FOUR ANDALUSIAN LOVE SONGS

for countertenor and piano

Kurt Erickson

2017

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"The Rooster"

Sparks shooting from his eyes
and wearing a poppy on his head
he arises to announce the death of night.

When he crows he himself listens
to his call to prayer
then hurriedly beats his great wings
against his body.

It seems the king of Persia
gave him his crown
and Maria the Copt, sister of Moses,
hung the pendant around his neck.

He snitched the peacock's dressiest coat and
to top it off
his strutting walk
he stole from a duck.

-Al-As'ad Ibrāhīm ibn Billītah
(11th century Toledo)

"Split My Heart"

How I wish I could split my heart with a knife
put you inside
then close up my chest

so that you would be in my heart and not in
another's
until the resurrection
and the day of judgement.

There you would stay while I lived
and after my death
you would remain buried deep in my heart in
the darkness of the tomb.

-Ibn Hazm
(994-1063) (Córdoba)

"Slave Boy"

They shaved his head
to clothe him in ugliness
out of jealousy and fear
of his beauty.

They erased the night
and left him in dawn.

Yūsuf ibn Hārūn al-Ramādī (d. 1022)
(Córdoba)

"Absence"

Every night I scan
the heavens with my eyes
seeking the star
that you are contemplating.

I question travelers
from the four corners of the earth
hoping to meet one
who has breathed your fragrance.

When the wind blows
I make sure it blows in my face:
the breeze might bring me
news of you.

-Abu Bakr al-Turtushi
(1059-1126 Eastern Andalusia)

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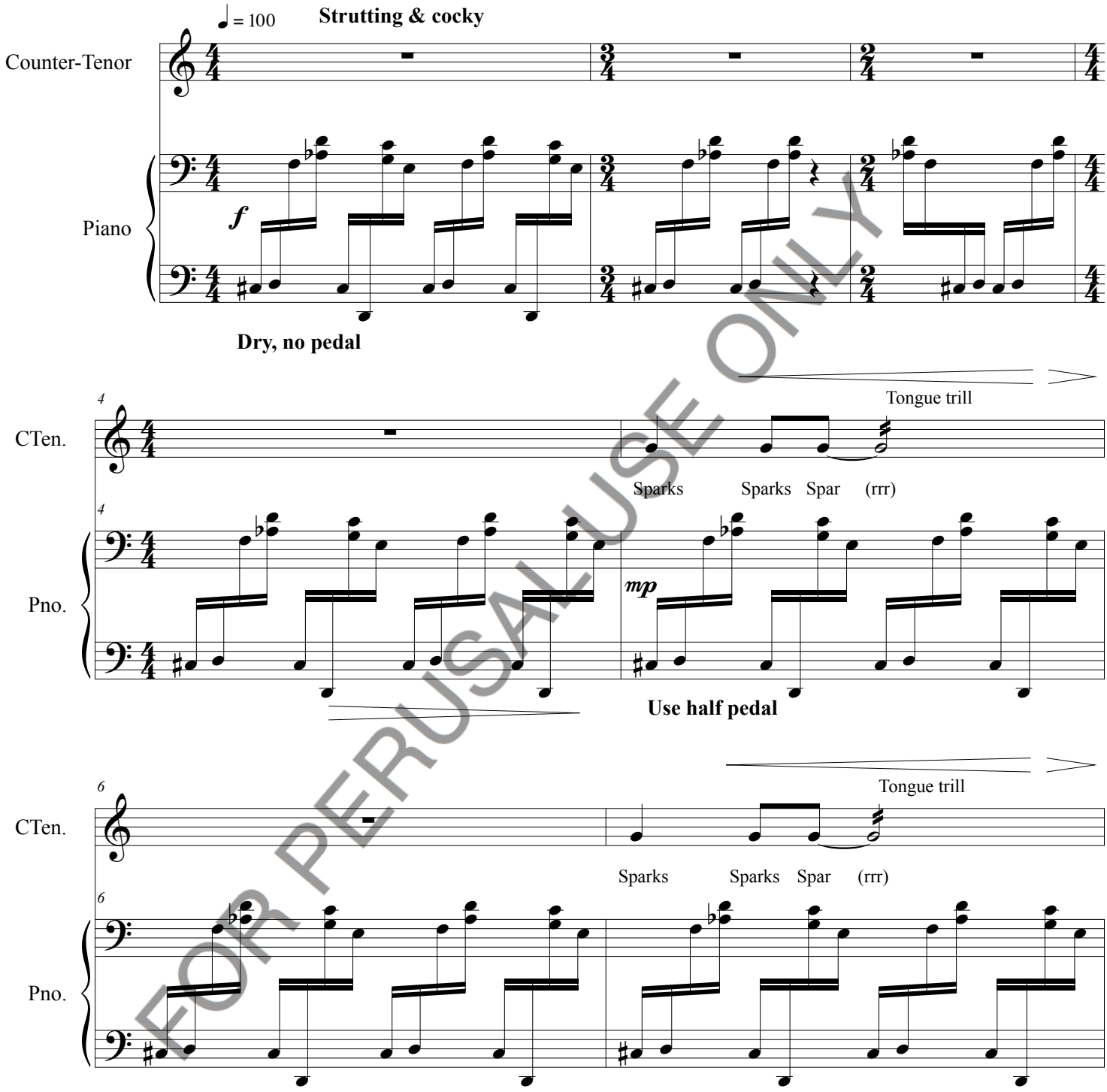
The Rooster

Al-Asad Ibrahim ibn Billitah
(11th century, Toledo)

Kurt Erickson



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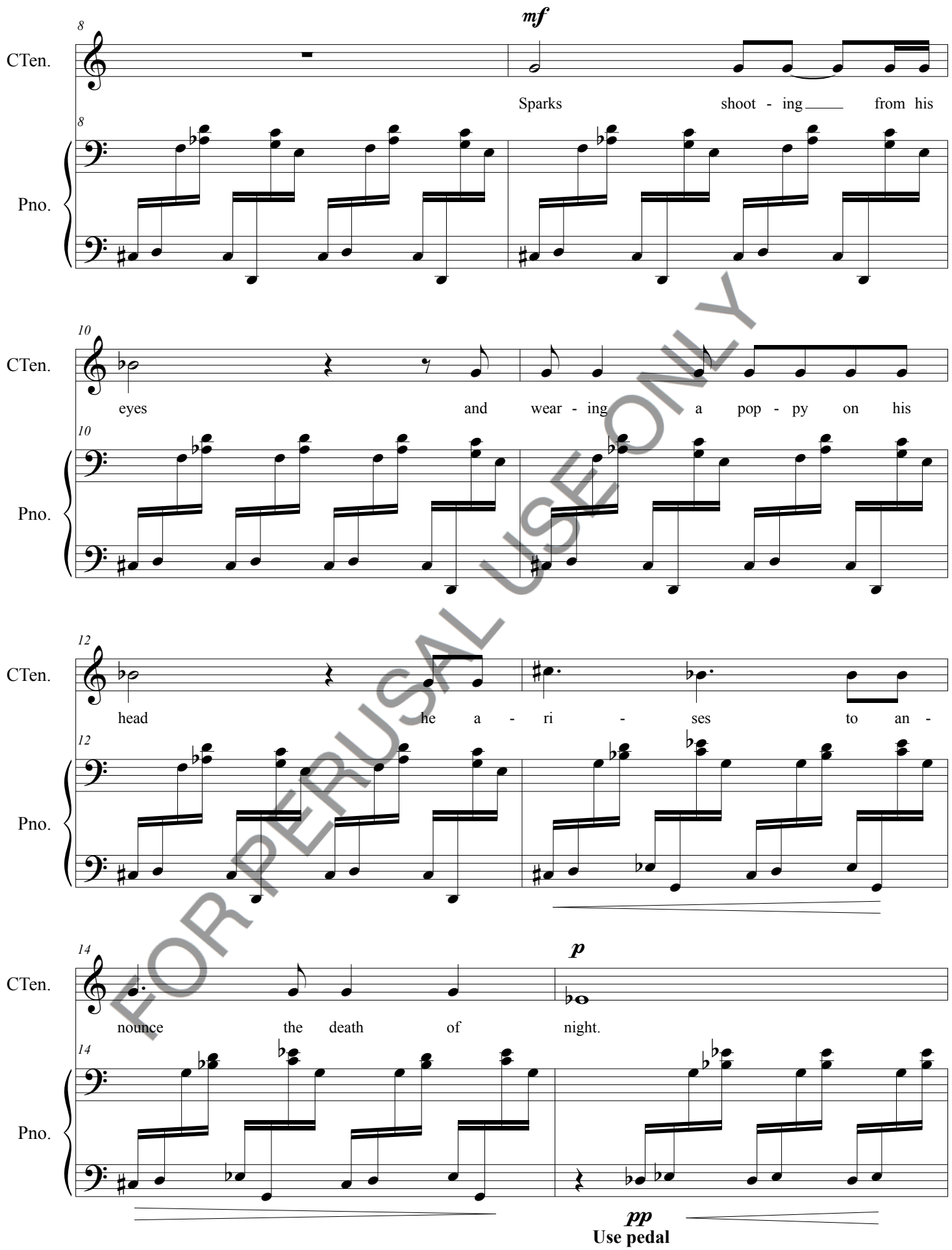

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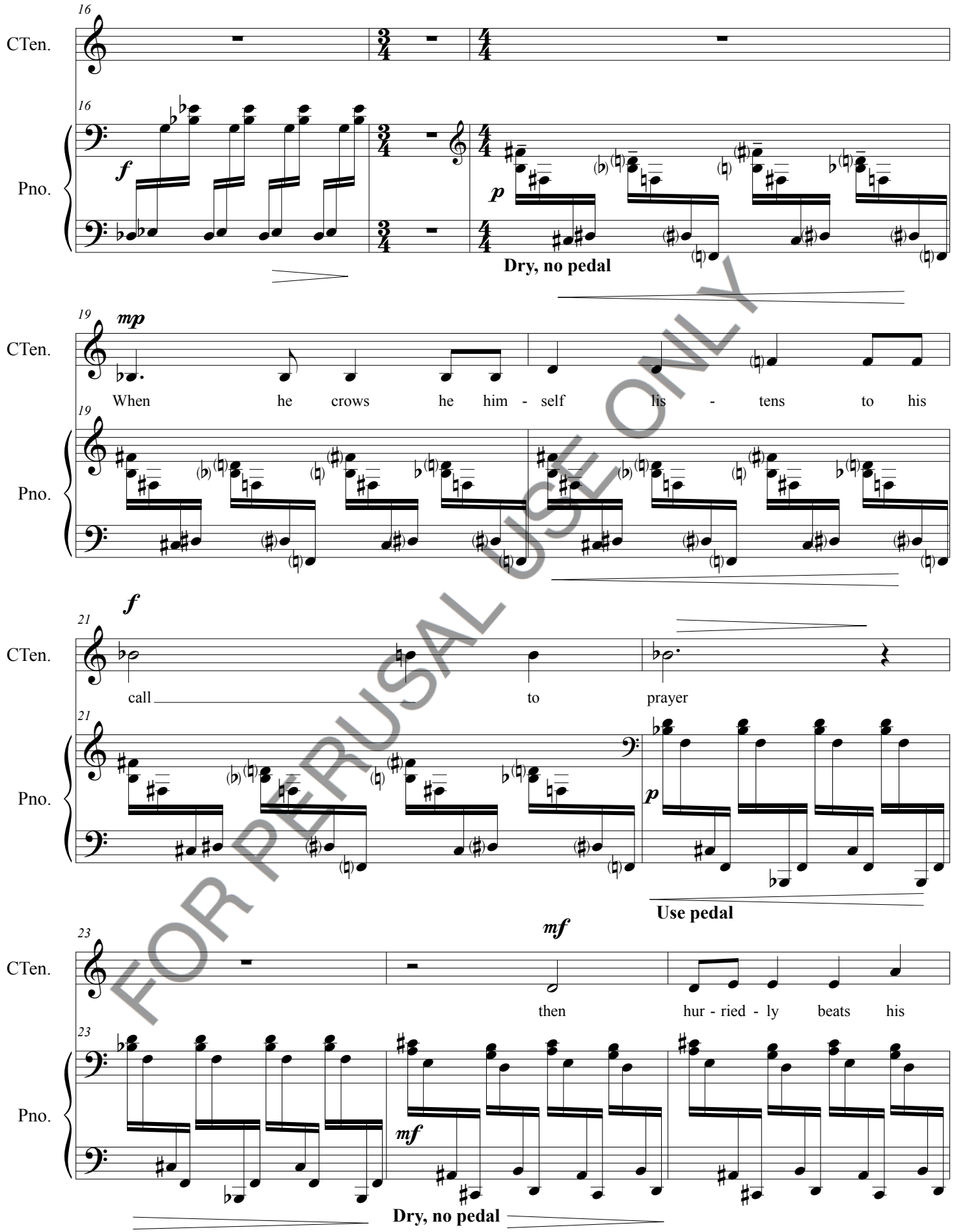

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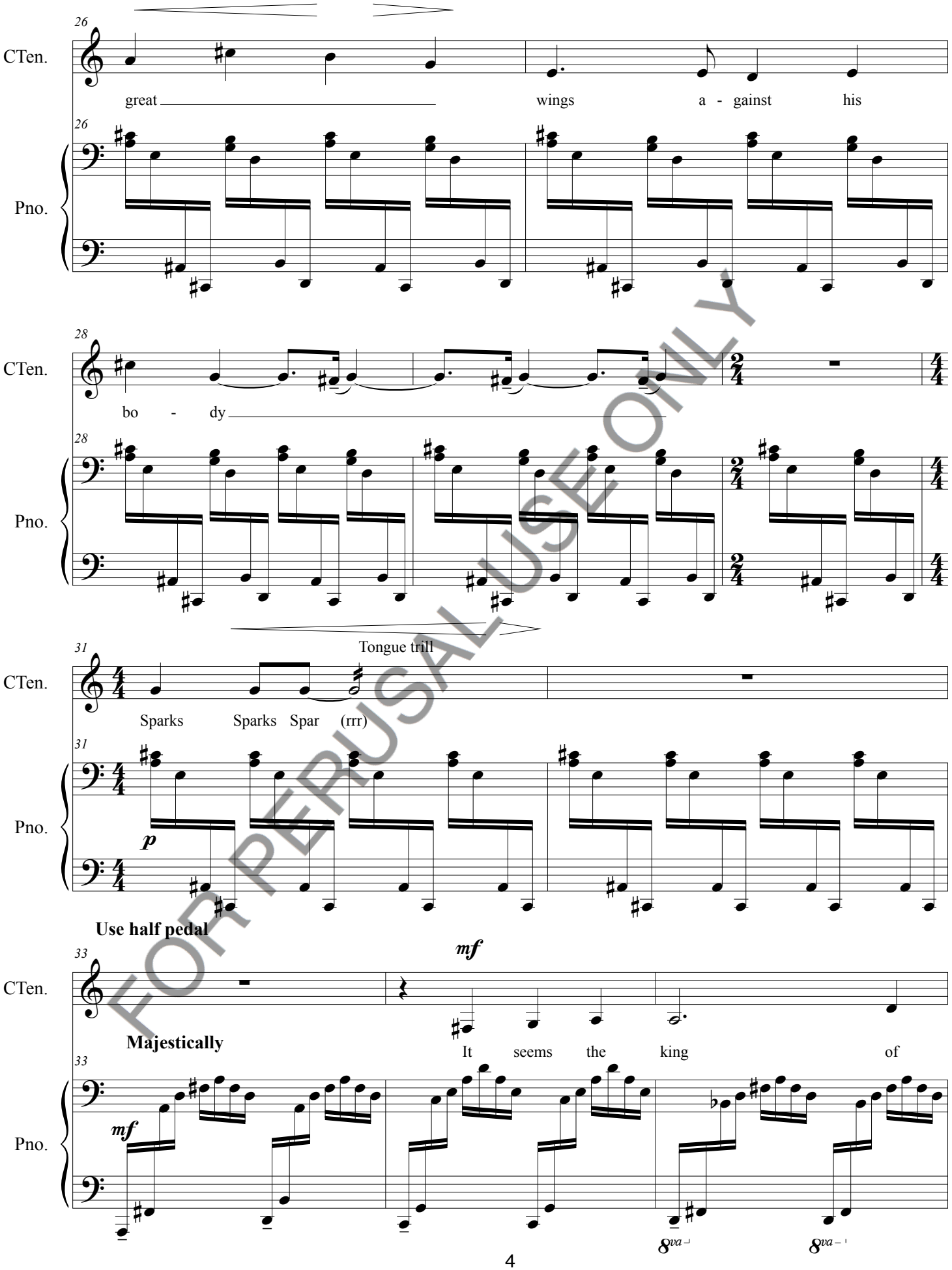

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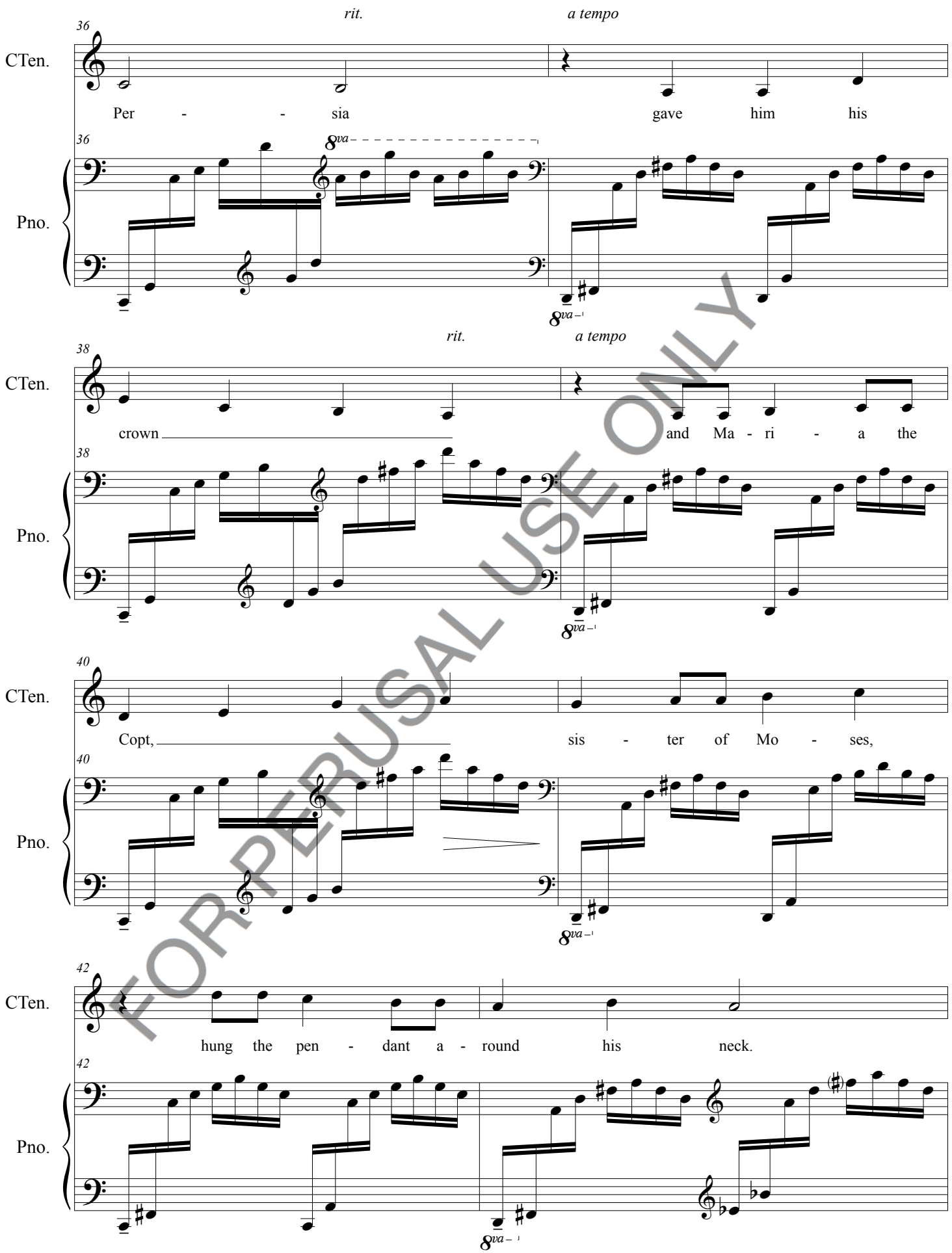

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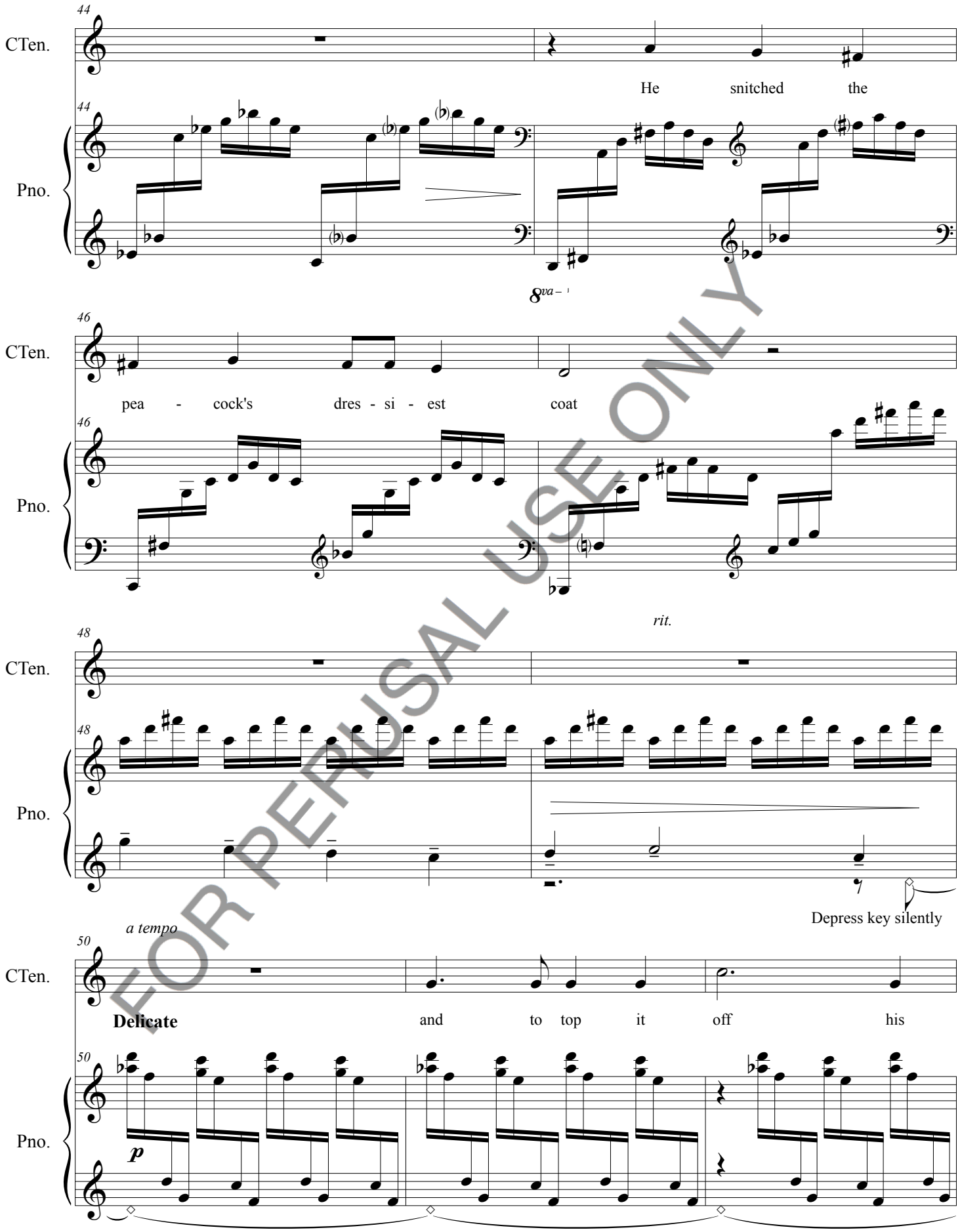

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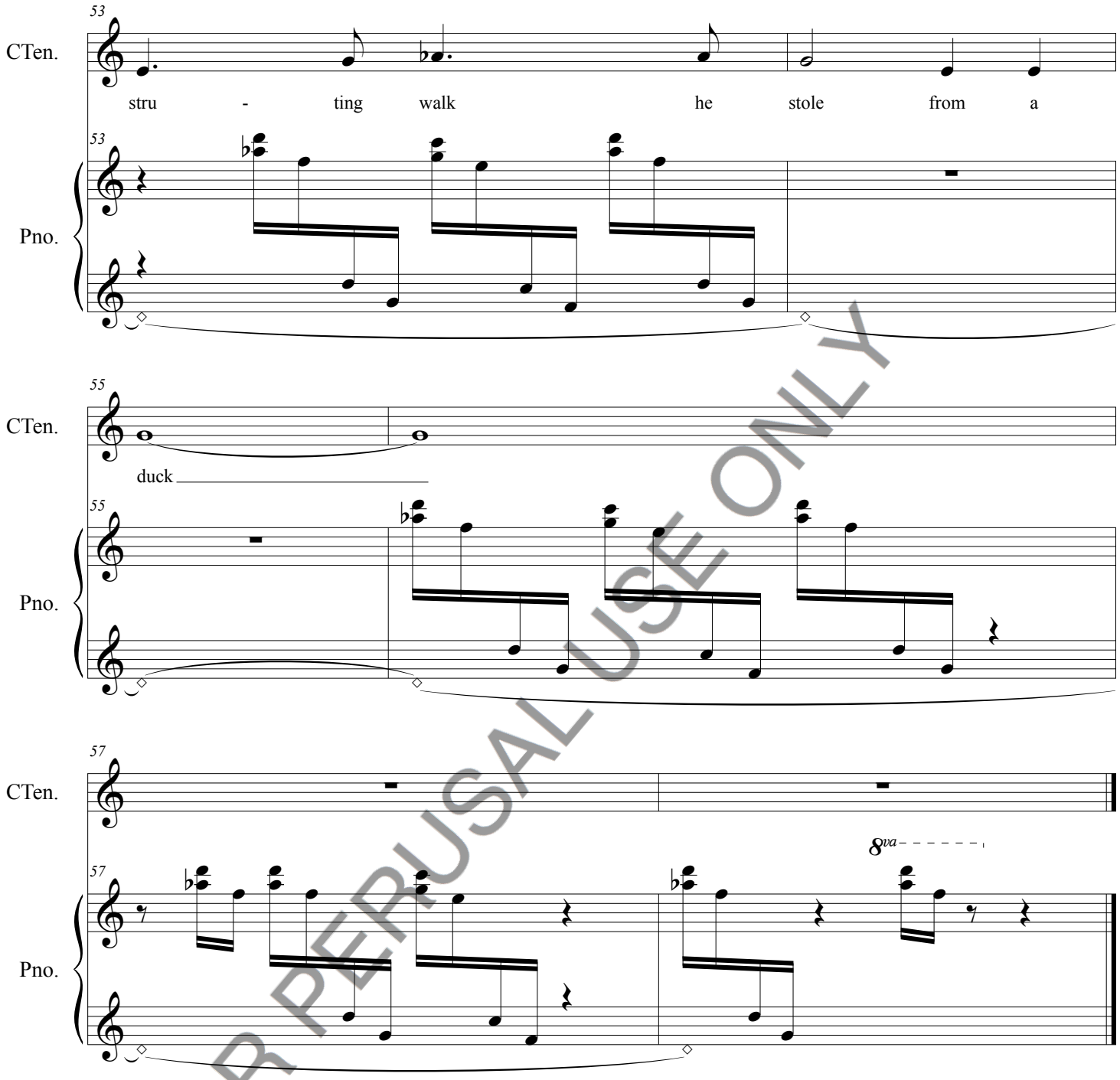

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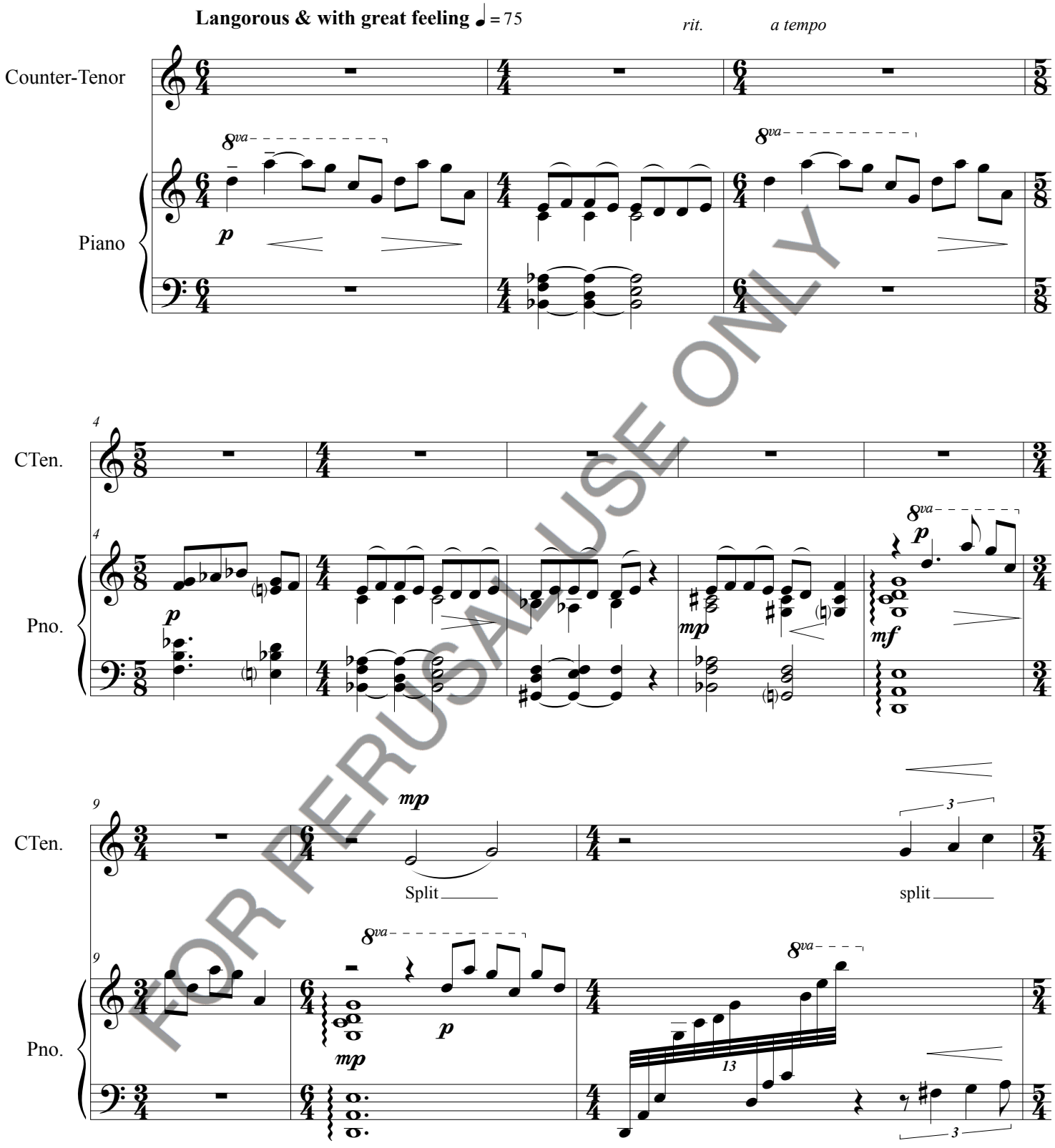
Split My Heart

Ibn Hazm (994-1063)

Kurt Erickson



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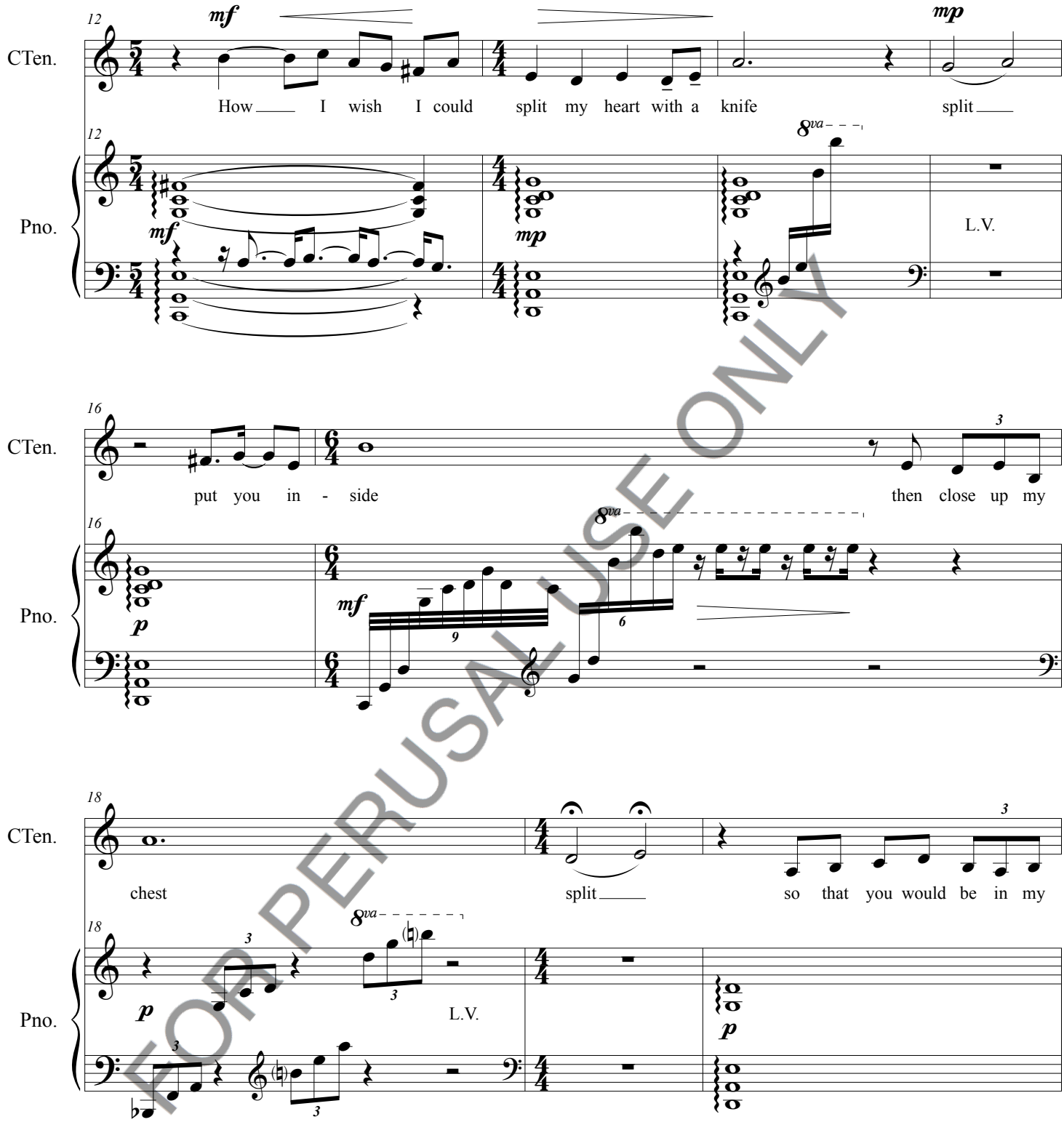

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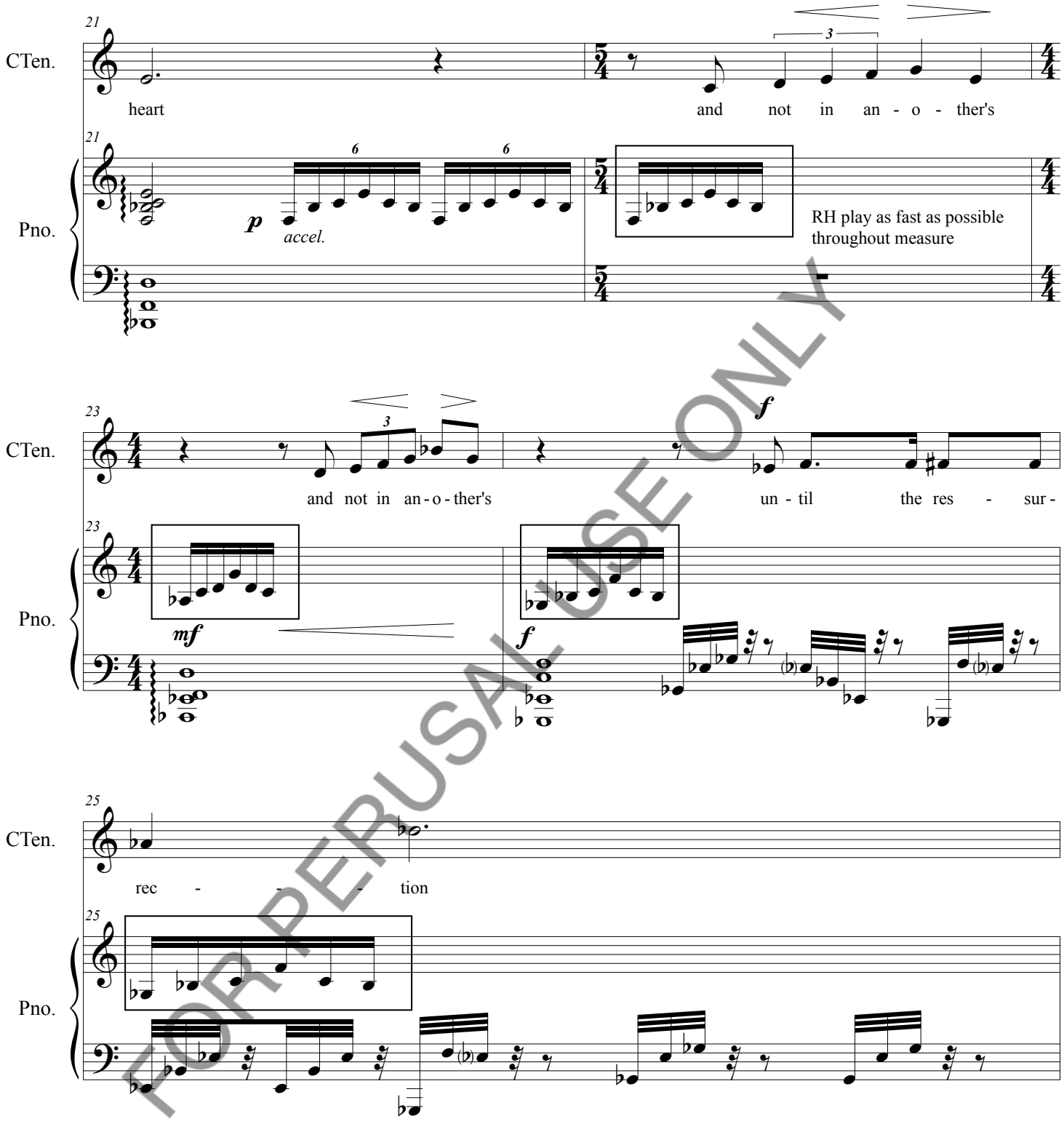

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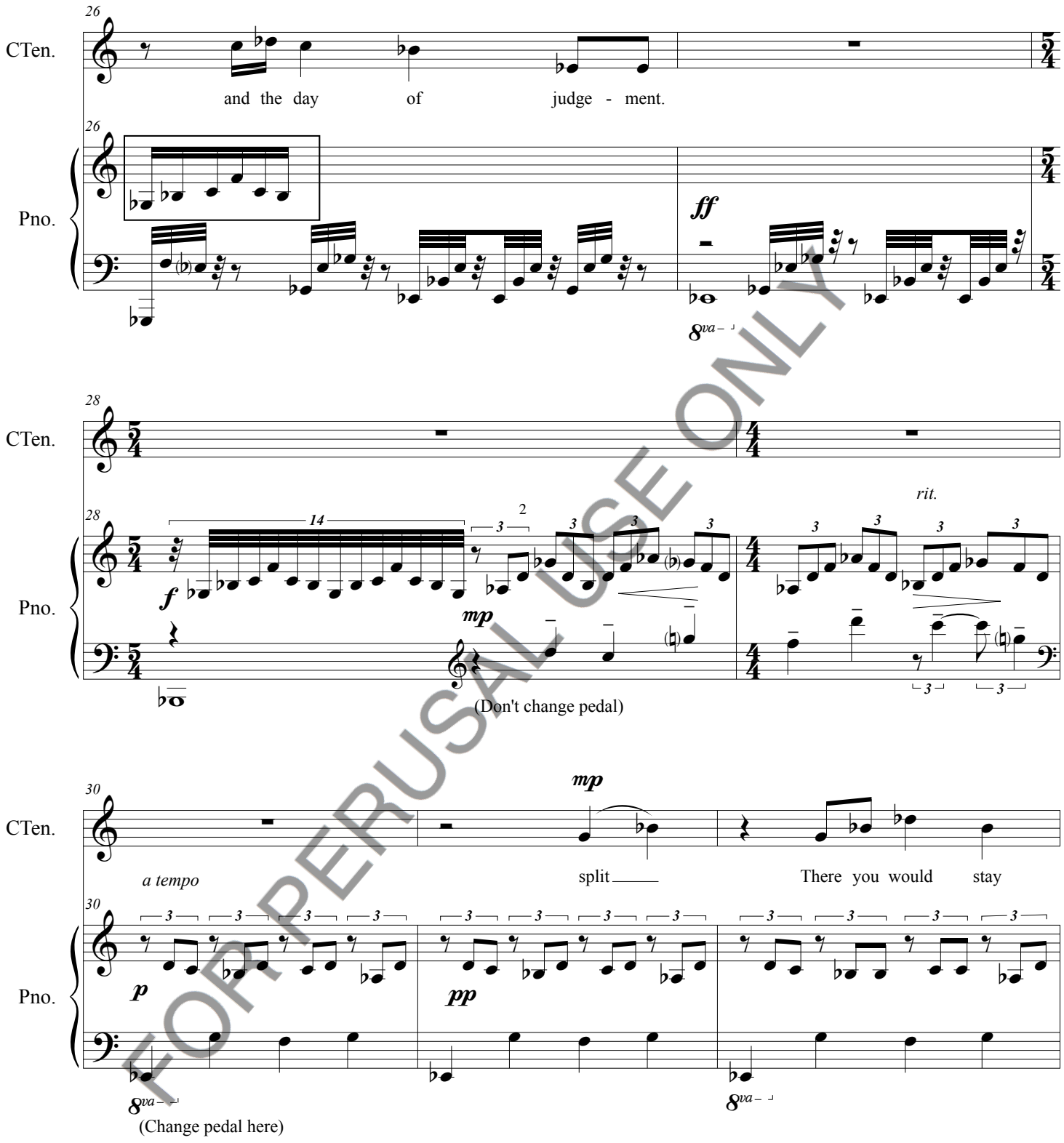

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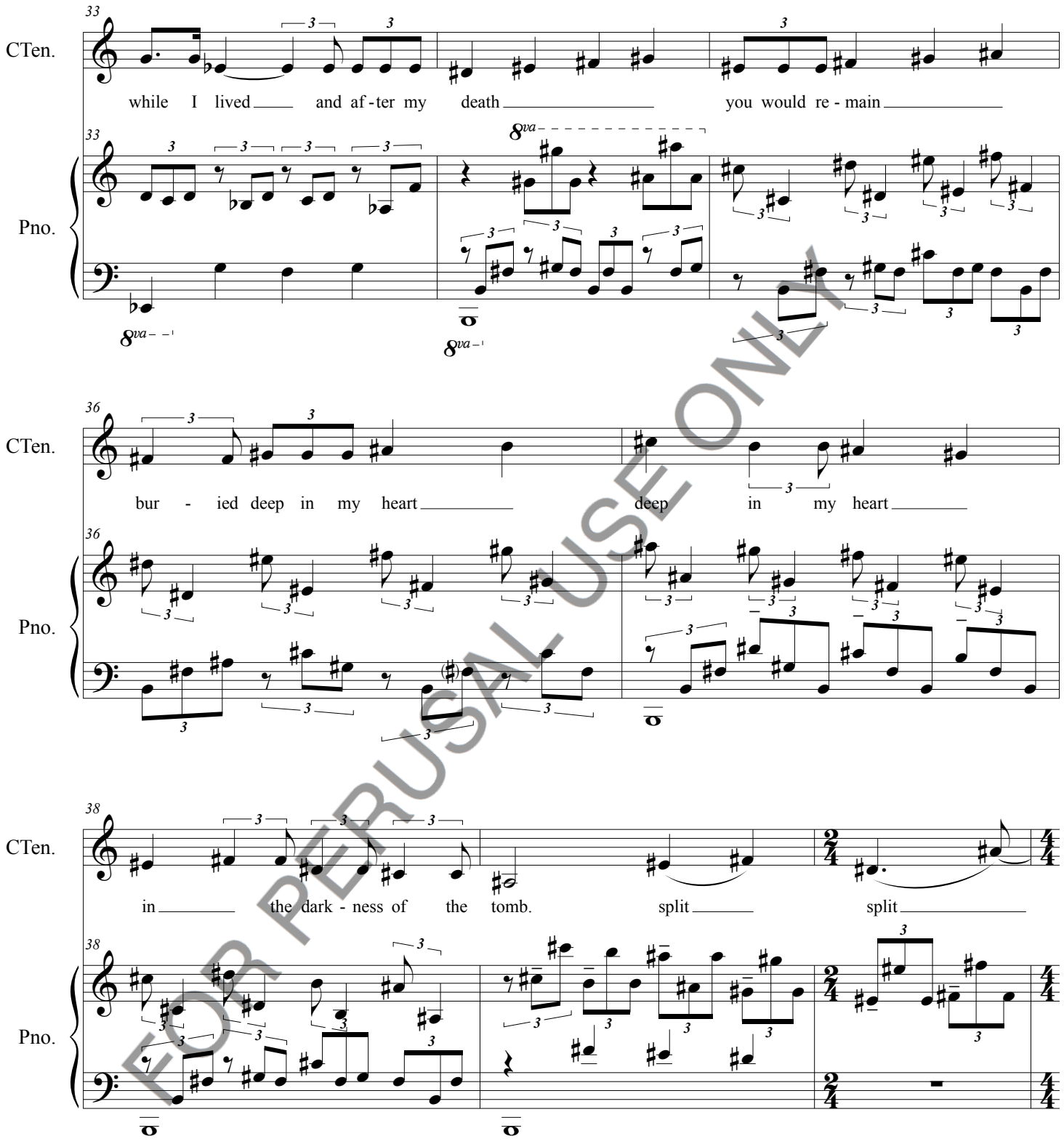

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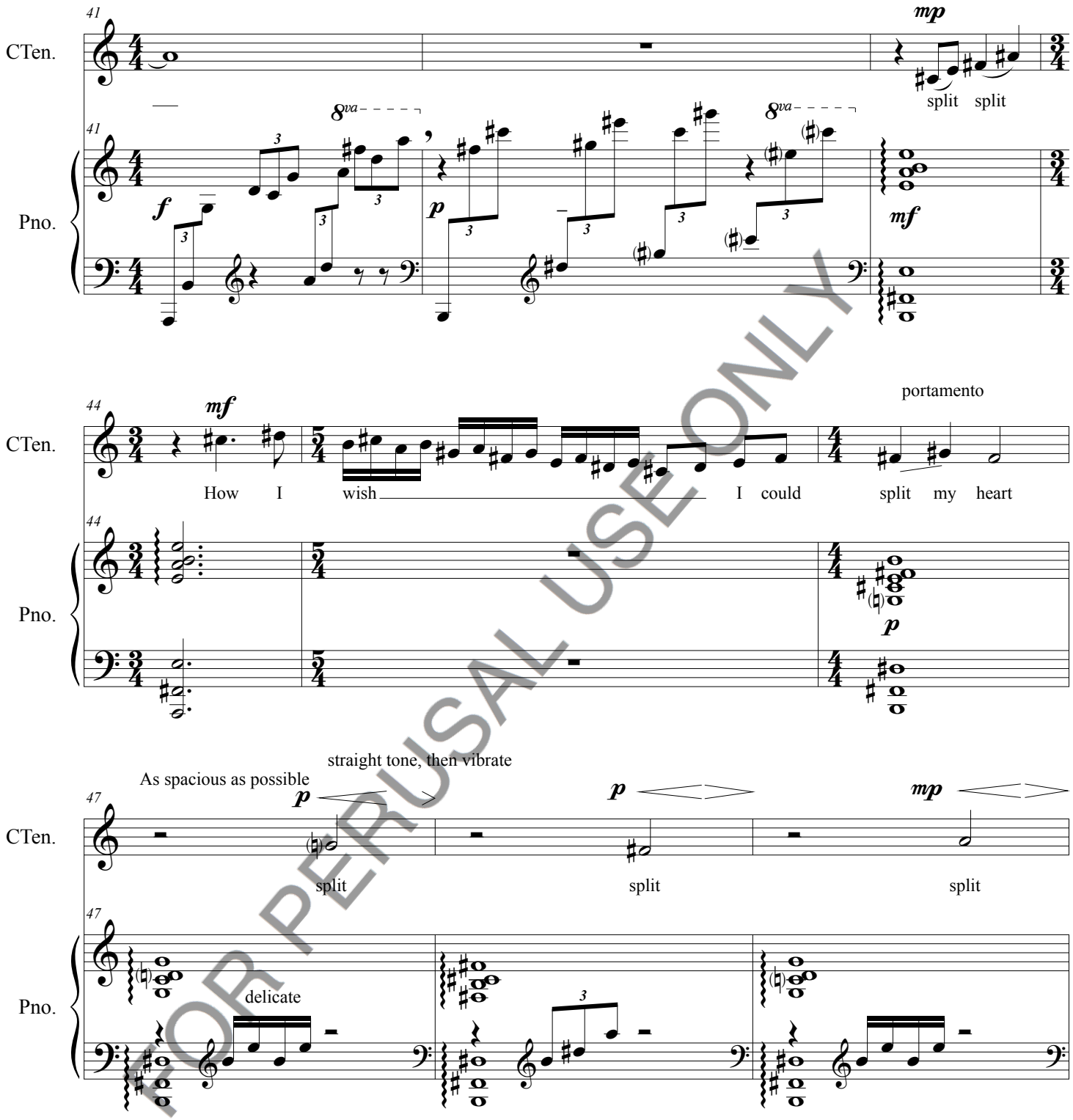

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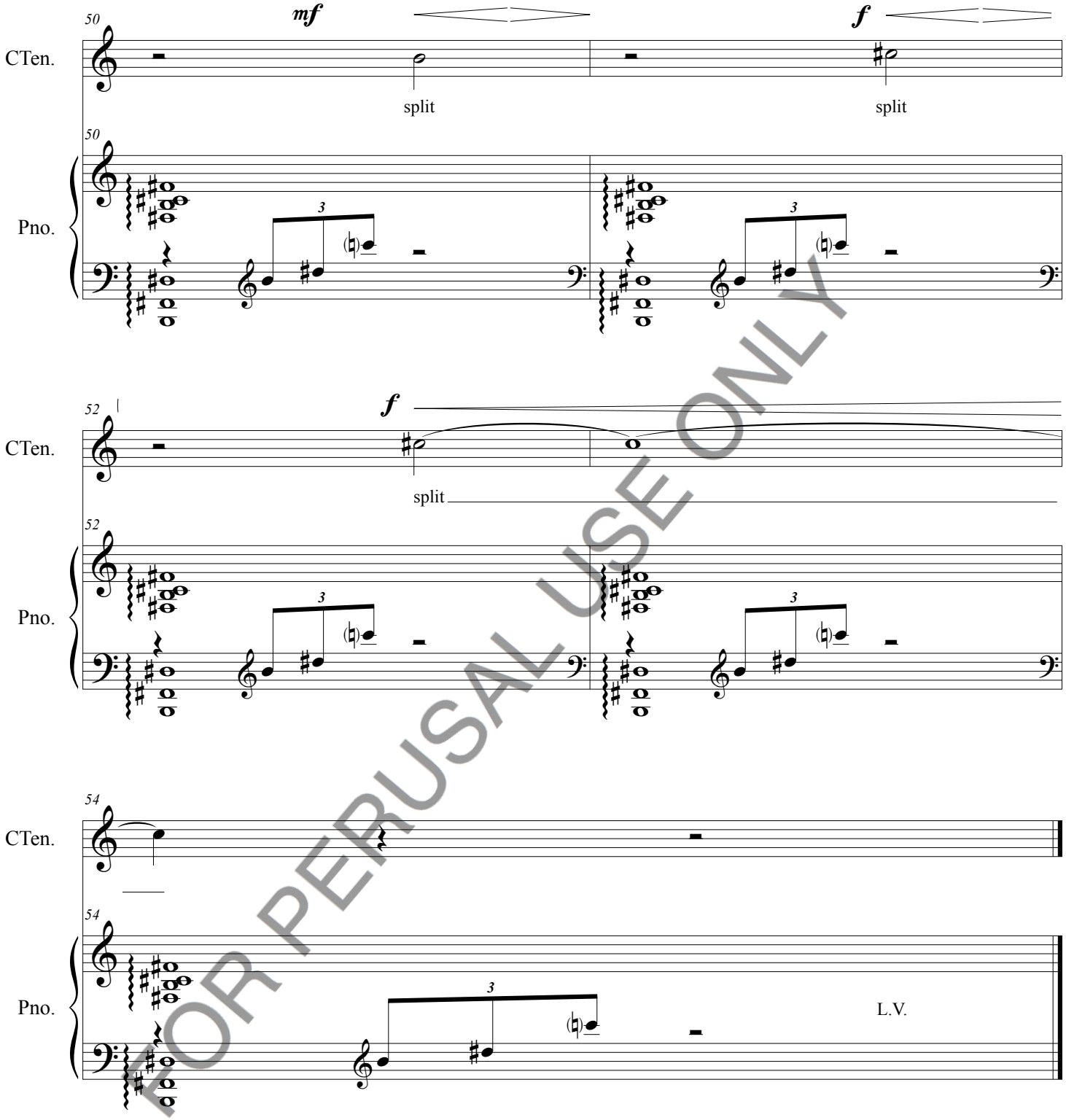

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Slave Boy

Yusuf ibn Harun al-Ramadi
(d. 1022) (Cordoba)

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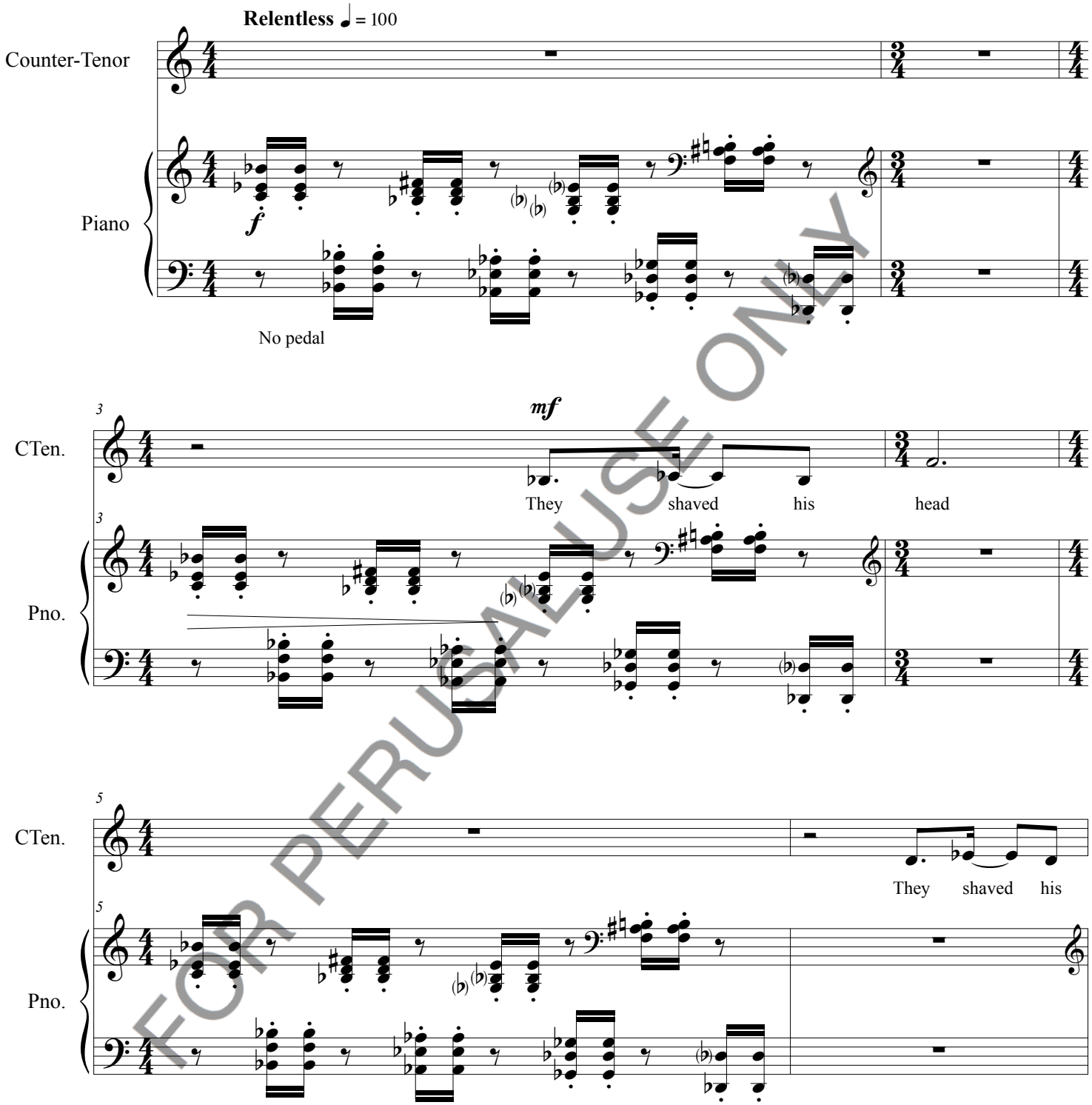

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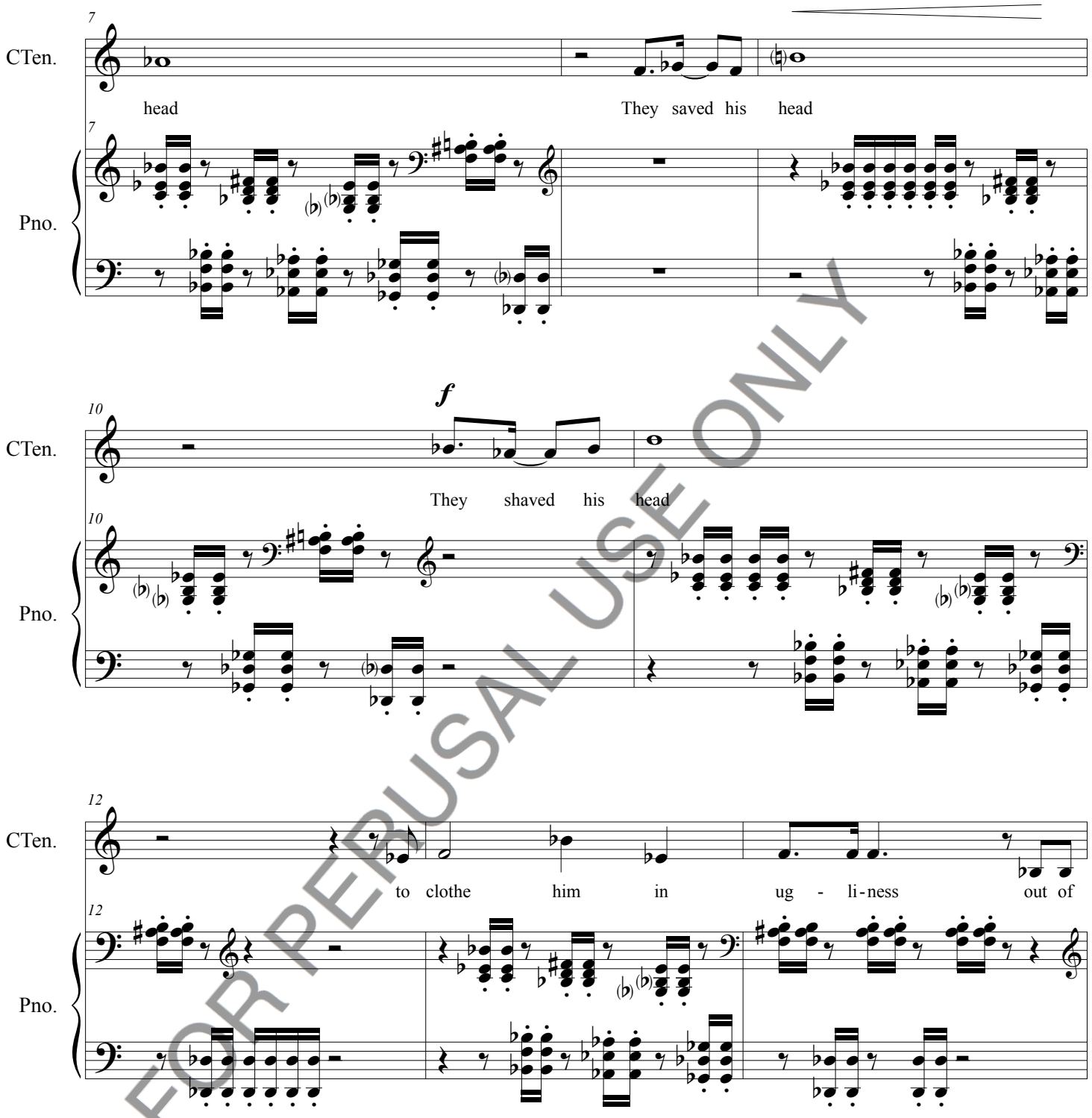

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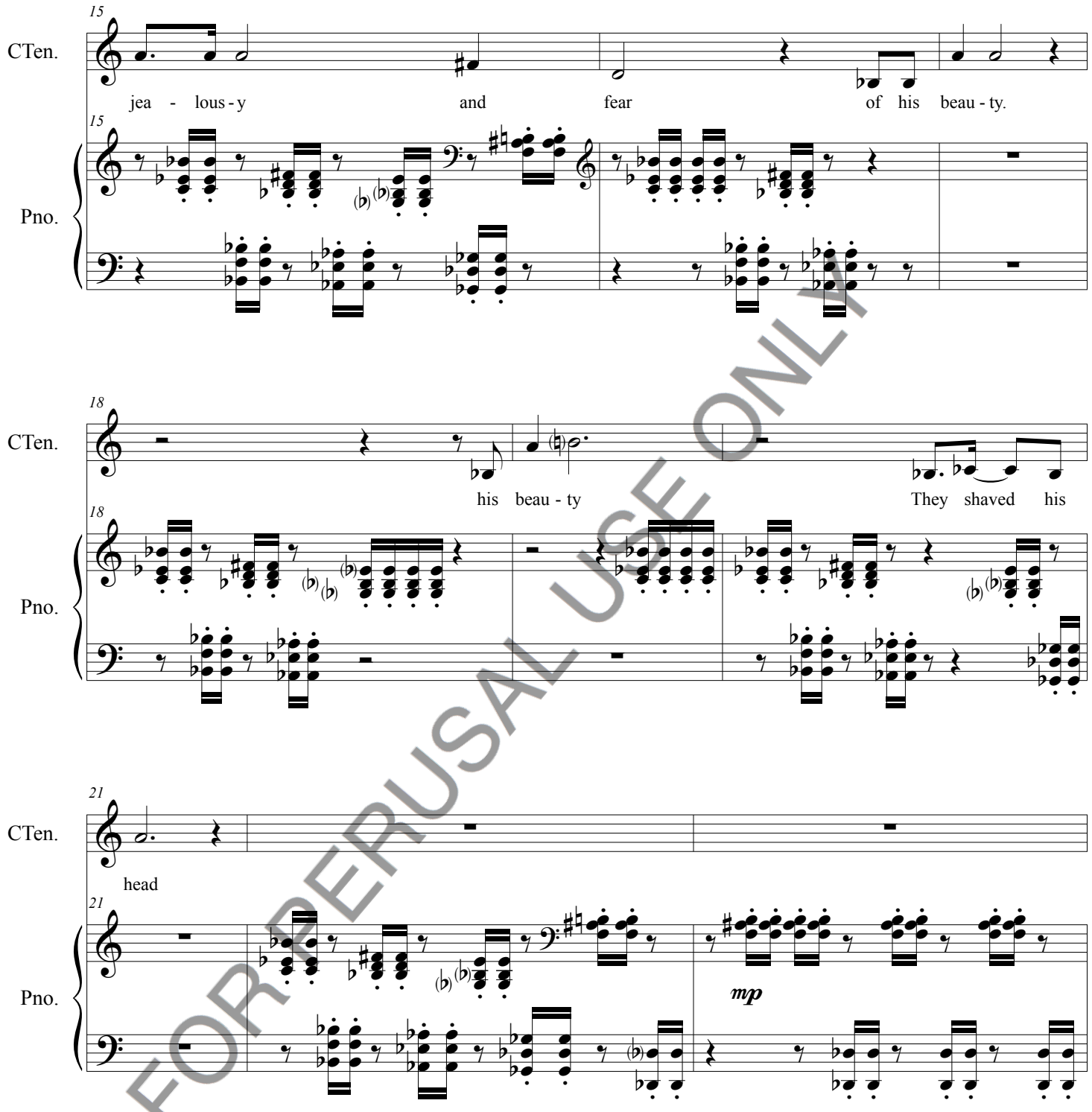

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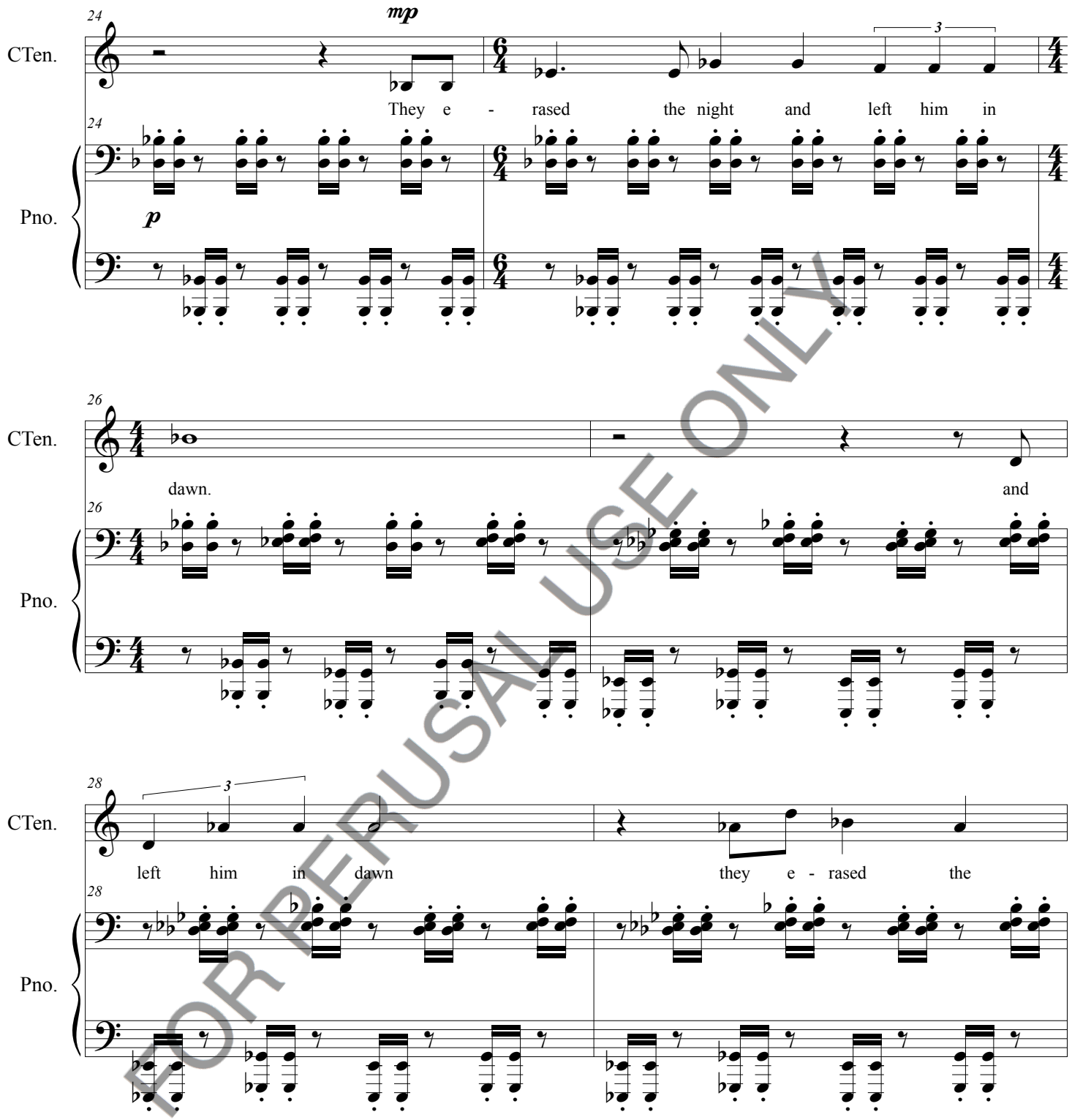

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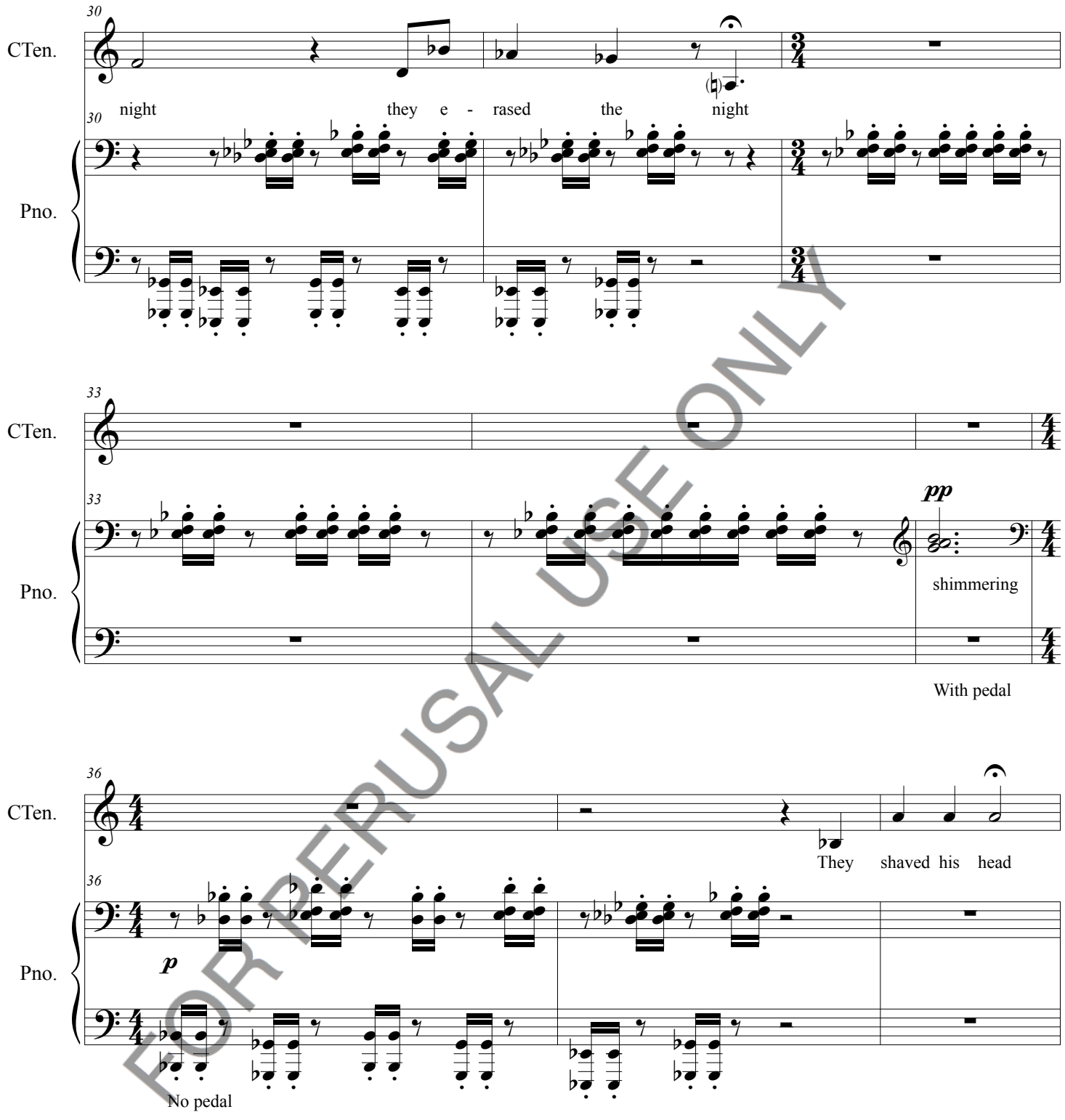

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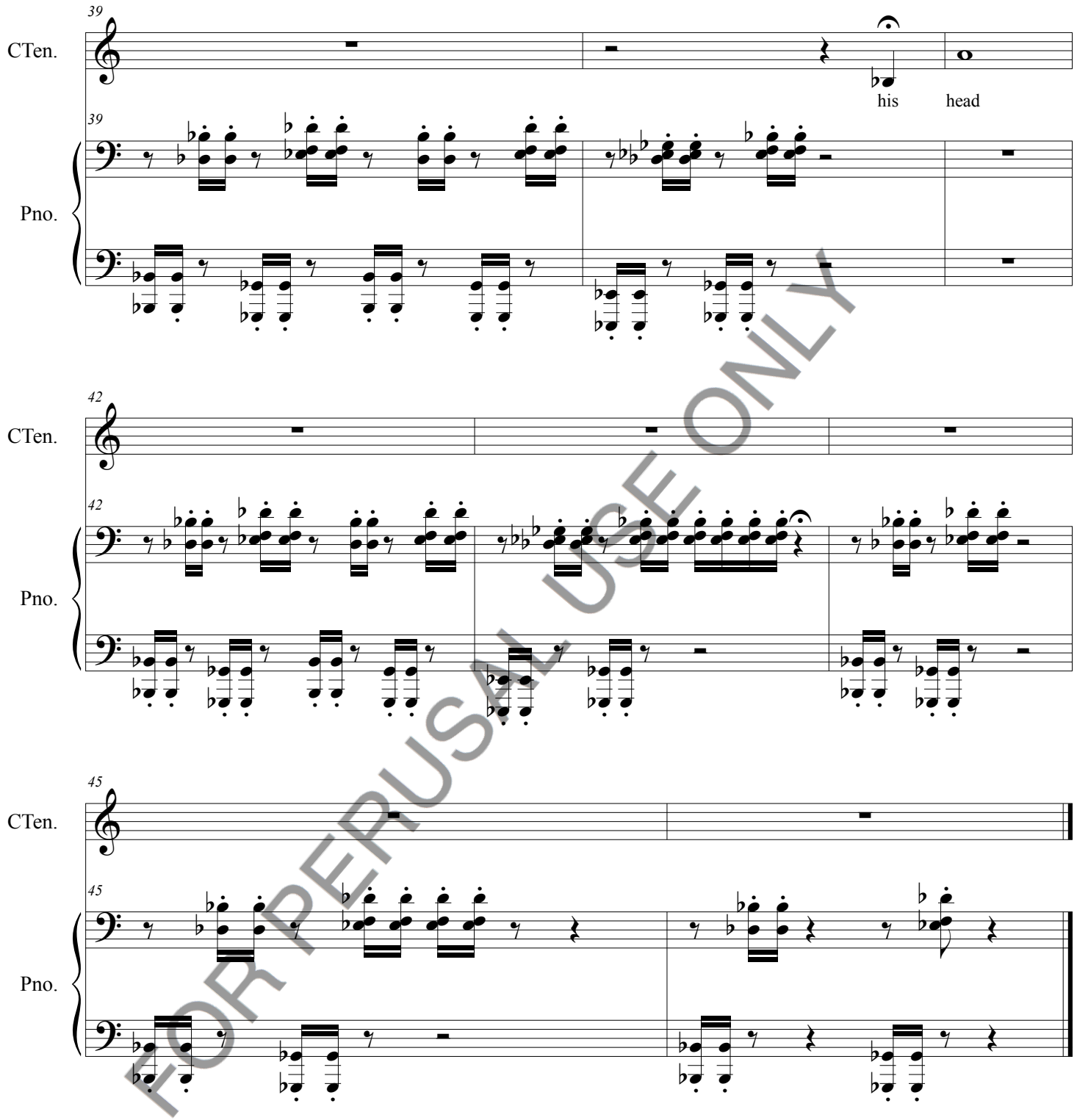

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Absence

Abu Bakr al-Turtushi
(1059-1126) (Eastern Andalusia)

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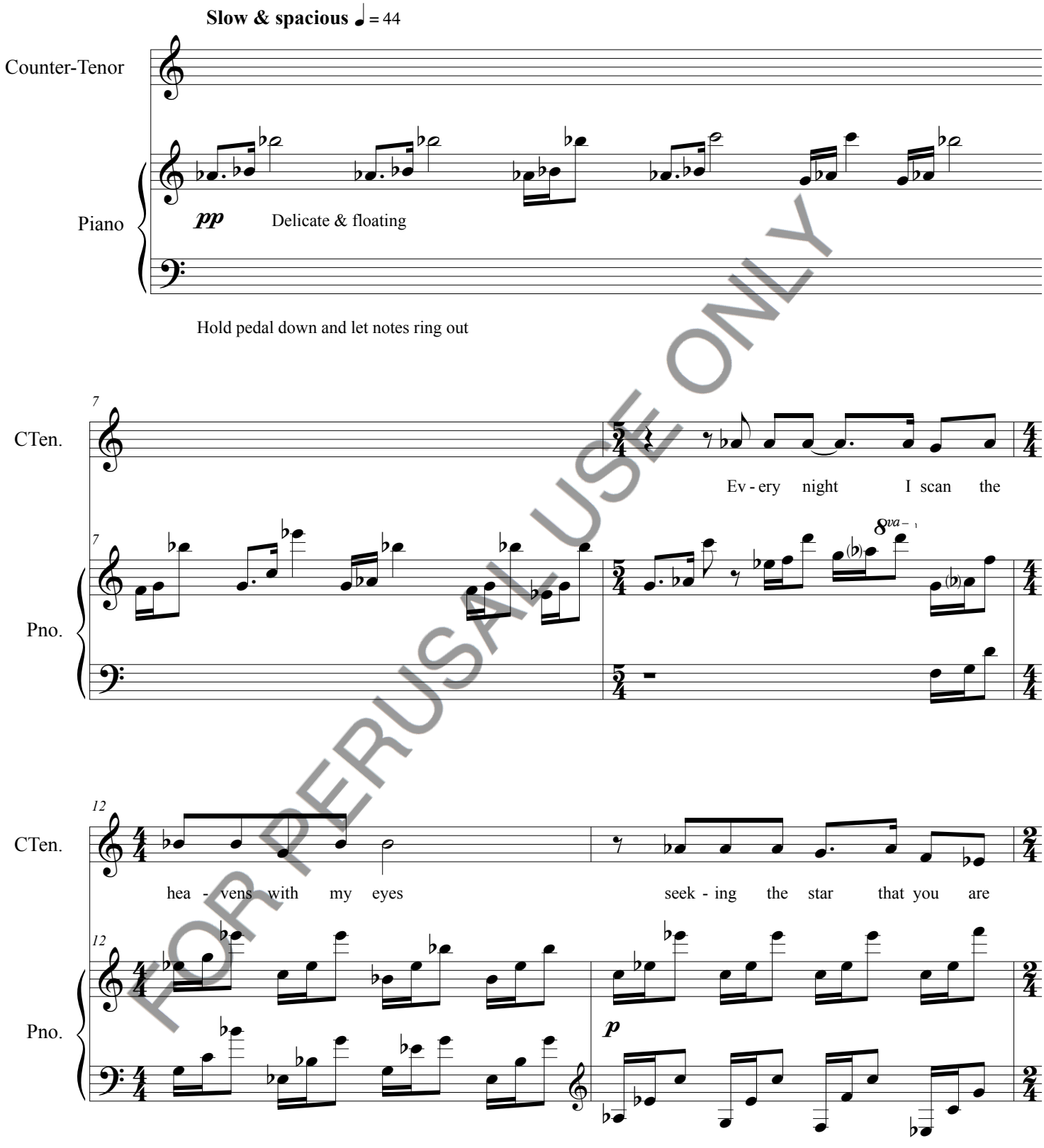

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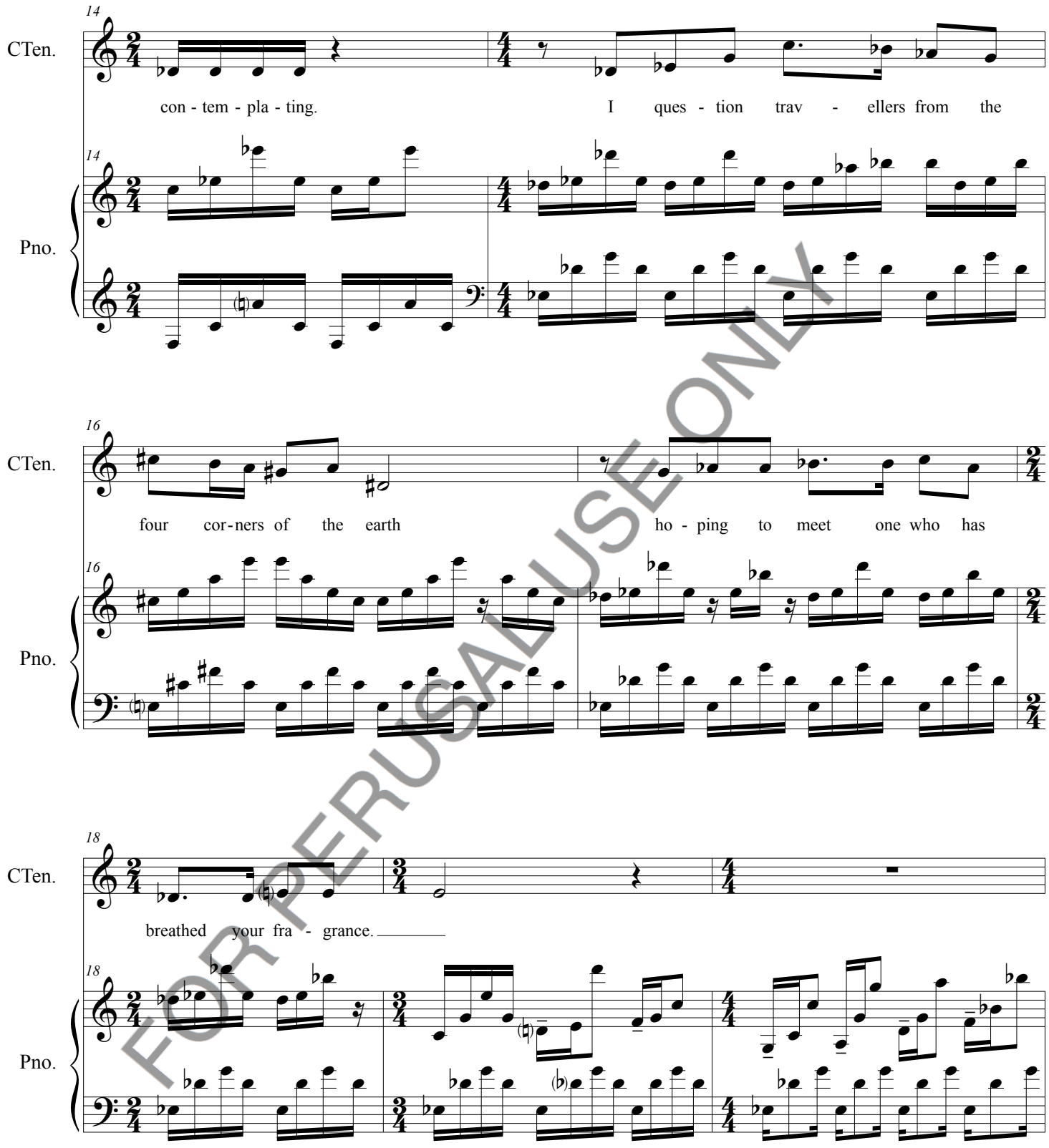

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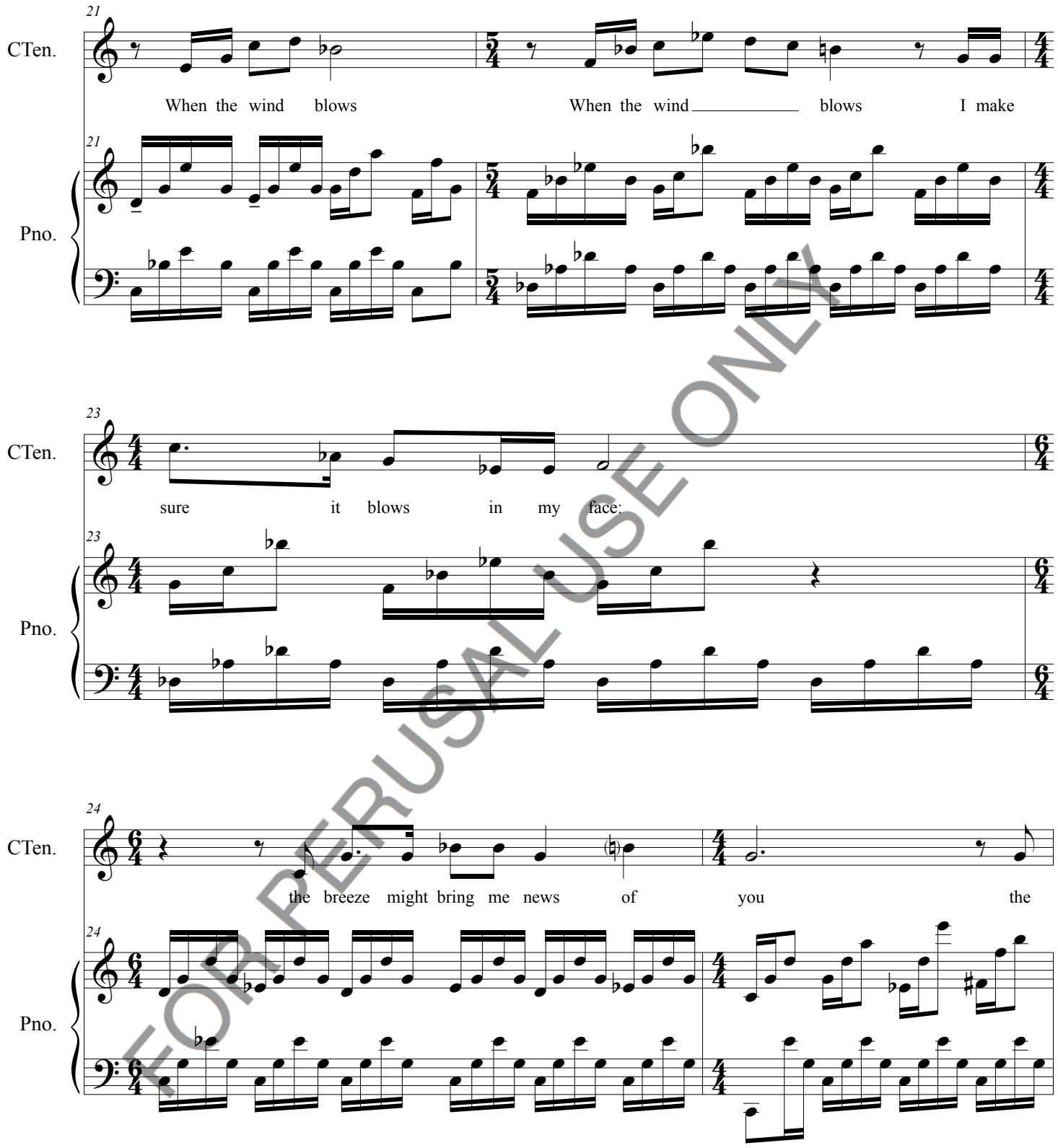

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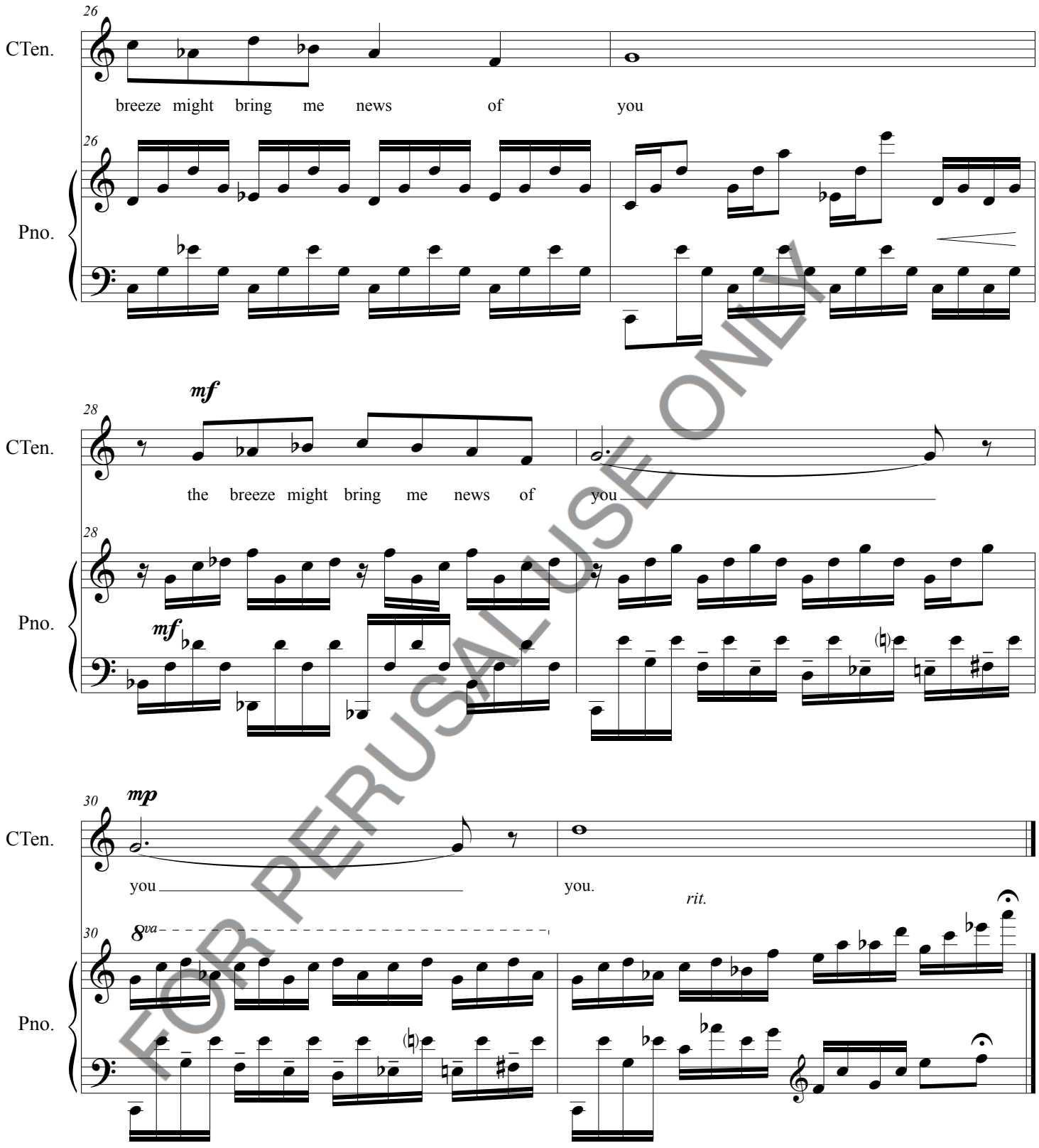

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