LINDBERGH VARIATIONS

ROBERT SHELDON

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Grade Level: 3

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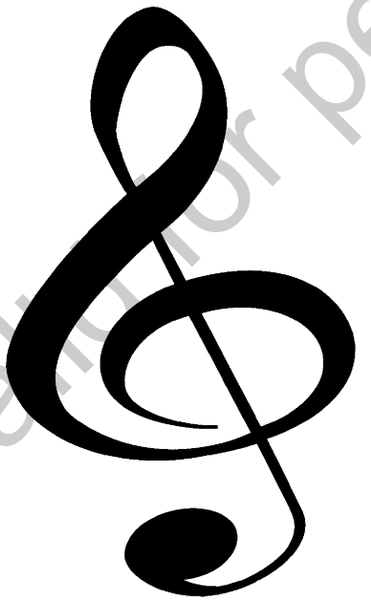

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LINDBERGH VARIATIONS

Robert Sheldon

PROGRAM NOTES

"Lindbergh Variations" was commissioned by and written for the Fletcher Junior High School Band in Jacksonville Beach, Florida. Among the community's historical treasures exists a monument to Charles Lindbergh's child. Although Lindbergh paid a fifty-thousand dollar ransom, his son was never recovered alive. This monument seems to have been the only permanent exposition of the world-wide sympathy in this national tragedy. It was unveiled on September 17, 1932.

Colonel Joseph C. Stehlin, president of the Chamber of Commerce, gave impetus to the plan and it was largely through his efforts that the monument was financed and erected. The figure of a sleeping child, beautifully wrought, is the outstanding feature of the ten-foot monument. Atop the piece is an eagle. A spray of water from the fountain at the bottom of the piece flows into a pool forming the base of the monument. According to Stehlin, the monument was "a gesture of love and affection and sympathy for the children of the world."

"Lindbergh Variations" is based on a theme representing the child depicted in the statue. The initial statement sets a playful mood and leads to the first variation in 3/4 time, a lullaby including a more lyrical treatment of the melody with some canonic imitation. The second variation, Andante Cantabile, features a trumpet solo over warm colors and harmonic support. Surprising contrast is heard at the outset of variation three, a 6/8 section marked Alla Marcia. During this variation the melody is interwoven through all instrumental families and leads to the fourth variation. This final treatment is characterized by a slow cut-time chorale with appearances in the upper brass and woodwinds of more rapidly played motives from the previous variation. As the chorale gains in intensity, the hymn, "Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head," emerges from the harmonic structure drawing a parallel to the sleeping child in the statue. The hymn builds through the variation culminating in a coda which makes majestic reference to the original theme.

Robert Sheldon

THE COMPOSER

Robert Sheldon has taught instrumental music in the Florida public schools for thirteen years and has served on faculty at the Florida State University where he taught conducting and music education classes and directed the university bands. He now maintains an active composition and teaching schedule in Illinois. Sheldon received the Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Miami and the Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Florida.

A nationally recognized clinician, Sheldon has conducted numerous Regional and All-State bands throughout the country. He holds membership in several music organizations that promote music and music education. The American School Band Directors Association has honored him with the Volkwein Award for composition and the Stanbury Award for teaching. He has also been a recipient of ASCAP's Standard Award for his compositional contributions in the educational repertoire. In 1990, he was honored by the International Assembly of Phi Beta Mu as being the International Outstanding Bandmaster of the Year.

For rehearsal only. Not valid for performance.

INSTRUMENTATION

C Flute/Piccolo	6
1st Bb Clarinet	4
2nd Bb Clarinet	4
3rd Bb Clarinet	4
Eb Alto Clarinet	2
Bb Bass Clarinet	2
Oboe	2
Bassoon	2
1st Eb Alto Saxophone	2
2nd Eb Alto Saxophone	2
Bb Tenor Saxophone	1
Eb Baritone Saxophone	1
1st Bb Trumpet	3
2nd Bb Trumpet	3
3rd Bb Trumpet	3
1st & 2nd F Horn	4
1st Trombone	2
2nd Trombone	1
3rd Trombone	1
Baritone T.C.	1
Baritone B.C.	2
Tuba	5
Percussion	4
Mallet Percussion	2
Timpani	1

Commissioned by the Fletcher Junior High School Band,
Jacksonville Beach, Florida, William M. Holman, Director, Lois F. Johnson, Principal

Duration: 5: 00

012-2369-00

Lindbergh Variations

Robert Sheldon
ASCAP

Allegretto ♩= 112

C Flute
Piccolo
-Picc.
+Picc.
Oboe
Bassoon
B♭ Clarinets 1 2 3
E♭ Alto Clarinet
B♭ Bass Clarinet
E♭ Alto Saxophones 1 2
B♭ Tenor Saxophone
E♭ Baritone Saxophone

Allegretto ♩= 112

B♭ Trumpets 1 2 3
F Horns 1 2
Trombones 1 2 3
Baritone
Tuba
Timpani
Percussion
Trgl.
Bells
Mallet Percussion

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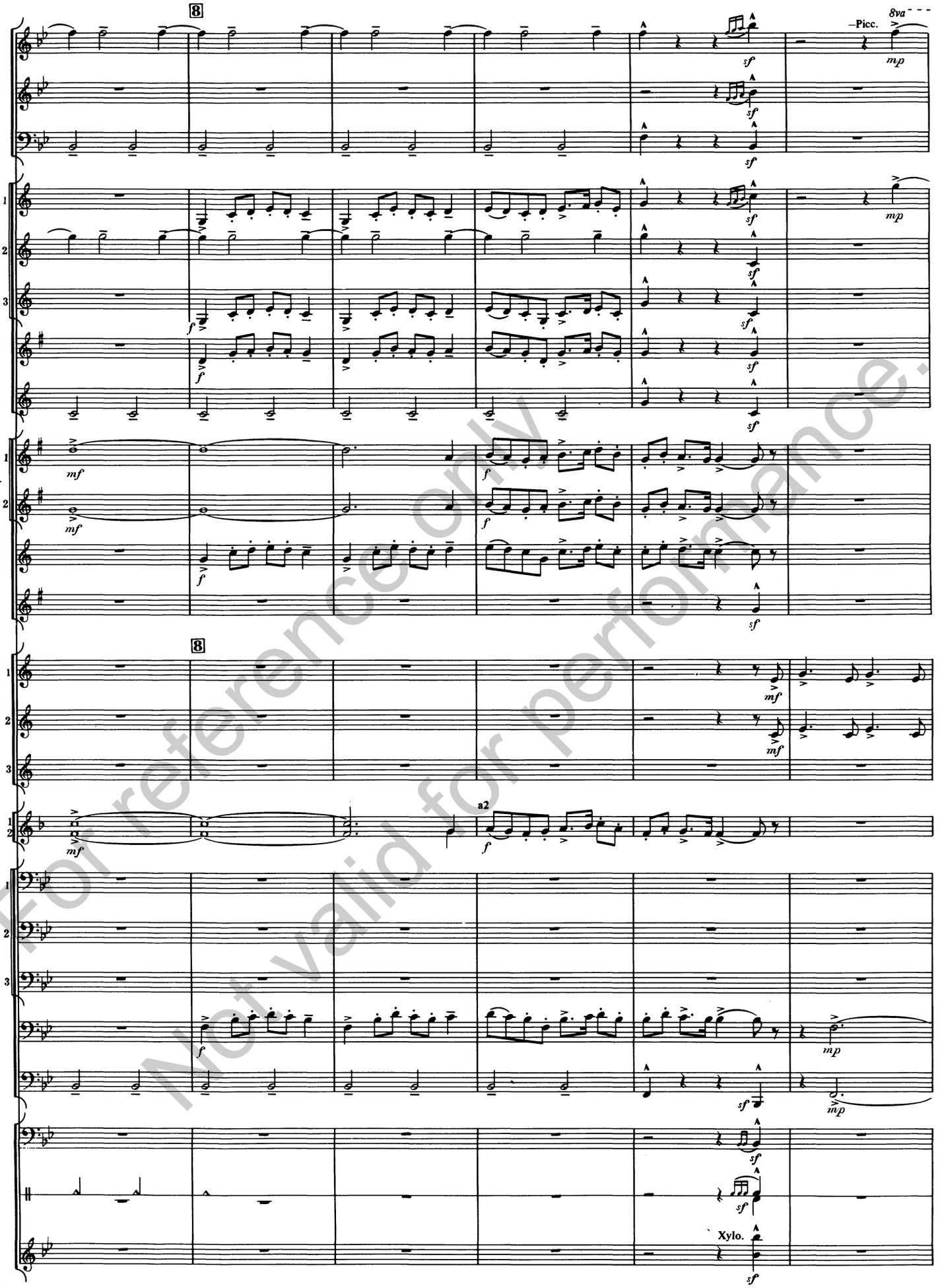

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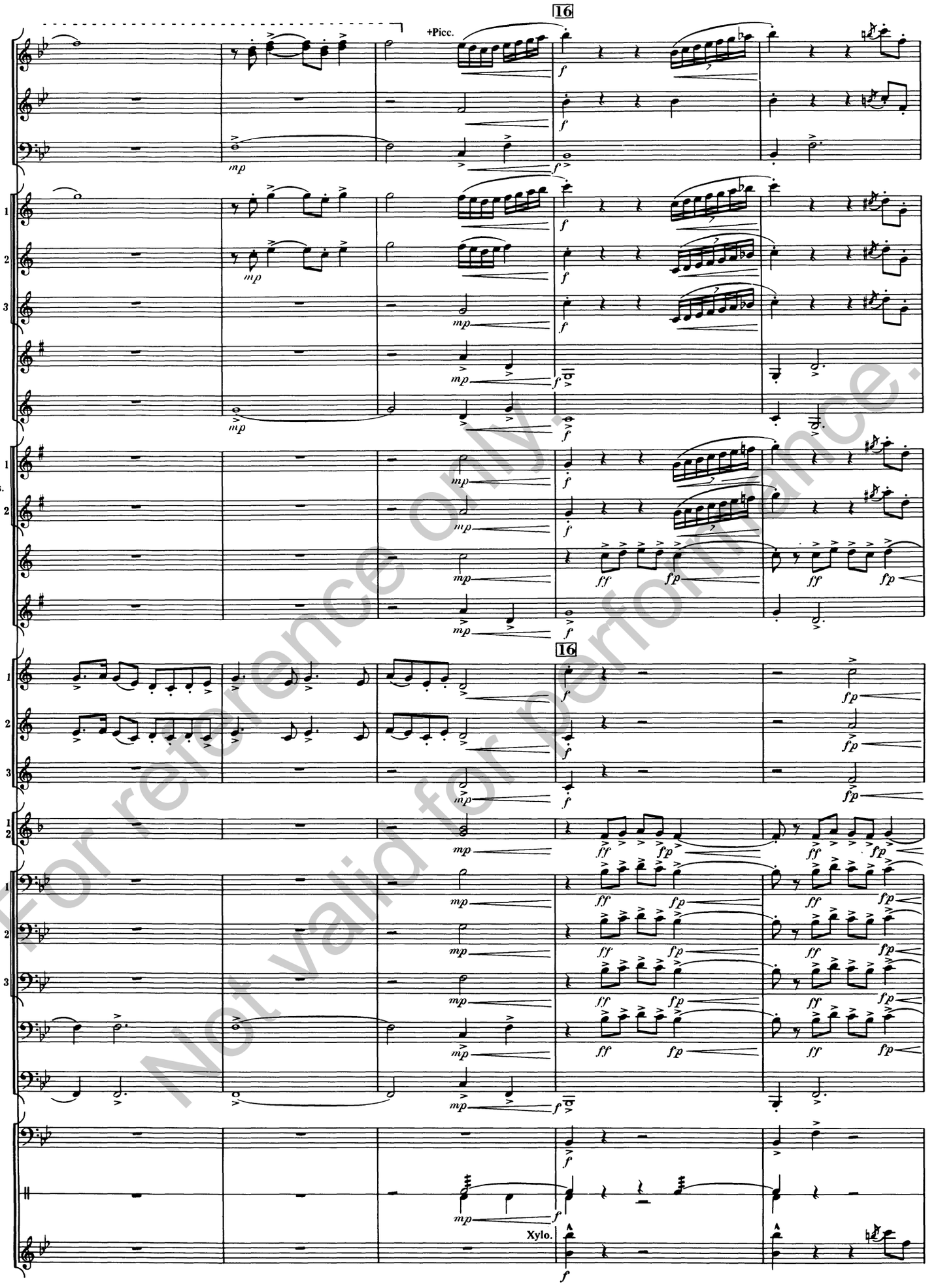

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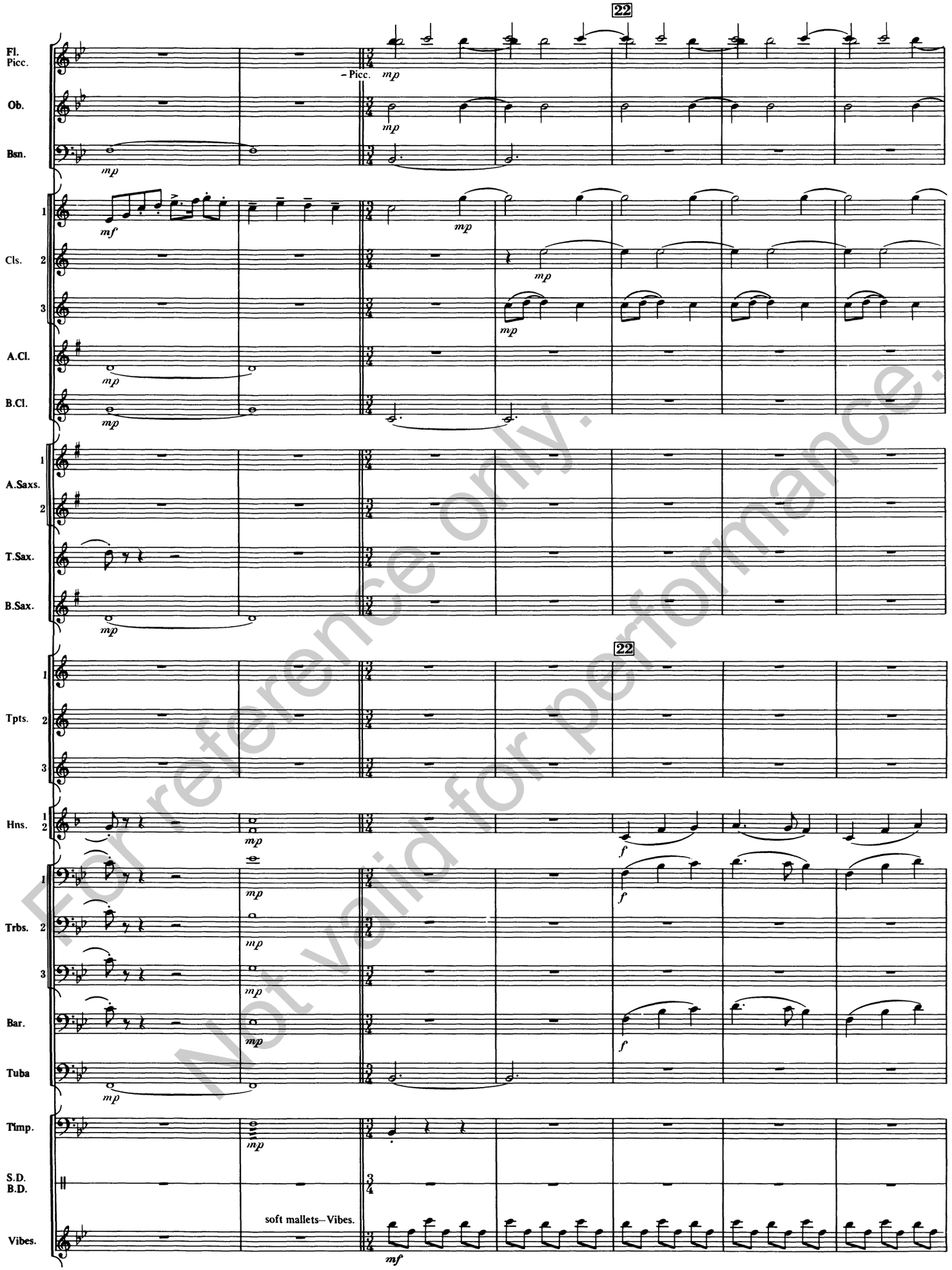

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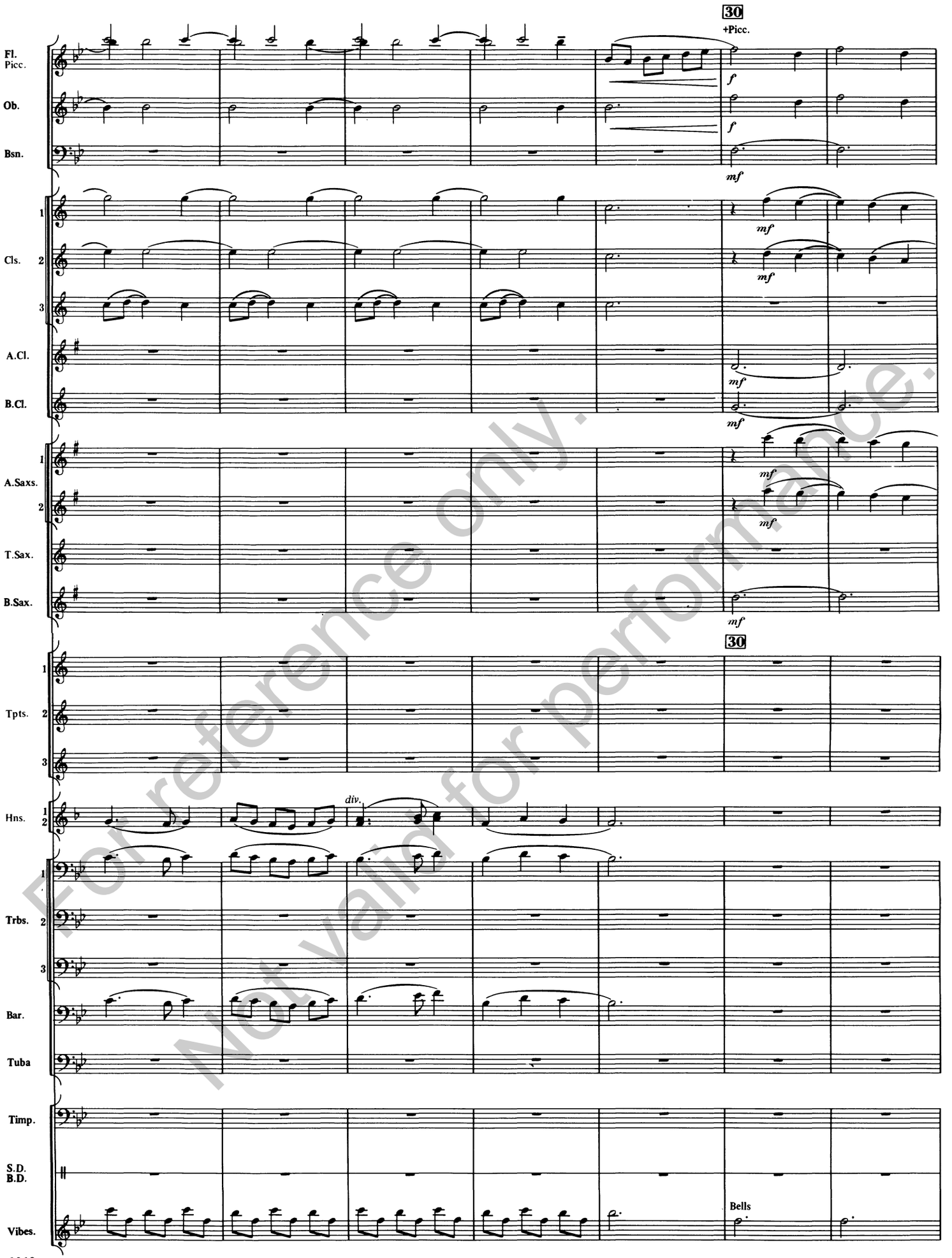

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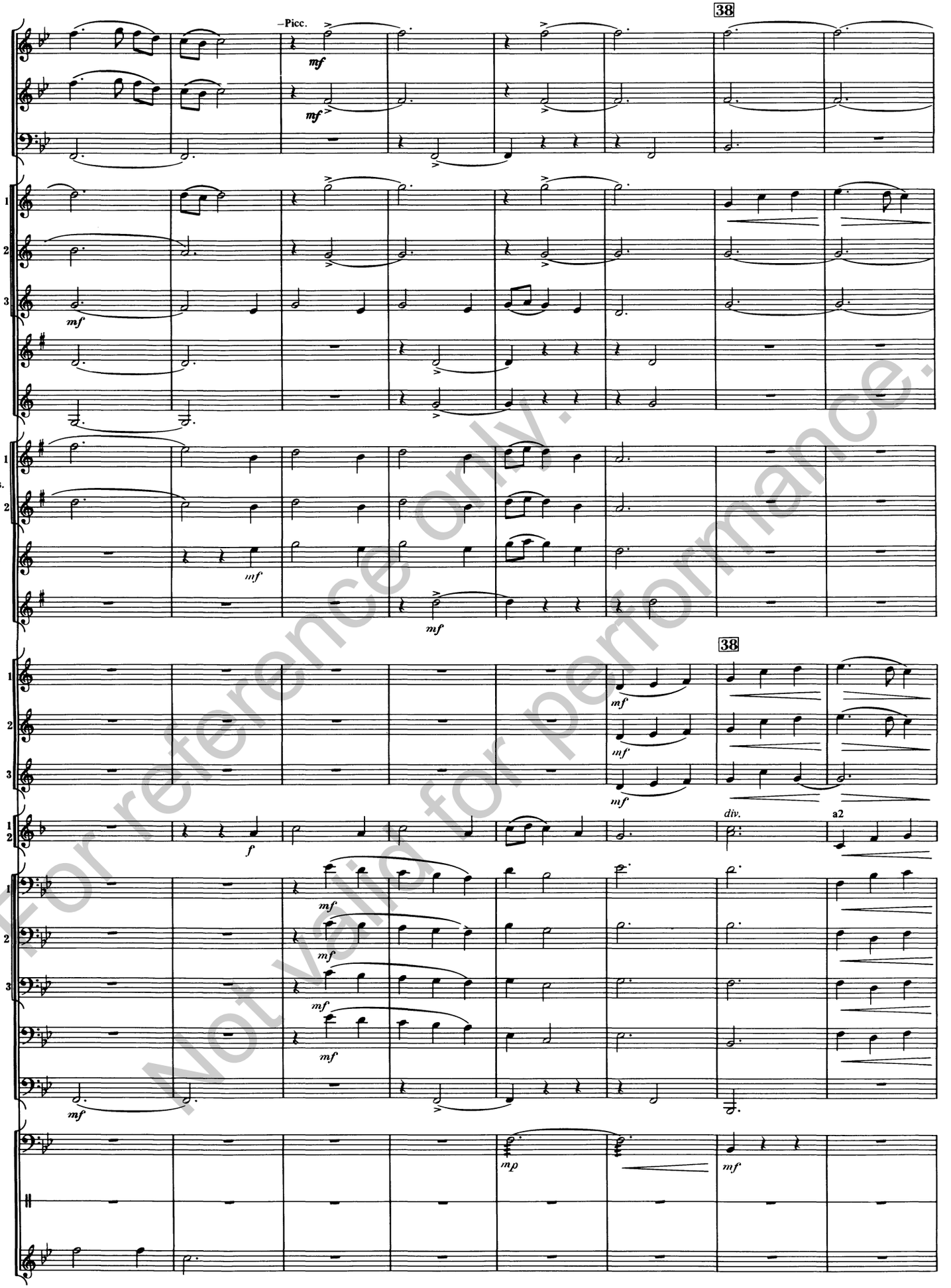

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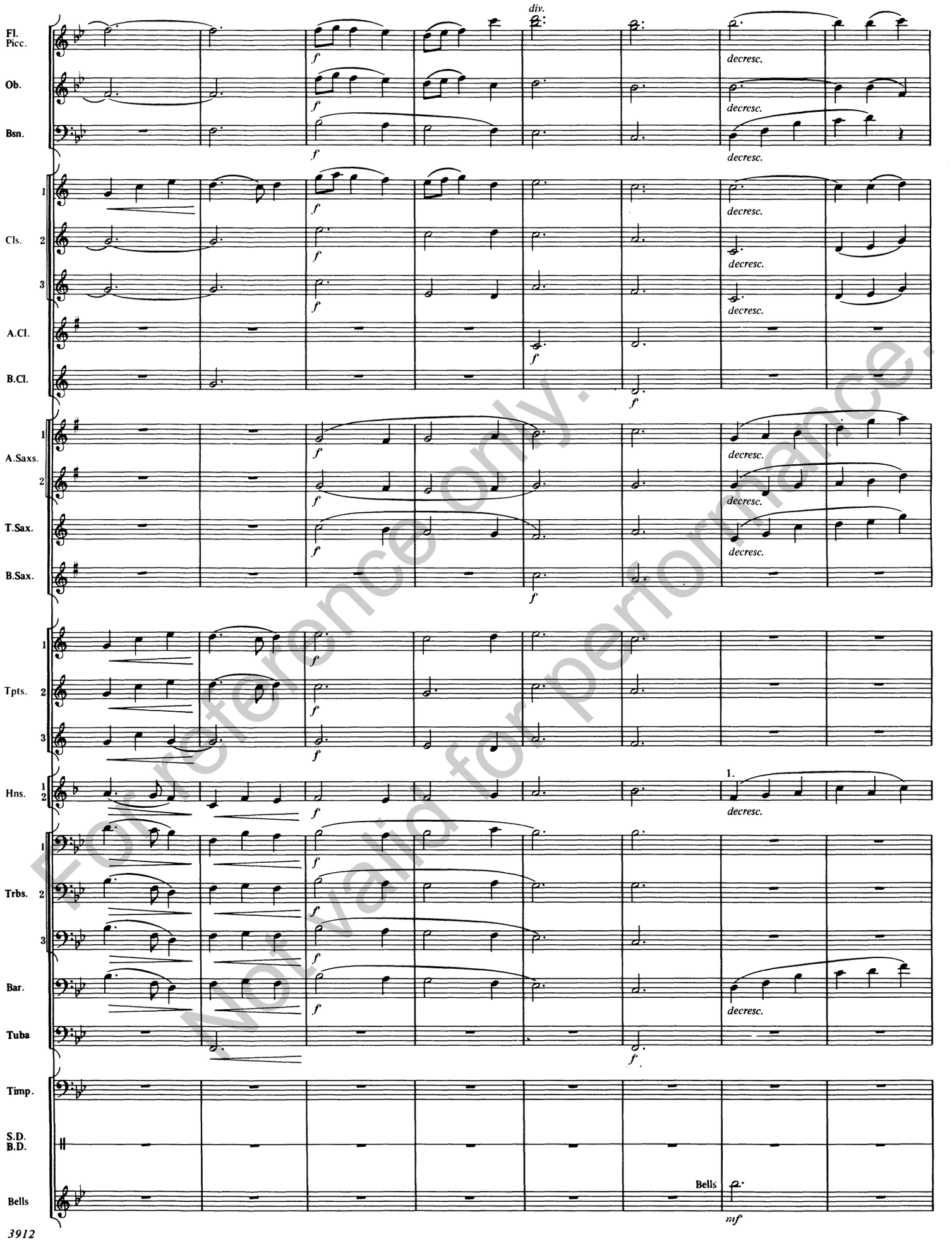

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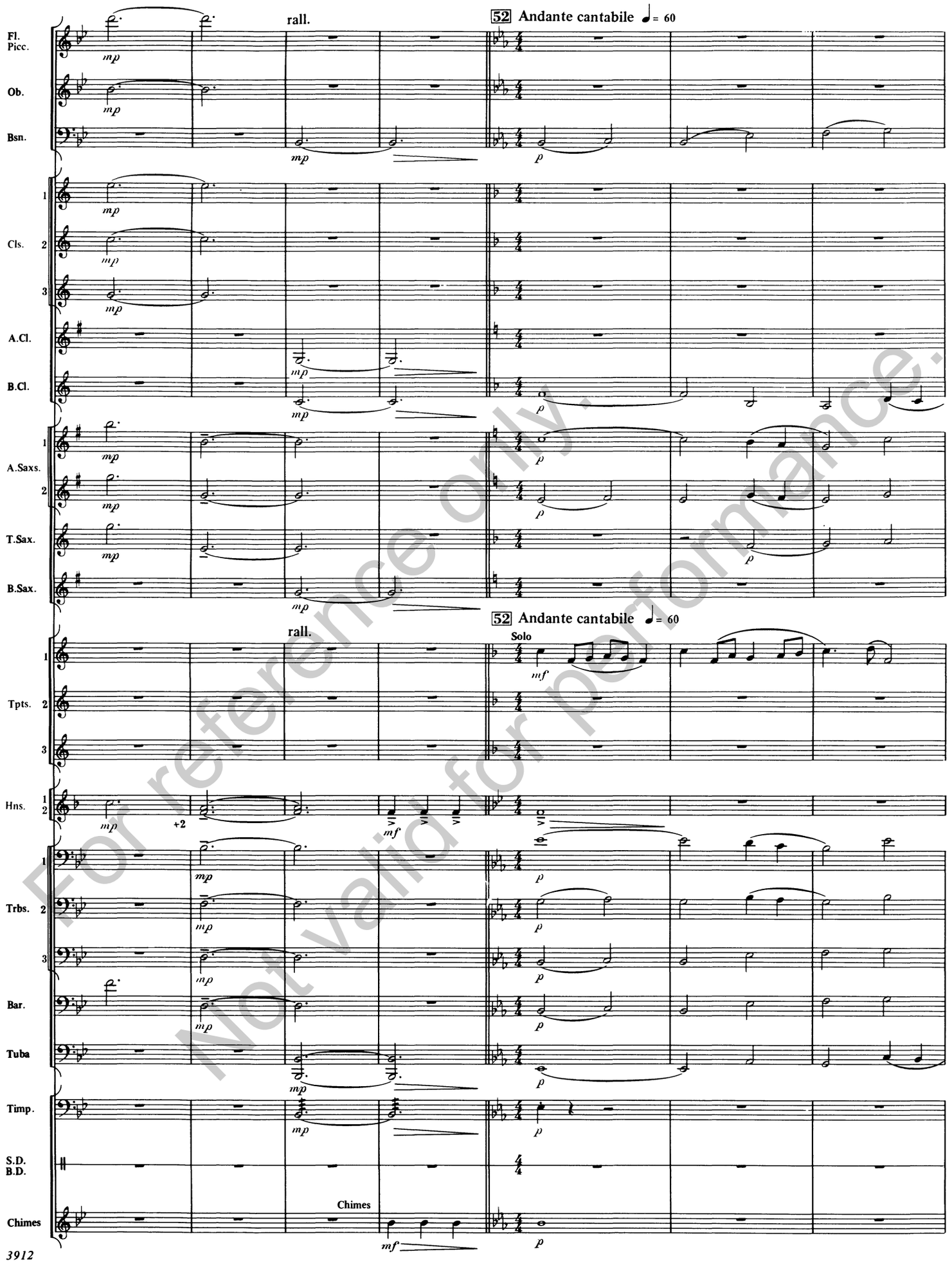

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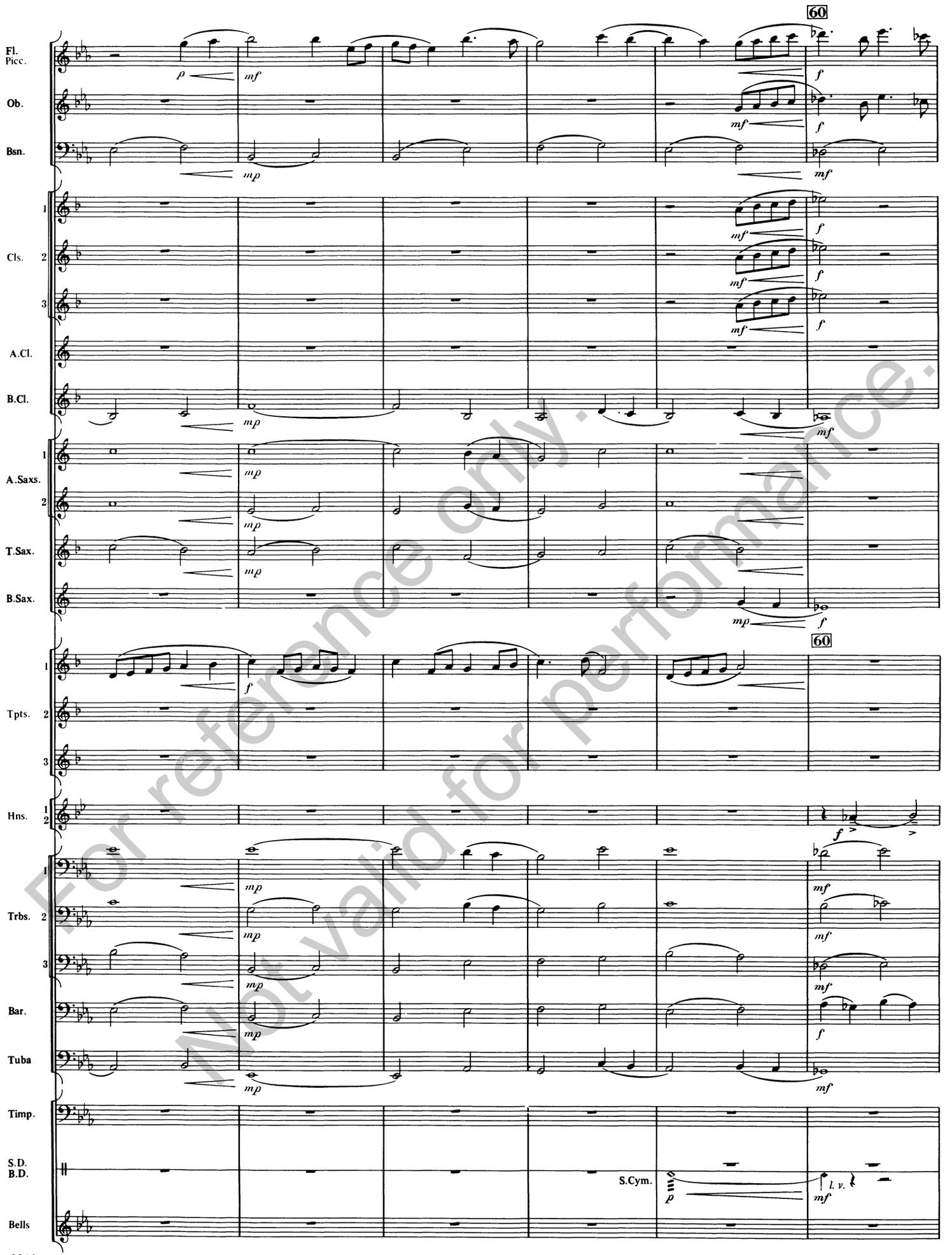

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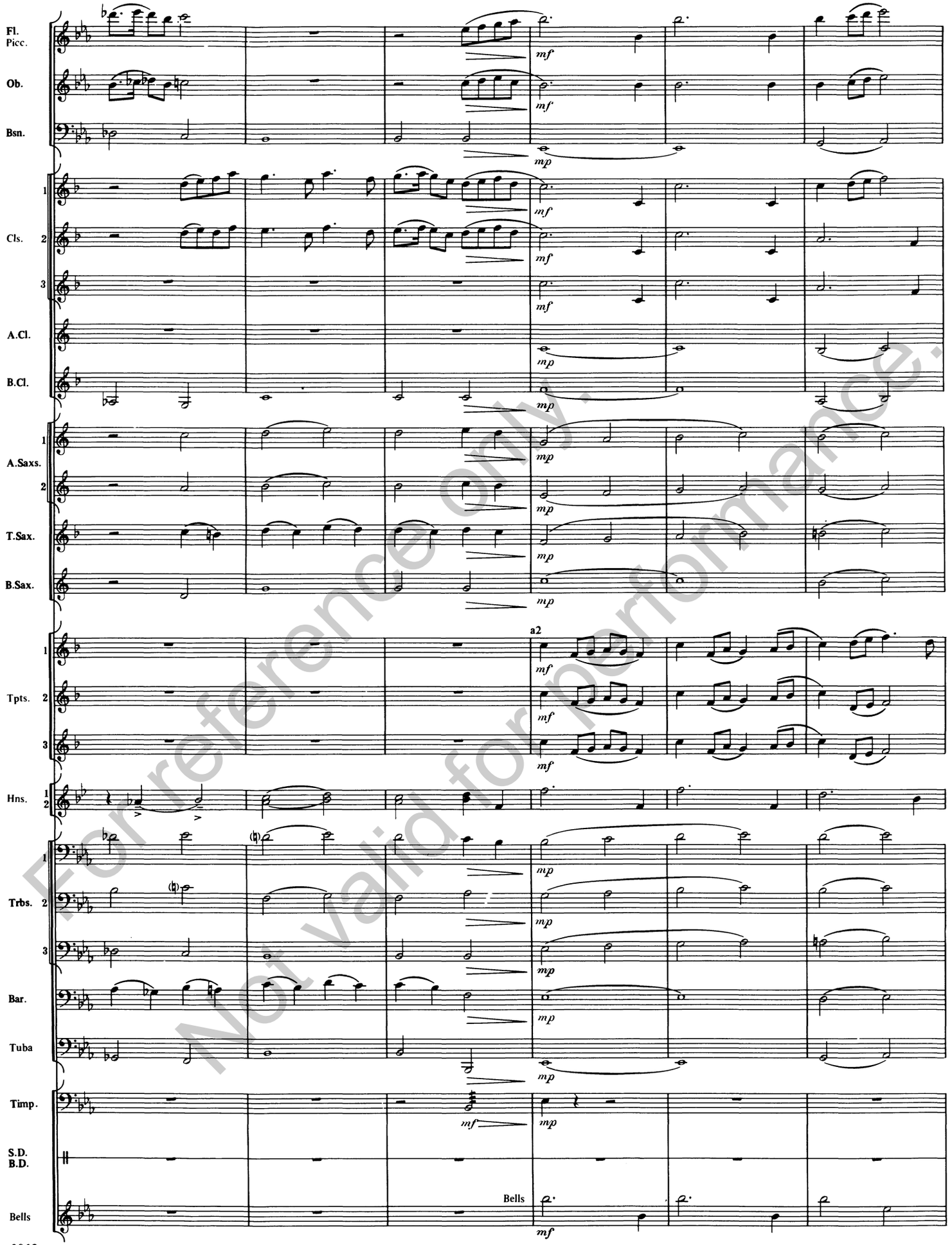

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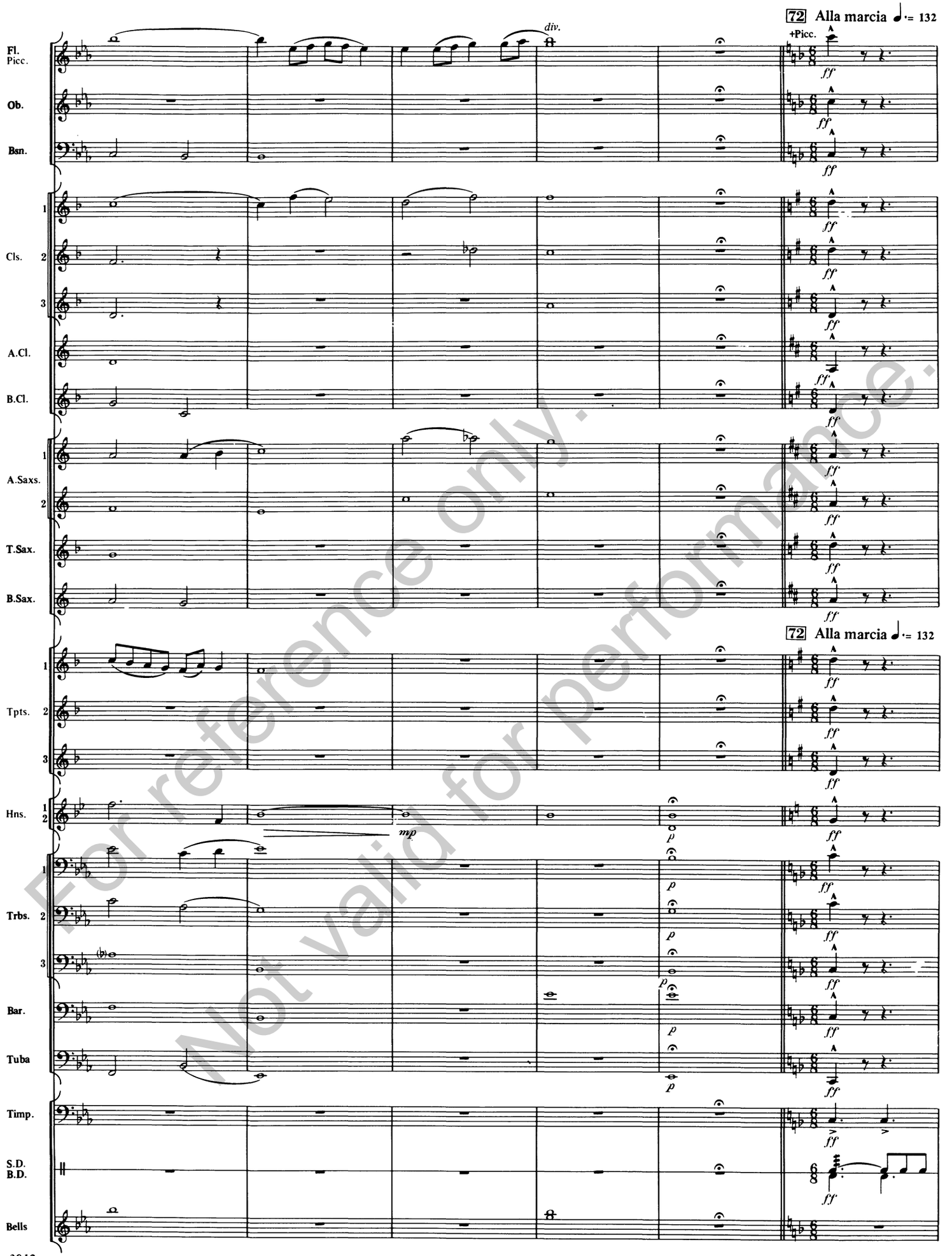

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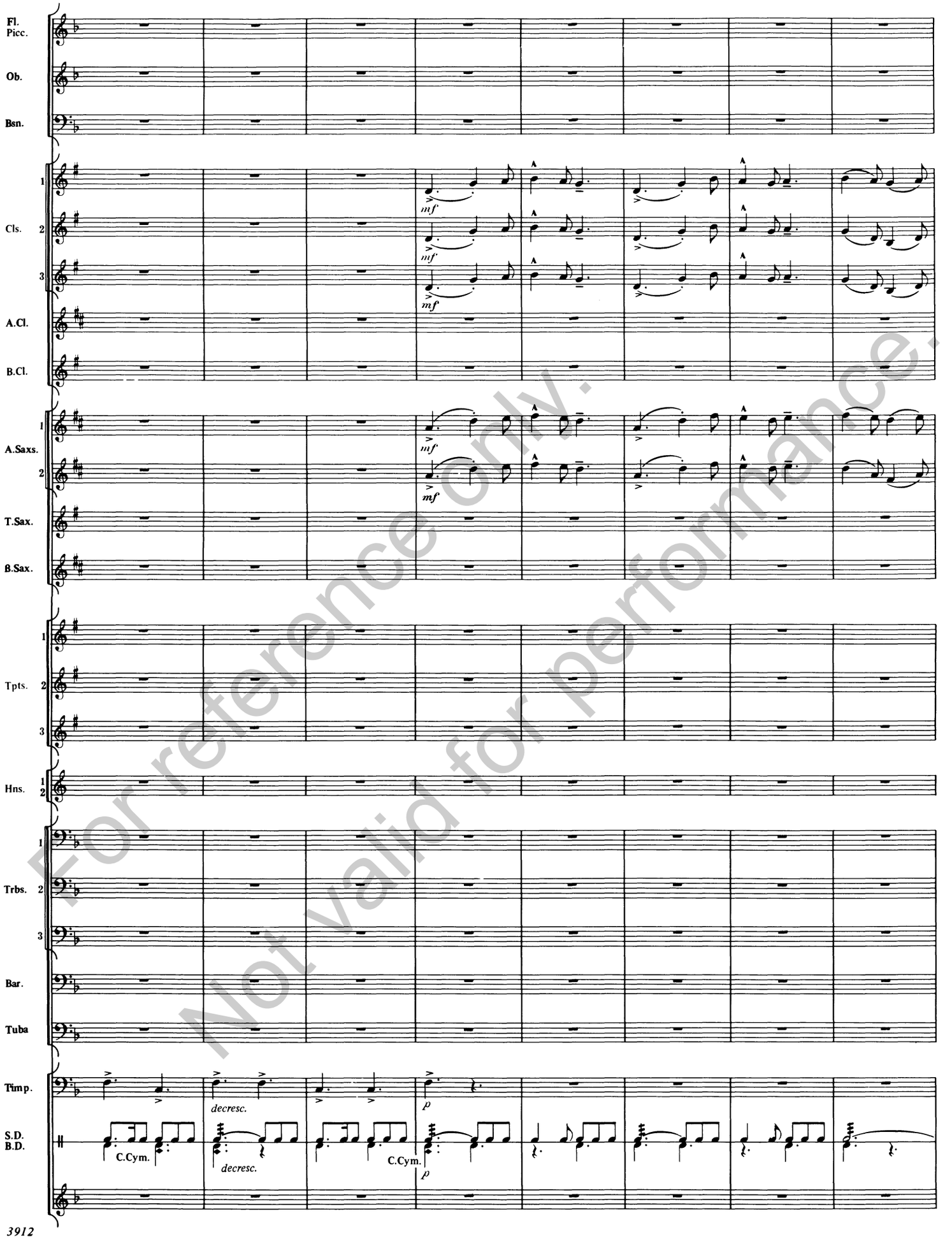

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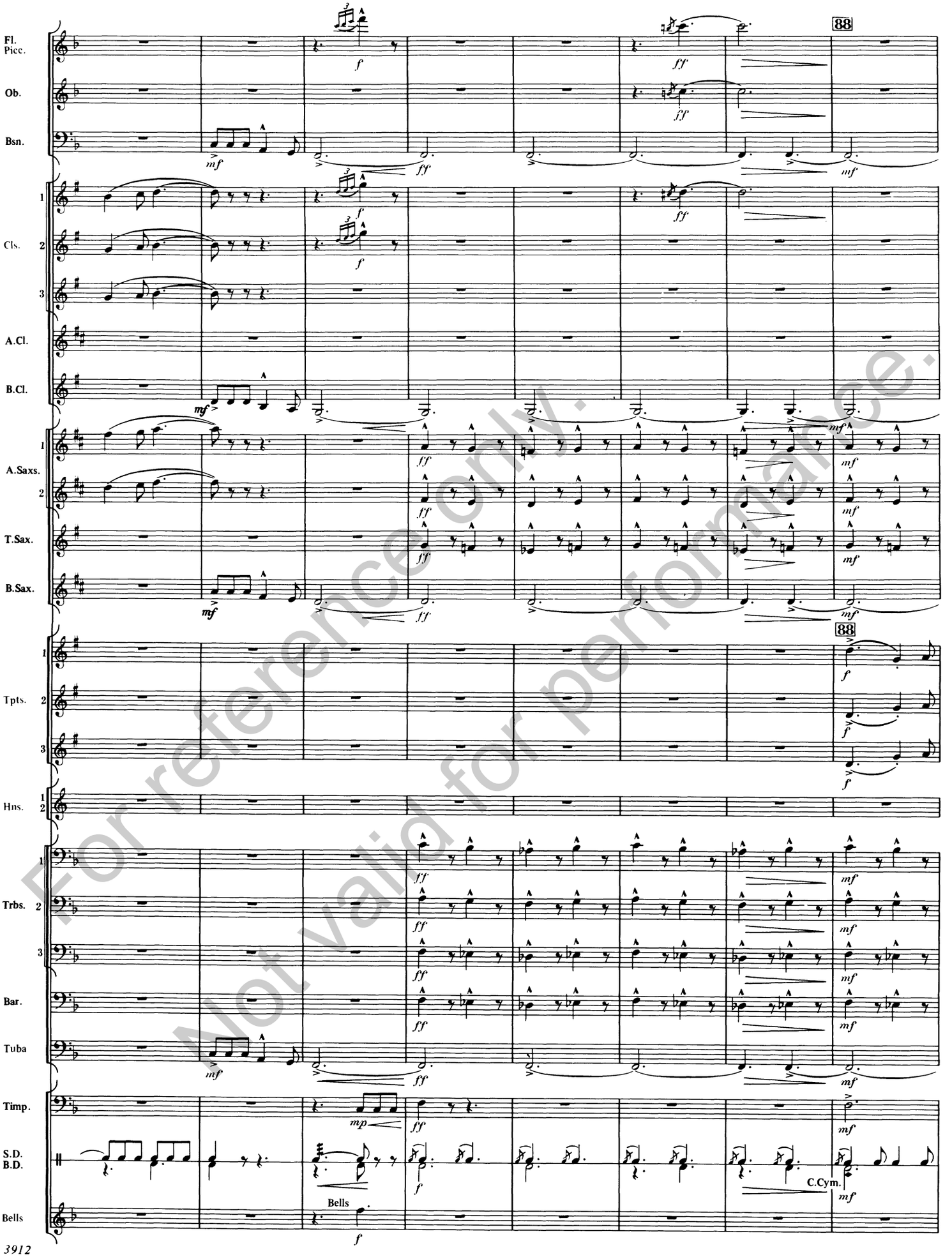

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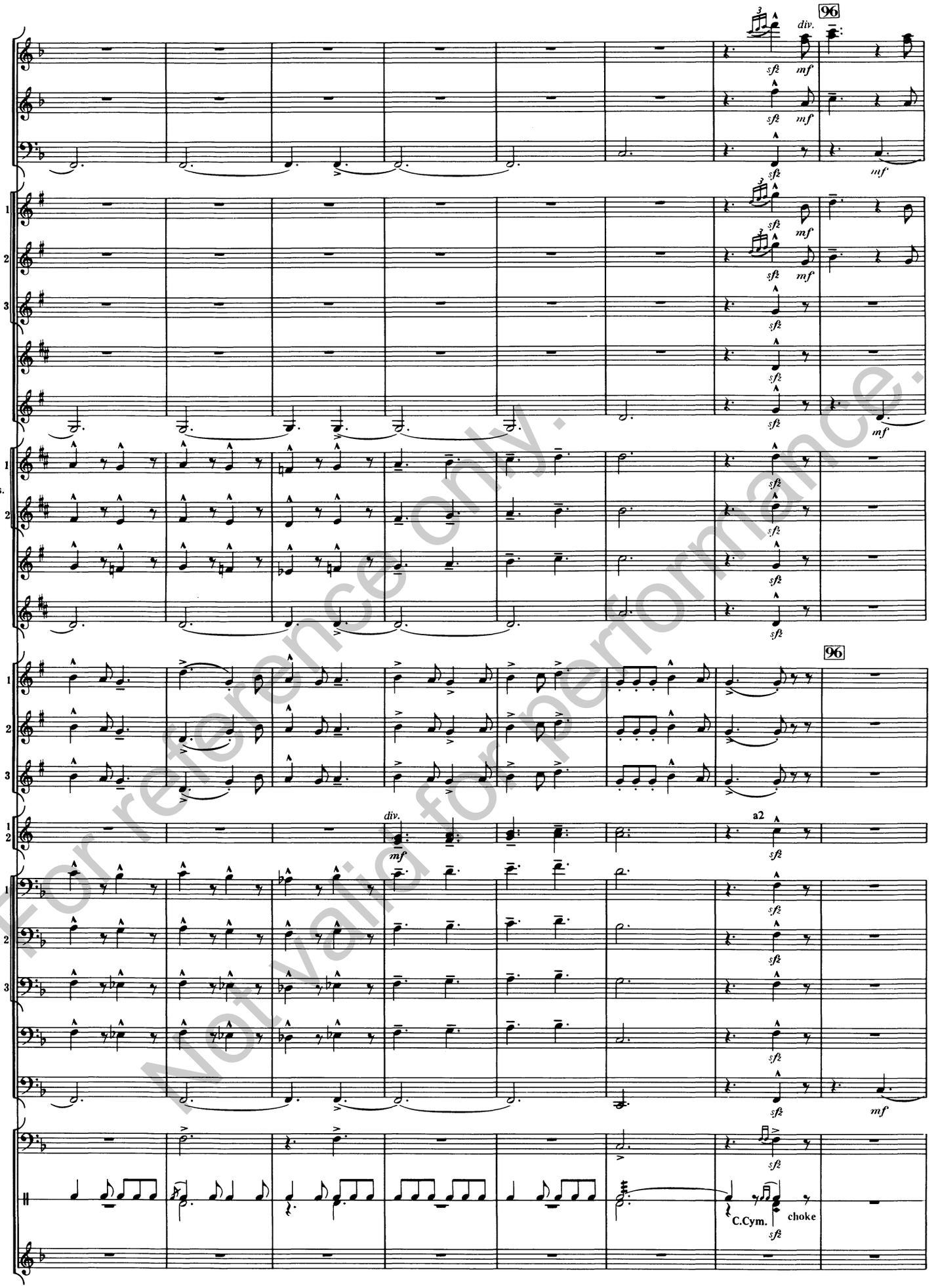

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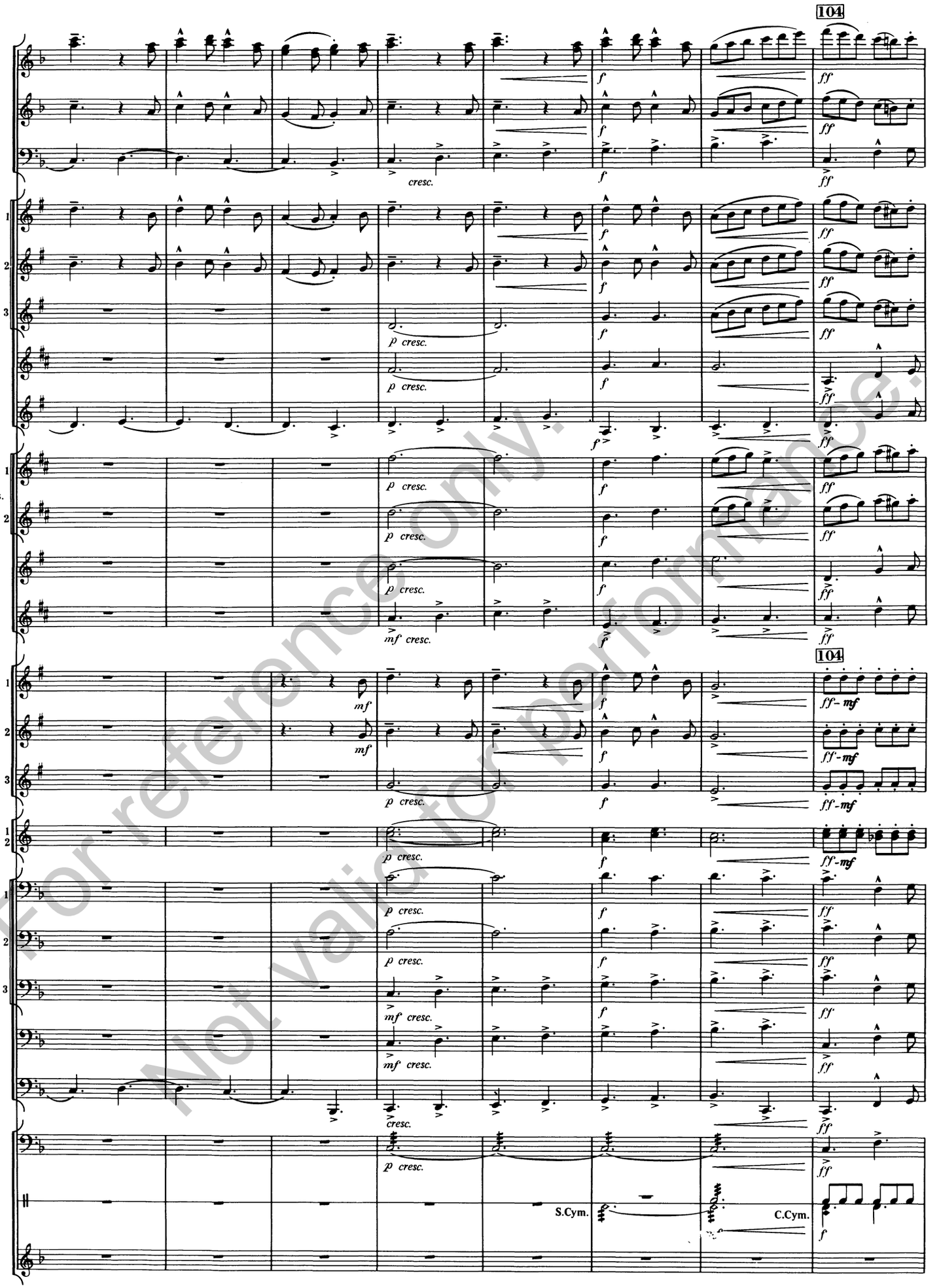

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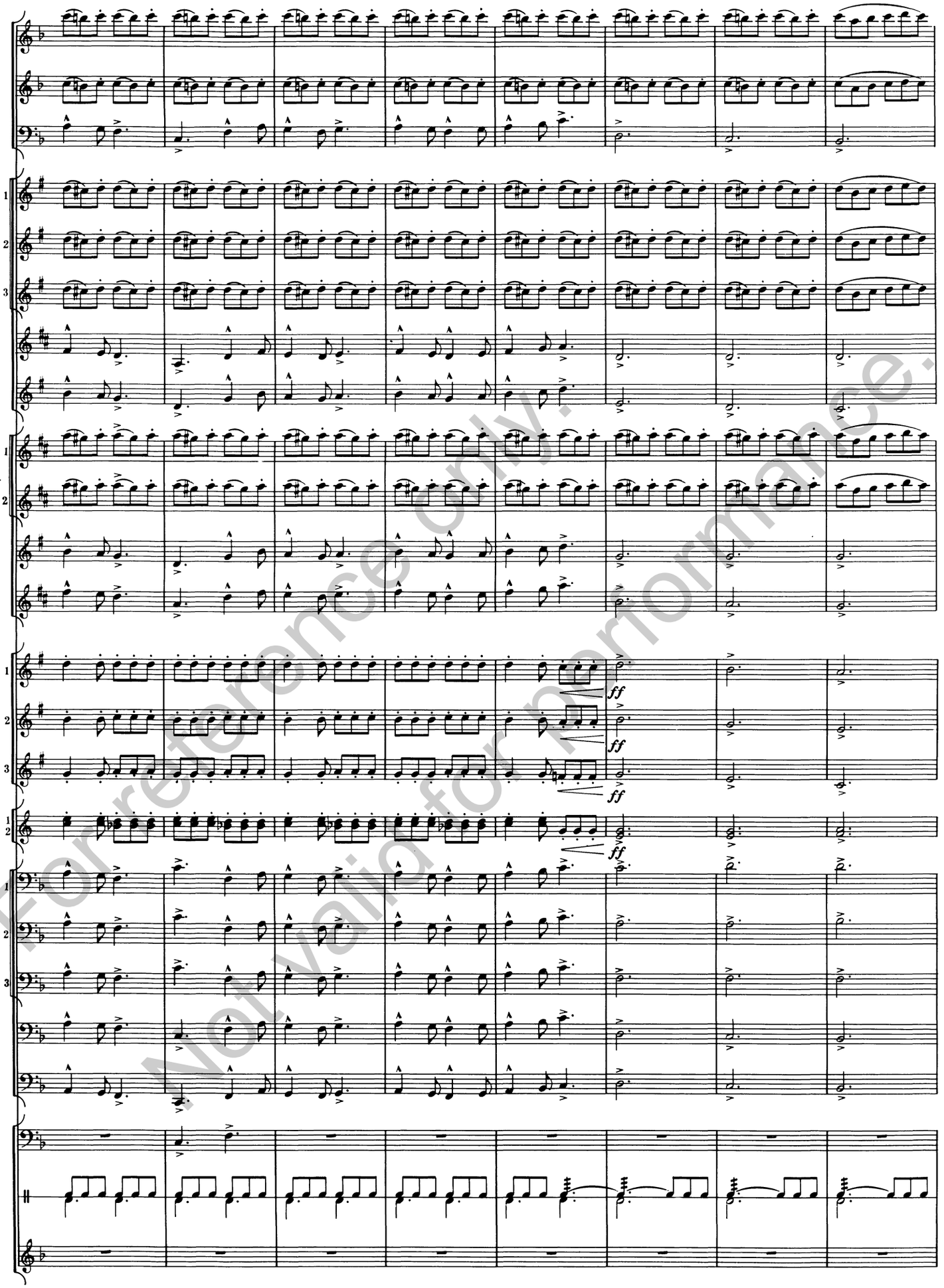

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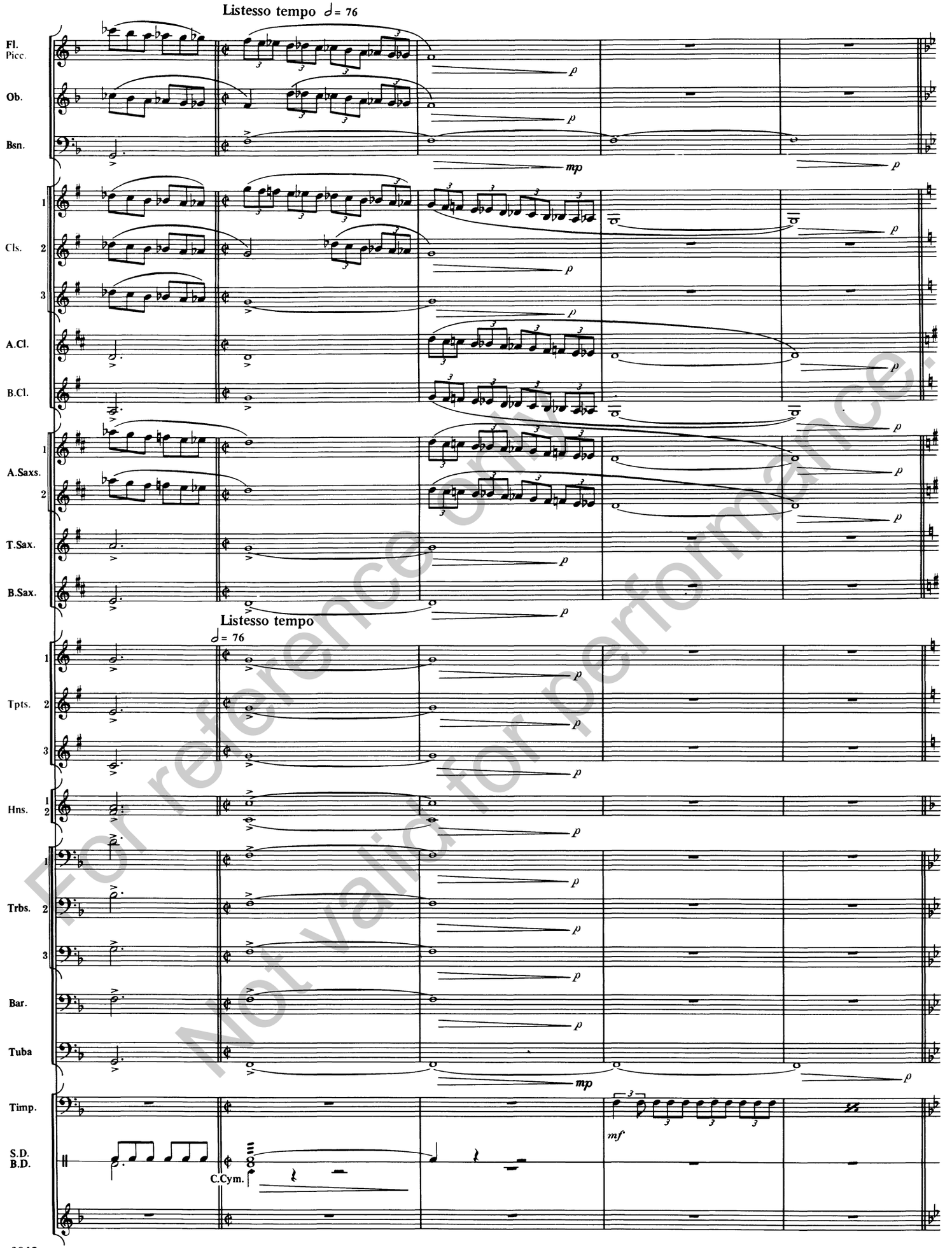

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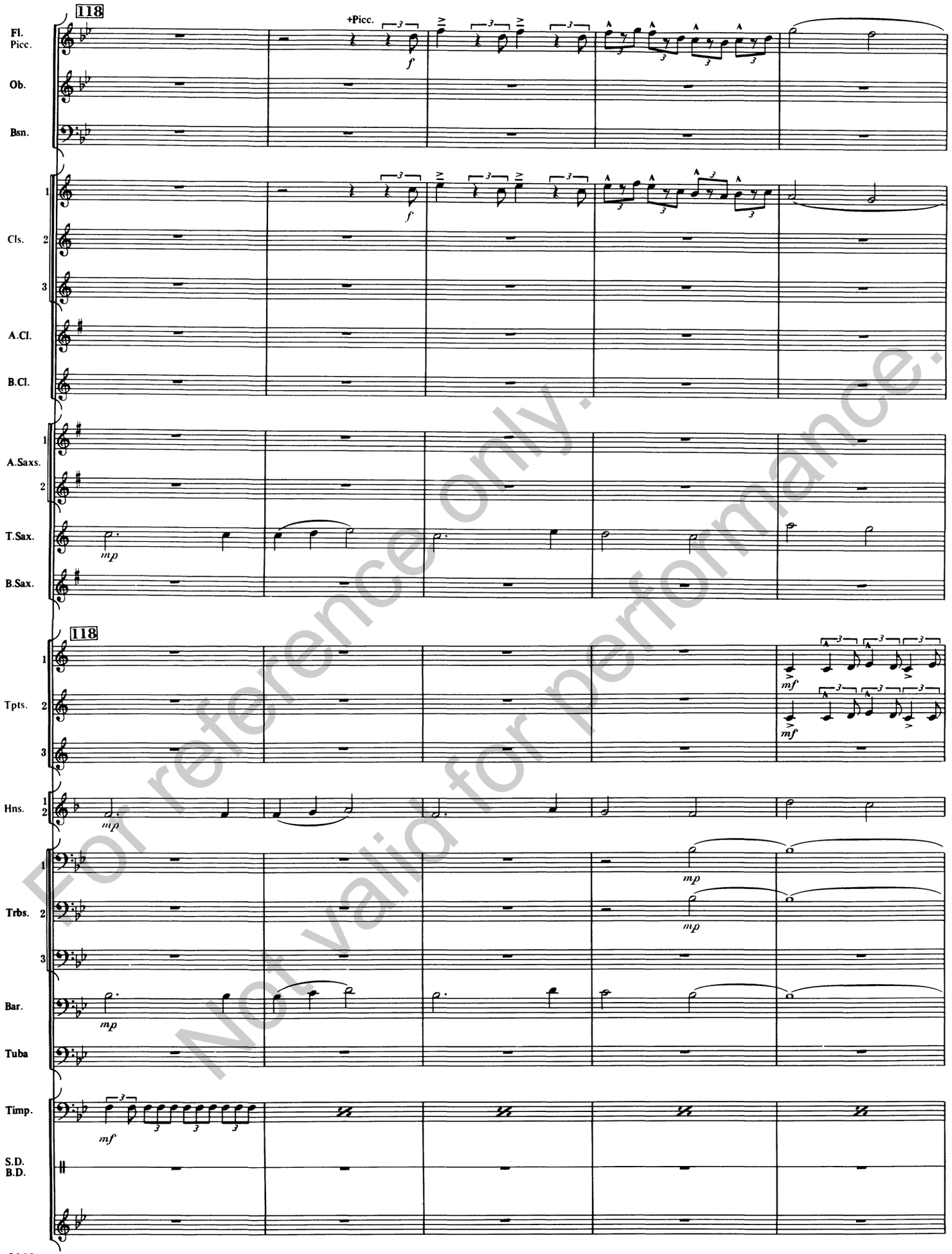

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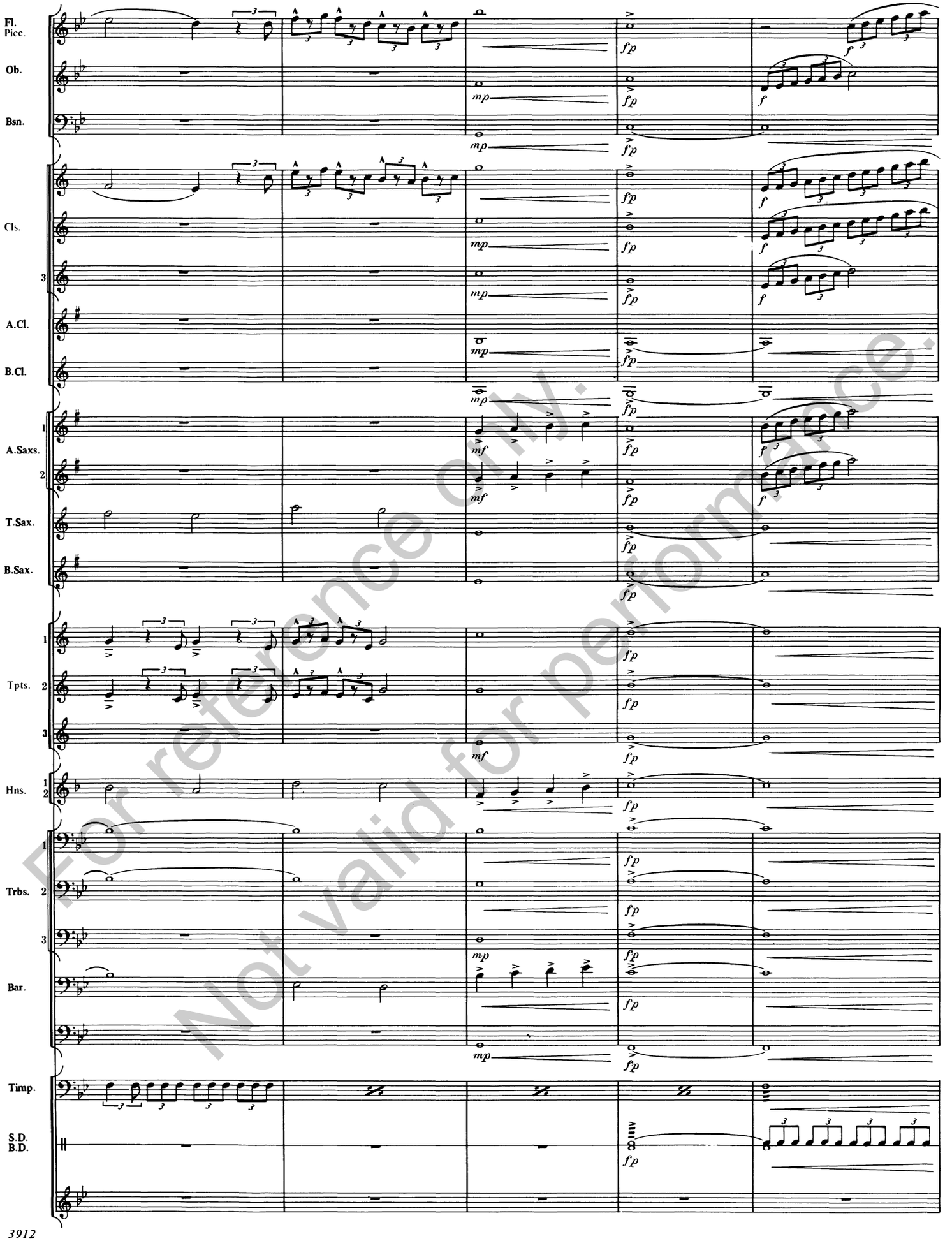

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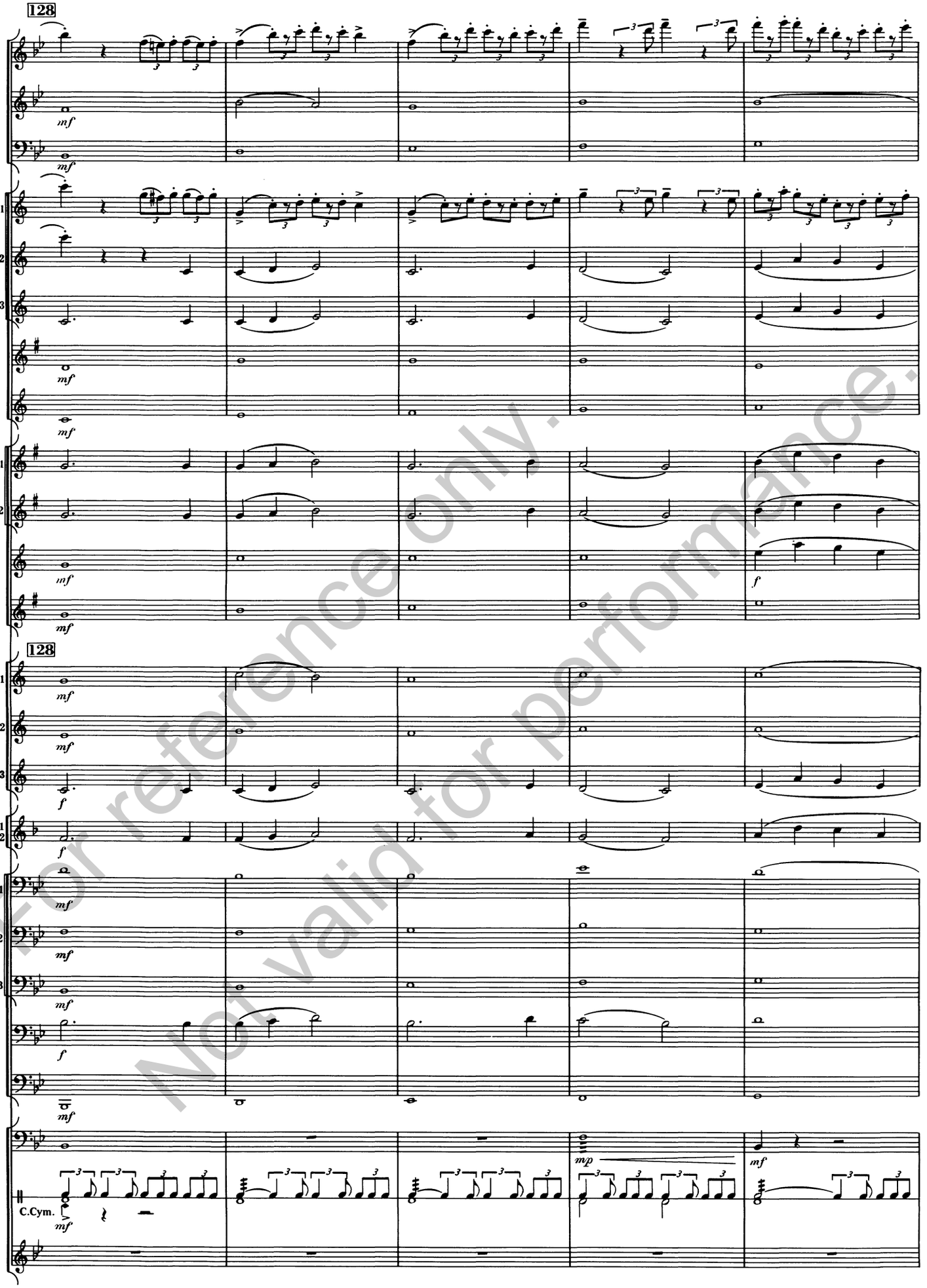

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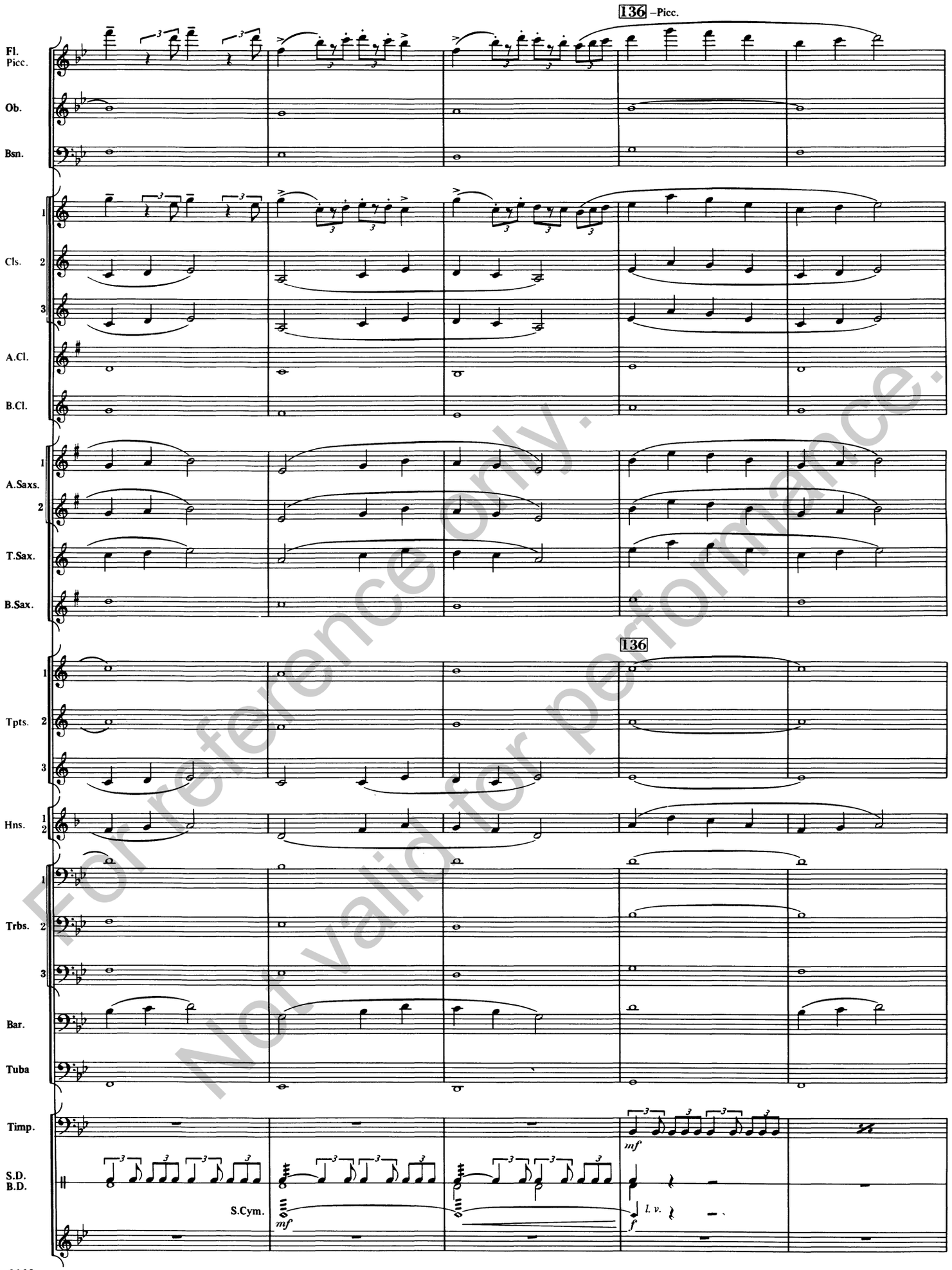

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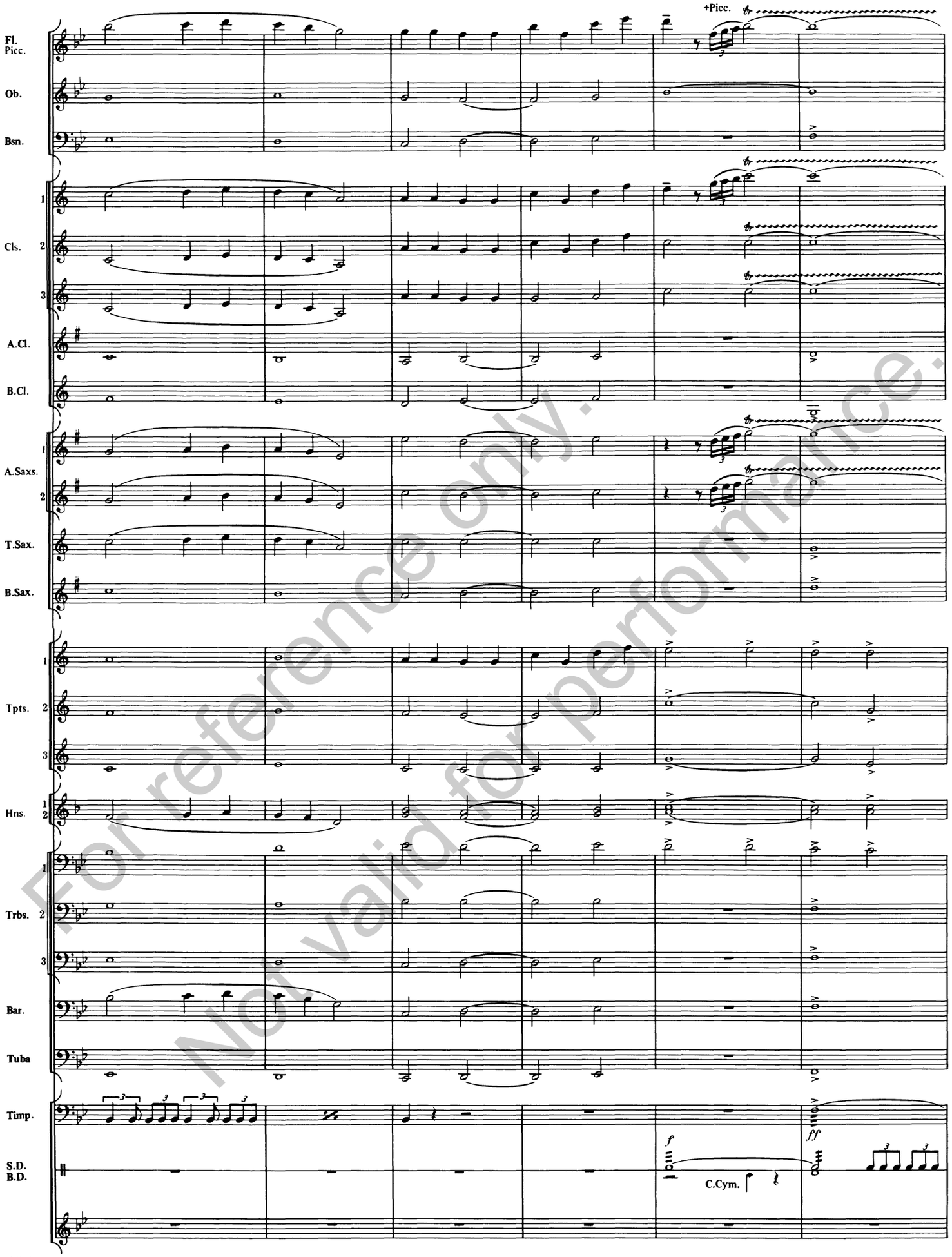

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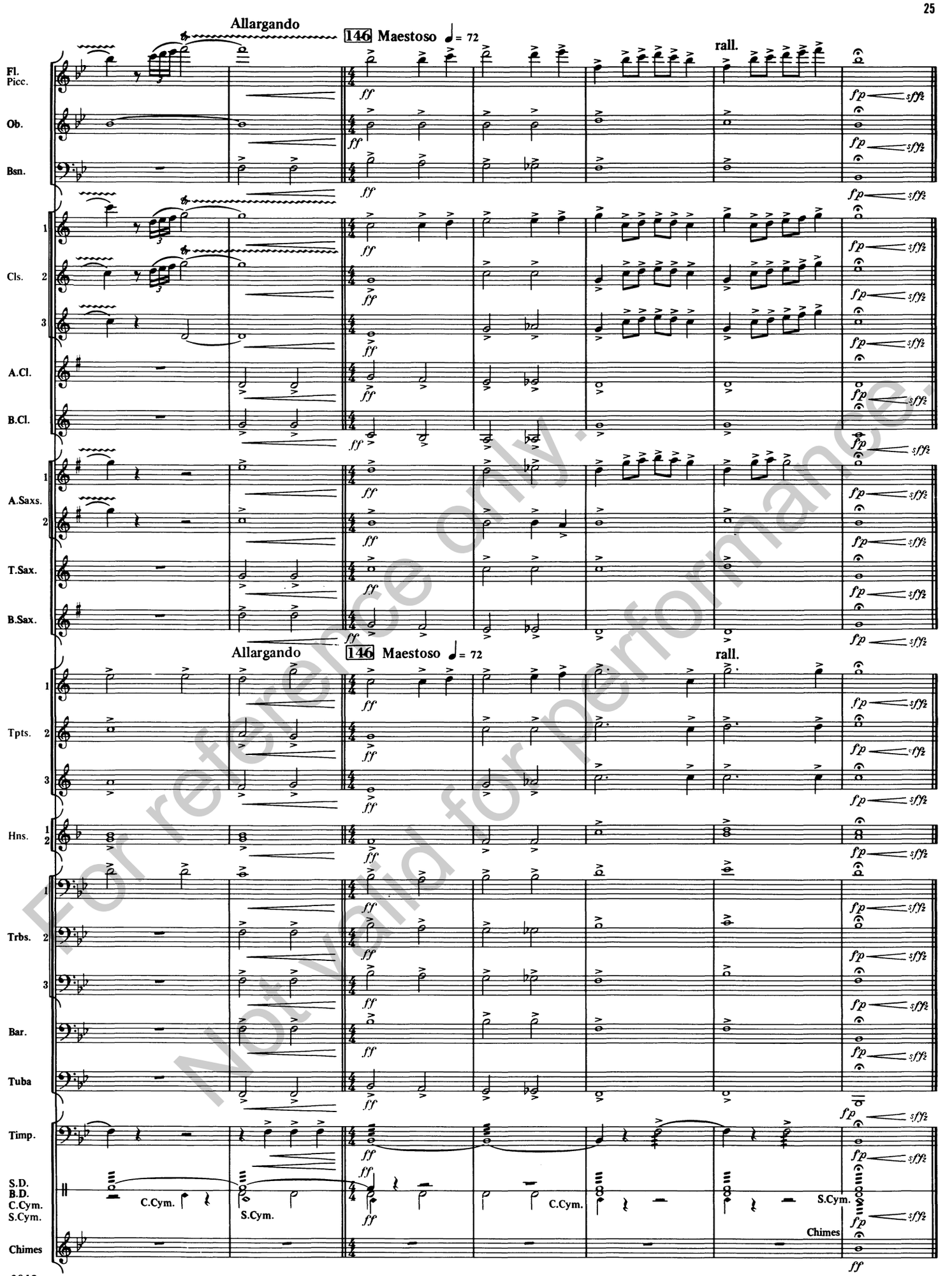

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