ALUN HODDINOT

Ritornelli 2 op. 100 no.2

for Brass Quintet

Full Score

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In 1979, Alun Hoddinott was commissioned by the Cheltenham Festival to write a brass quintet for the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble. The first performance was given at the Festival on July 12th 1979. In a programme note for this occasion, the composer wrote: *According to Grove's Dictionary,* ***Ritornello*** *originally signified a "little return or a small repetition".*

In the 17th century the word was applied in a conventional sense to a short instrumental melody played between the scenes of an opera. In this work I have used both these interpretations. the movements are made up for the most part of small, repetitive phrases and some of the thematic material is taken from my television opera ***The Rajah's Diamond***.

Ritornelli 2 does not demand great virtuosity from the quintet, but the brass writing is idiomatic and effective.

Alun Hoddinott has a very individual voice; his music is attractive and modern in a timeless way; it could have been written at any time in the past 30 years. His brilliant trombone concerto-in-miniature, also given the title ***Ritornelli***, and written five years earlier in 1974, used similar material to that of the last movement.

Duration: 15 minutes

Alun Hoddinott, born in 1929 at Bargoed, near Cardiff, studied violin from an early age, acquiring valuable experience of orchestral and chamber music repertoire. He gained a scholarship to Cardiff University and subsequently studied in London with the Australian composer and pianist, Arthur Benjamin. The first work to attract wide attention was the Clarinet Concerto, first performed by Gervase de Peyer and the Halle Orchestra conducted by Sir John Barbirolli. Since then Alun Hoddinott has composed prolifically in all genres, including 6 operas, 10 symphonies and over 20 concertos.
In his book on Hoddinott, Basil Deane writes "The national flavour of his music derives from his own personality: it is a matter of mood rather than material, of atmosphere rather than structure. There are dominant characteristics in Hoddinott's music which betray a Celtic rather than an Anglo-Saxon temperament - obsessive drive, sombre brooding, rhetorical lyricism, fiery outbursts and embracing all these, a love of language itself; a delight in virtuosic manipulation of the means of communication."

Denis Wick, Oxshott, 2003.

The publisher wishes to express gratitude to Oxford University Press for releasing ***Ritornelli 2*** from its rental library

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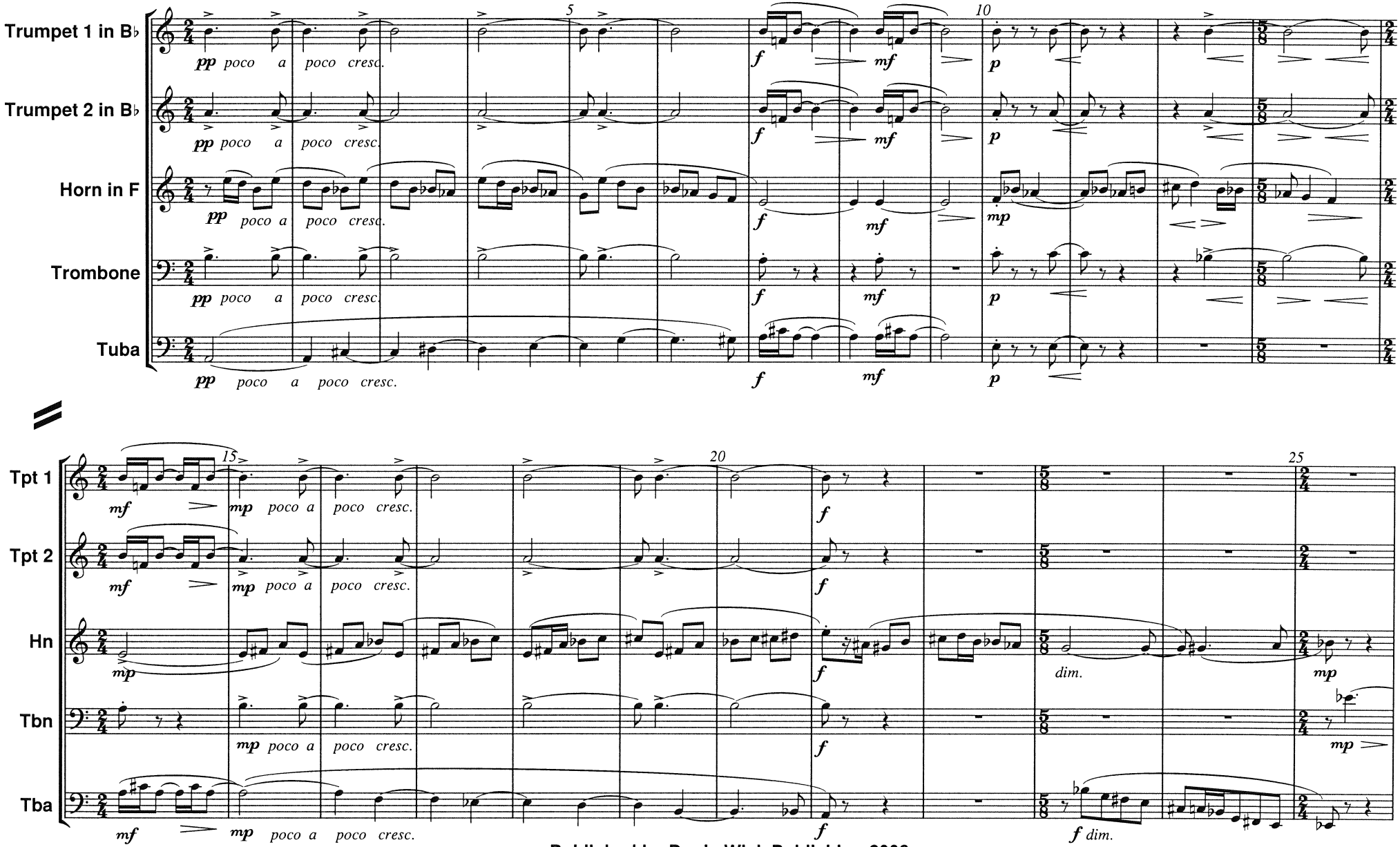
Ritornelli 2

for brass quintet

ALUN HODDINOTT (1979)

1. Moderato ♩ = c100



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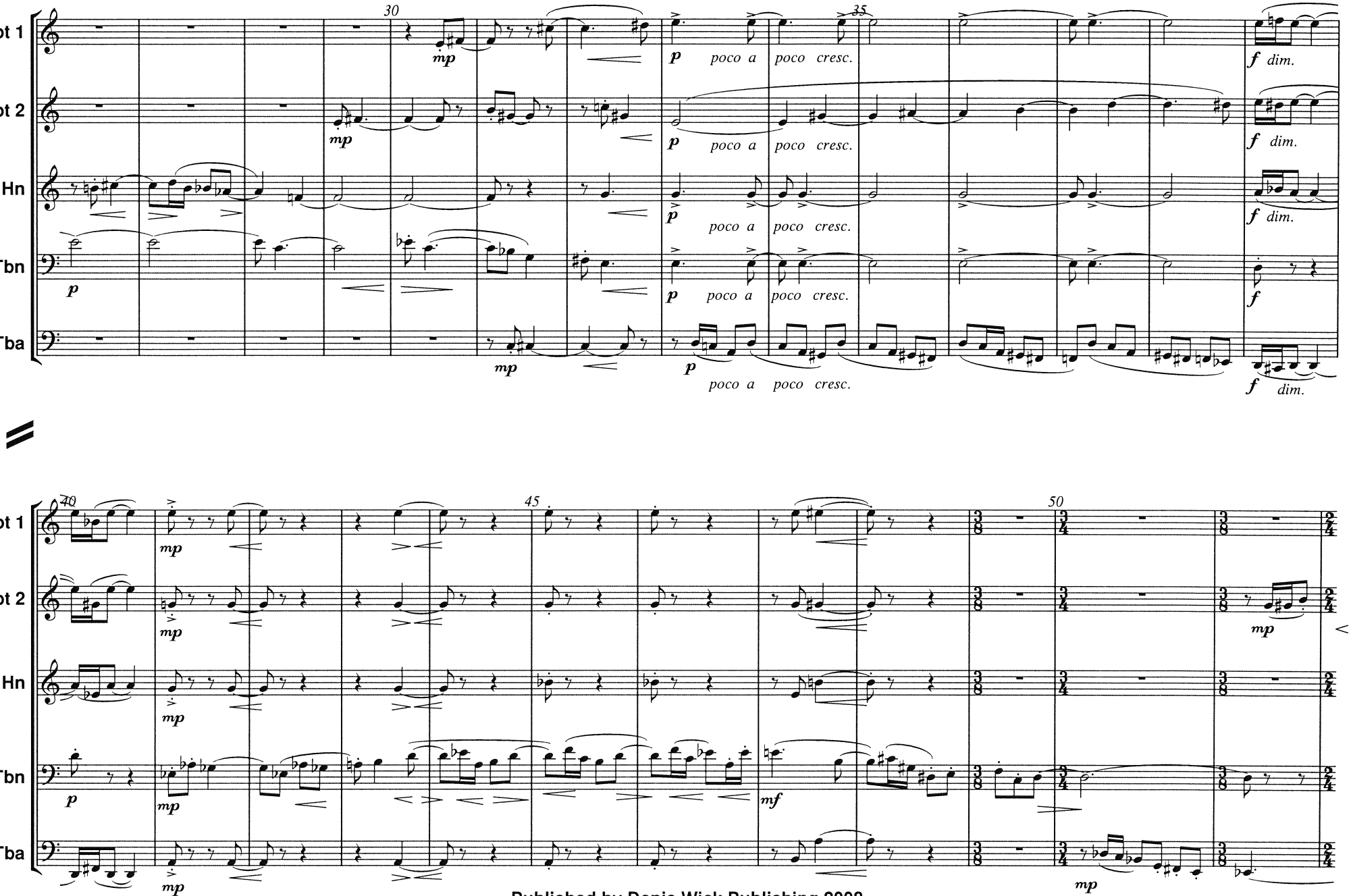

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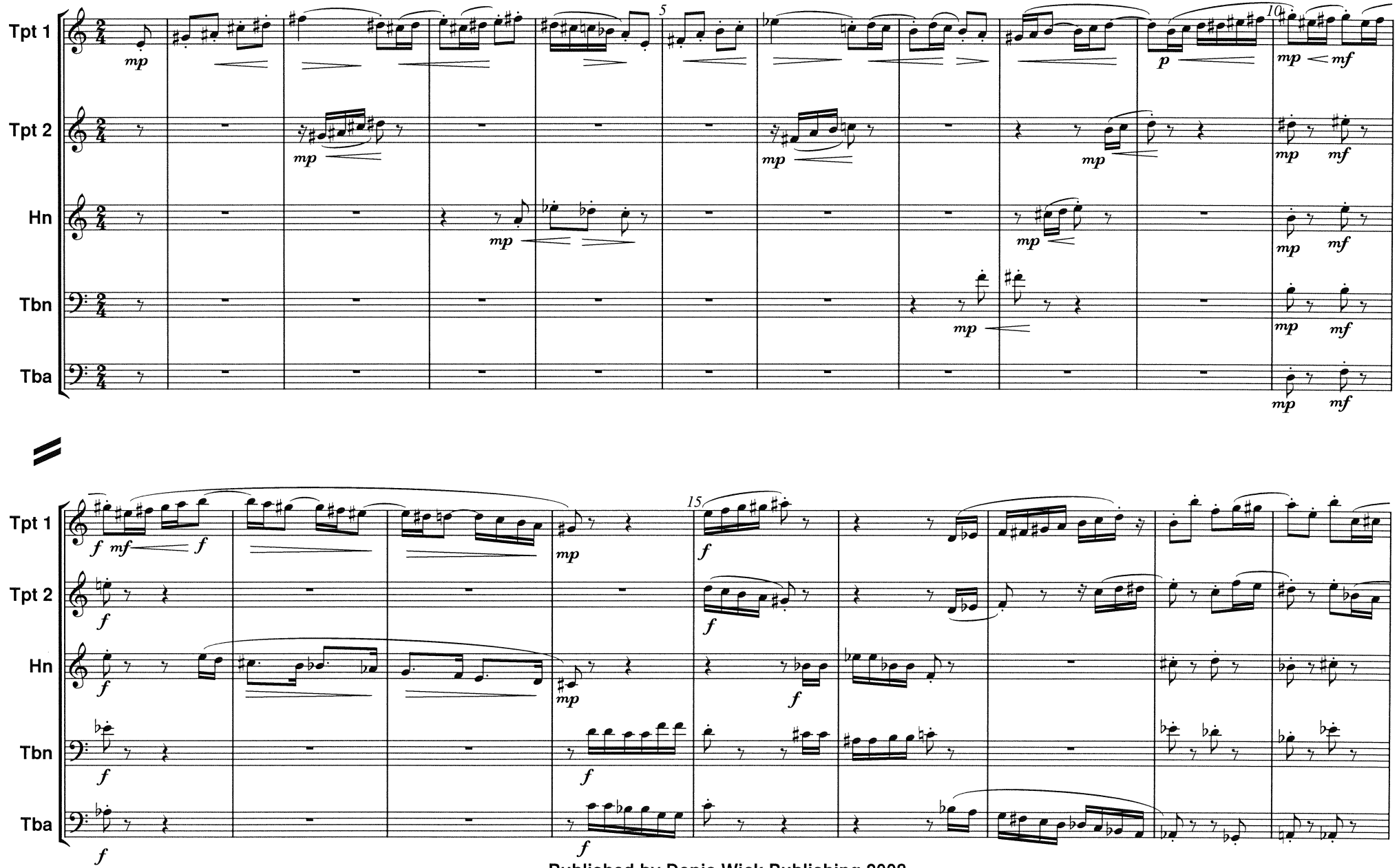
2. Allegro molto ♩ = c.132



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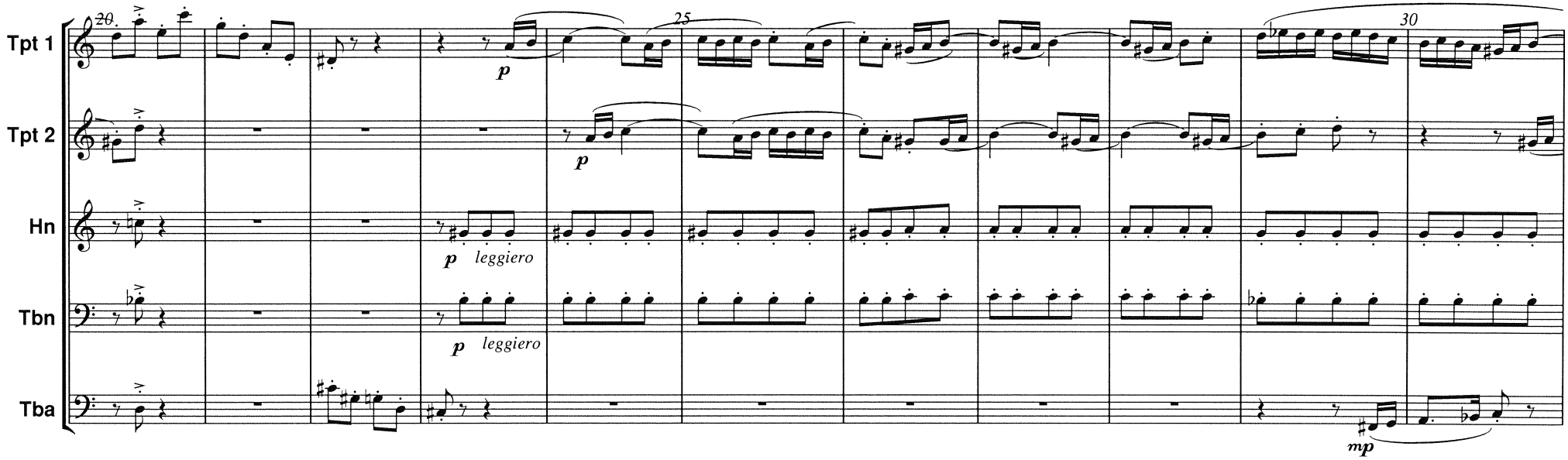

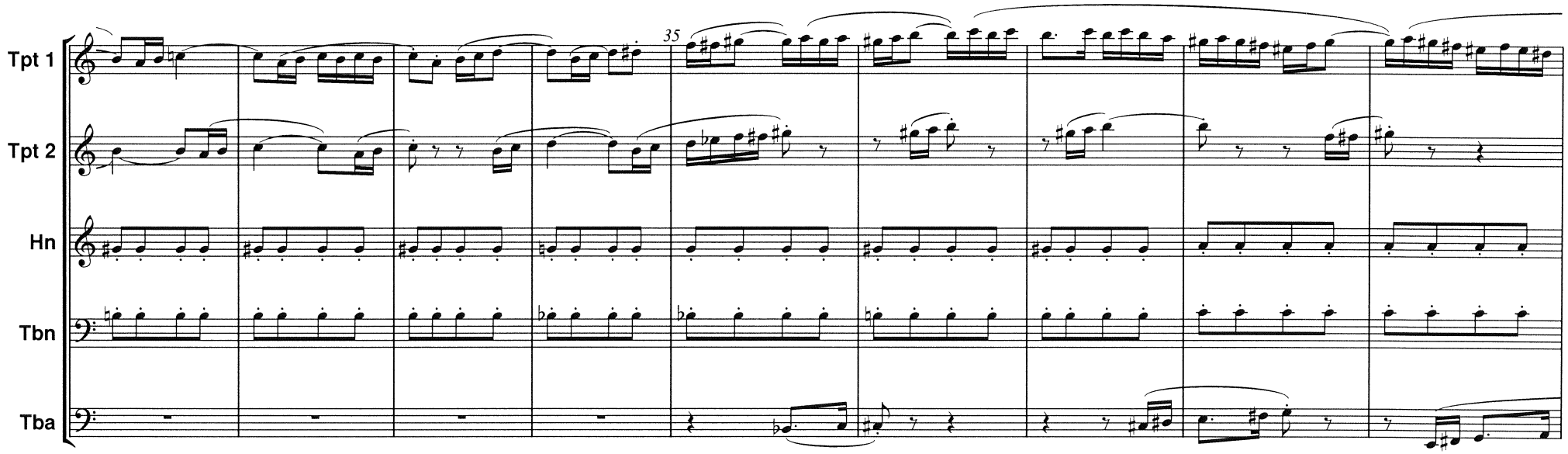

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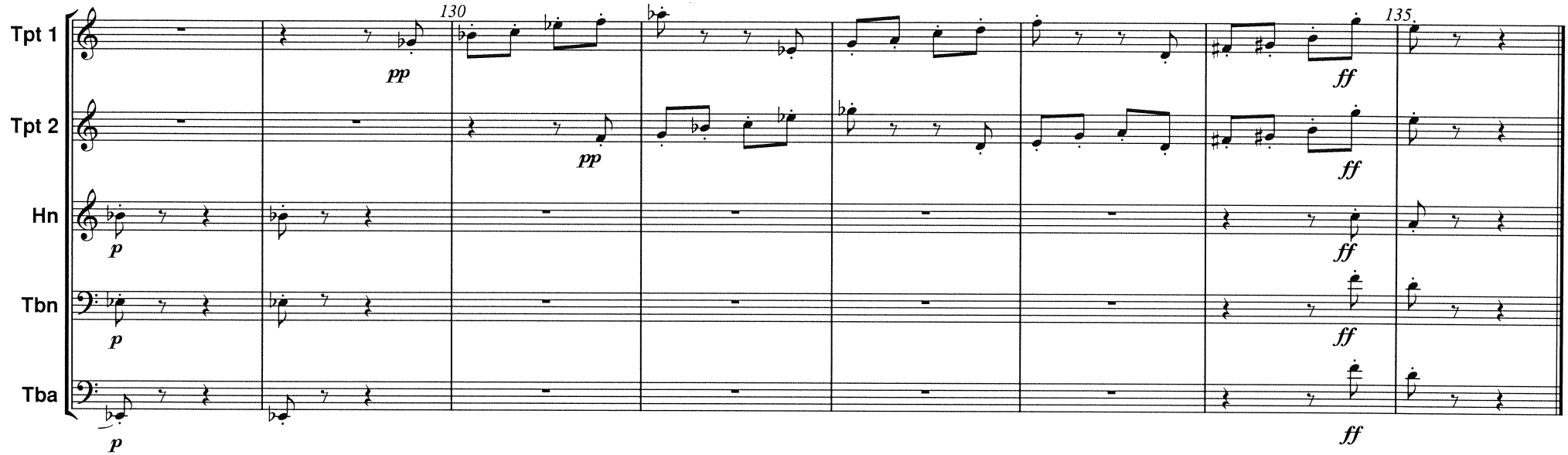
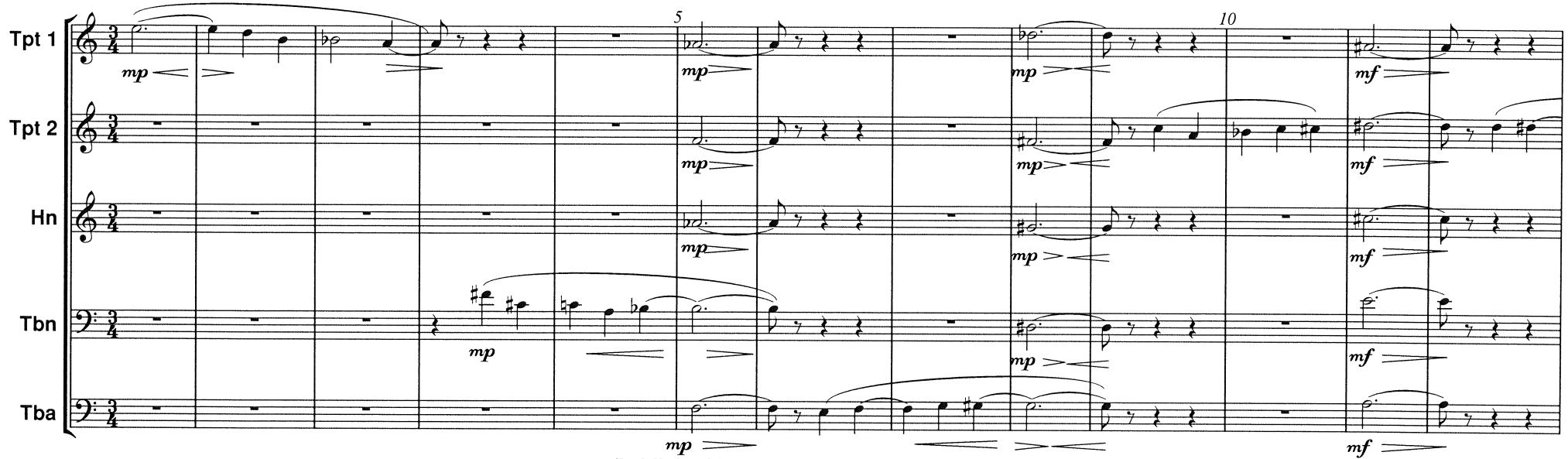


3. Andante ♩=76



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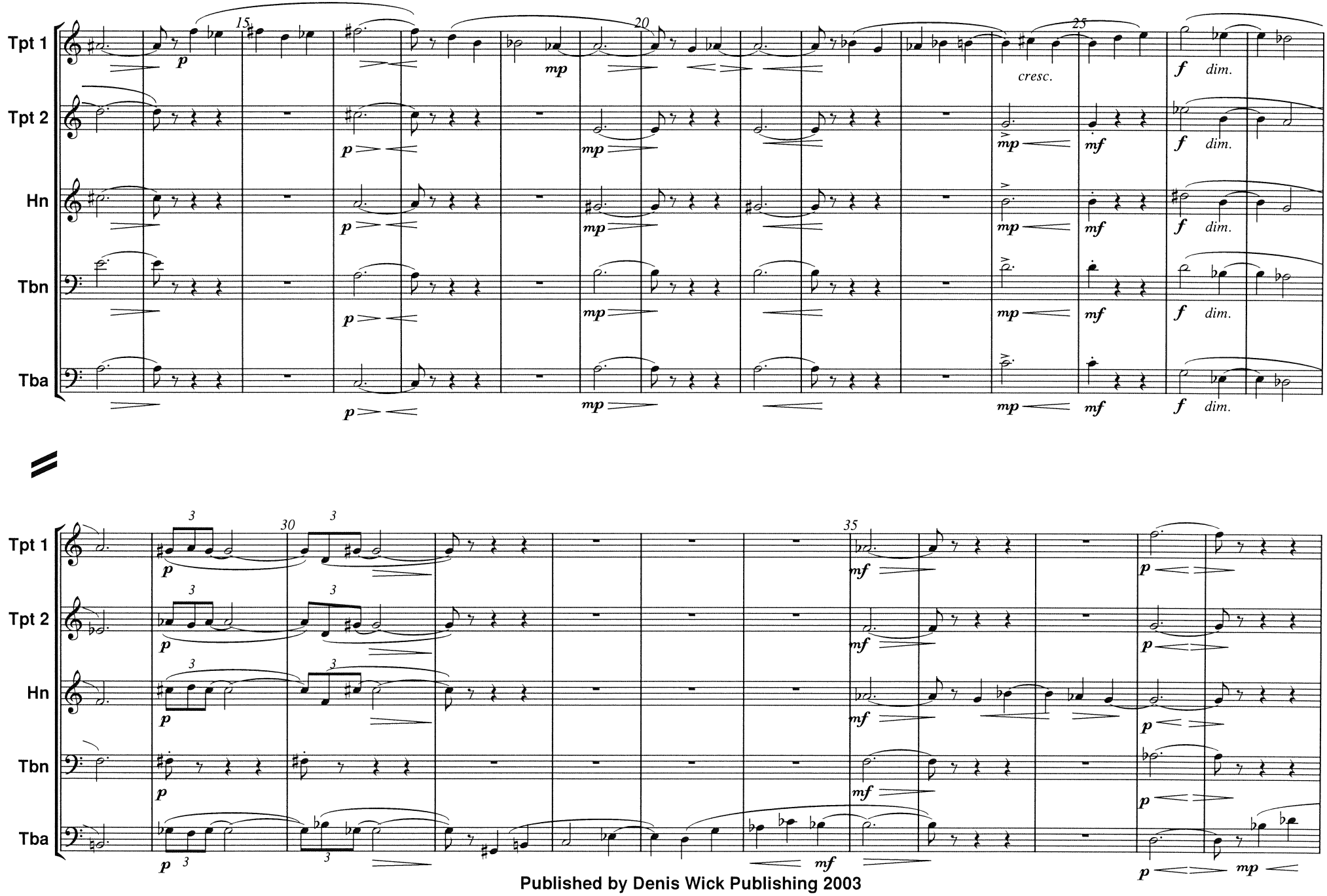

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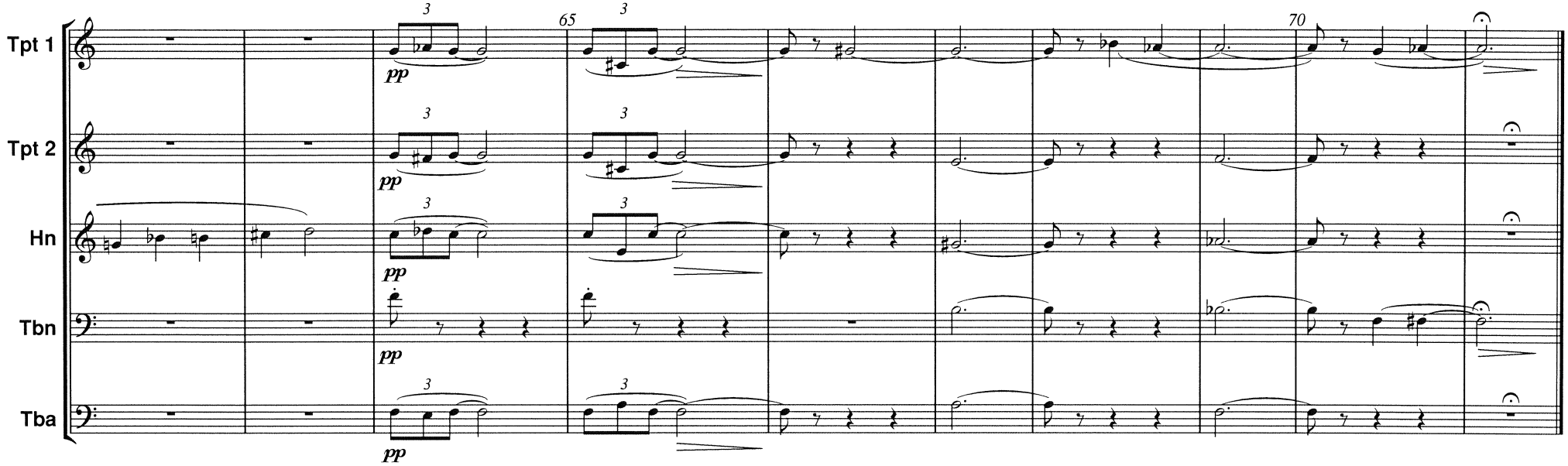
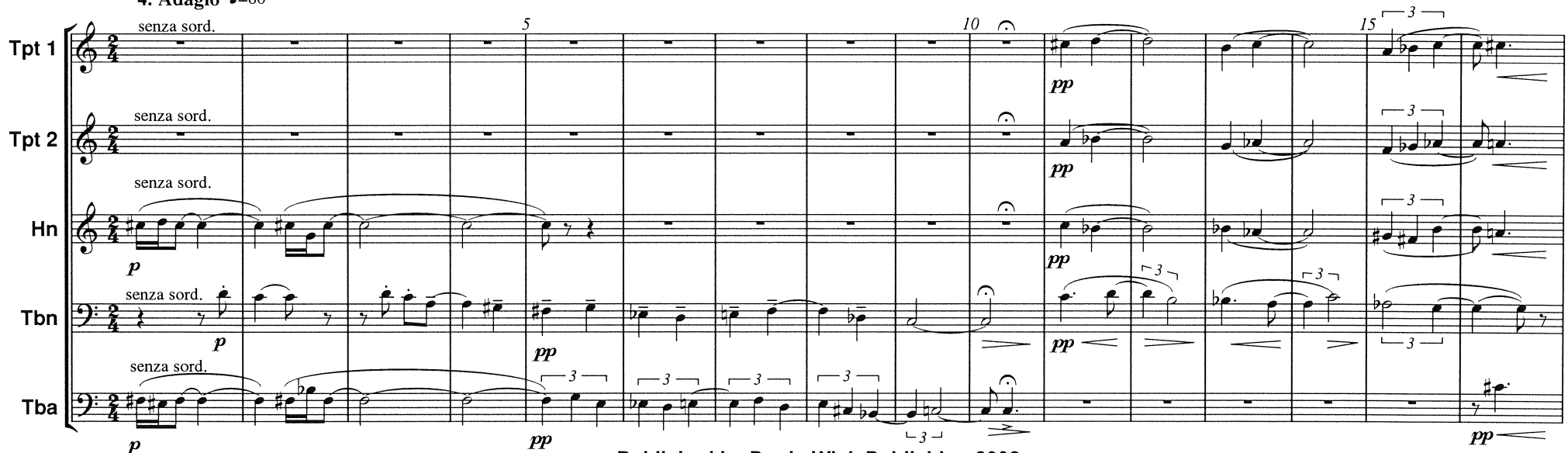


4. Adagio ♩=60



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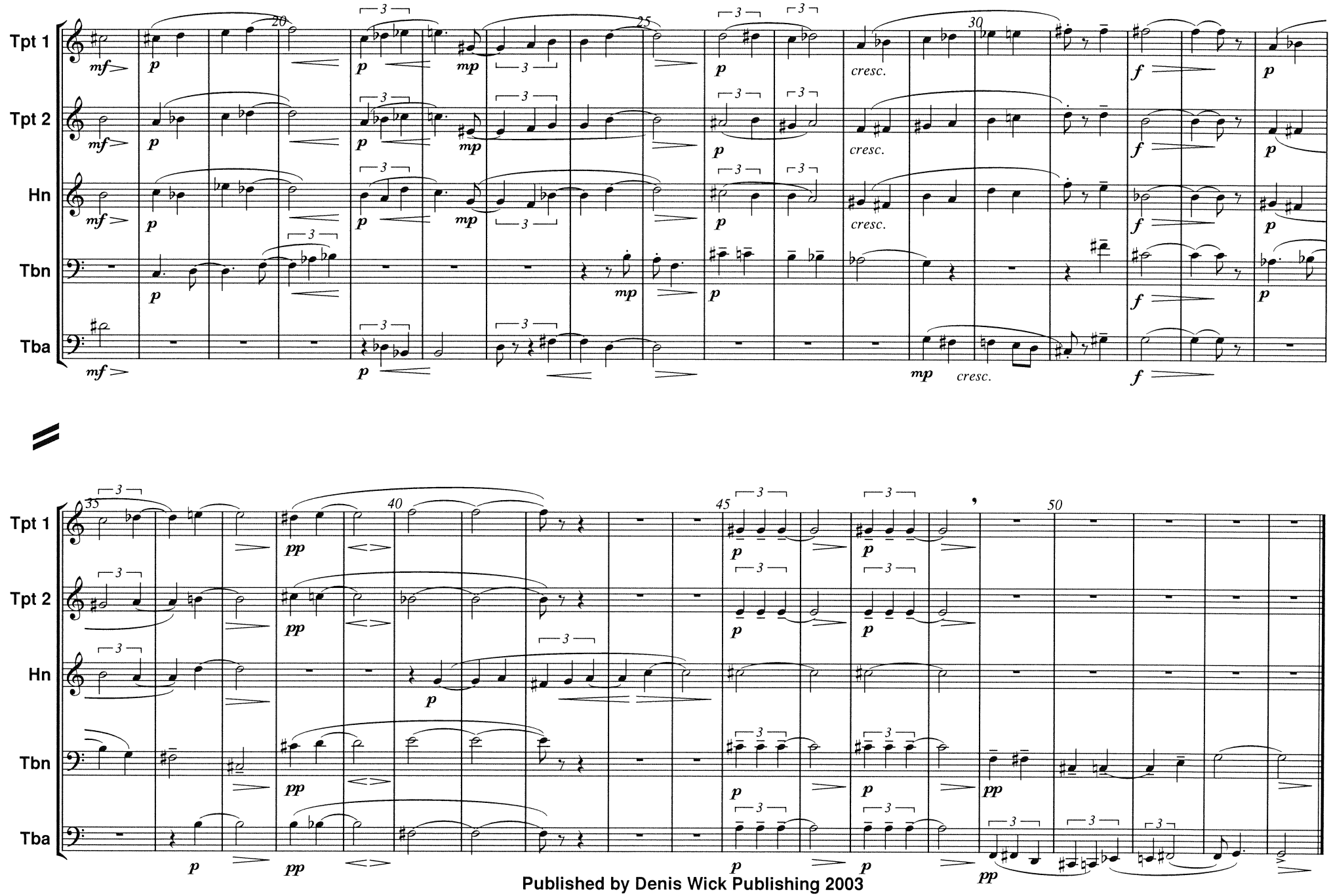

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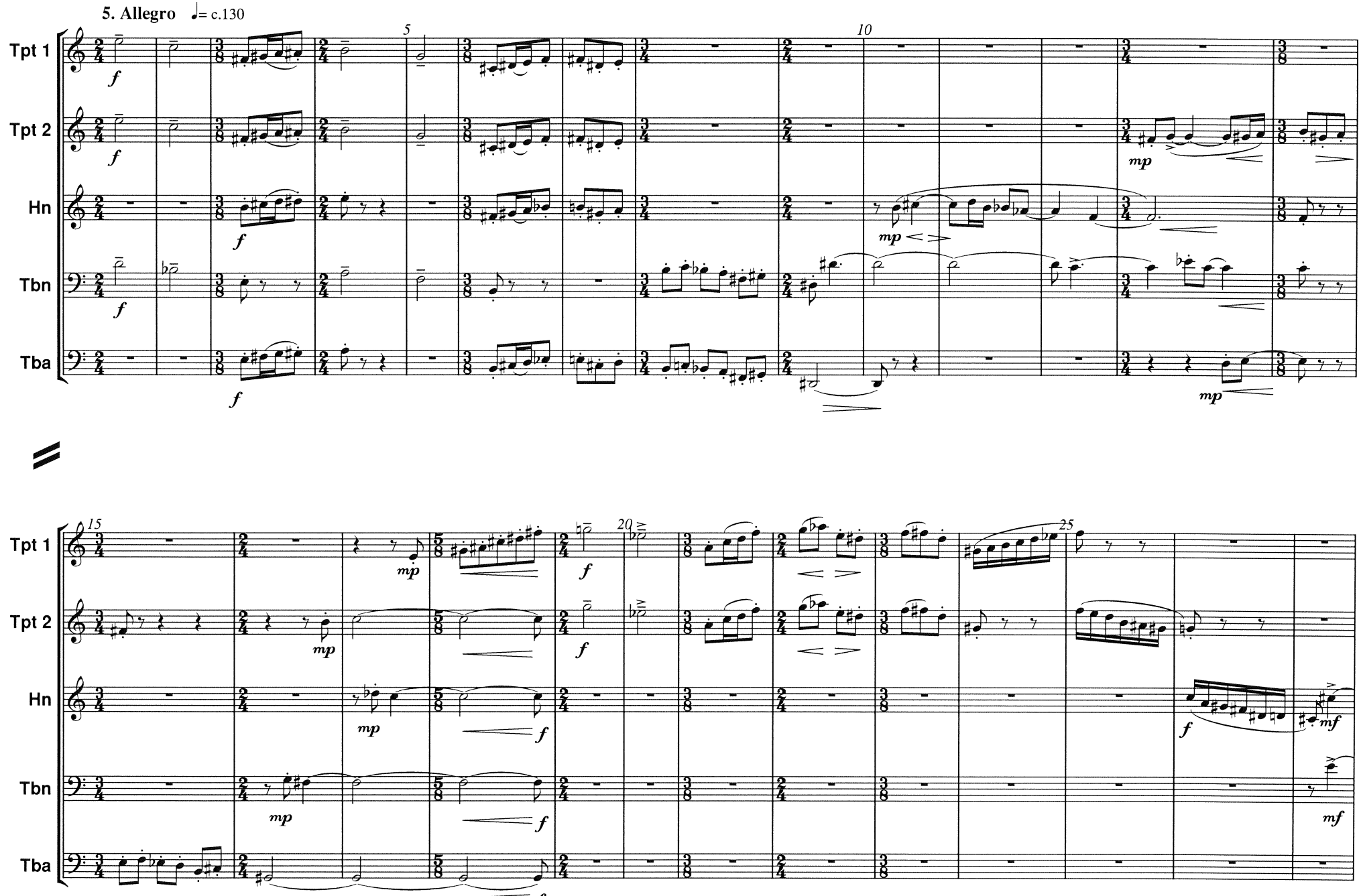

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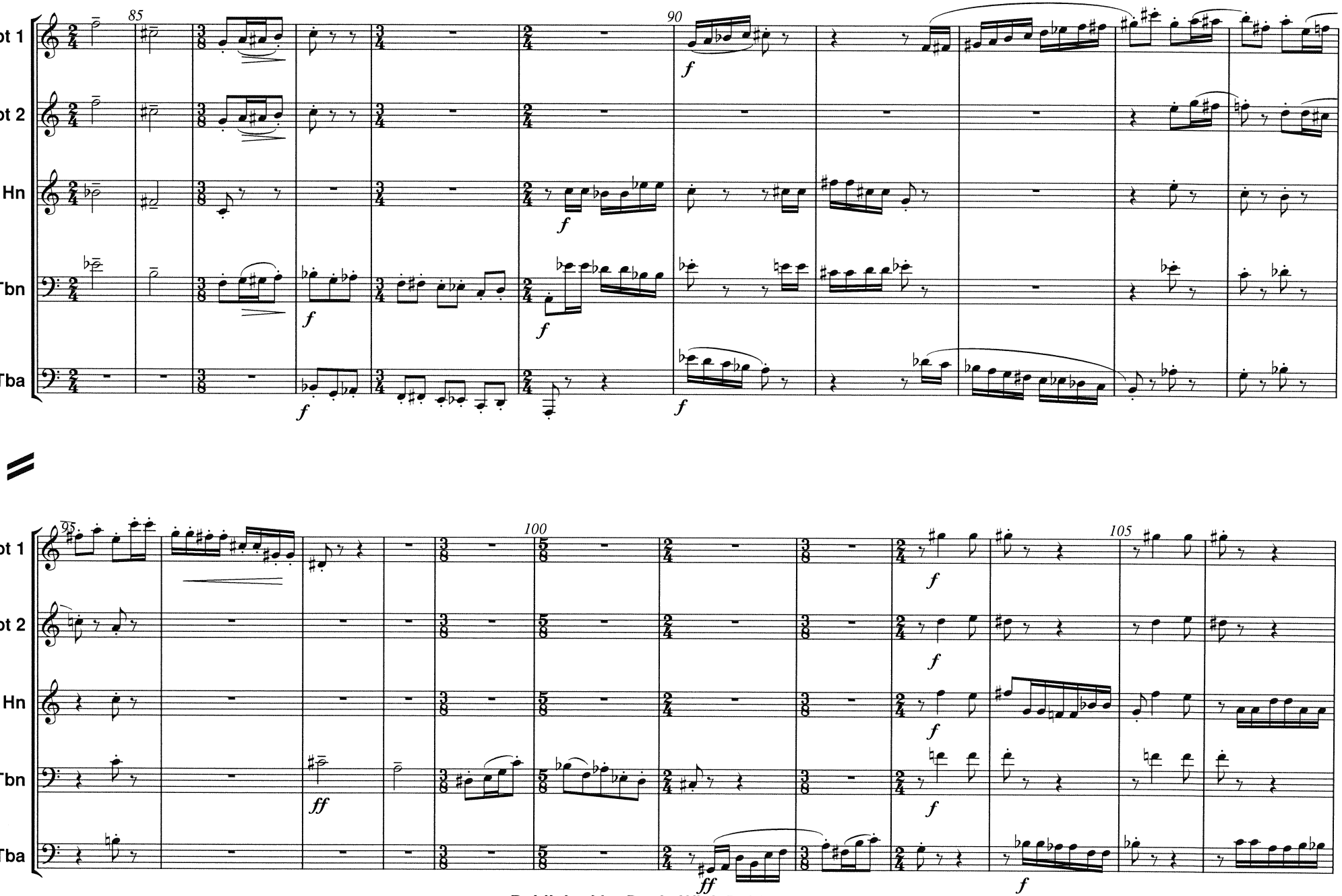

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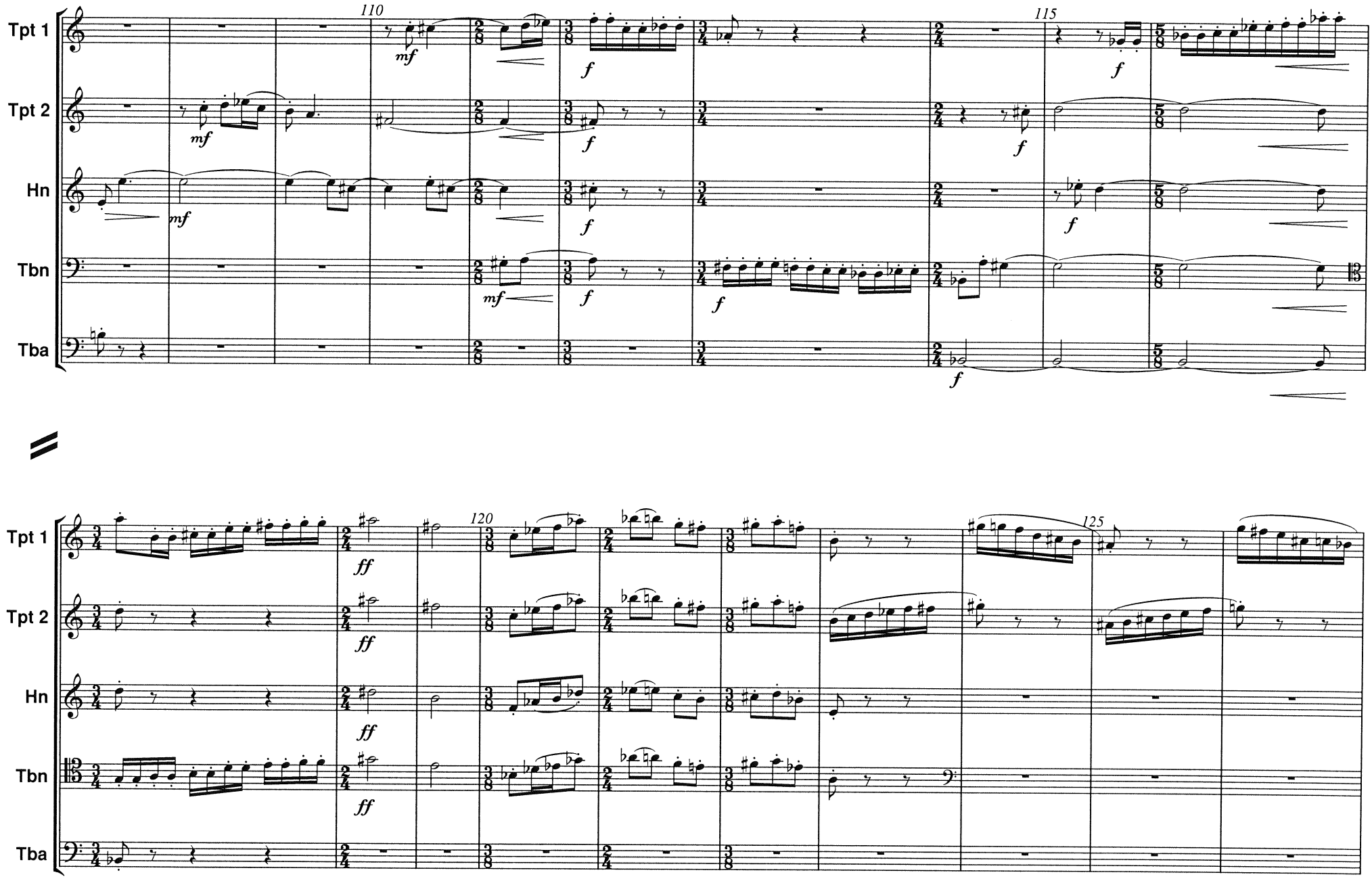

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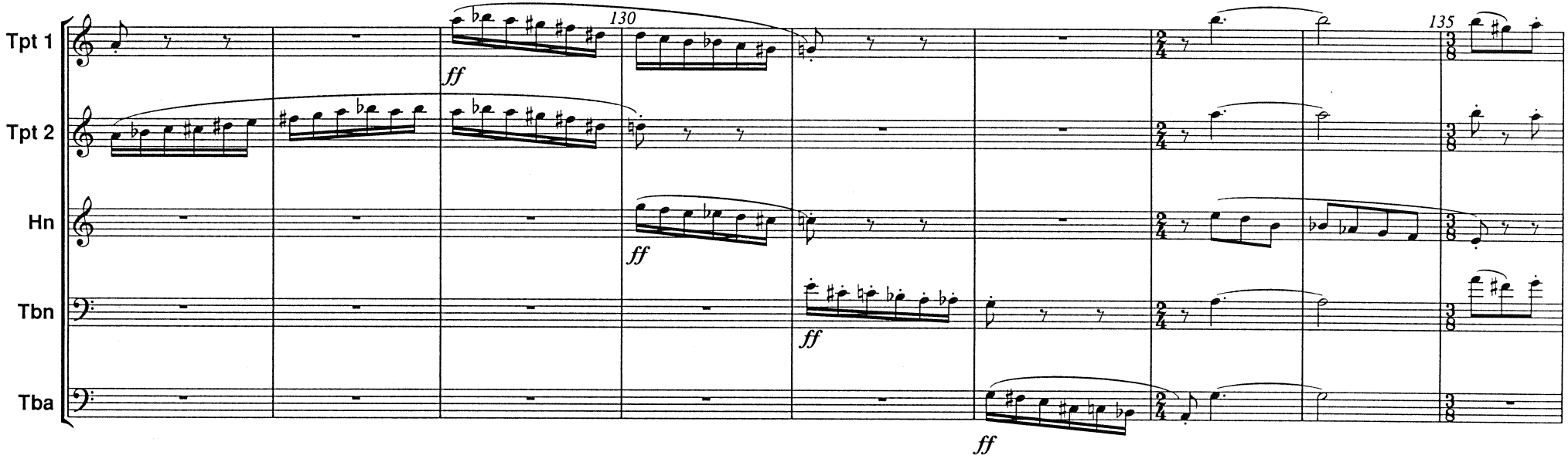

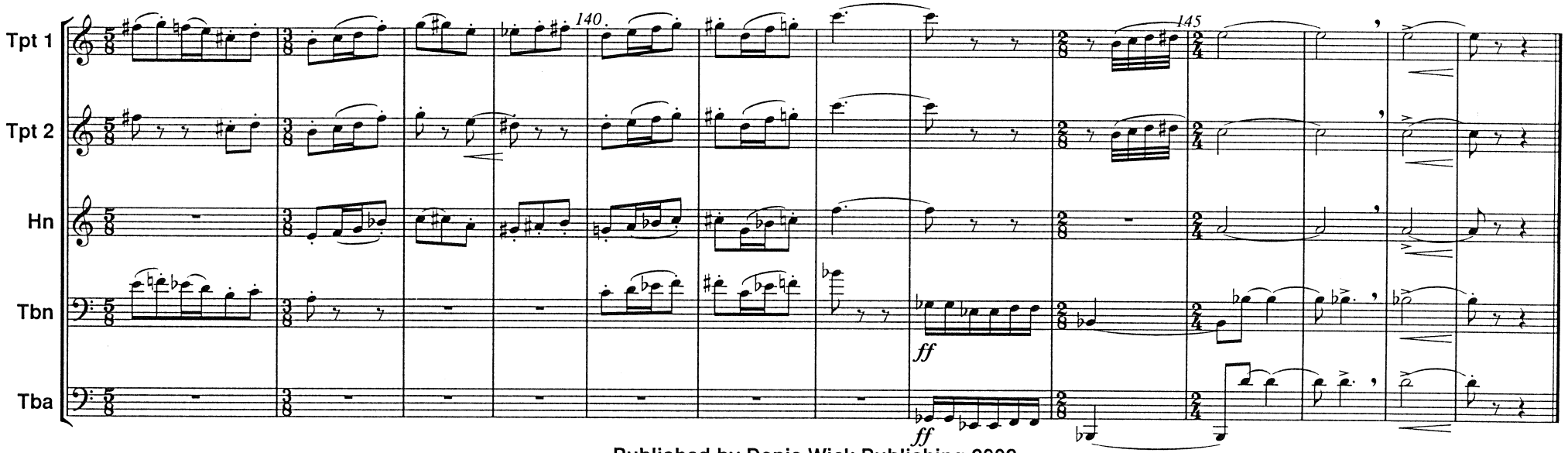

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