Drew Sperry

Pinpricks of Celestial Light

for Solo Guitar

(2026)

Perusal Score

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drewsperry.com

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Written for the talents of Thodoris Theodoroudis

Program Note

When viewing the objects we regularly see in the night sky (stars, comets, etc.), it's easy to think of them as existing on the two-dimensional plane that is the observable sky. With the dark sky as a backdrop, tiny points of light seem almost like dots of white ink covering a black piece of paper. However, this isn't at all the reality of how these celestial objects exist, as they instead exist in the three-dimensional space that is our universe. The shift in perspective required to think about stars, comets, and planets in these different dimensions is often a bit mind-boggling to me, which I think is why I found it so compelling as inspiration for a piece of music.

Throughout this piece, the natural harmonics of the guitar are used to depict the bright dots of light covering the night sky we can observe here from Earth. Taking advantage of the harmonic series of each guitar string, natural harmonics are arranged with non-harmonic notes to construct various melodic shapes, almost like how the stars are arranged in the night sky to form constellations. As the piece progresses, the scope of the music greatly expands, with attention being drawn away from individual pitches towards larger patterns and sequences of notes, almost as if we're viewing the musical material from the opening from a greater distance in space. Eventually, the momentum of the music comes to an abrupt stop and we're left floating back down to where we started, viewing the night sky as we always have from Earth.

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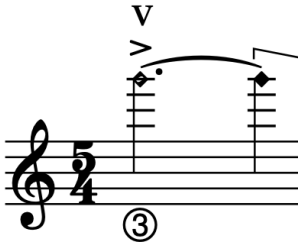
Duration: ca. 7 minutes

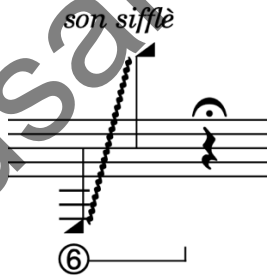
Performance Notes

- In this piece, natural harmonics are notated in a way that provides the performer with three points of information: the sounding pitch, the string the harmonic is to be performed on, and what fret the harmonic is located at. The sounding pitch is notated with diamond noteheads on the staff, the string is specified by the circled Arabic numeral below the notehead, and the fret on the string is specified by a Roman numeral above the notehead.



This example specifies that the sounding pitch will be G5 and that the harmonic will be performed on the third string (G) at the fifth fret.

- *Son sifflè* indicates that the performer should slide up the indicated string as fast as possible to produce a whistling effect. This effect is notated using triangle noteheads of unspecified pitch connected by a glissando.



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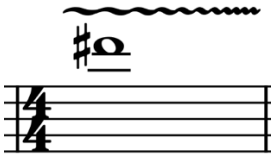
- Wavy lines over a notehead indicate vibrato speed. A more compact line indicates that the vibrato should be very narrow, while a more elongated line indicates that the vibrato should be very wide.



This example specifies that the performer will start the note with a very wide vibrato before smoothly transitioning to a very narrow vibrato.

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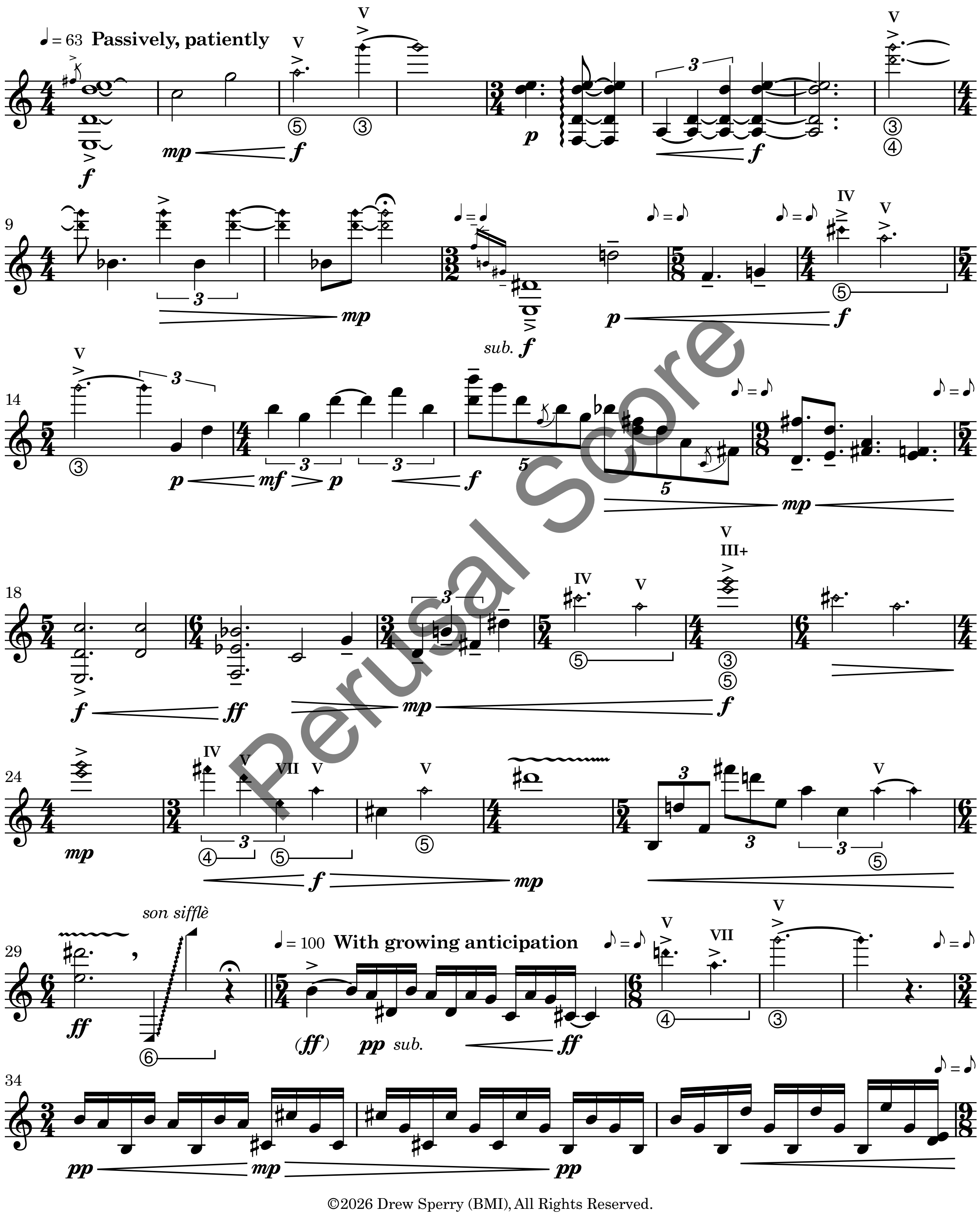

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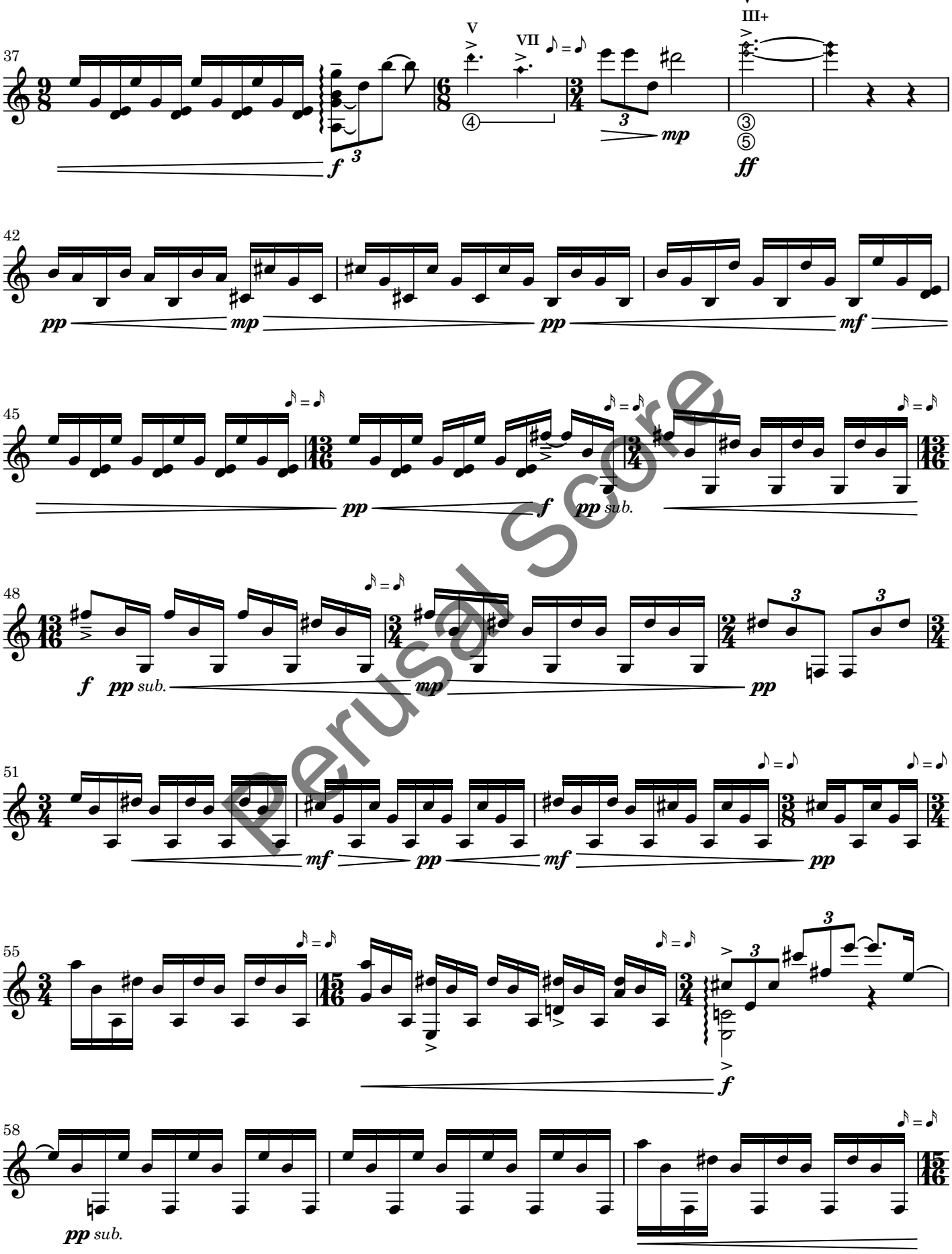

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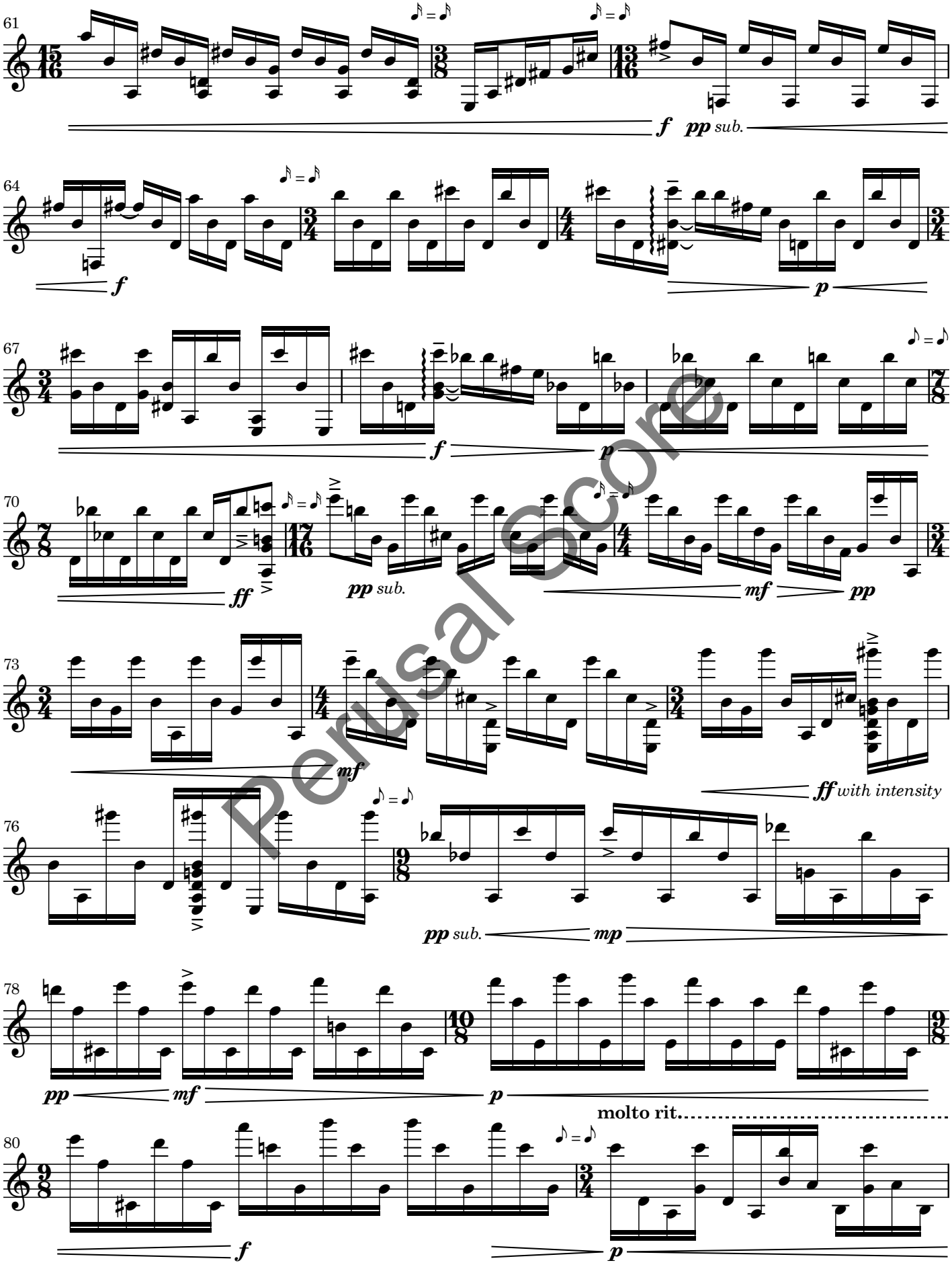

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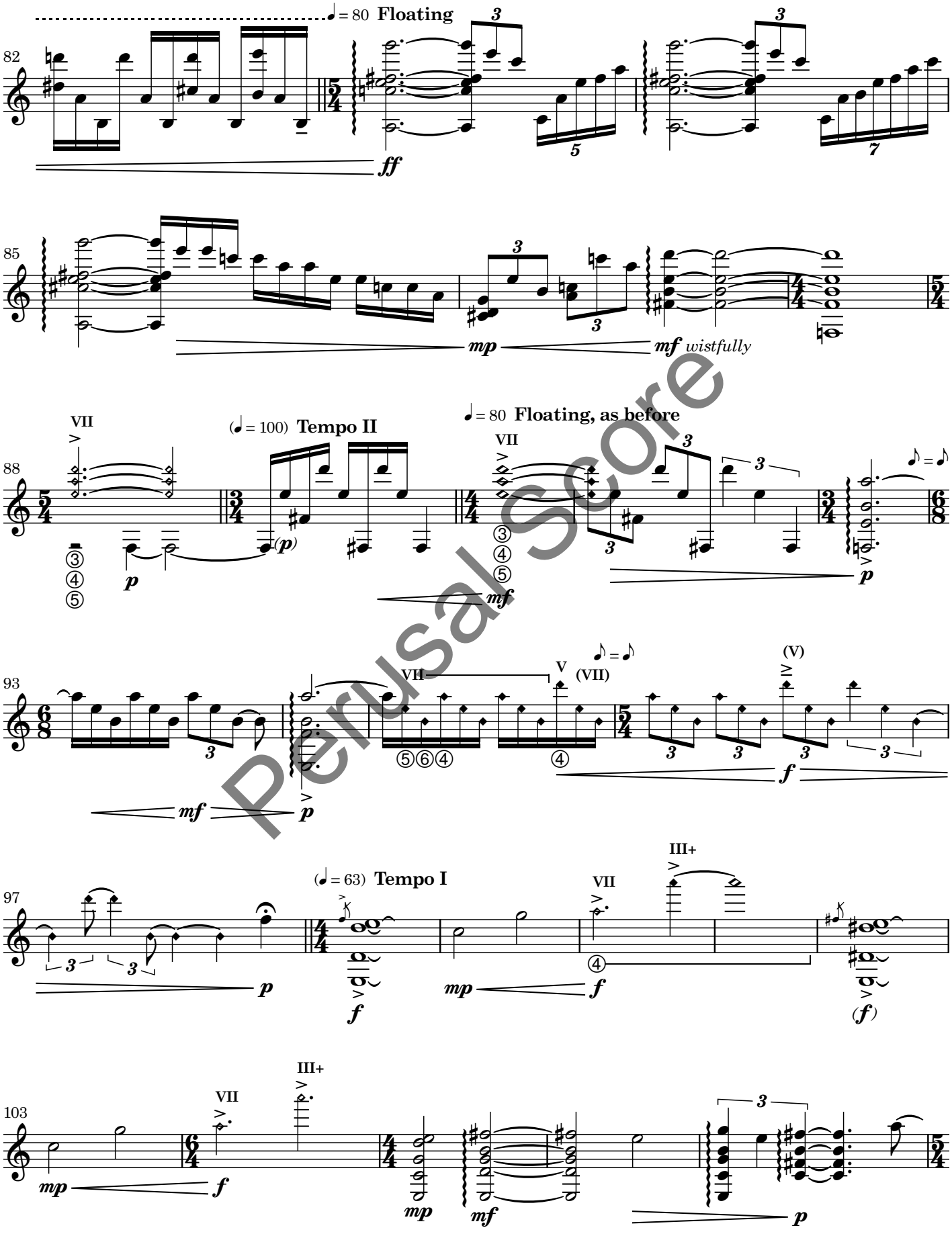

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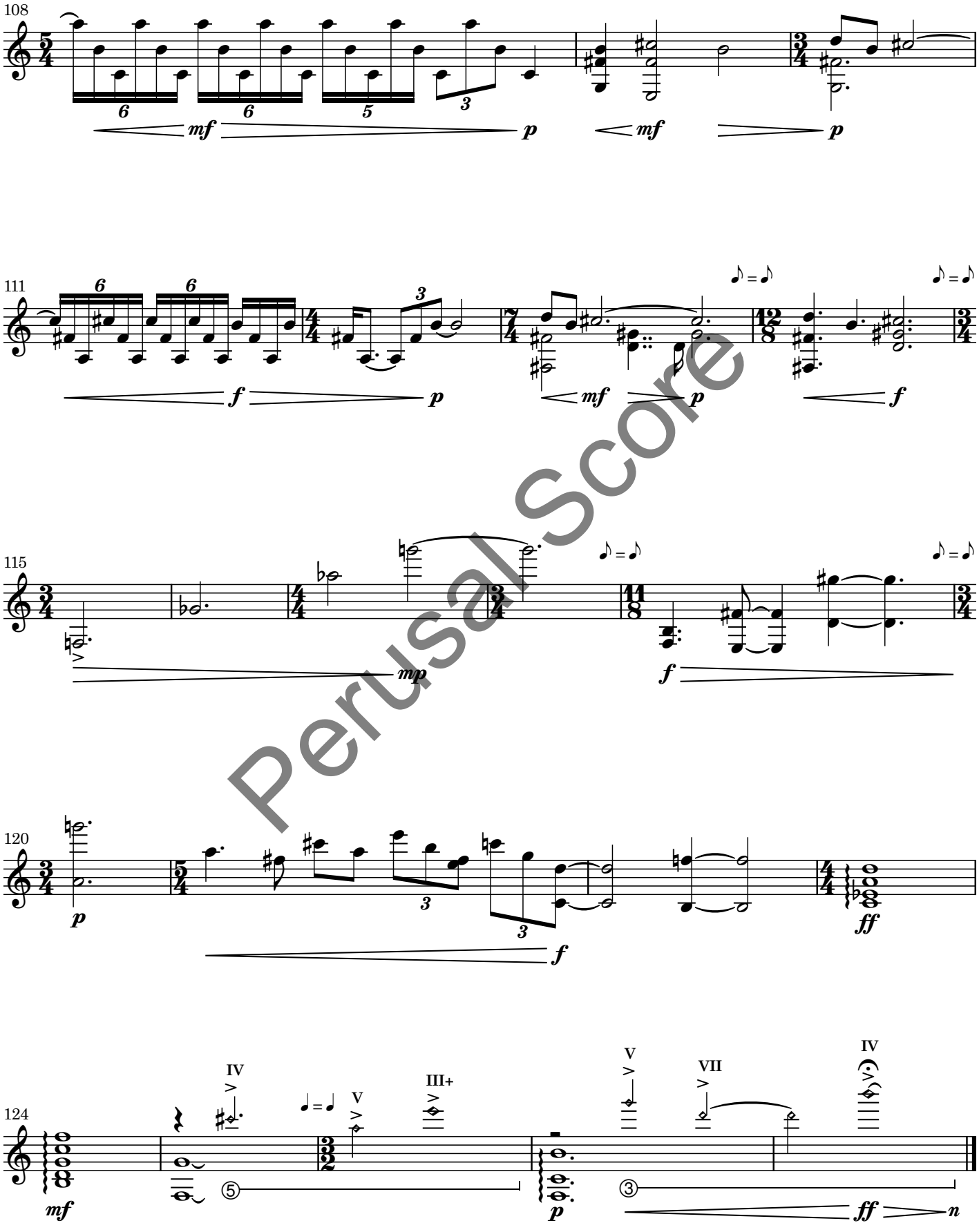
108
111
115
120
124
mf
p
f
mp
ff
IV
V
III+
VII
Perusal Score