Lord Thomas and Fair Annie

(1977-8)

for alto flute, clarinet, viola (or violin), harpsichord, and celeste

by Kyle Gann

Lord Thomas and Fair Annie (1977-8)

For several years in my youth I harbored the idea of writing an ensemble piece, perhaps even an orchestra piece, which would be the orchestration of a single melody, rippling through the ensemble; *Lord Thomas and Fair Annie*, written when I was 22, was the result of the urge (along with, in a different way, *Siren* for flute quintet of the same year). I'm not unhappy with the piece, but it turned out so difficult to perform that I never went further with the idea. (I'm afraid I was, at the time, doing a conducting tutorial on Boulez's *Le Marteau sans maitre*, and fancied I should be allowed all of the same metric intricacies Boulez used, despite my more tonal idiom.) The idea of making up a long melody from recurring modules, however, was an idea I'd return to in my *Snake Dances* and other works. "Lord Thomas and Fair Annie" was the name of a Scots ballad I enjoyed listening to at the time, and which I found related to the romantic turn of some of the melodic fragments.

In September of 2009 I simplified the metric notation at many points. Tuneful yet abstract, the piece is, perhaps, a portrait of a young composer poised between minimalism on one hand and *Le marteau*, *Quartet for the End of Time*, and *Zeitmasze* on the other - a symptomatic artifact of the 1970s.

Kyle Gann

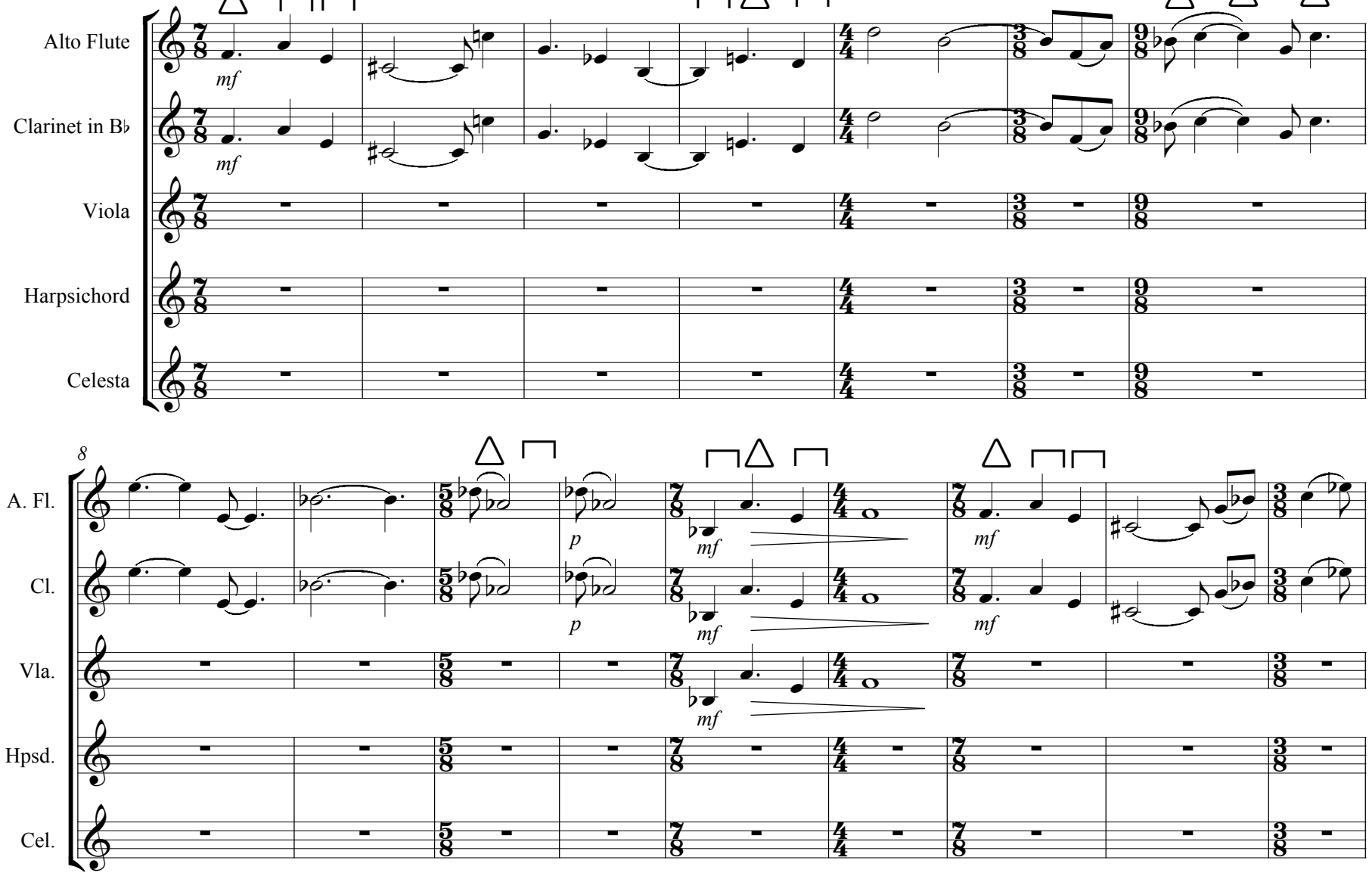
Duration: 8 minutes

Lord Thomas and Fair Annie

Light, quick, and lithe, like a butterfly

Kyle Gann
1978

♩ = 160 - 176



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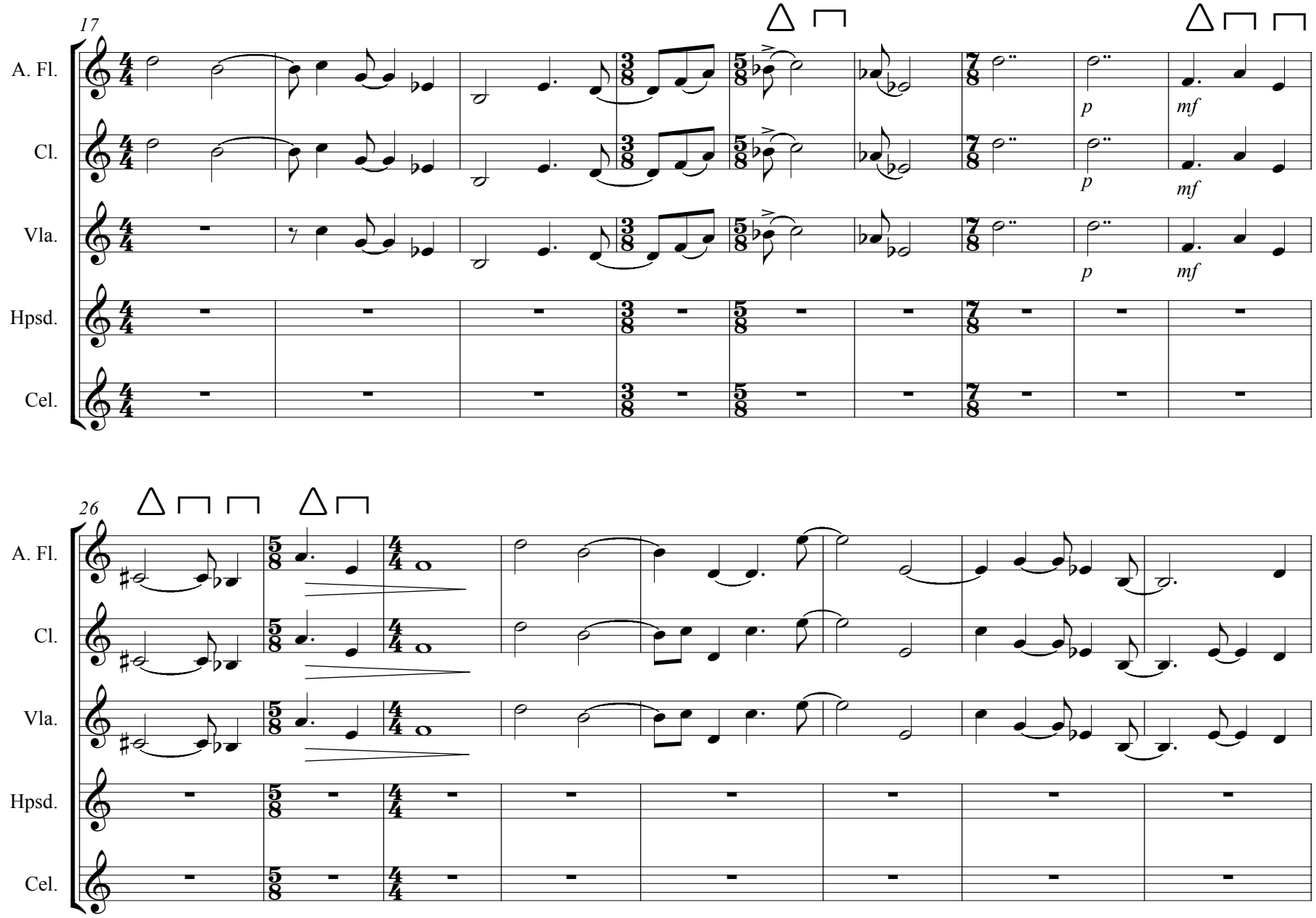
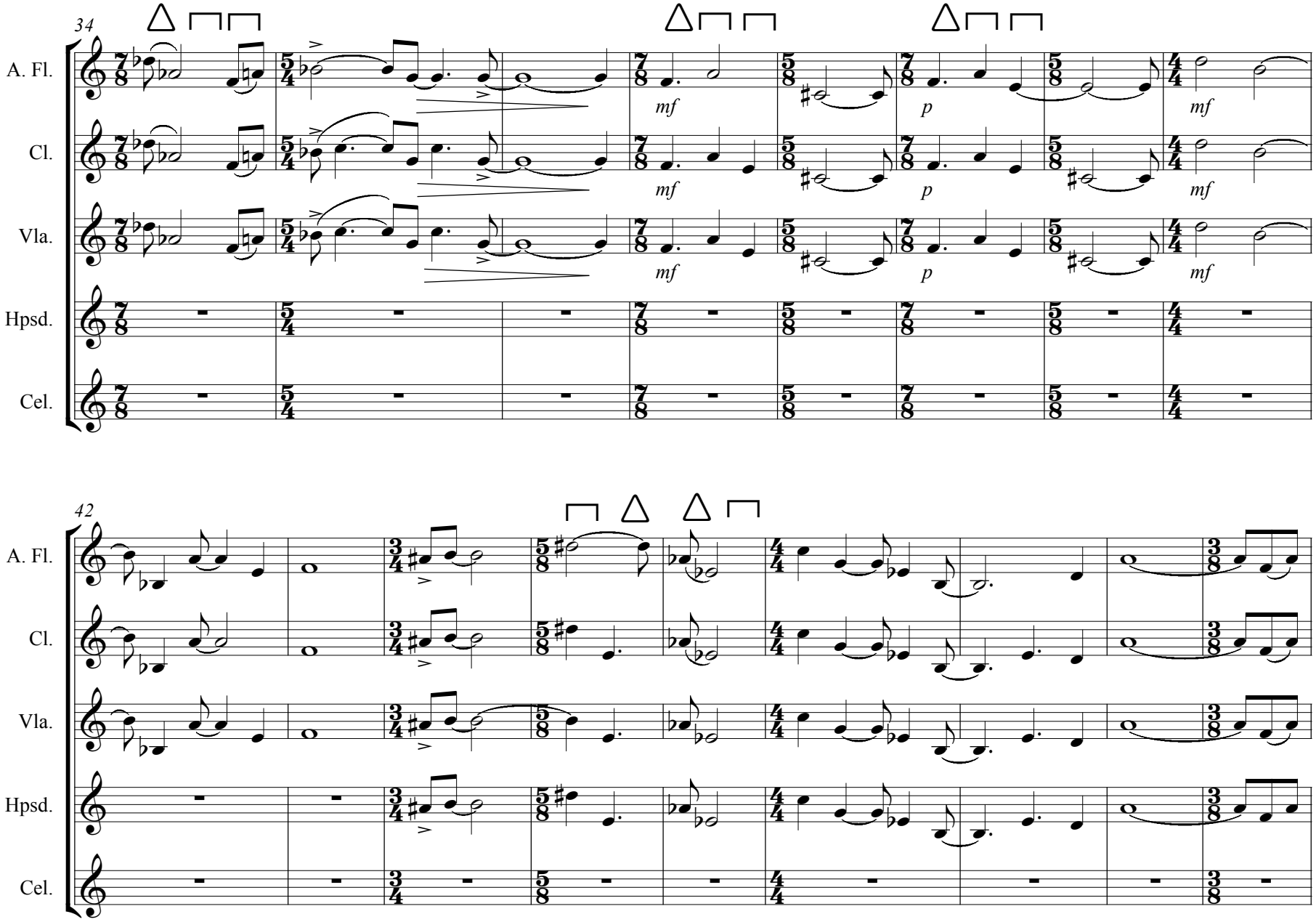

17
A. Fl.
Cl.
Vla.
Hpsd.
Cel.
p
mf
26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A. Fl.
Cl.
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Cel.
mf
p
mf
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A. Fl.
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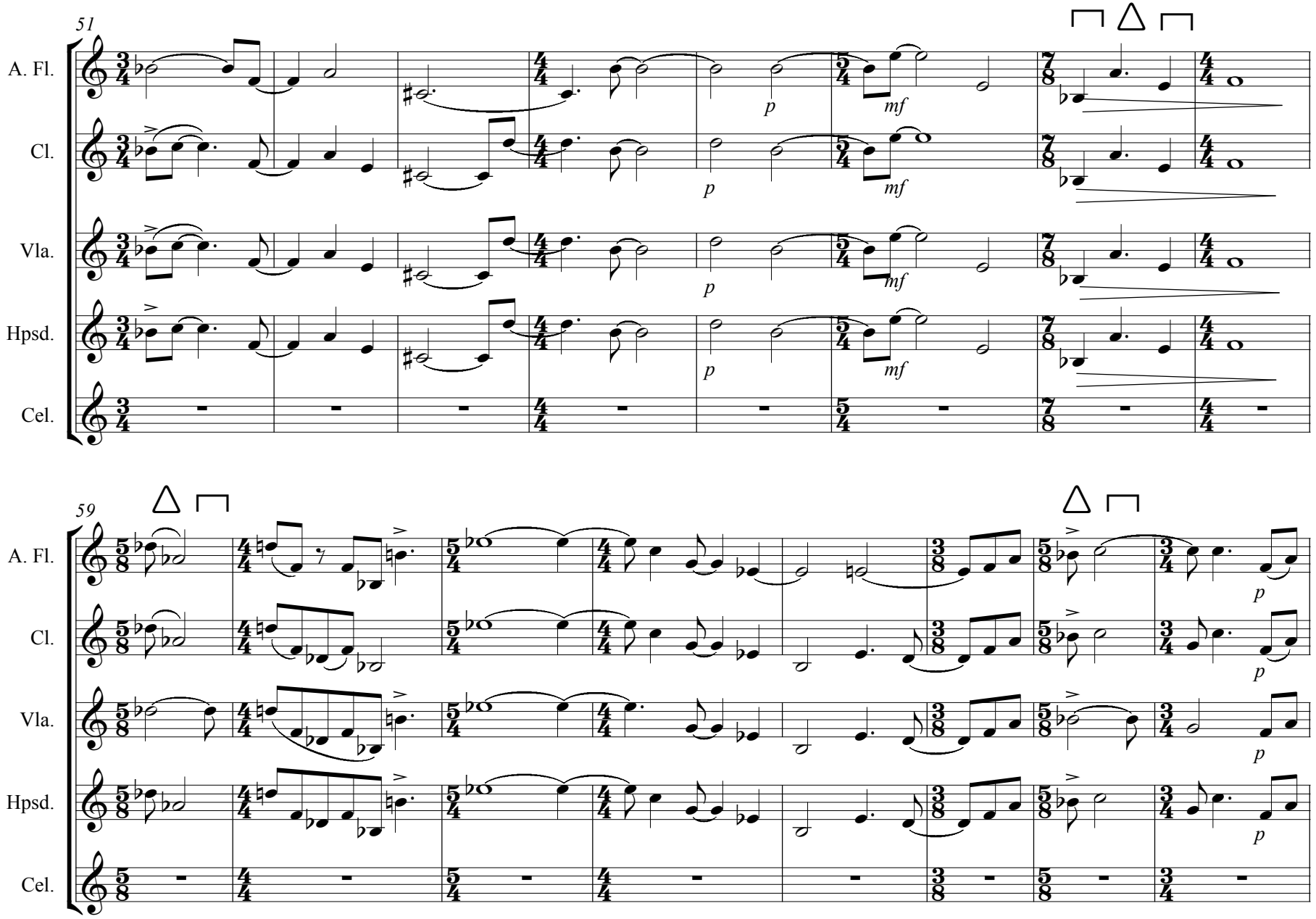
Hpsd.
Cel.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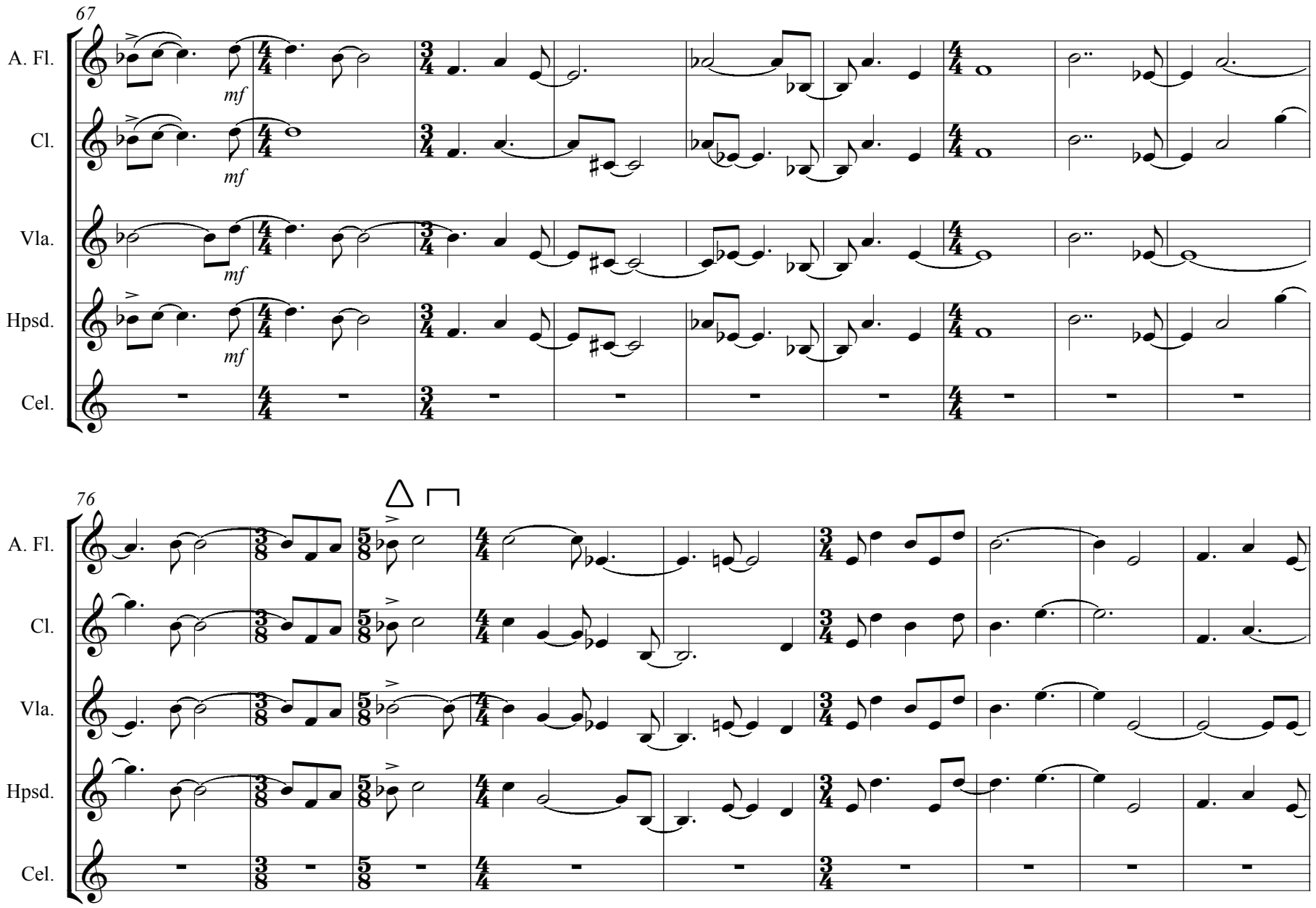
Cl.
Vla.
Hpsd.
Cel.
p
mf
59
p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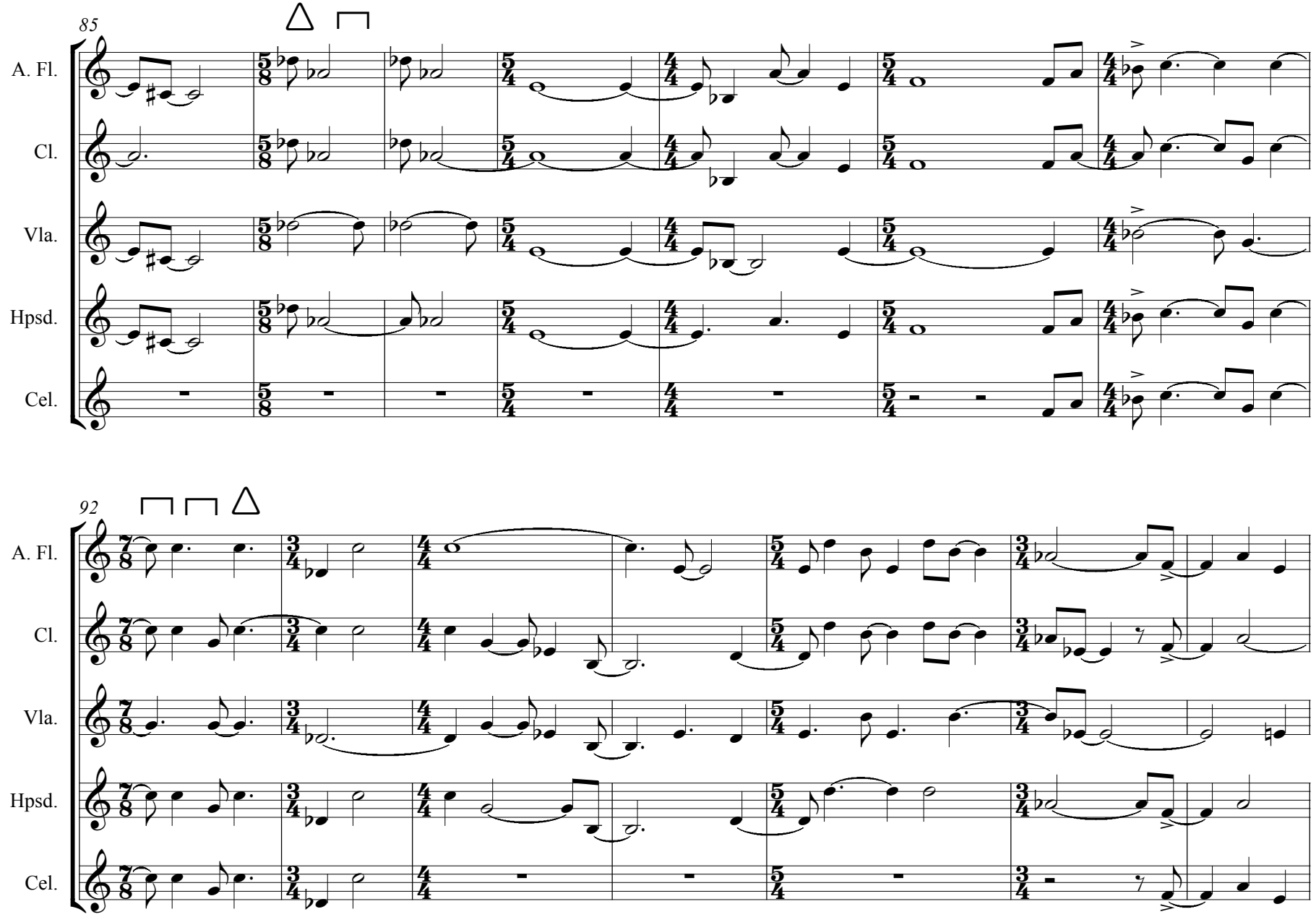
A. Fl.
Cl.
Vla.
Hpsd.
Cel.
mf
76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Hpsd.
Cel.
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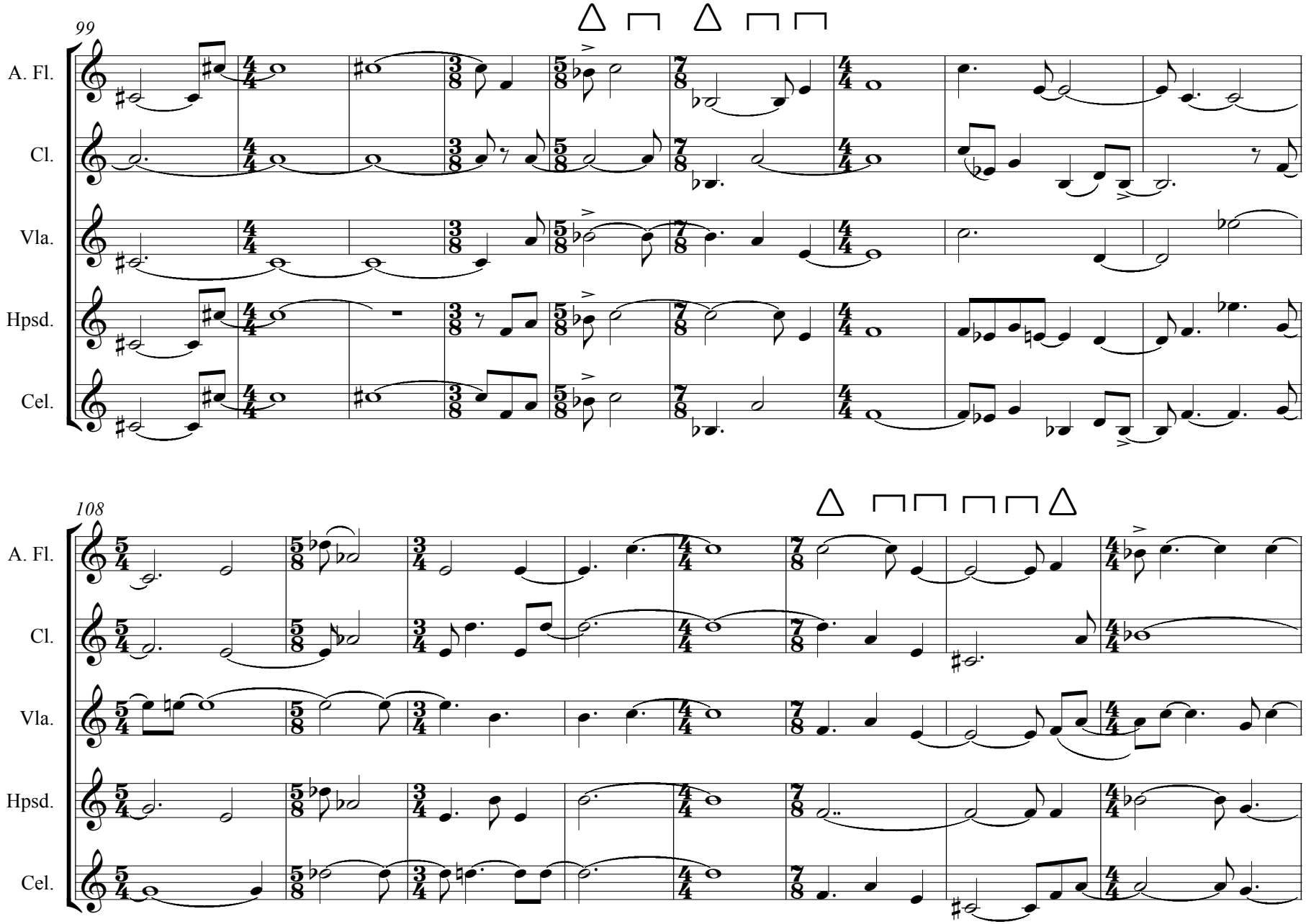
A. Fl.
Cl.
Vla.
Hpsd.
Cel.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Cel.
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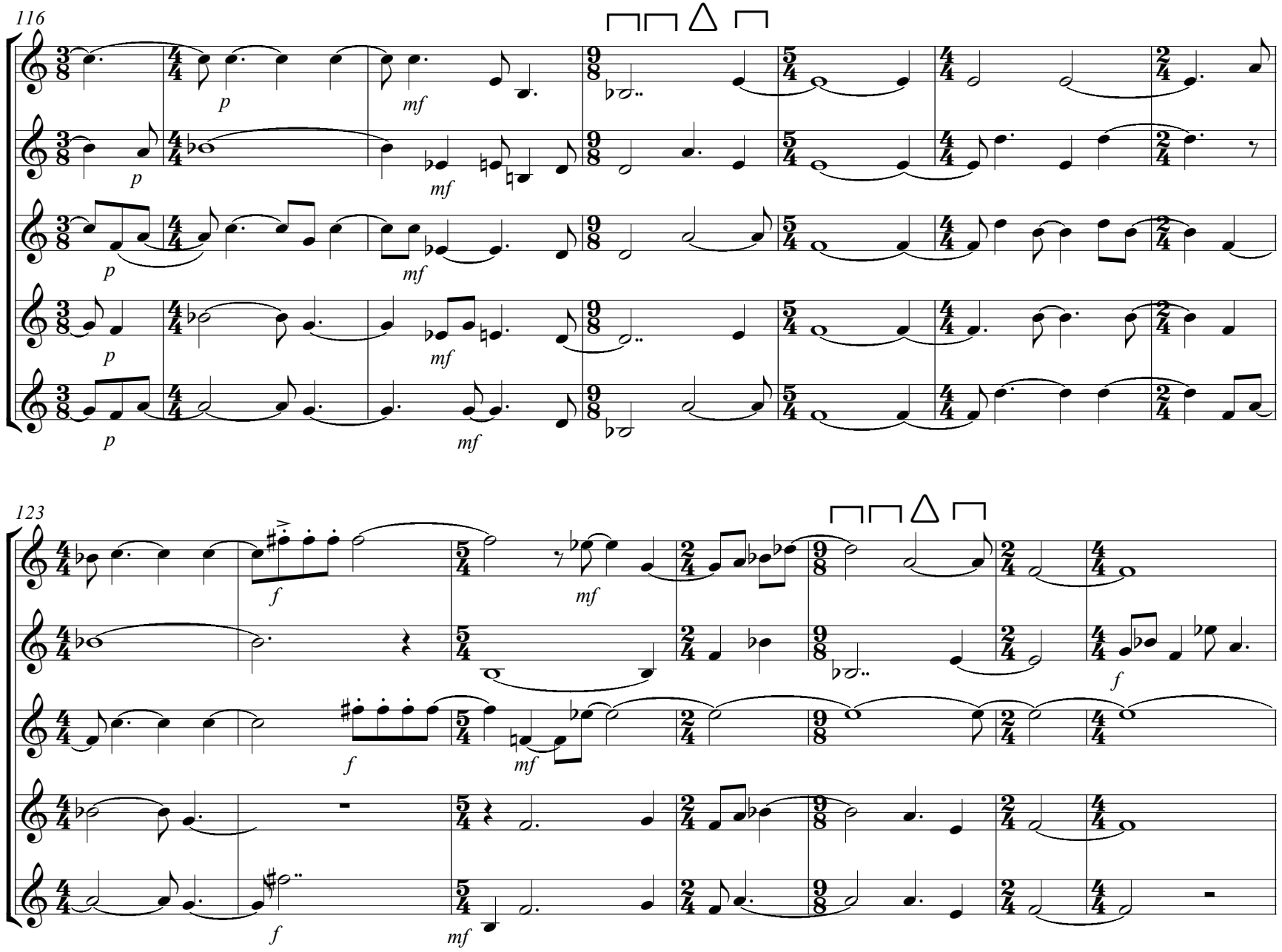
A. Fl.
Cl.
Vla.
Hpsd.
Cel.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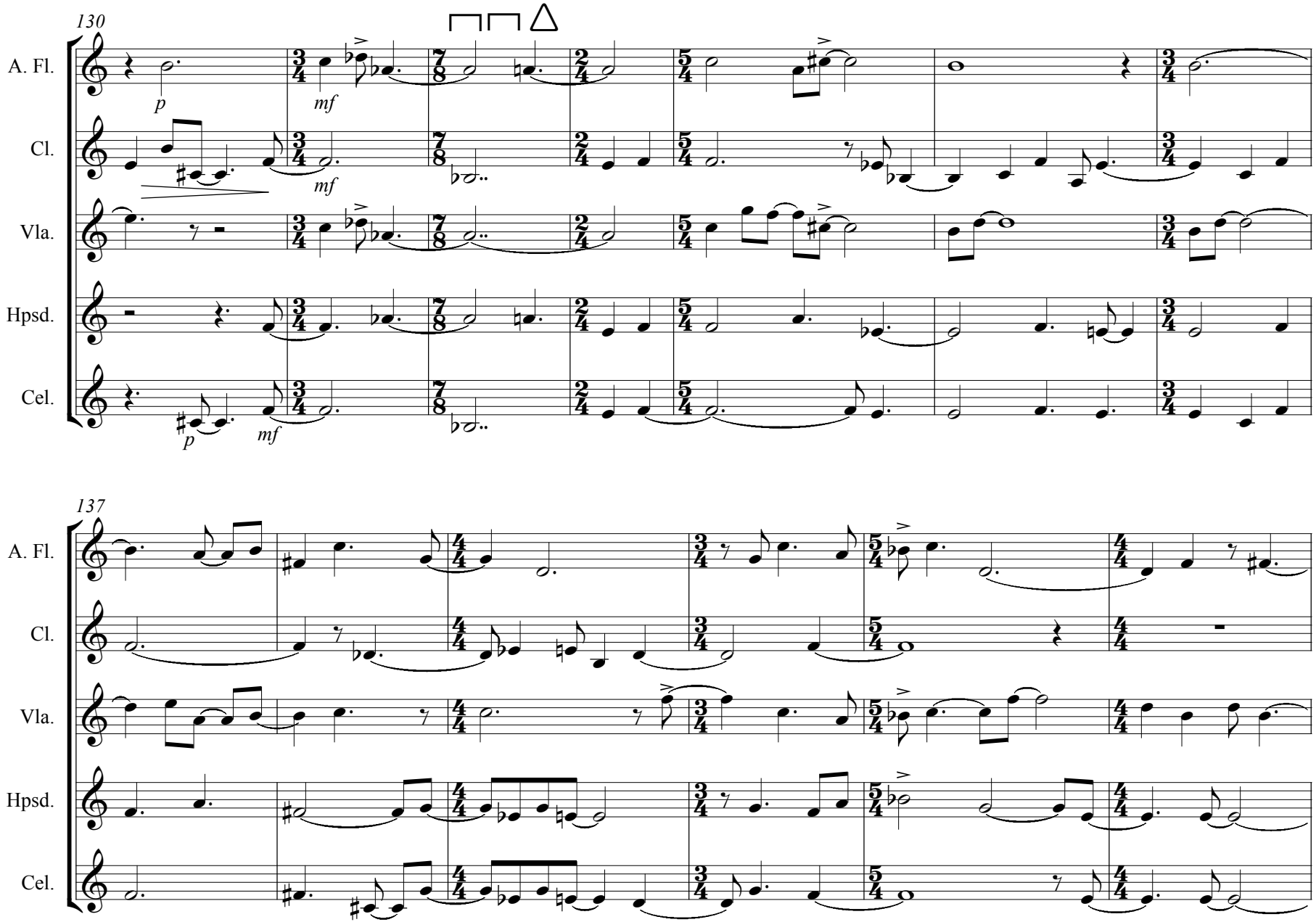
A. Fl.
Cl.
Vla.
Hpsd.
Cel.
p
mf
123
f
mf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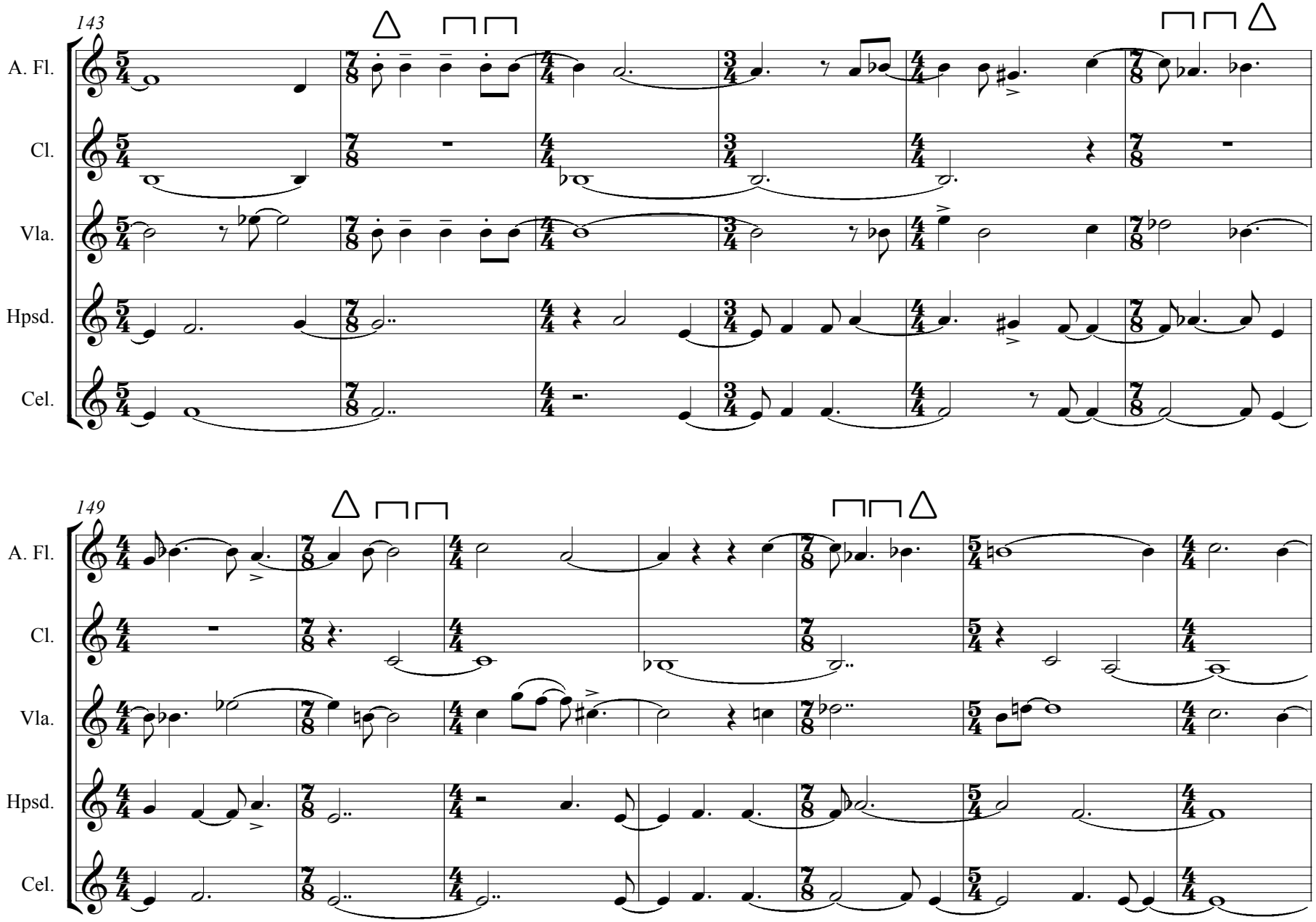
Hpsd.
Cel.
p
mf
137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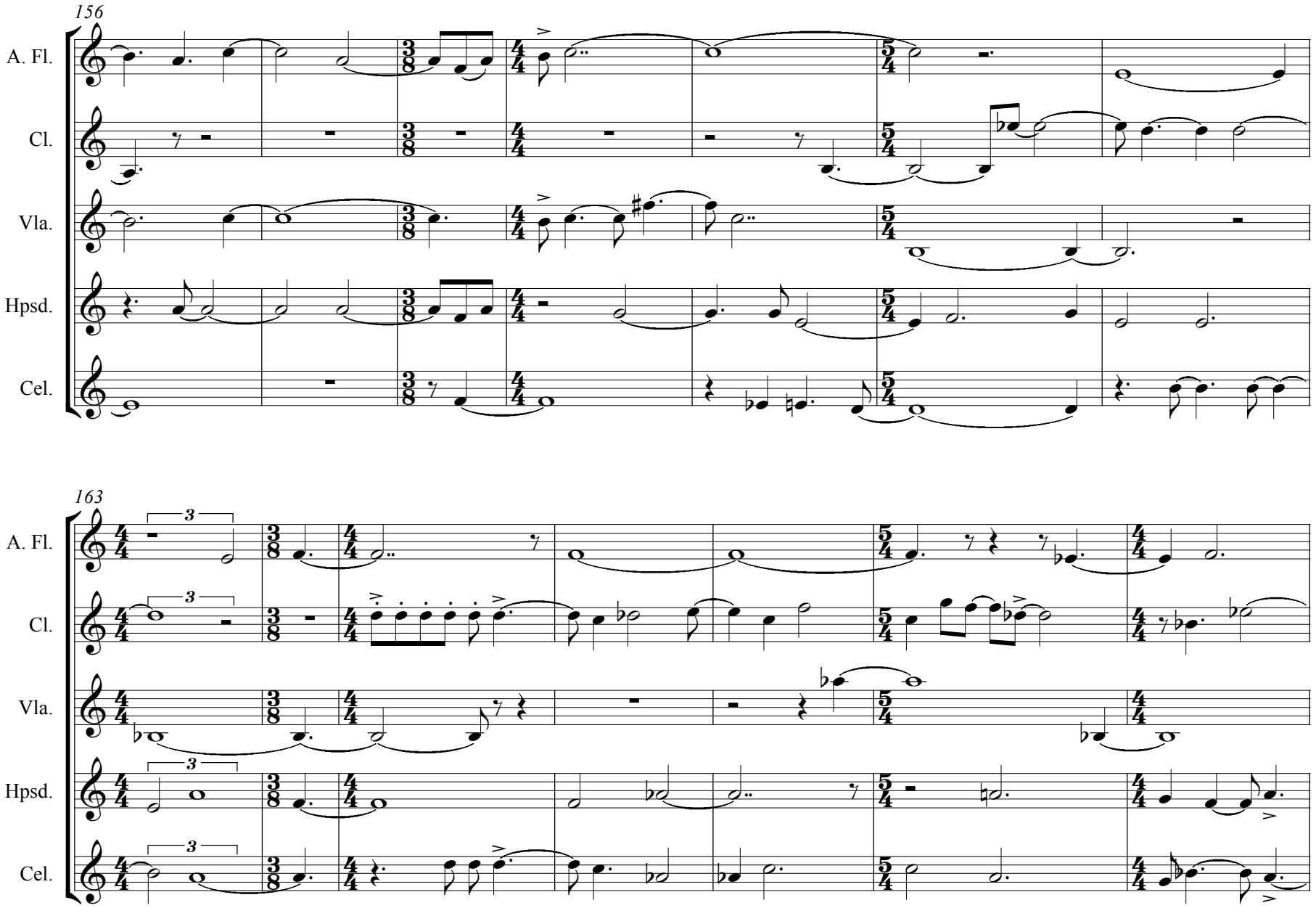
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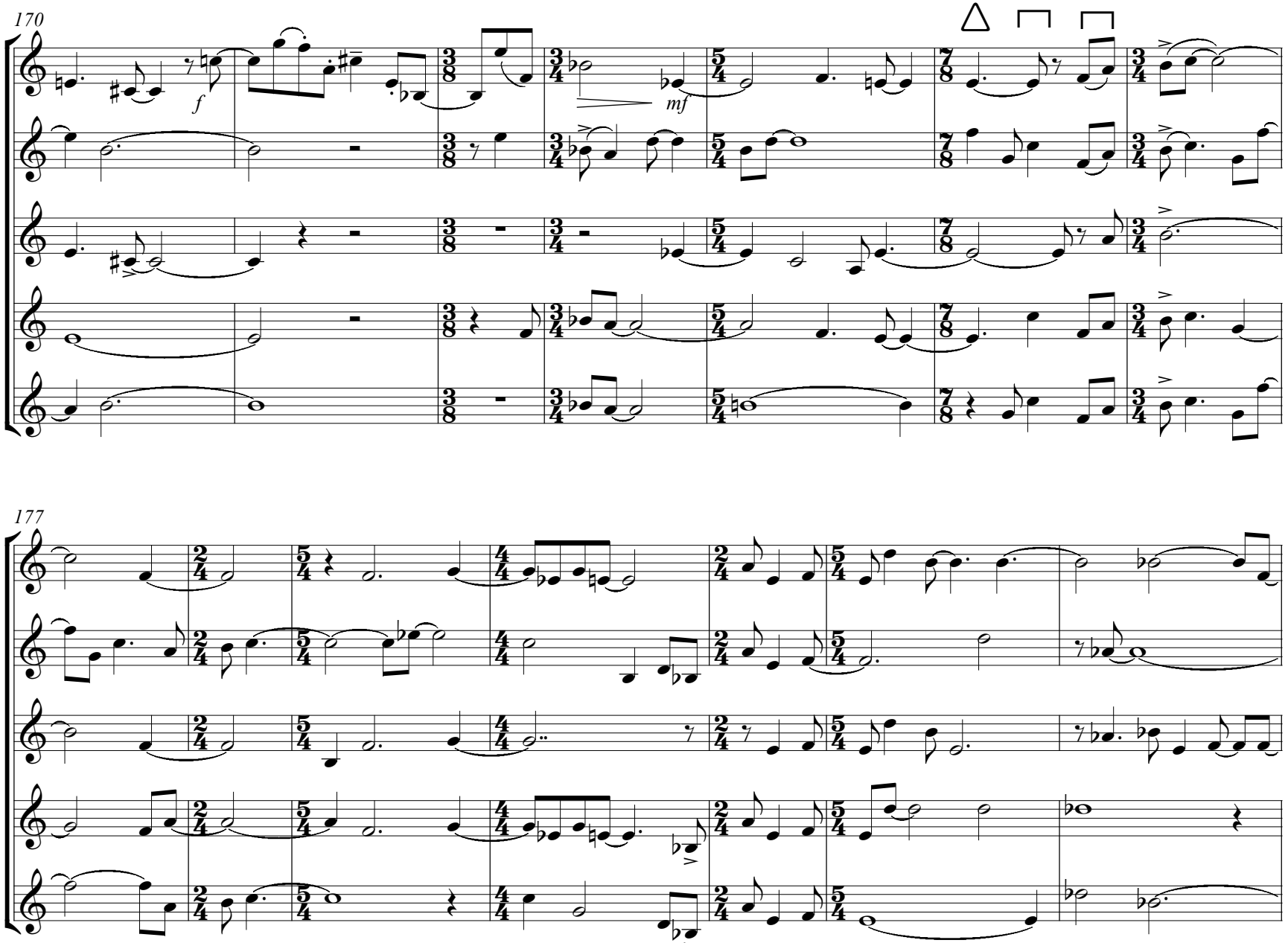
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Cel.
f
mf
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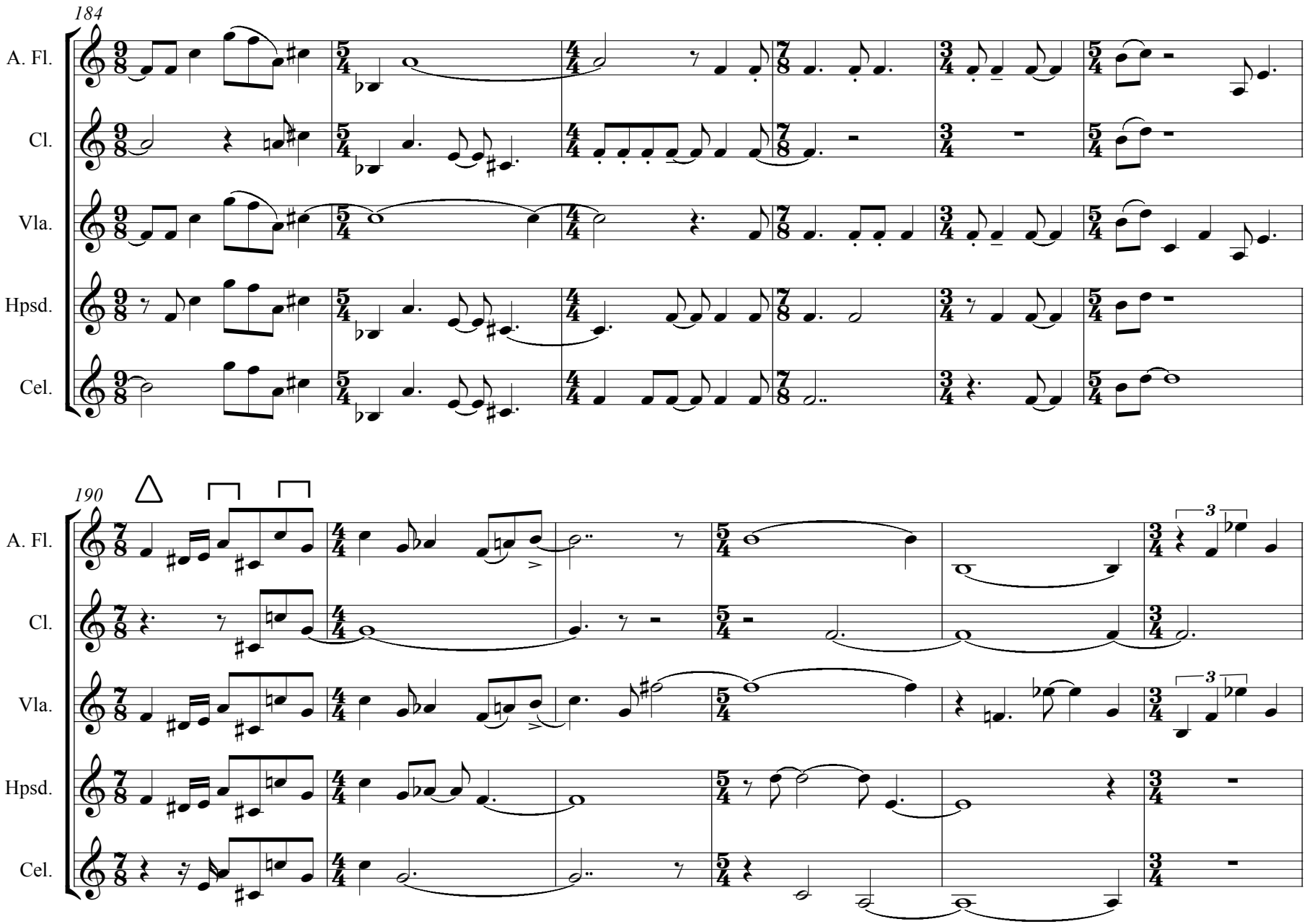
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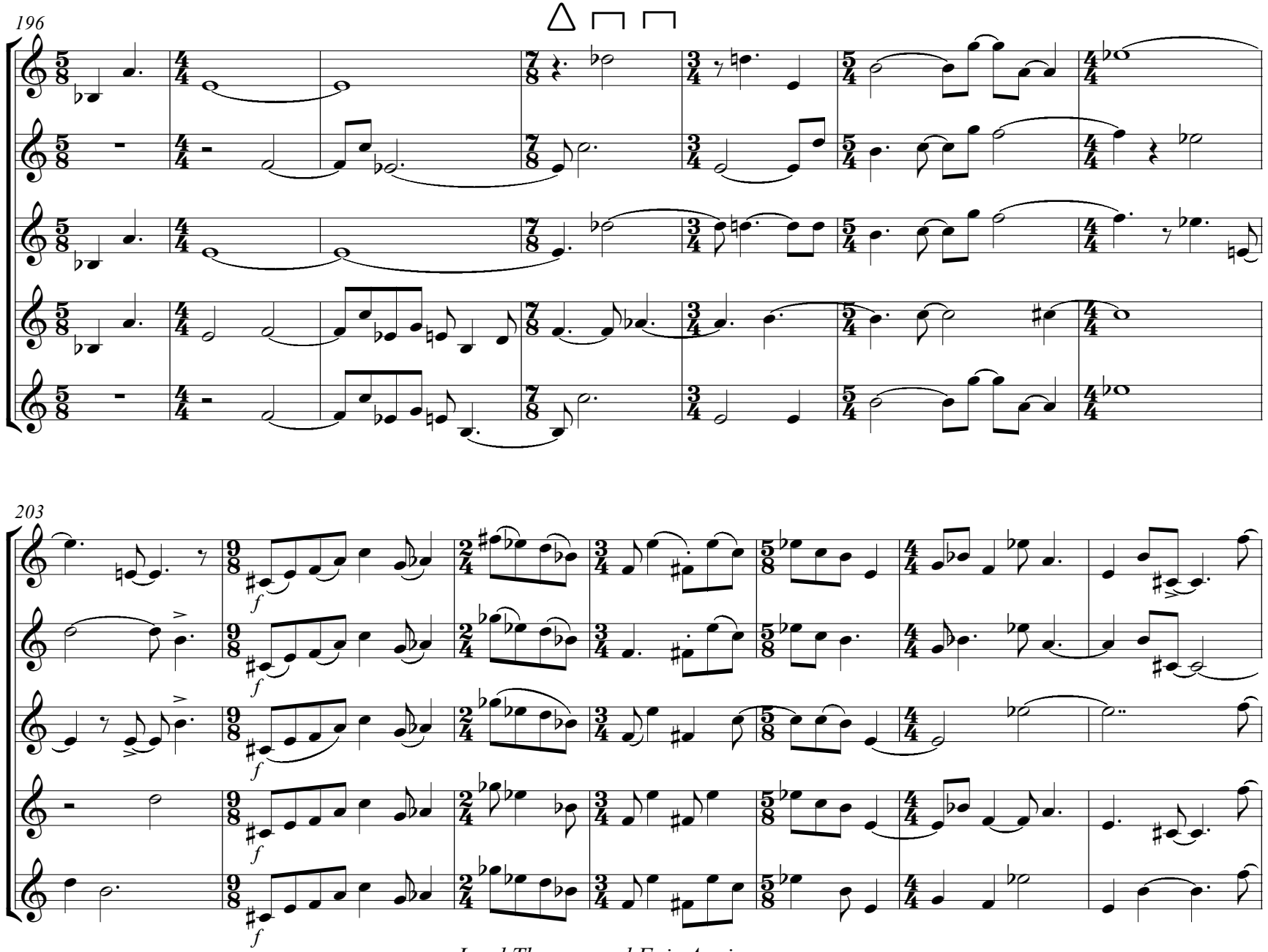
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Cel.
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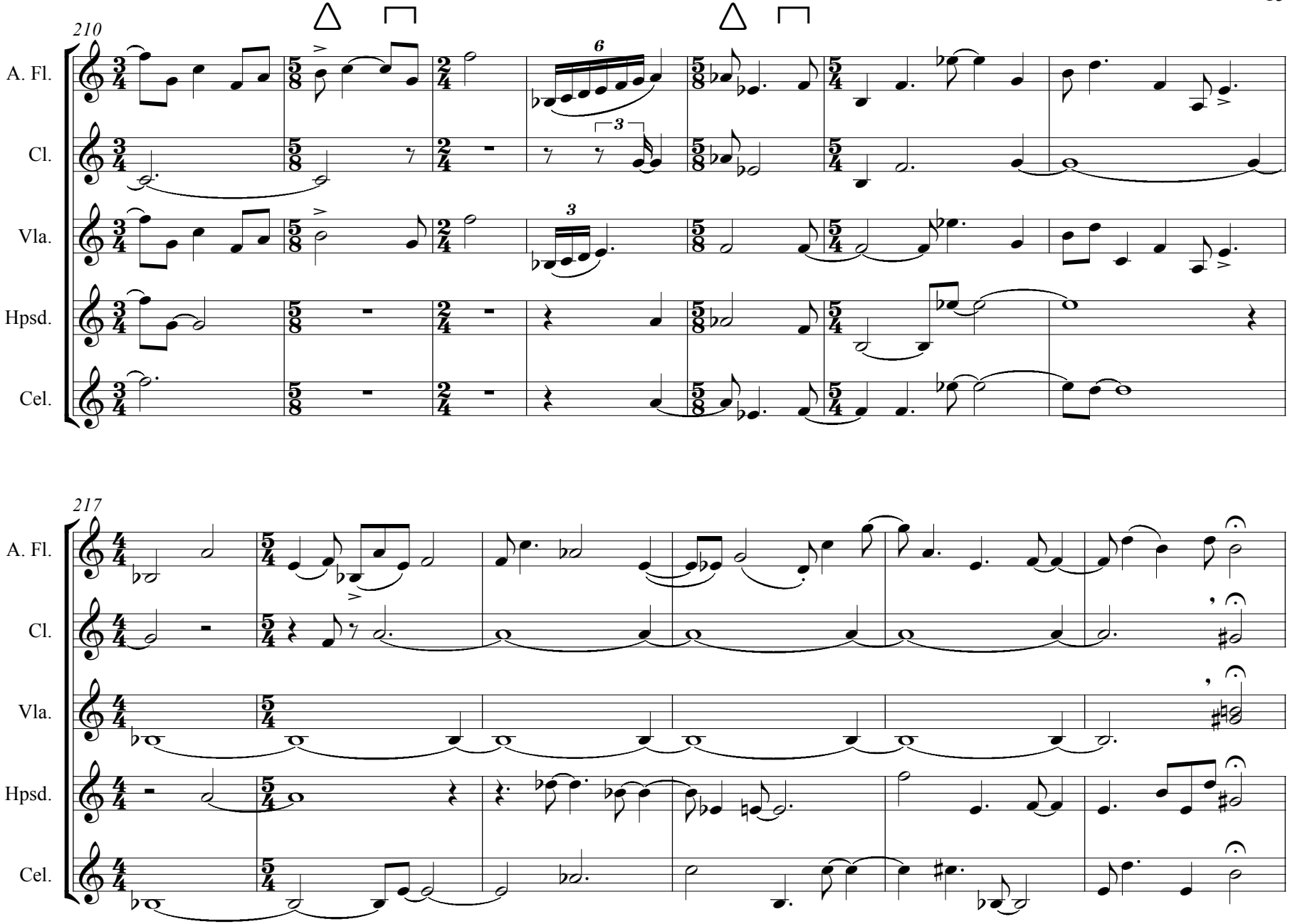
Cl.
Vla.
Hpsd.
Cel.
f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A. Fl.
Cl.
Vla.
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Cel.
6
3
3
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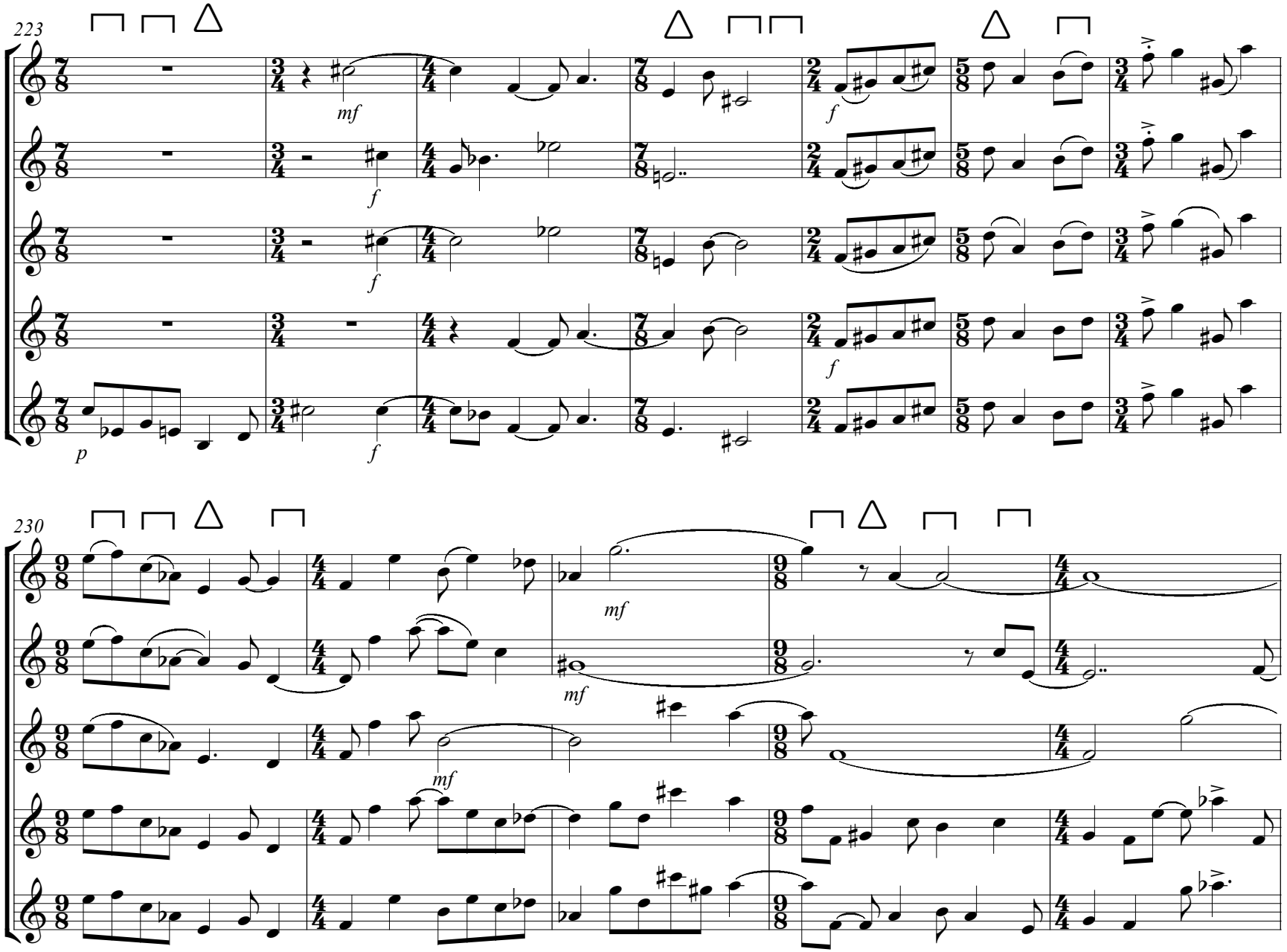
Cel.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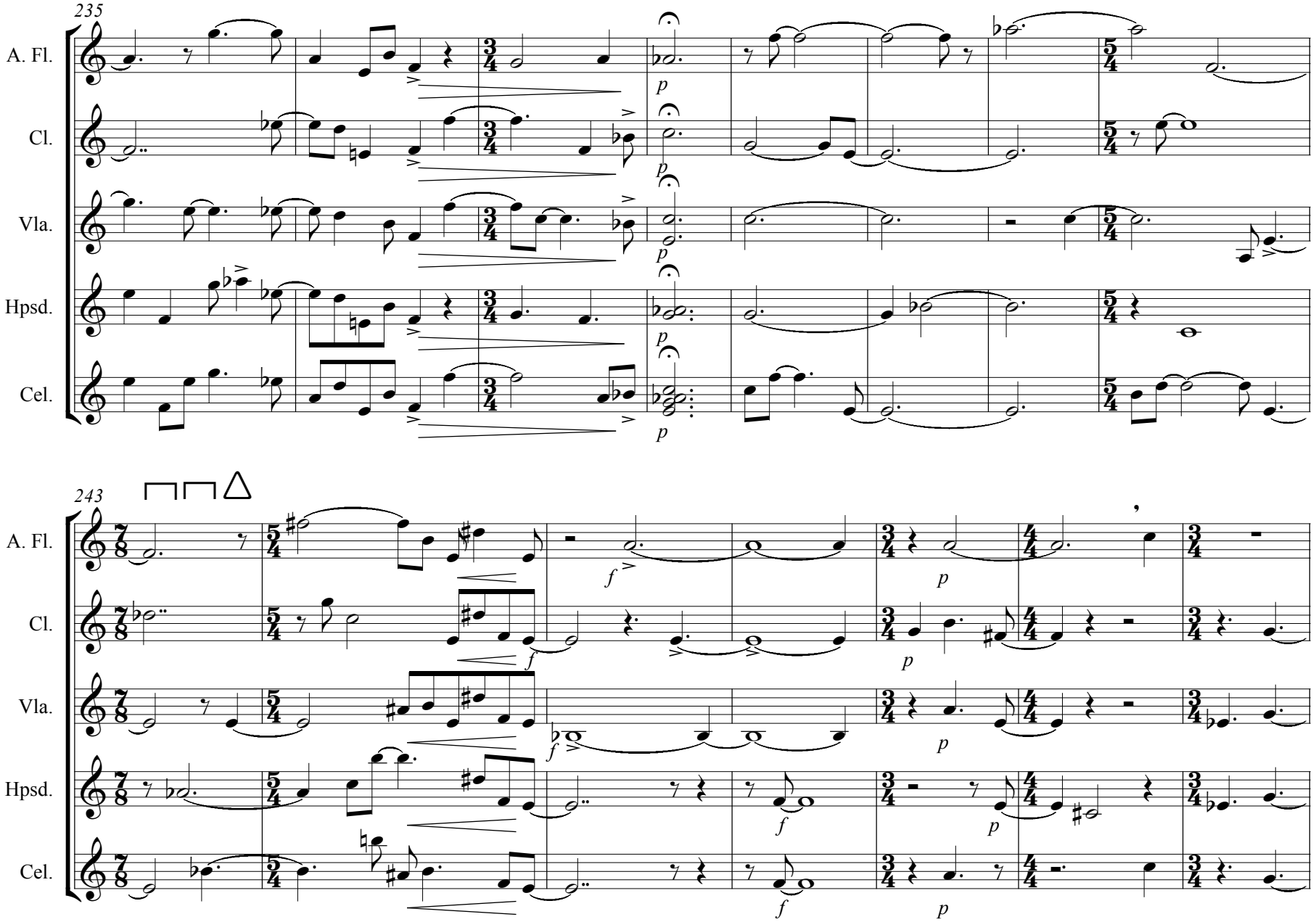
Cl.
Vla.
Hpsd.
Cel.
mf
f
p
230
mf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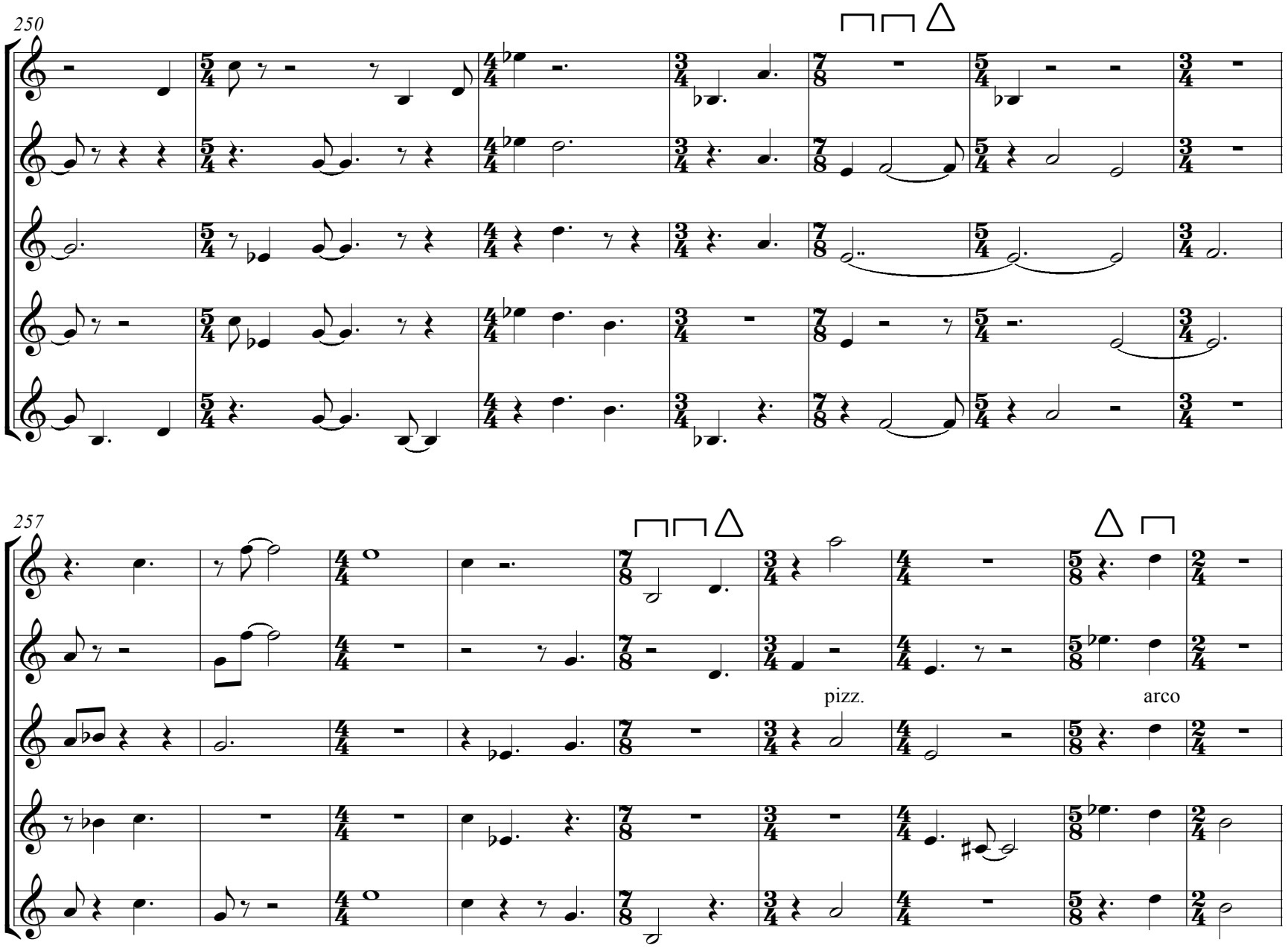
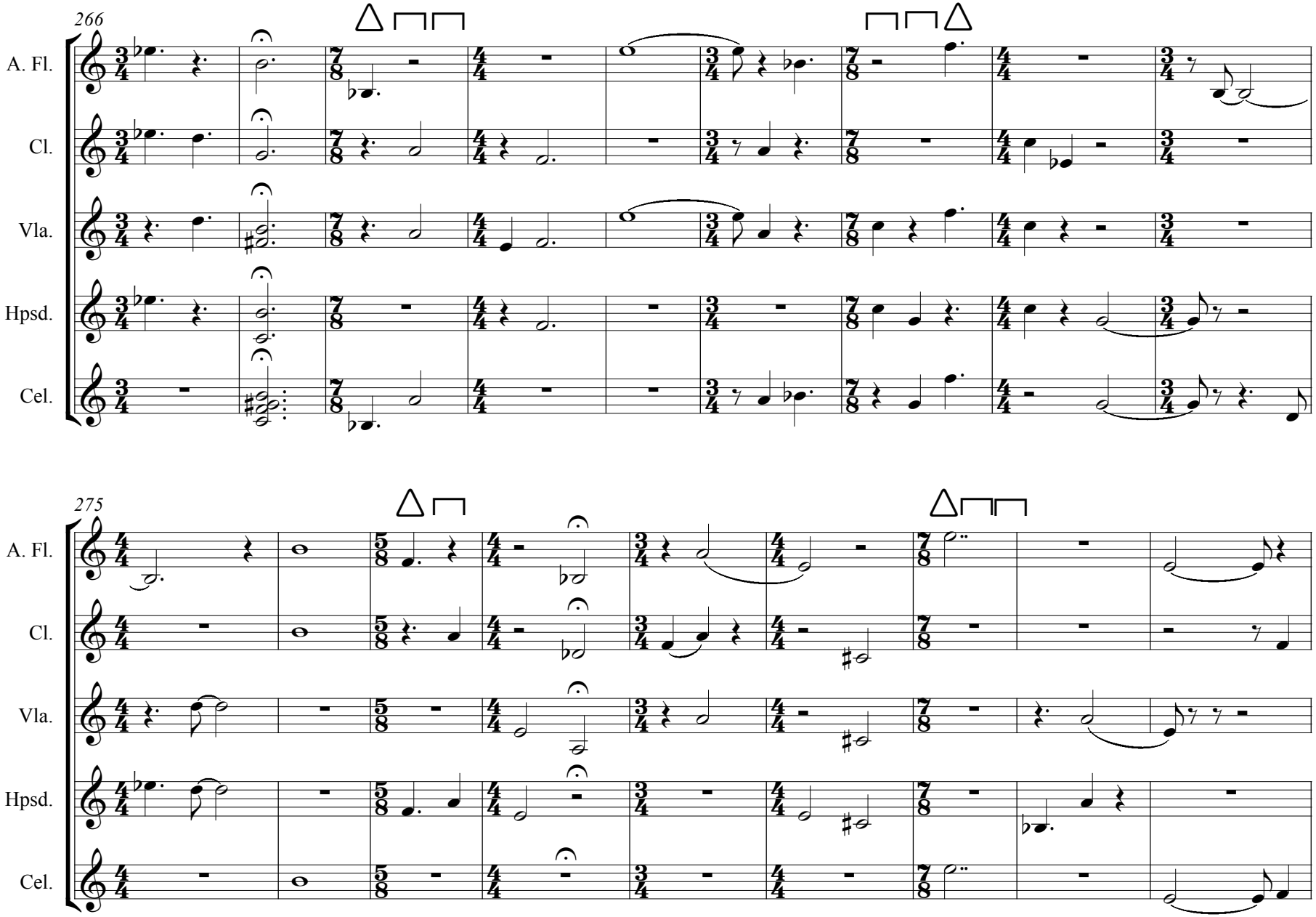
Cl.
Vla.
Hpsd.
Cel.
p
243
f
p


250
A. Fl.
Cl.
Vla.
Hpsd.
Cel.
257
A. Fl.
Cl.
Vla.
Hpsd.
Cel.
pizz.
arco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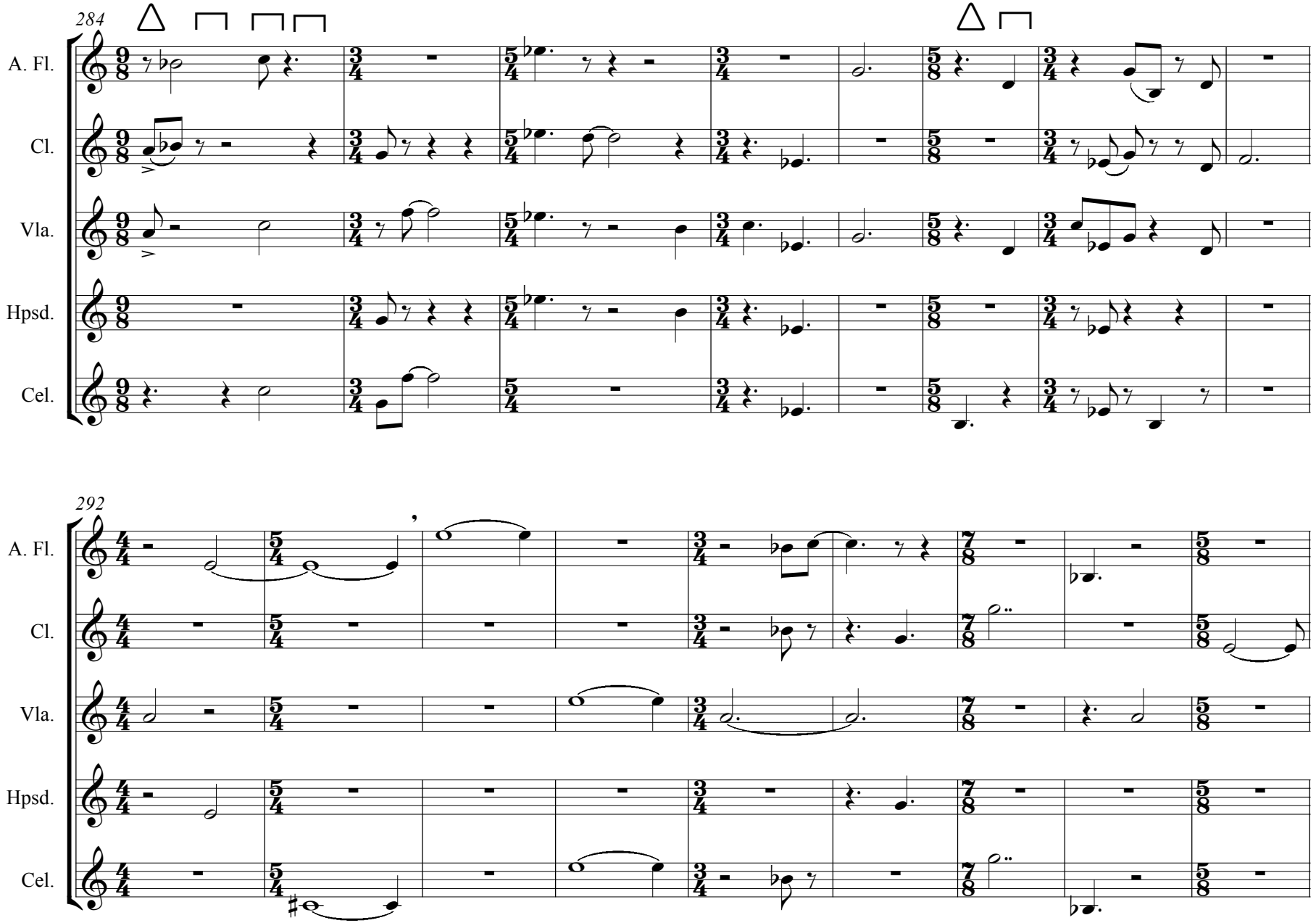
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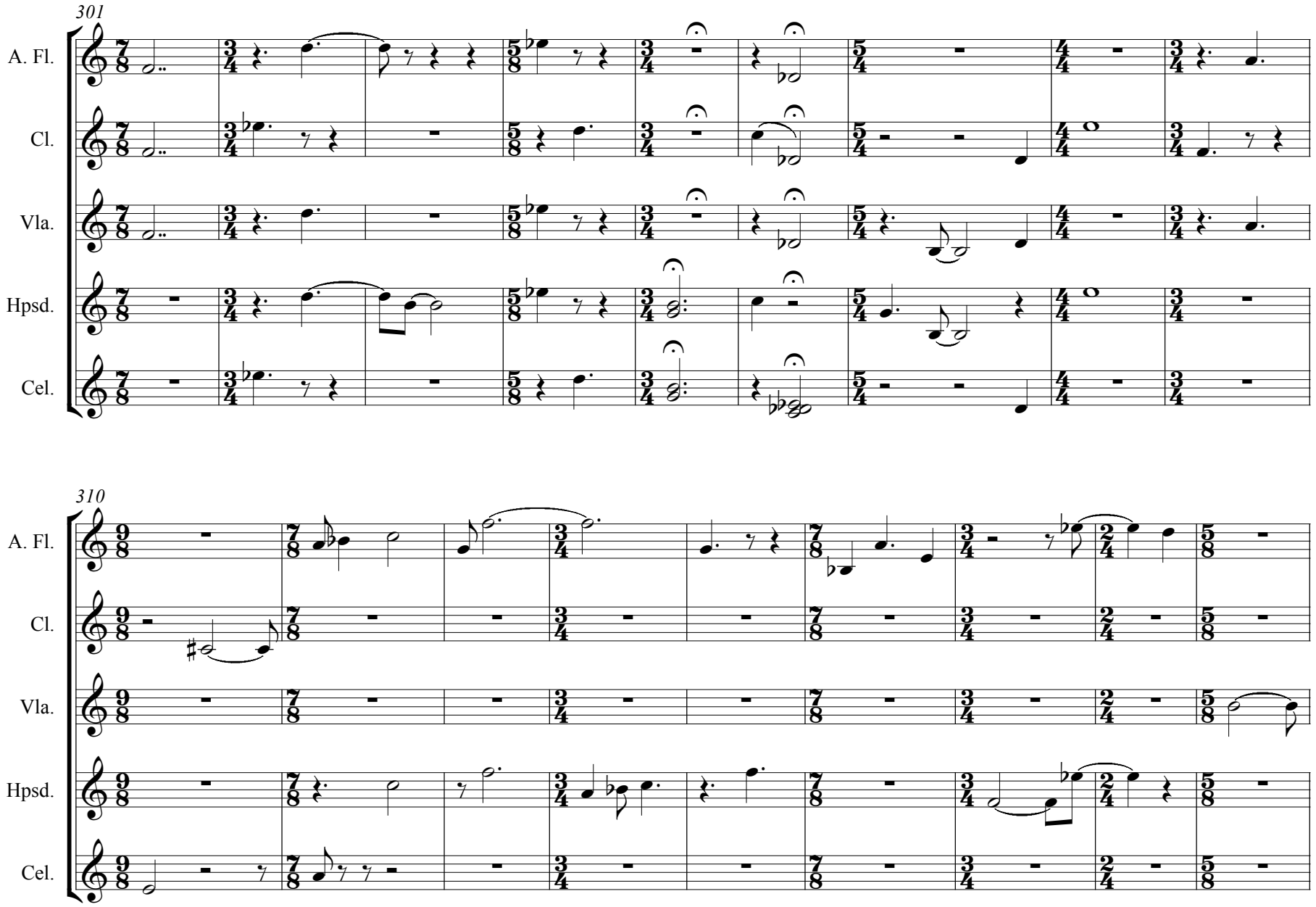
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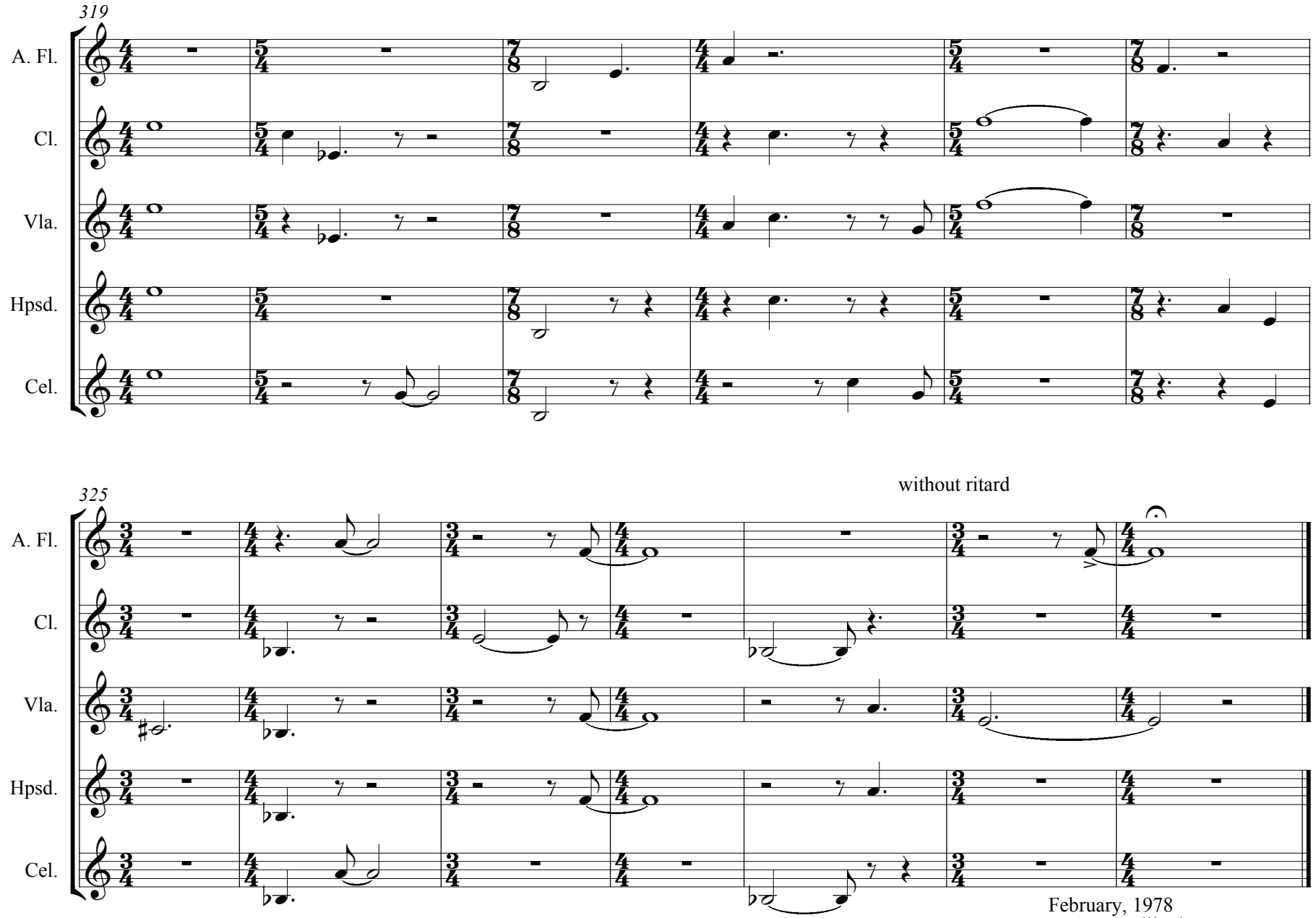

Lord Thomas and Fair Annie

February, 1978
Evanston, Illinois