Largo, Ombra mai fù

opera Xerxes, Act 1, Scene 1

Georg Friedrich Handel

arranged by Paul De Bra for
accordion quintet and for duo
(1, 2, 3, 4, bass)

This piece is mostly known as the "Largo by Handel", but actually is the song "Ombra mai fù" (There is never shade) from Scene 1 of Act 1 of the Opera Xerxes. Most performances (by accordion ensemble) seem to ignore the existence of a continuo part, resulting in a rather boring slow piece. The continuo really livens it up.
First of all there is an arrangement for duo (two accordions or one accordion and some other solo instrument). This does not have a continuo part, sorry.
Then there is the quintet arrangement. By omitting the continuo part (acc. 4) this can be played by a quartet, and by dividing the third part it can be played by a sextet (or larger orchestra). A divided third part is included. By adding the continuo part (acc. 4) to the duo version a trio version is obtained. All in all, a very “flexible” arrangement.

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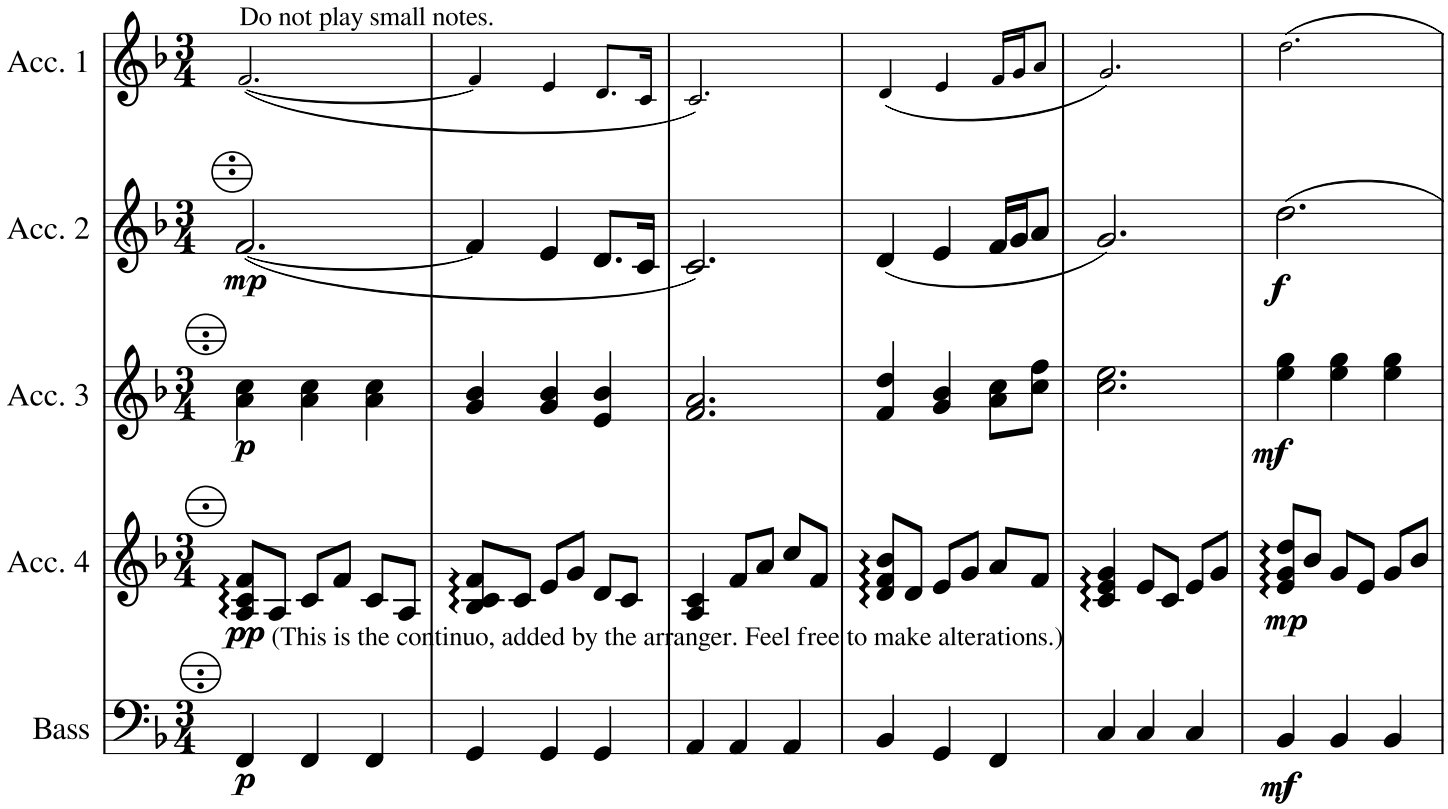
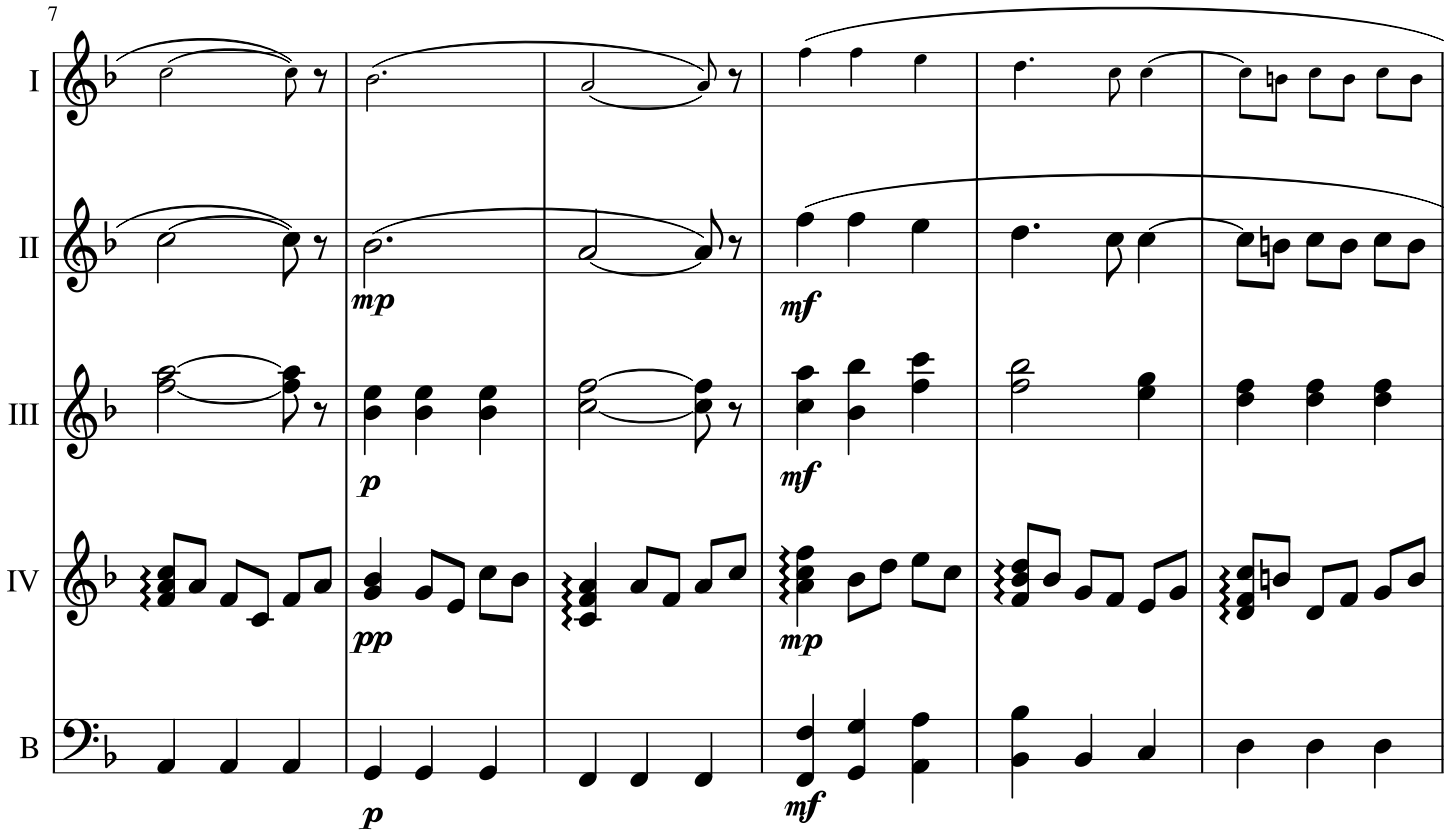
Xerxes - Largo

Ombra mai fù, HWV 40

Georg Friedrich Handel
arr. Paul De Bra

♩ = 60 Larghetto et legato





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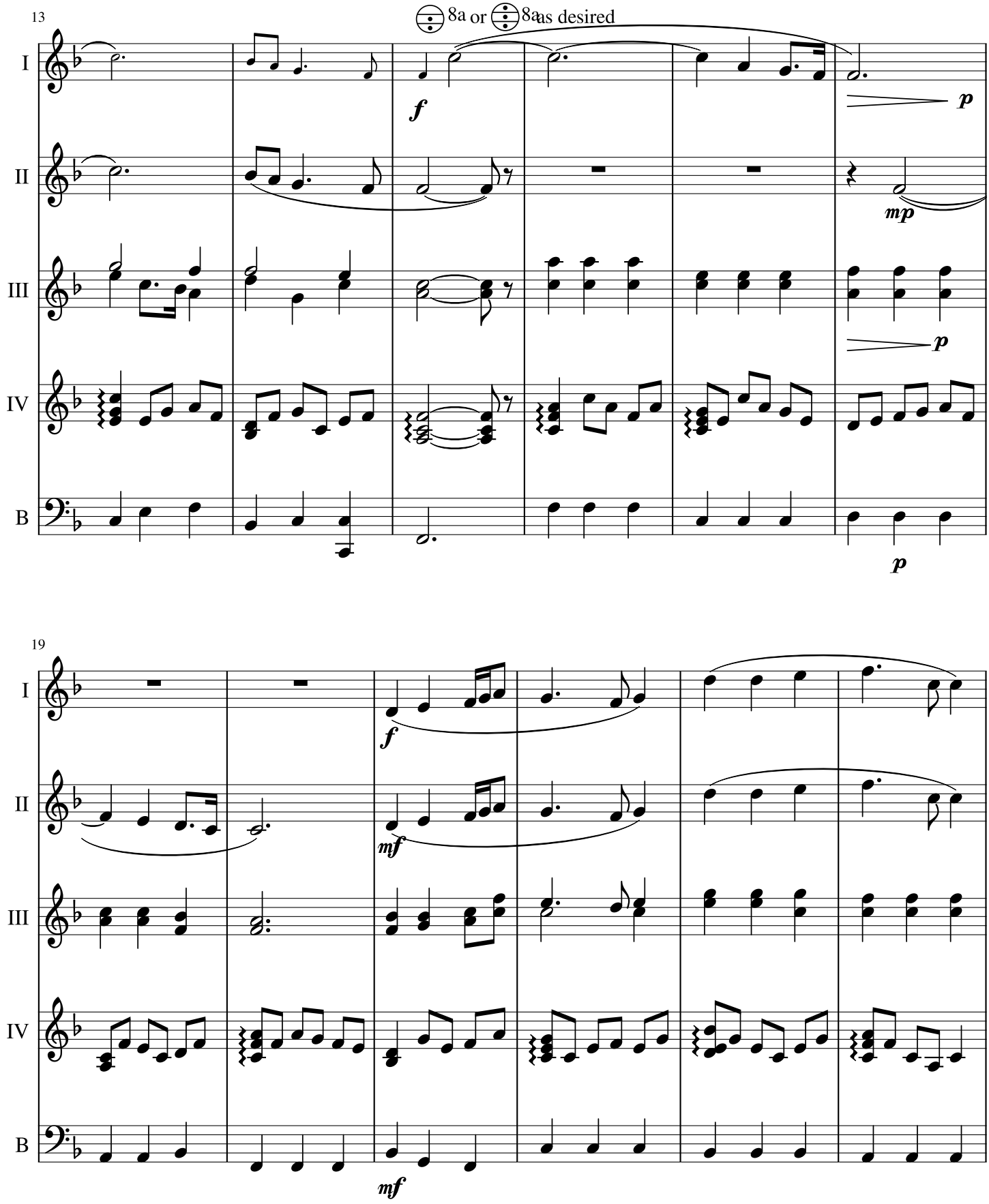

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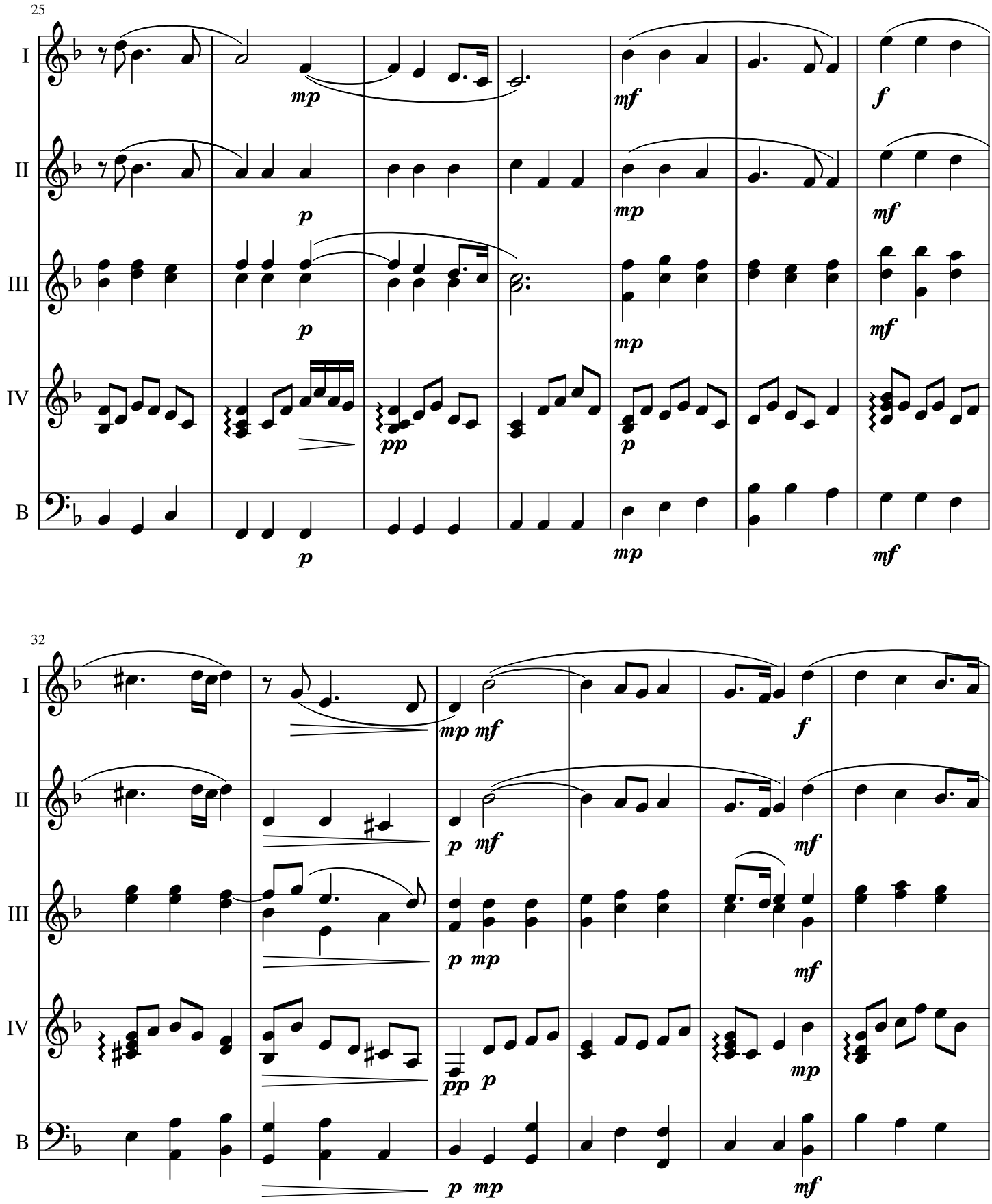

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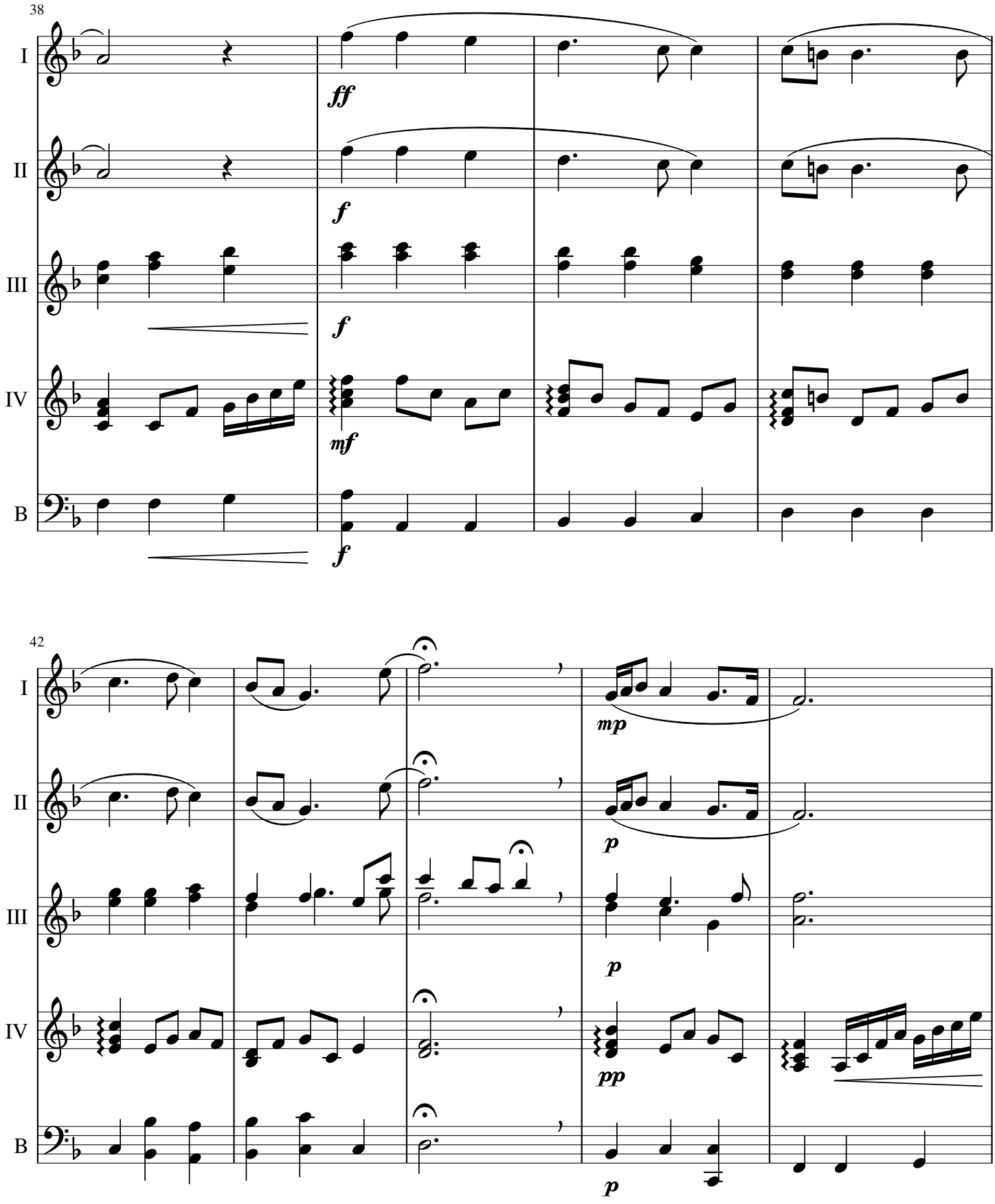

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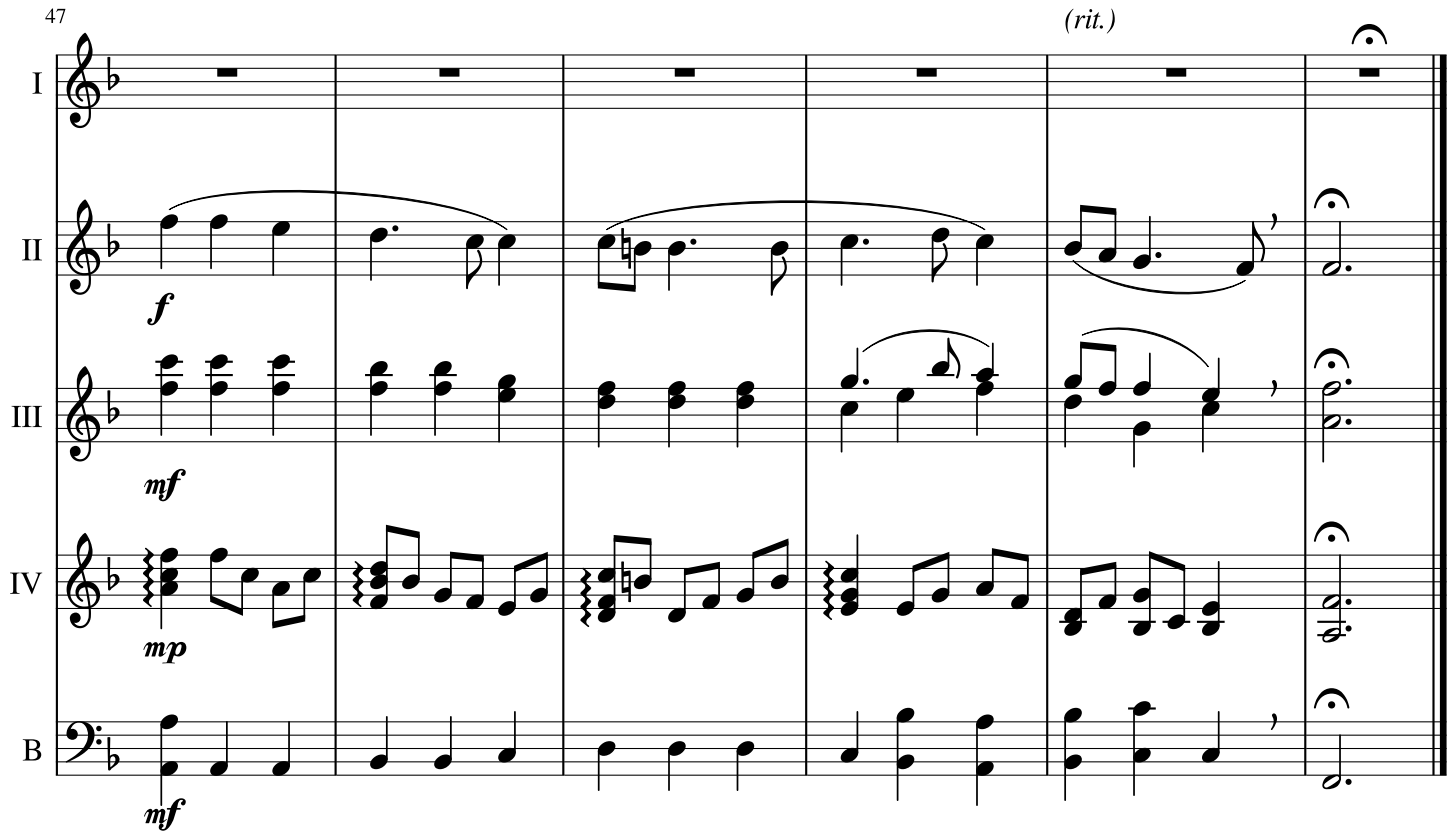

PDB 29/11/18

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