Shallow Streams, Deep Rivers for flute, horn, and piano

The work is in three movements, with no special titles other than tempo markings:

I. Freely; strict time
II. With great warmth and intimacy
III. Slowly; with energy

Duration: c. 16 minutes

Program Notes

The horn trio is such a wonderful and challenging combination, in that each of the instruments has a unique musical personality and technical approach to articulation, sustain, dynamics, and movement from one pitch to the next. This work, then, is constantly pulled in different directions: at one point thorny and disjunct, while at another warm and flowing—as one instrument's basic nature interacts with and influences another's. The rapid movement from one sound world to the other suggested to me the rippled vitality of water in a shallow stream versus the gentle meandering of a deep river, and how the course of a water body can move rather suddenly from one to another, depending on the terrain.

The work might also represent an accumulation of thoughts and events wherein friendships deepen and change over time. Since this work was commissioned by the incredible hornist Gail Williams, in writing the piece I wanted to honor our friendship in some way. (This is the fourth work I've composed for Ms. Williams.)

Shallow Streams, Deep Rivers was premiered in Chicago by the Chicago Chamber Musicians on November 18, 2007.

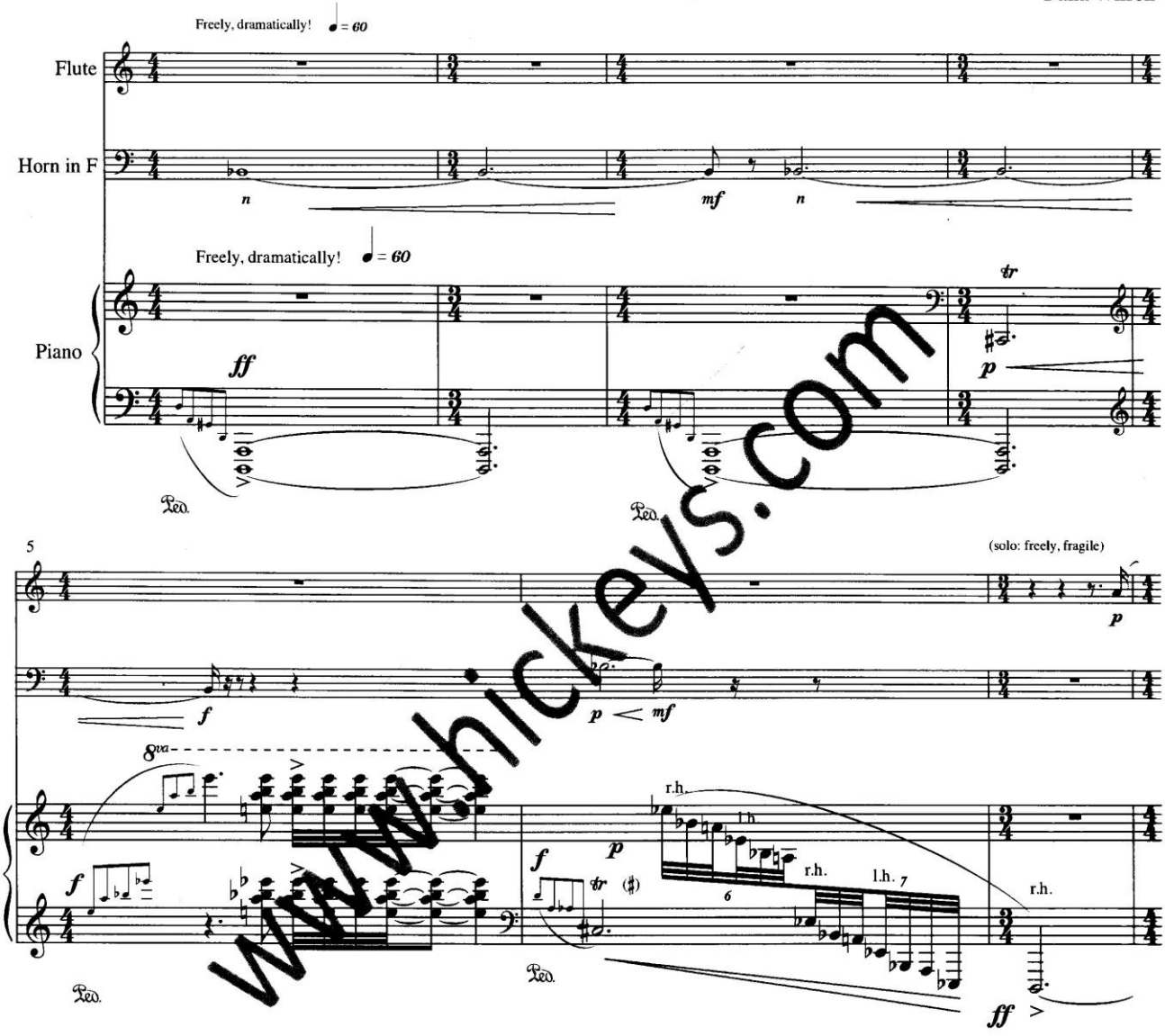
--Dana Wilson

PLEASE NOTE: These are assorted score pages and are not necessarily sequential

Commissioned by and dedicated to Gail Williams with deep admiration and affection, and to her past, present and future horn students

Shallow Streams, Deep Rivers

Dana Wilson



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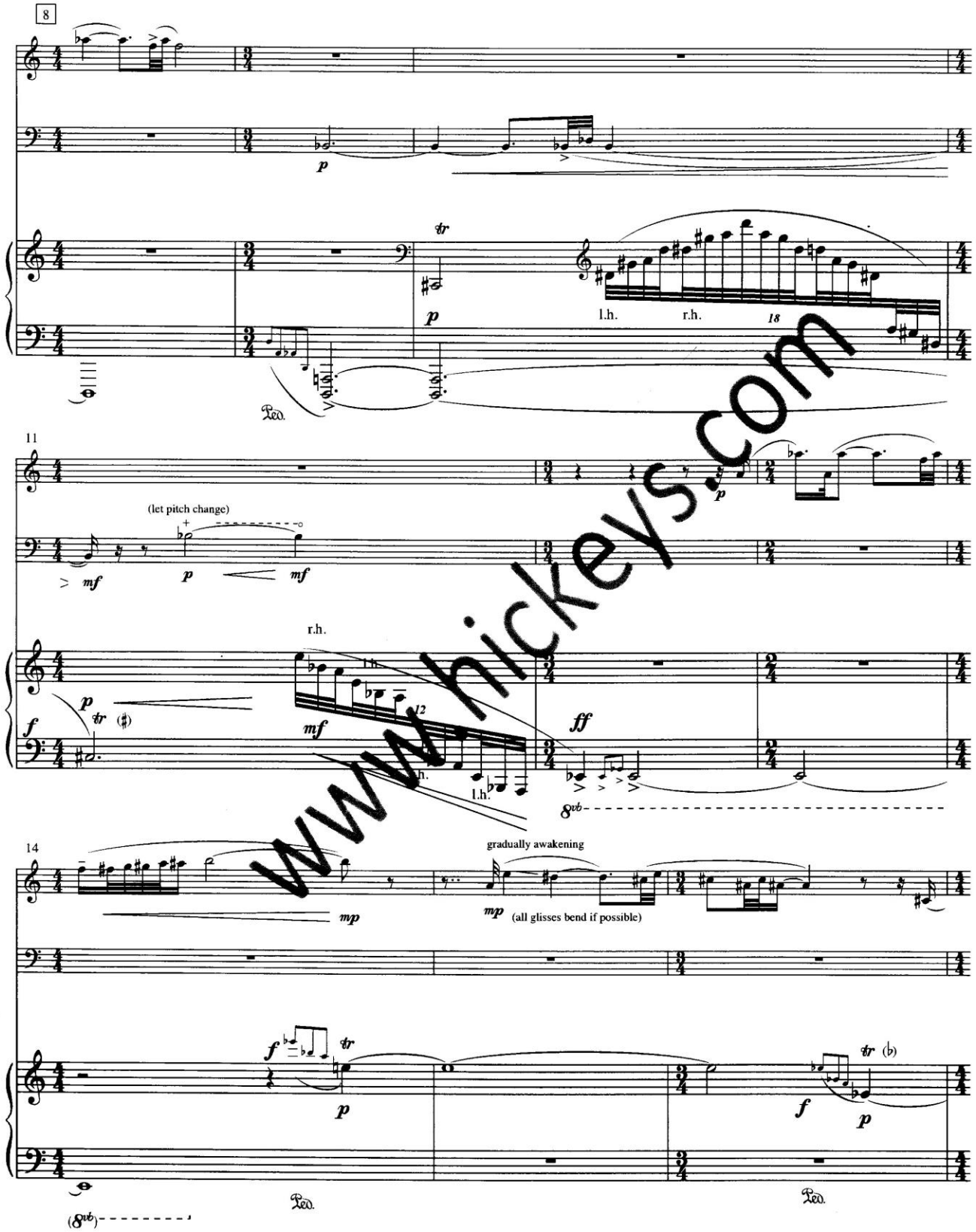

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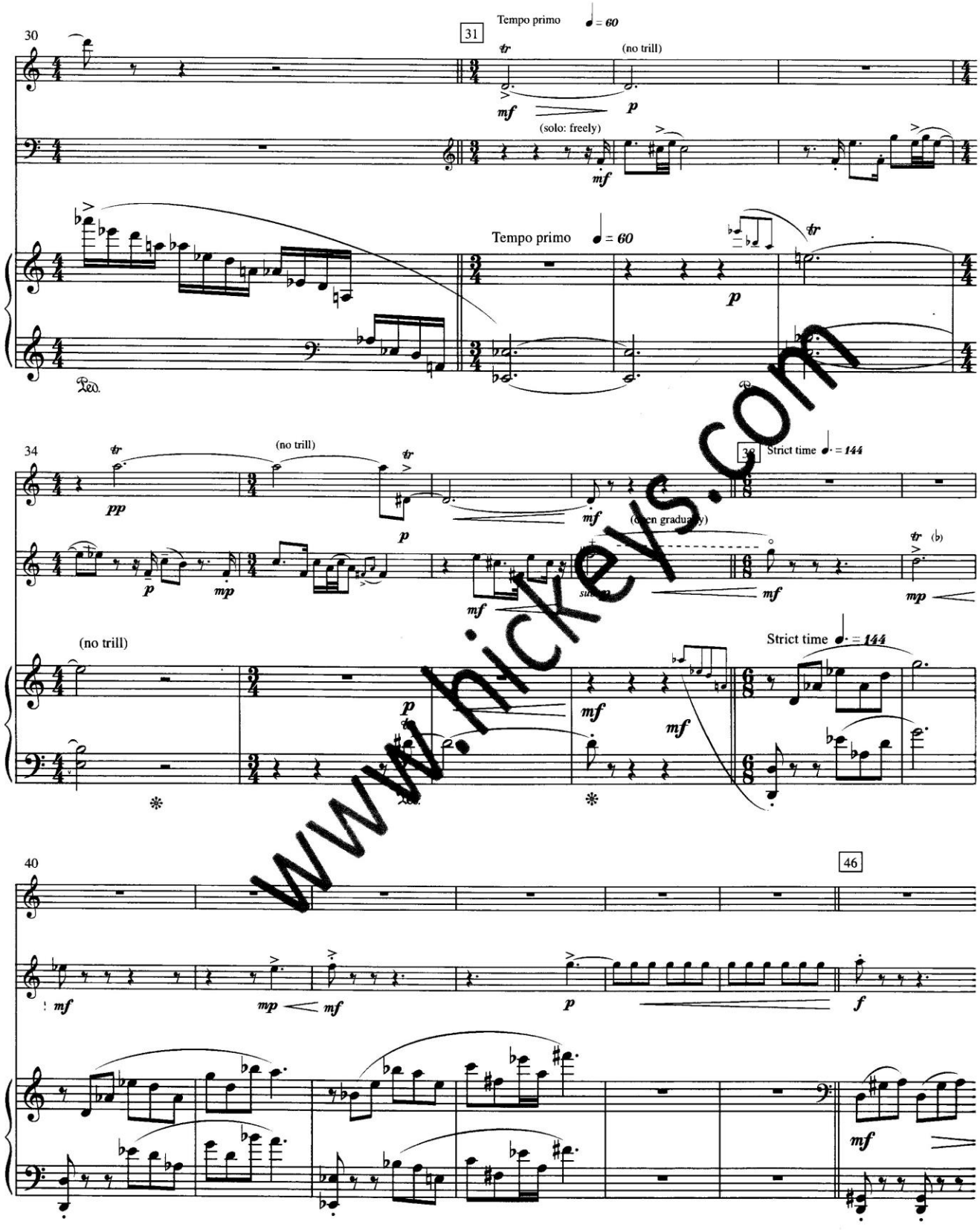

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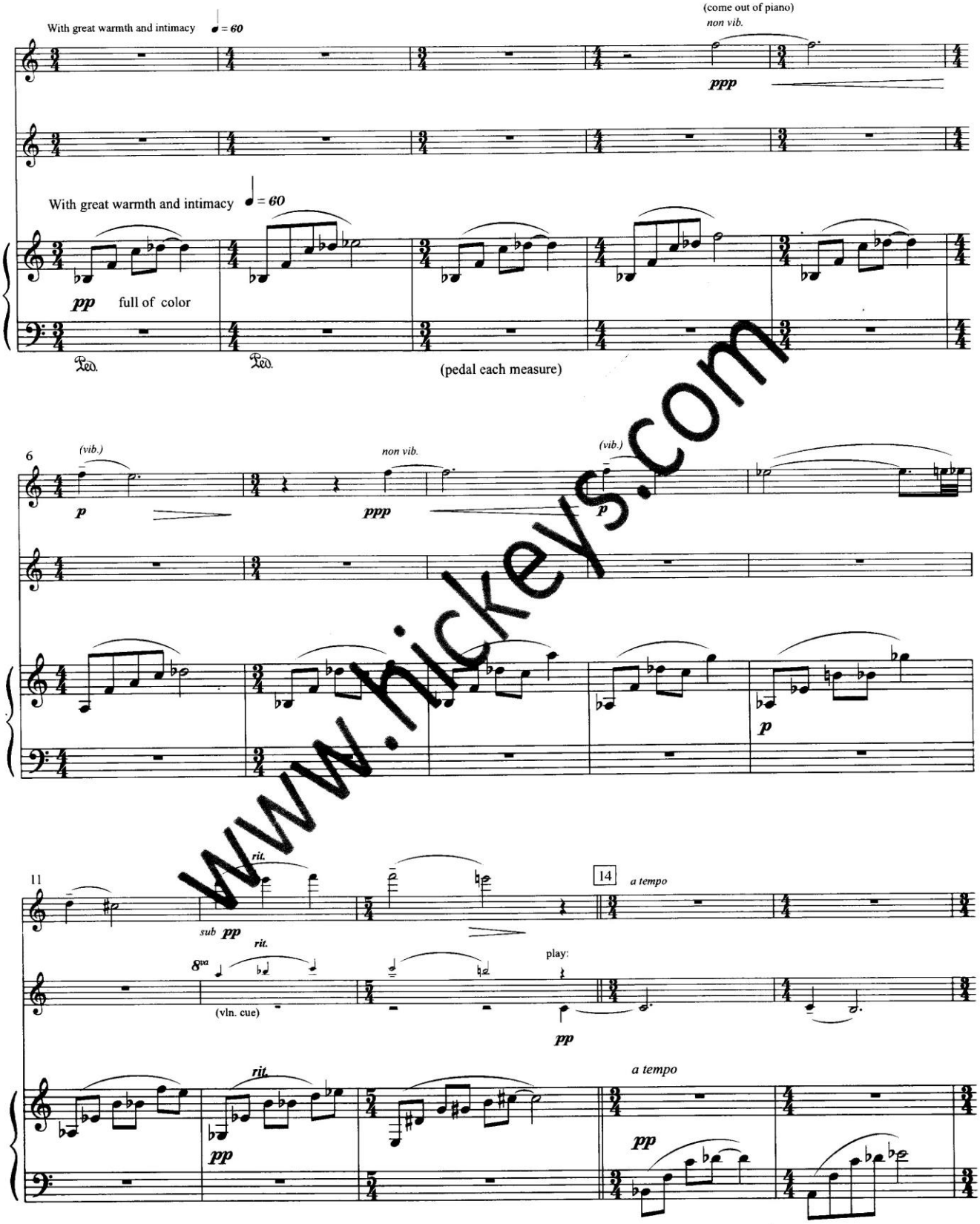

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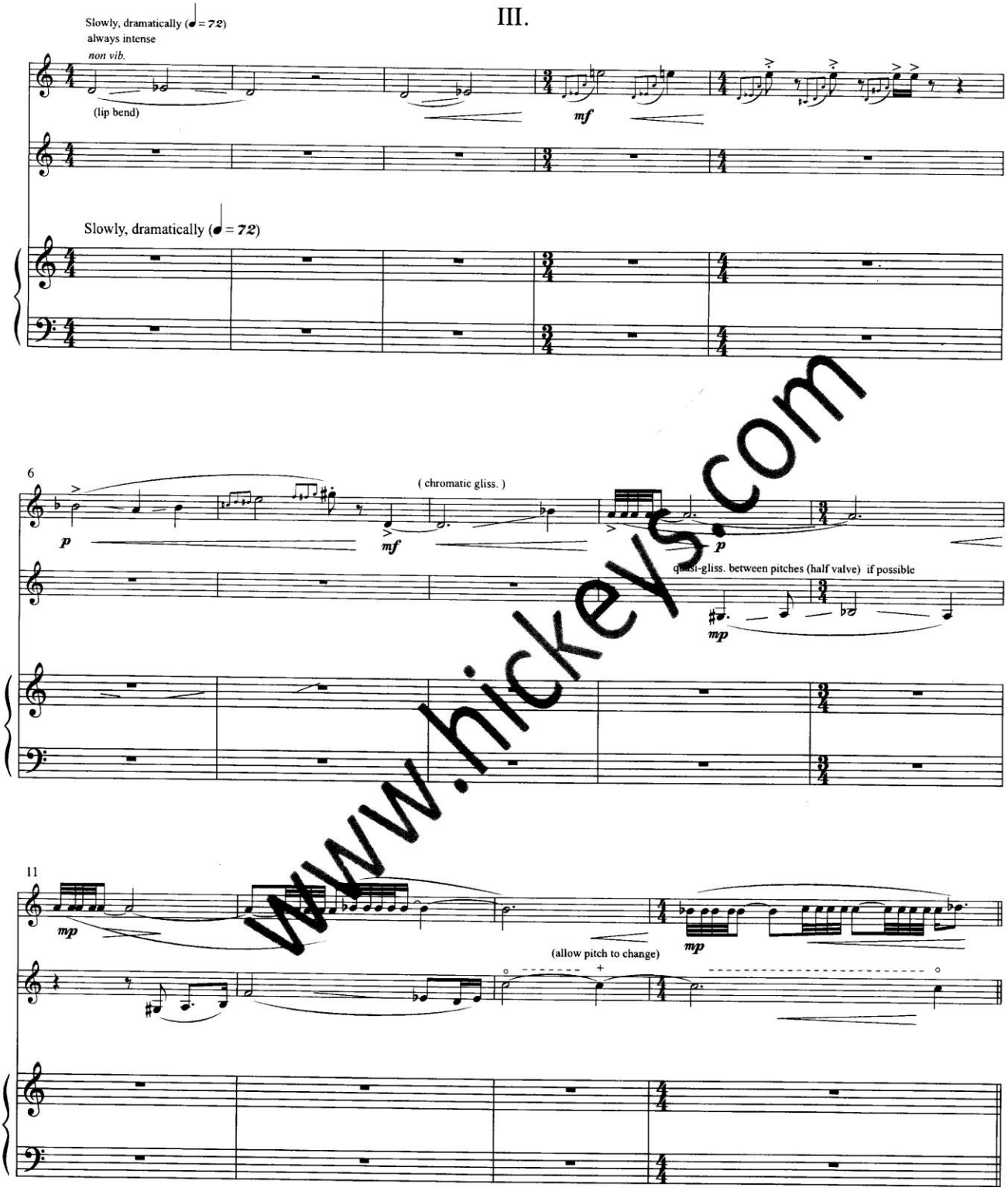

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