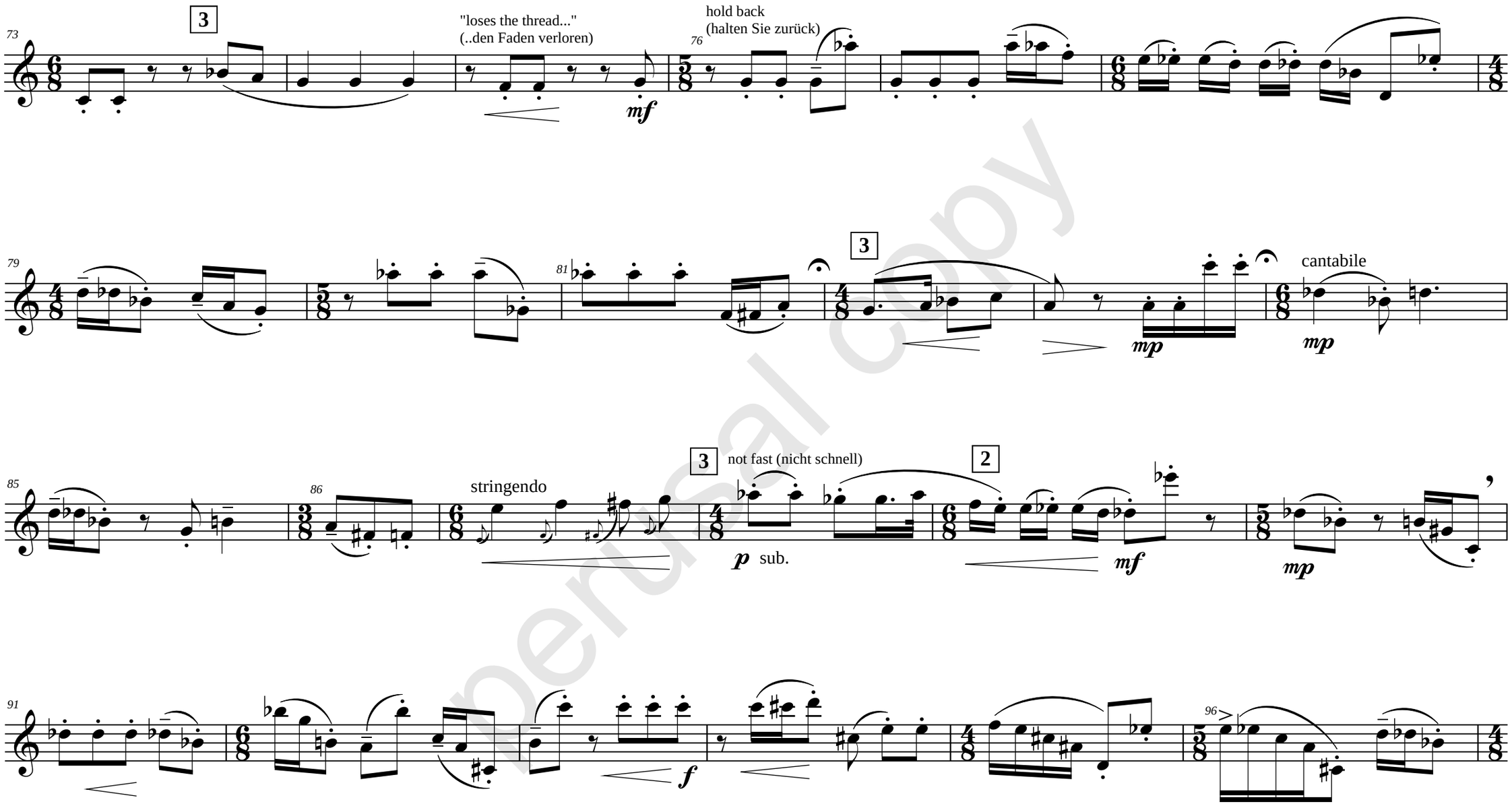

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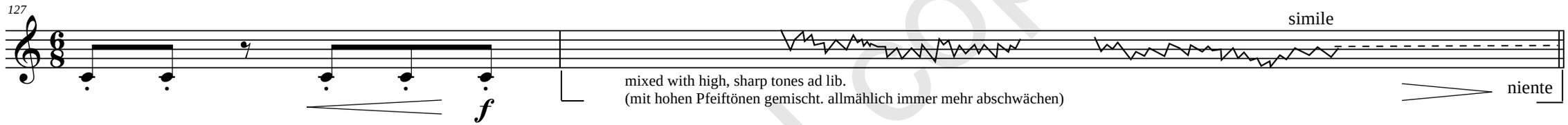
10-12" ca: (ad lib)



End Notes: *3 different tempi, p. 2 (a musical collage)

1 very free, serene in tempo, with expressive pauses
(sehr frei, im ruhigen Tempo, mit aussagestarken Pausen)

2 tempo primo: as in initial theme, p. 1
(bezugnehmend auf das Anfangsthema)

3 Quote from "Ich hat' einen Kameraden":
smooth and metric, melodic
(metrisch, gleichmässiges ruhiges Tempo)

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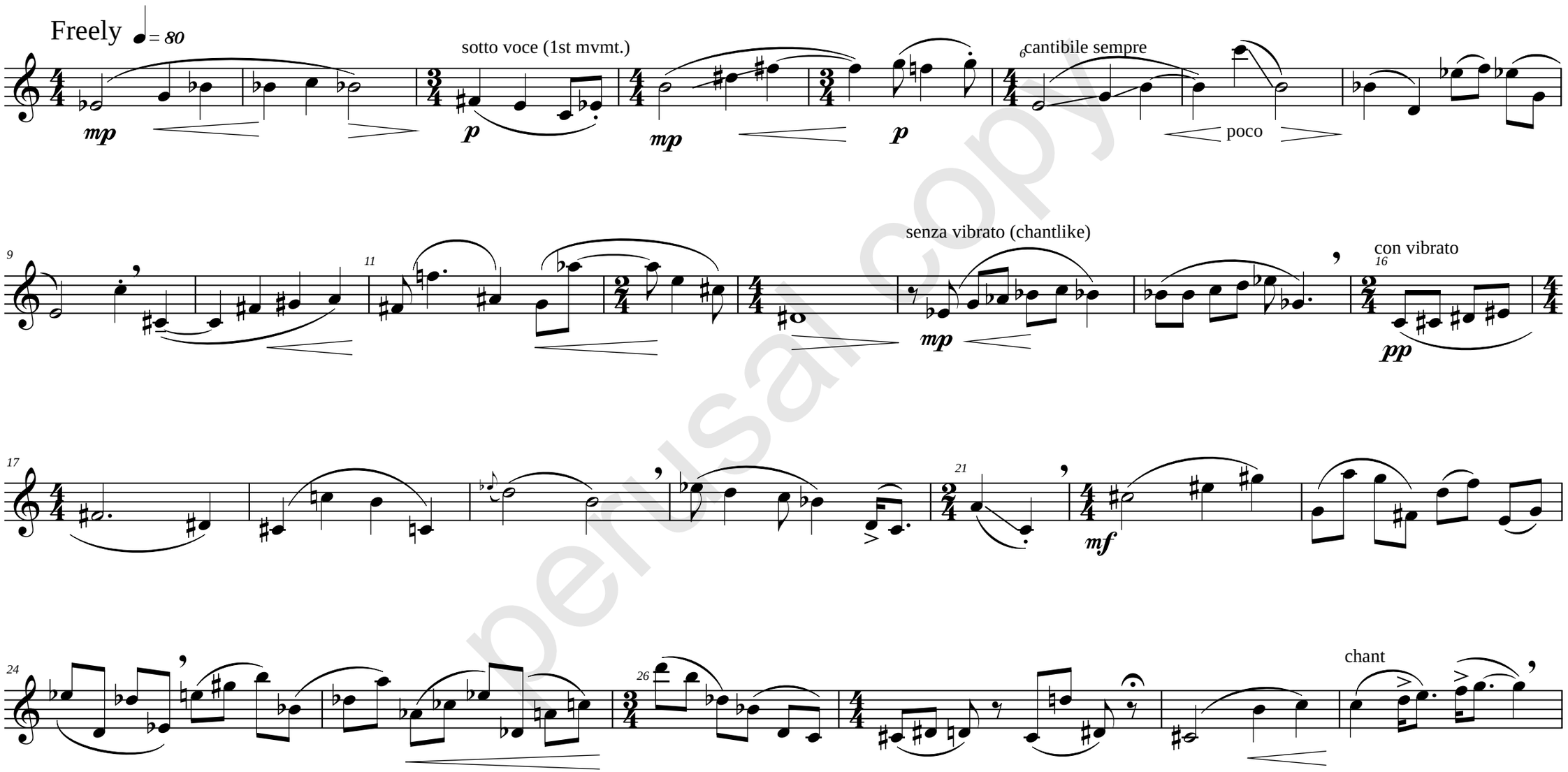
II. "Alma redemptoris mater"
("Loving Mother of the Redeemer")



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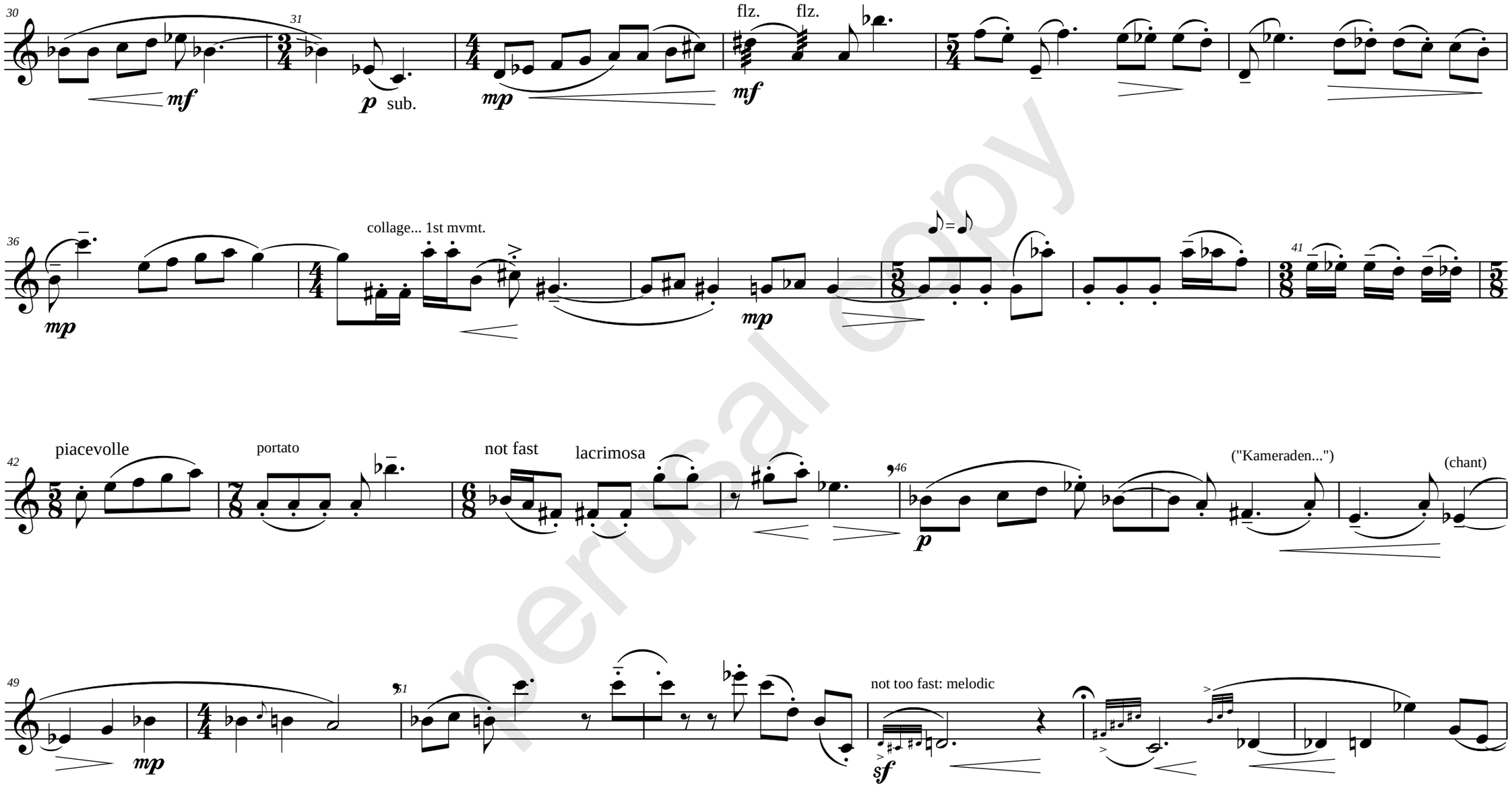

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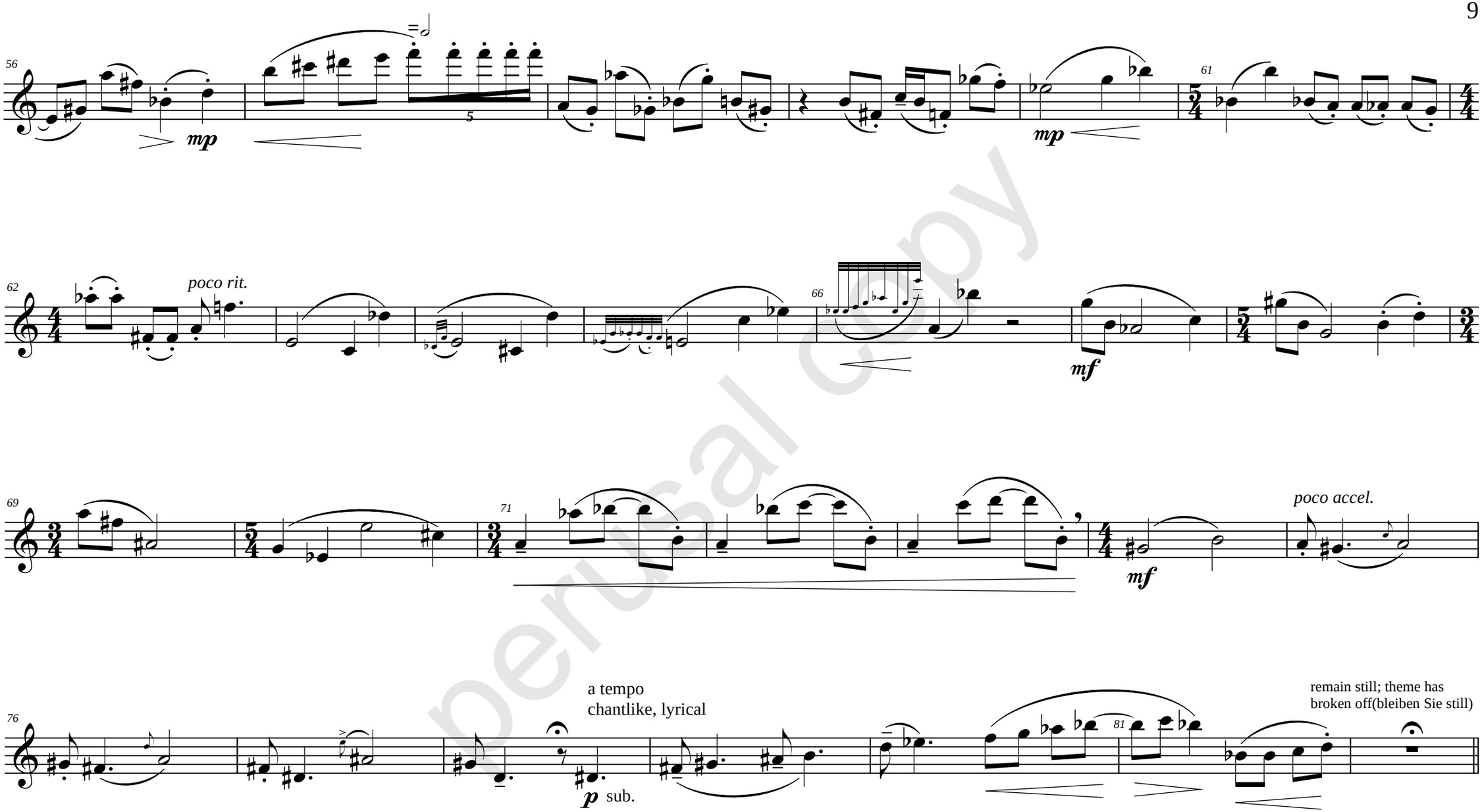

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III. A singing bird* (ein singender Vogel)

* "Keep a green bough in your heart and a singing bird will come." (Chinese)
(Bewahre einen grünen Zweig in Deinem Herzen und ein Singvogel wird dort landen.")

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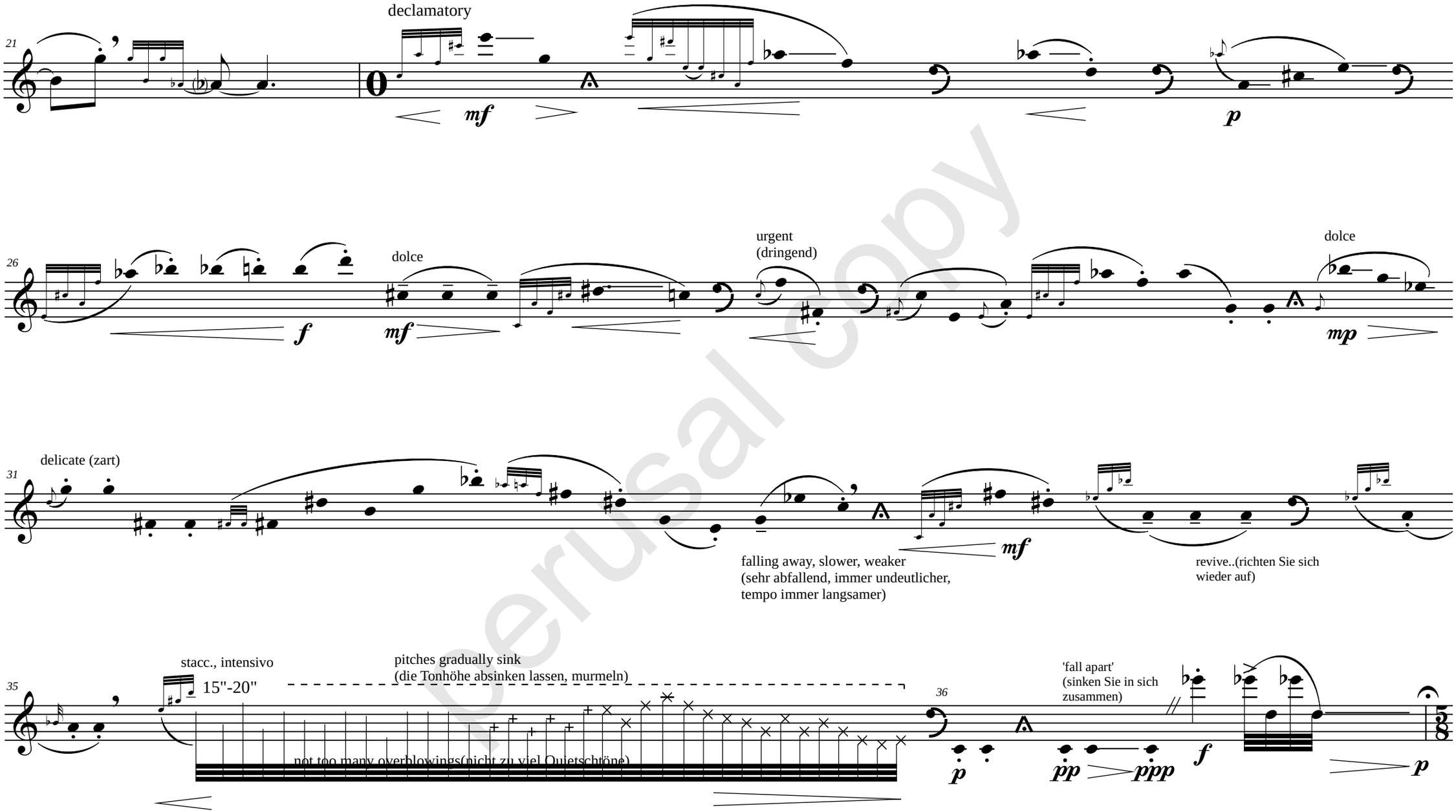

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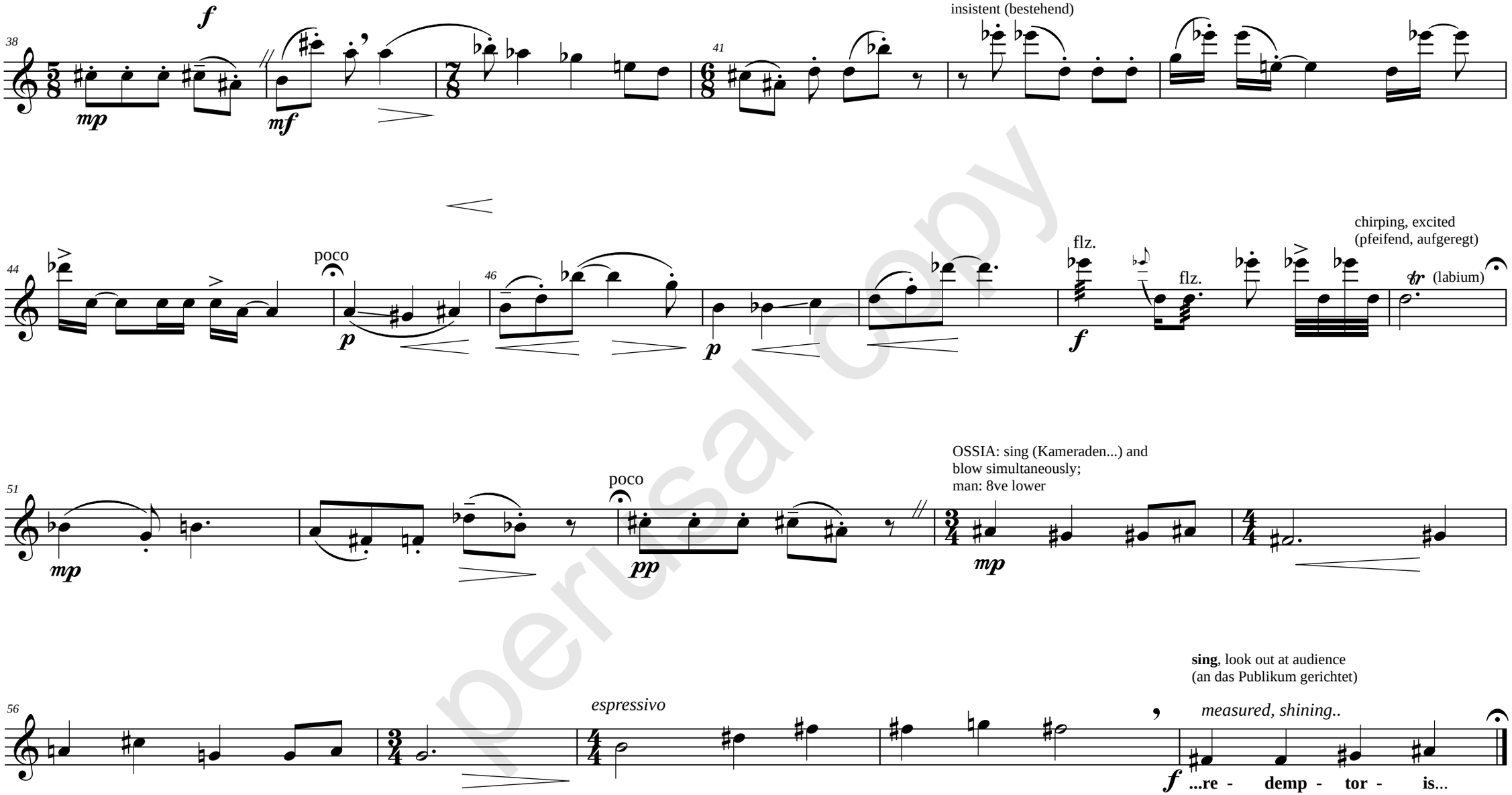

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