Stellation

for string quartet

with computer video and soundtrack

Bill Alves

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Stellation

for string quartet and computer video and soundtrack

Stellation is written for a quartet whose strings have been retuned. The score and parts are shown in scordatura, that is, the players should perform the parts as written. Reference tones for each of the instruments are included on the performance DVD, but here are the tunings:

Violin I:	E string	684 hz	+71 cents
	A string	456 hz	+69 cents
	D string	204 hz	normal tuning
	G string	196 hz	normal tuning
Violin II:	E string	660 hz	normal tuning
	A string	440 hz	normal tuning
	D string	269 hz	-147 cents
	G string	359 hz	-149 cents
Viola:	A string	454 hz	+59 cents
	D string	303 hz	+57 cents
	G string	202 hz	+49 cents
	C string	128 hz	-33 cents
Cello:	A string	228 hz	+69 cents
	D string	152 hz	+67 cents
	G string	98 hz	normal tuning
	C string	65 hz	normal tuning

The players play along with the soundtrack from the video, which establishes a clear beat eight measures before the cello first comes in. For this reason it is crucial that the soundtrack be clearly audible to the players, perhaps with the assistance of monitor speakers.

Program note: Stellation is the geometrical process of extending elements of polygons on a surface. Constellations of these elements are arranged in a delicate choreography in Islamic abstraction and Javanese batik textiles, both of which inspired this work's visual patterns as well as the sonic tessellations. The string instruments in this work are retuned to the same mathematical ratios visible in the images, and the sounds and images were composed together.

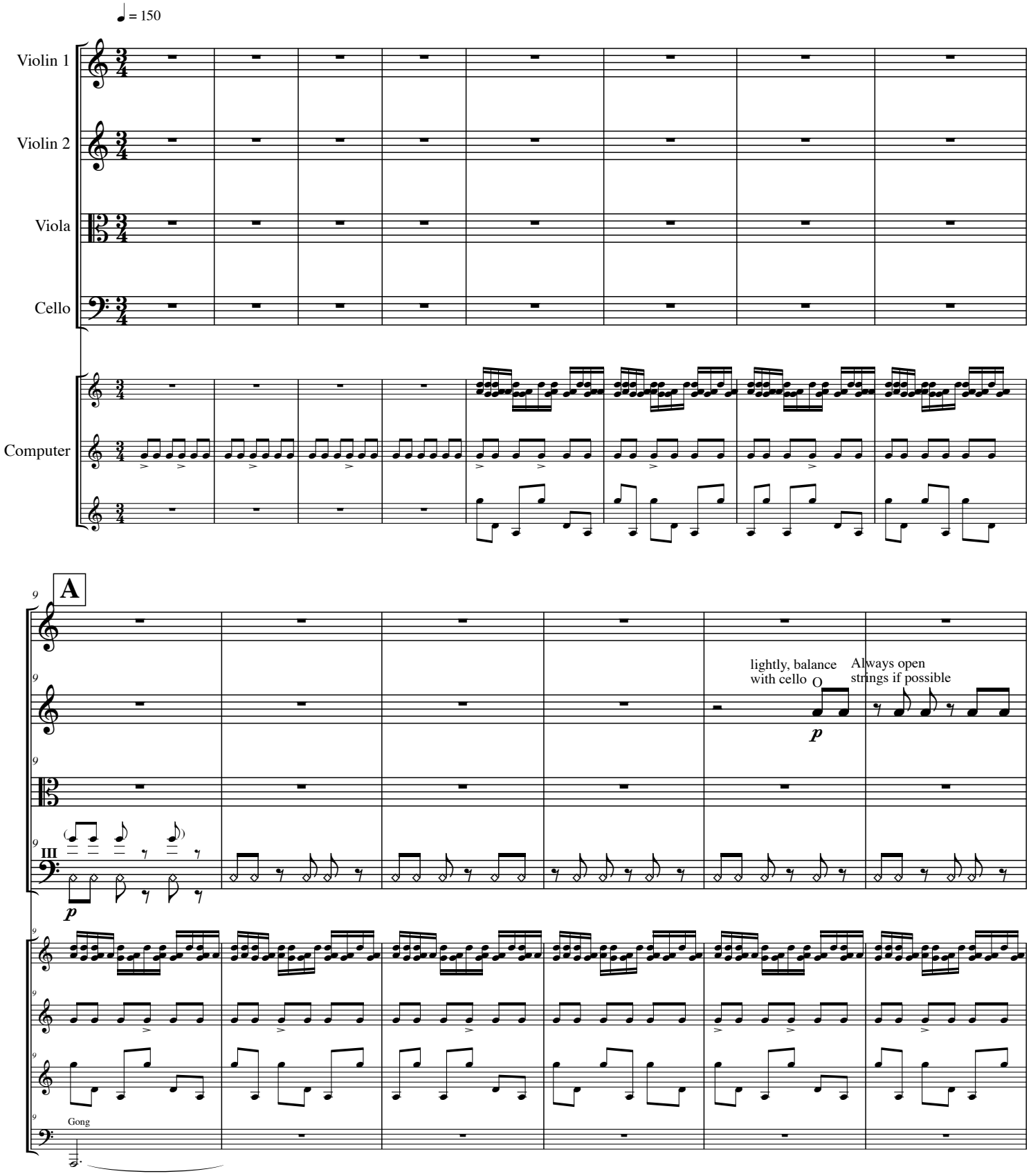
Duration: 12 minutes

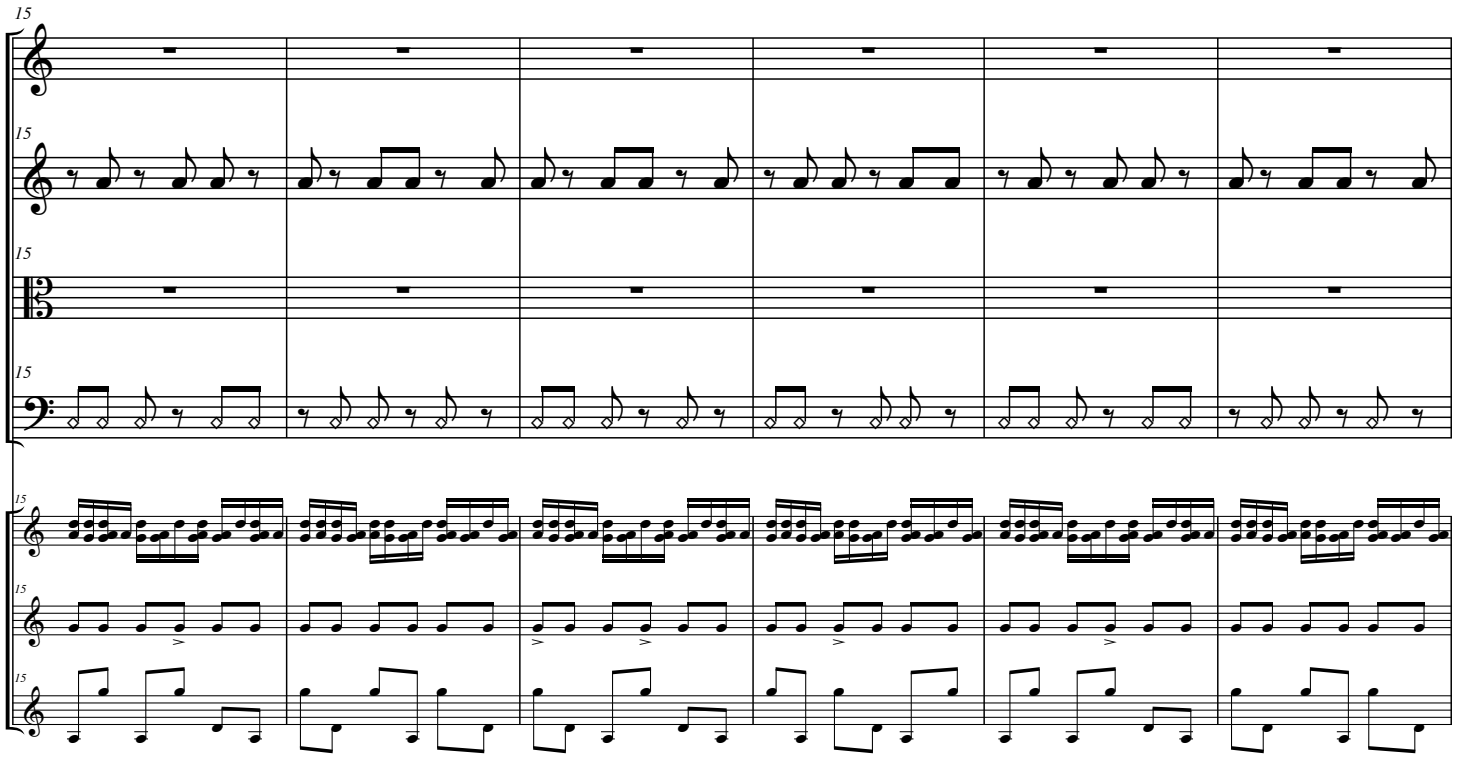
www.billalves.com

Score

Stellation

Bill Alves

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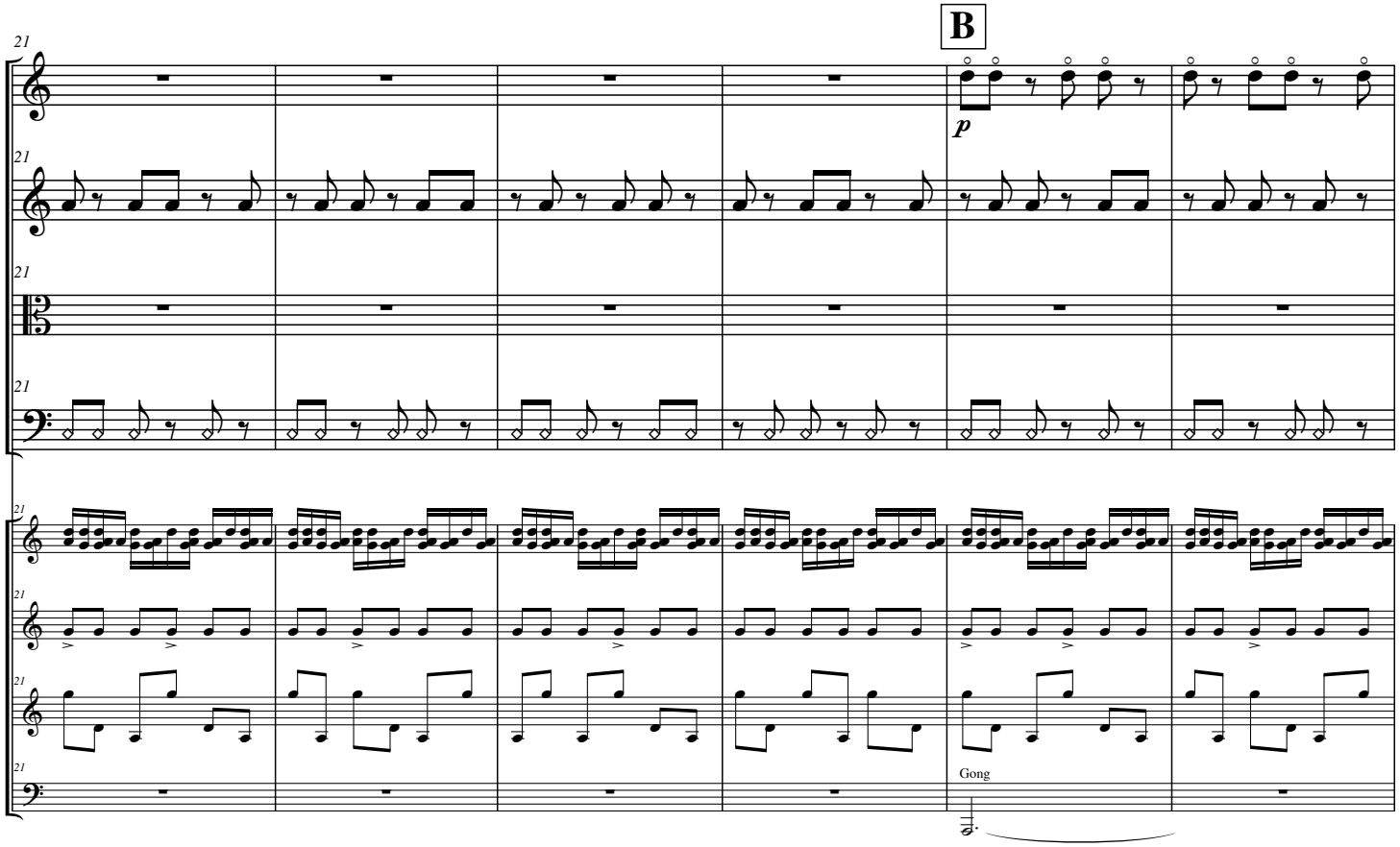
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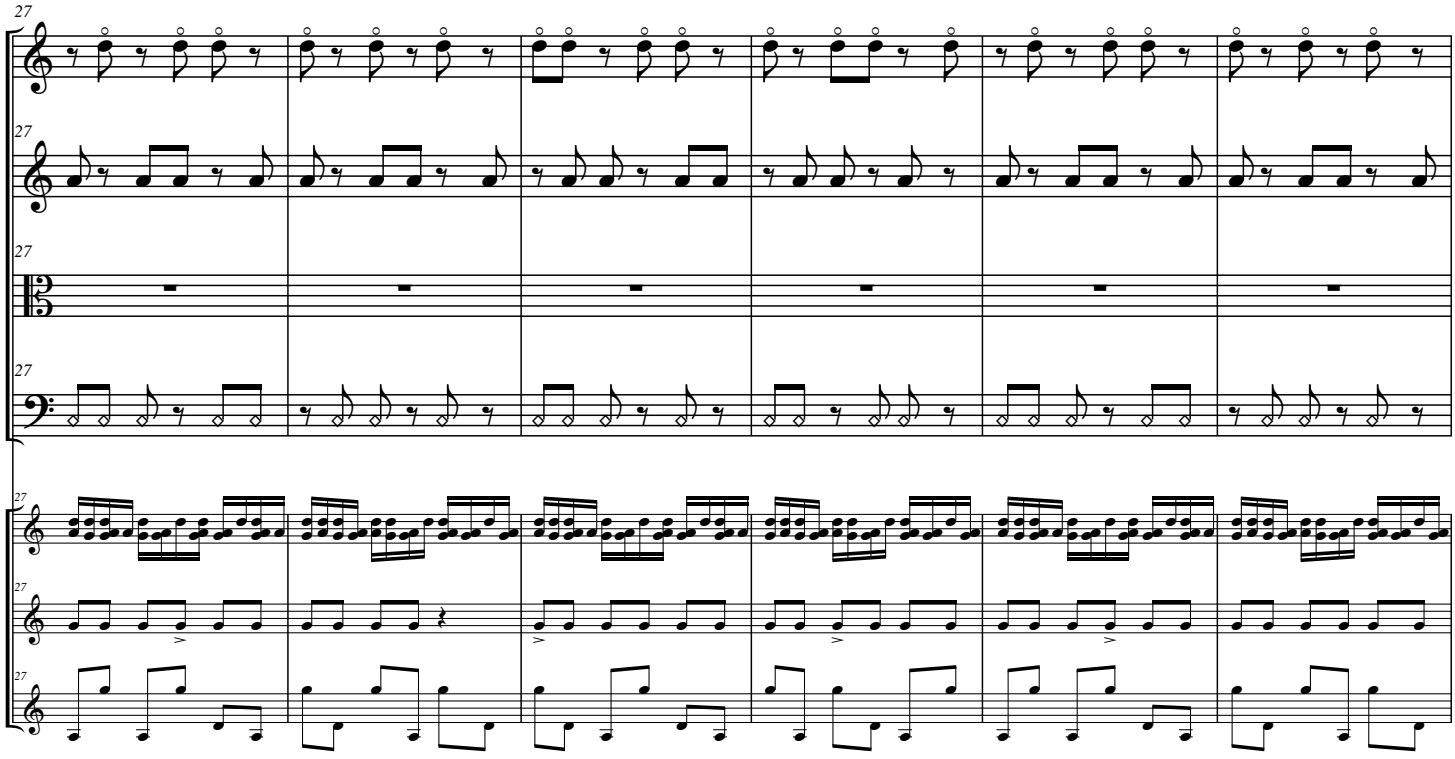
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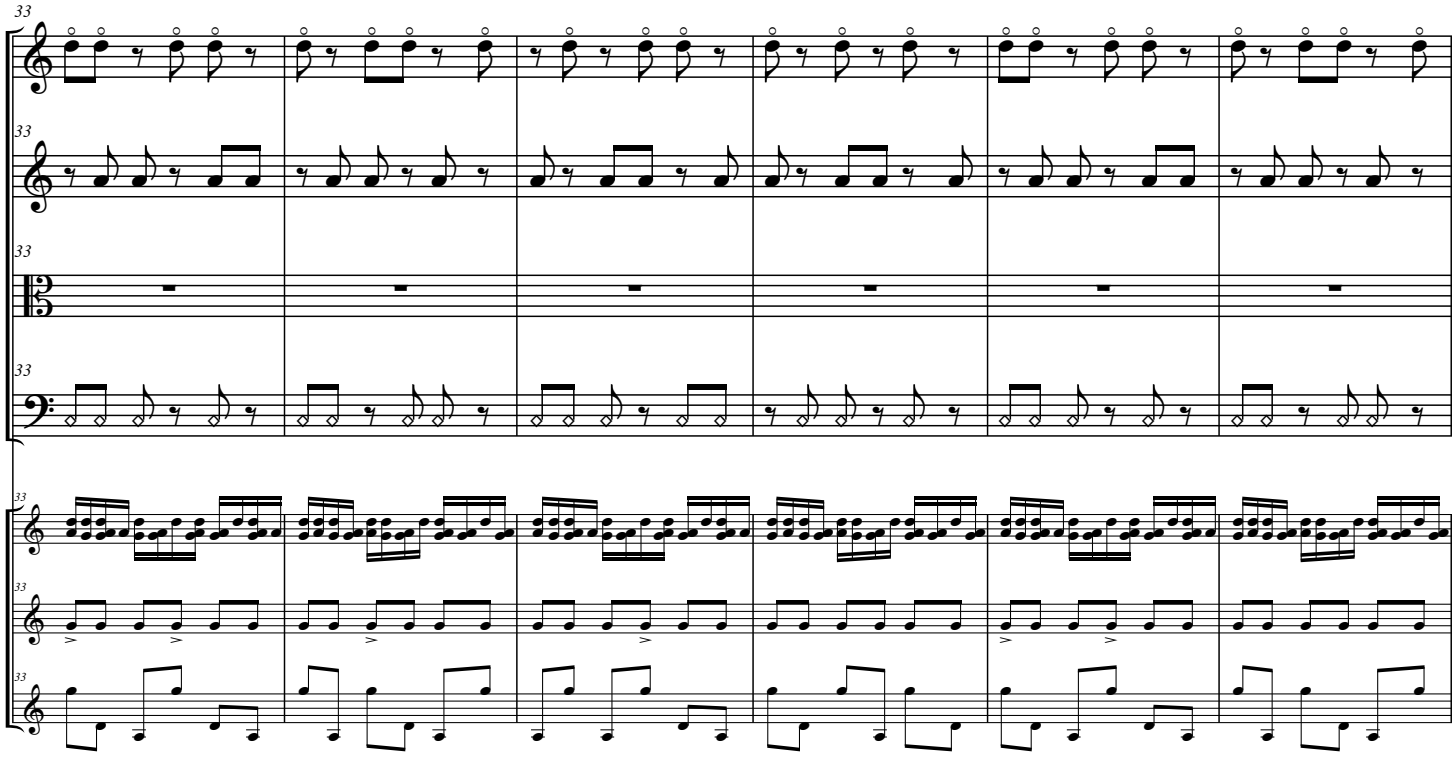
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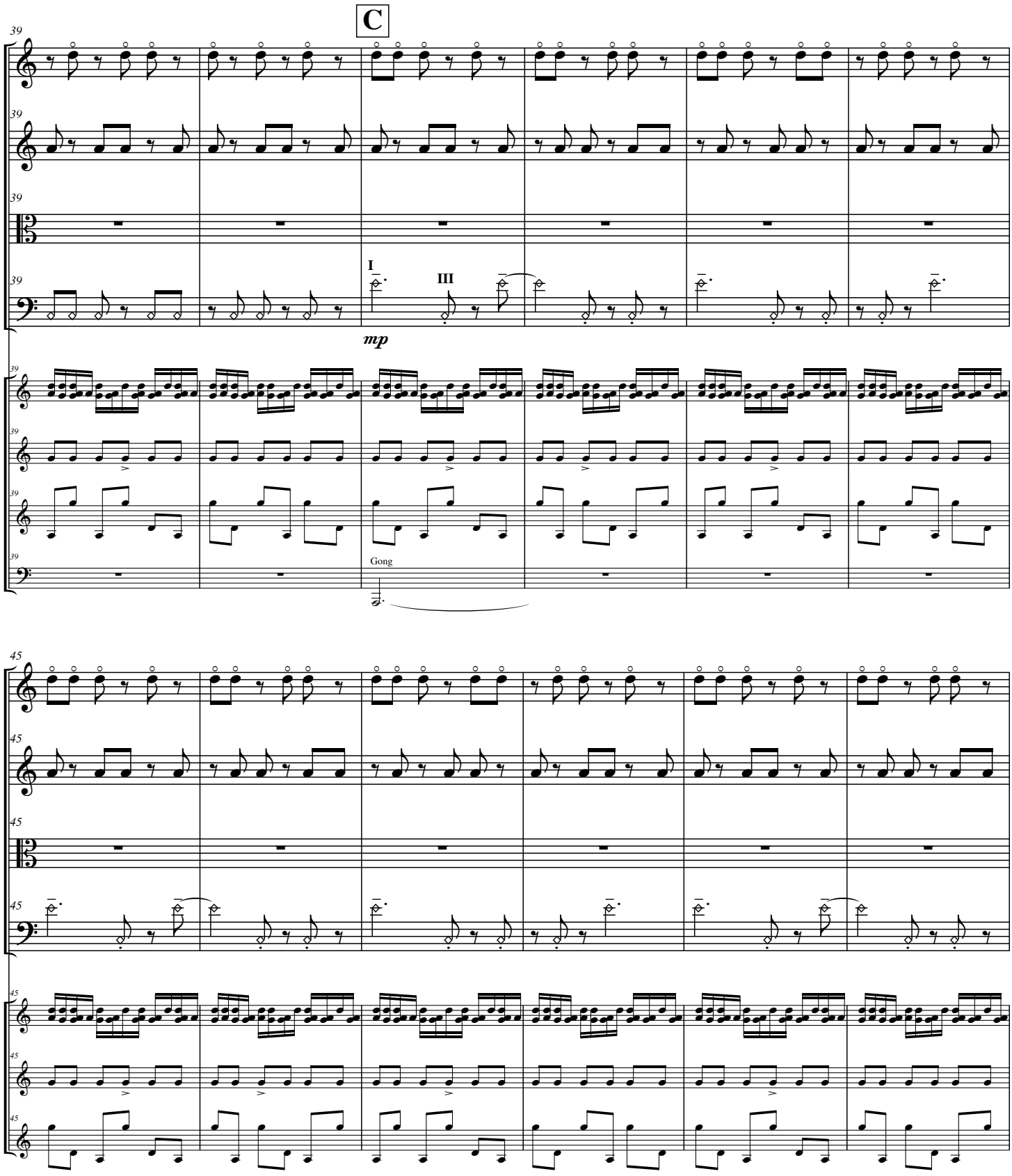
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mp
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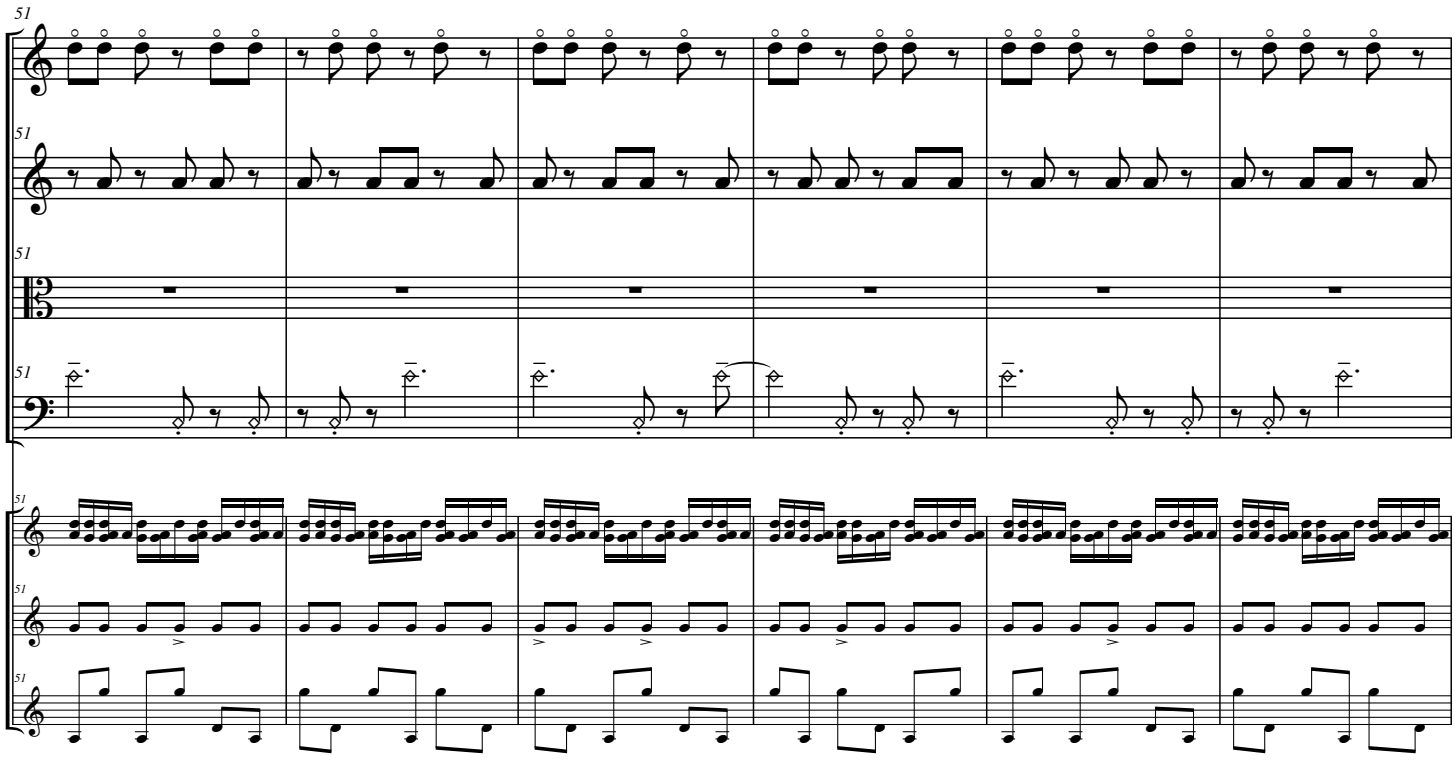
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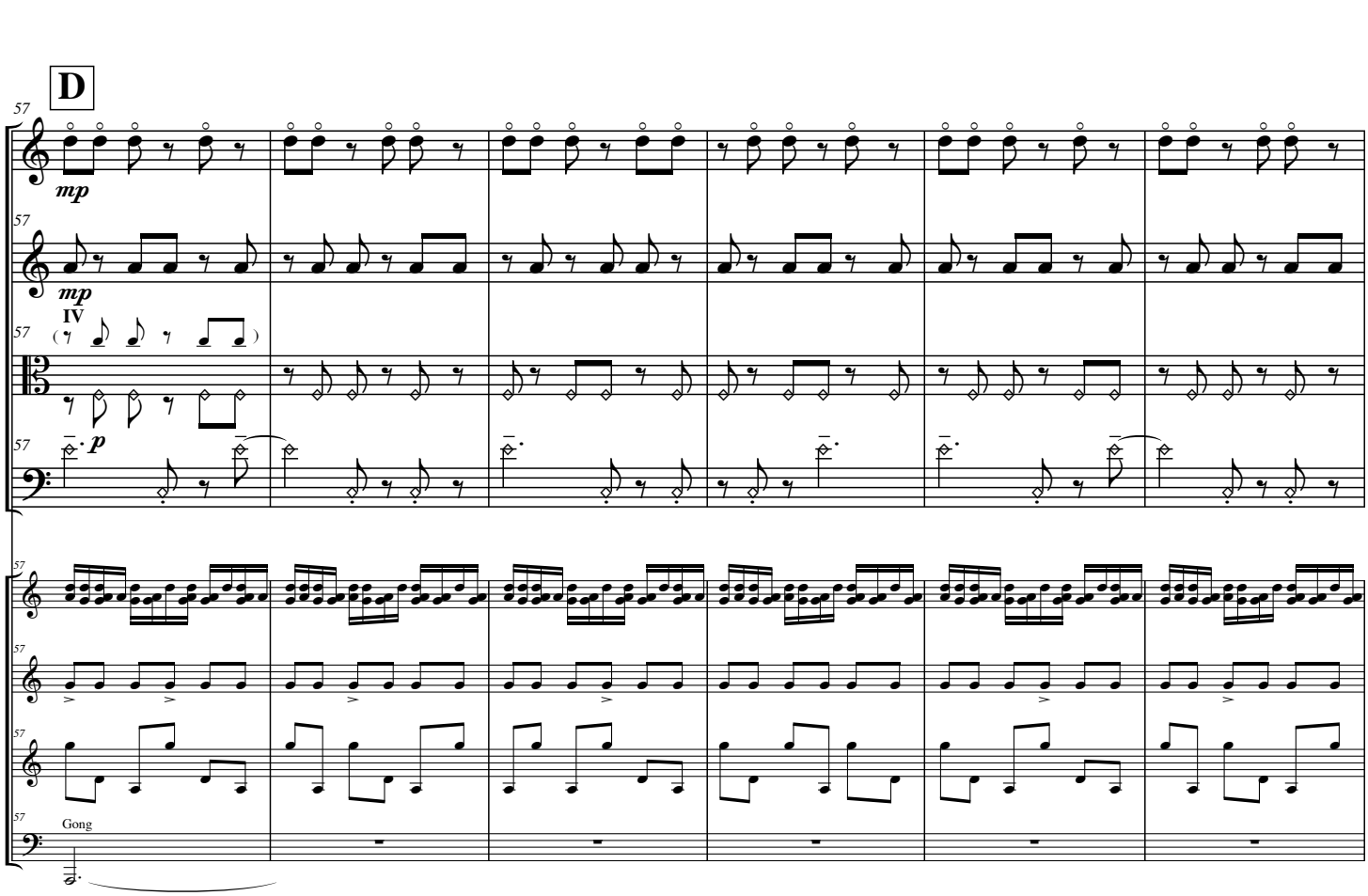
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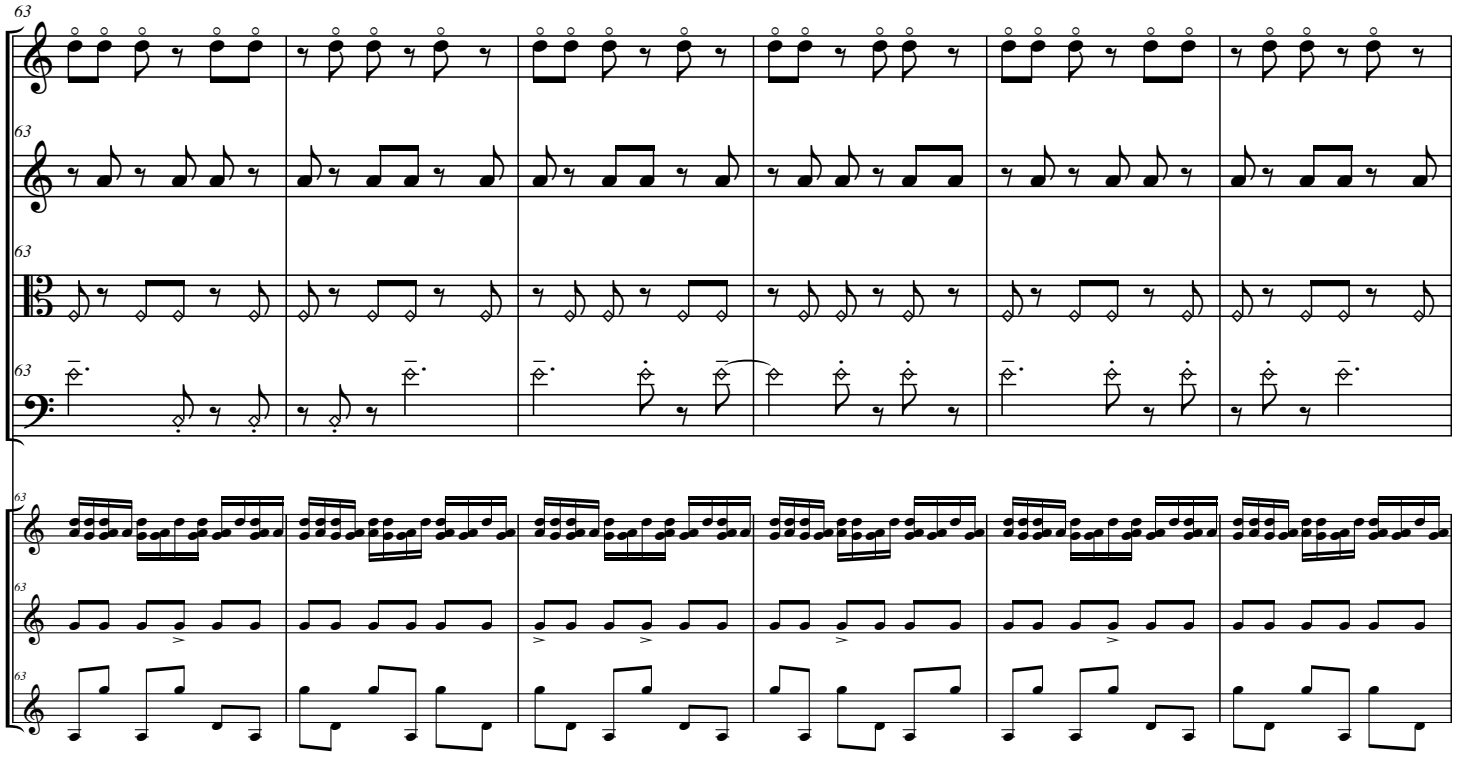
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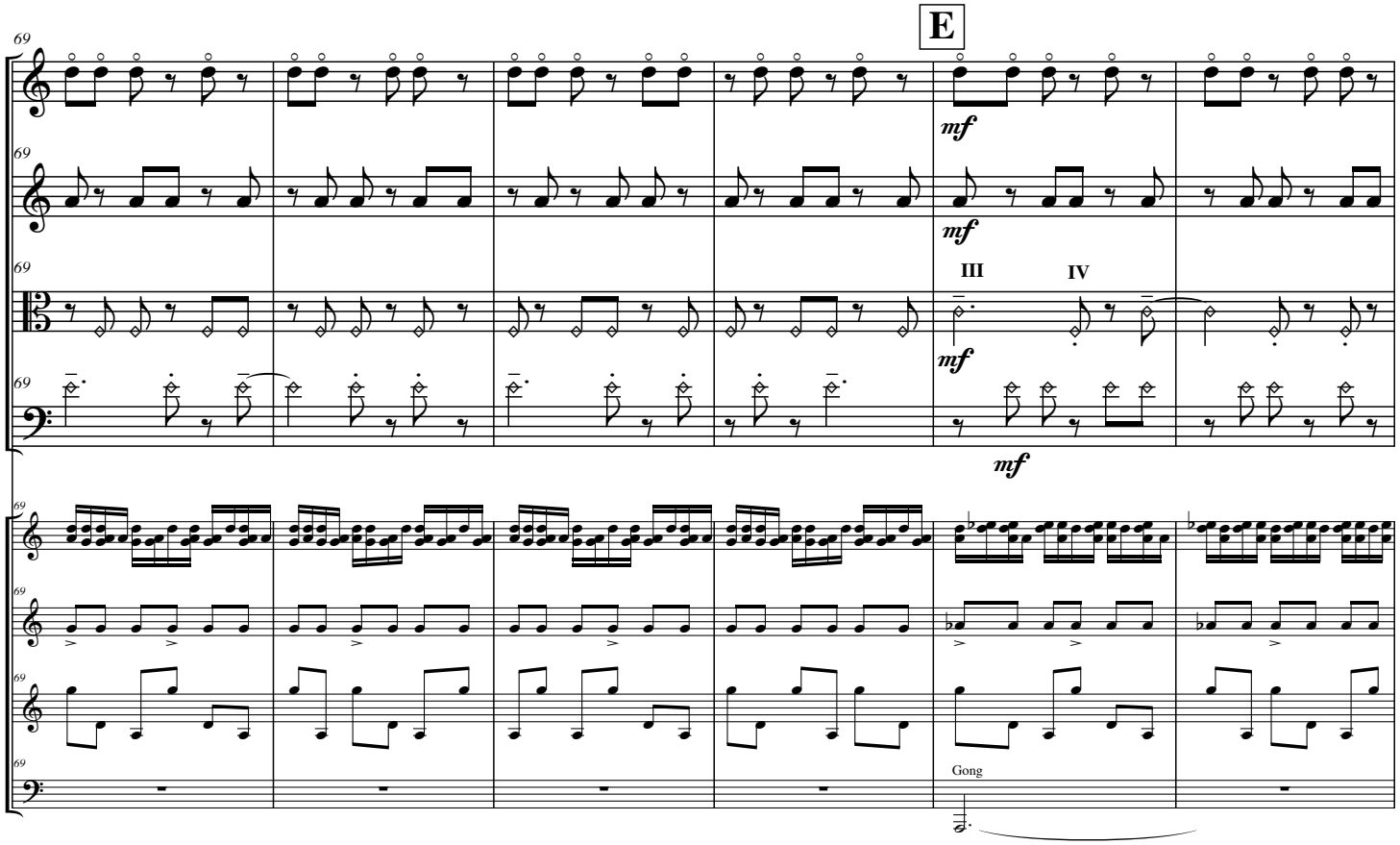
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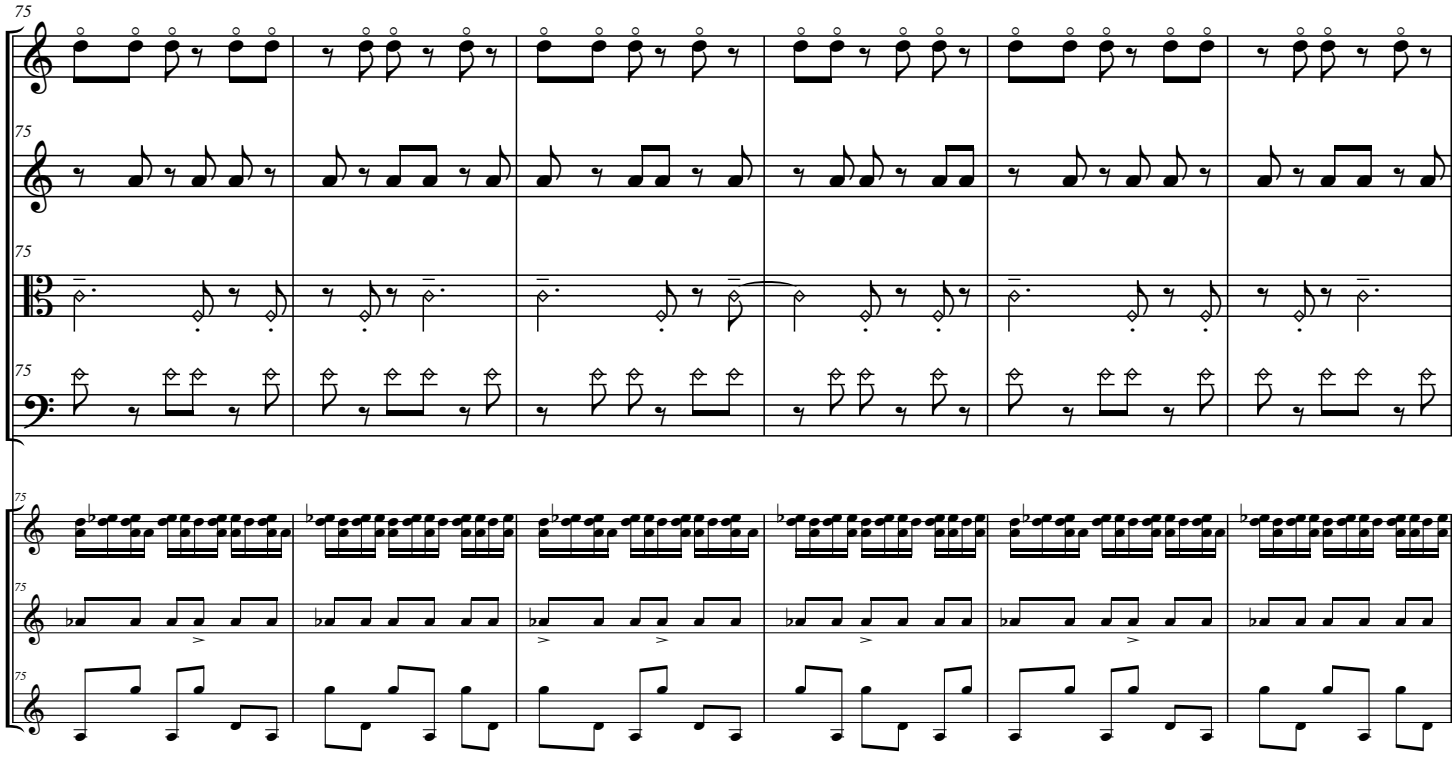
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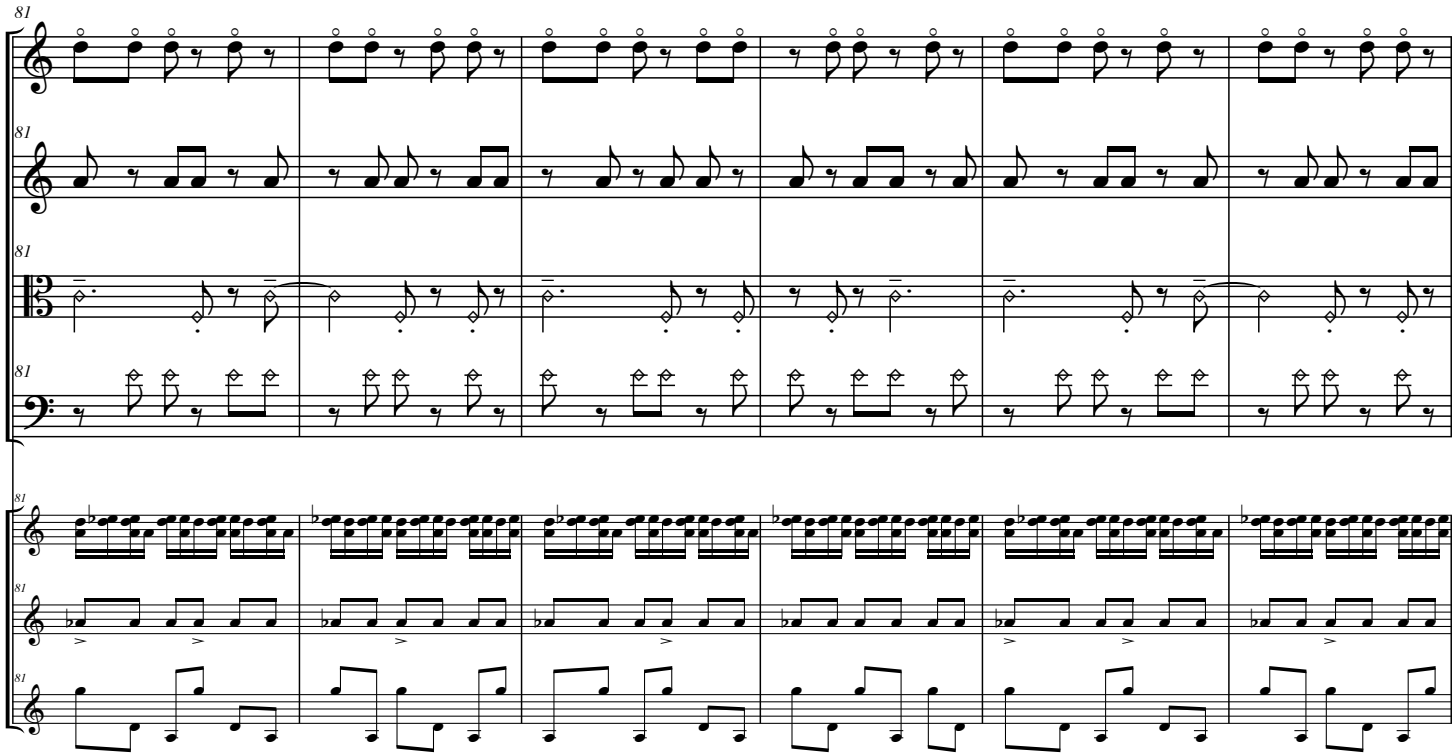
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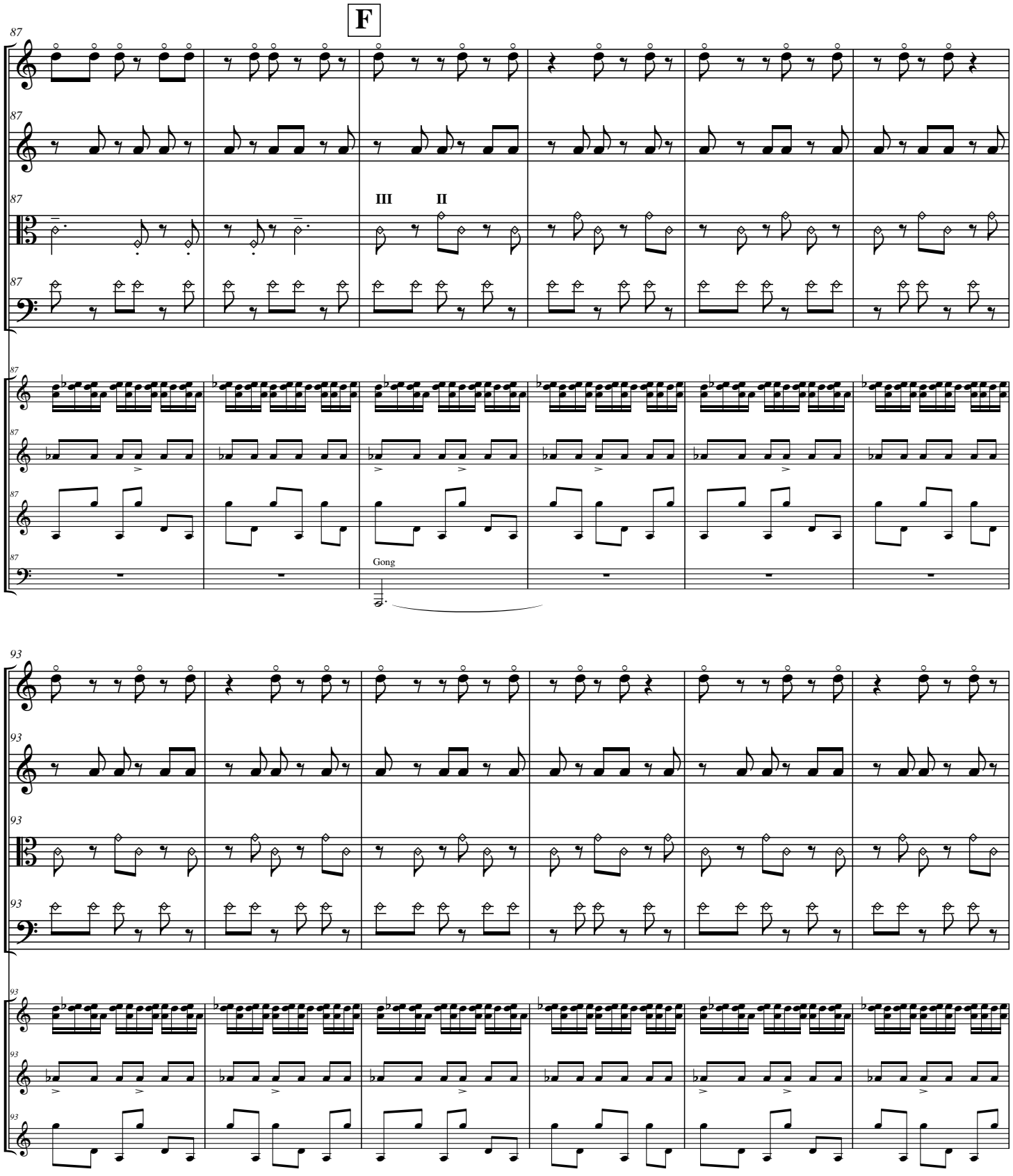
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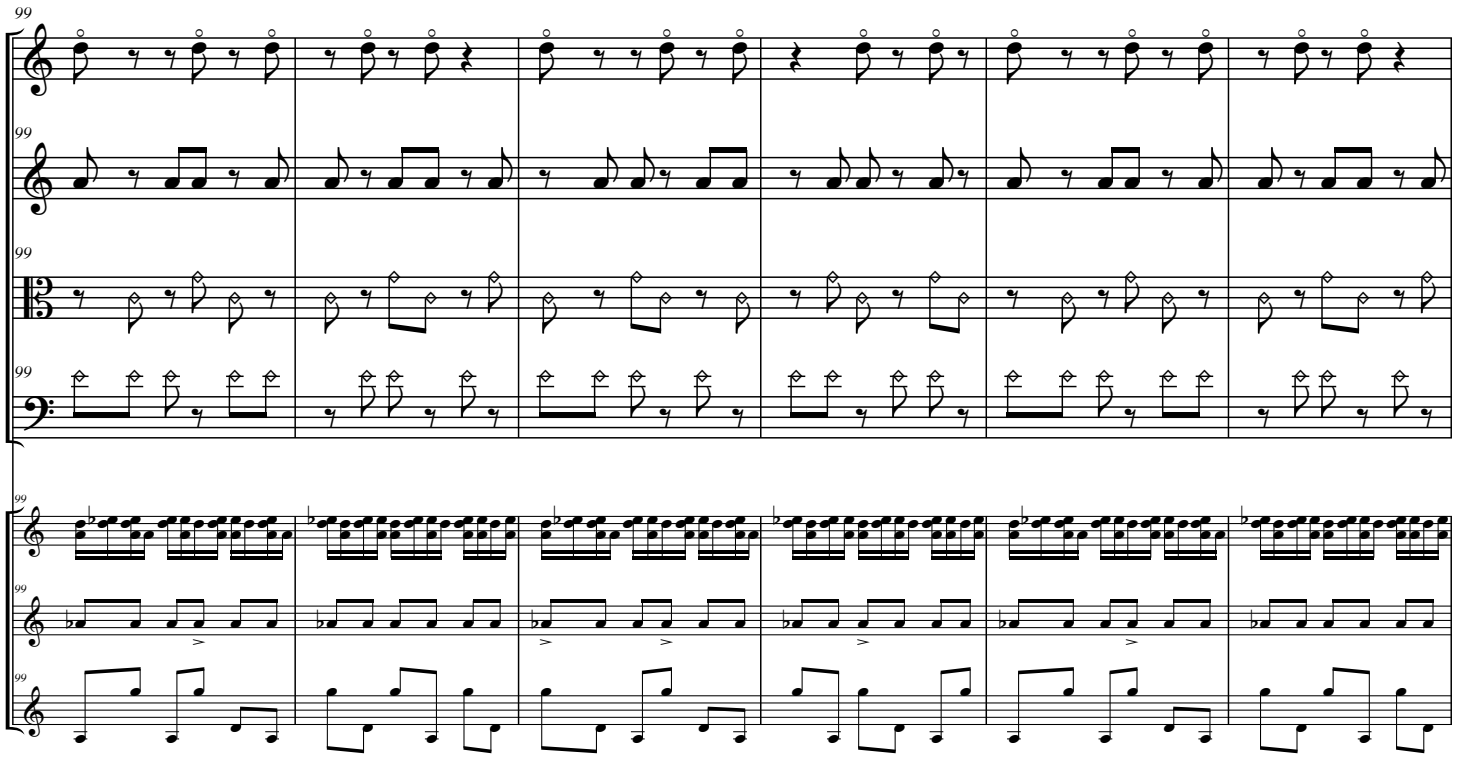
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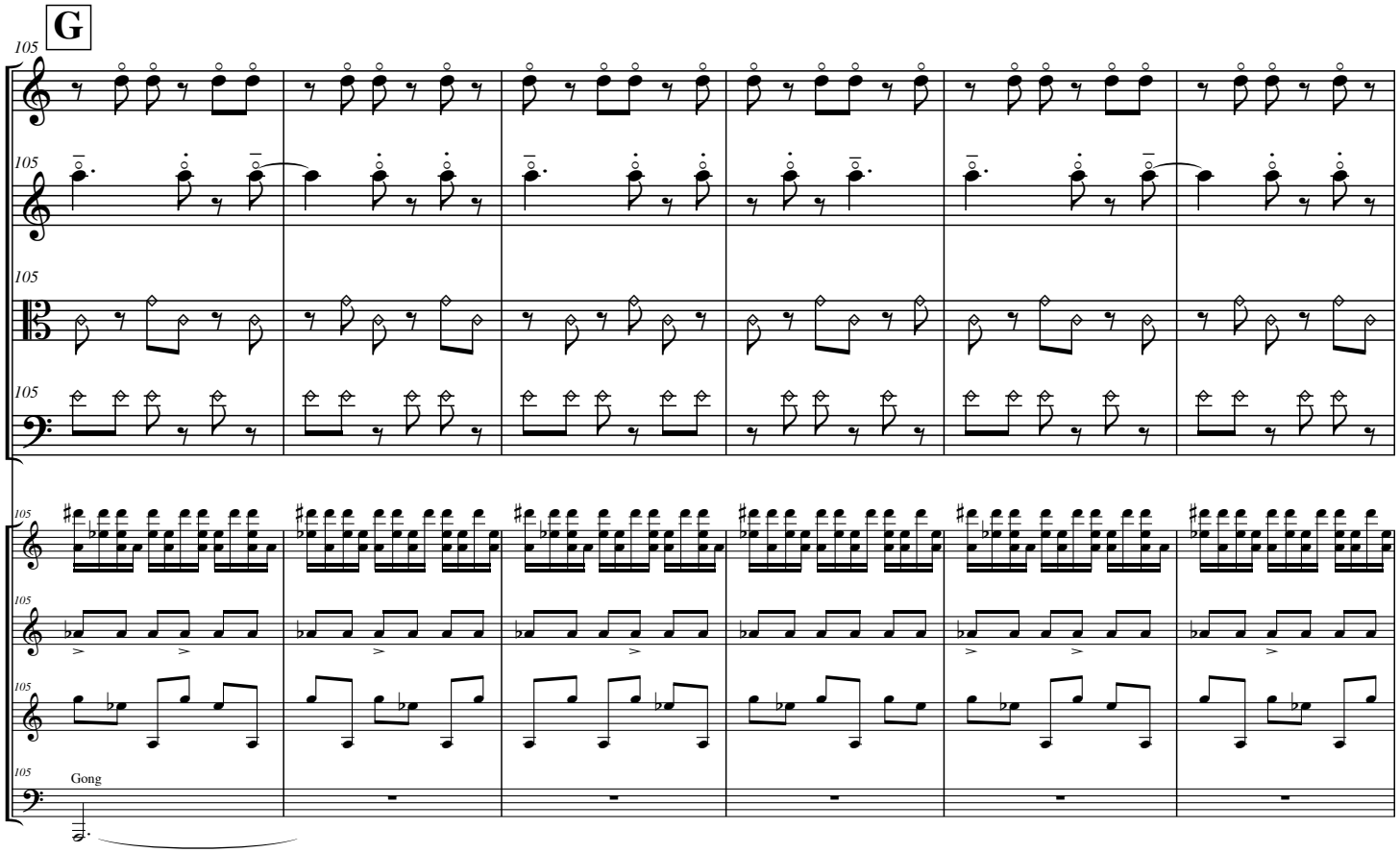
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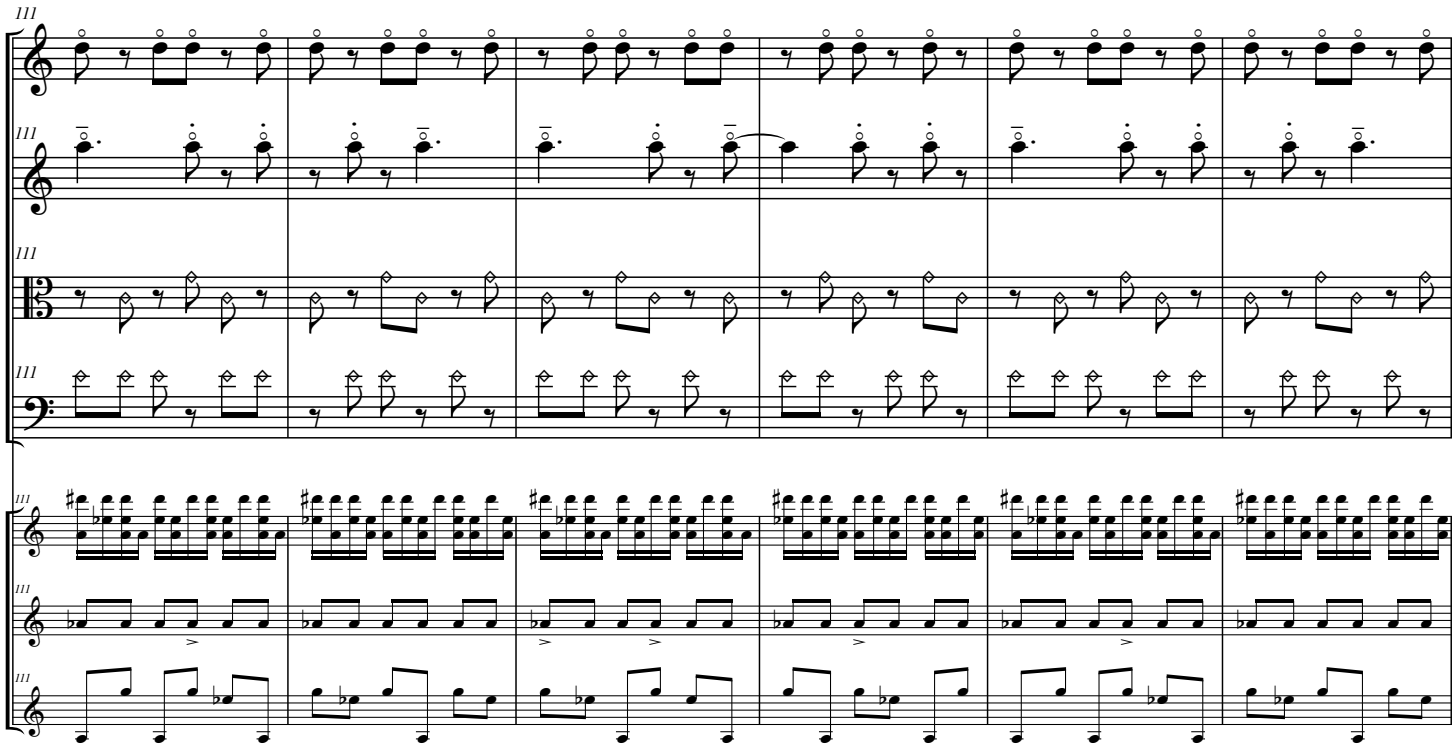
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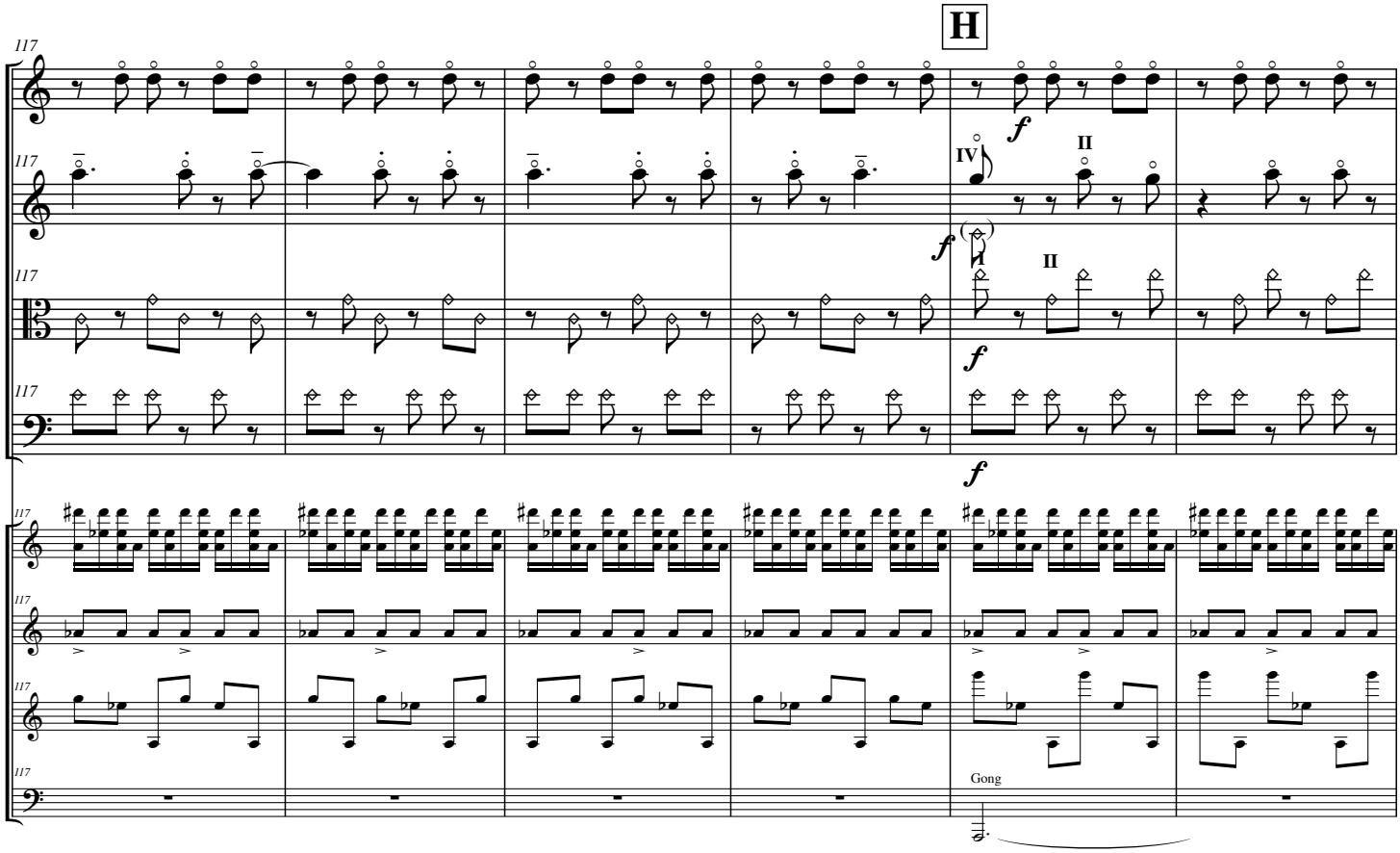
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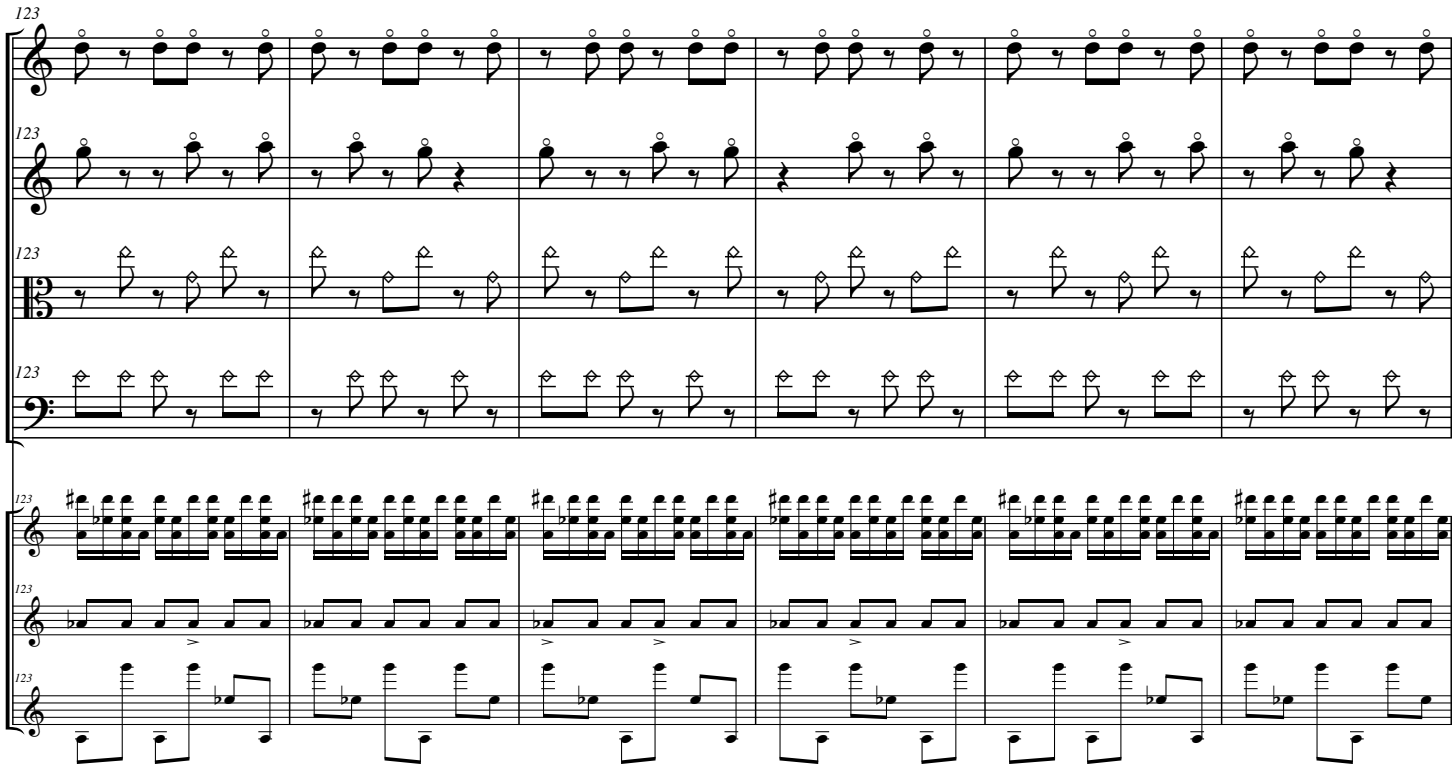
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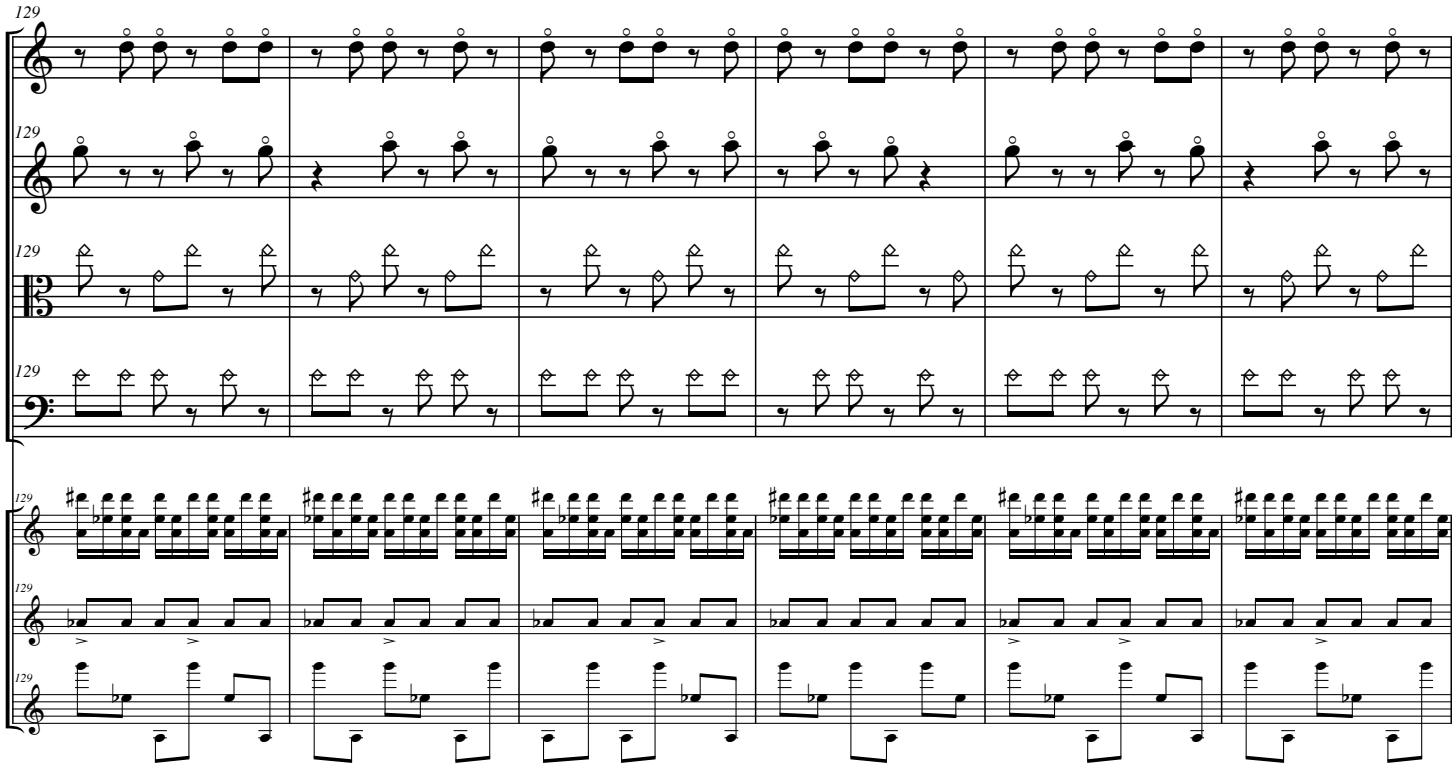
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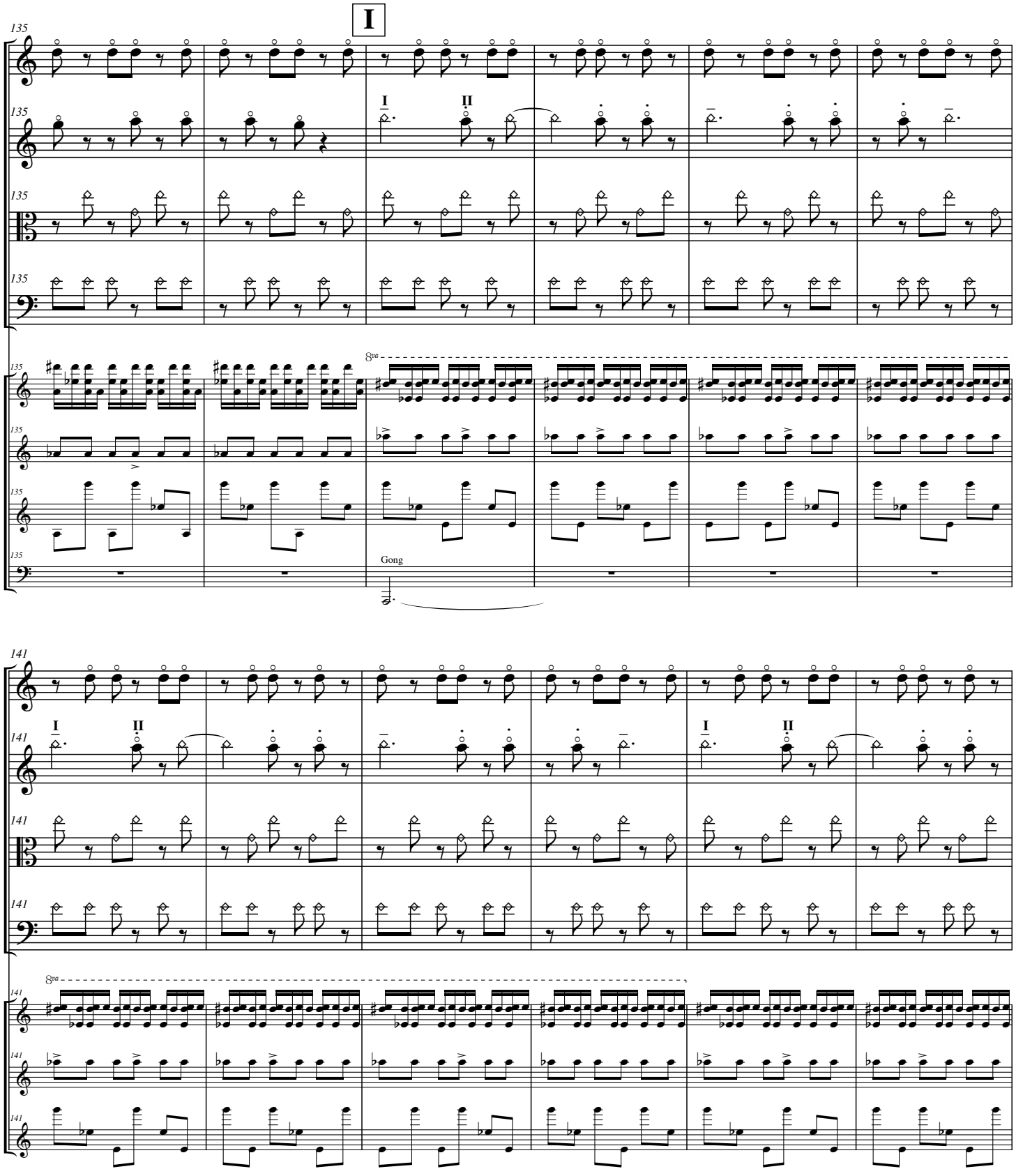
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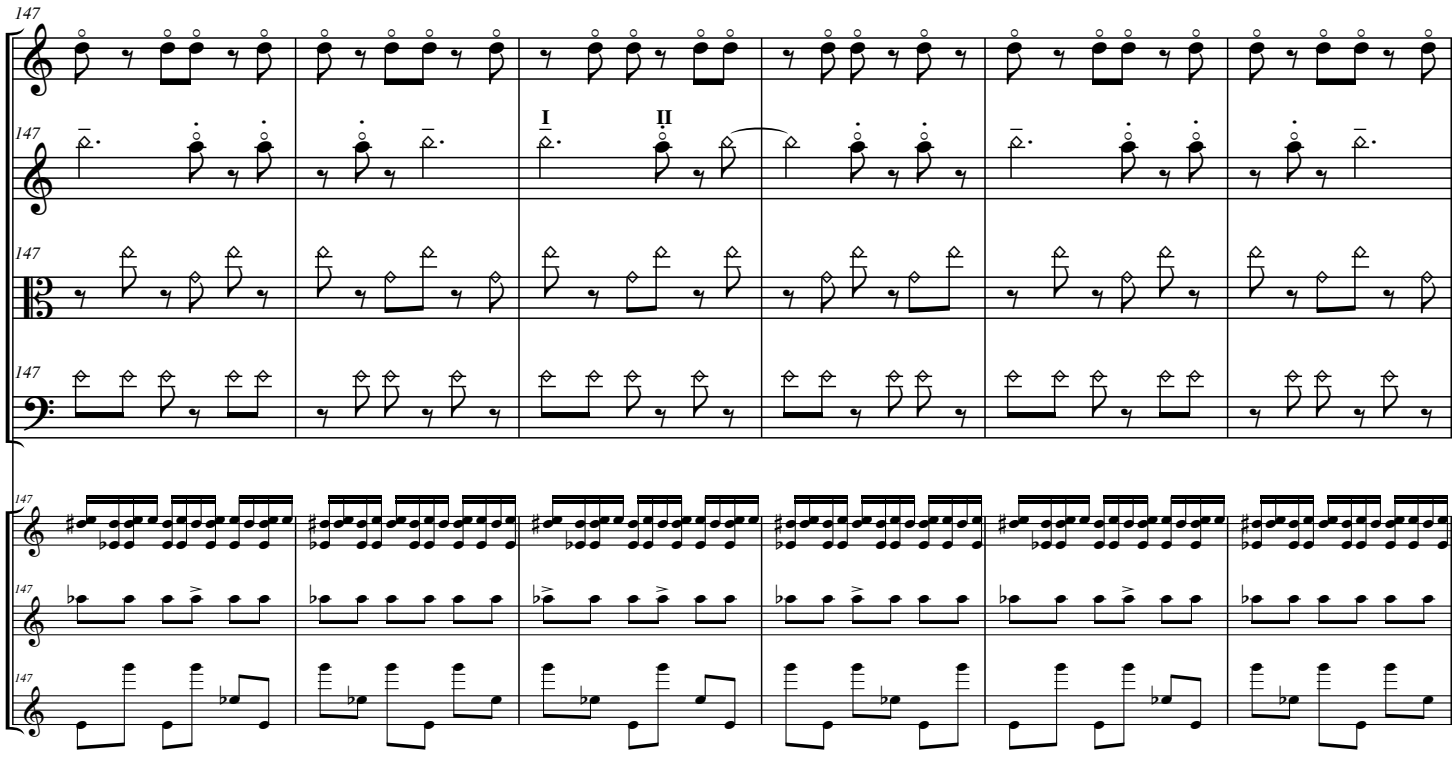
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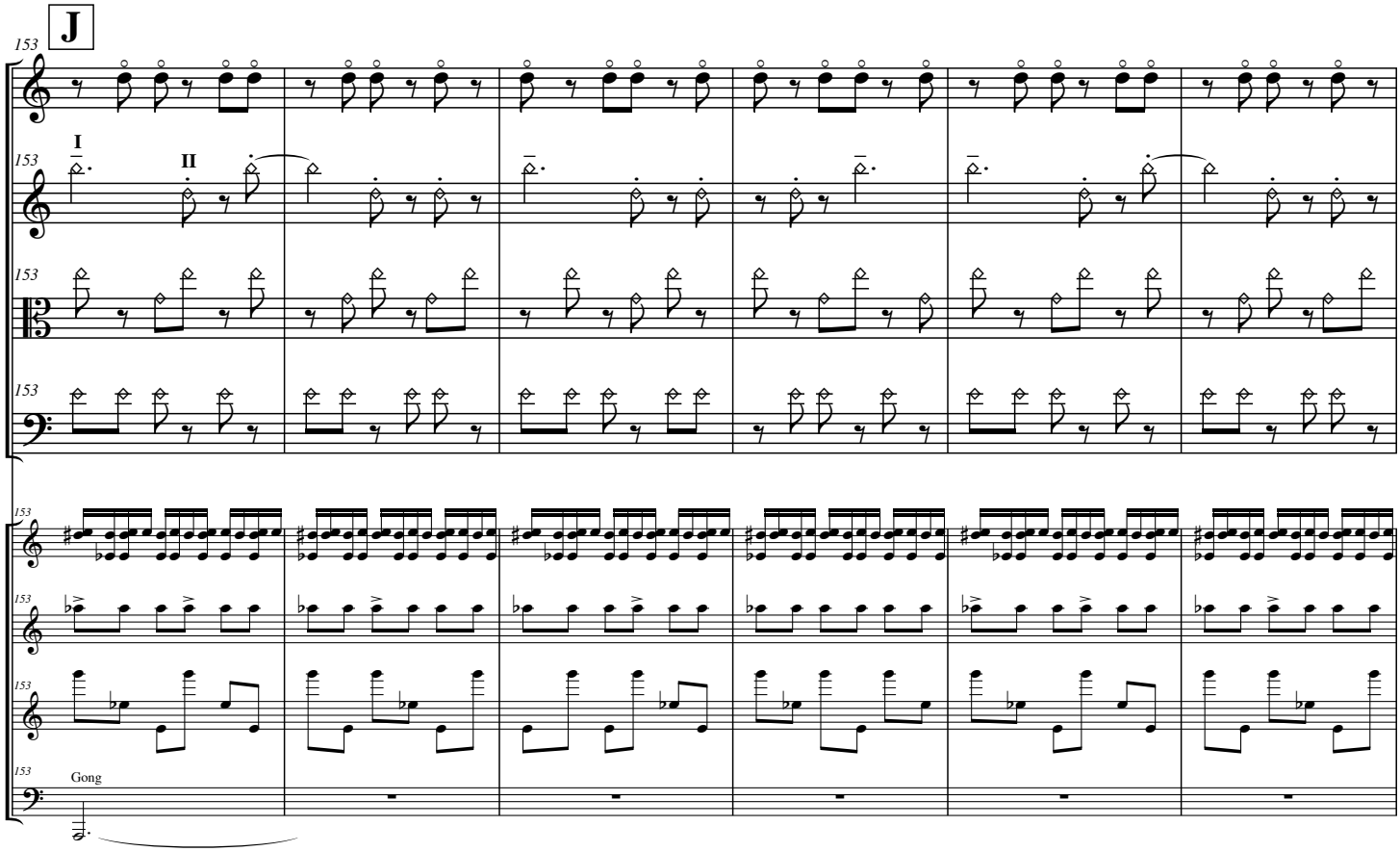
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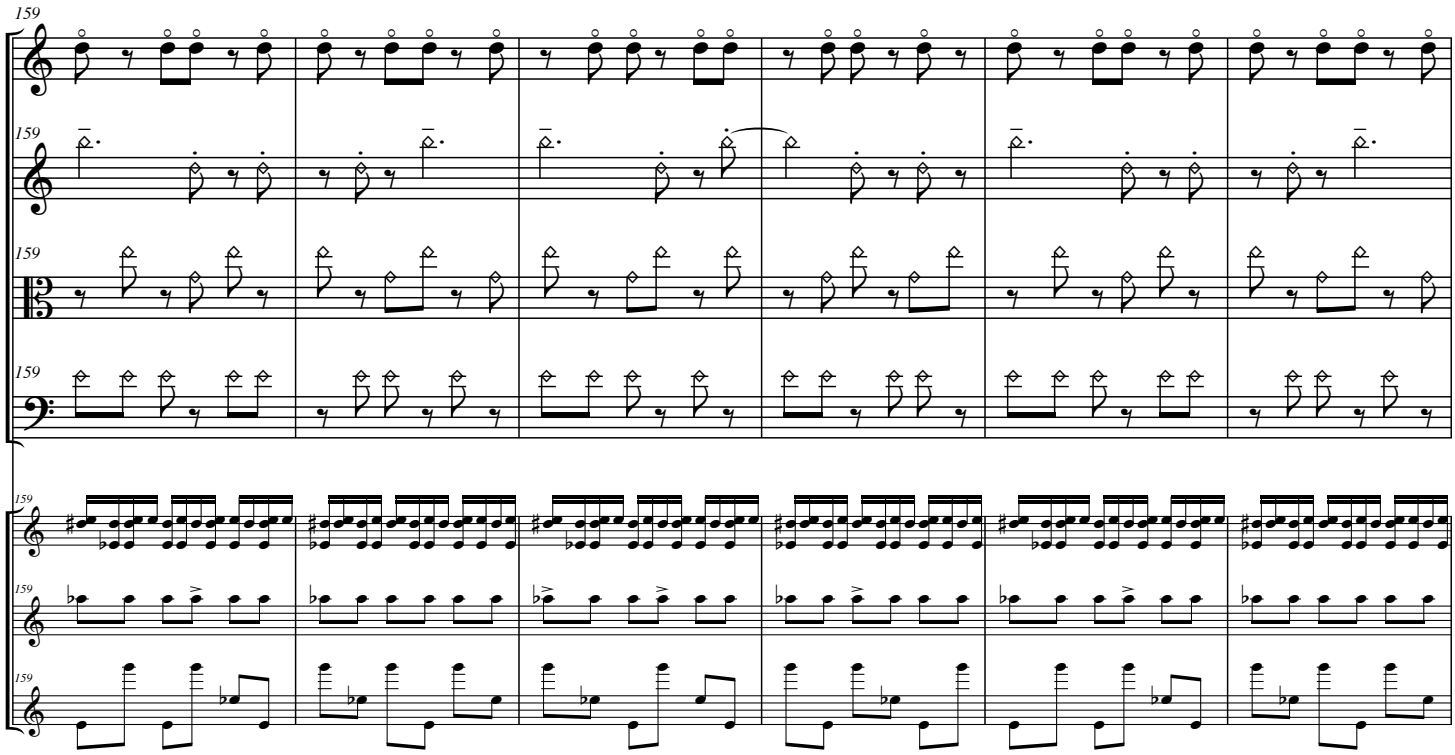
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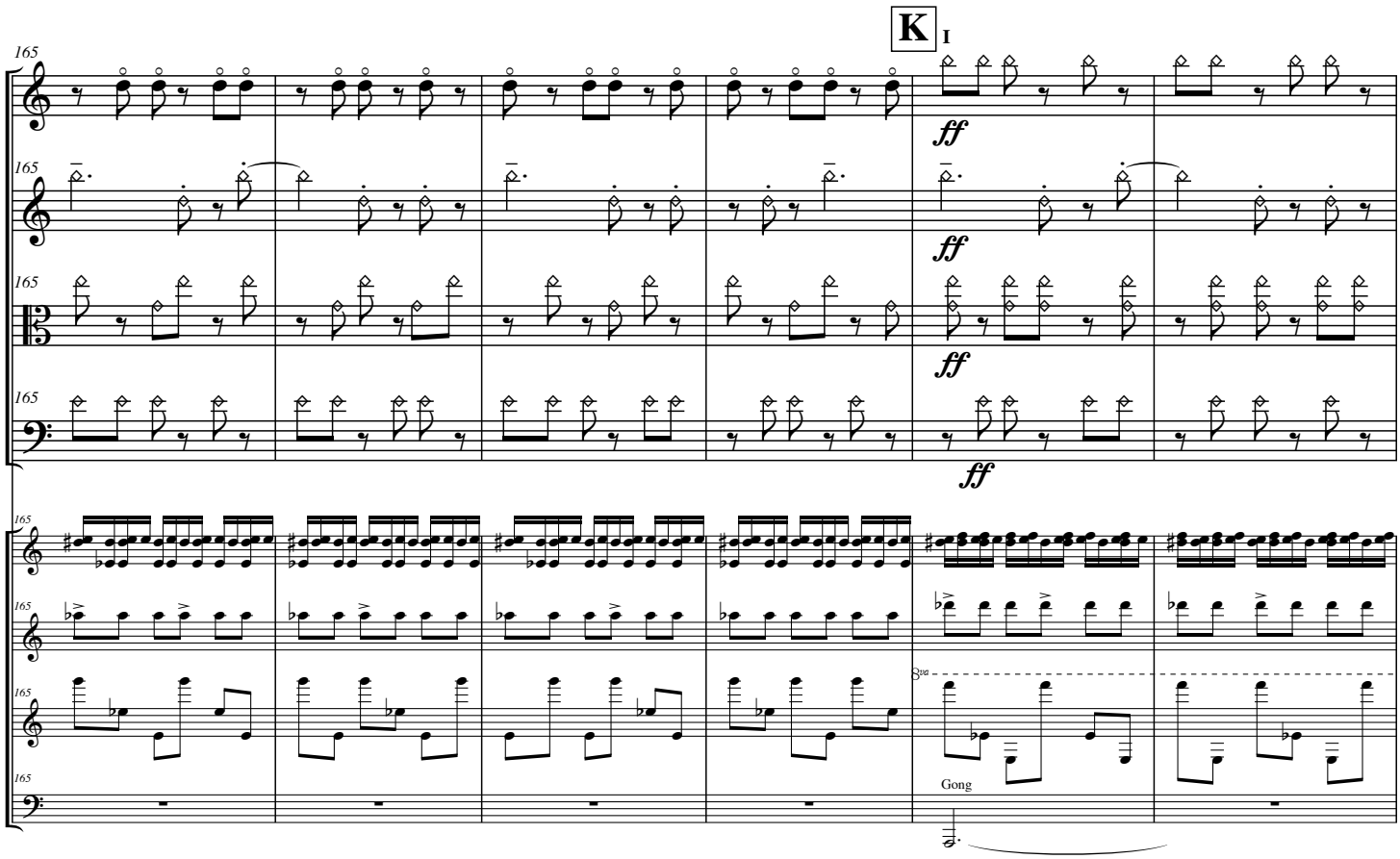
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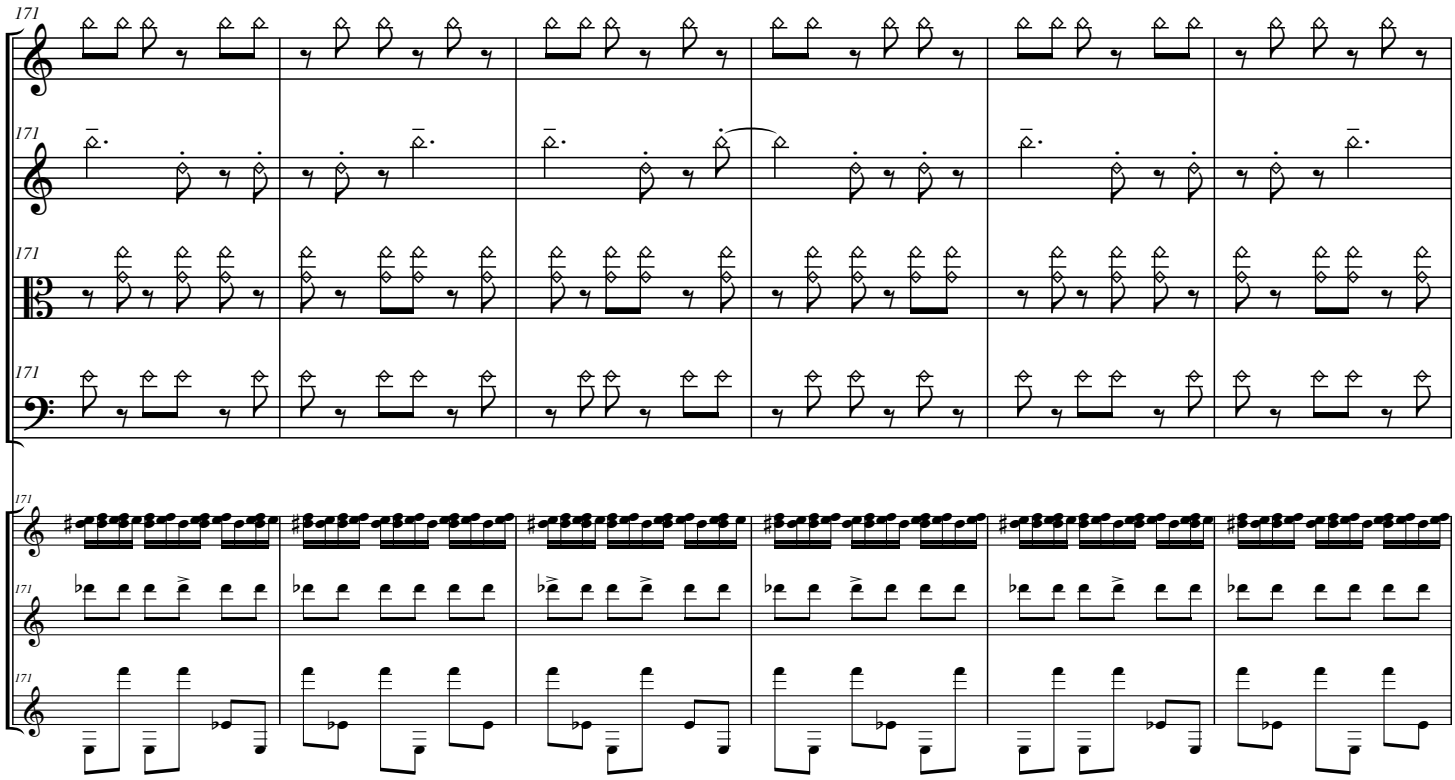
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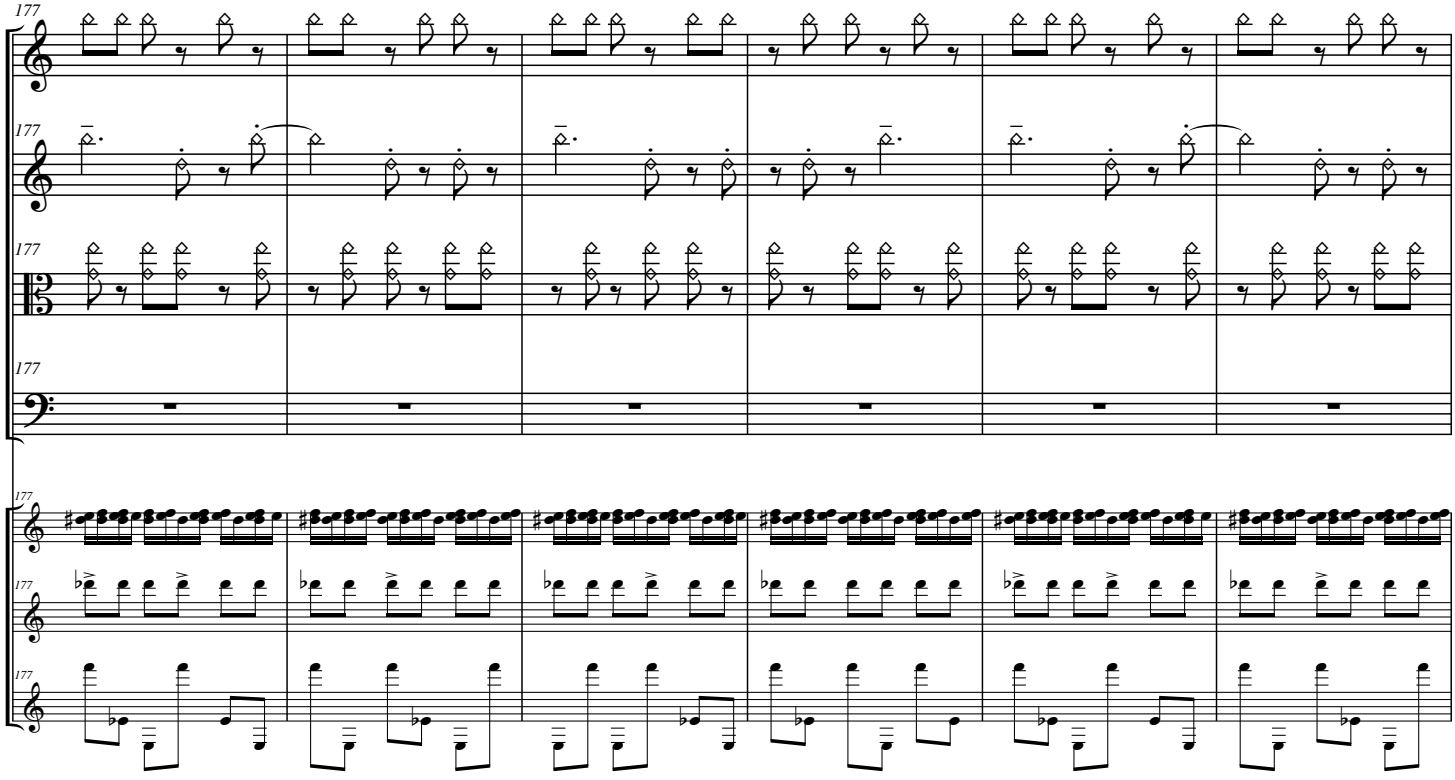
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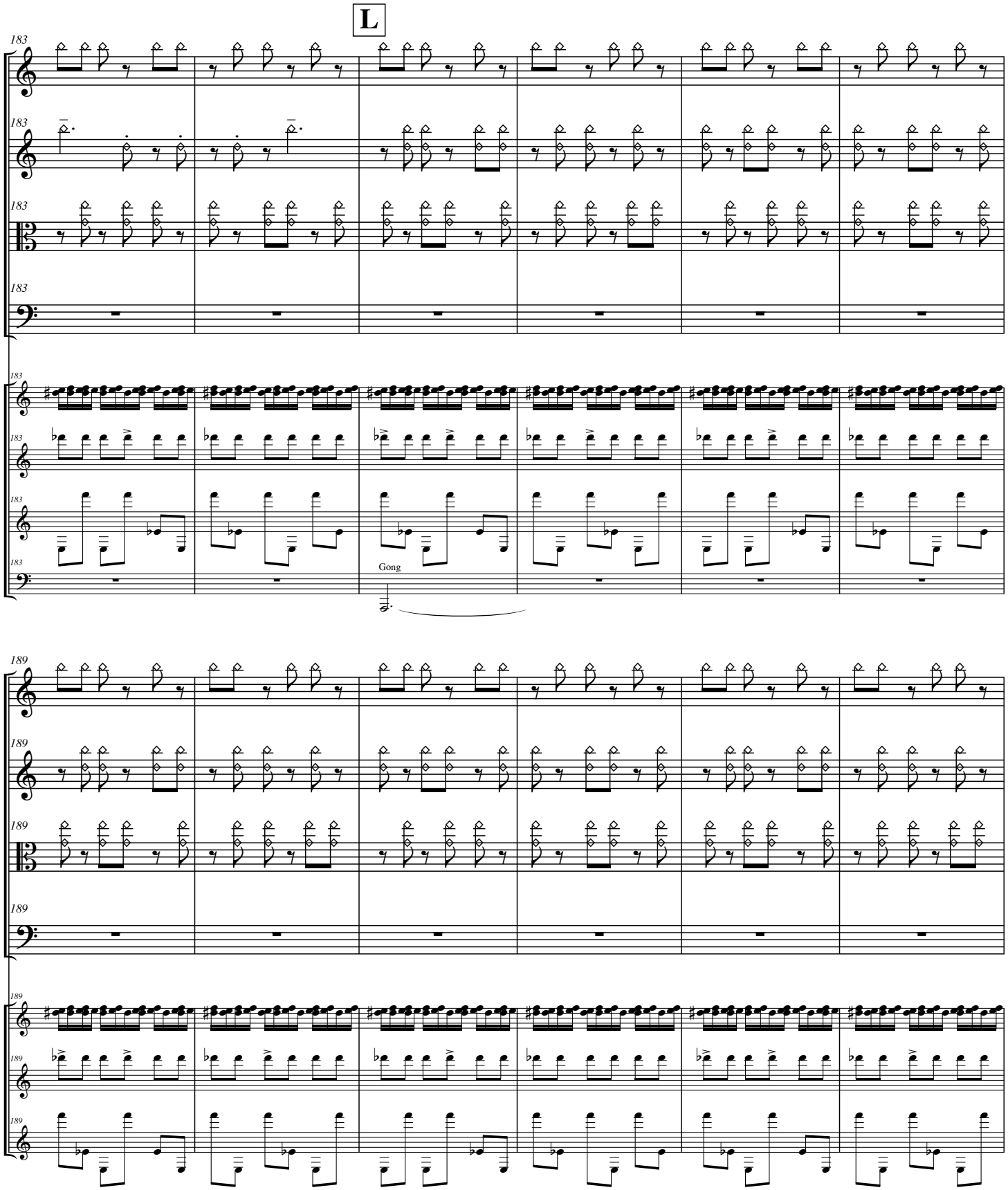
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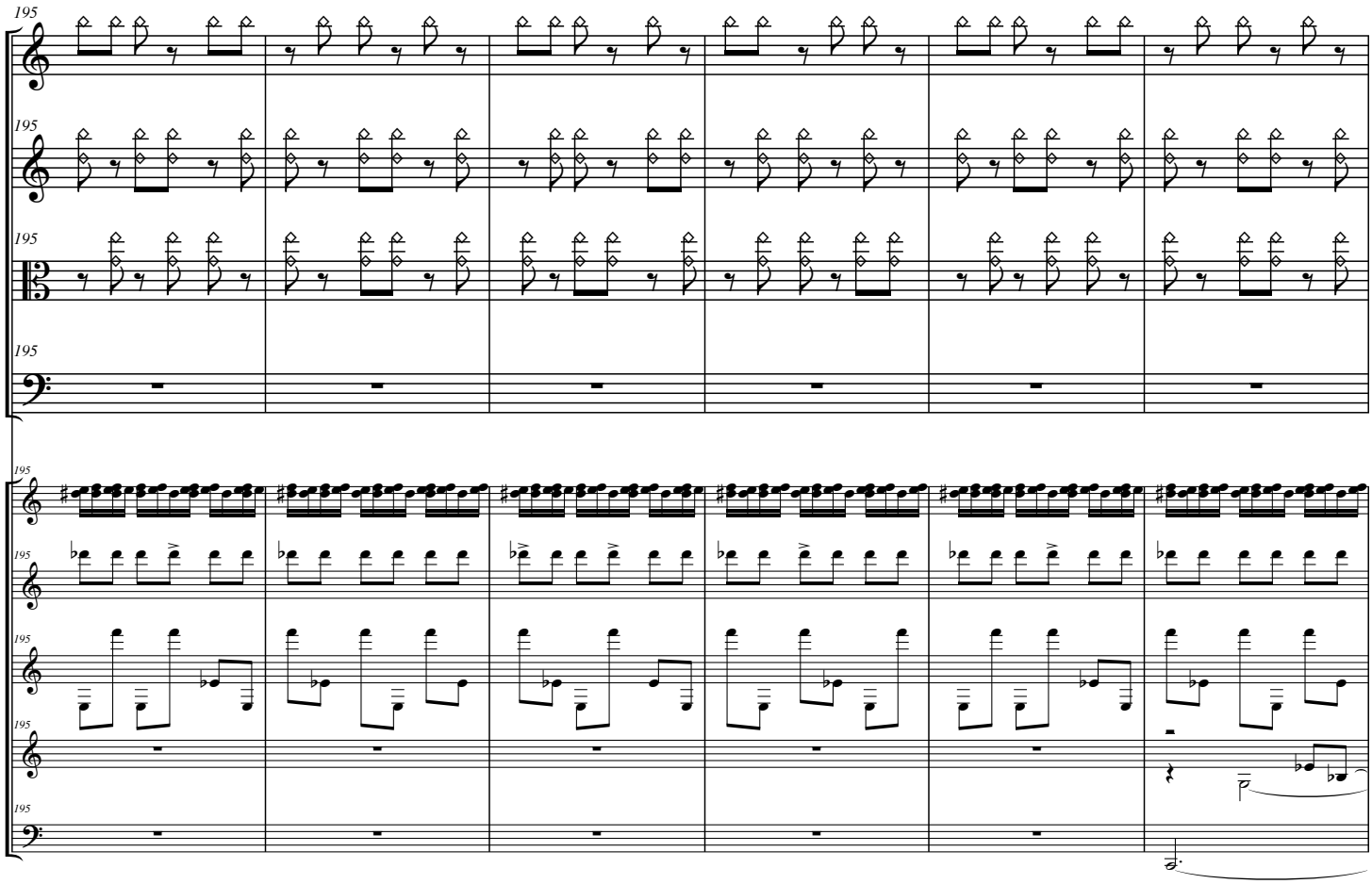
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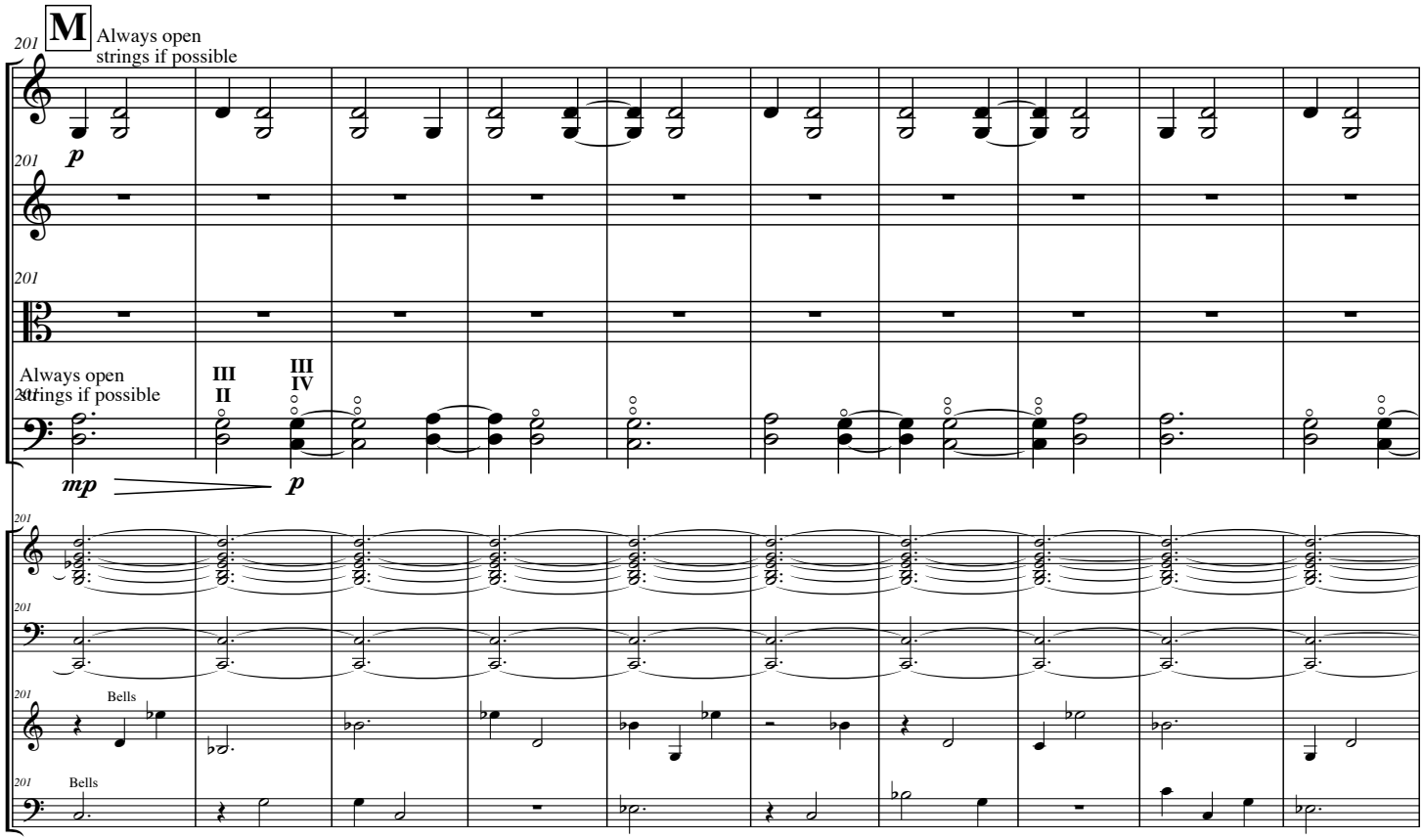
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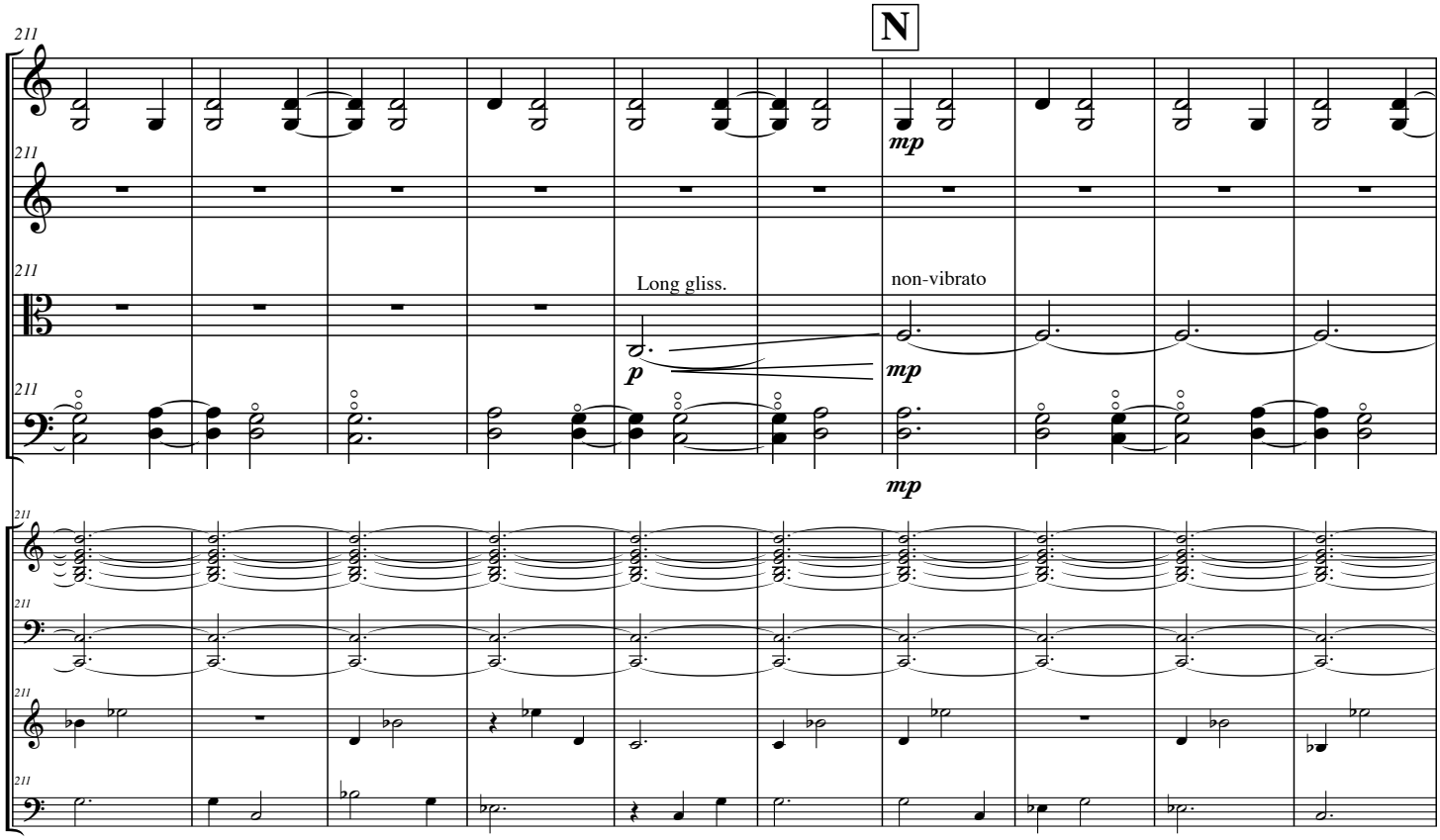
Always open strings if possible
201
p
Always open strings if possible
III II
III IV
mp
p
Bells
Bells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p
non-vibrato
mp
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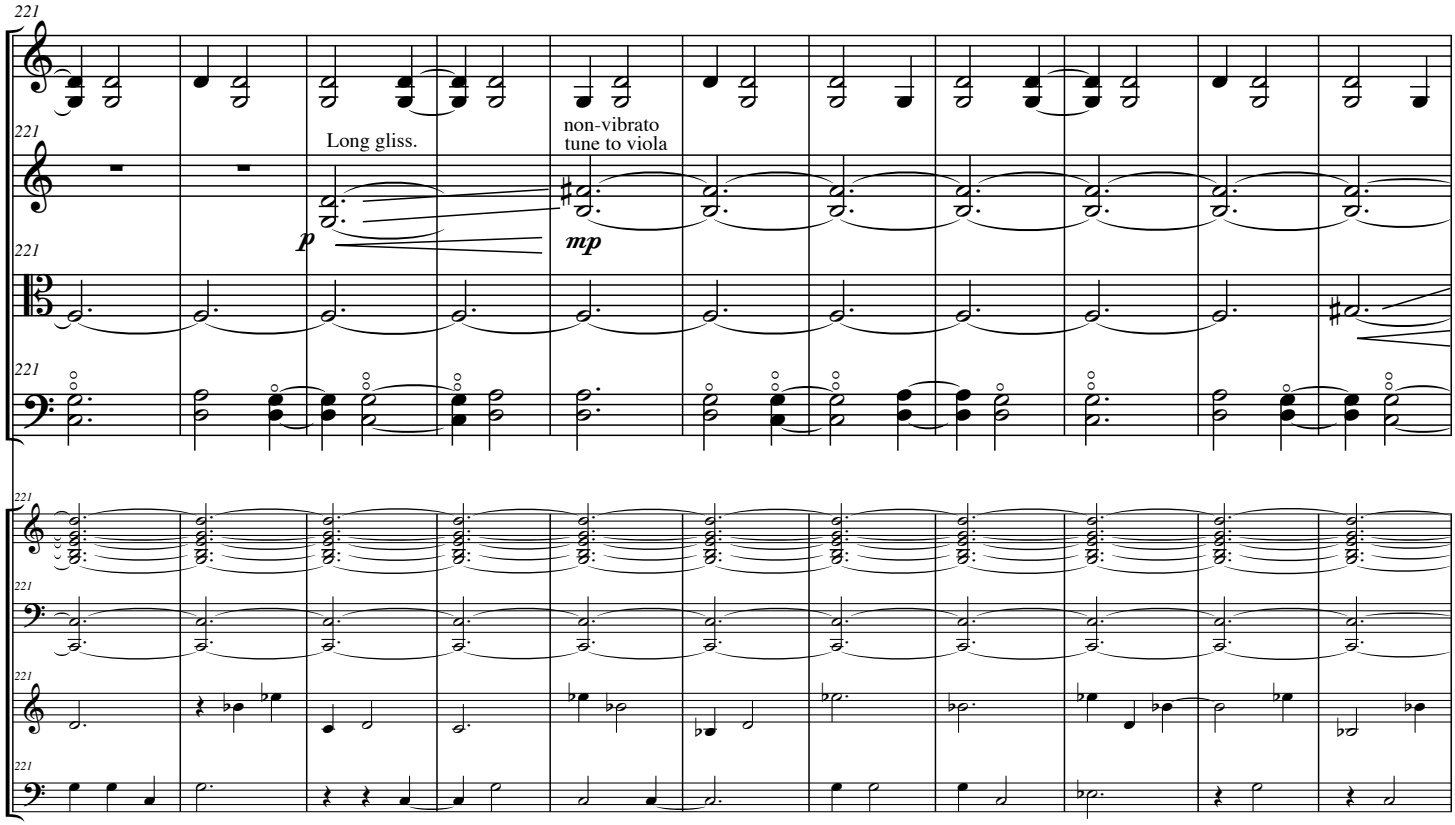
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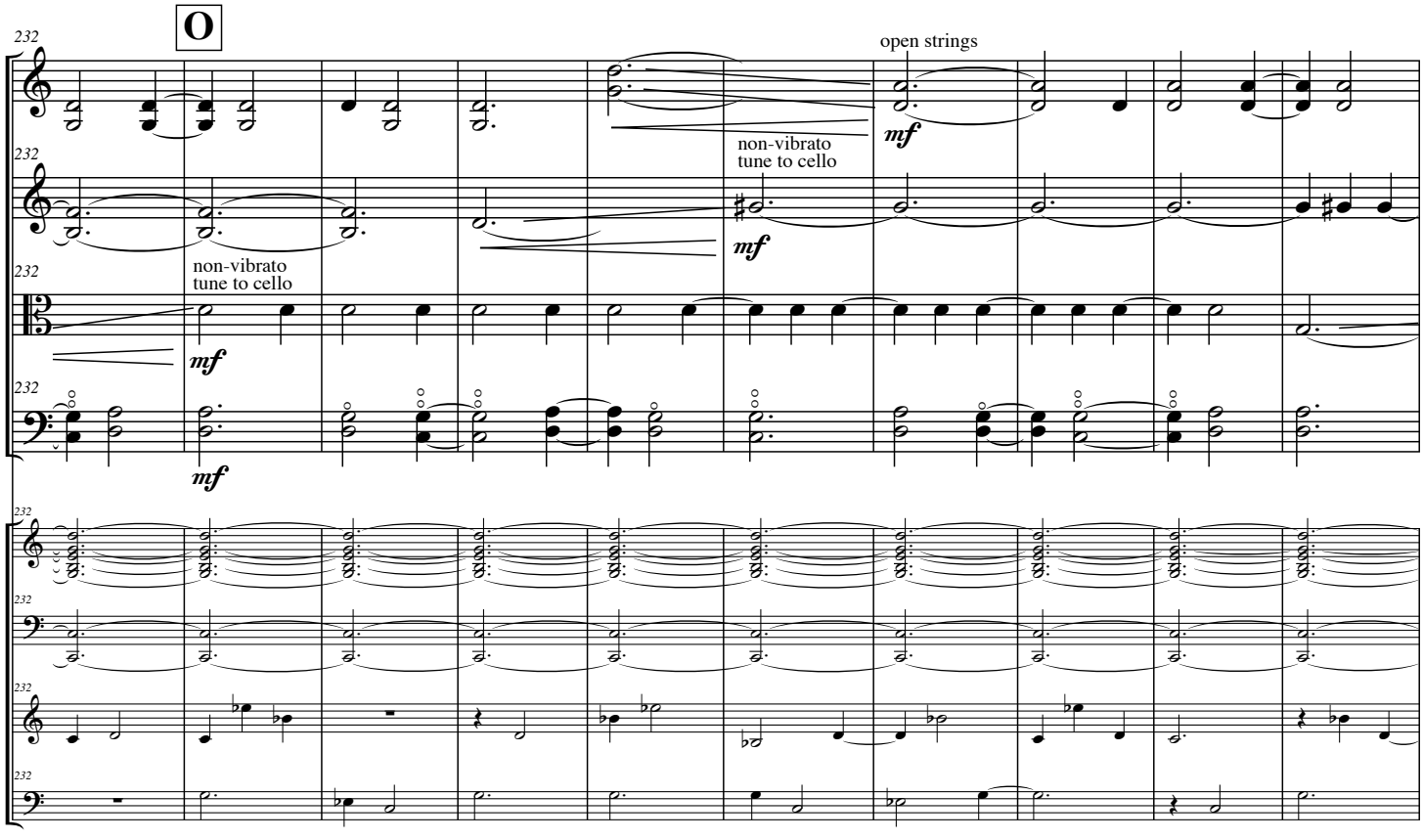
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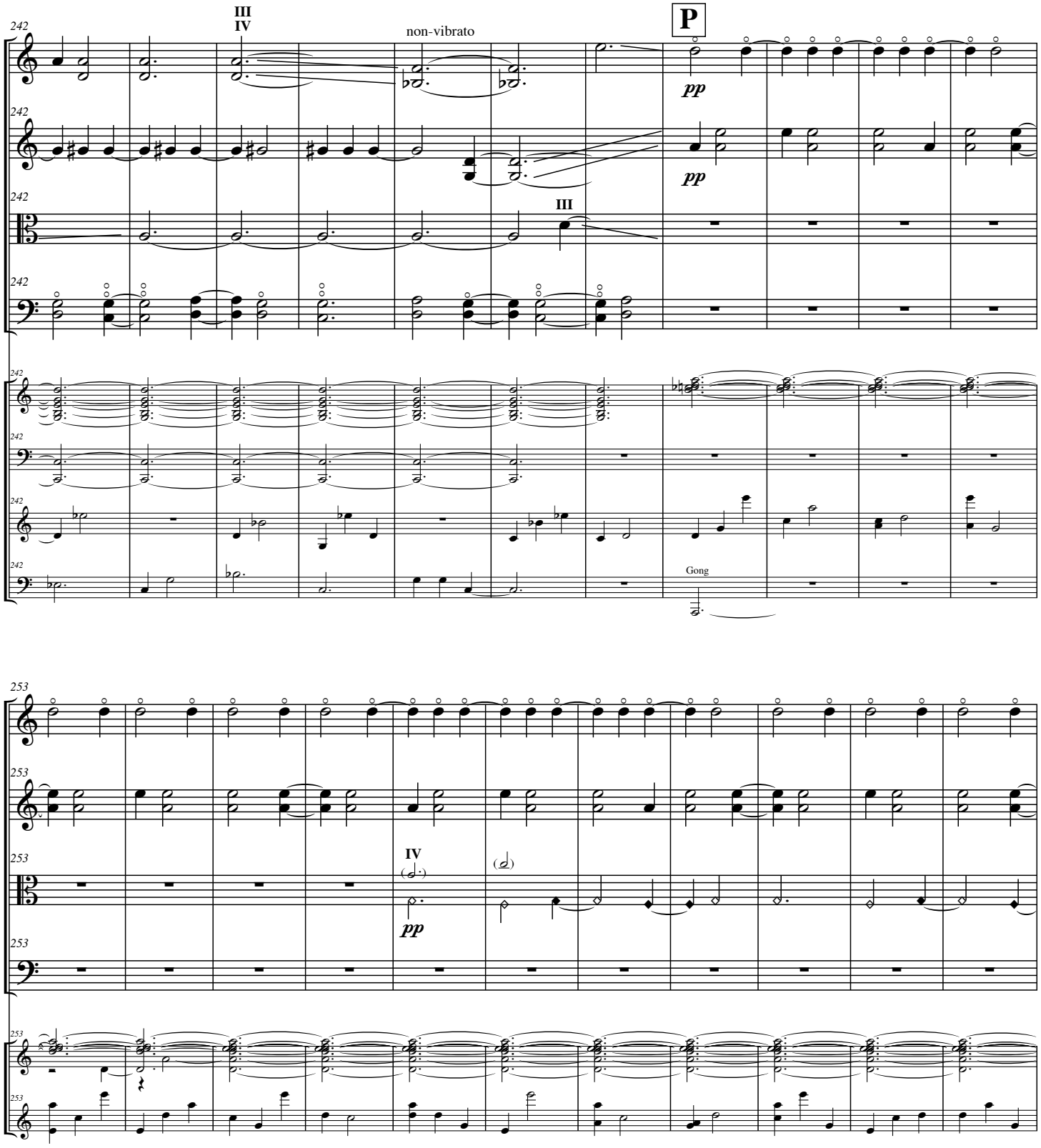
tune to cello
mf
open strings
mf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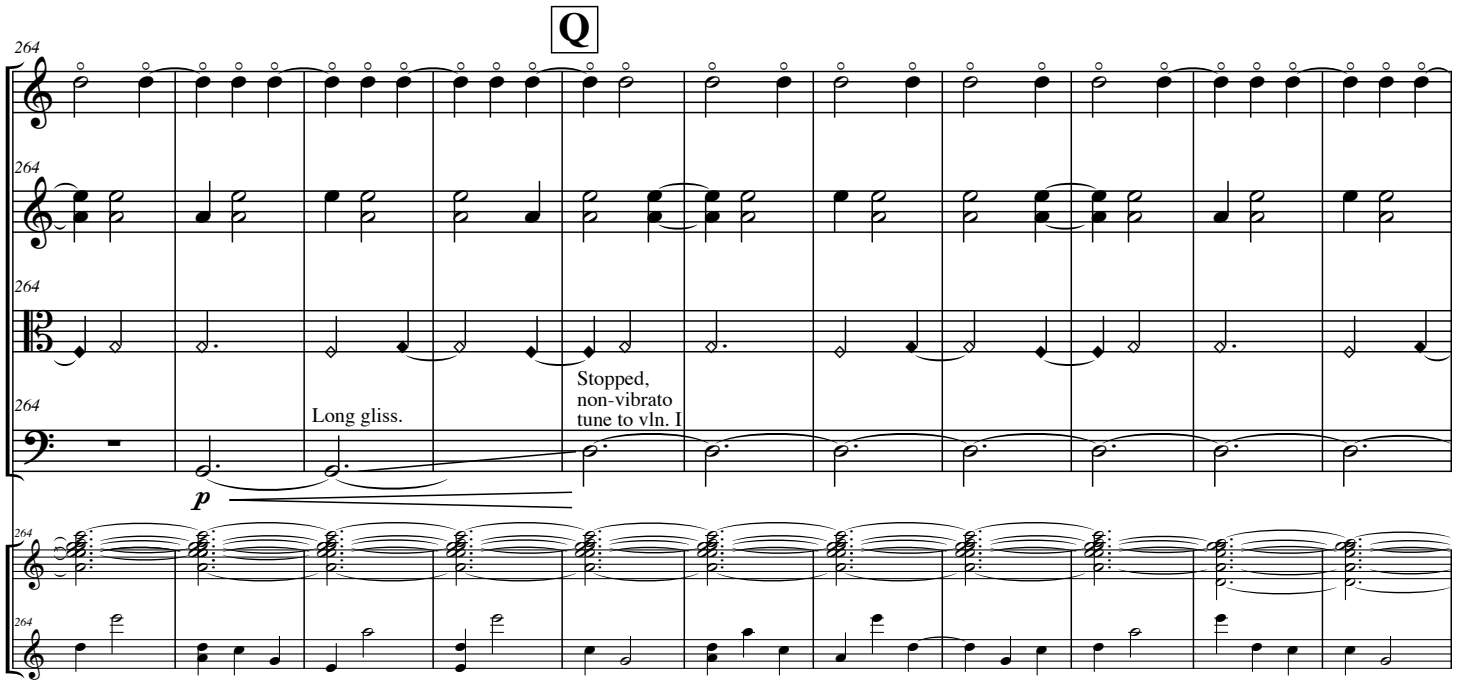
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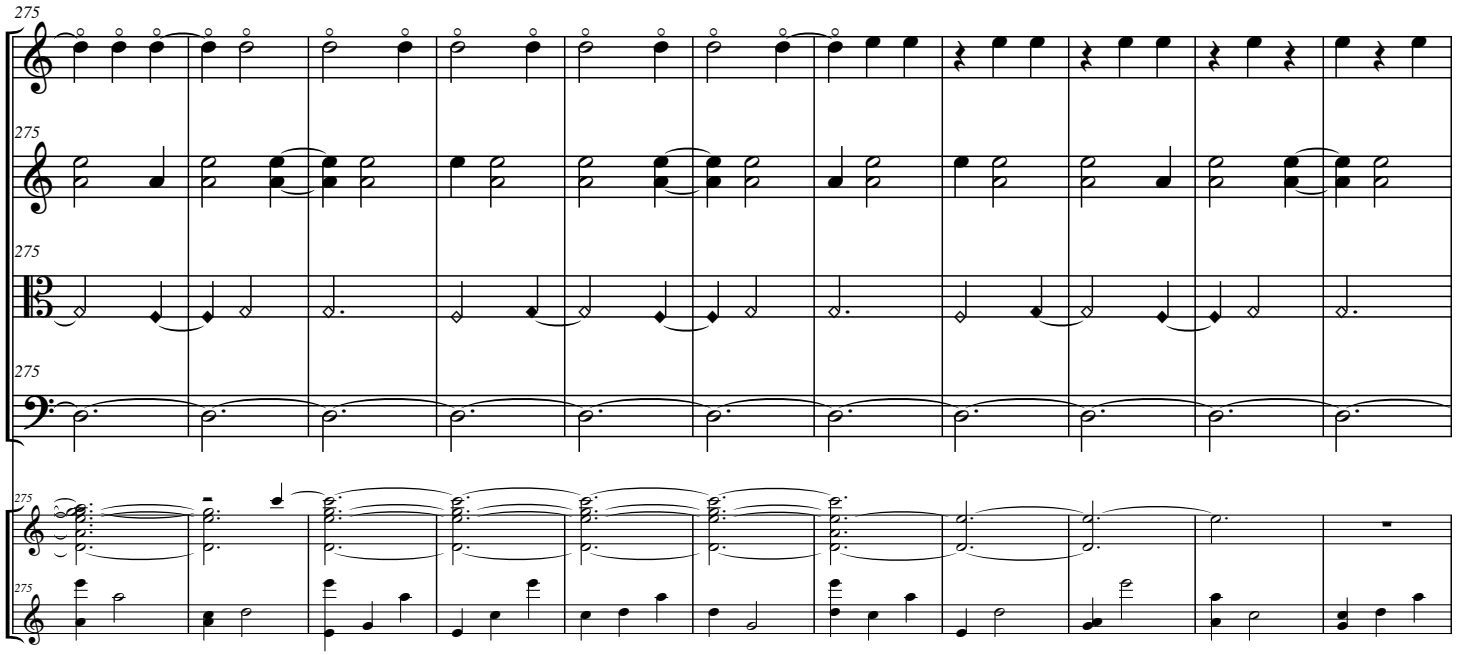
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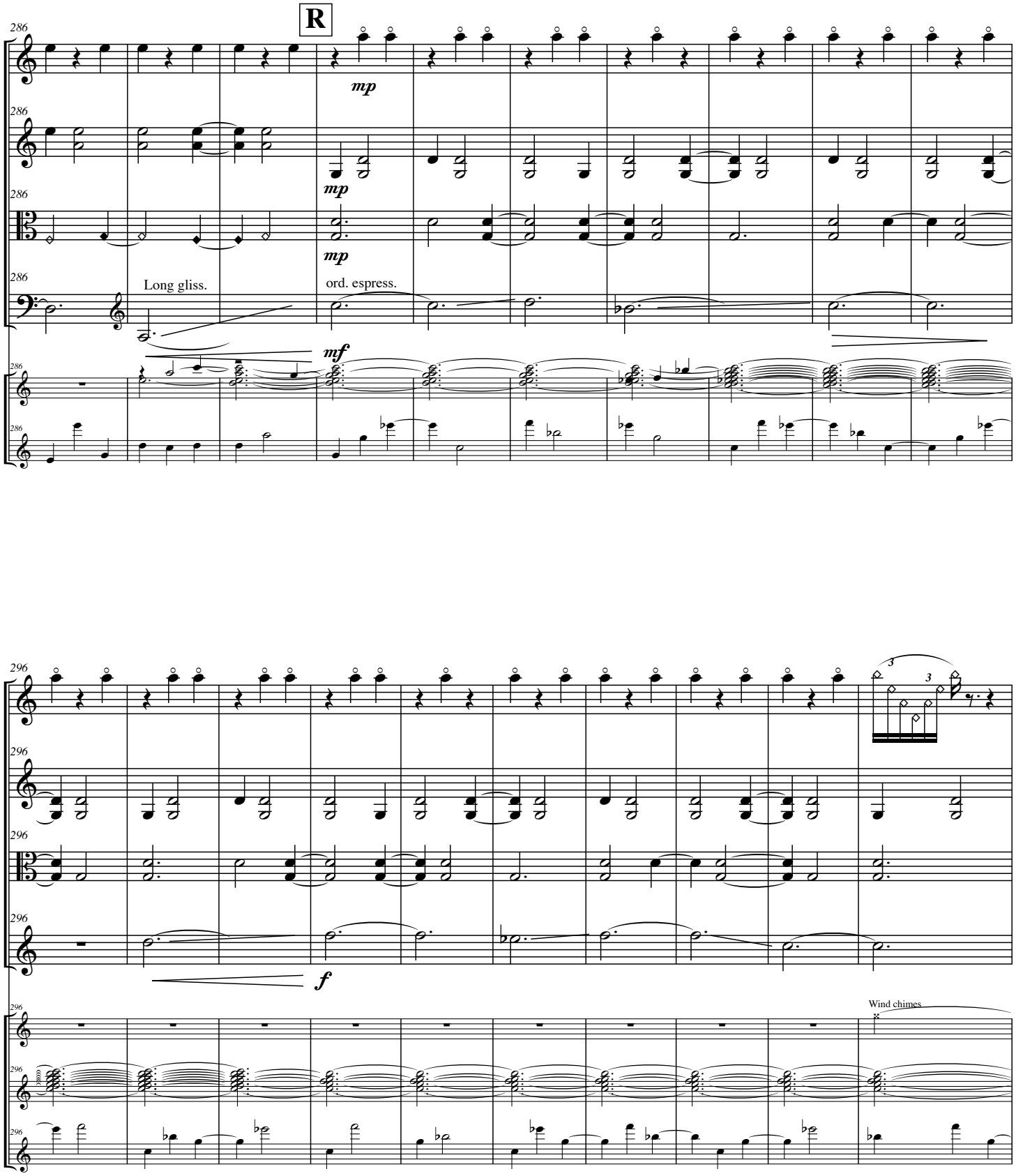
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Long gliss.
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mf
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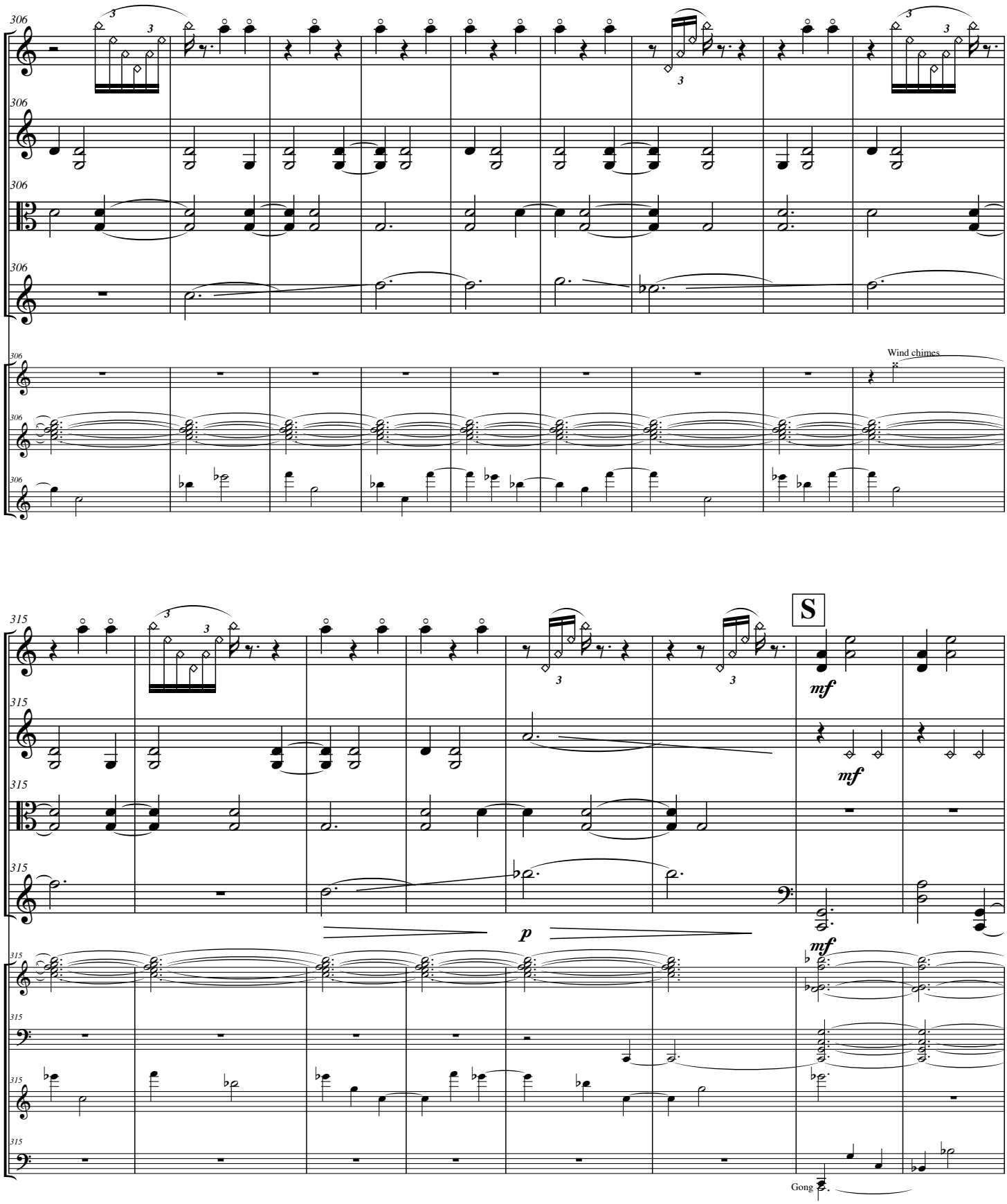
f
Wind chimes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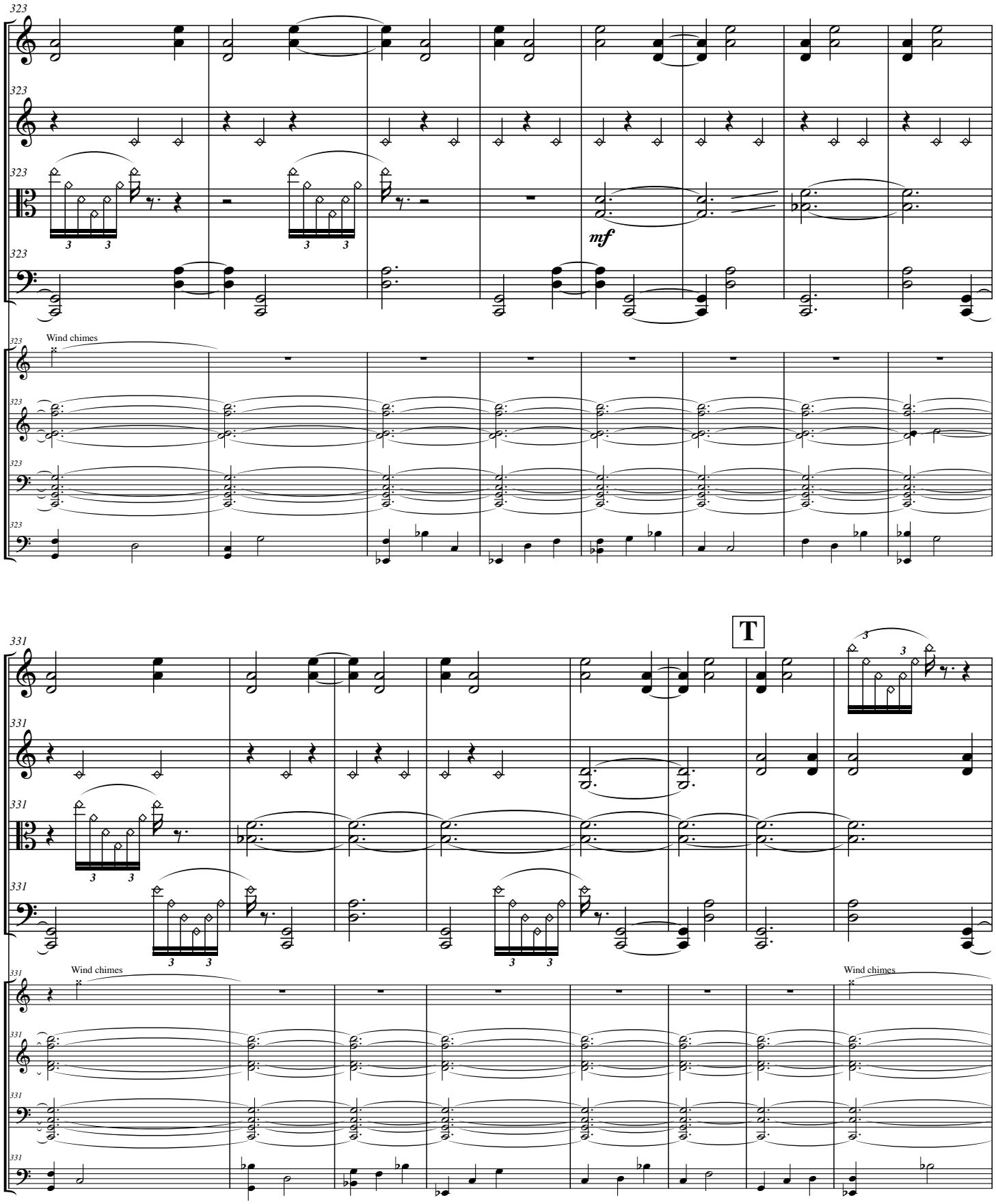
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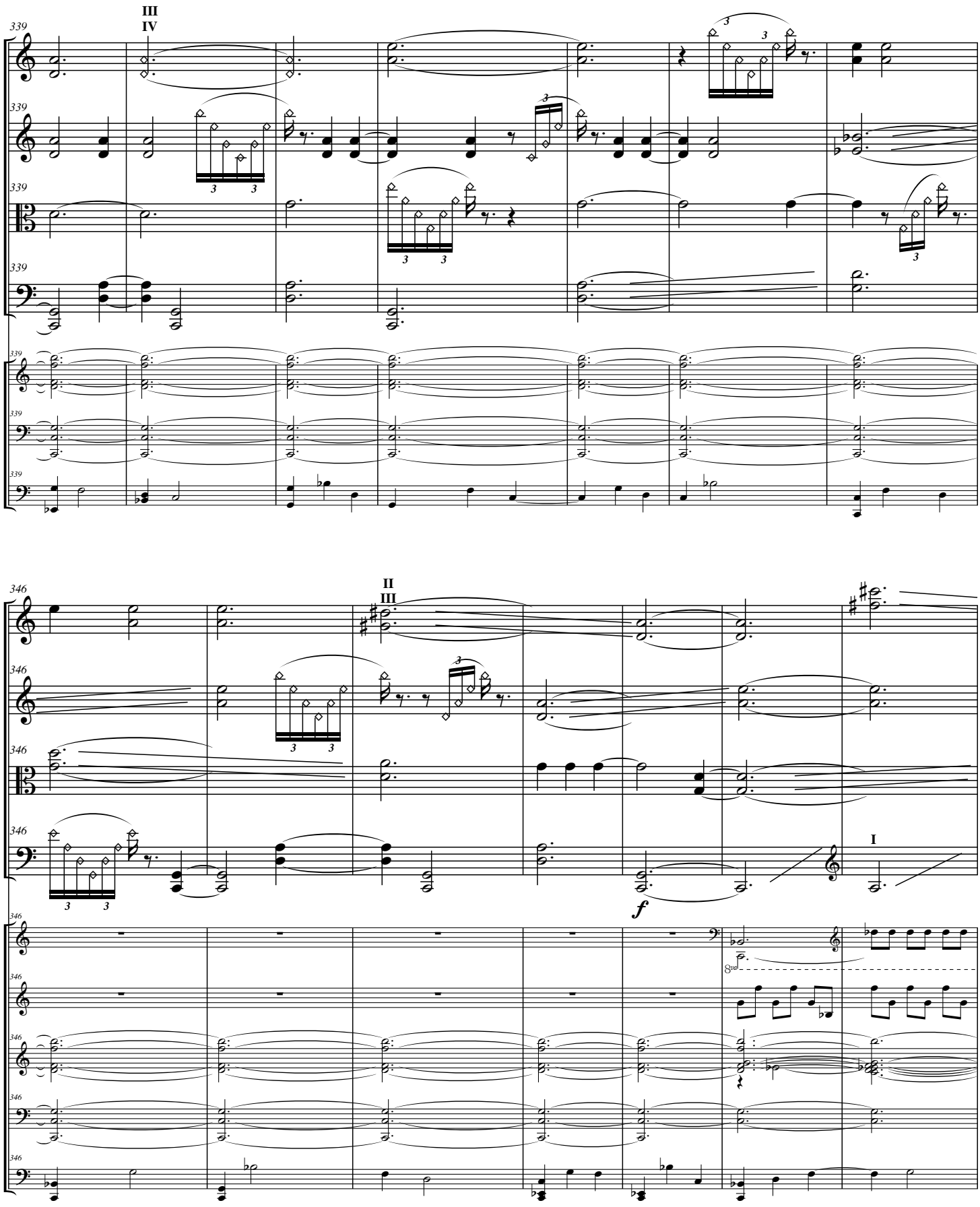
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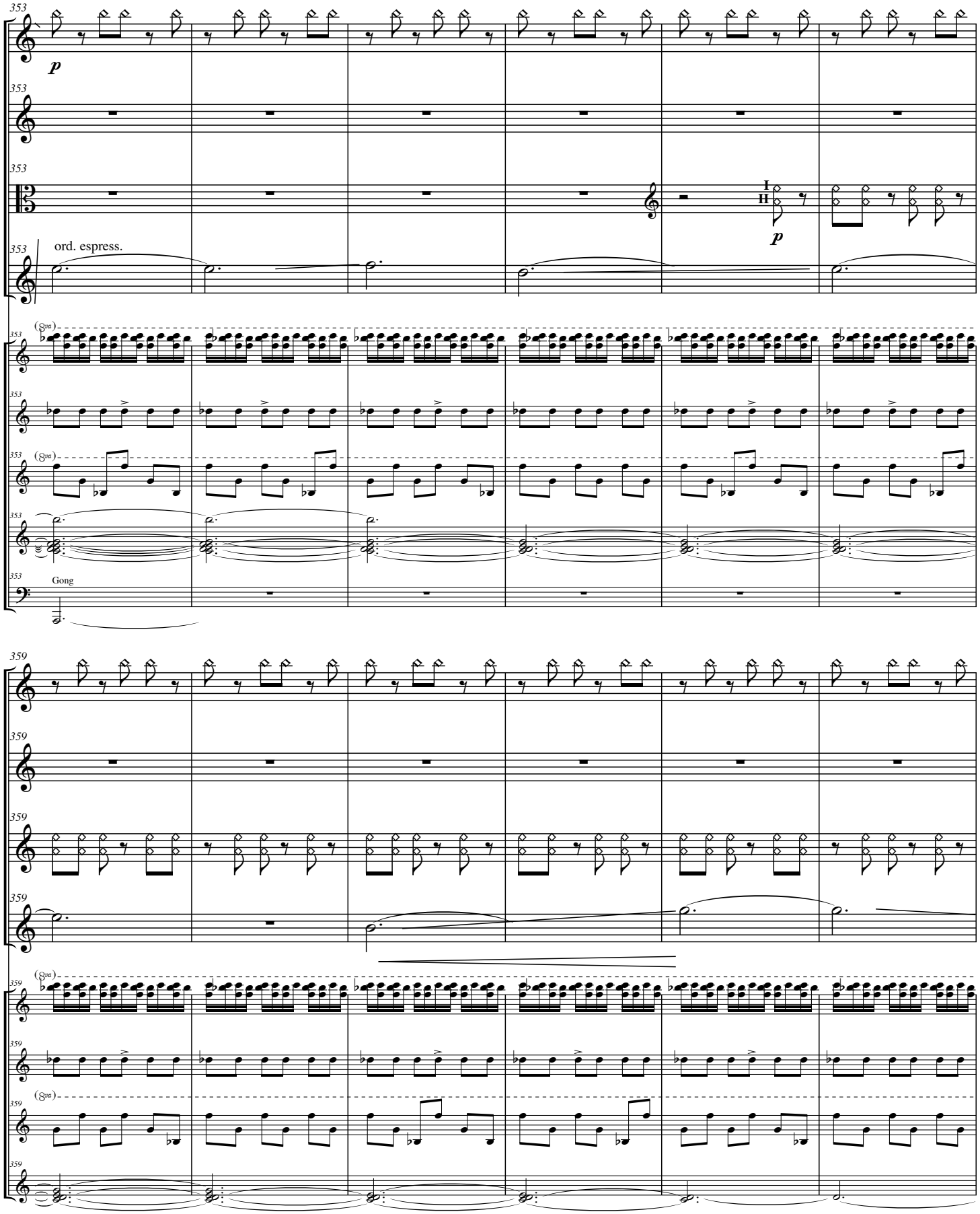

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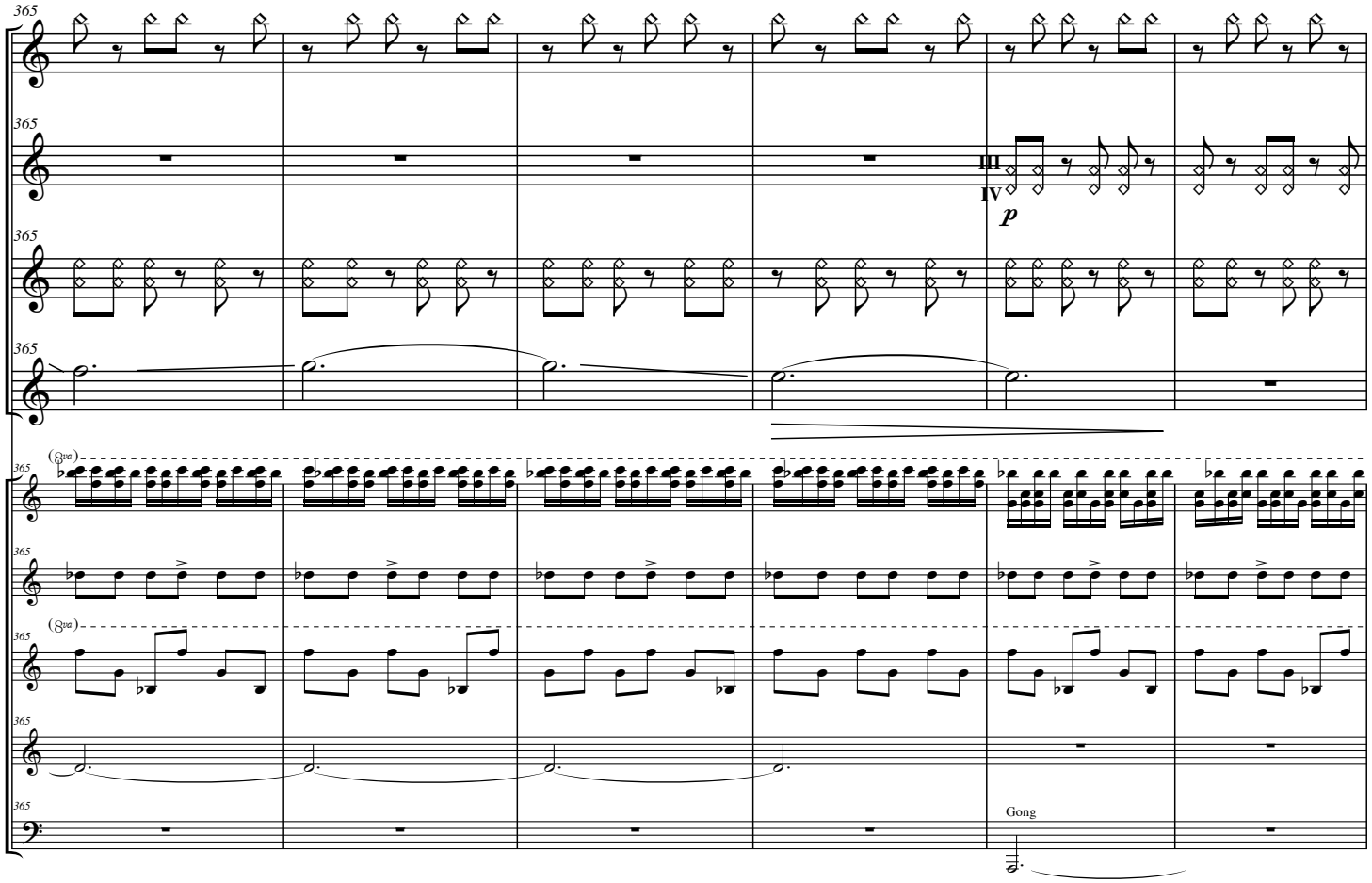

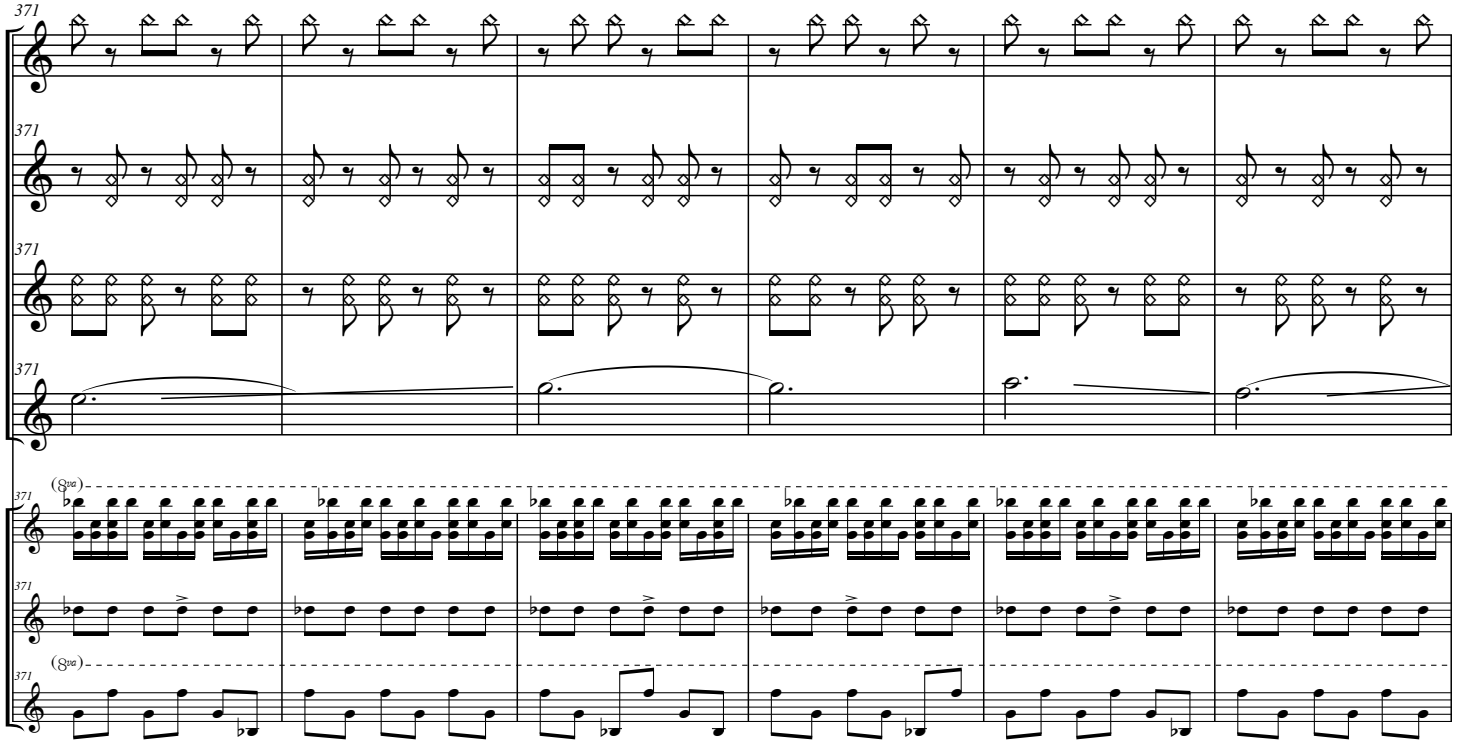

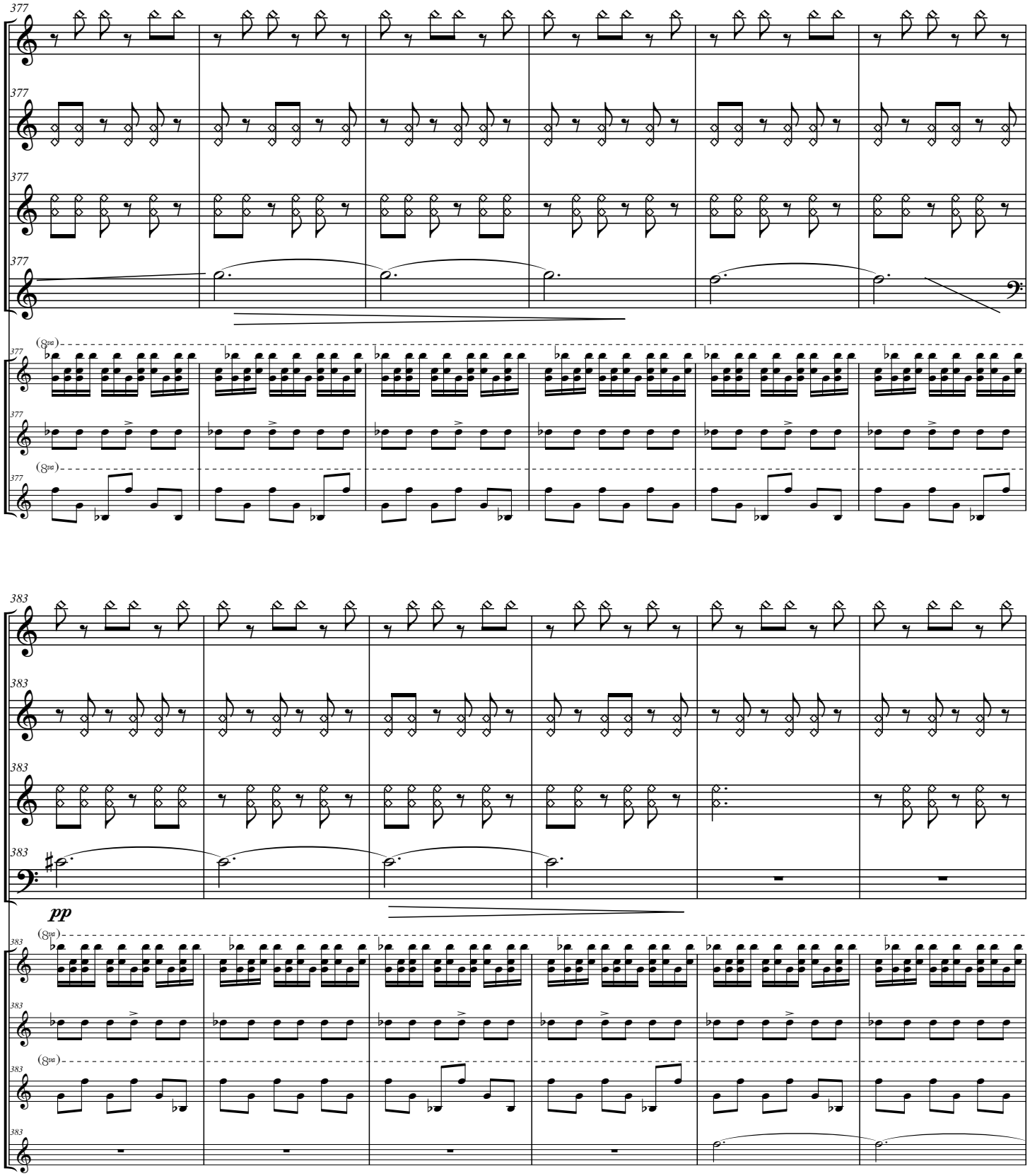
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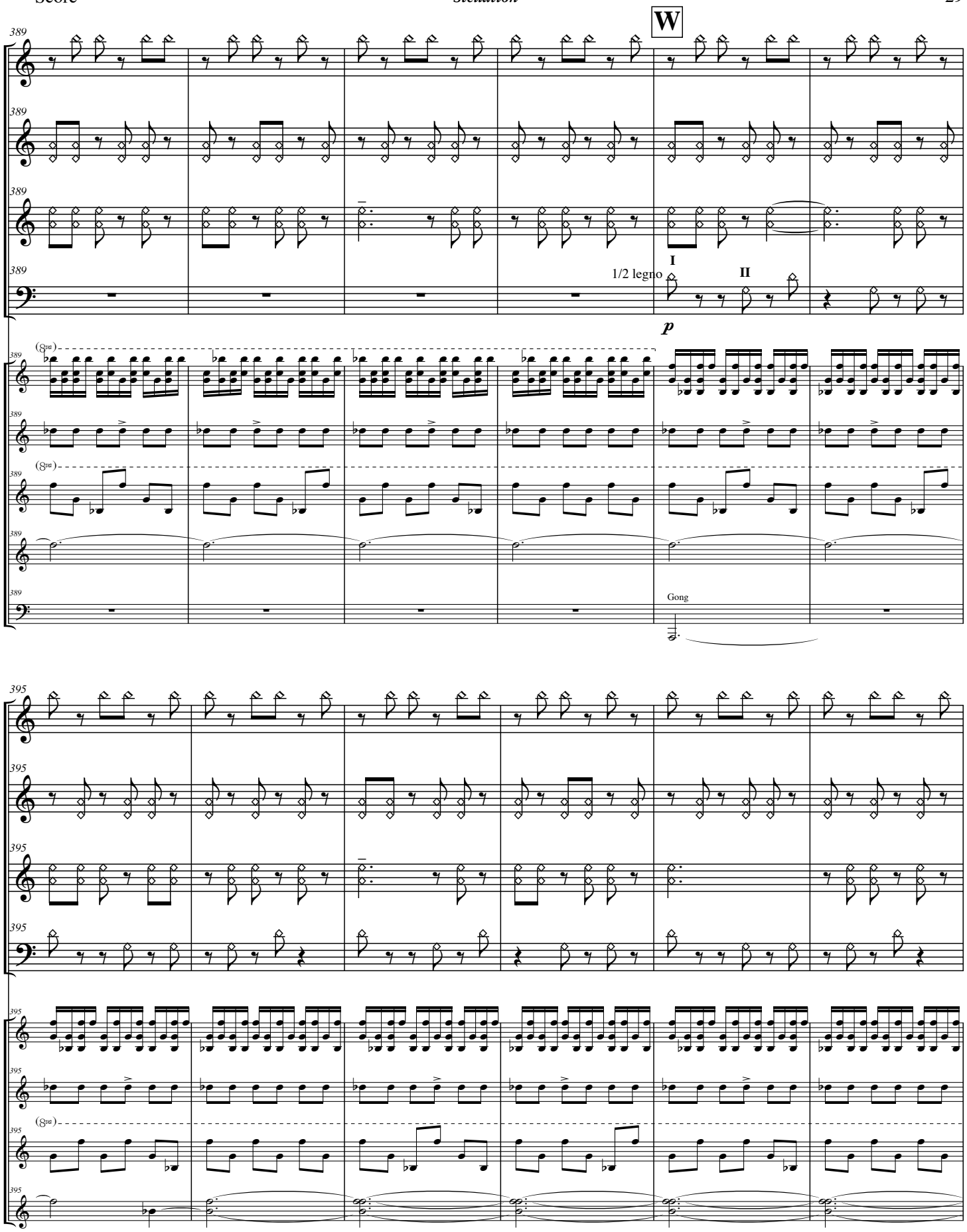
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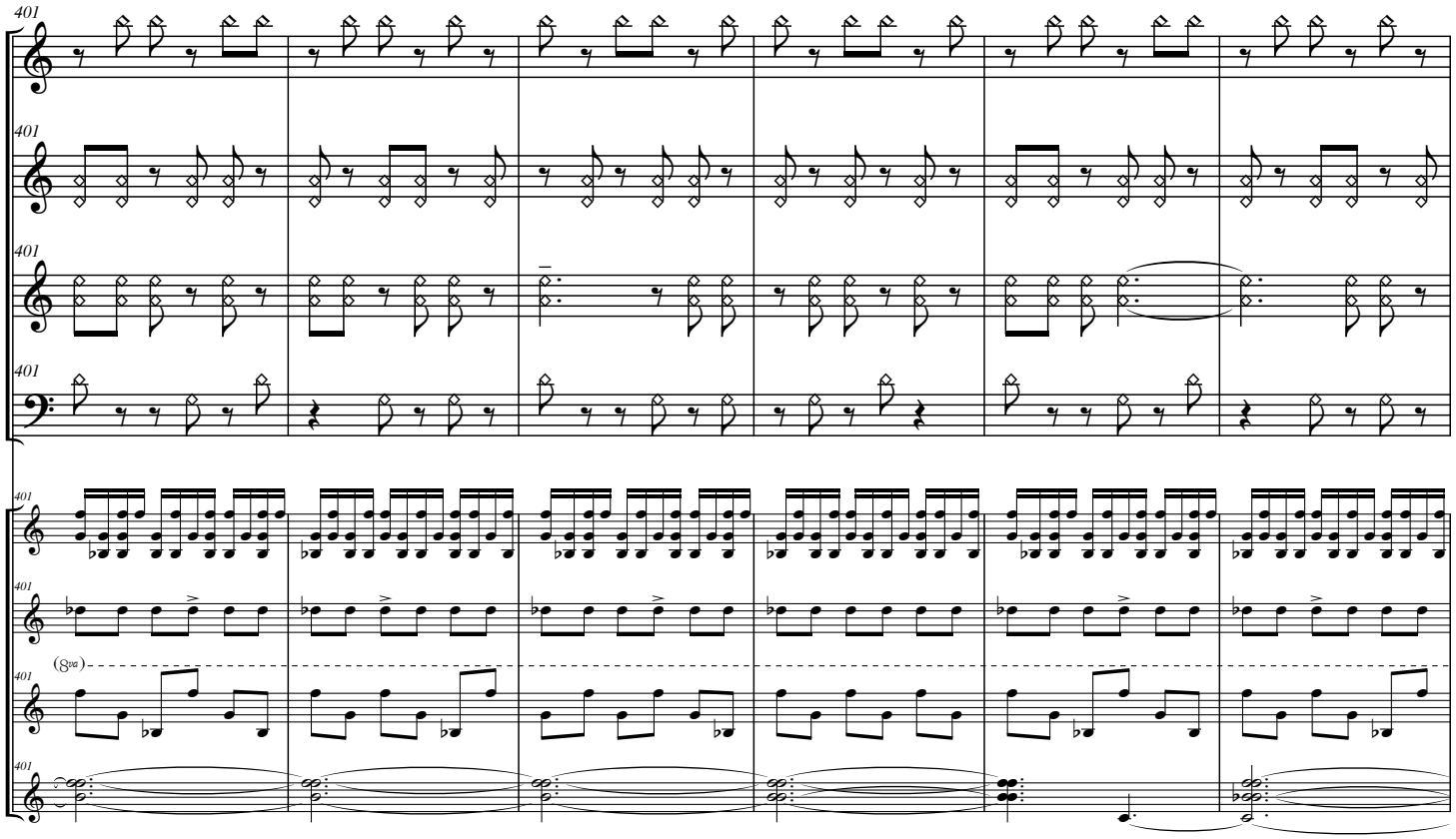
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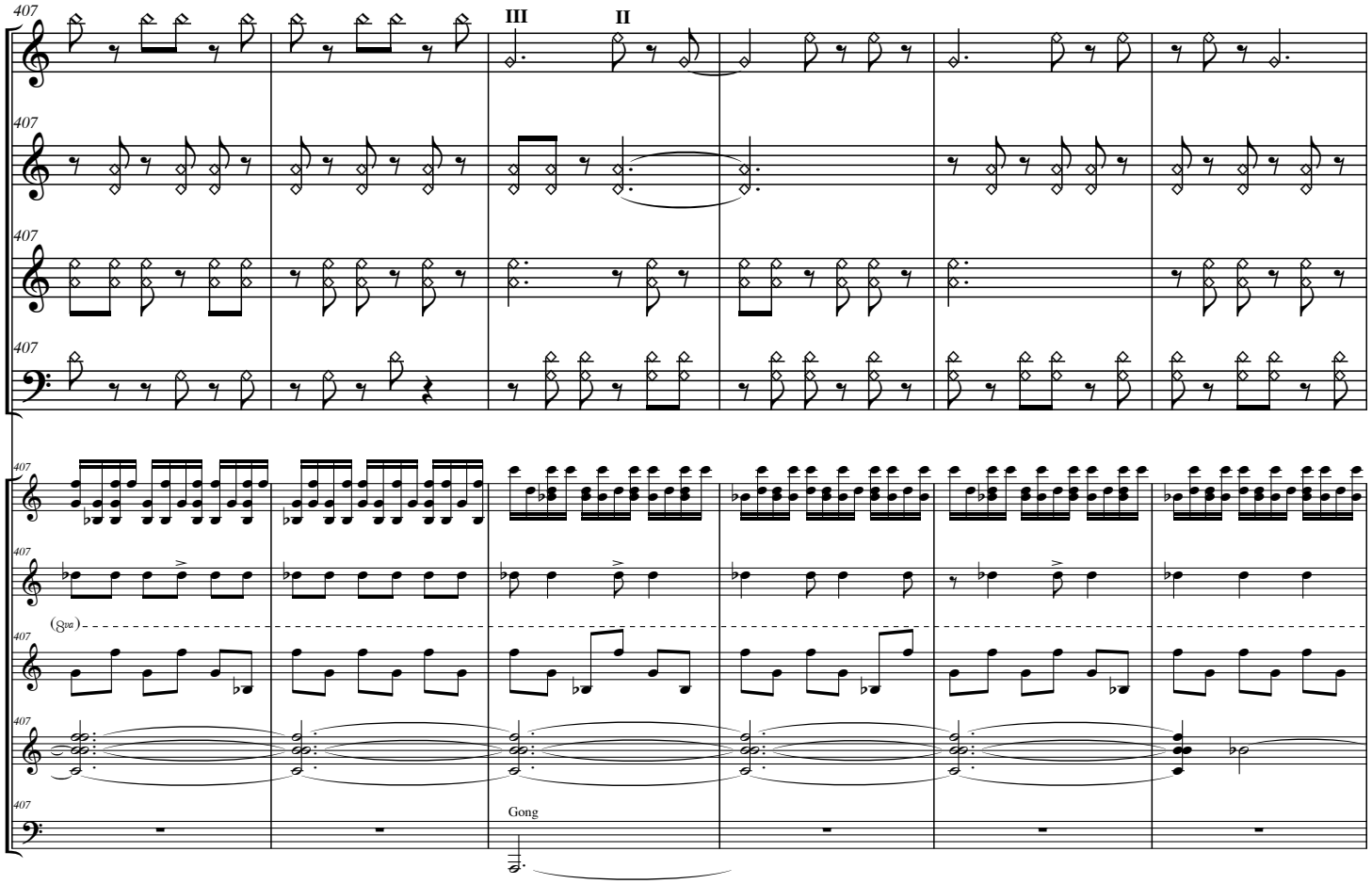
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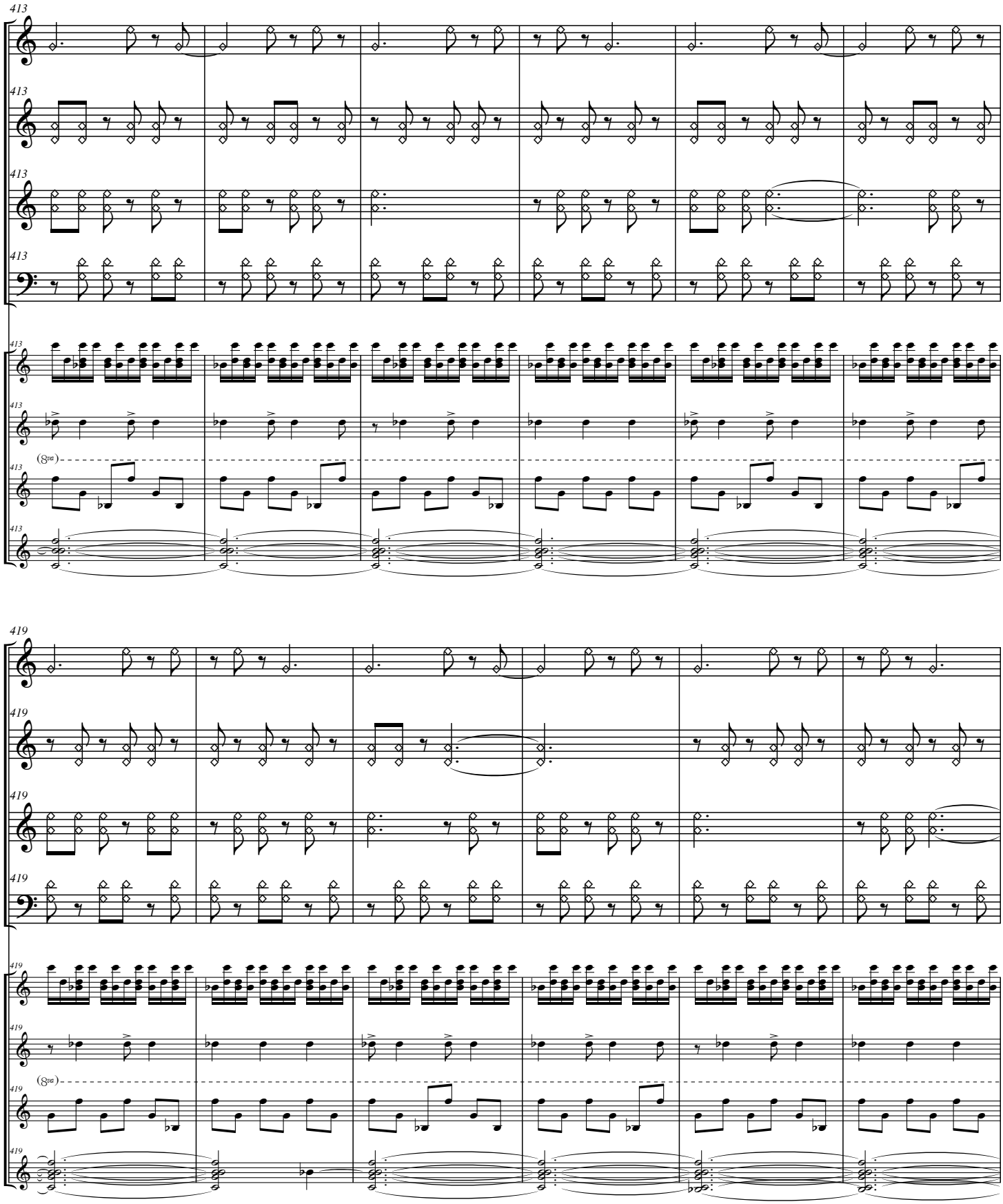
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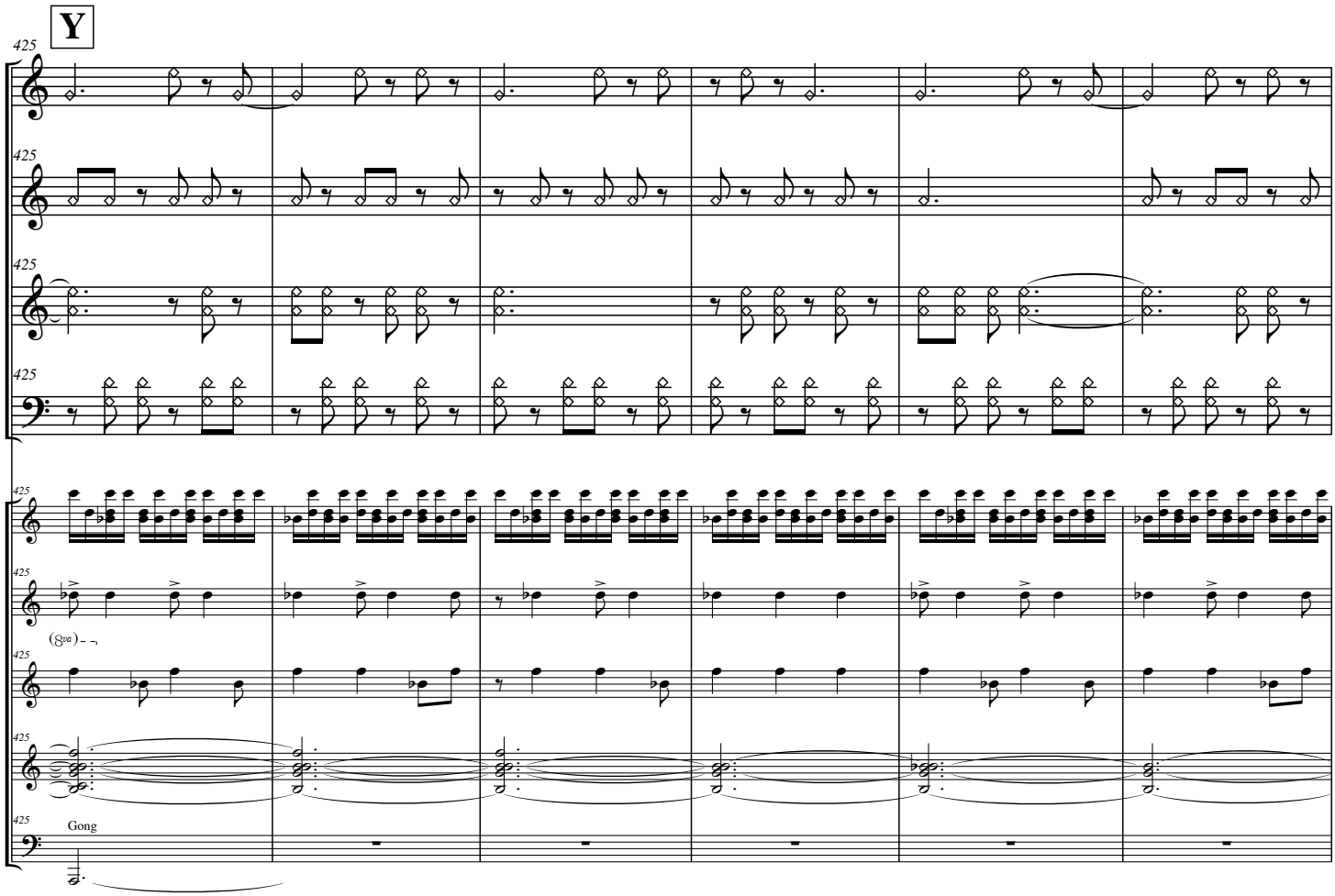
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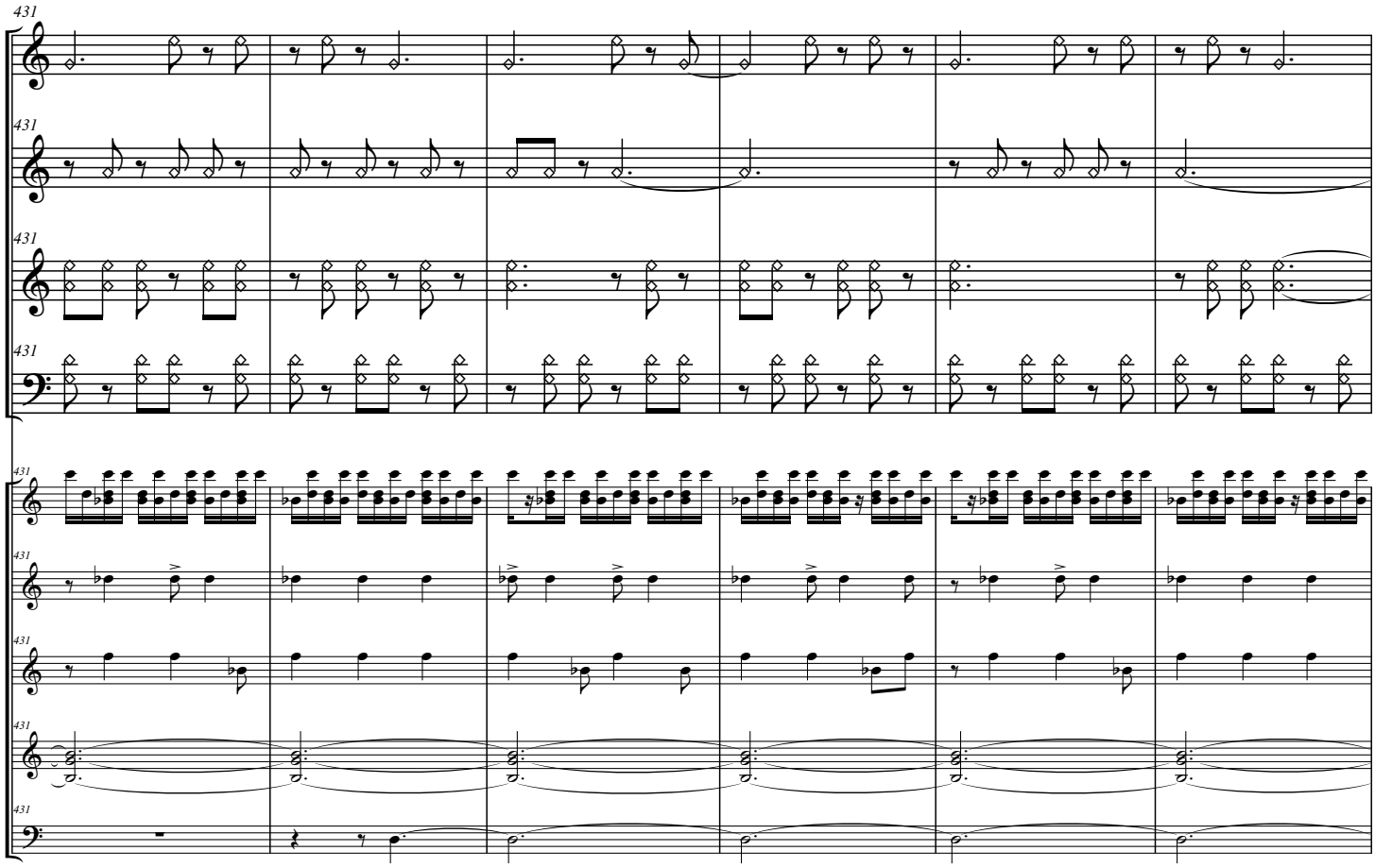
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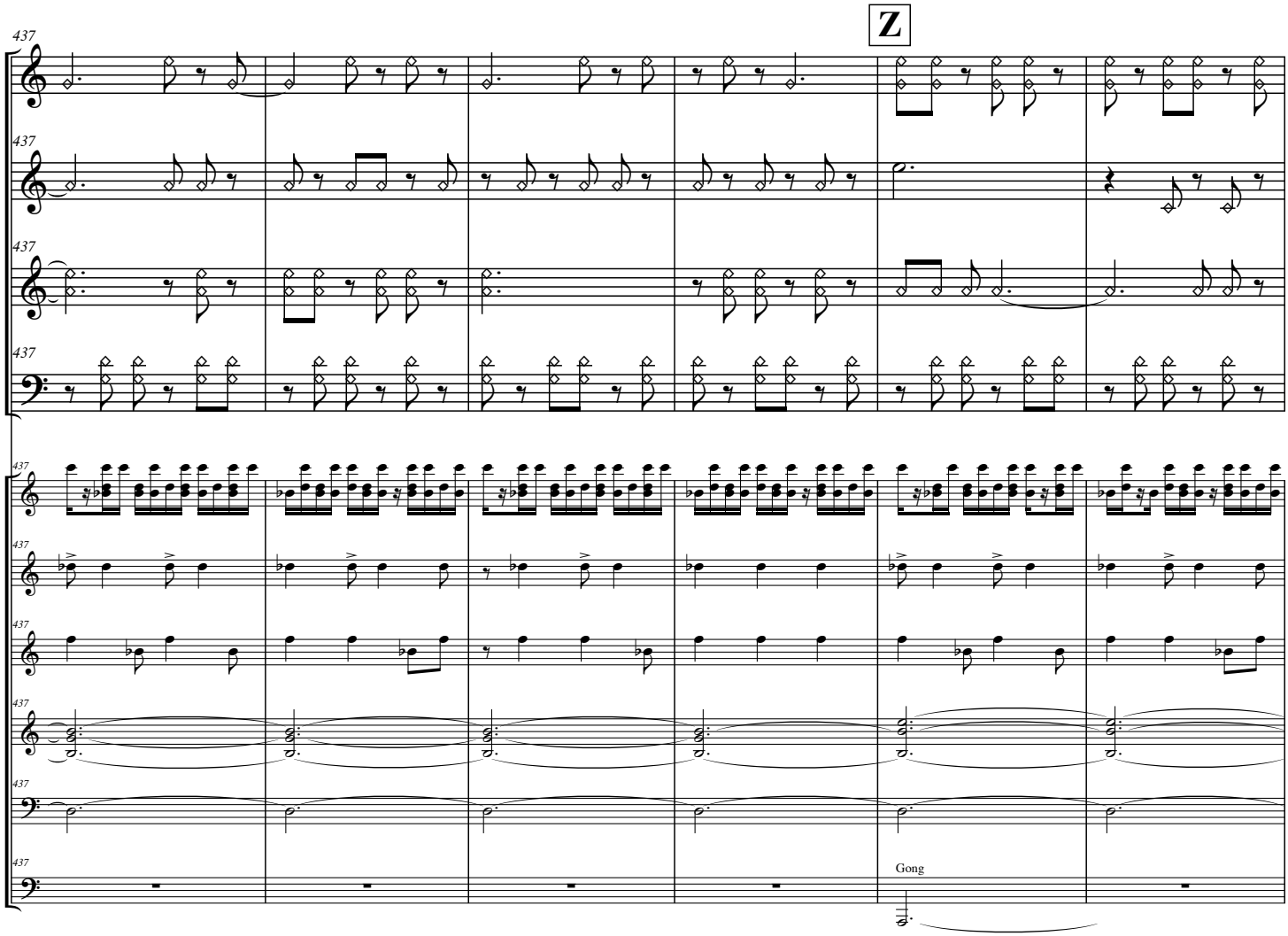
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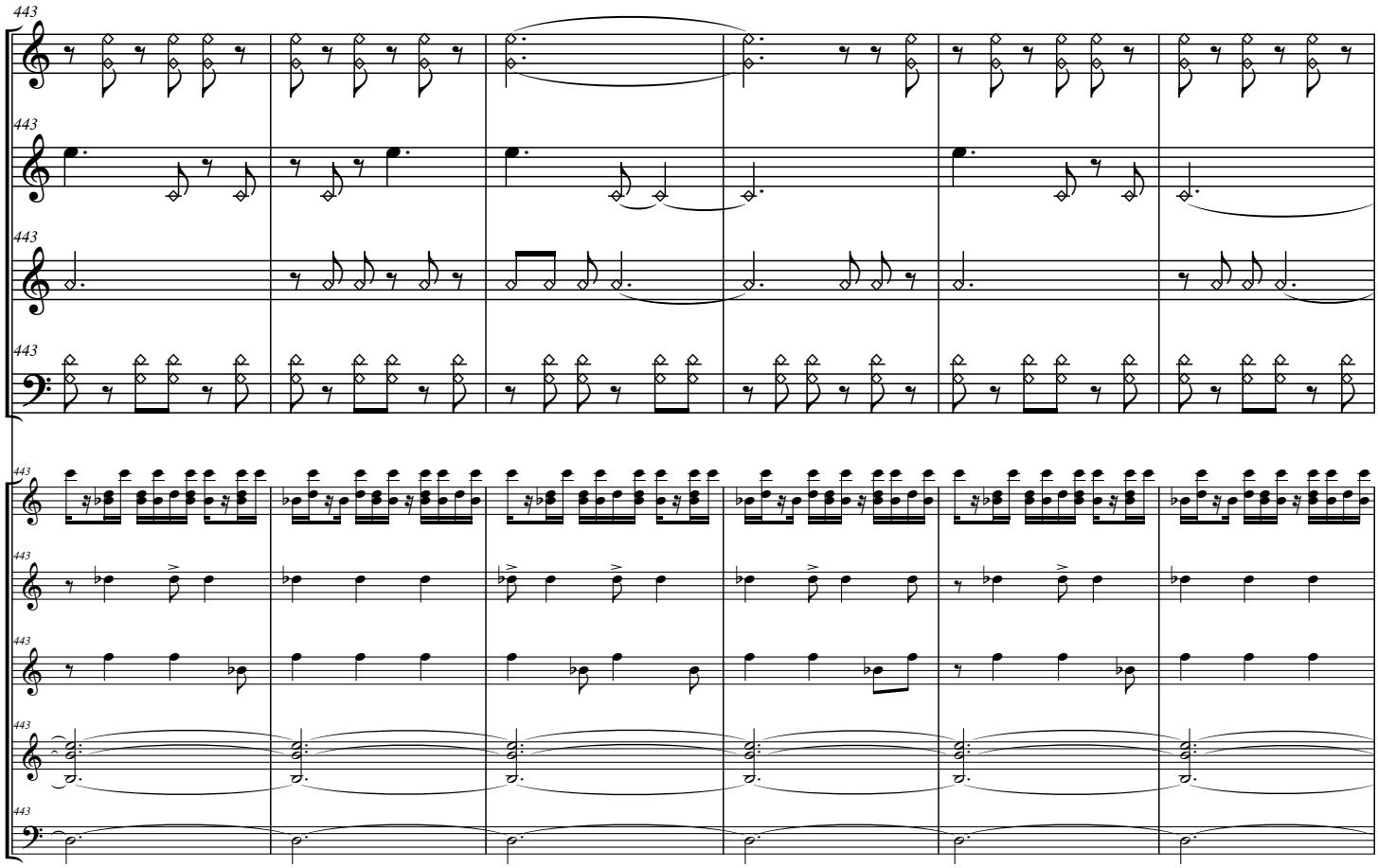
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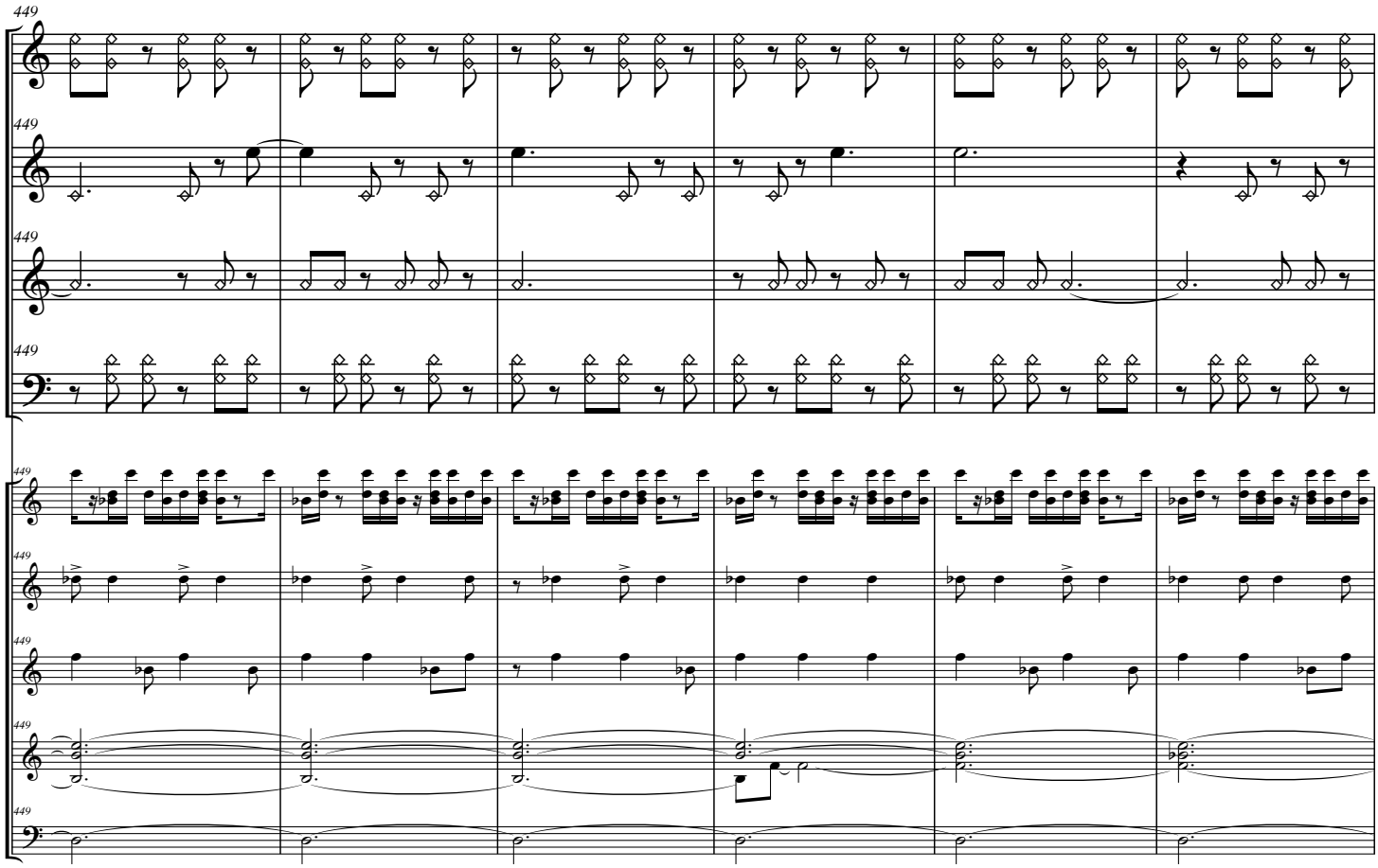
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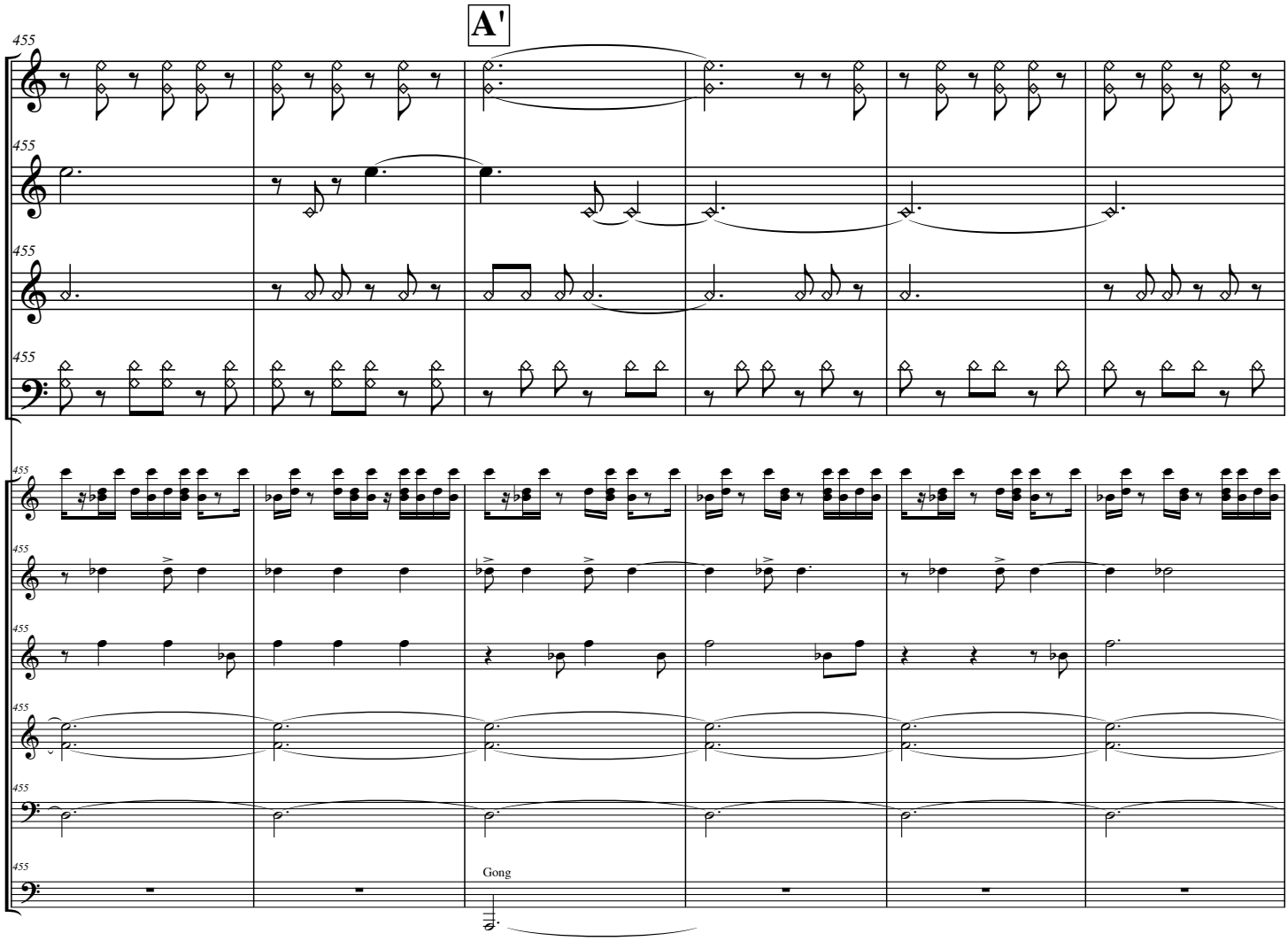
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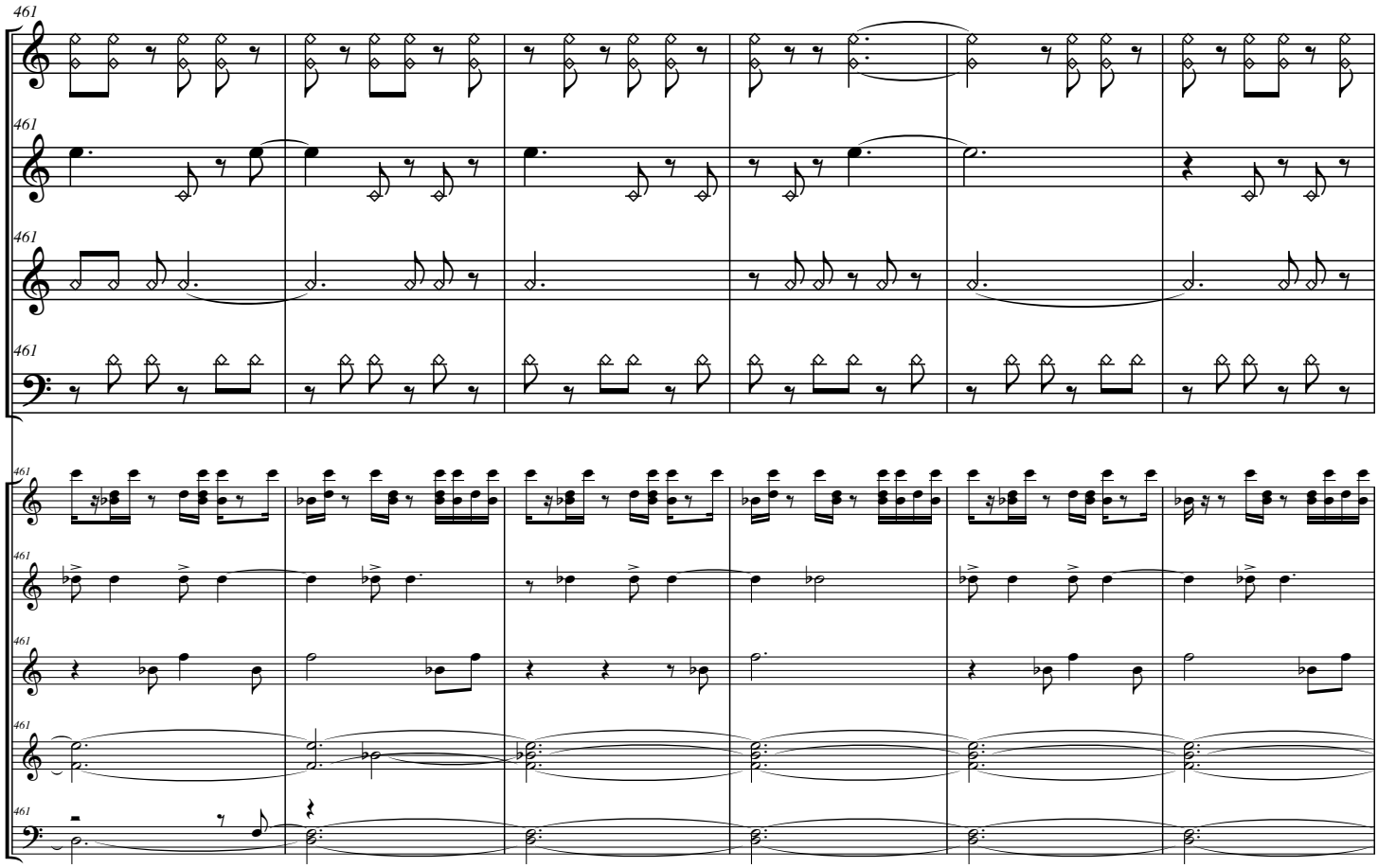
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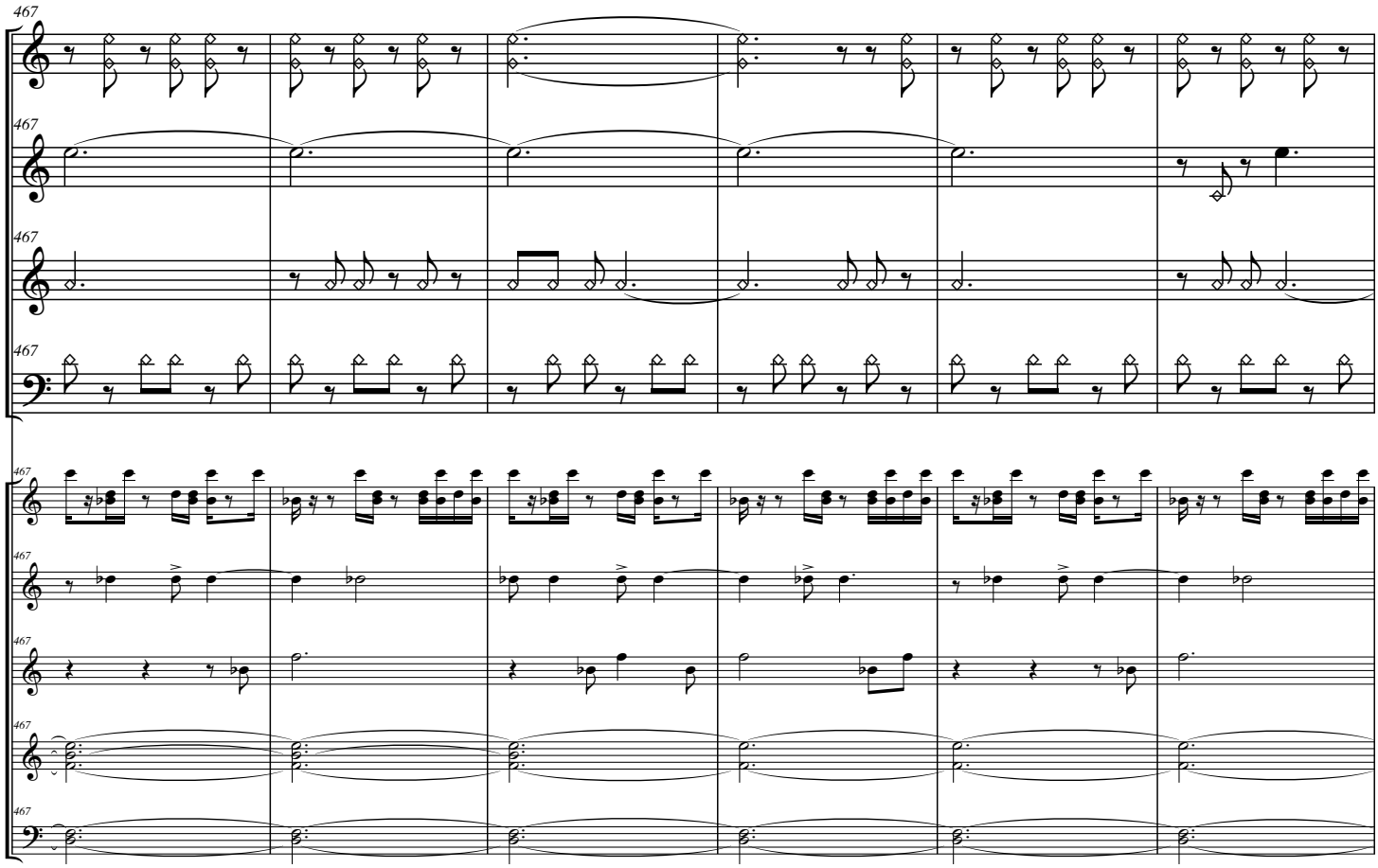
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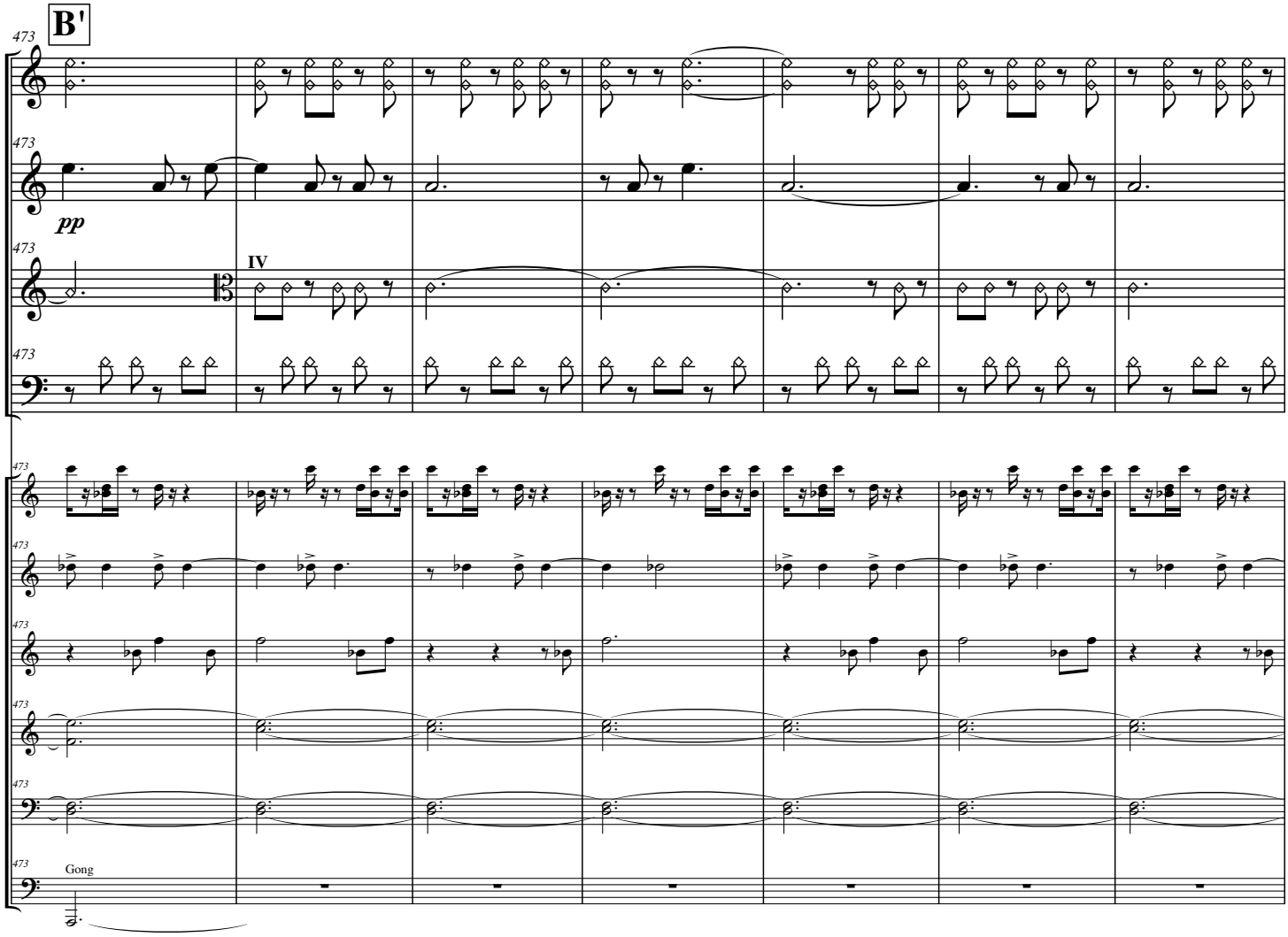
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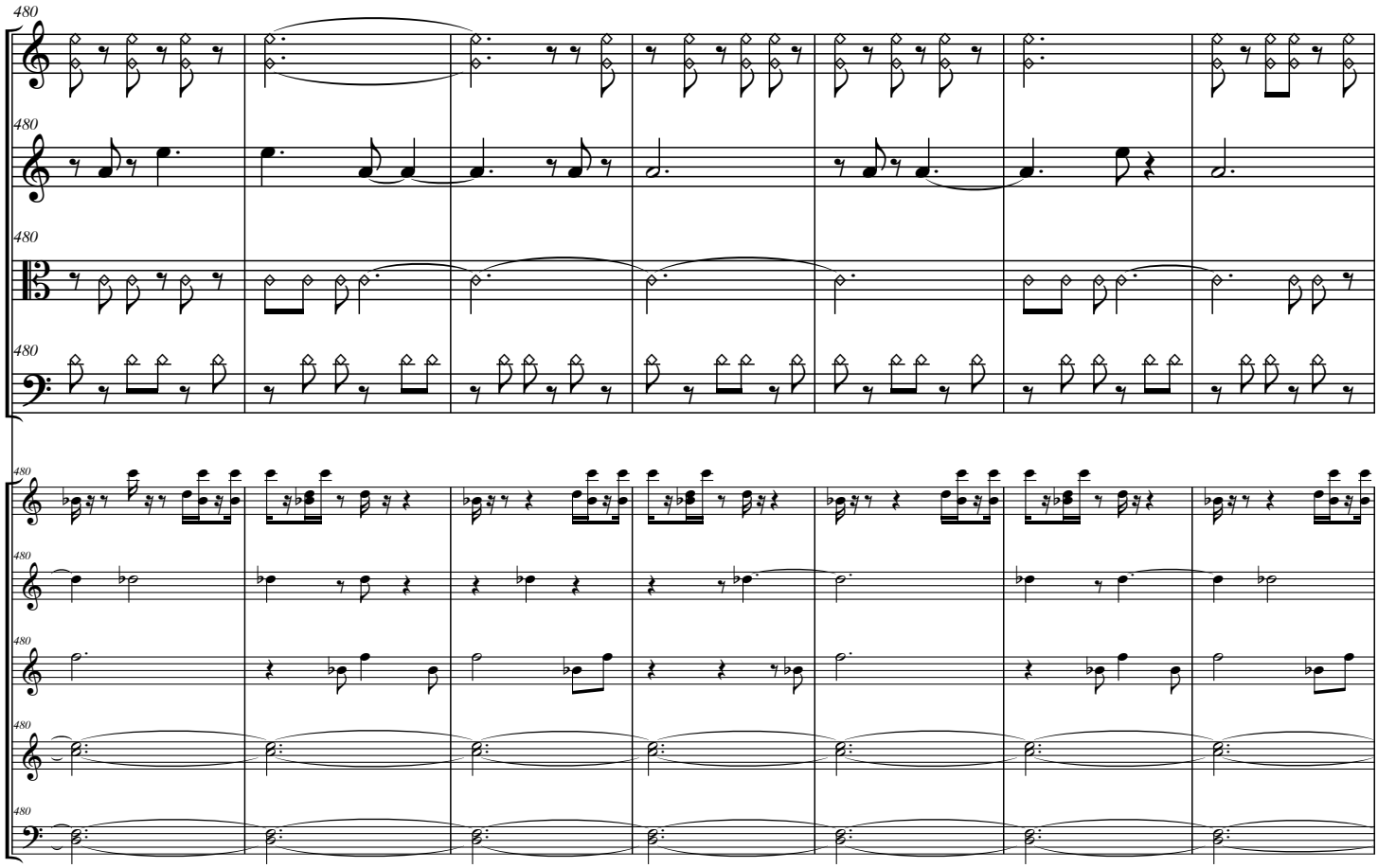
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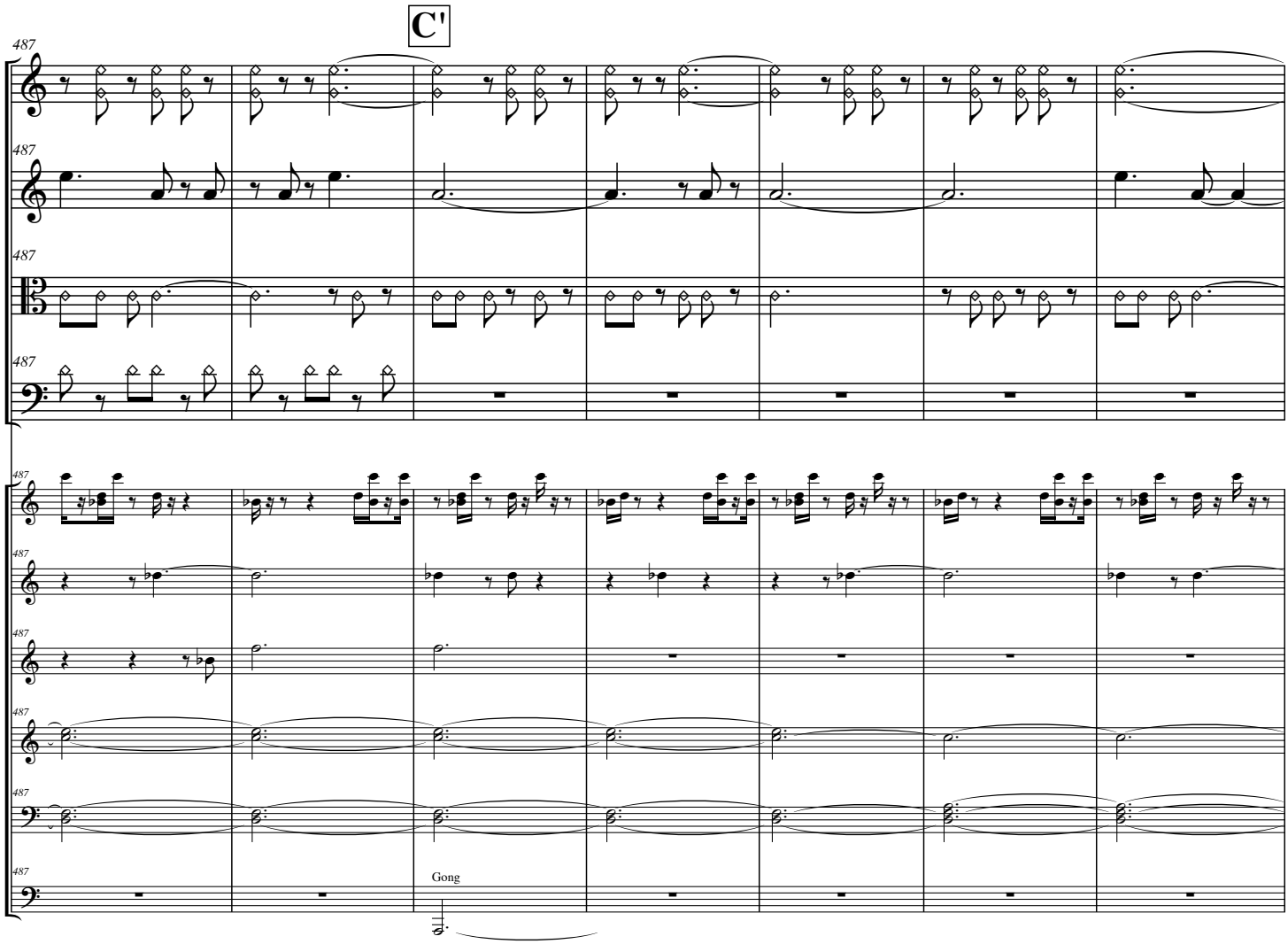
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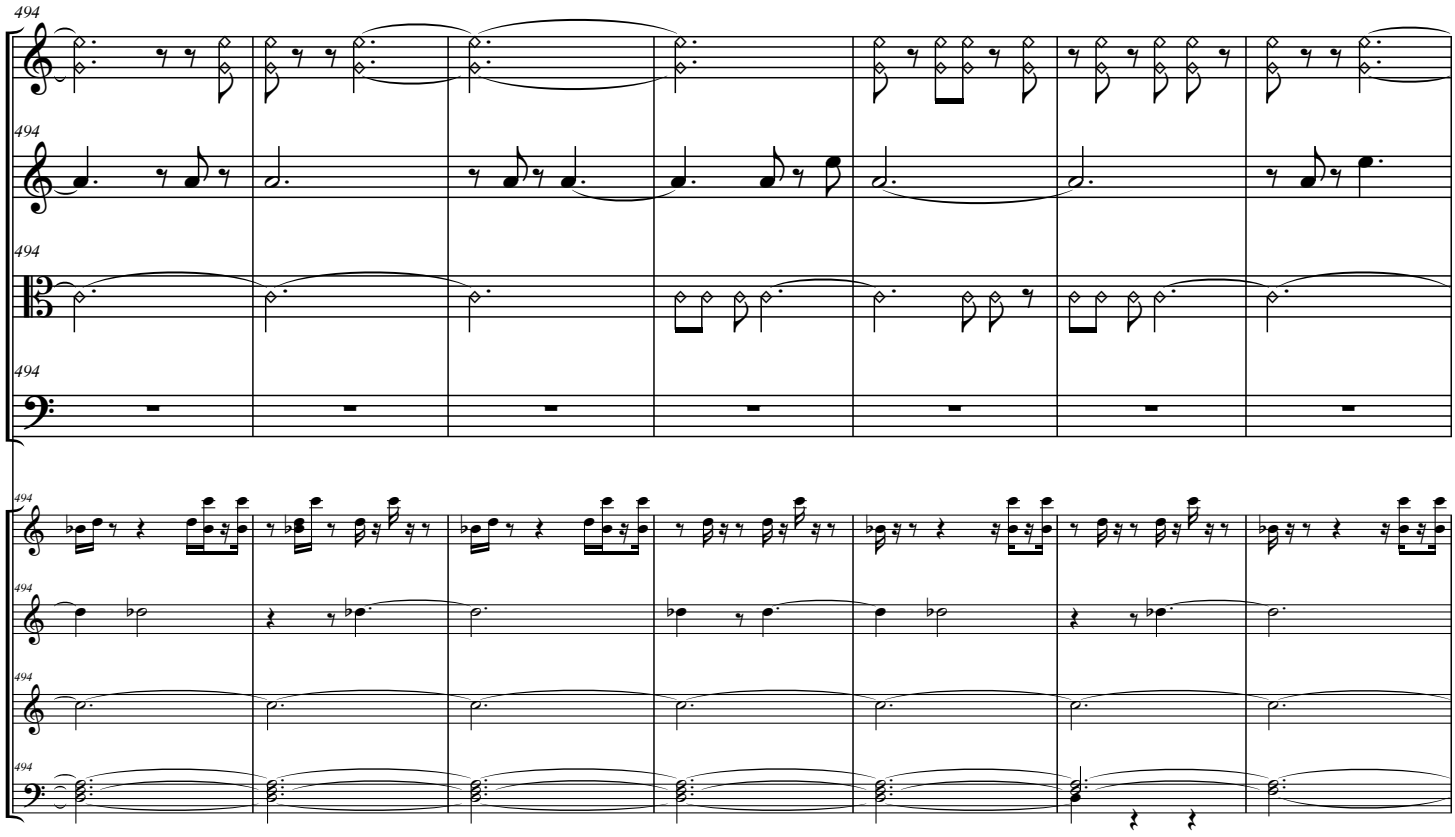
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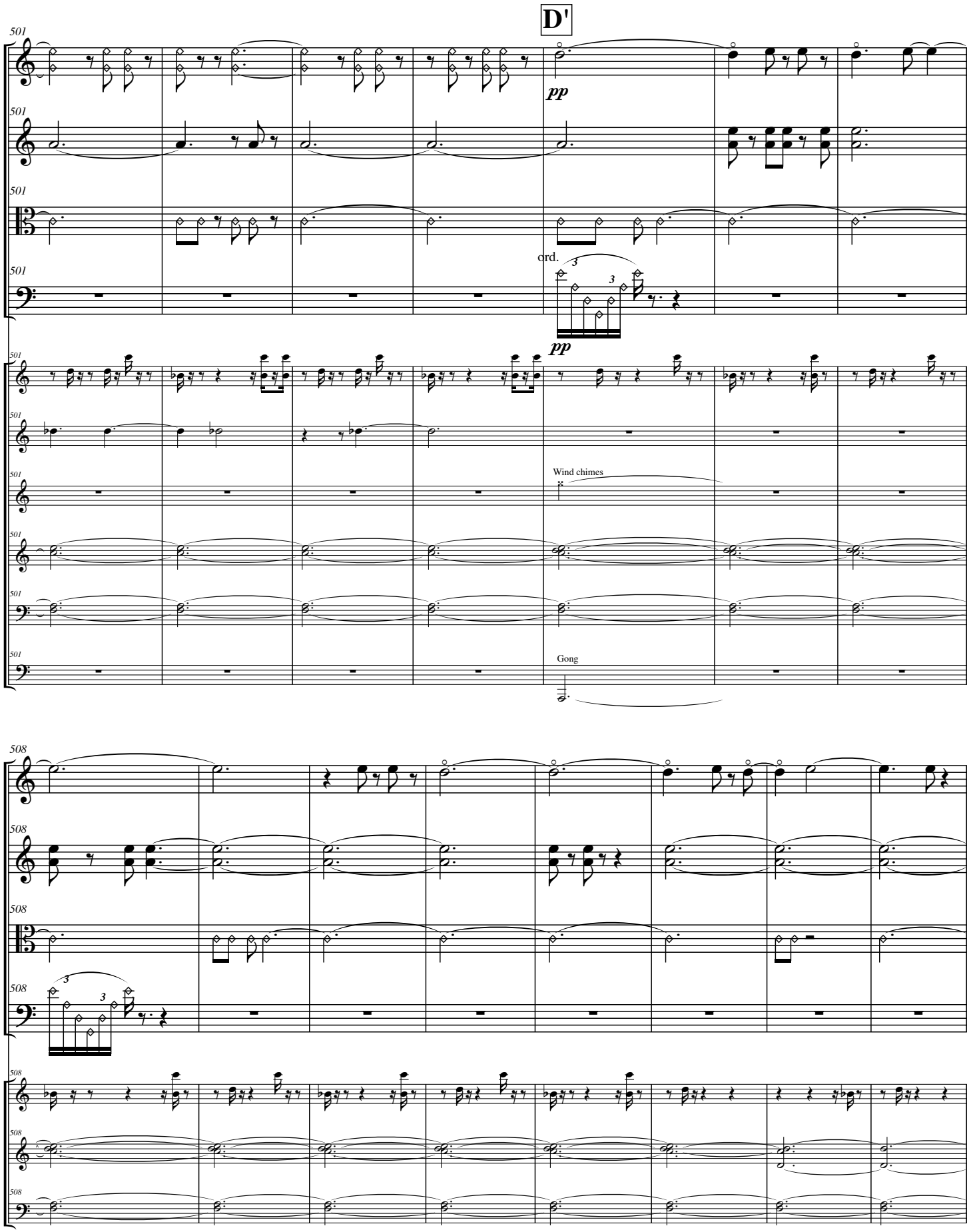
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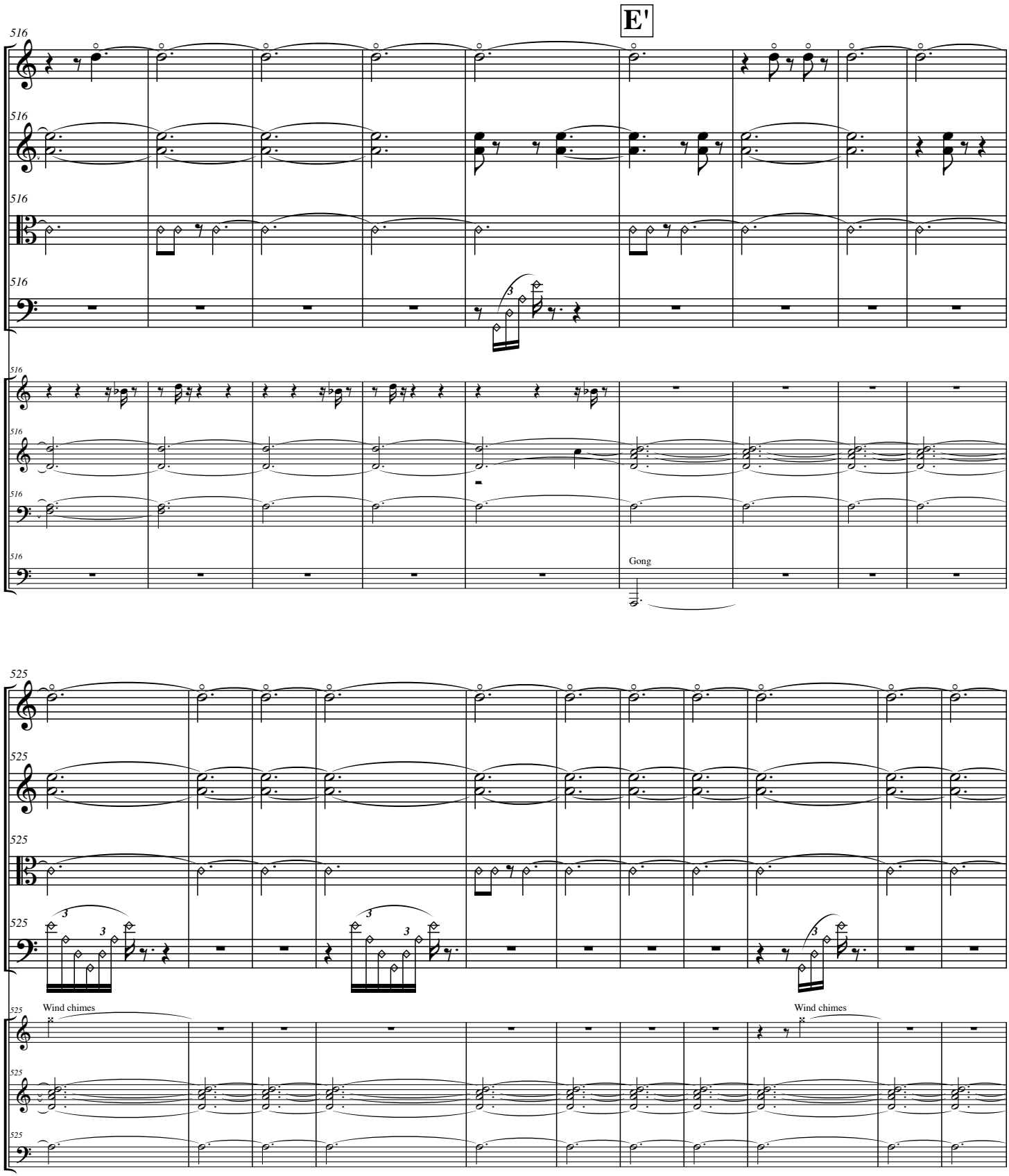
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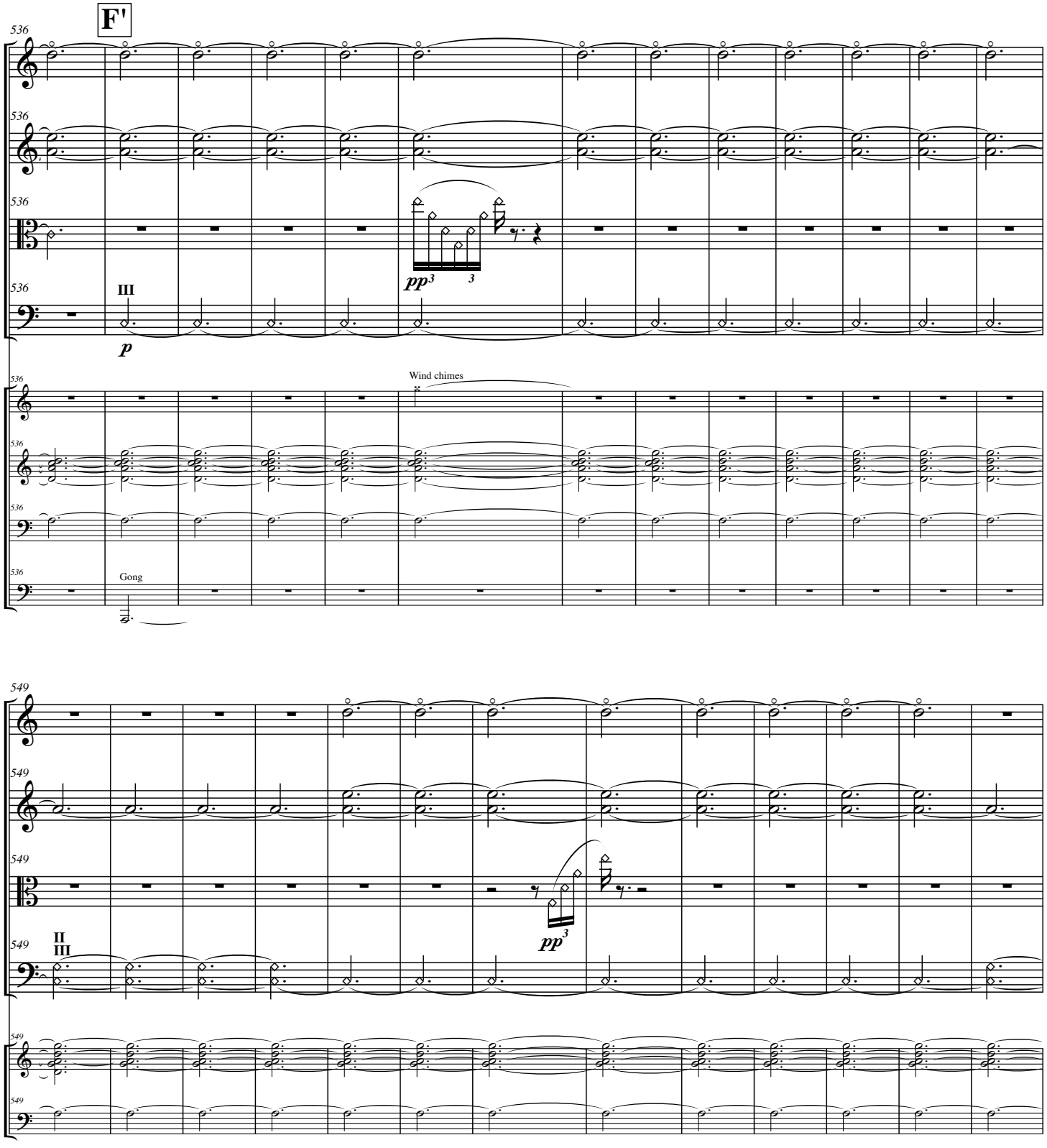
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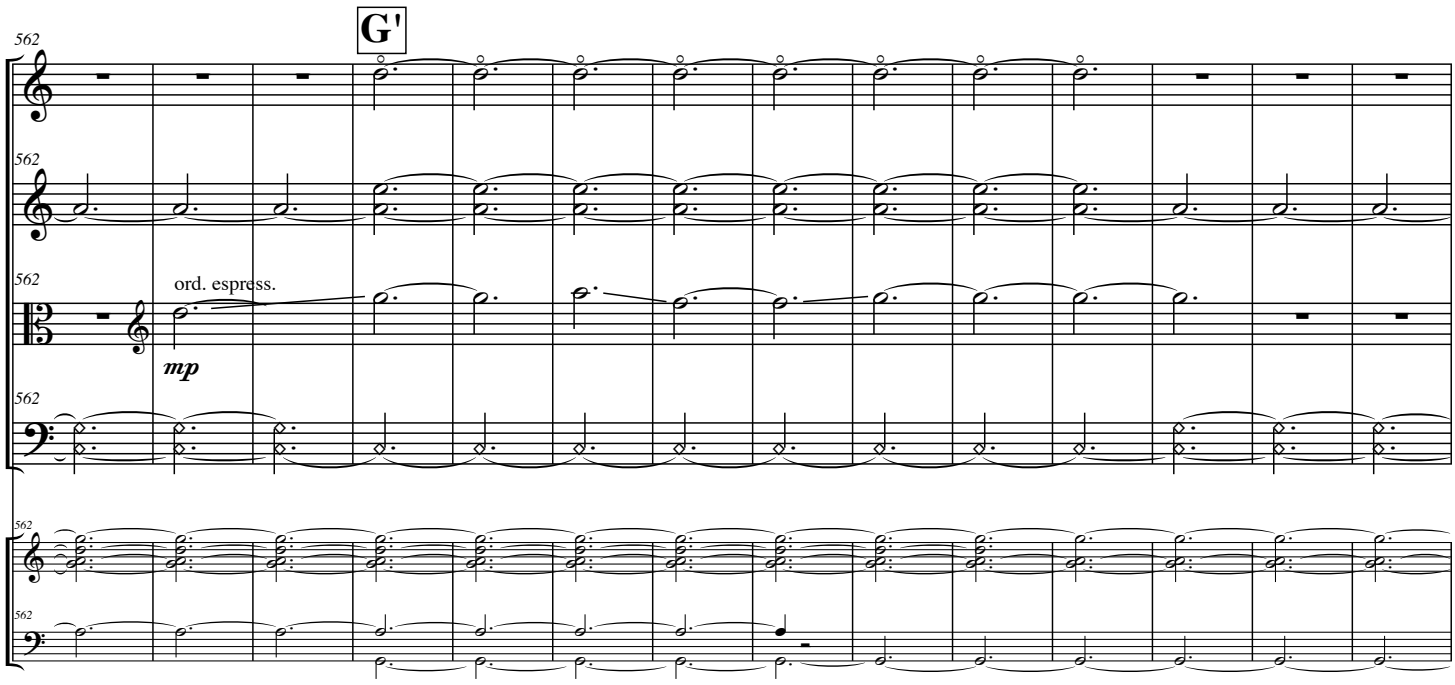
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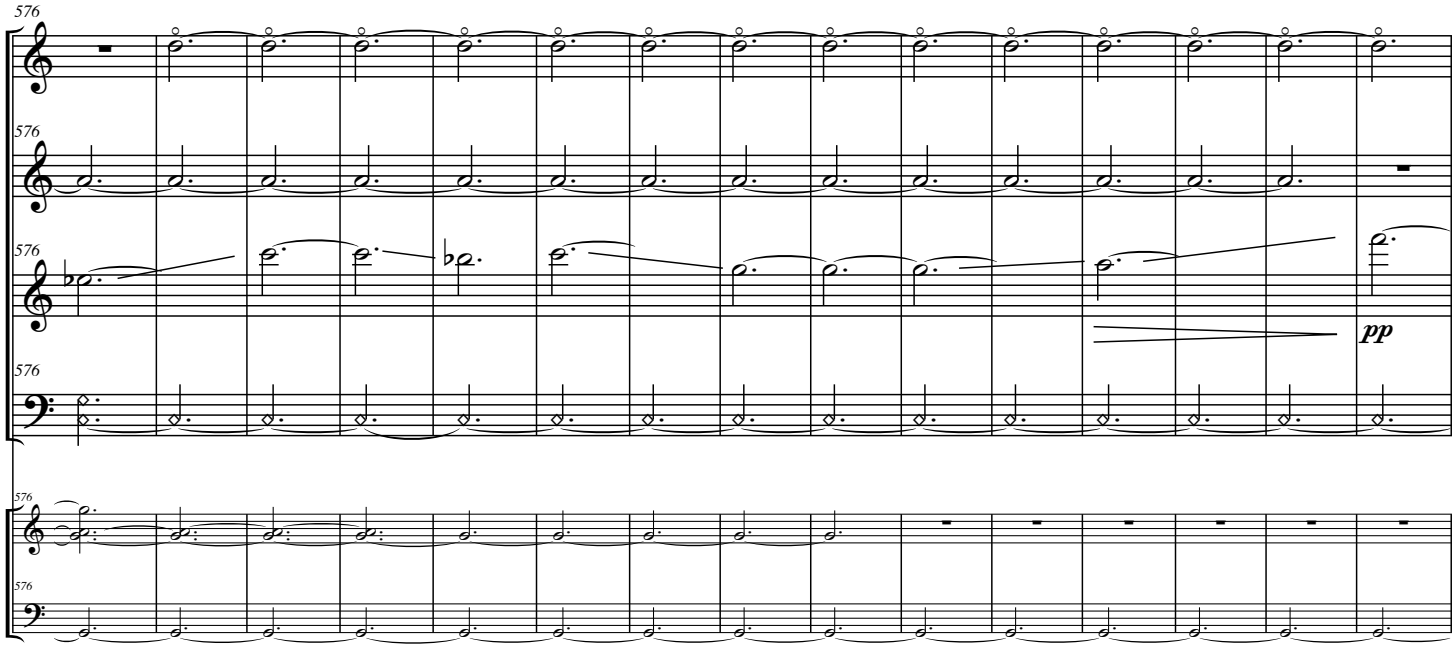
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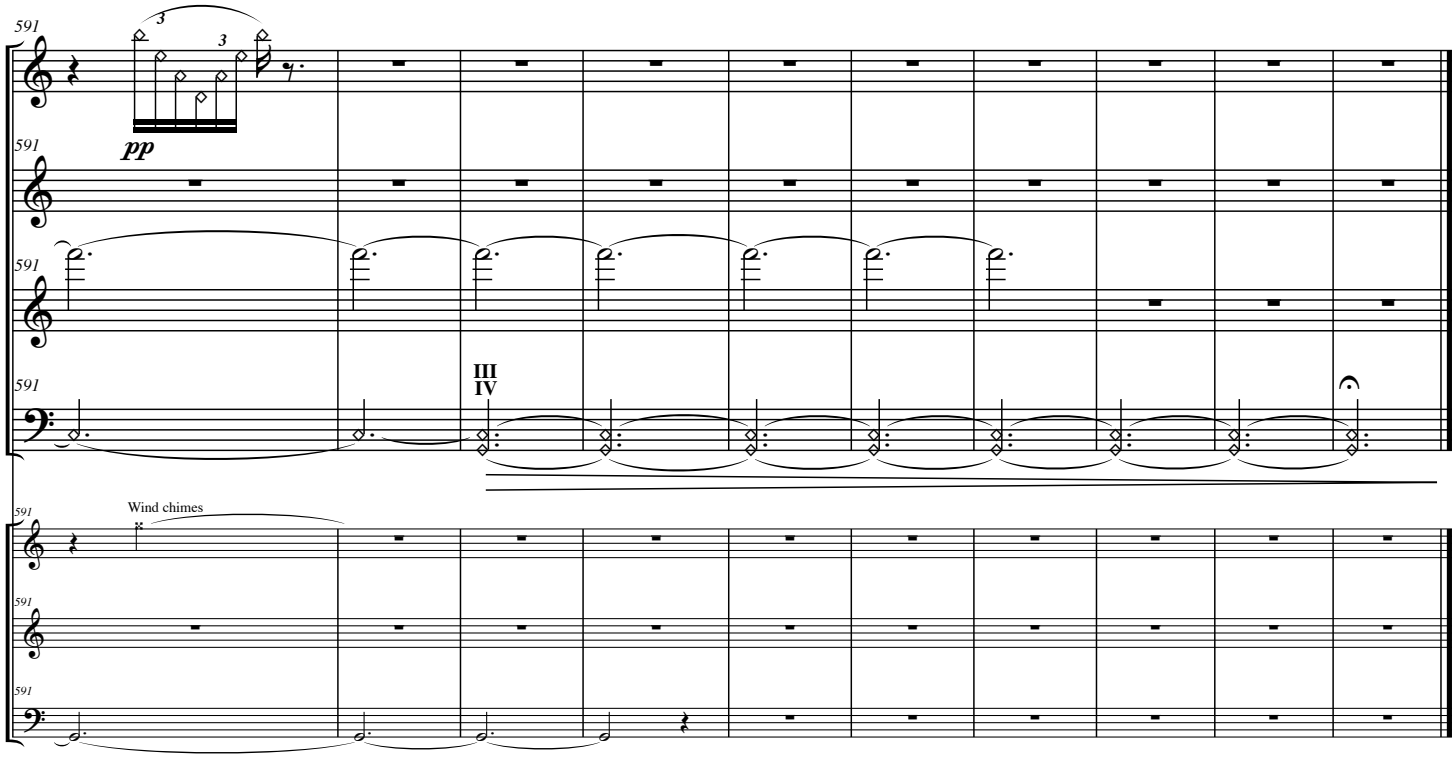
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