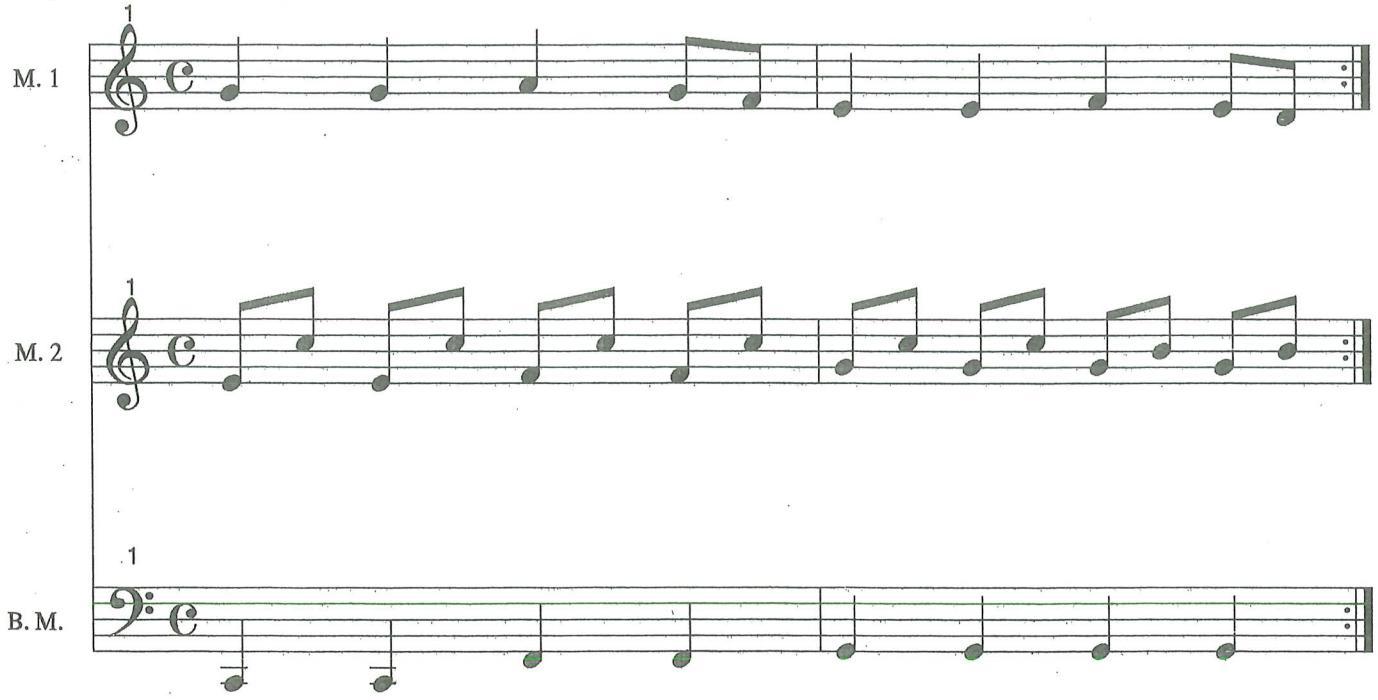
BALAFON

(A Preliminary Piece)

Walt Hampton



"Balafon" is a good way to get your students' feet wet, especially those who have never played multi-layered music before. It has three different but easy rhythms which sound good when you put them together. "Balafon" can be arranged and performed the same way as all of the other pieces.

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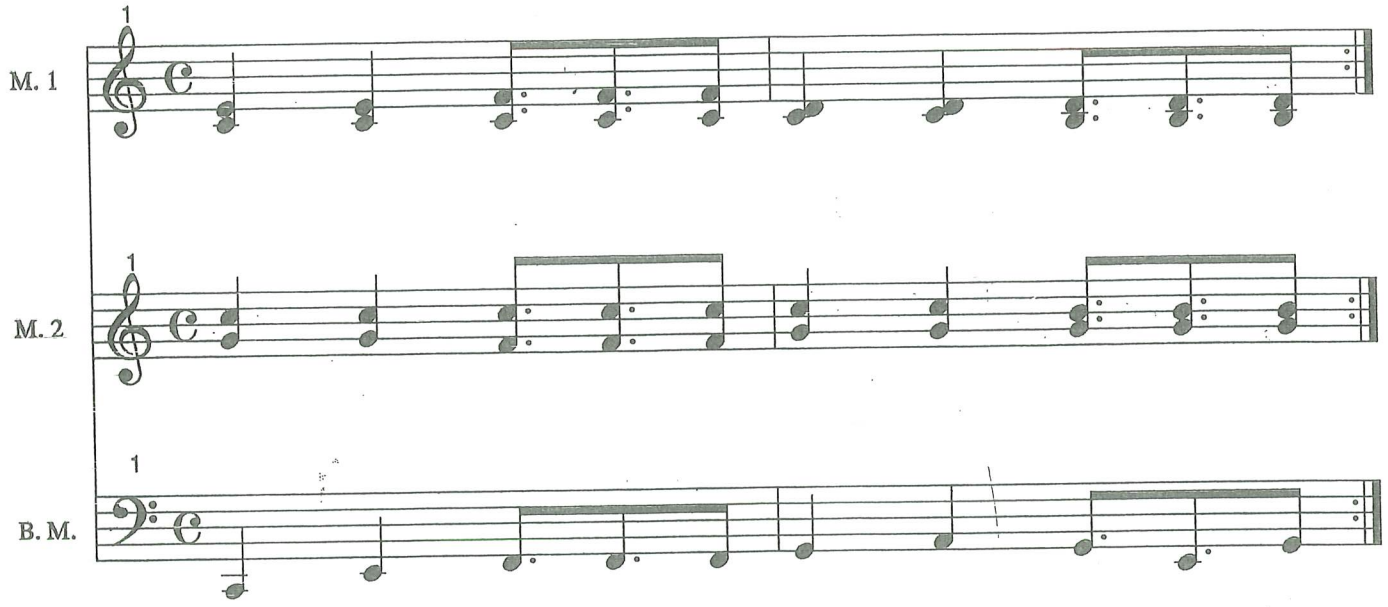
TWO THREE

(A Preliminary Piece)

Walt Hampton



"Two Three" is a wonderful introduction to syncopation. All of the parts have exactly the same rhythm so players can focus on their part without the distraction of counter-rhythms. Like "Balafon," this is an easy introductory piece which serves as a great lead-in to "Mbira Jam" or "Hoom Bah."

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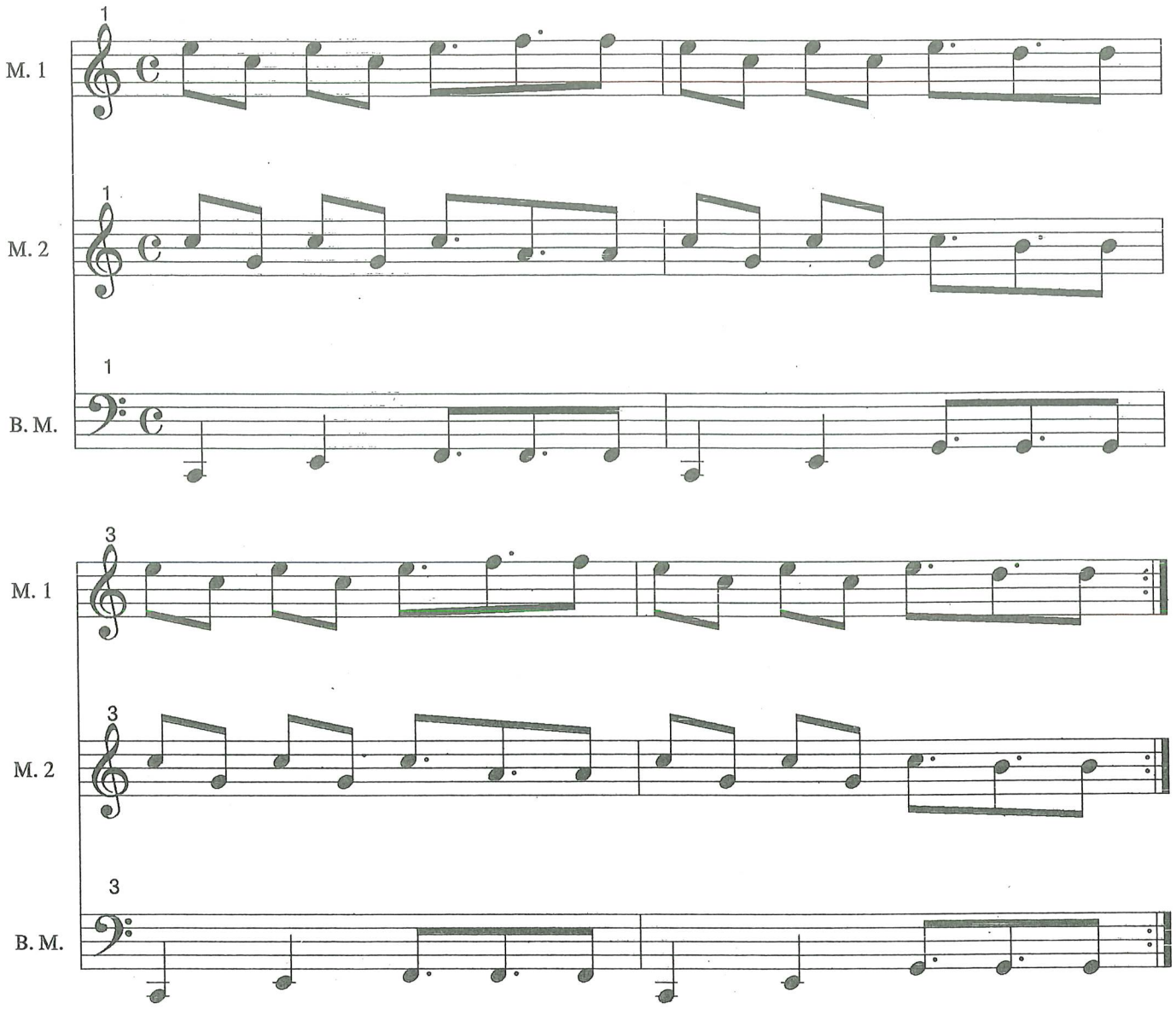
MBIRA JAM

Walt Hampton



"Mbira Jam" is the most authentic-sounding of the easier arrangements and a wonderful piece to get creative with. Your final arrangement should definitely include some improvisation. This is a good piece to start with for a group with limited skills, but able to keep a steady beat. The basic feel for "Mbira Jam" was inspired by "Minatsa," composed by Sheree Sparks-Seretse and recorded by Anzanga Marimba Ensemble on their Nyaradzo CD. The group came to my school and gave a participatory performance that left us all very excited. The rhythm is typical of much of Shona marimba music. The bass part differs harmonically from that in "Minatsa" but is also very traditional. The treble parts were changed harmonically and simplified.

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HOOM BAH

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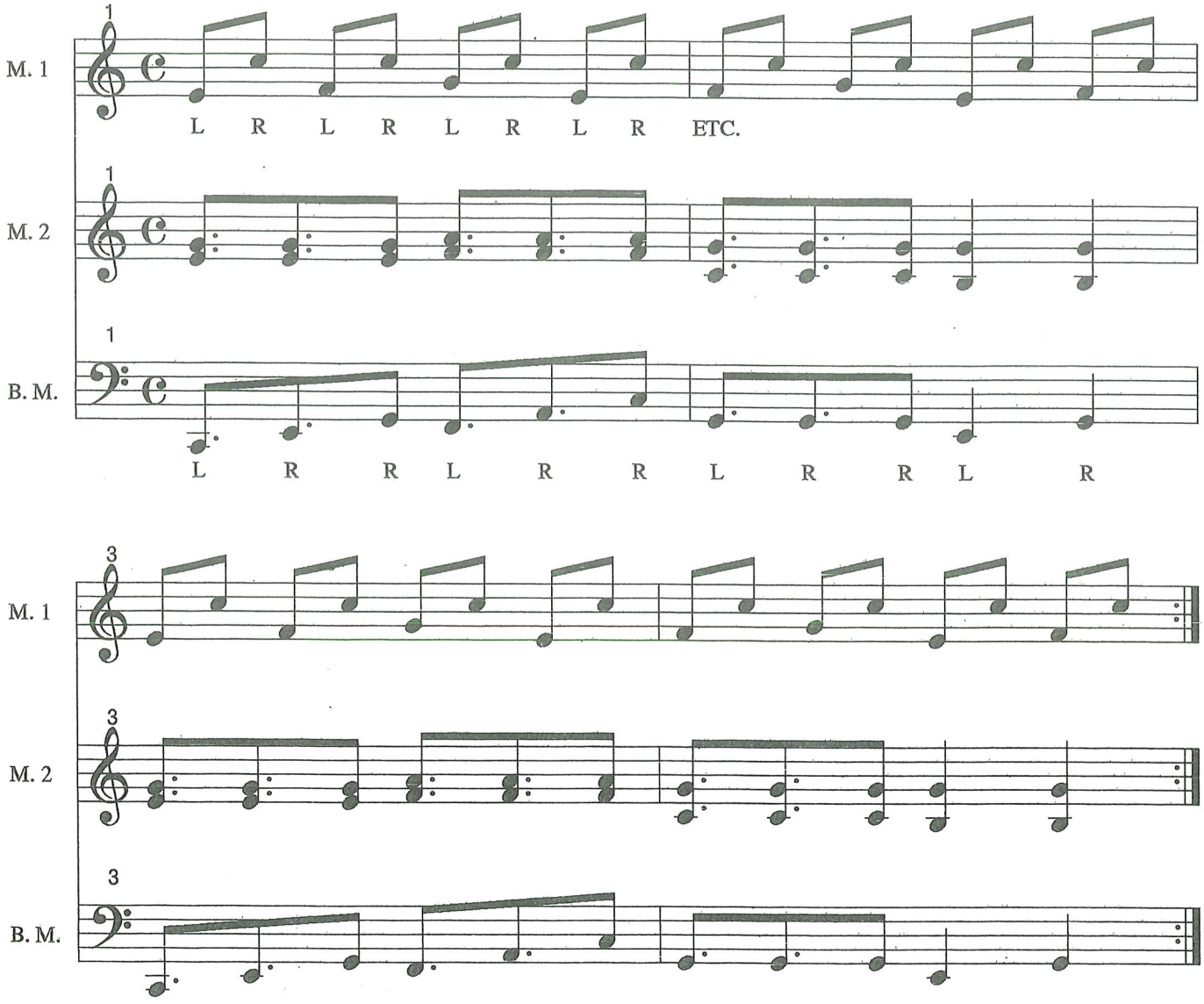

"Hoom Bah" emphasizes dotted eighths versus straight eighth notes. The parts themselves are straightforward. The challenge is in getting the group to gel so the syncopation of the dotted eighths stands out. You might discover while working on this piece that tempo is perceived differently depending on the pattern being played.

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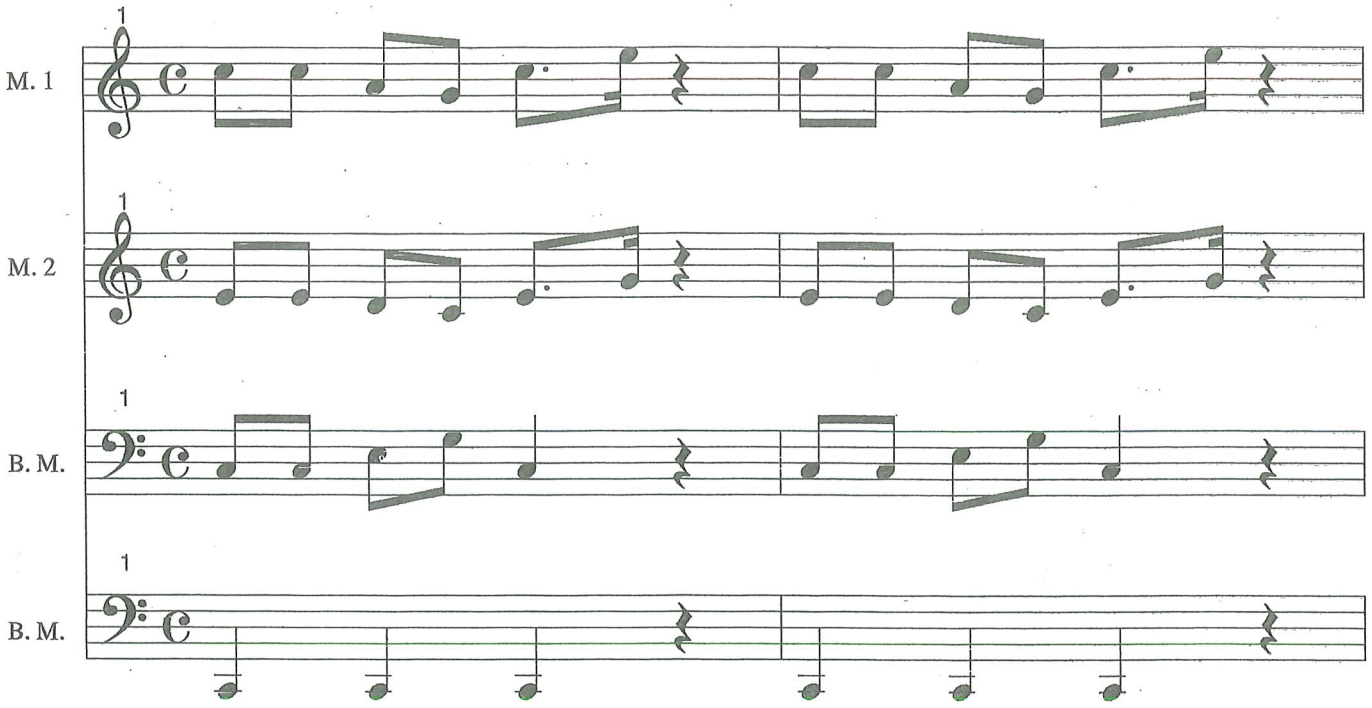
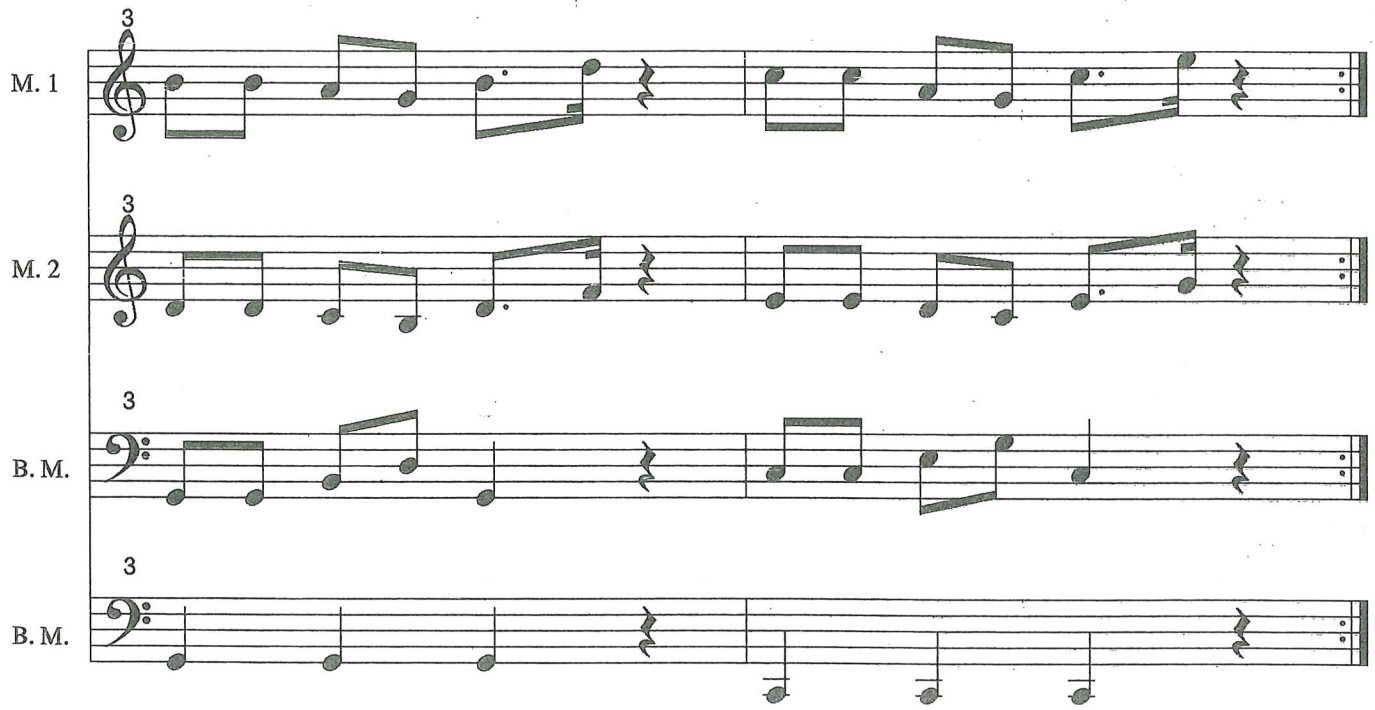
CRUNCHY, CRUNCHY, CRUNCHY

Traditional/Walt Hampton





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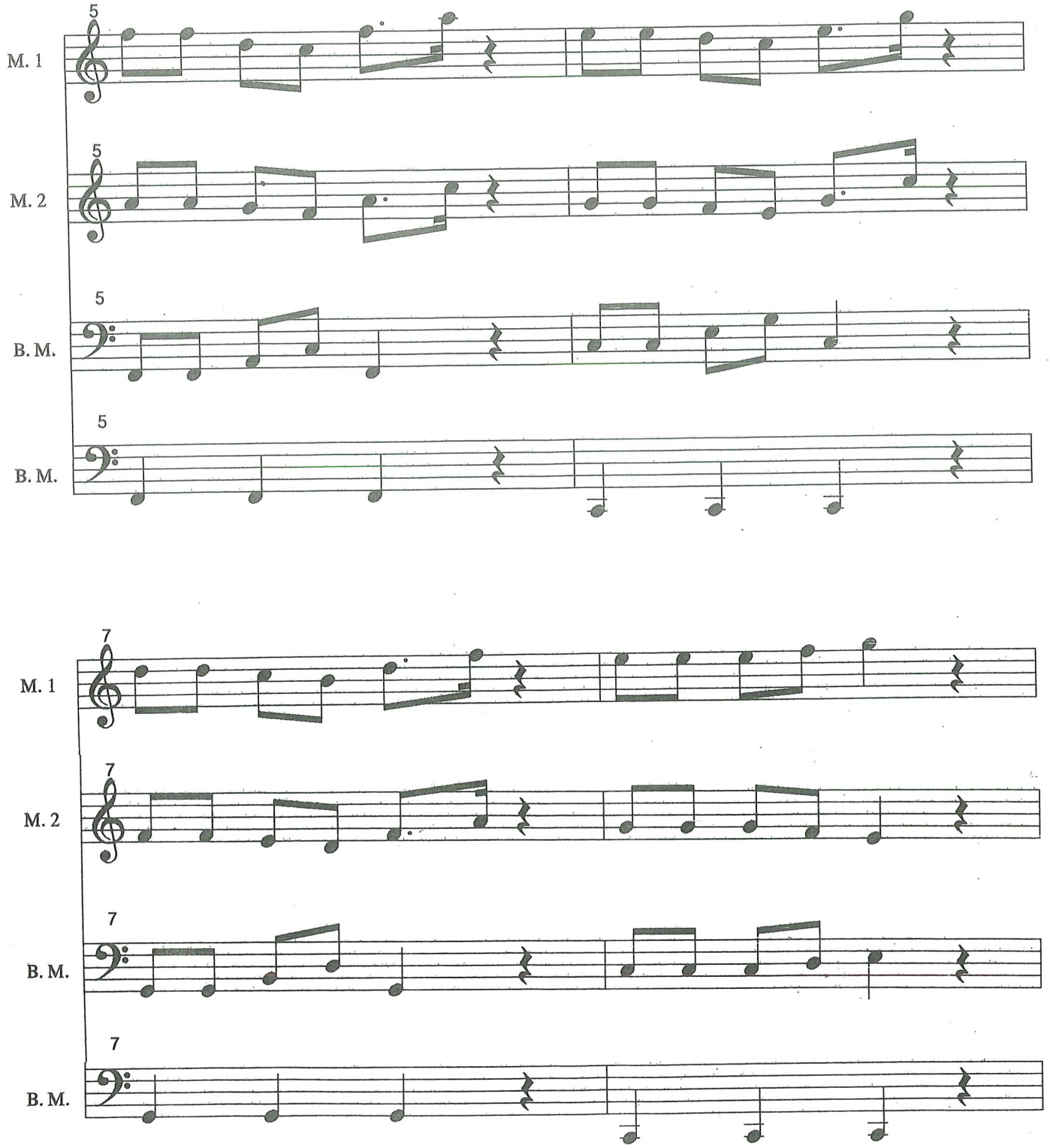
CRUNCHY, CRUNCHY, CRUNCHY



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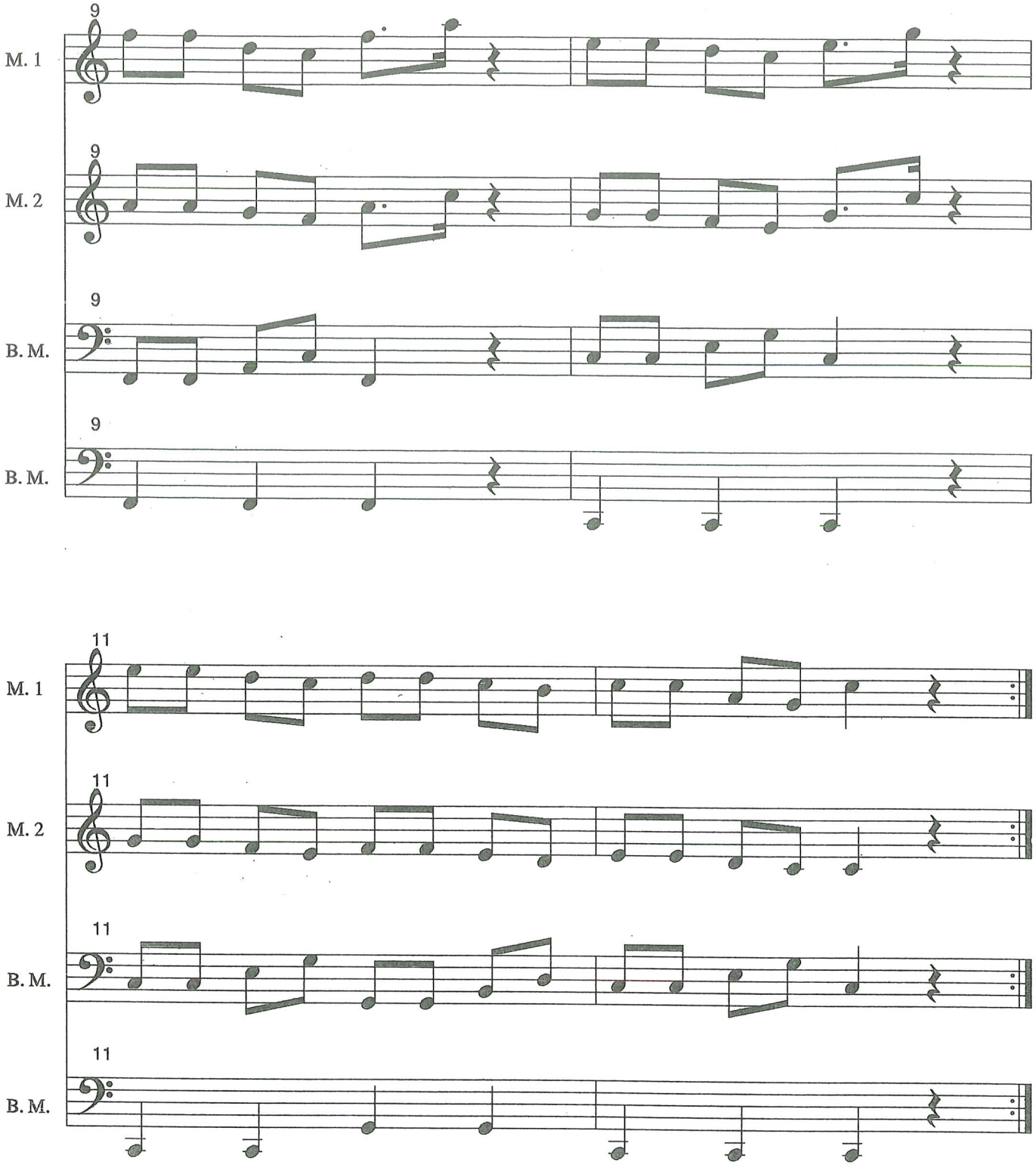
CRUNCHY, CRUNCHY, CRUNCHY



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NYOKA

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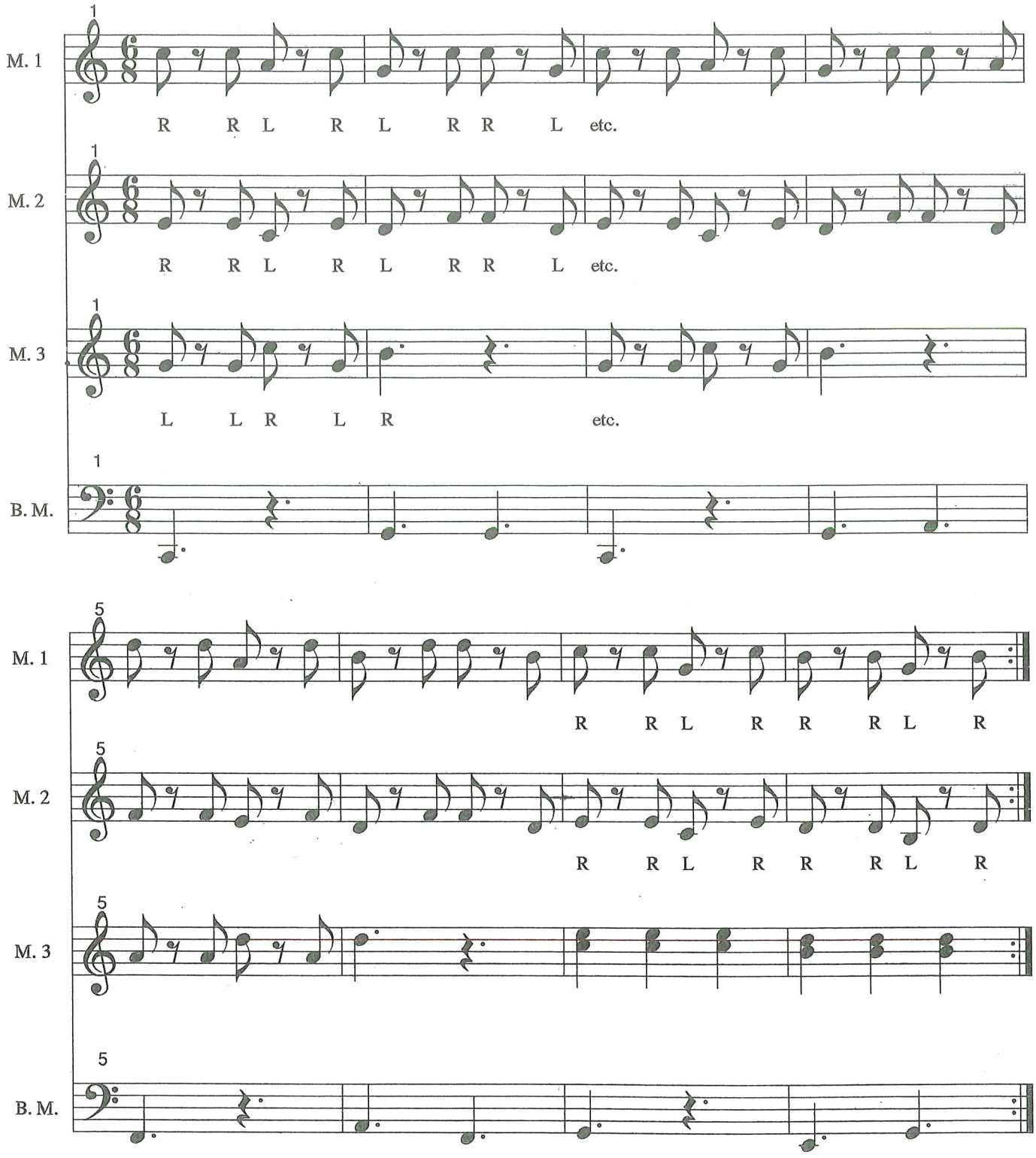

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ABANDON

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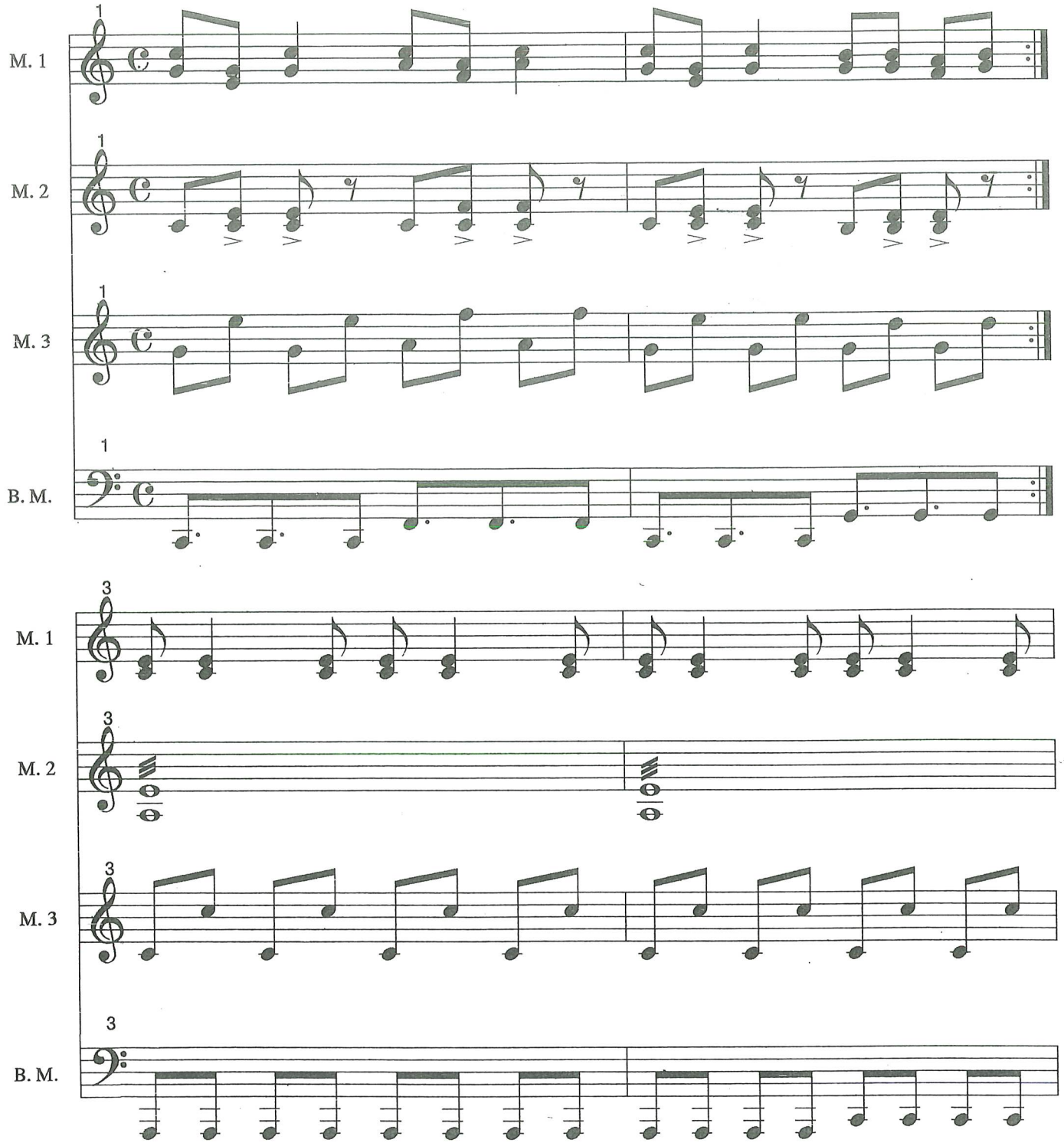

Lowest bass inst. drops out for this section.

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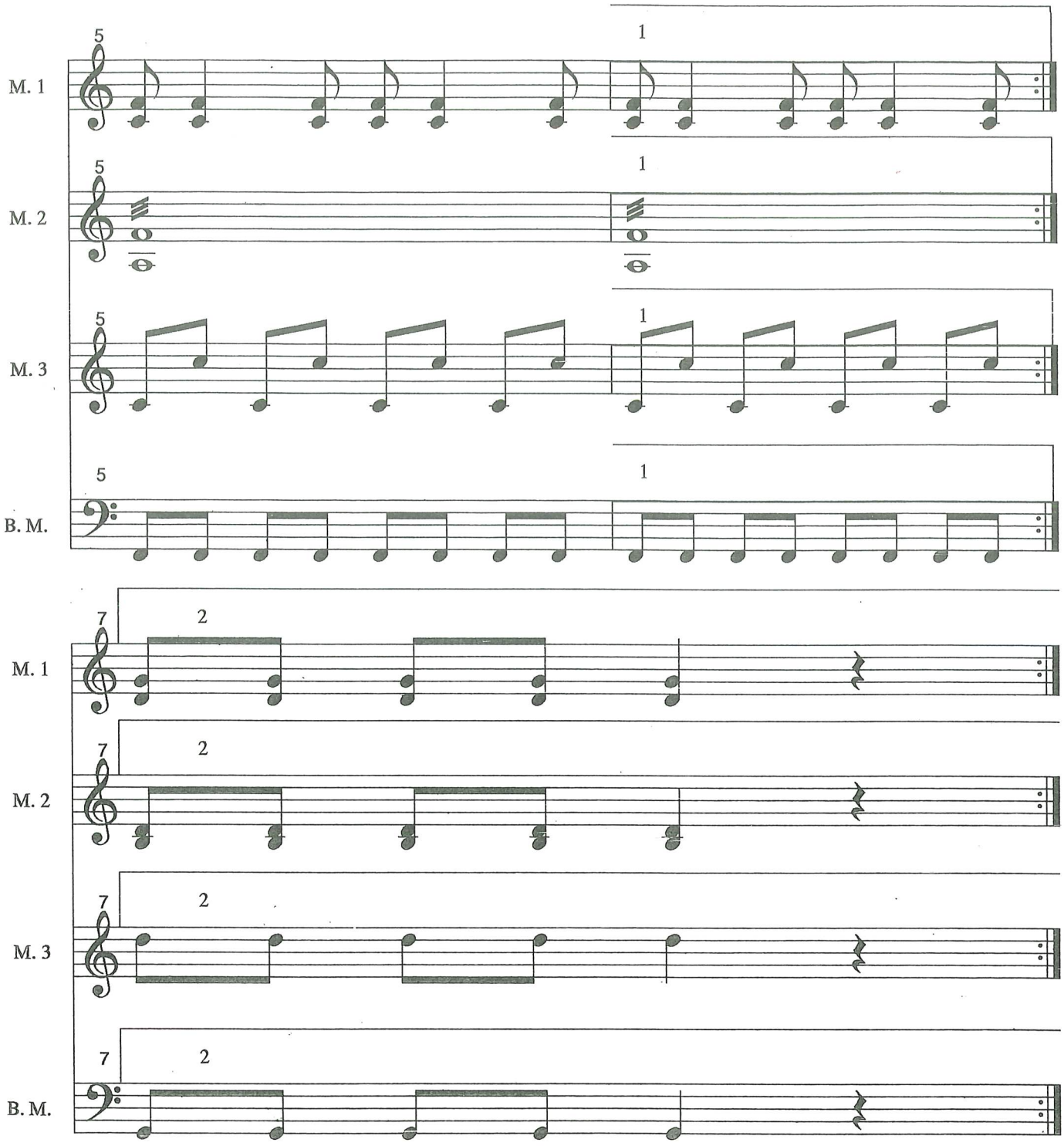
ABANDON



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CLAVE

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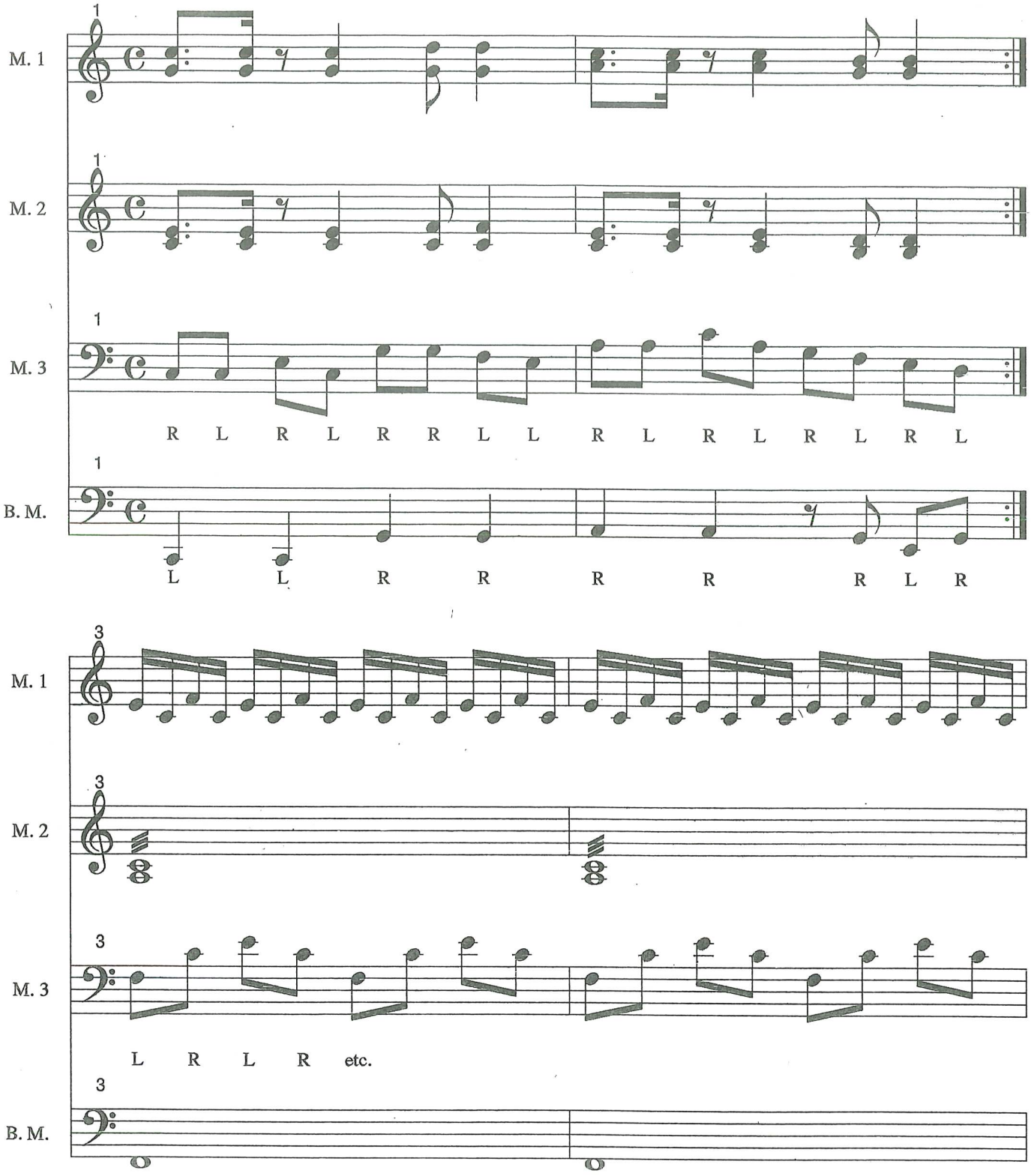

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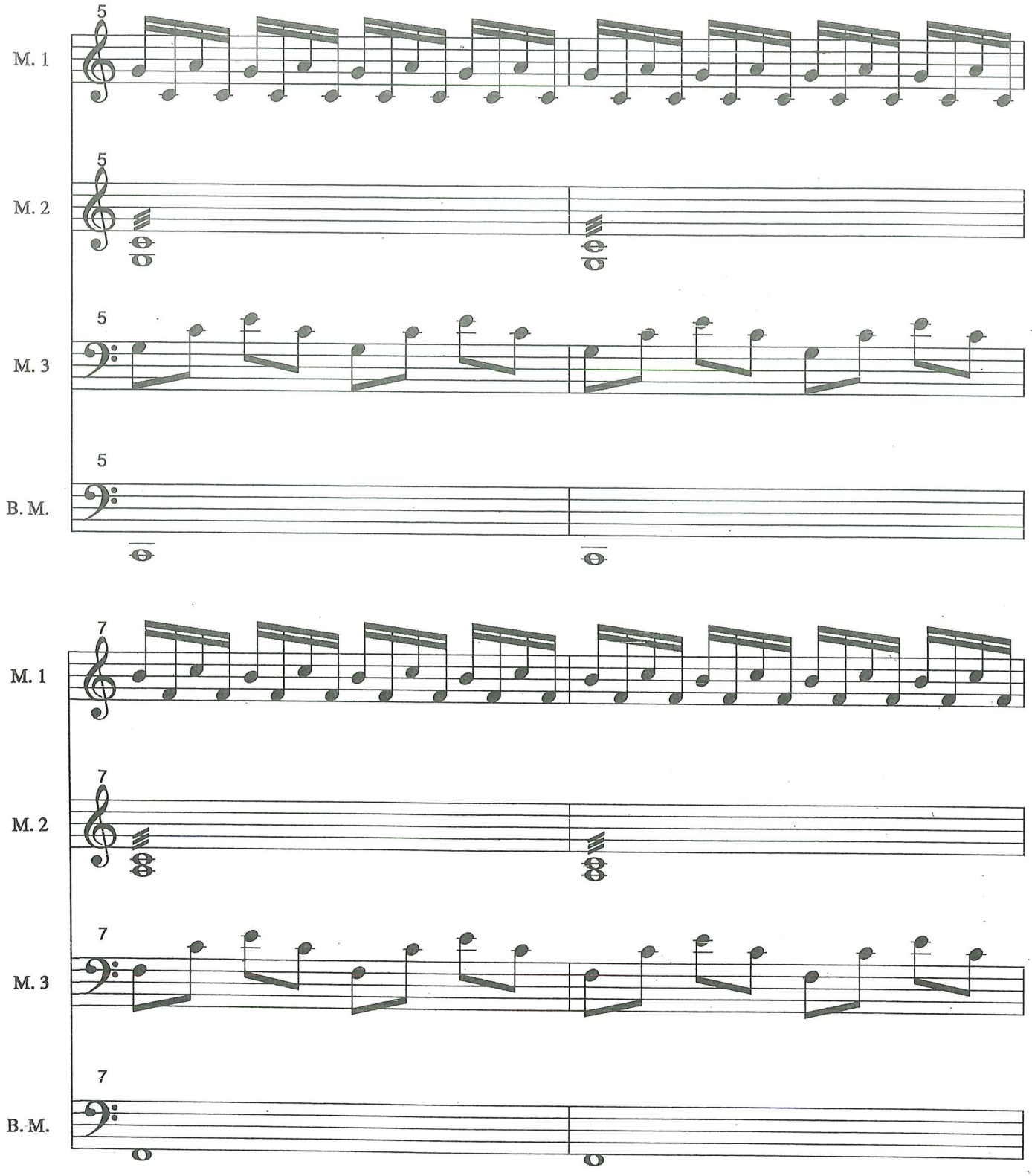
CLAVE



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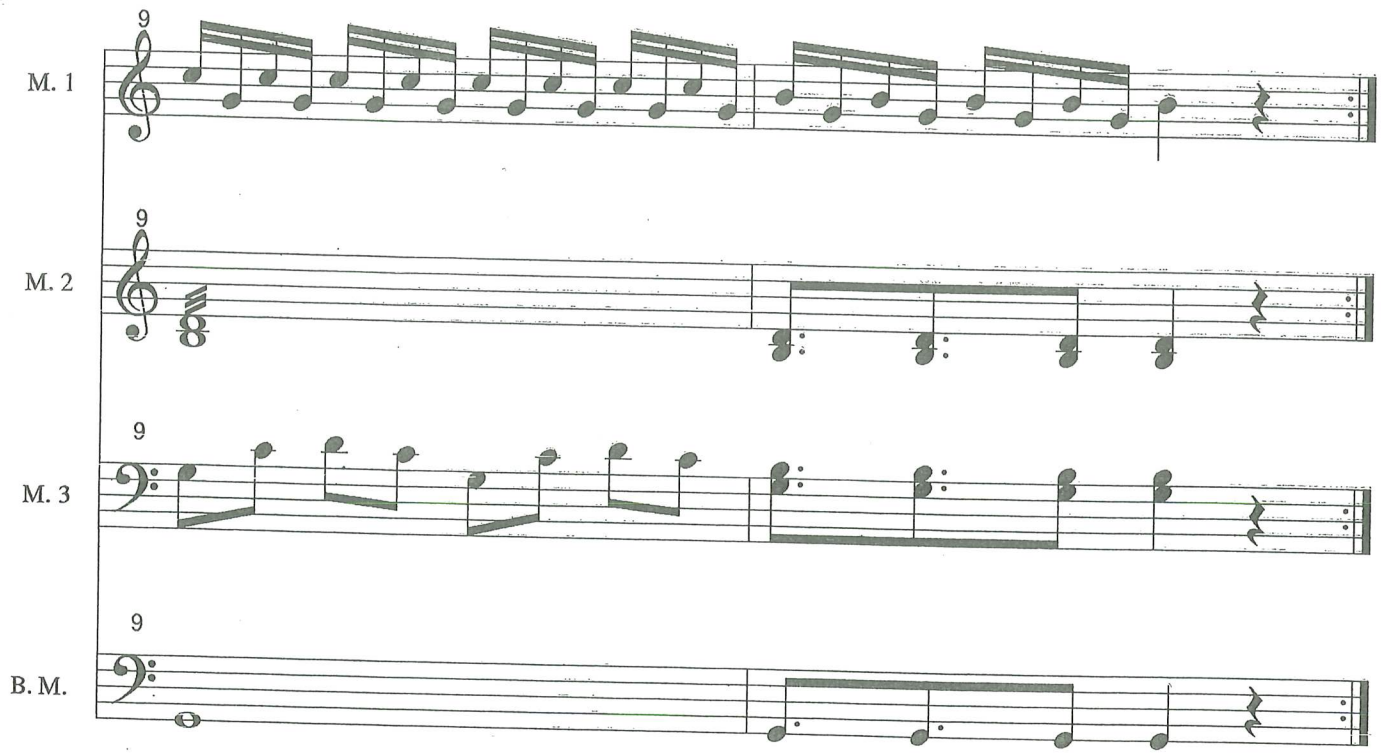
CLAVE



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RIP!

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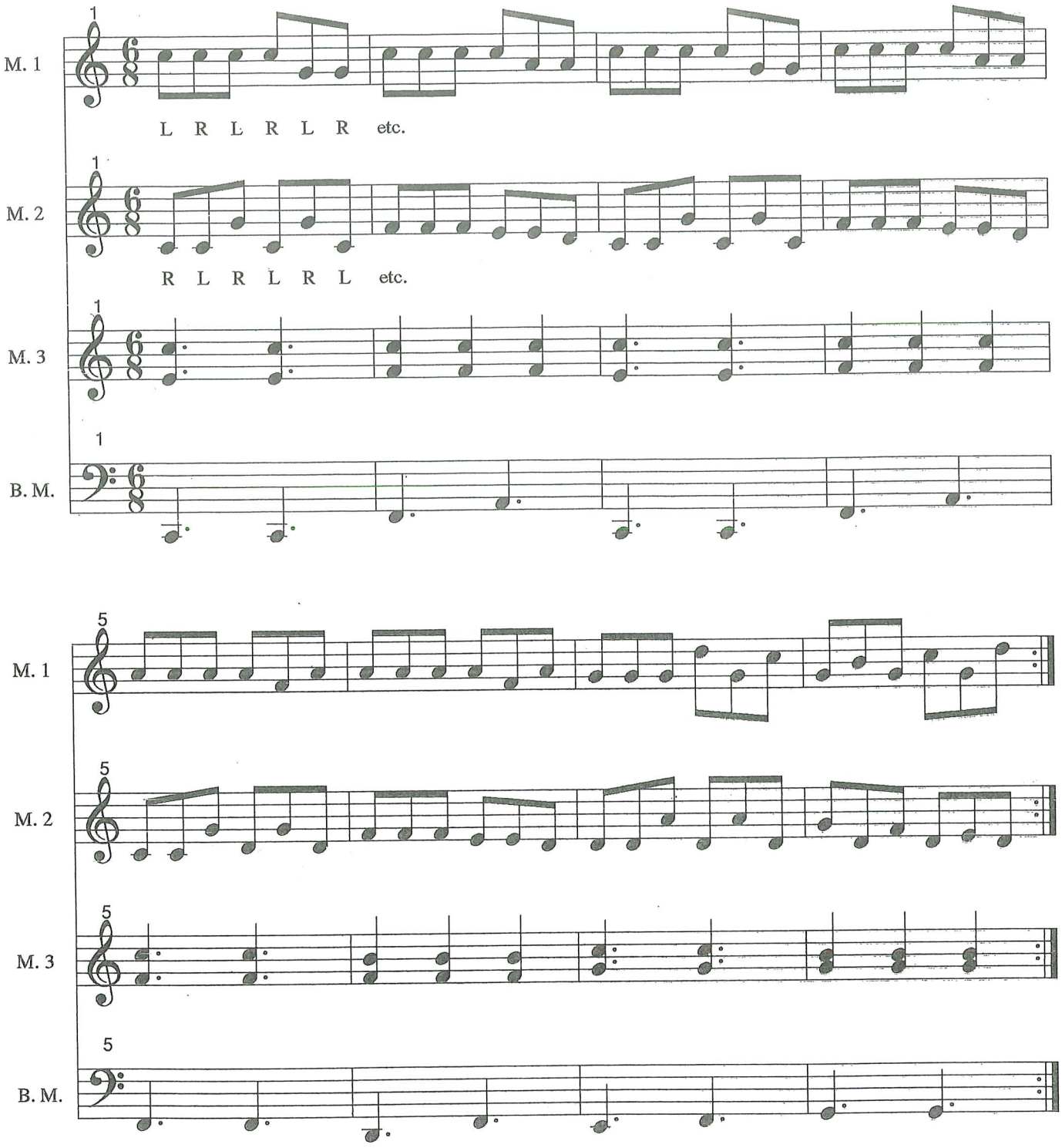

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