Three Dirges and Two Dances

for Flute, A Clarinet, Violin, Piano, and Percussion

2019 5:42

Music traditional, adapted by Jon Corelis

PEASANT FUNERAL IN THE MAM TURK MOUNTAINS OF CONNEMARA, IRELAND.—[See Page 294.]

An instrumental suite of five traditional Irish melodies: Lament for Owen Roe O'Neill - The dirge of Ossian - Deirdre's Lament - The Paisteen Fionn - The Merry Old Woman. The piece begins with a brief introduction based on two melodies preserved in Redfern Mason's *The Song Lore of Ireland* (1911), the first a set of tritones built on a sequence of notes which was reported to W. B. Yeats as representing the Banshee's Cry, the second a very old wordless Keen. Deirdre's Lament is traditionally considered the lament which Deirdre sang over her treacherously slain lover Naoise, The Paisteen Fionn (The Fair-Haired Young Girl) is well known, while The Merry Old Woman is little known today, though there are some recordings of it extant.

Performance Note: One percussion player is required, playing Bass Drum, Tambourine, Chimes, and Cymbal. A bodhran, played ad lib., may be substituted for tambourine. The measures marked G.P. may be held ad lib.

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Image: Peasant Funeral in the Mam Turk Mountains of Connemara, Ireland. Harper's Weekly June 1870
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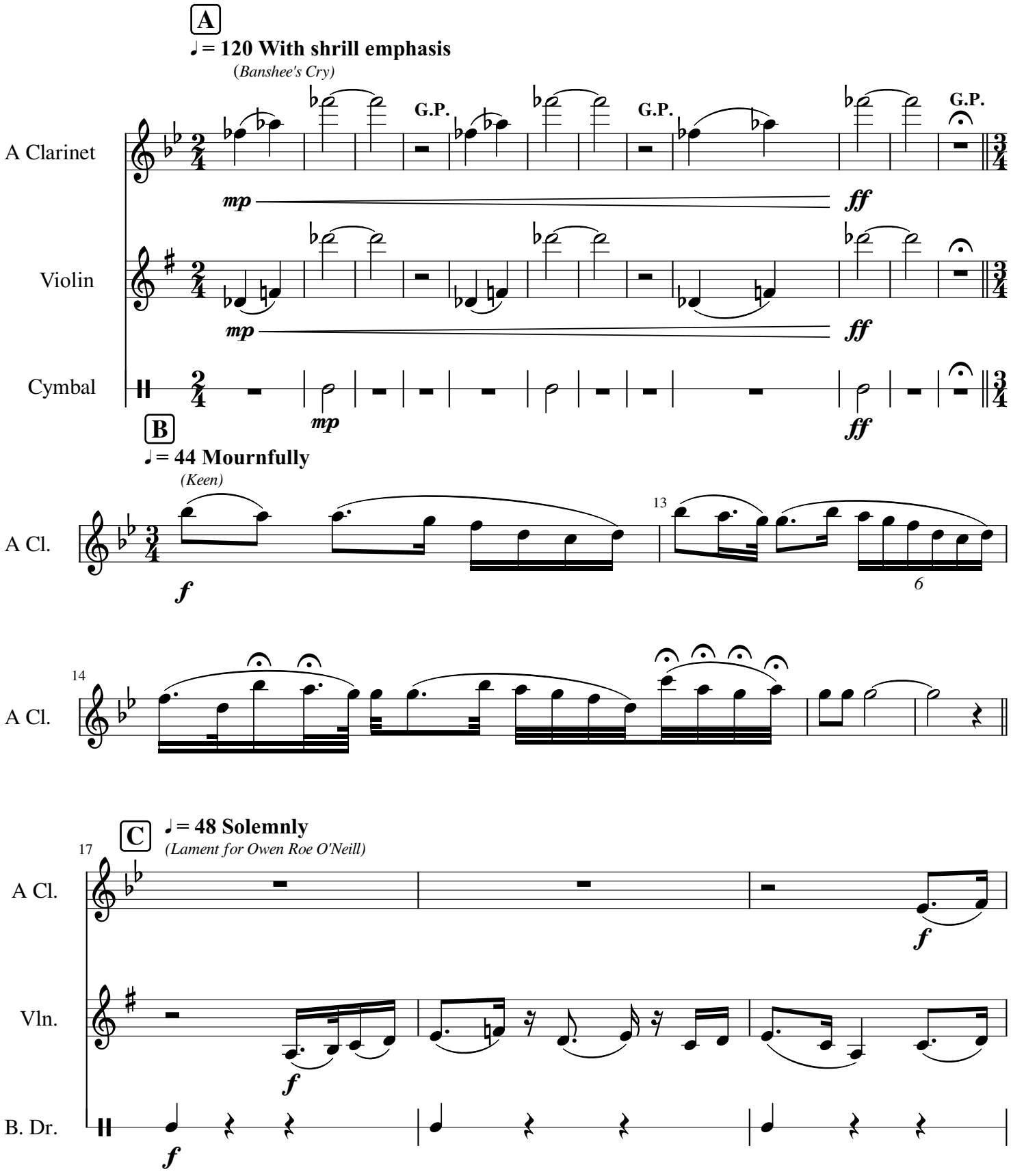

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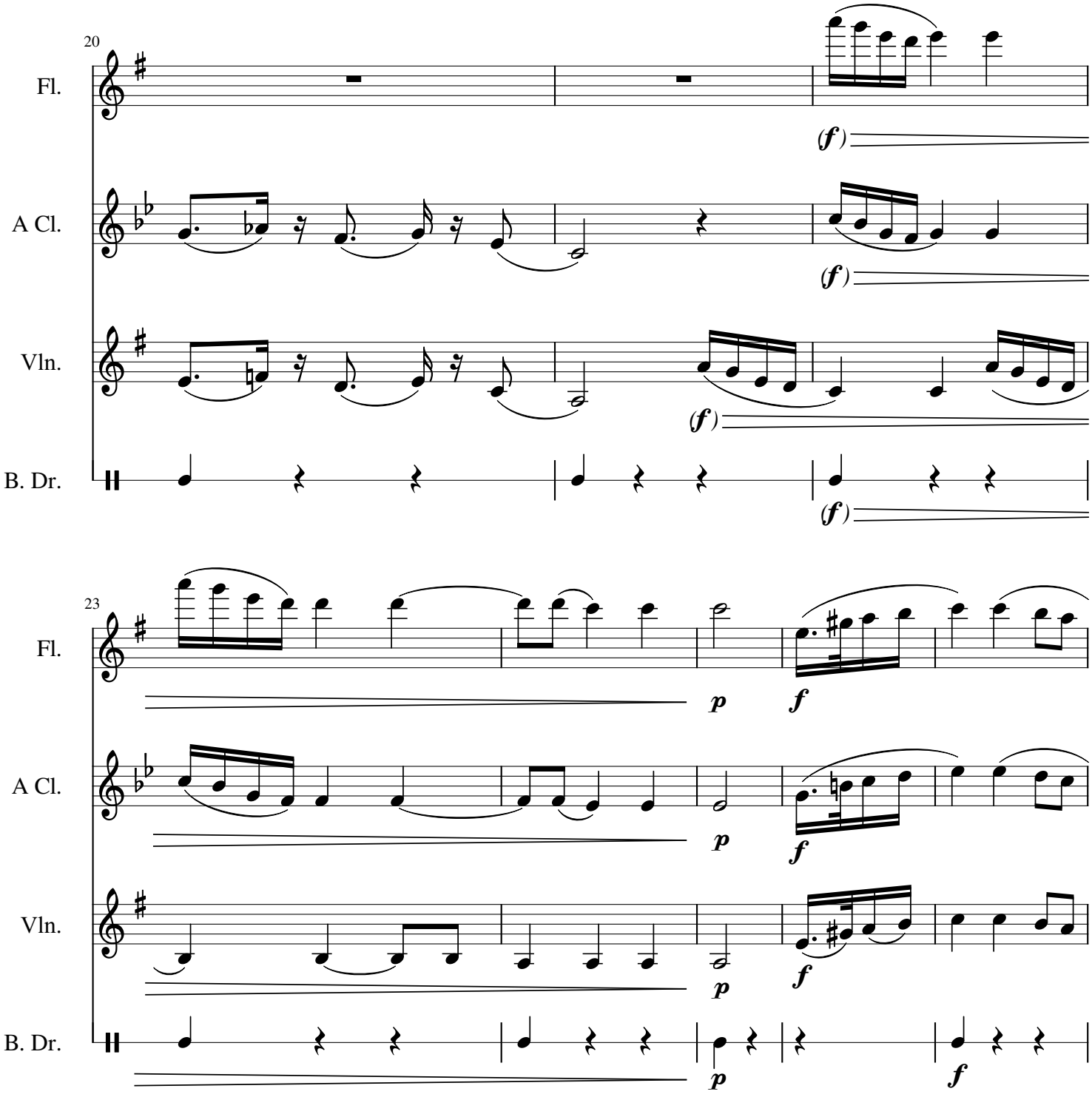

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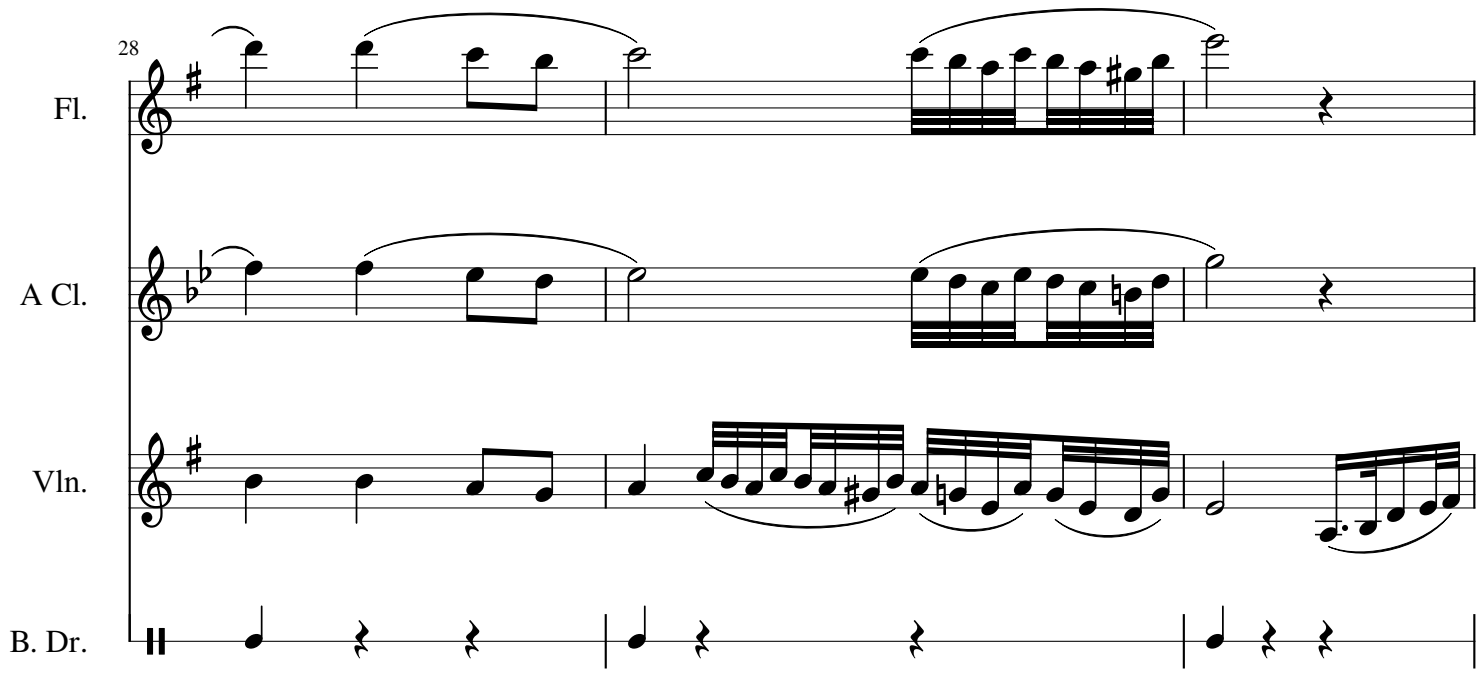

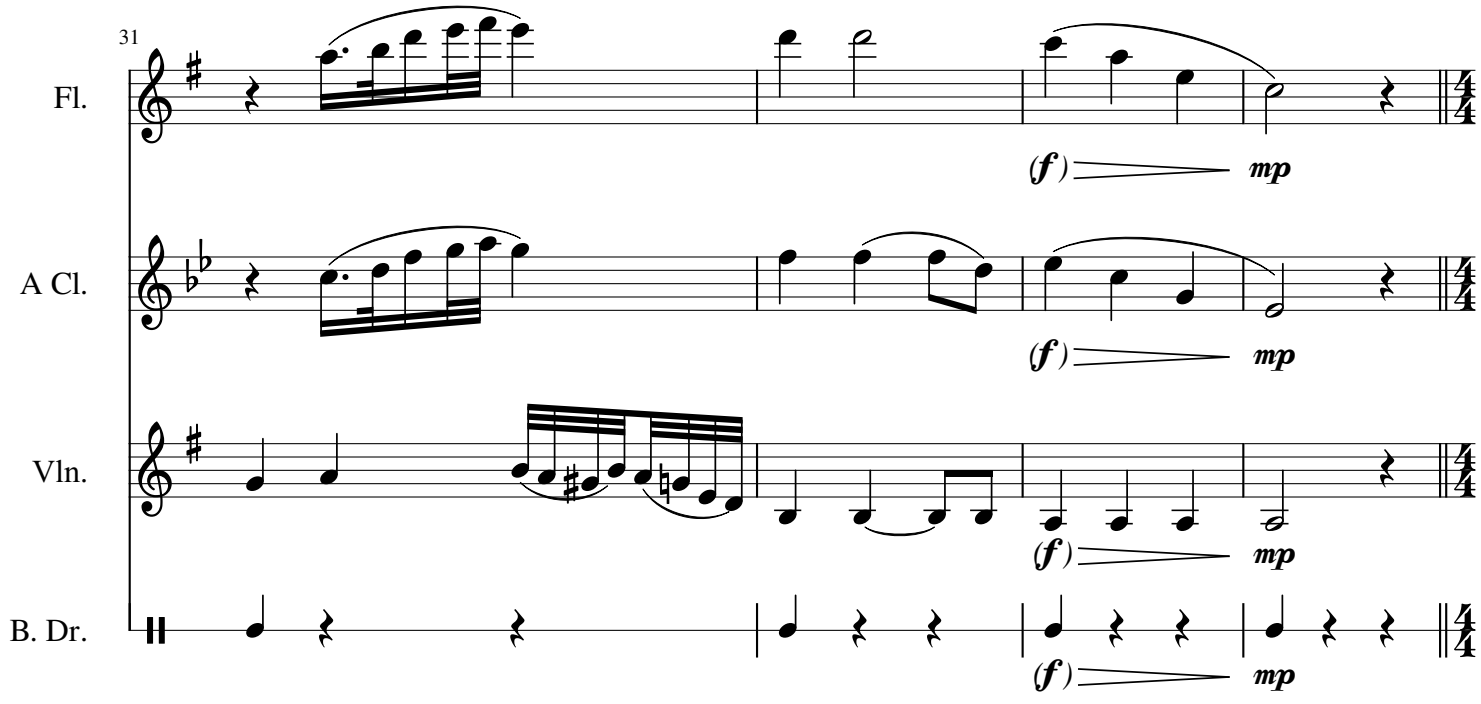

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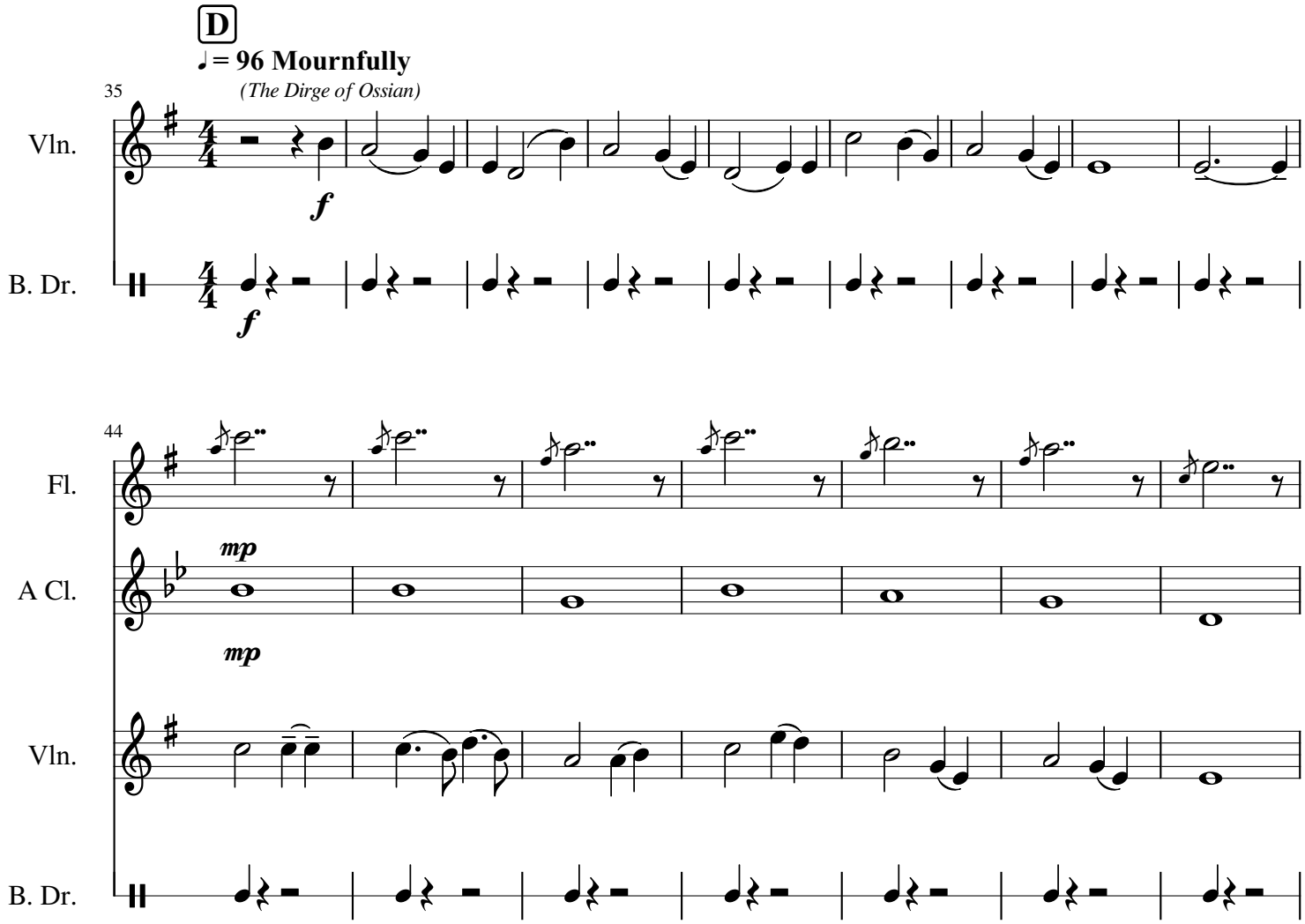

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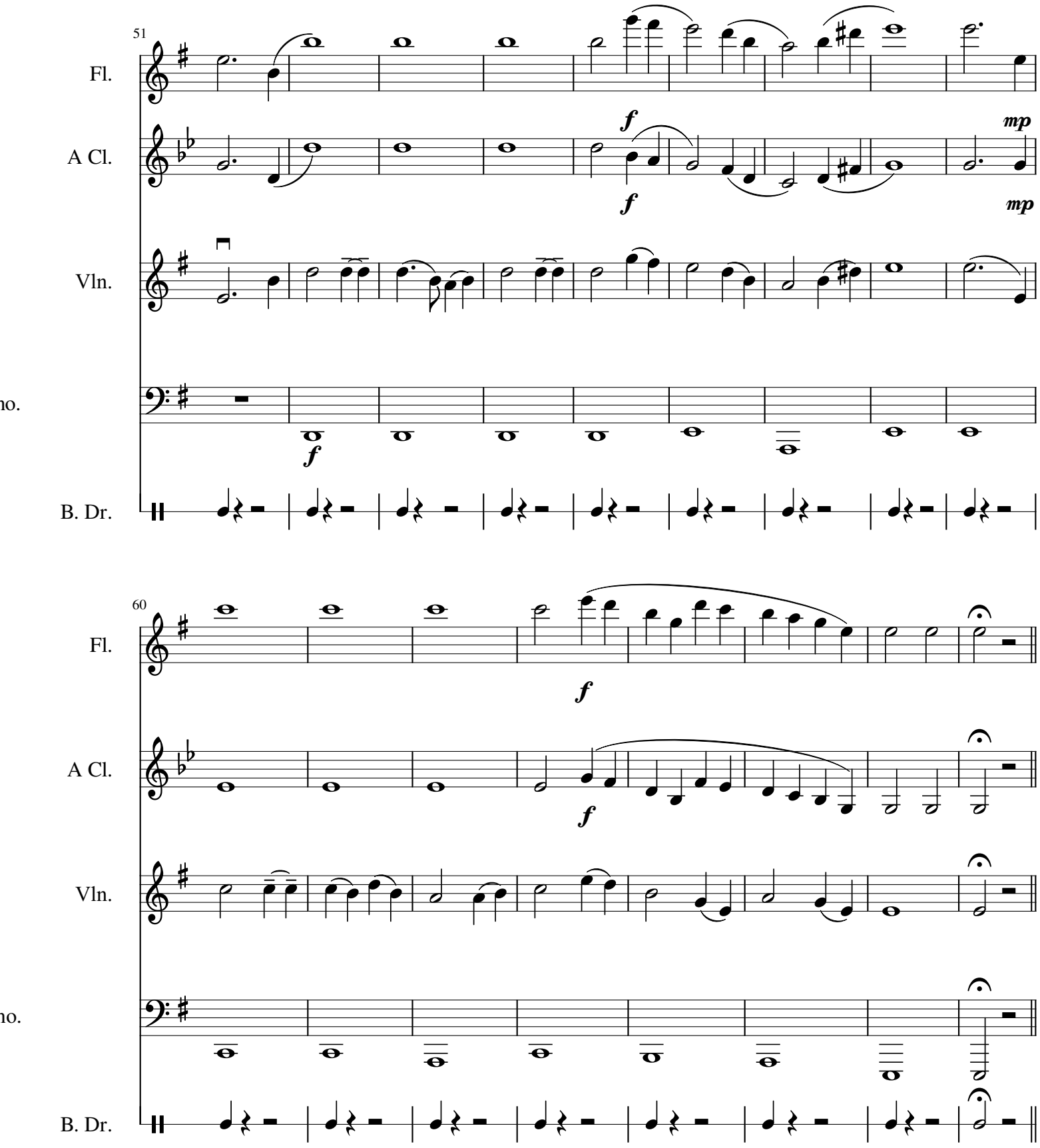

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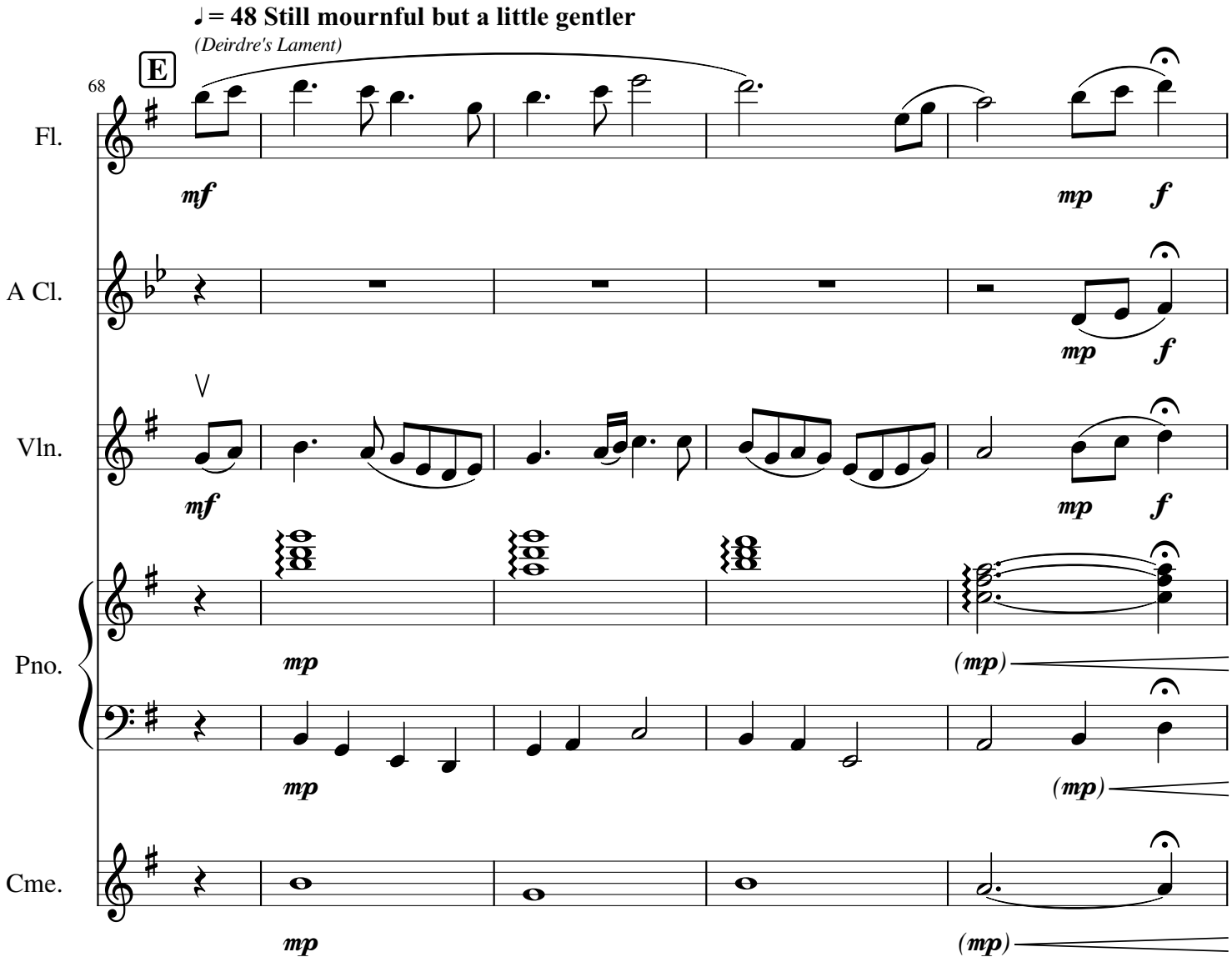

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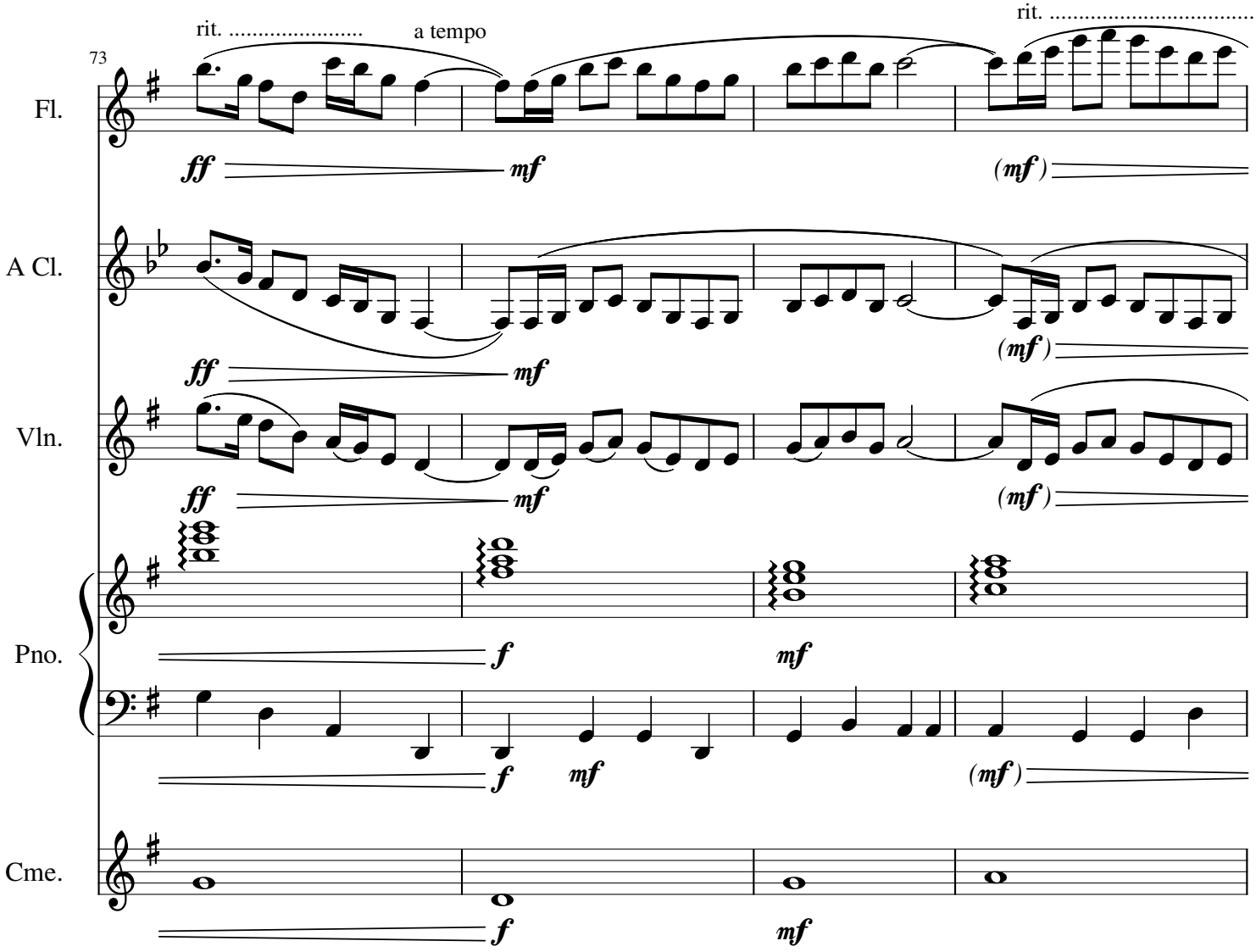

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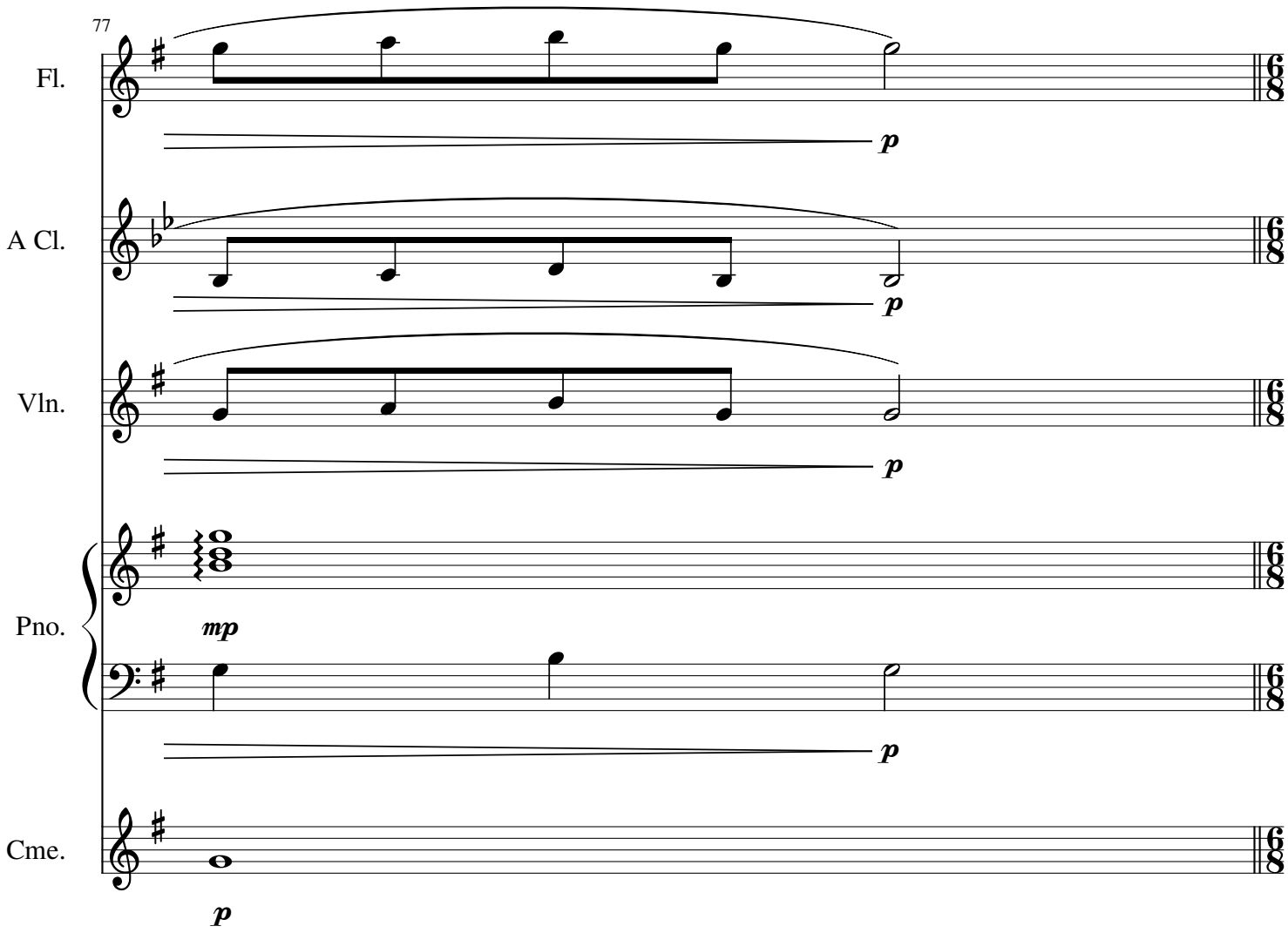

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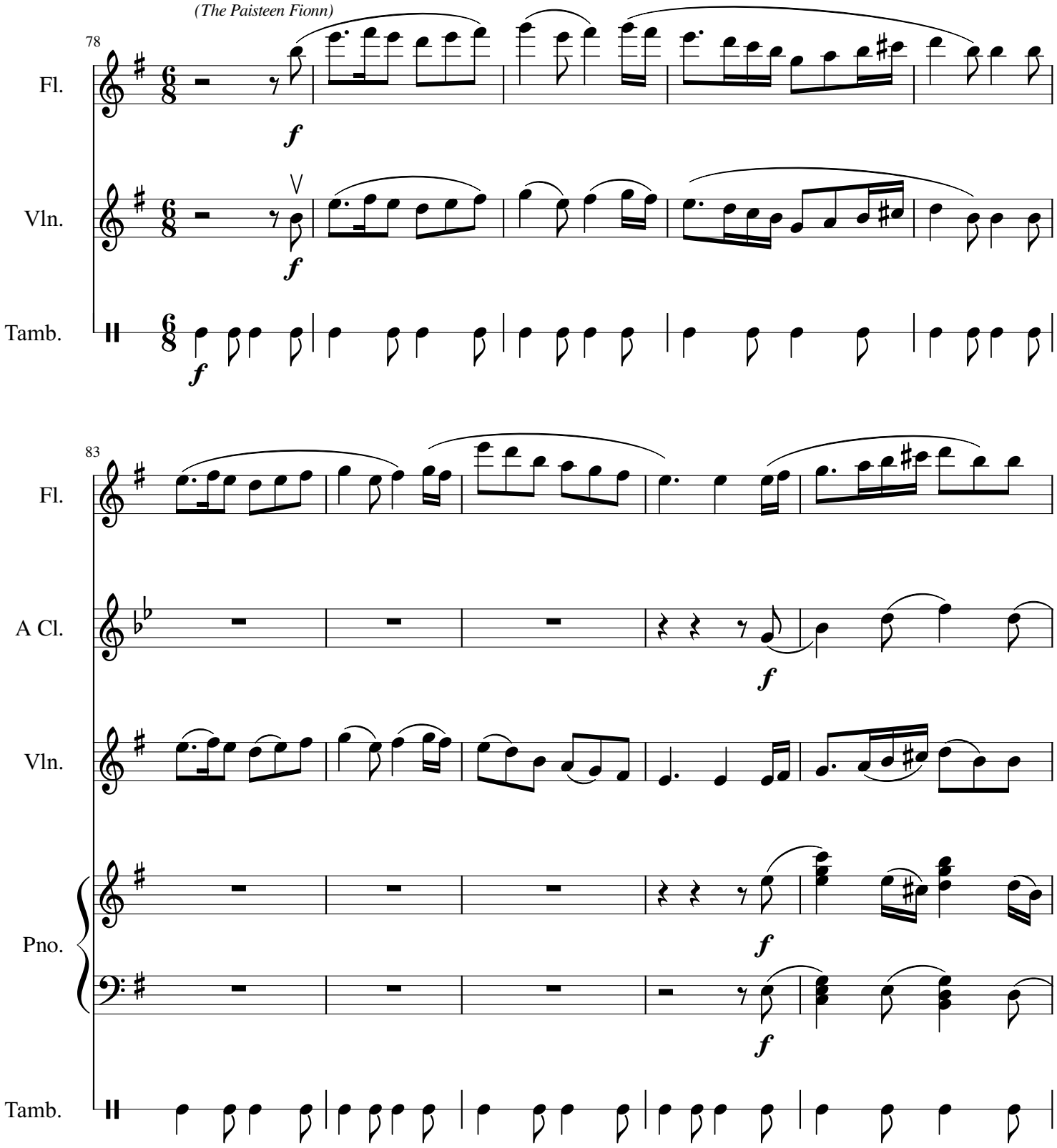
♩. **= 64** (♩=96)

Lively but seriously, with light dance character

(The Paisteen Fionn)



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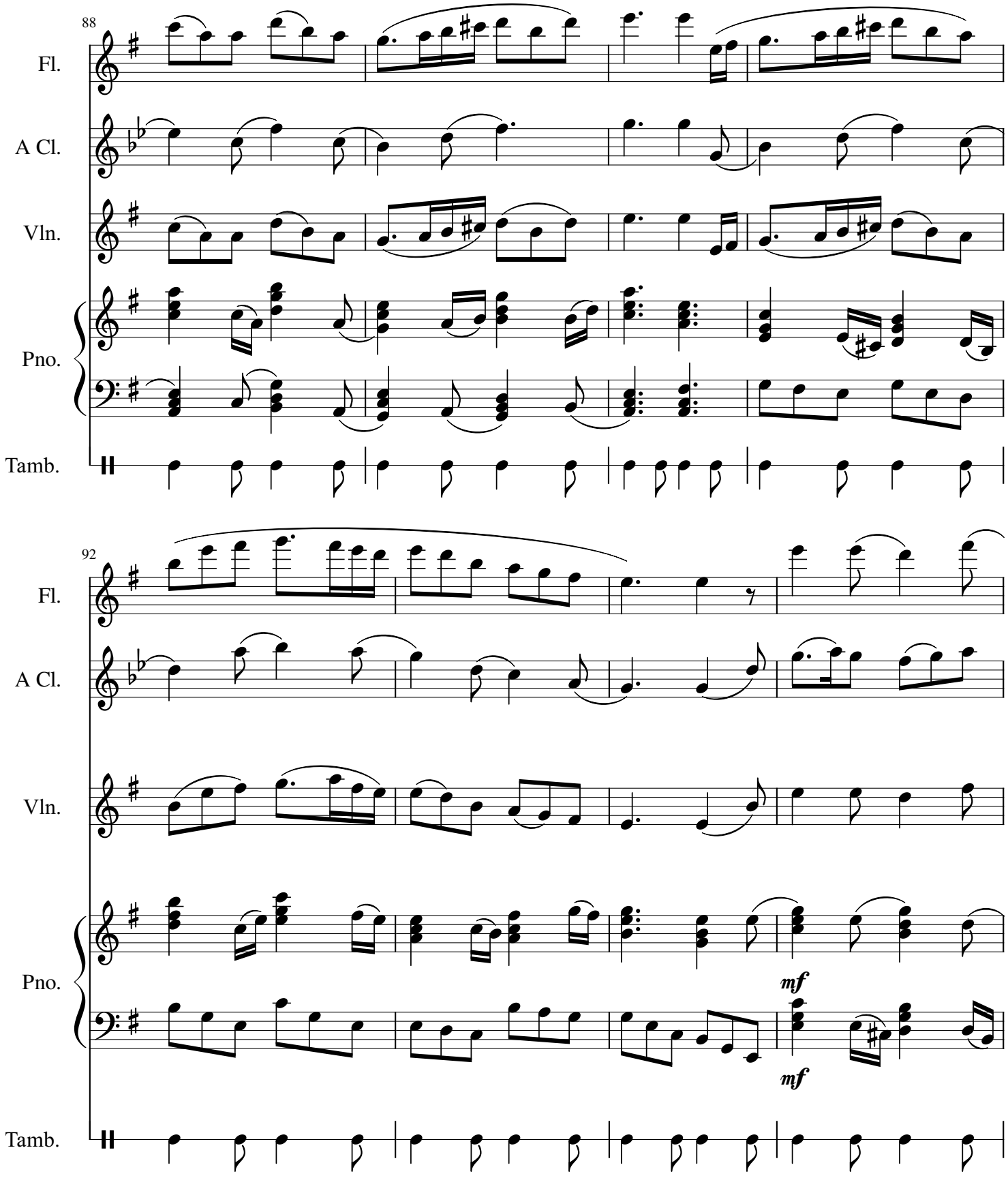

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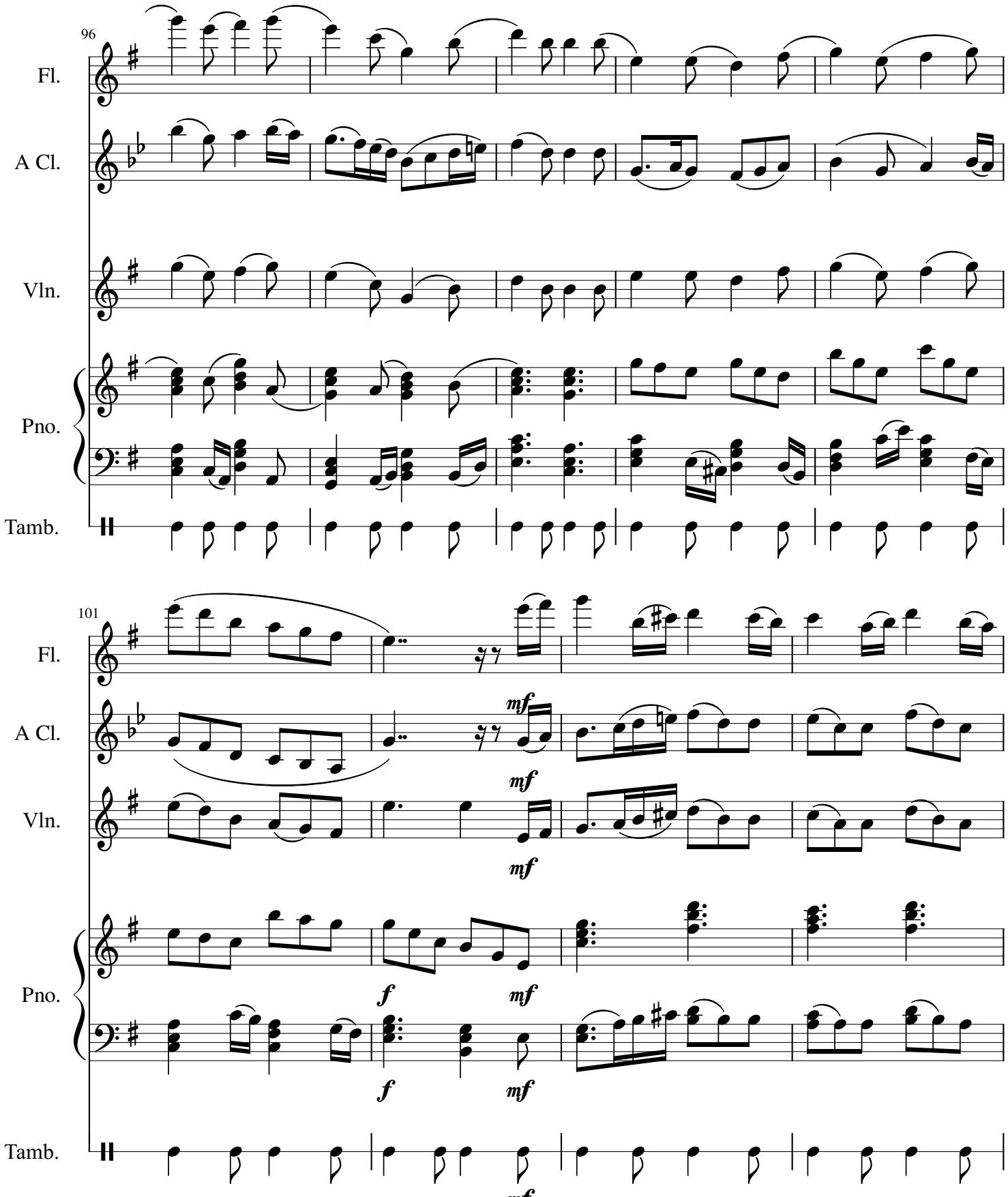

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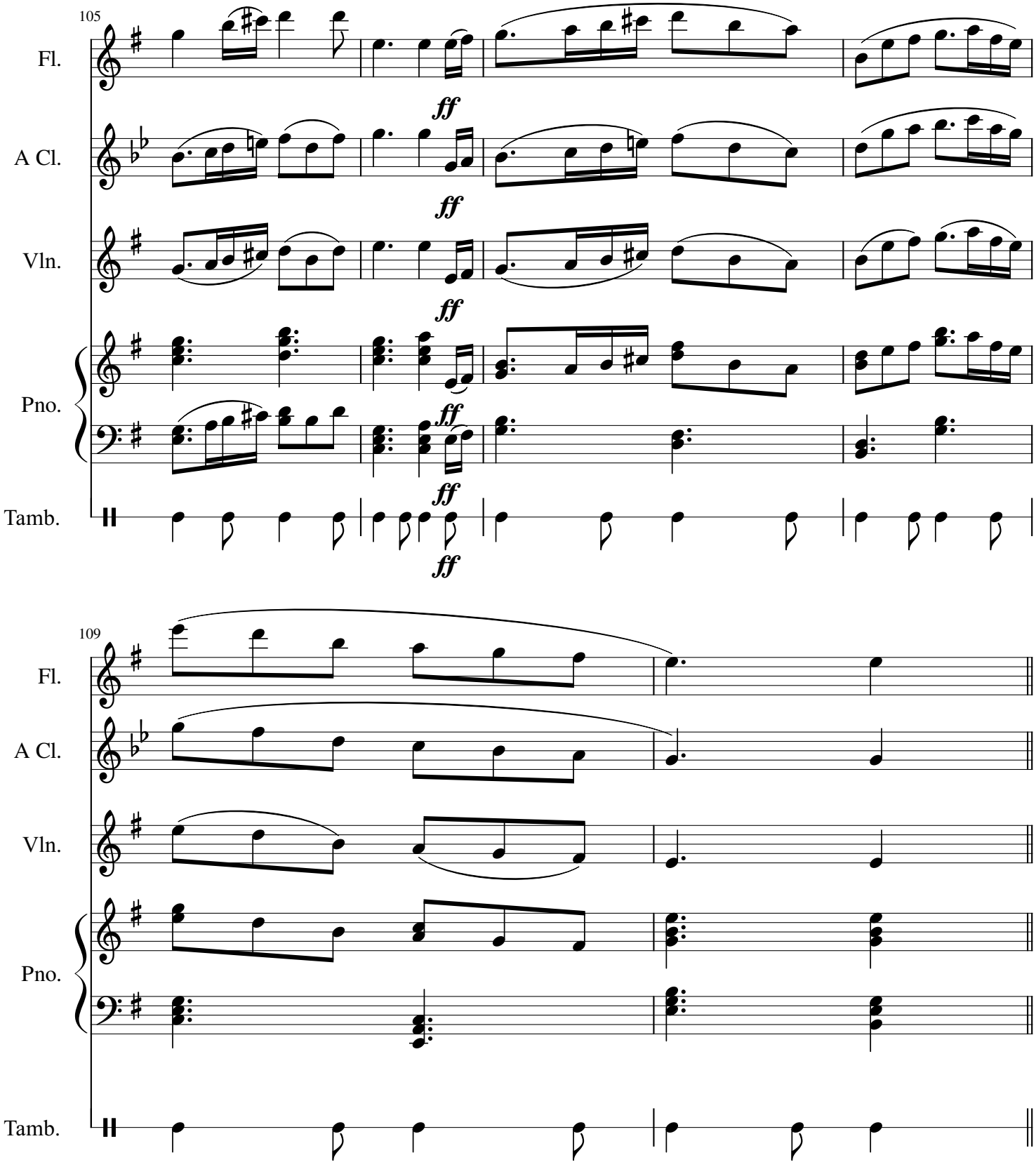

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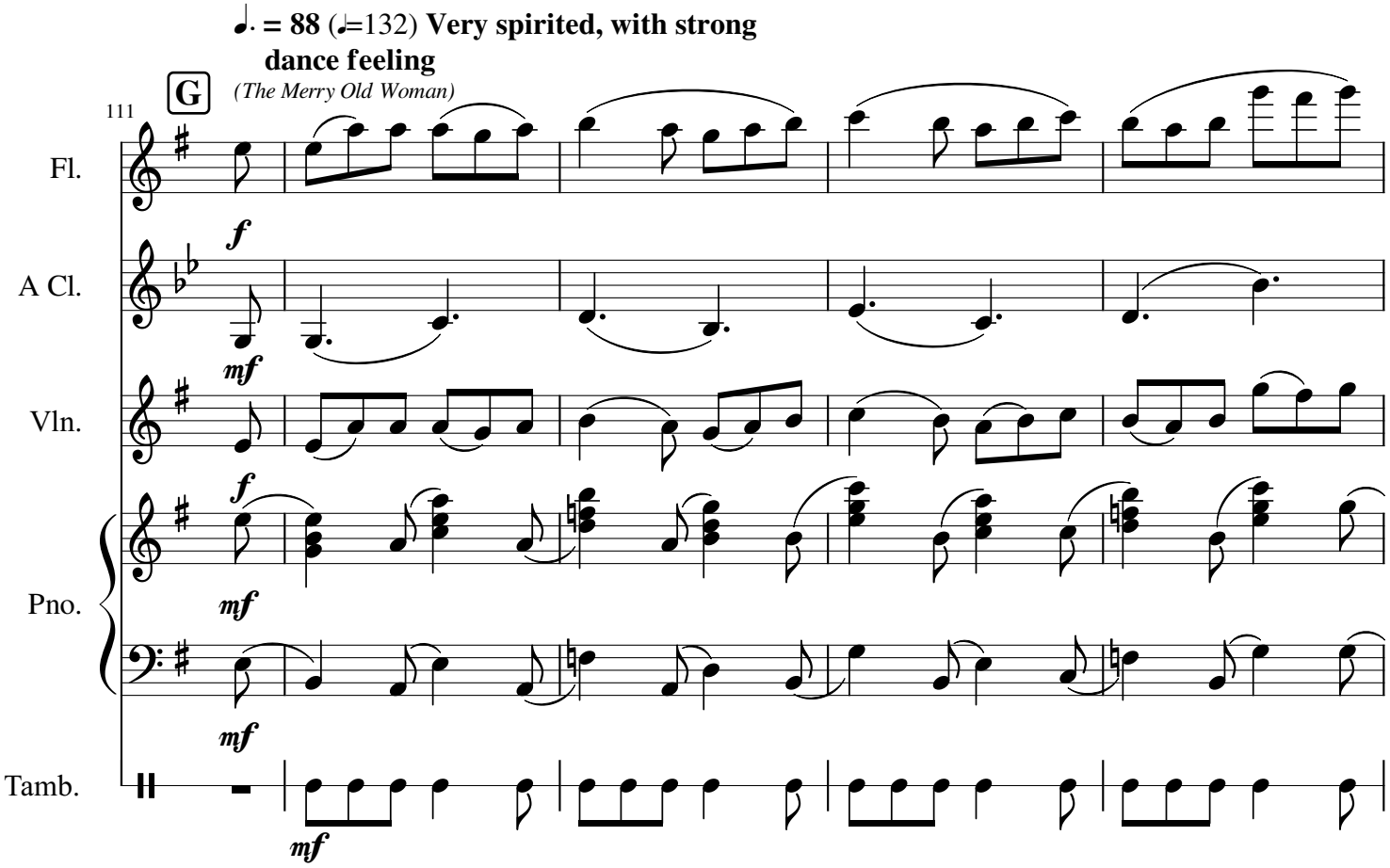

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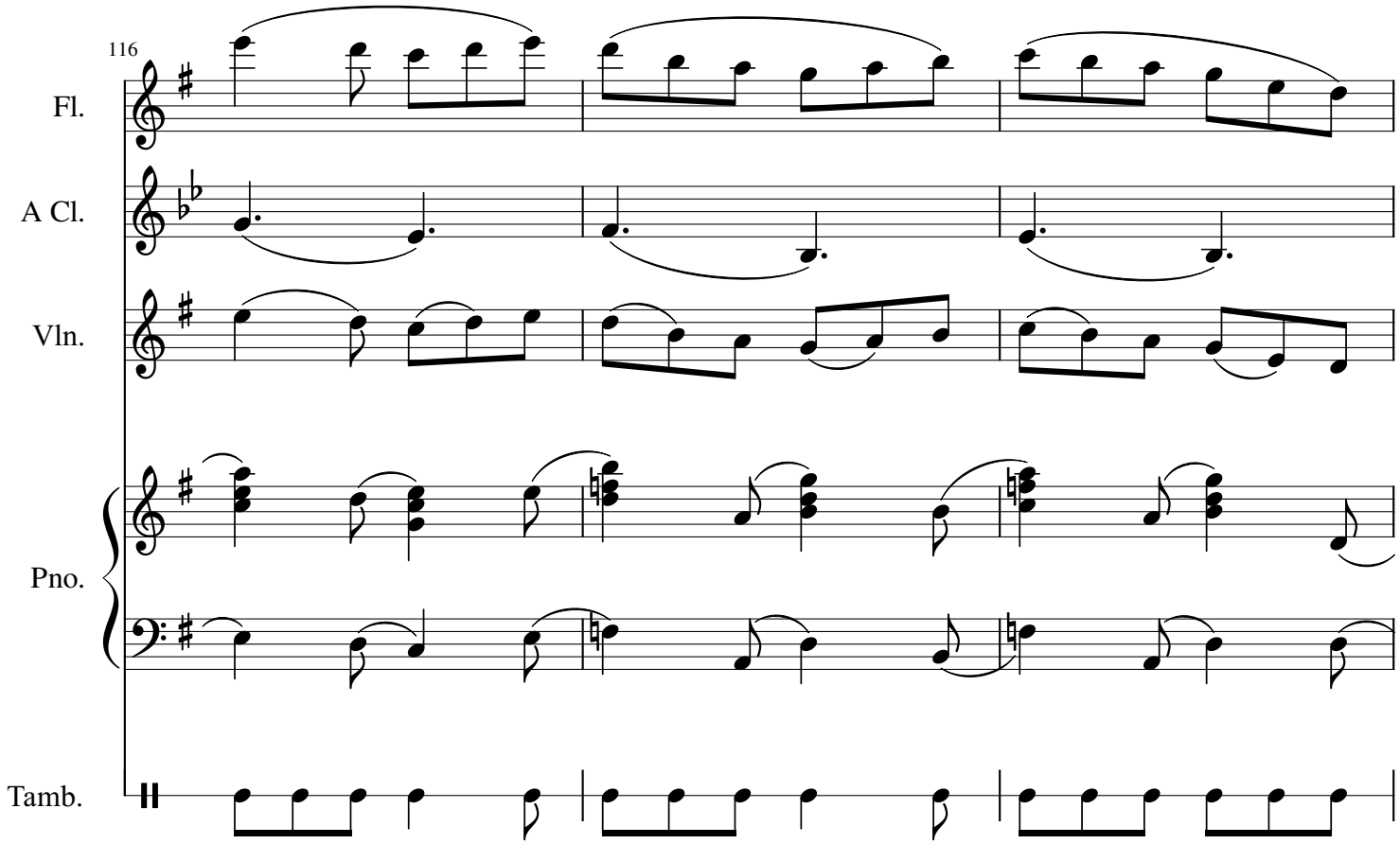

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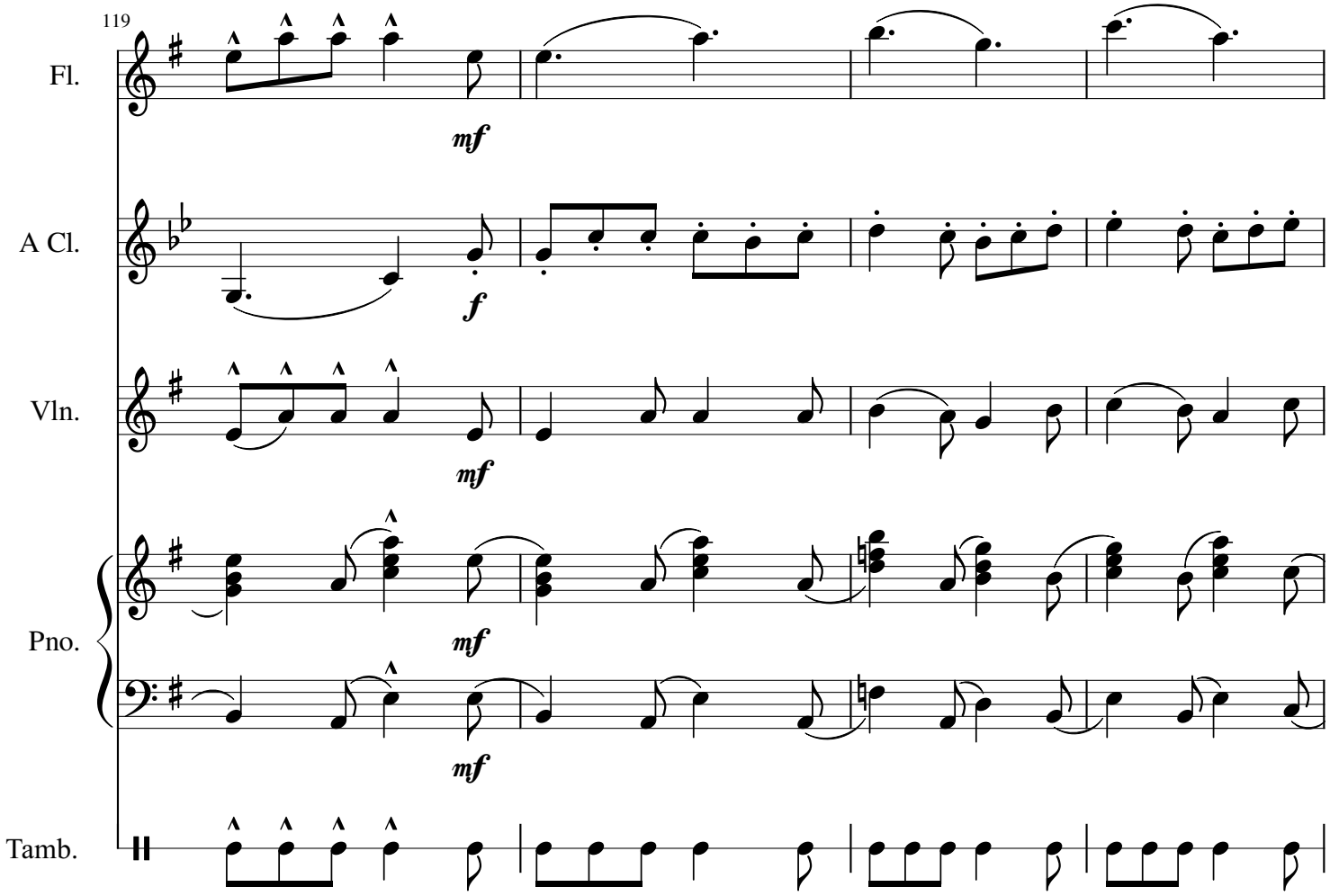

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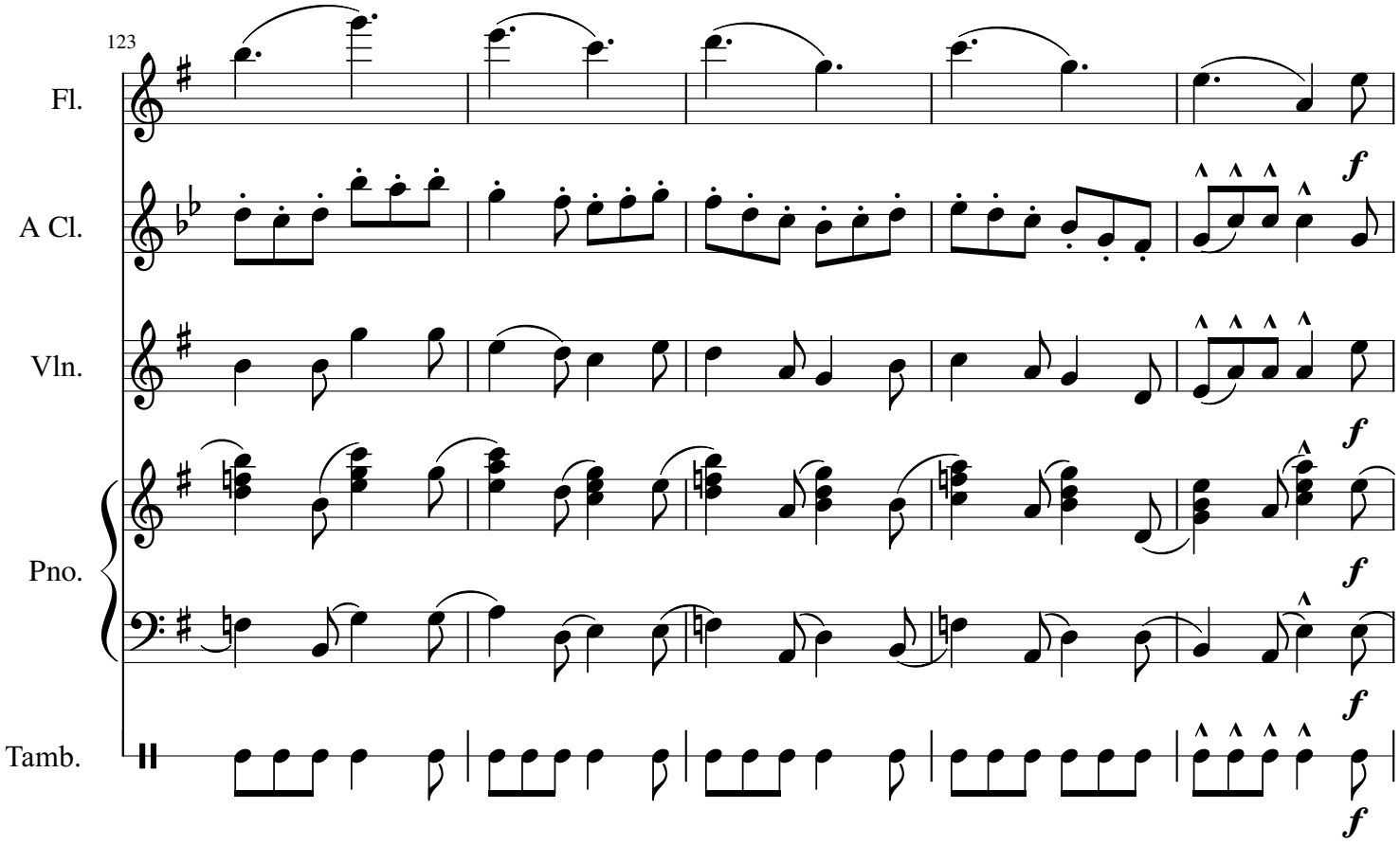

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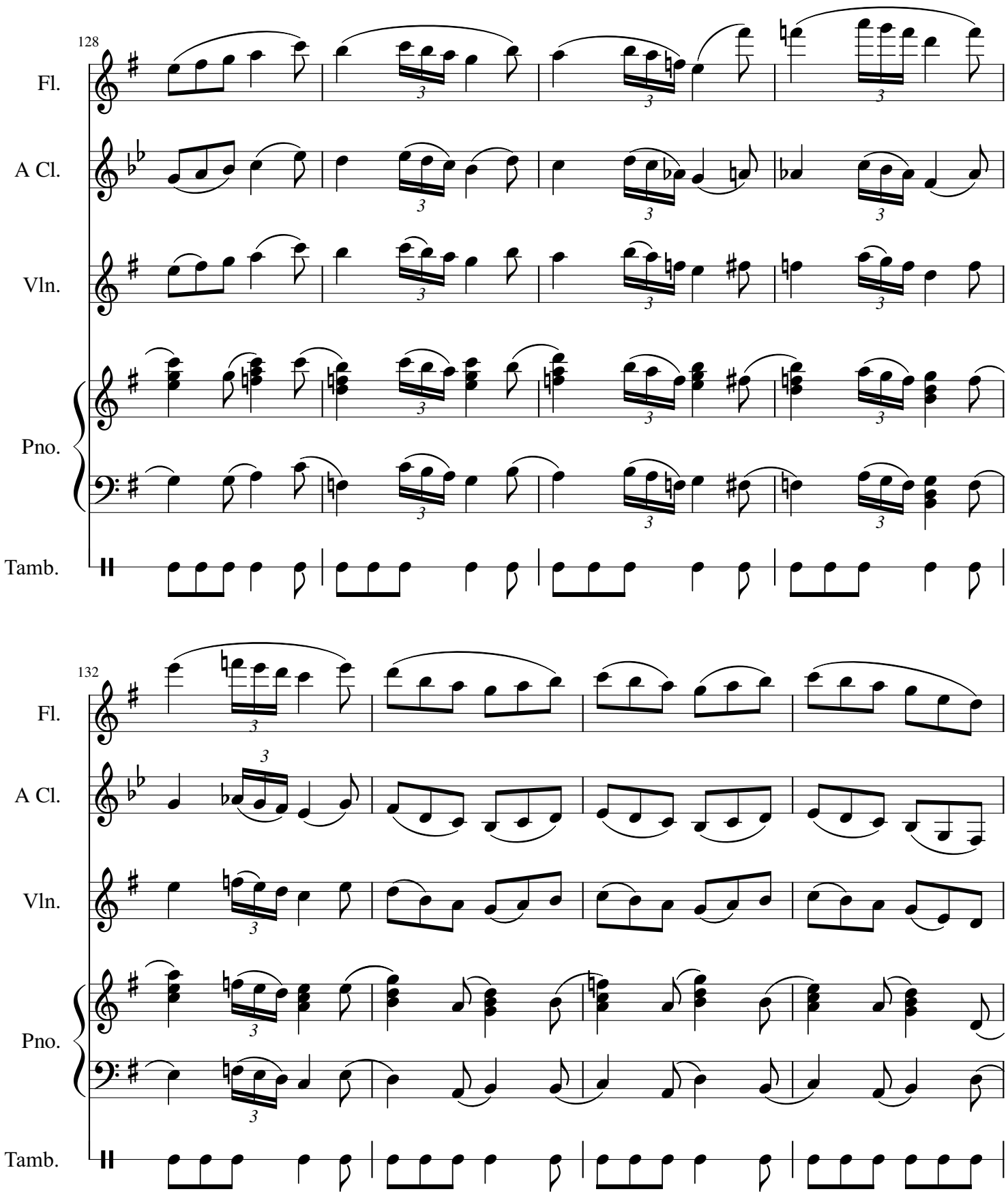

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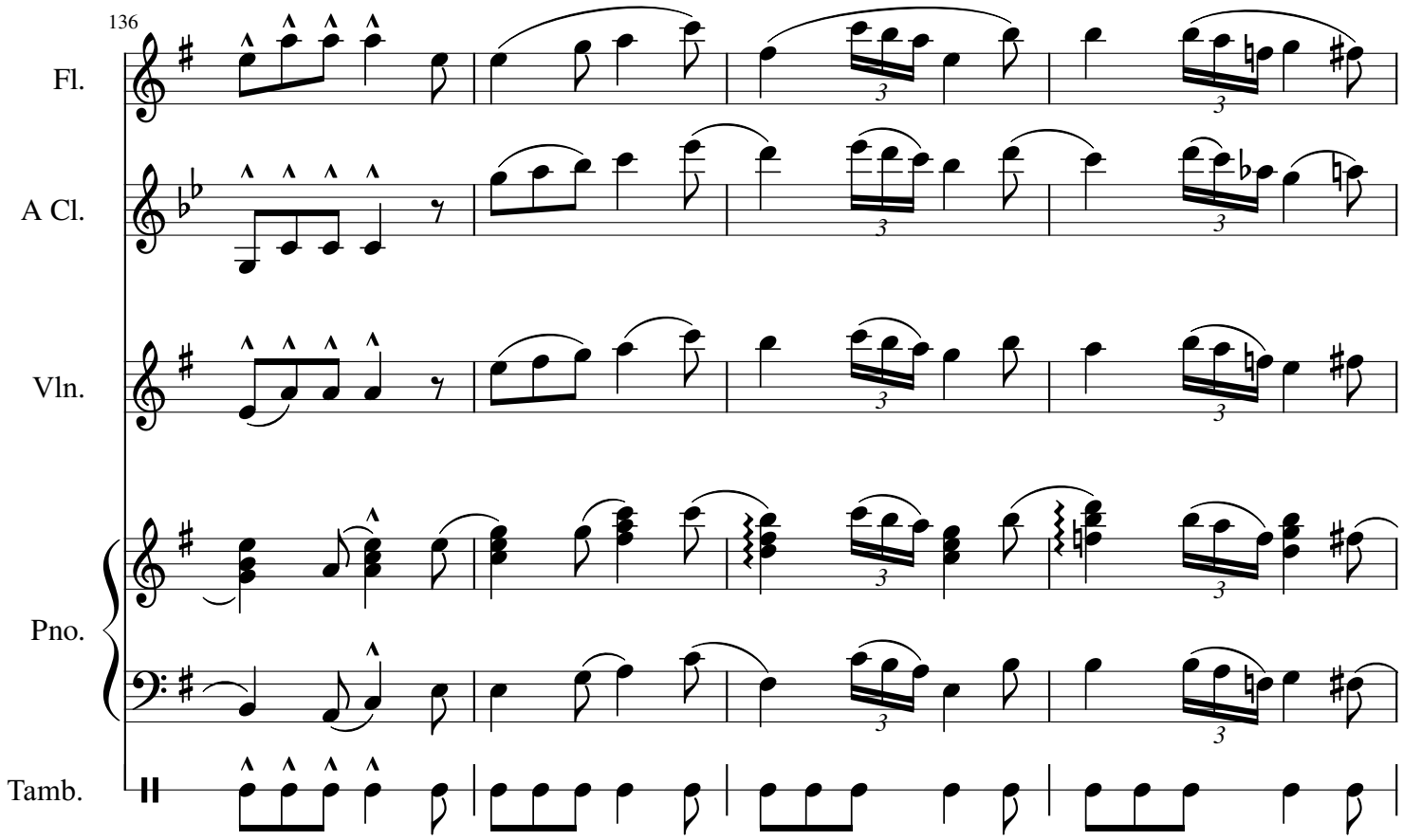

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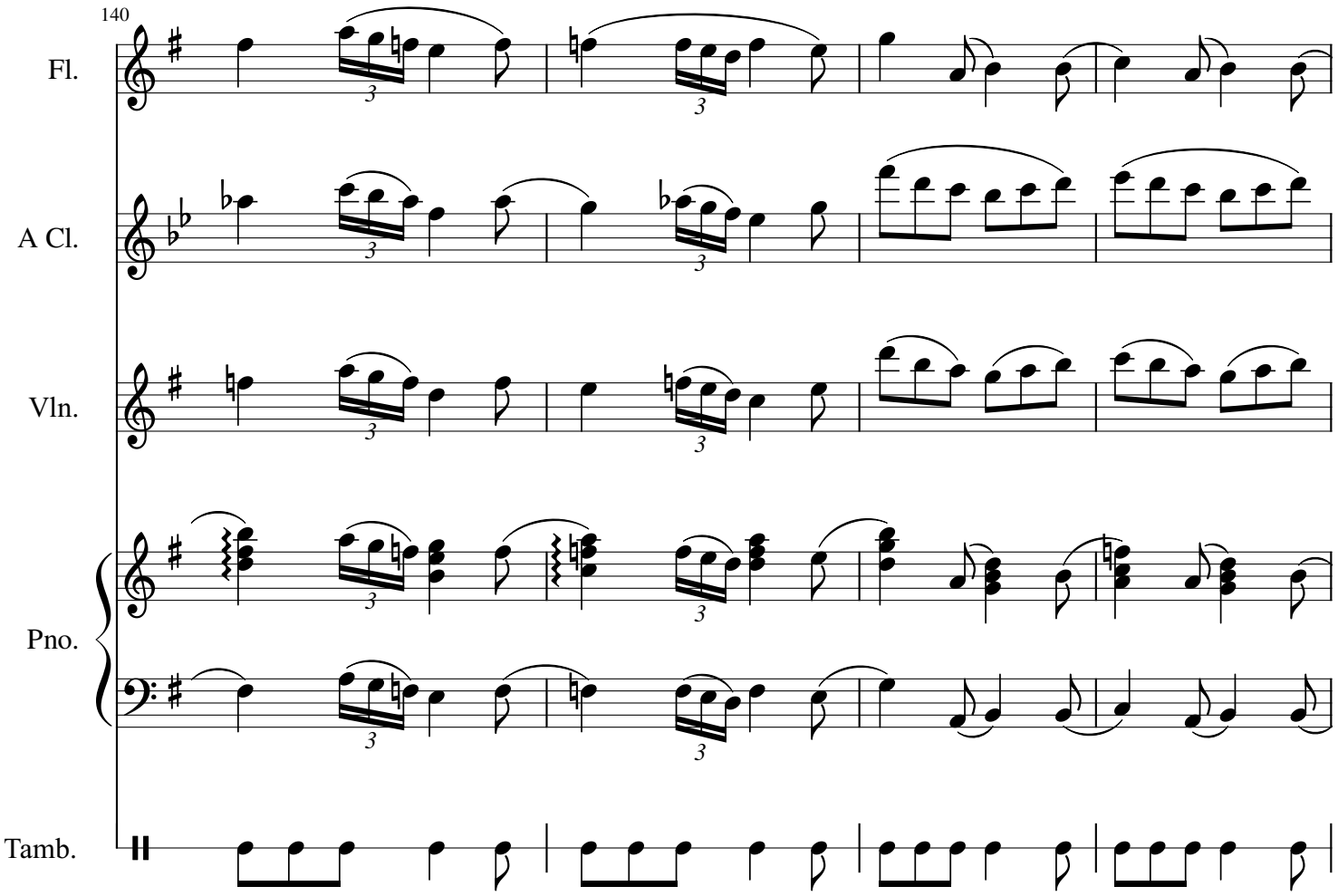

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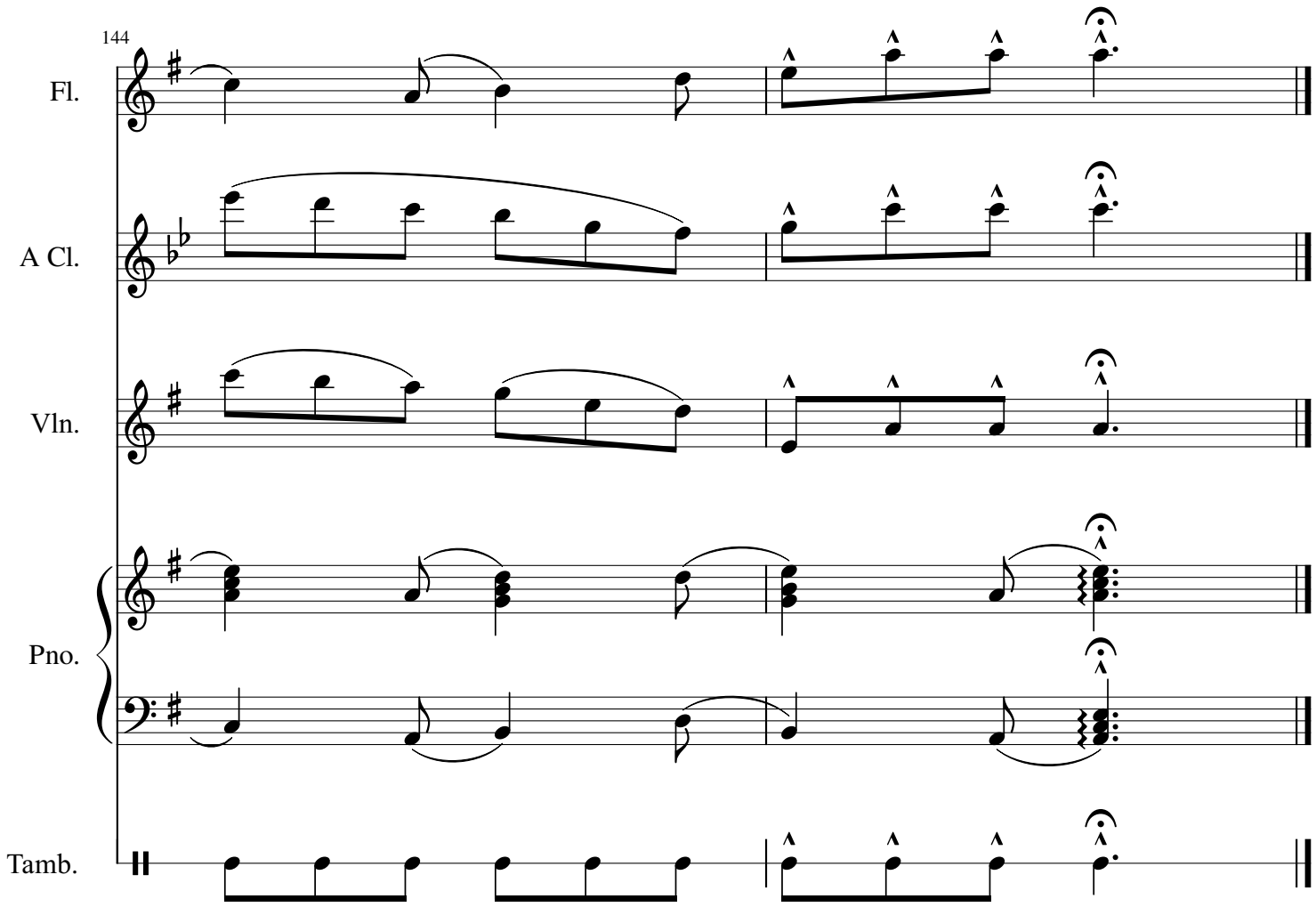

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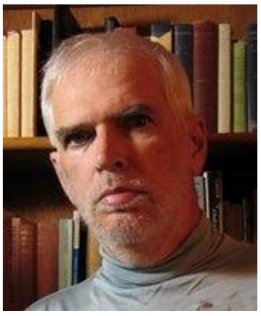

Jon Corelis was born in California and grew up in and around Chicago, where he earned a degree in Classical Languages and Literatures at the College of the University of Chicago. He later took a doctorate in Classics at Stanford, and taught Classics and Humanities at Stanford, the University of California, and the University of Minnesota. After a subsequent career as a software specialist in Silicon Valley, he now lives in Wisconsin. His poetry and other writings have been published in print and on web sites in eight countries, and he has given lectures and readings by invitation in America and Europe.

He more recently has turned to composing songs and instrumental pieces. His music has been featured on the web site The Flexible Persona, has been performed in concert by the Wisconsin ensemble a very small consortium, by the New York State flute quartet Party of Four, and at Denison University's TUTTI 2019 Festival, and has been recorded by flutist Robin Meiksins for her YouTube recording project 365 Days of Flute, and by clarinetist Emily Mehigh for her YouTube recording project The Miniature Month of May.

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