Maurice Ravel

Alborada del Gracioso

arranged for percussion ensemble by
James Ancona

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TSPCE-08

This arrangement of **Alborada del Gracioso** was originally written for the Santa Clara Vanguard percussion ensemble in the spring of 2001. The following sections were extracted from Ravel's original score: the beginning to rehearsal 9, rehearsal 9 to 13 (the bassoon solo is now a marimba solo), and from rehearsal 29 to the end. This arrangement is in the original key.

I tried to preserve Ravel's musical effects with a variety of mallet changes, sound effects, and timbre changes. Though this is a technical "workout" for the entire ensemble, creating these musical effects is imperative. For this reason, I encourage any ensemble performing this arrangement to try to obtain all the proper instruments and mallets and adhere to all technique and performance notes.

– J.A.

instrumentation, mallet selection

Glockenspiel: glockenspiel, 2 octaves of crotales (shared), snare drum, mounted triangle (shared), machine castanets (shared), 16" suspended cymbal (shared), 18" suspended cymbal, sizzle cymbal, bass drum (shared), tambourine, hard plastic mallets, brass mallets, bass drum mallet, yarn mallet, snare sticks, triangle beaters

Xylophone: xylophone, machine castanets (shared), 2 octaves of crotales (shared), mounted triangle (shared), very hard yarn mallets, medium plastic mallets, medium hard plastic mallets, hard plastic mallets, very hard plastic mallets, triangle beater

Vibraphone 1: vibraphone, large tam tam, bass drum (shared), Crash of Doom (shared), medium hard cord mallets, very hard cord mallets, tam tam mallet, bass drum mallet, Dread Locks, yarn mallets for suspended cymbal

Vibraphone 2: vibraphone, tambourine, 16" suspended cymbal (shared), 20" suspended cymbal, bass drum (shared), medium soft cord mallets, medium hard cord mallets, snare sticks, medium rubber mallets, bass drum mallet

Vibraphone 3: vibraphone, medium soft cord mallets, medium hard cord mallets, very hard cord mallets

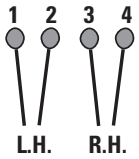
Marimba 1: 4.3 octave marimba, Crash of Doom (shared), medium yarn mallets, hard yarn mallets

Marimba 2: 4.3 octave marimba, medium yarn mallets, soft yarn mallets

Marimba 3: 4.3 octave marimba, medium yarn mallets, very soft yarn mallets

Timpani: 5 timpani (preferably 20", 23", 26", 29" 32"), hi hat, staccato mallets, heavy general mallets

When sticking suggestions are encountered, they correspond to the convention in this illustration.



translations and performance notes

Assez Vif - Rather Lively

Plus Lent - Very Slow

Au Mouv't - Au Mouvement - A Tempo

Cedez - Yield, Slow Down

Revenez au Mouv't - Return to Tempo

"Crash of Doom" - this thin, 20" cymbal, made by Zildjian, is ultra-trashy, dark, and low pitched.

"Bright Playing Zone" - play near the nodes of the instrument.

"Dreadlocks" - these are similar to brushes, except they have braided, heavy-gauge stainless steel wire. They're made by Vic Firth.

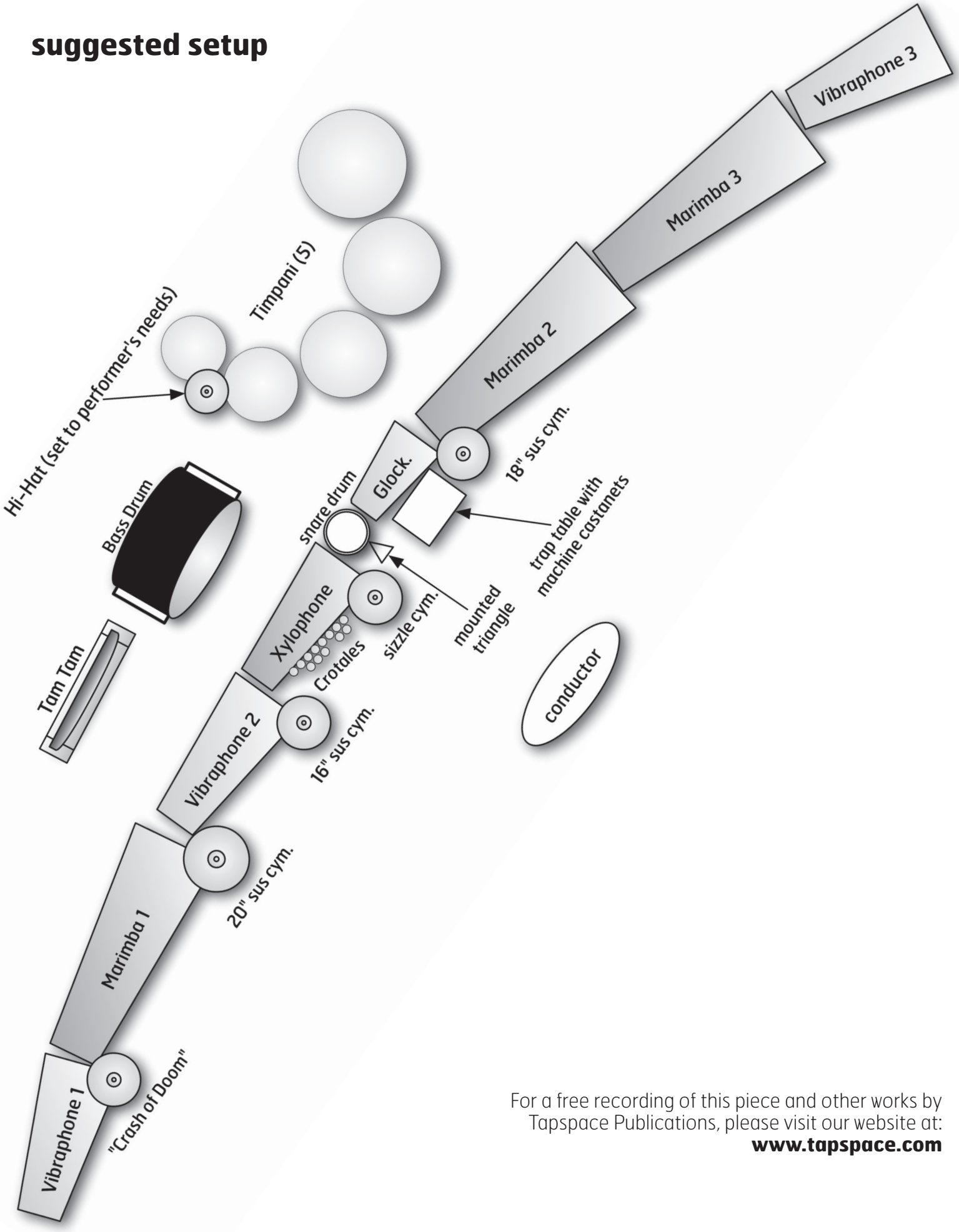
Vibe Pedaling - slurs and tenutos should be pedaled, notes with staccato and tenuto should be a quick pedal. The rest is up to the performer.

Note to Glockenspiel and Xylophone Players - instrument changes for some passages are very quick, but can be done. Make sure the accessories instruments and stick trays are placed within a comfortable reach

Hi Hat Splash - create a crash sound using the hi hat pedal.

Suspended Cymbals - tenuto marks mean hold for the exact value. Otherwise, let ring.

suggested setup



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Level: Advanced
Duration: Approx. 4'00"

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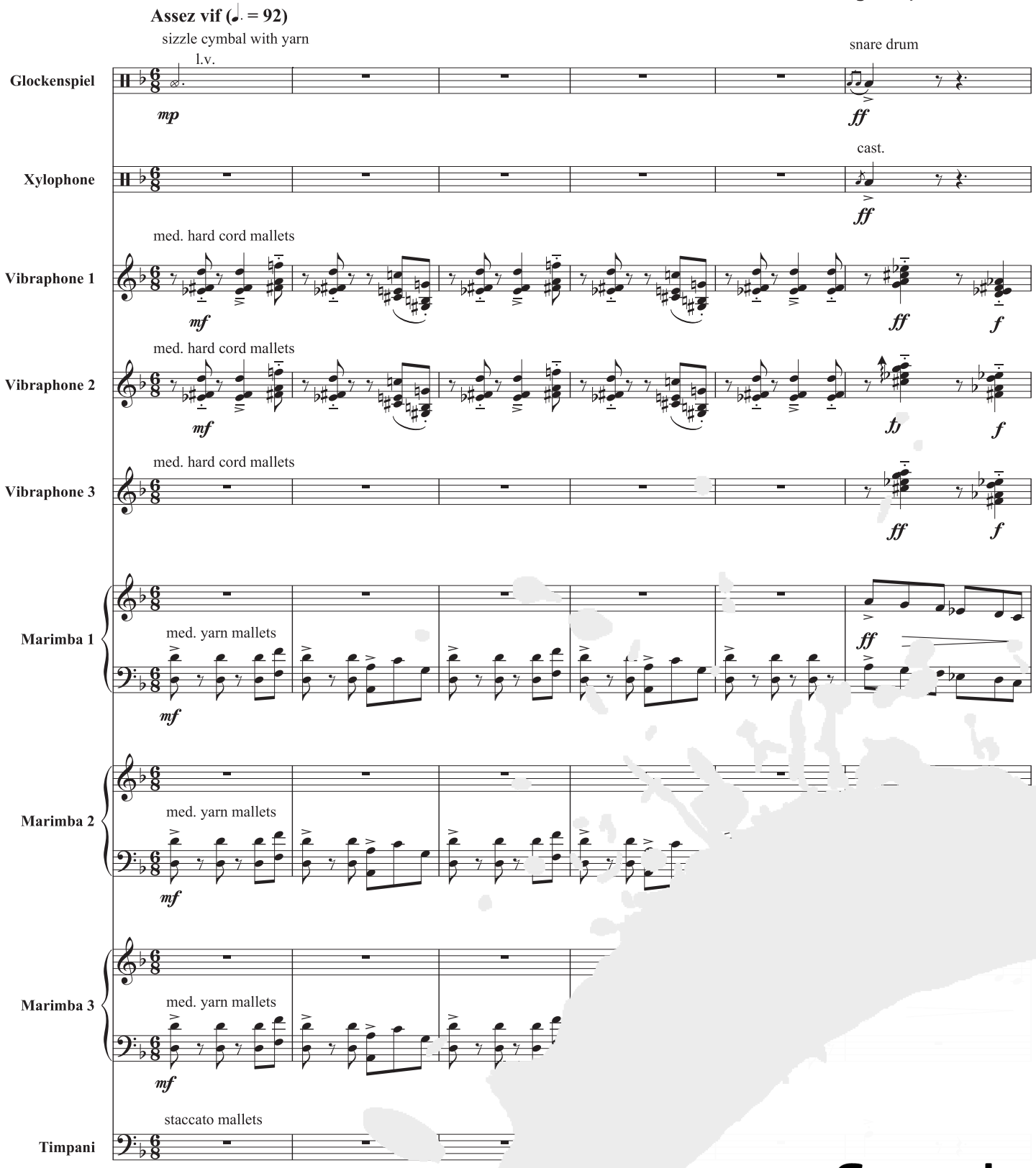

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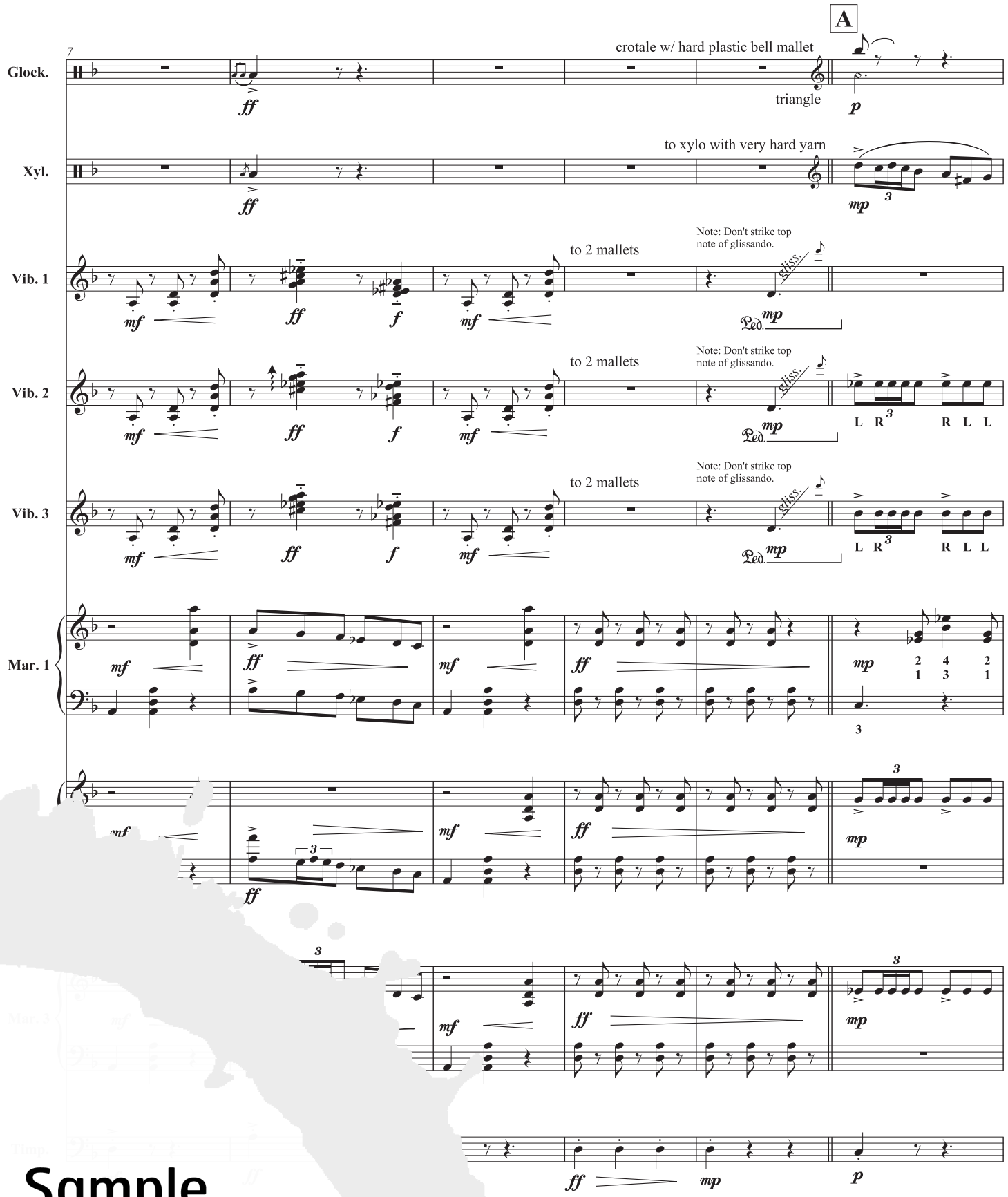

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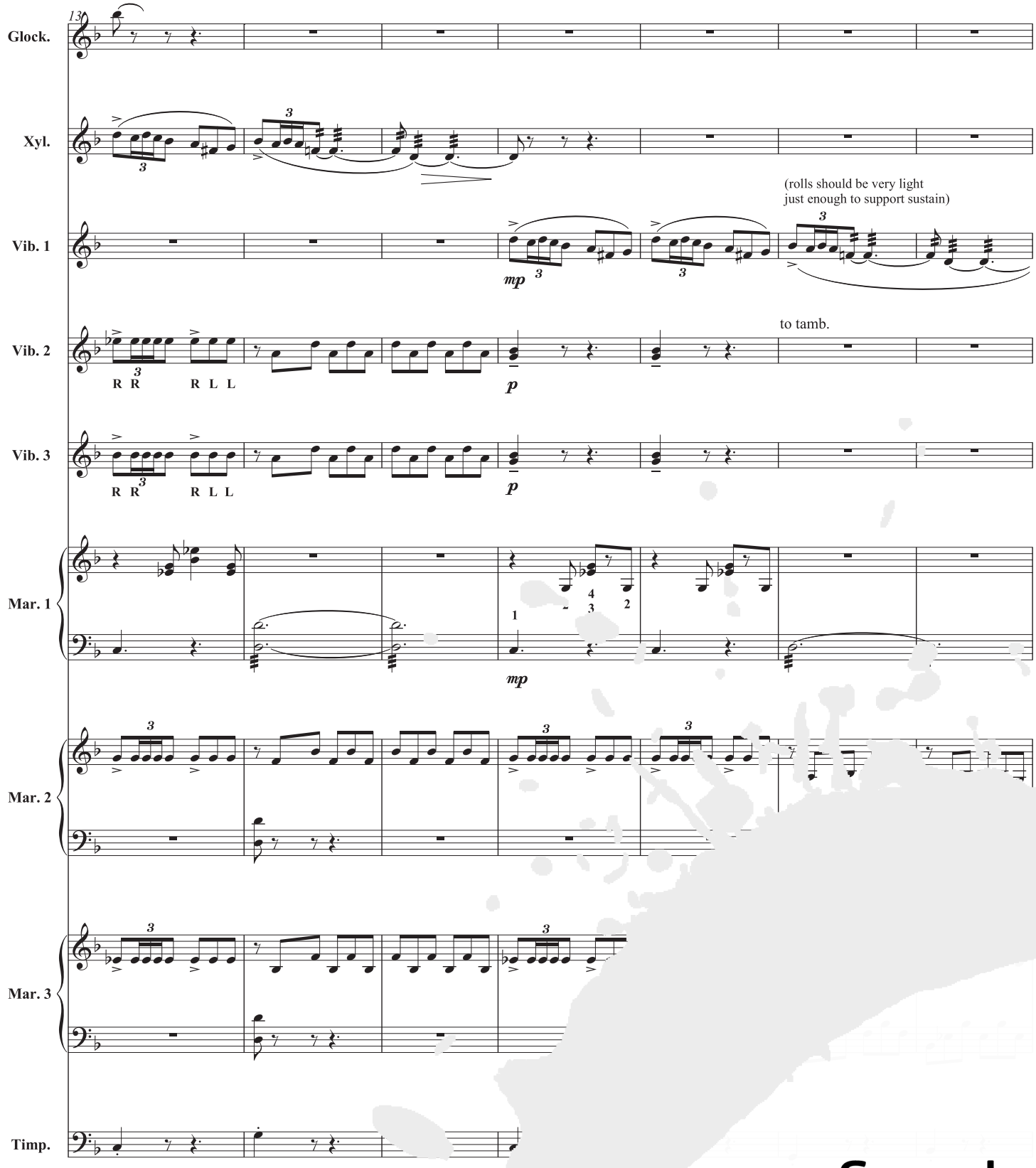

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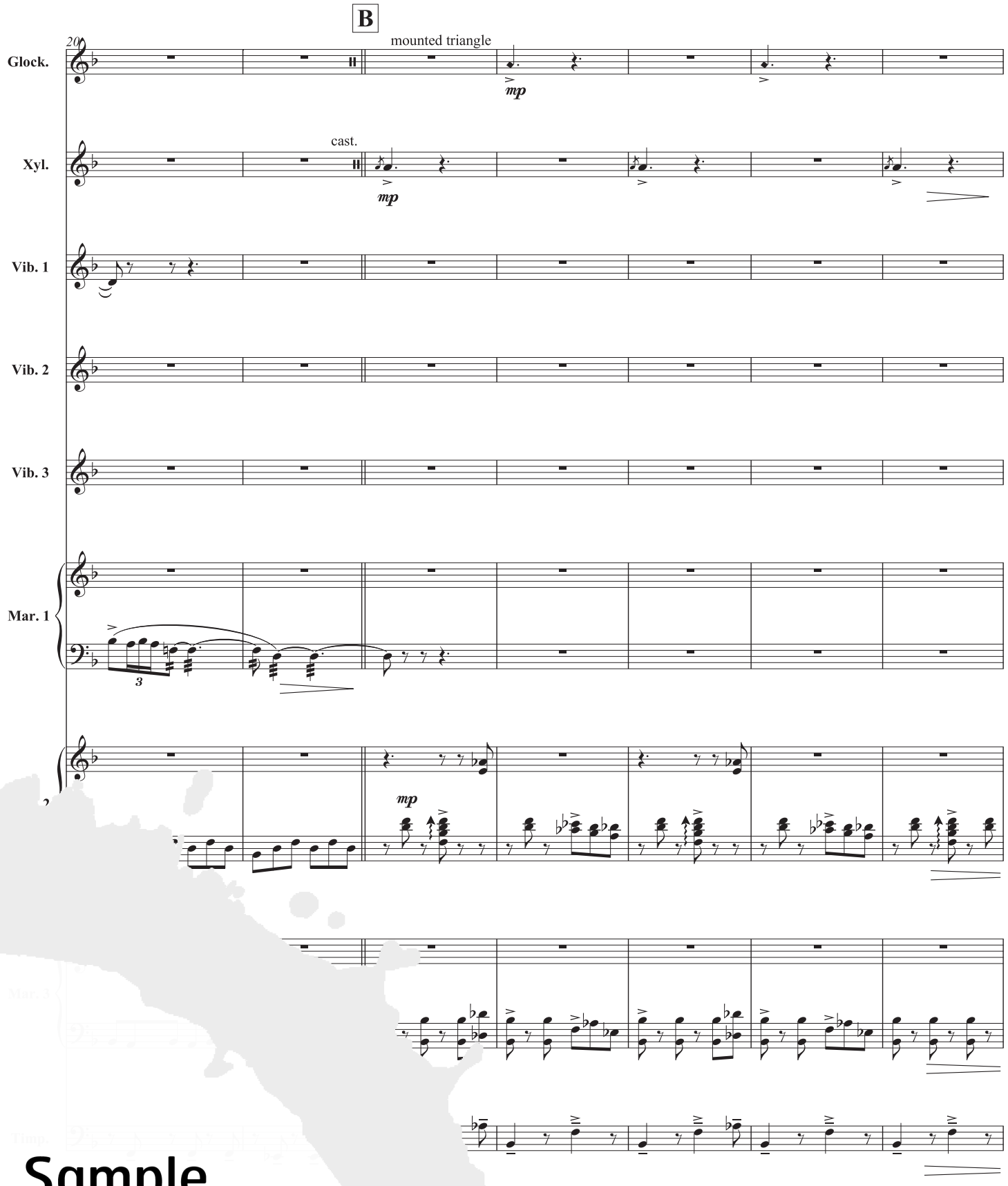

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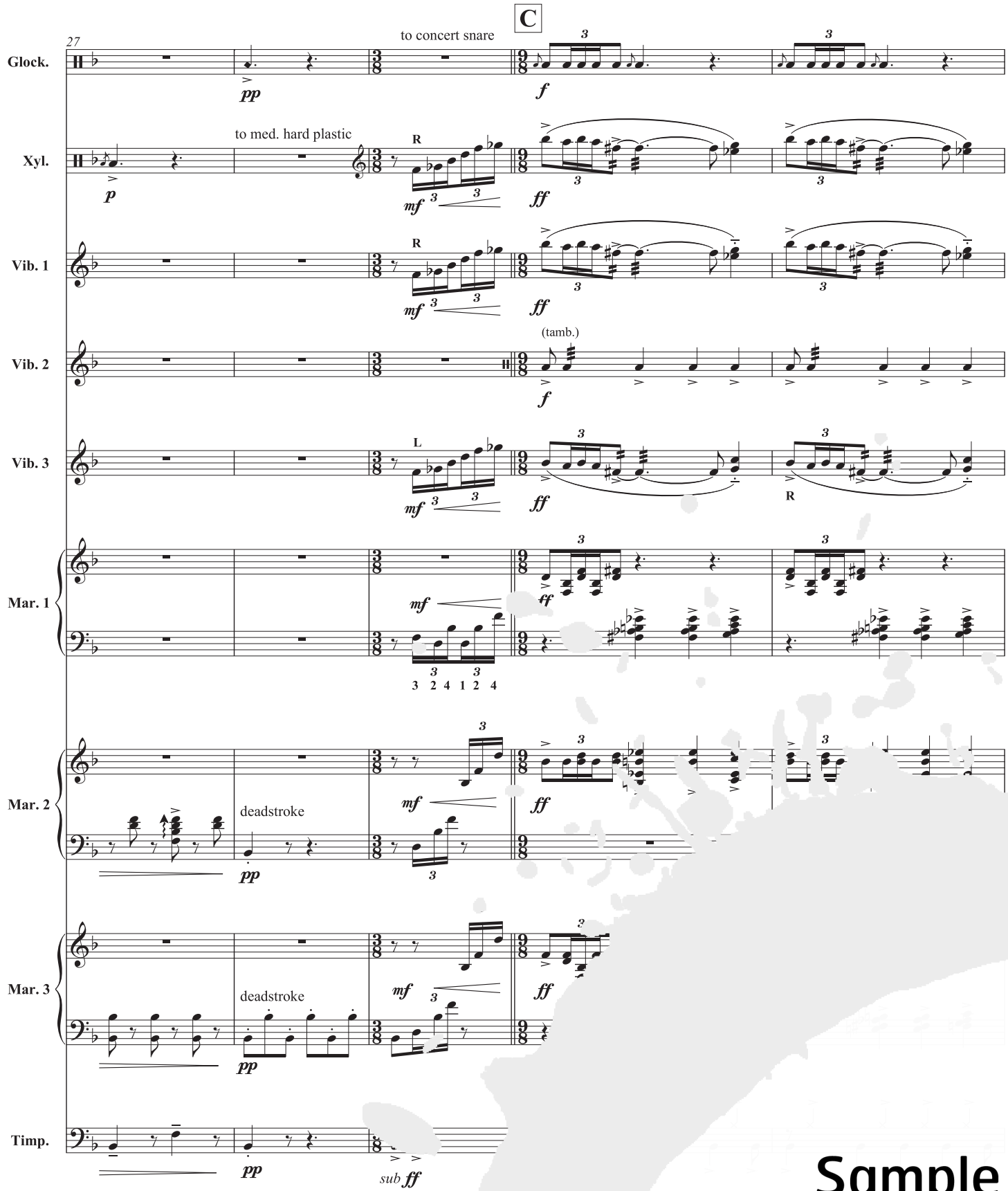

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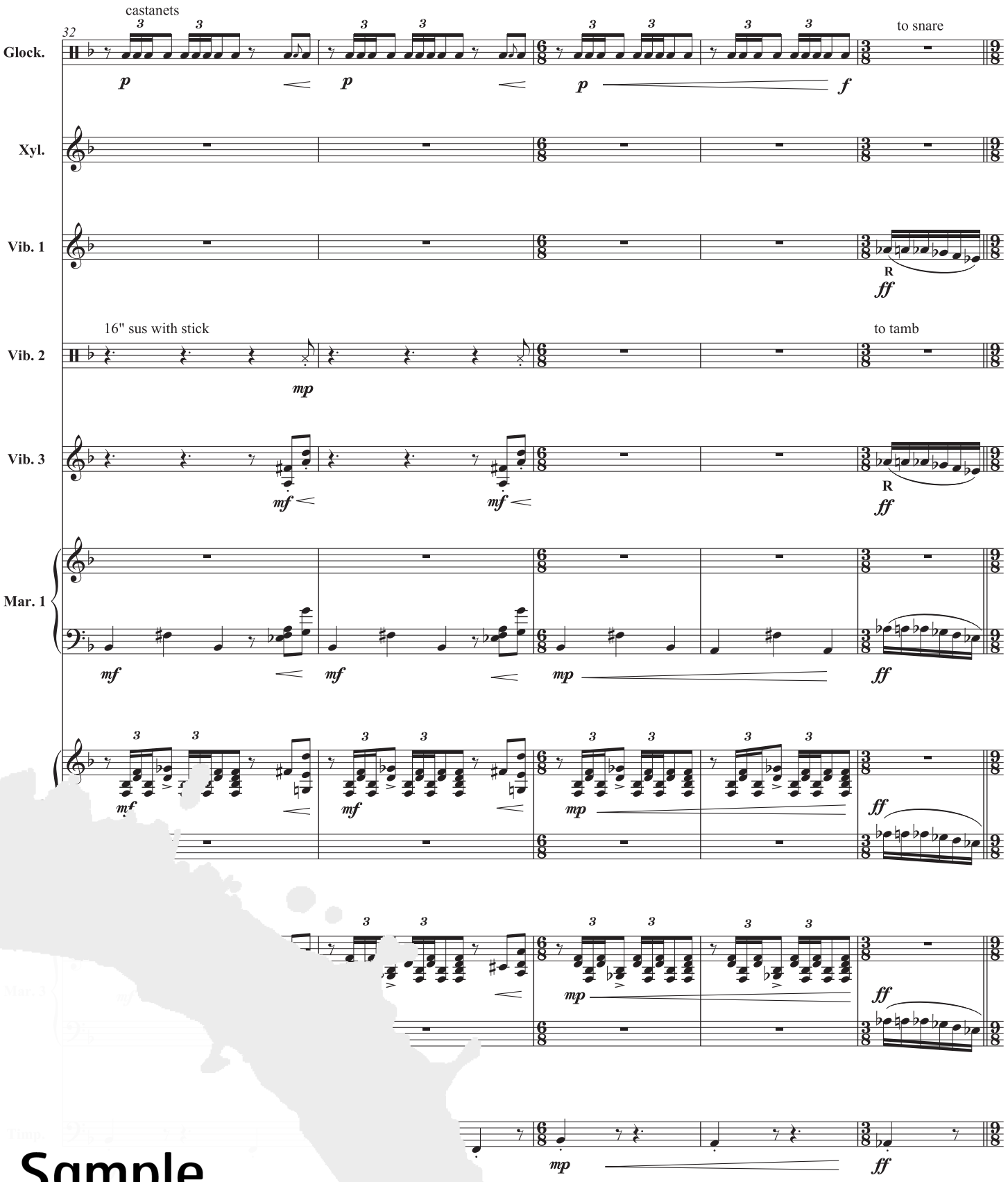

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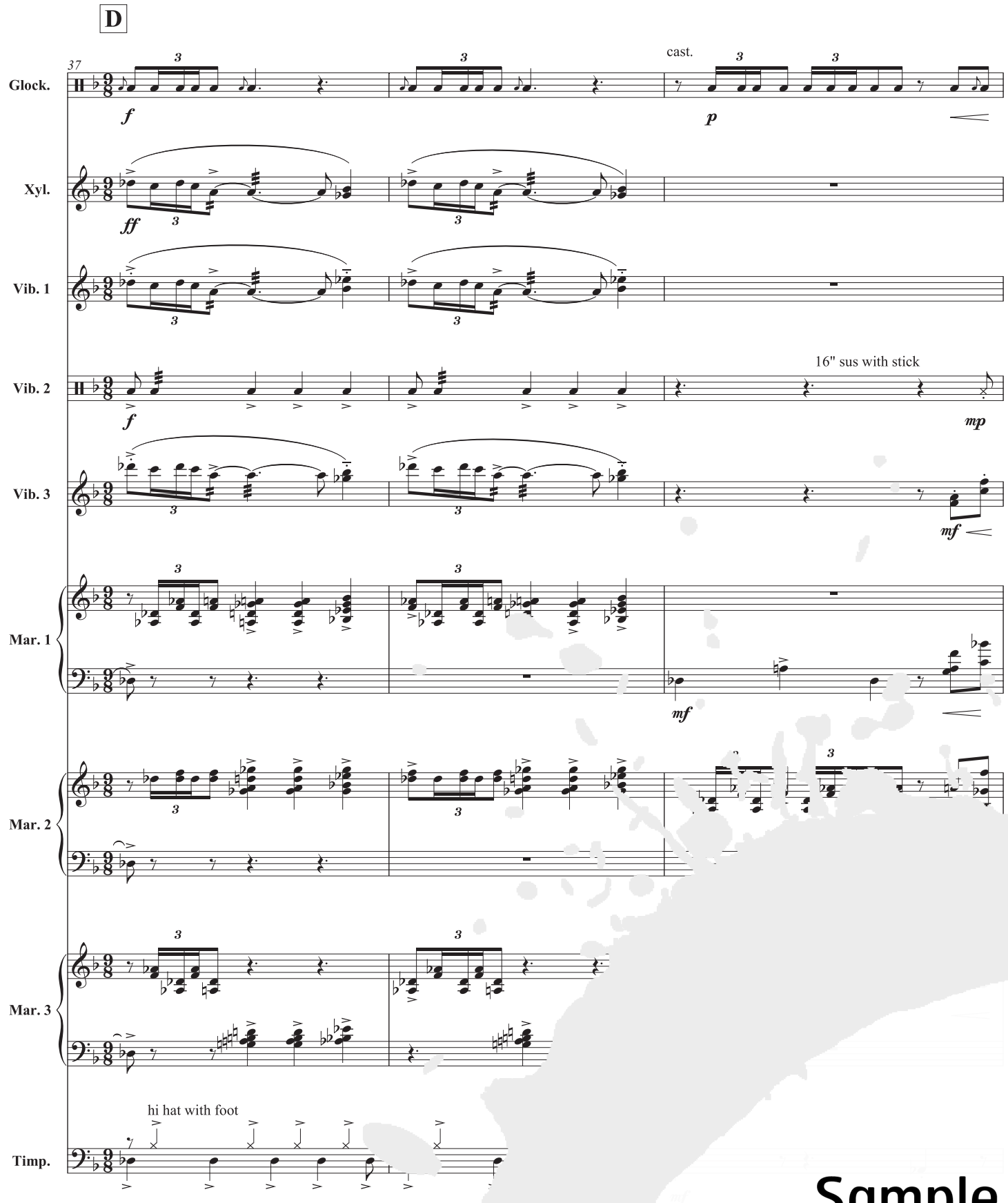

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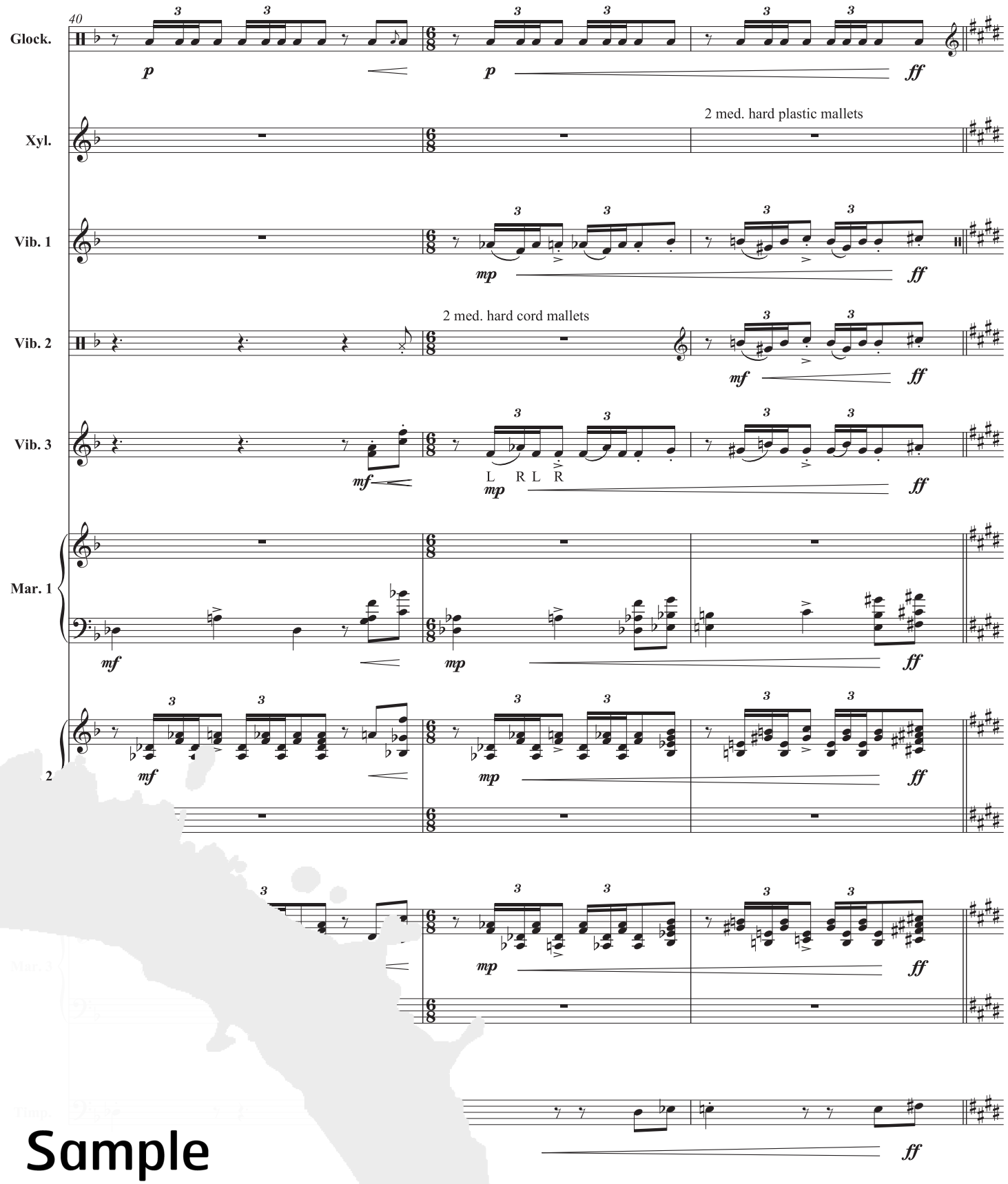

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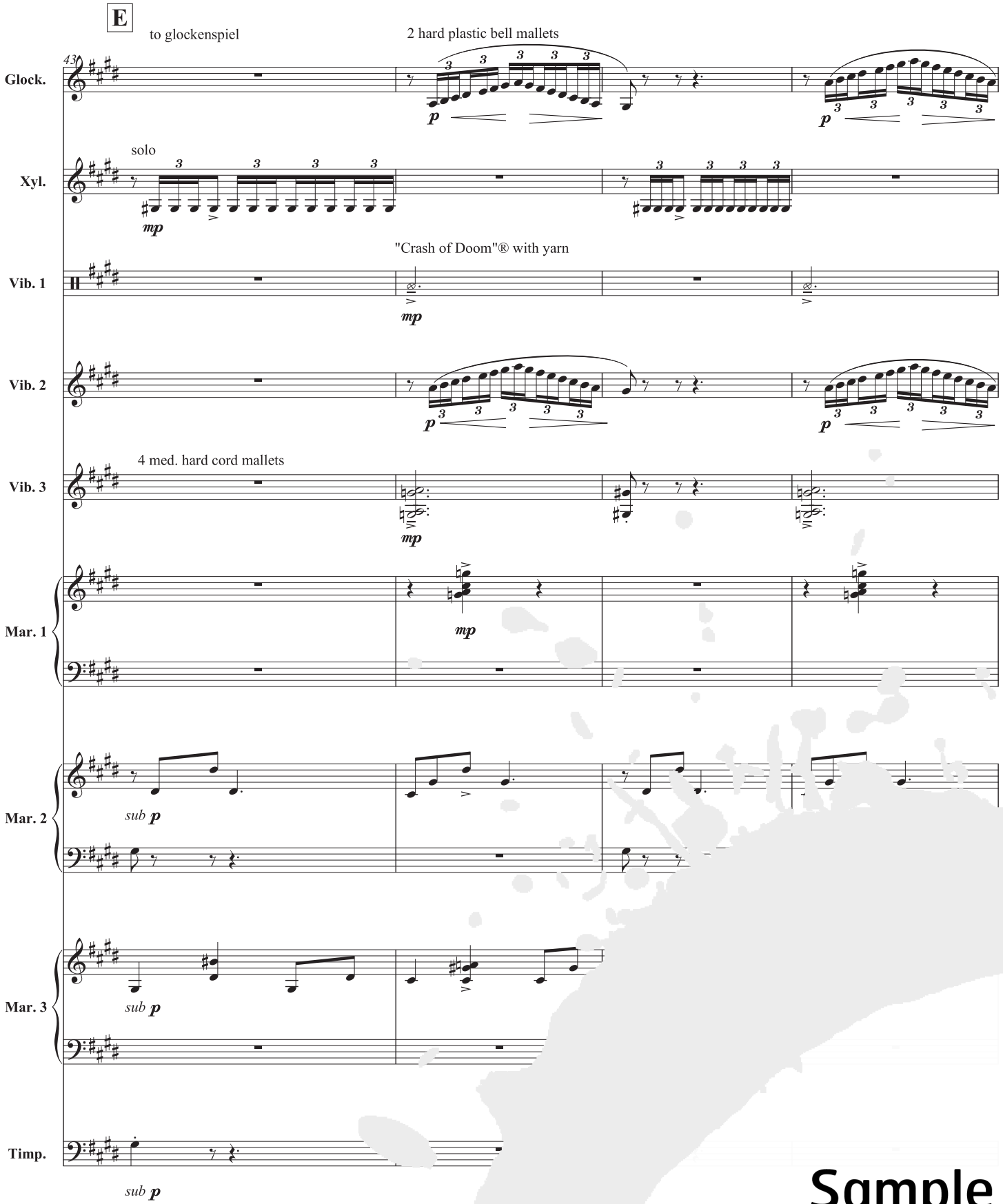

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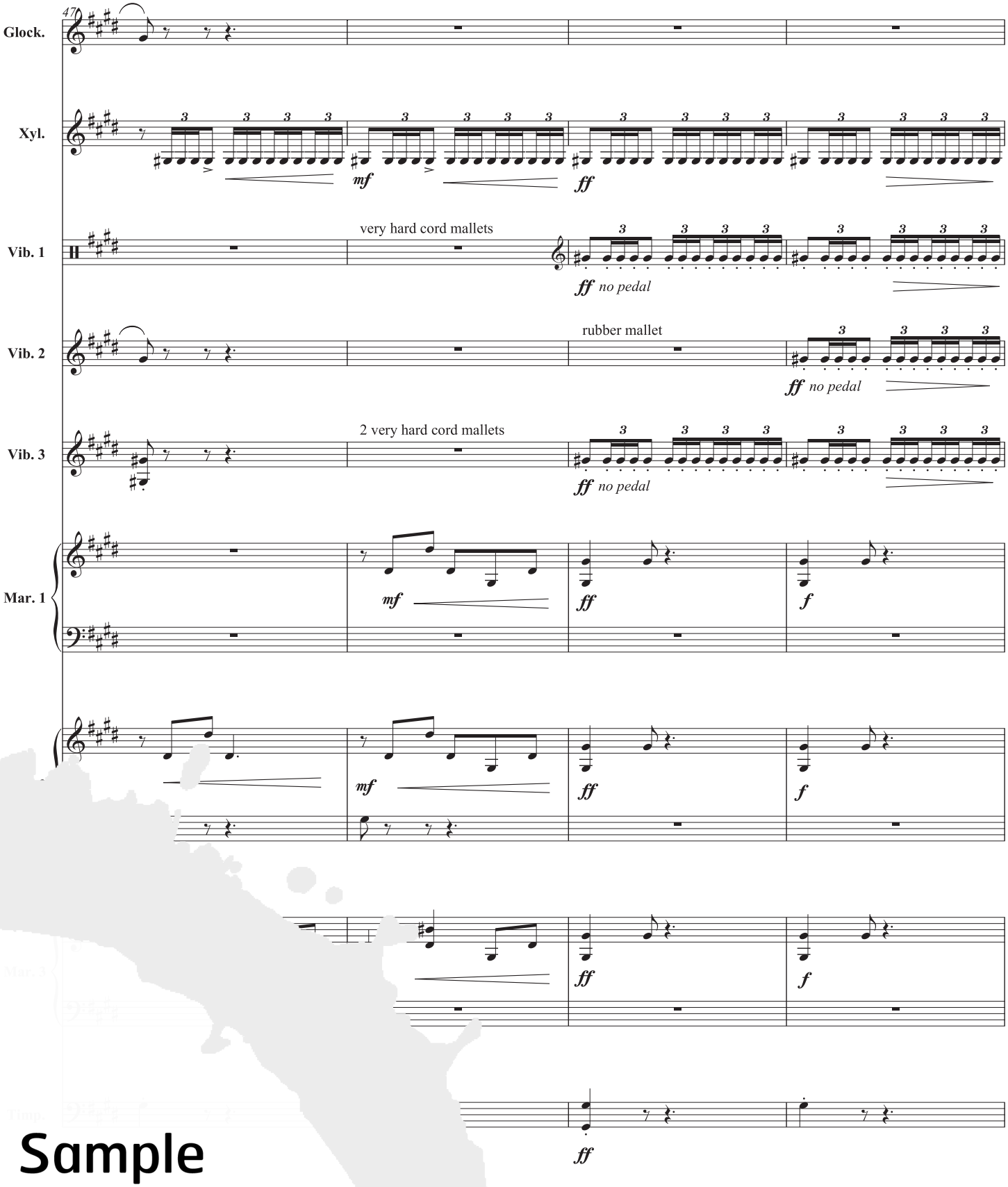

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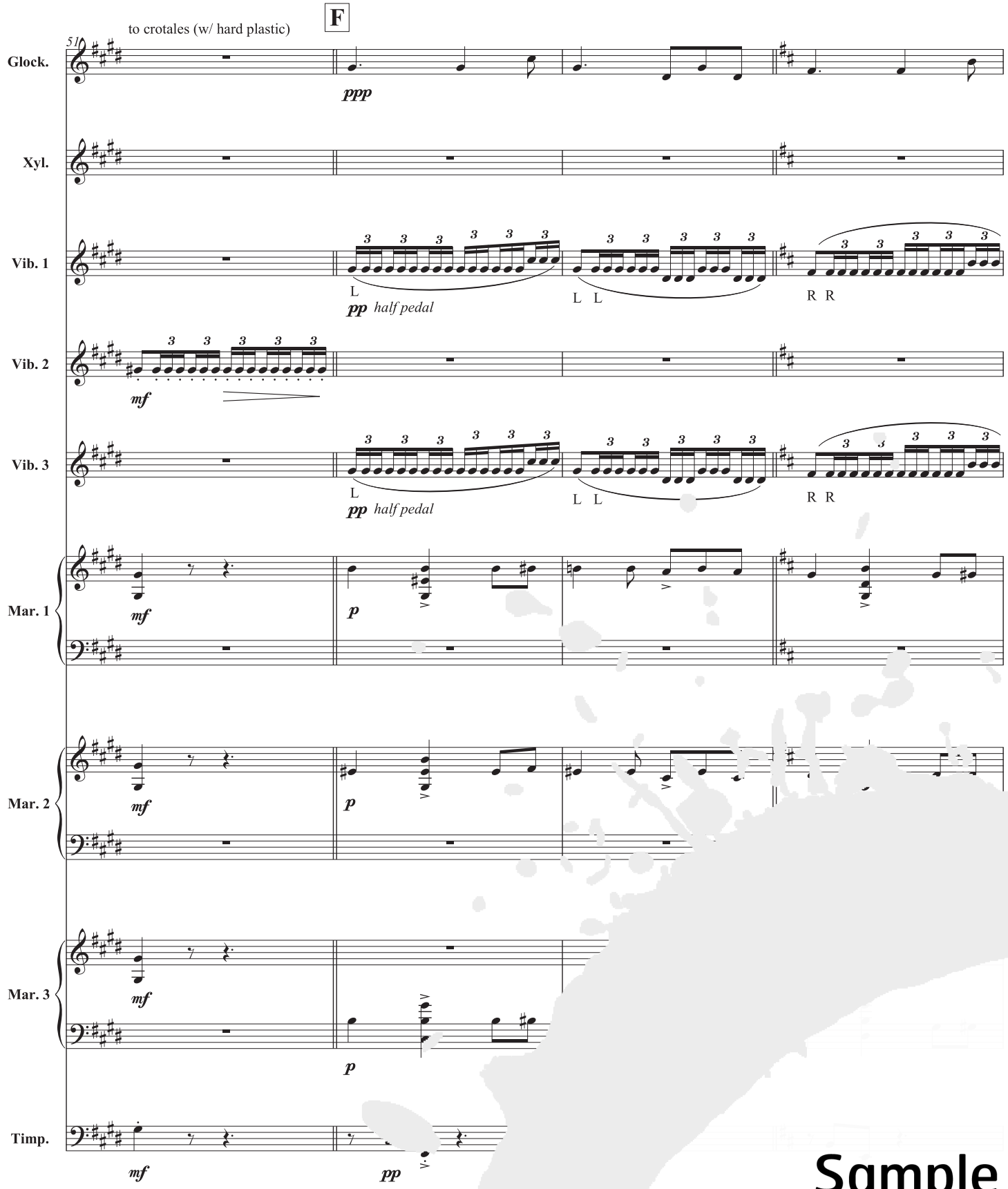

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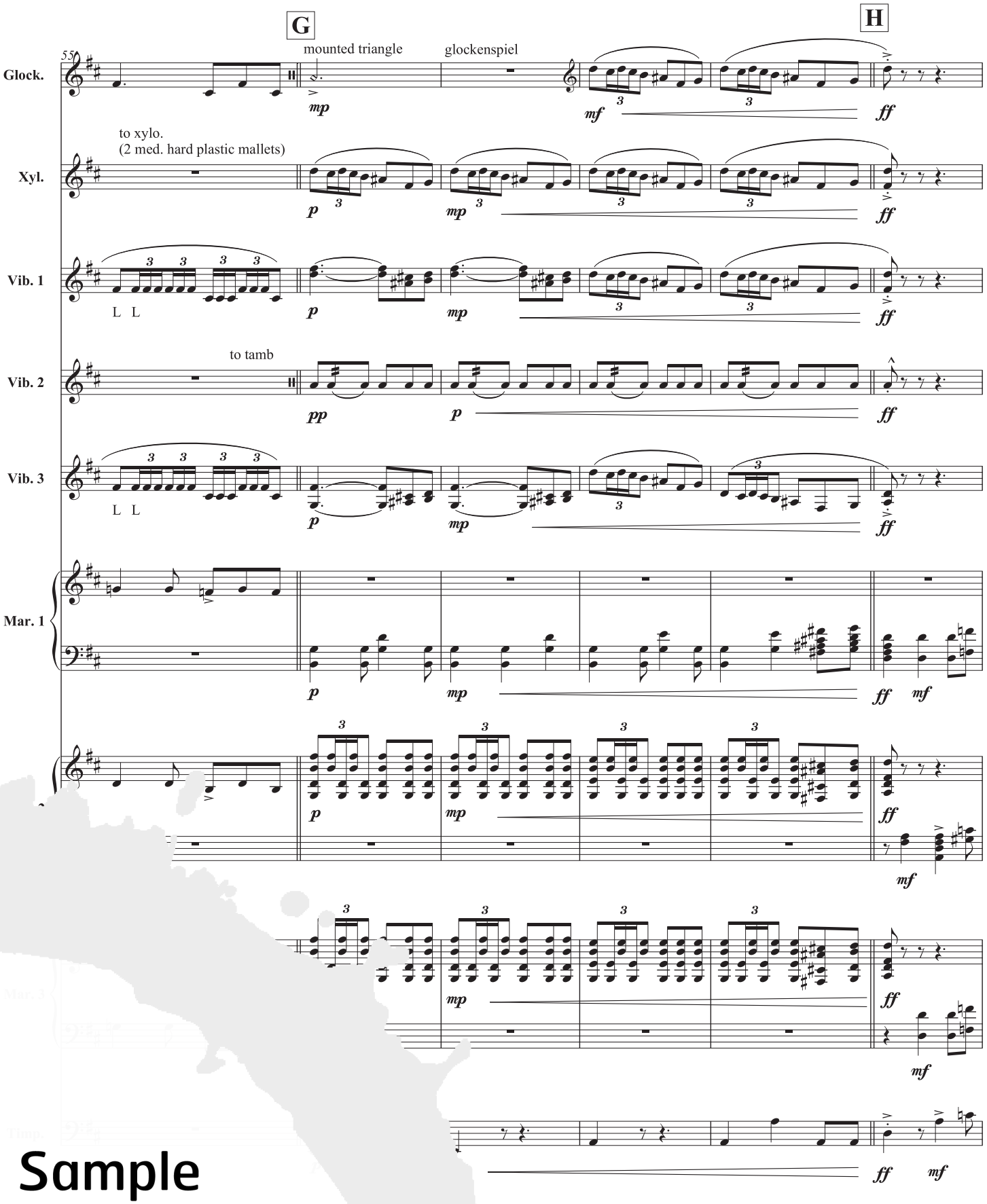

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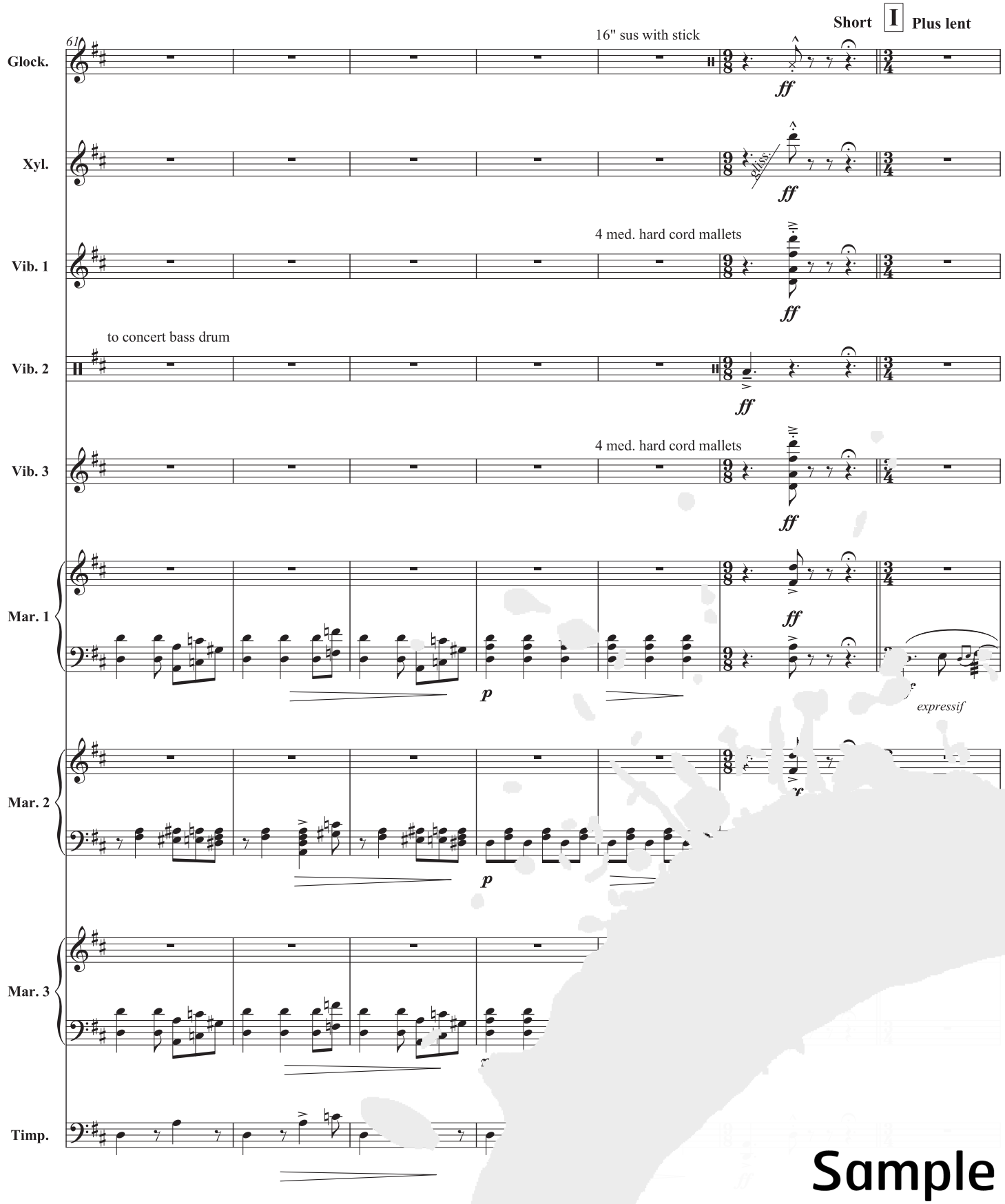

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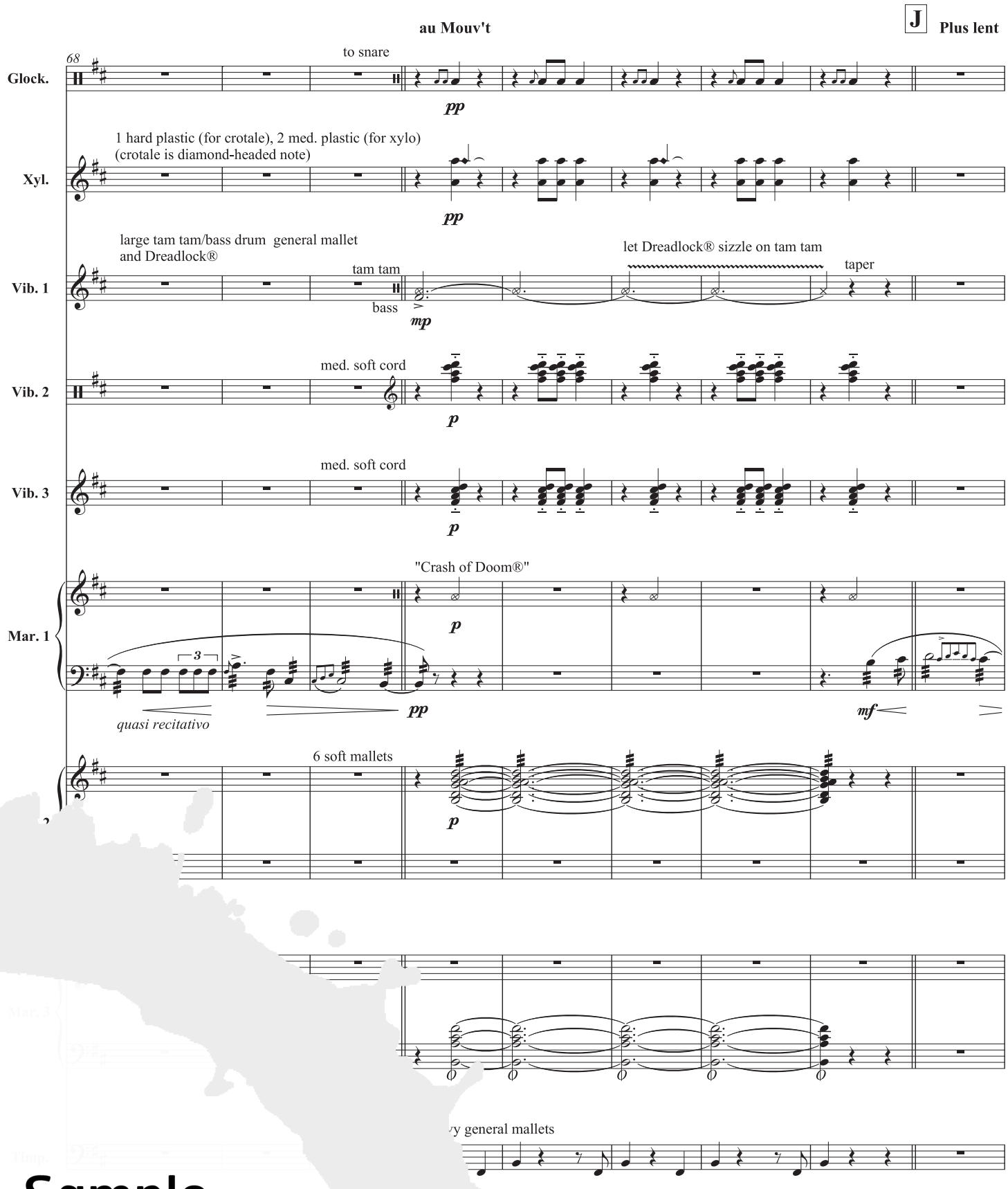

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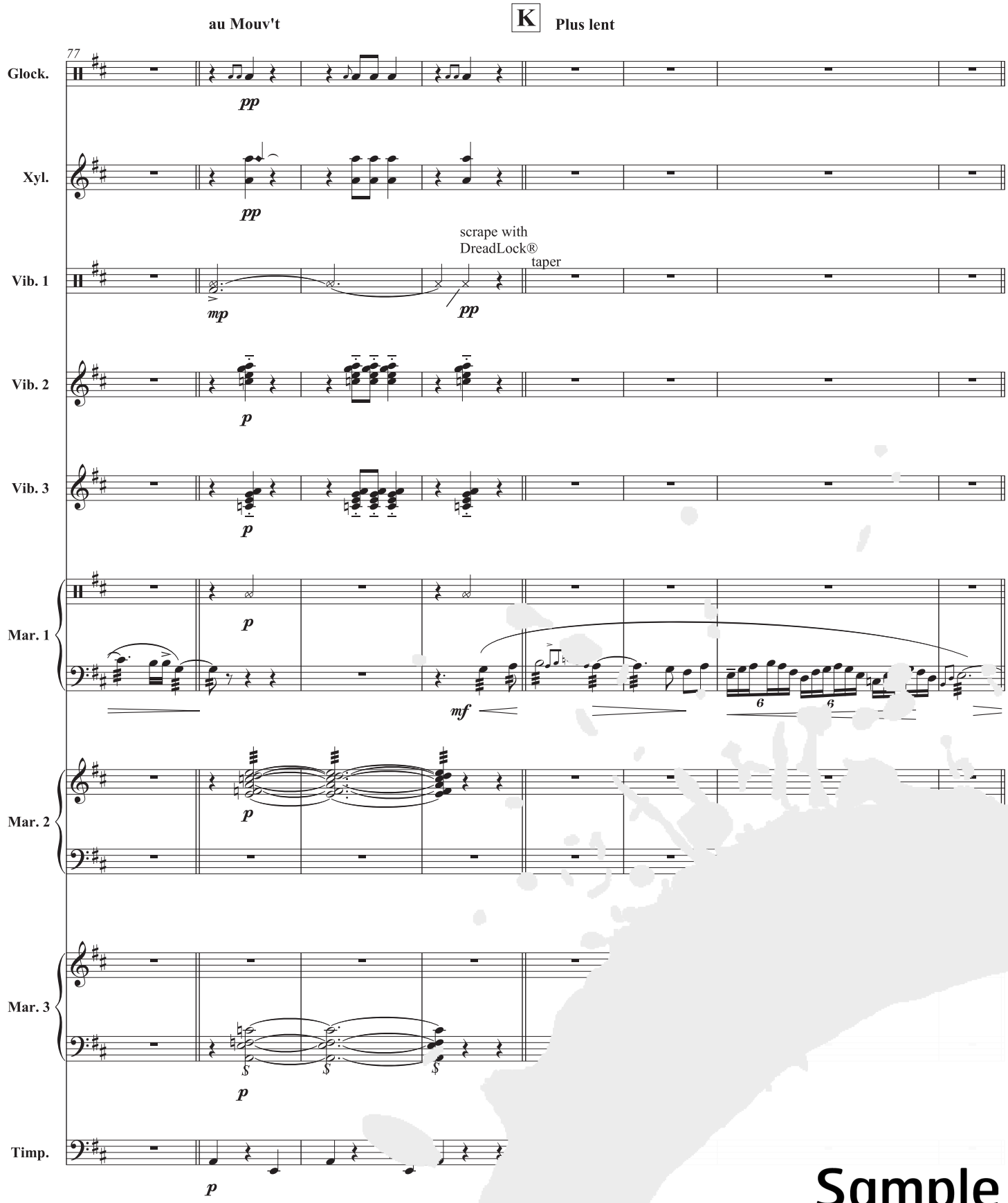

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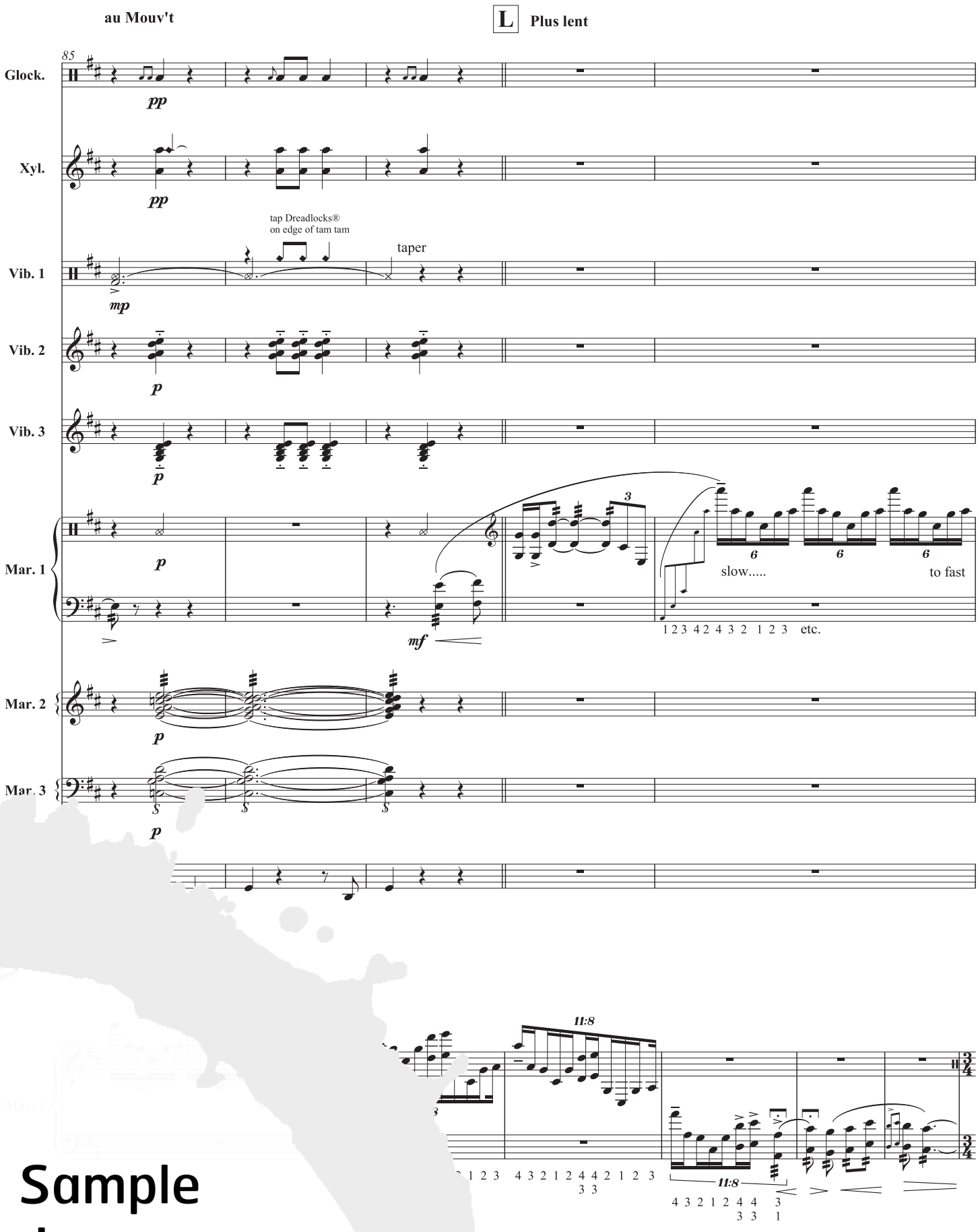

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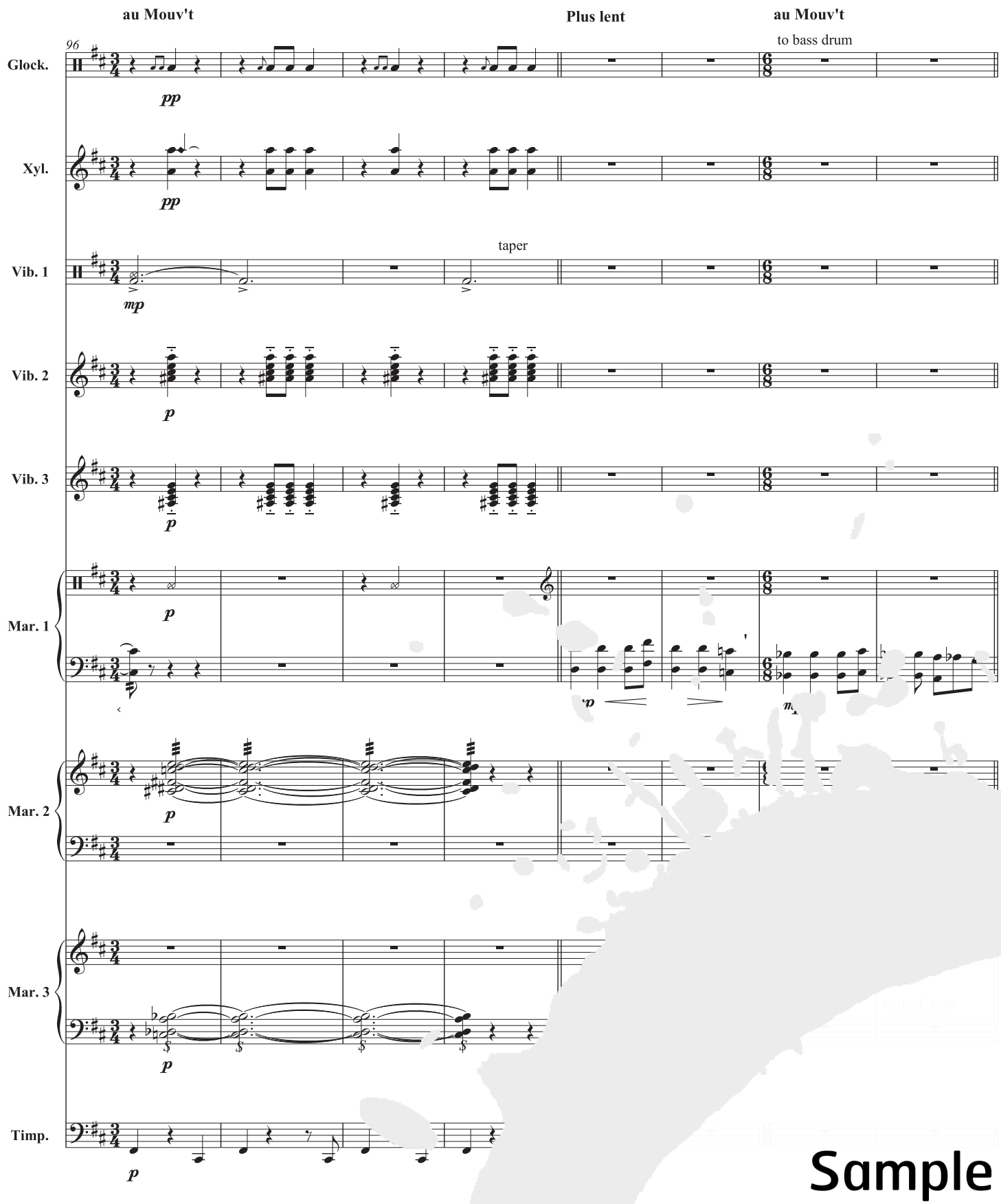

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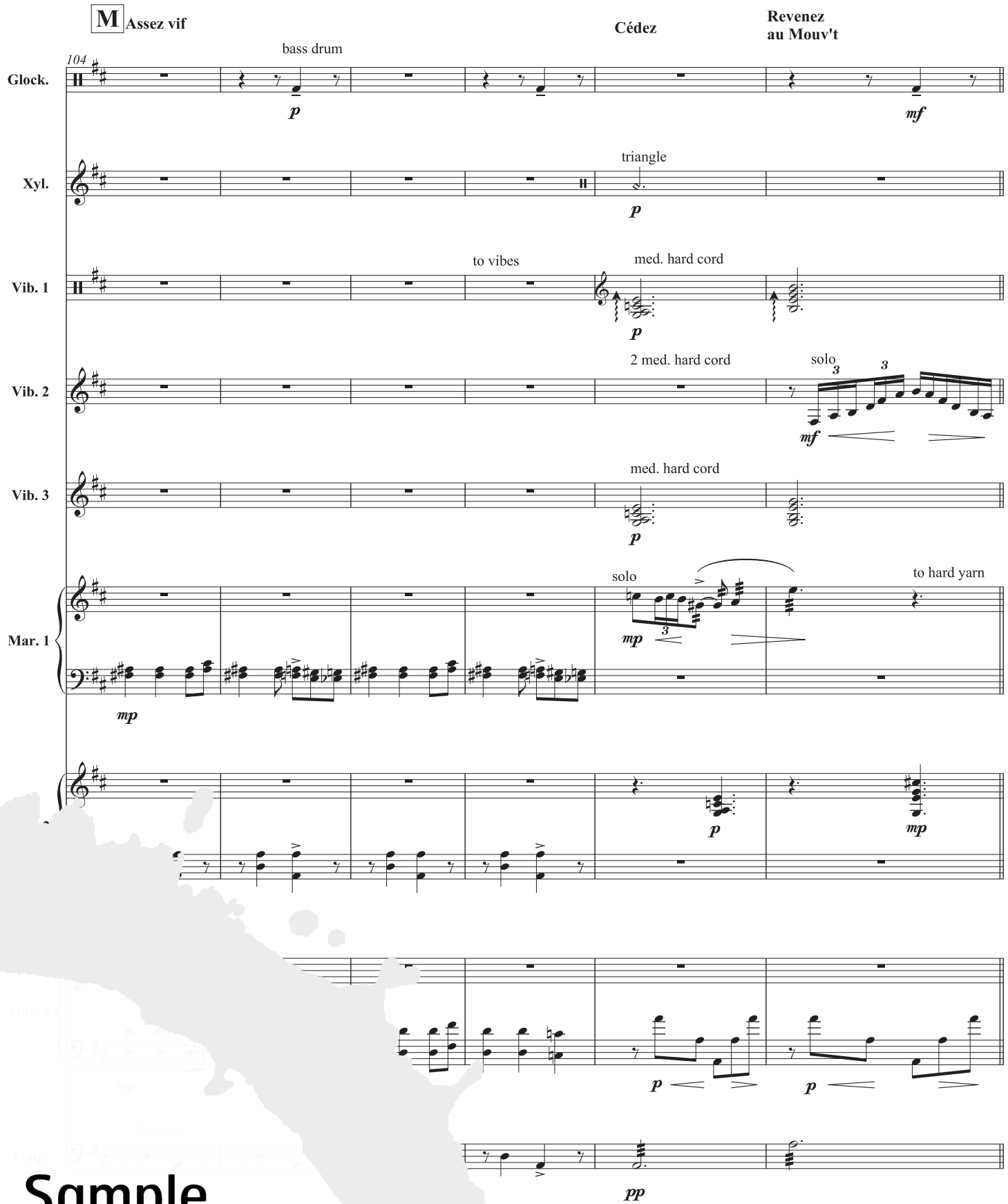

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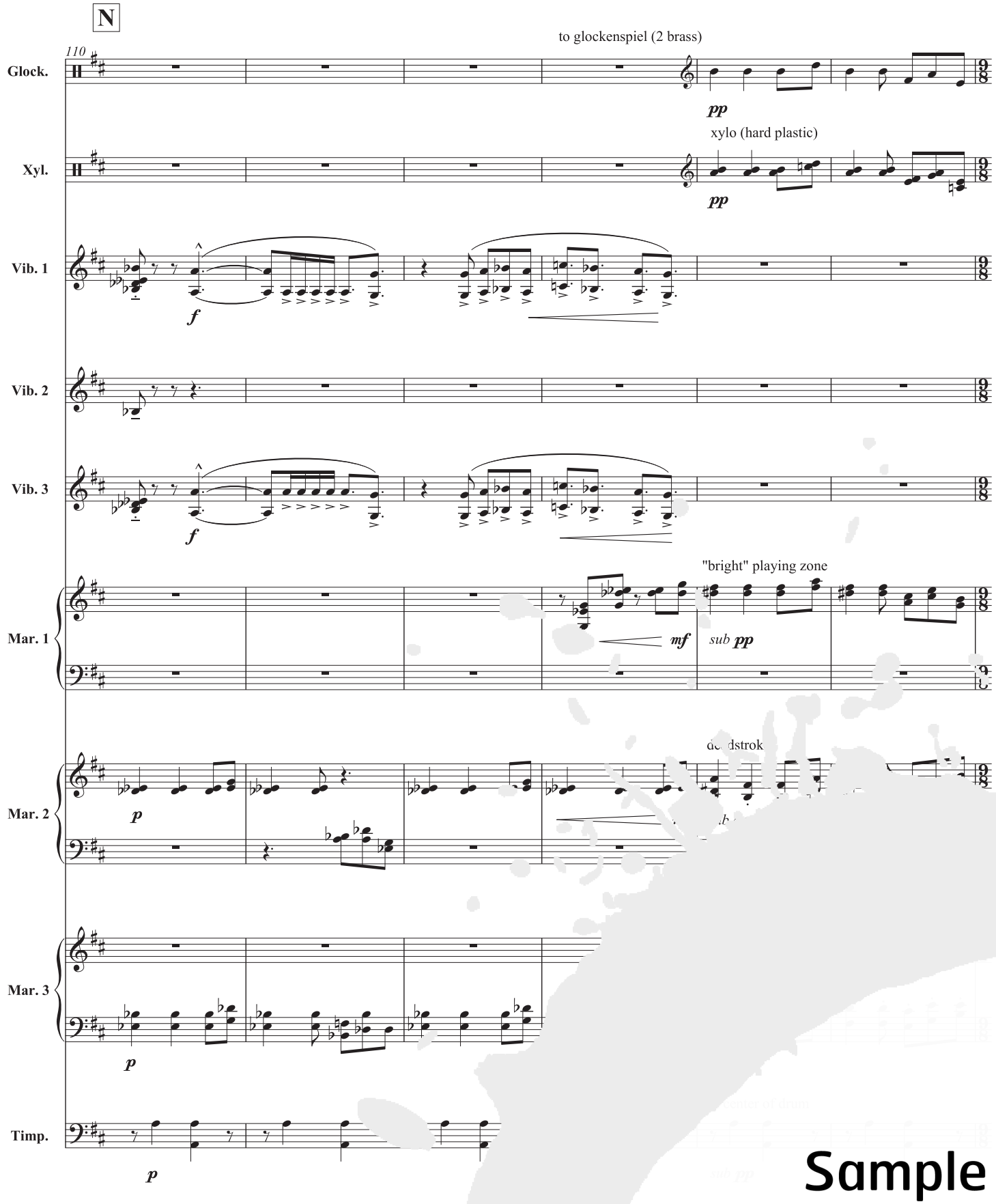

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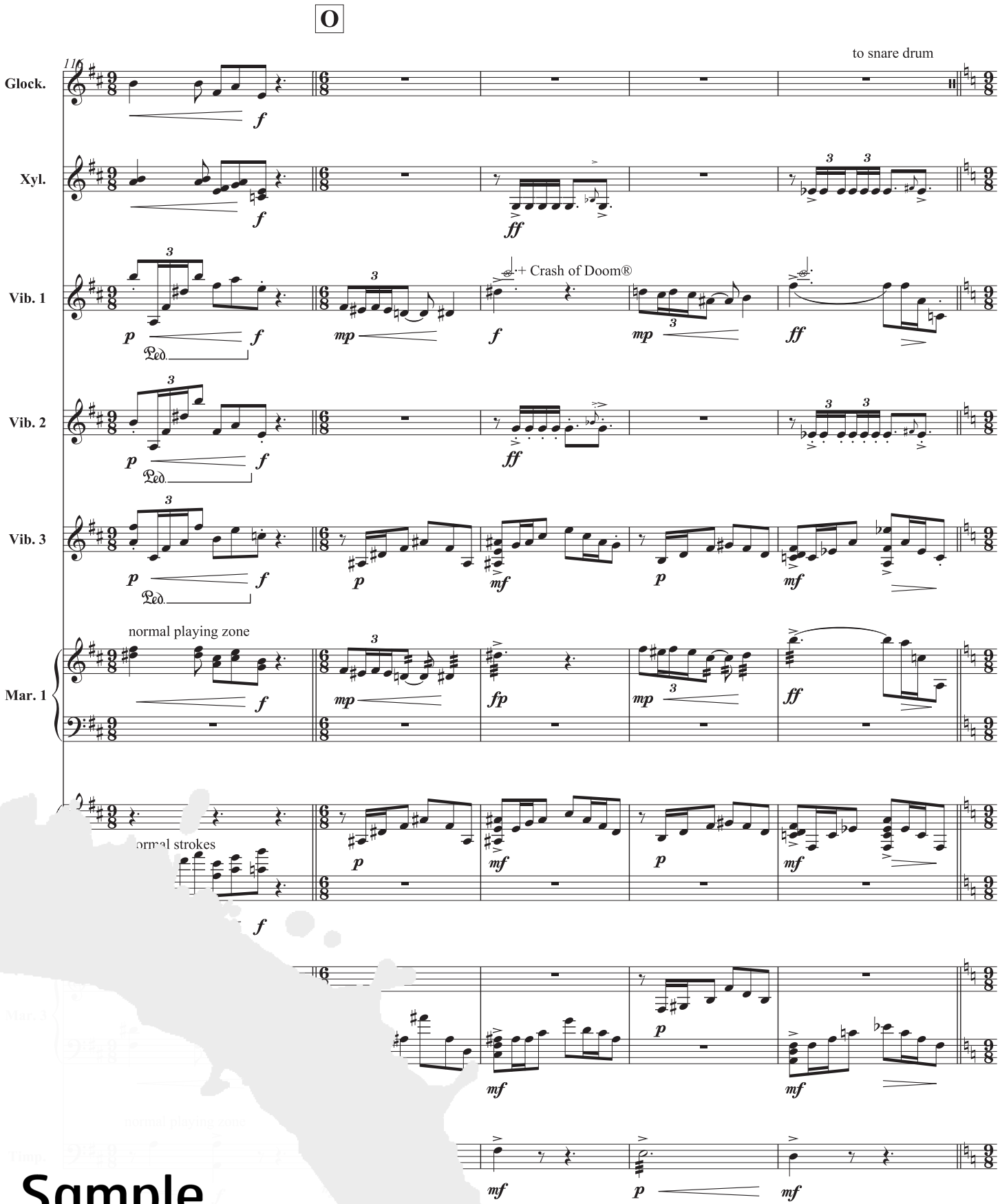

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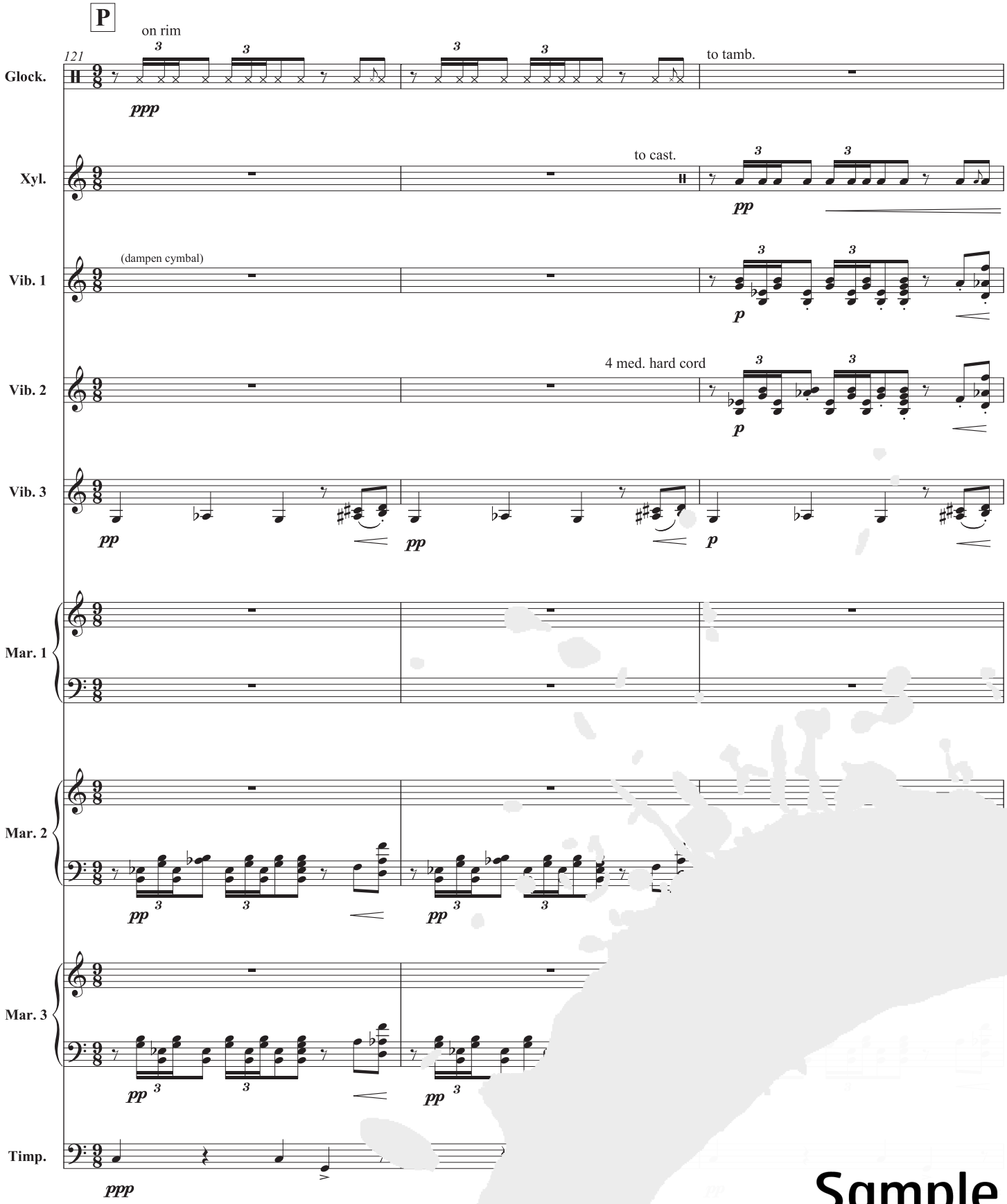

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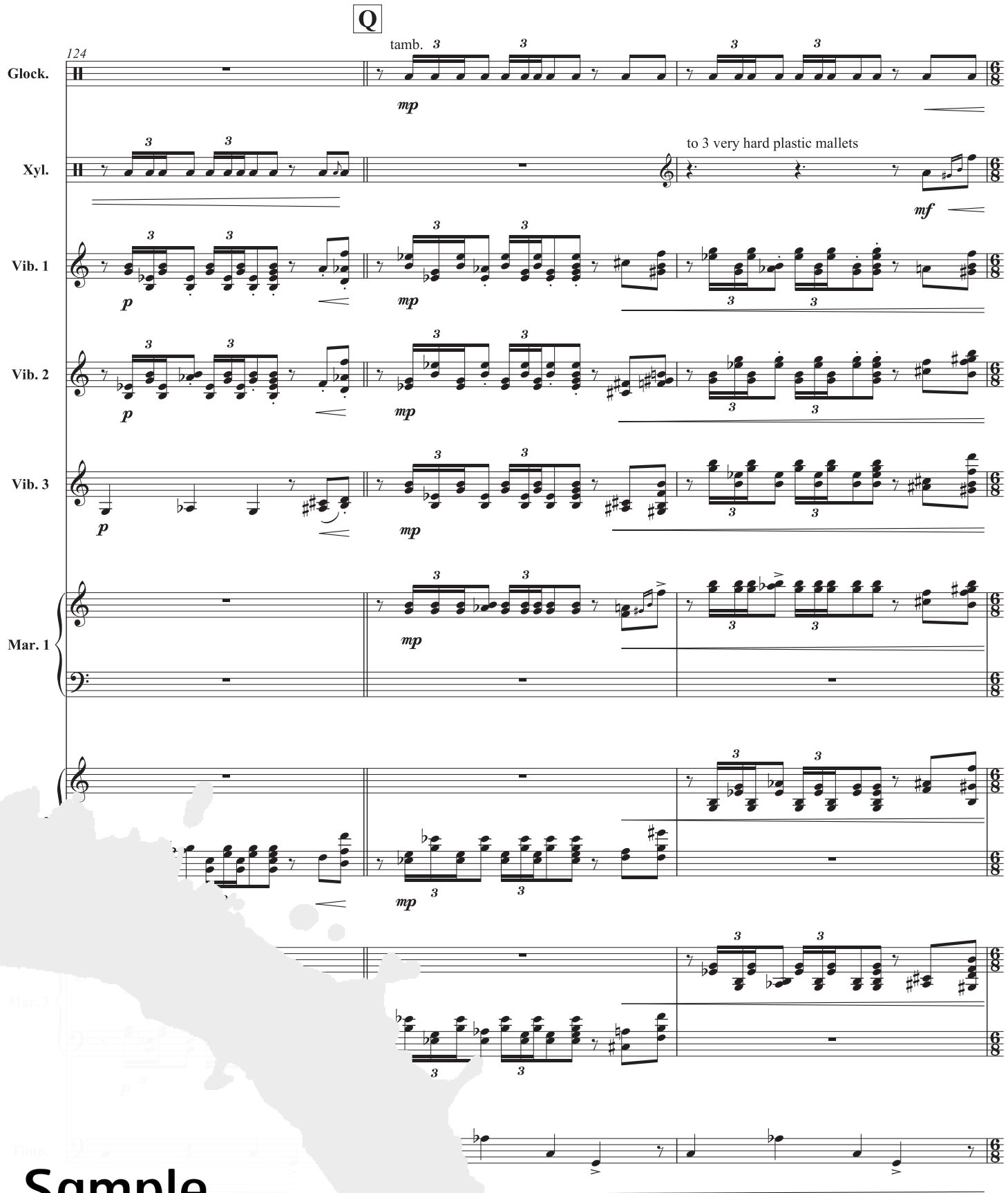

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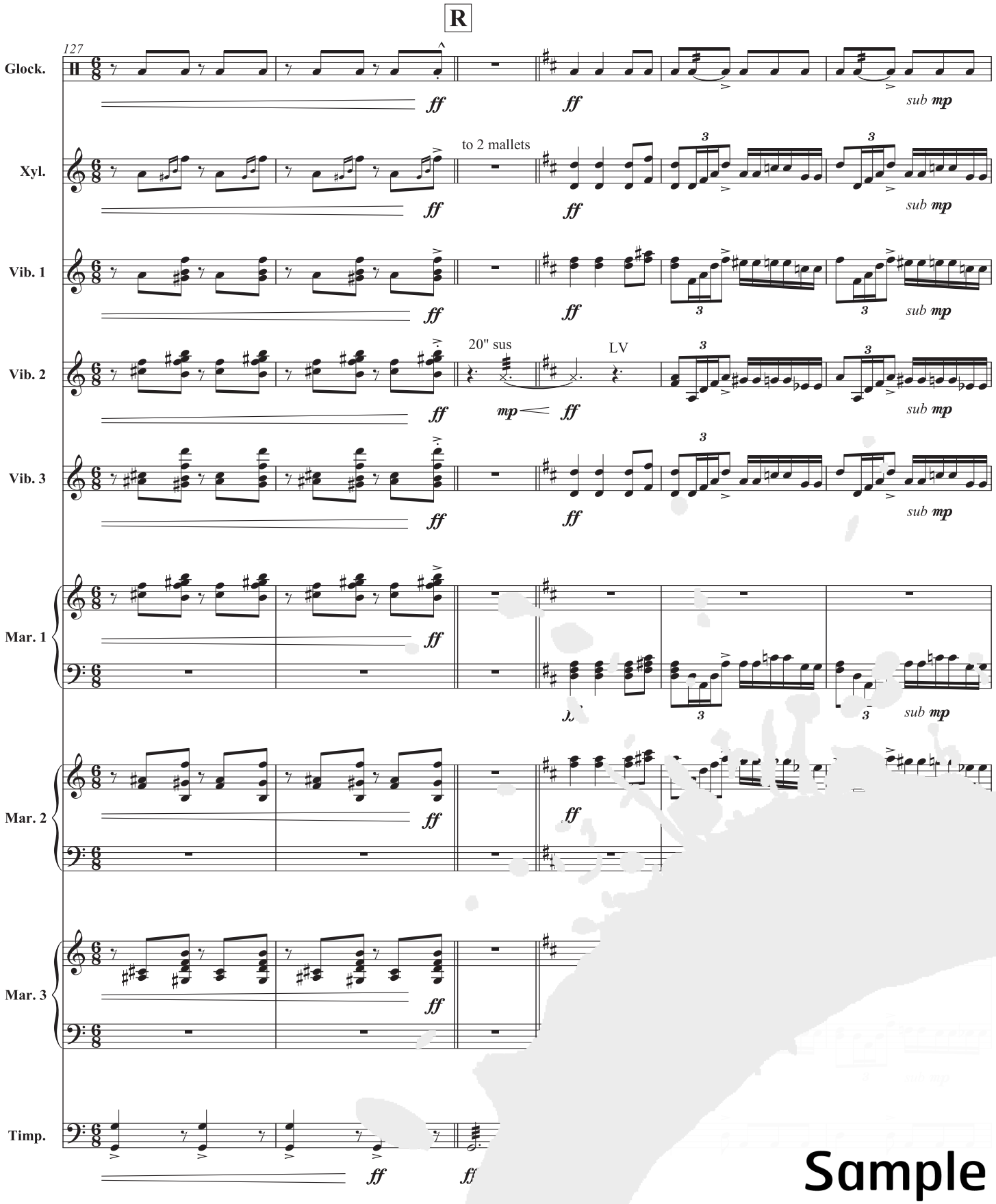

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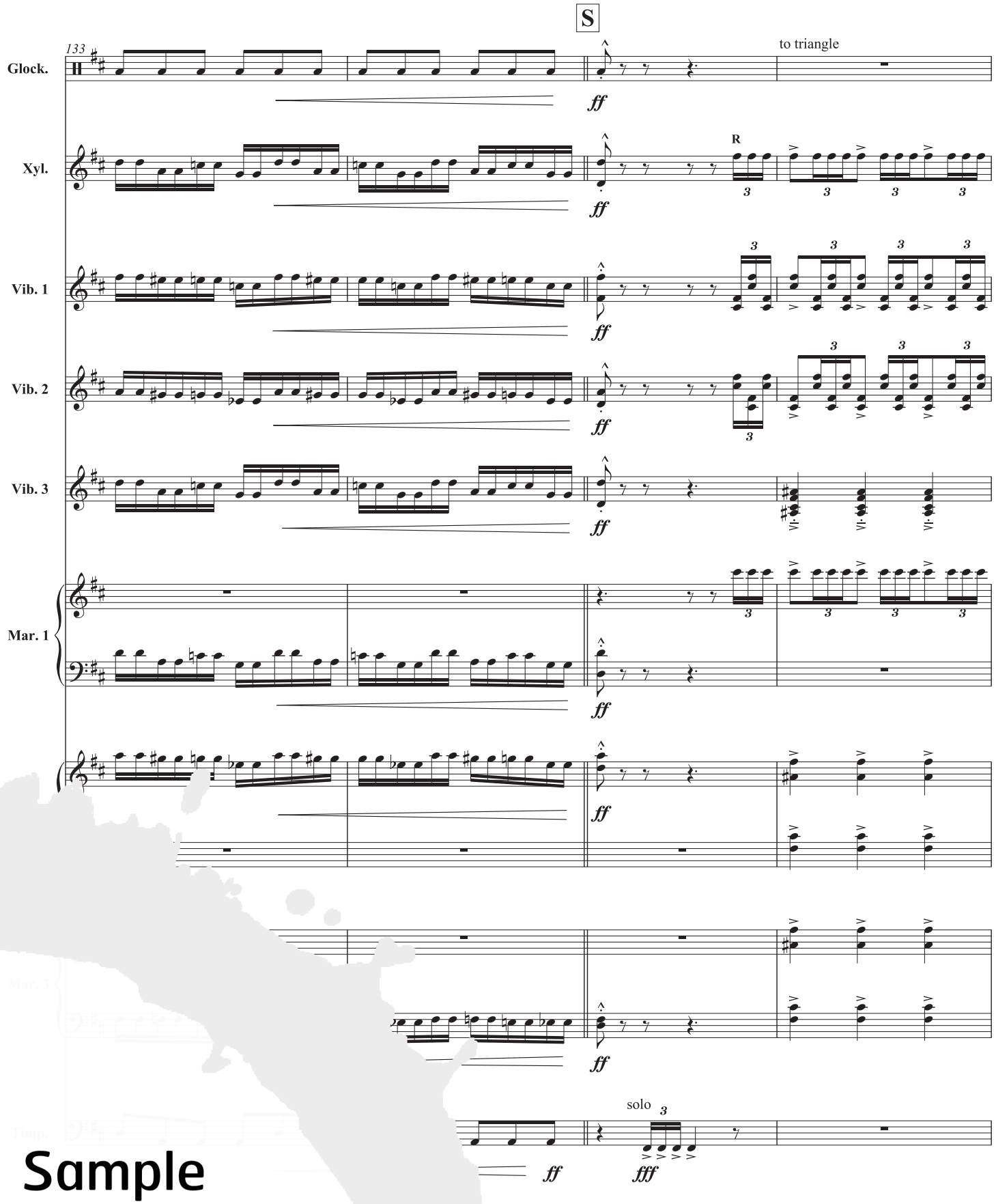

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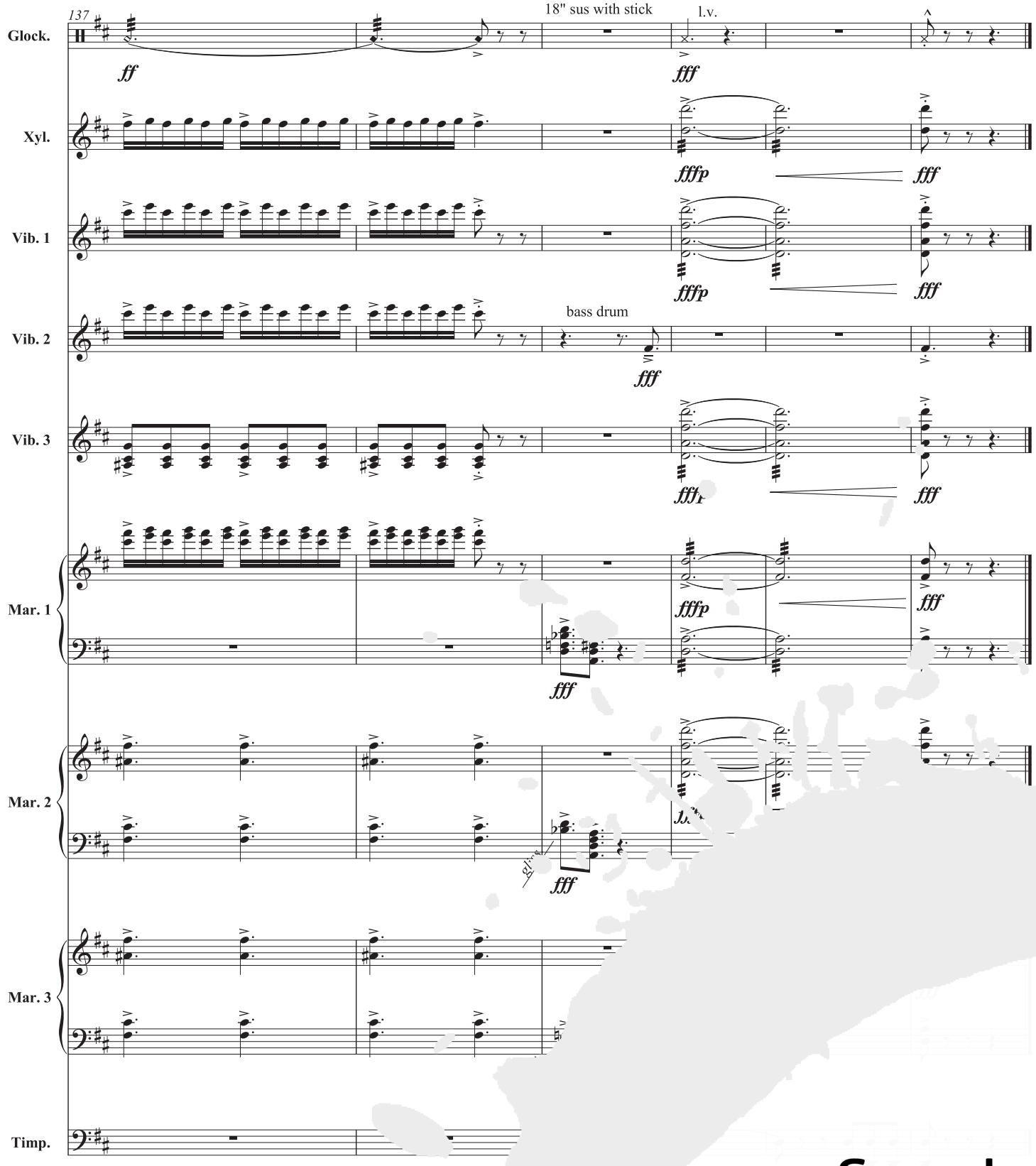

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