Silver Wing
soprano, viola
JH - V007

Jocelyn Hagen

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jocelyn hagen

jocelynhagen.com

Silver Wing

he had twelve days leave when I met him in Montreal
we courted a week then got married
he wore his uniform
I wore my grey silk suit and a hat with a veil
my mother shook her head and said you hardly know the boy

but it was the spring of ’44
it was such a crazy time
and he seemed so brave
so full of glory
with his talk of planes and the sky
I remember him saying

“Oh flying — well the Hurricane is a damn fine plane
and I wish you could see all the boys and me
doing loops and dives in tight formation
chasing the wind like eagles in the sun.”

it was spring again when I went to meet his train
they sent him home a hero
with medals and that look in his eyes and a cane —
I hardly knew him
and most nights he’d wake up shaking and scared
but he’d never tell me what he was seeing

but it was the spring of ’45
it was such a hopeful time
when he was finally on the mend
we’d sit on the porch and he’d watch the sky
like he was looking for something

Oh flying, sun on the silver wing
it’s so silent out there like a blue cathedral
you can climb and climb till the earth falls away
and you’re finally alone now
you’ve finally come home

well the doctors told him he could never fly again
but a hero's a hero and the Air Force takes care of its own
oh they let him fly a desk for thirty years
and except for the drinking nothing much has changed
still got his medals and his aches and pains
still got his bad dreams
he's still the same stranger I met at the train

but there was a boy in '44
he always dreamed of flying
and one day his plane took off
and you know, they've never come down
he's still somewhere flying
oh flying, sun on the silver wing

~text by Marie-Lynn Hammond, from her song *Flying/Spring of '44*

PROGRAM NOTE

"Silver Wing" is taken from the dance opera *Test Pilot* (2014), a collaboration between choreographer Penelope Freeh and composer Jocelyn Hagen. This new setting of a song lyric by Canadian singer/songwriter Marie-Lynn Hammond speaks to so many people, especially veterans and their family members. The composer was inspired by the relationship between her grandmother and her husband, Louis Theodore Hagen, III., who served in World War II as a navigator and was never quite the same upon return. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his outstanding service in the Air Force.

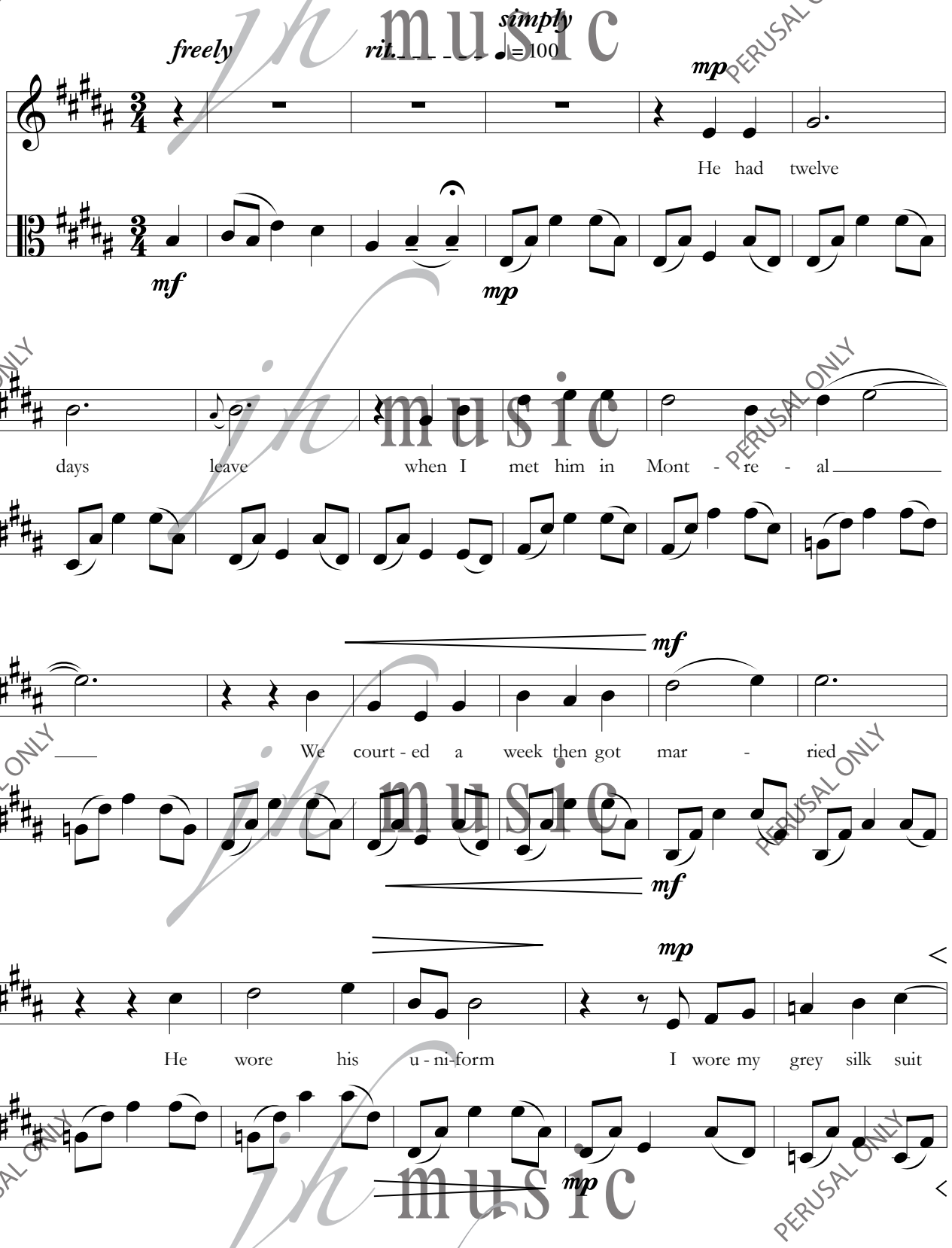
Visit www.testpilotdanceopera.com for more information.

Silver Wing

from *Test Pilot*

soprano & viola

Jocelyn Hagen



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Please report performances of this piece to
Jocelyn Hagen at jocelyn@jocelynhagen.com

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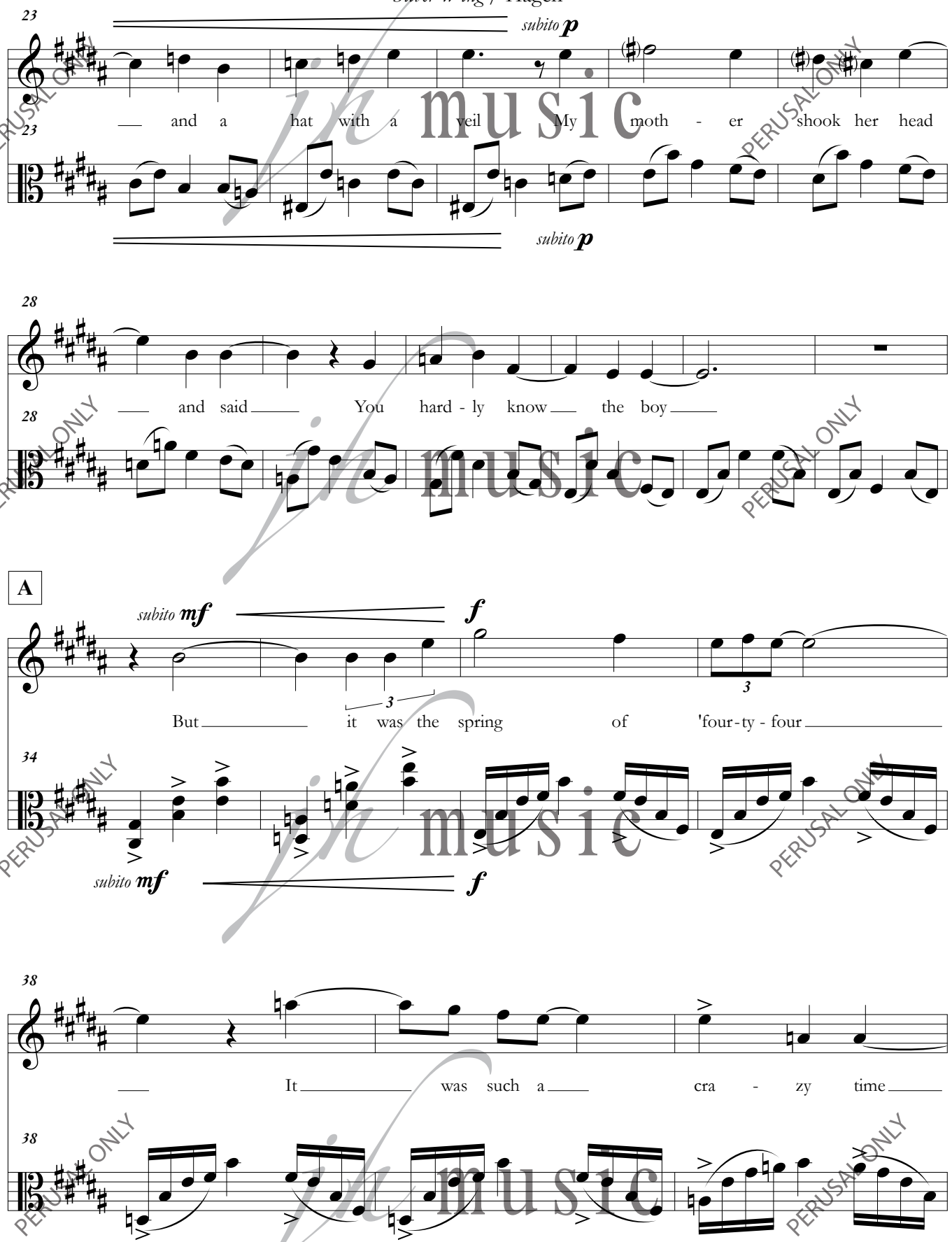

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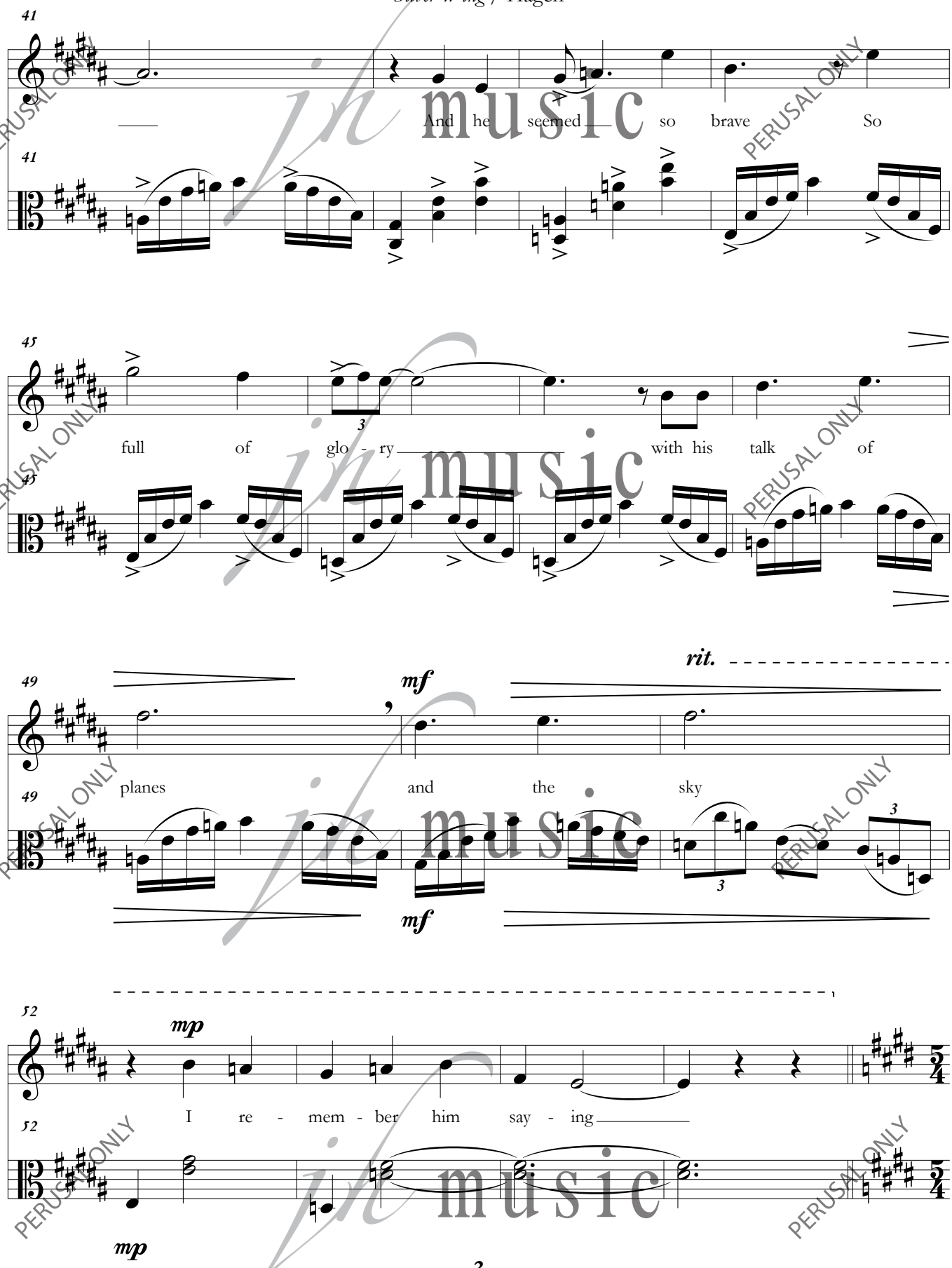

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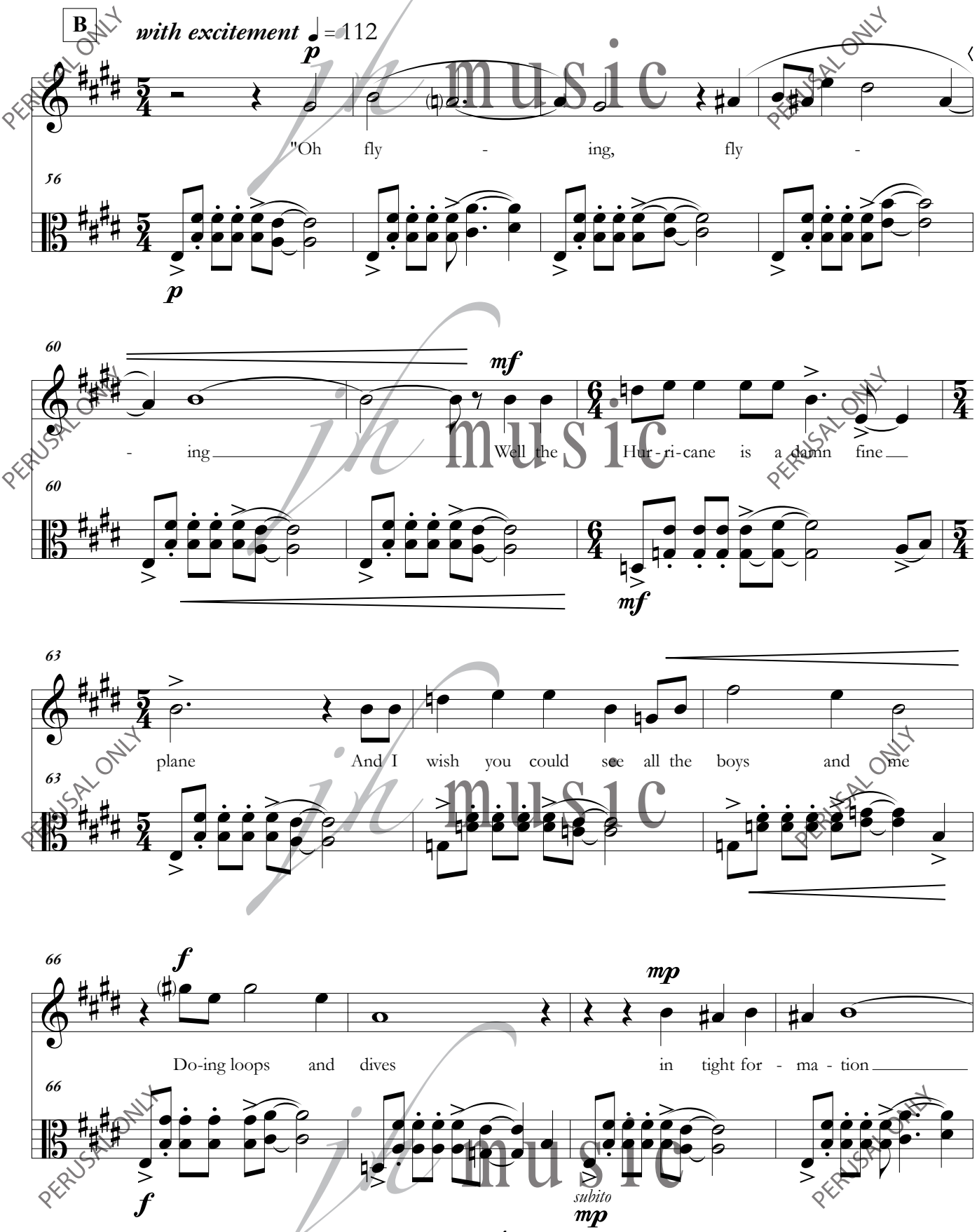

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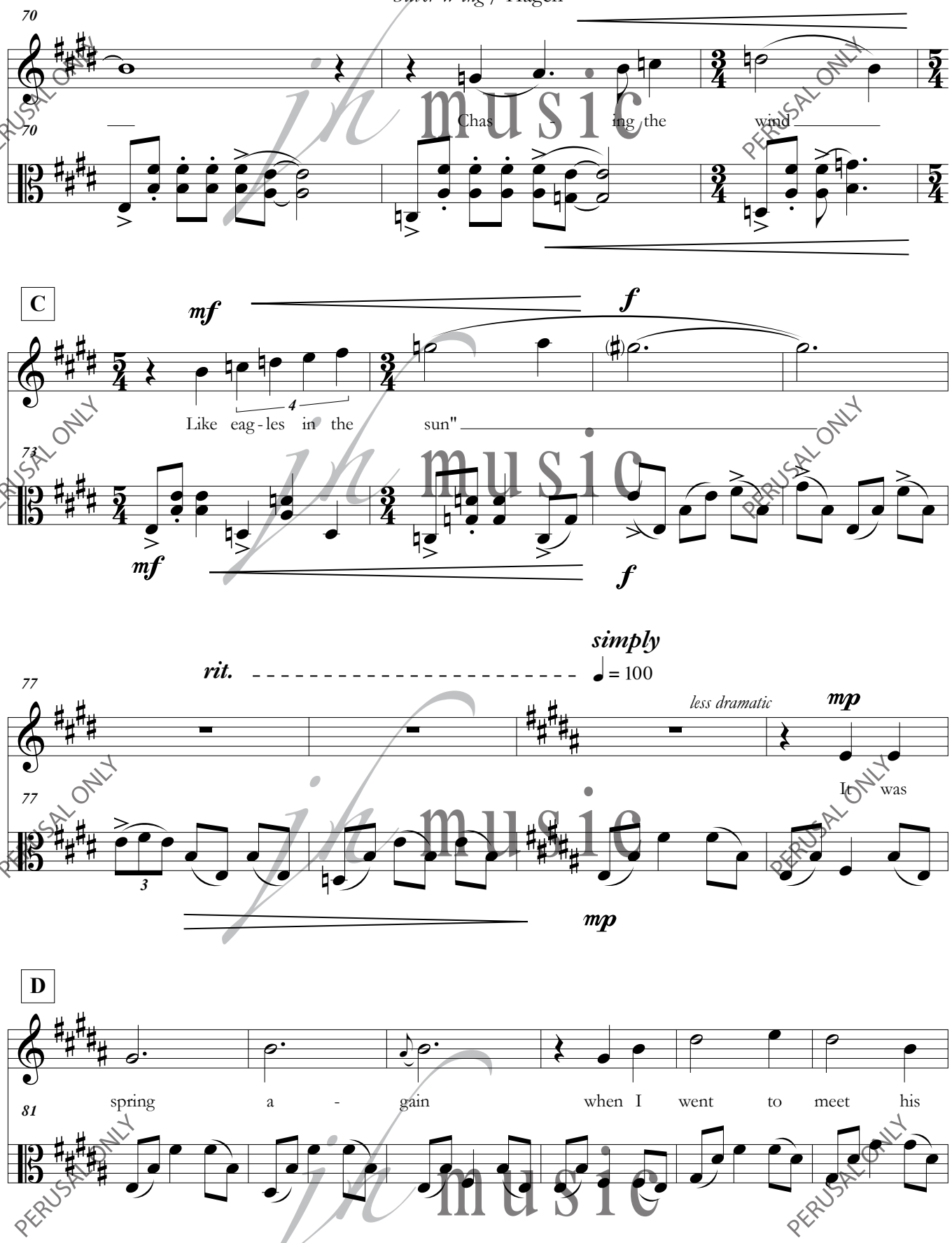

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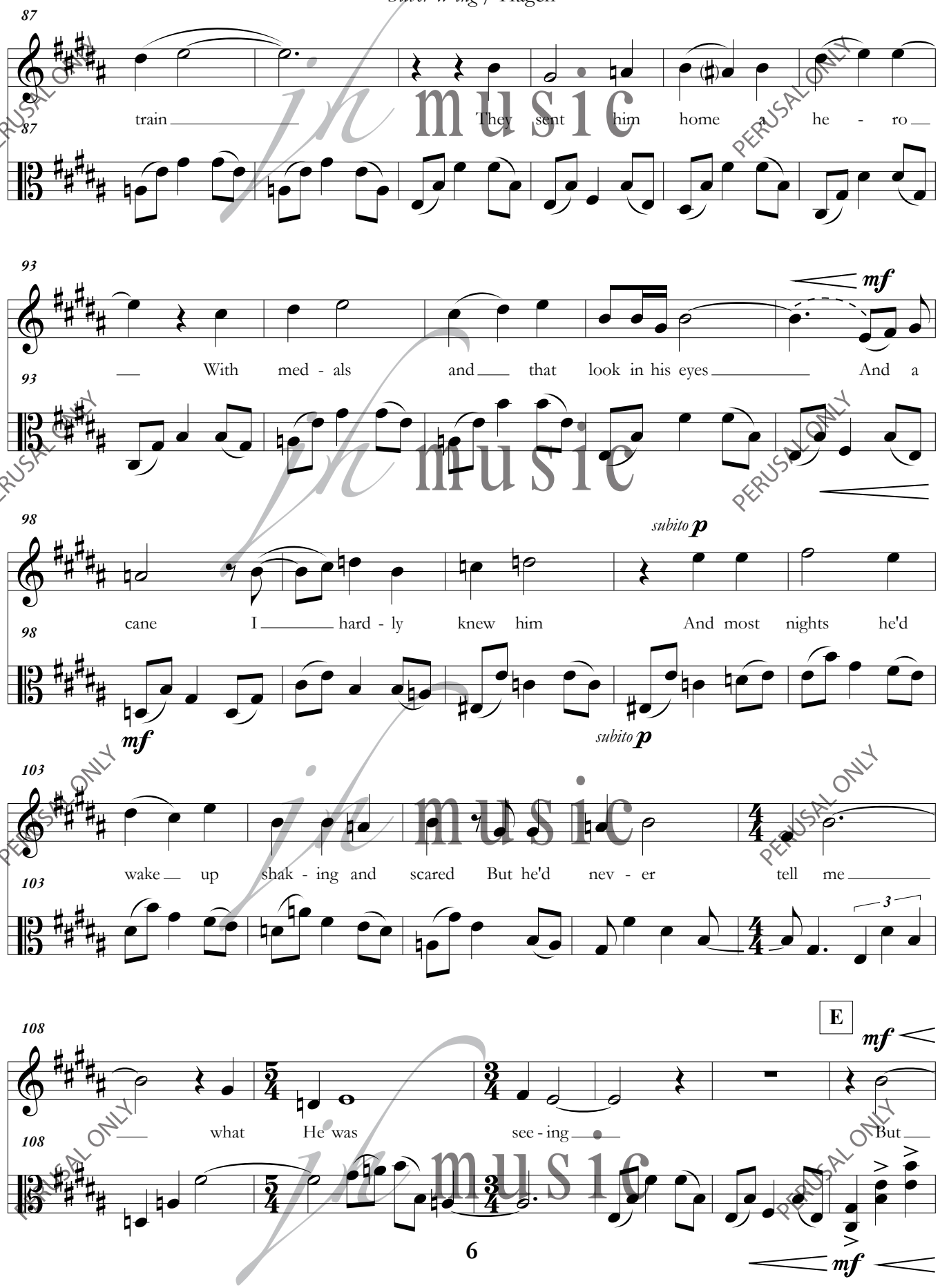

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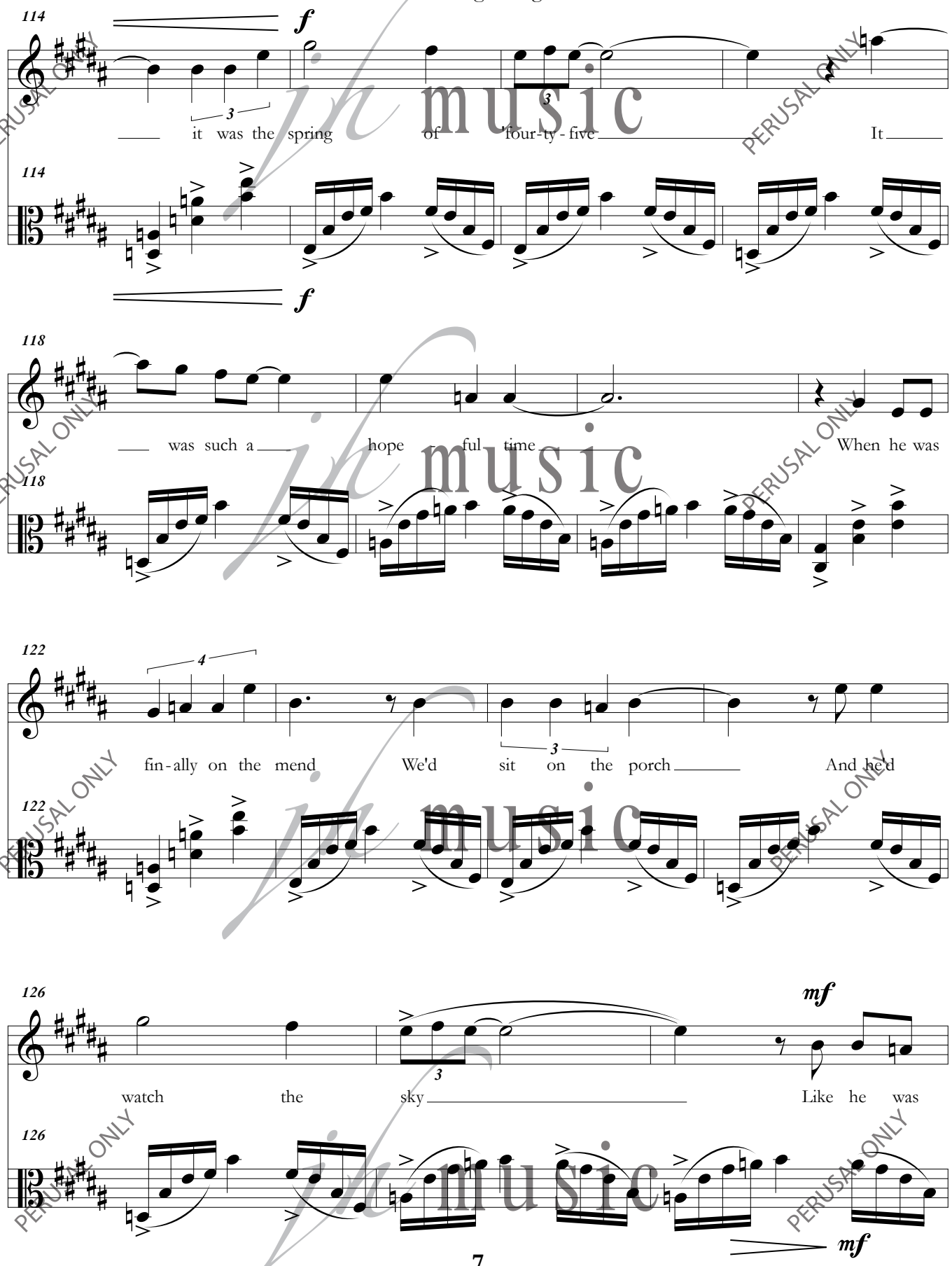

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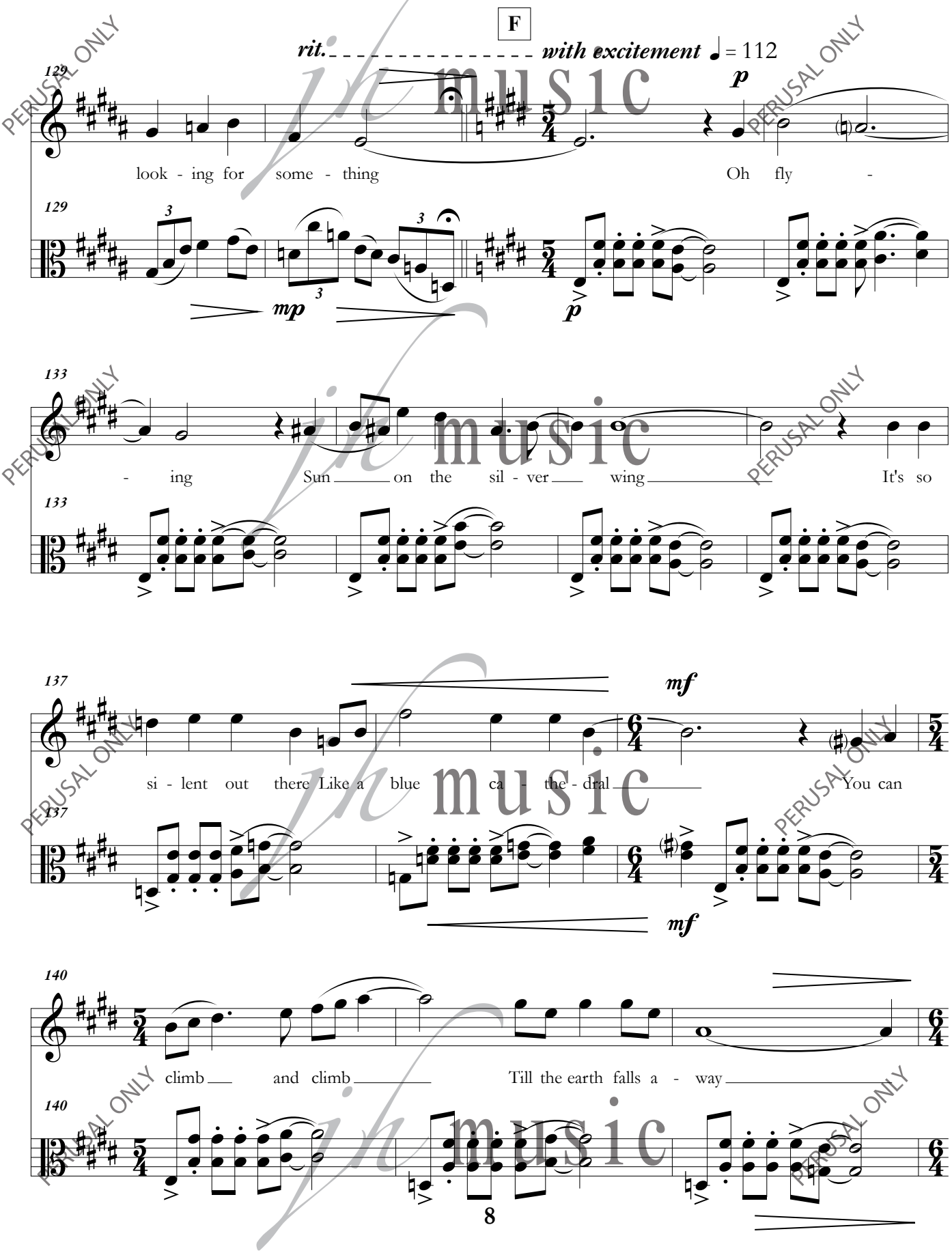

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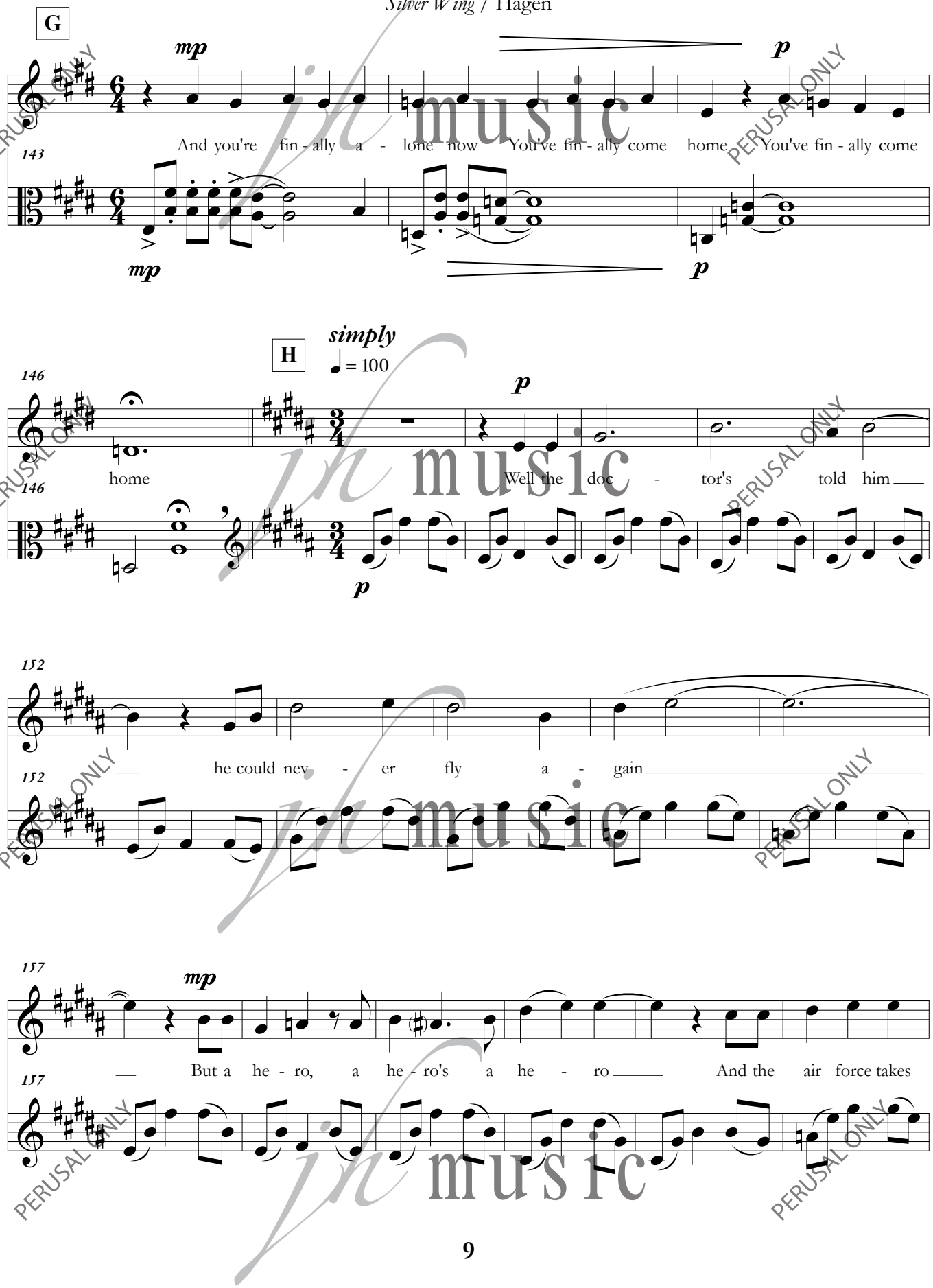

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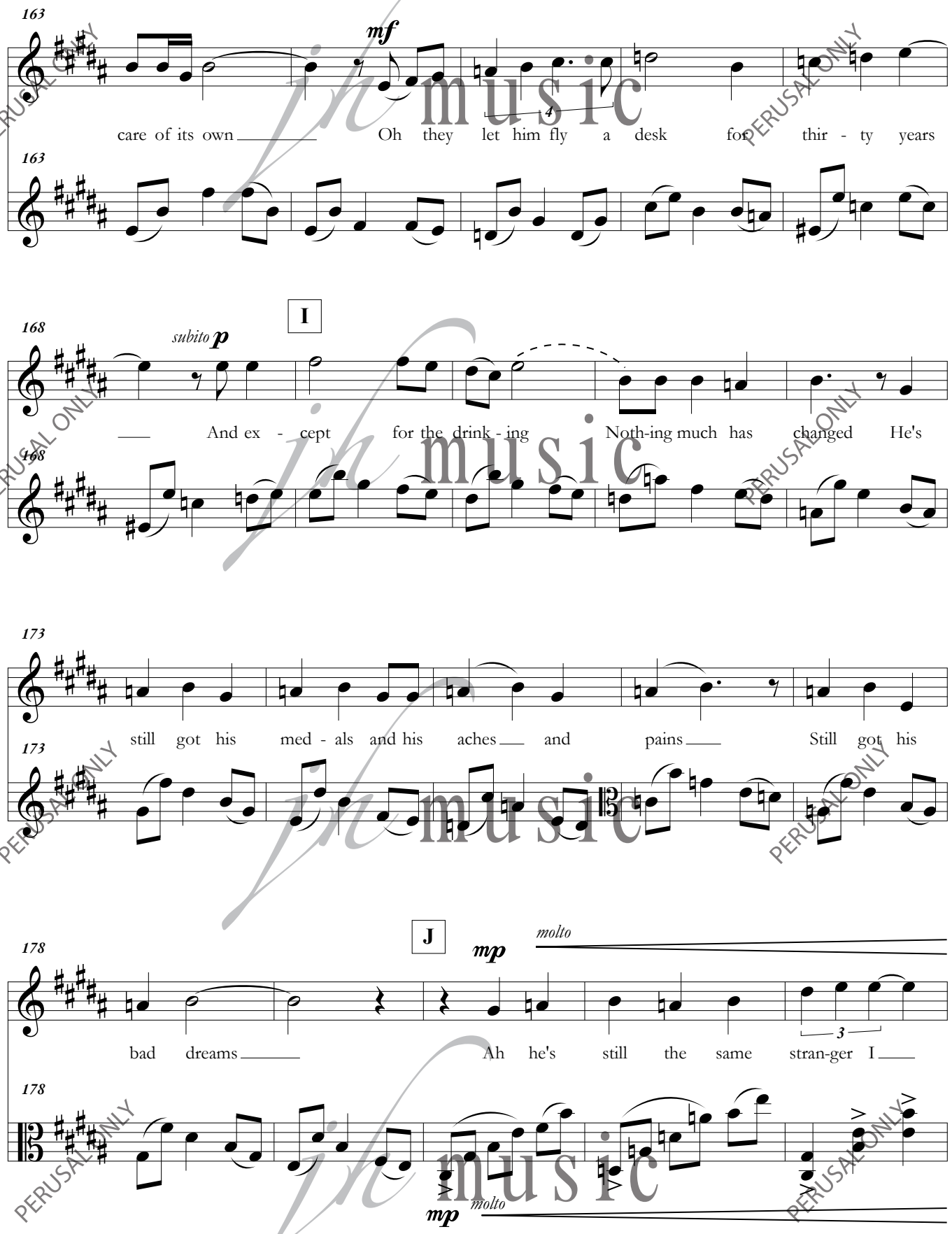

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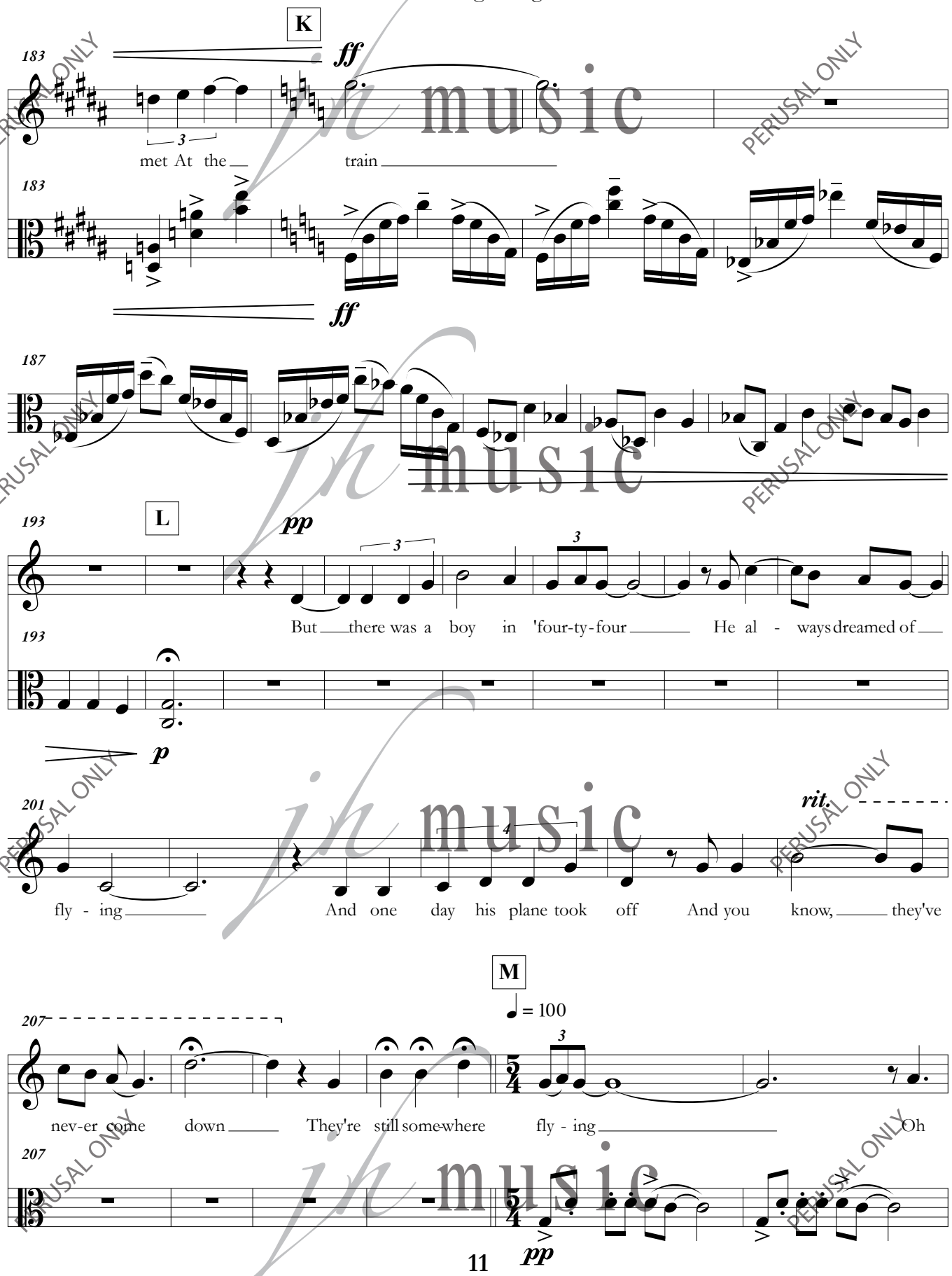

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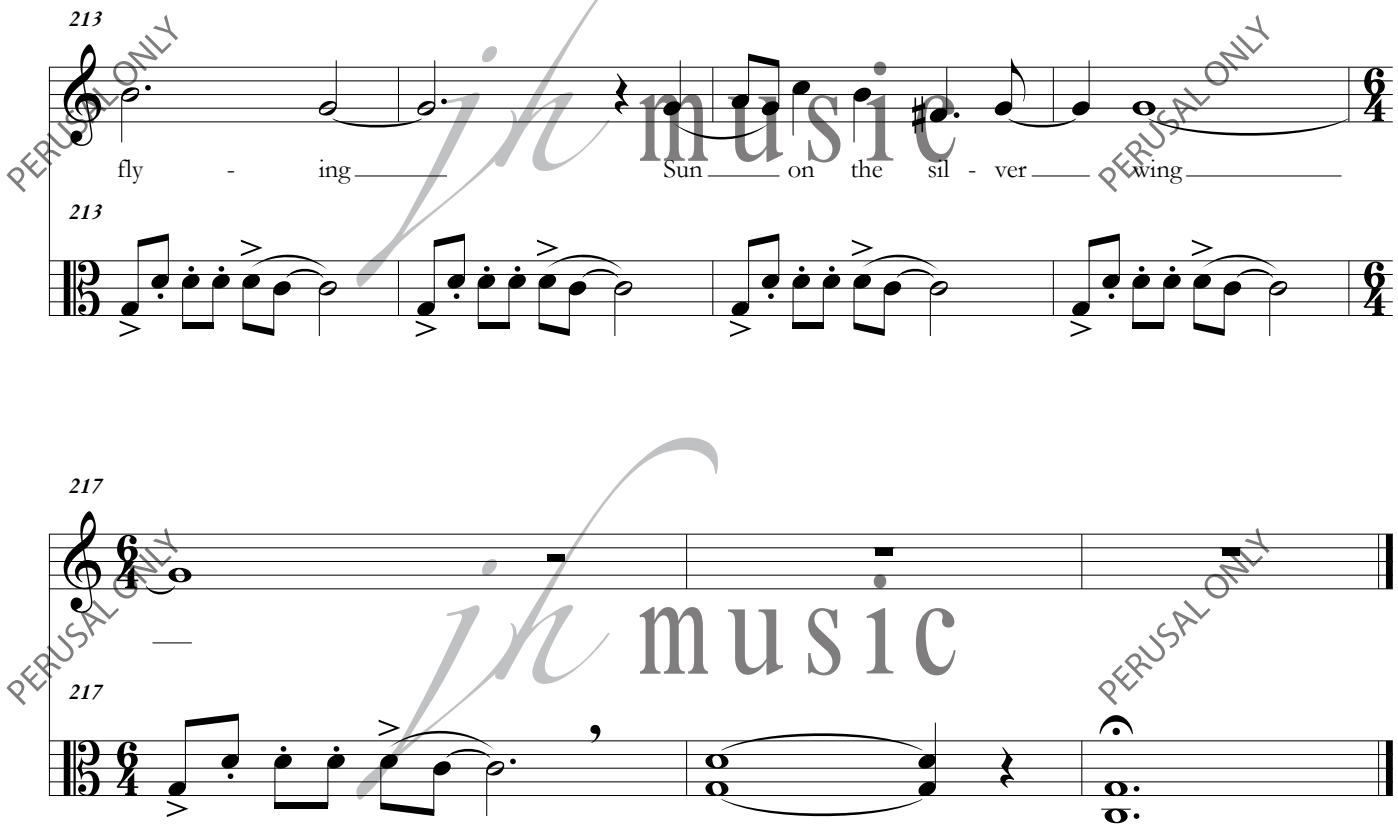

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Jocelyn Hagen

Jocelyn Hagen (b.1980), a native of Valley City, North Dakota, composes music that has been described as "dramatic and deeply moving" (Star Tribune, Minneapolis/St. Paul). Her first forays into composition were via songwriting, and this is very evident in her work. The majority of her compositional output is for voice: solo, chamber and choral. In 2012 she collaborated with choreographer Penelope Freeh to create "Slippery Fish," a quartet for 2 dancers, soprano and viola, and the piece was reviewed as "completely original in all respects." (Star Tribune, Minneapolis/St. Paul). Currently she is Artist-in-Residence at the North Dakota State University School of Music, where she teaches, writes curriculum and brings in collaborators to perform her work.

Jocelyn holds degrees in Theory, Composition, and Vocal Music Education from St. Olaf College, as well as a Masters degree in Composition from the University of Minnesota. Jocelyn has received grants and awards from ASCAP, the American Composers Forum, Minnesota Music Educators Association, the McKnight Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, VocalEssence, the Yale Glee Club, the Lotte Lehman Foundation, the Sorel Medallion Competition, the Cincinnati Camerata, the University of Minnesota, and the San Francisco Song Festival. Her commissions include the American Choral Directors Association, Texas, Georgia and Connecticut Choral Directors Associations, the North Dakota Music Teacher's Association, The Singers – Minnesota Choral Artists, Trio Callisto, the Murasaki Duo, Cantus, the Houston Chamber Choir, the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, the St. Olaf Band, NDSU Gold Star Band, the ND Army Band, and the Copper Street Brass Quintet. Her music is independently published through her website as well as through Graphite Publishing, Santa Barbara Music Publishing and Boosey and Hawkes.

Independently published vocal works by Jocelyn Hagen:

…and then we were left	song cycle for baritone, cello, and guitar
Dear Theo: Letters from Vincent Van Gogh	extended song for tenor and percussion
Hope	song cycle for high voice and piano
Kiss	song cycle for soprano and piano
love. songs	song cycle for baritone and piano
love. songs	song cycle for soprano and piano
Songs of Fields and Prairies	song cycle for soprano and piano
The Sweetness of my Dreams	song cycle for mezzo-soprano and piano
The Time of Singing Has Come	song cycle for soprano, tenor, and piano

"The Flower of the Field" from *Songs of Fields and Prairies*	high voice and piano
"Gwendolen's Dream"	soprano, clarinet in A, and cello
"i carry your heart" from *love. songs*	voice and piano
"In My Soul" from *amass*	baritone, cello, and guitar
"Inventing Truths" from *amass*	tenor and cello
"Love Song"	baritone and violin
"Para mi corazòn"	medium-high voice and piano
"Silver Wing" from *Test Pilot*	soprano and viola
"To My Daughter, After a Fight"	voice and piano
"The Wedding is the Promise" from *The Time of Singing Has Come*	voice and piano

Recordings available at JocelynHagen.com: