Rick Dior

Minor Infraction

for percussion ensemble

Minor Infraction by Rick Dior
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TSPCE14-008

Program Notes

Minor Infraction is an intermediate level percussion ensemble work for 9-13 players. The composition opens with a simple G minor chord progression initially performed by a lone marimba and then harmonized with several mallet instruments including marimbas, glockenspiel, vibraphone, xylophone, and chimes. This gives way to a classically themed melody in which the mallet percussion instruments act as a sort of "percussion orchestra" imitating the timbre of the handbell choirs popular in our local churches.

The simple melodic themes which open the piece transition to a brisk rhythmic section featuring alternating time signatures with a driving eighth-note pulse. Latin percussion instruments are introduced creating a strumming quality when combined with the marimba patterns. Finally, a three-part musical canon is created over an ensemble ostinato pattern. This contrapuntal four bar canon (also called a round) is performed by two marimbas and a xylophone and is offset by a single quarter note. A return to the main theme concludes the piece.

Minor Infraction was commissioned by the Jay M Robinson High School Percussion Ensemble directed by Blair Smith and was premiered in 2009 at the PAS North Carolina Day of Percussion at UNCG in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Performance Notes

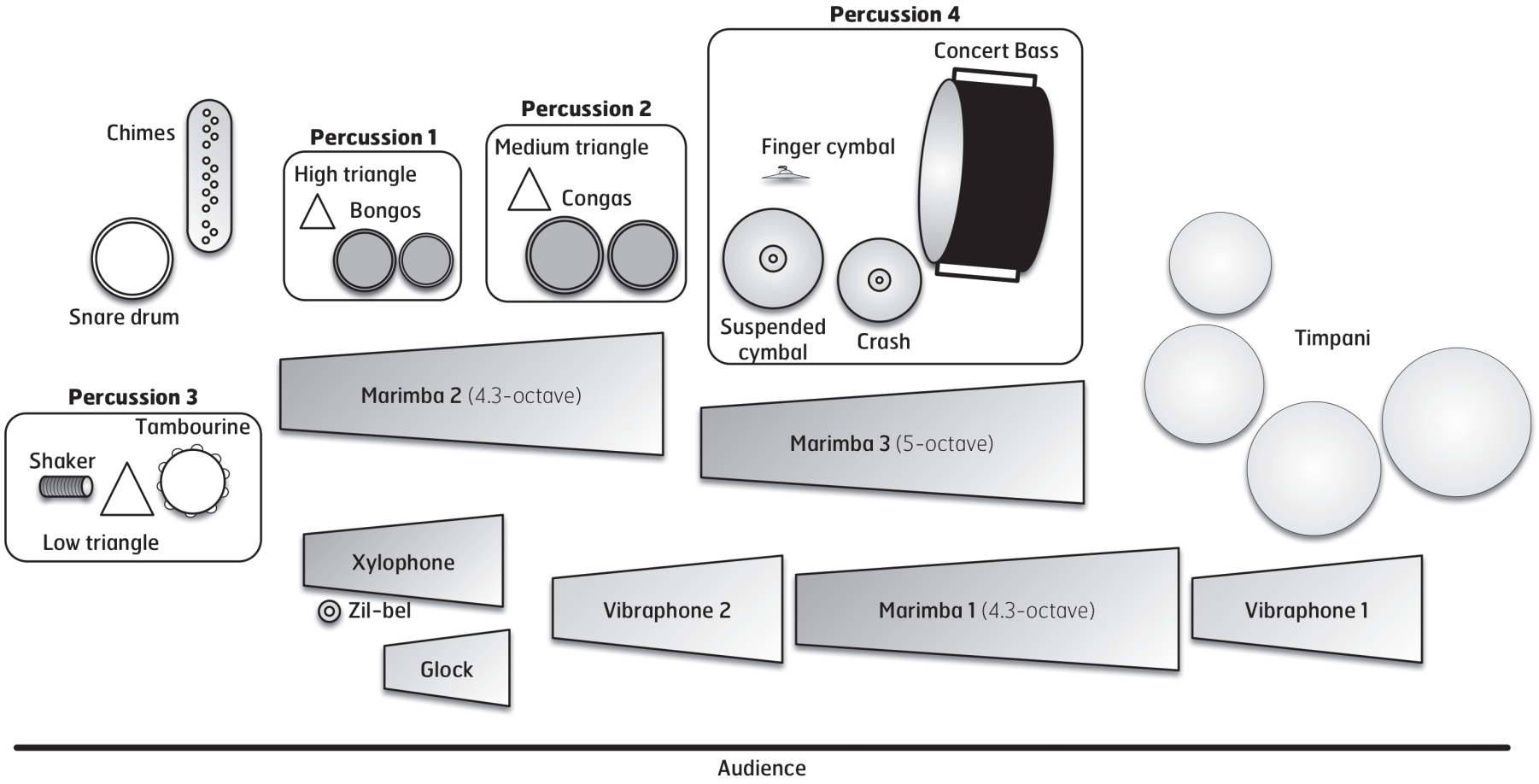
While the full, 13-player percussion ensemble version is more effective, this piece may be performed as a mallet ensemble (plus timpani) with 9 players. If choosing to perform it as a mallet ensemble, simply leave out the percussion parts.

Players and Instrumentation

Minor Infraction requires **9-13 players** with the following instrumentation:

- **2 medium marimbas** (4.3-octave)
- **1 large marimba** (5-octave)
- **1 Xylophone**
- **1 Glockenspiel**
- **2 Vibraphones**
- **1 Set of chimes**
- **1 Snare drum**
- **3 Triangles (low, medium, high)**
- **1 Zil-Bel**
- **1 Set of bongos**
- **1 Set of congas**
- **1 Tambourine**
- **1 Shaker**
- **1 Suspended cymbal**
- **1 Small gong**
- **1 Bass drum**
- **1 Thin crash cymbal**
- **4 Timpani**

Suggested Setup



Level: Med-Advanced
Approx. playing time: 4'15"

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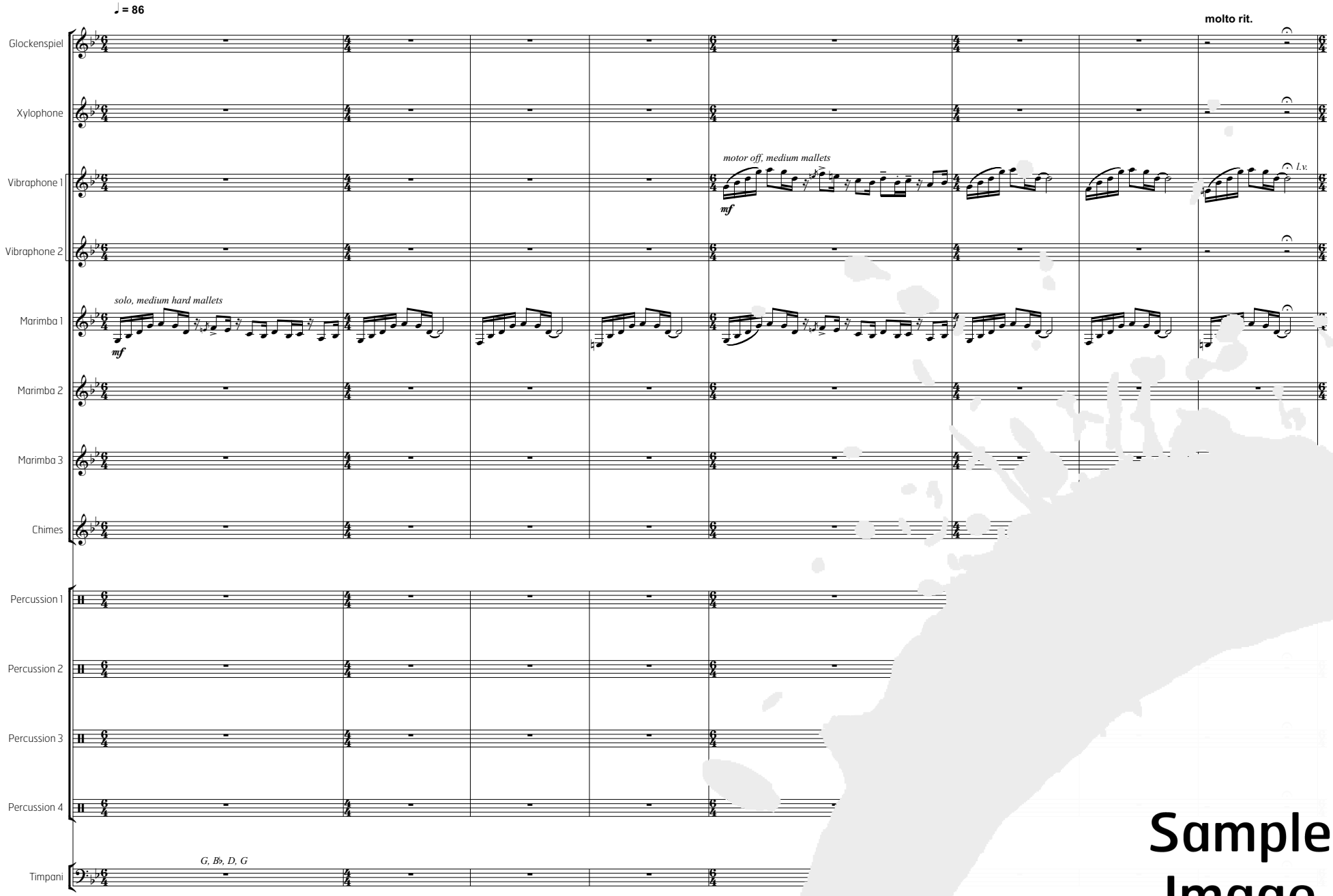

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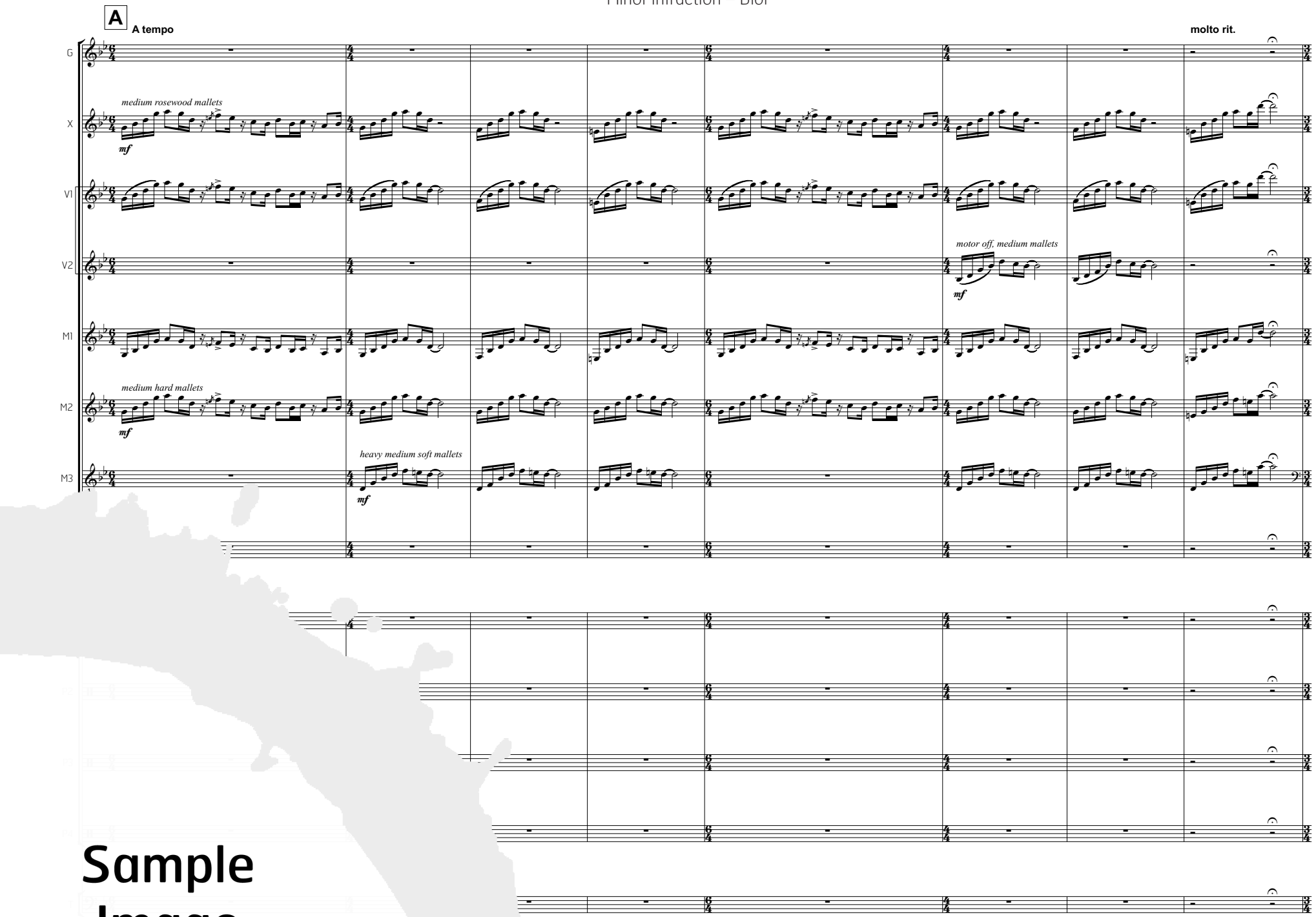

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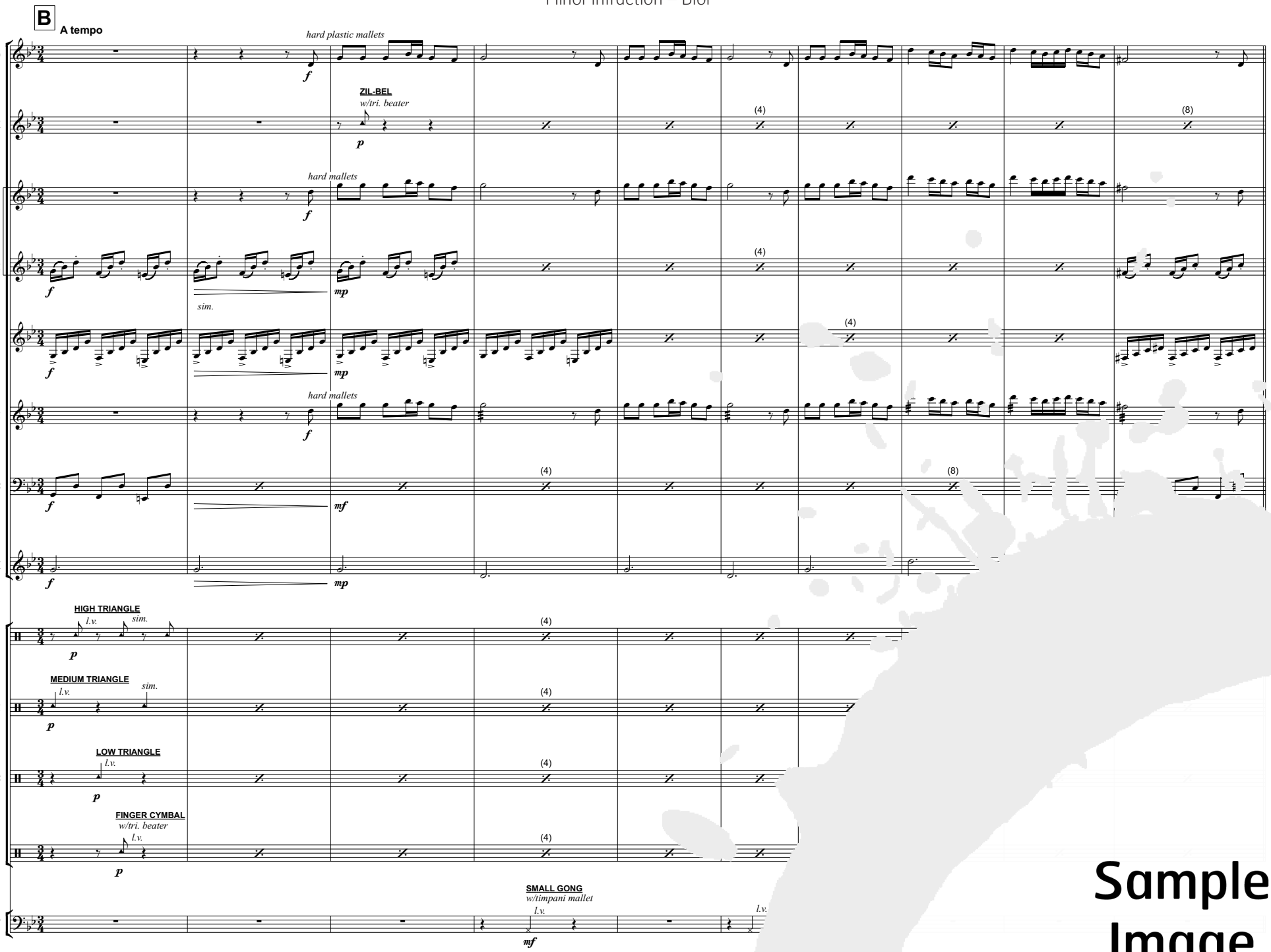

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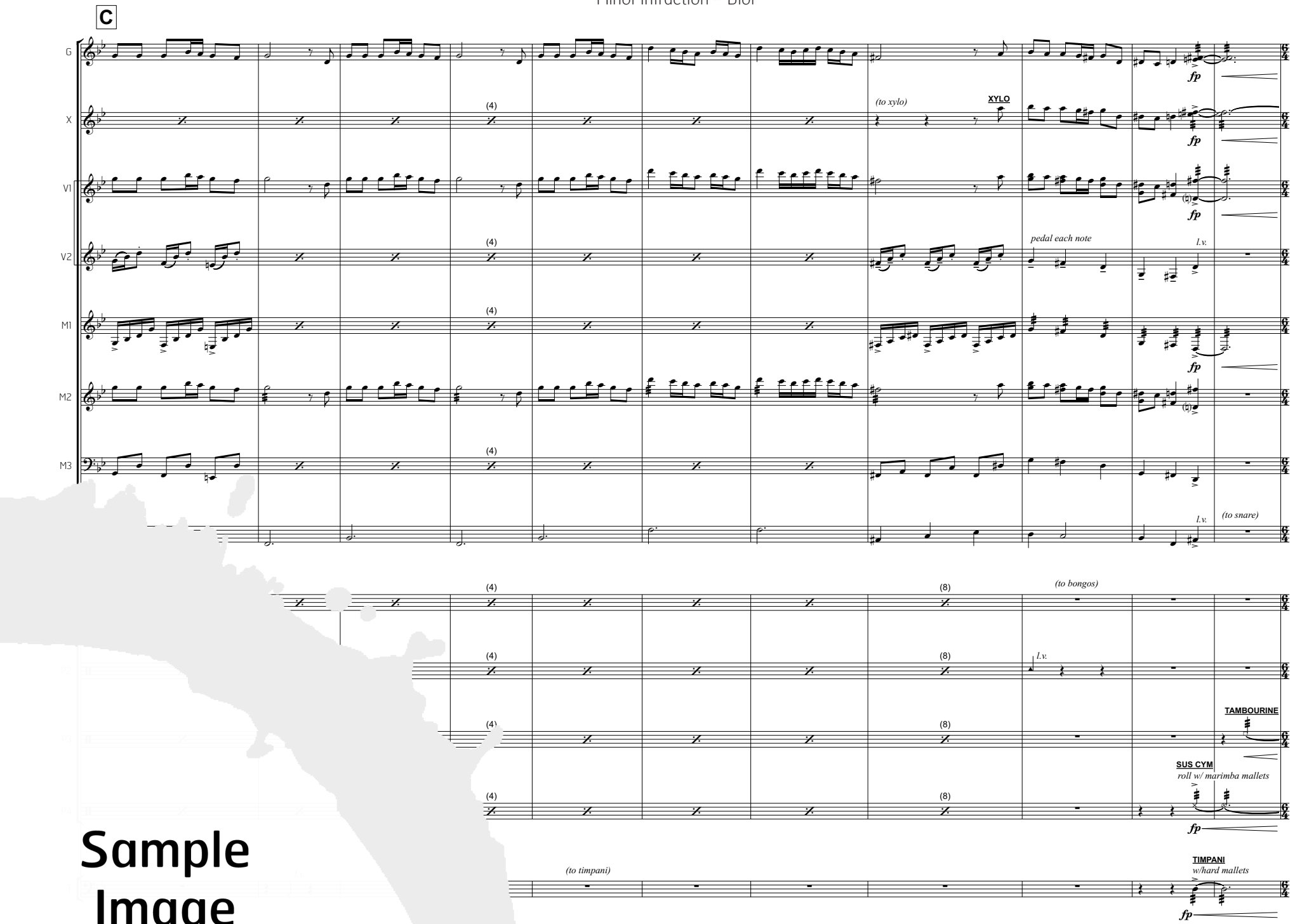

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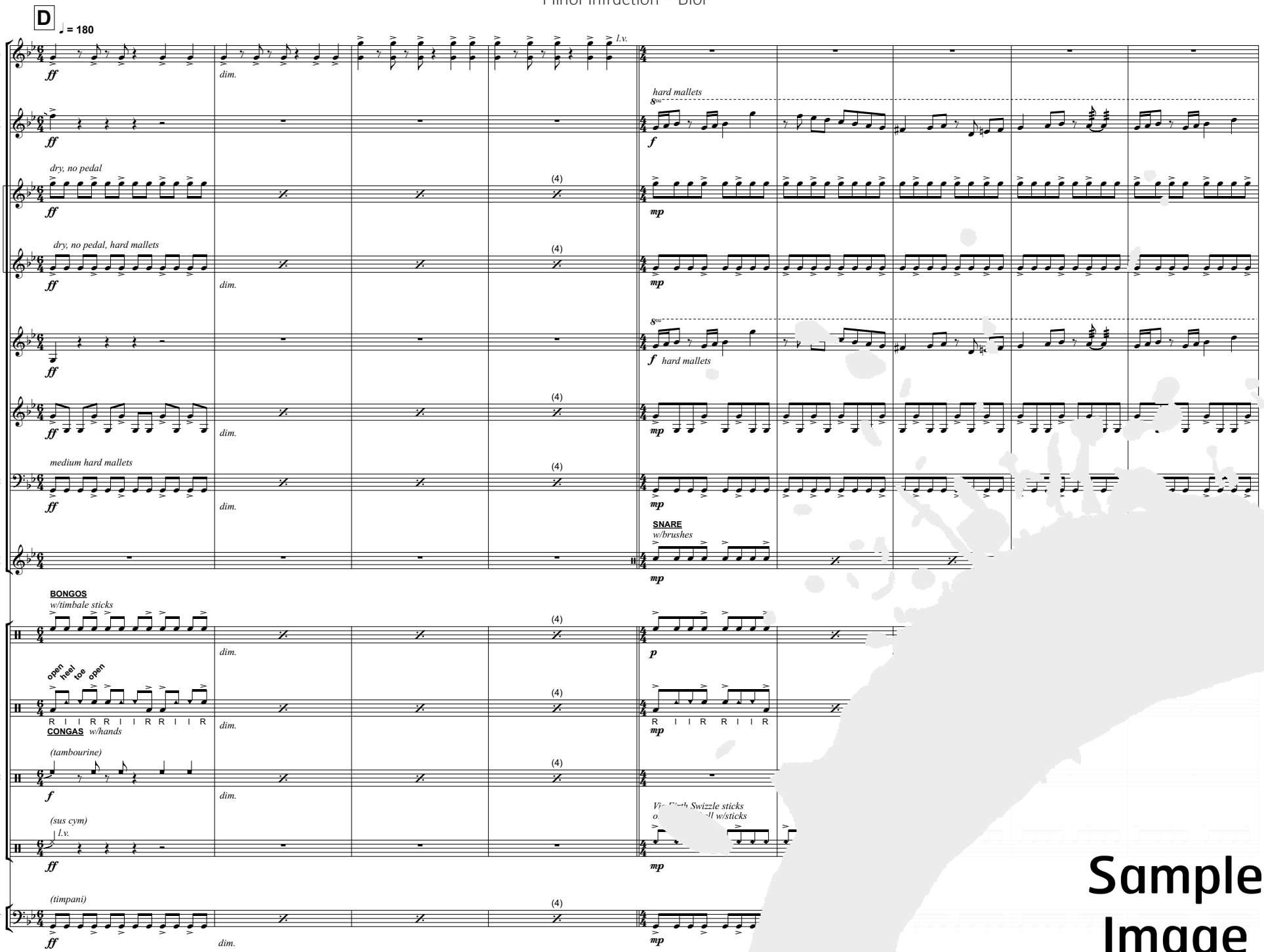

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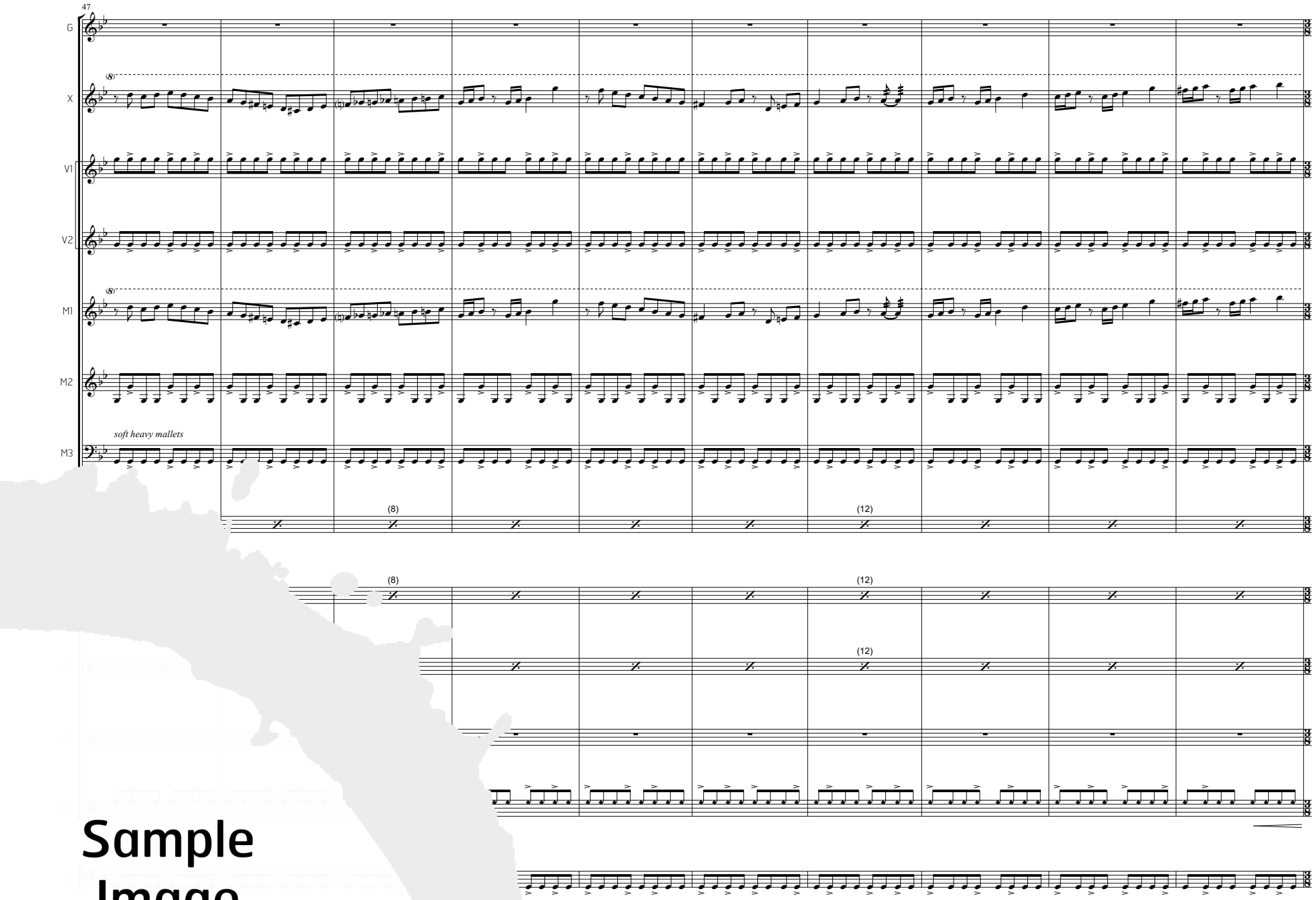

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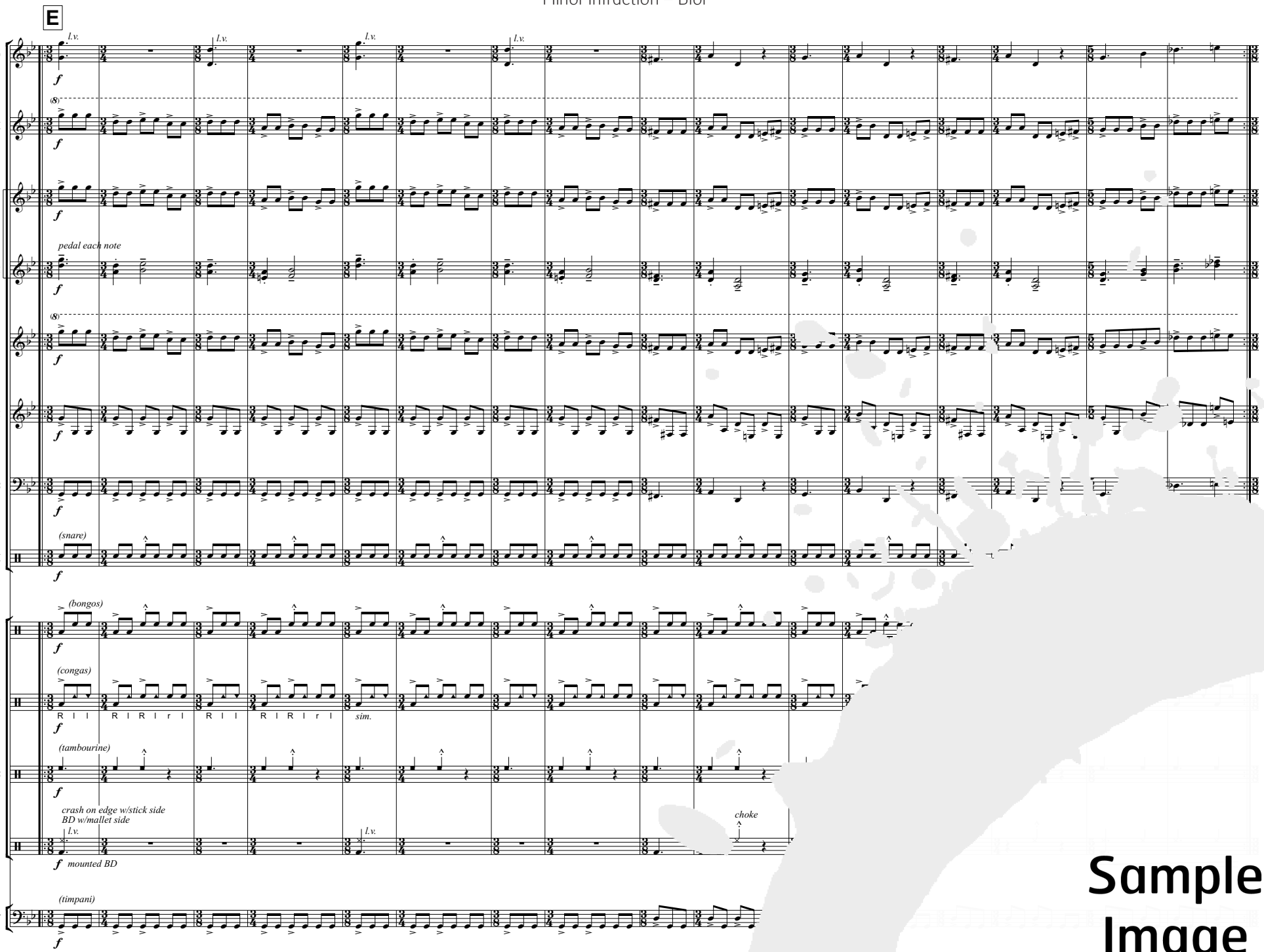

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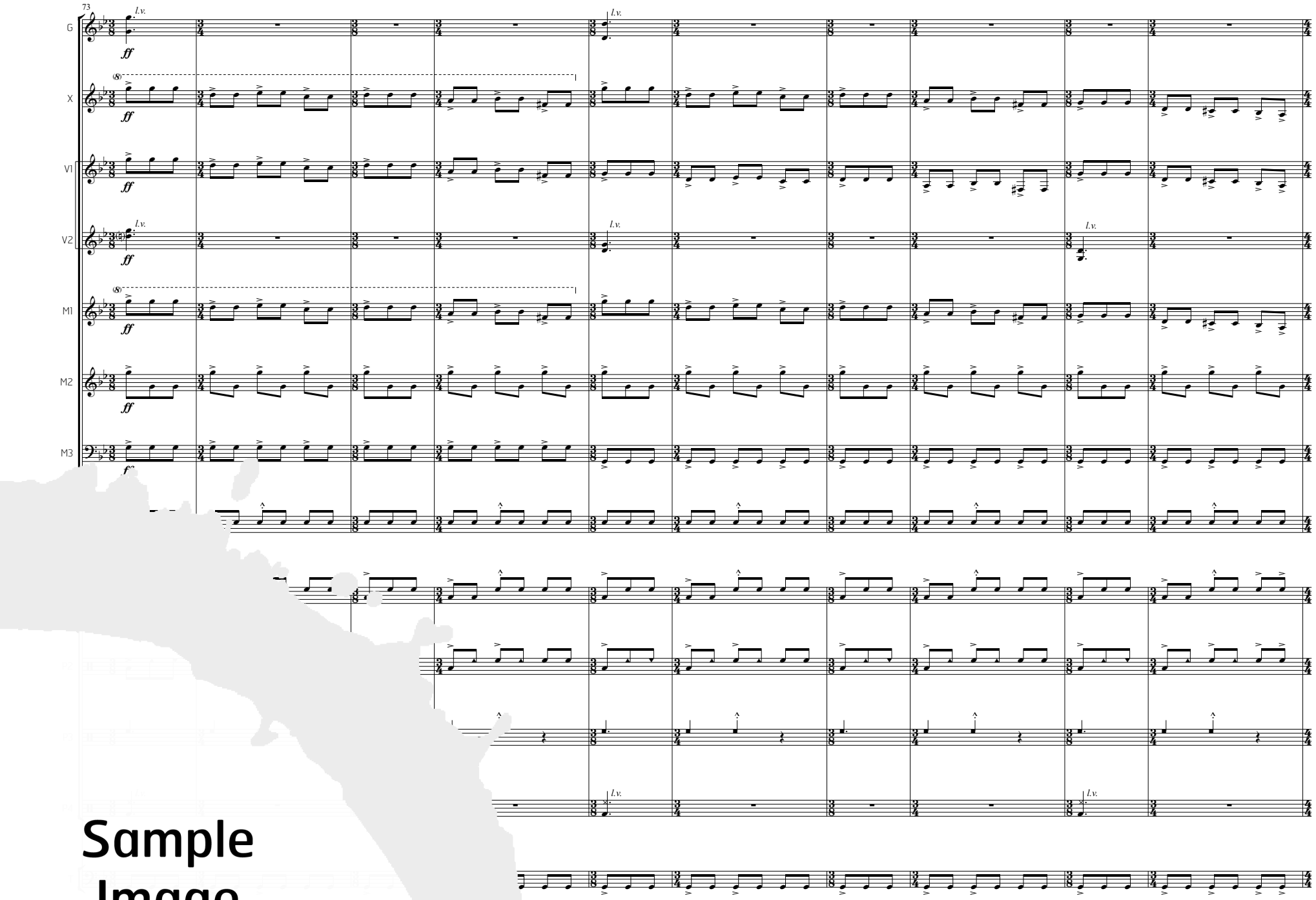

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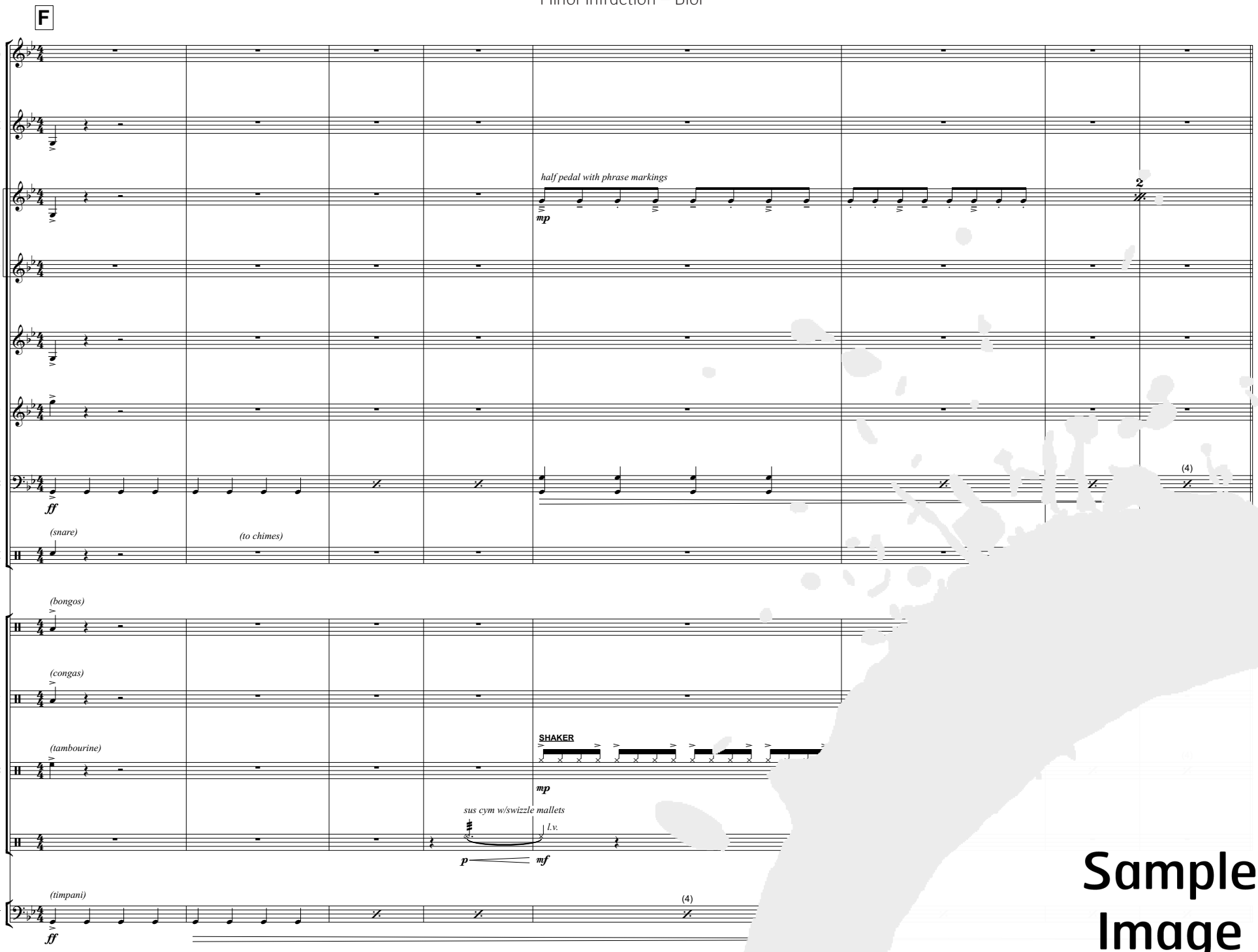

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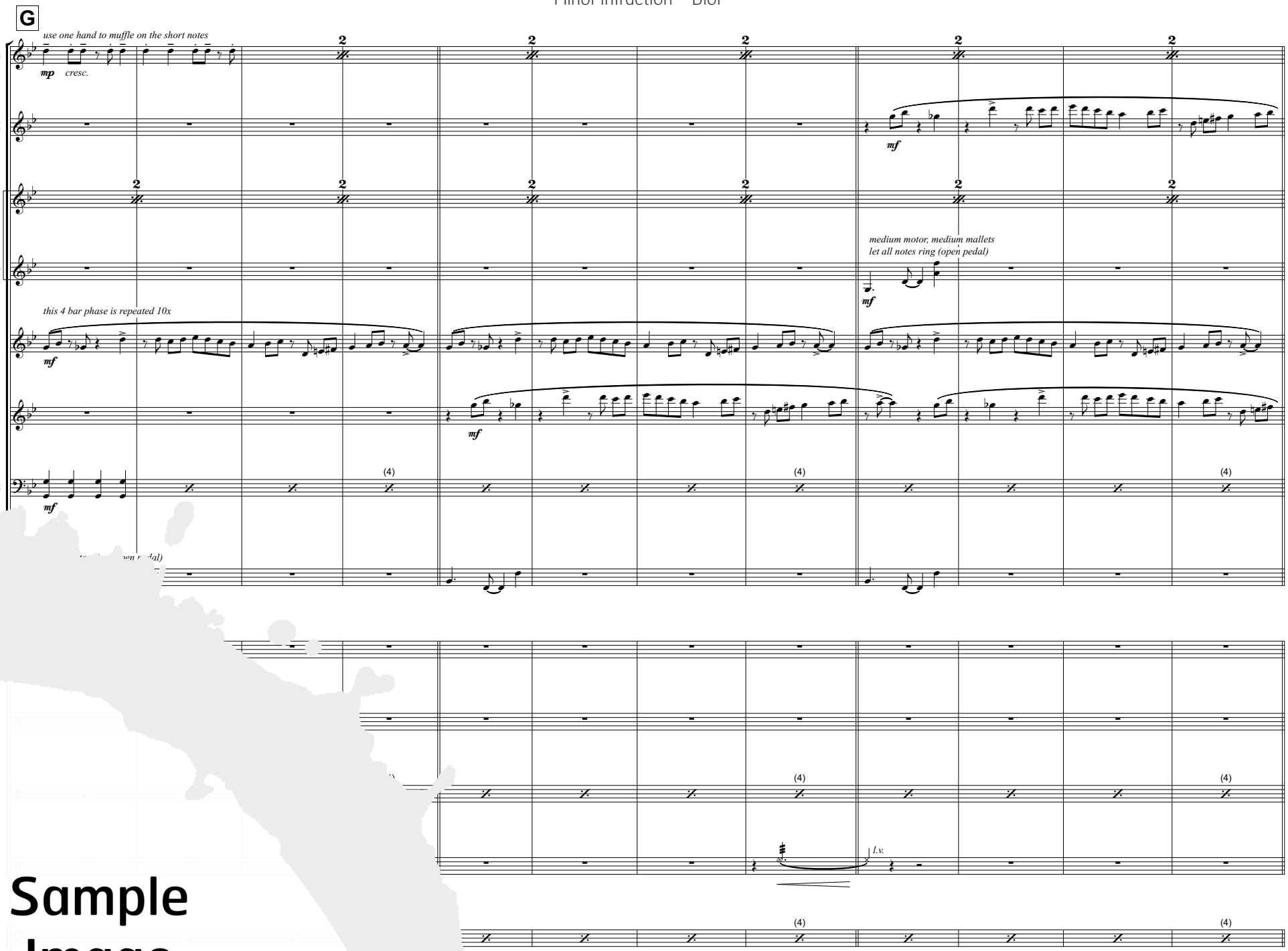

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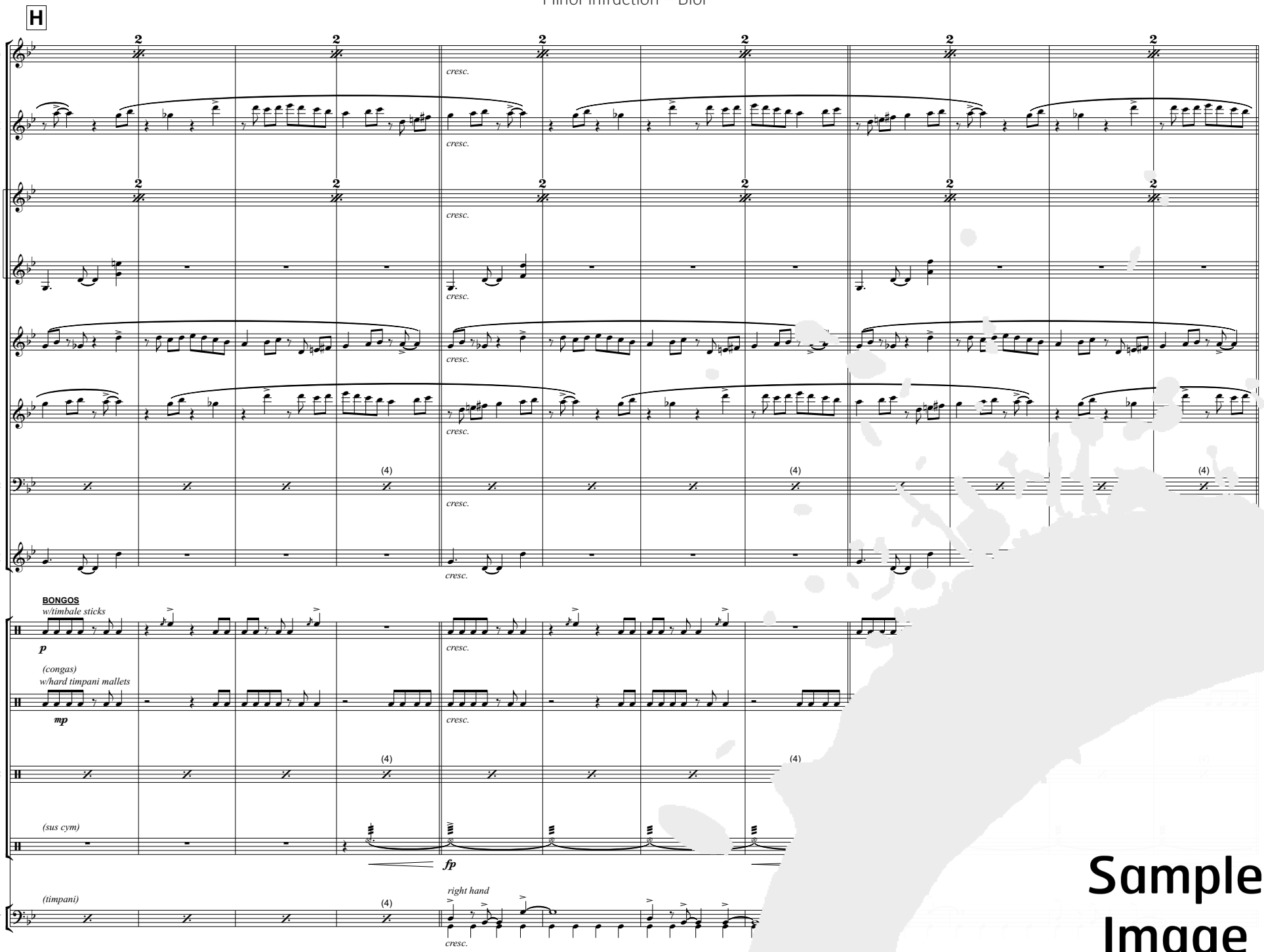

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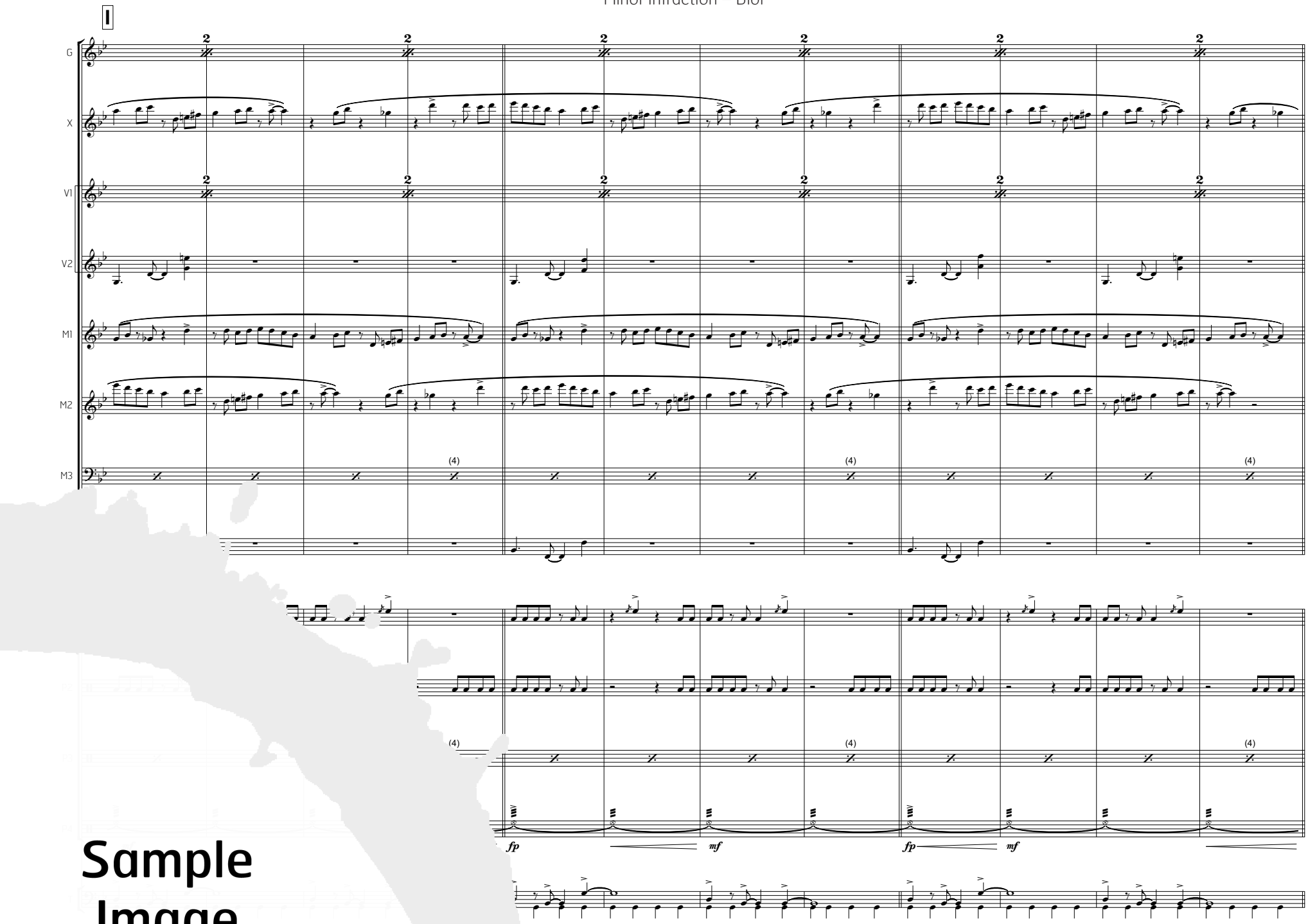

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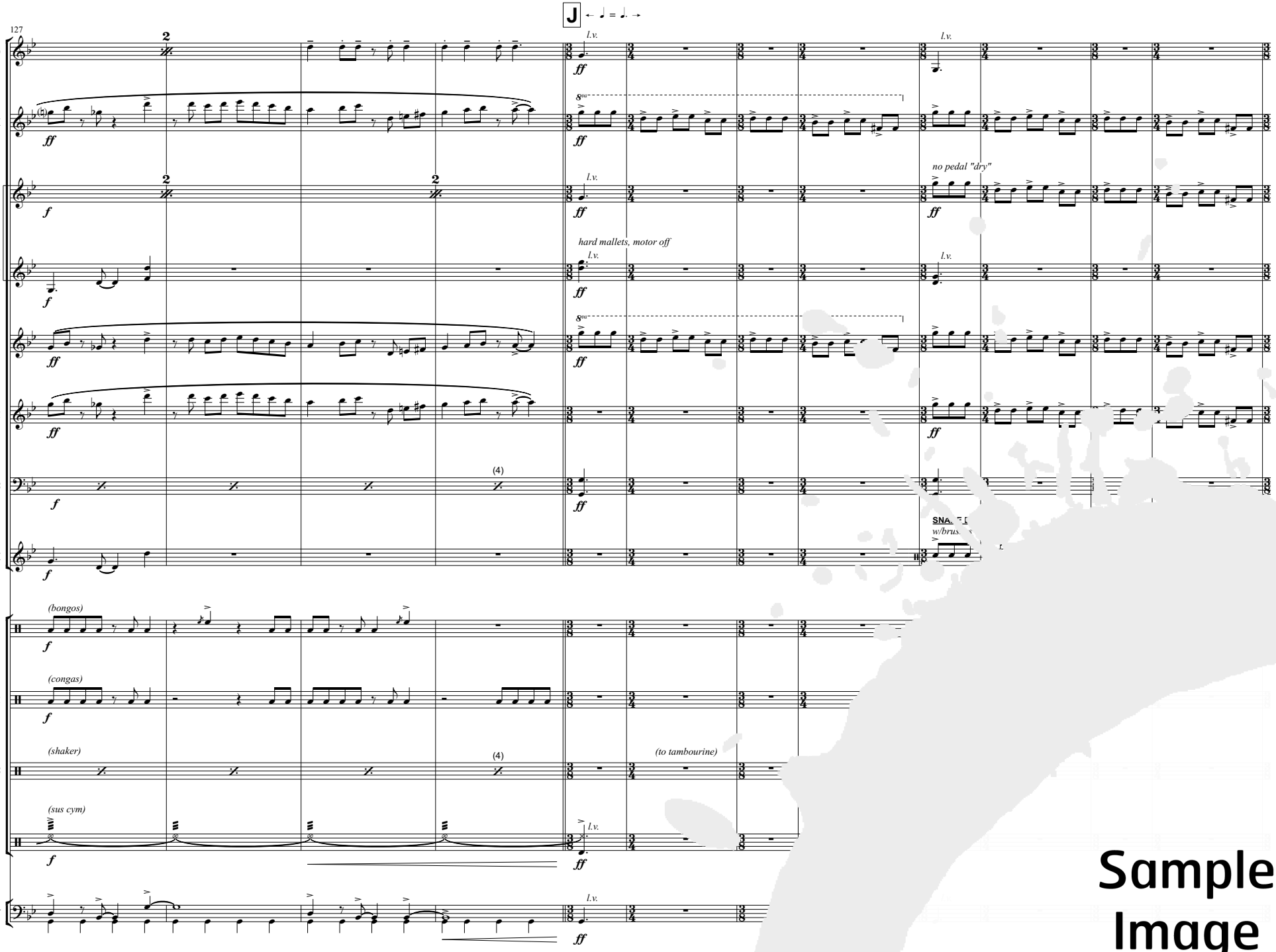

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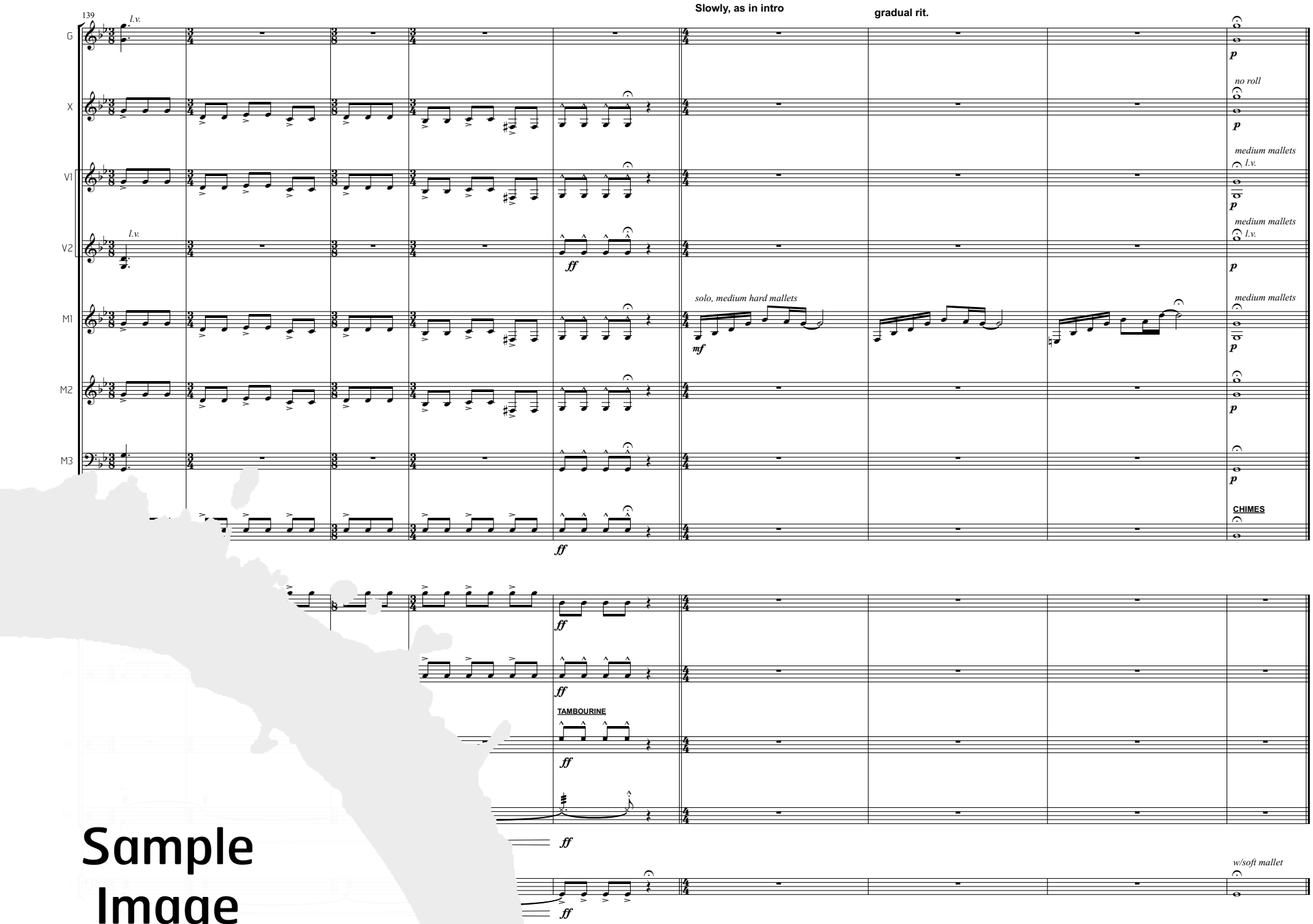

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