# *A Comedy of Coins and Courtship*

Comic Opera in one Act

*(Tenor, Baritone and chamber ensemble)*

(2024)

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## riassunto del libretto

The story is a hypothetical scenario set before the events of Puccini's *"Gianni Schicchi"*. Rinuccio is asking for Lauretta's hand to her father, Gianni. Initially, Schicchi is suspicious of their union as he knows Rinuccios family would never approve without a proper dowry, which he cannot pay, and is not enamored with the concept of his daughter marrying into a family of cheapskates. They are discussing how having more money could secure a better future for them, and Rinuccio is hopeful for an inheritance from his uncle Buoso. Suddenly, Rinuccio receives a call. He must hurry back to his family villa; someone has died!

## personaggi:

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Tenore*** | RINUCCIO, hopeless romantic in love with Lauretta |
| ***Baritono*** | GIANNI SCHICCHI, Lauretta's father, sarcastic and cunning jack-of-all-trades |
| ***Ballerina*** | LAURETTA, Schicchi's daughter, and MESSENGER (speaking role)* |
| ***Pianista*** | PIANISTA, speaking role |

**L'azione si svolge nel 1299 in Firenze**
(the story takes place in Florence, 1299)

**DURATION CA 12 MIN**

## ORCHESTRA:

**Violino**

**Viola**

**Pianoforte** *(doubling Melodica)*

**Contrabasso**

*in the premiere, the role of the MESSENGER was played by the violinist- depending on the staging, it can be played by any available musician or singer

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Score

*for the 2024 CoLab "How I Met Puccini"*

# A Comedy of Coins and Courtship

*Opera Buffa in one act*

Oskar Österling

*GIANNI SCHICCHI:Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed patrons of the arts… and those of you who accidentally stumbled into this cultural affair thinking it was a quaint wine-tasting event or something likewise interesting…welcome! I am Gianni Schicchi, your guide through the maze of melodious misadventures about to unfold on this gloriously lackluster stage. I've been asked to deliver a prelude, a harbinger of the auditory feast that awaits you—a feast, I might add, prepared by a fledgling composer who, bless his soul, has to wear both the hat of the librettist and the maestro.*

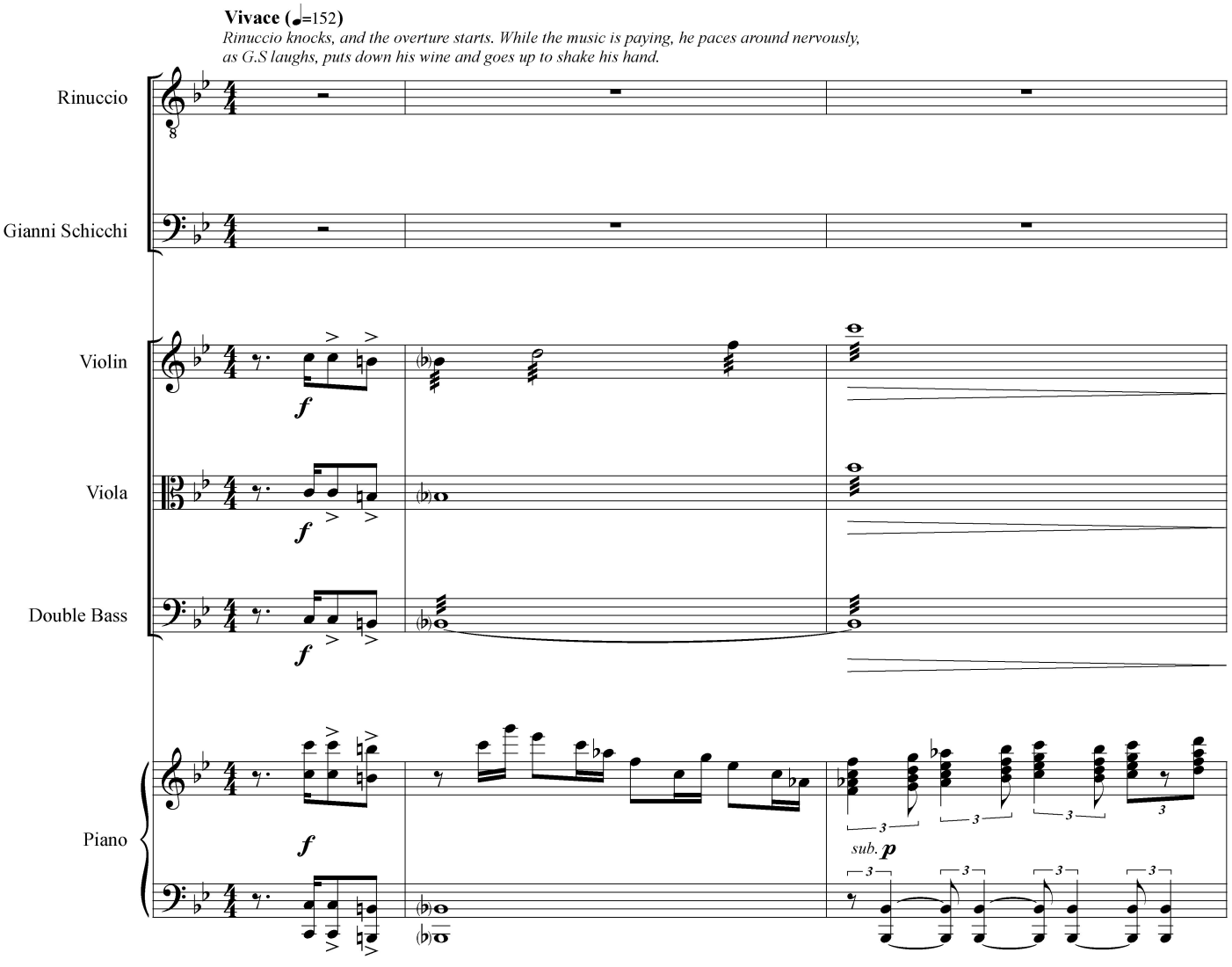
*Now, let's first discuss the setting, or lack thereof. We find ourselves in 1200s Florence, a place renowned for its art, culture, and—apparently—the questionable decisions of aspiring composers...ah, Florence, where even the pigeons have a better sense of dramatic timing than our dear librettist! Picture, if you will, the grandeur of this historical city...and then promptly erase it from your minds, as the stage designer's budget barely stretched past purchasing a few questionable frescoes and a basket of artificial grapes.*

*(Enter Rinuccio, unaware of Gianni)*

*GIANNI SCHICCHI:Now, I think it's about time we began..I have a feeling this young man has something to say!*

*(G.S moves to his table and pours a glass of wine)*

**Scene: A room in Gianni Schicchi's house. Gianni sits at a table, sipping wine.**
**Rinuccio nervously paces around outside the door, trying to bring himself to knock on the door...**

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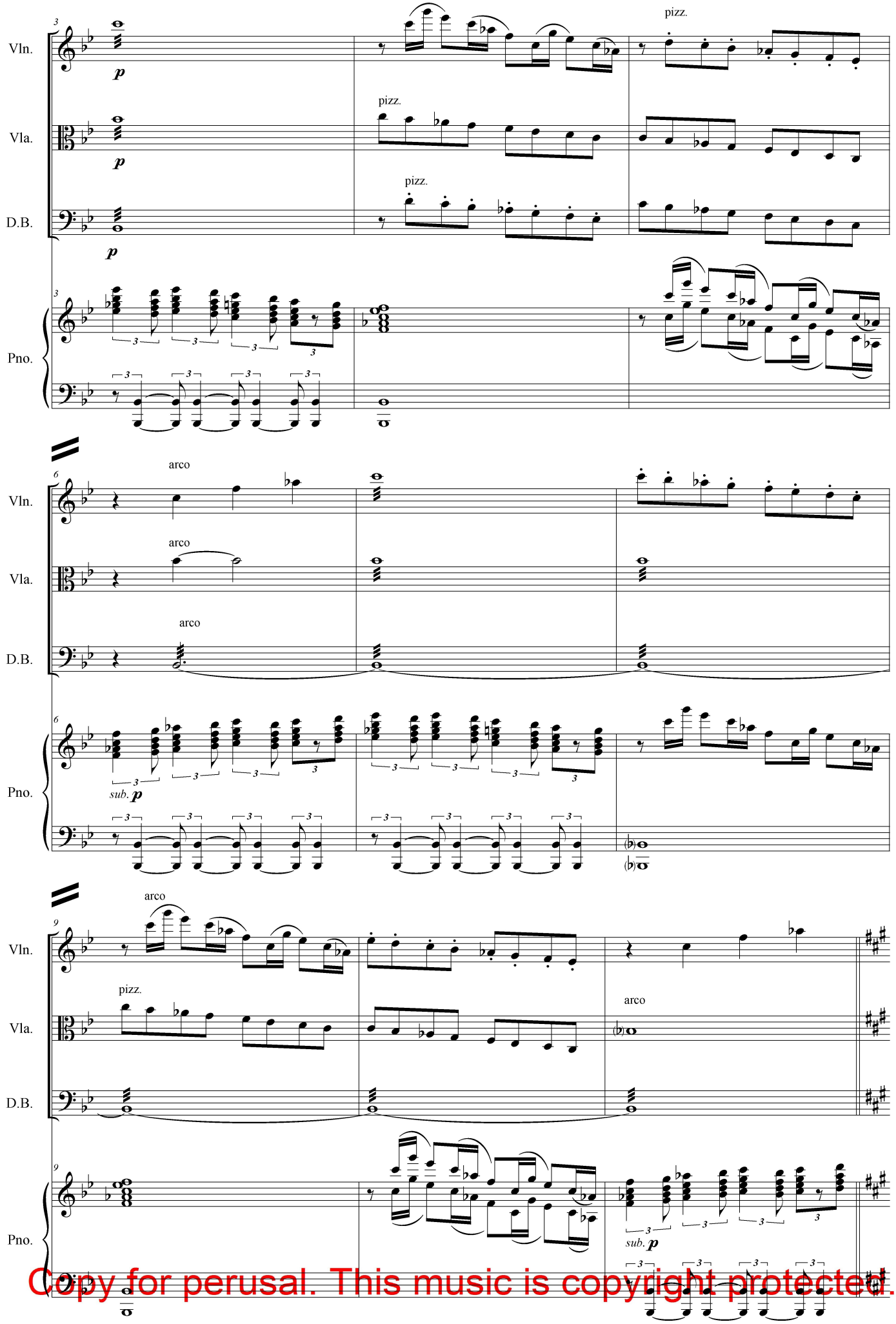


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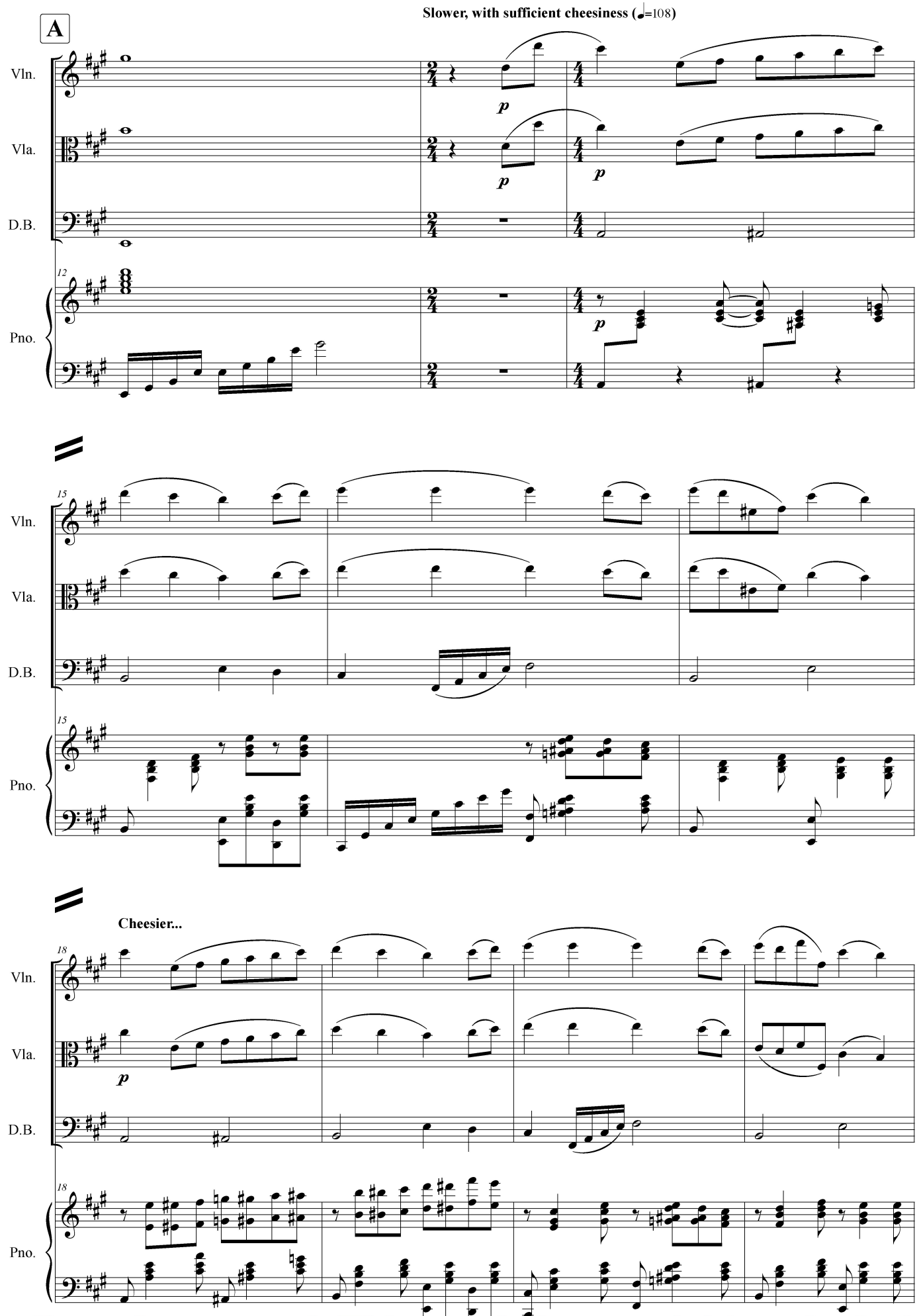


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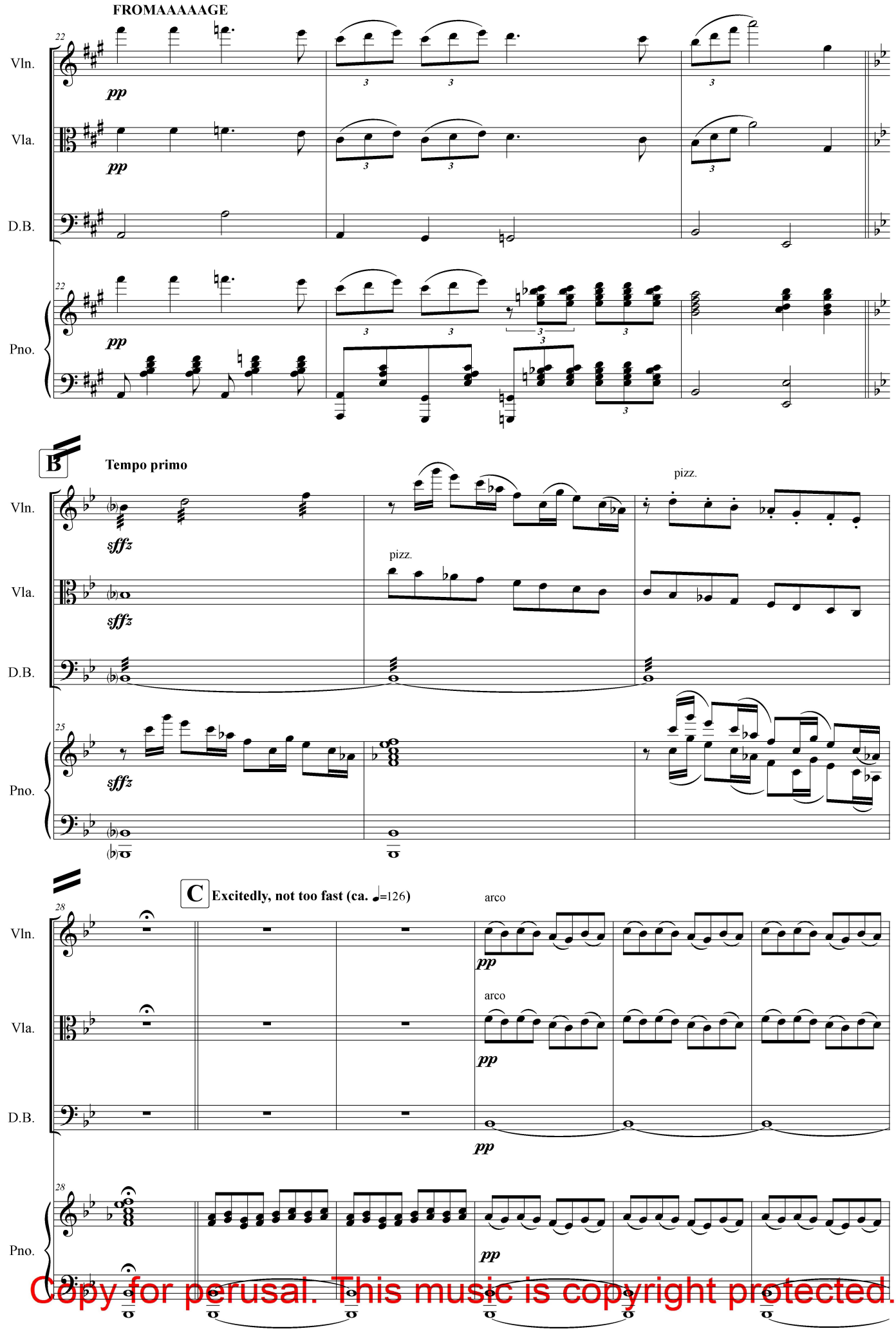


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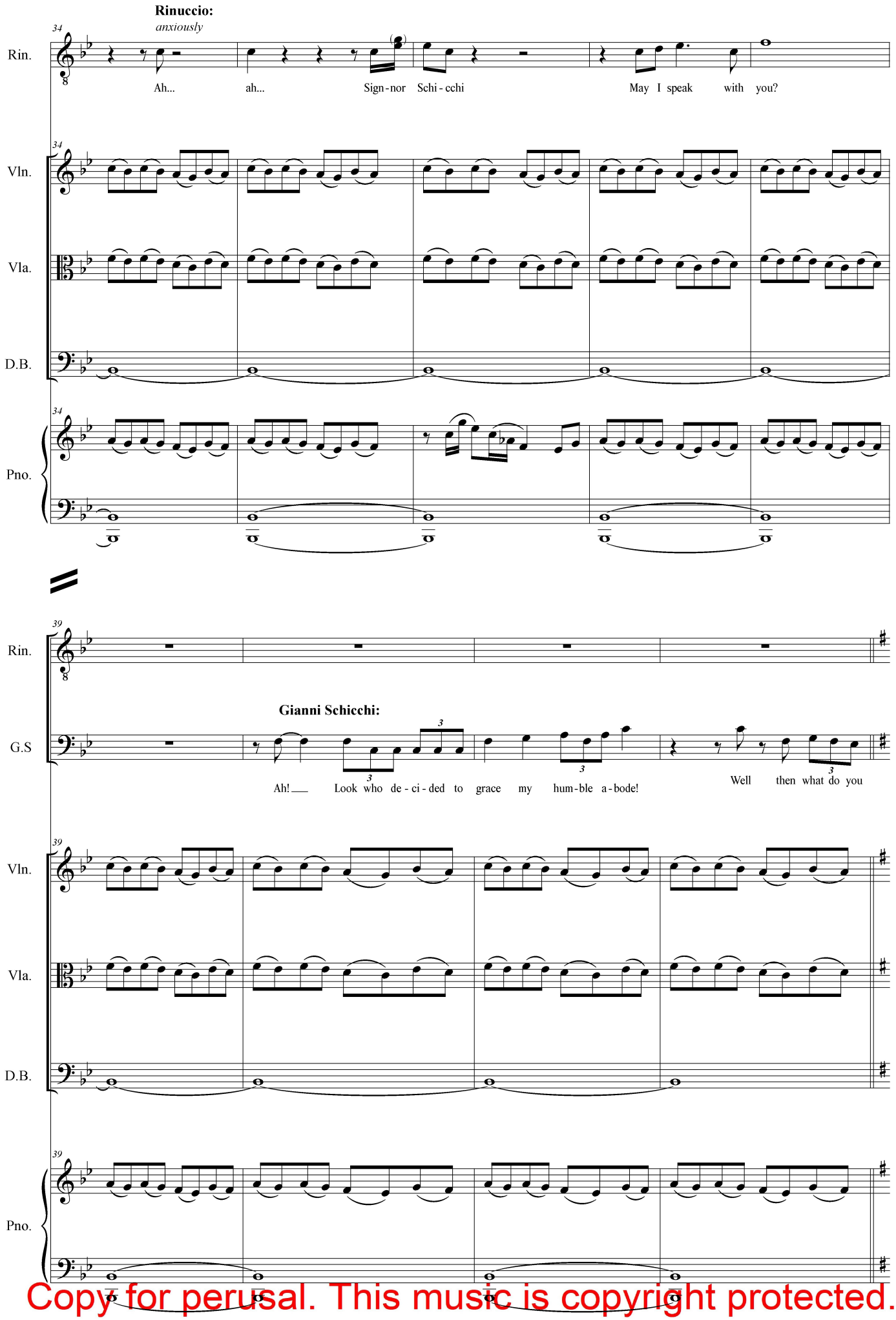


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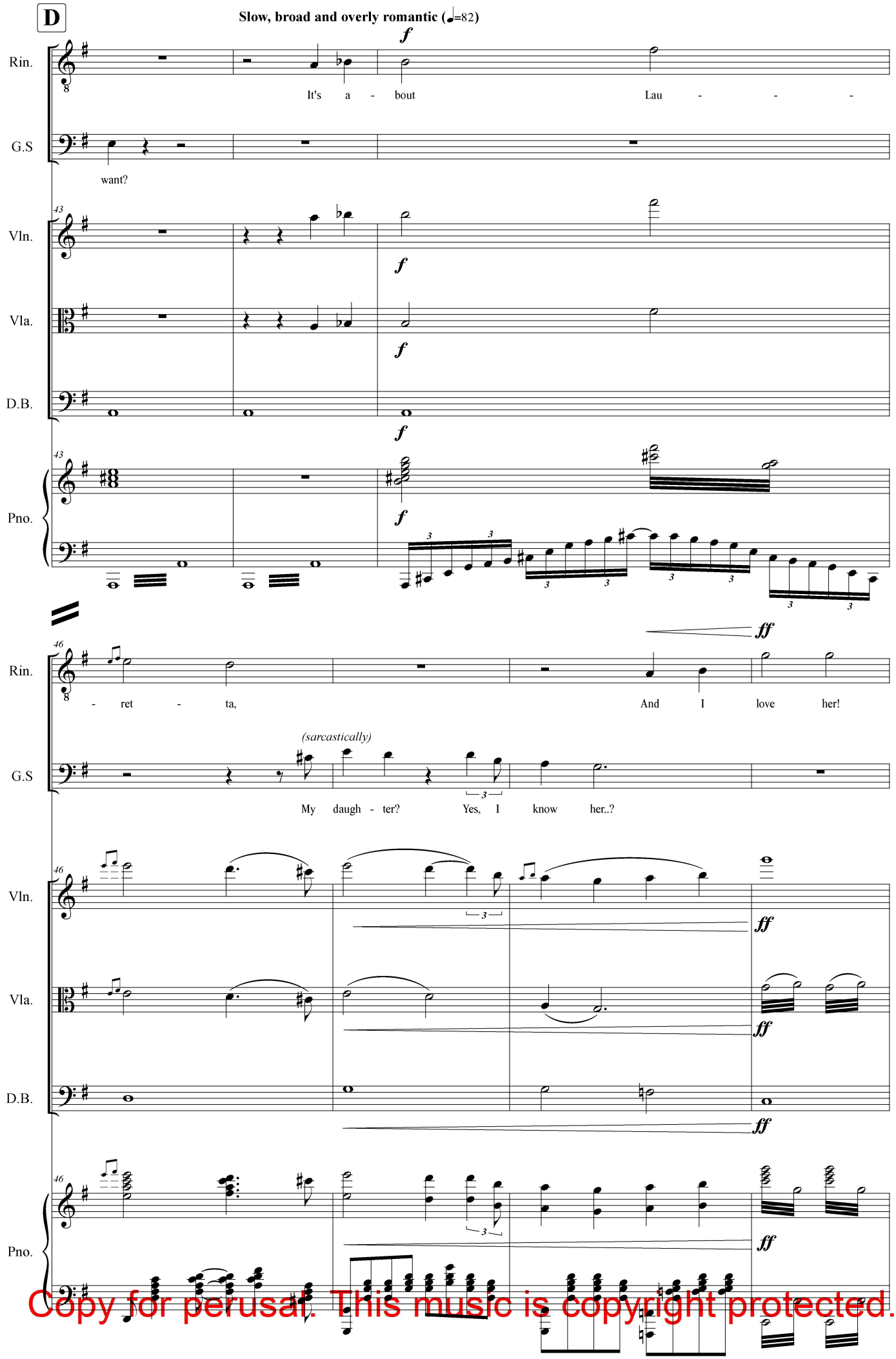


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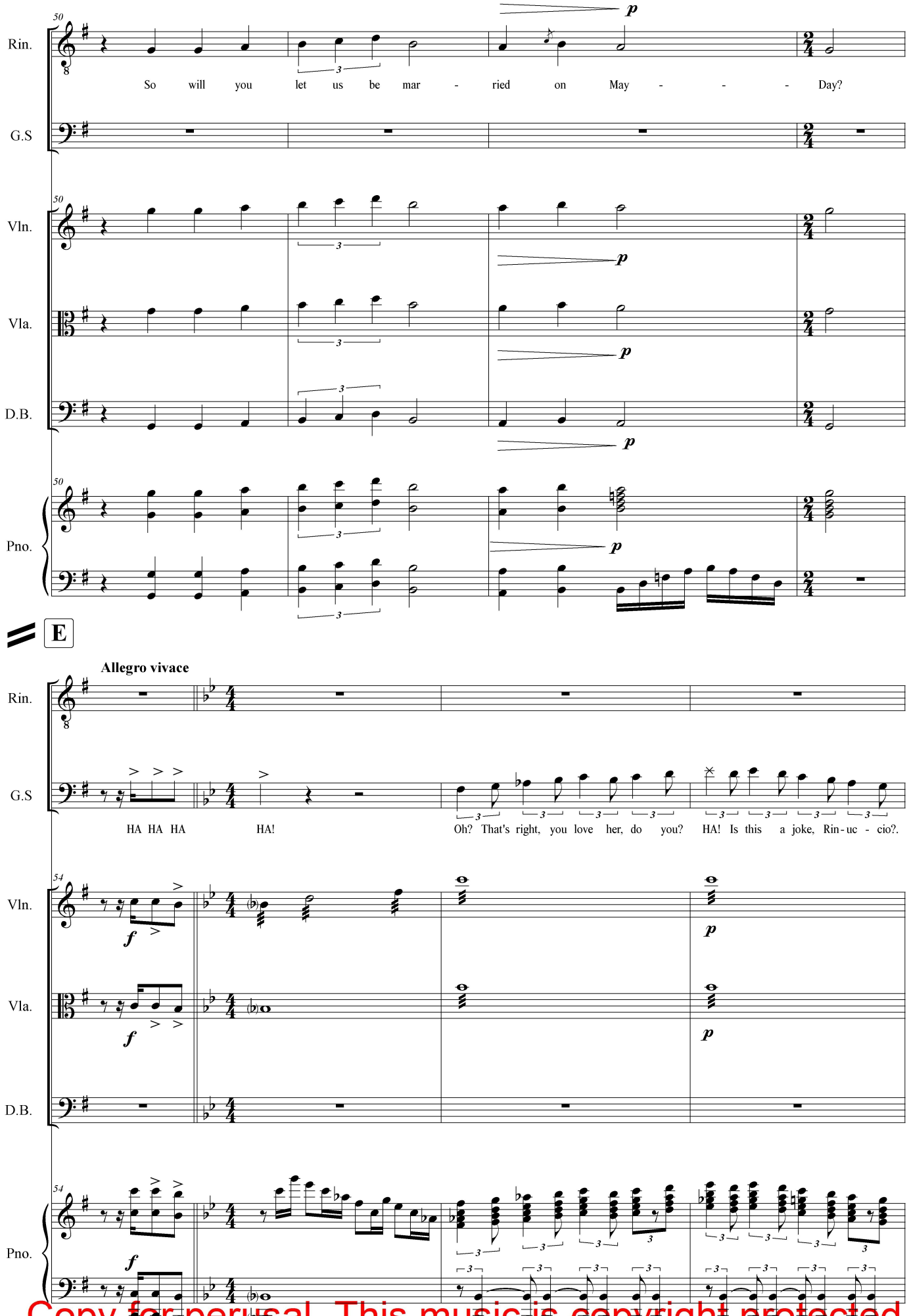


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