

MICHAEL FINNISSY

Various Nations (1992) *for speaker and ensemble*

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**Michael Finnissy:
Various Nations (1992)**

Speaker

Flute/piccolo

Clarinet (E flat & B flat)

Horn in F

Guitar

Violin

'Cello

Percussion (1 player): *Bass drum, Chinese block,
Morris bells, Tambourine*

DURATION: 10'30"

1. Africa

[♩ = 50]

Horn (in F)

Voice

Percussion Bass Drum

Guitar

p

p

Rute (struck against the side of the drum)

Hand-slap on Drumhead

The western parts of Africa are inhabited by a poor,

* Voice independently of the instruments, reciting at an unforced, natural and clearly articulated, pace.

Horn (F)

Voice

Perc. Bass Drum

Guit.

p (= Guitar)

p *respiro*

unhappy race of men, called Negroes, who, in the eternal disgrace of Europeans, are bought

p *marcato*

p

Horn (F)

Voice

Perc. Bass Drum

Guit.

and sold, like cattle. The other parts, however, are more civilised, and comprise several

p

p

Horn (F)

Voice: powerful nations.

Perc. Bass Drum

Guit.

Horn (F)

Perc. Bass Drum

Guit.

Horn (F)

Perc. Bass Drum

Guit.

Horn (F)

Perc. Bass Drum

Guit.

Horn (F)

Perc. Bass Drum

Guit.

2. Bohemia

Pistesso tempo [♩. = 50]

Clarinet in E_b

Horn (F)

Voice

bright

(p) colla parte

tenuto

Bohemia, or Hungary,

Clar. (E_b)

Voice

Vln.

Vcl.

is a large tract of country, between Austria and Turkey. It is very fertile, and produces the finest

sf *mf* < > *pp*

sf *mf* < > *pp*

Clar. (E_b)

Voice

Grapes grow in Europe. The Bohemians are a hardy, active, and

2

Clar. (Eb)

Voice: spirited kind of people; but much addicted to plunder.

Vln.

Vcl.

sfzmf *pp* *sfzmf*

sfzmf *pp* *sfzmf*

Clar. (Eb)

Vln.

Vcl.

pp *sfzmf* *pp*

pp *sfzmf* *pp*

3. China

[♩ = 144]

Change to Clarinet in B \flat

Clar. (Eb)

Perc. Chinese Block

Guit.

Vln.

Vcl.

(f) *ppp*

p

p

Pizz. *p* *Pizz.* *p*

3

Voice: China is situated in the eastern part of the world. It is an immense, large,

Perc. Ch. Block: [Musical notation with triplets]

Guit.: [Musical notation with triplets and *f subito* marking]

Vln.: [Musical notation with triplets and *f subito* marking]

Vcl.: [Musical notation with triplets and *f subito* marking]

Voice: country, being two thousand miles in length, and sixteen hundred in breadth, surrounded with

Perc. Ch. Block: [Musical notation]

Guit.: [Musical notation with triplets]

Vln.: [Musical notation with triplets]

Vcl.: [Musical notation with triplets]

4

Voice: a wall thirty feet high. The Chinese are an indolent race of people, fond of processions.

Perc. Ch. Block: [Musical notation with triplets and *pp* marking]

Guit.: [Musical notation with triplets and *pp subito* marking]

Vln.: [Musical notation with triplets and *pp subito* marking]

Vcl.: [Musical notation with triplets and *pp subito* marking]

5

Voice ~~The women are most remarkable for the smallness of their feet. The Chinese boast of an antiquity~~

Perc. Ch. Block

Guit.

Vln.

Vcl.

f subito

6

Voice ~~no other nation can or do pretend to. Their traditions assert that they existed even long before the~~

Perc. Ch. Block

Guit.

Vln.

Vcl.

ppp

ppp subito

Voice ~~time at which we believe the sun or moon was created.~~

Perc. Ch. Block

Guit.

Vln.

Vcl.

7

Perc. Ch. Block

Guit.

Vln.

Vcl.

(ppp) *ff*

ff *ff*

8

Perc. Ch. Block

Guit.

Vln.

Vcl.

pp *pp subito* *pp* *pp*

ff *pp subito* *pp* *pp*

ff *pp subito* *pp* *pp*

9

Perc. Ch. Block

Guit.

Vln.

Vcl.

ff *ff subito* *(ff)*

(pp) *ff subito*

(pp) *ff subito*

(pp) *ff subito*

10

Musical score for Percussion (Perc. Ch. Block), Guitar (Quit.), Violin (Vln.), and Violoncello (Vcl.). The score includes dynamic markings *f* and *p*, and a *p* subito marking. It features triplets and various rhythmic patterns.

Musical score for Percussion (Perc. Ch. Block), Guitar (Quit.), Violin (Vln.), and Violoncello (Vcl.). The score includes a *p* marking and features extensive triplet patterns across all instruments.

4. Denmark

(senza rit.) [♩ = 100]

Musical score for Flute, Horn (Horn (F)), Guitar (Quit.), Violin (Vln.), and Violoncello (Vcl.). The score includes dynamic markings *p*, *f*, and *p*, and a *p* non vibrato marking. It features triplets and a section marked "simile". The Flute part is marked "p non vibrato" and the Horn part is marked "con sordino". The Violin and Violoncello parts are marked "Arco, sul ponticello, non vibrato".

F1.

Horn (F) c.s.

Voice Denmark is a flat country, surrounded by sea, and subject to

Guit.

Vln.

Vcl.

F1.

Horn (F) c.s.

Voice fogs and foul air. Little corn is grown here. The desolate and frozen regions of Greenland

Guit.

Vln.

Vcl.

F1. *(legato)*

Horn (F) C.S.

Voice also belong to Denmark. Dogs are much used in these cold countries, in drawing the sledges. The men walk in

Guit.

Vln.

Vcl.

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12

F1.

Horn (F) C.S.

Voice snow shoes, which prevent their sinking into the snow. They often venture out in little canoes, made of fish skin,

Guit.

Vln. *(sul pont.)*

Vcl.

Fl.

Horn (F) c.s.

Voice *and so light as to upset by a rough sea; this accident has little effect upon them, when, braced to their canoes, they*

Guit.

Vln.

Vcl.

5. England

(senz' accel.) [♩ = 132]

Fl.

Clar. (Bb)

Horn (F) c.s. *via sordino*

Voice *Give a sudden jerk, and soon right themselves.*

Perc. *Morris Bells*

Guit.

Vln.

Vcl. *poco vibrato (sul pont.)*

13

slightly slower tempo, independent of the conductor.

Fl. *p*

Clar. (Bb)

Voice | England is but a small

Perc. Morris Bells *p* 3 6:5 6:5

Vcl.

Fl. (-)

Clar. (Bb)

Voice | island. The English are an uncommonly persevering race of people: celebrated for their

Perc. Morris Bells *p* 3 3 6:5

14

(slightly slower (independently))

Fl.

Clar. (Bb)

Voice | enterprising spirit. England has been several times conquered, by Romans, Danes, Saxons, Picts

Perc. Morris Bells *p* 6:5

Fl. 

Clar. (Bb) 

Voice and Normans, its native inhabitants mostly massacred; and if any trace now remains of them, it must

Perc. Morris Bells 


Fl. 

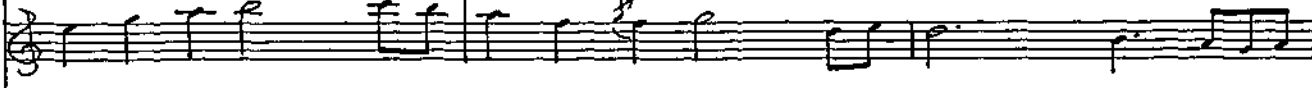
Clar. (Bb) 

Voice be sought among the Welch, in whose mountains the persecuted Britons sought safety.

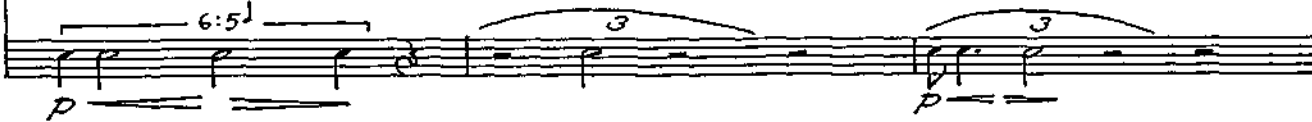
Perc. Morris Bells 

15 *slightly slower (independently)*

Fl. 

Clar. (Bb) 

Voice

Perc. Morris Bells 

Fl.  (-)

Clar. (Bb) 

Perc. Morris Bells 
p

Fl. 

Clar. (Bb) 

Perc. Morris Bells 
p


16


slightly slower (independently)

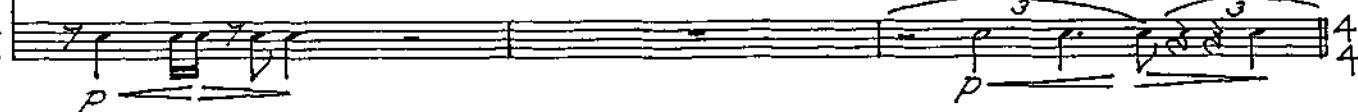
Fl. 
p

Clar. (Bb) 

Perc. Morris Bells 
p

Fl. 

Clar. (Bb) 

Perc. Morris Bells 
p

6. Holland

[♩ = 72]

Clar. (B♭)

Horn (F)

Voice | Holland consists of seven provinces, which are exceedingly

Guit.

Vln.

Vcl.

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Horn (F)

Voice | well peopled. The Hollanders are distinguished from other nations by their peculiar cleanliness and

Guit.

Vln.

Vcl.

17

Horn (F) *ppp* *p* *ppp*

Voice economy. In the severe winter their canals are frozen over, and covered with people skating, in all

Guit.

Vln. *p*

Vcl.

Horn (F) *p*

Voice directions, some with large burdens on their heads. Even women with little children in their arms, or

Guit.

Vln. *p*

Vcl.

18

Horn (F) *ppp* *p*

Voice fastened to their backs, are seen darting forward with the rapidity of lightning.

Guit.

Vln.

Vcl.

Horn (F) *ppp* *p (=Vln.)* (senz' accel.) *ppp*

Guit. *6:5 p*

Vln. *6:5*

Vcl. *p*

7. Italy

[♩. = 100]

Fl. *staccatiss.* *simile* *9:7*

Clar. (Bb) *6:5 p* *7:6* *7:6*

Horn (F) *p*

Perc. *Tambourine* (thumb-roll) (simile)

Guit. *7:6* *7:5* *7:6* *7:5* *accel. (independently)* *accel.*

Vln. *subito (solo!)*

Vcl. *Pizz. mf* *mf*

Fl. $9:7^{\flat}$

Clar. (B \flat) $6:5^{\flat}$ *p* sempre staccatiss. $6:5^{\flat}$ $6:5^{\flat}$

Voice Italy, the remains

Perc. Tambourine *p* $7:6^{\flat}$ $7:5^{\flat}$ *pp* *pp*

Guit. *accel.*

Vln. *p* *p*

Vcl. *mf* *p*

Fl. $8:5^{\flat}$ $9:7^{\flat}$

Clar. (B \flat) $6:5^{\flat}$

Voice of ancient Rome, is deservedly styled the Garden of Europe. But beautiful as this large country

Perc. Tambourine *pp* *pp*

Guit. $7:6^{\flat}$ $7:5^{\flat}$ *accel.*

Vln. *p*

Vcl. *p*

20

Fl. *p* 7:6 *p* 9:7 *p* 8:5

Clar. (Bb) *pp* *p* *pp* 6:5

Voice is, yet the common people are wretched beyond expression. Thousands of beggars, called

Perc. Tambourine *p*

Guit. *p* 7:6 *accel.* 7:5

Vln. *p* *p*

Vcl. *p* *p*

Fl. *p* 8:5

Clar. (Bb) *p* *pp* *p* 6:5

Voice "lazzaroni", infest the streets, to the annoyance and disgust of strangers.

Perc. Tambourine *p*

Guit. *p* 7:6 *accel.* 7:5

Vln. *p* *p*

Vcl. *p* *p*

21

Musical score for page 21, measures 1-4. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Clar. (Bb)), Percussion (Perc. Tambourine), Guitar (Guit.), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vcl.).

- Fl.:** Measures 1-2 feature a 9:7 D tremolo. Measures 3-4 feature a 9:7 D tremolo.
- Clar. (Bb):** Measures 1-2 are marked *pp*. Measures 3-4 feature a 7:6 D tremolo and a 3-measure triplet.
- Perc. Tambourine:** Measures 1-2 feature a 7:6 D tremolo. Measures 3-4 feature a 7:5 D tremolo.
- Guit.:** Measures 1-2 feature a 7:6 D tremolo with an *accel.* marking. Measures 3-4 feature a 7:5 D tremolo.
- Vln.:** Measures 1-2 feature a 7:6 D tremolo. Measures 3-4 feature a *cresc.* marking.
- Vcl.:** Measures 1-2 are marked *p*. Measures 3-4 are marked *p*.

22

Musical score for page 22, measures 1-4. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Clar. (Bb)), Horn (Horn (F)), Percussion (Perc. Tambourine), Guitar (Guit.), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vcl.).

- Fl.:** Measures 1-2 are marked *pp*. Measures 3-4 feature an 8:5 D tremolo.
- Clar. (Bb):** Measures 1-2 feature a 6:5 D tremolo. Measures 3-4 feature a 6:5 D tremolo.
- Horn (F):** Measures 1-2 are marked *pp*. Measures 3-4 are marked *f*.
- Perc. Tambourine:** Measures 1-2 feature a 7:6 D tremolo. Measures 3-4 feature a 7:5 D tremolo.
- Guit.:** Measures 1-2 feature a 7:6 D tremolo with an *accel.* marking. Measures 3-4 feature a 7:5 D tremolo.
- Vln.:** Measures 1-2 feature a 7:6 D tremolo. Measures 3-4 feature a 7:5 D tremolo.
- Vcl.:** Measures 1-2 are marked *mf*. Measures 3-4 are marked *mf*.

Musical score for measures 20-22. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet in B-flat (Clar. (Bb)), Horn in F (Horn (F)), Percussion (Perc. Tambourine), Guitar (Guit.), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vcl.).

- Fl.:** Features a melodic line with a 7:6 D triplet in measure 20 and a 6:5 D triplet in measure 22.
- Clar. (Bb):** Features a melodic line with a 6:5 D triplet in measure 22.
- Guit.:** Features a melodic line with a 7:6 D triplet in measure 21 and a 7:5 D triplet in measure 22, marked with an *accel.* (accelerando) and a dashed line.
- Vcl.:** Features a bass line with *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamics in measures 21 and 22.

Musical score for measures 23-25. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet in B-flat (Clar. (Bb)), Horn in F (Horn (F)), Percussion (Perc. Tambourine), Guitar (Guit.), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vcl.).

- Fl.:** Features a melodic line with a 9:7 D triplet in measure 23, an 8:5 D triplet in measure 24, and a 9:7 D triplet in measure 25.
- Clar. (Bb):** Features a melodic line with a 6:5 D triplet in measure 24.
- Horn (F):** Features a melodic line with *pp* (pianissimo) dynamics in measure 24.
- Guit.:** Features a melodic line with a 7:6 D triplet in measure 24 and a 7:5 D triplet in measure 25, marked with an *accel.* (accelerando) and a dashed line.
- Vcl.:** Features a bass line with *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamics in measures 24 and 25.

Musical score for measures 18-23. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet in B-flat (Clar. (Bb)), Horn in F (Horn (F)), Percussion (Perc. Tambourine), Guitar (Guit.), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vcl.).

- Fl.:** Features a melodic line with a 9:7 D interval marked above a group of notes.
- Clar. (Bb):** Includes a 7:6 D interval marking and dynamic markings of *p* and *pp*.
- Horn (F):** Shows a melodic line with a *f* dynamic marking.
- Perc. Tambourine:** Includes a "(shake) *pp*" marking.
- Guit.:** Features a complex rhythmic pattern with 7:6 D and 7:5 D interval markings, and an "accel." marking.
- Vln.:** Includes a *f* marking and a *p* dynamic marking.
- Vcl.:** Includes a *mf* marking and a *p* dynamic marking.

Musical score for measures 24-29. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet in B-flat (Clar. (Bb)), Horn in F (Horn (F)), Percussion (Perc. Tambourine), Guitar (Guit.), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vcl.).

- Fl.:** Features a melodic line with 9:7 D and 8:5 D interval markings.
- Clar. (Bb):** Includes a 7:6 D interval marking and dynamic markings of *p* and *pp*.
- Horn (F):** Shows a melodic line with a *pp* dynamic marking.
- Perc. Tambourine:** Includes a *p* dynamic marking.
- Guit.:** Features a complex rhythmic pattern with 7:6 D and 7:5 D interval markings, and an "accel." marking.
- Vln.:** Includes a "(senza cresc)" marking and a "subito" marking.
- Vcl.:** Includes a *mf* marking.

Handwritten musical score for the first system, featuring staves for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Clar. (Bb)), Horn (Horn (F)), Percussion (Perc. Tambourine), Guitar (Guit.), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vcl.). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *p*, *f*, *pp*, and *mf*. It also features complex rhythmic markings including *6:5b*, *8:5b*, *9:7b*, *7:6b*, and *7:5b*, along with an *accl.* (accelerando) marking. The time signature is 9/8.

8. Otaheite (Tahiti)

Handwritten musical score for the second system, titled "8. Otaheite (Tahiti)". It features staves for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Clar. (Bb)), Horn (Horn (F)), Percussion (Perc. Tambourine), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vcl.). The score includes a tempo marking of $\text{♩} = 138$ and a dynamic marking of $[f = 138]$. It contains musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *mf*, *ppp*, and *mp*. It also features complex rhythmic markings including *8:5b* and *6:5b*, and includes the instruction "Change to Piccolo" for the Flute. The time signature is 4/4.

(Flzg.)

Clar. (Bb)

Horn (F)

Voice

Vcl.

Otaheite is one of the South Sea Islands. The

25

Clar. (Bb)

Horn (F)

Voice

Vcl.

inhabitants are particularly pleased with toys, such as looking-glasses, beads, and the

Clar. (Bb)

Horn (F)

Voice

Vcl.

like, and willingly part with their provisions in exchange.

Clar. (Bb) (ord.) Δ \square

Horn (F) mf ppp mf

Vcl. mf ff mf ff mf ff mf

26

Clar. (Bb) f p

Horn (F) p $ff (=Vcl.)$

Vcl. ff mf ff

Clar. (Bb) $f (=Vcl.)$ p

Horn (F) p $ff (=Vcl.)$

Vcl. mf ff mf ff mf

G. Sealand

(senza ral.) (h) [♩ = 116]


Picc. mf marcato

Clar. (Bb) $f (=Vcl.)$

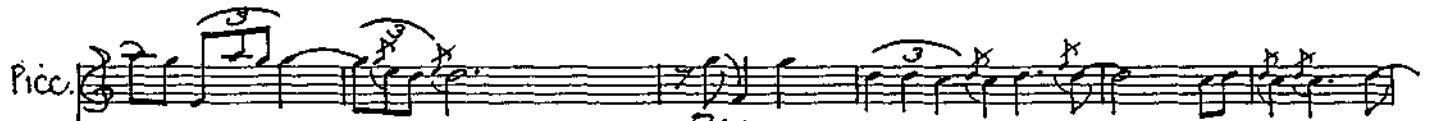
Horn (F) ppp senza cresc.

Vcl. mf ff mf ff

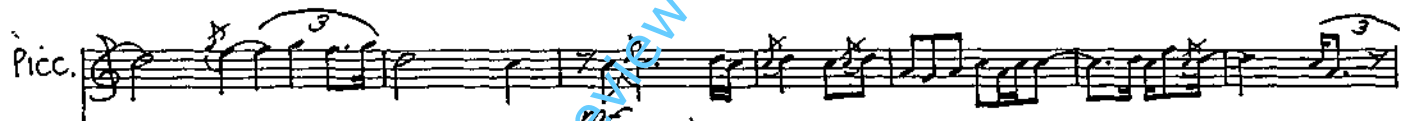
(Unconducted)

Picc. 


Voice | Zealand is situated on the Northern part of America, and is

Picc. 

Voice | inhabited by wandering tribes of wild Indians, who subsist by fishing and hunting. They

Picc. 

Voice | worship the Great Spirit, as they call their Deity; and they sacrifice to the Evil Spirit, as they

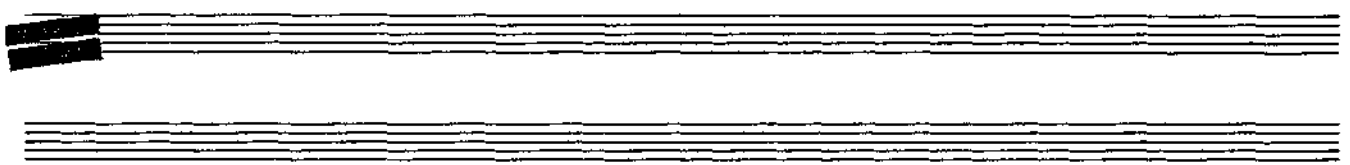
Picc. 

Voice | call the Devil, because they imagine he will not then hurt them.

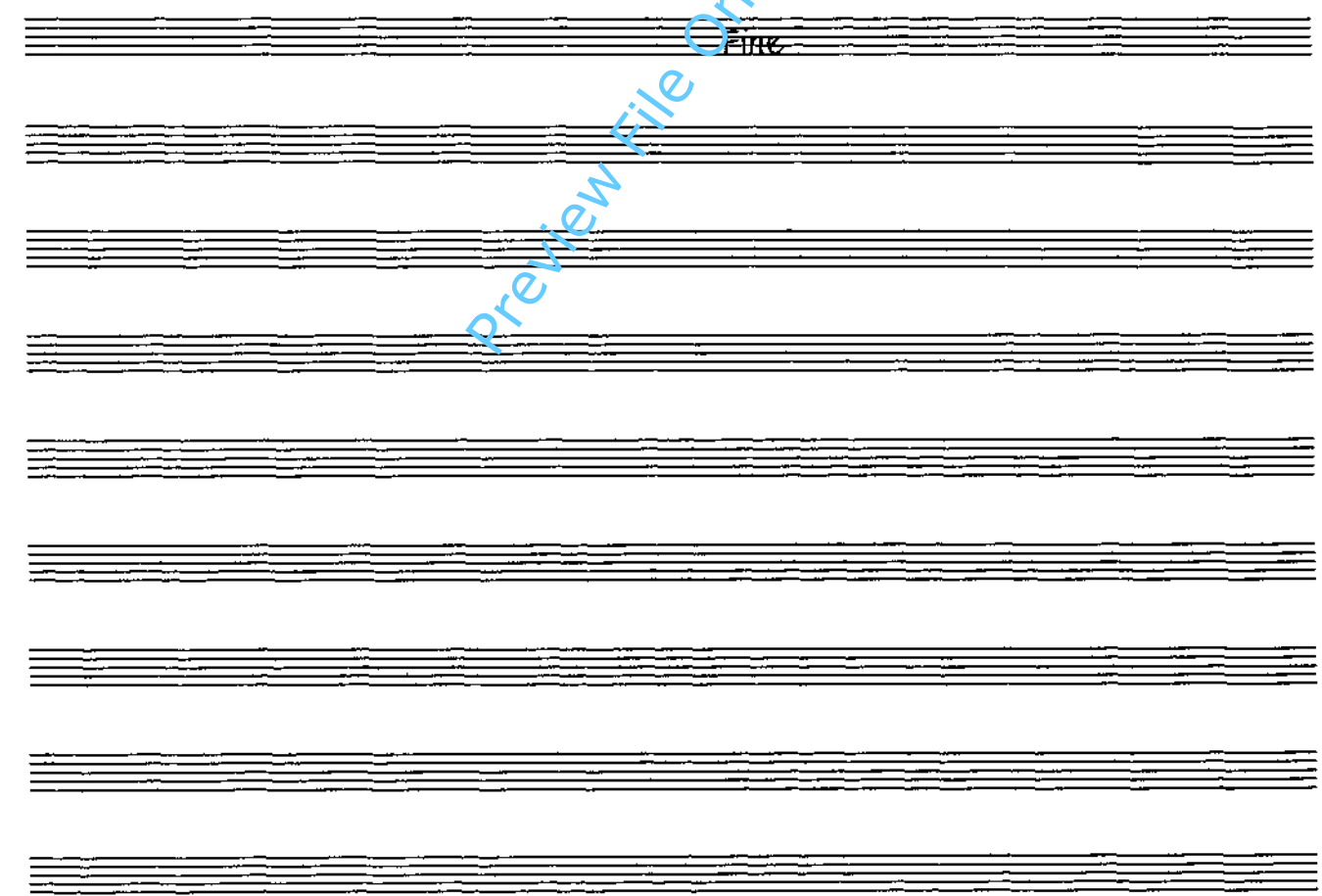
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