Rhythmic and Melodic Mapping

Articulating Energy and Emotion in Music Performance

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University of Charleston

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Rhythmic Mapping

Reading vs. Performing vs. Listening

Purpose of Notation

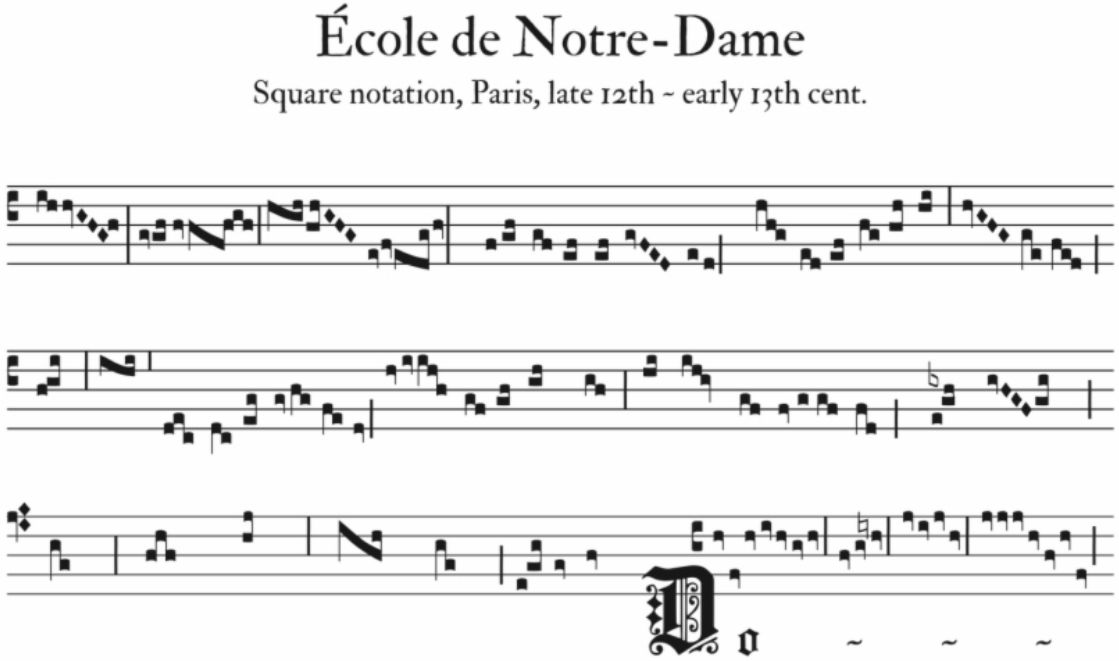
- Ability to Preserve and Recreate Basic Compositional Intentions

Benefits of Notation

- Increased Quantity of Music Learned
- Historic Preservation of Culture
- Symbology and Reading Aptitude

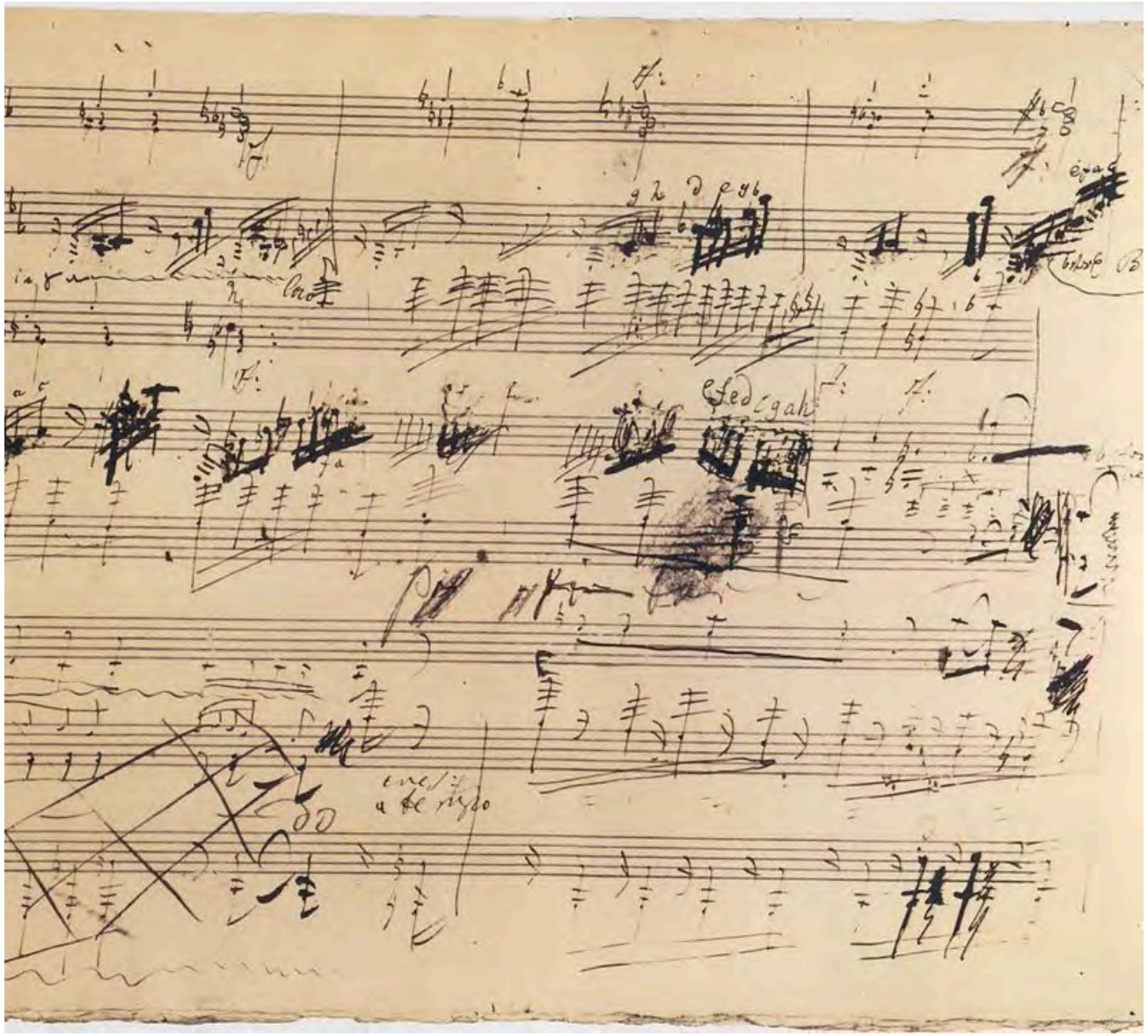
Implications of Notation

- Even distribution of the beat (pulse)
- Myopic Version of Performance
- Assumptions of the Composers True Intentions

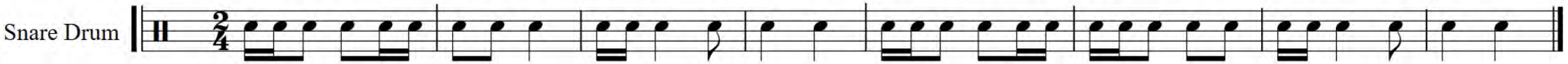


Techniques for Exploring Energy

- Remove Bar lines
- Identifying Ostinatos or Phrasal Patterns
- Eliminate Beams
- Re-write in Other Meters
- Try a variety of tempos
- Articulation Assumptions



Rhythm Examples



Pablo Casals

James Thurmond

Melodic Mapping

"Music is the divine way to tell beautiful, poetic things to the heart…"

- Pablo Casals, Cellist

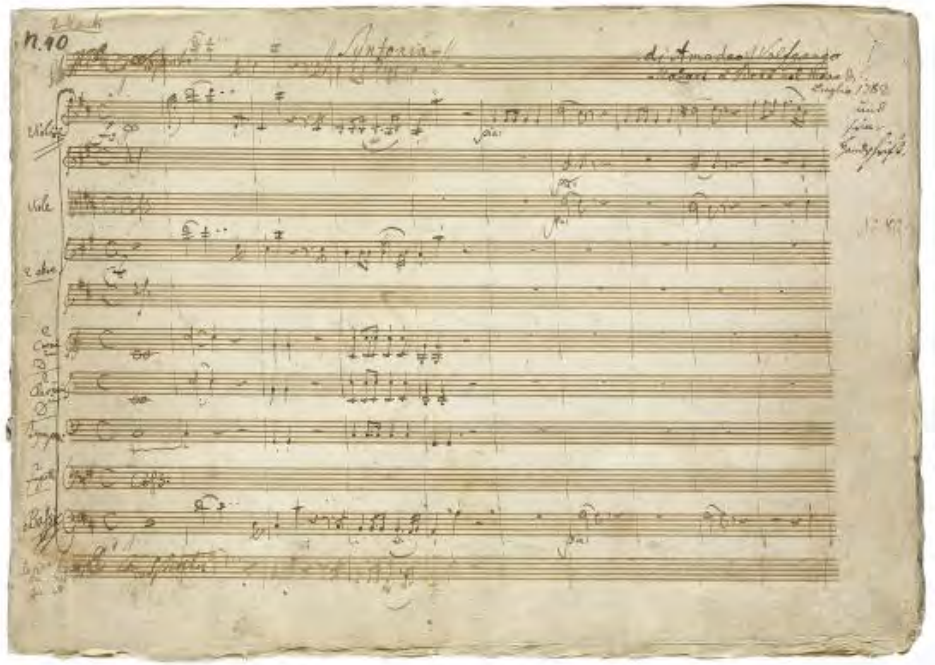
Interpretation: General Performance Practice

- Accidentals in the Key Signature or outside the tonal center
- Clarity of smaller domination of notes
- Long tones must have direction
- Direction of notes three or more of the same pitch
- Articulation Usage and Definition
- Dynamic Contrasts

Chetham School Recorder Ensemble (UK)

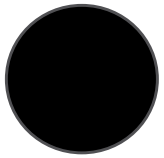
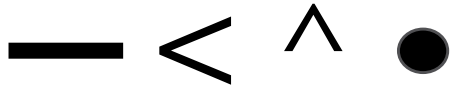
Interpretation: Composer Considerations

- Harmonic and Pitch Significance
- Orchestration Considerations
- Stylistic Tradition
- Genre
- Composer Background
- Year Composition Written



Mozart Symphony No. 35

IT-RAT-TD-B-I

- **I**ntonation (Practice Over Theory)
- **T**one 
- **R**hythm (SPACE = CLARITY)
- **A**rticulation 

- **T**empo (Control, Control…)

- **T**exture

BIG PICTURE

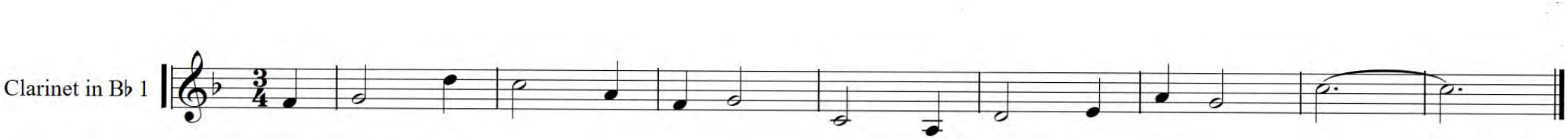
- **D**ynamics
  (Never Louder than Beautiful)
- **B**alance (What's My Job?)
- **I**nstrumentation
  (Orchestration)

Interpretation: Potential Outside Influences

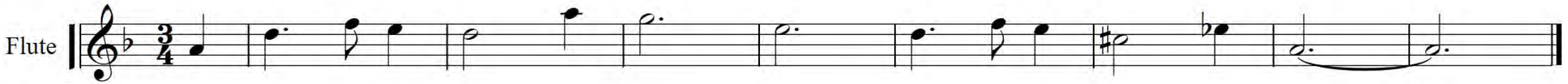
- Social and Political Implications
- Physical Limitations
- Ability of the players
- Rehearsal Constraints
- Performance Space

Dmitri Shostakovich

First Suite in E Flat – Gustav Holst
I. Chaconne



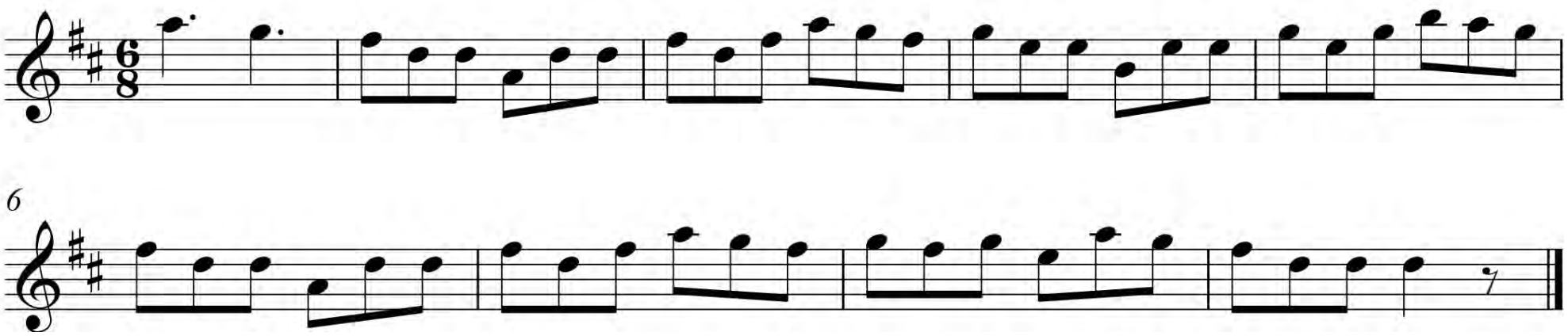
Hedwig's Theme from the Motion Picture - Harry Potter
John Williams



The Irish Washerwoman

Alto Saxophone

Traditional Irish Jig



Questions

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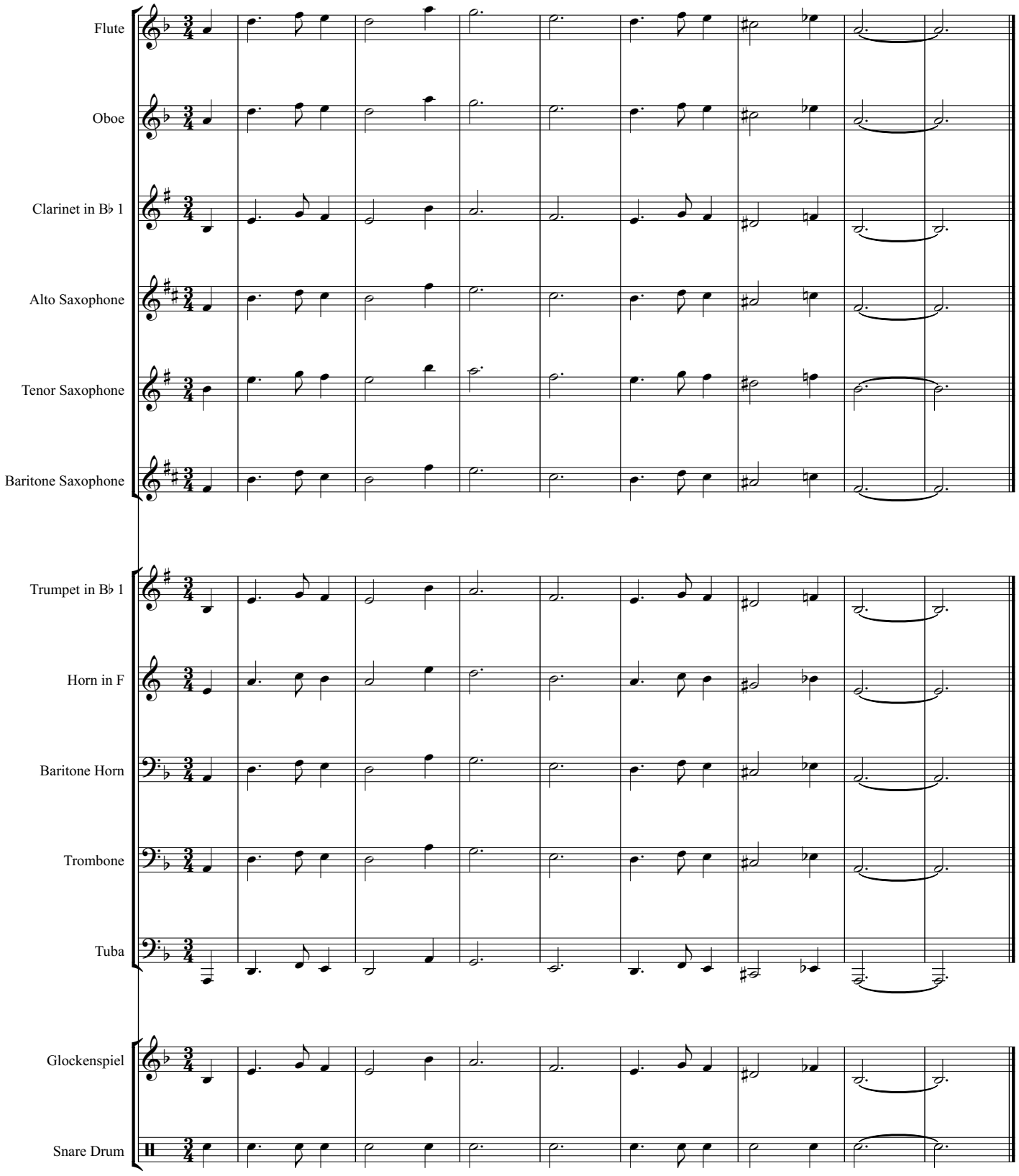
- JohnChristian@ucwv.edu

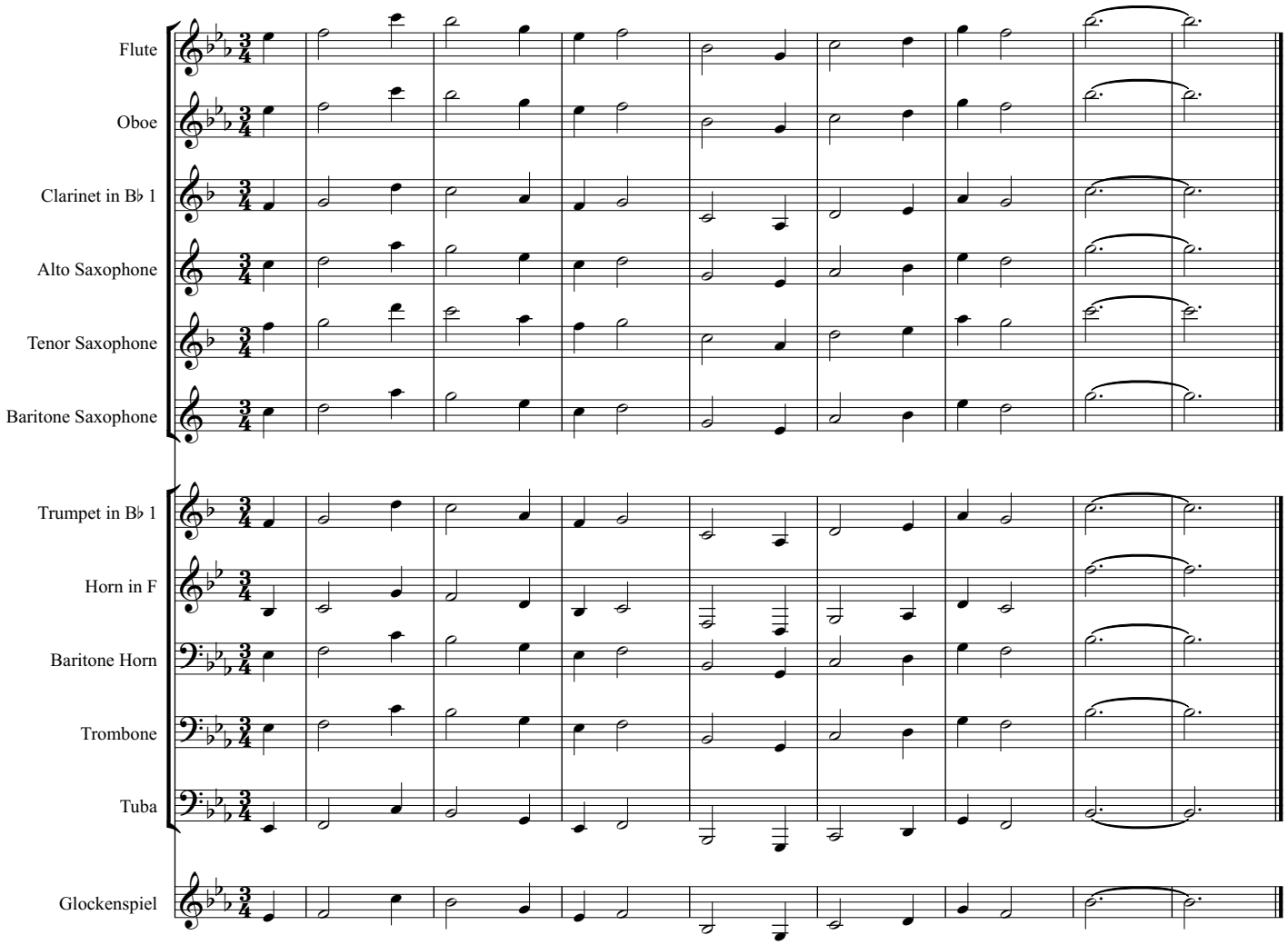
Hedwig's Theme from Harry Potter

Williams



Holst Suite Mvt 1

Holst



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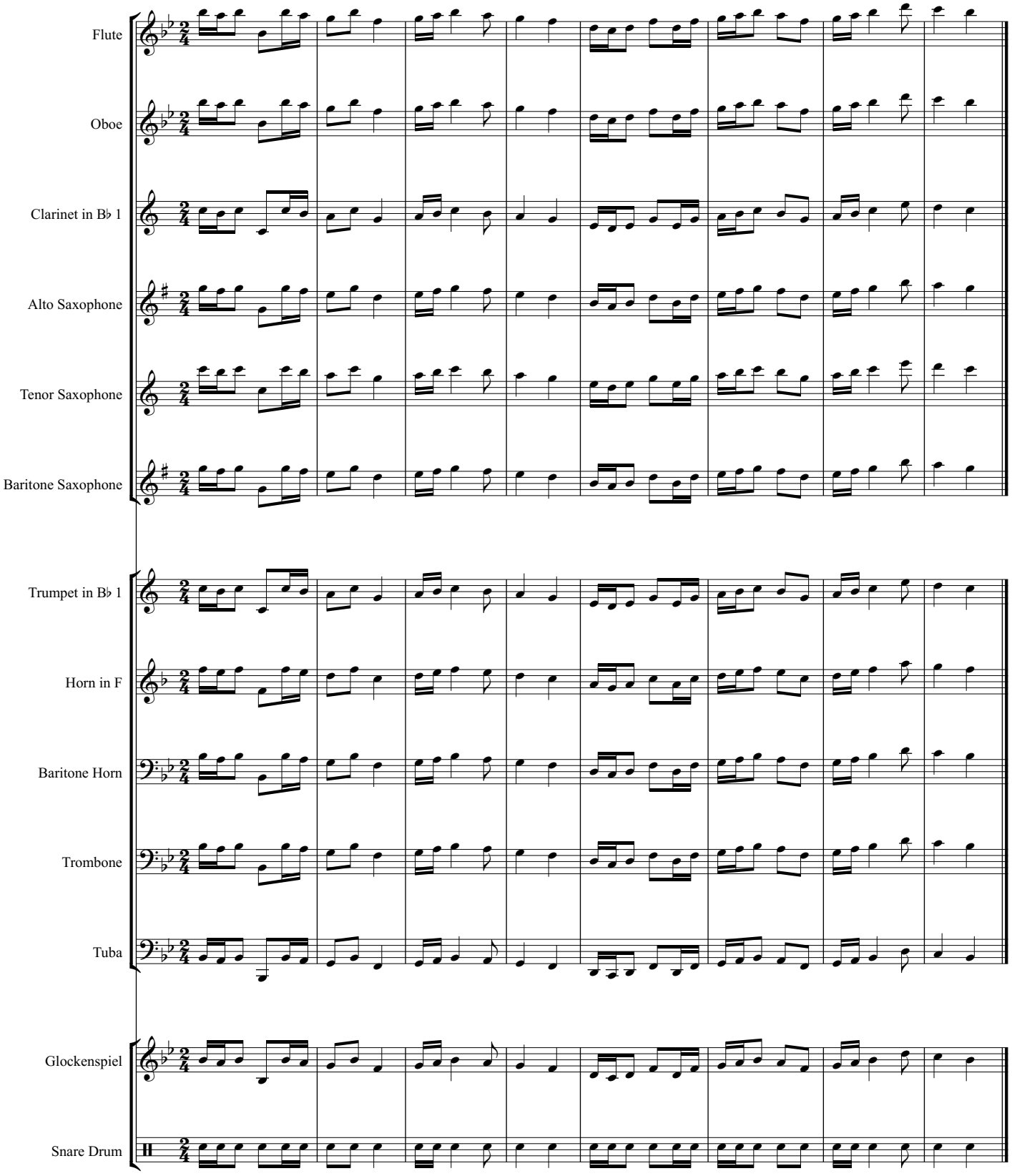
Singapura Suite Mvt 1

Jan Van der Roost



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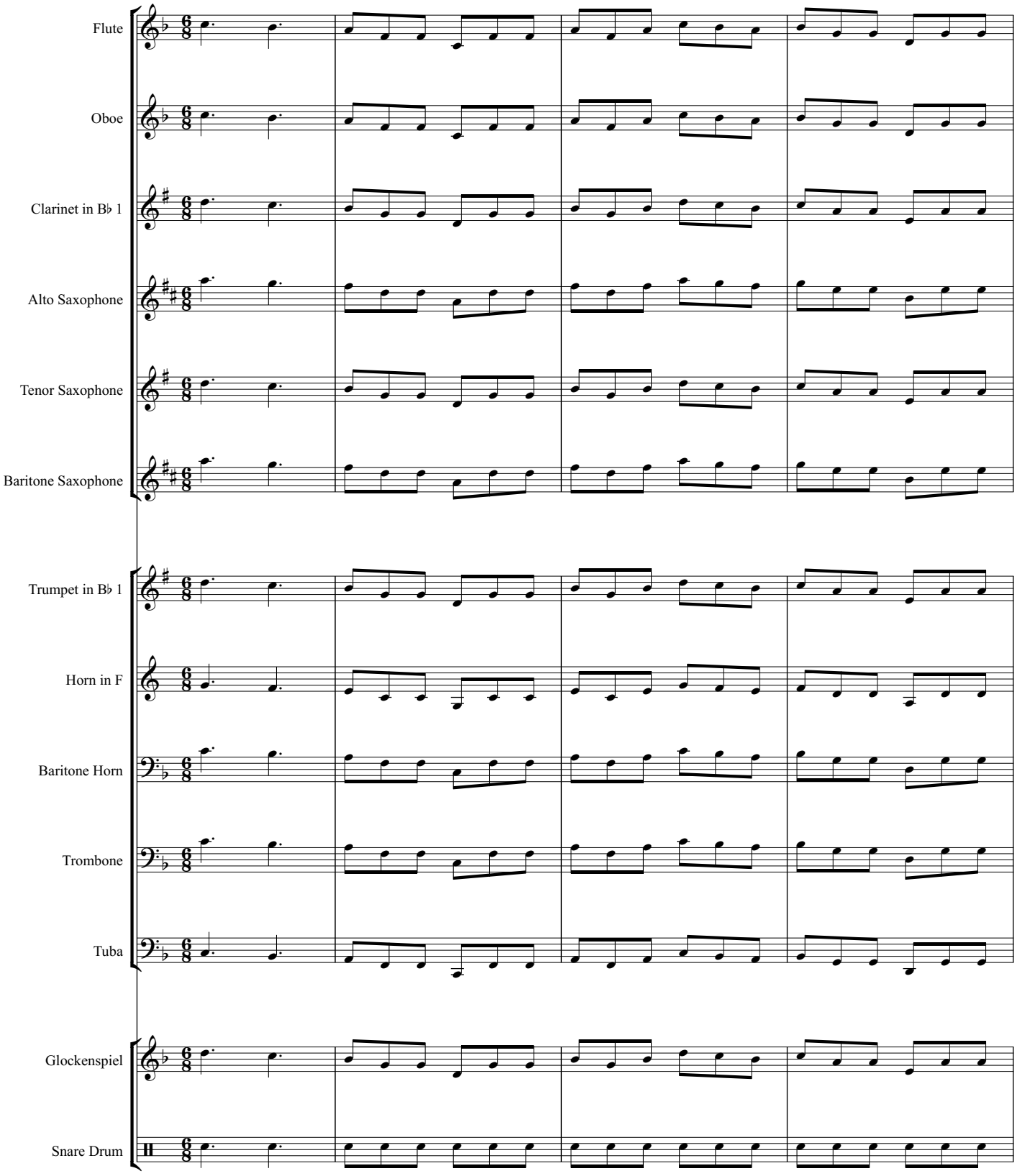

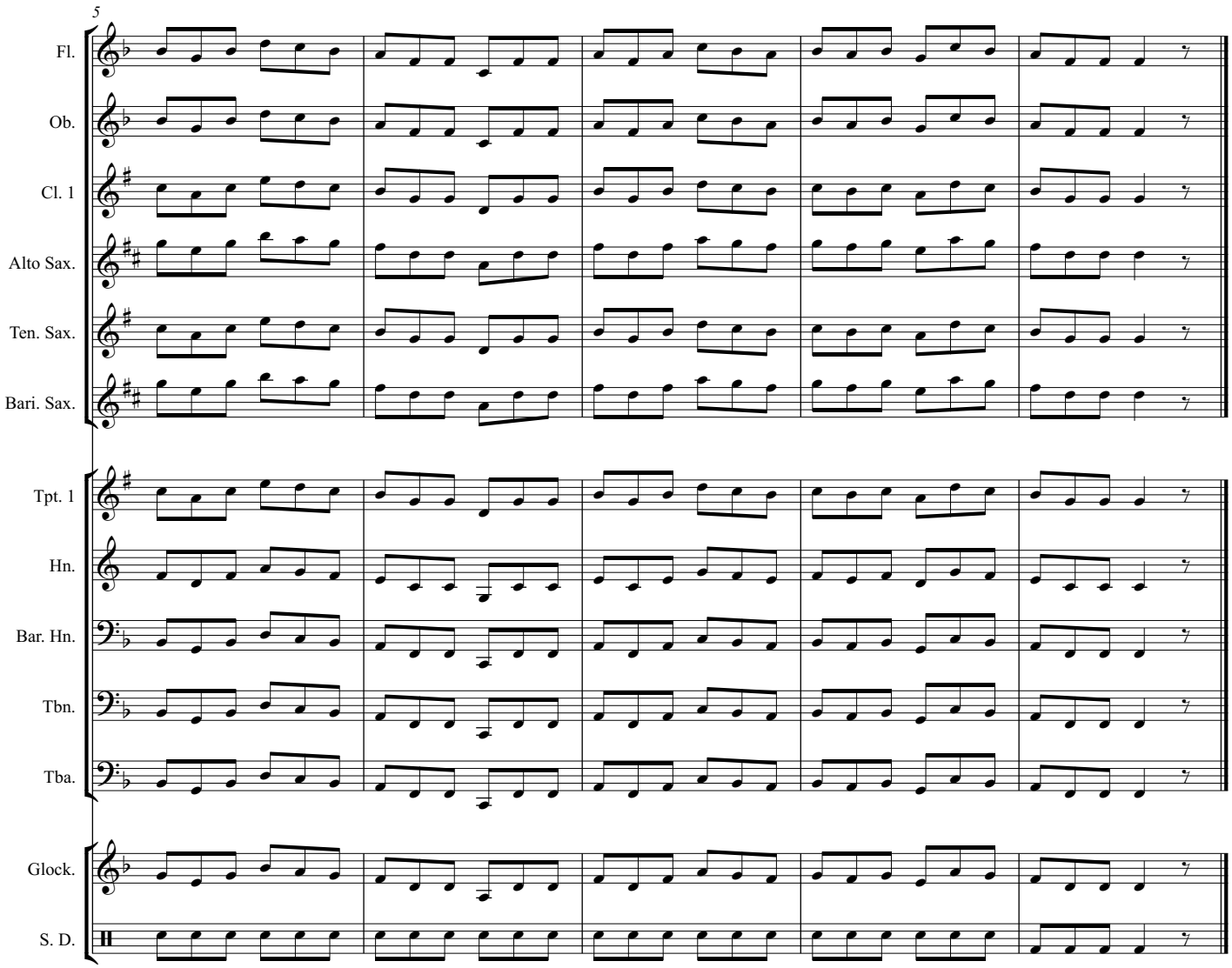
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Fl.
Ob.
Cl. 1
Alto Sax.
Ten. Sax.
Bari. Sax.
Tpt. 1
Hn.
Bar. Hn.
Tbn.
Tba.
Glock.
S. D.