Candace Bustard

WITH MY LAST BREATH

For Flute Choir

01 - FULL SCORE

2022

Program Notes

Another faceless victim draws their last few breaths in a war-torn street. Fighting through their pain, the victim struggles to understand the senselessness of the situation as their end draws near. What can be the purpose of such unsurmountable loss? *With My Last Breath* explores the crisis in Ukraine providing a commentary on the shared loss of conflict. My own ties to Ukraine, through my eastern European heritage, have led me to question my role as an artist in times of political turmoil.

The music in this piece ebbs and flows in waves keeping pace with the anonymous victim as they fight for breath. The melodic and harmonic gestures stem from various transformations of the first seven notes of the Ukrainian national anthem. While the first half of the piece reflects anguish, confusion and tension, there is a tonal divide where the second half transforms to become ethereal and a color differentiation becomes apparent. This symbolizes a change in the victim who relinquishes their pain and embarks on a supernal escape. The piece is woven together with reactionary themes demonstrated through pitches and melodic ideas that build on one another creating a chain of gestures symbolizing our interconnectivity and the consequences of our actions.

Duration: [4'05]

Instrumentation

Pan Flute

3 Flute in C

- [Flute 3 + Traverso]

Alto Flute

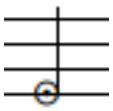
2 Bass Flute

Performance Notes

The focus of this piece is creating a continuous ebb and flow of sound. The actual duration of the pitches is less important than creating the gesture. The notation intends to detract from the standard 'counting-based' durations in favor of a gesture created by the artistic discretion of the performer. The notation is also meant to lend to the underlying reactionary theme in this piece. Performers read their lines horizontally as usual, and a single line indicates that the performer should stop playing.

Notation Convention

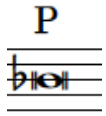
Colour trill



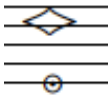
Air sound over mouth piece
non-pitched

1/4 sharp microtone

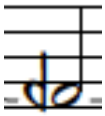
Aeolian, pitched air sound



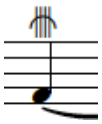
portamento by slowly rotate
flute inward and outward



Air sound into mouthpiece
Inhale-exhale



1/4 flat microtone



Relaxed embouchure,
mixture of air and pitch

Full Score in C

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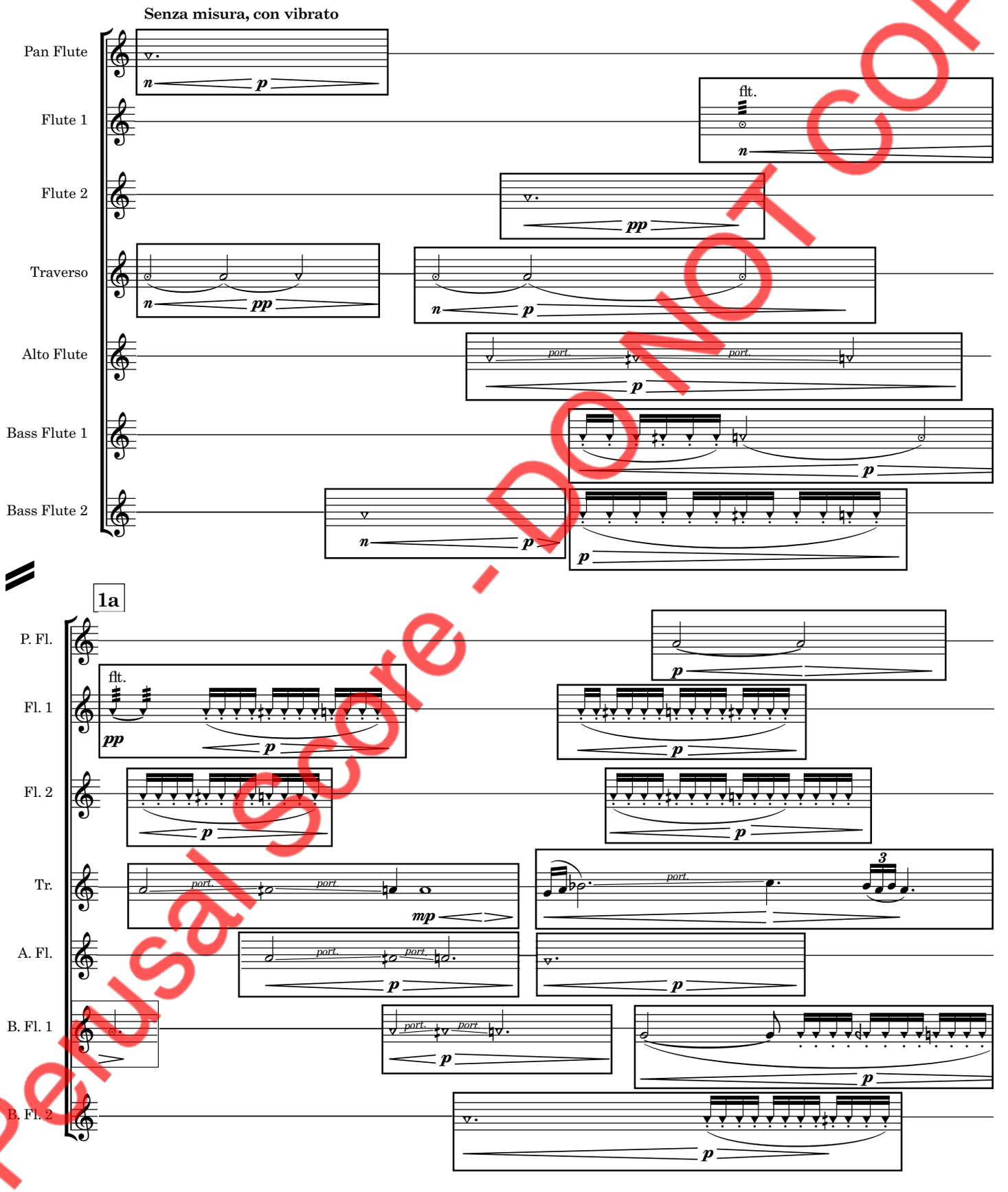

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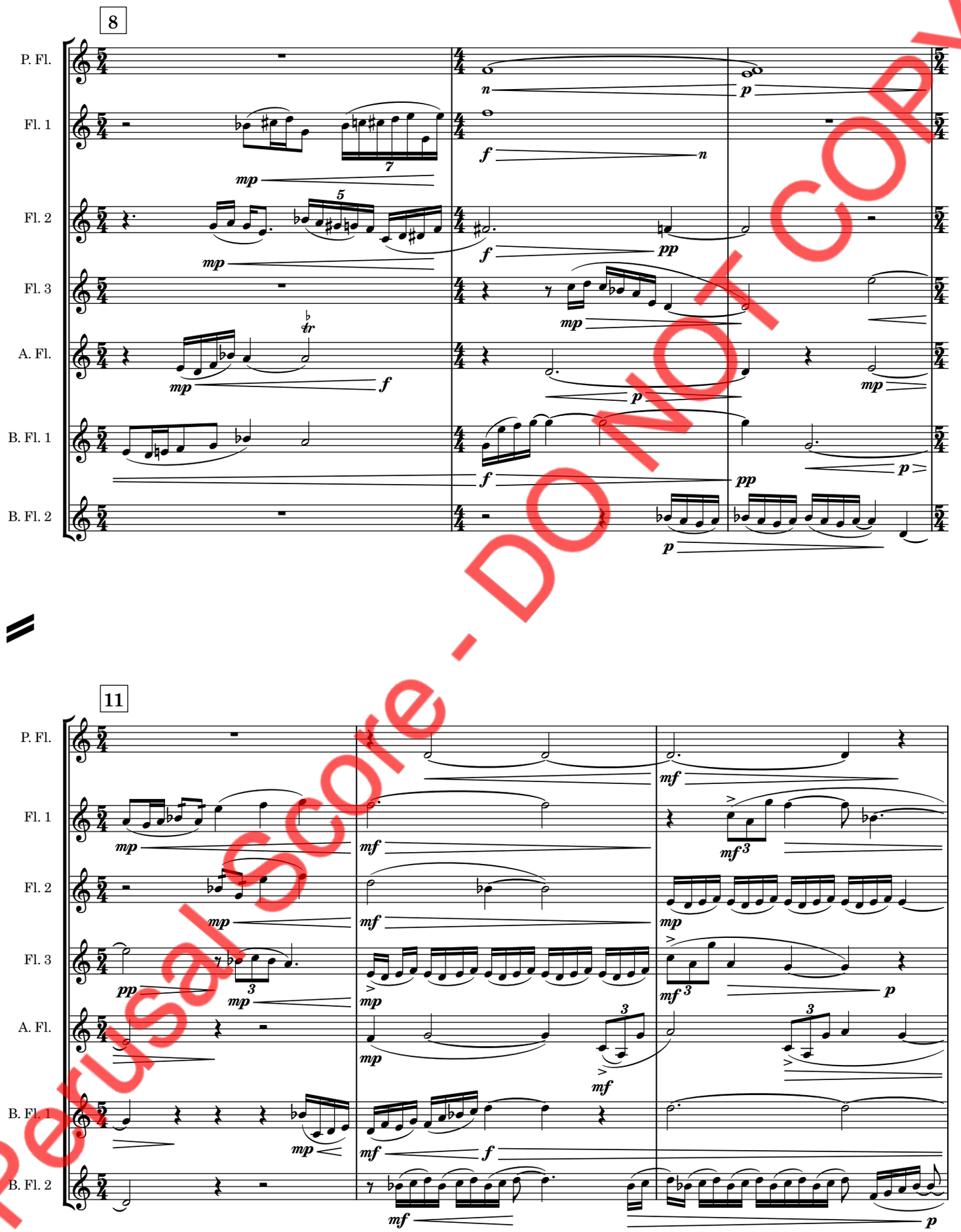

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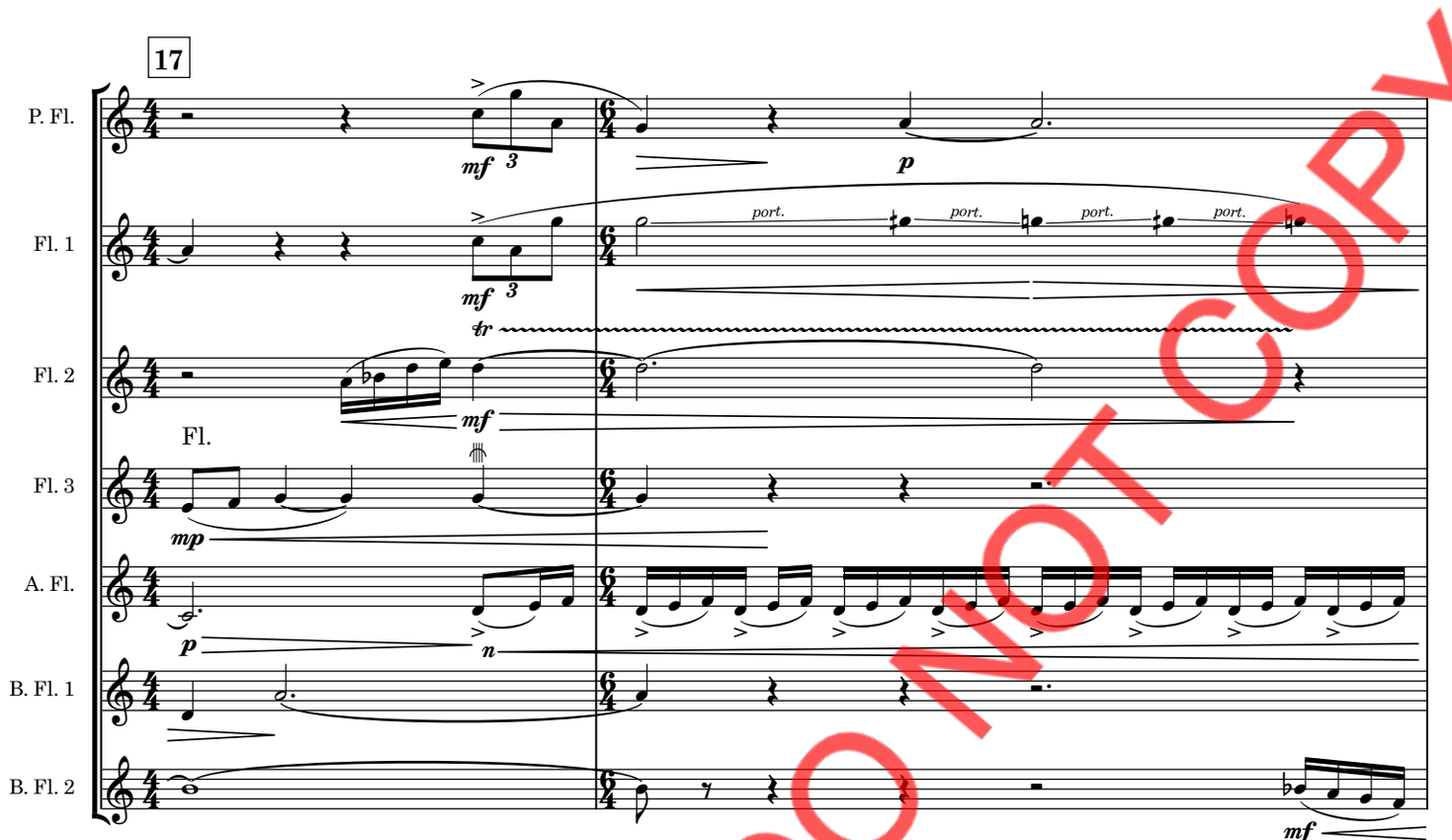

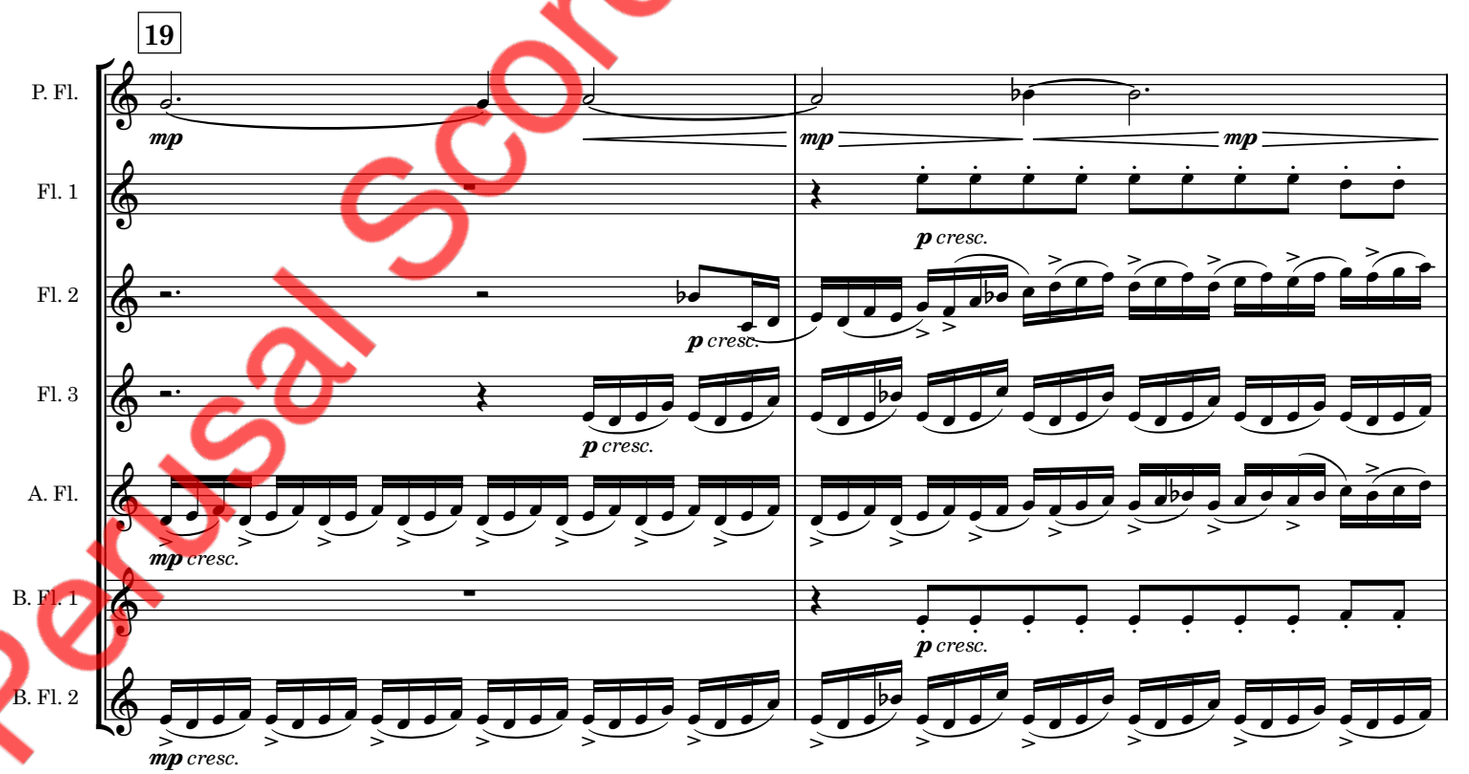

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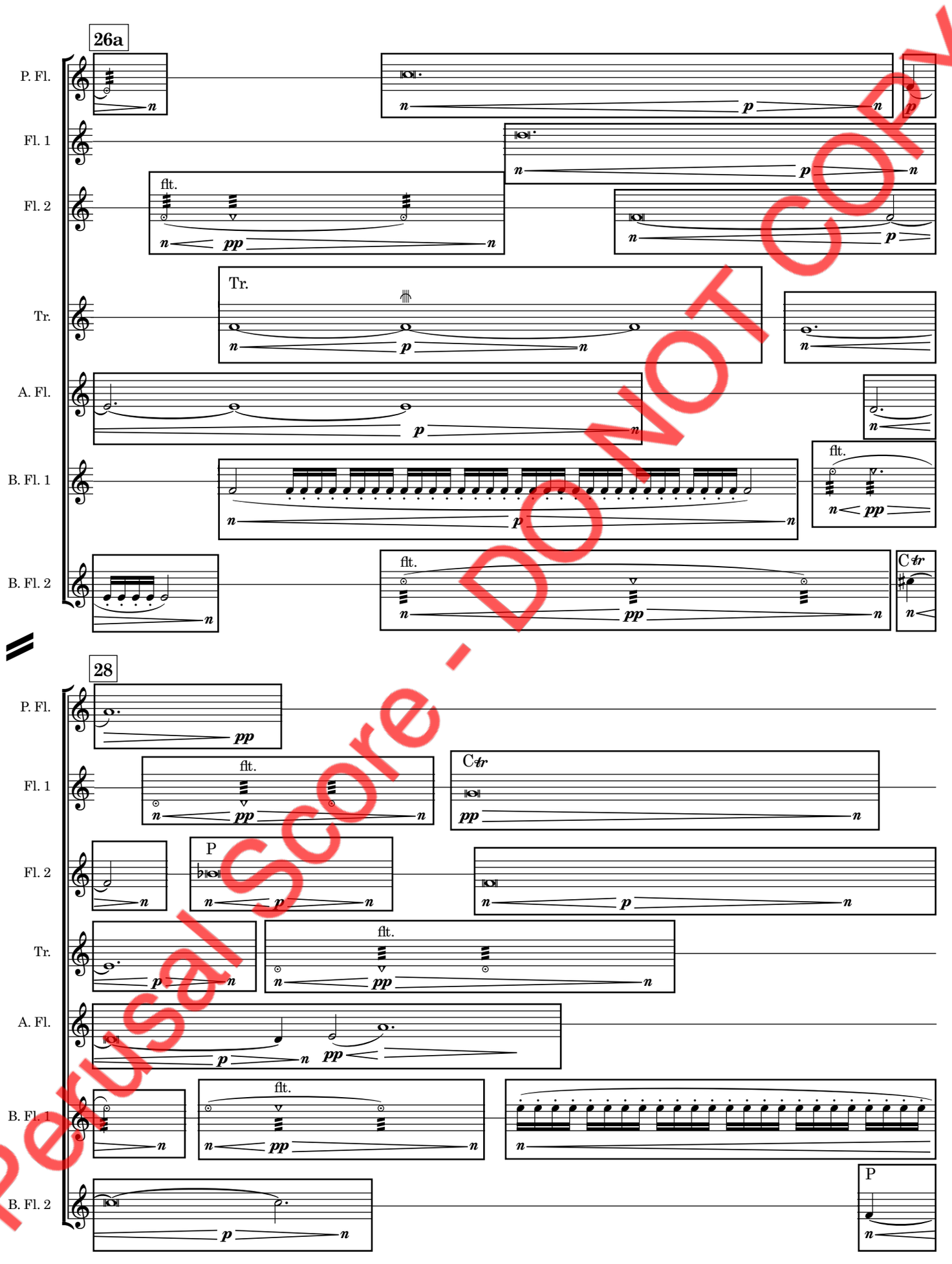

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