GILMORE...

"The Last Ride of the Riltney Rangers" - Composed and Arranged by Jim Mick

Note from the composer:

As a band leader who is tasked with putting together the program/set list/concert I've always felt the need for charts that fill a certain gap in programming. We all like to open and close our set with a "barn burner." We also try to insert a ballad toward the middle of the set to change it up. This leaves "the gap" in our program that really needs to be filled with charts that are NOT barn burners or ballads but rather medium to "up" tempo charts that engage the audience in such a way as to create interest as well as deliver big applause!

I've discovered that a well-crafted "story" used as an intro creates a context for the music that allows the listener to engage in the piece and clearly be able to visualize the "story" as the music unfolds. I also believe that if the "story" contains a little humor, it becomes even more effective and engaging.

"The Last Ride of the Riltney Rangers" – The Story:

In the wild, wild west during the late 1800's, a remote fort is being shut down by the US Army. The cavalry troop stationed there has been through "thick and thin" together, battling side by side for a very long time. The troopers decide that, before they split up, each going their own way, they should ride out to their favorite campsite located just up and over the hills surrounding the fort, set up shop around the campfire, and have one final party…for old times' sake. This results in the telling of old stories and reminiscing about many of their great adventures… supported, of course, by a lot of embellishment, exaggeration, laughter and outright lying.

As the party runs its course, the troop realizes it's time to "call it a day (AND a night") and, with heavy hearts, ride off into the sunset with yet another story to embellish further for their children and their children's children!

NOTES for the Director:

The main theme of this piece is based on old Army bugle calls.

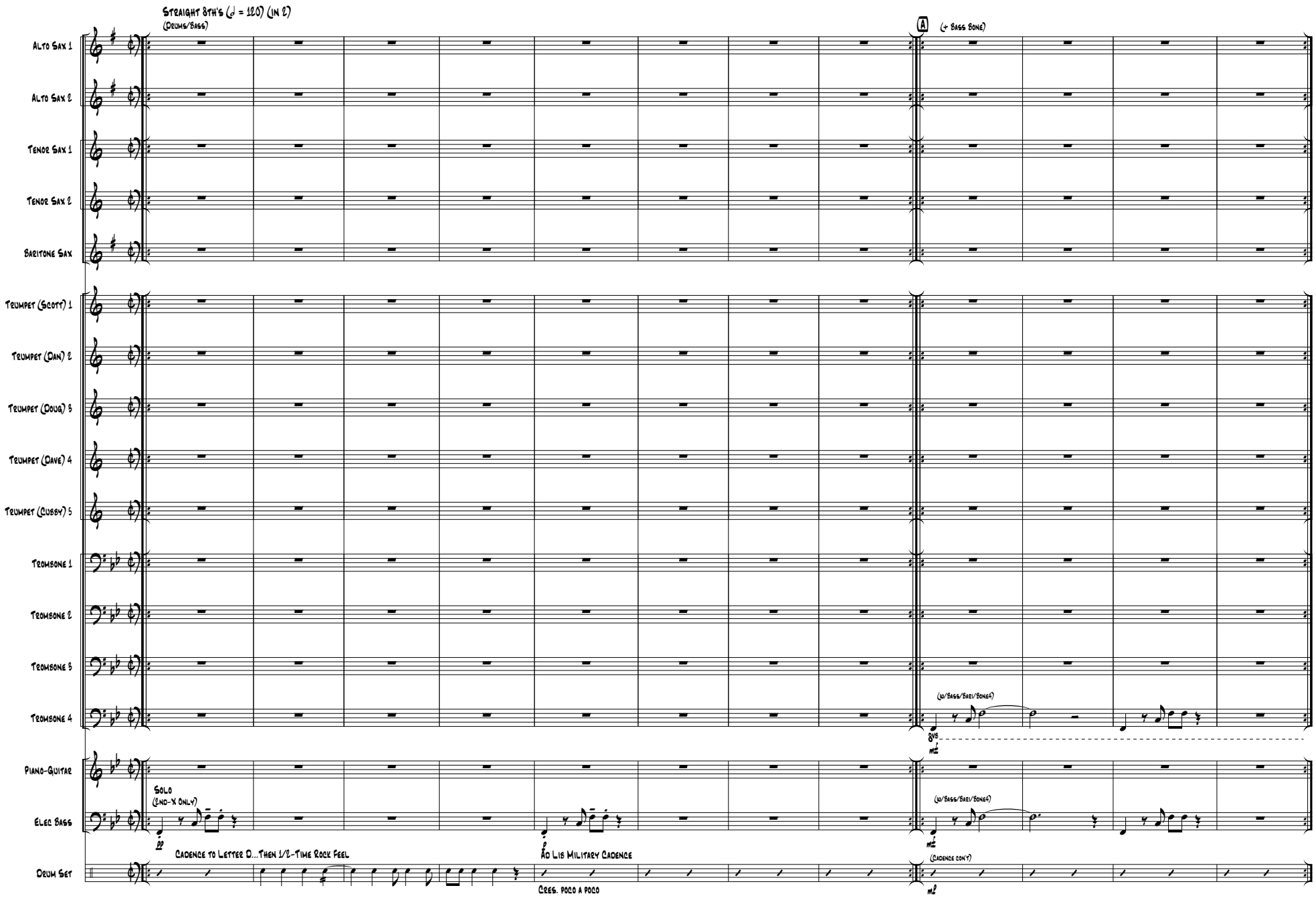
The 4th trumpet ½ 3rd-valve solos are meant to bring back memories of the 60's TV series, F Troop and leaves room for creating additional theater if your 4th trumpet player is willing to wear an old cavalry hat with the front brim pinned back to the hat itself.

Letter K is an open Bb blues meant to depict the "party" around the campfire. This gives room to anyone in the band that wants to be involved (within reason!) by playing full choruses, trading 4's, 2's, going in and out of double time, etc. As this section ends, Letter L is the shout chorus played 3x's…each section standing as they come in. In addition, you can add a different soloist over the top each time through Letter L, saving the best/highest/loudest soloist for the last/3rd time.

Score

The Last Ride of the Riltney Rangers

Jim Mick



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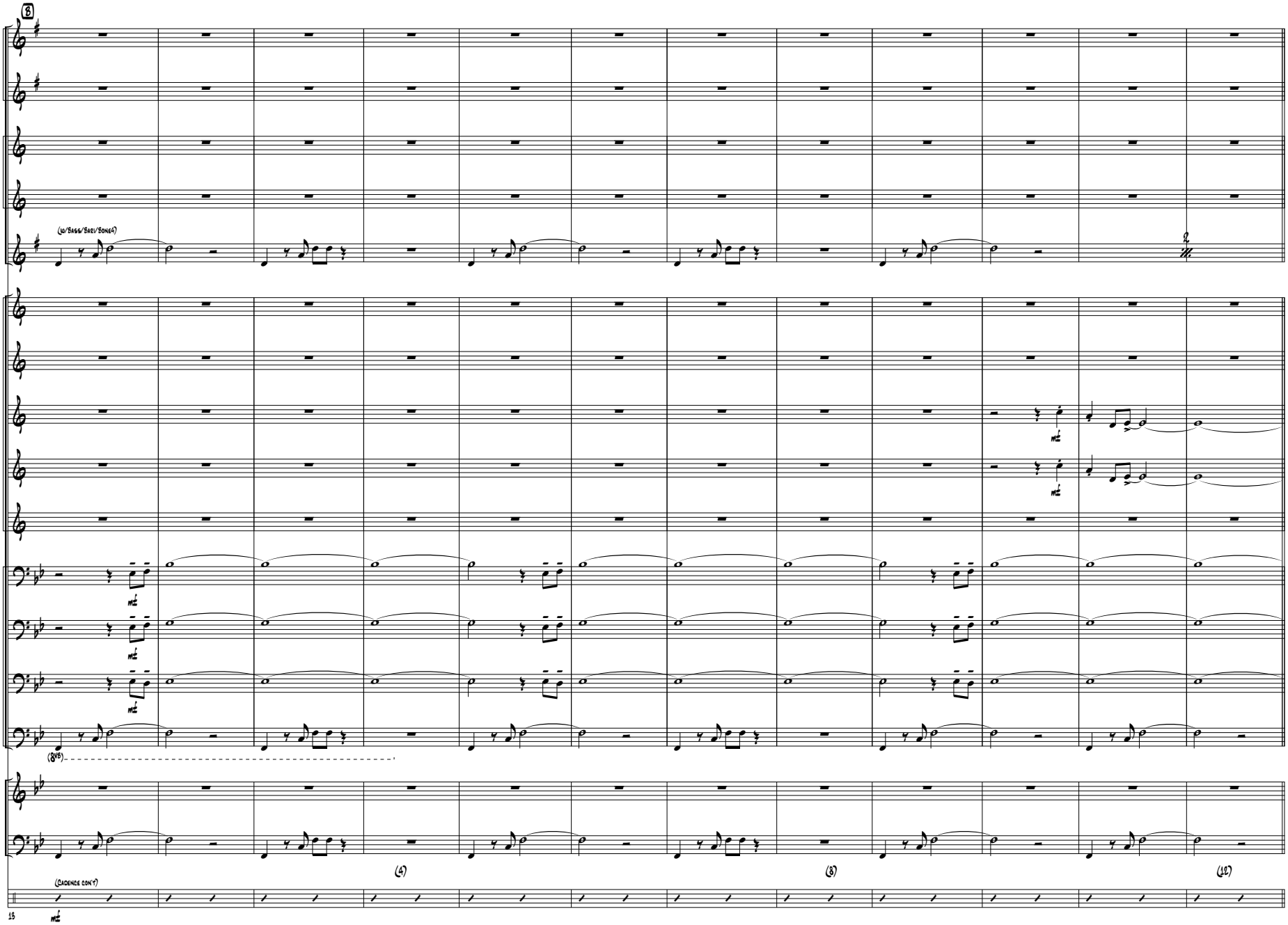
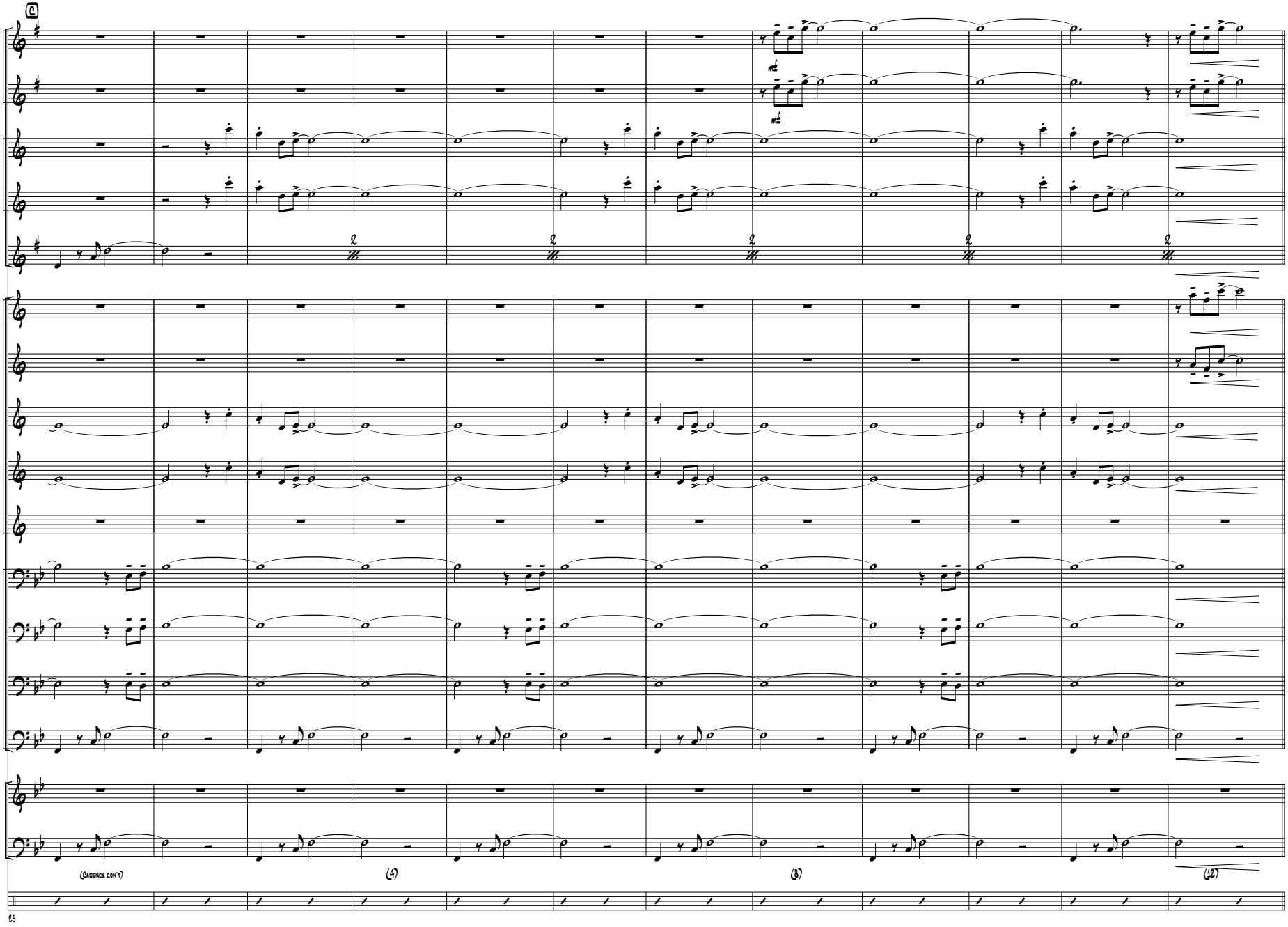
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