50250213

Grade 2½

Caribbean Tides

Dión Morales

for STRING ORCHESTRA

Full Score

Instrumentation

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

SAMPLE

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Commissioned by and dedicated to the Cooper, Holmes, and London Middle School Orchestras of Wheeling Consolidated School District 21

From the Administration of CCSD21:
"Dedicated to the students and staff of CCSD21, in celebration of their creativity, resilience, and commitment to music."

From Heidi Flowers and Michelle Bae
Cooper Middle School Orchestra Directors:
"Dedicated to my students, both past and present. Their energy, talent and passion have been my constant inspiration these past 33 years. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!"

From Lauren Wargaski and Maria Hodson
London Middle School Orchestra Directors:
"Dedicated to the hard working and resilient orchestra students in CCSD21. May you be lifelong learners of music, and always embrace creativity and kindness."

From Faraz Chaudry
Holmes Middle School Orchestra Director:
"Dedicated to the talented and tenacious musicians of Holmes Orchestras, and to my dear colleagues, who inspire our students every day."

About the Composer

Dión (pronounced: dee-own) **Morales** was born, raised, and lives in Chicago, Illinois. He did not begin his orchestral studies until he was a high school student at Lane Tech College Prep High School in the Chicago Public School system. He received his undergraduate degree in music education from VanderCook College of Music and completed his graduate studies at VanderCook in 2021. He has taught elementary and middle school orchestra in Des Plaines District 62 since 2010.

The arranging of music by minority composers for school orchestra programs is a project that he plans to continue to grow, bringing diversity to the repertoire available to fellow music educators.

While Dión is passionate about music education, he is also a professional broadcaster in the board game industry. He uses his musical skills to create original works that are used in live broadcasts and presentations.

Program Notes

Caribbean Tides was commissioned by the Cooper, Holmes, and London Middle School Orchestras of Wheeling Consolidated School District 21 in Illinois. The directors expressed a desire for a piece that featured elements of Caribbean music and, if possible, a connection to steel pan traditions. The work is also an homage to director Heidi Flowers on the occasion of her retirement at the end of the 2025–26 school year, as an avid fan and player of steel pan music.

As a small nod to the steel pan tradition, the melody is inspired by the Jamaican folk song *Linstead Market*.

Fusing Afro-Caribbean rhythms with pop music elements, this piece reflects both the warmth and energy associated with Caribbean styles. In the second half, the music shifts to a faster tempo and a minor key. While tides can suggest the gentle rising and falling of the ocean, they can also bring hurricane-force winds and torrential downpour. Despite these changing tides, the strength and passion of the Caribbean live on.

Performance Notes

Maintain a consistent eighth-note pulse throughout the piece. Doing so will ensure that the syncopations line up properly and that the groove remains steady and cohesive.

In the second half, the faster tempo and minor key create a distinctly different mood. Even as the intensity increases, the ensemble should remain rhythmically grounded so that the energy feels controlled rather than rushed.

Editor's Note

Orchestral bowings and fingerings can be highly subjective and personal. The choices a string editor makes are designed to be pedagogically appropriate for specific grade levels while facilitating student musicality and honoring composer intent. The editorial additions in the following composition will provide guidance "right out of the box" for the non-string player and suggest some options for the advanced string specialist. Enjoy!

J. Cameron Law, String Editor

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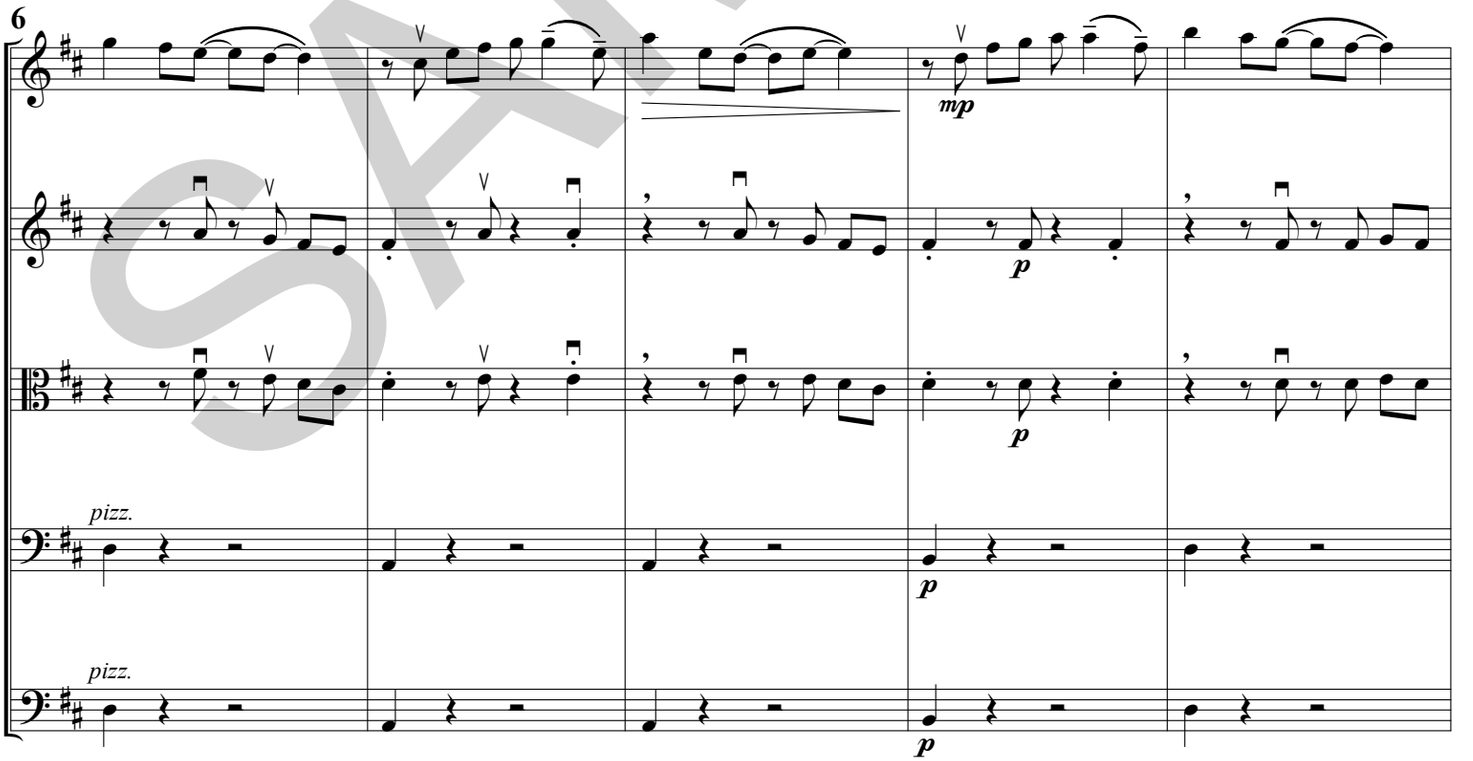
Caribbean Tides

Dión Morales



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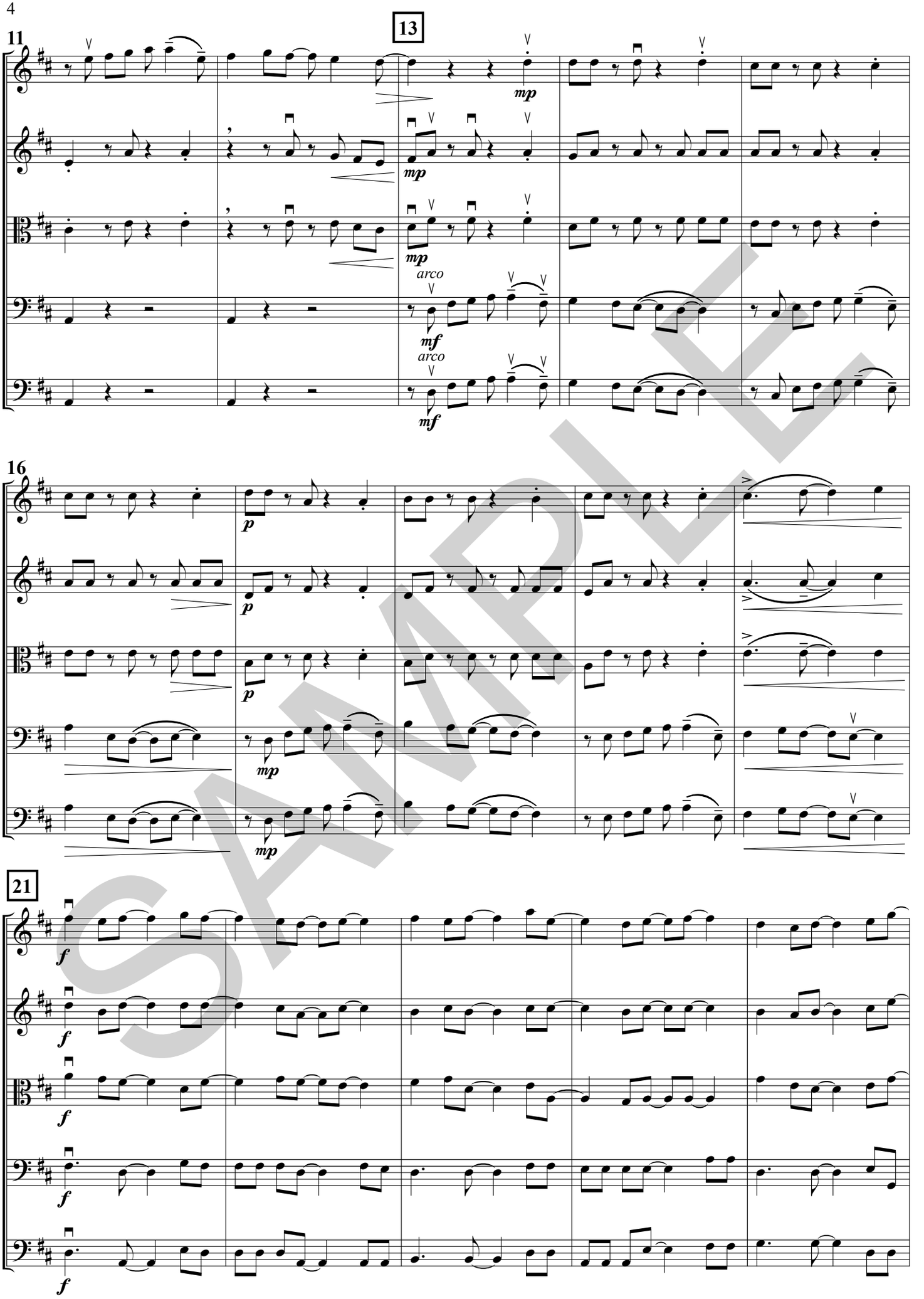

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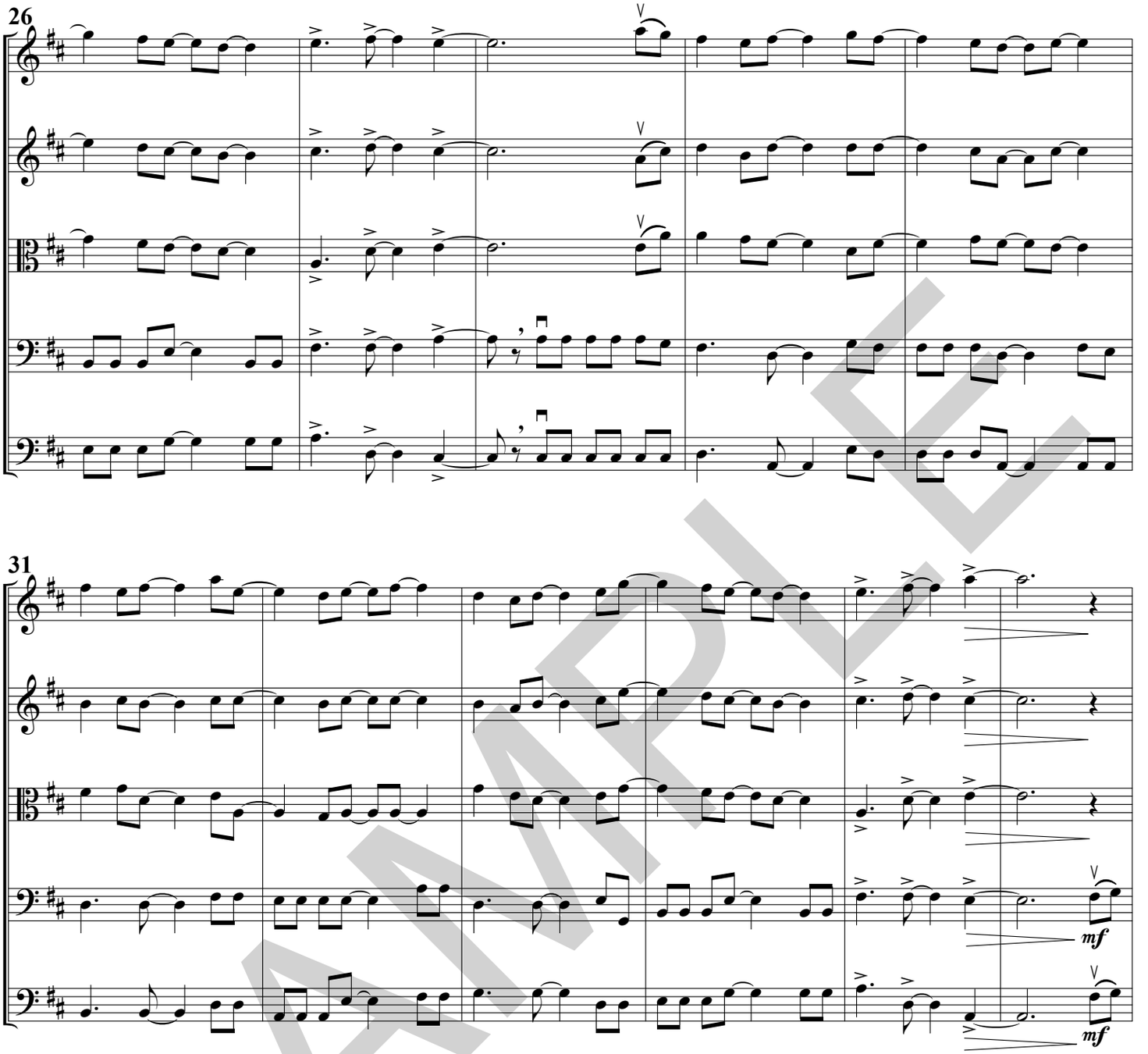
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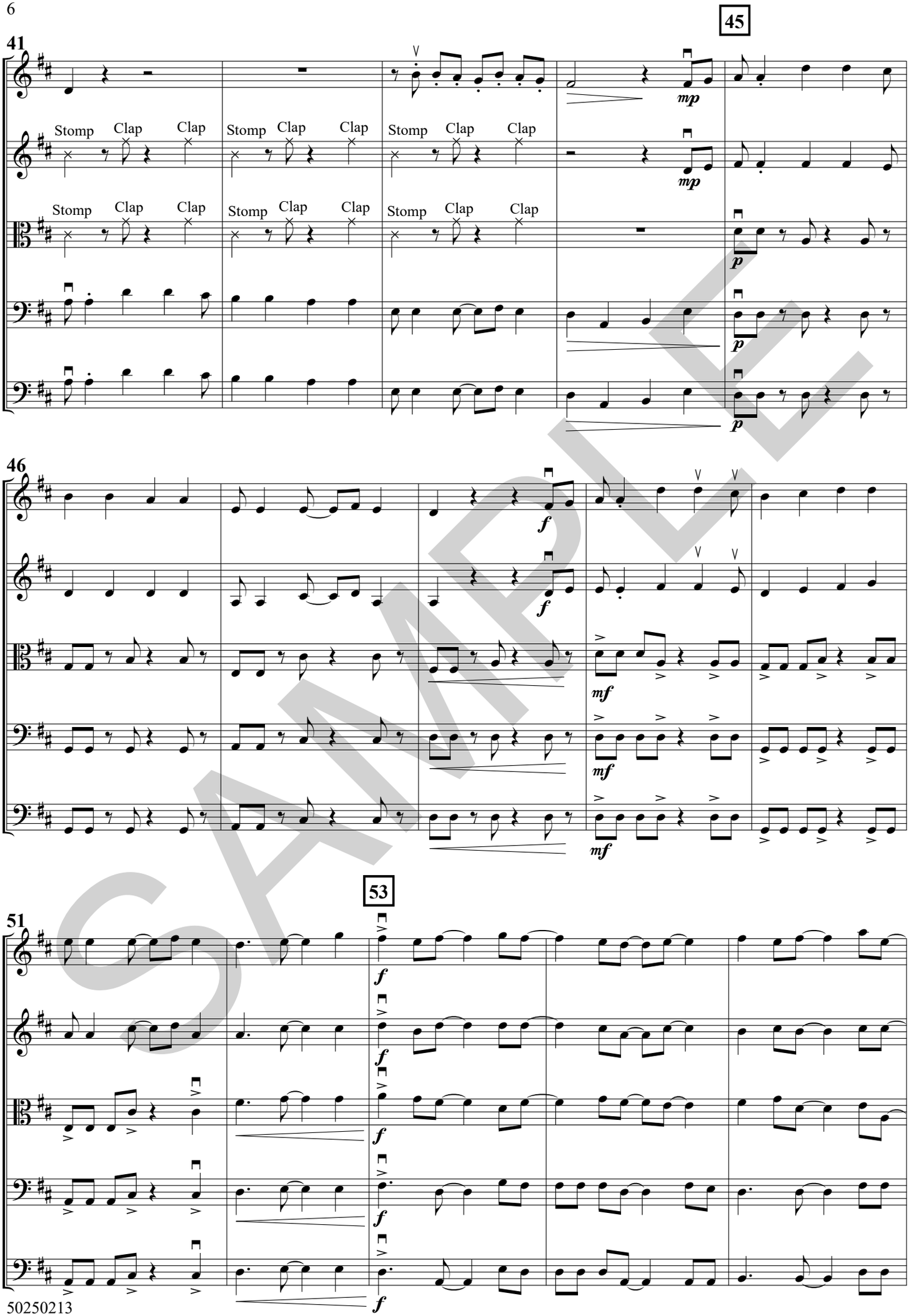
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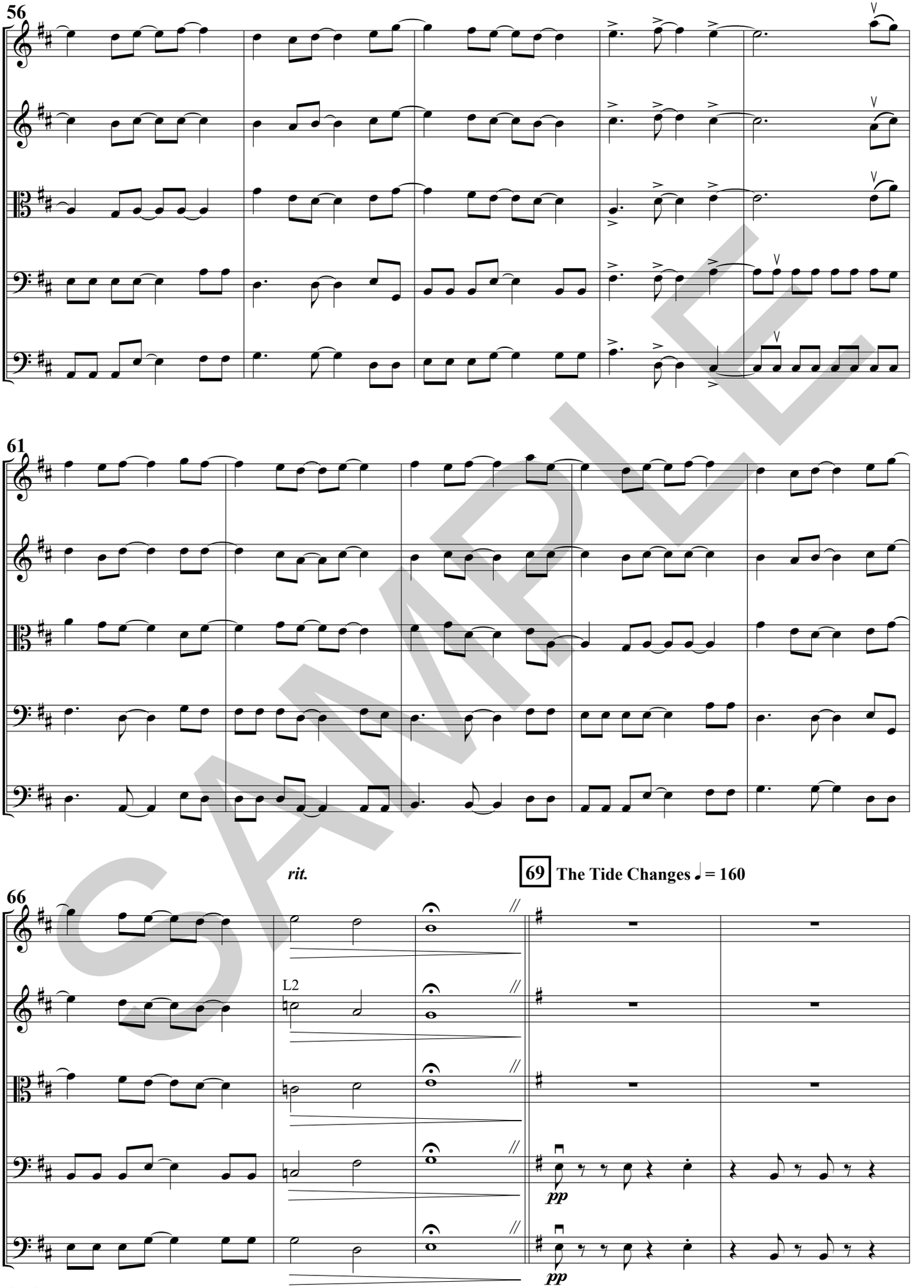

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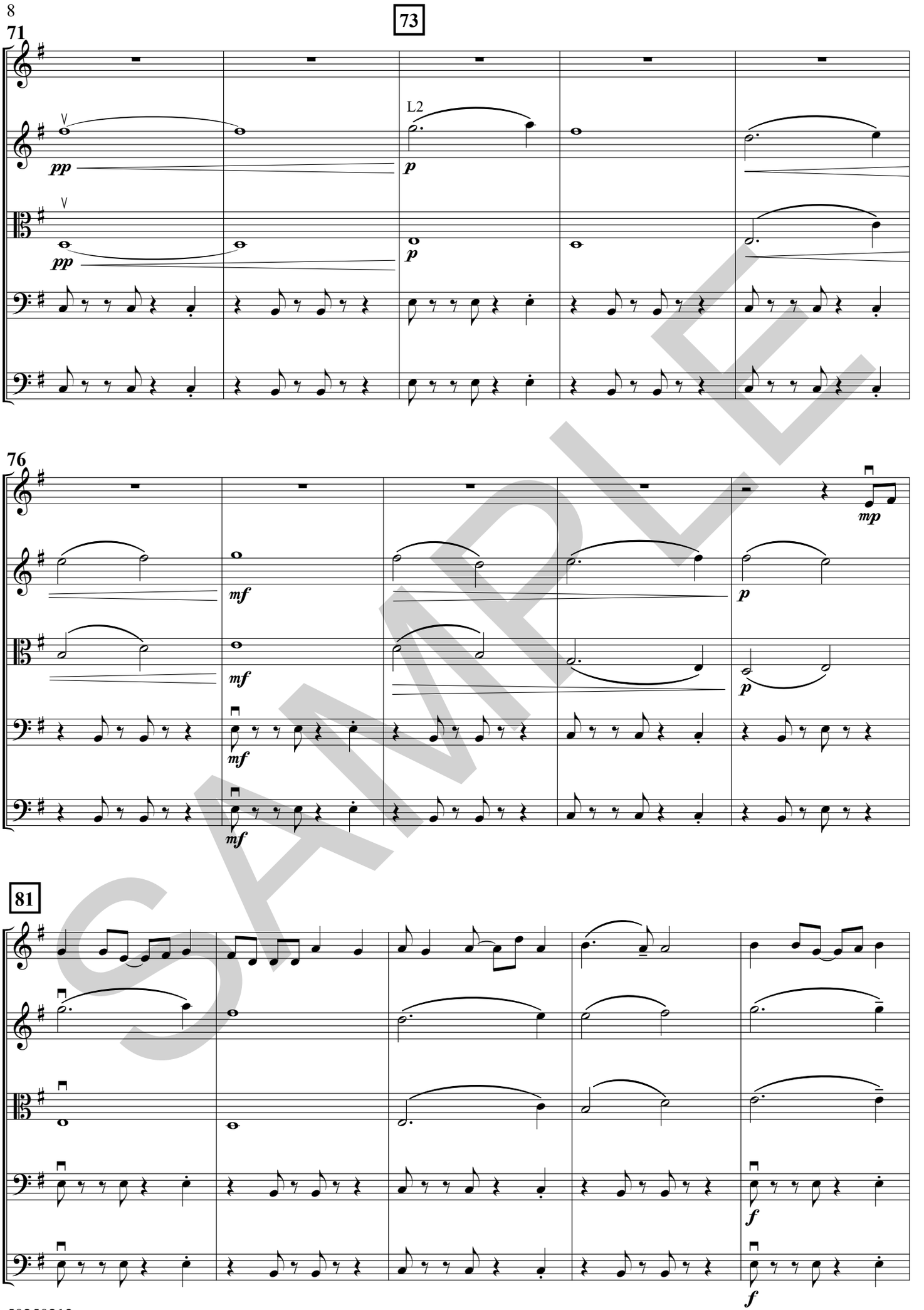

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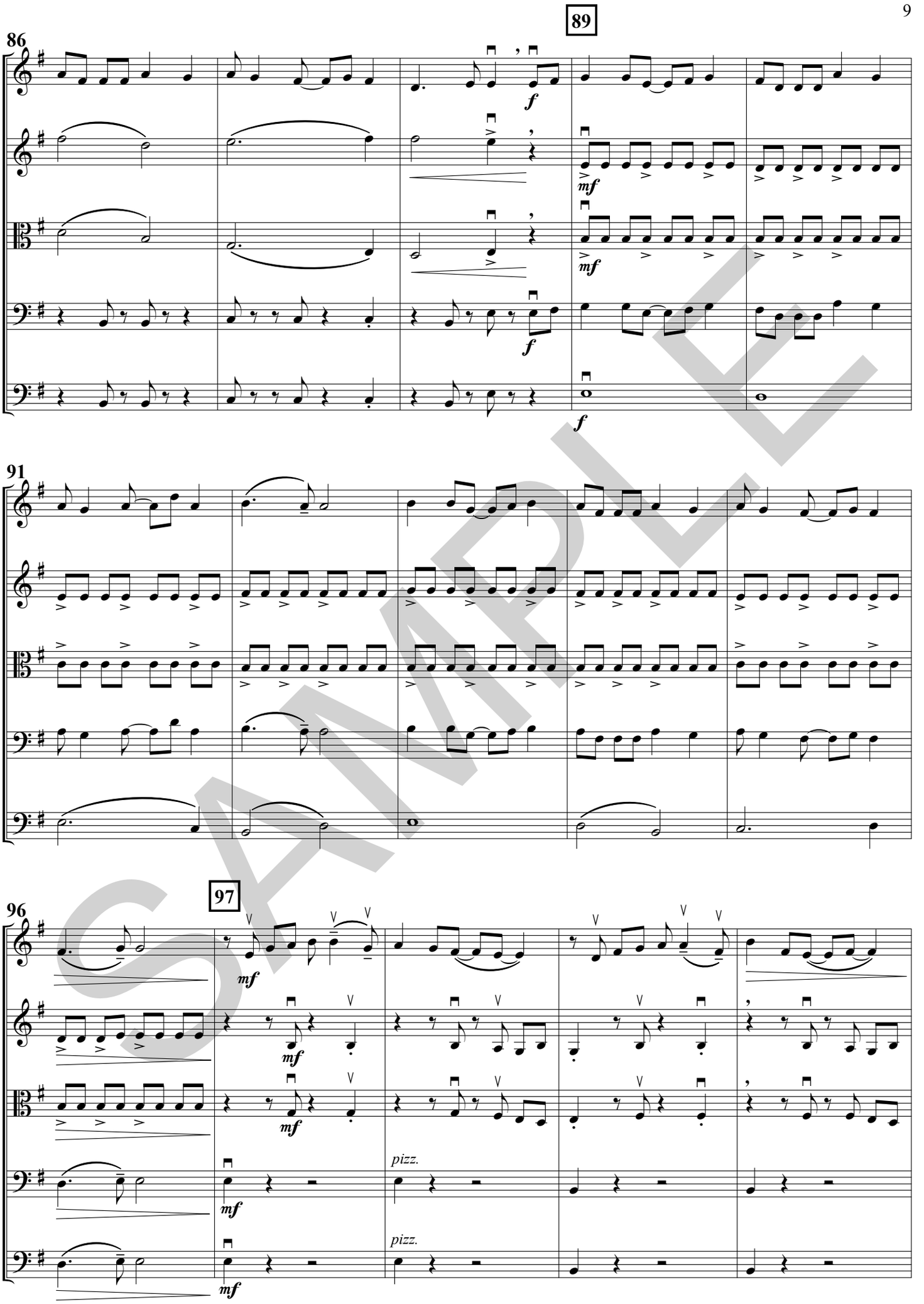

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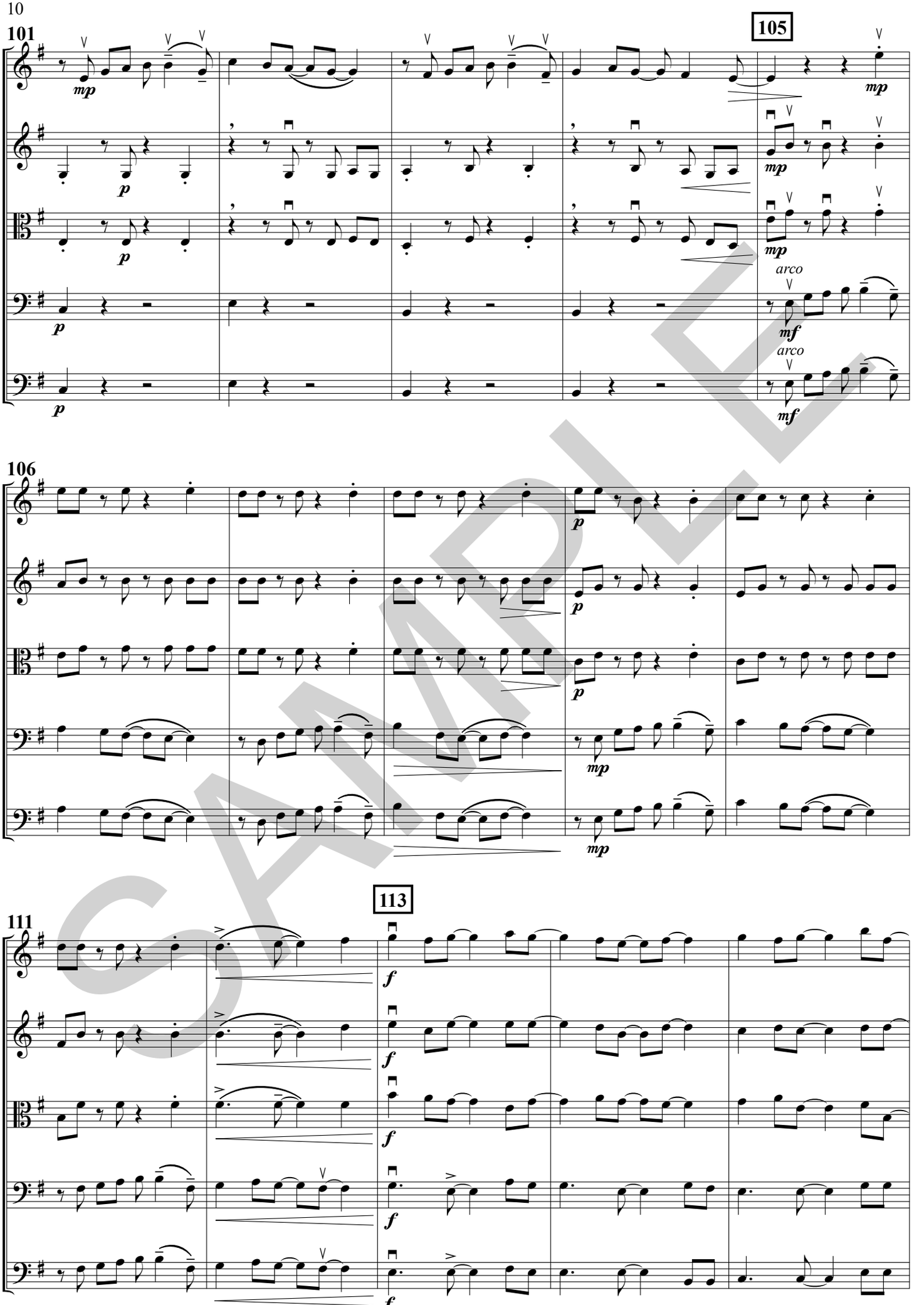

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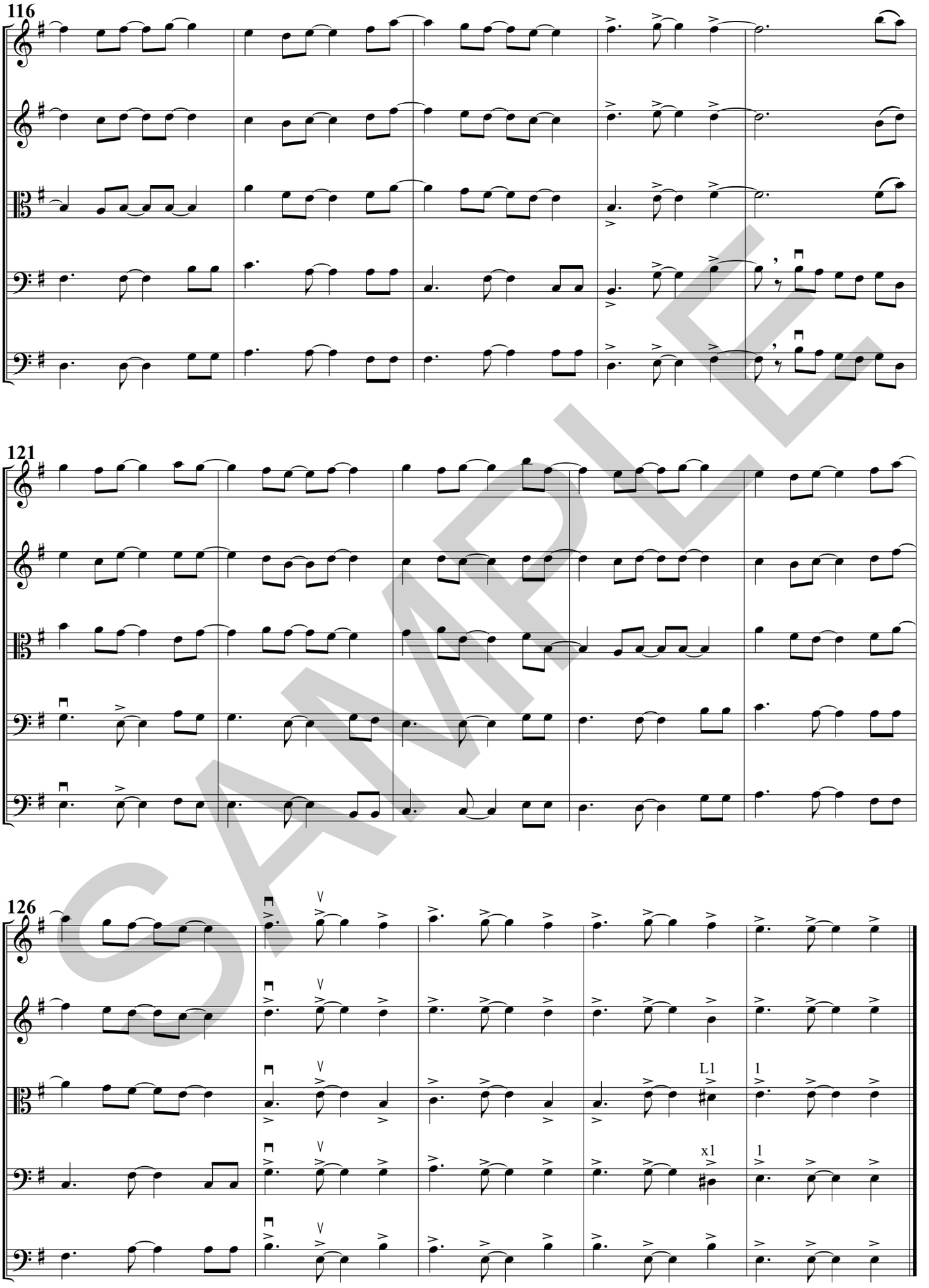

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