Please note these are assorted score pages and are not necessarily sequential.

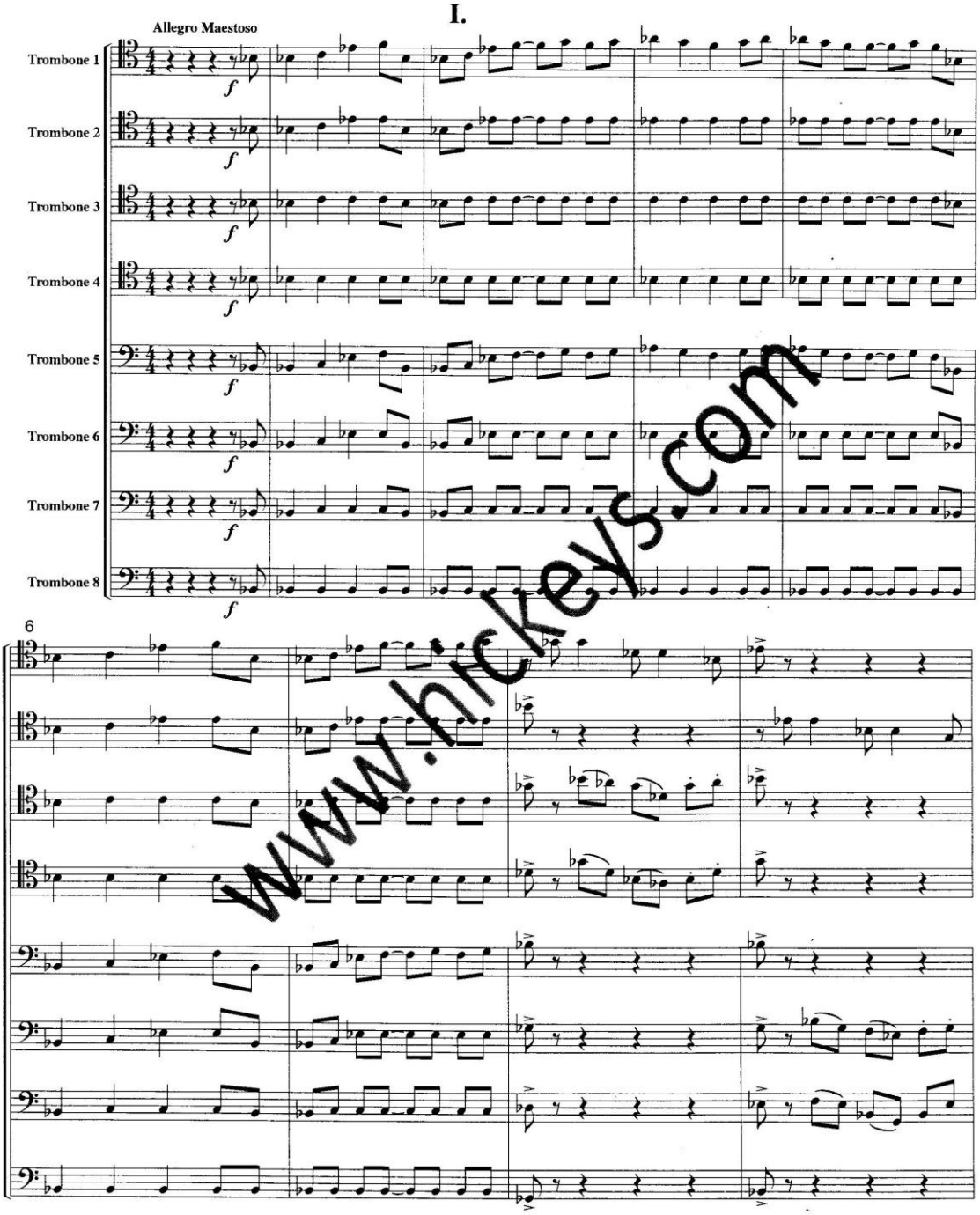
Grand Canyon Octet

(for Thomas Bacon and the ASU Horns)

Eric Ewazen

I.

Allegro Maestoso



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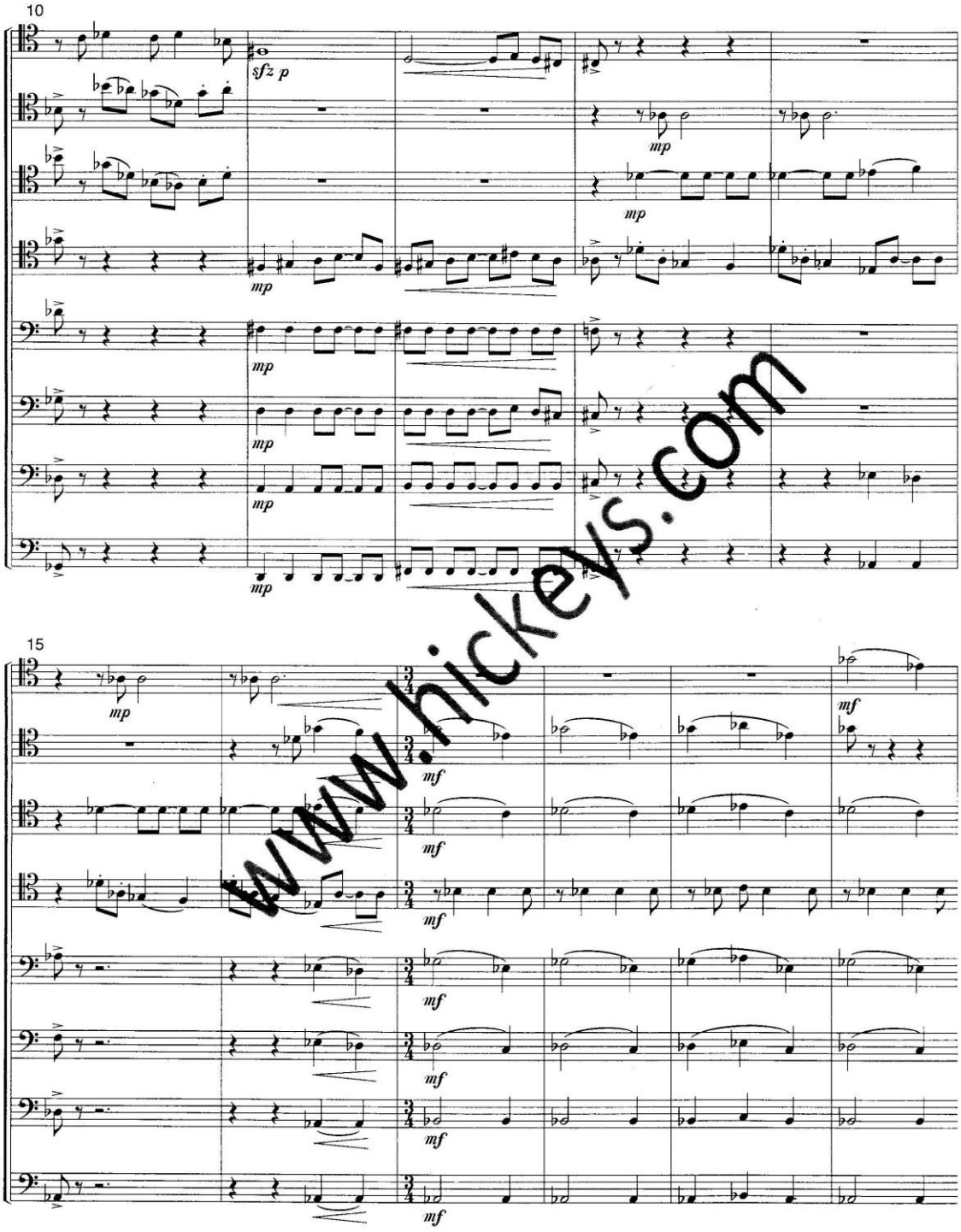

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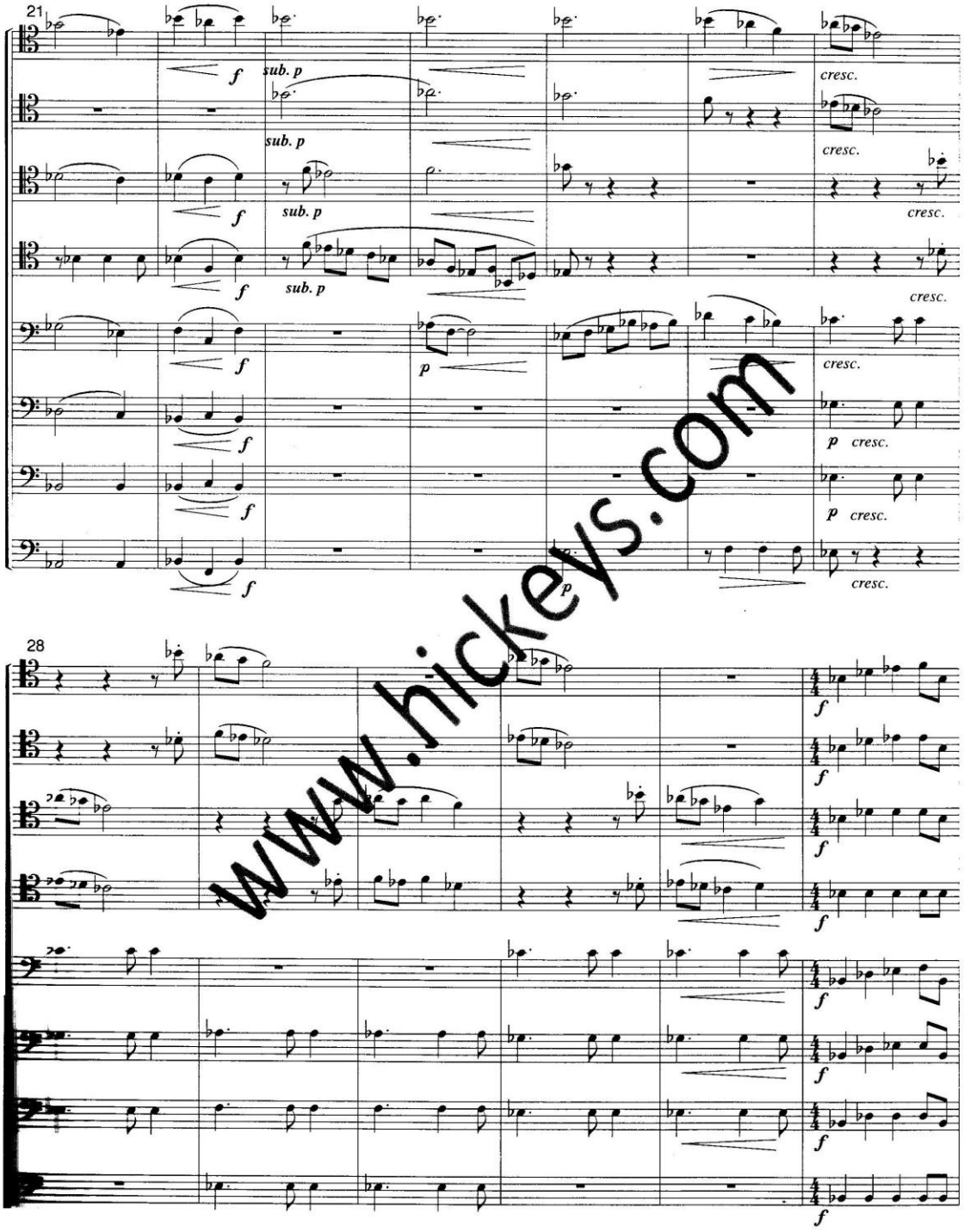

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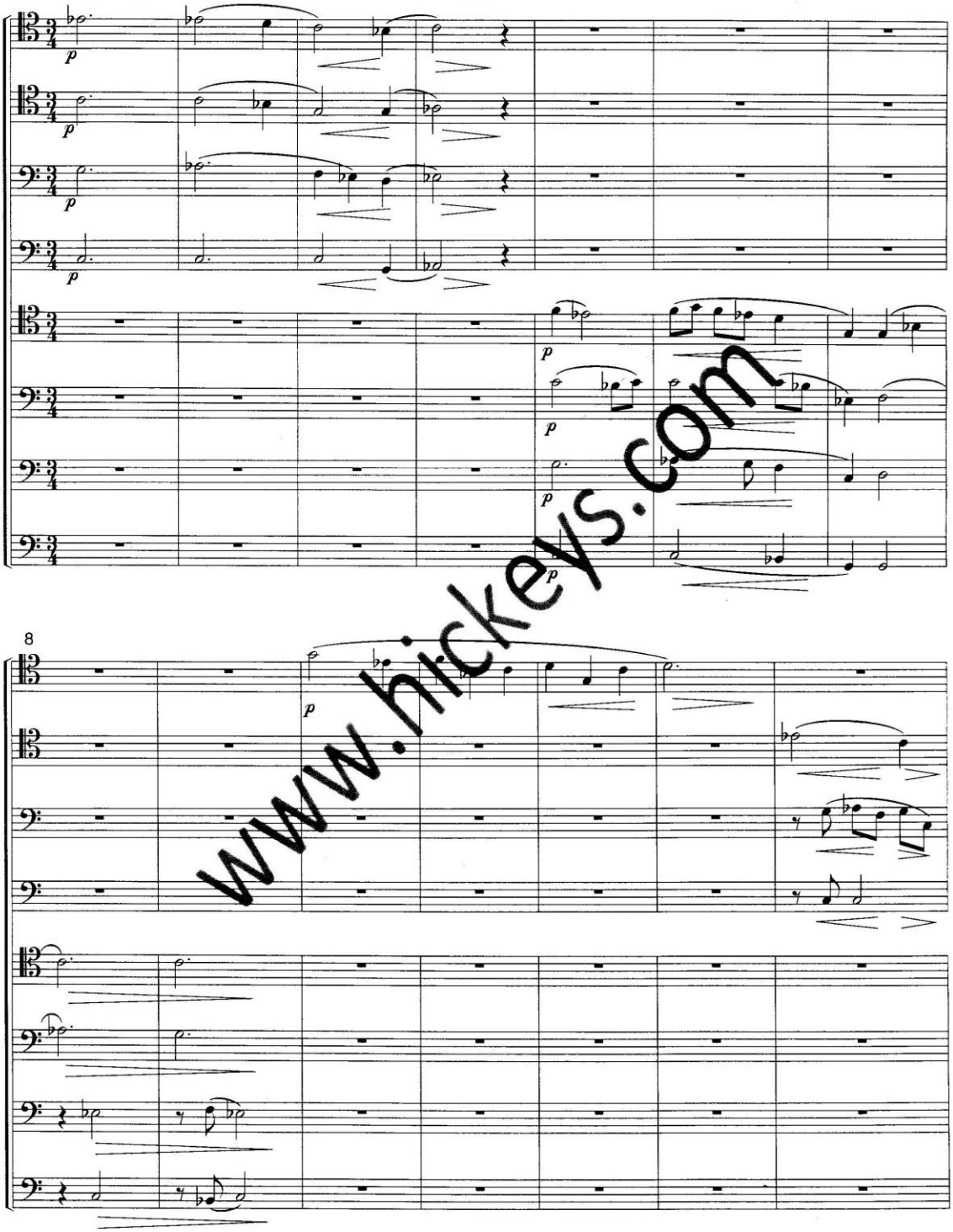
II.

Andante Appassionato



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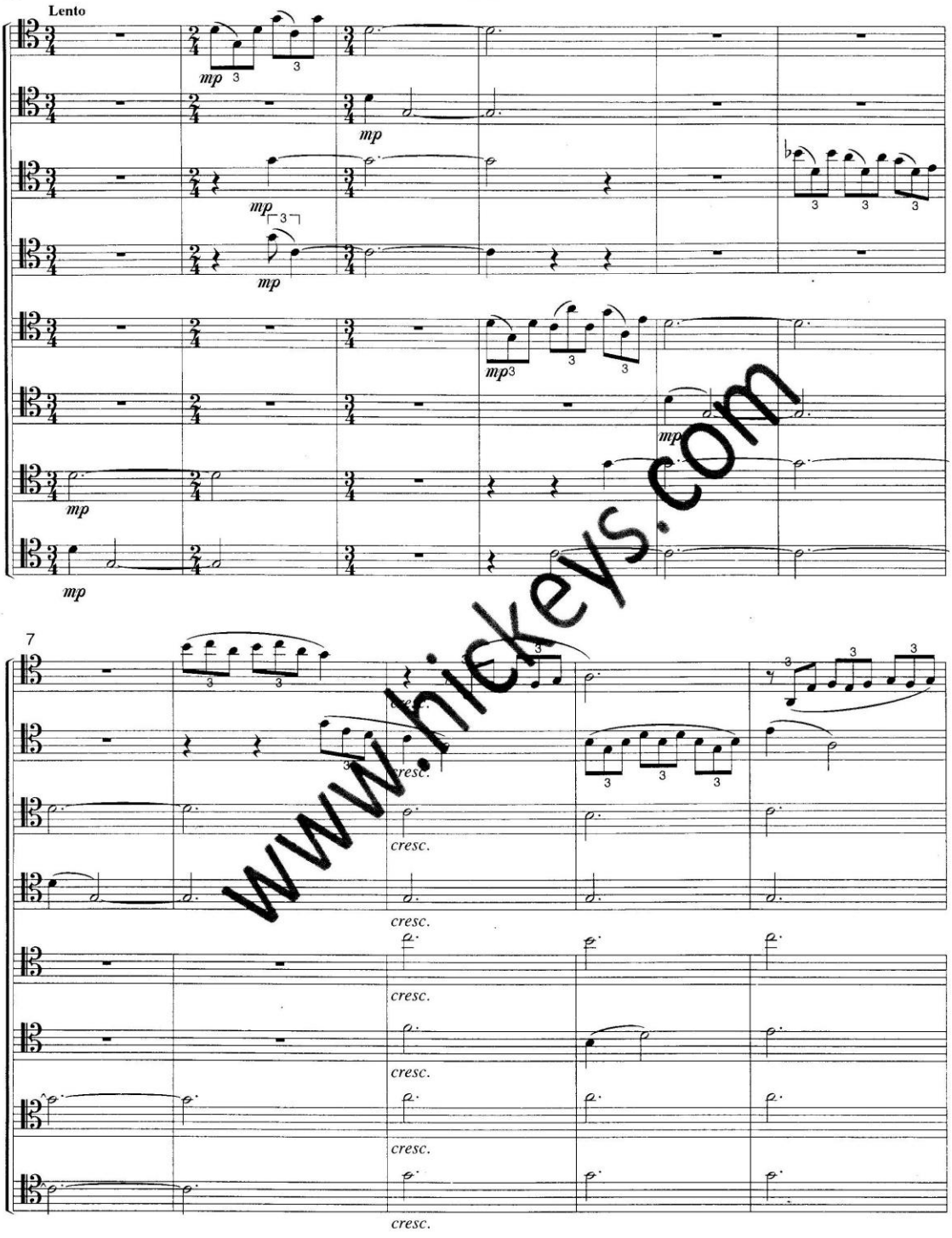
III.



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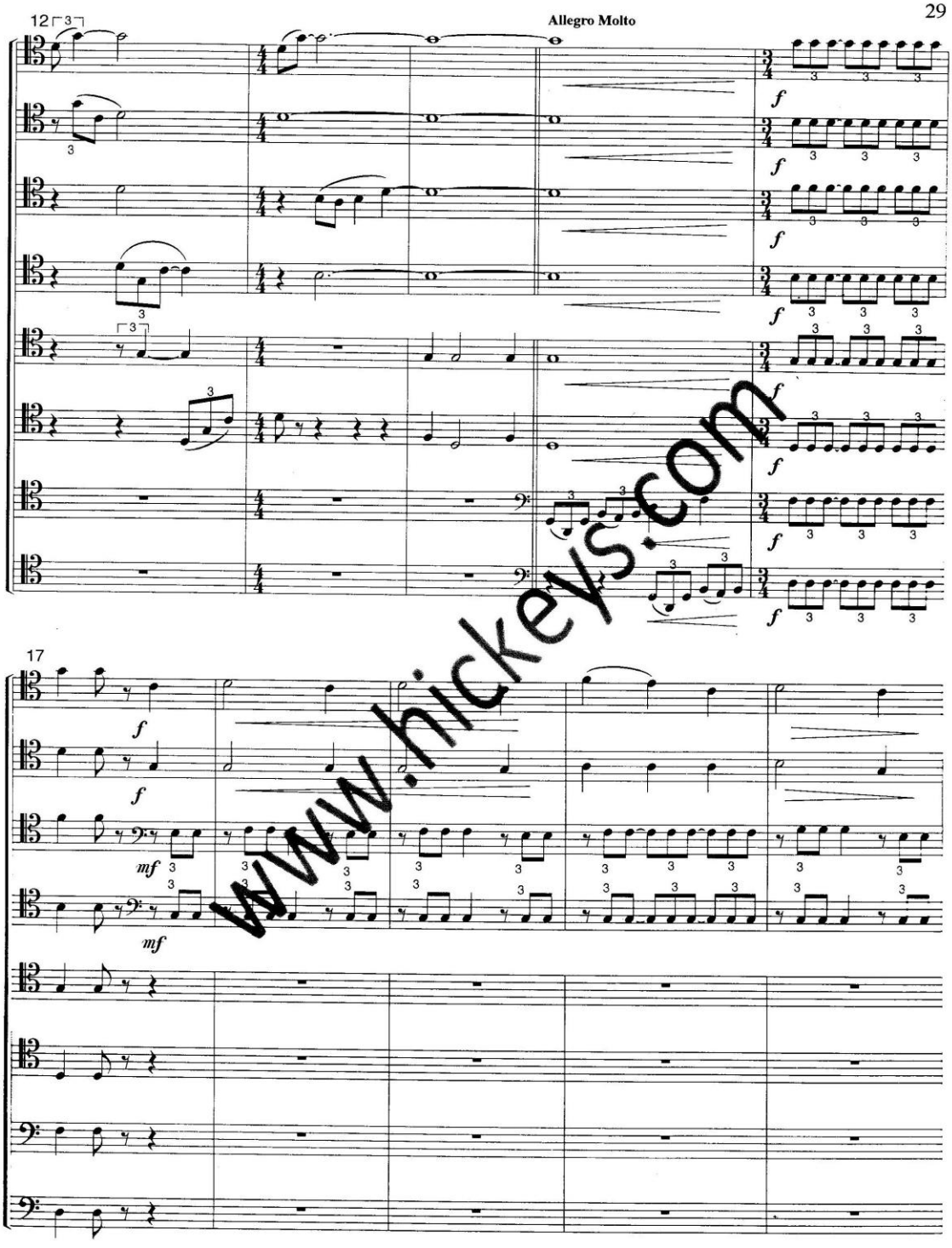

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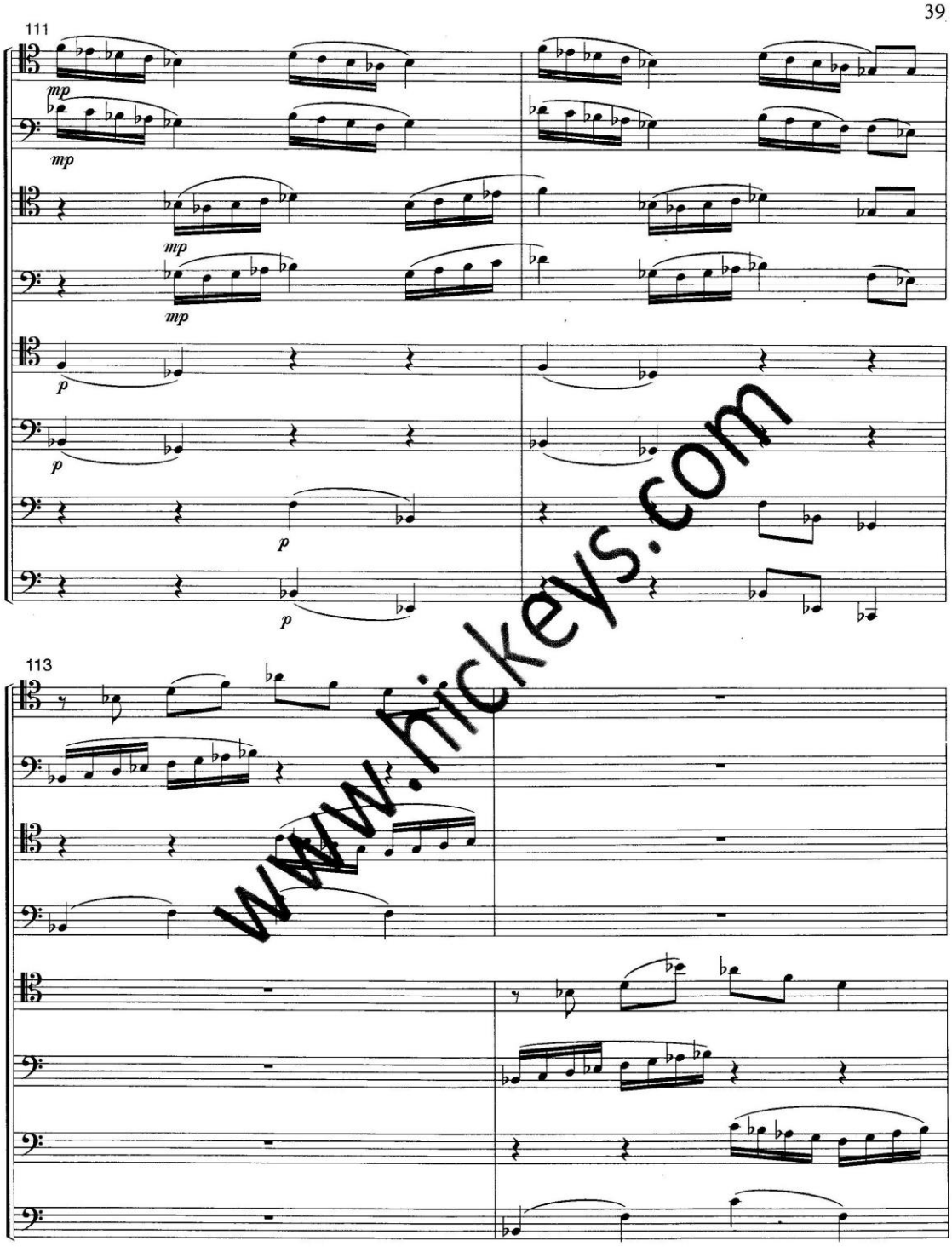

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Program Notes . . .

The *Grand Canyon Octet* was commissioned by Thomas Bacon and the Arizona State University Horn Ensemble, to whom the work is gratefully dedicated. It was premiered by them at the ASU Horn Festival in February, 1997. The trombone version was made at the suggestion of Don Lucas. Under his direction, the Texas Tech Trombone Choir premiered this version in the Spring of 1997 and at the International Trombone Association Convention, held in May of that same year, at the University of Illinois. This is a large brass choir piece in three movements. The first movement is a rollicking Allegro with playful motives tossed from instrument to instrument. The second movement is a dramatic and soulful lament. The third movement is in a rondo form, with a resonant and striking main theme alternating with lively contrasting sections.

The title of the piece simply came from the fact that Arizona is the *Grand Canyon State*. Written for the University of Arizona, I thought this would be an appropriate and fun title. The themes that I have used throughout this piece are often colorful, bold and majestic and they seem to nicely fit the connotations of a work called *Grand Canyon Octet*.

About the Composer . . .

Eric Ewazen, born in 1954 in Cleveland, Ohio, studied under Samuel Adler, Milton Babbitt, Warren Benson, Gunther Schuller, and Joseph Schwantner at the Eastman School of Music (BM, 1976), Tanglewood, and The Juilliard School (MM, 1978, DMA 1980), where he has been a member of the faculty since 1980. In May, 1997, he was Composer-in-Residence at the International Trombone Association Convention held at the University of Illinois. A former vice president of the League-ISCM, he is currently the Composer-in-Residence with the St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble, and lecturer for the New York Philharmonic's Musical Encounters Series. A recipient of numerous composition awards and prizes, his works have been commissioned and performed by many chamber ensembles and orchestras in the U.S. and overseas. His music has been heard at festivals such as Tanglewood, Aspen, Caramoor, and the Music Academy of the West. The soloists in performances of his music include members of the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

Among his recorded works are *Symphony in Brass* (Summit Brass on Summit Records), *Colchester Fantasy* (American Brass Quintet on Summit Records), *Ballade for Clarinet, Harp and String Orchestra* (CRS Records), *Dagon II* (David Taylor on New World Records), *Sonata for Viola and Piano* (Eugene Becker on Clique Track), *Roaring Fork Quintet for Wind Instruments* (Borealis Wind Quintet on Helicon Records), *The Tiger* (Robert White and Samuel Sanders on Hyperion Records) and on Cala Records' Legends of the New York Philharmonic Series, *Sonata for Trombone and Piano* (Joseph Alessi and Jonathan Feldman) and *Trio for Trumpet, Violin and Piano* (Philip Smith). Well-Tempered Productions has released an all-Ewazen compact disc featuring the American Brass Quintet and the St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble. His music is published by Boosey and Hawkes, Southern Music Publishing, Brass Rind Editions, Baker Music Publishing, Encore Music, Triplo Press, Manduca Publications, and ITA Manuscript Press.