Songs of Trees

Three songs for low voice and piano

on poems by *Emily Pauline Johnson*

1. Fire-Flowers (3'30")
2. Moonset (4')
3. Still Stands the Oak (4'10")

Total duration ~ 12'10"

Commissioned by Jason Klippenstein

MUSIC BY

Katerina Gimon

KATERINA GIMON
composer

1. Fire-Flowers

Poem: *Fire-Flowers* by Emily Pauline Johnson

And only where the forest fires have sped,
Scorching relentlessly the cool north lands,
A sweet wild flower lifts its purple head,
And, like some gentle spirit sorrow-fed,
It hides the scars with almost human hands.
And only to the heart that knows of grief,
[Of desolating fire], of human pain,
There comes some purifying sweet belief,
Some fellow-feeling beautiful, if brief.
And life revives, and blossoms once again

2. Moonset

Poem: *Moonset* by Emily Pauline Johnson

Idles the night wind through the dreaming firs,
That waking murmur low,
As some lost melody returning stirs
The love of long ago;
And through the far, cool distance, zephyr fanned.
The moon is sinking into shadow-land.

The troubled night-bird, calling plaintively,
Wanders on restless wing;
The cedars, chanting vespers to the sea,
Await its answering,
That comes in wash of waves along the strand,
The while the moon slips into shadow-land.

O! soft responsive voices of the night
I join your minstrelsy,
And call across the fading silver light
As something calls to me;
I may not all your meaning understand,
But I have touched your soul in shadow-land.

3. Still Stands The Oak

Poem: *The Giant Oak* by Emily Pauline Johnson
(Note: the text italics is an addition by Katerina Gimon)

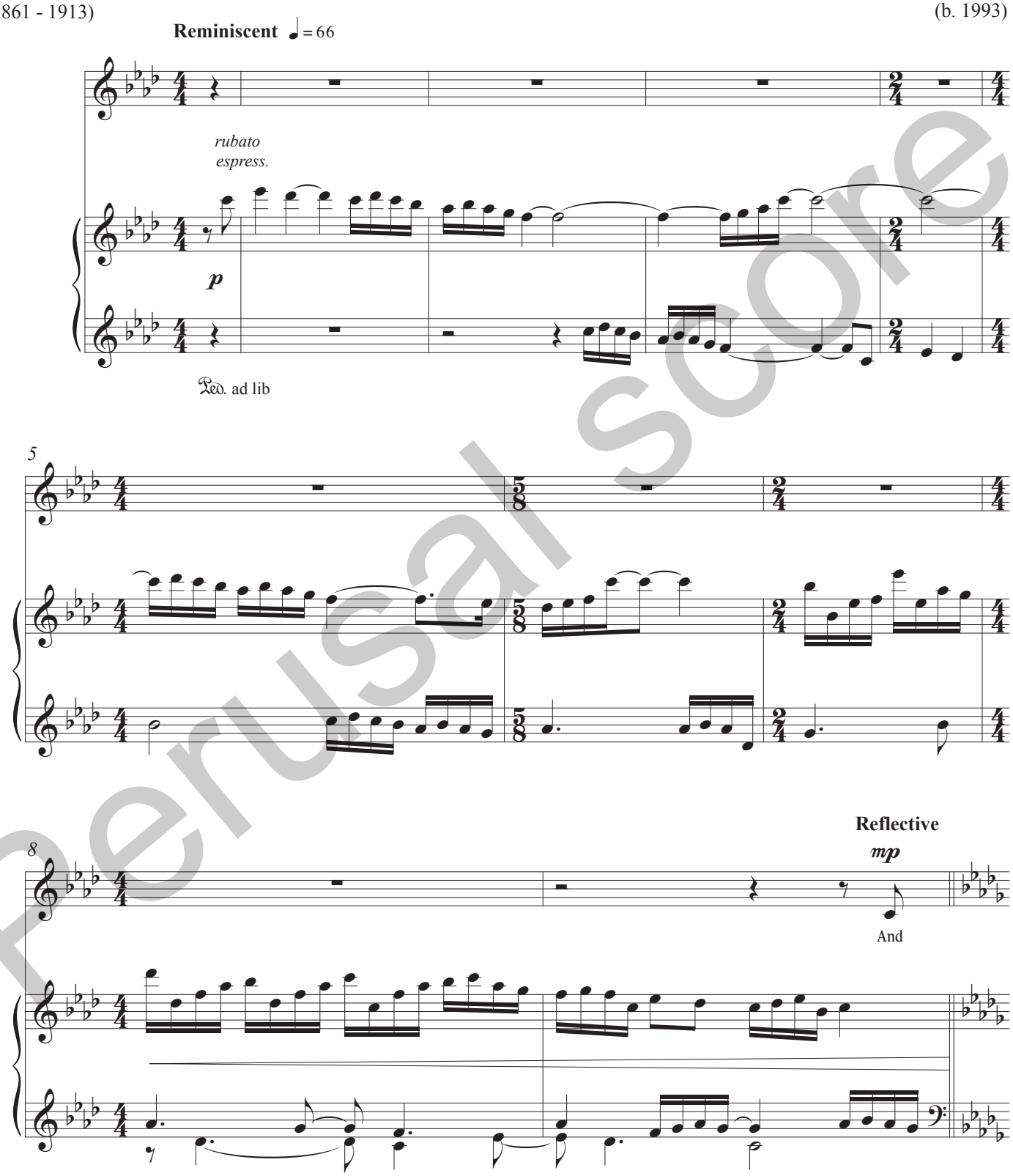
And then the sound of marching armies ‘woke
Amid the branches of the soldier oak,
And tempests ceased their warring cry, and dumb
The lashing storms that muttered, overcome,
Choked by the heralding of battle smoke,
When these gnarled branches beat their martial drum.
Still stands the oak.

1. Fire-Flowers

from *Songs of Trees*:
Three songs on poems
by Emily Pauline Johnson

Pauline Johnson
(1861 - 1913)

Katerina Gimon
(b. 1993)



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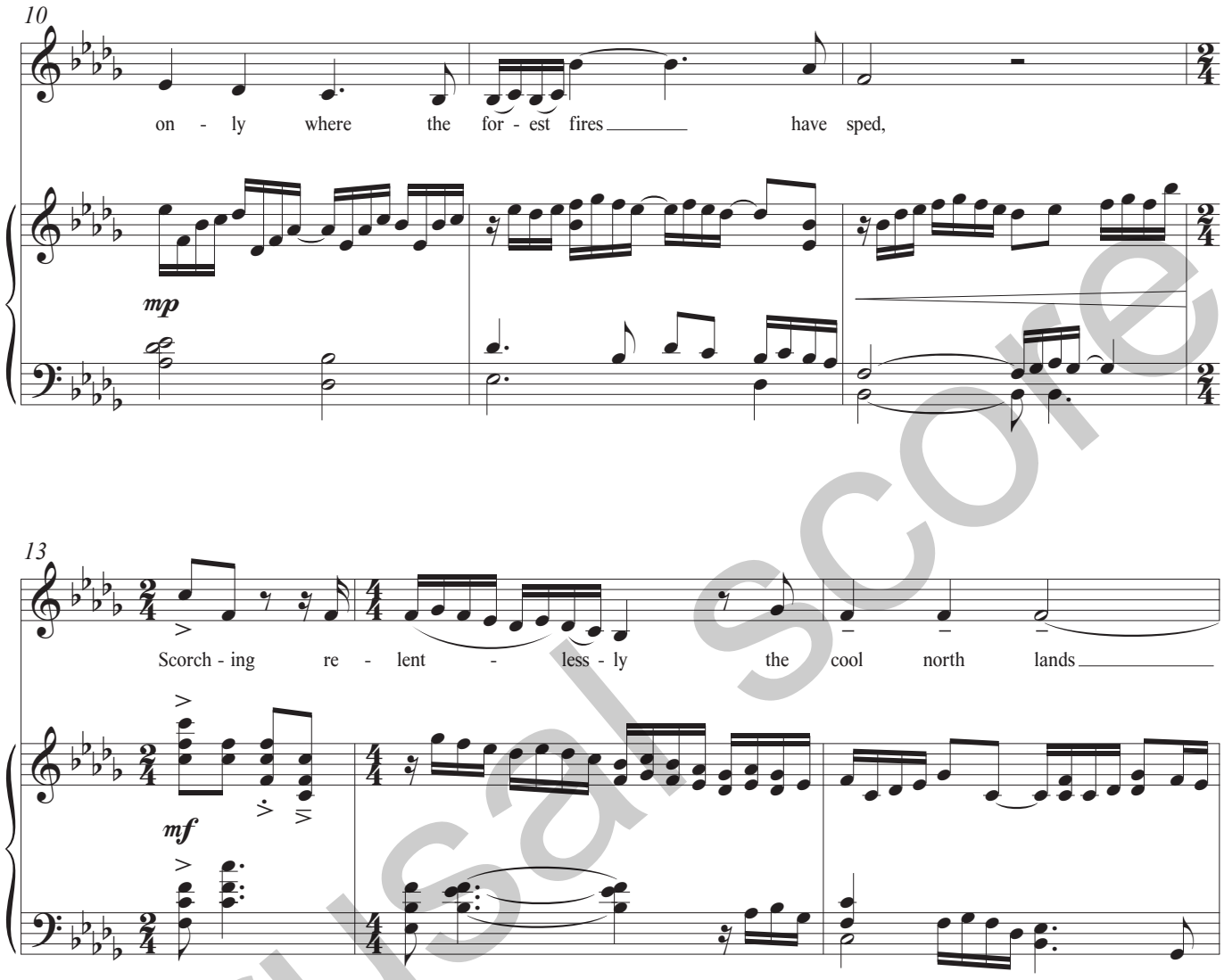

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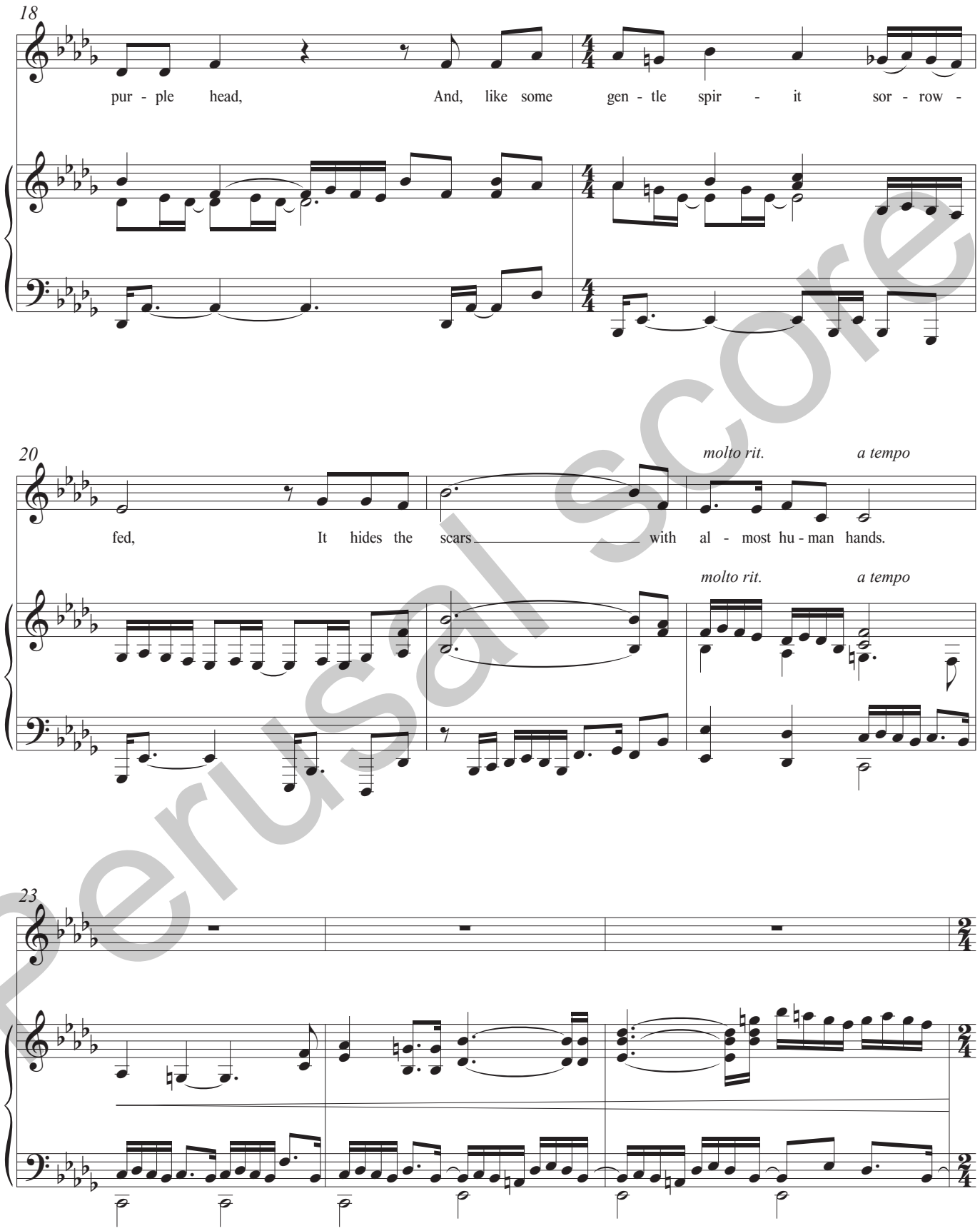

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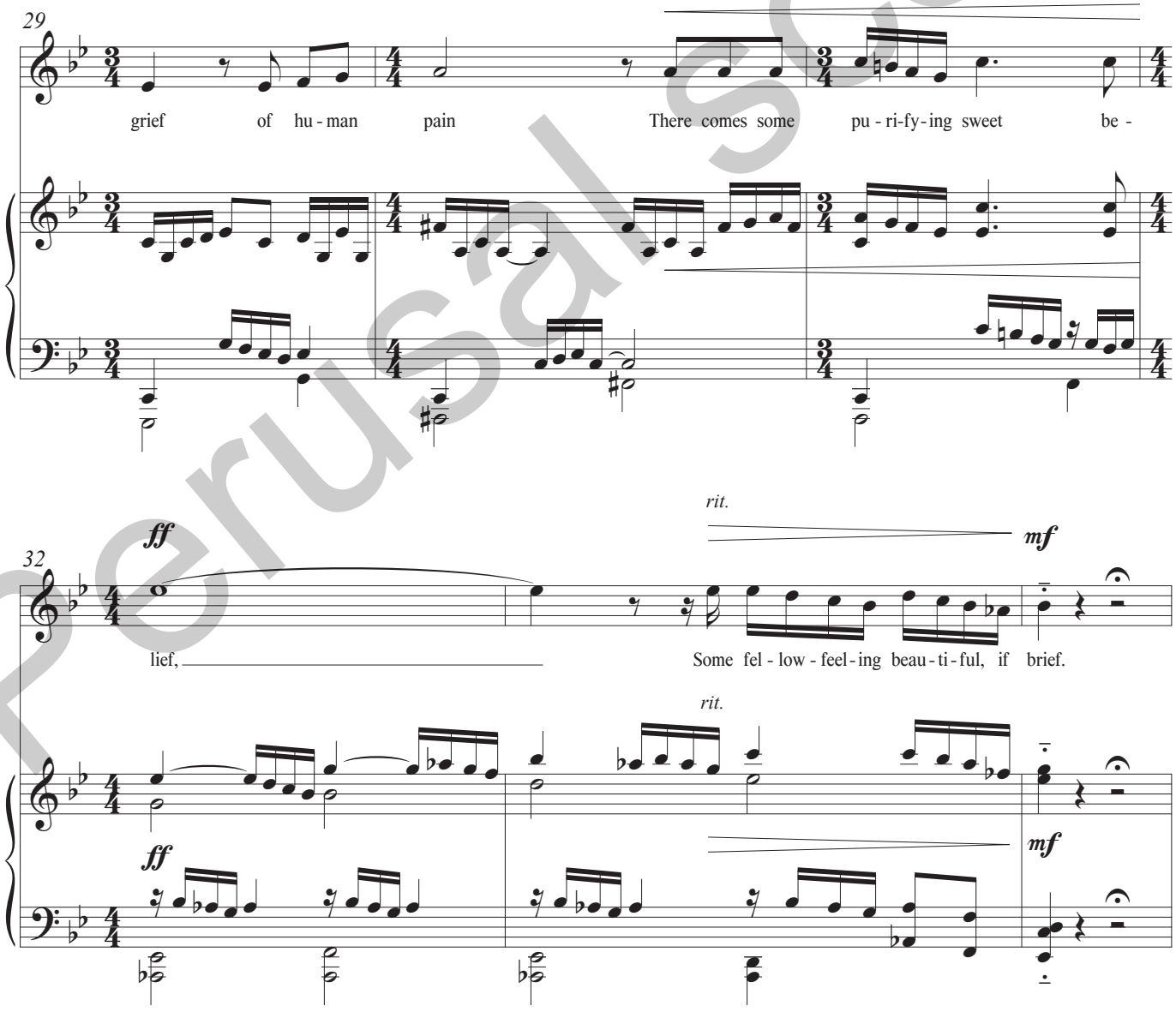

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2. Moonset

from *Songs of Trees*:
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Pauline Johnson
(1861 - 1913)

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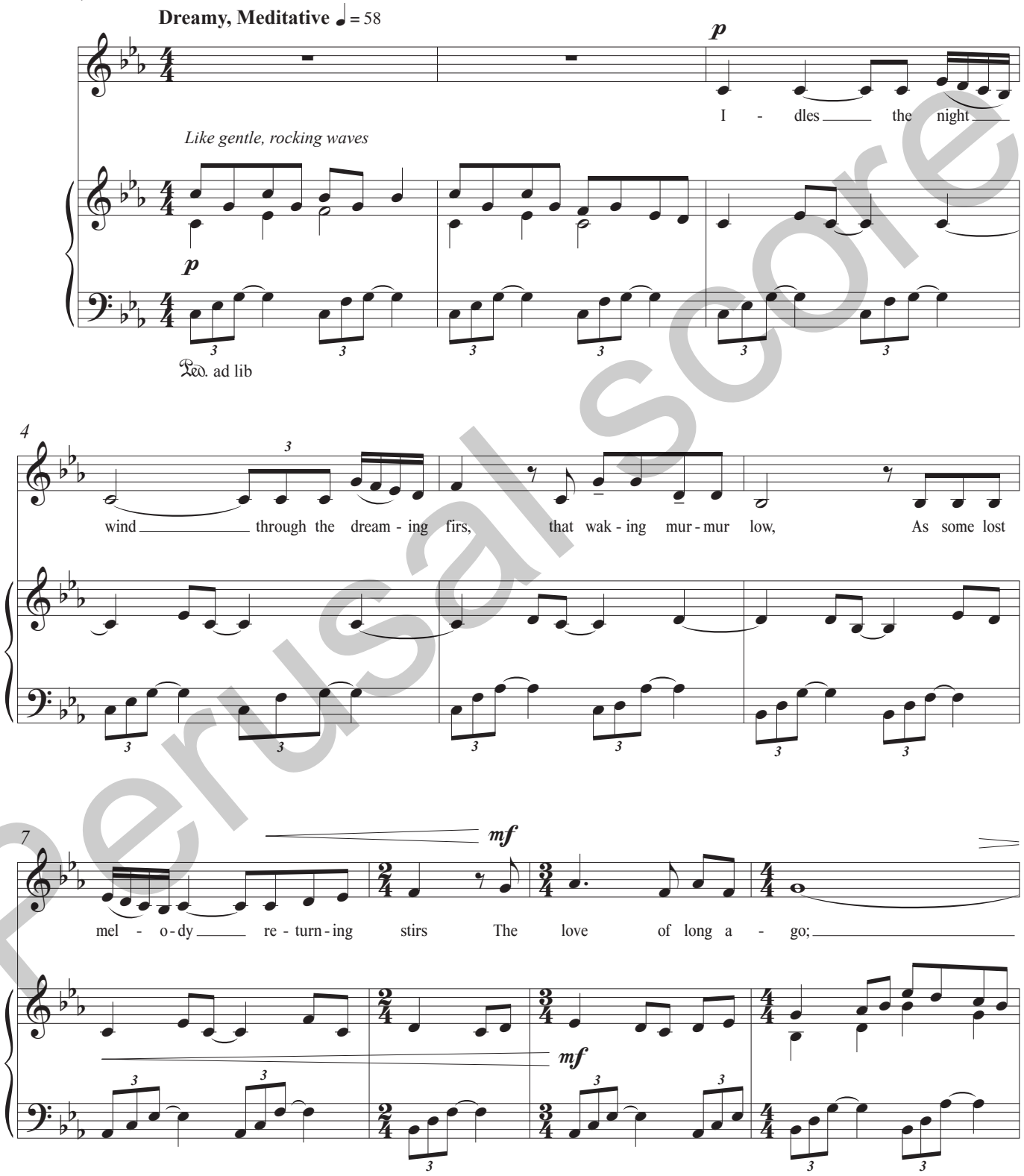

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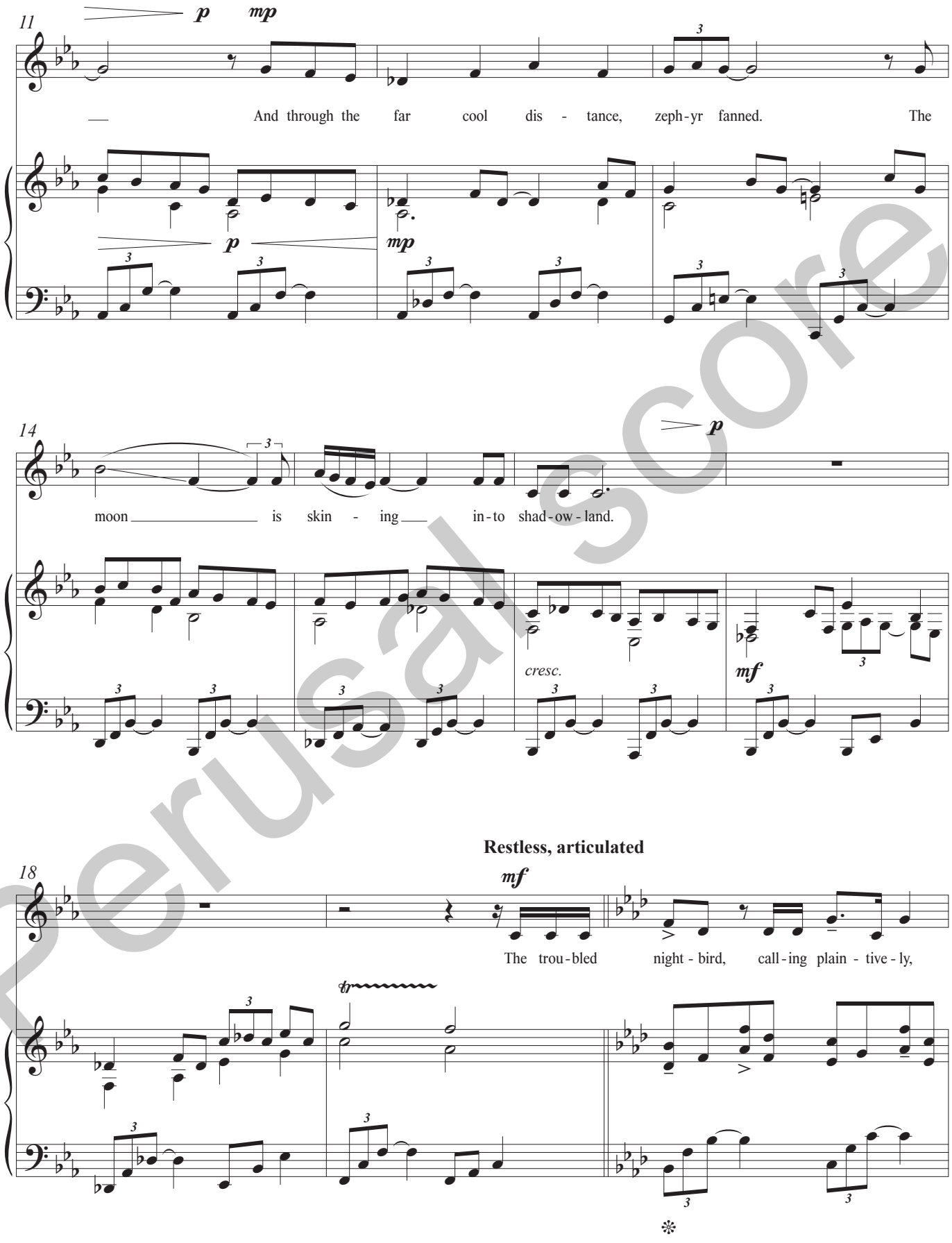

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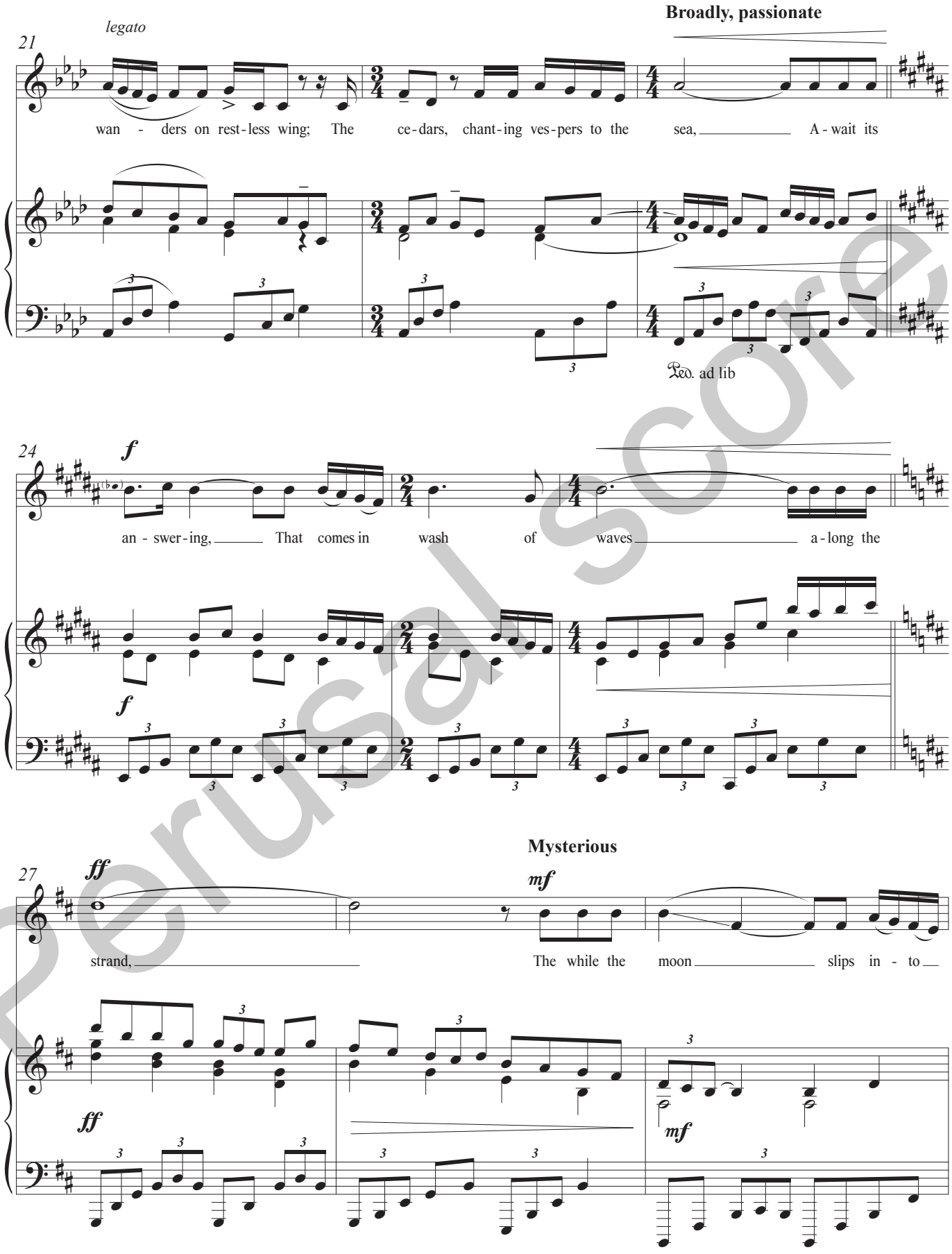

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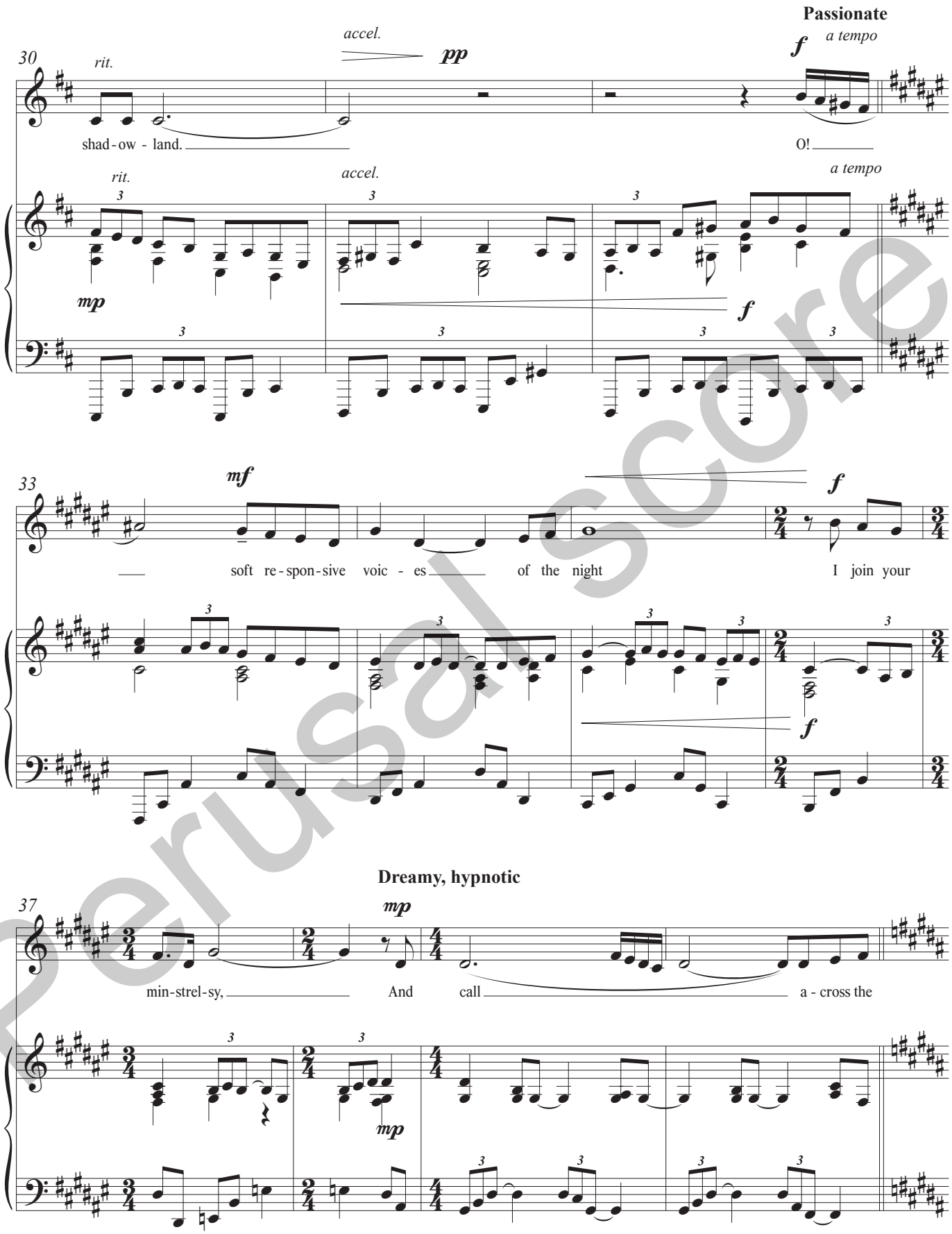

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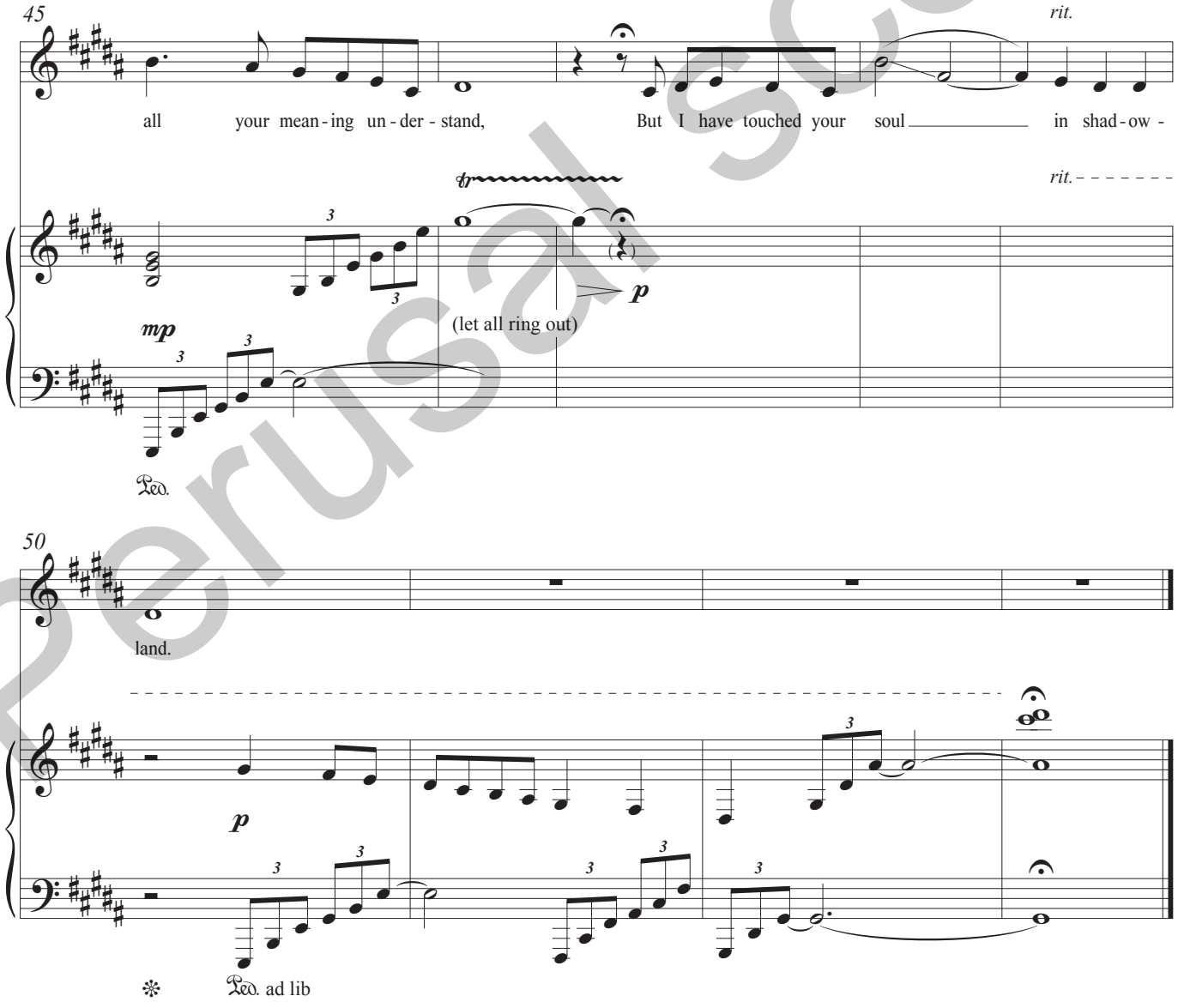

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3. Still Stands The Oak

from *Songs of Trees*:
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E. Pauline Johnson
(1861 - 1913)

Katerina Gimon
(b. 1993)

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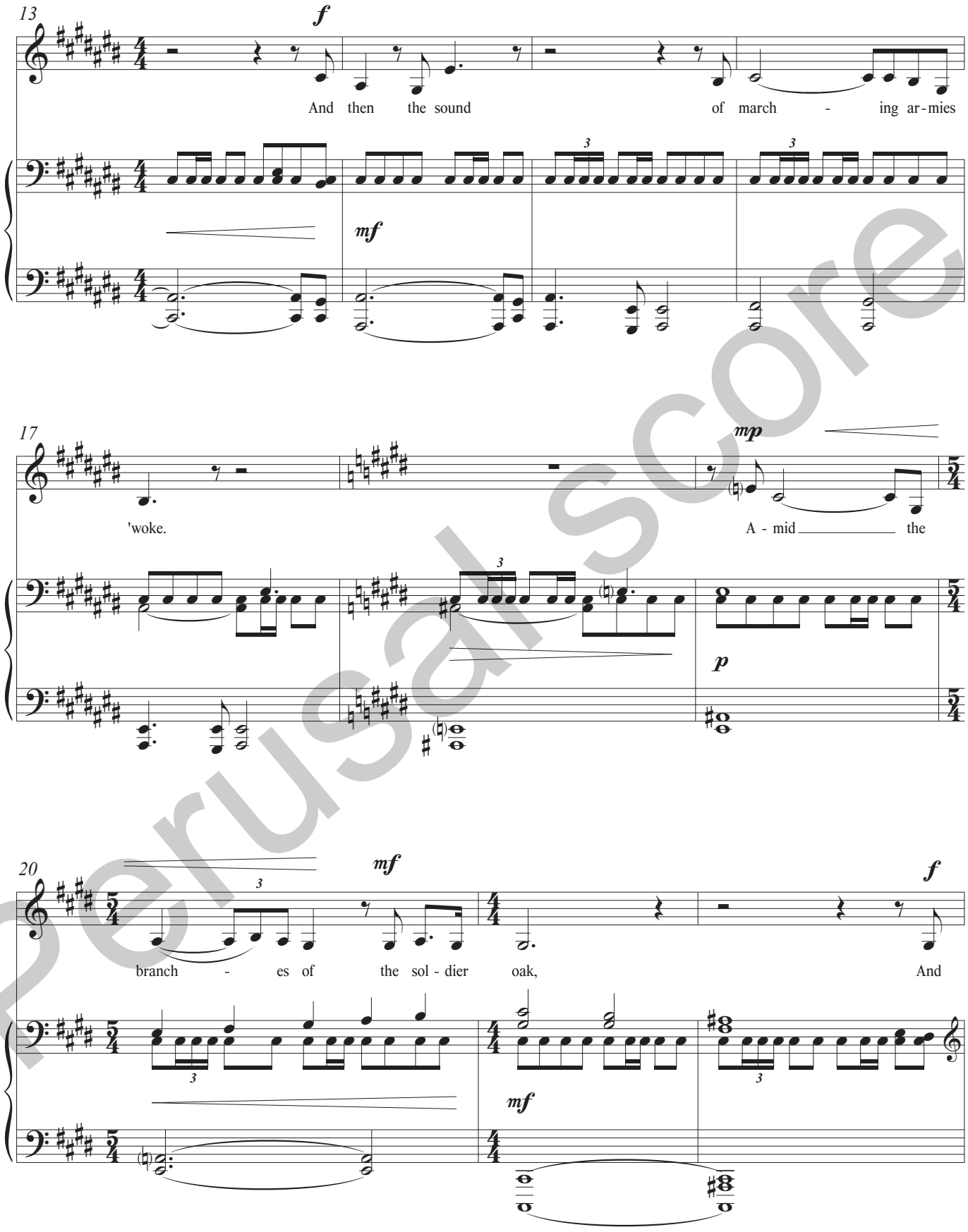

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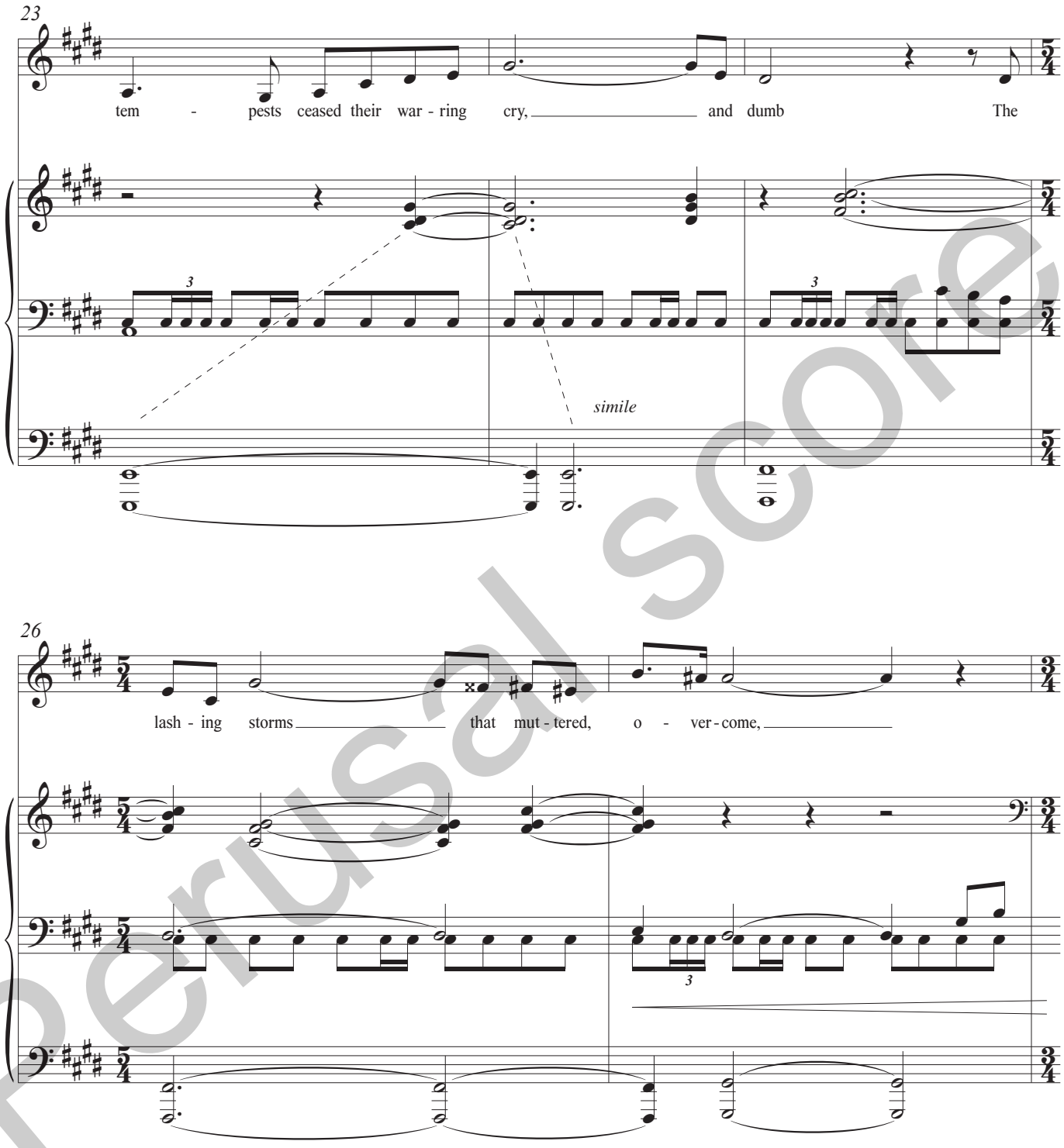

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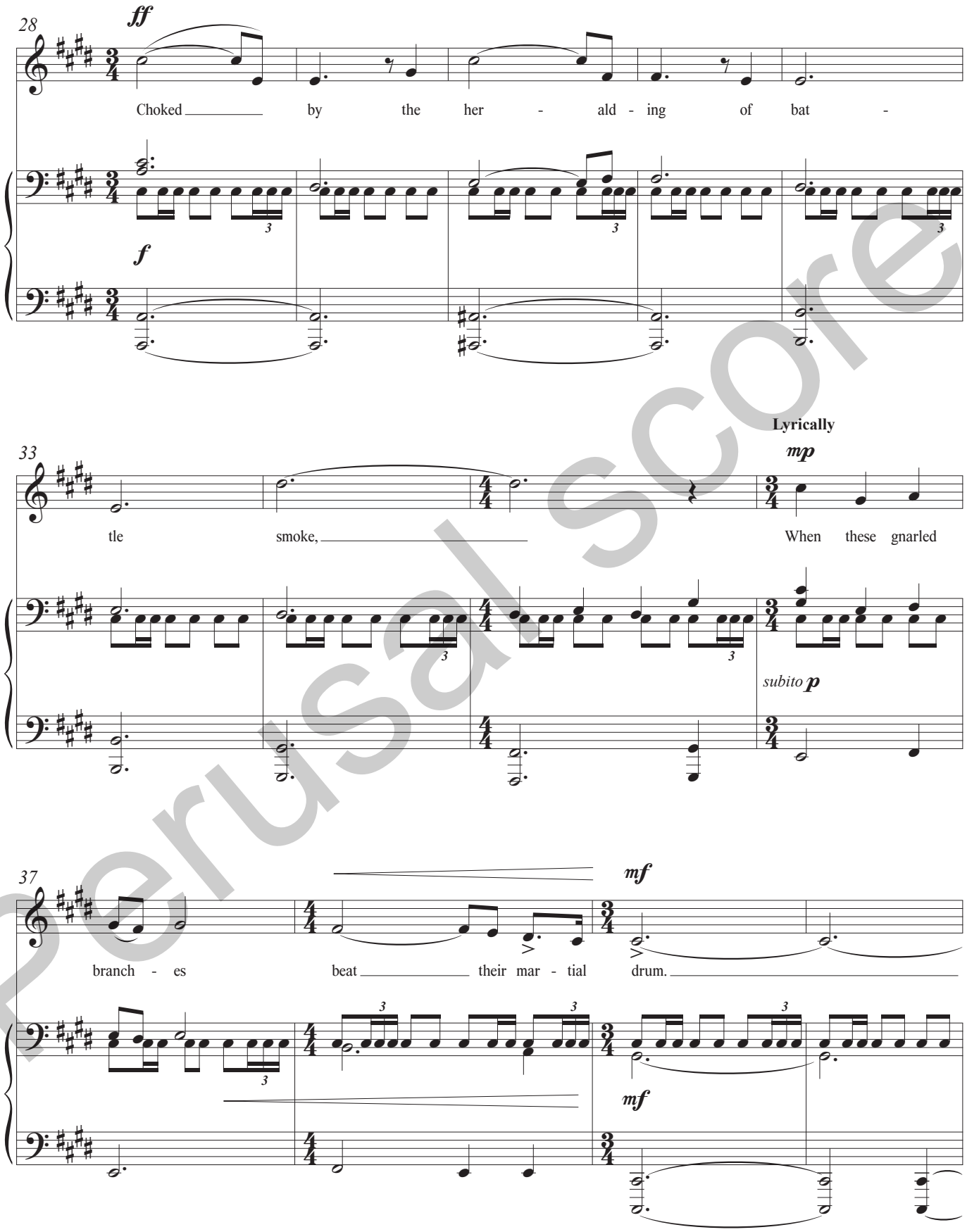

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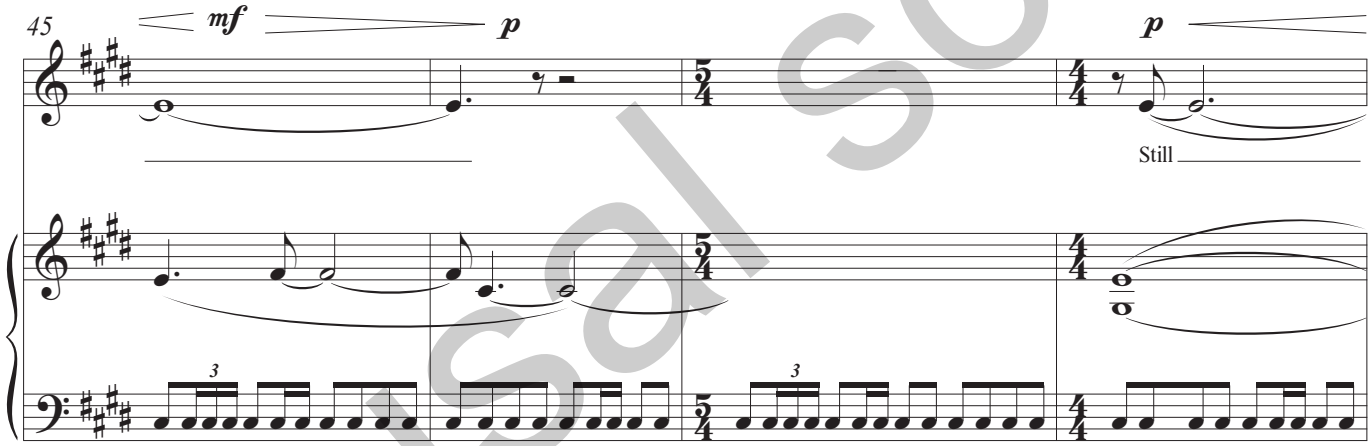

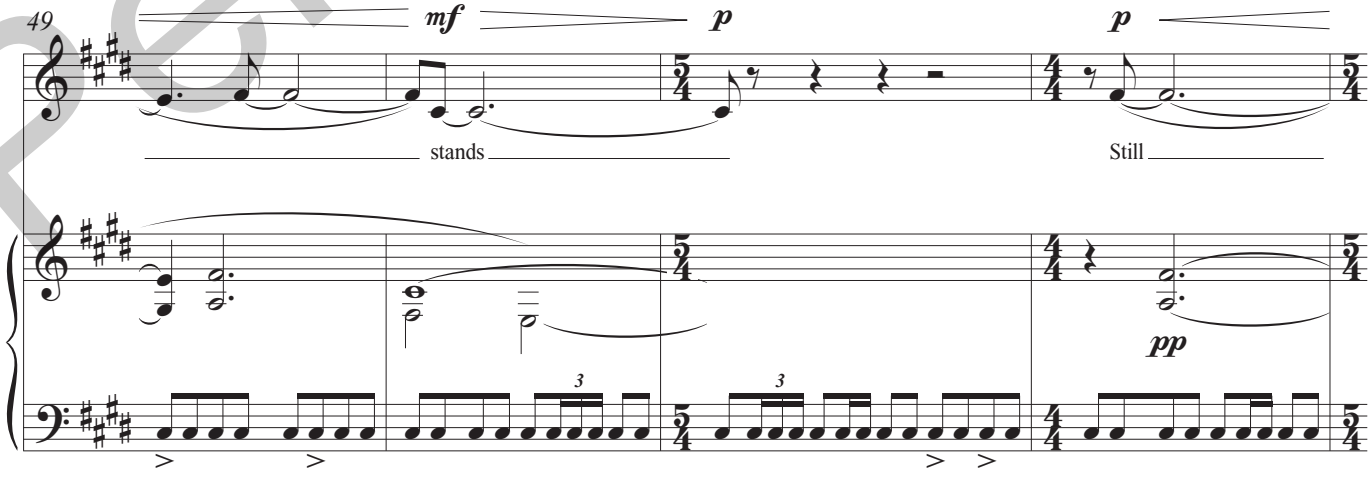

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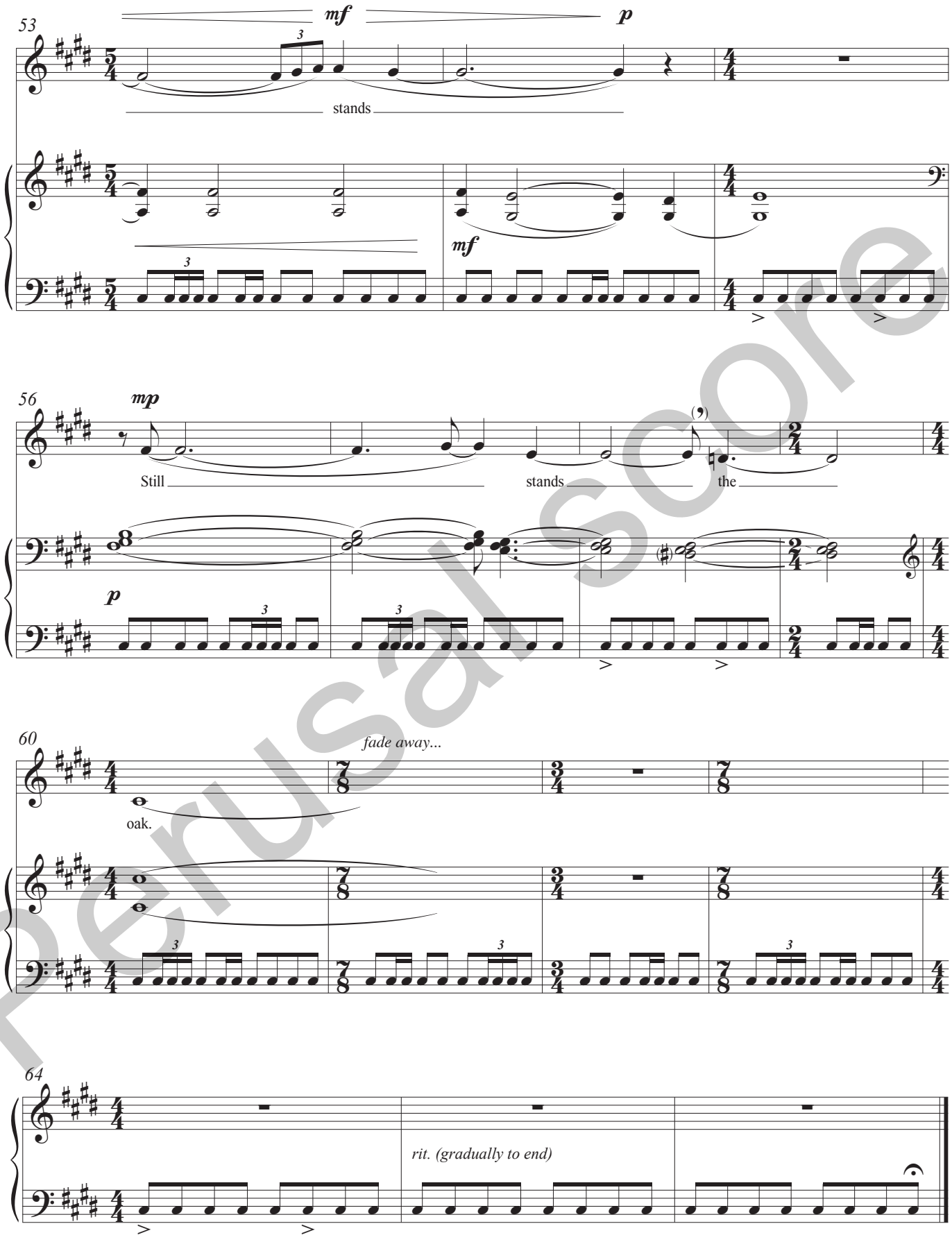

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