Don Freund

Radical Light

for Wind Ensemble

after the poem "He Held Radical Light"
by A.R. Ammons

from ***Poem Symphonies***
(1990)

Program notes for ***Radical Light*** from *Poem Symphonies* by Don Freund

Don Freund's *Poem Symphonies* is a projected set of orchestral movements, each inspired by the work of a contemporary American poet. The symphonies are not attempts to set poetry to music, but rather each proceeds from a poem, using the visions, images, and atmosphere of the poem as a point of departure. ***Radical Light*** is inspired by the poem "He Held Radical Light" by A. R. Ammons.

HE HELD RADICAL LIGHT

A. R. Ammons

He held radical light
as music in his skull: music
turned, as
over ridges immanences of evening light
rise, turned
back over the furrows of his brain
into the dark, shuddered,
shot out again
in long swaying swirls of sound:

reality had little weight in his transcendence
so he
had trouble keeping
his feet on the ground, was
terrified by that
and liked himself, and others, mostly
under roofs:
nevertheless, when the
light churned and changed

his head to music, nothing could keep him
off the mountains, his
head back, mouth working,
wrestling to say, to cut loose
from the high, unimaginable hook:
released, hidden from the stars, he ate,
burped, said he was like any one
of us: demanded he
was like any one of us.

"He Held Radical Light" reprinted from A. R. Ammons' Collected Poems, 1951-1971, with the permission of W. W. Norton & Company, Inc. Copyright © 1972 by A. R. Ammons

Radical Light

for Winds, Piano, and Percussion

after the poem "He Held Radical Light"
by A. R. Ammons

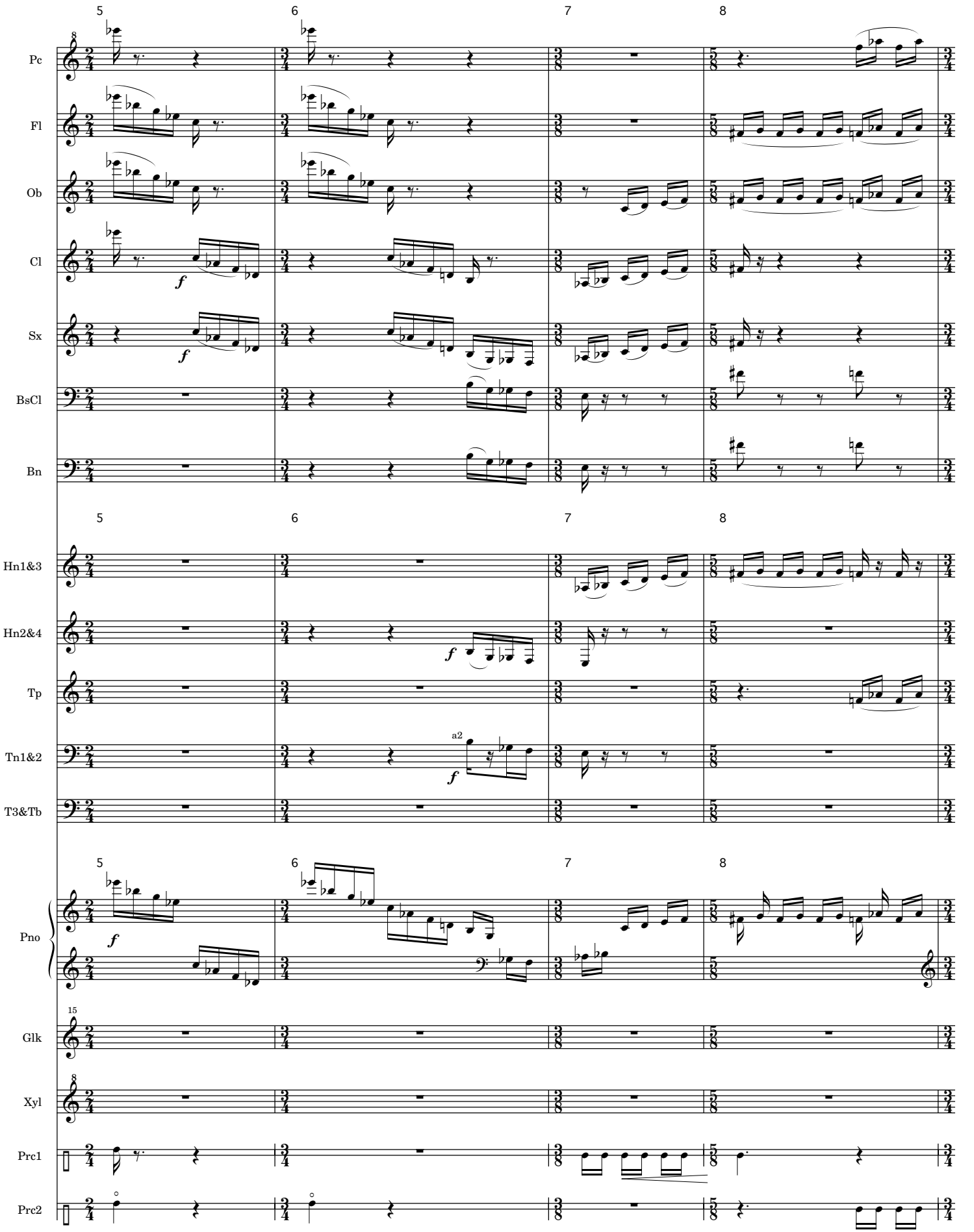
from "Poem Symphonies"
Don Freund (1990)

Score in C

Piccolo
2 Flutes
2 Oboes
2 Bb Clarinets
Eb Alto Saxophone
Bb Bass Clarinet
2 Bassoons
F Horns 1&3
F Horns 2&4
3 C Trumpets
Trombone 1&2
Trombone 3 & Tuba
Piano
Glockenspiel
Xylophone
Percussion 1
Percussion 2

♩ = 120

Tamtam (hard wound mallets) *played close to the edge throughout*
Tambourine *(headless)* (hard wound mallets)
Splash Cymbal (hard wound mallets)
Hi-hat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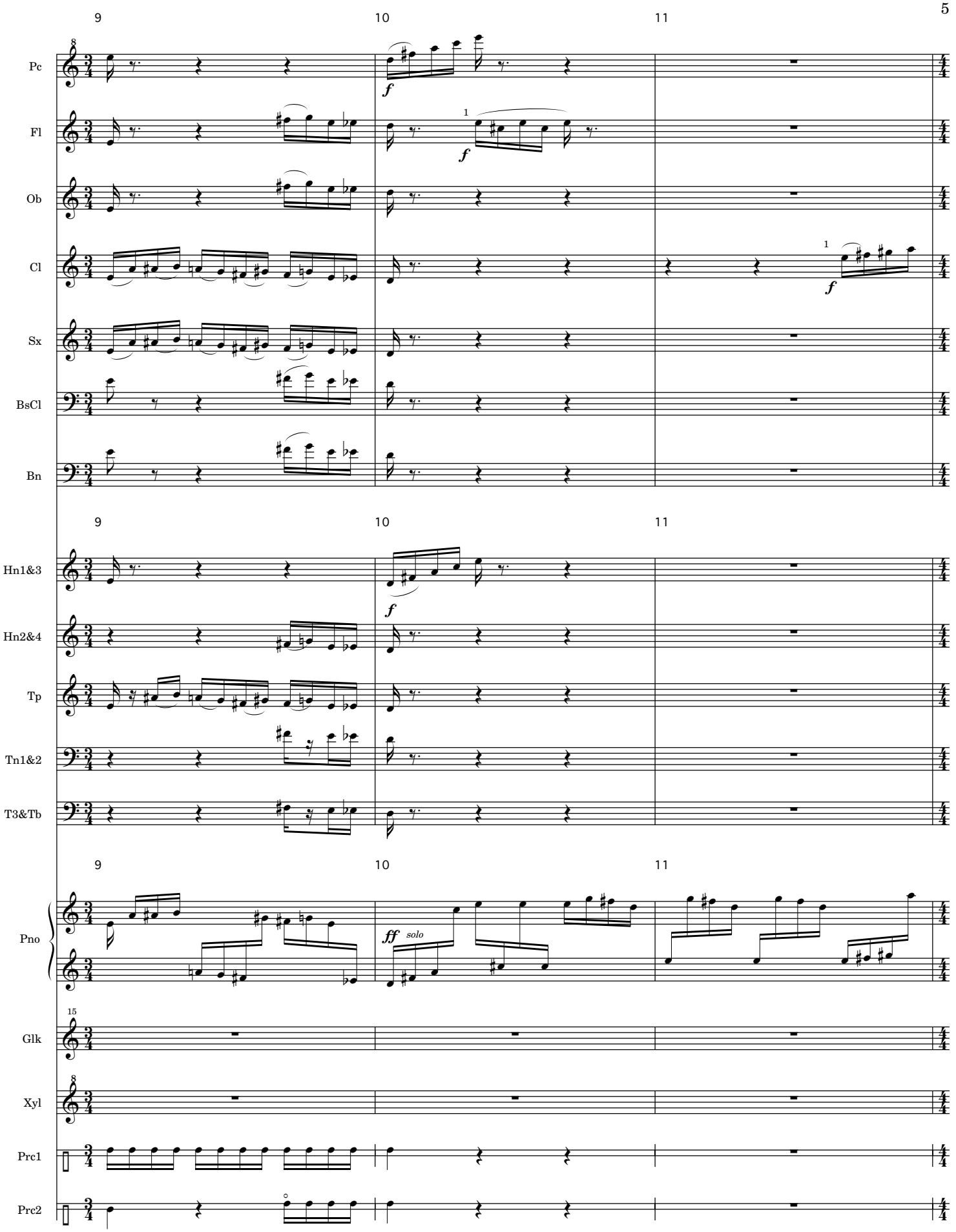
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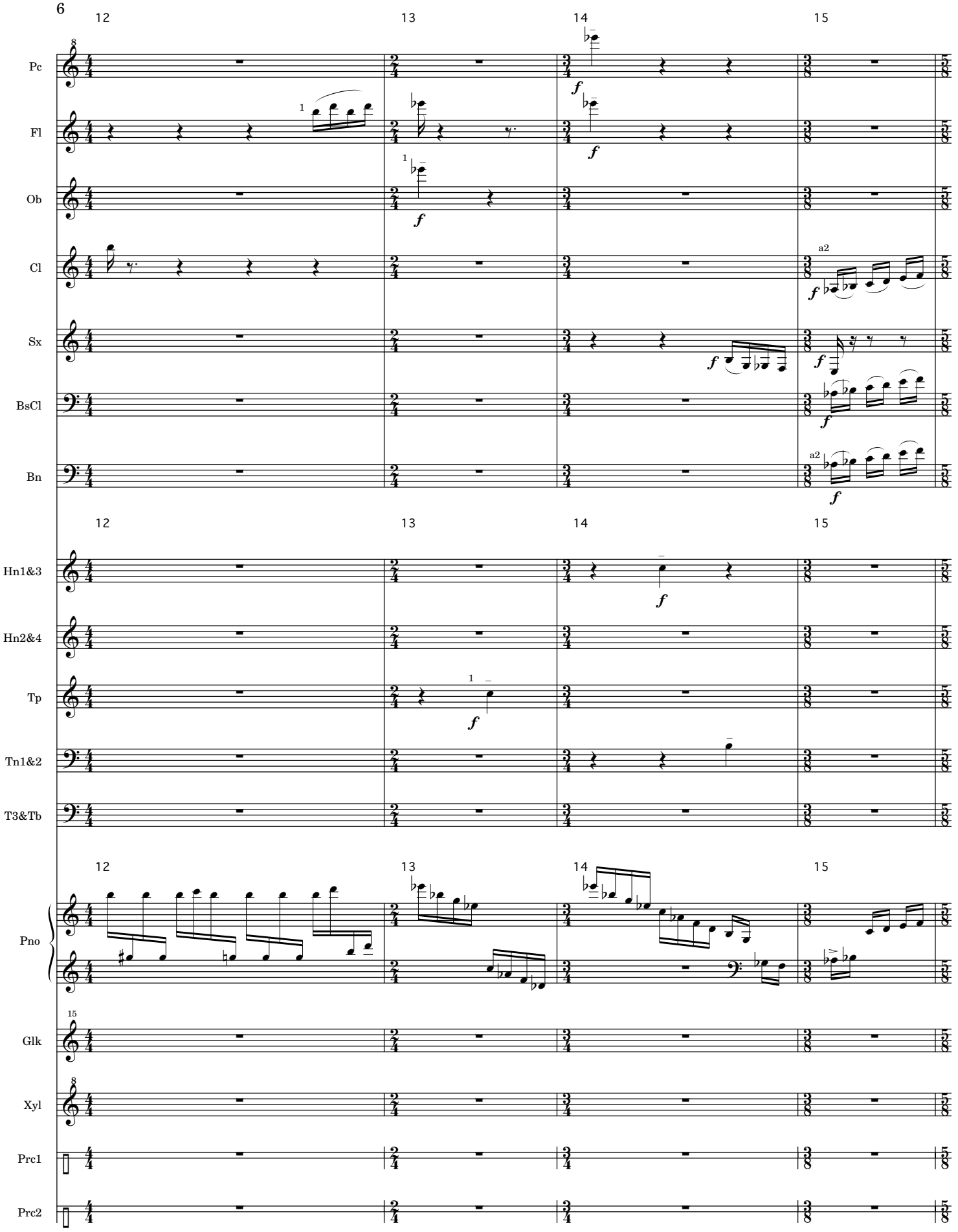
solo
Glk
Xyl
Prc1
Prc2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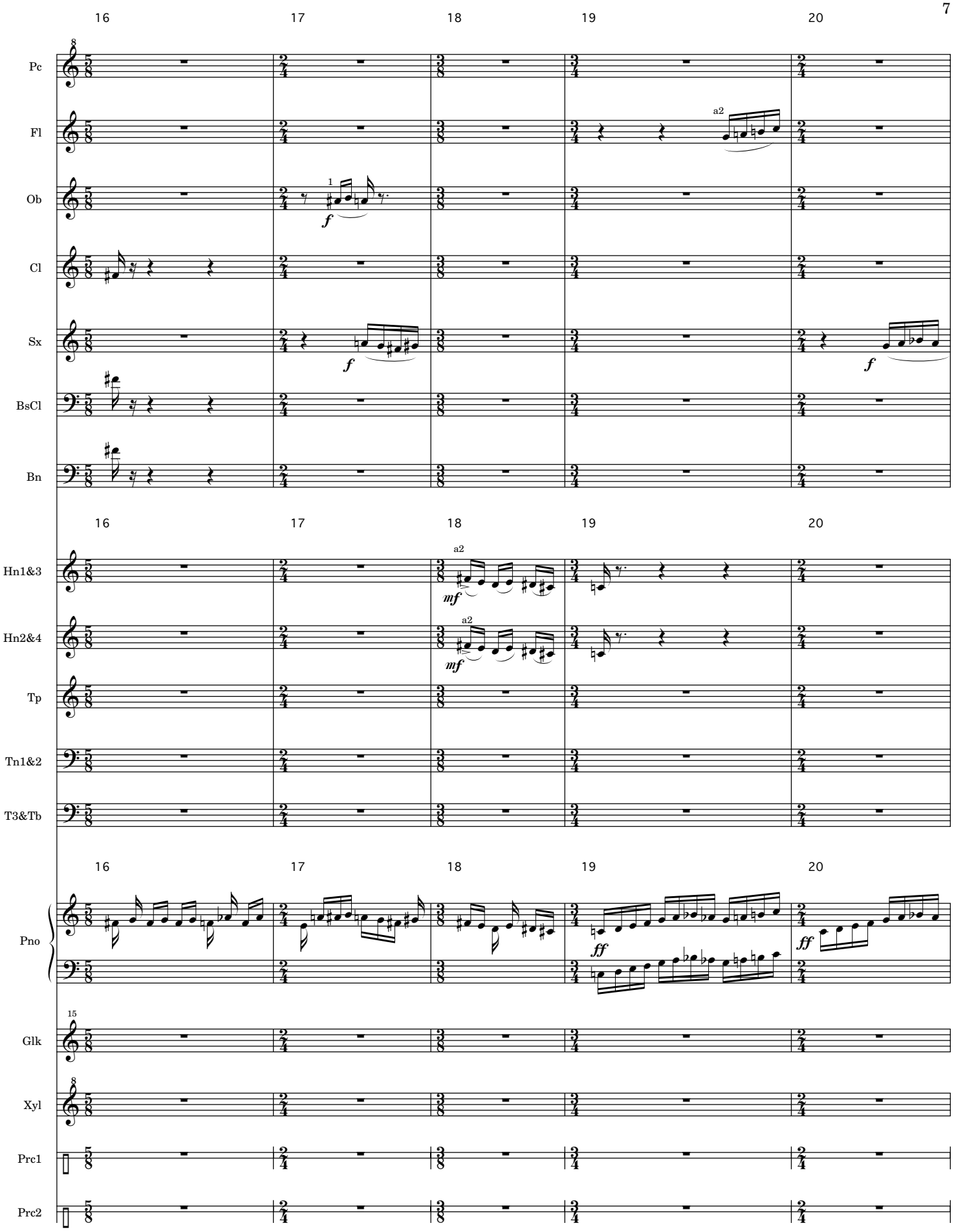
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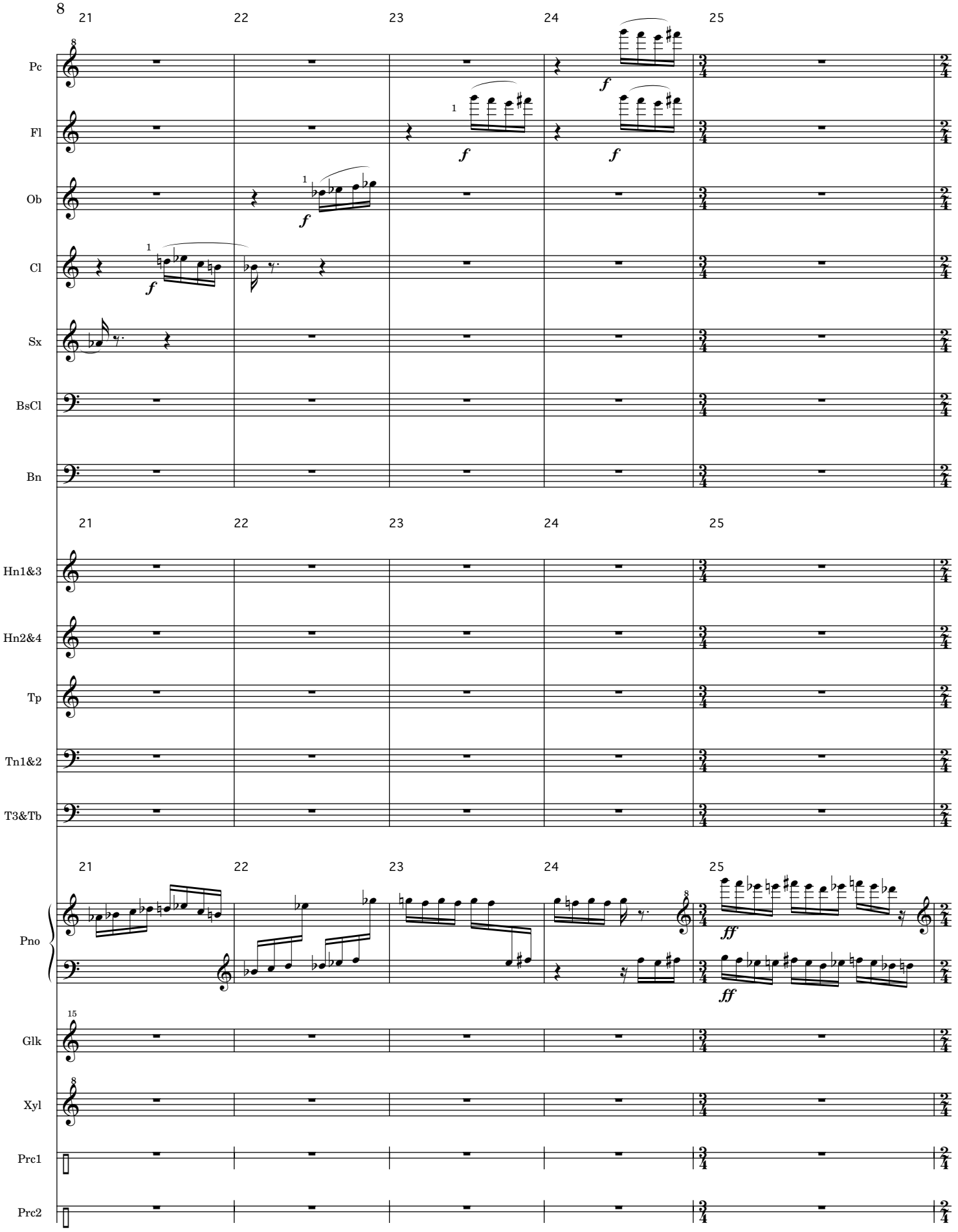
a2
1
f
mf
ff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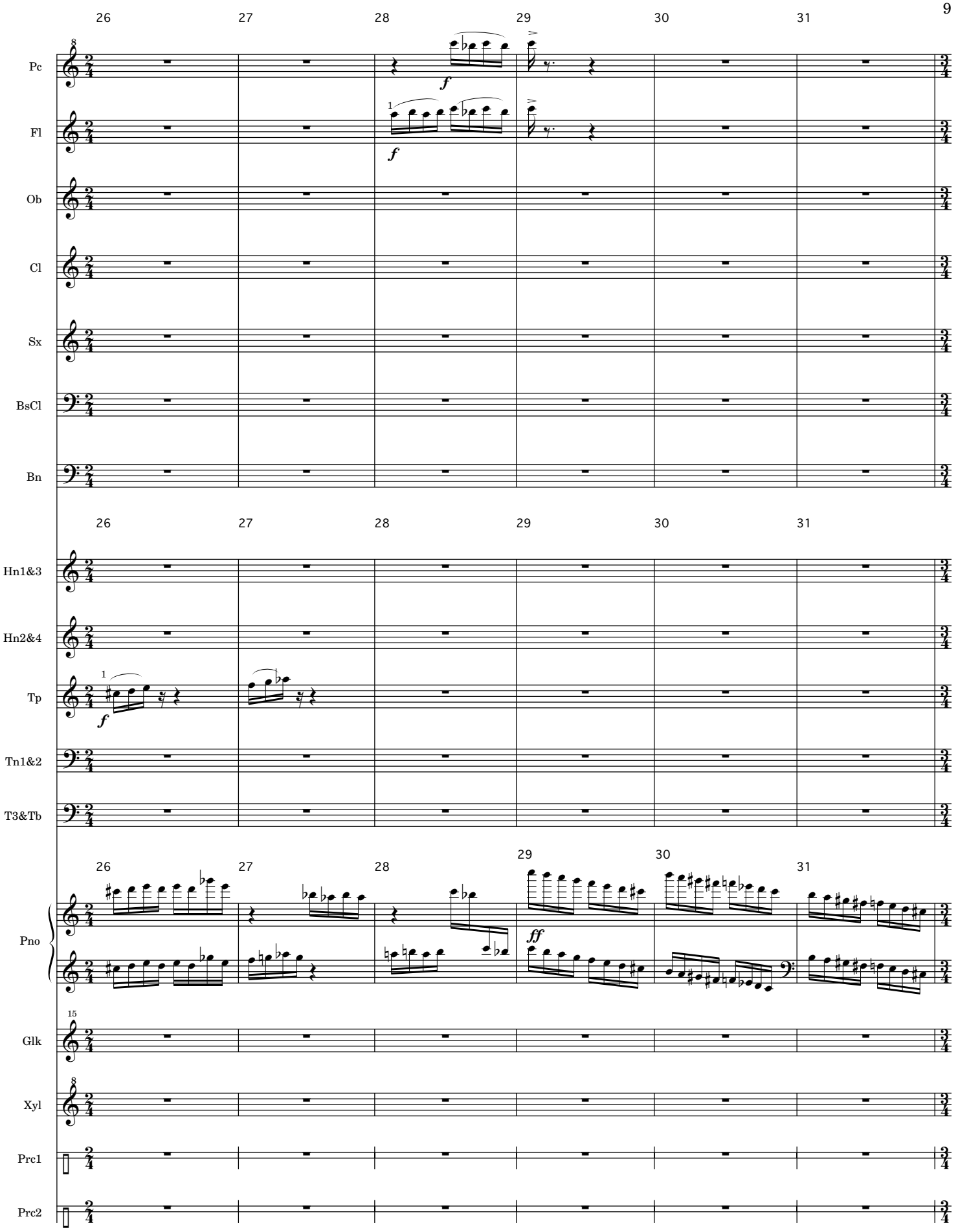
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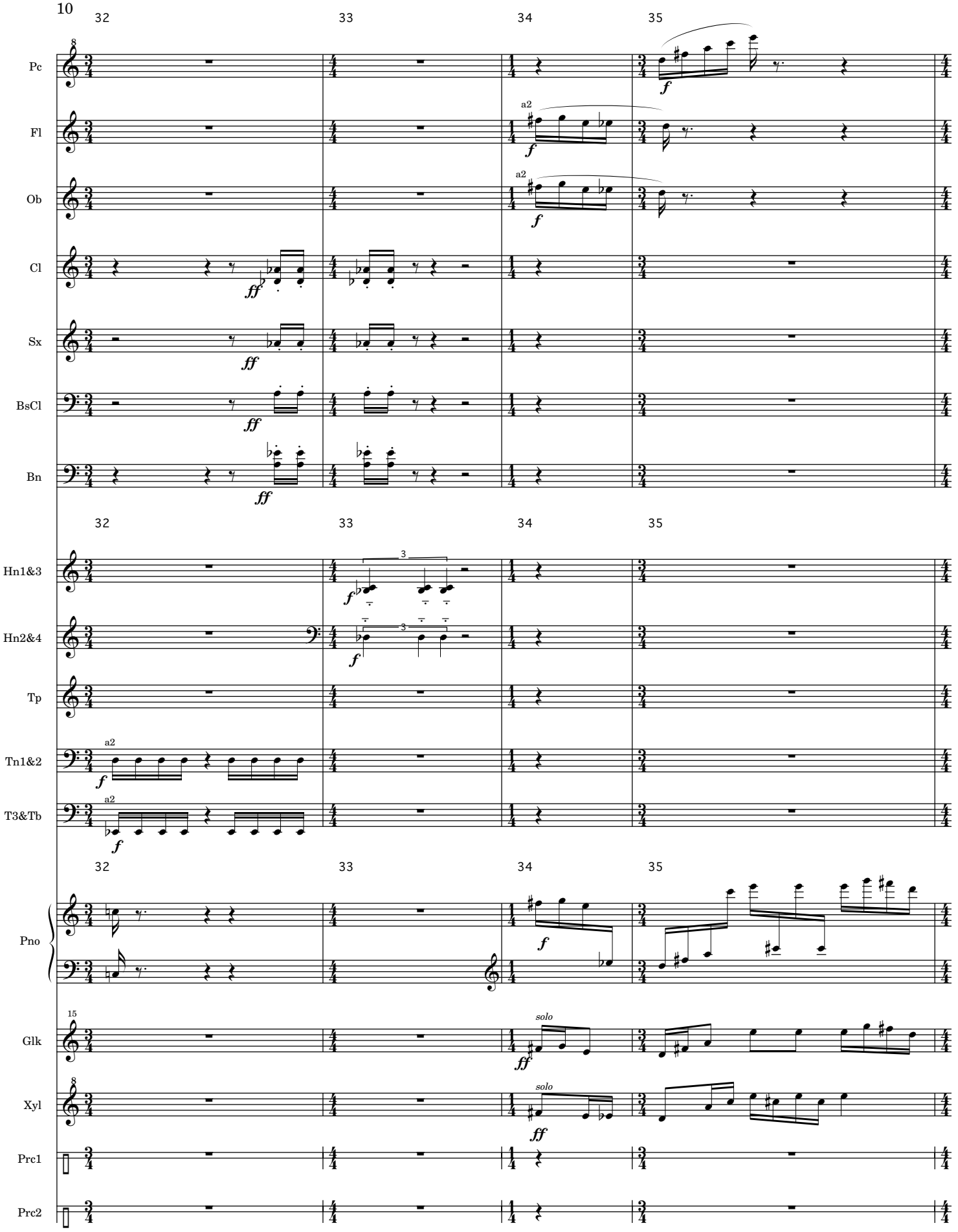
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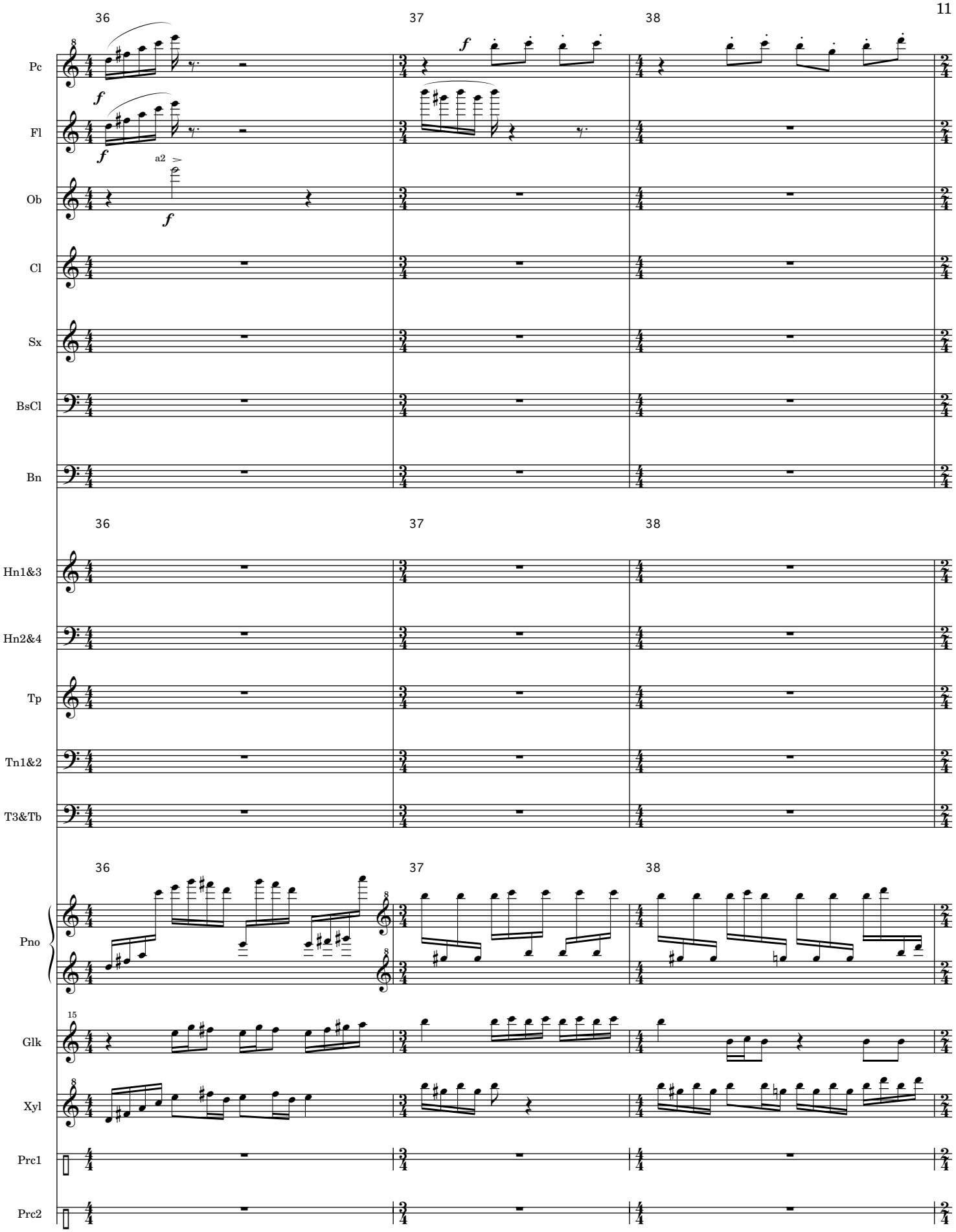
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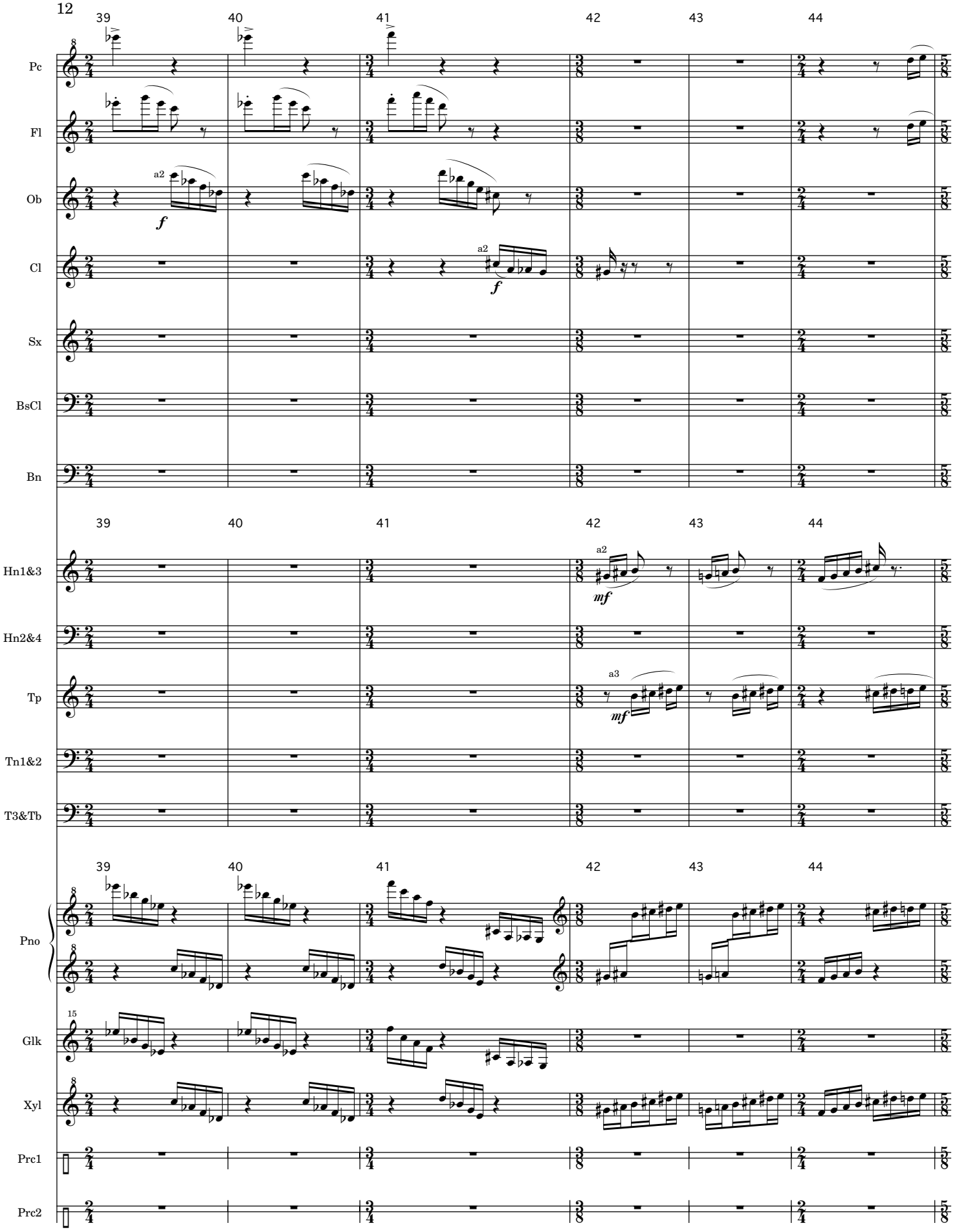
Prc2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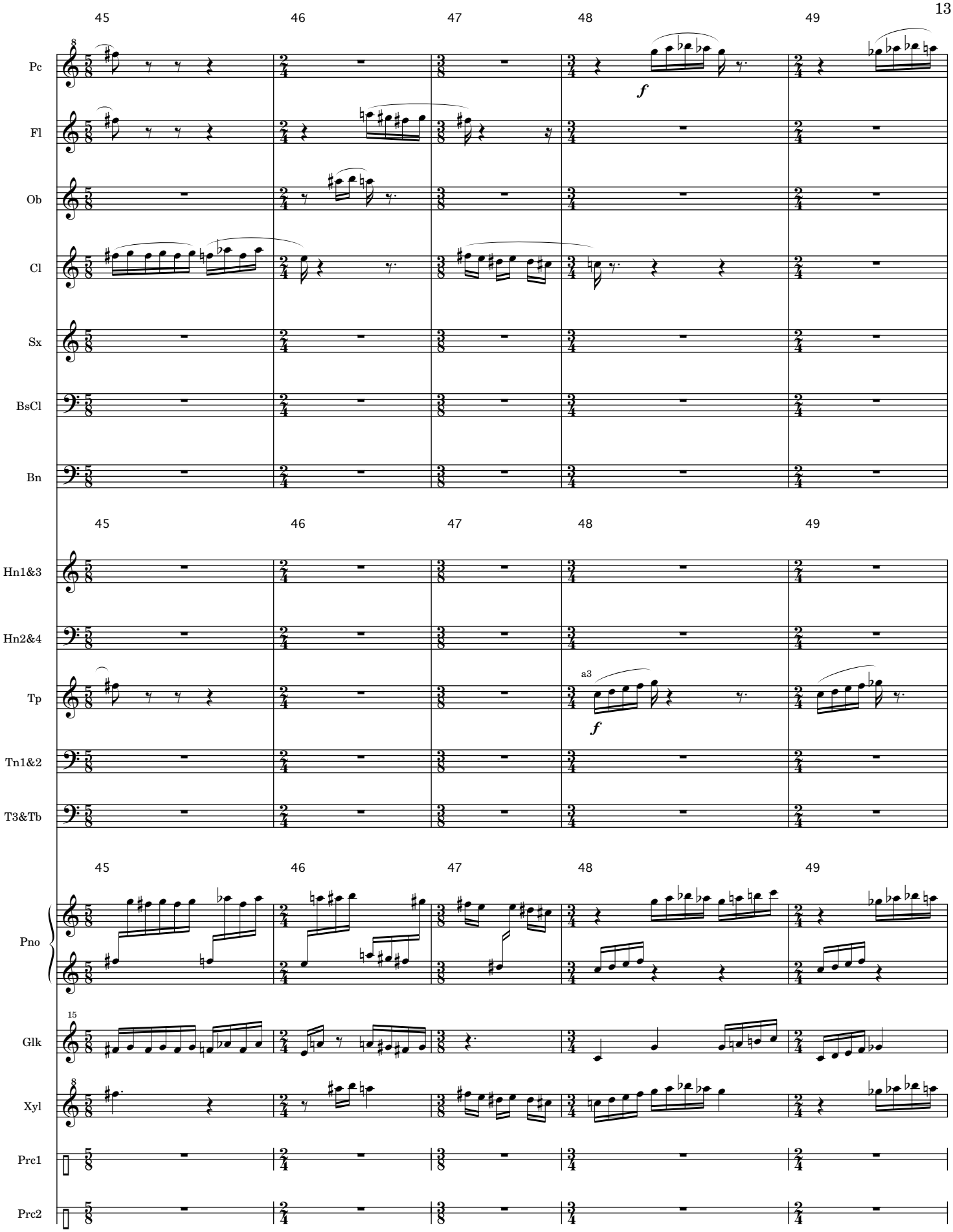
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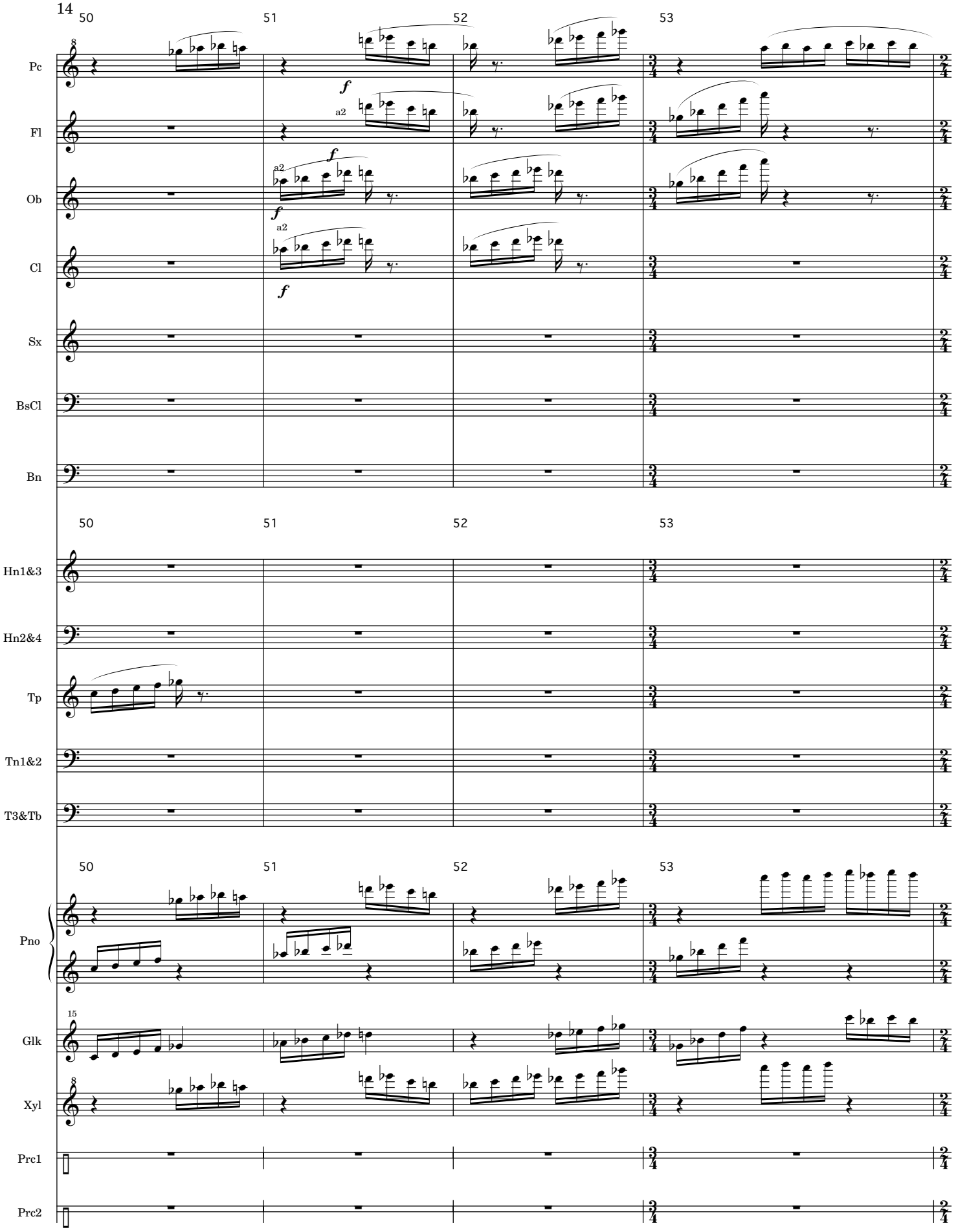
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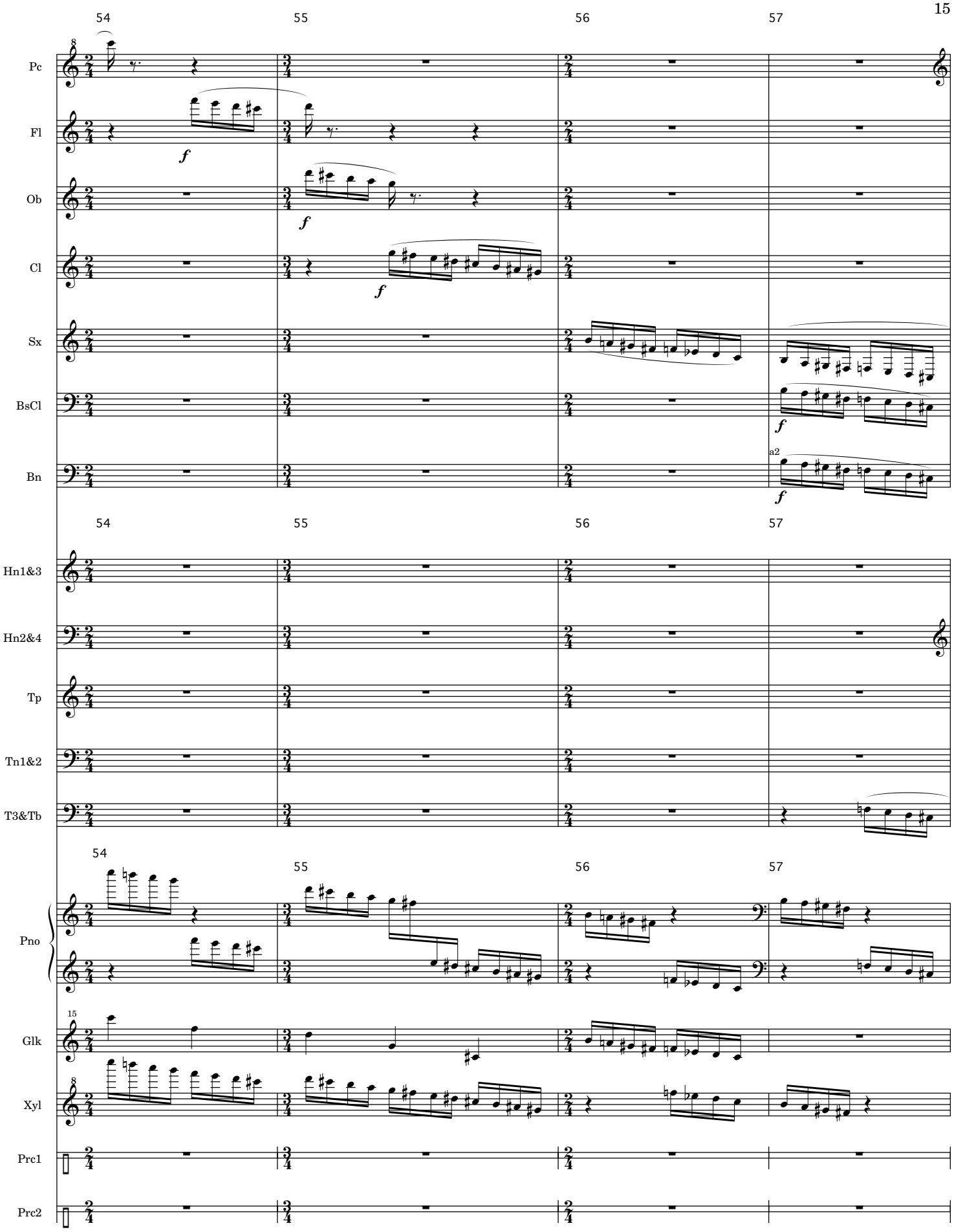
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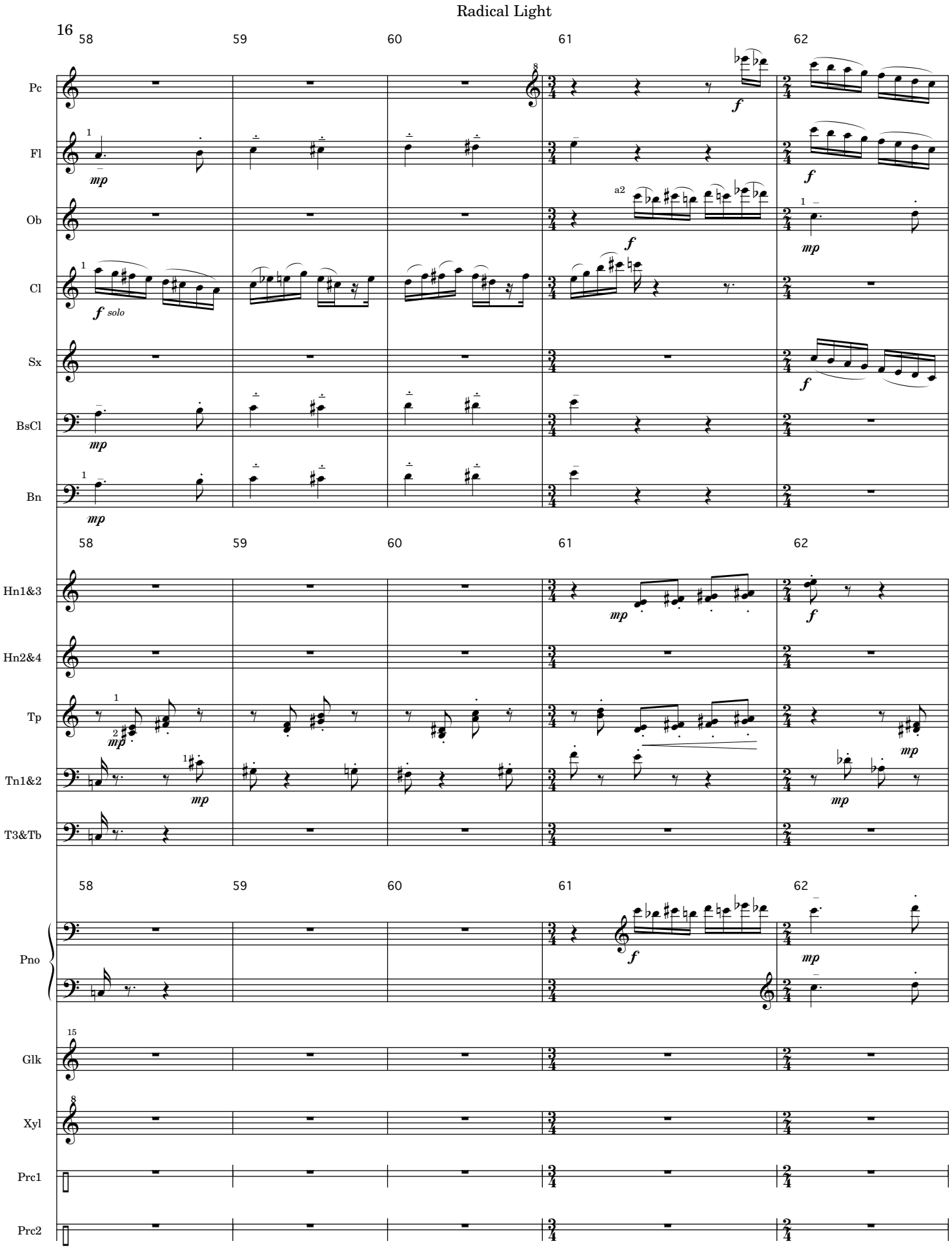
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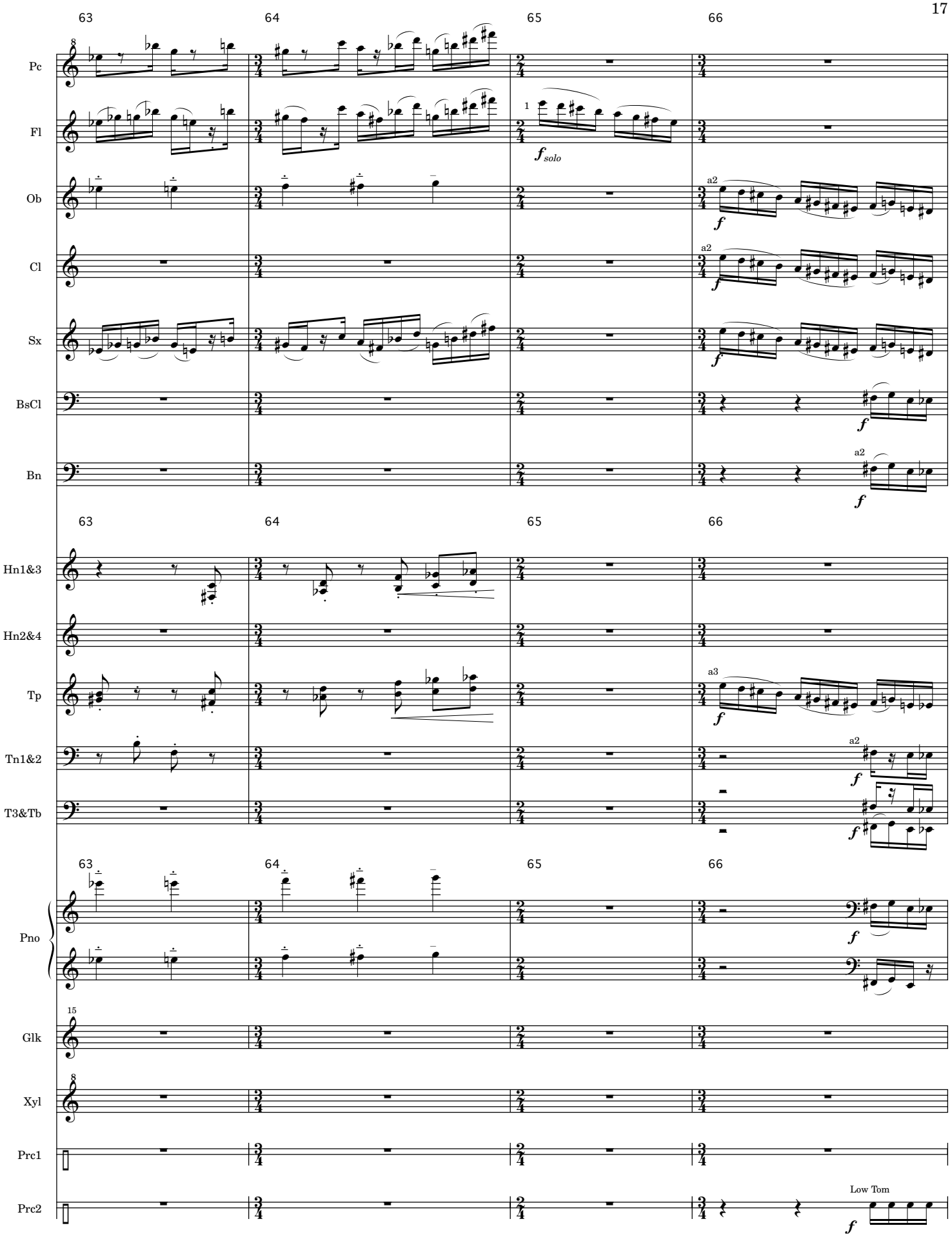
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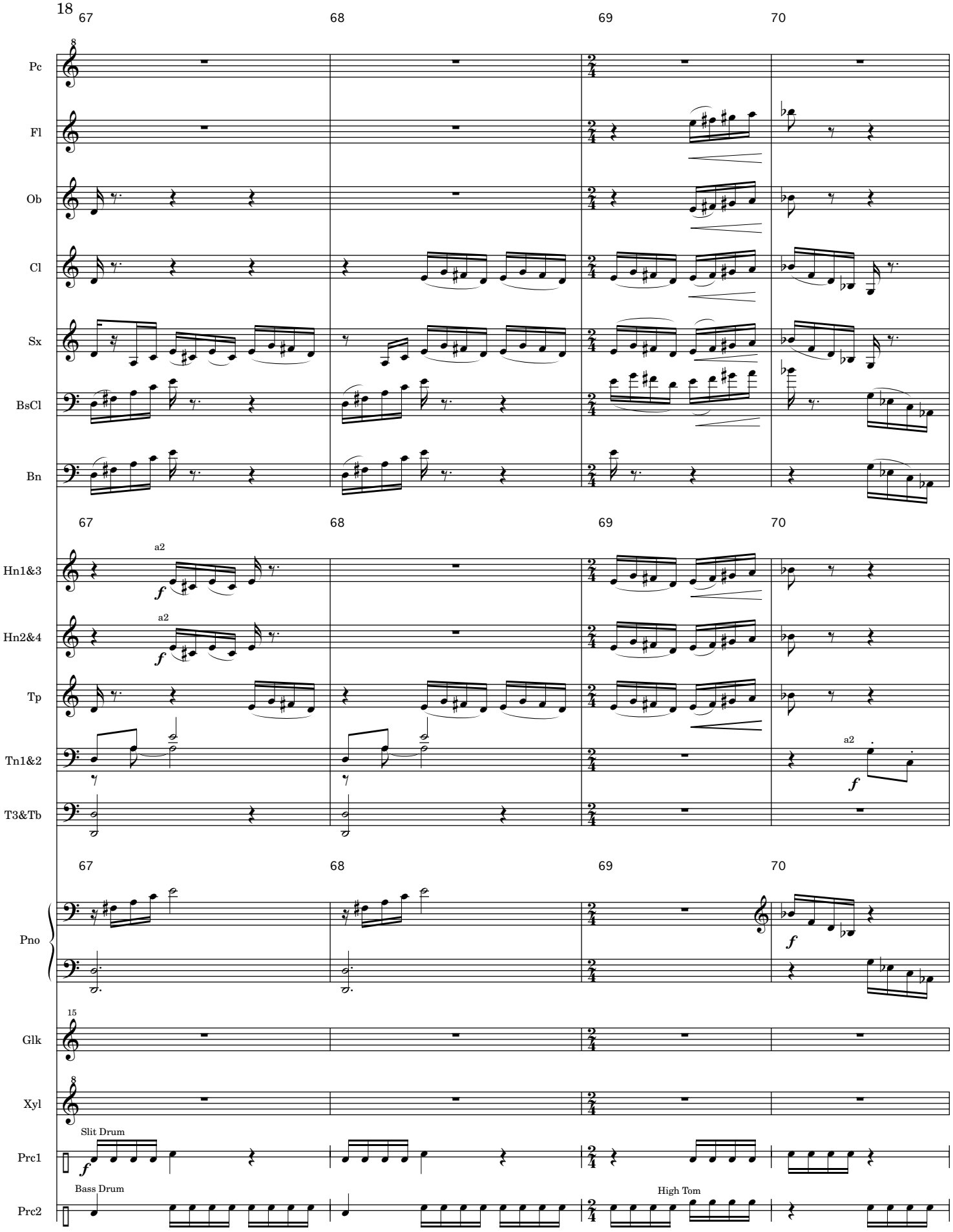
Prc2
solo
a2
a3
Low Tom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Xyl
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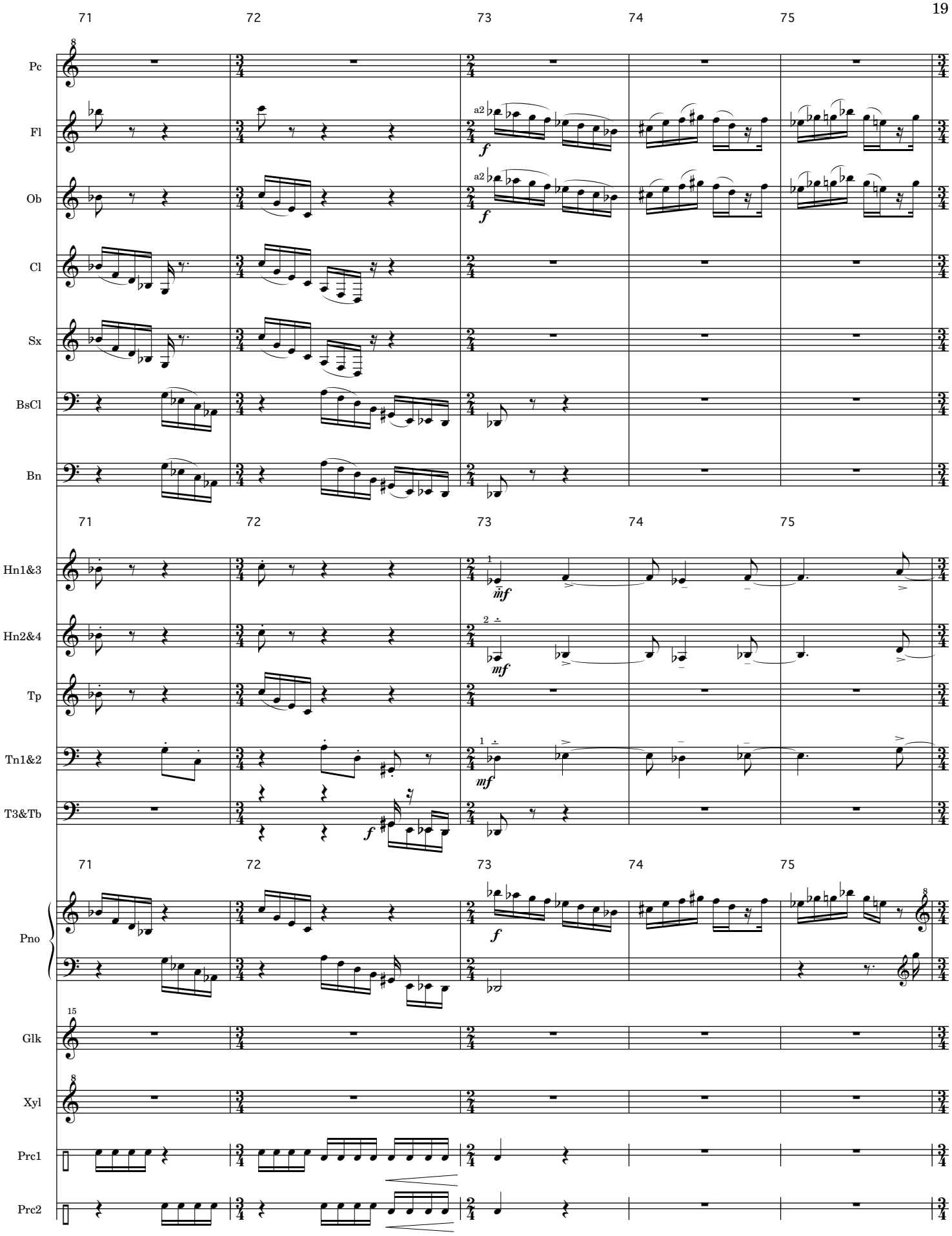
Prc2
Slit Drum
Bass Drum
High Tom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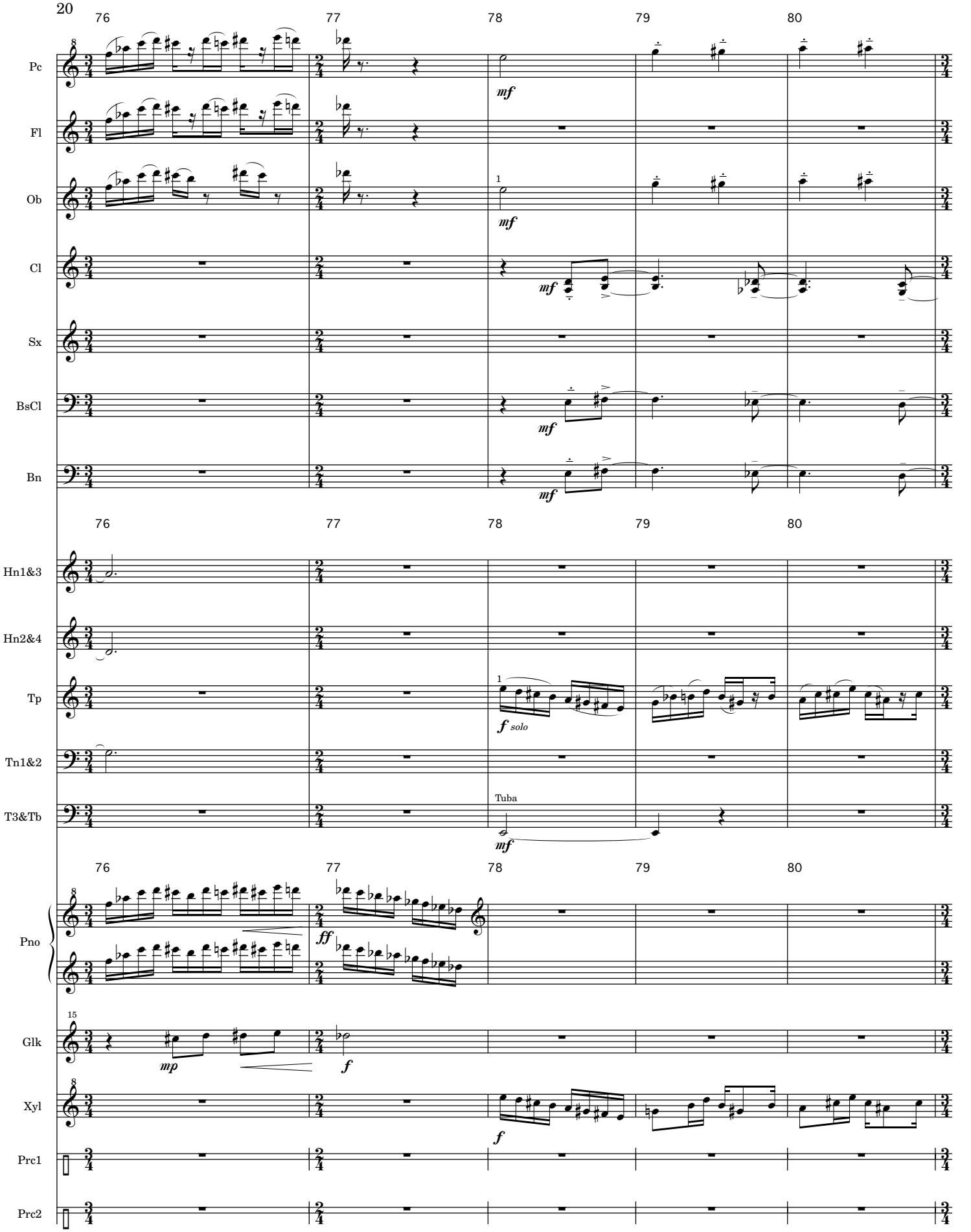
Prc1
Prc2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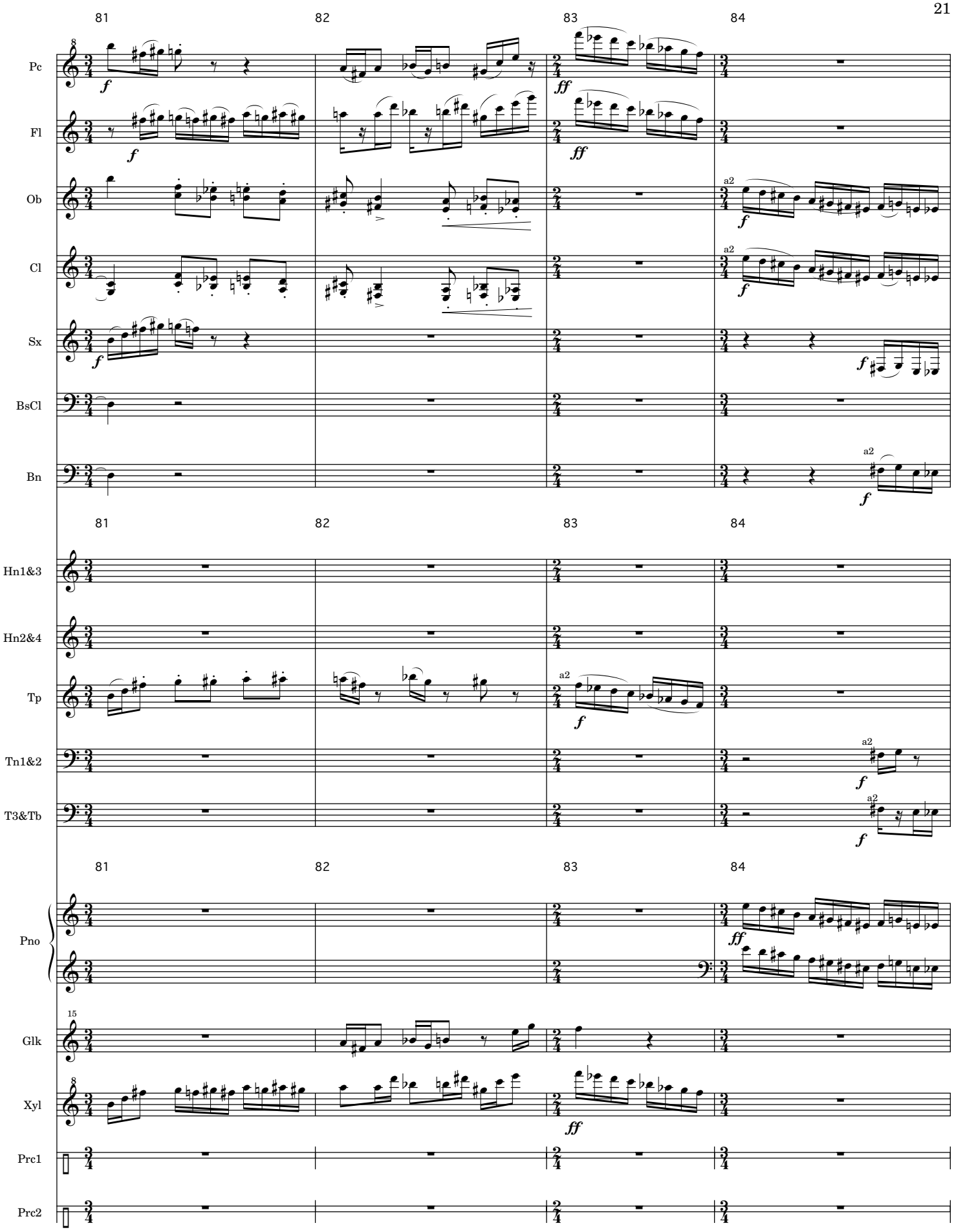
Tuba
solo
Pno
Glk
Xyl
Prc1
Prc2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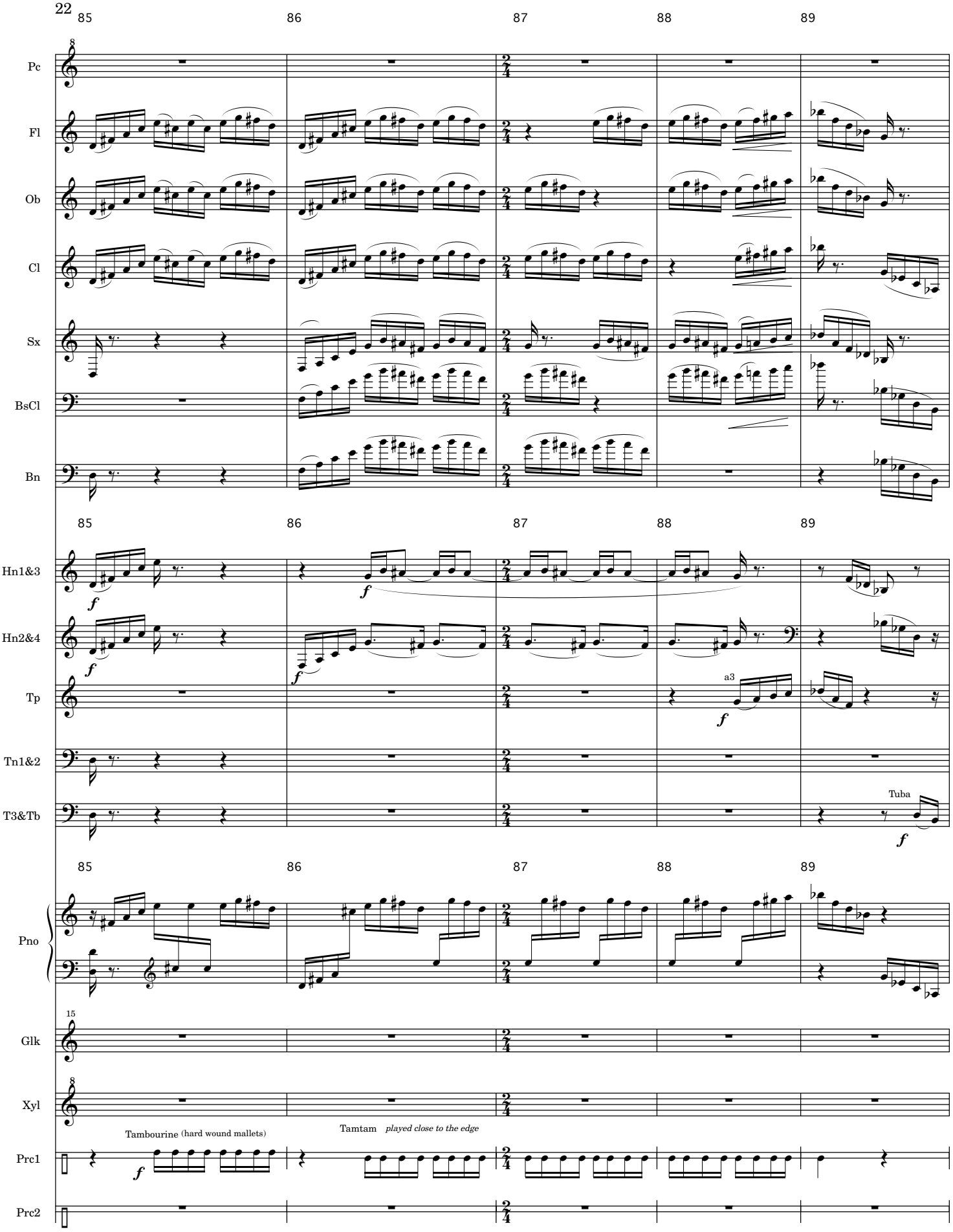
Pno
Glk
Xyl
Prc1
Prc2
a2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Bn
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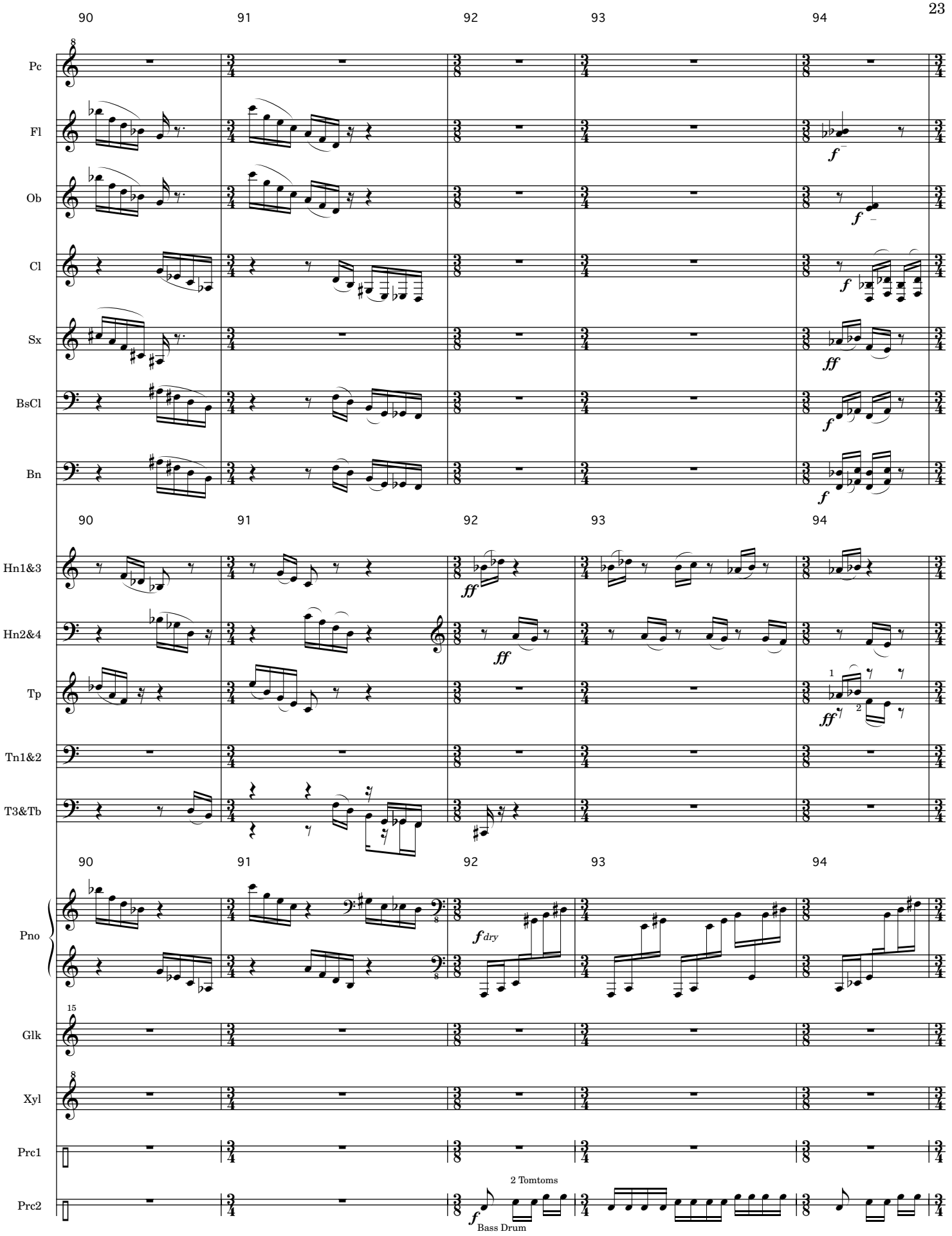
Hn2&4
Tp
a3
Tn1&2
T3&Tb
Tuba
Pno
Glk
Xyl
Prc1
Tambourine (hard wound mallets)
Tamtam played close to the edge
Prc2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Bn
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Pno
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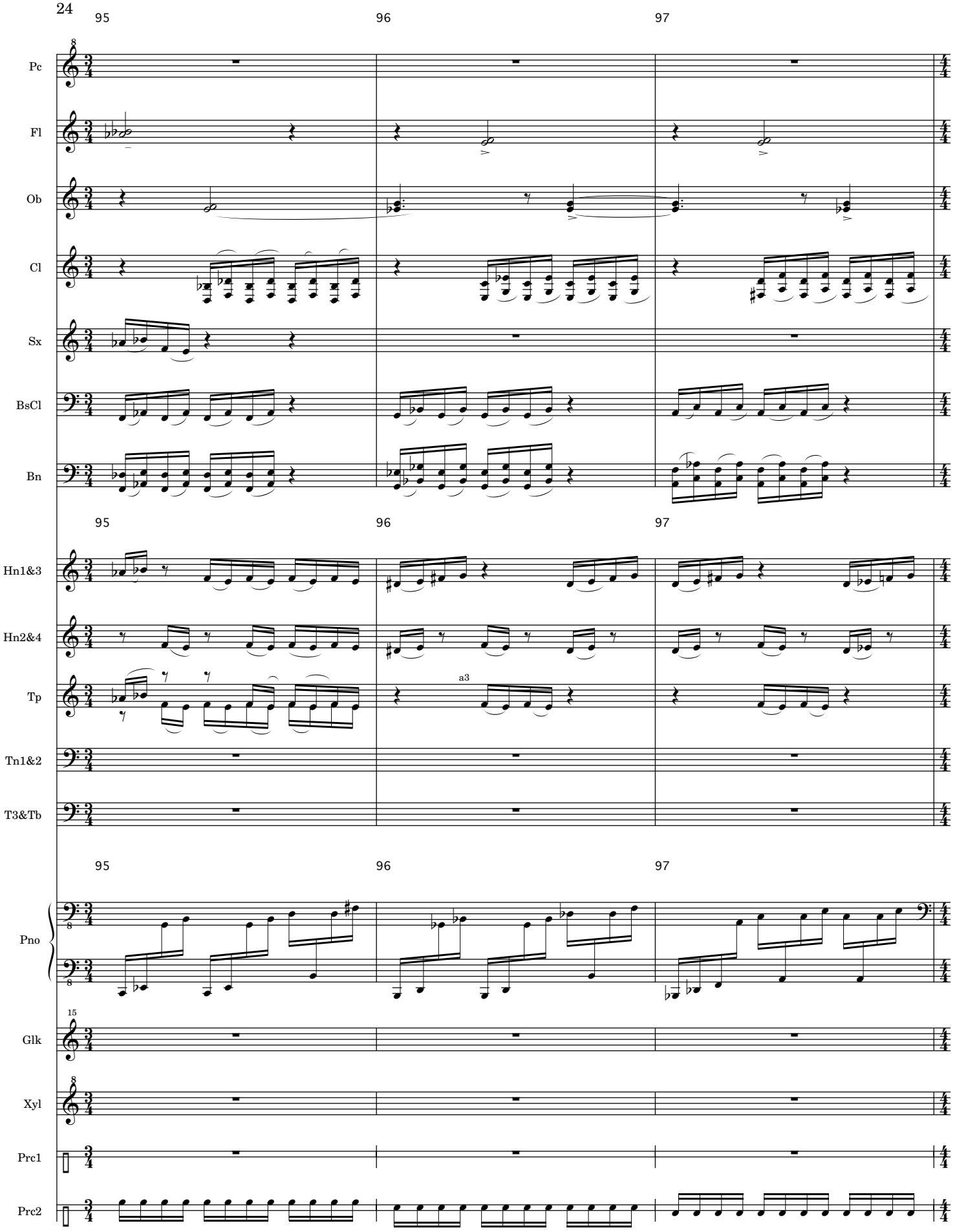
Xyl
Prc1
Prc2
2 Tomtoms
Bass Drum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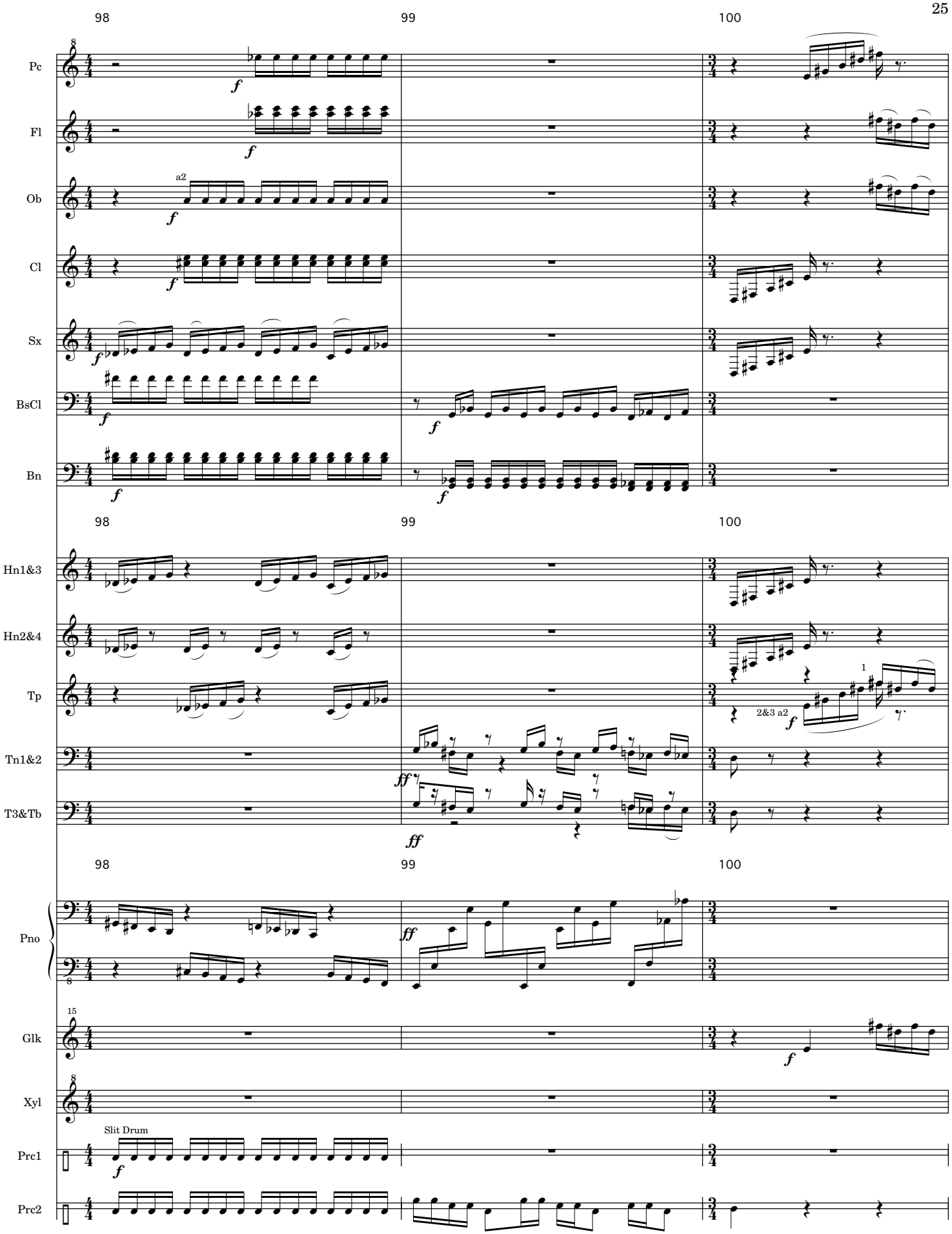
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Prc1
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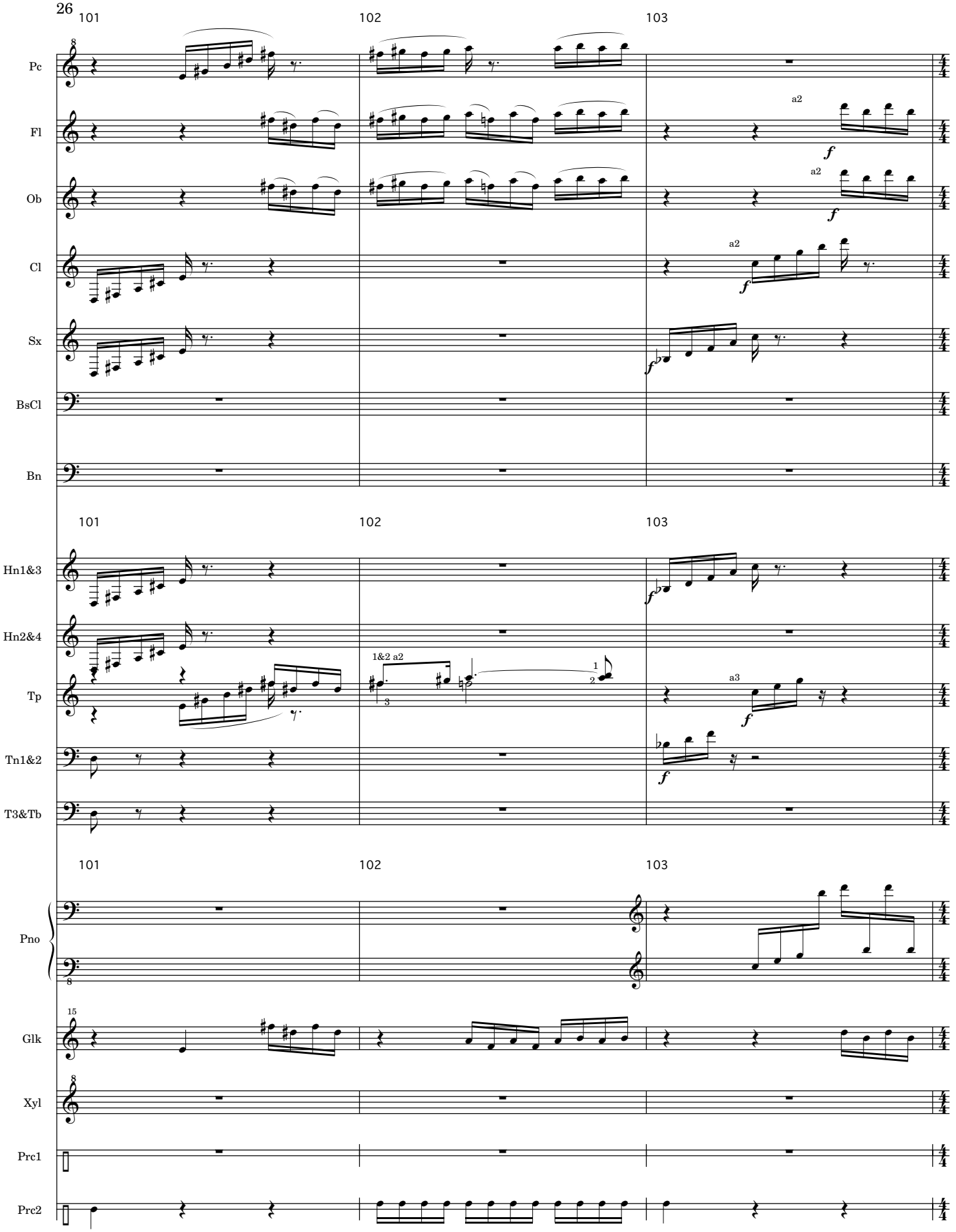
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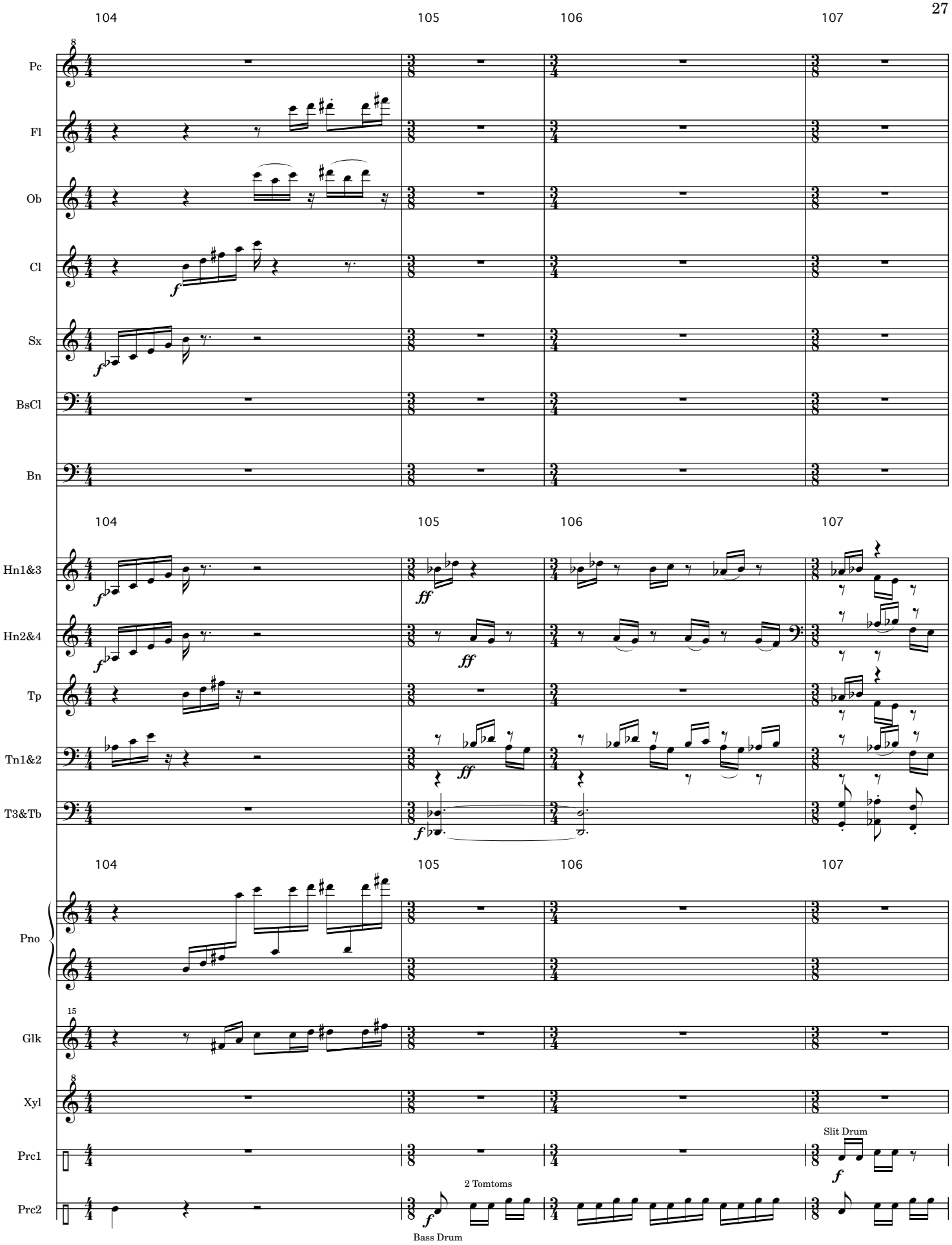
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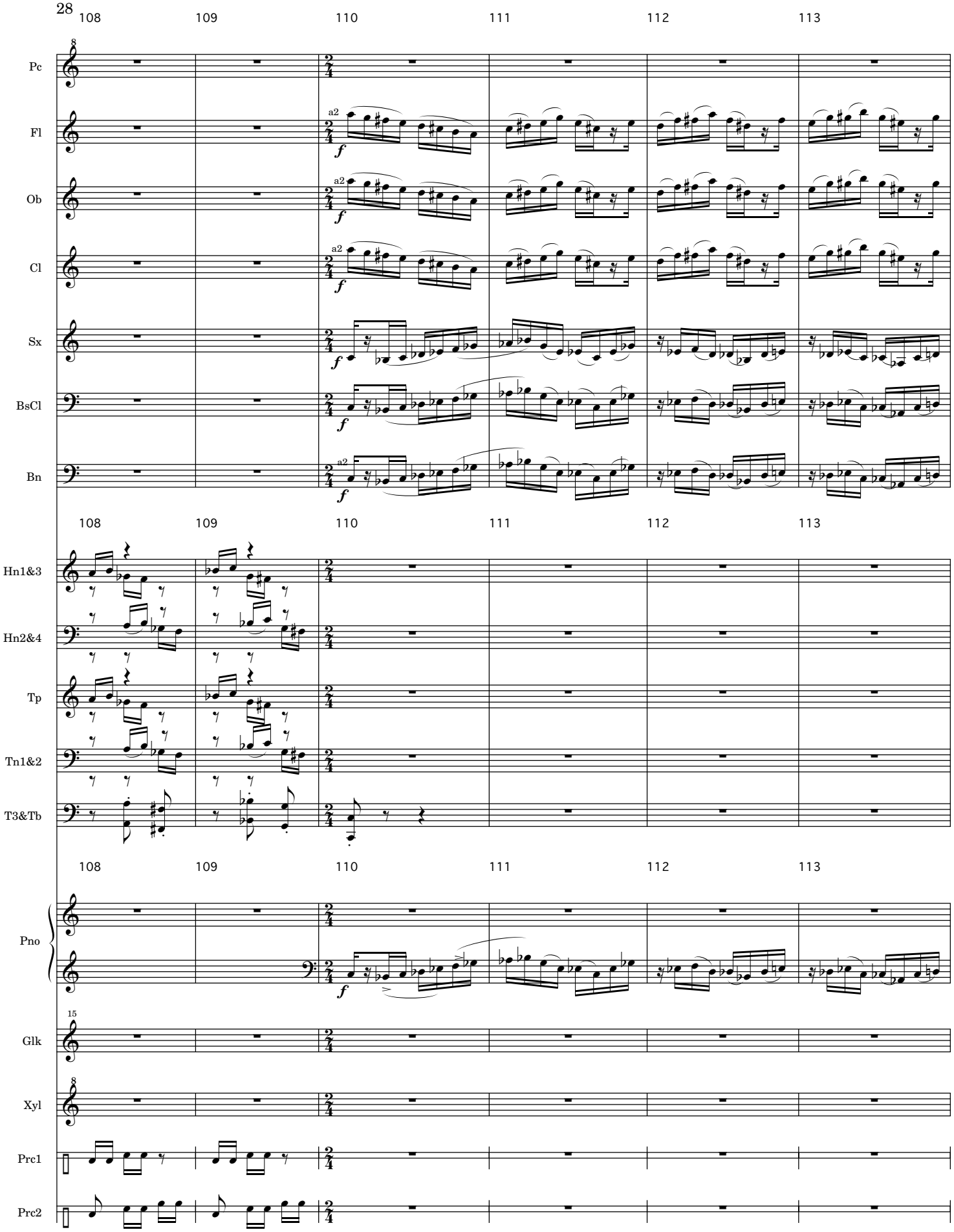
Prc2
Slit Drum
2 Tomtoms
Bass Drum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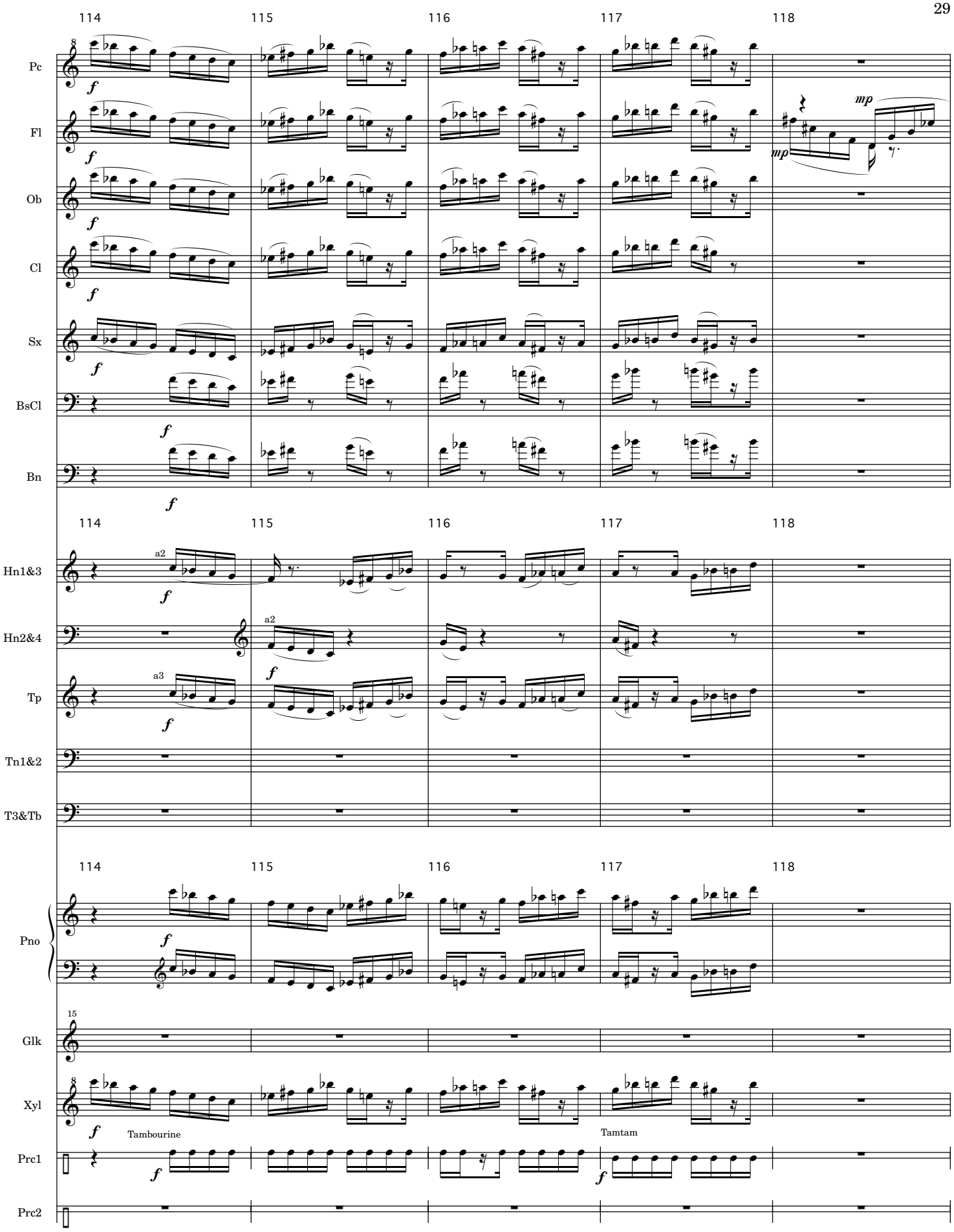
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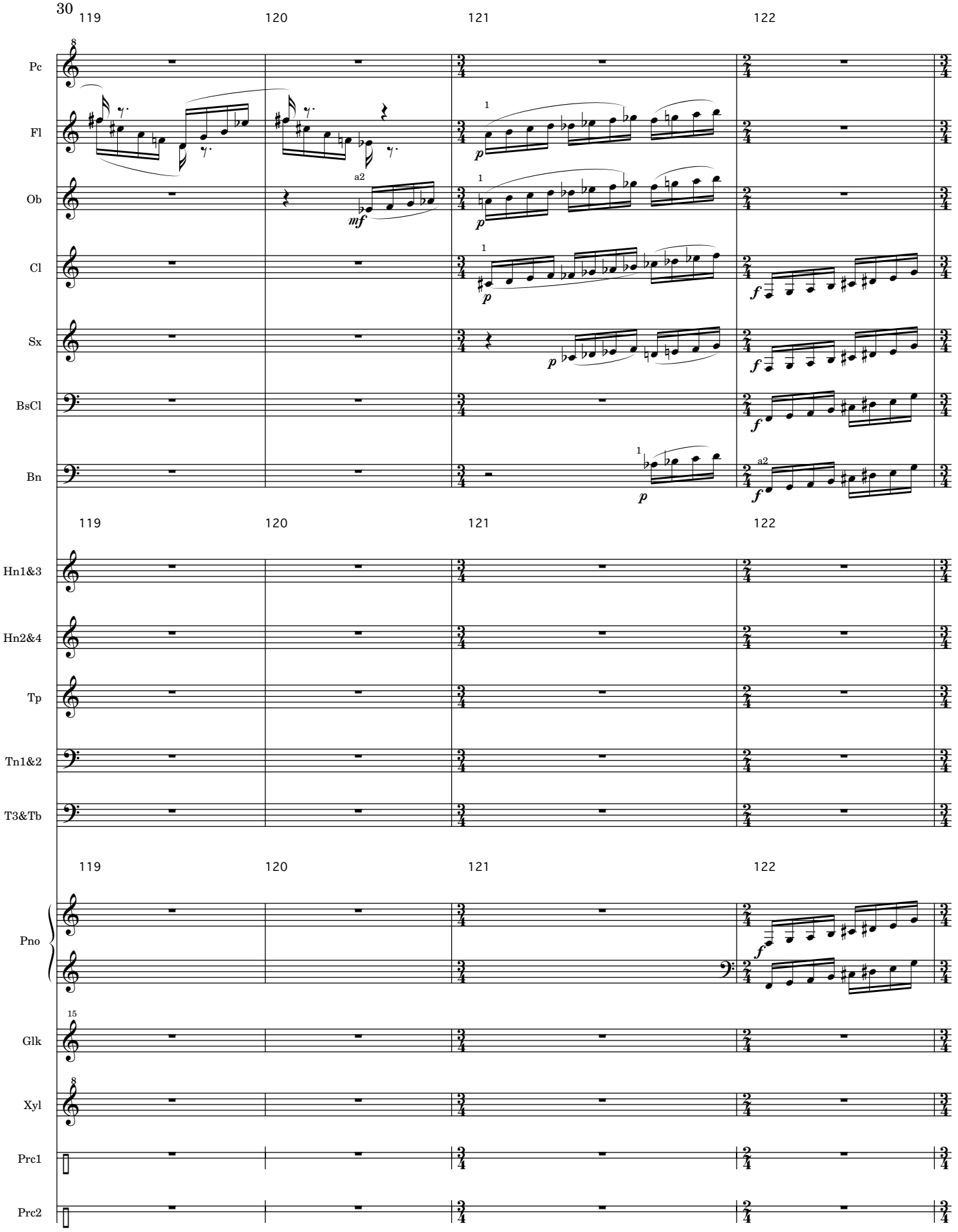
Tamtam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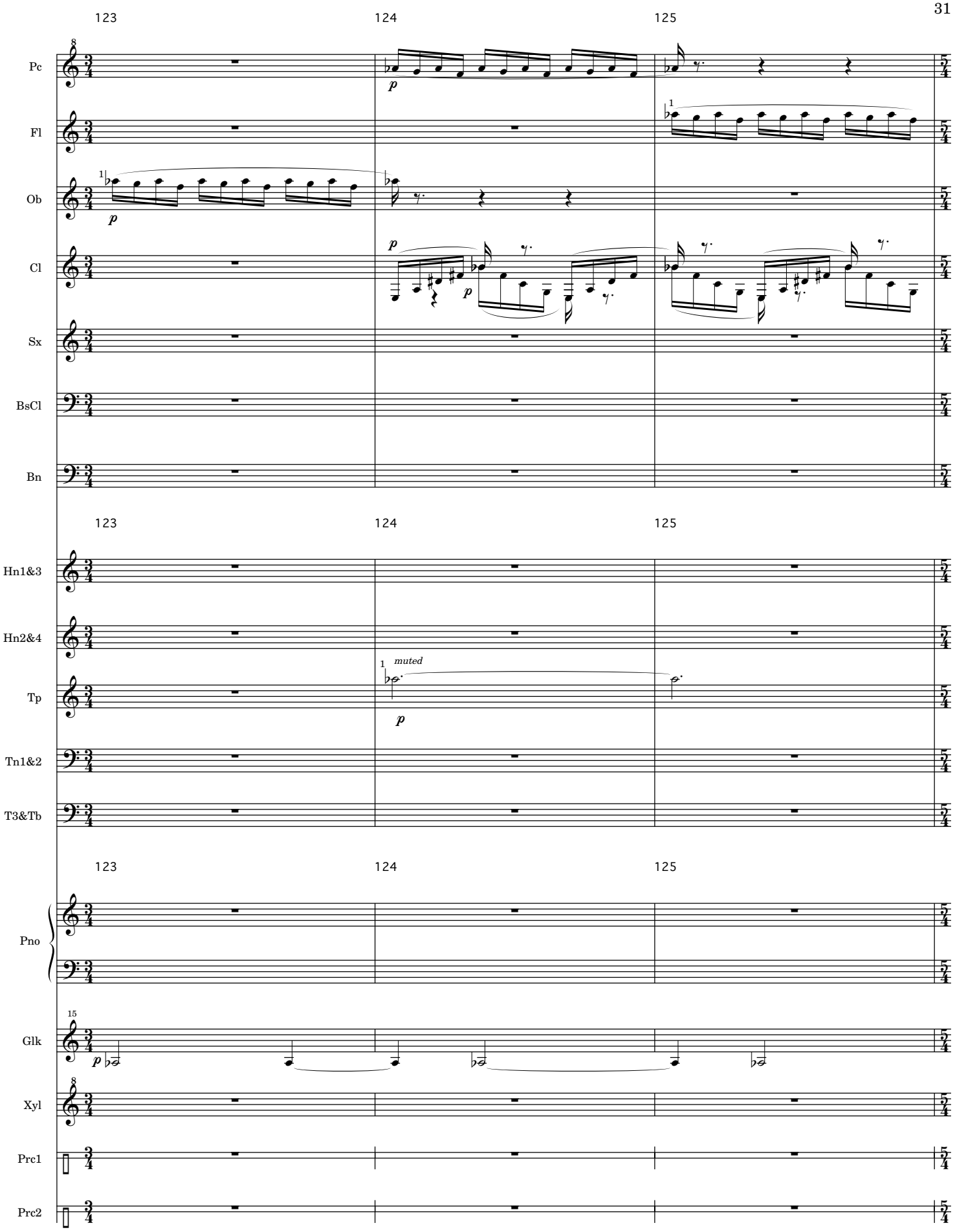
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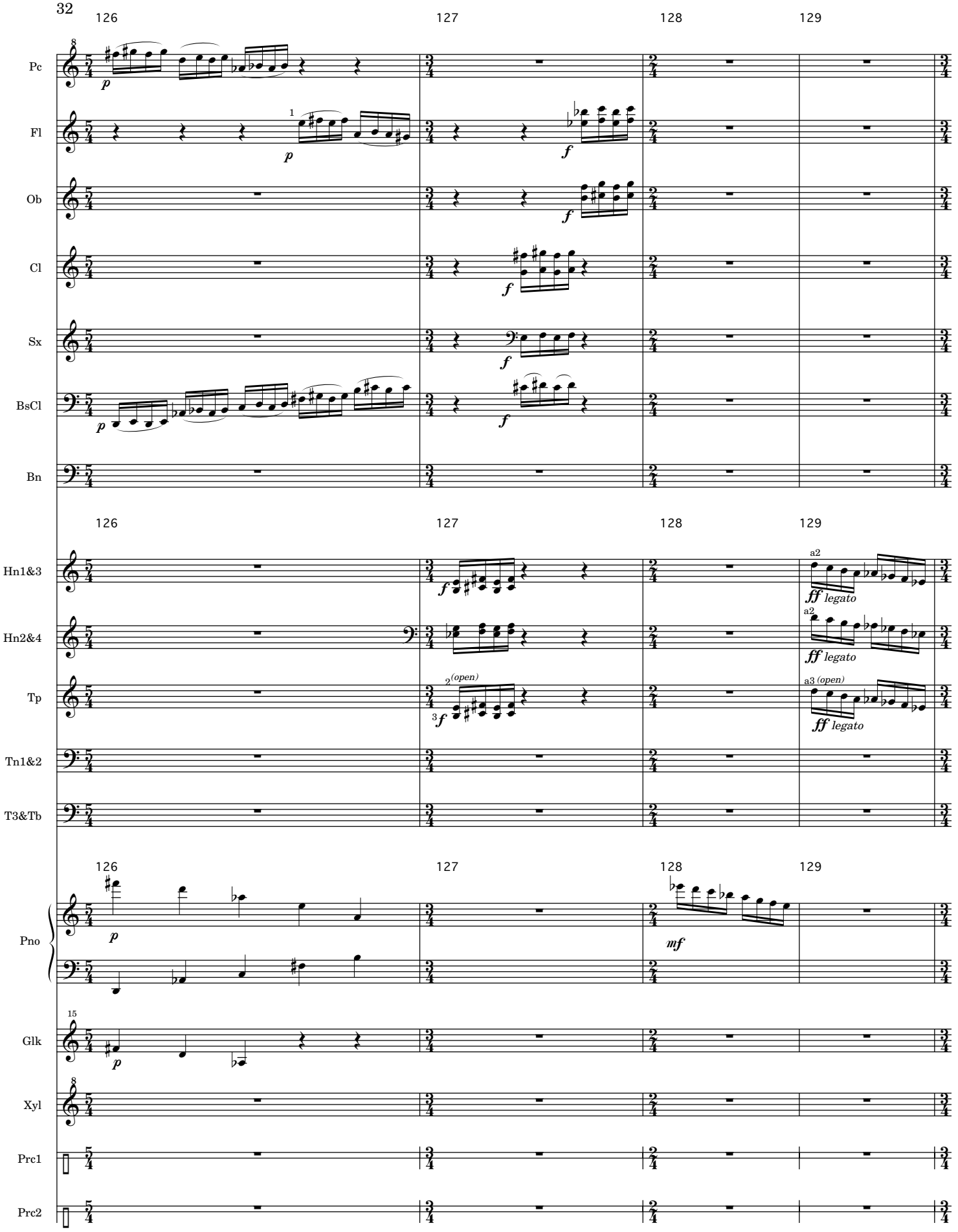
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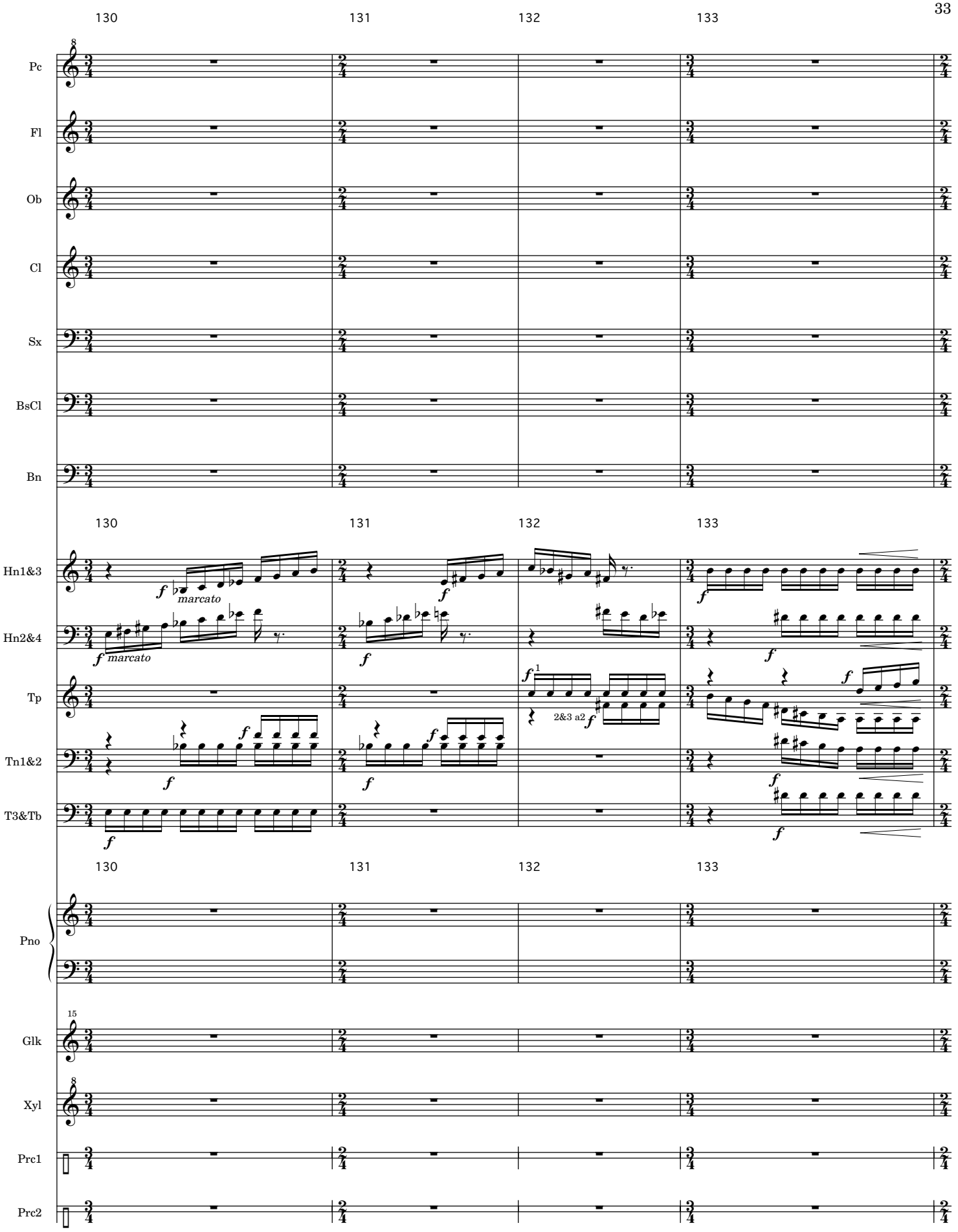
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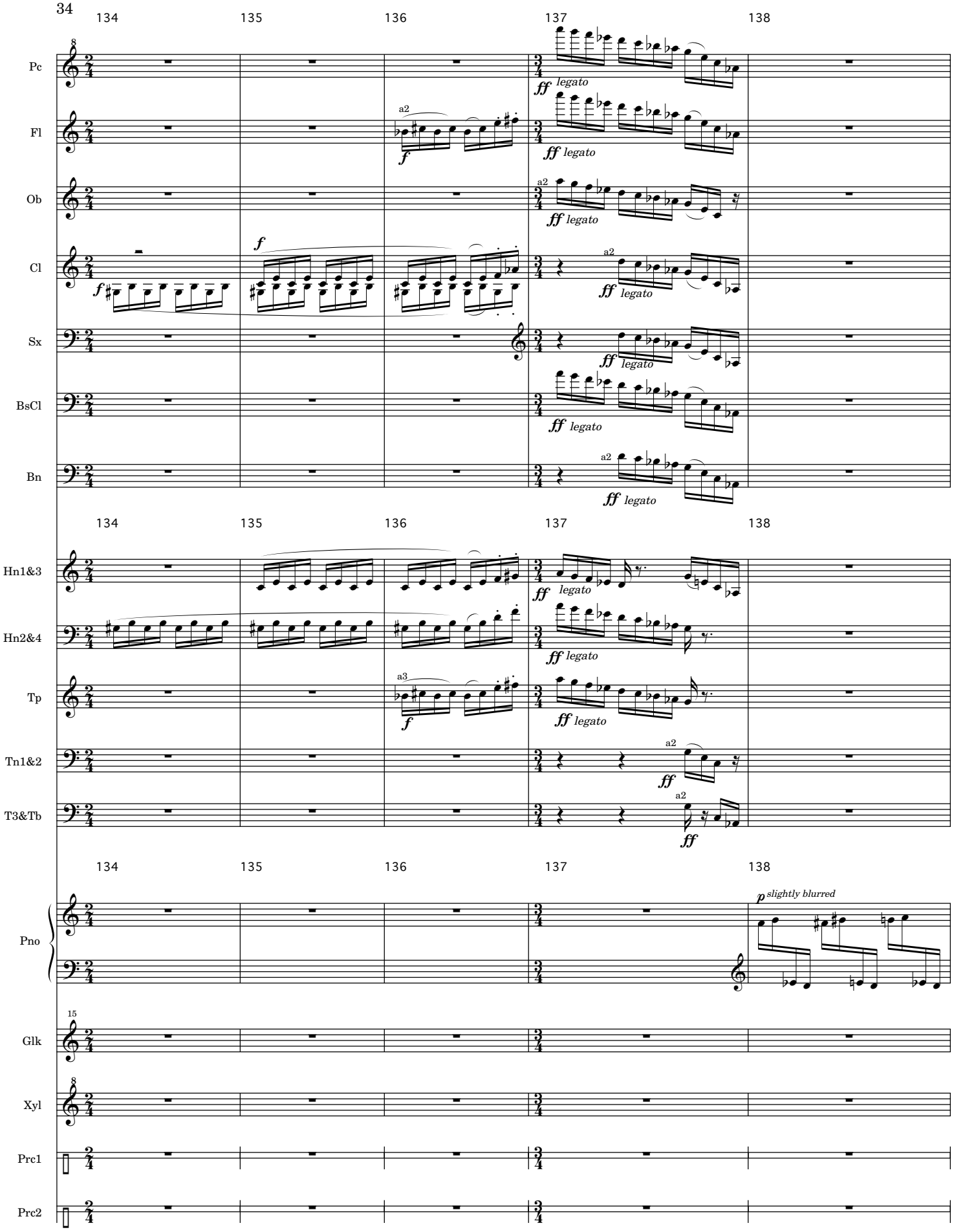
Pno
Glk
Xyl
Prc1
Prc2
marcato
2&3 a2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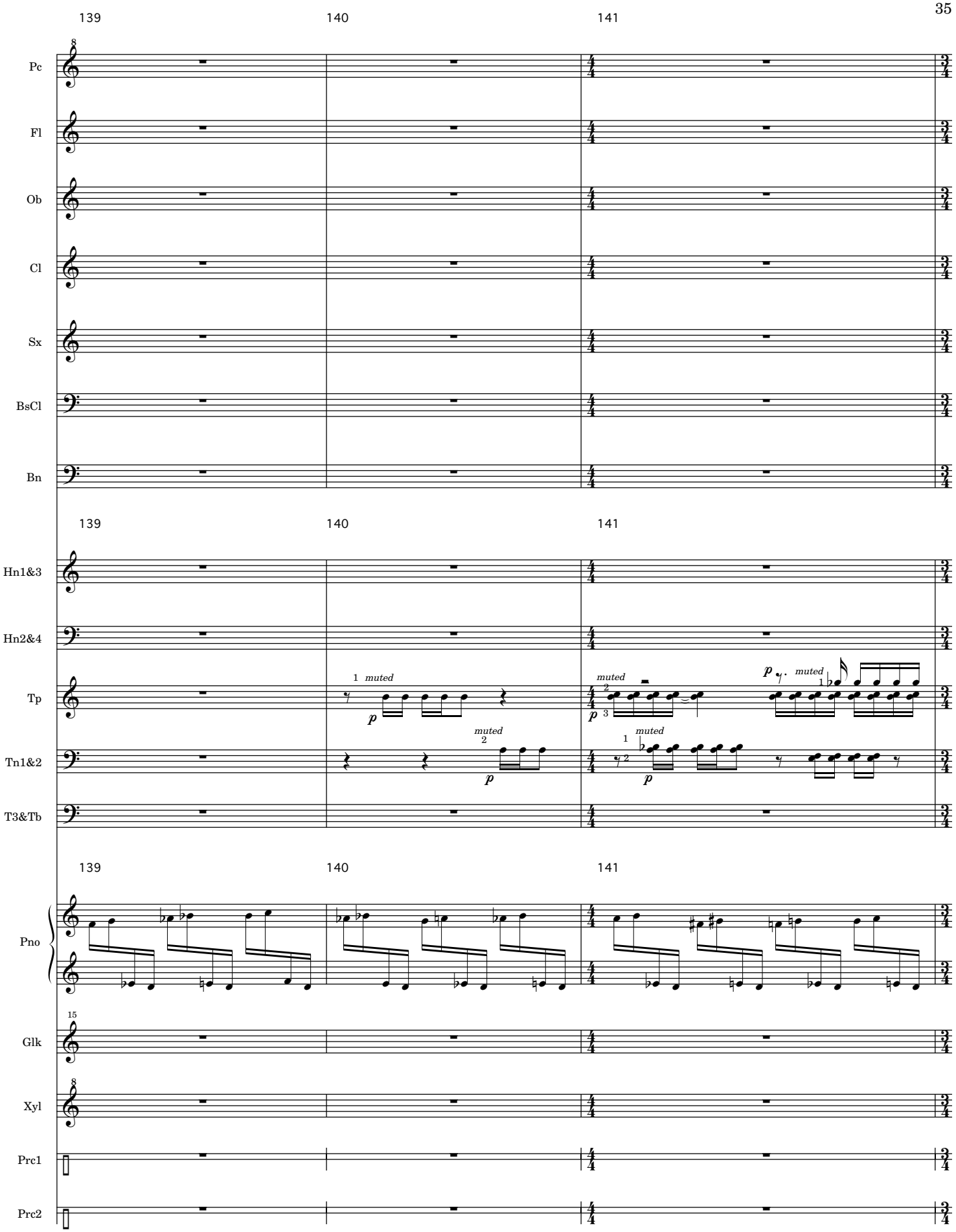
136
137
138
Pc
Fl
Ob
Cl
Sx
BsCl
Bn
Hn1&3
Hn2&4
Tp
Tn1&2
T3&Tb
Pno
Glk
Xyl
Prc1
Prc2
a2
a3
f
ff
legato
p
slightly blurred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Fl
Ob
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Sx
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Bn
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Tp
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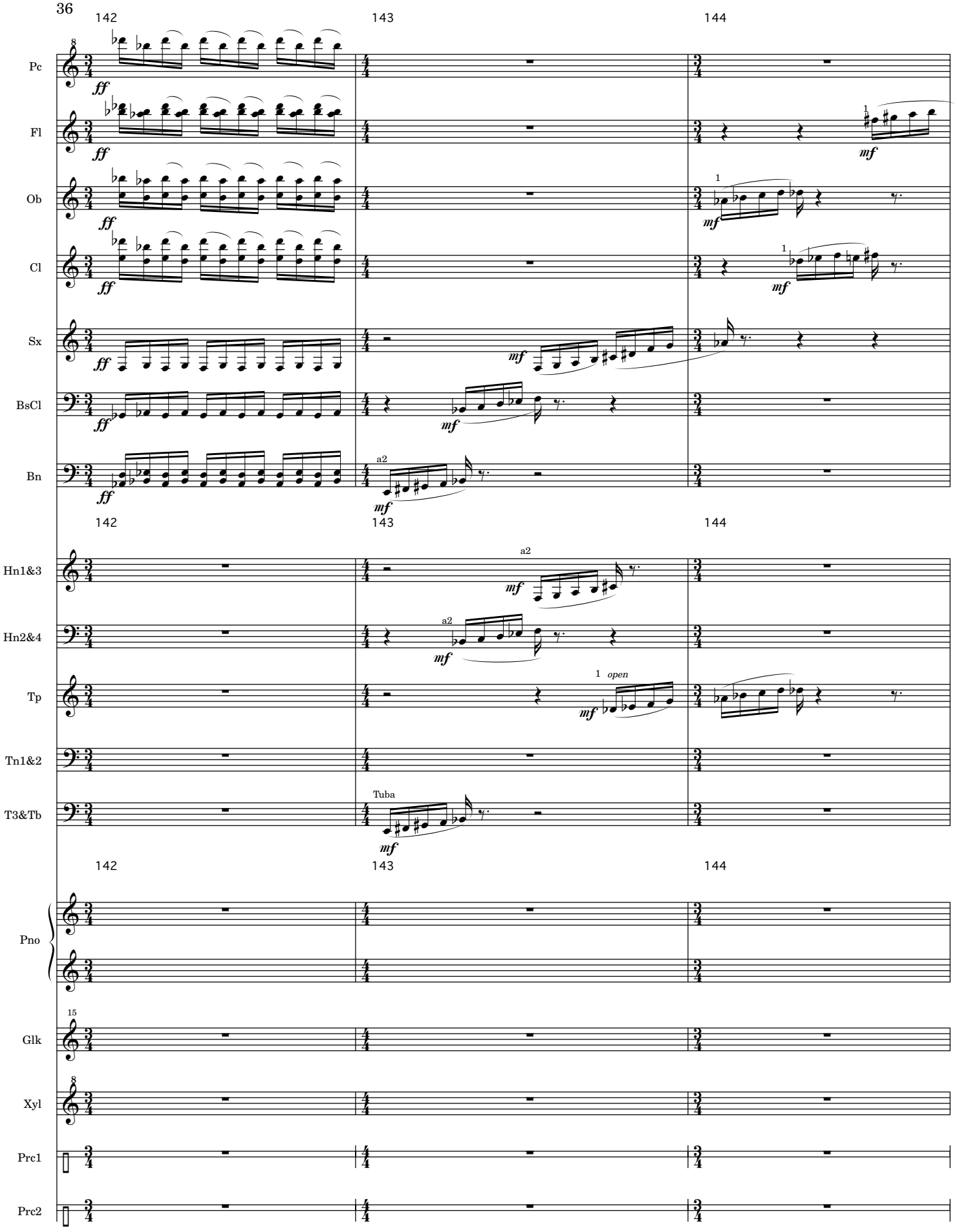
Pno
Glk
Xyl
Prc1
Prc2
muted
p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Sx
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Bn
Hn1&3
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Tp
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T3&Tb
Pno
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Xyl
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Prc2
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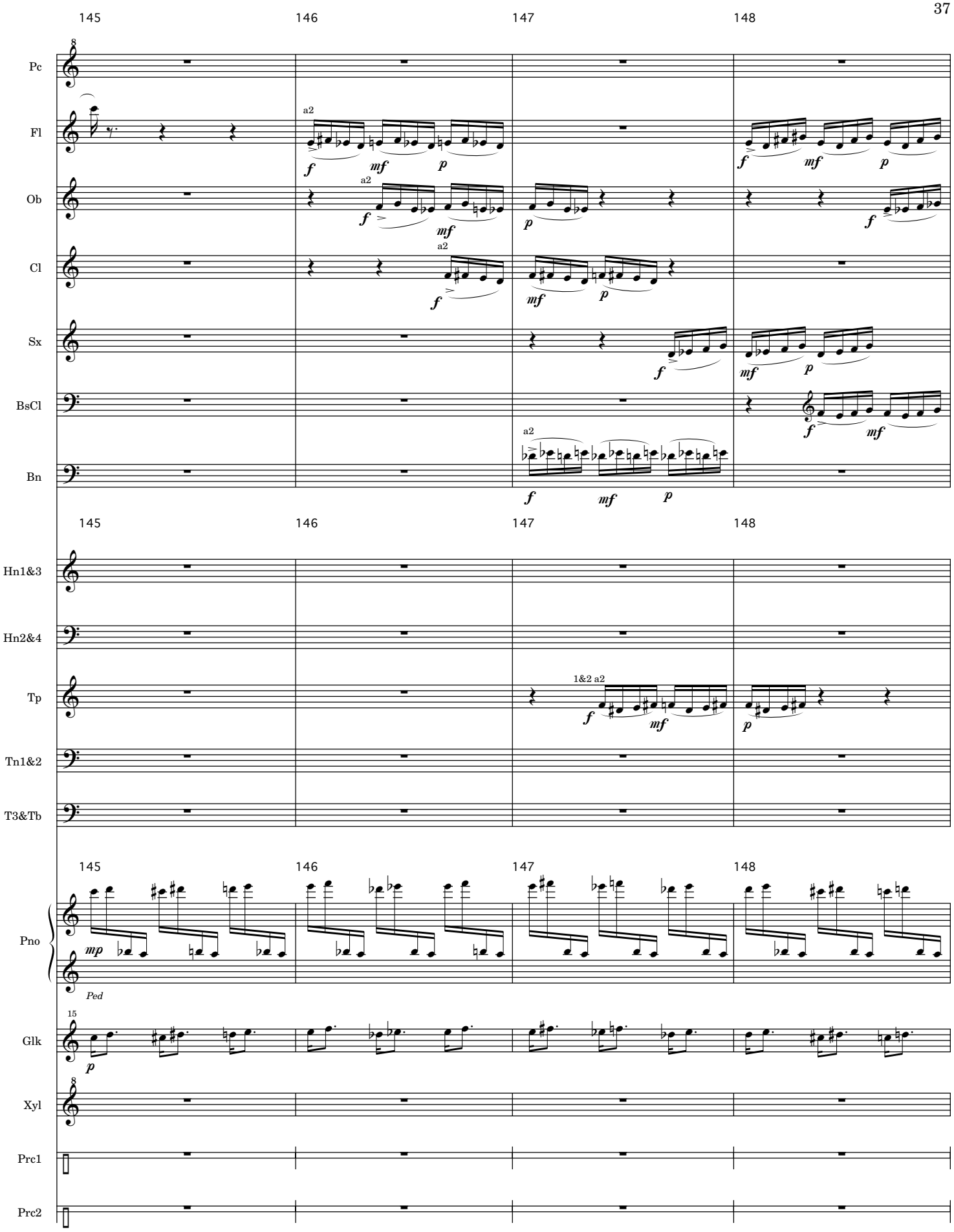
mf
a2
Tuba
open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147
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BsCl
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Hn1&3
Hn2&4
Tp
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Pno
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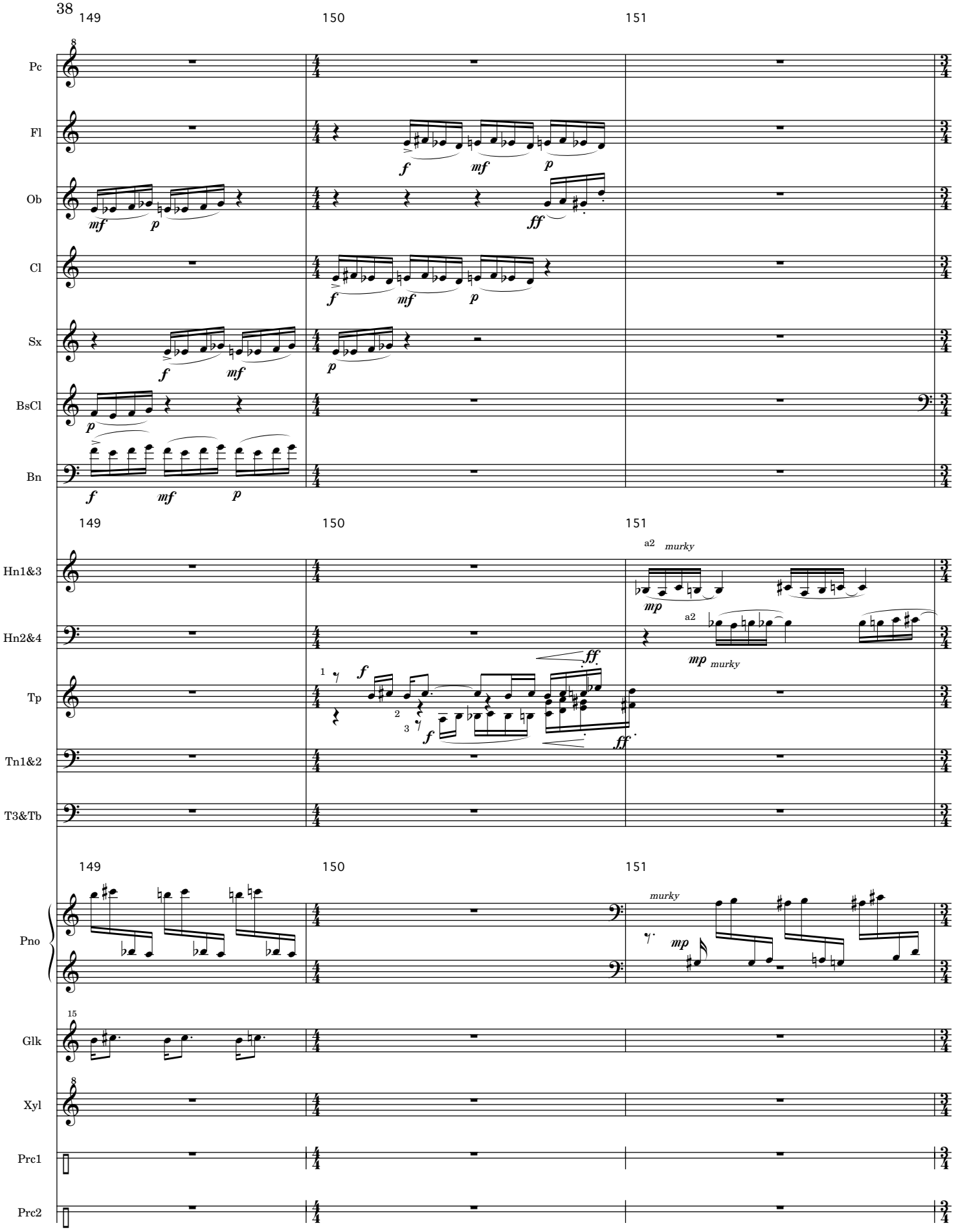
a2
1&2 a2
f
mf
p
mp
Ped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Hn2&4
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p
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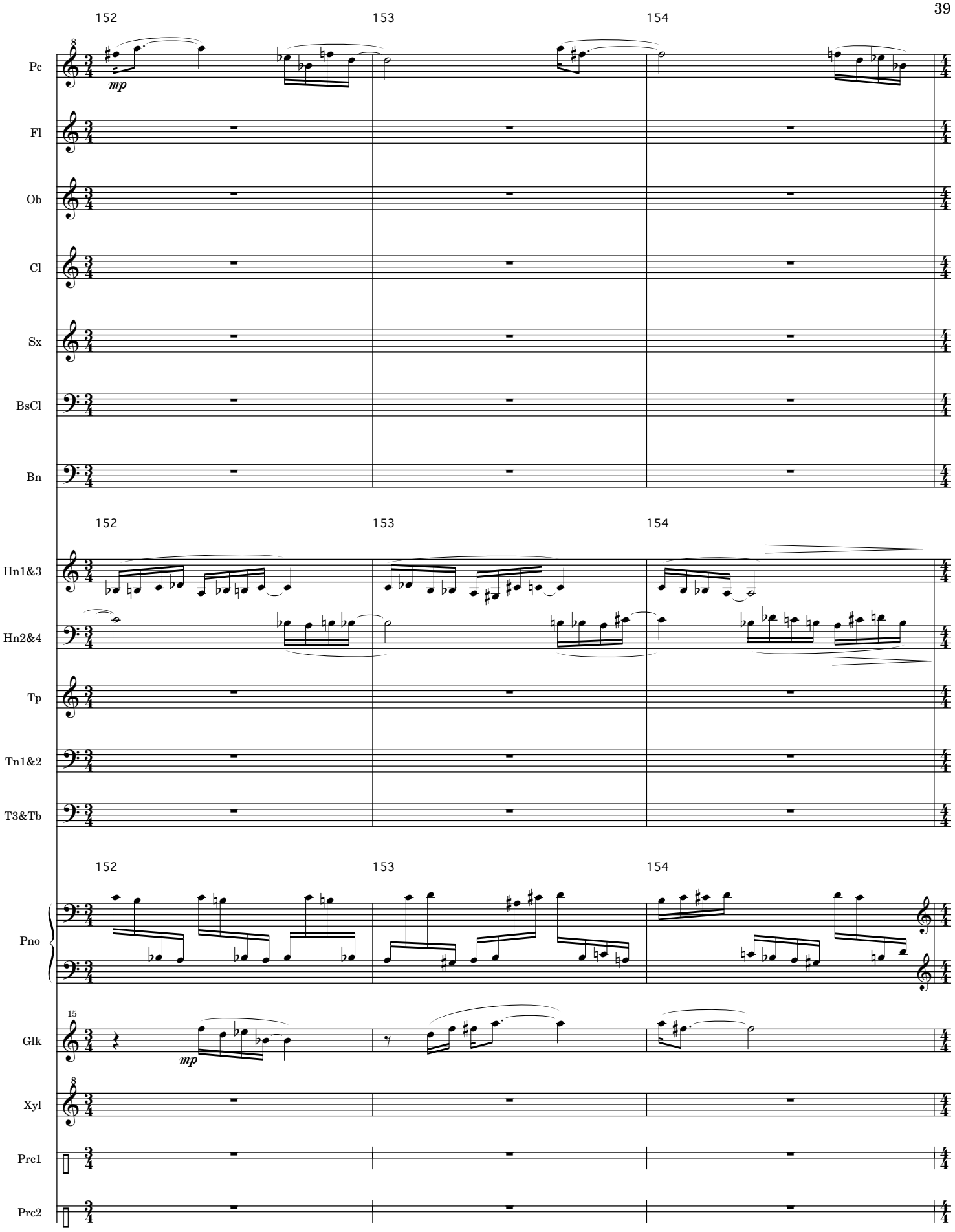
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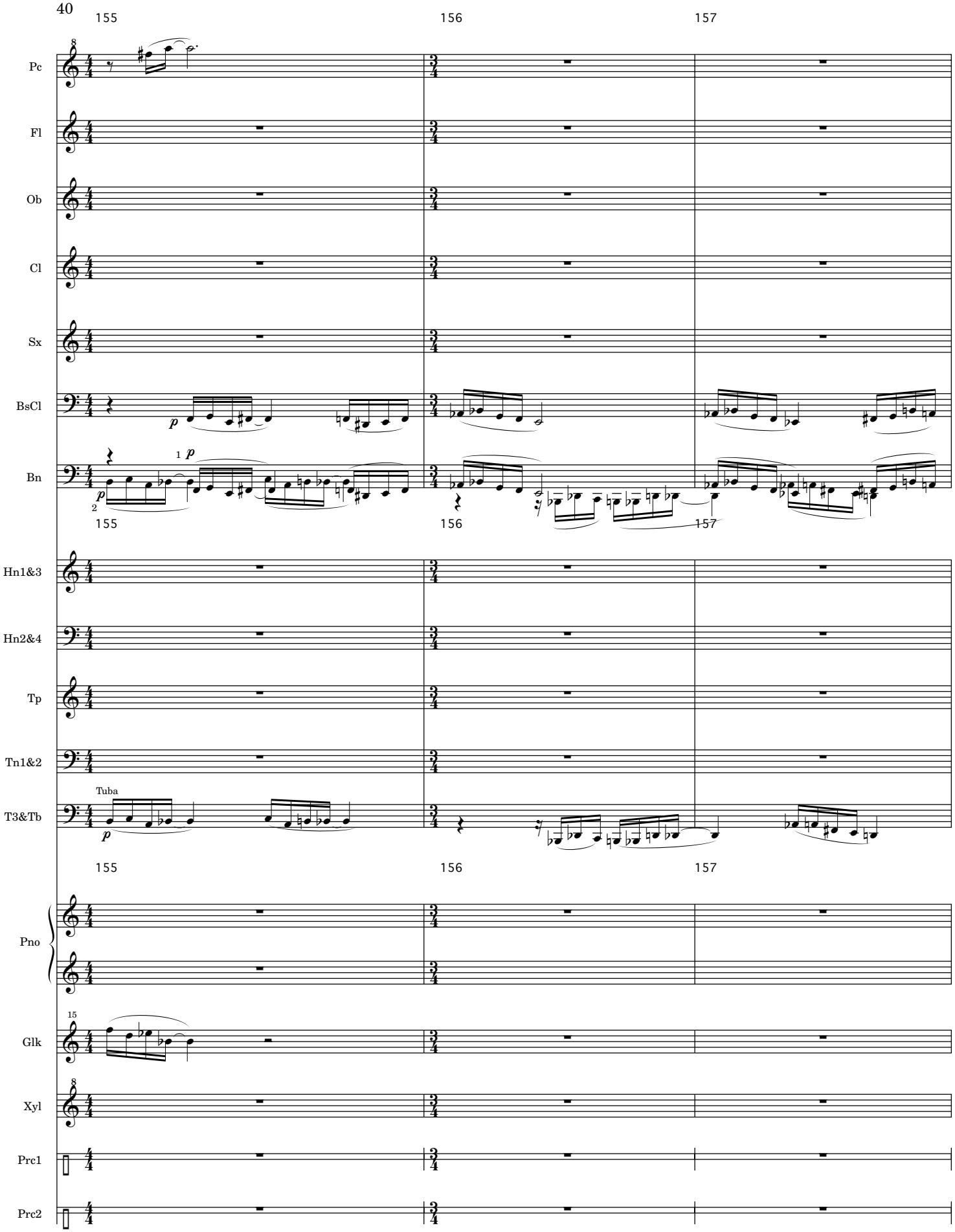
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Sx
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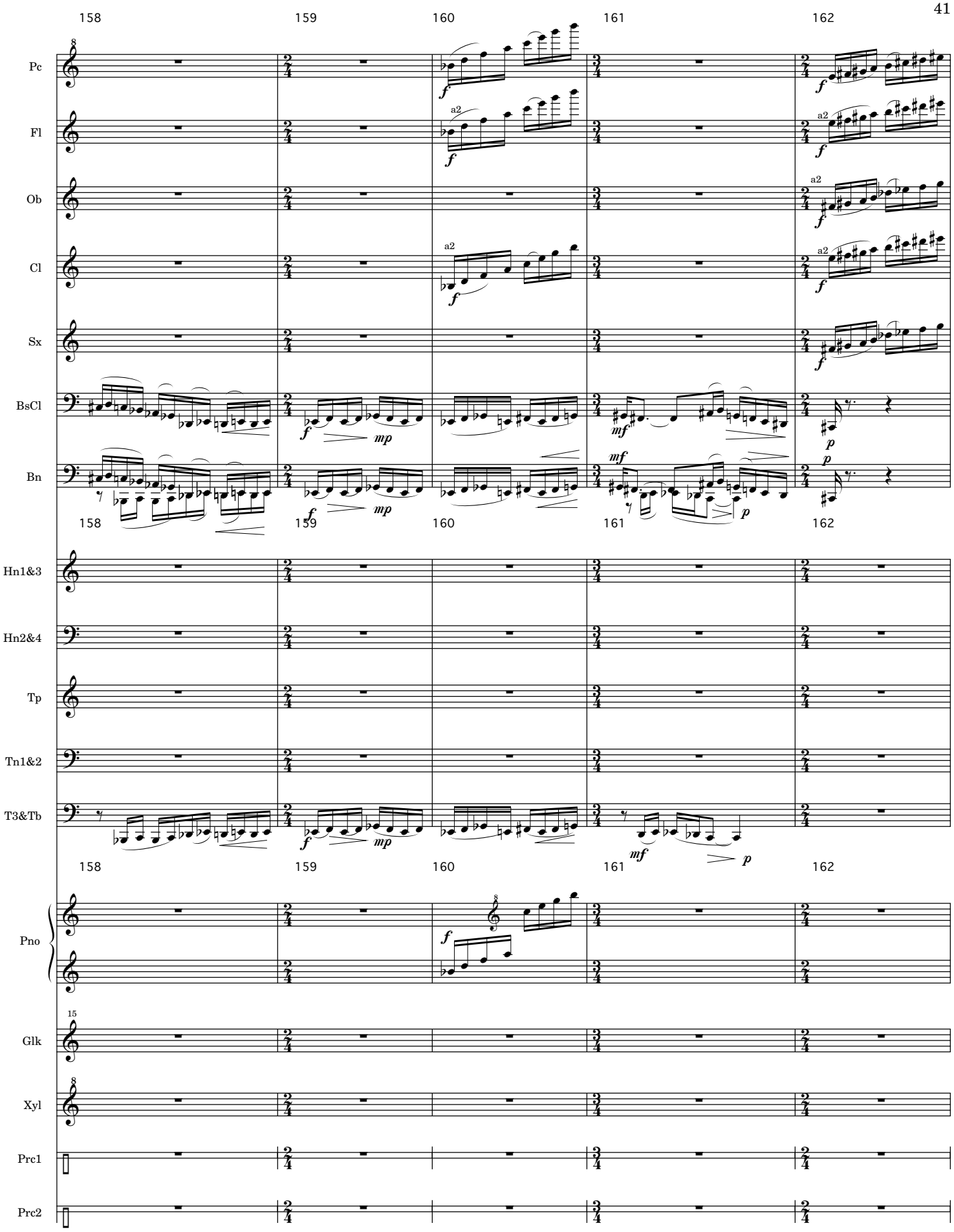
Prc2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mf
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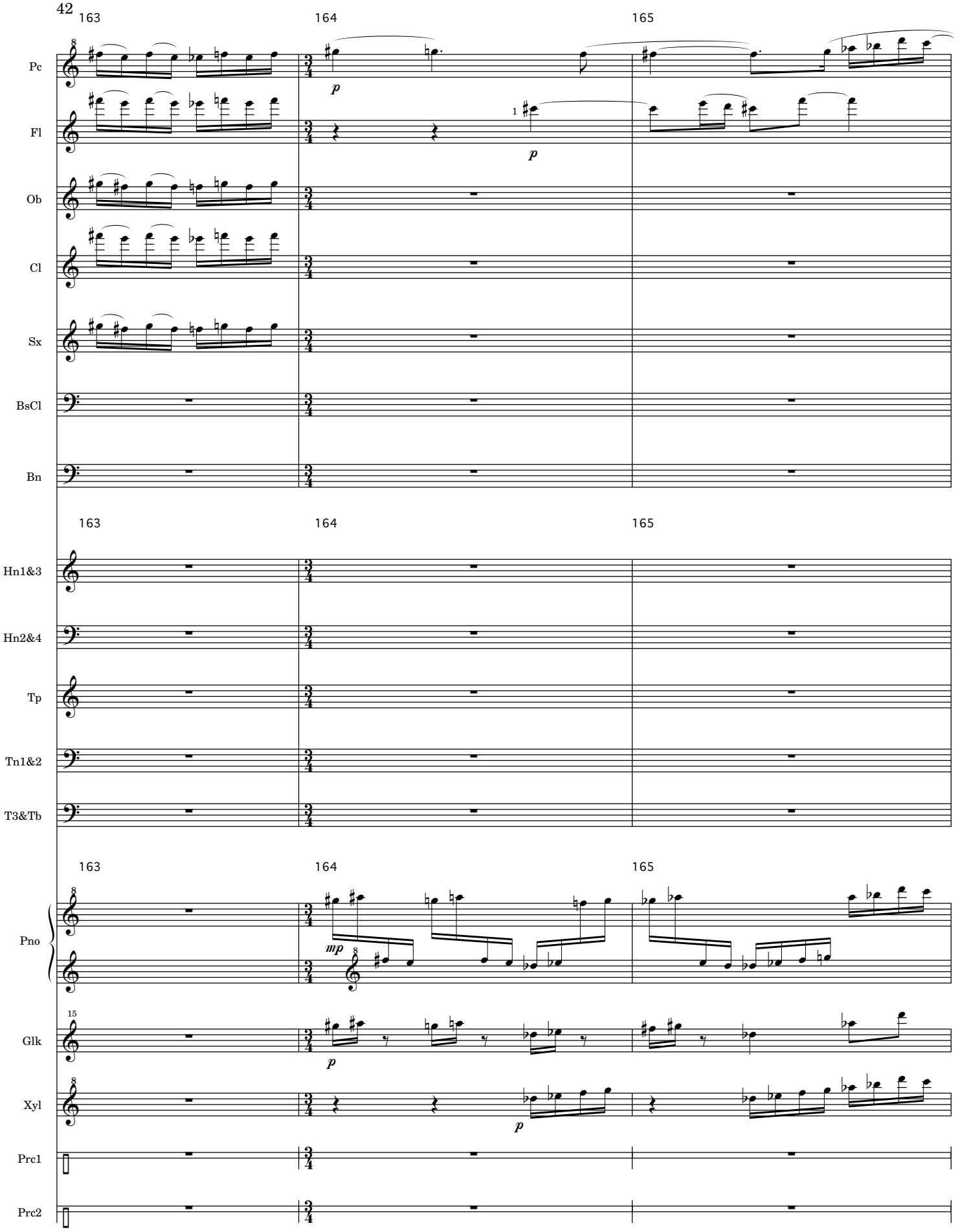
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Ob
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Sx
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T3&Tb
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p
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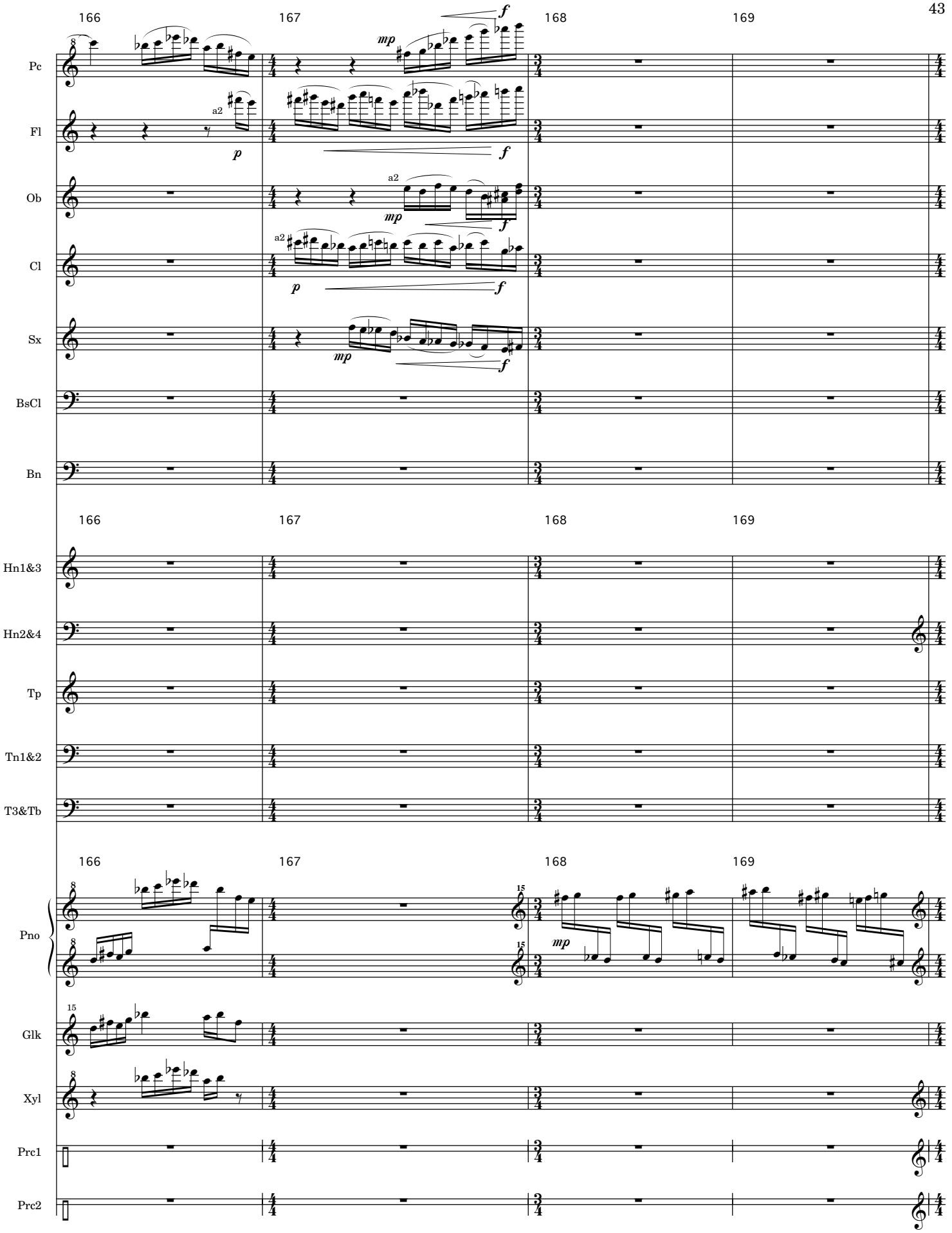
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169
Pc
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Cl
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BsCl
Bn
Hn1&3
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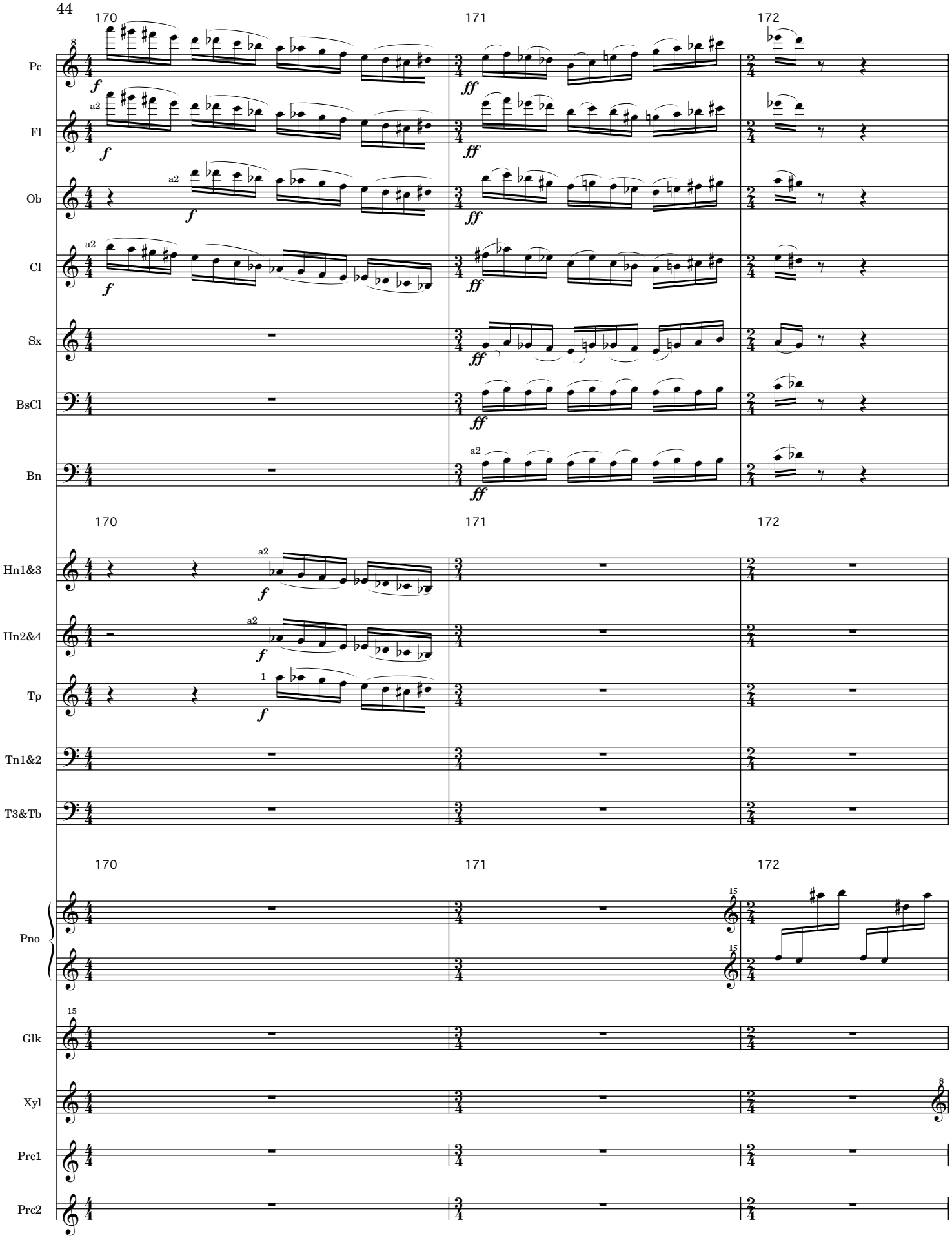
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Sx
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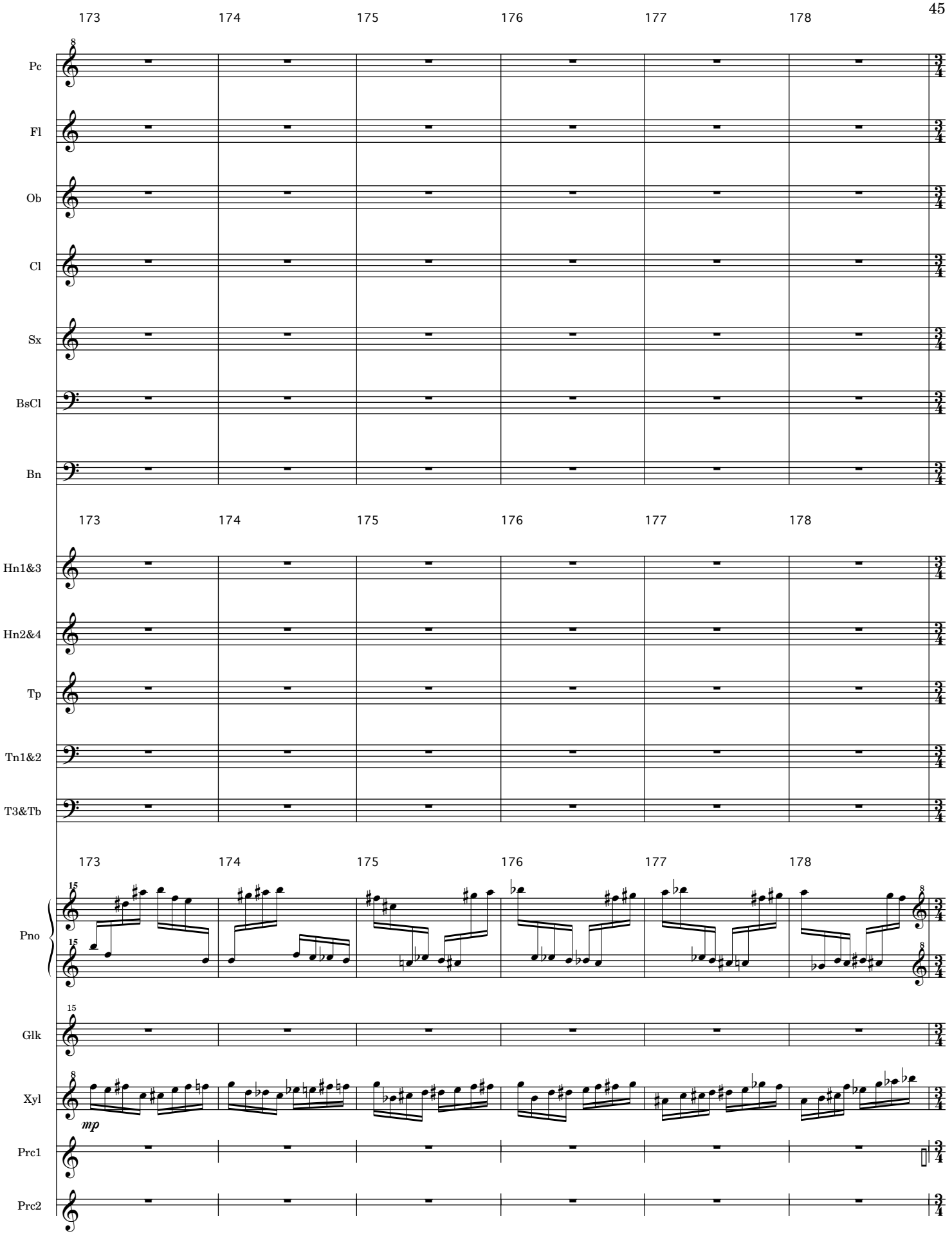
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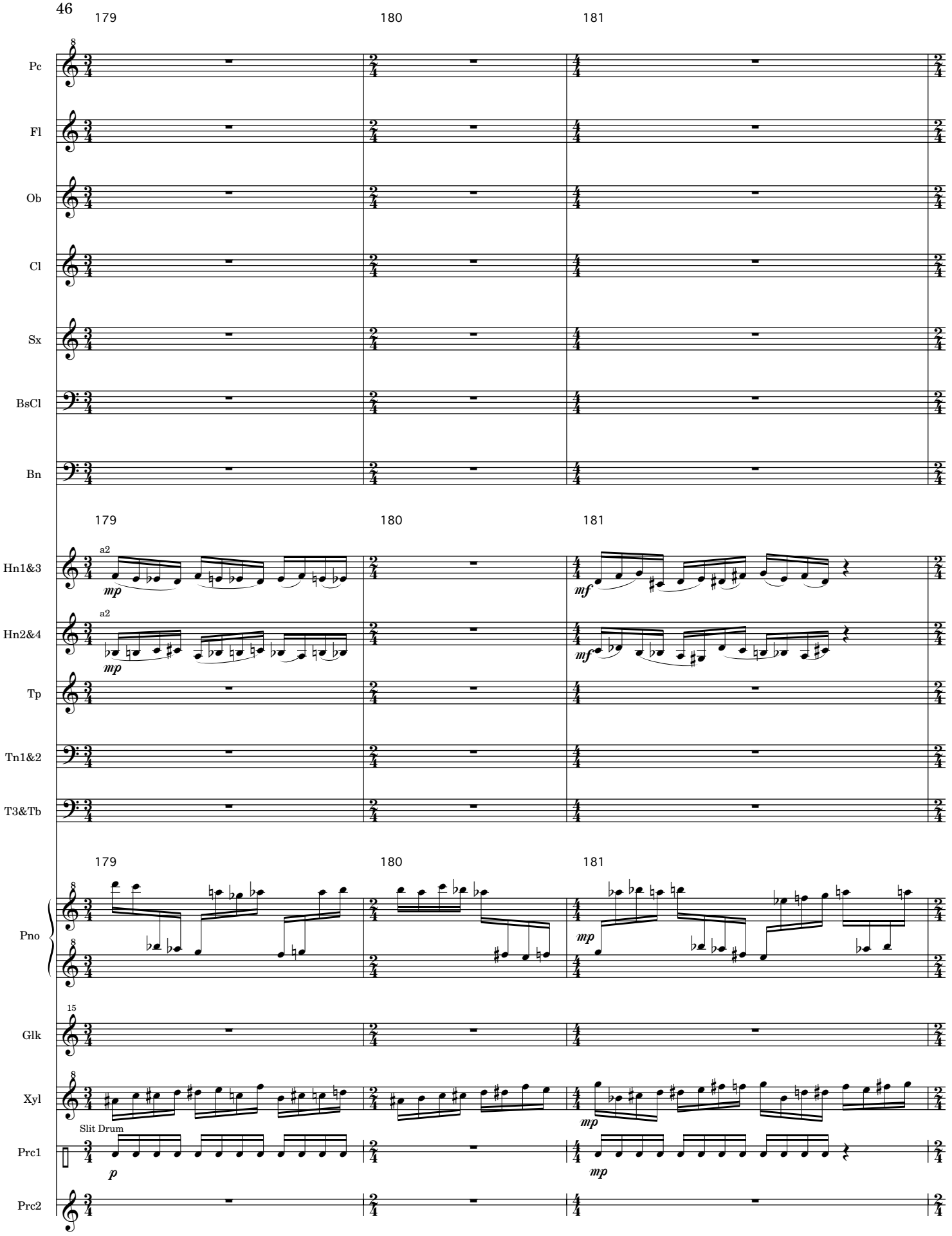
Prc2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Sx
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Hn1&3
a2
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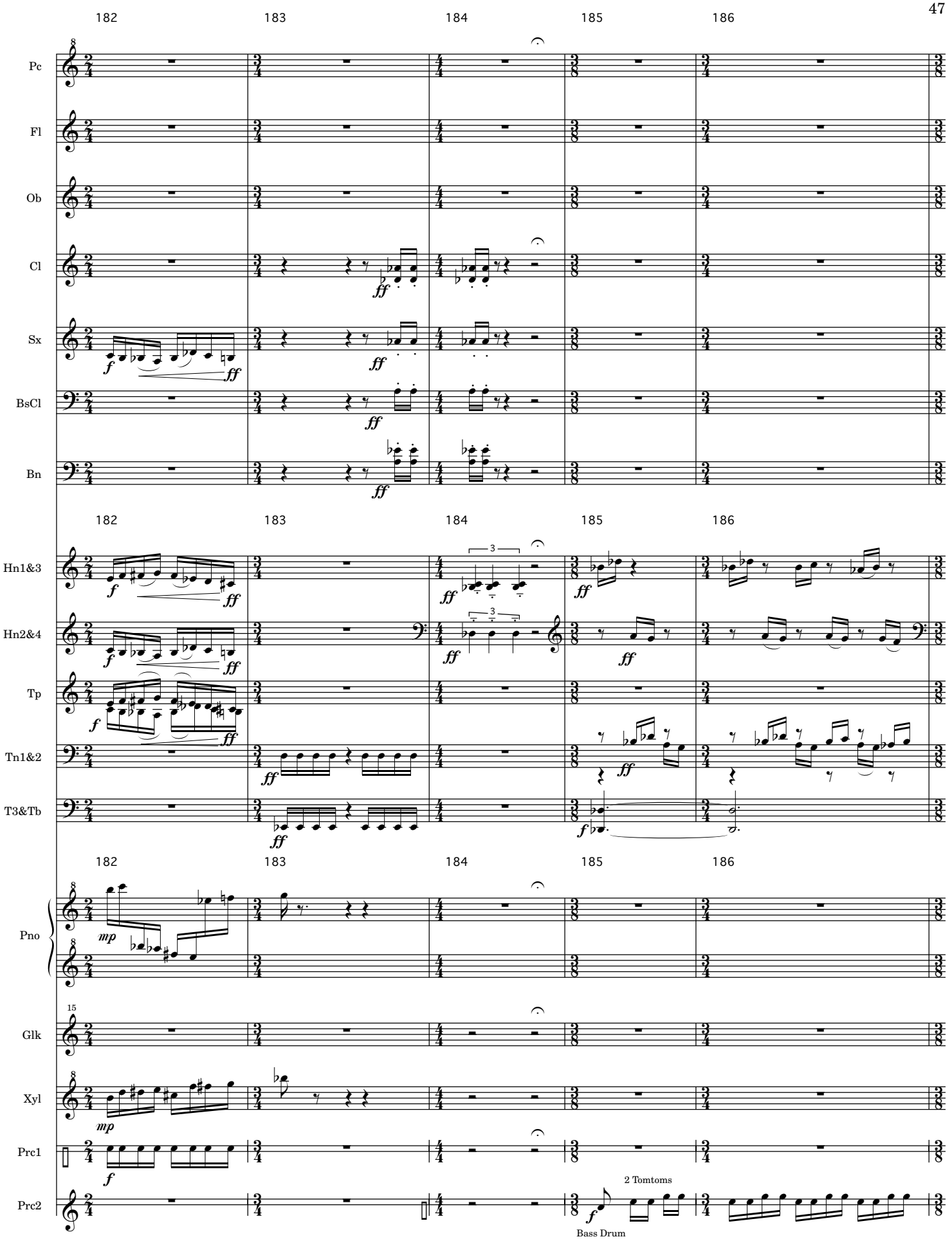
Glk
Xyl
Slit Drum
Prc1
p
Prc2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186
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Sx
BsCl
Bn
Hn1&3
Hn2&4
Tp
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T3&Tb
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Xyl
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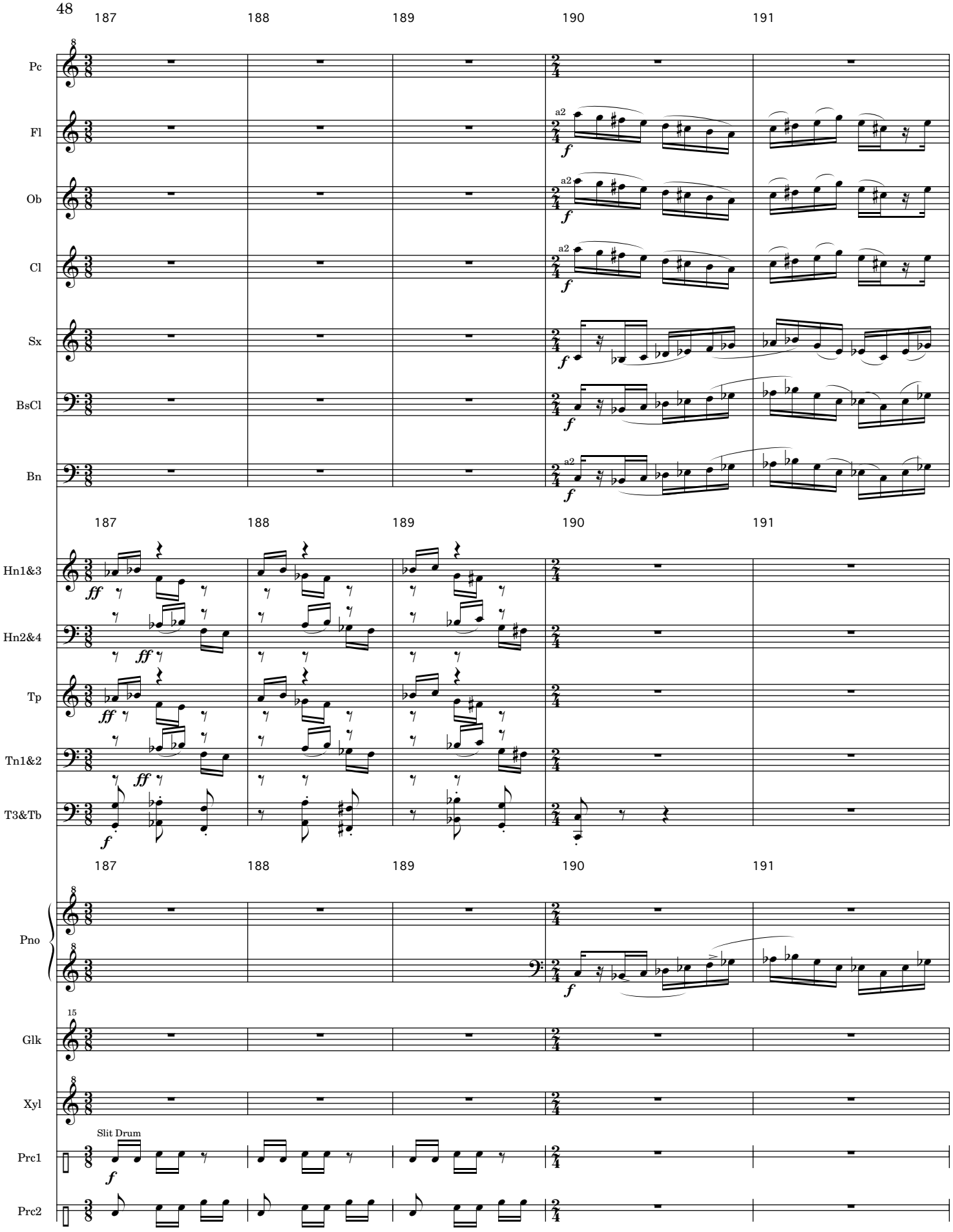
Prc2
2 Tomtoms
Bass Drum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191
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Ob
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Sx
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Bn
a2
f
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Hn2&4
Tp
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ff
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Xyl
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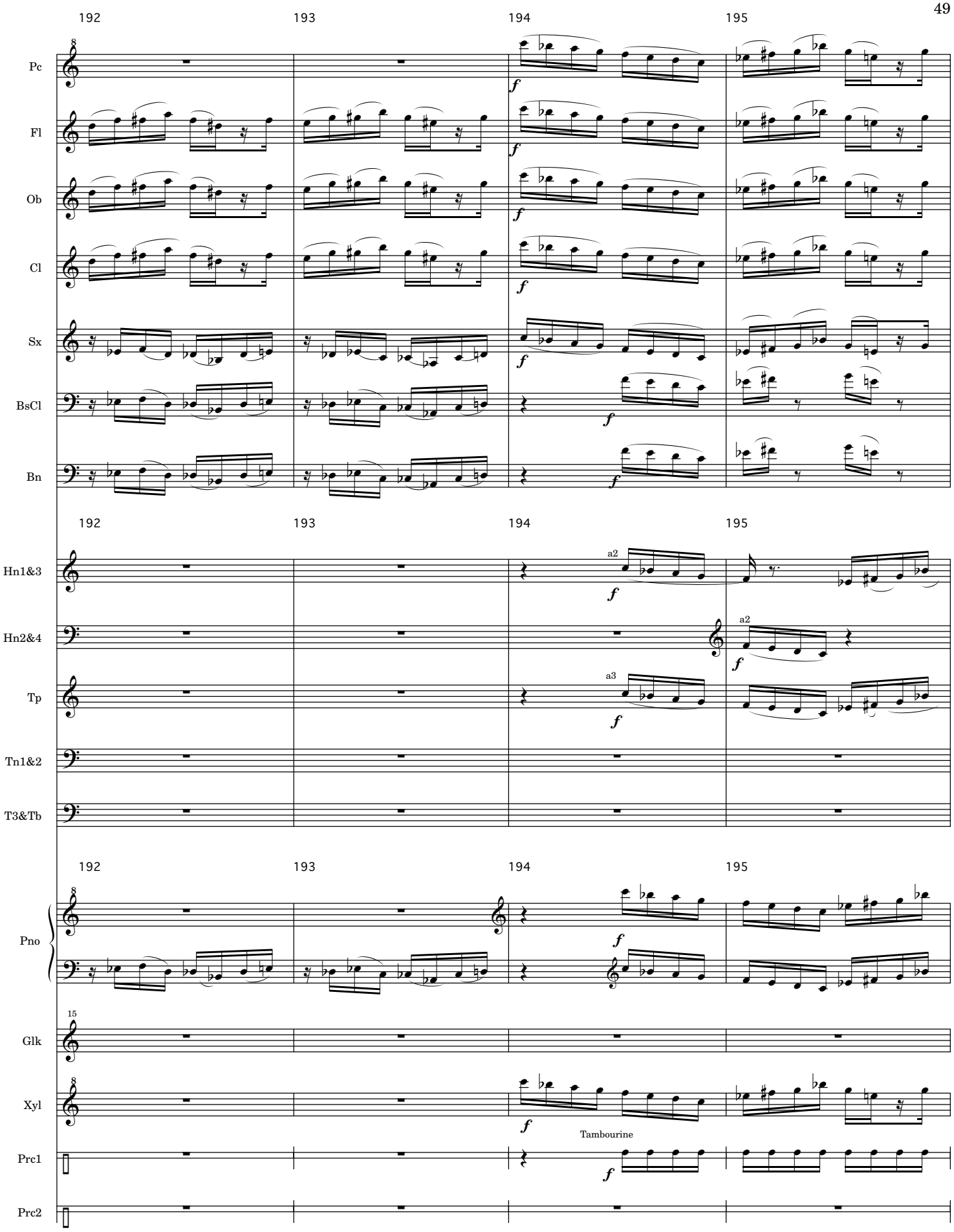
Prc2
Slit Drum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BsCl
Bn
Hn1&3
Hn2&4
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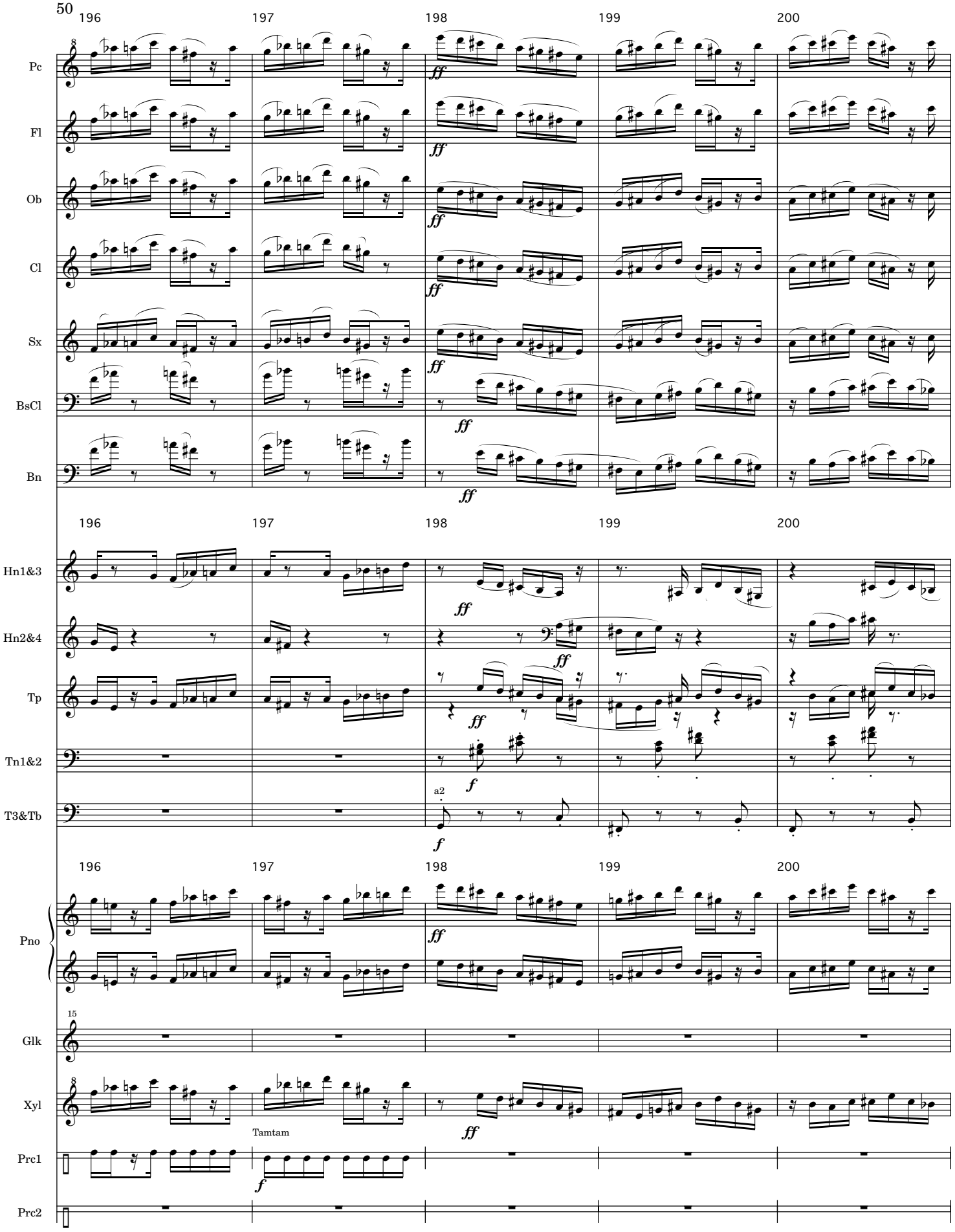
Prc1
Prc2
a2
a3
Tambourine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Hn2&4
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Prc2
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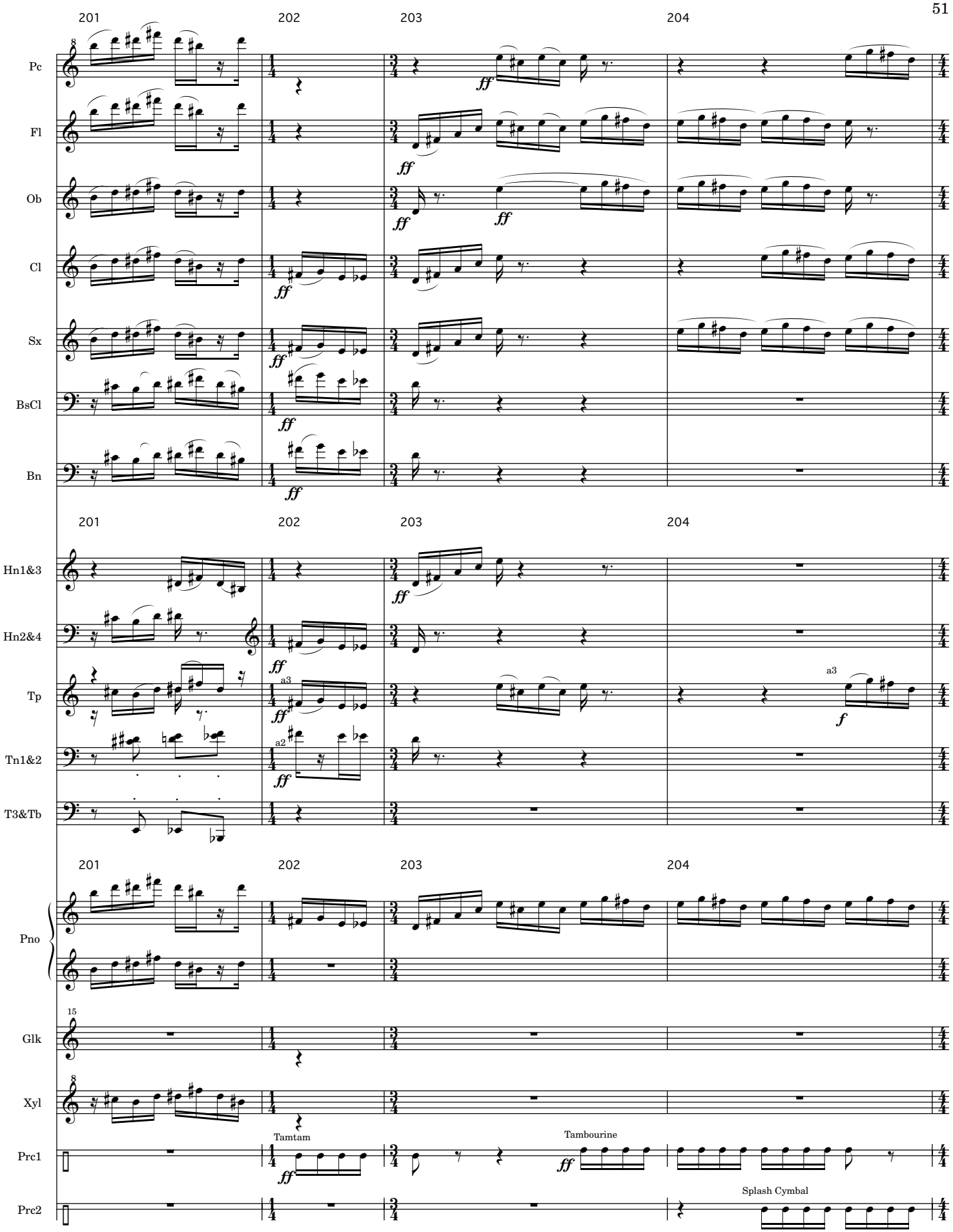
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Hn1&3
Hn2&4
Tp
Tn1&2
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Prc2
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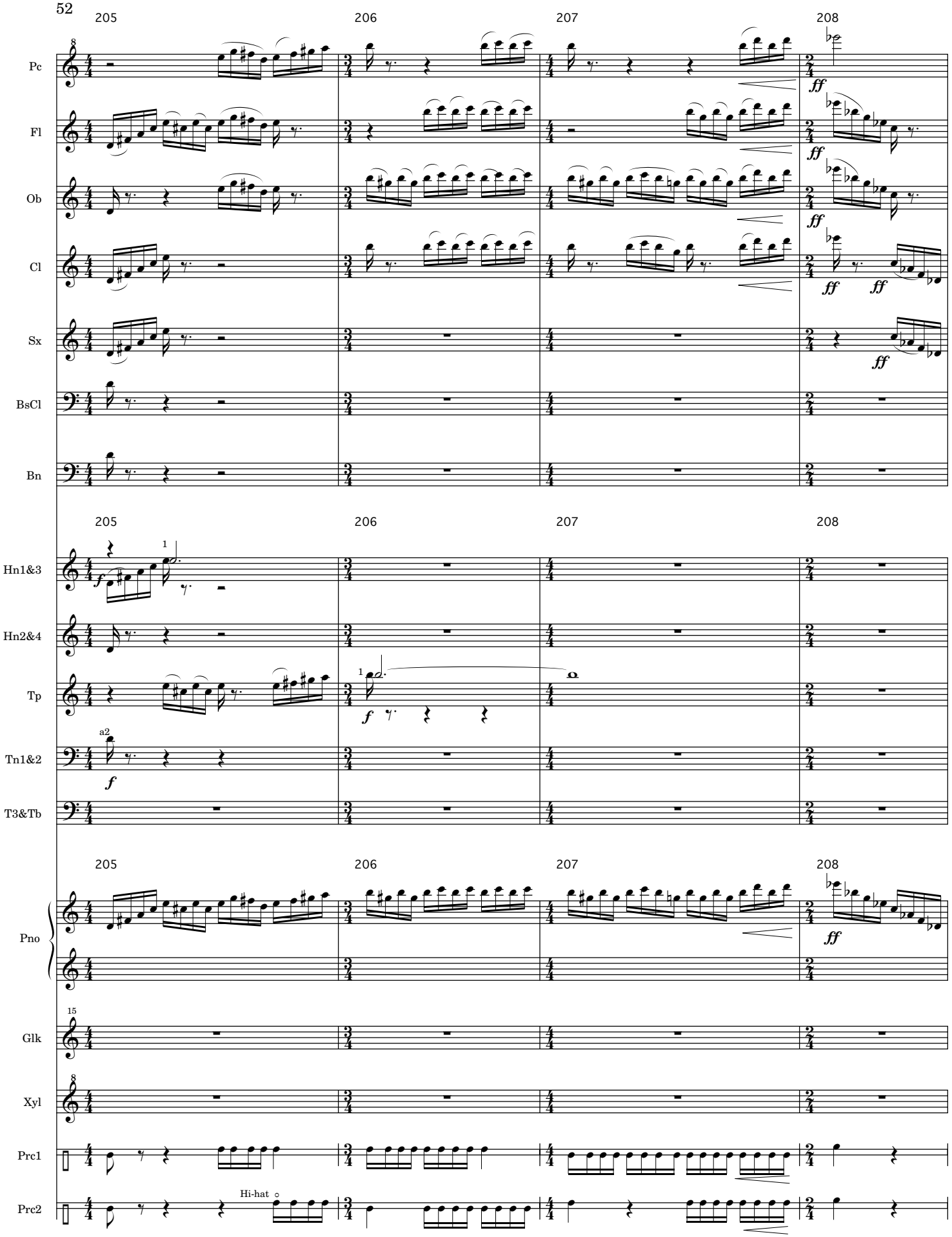
Tambourine
Splash Cymbal
a3
a2
ff
f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Hn1&3
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T3&Tb
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Prc1
Prc2
Hi-hat
ff
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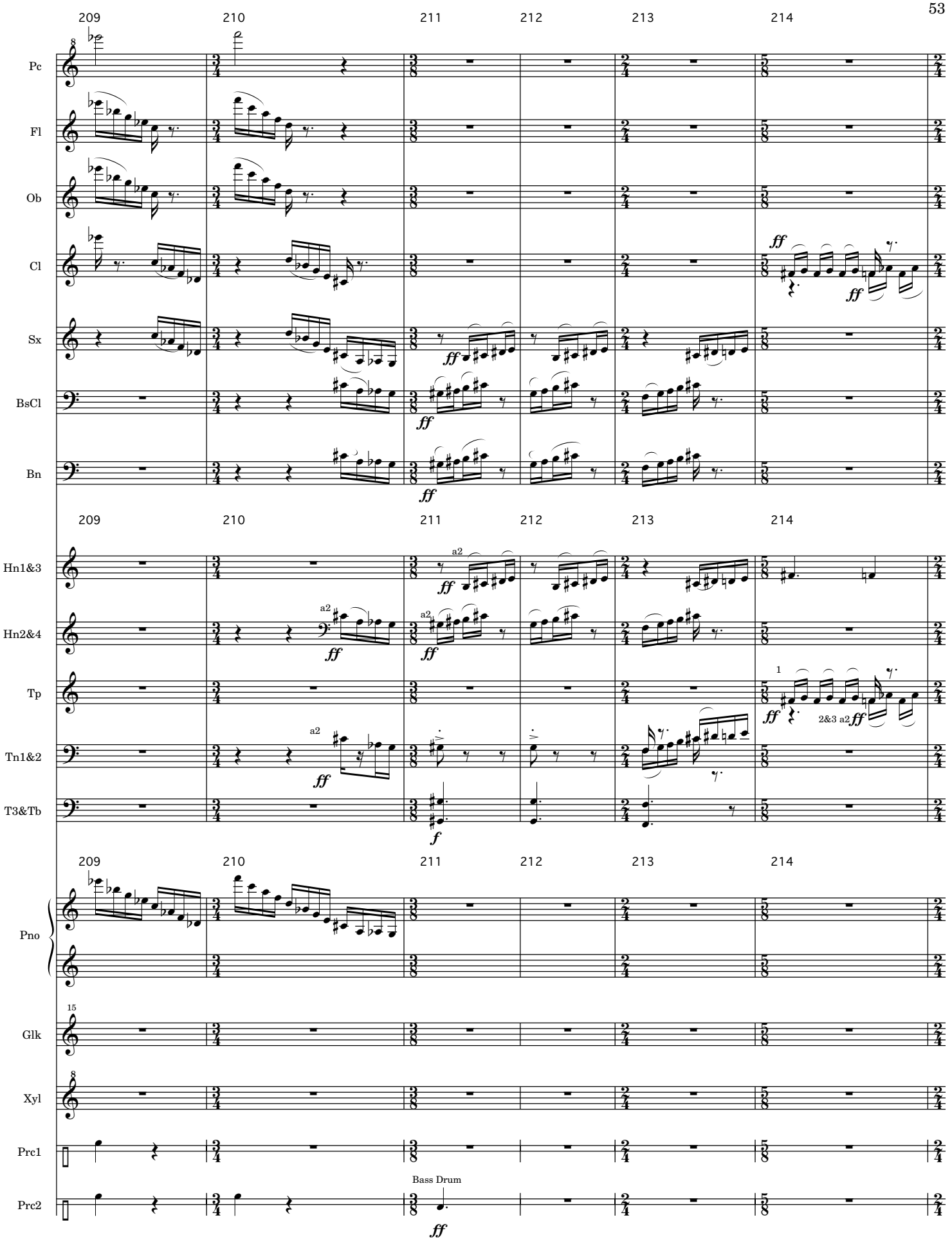
a2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Hn2&4
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Xyl
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Prc2
a2
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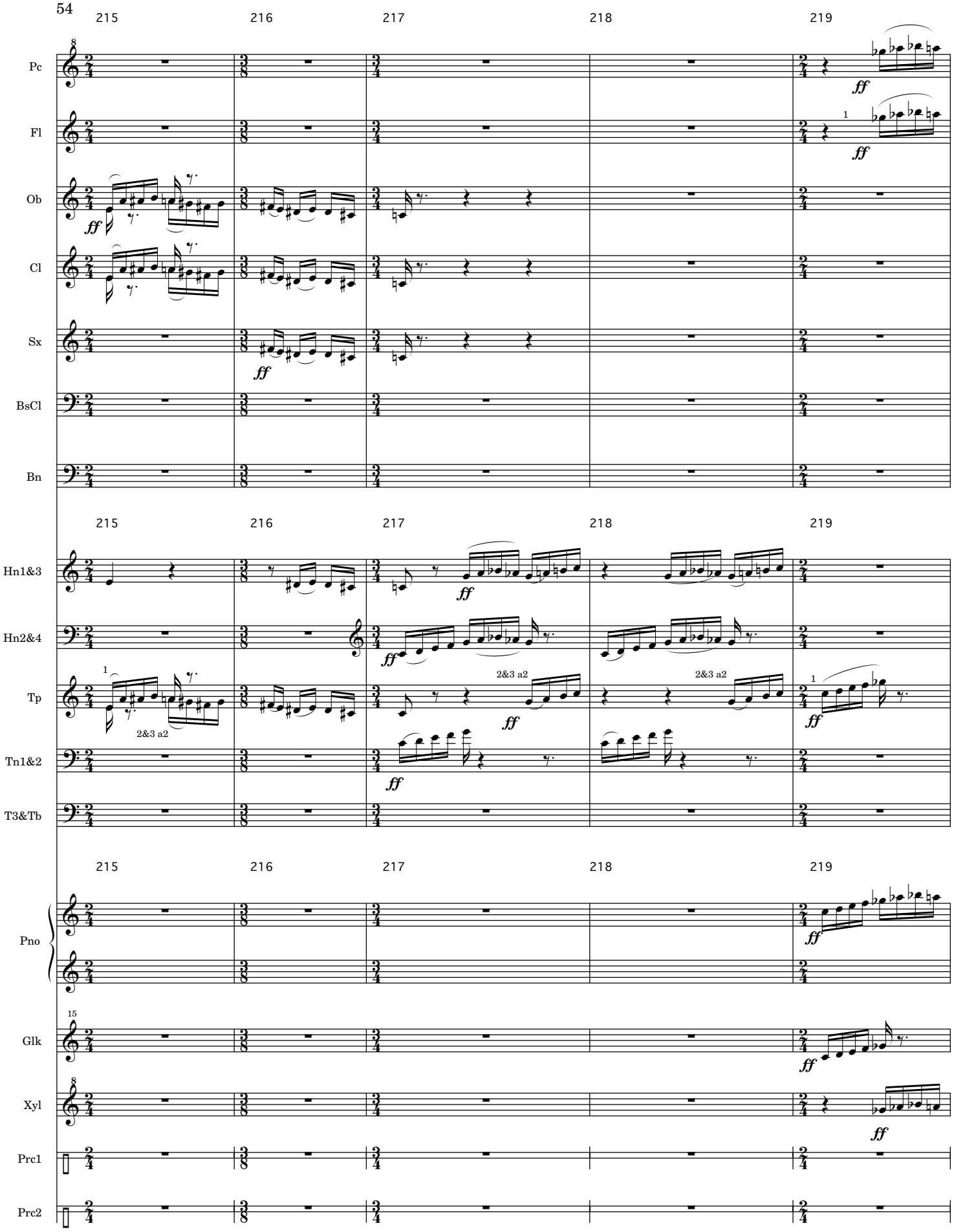
2&3 a2
Bass Drum
ff
f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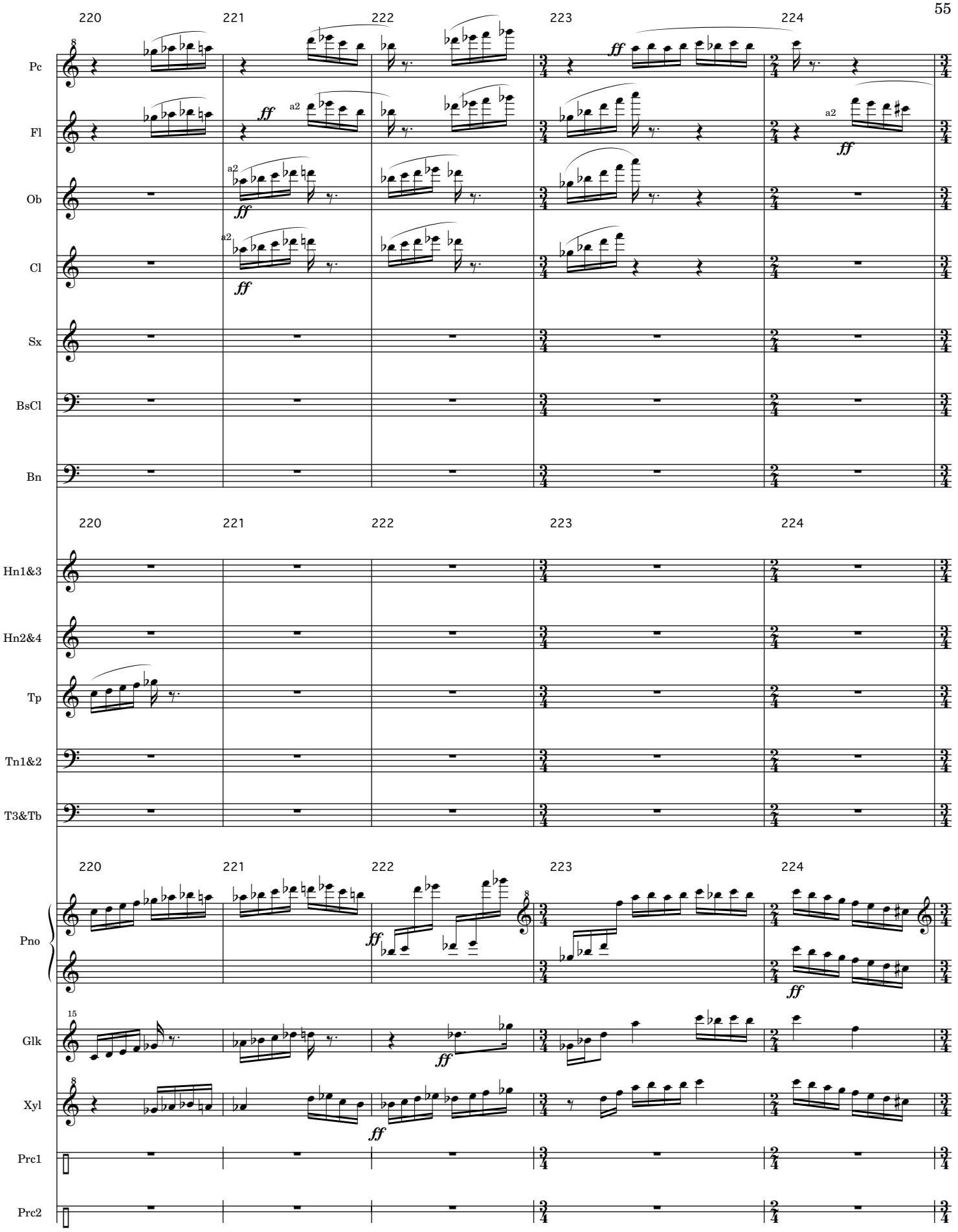
Xyl
Prc1
Prc2
ff
2&3 a2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Glk
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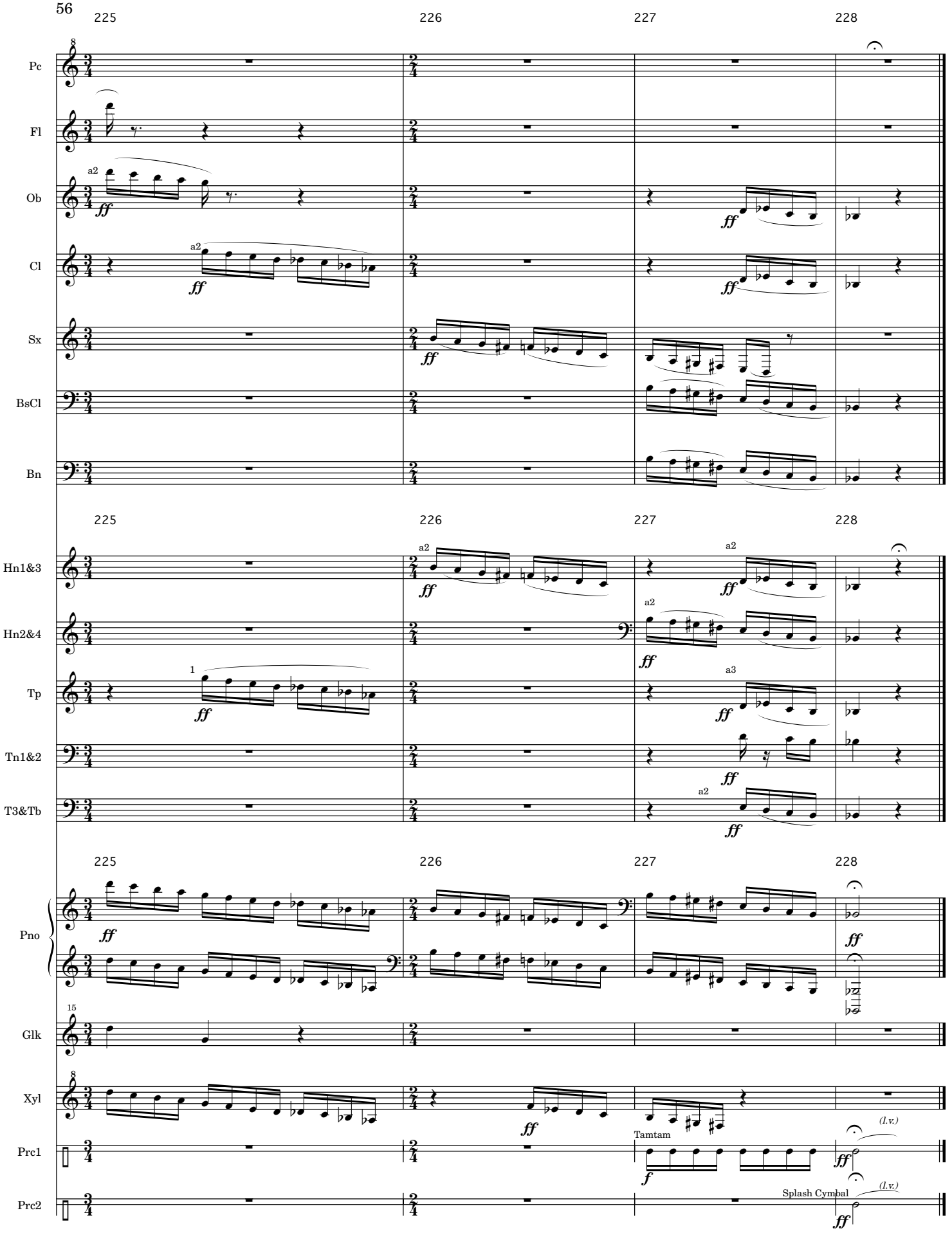
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T3&Tb
Pno
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Xyl
Prc1
Prc2
a2
1
a3
ff
f
Tamtam
Splash Cymbal
(l.v.)