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Preface

I've always wanted to write a drum instruction book.

Over the years, I've learned so much from many other books and so much from other drummers, so I thought that, just maybe, I might also have a little something to offer.

I knew that I wouldn't be able to reinvent the wheel, nor did I want to, but I also knew that there might be some patterns from my own practice routine that would be useful to my fellow drummers. After all, we're always looking for something new to add to our bag of tricks.

When I arrived at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachussets I was introduced to what is commonly referred to as "linear drumming" by my instructor, Gary Chaffee. It was like a light had just come on, and a whole new world of drumming had opened up for me.

It was amazing to me how musical and interesting a drummer could sound, in a wholly different way than I was accustomed to.

And although it never changed my reverence and respect for my main drumming influences at the time, Buddy Rich, Ringo Starr, and John Bonham, I was now understanding, at least a bit, how to additionally navigate my way around the kit.

At that point, listening to and learning from David Garibaldi and Steve Gadd became my mission. Their ability to maintain their grooves and musicality throughout, no matter how complicated the part, was mind-boggling.

The impetus to finally start the adventure of writing this book actually came from the need to challenge a young and gifted student, Leo Nodelman.

I do hope that my minor contribution to your practice routine may open up a few new, fun, and possibly different options in your playing.

Thank you and good luck!

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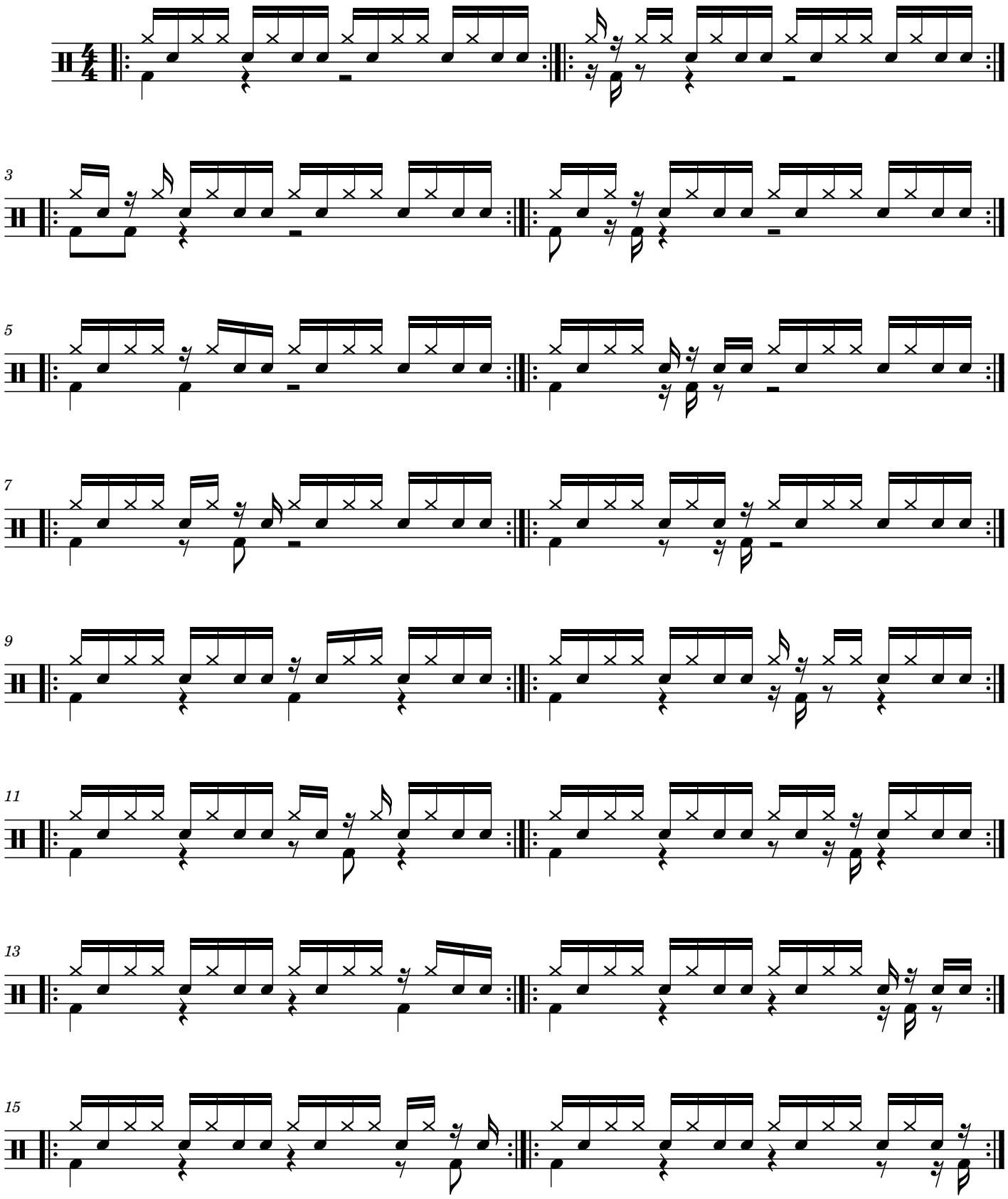
Section 1



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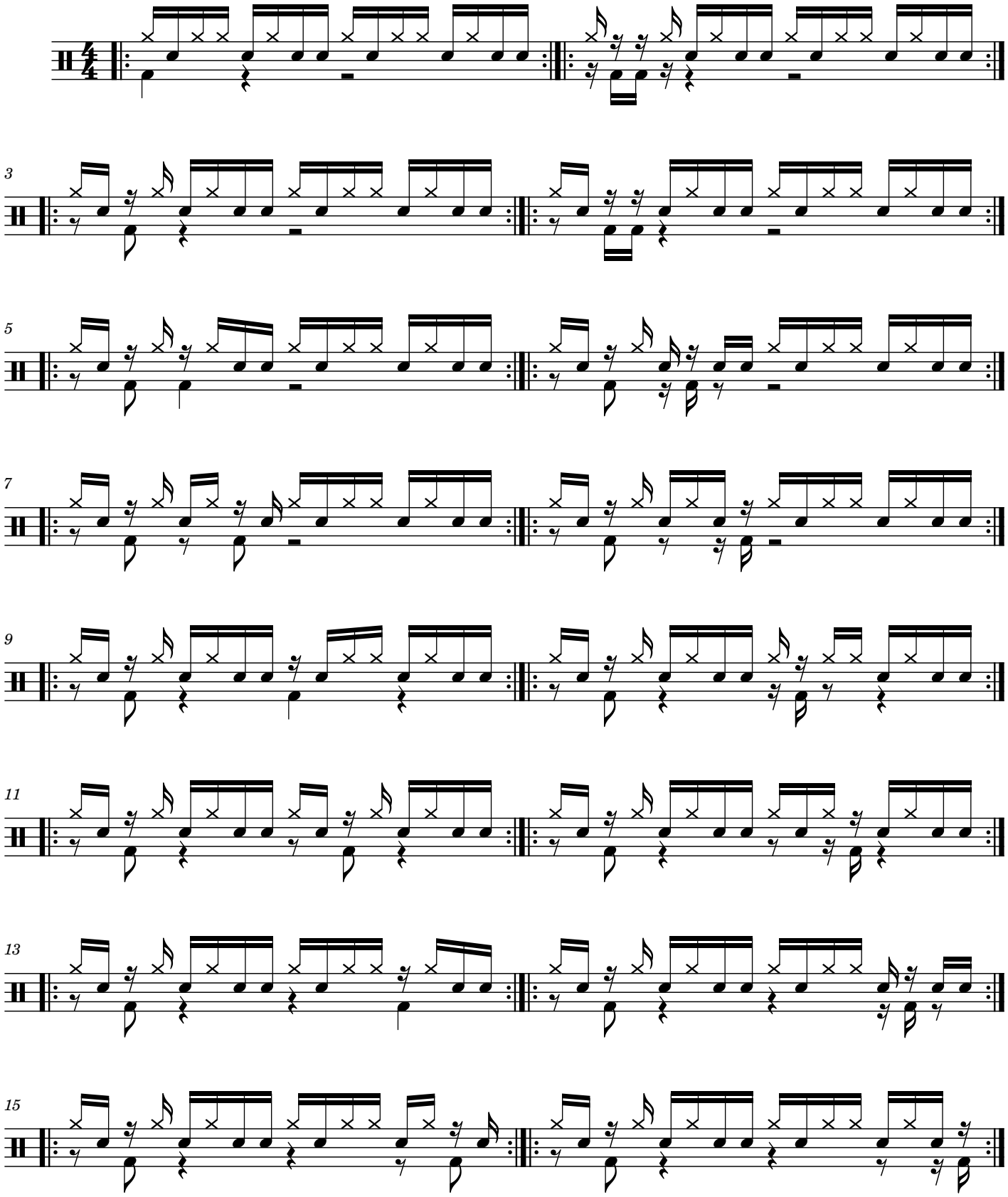

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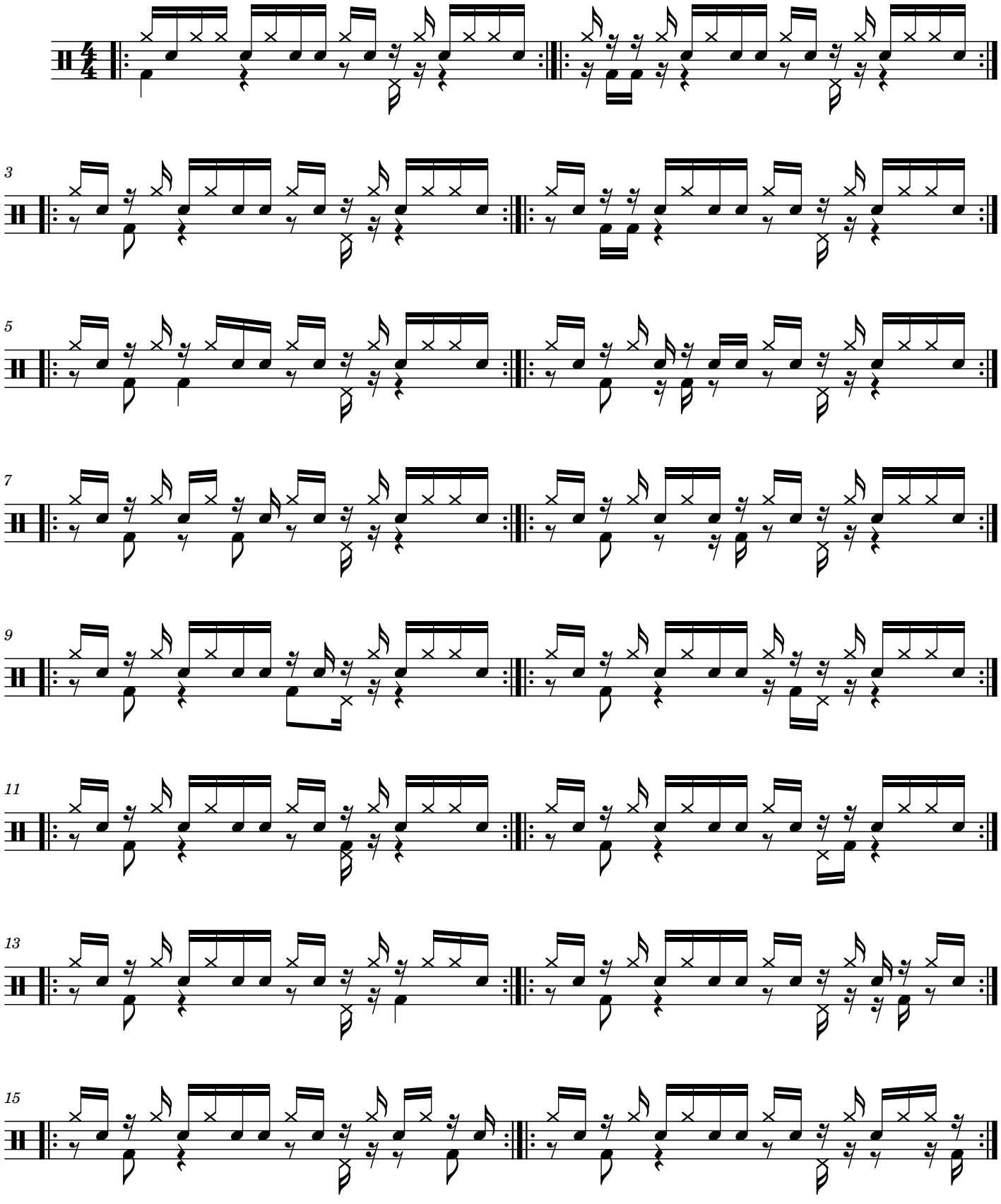

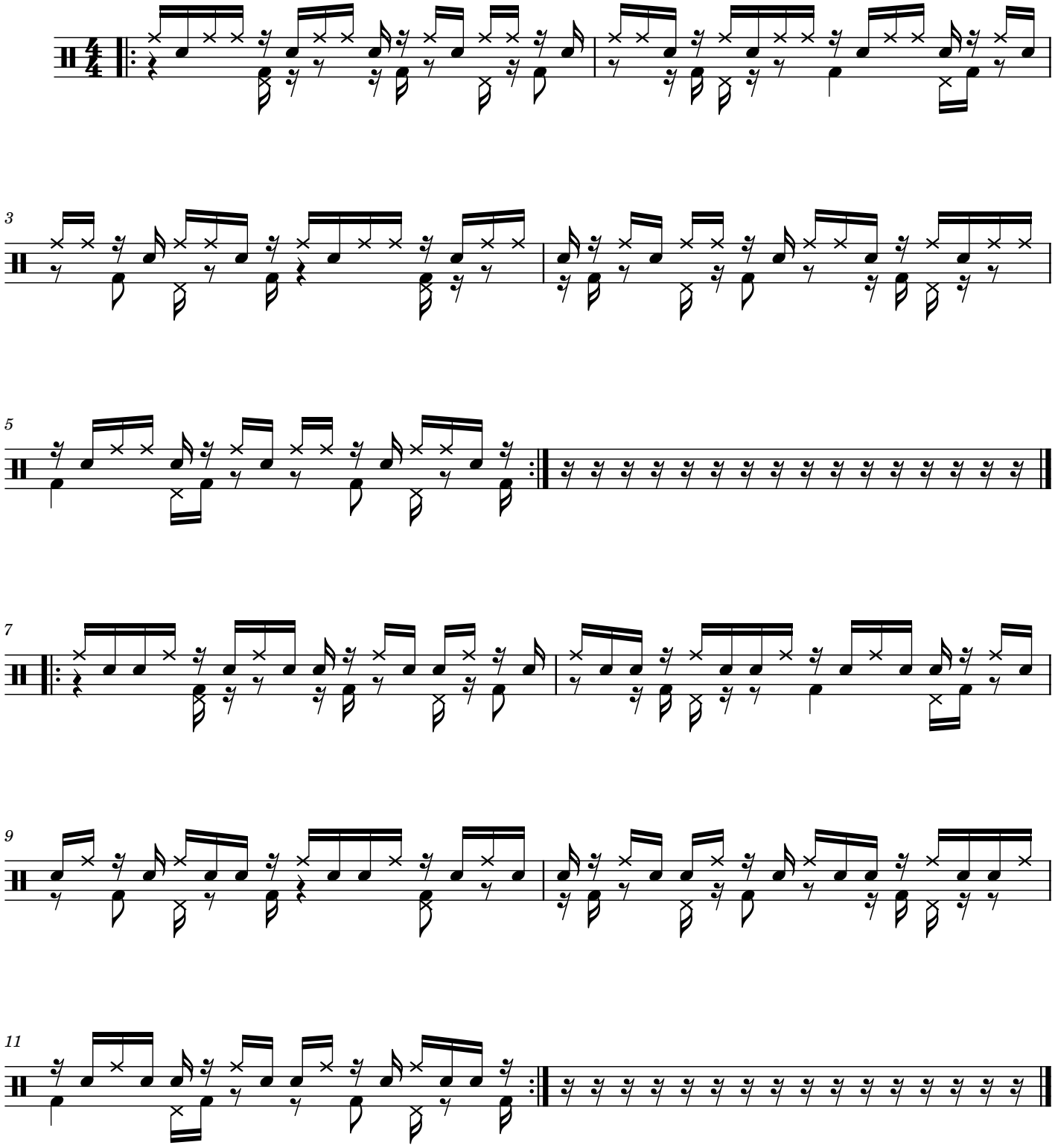
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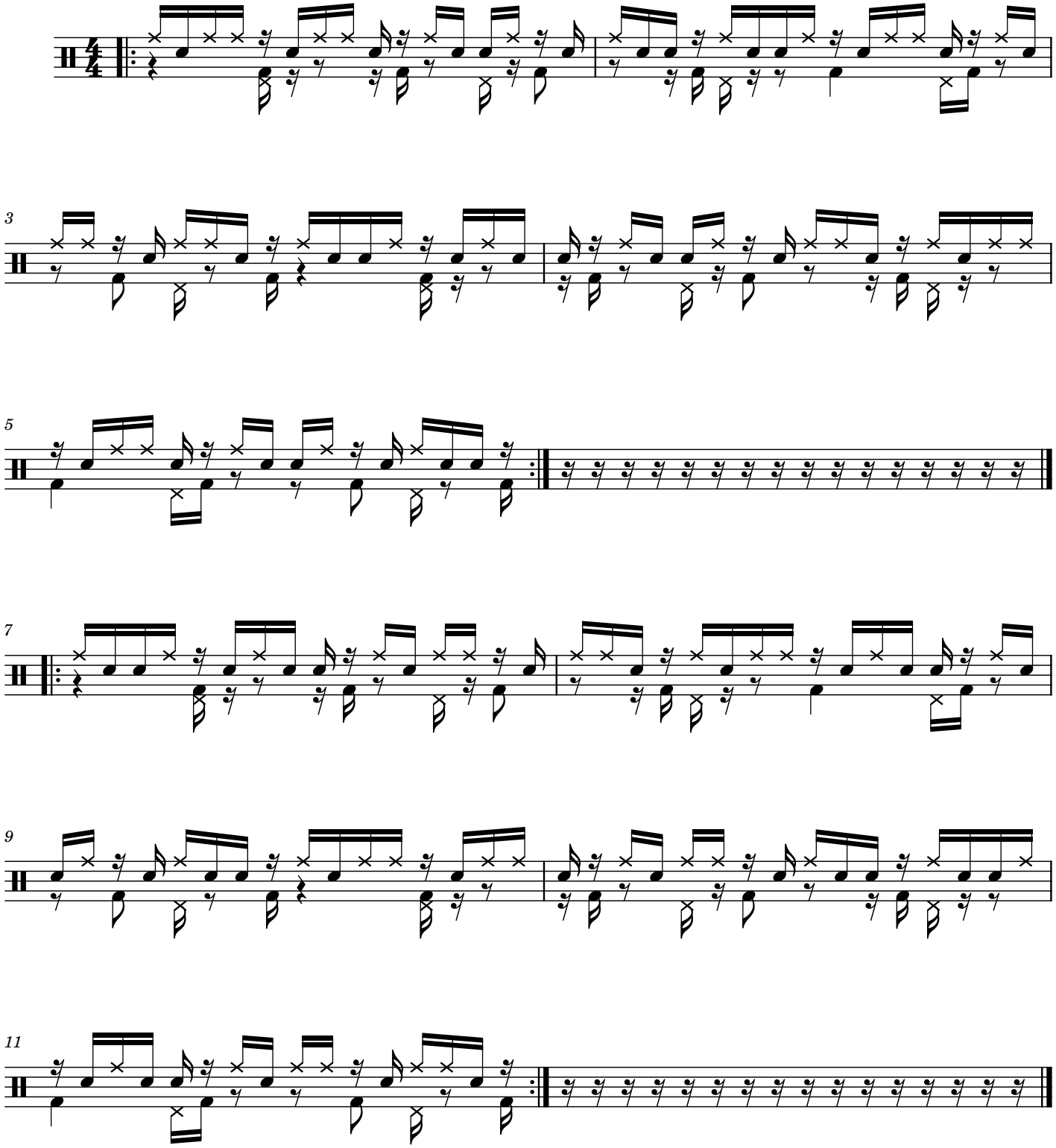
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