Piece for Luca

for flute octet

Ethan Hayden

2011

Instrumentation:

- Eight C flutes

LUCA stands for "Last Universal Common Ancestor" and refers to the most recent organism from which all living organisms on Earth have descended. The creature, a unicellular micro-organism, is believed to have lived circa 3.6 million years ago, during the Paleoarchean era.

In *Piece for Luca*, the flute ensemble is treated as a single entity, with each player's part consisting of individual harmonics of various overtone clusters. The goal is to present a single sonic form, which gradually changes shape, color and texture throughout the course of the work.

The piece was composed for Barry Crawford and PLOSION Flute Ensemble, to whom it is dedicated with heartfelt gratitude, in the Spring of 2011.

Performance Notes:

• Since the chords in the piece are derived from the overtone series, several microtonal accidentals are necessary:
  - Quarter-tone accidentals are used for the 11th and 13th harmonics, these pitches should be played with alternate fingerings
  - Slightly flatted accidentals are used for the 7th harmonic. These pitches should sound about a sixth-tone flat, which can be approximated simply by a slight change in embouchure.
• Fermati appear in two forms in this piece:
  - Short fermata - ca. 1-2"
  - Long fermata - ca. 3-5"
• The following are other notation symbols used in the piece:
  - Bisbigliandi, or color trills
  - WT Whistle tones

Duration ca. 7'

"Therefore I should infer from analogy that probably all the organic beings which have ever lived on this earth have descended from some one primordial form, into which life was first breathed."

- Charles Darwin
The Origin of Species

Score

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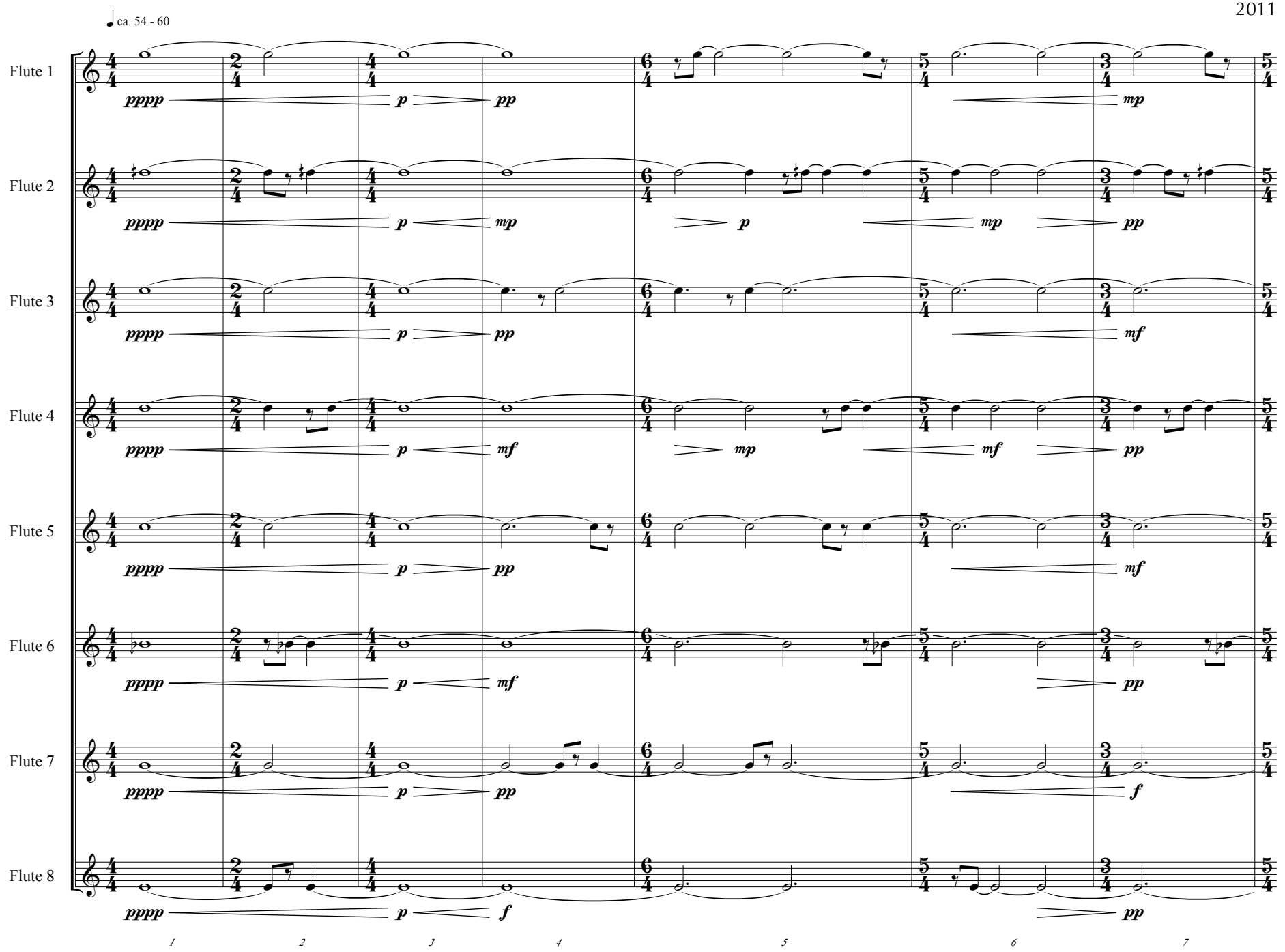

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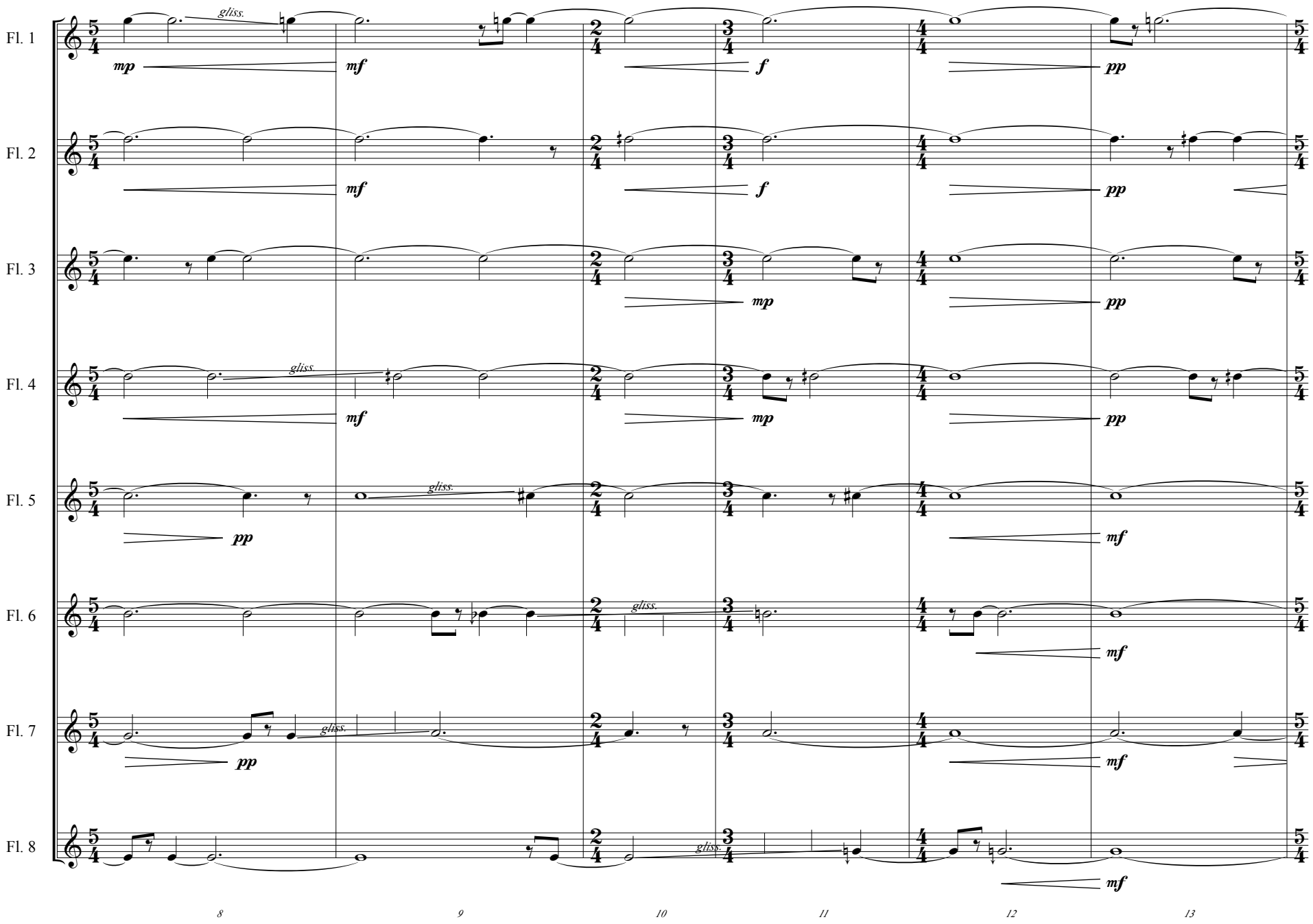
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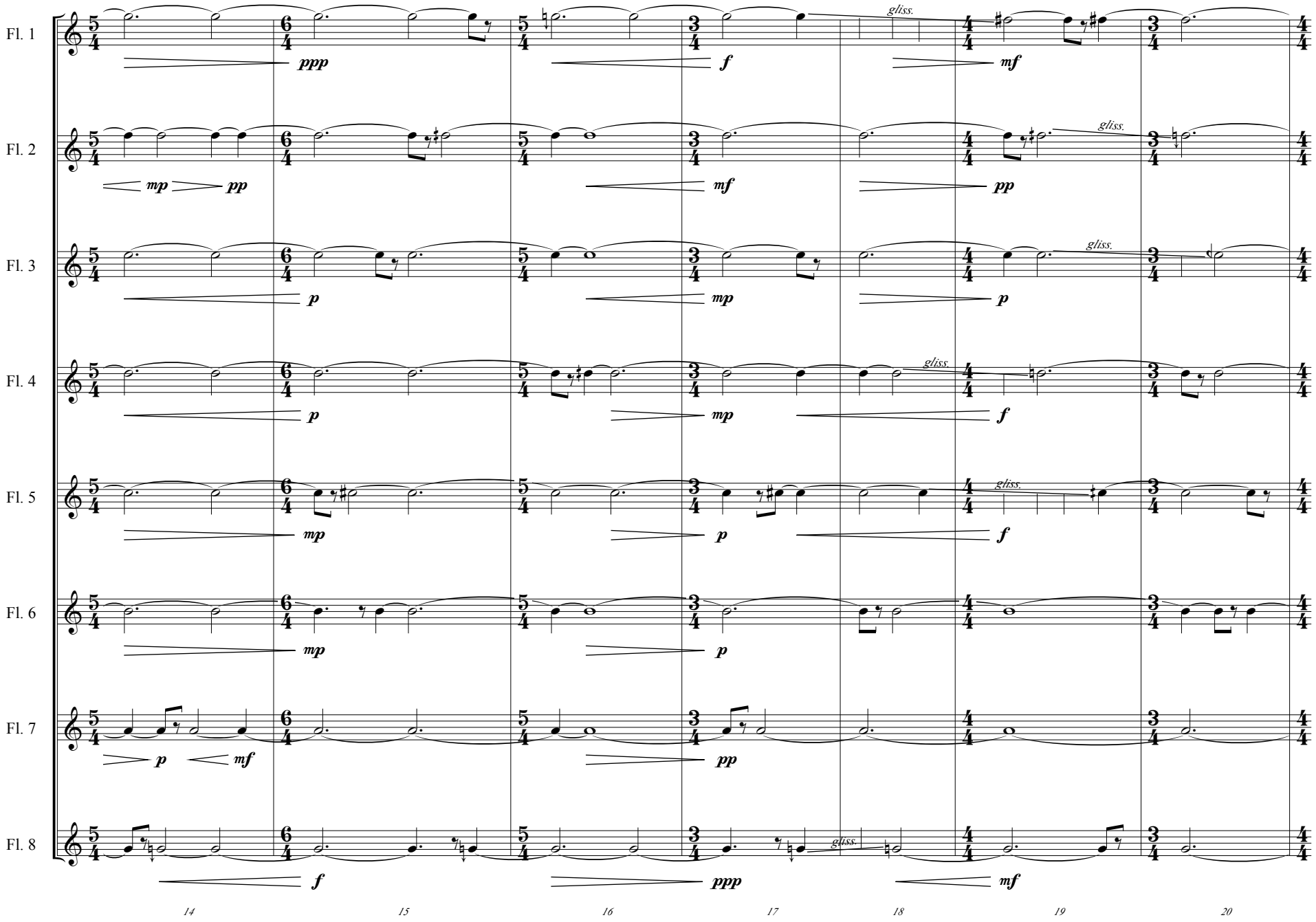
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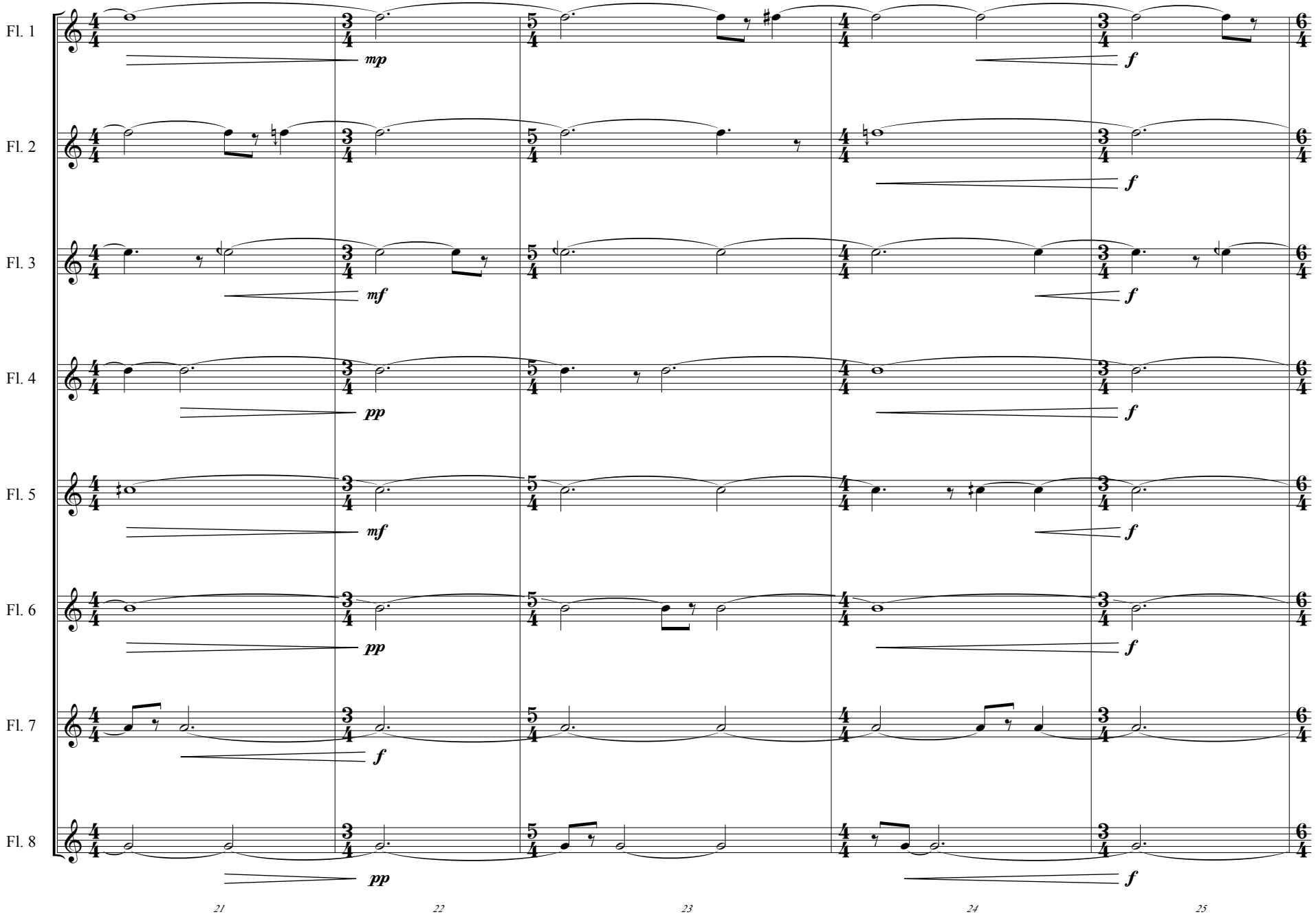
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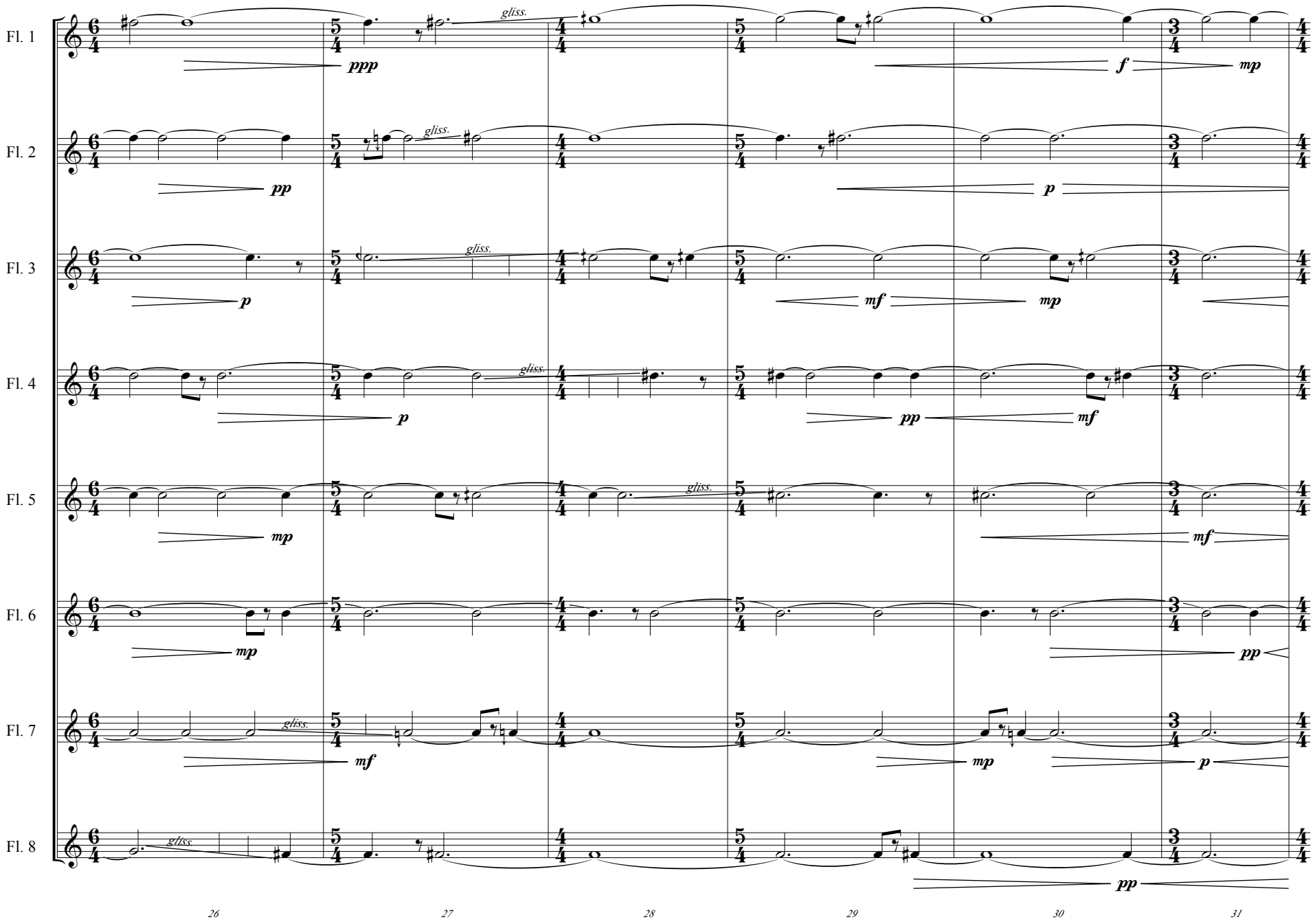
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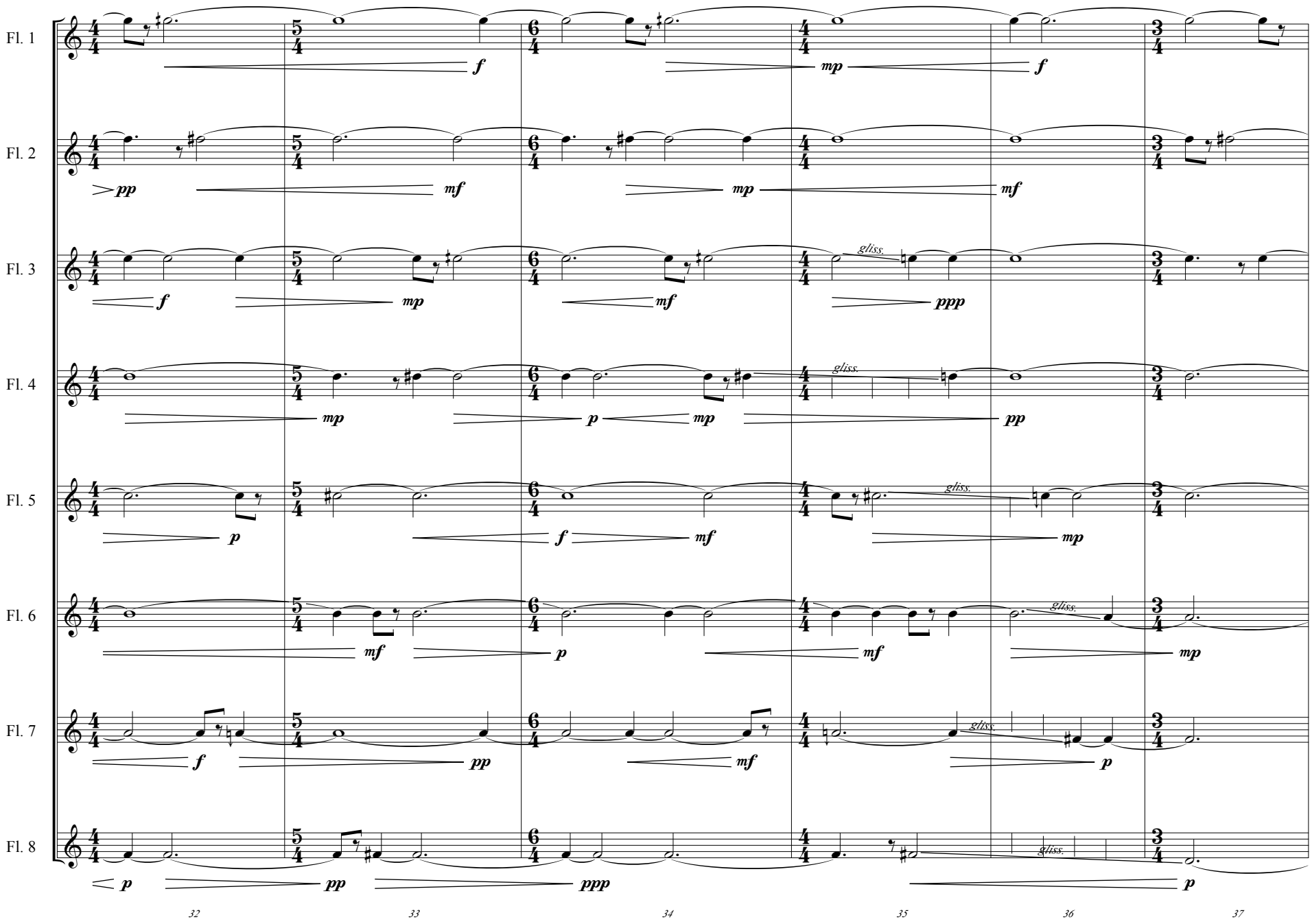
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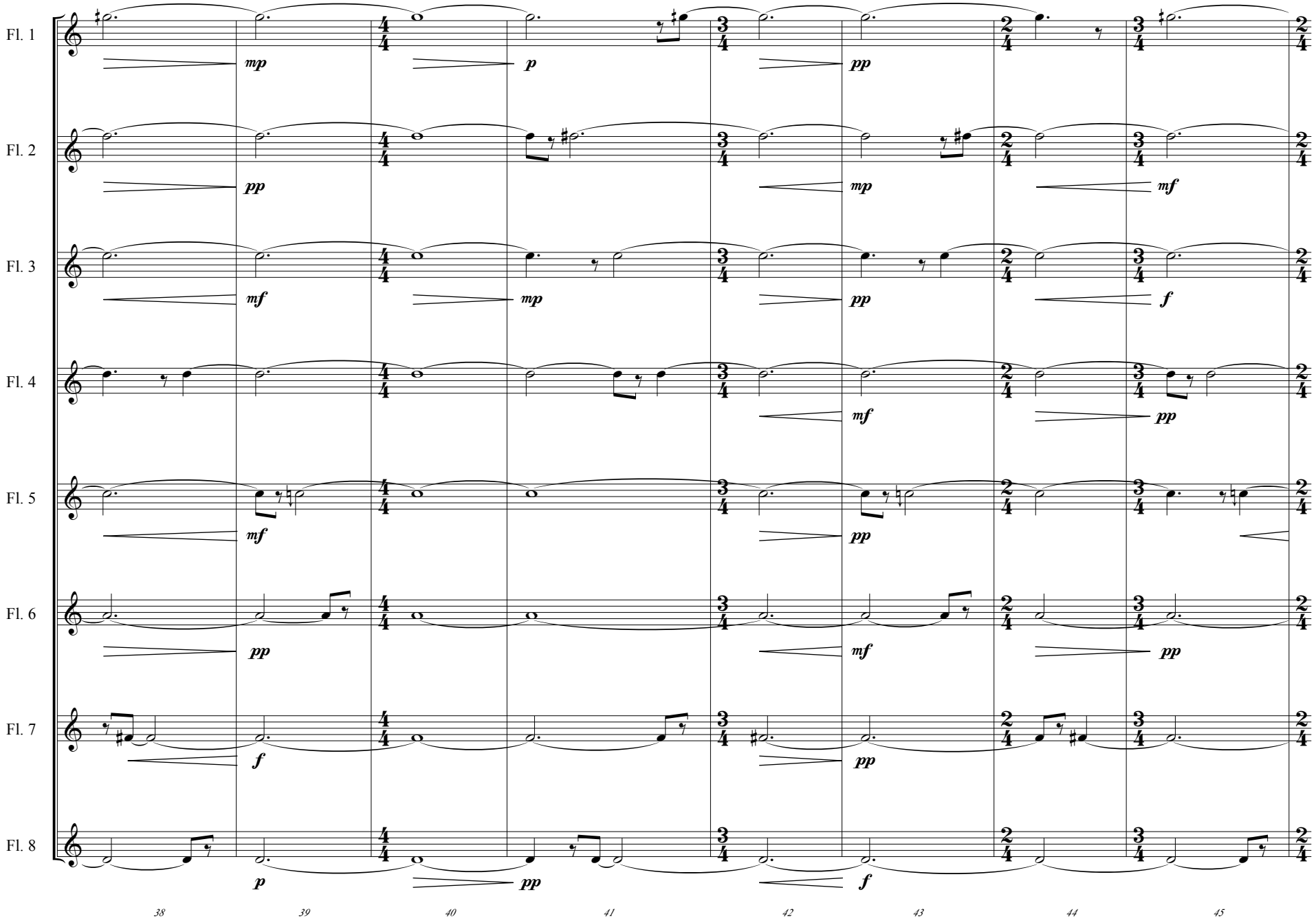
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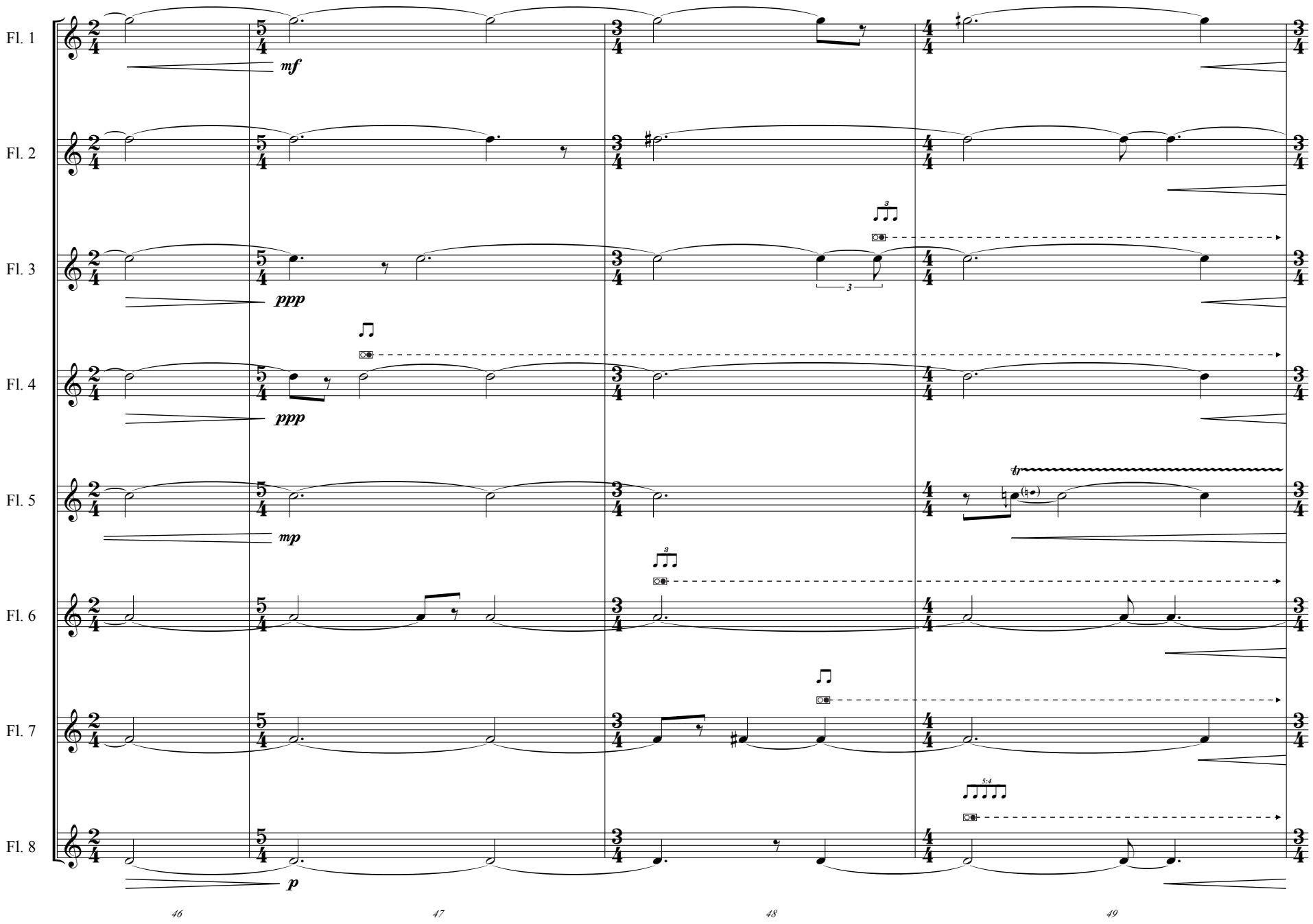
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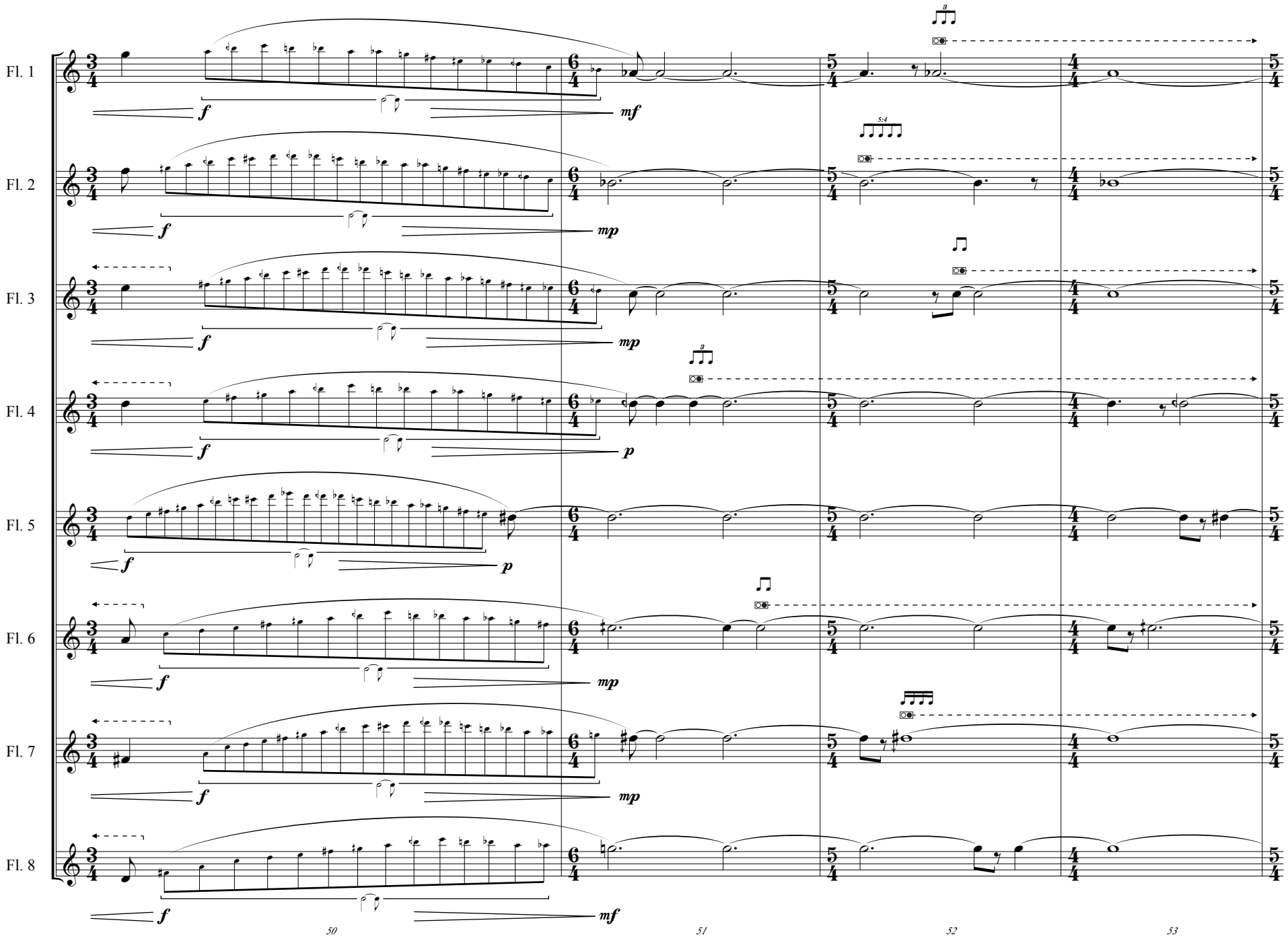
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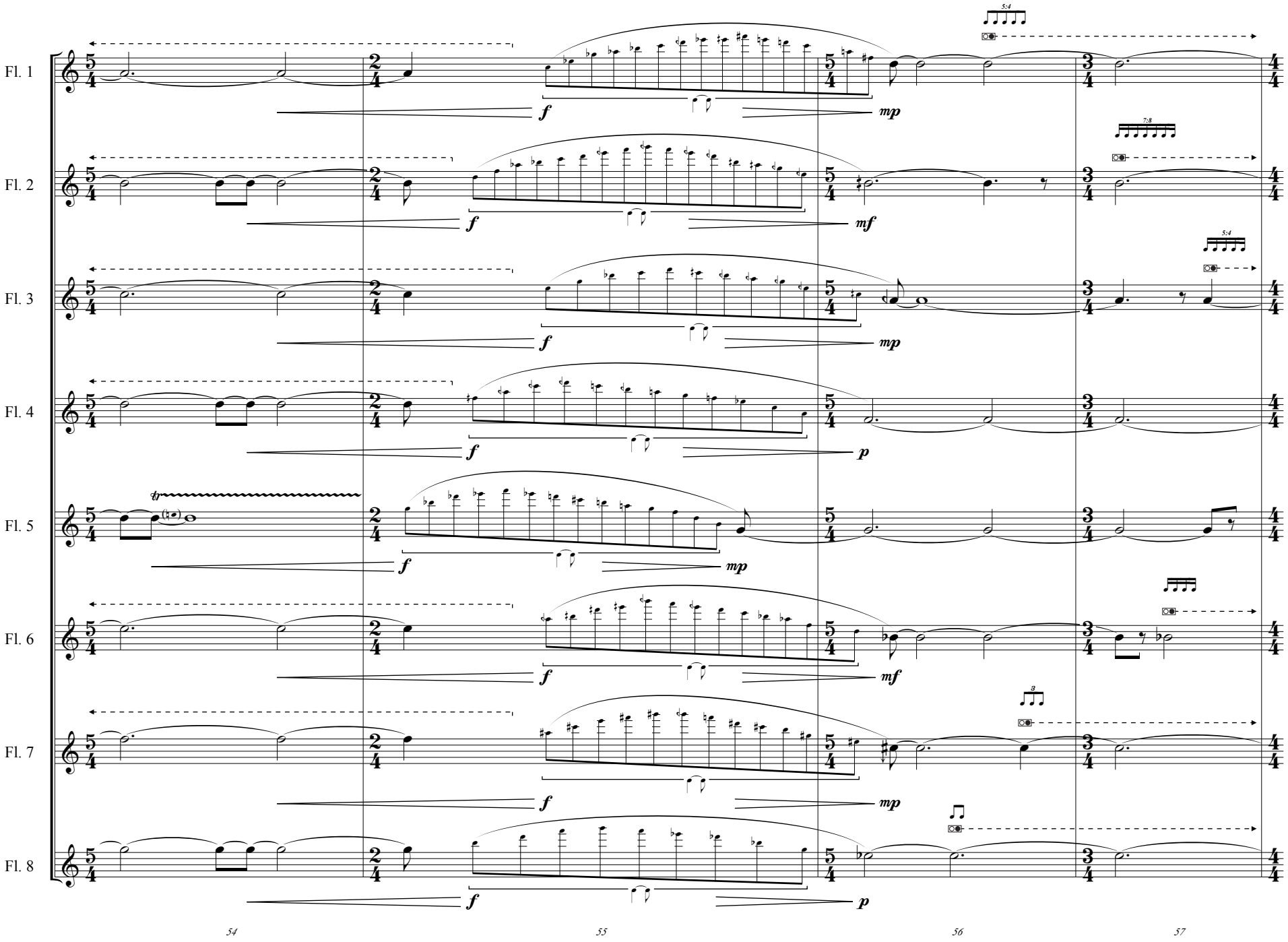
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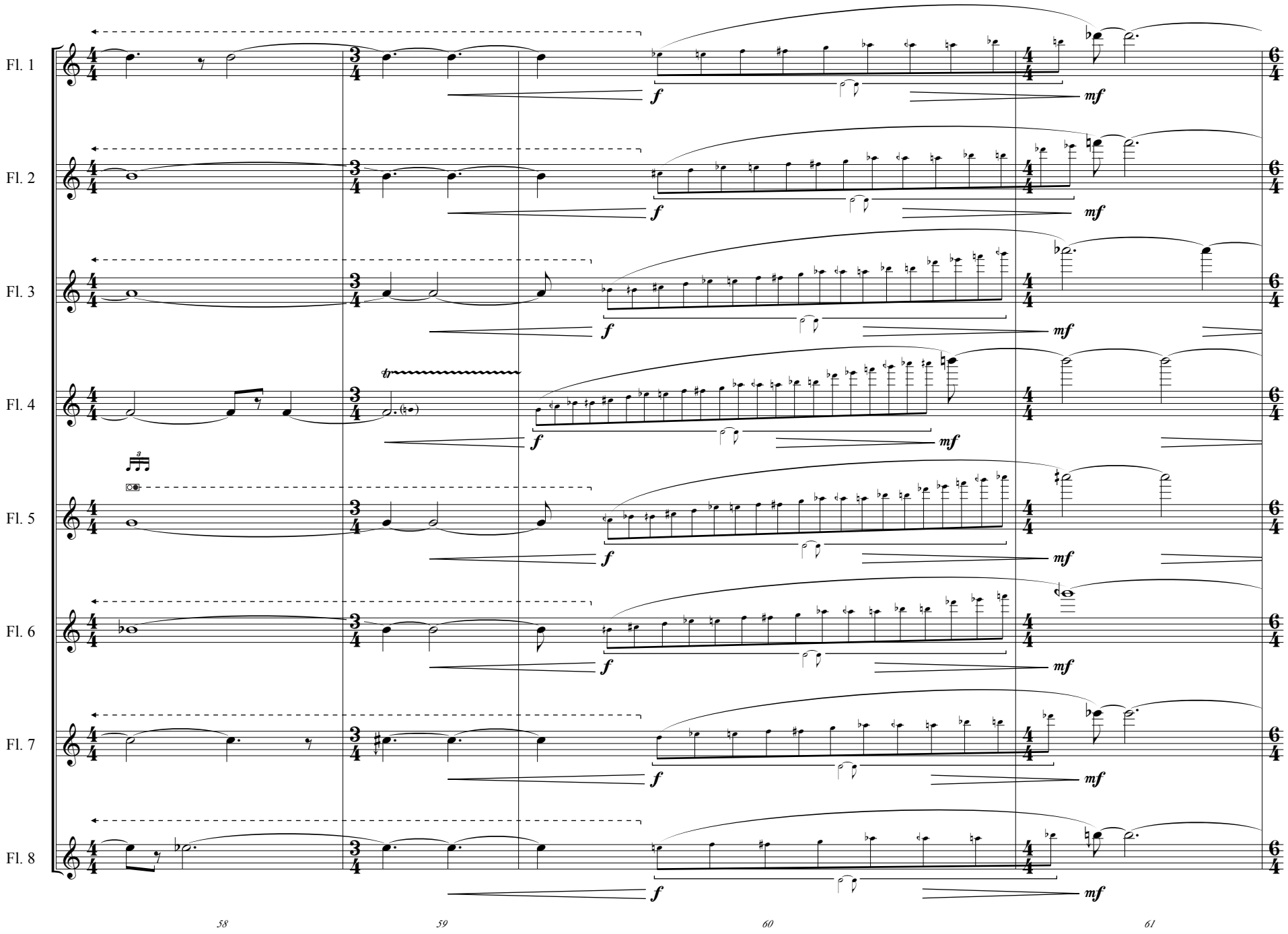
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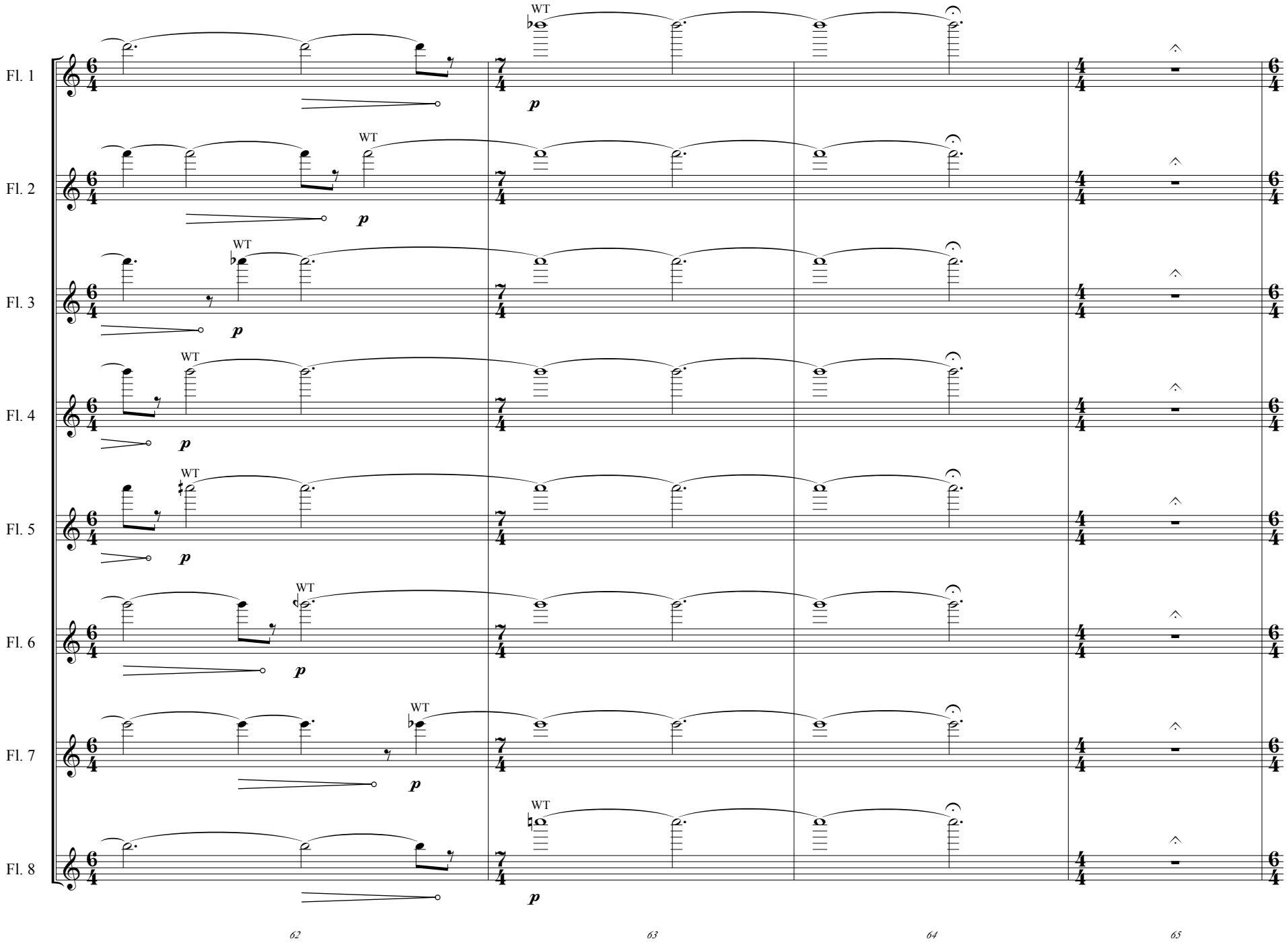
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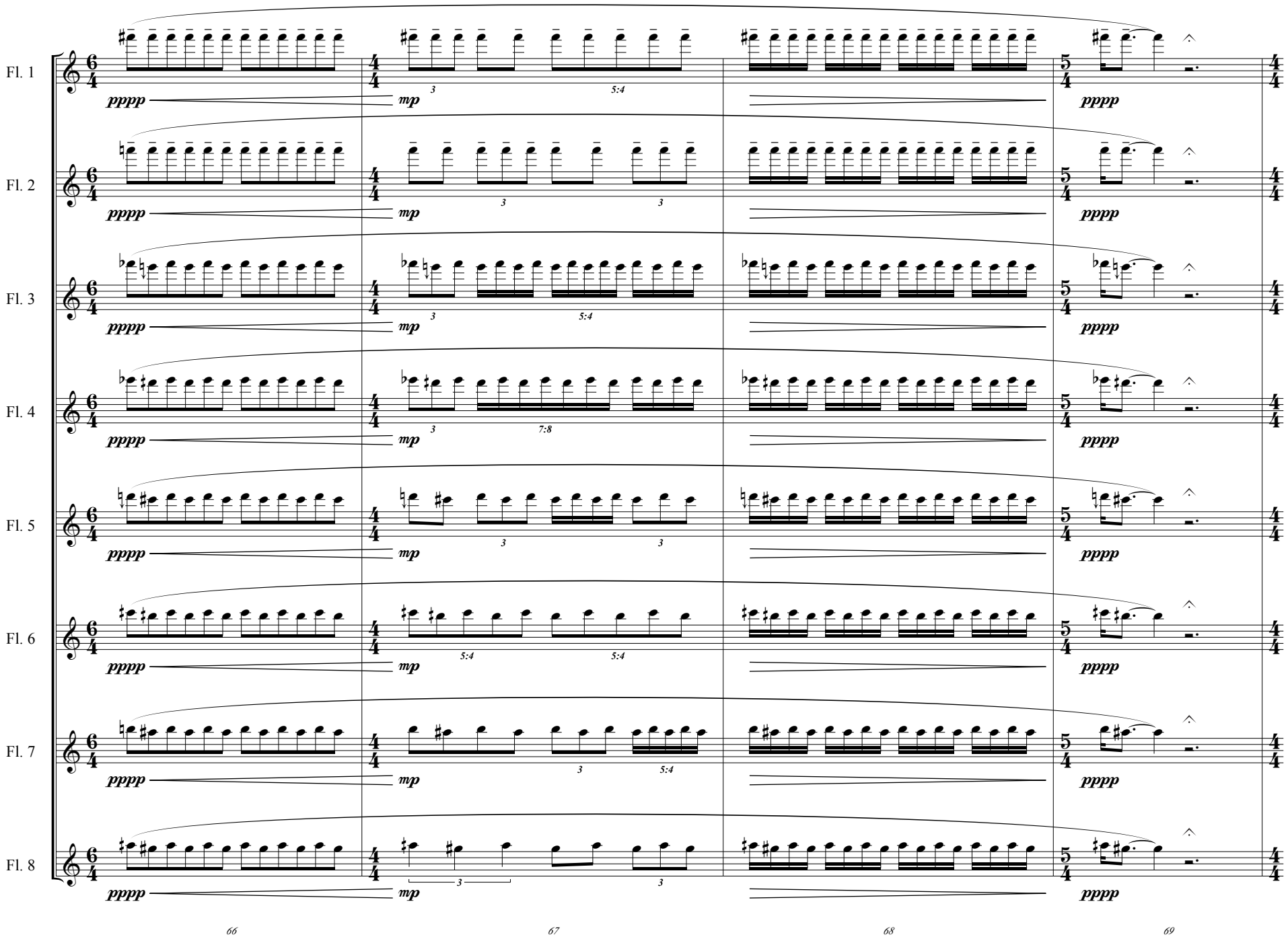
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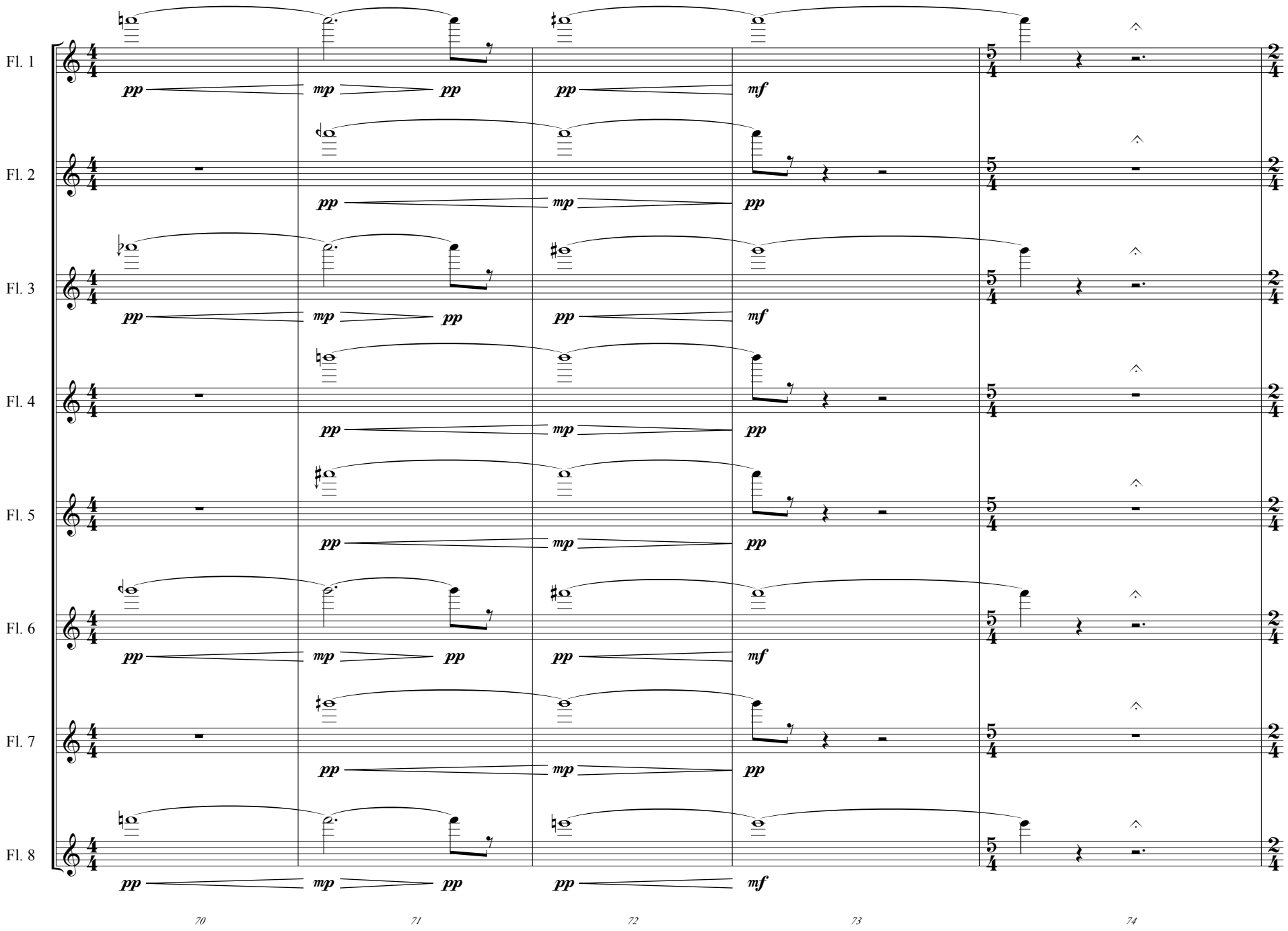
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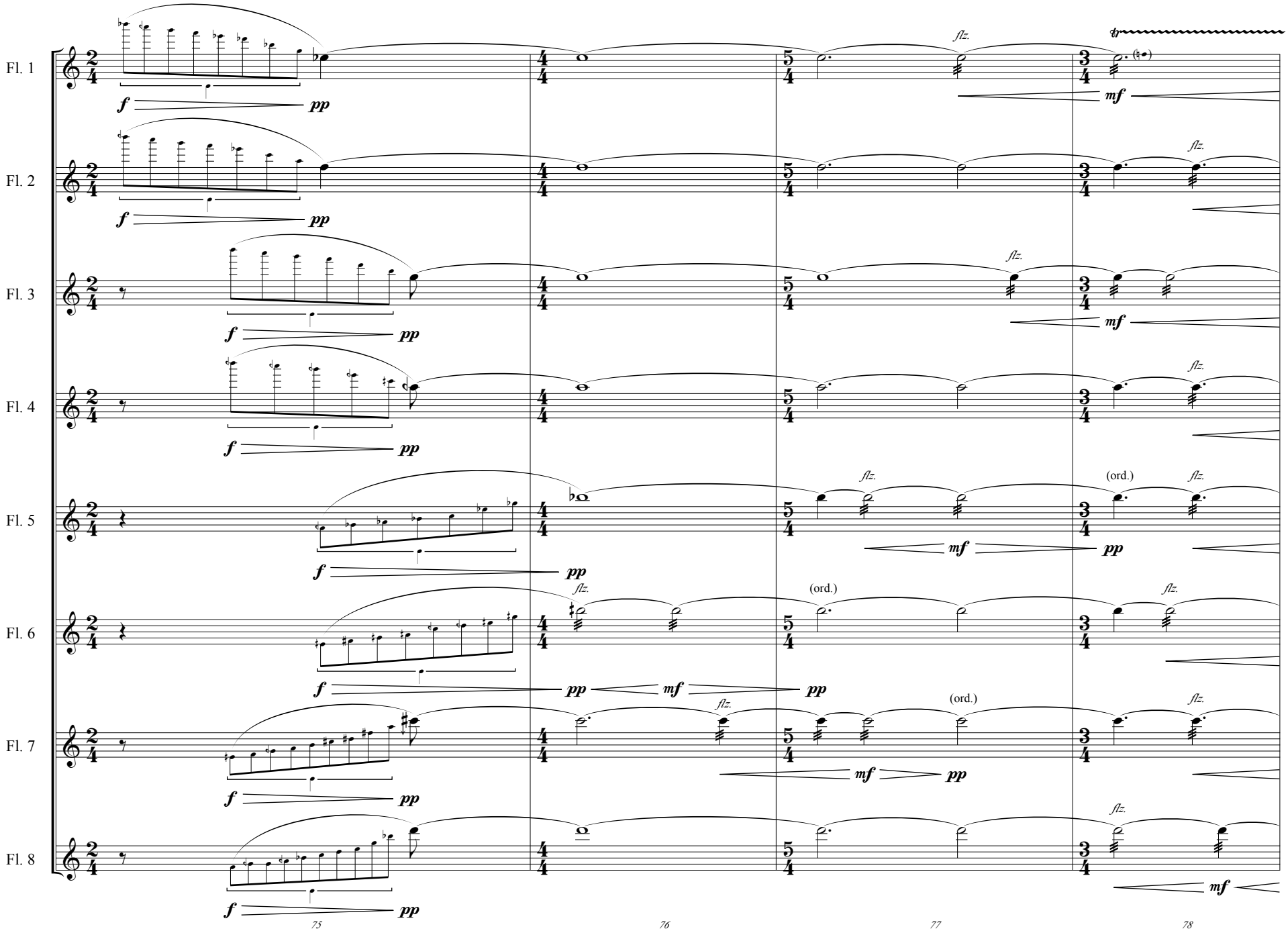
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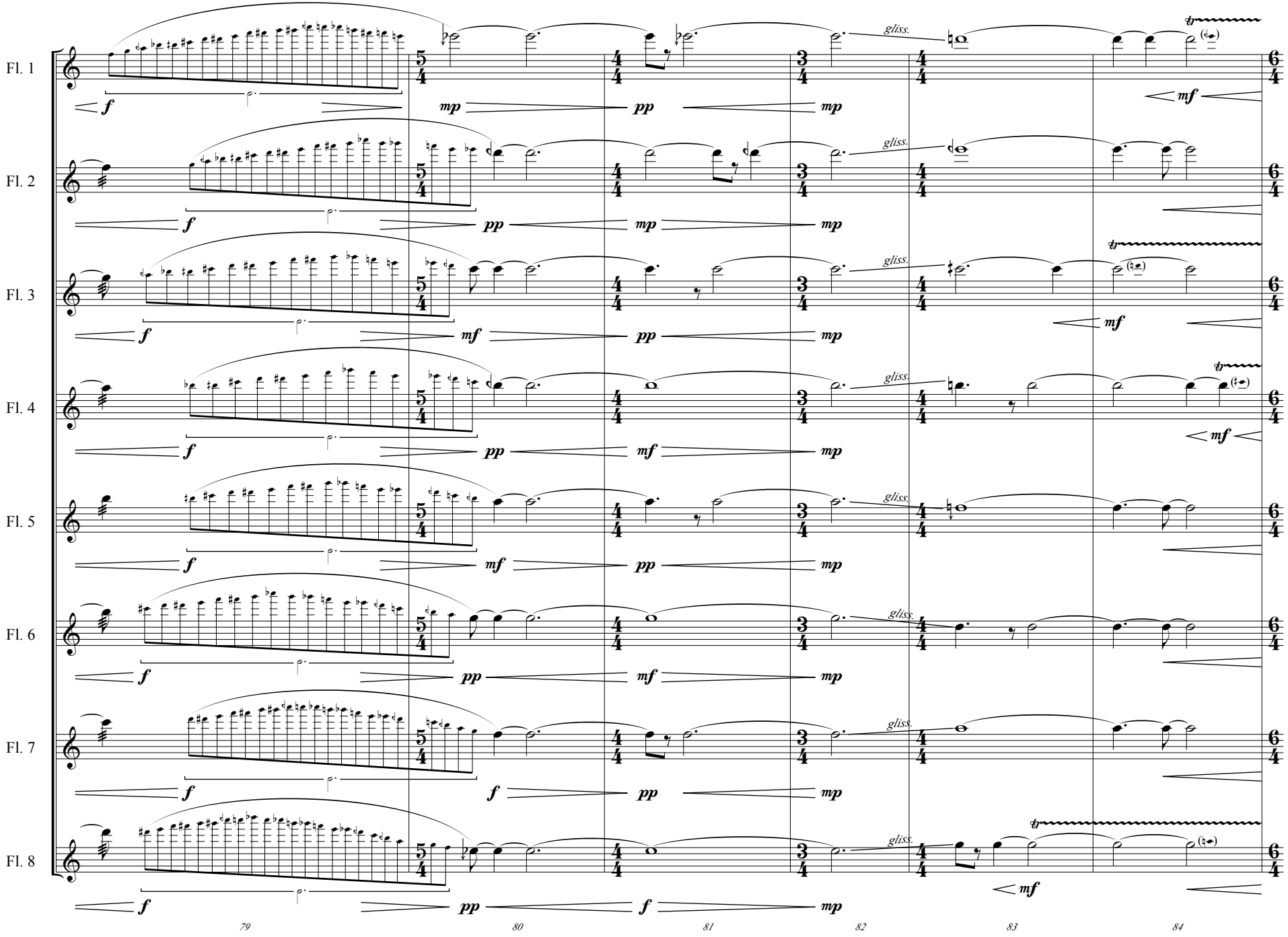
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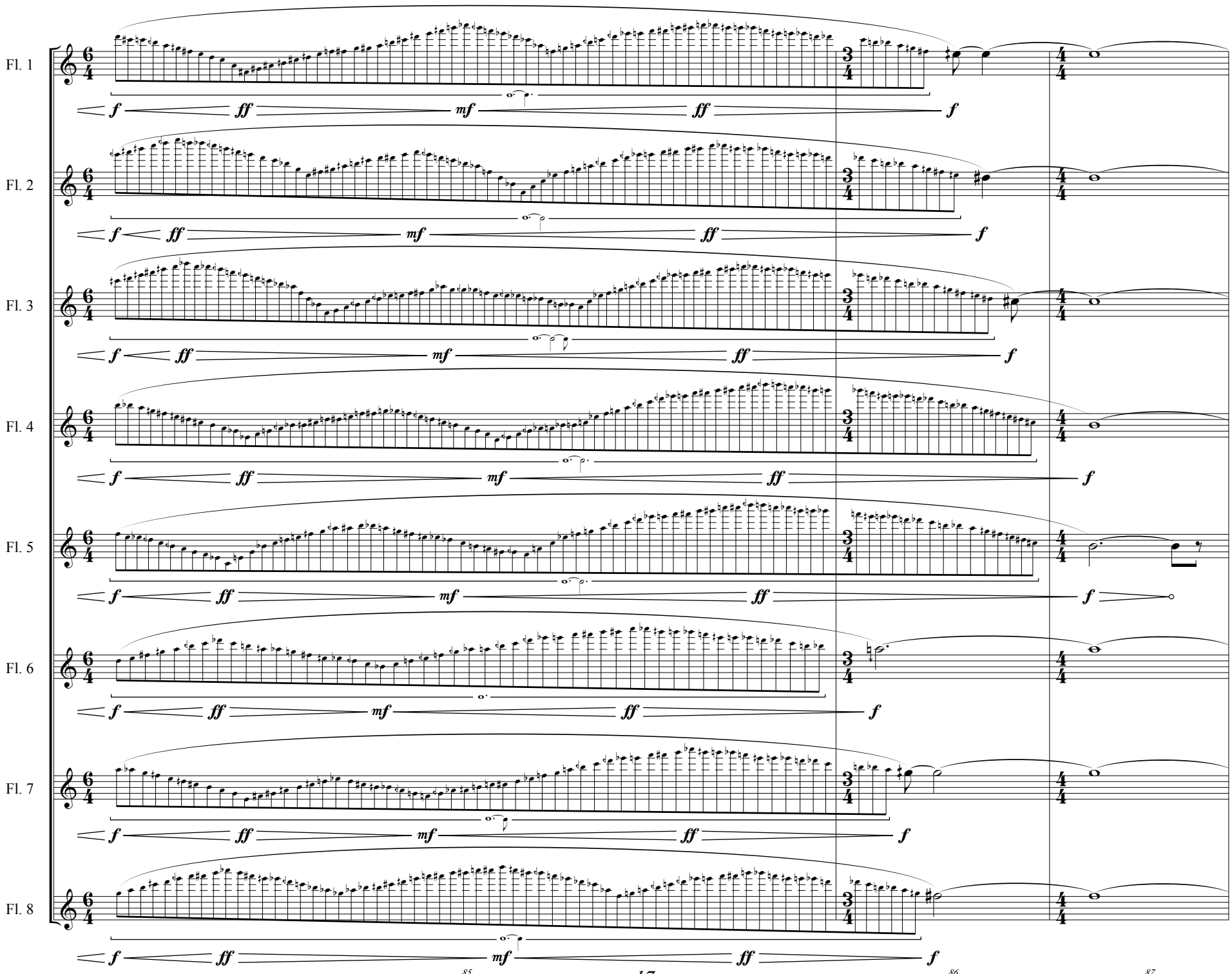
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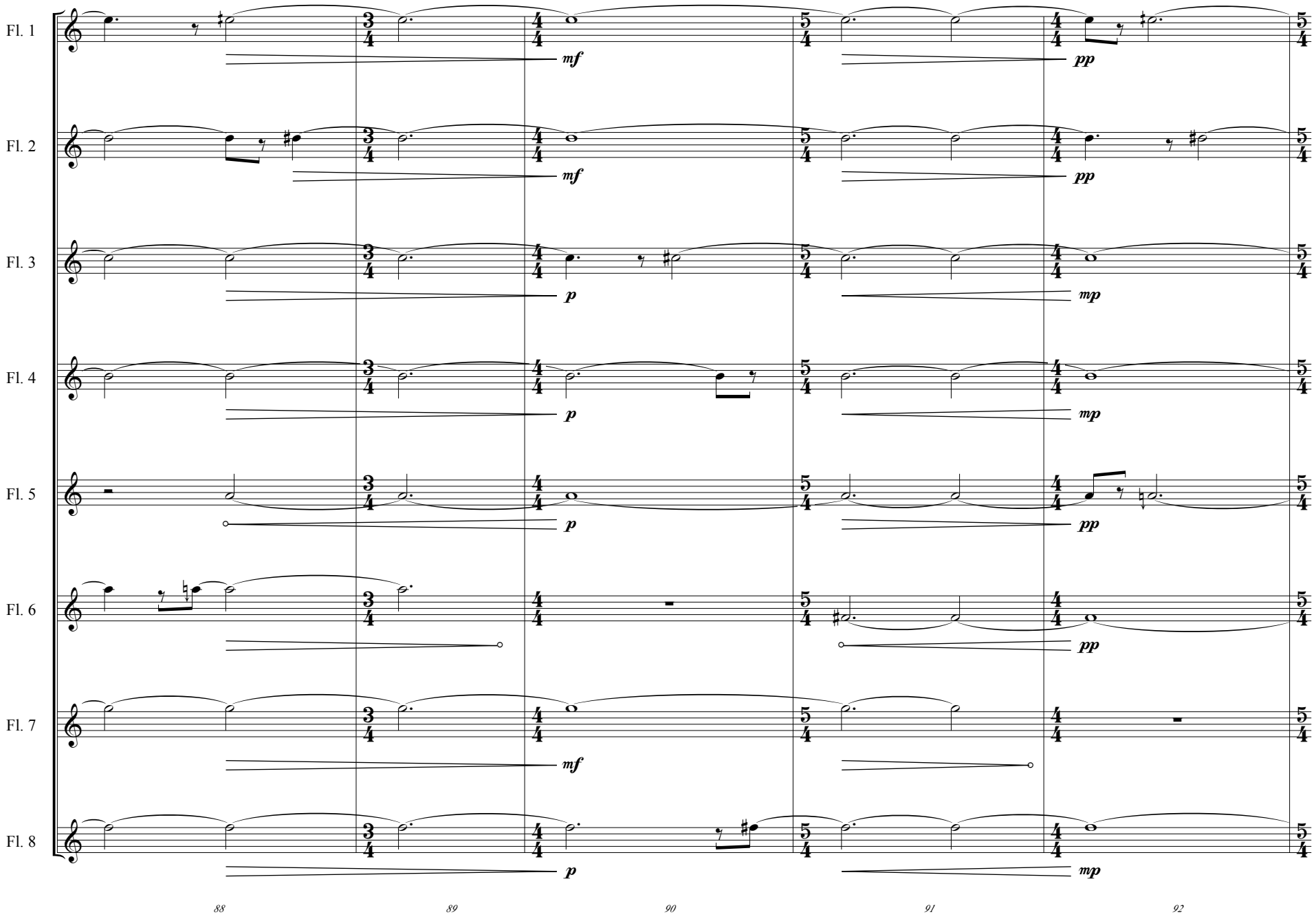
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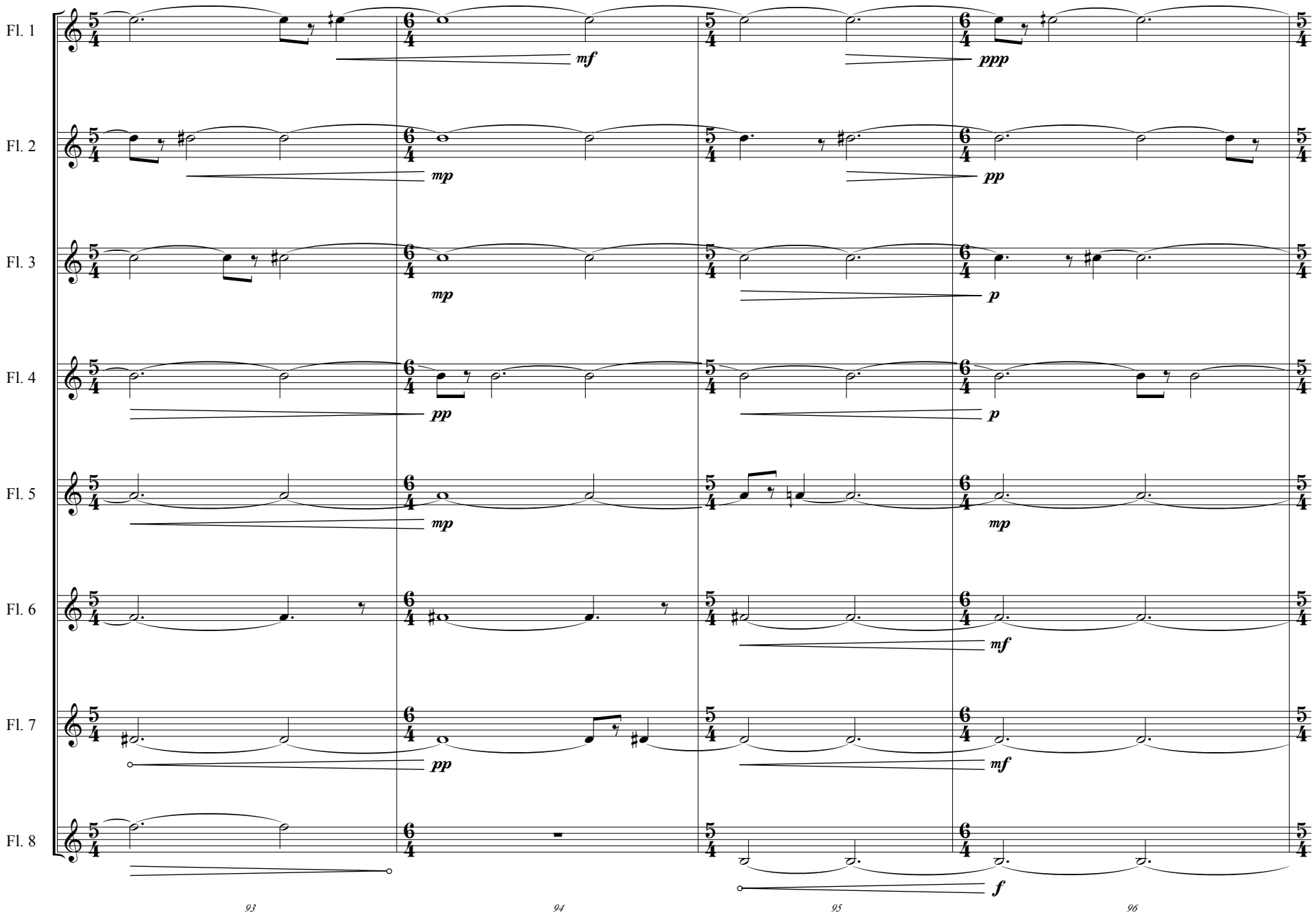
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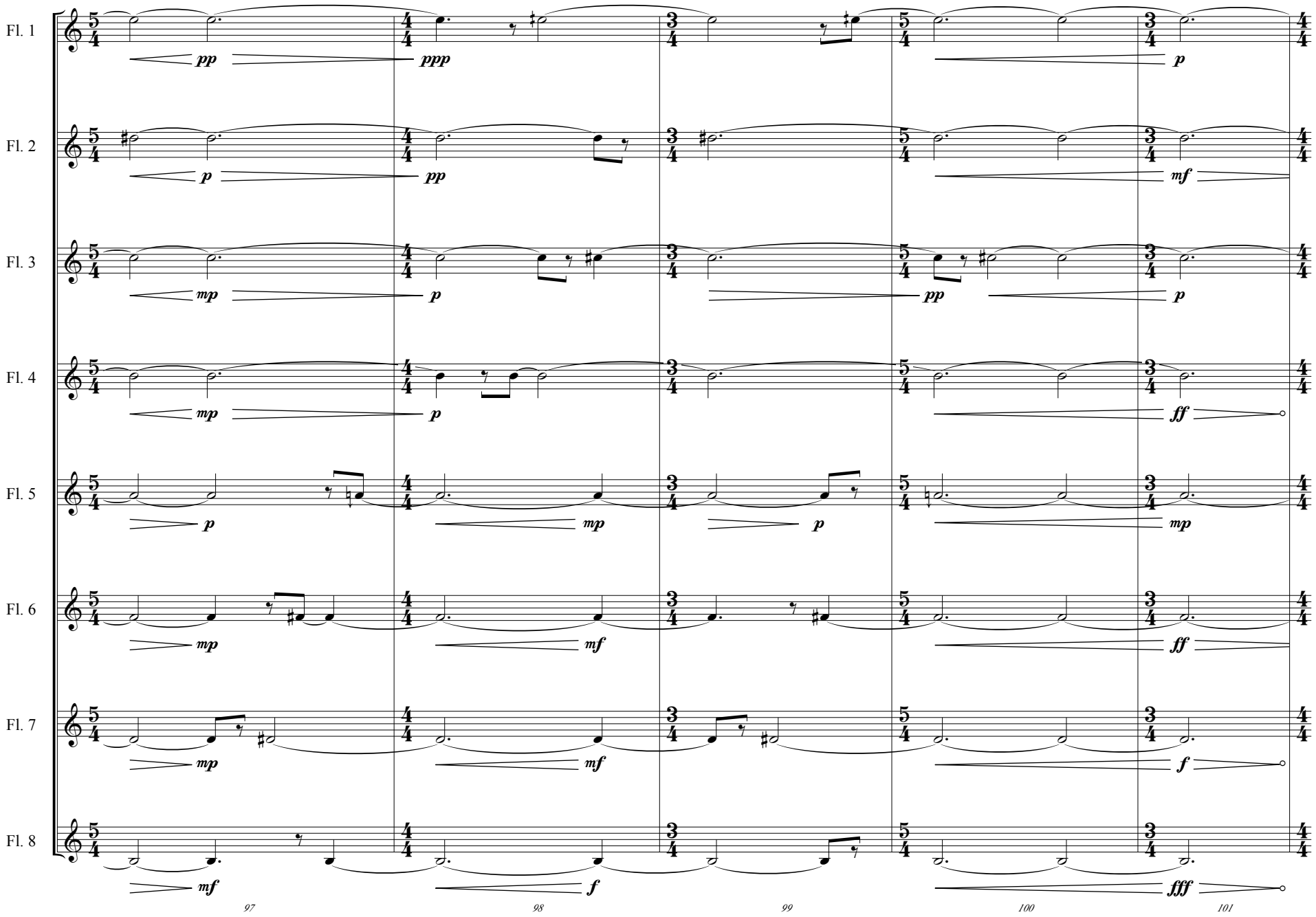
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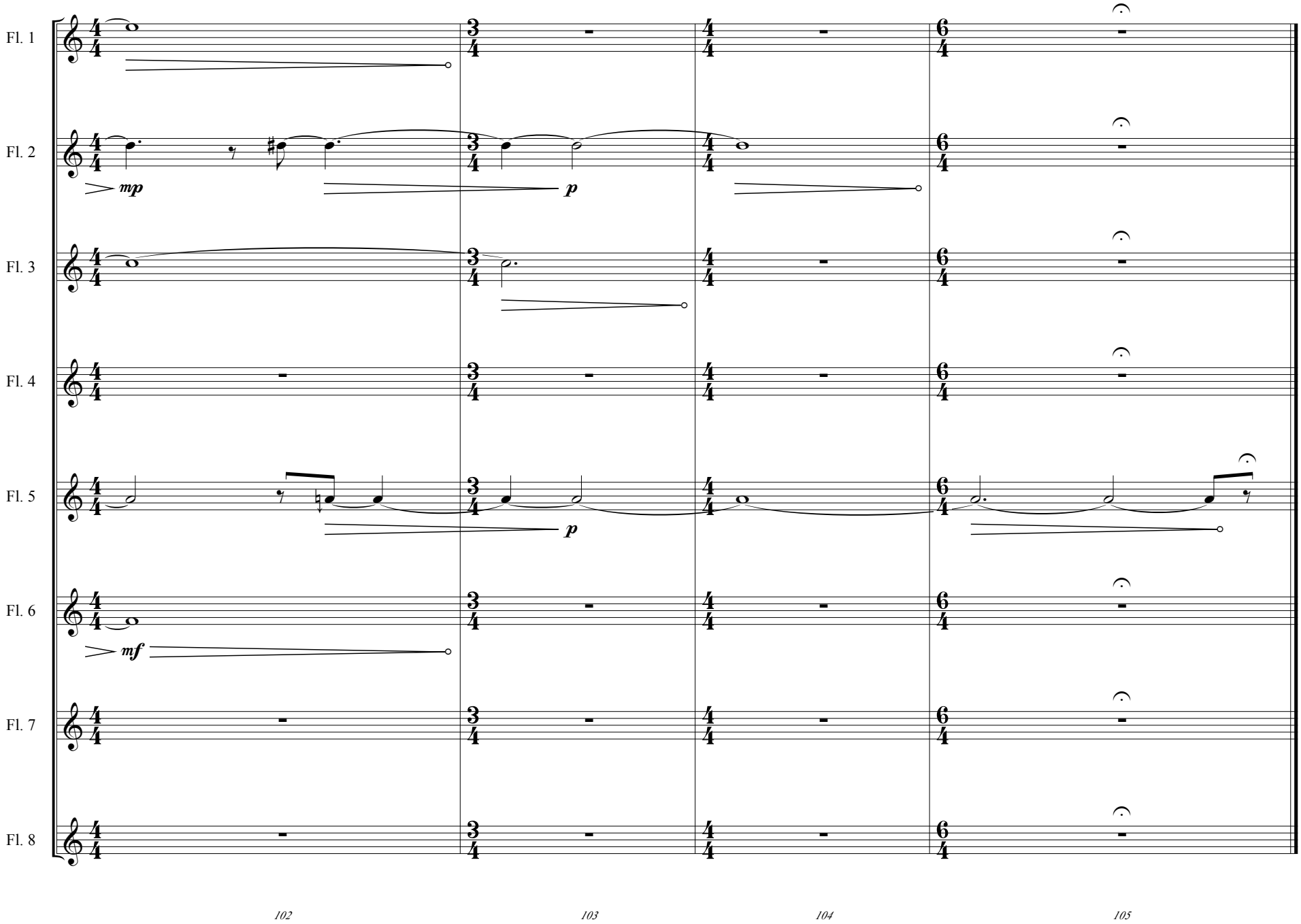
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