A LIGHT IN THE OCEAN

FOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CHRIS PILSNER

INSTRUMENTATION

Flute 1
Flute 2
Oboe
English Horn
Clarinet in Bb 1
Clarinet in Bb 2
Bassoon 1
Bassoon 2
Trumpet in Bb 1
Trumpet in Bb 2
Trumpet in Bb 3
Horn in F 1
Horn in F 2
Horn in F 3
Horn in F 4
Trombone 1
Trombone 2
Trombone 3 (Bass)
Tuba
Timpani
Percussion 1 (Vibraphone, Tam-Tam, Marimba)
Percussion 2 (Mark Tree, Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbal)
Percussion 3 (Glockenspiel, Bass Drum, Tam-Tam)
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Double Bass

NOX TENEBRAE MUSIC
WWW.CHRISPILSNER.COM

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

A Light in the Ocean was commissioned by Wes Kenney and the Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra in 2019. It premieres on October 5, 2019 at the Lincoln Center in Fort Collins, Colorado.

PROGRAM NOTES

A Light in the Ocean is a pure reflection of the wonders of life across our planet. As I composed the music, I consistently envisioned the beauty and spectacle of stepping into nature and seeing the flourish of life around me. And this is no more exemplified than in the underwater expanse of the ocean.
From the outset, I knew it was essential to give this seascape a melody that matched its innocence and wonder. This was very important to me because I feel like melody has become a lost-art in much of the classical music being composed today. But there is a reason that so much music in our history is great, and that is largely due to a melody that connects it together. My melody, while intentionally simple in nature, slowly develops and changes over the course of the piece to help exemplify the ever-changing life cycle of the world.

Beyond melody, A Light in the Ocean also relies heavily upon the Dorian mode. This means that instead on emphasizing the traditional first note of a major scale, my music finds its foundation on the second note. In result, the Dorian mode has a minor quality but with an added brightness and "light" to its raised 6th note.

In the orchestra, you can hear a a sense of gentle movement that gives each moment a water-like quality. As the music progresses, this movement gets more dramatic and complex just as the ocean itself can become turbulent and threatening. Ultimately, the piece comes to several dramatic moments that reflect both the beauty and expansiveness of such an incredible force of nature.

CHRIS PILSNER

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Composer and conductor Chris Pilsner is becoming an established name in the contemporary classical world. His music for orchestra, wind ensemble, and chamber ensembles has been acclaimed by audiences, performers, and conductors worldwide and receives hundreds of performances every year. Recordings of these works can be found throughout YouTube, garnering over 160,000 views.

In the concert hall, Chris's music has been performed by groups as diverse as professional ensembles, universities, high schools, all-state/honor ensembles, and even in Carnegie Hall. He has also been commissioned by/recorded with professional orchestras across the world including the Vienna Synchron Stage Orchestra, Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Session Orchestra and the Budapest Scoring Orchestra. In 2019, he traveled to Vienna to conduct the Vienna Synchron Stage Orchestra in a recording session of all his works for string orchestra, which were released on his EP Album Elements in August of 2019. He was also the winner of the 2020 Film Scoring Academy of Europe's Call for Scores, where he will record a brand new work for full orchestra and chorus in 2021.

As a conductor, Chris served as the Director of Orchestras at Windsor High School in Colorado from 2014-2019, where he greatly expanded the orchestra program and lead his students to appear in the program's first ever State ASTA Festival. Now a full-time composer and conductor, he regularly appears as a guest conductor/clinician with schools, honor bands/orchestras, and other ensembles across the nation. Because of his experience as a teacher, Chris is an avid supporter of music education and strives to keep creating new and original works for young individuals across the world.

Chris holds a Masters of Music in Composition at Central Michigan University where he studied with renowned composer David Gillingham. He also holds two Bachelor's degrees from the University of Northern Colorado in Music Composition and Music Education.

Chris is a member of ASCAP and proudly self-published through his publishing company Nox Tenebrae Music.

Full Score

Commissioned by the Fort Collins Symphony, Wes Kenney Music Director, in memory of Melanie Valente

A LIGHT IN THE OCEAN

CHRIS PILSNER

Largamente ♩ = 44

4

Flute 1
Flute 2
Oboe
English Horn
Clarinet in B♭ 1 2
Bassoon 1 2

Horn in F 1 2
Horn in F 3 4
Trumpet in B♭ 1
Trumpet in B♭ 2 3
Trombone 1
Trombone 2 3
Tuba

Timpani
Vibraphone
Mark Tree
Glockenspiel
Harp

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Double Bass

solo
mf

Vib.
very soft mallets
pp
pedal sempre
M.T.
run fingers lightly through chimes
pp

pp
E♭
B♭

con sord.
p

div.
con sord.
lightly swell
p

2 3 4 5

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Listen to a live recording of this piece online at https://www.chrispilsner.com/a-light-in-the-ocean

poco rit.....

8 Dolce, Poco piu mosso ♩ = 58

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
E.H.
Cl. 1 2
Bsn 1 2
Hn 1 2
Hn 3 4
Tpt 1
Tpt 2 3
Tbn 1
Tbn 2 3
Tba
Timp.
Vib.
M.T.
Glock.
Hp
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

mp

To Tam.

To Sus. Cym.

Sus. Cym.

Glock.
plastic mallets

mp

con sord.

p

mp

mf

unis.

mp

mf

mp

mp

mp

Eb

6 7 8 9

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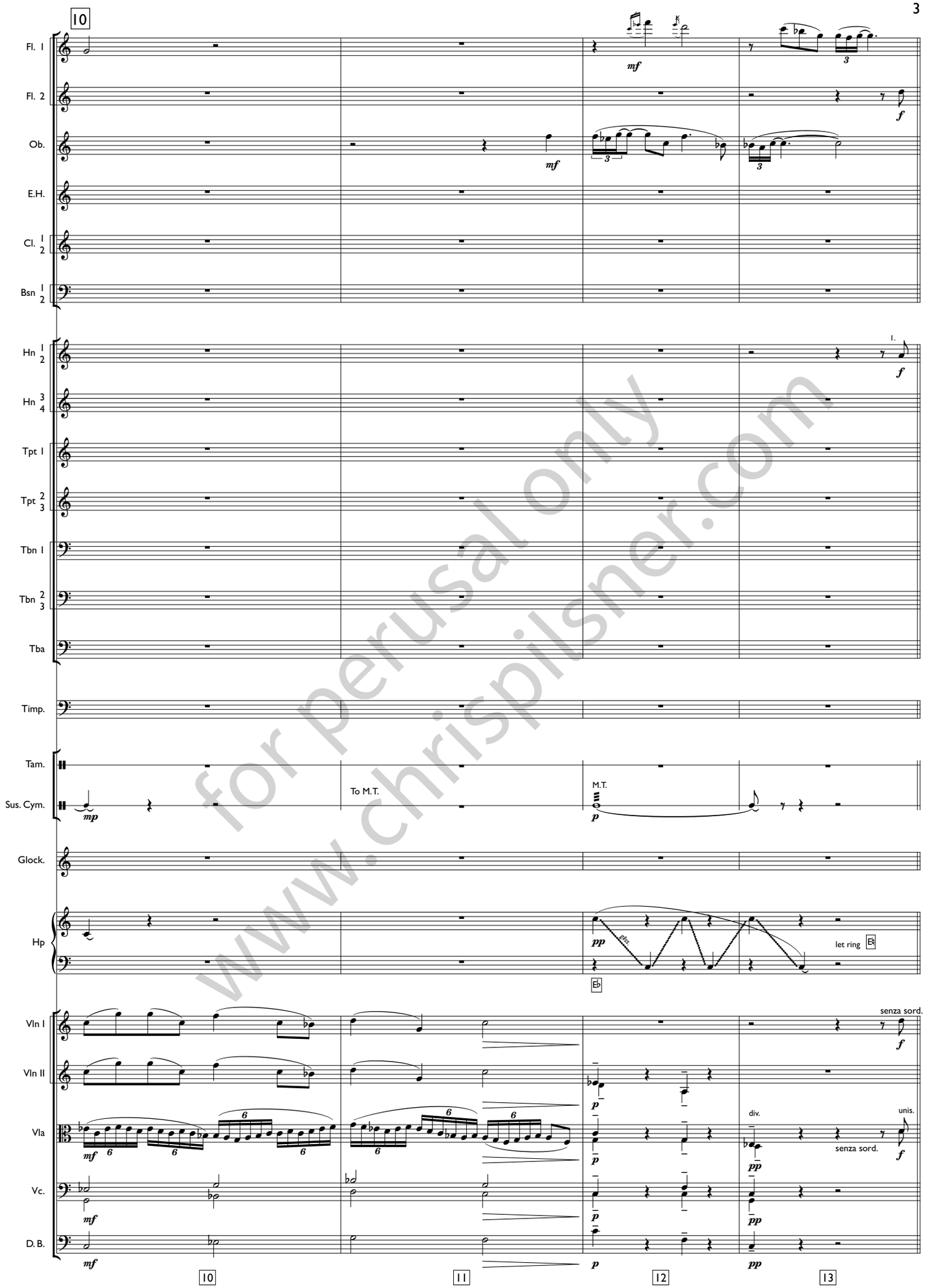

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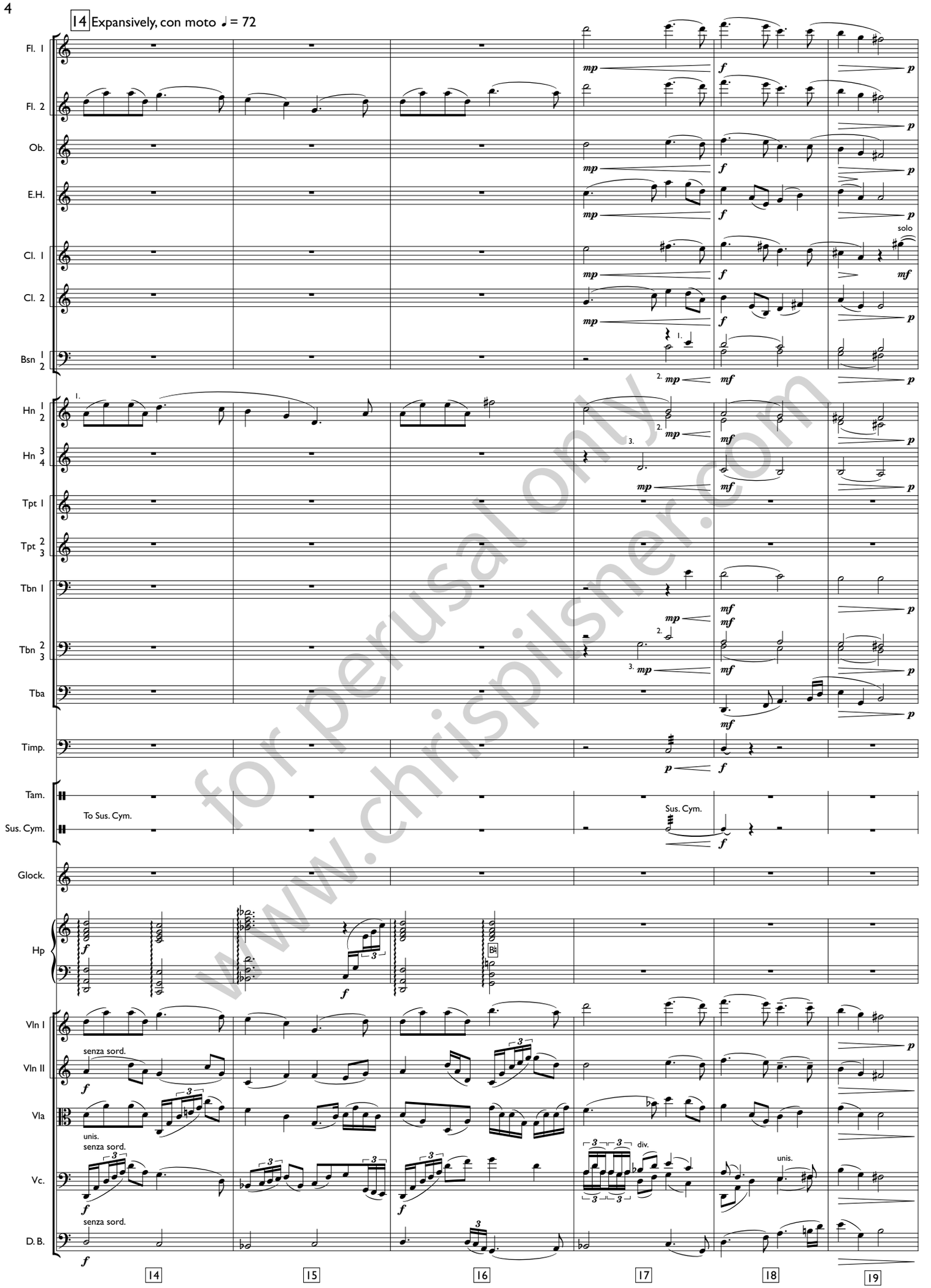

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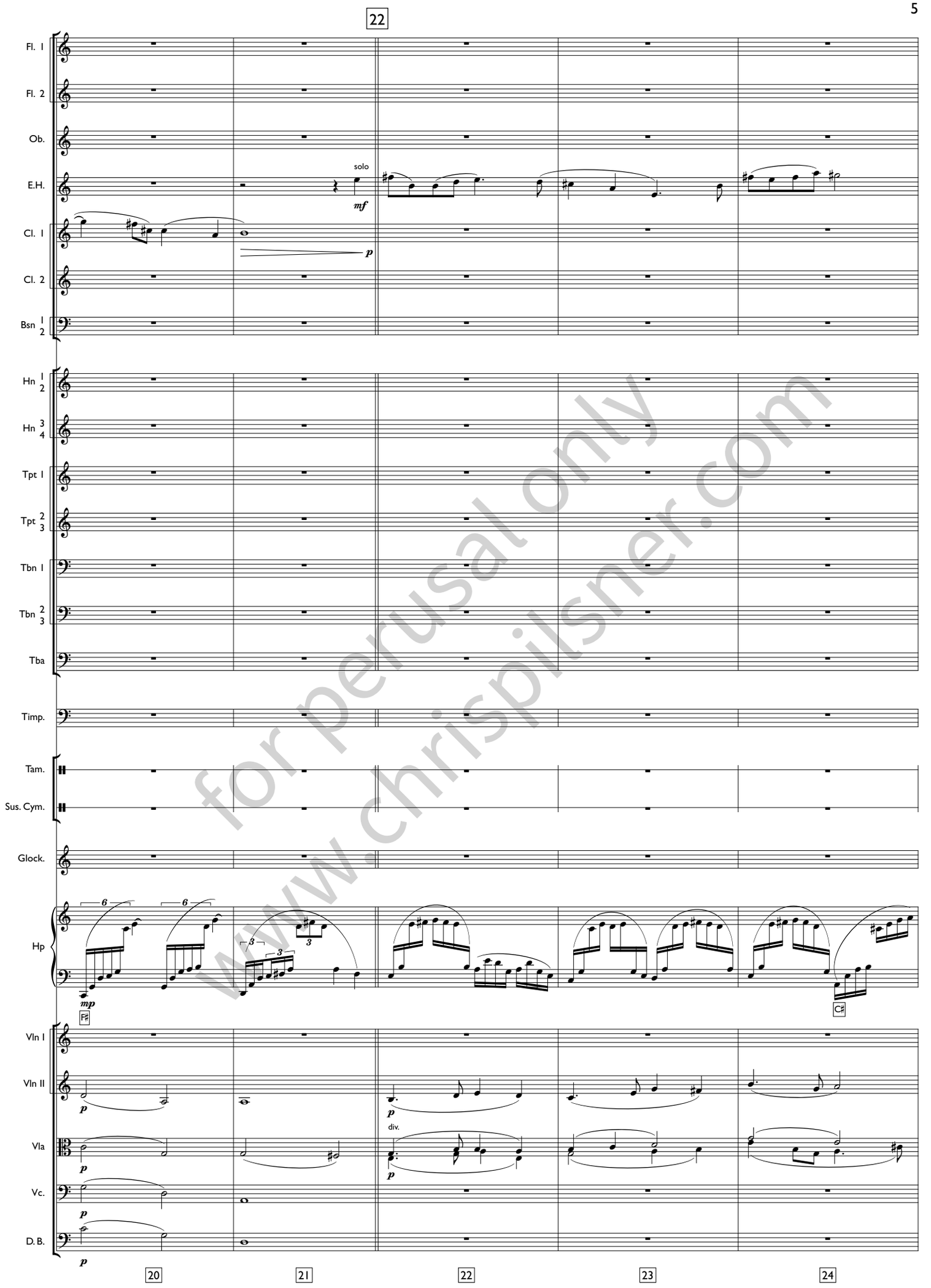

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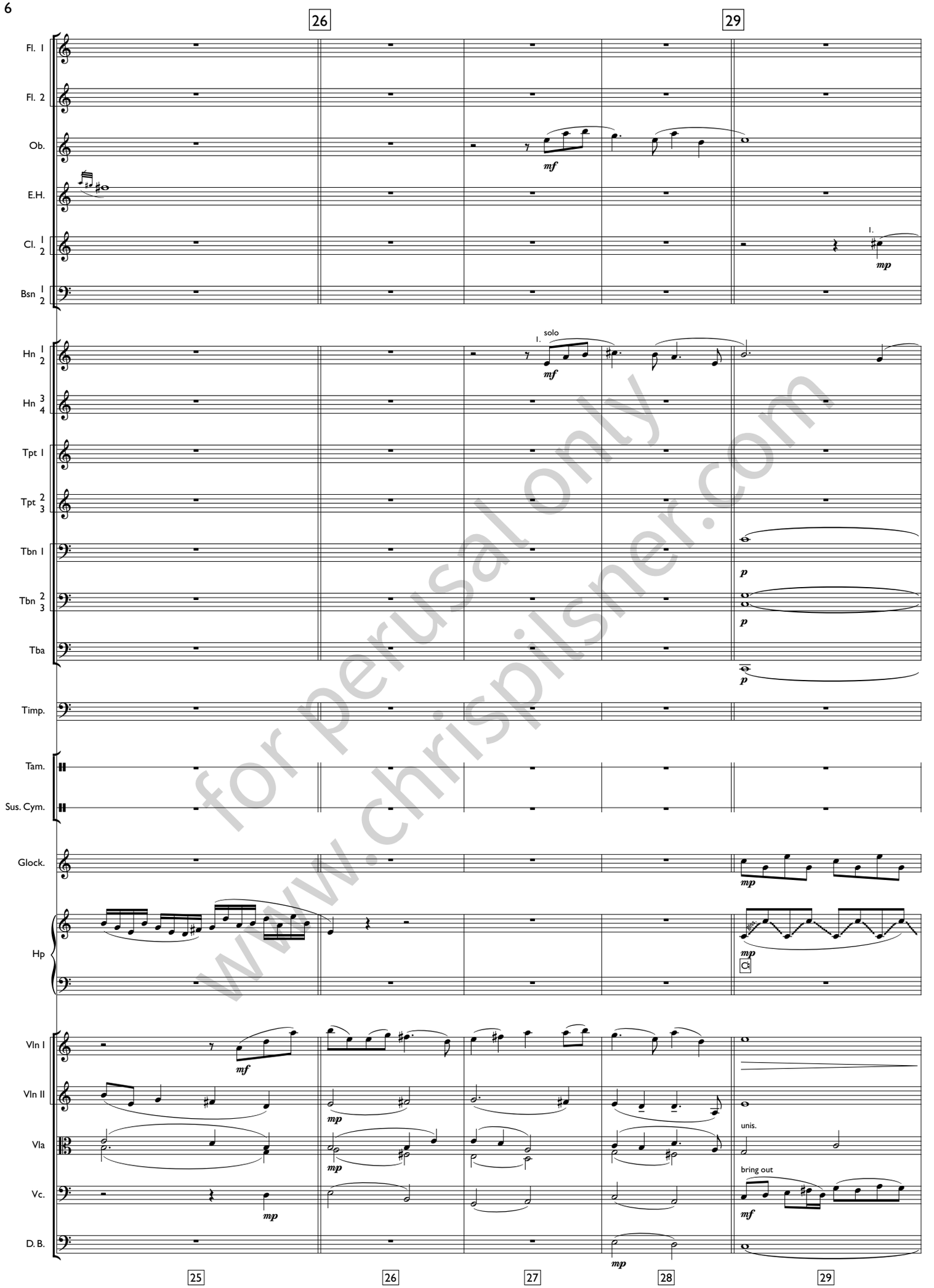

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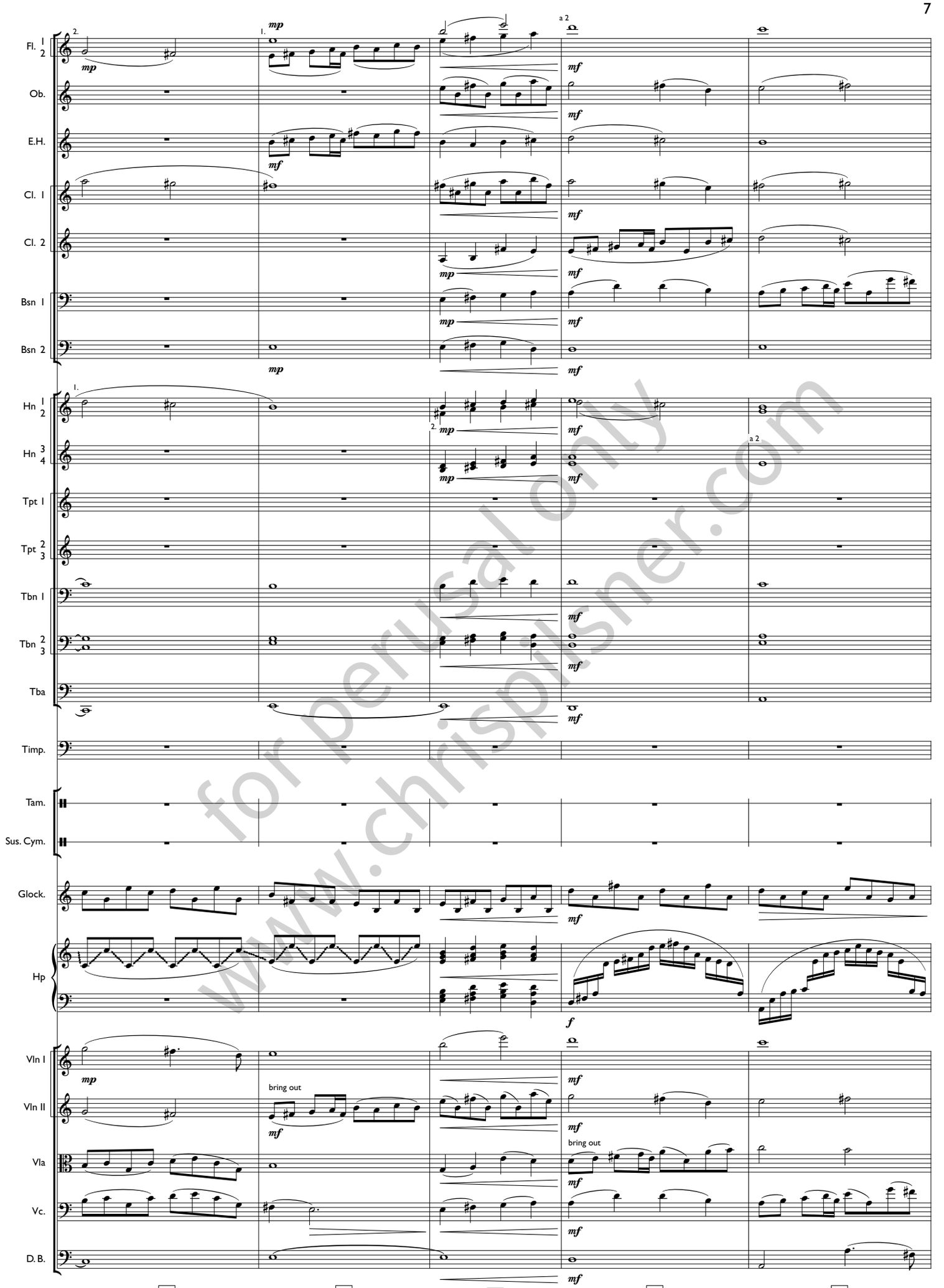

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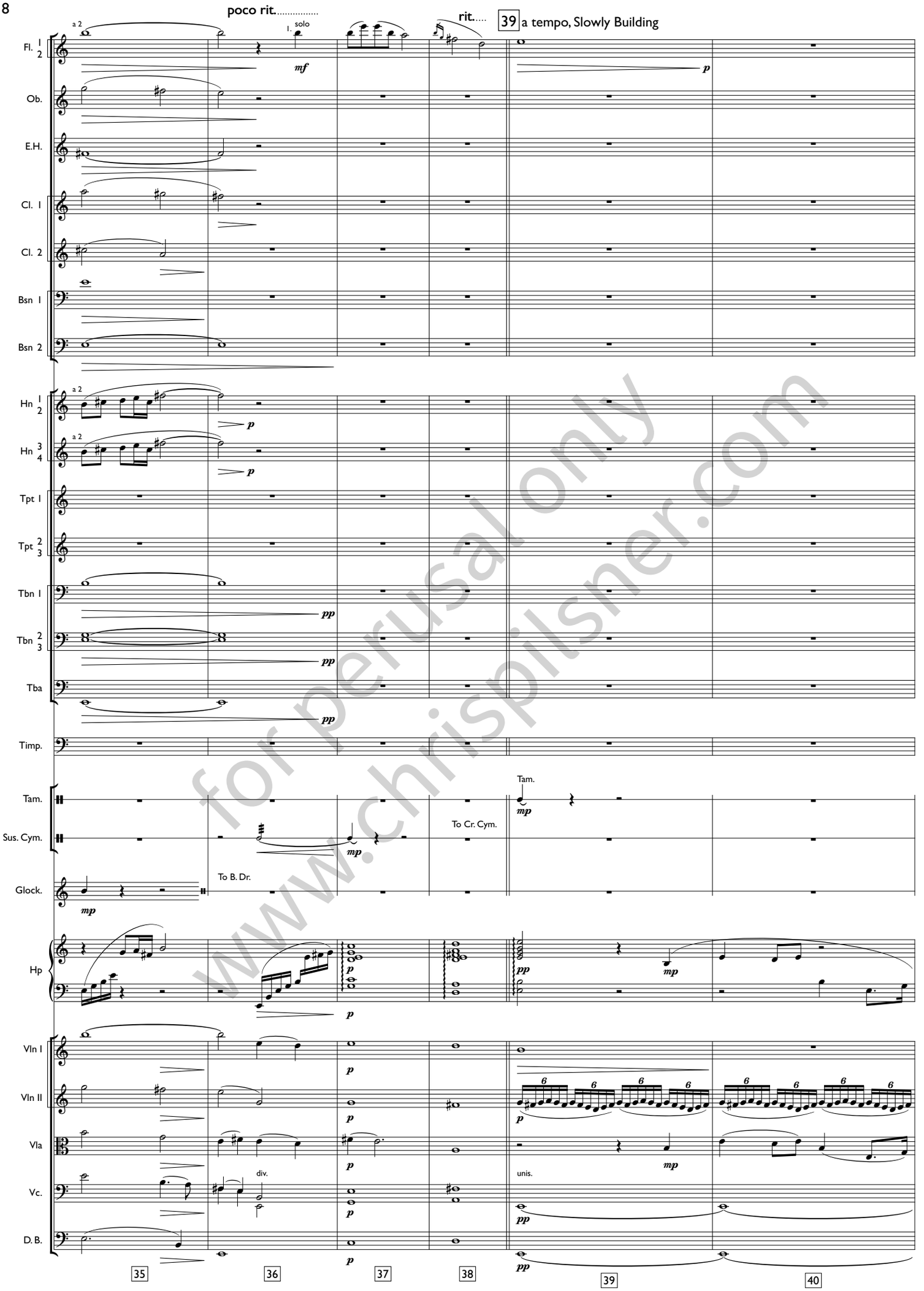

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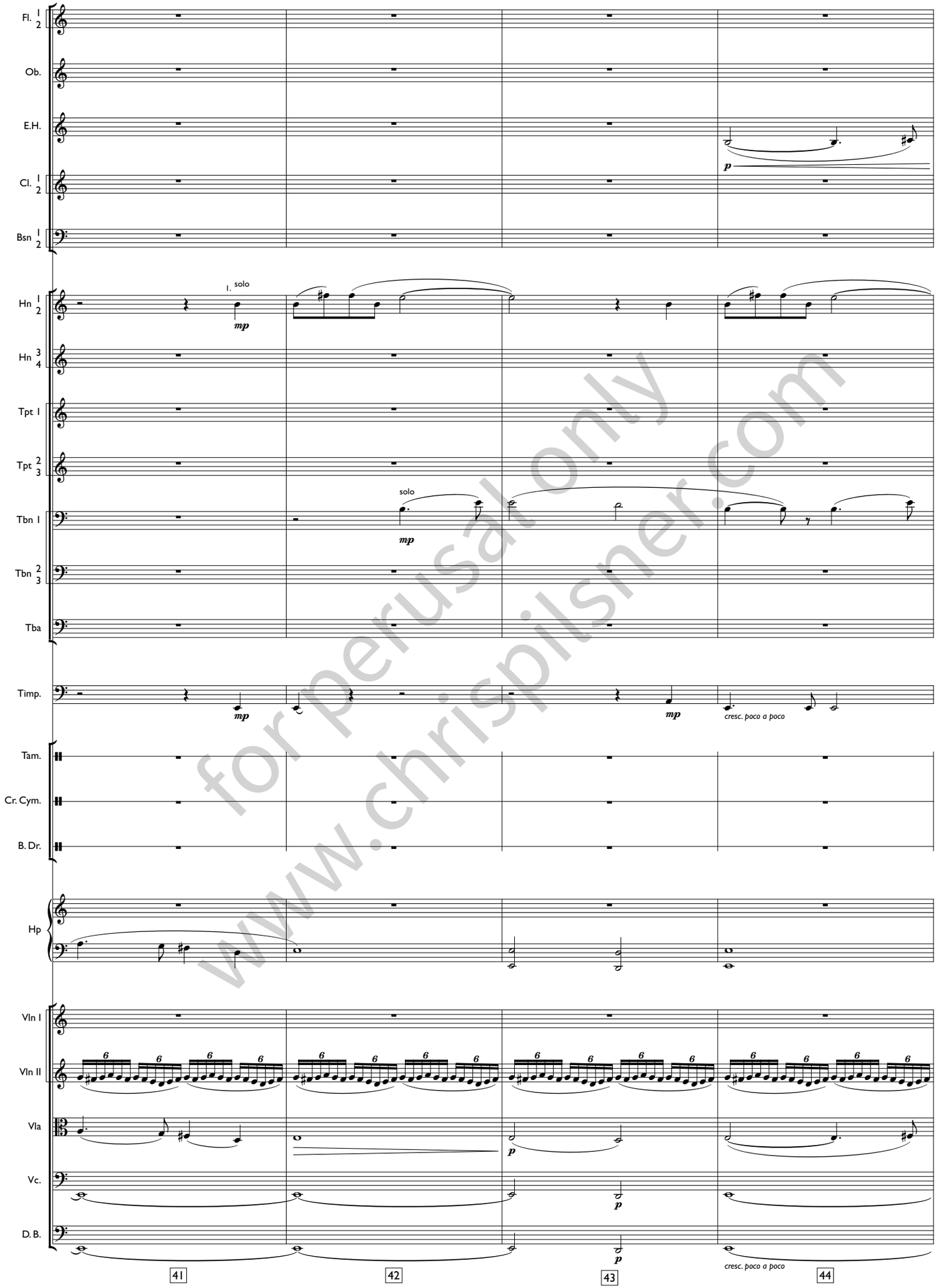

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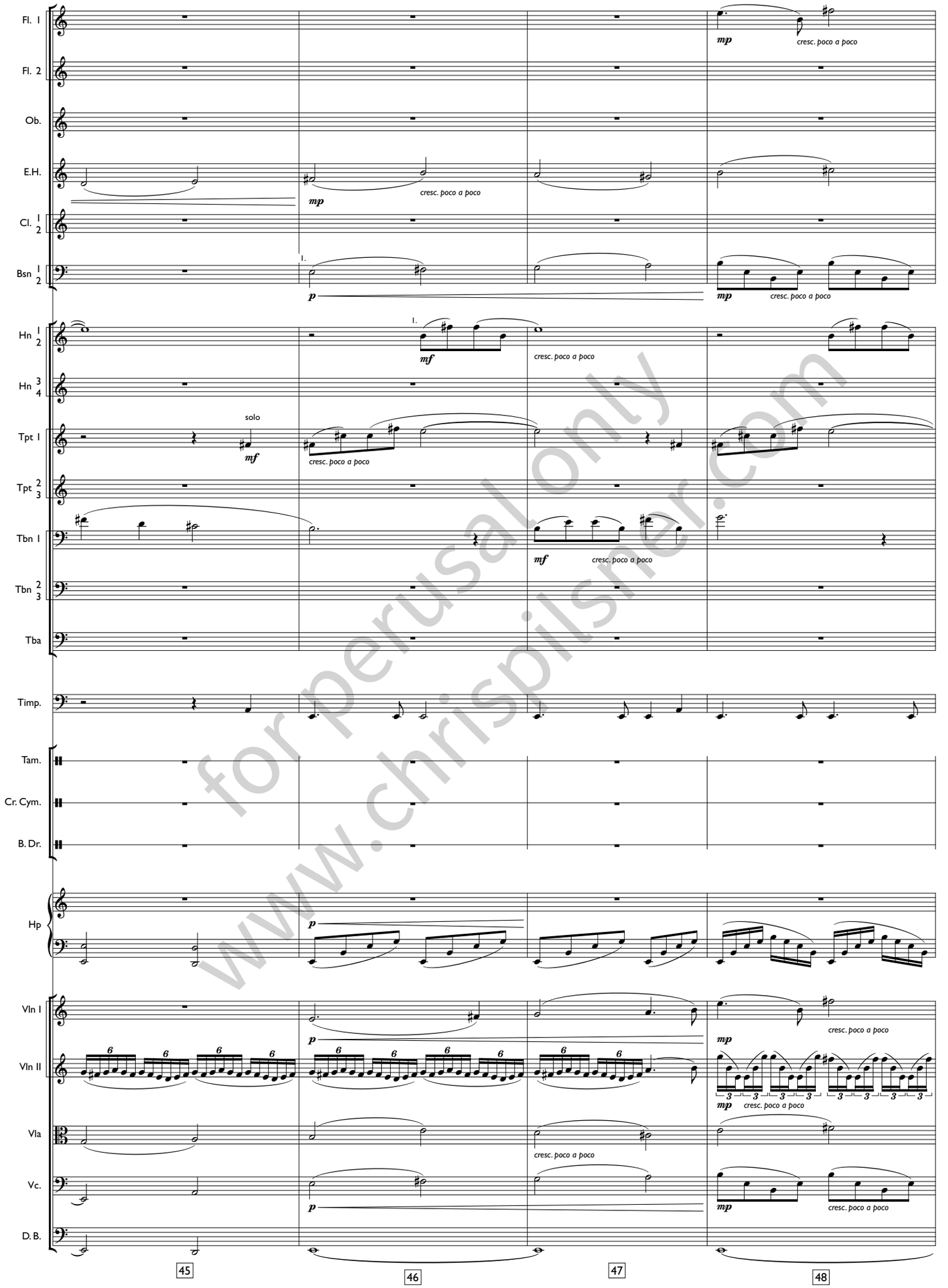

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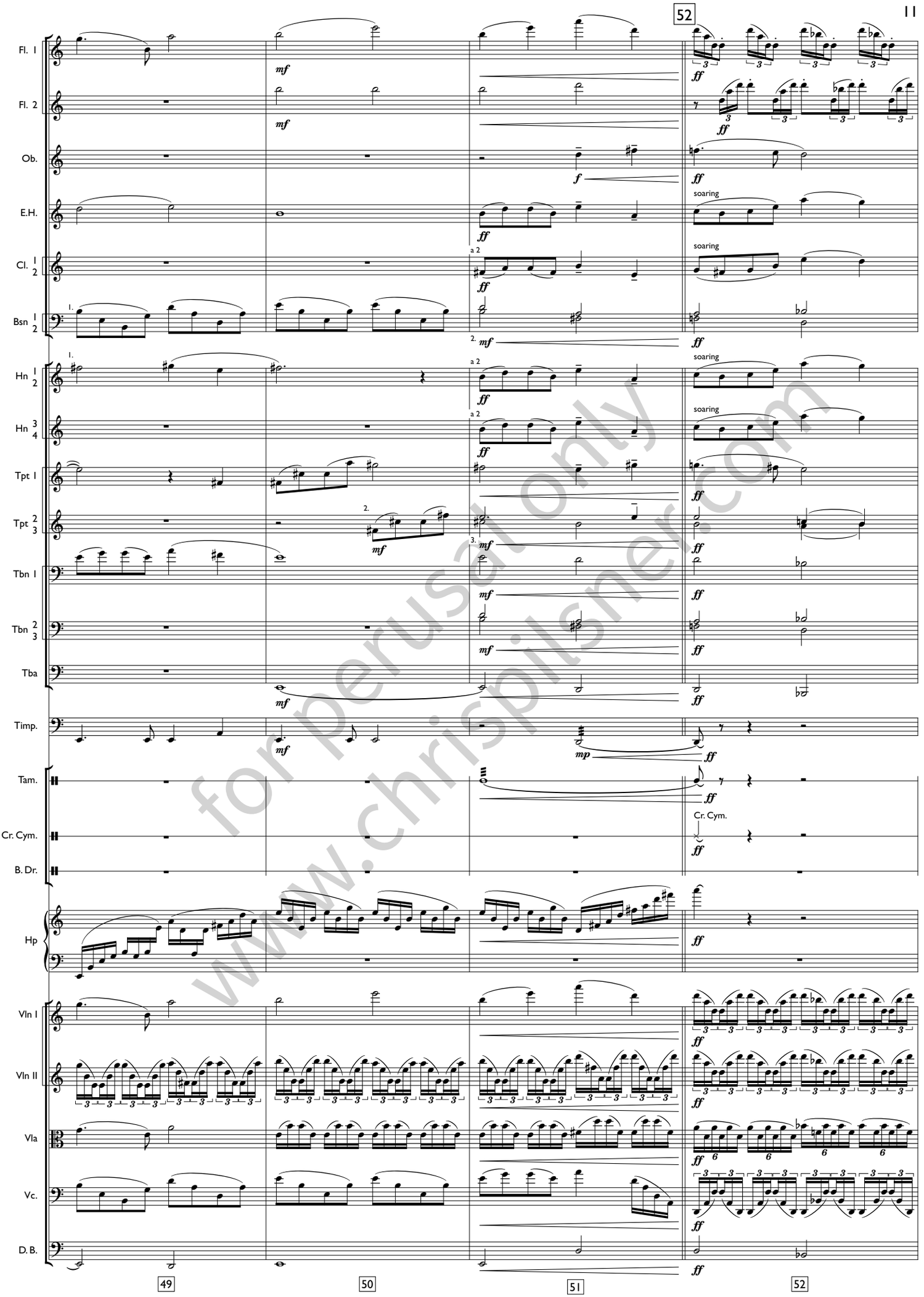

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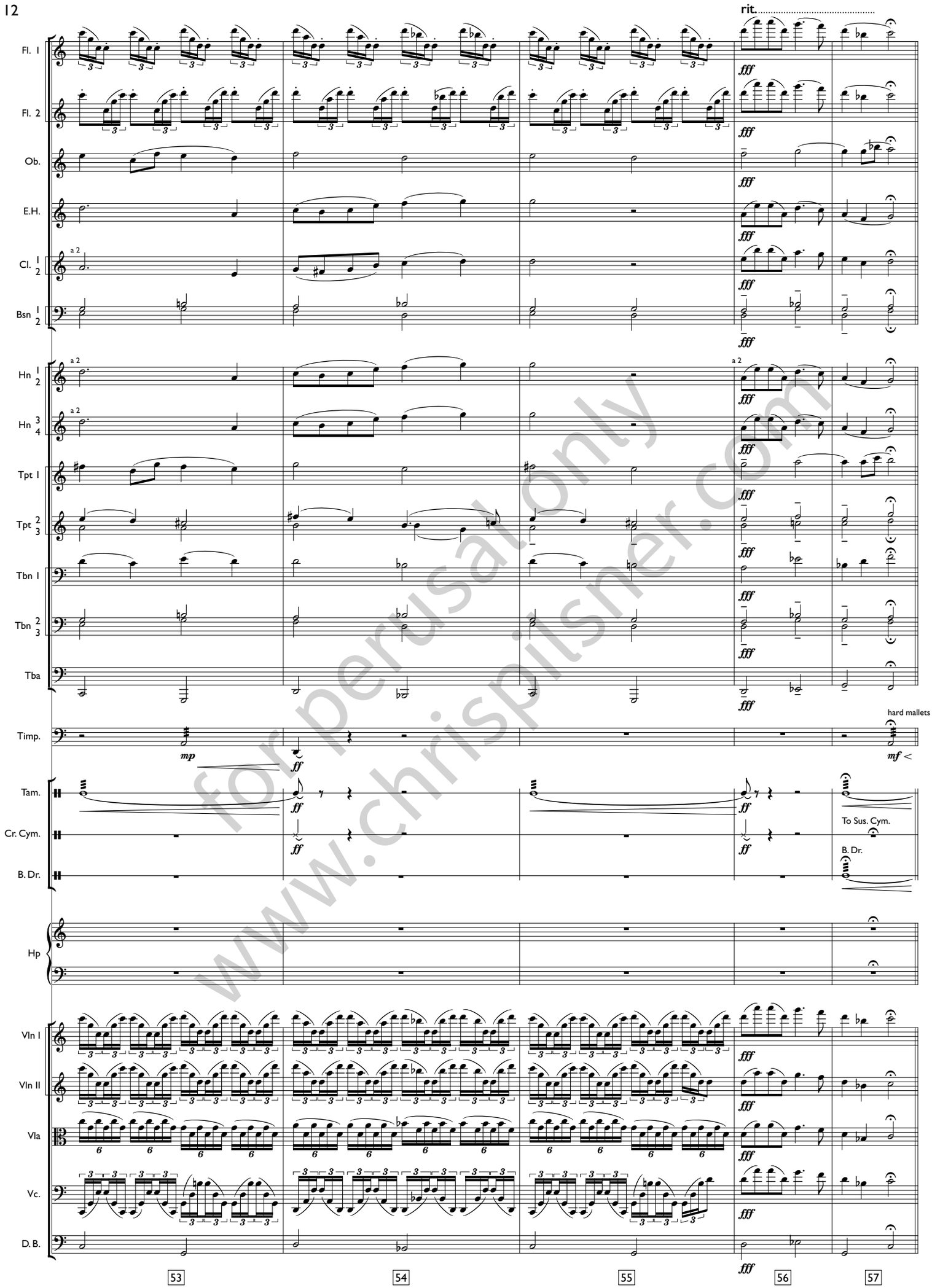

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58 Fast and Flowing ♩ = 151

63

Fl. 1 2

Ob.

E.H.

Cl. 1 2

Bsn 1 2

a 2

1.

Hn 1 2

Hn 3 4

Tpt 1

Tpt 2 3

Tbn 1

Tbn 2 3

3.

Tba

Timp.

Tam.

Sus. Cym.

B. Dr.

Hp

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

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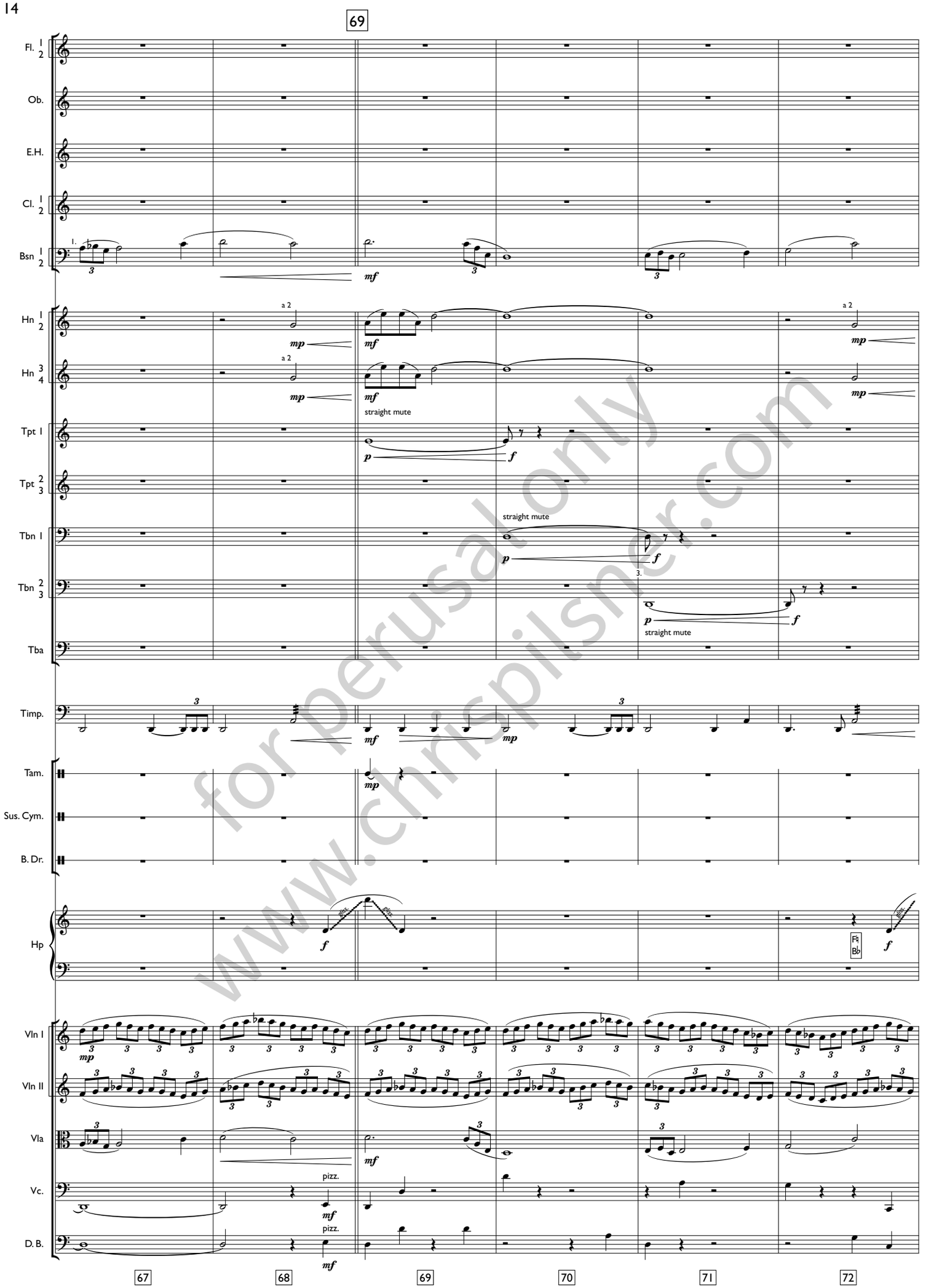
58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66



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77

Fl. 1 2
Ob.
E.H.
Cl. 1 2
Bsn 1 2
Hn 1 2
Hn 3 4
Tpt 1
Tpt 2 3
Tbn 1
Tbn 2 3
Tba
Timp.
Tam.
Sus. Cym.
B. Dr.
Hp
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

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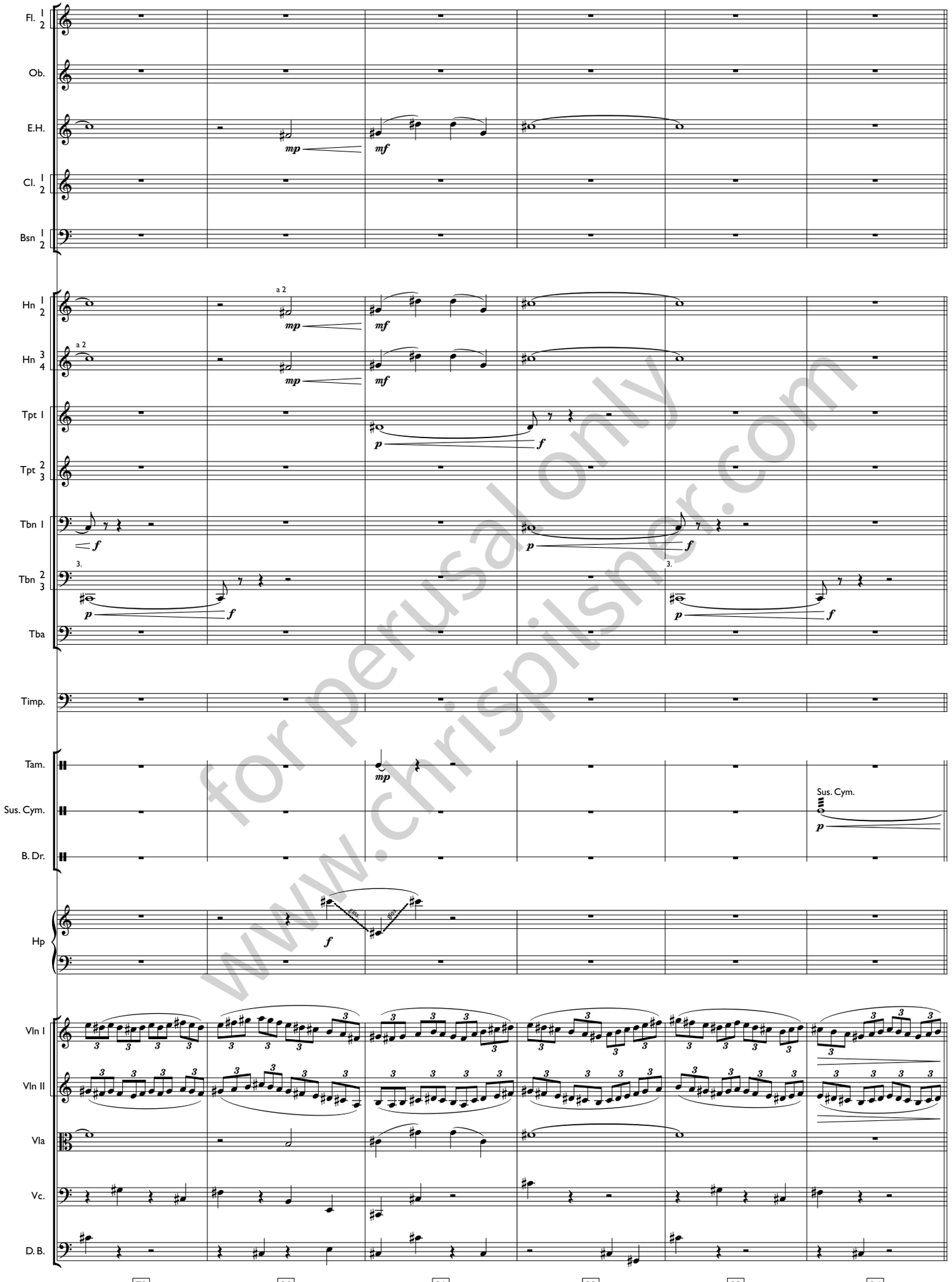
73 74 75 76 77 78



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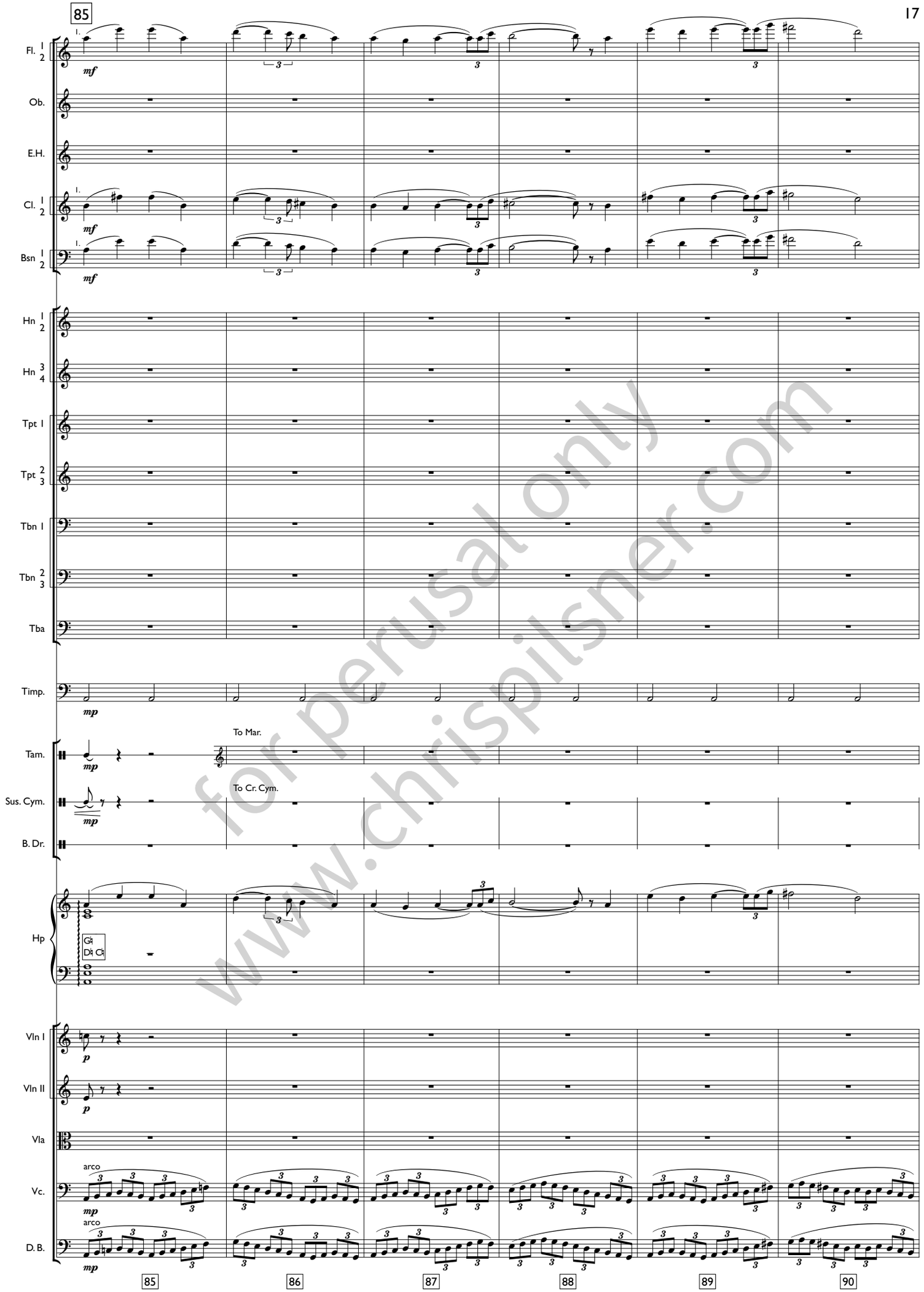

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93 Soaring

Fl. 1 2
Ob.
E.H.
Cl. 1 2
Bsn 1 2
Hn 1 2
Hn 3 4
Tpt 1
Tpt 2 3
Tbn 1
Tbn 2 3
Tba
Timp.
Mar.
Cr. Cym.
B. Dr.
Hp
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

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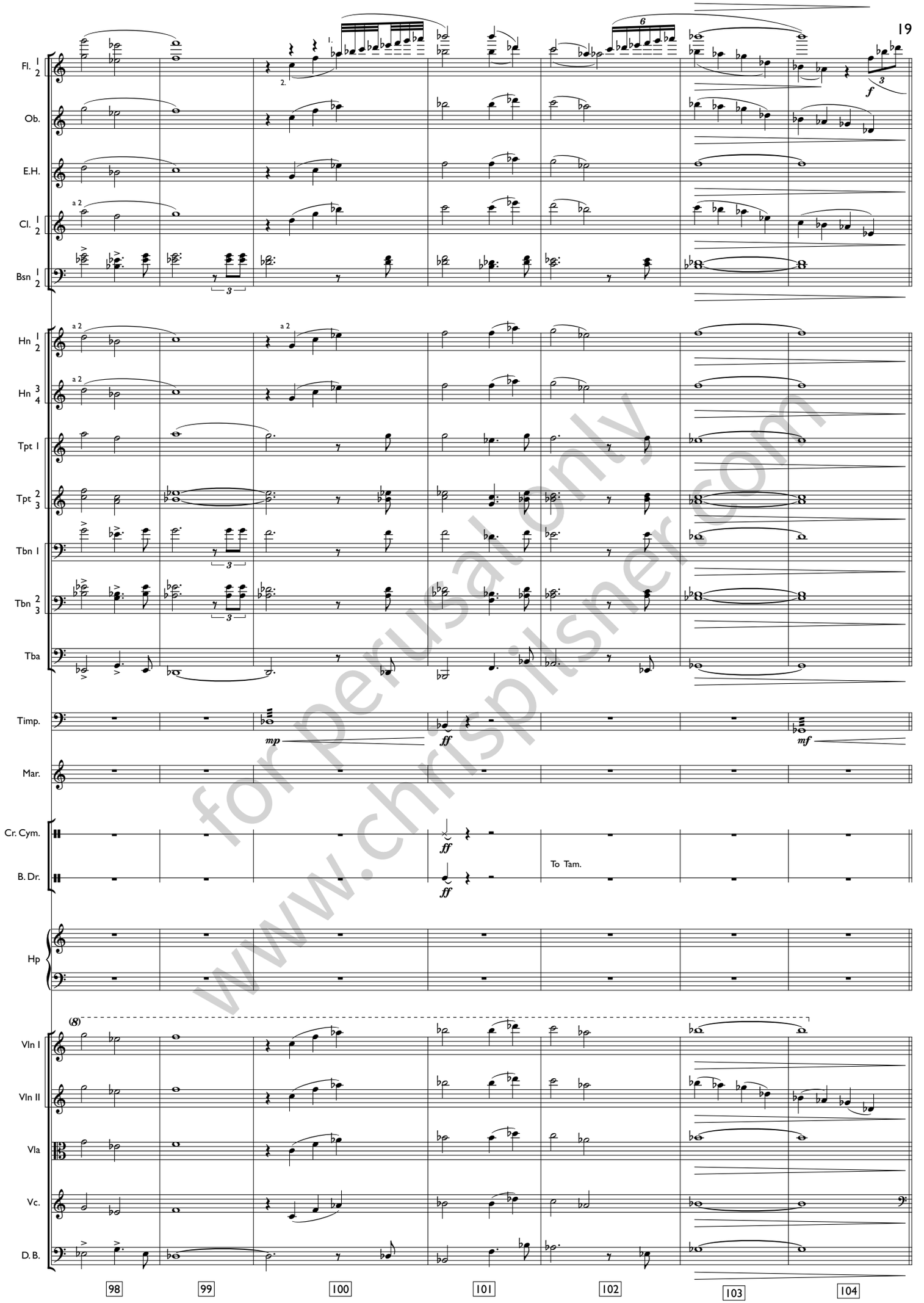

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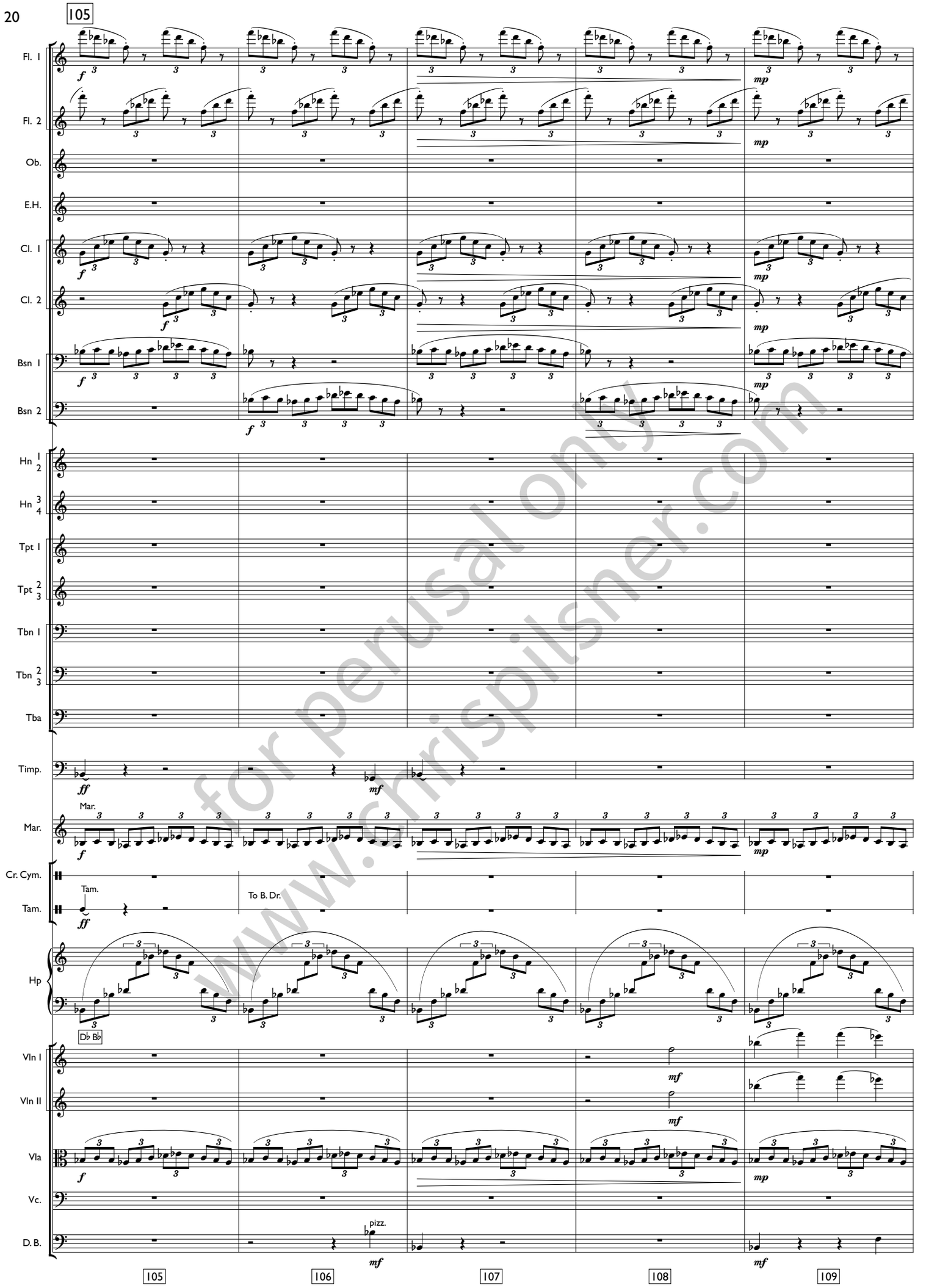

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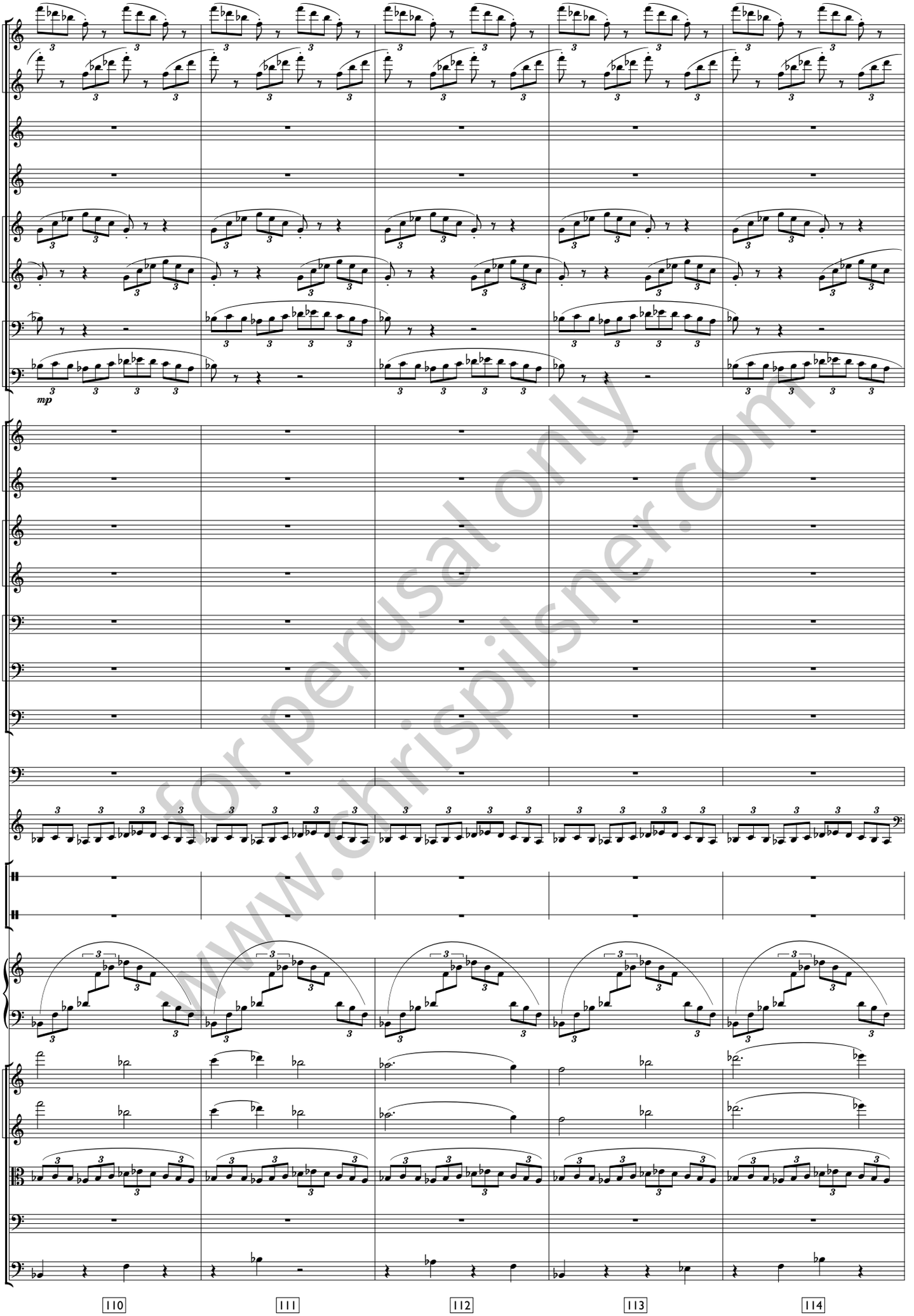

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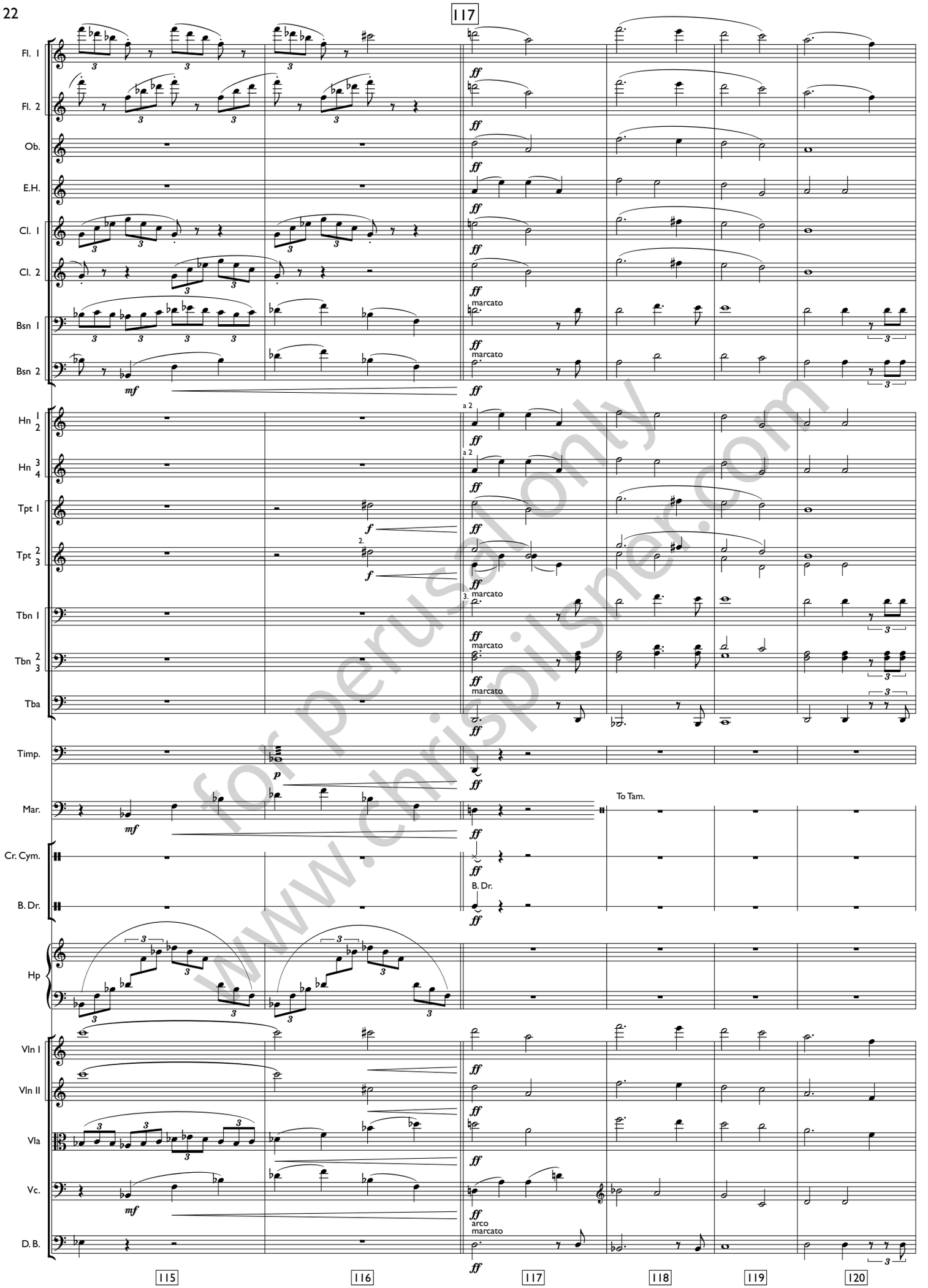

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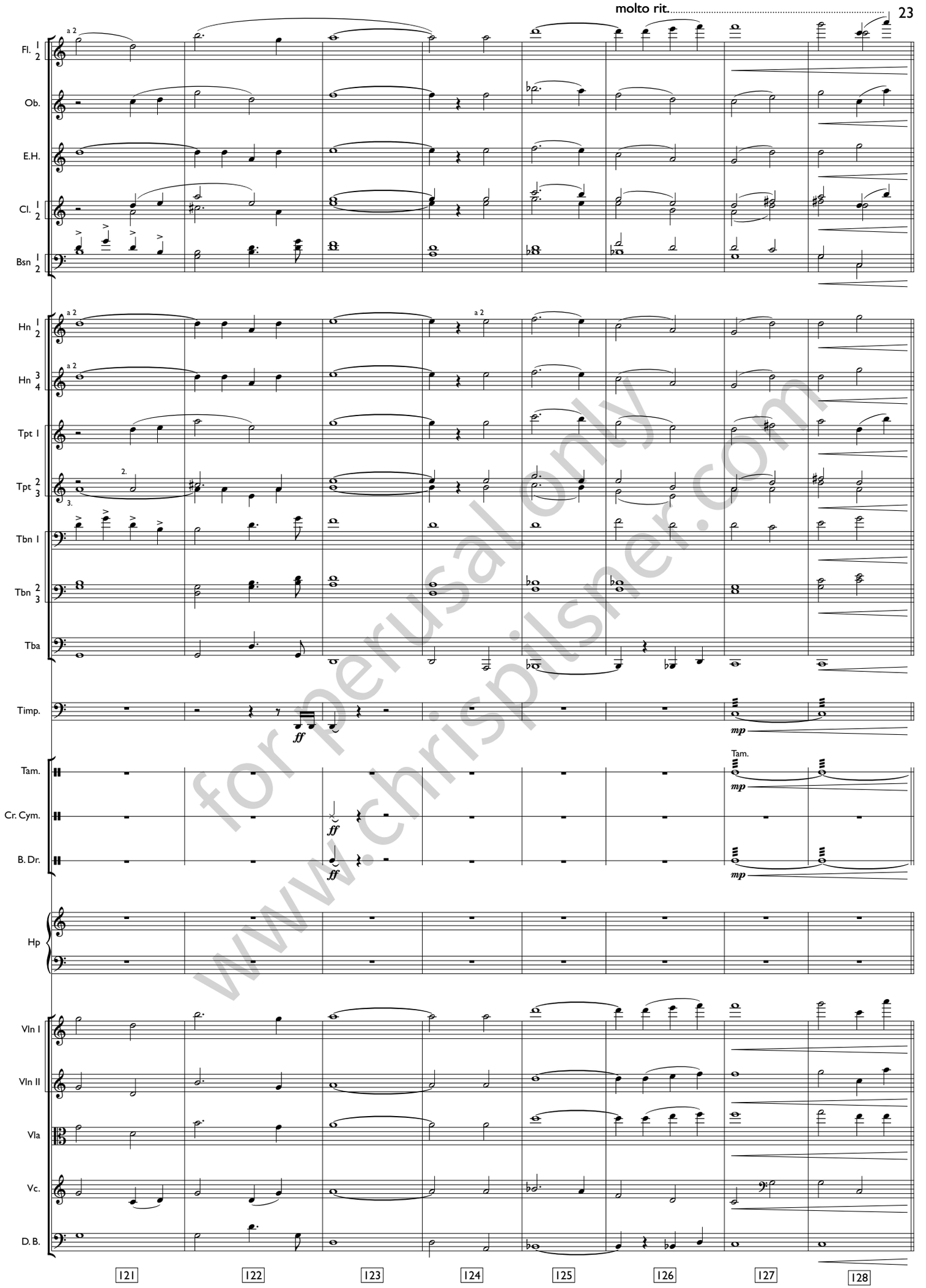

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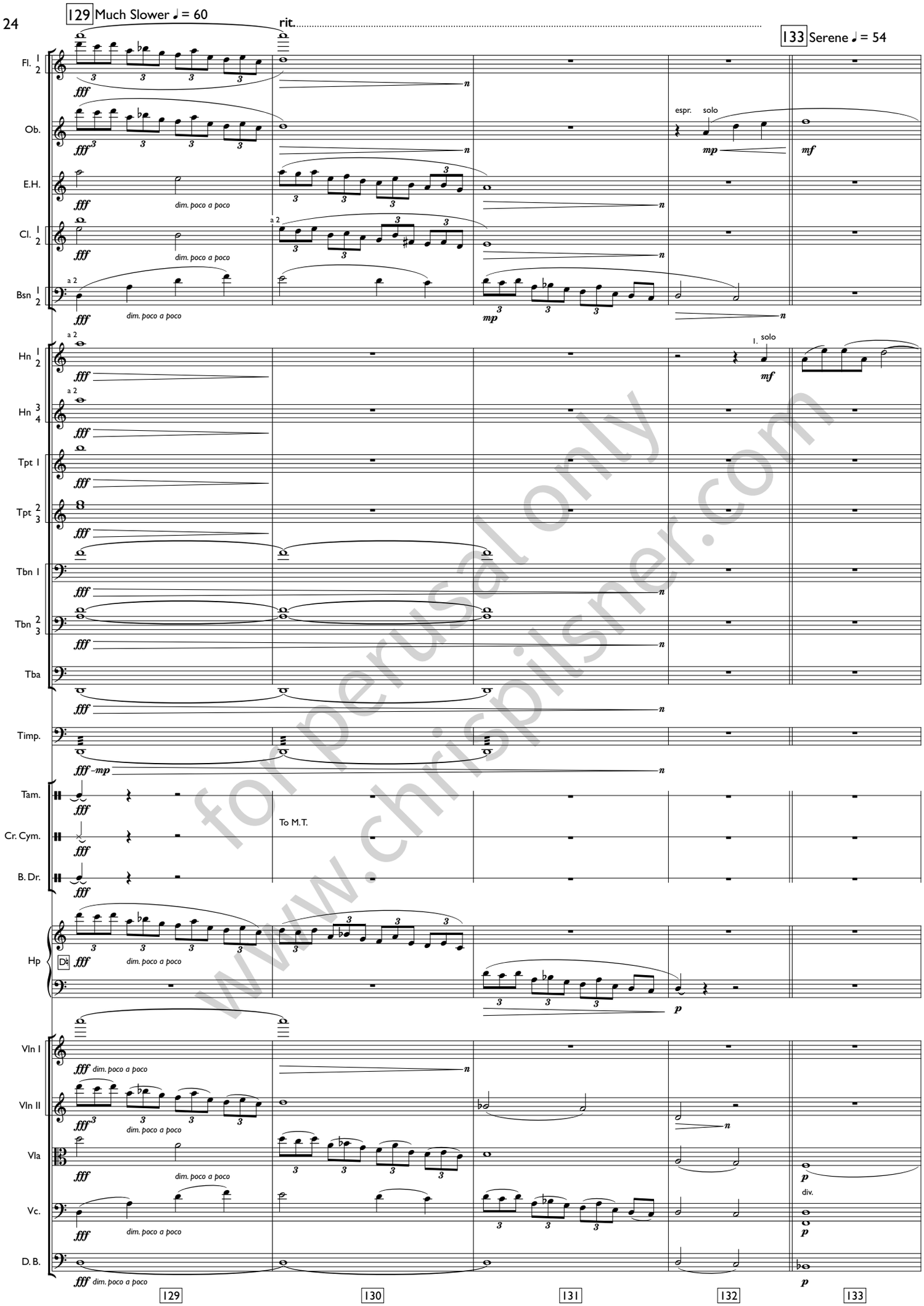

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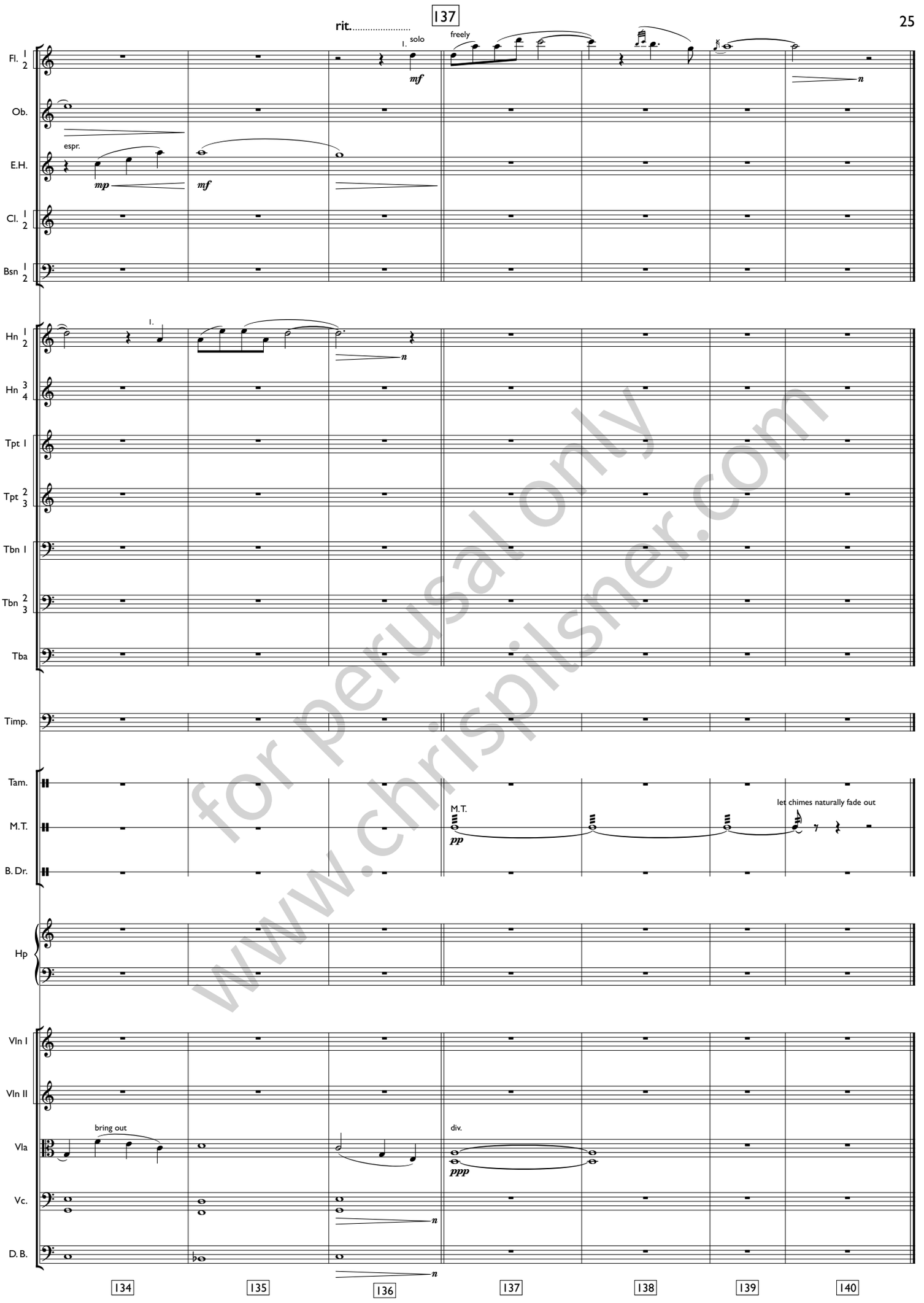

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