George **ENESCU**

Romanian Rhapsody No.1

for Concert Band / Harmonie

con.kovacic

George **ENESCU**

(1881-1955)

adapted by Gregor Kovacic

Romanian Rhapsody No.1

A - dur/ A - major, op.11 (1901)

for Concert Band / Harmonie

Enescu wrote two Romanian Rhapsodies as Op. 11, for orchestra, and are his best-known compositions. They were written in 1901, and first performed together in 1903. The two rhapsodies, and particularly the first, have long held a permanent place in the repertory of every major orchestra. They employ elements of lautareasca music, vivid Romanian rhythms, and an air of spontaneity. They exhibit exotic modal coloring, with some scales having 'mobile' thirds, sixths or sevenths, creating a shifting major/minor atmosphere, one of the characteristics of Romanian lăutărească music.The Rhapsody incorporates some material found in the later drafts of his Poème roumaine, Op. 1.
Romanian Rhapsodies were composed in Paris, and premiered together in a concert at the Romanian Athenaeum in Bucharest which also included the world premiere of Enescu's First Suite for Orchestra, Op. 9 (1903). The concert took place on 23 February 1903. The Second Rhapsody was played first, and Enescu maintained this order of performance throughout his life.
The Rhapsody No. 1 in A major is dedicated to the composer and pedagogue Bernard Croce-Spinelli (a fellow student with Enescu counterpoint class at the Conservatoire), and is the better known of the two rhapsodies. The essence of this rhapsody is the dance. Enescu claimed that it was "just a few tunes thrown together without thinking about it", but his surviving sketches show that he carefully worked out the order in which the melodies should appear, and the best instrumental setting for each one. It was completed on 14 August 1901, when Enescu was still only 19 years old.
The First Rhapsody is ebullient and outgoing. It begins by quoting the folk song "Am un leu şi vreau să-l beau" (variously translated as "I want to spend my money on drink", "I have a coin, and I want a drink", "I want to spend my shilling on drink", or, more literally, "I have a leu and I want to drink"), which is played by oboes and clarinets. The tune was played by the Romani violinist Lae Chioru (Nicolae Filip), from whom Enescu had his first violin lessons at the age of 4, but there is some doubt whether Enescu actually remembered it from Chioru, since the tune had been in circulation in various collections printed as early as 1848 (alternative spelling: "Am un leu şi vreau să-l beu"), which Enescu could have consulted. This is soon replaced with a slower melody first introduced in the violins. As the work progresses, this tune grows faster and livelier to climax in a vibrant whirling folk dance.

This adaptation is made for dear friend Martijn Pepels and his orchestra.

Full Score

Piccolo (3 Flute)
1 Flute
2 Flute
1 Oboe
2 Oboe
English Horn
1 Bassoon
2 Bassoon
Es Clarinet
1 solo Clarinet in A
2 solo Clarinet in A
1 Clarinet in B
2 Clarinet in B
3 Clarinet in B
Bass Clarinet in B
Soprano Saxophone
1 Alto Saxophone in Es
2 Alto Saxophone in Es
Tenor Saxophone in B
Bariton Saxophone in Es
1 Horn in F
2 Horn in F
3 Horn in F
4 Horn in F
1 Cornet in B
2 Cornet in B
1 Trumpet in B
2 Trumpet in B
1 Trombone in C
2 Trombone in C
3 Trombone in C
Bariton B.C./ T.C.
Tuba in C
Timpani
3 Percussion
(Cymbals, Tambourine, Triangle)
Marimba
Violoncello
Double Bass
1-2 Harp (Piano)

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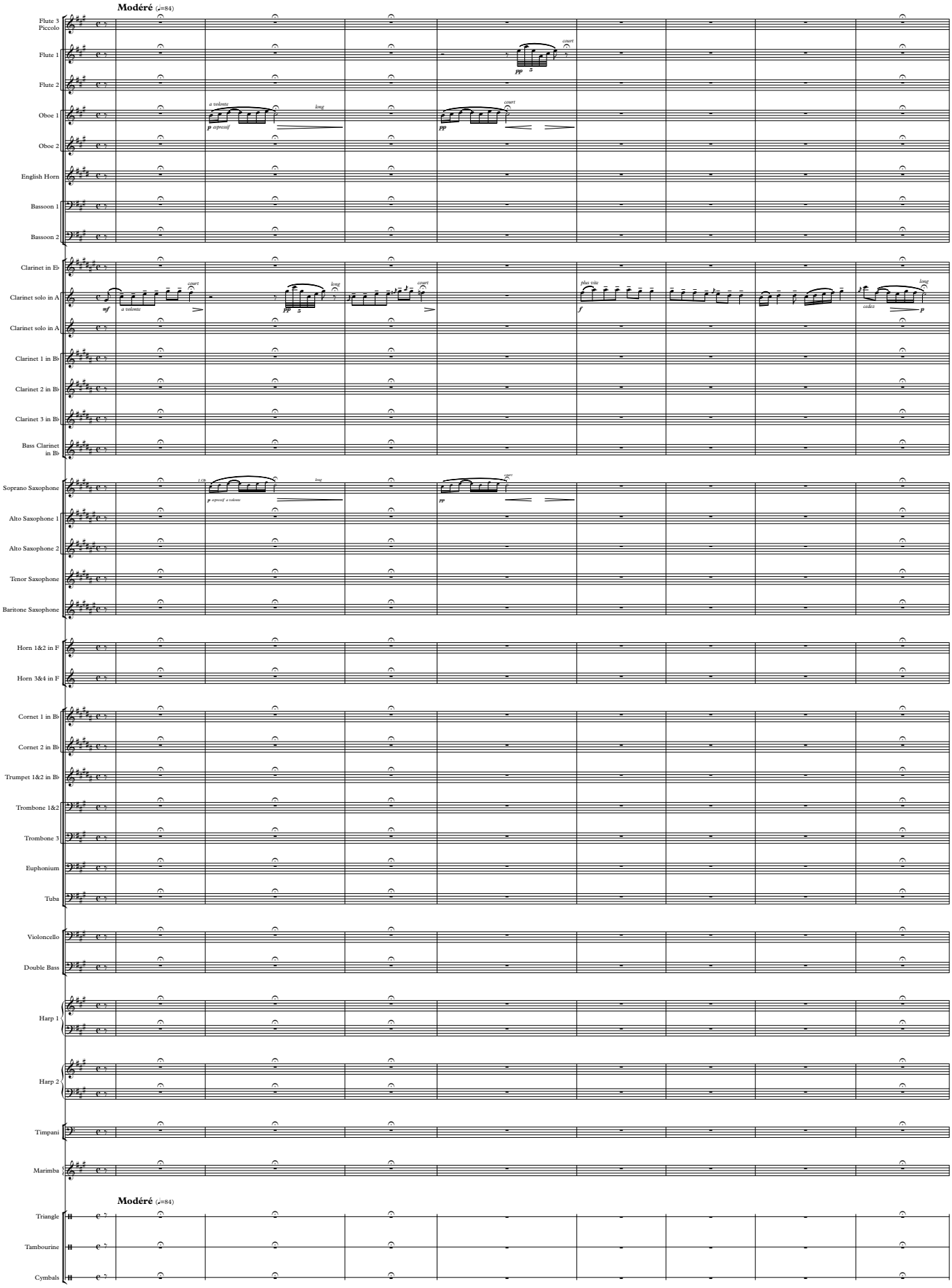
ROMANIAN RHAPSODY No.1, A-dur op.11

George **ENESCU**/adapted by Gregor Kovacic



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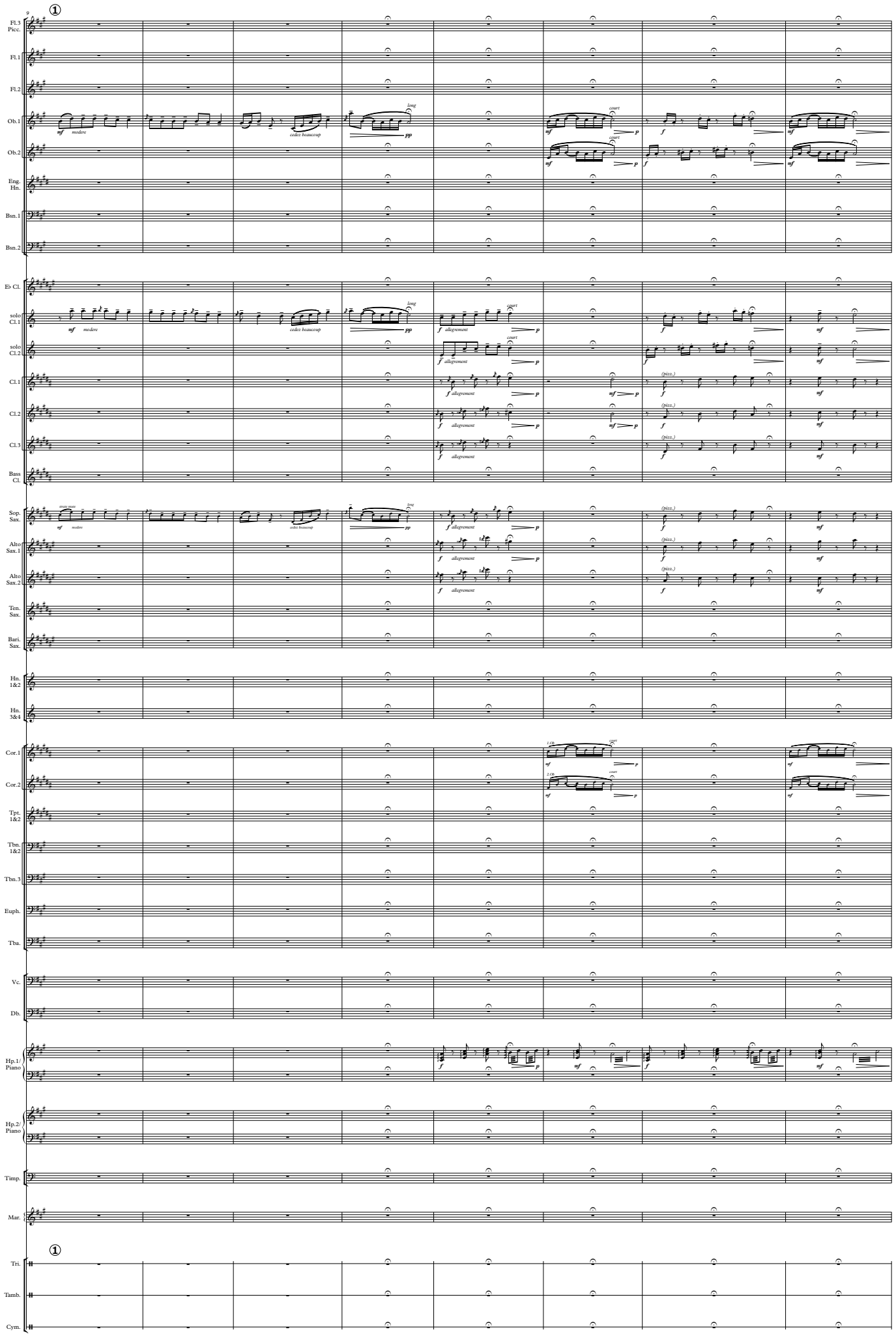

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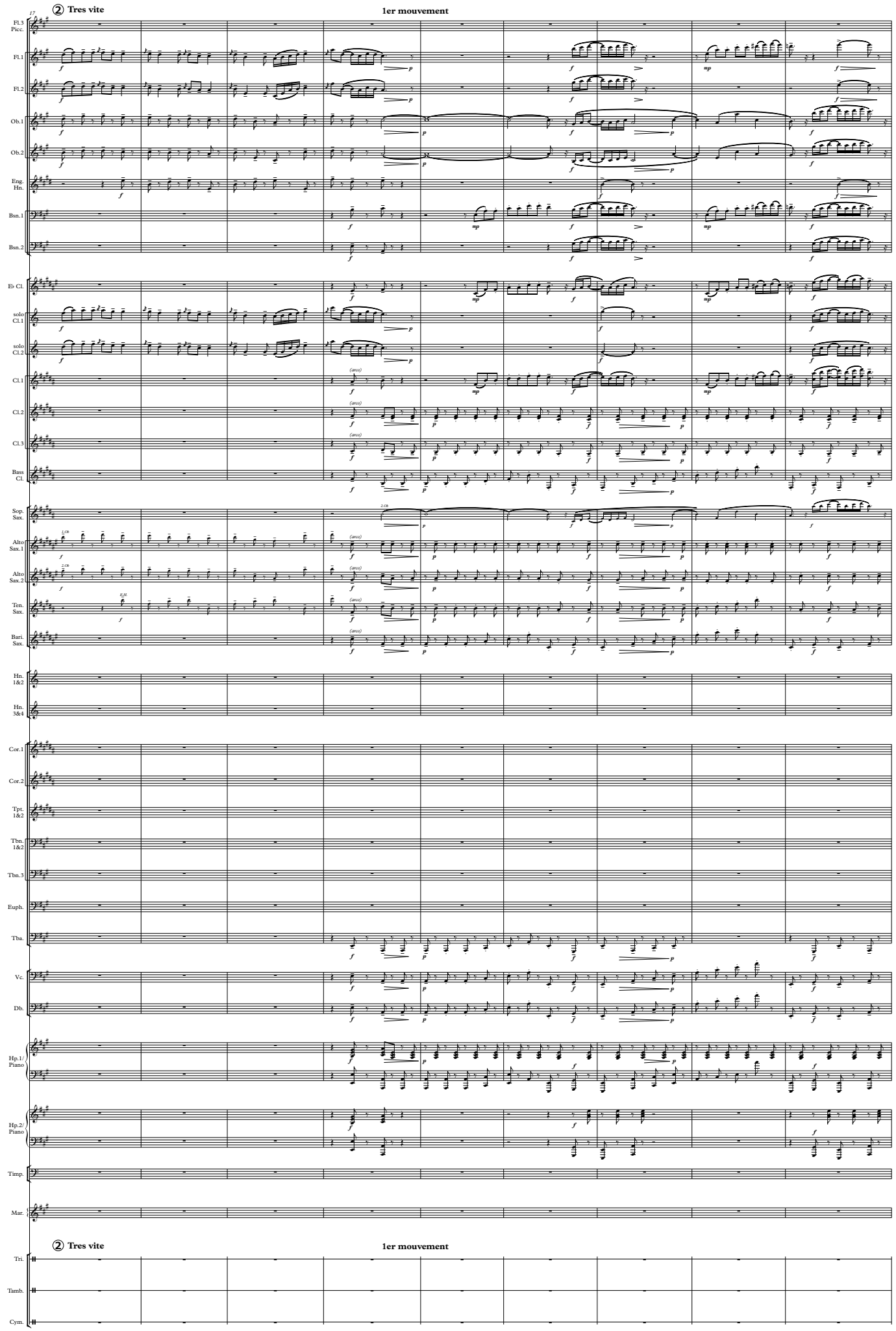

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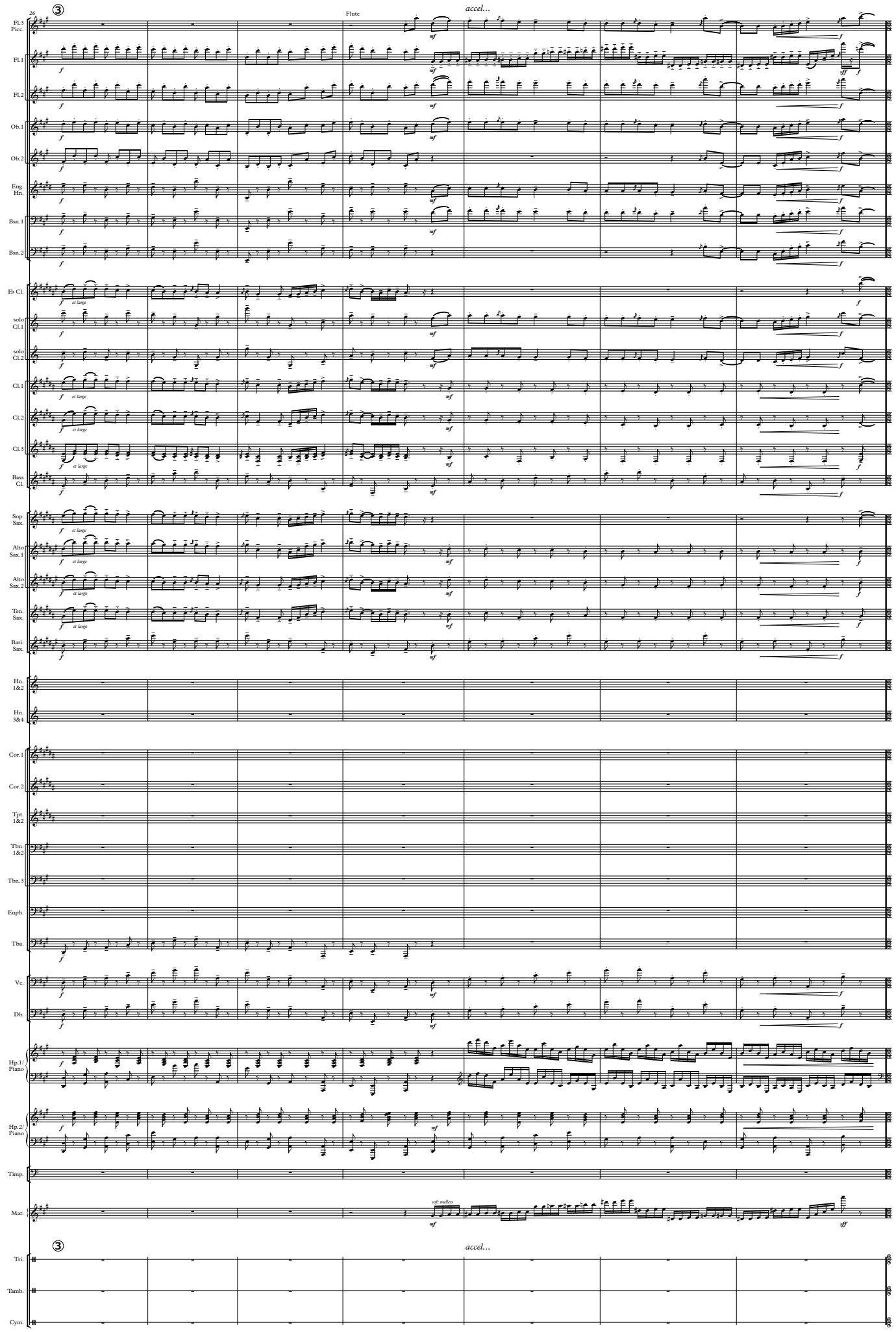

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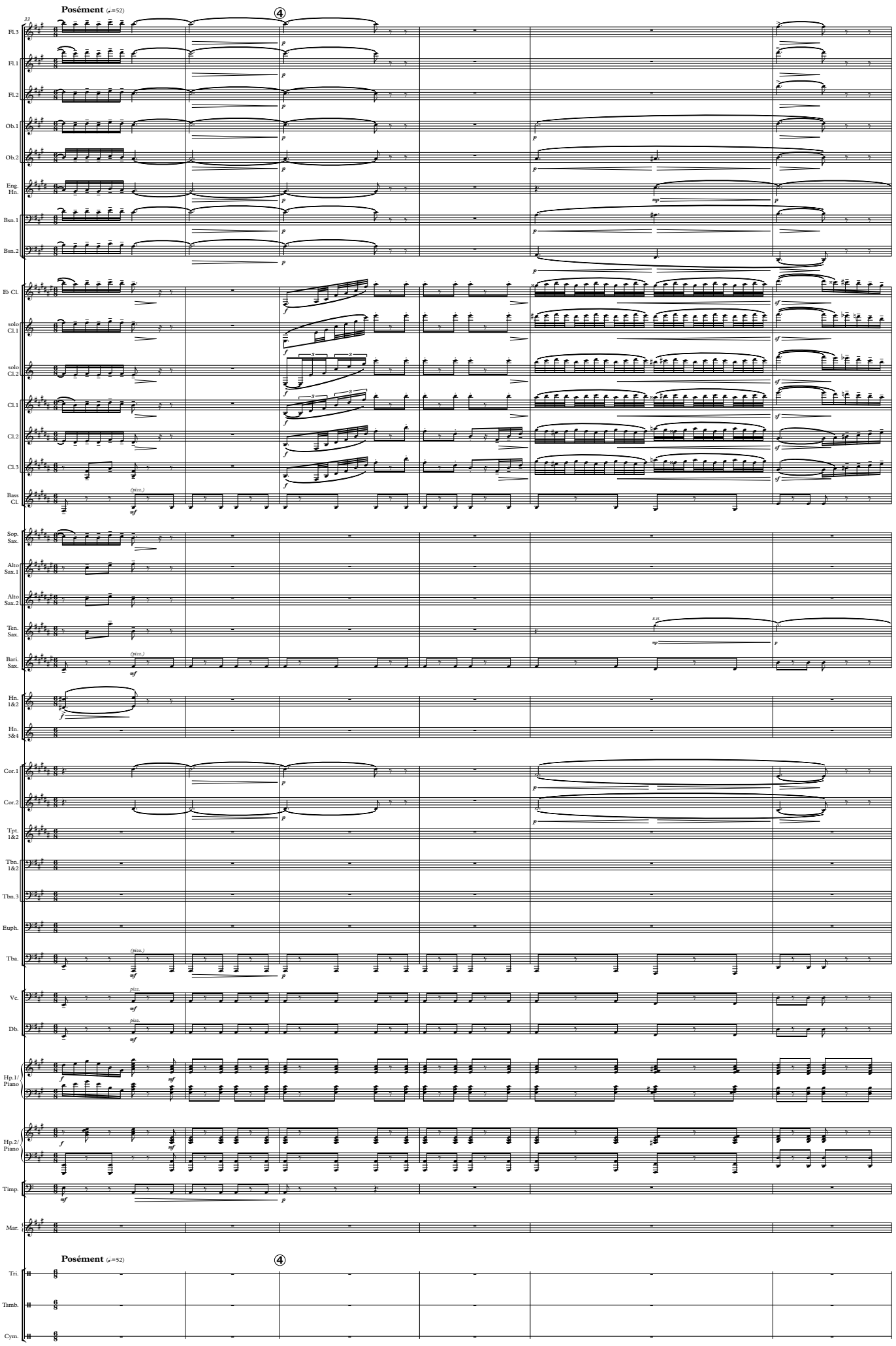

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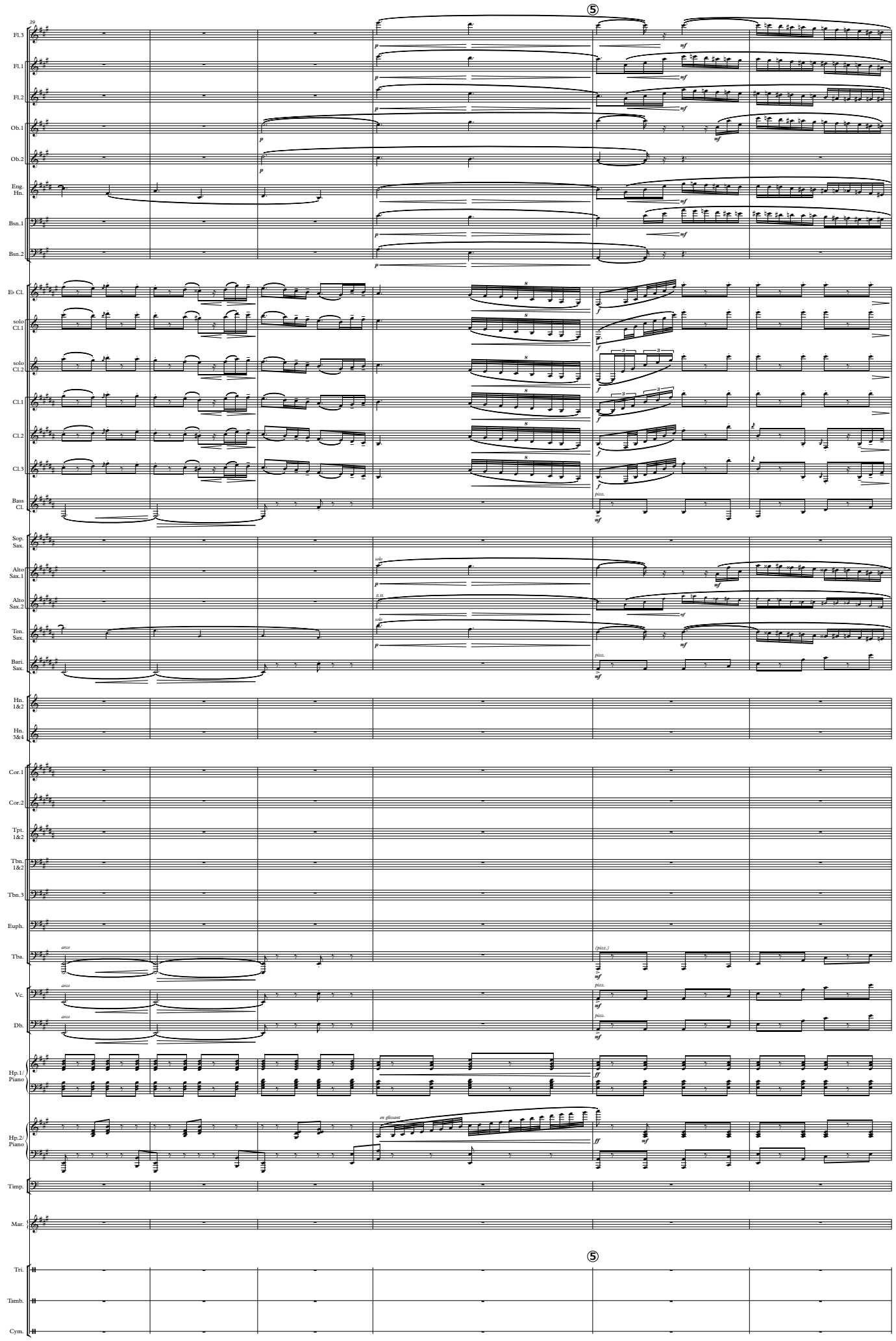

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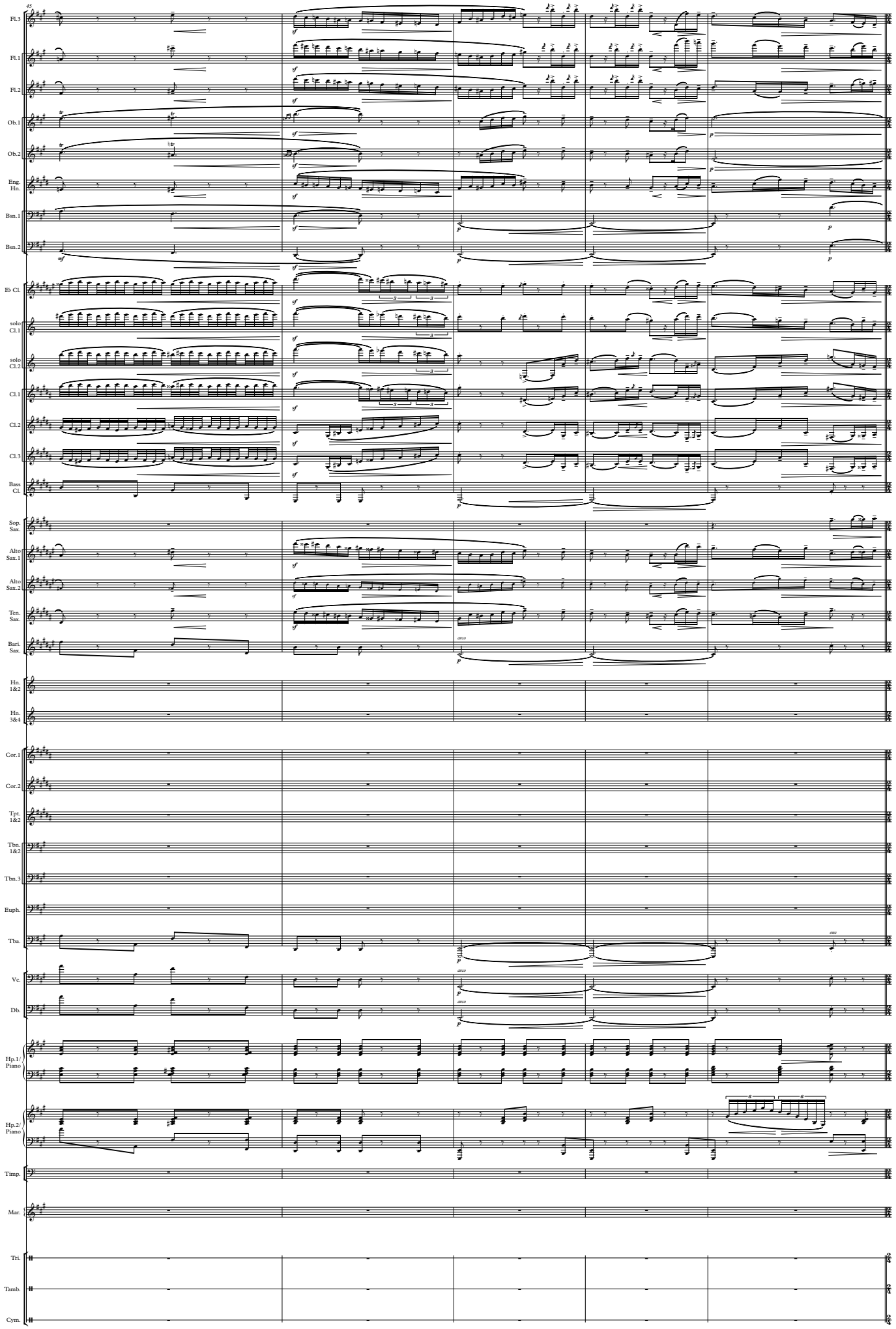

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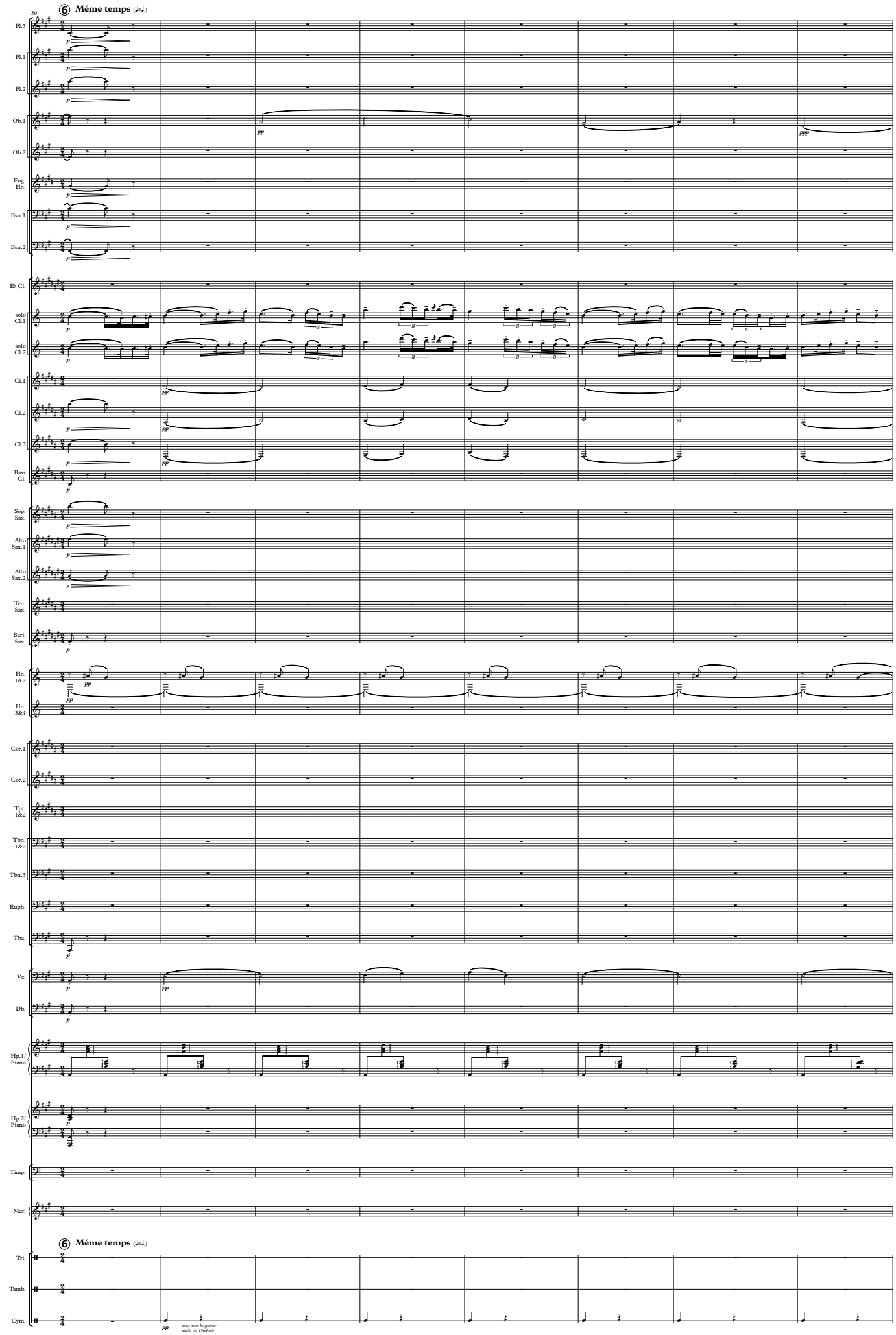

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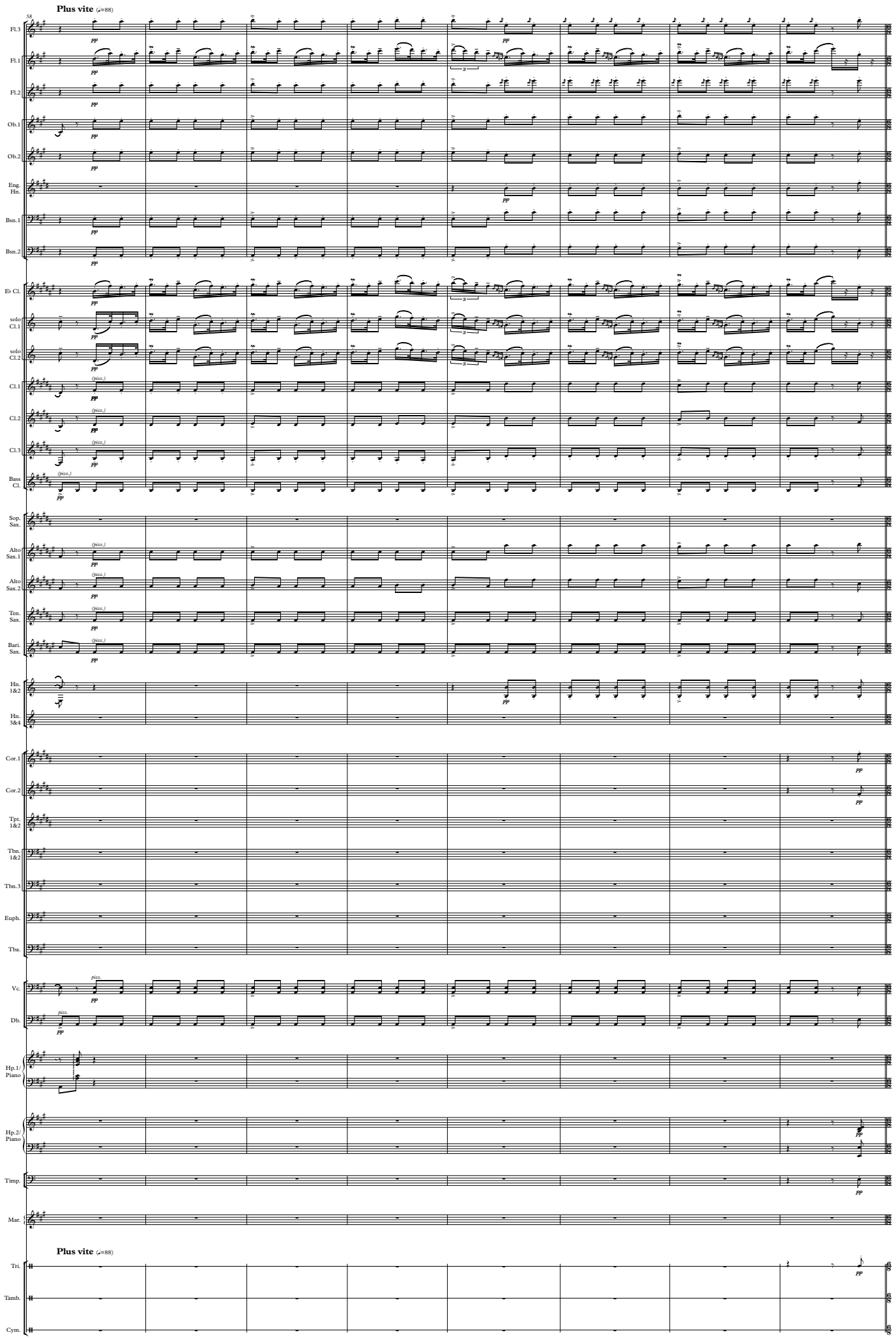

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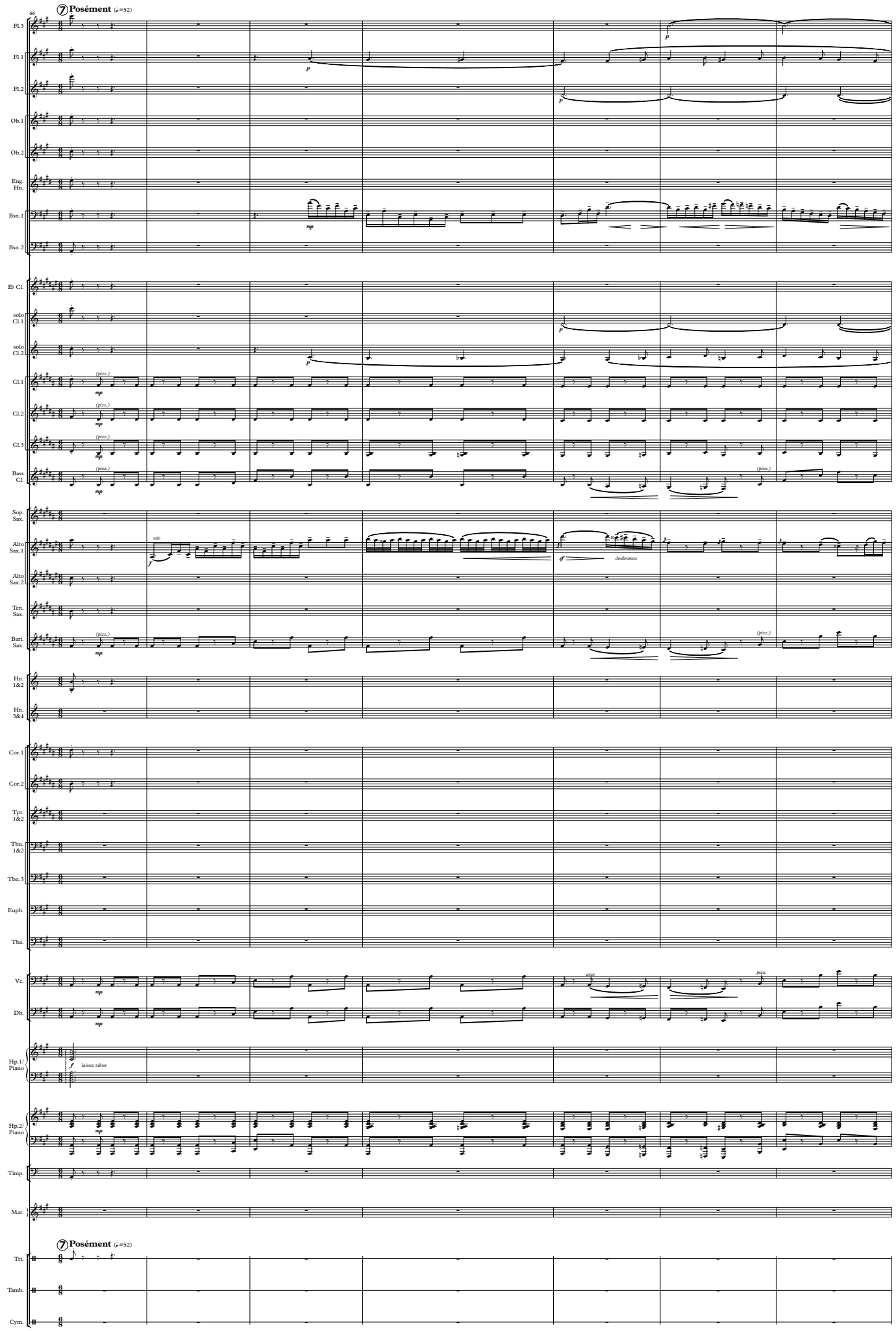

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