Alexandra Gardner

Tourmaline

soprano saxophone and fixed electronics

(2004)

PERUSAL SCORE — NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

alexandragardner.net

A. Gardner Music

About the work:
Tourmaline was written for saxophonists Xelo Giner and Carola Cuypers. Created in the studios of the IUA/Phonos Foundation in Barcelona, it is the sixth piece in a series of compositions for solo instrument with pre-recorded stereo electronics.

The crystal tourmaline often shows two or more colors, such as watermelon tourmaline, which has a red center surrounded by bright green. A small change in the complex makeup of the developing crystal will result in a completely different color scheme. According to legend, wearing the stone can lend permanence and stability to friendships and love relationships. In this composition the saxophone and electronics are closely linked in a fast-paced, animated conversation. The electronic sound takes on a definite personality unto itself as it weaves about, interrupting and commenting on the saxophone part. Twisting and turning through a series of moods and situations, the many possibilities for interaction between the two instruments are revealed.

Performance & Technical Notes:
For audio file, please contact alex@alexandragardner.net

Tourmaline is an electroacoustic composition in which the performer plays along with a prerecorded audio file.
The goal is to create one seamless sonic entity.

The fixed electronic part is a stereo audio file that is played to the audience.
It is important that the audio be mixed as an equal member of the performance to the live saxophone.

The saxophone should be amplified with a small amount of reverb. A monitor may be necessary depending on the performance space.

The performer should seek to enter the sound world of the electronic part as much as possible, based upon the score and written instructions. There are many synchronized events between the sax and electronic sounds. The interaction between performer and electronics should sound like a conversation – or fragments of many different conversations!

Although dynamics are indicated, performer should feel free to adjust them according to the performance space and sound system.

The score is most easily followed using a timer on the playback device (computer or phone). 0:00 marks the beginning of the audio file. Time is noted frequently through the piece.

In the notated electronics part only significant sound events and cues are marked. They serve as a basic guide to events throughout the piece. Where there are fewer synchronized events between sax and electronics, the music may be played more freely. The goal is to arrive on time at the next synchronized event. How one gets there is flexible.

Notation:
Accidentals apply for the duration of one quarter-note.
All note heads with an "X" indicate slaptongue.

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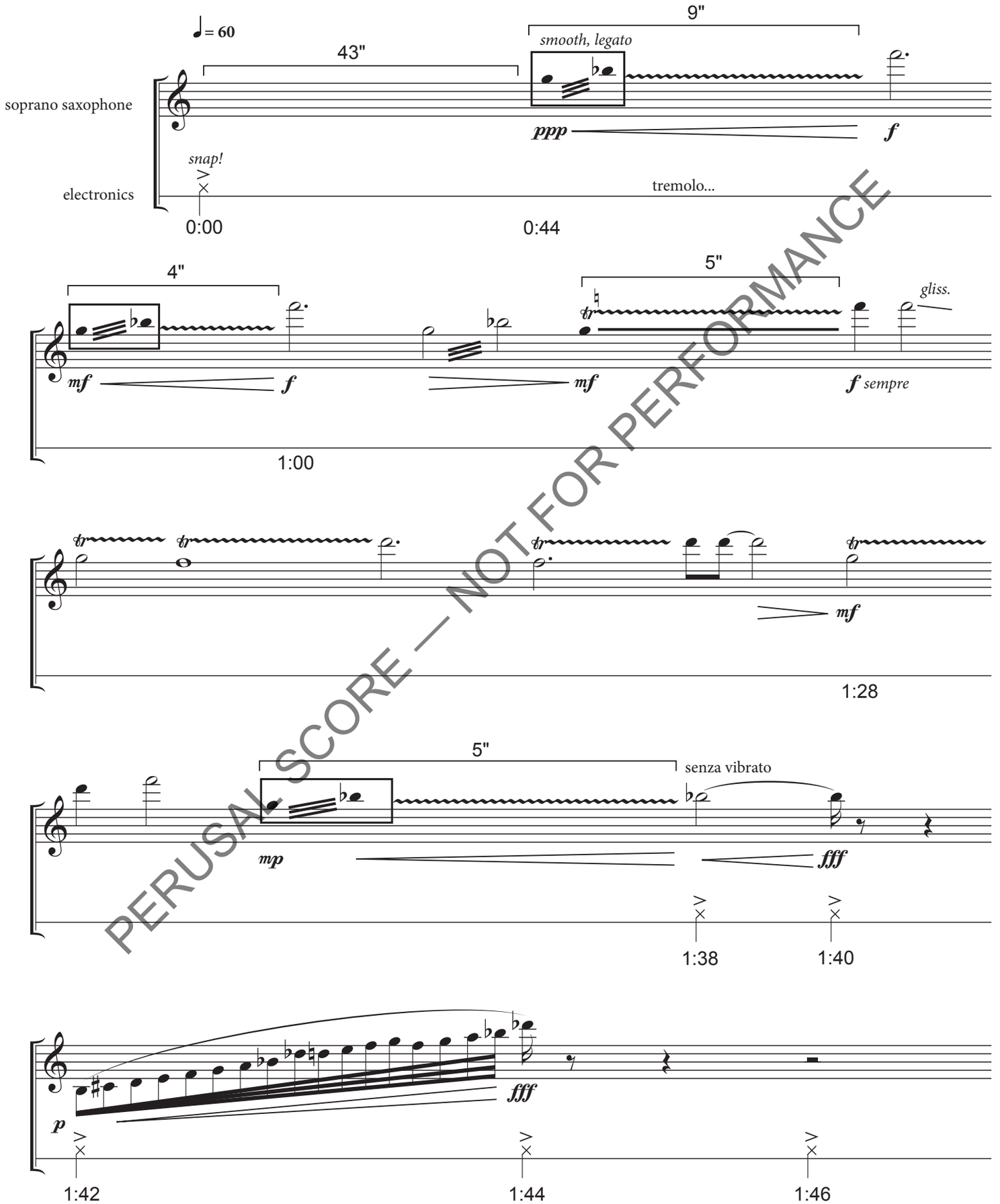
Tourmaline

for soprano saxophone and fixed electronics

Duration: 9:35

Alexandra Gardner



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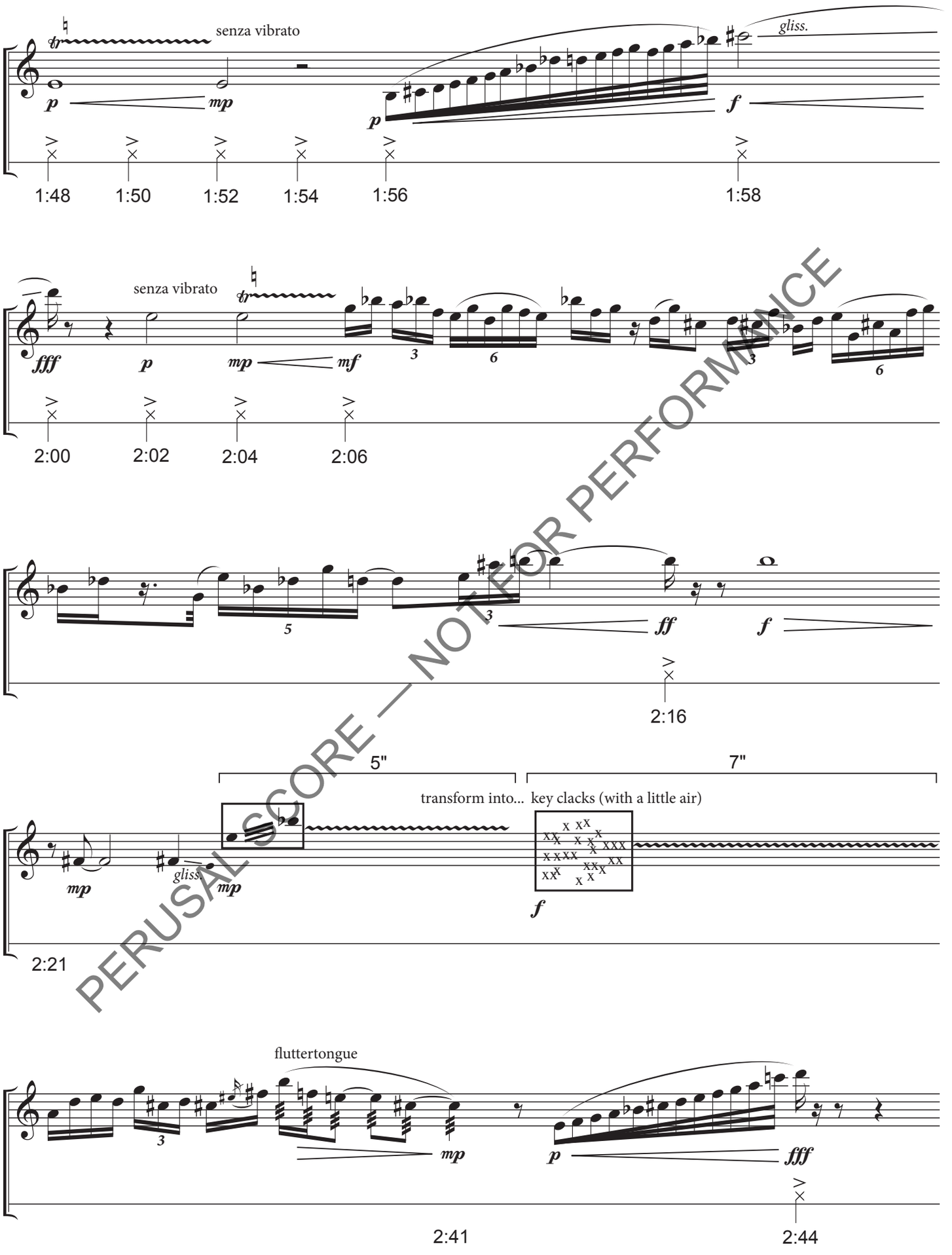

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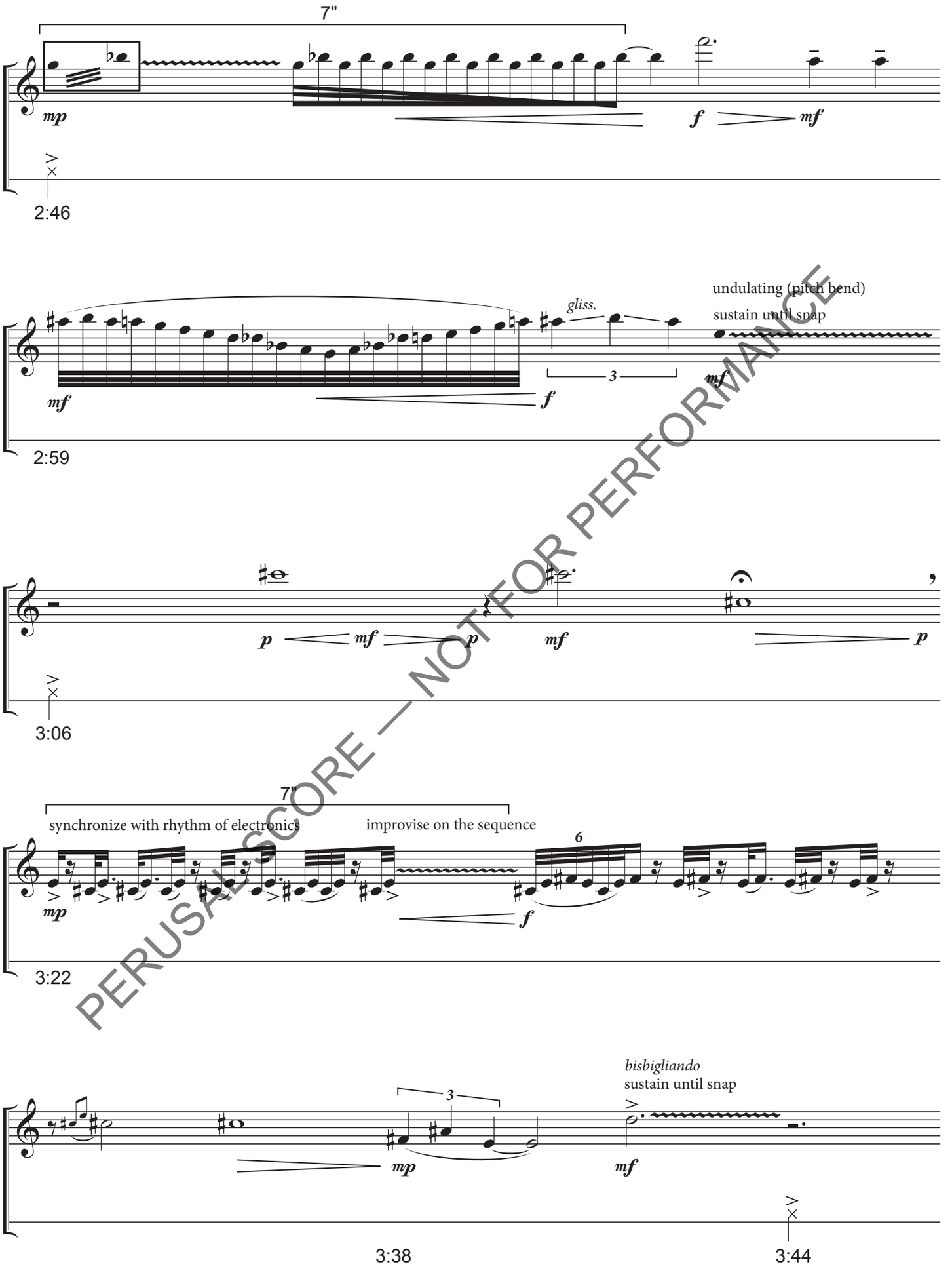

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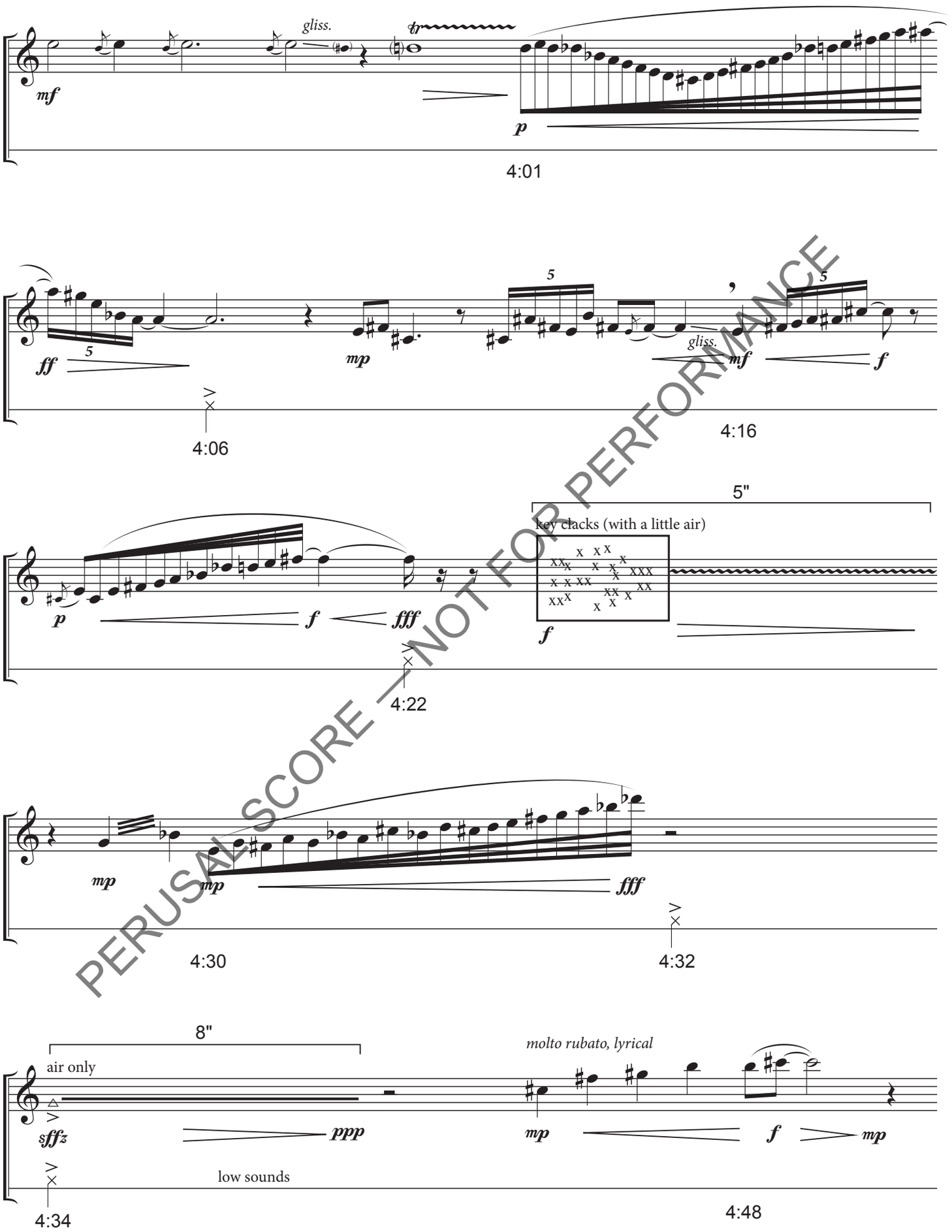

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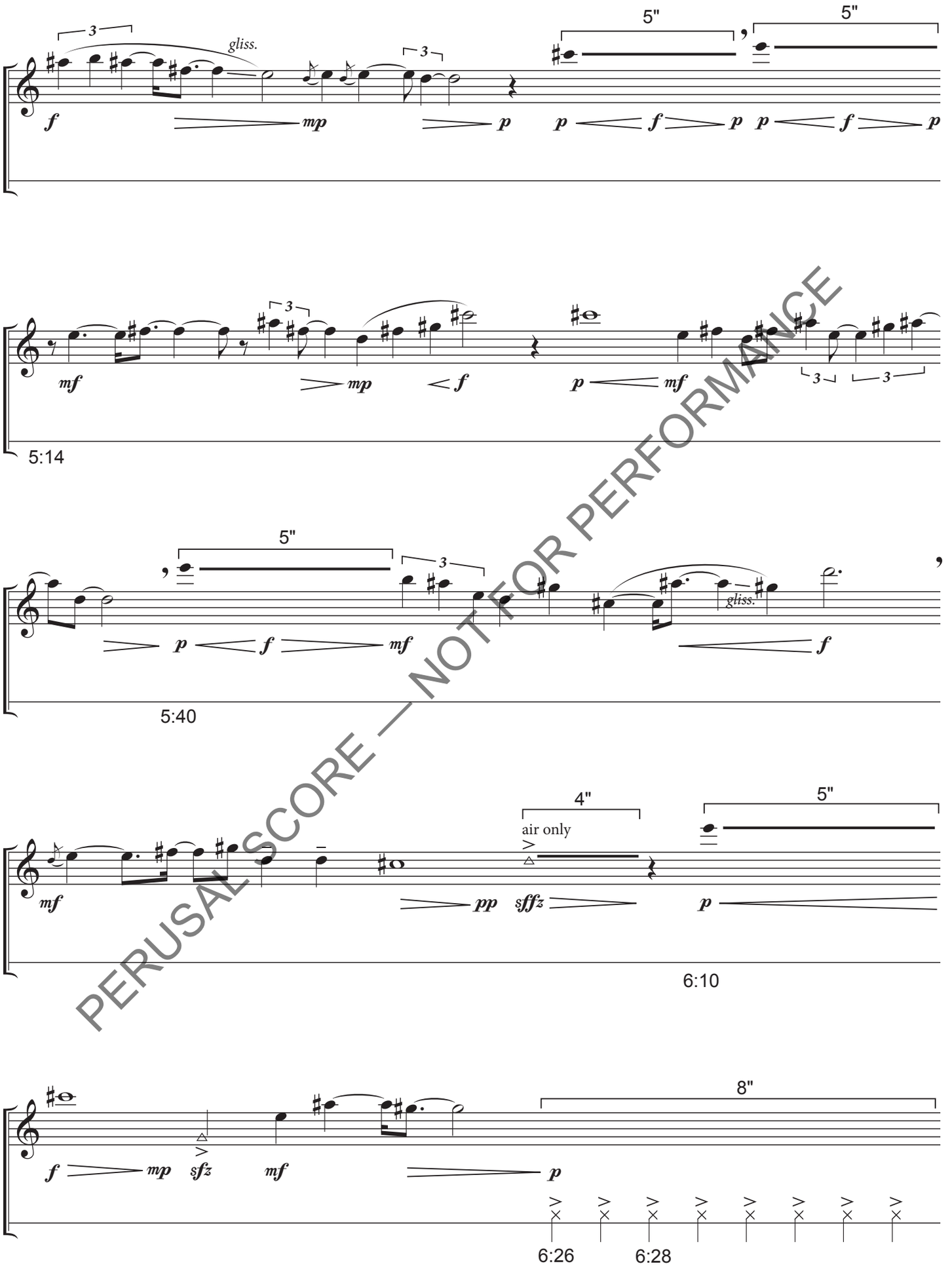

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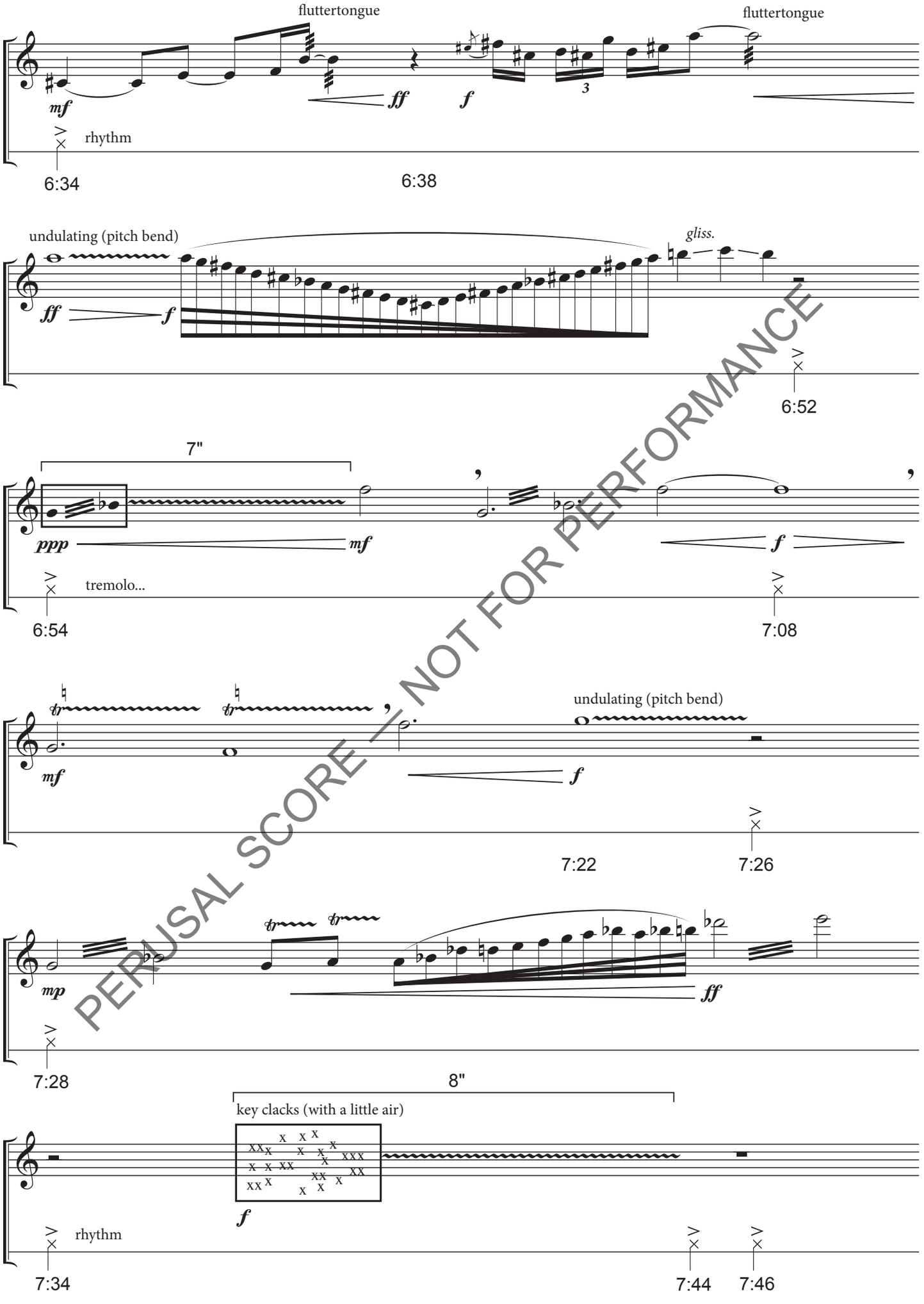

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