Rude Mechanicals

A Trombone Quartet

David Lancaster

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Rude Mechanicals

A Trombone Quartet

Rude Mechanicals was commissioned by the **Slidin' About** trombone quartet in 2016. In this, the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, there are two specific references to the bard's plays: the work's title refers to the group of rustic characters who put on a heartfelt performance to conclude A Midsummer Night's Dream, and the link to the sound world of the trombone quartet seemed quite clear in my mind. When I was close to completing the work in late October 2016 I learned of the passing of my friend and former brass teacher Michael Antrobus to whom I owe a considerable musical debt. Consequently the coda of the piece (in complete contrast to the rest of the music) is slow and sustained and is prefaced by a famous quotation from Act IV of The Tempest: 'We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little lives are rounded by a sleep'. This final chorale is certainly influenced by Ralph Vaughan Williams' setting of that same text: Mike loved English music.

The music is in six clear parts, each emerging from a unison repeated note which is passed around the quartet. The pulse remains constant throughout; contrasts of pace are regulated by changing the metre rather than the beat. Metre changes are ♪=♪ throughout.

Duration c. 6'15"

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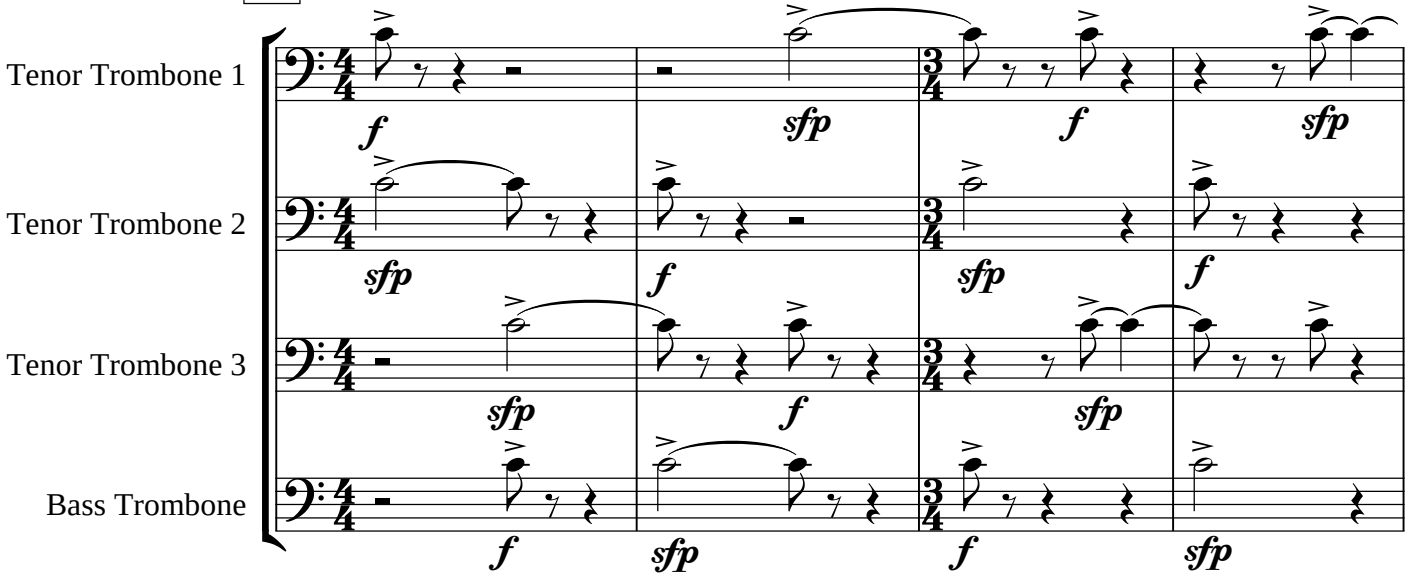
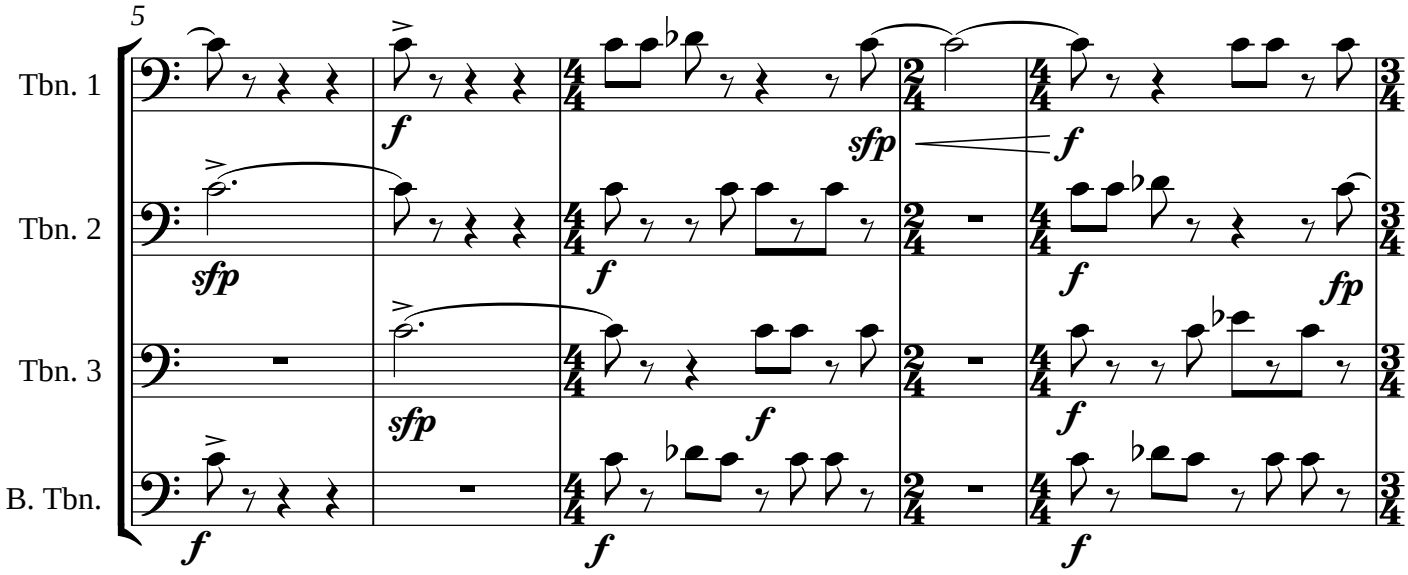
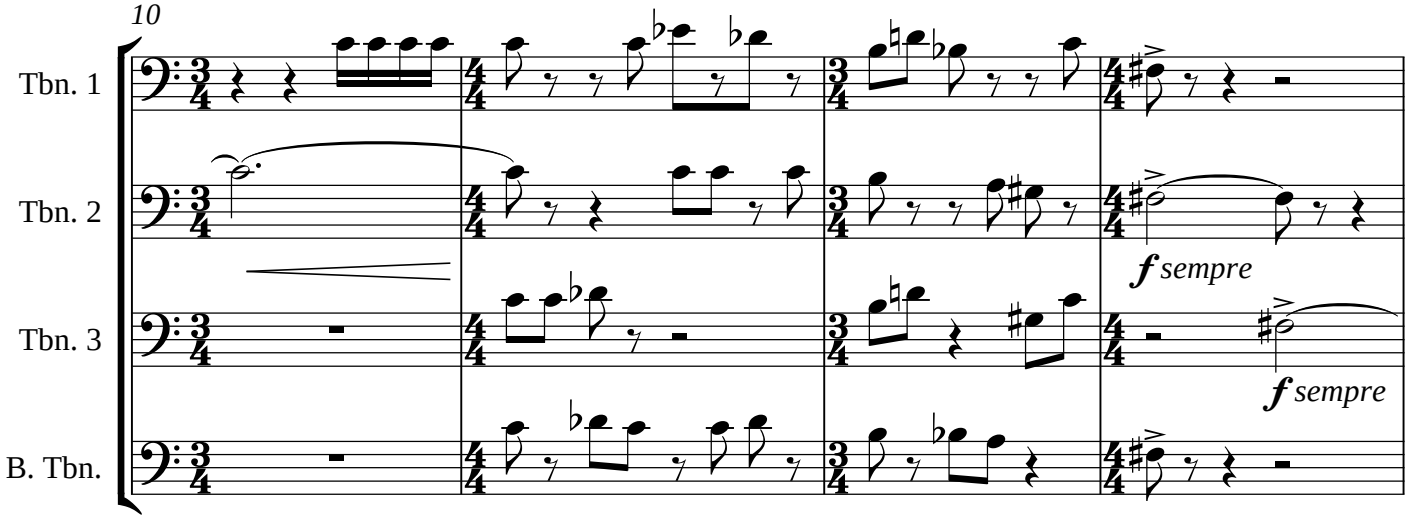
I **Allegro molto** ♩ = 160







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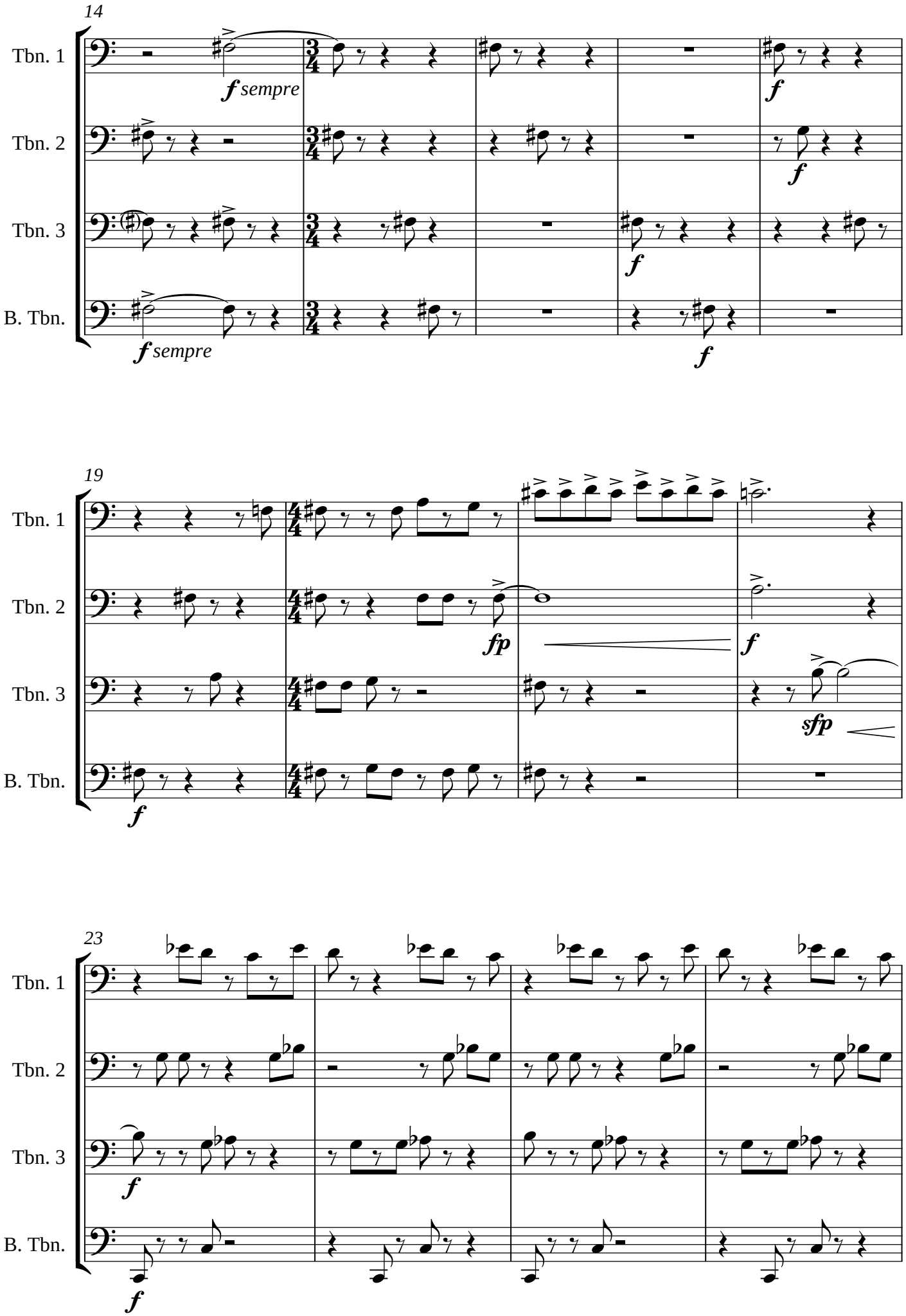
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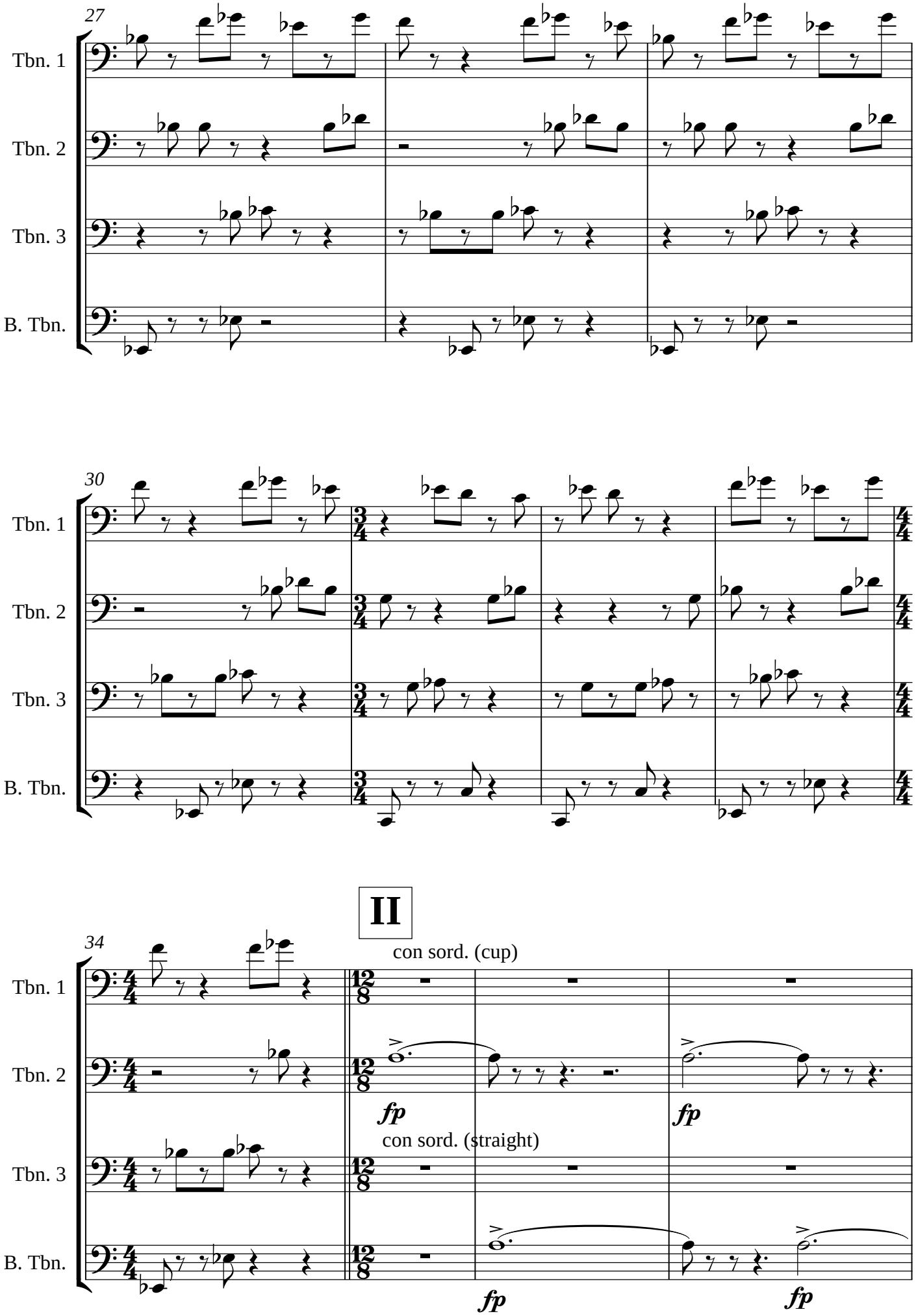
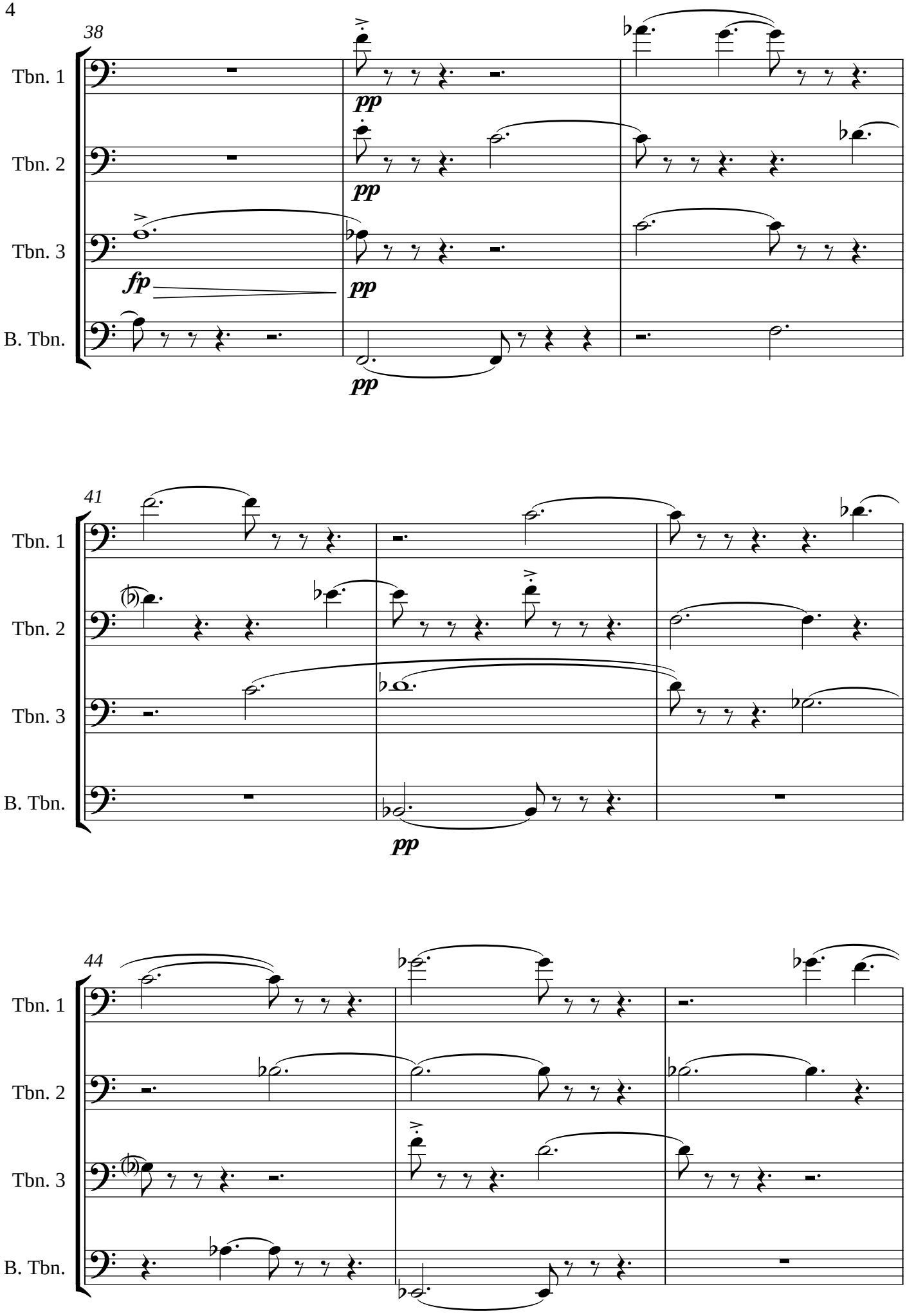
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
f sempre
f
19
fp
sfp
23


27
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
30
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
II
34
con sord. (cup)
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
fp
fp
con sord. (straight)
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
fp
fp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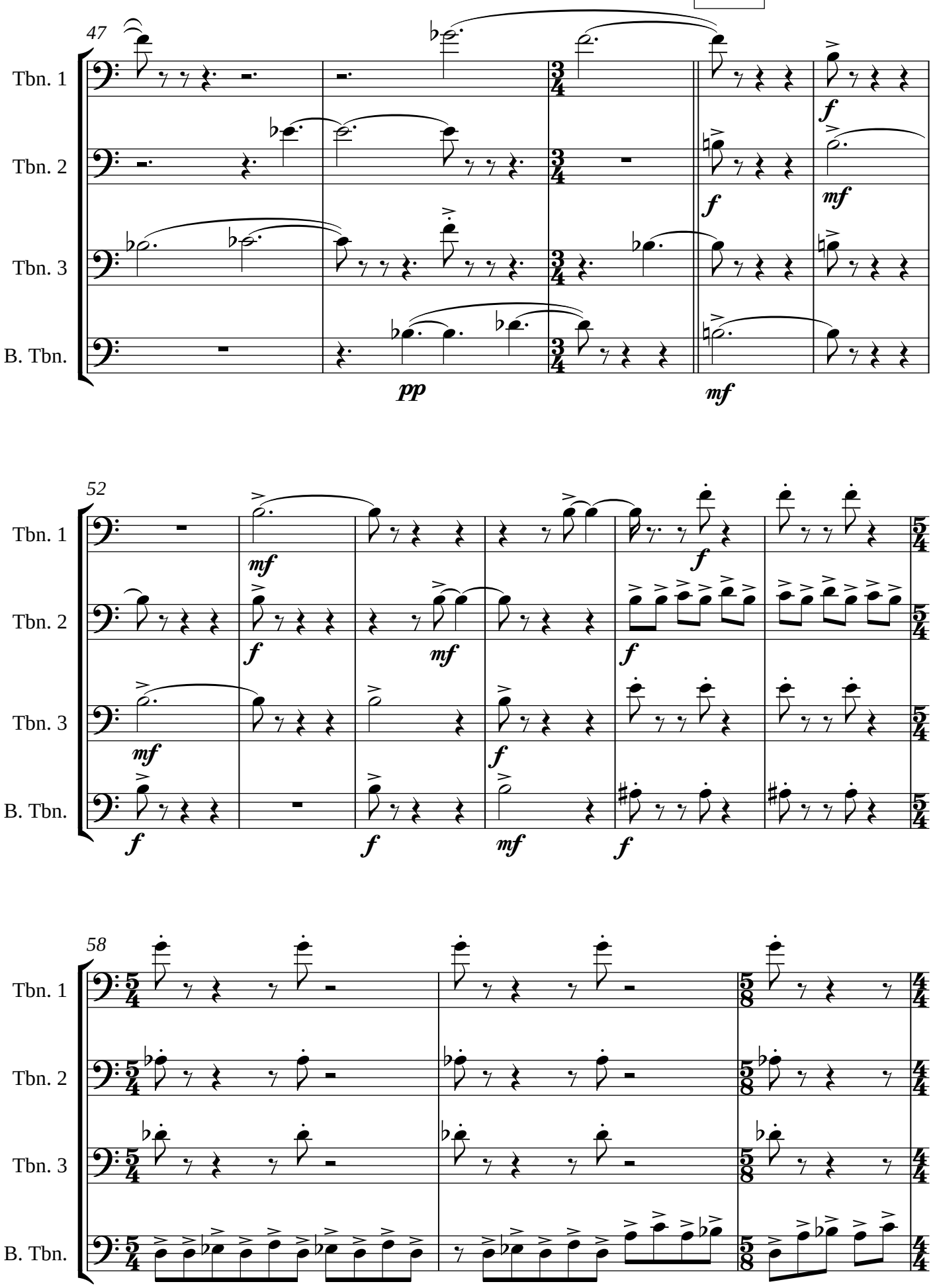
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
pp
pp
fp
pp
pp
41
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
pp
44
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.

III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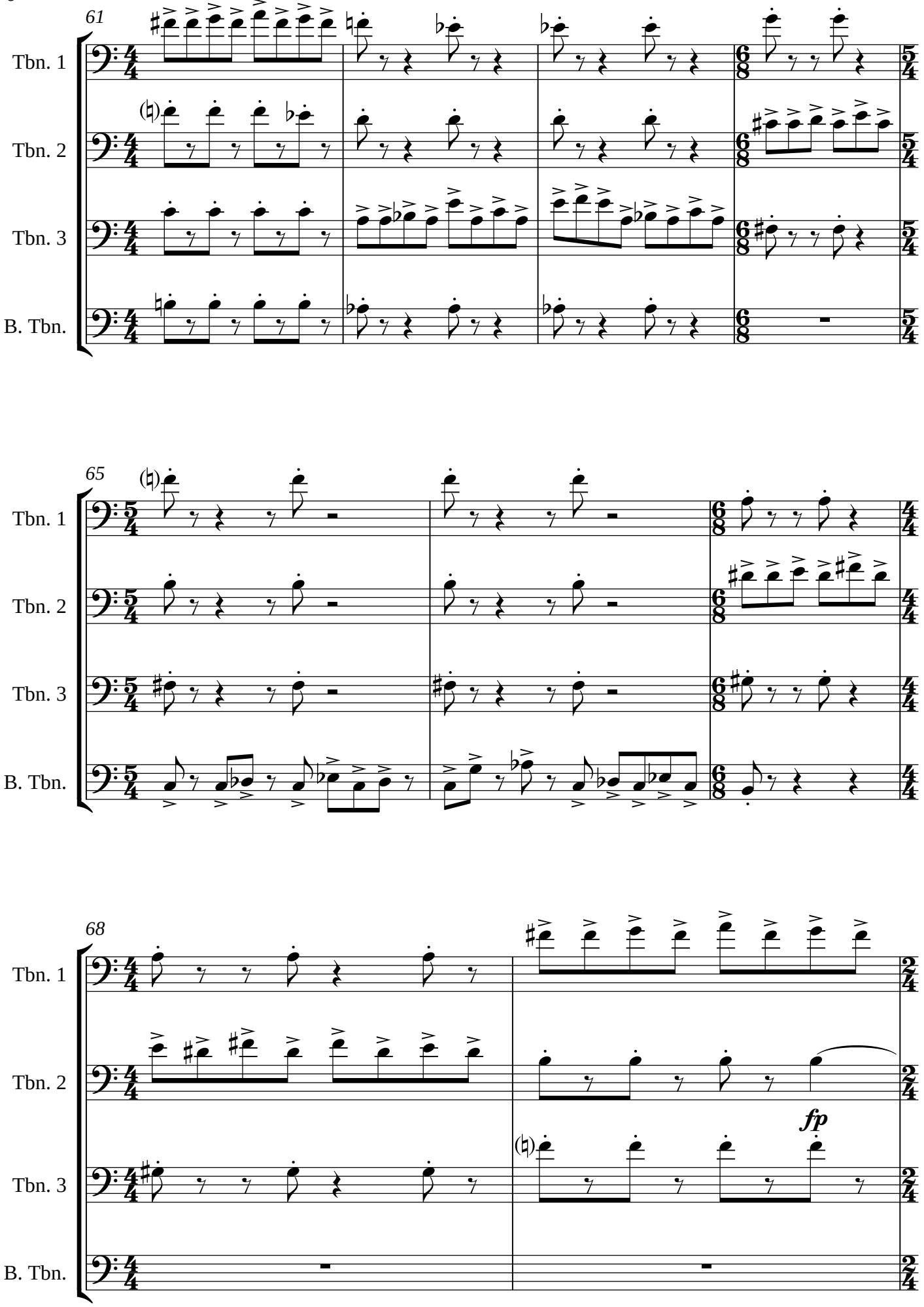
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
pp
mf
f
mf
52
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
mf
f
mf
f
58
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.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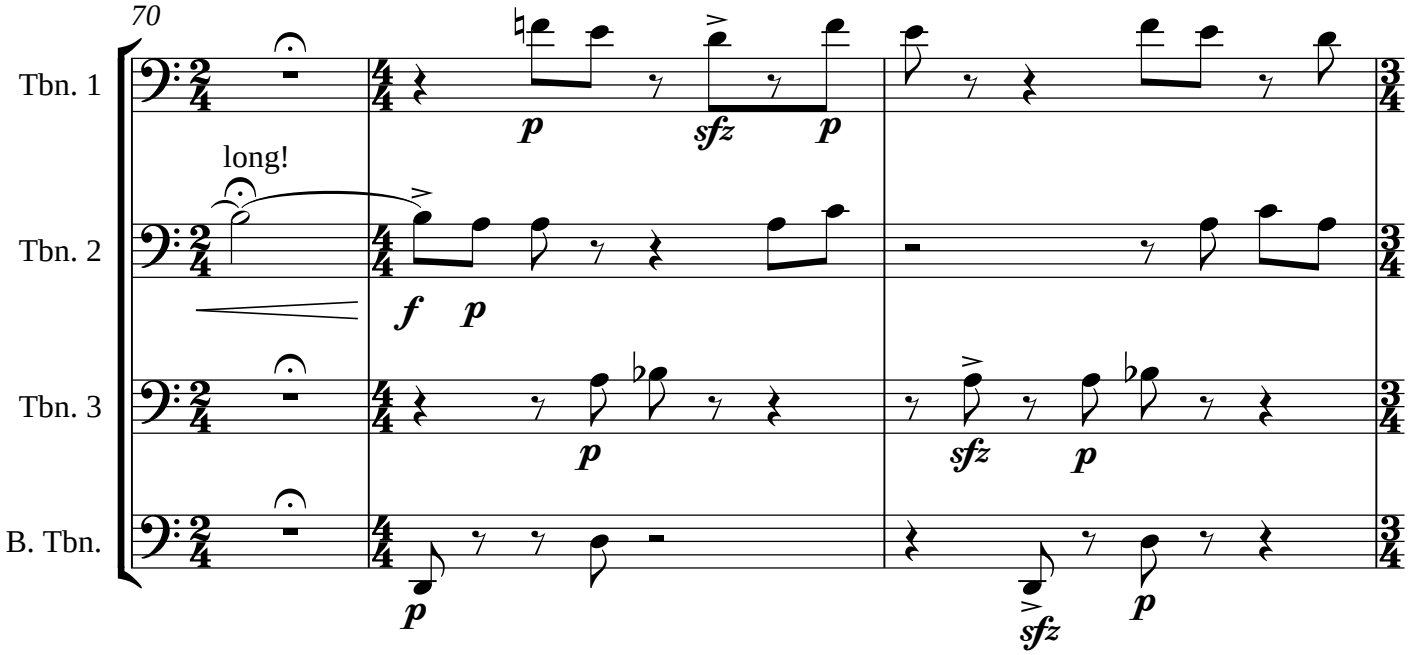
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
65
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
68
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
fp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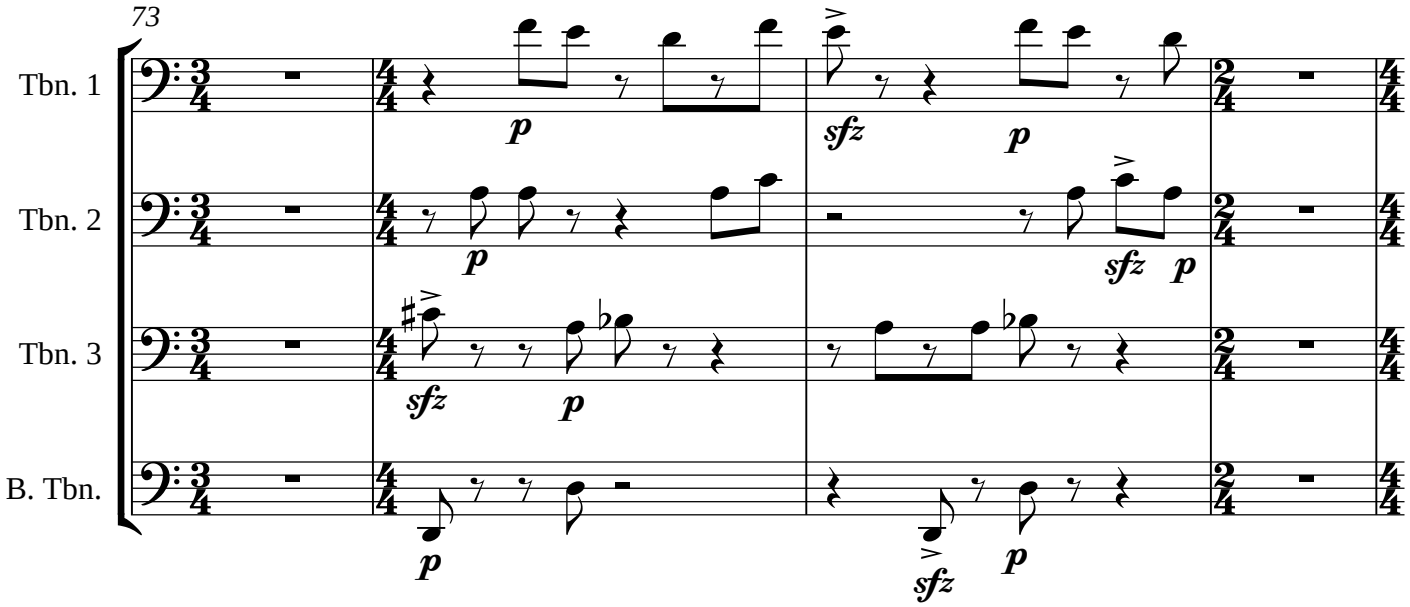
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
long!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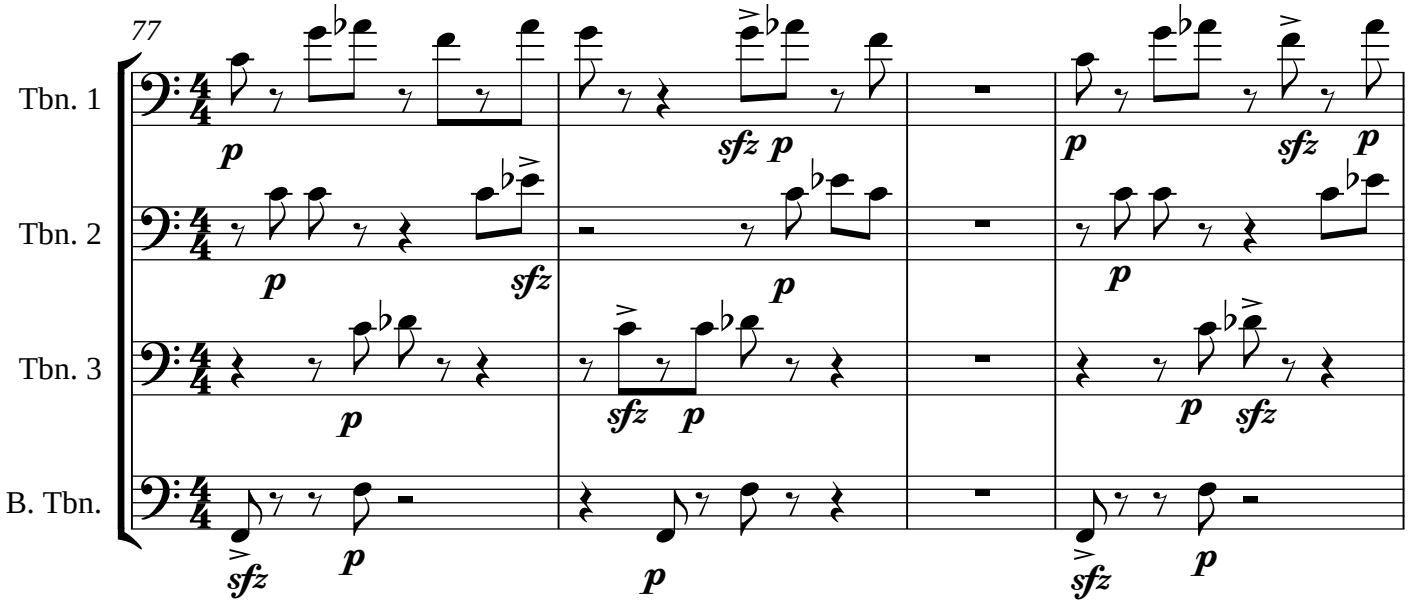
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.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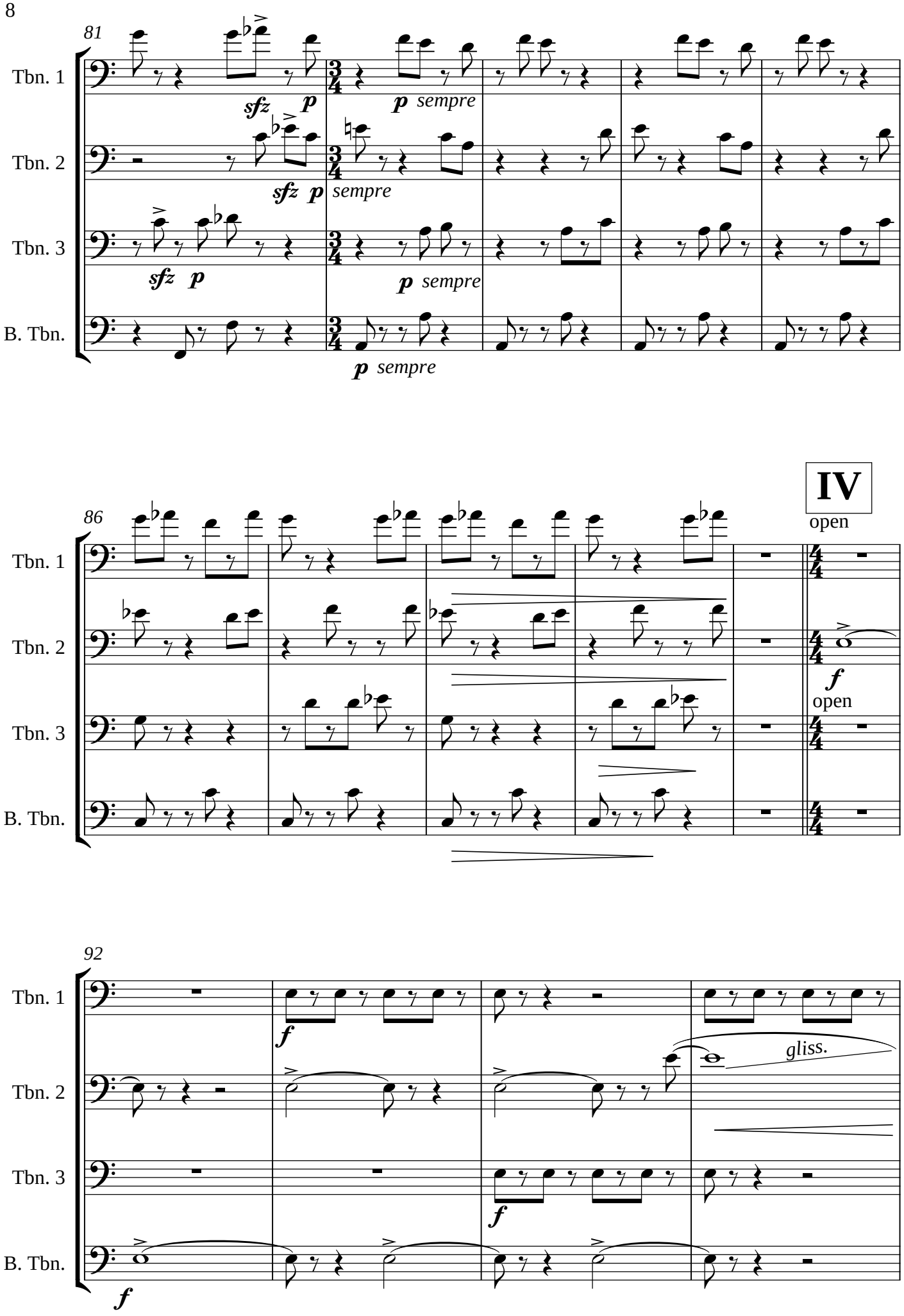
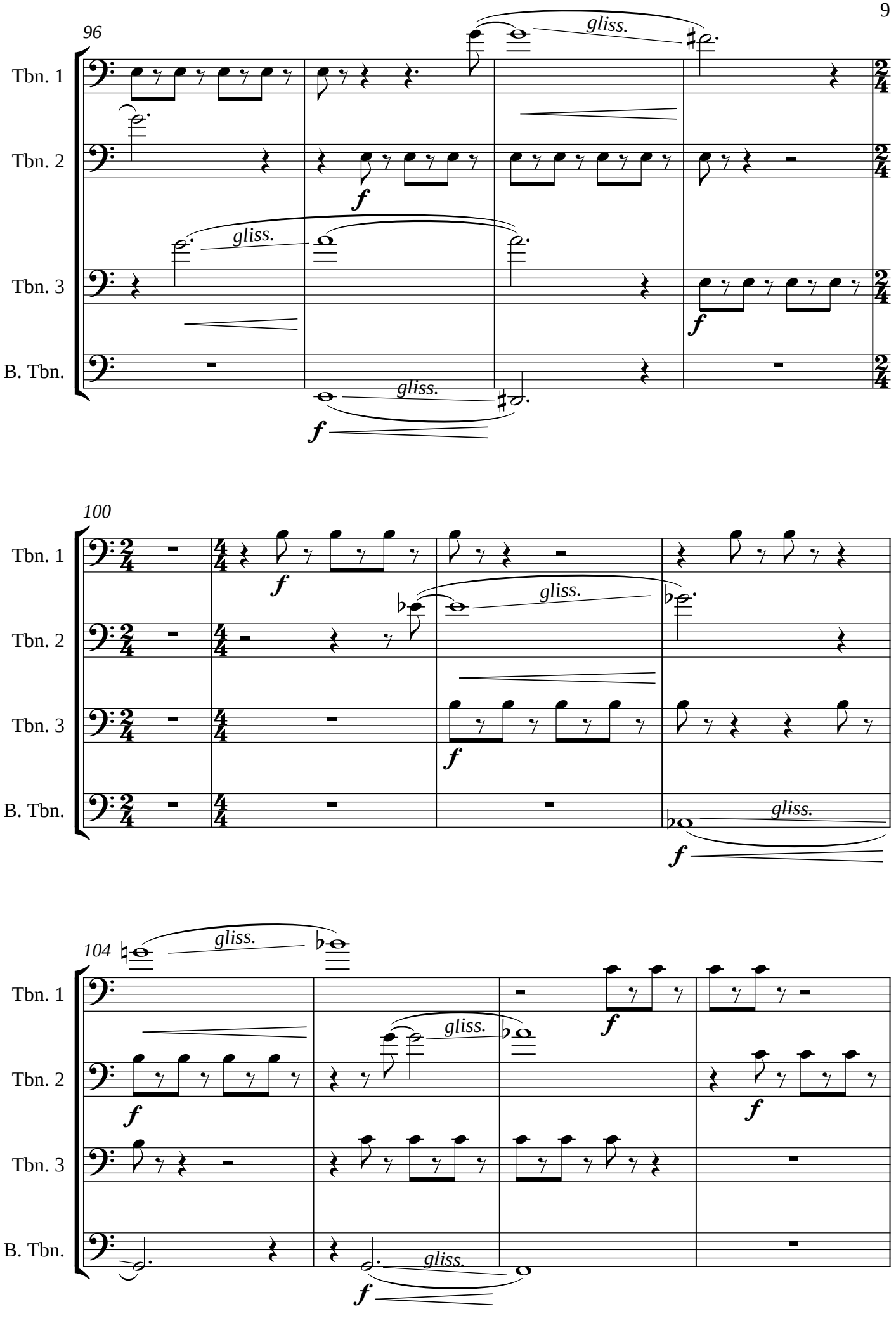
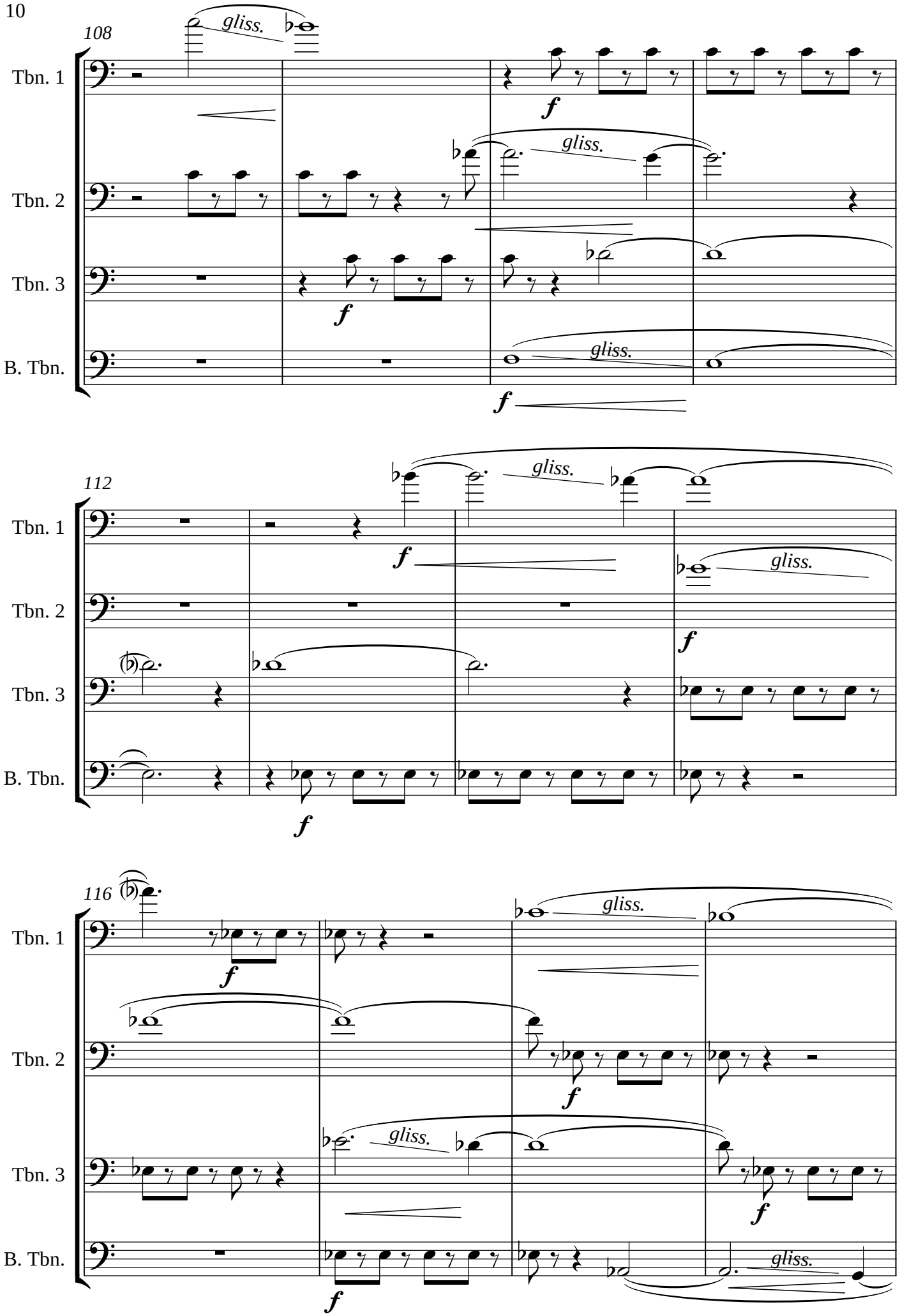

81
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
sfz p
p sempre
sfz p sempre
sfz p
p sempre
p sempre
86
IV
open
f
open
92
f
gliss.
f
f


96
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
f
f
f
100
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
f
gliss.
f
gliss.
f
104
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
gliss.
gliss.
gliss.
f
f
f
f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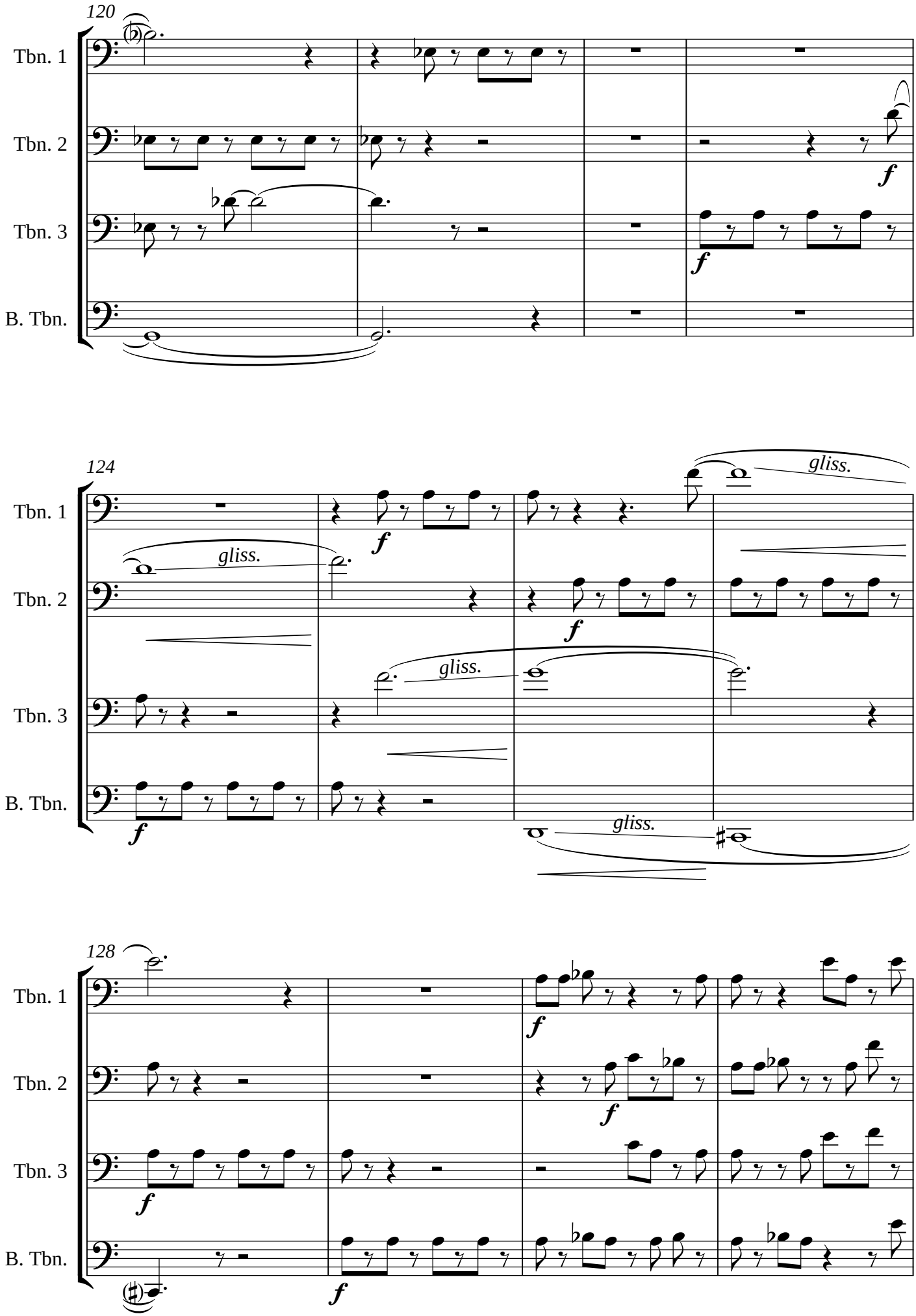
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
gliss.
f
112
116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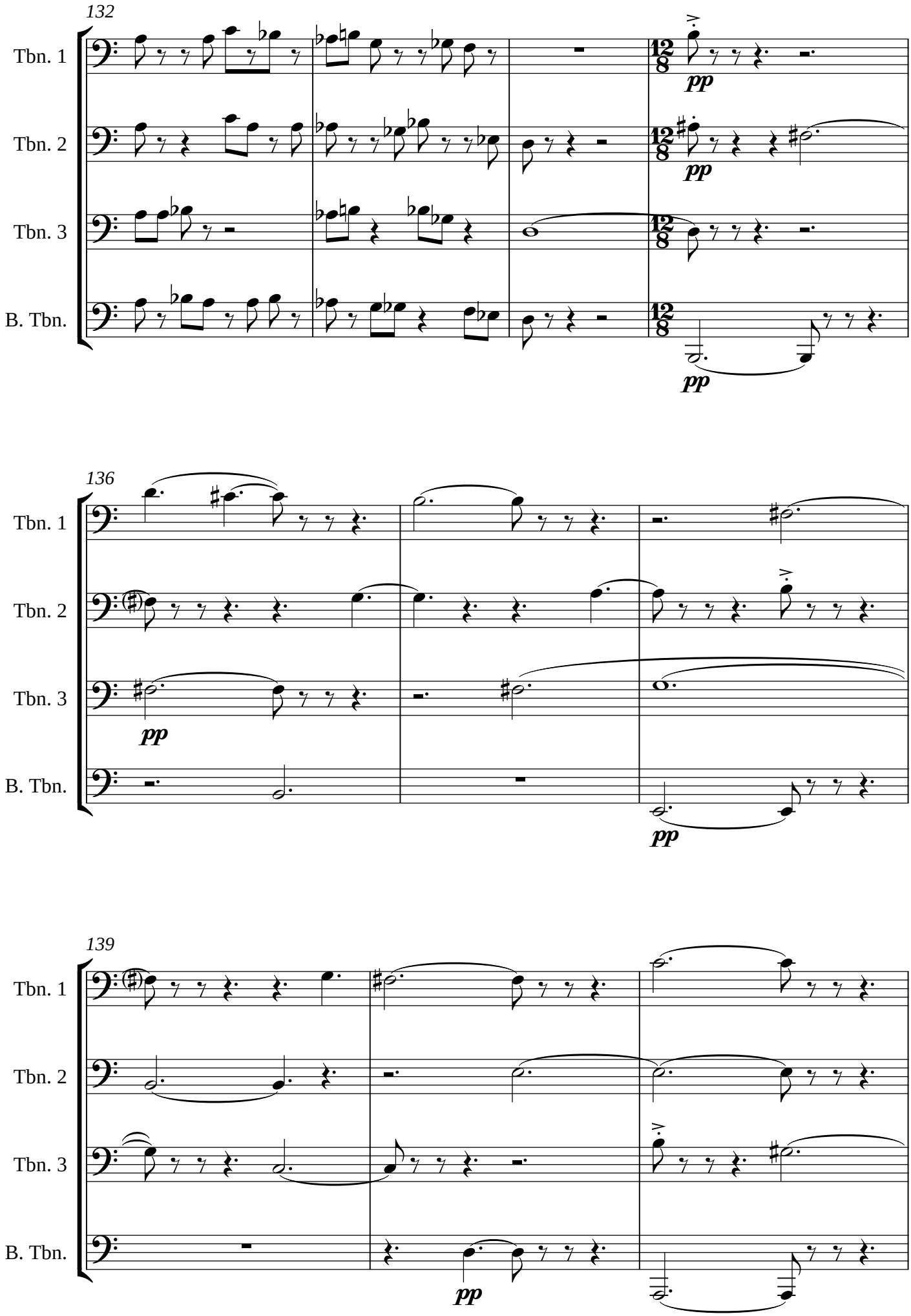
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
f
124
gliss.
128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pp
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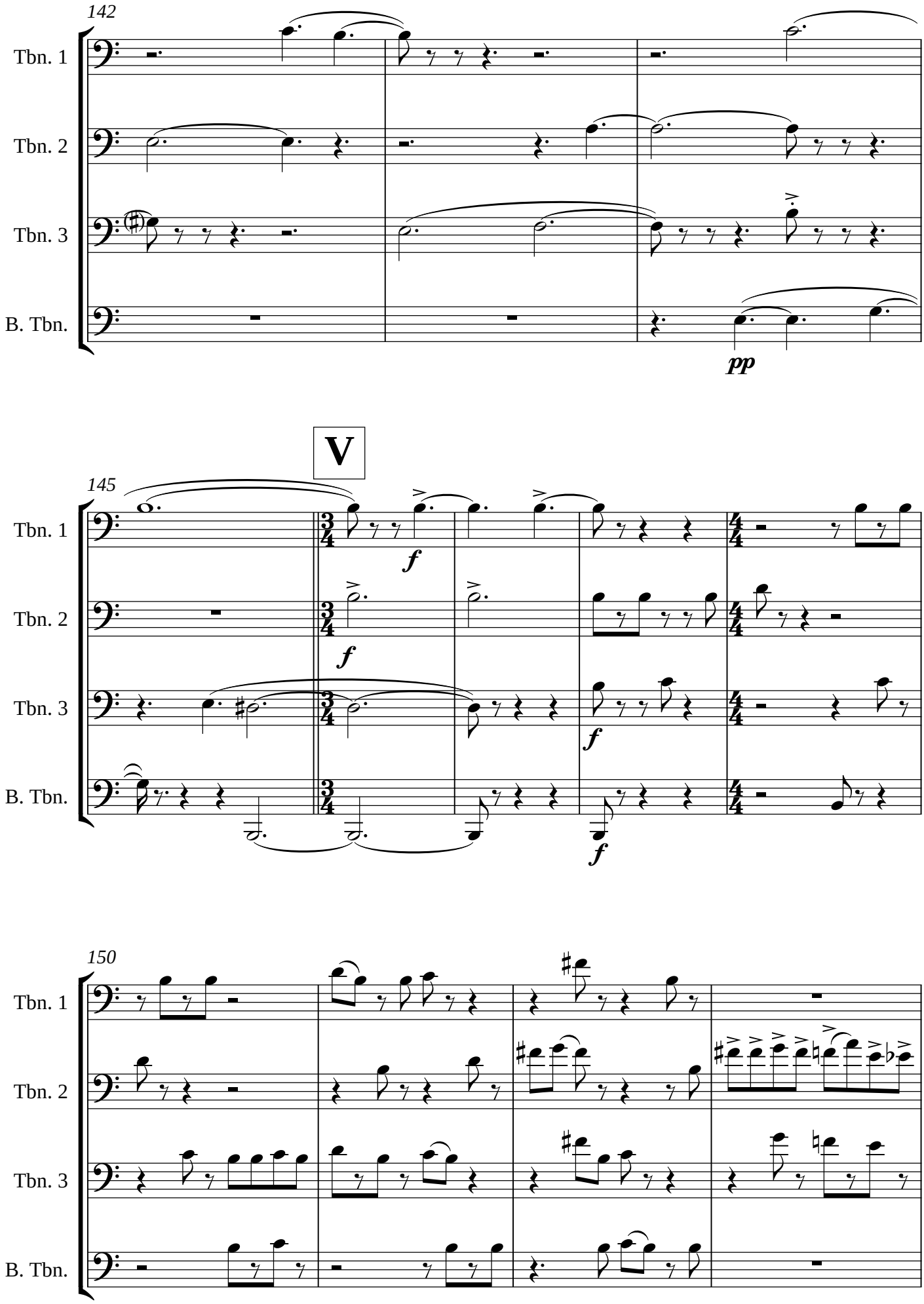
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pp
V
145
Tbn. 1
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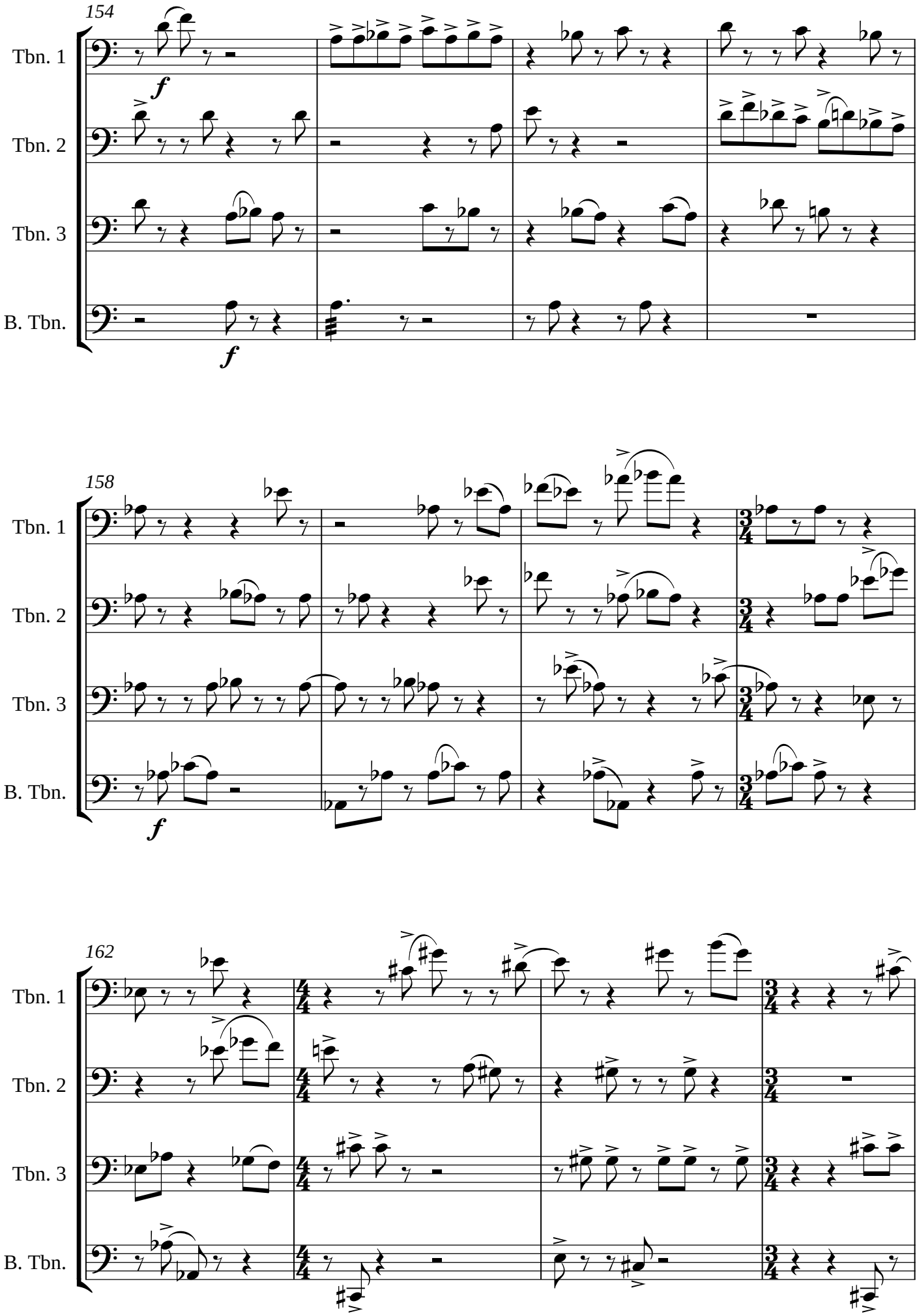
B. Tbn.
f
f
f
f
150
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.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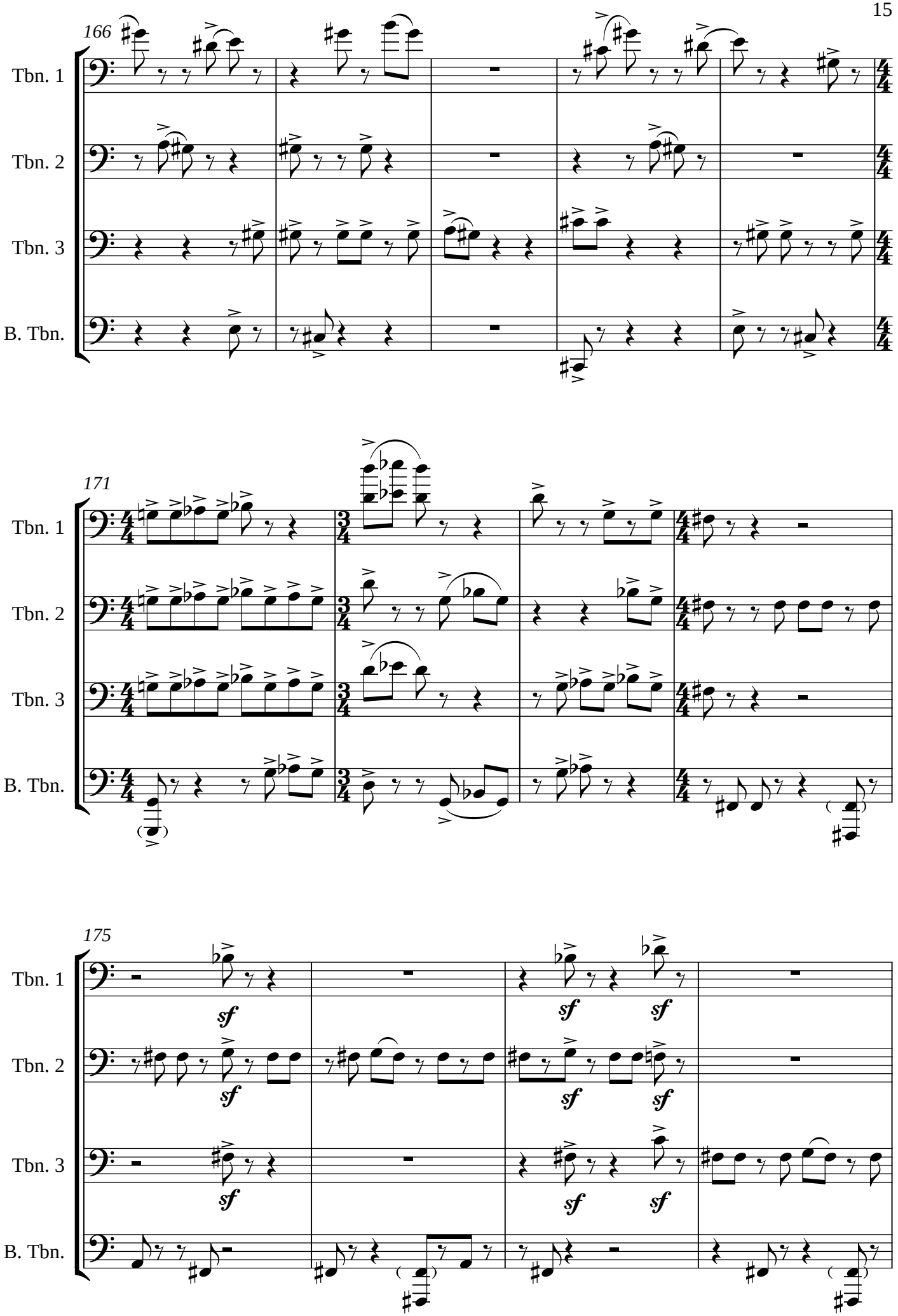
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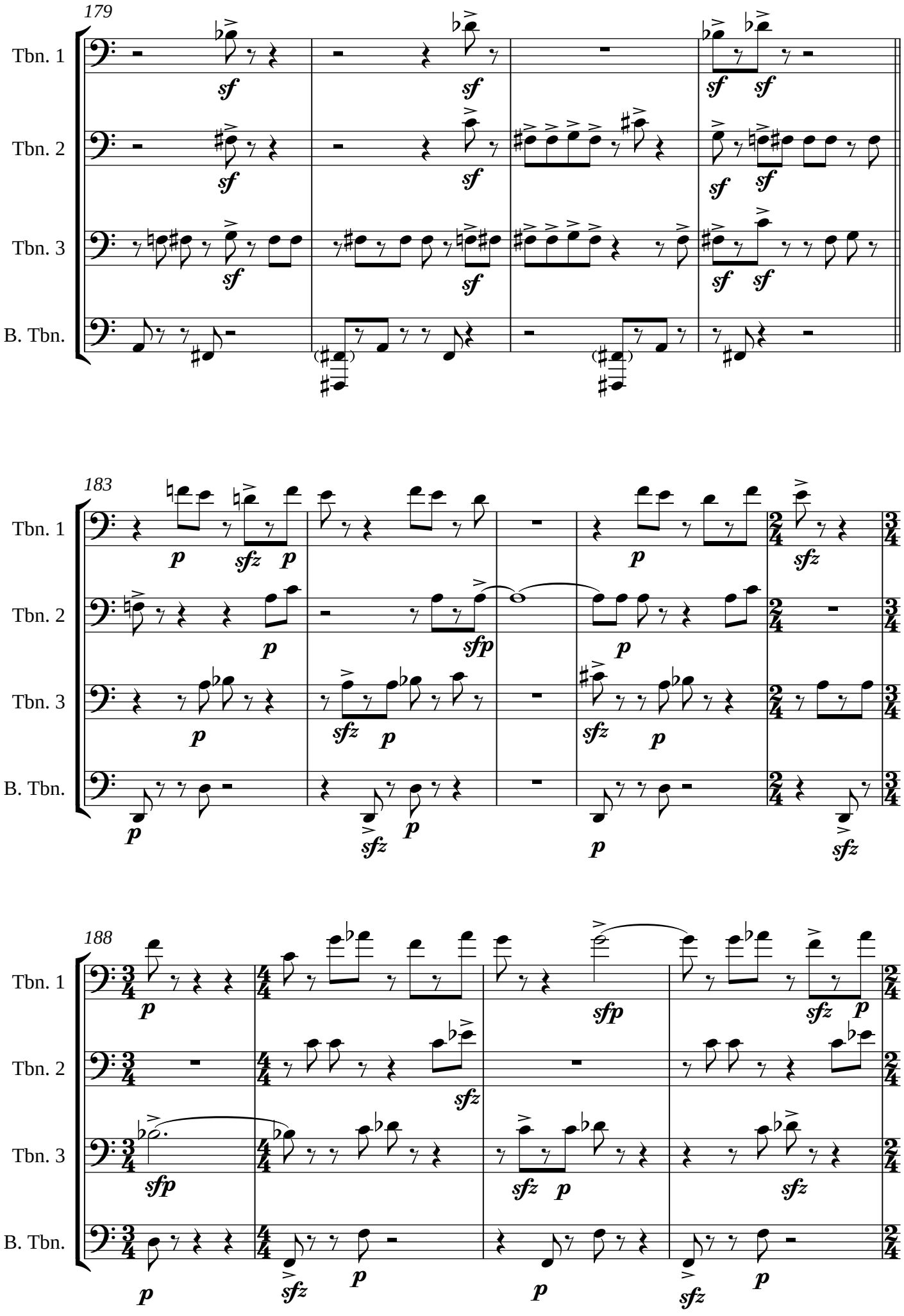
sf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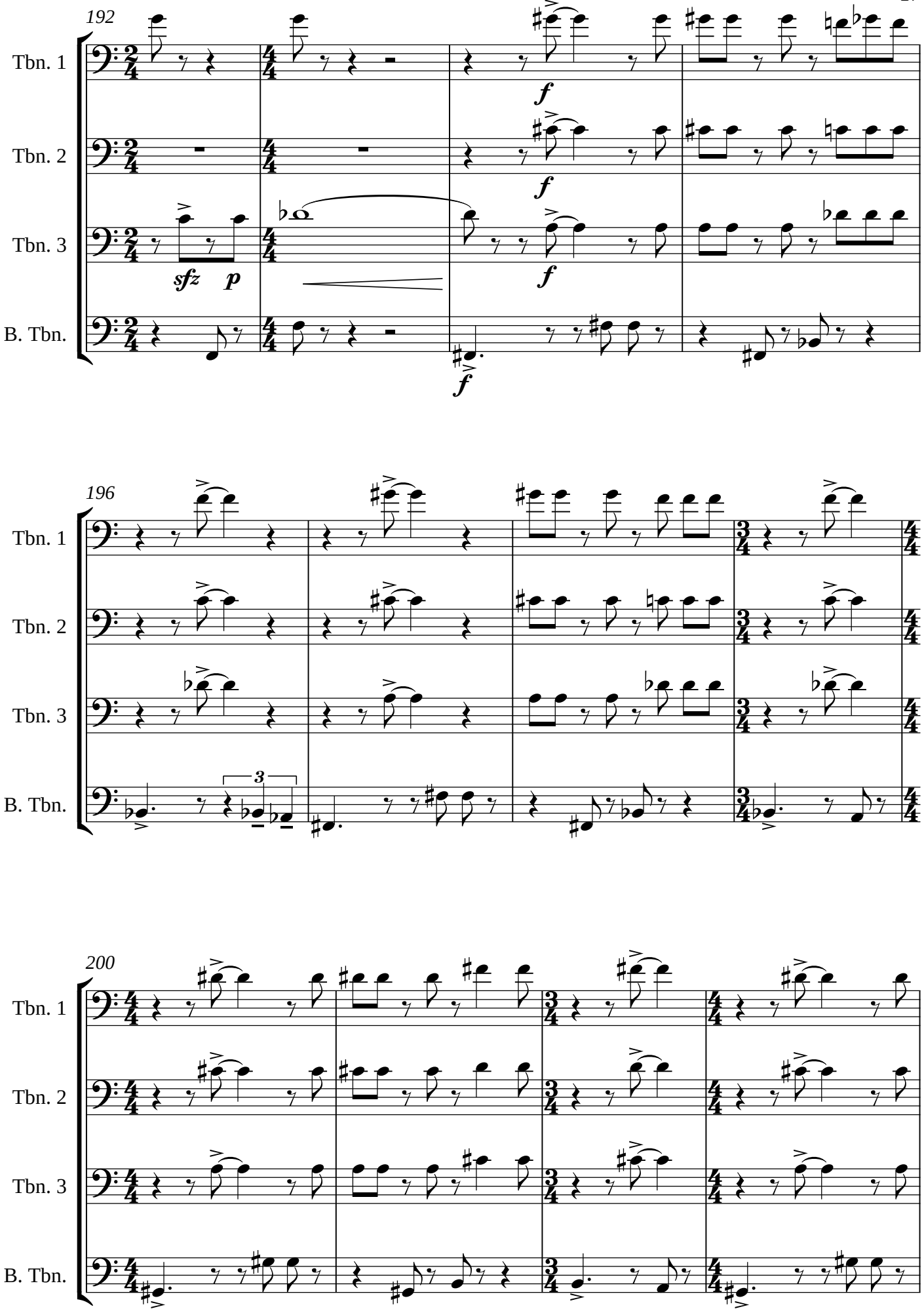
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Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
sfz
p
f
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3
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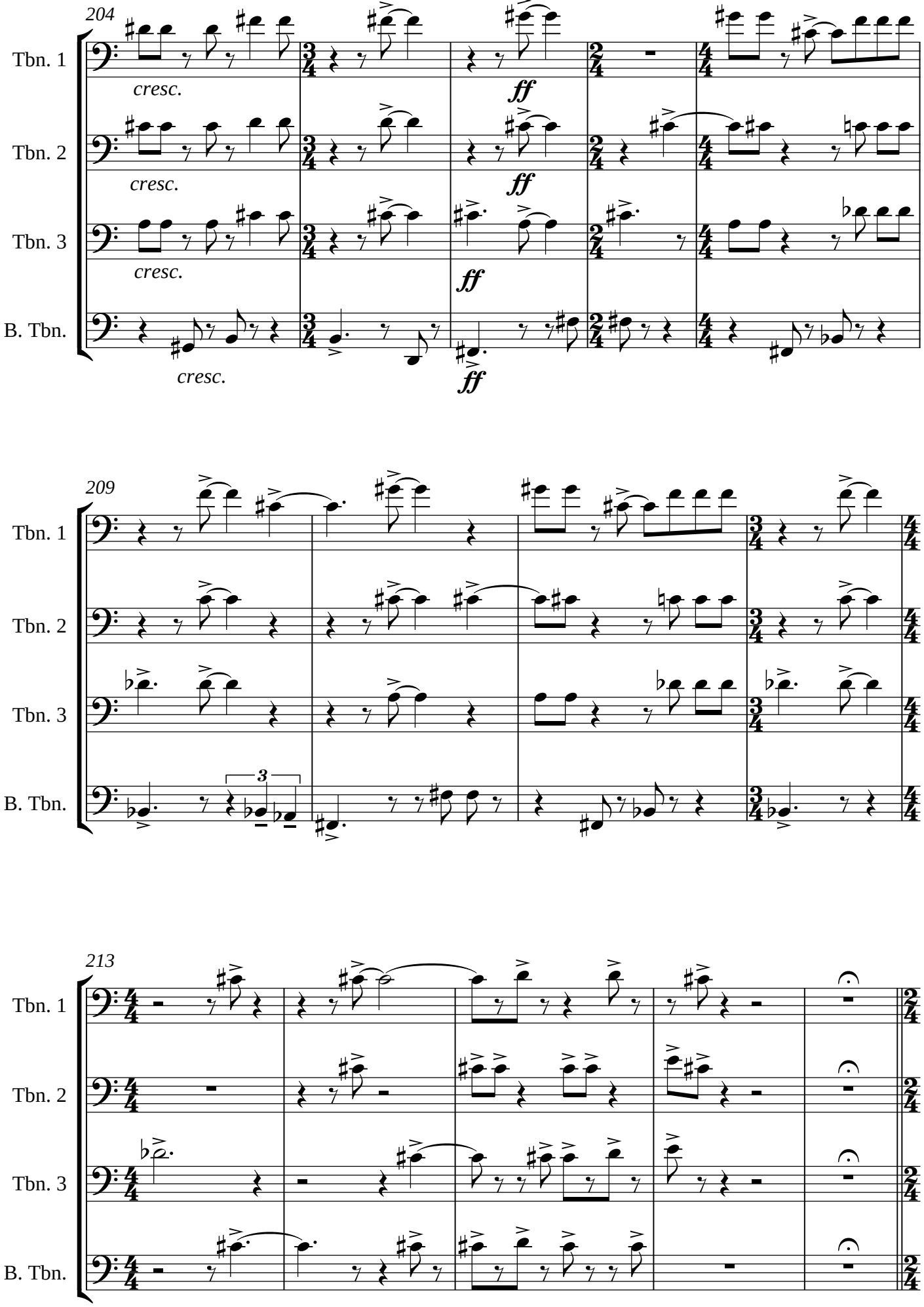
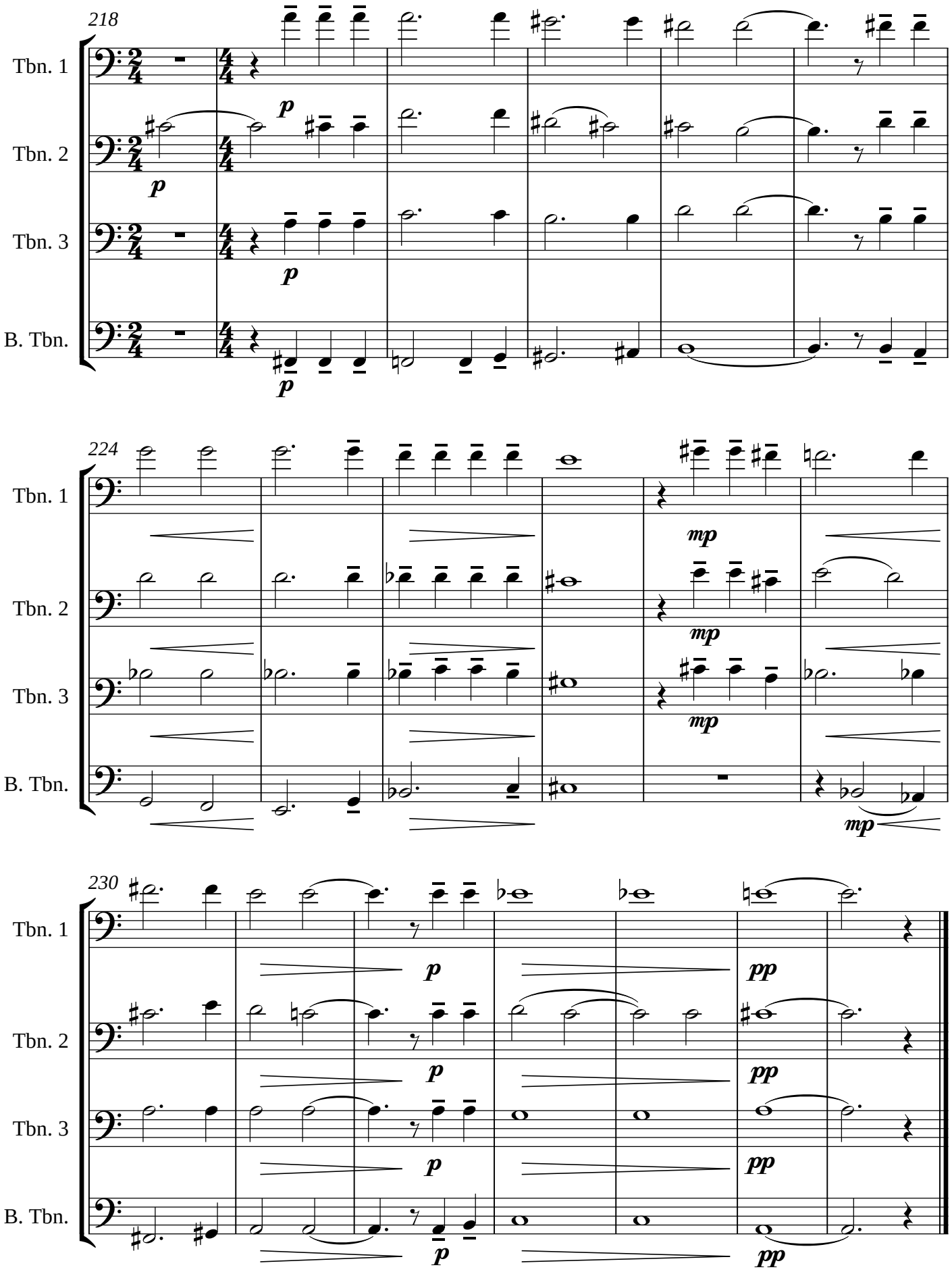

204
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
B. Tbn.
cresc.
ff
209
213

VI

'We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep'. The Tempest, Act IV Scene 1.
In Memoriam Michael Antrobus 18.4.43 - 23.10.16

Meno Mosso ♩=80