Antiche Danze ed Arie

Suite II, nr. 4: Bergamasca

Ottorino Respighi

arranged by Paul De Bra for
accordion orchestra (1, 2, 3, 4, bass, timpani)

Ottorino Respighi is best known for orchestration of previously composed work. The same holds true for the “Antiche Danze ed Arie”, some of which are of unknown origin. From the Suite II movement 4 has been arranged for accordion orchestra (including optional timpani). The song is called Bergamasca and its origin is unknown, probably dating back to around 1650.

This piece is much more difficult than it sounds, with large jumps, fast register changes, pizzicato notes, etc. The composition is quite “busy” and the arrangement tries to follow that: many register changes are used to imitate different instruments used in the original (13 different instruments plus timpani, a total of 28 voices). There are very high and very low notes. All voices ask for rather large accordions, but there are hints on how to cope with missing notes. The easy bass part also assumes a large bass accordion (going up to D), preferably with registers.

Professor P made a recording available on YouTube.

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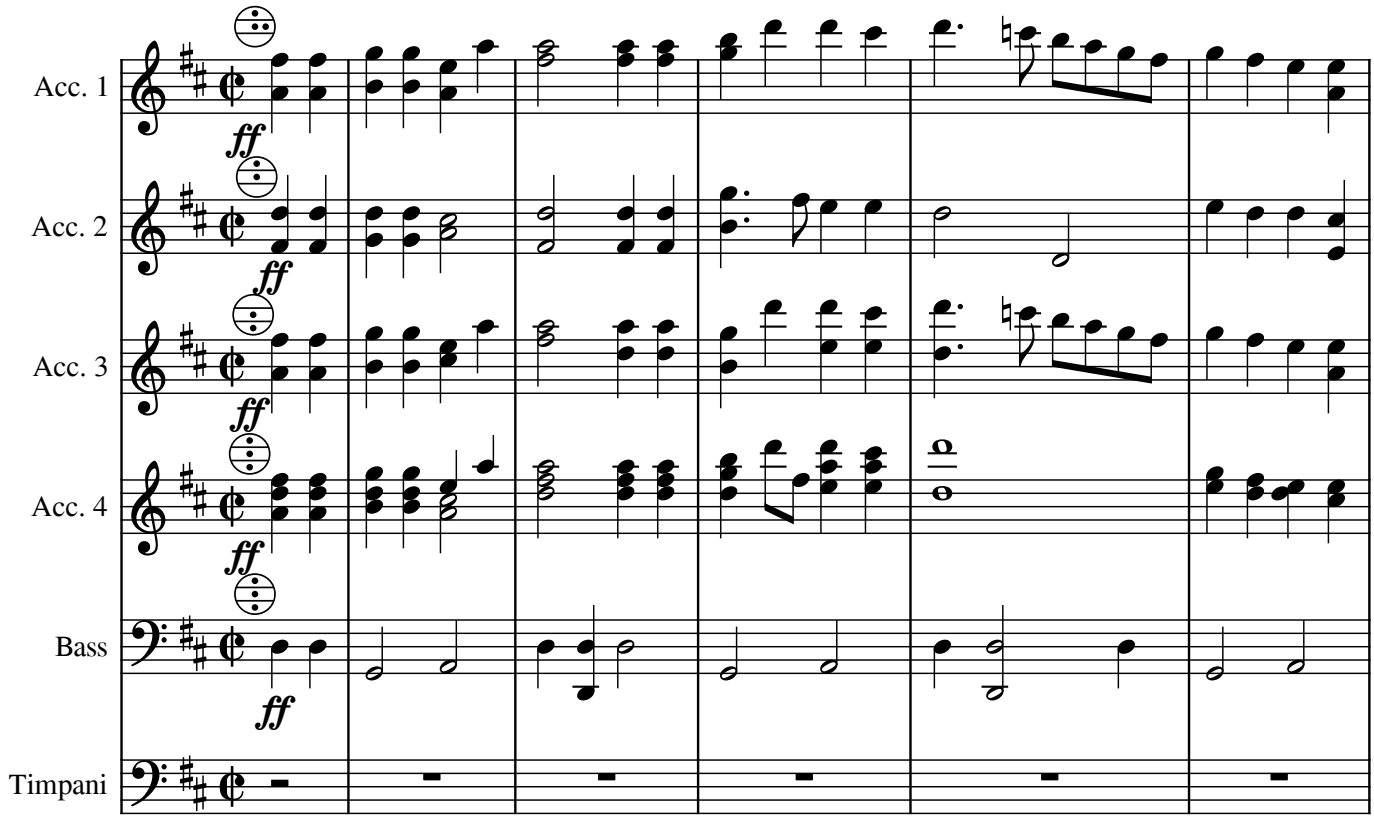
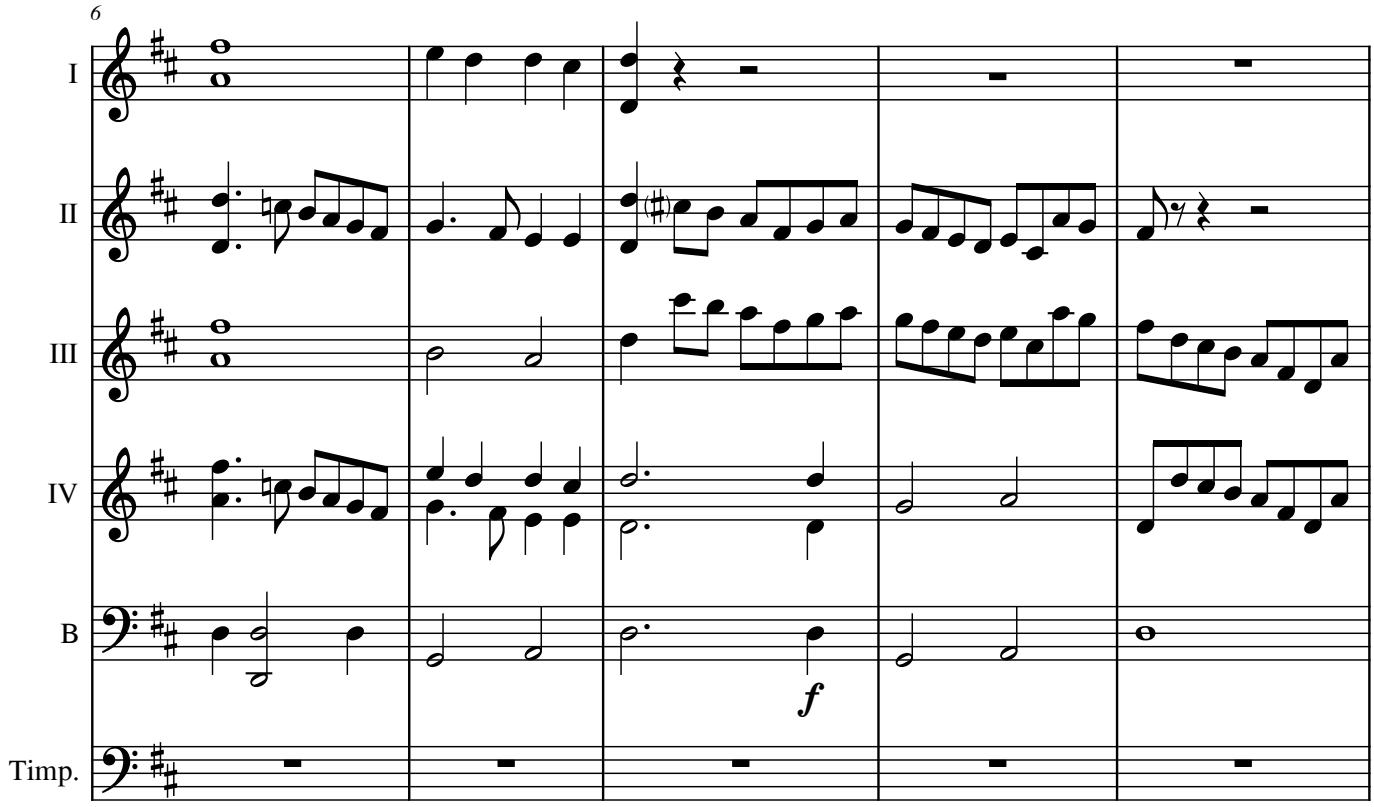
Antiche Danze ed Arie, suite 2

Bergamasca

Ottorino Respighi
arr. Paul De Bra

Allegro 𝅗𝅥 **= 108-116**





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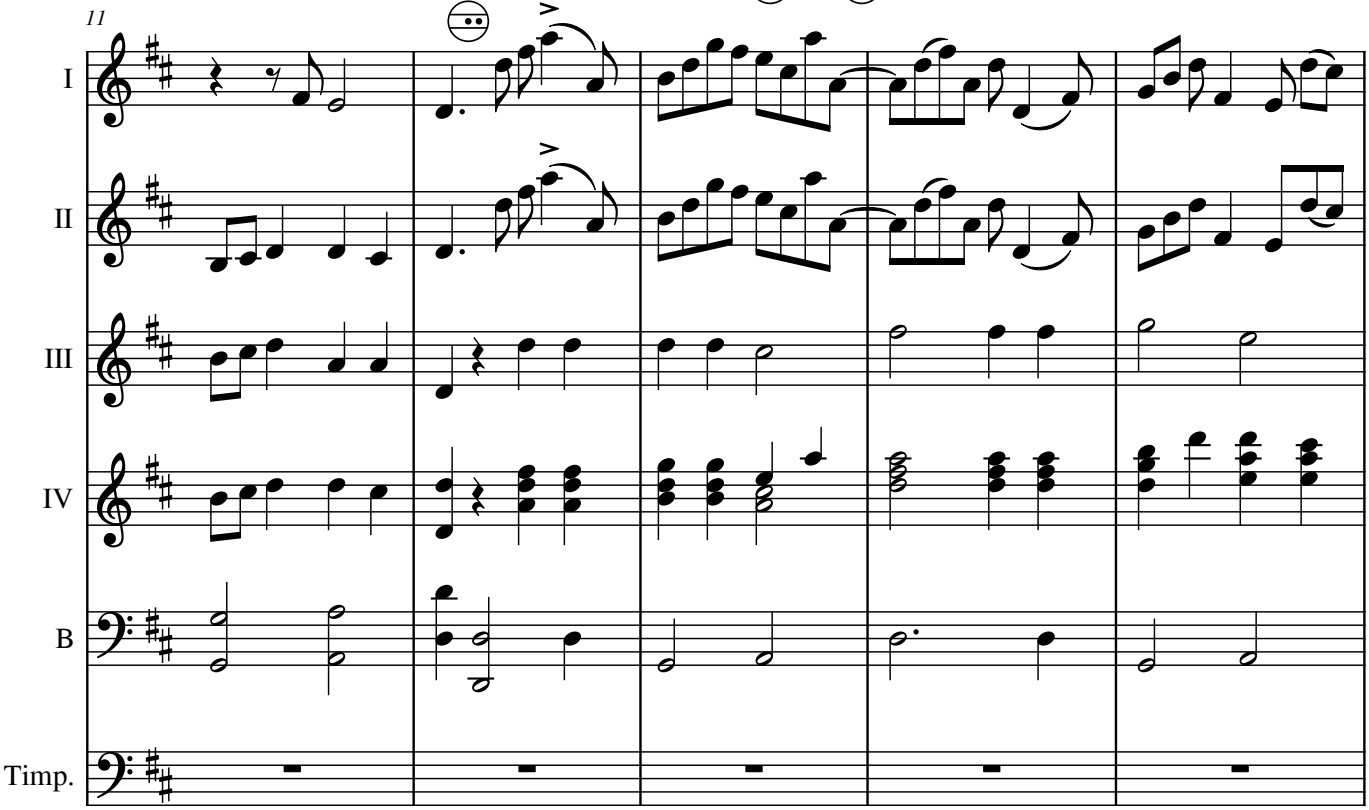
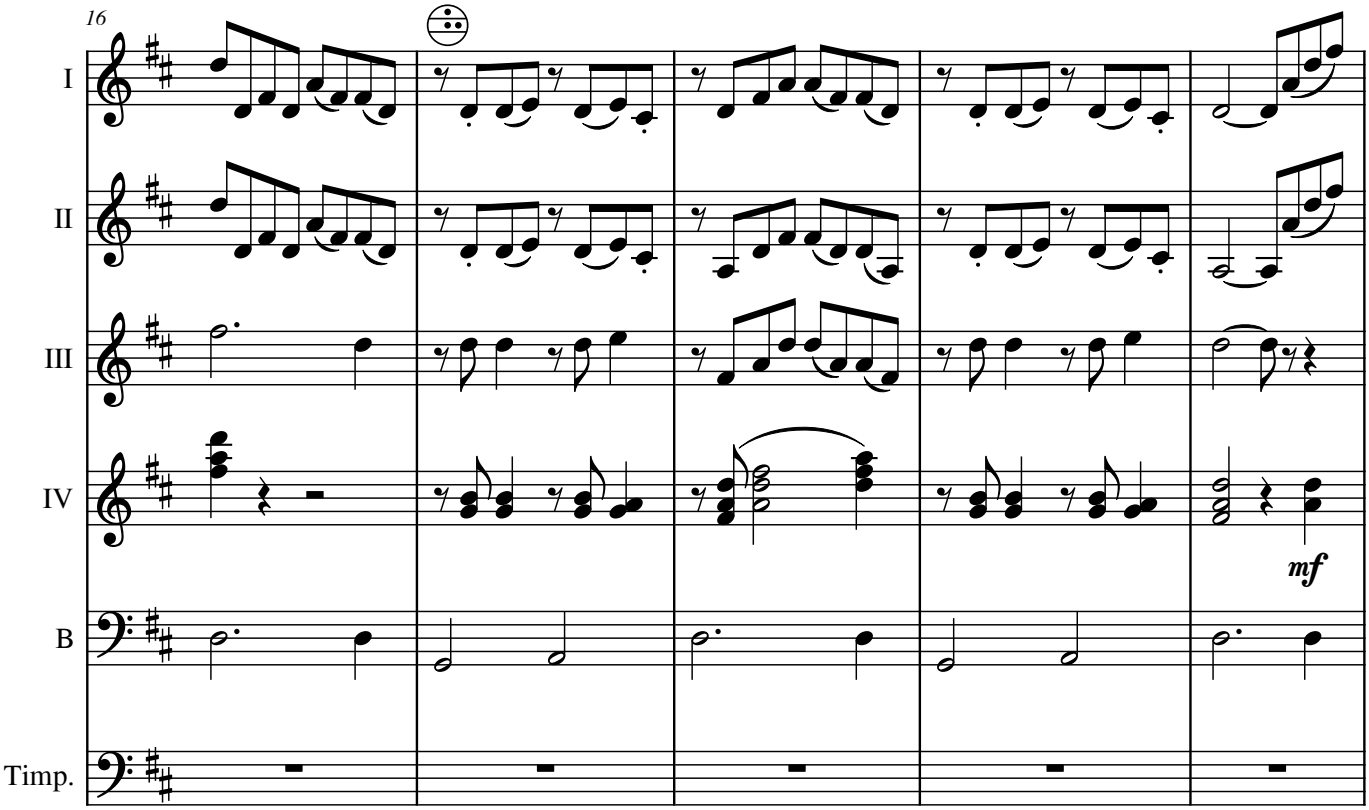
Antiche Danze ed Arie, suite 2

(register switches between and may be skipped when too difficult)





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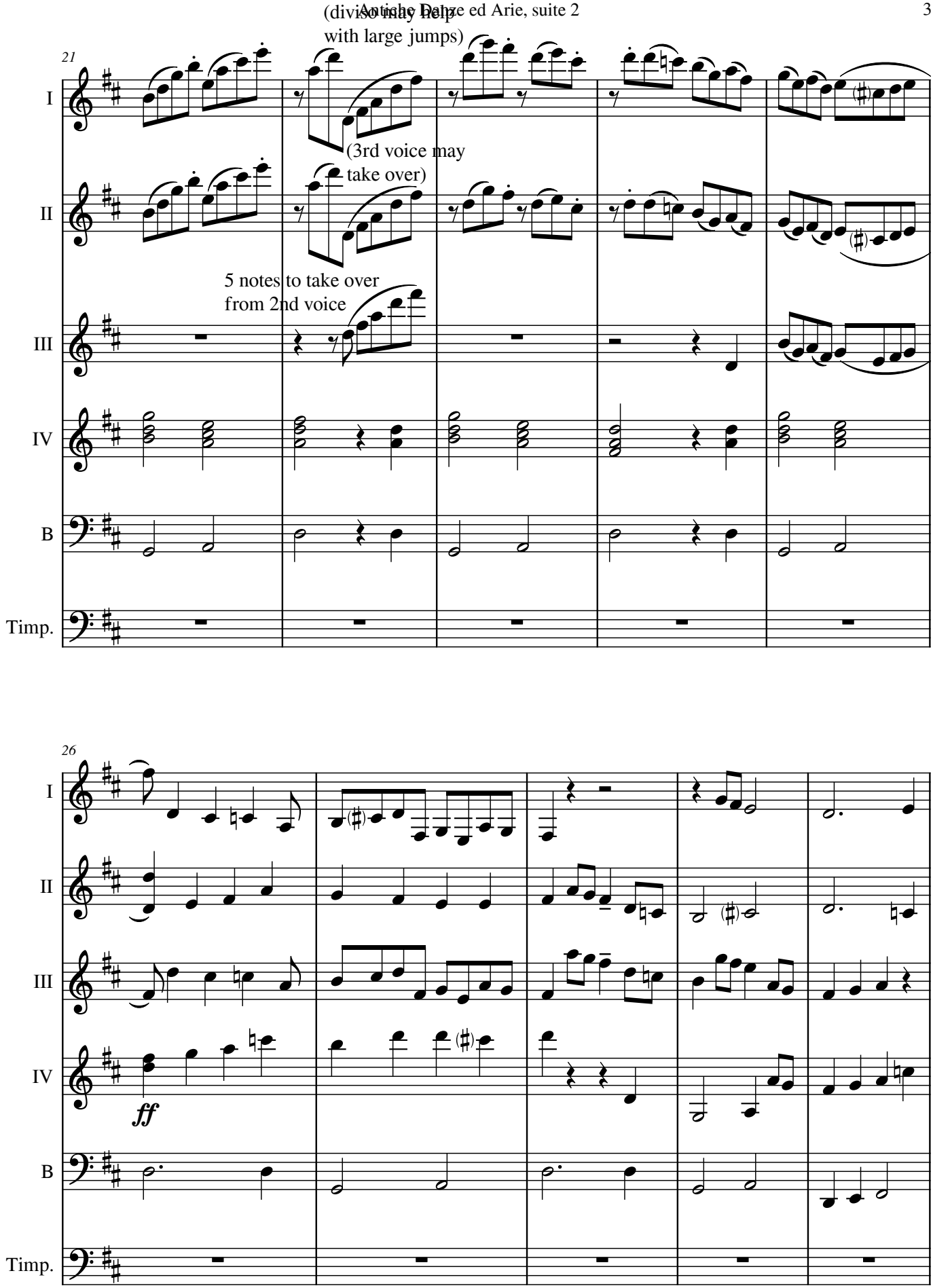

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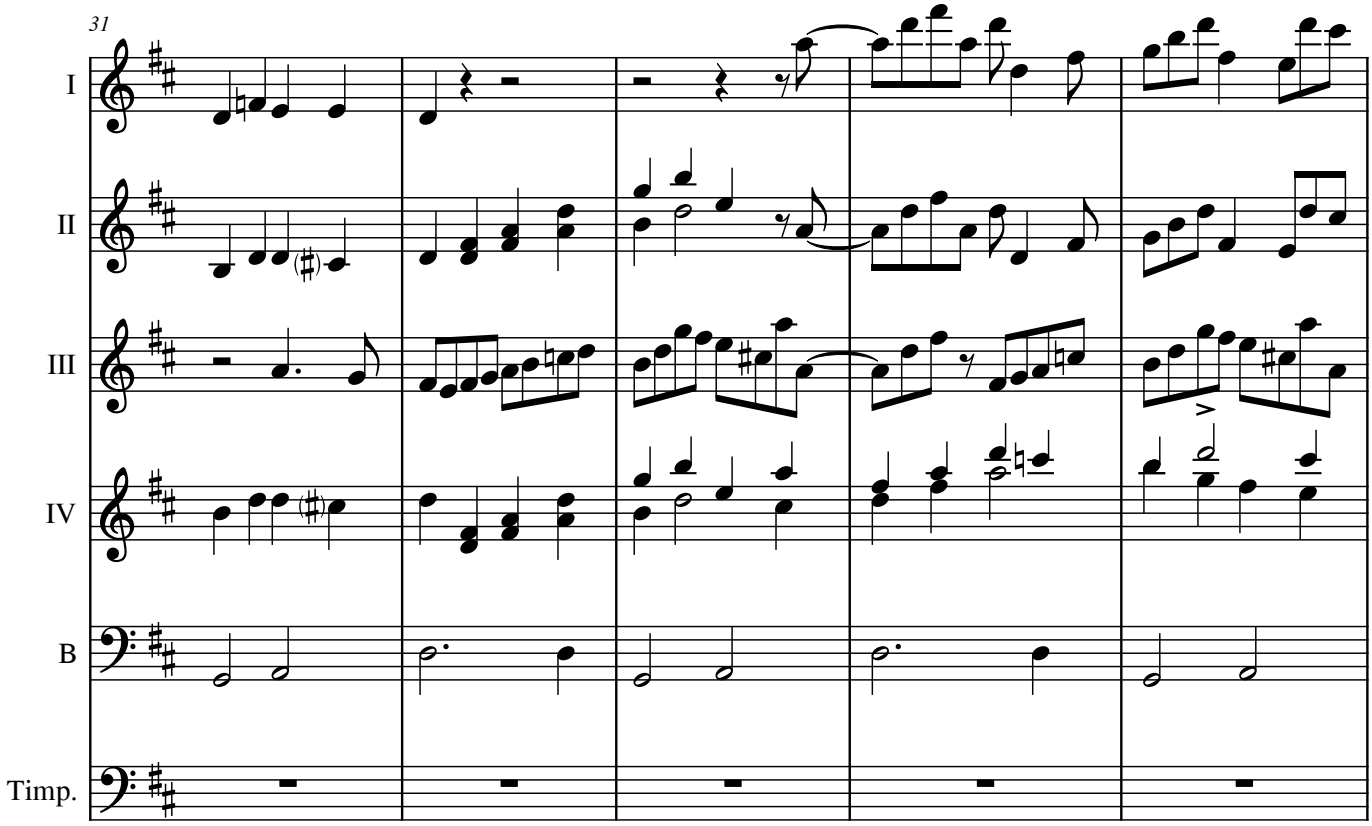

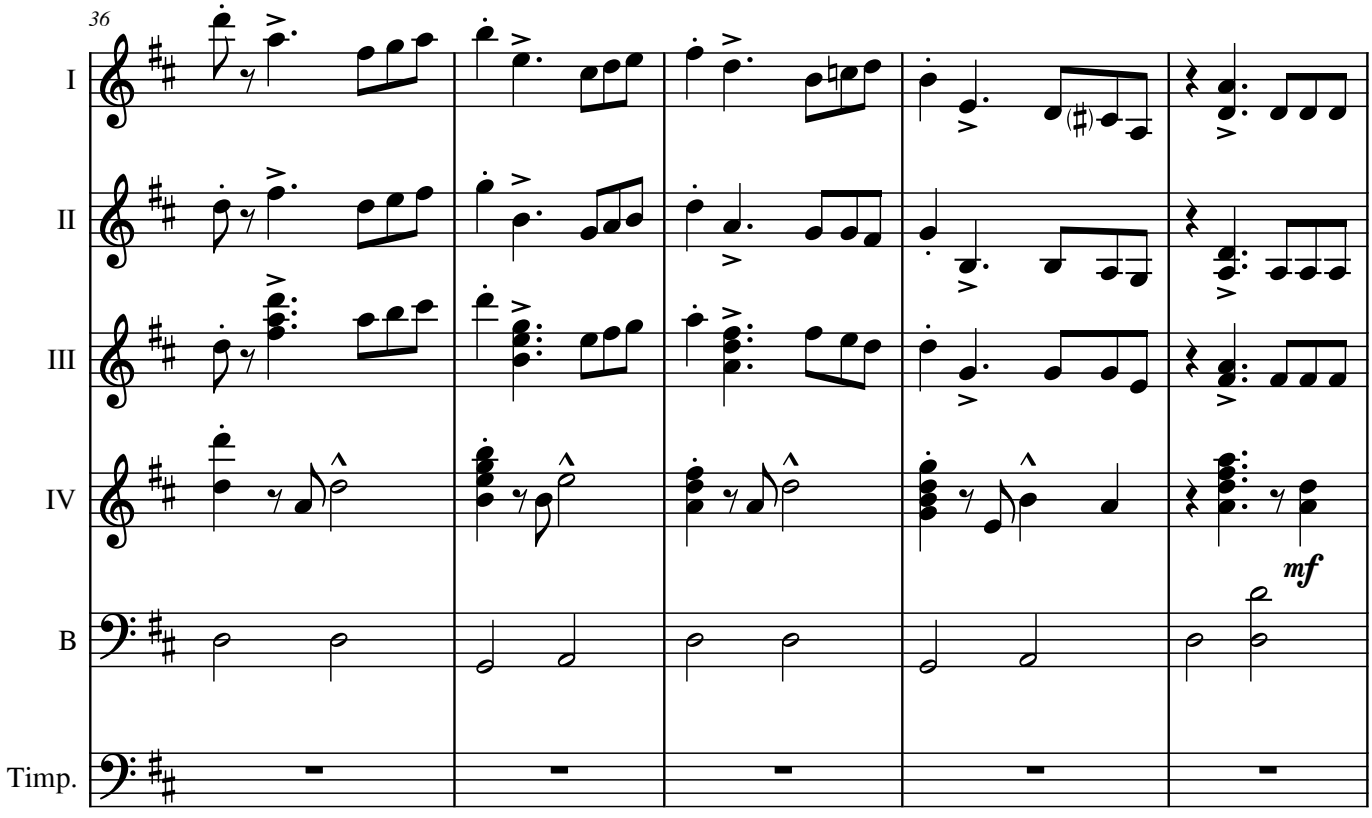

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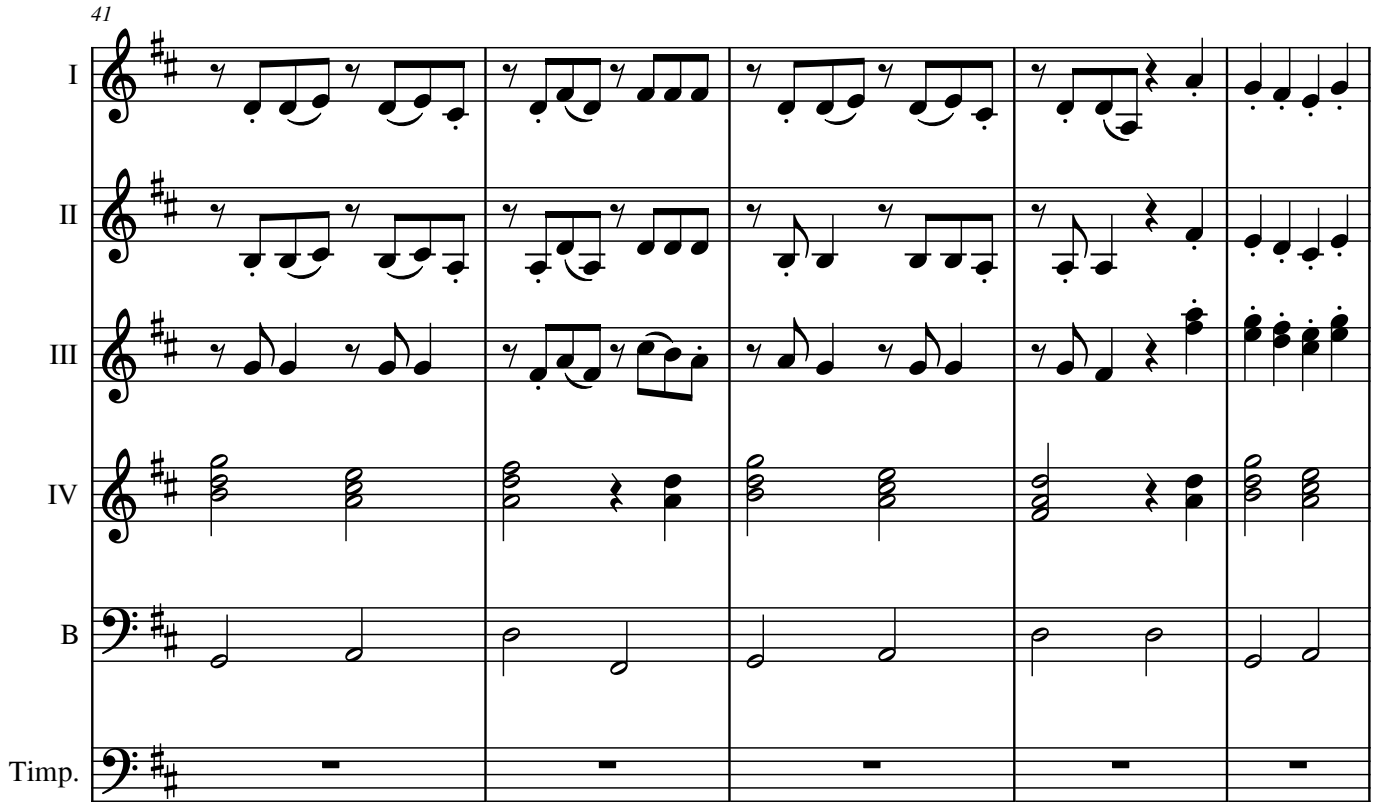

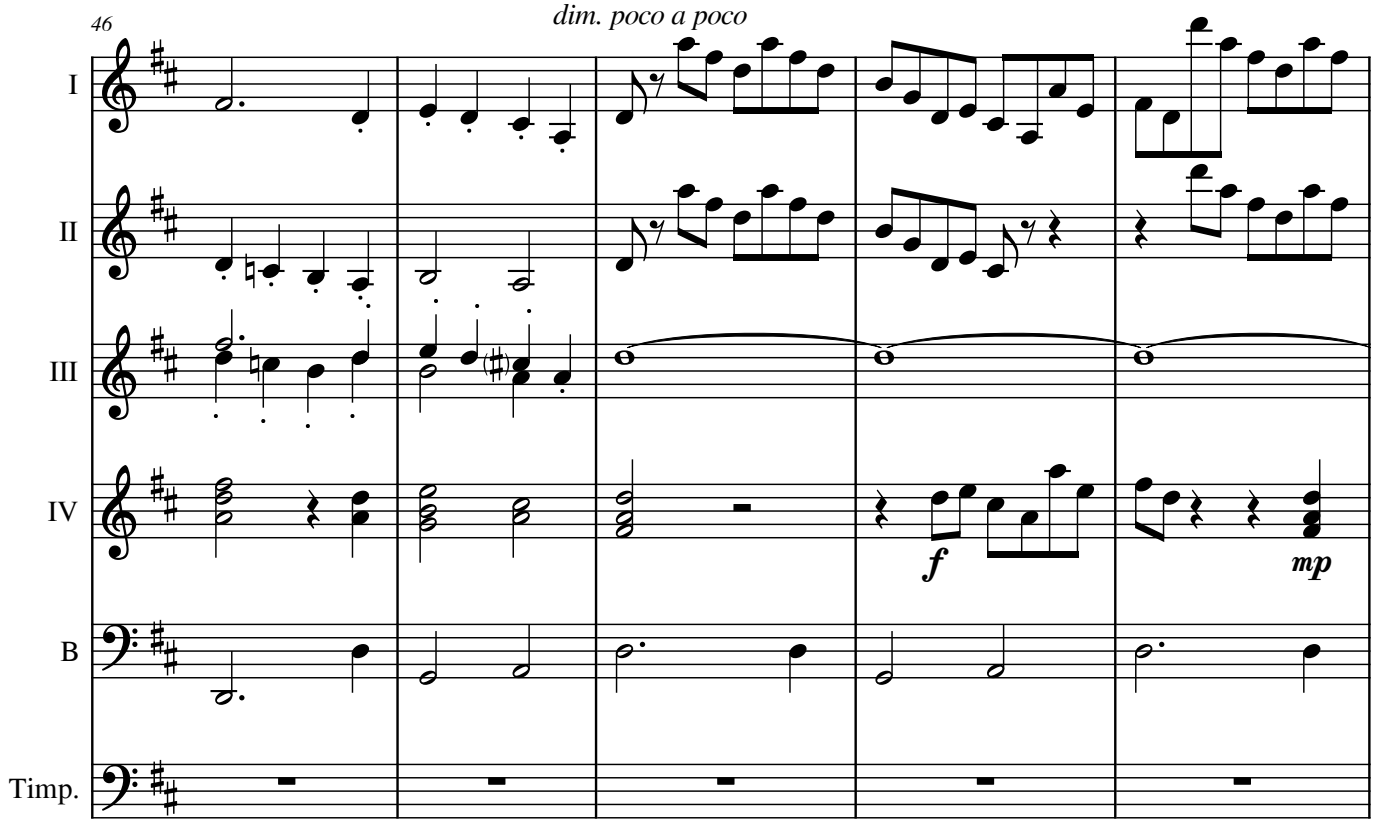

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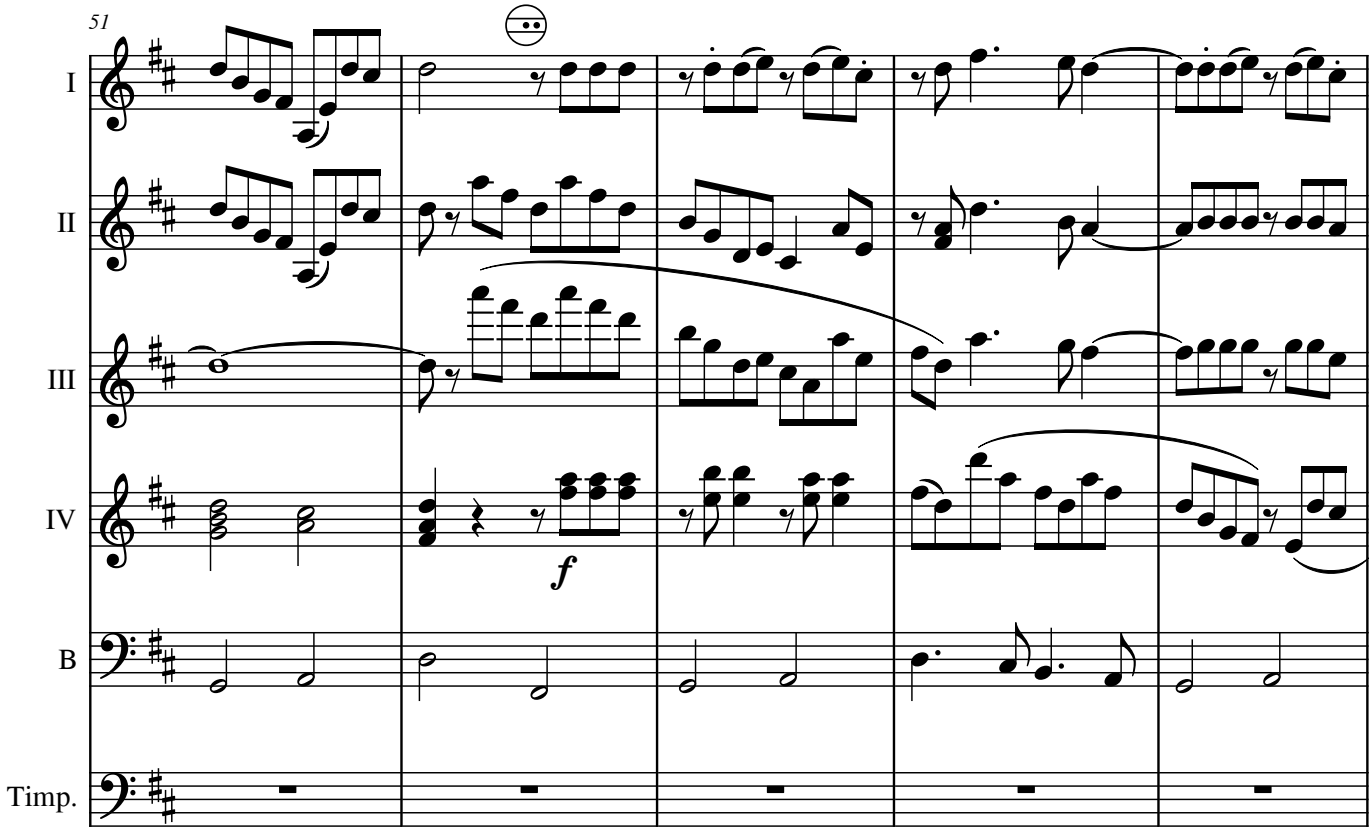

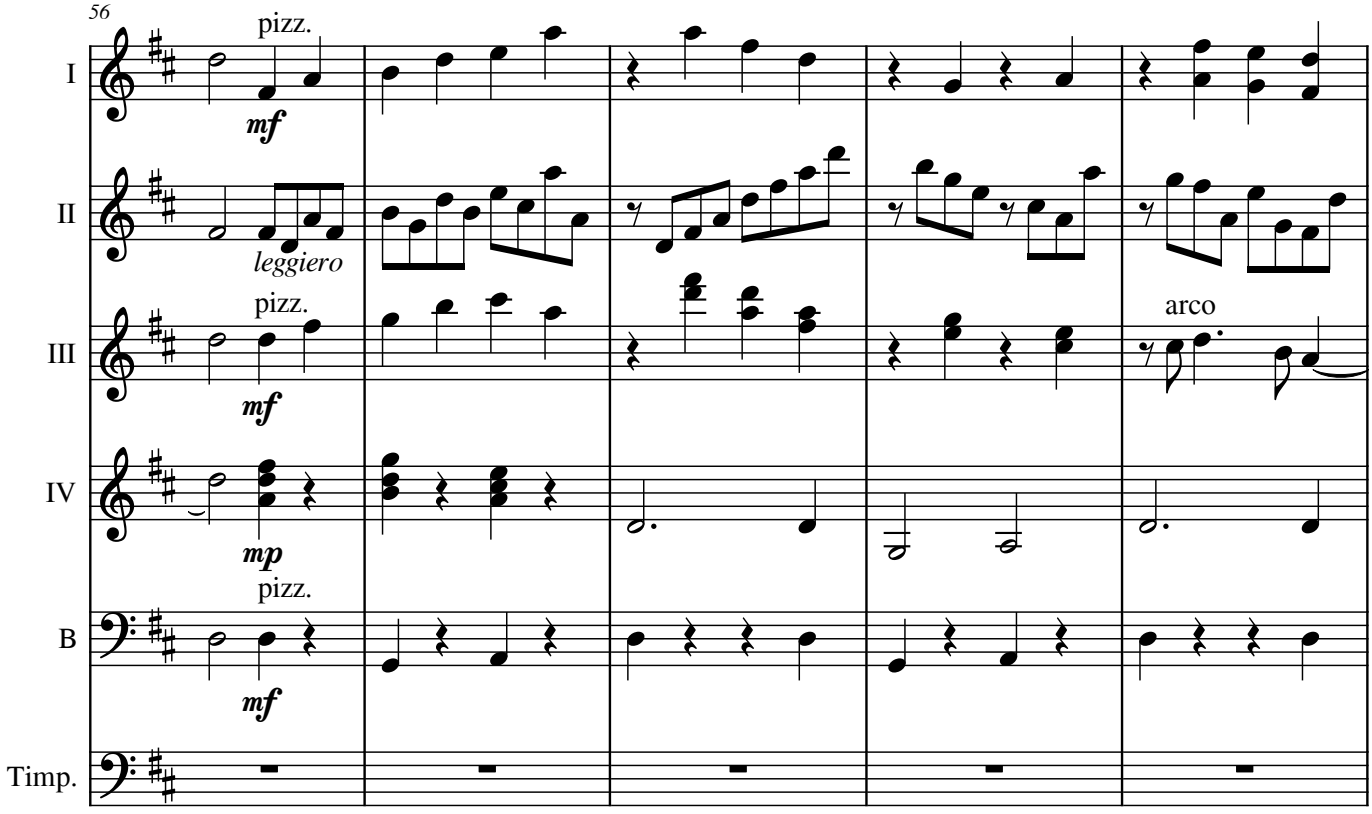

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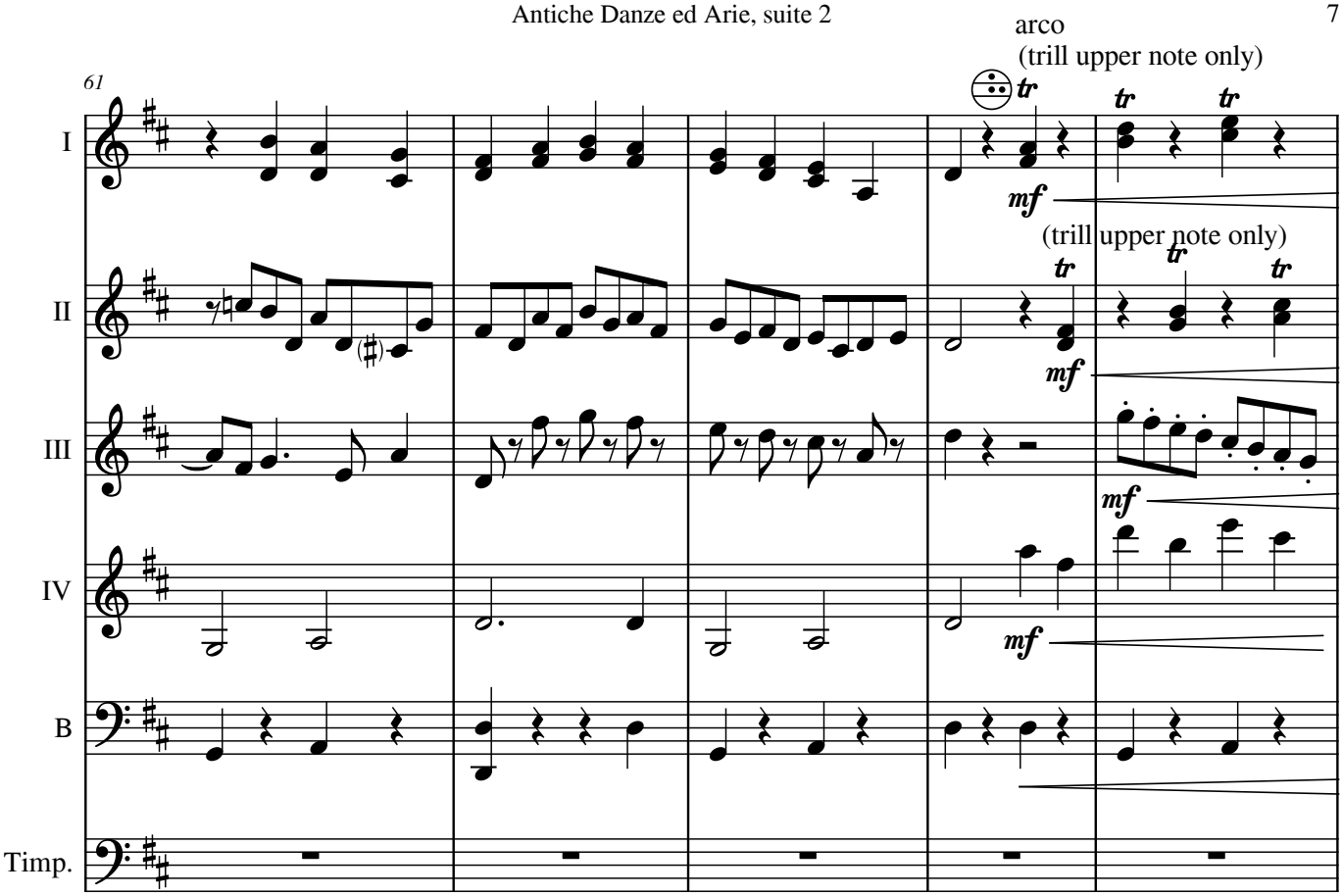

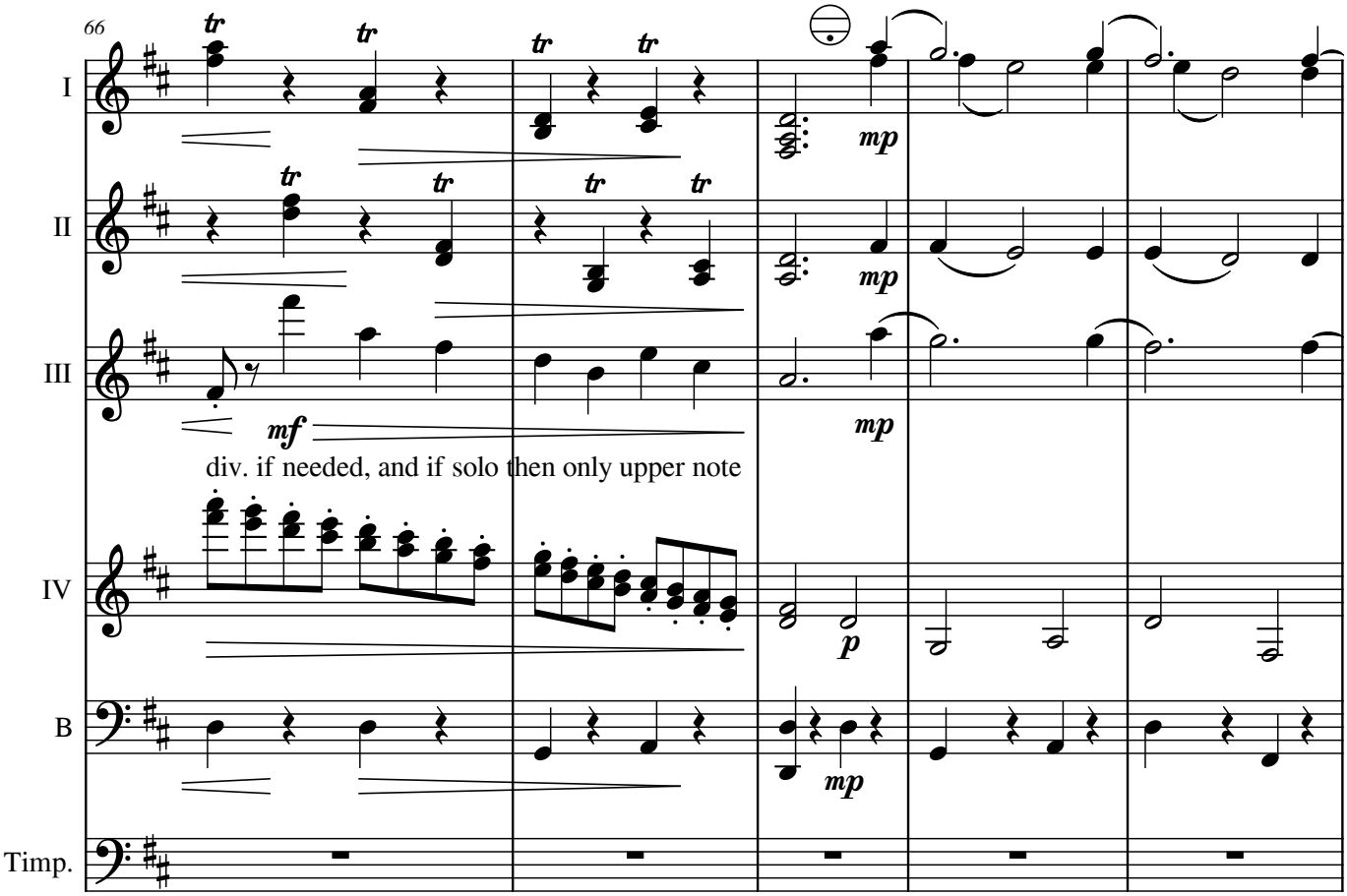

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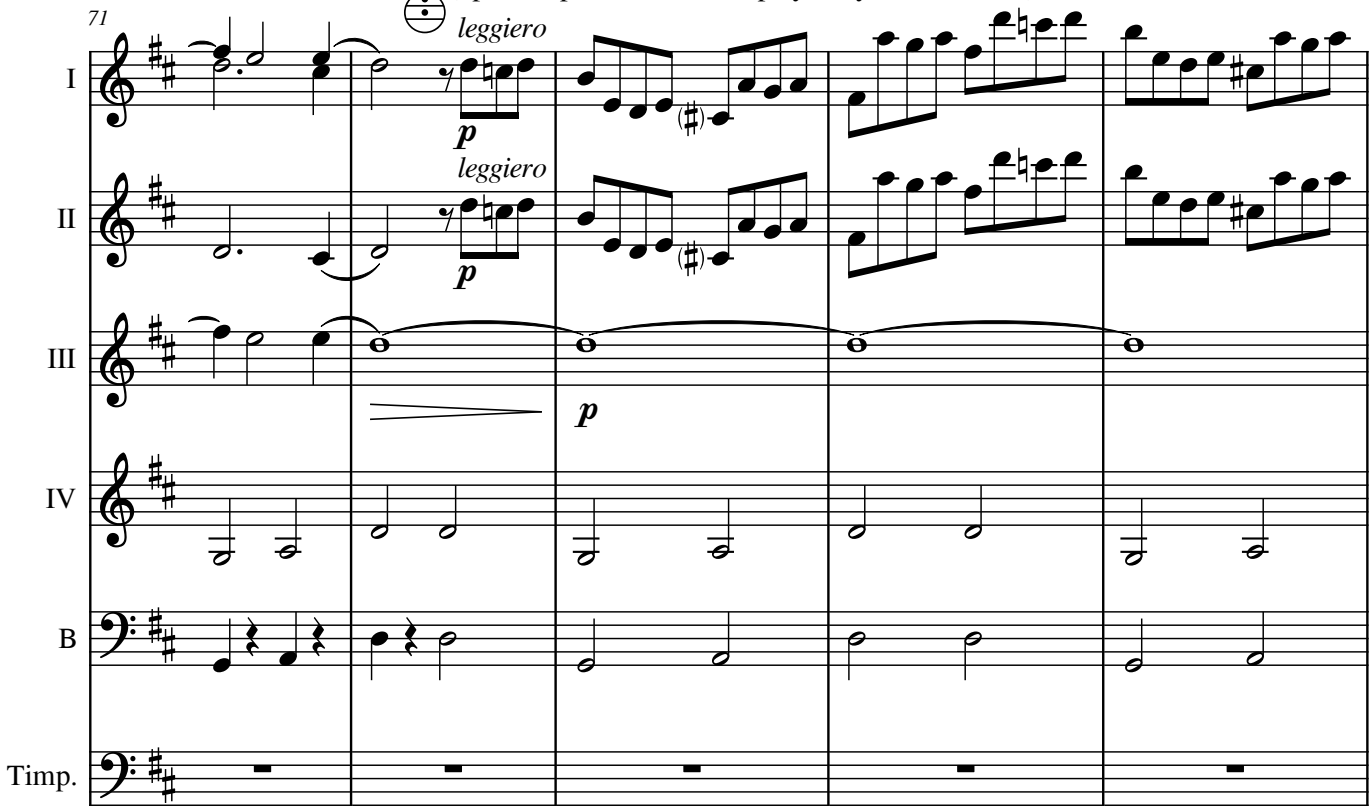
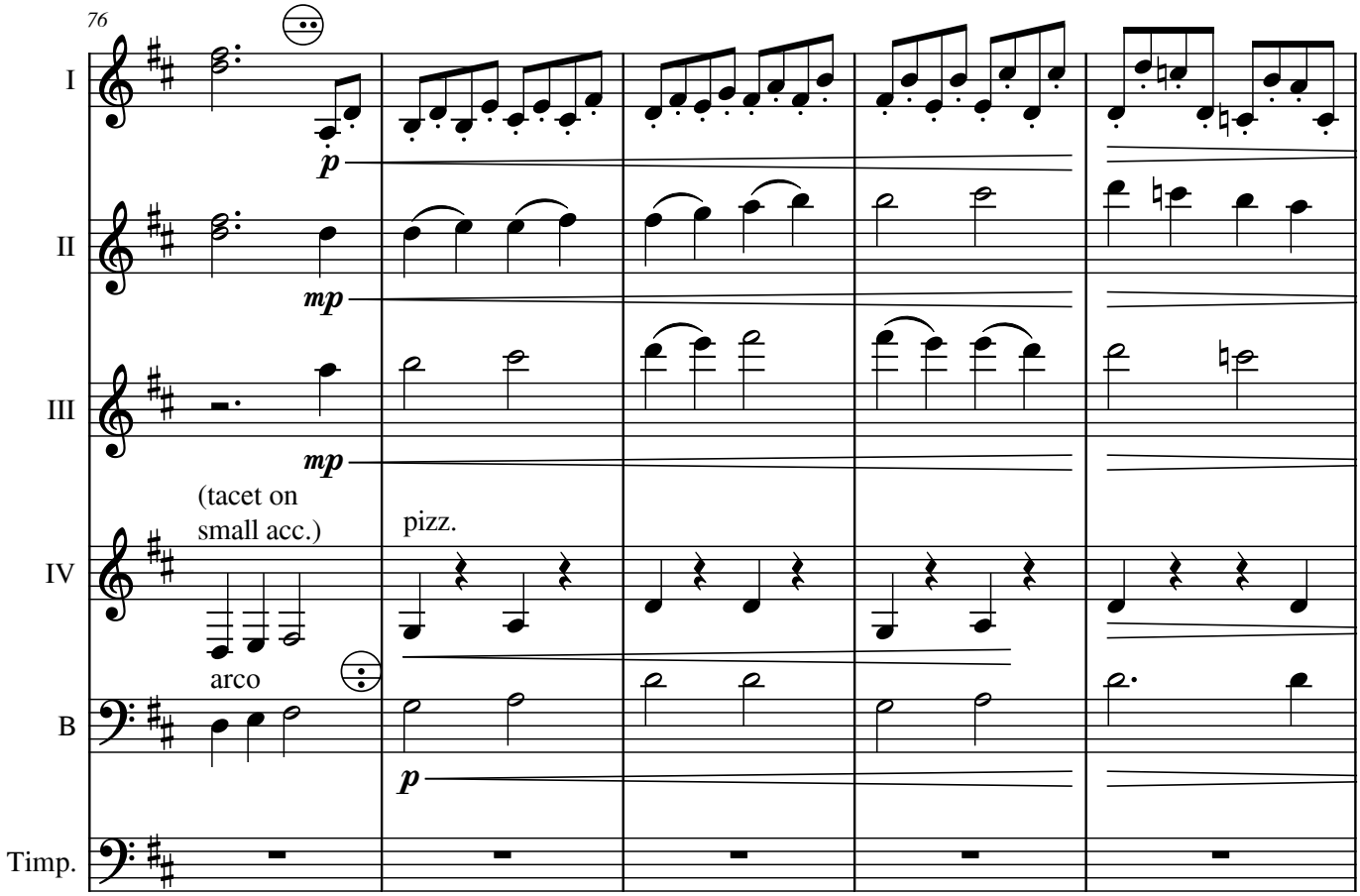
(optional part, 4 measures played by second voice)





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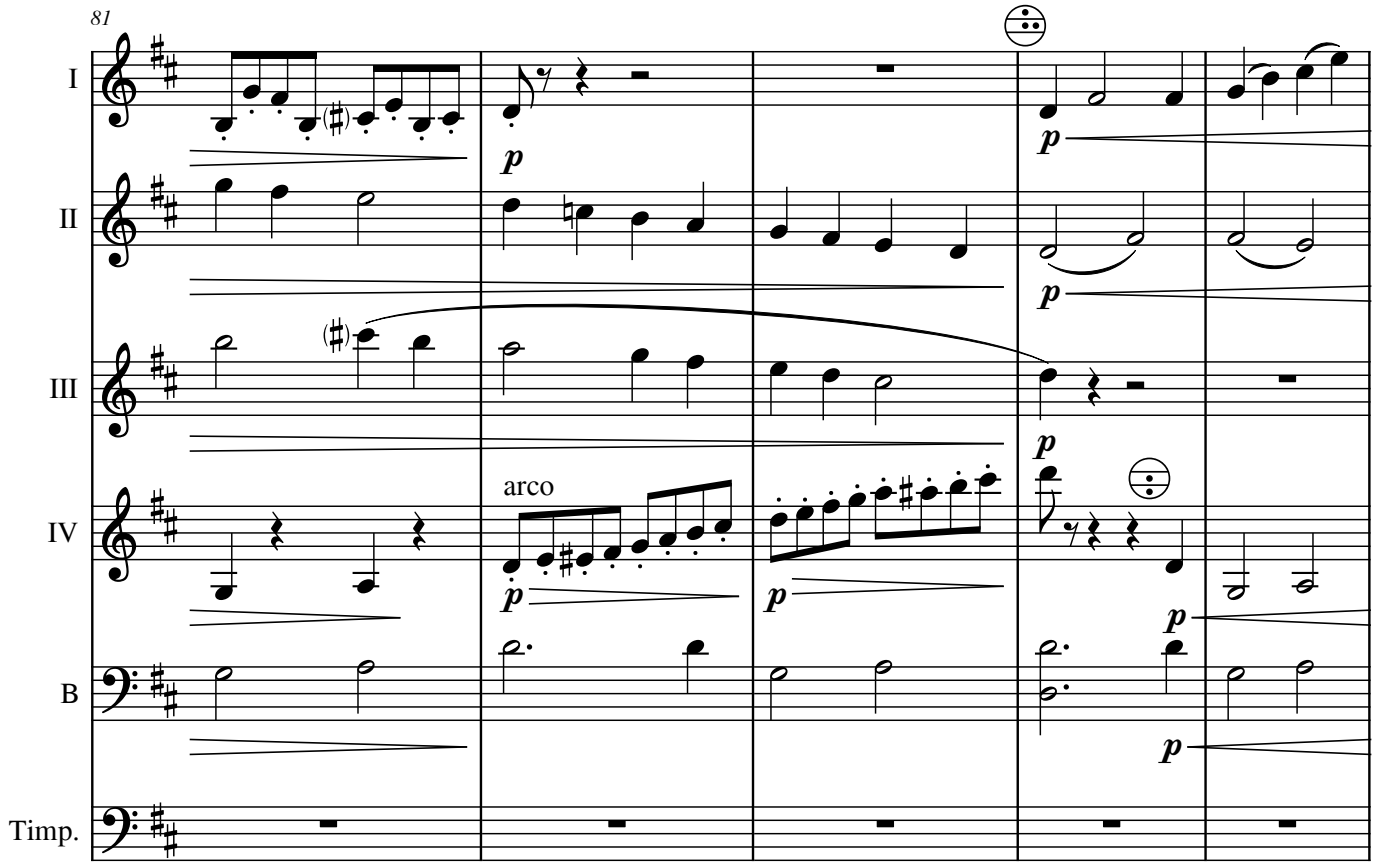

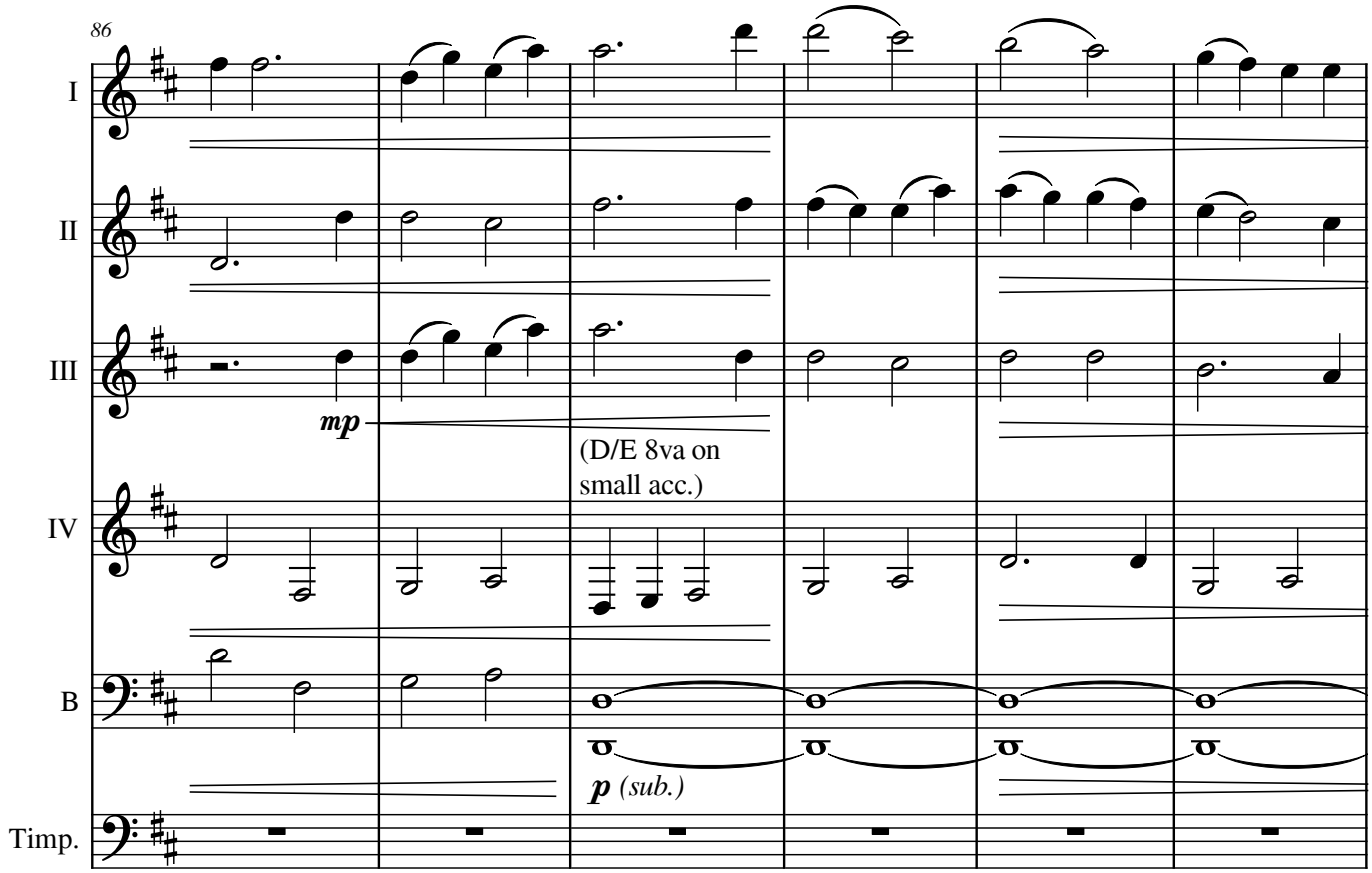

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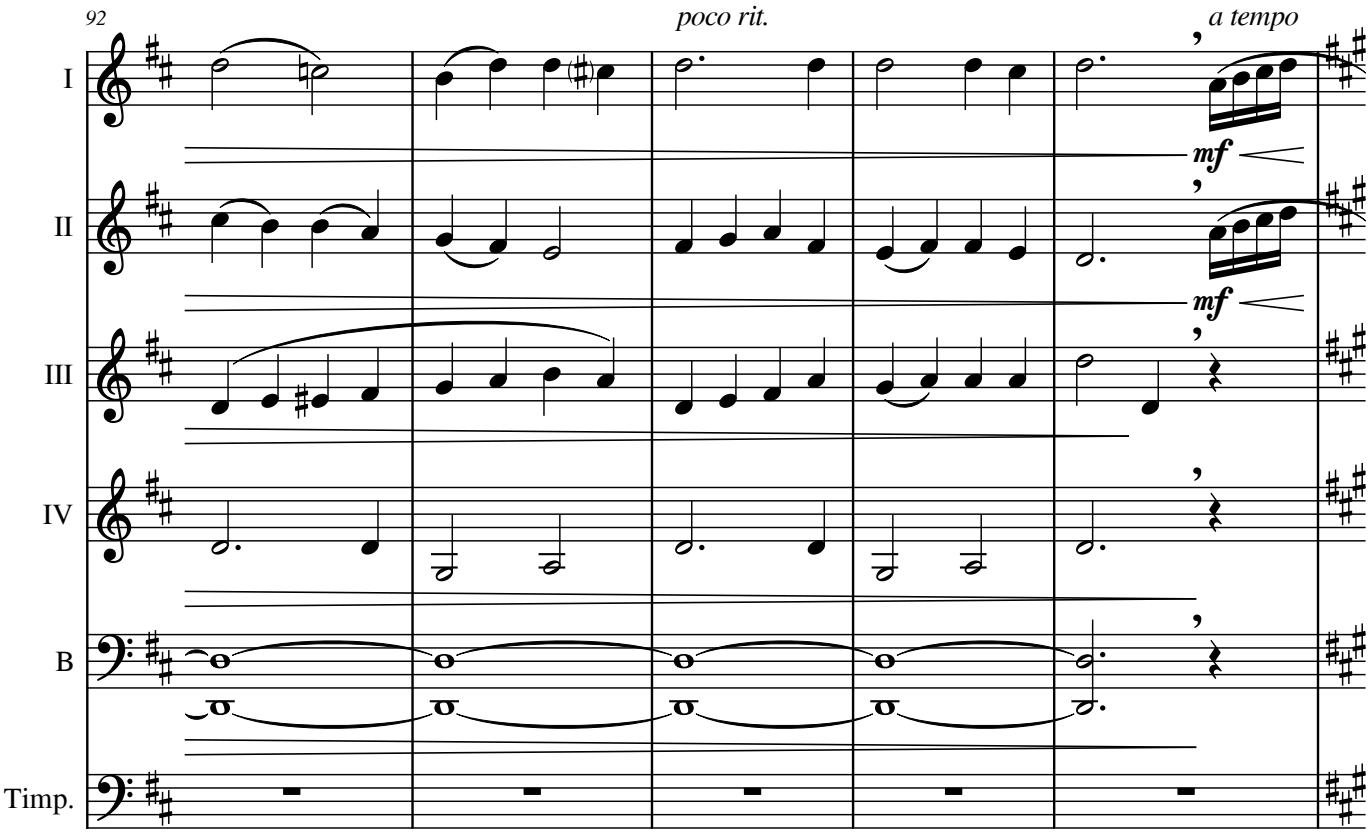

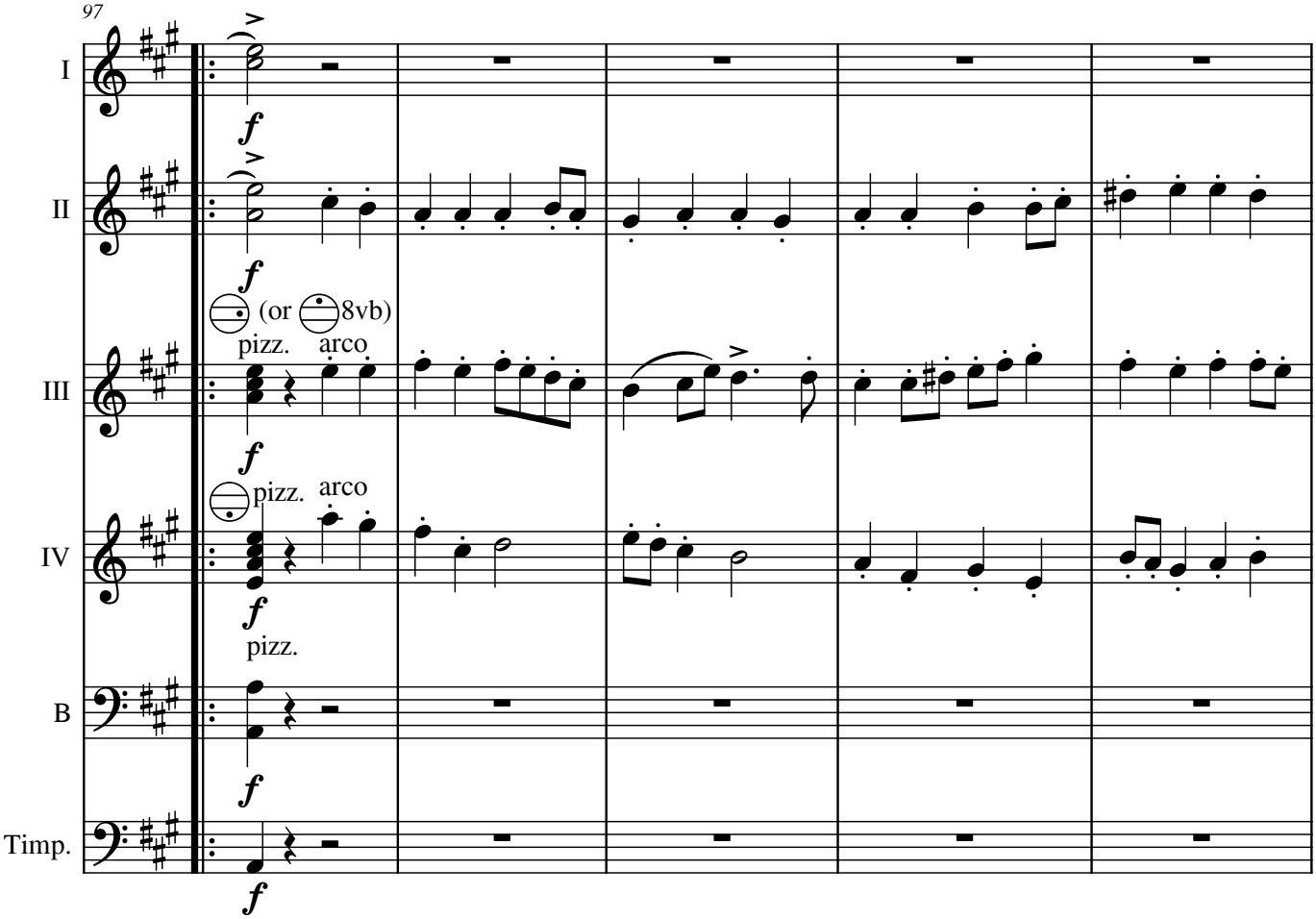

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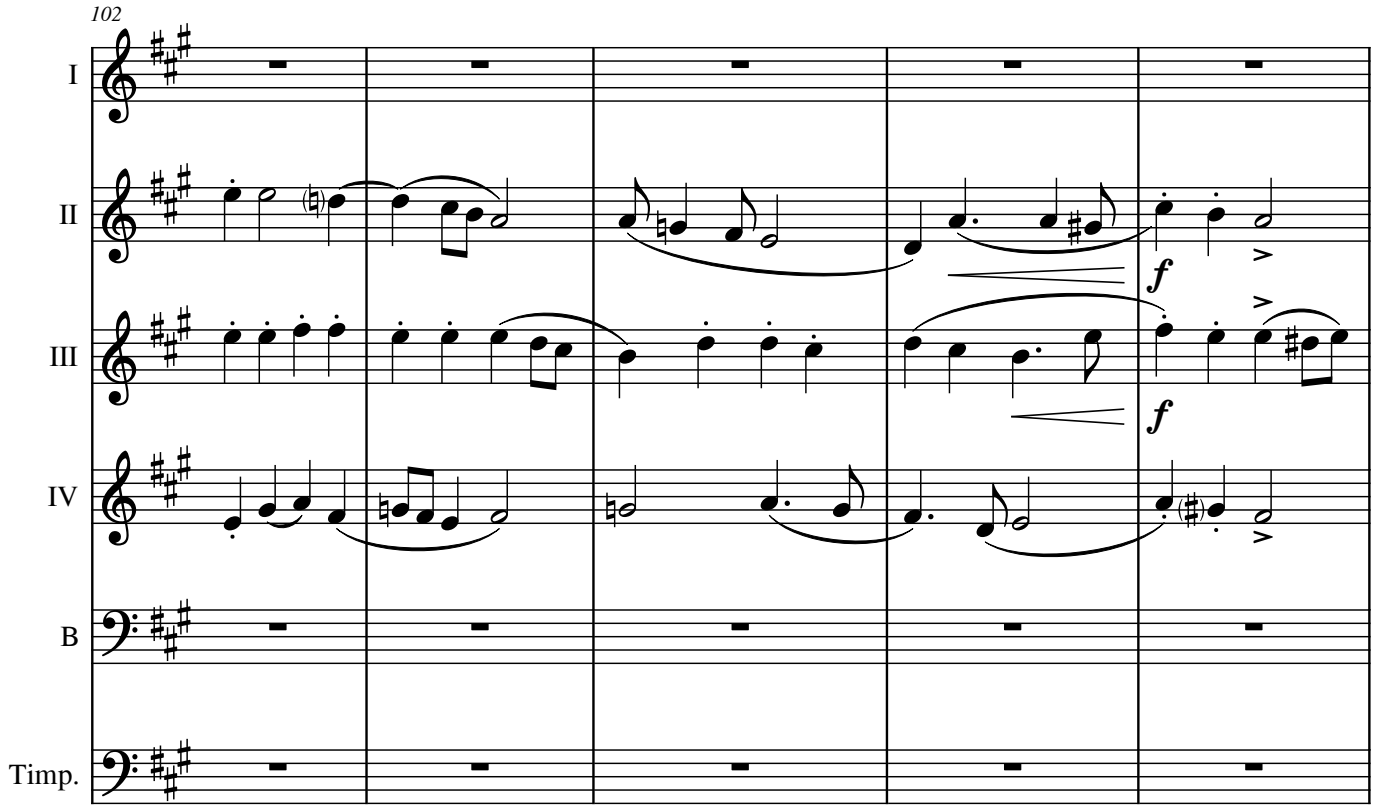

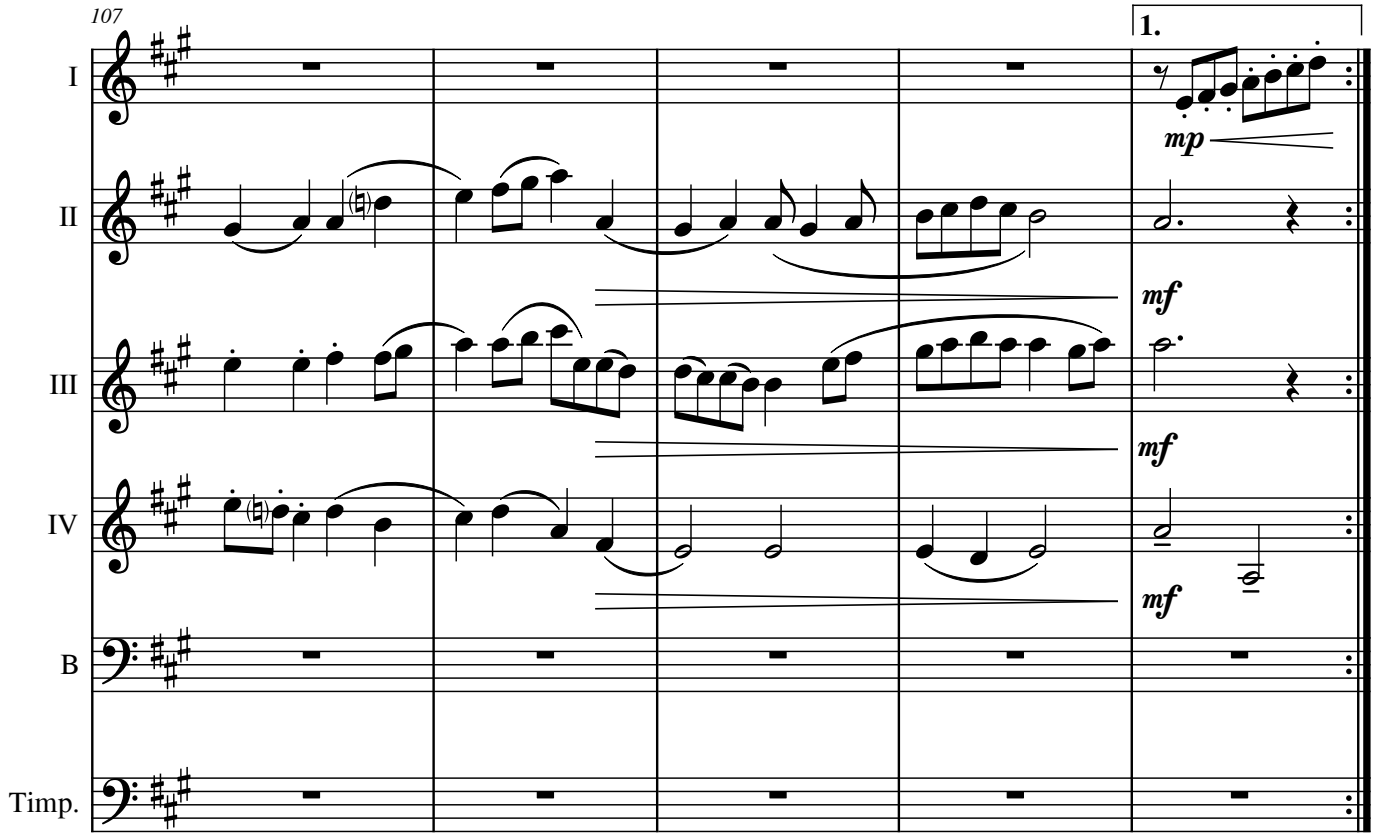

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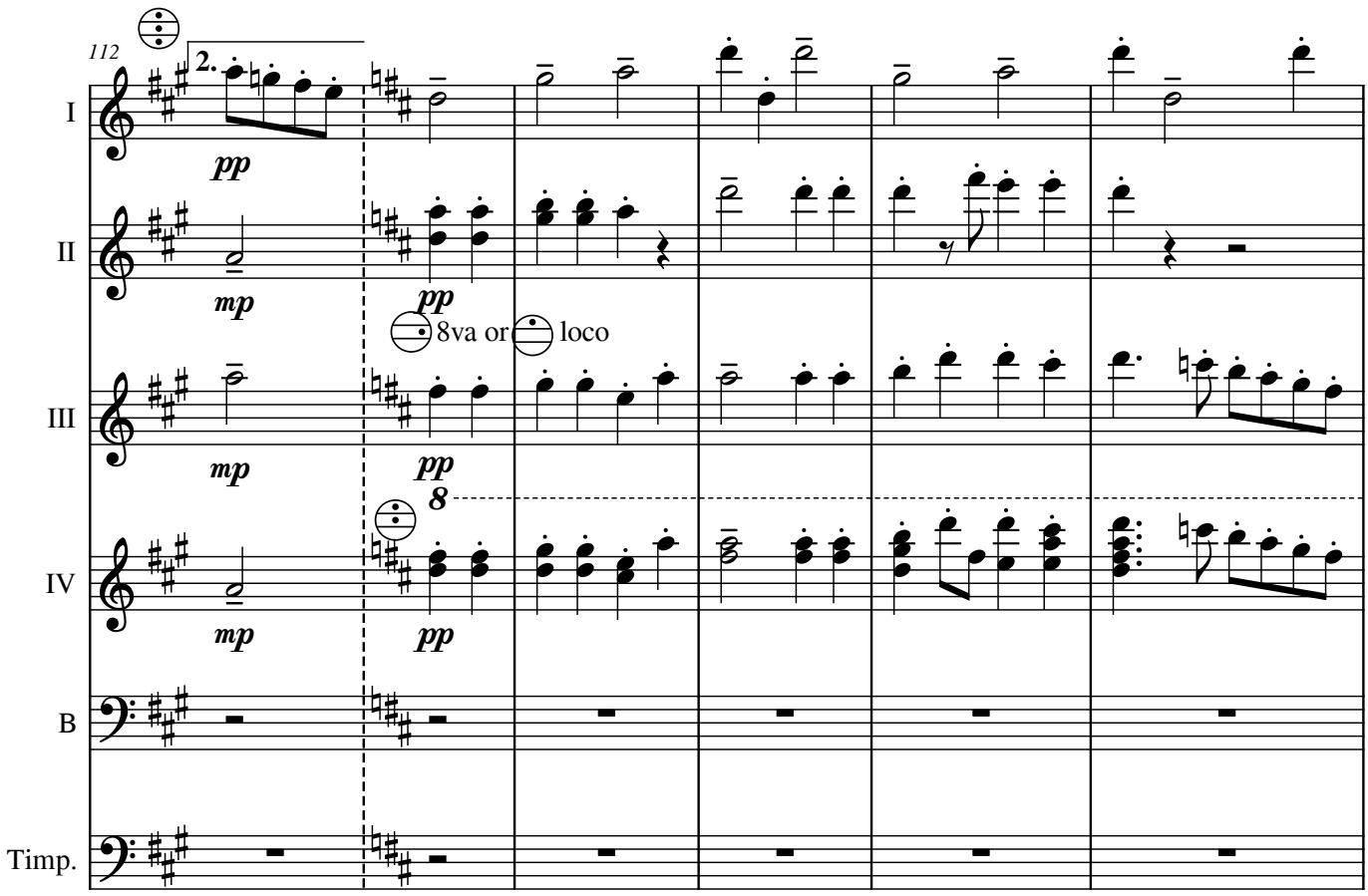

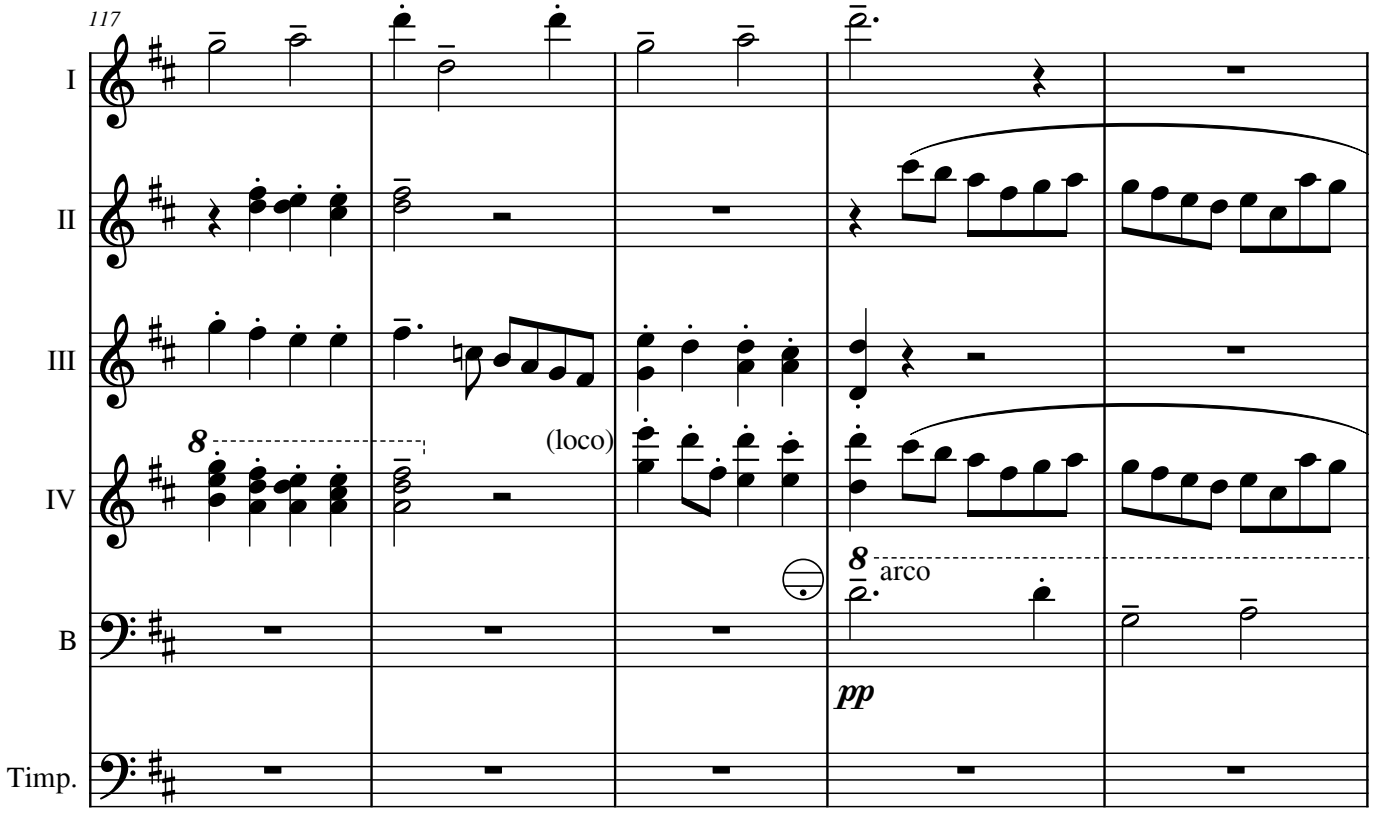

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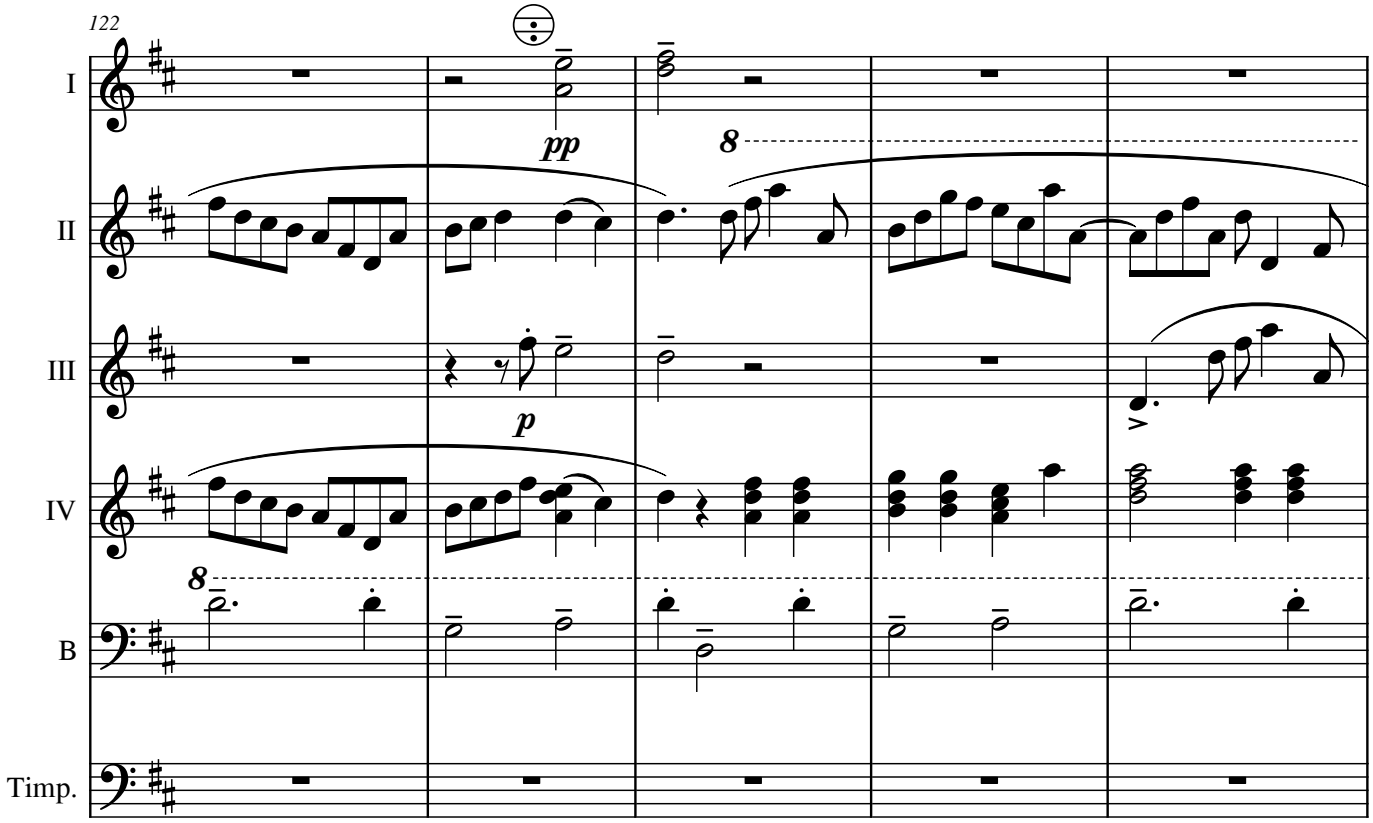

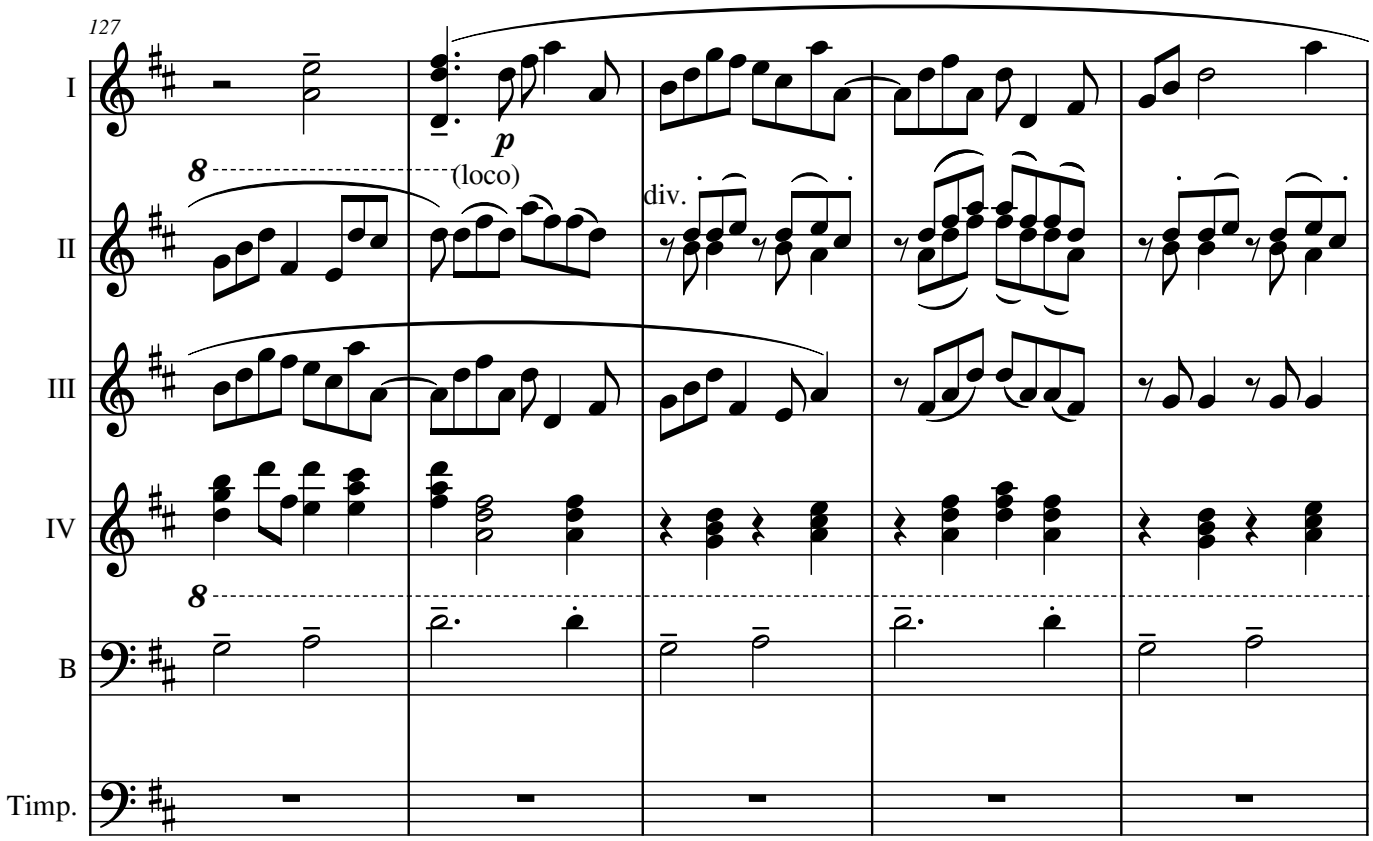

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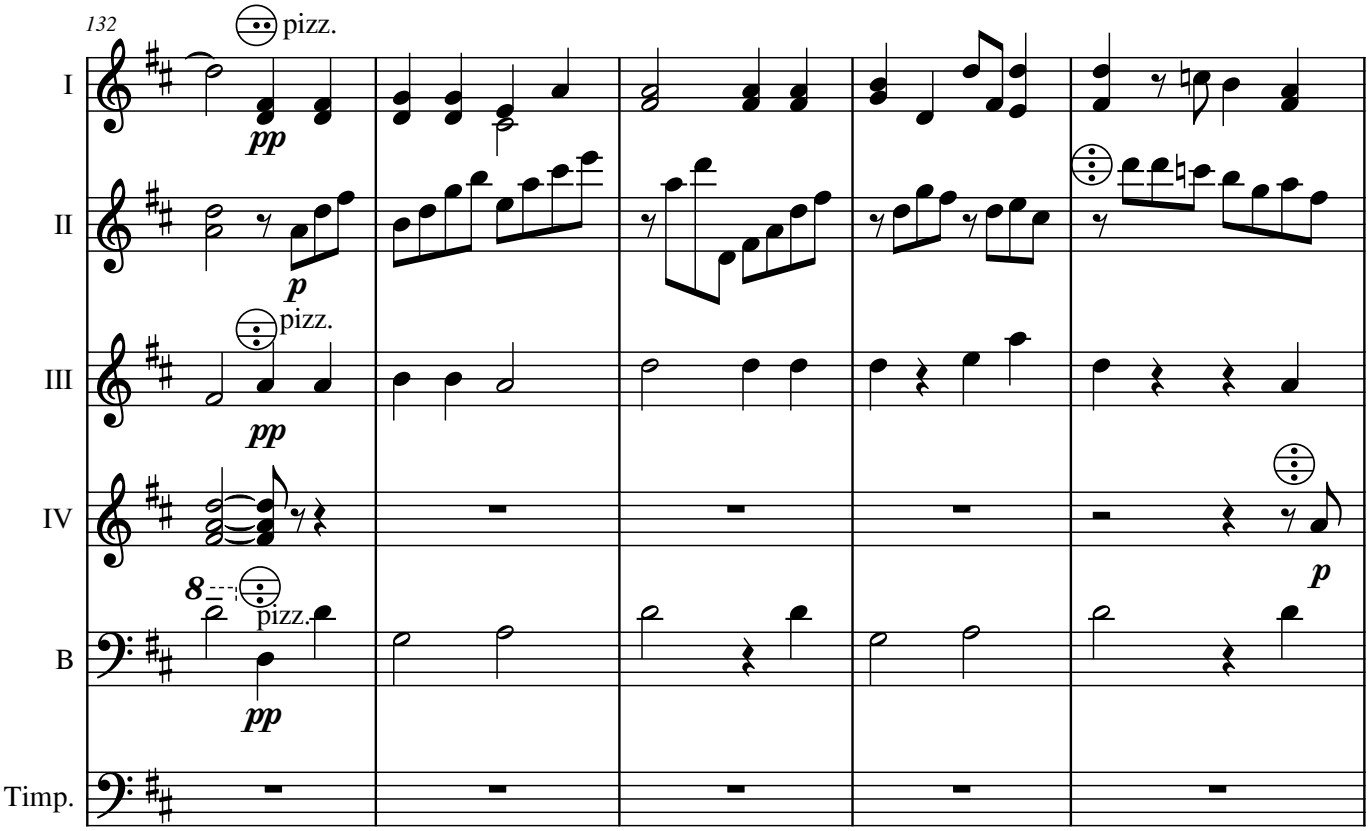

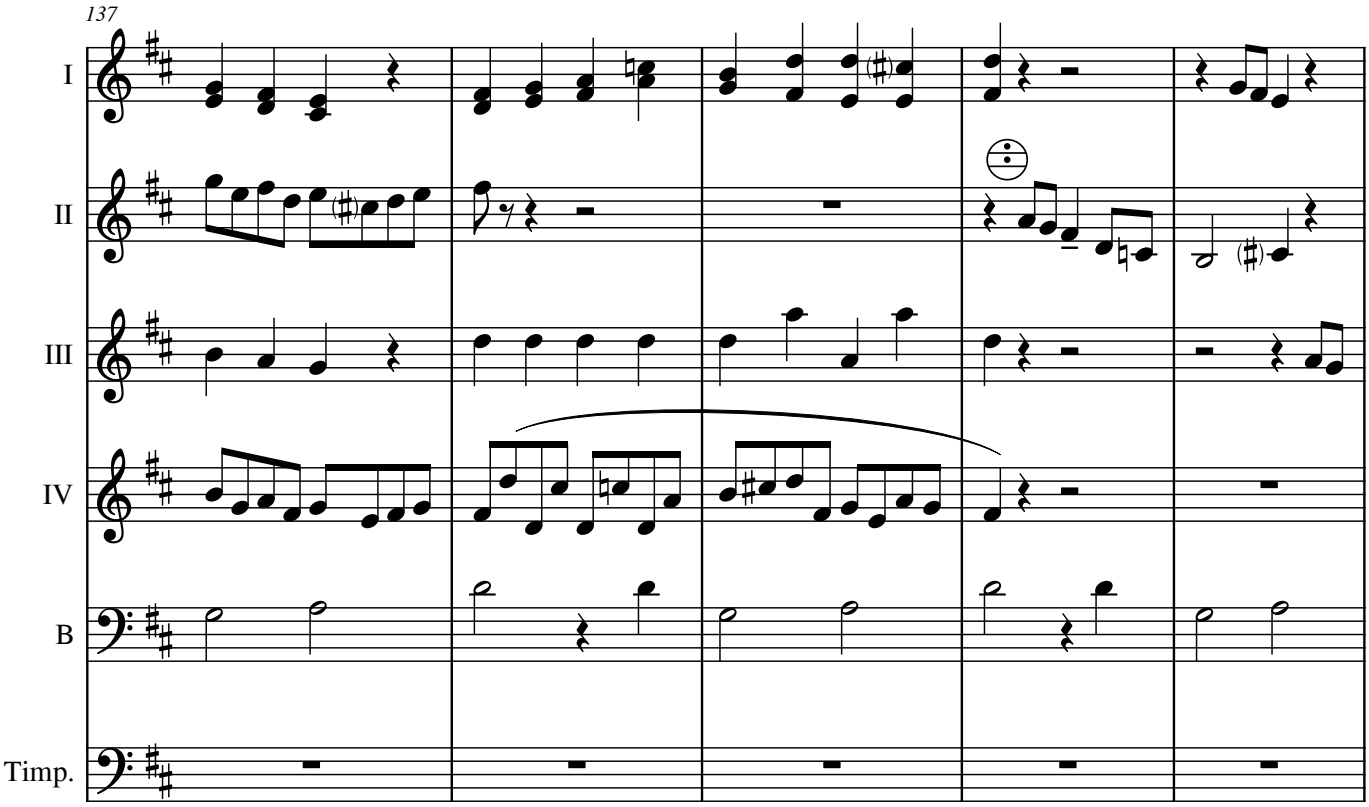

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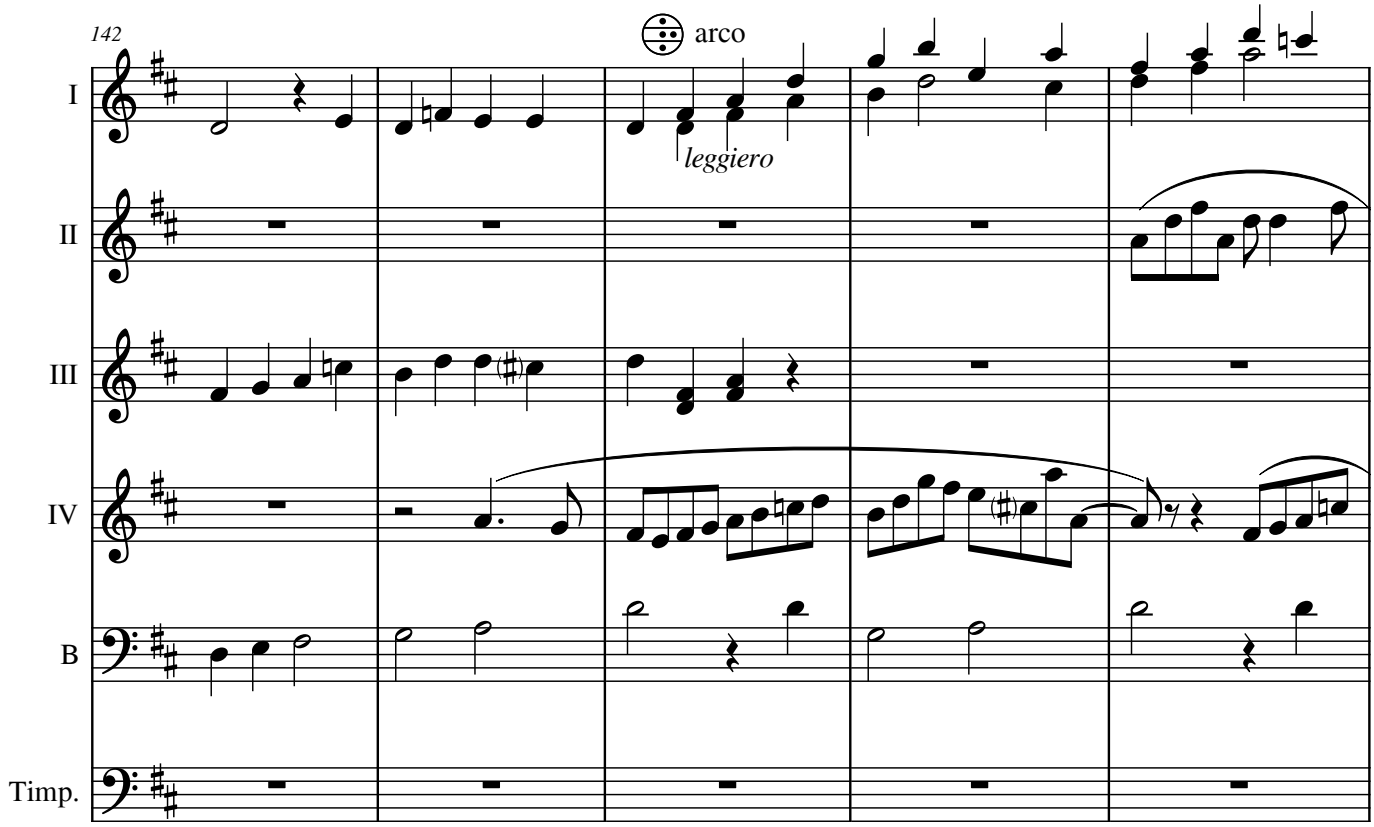

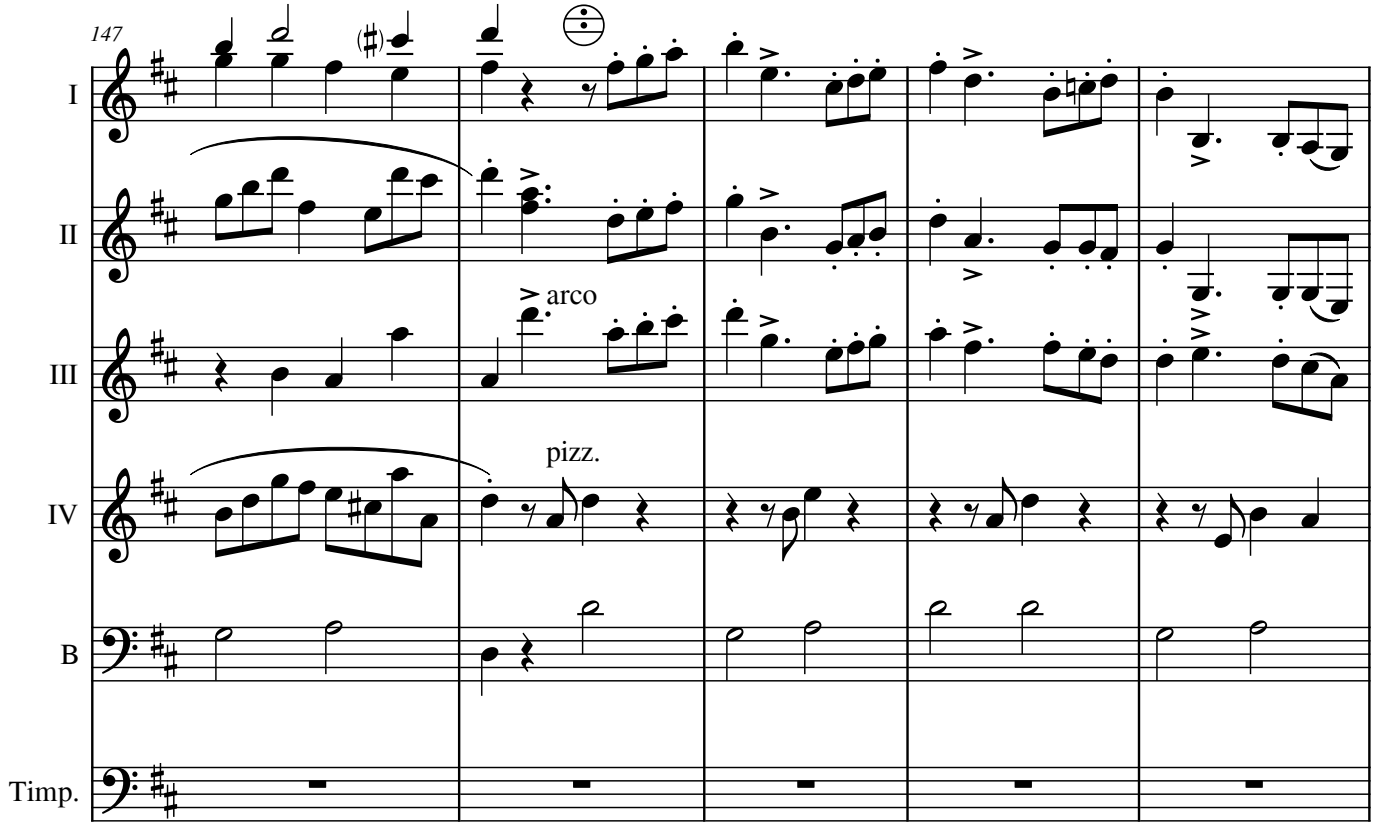

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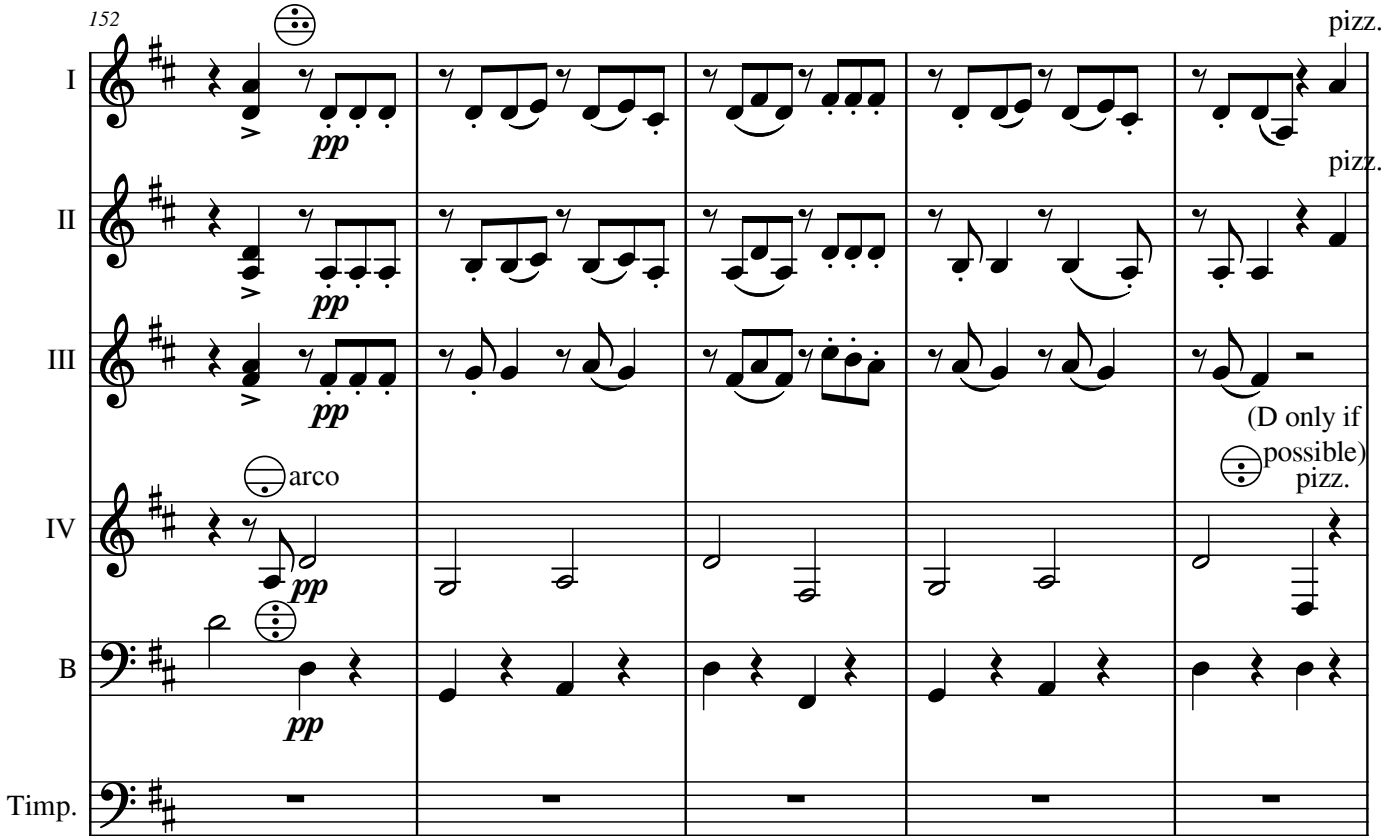

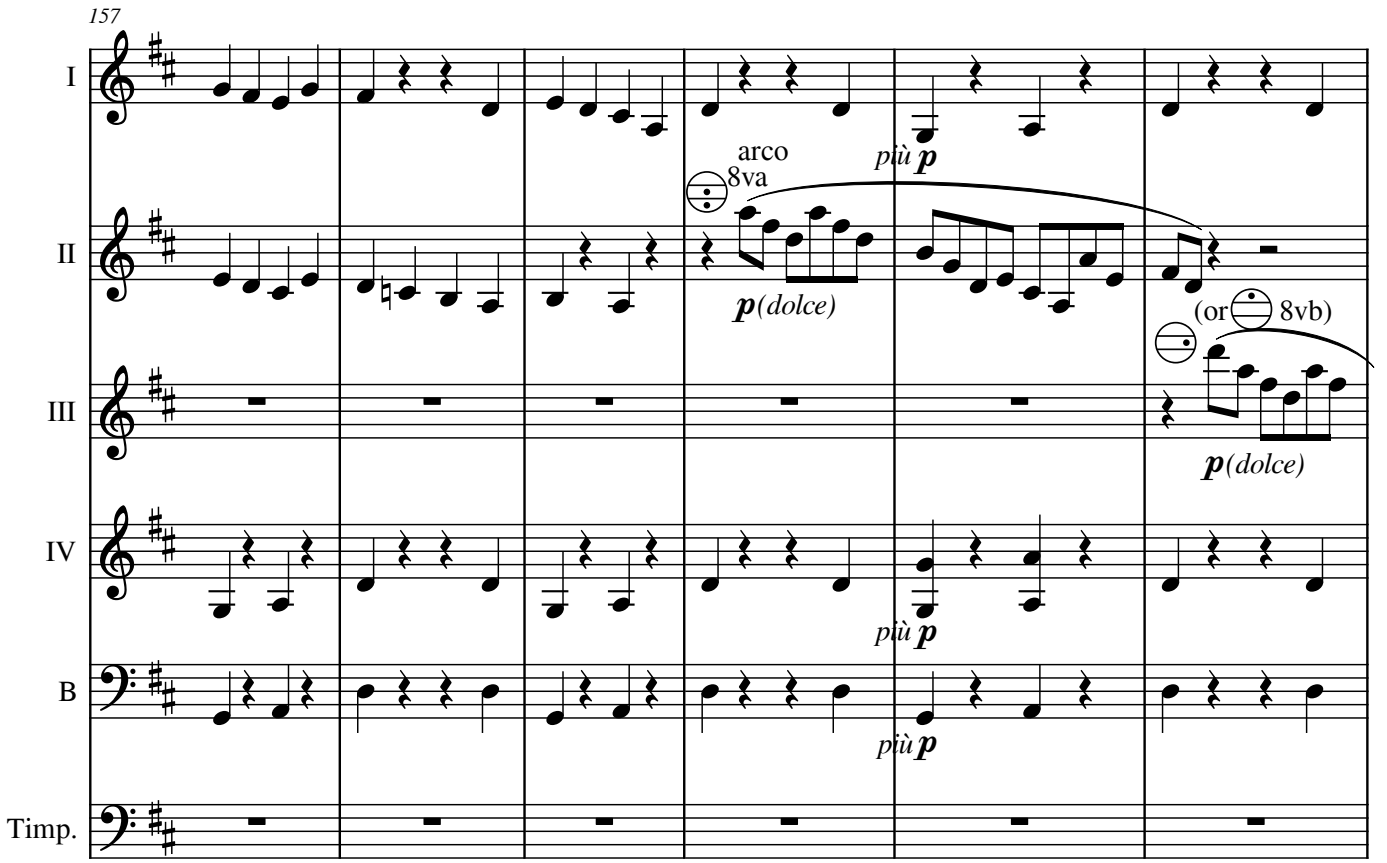

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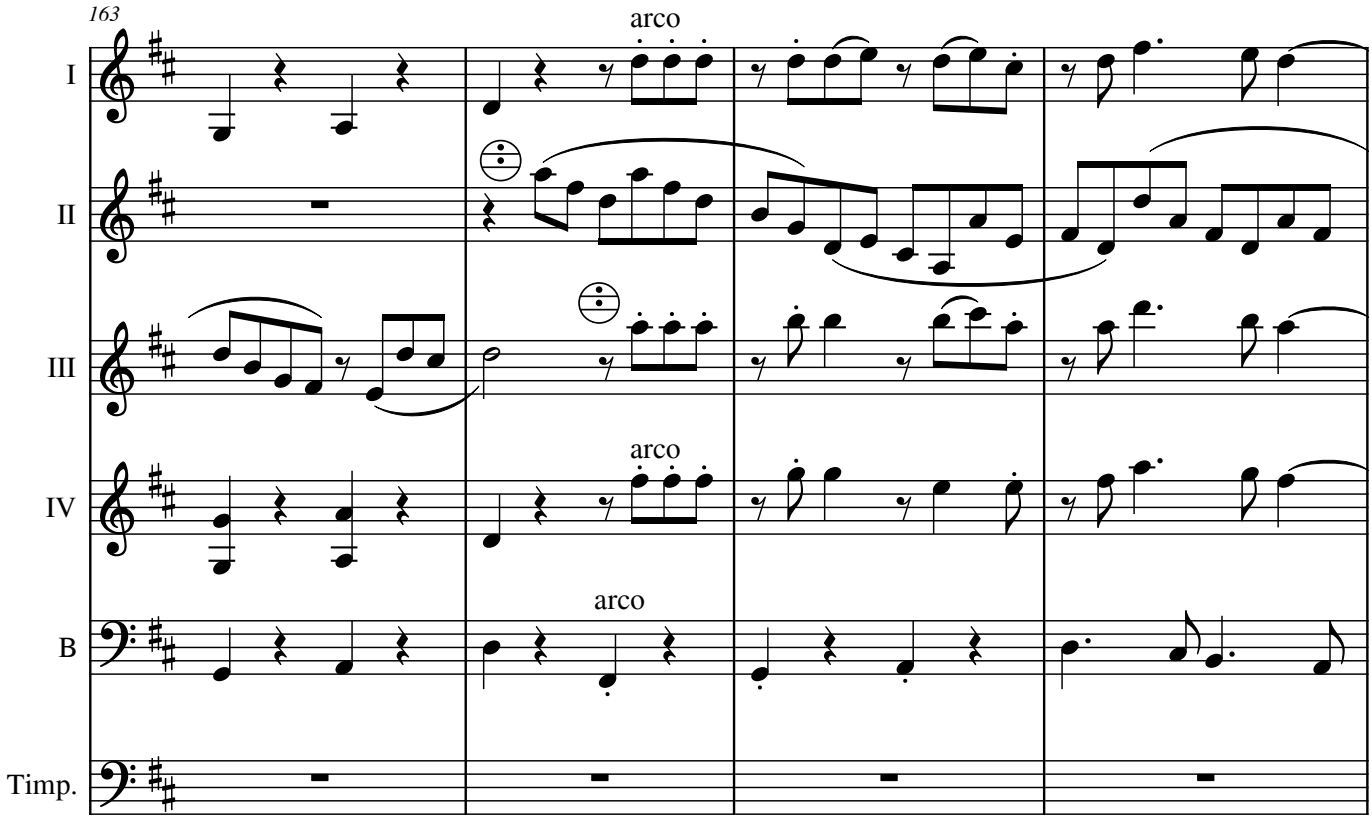

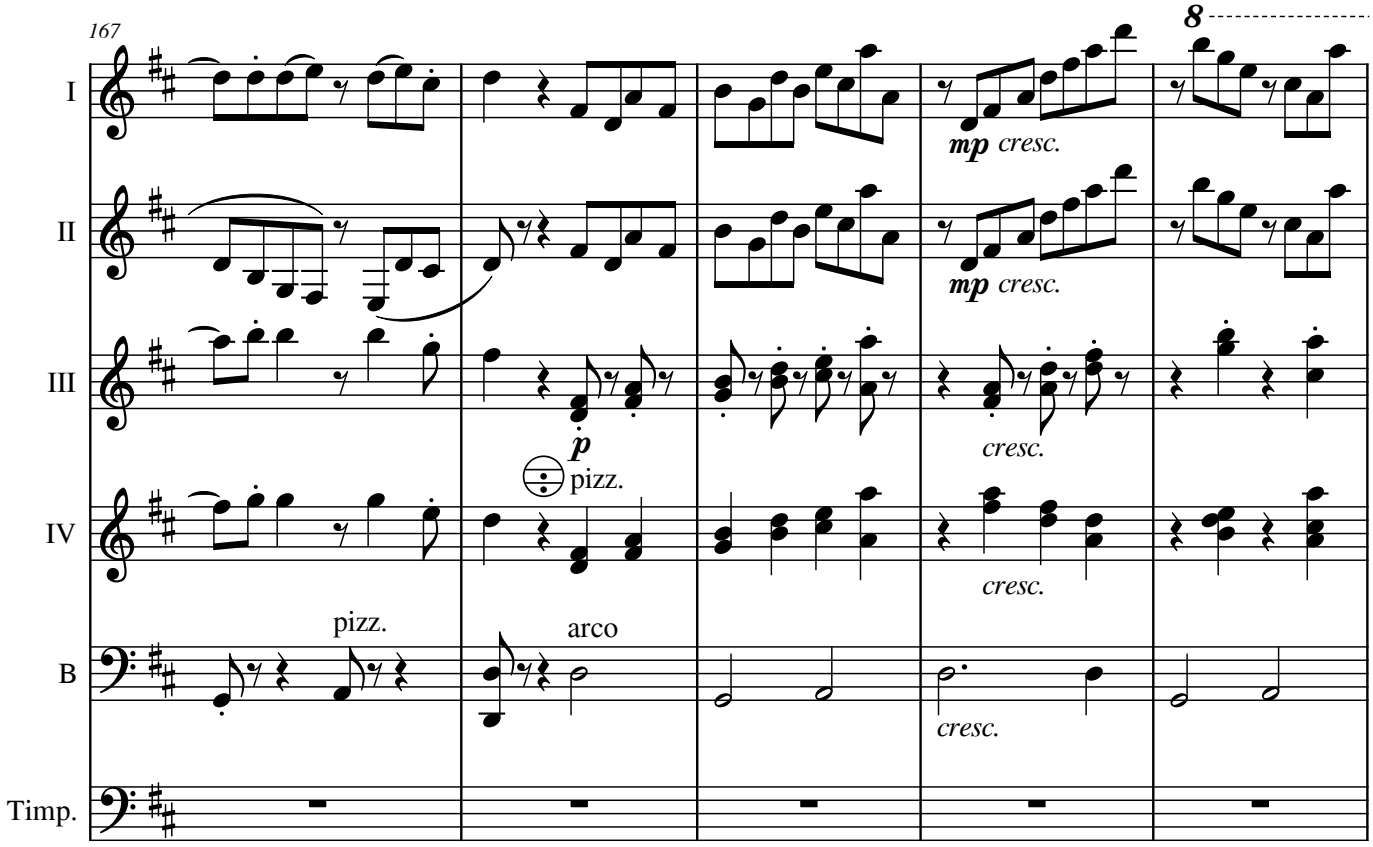

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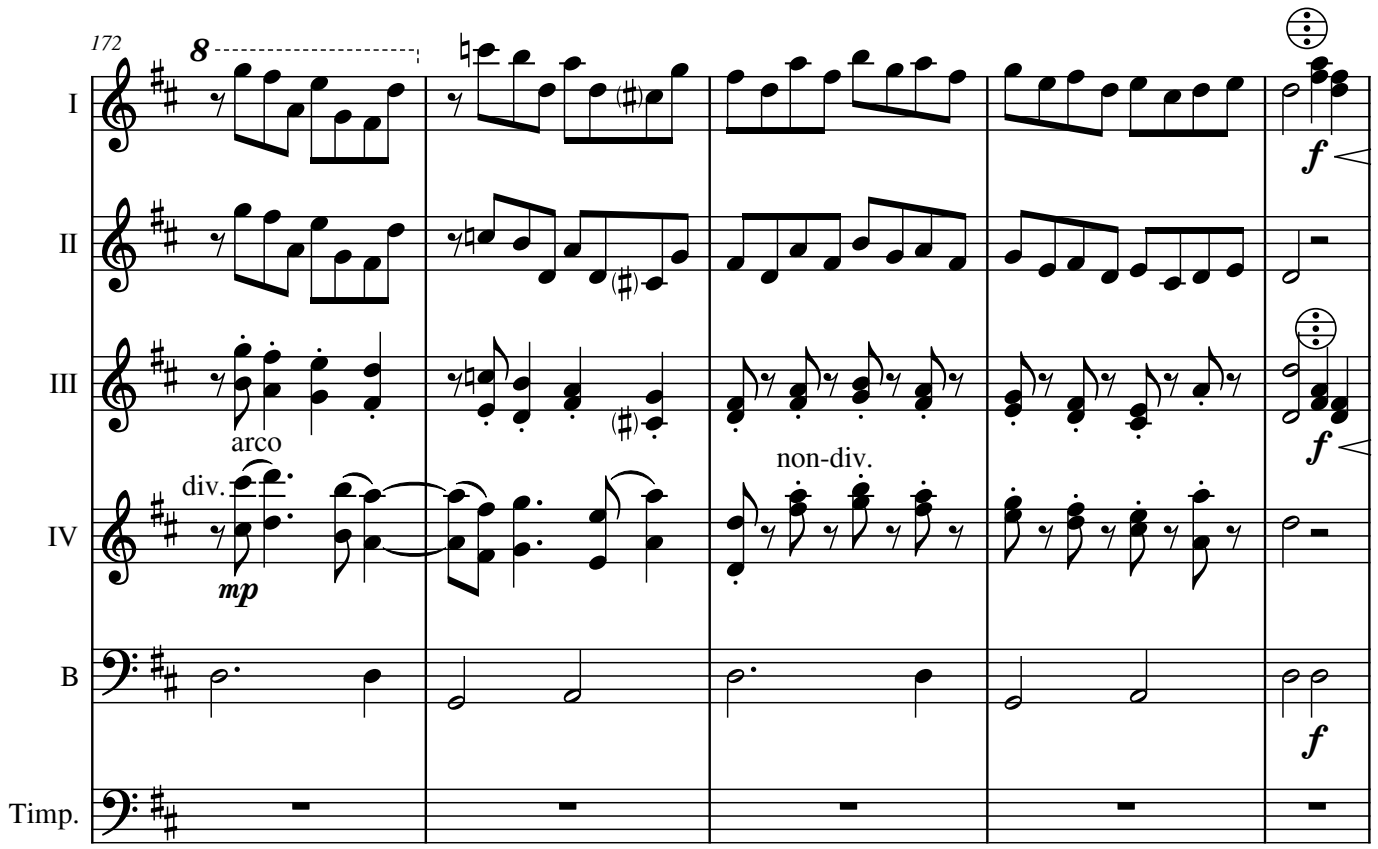

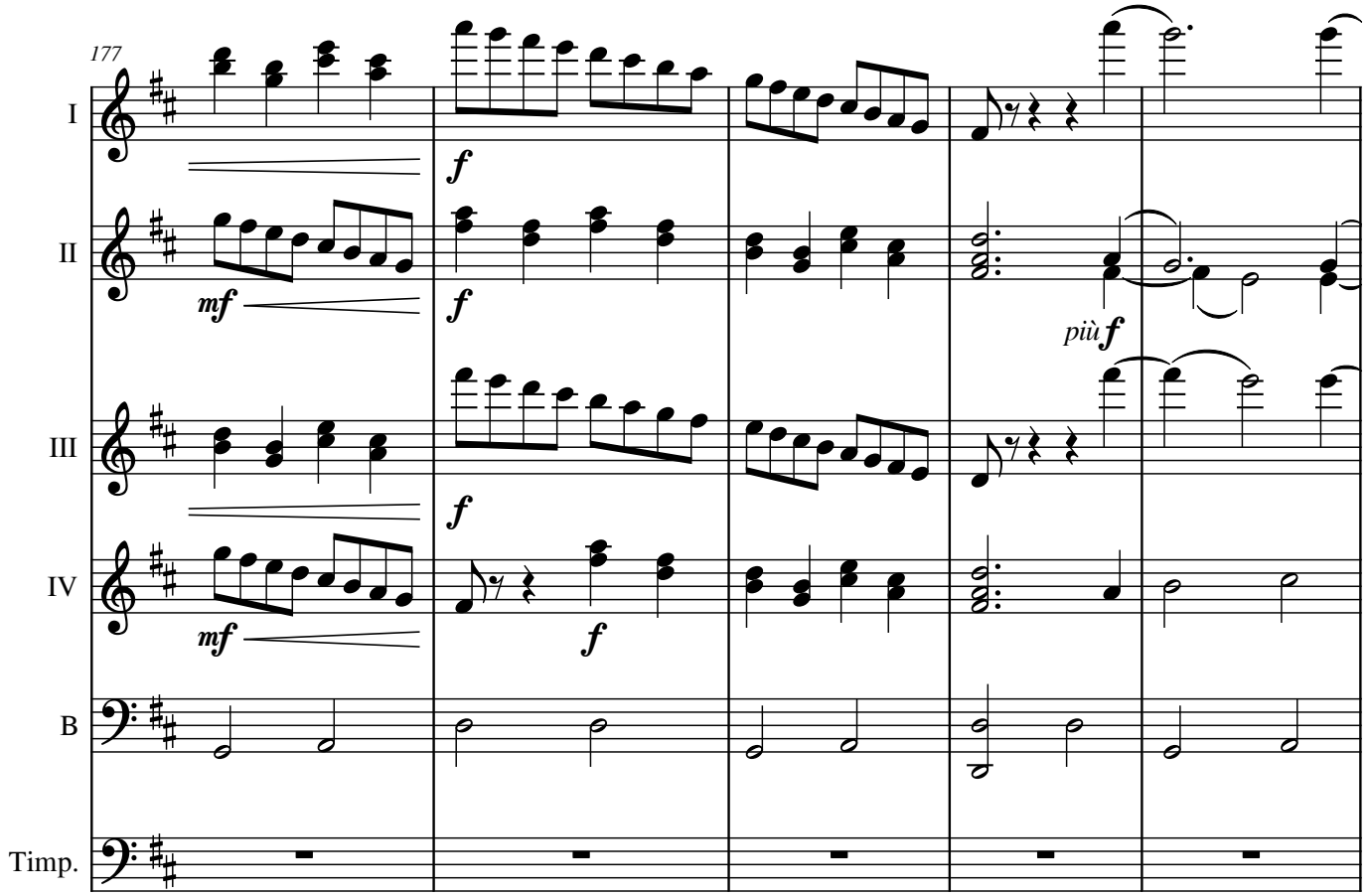

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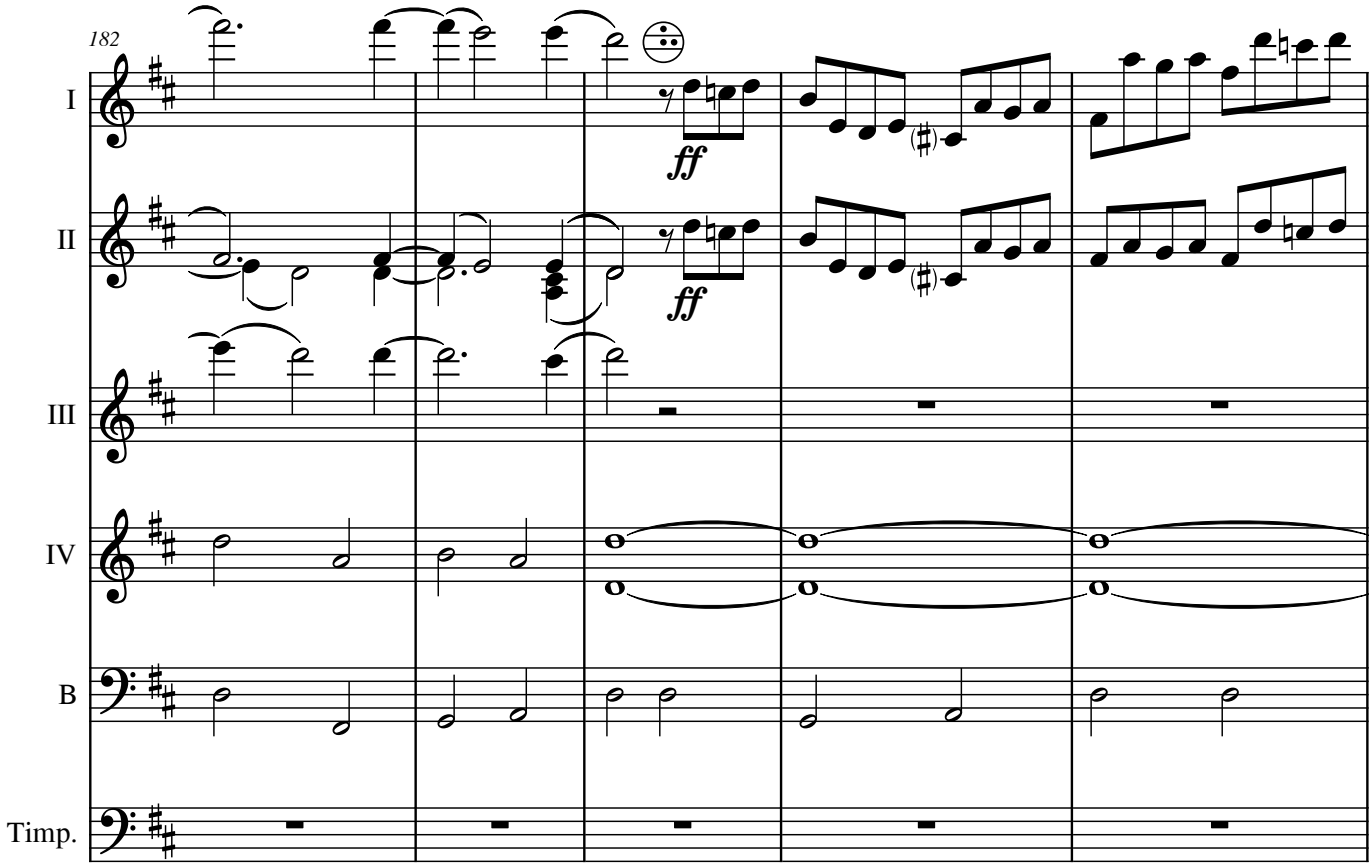

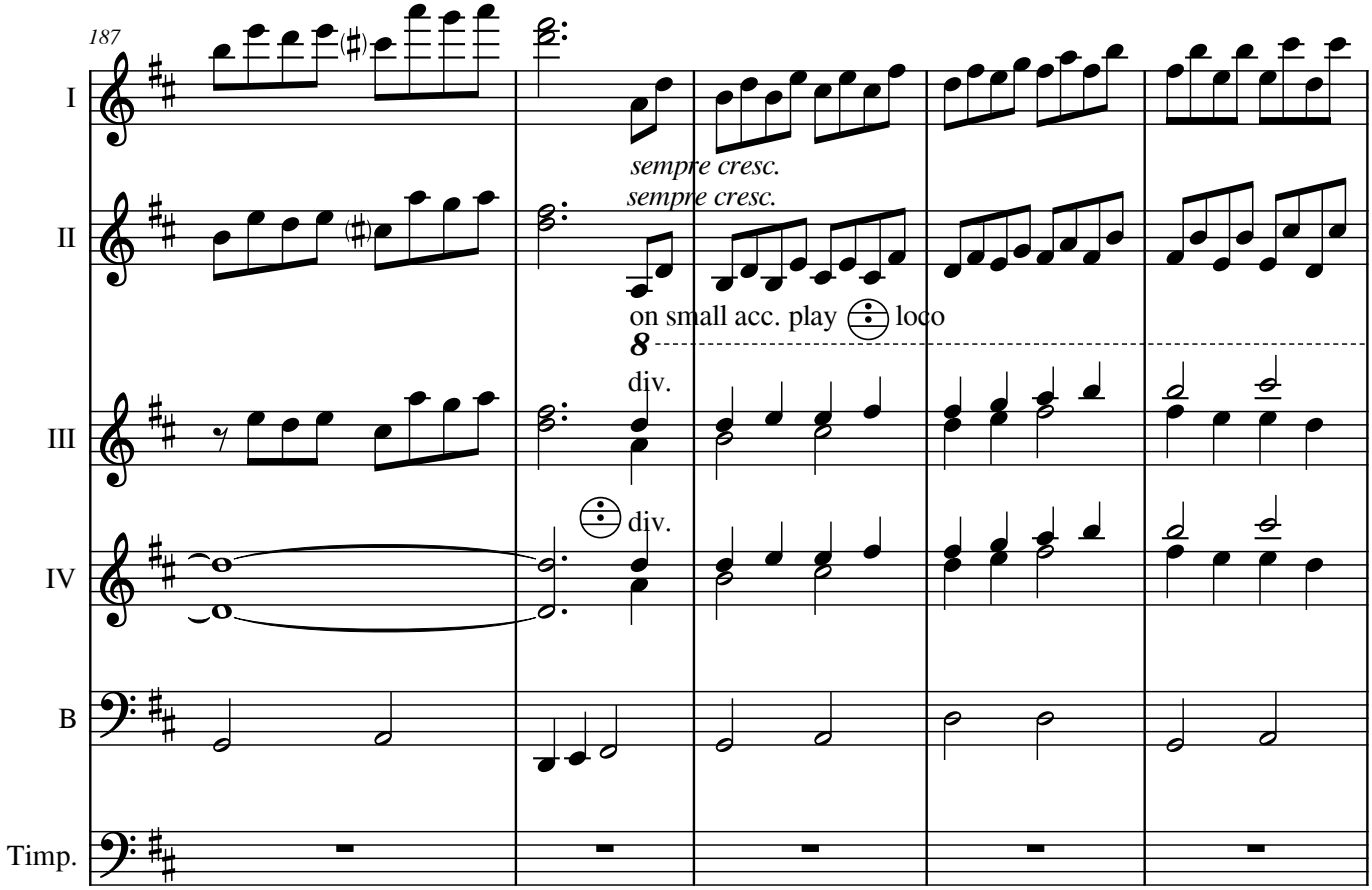

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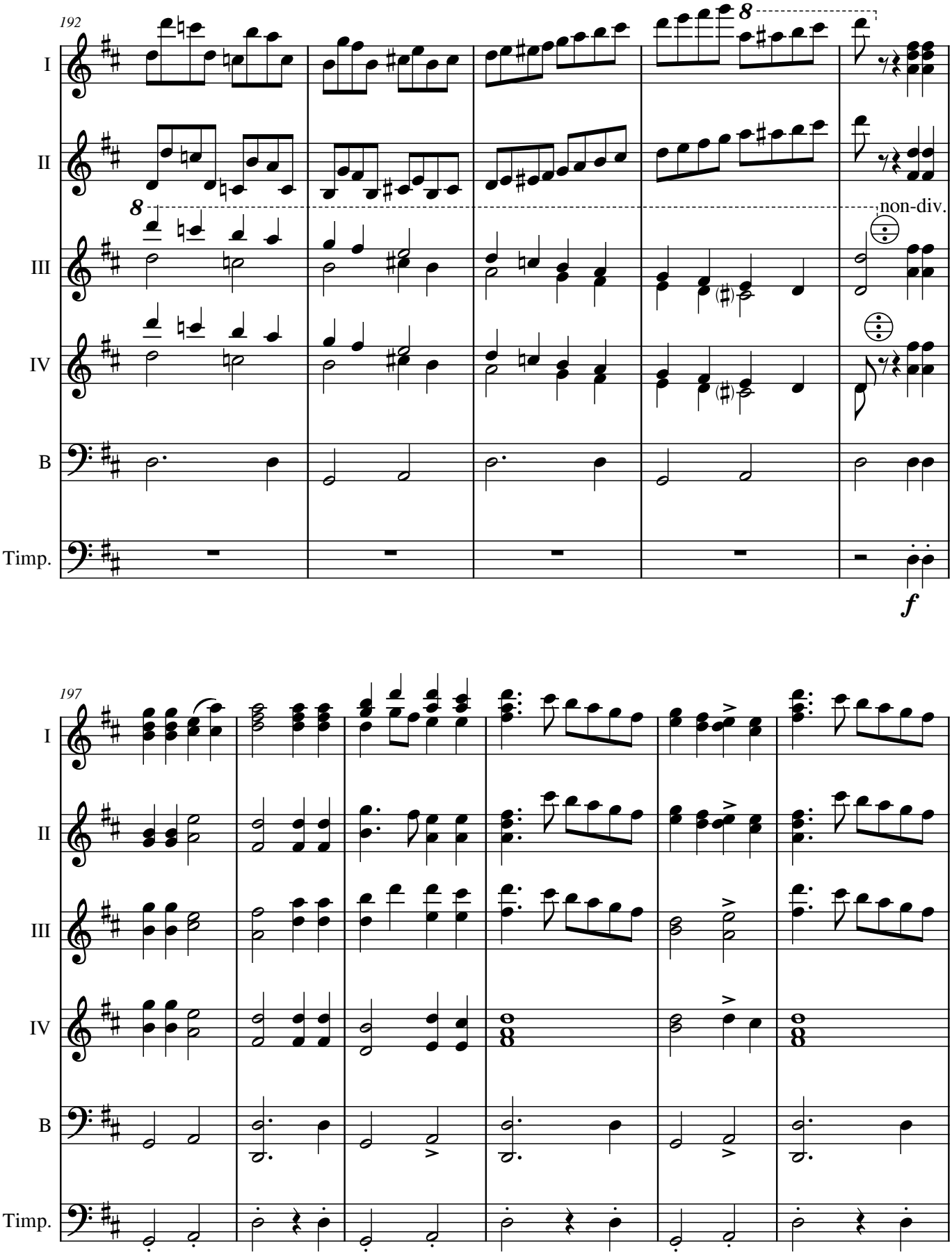

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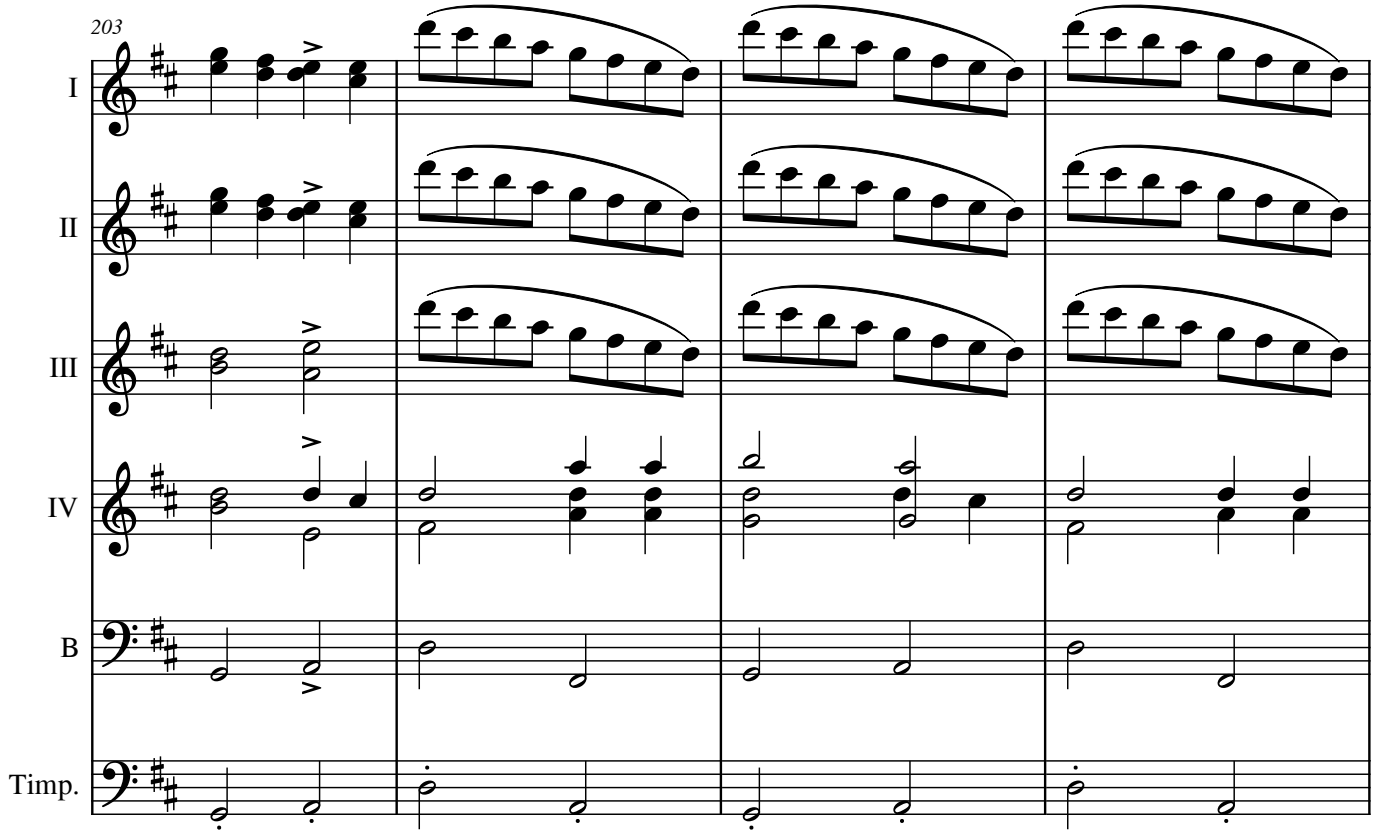

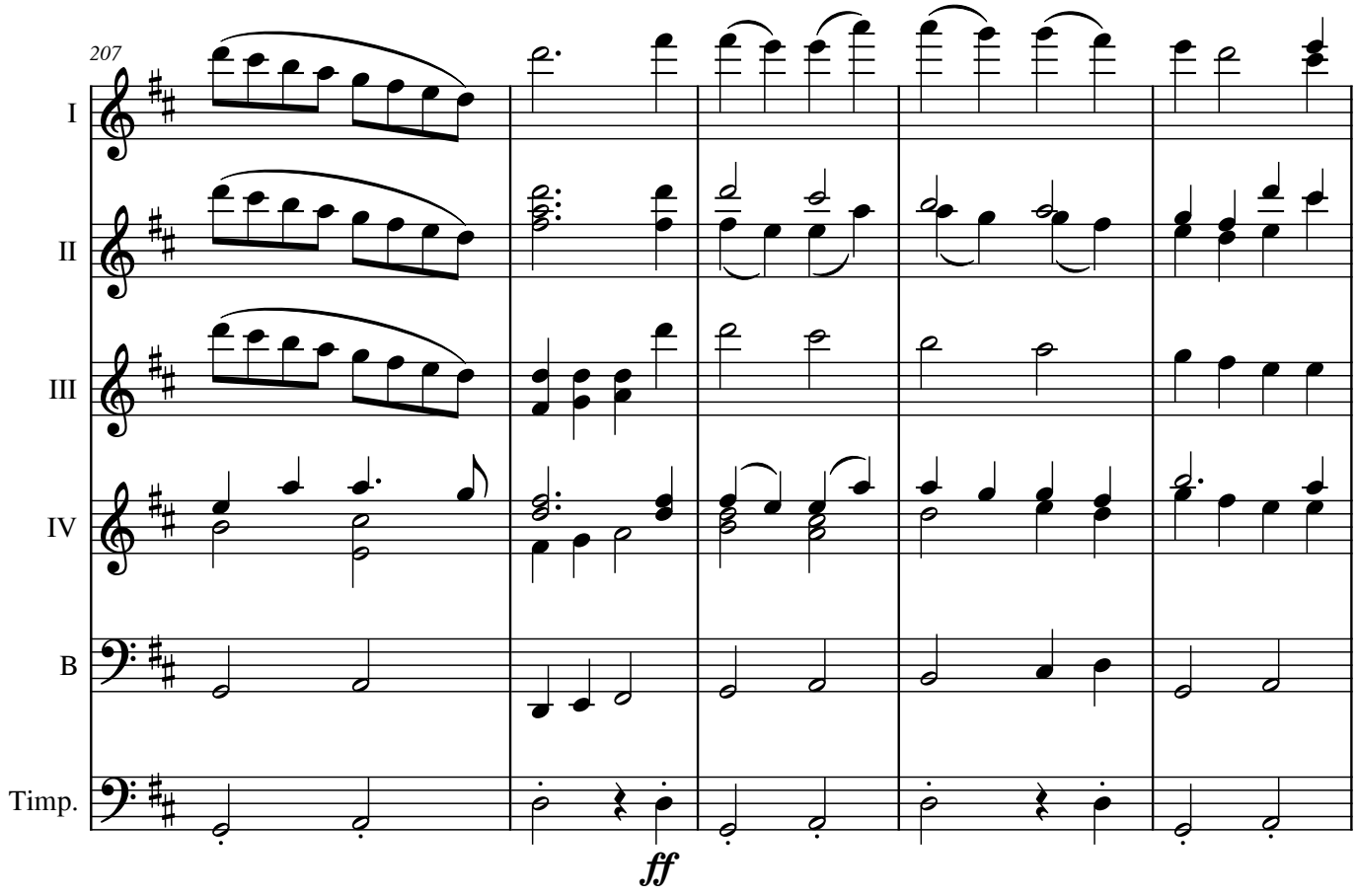

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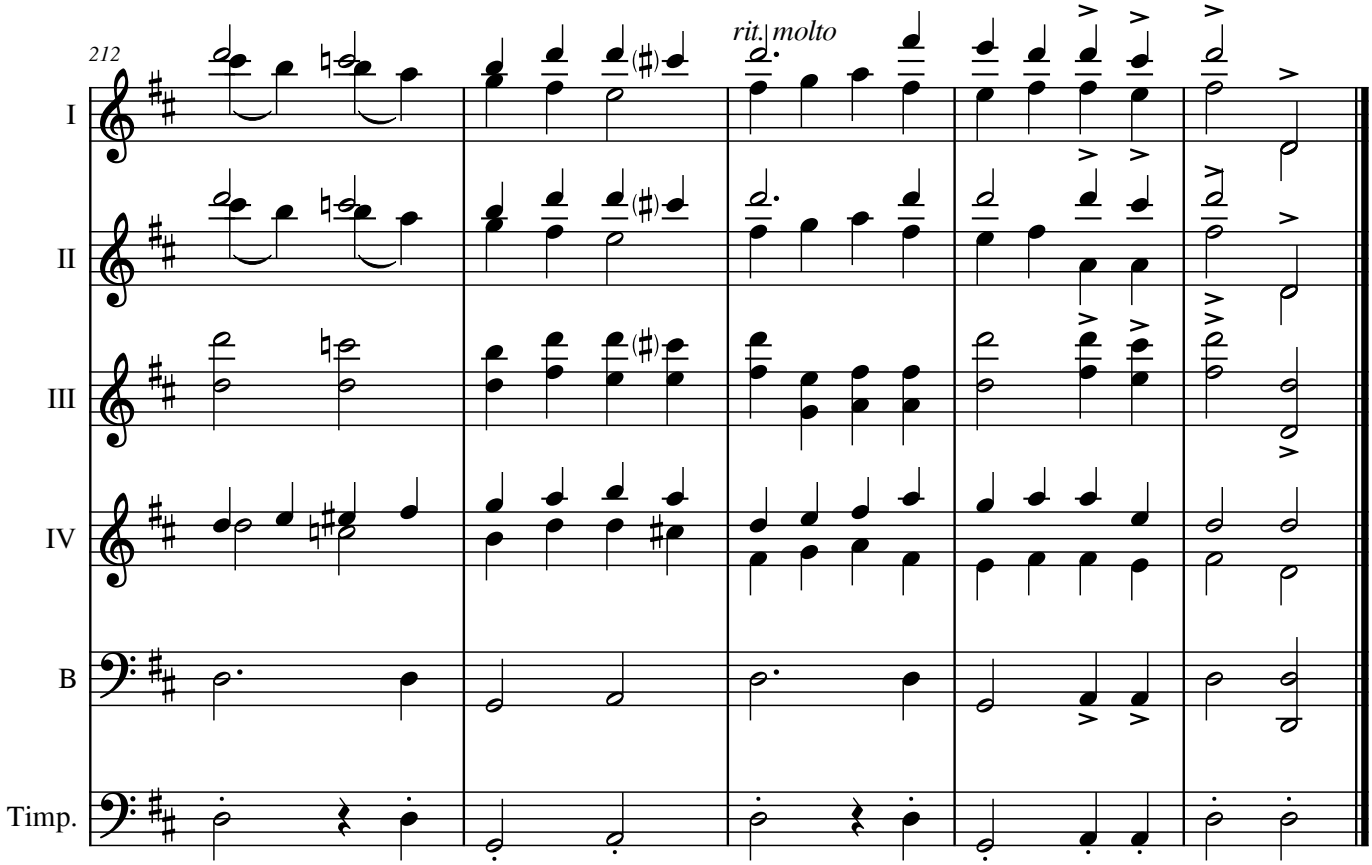

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