Helicon Schottische

composed by J. H. Woods - 1878 - Opus 46
arranged by Klaus Bjerre 2004
for the 10-Piece Brass format: Eb trumpet, 3 Bb trumpets, F horn, 4 trombones, and tuba

This piece from the late 19th century originally was written for a small concert band with piccolo, clarinets in Eb and Bb, cornets in Eb and Bb, horns in Eb, tenor horns in Bb, baritone in Bb, bass in Bb, and a solo tuba (helicon) in Eb.

Chuck Guzis of Eugene - Oregon, a fellow tuba enthusiast and a great personal friend, found the original parts for this piece in the US Library of Congress: http://memory.loc.gov/music/sm/sm1878/13000/13092/

It is no longer in fashion to use the Eb cornet as the lead instrument in brass ensembles. And the larger BBb and CC tubas are now very common as the foundation providers in such ensembles. Hence this arranger chose to transpose this piece down a fourth to make it accessible for a modern brass format. The use of an Eb cornet, 2 Bb cornets, and a Bb flugel-horn is recommended. As a bow towards the standard 10-piece format you will find an alternative part for Bb piccolo trumpet substituting for the Eb trumpet/cornet. However this substitution is not recommended for balance reasons.

The horn part is provided for instruments in F or Eb. The tenor trombone parts are provided in the bass as well as the treble (Bb) clefs. The tuba part comes in versions in C concert bass clef plus in Eb and BBb treble clef.

Aside from a wonderful counterpoint passage (bar ##14-23) the original relies heavily on an oom-pah band setting. Instead of doubling all "-pah's" in the octave the melody has been set in a thick line by this arranger. Much of the way this implies, that on the tonic chord the melody is set in three parts, whereas it has been set in 4 parts on the seventh chords.

In the **Finale** this has further implications: the Eb and 1st Bb cornets cannot rely on playing in unison (or in the octave) all the way. Both have to play continuously there to ensure the coherence of melody and harmony. This comes from the fact that the 10 instruments really come to use in the **Finale**. The tuba and 2 trombones carry the *soli* line (J. H. Woods wants it so, even if the suggestion, that they do so in 3 different octaves, comes from this arranger). 2 trombones and a trumpet are needed to cover the essential "-pah" notes. This only leaves 4 players to cover the up to 4 layers of the thickened descant line.

This arrangement can be used free of charge, but a postcard or an e-mail would be nice. If this arrangement should happen to appear on a printed concert programme, then a scan would be very much appreciated.

Klaus Bjerre

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10-piece Brass Ensemble

4 trumpets - horn - 4 trombones - tuba

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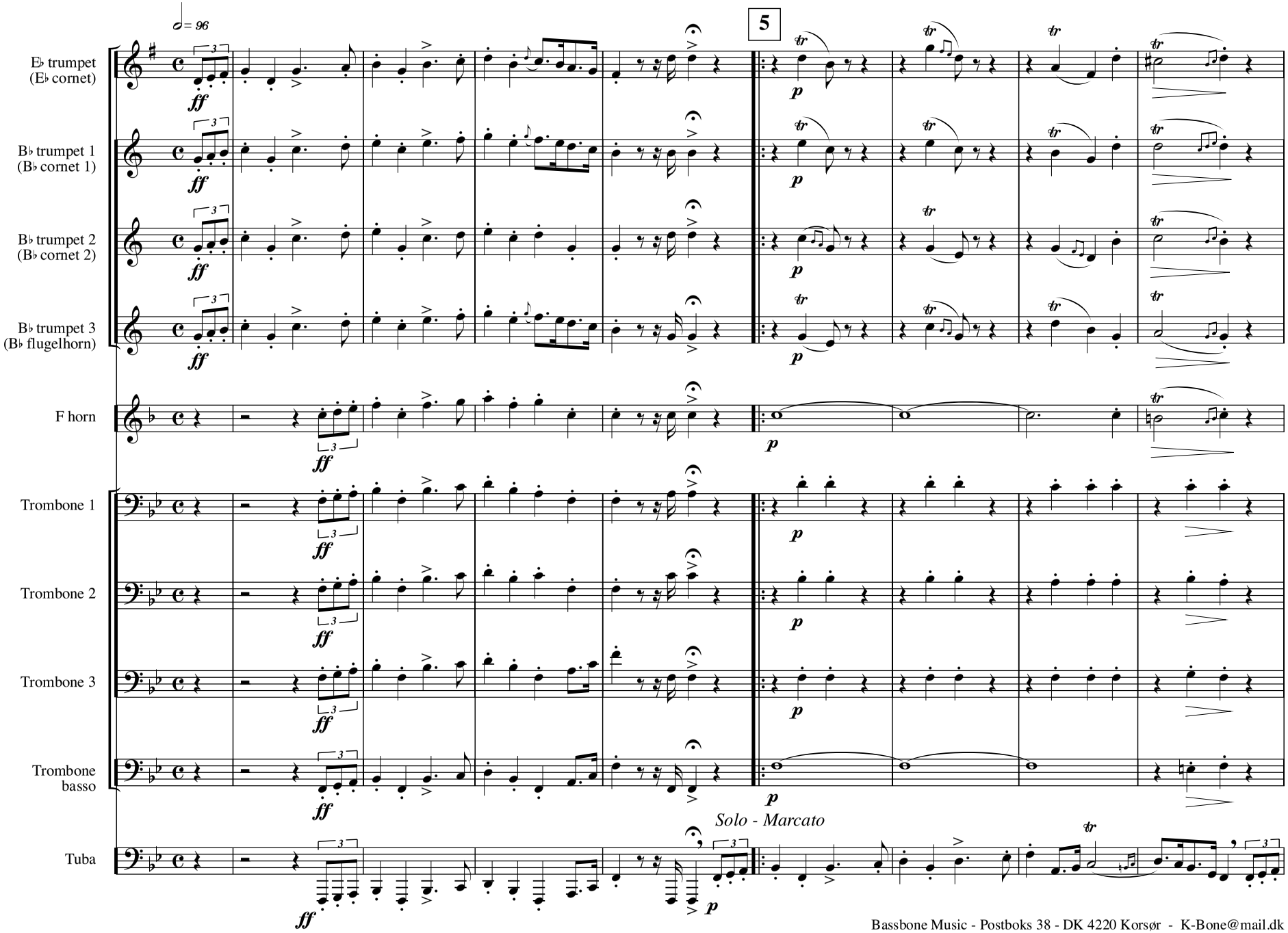
Tuba solo

J. H. Woods 1878 Opus 46

Arranged by Klaus Bjerre 2004



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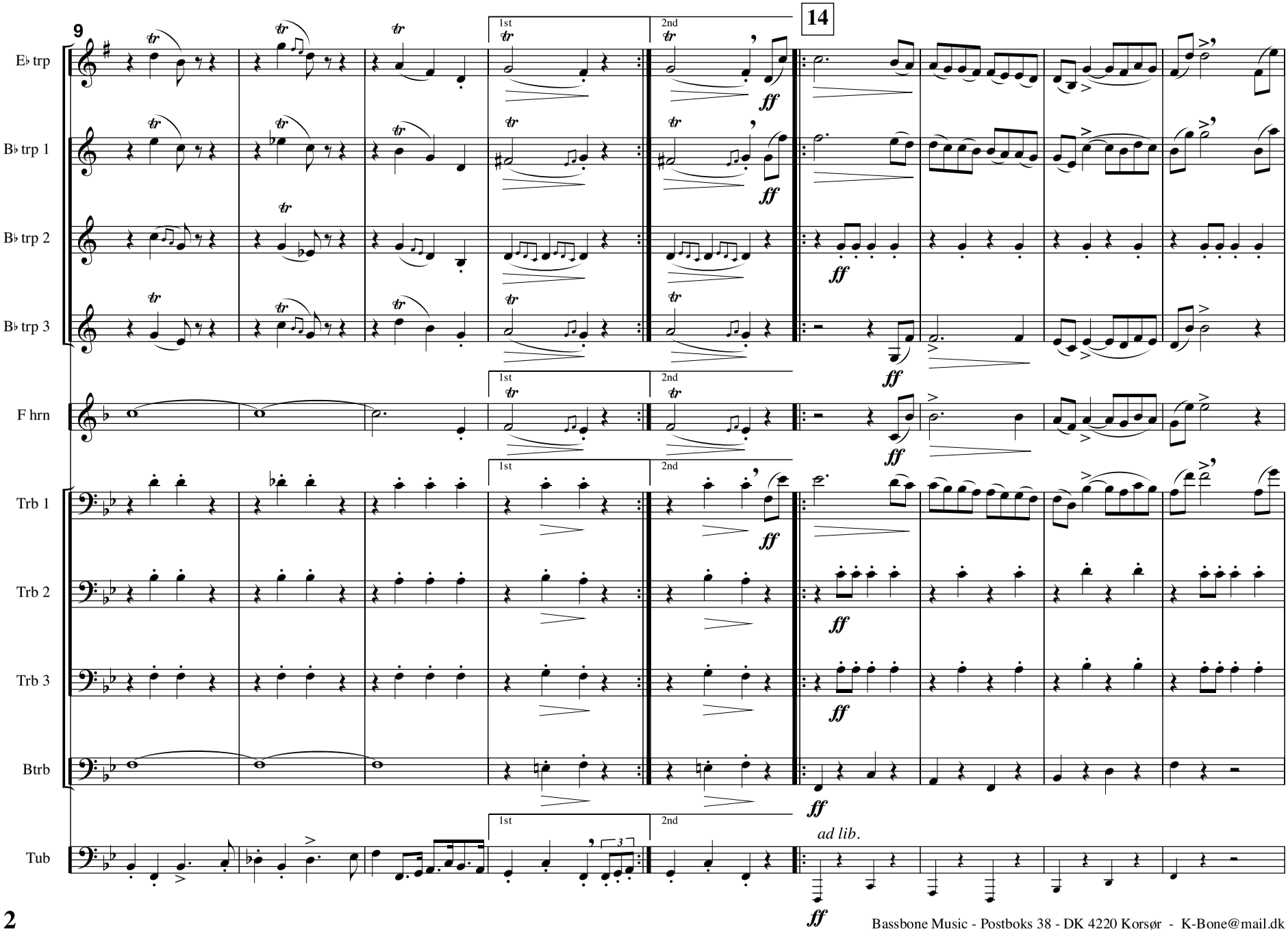

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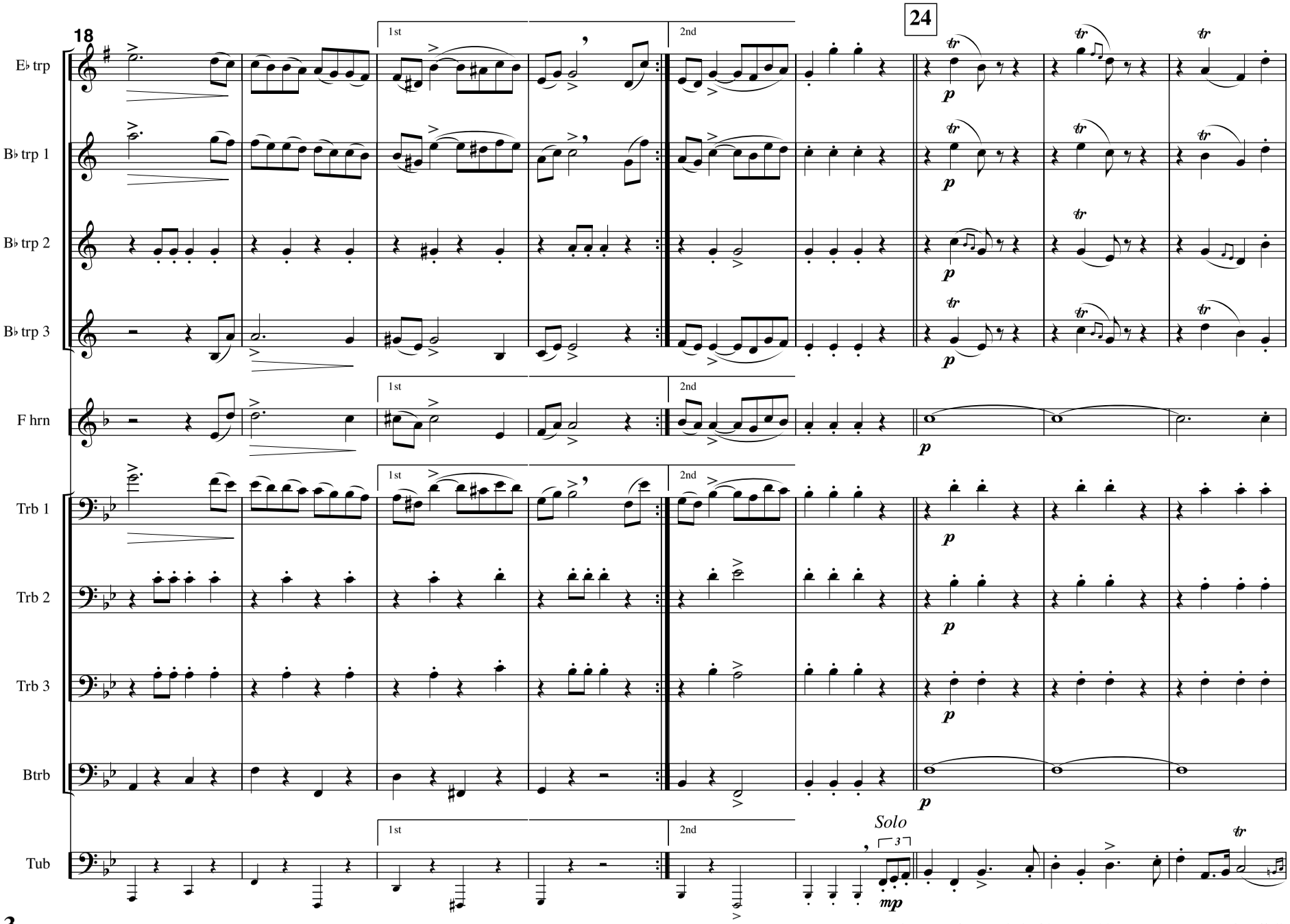

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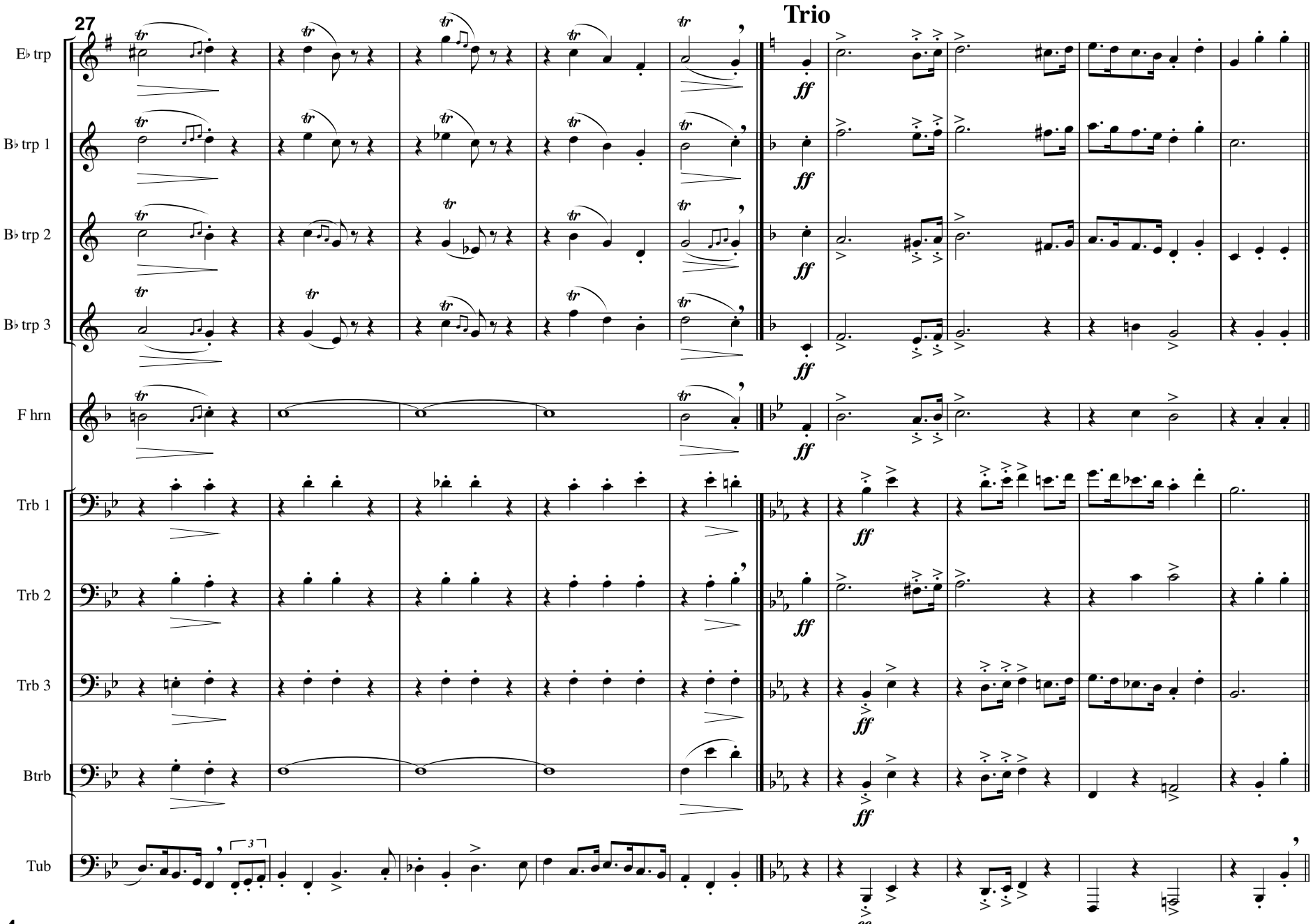

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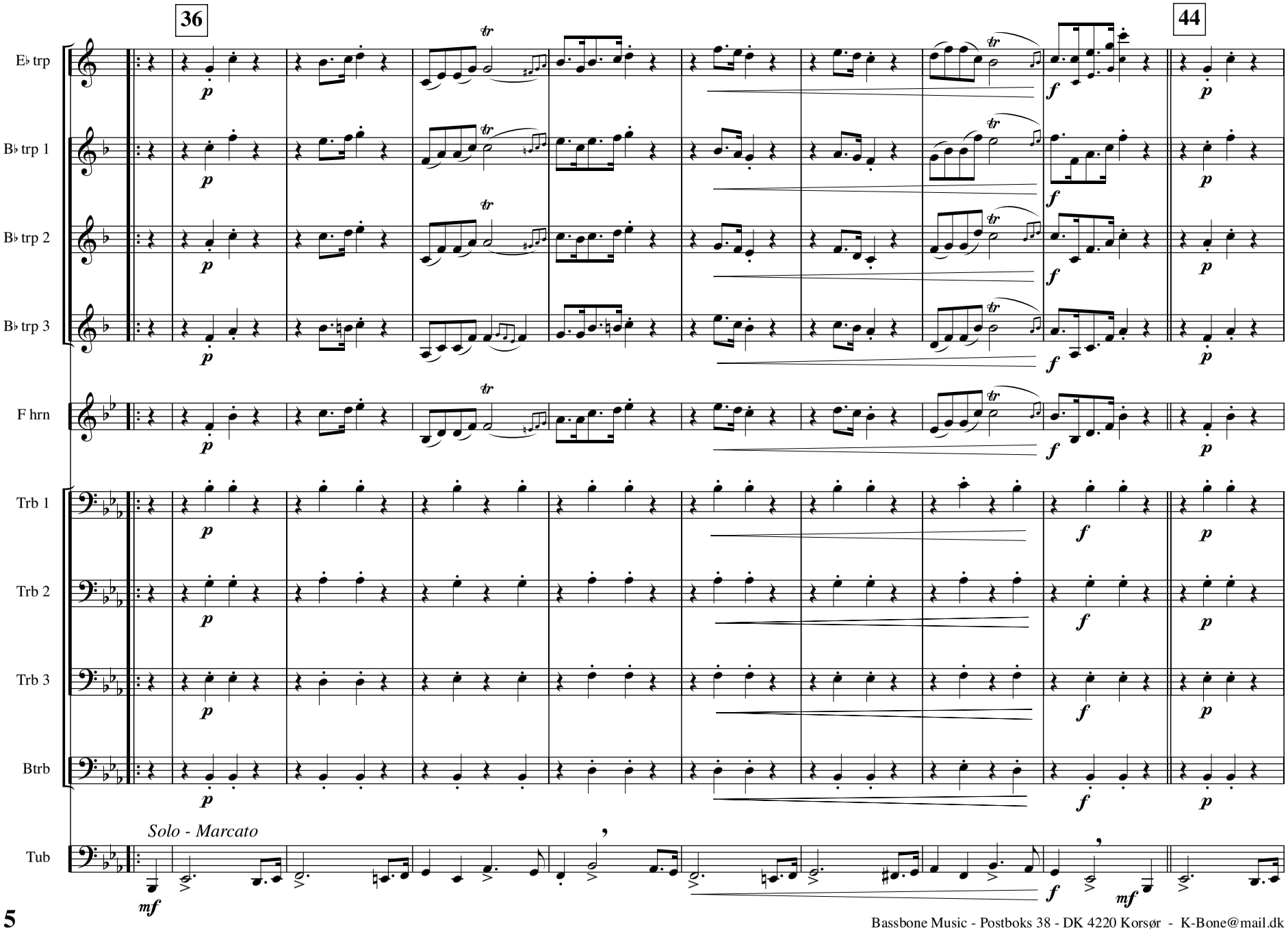

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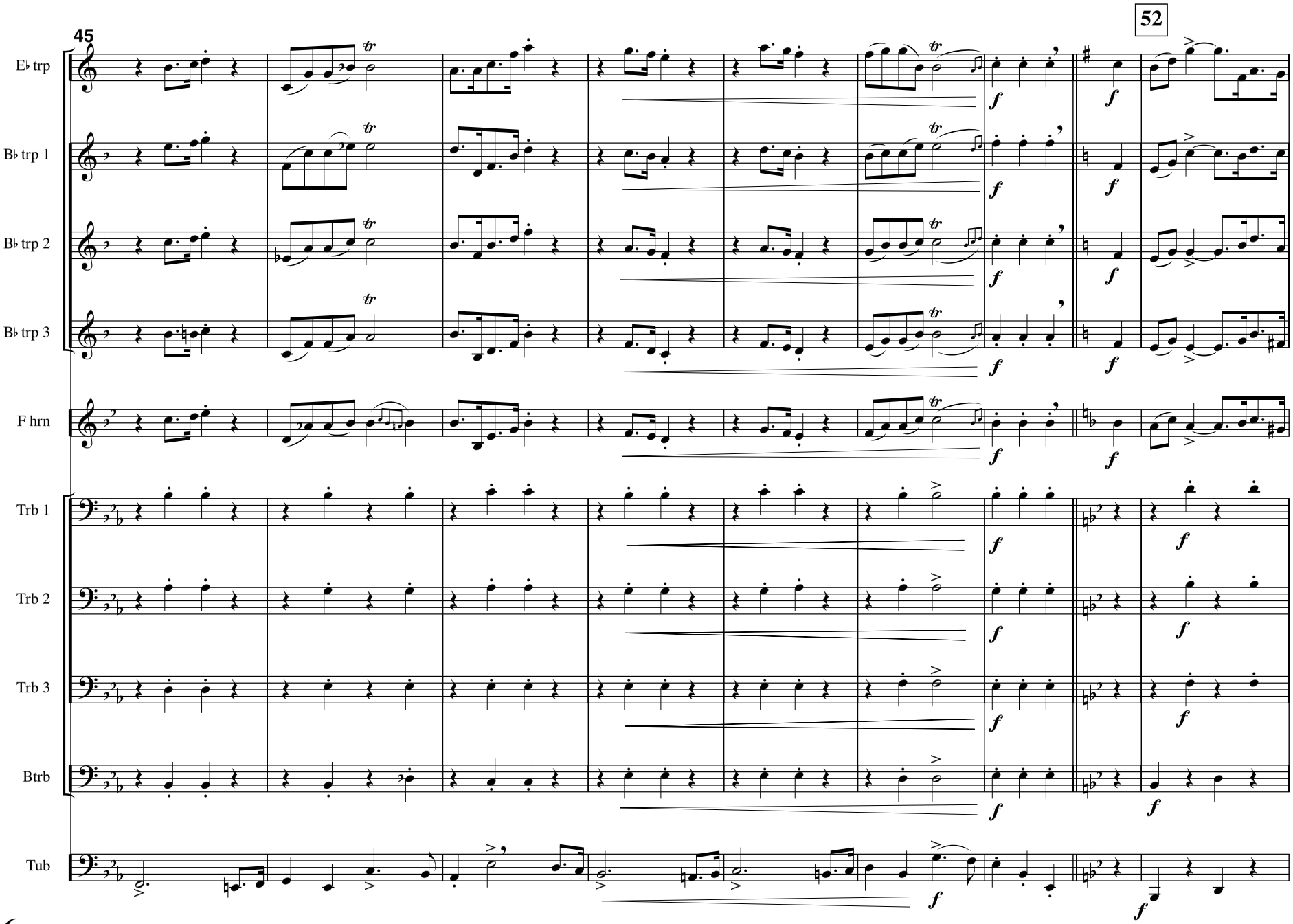

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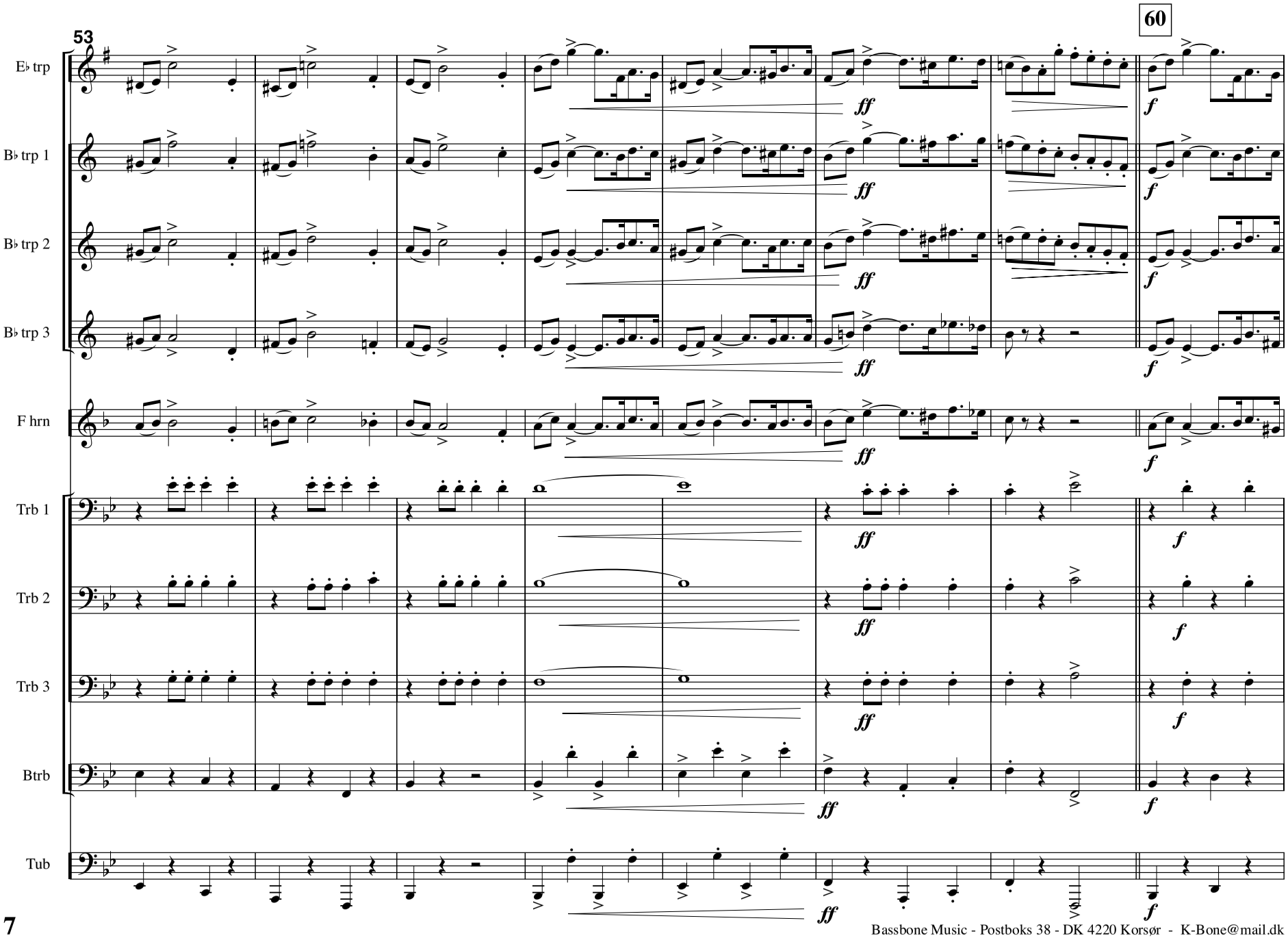

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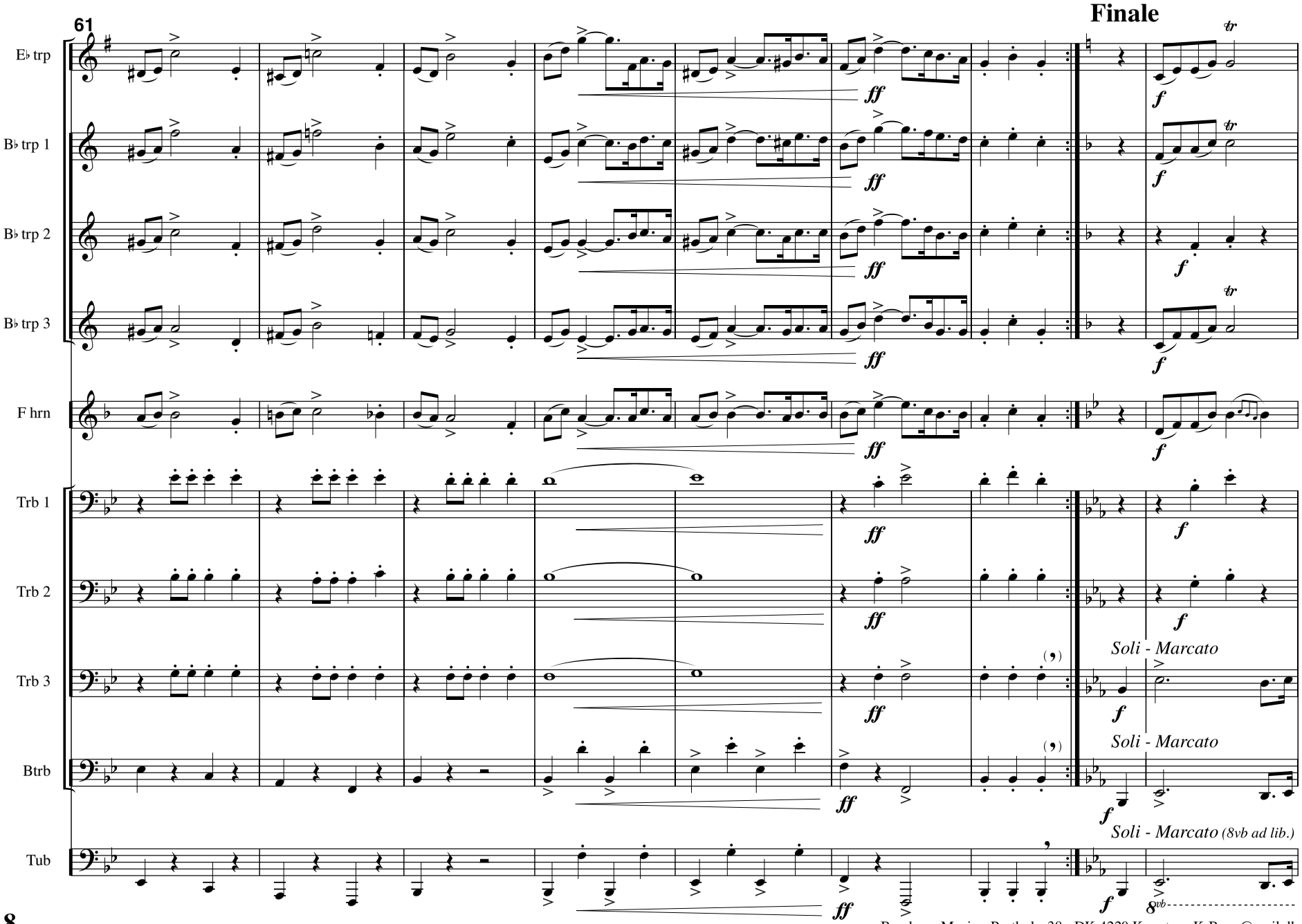

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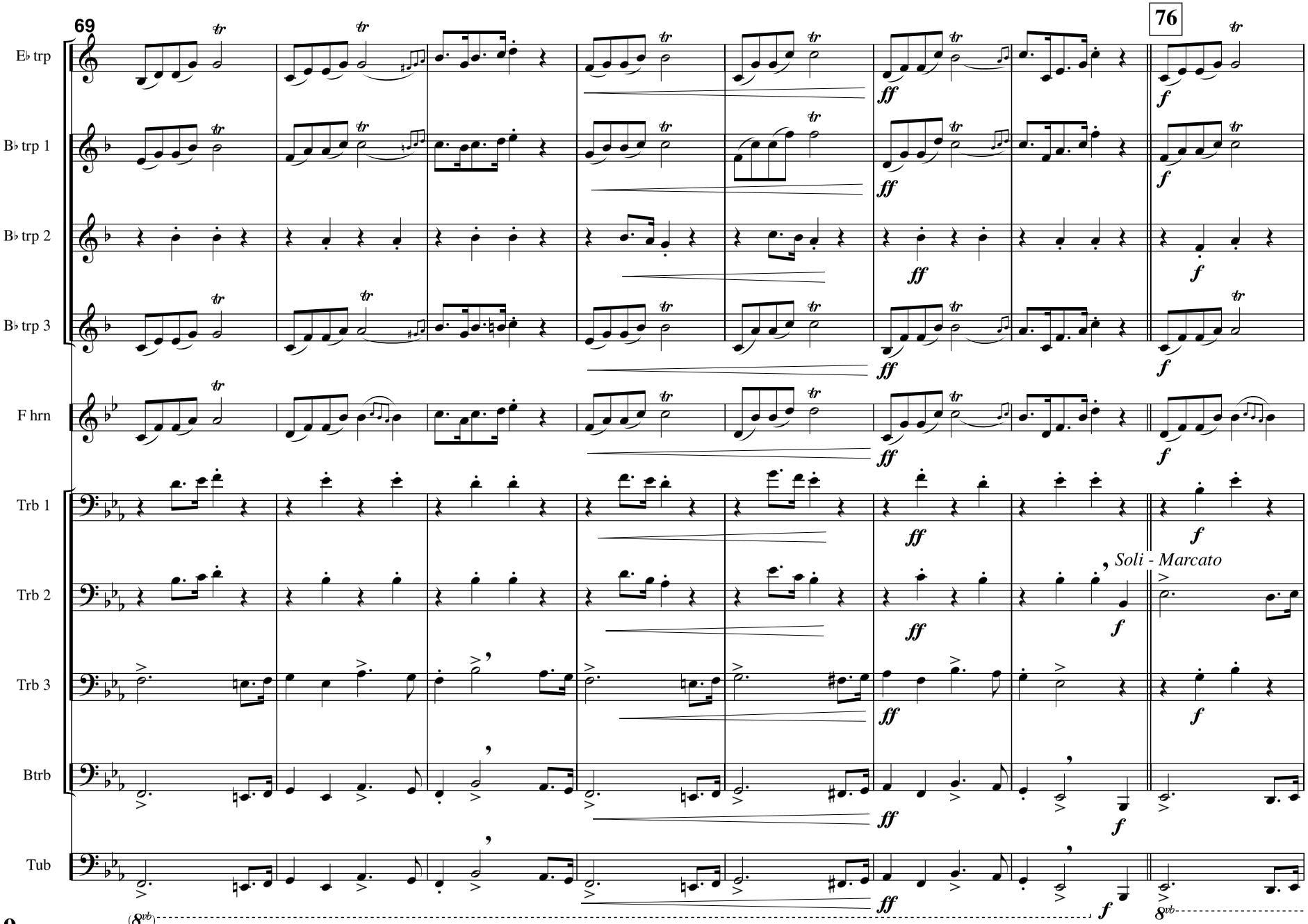

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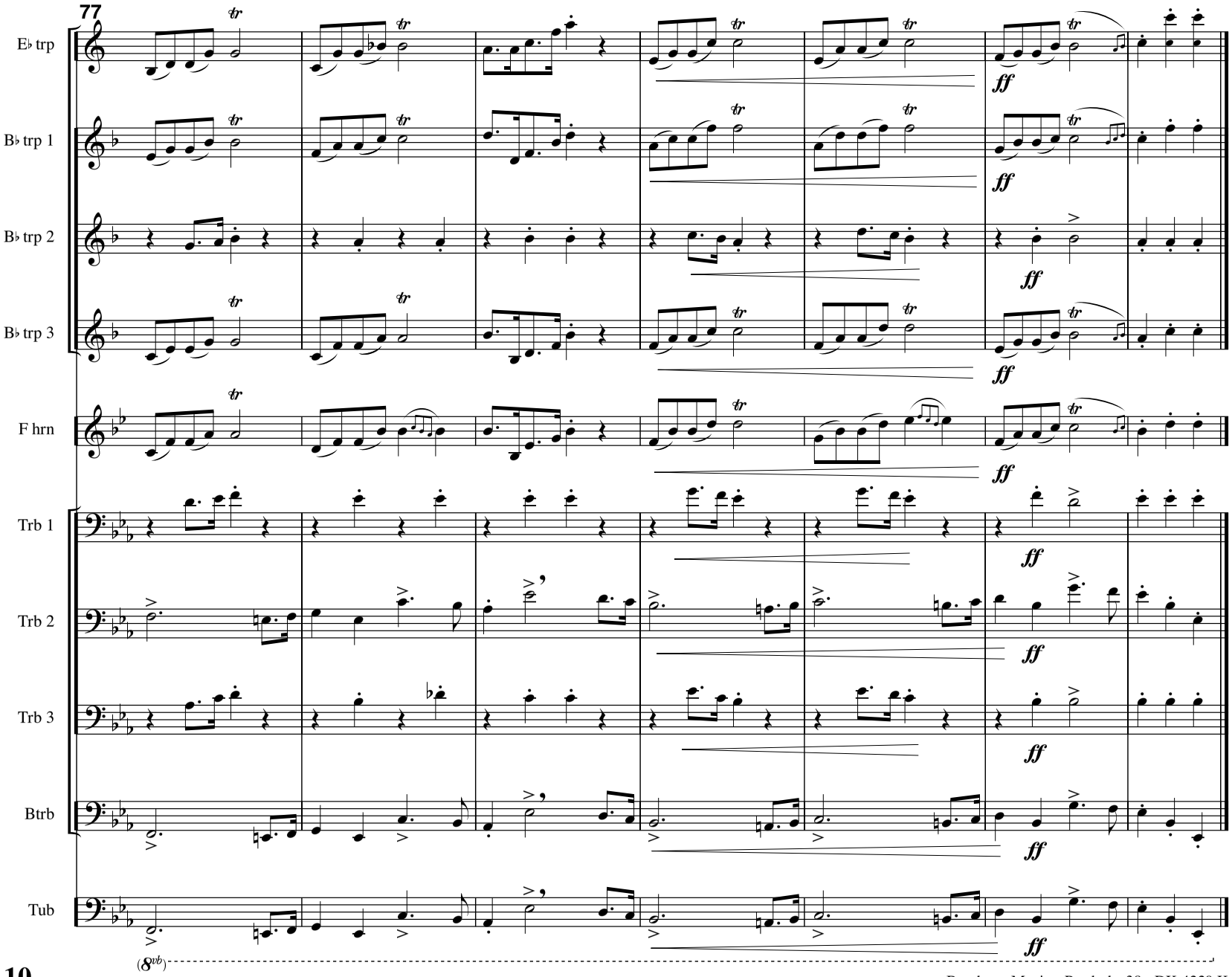

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