Ride of the Red Knights

For Concert Band, Grade 1.5
By Randall D. Standridge (ASCAP)

Instrumentation

1 - Full Score
8 - Flute
2 - Oboe
5 - Bb Clarinet 1
5 - Bb Clarinet 2
2 - Bb Bass Clarinet
8 - Eb Alto Saxophone
2 - Bb Tenor Saxophone
2 - Eb Baritone Saxophone

4 - Bb Trumpet 1
4 - Bb Trumpet 2
6 - F Horn
6 - Trombone/Euphonium/Bassoon
2 - Euphonium T. C.
4 - Tuba

2 - Bells
2 - Chimes
2 - Timpani
2 - Percussion 1&2 A: P1:Low Tom Drum, P2:Bass Drum
2 - Percussion 1&2 B: P1:Low Tom Drum, P2:Bass Drum
2 - Percussion 3: Tambourine/Wind Chimes
2 - Percussion 4: Crash Cymbals/Finger Cymbals/Whipcrack
2 - Percussion 5: Tam/Tam/Suspended Cymbal/Anvil

Full Set - $60.00 **Extra Conductor Score - $12.00** **Extra Part - $4.00**

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Ride of the Red Knights

By Randall D. Standridge

Program Notes

I have always loved fantasy.

As a kid, I was obsessed with anything involving dragons, magic, epic quests, and mysterious kingdoms. That love never left me—and as a composer, I've found great joy in creating my own fictional realm to explore through music: The Darklands.

Ride of the Red Knights is the latest chapter in my ongoing Tales from the Darklands series, which also includes The Dragon Lord, The Lake of Sorrows, Blackthorn March, and The Troll King. Each piece explores a new character or region from this shadowy, enchanted world, and with this work, I wanted to introduce you to one of its most fearsome forces: The Red Knights.

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The Legend of the Red Knights

The Red Knights are the elite soldiers of Lady Blackthorn, ruler of the outer realms of the Darklands. Bound by loyalty and magic, these ghostly warriors patrol the borders of her shadowy realm, protecting it from the armies of Queen Oscura and the encroaching darkness beyond.

In life, they swore eternal allegiance. In death, they returned—again and again—to serve their queen, so long as she holds the Ruby of Souls, the gem that binds them to her will. Cloaked in crimson armor, eyes glowing with spectral fire, they ride at night under a blood moon, their footsteps echoing through the misty woods and forgotten roads of the Darklands.

When the Ruby glows… the Red Knights ride.

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The piece begins with a slow, majestic opening, symbolizing the knights' resurrection and silent oath renewed. Then, the music shifts into a relentless, driving march—minor mode, heavy percussion, and melodies shared throughout the ensemble—meant to evoke their unyielding pursuit across the shadowed landscape.

Whether used for concert, festival, or a perfectly spooky Halloween performance, ***Ride of the Red Knights*** is meant to let your band channel their inner adventurers and bring a bit of fantasy to the stage.

So mount up. The horn has sounded.
The Red Knights ride again.

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.
-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's 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.

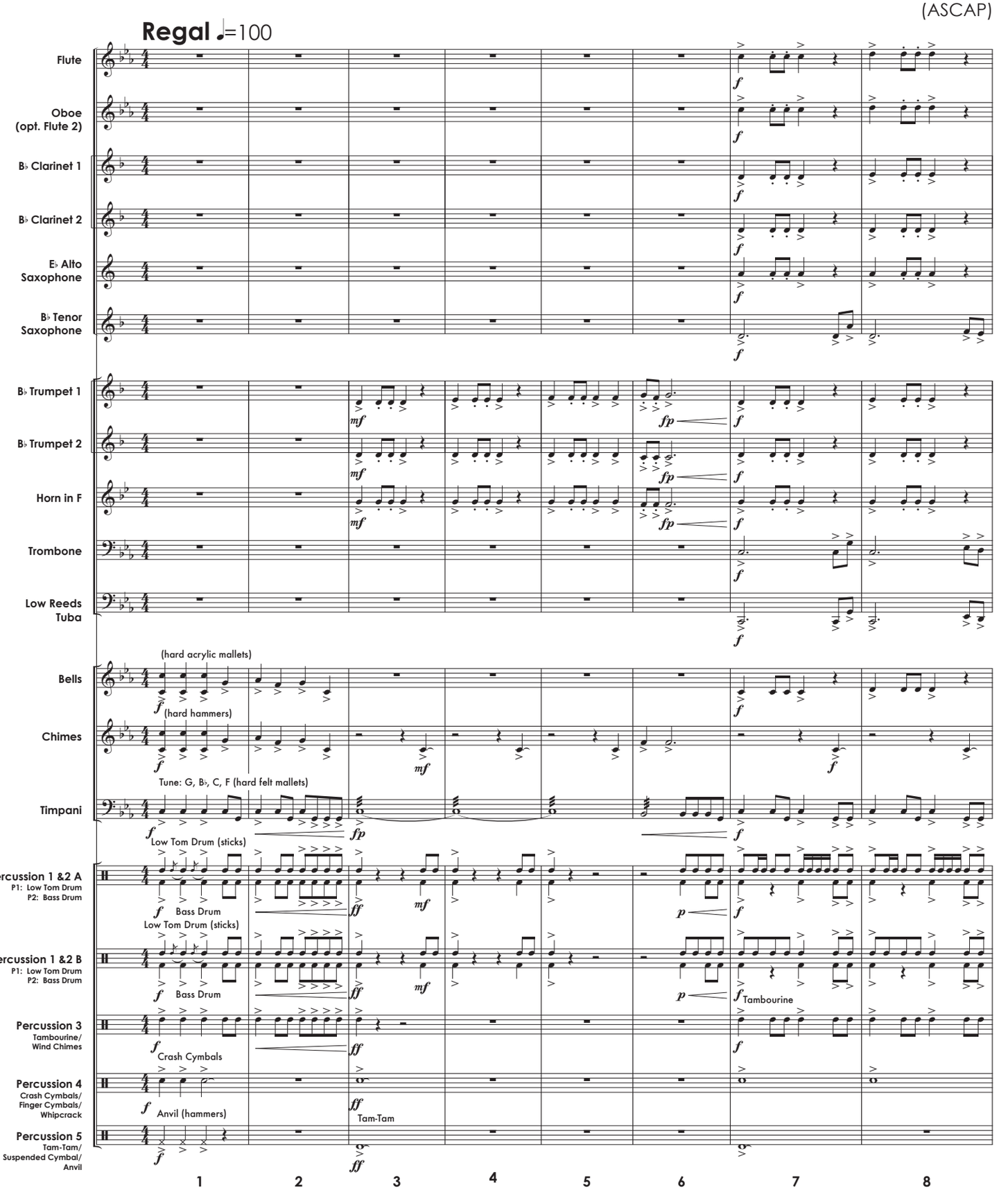
In addition to his career as a composer, Mr. Standridge is the owner and editor of Randall Standridge Music, LLC and Grand Mesa Marching. He is in demand as an arranger/designer for the marching arts. He lives in Jonesboro, Arkansas, with his husband, Steven, and their very, very spoiled pets.
For more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

To the Knights who came before us, to those who perform today, and to those who will follow. May its melody give you courage to ride through life's many battles.
This music is our legacy, a symbol of honor, dedication, and the unbreakable bond of our band family.
This piece was commissioned by the Bradley School District 61 under the direction of Band Directors Vanessa Evans and Brianna Harris.

Ride of the Red Knights

Score
Grade 1.5
Duration: 2:30

Randall D. Standridge
(ASCAP)



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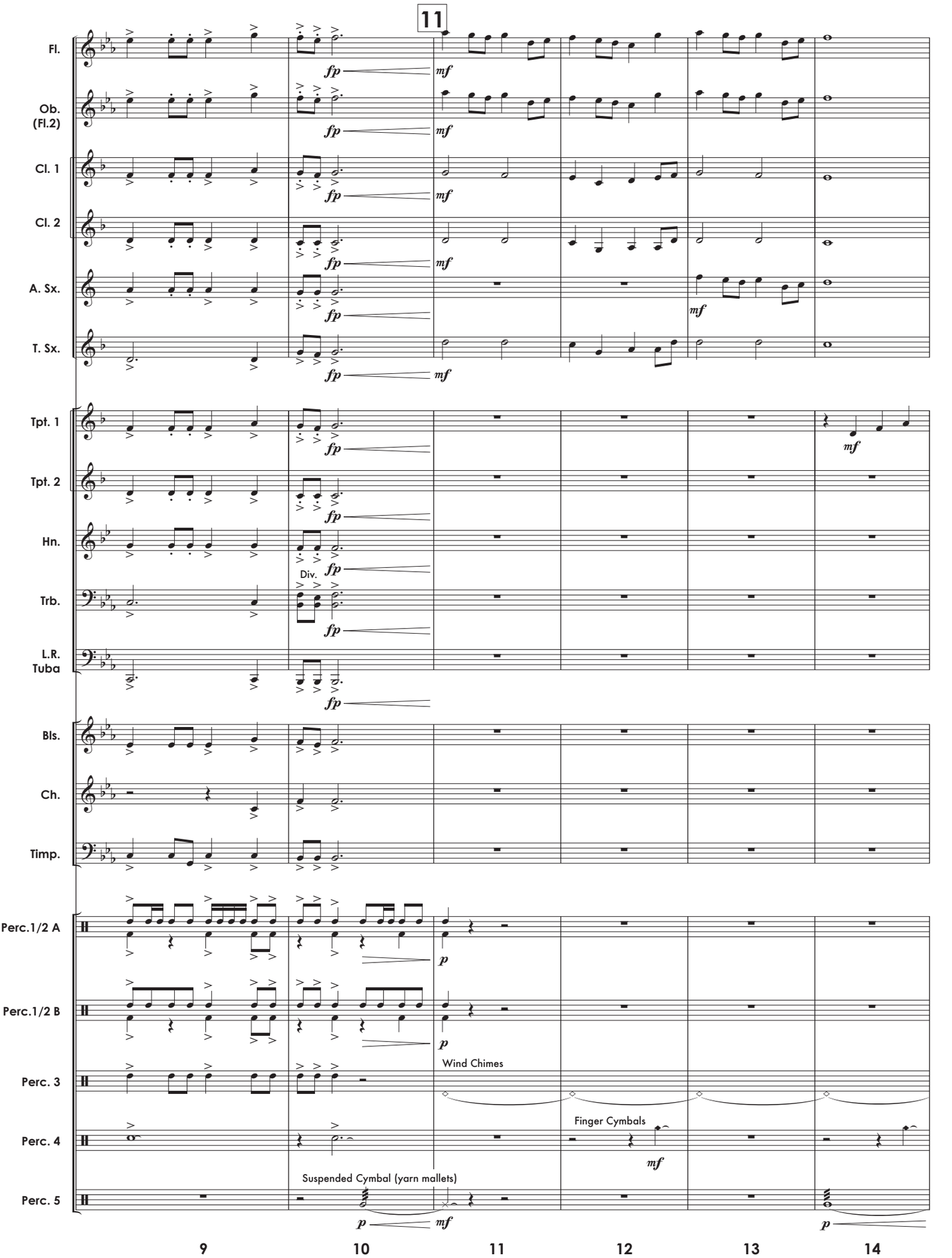
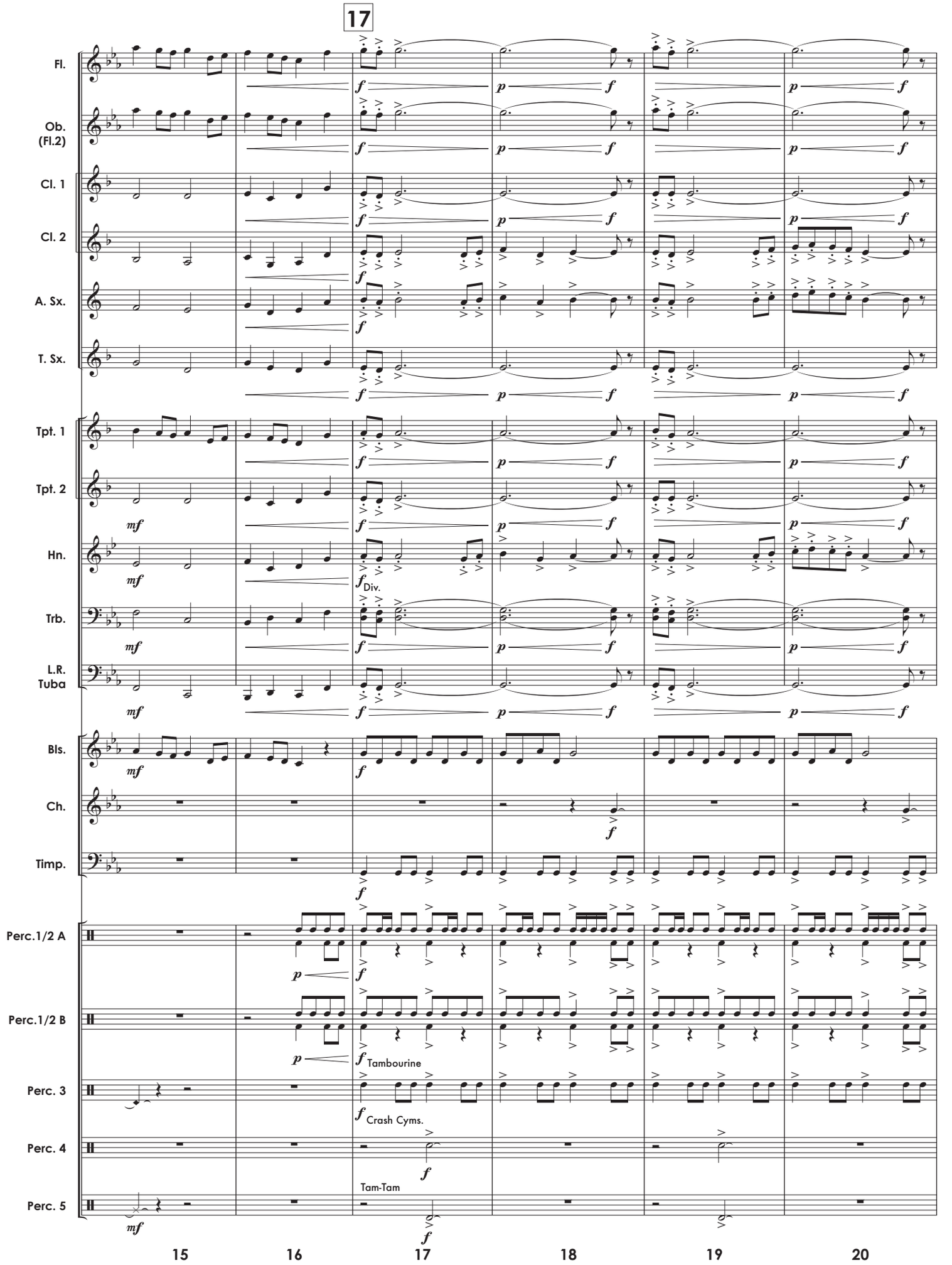

11
Fl.
Ob. (Fl.2)
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Trb.
L.R. Tuba
Bls.
Ch.
Timp.
Perc.1/2 A
Perc.1/2 B
Perc. 3
Perc. 4
Perc. 5
fp
mf
p
Div.
Wind Chimes
Finger Cymbals
Suspended Cymbal (yarn mallets)
9
10
11
12
13
14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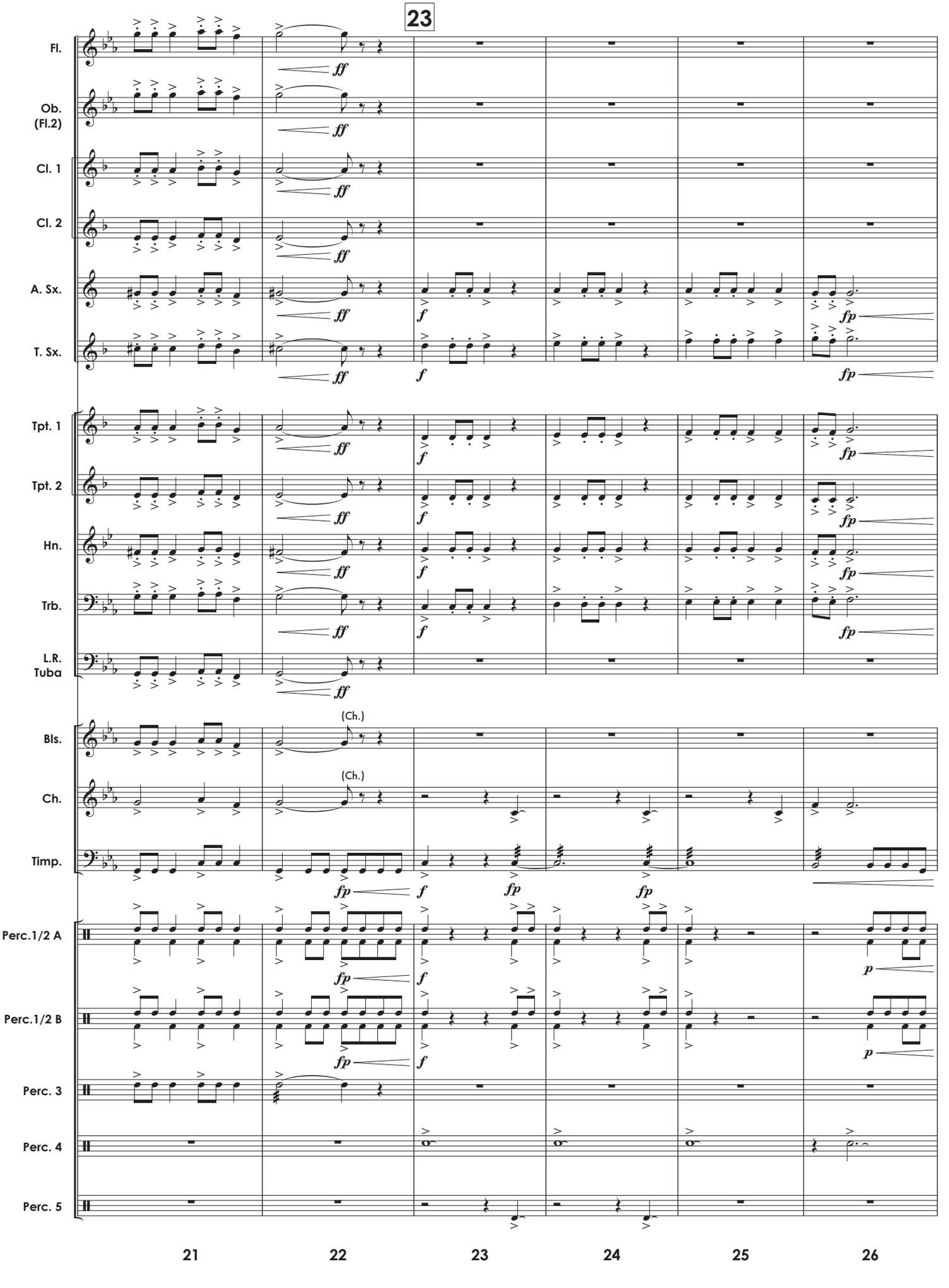
Fl.
Ob. (Fl.2)
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Trb.
L.R. Tuba
Bls.
Ch.
Timp.
Perc.1/2 A
Perc.1/2 B
Perc. 3
Perc. 4
Perc. 5
Div.
Tambourine
Crash Cyms.
Tam-Tam
15
16
17
18
19
20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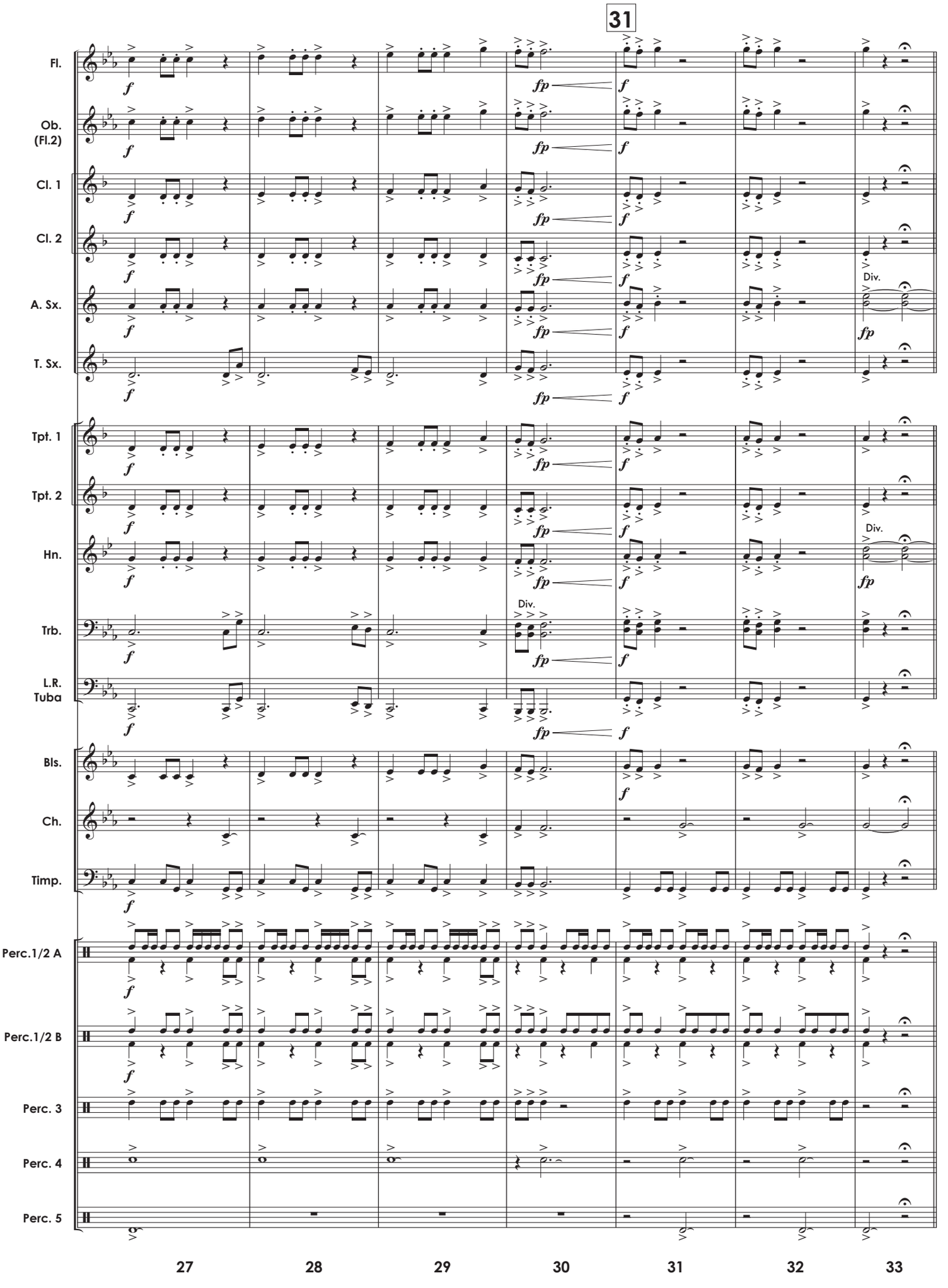
Fl.
Ob. (Fl.2)
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Trb.
L.R. Tuba
Bls.
(Ch.)
Ch.
(Ch.)
Timp.
Perc.1/2 A
Perc.1/2 B
Perc. 3
Perc. 4
Perc. 5
ff
f
fp
p
21
22
23
24
25
26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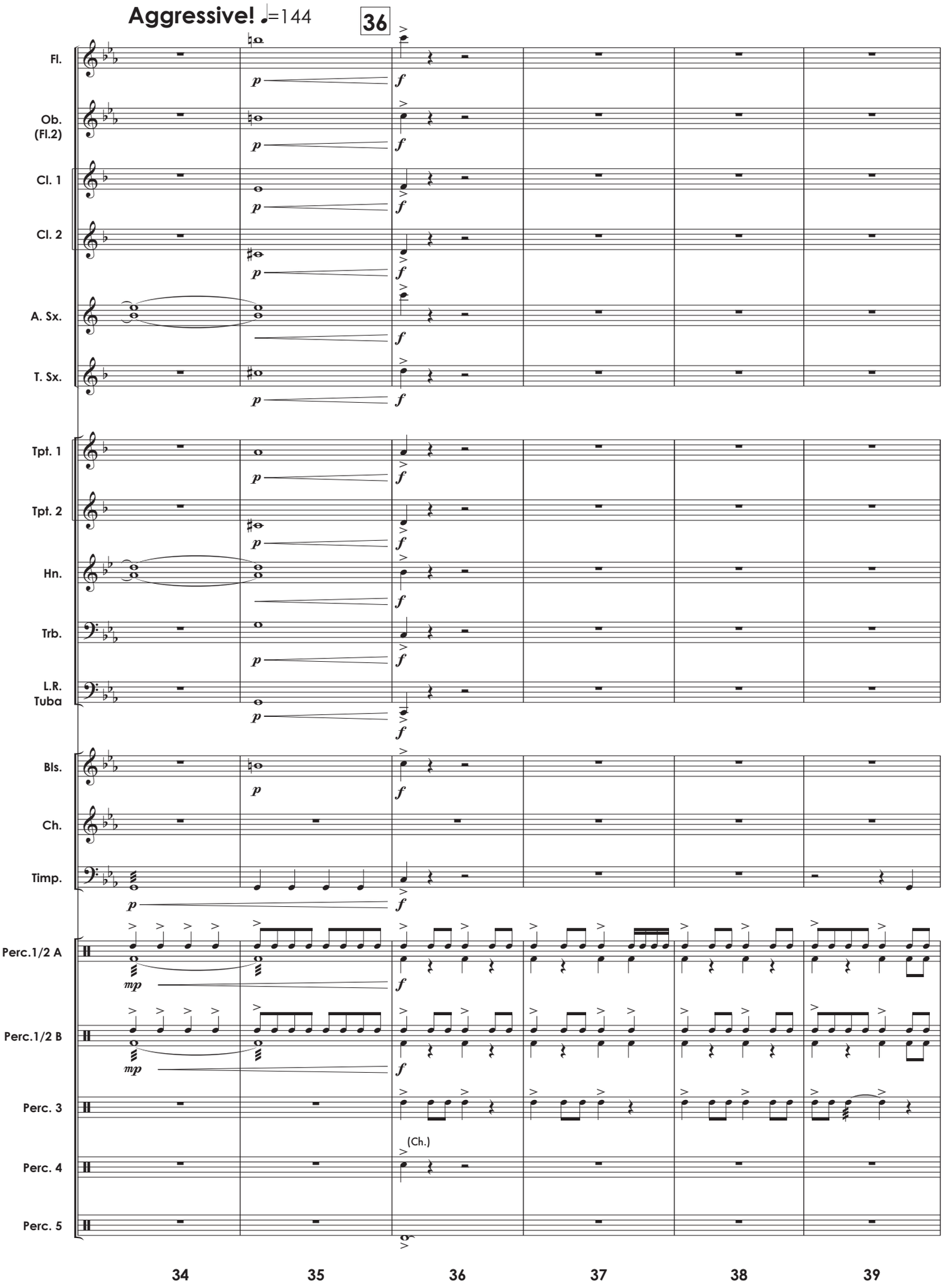
Fl.
Ob. (Fl.2)
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Trb.
L.R. Tuba
Bls.
Ch.
Timp.
Perc.1/2 A
Perc.1/2 B
Perc. 3
Perc. 4
Perc. 5
Div.
f
fp
27
28
29
30
31
32
33


Aggressive! ♩=144
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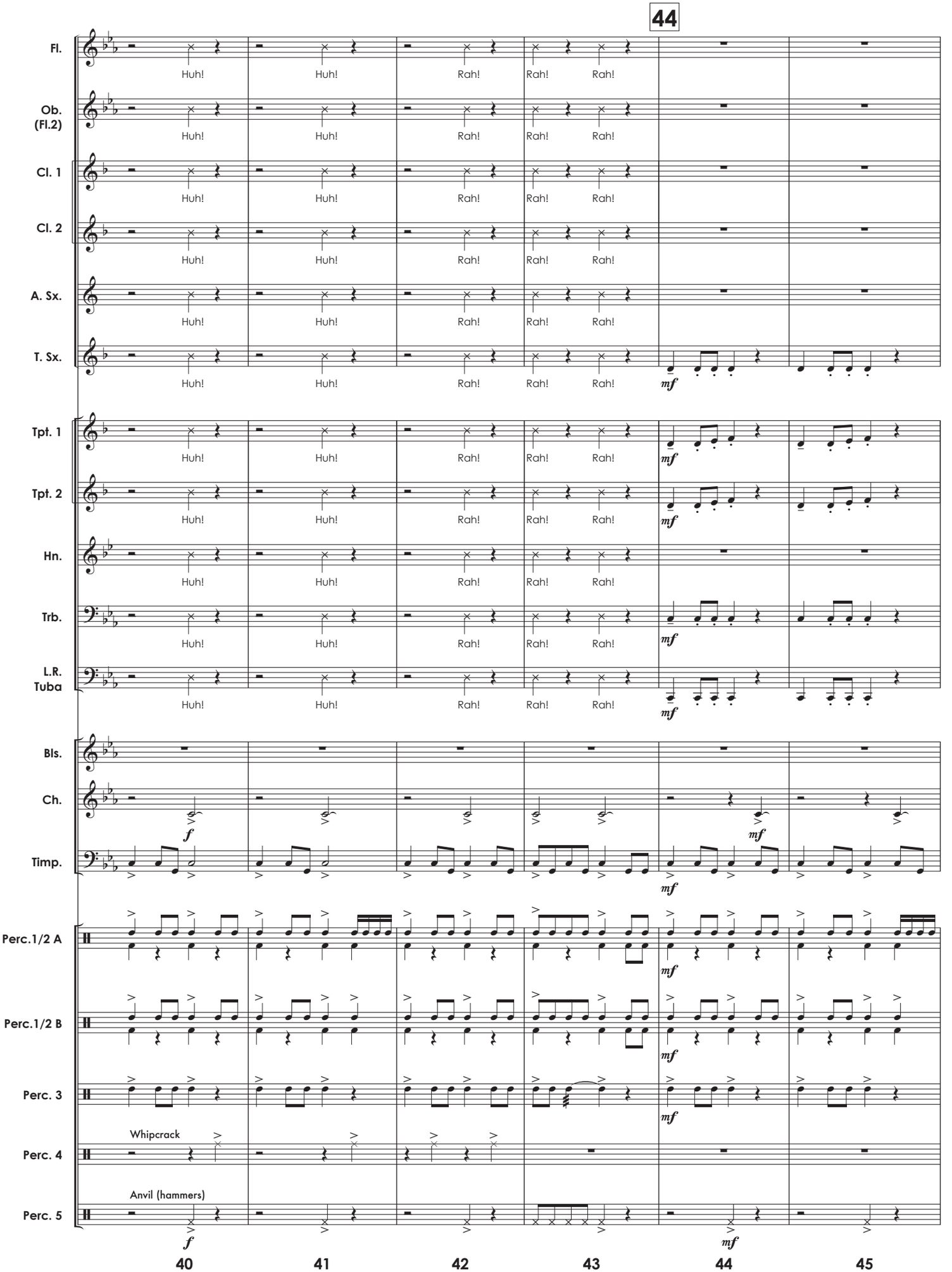
Fl.
Ob. (Fl.2)
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Trb.
L.R. Tuba
Bls.
Ch.
Timp.
Perc.1/2 A
Perc.1/2 B
Perc. 3
Perc. 4
Perc. 5
(Ch.)
34
35
36
37
38
39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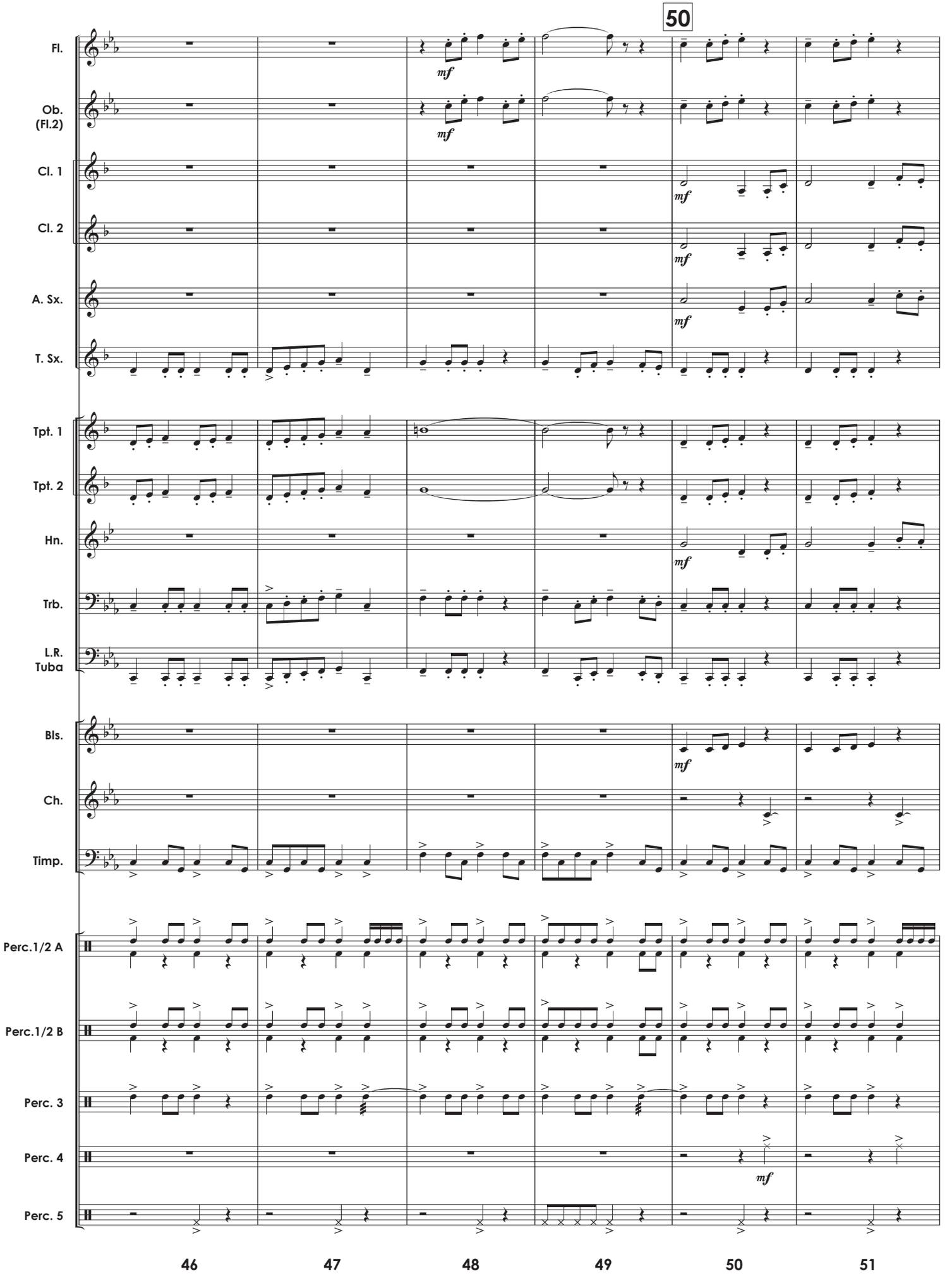
Fl.
Ob. (Fl.2)
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Trb.
L.R. Tuba
Huh!
Rah!
mf
Bls.
Ch.
Timp.
f
Perc.1/2 A
Perc.1/2 B
Perc. 3
Perc. 4
Whipcrack
Perc. 5
Anvil (hammers)
40
41
42
43
44
45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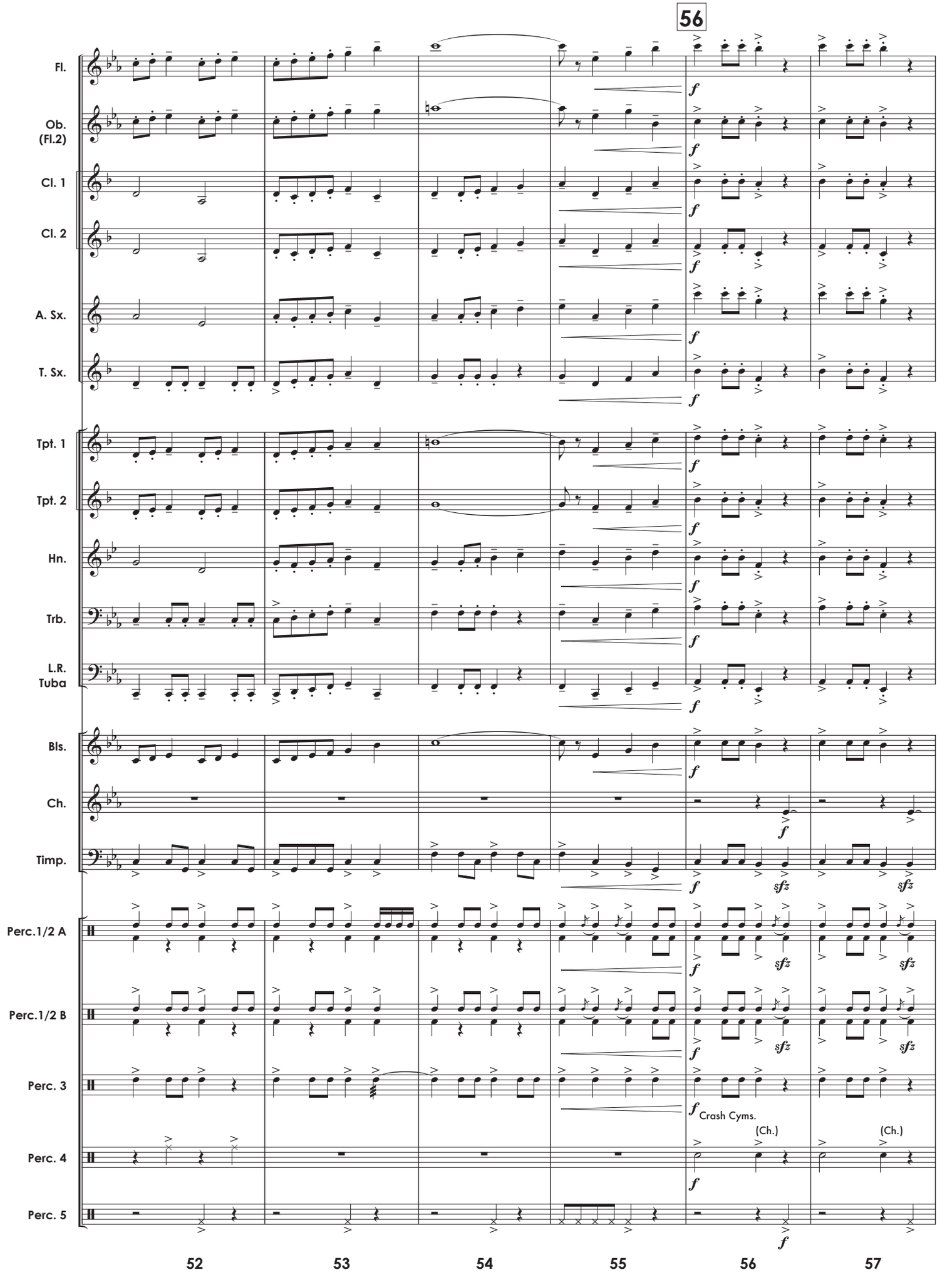
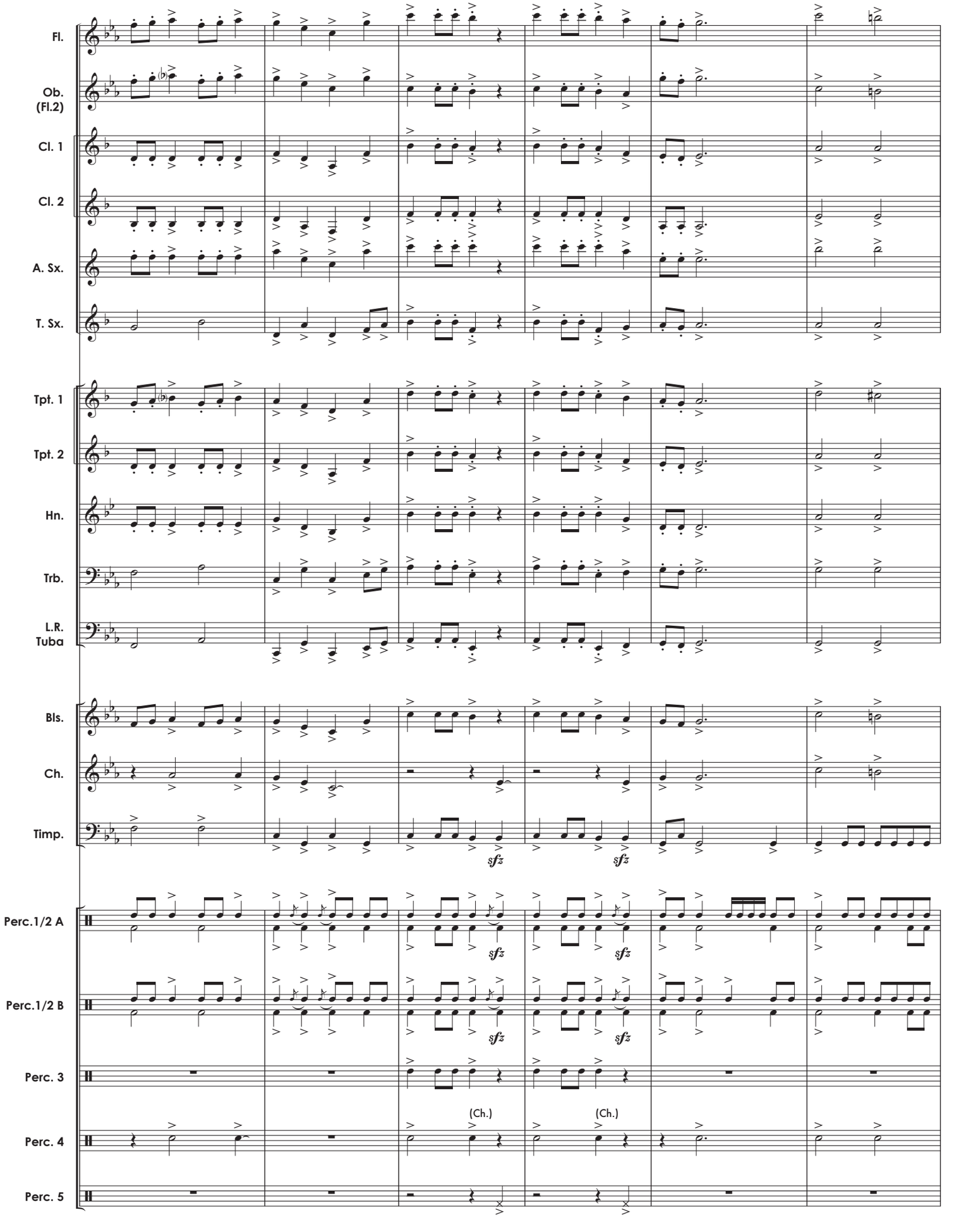
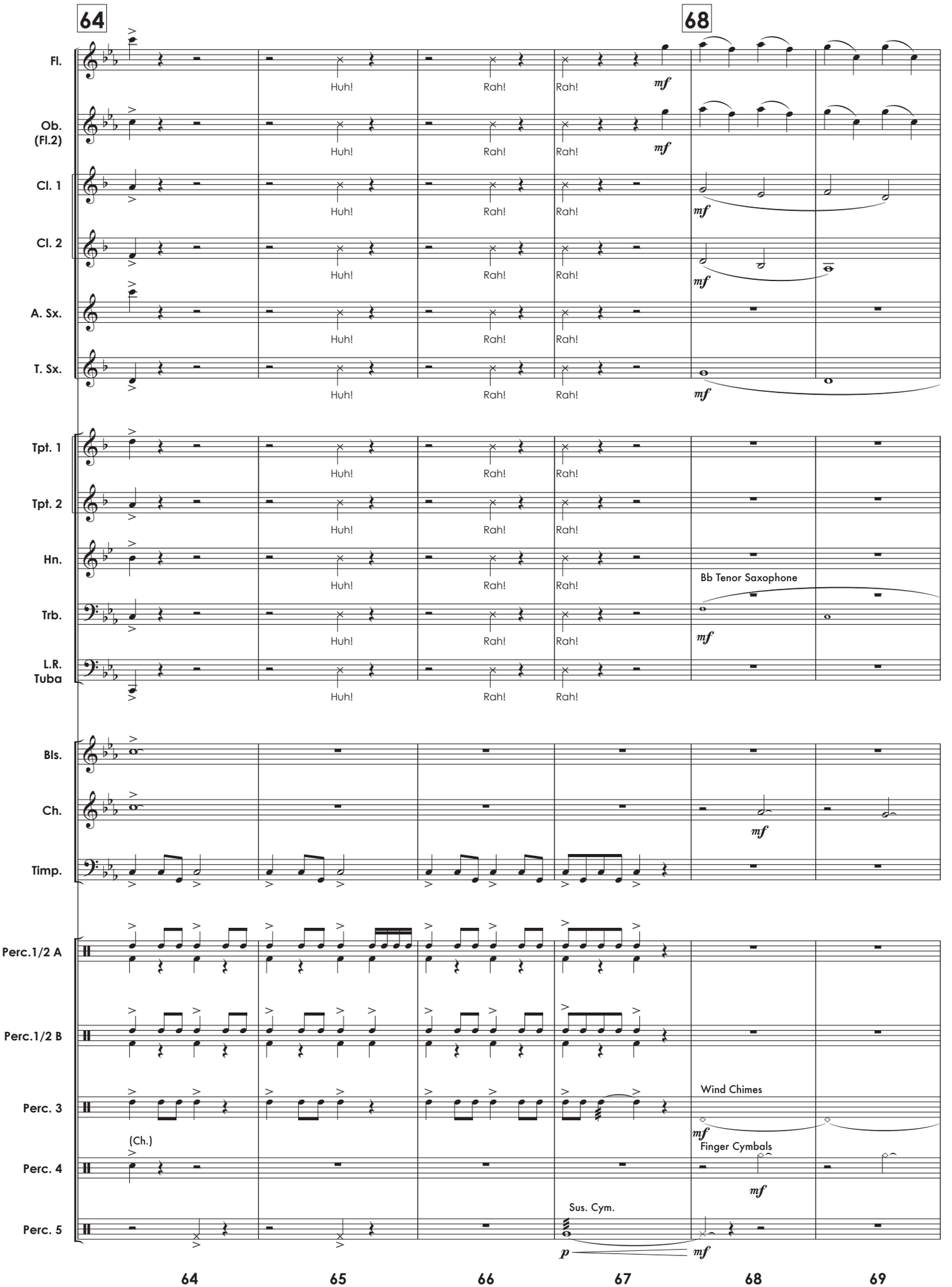
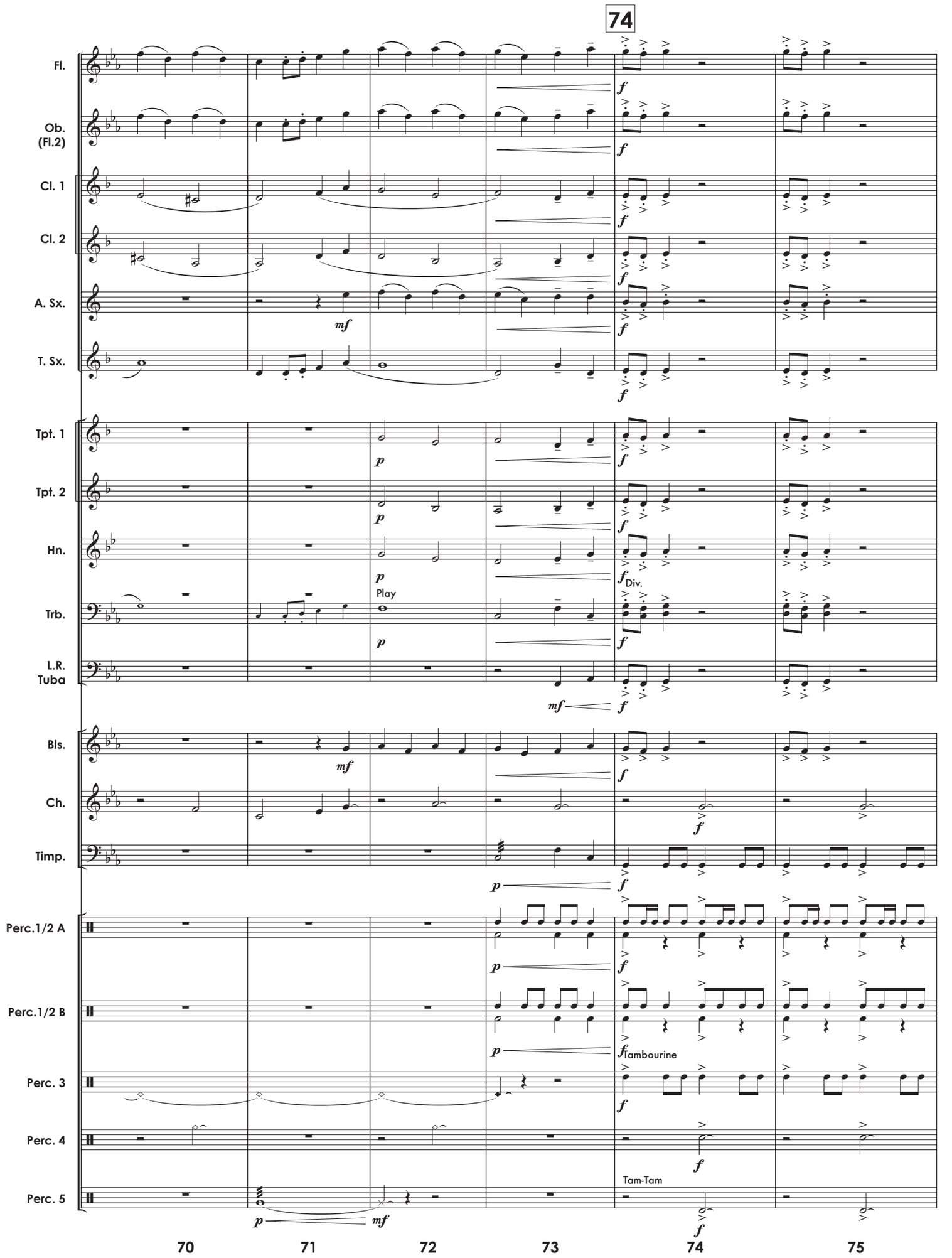
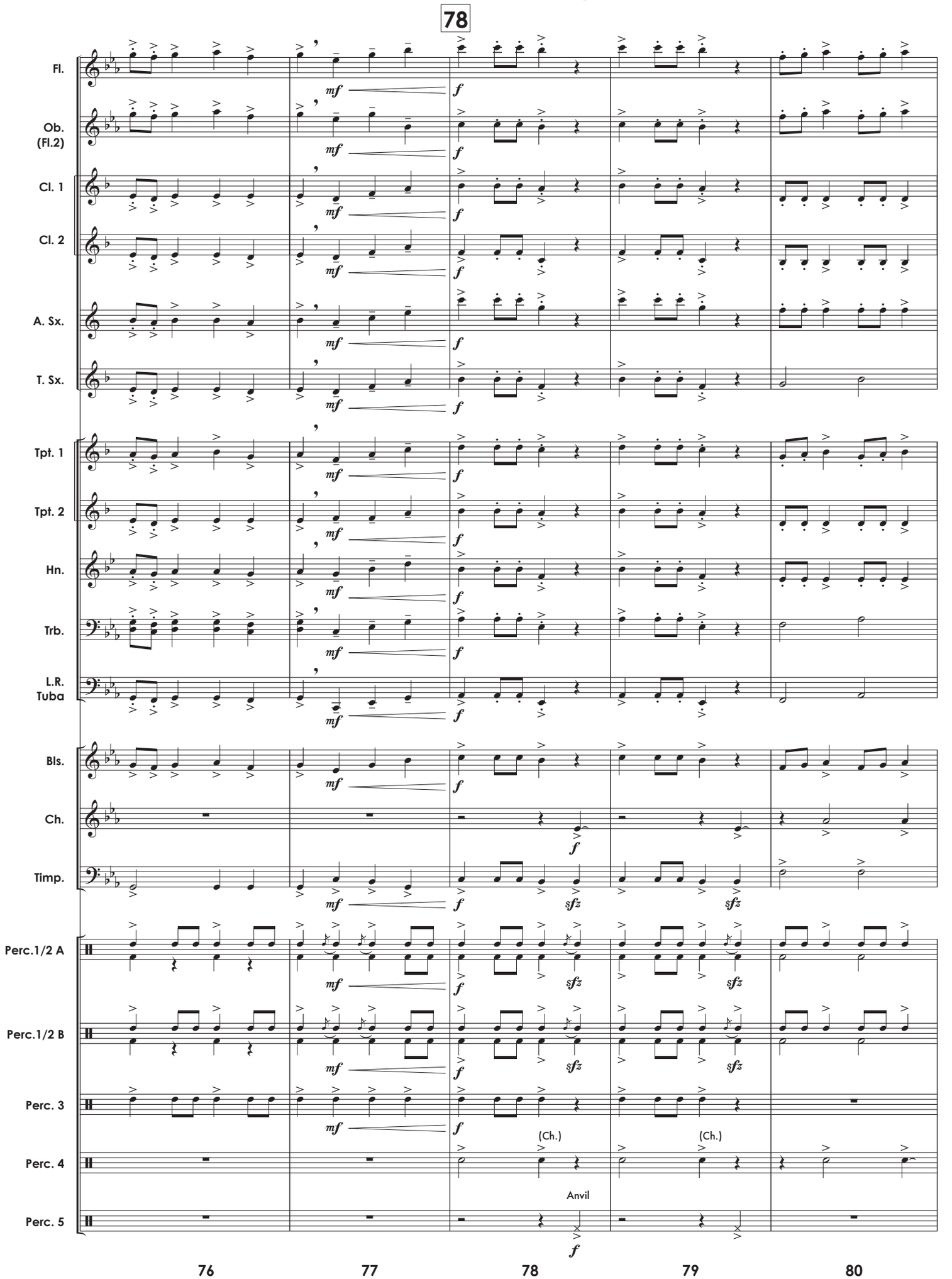
Fl.
Ob. (Fl.2)
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Trb.
L.R. Tuba
Bls.
Ch.
Timp.
Perc.1/2 A
Perc.1/2 B
Perc. 3
Perc. 4
Perc. 5
mf
46
47
48
49
50
51

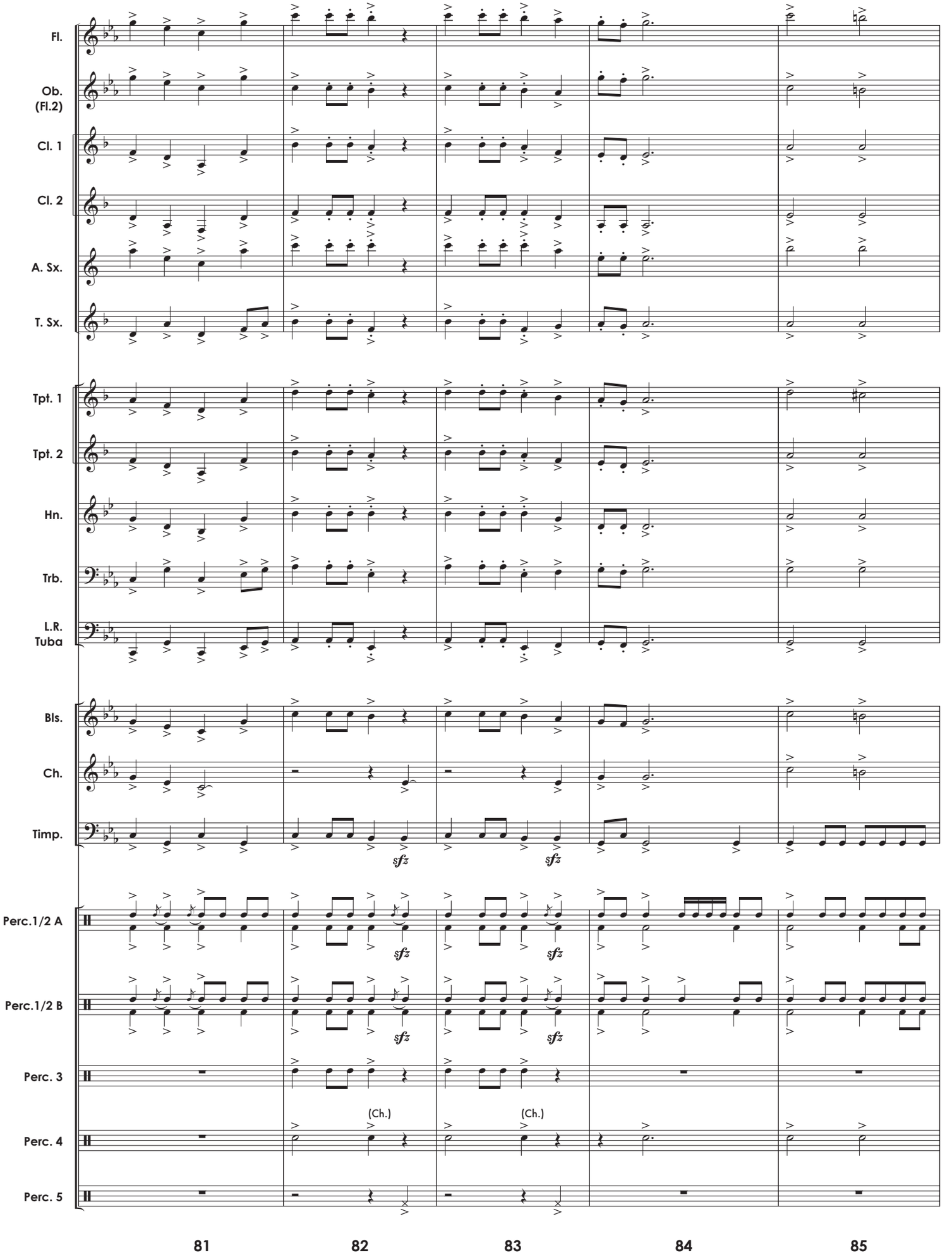

56
Fl.
Ob. (Fl.2)
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Trb.
L.R. Tuba
Bls.
Ch.
Timp.
Perc.1/2 A
Perc.1/2 B
Perc. 3
Perc. 4
Perc. 5
f
sfz
Crash Cyms.
(Ch.)
52
53
54
55
56
57

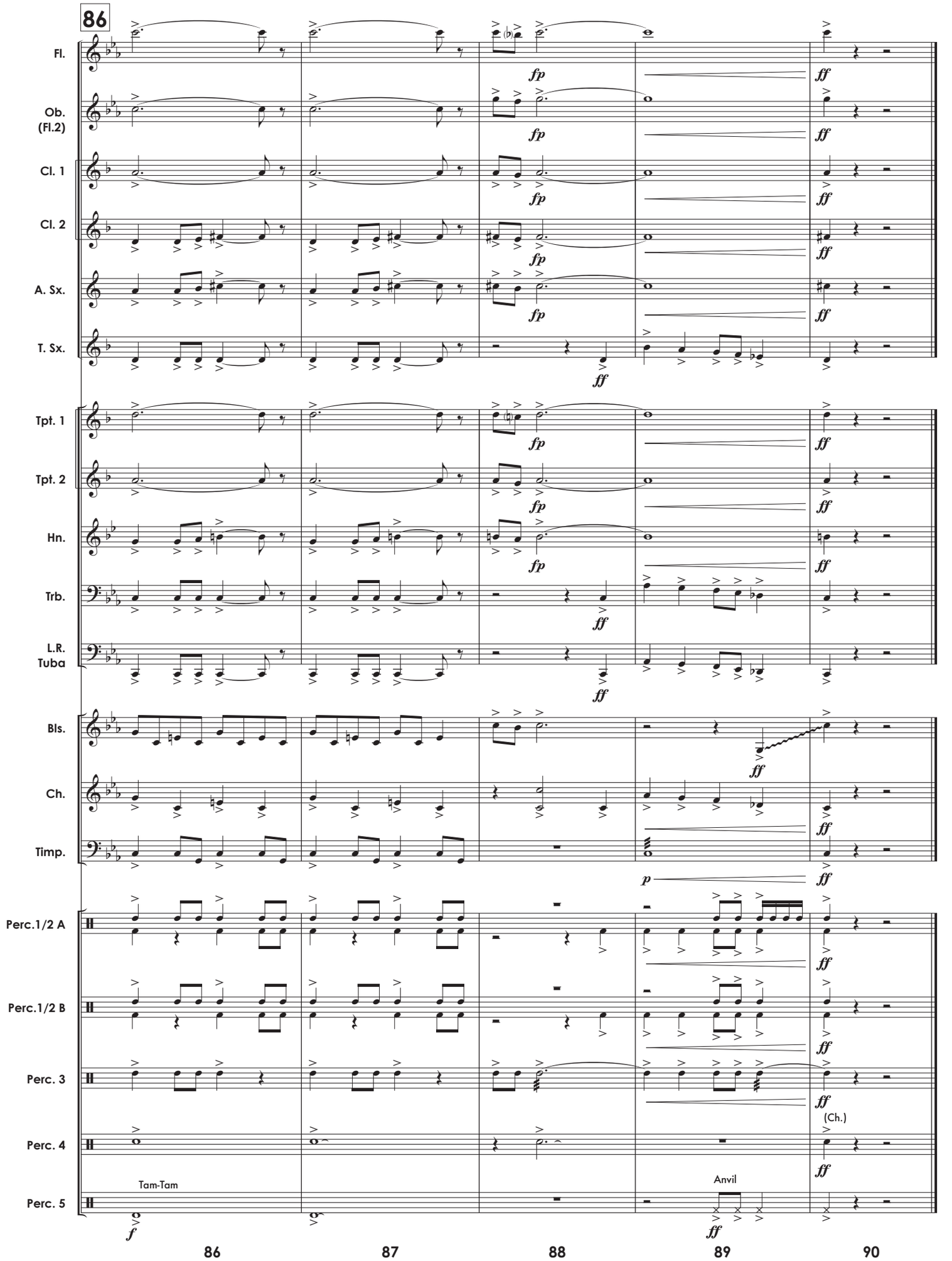

Fl.
Ob. (Fl.2)
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Trb.
L.R. Tuba
Bls.
Ch.
Timp.
Perc.1/2 A
Perc.1/2 B
Perc. 3
Perc. 4
Perc. 5
sfz
(Ch.)
58
59
60
61
62
63


64
68
Fl.
Ob. (Fl.2)
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Trb.
L.R. Tuba
Bls.
Ch.
Timp.
Perc.1/2 A
Perc.1/2 B
Perc. 3
Perc. 4
Perc. 5
Huh!
Rah!
mf
Bb Tenor Saxophone
Wind Chimes
Finger Cymbals
(Ch.)
Sus. Cym.
p
64
65
66
67
68
69


74
Fl.
Ob. (Fl.2)
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Trb.
L.R. Tuba
Bls.
Ch.
Timp.
Perc.1/2 A
Perc.1/2 B
Perc. 3
Perc. 4
Perc. 5
Play
Div.
tambourine
Tam-Tam
70
71
72
73
74
75


78
Fl.
Ob. (Fl.2)
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Trb.
L.R. Tuba
Bls.
Ch.
Timp.
Perc.1/2 A
Perc.1/2 B
Perc. 3
Perc. 4
Perc. 5
mf
f
sfz
(Ch.)
Anvil
76
77
78
79
80


Fl.
Ob. (Fl.2)
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Trb.
L.R. Tuba
Bls.
Ch.
Timp.
Perc.1/2 A
Perc.1/2 B
Perc. 3
Perc. 4
Perc. 5
sfz
(Ch.)
81
82
83
84
85


86
Fl.
Ob. (Fl.2)
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Hn.
Trb.
L.R. Tuba
Bls.
Ch.
Timp.
Perc.1/2 A
Perc.1/2 B
Perc. 3
Perc. 4
Perc. 5
Tam-Tam
Anvil
(Ch.)
fp
ff
p
f
86
87
88
89
90