VO0004-B

Vasken Ohanian

The Dies Irae Variations

for Solo Violin

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VAOMusic

Inspired by:

Wallace Stevens's "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird"

Duration:

10:00

About the Composer:

As a composer and conductor, Vasken Ohanian is known for the expressivity in his music making. He strives to compose music that is relevant to the human experience, often incorporating elements of his Armenian heritage in his compositions. He is a former winner of the *Annual Kris Getz Composition Competition* and a recipient of the *Dean Emeritus Luis Costa Award for Music*. As a conductor, he formerly served as Co-director and Resident Conductor for the 4th Annual *Hot Air Music Festival.*

Vasken Ohanian received his Bachelor of Music in Composition from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, studying under Elinor Armer. He holds a double Master of Music in Composition and Choral-Conducting from the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music, studying with Dr. Martin Herman (Composition) and Dr. Jonathan Talberg (Choral-Conducting).

Learn more at: www.vaskenohanian.com

Performing a work by Vasken Ohanian in your upcoming recital or concert?
We'd love to hear about it! Contact us at: **www.vaskenohanian.com/contact**

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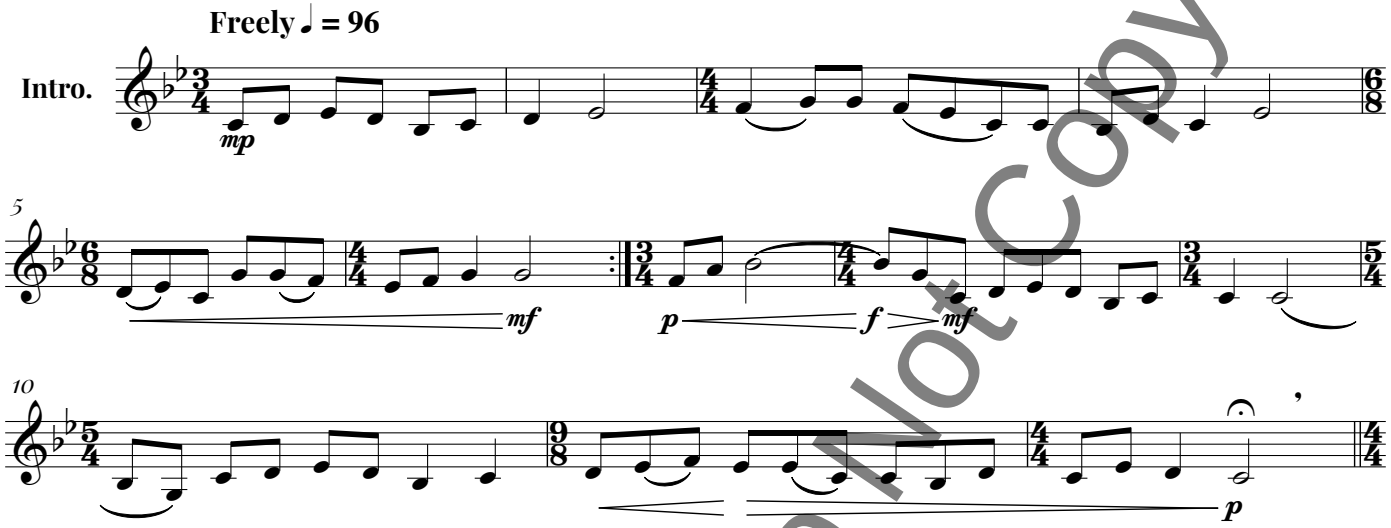
Violin

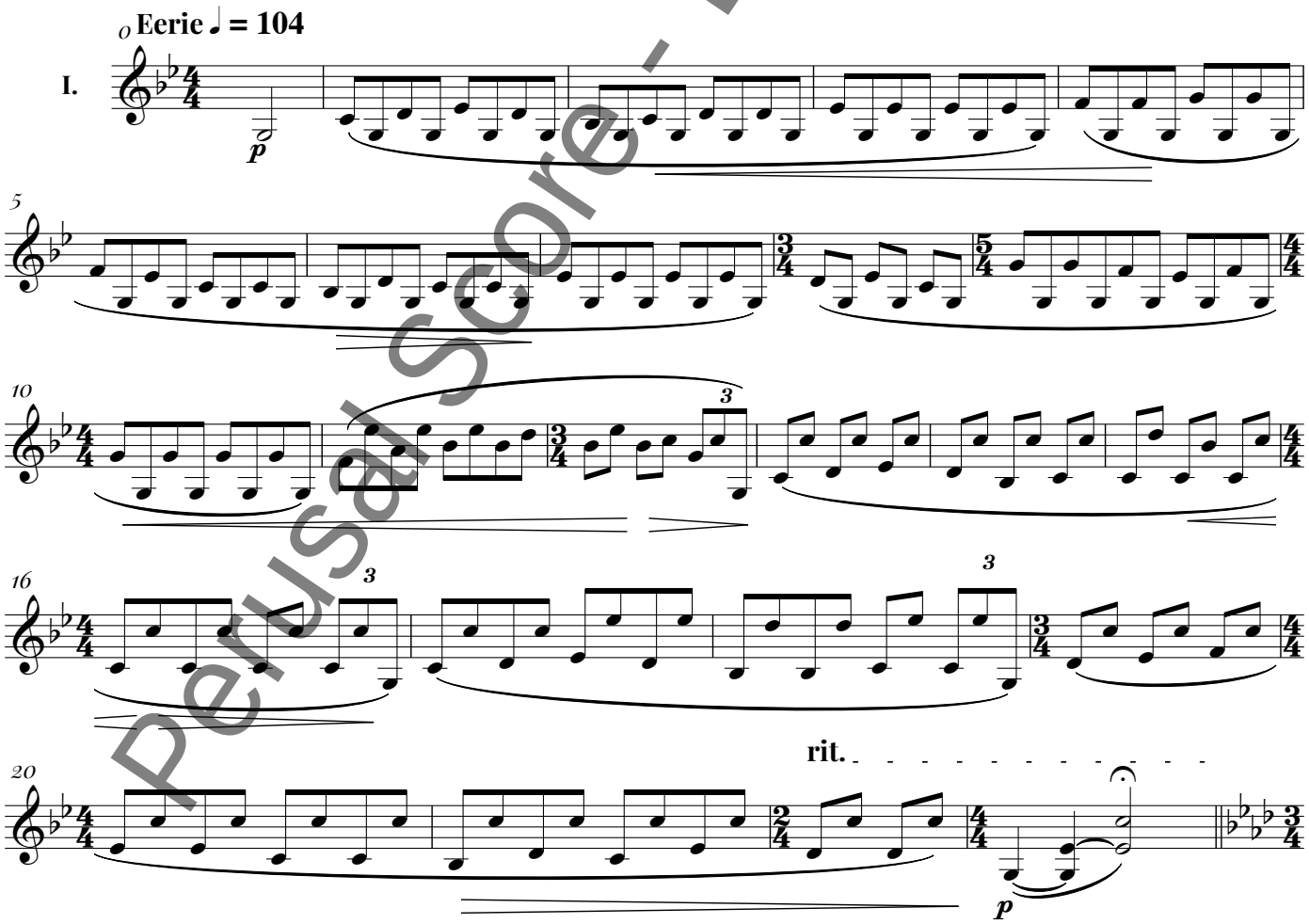
The Dies Irae Variations

Poetry by Wallace Stevens

Vasken Ohanian



Among twenty snowy mountains,
The only moving thing
Was the eye of the blackbird...



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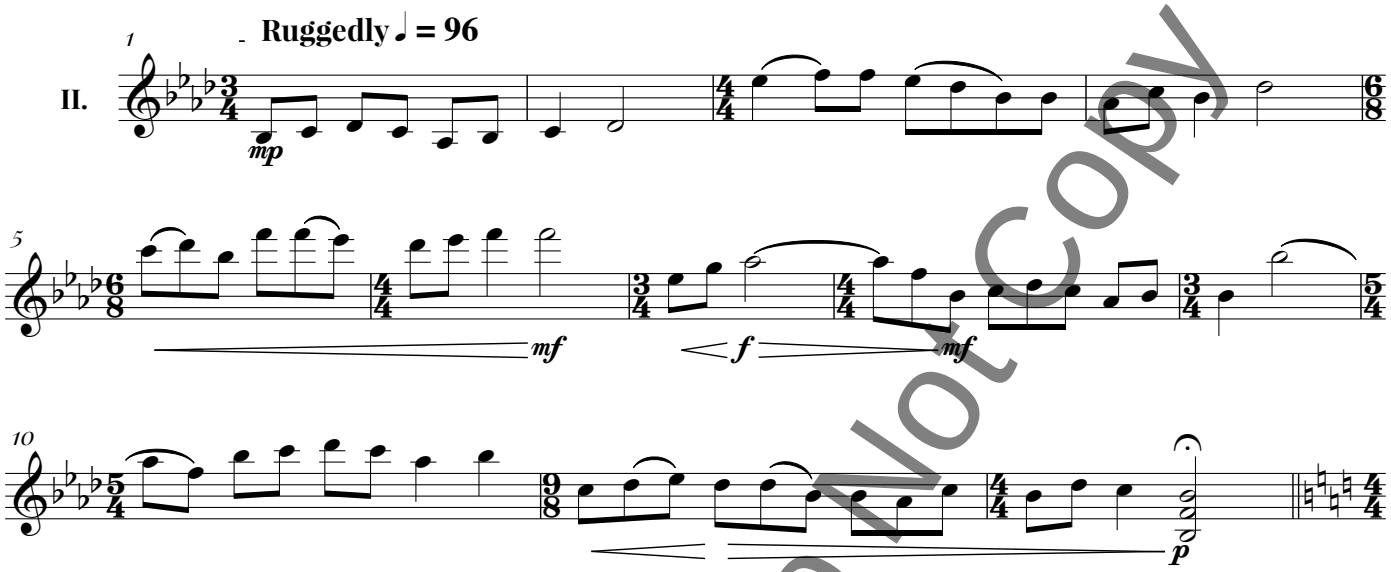
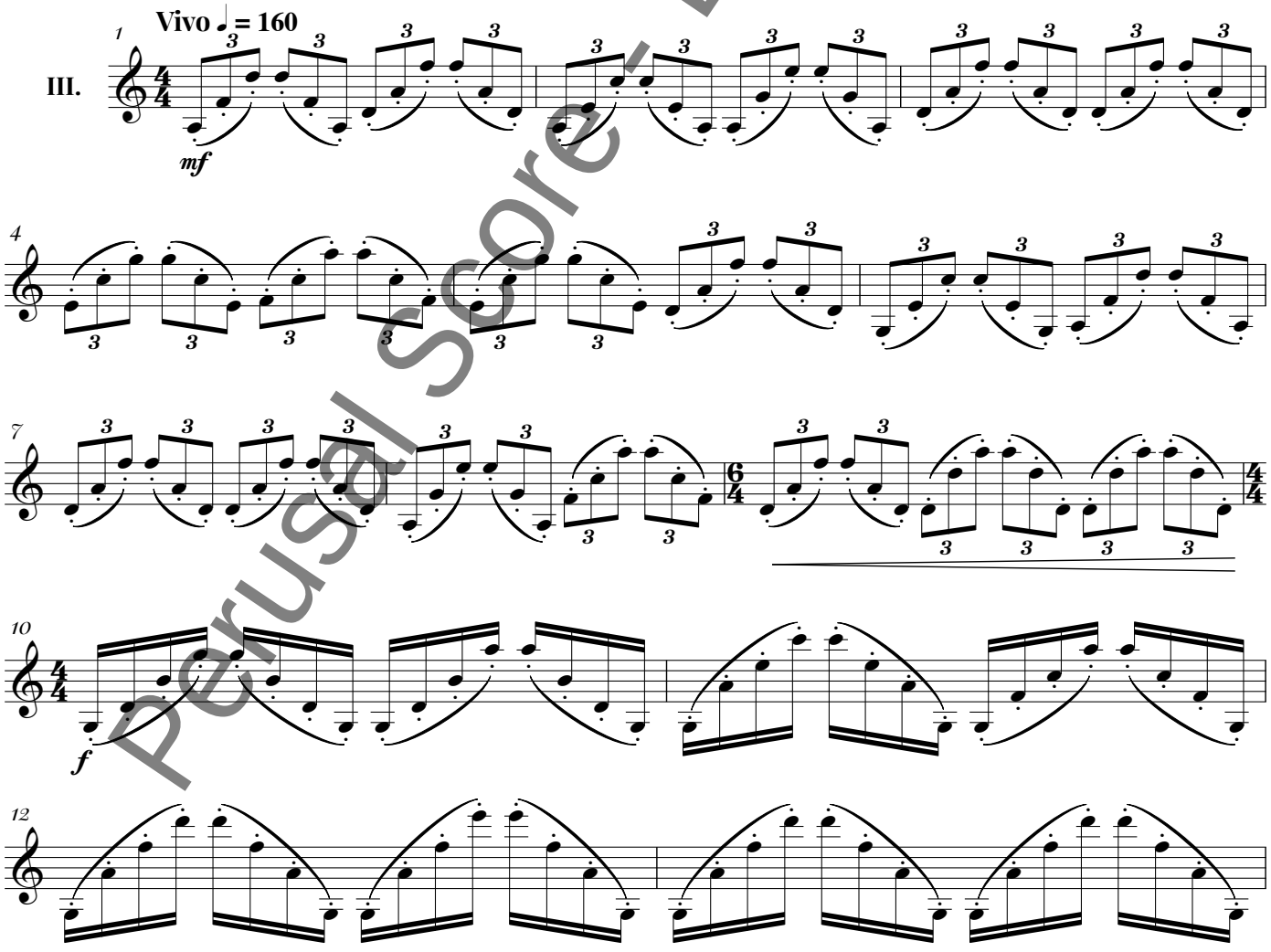
I was of three minds,
Like a tree
In which there are three blackbirds...



The blackbird whirled in the Autumn winds.
It was a small part of the pantomime...



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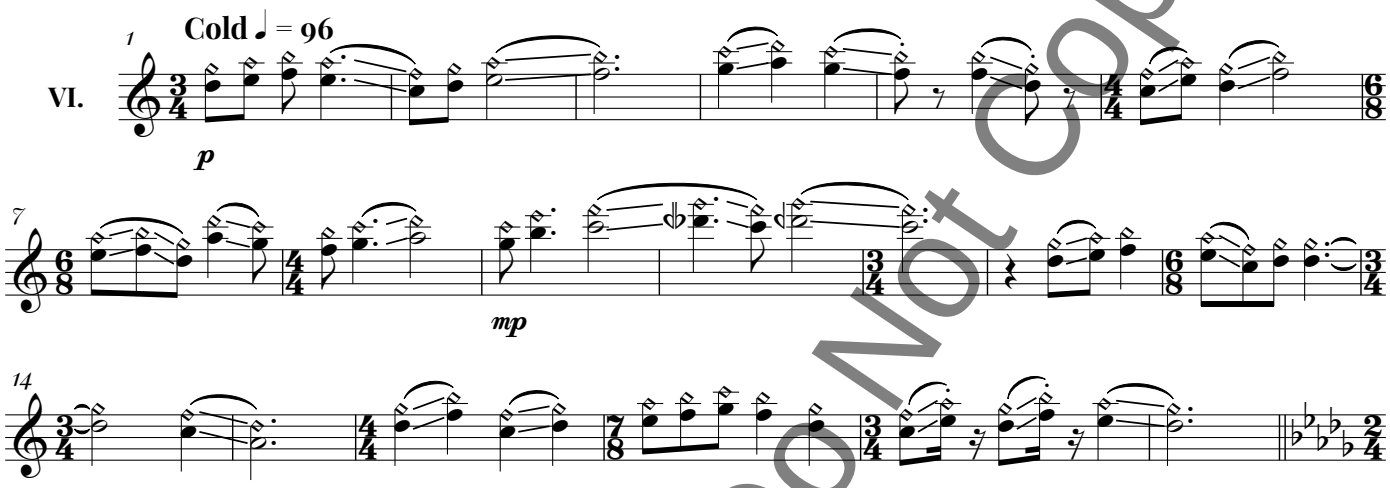
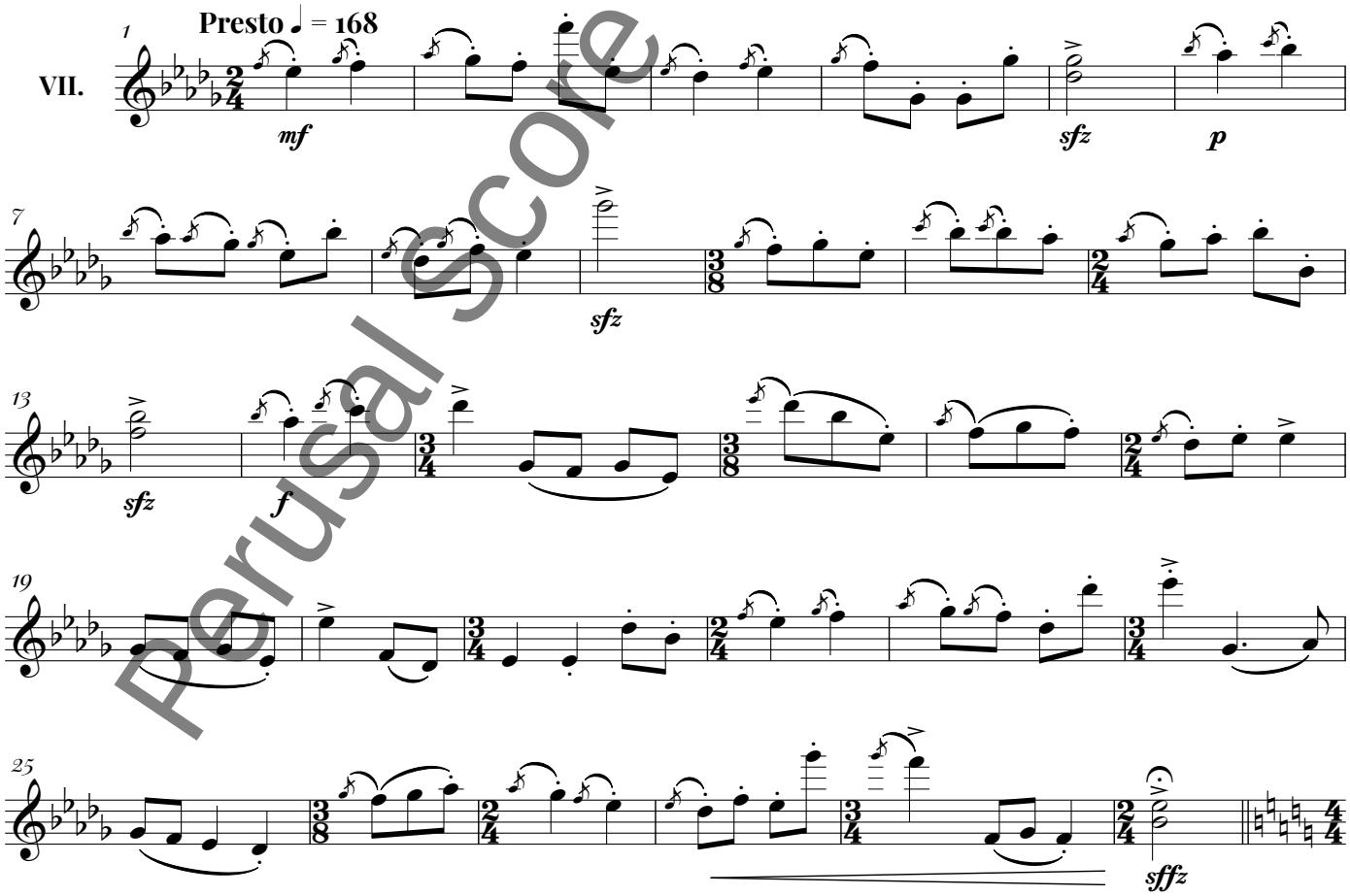
Icicles filled the long window
With barbaric glass.
The shadow of the blackbird
Crossed it, to and fro.
The mood
Traced in the shadow
An indecipherable cause...



O thin men of Haddam,
Why do you imagine golden birds?
Do you not see how the blackbird
Walks around the feet
Of the women about you?



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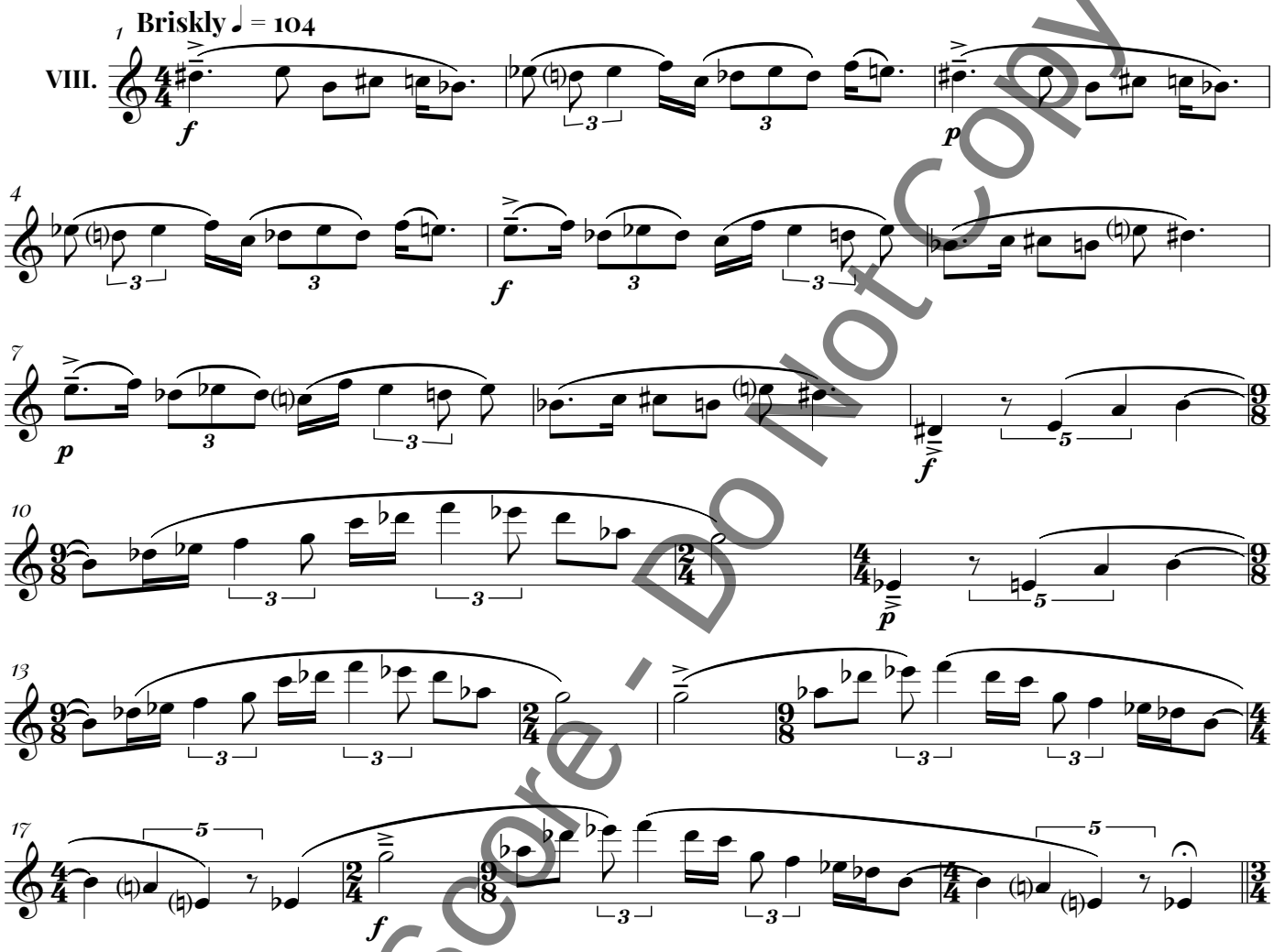
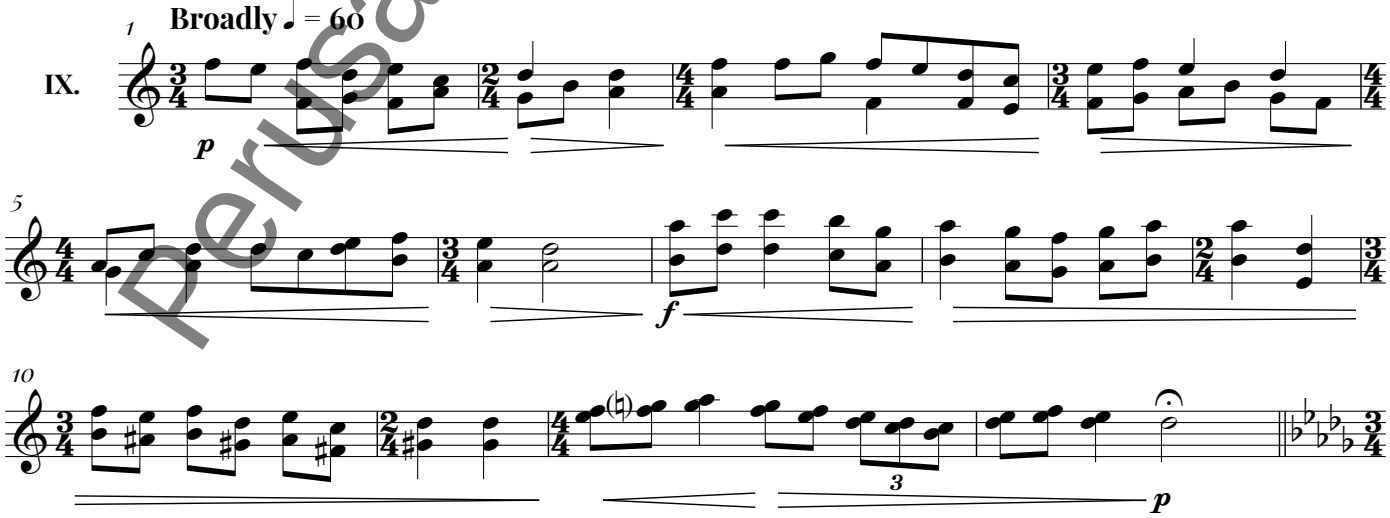
I know noble accents
And lucid, inescapable rhythms;
But I know, too,
That the blackbird is involved
In what I know...

VIII. **Briskly** ♩ = 104



When the blackbird flew out of sight,
It marked the edge
Of one of many circles...

IX. **Broadly** ♩ = 60



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9

13

16

ff

It was evening all afternoon.
It was snowing
And it was going to snow.
The blackbird sat
In the cedar limbs...

Lightly ♩ = 80

1

pizz.

XIII.

mp

5

arco

9

pizz.

14

rit.

arco
non vib.

Maestoso ♩ = 86

1

Theme

f

5

10

molto rall.

sf *n*

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