James Weeks

Wie soll ich meine Seele halten

Arias after Rilke

for violin and piano

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University of York Music Press

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Wie soll ich meine Seele halten

Arias after Rilke
for violin and piano

to Sophie Appleton

Duration
13 minutes

Performance note
Accidentals apply only to the note they immediately precede. The violin should play *con sordino* throughout.

one octave higher.

Programme note
This work is an instrumental continuation of my setting of the following poem of Rilke for four solo voices, *Liebeslied als Geige*.

Liebeslied
Wie soll ich meine Seele halten, daß
sie nicht an deine rührt? Wie soll ich sie
hinheben über dich zu andern Dingen?
Ach gerne will ich sie bei irgendwas
Verlorenem im Dunkel unterbringen
an einer fremden stillen Stelle, die
nicht weiterschwingt, wenn deine Tiefen
schwingen.
Doch alles, was uns anrührt, dich und mich,
nimmt uns zusammen wie ein Bogenstrich,
der aus zwei Saiten eine *Stimme zieht.*
Auf welches Instrument sind wir gespannt?
Und welcher Geiger hat uns in der Hand?
O süßes Lied.

Love Song
How shall I stop my soul, that it
may not touch yours? How shall I
raise it above you to other things?
Ah, gladly would I – any way at all –
hide it away, lost in darkness,
in some strange, still place,
that would not resound when your spirit
sounded.
For all that can touch us, you and me,
Draws us together like a bow-stroke
that from two strings draws a single sound.
Upon what instrument are we strung?
And what fiddler holds us in his hand?
O sweet the song!

Rainer Maria Rilke, *Neue Gedichte I*, 1907

First performed by Sophie Appleton (violin) and James Weeks (piano), London, 1 November 2006. The piece was revised in December 2008 and the first performance of the new version given by Darragh Morgan (violin) and Mary Dullea (piano) in London, 5 February 2009.

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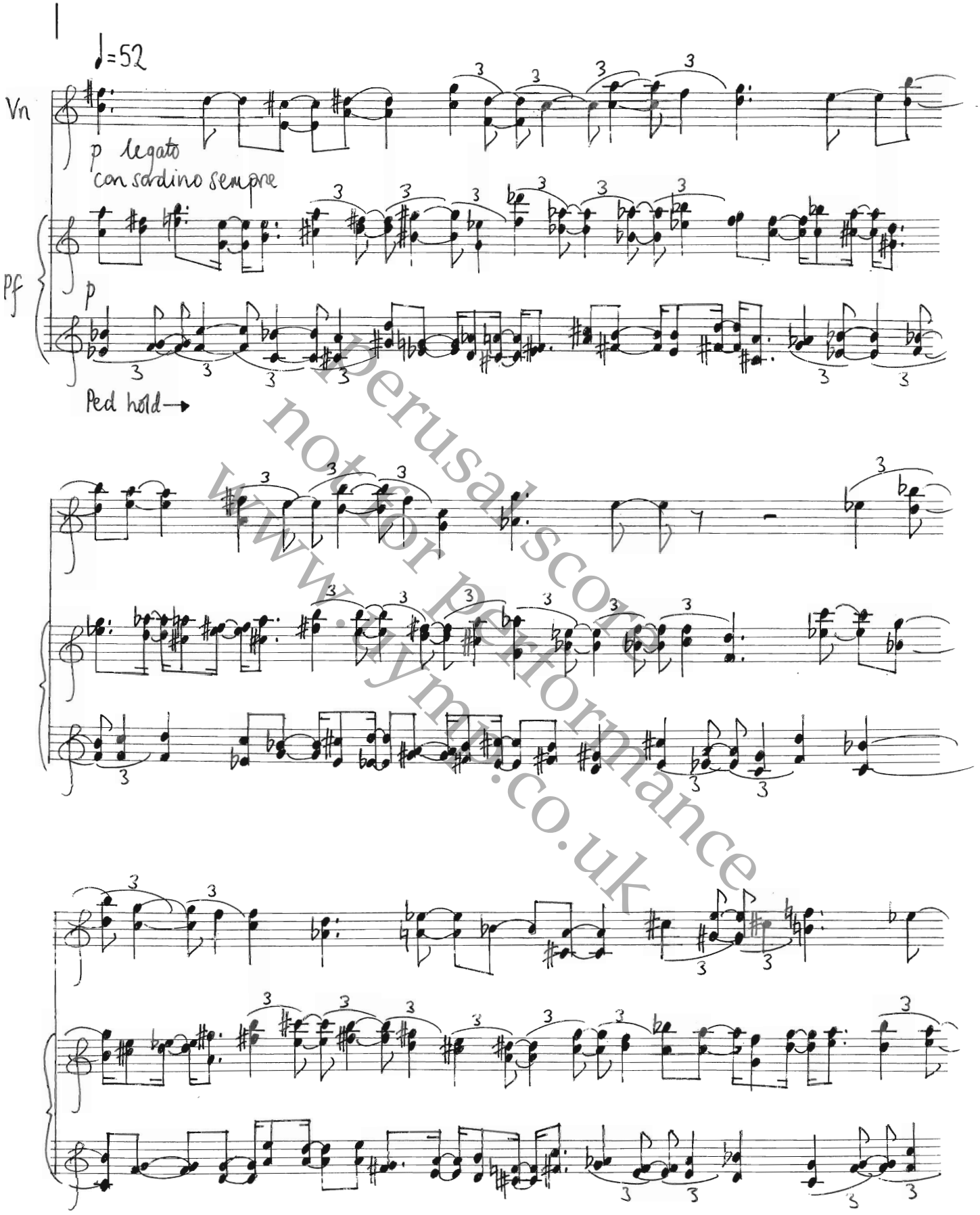

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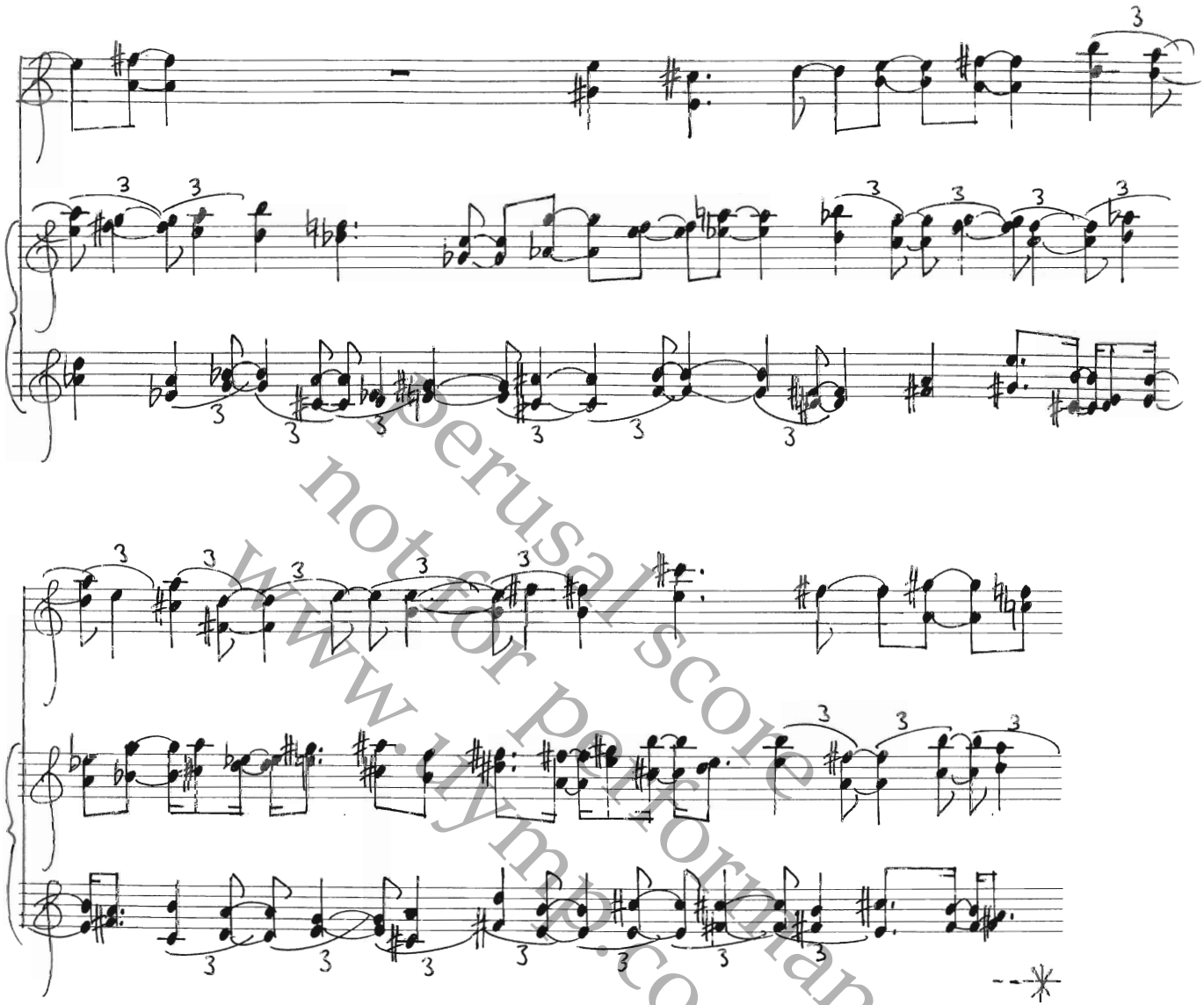

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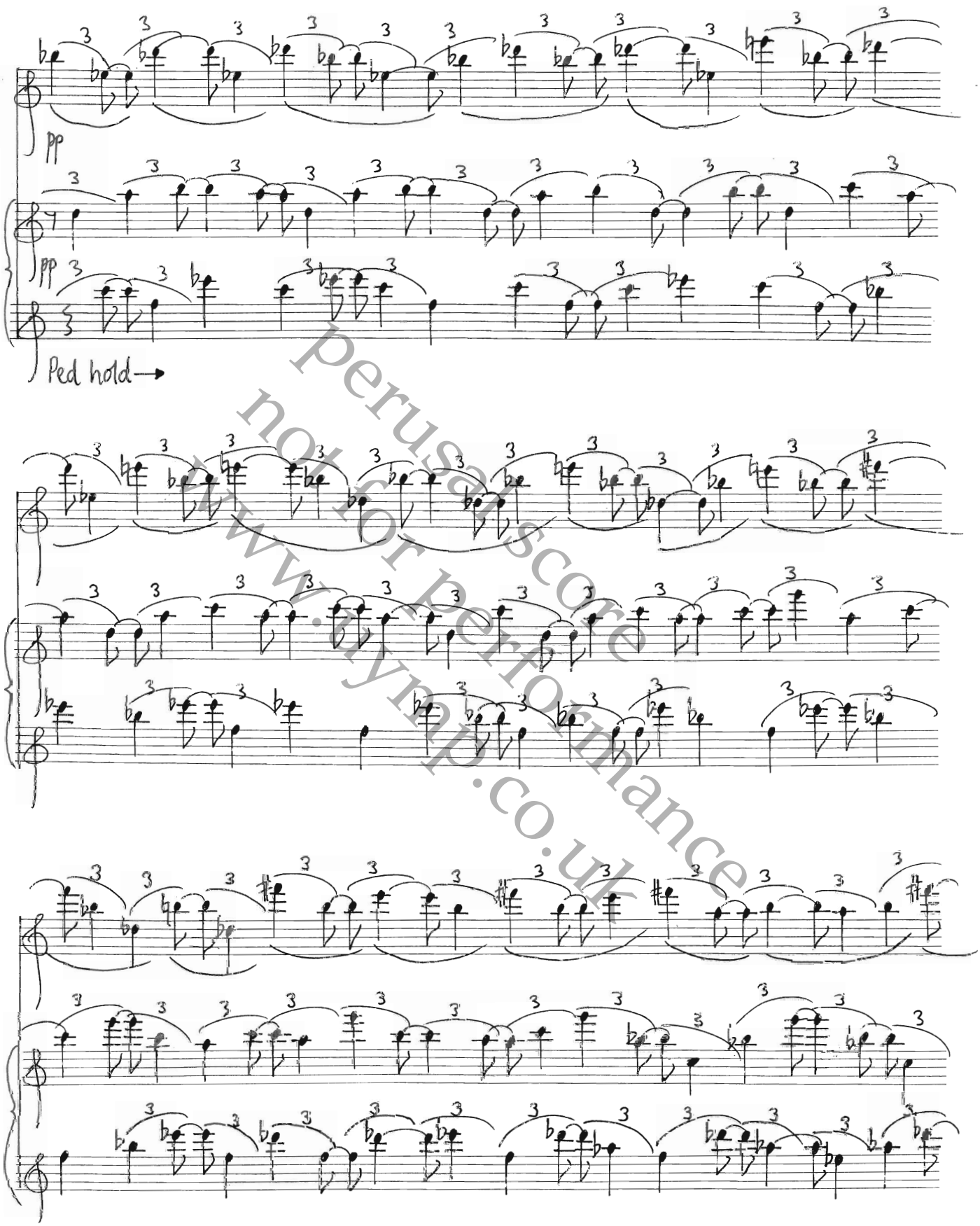

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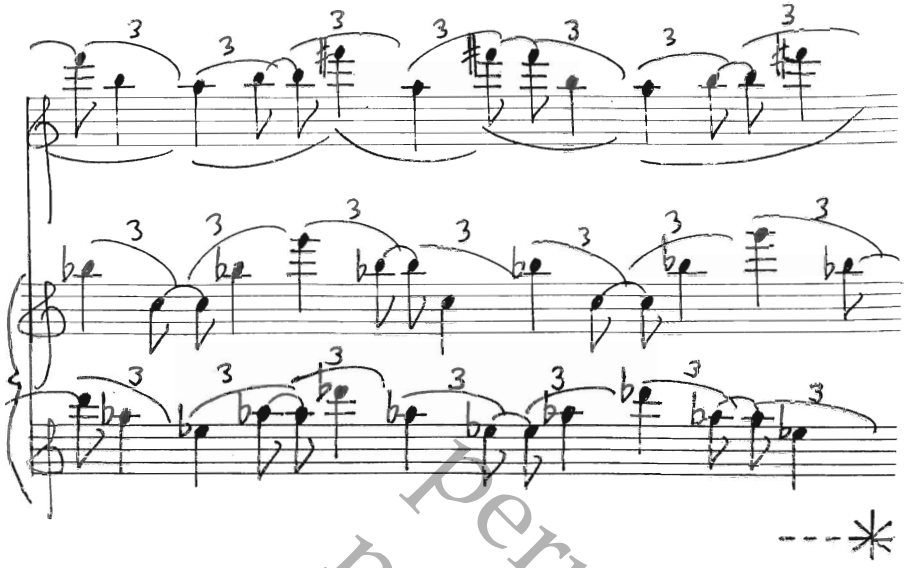

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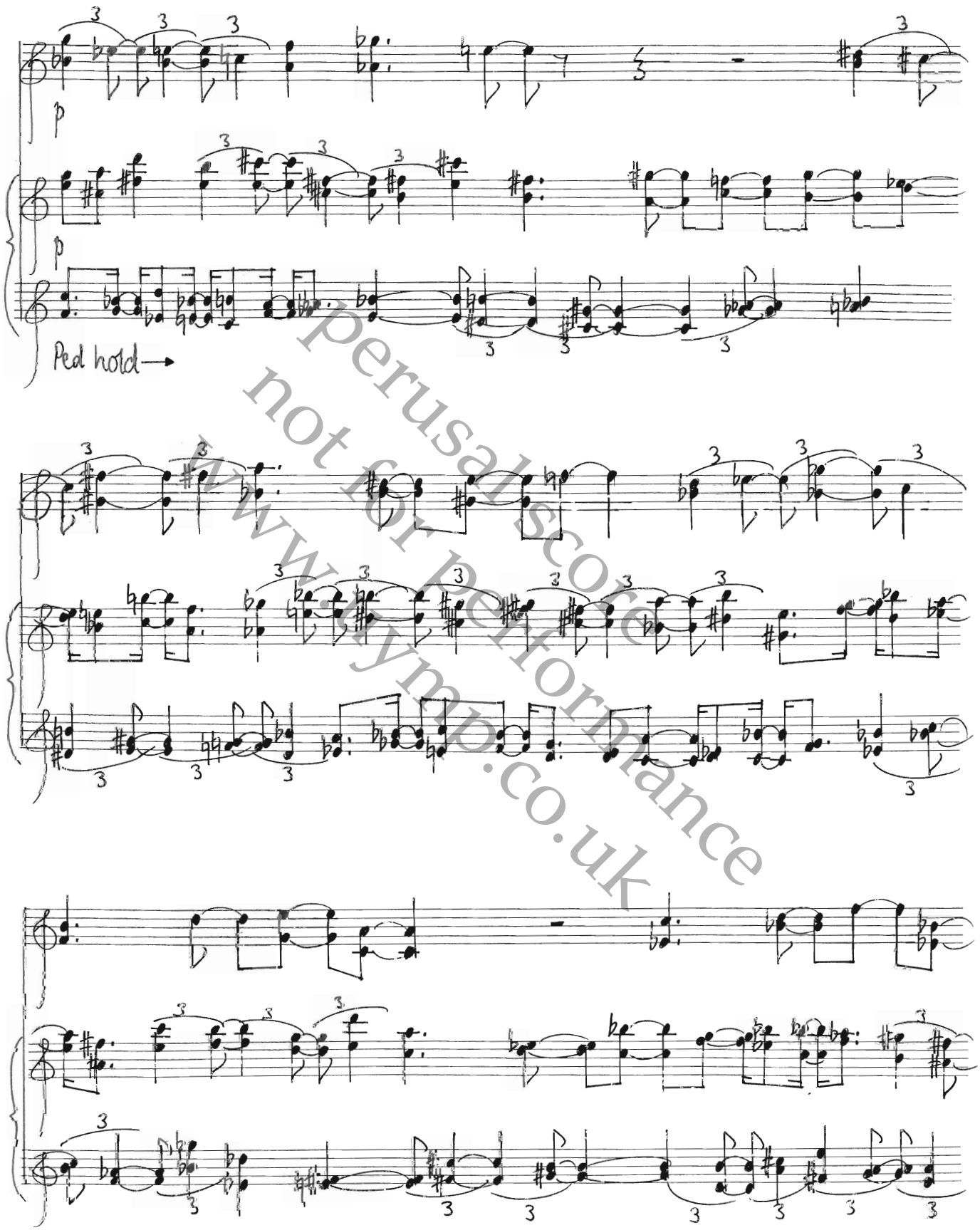

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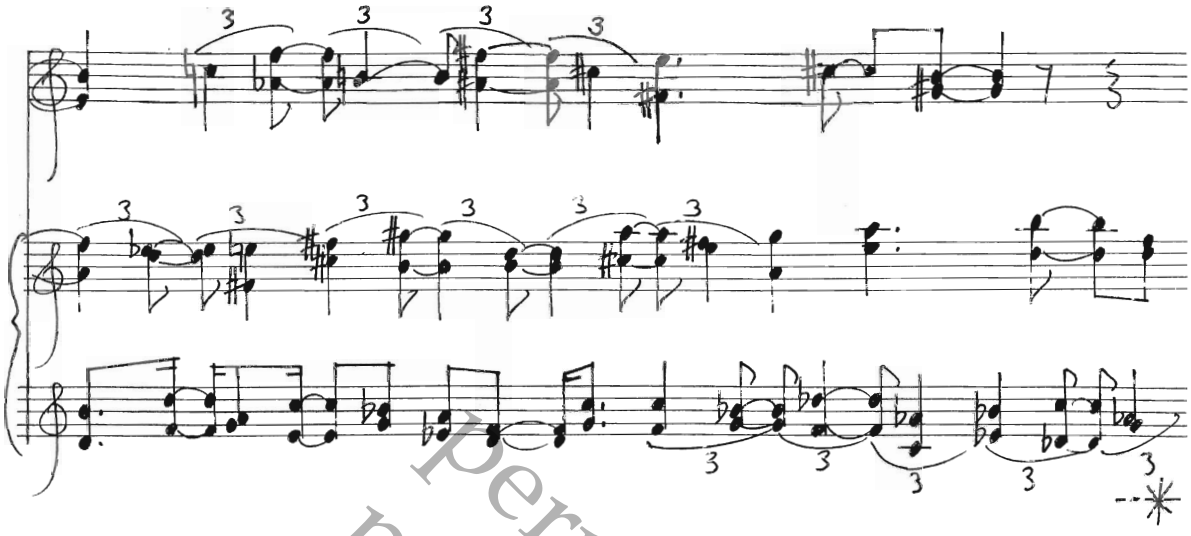

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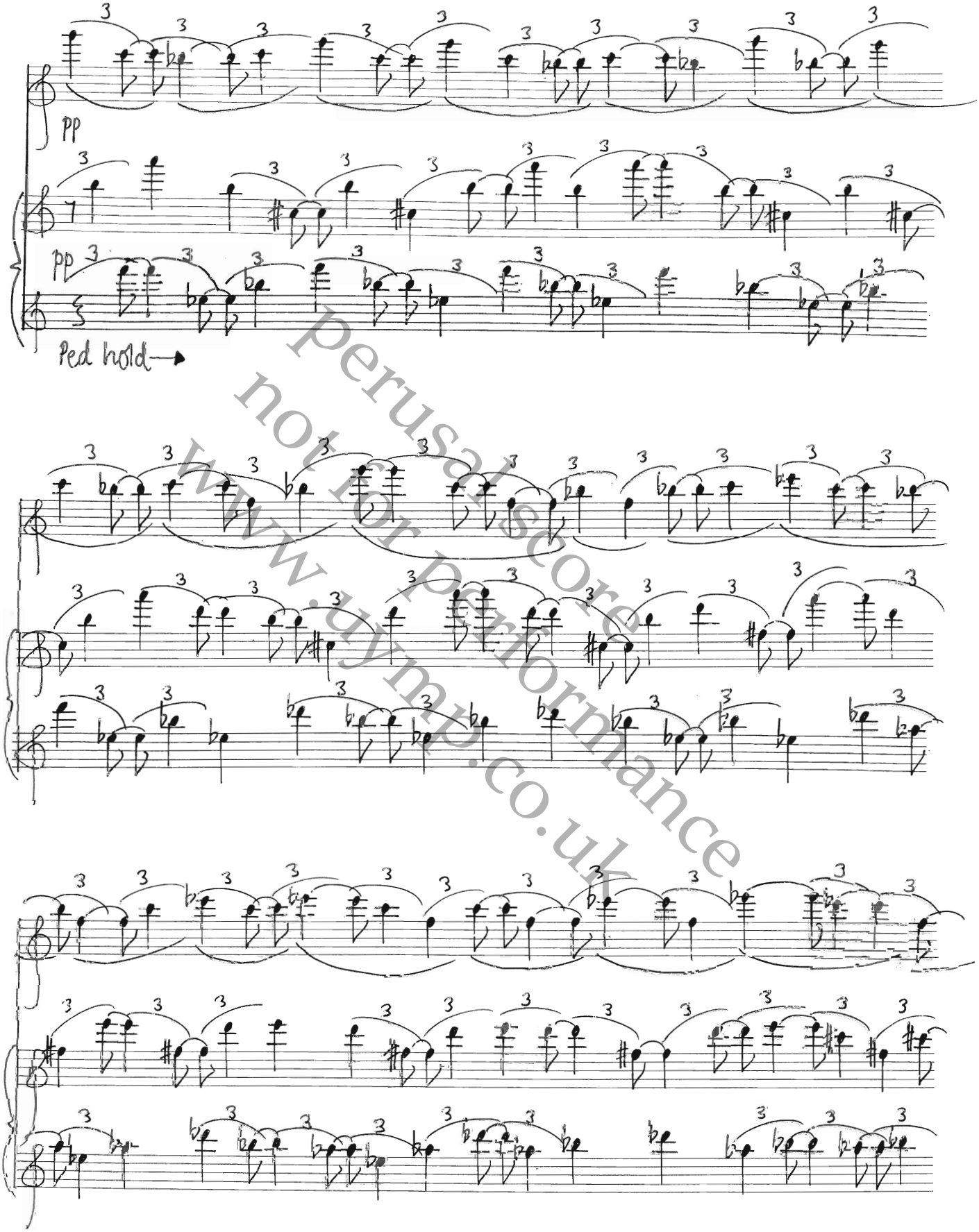

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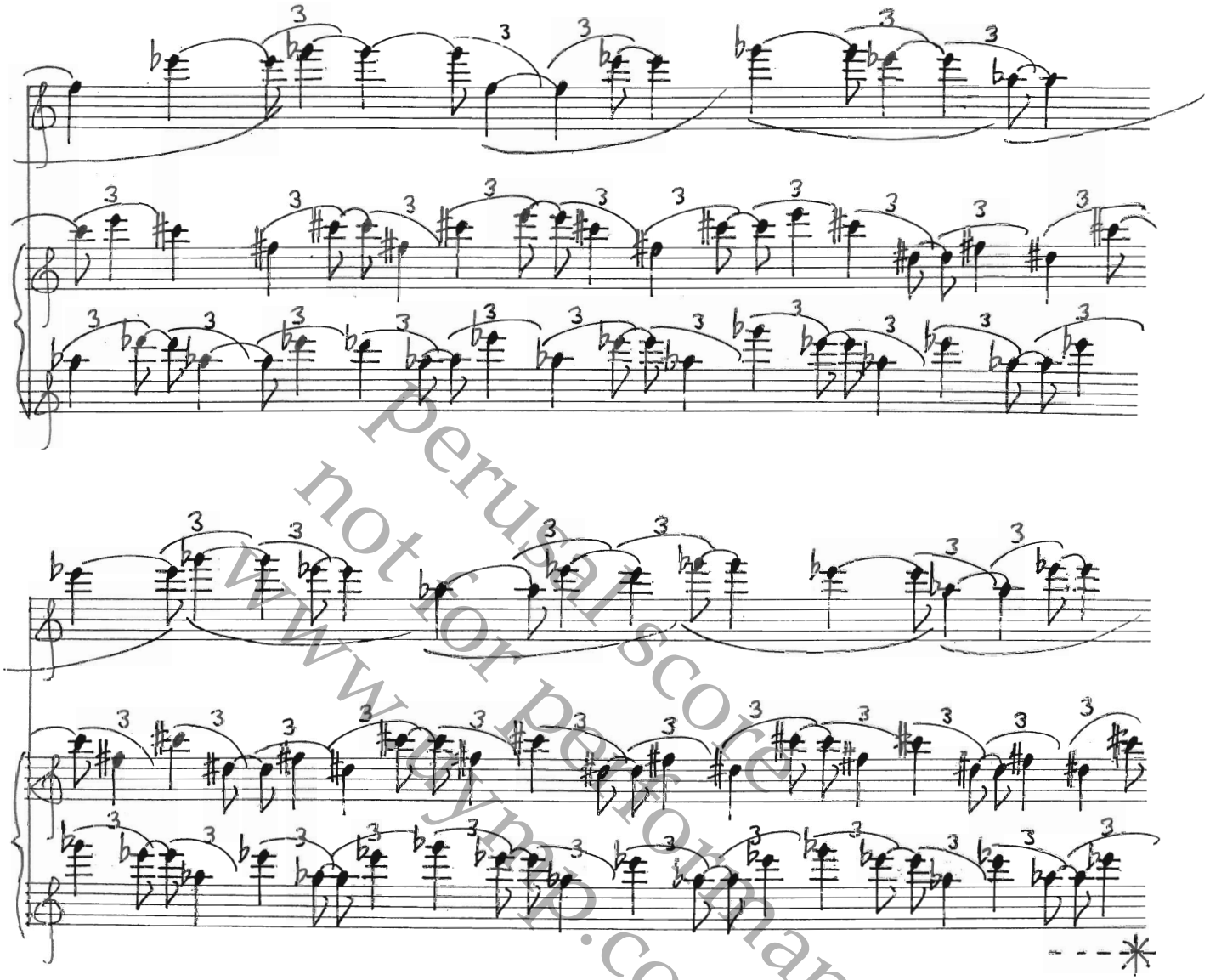

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V

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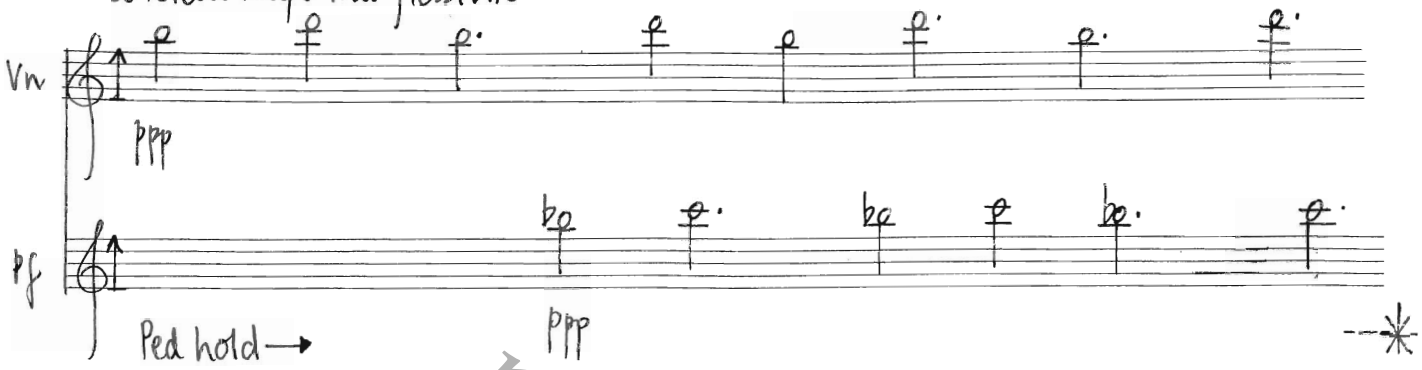

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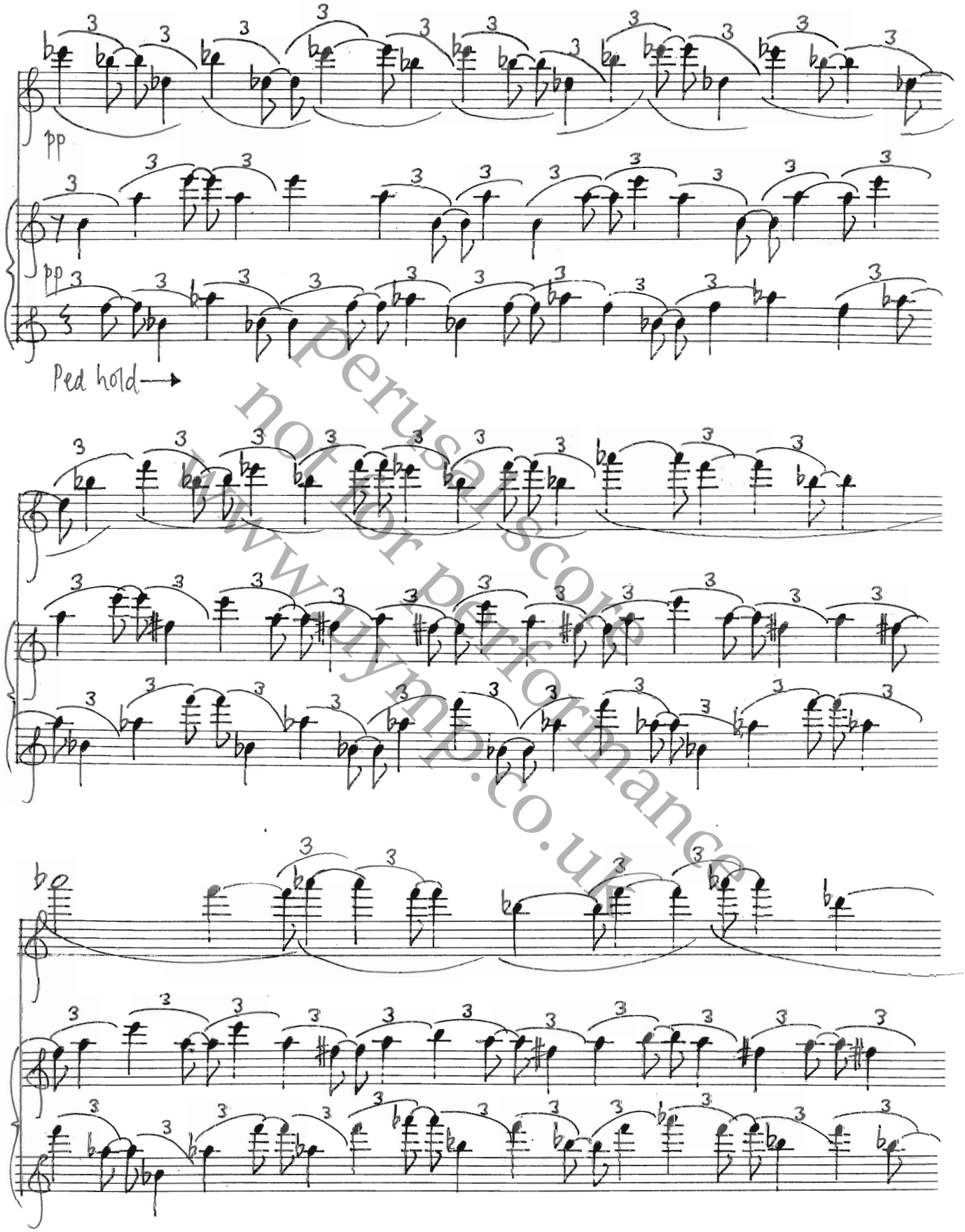

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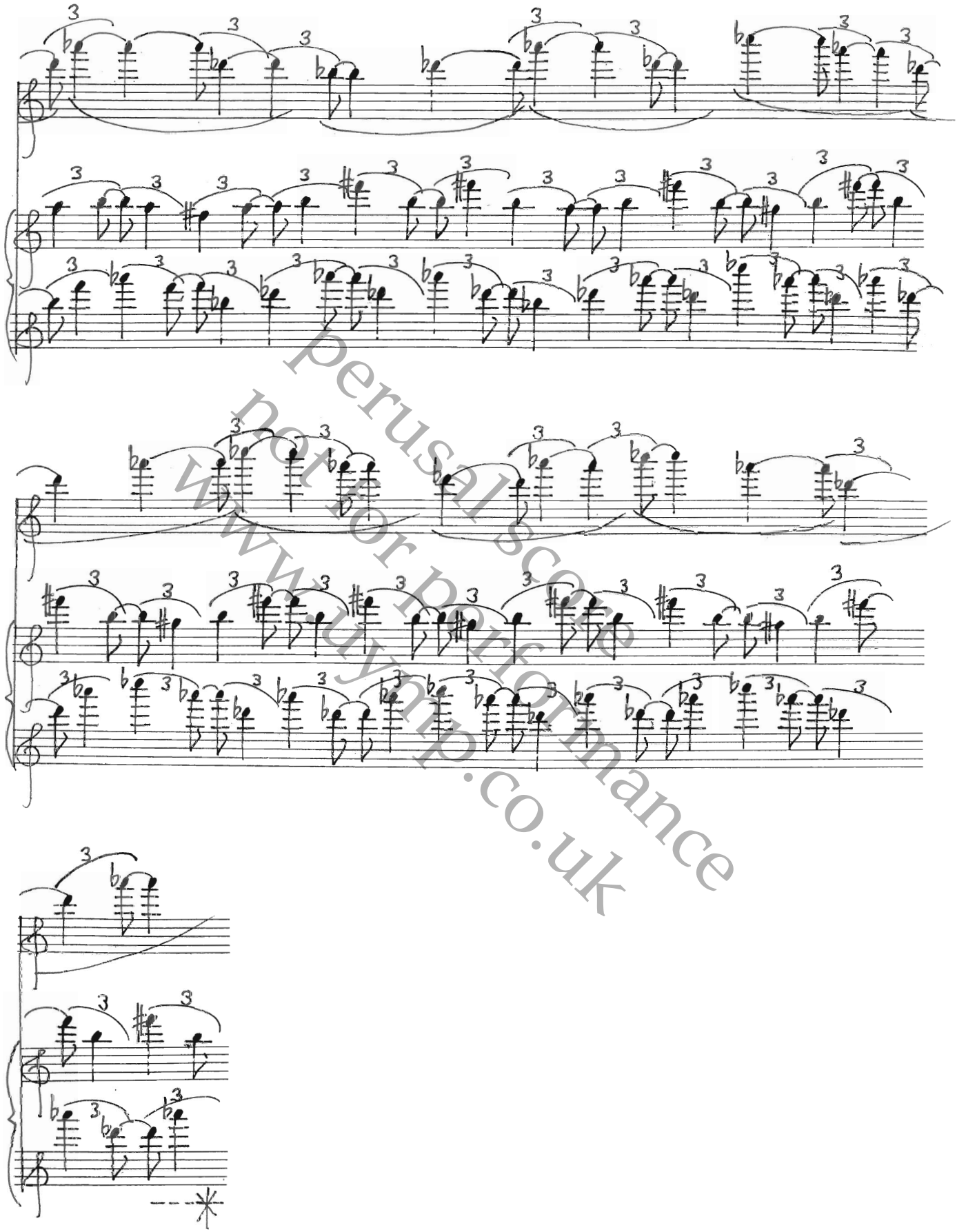

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VII

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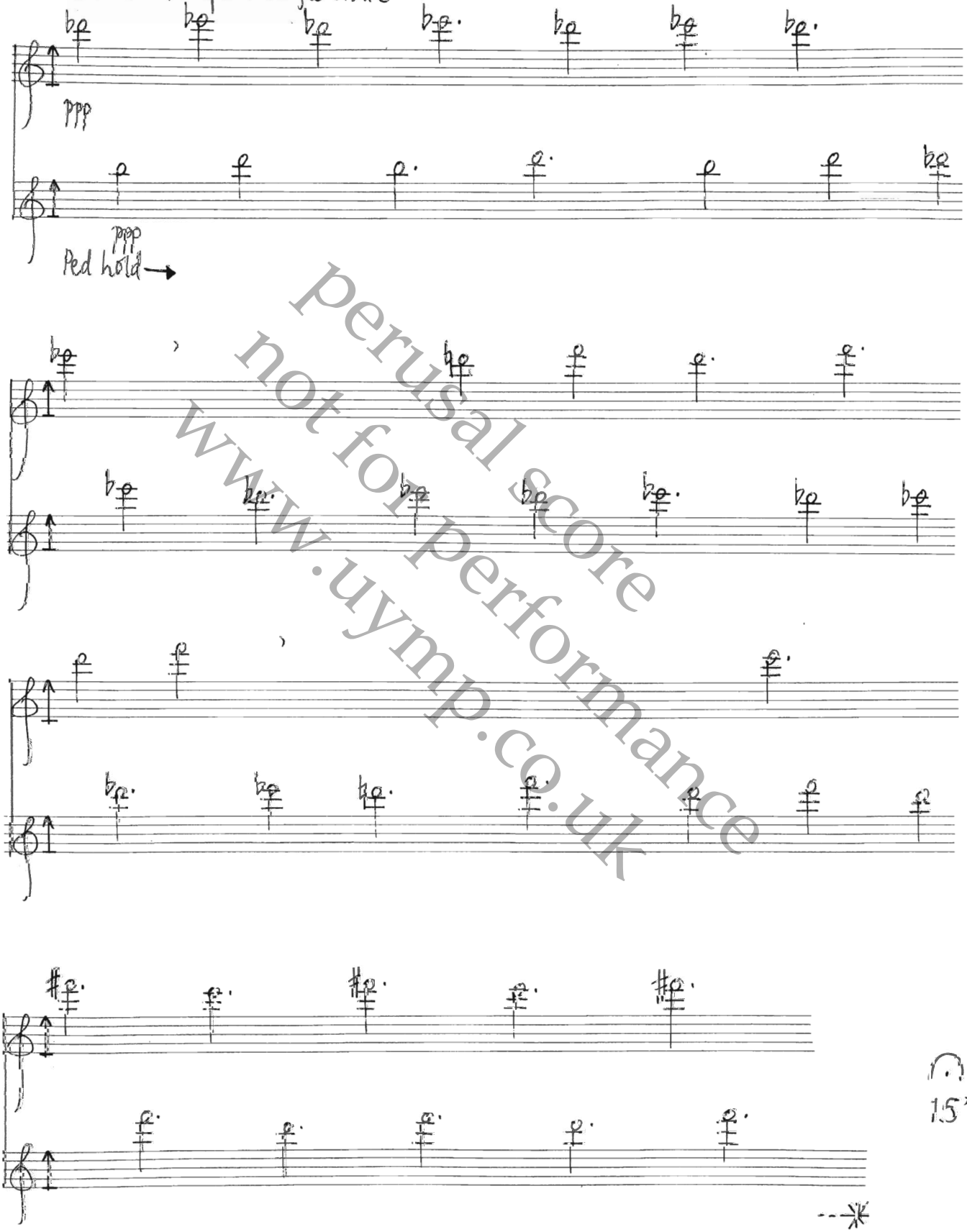

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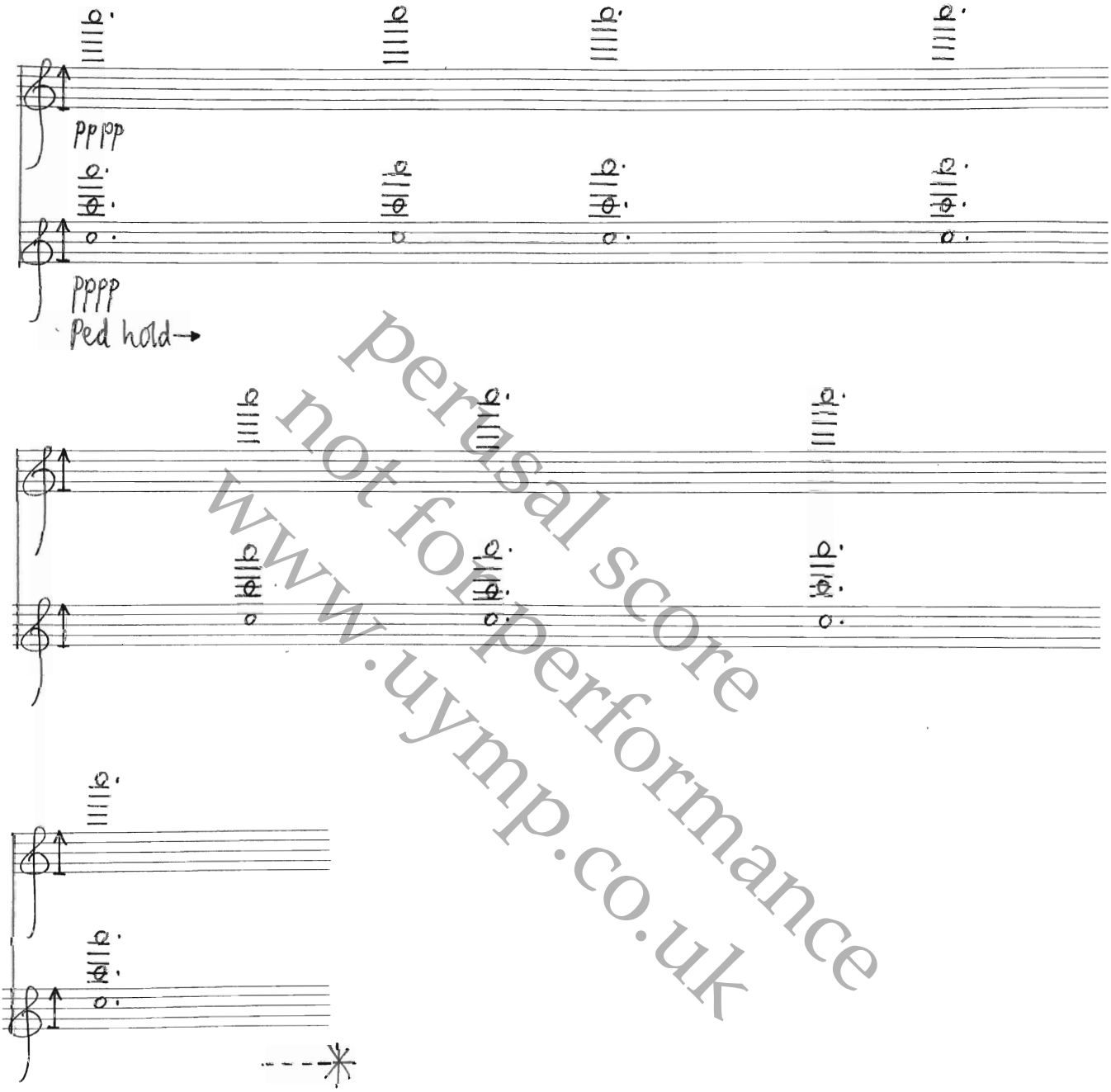

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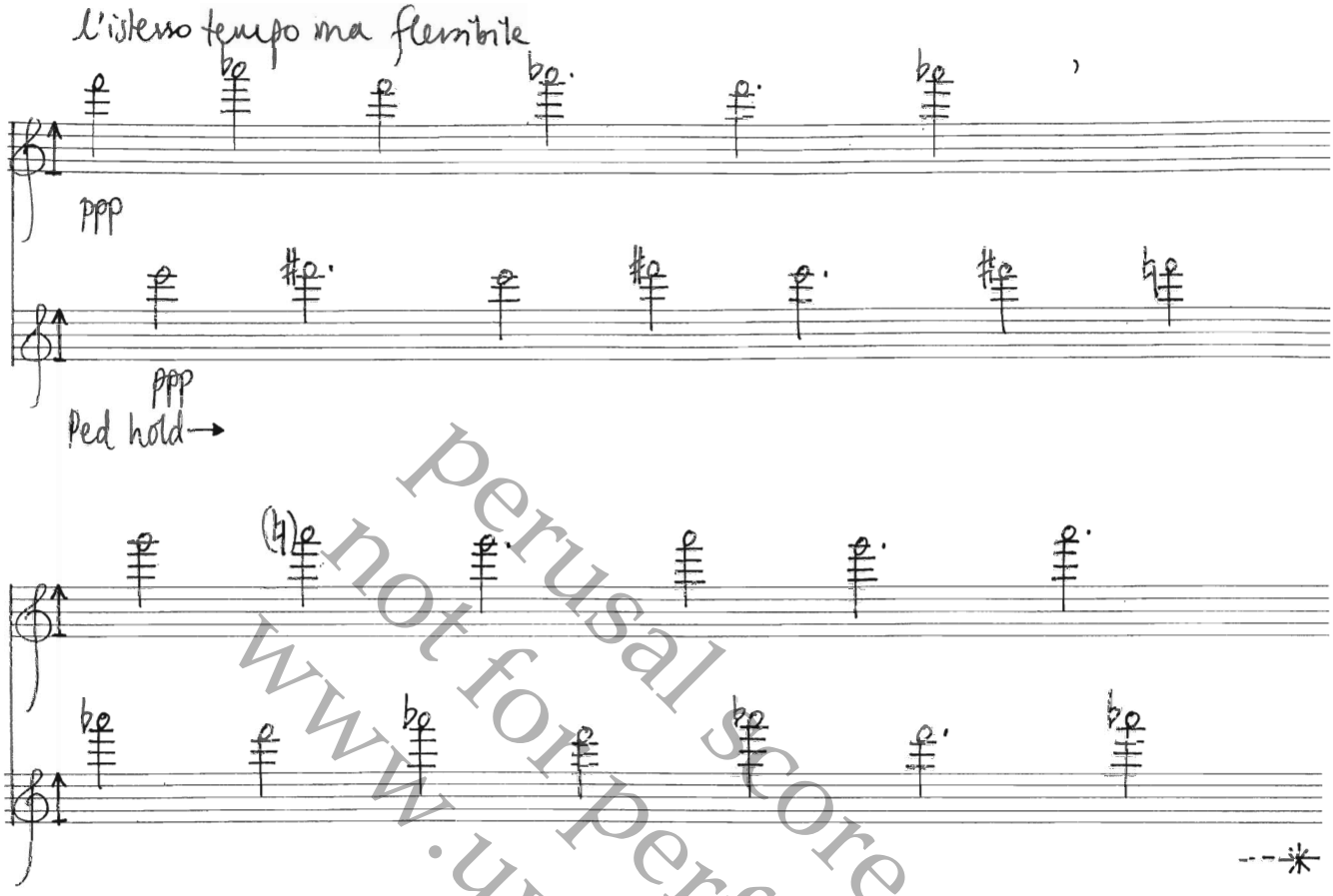

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