BEGINNER JAZZ SERIES

SUPER FAST & EASY WARM UP FOR BIG BAND

by

ROGER SCHMIDLI

LEVEL: 1+

INSTRUMENTATION

Score

Alto Saxophone 1
Alto Saxophone 2
Tenor Saxophone 1
Tenor Saxophone 2 (optional)
Baritone Saxophone (optional)
Trumpet 1
Trumpet 2
Trumpet 3 (optional)

Trombone 1
Trombone 2 (optional)
Trombone 3 (optional)
Guitar (optional)
Piano
Bass
Drums
Vibraphone (optional)

ALTERNATE/OPTIONAL PARTS

Flute
French Horn (Trombone 1)
Baritone TC/Tenor Saxophone (Trombone 1)
Tuba

SAMPLE SCORE

Jazz Music

by Australian Composers

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SUPER FAST & EASY
WARM UP FOR BIG BAND

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Level: 1+

Program Notes:

Many of us have young, developing big bands with short rehearsal time. Often a young band doesn't get to create a 'good' ensemble sound until well in to the rehearsal and sometimes not at all when wading through charts that are challenging for the youngest players.

In the first few minutes of rehearsal, *Super-Fast and Easy Warm Ups for Big Band* helps the band make a satisfying, cohesive sound from the outset, while learning (or consolidating) some of the most important elements of big band playing. *Super-Fast and Easy Warm Ups for Big Band* is a simple and fun way to establish good musical habits and improved listening in your young musicians, building confidence in their own sound and reading skills from the beginning of your rehearsal.

SAMPLE SCORE

About the Composer:

Roger resides in Melbourne, Australia where he is a professional musician, composer, conductor and music educator. As a trombonist he works in theatre, has recorded for television and movie soundtracks and has performed in the past with the likes of Ray Charles and Jerry Lewis. He is also a long-time member of the Daryl McKenzie Jazz Orchestra.

Roger studied music and music education at the University of Melbourne. Having worked as Head of Brass and Bands at Scotch College, Melbourne where he directed the Senior Wind Symphony and the Senior Stage Band, he has so as to pursue performing and composing recently taken up a position at Carey Baptist Grammar teaching instrumental music and conducting a range of ensembles

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Rehearsal Notes:
To Get Started

- Have the band play either the **Swing, Rock, Shuffle** or **Latin** 8 bar chord progression as it is written. Repeats are optional.
- You determine the tempo/dynamic
- Get your musicians to focus on: Effective breathing and tone quality; Balance in their section; Rhythmic togetherness
- Try different tempos and dynamics with particular focus on how well your rhythm section can adjust. For example, the **Rock Style** works as a high powered and up tempo exercise - forte at crotchet (quarter note) =120 or can be played like a ballad (mezzo piano at crotchet (quarter note) =70.
- Consider the worth of memorising one of these easy progressions – it is of great value when warming up backstage prior to a performance where you may not have any music in front of you.

Using the Rhythmic Patterns

- Once your band can play one of the progressions, try choosing a 1 bar rhythmic pattern from those provided and ask your band to play this pattern repeated through the 8 bar chord progression (instead of just the simple semibreves).
- The Rhythm Section (for now) should continue to play their parts as written for the initial chord progression.
- It is important that you make clear to your students that they ignore the written pitch of the rhythmic value and simply apply it to the pitch of the notes in the chord progression.

SAMPLE SCORE

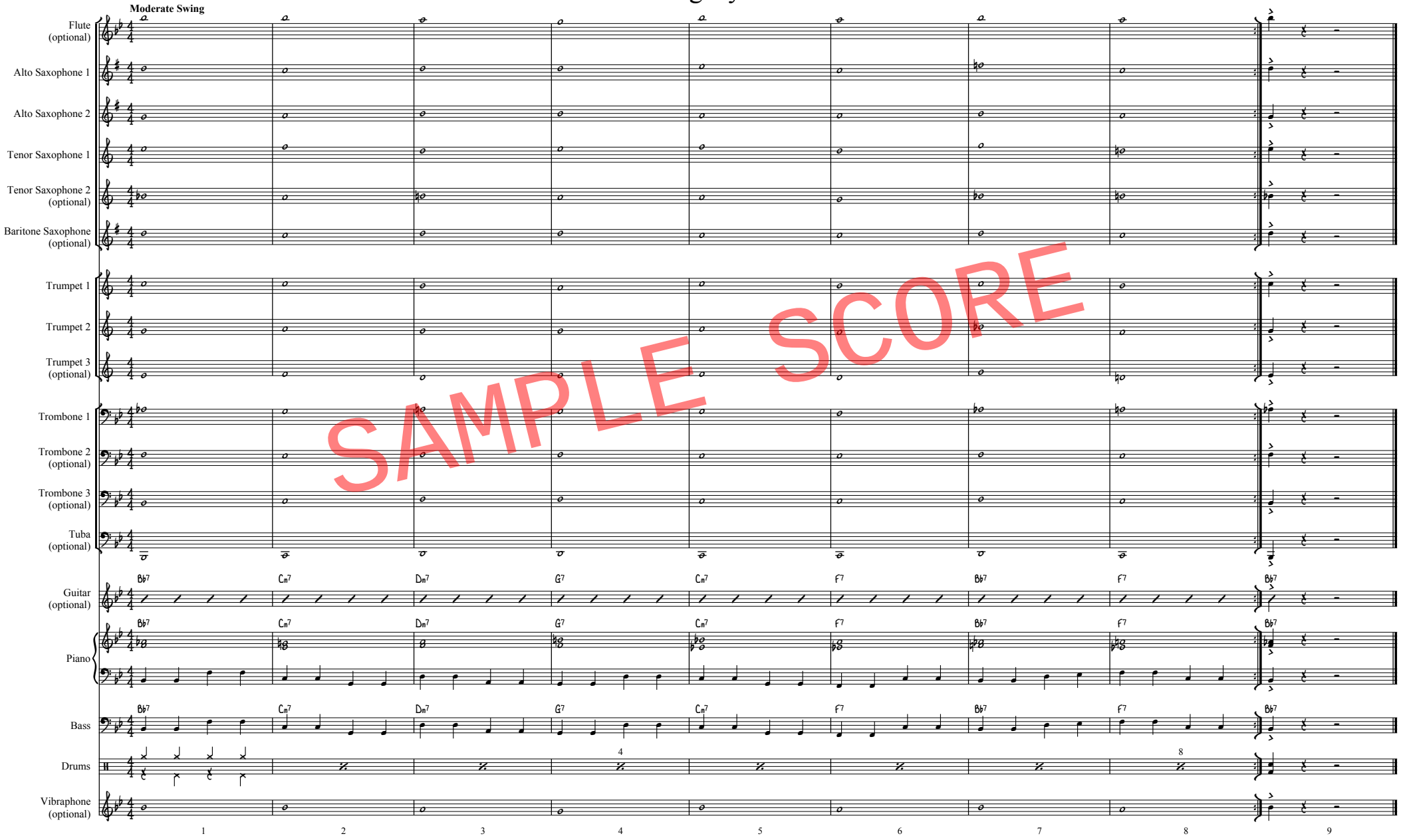
Points for focus and development

- It is essential that the band try to match articulation of the lead trumpet and their respective section lead players. Your band will derive great benefit from this if dealt with consistently.
- Your musicians should always be mindful of balance and accurate articulation.
- The rhythmic patterns have been presented to progress from one to the next, taking note of subdivisions and articulations that occur in the earlier figures.
- The drum parts can be kept very simple throughout the warm up but a more capable student can be extended by being challenged to play the rhythmic figures on snare as part of the basic 'groove' (particularly with **Swing** or **Shuffle**)
- Invite your piano player and guitarist to try 'comping' complimentary patterns to what the horn players are doing or match the rhythms as notated with them.
- The Swing and Rock sections are very basic and a good starting point. Shuffle, while still developing swing phrasing, has been given a little more challenge and the Latin section will provide a additional extension for more confident rhythm sections.
- Continue to use the *Super-Fast and Easy Warm up for Big Band* as a simple framework, altering tempos, dynamics and other stylistic elements to develop your band. You are only limited by your creativity as to how you can employ this musical tool to improve the rhythmic reading and musical 'habits' of your ensemble.

Super Fast & Easy
Warm Up for Big Band

Swing style

Roger Schmidli



SAMPLE SCORE

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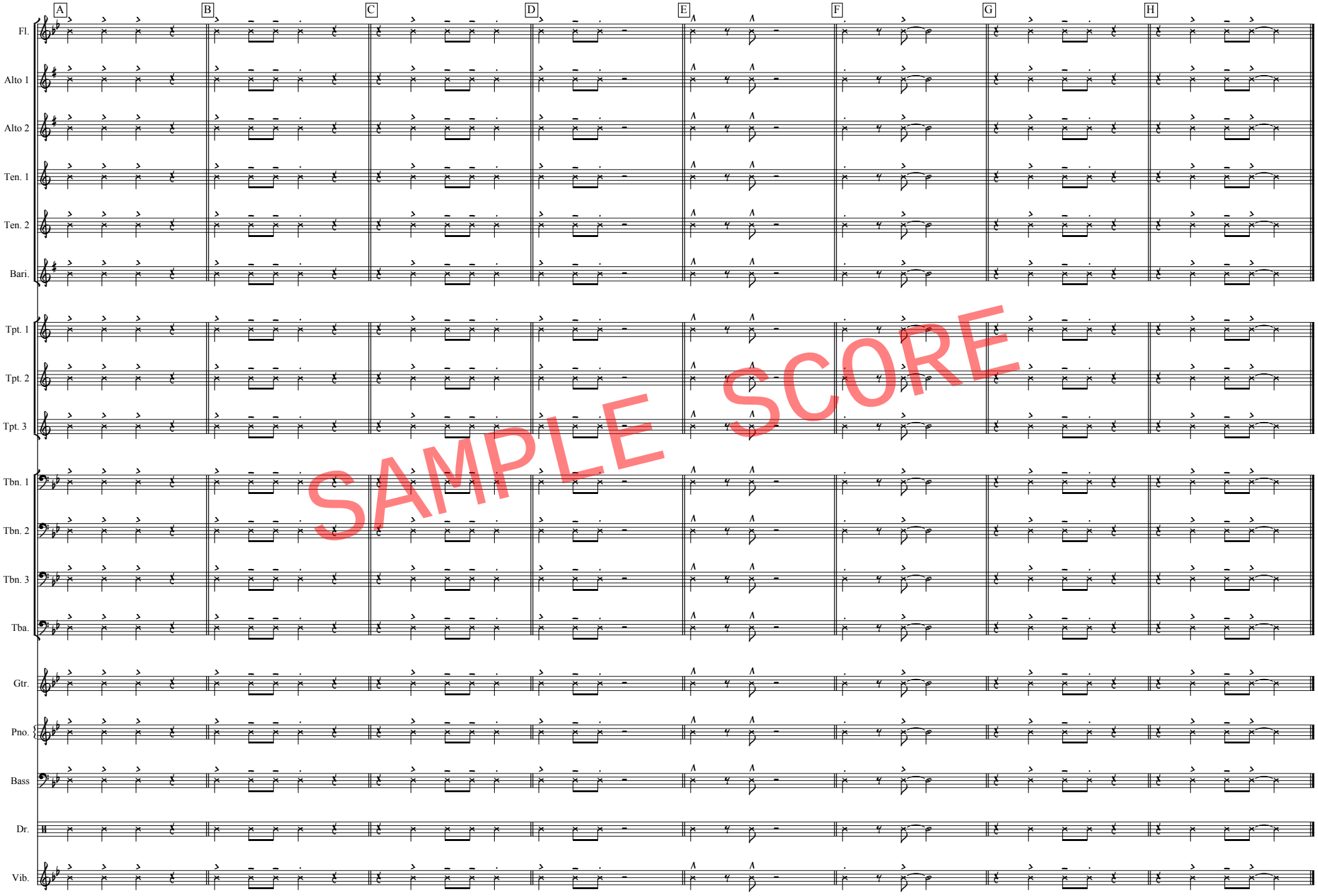

A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
Fl.
Alto 1
Alto 2
Ten. 1
Ten. 2
Bari.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
Tba.
Gtr.
Pno.
Bass
Dr.
Vib.
SAMPLE SCORE

Rock style

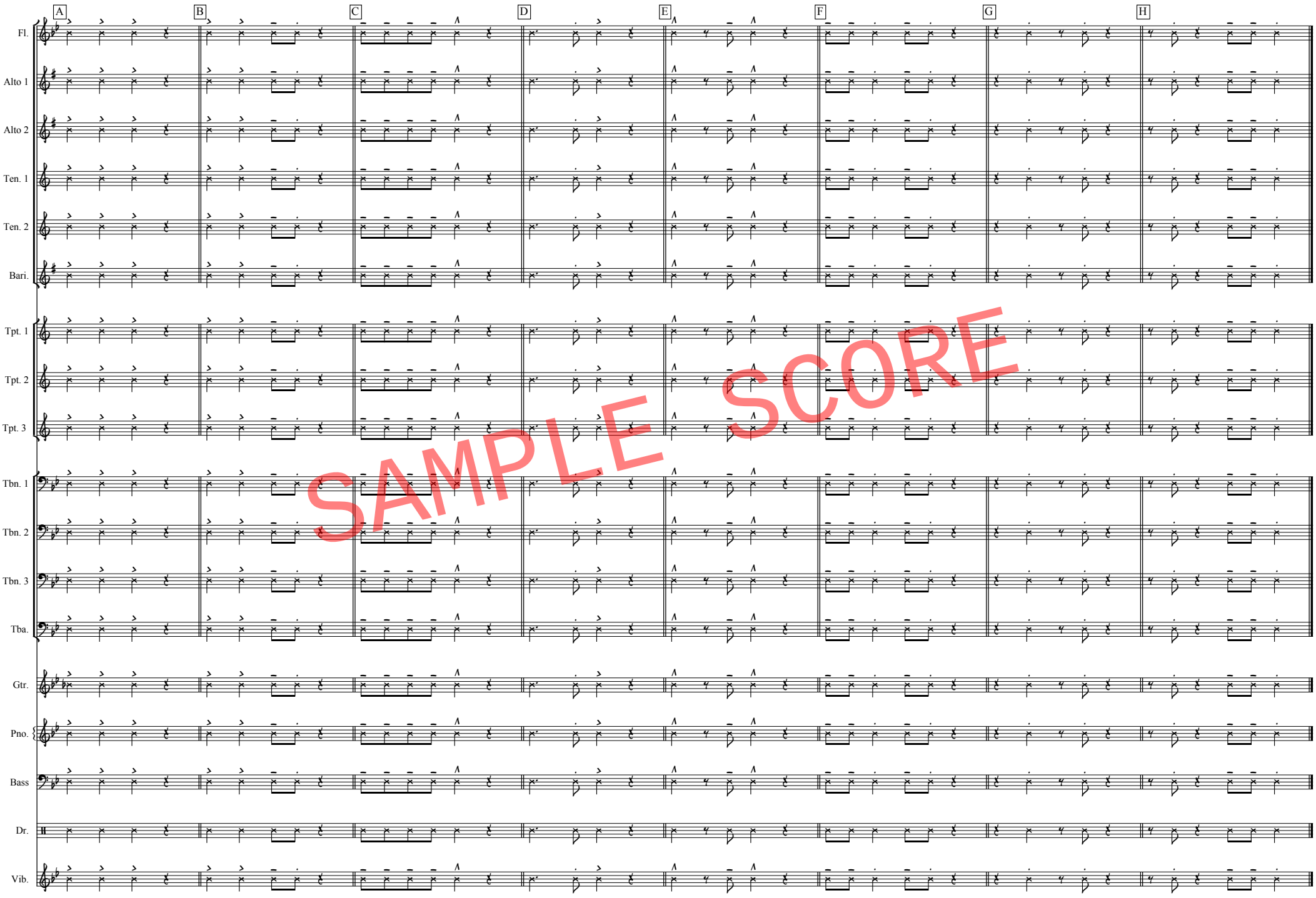
Moderate Rock

Fl.
Alto 1
Alto 2
Ten. 1
Ten. 2
Bari.
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
Tba.
Gtr.
Pno.
Bass
Dr.
Vib.

Gm7 | E♭maj7 | B♭add9 | F6 | Gm7 | E♭maj7 | Fsus | Fadd9 | Gm7

SAMPLE SCORE

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9



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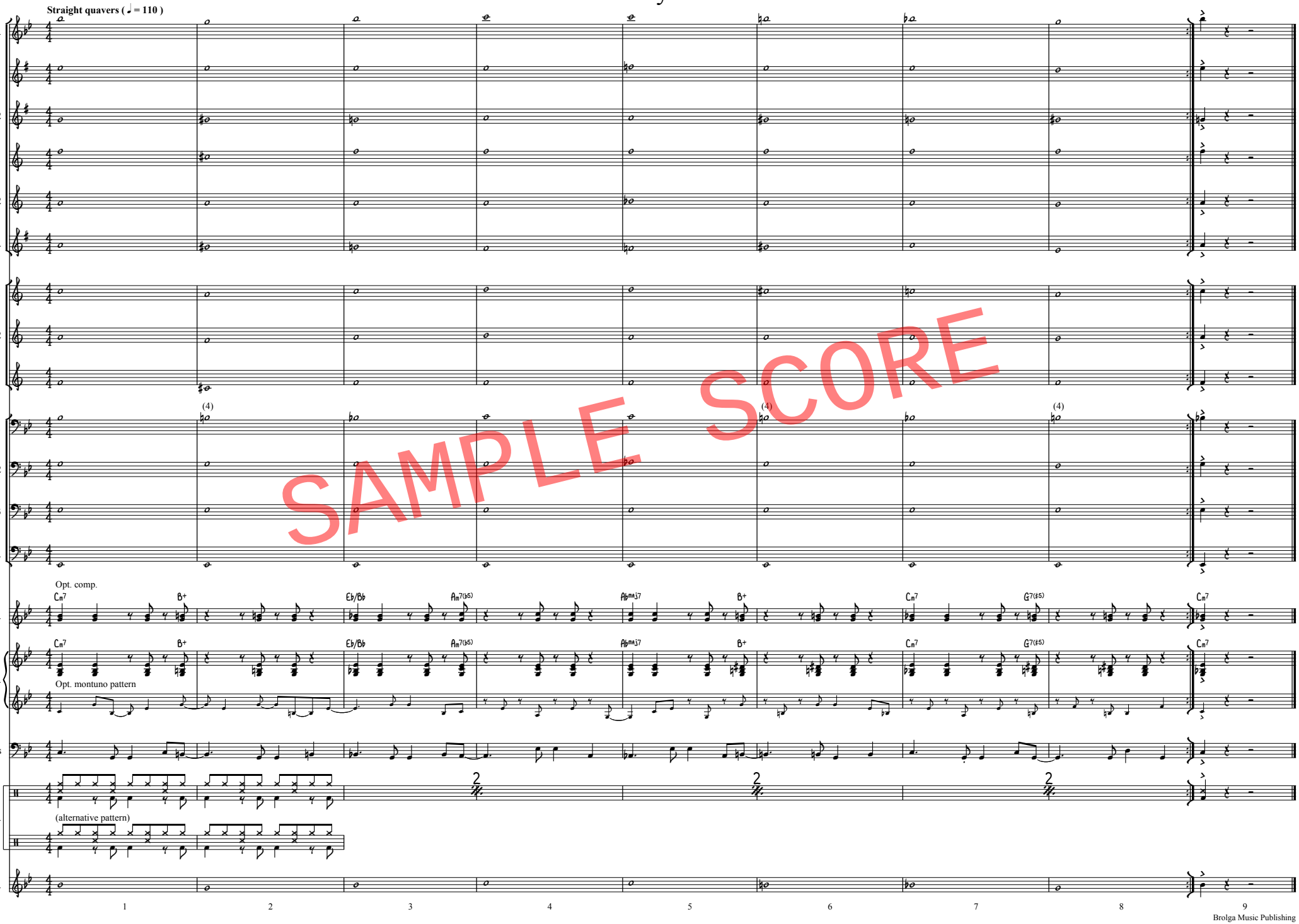
Latin style



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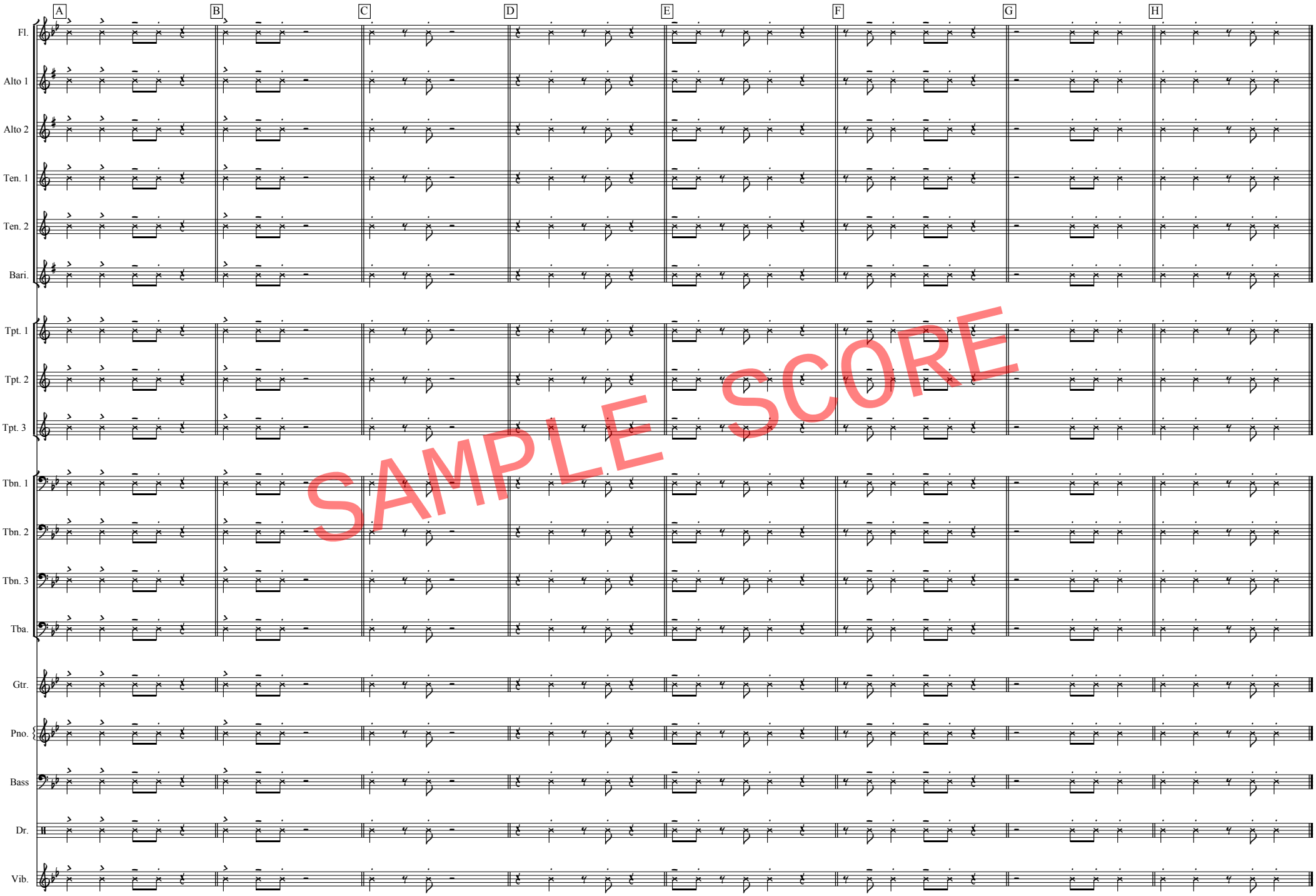

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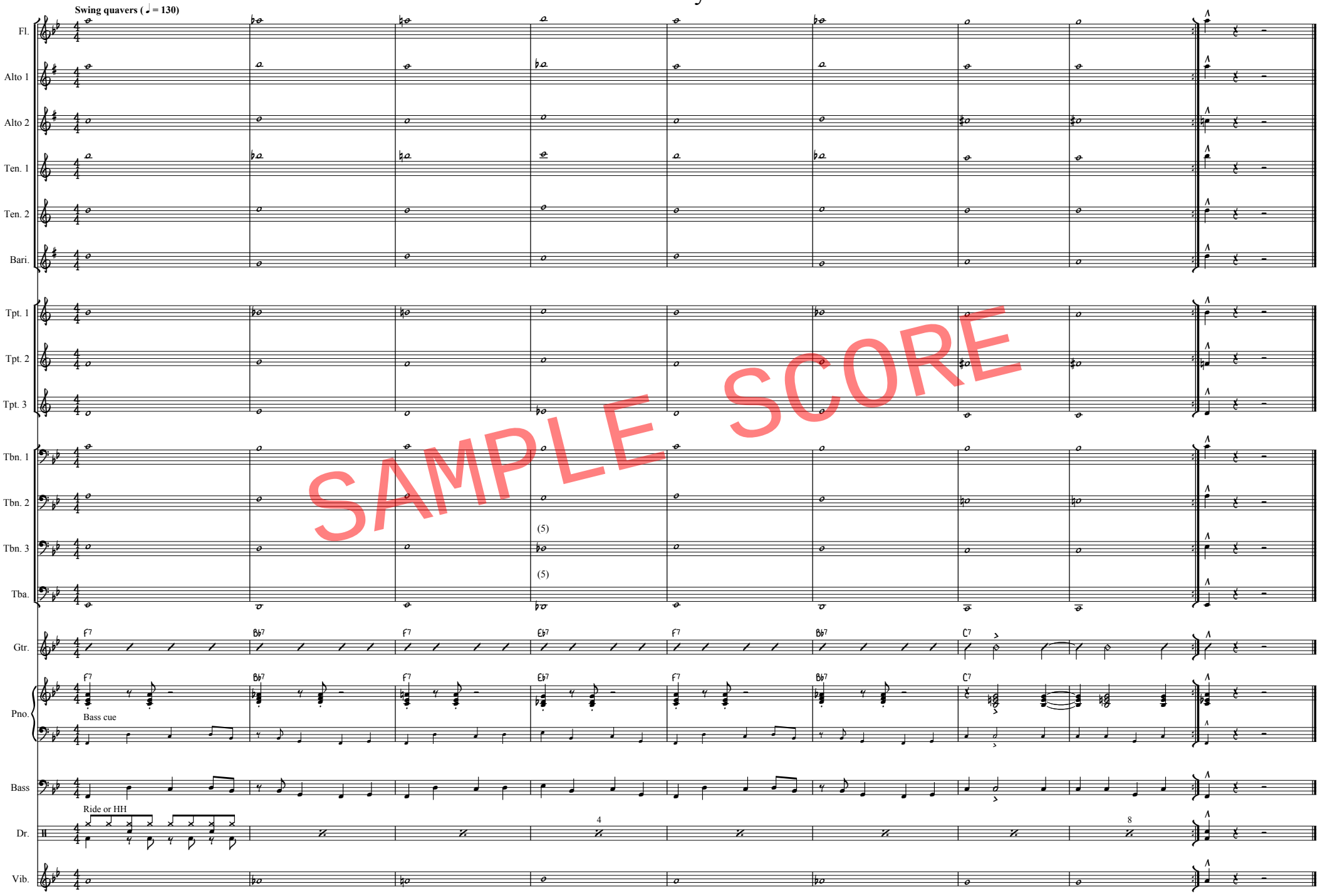
Shuffle style



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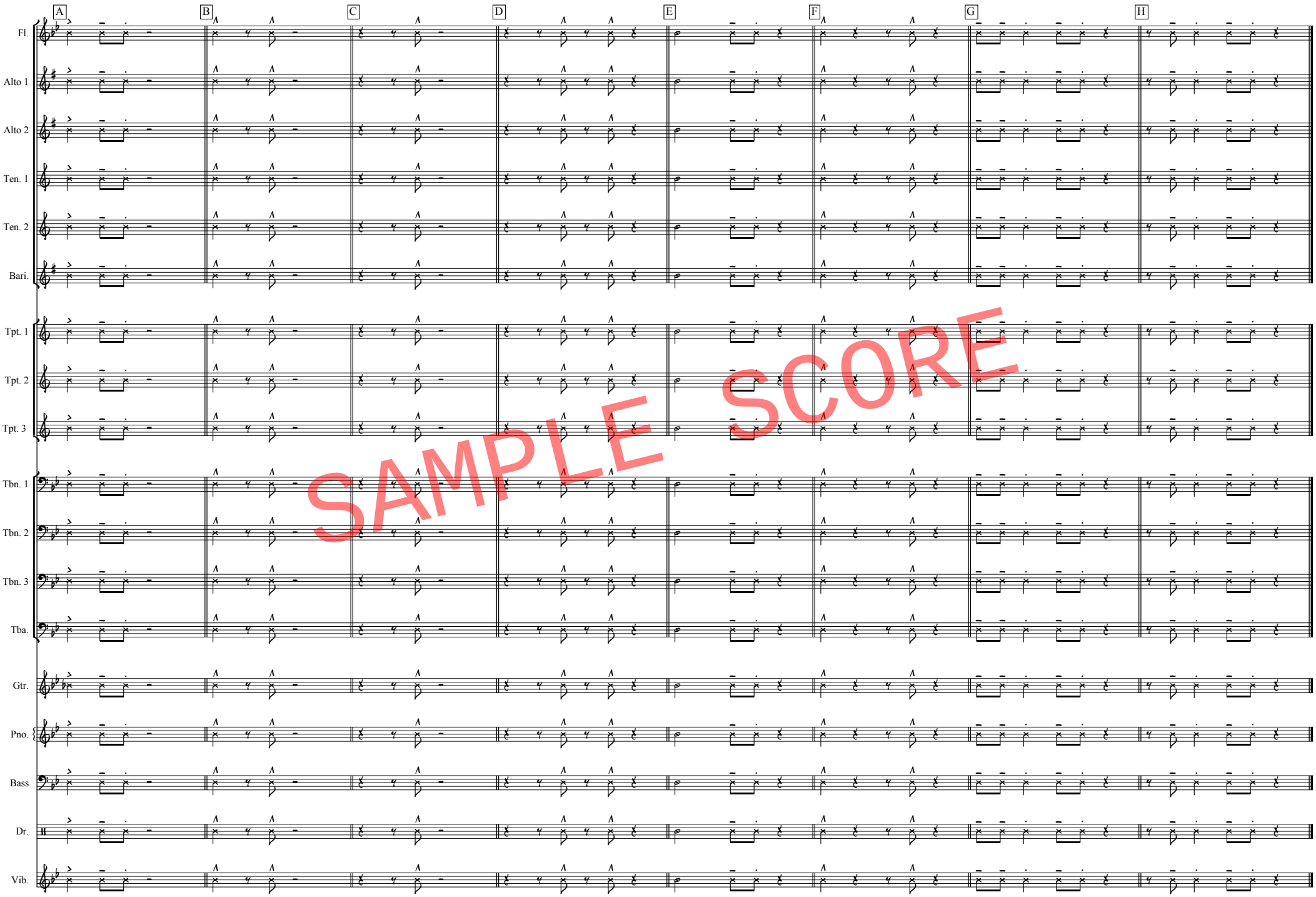

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