Flocks

for flute quartet

Marilyn Bliss

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Commissioned by the Powell Flute Quartet

Flocks

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Transposed score

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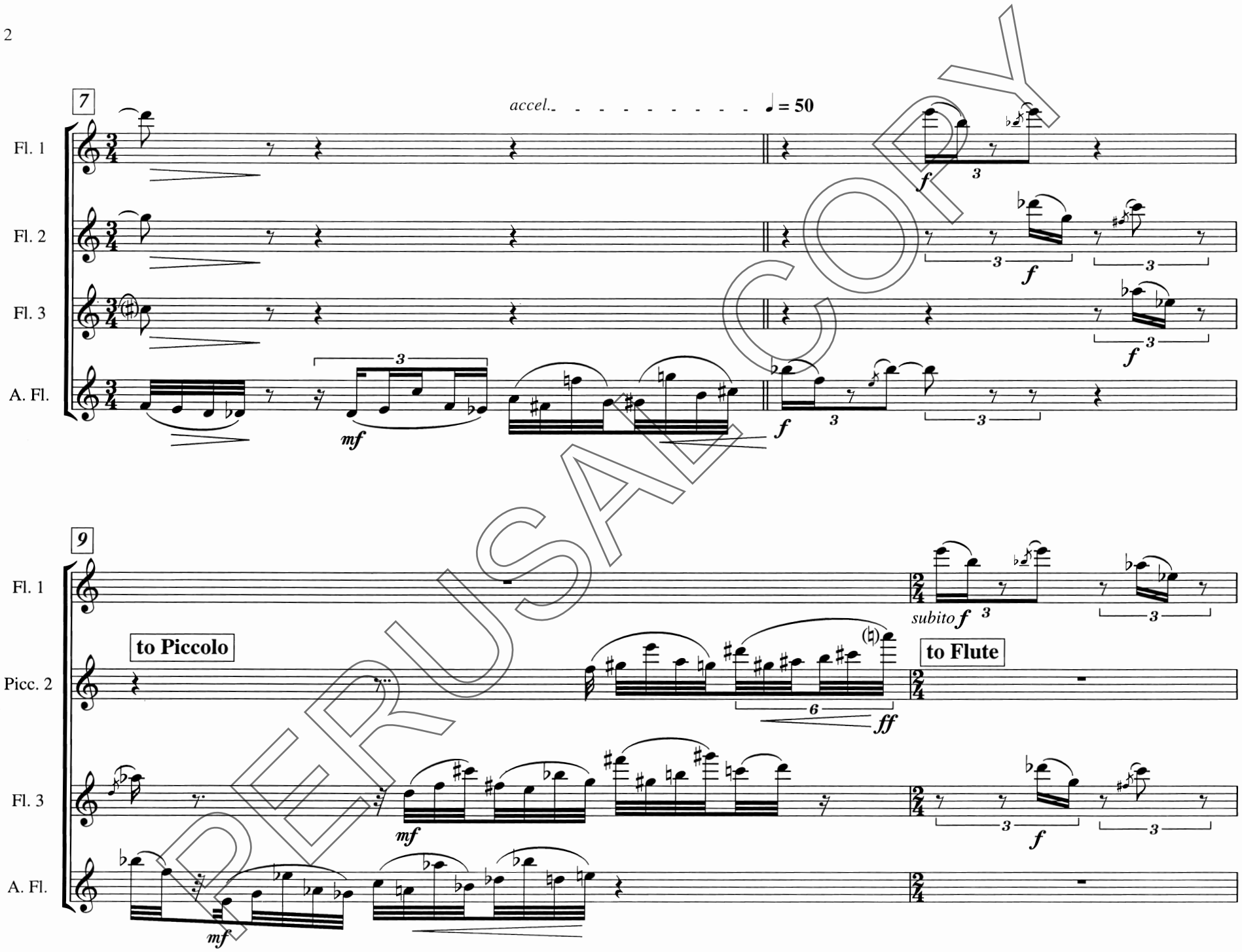

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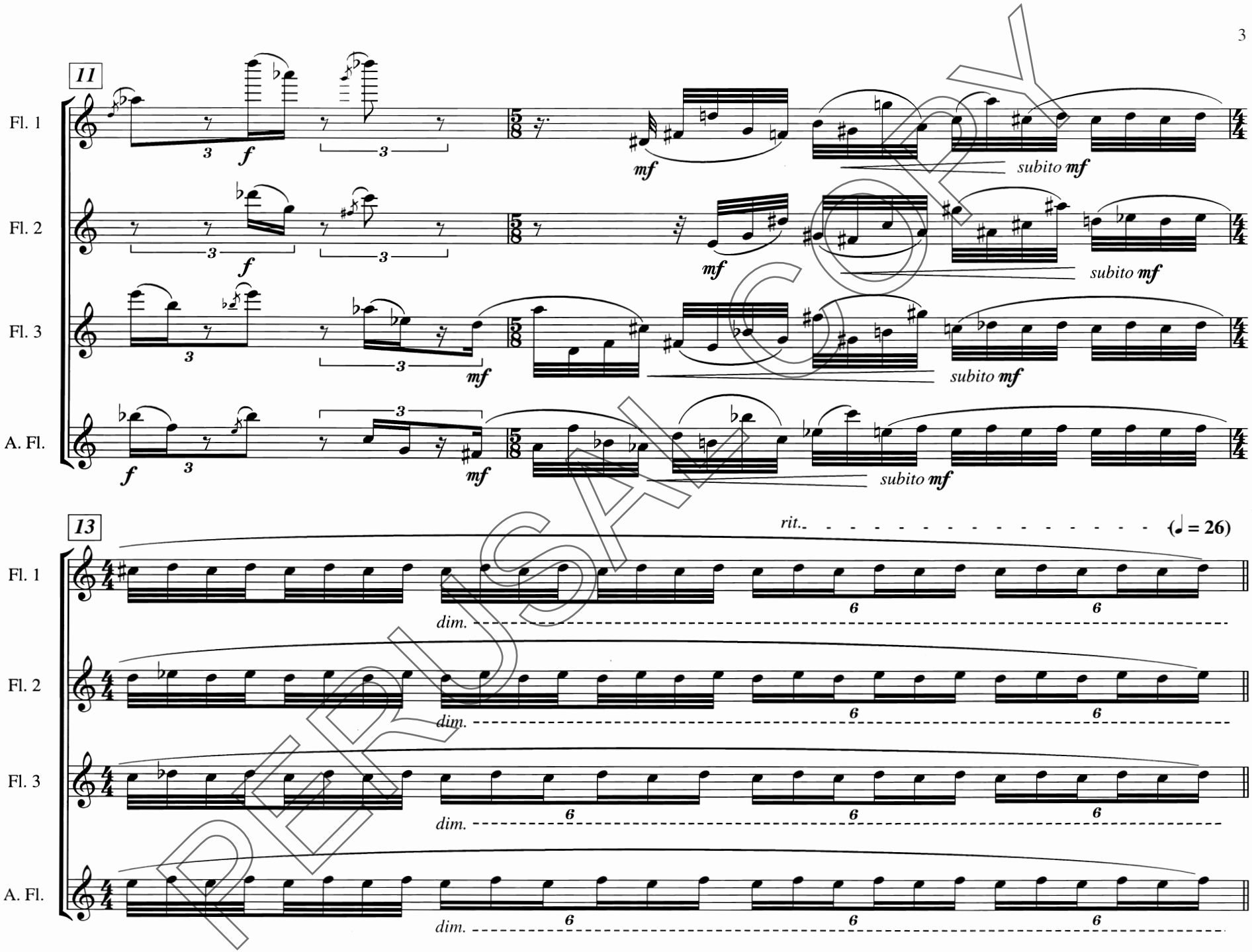

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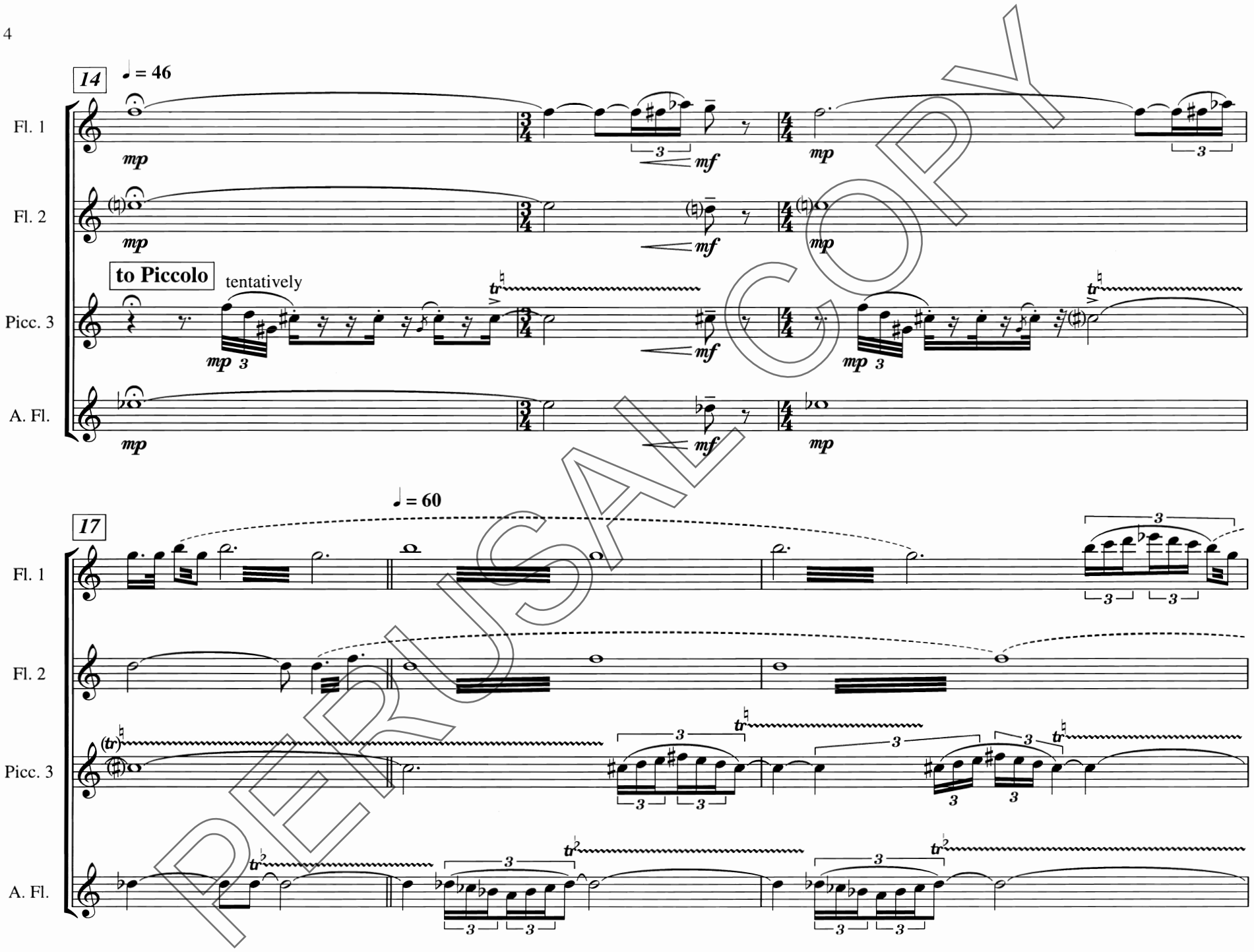

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20
(♪³ = ♩) ♩ = 90
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Picc. 3
A. Fl.
cresc.
mf
22
(♩ = ♪³) ♩ = 60
accel.
confidently
f
ff
mf
restrained

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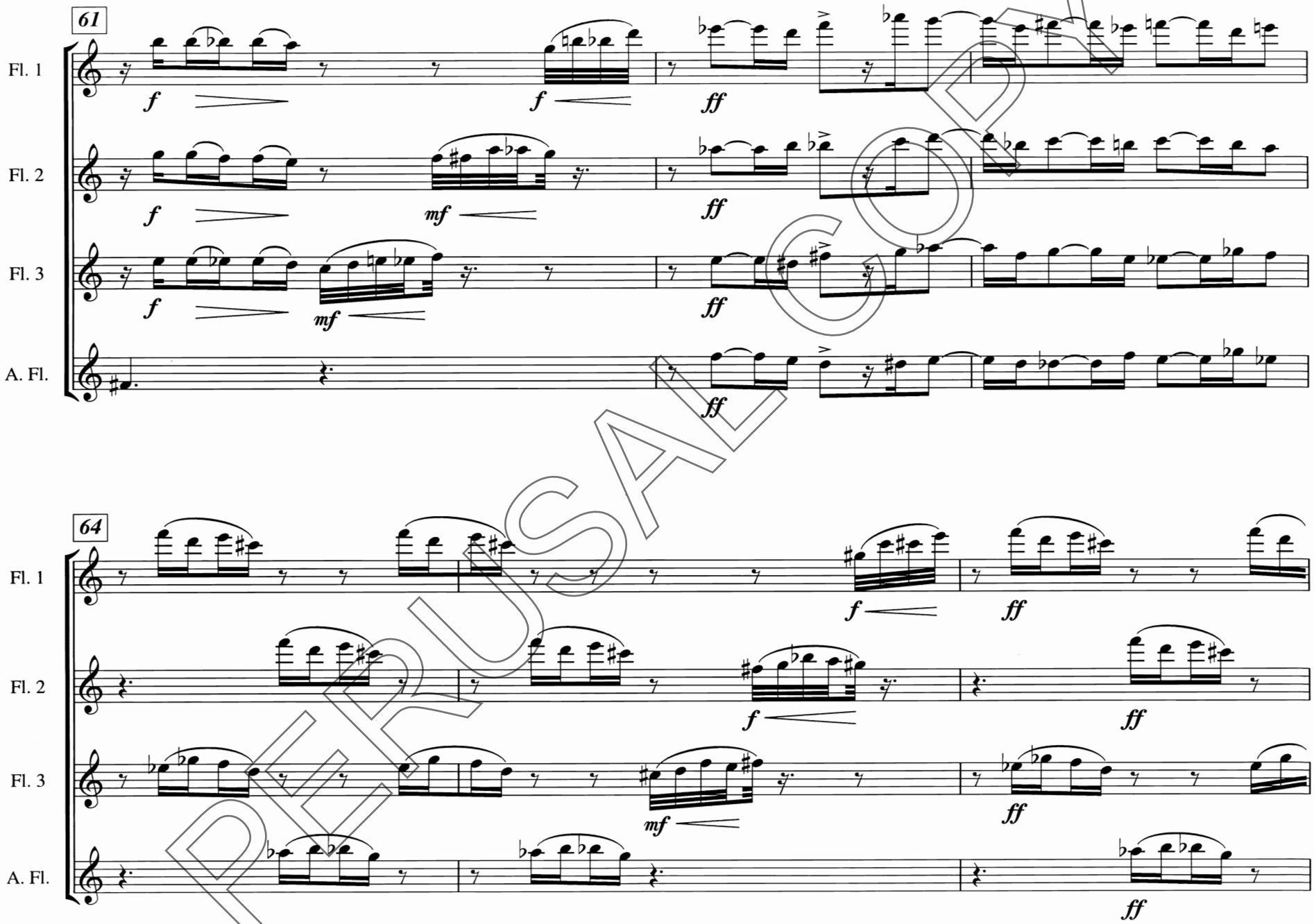

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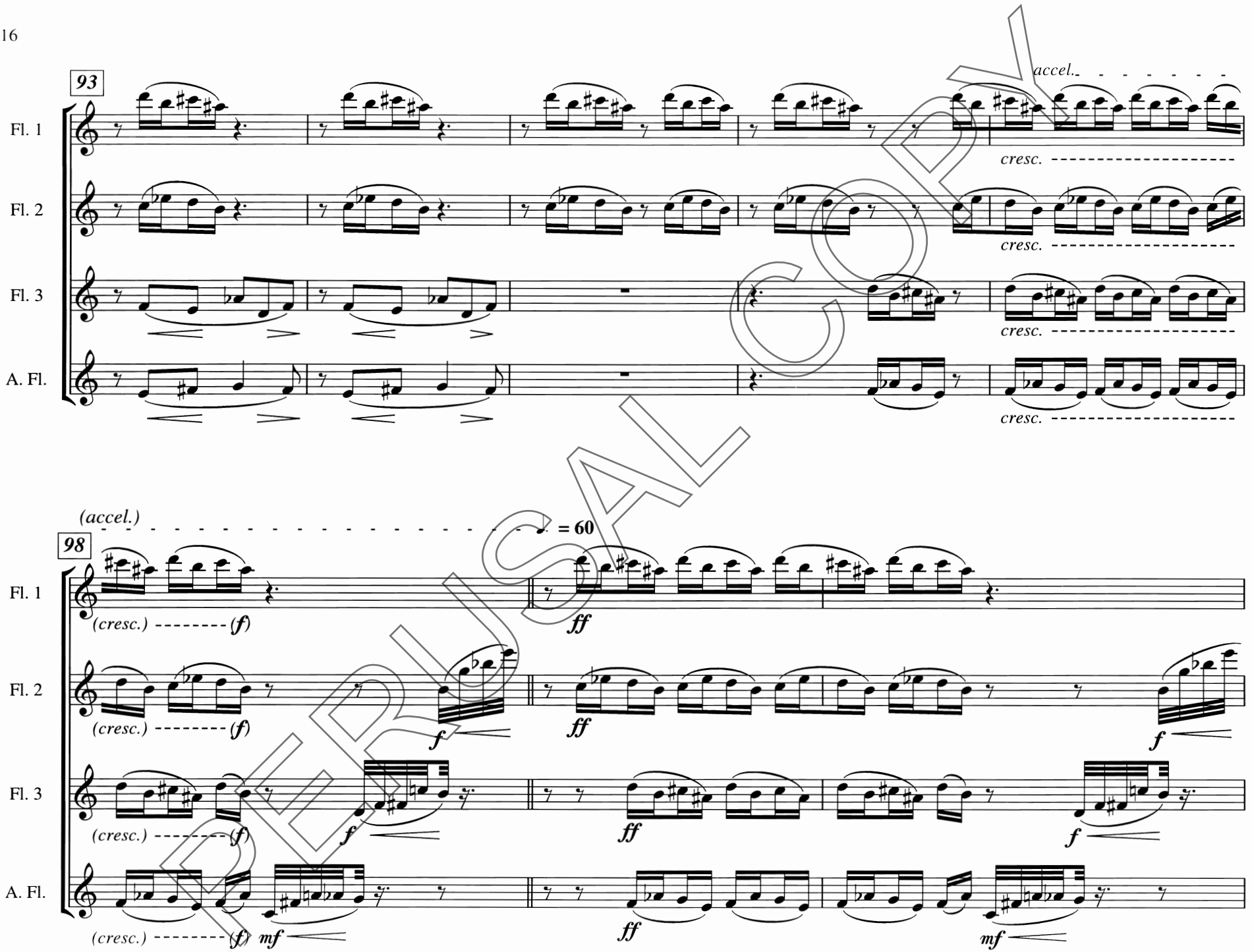

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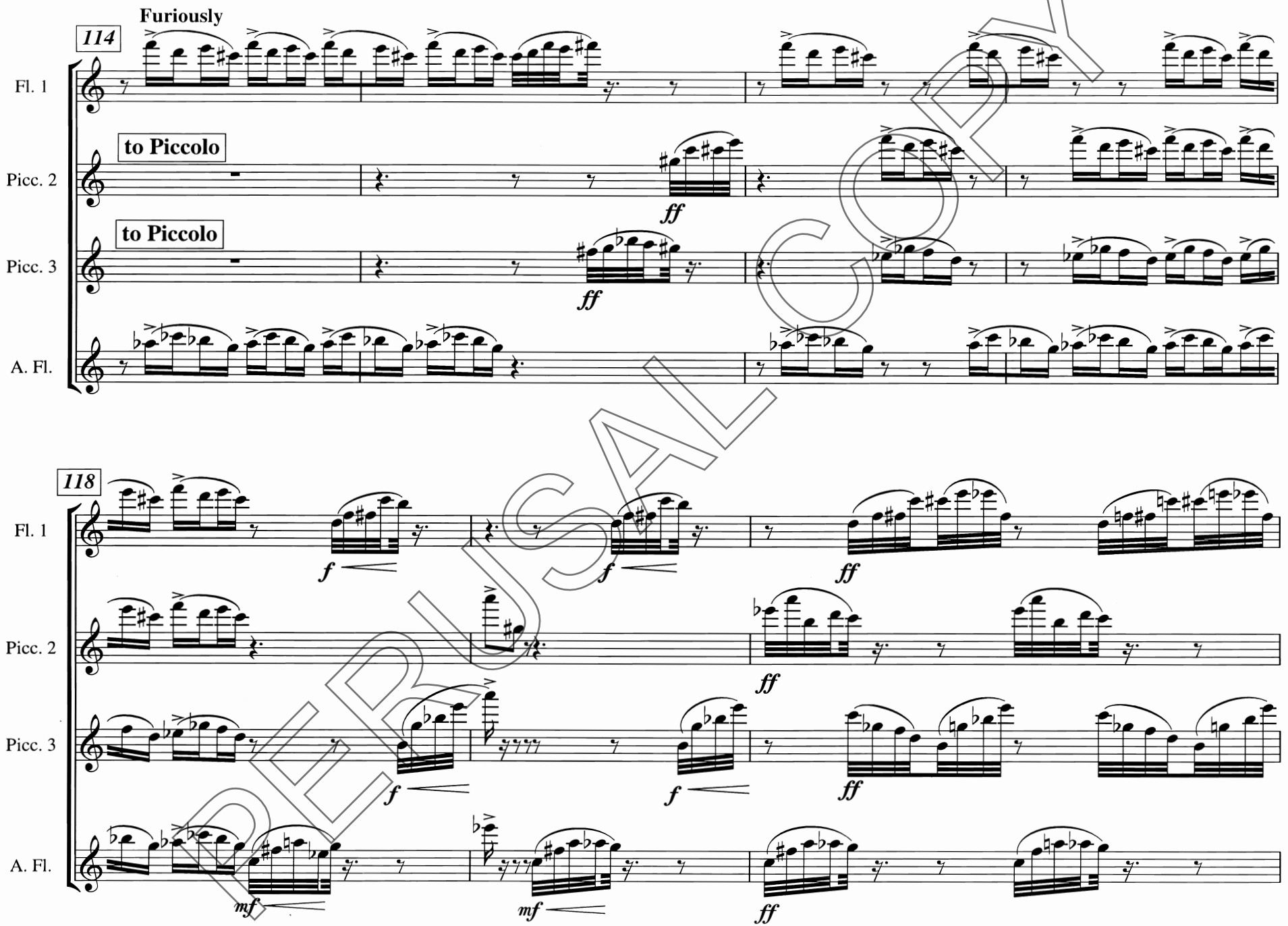

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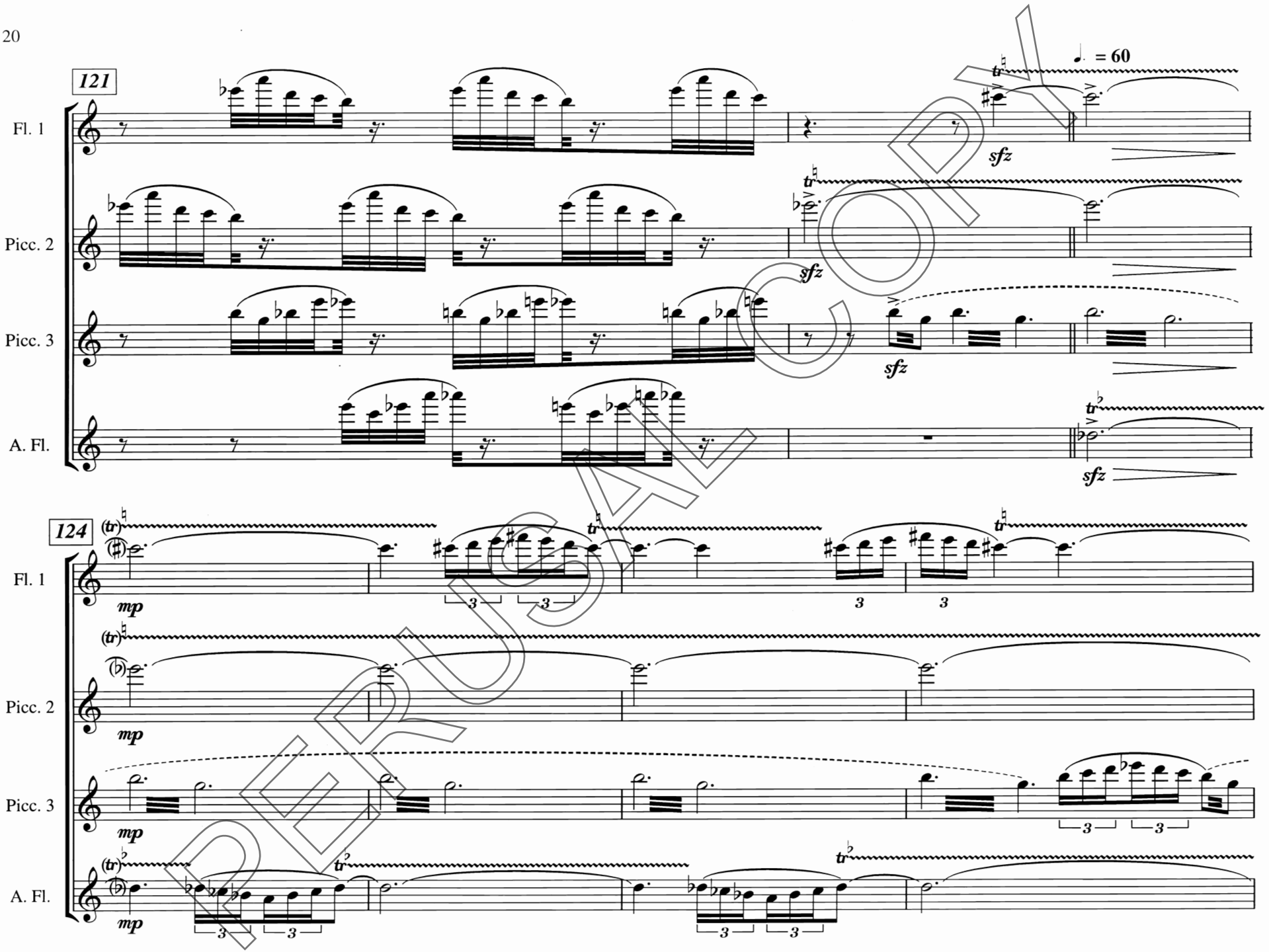

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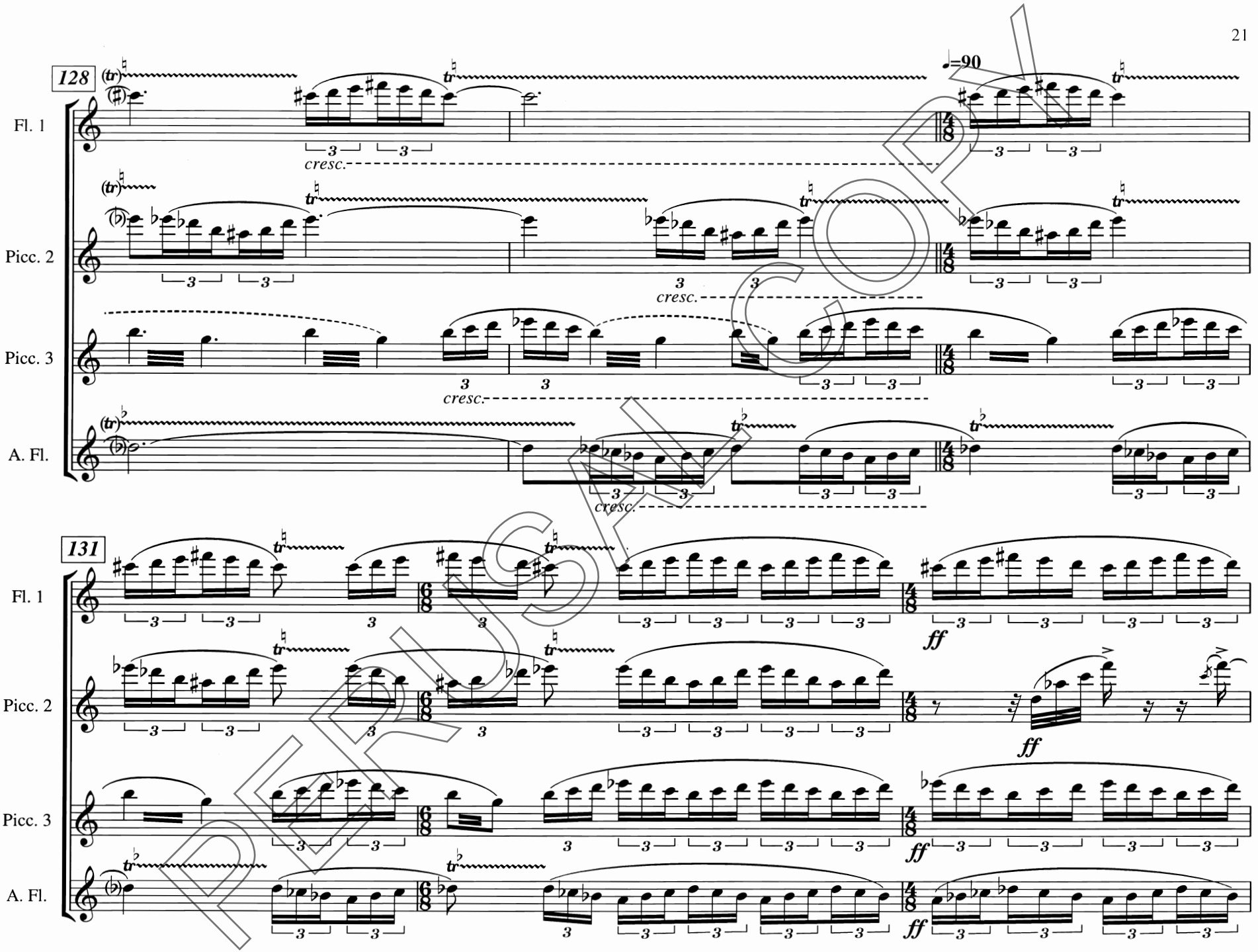

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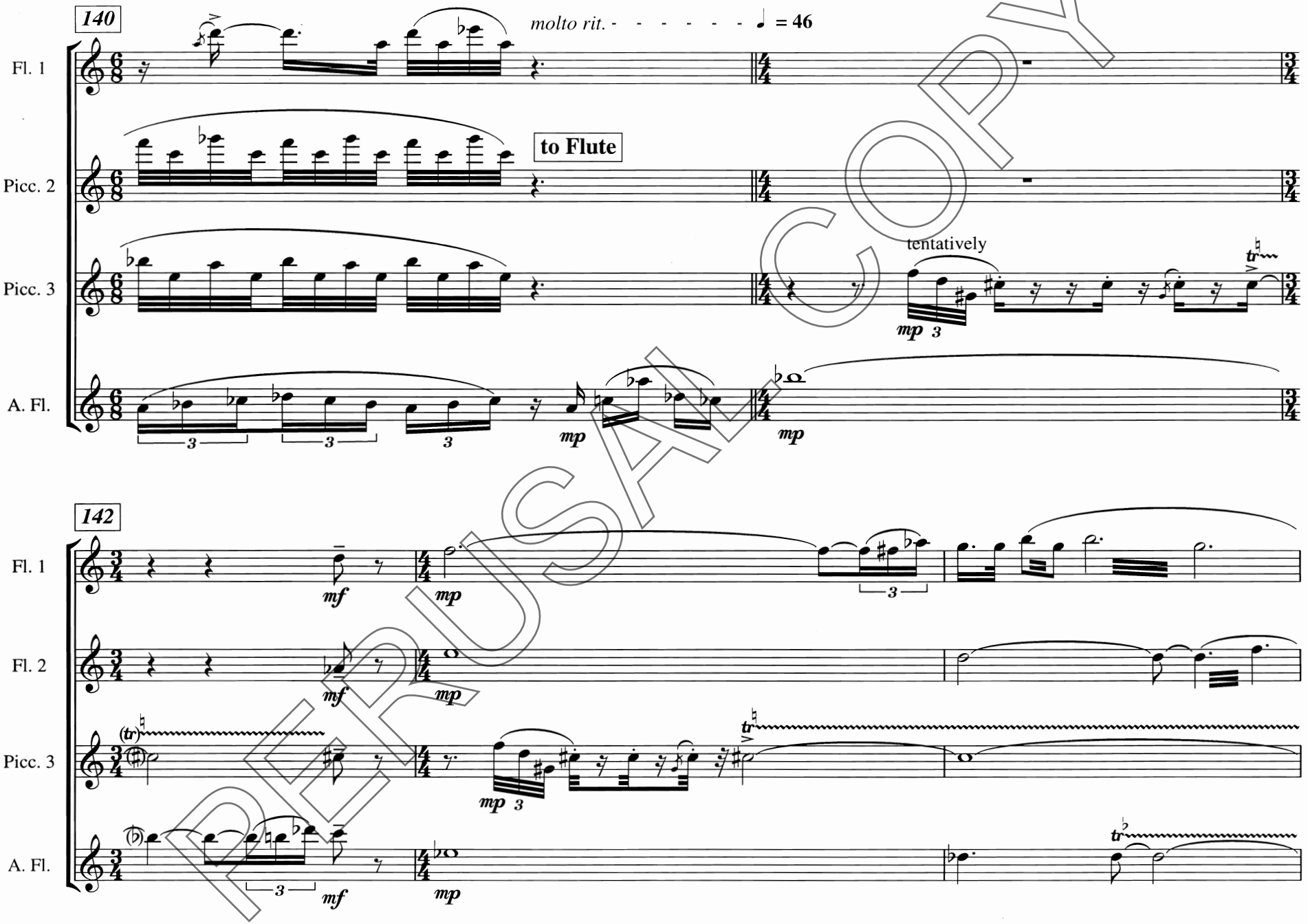

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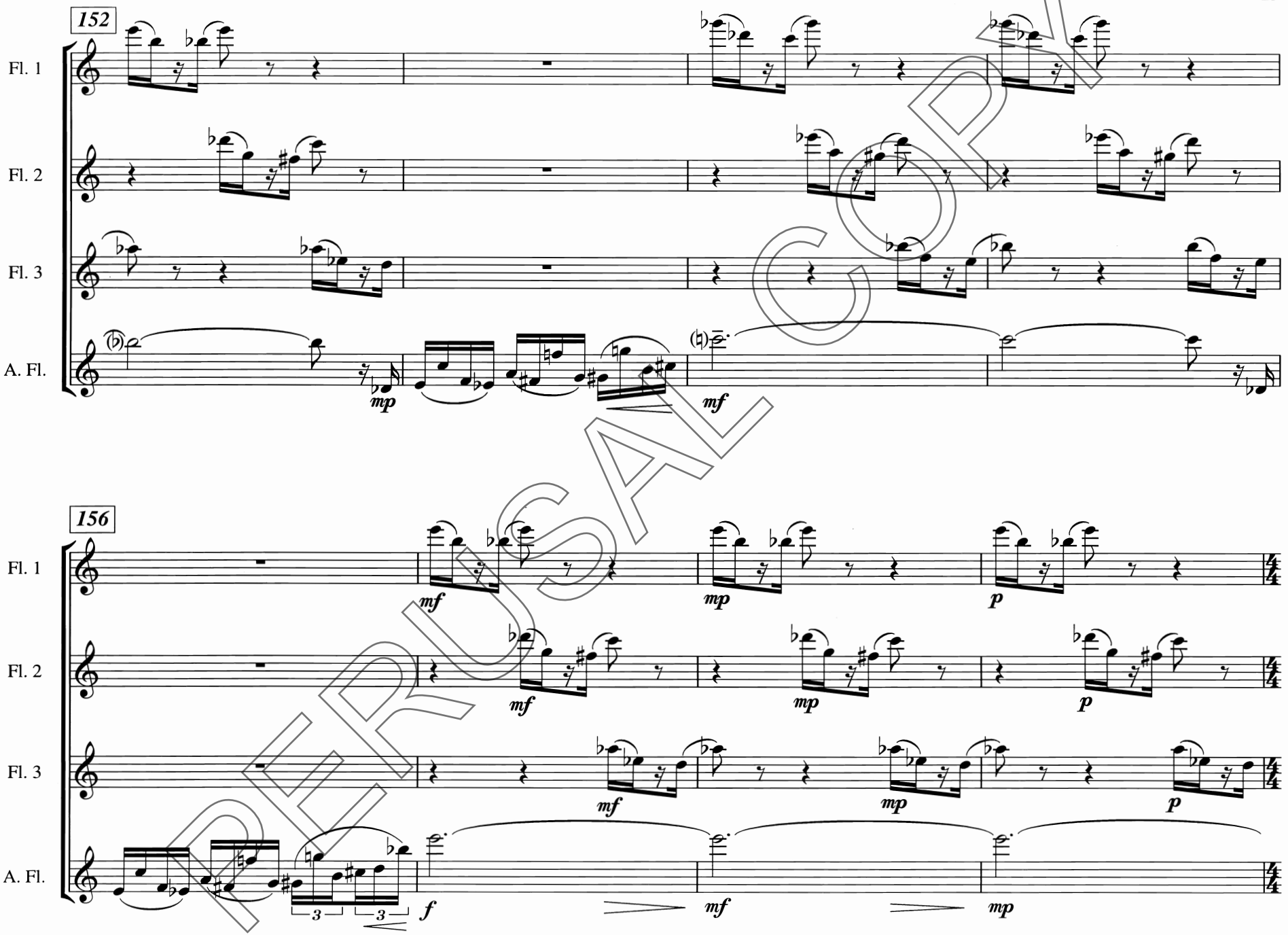

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April 26, 1988
Jackson Heights, NY

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About Marilyn Bliss

Iowa-born and New York-based **Marilyn Bliss** (b. Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 1954) has written many widely performed orchestral, chamber, and solo works. Educated at Coe College and the University of Pennsylvania, she counts among her teachers such distinguished composers as George Crumb, George Rochberg, Jacob Druckman, Jerry Owen, and Harvey Sollberger. She has won such awards as a Charles Ives Prize from the American Academy/Institute of Arts and Letters, an ASCAP Young Composers Award, Best New Flute Music citations from the National Flute Association, and has received fellowships from Tanglewood, the Composers Conference, and the New York Foundation for the Arts as well as commissions from the Haydn-Mozart Chamber Orchestra, the Philadelphia Art Alliance, the Powell Quartet, the flutists James Zellers, James Pellerite, Nina Assimakopoulos, and the National Flute Association. Ms. Bliss is particularly interested in relating music to the natural world, art, and poetry. About her orchestral piece *Huatzu Hill*, the Boston Globe said "…a series of rich landscapes – the colors sharp, the feelings powerfully concentrated, the language eloquent, the expression precise." Records International Catalogue calls her piano work *Fantasies* "a virtuosic, highly varied work, fantastic and wide-ranging." Her *Rima* for piccolo and piano has been used as a standard contest piece for the National Flute Association's piccolo competition. Several of Ms. Bliss's recent scores have featured the Native American flute, both as a solo instrument and in combination with other instruments. Ms. Bliss has been President of New York Women Composers since 1992. Her music has been performed throughout the world; in 1996 she was a guest of the SS. Cyril and Methodius Foundation in Sofia, Bulgaria, and in 1999 a guest of the Fechin Institute in Taos, New Mexico. Her works have also recently been performed in Moscow and Armenia. Ms.Bliss is published by Marimba Productions (www.mostlymarimba.com), and Zalo/JP-Publications (jamespellerite.com). Several of her works have been recorded: *Fantasies* for piano is on the North/South Recordings label; *Rima* for piccolo and piano appears on the Koch label (3-7396-2-H1), *Murali* for solo flute is on Capstone CPS-8759, *Lament* for solo alto flute is on New England CD, and *Phantom Breeze* for Native American flute can be found on the JP-Publications label.

Notes on *Flocks*

Flocks, for flute quartet, was inspired by the annual migration of flocks of birds from their summer home in the North to their winter home in the South. The piece is loosely programmatic, beginning with the first restless urges of some, then even the most reluctant birds, to leave their northern home, through their joyful flight south — often flying in parallel or similar motion —, to the sighting of their southern home, and finally the quiet of sleep after the long journey. This work was commissioned by, and is dedicated to, the Powell Quartet, who are to be commended for their labors in creatively expanding the literature for flute quartet.

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