Robert McClure

Integrated Elements No. 2
"Not a Haiku"

for solo multipercussion and pre-recorded sound

creativity in percussion™

TSPCS-12

Notes

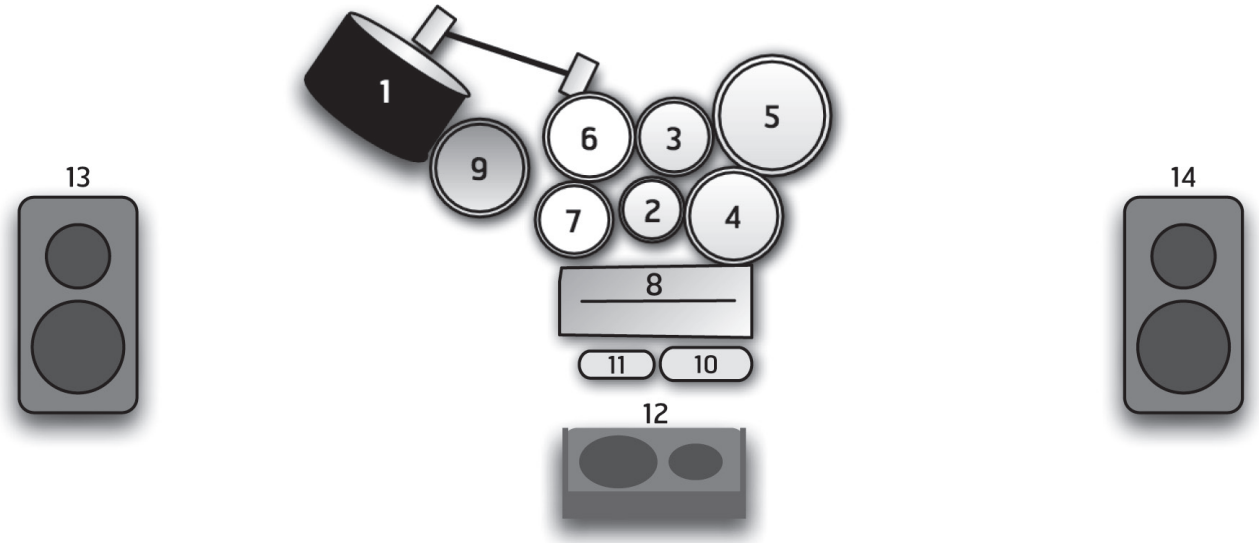
The *Integrated Elements* series features solo instruments and pre-recorded sound. The aim of this series is to use the sounds created by instruments, electronically produced sounds, and the sounds made by the human voice or mouth to create an integrated sound world.

Integrated Elements No. 2 "Not a Haiku" was written after many conversations with Scott Shinbara about the possibility of the composition. The multiple percussion set up consists of the following which were chosen based on Scott's personal collection of instruments; 4 double-headed toms (8" 10" 12" 14"), pedal bass drum, 2 mini timbales (6" and 8"), 2 woodblocks, log drum, and a wooden-headed tom. The pre-recorded sounds are organized into three categories: metal sounds (opera gongs, nipple gongs, tam-tams, cymbals, metal pipes), electronically produced sounds (static, pitches, clicks), and sounds created from using my own voice (yells, humming, pitches).

The piece is constructed in three large parts and breaks down further into a 5-part arch form. I took the ratio 5:7:5 to devise the length of these three large sections. Also, this ratio determines the metric scheme using bars of 5/8, 7/8, and 5/8, which increase exponentially. This scheme is used for the first large section and then run in reverse for the last large section. The ratio also constructs a gong cycle that is run throughout the entire piece, as it would be in traditional gamelan music. And finally, even the instrument selection shows the ratio of 5:7 with wooden instruments to drums respectively.

This piece was not inspired by the Japanese form of poetry, "haiku" which has a 5-7-5 syllable structure. It does not try to incite imagery of nature. Despite the numeric connection to the poetic art form, this piece is not a haiku. This piece was written for and is dedicated to Scott Shinbara.

Instrumentation and setup



1. Bass drum w/double-pedal
2. 8" Tom
3. 10" Tom
4. 12" Tom
5. 14" Tom
6. Mini timbale (low)
7. Mini timable (high)
8. Log drum
9. Wooden-headed tom
10. Woodblock (low)
11. Woodblock (high)
12. Monitor (for performer)
13. House speaker (left)
14. House speaker (right)

Instrument substitutions – high tuned bongos or high roto toms may be substituted for the mini timbales.

Constructing a wooden headed tom

by Scott Shinbara

There are a few different ways to construct a wooden-headed tom required for *Not A Haiku*. The method I employ gives the advantages of being both durable and tunable.

Items you will need:

1. Particle board (available at any hardware/lumber store) Plywood also works, but cracks fairly easily. Particle board is pressed; therefore it will not crack from the inside and will withstand hard and heavy playing.
2. Tom. Any size can be used to the players taste.
3. Head (used or new) for the tom (to be used as a template).

Tools needed

1. Saw (Jigsaw works well)
2. Belt Sander

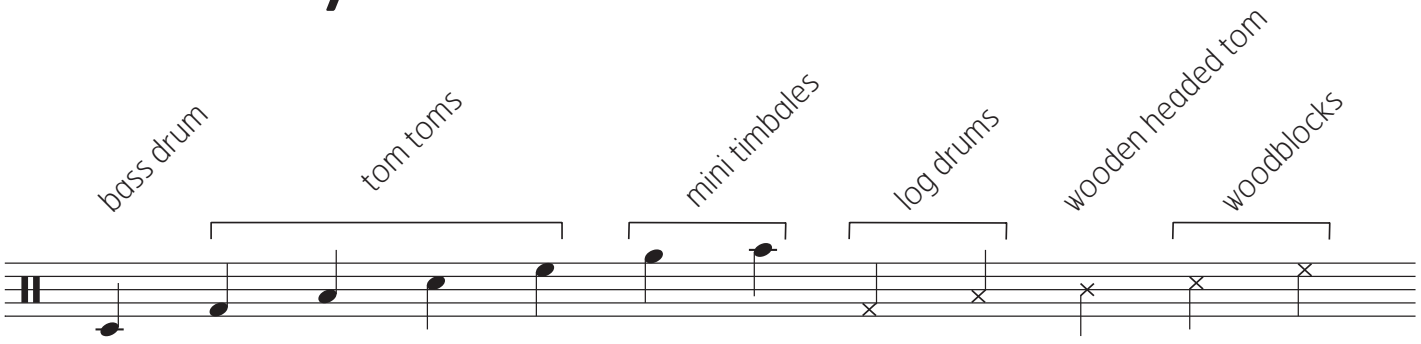
Step 1. Trace the outline of the head for the tom onto the particleboard. Most boards are large enough to get at least two heads.

Step 2. Cut out the tracing. It is better to cut on the outside of the lines than on the inside.

Step 3. Using the belt sander, smooth the edges so that the wooden head will fit correctly in the counter-hoop.

Step 4. Mount the wooden head as you would a plastic one, note that your new head has a reasonably large tuning range for you to work with.

Notation Key



Level: Med-Advanced
Approximate playing time: 10'00"

Dedicated to Scott Shinbara

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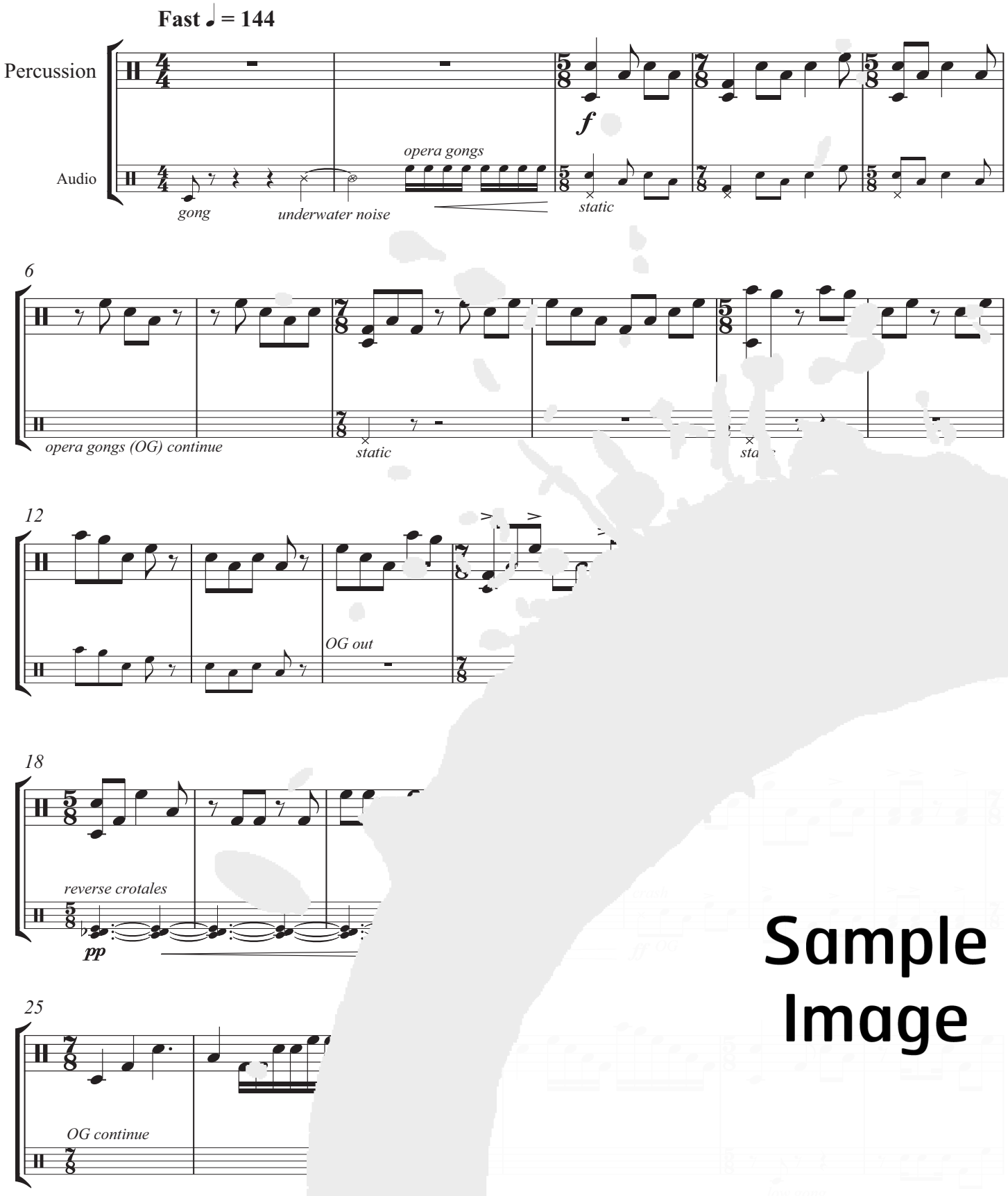
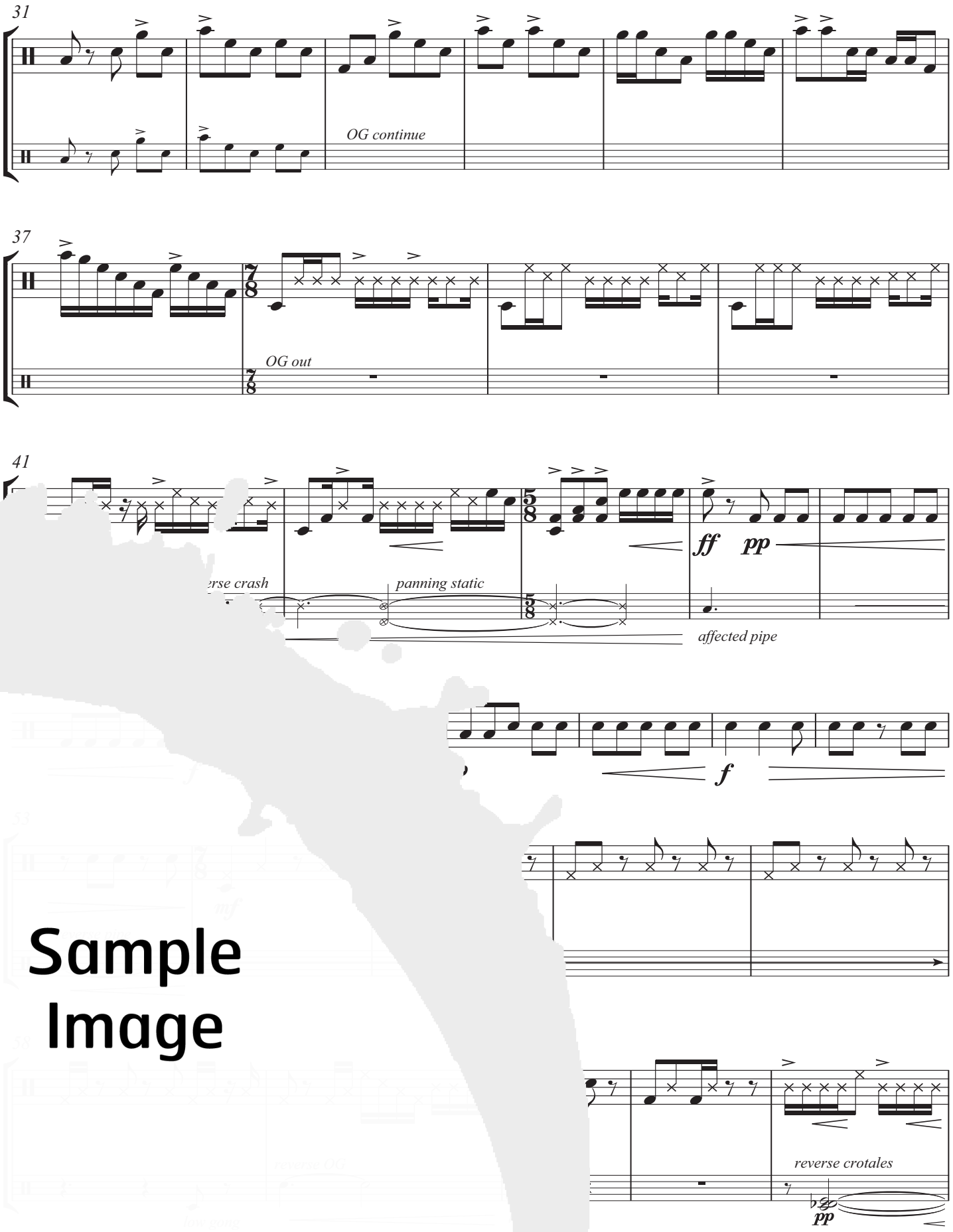
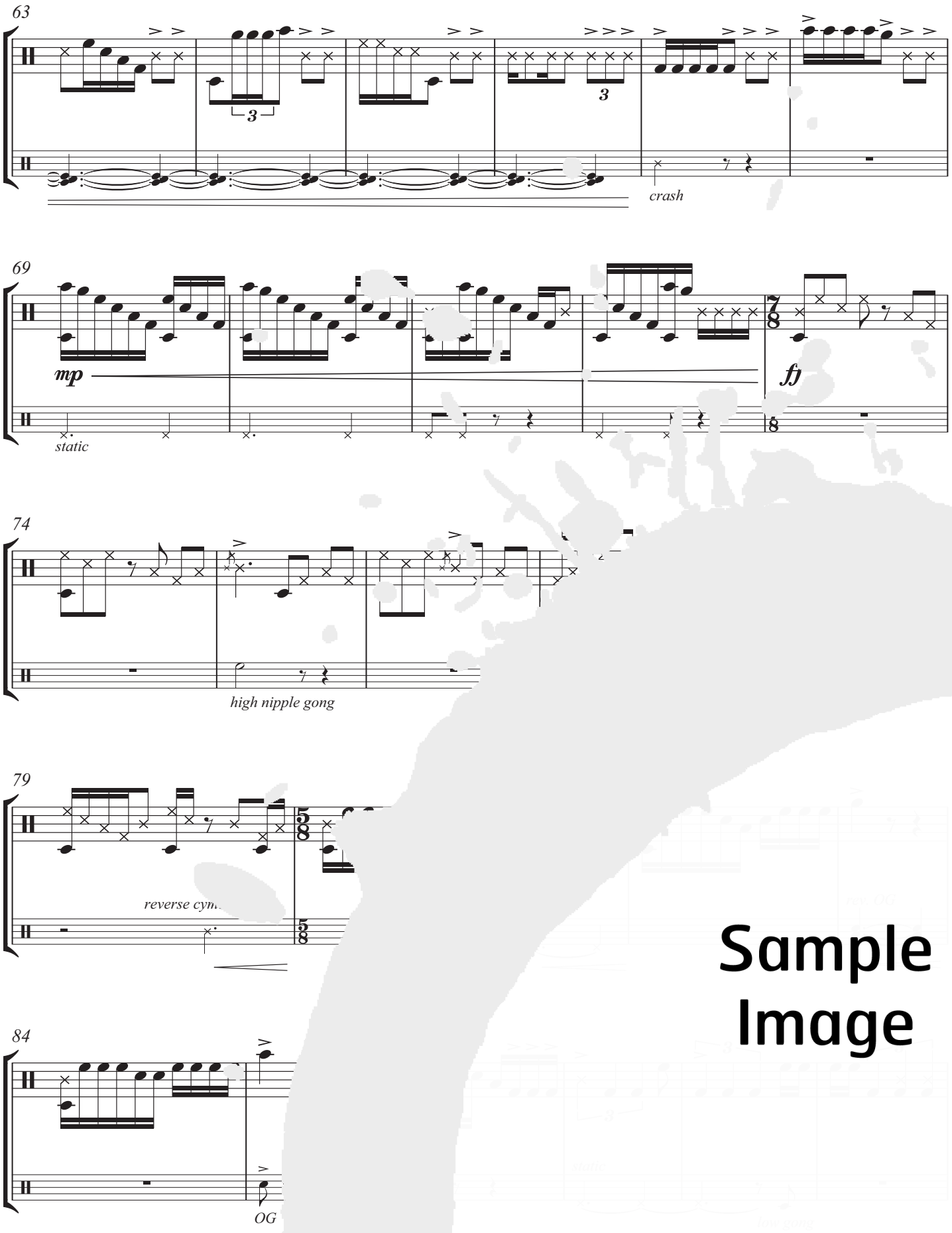
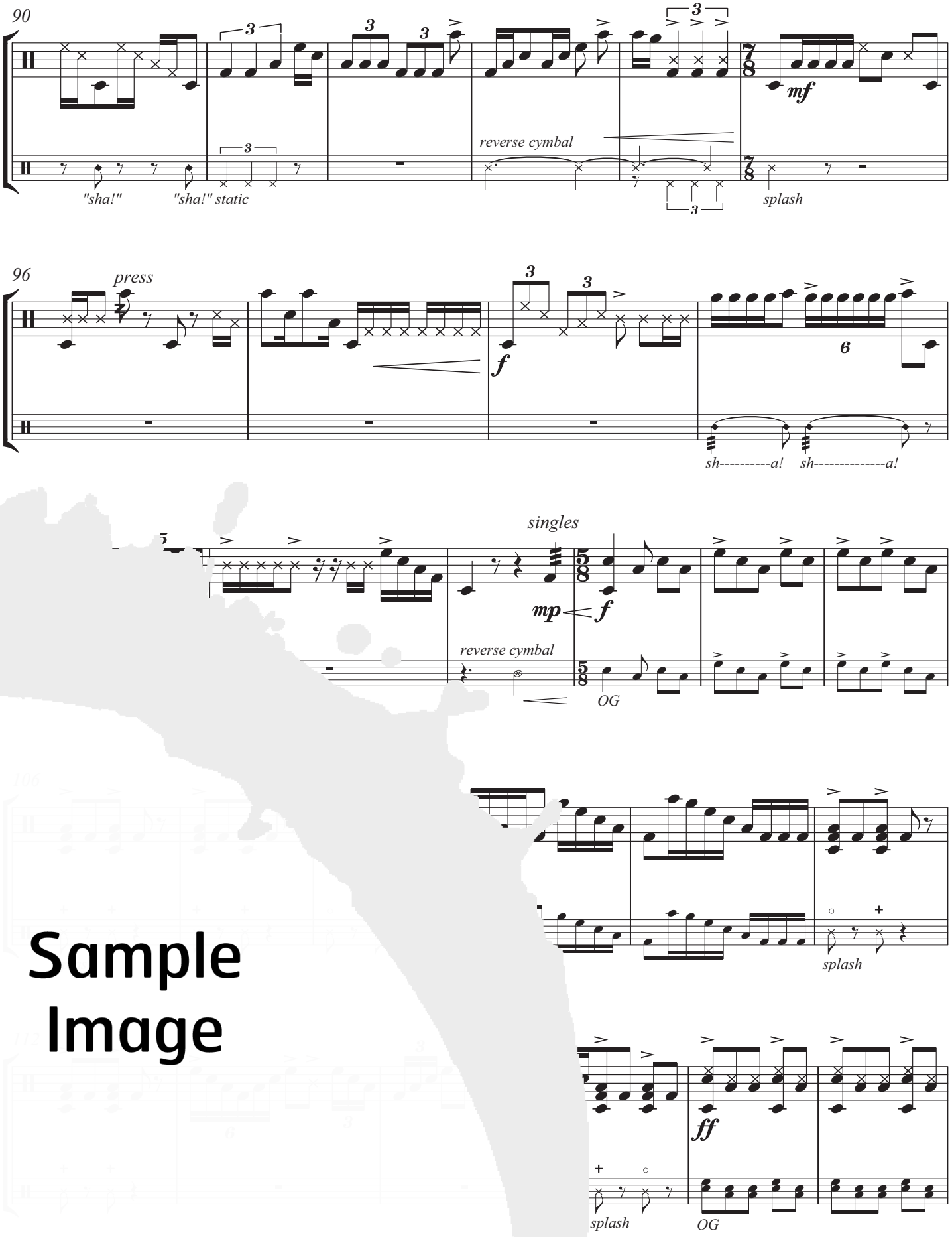






Sample Image



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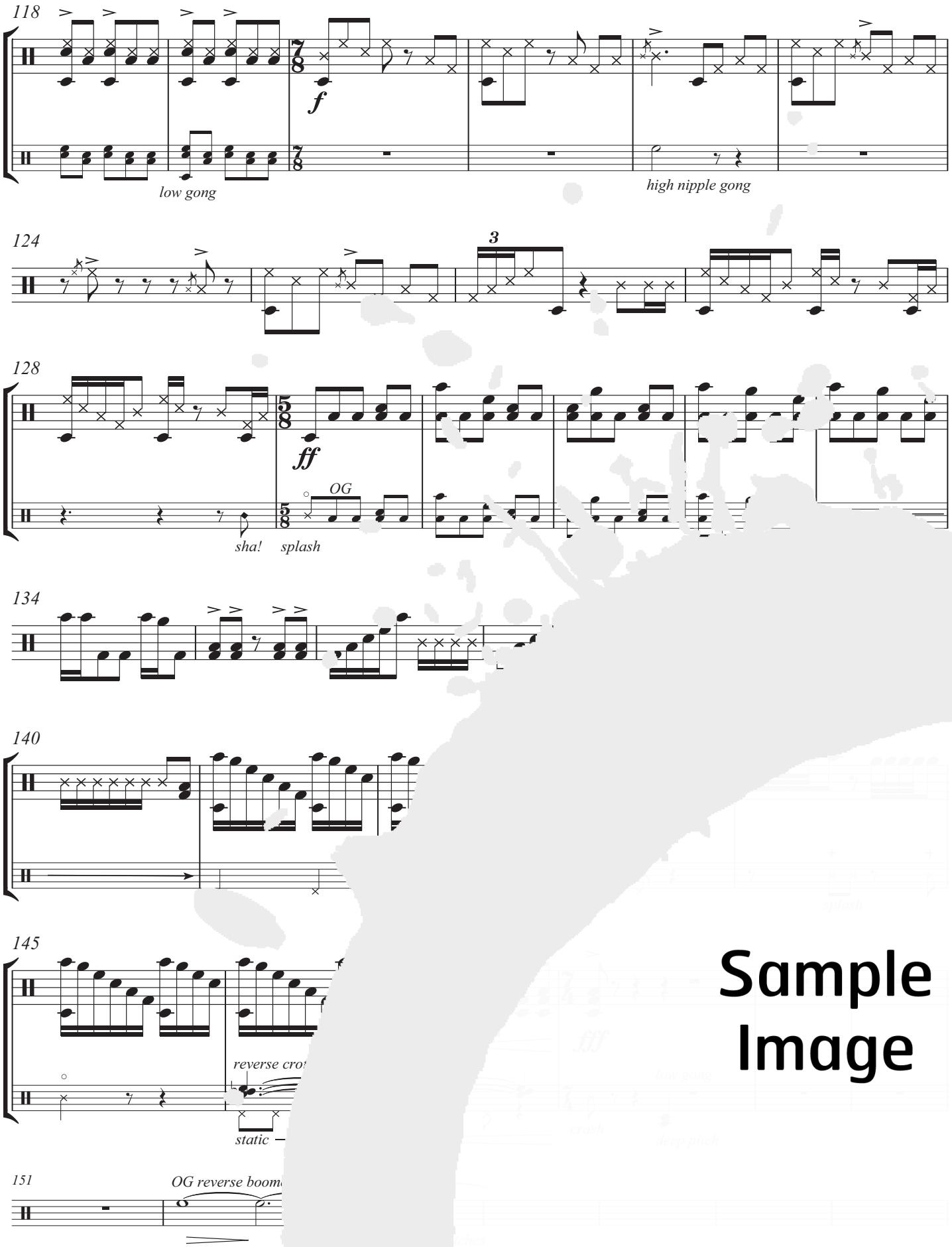

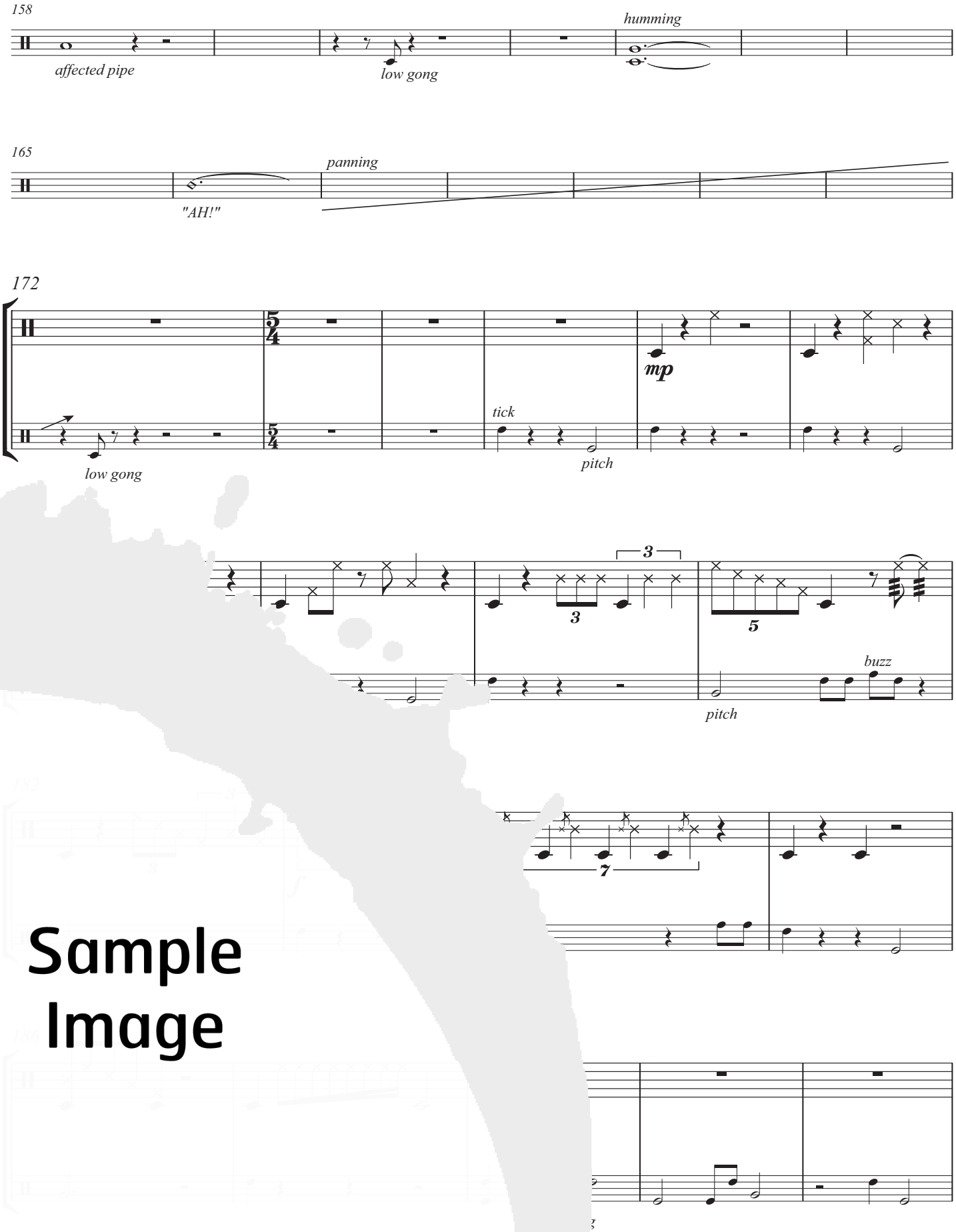

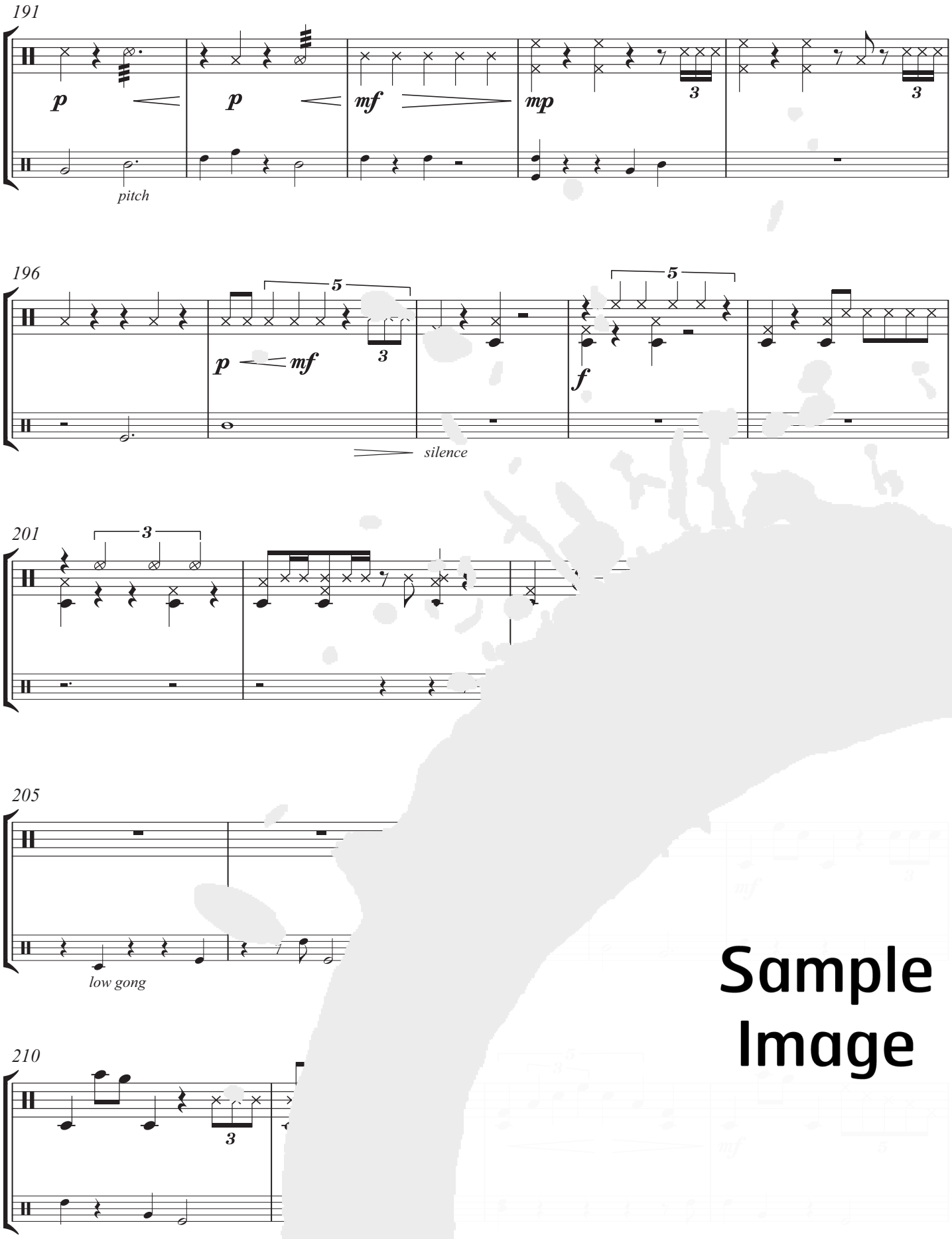

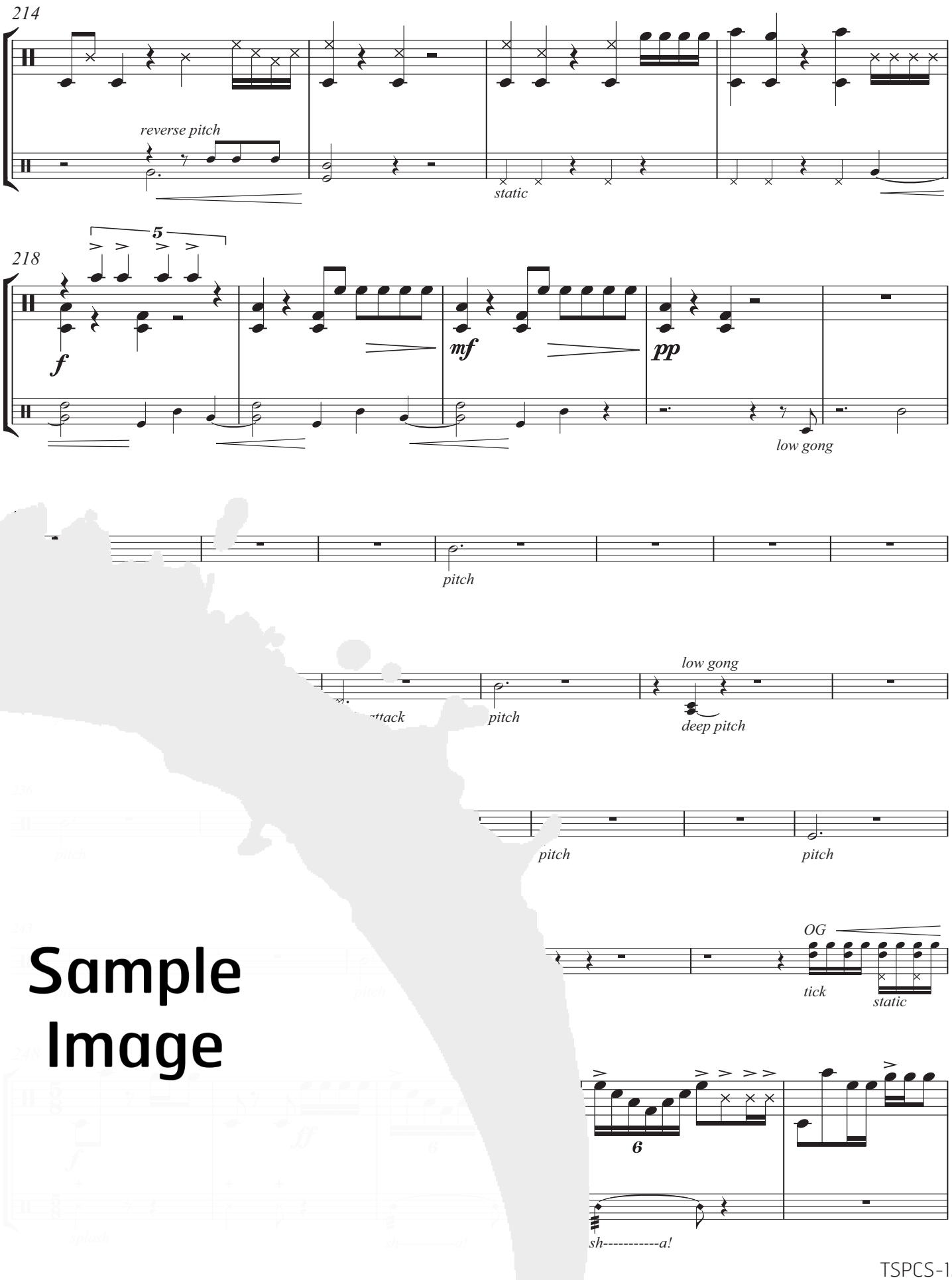

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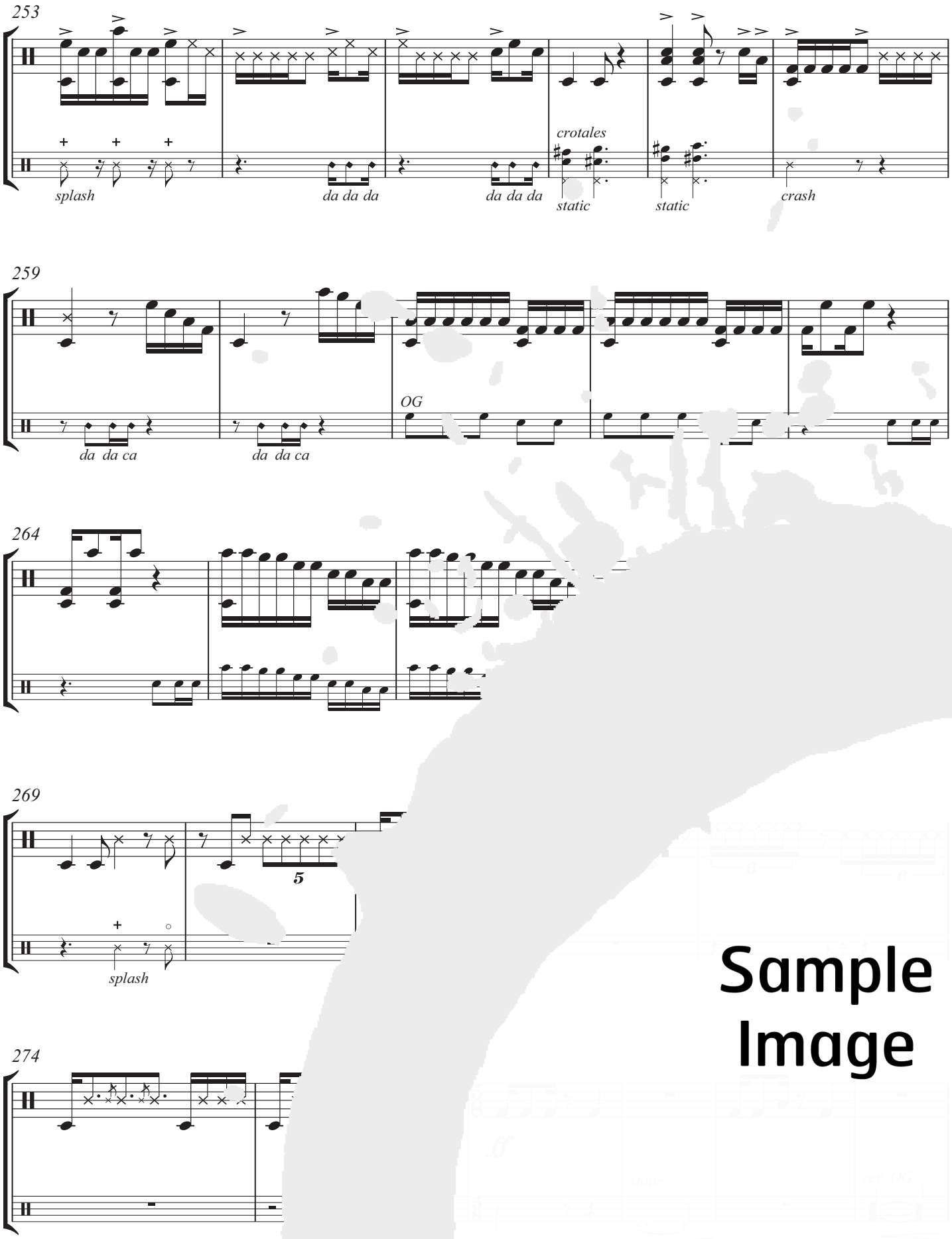

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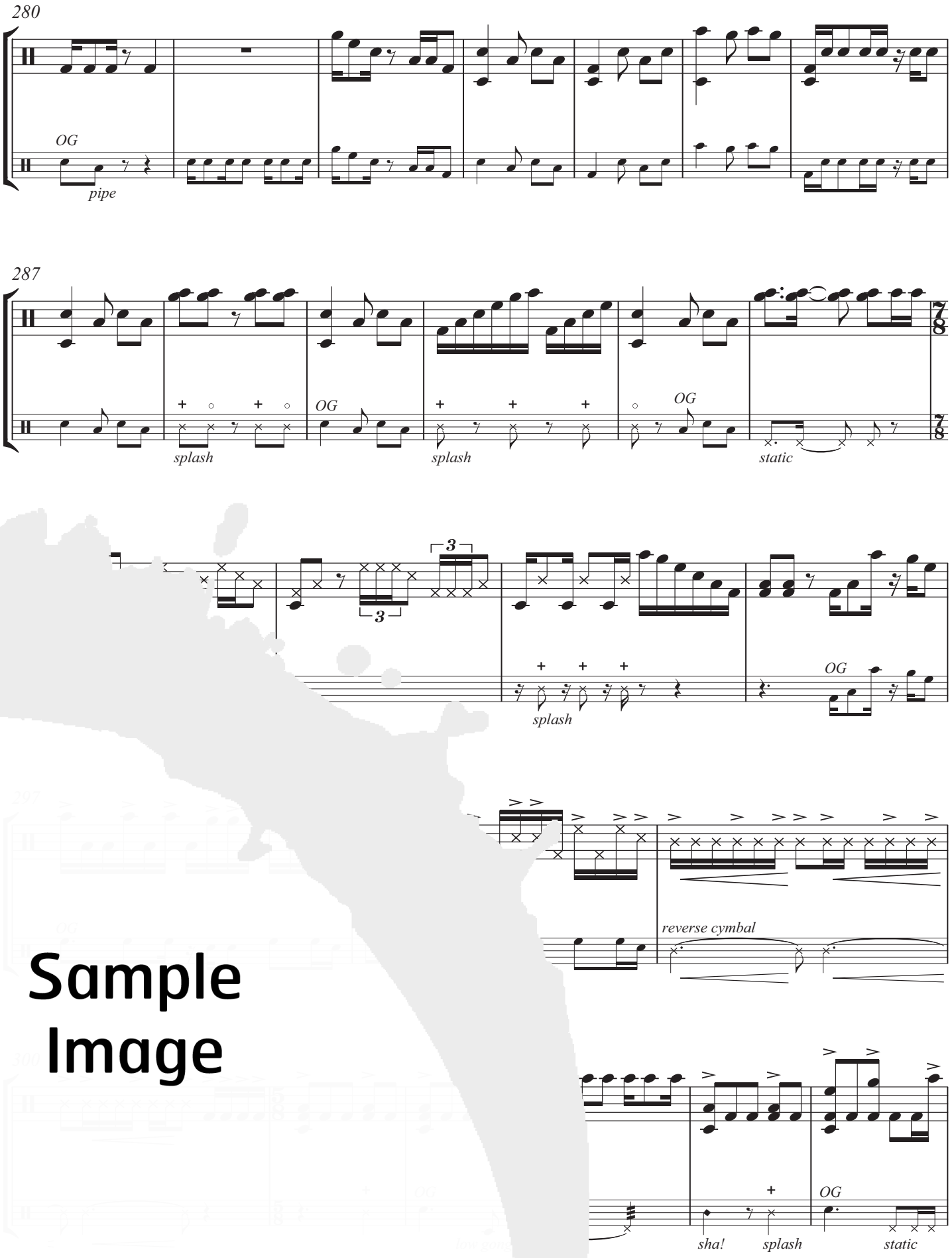

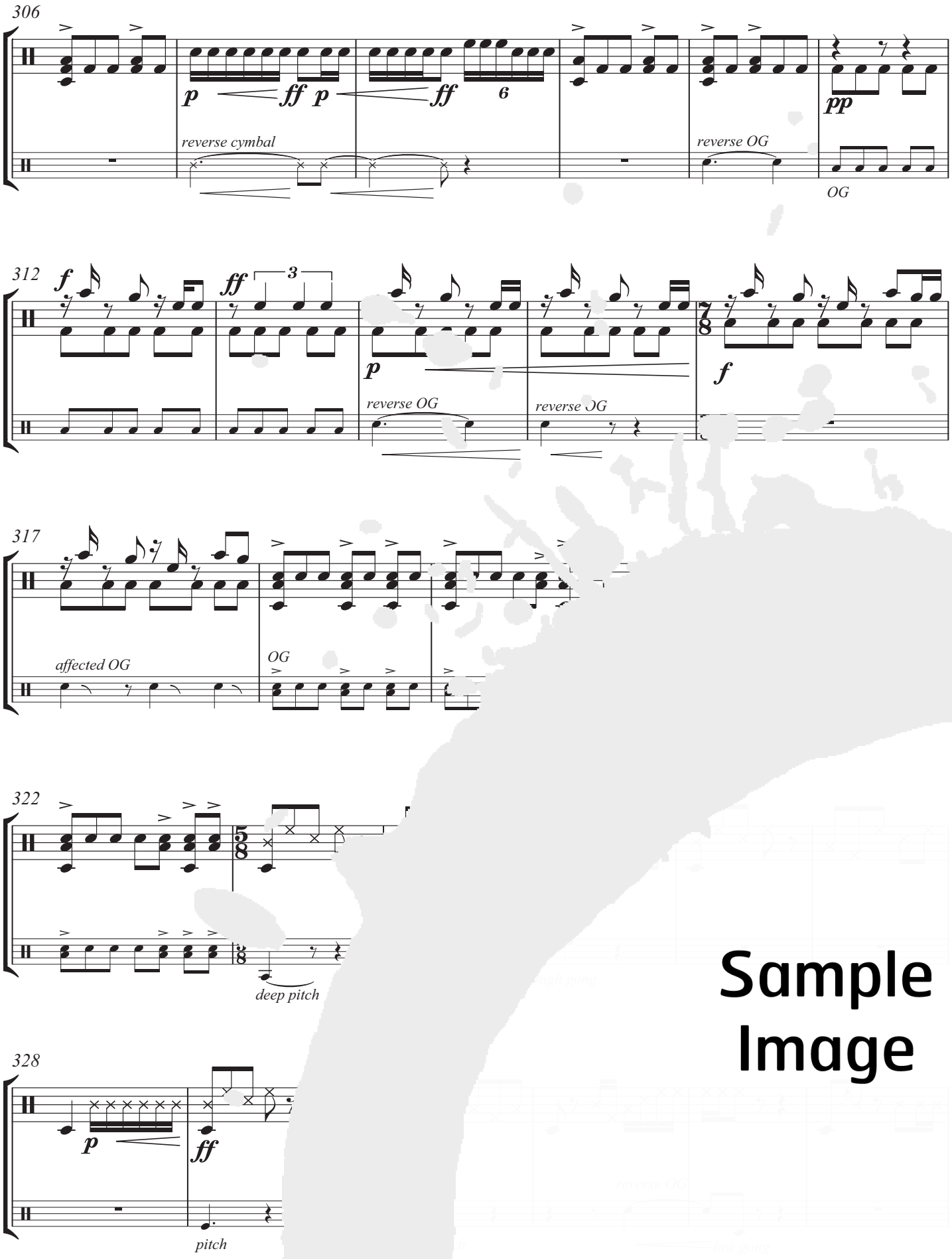

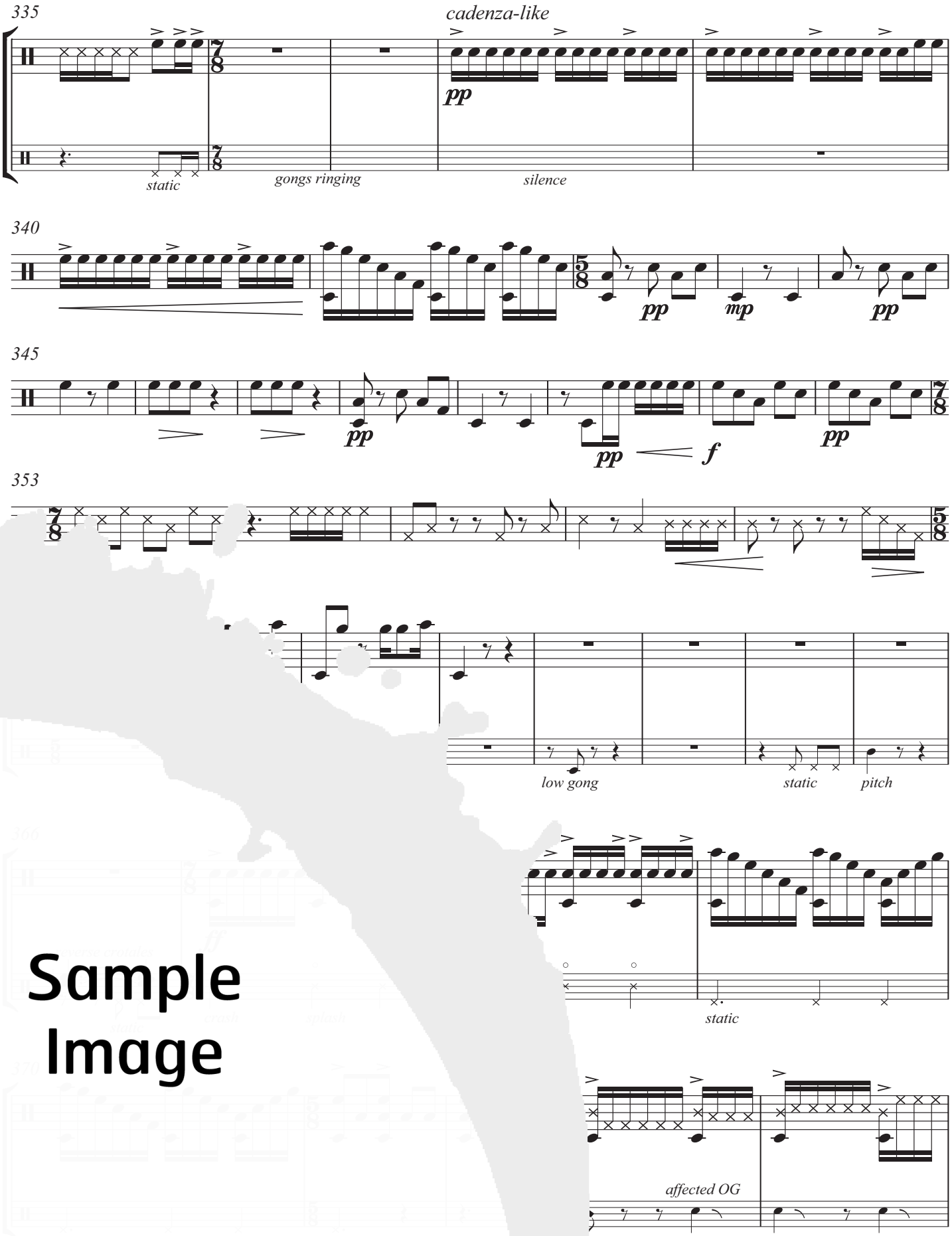

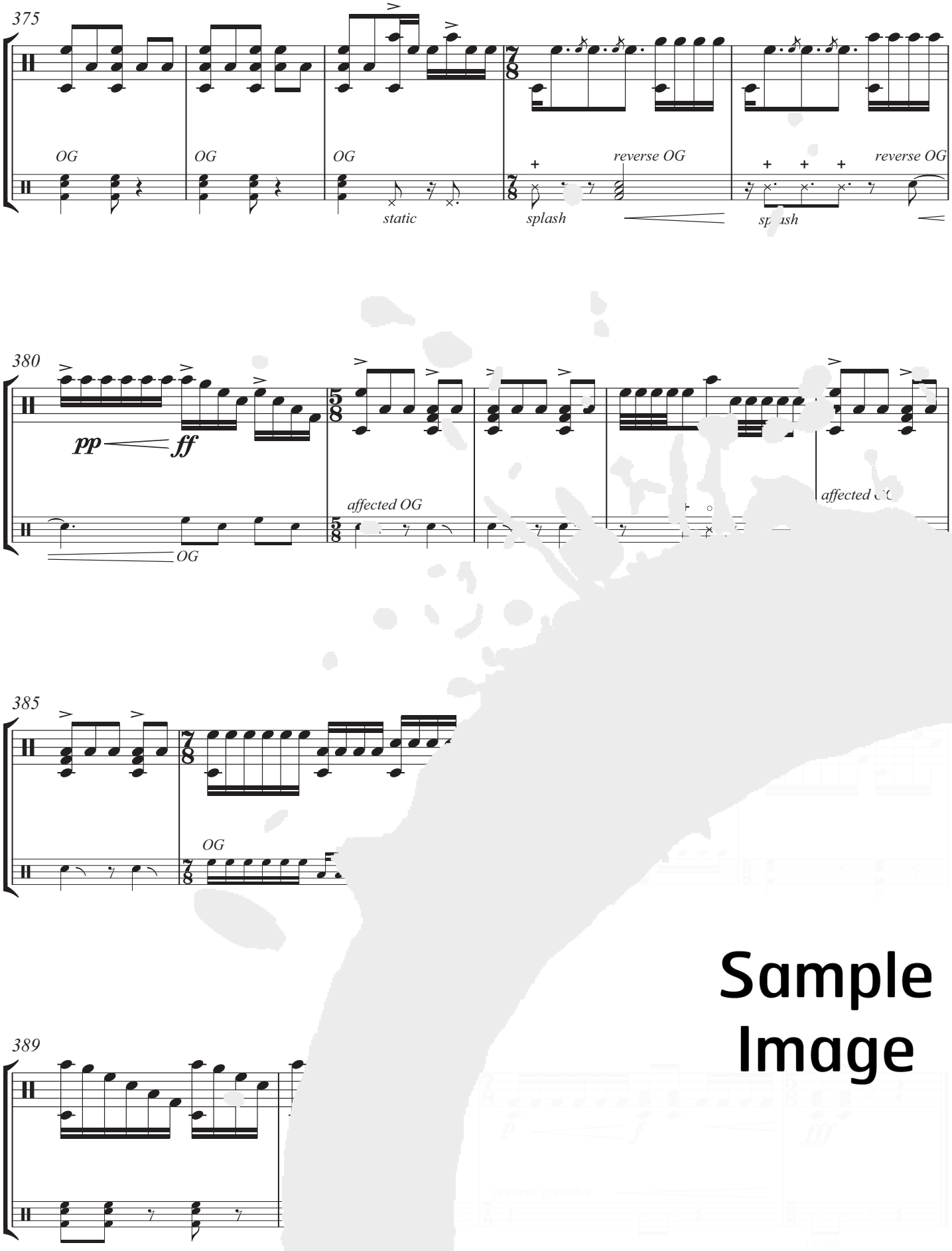

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