RWS Developing Band Series

FULL CONDUCTOR SCORE

Catalog No: RWS-2026-01

Christmas A La Mode

Arranged by

Robert W. Smith

For reference only.
Not valid for performance.

Distributed Exclusively by C.L. Barnhouse Company

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Arranged by
Robert W. Smith

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score 1
Flute 10
Oboe 2
B♭ Clarinet 1 6
B♭ Clarinet 2 6
B♭ Bass Clarinet 2
Bassoon 2
E♭ Alto Saxophone 6
B♭ Tenor Saxophone 2
E♭ Baritone Saxophone 2
B♭ Trumpet 1 5
B♭ Trumpet 2 5
F Horn 4
Trombone 6
Euphonium 2
Euphonium T.C. 2
Tuba 4
Mallet Percussion: Bells, Vibraphone, Chimes, Marimba 4
Timpani 1
Percussion 1: Castanets, Snare Drum, Bass Drum 3
Percussion 2: Sleigh Bells, Triangle, Crash Cymbals, Tambourine, Suspended Cymbal 3

PROGRAM NOTE

The term "a la mode" refers to a type of desert dish topped with ice cream creating a very tasty treat. *Christmas A La Mode* is a tasty musical treat for the holidays based on the classic *Jingle Bells* as we present it in various musical modes.

A musical mode is a type of scale that has been a part of western musical thought since the Middle Ages. The modes were inspired by Greek musical theory and are named after geographic or ethnic regions of ancient Greece. Our unique arrangement of *Jingle Bells* takes us on a journey through the Dorian, Phrygian, Lydian, Mixolydian, Aeolian and Locrian modes before returning home to the Ionian mode that we know as our major scale. We hope you enjoy *Christmas A La Mode*.

NOTES TO CONDUCTOR

I suggest beginning rehearsals with a Bb concert scale and identifying the scale degree numbers for each note. From there, please notate the scale on the board for all to see with the scale degree numbers prominently displayed. Instead of initially reading through the complete arrangement, I would suggest explaining and performing each modal scale (2nd scale degree to high 2nd scale degree, 3rd scale degree to high 3rd scale degree, etc.). Following the introduction of the modal scale, I suggest reading the corresponding modal section for reinforcement.

The focus should be on the melodic relationships of each mode. As an educator, I firmly believe it is most effective to take students from what they know to what they don't know. In this case, they know the melody of *Jingle Bells*. That familiarity will allow them to identify and focus on the differences between each mode.

Please note the following general comments regarding the musical treatment of each modal section:

- Dorian – The staccatos should be very light. Please pay particular attention to the tenuto versus staccato in the melodic line. Please maximize the dynamic shaping in measures 15-16 leading to the next mode.
- Phrygian – The overall musical setting should imply images of a Spanish dance. The approach should be fiery and with strength with particular emphasis on the accents in the second half of beat 4 as notated.
- Lydian – The light woodwinds should be contrasted by the full ensemble sforzando at the end of each phrase.
- Mixolydian – Please interpret in a march style and with strength.
- Aeolian – This section should be dark, ominous, yet quiet and foreboding. Note the *Dies Irae* quote in the low brass and woodwinds. Pay particular attention to the ritardando beginning in measure 51.
- Locrian – This modal treatment should be dark and lamenting. The melodic line should be carefully shaped as notated.
- Ionian –This section should be bright, joyous and celebratory leading to a convincing ending.

I hope you and the band enjoy *Christmas A La Mode* and find it to be an educationally rich learning experience. Best wishes to all for a wonderful performance!

ABOUT THE ARRANGER

Robert W. Smith (b. 1958) is one of the most popular and prolific composers in America today. He has over 600 publications in print with the majority composed and arranged through his long association with Warner Bros. Publications and the Belwin catalog.

Mr. Smith's credits include many compositions and productions in all areas of the music field. His original works for winds and percussion have been programmed by countless military, university, high school, and middle school bands throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, South America and Asia. His Symphony #1 (The Divine Comedy), Symphony #2 (The Odyssey), Symphony #3 (Don Quixote), Inchon and Africa: Ceremony, Song and Ritual have received worldwide critical acclaim. His educational compositions such as The Tempest, Encanto, and The Great Locomotive Chase have become standards for developing bands throughout the world.

Mr. Smith's music has received extensive airplay on major network television as well as inclusion in multiple motion pictures. From professional ensembles such as the United States Navy Band, United States Air Force Band, Boston Pops and the Atlanta Symphony to school bands and orchestras throughout the world, his music speaks to audiences in any concert setting. As a conductor, clinician and keynote speaker, Mr. Smith has performed throughout North America, Asia, South America, Europe and Australia. His music has been recorded by various ensembles and is available on CD and download through Walking Frog Records, iTunes, Amazon, and other recorded music outlets.

Mr. Smith is the President/CEO of RWS Music Company, exclusively distributed through C. L. Barnhouse. In addition, he is currently teaching in the Music Industry program at Troy University in Troy, Alabama. His teaching responsibilities are focused in music composition, production, publishing and business.

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CHRISTMAS A LA MODE

Conductor Score
RWS-2026-00

arr. Robert W. Smith (ASCAP)

With Energy! (♩ = 130)

5

Flute
Oboe
B♭ Clarinet 1
B♭ Clarinet 2
B♭ Bass Clarinet
Bassoon
E♭ Alto Saxophone
B♭ Tenor Saxophone
E♭ Baritone Saxophone

With Energy! (♩ = 130)

5

B♭ Trumpet 1
B♭ Trumpet 2
F Horn
Trombone
Euphonium
Tuba

Bells (opt. Vibe double)

Mallet Percussion
Bells, Vibraphone
Chimes, Marimba

Timpani
F, B♭, C, D

Percussion 1
Castanets
Snare Drum
Bass Drum

S.D.
B.D.

Percussion 2
Sleigh Bells, Triangle
Crash Cymbals, Tambourine
Suspended Cymbal

Tamb.

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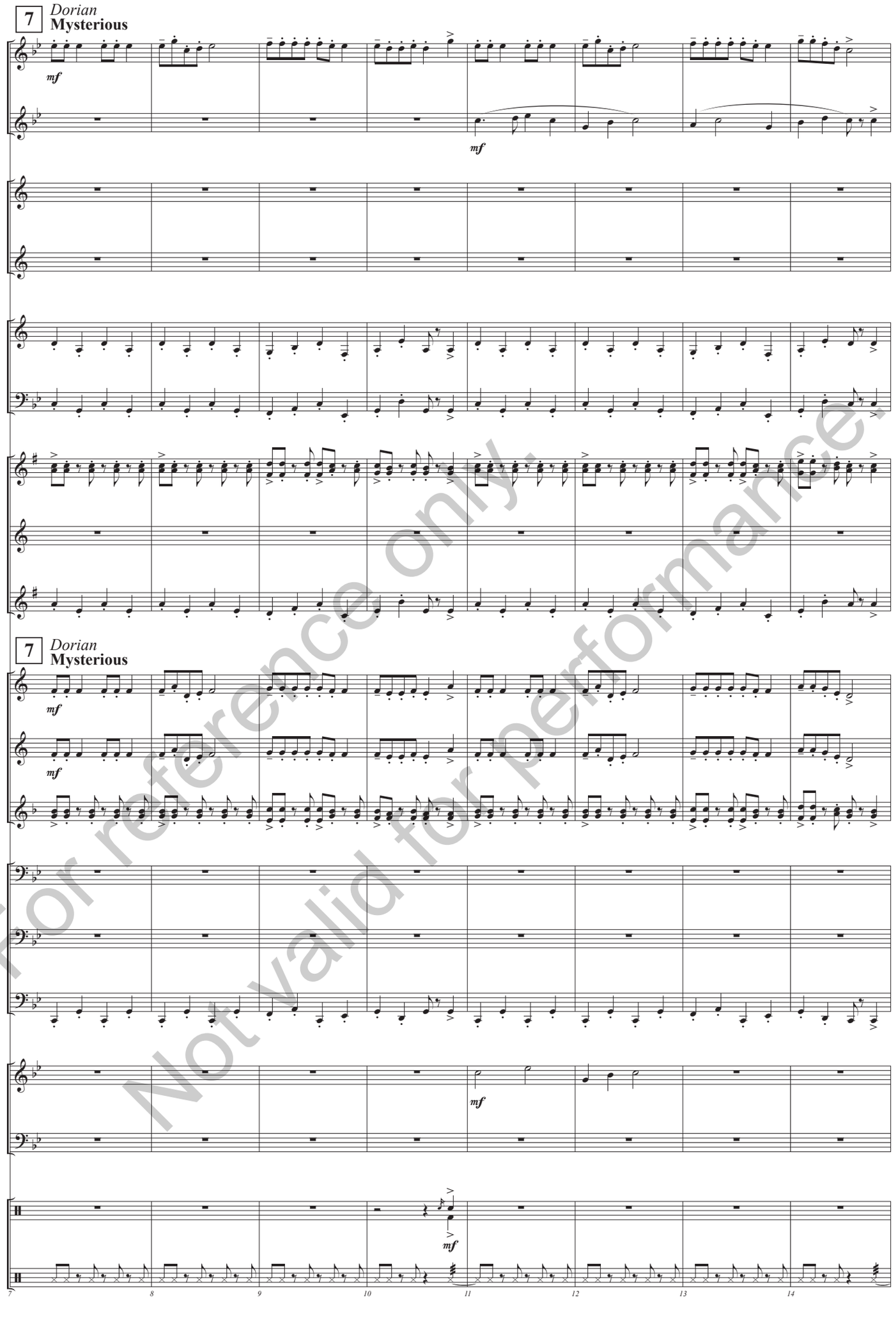

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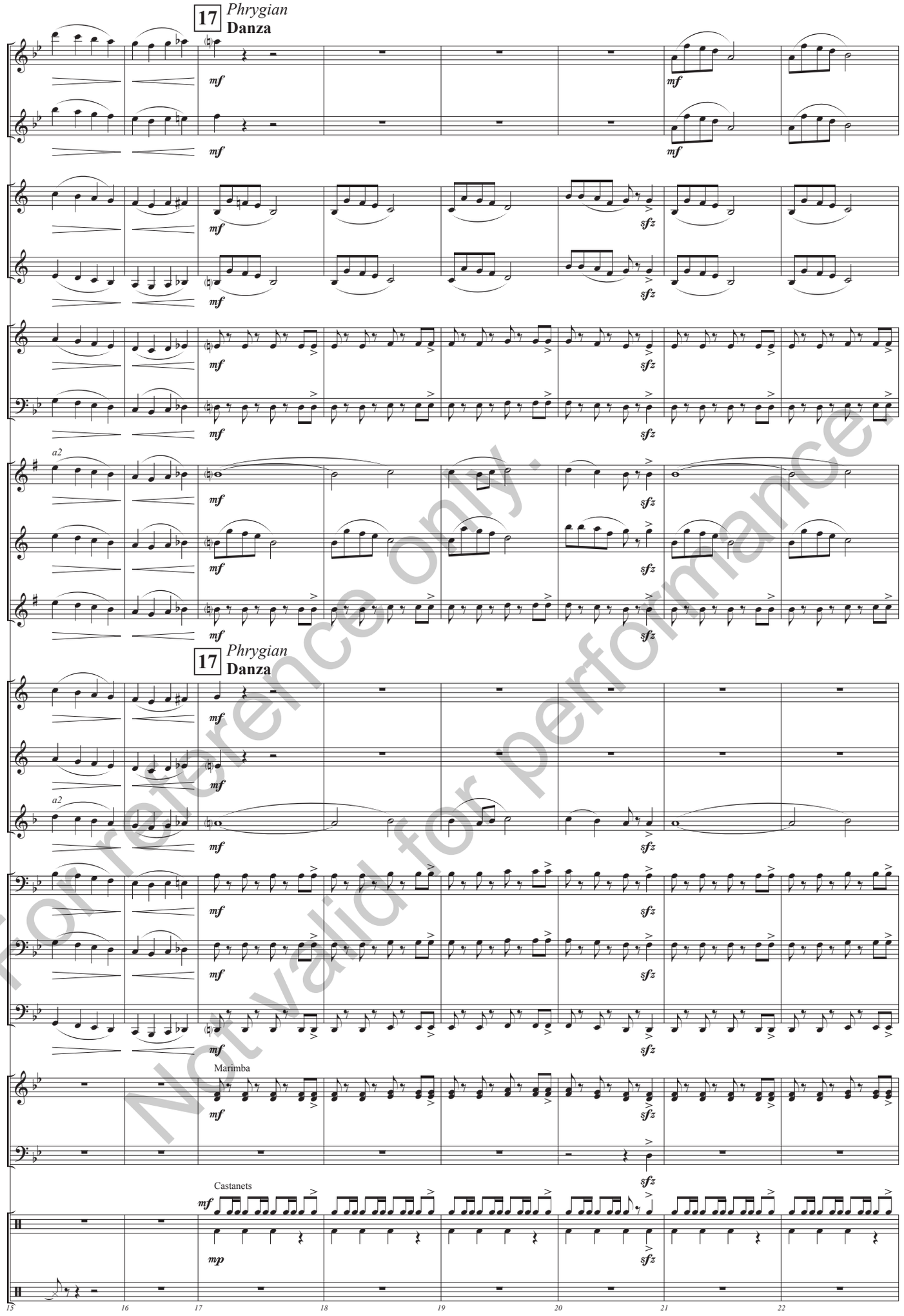

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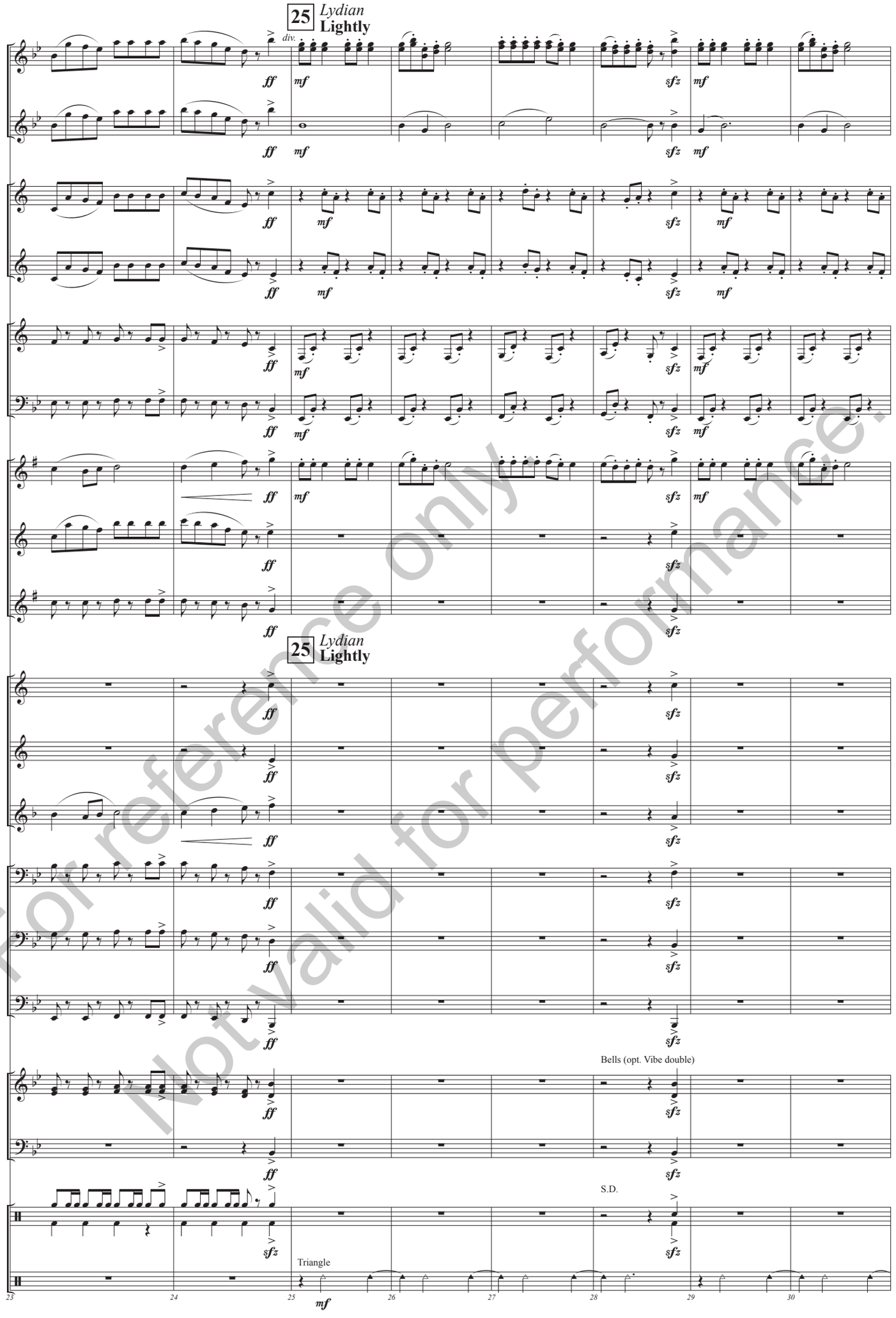

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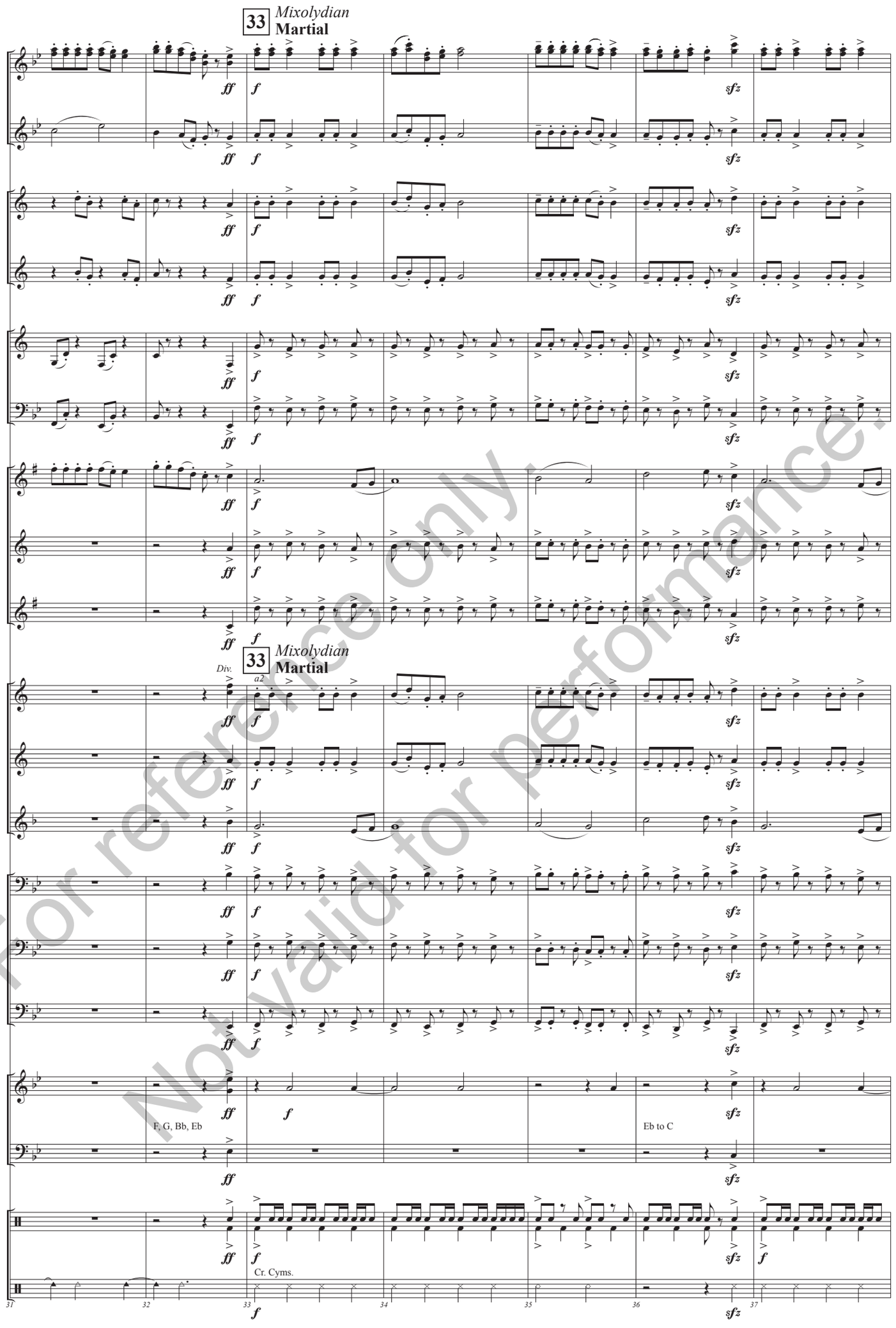

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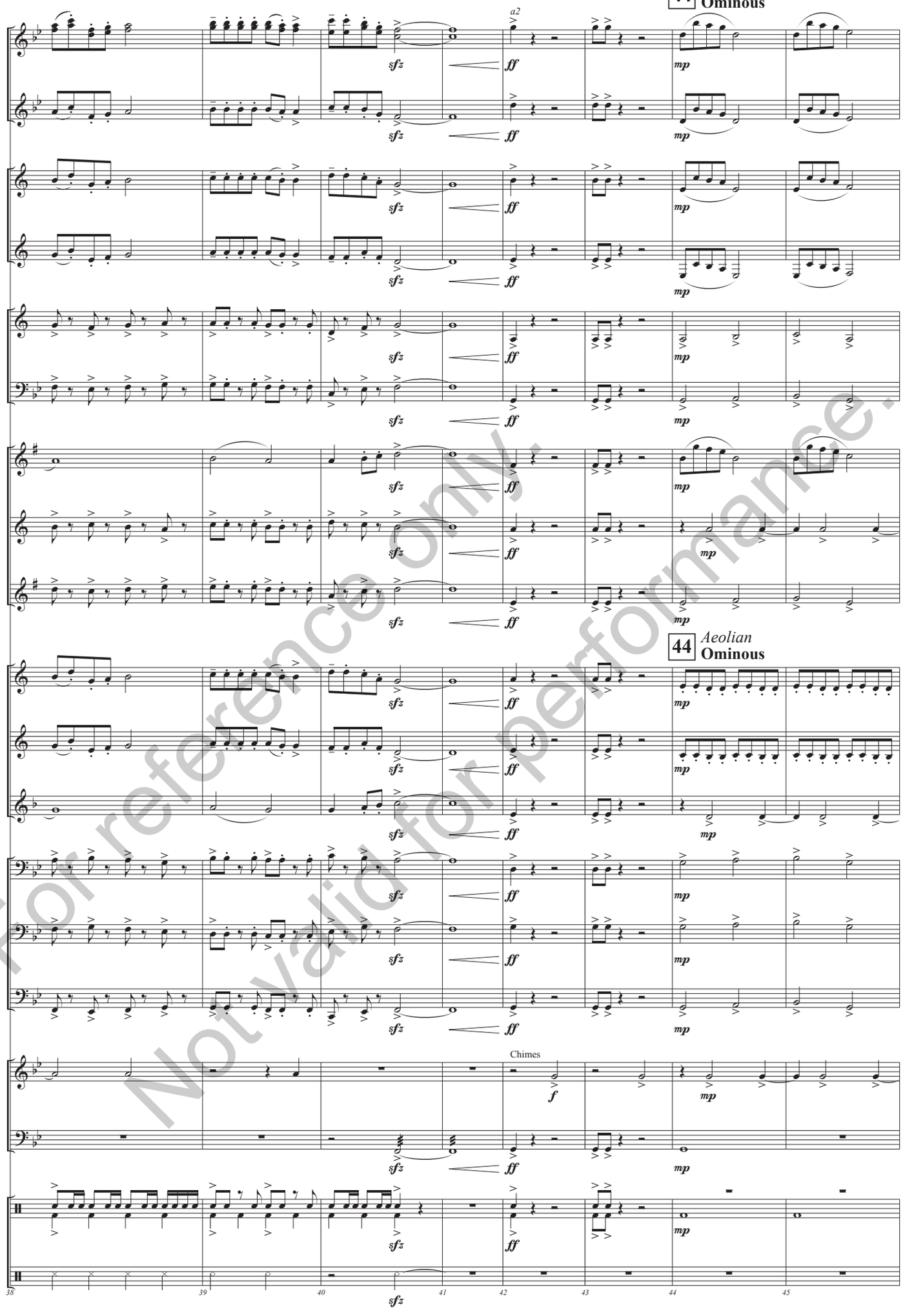

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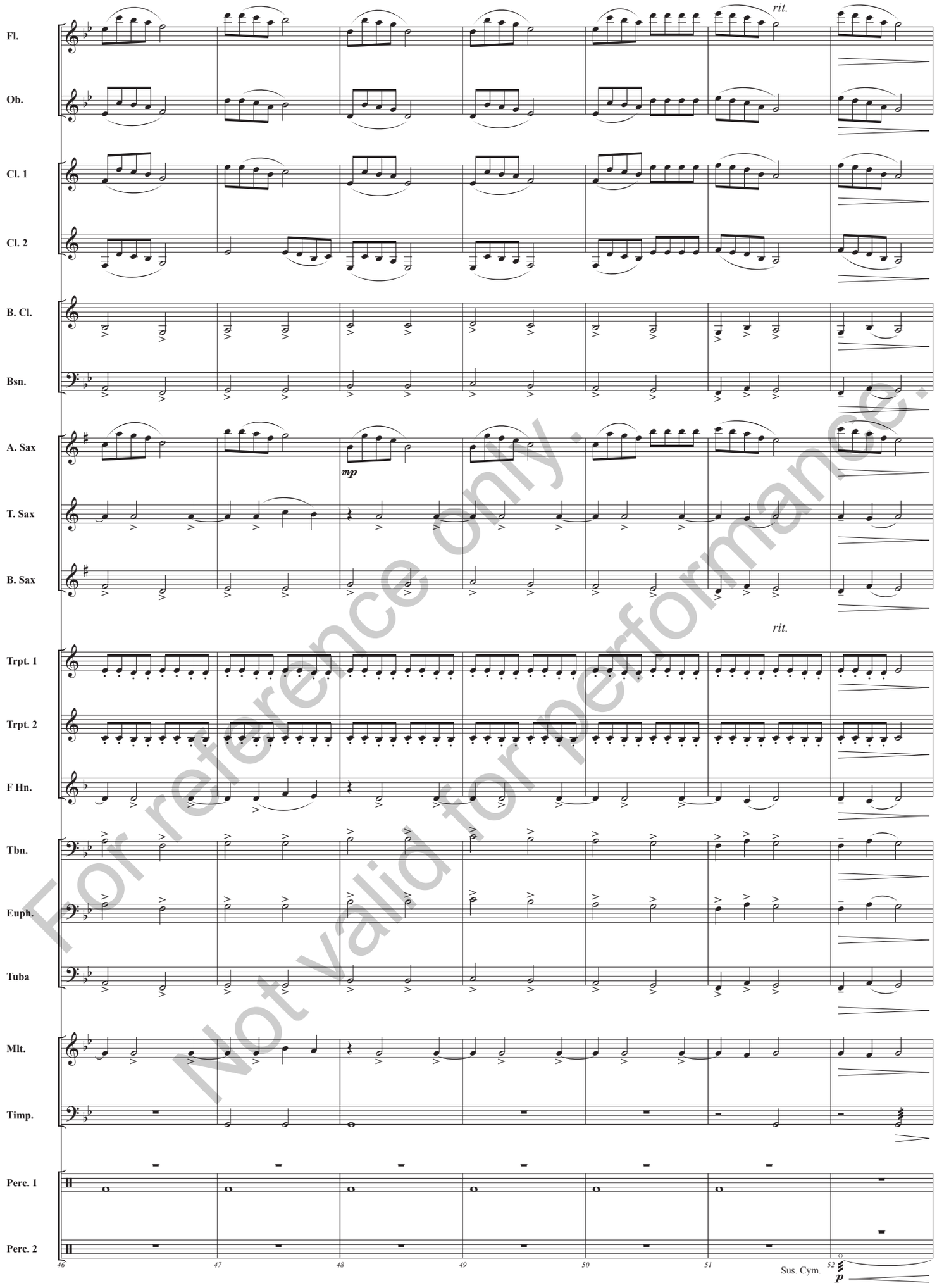

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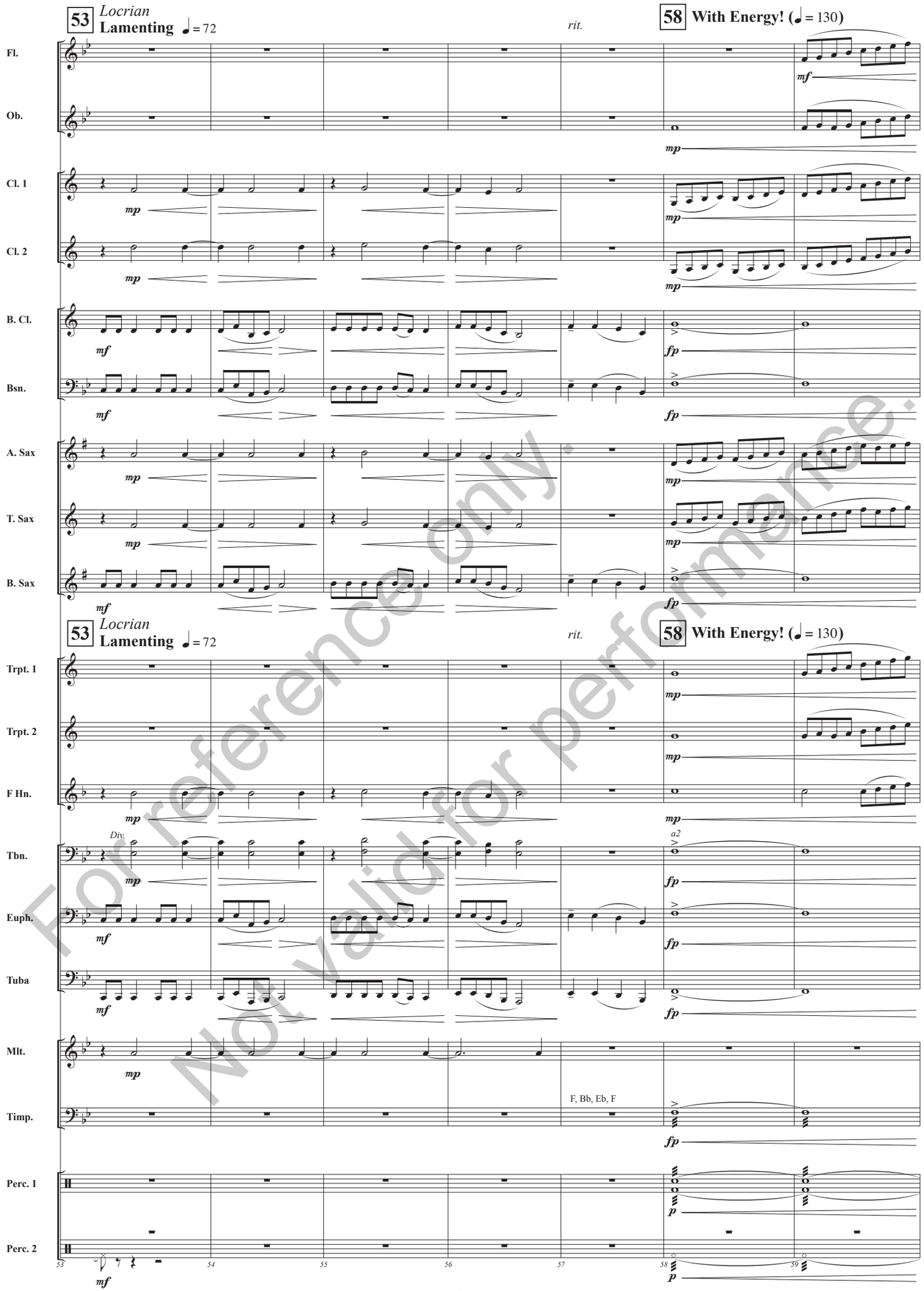

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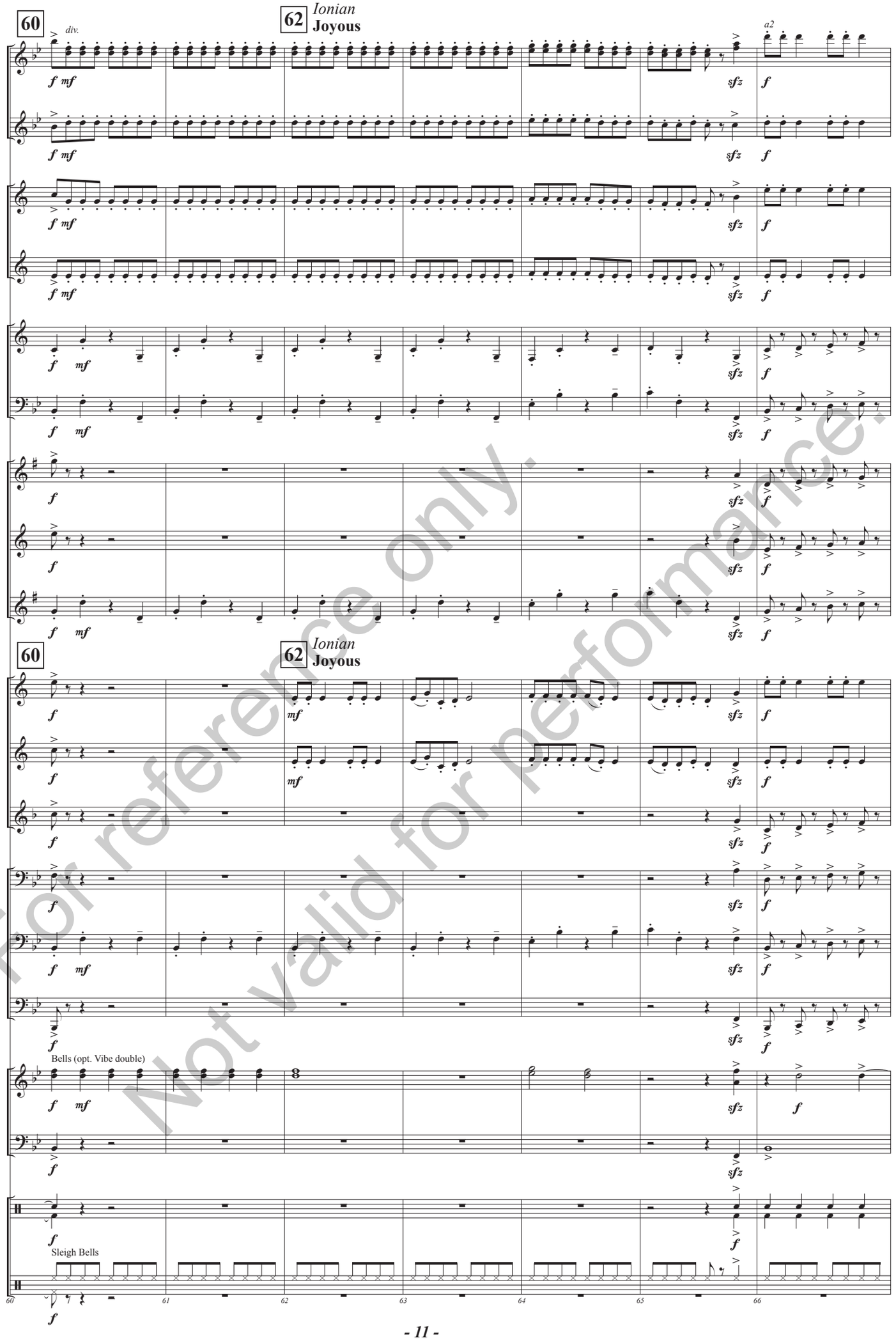

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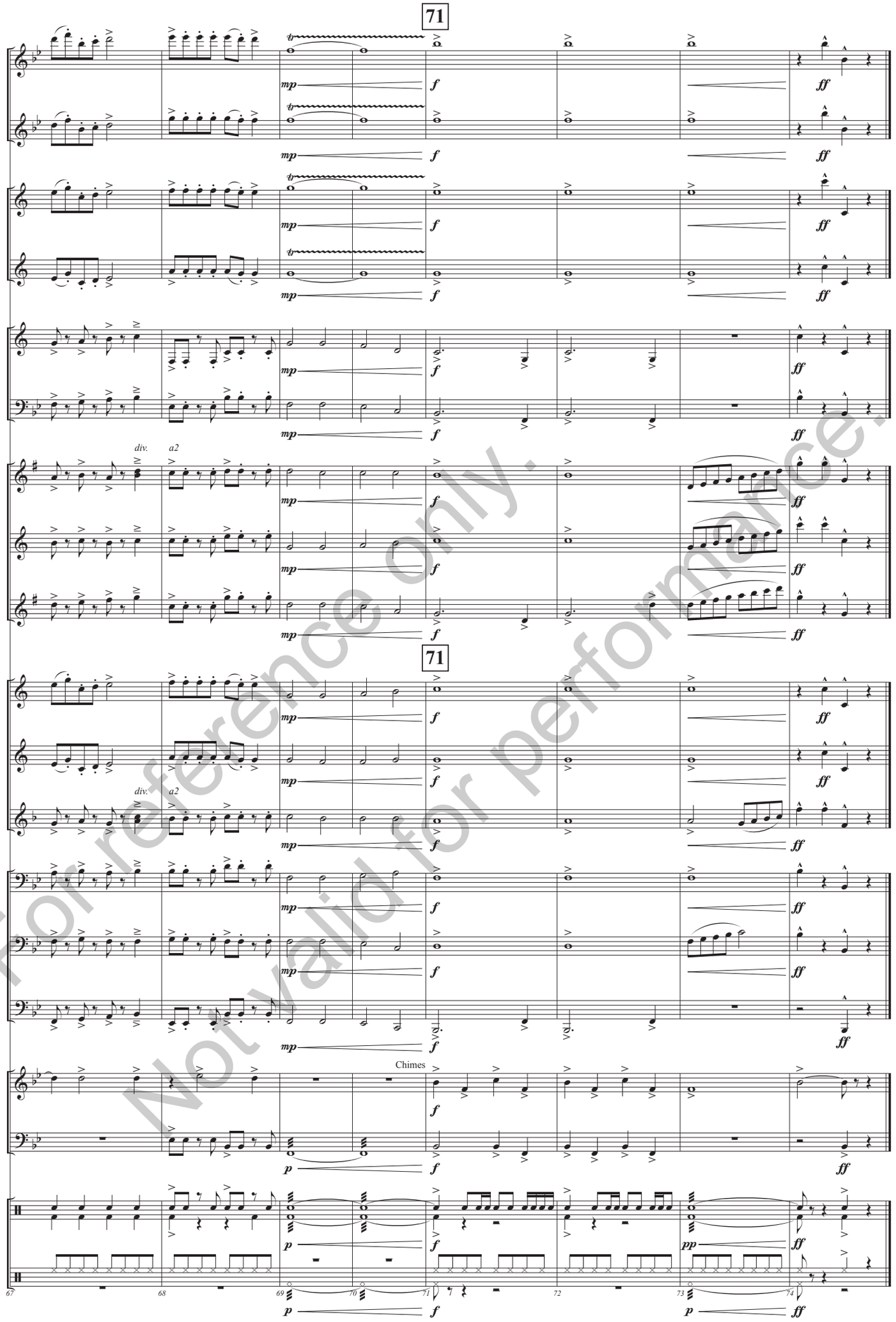

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