FULL SCORE

G.F. Handel

Overture to the Oratorio SAMSON

Arranged by Philip Clark

INSTRUMENTATION

1-FULL SCORE
8-VIOLIN I
8-VIOLIN II
5-VIOLA
5-VIOLONCELLO
5-DOUBLE BASS

Grade 3.5
Duration: Approx. 6 Minutes

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In the key of G Major, the work begins with a *Moderato* where dotted rhythms are abundant. A brief *Adagio* intervenes and we continue with a slightly fugal, crisply rhythmic *Allegro*, with 16th note passage work for the upper strings. After another brief *Adagio*, Handel finishes with a lyric Minuet. All sections are active throughout. This Overture is a wonderful introduction to the Baroque period and the bowing and ornamental styles that go with it.

Performance Notes

Director should emphasize keeping the bow light and the rhythms crisp. Only 16th notes should be "scrubbed" on the string, preferably in the upper half of the bow. Every other value of note should have air between. Trills will begin from the note above. Use of open strings is encouraged for added resonance.

About the Arranger

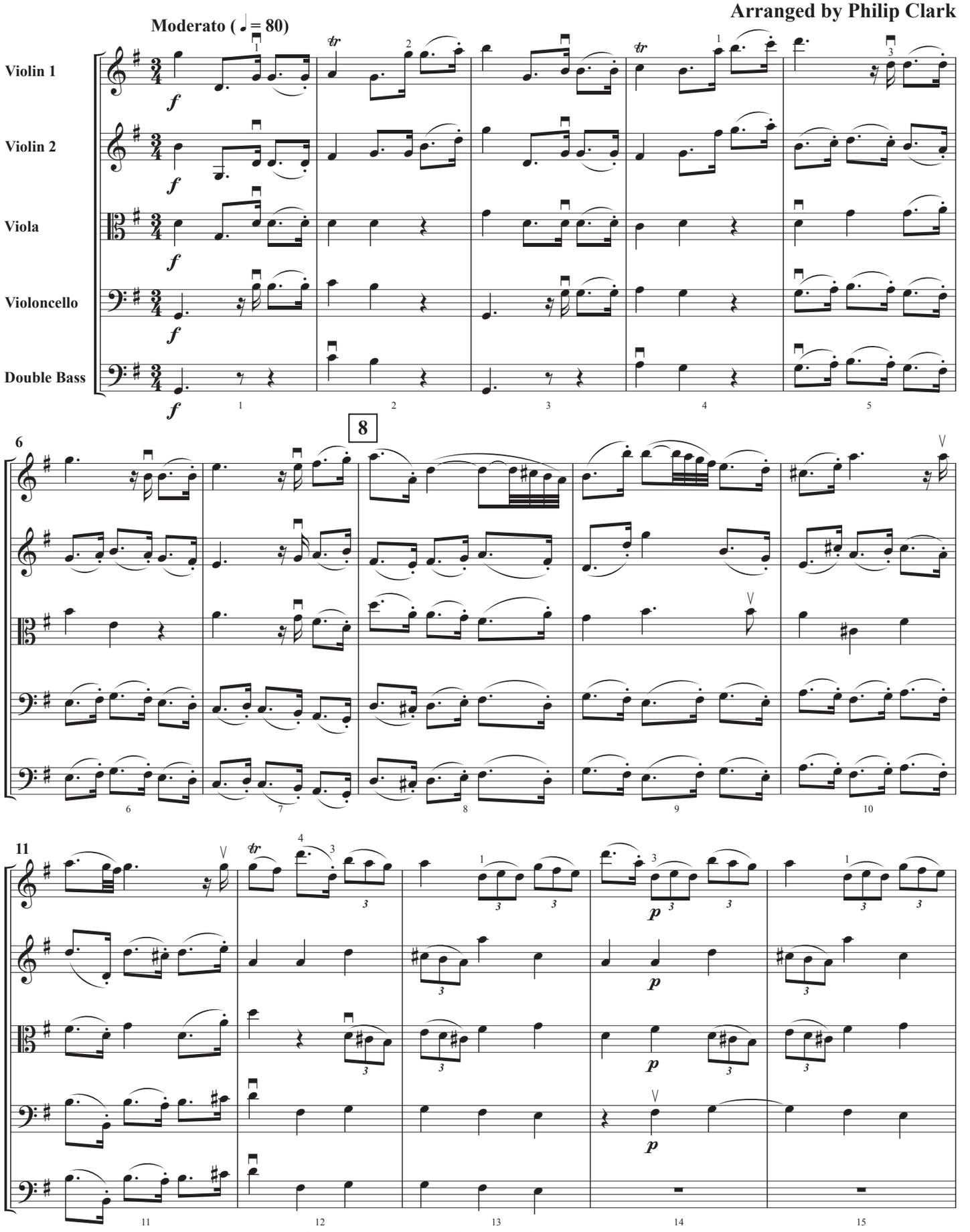
Born in Somerset, England, PHILIP CLARK graduated in viola performance from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. His teachers included Nannie Jamieson, Peter Schidlof, Max Rostal, the Amadeus Quartet, William Pleeth, and Emanuel Hurwitz. He has performed with many distinguished ensembles including the London Symphony, the Royal Philharmonic, the English Chamber Orchestra, the Scottish Opera, and the Menuhin Festival. As a soloist and string quartet player, he has played in more than thirty countries. He has broadcast with the BBC and other European stations, the Australian and New Zealand Broadcasting Corporations, and has taken part in many recordings. Mr. Clark has taught at the Universities of Edinburgh and Lancaster in the U.K., Auckland in New Zealand, and Kent State and Ithaca College in the United States. He now resides in Charlottesville, Virginia, where he teaches, conducts, composes, and arranges.

About the Music

Samson is a three-act oratorio, considered among his finest dramatic works. It is most often performed as a concert work, but has also been staged as an opera. The original is scored for a large orchestra, calling for strings, two oboes, two bassoons, two horns, two flutes, two trumpets, timpani and continuo. His signature text painting is quite evident throughout the story.

Overture to the Oratorio *Samson*

George Frideric Handel
Arranged by Philip Clark



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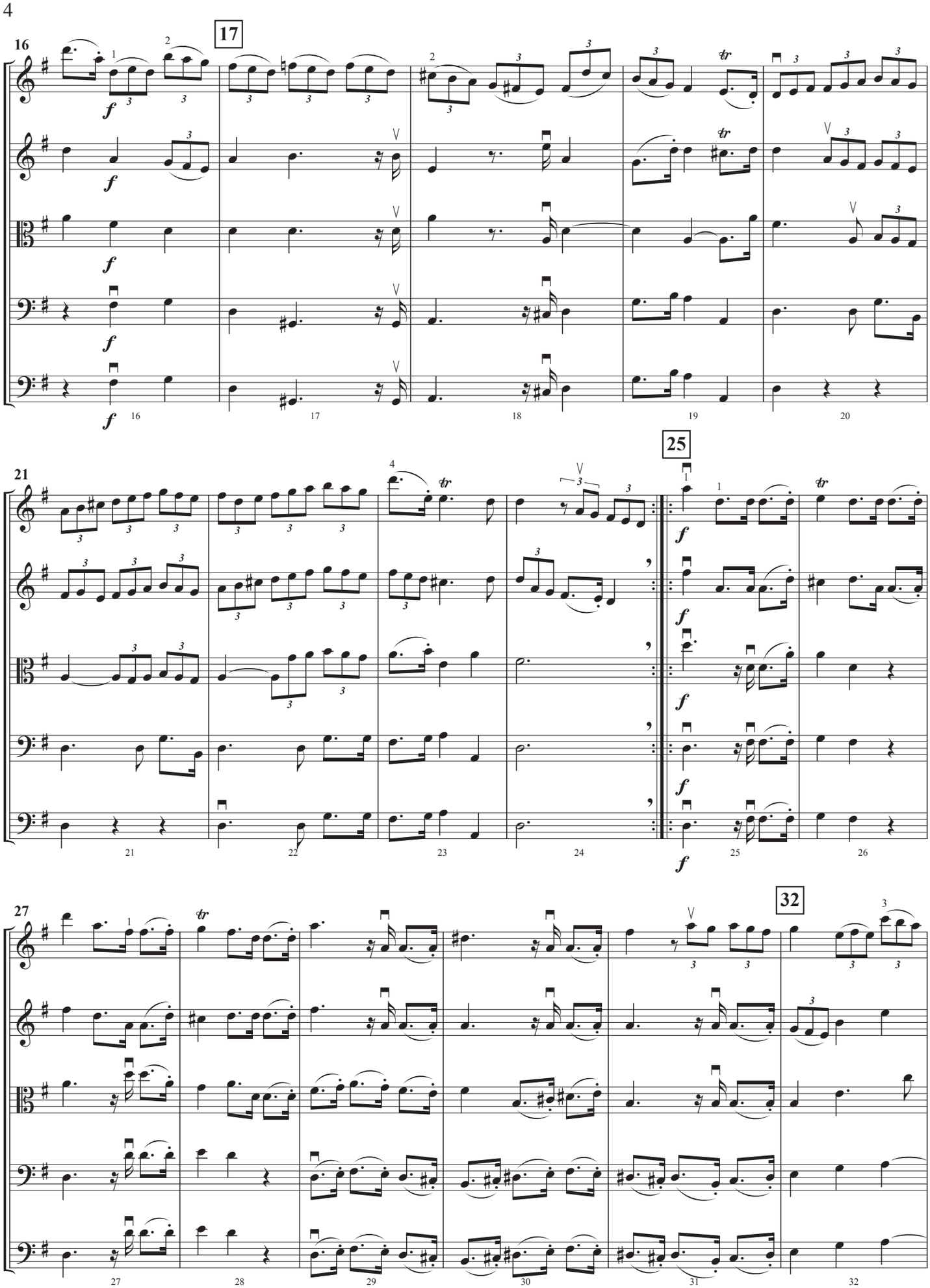

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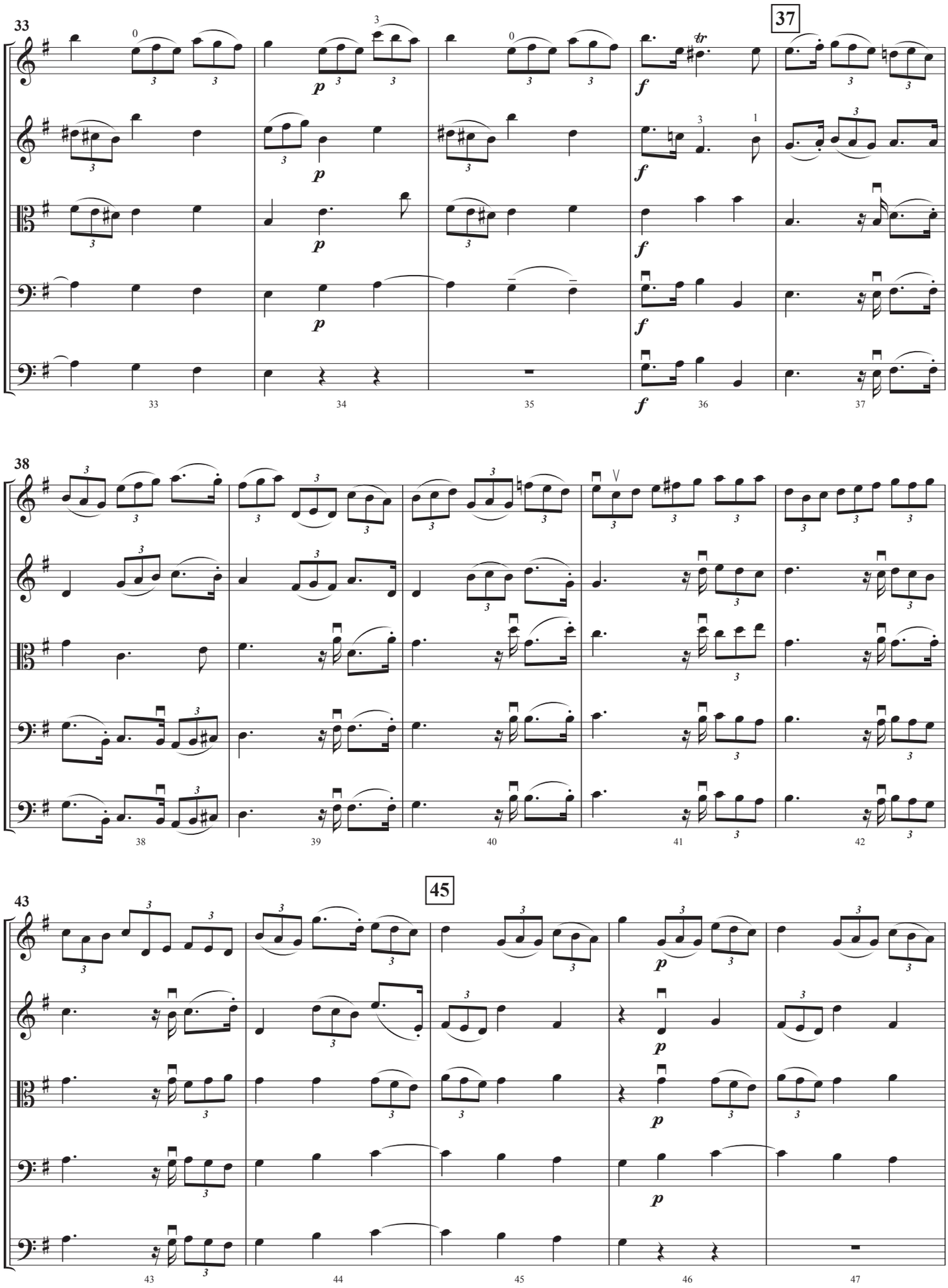

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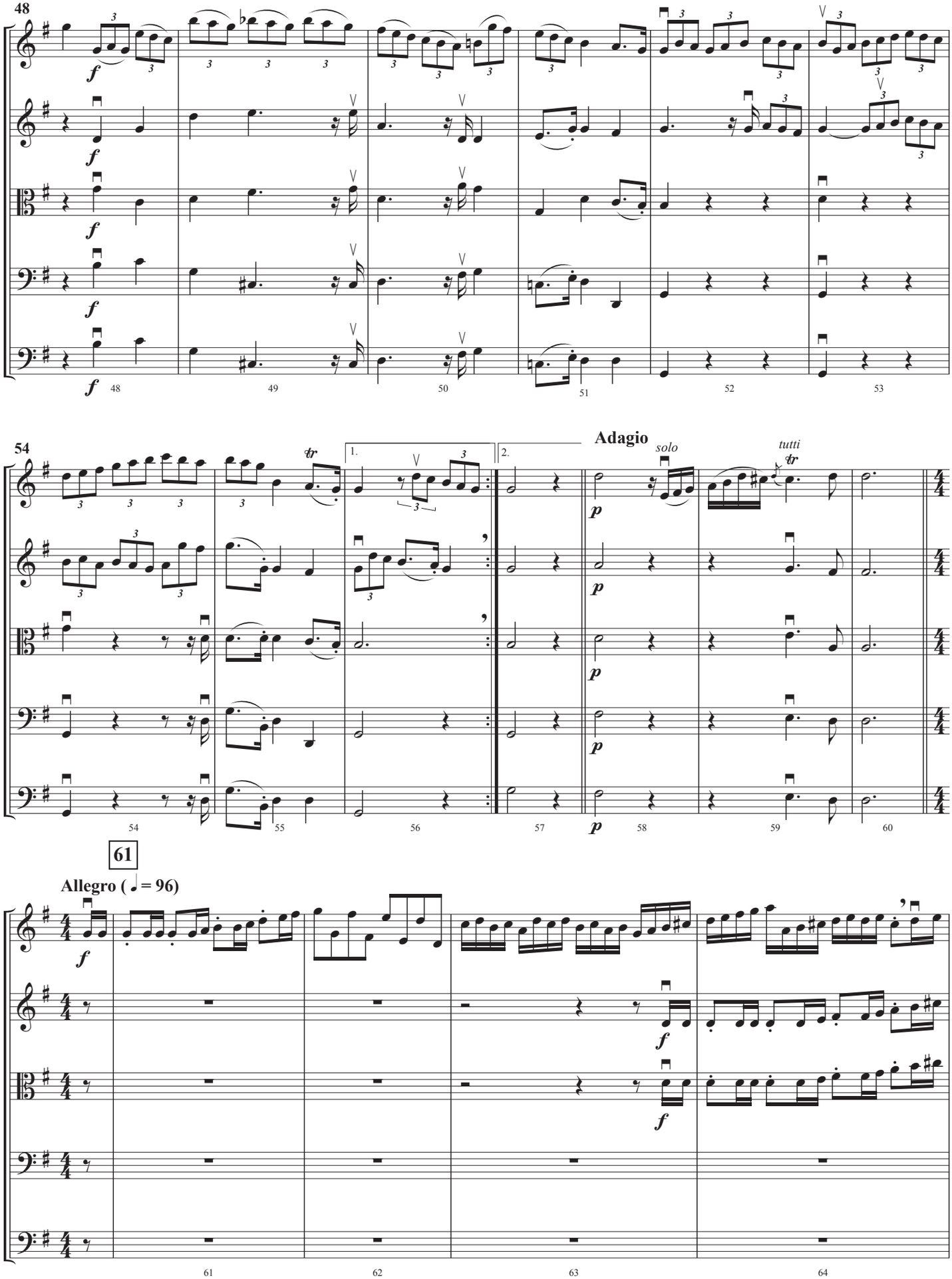

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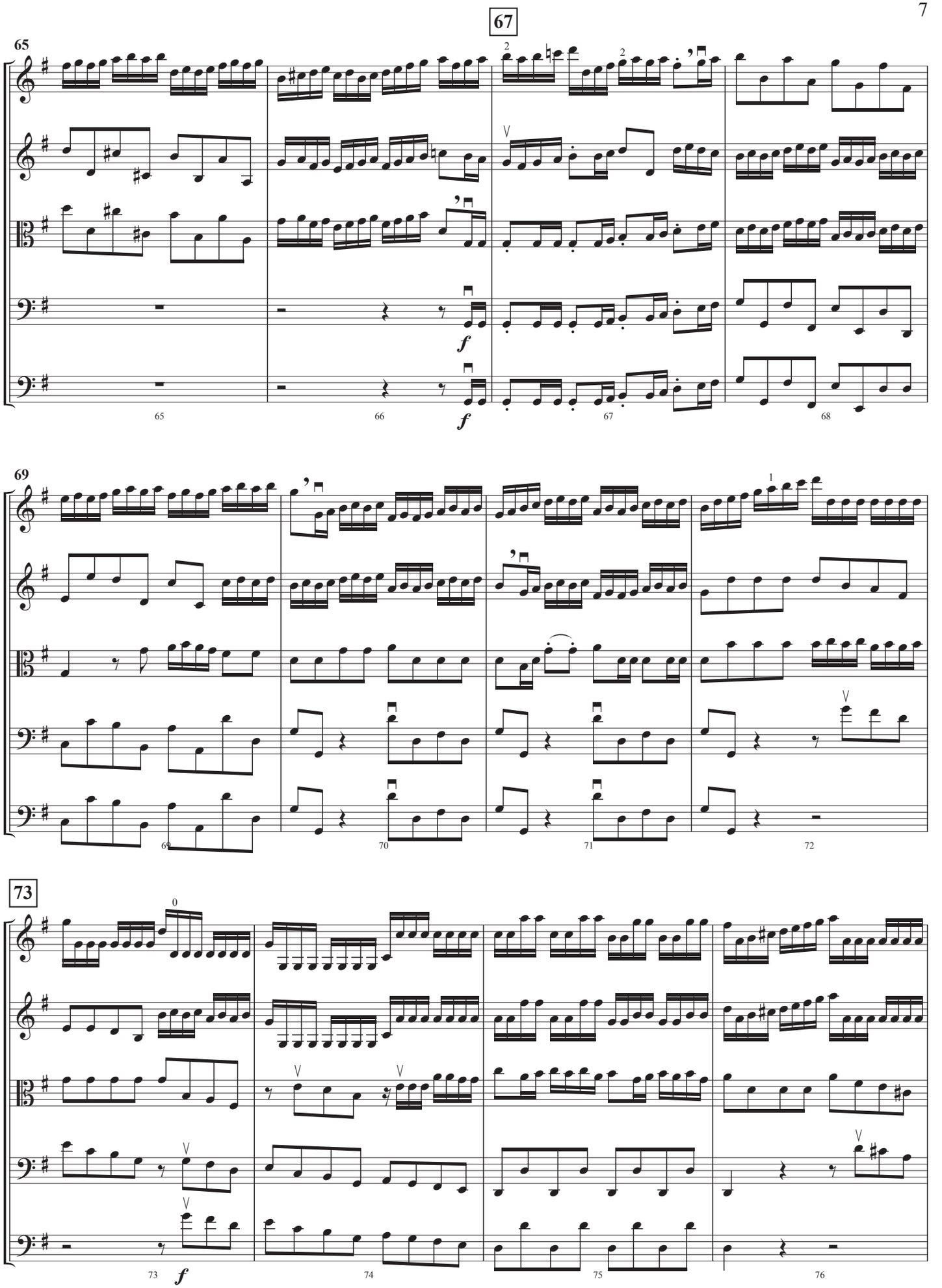

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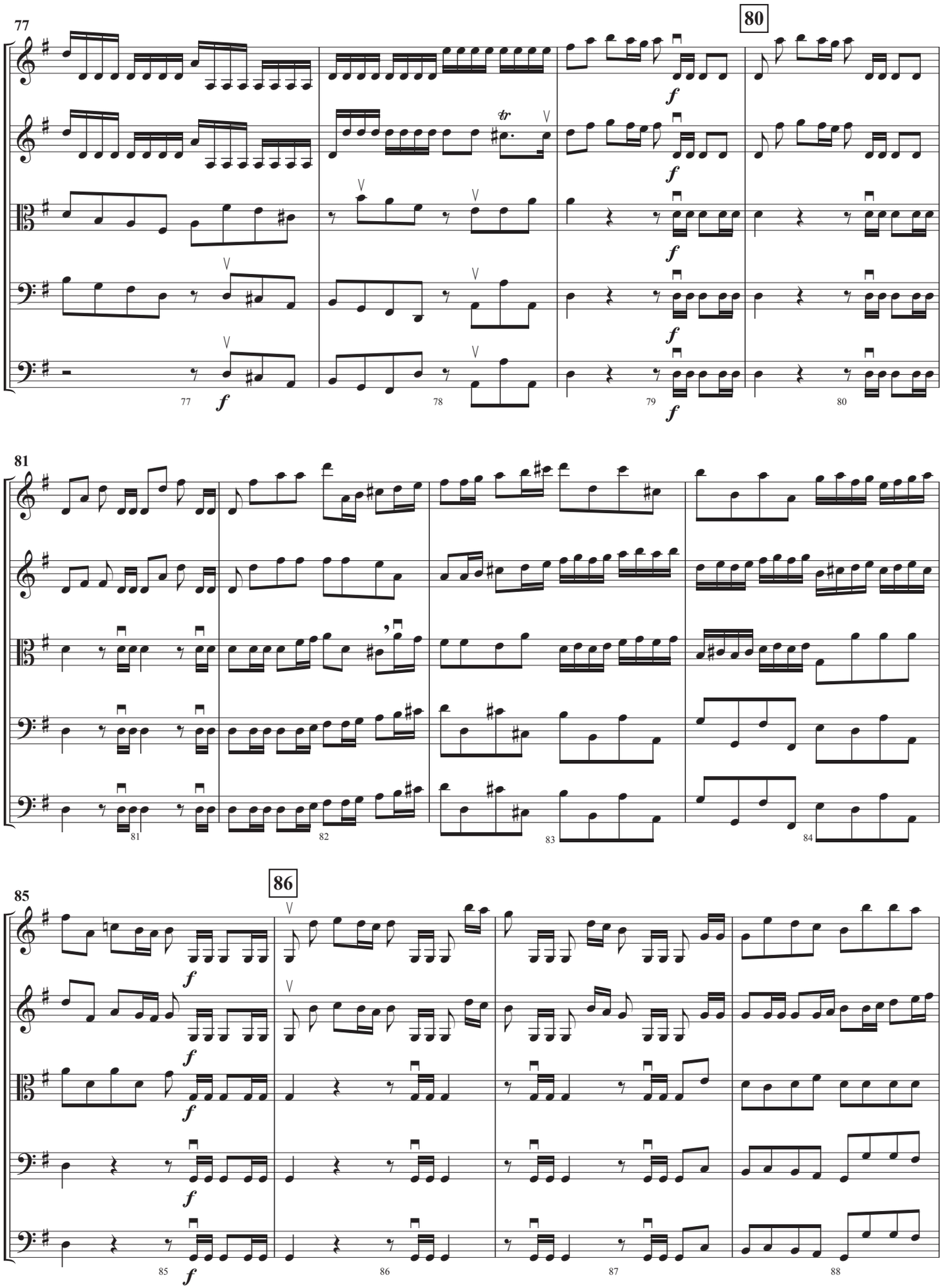

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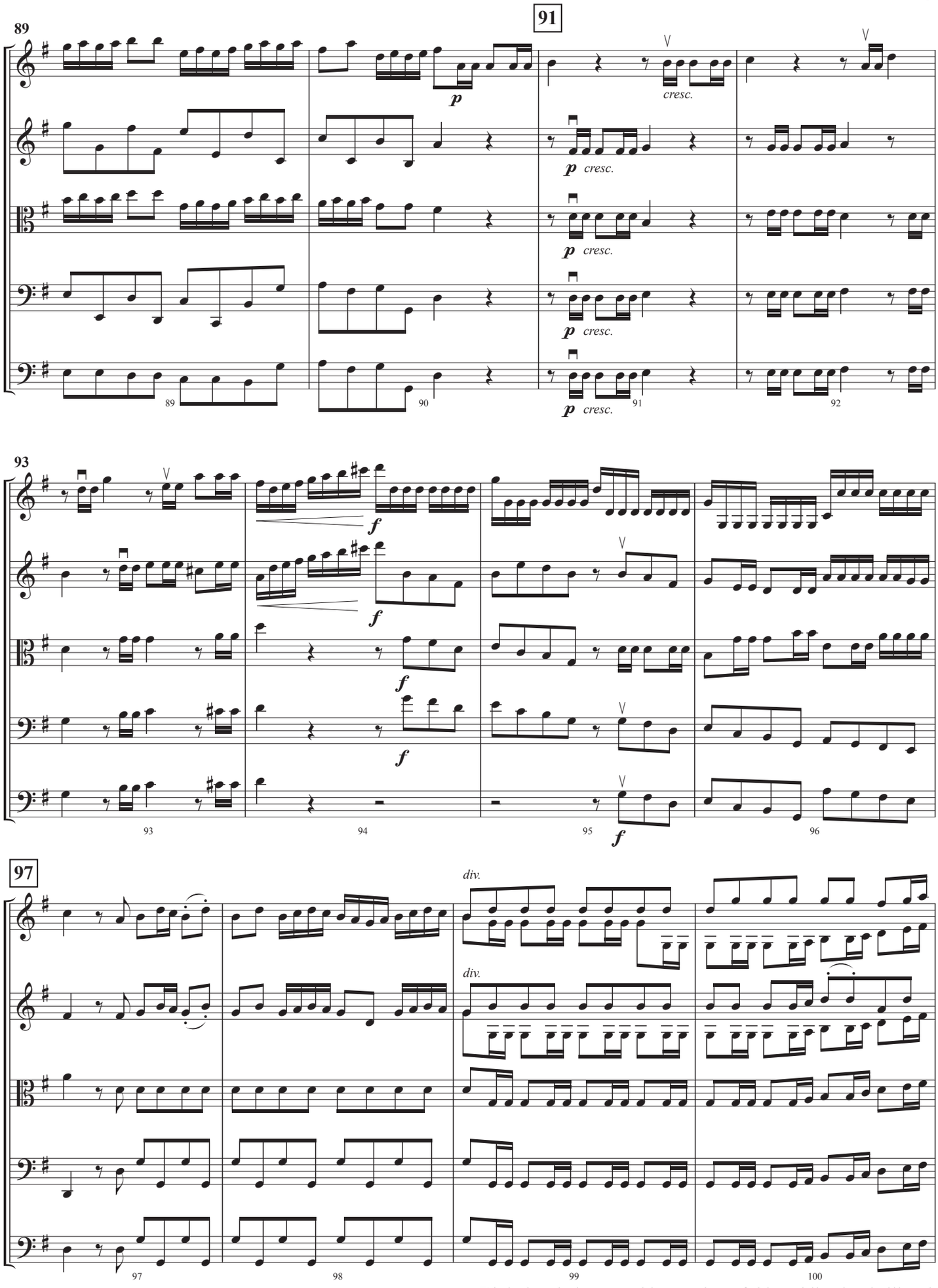

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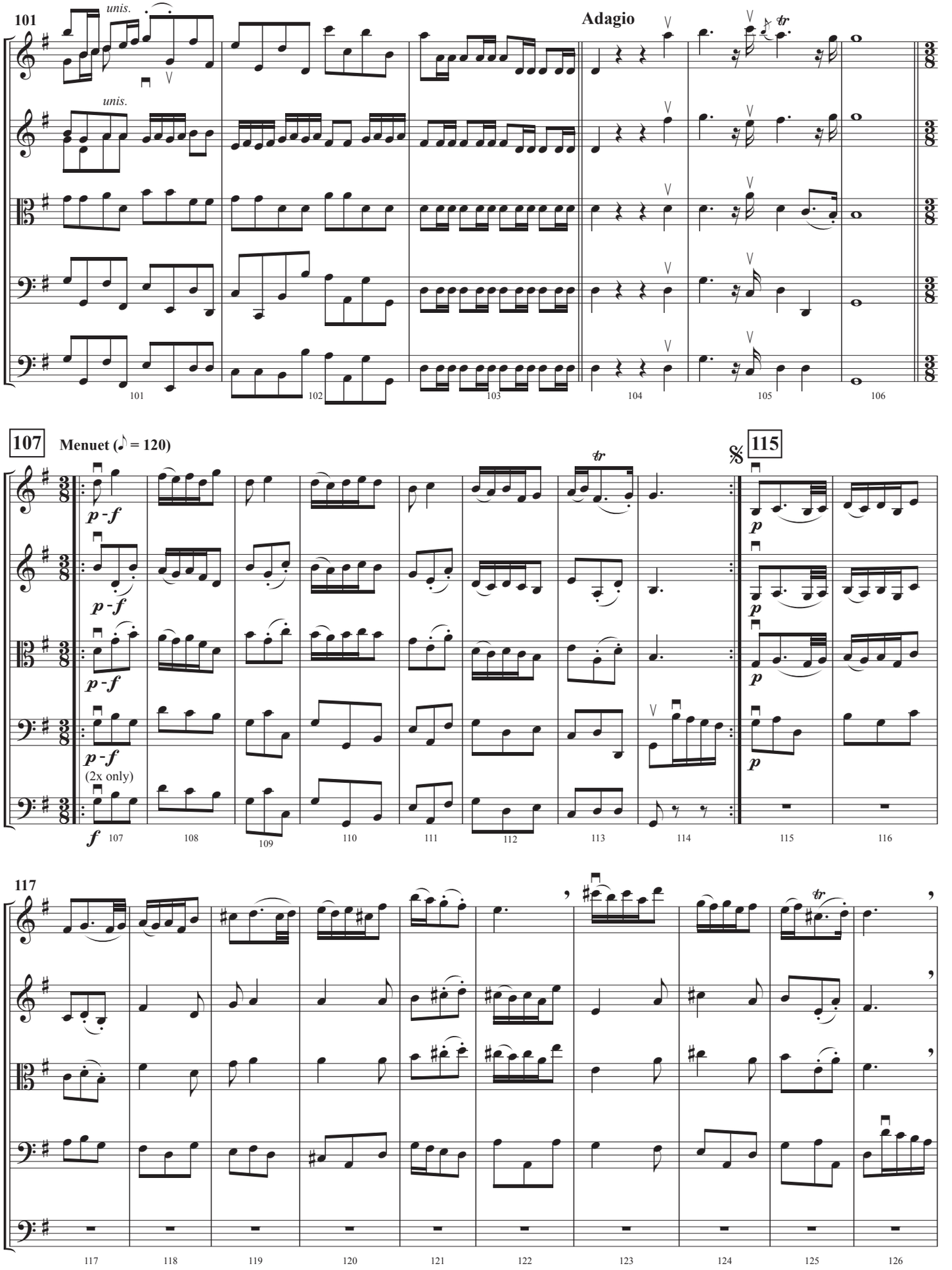

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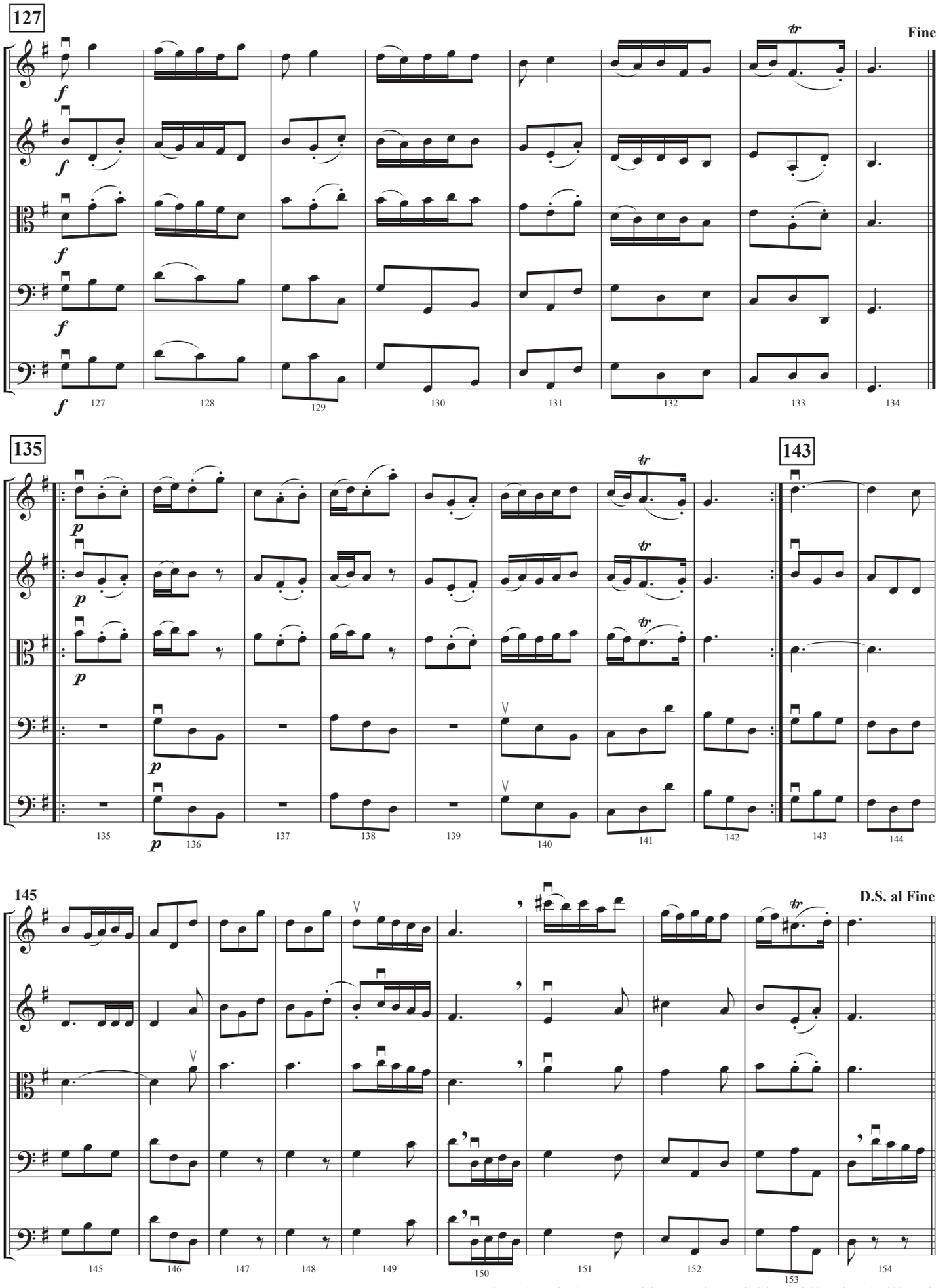

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