Full Score

Carbon Women

SCENE 1:
OVERTURE (false start)

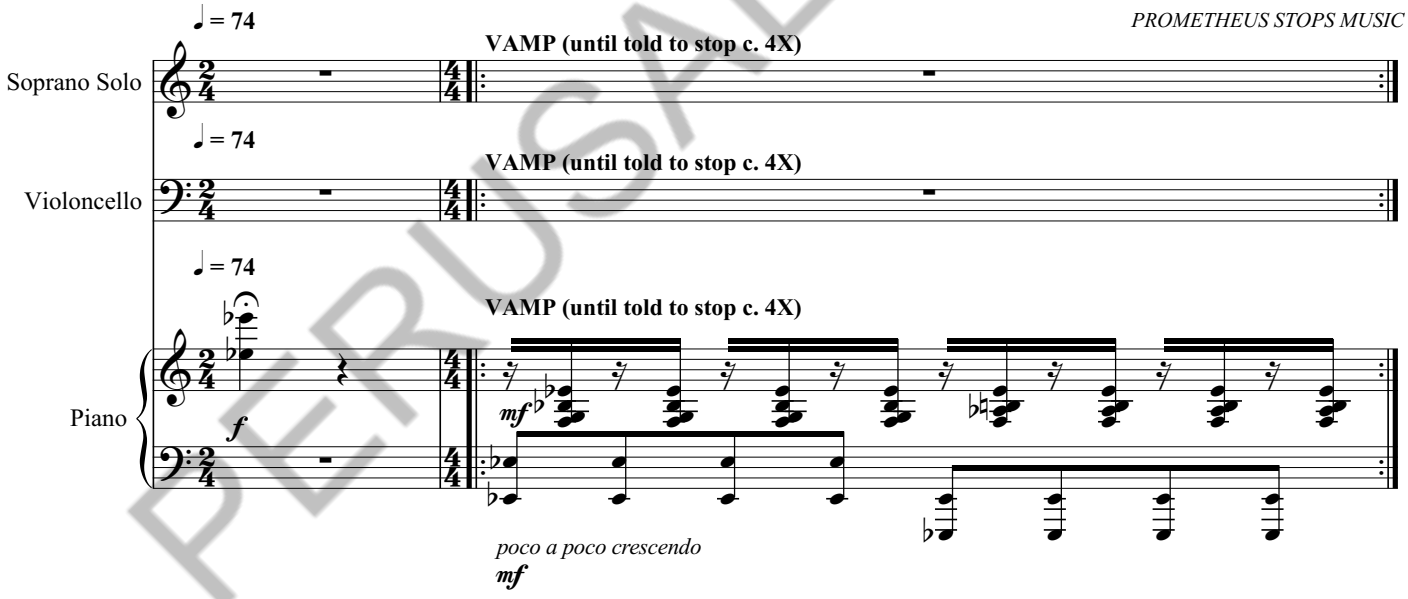
Áine Mallon

CELLIST & PIANIST enter, begin to tune and warm up. It's soon clear they're waiting for someone

PROMETHEUS (our narrator) enters, puzzling at a constellation map, turning it over and over

PROMETHEUS: Up, up, up, which way is up?
One of the musicians helpfully turns the map
North! Yes. Cheers. Beat. Turns map over again, shakes head Poor Cass. I know we can do better for you...
Prometheus looks up, notices audience
Humanity! All of humanity!
CELLIST shakes head - it's far less than that
At least half of humanity, surely!
Musicians indicate it's lower again
(valiantly) Humans of ... Europe?
Musicians look at each other, indicate 'kind of'
Prometheus, confused, goes to Cellist who whispers in his ear
All of humanity currently in the environs of Bangor, North County Down on the island of Ireland?
Musicians (& audience?) approve - close enough
All ___ *(guesstimate audience)* of you! You came! And by Aphrodite, yis are marvelous. This is great.
Shaking hands, greeting folks, banter
Hiya. Howyeh? Prometheus, Bringer of Fire. It's been ages, right? Anyone got a light?
[IF SOMEONE OFFERS A LIGHTER]
YES - still got it. My entire life was not a mistake. Right -
[IF NO ONE HAS ONE]
WOW. I risked everything for you. Stole fire from Zeus so you could see in the dark and bake bread and barbecue zebras. Now I'm riding out eternity chained to a rock having my liver pecked out by an eagle every single night. And not so much as a match? Shaking my head. Anyway -

[CUE]
PROMETHEUS: Let's get to work, shall we?



PROMETHEUS: You need more exposition? Still not omniscient, hun?
Here it is: We mythological beings need your help. Humans are remarkable. You're nowt but puny mortals - the least powerful tribe of all. But really, you're also the only powerful beings in mythology: you're in charge of the stories. And mate, they are all over the place. You made up all manner of wild variations, then got distracted by popes and plagues and world wars and left us with some properly unsatisfying endings. I doubt even the lads would Game of Thrones hire yis.
Your sky is littered with constellations of us. Even if you do look, I doubt you see us anymore. But I wanted you here; because even if you don't believe in us anymore, I believe in you. Look what you've done with all your power: Punk rock! Climate strikes! Avocado toast! Me bloody Too! You're changing every game. [I bet someday you'll even quit eating zebras.] And I just bet you can fix things for us cursed gods. Will you?
Gets some agreement from audience / ad lib
Magic! Now: Because I am incredibly selfless (and she has such a pitiful deal) we're starting with Cassiopeia.
Pianist motions for Prometheus to come over, whispers in his ear
(incredulous, to Pianist) No, I am definitely not using Queen Cassiopeia as a guinea pig in case these humans make awful choices. Have faith. Please.
(to audience) Fallible humans: Your task is to finally settle upon Cassiopeia's true story - the final version of why and how and whether or not this beautiful queen ends up cast into the heavens, bound to a starry throne and flipped upside-down half the year for all of eternity. We'll get to her story - for those who don't know it. First off, this is how your choices work:

GO TO **SCENE 2** (NEXT PAGE)

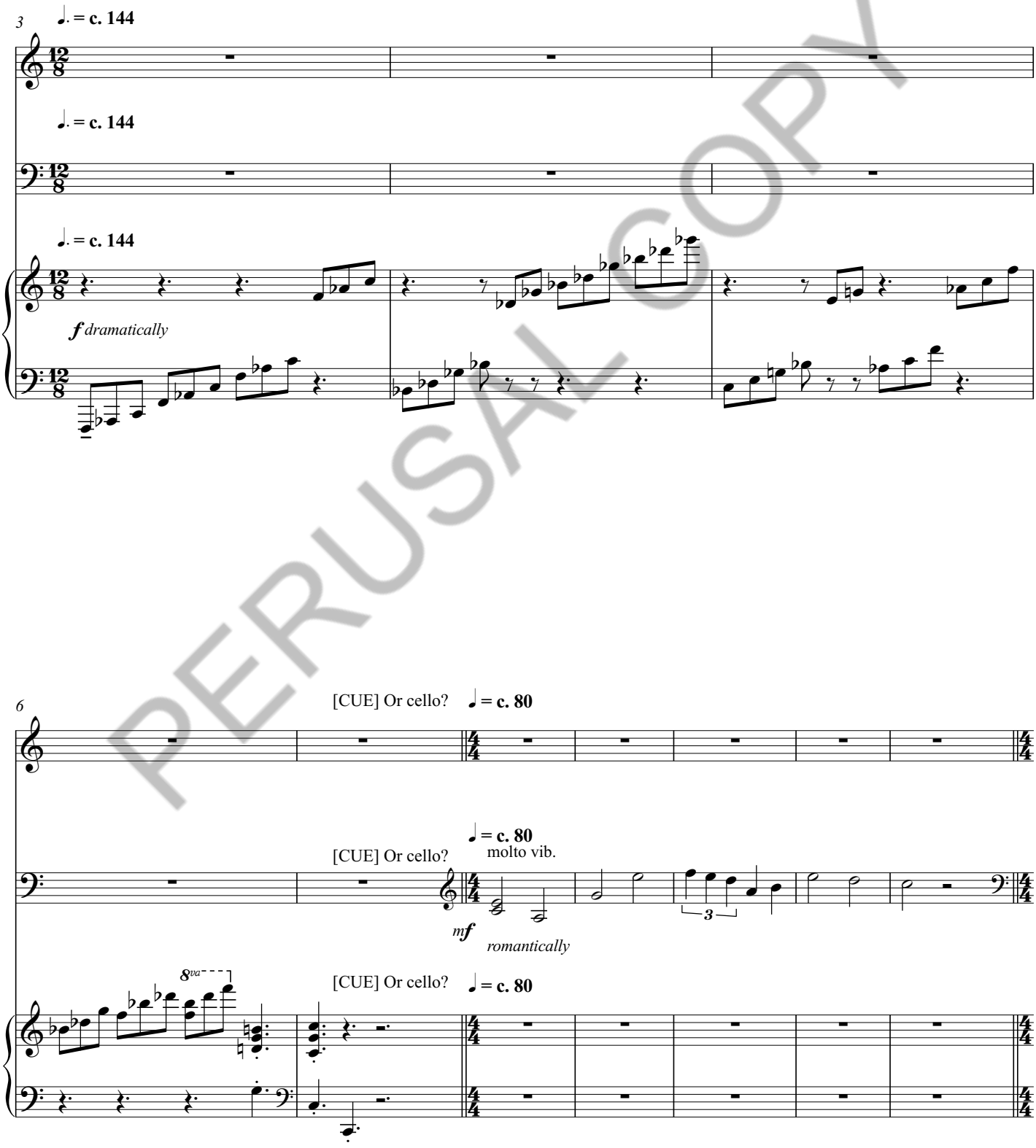
PERUSAL COPY

SCENE 2:
PRACTICE VOTE

PROMETHEUS: The voting process is very simple, like all democracy. (stern) You still have that, right?
Holds up sample voting card
You should have a ballot. I think we printed enough for all of humanity, yes? One red side, one yellow side. Each time we reach a crossroads in the tale of Cassiopeia, I'll present you with a clear choice. When you hear this music
Ensemble plays voting music sample
you'll be able to deliberate together for a whole half a minute.
[IF THERE'S ANY PUSHBACK]
Thirty seconds is loads when an eagle's masticating your liver

Let's practice, yeah? You vote: Which instrument is the best?

[CUE] Piano? -



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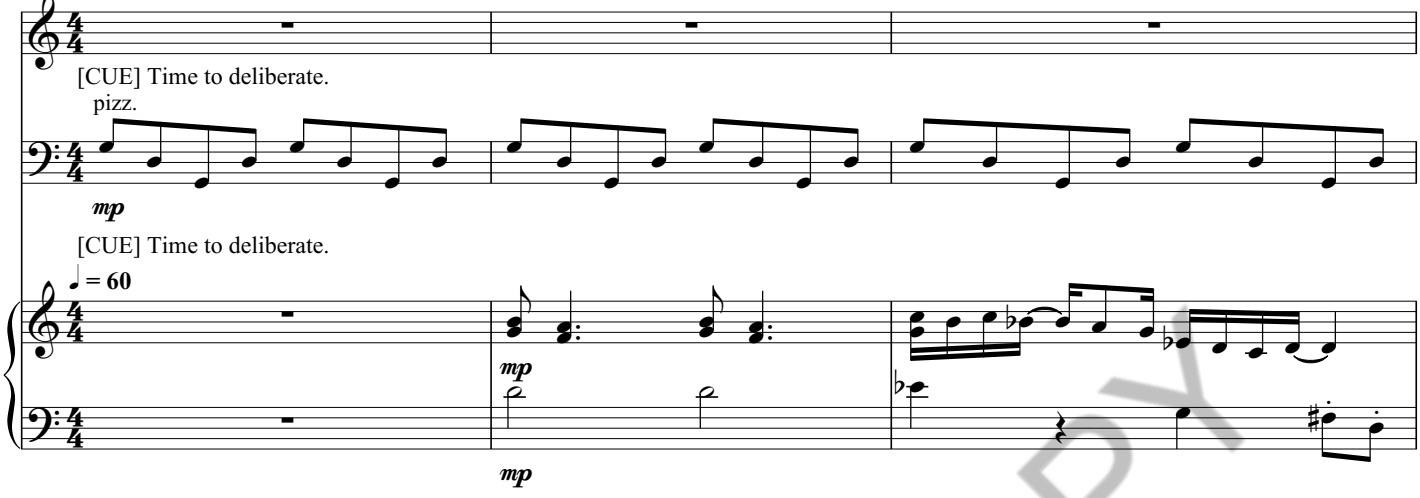
ATTACCA **SCENE 2** (NEXT PAGE)

SCENE 2 (cont'd):
VOTING MUSIC

[CUE] Time to deliberate.

13 ♩ = 60



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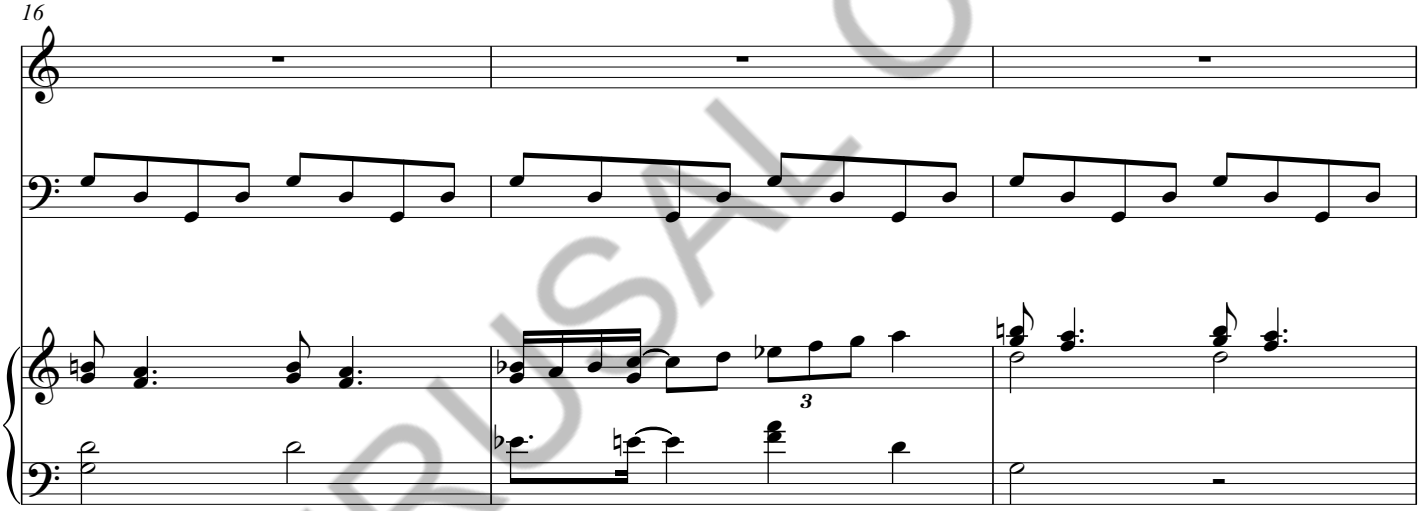

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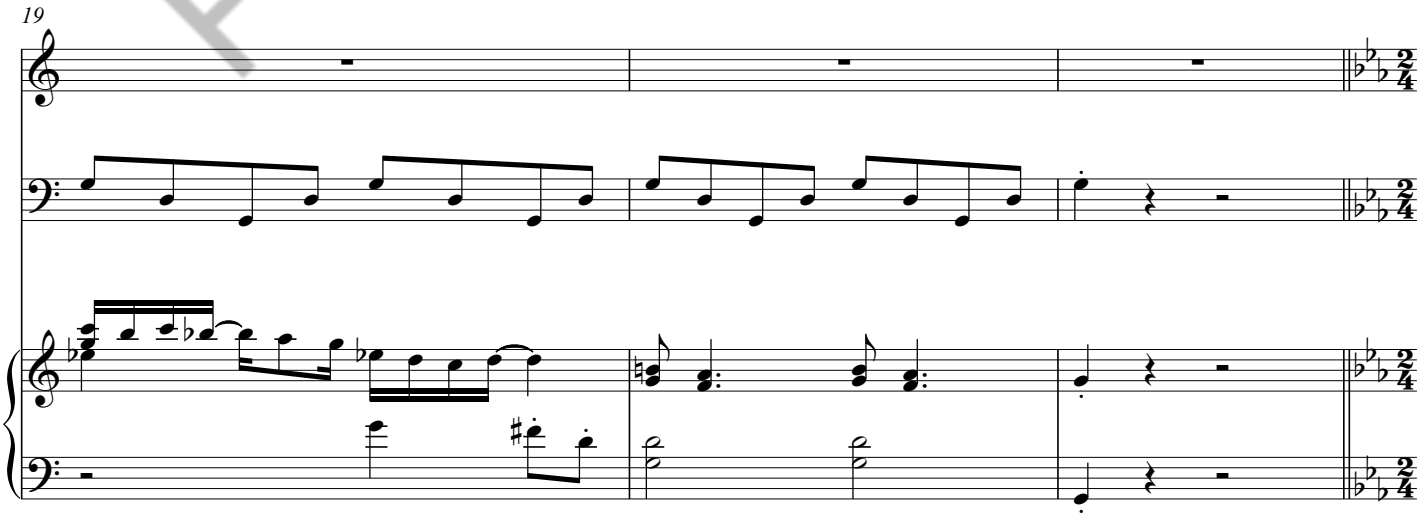

GO TO **SCENE 3** (NEXT PAGE)

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SCENE 3:
OVERTURE

[CUE] Away we go!

22

♩ = 76

[CUE] Away we go!

♩ = 76

arco

mf

[CUE] Away we go!

♩ = 76

f

mf

mf

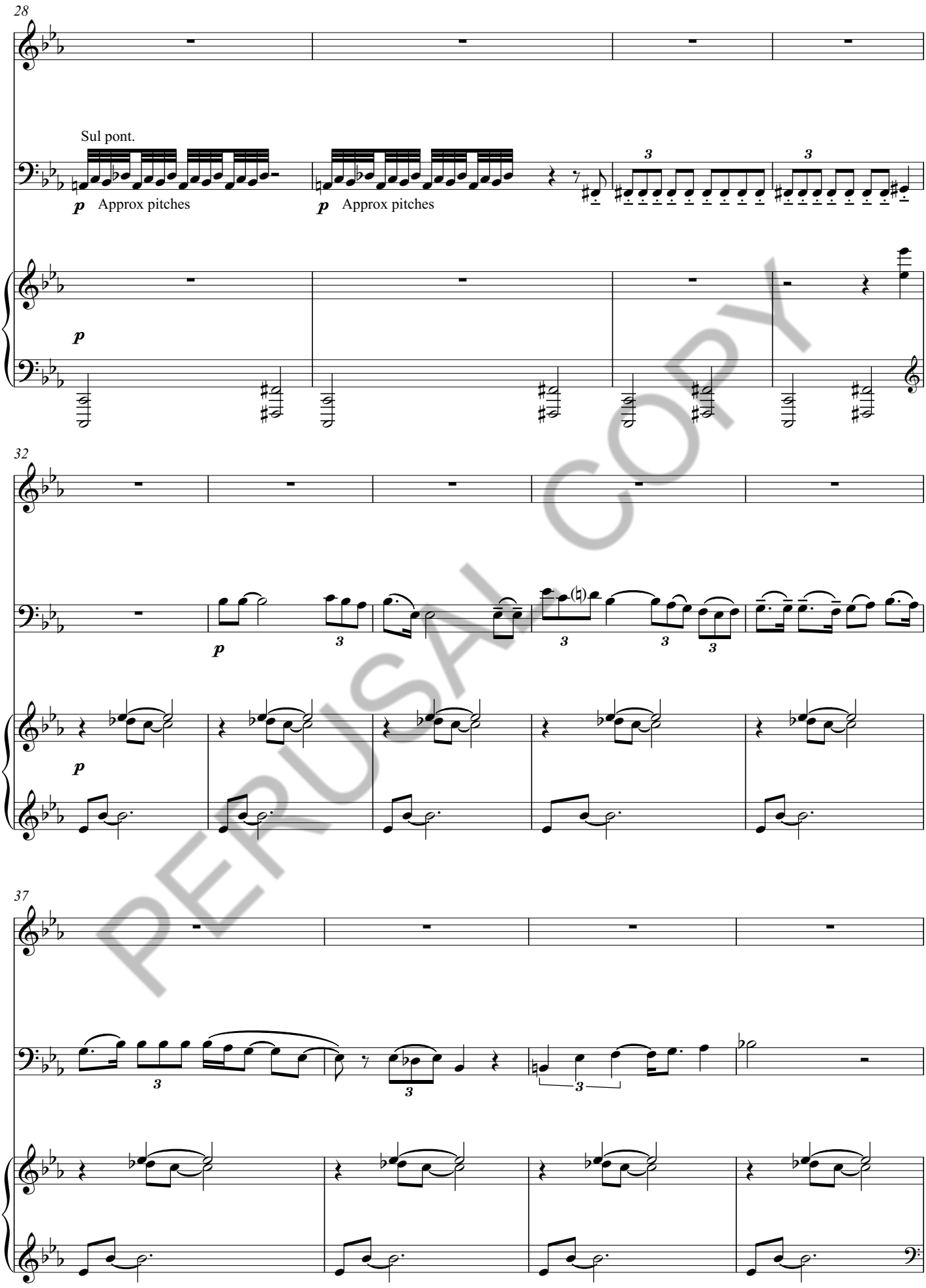
poco a poco crescendo

25

f

f

PERUSAL COPY



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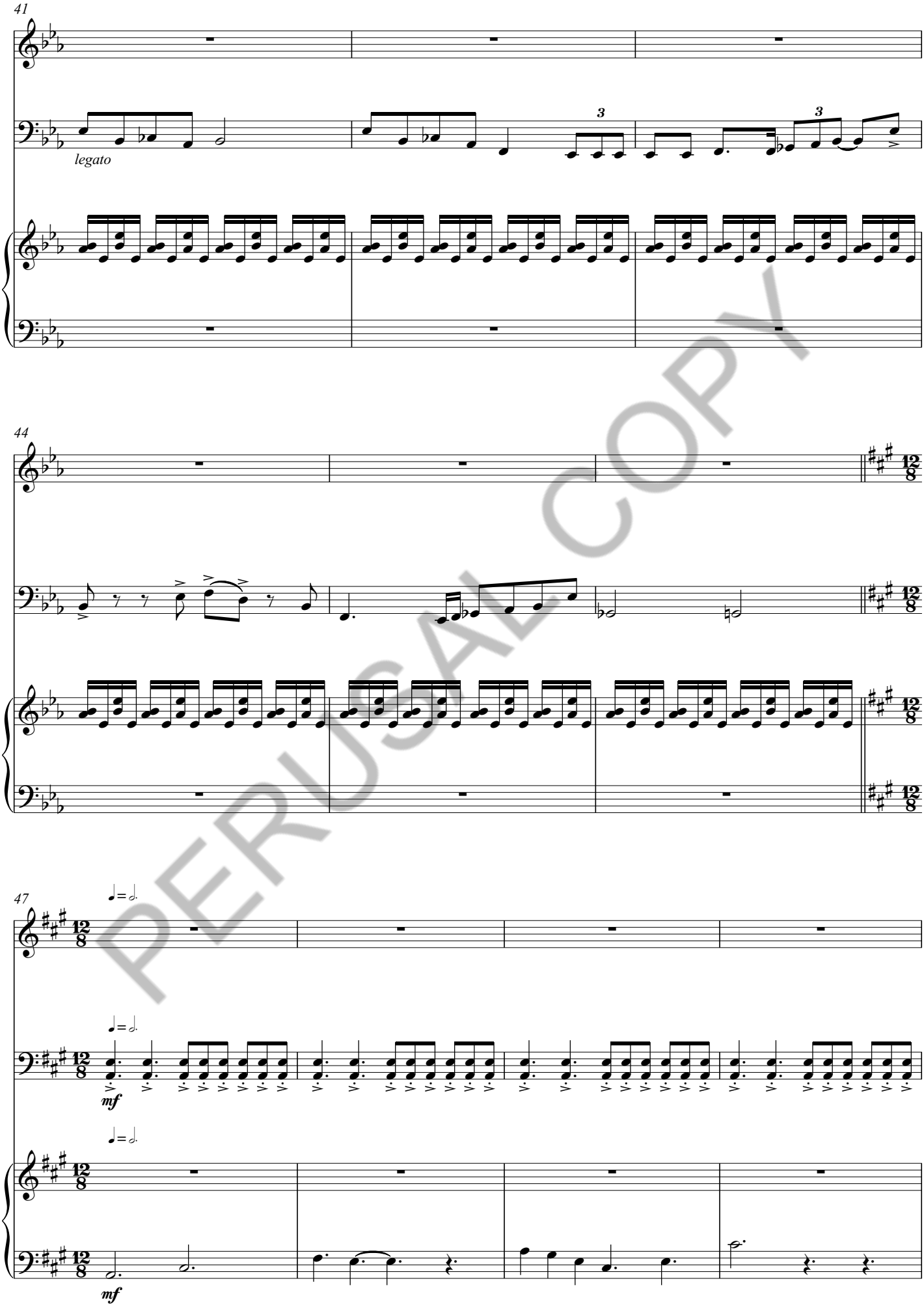

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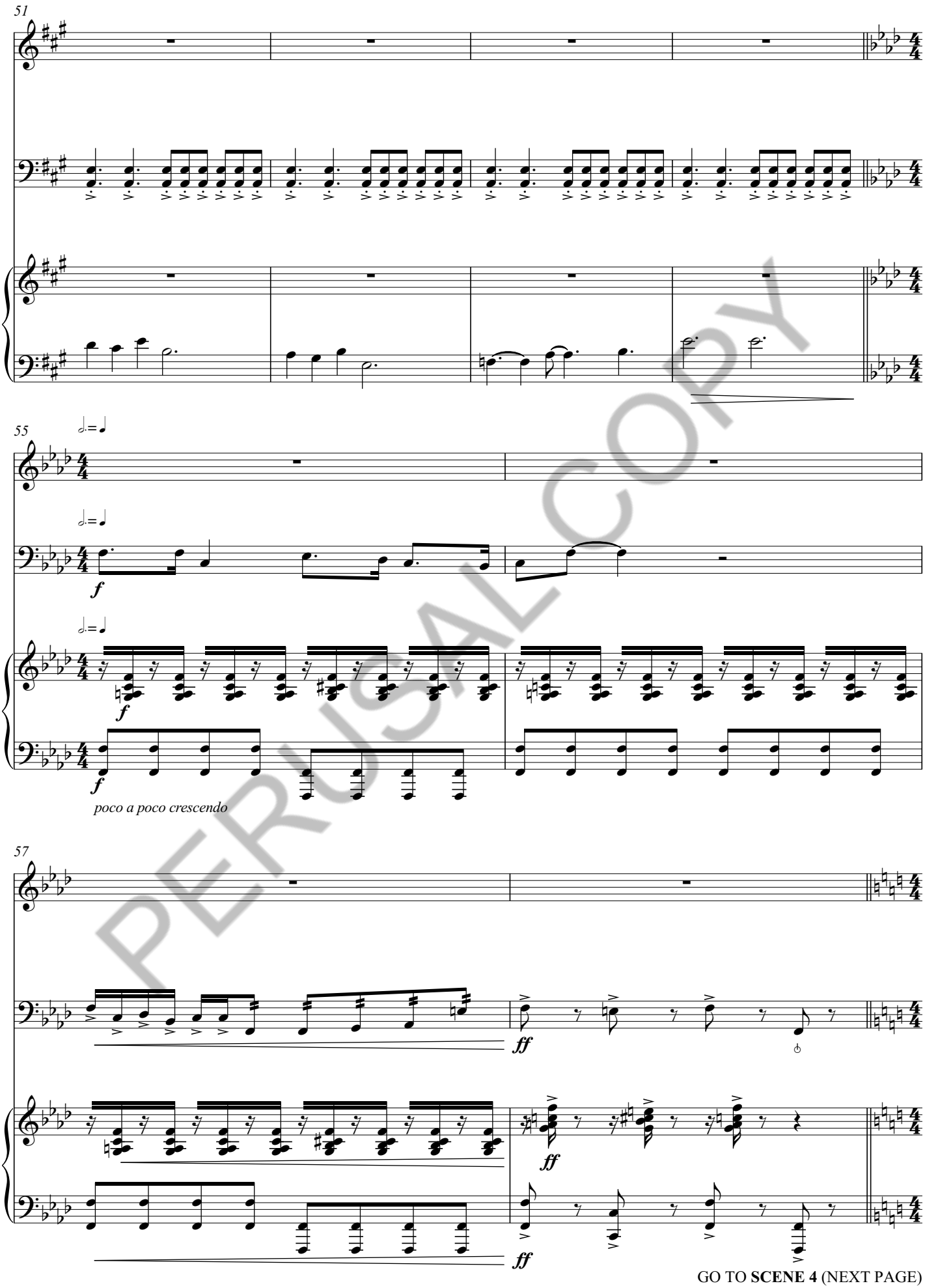

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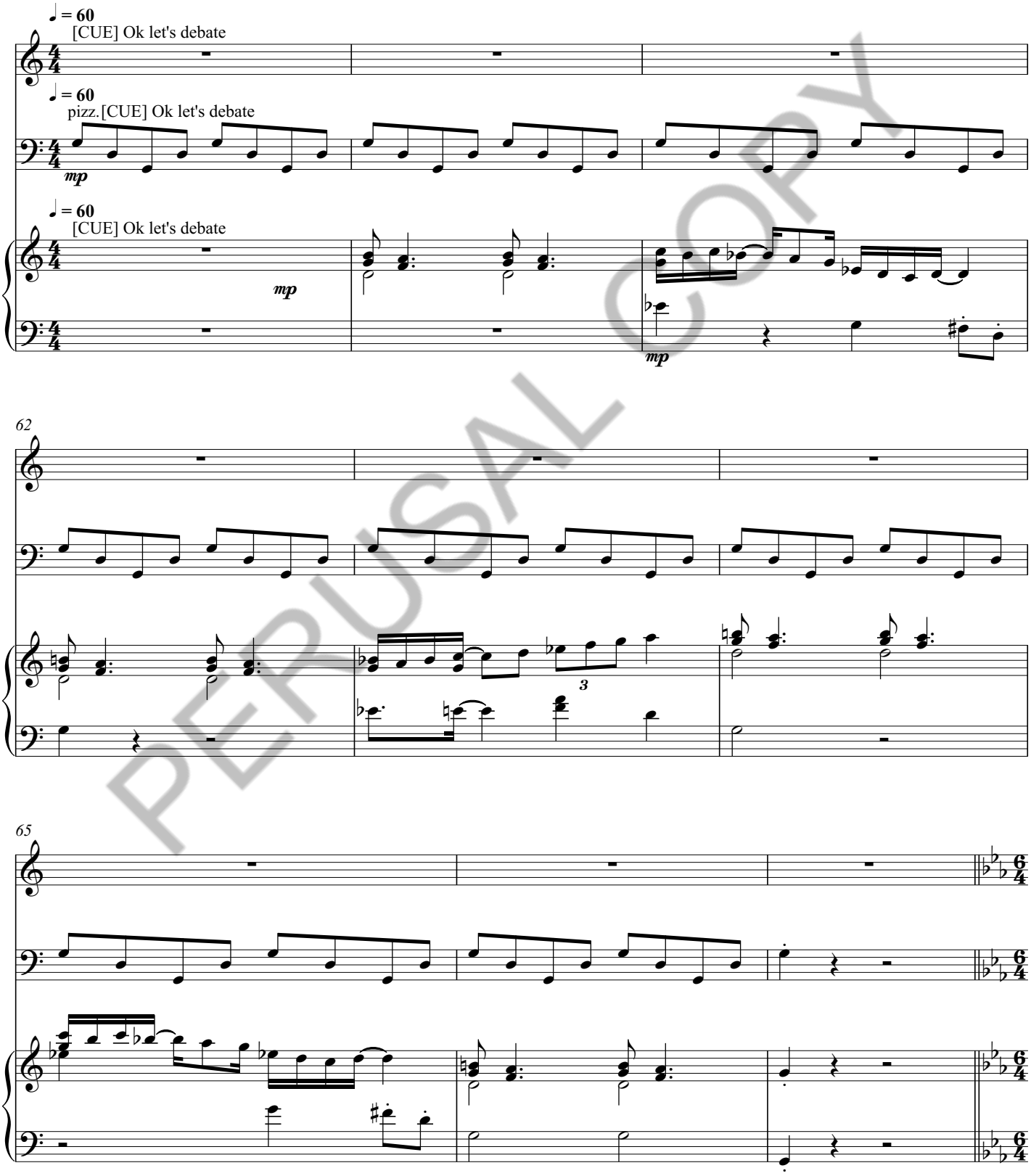
GO TO **SCENE 4** (NEXT PAGE)

SCENE 4:
VOTING MUSIC

PROMETHEUS: We know Cassiopeia was wandering the shore when she met King Cepheus - but what brought her to a sandy cove, far from home? Was she hiding or seeking?

It wasn't long after Poseidon watched all 50 (or 100) Nereids performing a dance together on the Isle of Naxos - and chose her sister Amphitrite as his bride. Cass might have felt ashamed: she had no clue she was auditioning for Queen of the Sea, but she didn't make the cut. Is she embarrassed by being shown up, wanting to hide? Or is she convinced she can find something beyond the petty rivalries of her provincial life?

You decide: Was Cassiopeia slighted and hiding, wishing for invisibility? Or was she bereft of her mojo for sea life, yearning to be part of your world?



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GO TO **SCENE 5** (NEXT PAGE)

SCENE 5:
RULING ON LAND

[CUE].. Forever a nymph out of water
♩ = 60
VAMP
[CUE] ...gigantic mistake.

[CUE].. Forever a nymph out of water
♩ = 60
VAMP
[CUE] ...gigantic mistake.

[CUE].. Forever a nymph out of water
VAMP
♩ = 60
[CUE] ...gigantic mistake.
pp

70
VAMP
[CUE] ...attract some serious attention. Cepheus....

VAMP
[CUE] ...attract some serious attention. Cepheus....

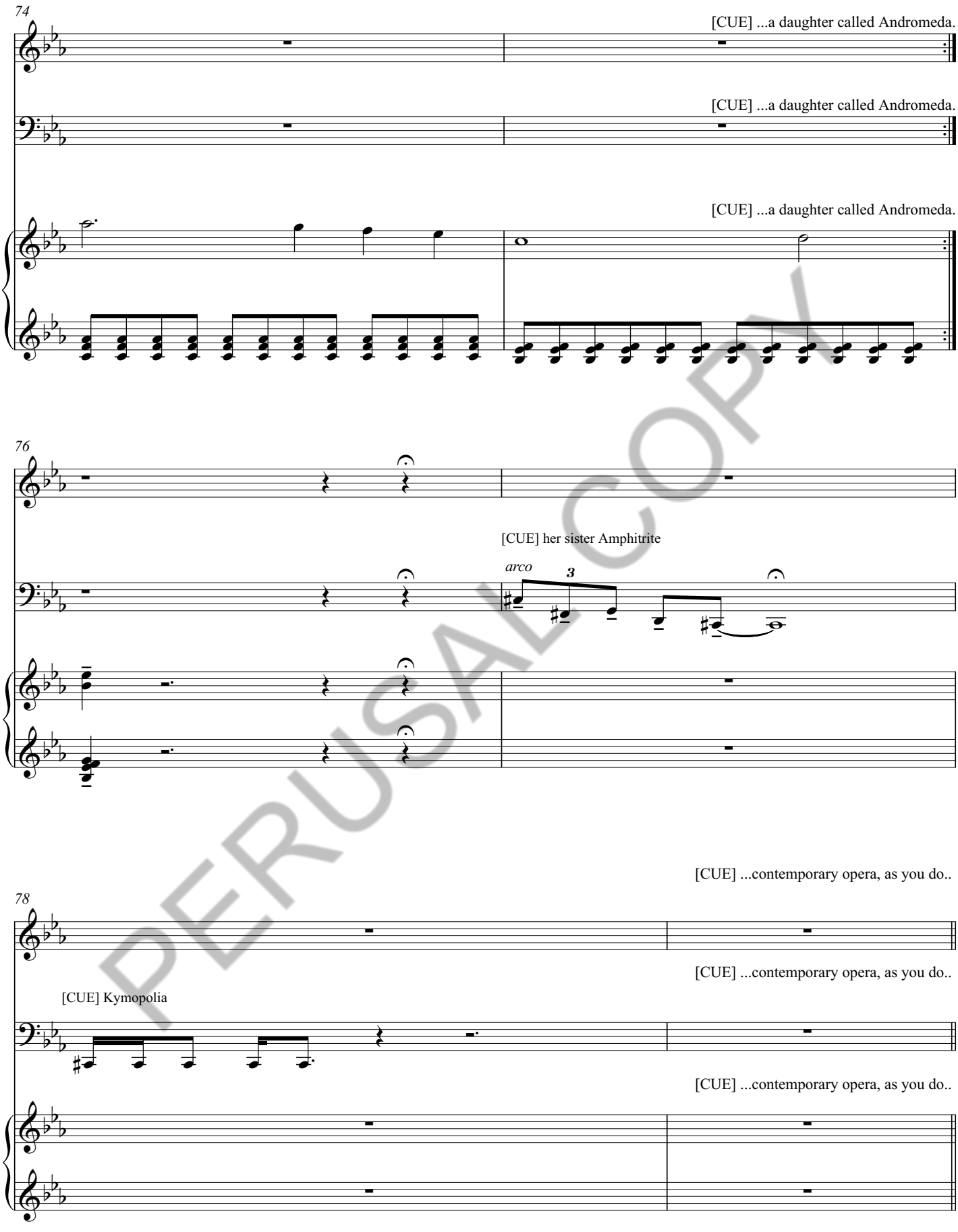
VAMP
[CUE] ...attract some serious attention. Cepheus....
pp
pp

72
VAMP

VAMP

VAMP
Dreamlike
pp
3
pp

PERUSAL COPY



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SCENE 6:
SEASIDE BRAG: CASSIEPEIA SONG 1

(ATTACCA)
♩ = 80

mp

(ATTACCA) I can see for miles, I can see the sea,

♩ = 80

(ATTACCA)
♩ = 80

mp
con ped.

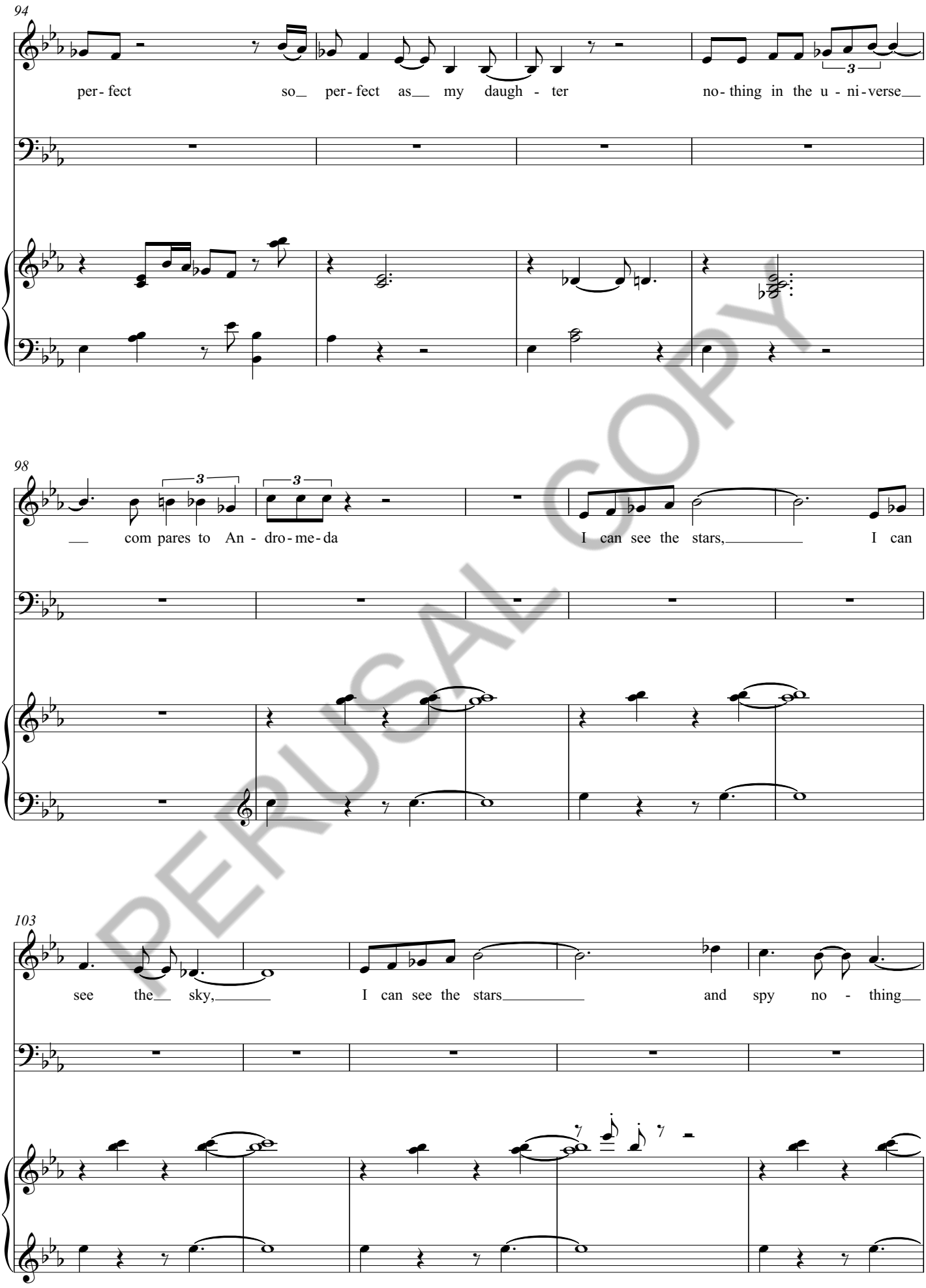
85

I can see for miles and spy no - thing in the

90

u - ni - verse, not on sea or on land so

PERUSAL COPY



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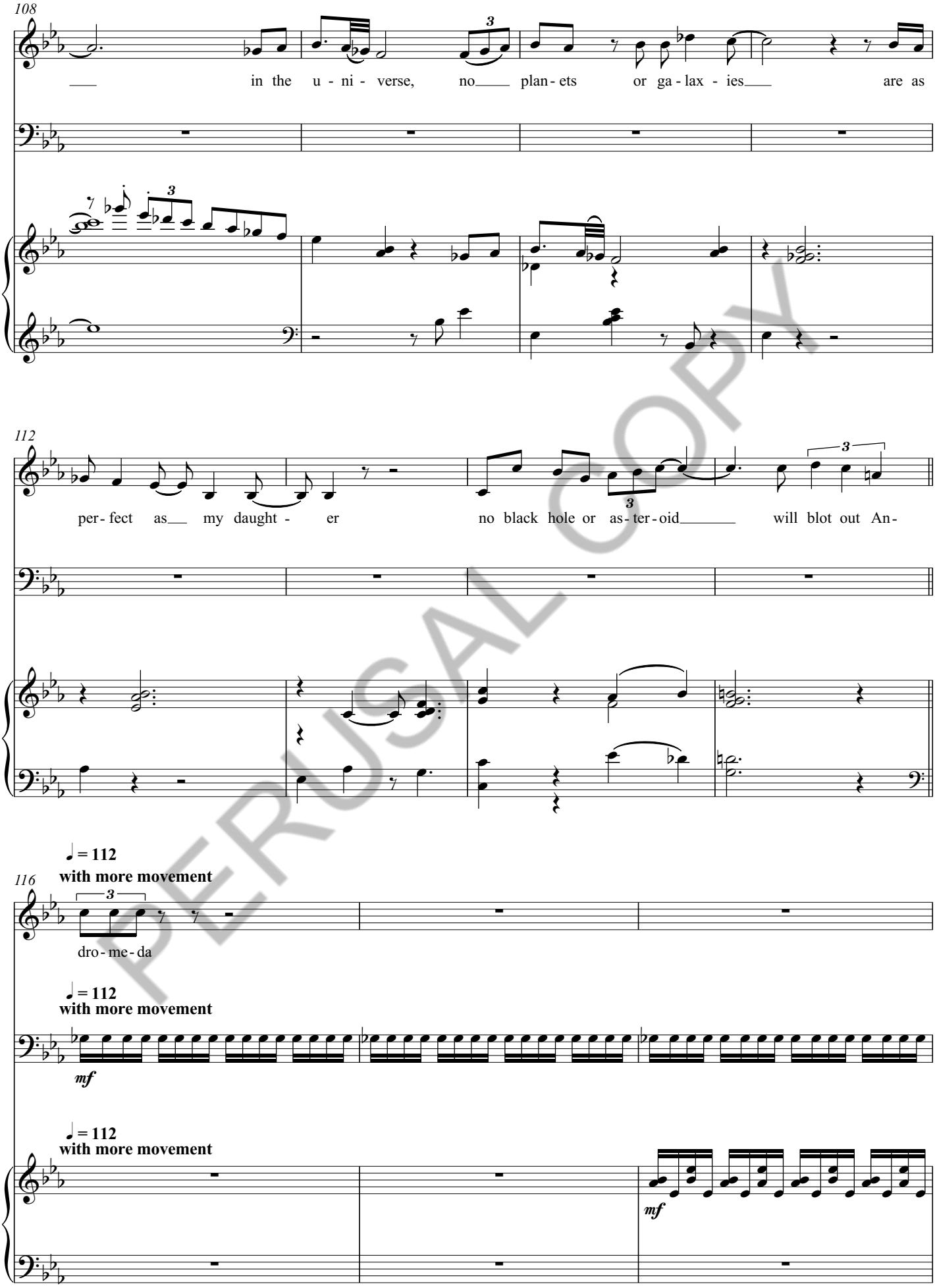

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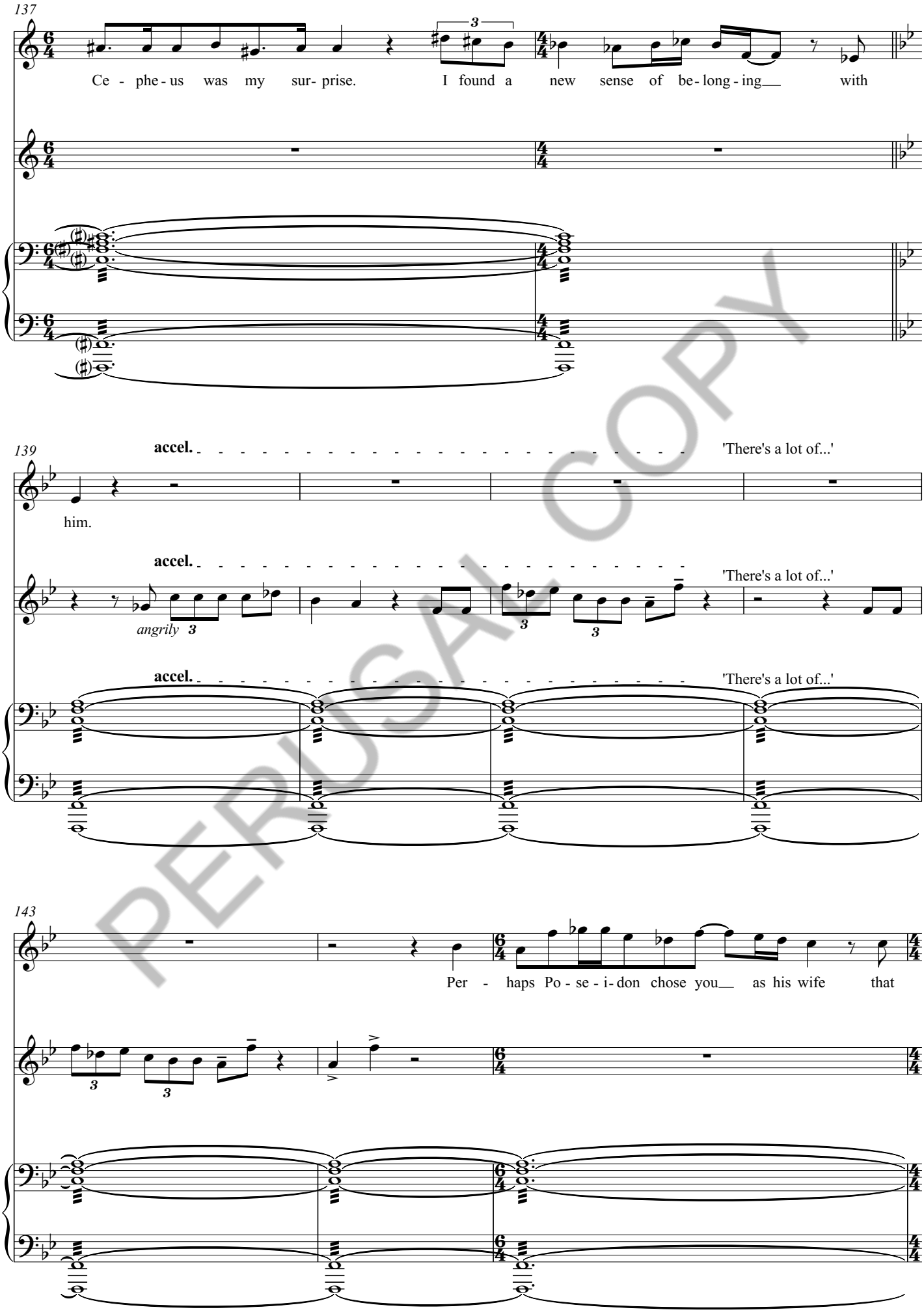

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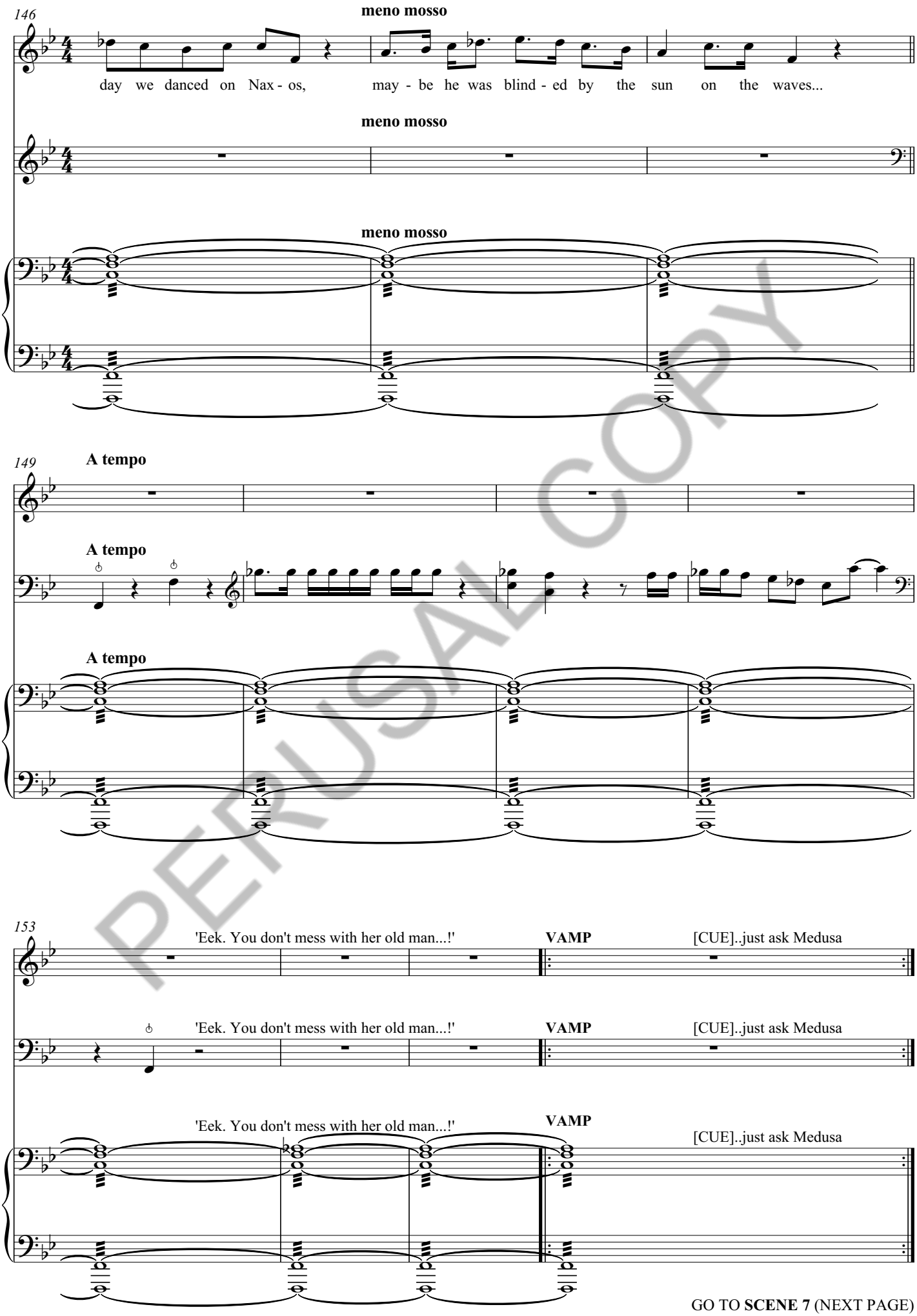

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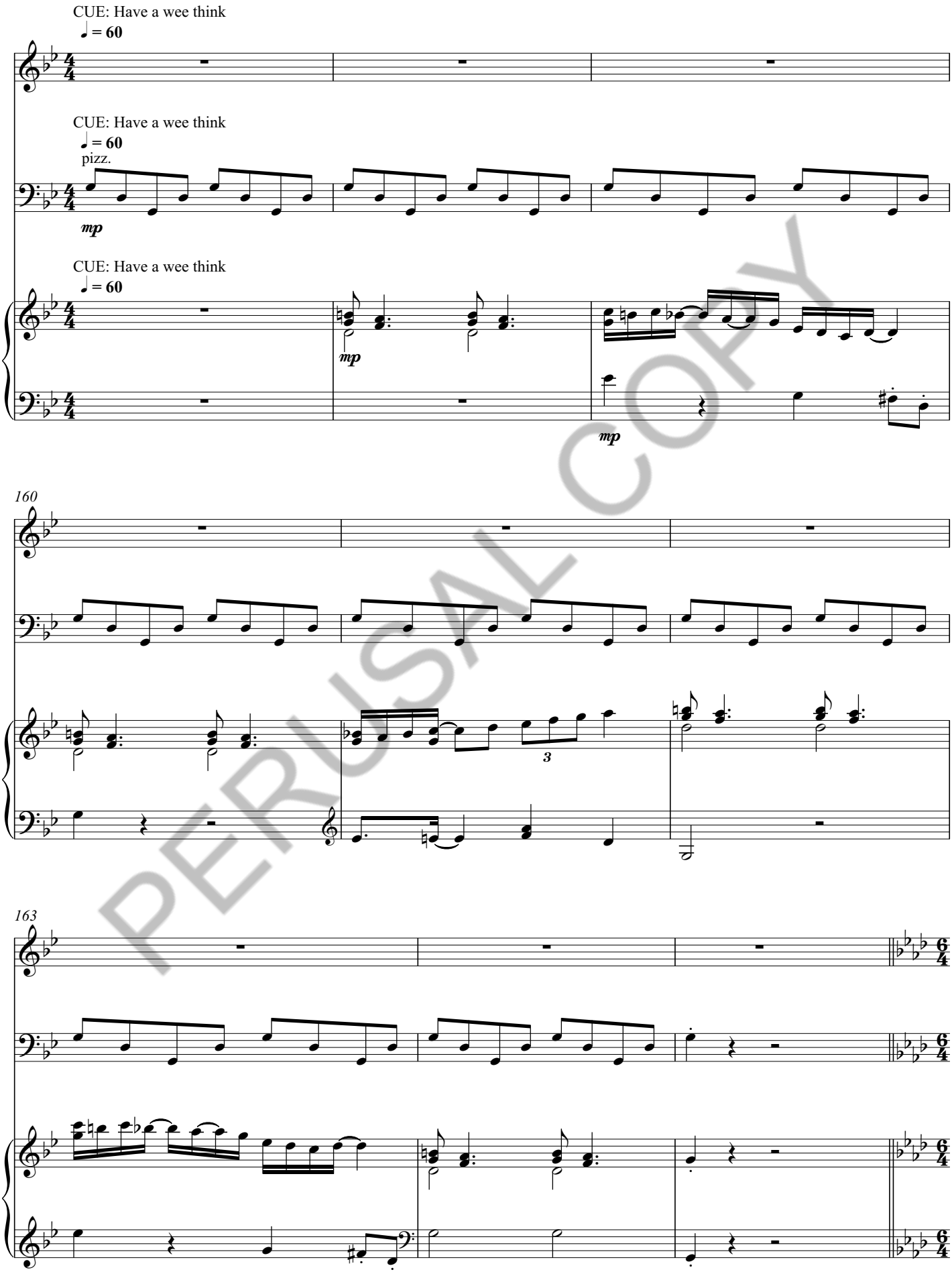
SCENE 7:
VOTING MUSIC



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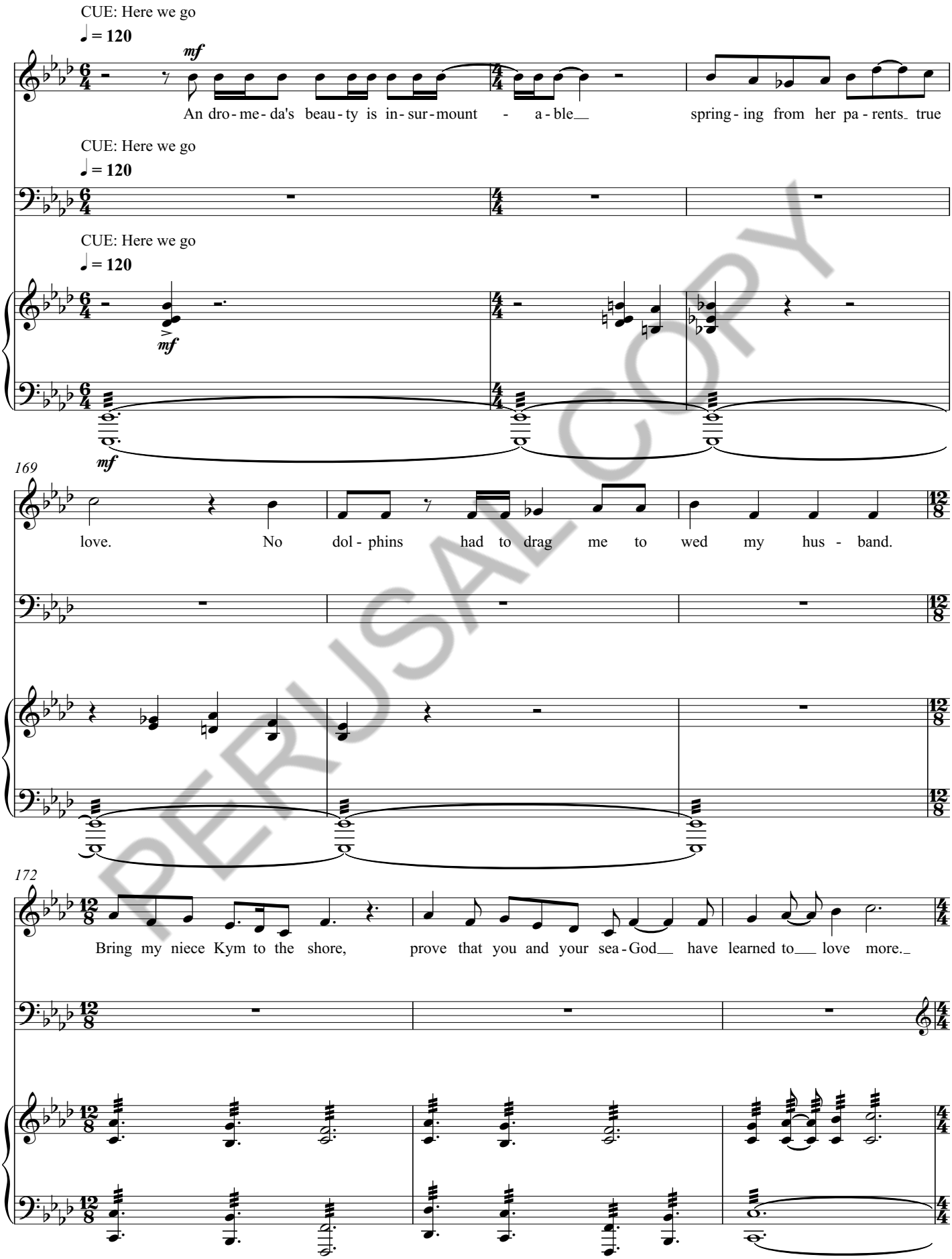
RED: GO TO **SCENE 8A** (NEXT PAGE)
YELLOW: Go to **SCENE 8B** (PAGE **22**)

[PLAY IF RED]
SCENE 8A:
DOUBLE DOWN



PERUSAL COPY

175

Kym-o-po-le-ia! I want to see my

arco

180

niece!

186

'She's invoking the wrath'

mf

I don't fear Po-se-i-don and I

'She's invoking the wrath'

'She's invoking the wrath'

pp

mf

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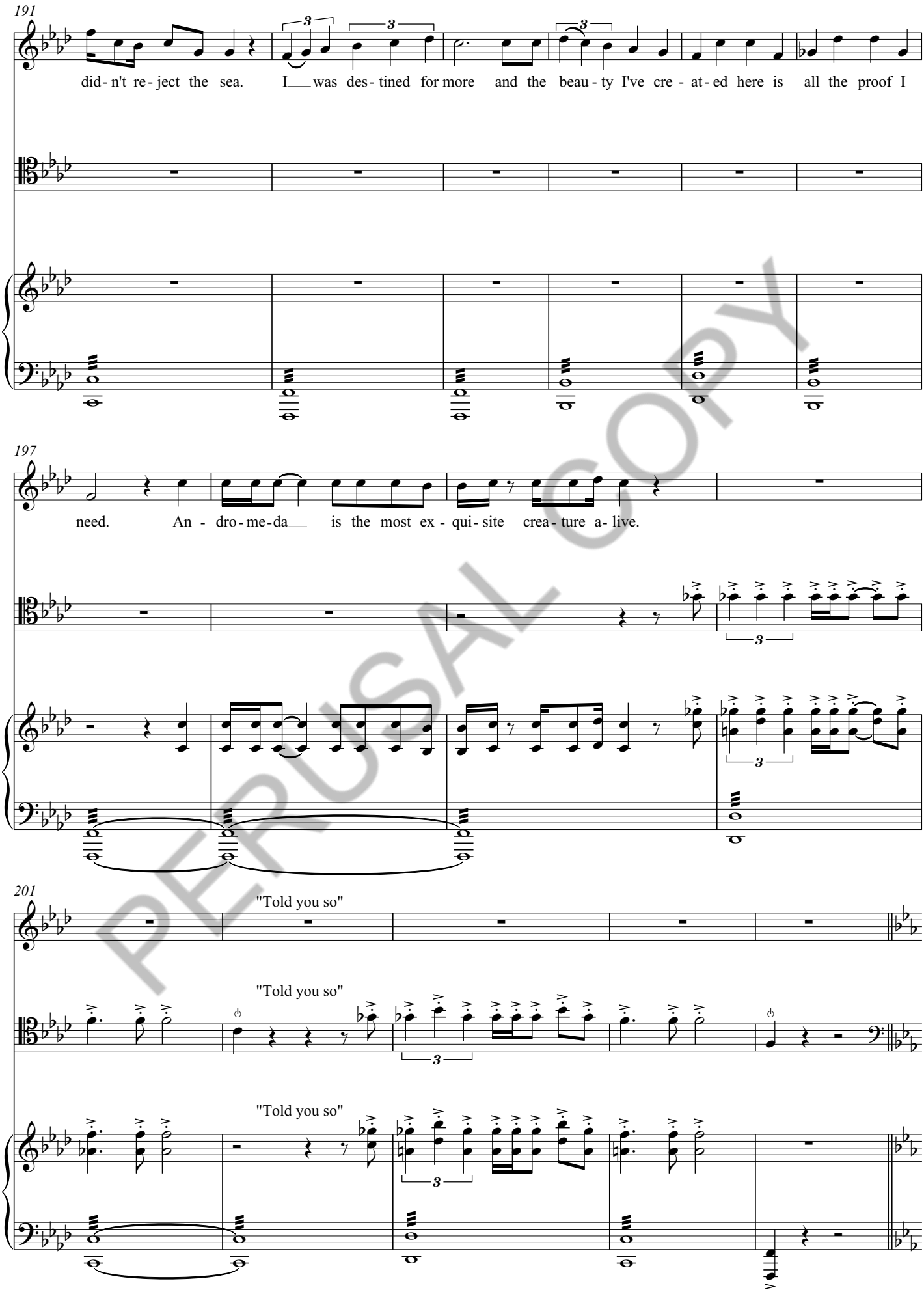

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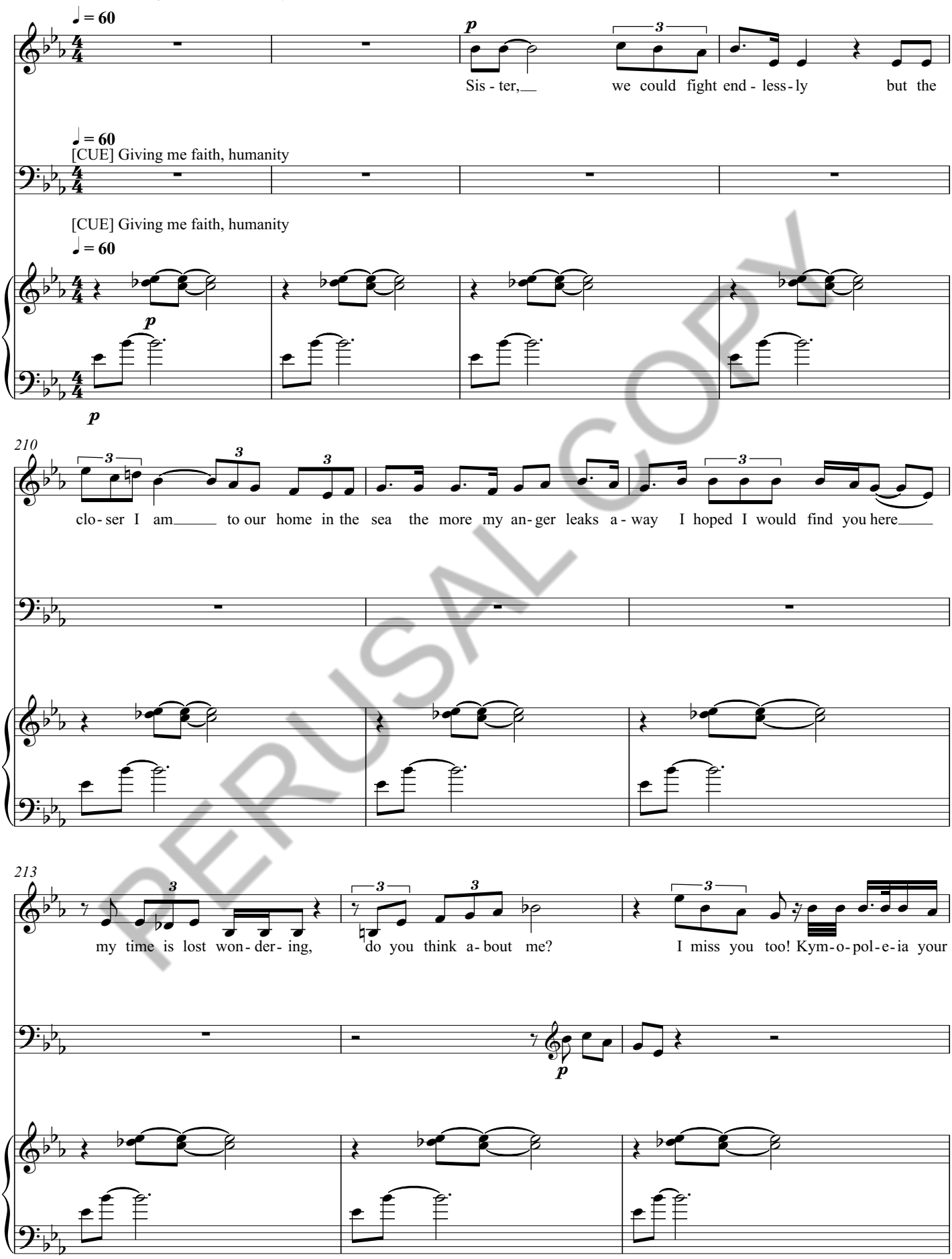
[PLAY IF YELLOW]
SCENE 8B: GO HUMBLE



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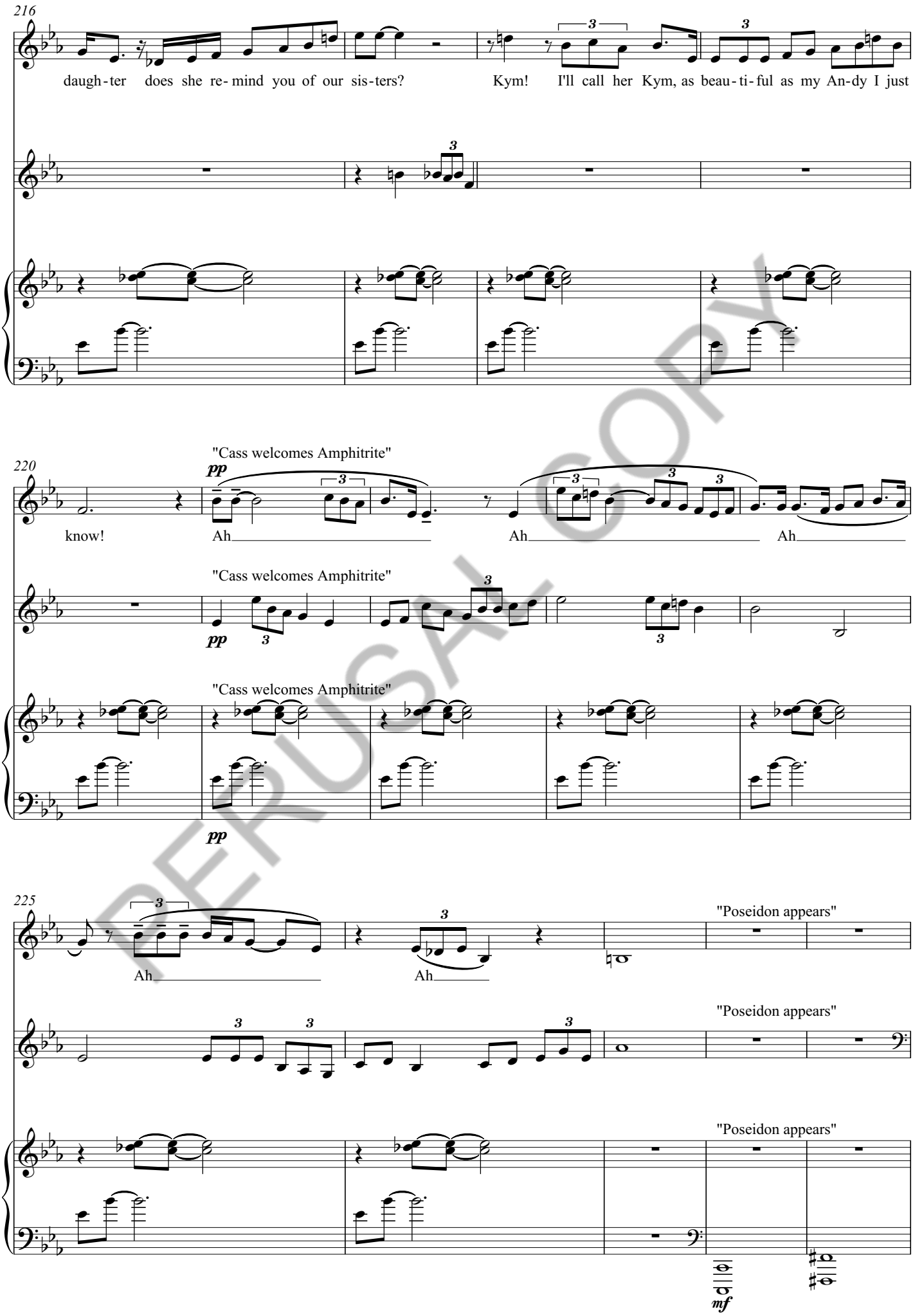
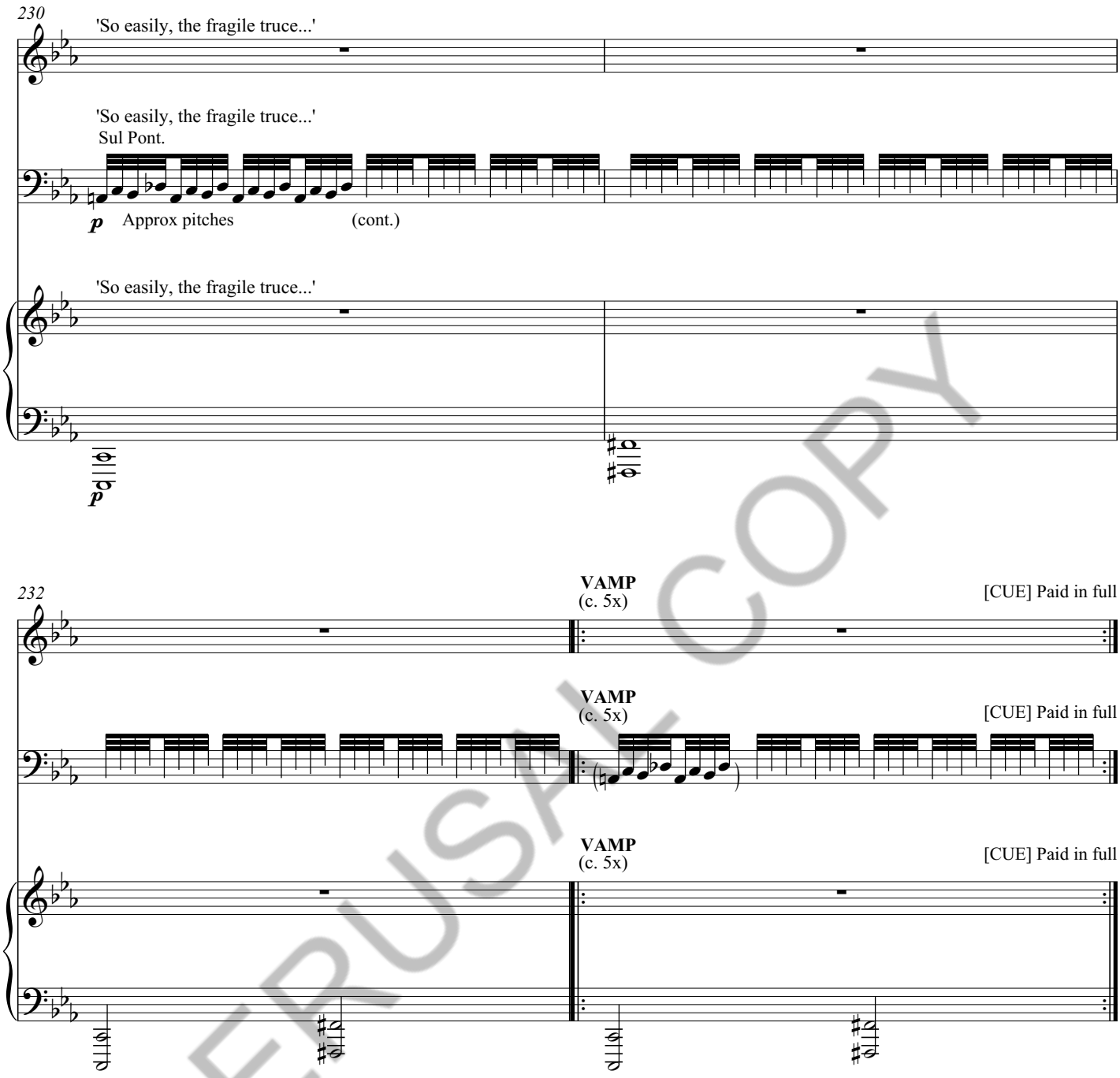


REHEARSAL COPY



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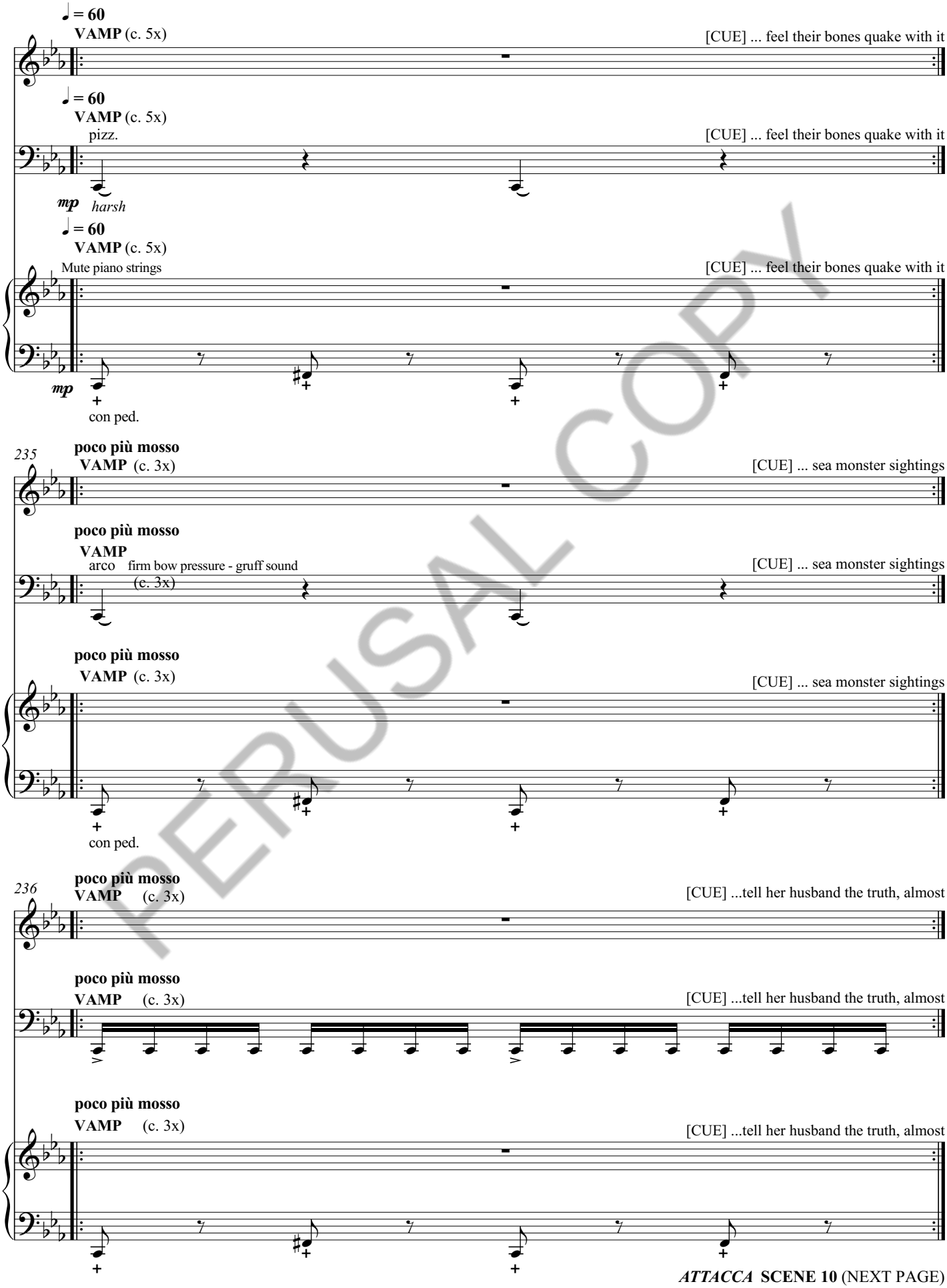
***ATTACCA* SCENE 9** (NEXT PAGE)

SCENE 9:
POSEIDON DESTROYS KINGDOM



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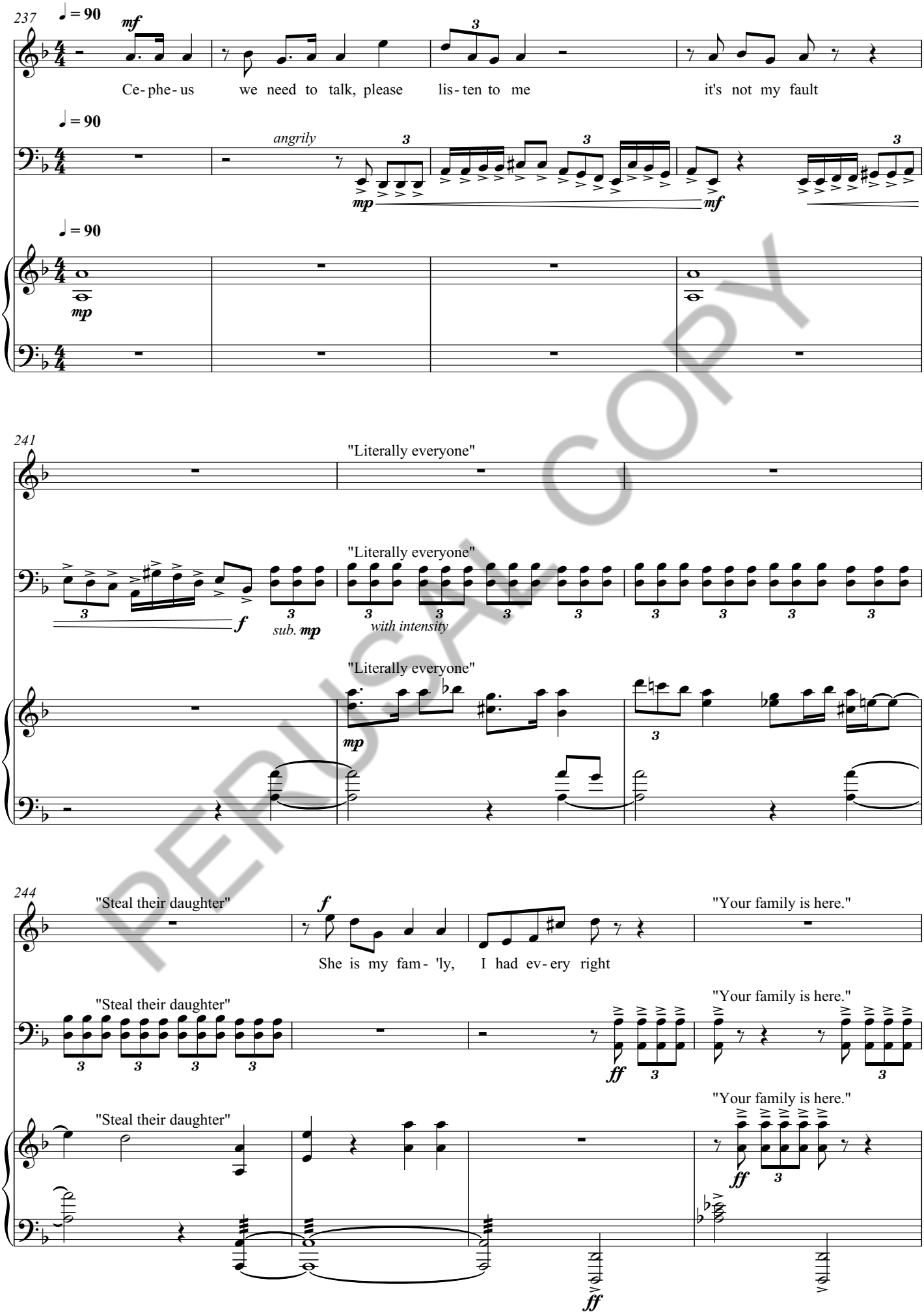
ATTACCA **SCENE 10** (NEXT PAGE)

SCENE 10:
TELLING CEPHEUS



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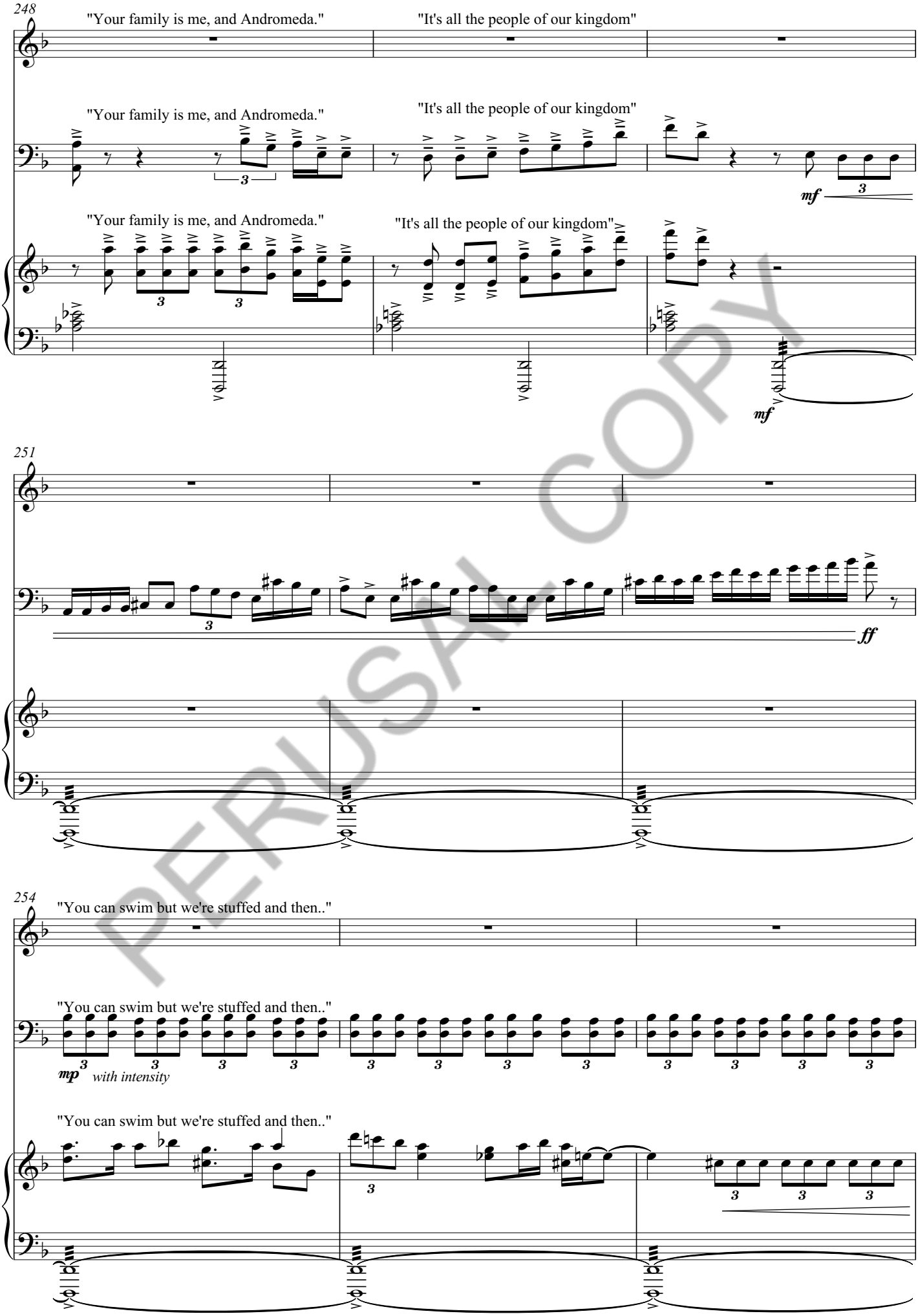

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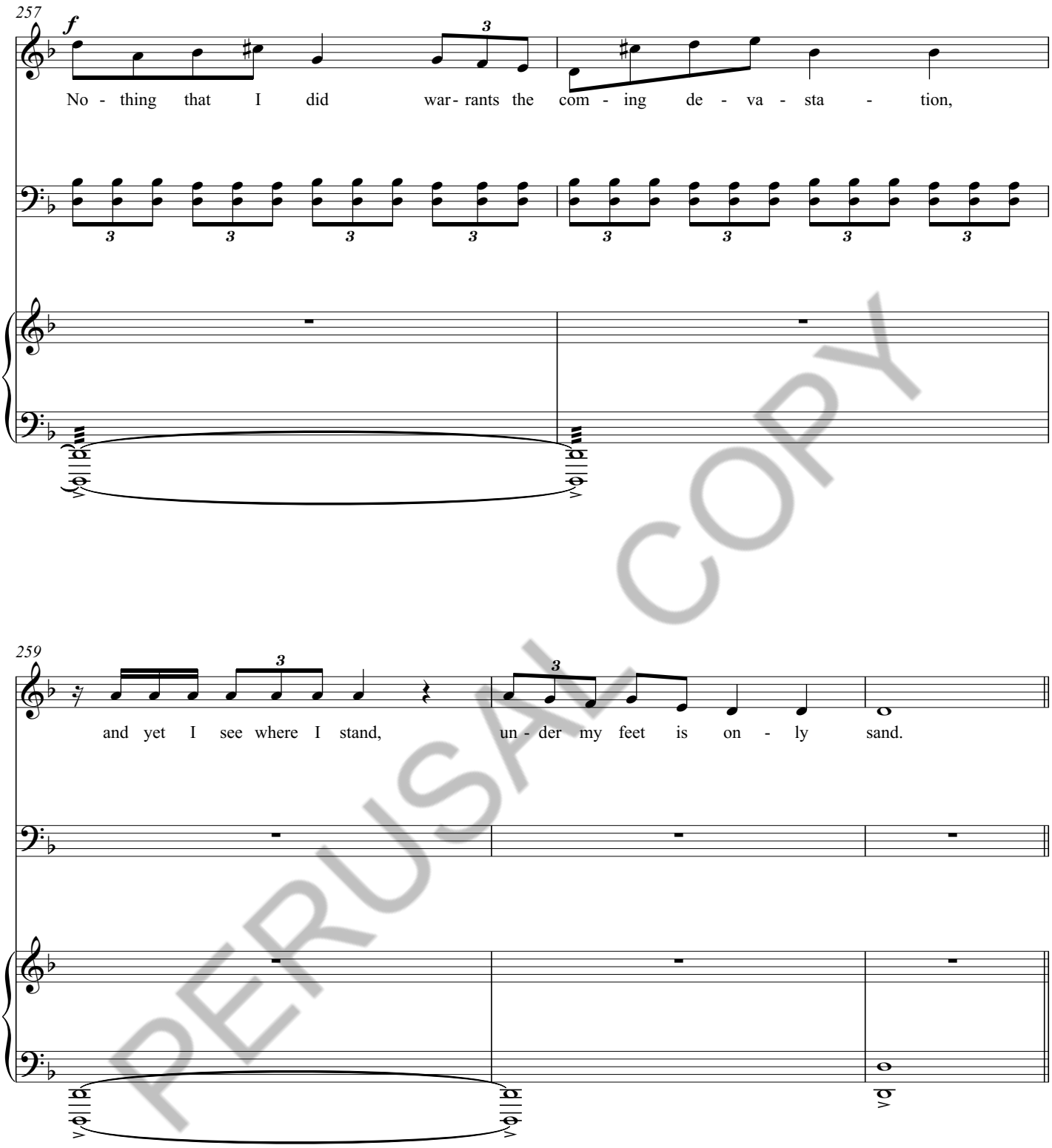

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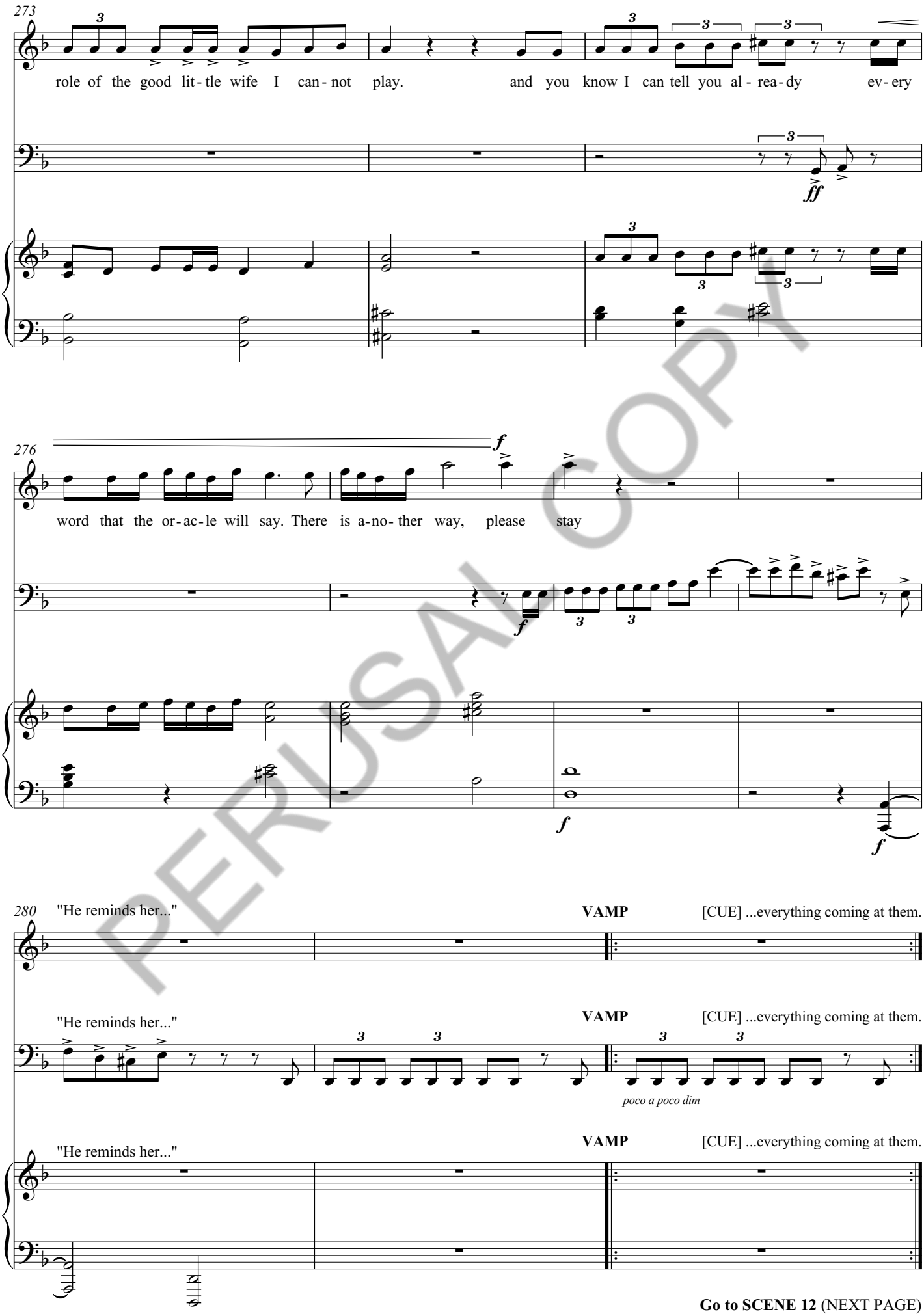
***ATTACCA* SCENE 11** (NEXT PAGE)

SCENE 11:
CEPHEUS GOES TO ORACLE

PERUSAL COPY



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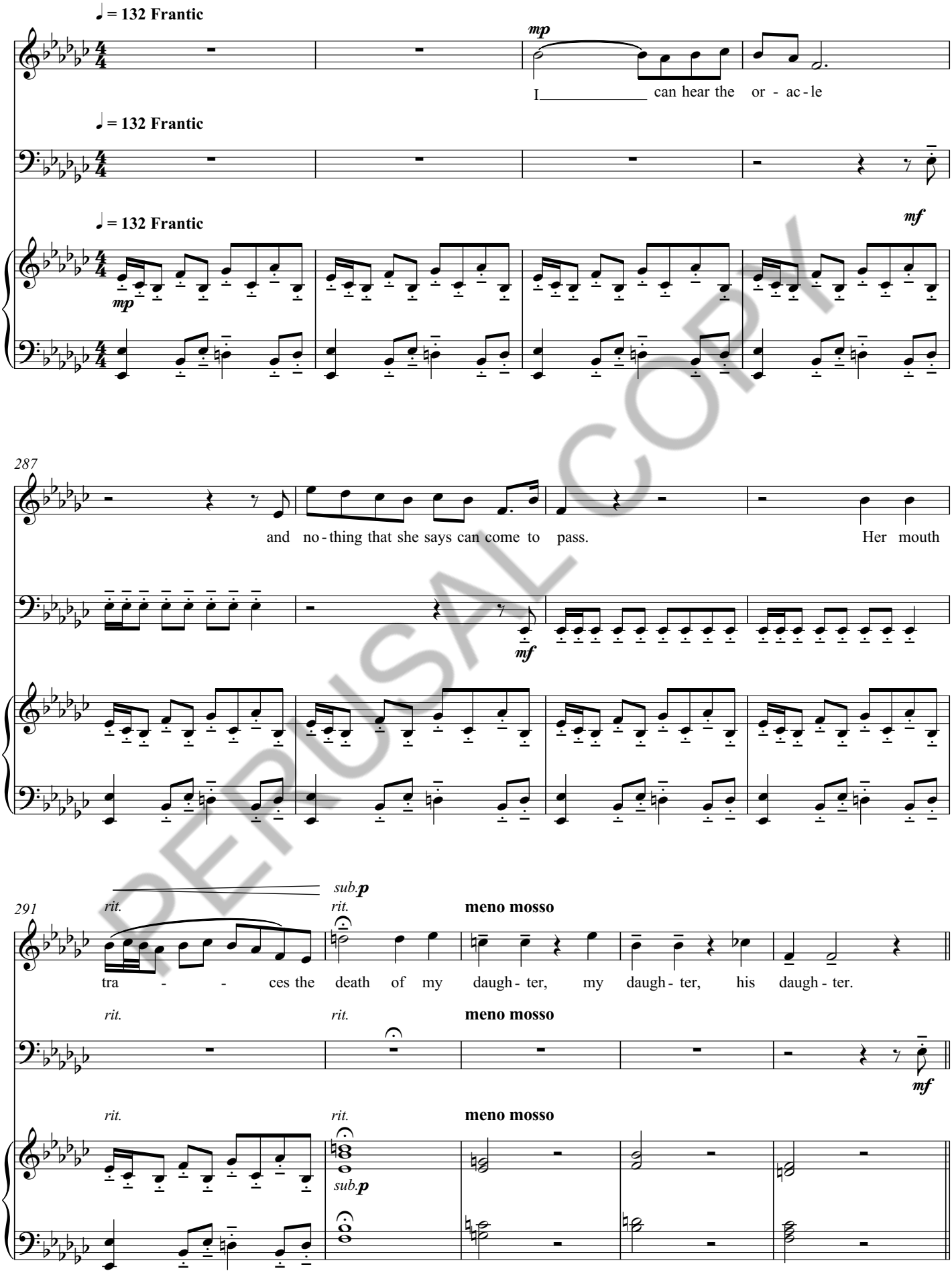
Go to SCENE 12 (NEXT PAGE)

SCENE 12:
CASSIOPEIA SONG



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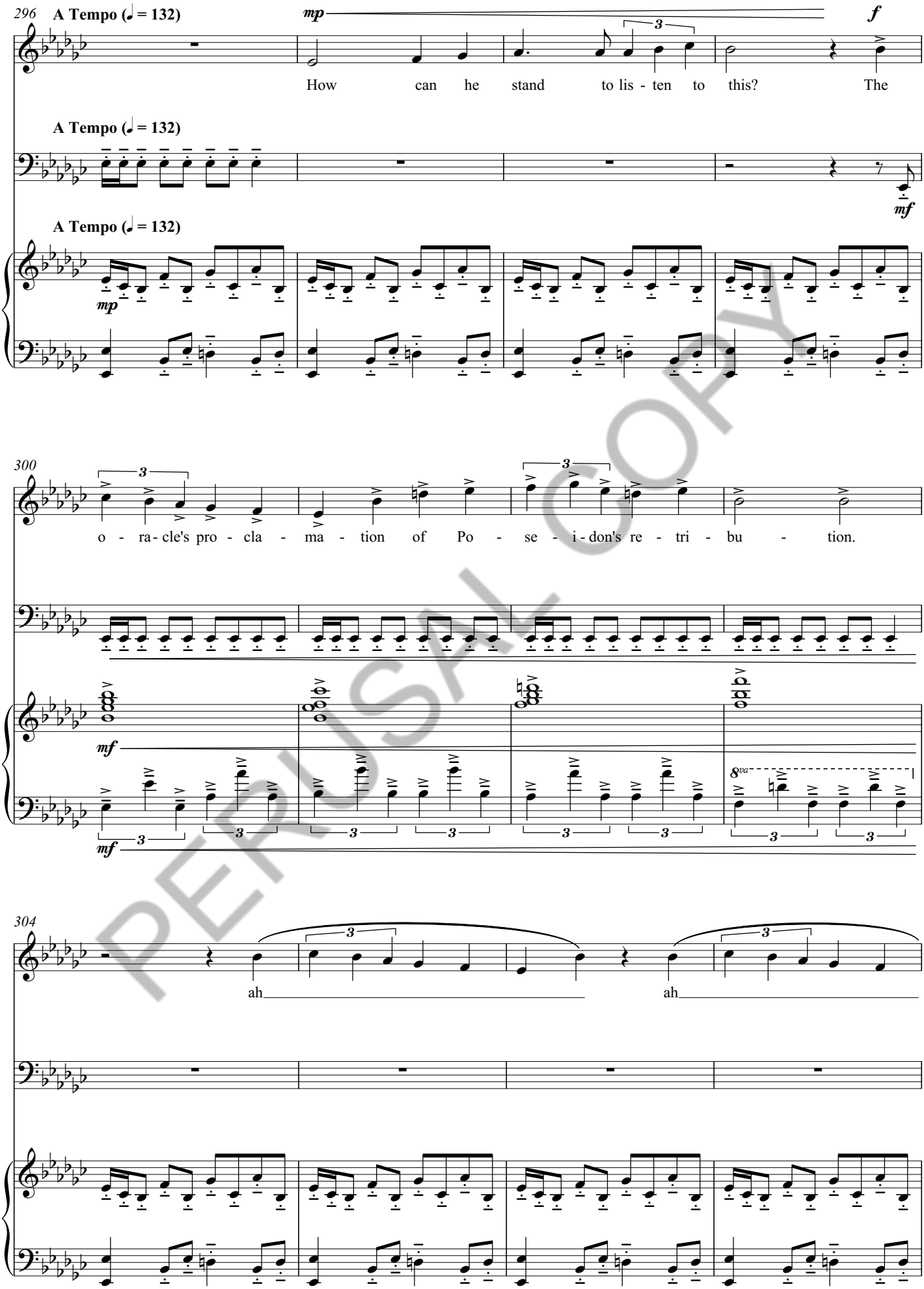

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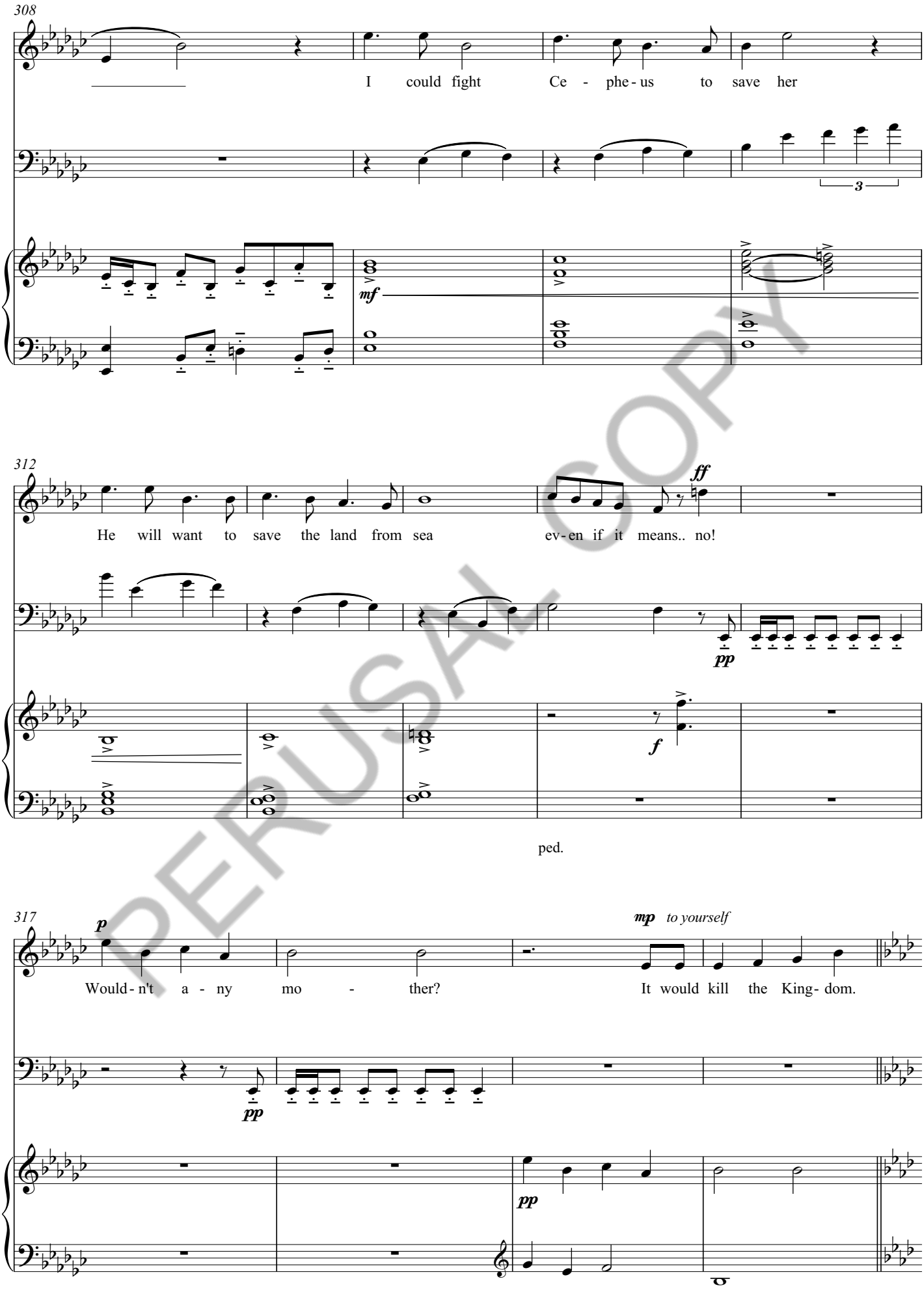

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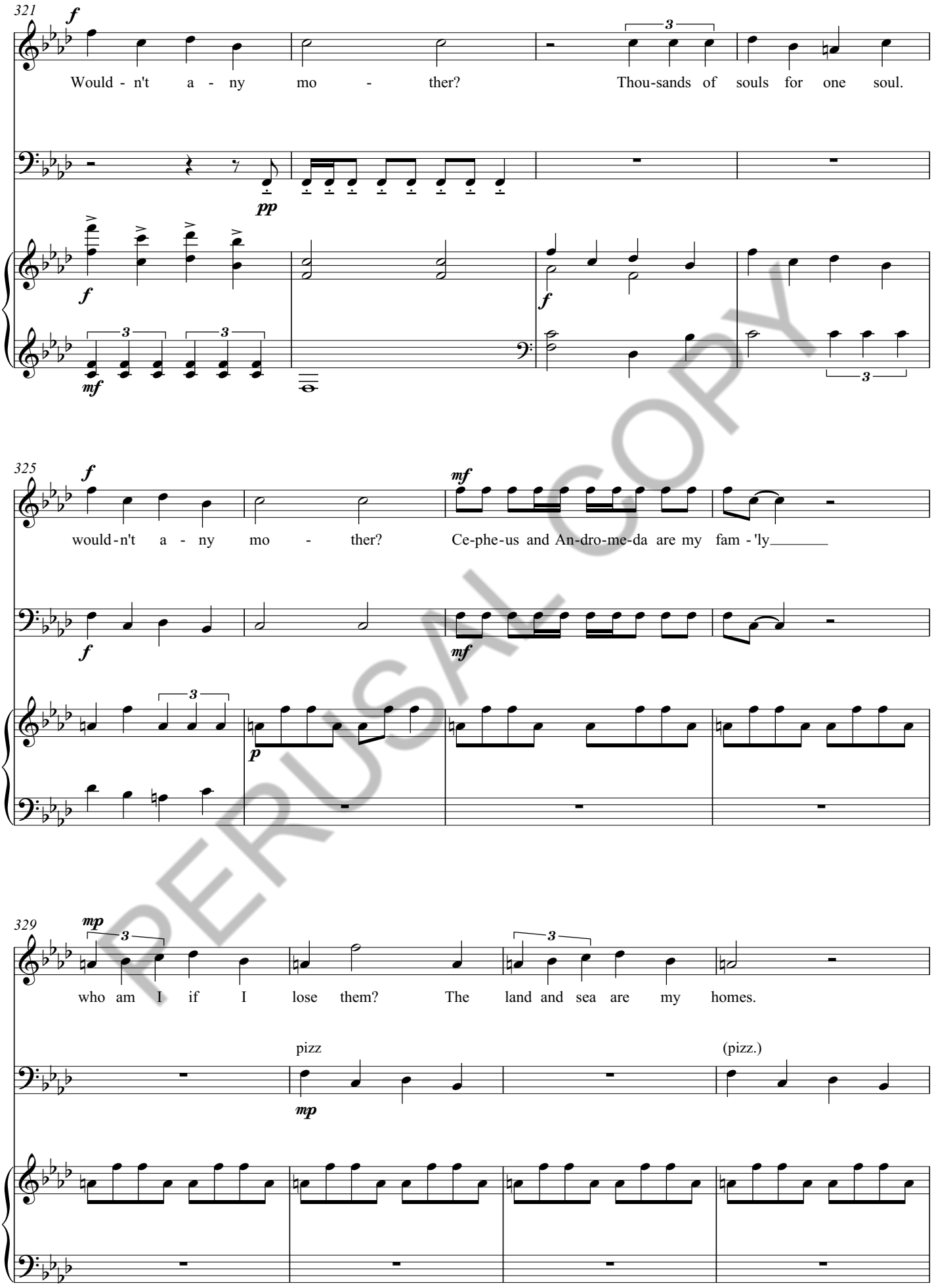

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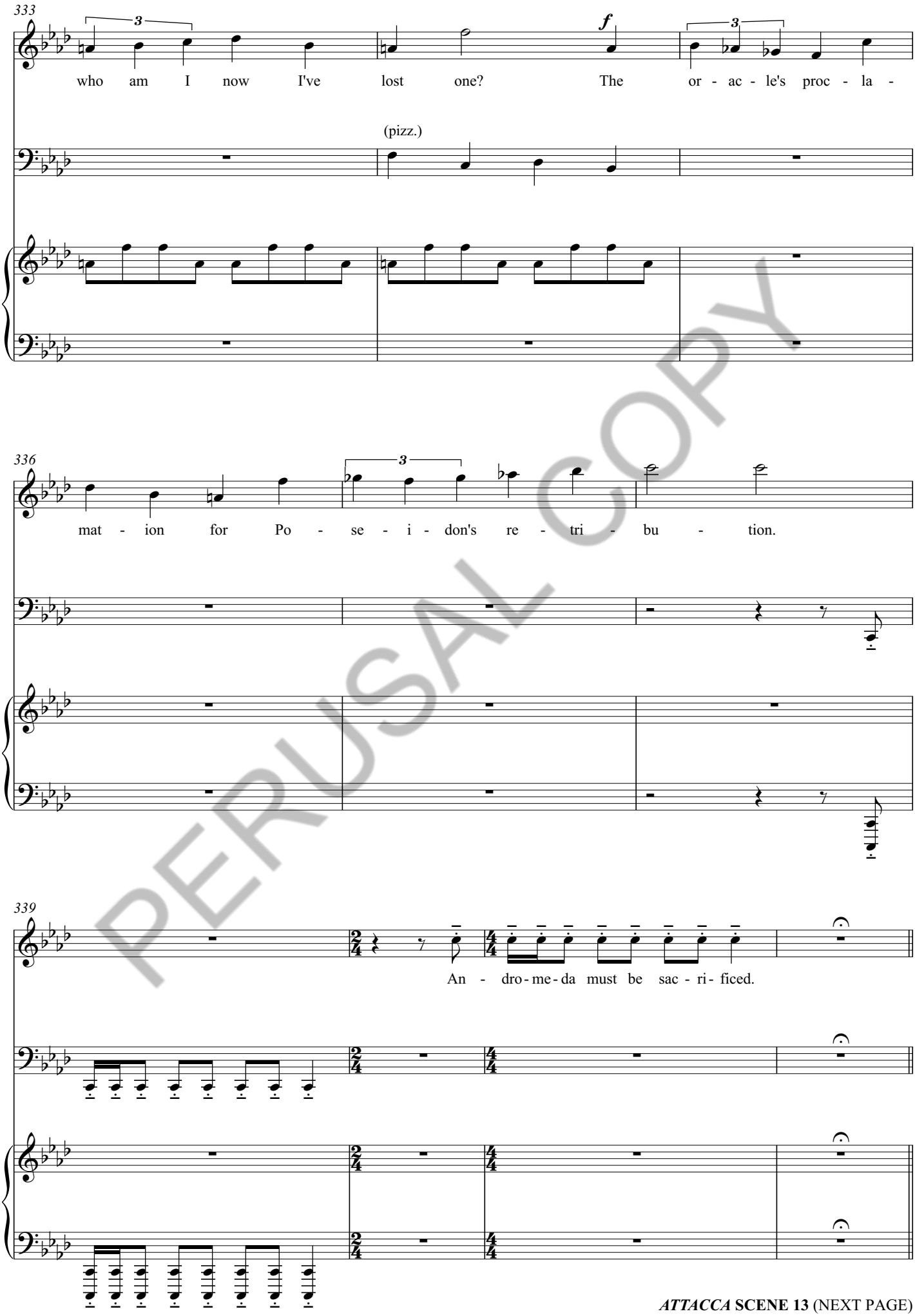

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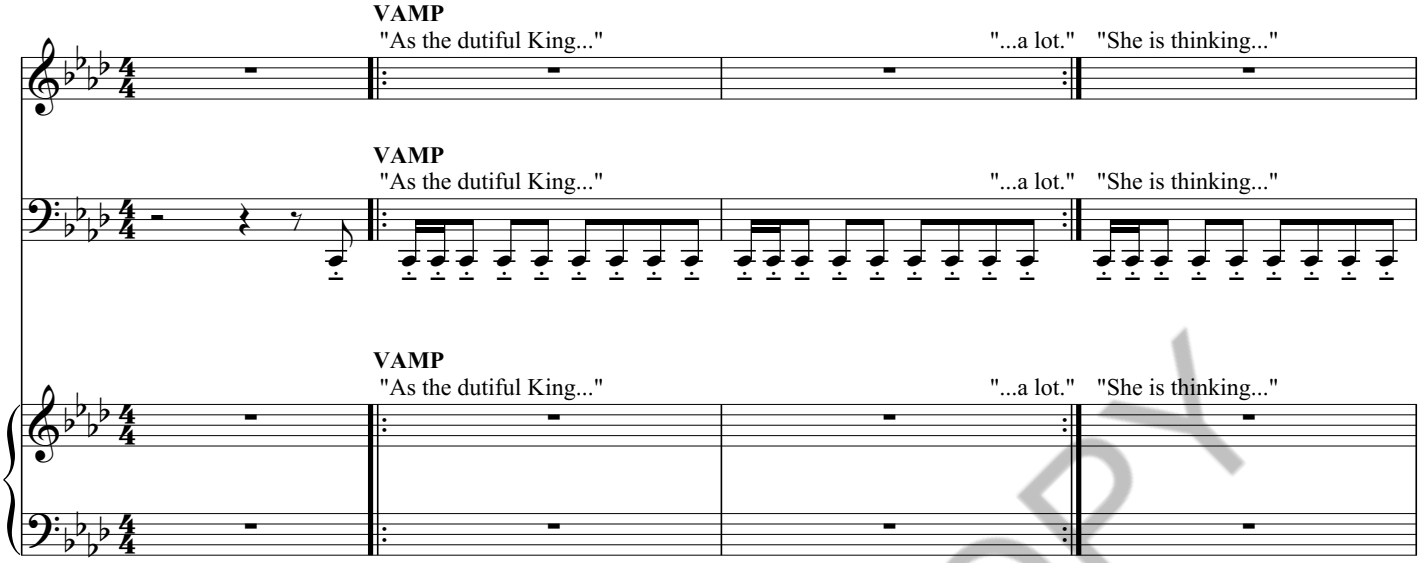
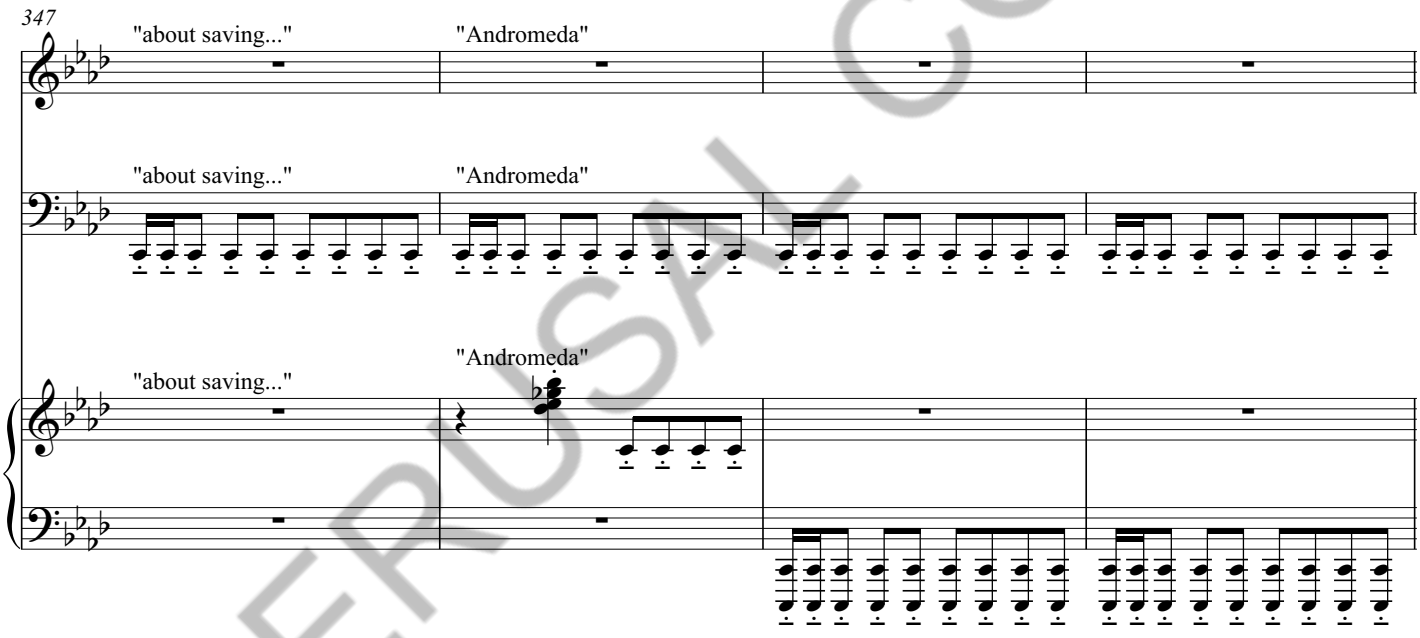
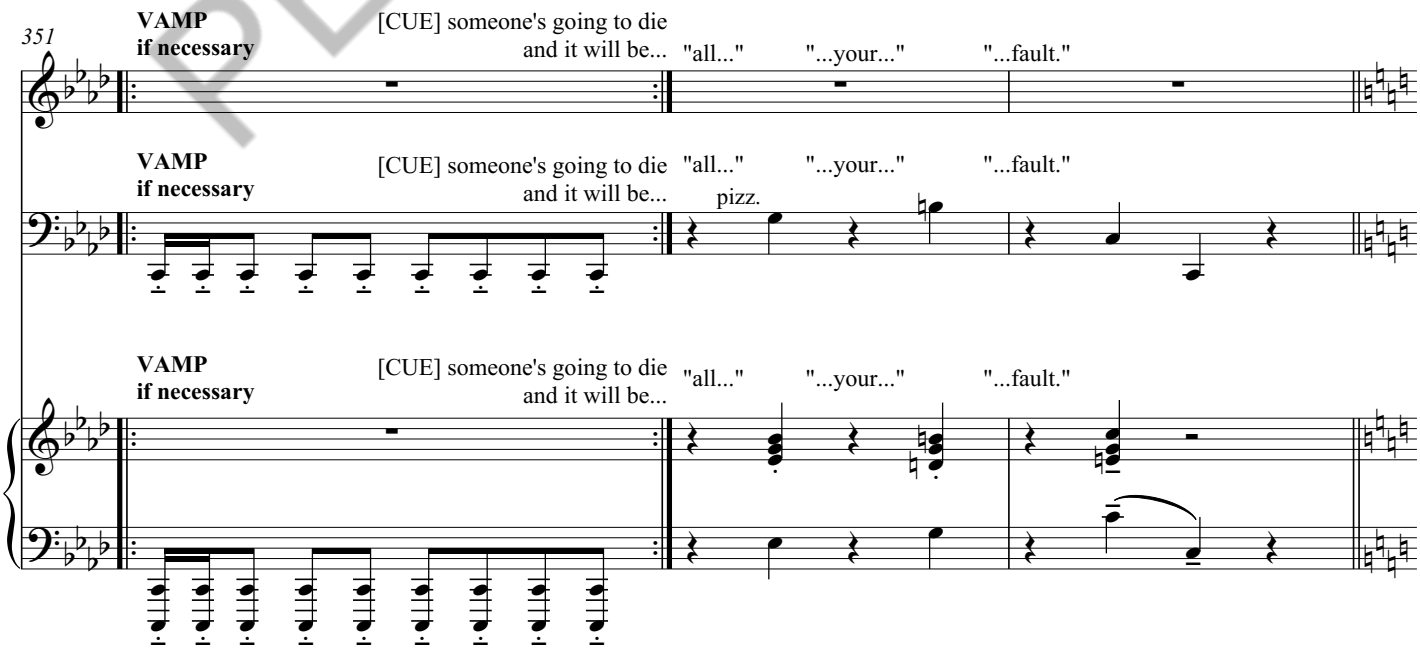
SCENE 13:
SACRIFICE VS SAVE







PERUSAL COPY

SCENE 13

354 [CUE].. That's a debate. Get to it.

[CUE].. That's a debate. Get to it.

pizz.

mp

[CUE].. That's a debate. Get to it.

mp

mp

358

3

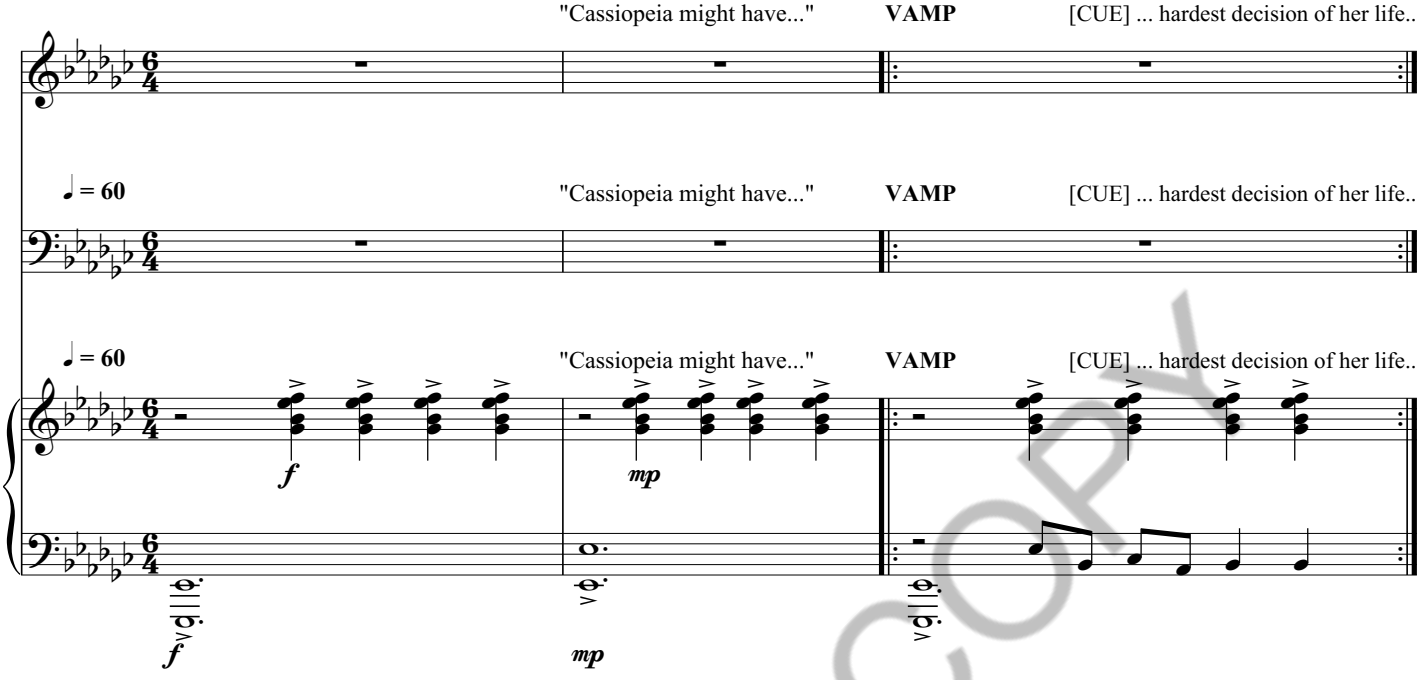
361

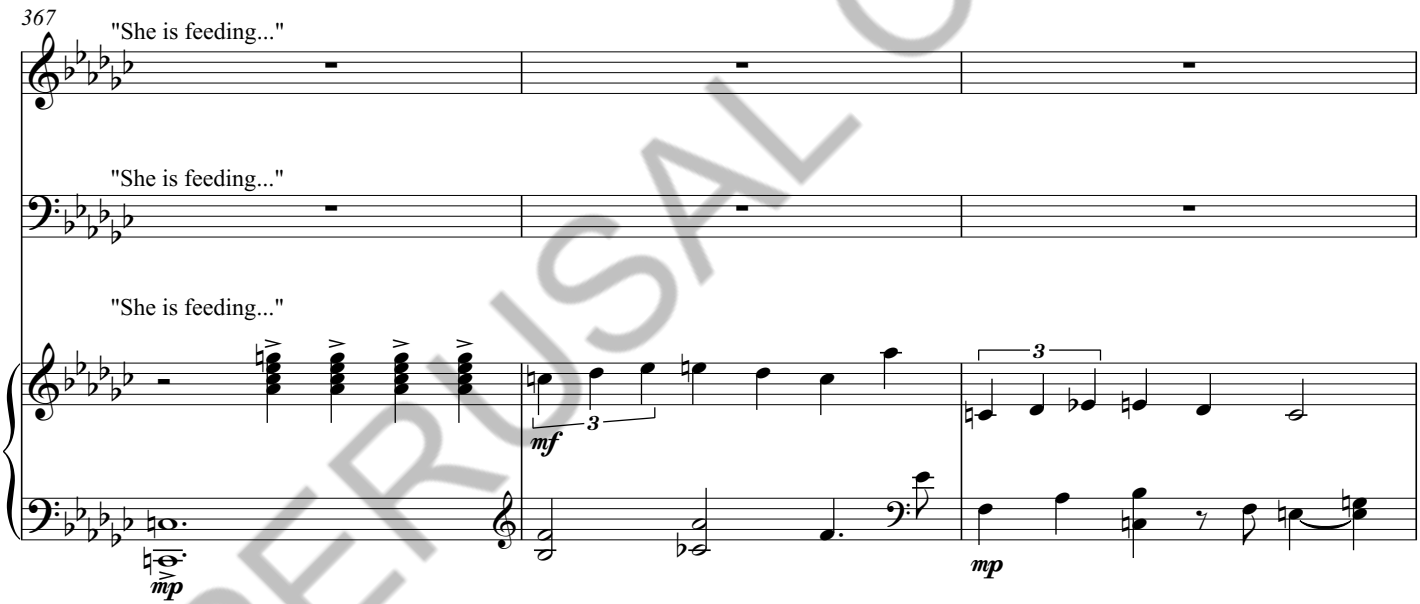
PERUSAL COPY

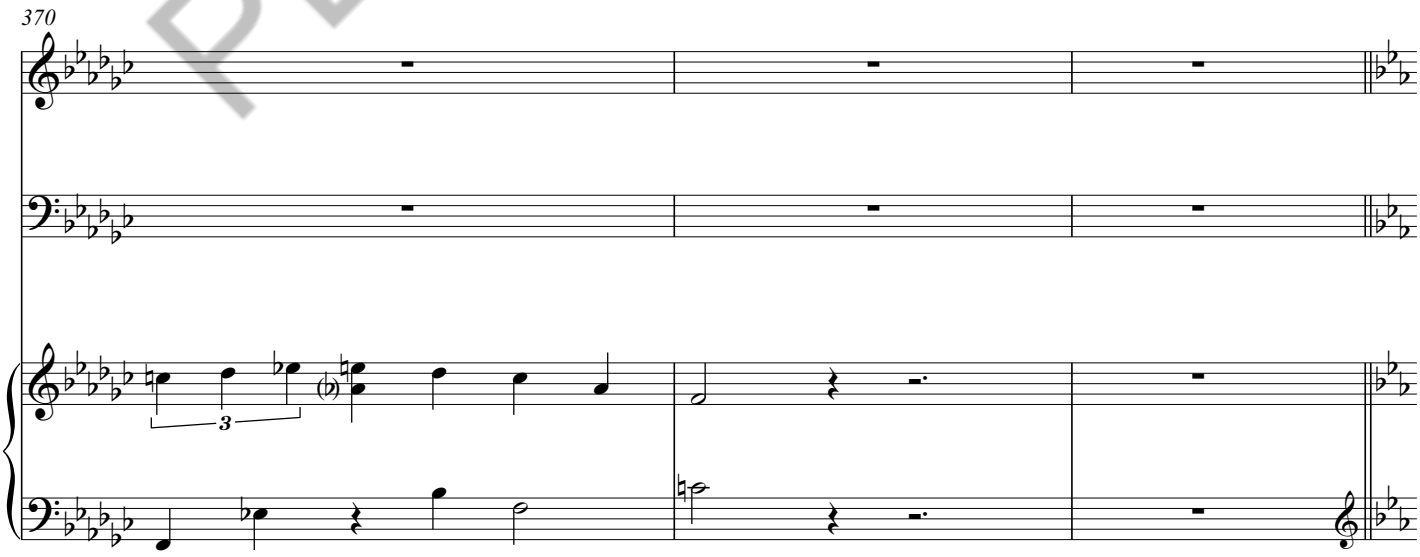
RED: ***ATTACCA*** **SCENE 14A** (NEXT PAGE)
YELLOW: GO TO **SCENE 14B** (Page **39**)

[PLAY IF RED]
SCENE 14A:
SACRIFICE

♩ = 60 "Cassiopeia might have..." **VAMP** [CUE] ... hardest decision of her life..







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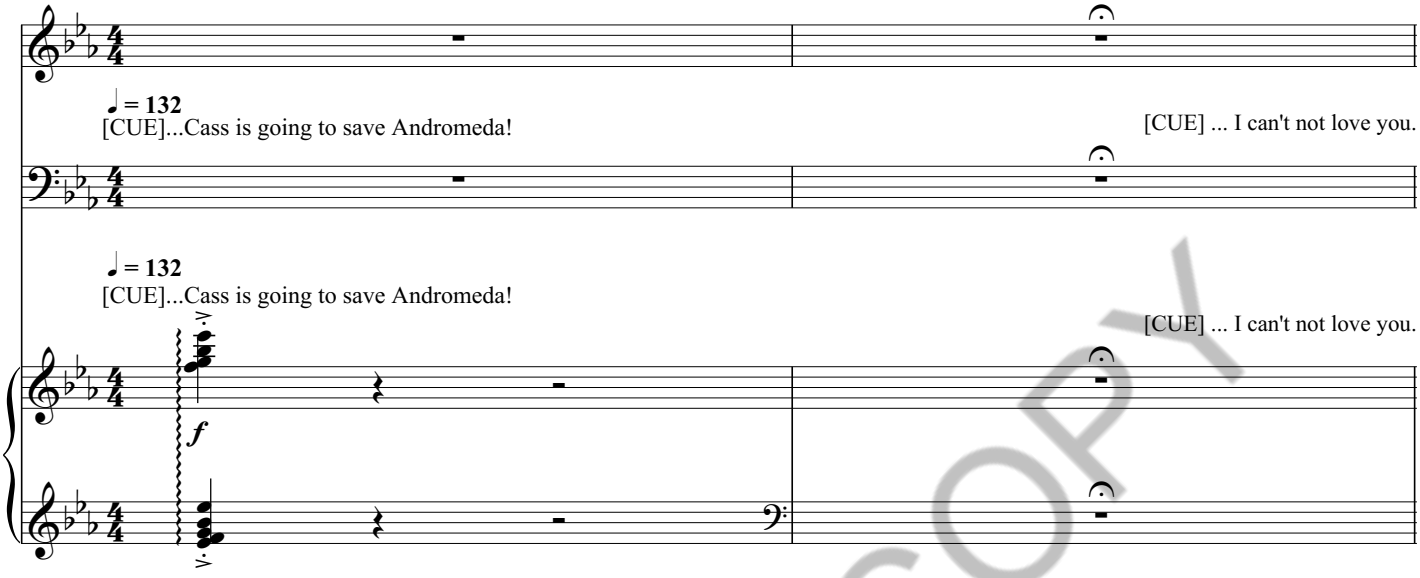
GO TO **SCENE 15** (Page **42**)

[PLAY IF YELLOW]
SCENE 14B:
SAVE

373

♩ = 132
[CUE]...Cass is going to save Andromeda!

[CUE] ... I can't not love you.



♩ = 132
[CUE]...Cass is going to save Andromeda!

[CUE] ... I can't not love you.

♩ = 132
[CUE]...Cass is going to save Andromeda!

[CUE] ... I can't not love you.

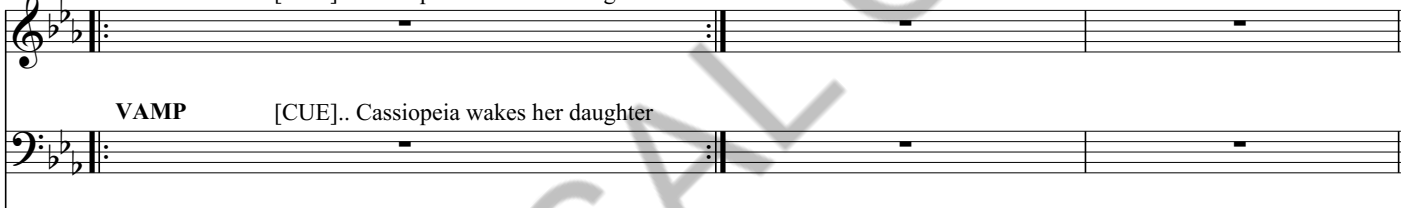
f

con ped.

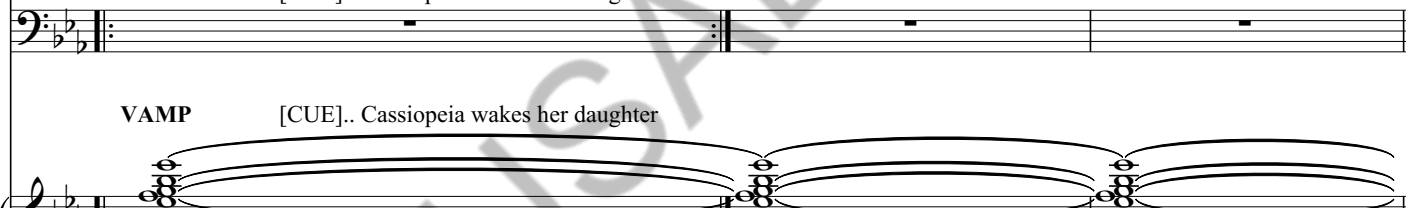
f

375

VAMP [CUE].. Cassiopeia wakes her daughter



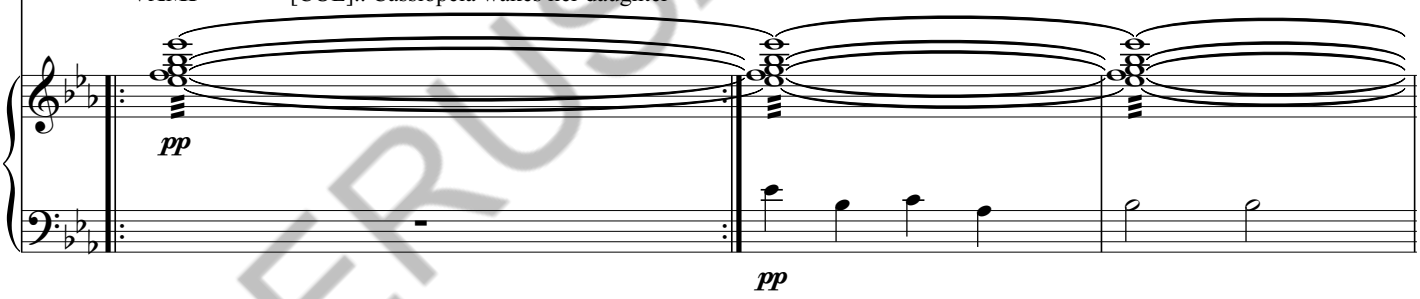
VAMP [CUE].. Cassiopeia wakes her daughter



VAMP [CUE].. Cassiopeia wakes her daughter

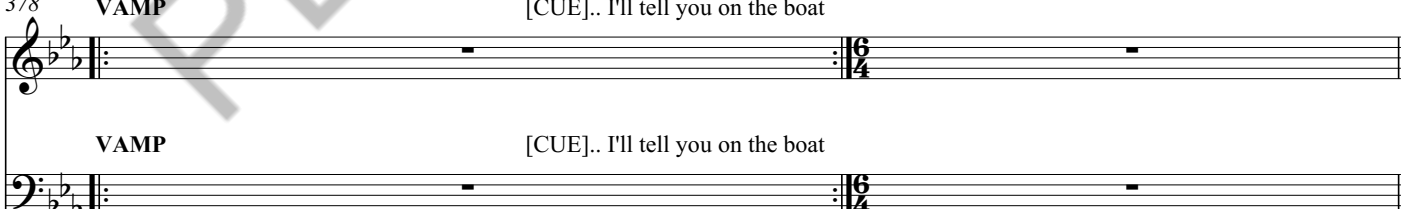
pp

pp

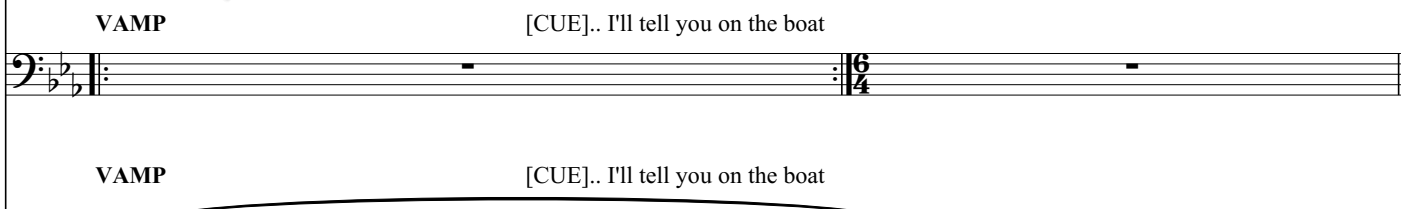


378

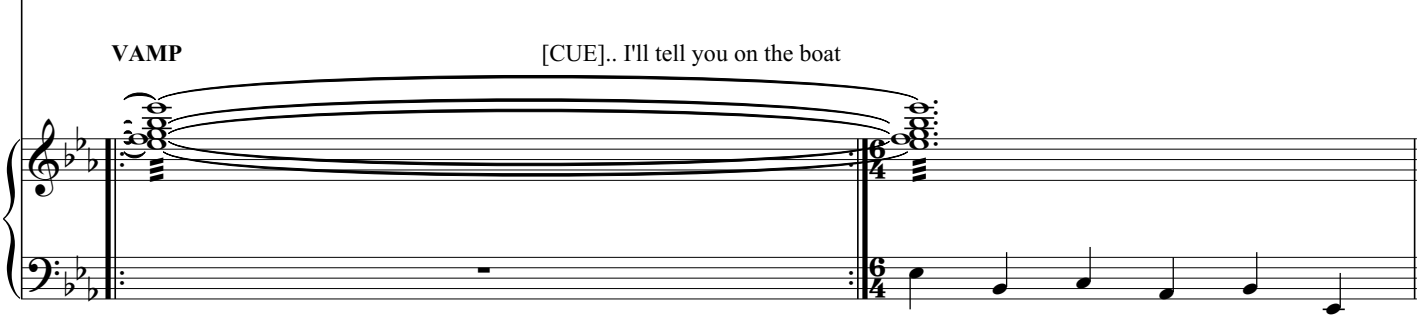
VAMP [CUE].. I'll tell you on the boat



VAMP [CUE].. I'll tell you on the boat



VAMP [CUE].. I'll tell you on the boat



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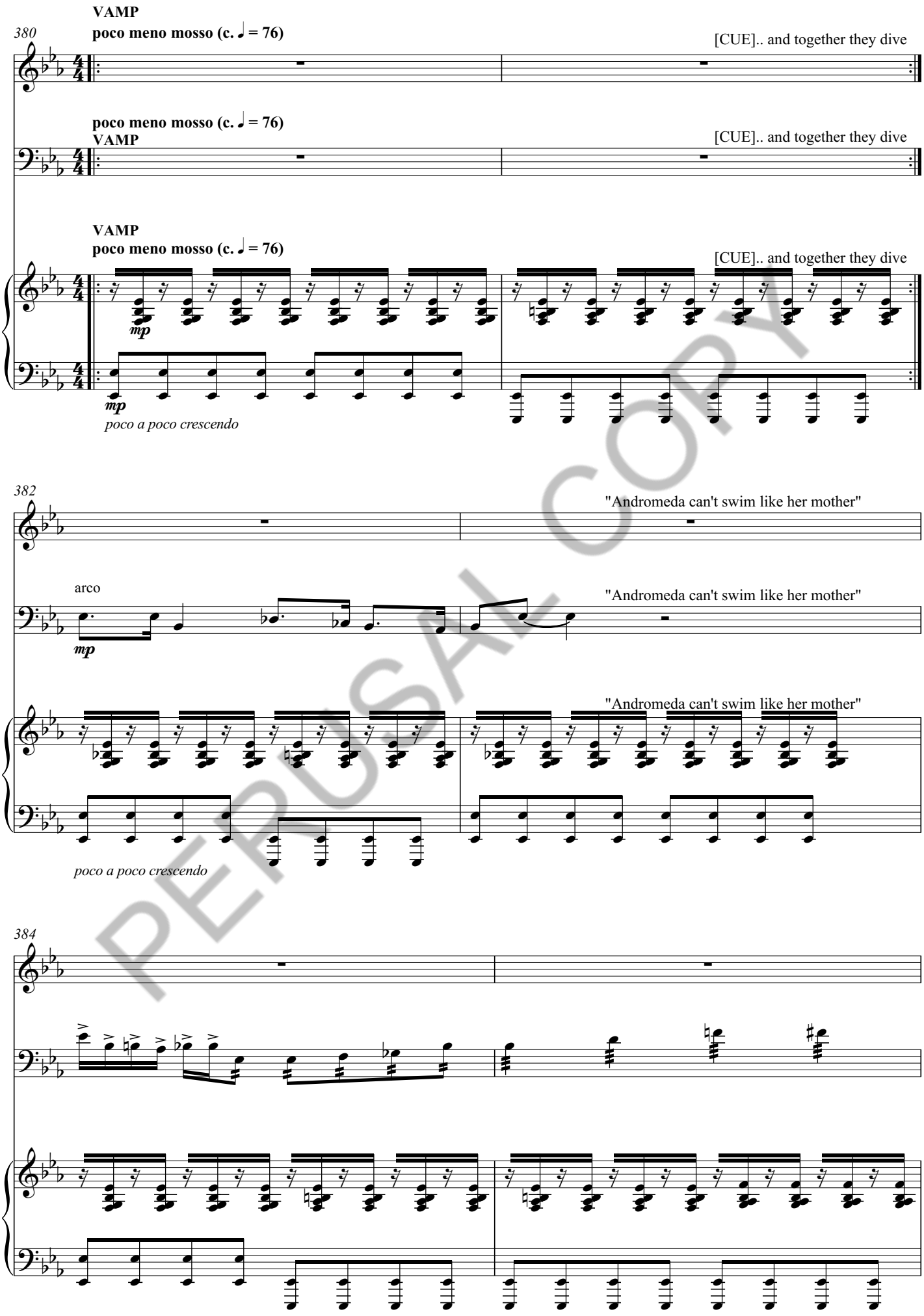

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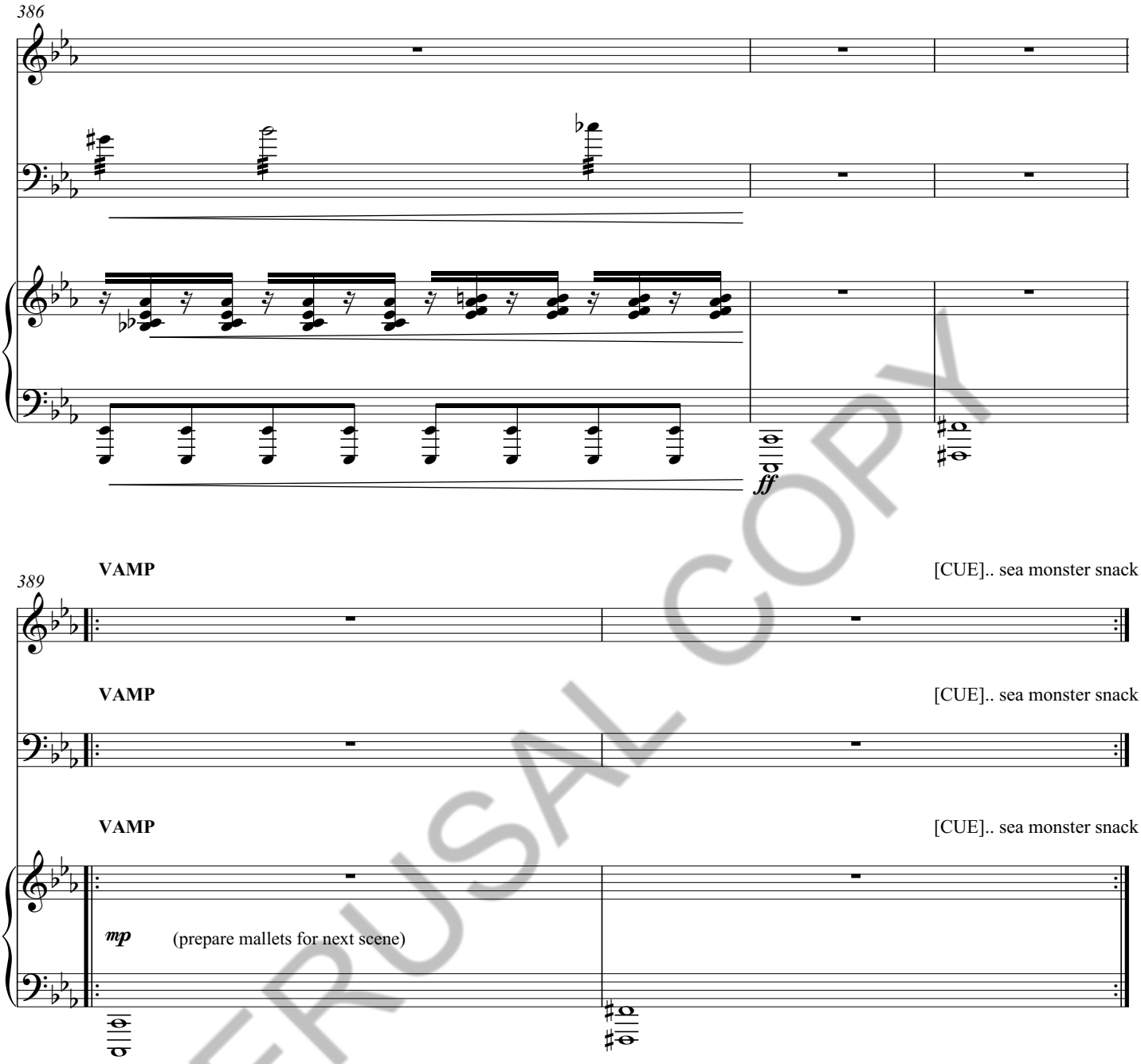


***ATTACCA* SCENE 15** (Next Page)

PERUSAL COPY

SCENE 15:
ANDROMEDA CHAINED TO ROCK

Prometheus puts a flower in Vocalist's hair and handcuffs her to the music stand - et voila, she's Andromeda

391

♩ = 60

f

gliss.

Well shit!

♩ = 60

♩ = 60

392

VAMP

"No one is happy..."

VAMP

"No one is happy..."

pizz.

mf

VAMP

"No one is happy..."

'whale sound' (superball on string)

freely

(pitch approximate)

con ped.

394

"Anyway he's about to..." "...tiny-teeny princess"

"Anyway he's about to..." "...tiny-teeny princess"

"Anyway he's about to..." "...tiny-teeny princess"

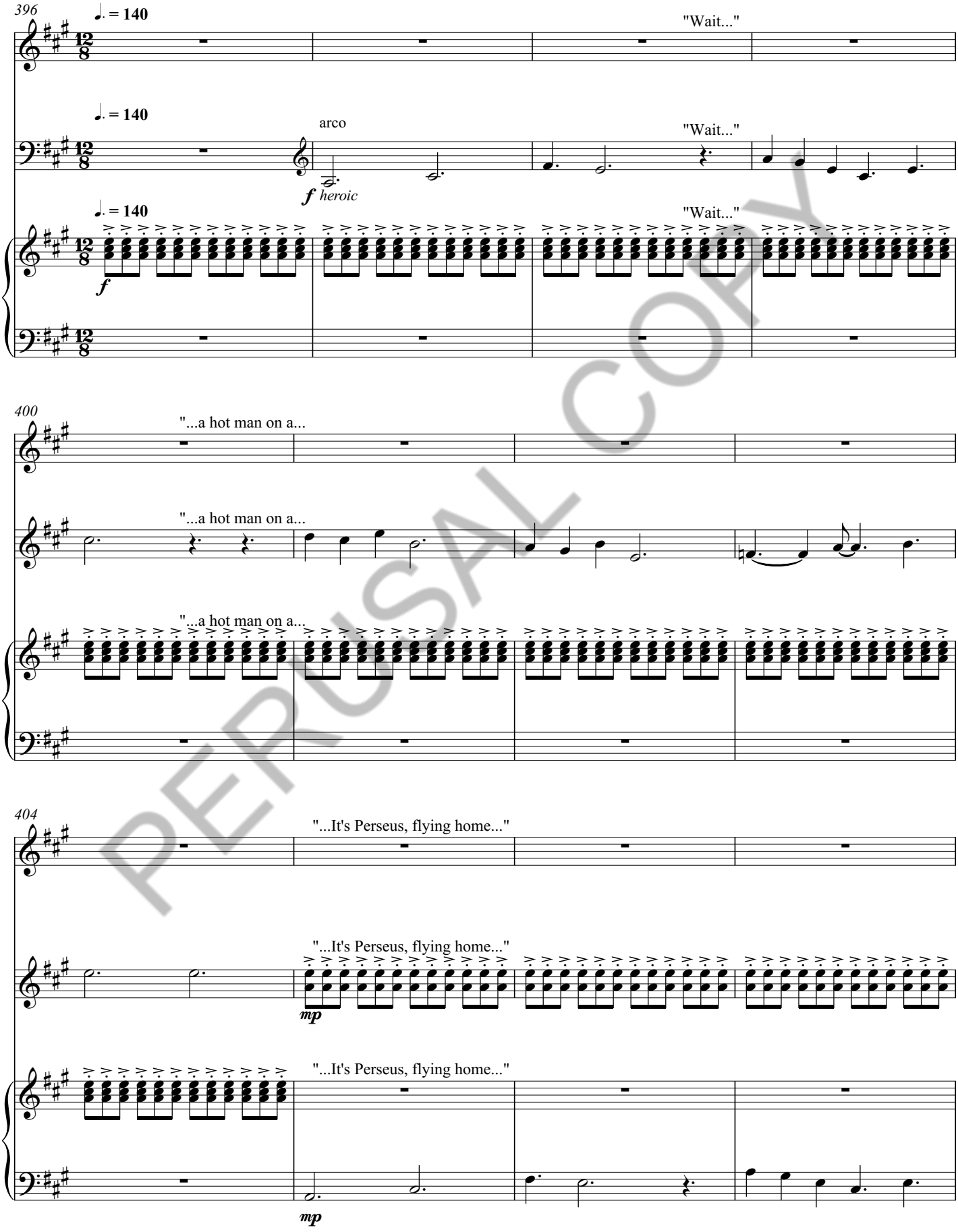
Put mallets down

PERUSAL COPY

GO TO **SCENE 16** (Next Page)

SCENE 16:
PERSEUS FLY BY

Prometheus and Vocalist (Andromeda) spy something in the distance, above the audience's heads. What they see is baffling at first, then thrilling...



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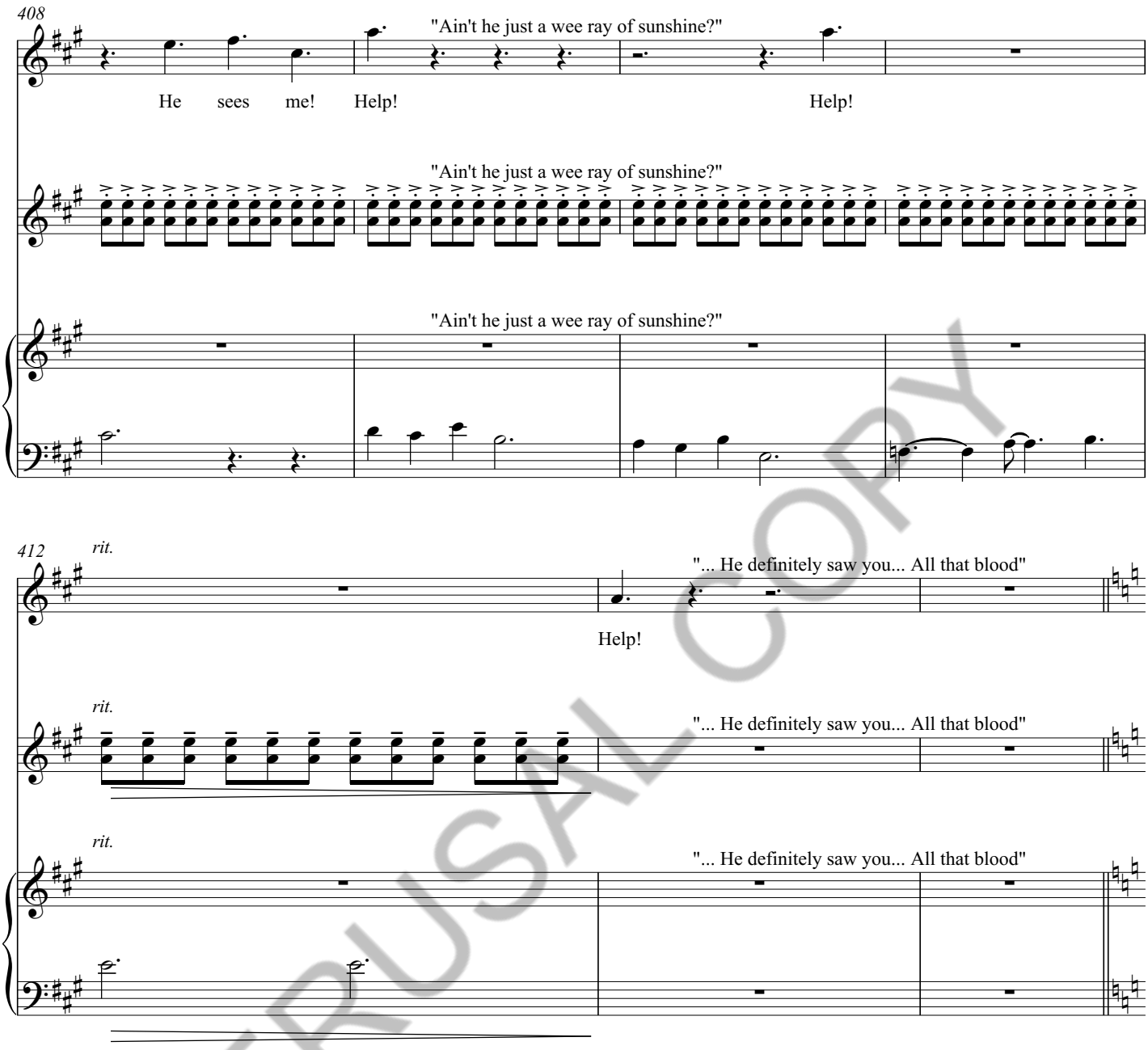

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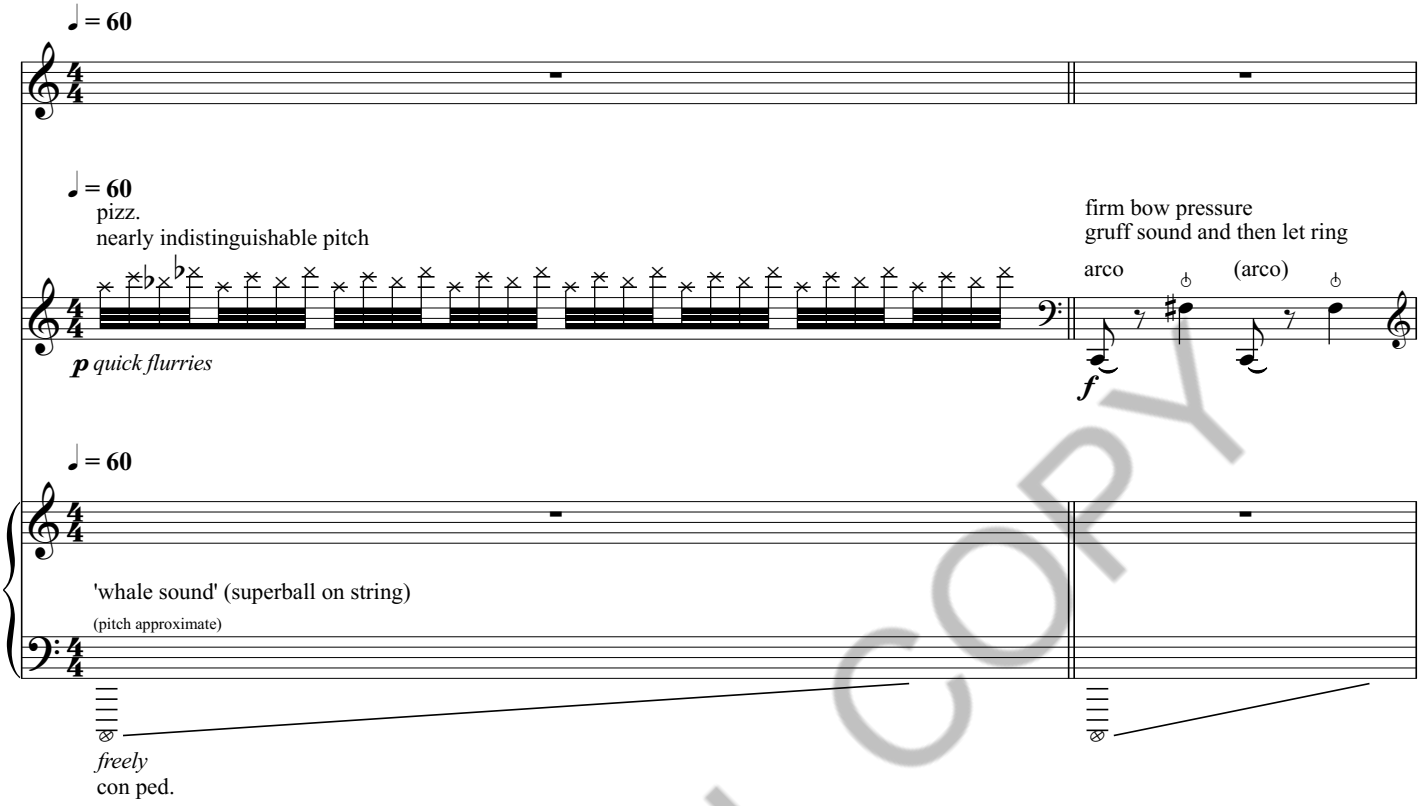
***ATTACCA* SCENE 17** (Next Page)

SCENE 17:
CETUS + SEA THEME [PRE-ANDROMEDA SONG]



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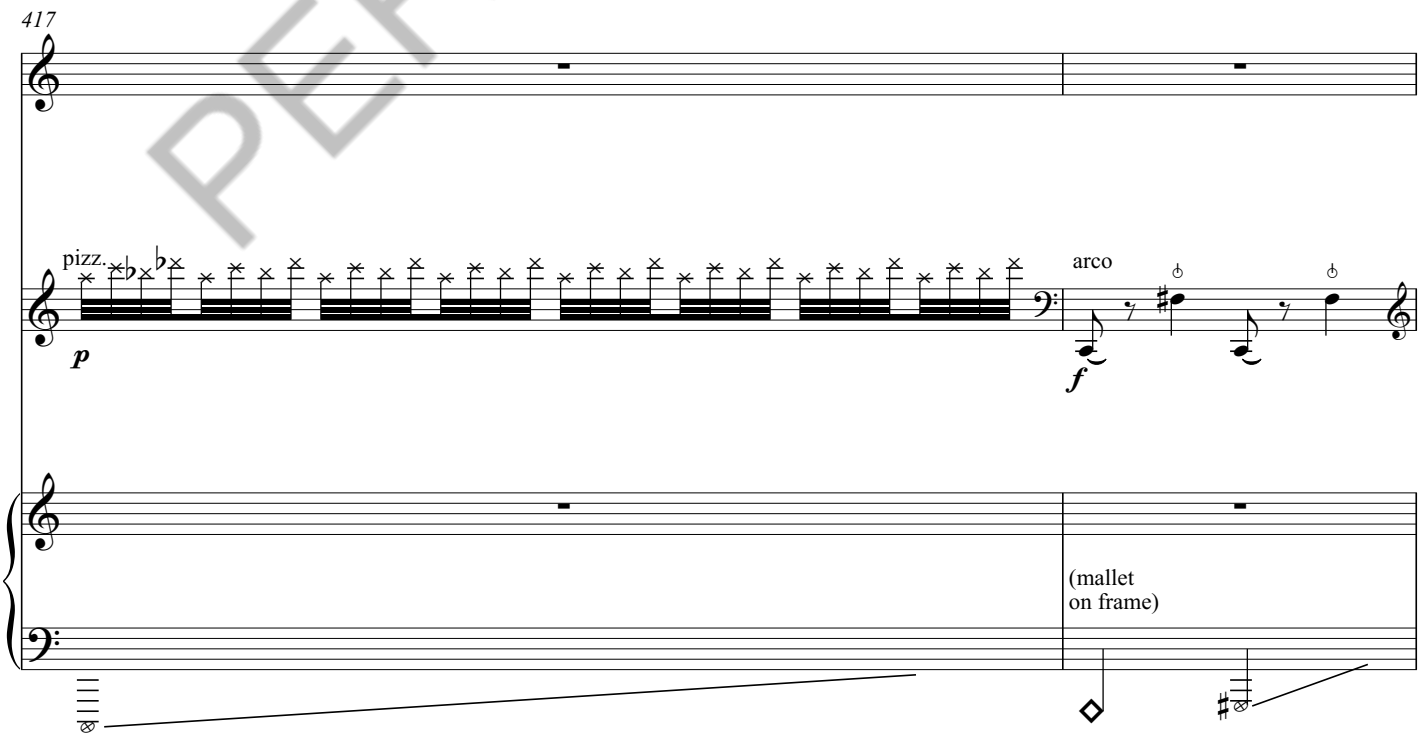

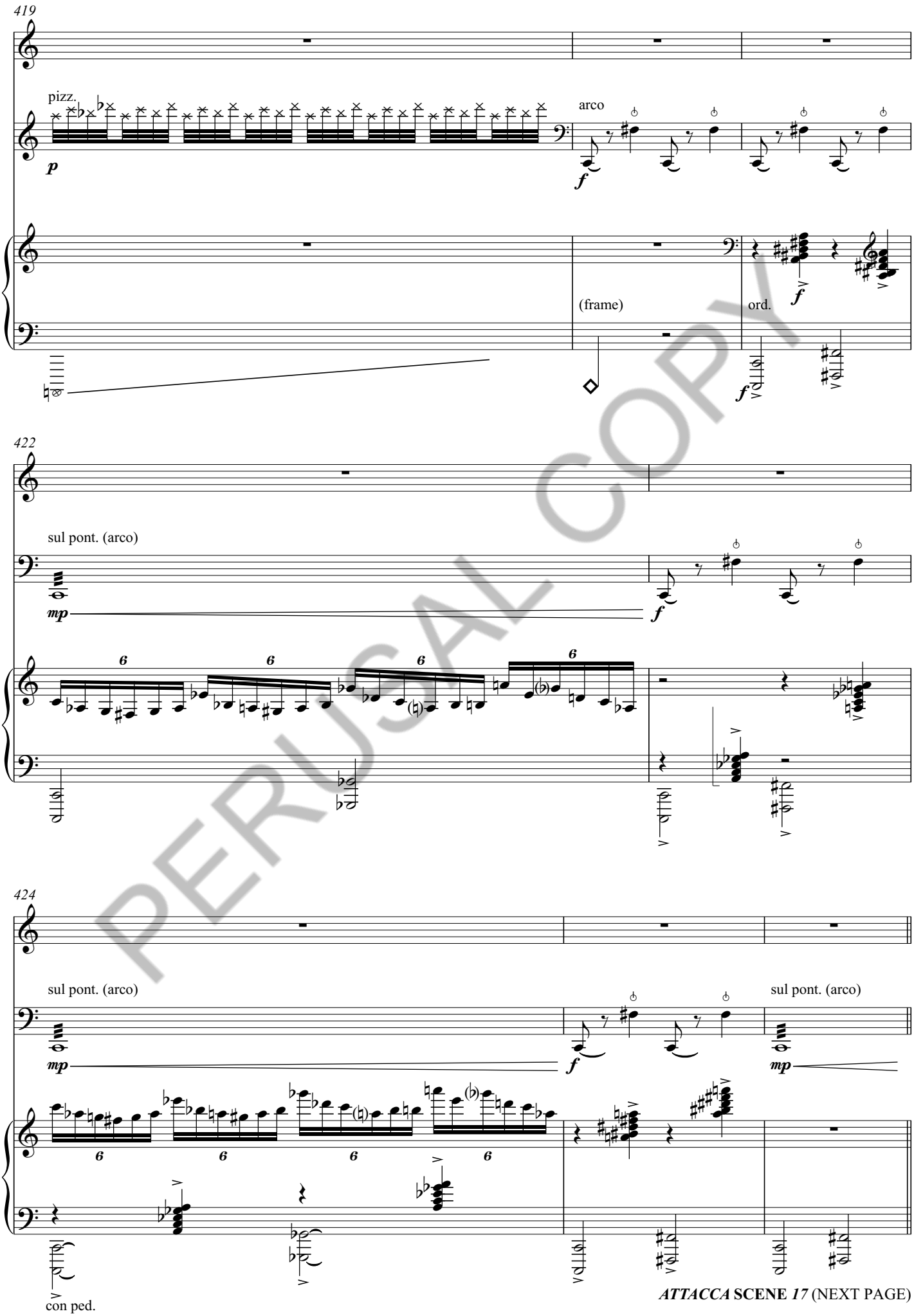

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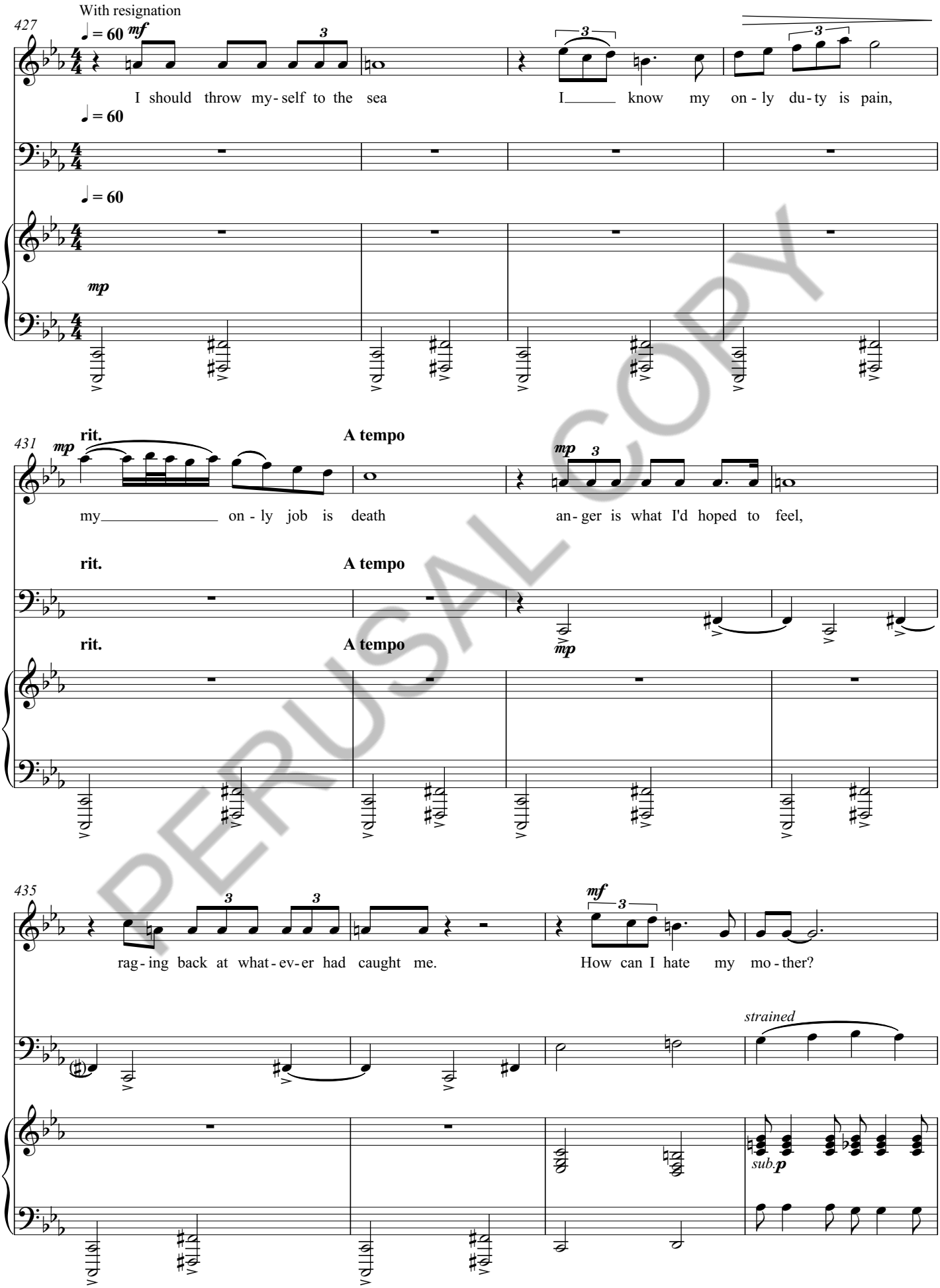
ATTACCA **SCENE *17*** (NEXT PAGE)

SCENE 17 [cont'd]:
ANDROMEDA SONG



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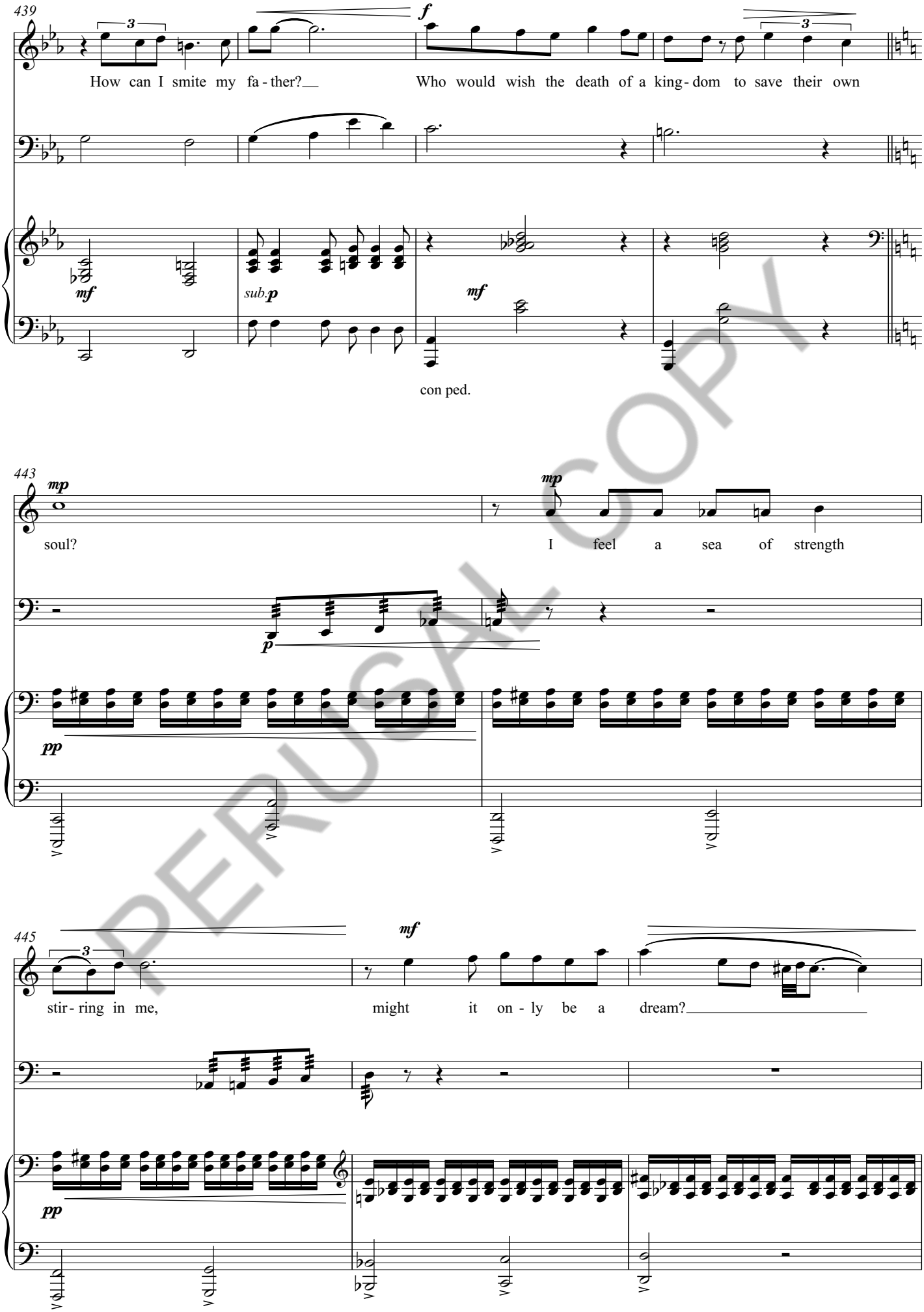


PERUSAL COPY

448

rit.

A Tempo (♩ = 60)

I swal - low it qui - et - ly. Hope is a thin, small waste,

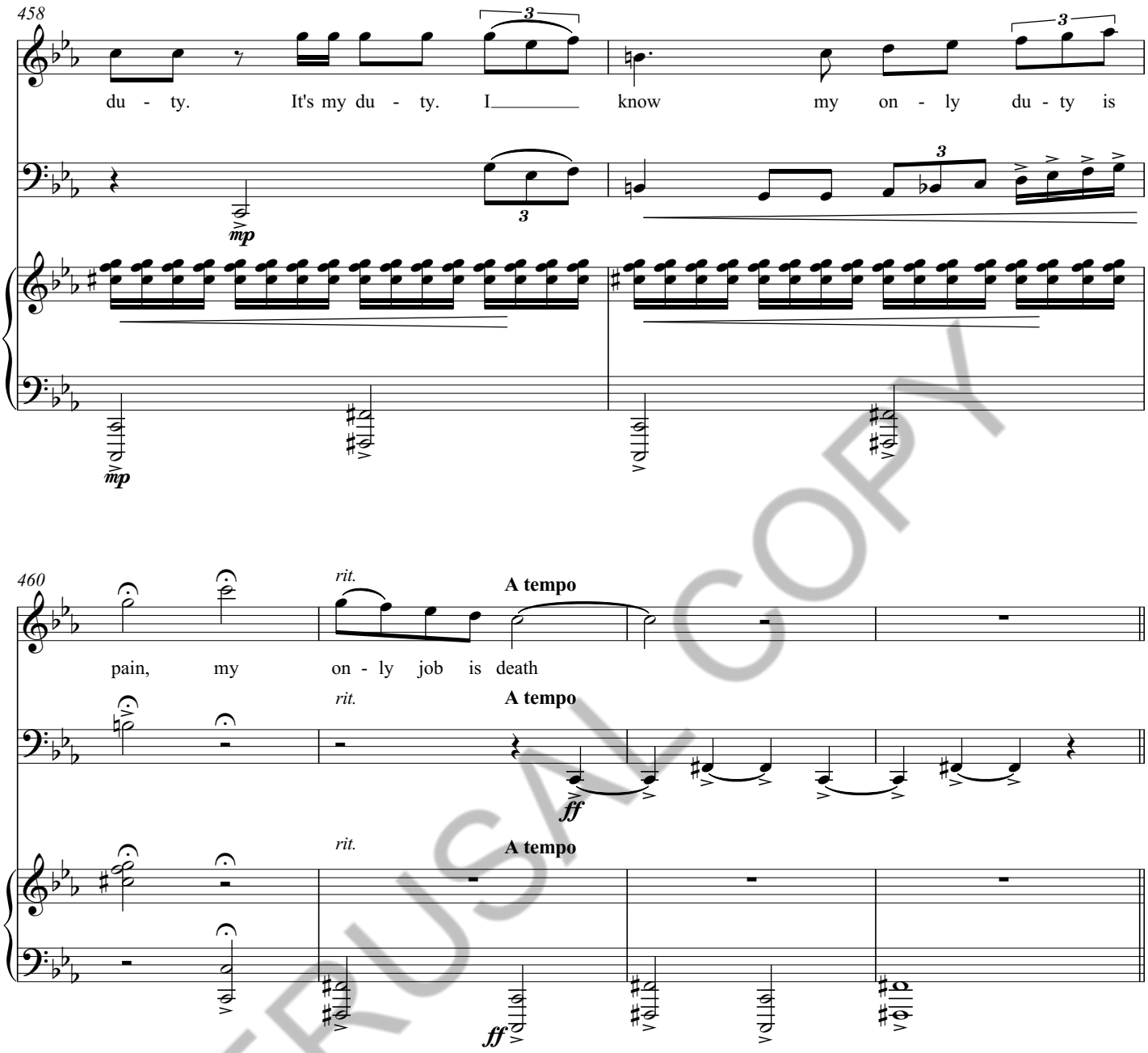
452

I watch it fly, I lose it in the clouds. the sea - god and his

456

sea - dog are near. they are near. It's my

PERUSAL COPY



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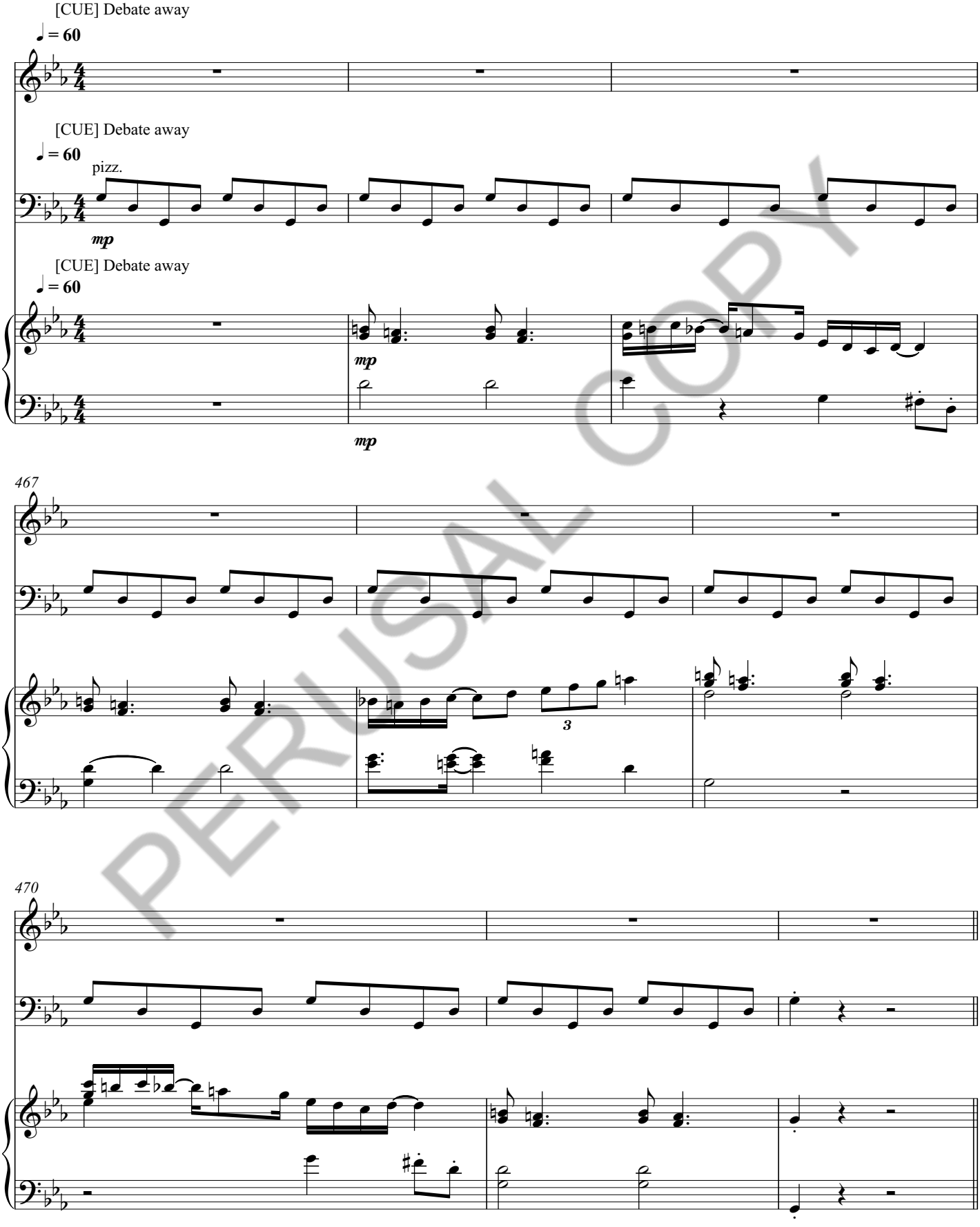
GO TO **SCENE 18** (Next Page)

SCENE 18:
VOTE 4 WAIT & SEE VS FREE SELF

PROMETHEUS: Her sense of duty is clear, but I think we can all agree: The appearance of Perseus riding Pegasus and holding Medusa's head (which is a deadly weapon, by the way! The stare of a dead gorgon can turn any living being to stone!) ... yeah, I don't think we can ignore that hope, however small... So it's your vote: Perseus is one of the best heroes in the business. Should Andromeda trust that he will come back for her, and bravely face death in the meantime? Or should she tap into her innate power and try to free herself?

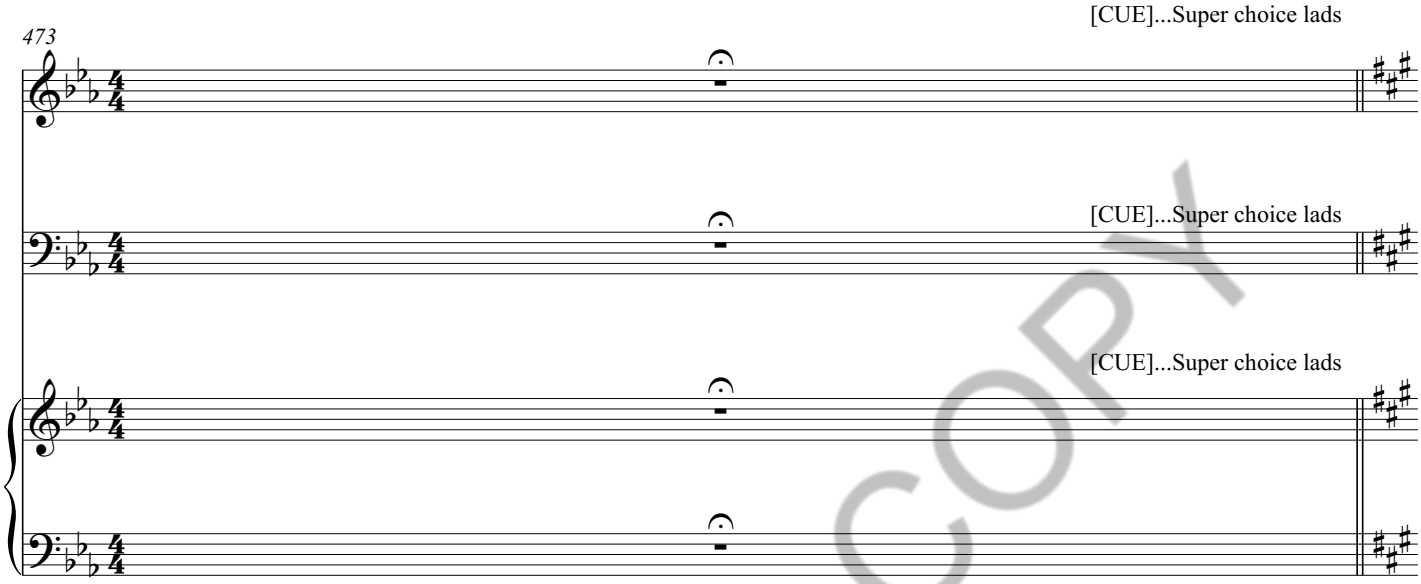


PERUSAL COPY

RED: GO TO **SCENE 19A** (NEXT PAGE)
YELLOW: GO TO **SCENE 19B** (Page **58**)

[PLAY IF RED]
SCENE 19A:
WAIT AND SEE

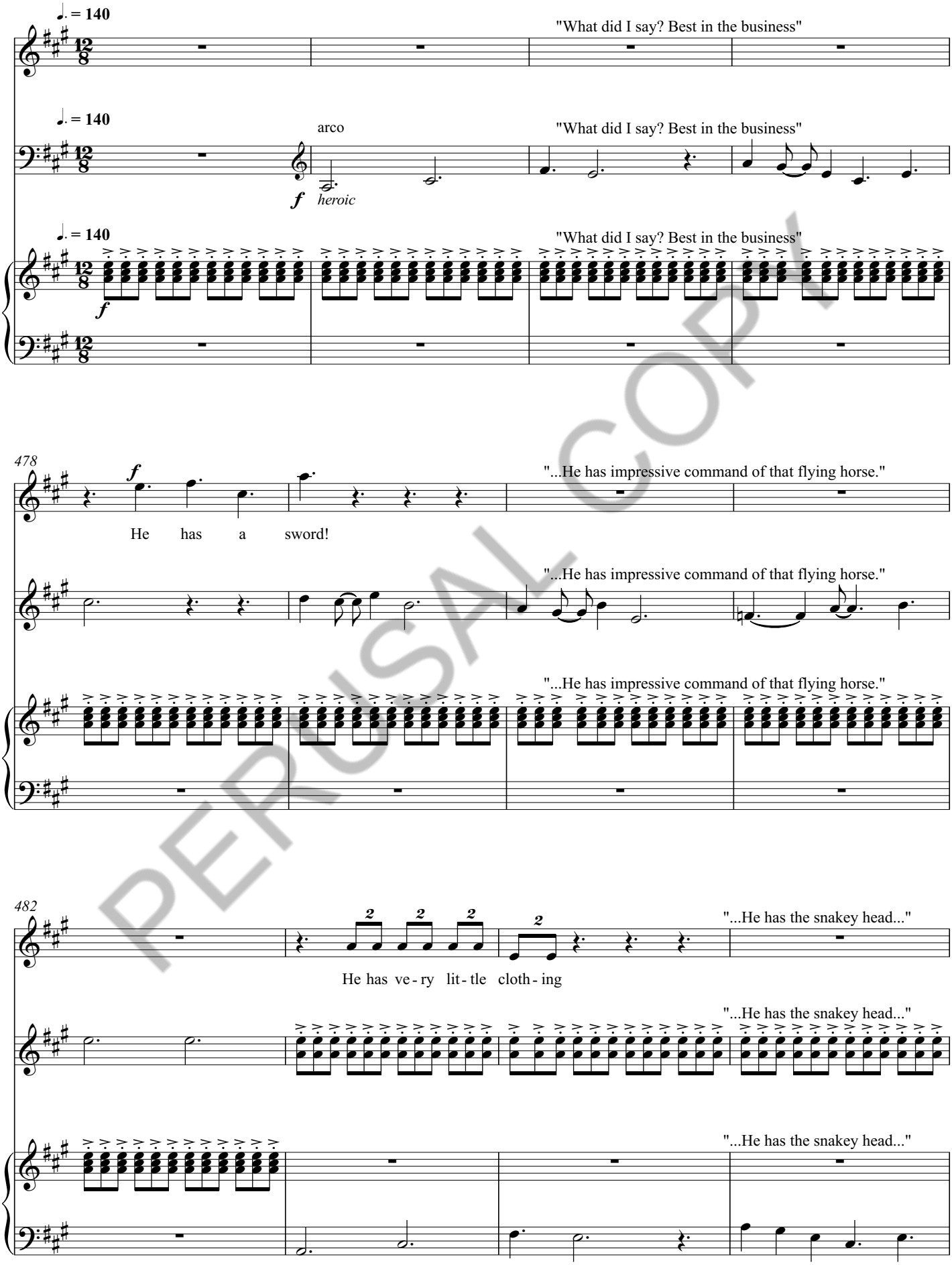
Everyone awkardly waits, looking at each other..
PROMETHEUS: So Andromeda just kind of... hangs out, I guess? Bravely facing death.



***ATTACCA* SCENE 19A.1** (NEXT PAGE)

PERUSAL COPY

SCENE 19A.1 [Cont'd]:
WAIT AND SEE - PERSEUS RETURNS



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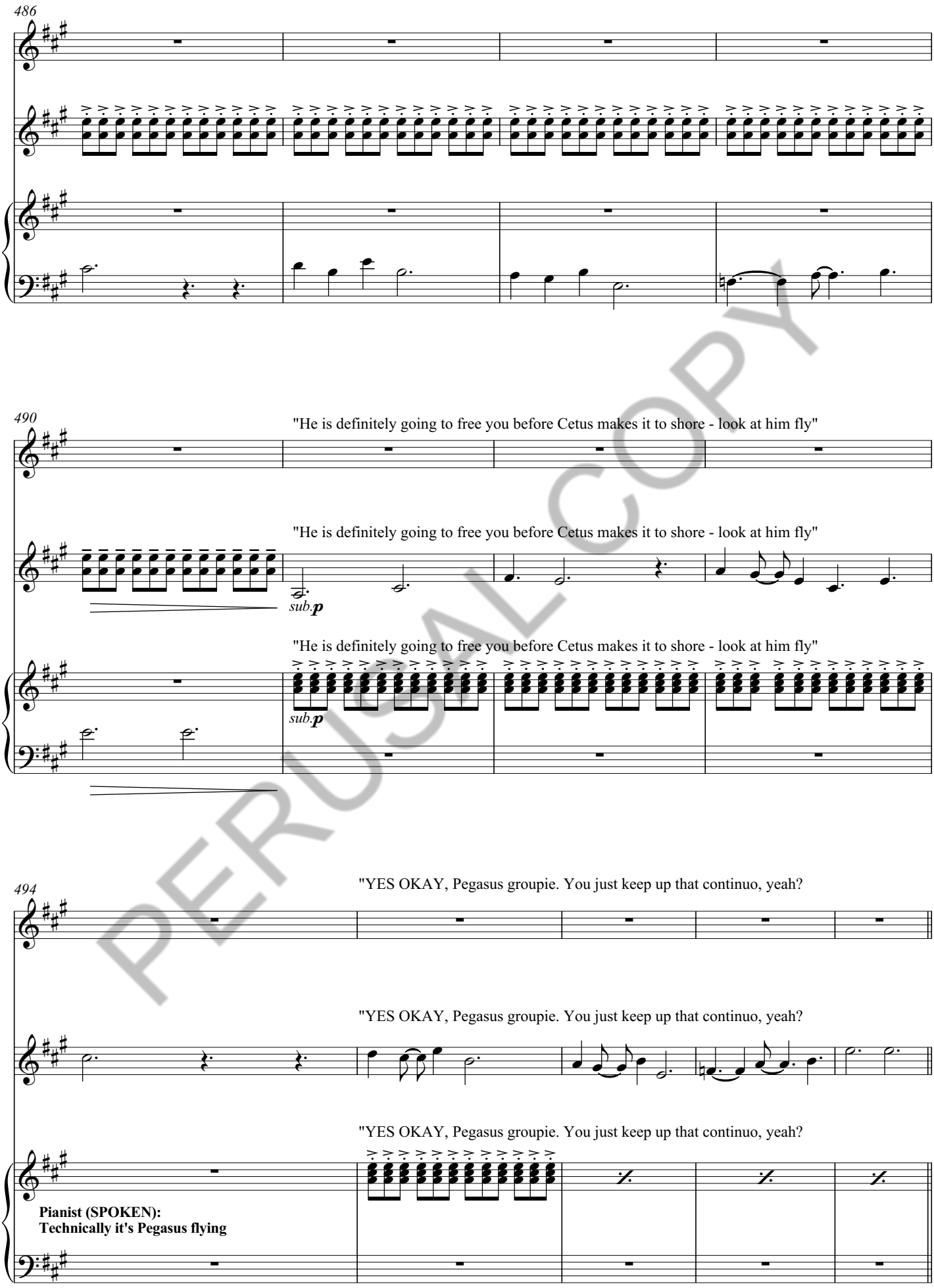


PERUSAL COPY

SCENE 19A.2 [Cont'd]:
WAIT AND SEE - STUN VS STAB

499

♩ = 60
"When he spied our Princess...."

♩ = 60
"When he spied our Princess...."
molto vib.

mp *romantically*

♩ = 60
"When he spied our Princess...."

(False Vote)

CUE: The choice is yours! Stun or stab....

504

♩ = 60

CUE: The choice is yours! Stun or stab....

♩ = 60
pizz.

mp

CUE: The choice is yours! Stun or stab....

♩ = 60

mp

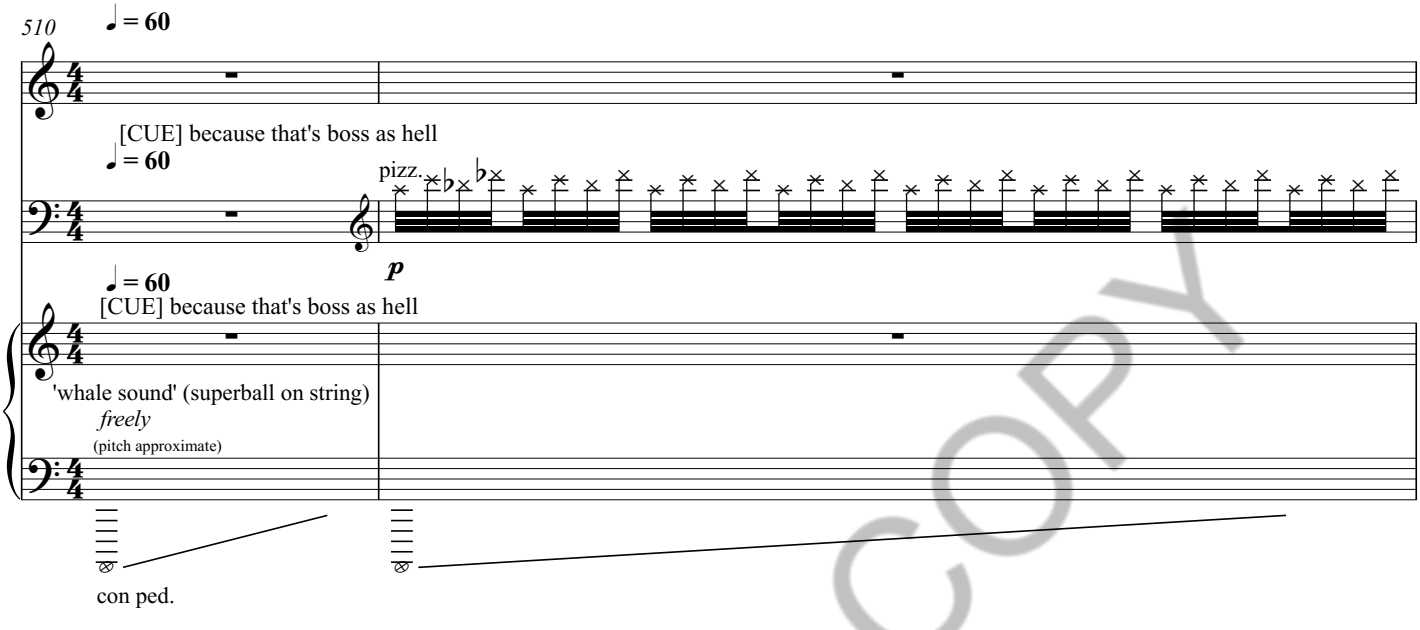
mp

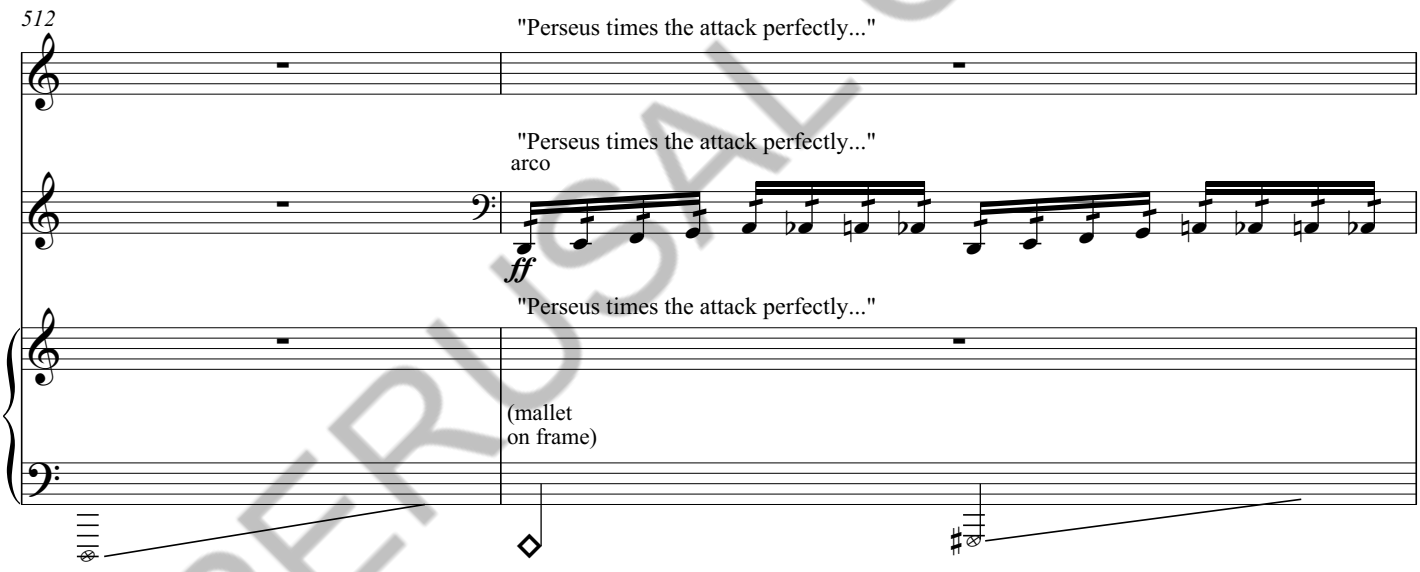
PERUSAL COPY

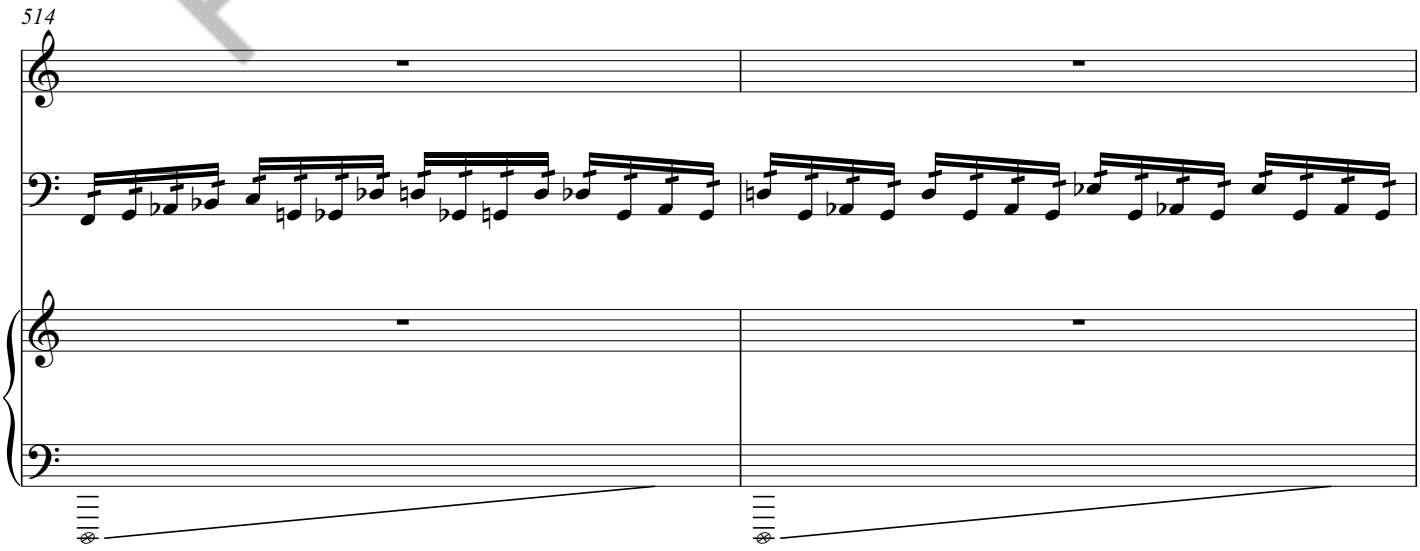
SCENE 19A.3 :
WAIT AND SEE - Perseus Slays Cetus, Marries Andromeda

PROMETHEUS: FOOLS! Your votes don't count! (You're well used to that aren't you, Northern Ireland?) No one can affect what a macho, warlike dude wants to do. Perseus, along with all other males in this patriarchal horror-scape, maintains full agency and autonomy at all times. *[Beat]* Anyhoo, he's using Medusa's head

[CUE] because that's boss as hell







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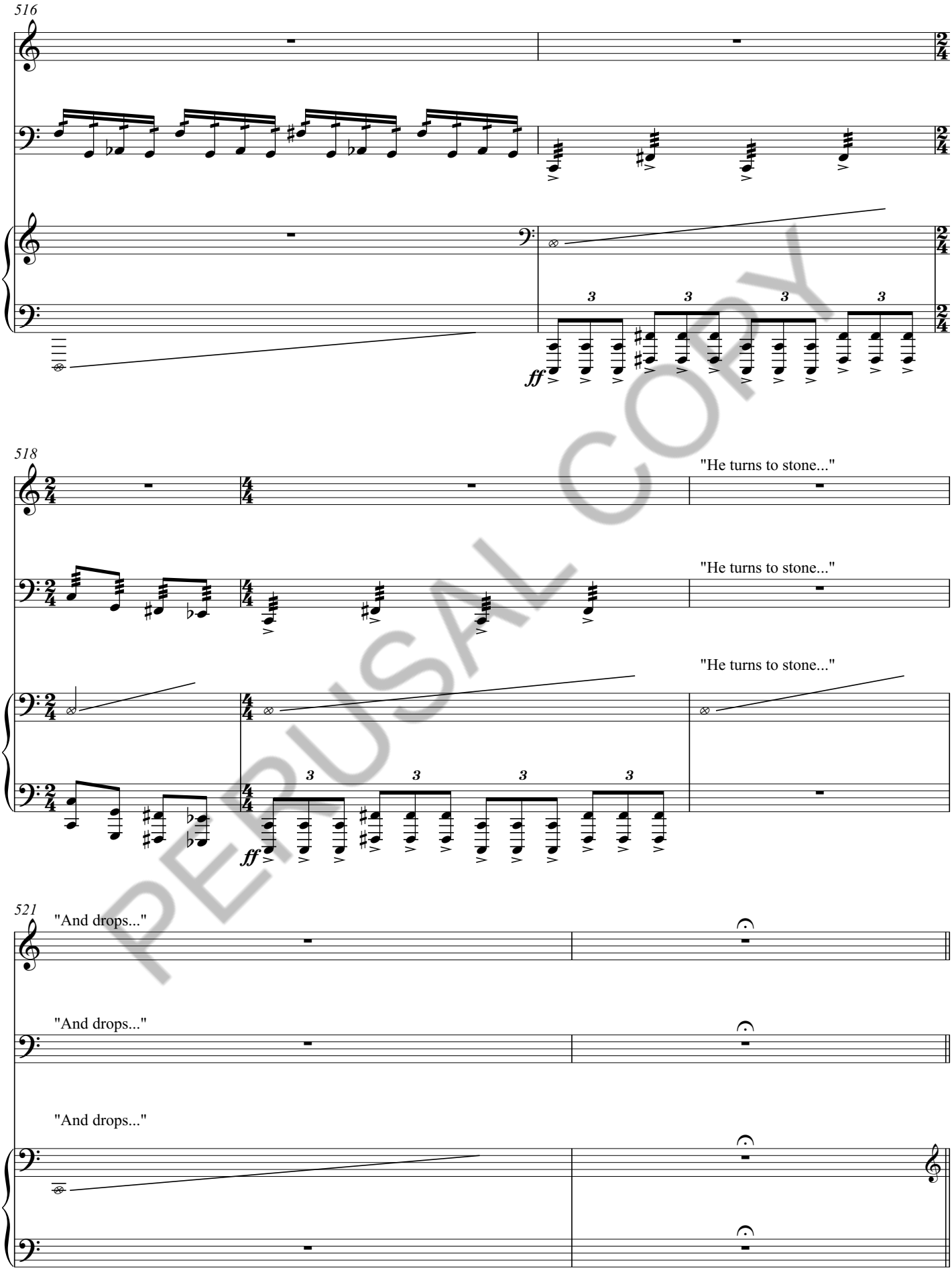
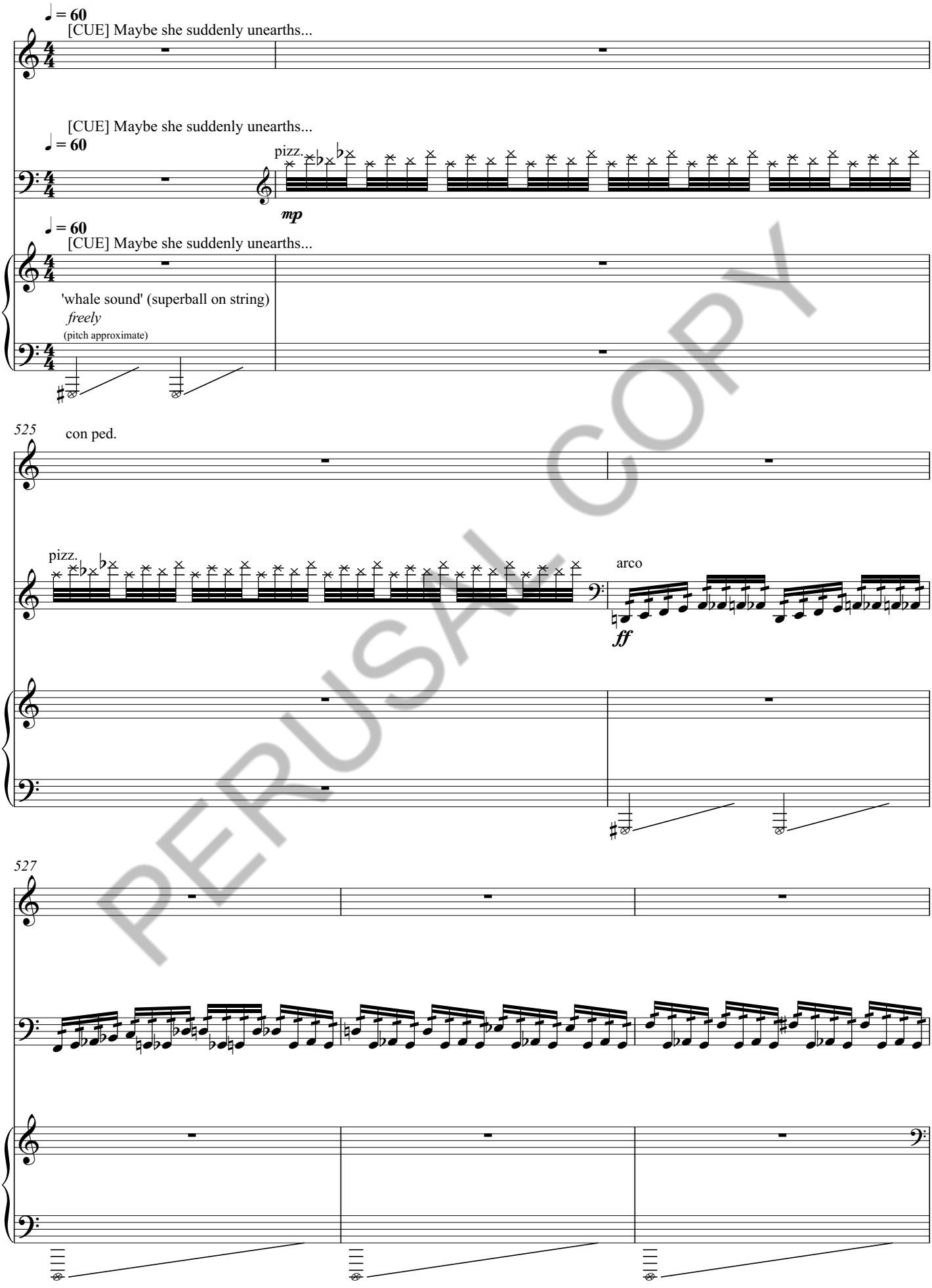
SCENE 19A.3



PERUSAL COPY

GO TO **SCENE 20** (Page**61**)

[PLAY IF YELLOW]
SCENE 19B:



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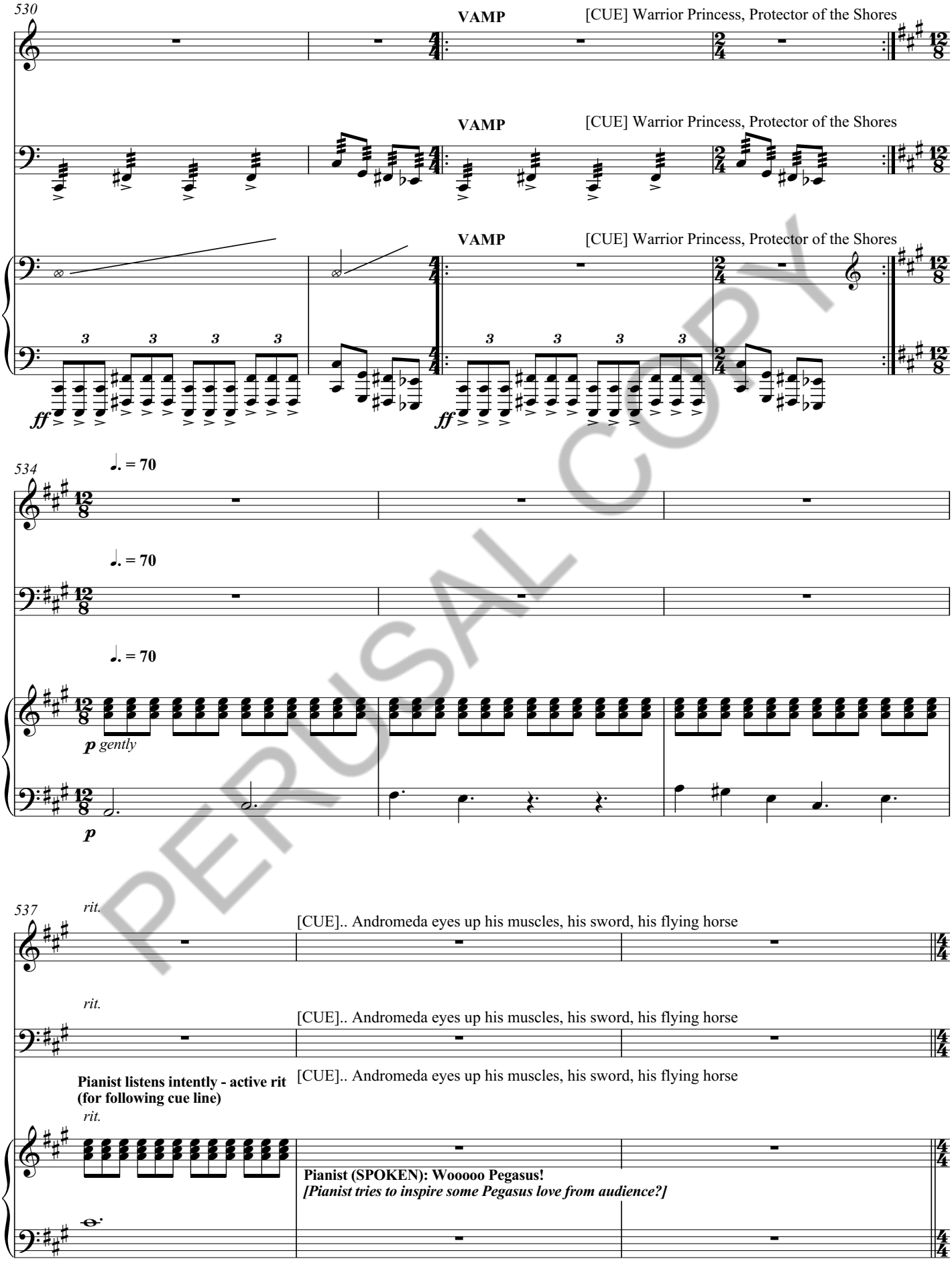


PERUSAL COPY

GO TO **SCENE 20** (NEXT PAGE)

SCENE 20:
Andromeda and Perseus in the stars

[CUE].. Who leads the Kingdom's Navy in battle for many years

"One day, Andromeda..."

p gently

ah

[CUE].. Who leads the Kingdom's Navy in battle for many years

"One day, Andromeda..."

[CUE].. Who leads the Kingdom's Navy in battle for many years

"One day, Andromeda..."

pp

542

ah

ah

pp

4

546

ah

rit.

rit.

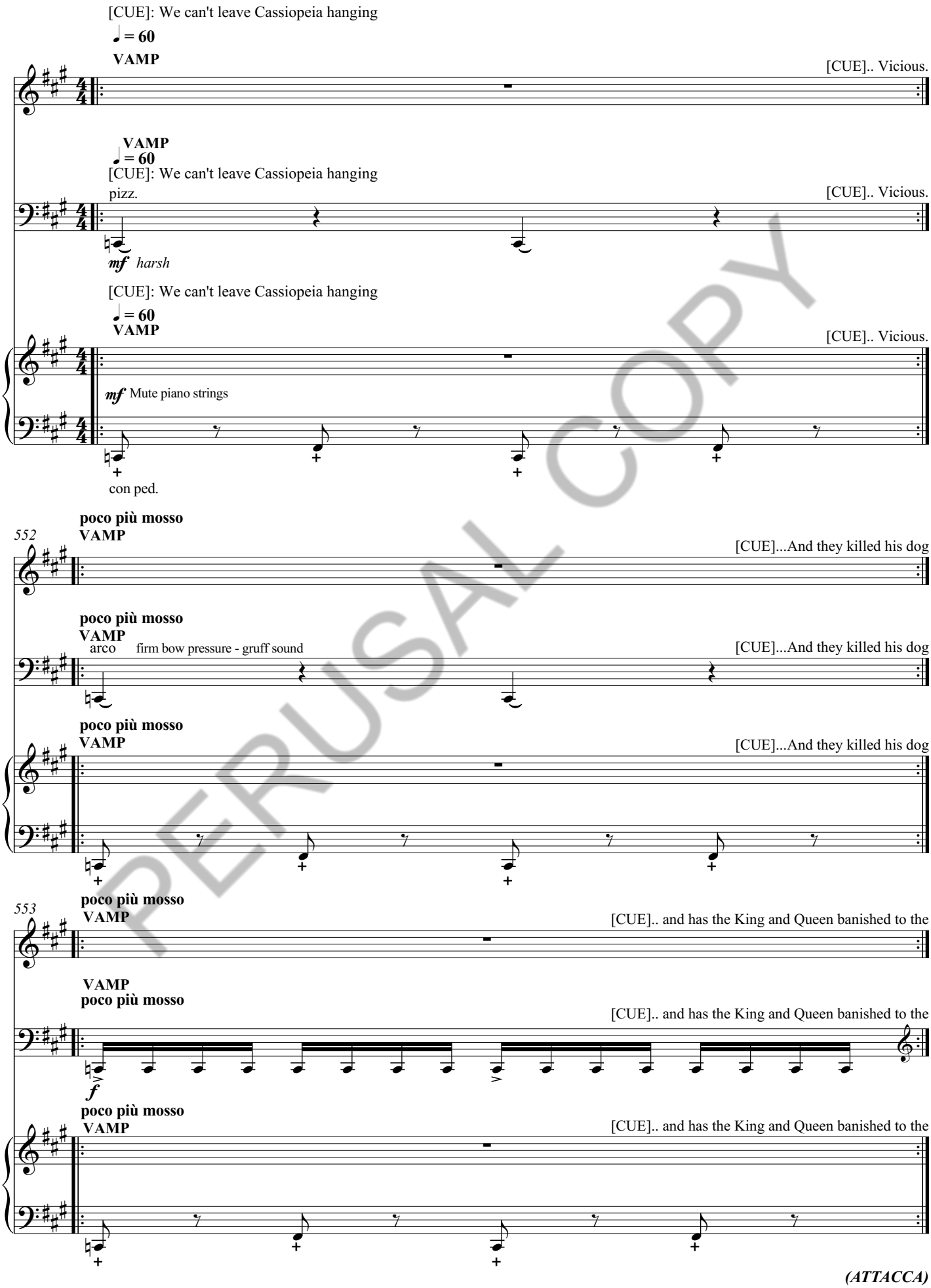
rit.

8

PERUSAL COPY

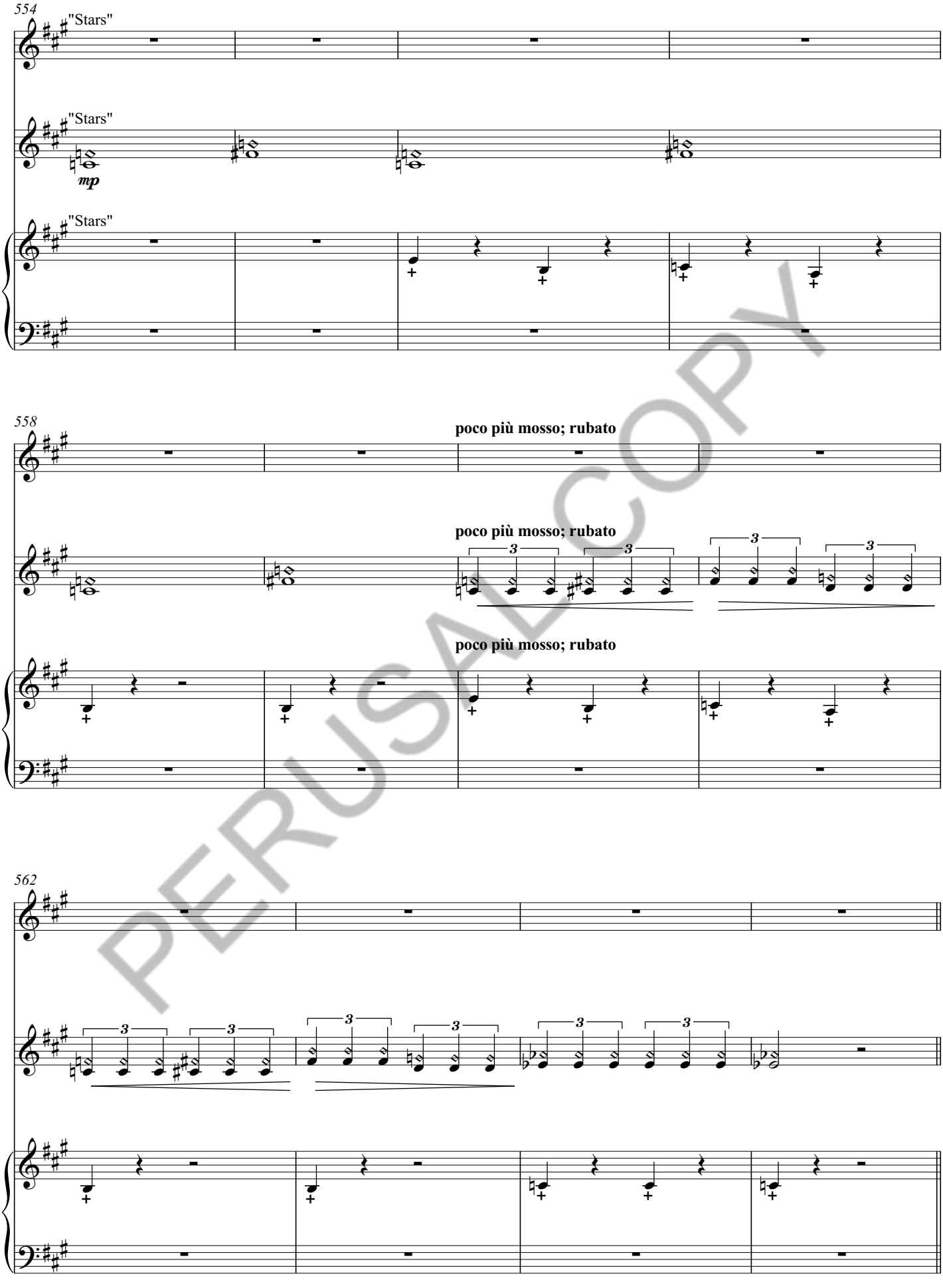
GO TO **SCENE 21** (NEXT PAGE)

SCENE 21:
POSEIDON ANGRY (AGAIN)



(ATTACCA)

PERUSAL COPY



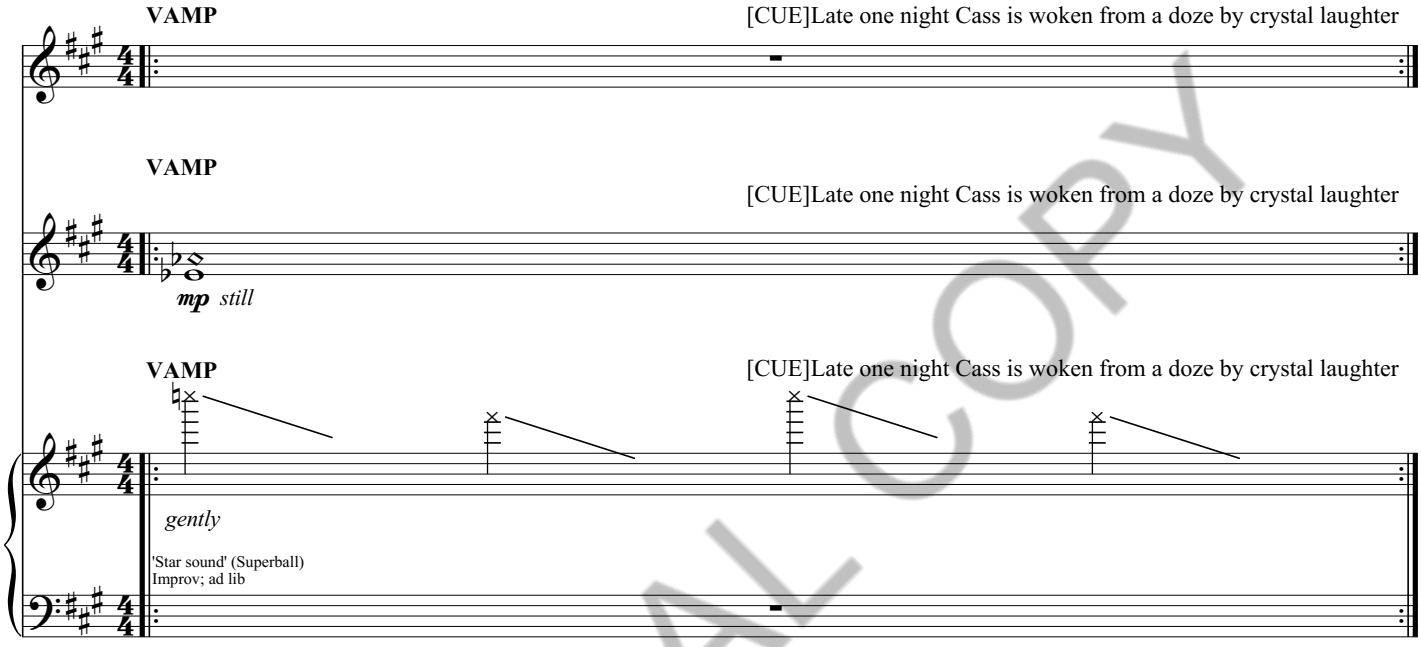
PERUSAL COPY

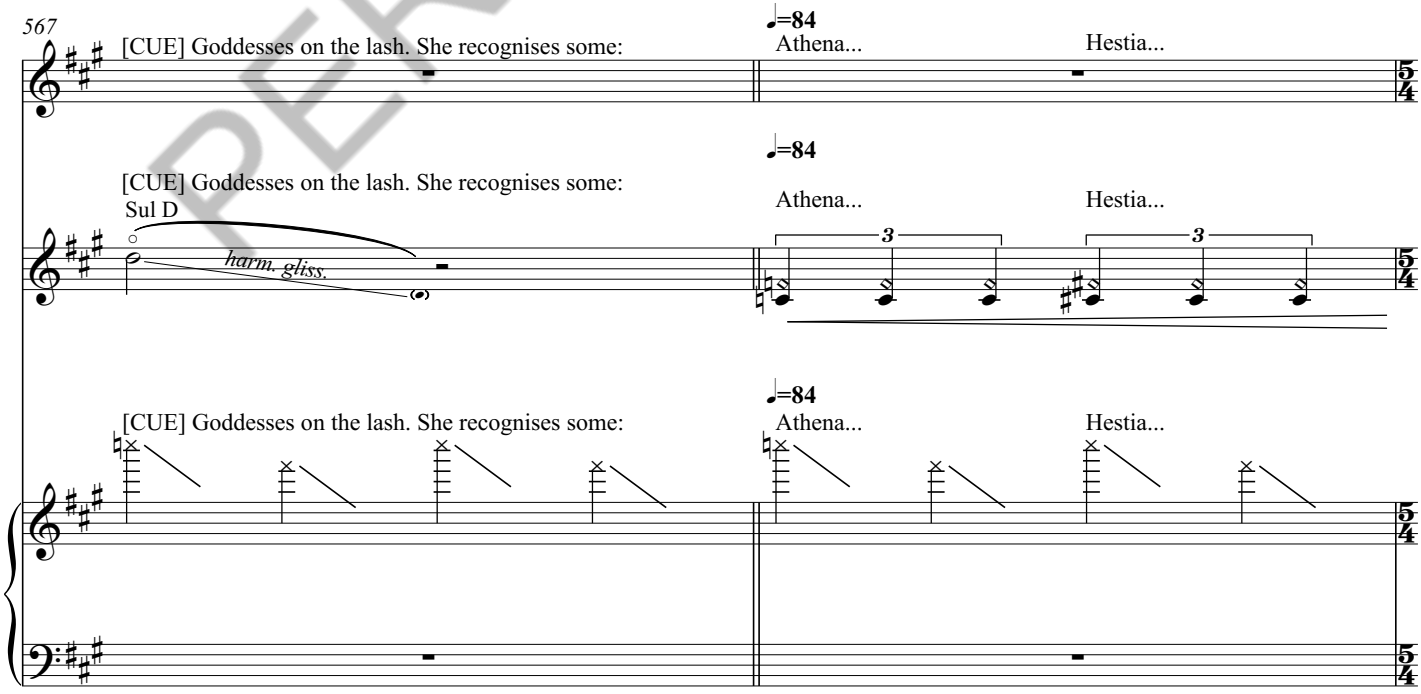
SCENE 22: APHRODITE ASKS

[SPOKEN DURING VAMP]

PROMETHEUS: The heavens are vast and still. Cass is close enough to speak to Cepheus if she wants to. But suspended here in the heavens together, they soon start to match the quietness. The silence here is nothing like the swirling sea or bustling land. It black-holes your soul into itself, and draws it further out than you think possible, stretching to find anything solid to land on.

These first few days are scary, and then they lose any sense of what a day even is. Years ago when she arrived on land, Cassiopeia was questioning her sense of worth and beauty; now she's starting to forget she's anything at all





PERUSAL COPY

569

Artemis... and then Aphro - dite... notices her and comes closer.

Artemis... and then Aphro - dite... notices her and comes closer.

Artemis... and then Aphro - dite... notices her and comes closer.

572

4

575

VAMP [CUE].. To share her beauty secrets

VAMP [CUE].. To share her beauty secrets

VAMP [CUE].. To share her beauty secrets

PERUSAL COPY

GO TO **SCENE 23** (NEXT PAGE)

I'm torn. I'm Prometheus, Bringer of Fire. I love some exchange between humans and gods. It's a holy wonder, sharing knowledge - it is. Those haughty wee so-and-sos can stand to learn plenty from yous.

But for Cass, the stakes are sky-high. One god tries to punish her for being conceited by killing her daughter; then, in sashays the most gorgeous goddess of all, begging for her beauty cream recipe. What gives?

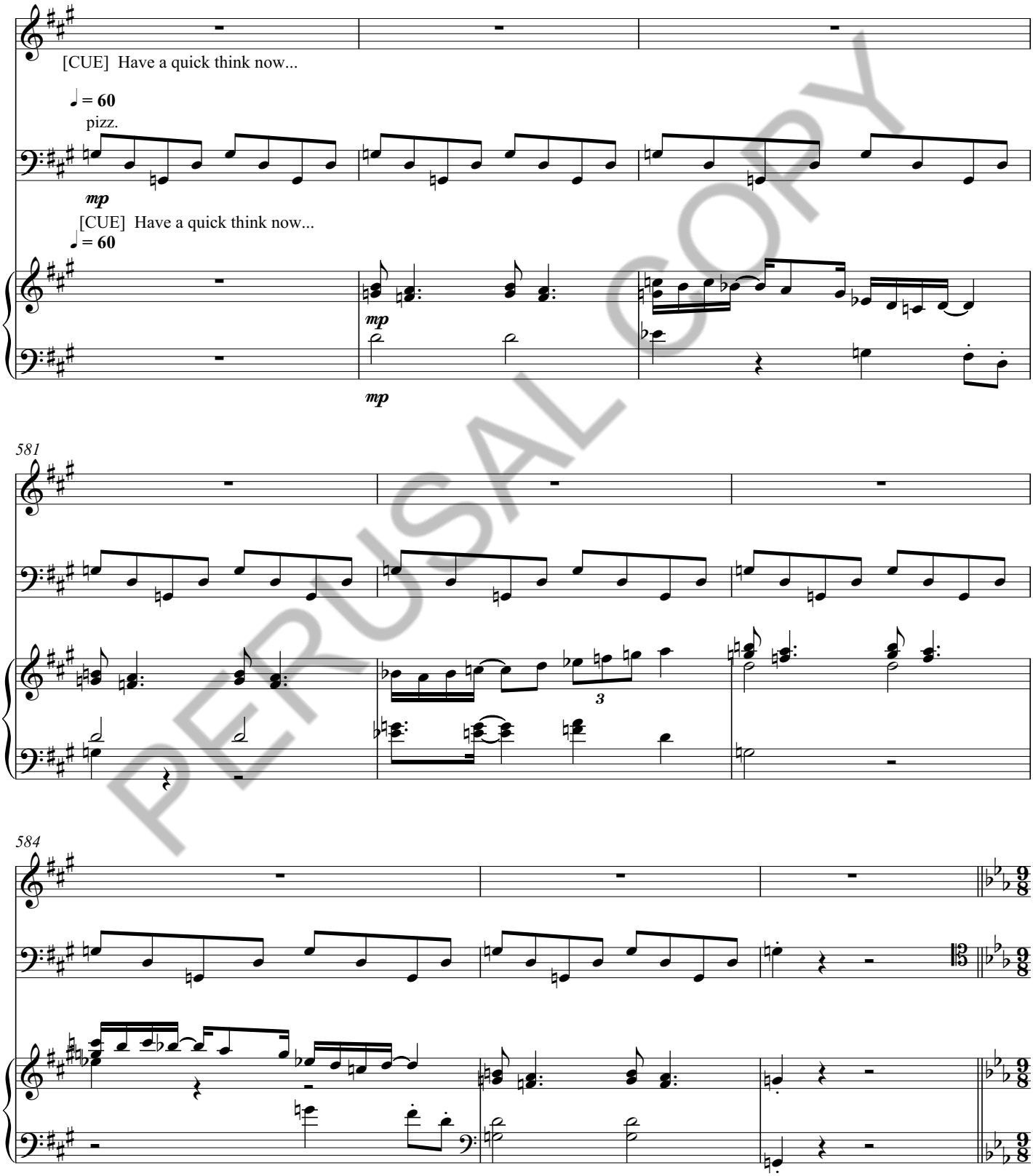
Cassiopeia does have mad skills and she's finally being recognized. If she lets go of her pride and shares her beauty recs, Aphrodite might reward her beyond all reason (tipsy goddesses are like that).

OR what if Aphrodite has been sent to troll her? Keeping her secrets might be the only way to stay alive.
Either way, she's thinking twice about the whole beauty game.

How should she answer Aphrodite? Keep her secrets or share them?

[CUE] Have a quick think now...

♩ = 60



PERUSAL COPY

[IF RED PLAY]
SCENE 24A:
KEEP

[CUE]: Queen Cassiopeia owes the gods nothing in this world or the next

587 ♩. = 50 *mp*

Deep_____ are my sec - rets and they will

[CUE]: Queen Cassiopeia owes the gods nothing in this world or the next

♩. = 50
arco

p

♩. = 50 [CUE]: Queen Cassiopeia owes the gods nothing in this world or the next

gently

'Star sound' (Superball)
Improv; ad lib

590

keep

593

♩ = 60
Aphrodite offers her... [CUE]..where they came from

Aphrodite offers her... [CUE]..where they came from
♩ = 60

Aphrodite offers her... [CUE]..where they came from
♩ = 60

p

p con ped.

PERUSAL COPY

***ATTACCA* next page**

(ATTACCA)

597

p

I can see the stars, I can see the sky, I can see the stars and

(ATTACCA)

(ATTACCA)

603

spy no - thing in the u - ni - verse, no plan-ets or ga - lax - ies

607

VAMP
[CUE]...It needs to be enough.

are as per-fect as my daught - er

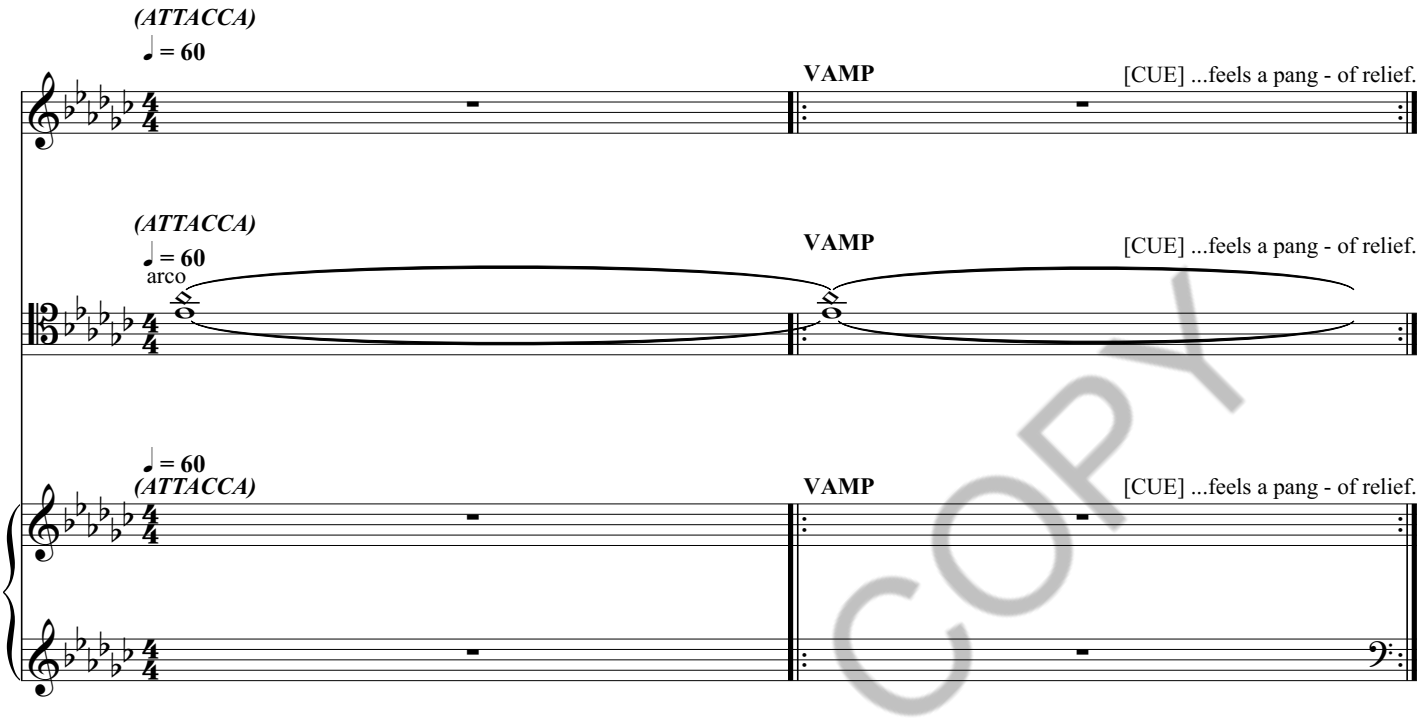
VAMP
[CUE]...It needs to be enough.

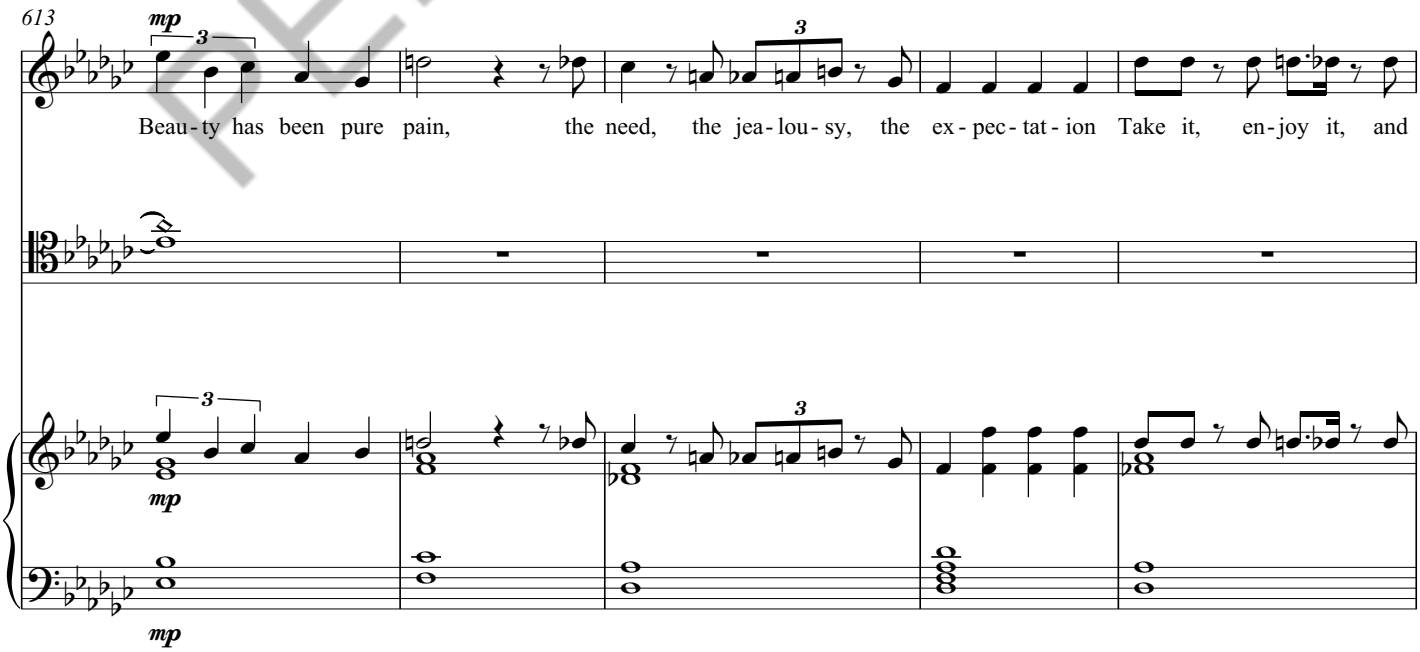
VAMP
[CUE]...It needs to be enough.

poco a poco dim

PERUSAL COPY

[PLAY IF YELLOW]
SCENE 24B
SHARE - REDEMPTION SONG





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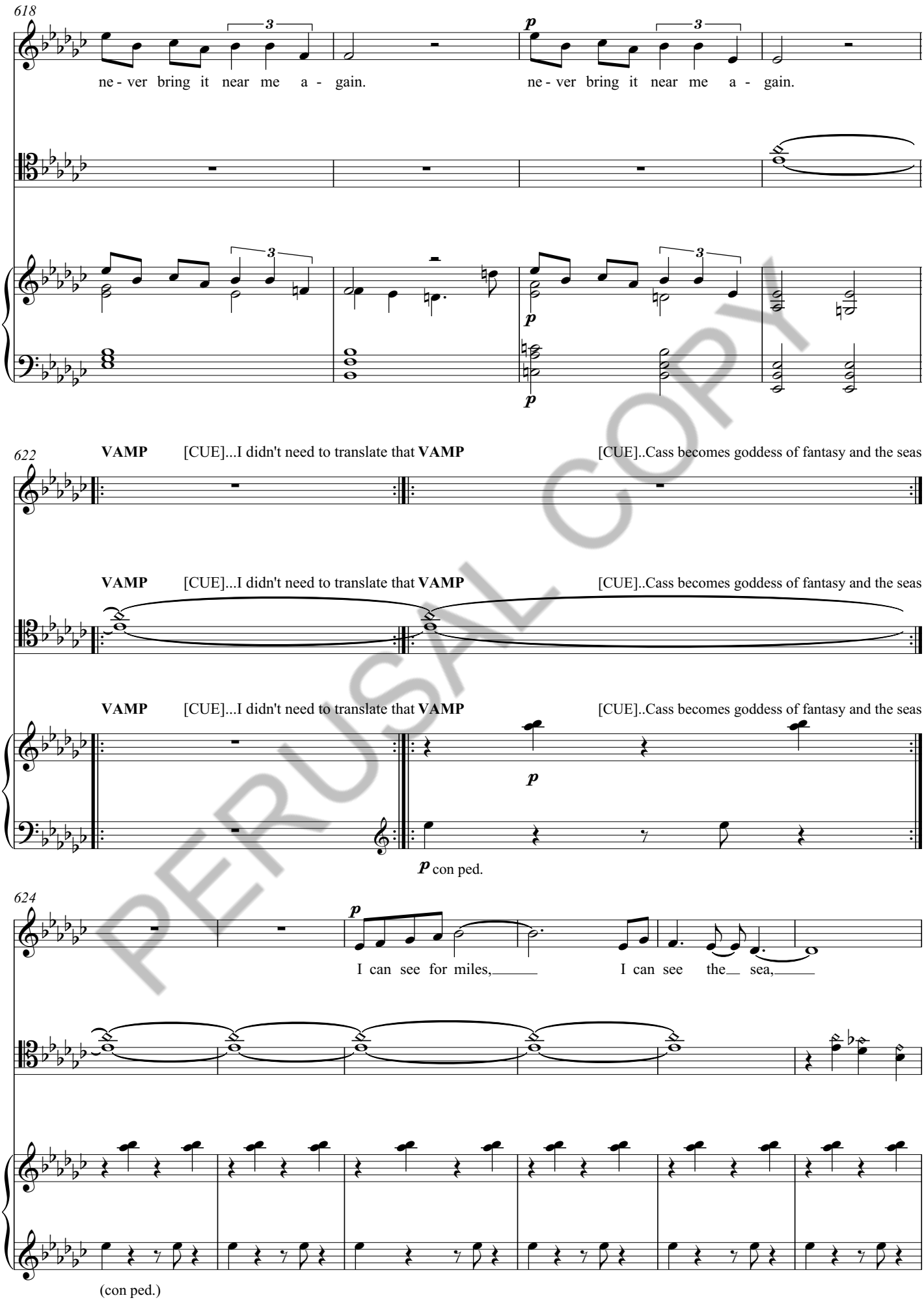

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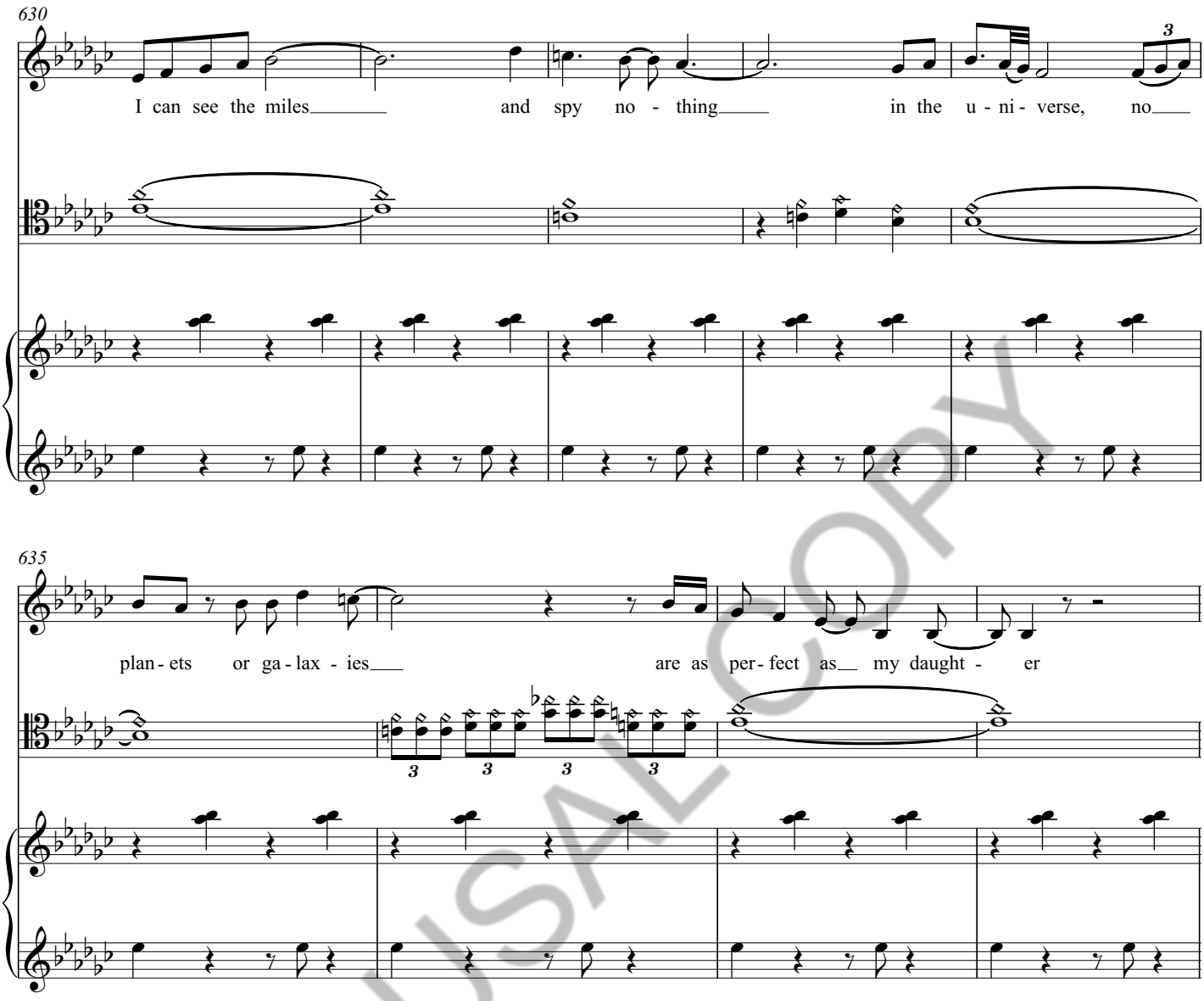

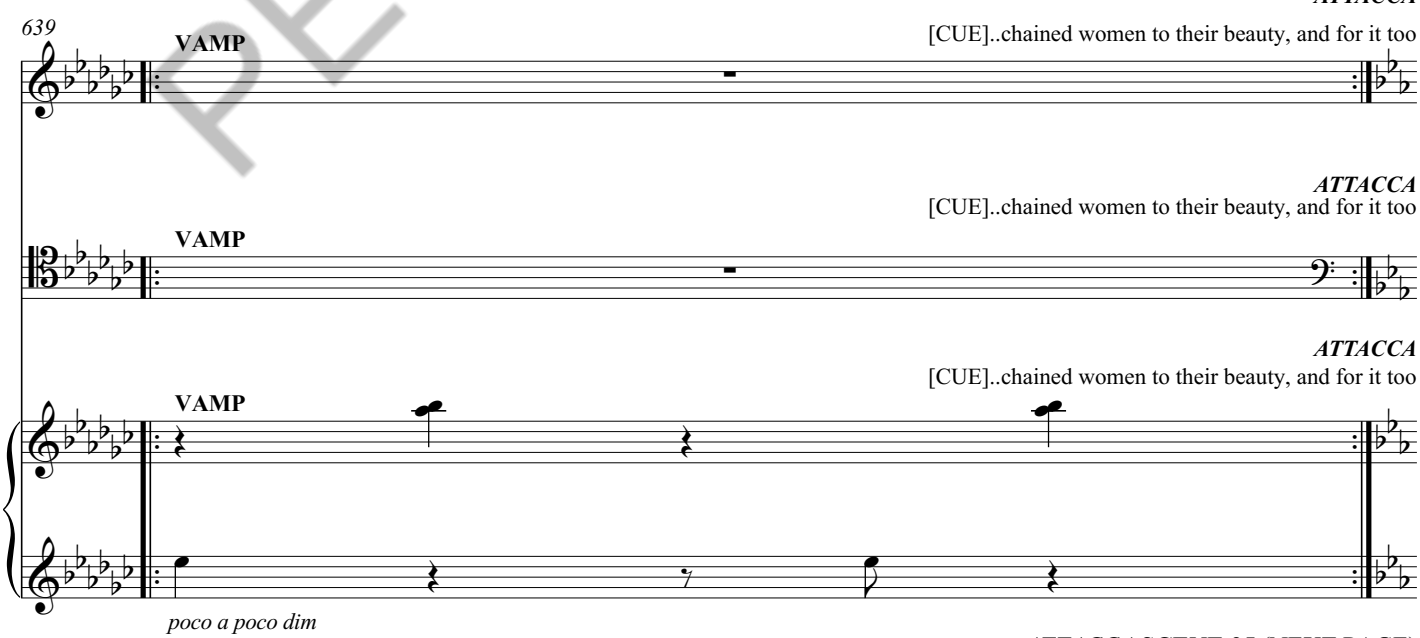

PERUSAL COPY

SCENE 25:
FINALE - FAMILY PORTRAIT

(ATTACCA)
♩ = 60
VAMP
[CUE]...wonky W of a throne in the northwest
VAMP

(ATTACCA)
♩ = 60
VAMP
[CUE]...wonky W of a throne in the northwest
VAMP

(ATTACCA)
♩ = 60
VAMP
[CUE]...wonky W of a throne in the northwest
VAMP

645

650

[CUE]... There were no stories before you wrote them. Remember that when you feel scared.

[CUE]... There were no stories before you wrote them. Remember that when you feel scared.

[CUE]... There were no stories before you wrote them. Remember that when you feel scared.

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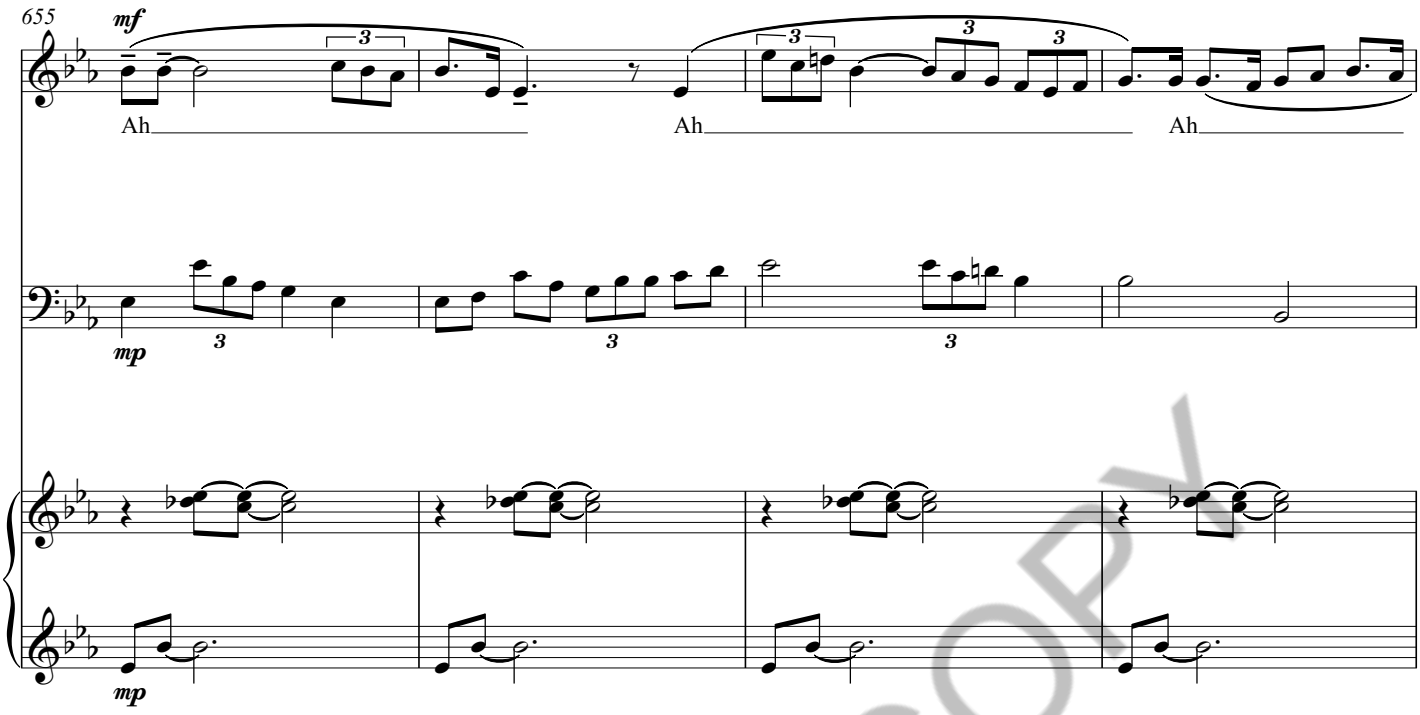

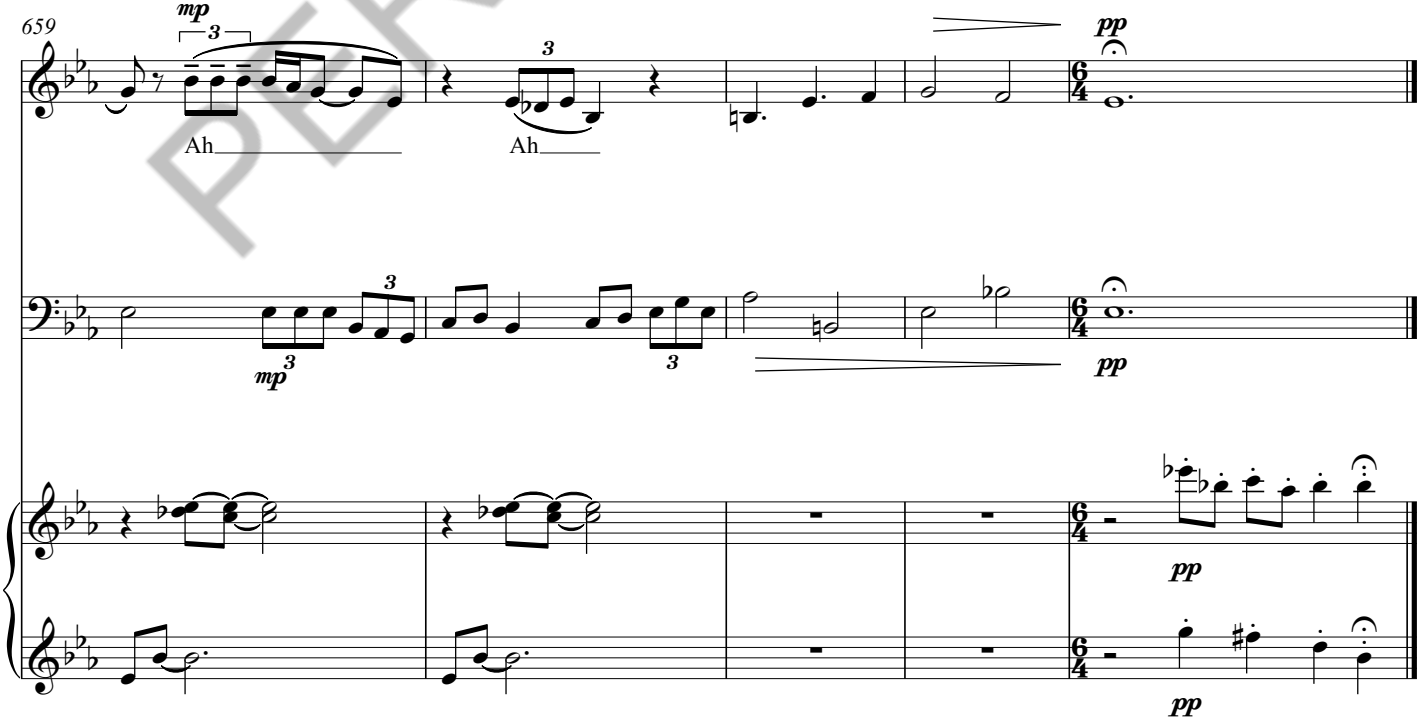

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