Chris Roode

Tom's Tool Shed

for beginning percussion ensemble

Tom's Tool Shed by Chris Roode
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TSPCE15-016

Program Notes

What happens in a tool shed? Tinkering, fixing, clanking, and clunking. What makes the tool shed Tom's? Tom toms, of course! This expandable percussion quintet has a lot of tinkering, clanking, and clunking around the centerpiece of four concert toms. A tribute to any do-it-yourselfer, the musicians pass around theme ideas between nontraditional instruments such as metal pipes, glass jars, and unmounted triangles.

Performance Notes

Tom's Tool Shed is an educational composition intended to teach the application of simple rhythmic combinations while learning to perform on nontraditional instruments. Performers should be familiar with the following rhythmic combinations:

- Whole note, half note, quarter note, eighth note pairs, single eighth notes, and sixteenth notes.
- Whole rest, half rests, quarter rests, and eightth rests.
- Basic sixteenth note combinations (two sixteenths + an eighth and eighth + two sixteenths)

Because of the unique instrumentation, specific setup is required to achieve the correct sounds of the instruments.

- Two jars should be placed on their side with an open end facing the audience.
- The two pipes should be made out of rather heavy metal (between 1"–2" in diameter and 8"–12" long)
- The jars and pipes are to be played with triangle beaters and wooden dowels. If you do not have enough triangle beaters, they can be made by cutting 1/8" metal dowels to short lengths (about 5–6"). Similarly, you can cut 5/16" wooden dowels down to size if necessary.
- Place the triangle on a padded trap table to create the staccato sound.
- Concert toms should be played with hard felt mallets. Swizzle sticks are preferred to allow switching to hard sticks.
- The woodblock should be played with hard rubber mallets.

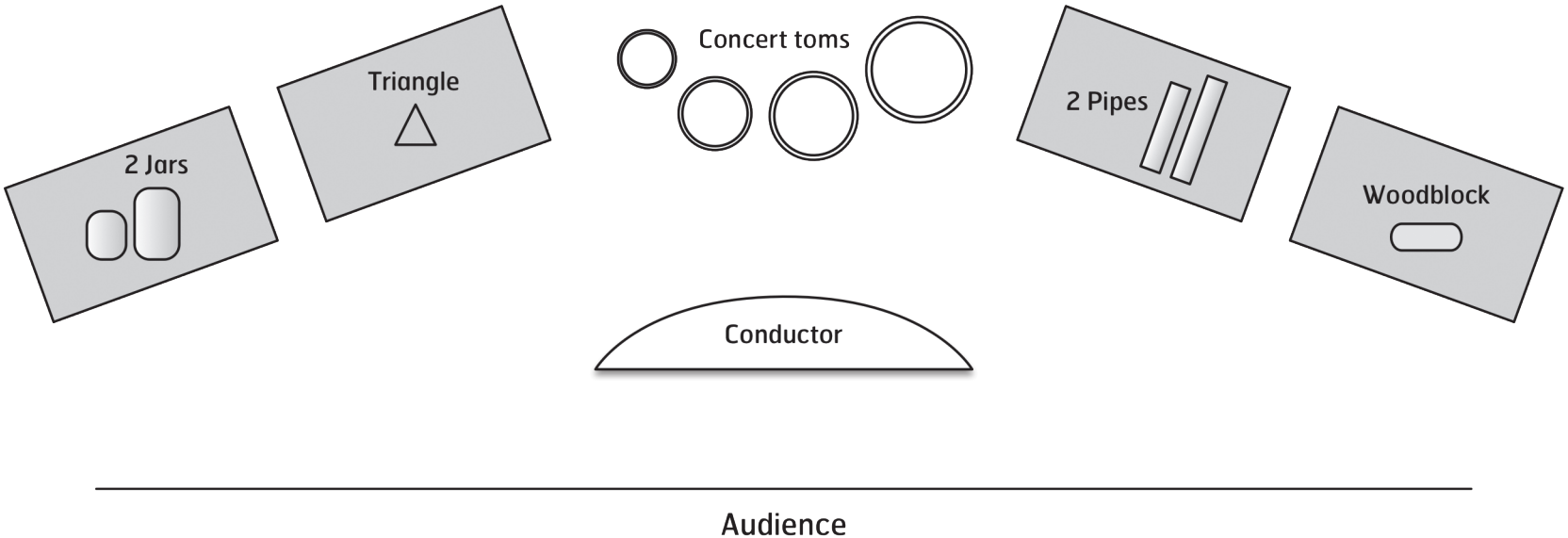
Players and Instrumentation

Tom's Tool Shed requires **5 or more players** with the following instrumentation:

- **2 Jars** (e.g., 1 mason jar and 1 baby food jar)
- **Triangle**
- **4 Concert toms**
- **2 Steel pipes**
- **Woodblock**

Note: All parts except the concert toms may be doubled, tripled, or even quadrupled to accommodate extra players.

Suggested Setup



Level: Easy
Approx. playing time: 3'00"

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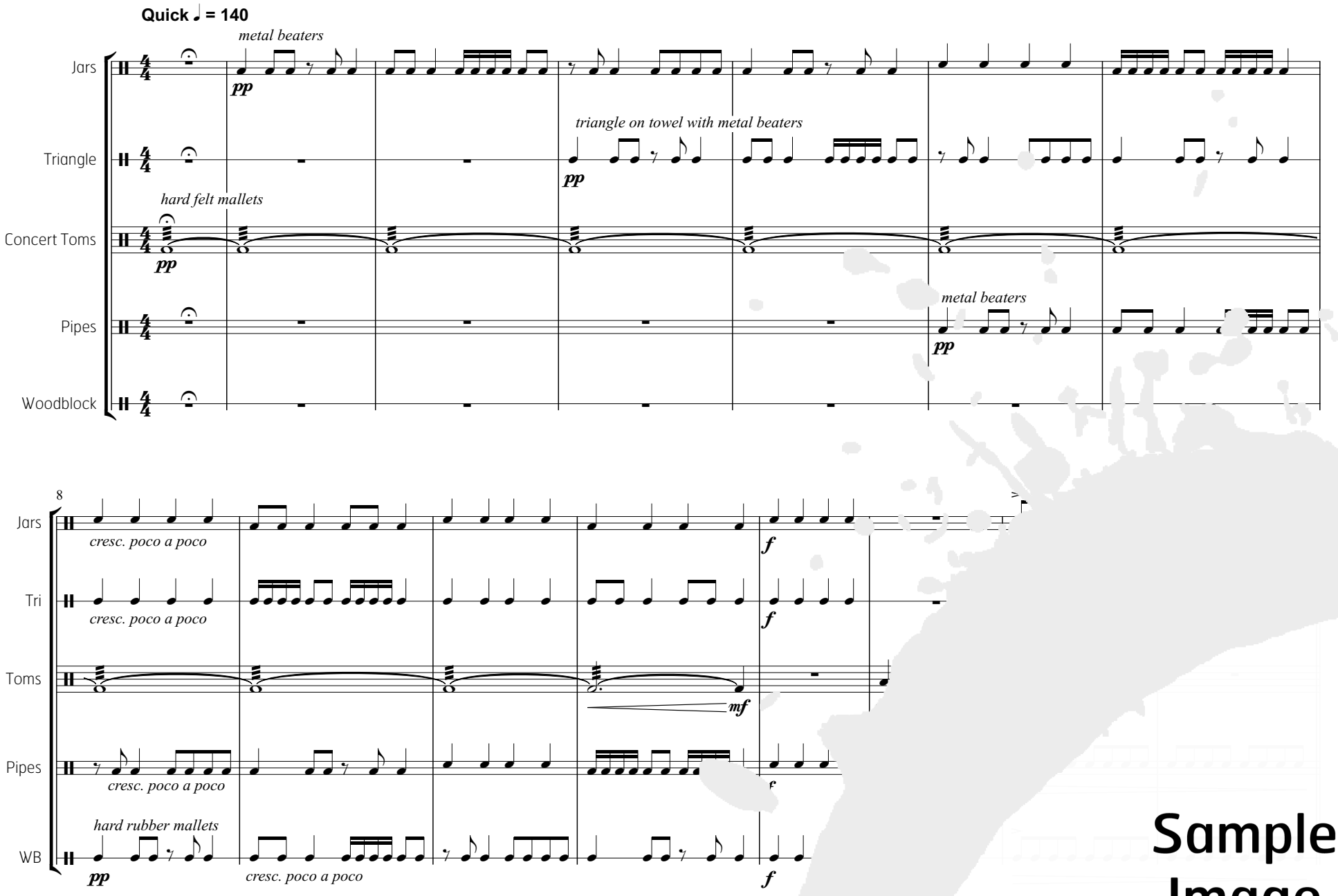

Sample Image

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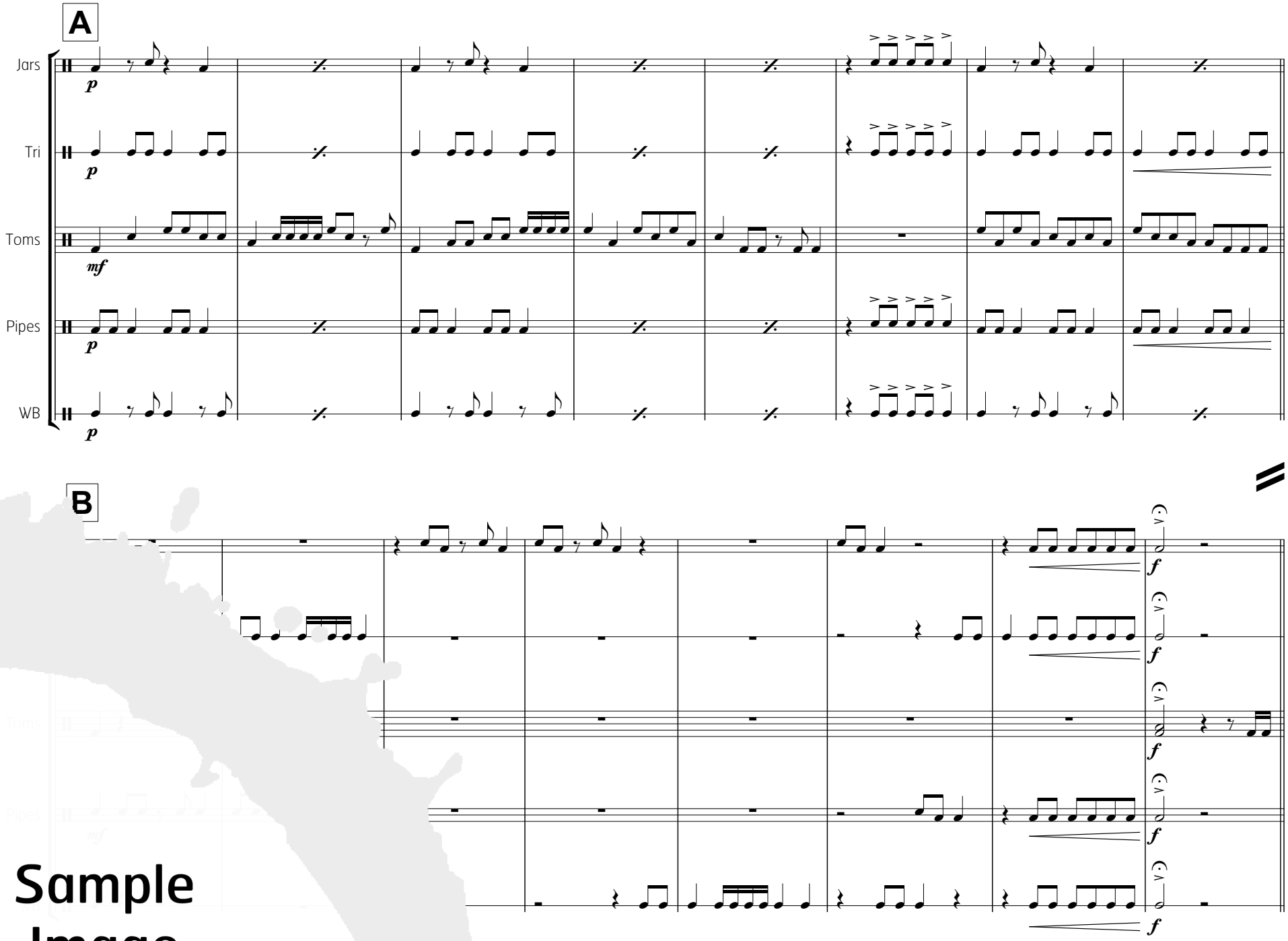

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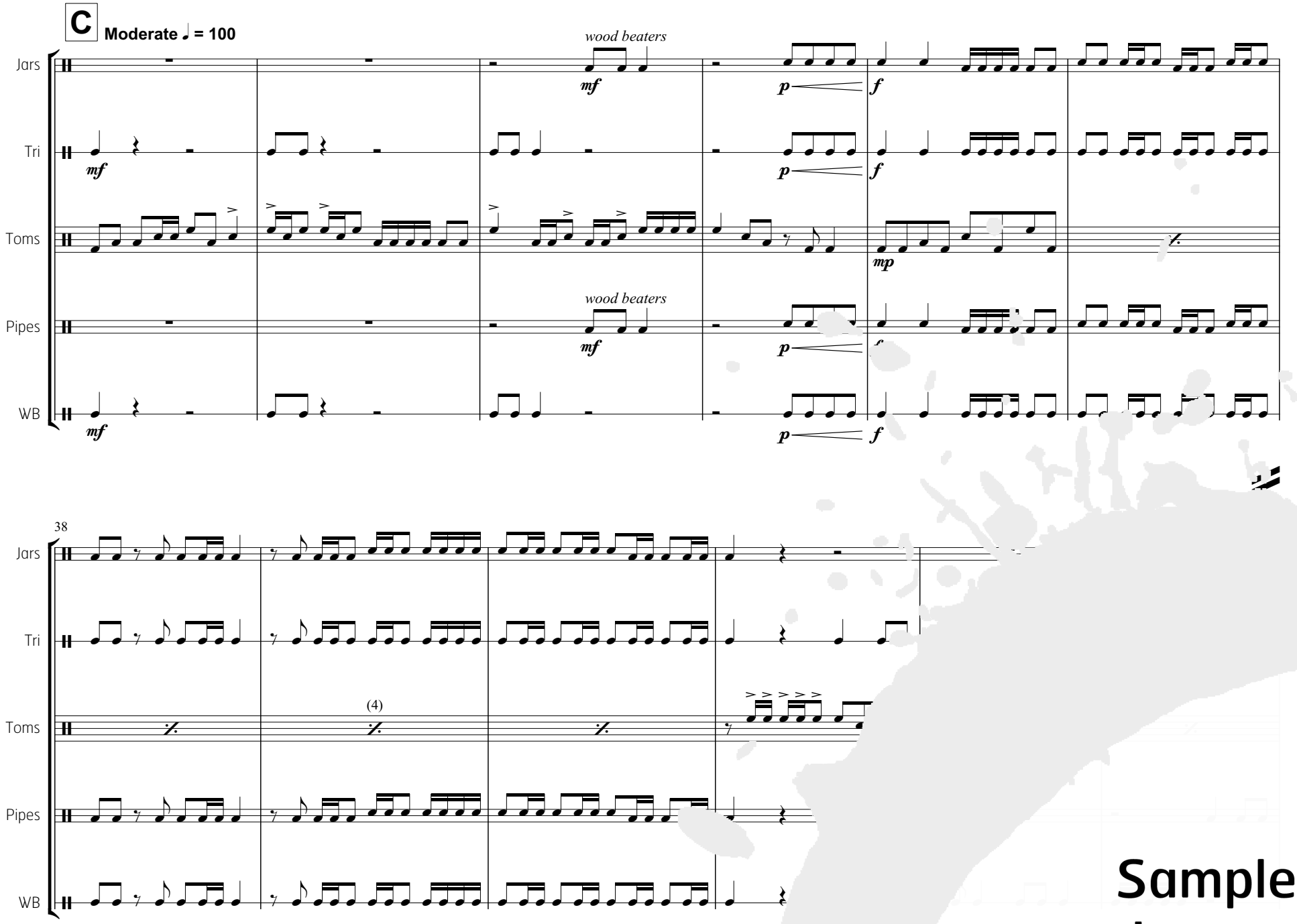

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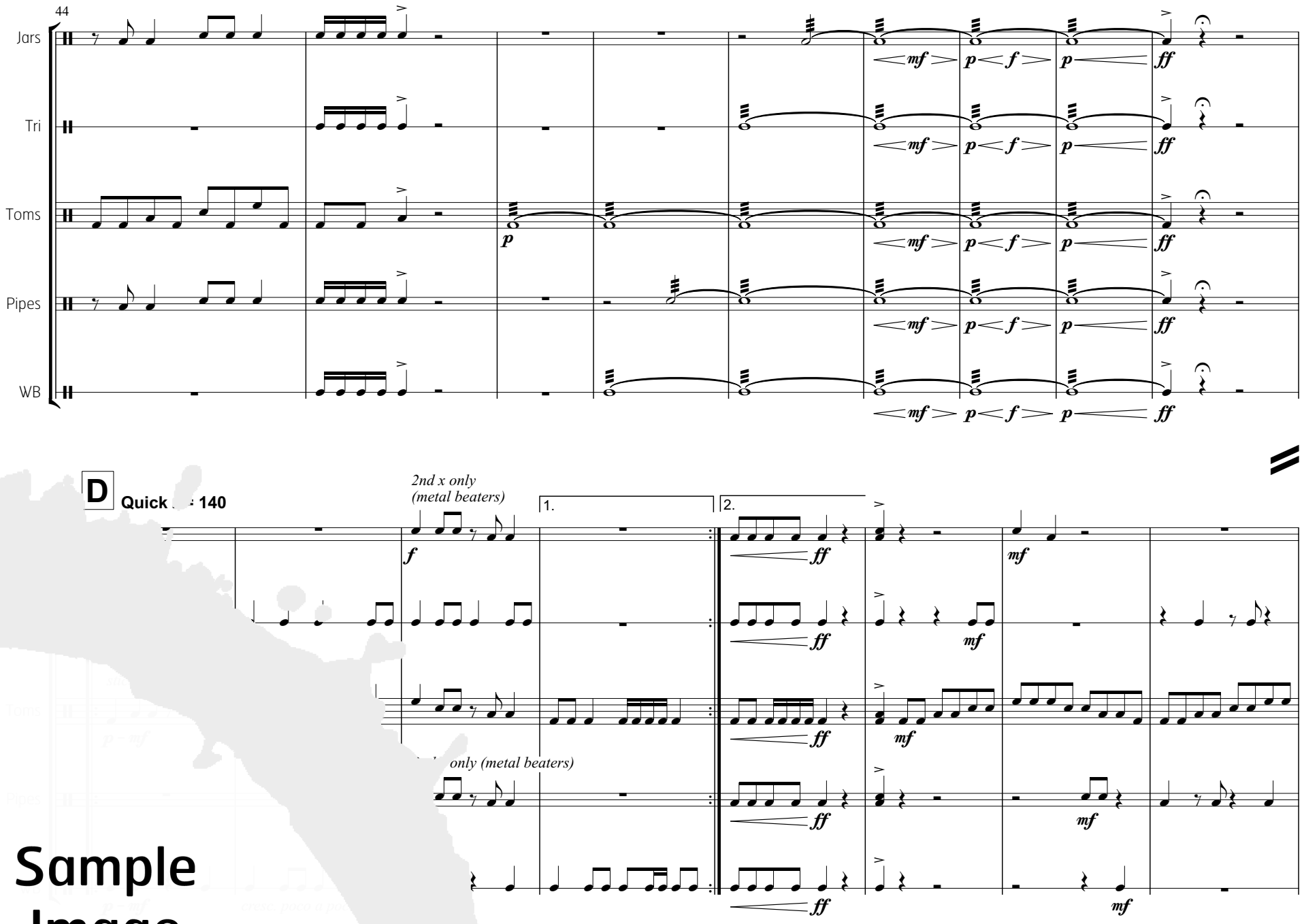

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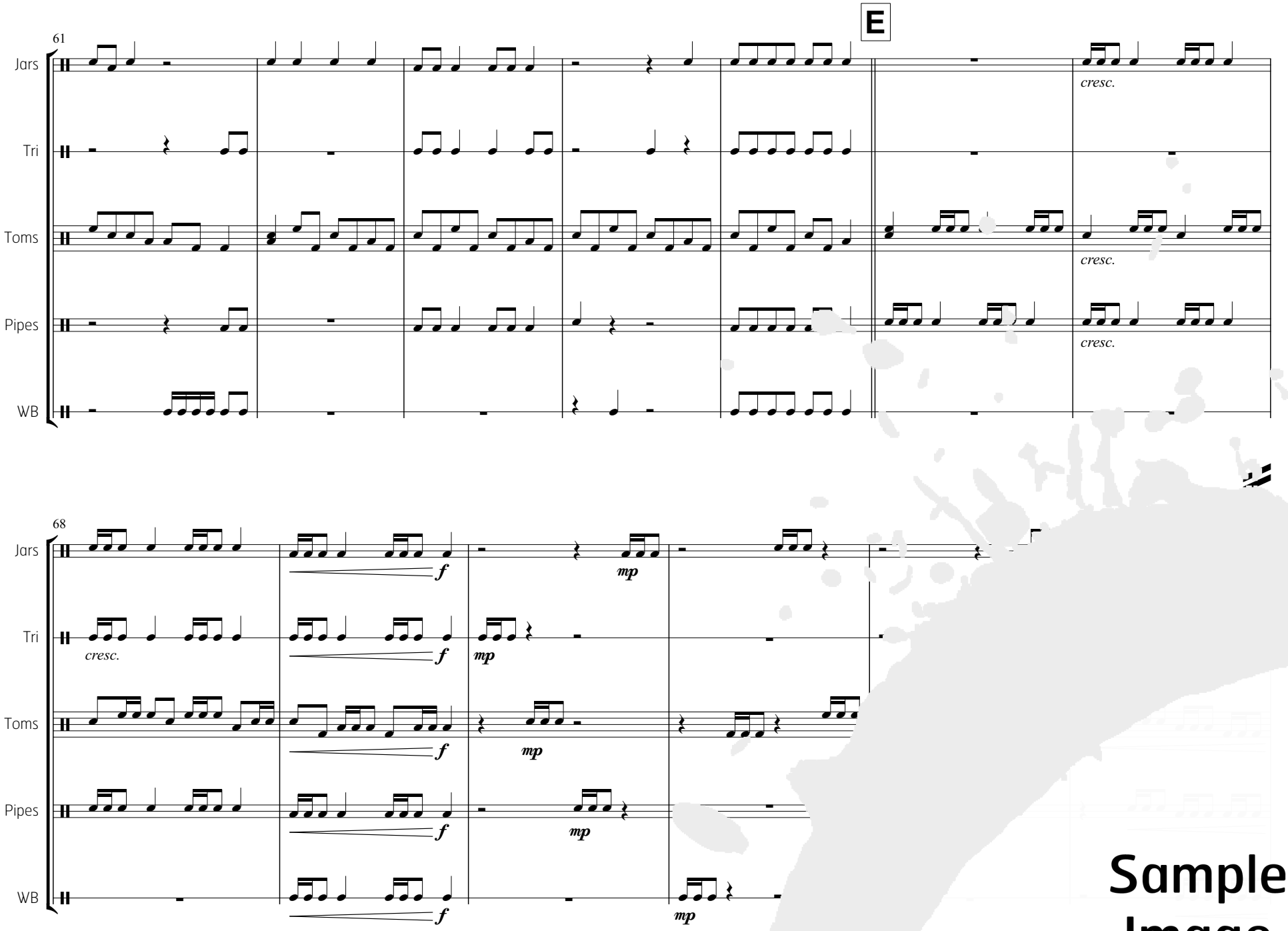

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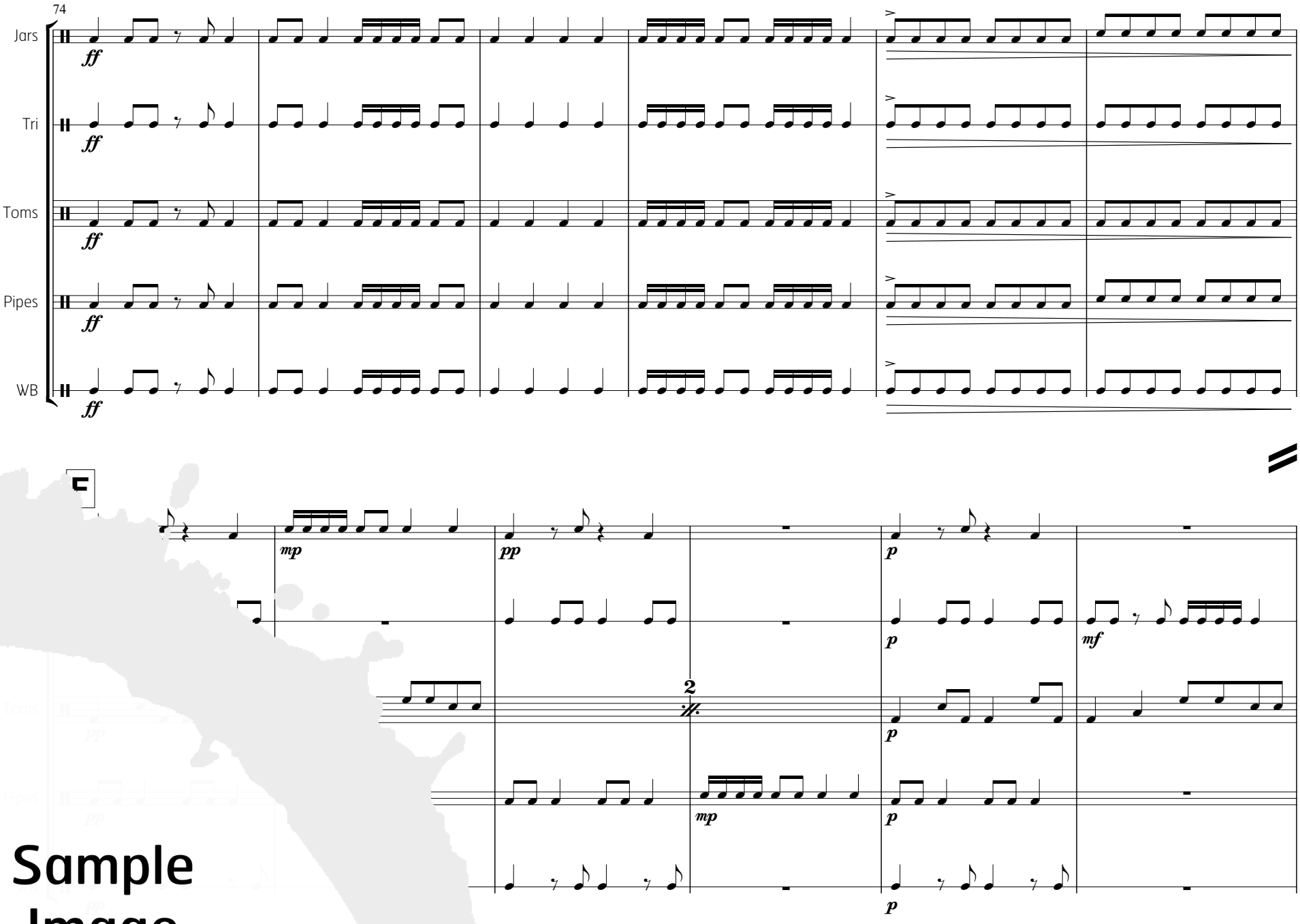

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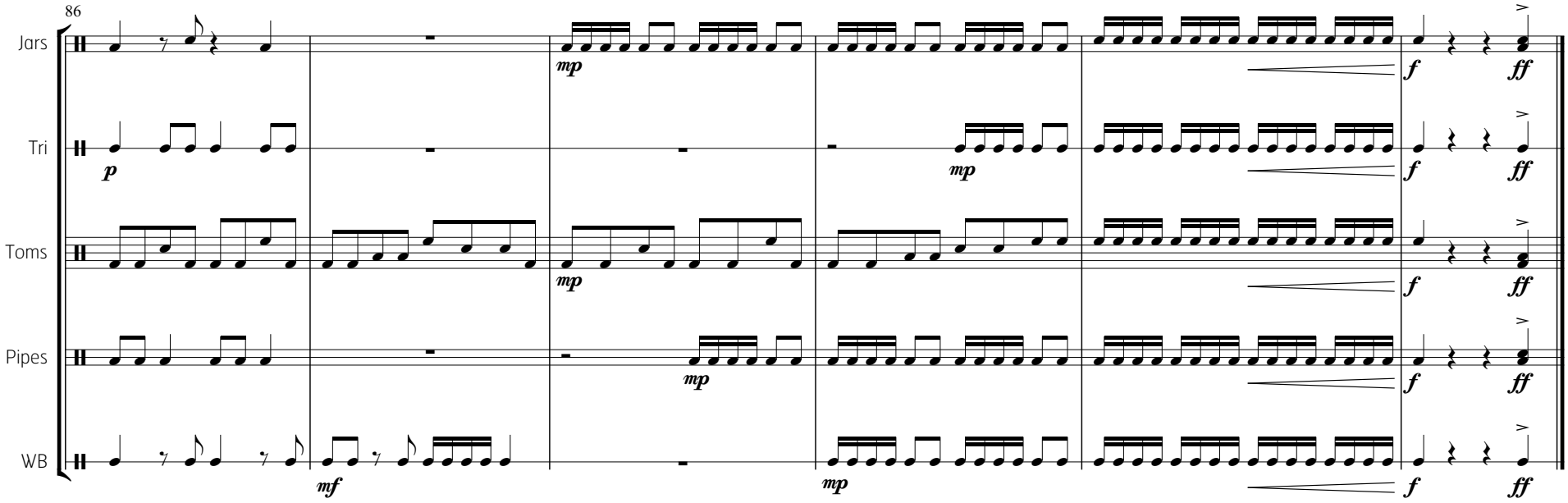
86
Jars
Tri
Toms
Pipes
WB
p
mf
mp
f
ff