Winterludes for TWO

4 holiday duets for vibraphone and marimba

arranged by Brian Blume

creativity in percussion™

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Winterludes for Two

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About this Book

Over the past couple years, I have had a growing need for high quality, entertaining arrangements of holiday music for vibraphone and marimba duet. While there are undoubtedly some great resources available, I saw a need for more pieces to be added to this repertoire. This collection is an attempt to meet that need. In general, the music is geared more toward experienced players. All pieces are written for a 5-octave marimba, though some may be cleverly adjusted to fit onto smaller keyboards if necessary. Vibraphone parts are written for a standard 3.0-octave instrument.

I have included a brief history about each piece, a few personal thoughts behind my arrangement, and lyrics to every song. It is truly my hope that performers and listeners alike will connect to these new arrangements of classic Christmas works.

–Brian Blume

More

Purchase Brian Blume's holiday album ***Let it Snow*** for recordings of all these arrangements. Available from **brianblumemusic.com**.

See ***Winterludes*** for more holiday arrangements written for solo marimba – also from Tapspace.

We Three Kings

Words and music by **John Henry Hopkins, Jr.**

The Magi were a priestly caste of ancient Persian Zoroastrianism and were revered by classic authors as wise men. According to the Bible, the Magi were men who came bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, to adore the newborn Jesus. They were guided by the Star of Bethlehem. Their number was not identified in the Gospel of Matthew, but Christian tradition has set their number as three, called them kings, and named them Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.

Many arrangements of this tune go for a Middle Eastern quality in the music and instruments used. I opted for a more modern, dance-like approach that demands tight rhythmic playing by both performers.

1. *Three Kings:*
We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts, we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

O Star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to Thy perfect light.

2. *Melchior:*
Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring, to crown Him again,
King for ever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

3. *Gaspar:*
Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship Him, God most High.

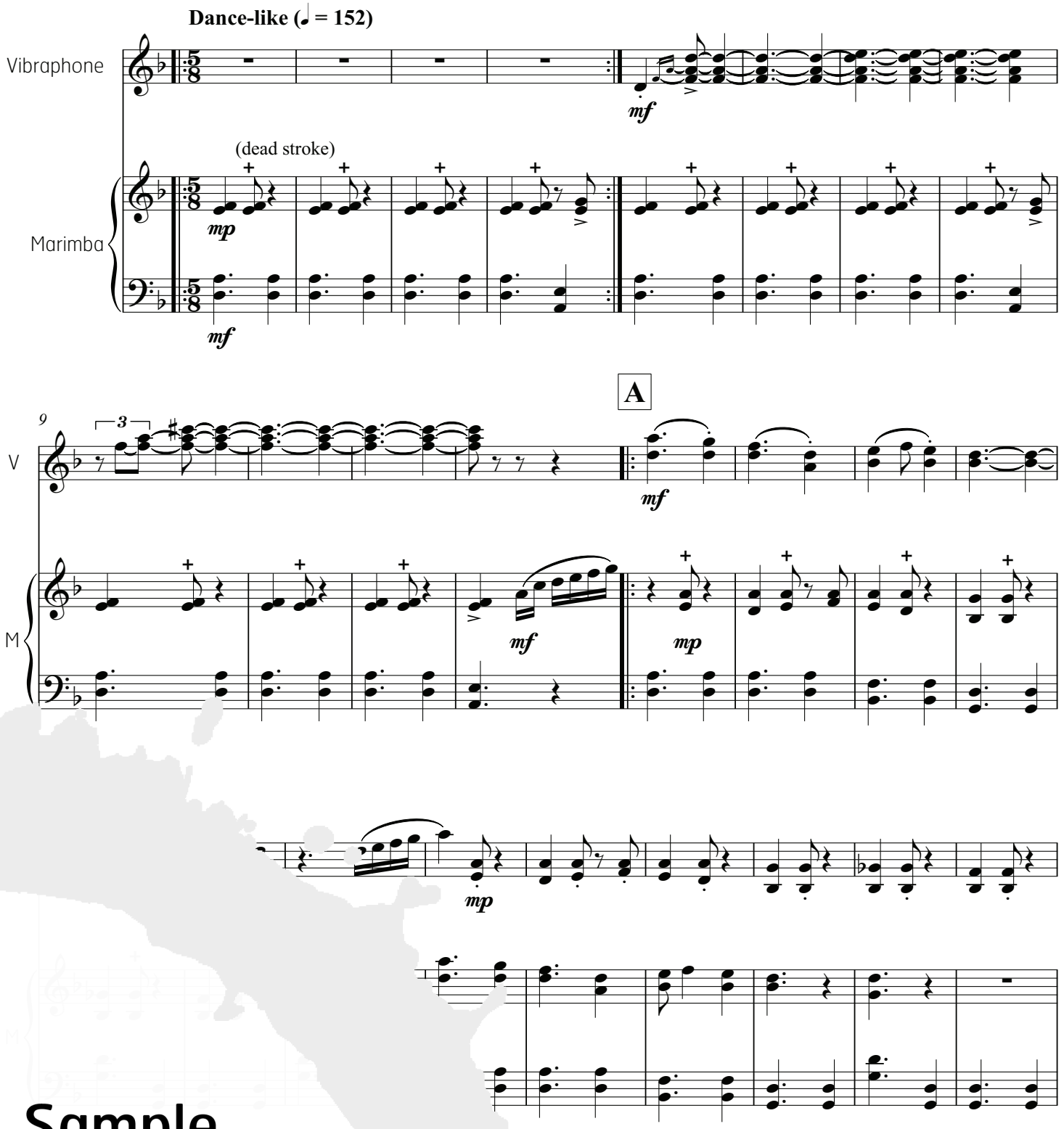
4. *Balthazar:*
Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

5. *Three Kings:*
Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and sacrifice,
Alleluia, Alleluia;
Earth to the heavens replies.

Level: Advanced
Approx duration: 3'15"

We Three Kings

John Henry Hopkins, Jr.
arranged by Brian Blume



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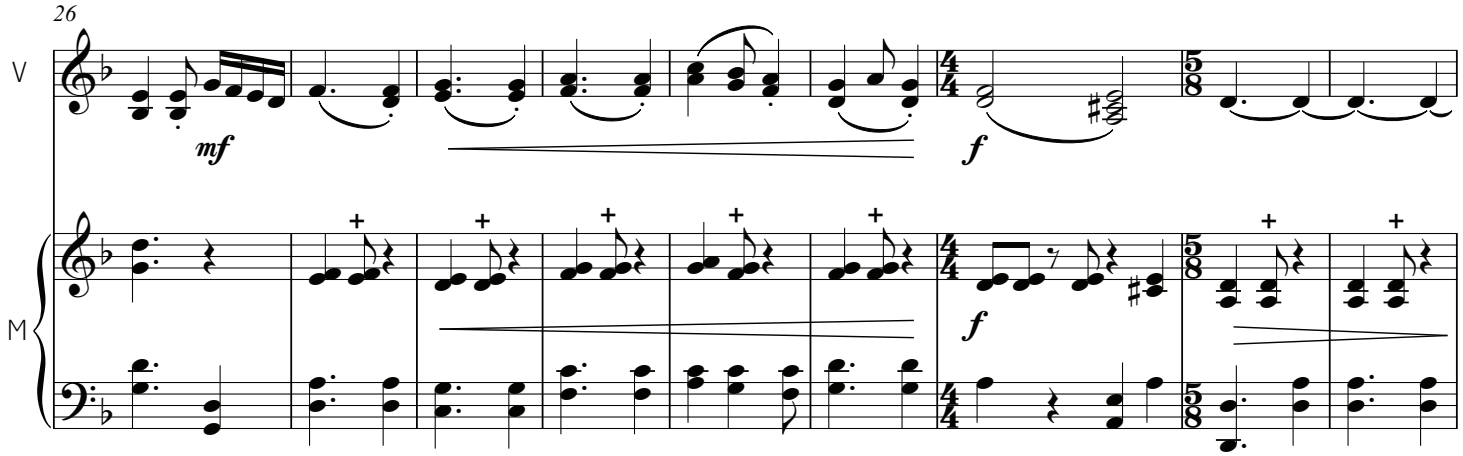

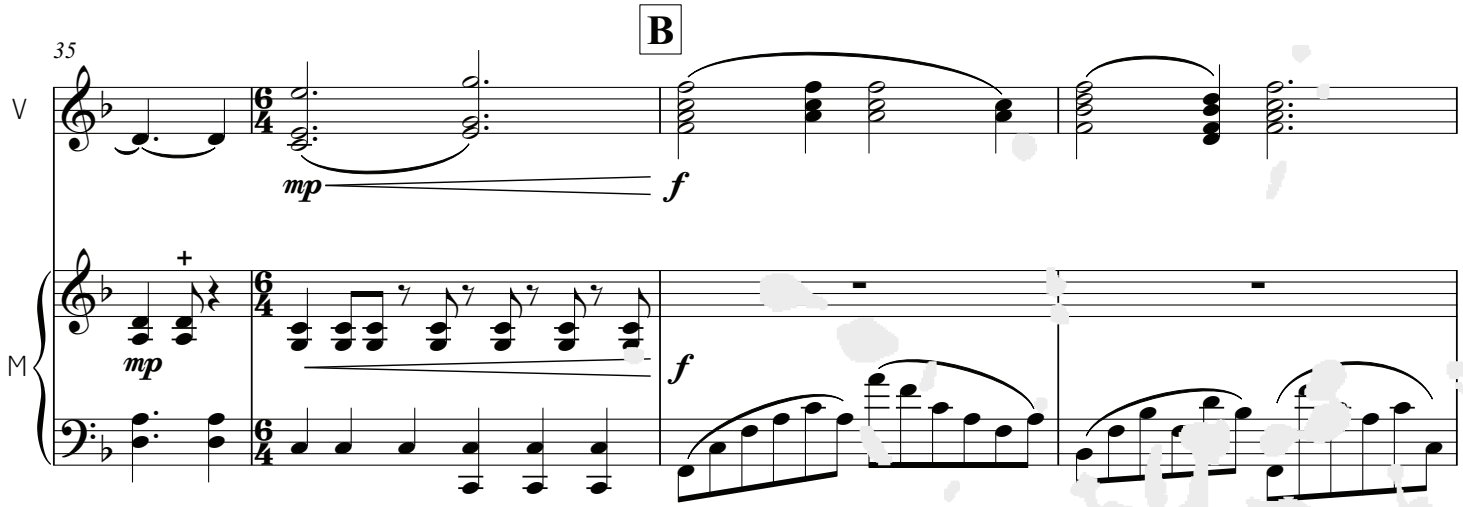

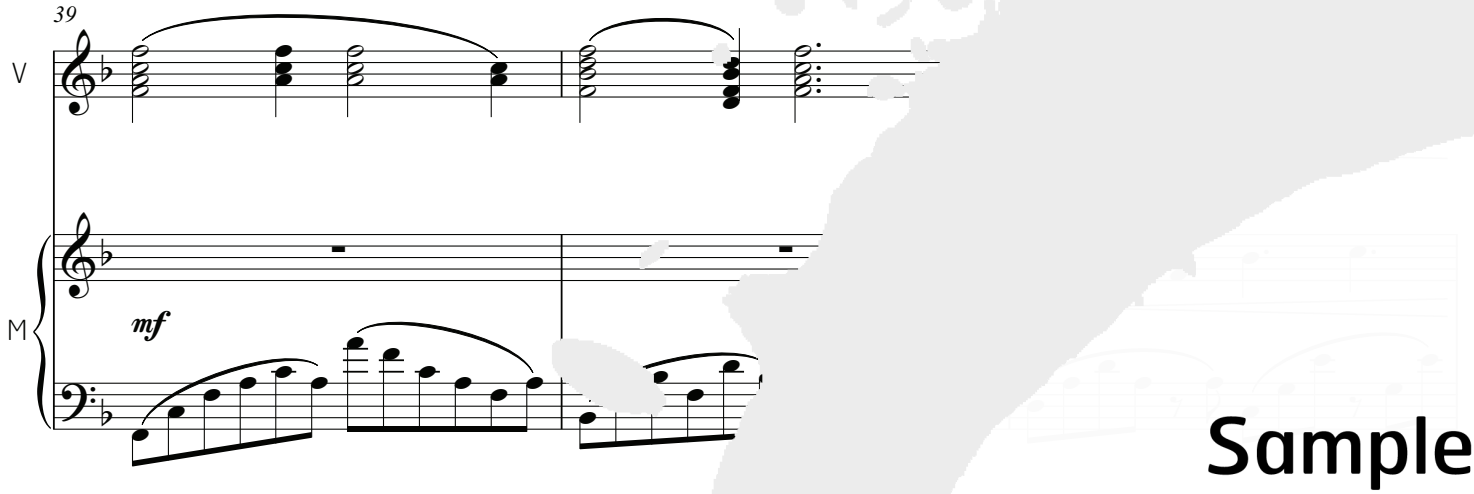

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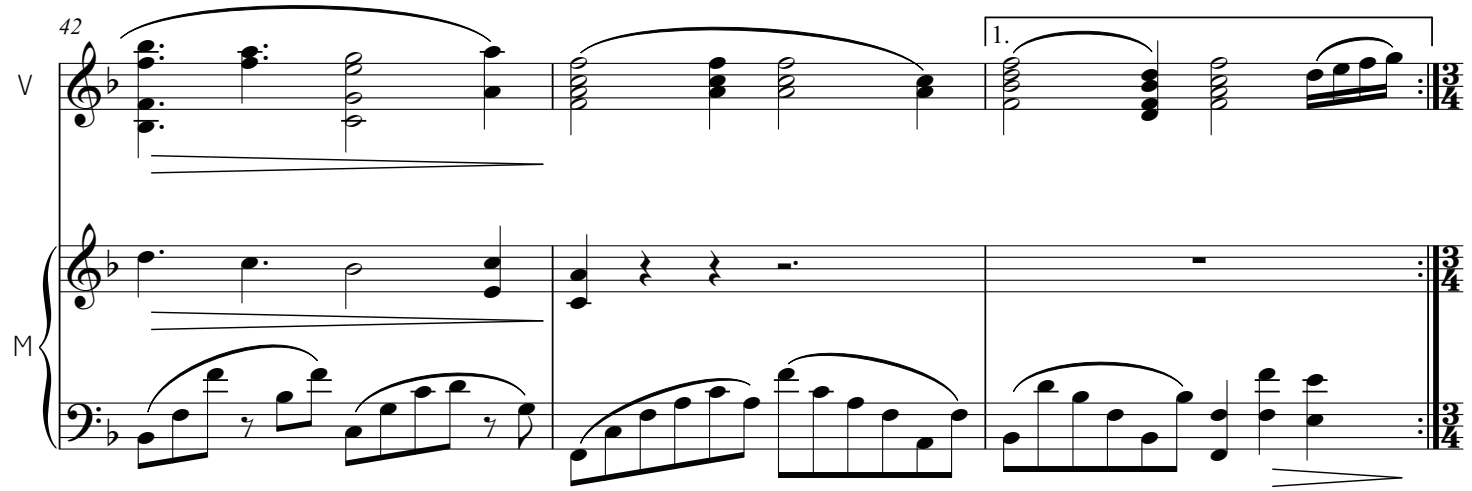

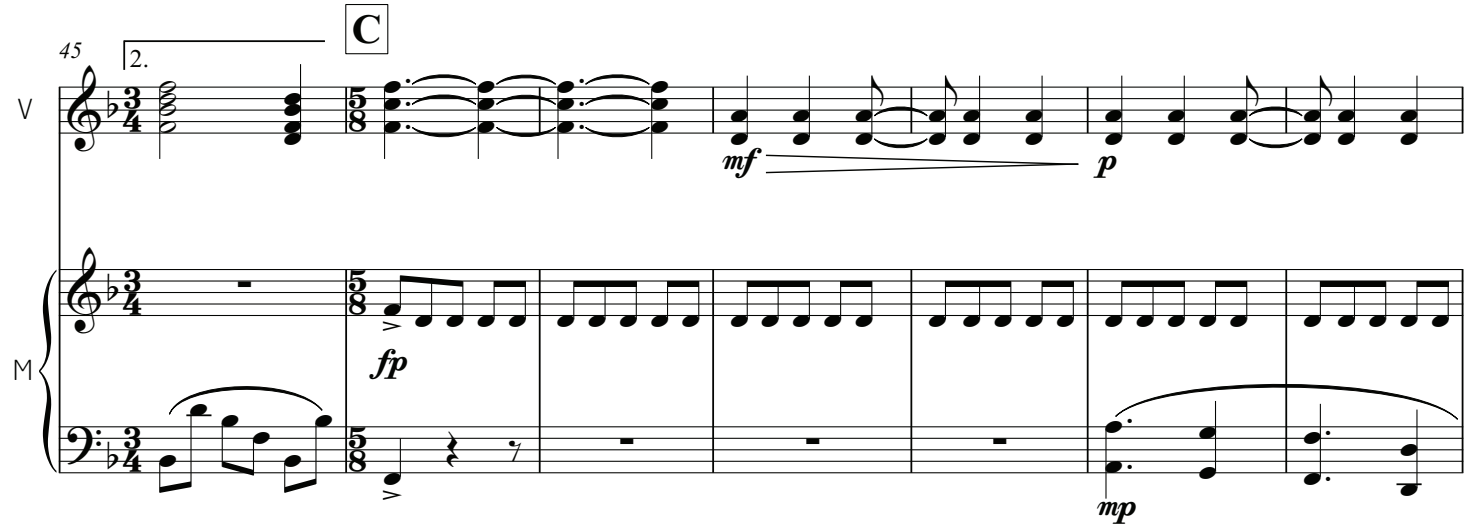

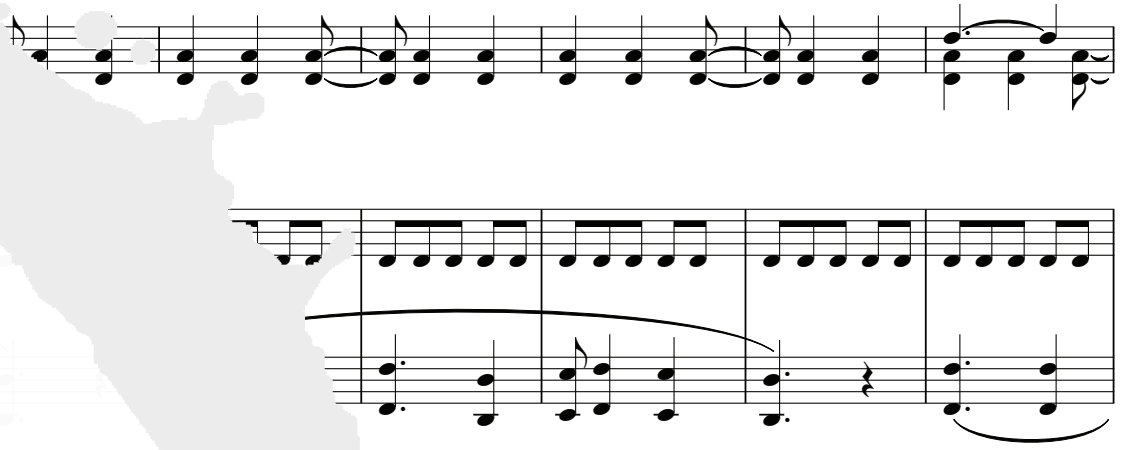

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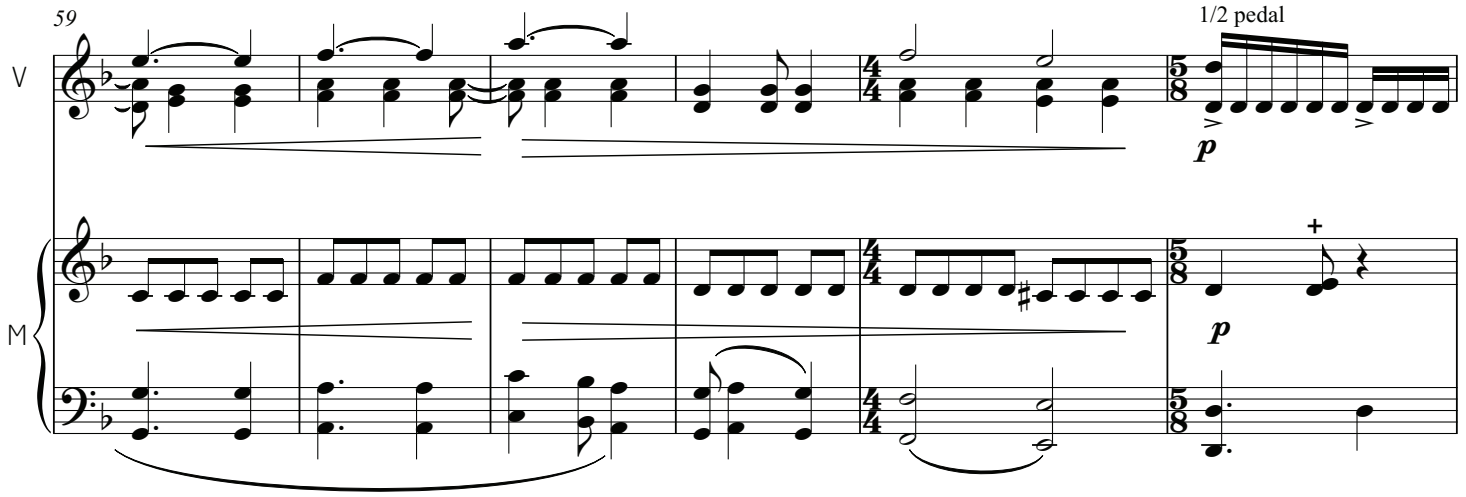

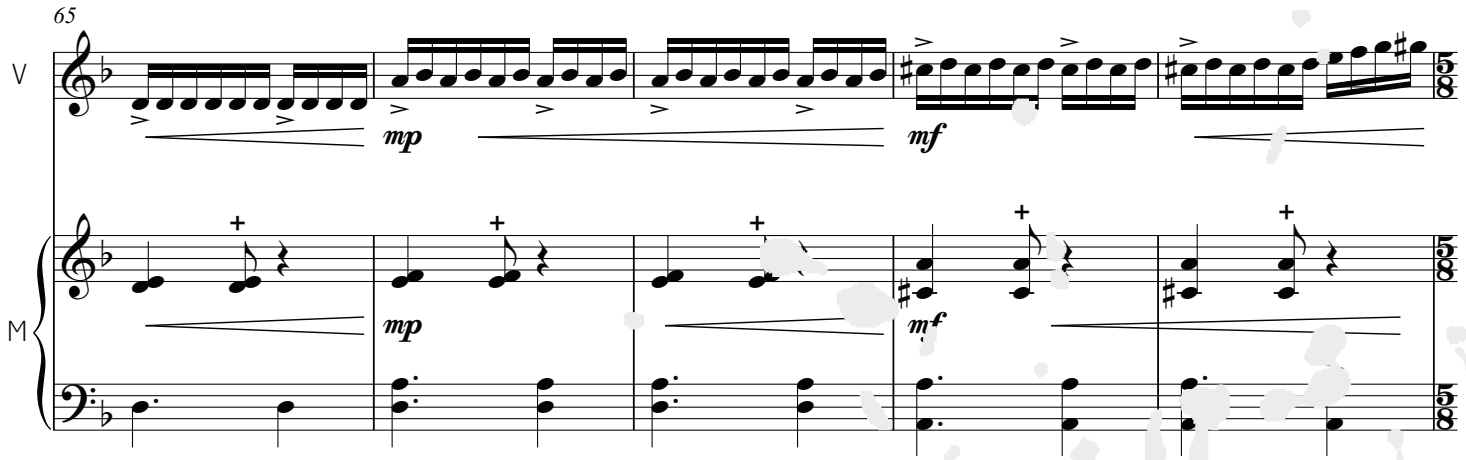

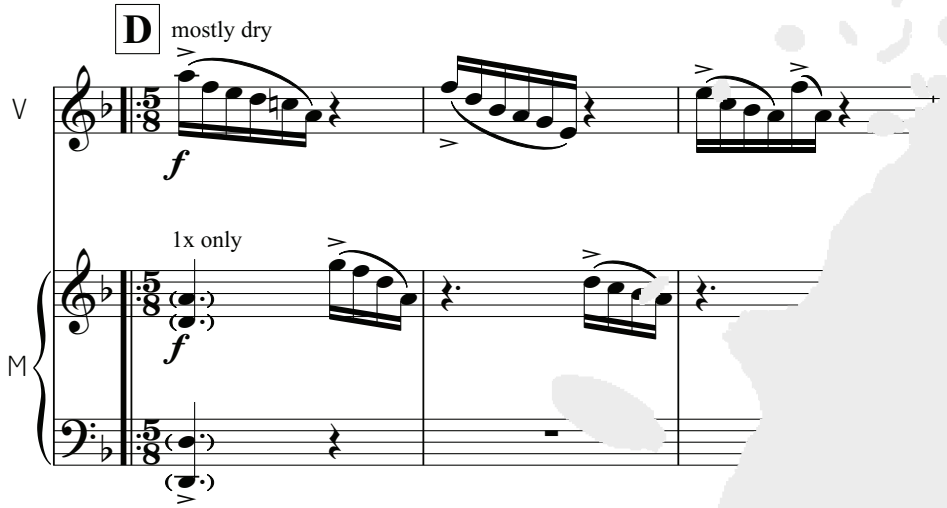

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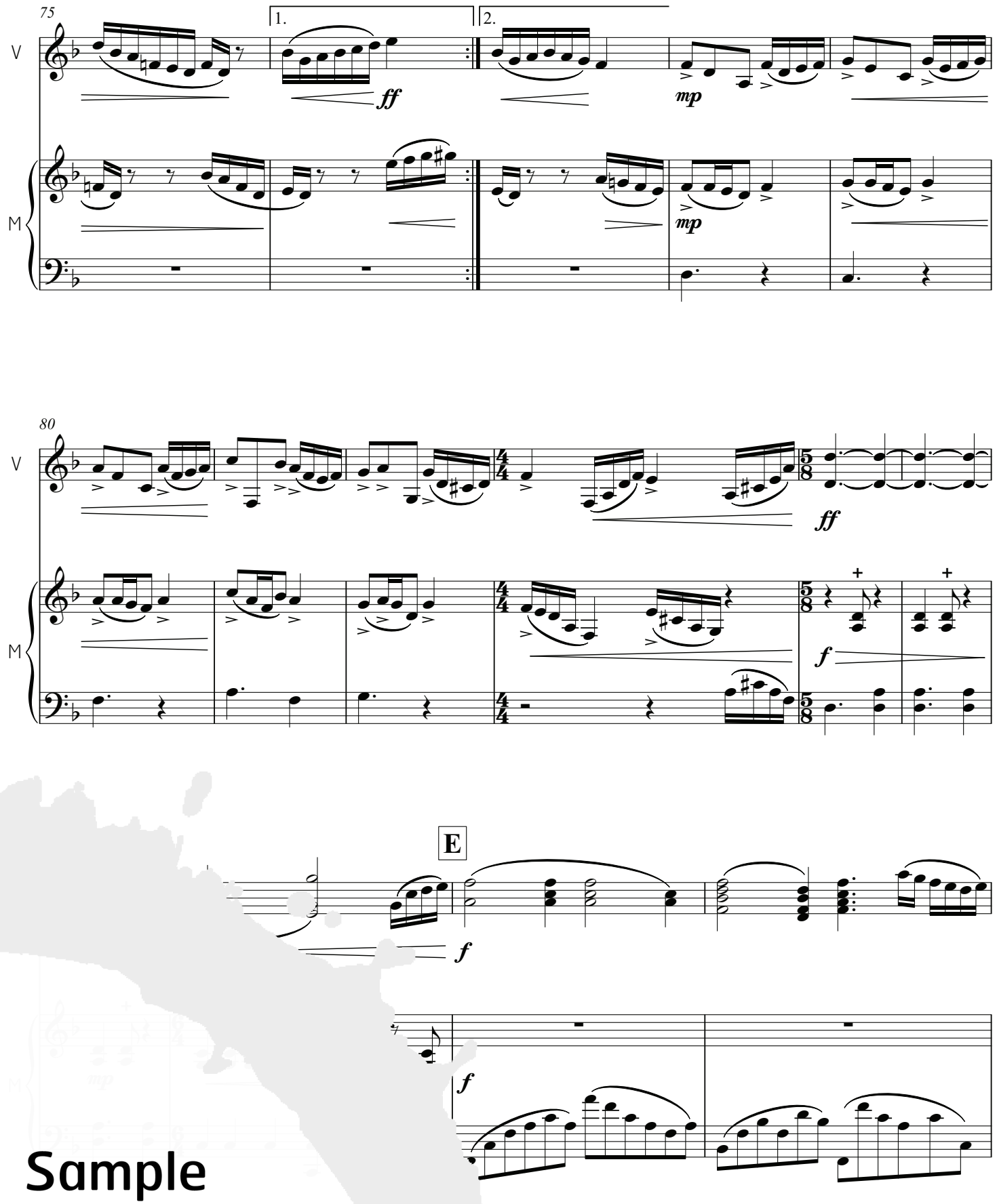

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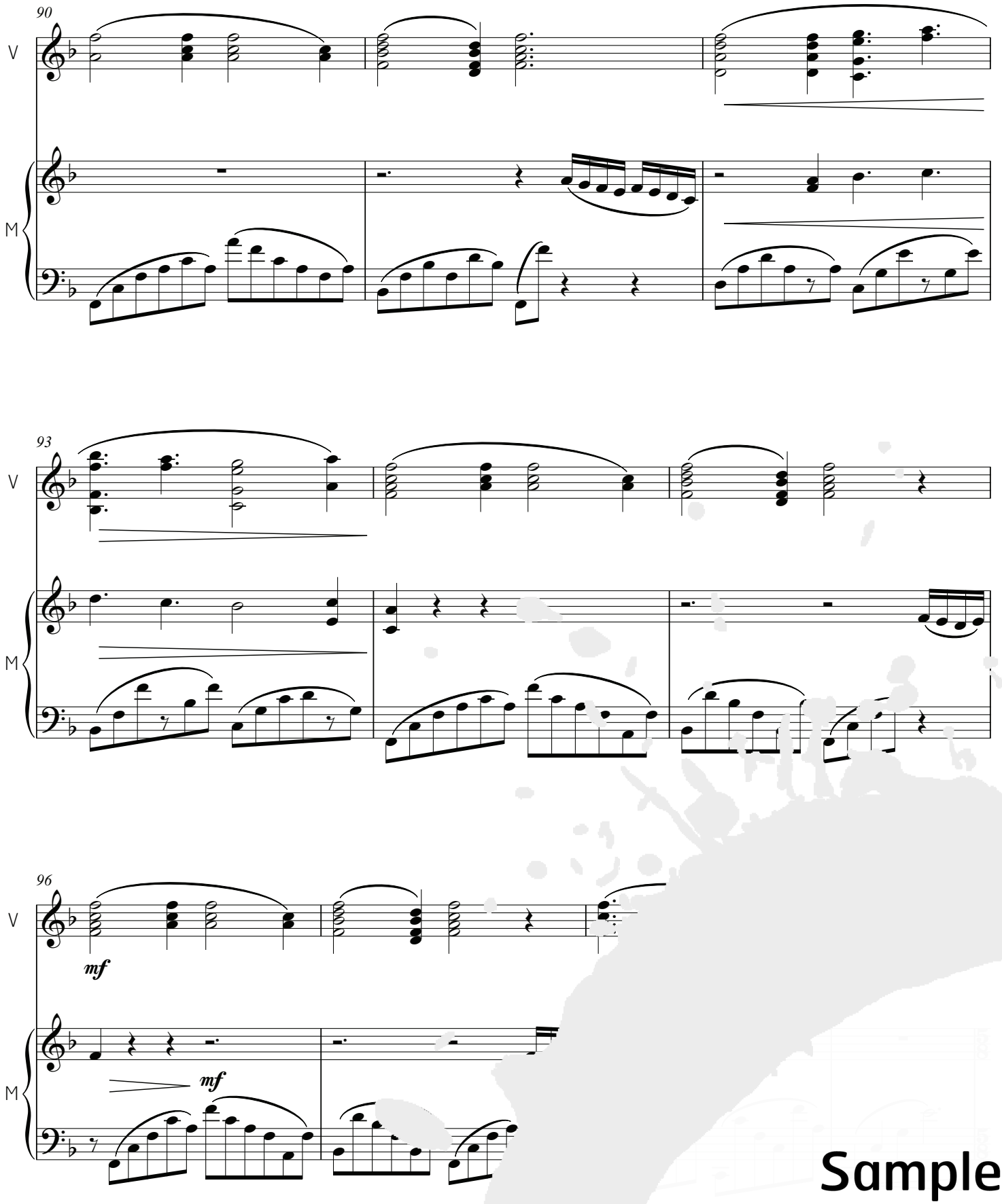

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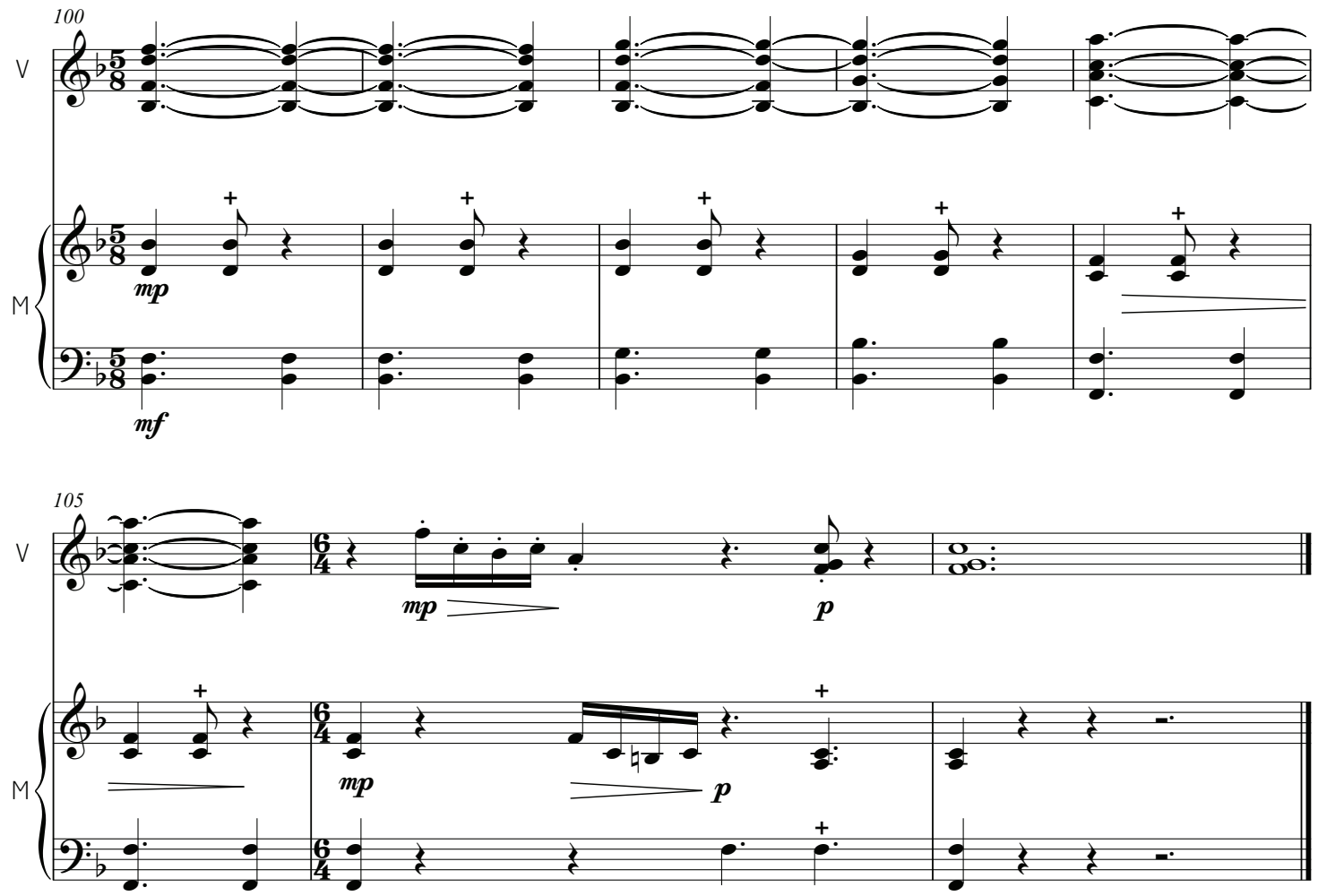

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Carol of the Bells

Words by **Peter Wilhousky**
Music by **Mykola Leontovich**

Originally titled *Shchedryk*, meaning bountiful, this Ukrainian folk song was traditionally used to celebrate the new year. In 1936 Peter Wilhousky wrote new lyrics based on this tune, giving us “Carol of the Bells.” As the title implies, this hauntingly beautiful song is about the sound of bells at Christmastime.

This arrangement is written for mallet quartet but may be performed as a duet for marimba and vibraphone.

Hark how the bells
Sweet silver bells
All seem to say,
“Throw cares away.”
Christmas is here
Bringing good cheer
To young and old
Meek and the bold

Ding, dong, ding, dong
That is their song
With joyful ring
All caroling
One seems to hear
Words of good cheer
From ev’rywhere
Filling the air

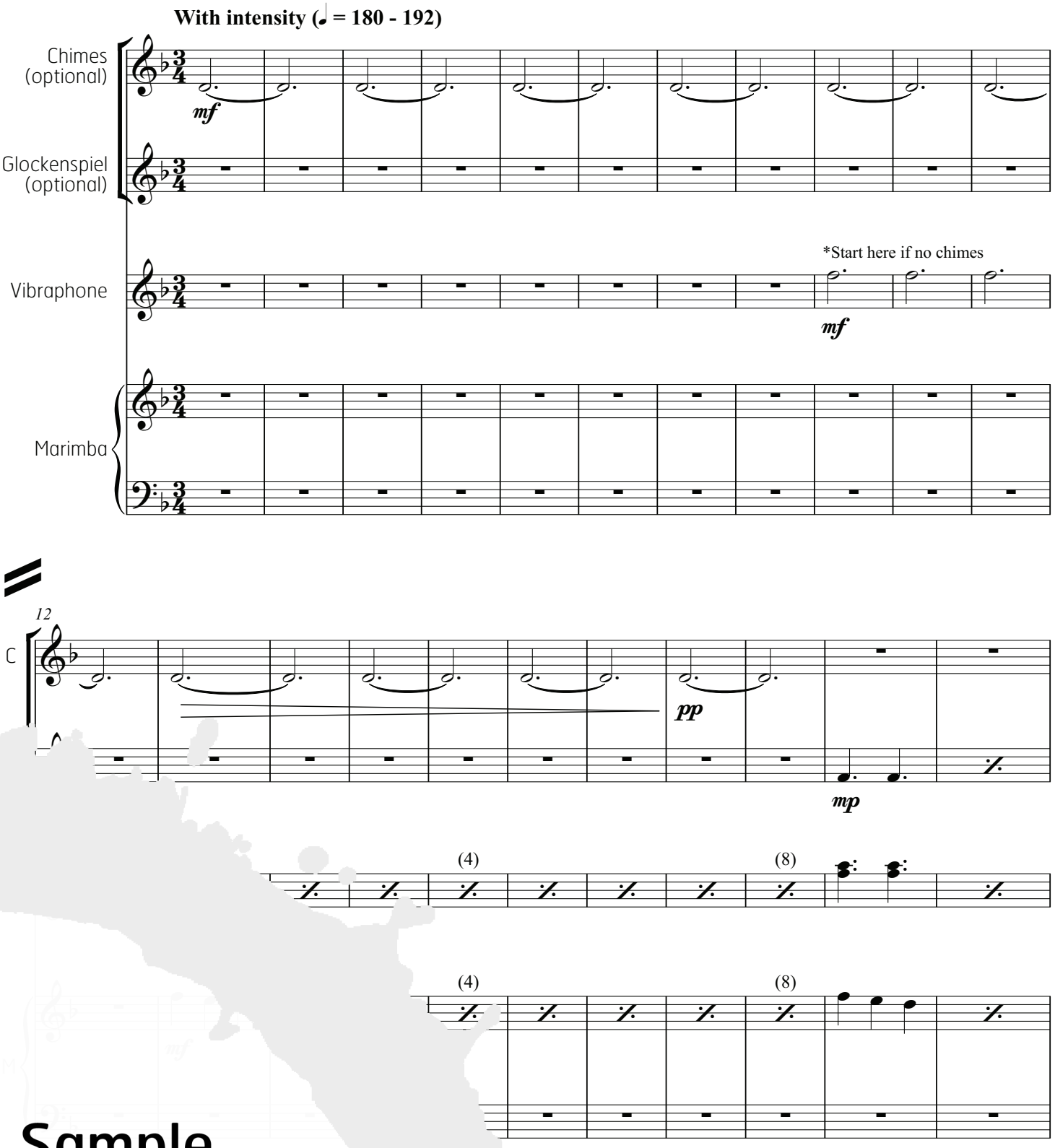
Oh how they pound,
Raising the sound,
O’er hill and dale,
Telling their tale,
Gaily they ring
While people sing
Songs of good cheer
Christmas is here
Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas
Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas

On, on they send
On without end
Their joyful tone
To ev’ry home
Ding, dong, ding, dong

Level: Medium
Approx duration: 3'05"

Carol of the Bells

Mykola Leontovich
arranged by Brian Blume



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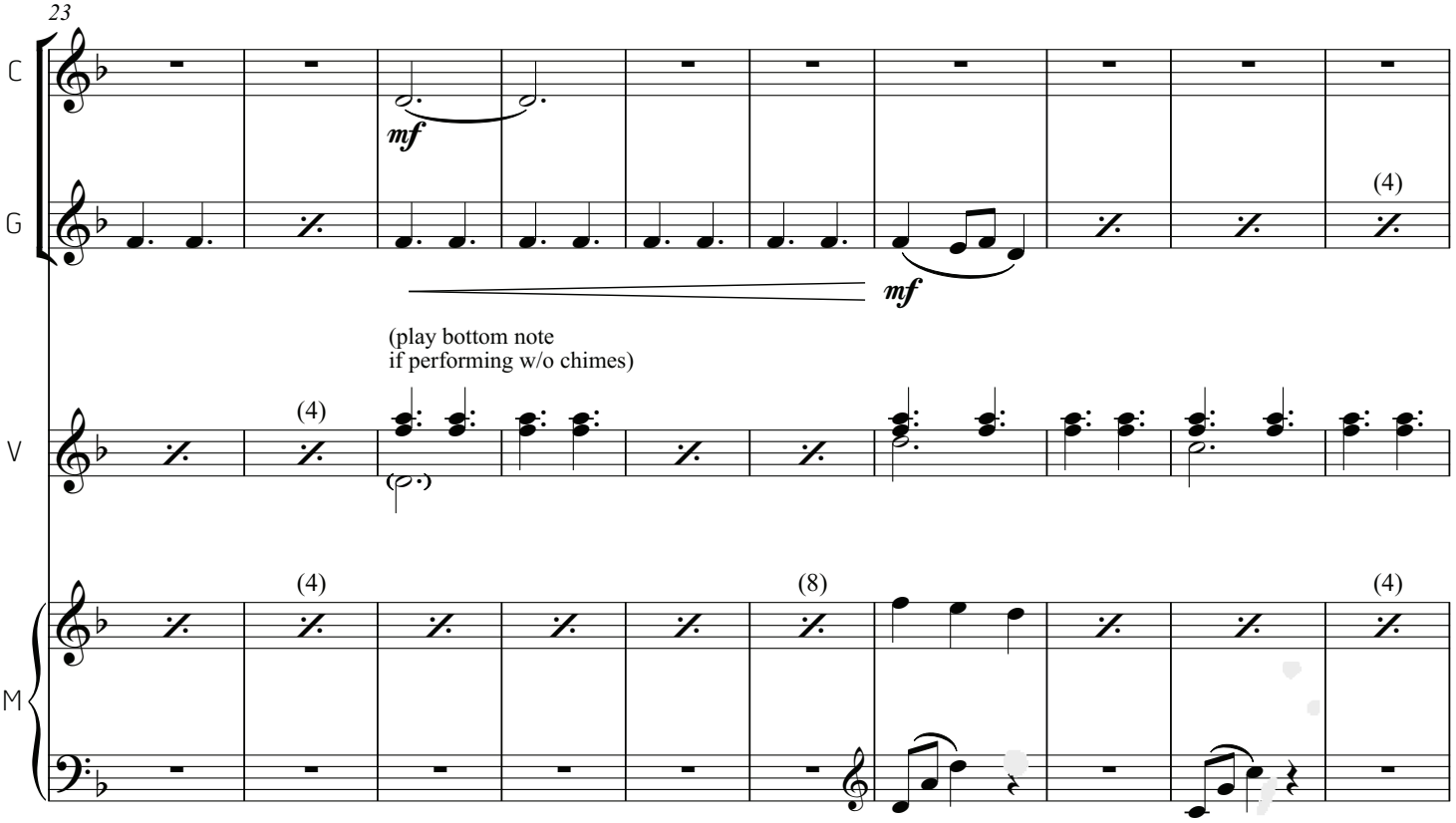

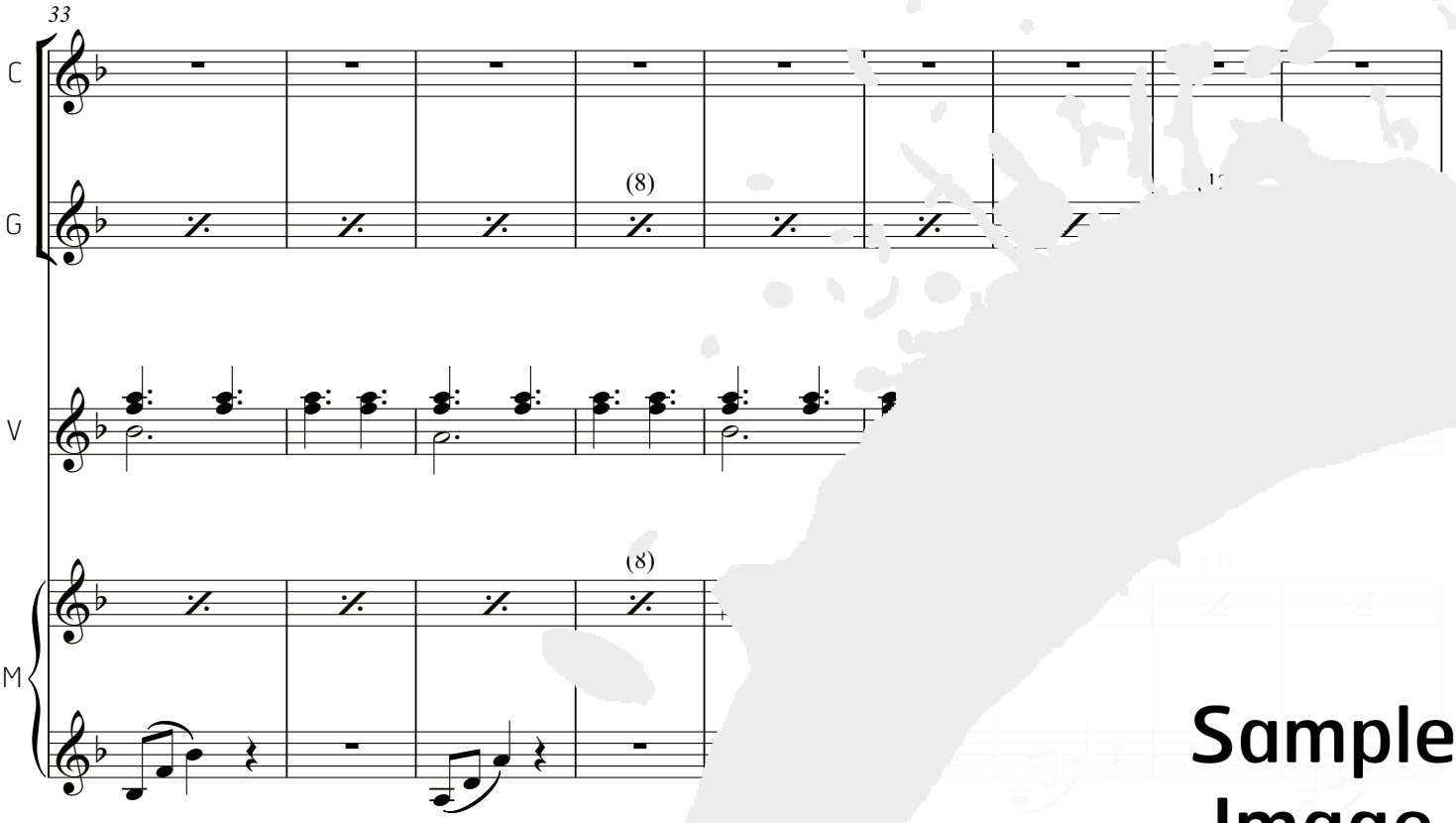

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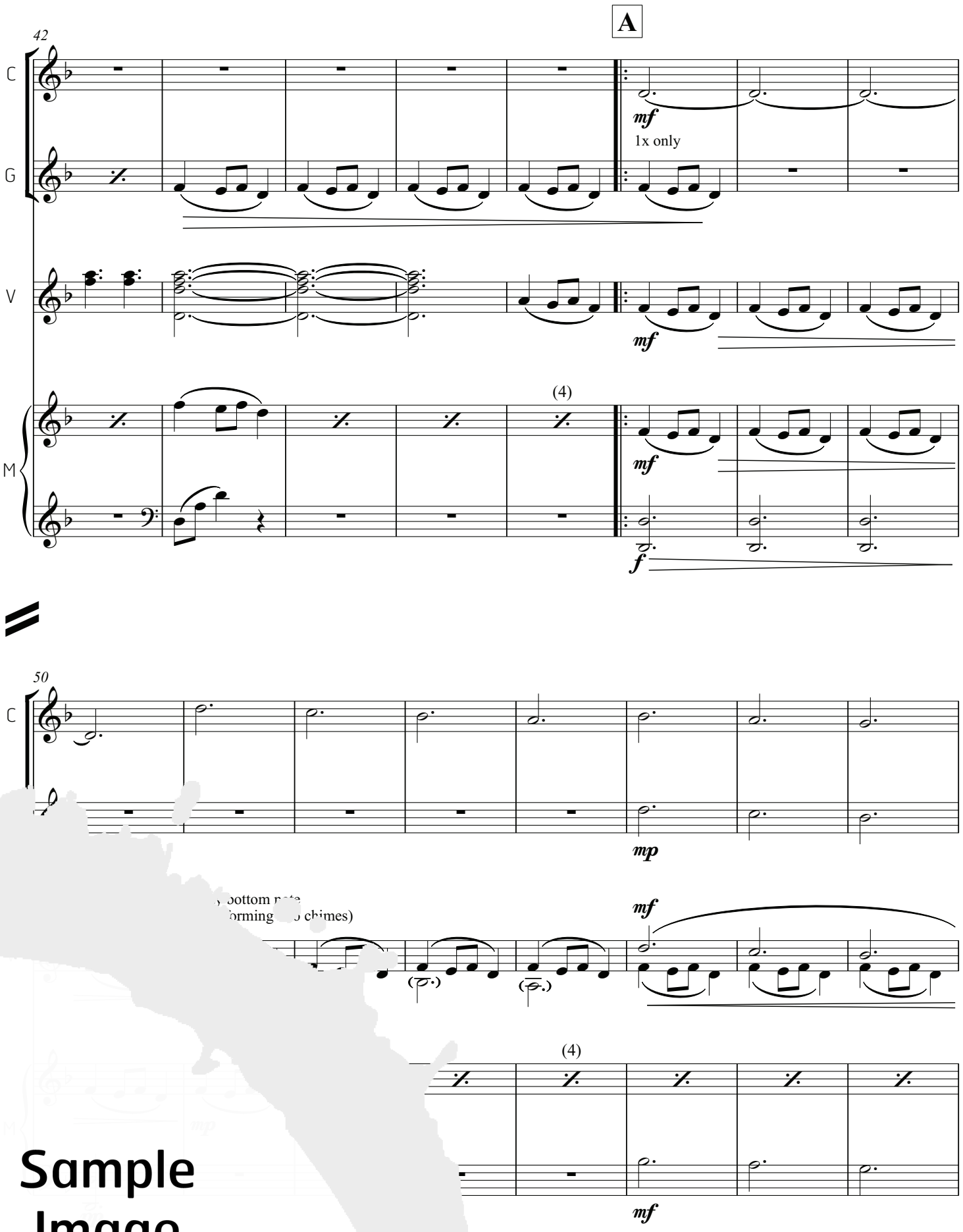

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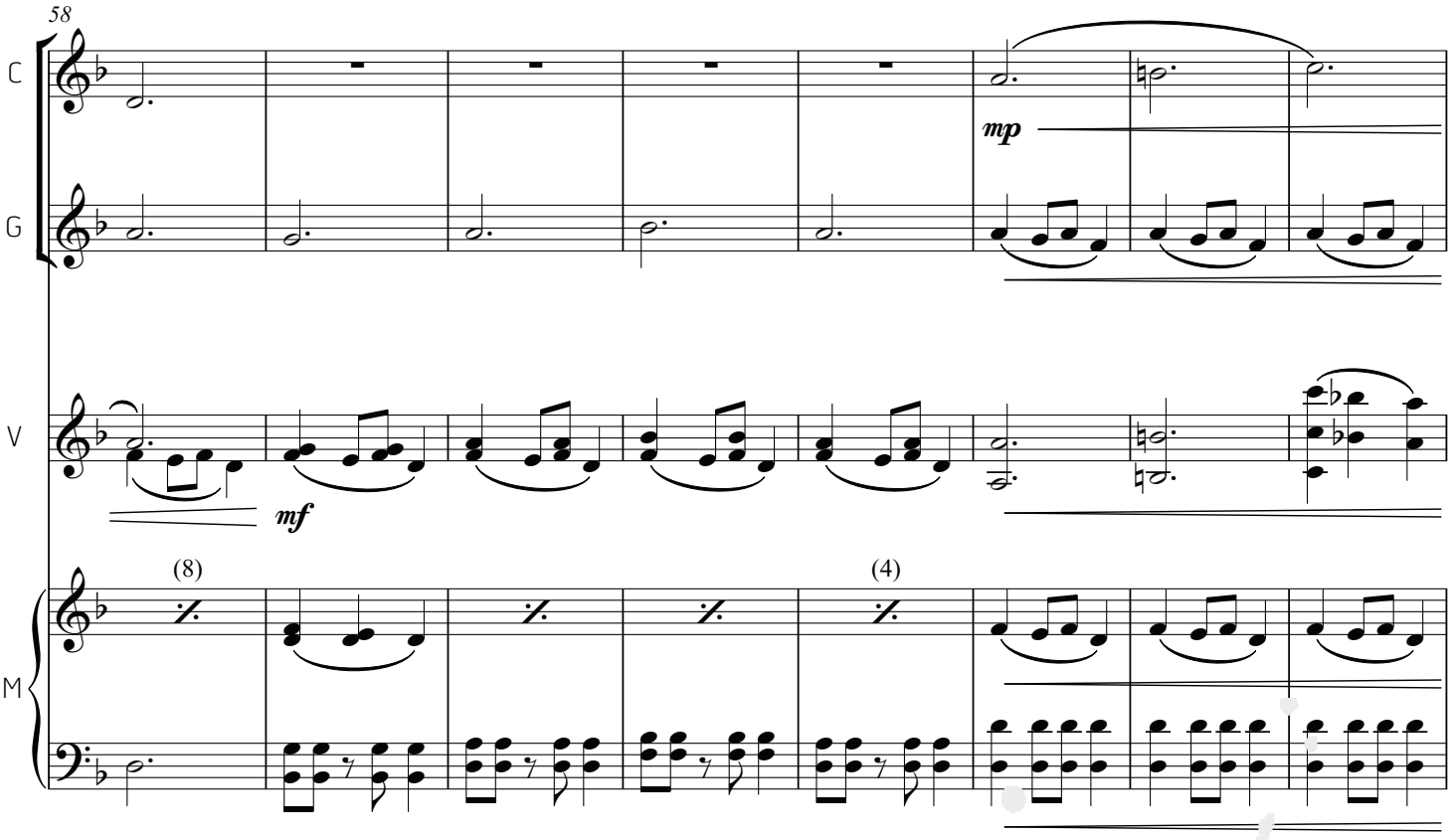

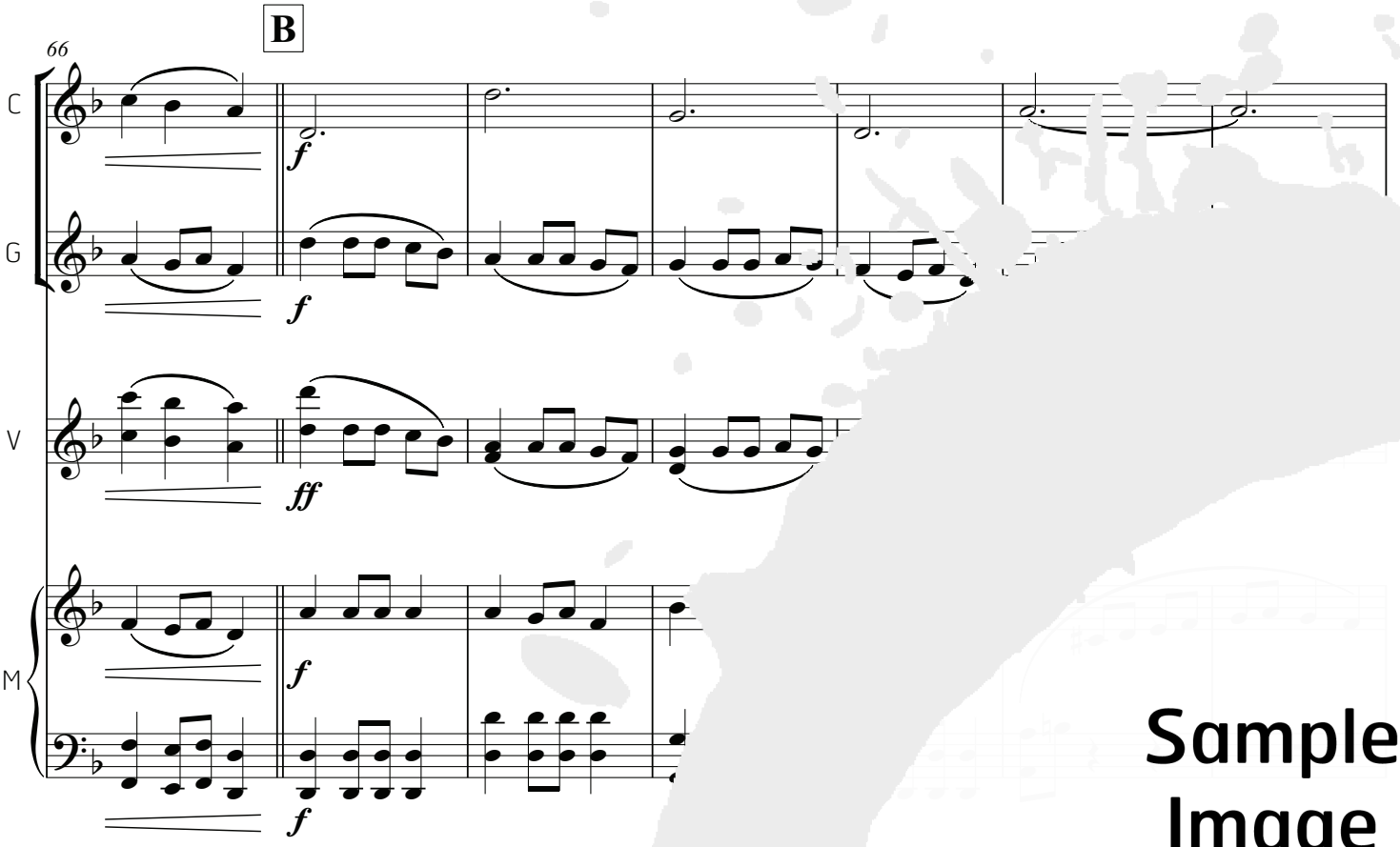

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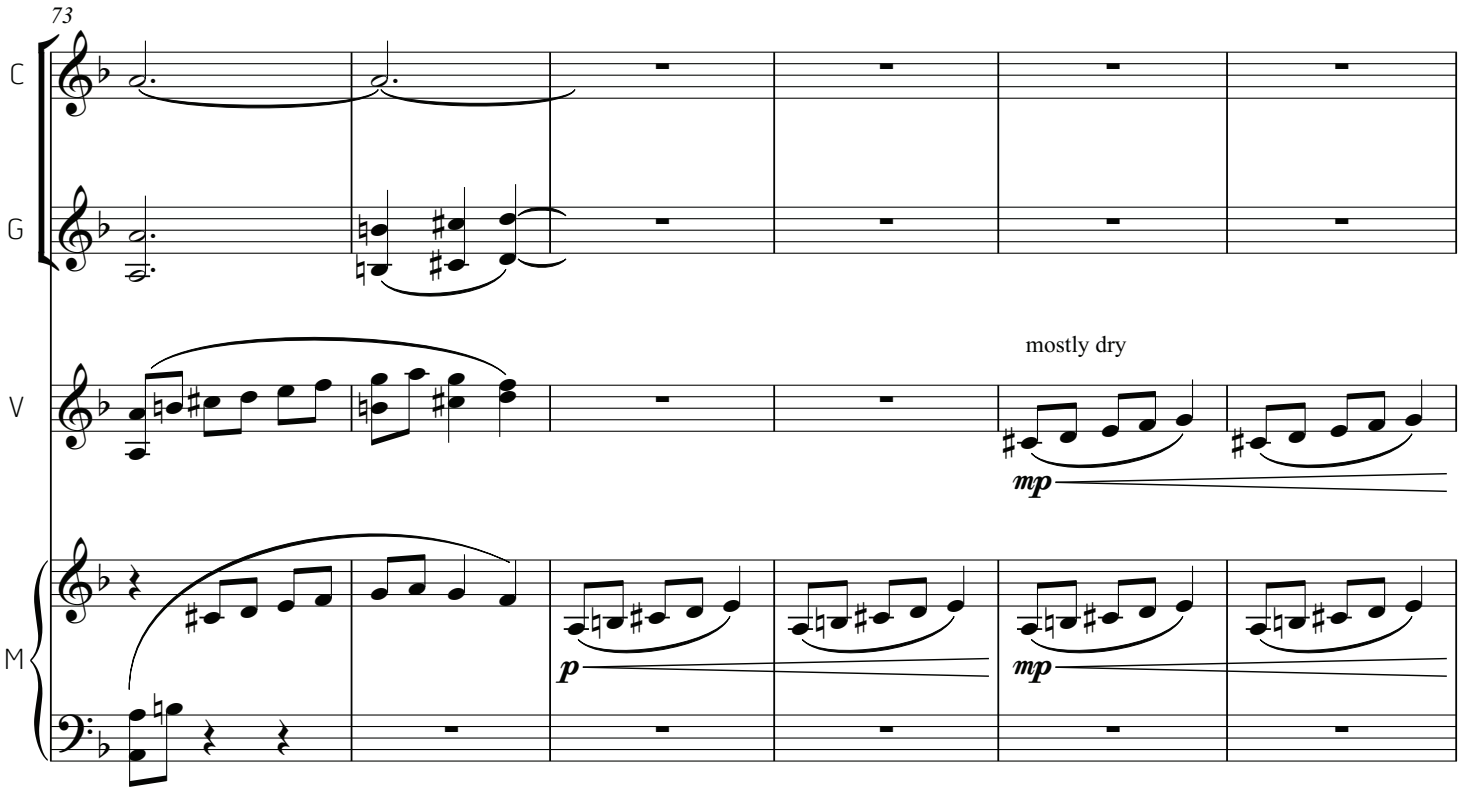

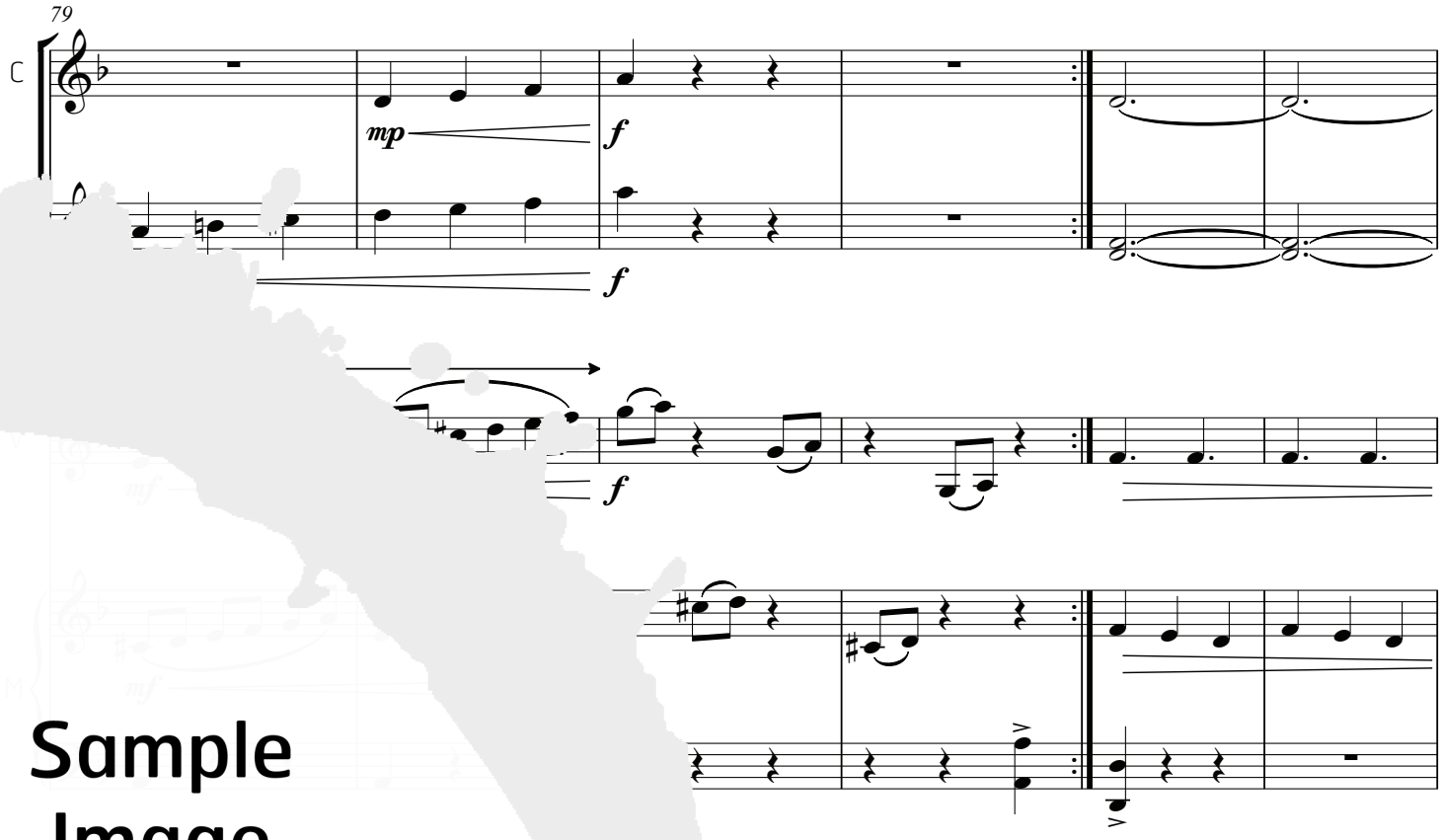

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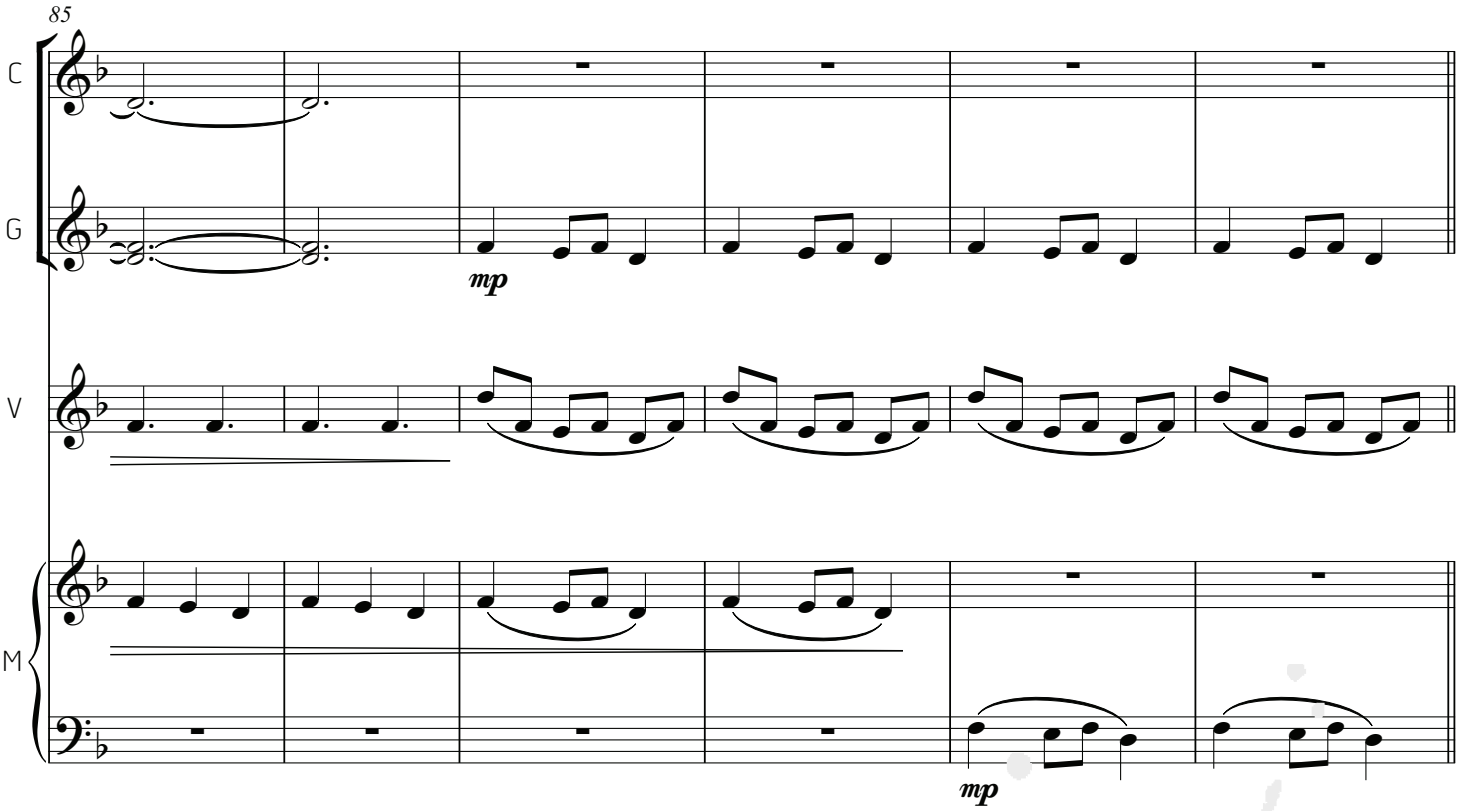

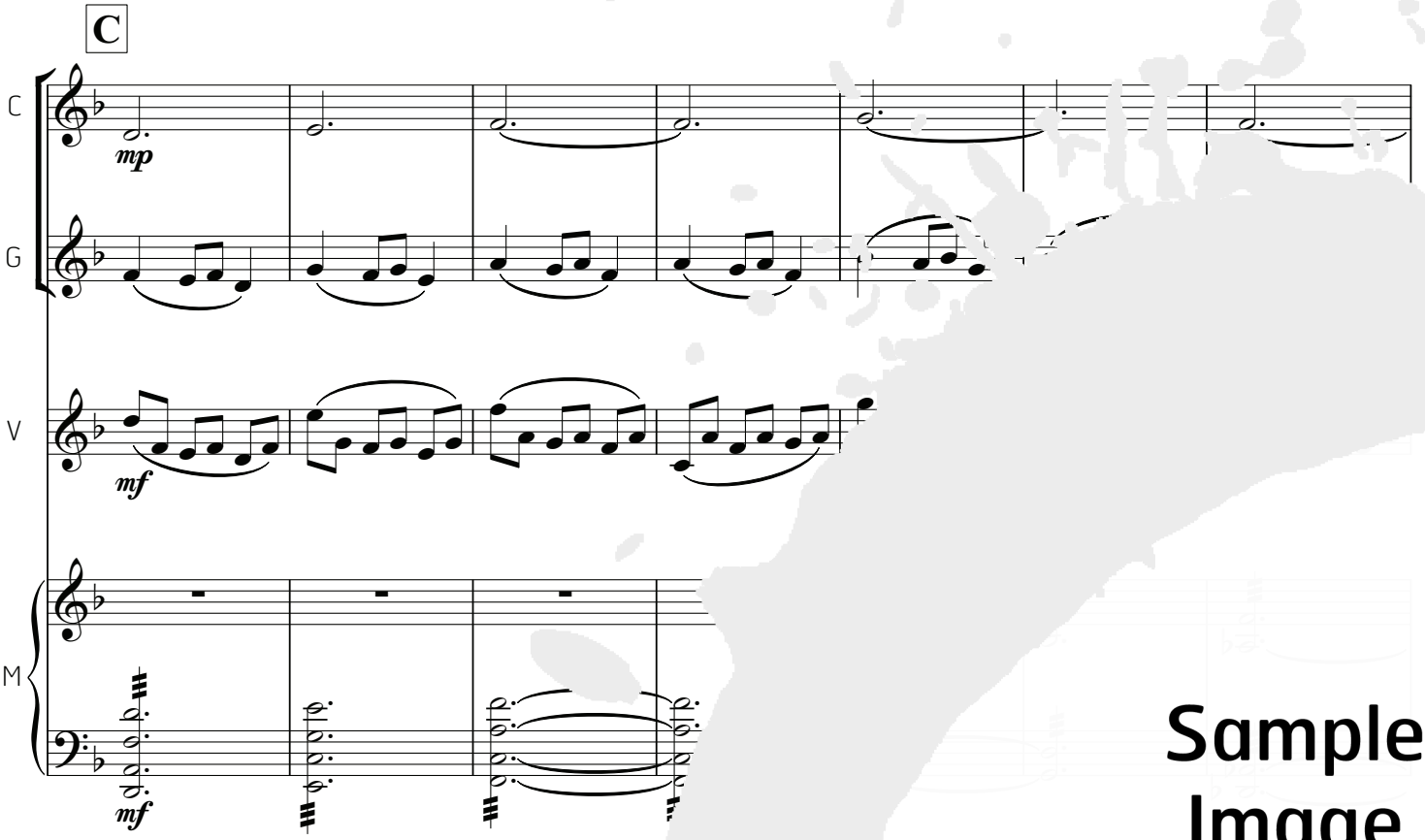

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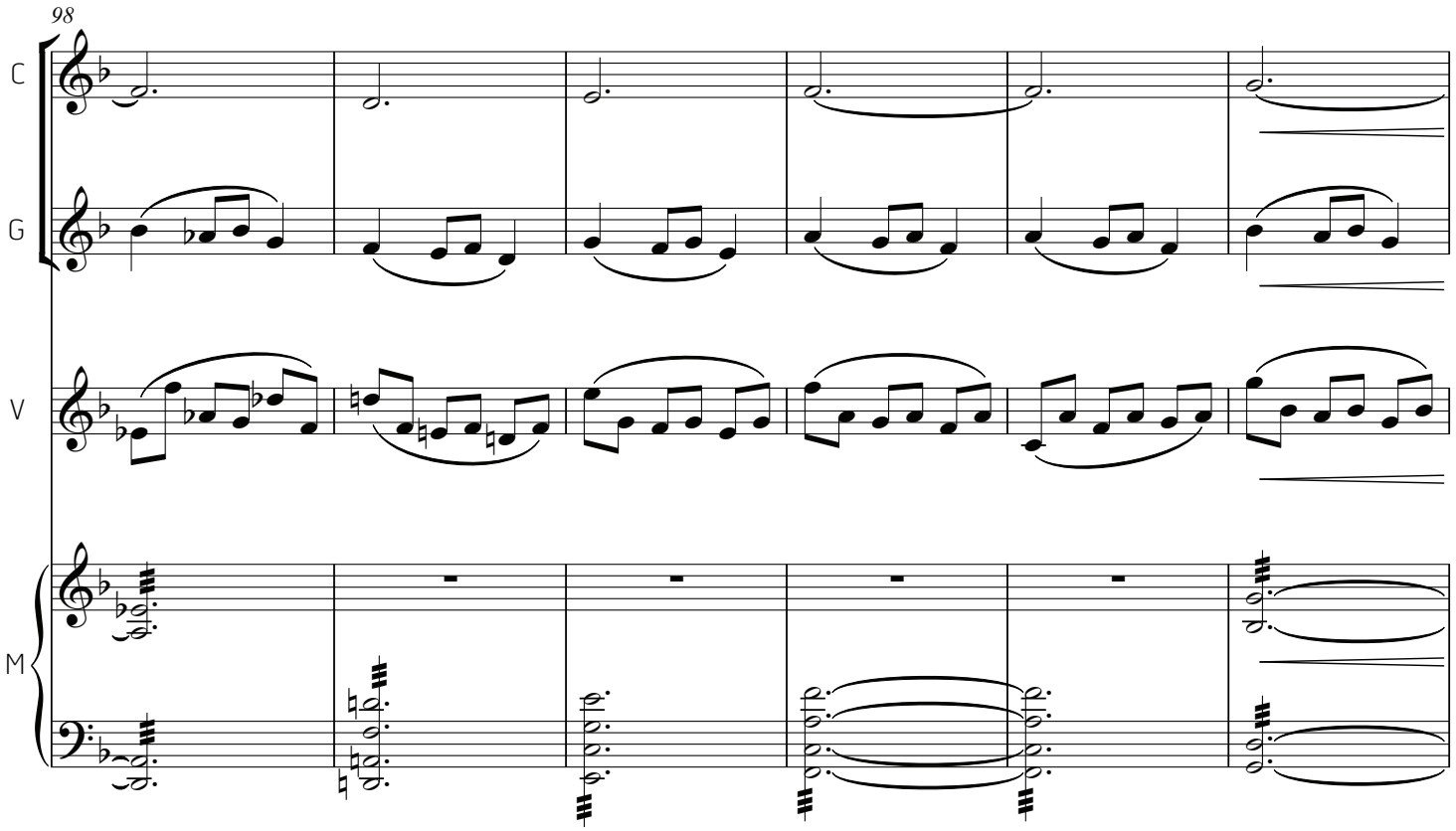

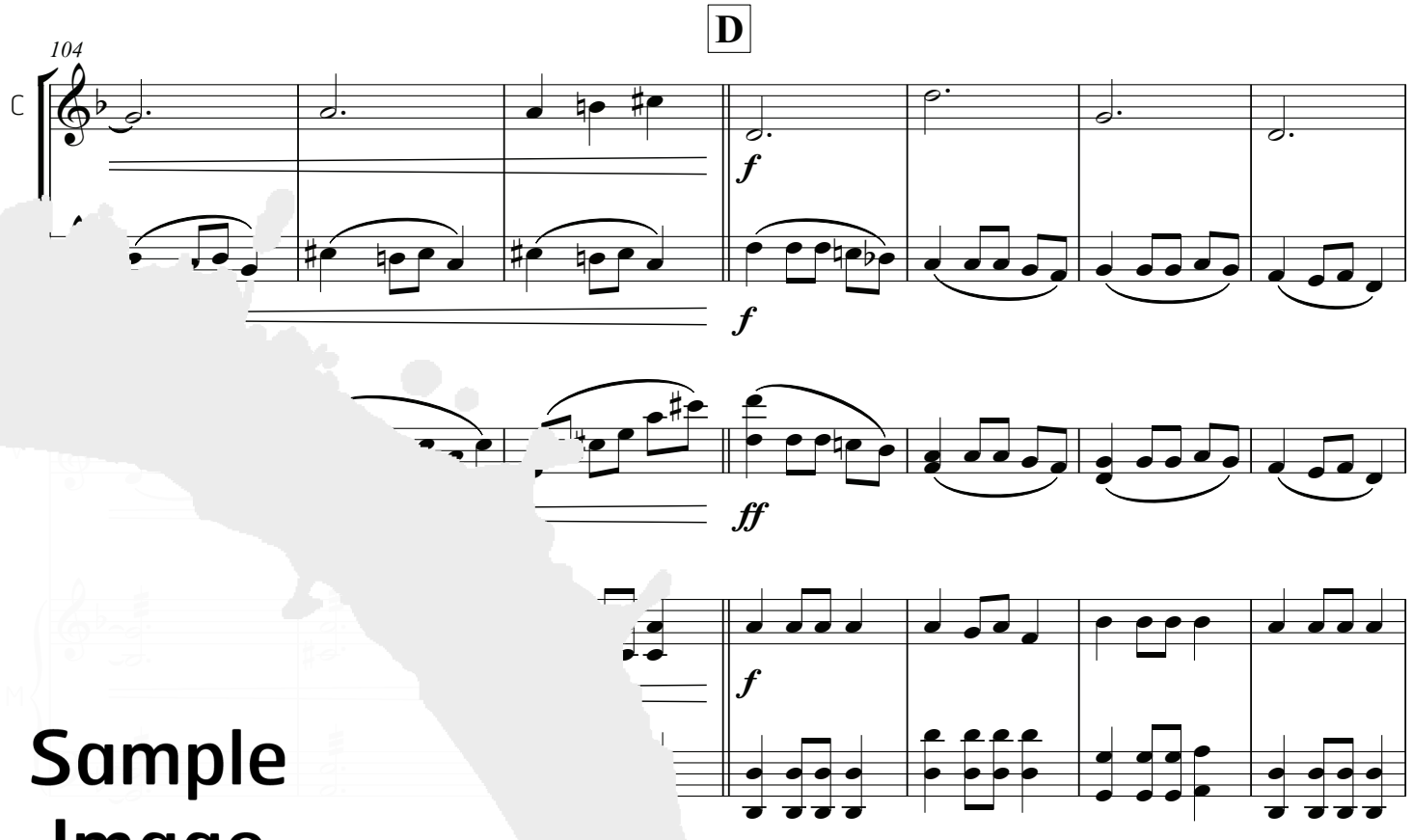

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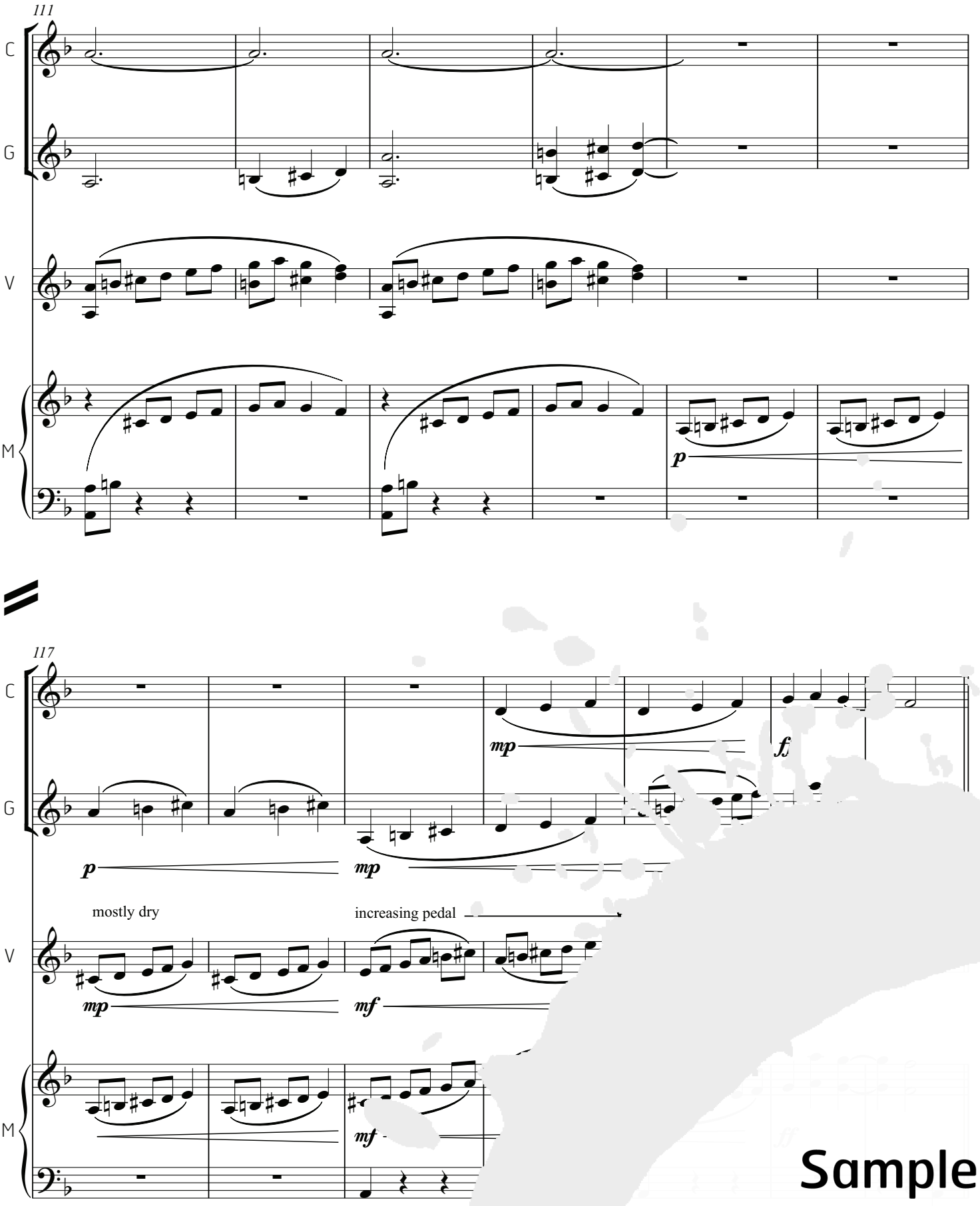

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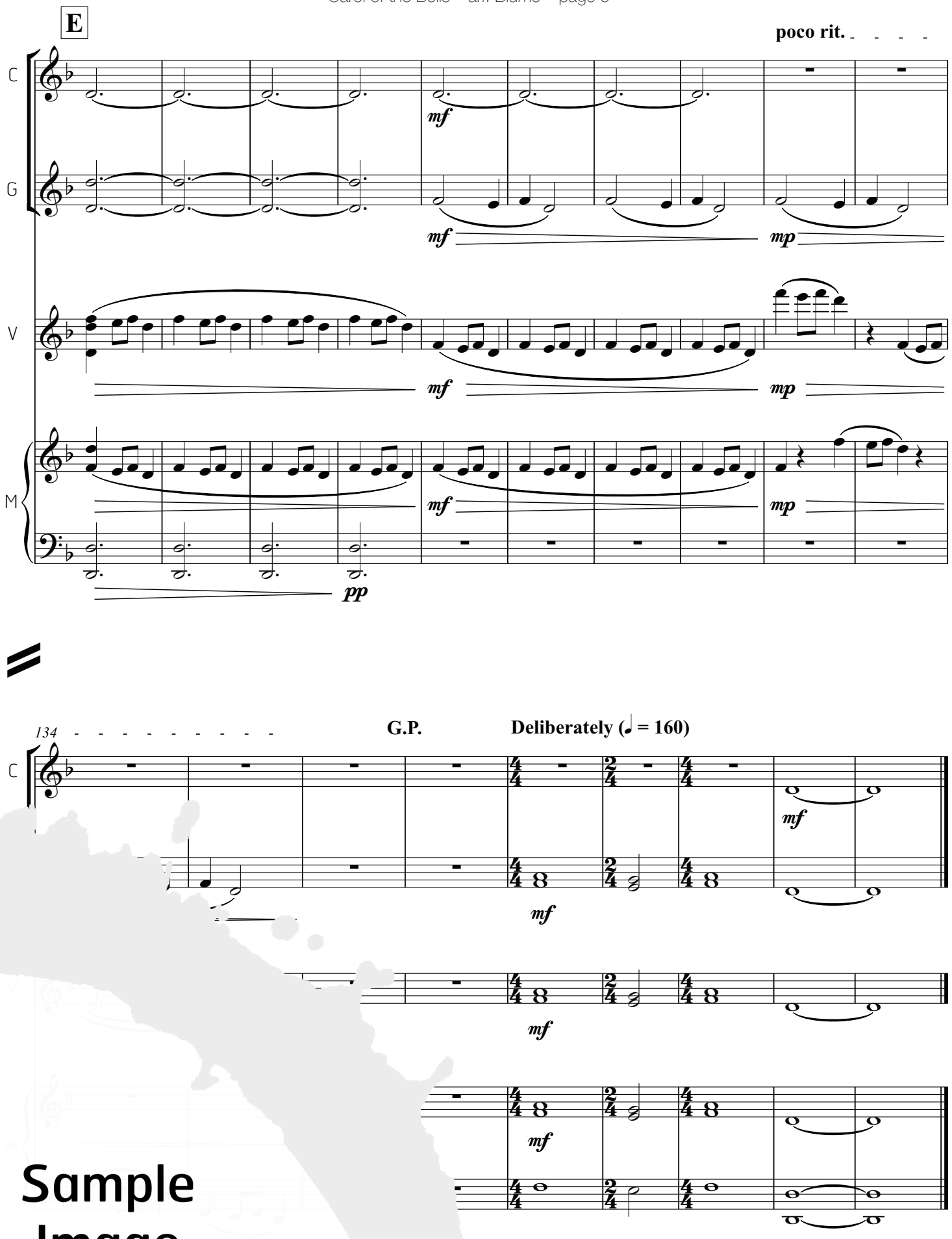

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Silent Night

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night." – Luke 2:8 (NIV)

Words by **Josef Mohr**
Music by **Franz Gruber**

In 1818, after seeing a Christmas drama performed that reenacted the story of Christ's birth, Josef Mohr walked home in the small town of Obendorf, Austria. In a meditative mood, Mohr stopped at the top of a hill overlooking the peaceful, snow-covered village. Gazing down at the wintry scene, he recalled a poem he had written a few years before about the night the angels announced the birth of the long-awaited Messiah to shepherds on a hillside. He decided these words would make a good carol to be sung by his congregation the following evening at their Christmas Eve service.

The next day Mohr took the words of his poem to his church organist, Franz Gruber, asking for a melody to be sung that evening. Within a few hours Gruber composed a musical setting for the poem to be sung with a guitar, for, as the story goes, the church organ was inoperable at the time. On that Christmas Eve, a song was born that would find its way into the hearts of people throughout the world. Now translated into hundreds of languages, "Stille Nacht" is sung by untold millions every December from small chapels to great cathedrals.

This arrangement for marimba and vibraphone sets the peaceful and meditative mood present in the words of this classic carol. While many markings and indications are present in the music, much of the piece is to be performed rather freely.

Silent night Holy night
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night Holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from Heaven afar,
Heavenly Hosts sing Alleluia
Christ, the Saviour, is born
Christ, the Saviour, is born

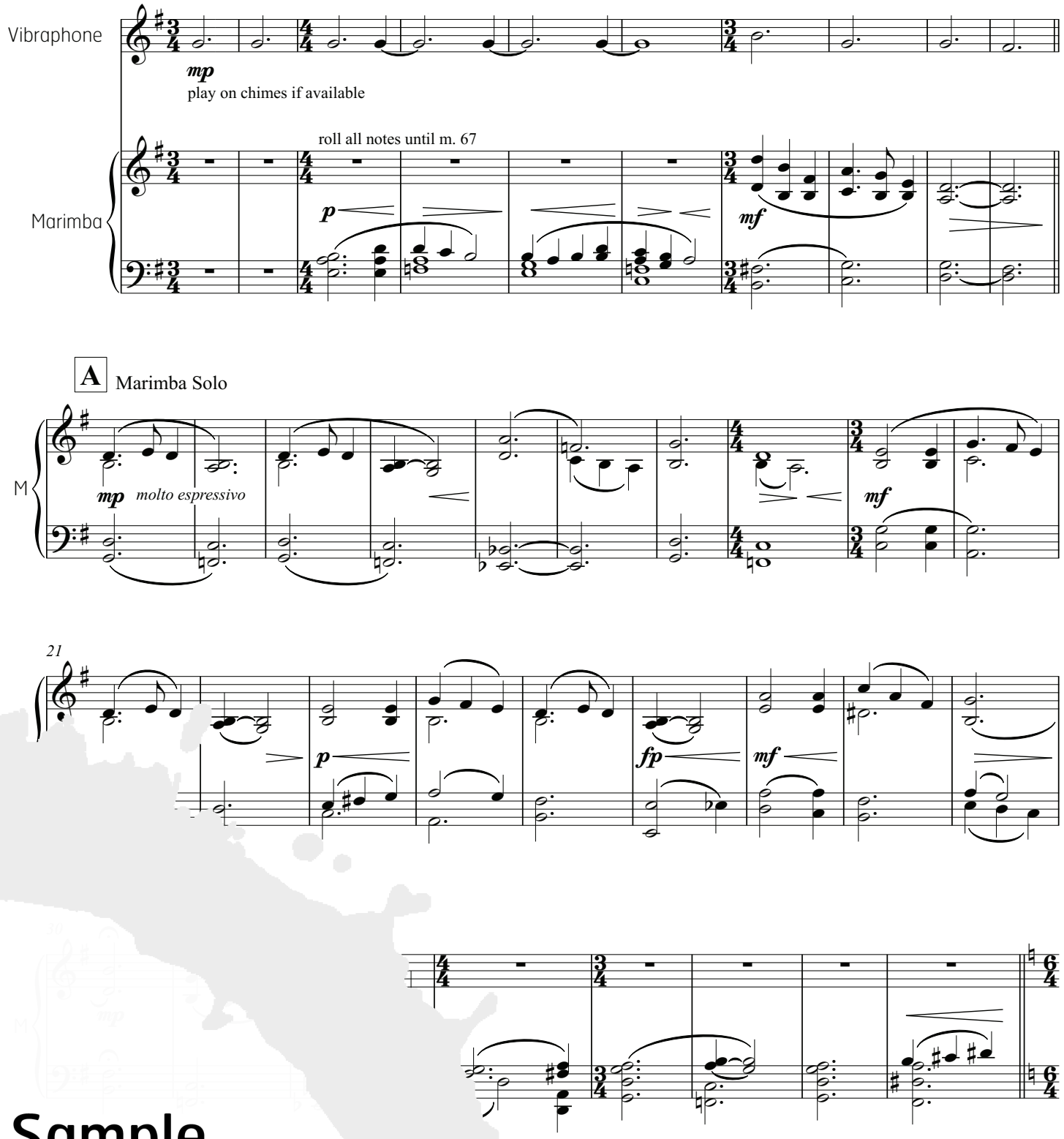
Silent night Holy night
Son of God, loves pure light
Radiant beams from Thy Holy Face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy Birth
Jesus, Lord, at Thy Birth

Level: Medium
Approx. duration: 6'30"

Silent Night

Franz Gruber
arranged by Brian Blume

Peaceful (♩ = 60)



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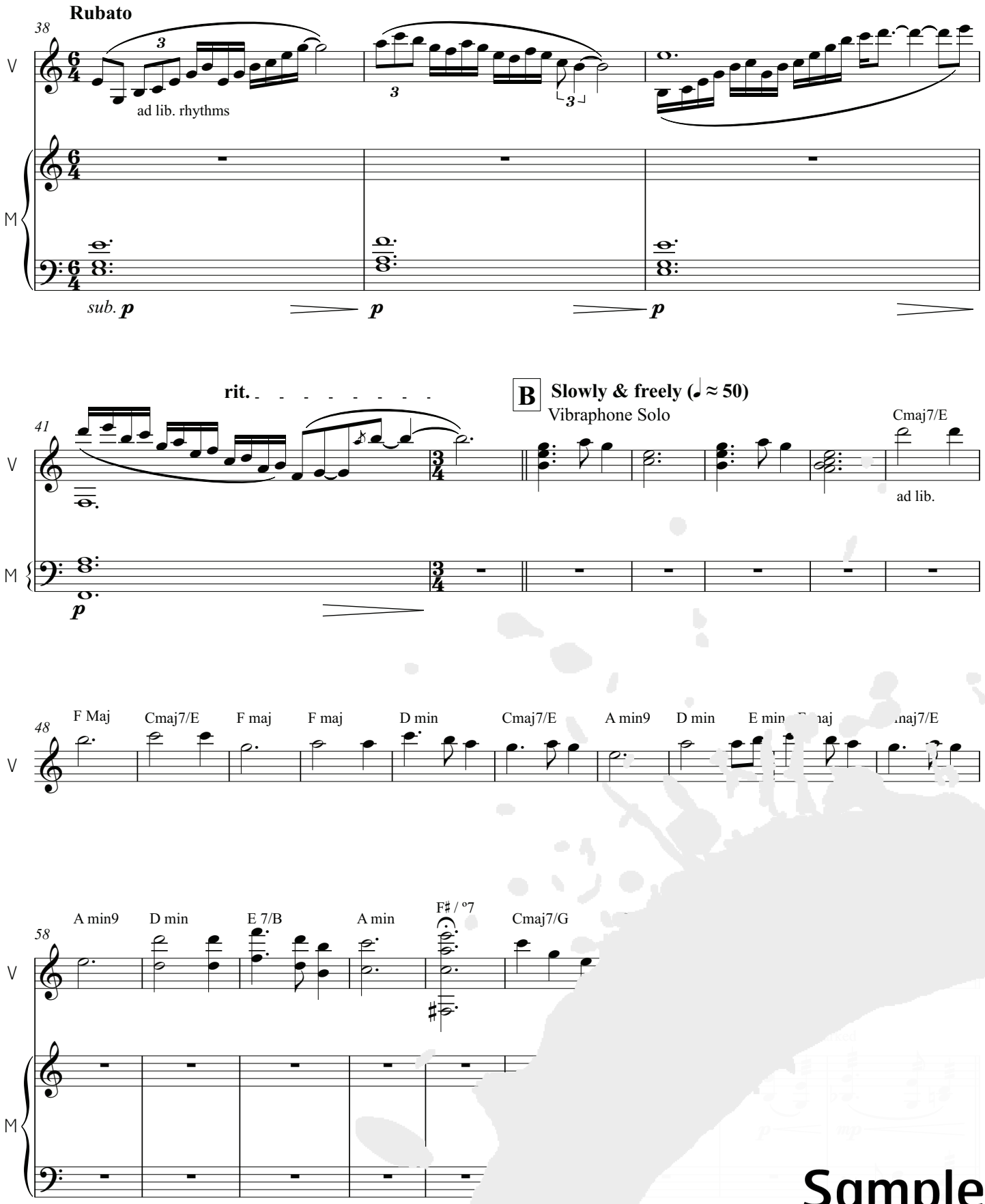

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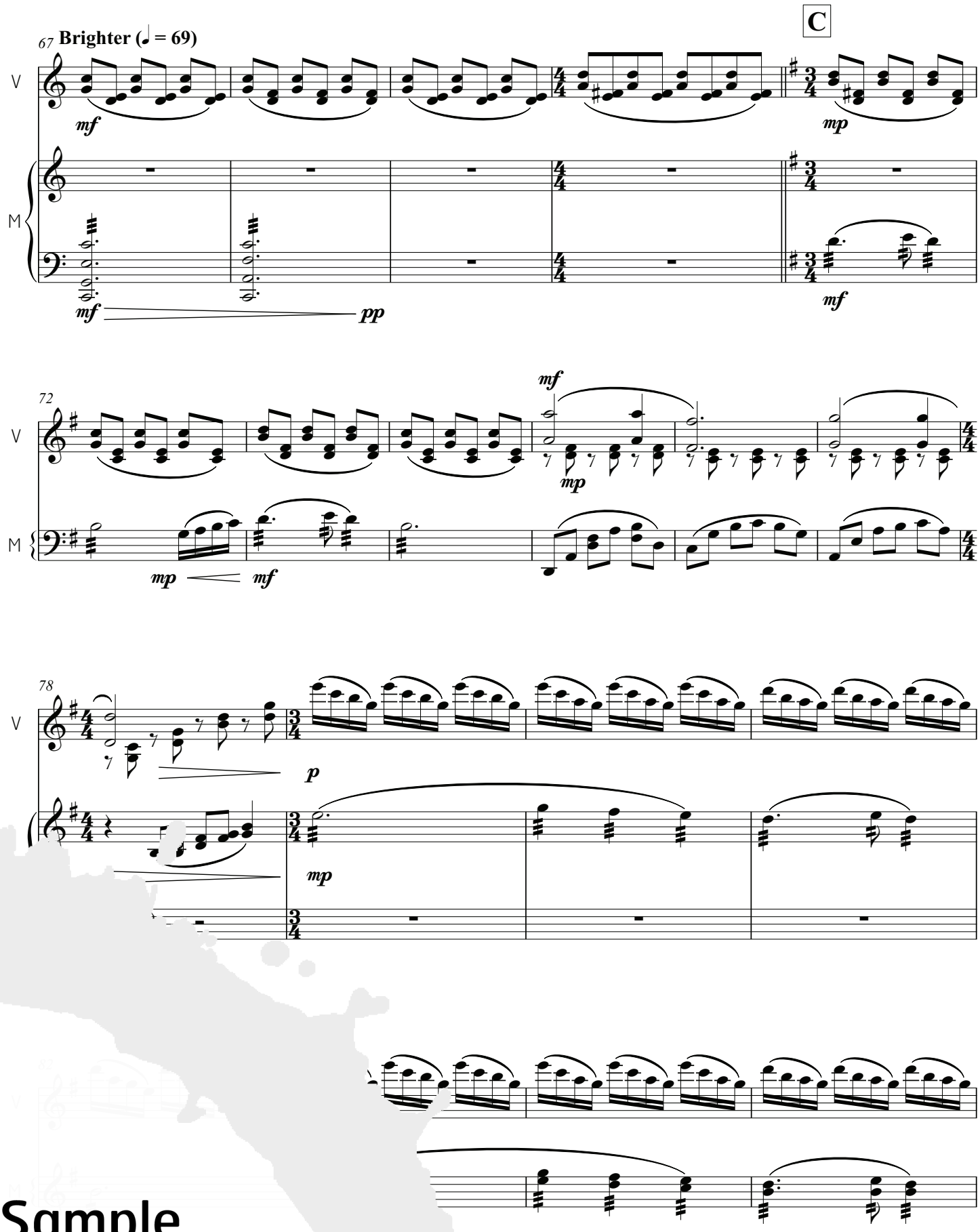

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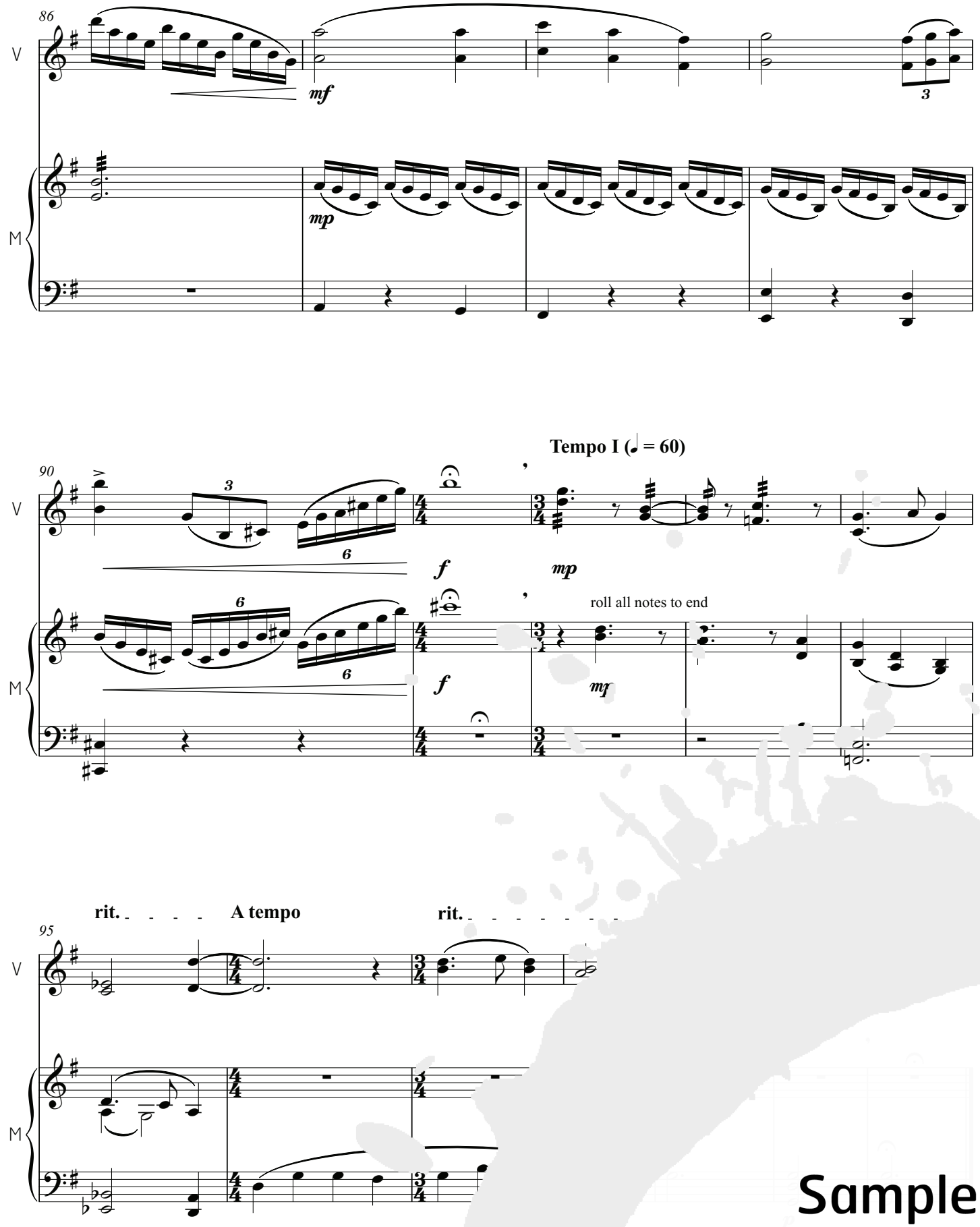

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Angels We Have Heard on High

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." – Luke 2:13-14 (NIV)

Words and music: **Traditional French Carol**

The French carol *"Les anges dans nos campagnes,"* now known as "Angels We Have Heard on High," is completely anonymous; it has always been printed with no known lyricist or composer. The beautiful carol tells the story of Christ's birth, when the angel choir told the good news to nearby shepherds. The chorus, "Gloria in excelsis Deo," reflects the chorus of the angel choir on that first Christmas night.

Many years ago shepherds in the hills of southern France had a Christmas Eve custom of calling to one another, singing "Gloria in excelsis Deo," each from his own hillside. The traditional tune that the shepherds used may have been from a late Medieval Latin chorale. Whatever the source, this tune became the chorus of "Angels We Have Heard on High."

This lively arrangement for marimba and vibraphone can be performed with or without percussion accompaniment. A pre-recorded audio track accompaniment is available on the enclosed disk. If you choose to use this accompaniment, you'll hear four notes which act as the countoff of the piece. Alternately, you can get creative with it and add live percussion accompanient by adding some djembes, cowbells, dun duns, etc. Listen to the audio accompaniment track for some ideas and have fun with it!

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

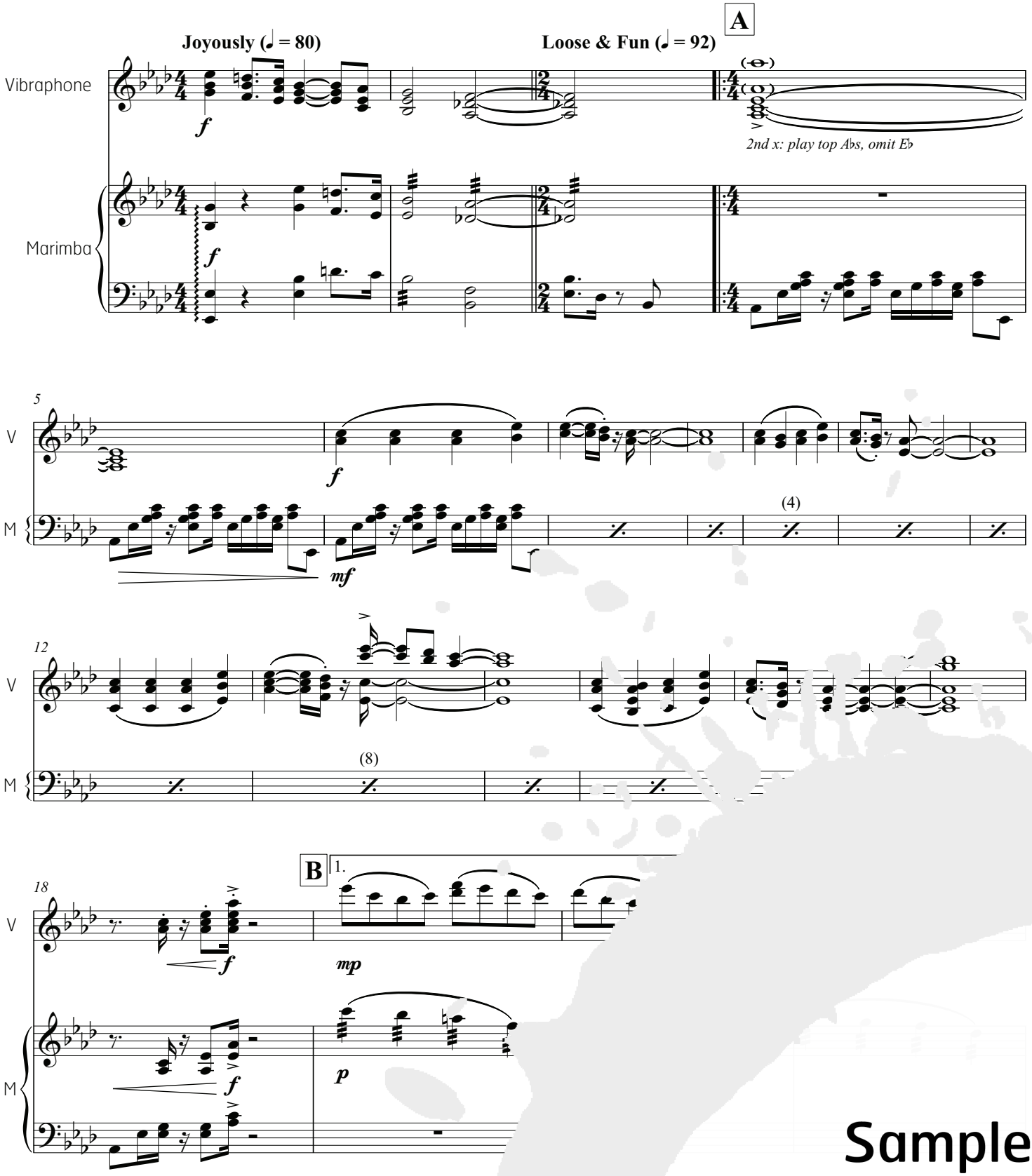
Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise.

Level: Advanced
Approx. duration: 3'15"

Angels We Have Heard on High

French Carol
arranged by Brian Blume



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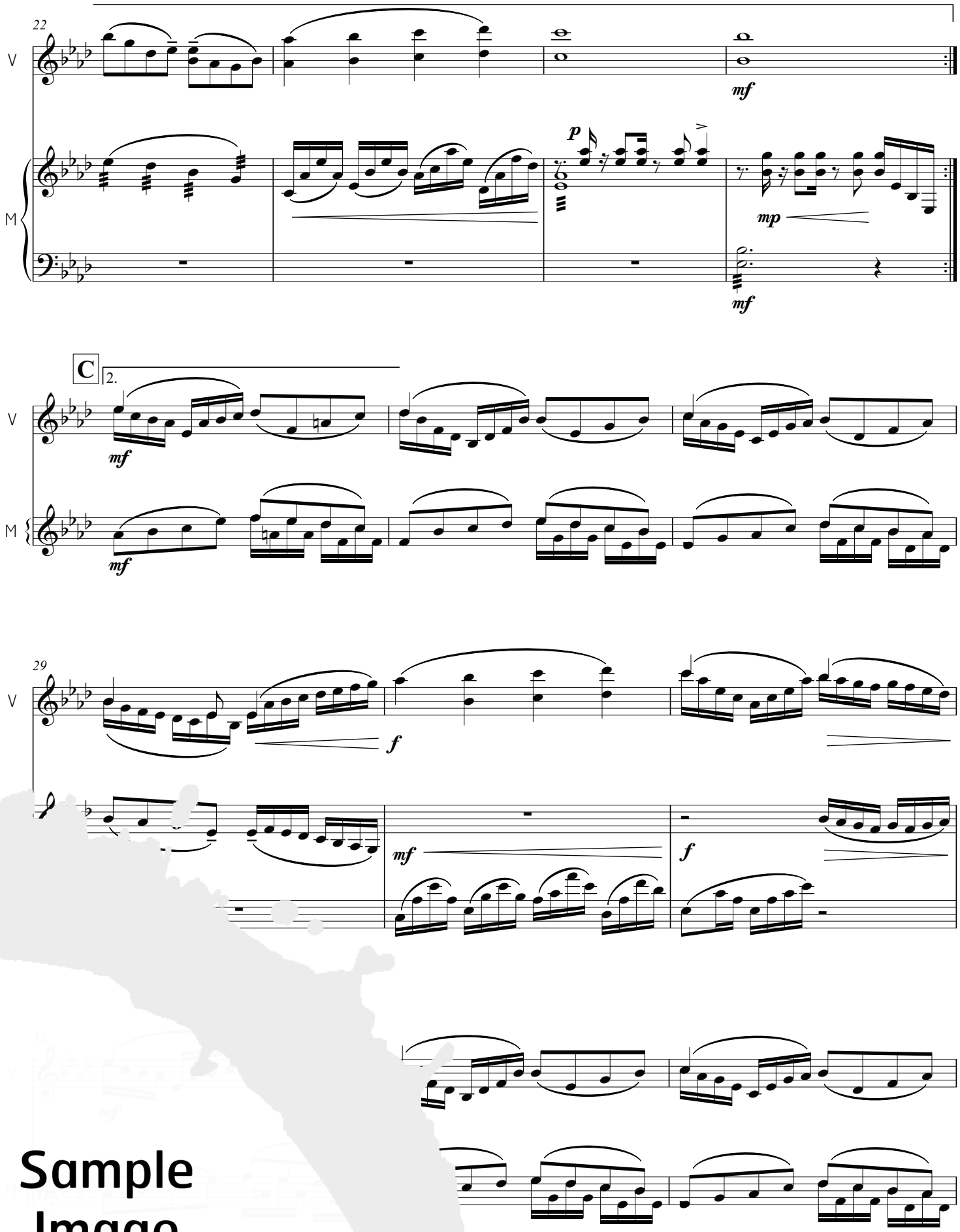

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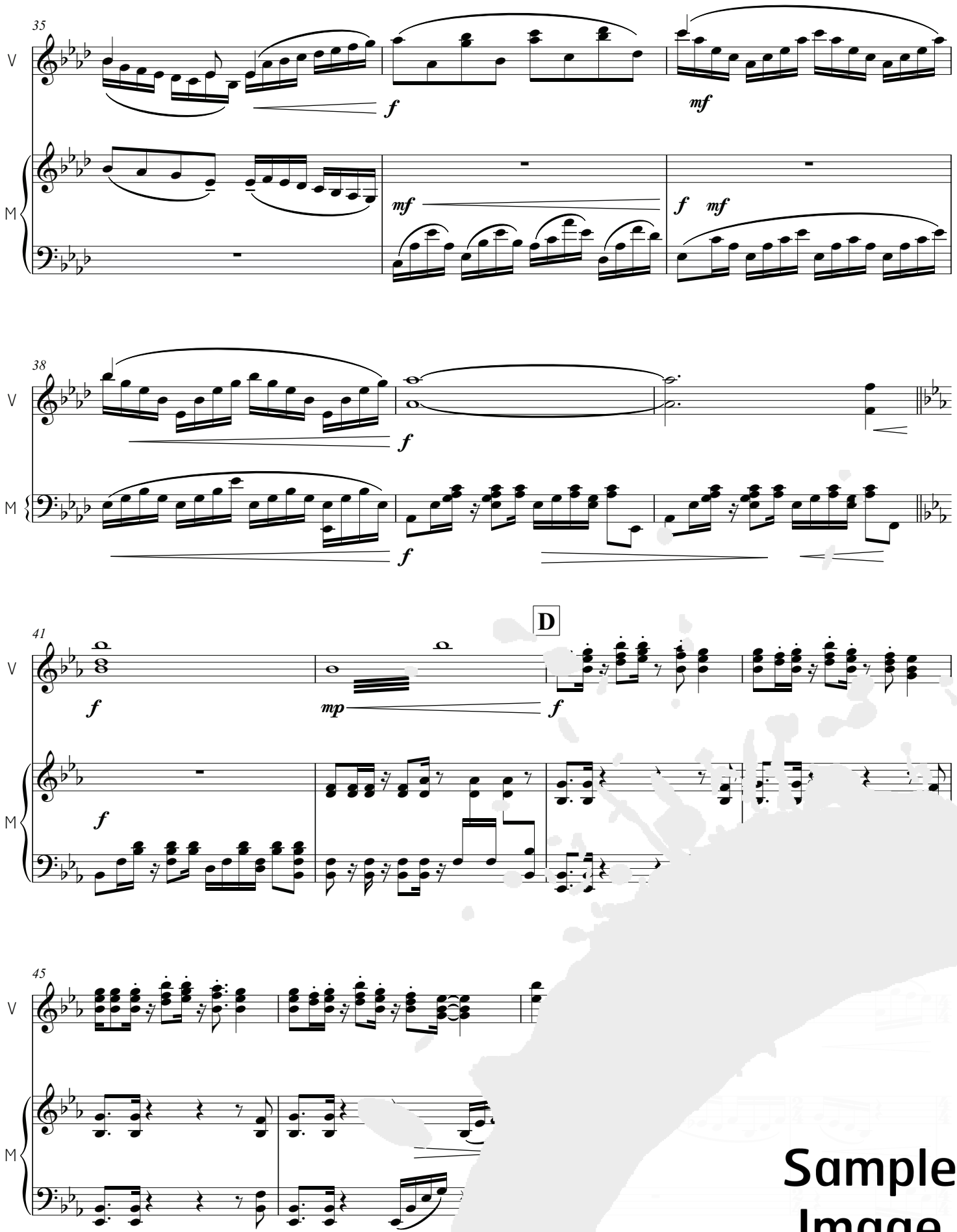

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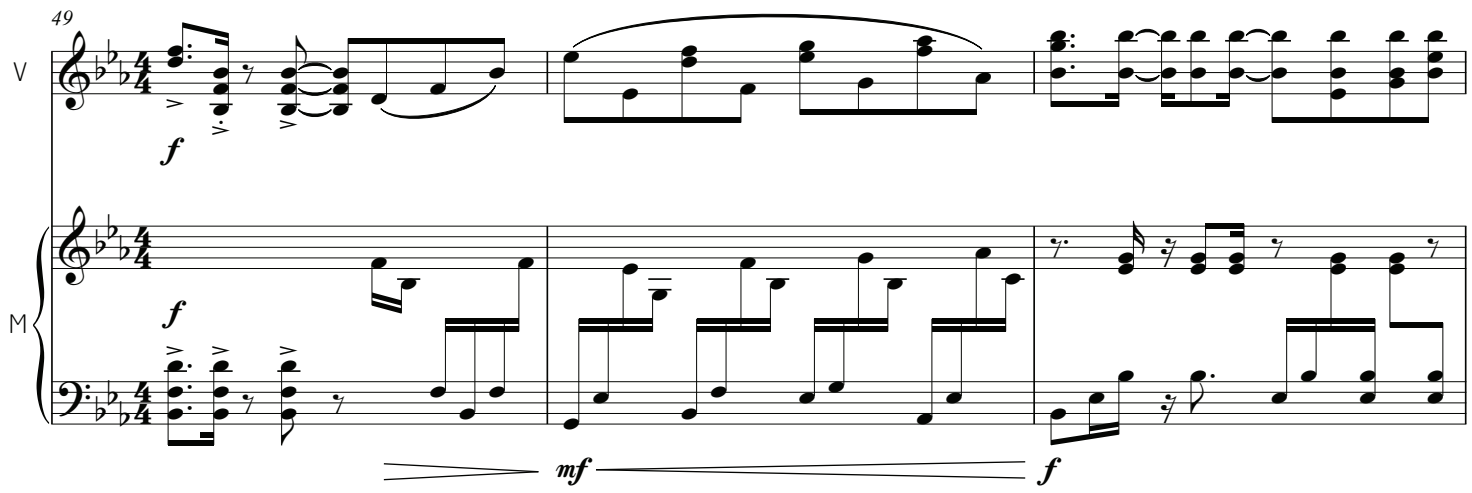

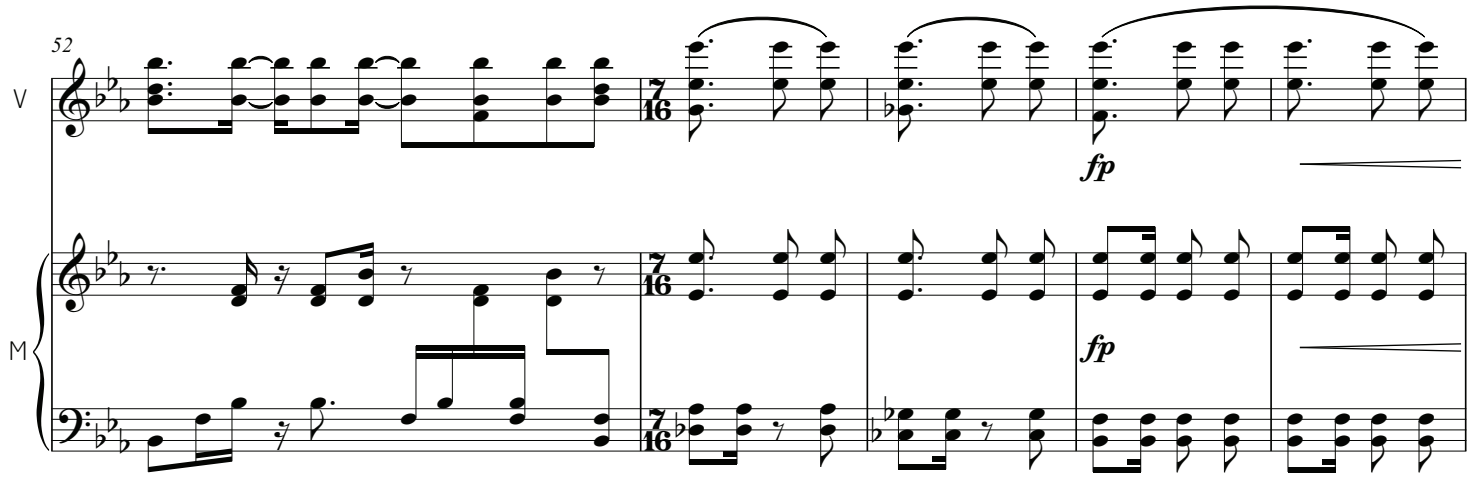

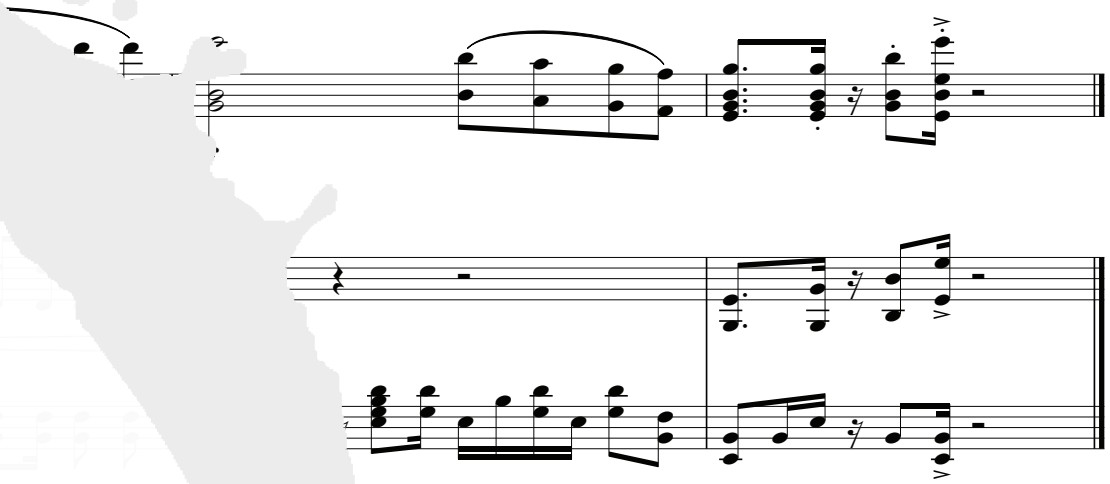

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