Harvest Concerto for Trombone

(2009)

for trombone with orchestral winds, brass, and percussion

John Mackey

Commissioned by The Ridgewood Concert Band, The West Point Military Academy Band,
University of Texas at Austin, United States Air Force Academy Band, Illinois State University,
University of Florida, Miami University, Texas Tech University, Case Western Reserve University,
Ithaca College, University of South Carolina, Florida State University, Baylor University,
Roxbury High School, Syracuse University, University of Georgia, University of Washington,
Arizona State University, University of South Florida, McNeese State University, and University of Alabama.

Consortium organized by LTC Timothy Holtan of The West Point Military Academy and Christopher Wilhjelm of The Ridgewood Concert Band

Instrumentation - scored for orchestral winds, intended for single players on each part

Piccolo

3 Flutes

2 Oboes

English horn

Eb Clarinet (doubles on Bb clarinet)

2 Bb Clarinets

Bass Clarinet

2 Bassoons

Contrabassoon

Solo Trombone

- 4 French Horns
- 3 Trumpets in Bb
- 2 Tenor Trombones

Bass Trombone

Tuba

Double Bass

Piano

Harp

Timpani (doubles on vibraphone)

4 Percussionists (see key below)

Percussion notes:

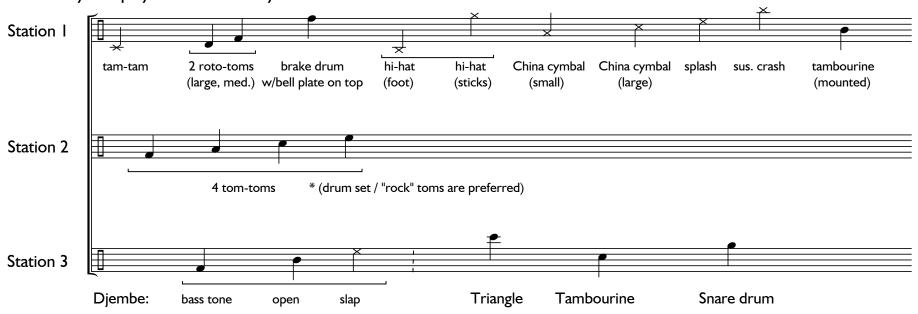
Timpani doubles on vibraphone (can be shared with Player I)

Player I plays "station I" (mostly cymbals) as well as vibraphone. Additionally, player plays inside the piano at the beginning of the piece, so "station I" should be near the piano.

Player 2 plays "station 2" (tom-toms *) as well as "station I"

Player 3 plays "station 3" as well as xylophone

Player 4 plays bass drum only



Full percussion list:

tam-tam

2 roto-toms

brake drum with bell plate on top

hi-hat

small China cymbal

large China cymbal

splash cymbal

suspended crash cymbal

mounted tambourine

standard (not mounted) tambourne, separate from mounted tambourine

djembe

triangle

snare drum

vibraphone

xylophone

4 timpani

large cymbal to be placed on timpani

Other notes:

trombone glisses always last full duration notated all trills are 1/2-step

Program Note

"Harvest: Concerto for Trombone" is based on the myths and mystery rituals of the Greek god Dionysus. As the Olympian god of the vine, Dionysus is famous for inspiring ecstasy and creativity. But this agricultural, earth-walking god was also subjected each year to a cycle of agonizing death before glorious rebirth, analogous to the harsh pruning and long winter the vines endure before blooming again in the spring. The concerto's movements attempt to represent this dual nature and the cycle of suffering and return.

The concerto is set in three connected sections, totaling approximately 18 minutes. The first section begins with a slow introduction, heavy on ritualistic percussion, representing the summoning of Dionysus's worshippers to the ceremony. The rite itself builds in intensity, with Dionysus (represented, of course, by the solo trombone) engaging in call and response with his followers, some of whom are driven to an ecstatic outcry -- almost a "speaking in tongues" -- represented by insistent woodwind trills. But when Dionysus transitions to a gentler tone, his frenzied worshippers do not follow. Their fervor overcomes them, and they tear their god to shreds in an act of ritual madness.

This brutal sacrifice by the ecstatic worshippers -- the pruning of the vine -- is followed without pause by the second section, representing Dionysus in the stillness of death, or winter. The god is distant, the music like a prayer.

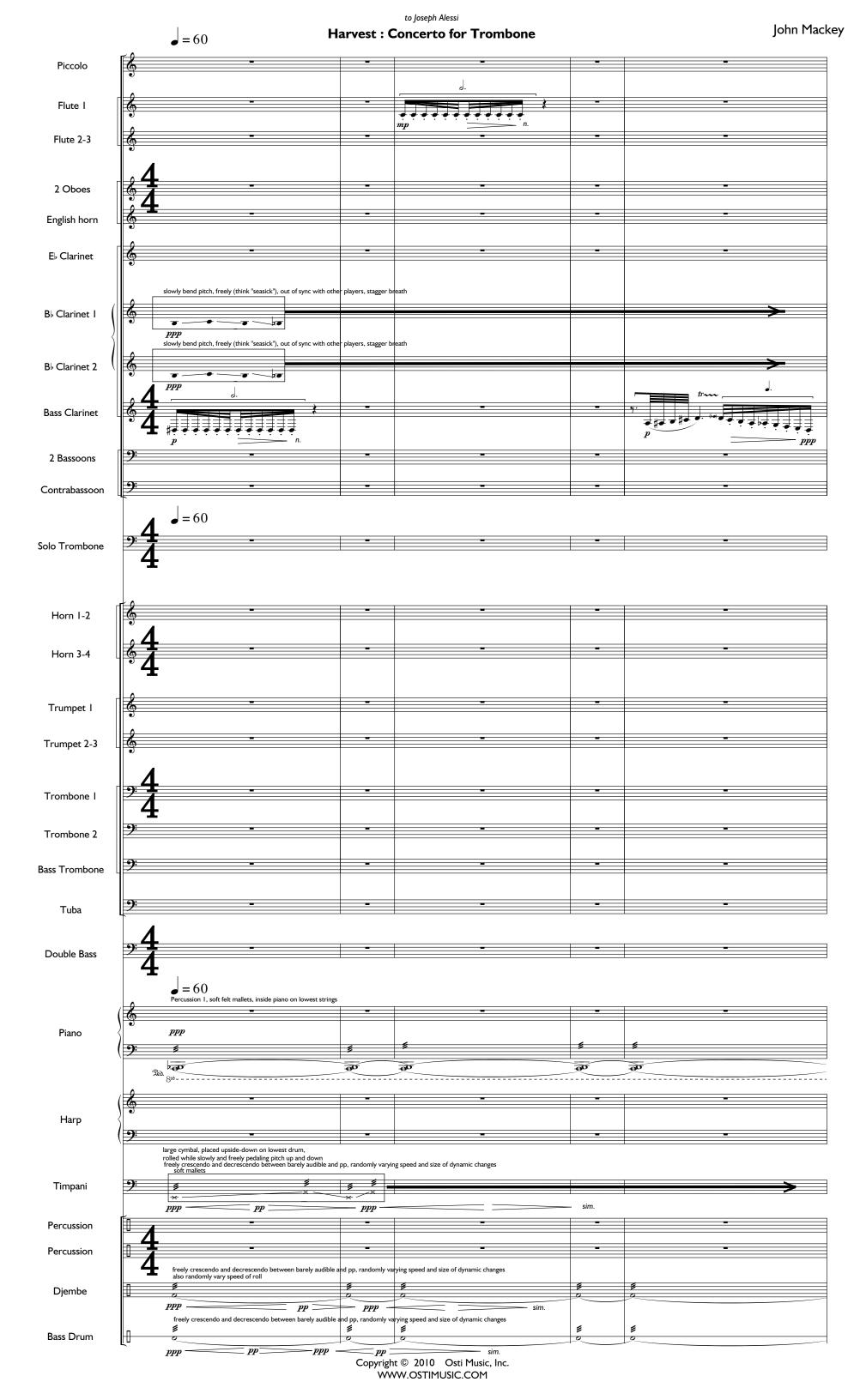
The shoots of spring burst forth in the final section, following again without pause. The earth is reborn as Dionysus rises again, bringing the ecstasy and liberation that have been celebrated in his name for centuries.

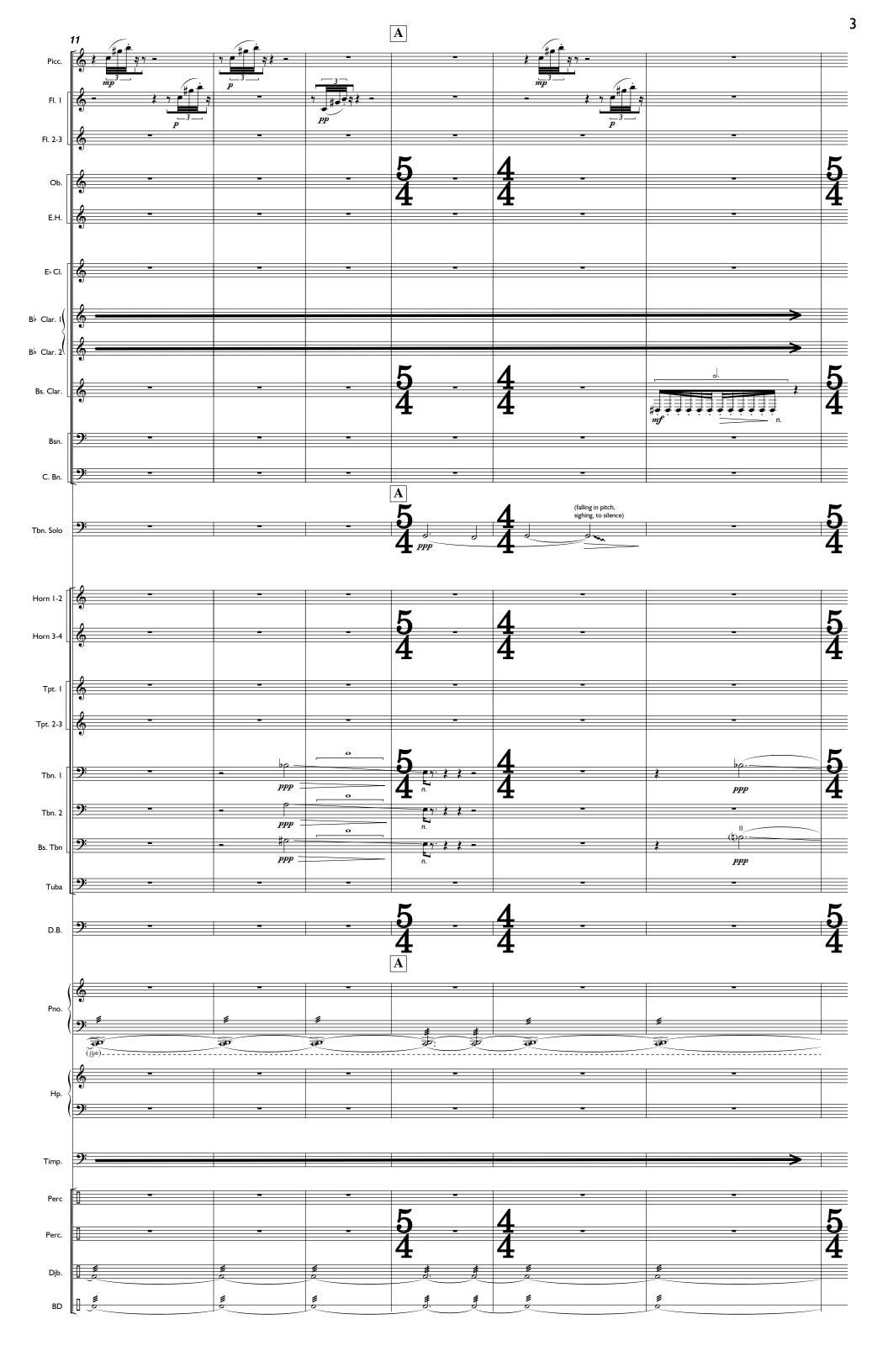
"Harvest: Concerto for Trombone" is dedicated to Joseph Alessi.

Instrumentation Note

This work is scored for orchestral winds, and should be performed with only one player on each part. The exception, if necessary, is to add two additional clarinets from rehearsal letter "P" until letter "Q" to allow stagger breathing in the sustained notes. If added for that section, they may also be used starting with the pickups to rehearsal "M" (ending at "Q") and again from measure 536 until the end of the work. This is purely optional, and it is critical that if additional clarinets are used, they only play in these specific sections.

It is logistically easier for the "brake drum with bell plate on top" to be played by a dedicated percussionist if an extra player is available.















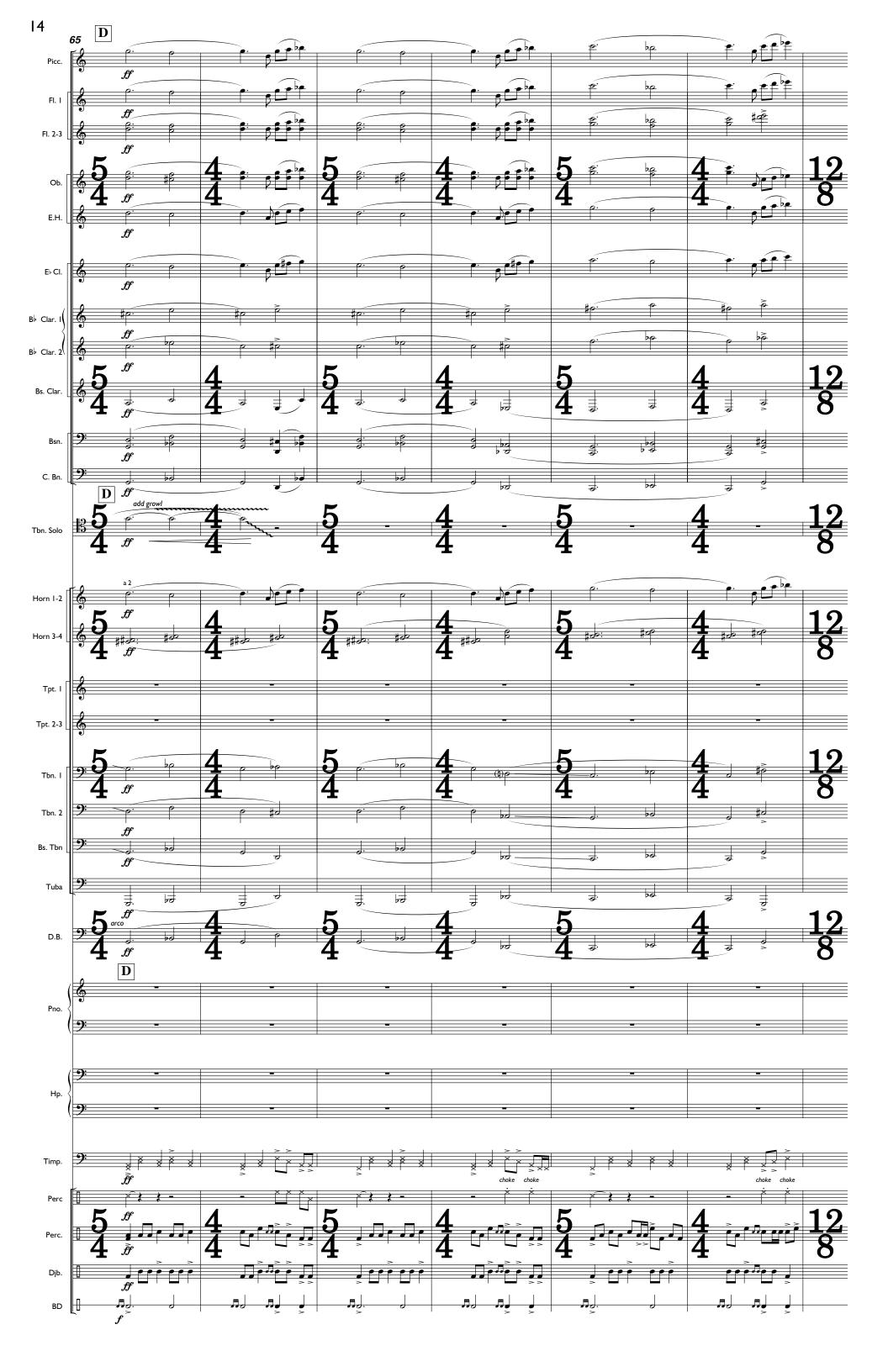
















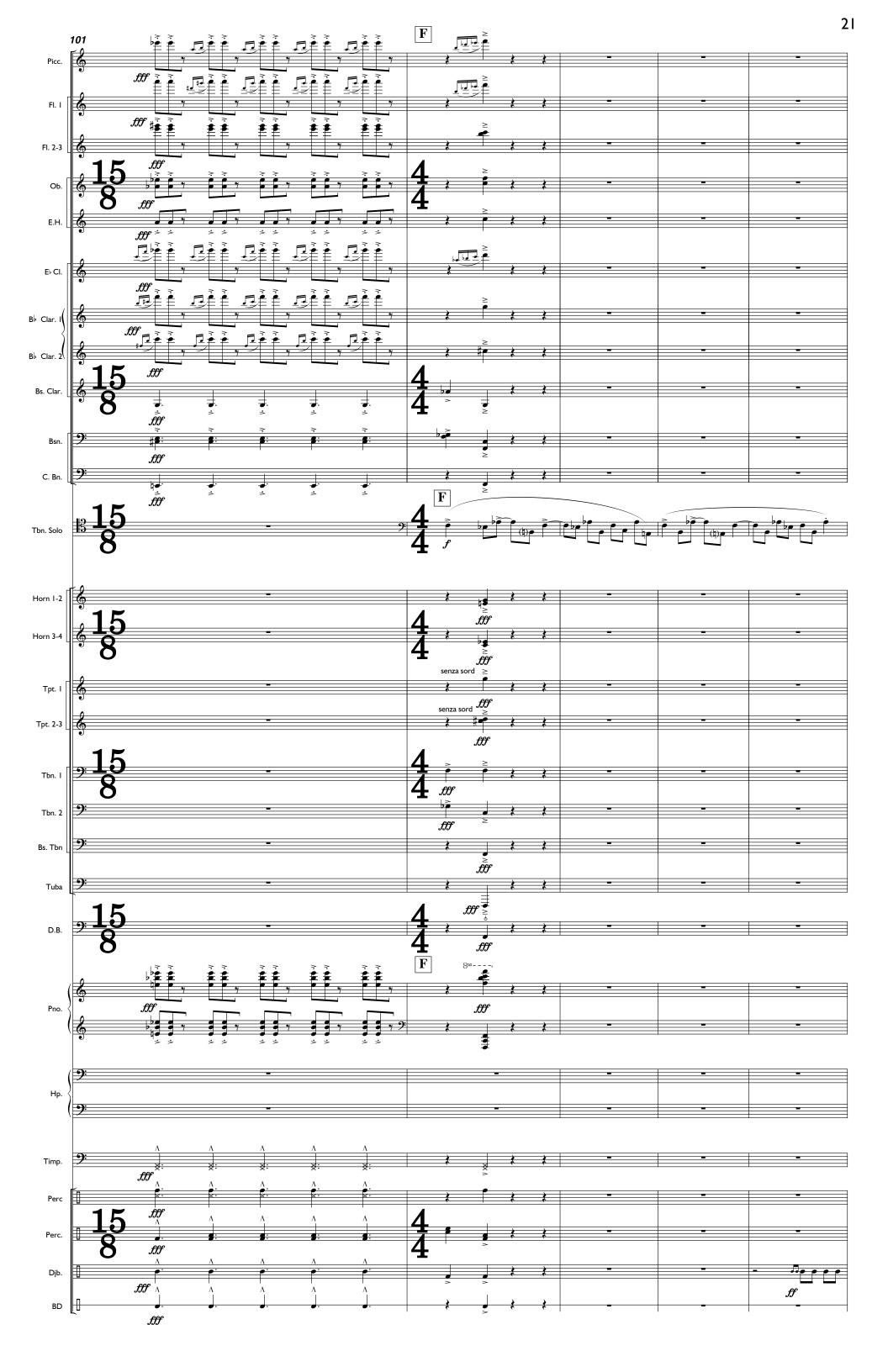










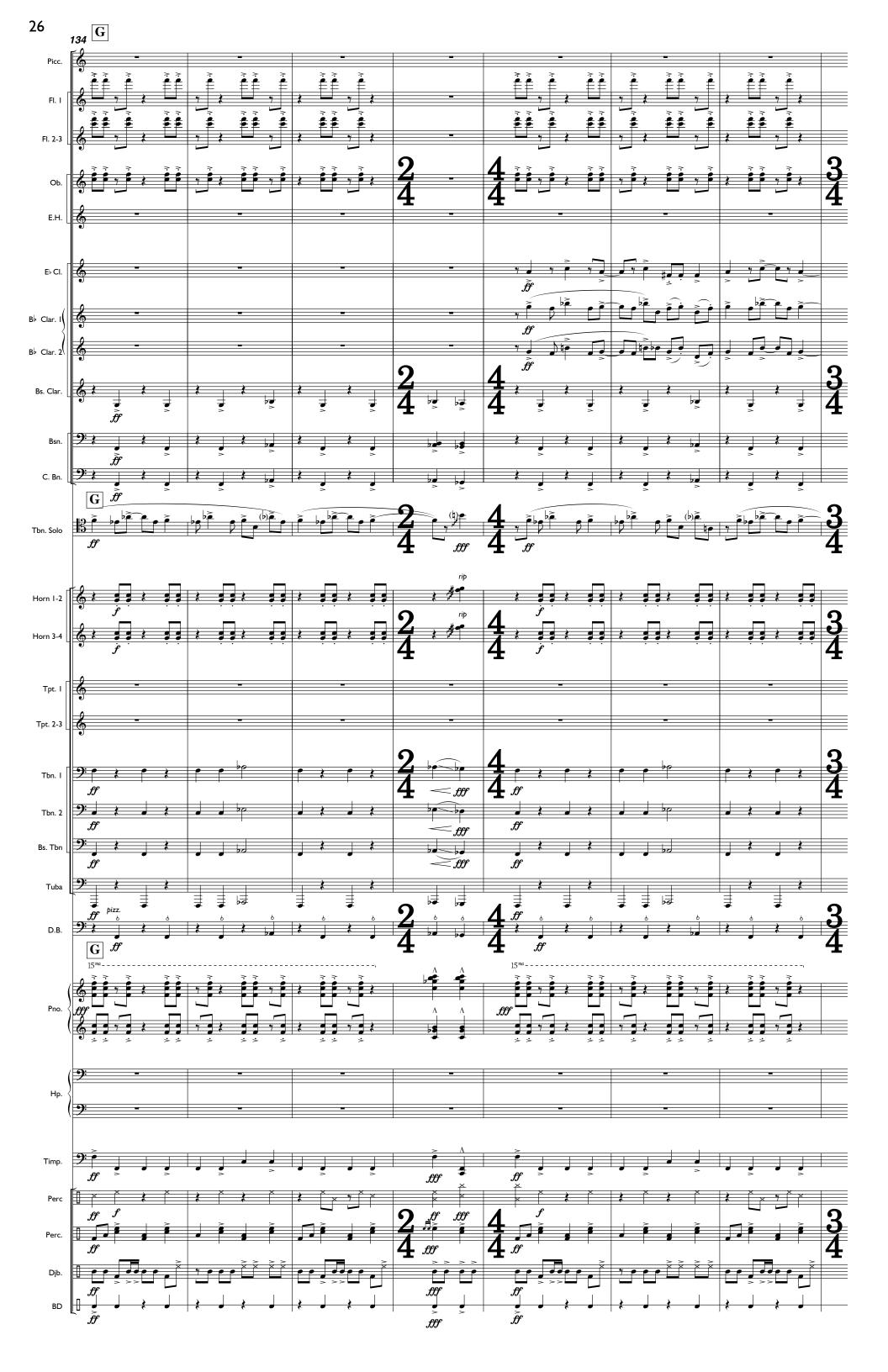


































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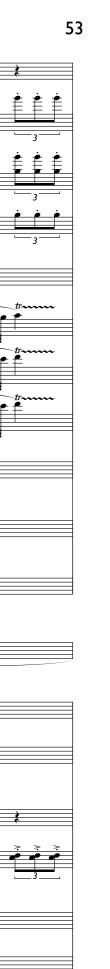


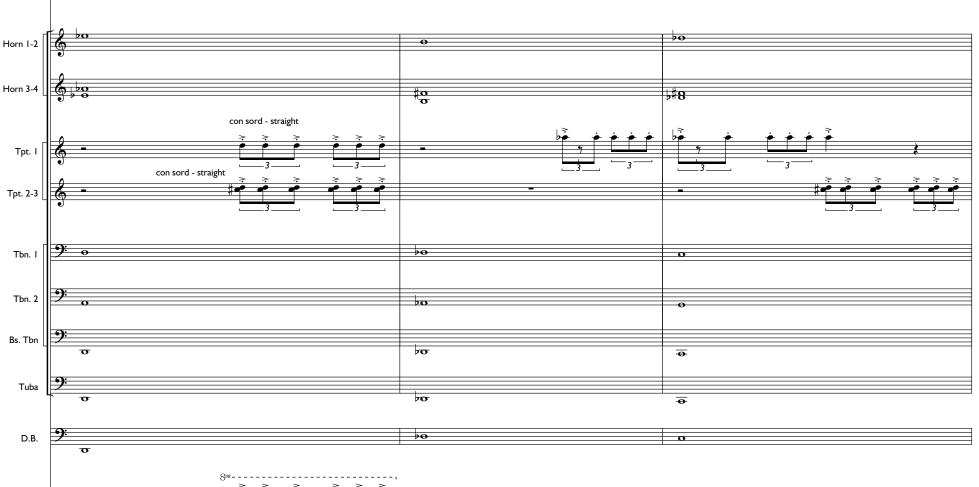












ppp

295

Picc.

Fl. I

Fl. 2-3

Ob.

E.H.

E♭ CI.

B♭ Clar. 2

Bs. Clar.

Bsn.

C. Bn.

Tbn. Solo

Timp.

Perc

Perc.

Djb.

BD [∏



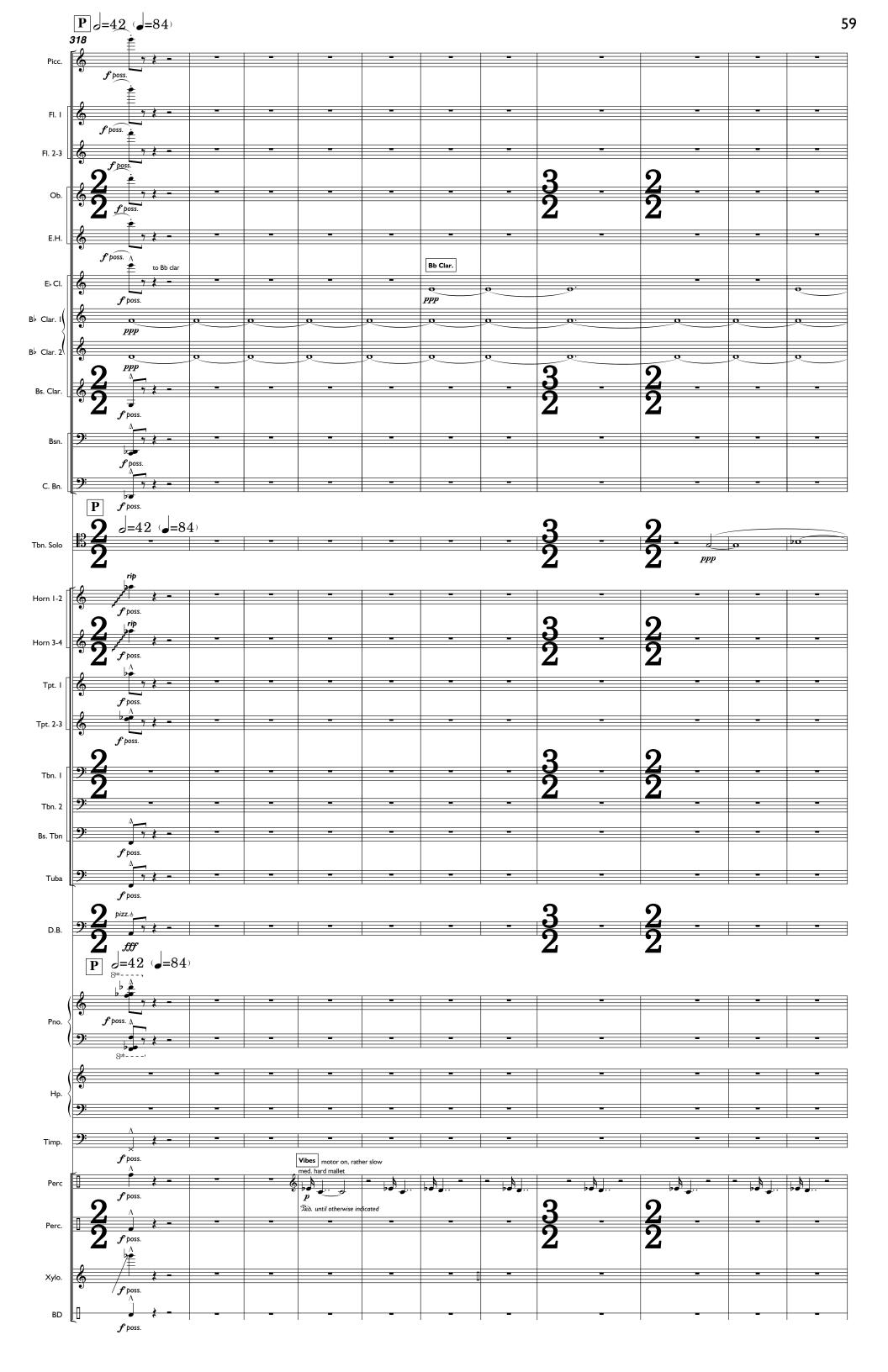














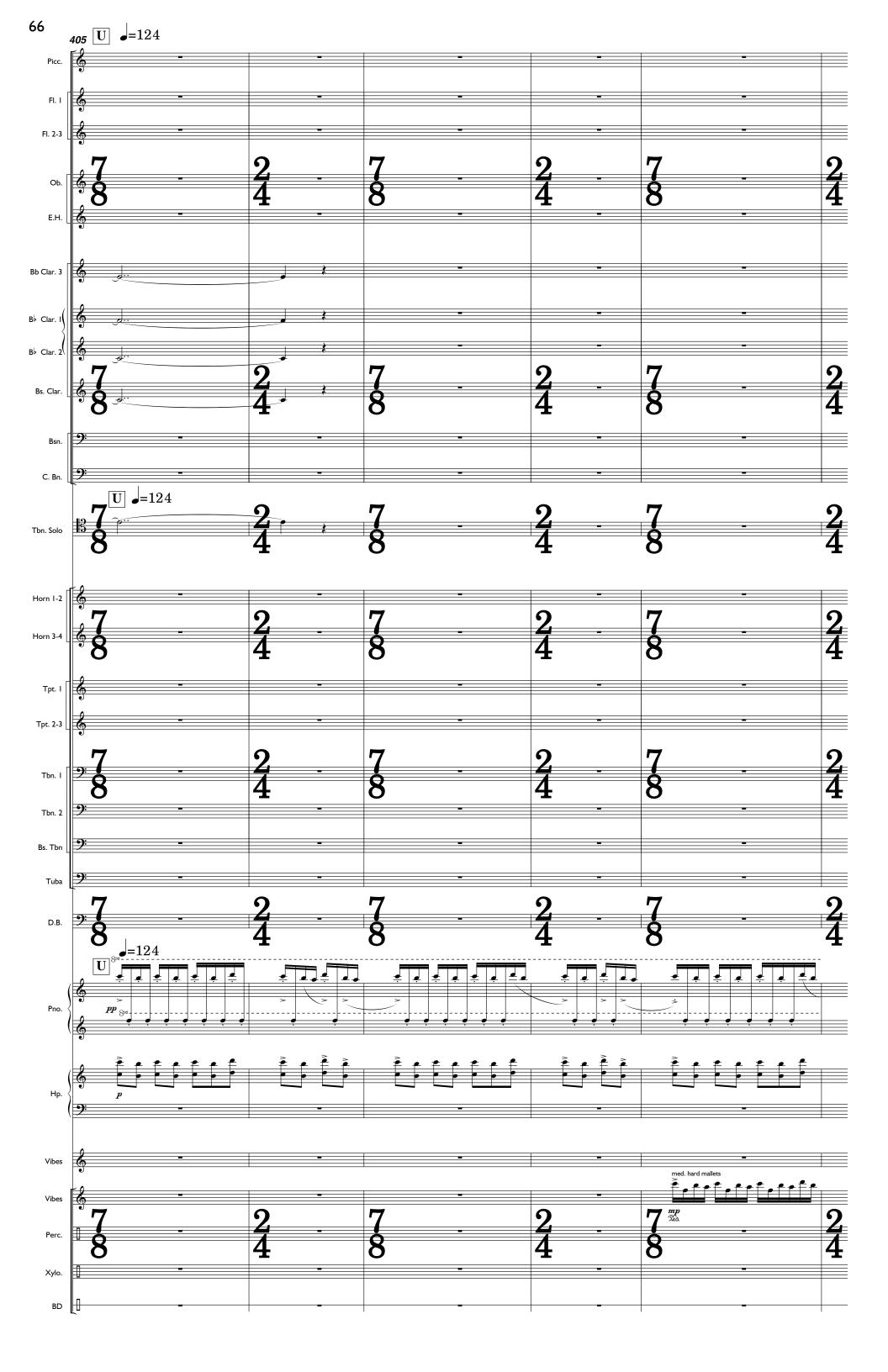


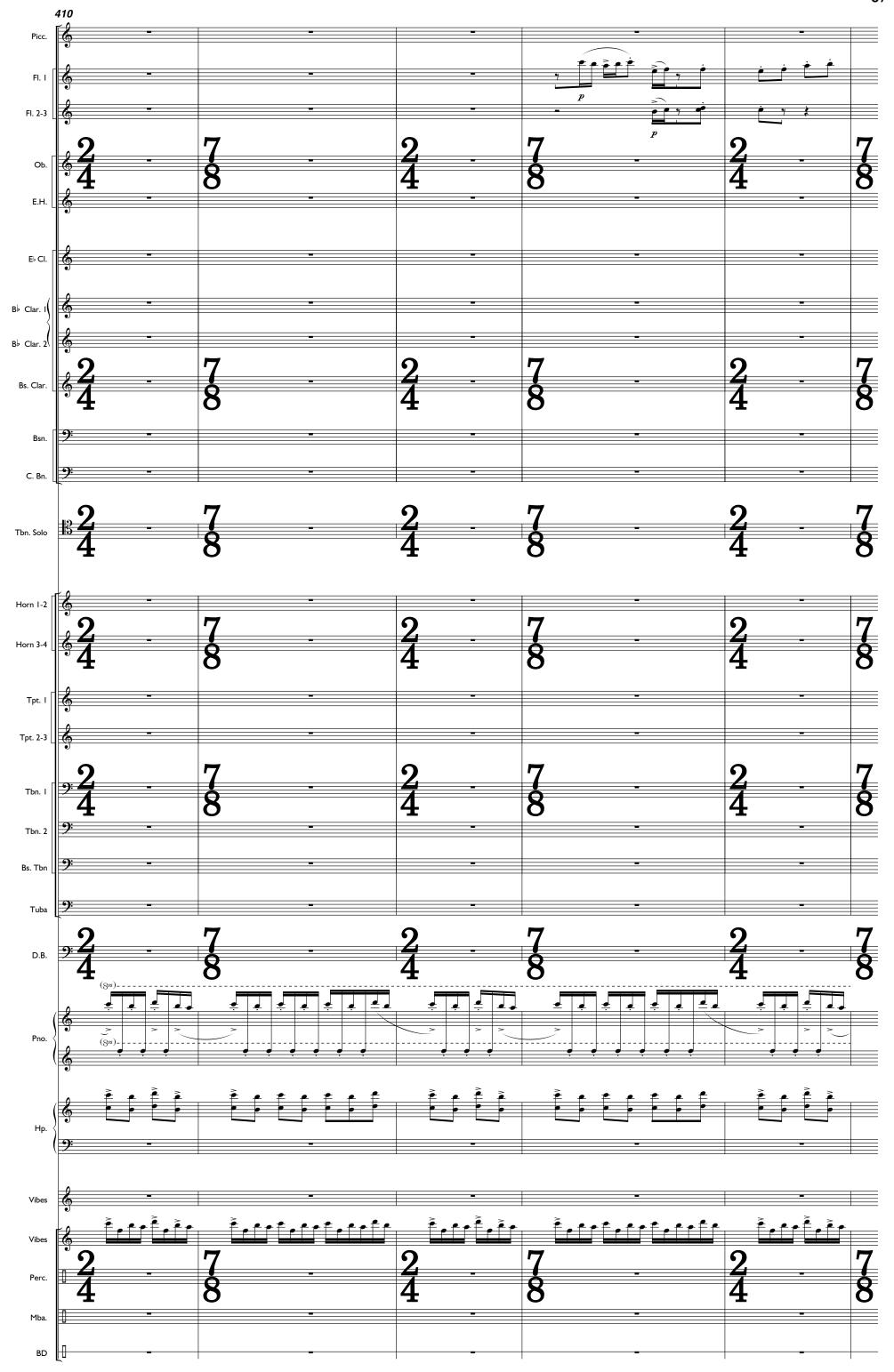


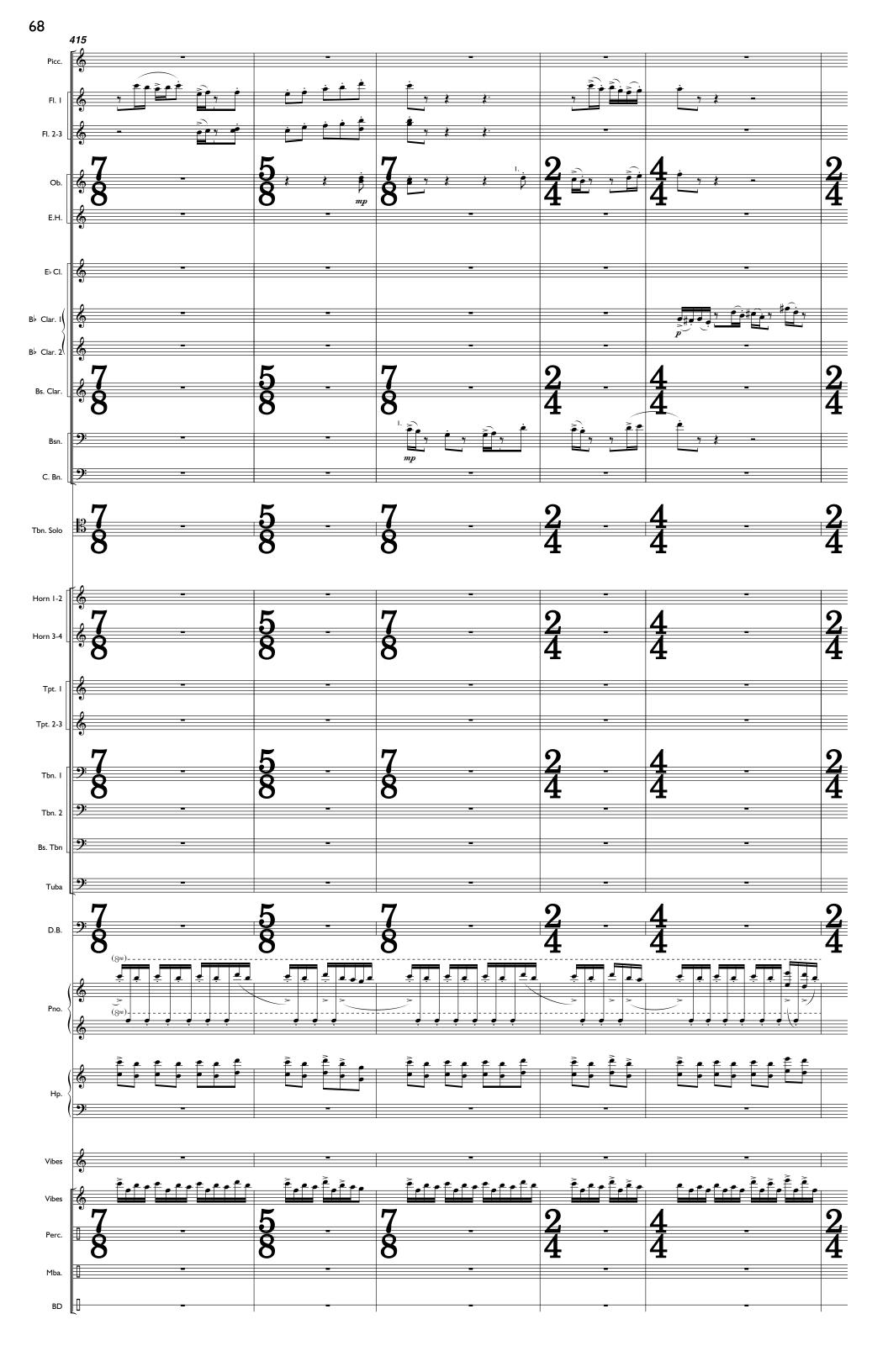








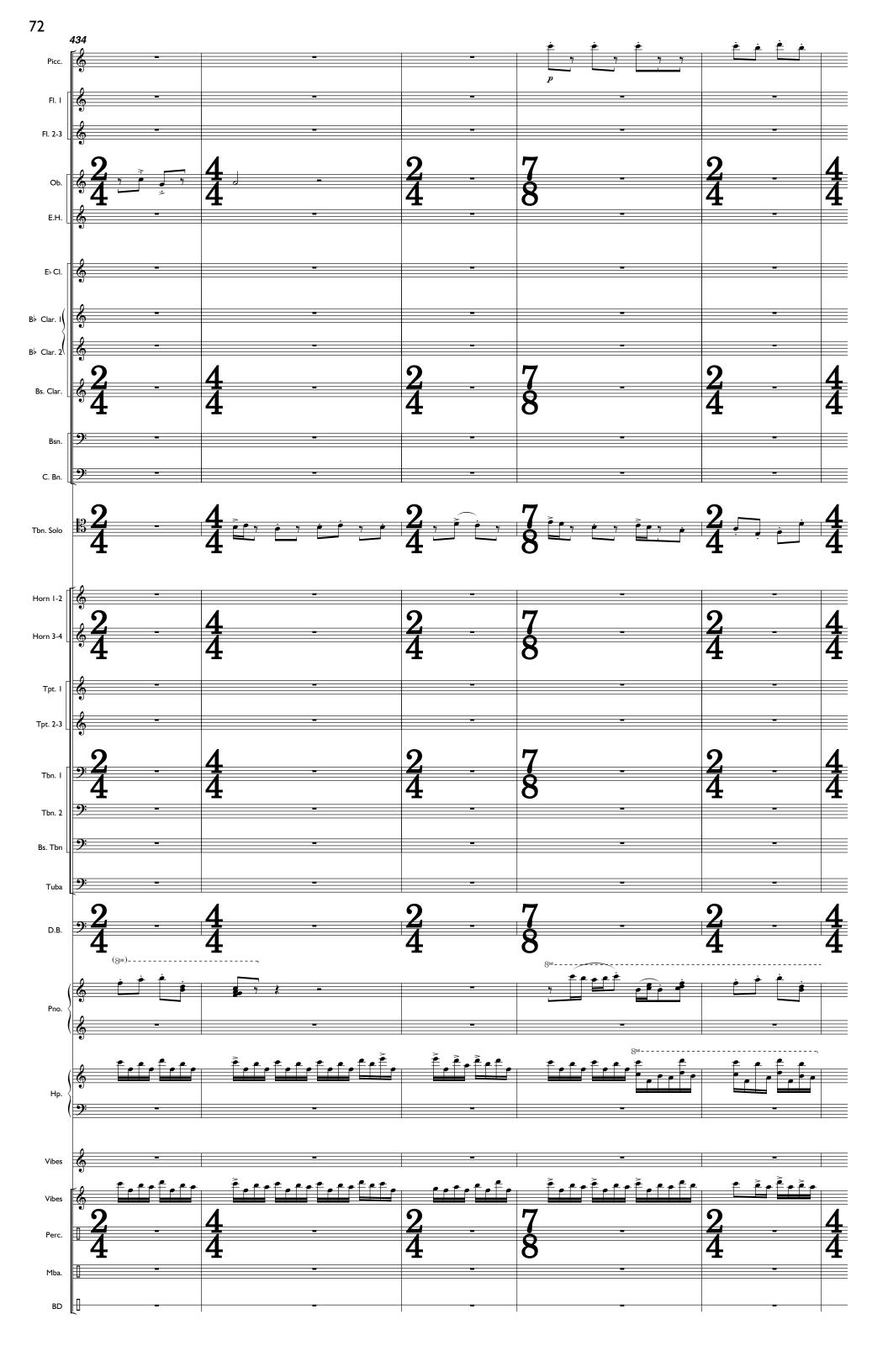












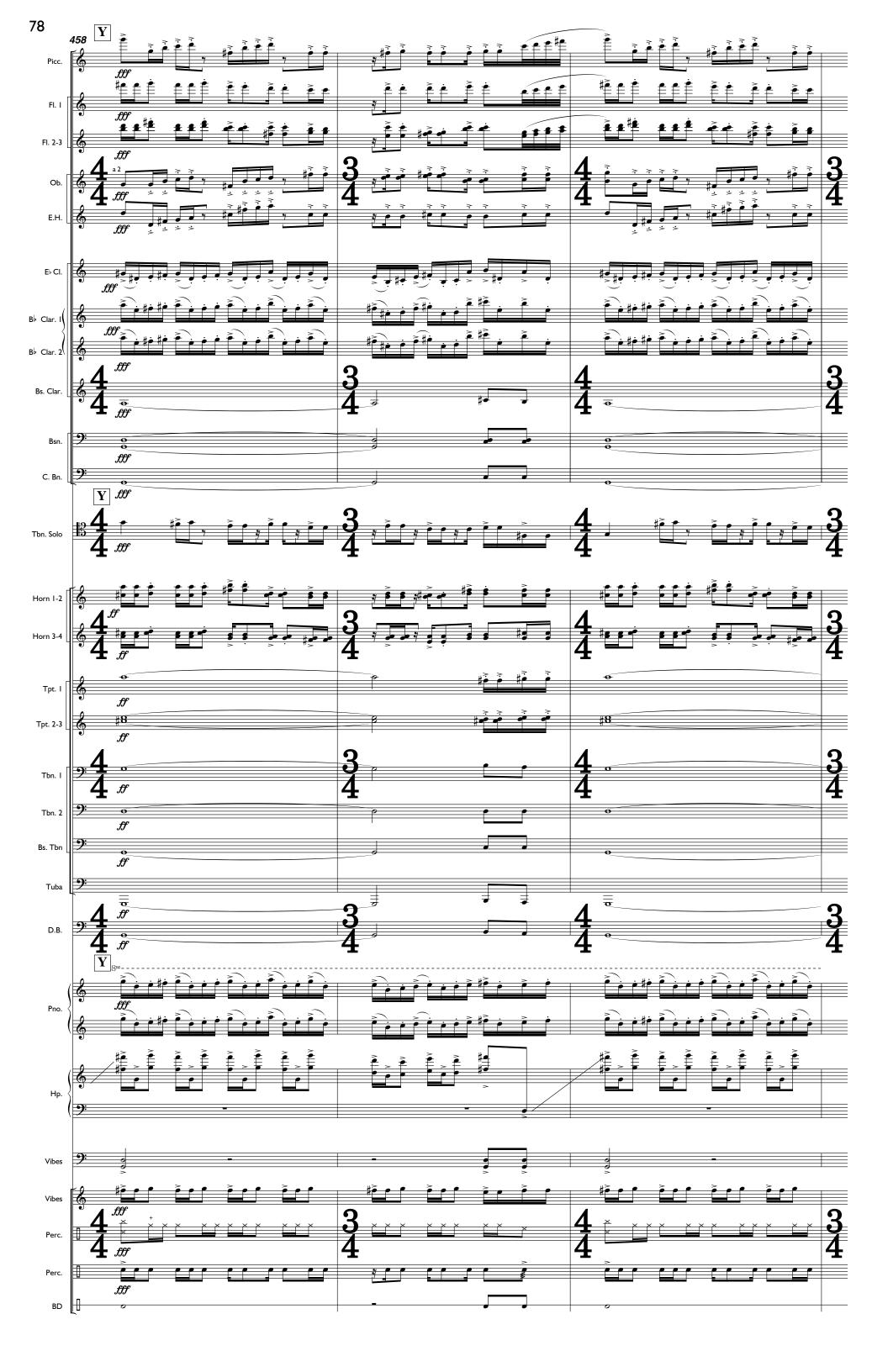






















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Picc.

Fl. I

Fl. 2-3

Ob.

E♭CI.

Horn I-2

Tpt. 2-3

Tbn. 2

Bs. Tbn

Tuba

D.B.

Vibes

Vibes

Perc.

Perc.

BD









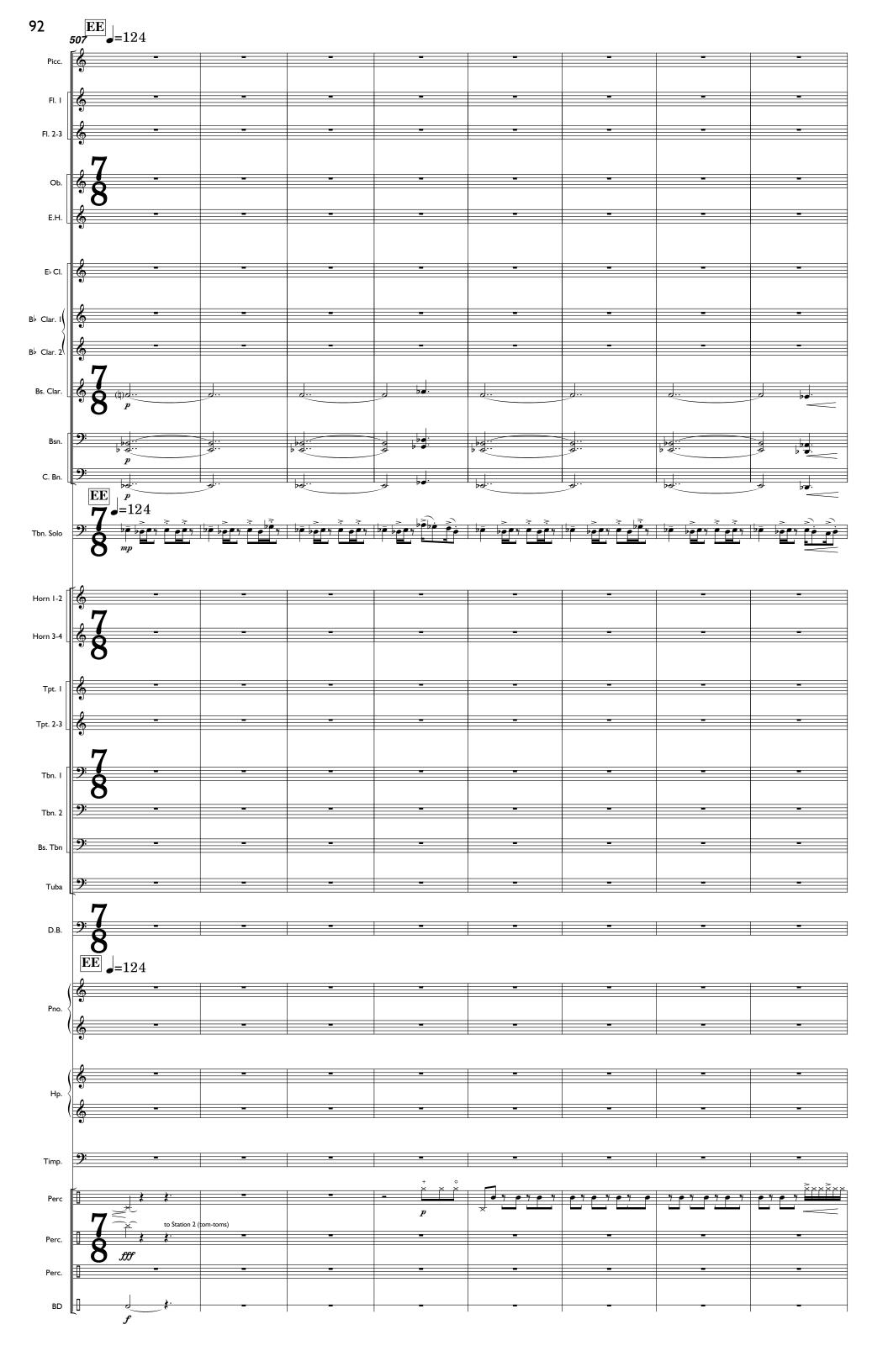








































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