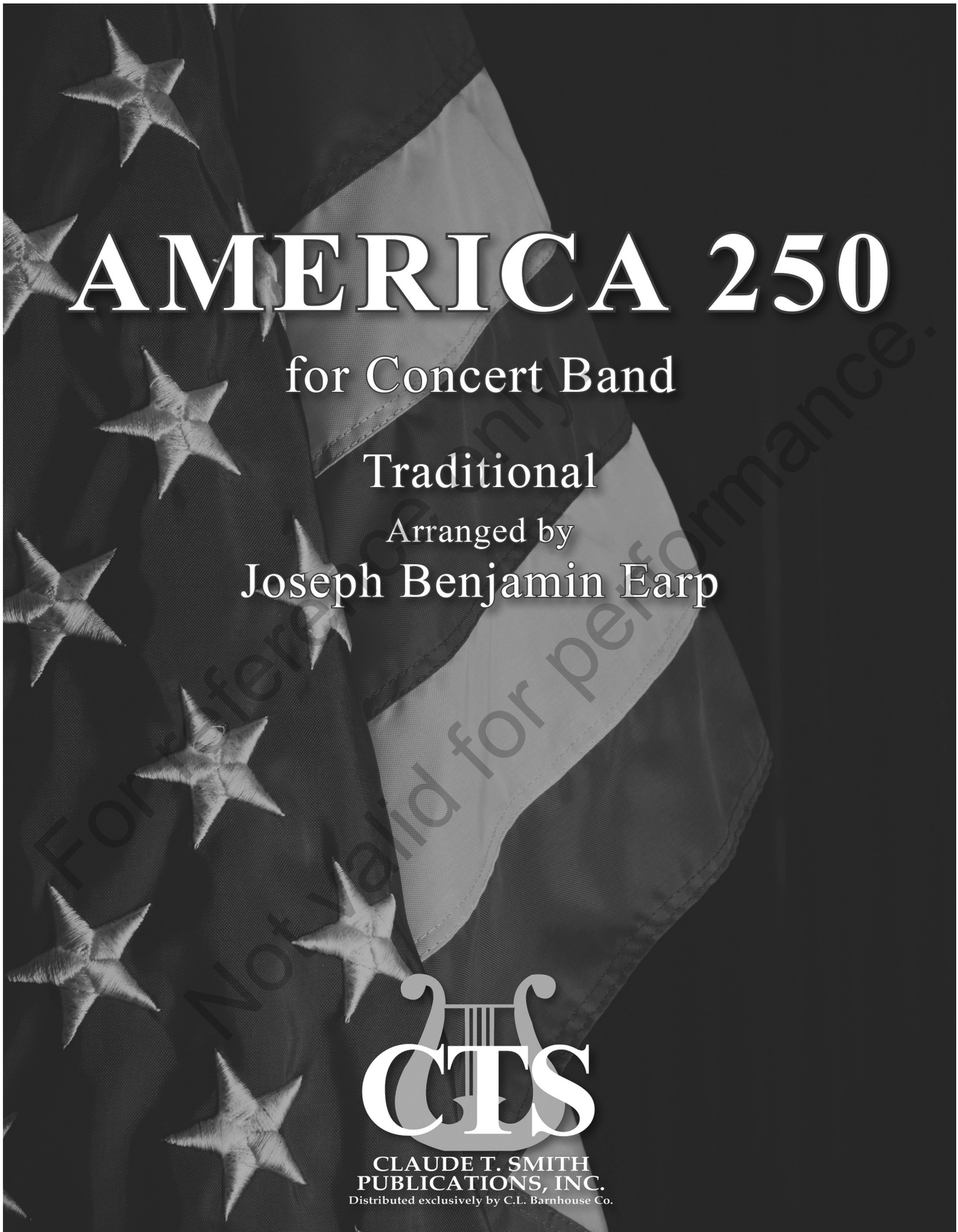
FULL CONDUCTOR SCORE
Catalog No: CTS-8172-01



AMERICA 250

for Concert Band

Traditional

Arranged by

Joseph Benjamin Earp

For reference only
Not valid for performance.

CTS
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AMERICA 250

Traditional
arr. Joseph Benjamin Earp

Instrumentation

Conductor Score	1
Piccolo	1
Flute 1,2	10
Oboe	2
B♭ Clarinet 1	6
B♭ Clarinet 2	6
B♭ Bass Clarinet	2
Bassoon	2
Alto Saxophone 1, 2	6
Tenor Saxophone	2
Baritone Saxophone	2
B♭ Trumpet 1	4
B♭ Trumpet 2	4
Horn in F 1, 2	4
Trombone 1	3
Trombone 2	3
Euphonium	2
Euphonium (T.C.)	2
Tuba	4
Mallet Percussion 1: Bells, Xylophone	1
Mallet Percussion 2: Chimes	1
Timpani	1
Percussion 1: Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Tambourine	3
Percussion 2: Low Concert Tom, Crash Cymbals, Tambourine, Cow Bell, Suspended Cymbal	5

Program Notes

Written in honor of the United States' 250th anniversary, **America 250** is a musical journey through the rich and complex story of our nation. The work begins with a solemn tribute to the Indigenous peoples of this land, acknowledging their enduring legacy and deep cultural roots. Hearing drums and chant-like playing, we are reminded of the vibrant cultural traditions of tribes such as the Choctaw and Chickasaw. A solemn statement of the Battle Hymn of the Republic, supported by a rudimentary snare drum, echoes a reminder of the Civil War.

From there, the piece unfolds into a bold and uplifting reimagining of The Battle Hymn of the Republic, serving as the primary thematic material. This iconic melody weaves through the work as a symbol of enduring freedom and unity. A darker, more contemplative section reflects the trials our nation has faced, moments when freedom was tested, and its meaning challenged. One of these moments was the civil rights movement, which was a pivotal and violent struggle against racial segregation and Jim Crow Laws.

Yet from this reflection emerges a triumphant celebration: a groovin' Bo Diddley-inspired section bursting with stomp, swagger, and distinctly American rhythmic energy. Bo Diddley was an American guitarist and singer who played a key role in the transition from the blues to rock and roll.

The groovin' Bo Diddley-inspired section dramatically builds into the powerful chorus of Battle Hymn of the Republic with some added blue notes and fanfare, giving a nod to Elvis Presley (born in Tupelo, Mississippi). Presley, known as the "King" of Rock and Roll, loved the inclusion of the Battle Hymn of the Republic being part of his famous medley, "An American Trilogy. The "King" believed this song represented hope for national healing and unity after the deep historical divisions of the American Civil War. Elvis connected with the song's powerful, spiritual nature relating to his own strong Christian faith and lifelong love of gospel music.

Sousa is known as "The March King", with his most iconic march being "The Stars and Stripes Forever", which is the national march of the United States. A quotation from The Stars and Stripes Forever provides a moment of familiar pride and nostalgia, all culminating in a finale that embraces the strength, diversity, and indomitable spirit of the American people.

America 250 is both a reflection and a celebration; honoring where we began, recognizing how far we've come, and embracing the promise of the road ahead.

About the Arranger



Joseph Benjamin Earp is the Music/Music Industry Chair and Director of Bands at Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi. He received his undergraduate degree in Music Education from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, a Master of Music in Music Education from Anderson University (Anderson, South Carolina), and a Doctor of Music Education from Liberty University (Lynchburg, Virginia).

His professional teaching career began in 2006 as Director of Bands at Seneca High School in South Carolina. After two years, he taught at Robbinsville Middle and High Schools for a year before becoming the founding Director of Bands at Cox Mill High School in Concord, North Carolina. After eight years of numerous achievements at Cox Mill High School, he moved into his role at Limestone University (Gaffney, South Carolina) as Director of Athletic Bands, elevating many elements of Limestone's athletic band program. Just before his role at Hinds Community College, Dr. Earp was the Director of Instrumental Music at Pfeiffer University in Misenheimer, North Carolina.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Earp is an active published composer and clinician with his music being performed internationally. His major compositional accomplishments include being the winner of the 2010 Claude T. Smith Composition Contest in Missouri, winner of the 2018 Thornton Community Band Composition Contest in Colorado, multiple J.W. Pepper Editors' Choice awards, and multiple works selected to be part of the Band World Magazine Top 100. He currently resides in Clinton, Mississippi with his wife Mary Beth and sons Jackson and Jasper.

More about Dr. Earp can be found at www.joeemusic.com. Follow Dr. Earp on social media @earpcomposer.

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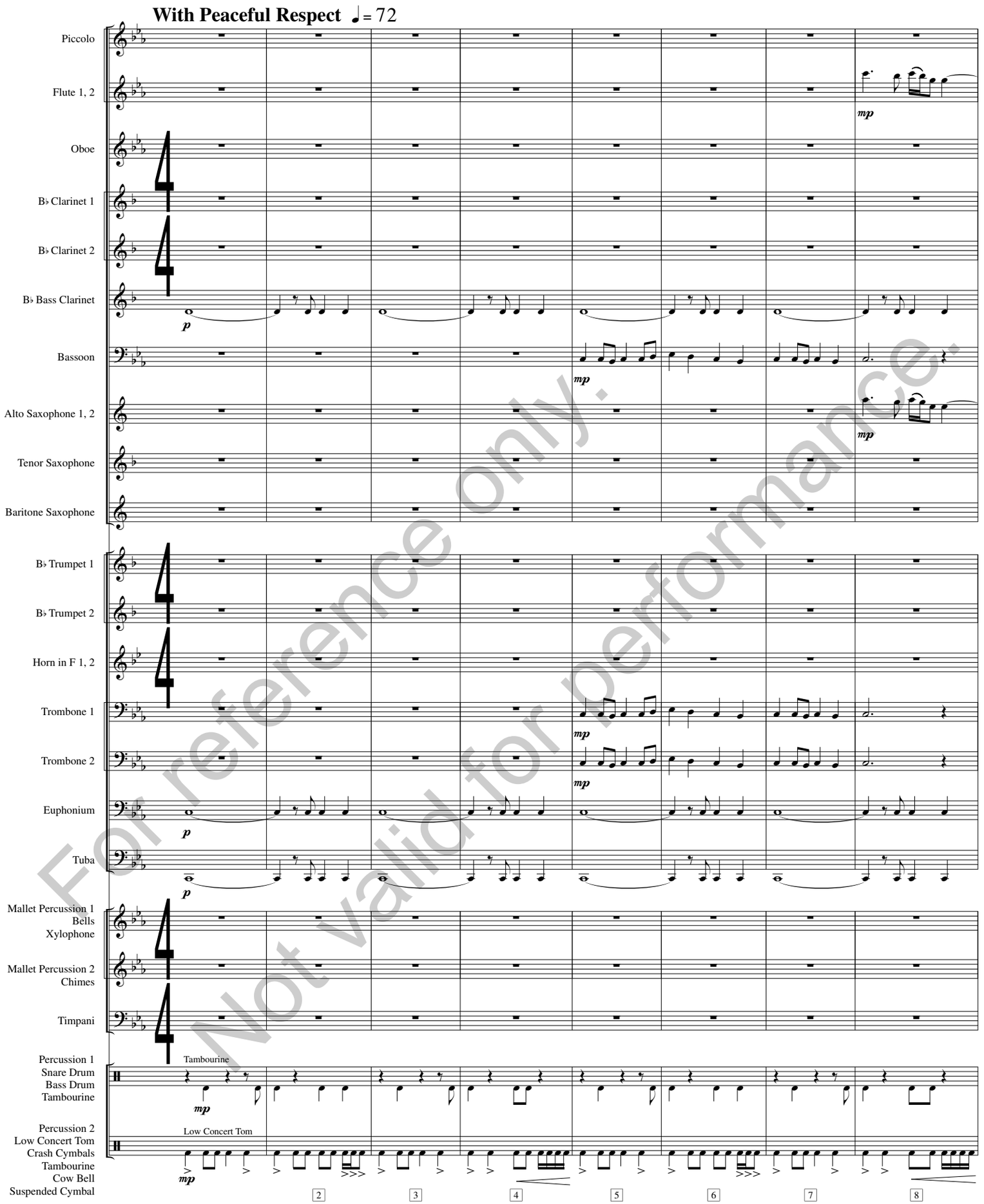
Celebrating our history, culture, and contribution to the American story.

Conductor Score
CTS-8172-00

AMERICA 250

for Concert Band

Traditional
arr. Joseph Benjamin Earp (ASCAP)



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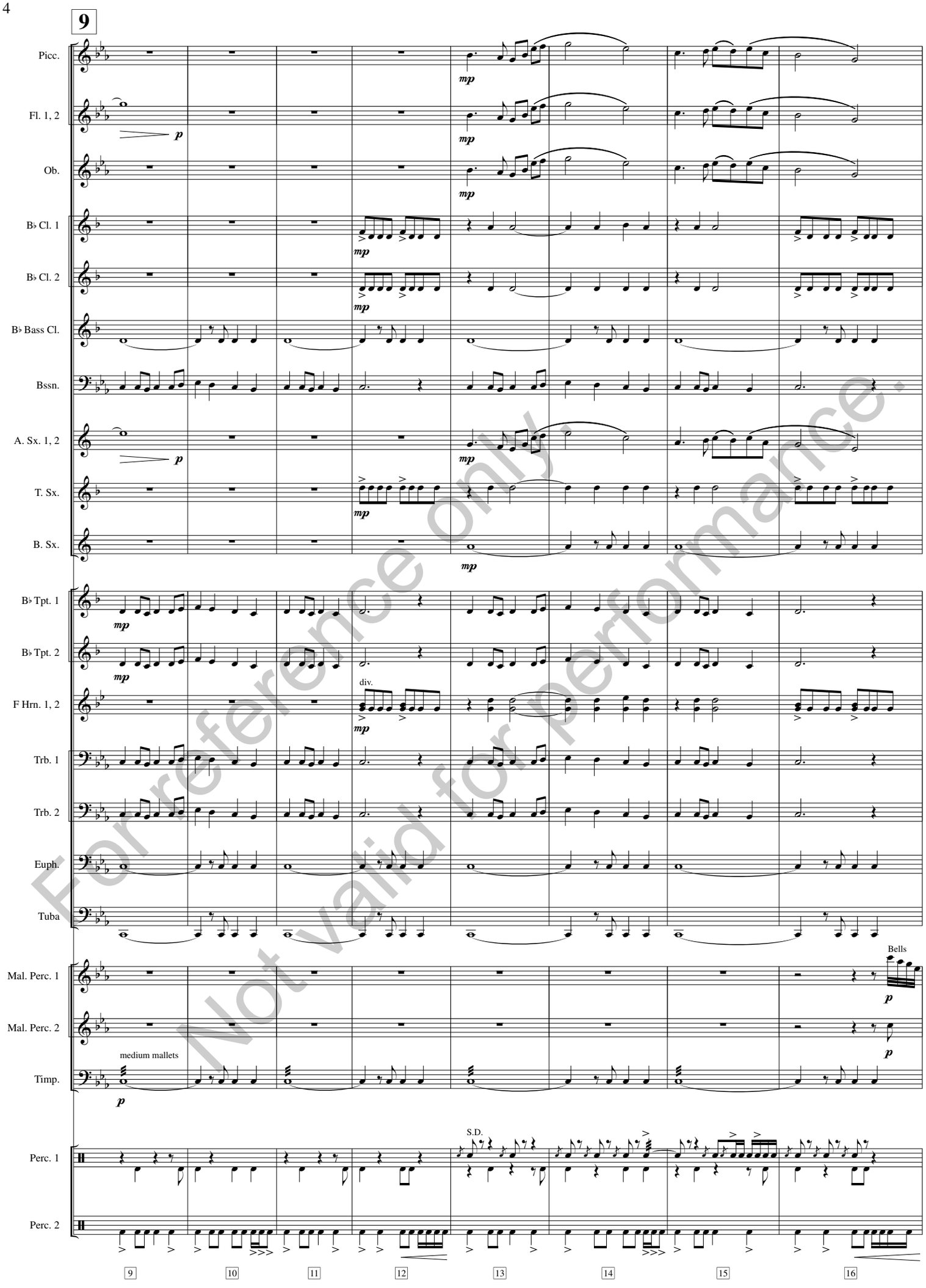

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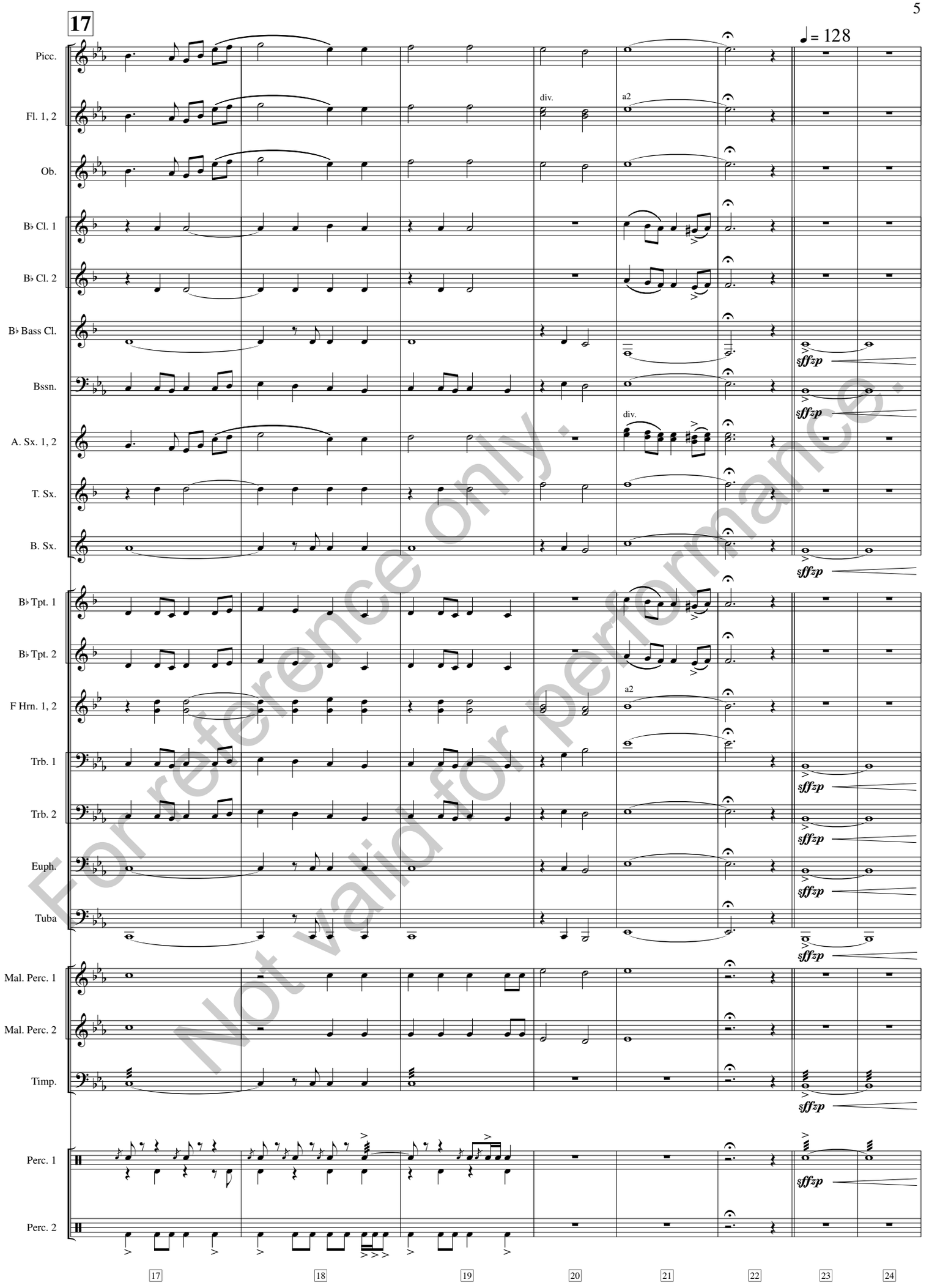

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In the Spirit of Freedom

27

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B♭ Bass Cl.
Bssn.
A. Sx. 1, 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
F Hrn. 1, 2
Trb. 1
Trb. 2
Euph.
Tuba
Mal. Perc. 1
Mal. Perc. 2
Timp.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2

a2

Xylophone

hard mallets

B.D.

Cr. Cym.

Choke

Low Concert Tom

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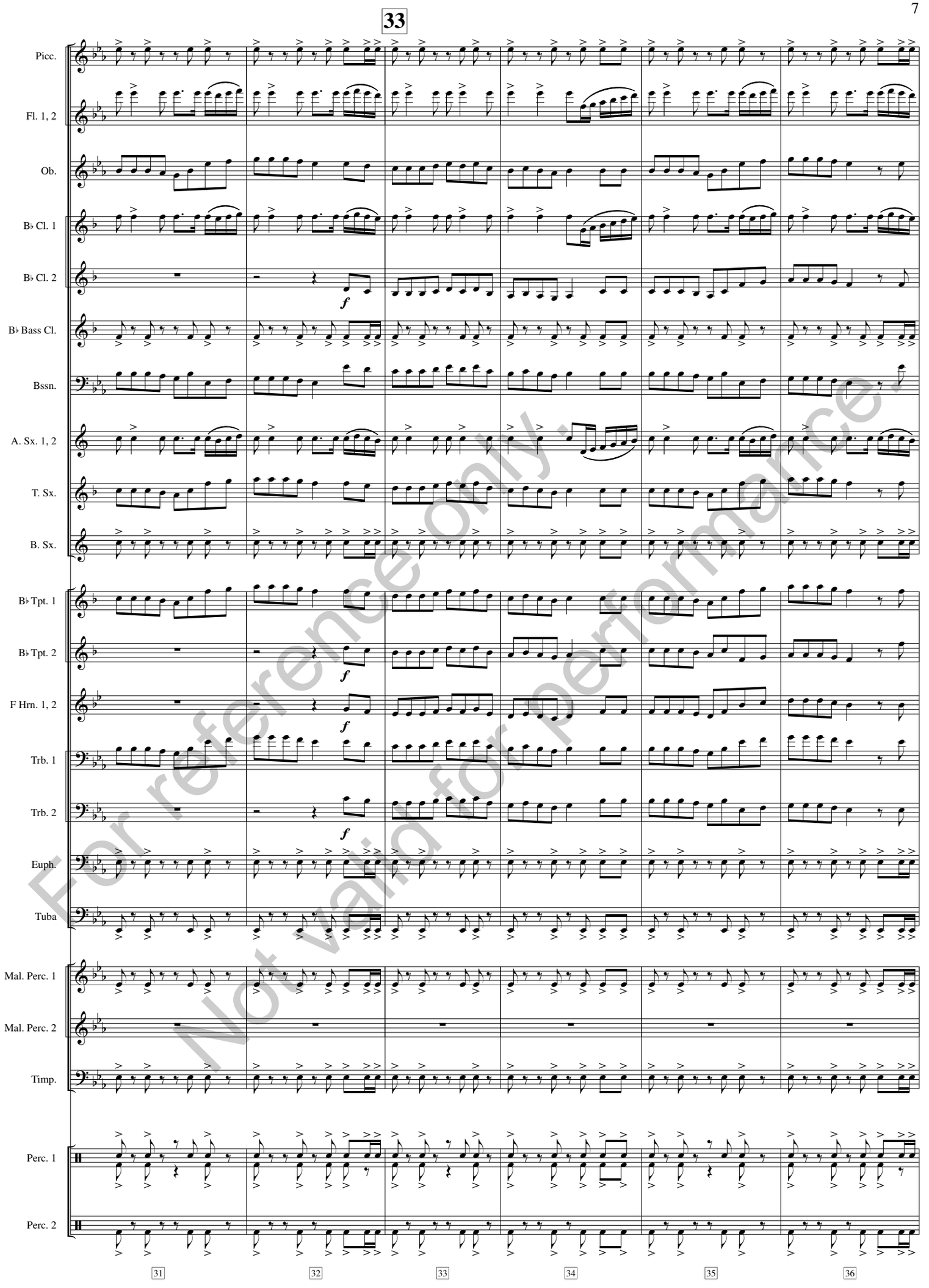
25 26 27 28 29 30



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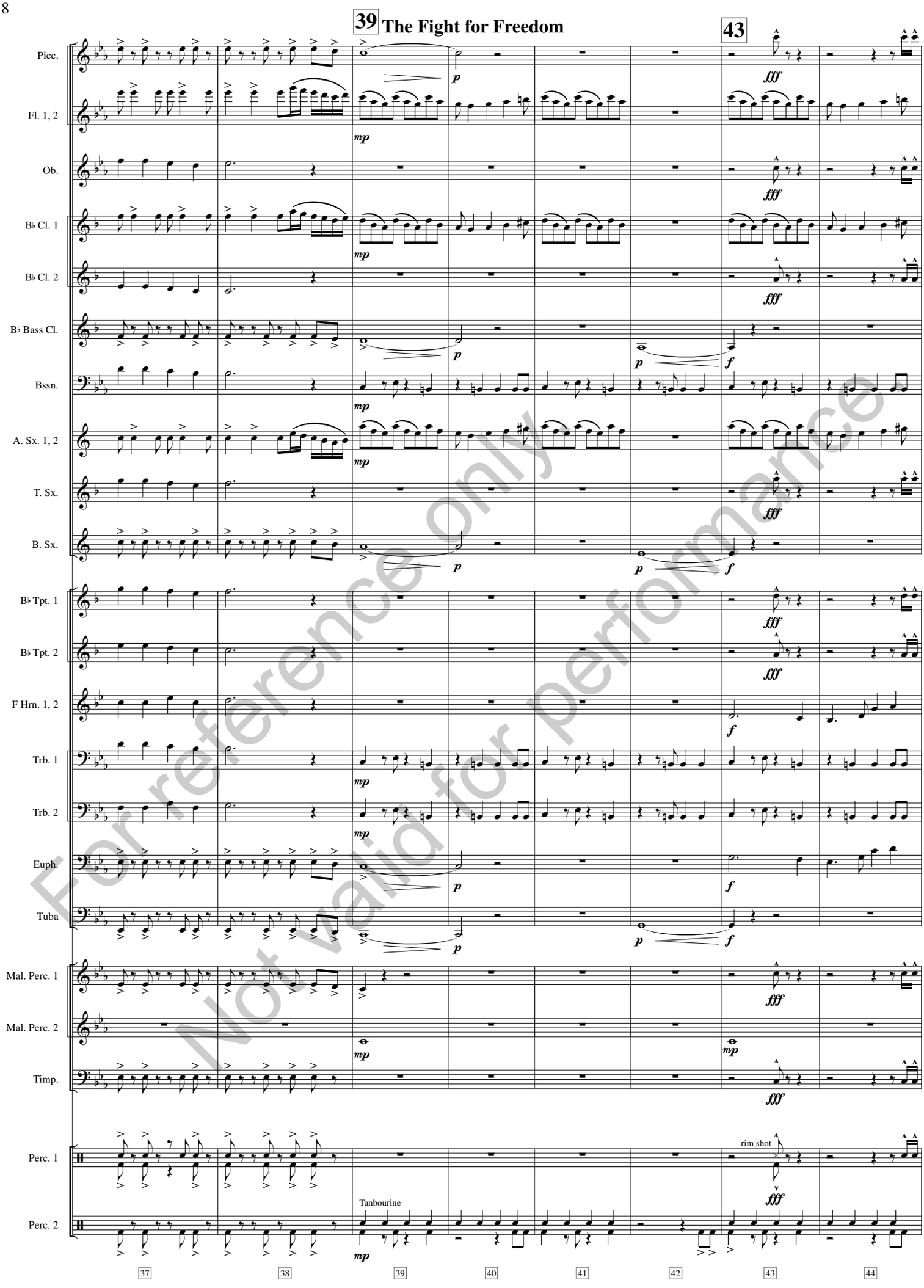

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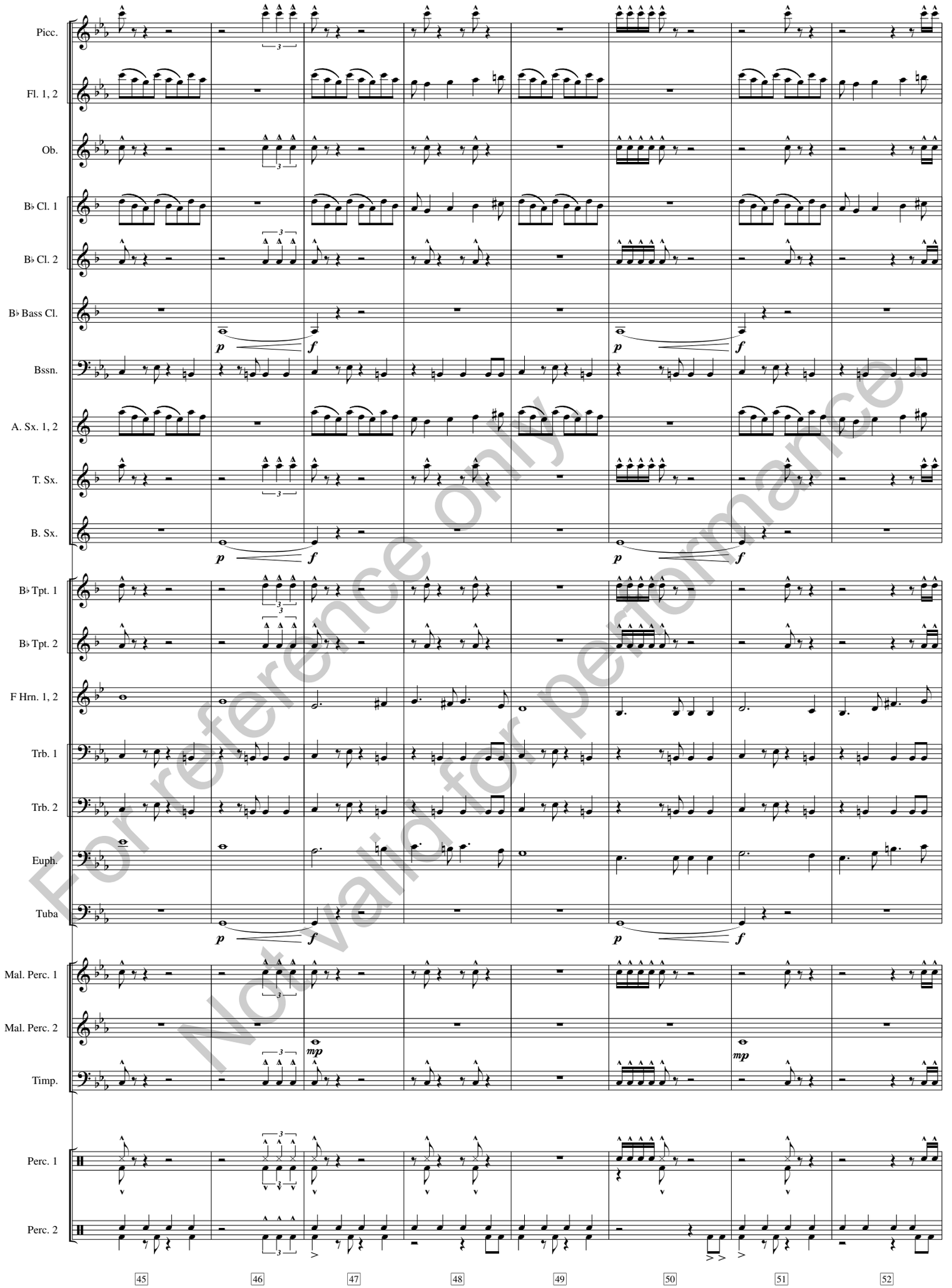

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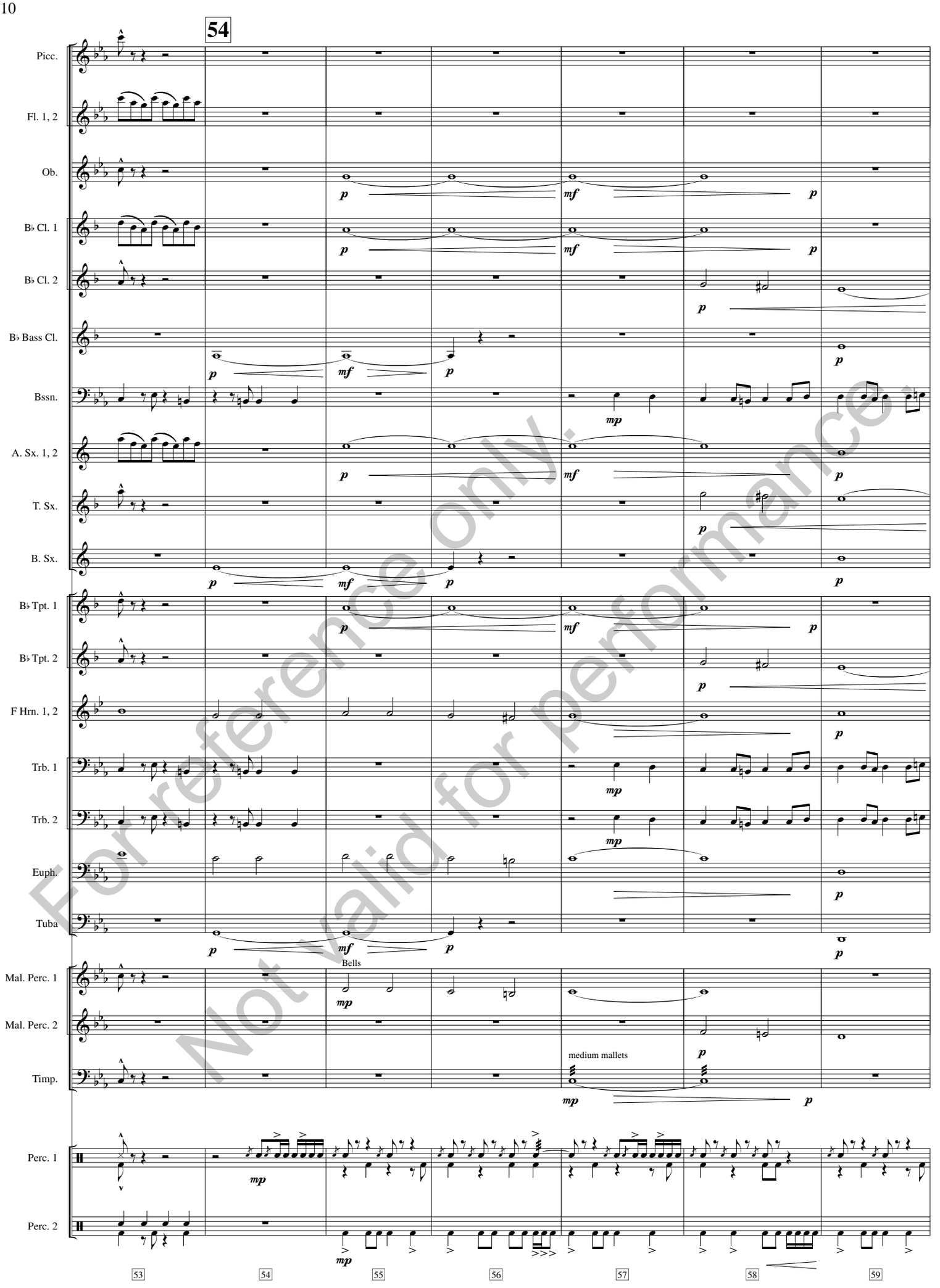

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61

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B♭ Bass Cl.
Bssn.
A. Sx. 1, 2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
F Hrn. 1, 2
Trb. 1
Trb. 2
Euph.
Tuba
Mal. Perc. 1
Mal. Perc. 2
Timp.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2

mp mf p sempre div. fp Cow Bell

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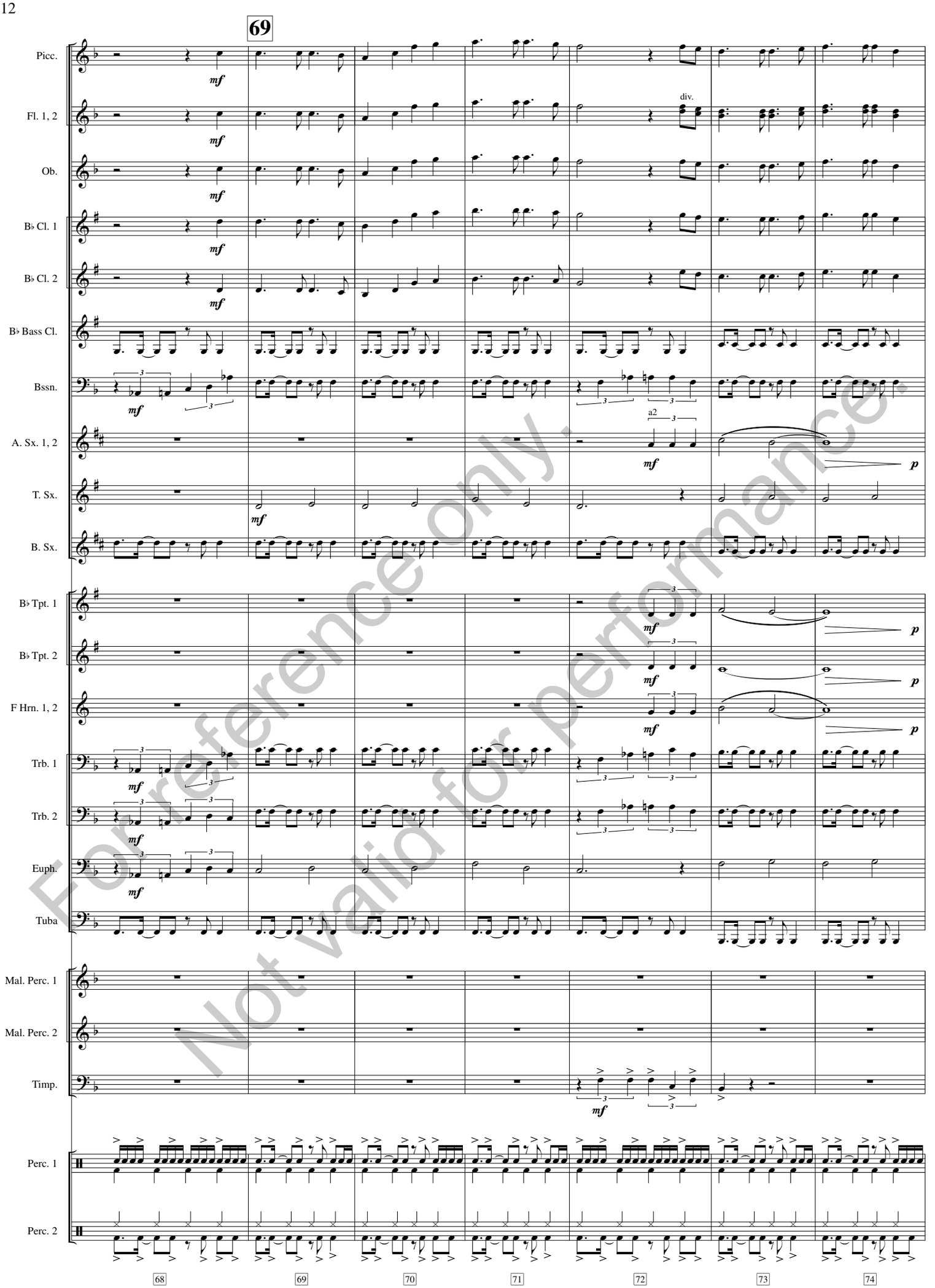

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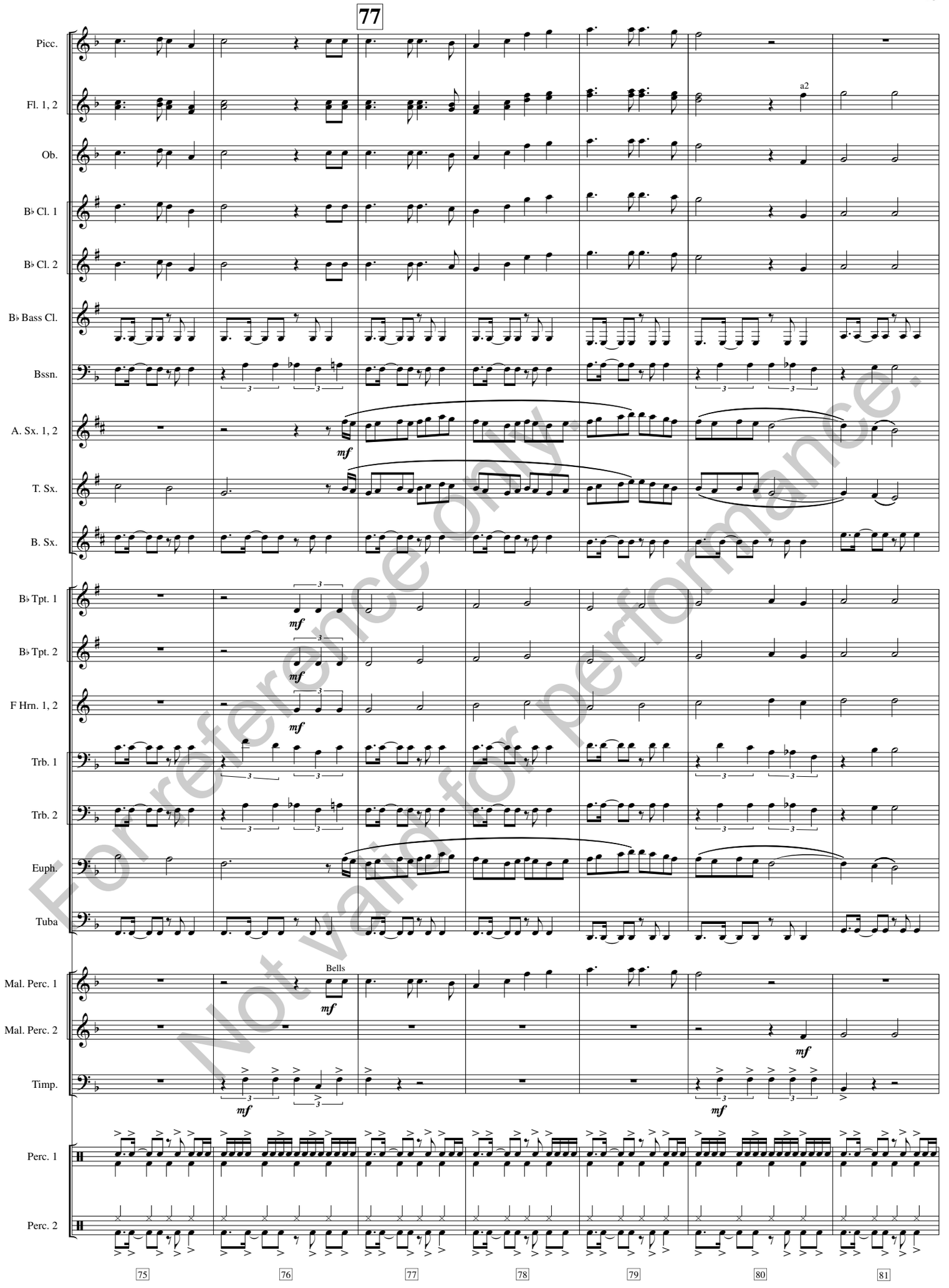

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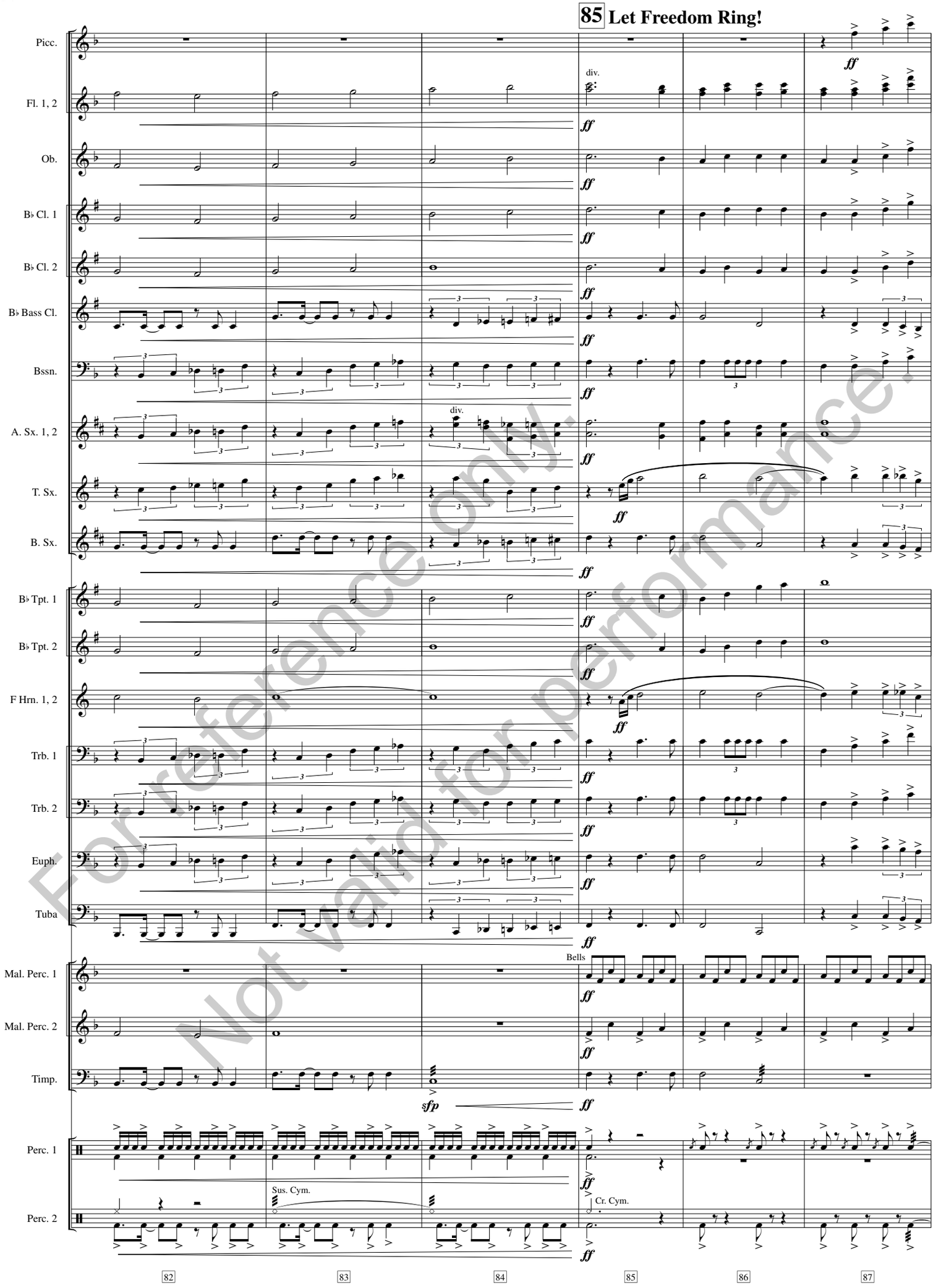

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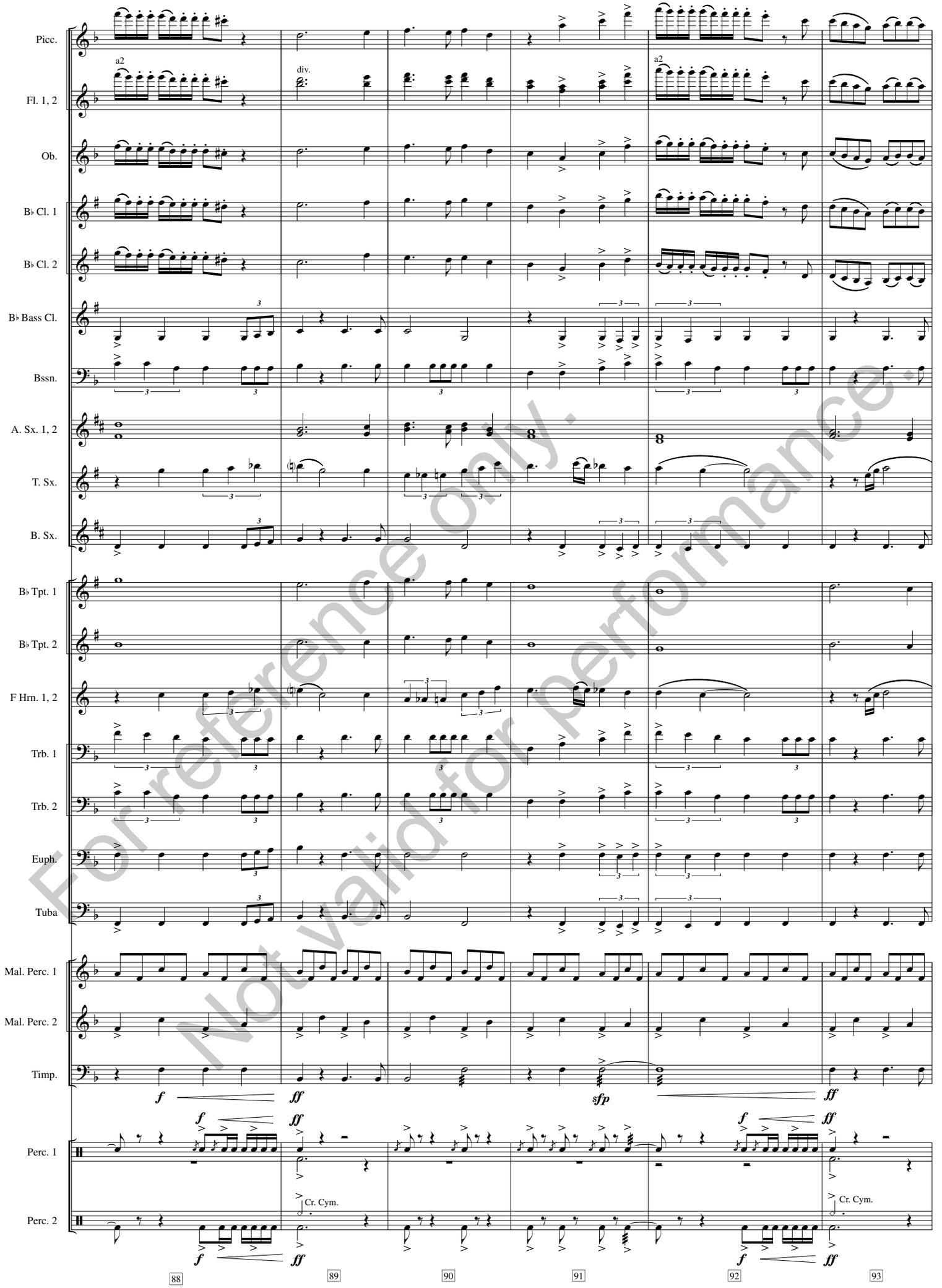

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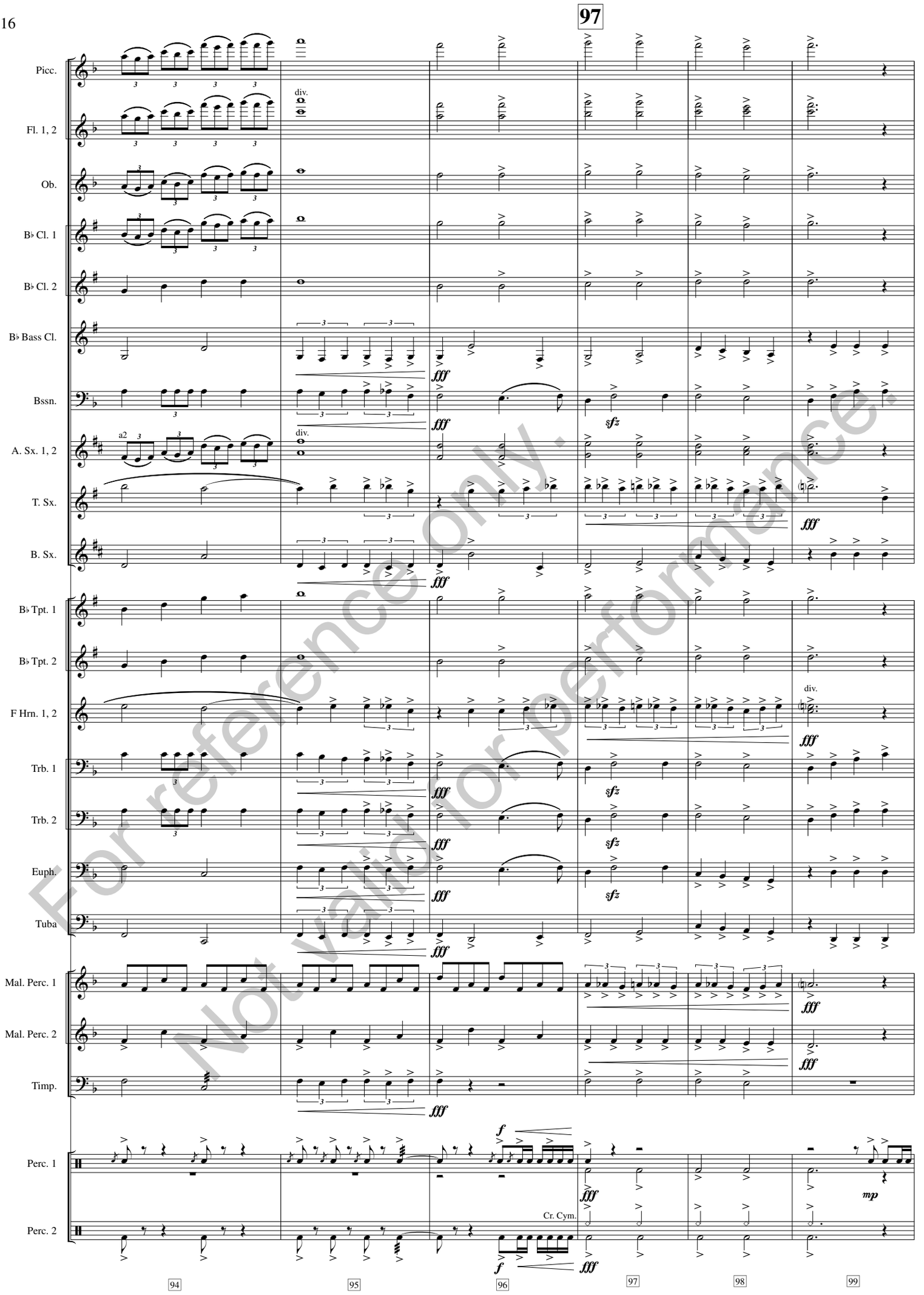

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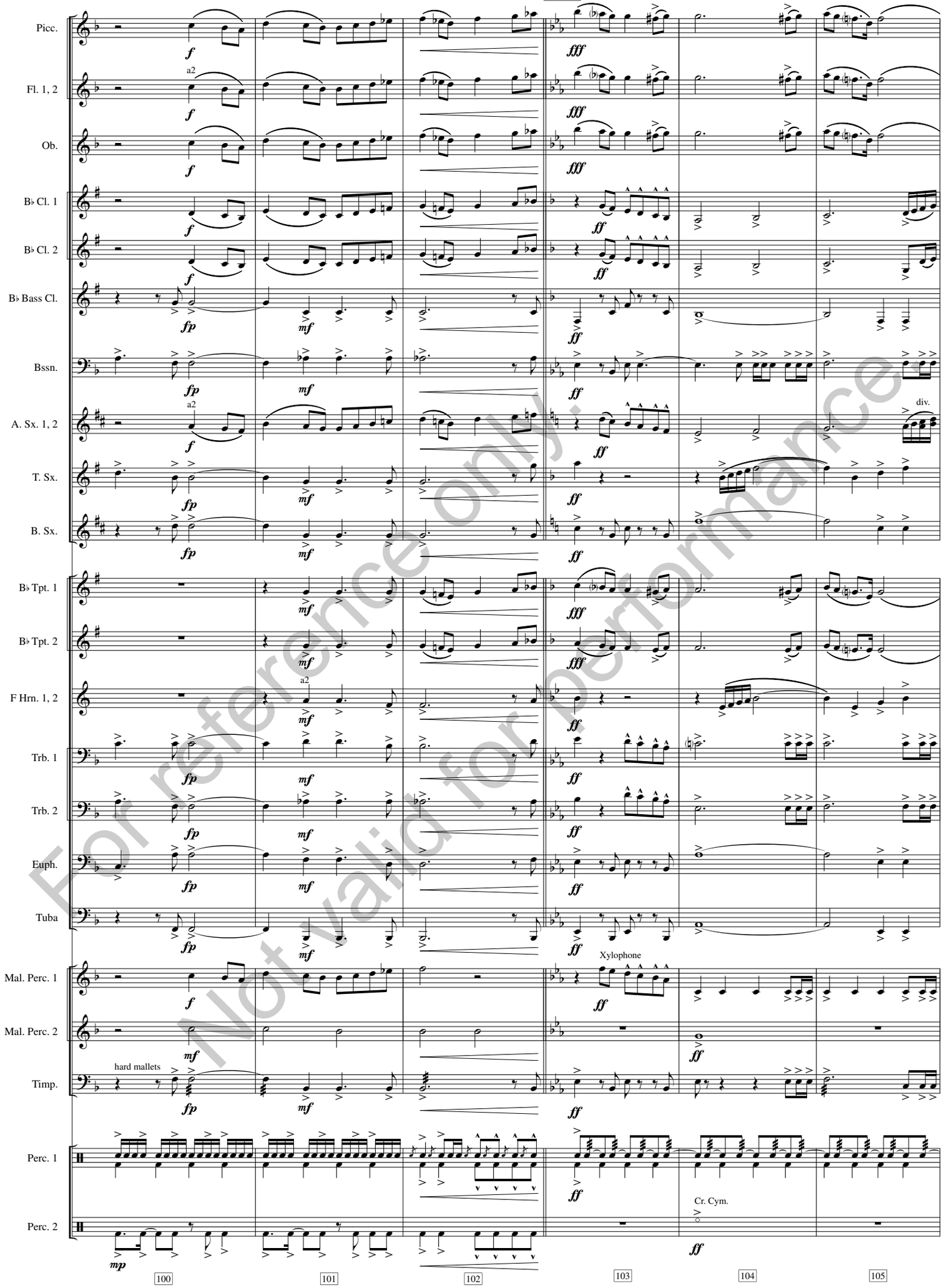
103 Those Beautiful Stars and Stripes



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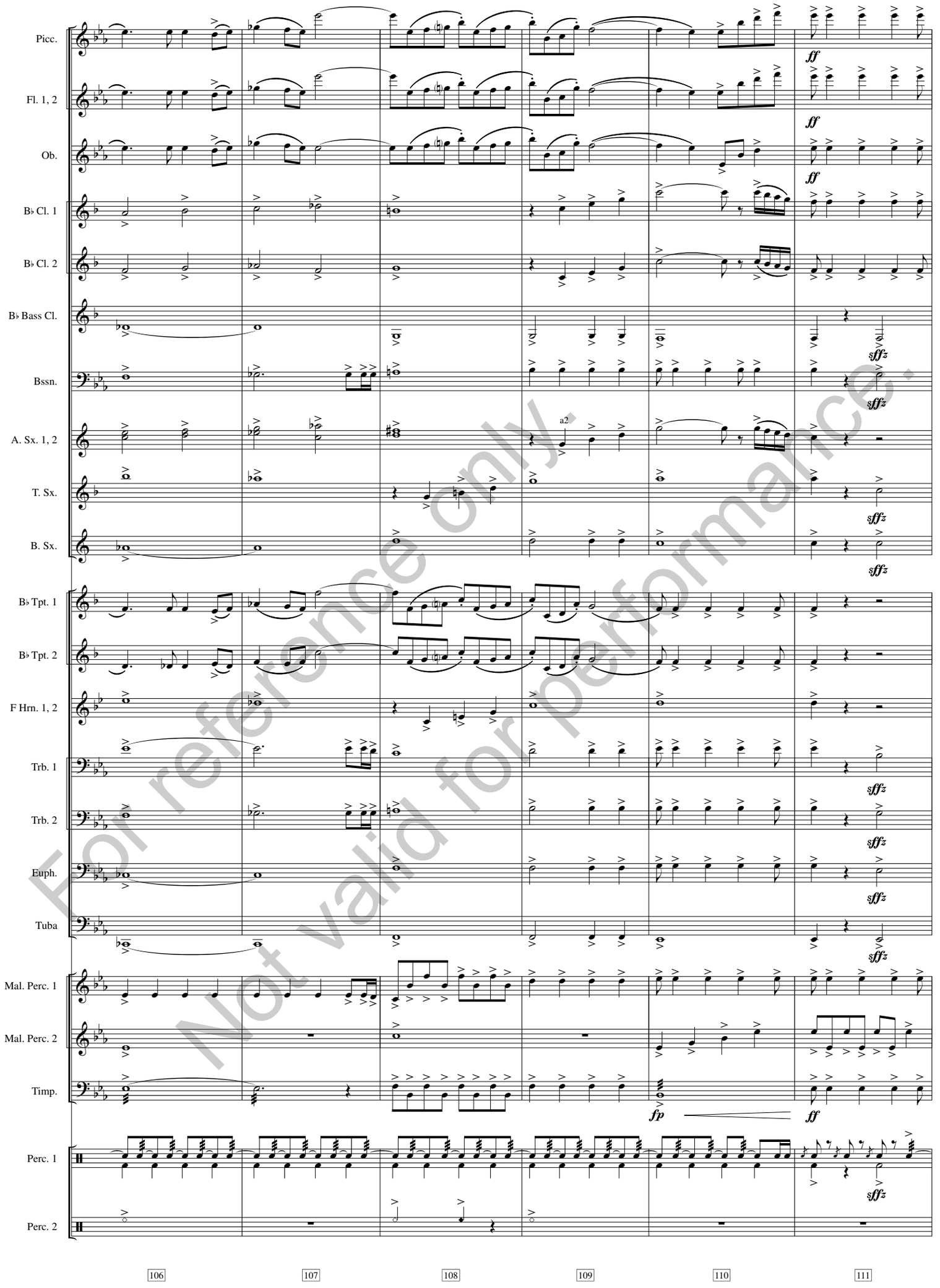

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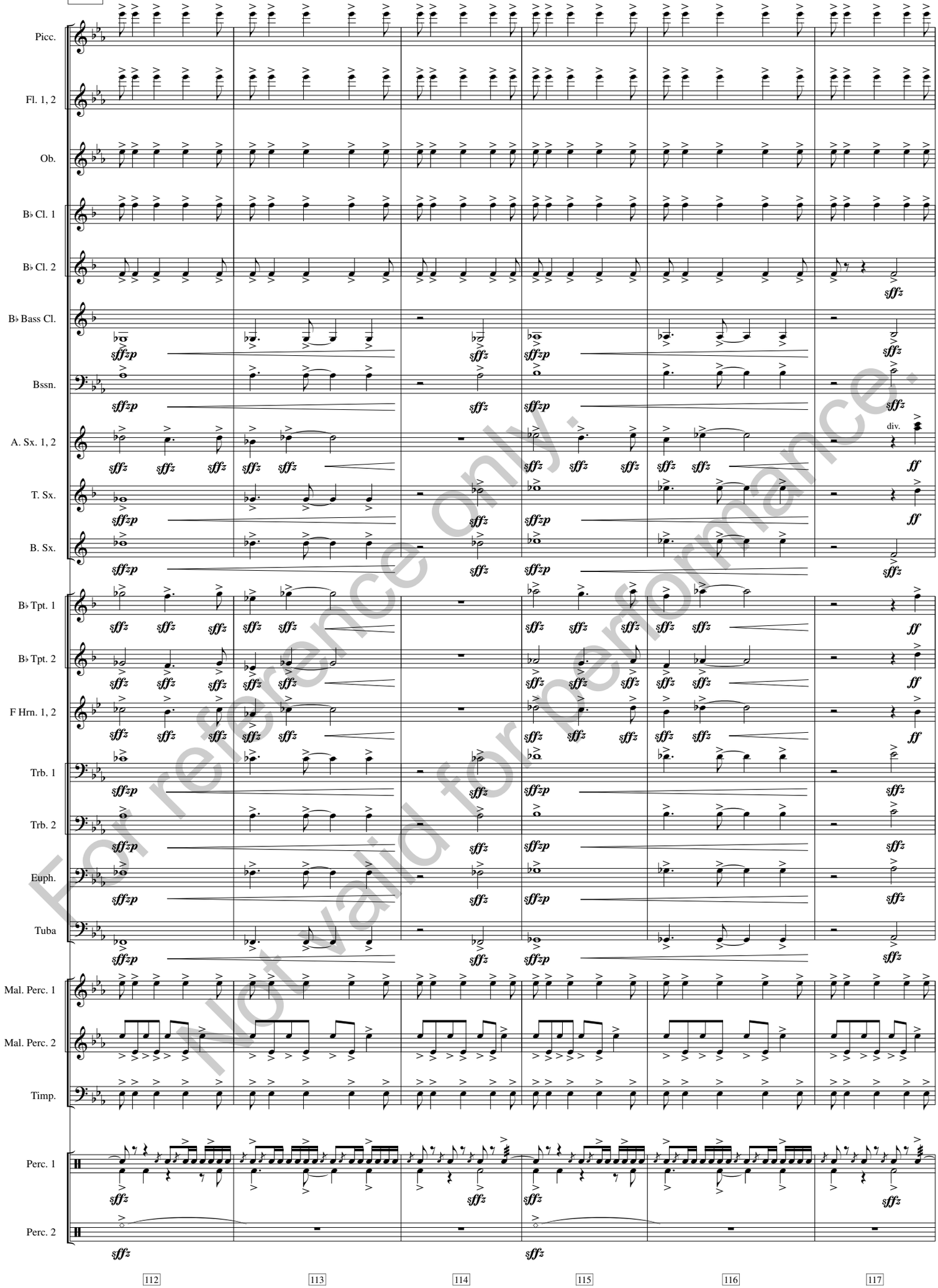
112 America Forever!



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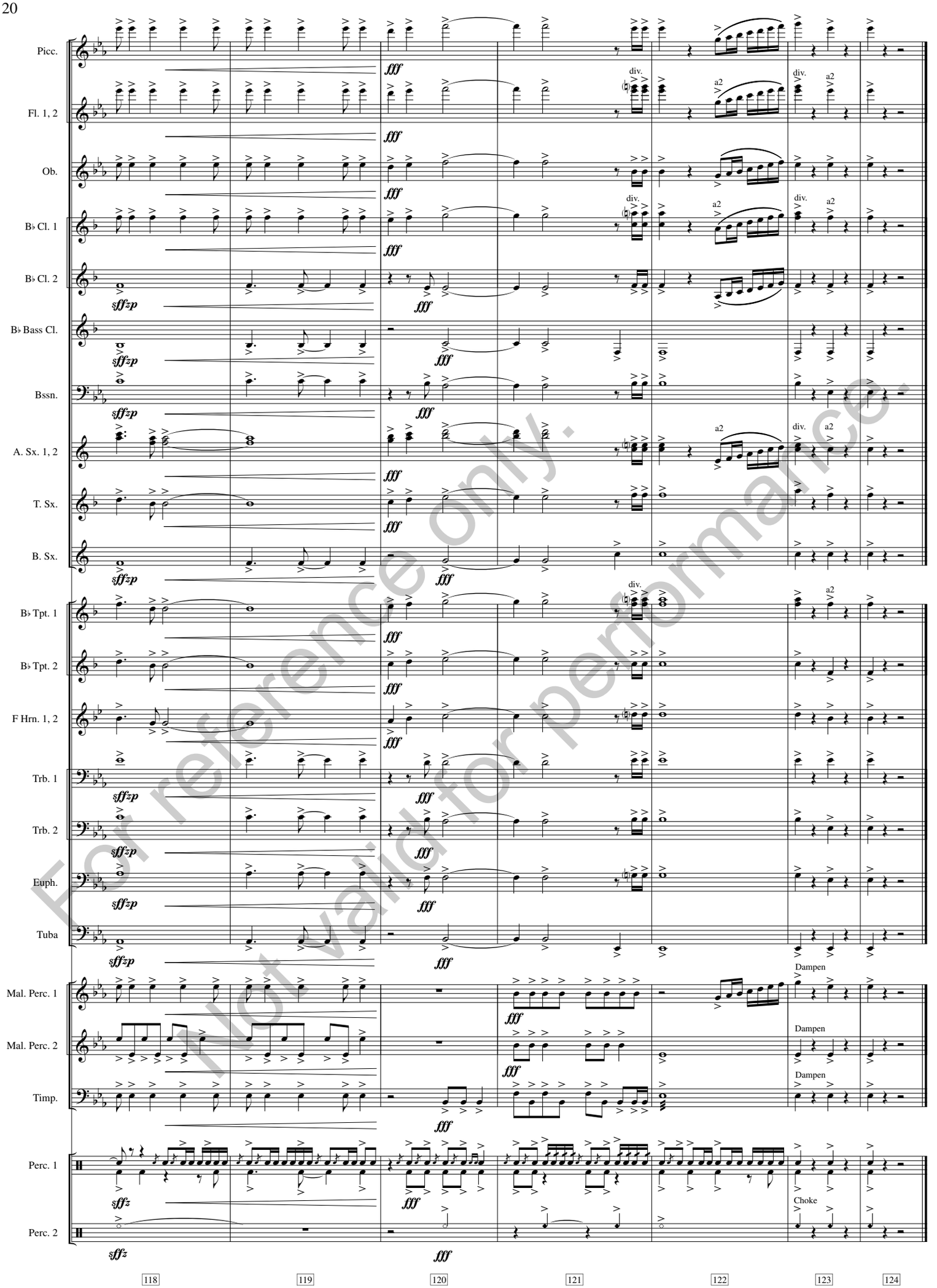

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