Café 512

for FLEX ensemble

Ryan George

Fornine Music

PERUSAL Score Not for Performance Use

Program Notes

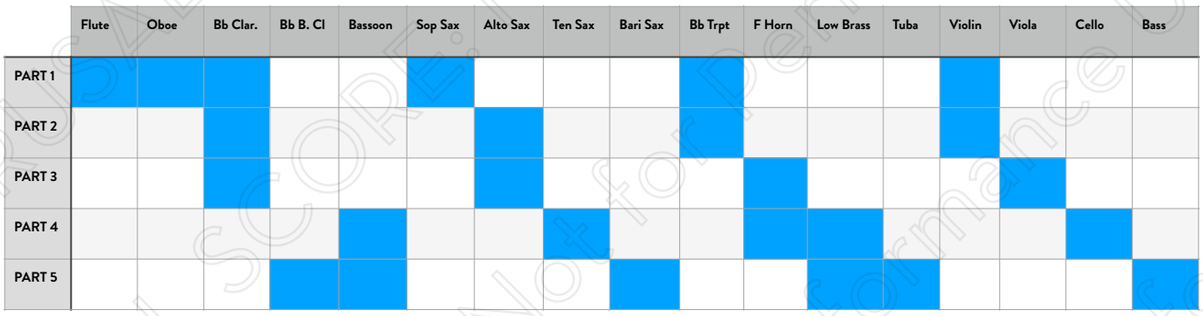
As I was beginning to brainstorm ideas for this piece I stumbled across the title of a piece by famed Argentinean tango composer Astor Piazzolla called “Café 1930”. I found the title intriguing and in wanting to write a piece that tipped the hat heavily towards a specific style, the mood and intensity found within tango seemed to be the right fit. The similarities though between Piazzolla’s piece and the one I was looking to write pretty much end at the title. Whereas Piazzolla’s work is intimate, slow, and melancholy (as well as being a true tango), I wanted to write something that was dance-like and energetic. So I changed the “1930” to “512” the area code for Austin, Texas) and used a 5+1+2 note grouping to construct the main motif found throughout the work.

“Café 512” was originally commissioned by Susan Glover and the West Ridge Middle School Band for their performance at the 2010 MidWest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, Illinois.

Some thoughts on “FLEX”
This piece is an adaptation of the concert band work of the same name. The work can be performed with as few as 5 wind or string players, and 4 percussionists. Instrument choices for each part were selected to give you as many options as possible while still making idiomatic sense. This piece works really well as a brass, woodwind, or string quintet, as well with mixed instrumentation. You’ll find multiple octaves are given in certain parts to best fit with that particular instrument’s range and/or player’s ability.

My hope is that you will take this piece and run with it. Mix & match instrumentation to demonstrate how orchestration can change the color and feel of the piece. Use one-on-a-part, or double up, triple up. Do anything to make this a musically rewarding experience for all involved.

Instrumentation Options



PERC 1: Tambourine, Cabasa

PERC 2: Claves, Woodblock

PERC 3: Vibraslap Triangle, Suspended Cymbal, Glockenspiel, 3 Concert Toms

PERC 4: Vibraphone

PERC 5: Kick Bass Drum, Hi-Hat, Suspended Crash Cymbal , Splash Cymbal

Piano

Instrumentation Considerations

Piccolo - should play the flute line for PART-1

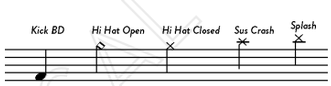
Treble Clef Baritone - should play the Bb Tenor Sax line for PART-4

*Low Brass - this implies either trombone or euphonium

Part 2 - Bb clarinet should play upper octave during octave splits if possible. Soprano sax and trumpet should play lower octave during octave splits.

Part 5 Bassoon/ Low Brass - tenor trombone and euphonium players should play the upper octave. Bassoon and bass trombone players can play either the top or bottom octave depending on player ability.

Perc 5 Instrument Grid



CAFÉ 512

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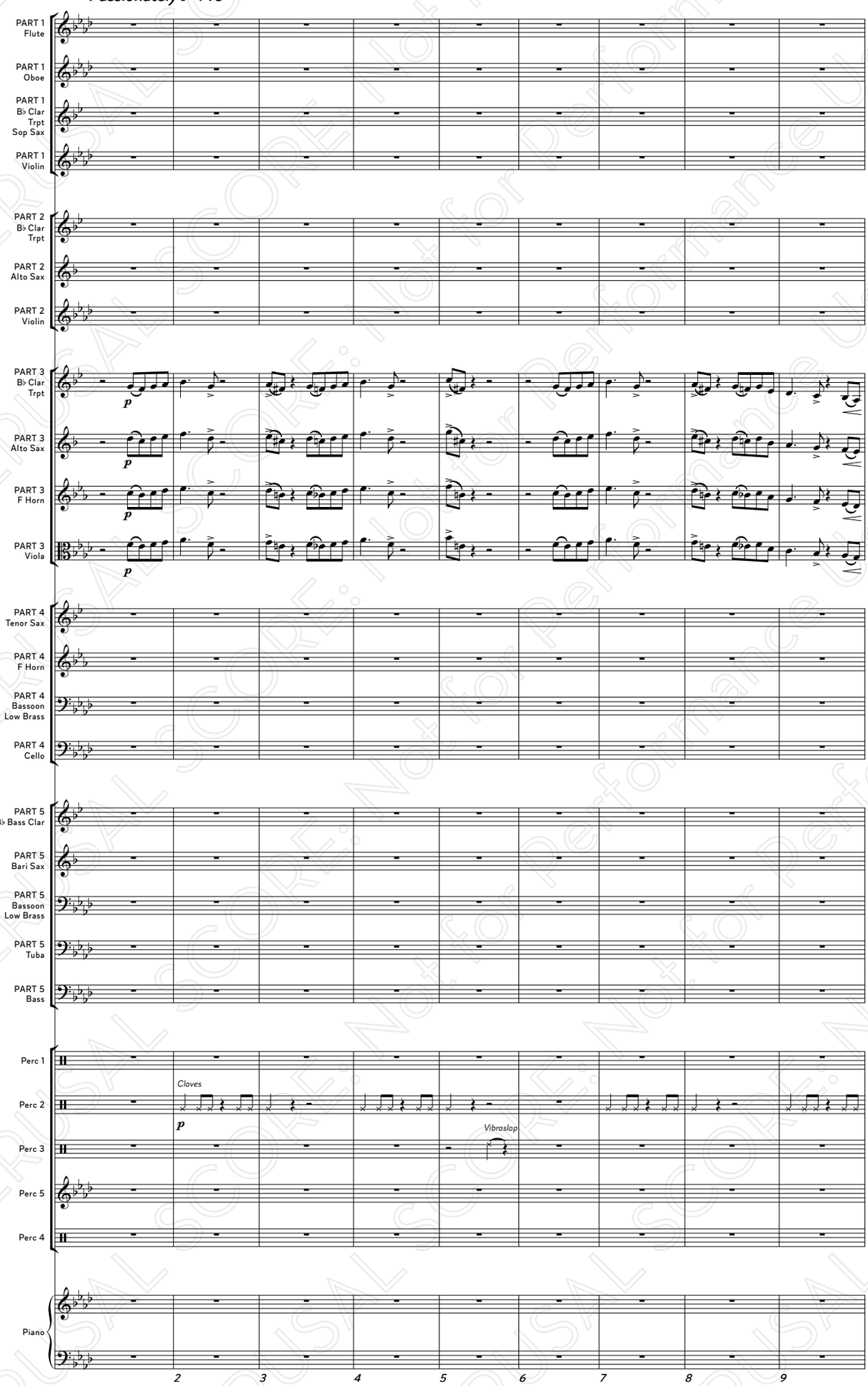
Passionately ♩=140



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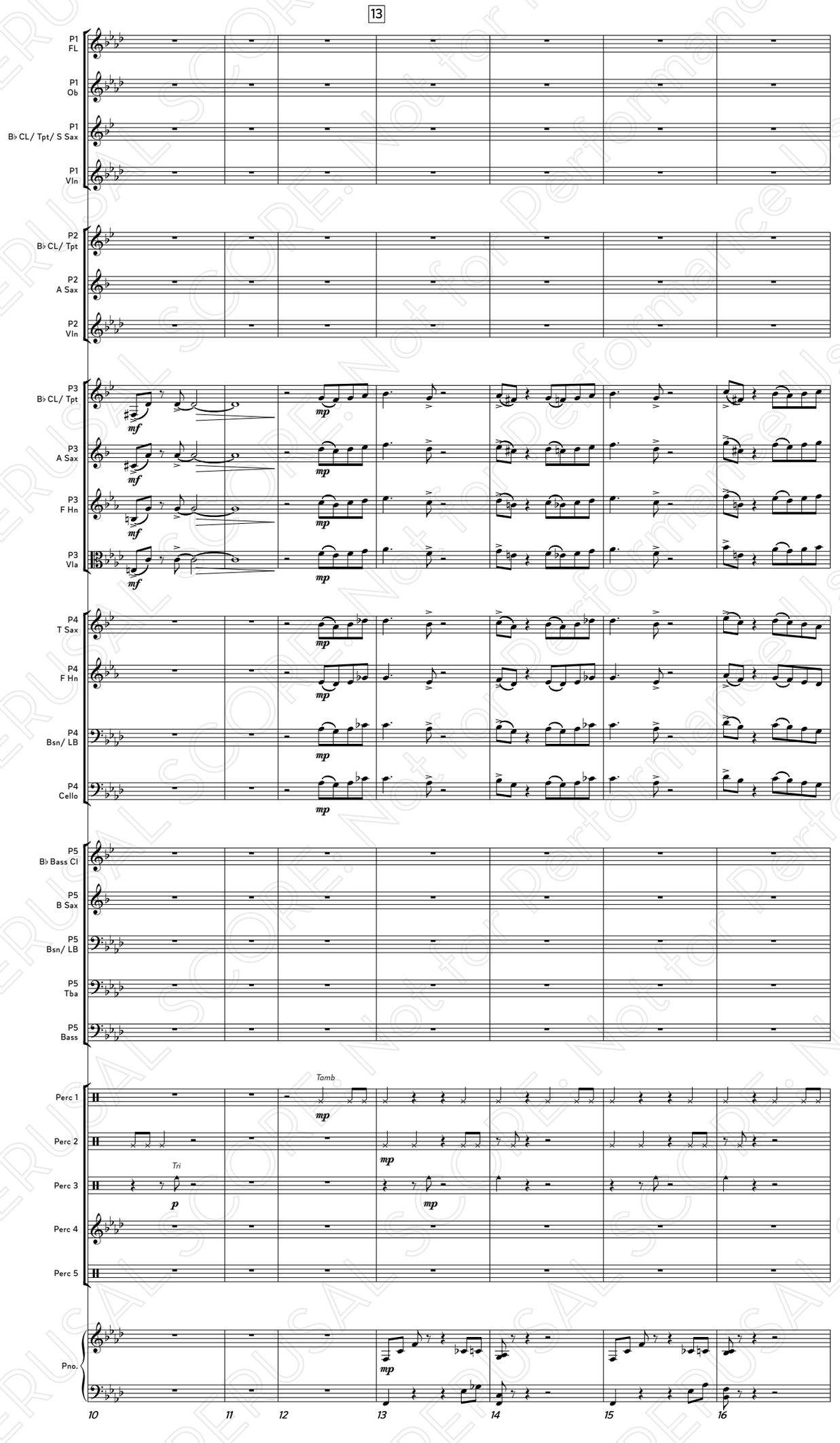

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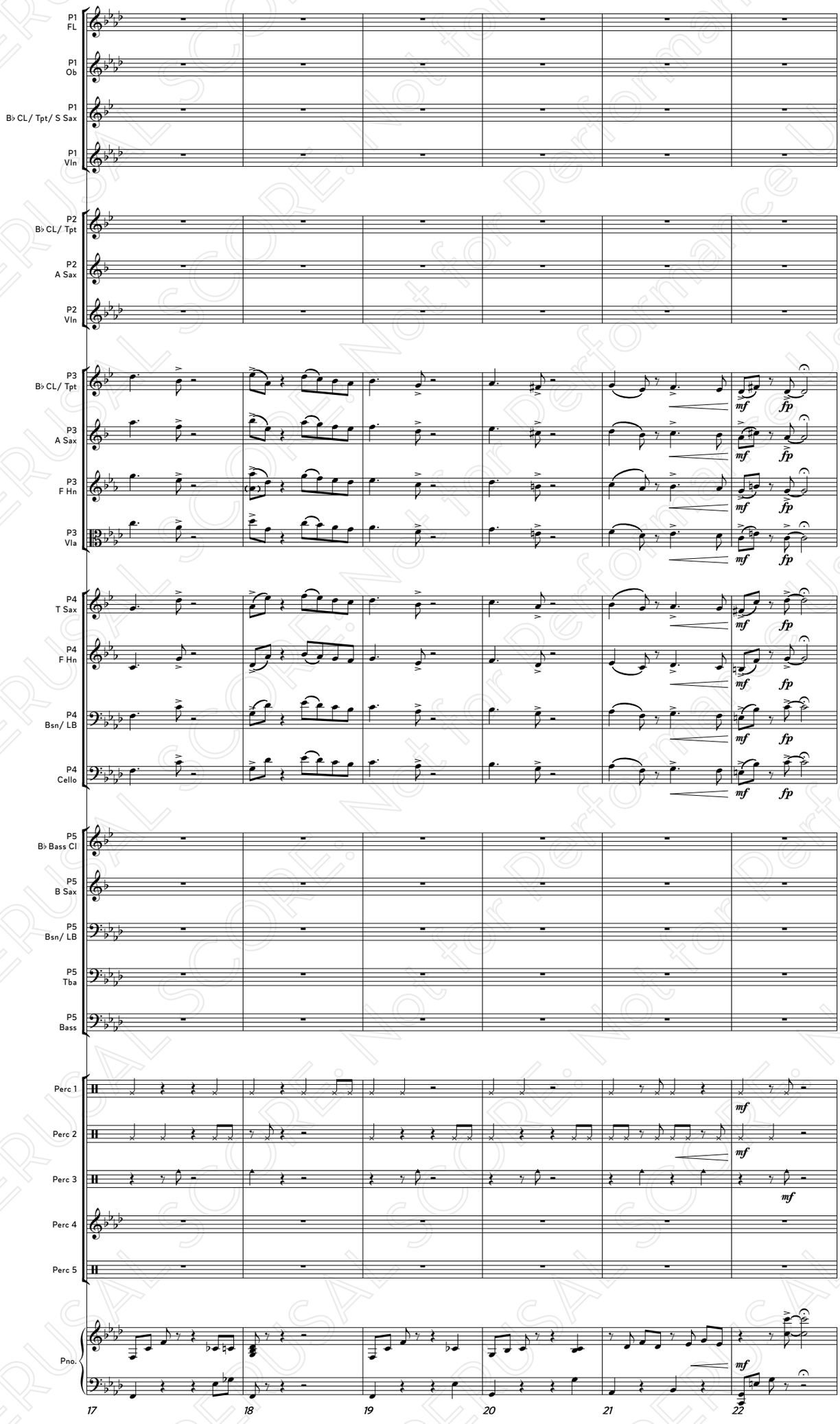

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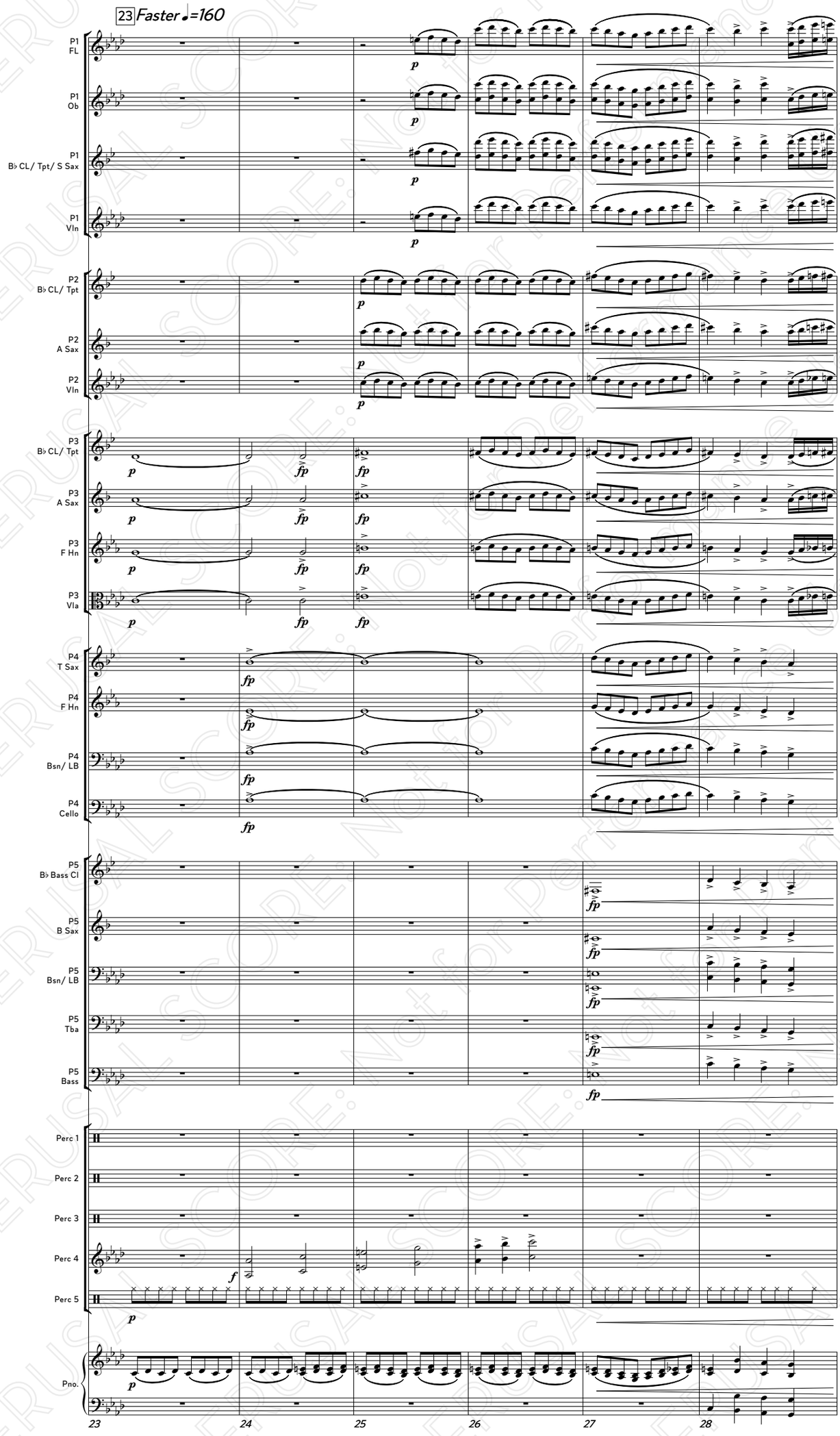

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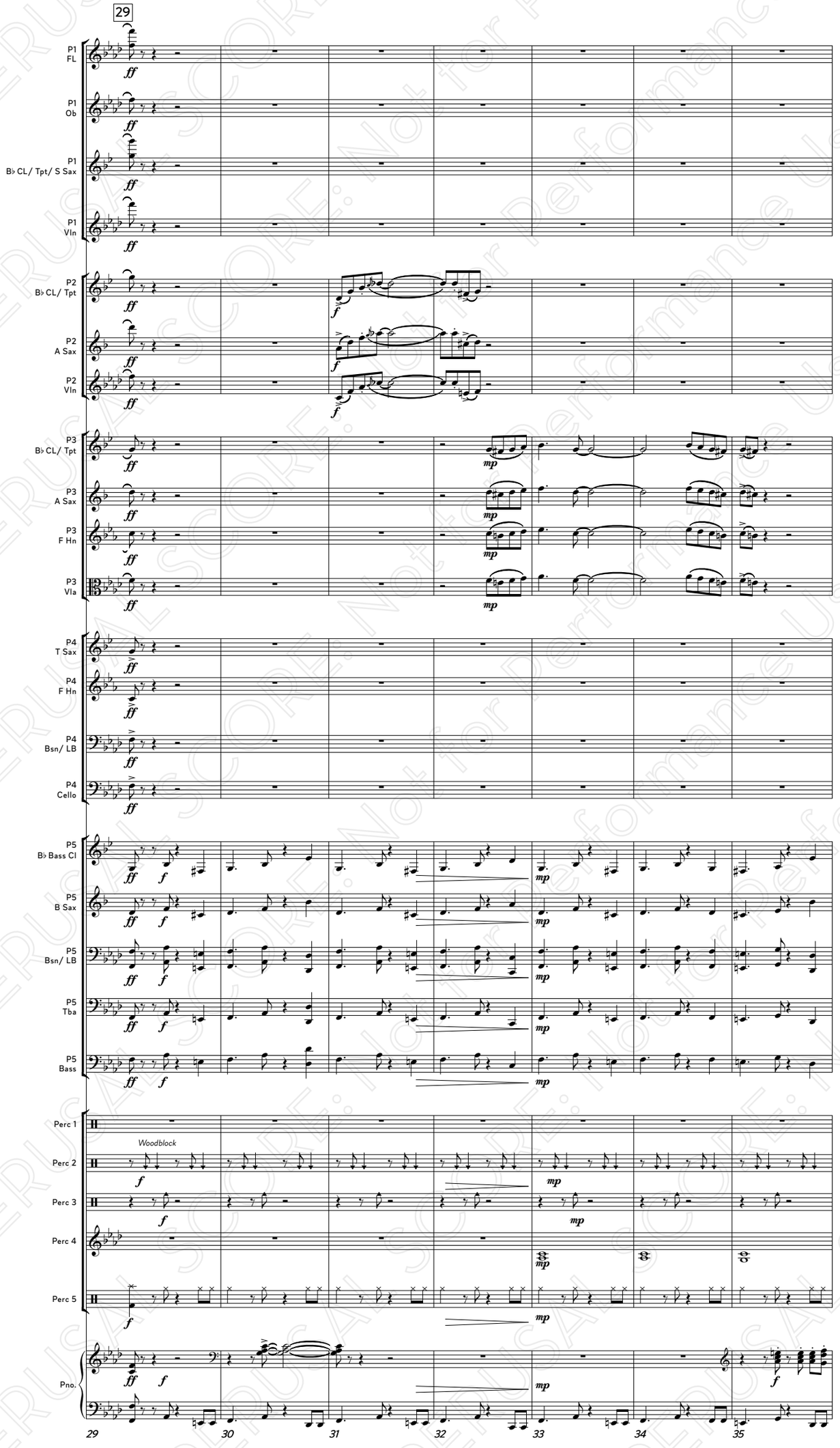

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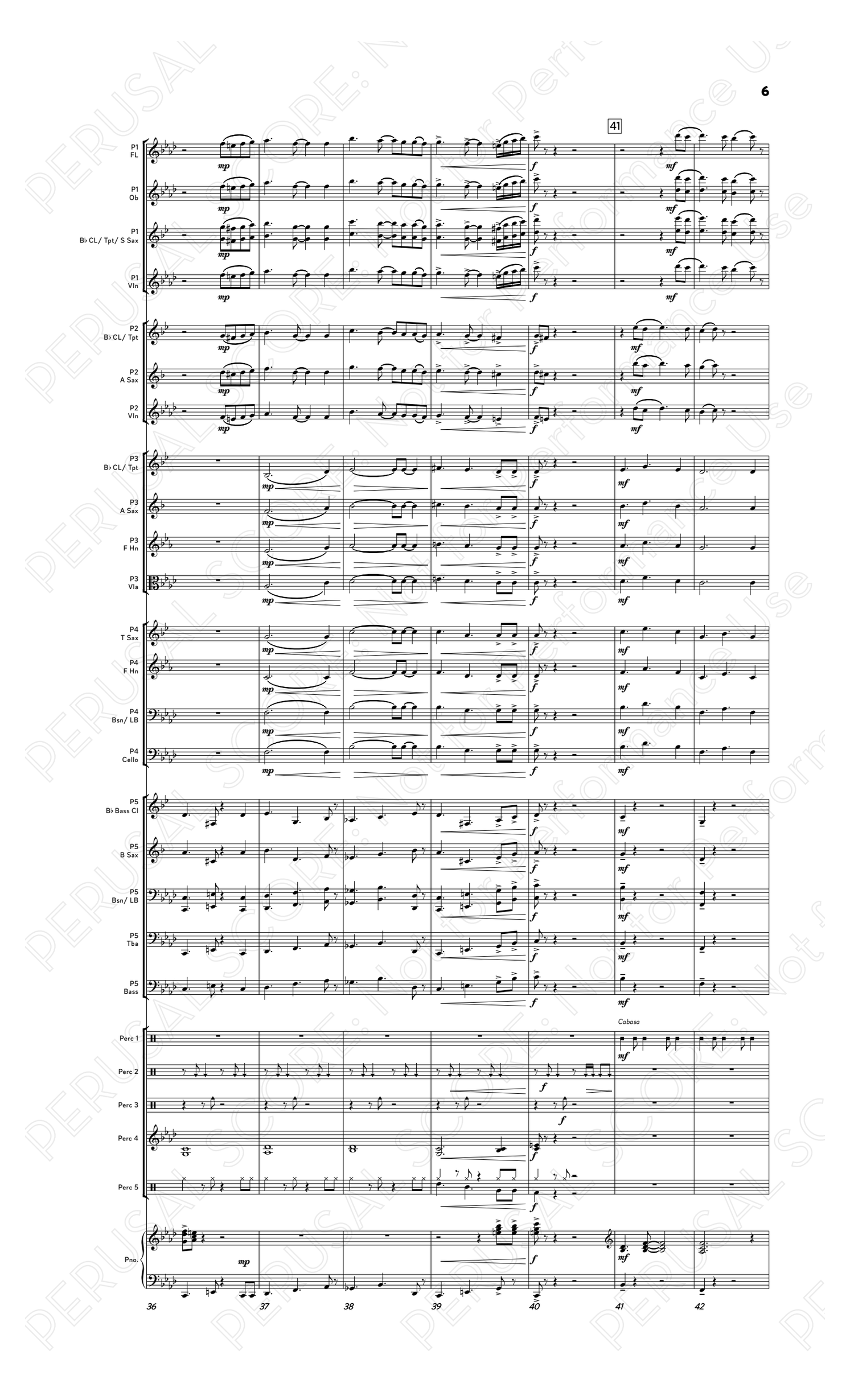

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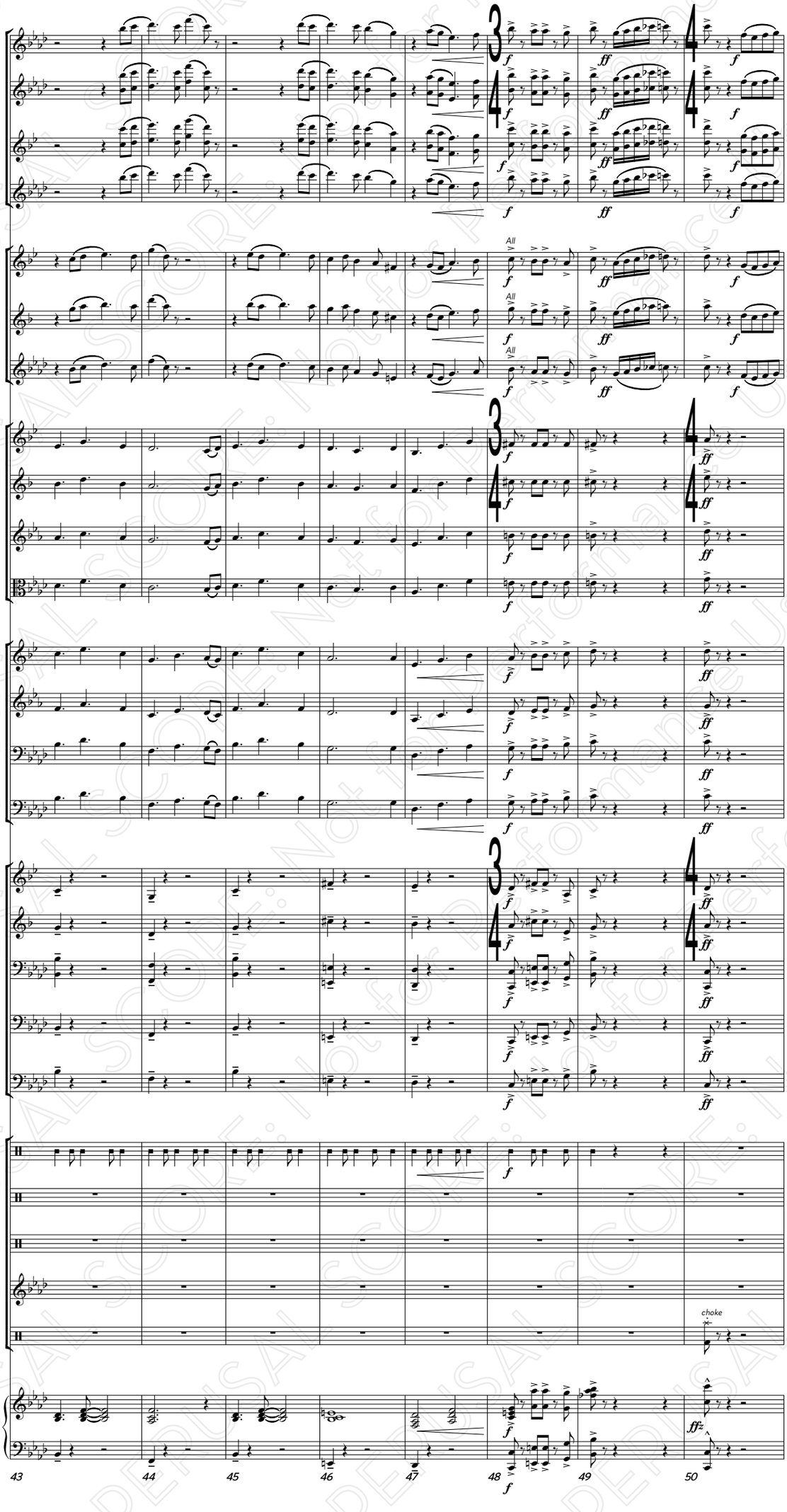

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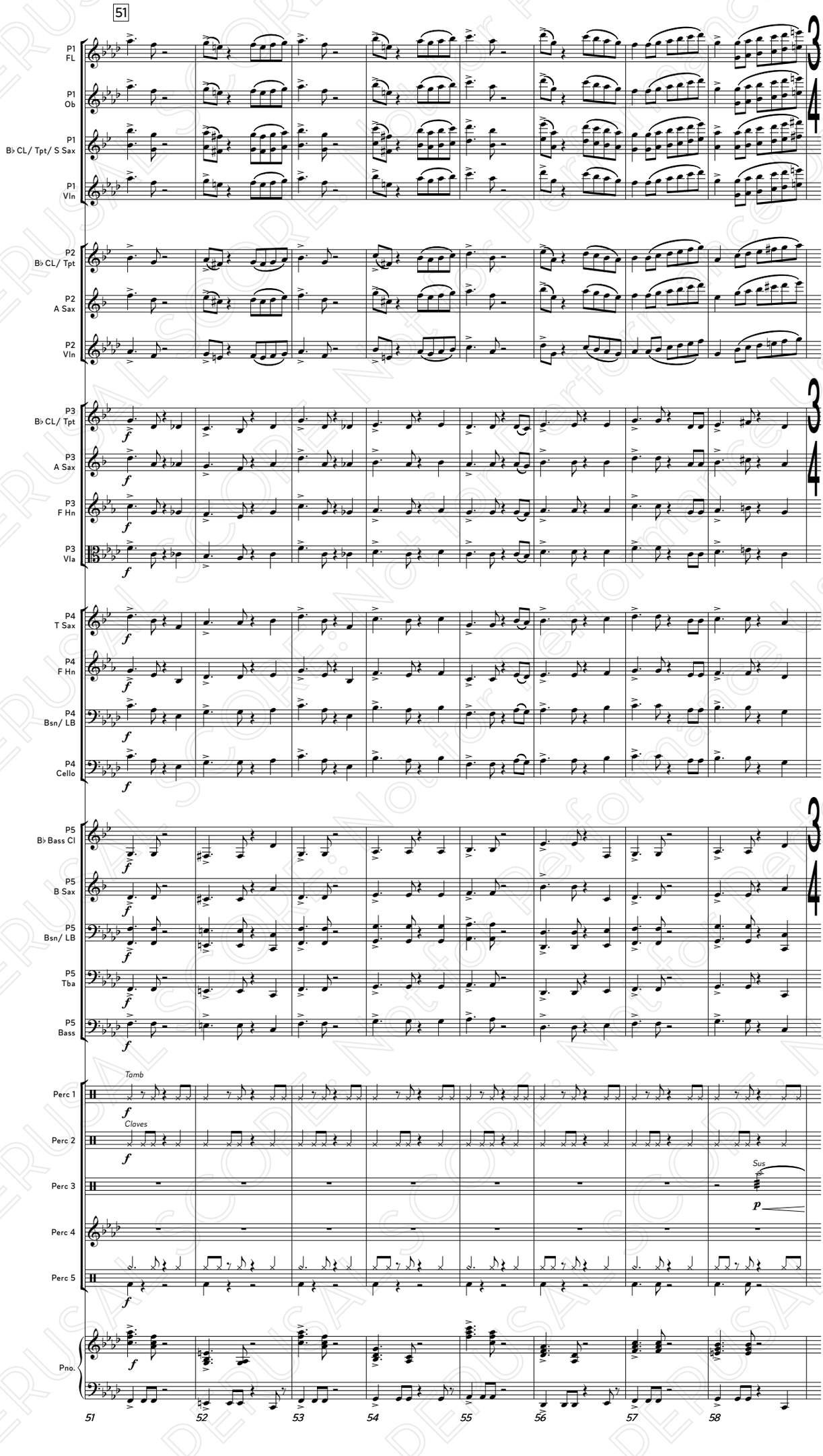

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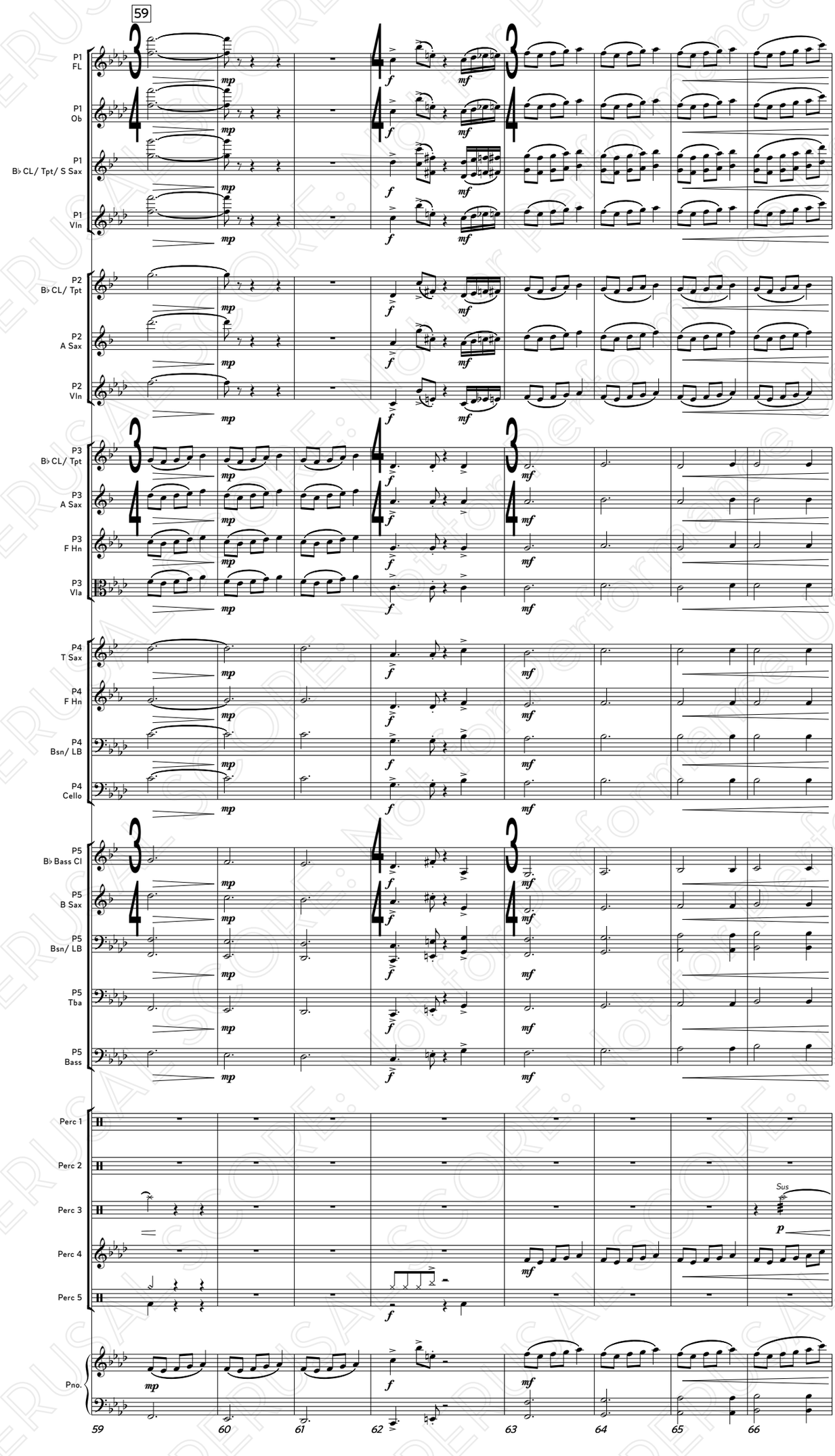

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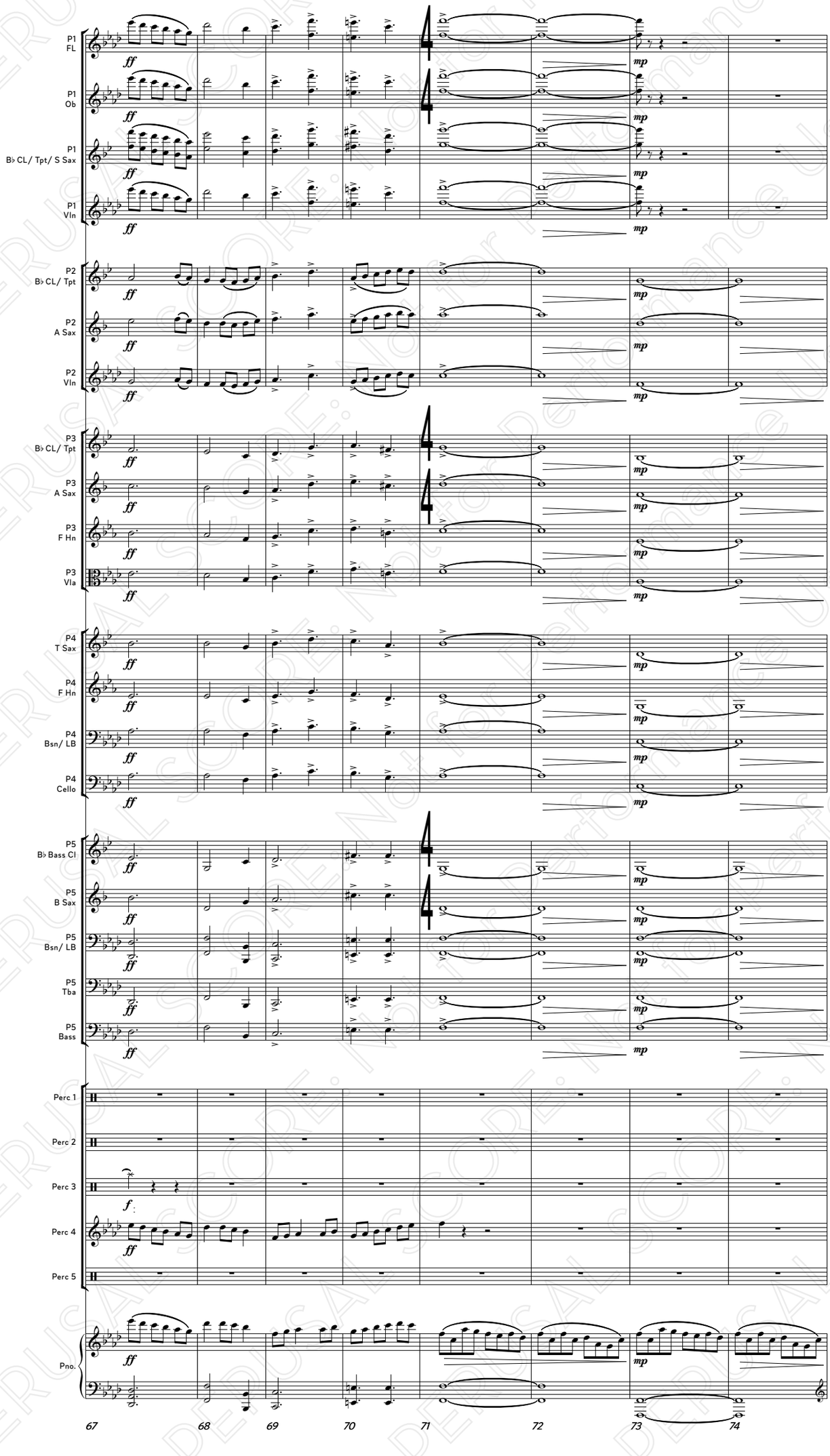

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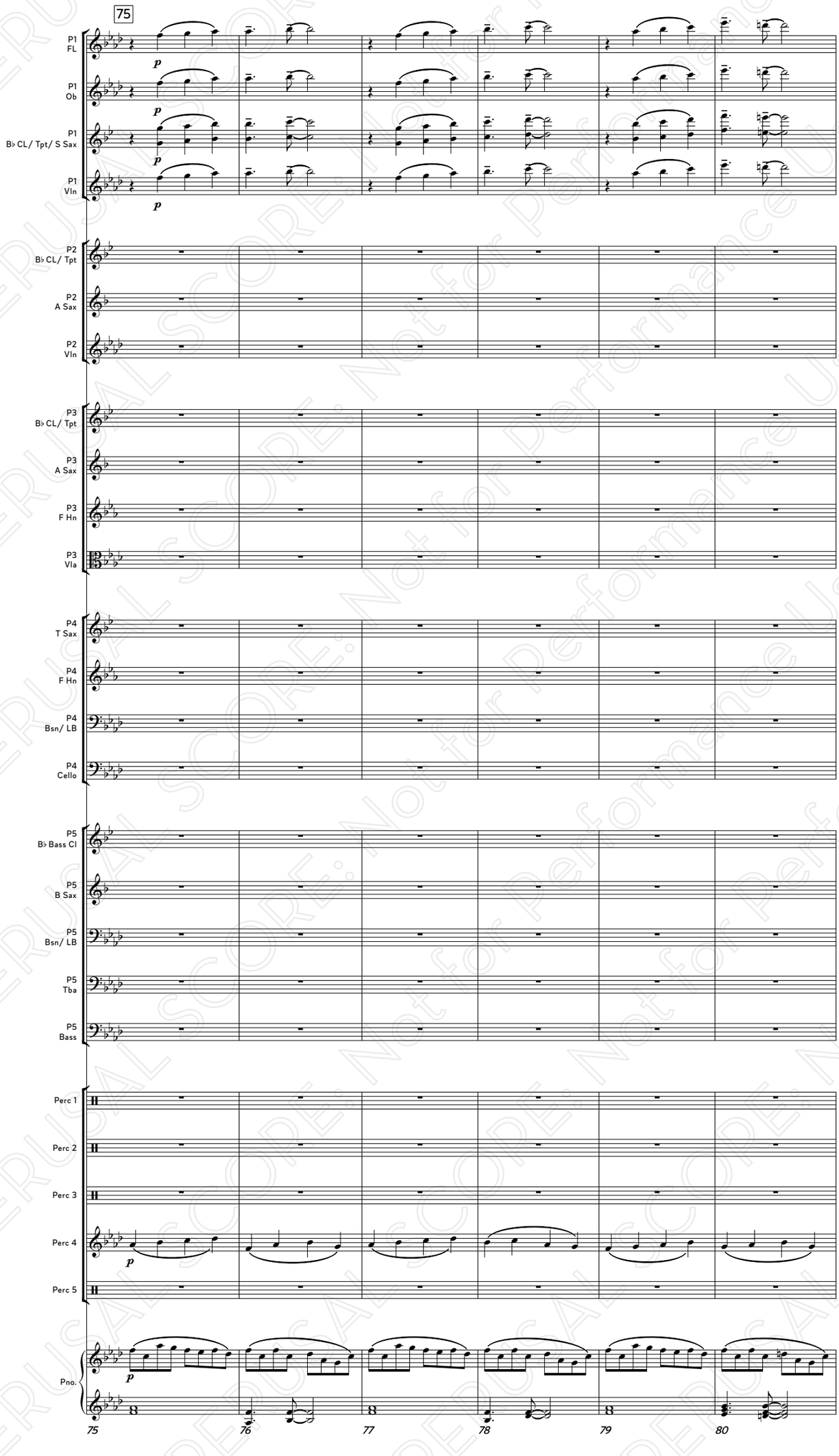

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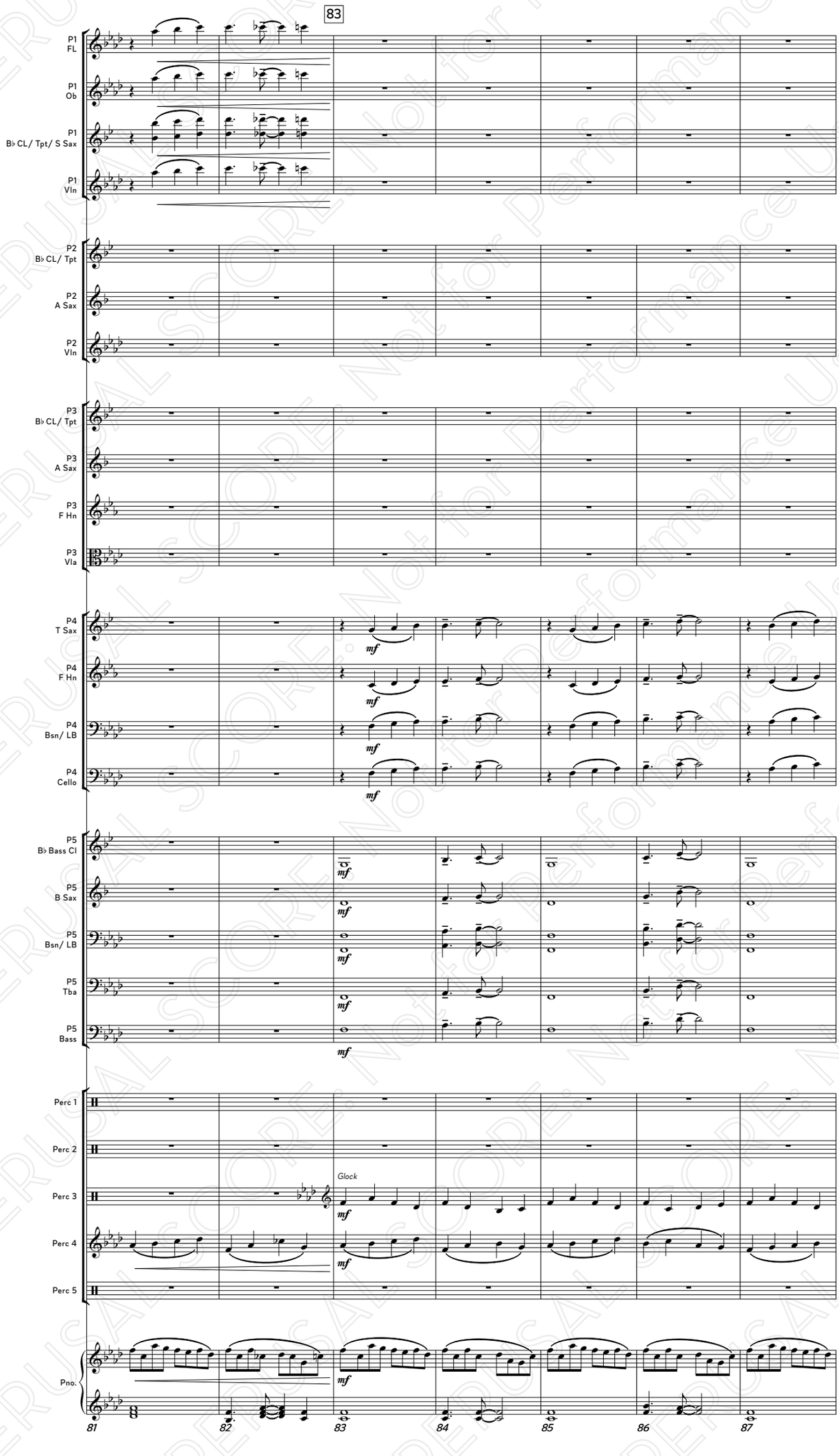

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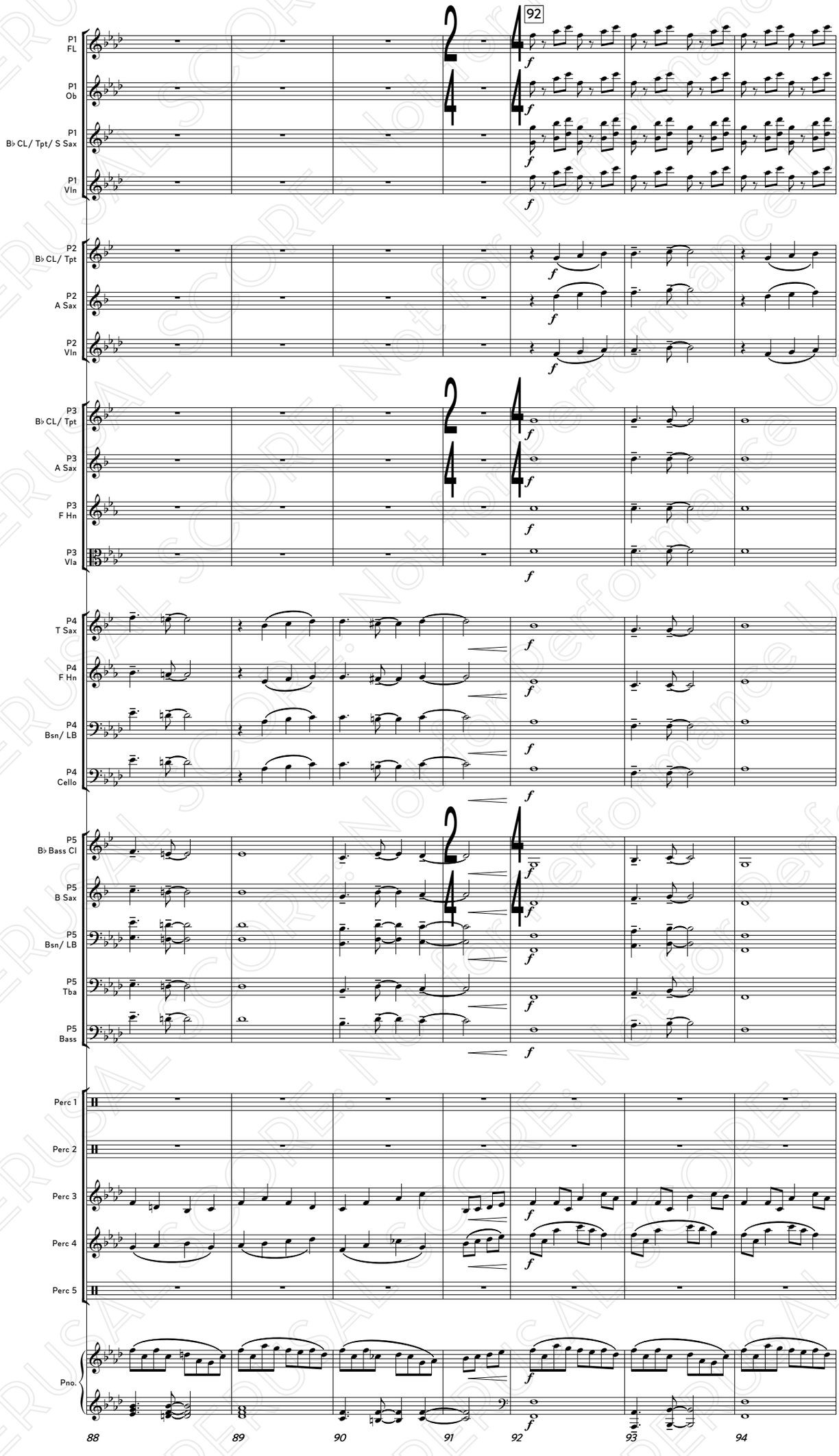

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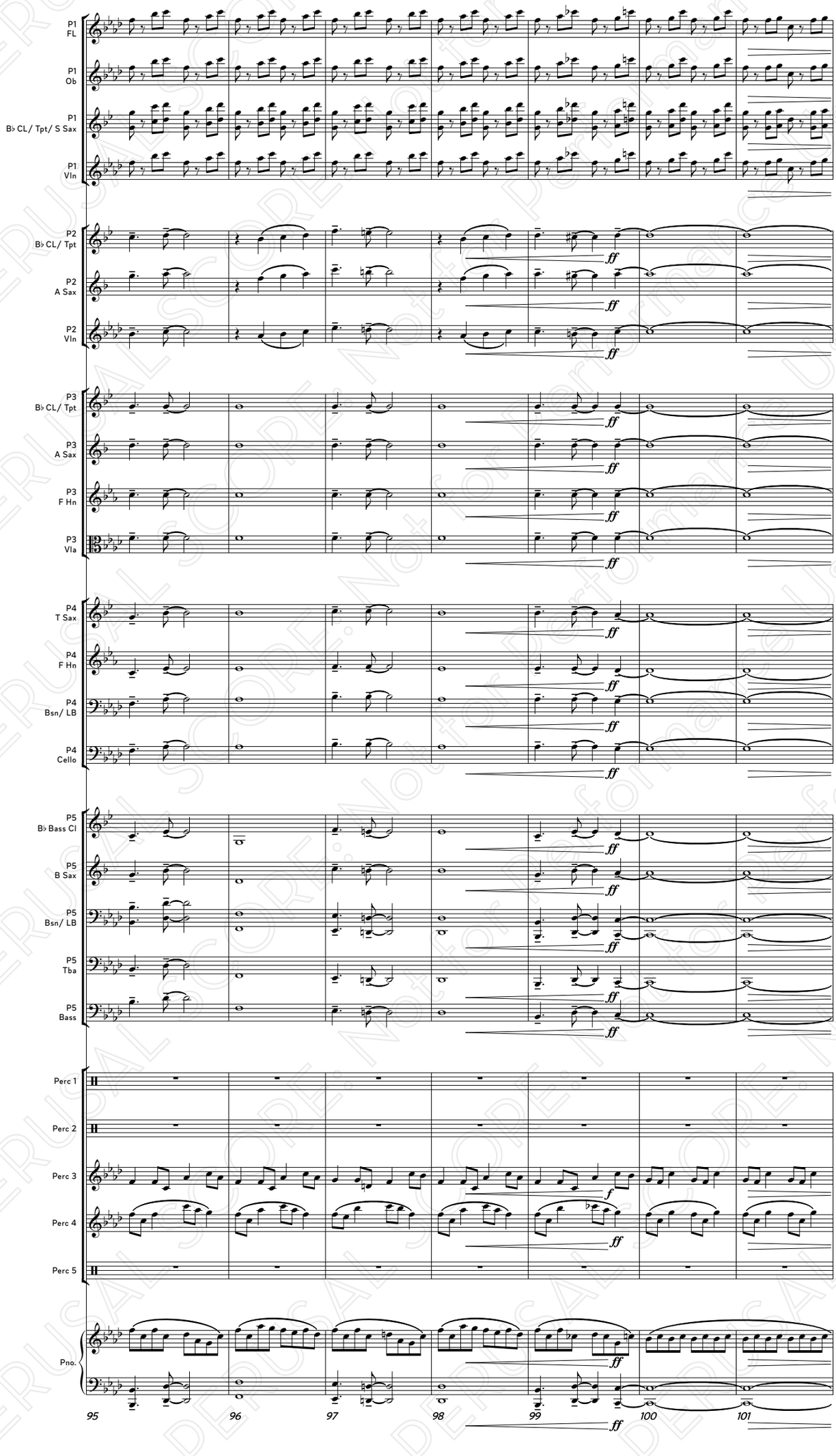

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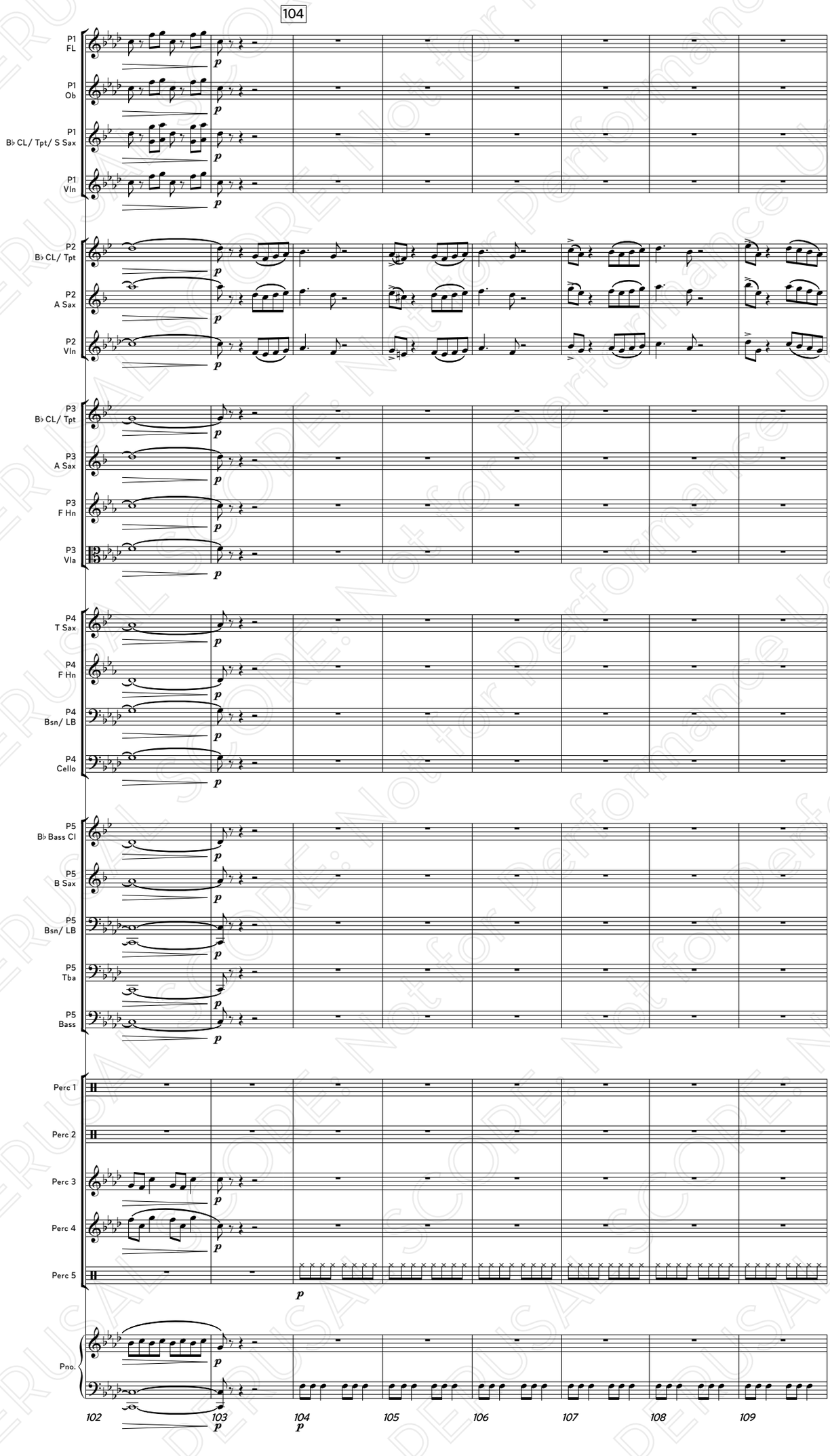

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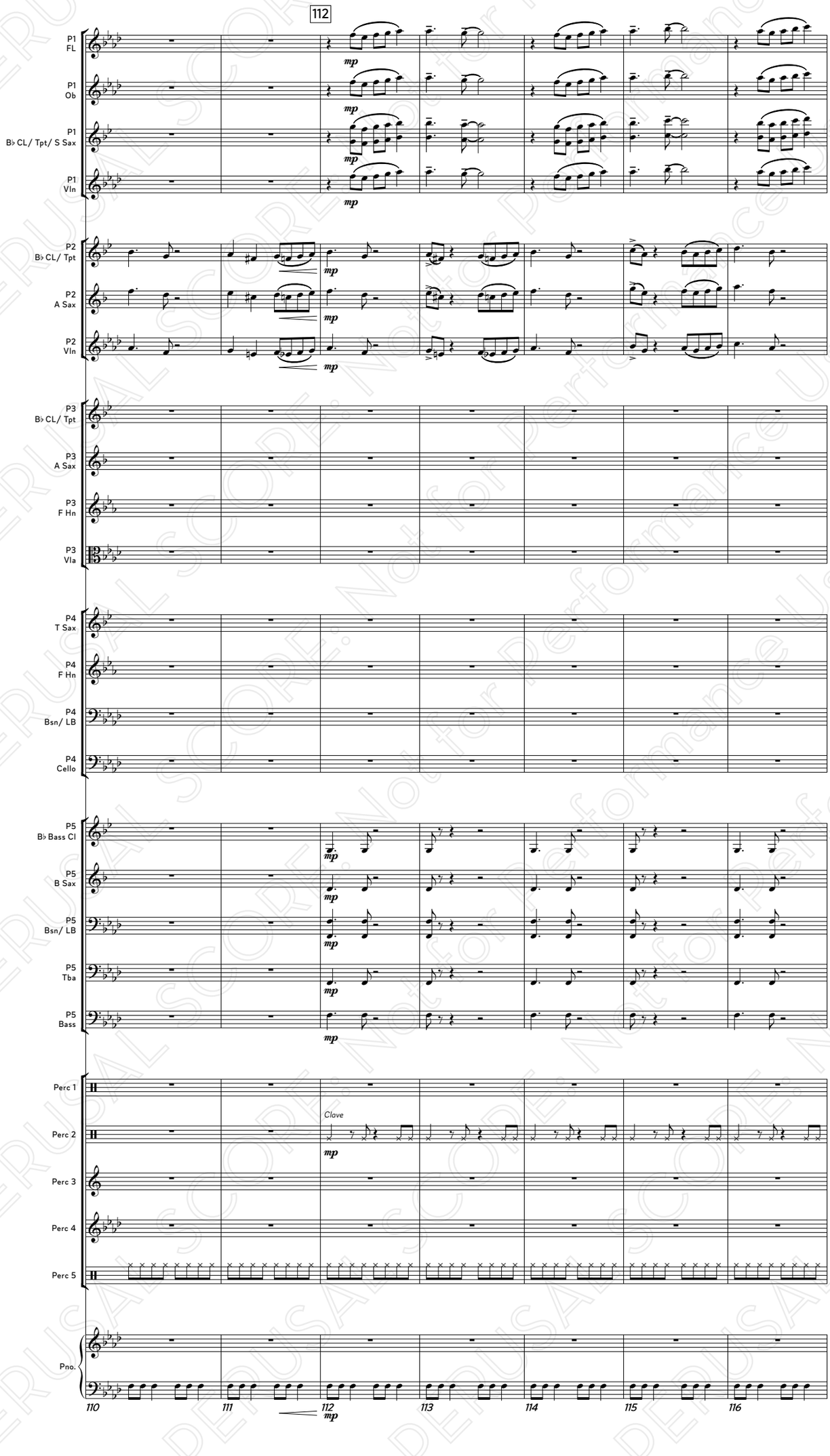

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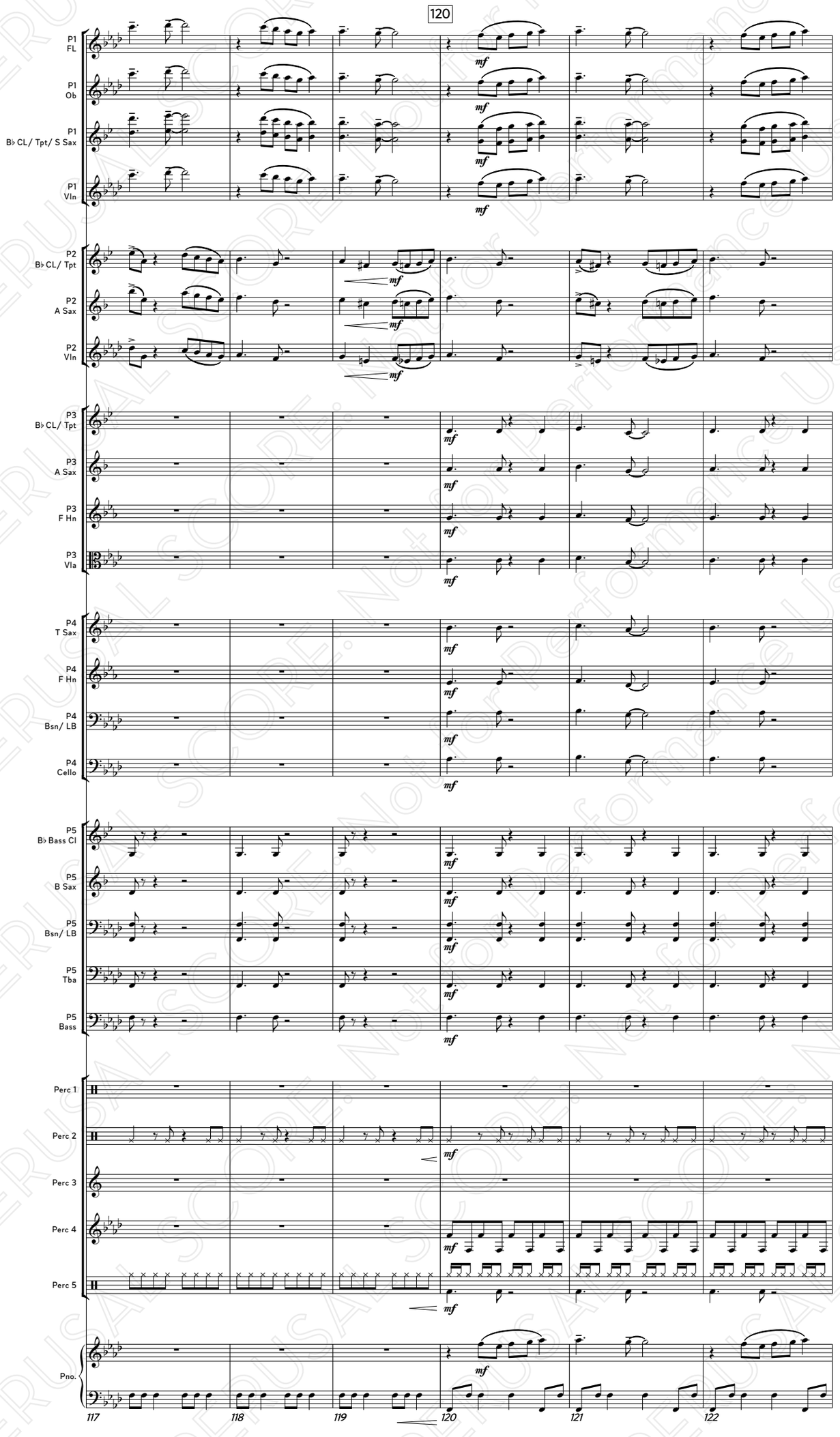

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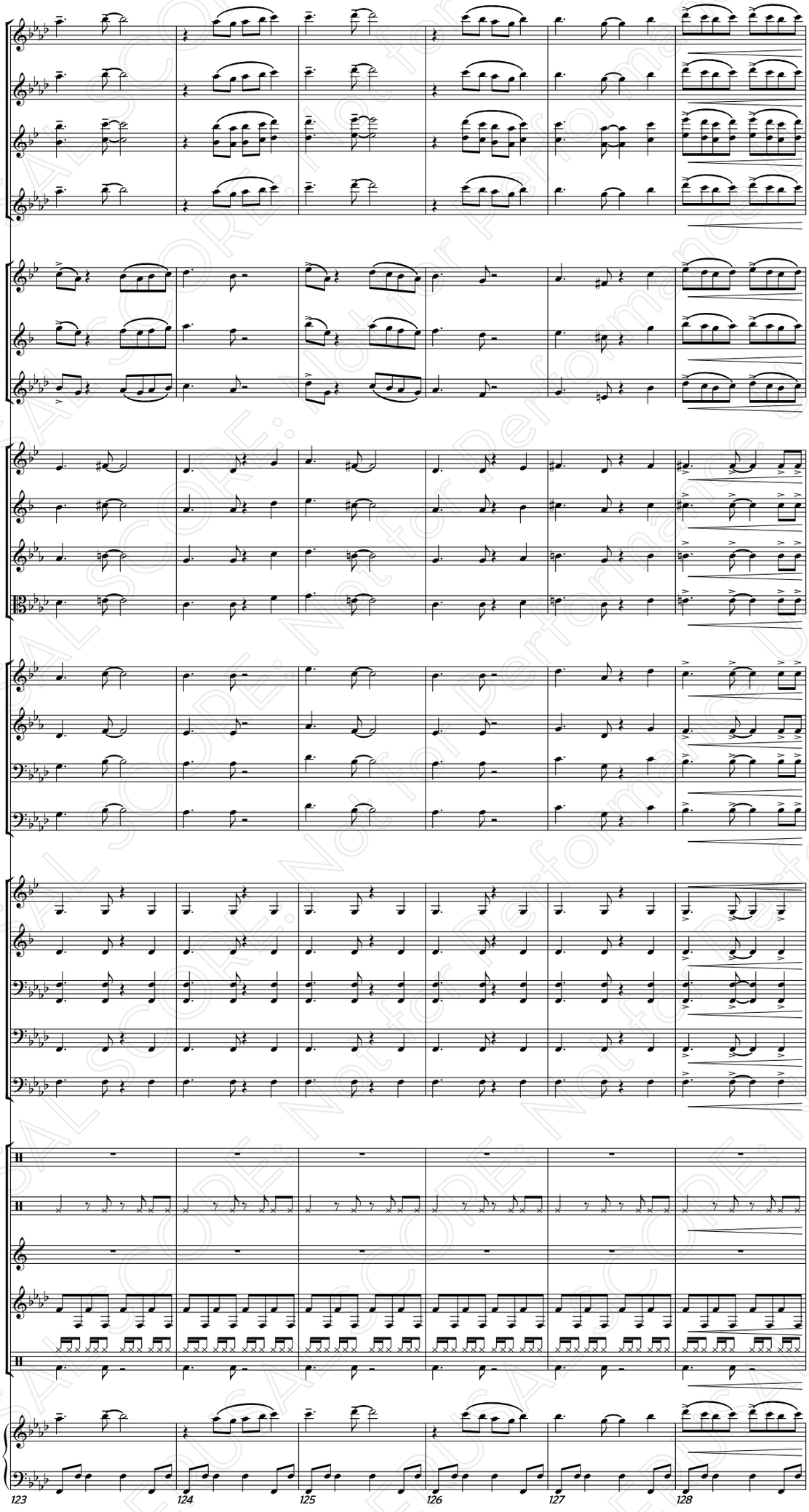

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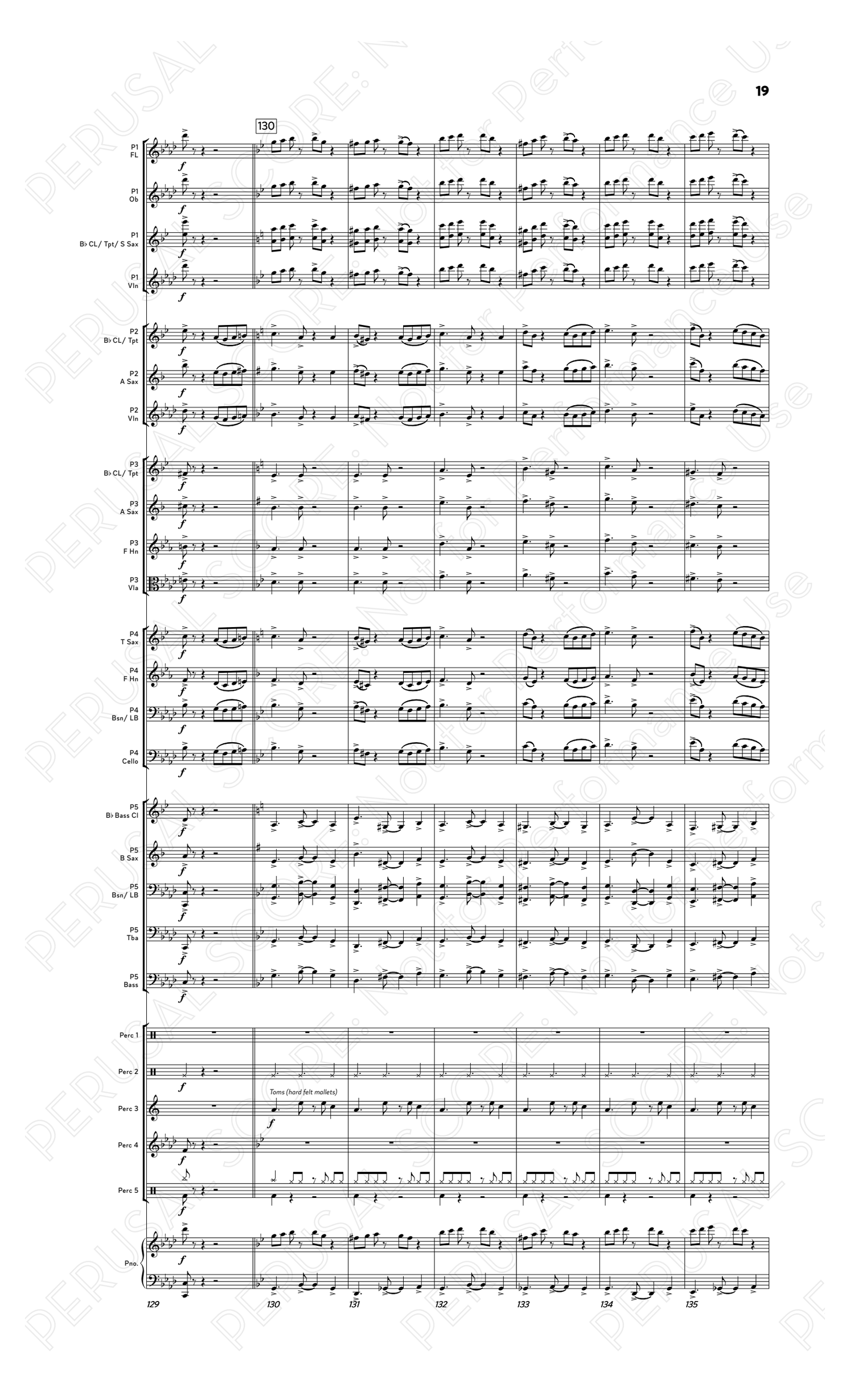

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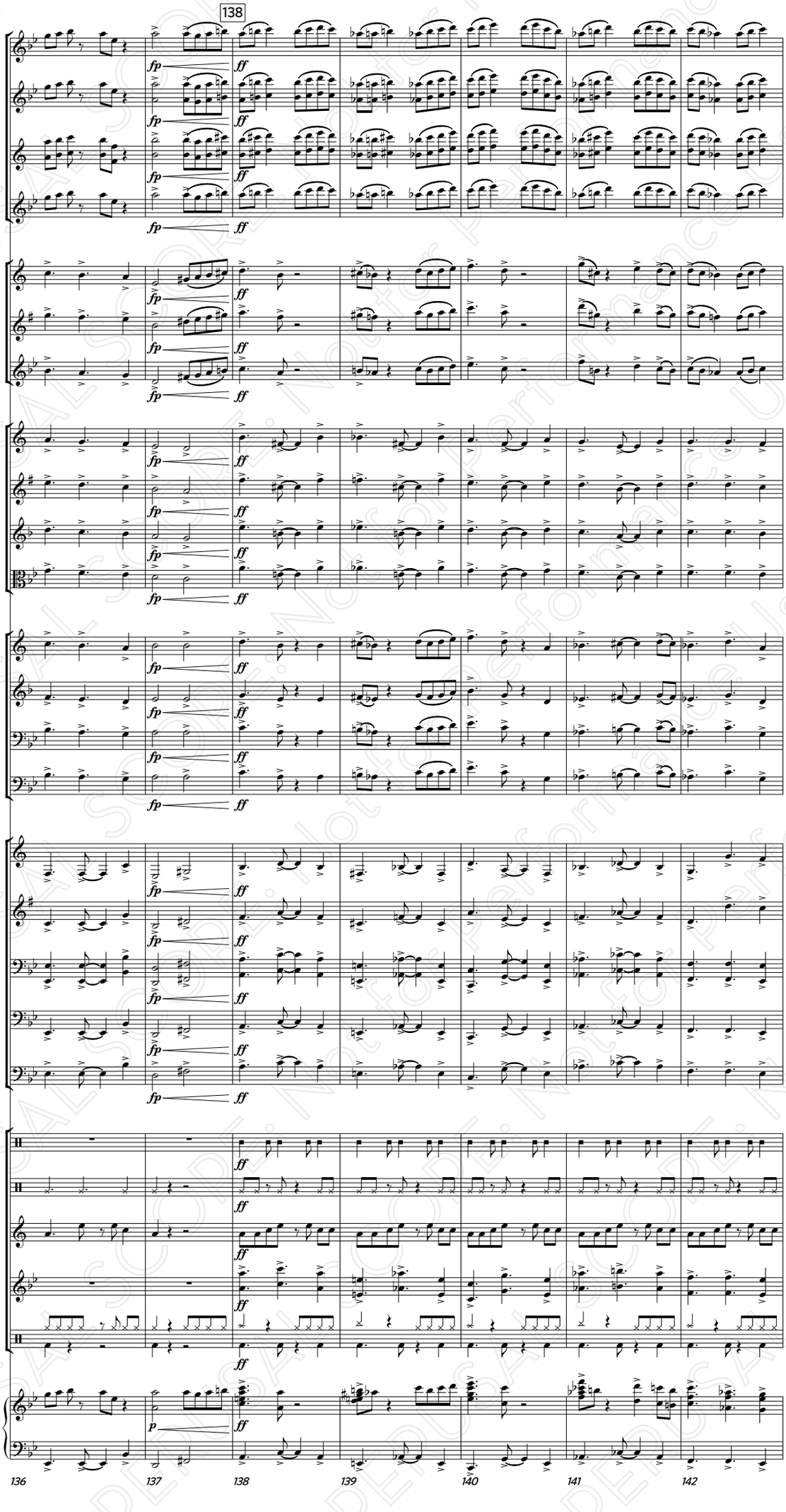

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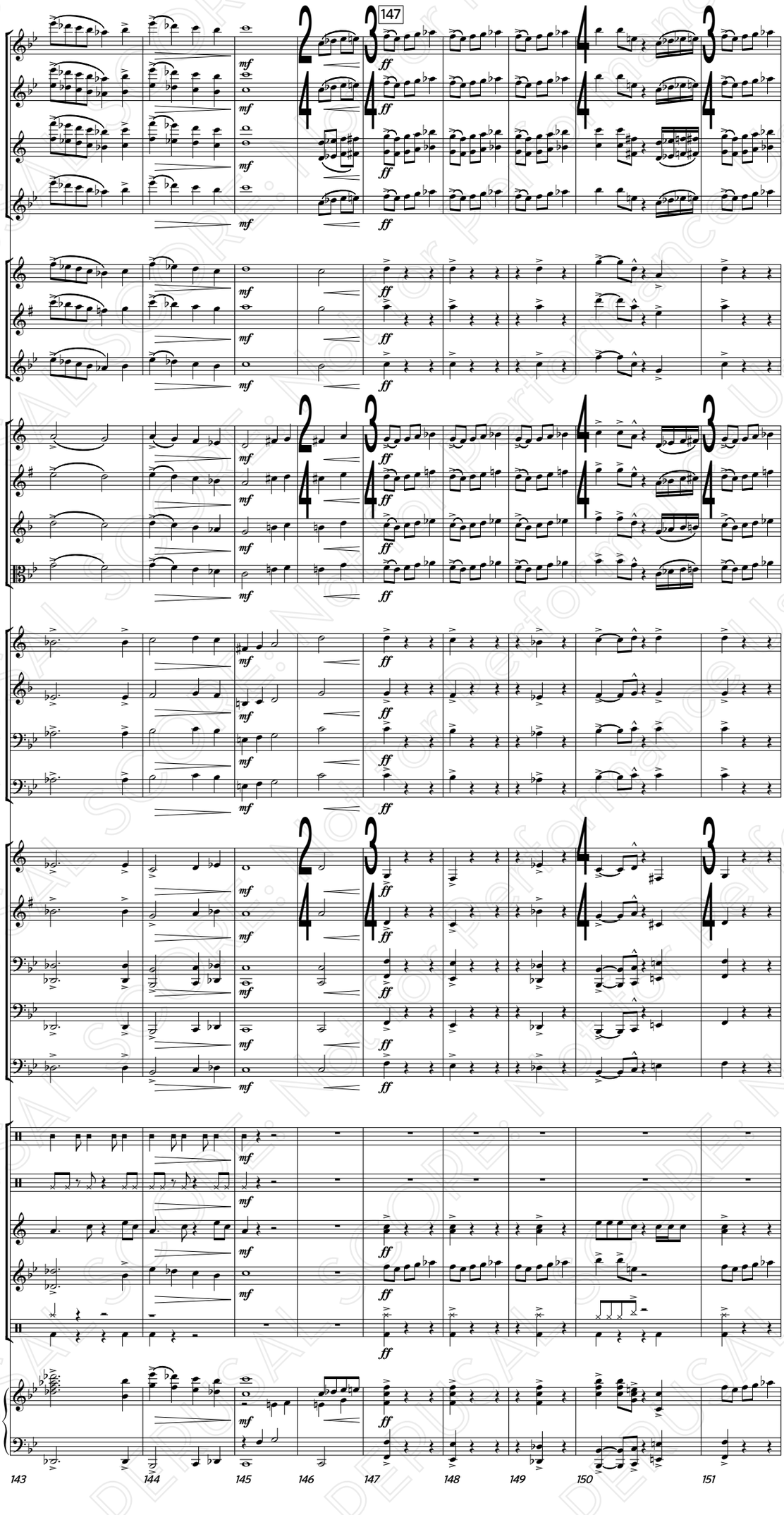

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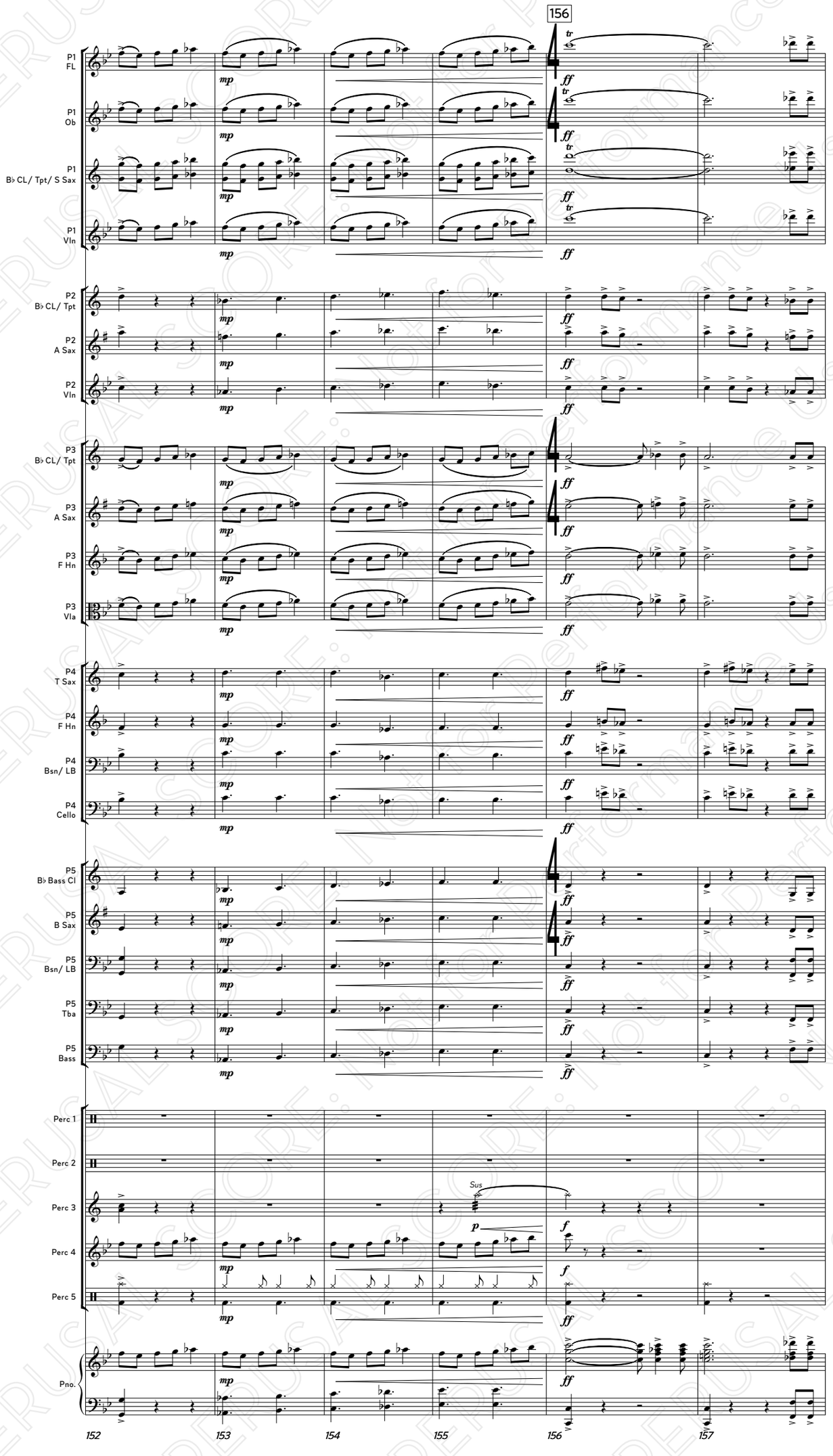

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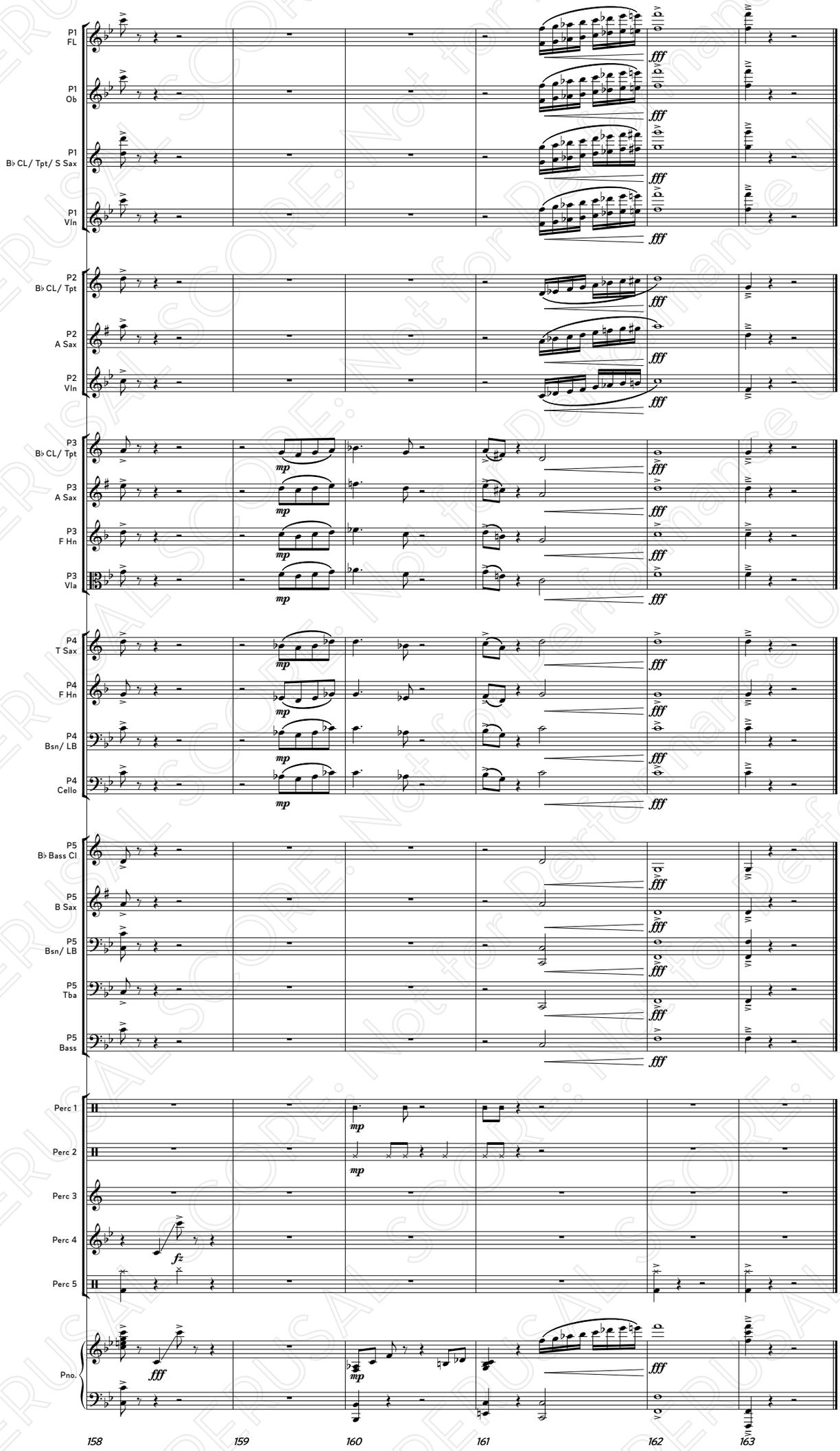

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