## Ludwig van Beethoven

# Für Elise

arranged for percussion ensemble by
Christopher M. Retschulte

creativity in percussion™

**Für Elise** arranged by Christopher M. Retschulte
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TSPCE14-007

# Program Notes

*Für Elise,* or *Bagatelle # 25 in A minor (WoO59),* is perhaps one of the most well-known pieces of music in the world. Written in 1810, Ludwig van Beethoven was almost completely deaf when he wrote this famous piano piece. Although the piece was composed in the early part of the 19th Century, it was not published until 1867, some 40 years after the composer's death in 1827.

# Performance Notes

An effective performance of this arrangement requires sensitivity and communication from all members of the ensemble. The performer's ability to express emotion with a delicate touch will be the inherent challenge, rather than a technical display of notes. Furthermore, adding slight fluctuations in tempo at appropriate musical spots will bring more life to the piece that playing it at a static tempo. Use the accel./rit. markings as a general guideline, but feel free to be creative with your interpretation.

Since the vibraphone is the lead part, this player should be stationed in the center of the ensemble setup. This will help facilitate better communication so that all players can more easily follow its lyrical intent.
Ideally, a 4.6-octave marimba (low E) should be used, but if only a 4.3-octave (low A) instrument is available, the low E notes can be performed up one octave.

Medium-soft covered mallets should be used throughout in the vibraphone and marimba The glockenspiel and xylophone should use a hard rubber or soft acrylic mallets in order to blend with the texture of the other keyboards. The timpani should use a heavy, dark-sounding mallet.

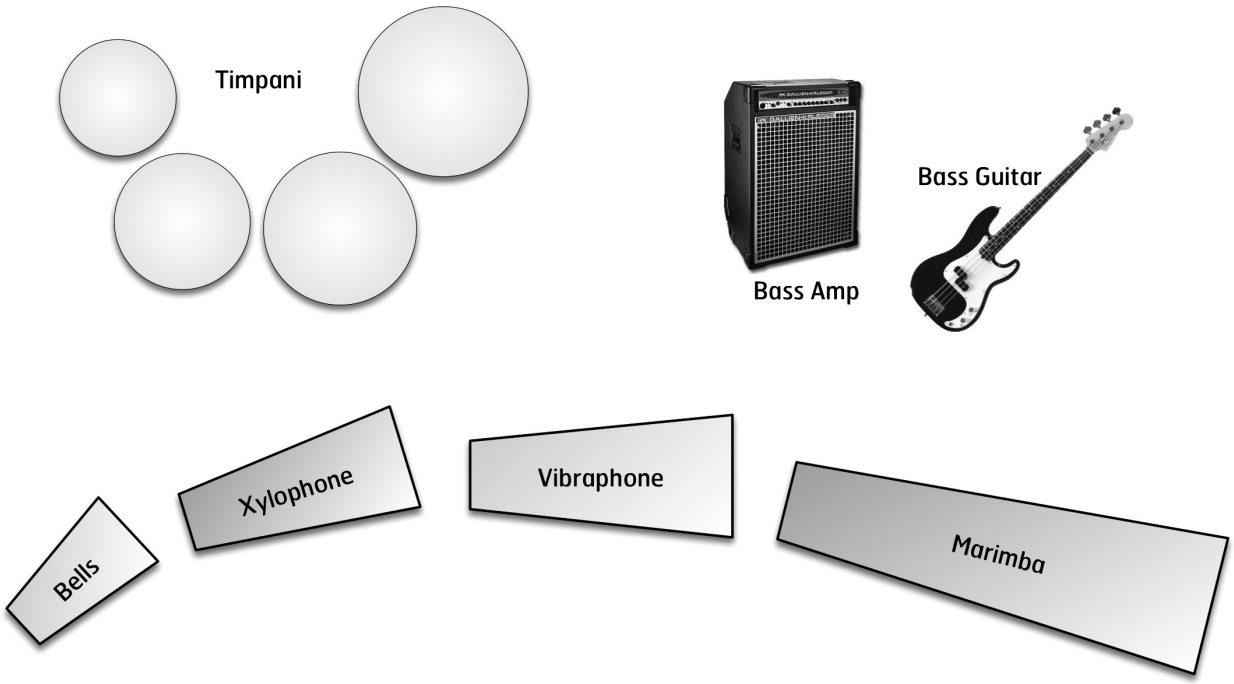
The optional bass part may be played on electric bass, acoustic bass, or even a synthesizer bass patch to help fill out the lower frequencies of the percussion choir. The balance of this part should be carefully mixed so that it's only a subtle presence in relation to the rest of the ensemble

# Players and Instrumentation

*Für Elise* requires **5-6 players** with the following instrumentation:

- **1 glockenspiel**
- **1 xylophone**
- **1 vibraphone**
- **1 marimba** (4.3 or 4.6-octave)
- **1 set of timpani** (4)
- **1 bass (optional)** (electric, acoustic, or synth)

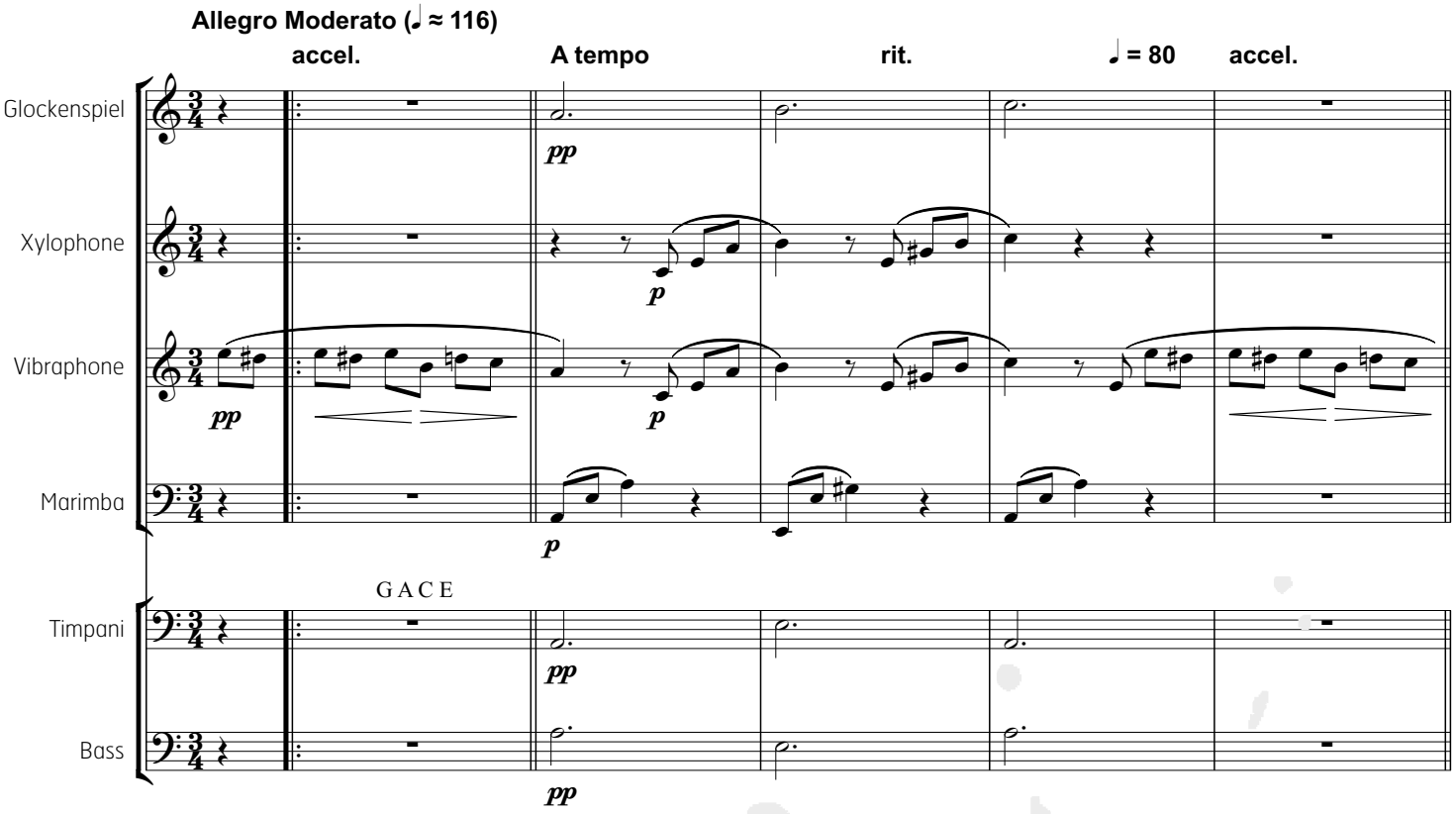
# Suggested Setup

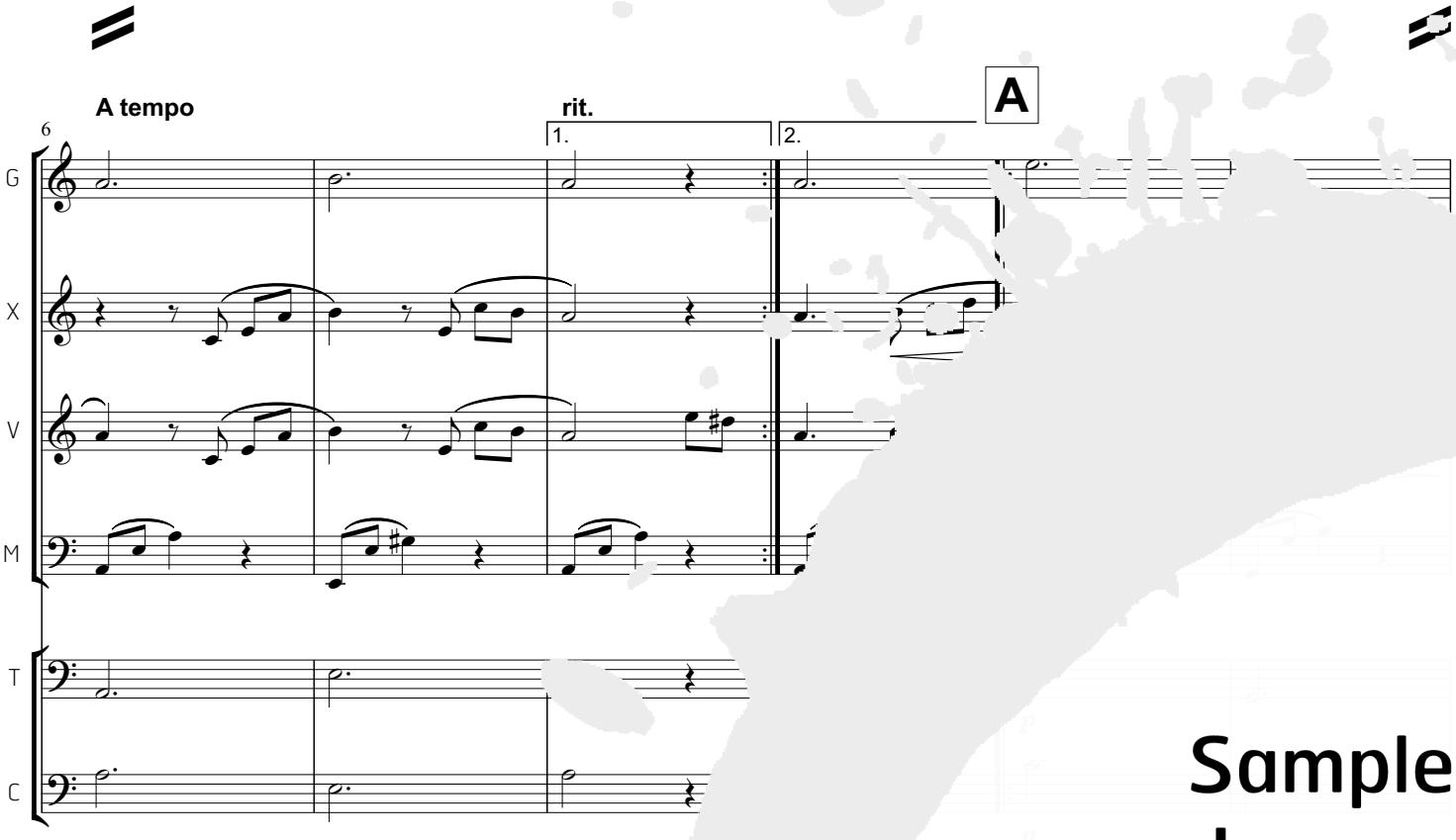


*Level: Med-Easy*
*Approx. playing time: 3'30"*

# Für Elise

Ludwig van Beethoven
arr. Christopher M. Retschulte




Sample Image

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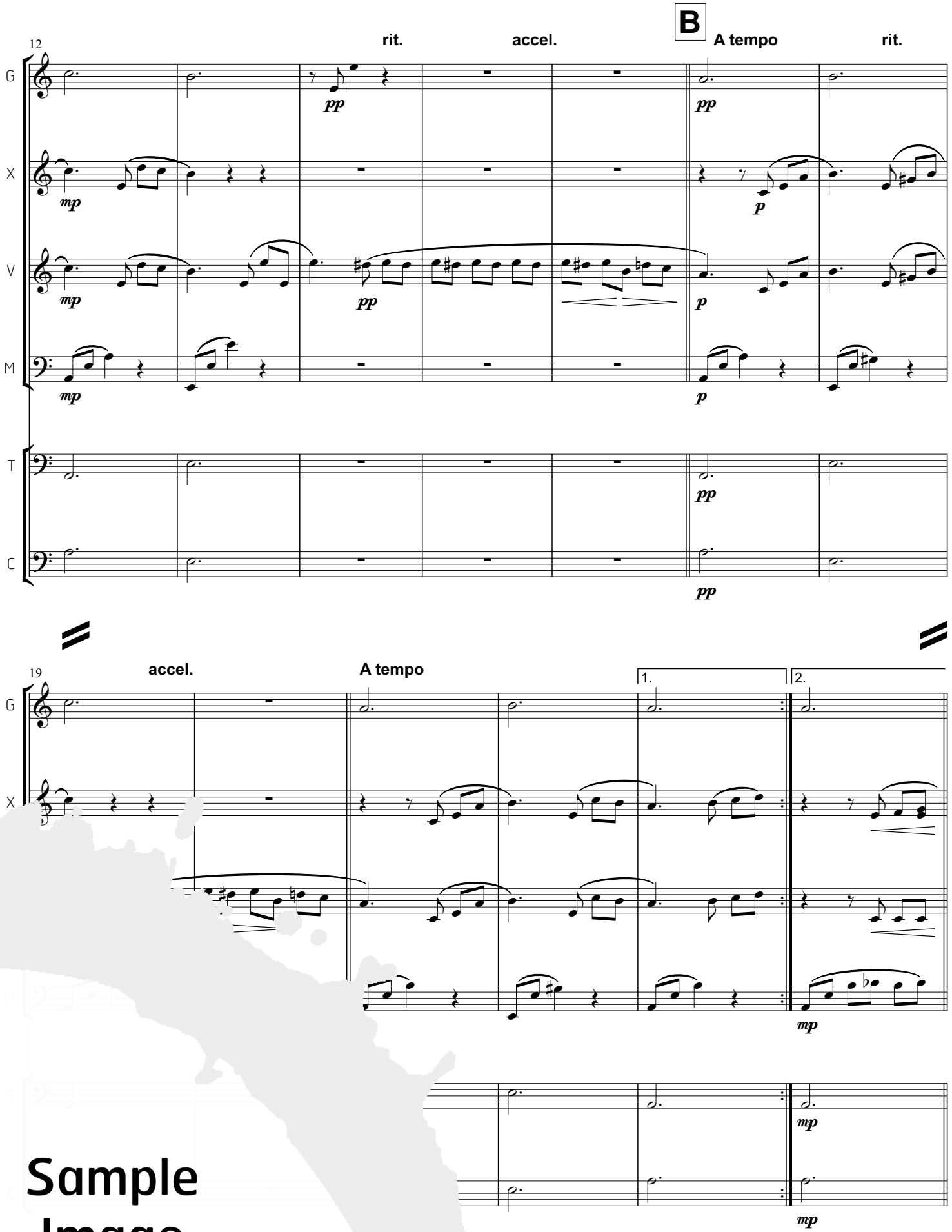


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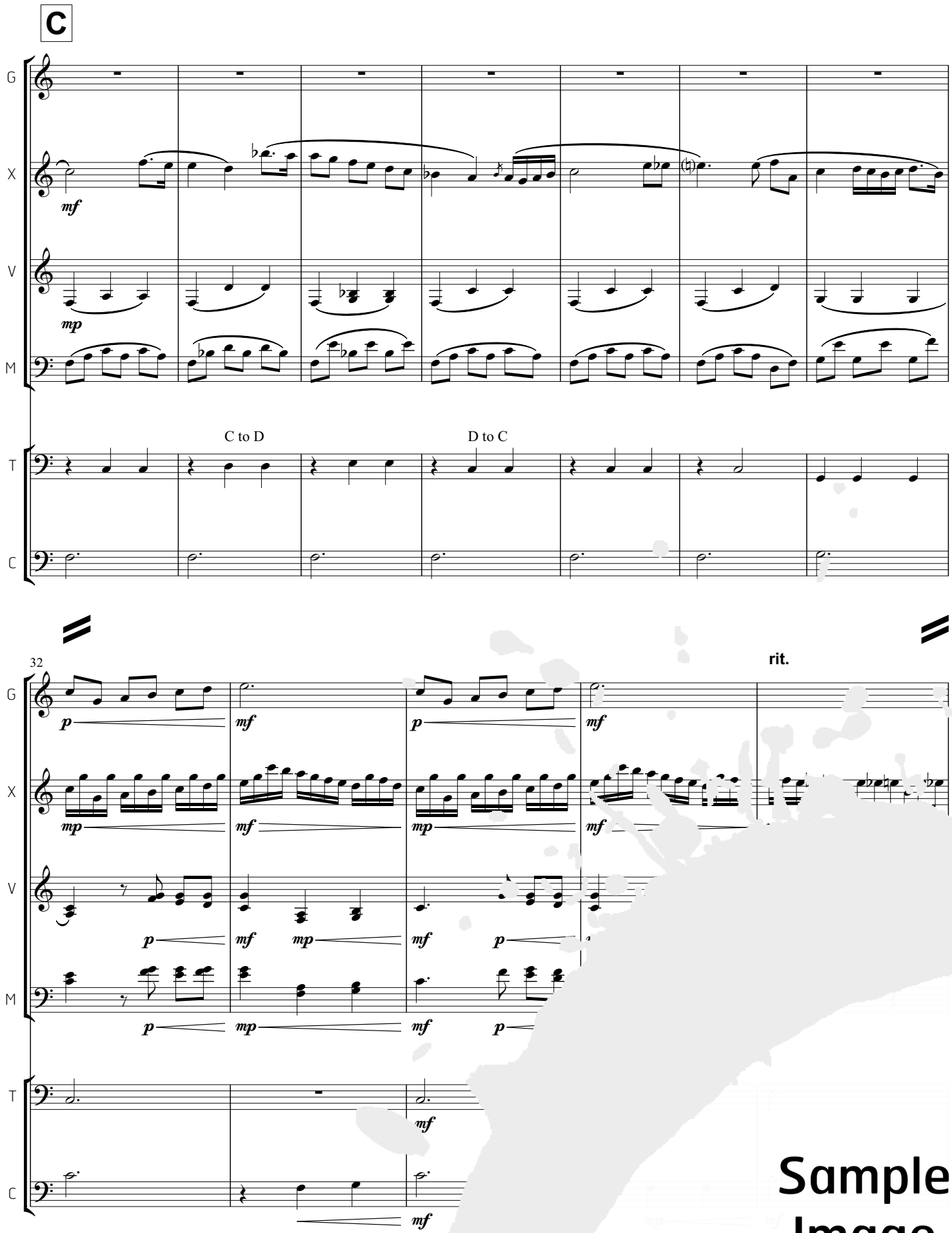


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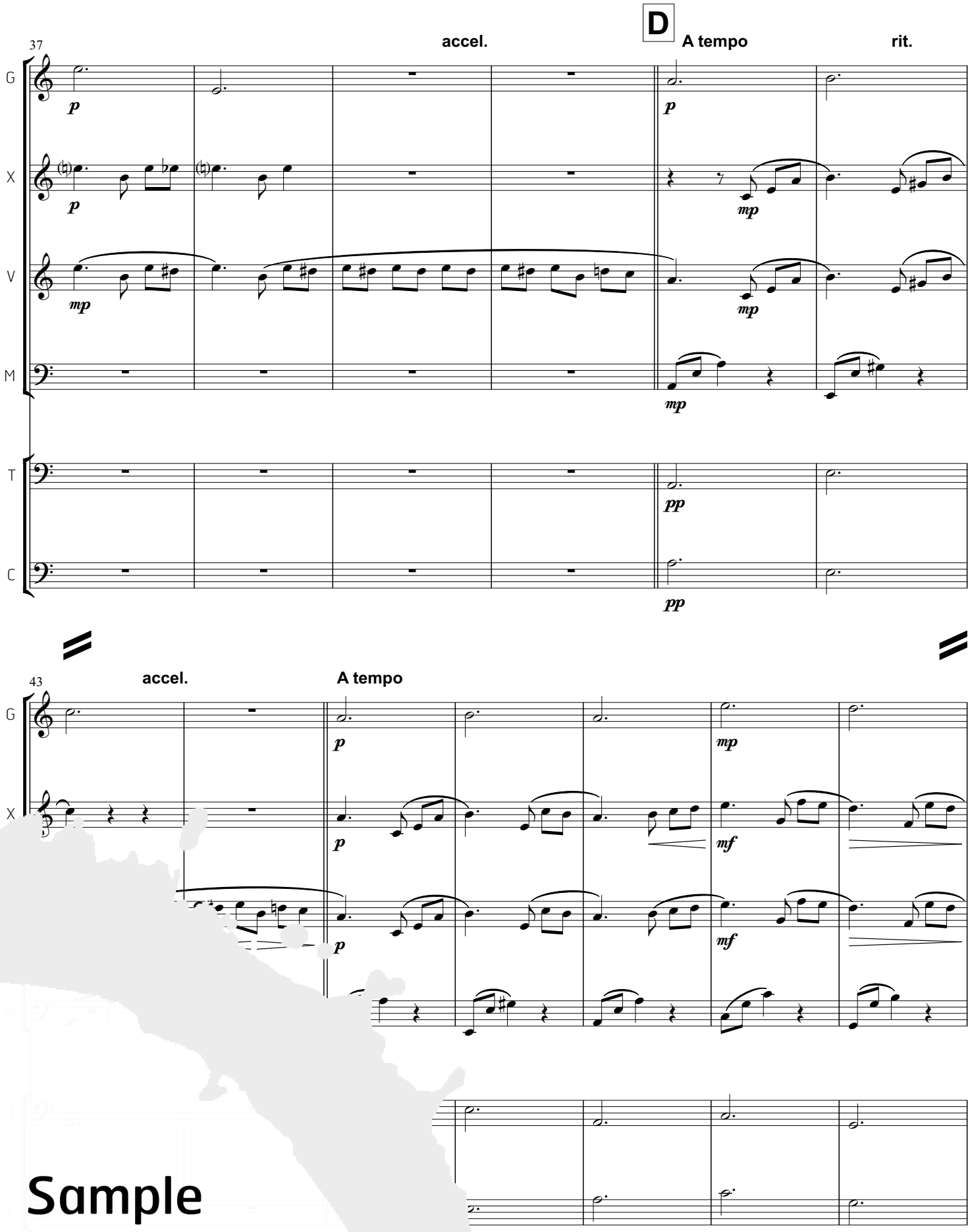


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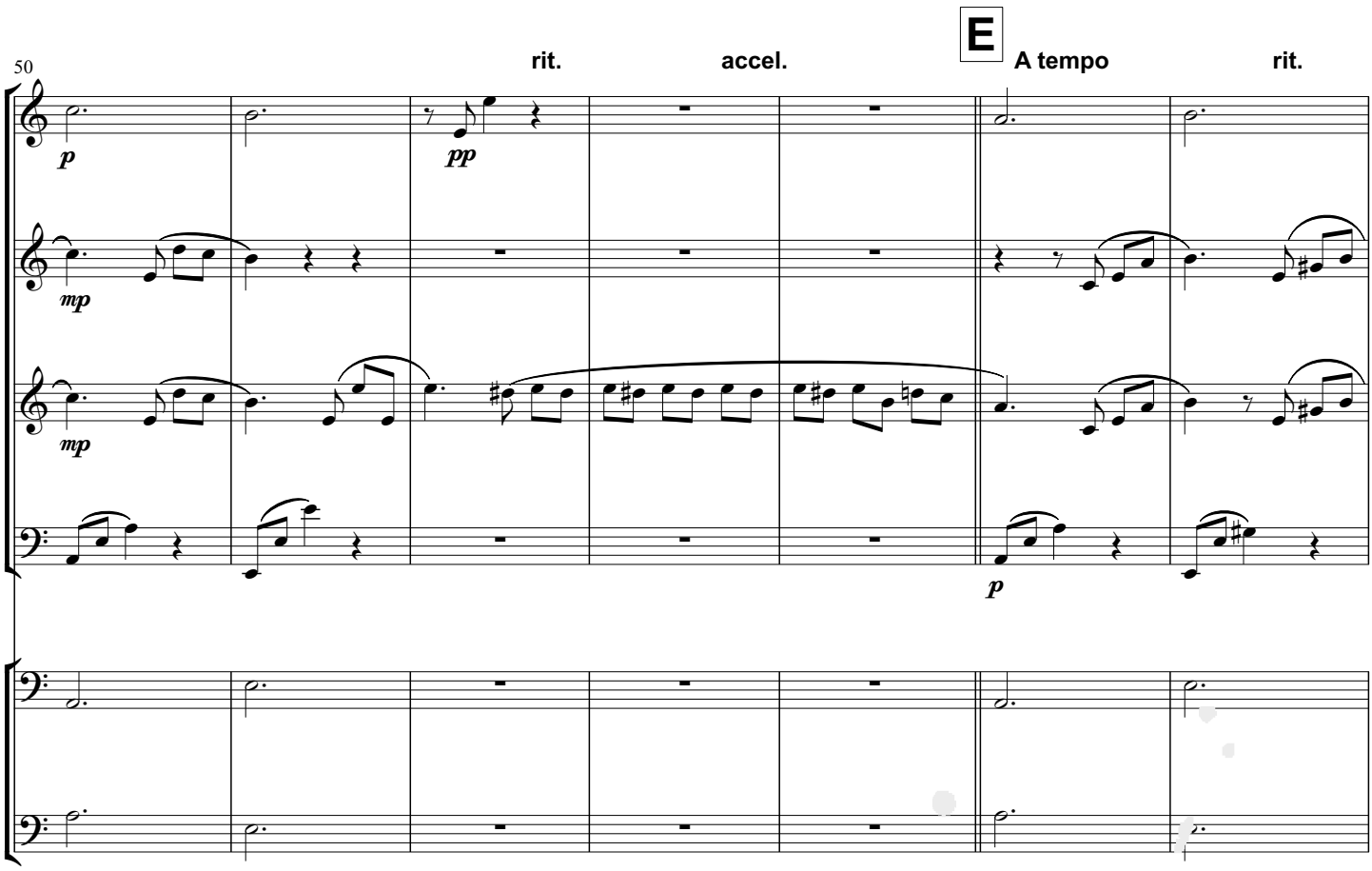


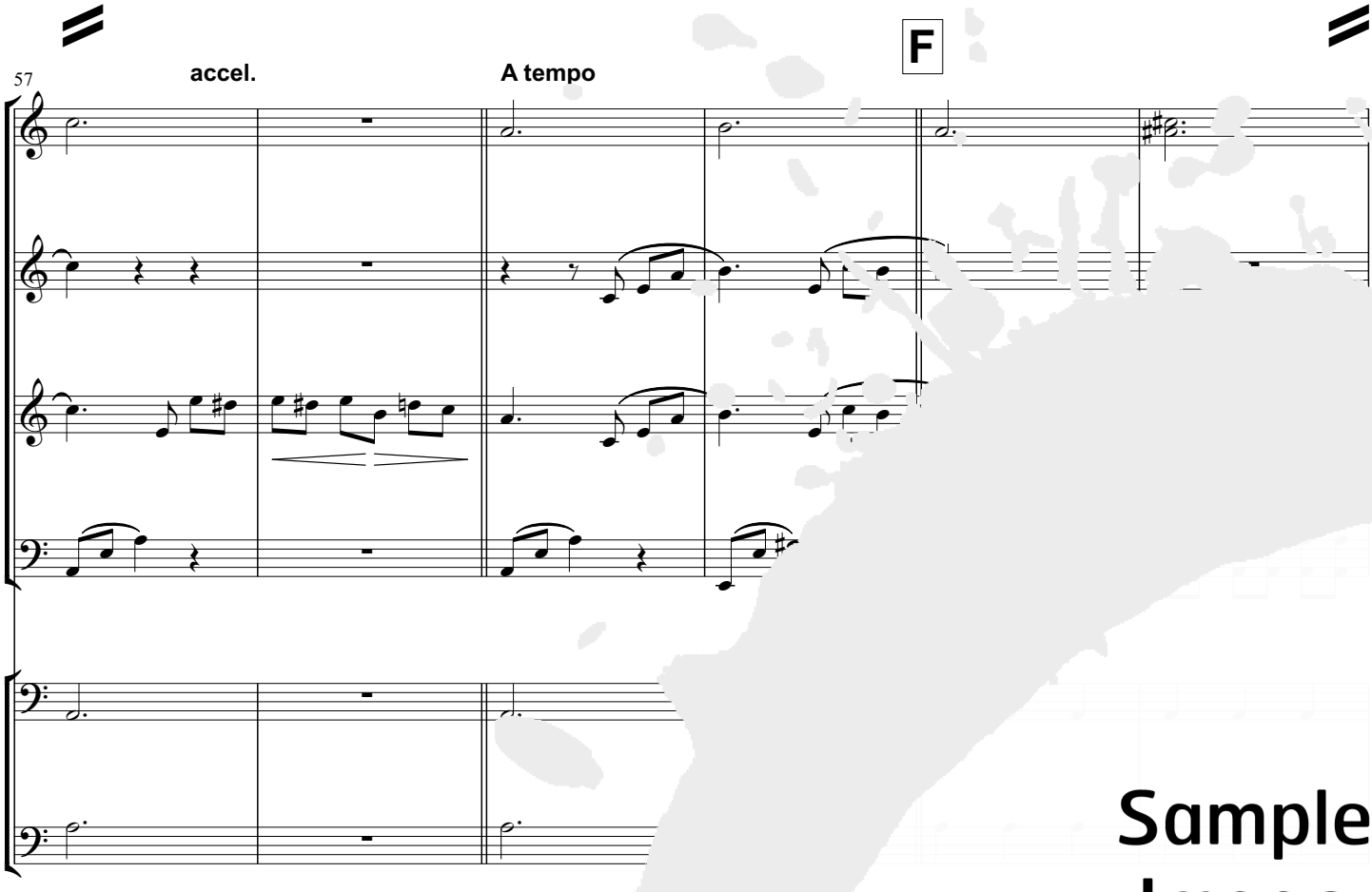


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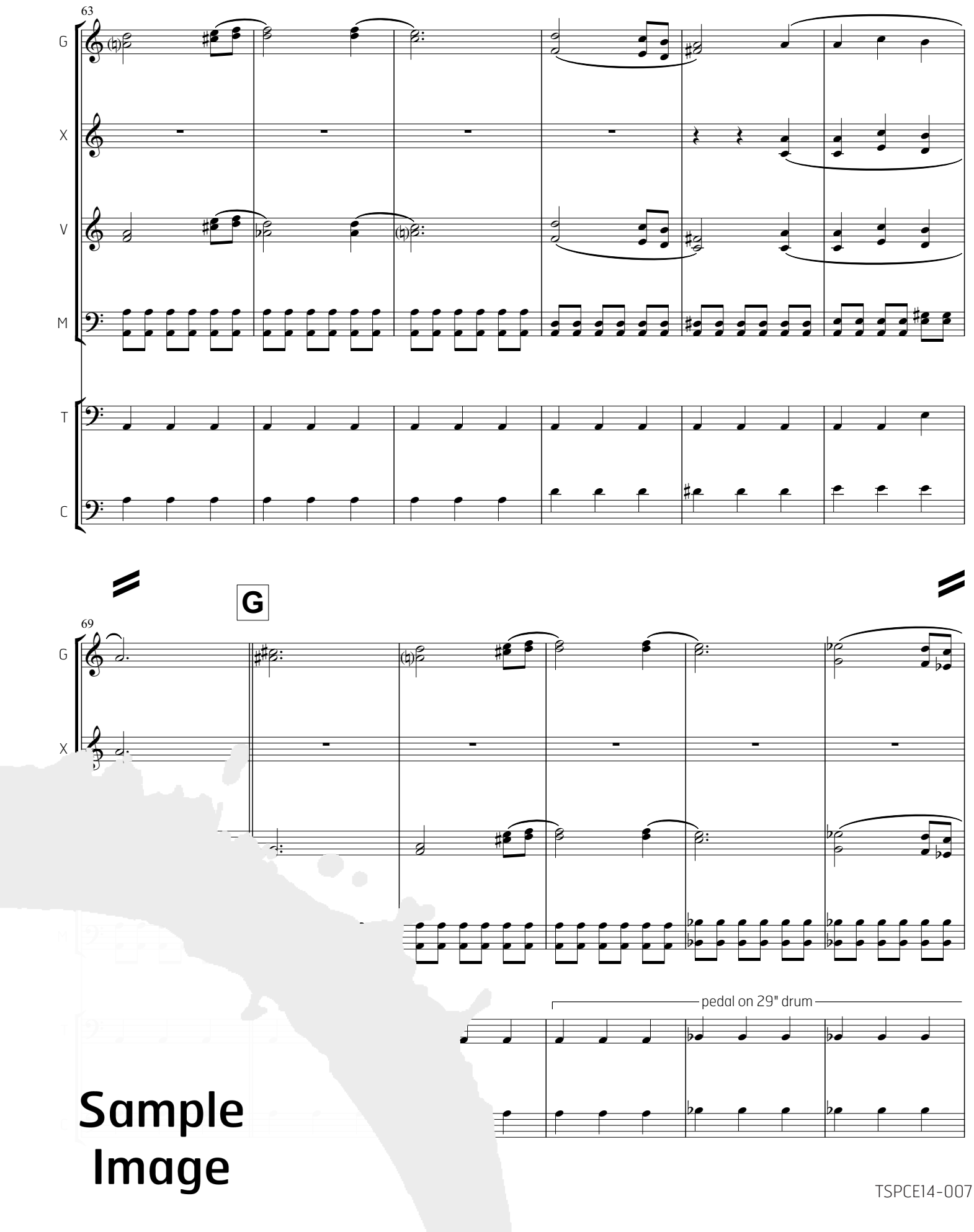


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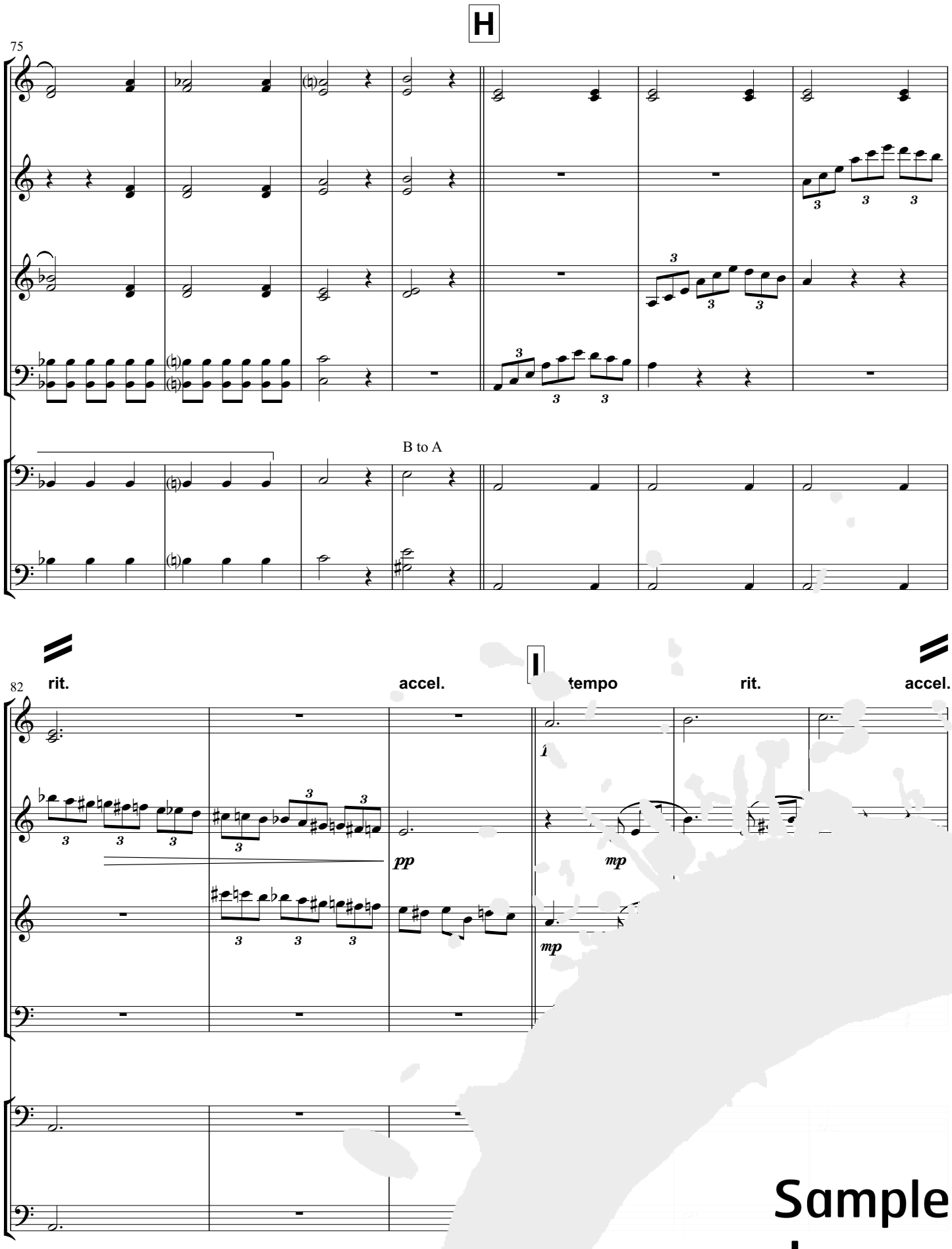


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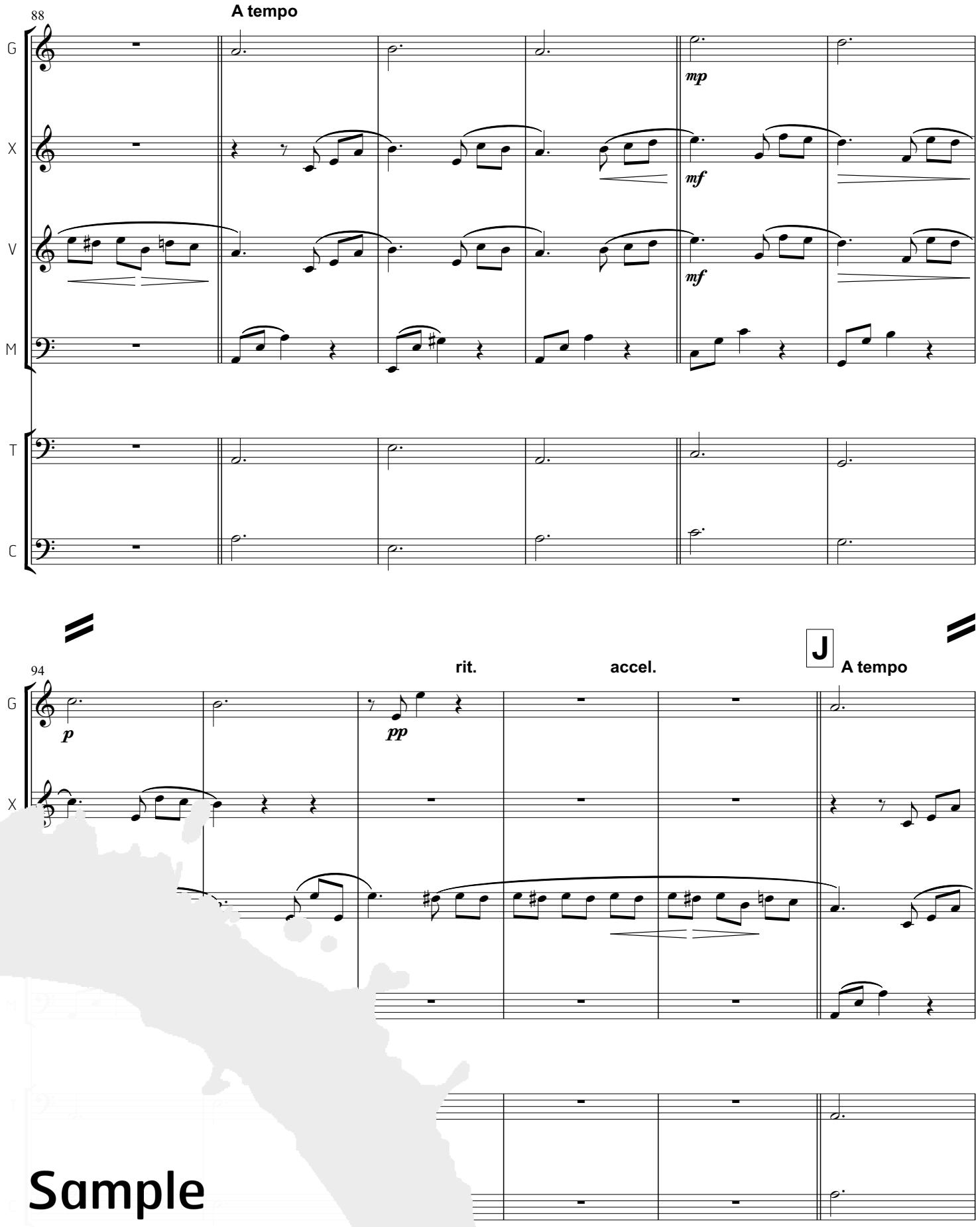


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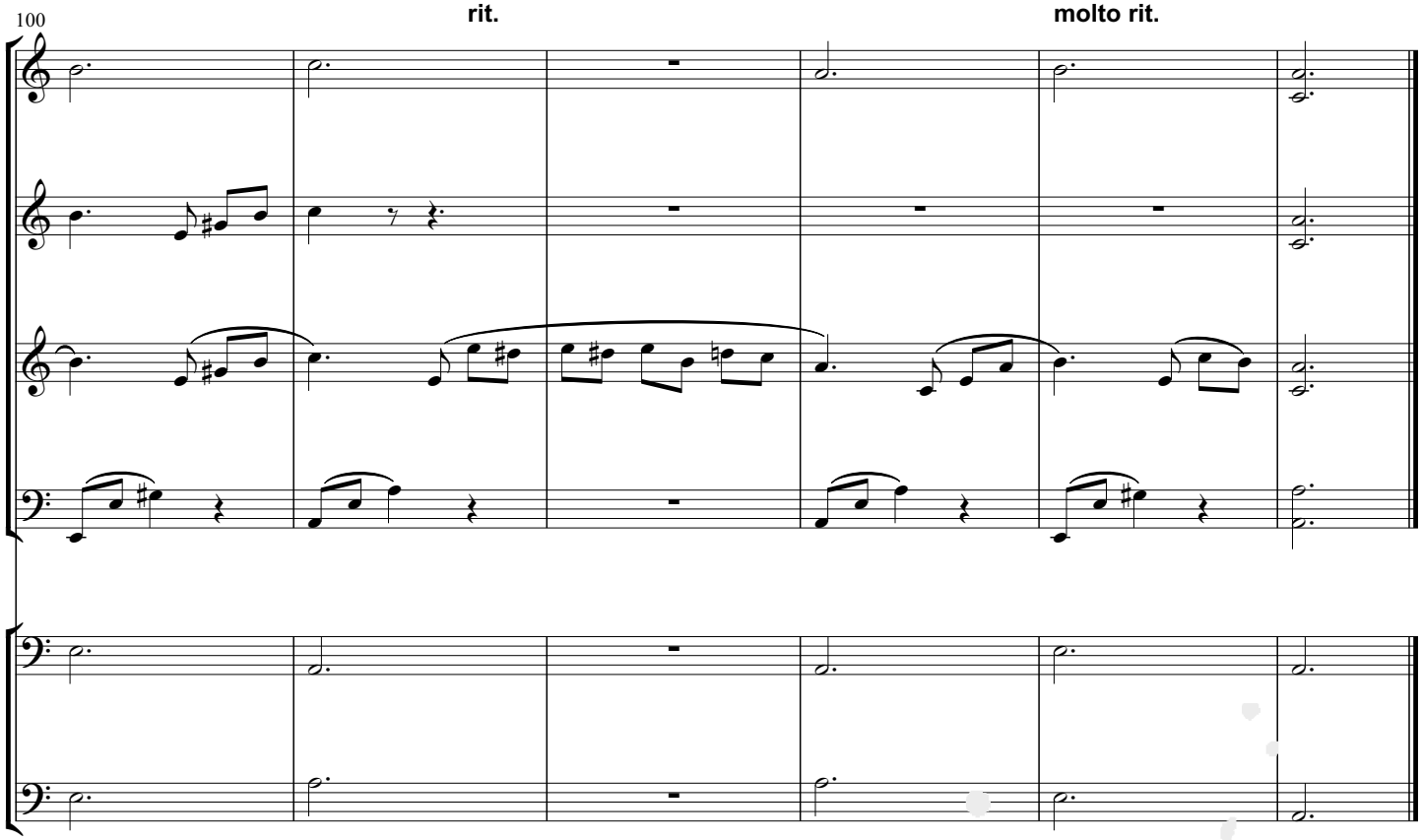


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