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Grade 2

Arkansas Otter

An Ozark Hornpipe

for STRING ORCHESTRA

Bud Woodruff

Full Score

Instrumentation

1 Full Score
8 Violin 1
8 Violin 2
5 Viola
5 Violoncello
5 Double Bass

SAMPLE

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ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Frank (Bud) Woodruff graduated from the University of Houston with Bachelor and Master of Music degrees. While there, he studied composition with Michael Horvit and conducting with A. Clyde Roller and James T. Matthews. He performed with the Houston Grand Opera Orchestra for twenty-two years and was the Music Director and Orchestra Conductor for the Pasadena Philharmonic Society for sixteen years. Mr. Woodruff retired from teaching at the Deer Park Independent School District in Deer Park, Texas, where he was head of the orchestra program.

PROGRAM NOTES

The composer lives in rural Arkansas, where he can see many of the wonders of nature. The latest of these was the otter that "invaded" a pond across the road from his cabin. It would swim rapidly, gyrating in the water in unbelievable feats of motion, turning "on a dime" when chasing a fish, or lazily glide through the water, blowing bubbles as it moved blissfully along.

PERFORMANCE SUGGESTIONS

This work is in the style of a hornpipe: a sailor's dance often performed aboard ship. Since there was little room, the hornpipe was often danced individually while in the center of a small circle. The style was chosen because it most resembles the solo "dance" of the otter in the pond. It should be performed with appropriate consideration of style, off the string and detached for a solid rhythmic performance. Do not allow the performance to become too heavy, as this is not suitable for the dance style. Most often the accompaniment was but one sailor with a violin or squeeze-box accordion.

You should begin work slowly, allowing players to master the "fiddler's shuffle" that the style requires. Don't rush the process. The tempo can be easily increased after weaker players have mastered the bowing. It is also best for your basses, who are usually unaccustomed to playing long stretches of rapid notes.

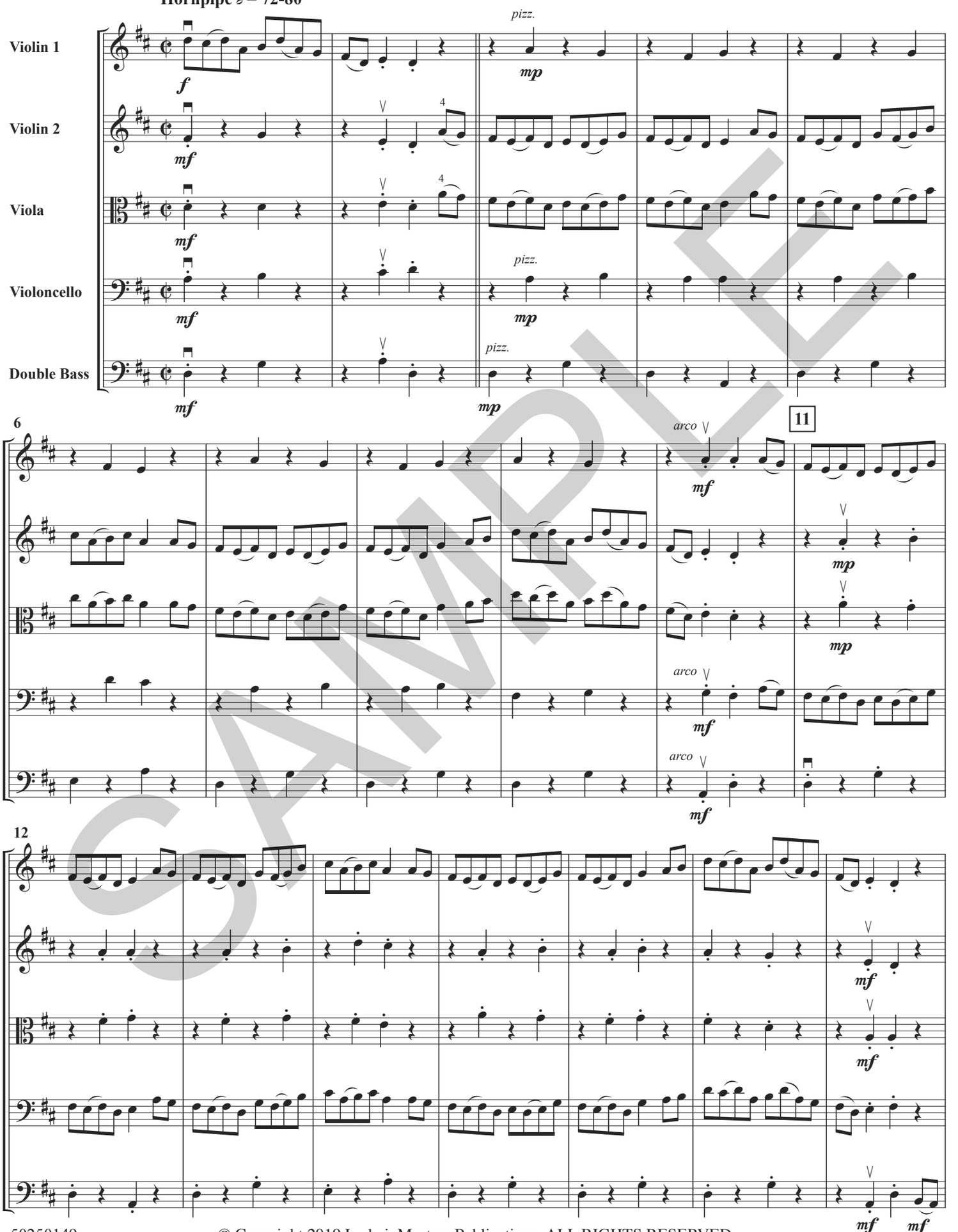
SAMPLE

ARKANSAS OTTER

An Ozark Hornpipe

Bud Woodruff

Hornpipe ♩ = 72-80



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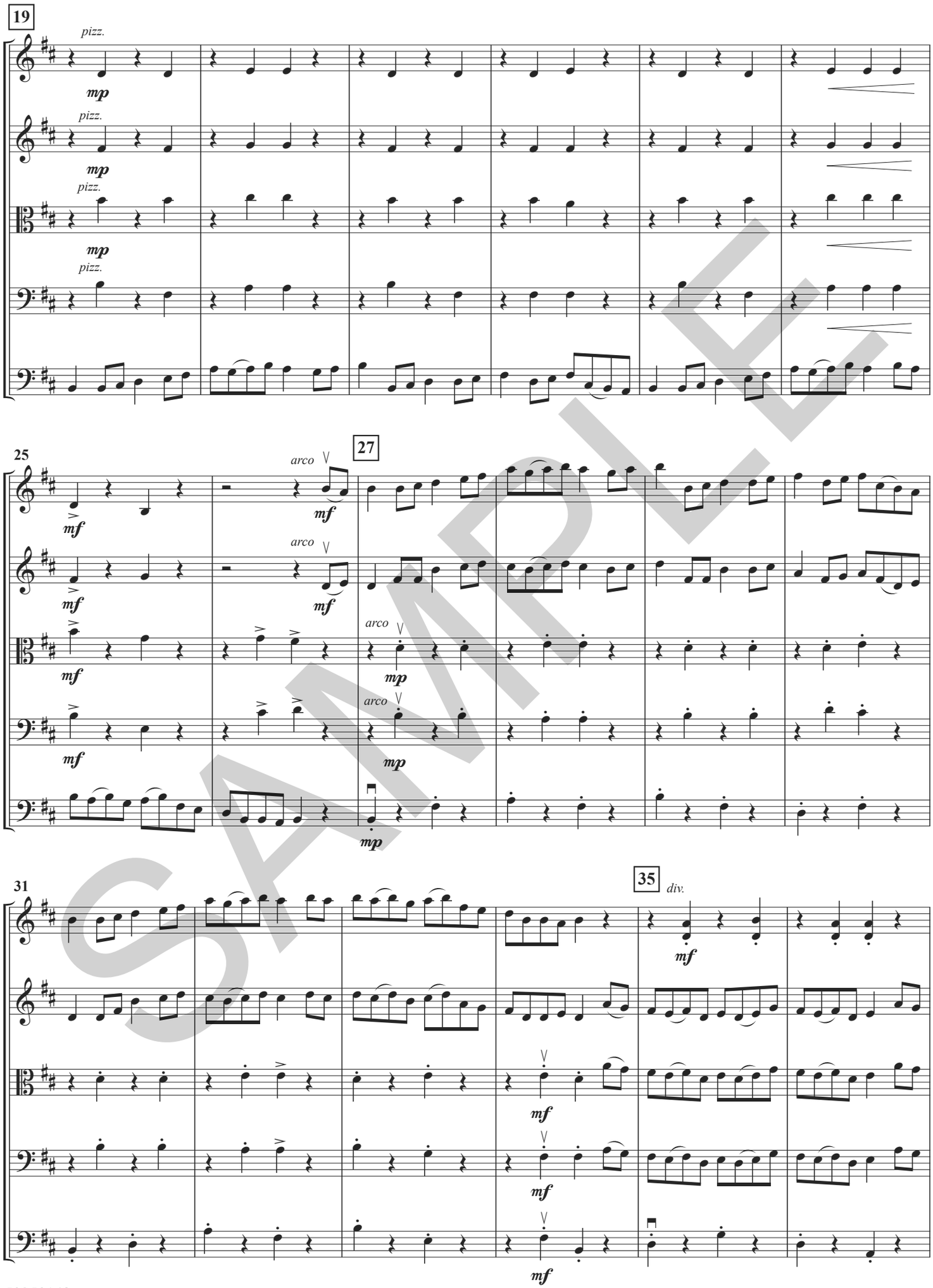
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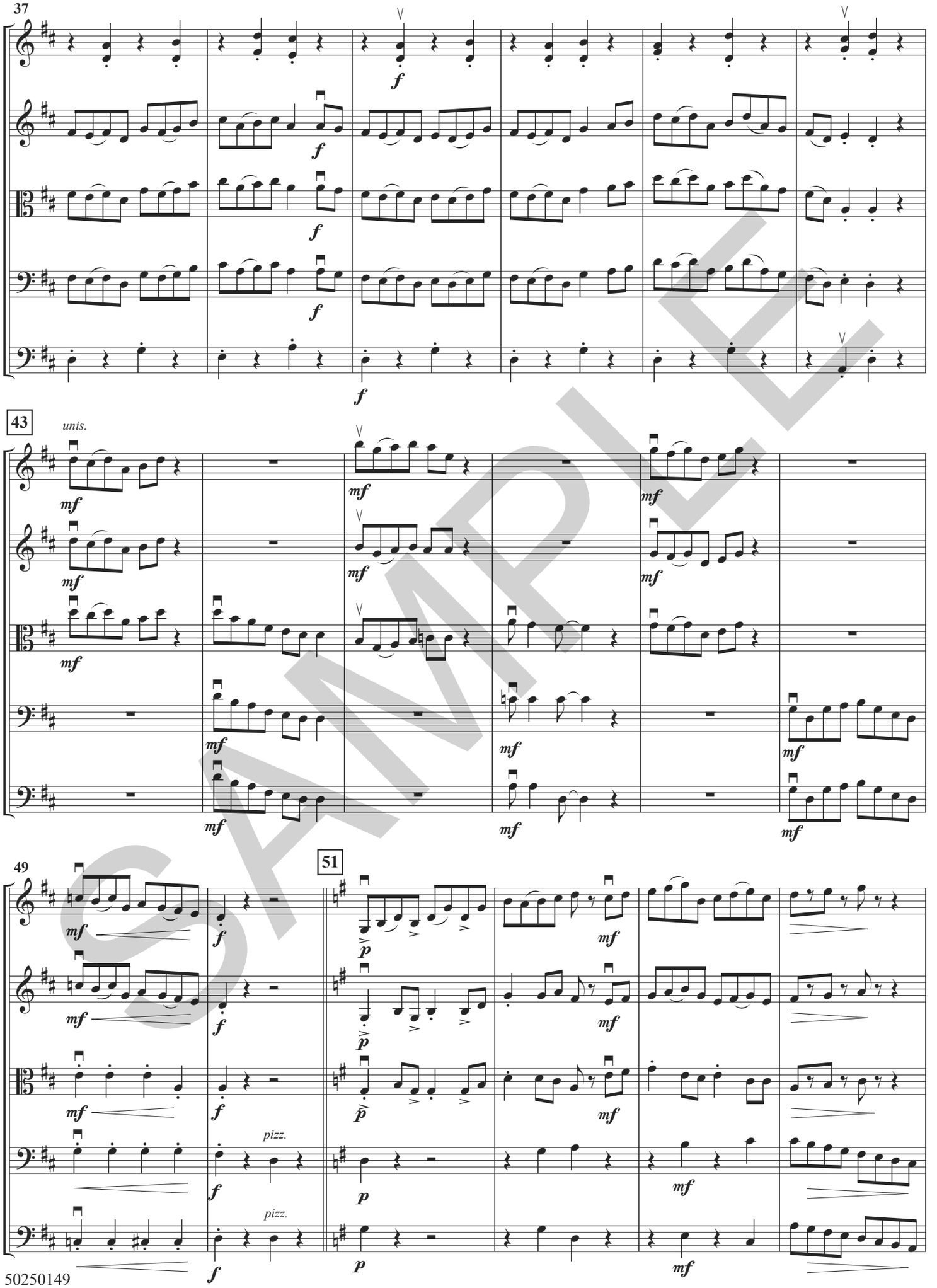

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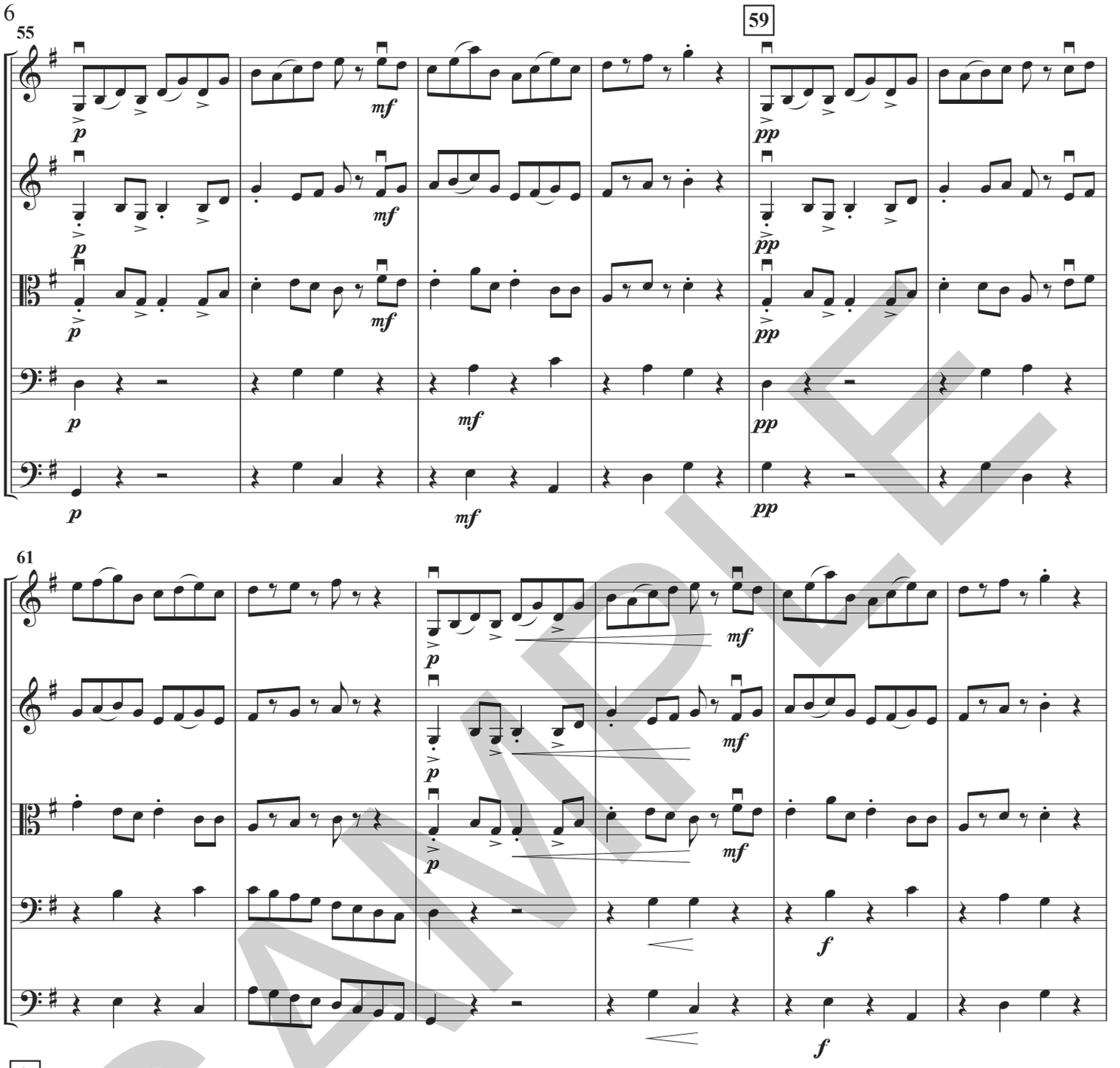
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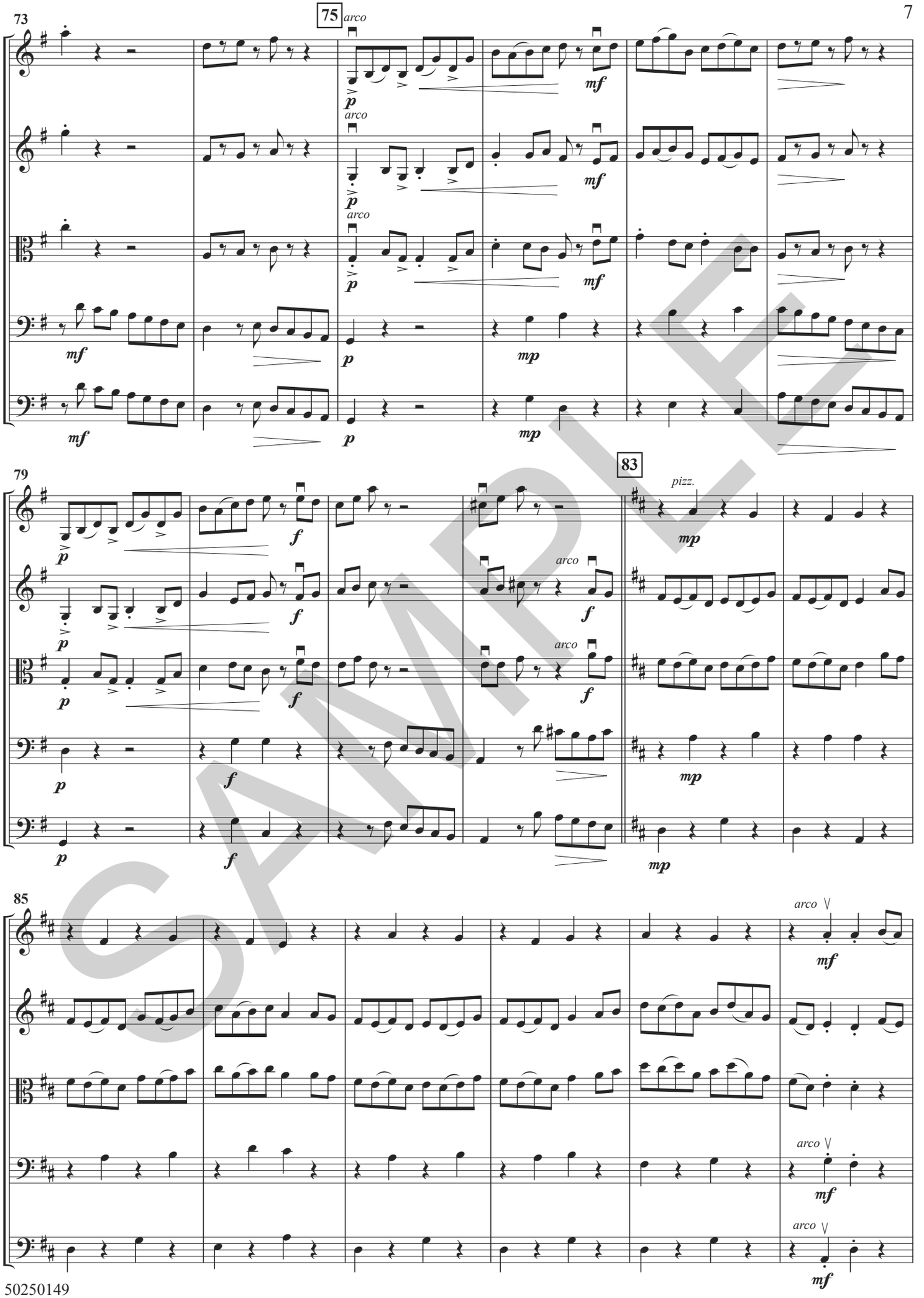

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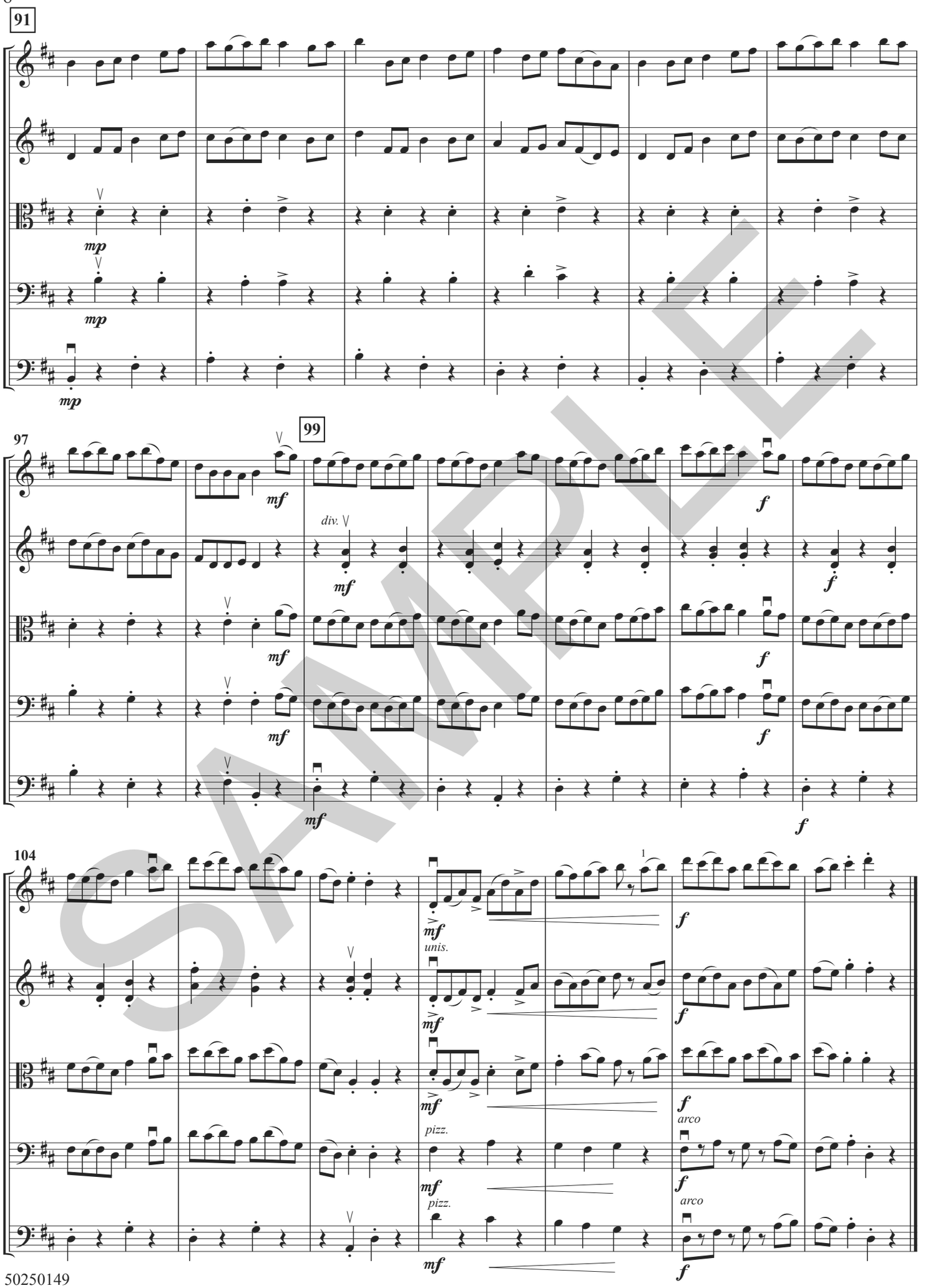
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