Score

Fields of Destruction

For Solo Euphonium and Piano

Peter Meechan

For perusal only - not for performance

Music for Wind

Peter Meechan Music
www.petermeechanmusic.co.uk

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Fields of Destruction

Euphonium and Piano

2008

Duration: c10

Instrumentation

Solo Euphonium

Piano

Programme note

“I have written many works for the euphonium, ranging from extended works to small unaccompanied pieces. However, I have never written a large scale work for the euphonium that takes advantage of the instruments ability to “sing”, a feature that the euphonium shares with few other instruments, other than the ‘cello.”

“The commission from Pat Stuckemeyer allowed me the chance to write a song cycle for euphonium, the result of which is Fields of Destruction – a set of three songs.”

“These aren’t songs in the classical music sense, nor are they representative of “pop” songs or those from a musical. The three songs take more from the folk tradition of storytelling and protest songs, transparent in nature, plain in delivery, and also heartfelt.”

“The subject matter is war, and more specifically, the wars which we (The UK and the US) are involved in.”

“Whilst the piece was in its gestation period it occurred to me that there was a really strange irony. Flanders Fields are covered in poppies, now a symbol of remembrance, and of peace, yet the huge plantations of the same flower in Afghanistan fund the terrorist attacks on our nations, as well as fund the organisations that plan such attacks, and fight wars with our troops in Afghanistan.”

“It wasn't the first time that I had been moved to write about the war – and on this occasion I went back to this first time I ever wrote about the war for my musical starting point.”

“Absolute Reality was a work I wrote directly after 9/11, again for euphonium, but this time with piano accompaniment. As this was the catalyst for the current war, I decided to take the musical material of Absolute Reality, and use it to create each of the three songs. The first movement resonates some of the phrases from Absolute, looking back, whilst appreciating the huge impact and effect it has had on our lives ever since. However, all three movements deal with the conflicting ideas of war, peace, life, death, happiness, sadness.”

PM

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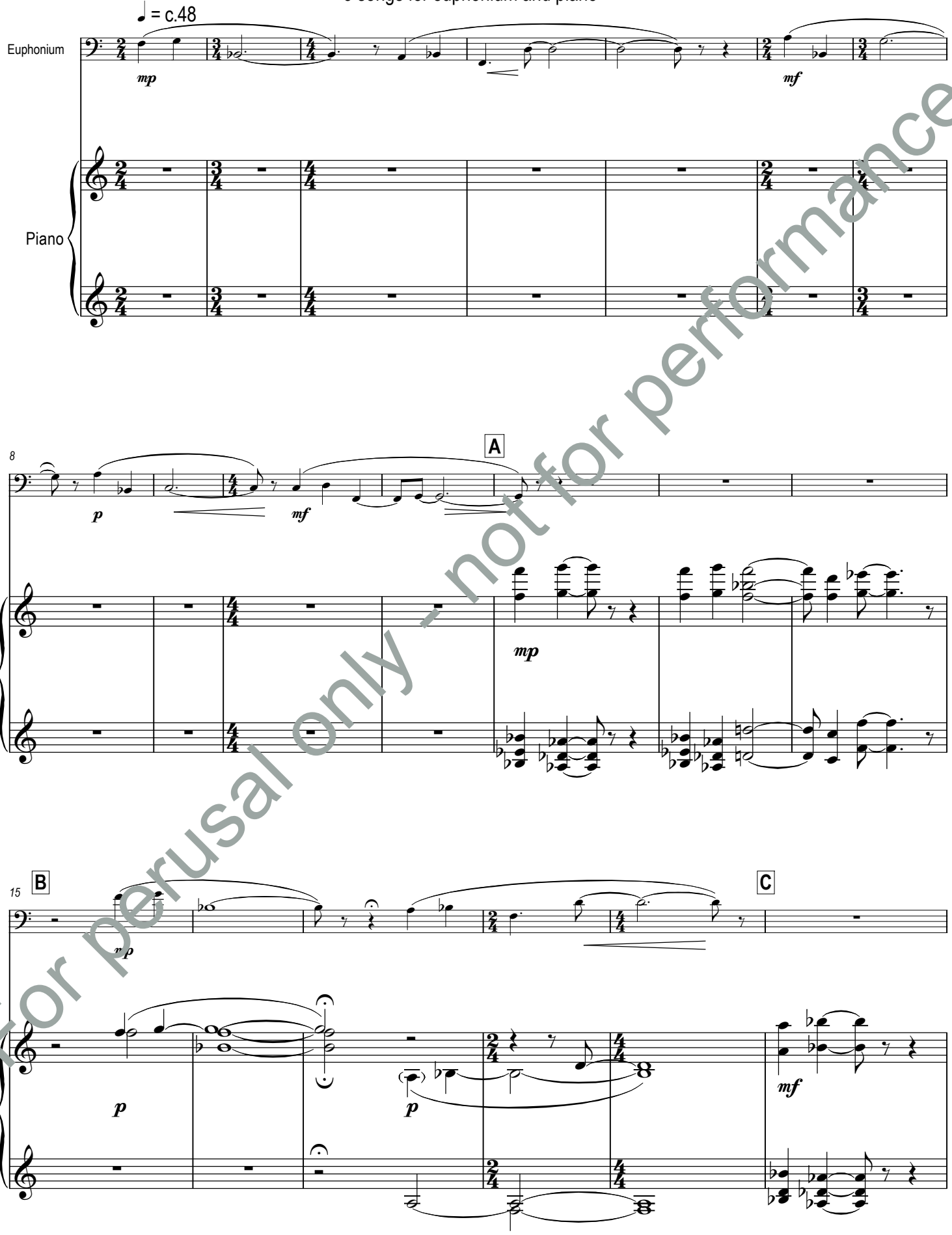
for Pat Stuckemeyer

Fields of Destruction

i

3 songs for euphonium and piano



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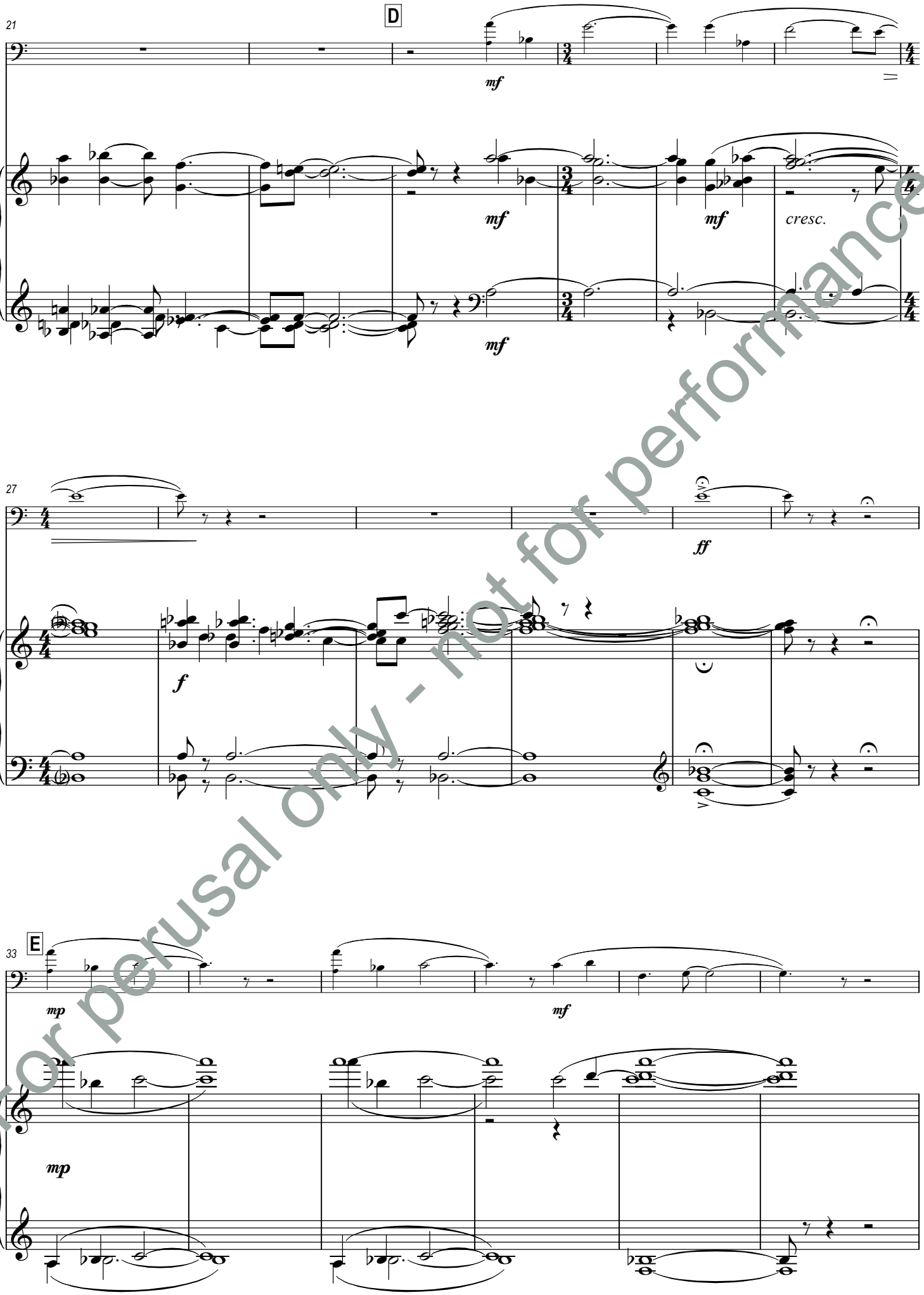

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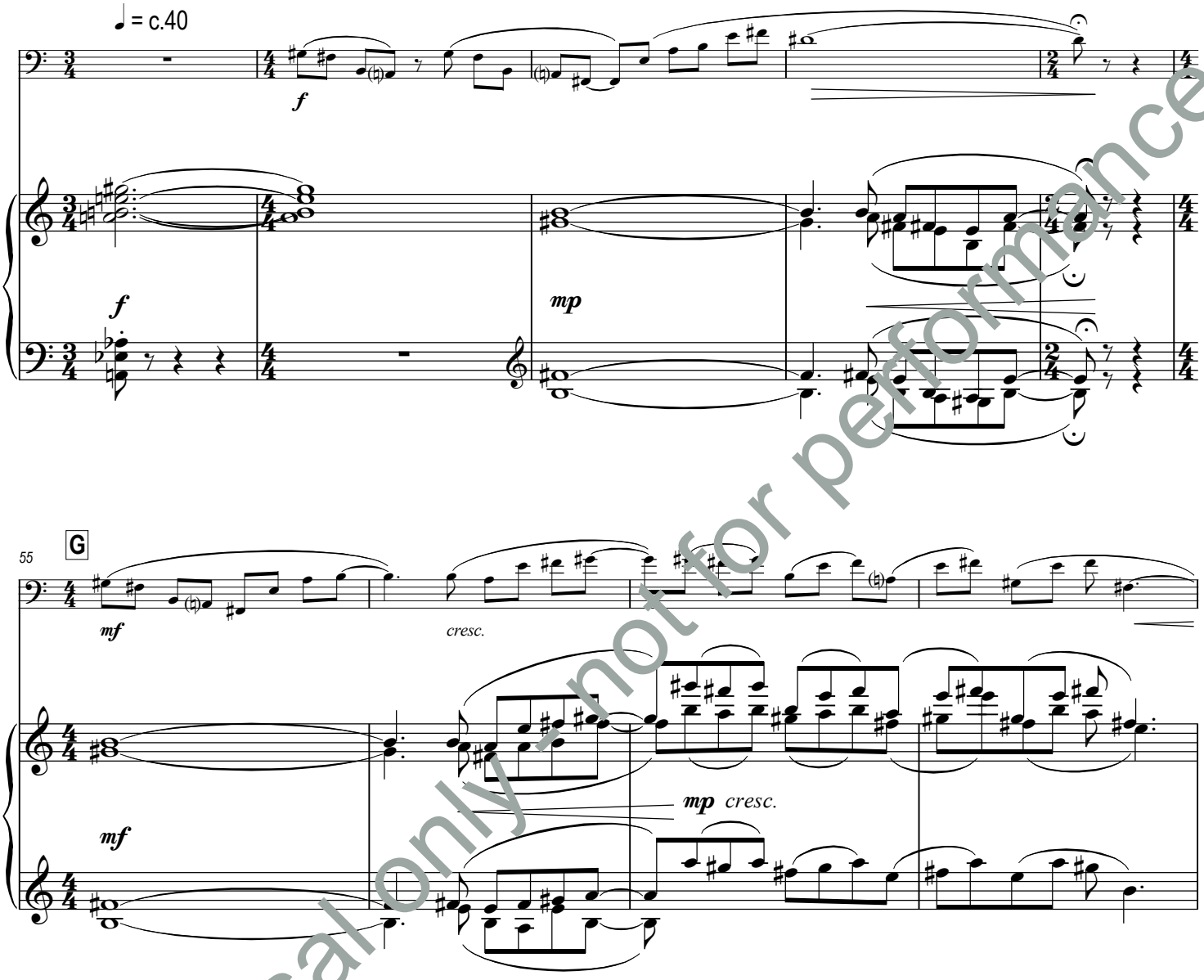

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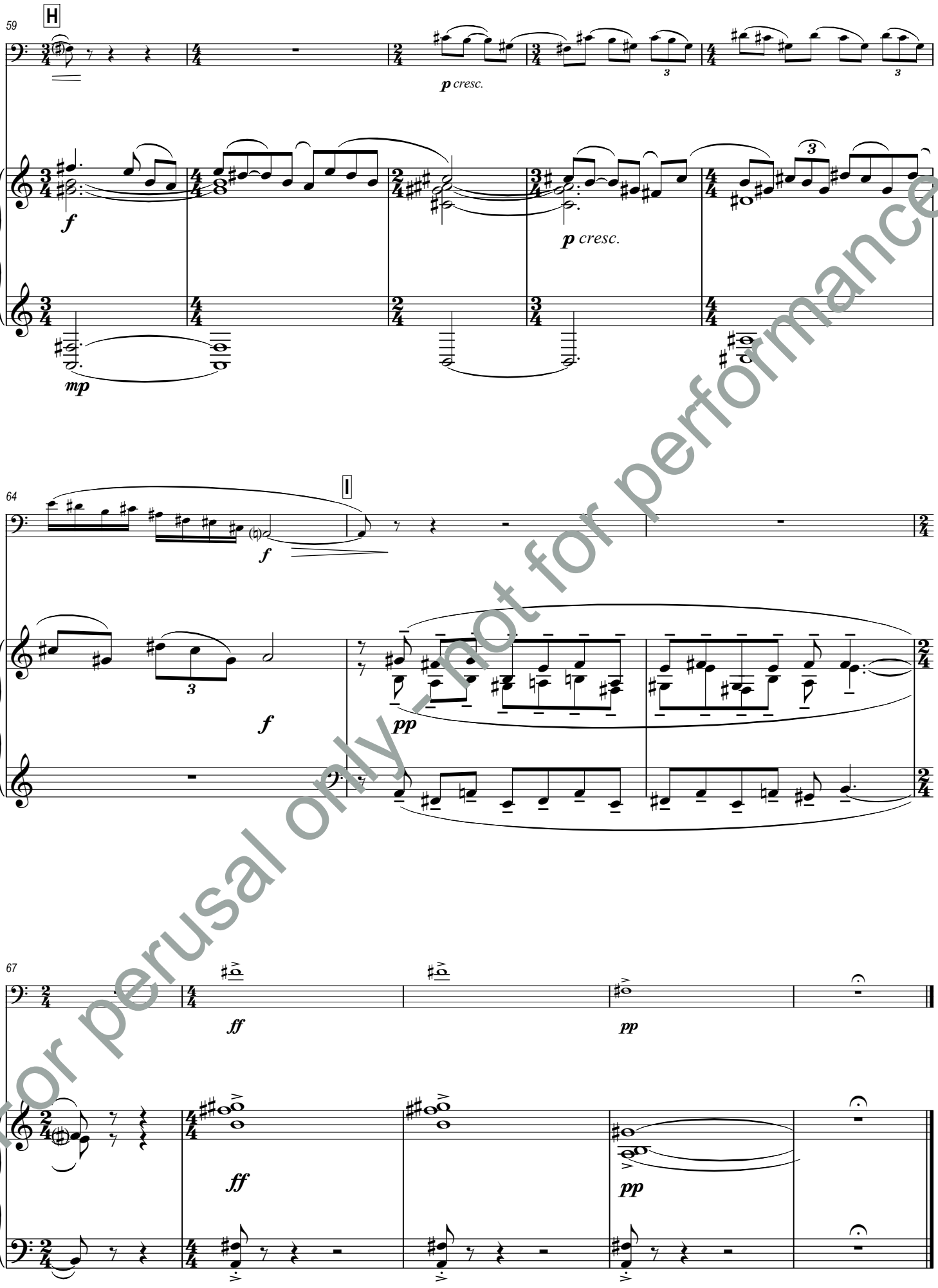

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iii

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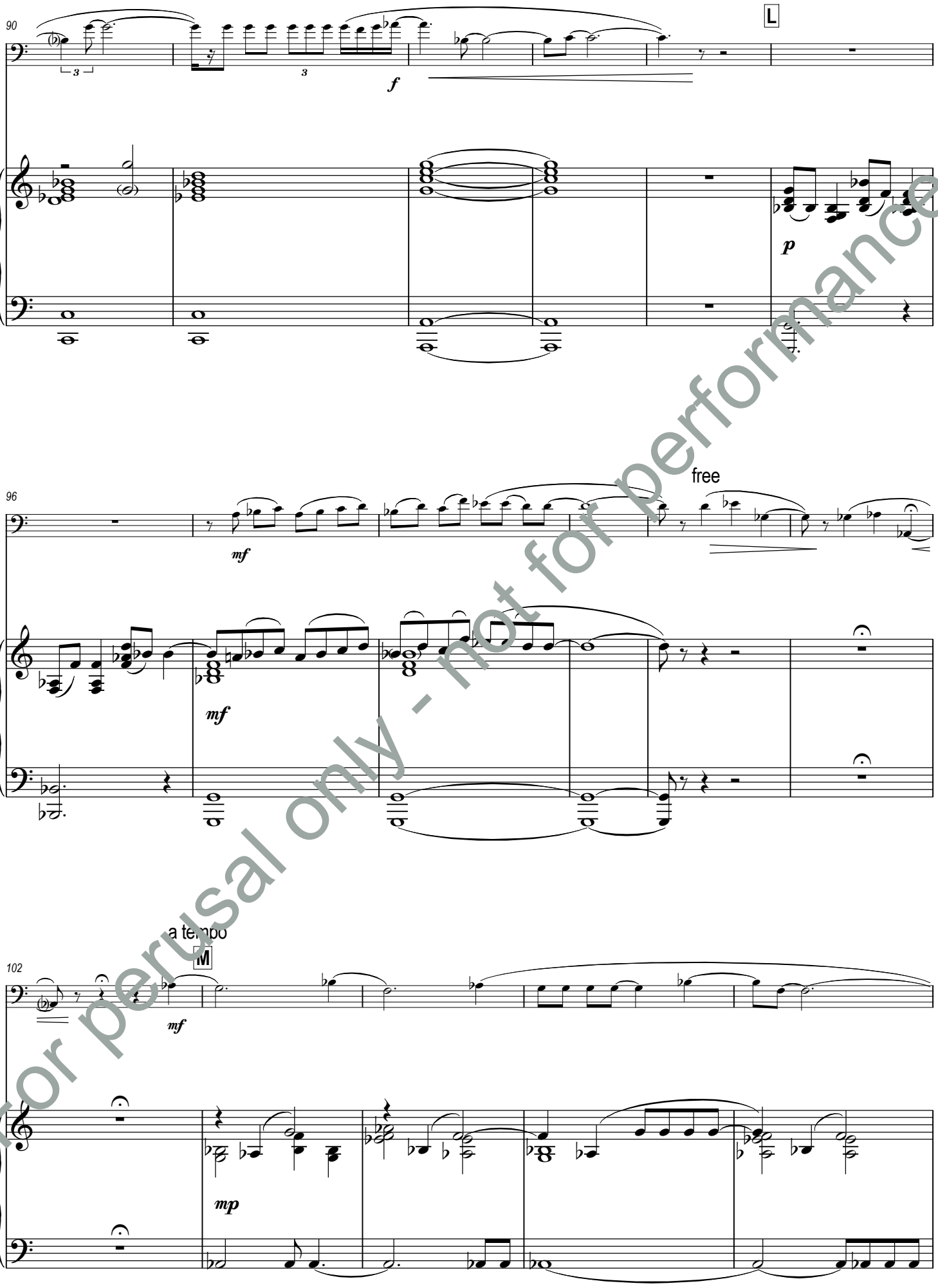

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