Members of the "Sound of the South" Drumline:

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Robert Clayson, and I serve as the marching percussion instructor for the Troy University "Sound of the South" Marching Band. I am extremely excited to start the process of gearing up for the 2026 season. This letter will share some details that you need to be aware of as the school year winds down:

Troy University is hosting a **Drumline Interest Day** on April 11, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CDT. This event will be held in the Troy University Band Room (Long Hall 104) and is offered to anyone interested in being part of the "Sound of the South" Drumline whether it be for the 2026 season or beyond. At this event, we will go over some of the things that will happen over the course of the summer and review things such as: how instrumentation is selected, a typical week in the marching band, some of the basic fundamental techniques used for all of the battery instruments, as well as some of our new technique exercises (found attached to this letter). I do understand that travel in April can be challenging due to school events and family obligations. **WHILE THIS EVENT IS ENCOURAGED, IT IS NOT MANDATORY AND WILL NOT HAVE ANY IMPACT ON INSTRUMENTATION FOR THE 2026 SEASON.** To register for this event, please contact me at rclayson@troy.edu or (334) 670-3232.

There is no formal audition process to join the "Sound of the South" Drumline. Instead, we host a camp in June for all members to participate in so that I can start to see where everyone can contribute the most to our ensemble. This year's "June Camp" will be taking place from **Friday June 12, 2026 – Sunday June 14, 2026.** For more information on this camp, please go to troy.edu/music and navigate to the **Troy University "Sound of the South" Marching Band** tab under "**Ensembles"**. You will be given a meal voucher for our on-campus dining hall for your meals. I am inquiring about the possibility of using university dorm rooms during this camp, **but this is not a certainty.** More details on the availability of dorm rooms will be released later. If dorm rooms are not available, we will make other housing arrangements as we get closer to the camp. The main objective for this rehearsal camp is to learn our new technique exercise packet (enclosed below), as well as learn as much of our 2026 main show as possible. Music for this will be provided to you via the school of music website as well as at the event.

I am extremely excited to get to work for the next season! If you have any questions regarding the "Sound of the South" Drumline, please feel free to contact me at any time. With that, I hope to see you in April and in June!

Sincerely,

Robert Clayson

Robert Clayson

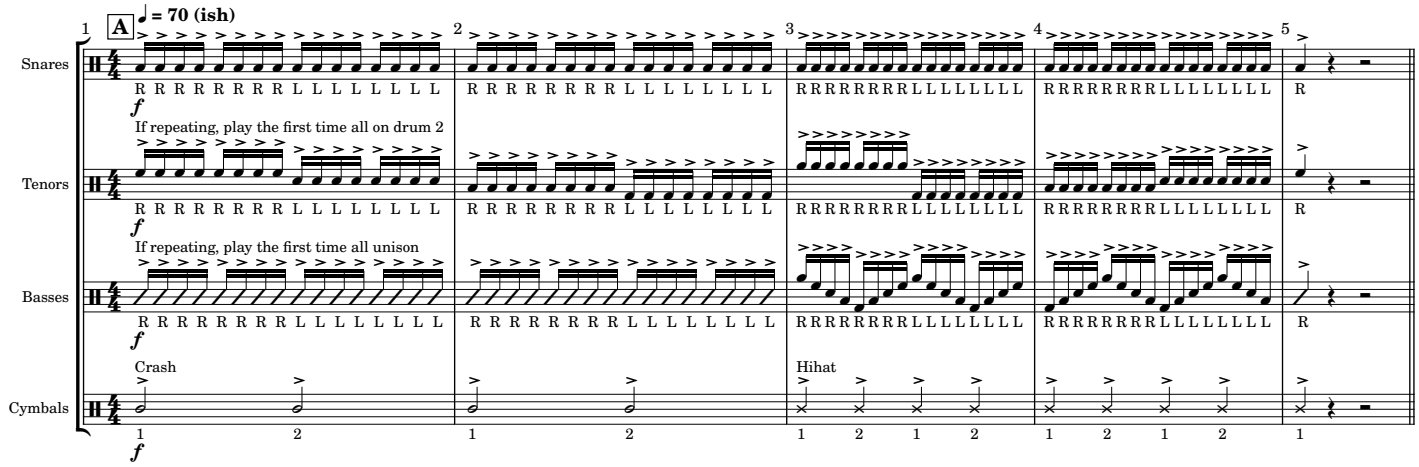
rclayson@troy.edu

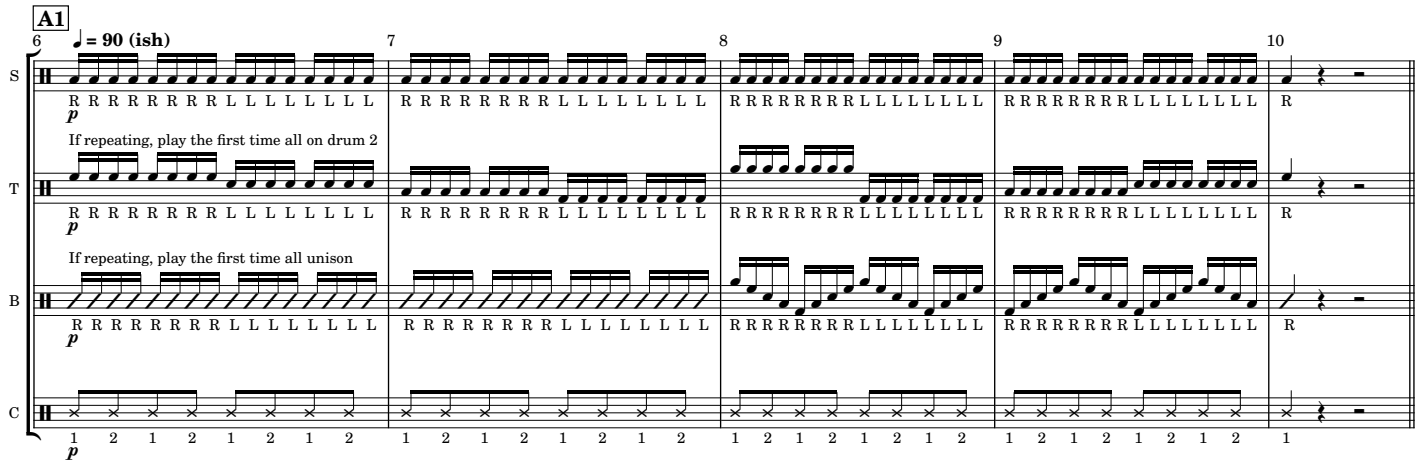
(334) 670-3232 (office)

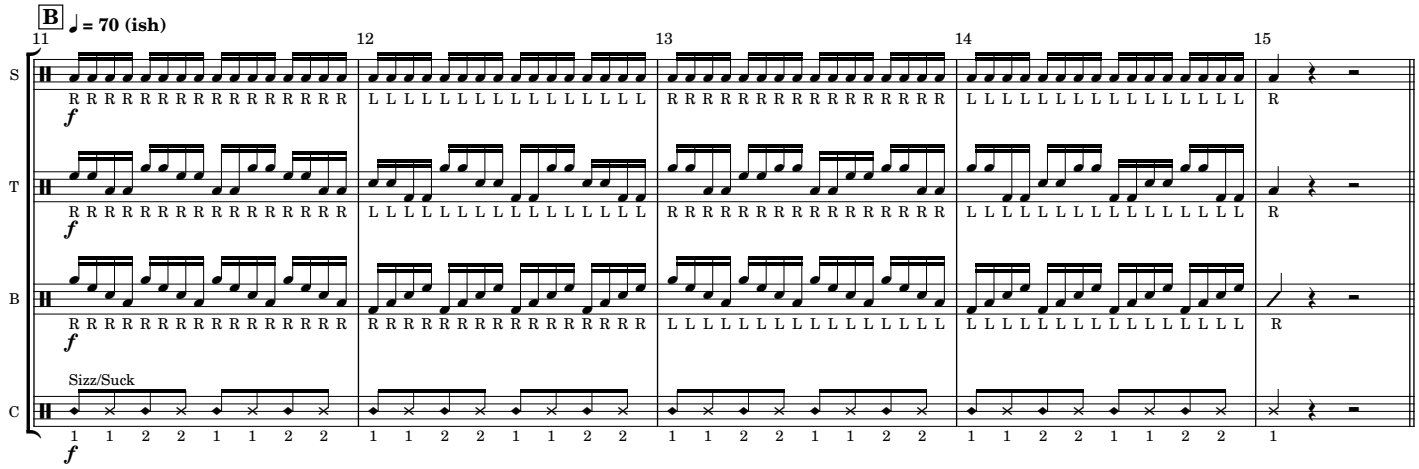
Troy University Drumline Exercise Packet

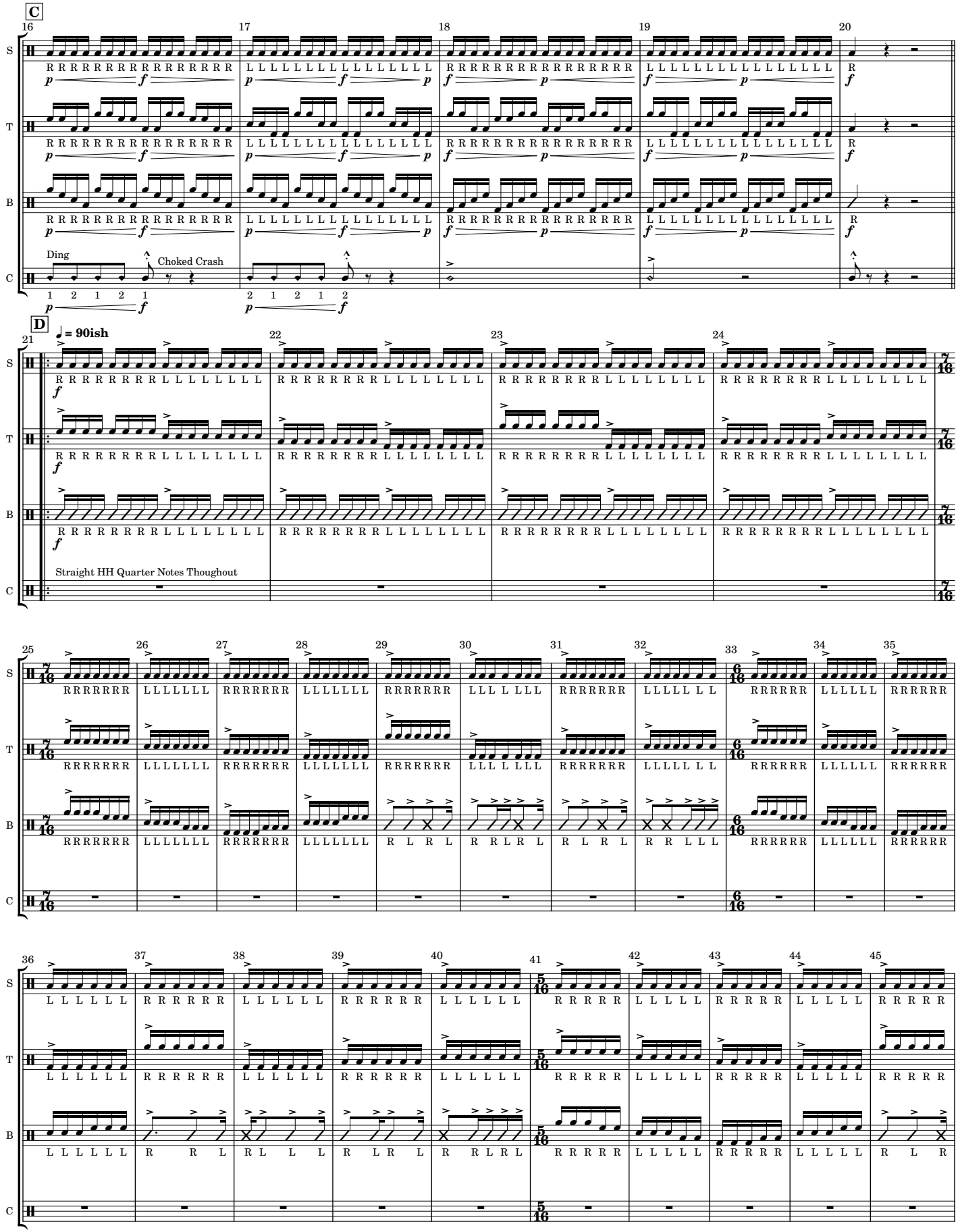
8's

Clayson





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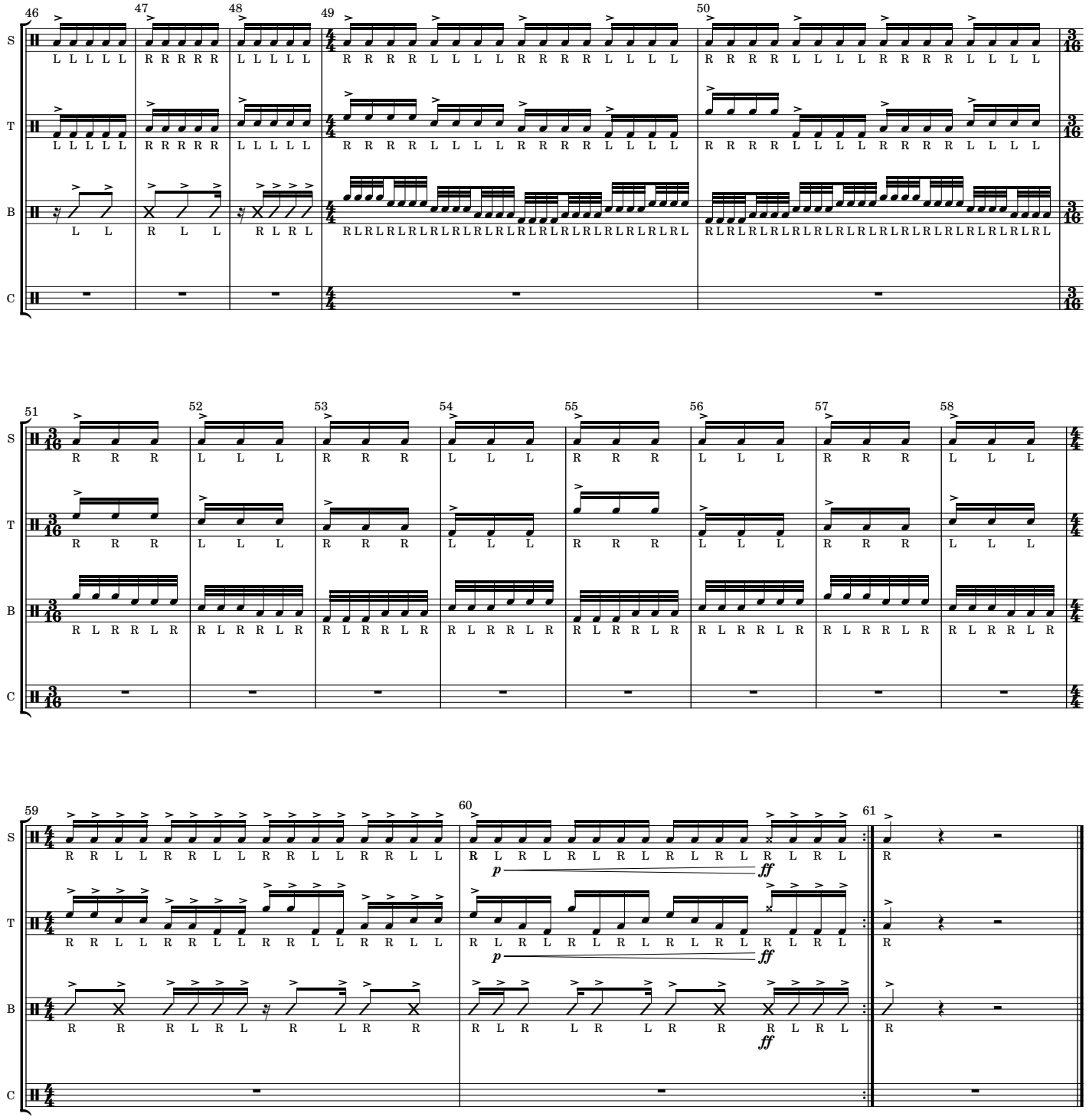
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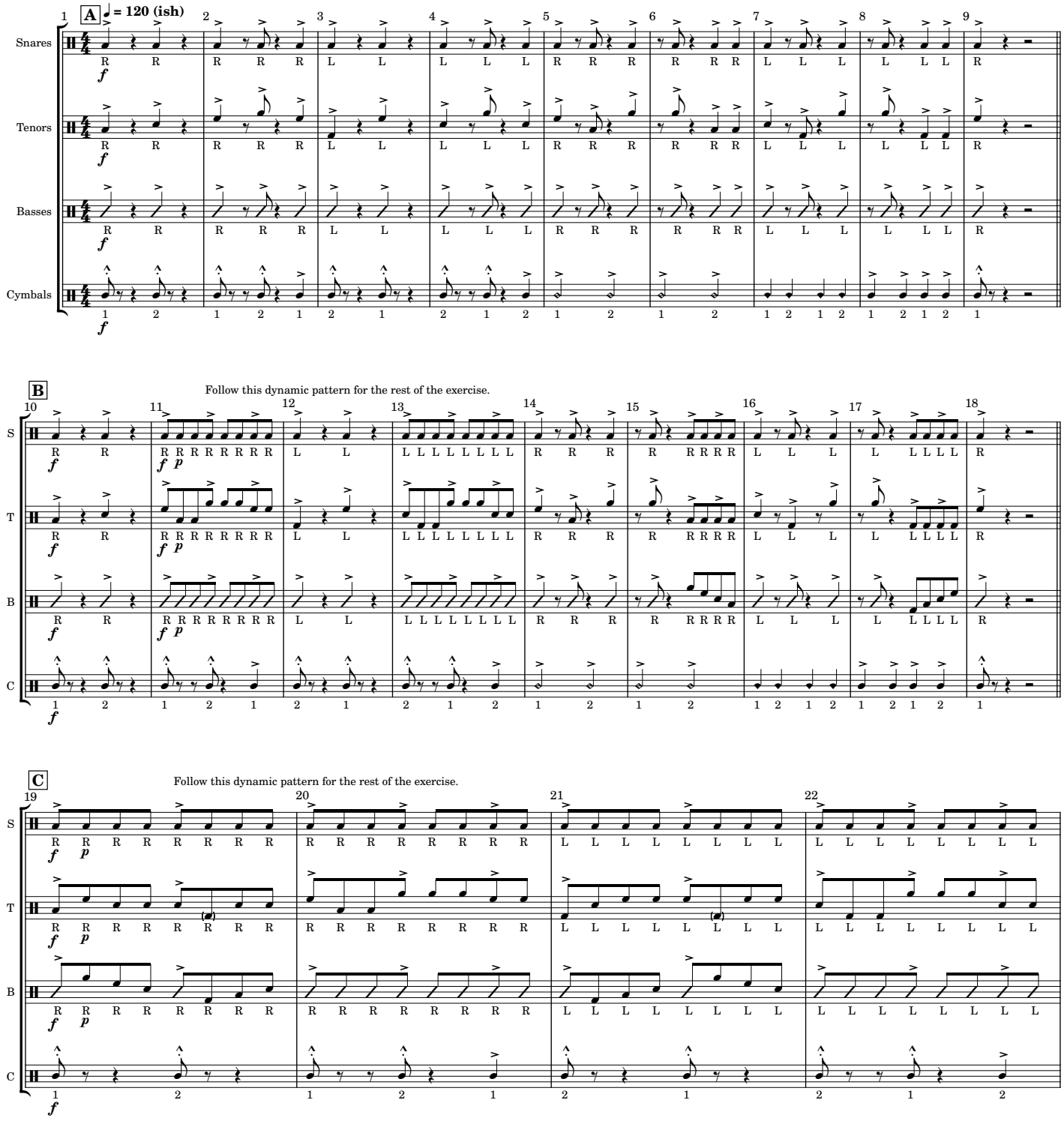
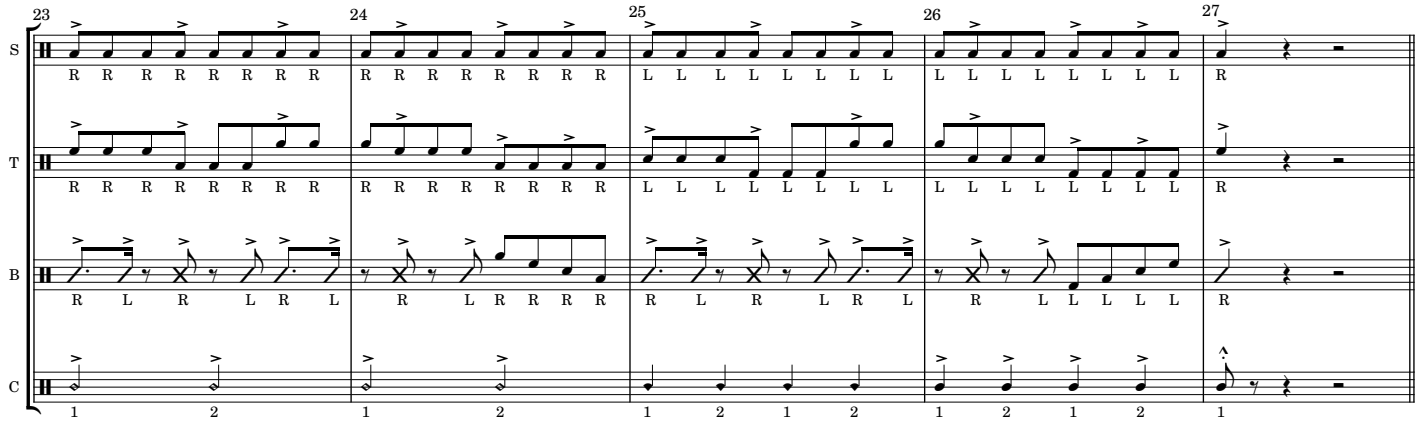
ff

Troy University Drumline Exercise Packet

Accent Tap

Clayson

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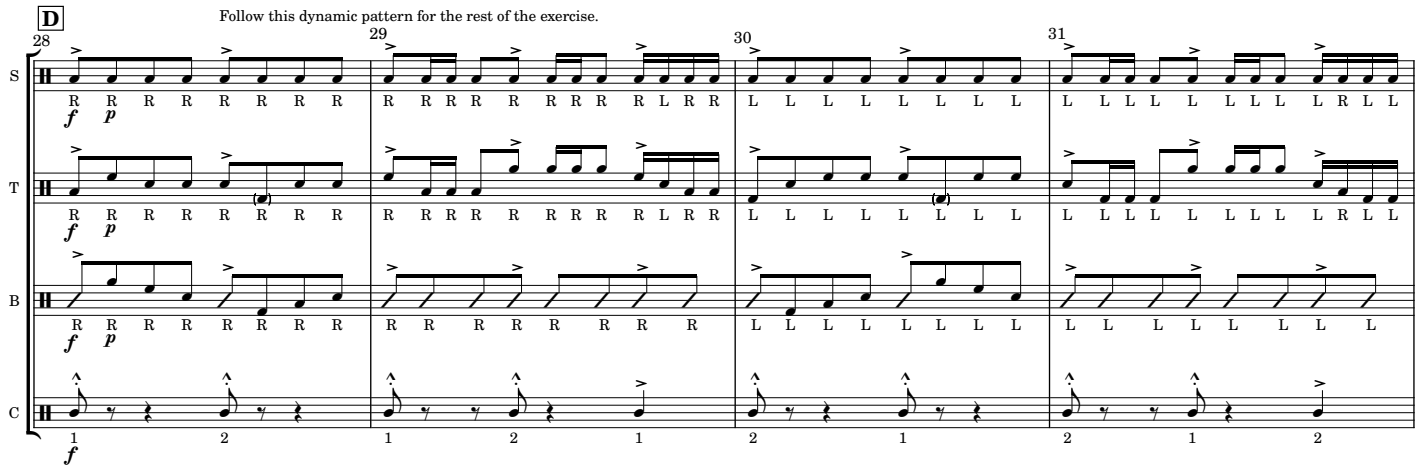
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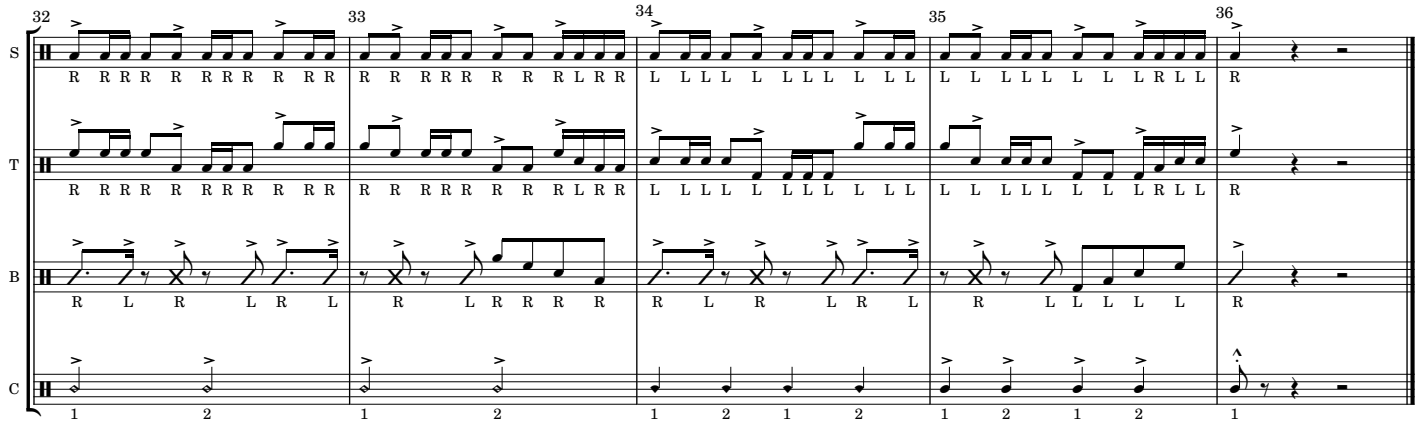
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R L R R R R
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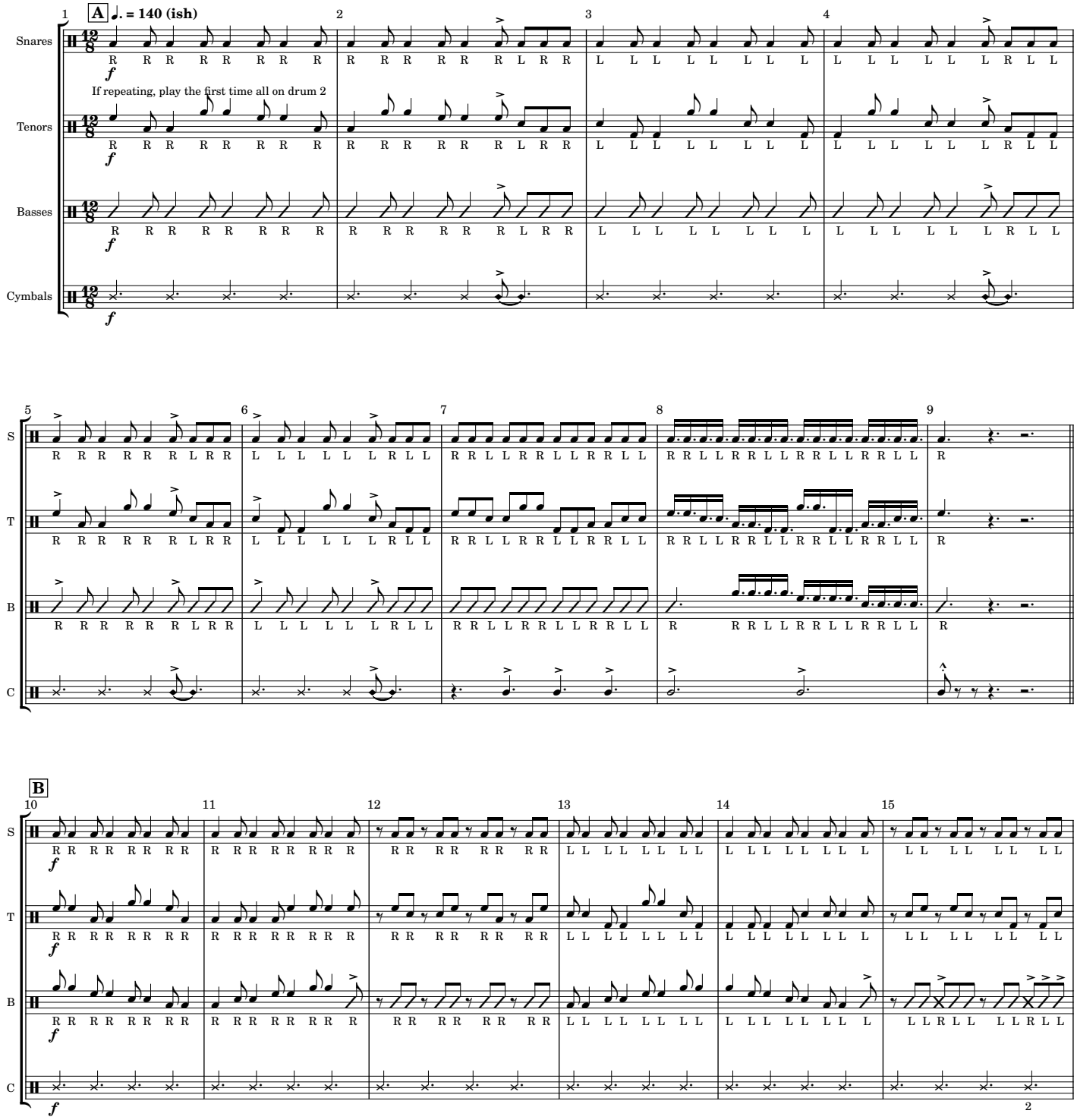
R
1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1

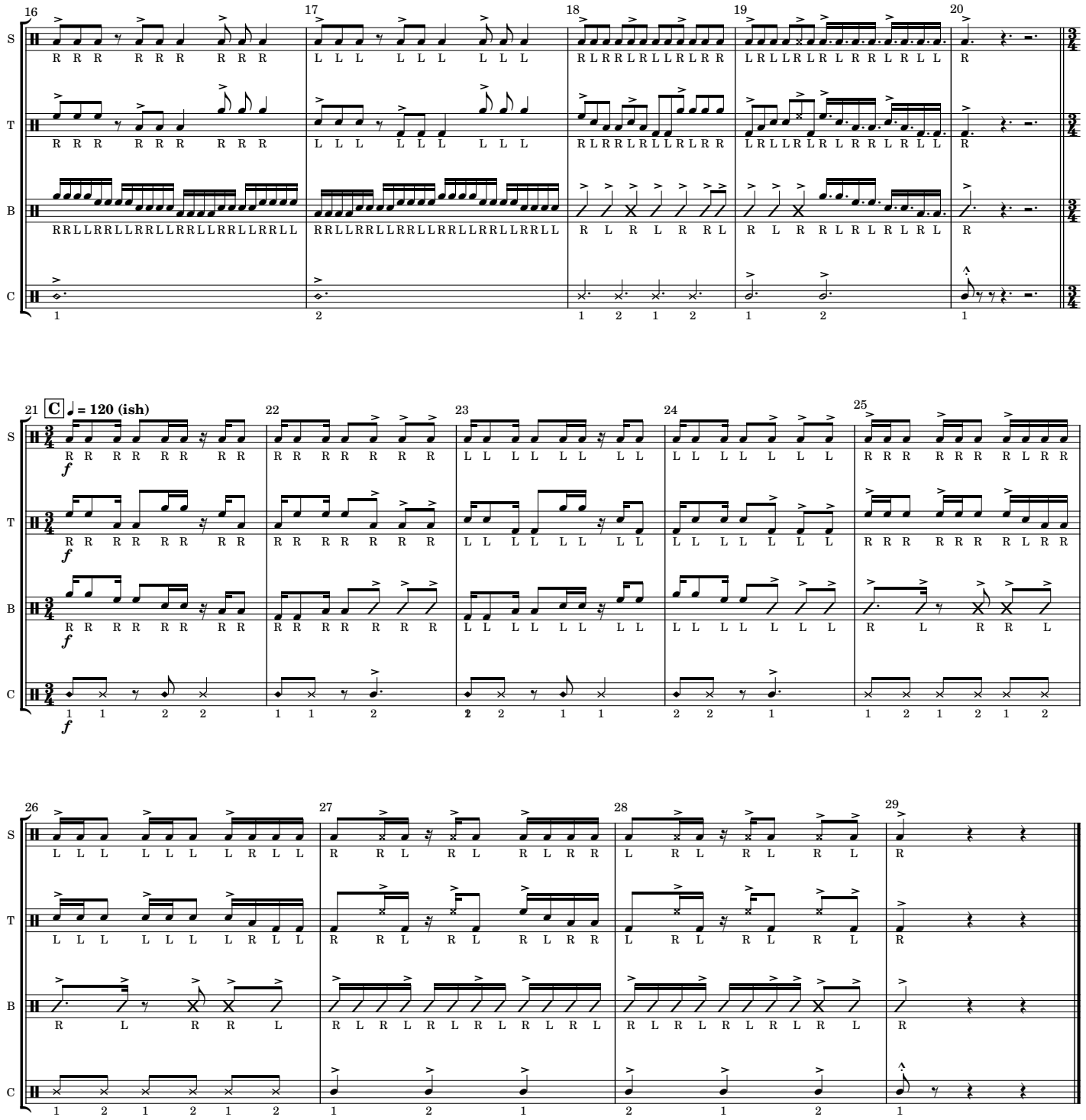
Troy University Drumline Exercise Packet

Double Beat

Clayson



Robert Clayson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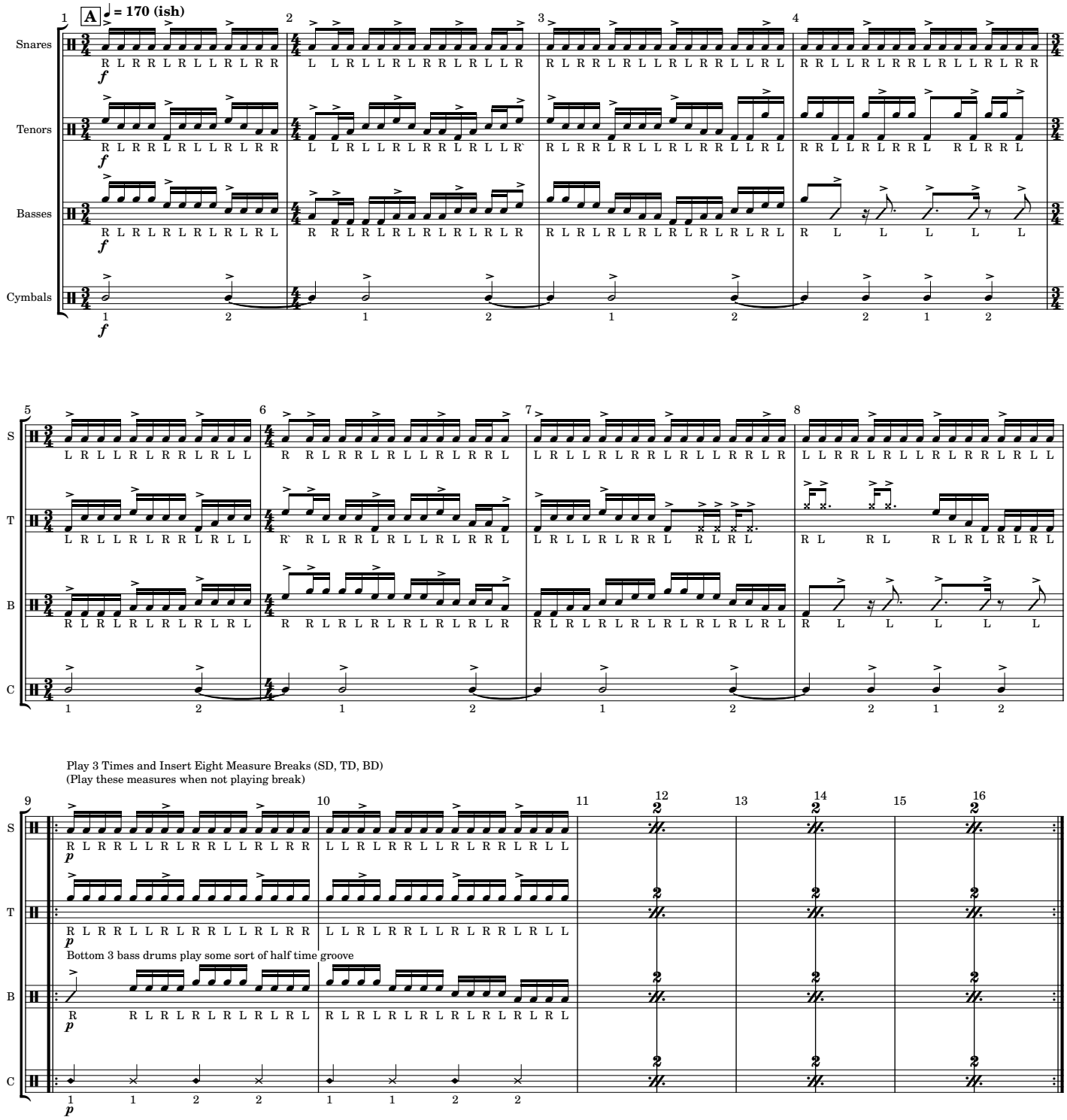
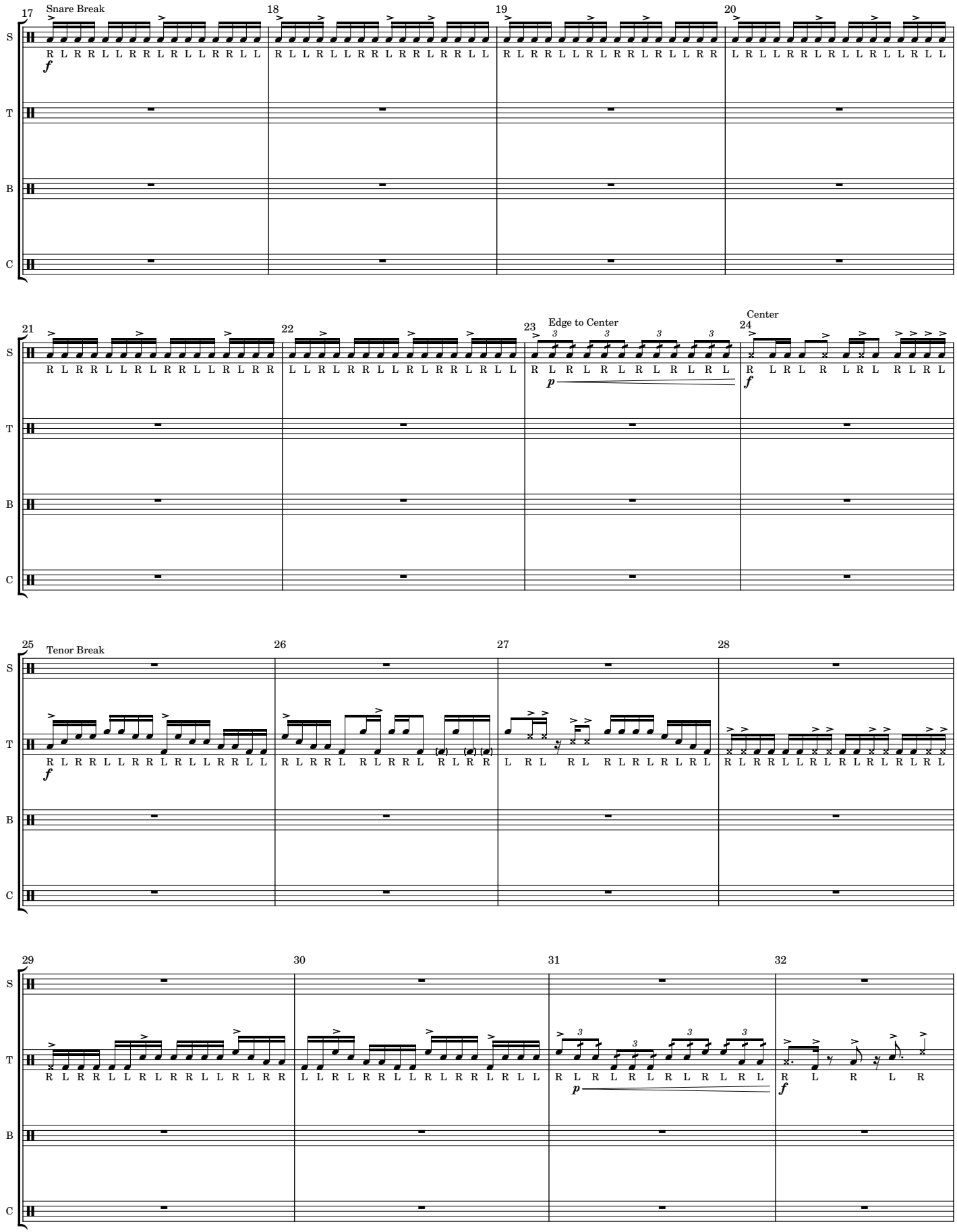
Troy University Drumline Exercise Packet

Paradiddle / Ram

Clayson



Robert Clayson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Snare Break
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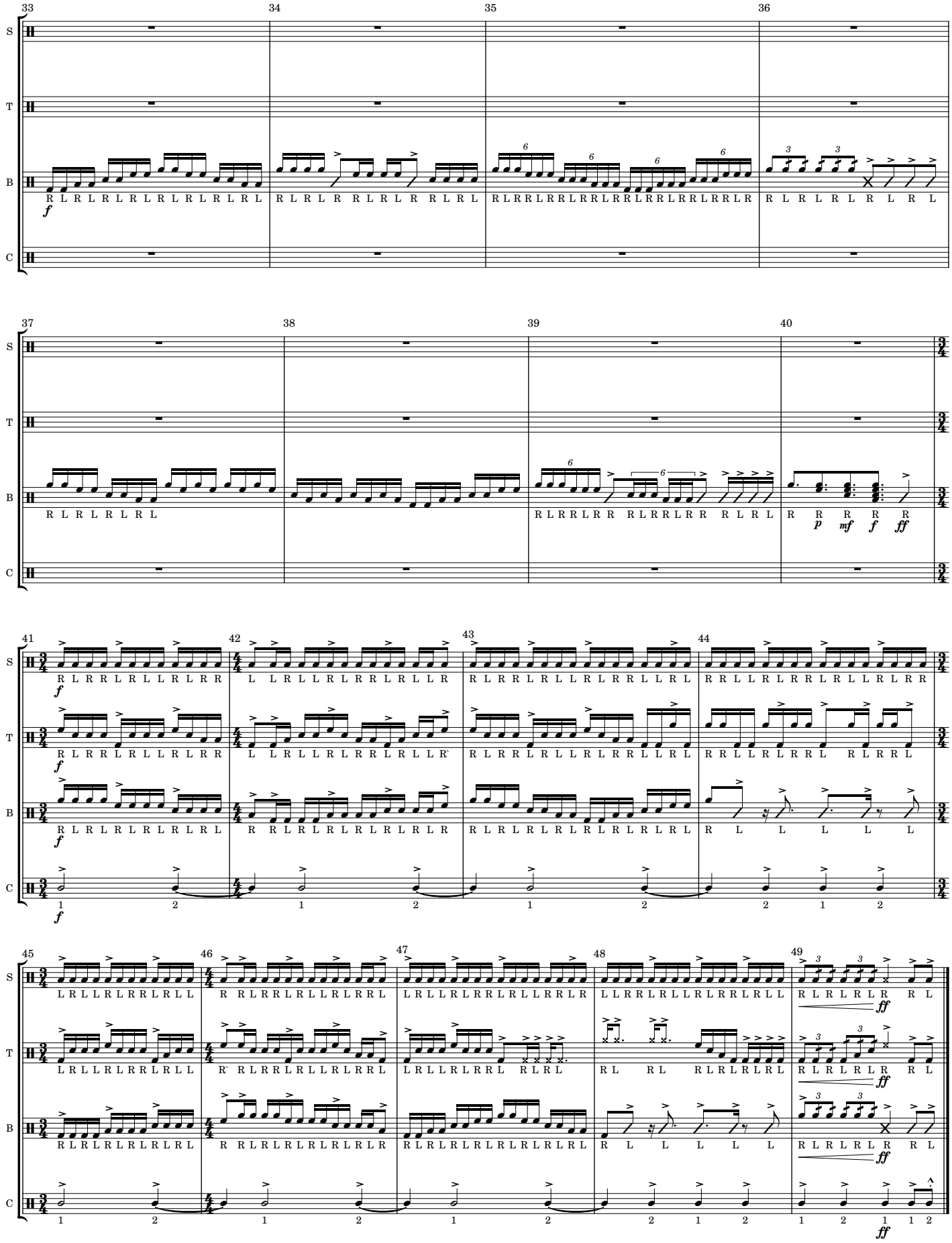
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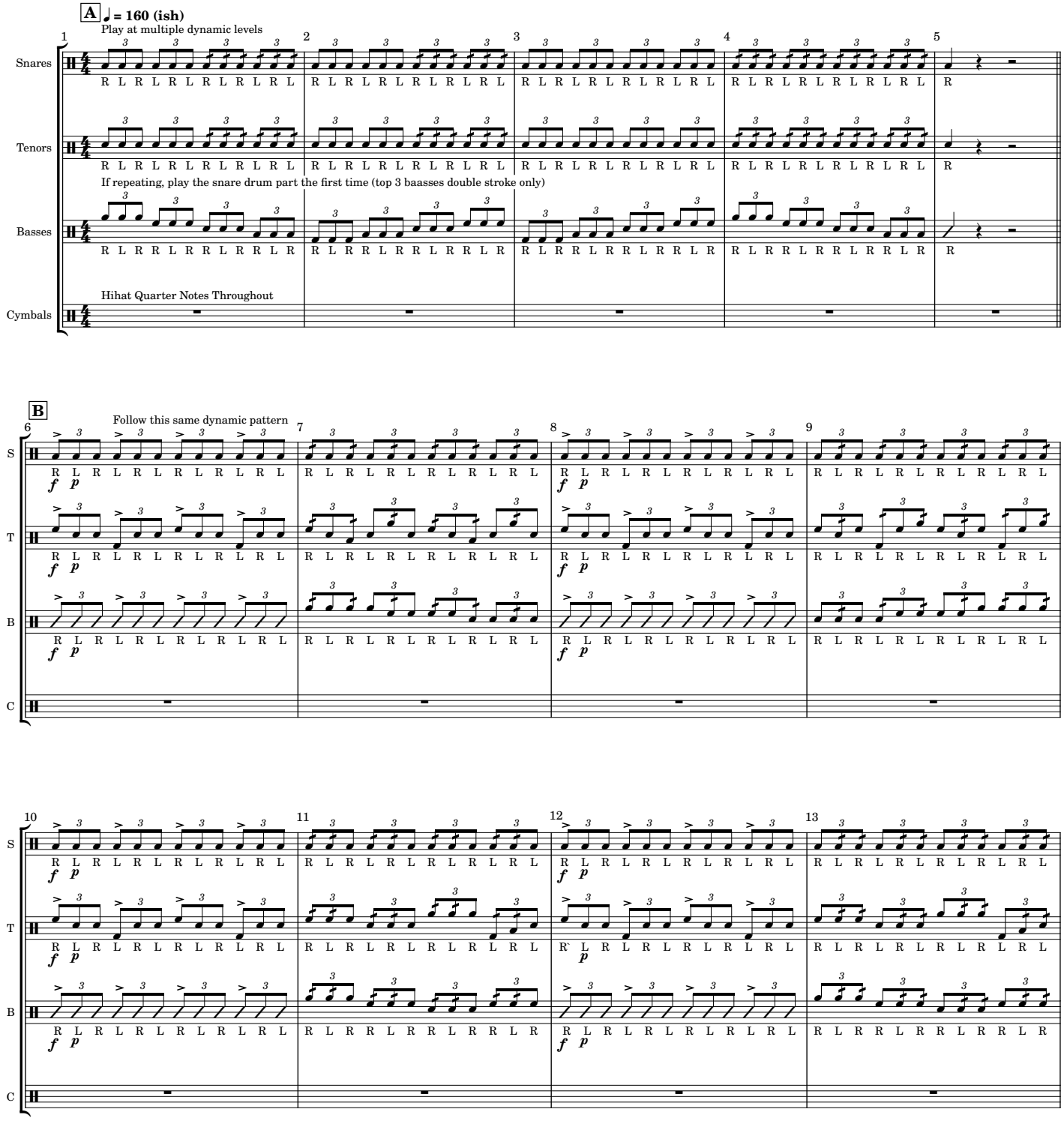
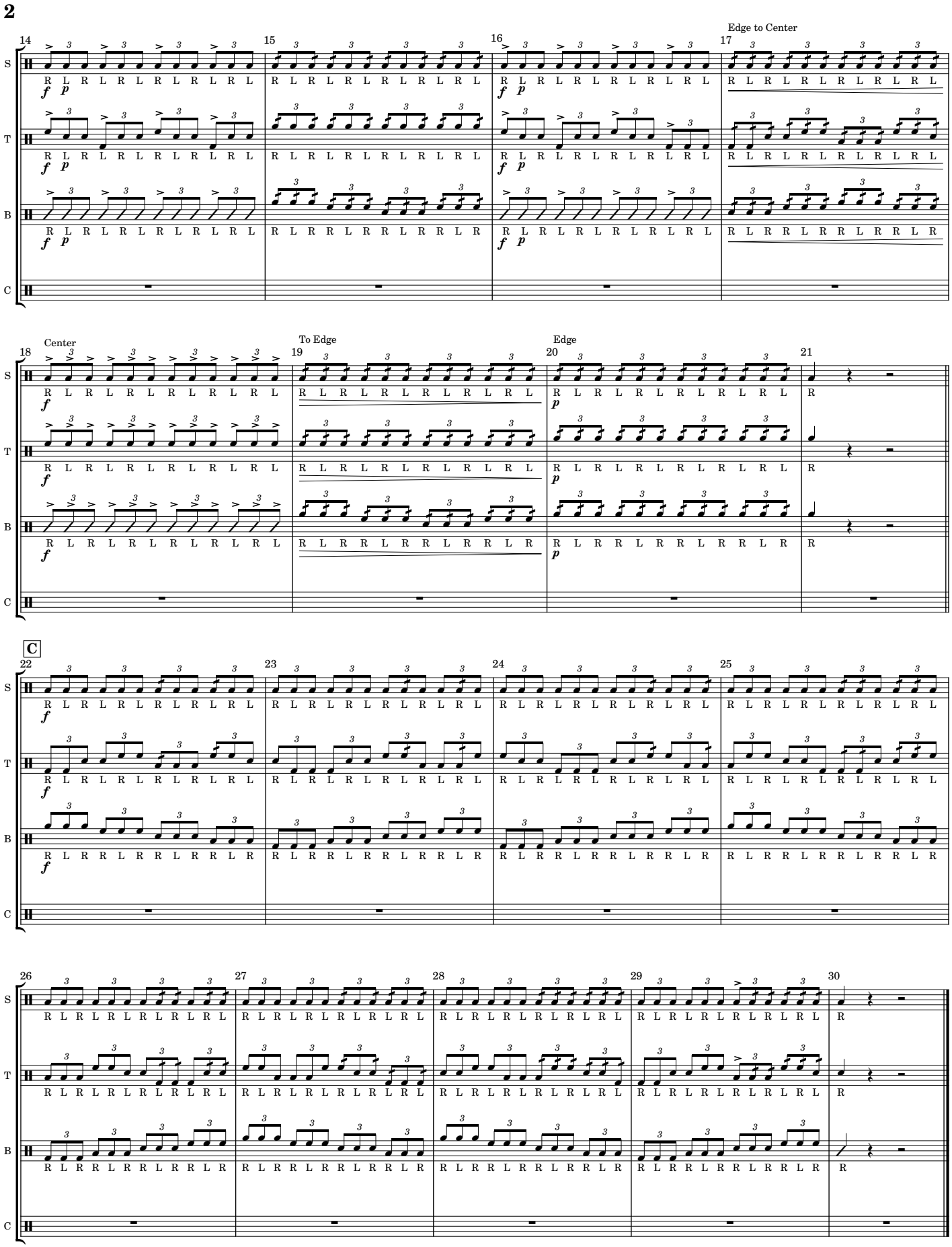
Troy University Drumline Exercise Packet

Rolls

Clayson



Robert Clayson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