Sound Off

John Philip Sousa

edited by
John R. Bourgeois

1 Full Score
1 Flute 1/Piccolo
3 Flute 2
2 Oboe 1,2
1 Eb Clarinet
3 Clarinet 1
3 Clarinet 2
3 Clarinet 3
1 Alto Clarinet
2 Bass Clarinet
2 Bassoon 1,2

2 Alto Saxophone 1
2 Alto Saxophone 2
2 Tenor Sax
1 Baritone Sax
3 Cornet 1
3 Cornet 2
3 Cornet 3
2 Trumpet 1,2

2 F Horn 1,2
2 F Horn 3,4
4 Trombone 1,2
2 Trombone 3
2 Euphonium
1 Euphonium T.C.
5 Tuba
2 Snare Drum
2 Bass Drum/Crash Cymbals

Extra Part - P3013451

• THE BOURGEOIS EDITIONS •

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Program Notes
Sousa was in his fifth year as Director of the United States Marine Band when this march was composed in 1885. *Sound Off* was apparently intended for ceremonial use by the Marine Band. As he had done on previous occasions, Sousa used a marching command as the title of his composition. It was dedicated to Major George Porter Houston, one of Sousa's superiors at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. The Marine Corps "Manual for Field Musics", published in 1935, reports the ceremonial "Sound Off" dates from the time of the Crusades. The musicians would march and countermarch in front of the soldiers designated for the Crusades as a ceremony of dedication. Part of the "Sound Off" tradition is the playing of three chords while standing fast, preceding the music actually performed on the march. The three chords are thought to signify "three cheers" from the assembled crowds. Today, the Marine Band has eliminated the three chords preceding the ceremonial "Sound Off" and uses only percussion to signal the march.

This edition is dedicated to Toshio Akiyama, past president of the Japanese Bandmasters Association and one of the leaders of the Japanese Sousa Society. Each member of the society has a Sousa march which they are thoroughly versed in, both historically and musically. Toshio's march is *Sound Off*.

About the Composer
John Philip Sousa was born on November 6, 1854, in Washington, D.C., where his father was a member of the United States Marine Band. As a youth, he became an apprentice musician with the Marine Band and he performed in the band with his father. He learned to play a variety of instruments, but his most serious musical study was on the piano and the violin, after which he became a very successful professional violinist. At the age of 26, he returned to the Marine Band as its conductor, holding that position for 12 years. In 1892, Sousa left the Marine Band to become the leader of his own band. The Sousa Band became recognized as the finest band in the world. In addition to leading the band, Sousa was a successful author, writing books, novels, and numerous short stories. He was also a prolific composer, writing larger works for orchestra and band, as well as operettas or musical comedies. He was a patriot and a sportsman and wrote 136 of the greatest marches ever written. He died in 1935 in Reading, Pennsylvania.

About the Editor
The career of Col. Bourgeois, the 25th director of the United States Marine Band, spanned nine presidential administrations – from Eisenhower to Clinton. He retired from the Marine Corps after serving as the band's director and music advisor to the White House for 17 years.

He joined the Marine Corps in 1956 and joined "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band in 1958, serving as a French hornist and staff arranger. He became director of the band in 1979, serving in that capacity until his retirement in 1996.

Under his leadership, the Marine Band presented its first overseas performances. In 1990, Col. Bourgeois led the band on a historic 18-day concert tour of the former Soviet Union. Col. Bourgeois directed 16 national concert tours – a tradition started by John Philip Sousa in 1891.

Since his retirement, he has continued to be extremely active as a guest conductor and clinician and is also an Artist-in-Residence at his alma mater, Loyola Universtiy.

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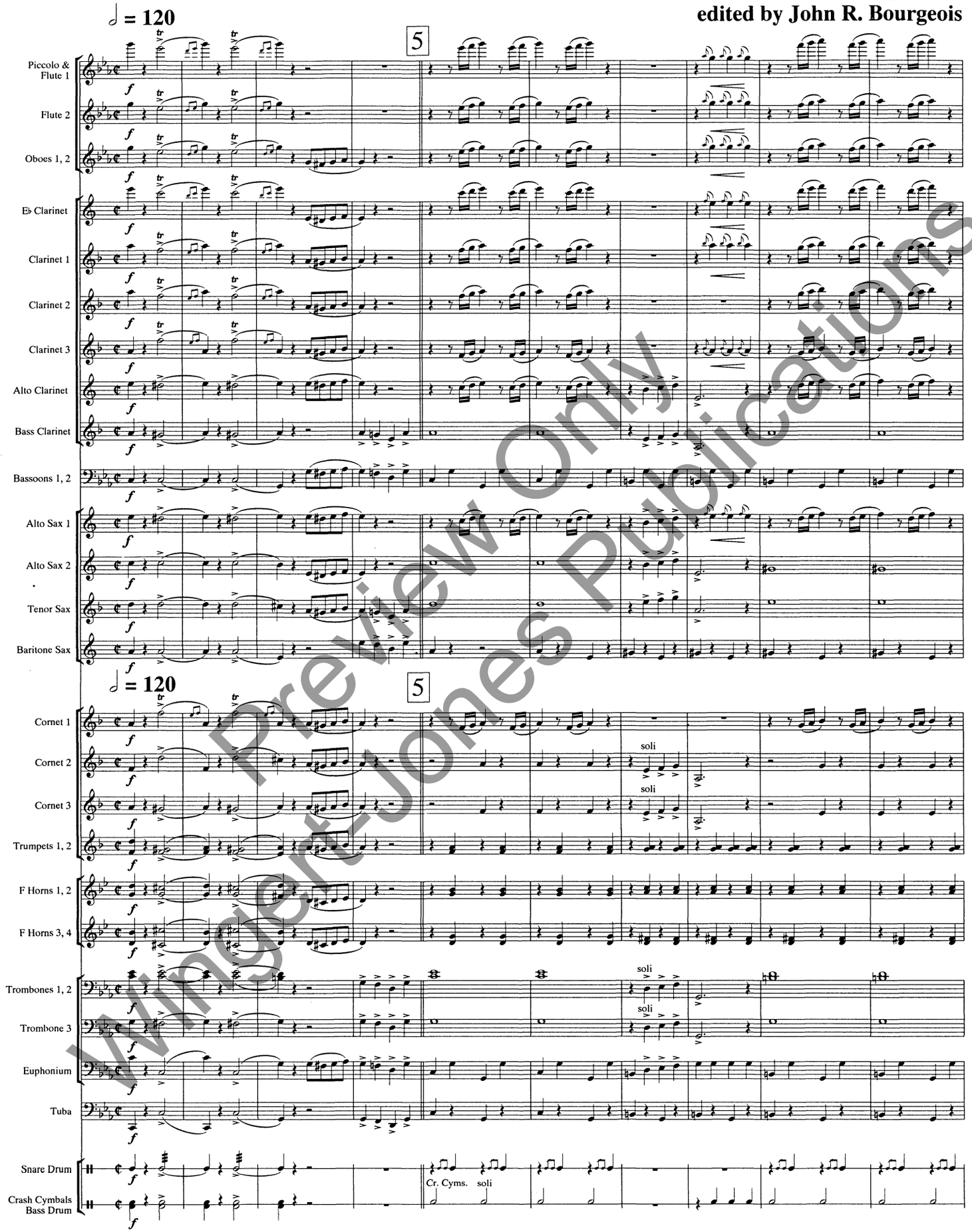
Grade 4
Time 2:45

"Sound Off"

This edition of Sound Off *is dedicated to Toshio Akiyama*

John Philip Sousa
edited by John R. Bourgeois



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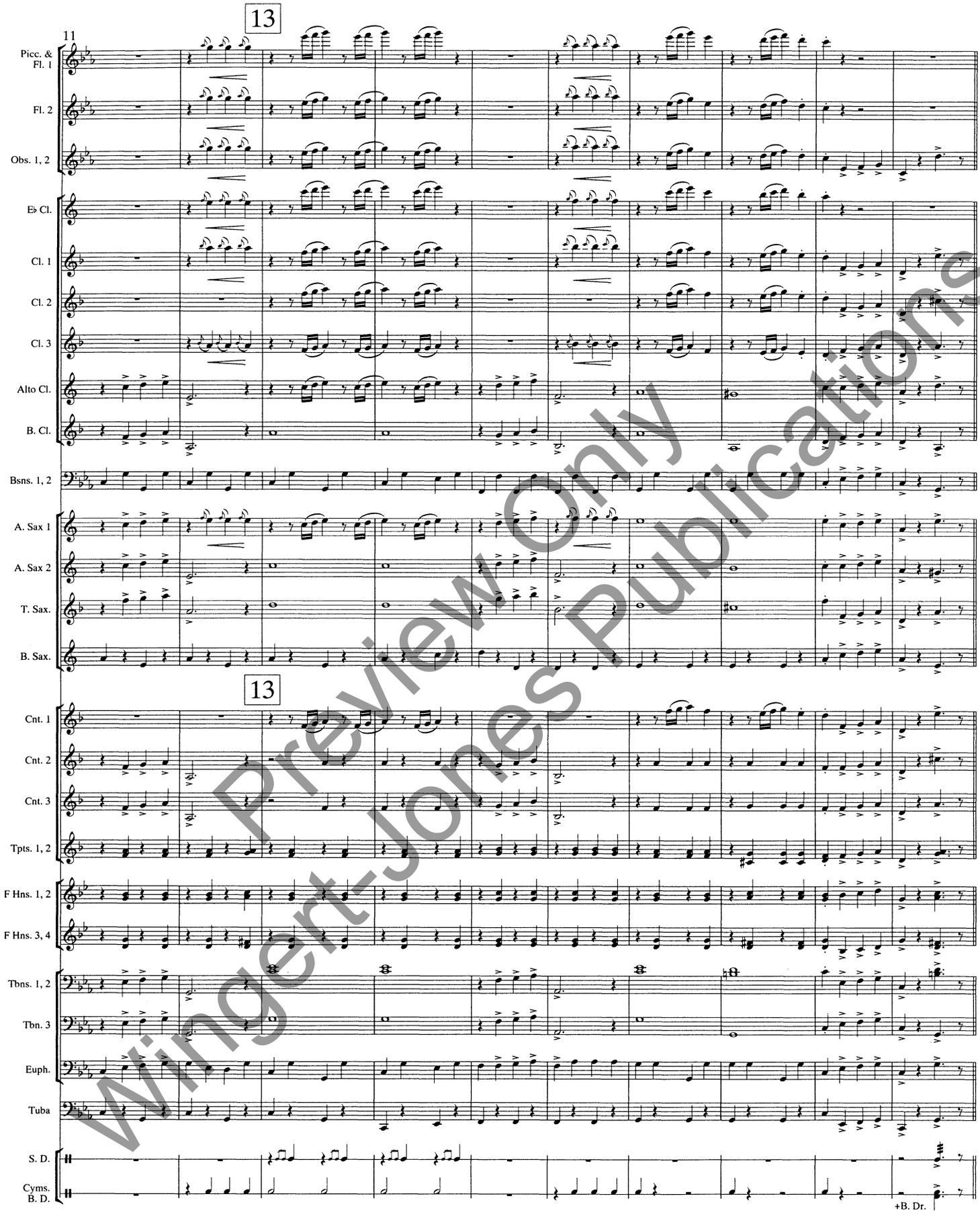

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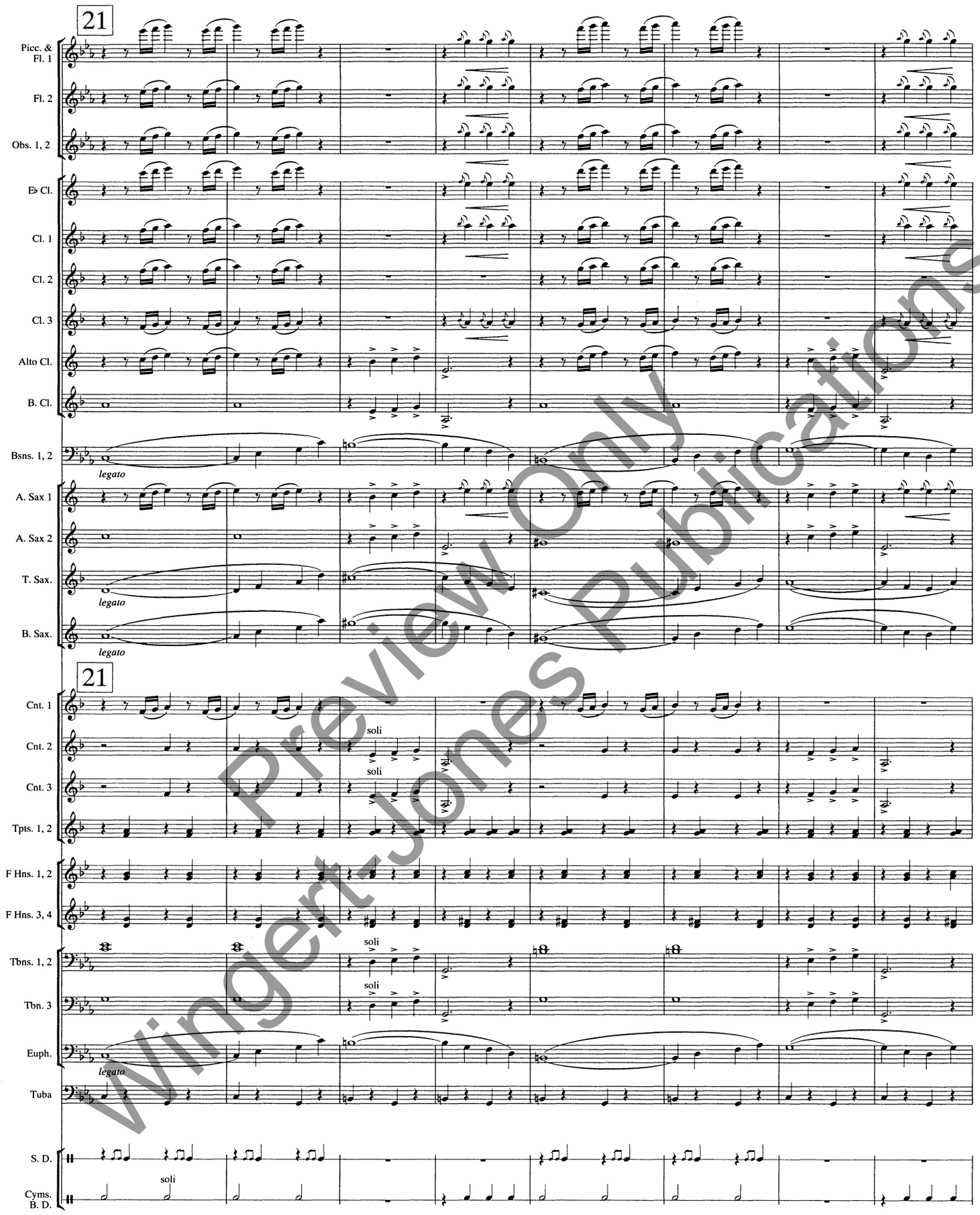

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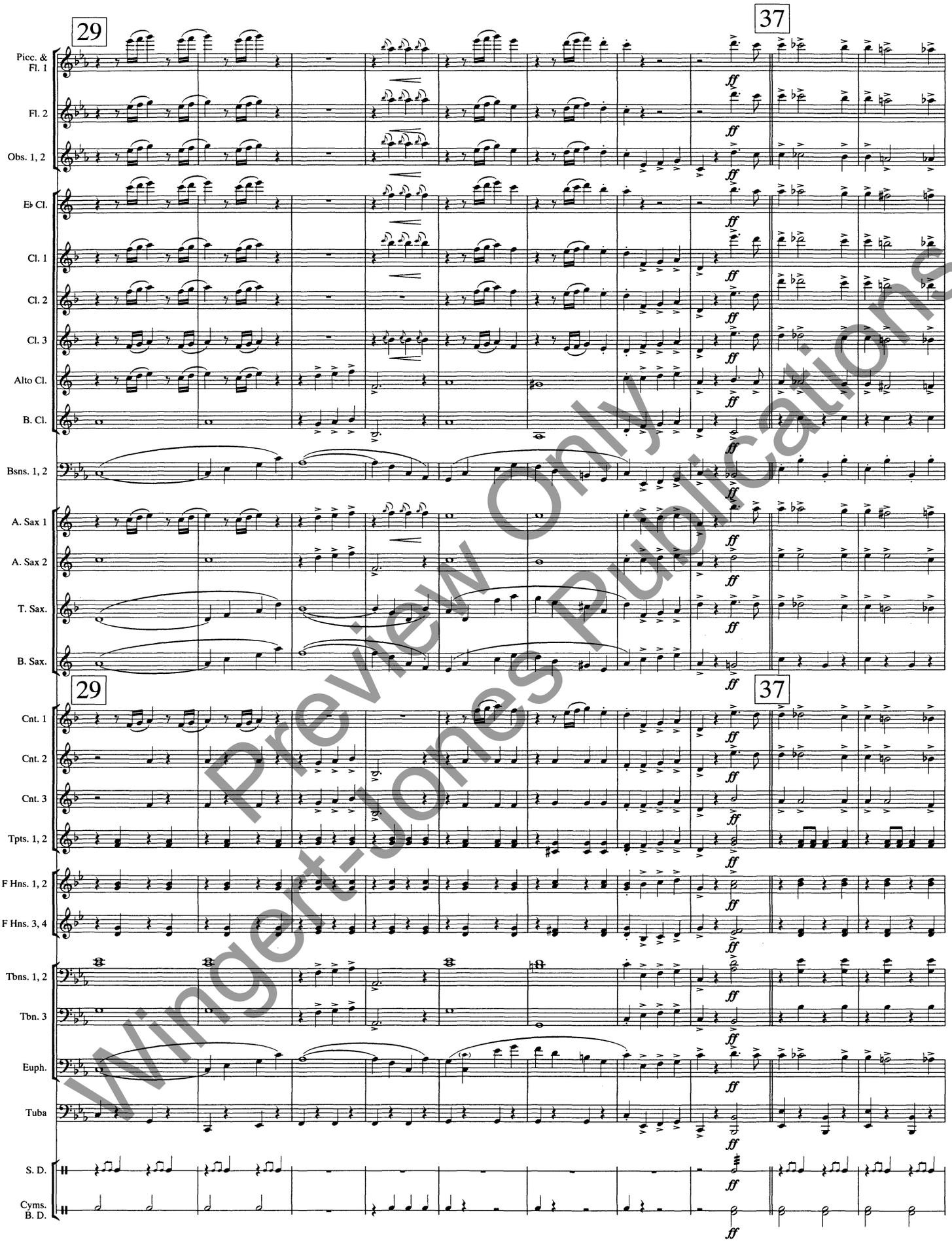

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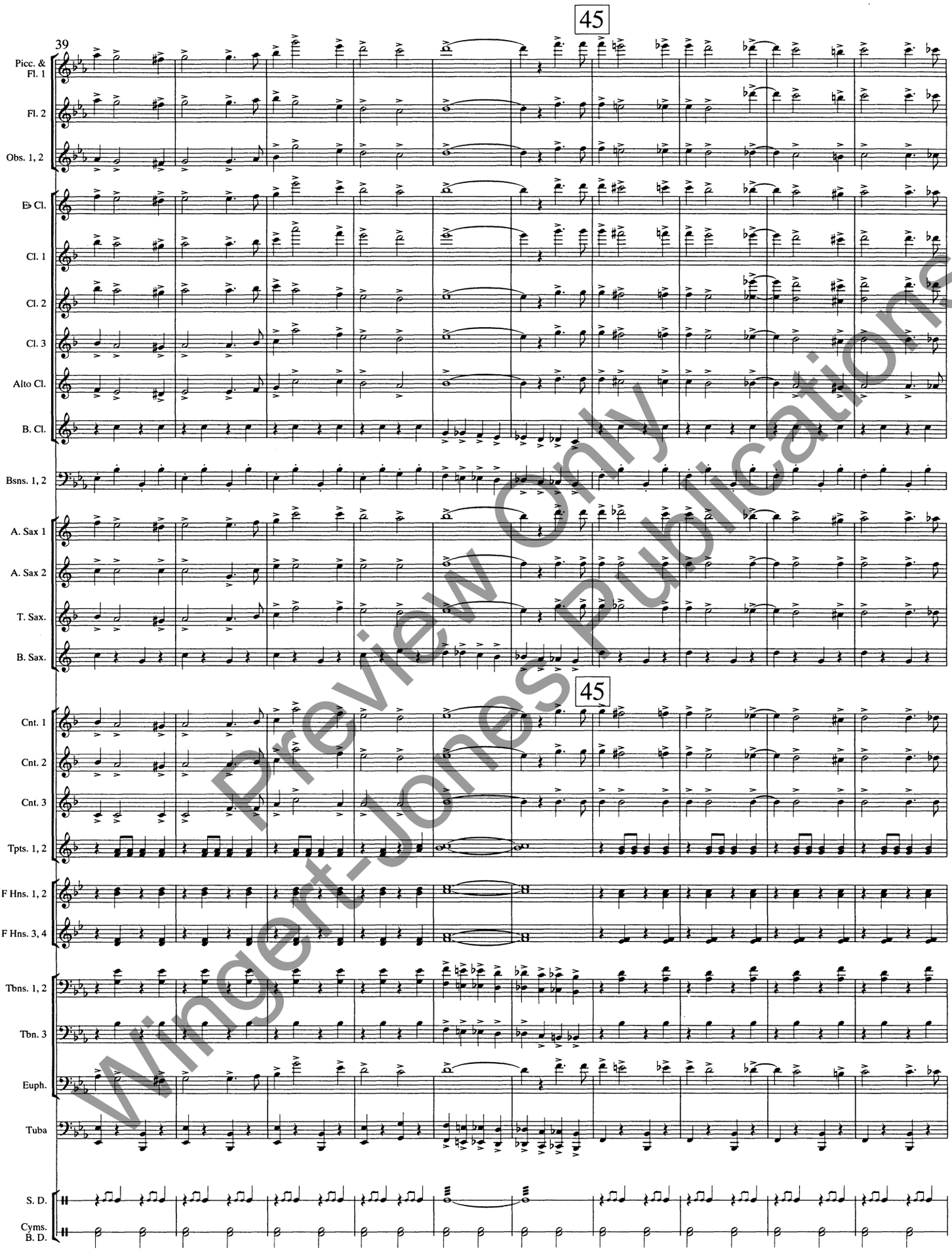

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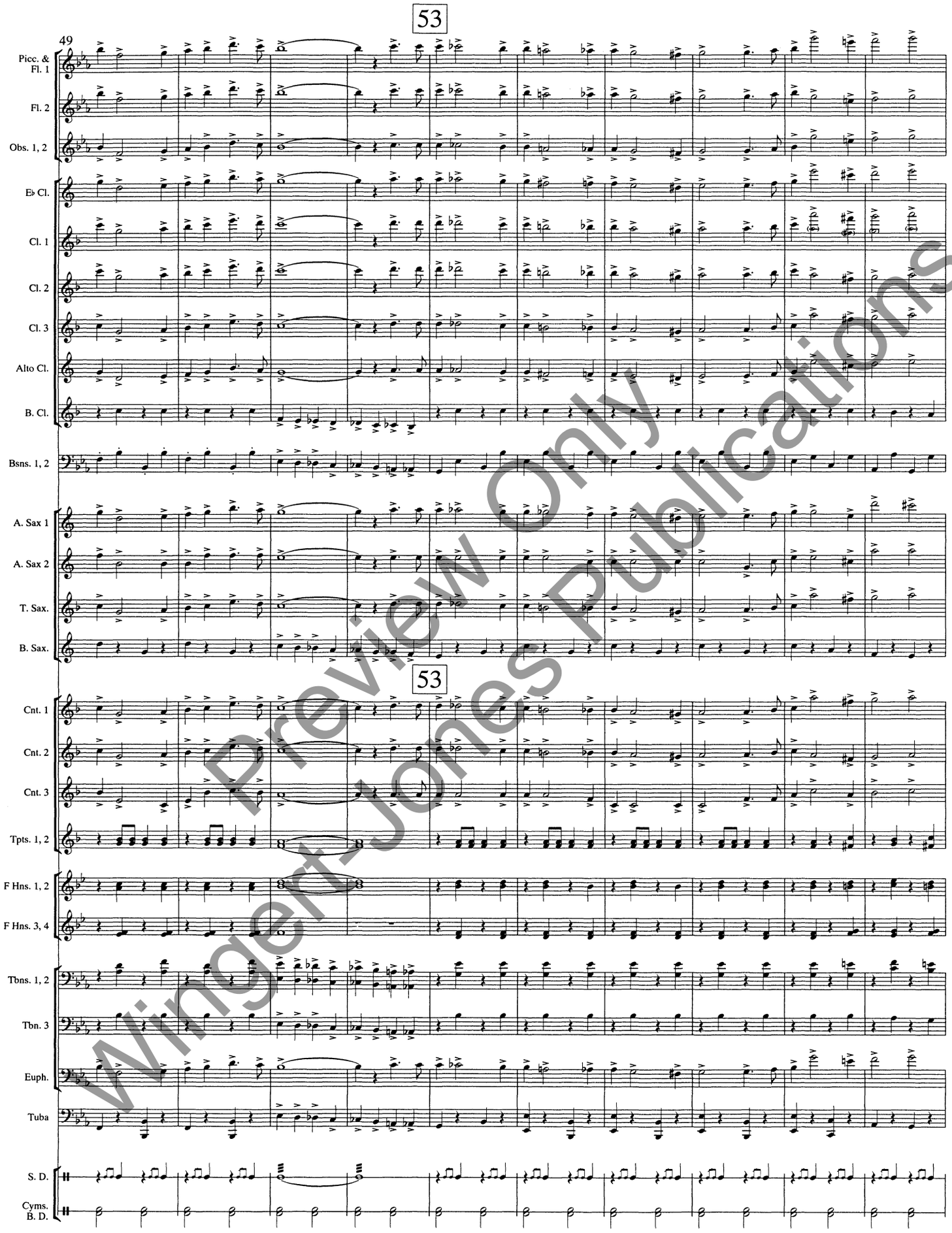

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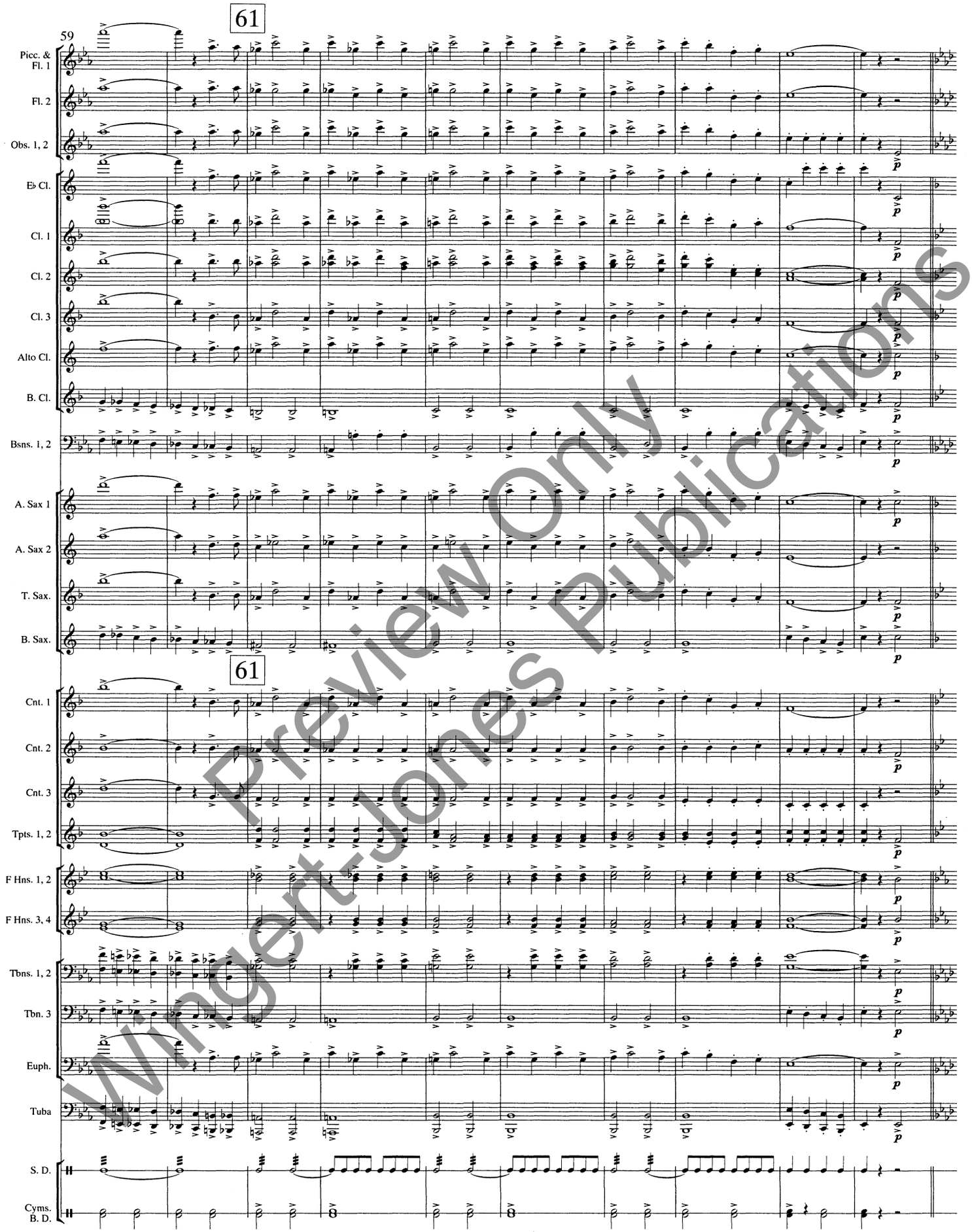

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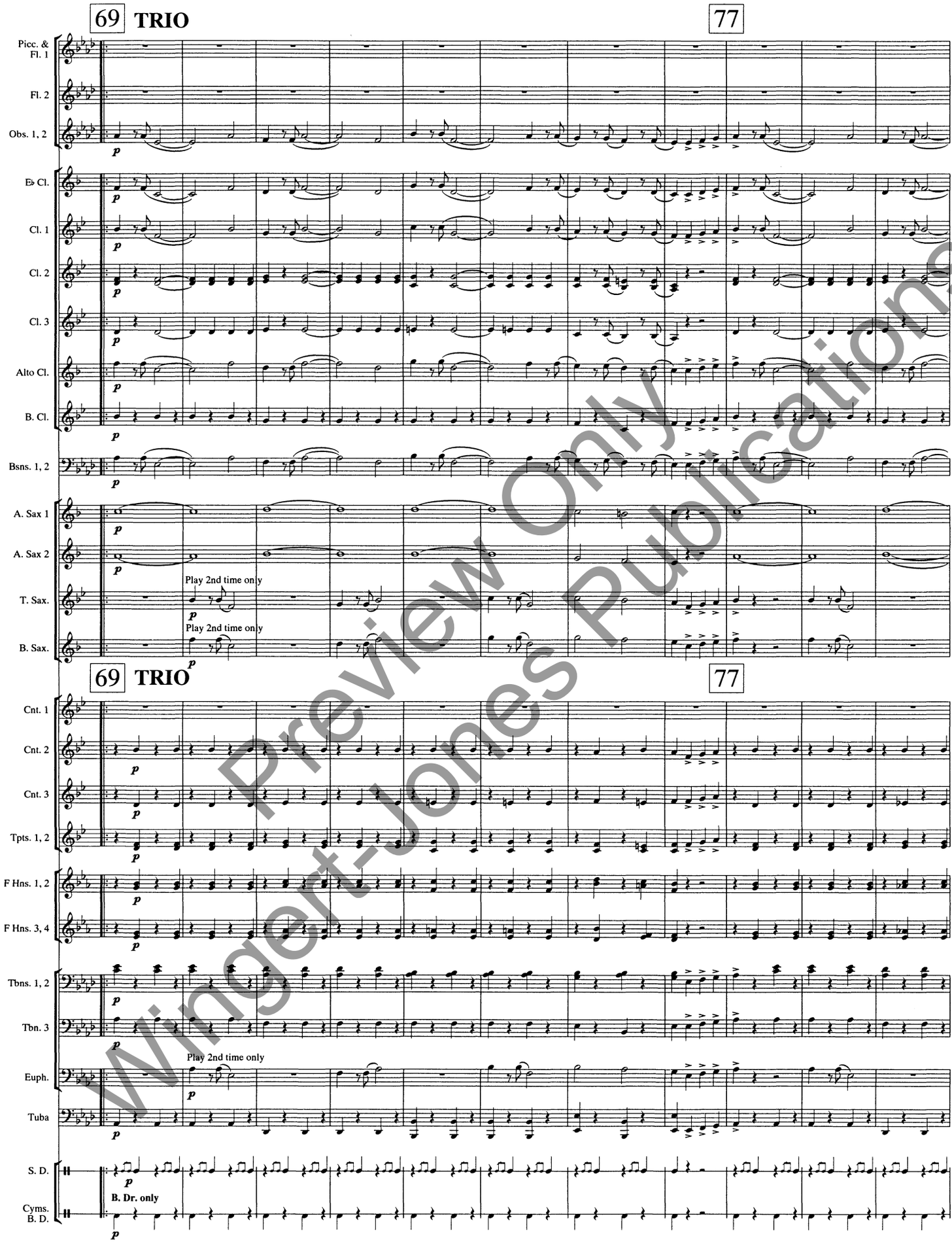

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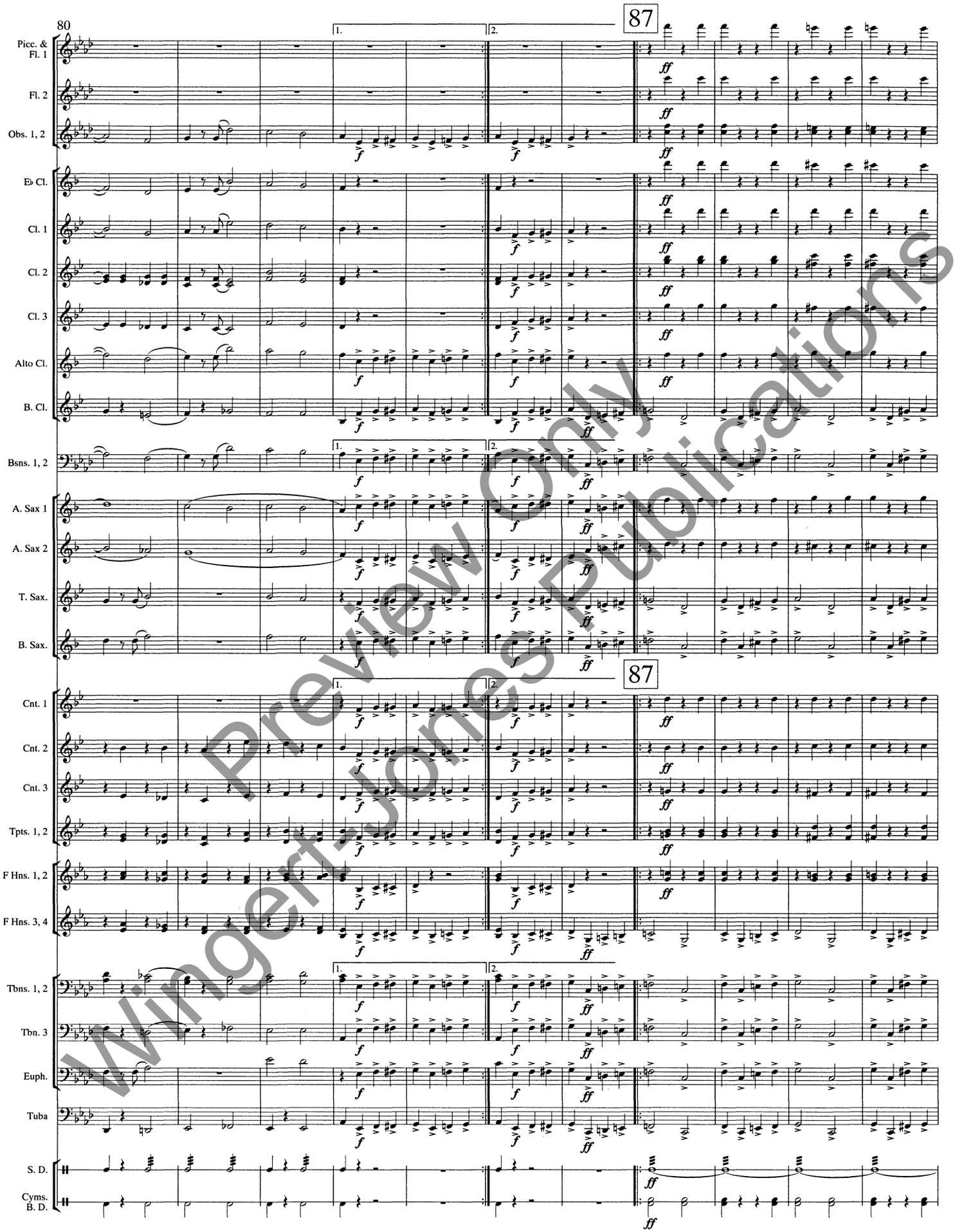

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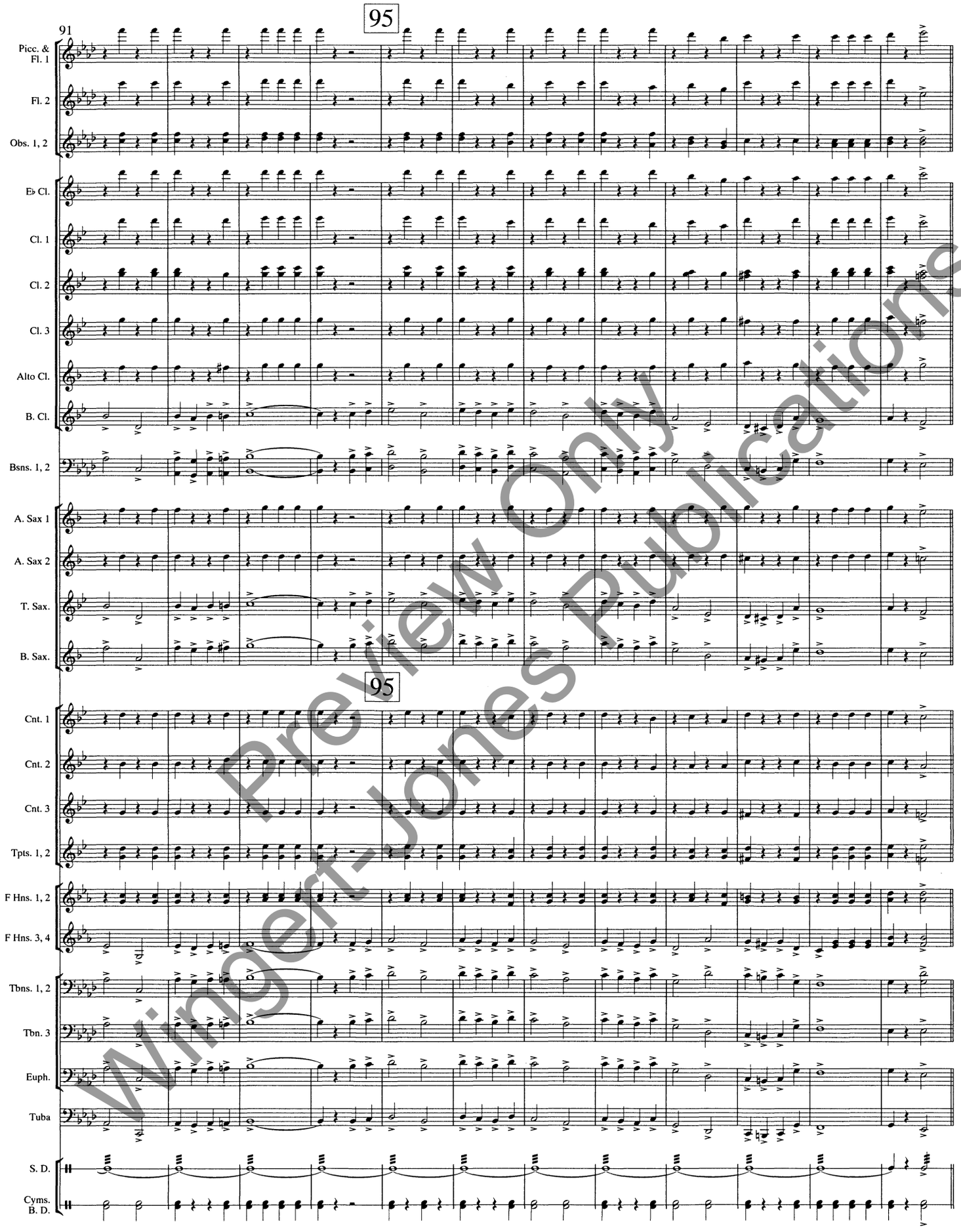

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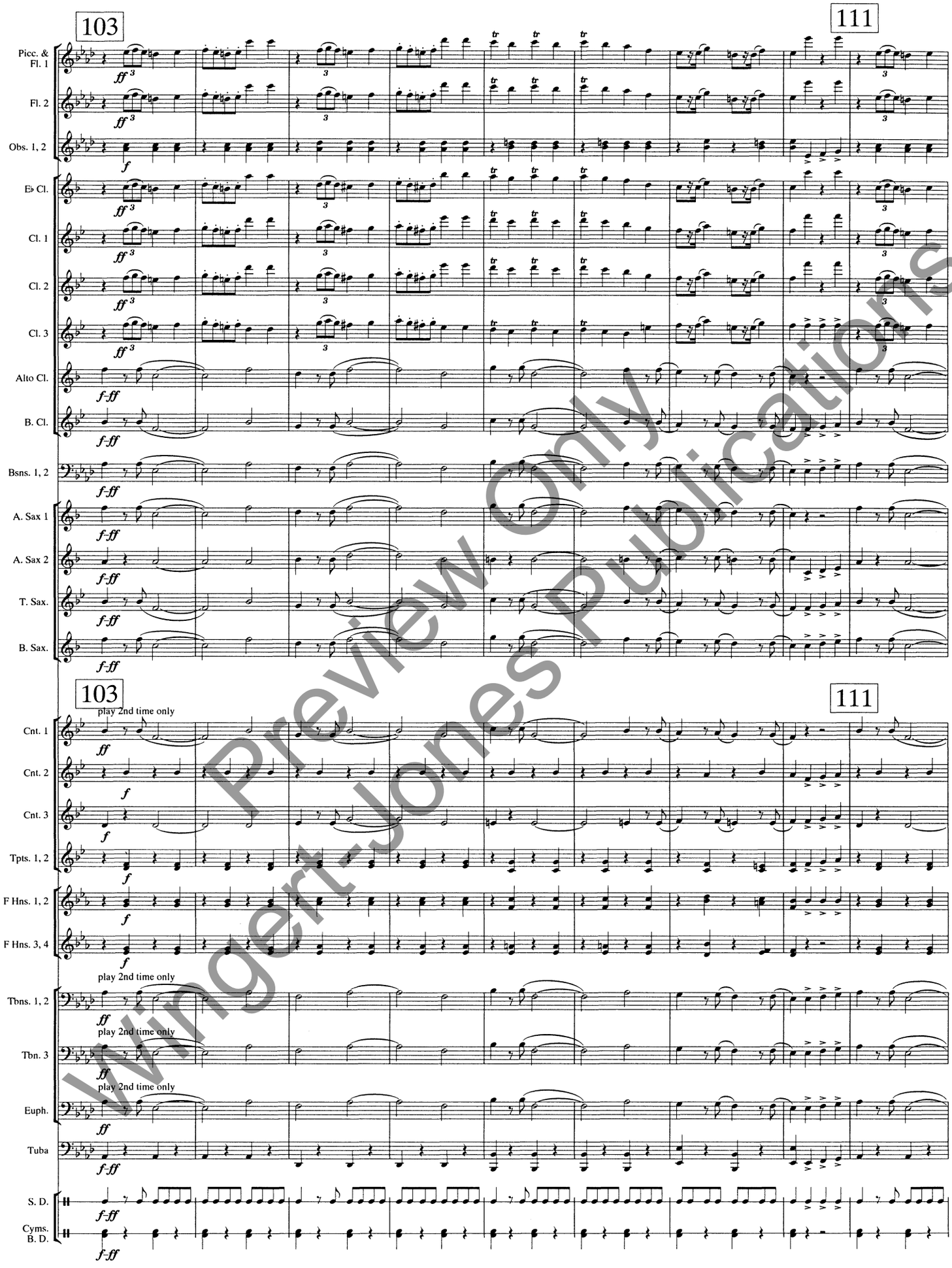

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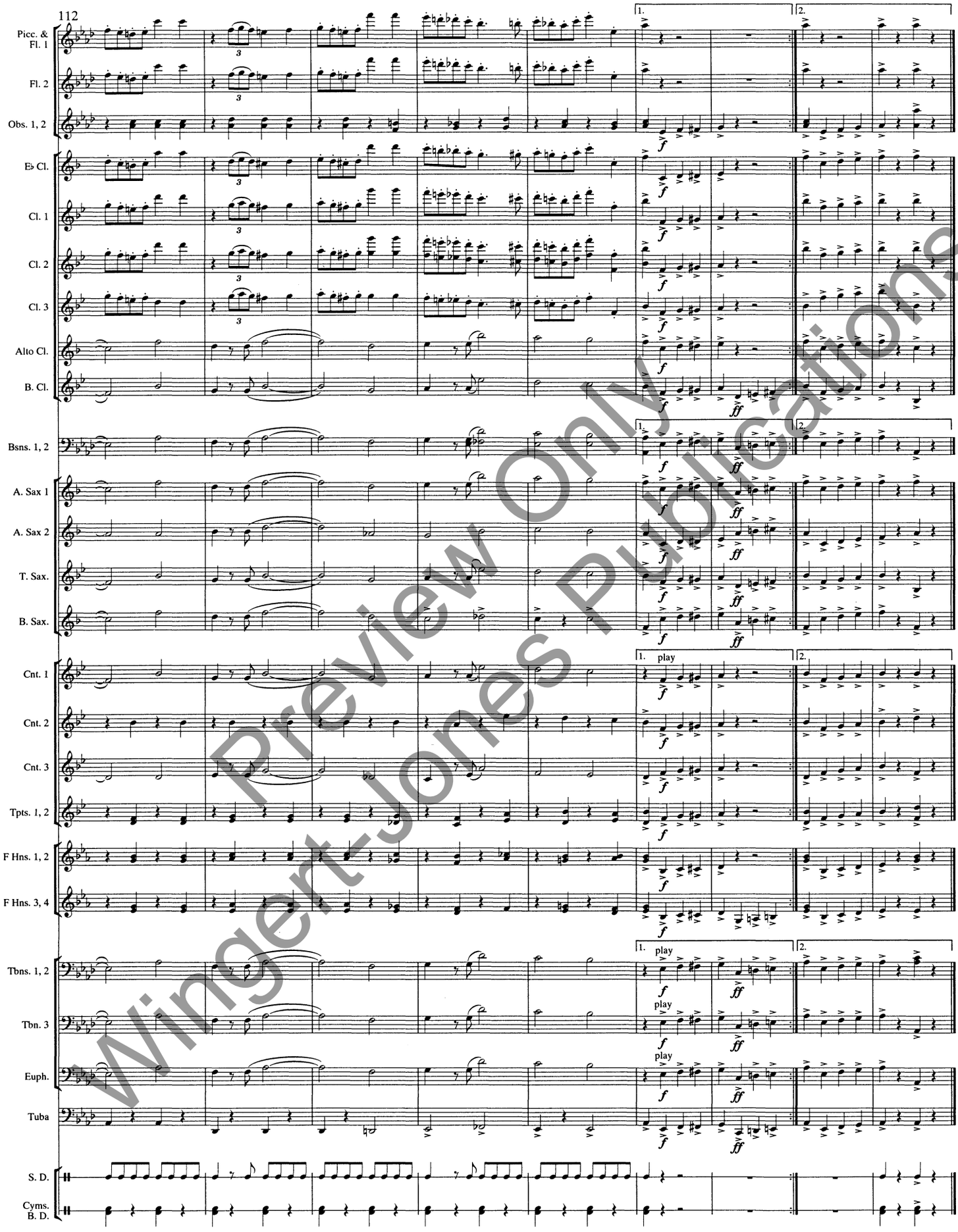

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