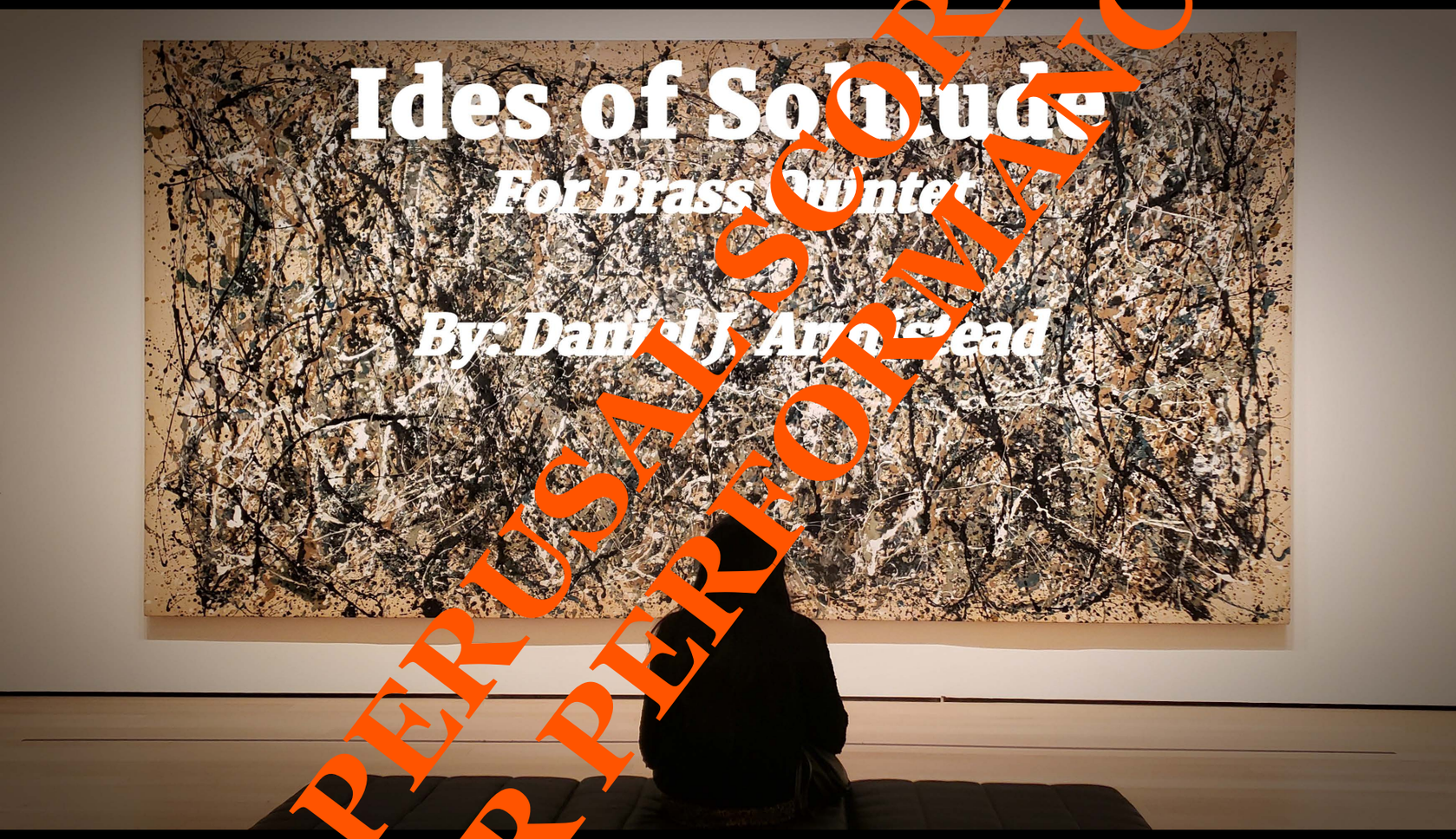
Ides of Solitude

For Brass Quintet

By: Daniel J. Armistead



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Daniel Armistead Music
ArmisteadMusic.com

Program Notes

How fragile and fearful our world is of the things that are beyond our control...

This past year (2020), has redefined my concept of solitude in a way that I and many others have never experienced before. Unexpectedly thrown into a world of aloneness and segregation from society due to the Covid 19 Pandemic is not something I would wish upon anyone, especially to those who rely heavily on their interactions and relationships with others for their mental well-being and success as an individual. Having experienced these impacts firsthand, I often found myself for days upon days with nothing to do but burry my head deep into the abyss that is my artform of composition.

A career in composition in itself is already a lonely one, when you consider the number of hours you sit alone with your thoughts developing your ideas, writing and re-writing sections again and again until just perfect. Fingers at the keyboard, and head in your score, I found myself experiencing a solitude unlike any other. A position where you go out anywhere in public, for a walk, to the grocery store, to the gas station, and people are genuinely scared…scared of you, your friends, and your family, if you come even a little bit close to them at all.

How fragile and fearful our world is of the things that are beyond our control...

To have lived through and experienced essentially a wasted year in our already short lives seems almost unthinkable. But as I worked day after day, playing, writing, and listening in this seclusion, it allowed myself to gain an appreciation for the calm to experience our ever growing and better-connected world that we live in at a standstill; to finally take the time to question *who I am*, and *what I want*…

In *Ides of Solitude*, I pose this question to performers or listeners alike—was any of this *really* wasted time? Or was this just what you needed to better gain a sense of appreciation, self-respect, and mindfulness once given the opportunity to seize control over our lives again?

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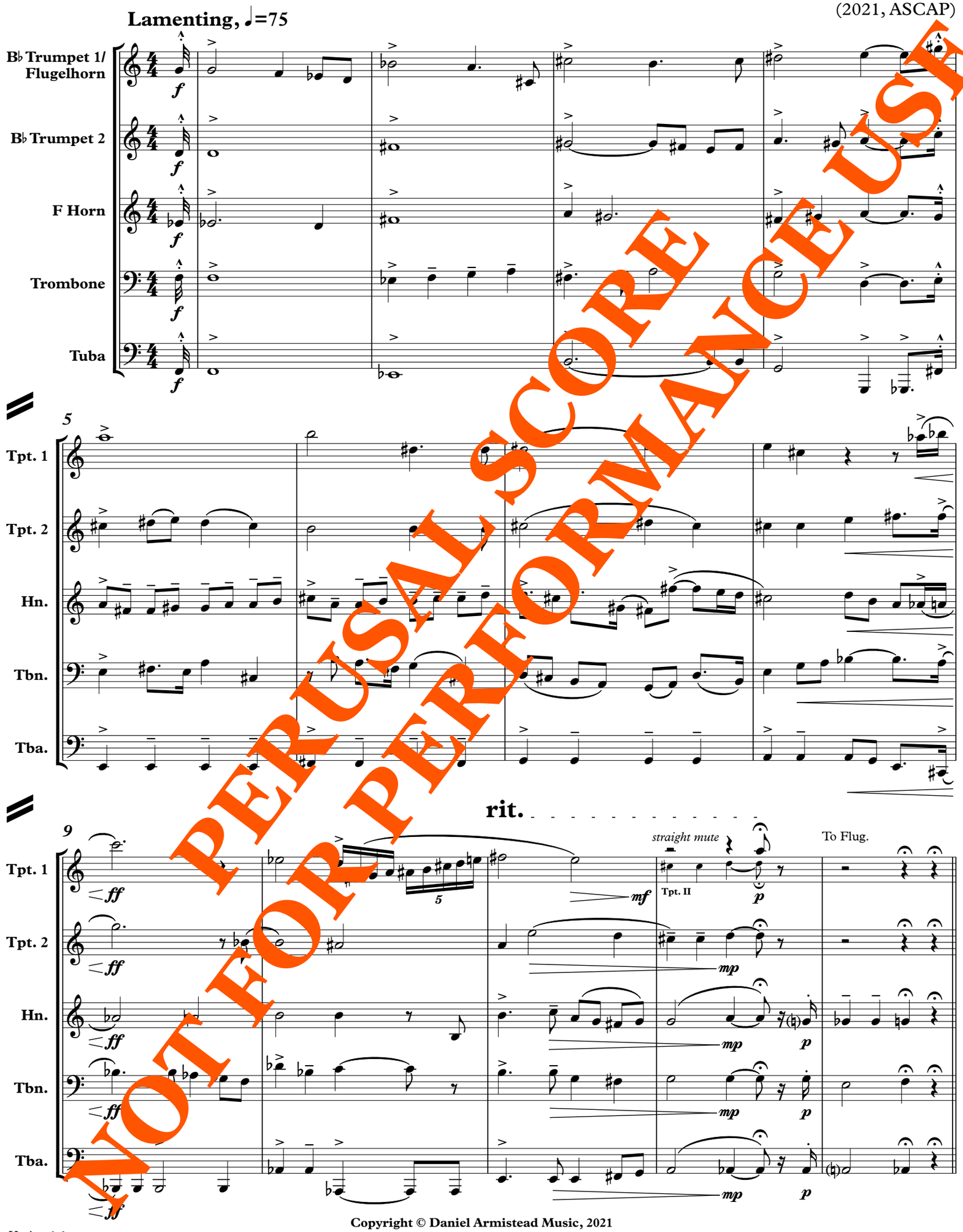
DANIEL J. ARMISTEAD
(2021, ASCAP)



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Version 4.6

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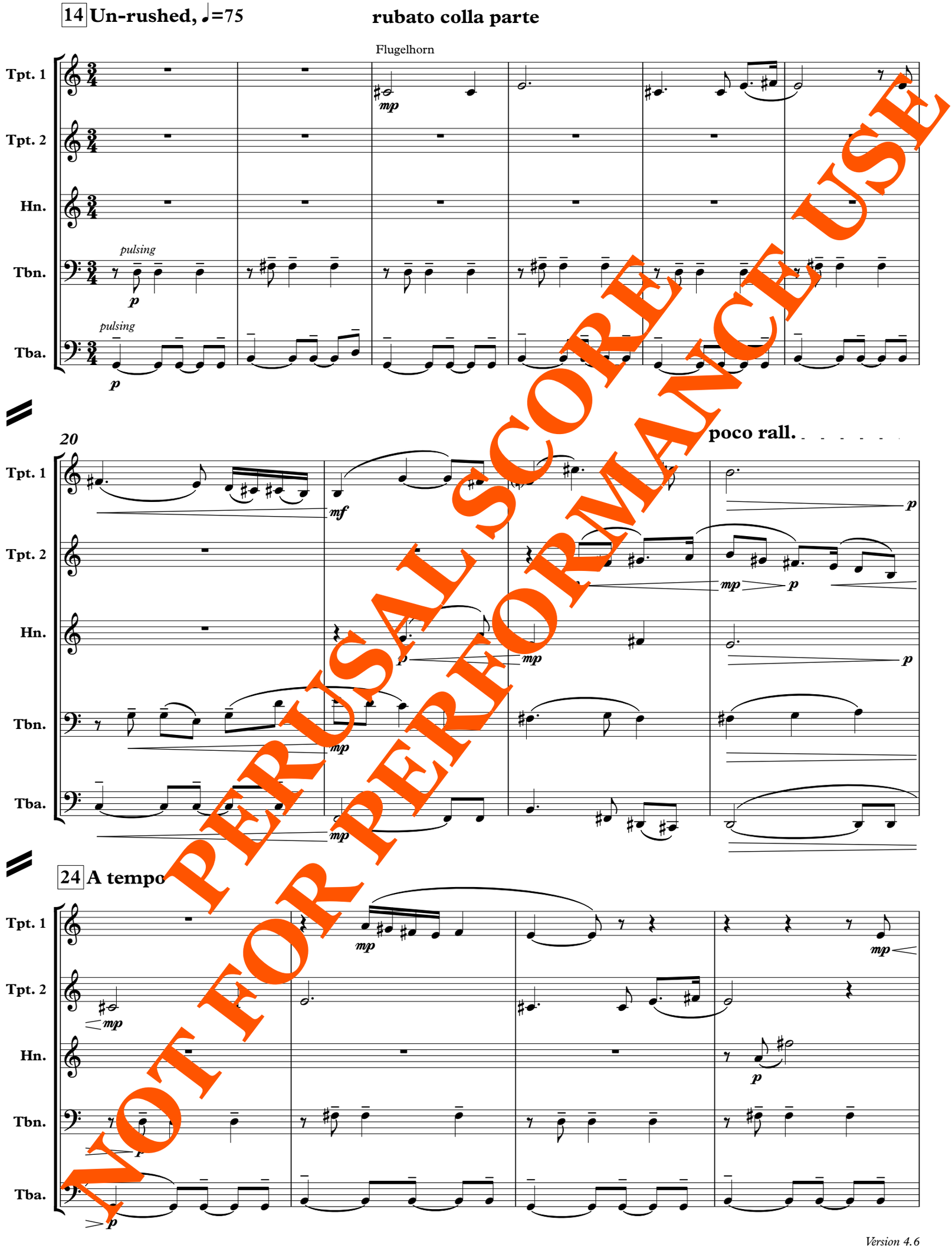

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28

poco rall.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

32 **A tempo**

Trumpet in B♭
open

36 **Suspended**

expressivo

expressivo

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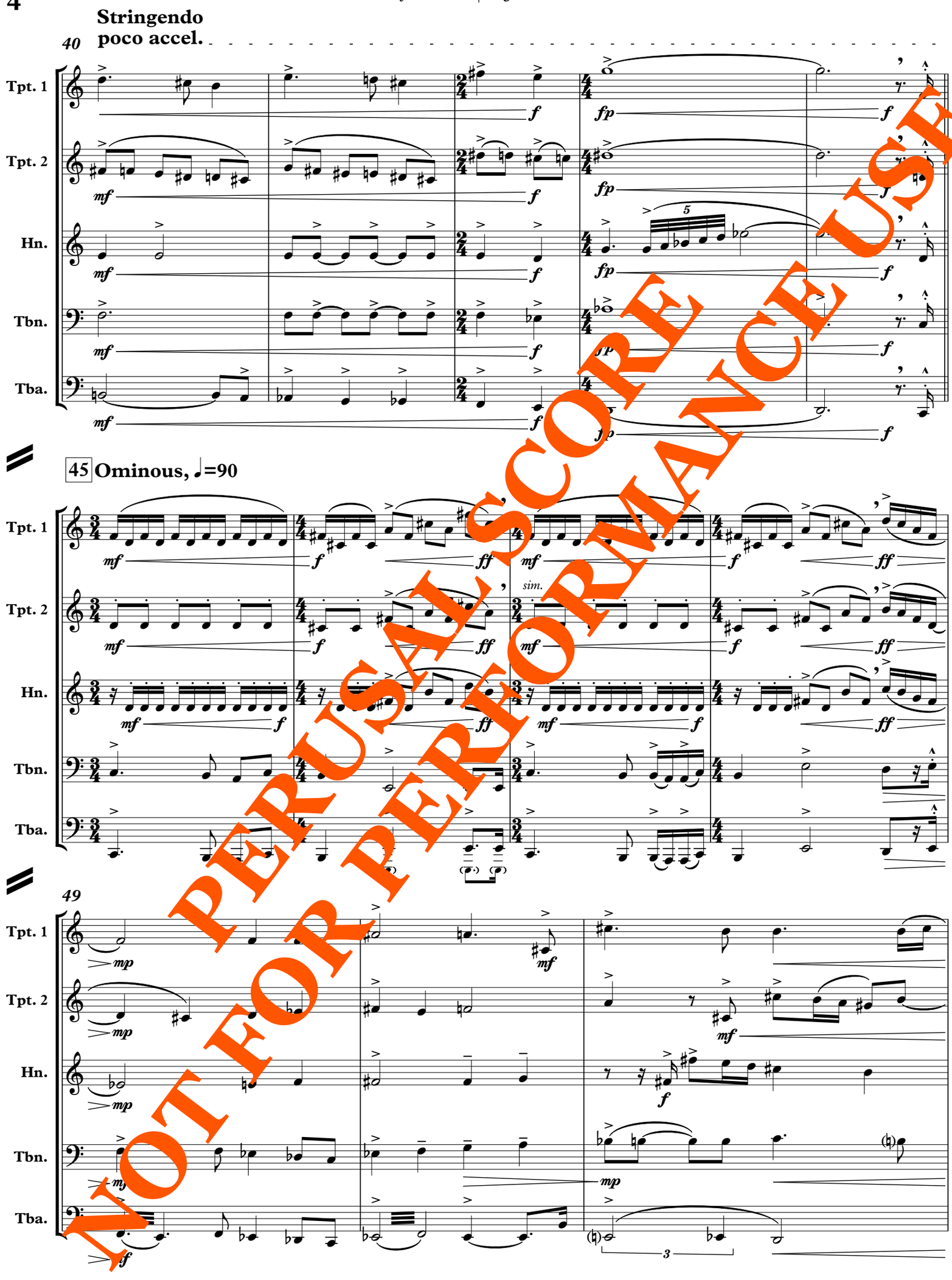

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