A Capacity for Evil

For Perusal Only

Vocal Score

Evan L. Snyder

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Inspired by the tradition of Sherlock Holmes, *A Capacity for Evil* is classic detective tale, based on an original story written by the composer and his dear friend, John Riesen. The opera follows a group of friends working to unravel a series of grisly murders occurring on New Year's Eve. As tensions rise and time runs short, the bonds between the friends are tested—the limits of human compassion and trust tried against the dark ordeals of an imperceptible murderer.

A Capacity for Evil was selected as a winner of the 2017 Frontiers Competition, where scenes from Act II were presented by Fort Worth Opera, as a part of their 2017 Opera Festival. The opera was premiered by Opera MODO, September 2018.

This score was prepared for the opera's West Coast Premiere with Opera Las Vegas, January 2023.

A Capacity for Evil

Act I

Scene i The apartment of famed-detective Daniel Pilgrim 1
Scene ii An abandoned subway tunnel 34
Scene iii The apartment 59
Scene iv Outside Riverside Church 145

Act II

Scene v Outside Riverside Church 151
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Setting

The action takes place on December 31, 1935,
beginning just after 8 a.m.

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Characters

Daniel Pilgrim, *famed private-eye* .. .. Lyric Tenor
Angelica, *his fiancée* .. .. Lyric Mezzo-soprano
Doyle, *Daniel's former partner* .. .. Light Lyric Tenor
Capt. Smith, *a captain in the NYPD* .. .. Bass-baritone

Duration

Act I: 65 minutes
Act II: 45 minutes

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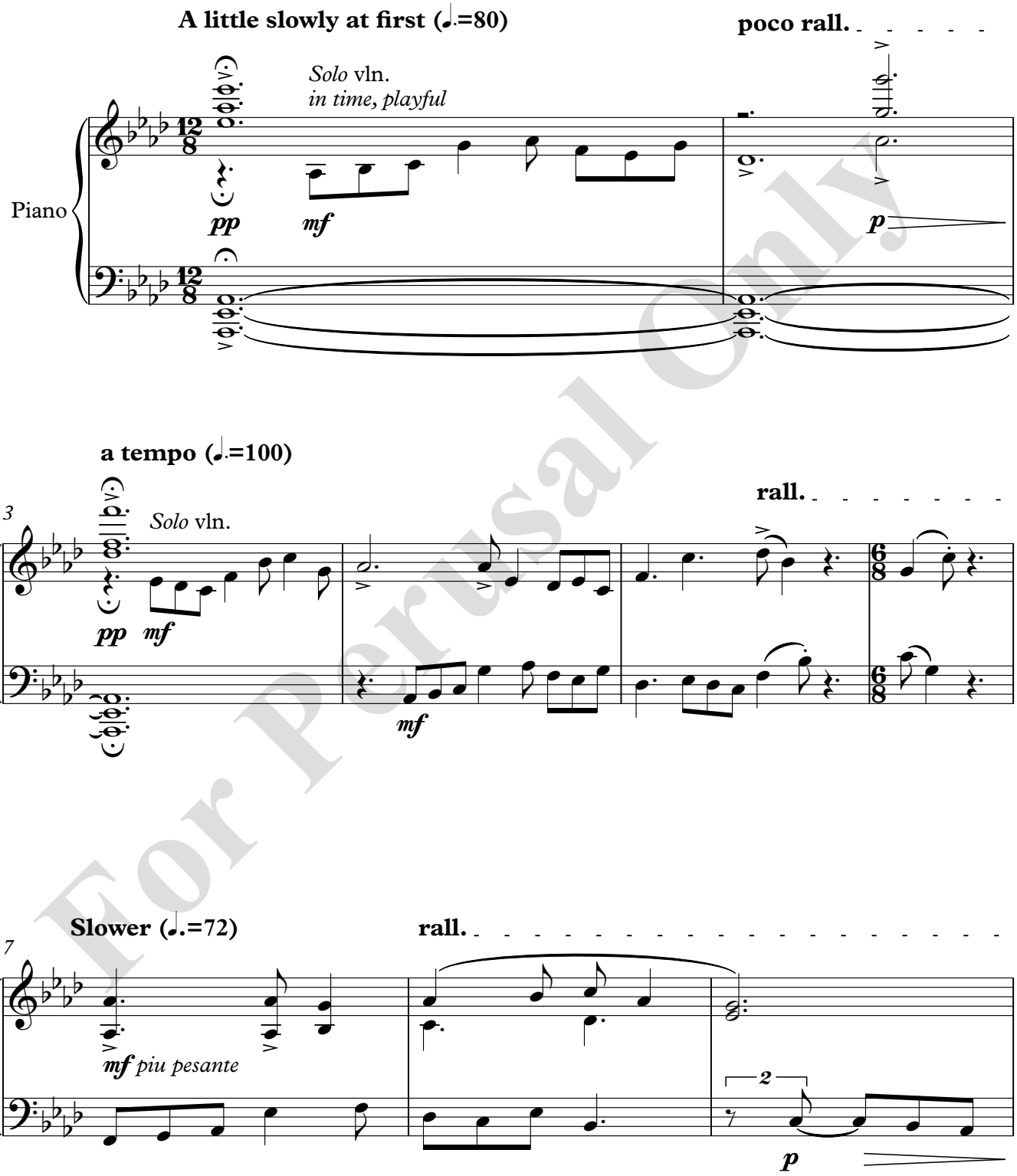
A Capacity for Evil

ACT I

Words and Music
by
Evan L. Snyder

PRELUDE

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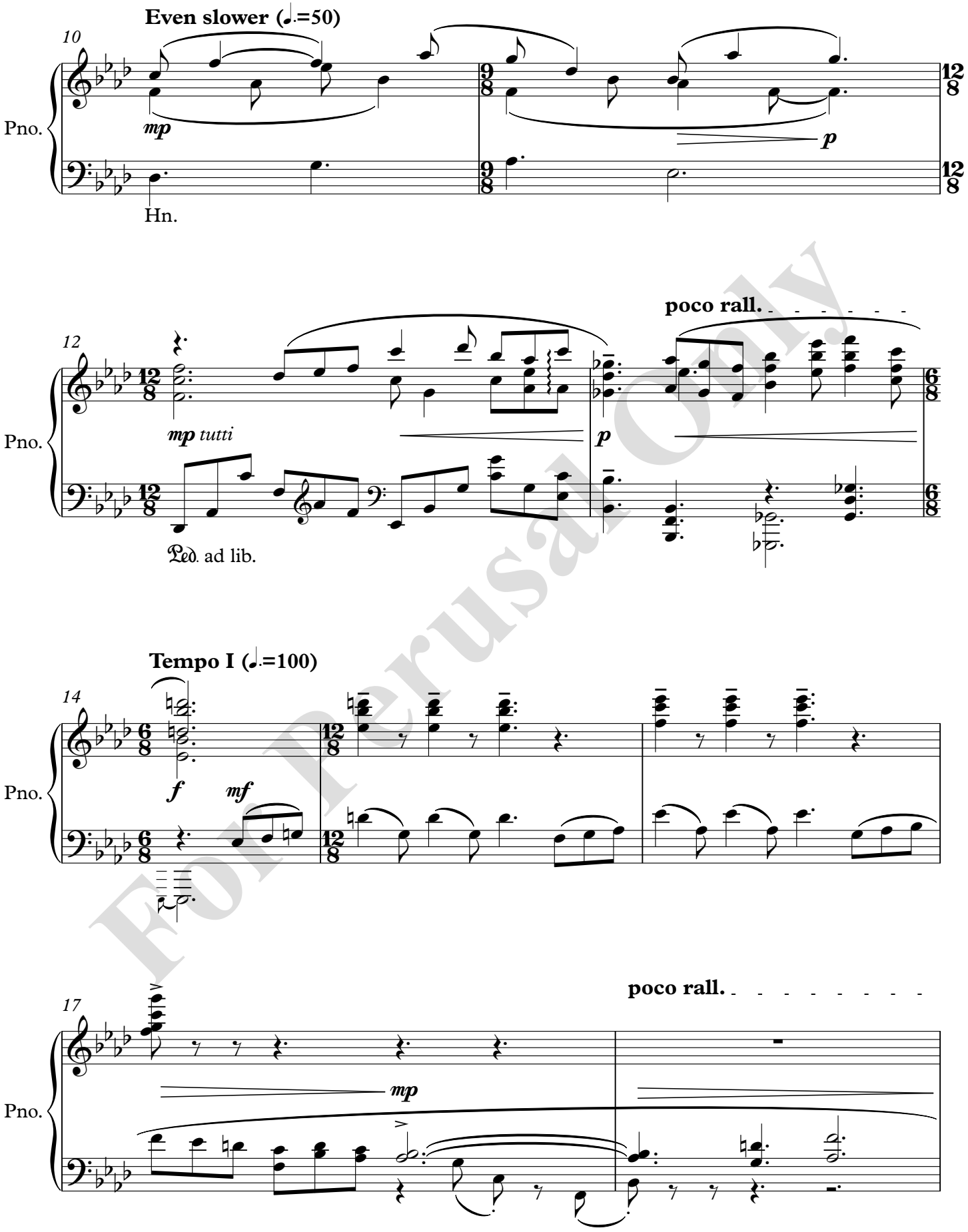
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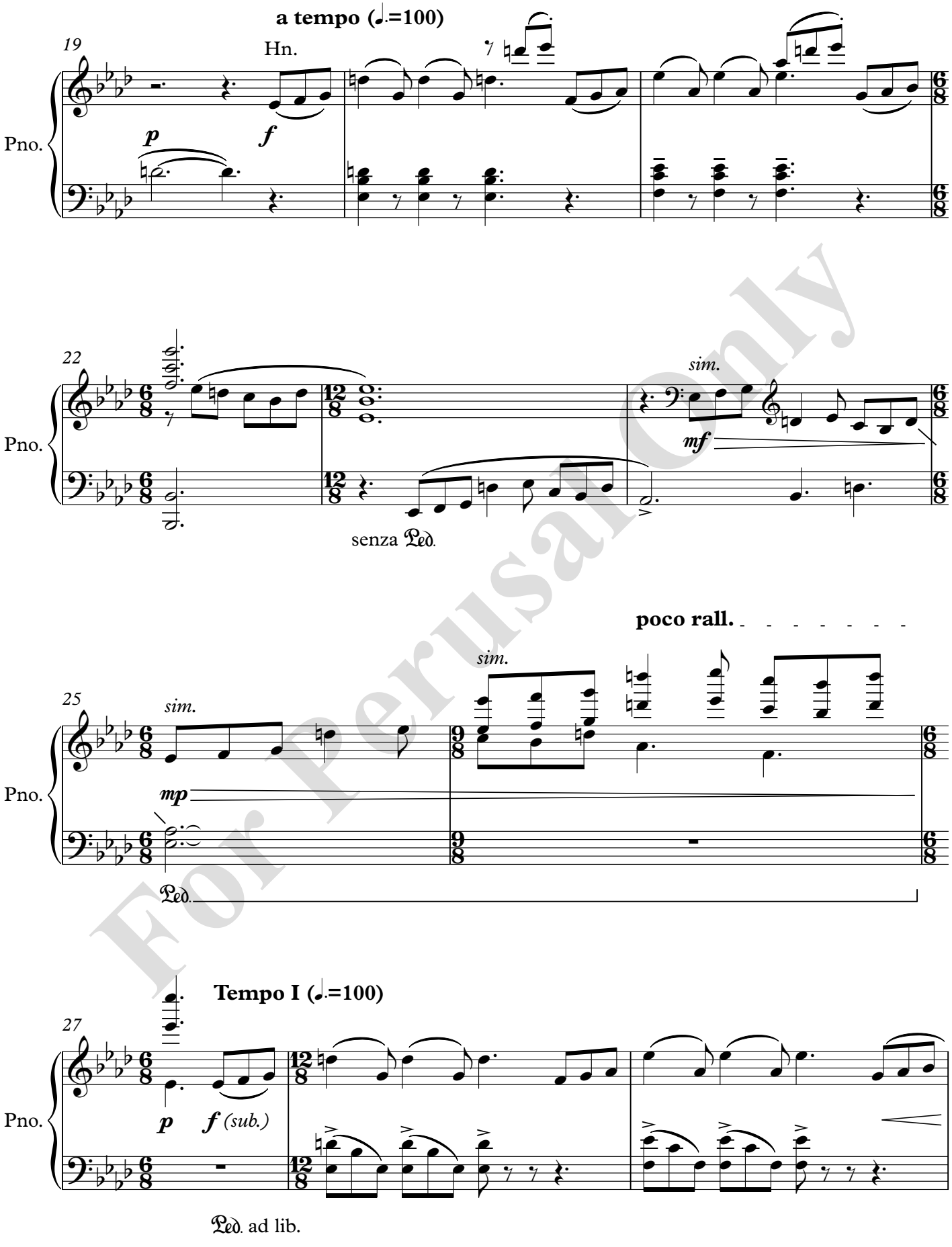
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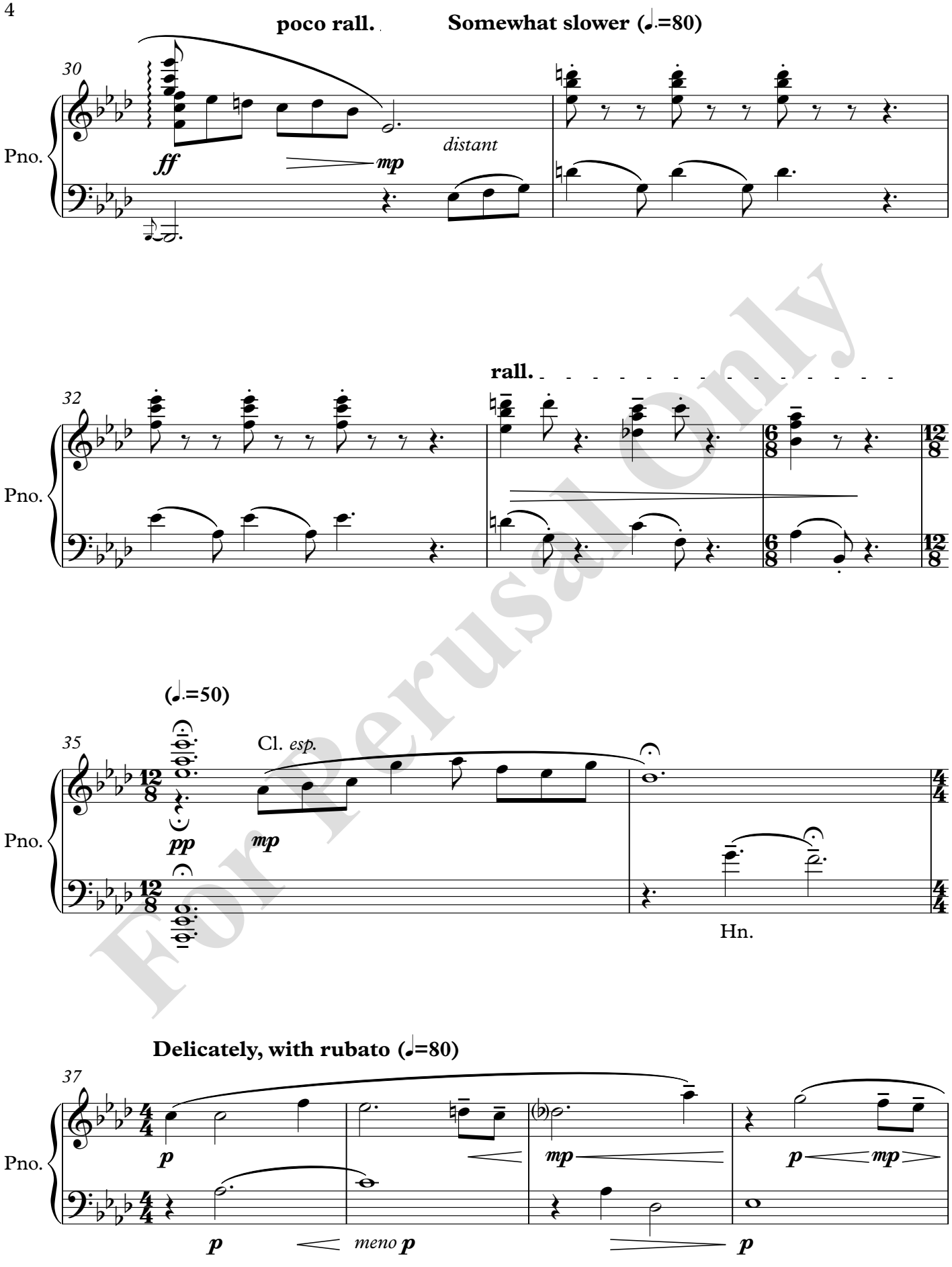
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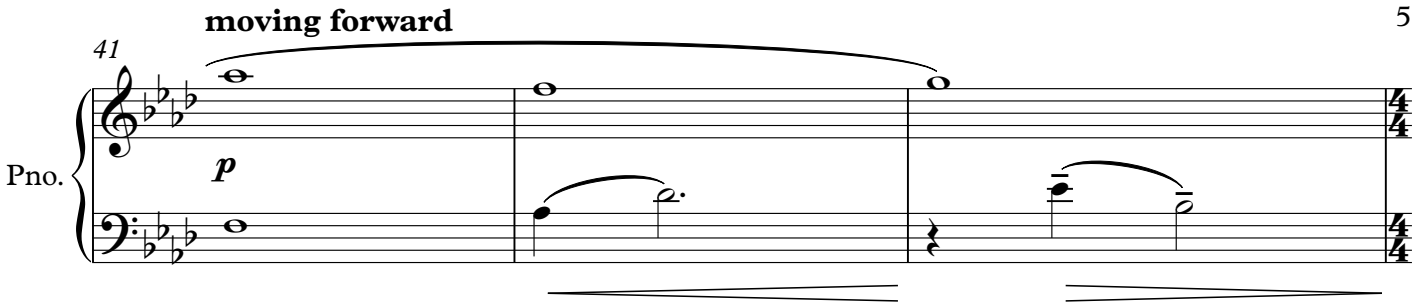
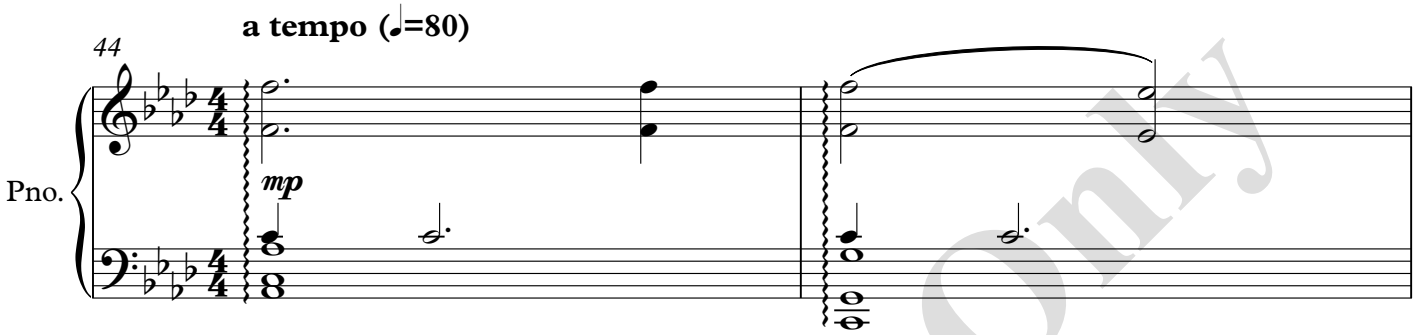
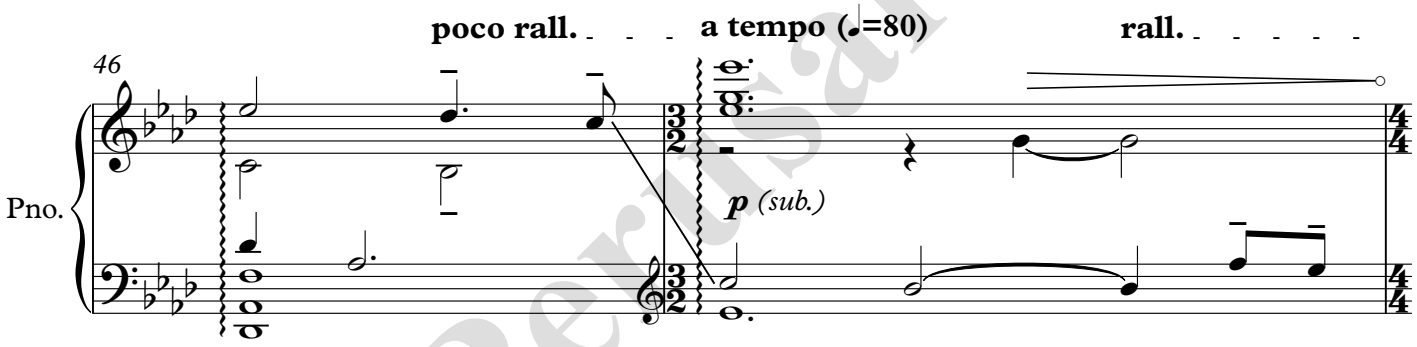
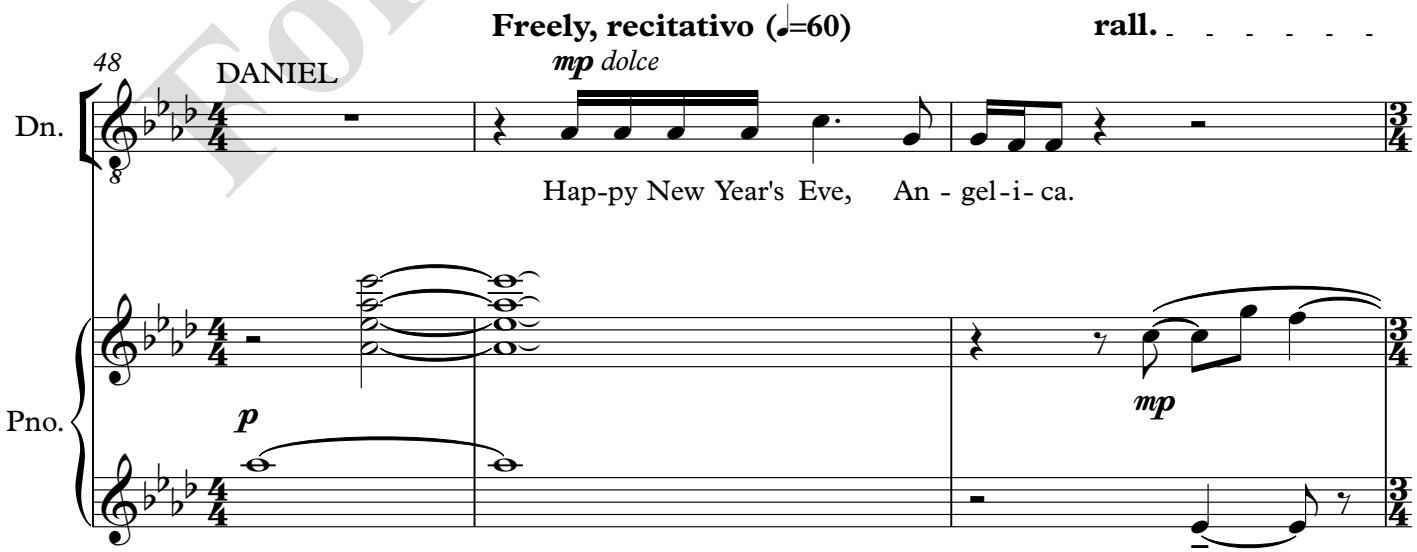






SCENE I - 8:15 a.m.

Lights come up on the apartment as Daniel enters the room, Angelica already seated here.



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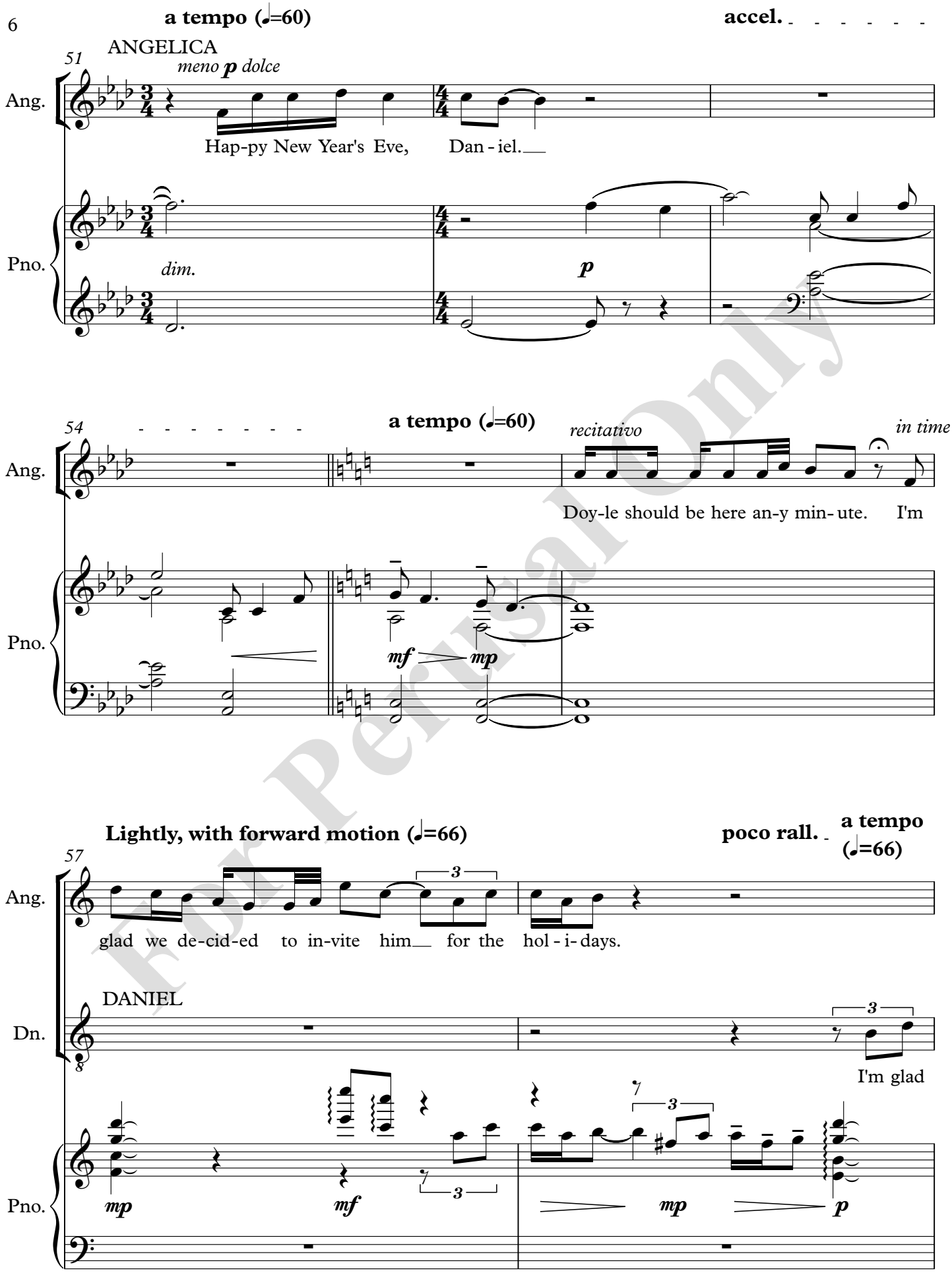
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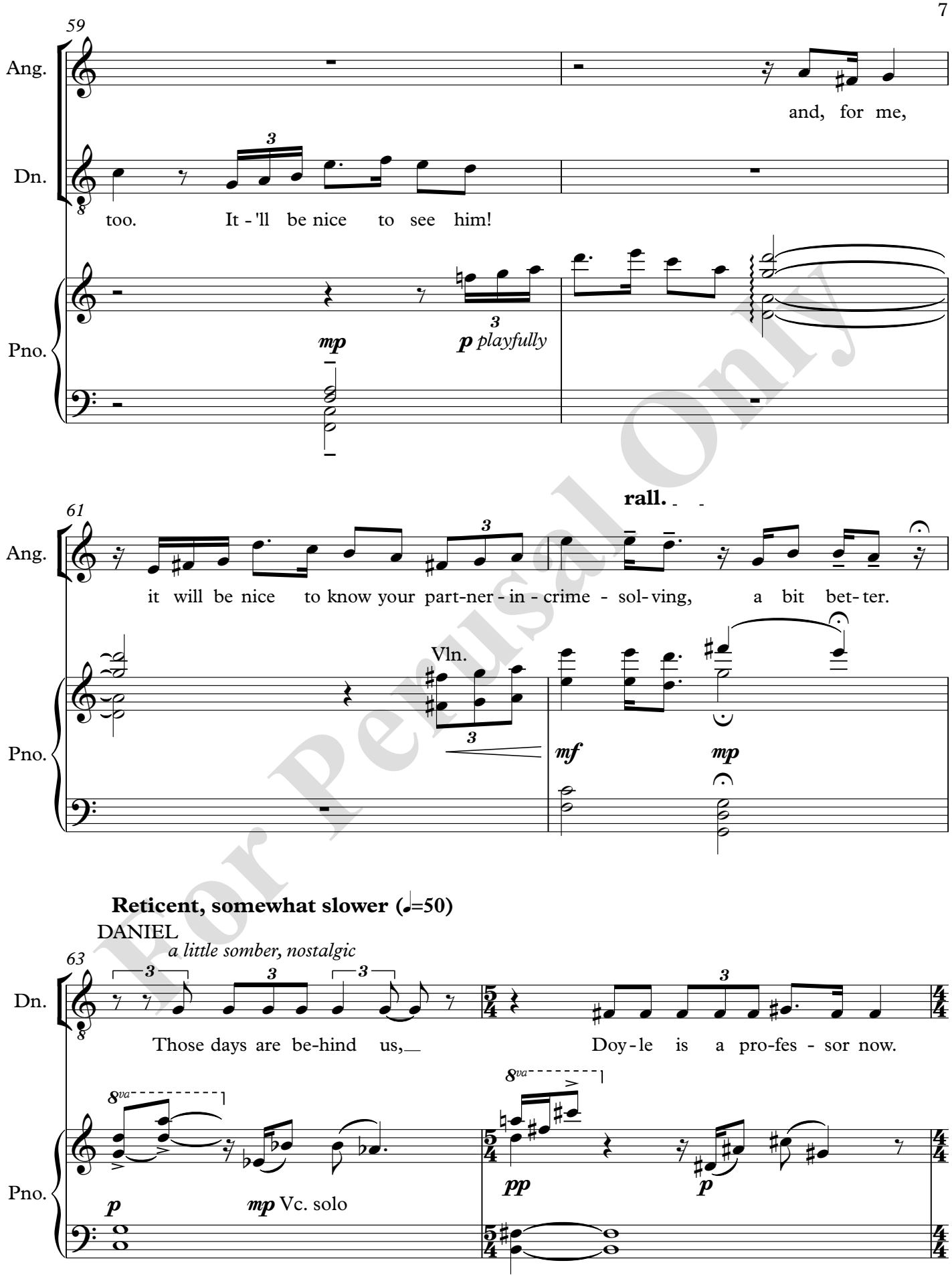
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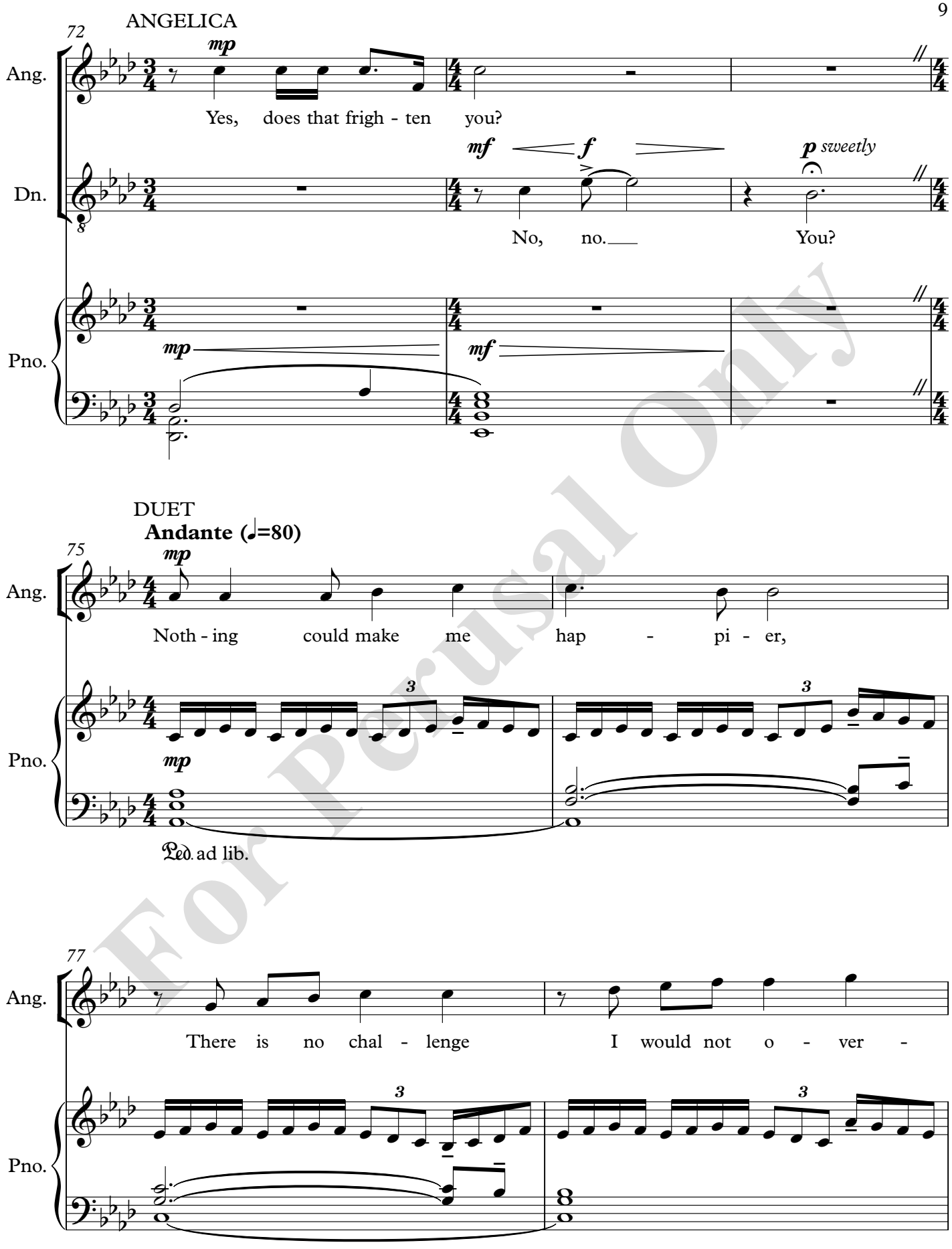
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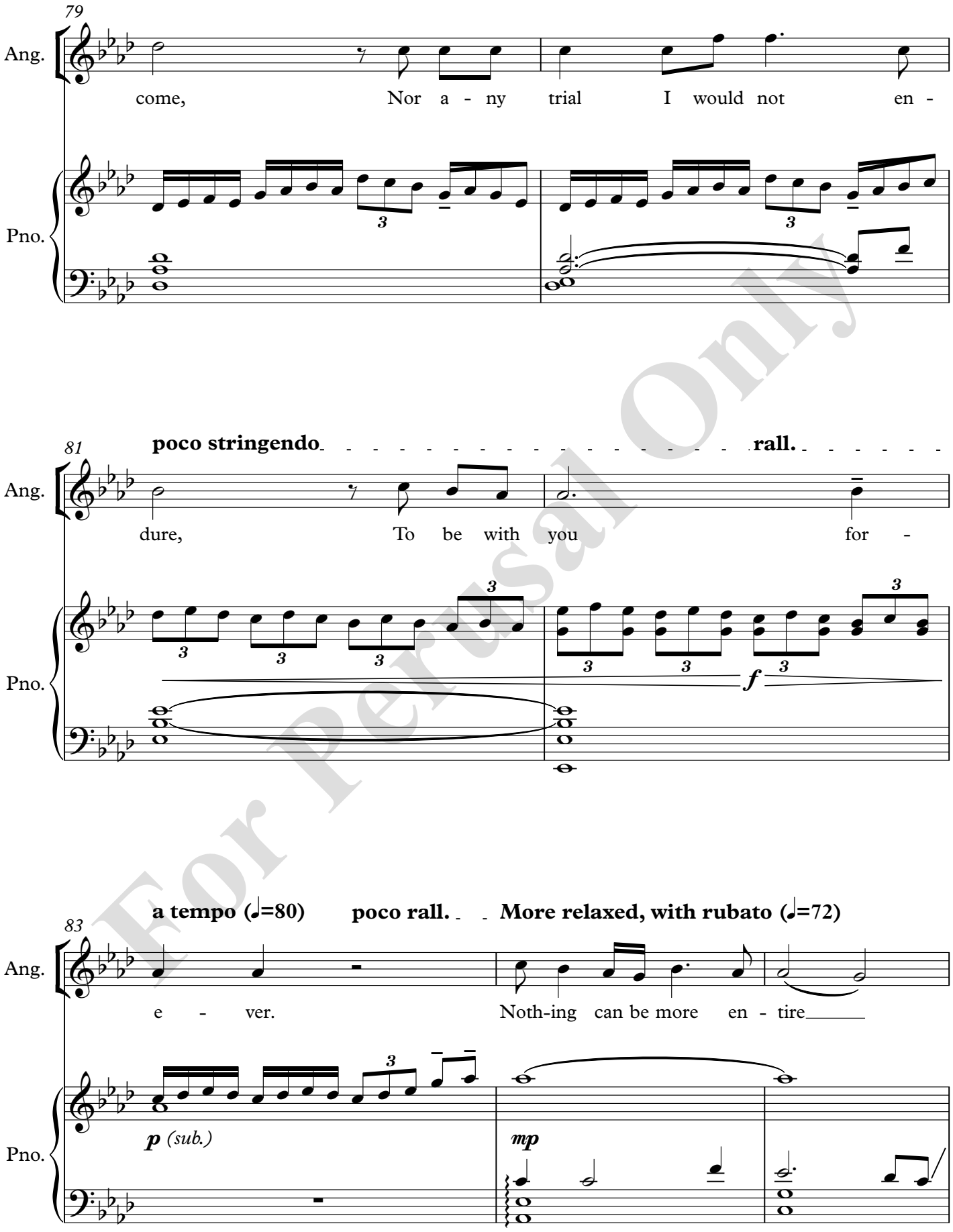
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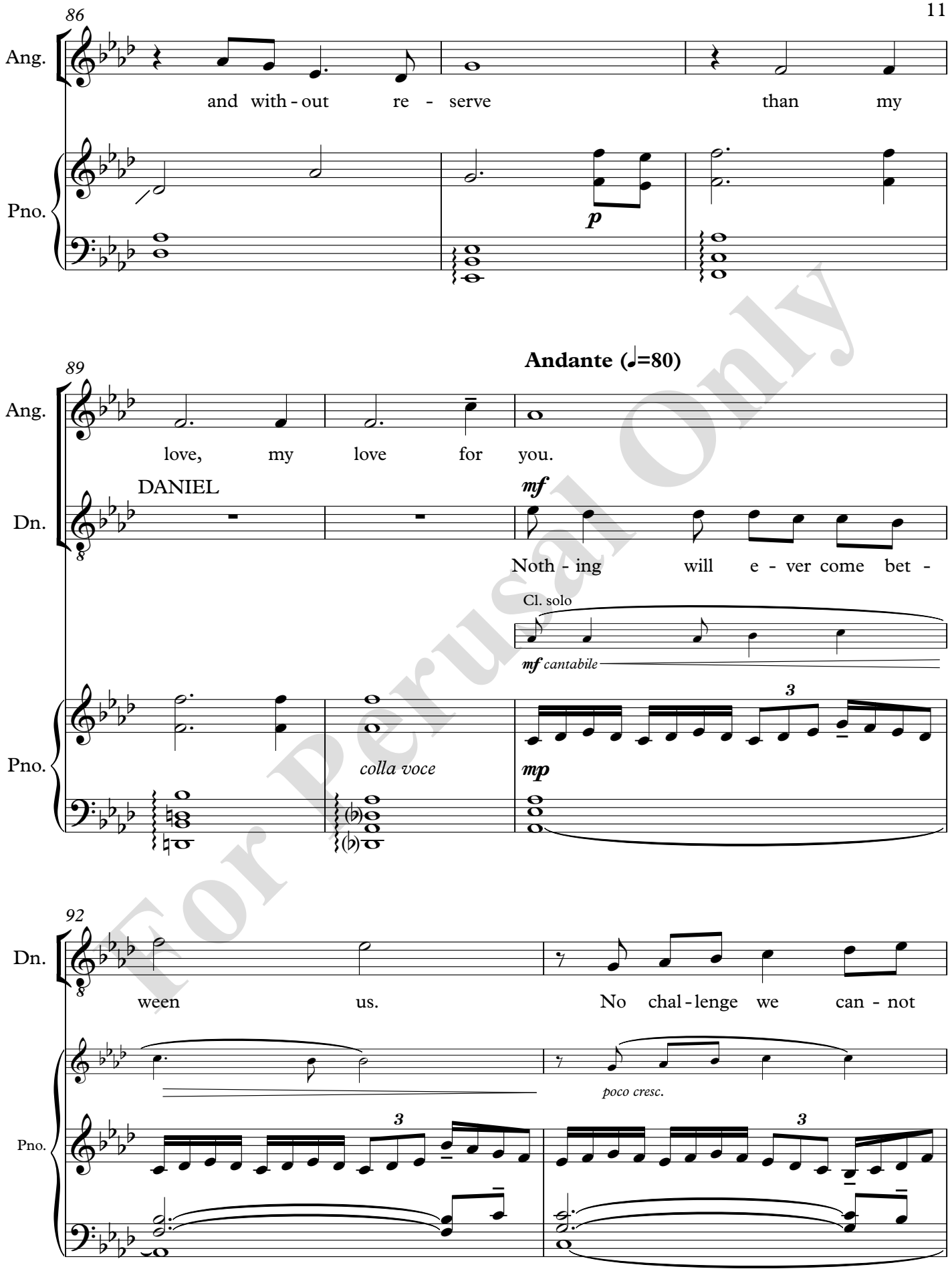
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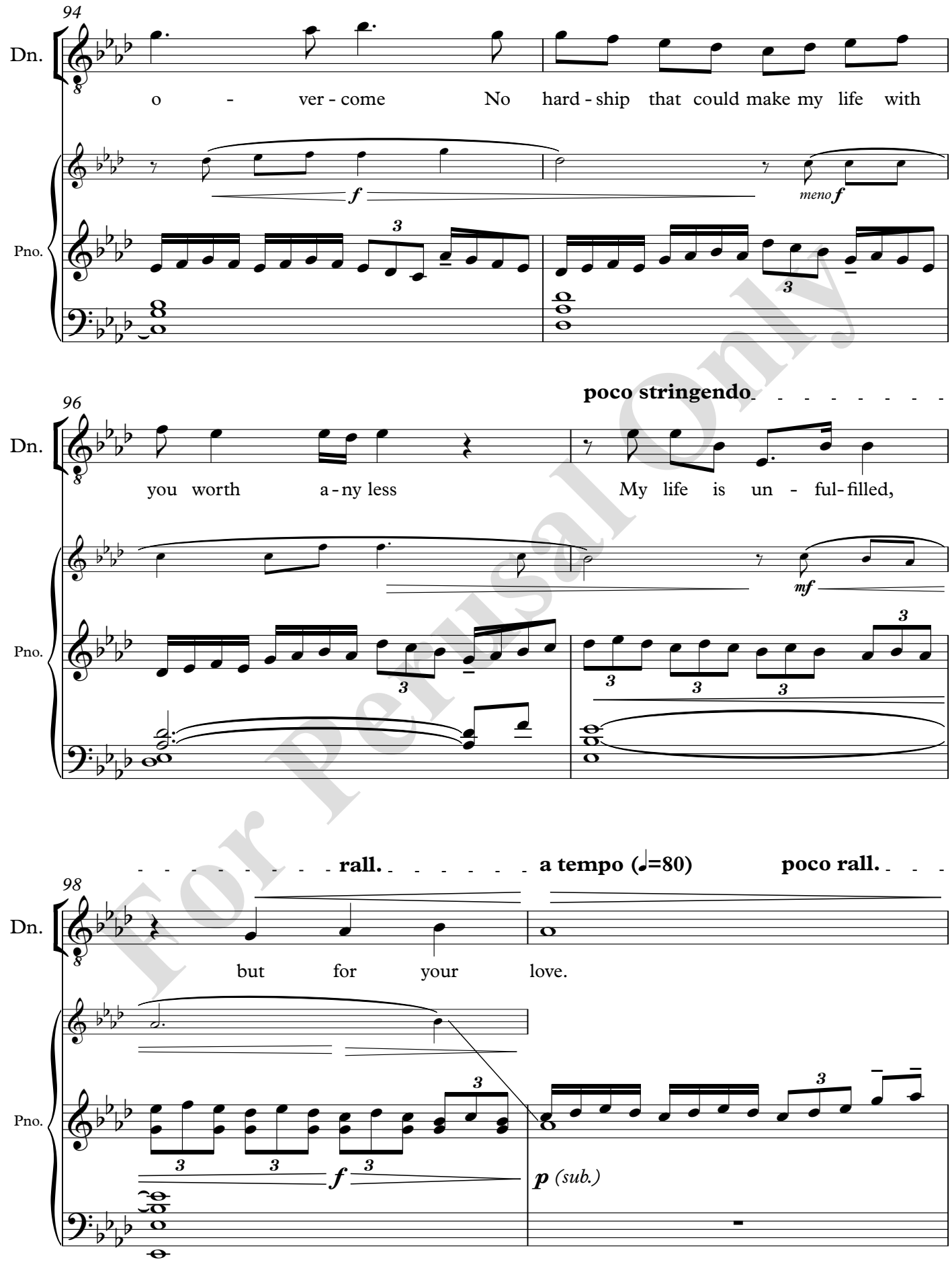
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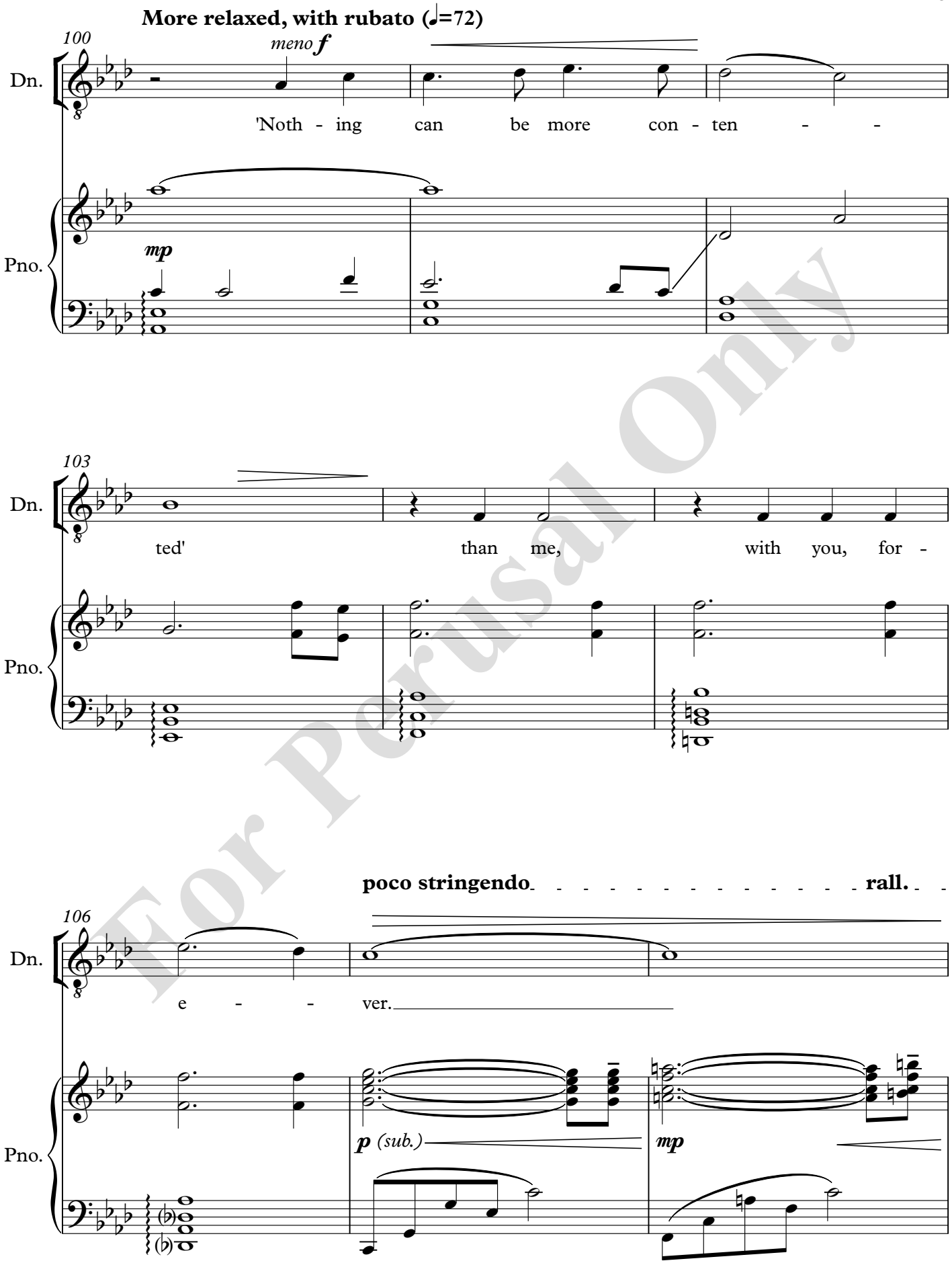
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a tempo (♩=72)

109

ANGELICA

Ang. *f* 'Noth - ing can be more con - ten - - -

Dn. *f* Noth-ing can be more en - tire and with-out re -

Pno. *f* *r.h.*

112

Ang. ted' than me, with you, for -

Dn. serve than our love, for -

Pno. *mp* *dim. poco a poco*

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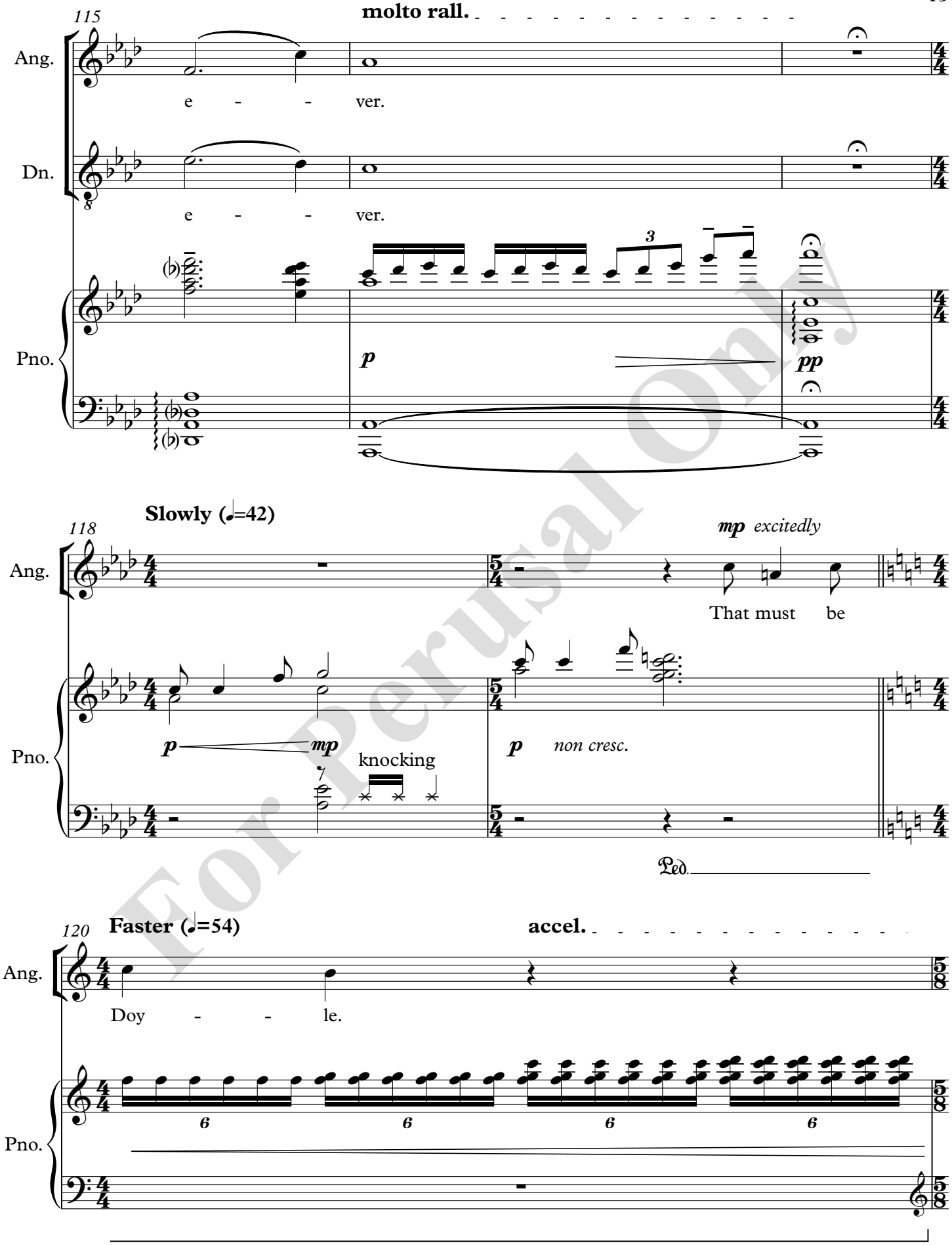
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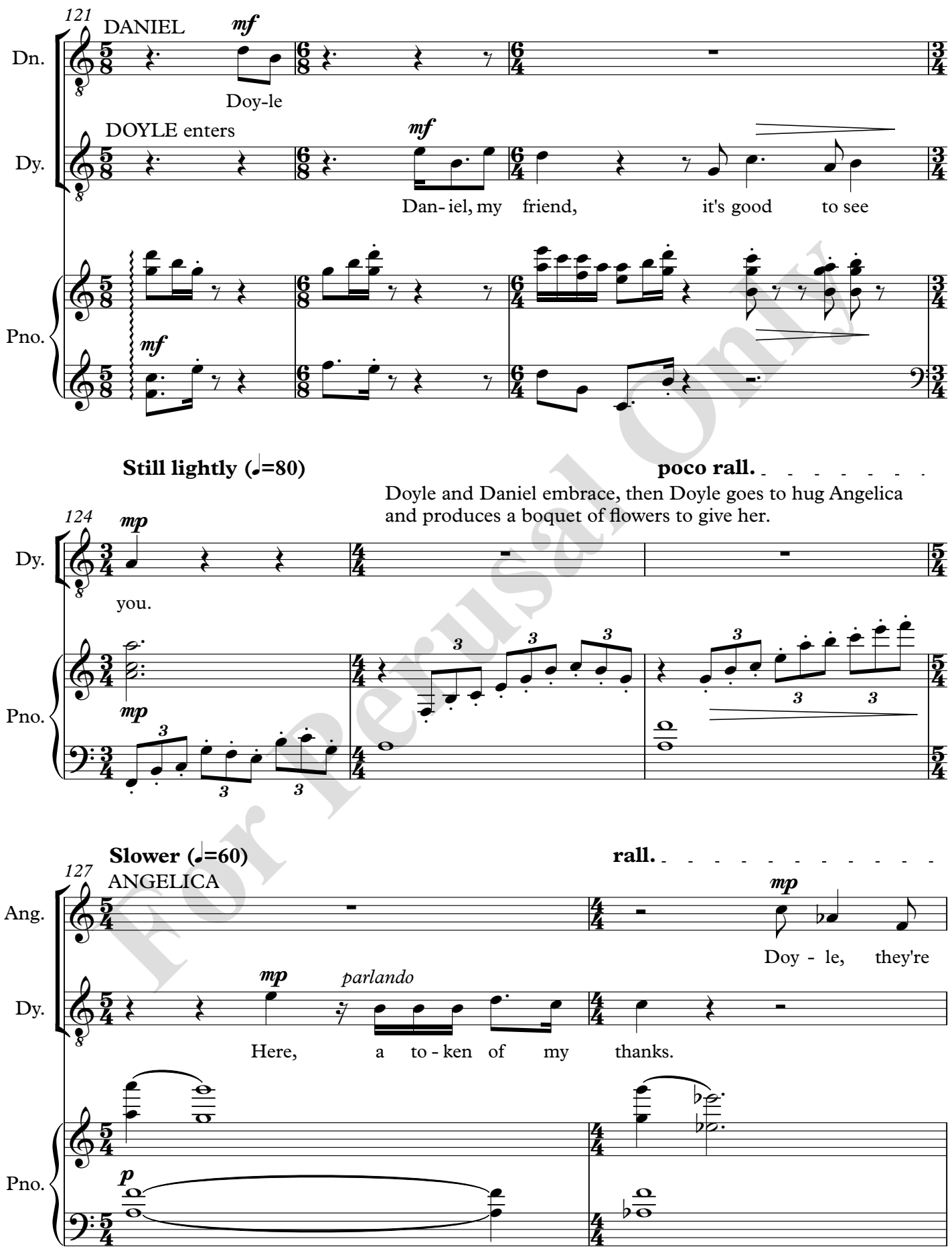
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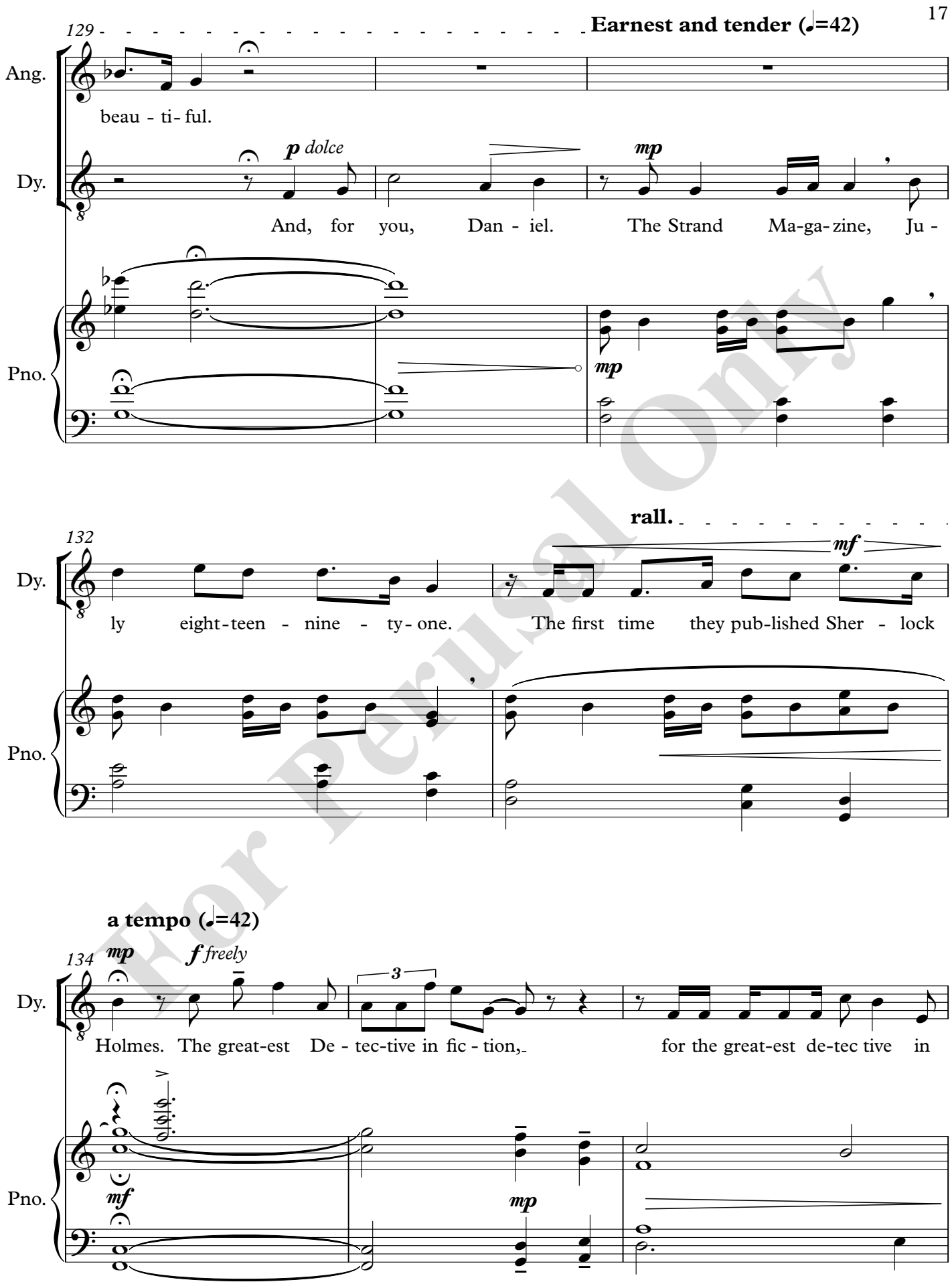
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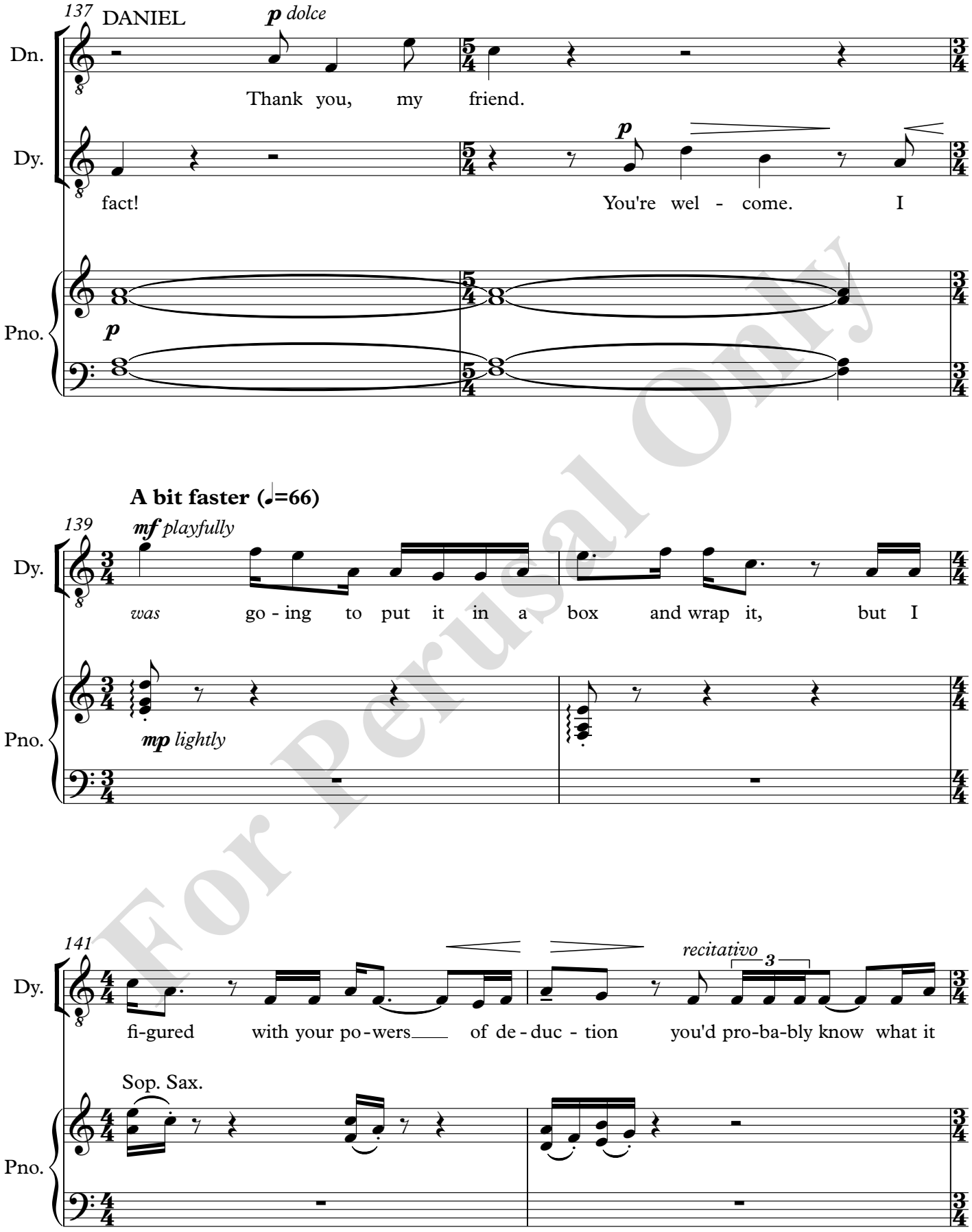
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143

in time

Dy.

was... based on the brand of bow, or the crin-kle pat-tern in the

Pno.

rall. (♩=50)

146

mf

meno ***f***

Dy.

wrap-ping pa-per, or some-thing an-y-way, so I

dolce

Pno.

mp

p

Ped.

Broadly (♩=60)

148

ANGELICA

freely

Ang.

It's

Dy.

saved my-self the trou-ble.

Pno.

mf

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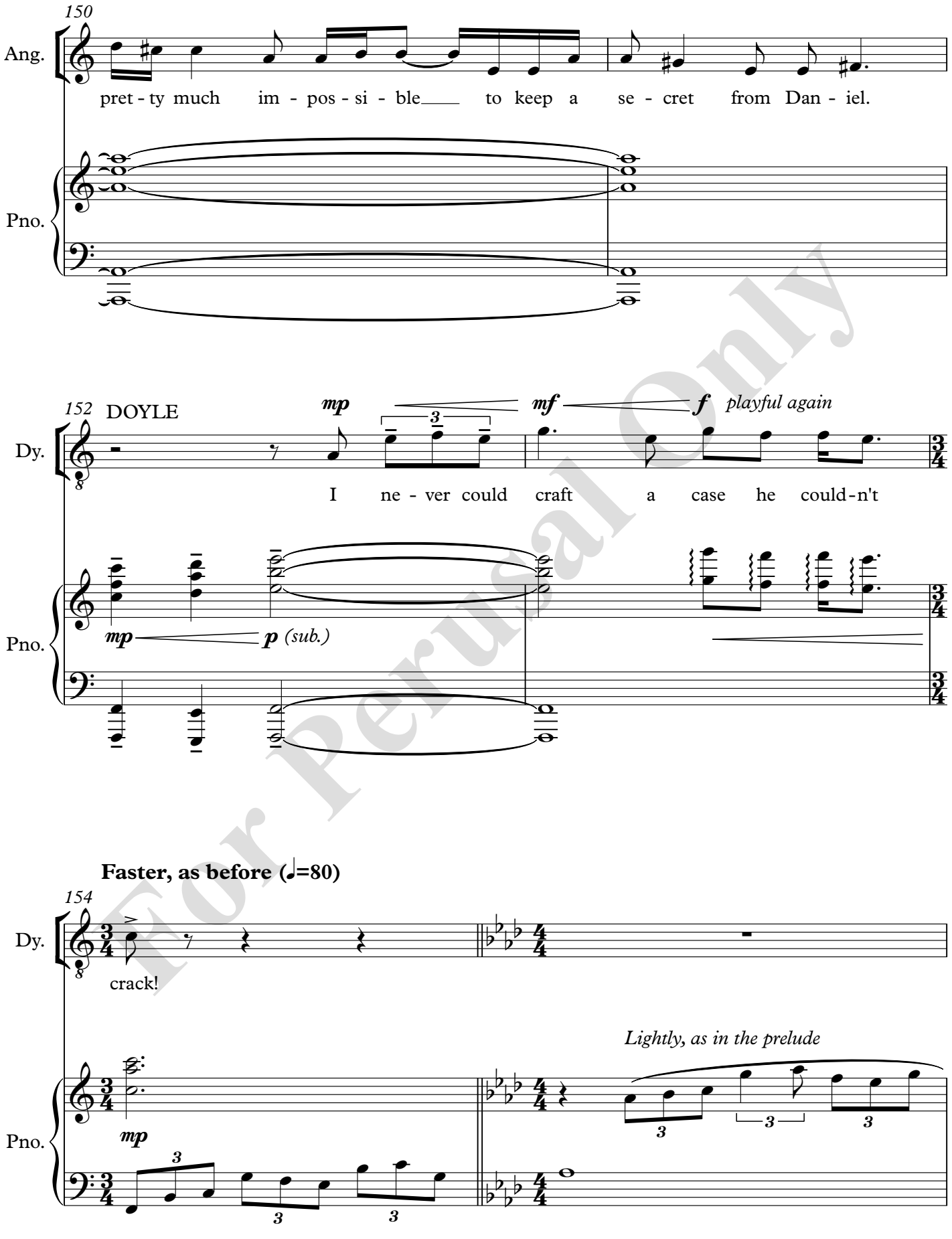
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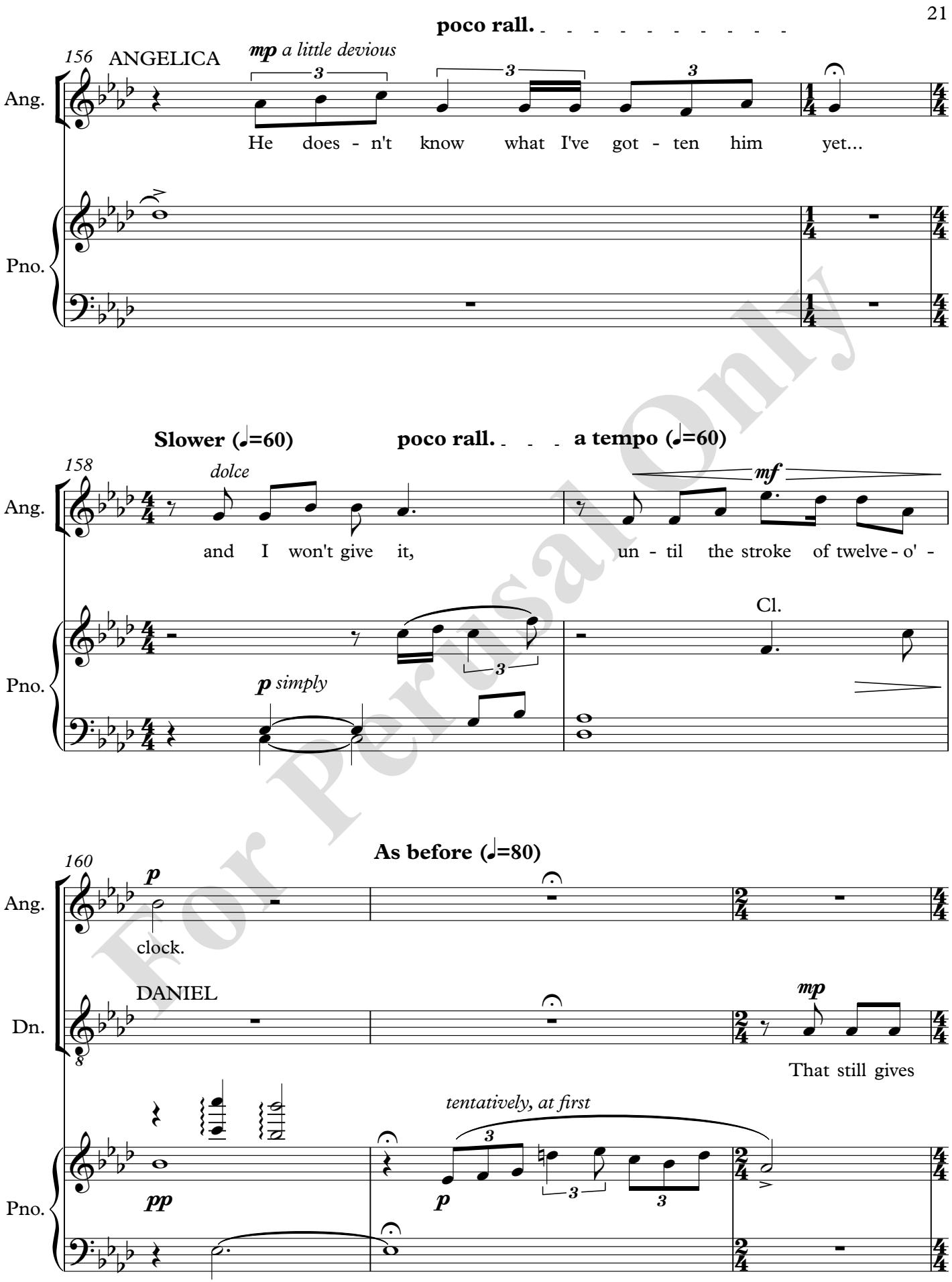
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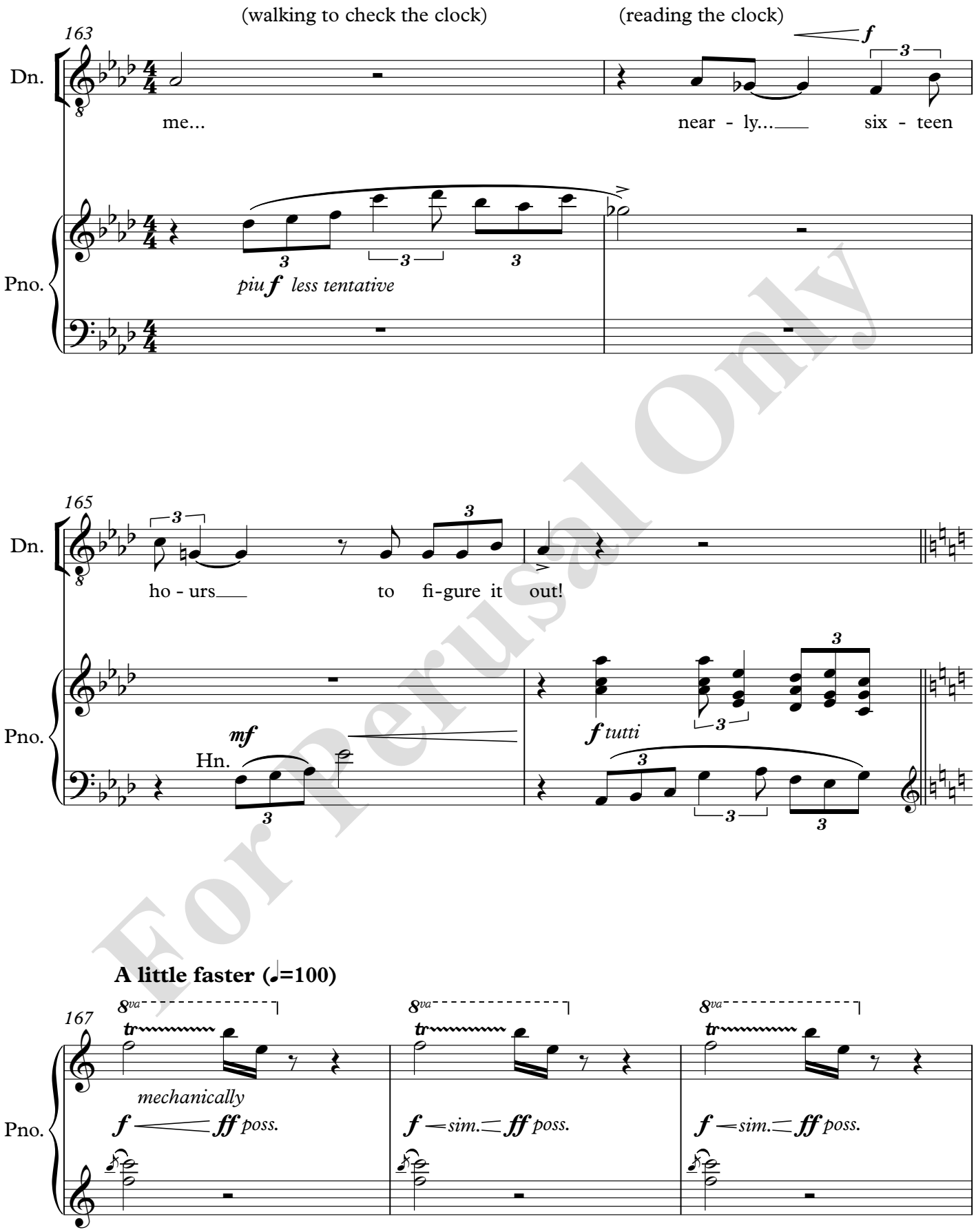
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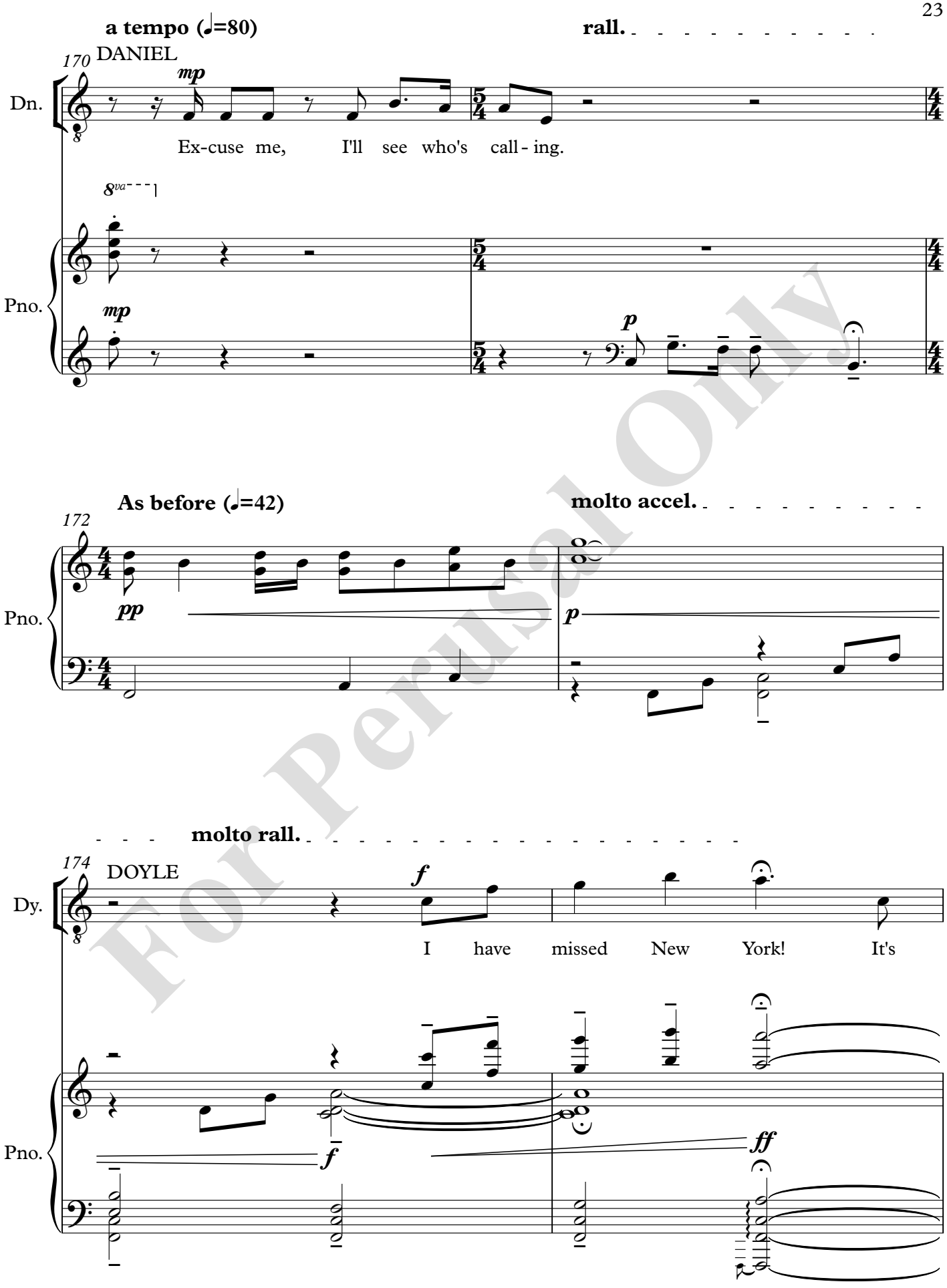
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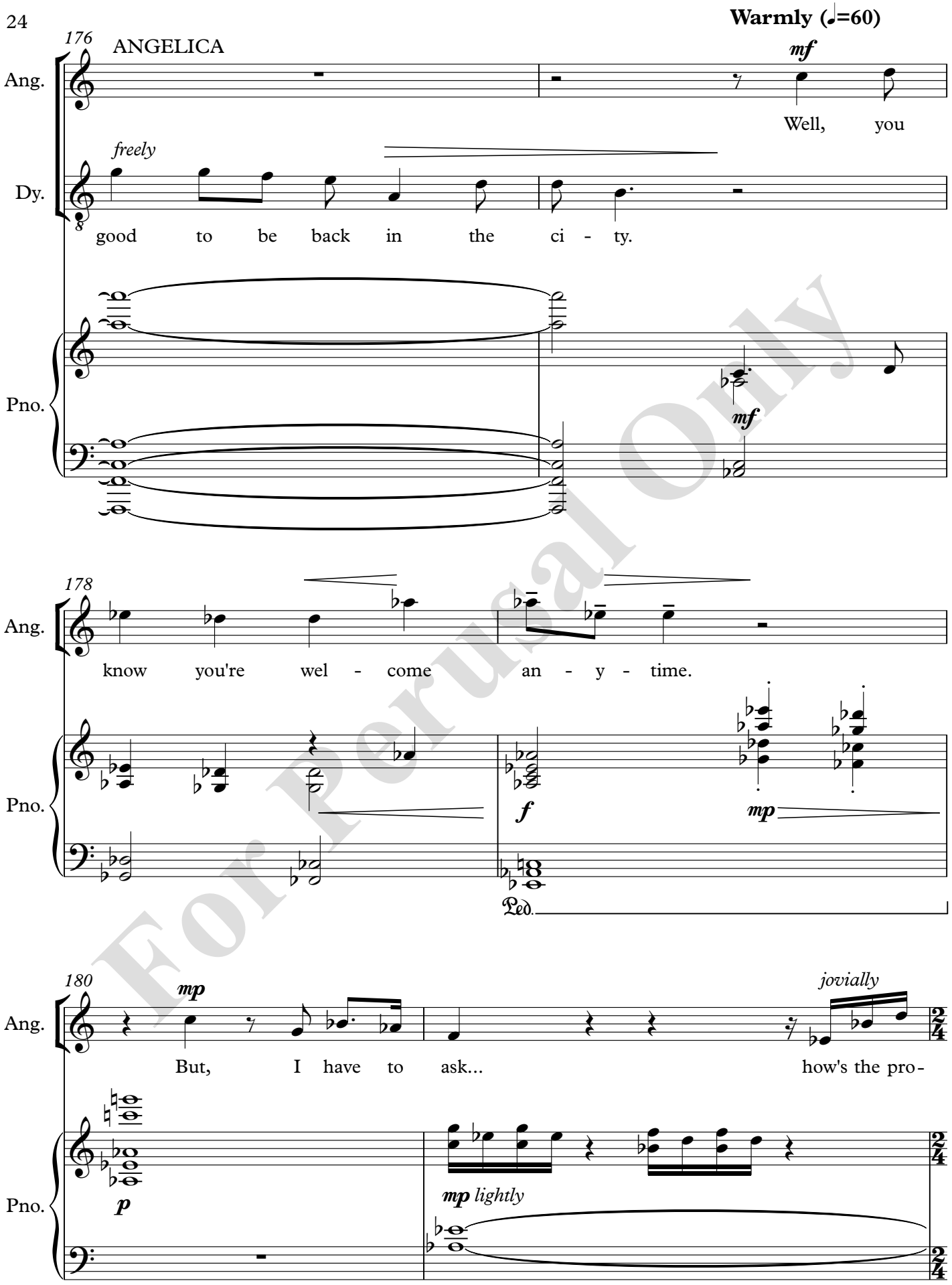
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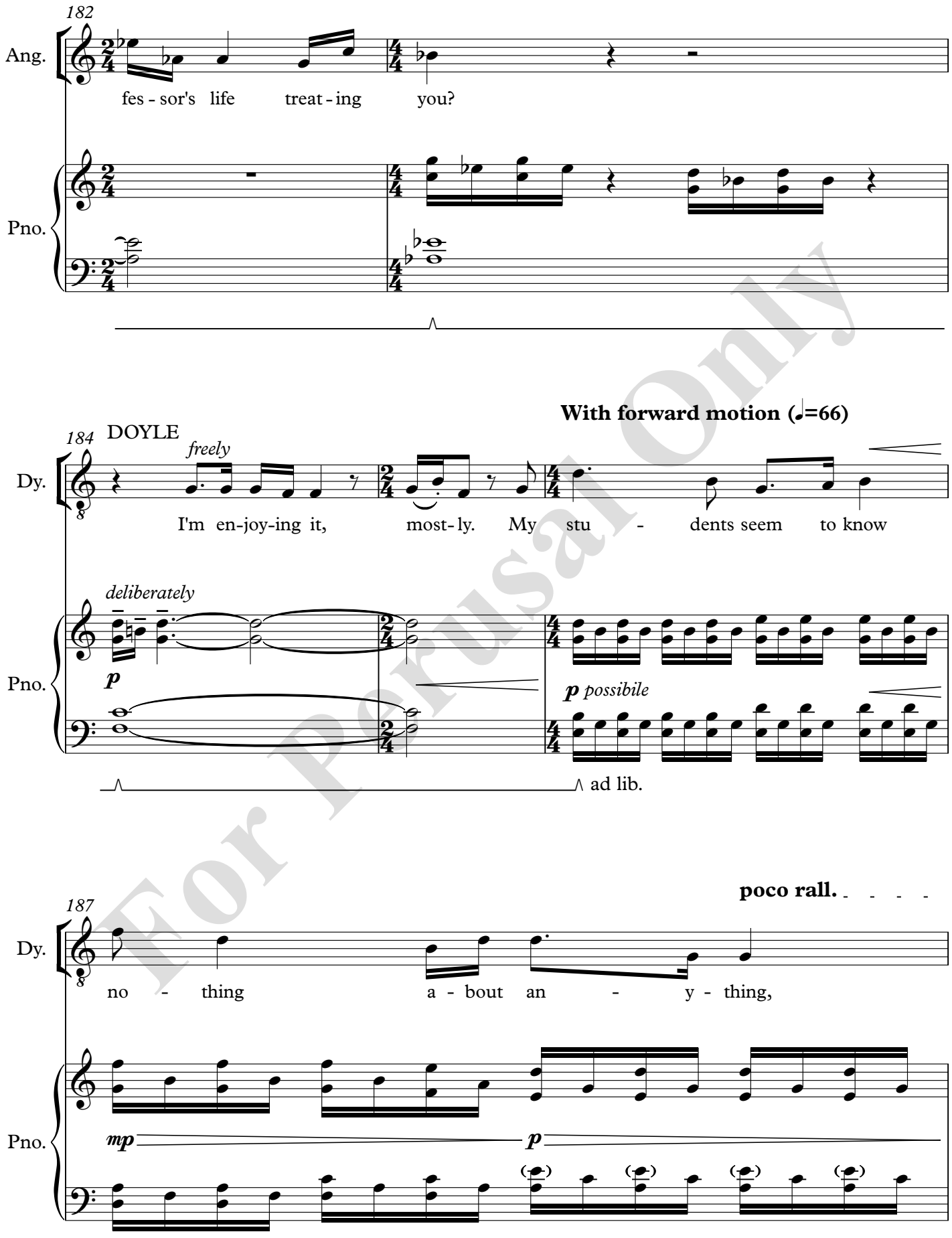
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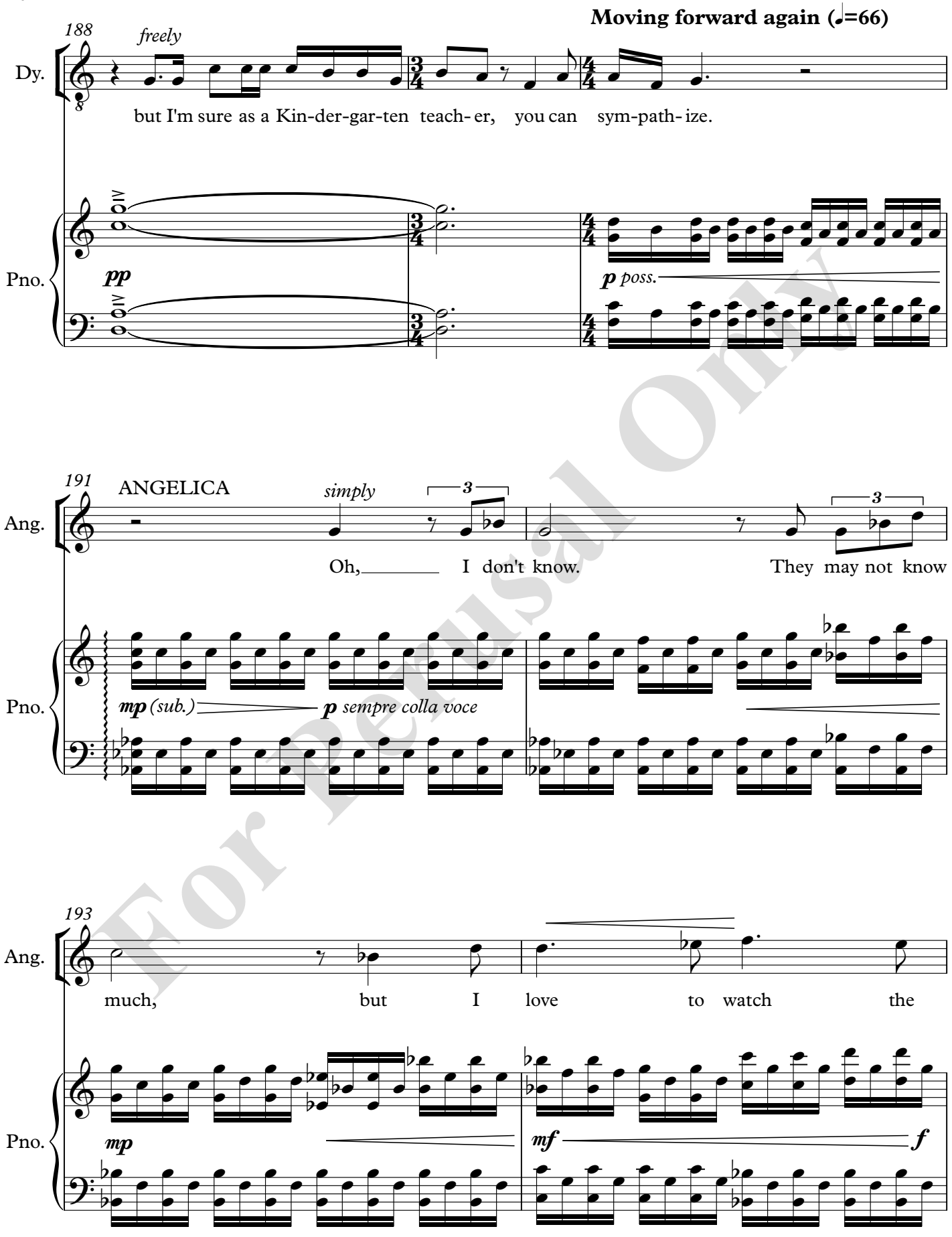
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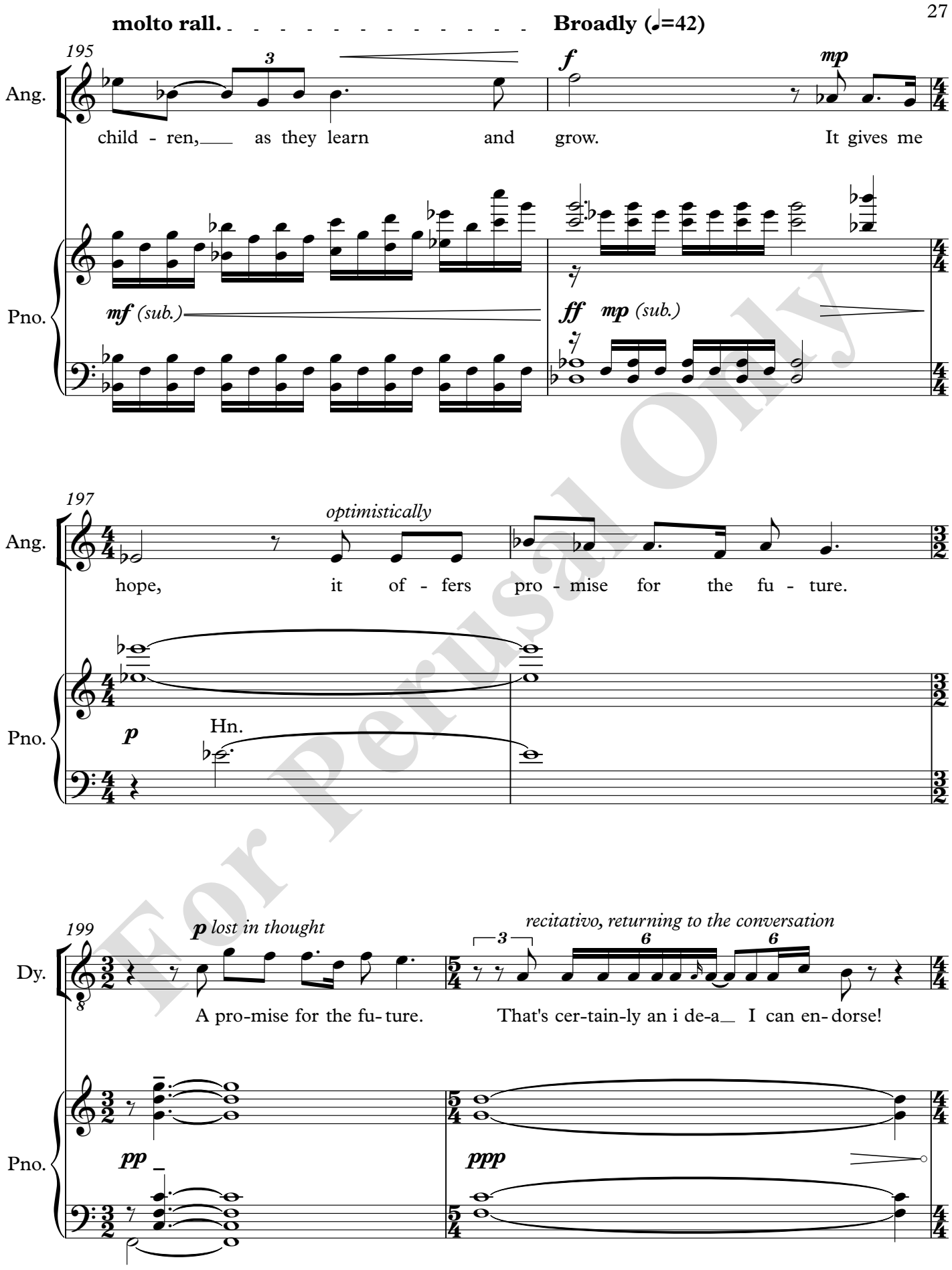
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28

DANIEL returns, forlorn and distracted

201

tentatively

Ang.

Is ev - ery-thing al - right Dan - iel?

Vln. I solo

Pno.

eerily, sempre ***p***

pp

Ped.

203

Ang.

p

A mur - der?

DANIEL

Dn.

p *non cresc.*

No, there's been a mur - der.

Pno.

pp

p *misterioso*

mp

Ped.

Somewhat faster (♩=60)

205

simply, factual (recitativo)

in time

Dn.

Yes, Cap - tain Smith has asked me to con - sult. I

Pno.

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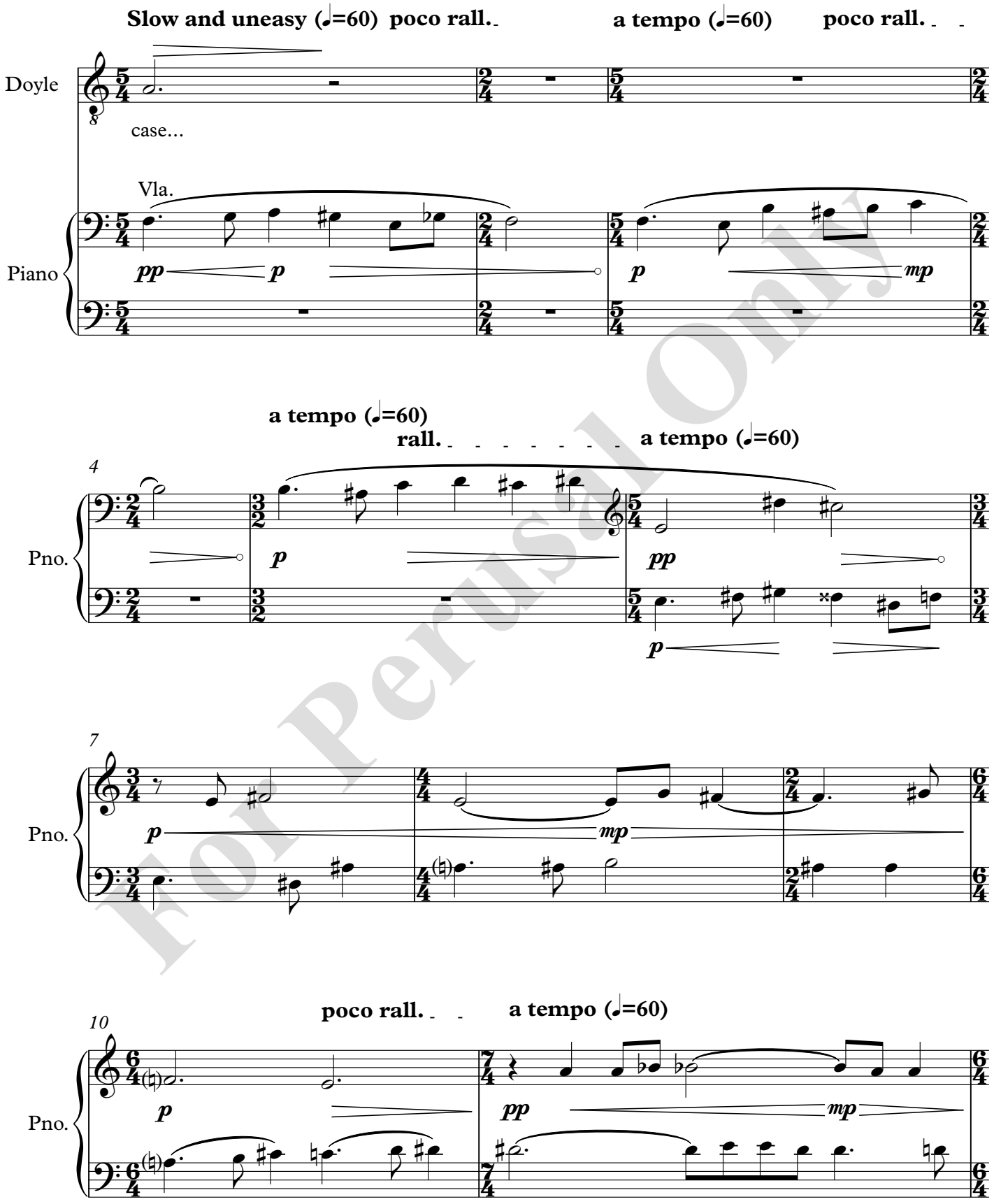
INTERLUDE I

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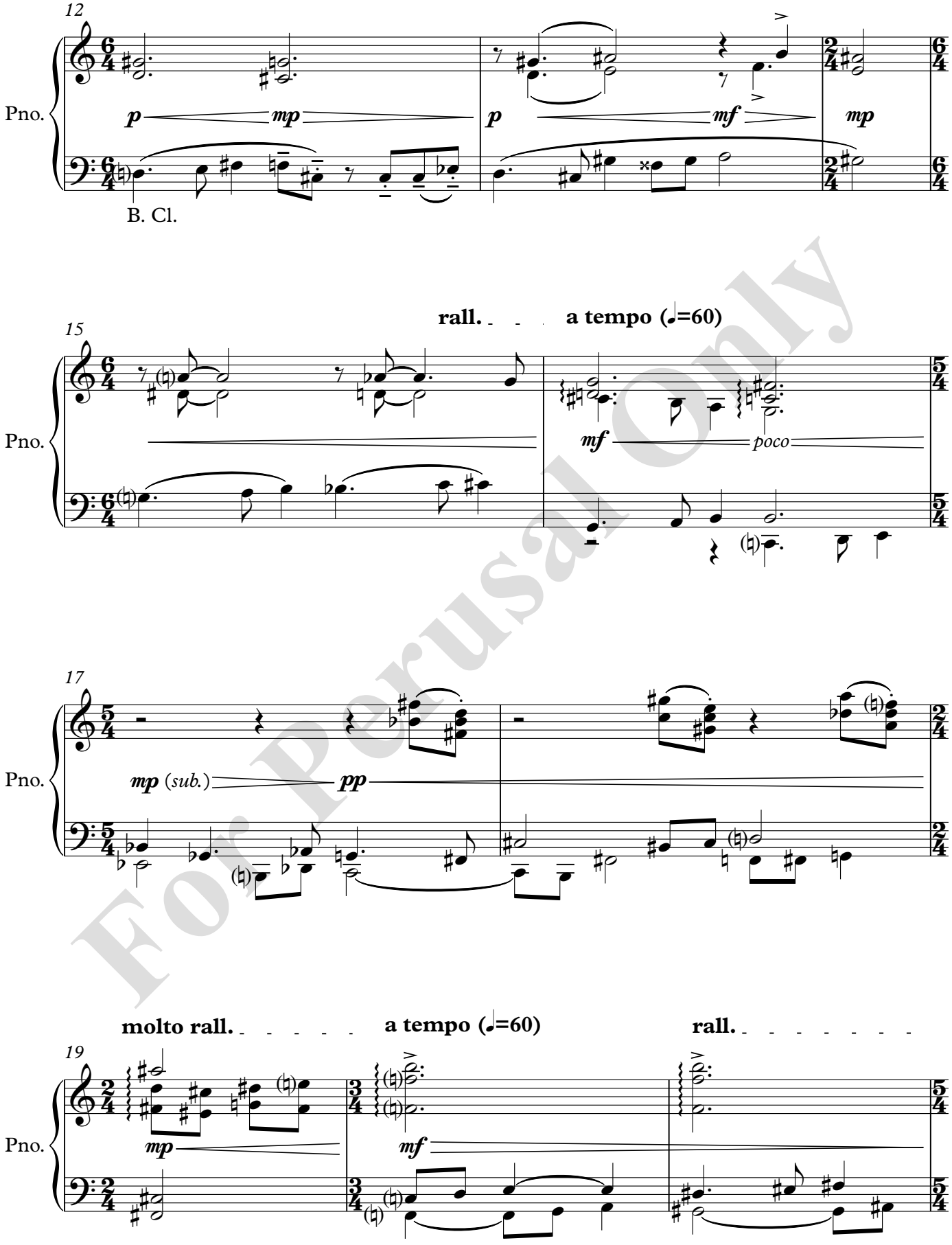
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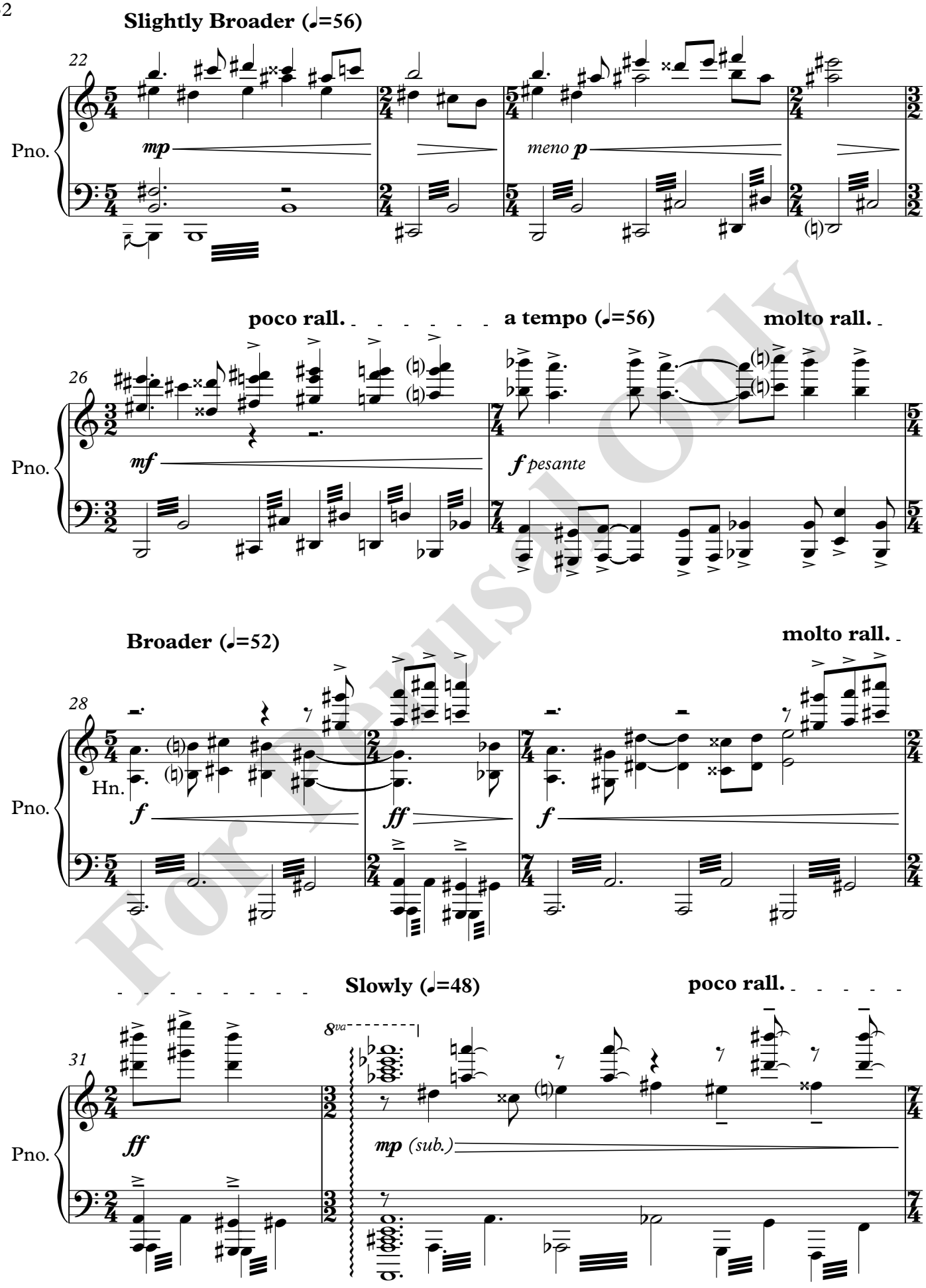
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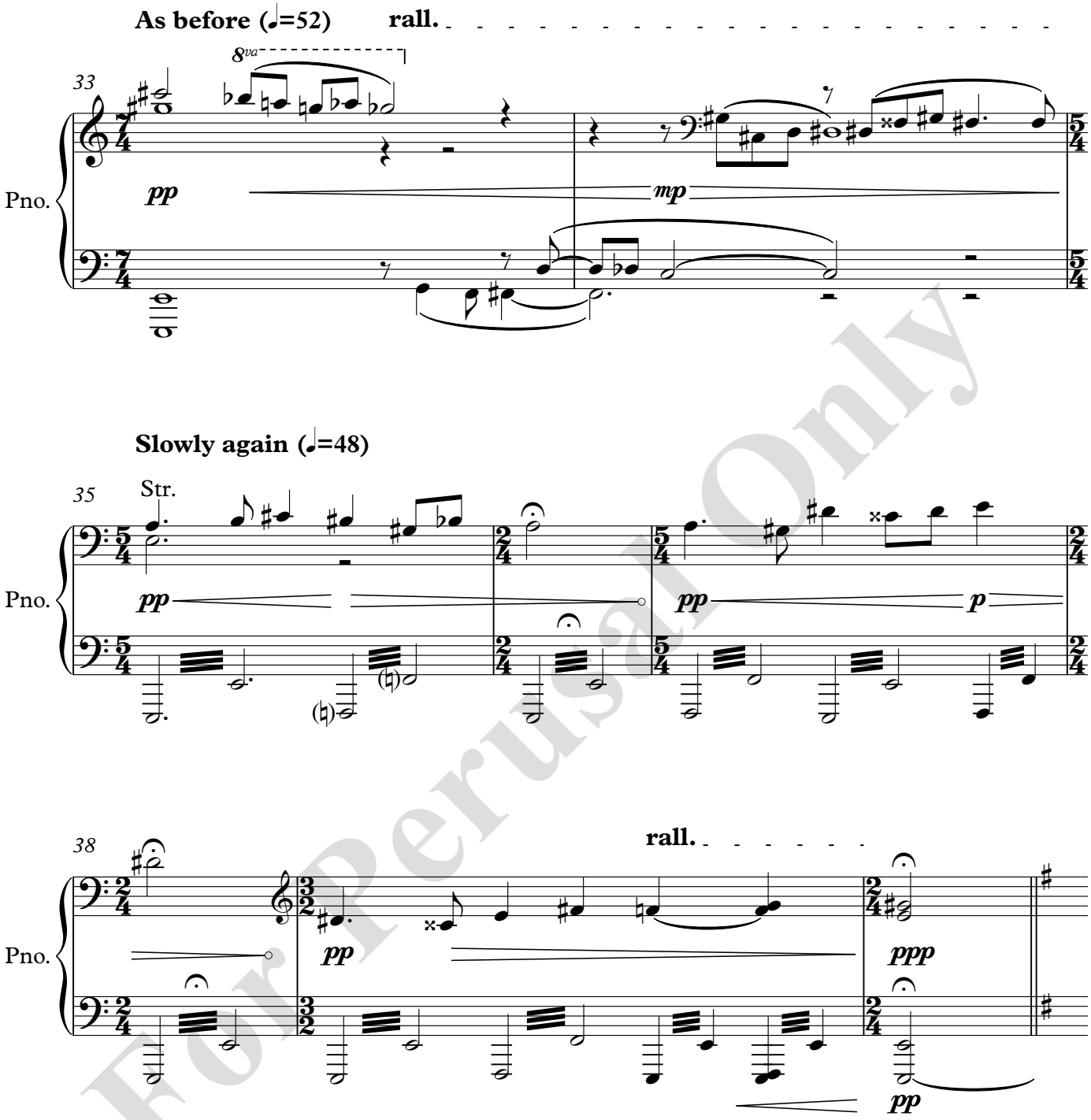
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