DragonBlood

For Concert Band, Grade 0.5
By Randall D. Standridge (ASCAP)

Instrumentation

1 - Full Score
8 - Flute/Oboe
5 - Bb Clarinet
5 - Bb Clarinet (French Horn Double)
2 - Bb Bass Clarinet
8 - Eb Alto Saxophone
2 - Bb Tenor Saxophone
2 - Eb Baritone Saxophone

8 - Bb Trumpet
6 - F Horn
6 - Trombone/Euphonium/Bassoon
2 - Euphonium T. C.
4 - Tuba

2 - Mallets
2 - Timpani
2 - Percussion 1&2: Snare Drum/Ride Cymbal, Bass Drum
2 - Percussion 3: Anvil/Tambourine/Suspended Cymbal
2 - Percussion 4: Crash Cymbals/Wind Chimes

Full Set - $55.00 **Extra Conductor Score - $12.00** **Extra Part - $4.00**

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DragonBlood

By Randall D. Standridge

Program Notes

Let's face it—young band students don't want to sound like beginners.

They want to sound like heroes. Like warriors. Like they just stepped out of an epic fantasy movie trailer with dragons, fireballs, dramatic camera sweeps, and a soundtrack that makes you sit up and say, "Whoa."

That's where *DragonBlood* comes in.

Inspired by my love of fantasy books, films, and video games, this fiery little concert opener imagines a world where a chosen few are born with the blood of dragons—magical warriors who wield flame, fury, and flight. Their power pulses through this piece: fierce, relentless, and unstoppable.

Musically, the work is designed with young players in mind—but without sounding "young." The wind parts stick almost entirely to quarter notes, so students can focus on locking in the 3/4 meter and creating a bold, unified sound. Meanwhile, the percussion section gets to unleash—adding drive, color, and cinematic drama to every moment. Harmonically, the piece leans into minor-mode colors to give it a more sophisticated edge. I wanted this to sound like a film score or epic boss battle but leveled just right for developing players. It's educational, exciting, and—most importantly—it lets your students feel powerful.

Whether you're using this as a concert opener, a festival piece, or just a way to let your students feel like orchestral rock stars, I hope *DragonBlod* brings some excitement and spark to your program.

And, as the kids might say…this piece is "*fire*."

Peace, Love, and Music –Randy Standy

Rehearsal suggestions

-The tempo of this work is critical to its character. When planning your preparation, make sure to allow time for proper technical development to achieve the written tempos, lest the work come off as "boring."
-Dynamics should be noticeable and taken to extremes.
-Percussion should be on the higher end of dynamic balance. Do not hide them.
-This piece makes use of several repeats. For younger performers, I always find it helpful to have them physically touch their page to follow the "map" of the piece.
-If the students have trouble with the faster tempo, you might try this: After they have mastered the piece at a slower tempo, have them fake/air play along with the recording several times, then take small segments at the suggested tempo. If they internalize a slower tempo, this is a good trick to move them to the new one.

About the Composer

Randall Standridge (b.1976) received his Bachelor of Music Education from Arkansas State University. During this time, he studied composition with Dr. Tom O'Connor before returning to Arkansas State University to earn his Master's in Music Composition, studying with Dr. Tom O'Connor and Dr. Tim Crist. In 2001, he began his tenure as Director of Bands at Harrisburg High School in Harrisburg, Arkansas. He left this post in 2013 to pursue a career as a full-time composer and marching arts designer.

Mr. Standridge's music is performed internationally. He has had numerous works selected for the J.W. Pepper's editor's choice. His compositions Snake Charmer, Gently Blows the Summer Wind, and Angelic Celebrations have been included in the "Teaching Music Through Performance in Band" series. He has had numerous works performed at the prestigious Midwest Clinic in Chicago, Illinois. The Arkansas State University Wind Ensemble premiered his work Art(isms) at the 2010 CBDNA conference in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and his work Stonewall: 1969 was premiered at the National LGBA conference in 2019. His Symphony no.1: A Ghost Story was premiered in 2023. In addition, Mr. Standridge's "unBroken Project," a musical initiative about mental health, has received widespread acclaim for its musical content and for providing opportunities to normalize discussions about mental health for music students and audiences.

In addition to his career as a composer, Mr. Standridge is the owner and editor of Randall Standridge Music, LLC and Grand Mesa Marching. He is in demand as an arranger/designer for the marching arts. He lives in Jonesboro, Arkansas, with his husband, Steven, and their very, very spoiled pets.
For more information about Mr. Standridge, visit his website at: www.randallstandridge.com

Score
Grade .5
Duration: 1:45

DRAGONBLOOD

Randall D. Standridge
(ASCAP)

With Fire! ♩=176

Flute
Oboe

B♭ Clarinet

B♭ Clarinet*
(F Horn Double)
*also transposed for E♭ Alto Saxophone

E♭ Alto Saxophone

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

B♭ Trumpet

Horn in F

Trombone
Euphonium
Bassoon

Low Reeds
Tuba

Mallets
(hard mallets)

Timpani
(opt. 3 large toms)
Tune: G, B♭, C (hard mallets)

Percussion 1 &2
P1: Snare Drum/ Ride Cymbal
P2: Bass Drum
(opt. 1 player on drumset)
Snare Drum
Bass Drum

Percussion 3
Anvil/Tambourine/ Suspended Cymbal
Anvil (hard mallets or hammers)

Percussion 4
Crash Cymbals/ Wind Chimes
Crash Cymbals

f *p* cresc. *ff*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

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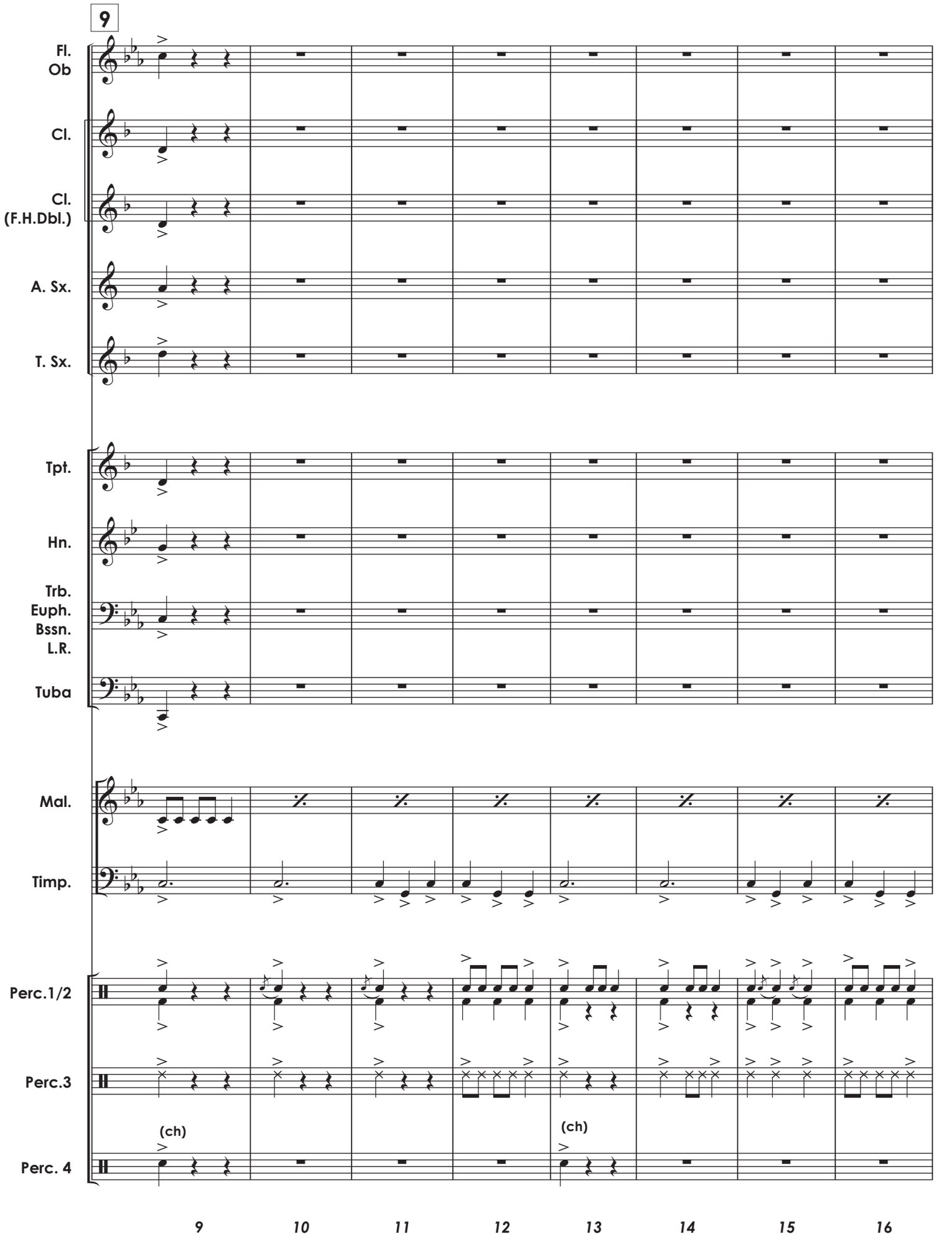
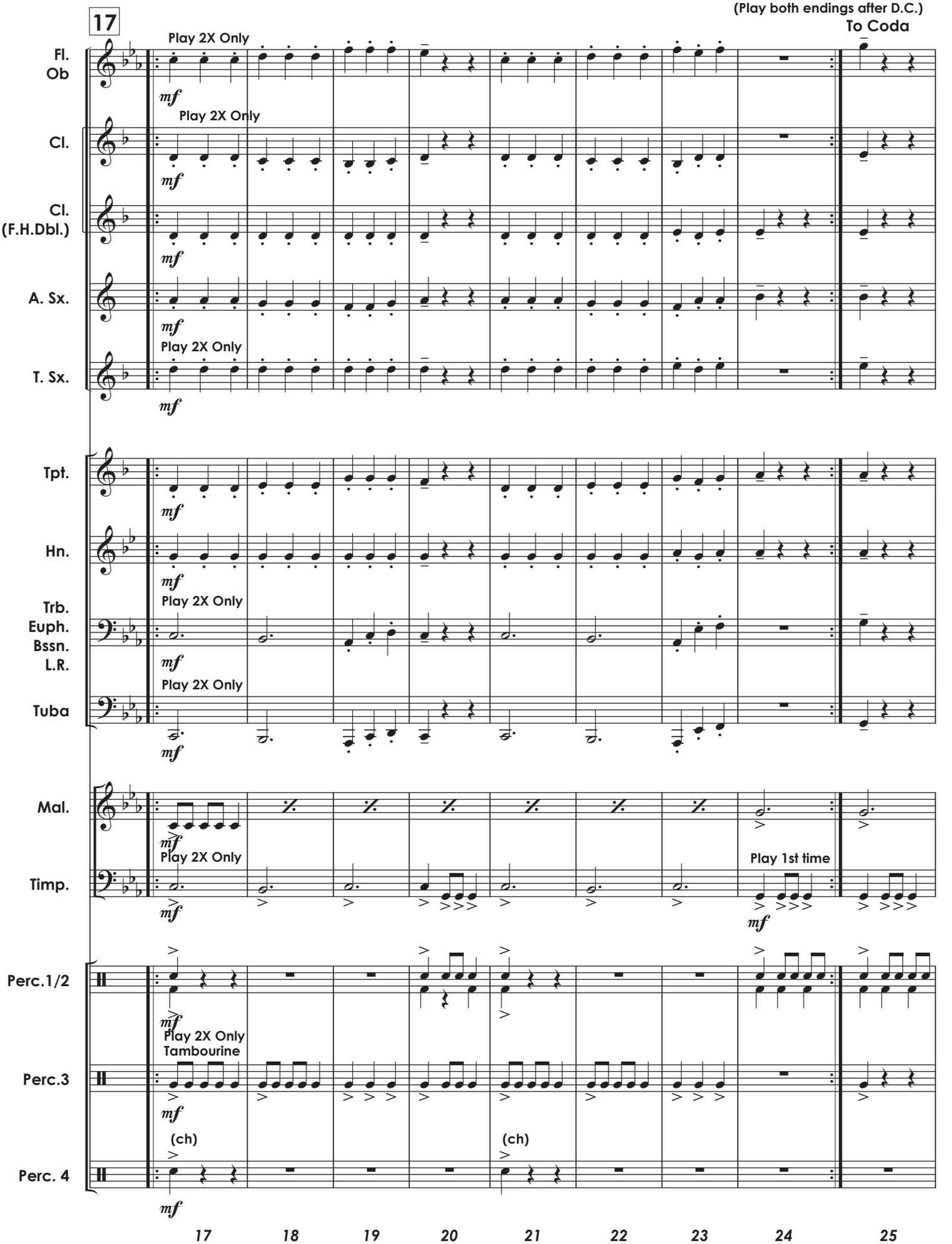
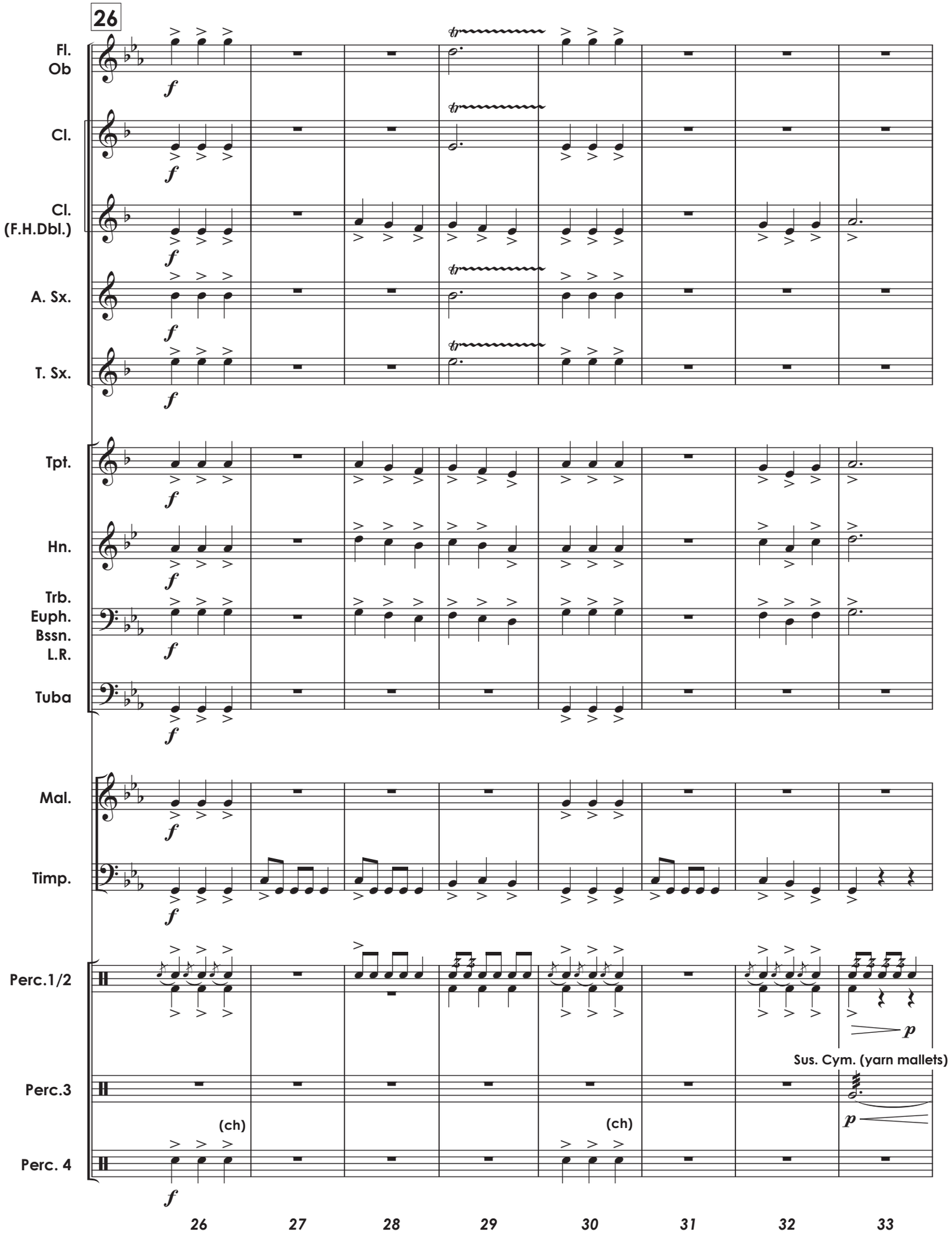
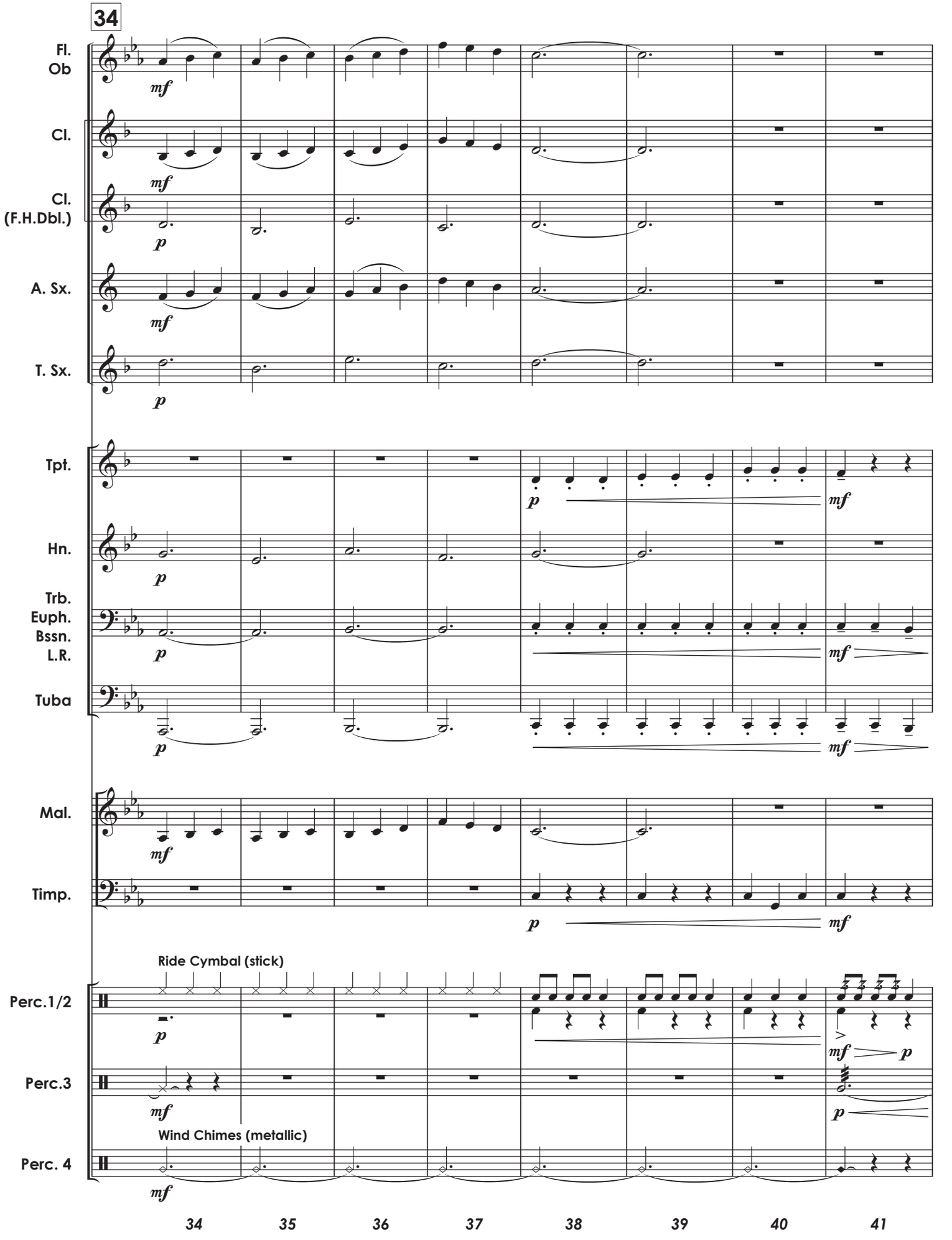
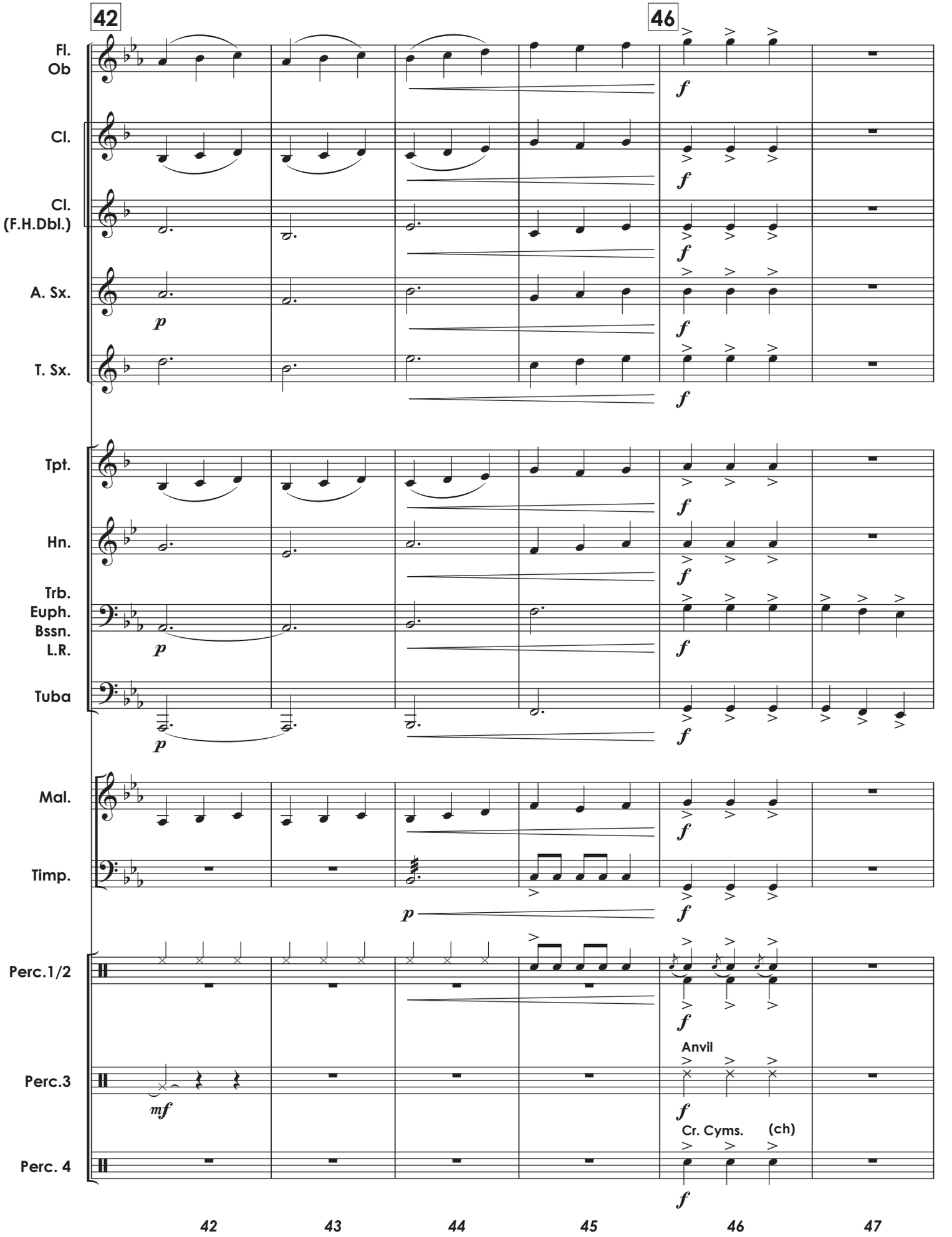
RSM C091

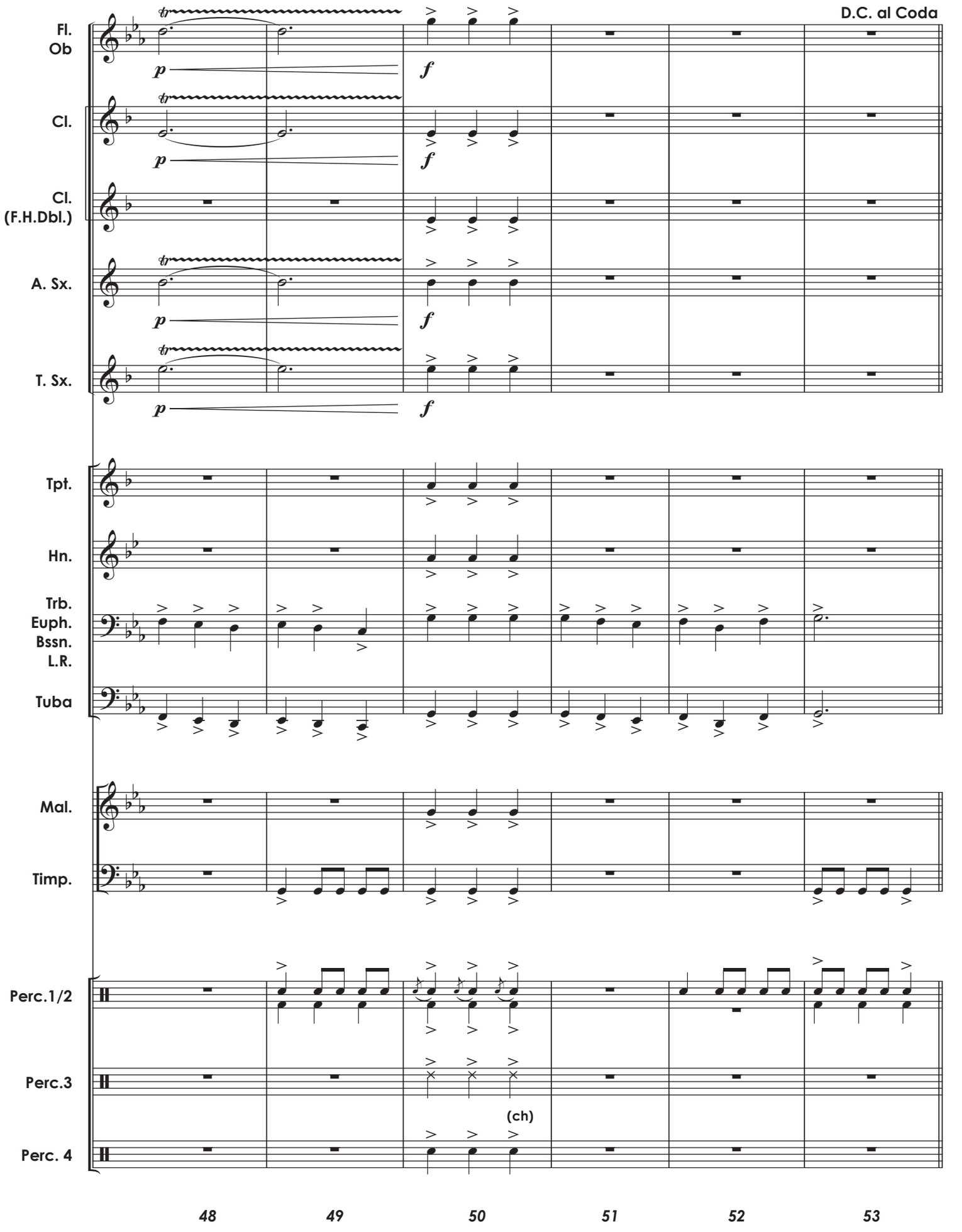

9
Fl.
Ob
Cl.
Cl.
(F.H.Dbl.)
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
Tpt.
Hn.
Trb.
Euph.
Bssn.
L.R.
Tuba
Mal.
Timp.
Perc.1/2
Perc.3
(ch)
(ch)
Perc. 4
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16

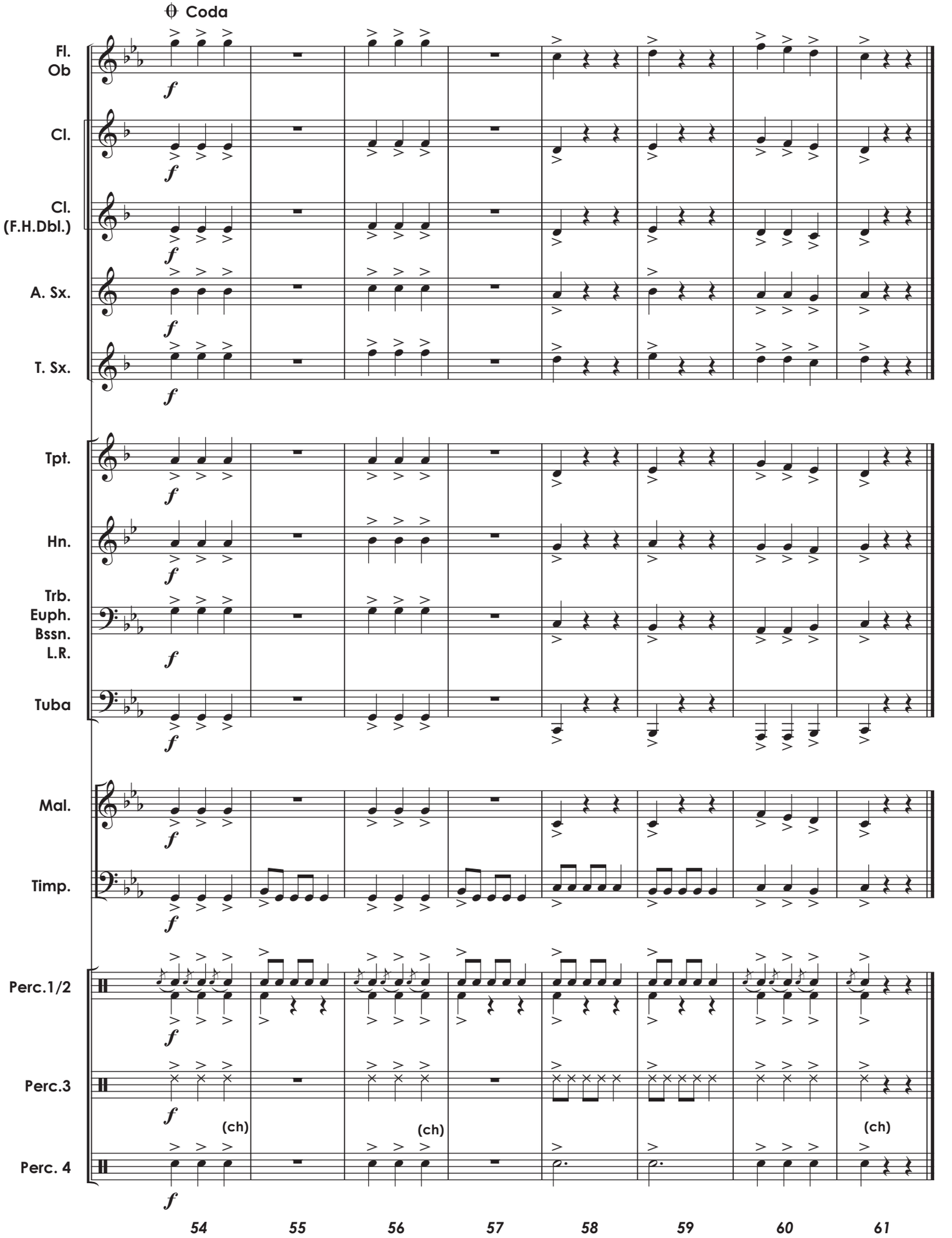

1.
2.
(Play both endings after D.C.)
To Coda
17
Play 2X Only
Fl.
Ob
Cl.
Cl.
(F.H.Dbl.)
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
Tpt.
Hn.
Trb.
Euph.
Bssn.
L.R.
Tuba
Mal.
Timp.
Play 1st time
Perc.1/2
Play 2X Only
Tambourine
Perc.3
(ch)
Perc. 4
mf
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25


26
Fl.
Ob
Cl.
Cl.
(F.H.Dbl.)
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
Tpt.
Hn.
Trb.
Euph.
Bssn.
L.R.
Tuba
Mal.
Timp.
Perc.1/2
Perc.3
Perc. 4
(ch)
(ch)
Sus. Cym. (yarn mallets)
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33


34
Fl.
Ob
Cl.
Cl.
(F.H.Dbl.)
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
Tpt.
Hn.
Trb.
Euph.
Bssn.
L.R.
Tuba
Mal.
Timp.
Ride Cymbal (stick)
Perc.1/2
Perc.3
Wind Chimes (metallic)
Perc. 4
mf
p
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41


42
46
Fl.
Ob
Cl.
Cl.
(F.H.Dbl.)
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
Tpt.
Hn.
Trb.
Euph.
Bssn.
L.R.
Tuba
Mal.
Timp.
Perc.1/2
Perc.3
Perc. 4
Anvil
Cr. Cyms.
(ch)
42
43
44
45
46
47


D.C. al Coda
Fl.
Ob
Cl.
Cl.
(F.H.Dbl.)
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
Tpt.
Hn.
Trb.
Euph.
Bssn.
L.R.
Tuba
Mal.
Timp.
Perc.1/2
Perc.3
(ch)
Perc. 4
48
49
50
51
52
53


Coda
Fl.
Ob
Cl.
Cl.
(F.H.Dbl.)
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
Tpt.
Hn.
Trb.
Euph.
Bssn.
L.R.
Tuba
Mal.
Timp.
Perc.1/2
Perc.3
Perc. 4
(ch)
(ch)
(ch)
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61