Belwin

CONCERT STRING ORCHESTRA

PRESTO

(from String Quartet Opus 131)

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
Arranged by TIM McCARRICK

INSTRUMENTATION

1	Conductor
8	1st Violin
8	2nd Violin
5	Viola
5	Cello
5	String Bass

PROGRAM NOTES

Most biographies of Beethoven emphasize his dark moods and his suffering of deafness and physical ailments. Yet even in his difficult final years, he produced music that is truly joyous: *Symphony 8*; the "Ode to Joy" of *Symphony 9*; and this exuberant presto from *String Quartet #14, Opus 131*. In this presto you can hear Beethoven at his most playful, bouncing the melodies between players like a game until he interrupts with a totally unexpected pizzicato passage. This work proves that even in 1826, only months before his death in March 1827, Beethoven still could produce works of great joy, and he gave us this presto to prove it.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

The first thing the students should sense about this piece is that it is fun and very enjoyable to play! The second thing they should know is that making it sound as effortless and fun as it should sound will take much effort. The section beginning at bar 25, where each section answers the other, can be a problem if players overestimate the length of the quarter-note rest. The ping-ponging passages beginning at m.87 are simplified, yet will still call for tight ensemble playing.

The pizzicato entries (m.163) can be as loud as possible and the cello at 169 seems to remind the players to get back to the tune; a little Beethoven humor! Good luck and have fun!

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

All Belwin string parts have been carefully bowed and fingered appropriately by level. The Yellow Very Beginning series includes many bowings as well as reminder fingerings for first-time readers. The Red Beginning series includes frequent bowings to assist younger players. Fingerings for altered pitches are often marked. The Green Intermediate series includes appropriately placed bowings for middle-level students. Fingerings and positions are marked for notes beyond first position. The Blue Concert series includes bowings appropriate for the experienced high school player. Fingerings and position markings are indicated for difficult passages.

Bob Phillips
Belwin/Pop String Editor

Alfred

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Please note: Our band and orchestra music is now being collated by an automatic high-speed system. The enclosed parts are now sorted by page count, rather than score order.

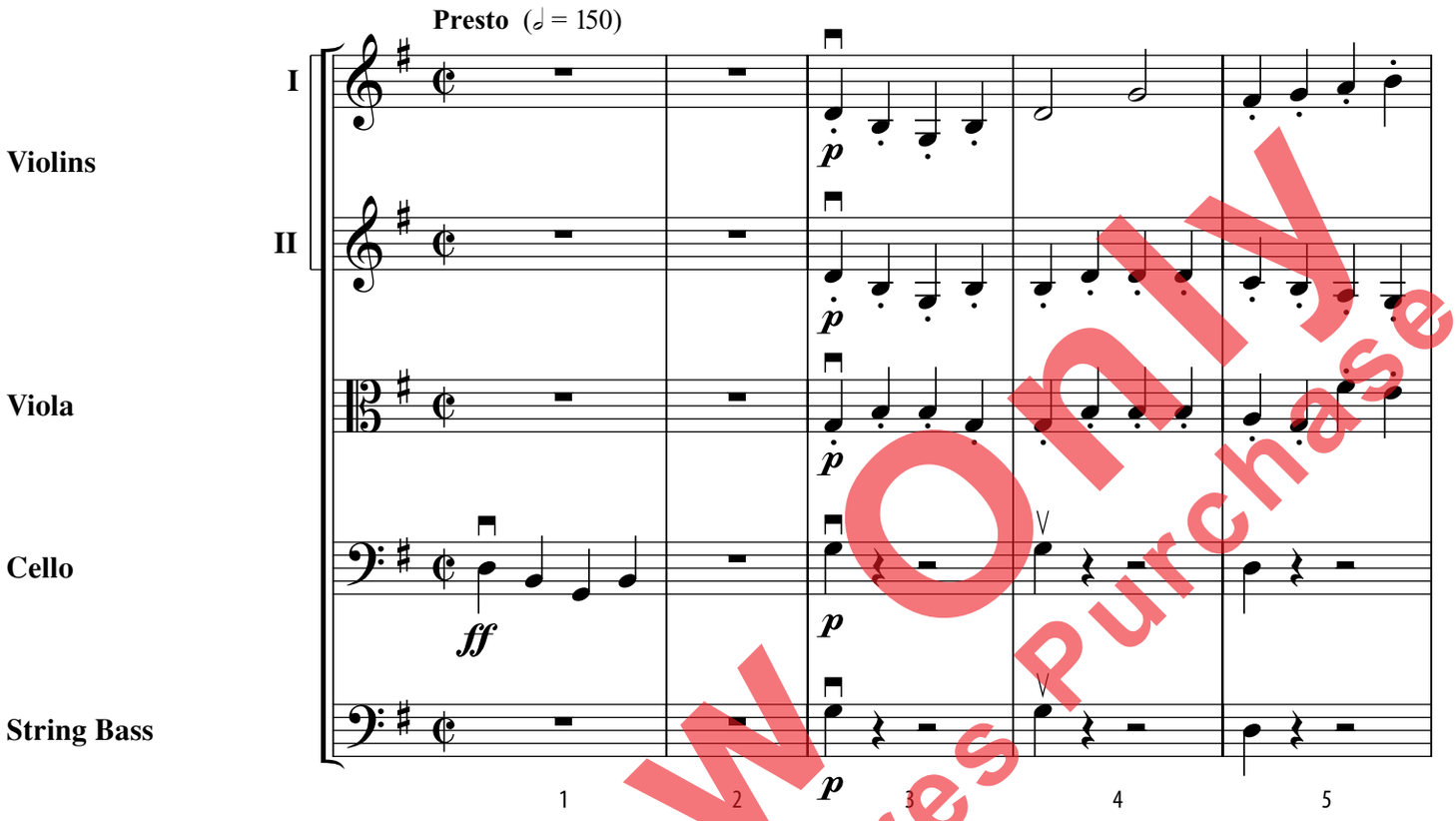
For my mother, who taught
so many to play Beethoven

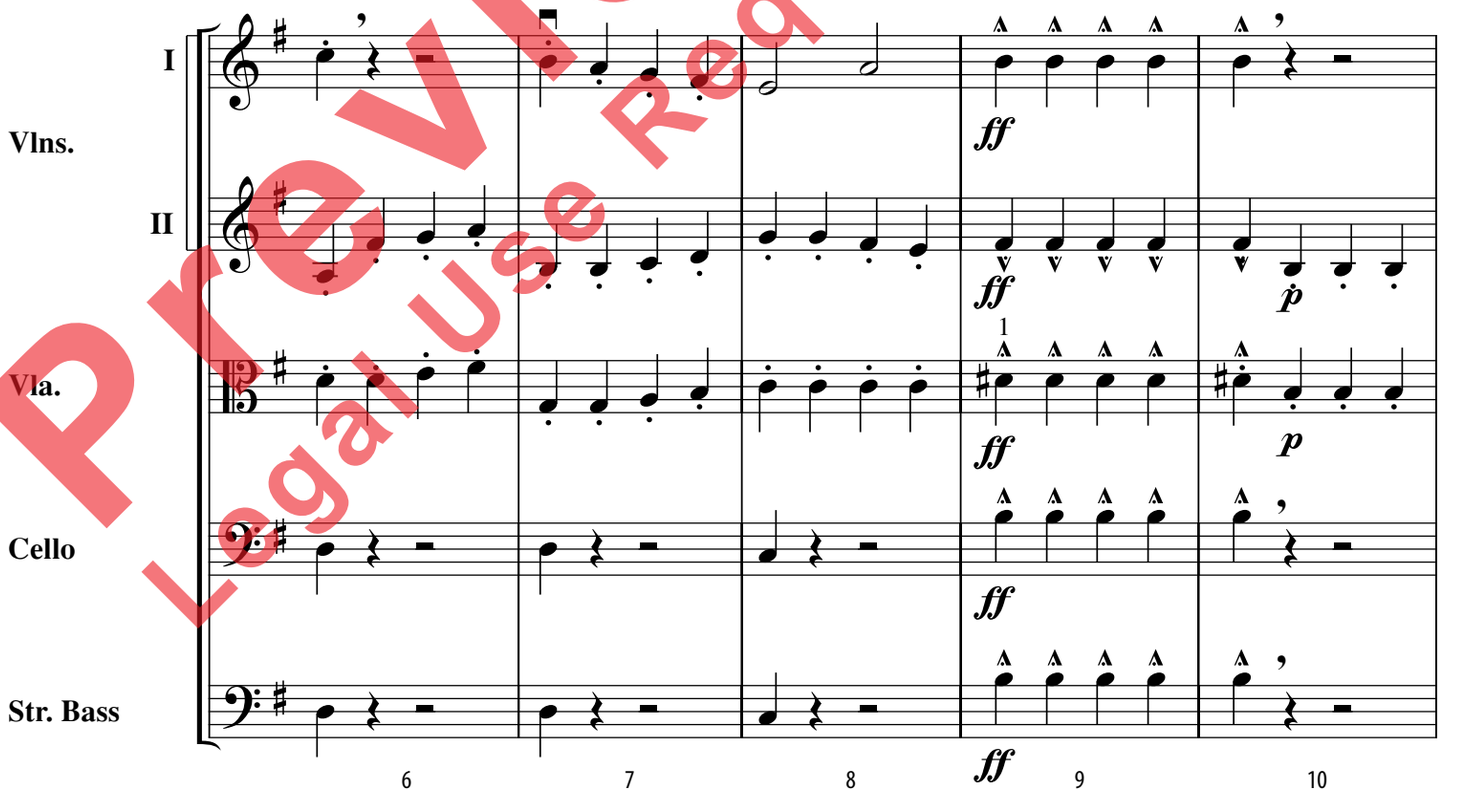
Presto

(from String Quartet Opus 131)

CONDUCTOR SCORE
Duration - 3:50

Ludwig van Beethoven
Arranged by Tim McCarrick





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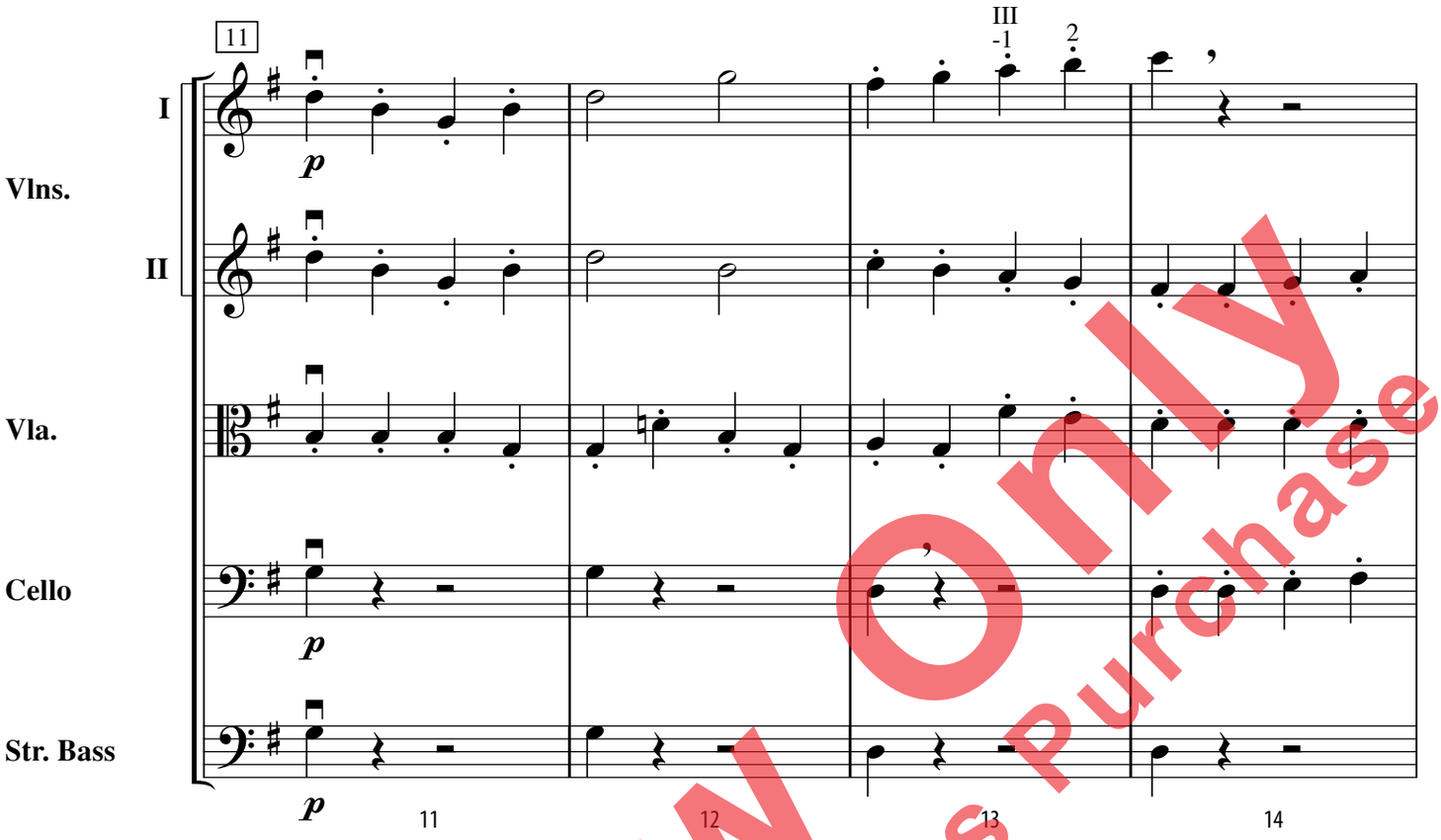

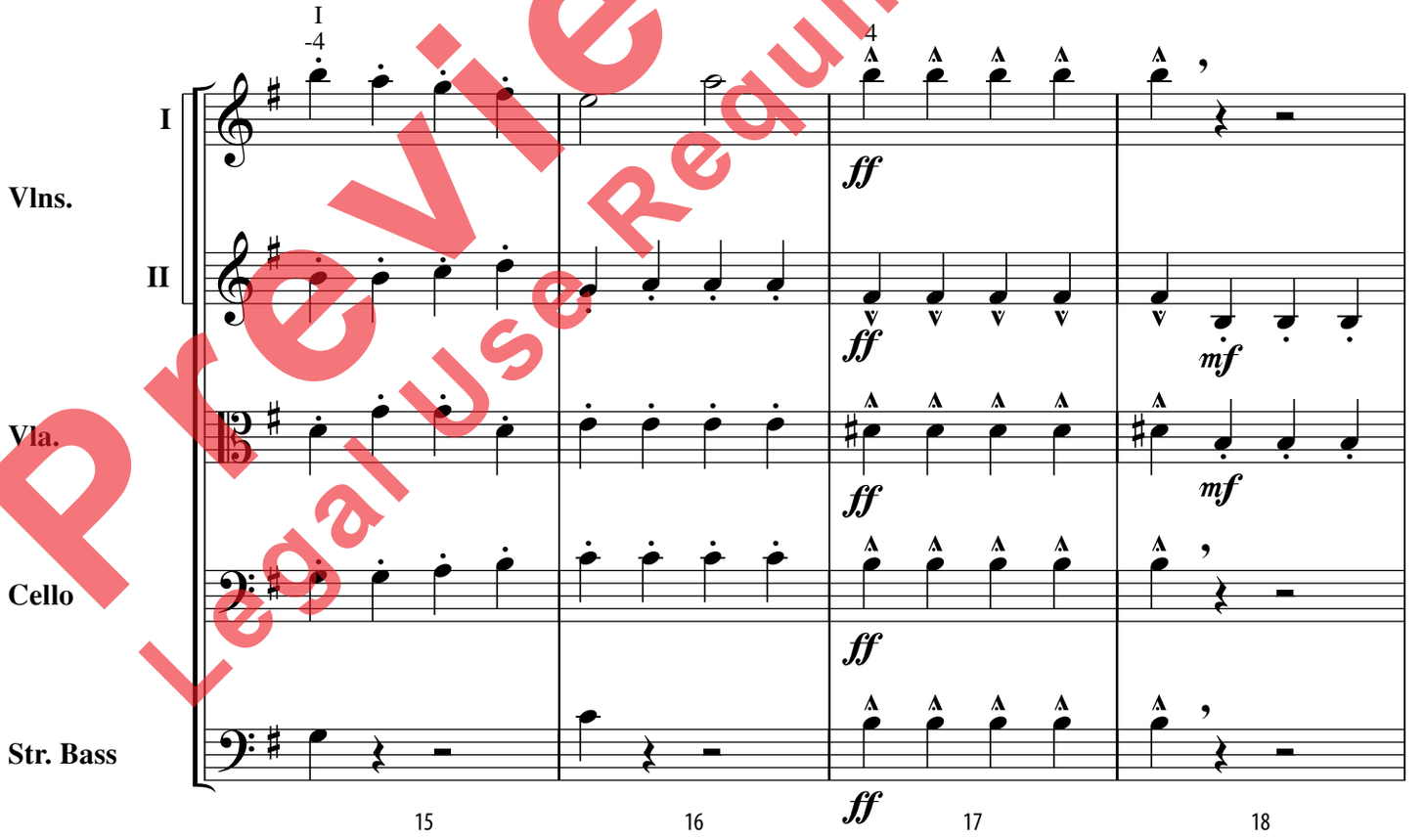

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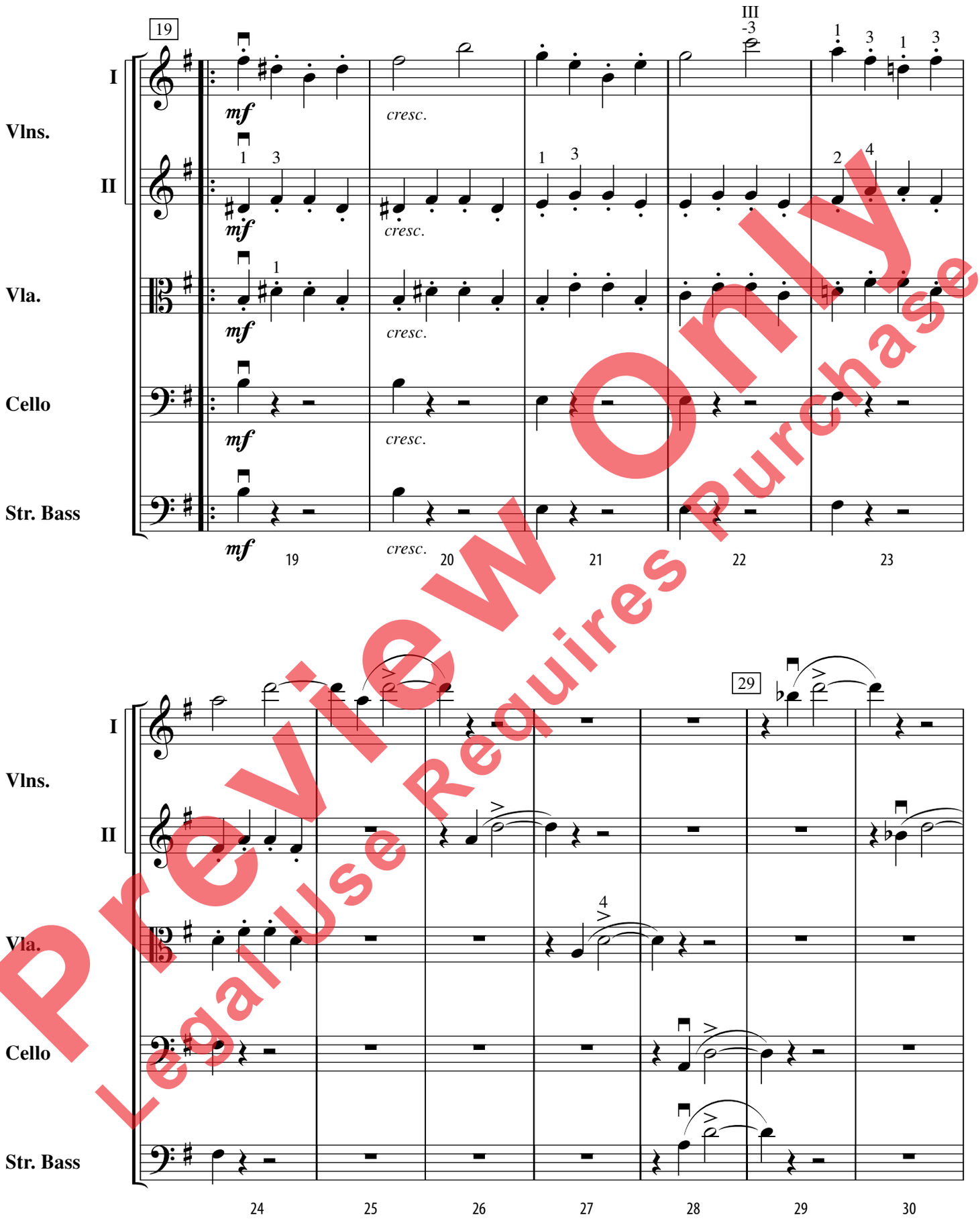

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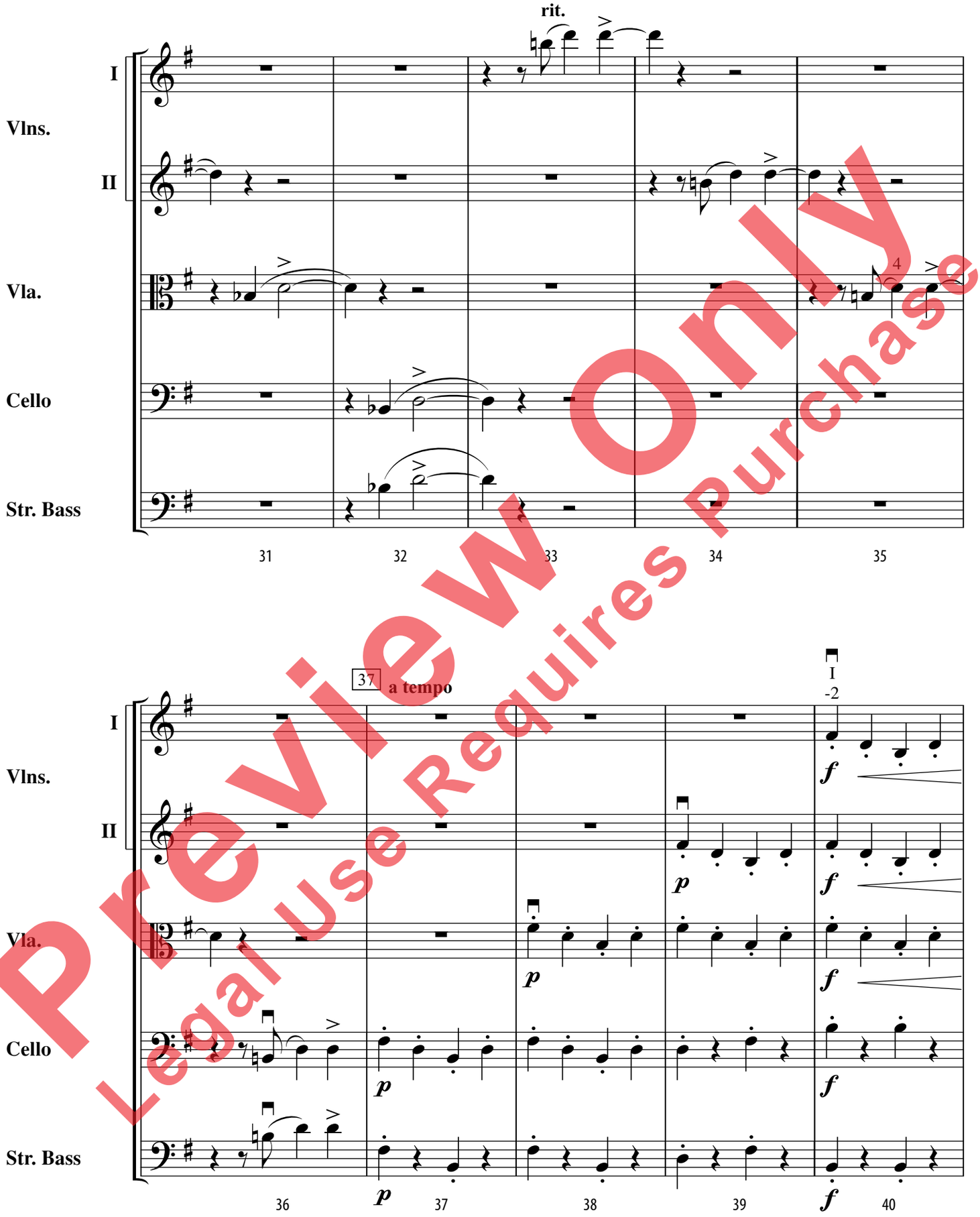

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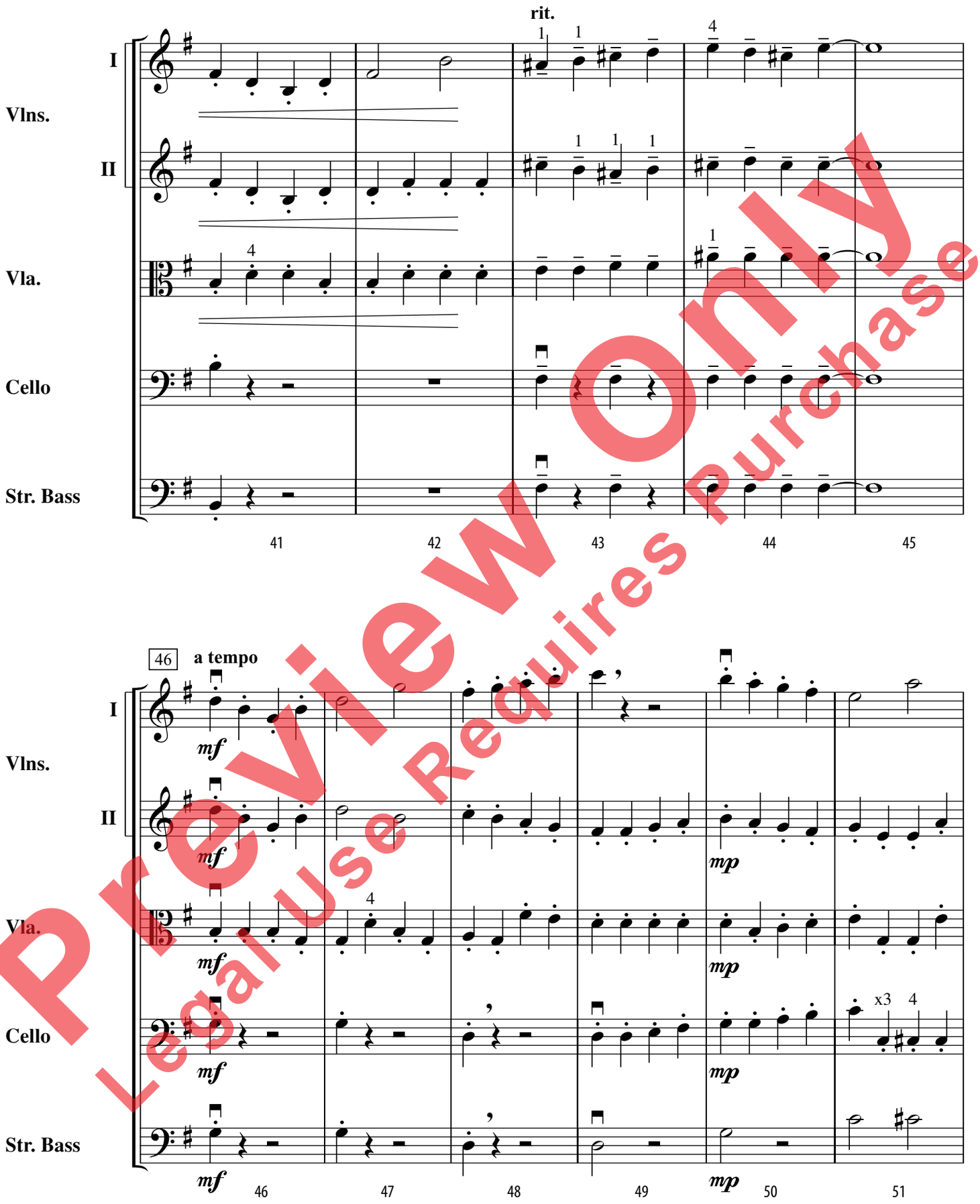

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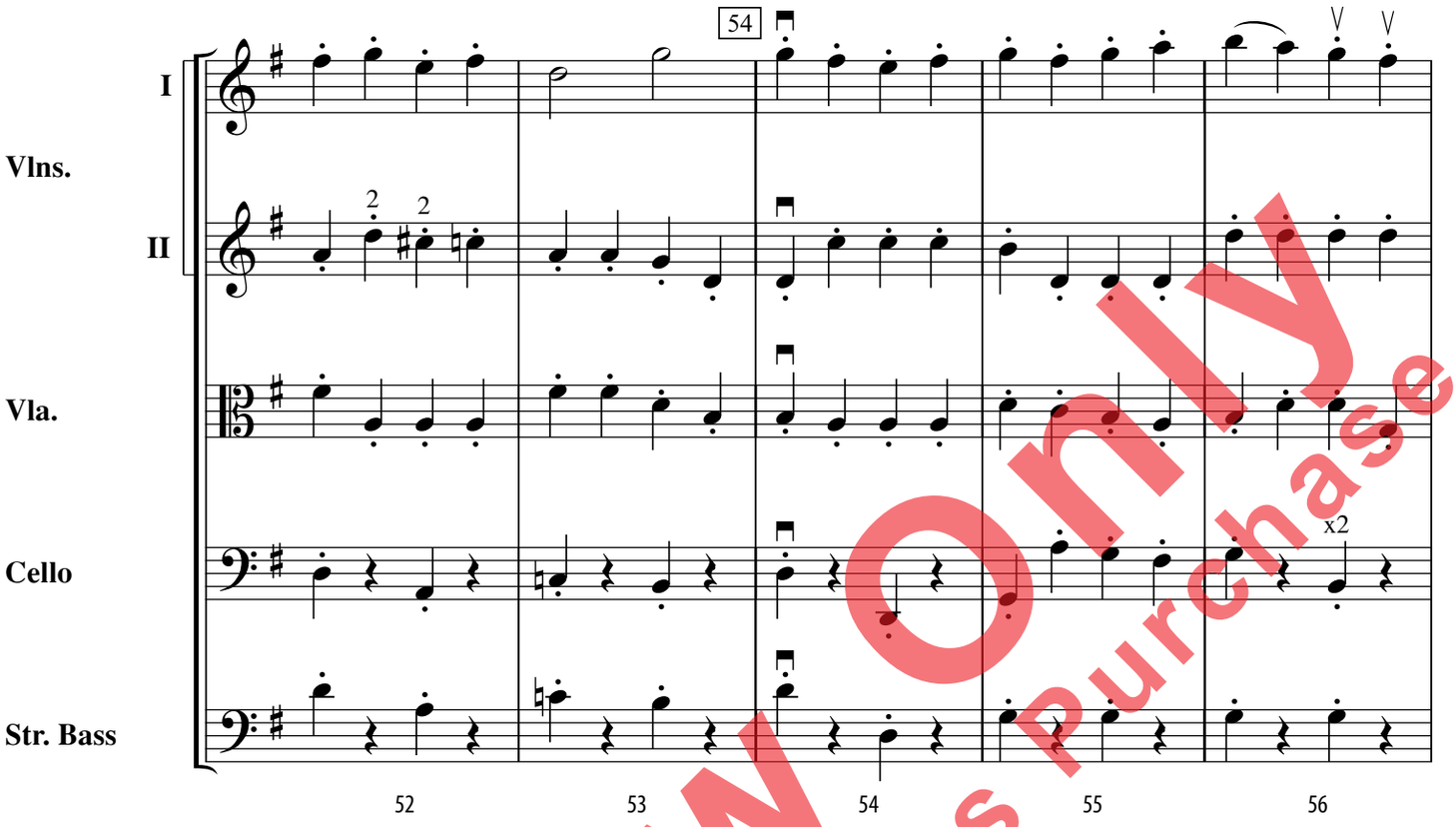

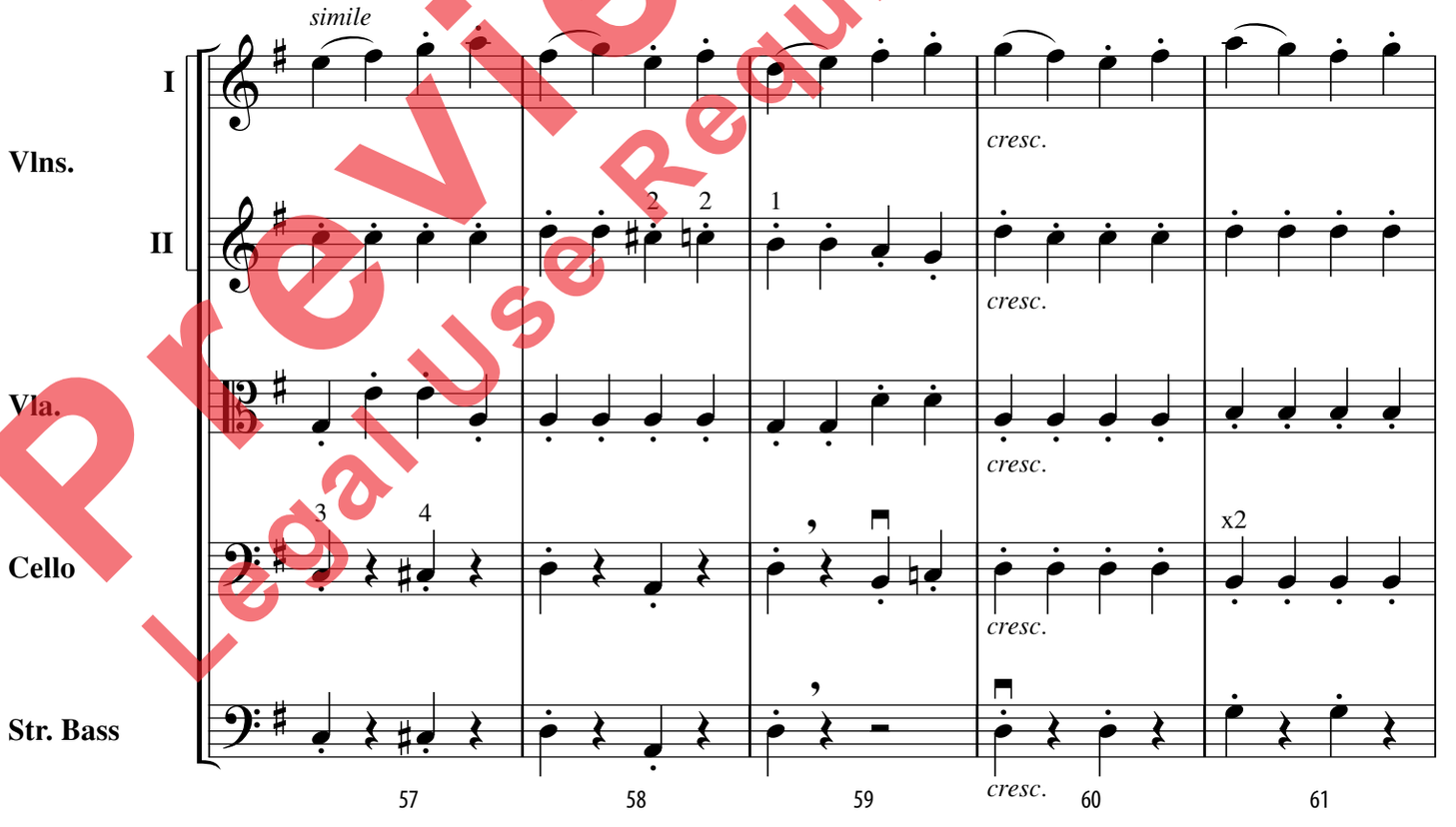

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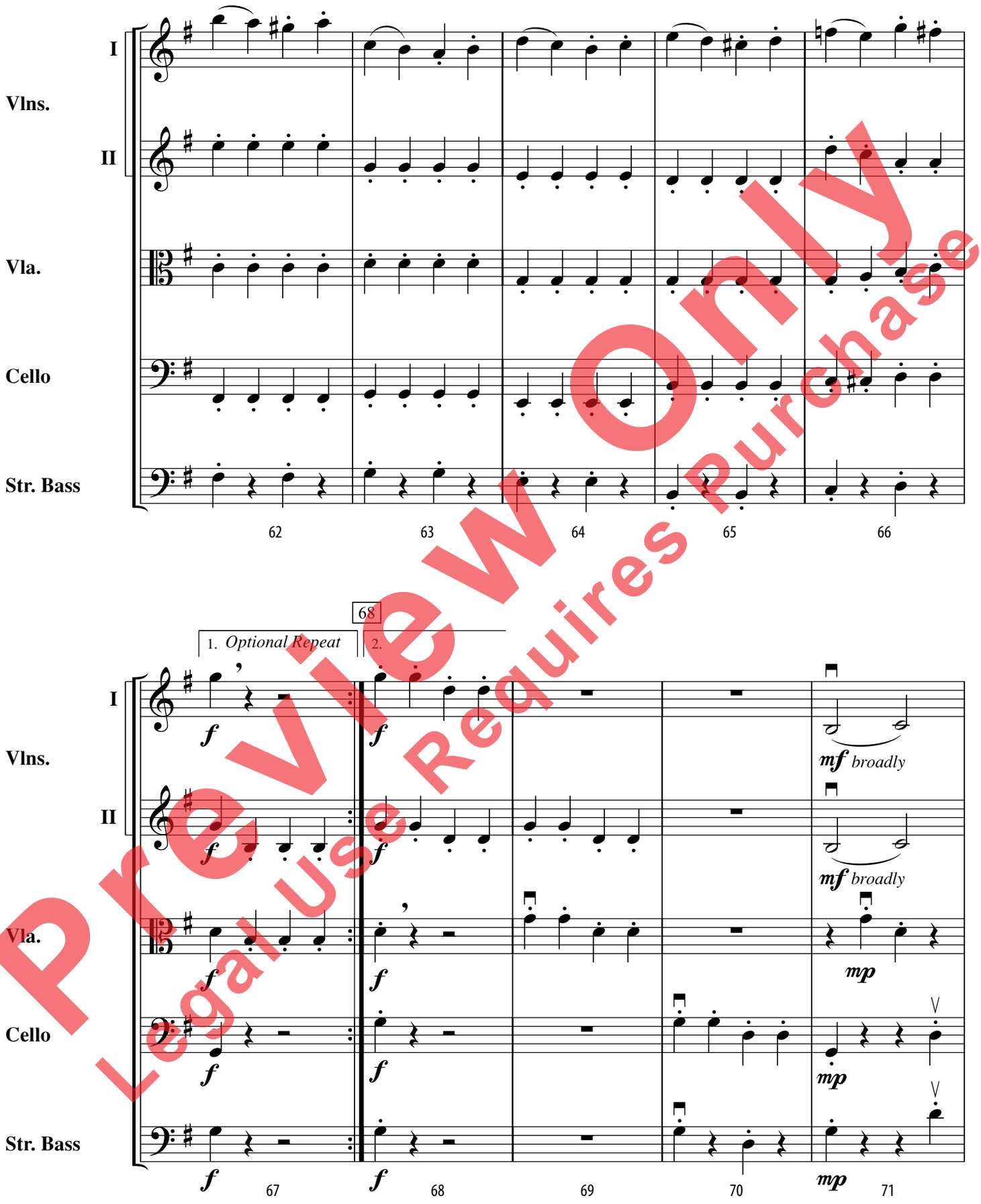

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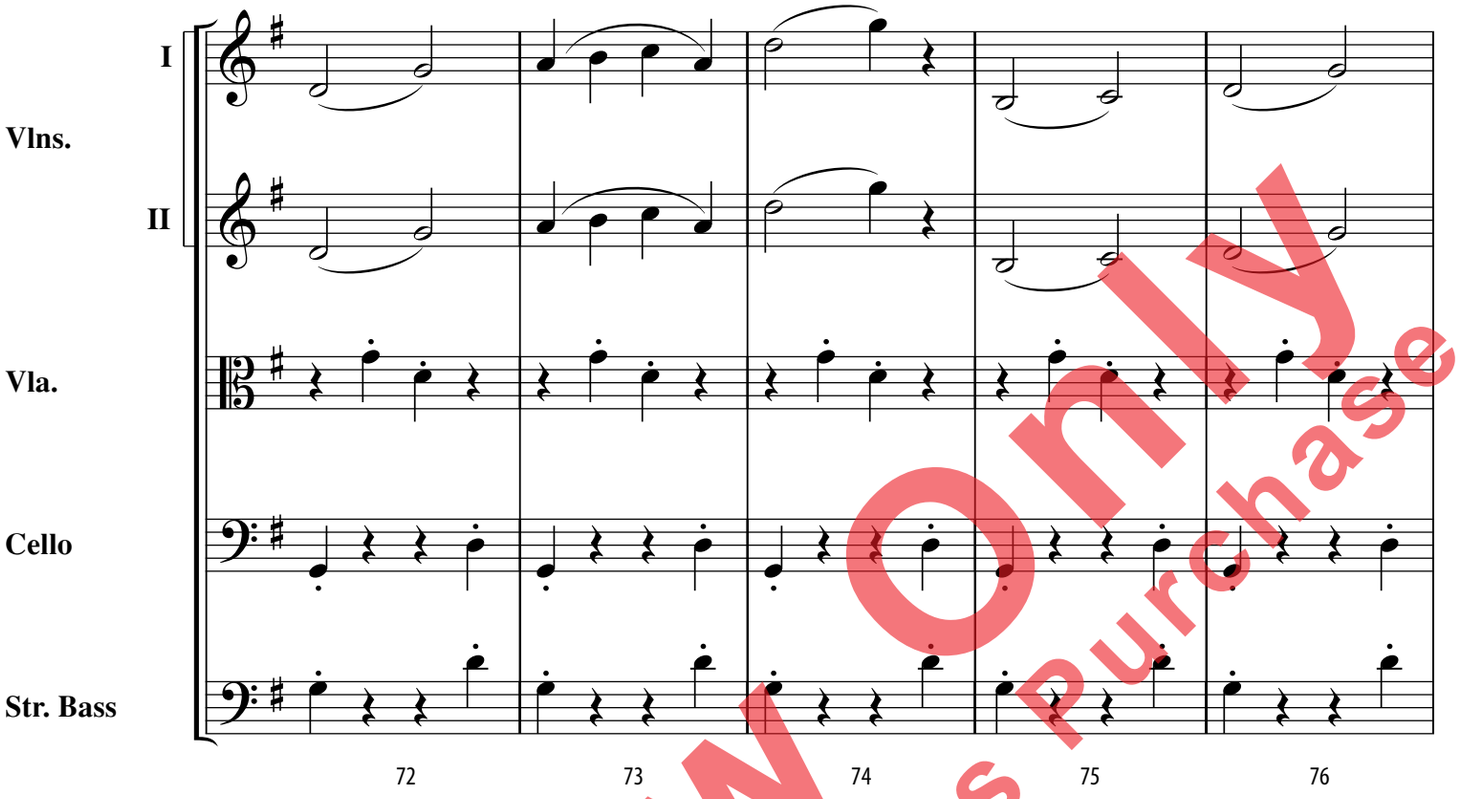

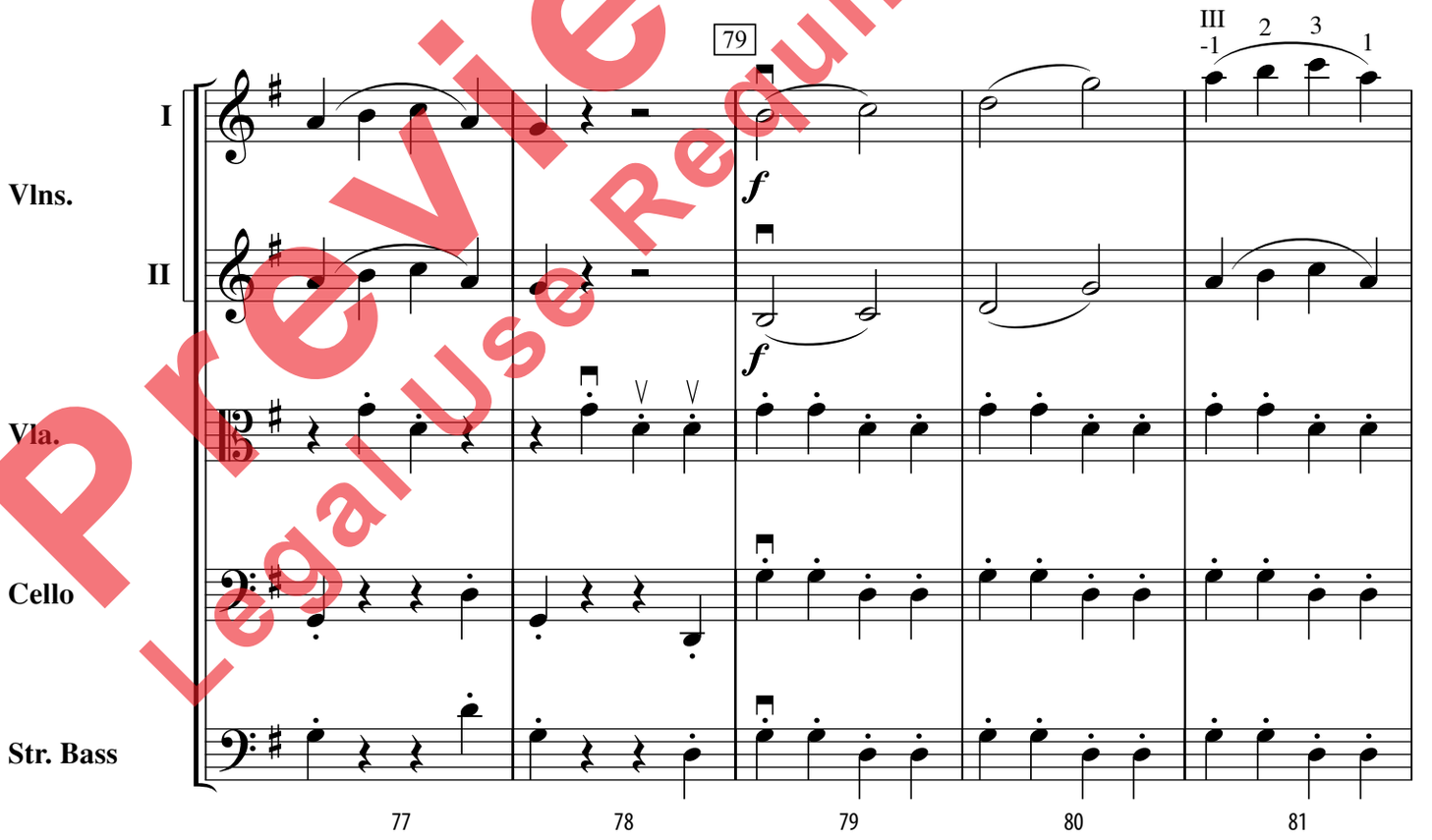

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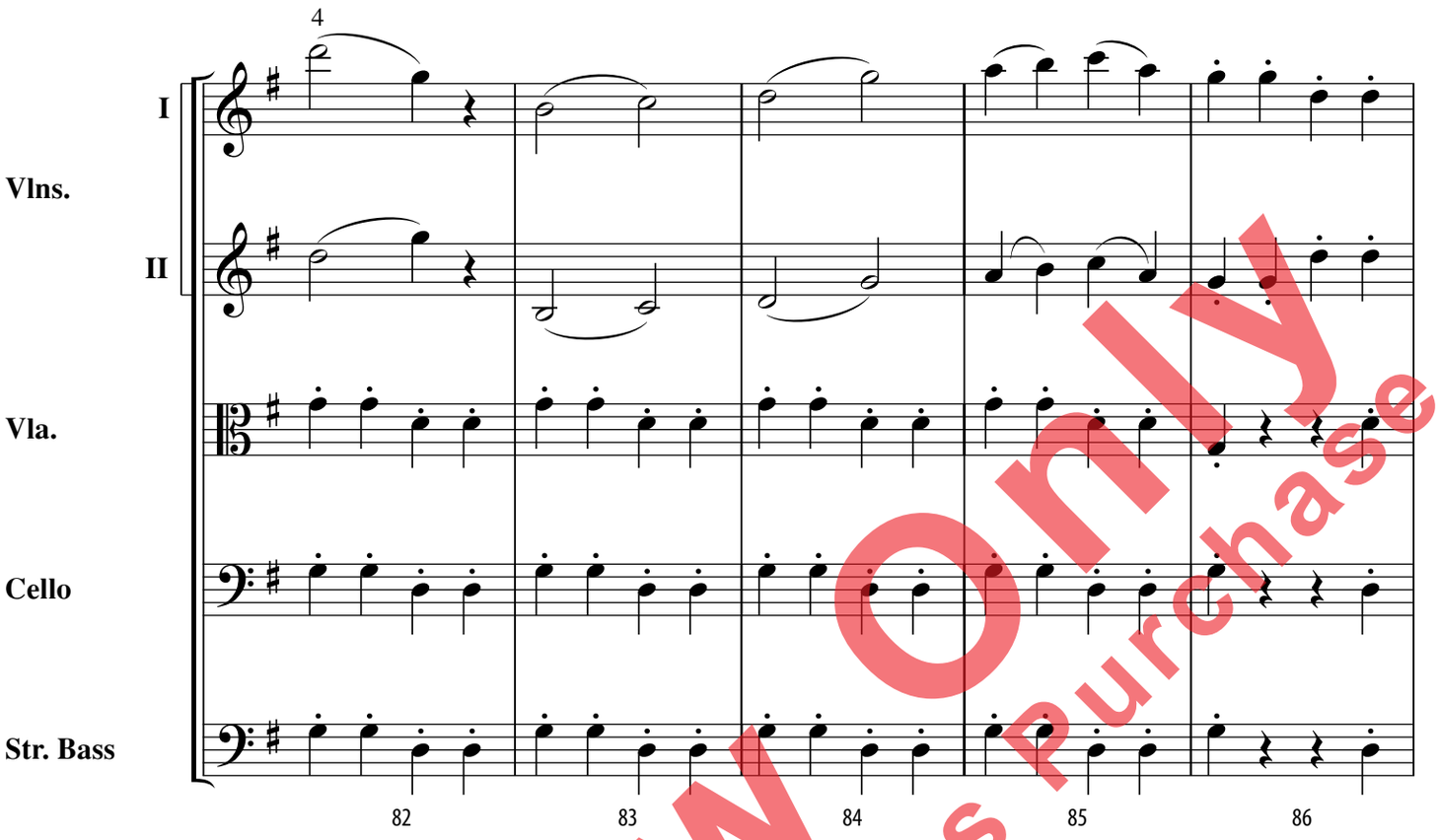

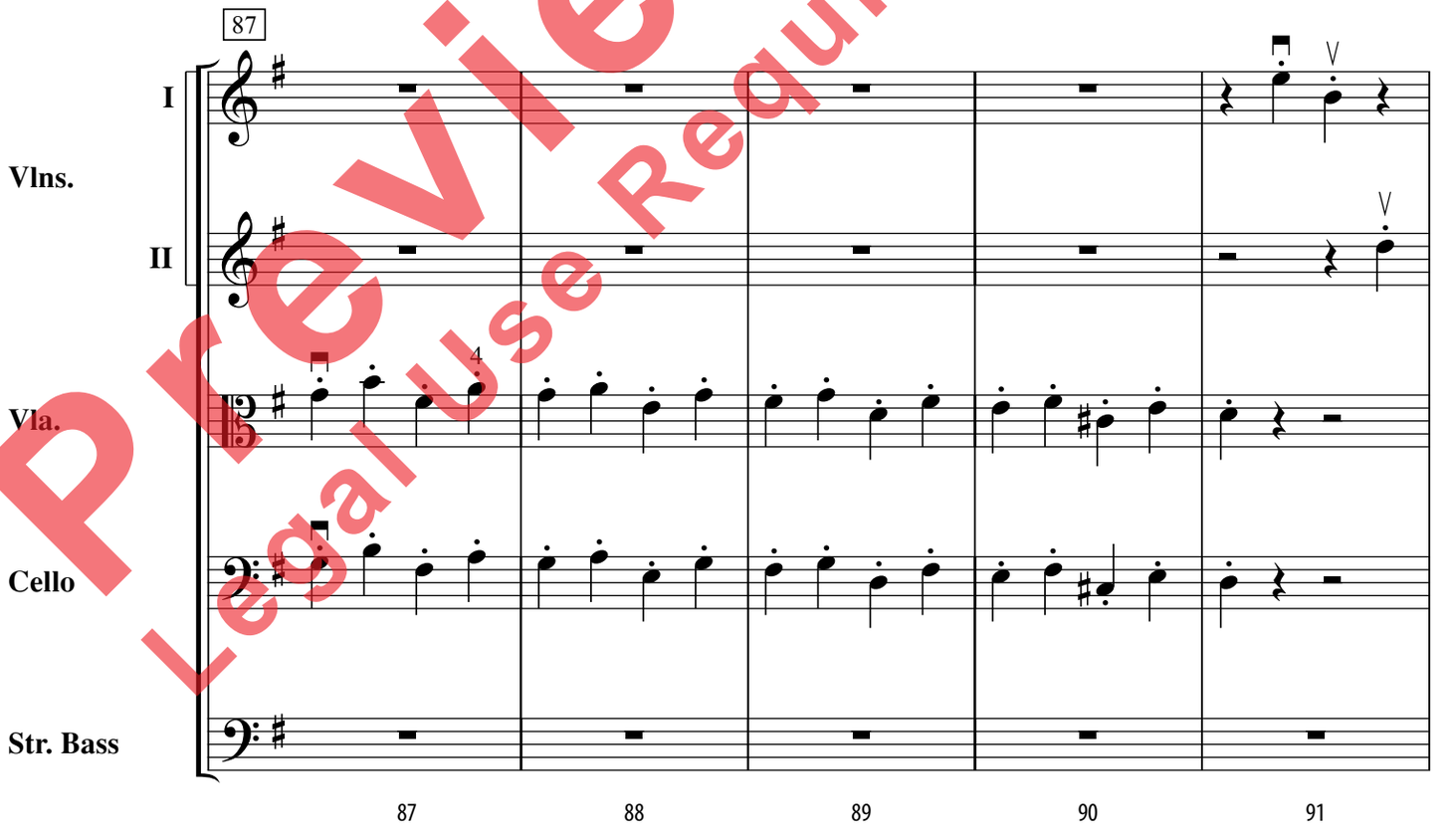

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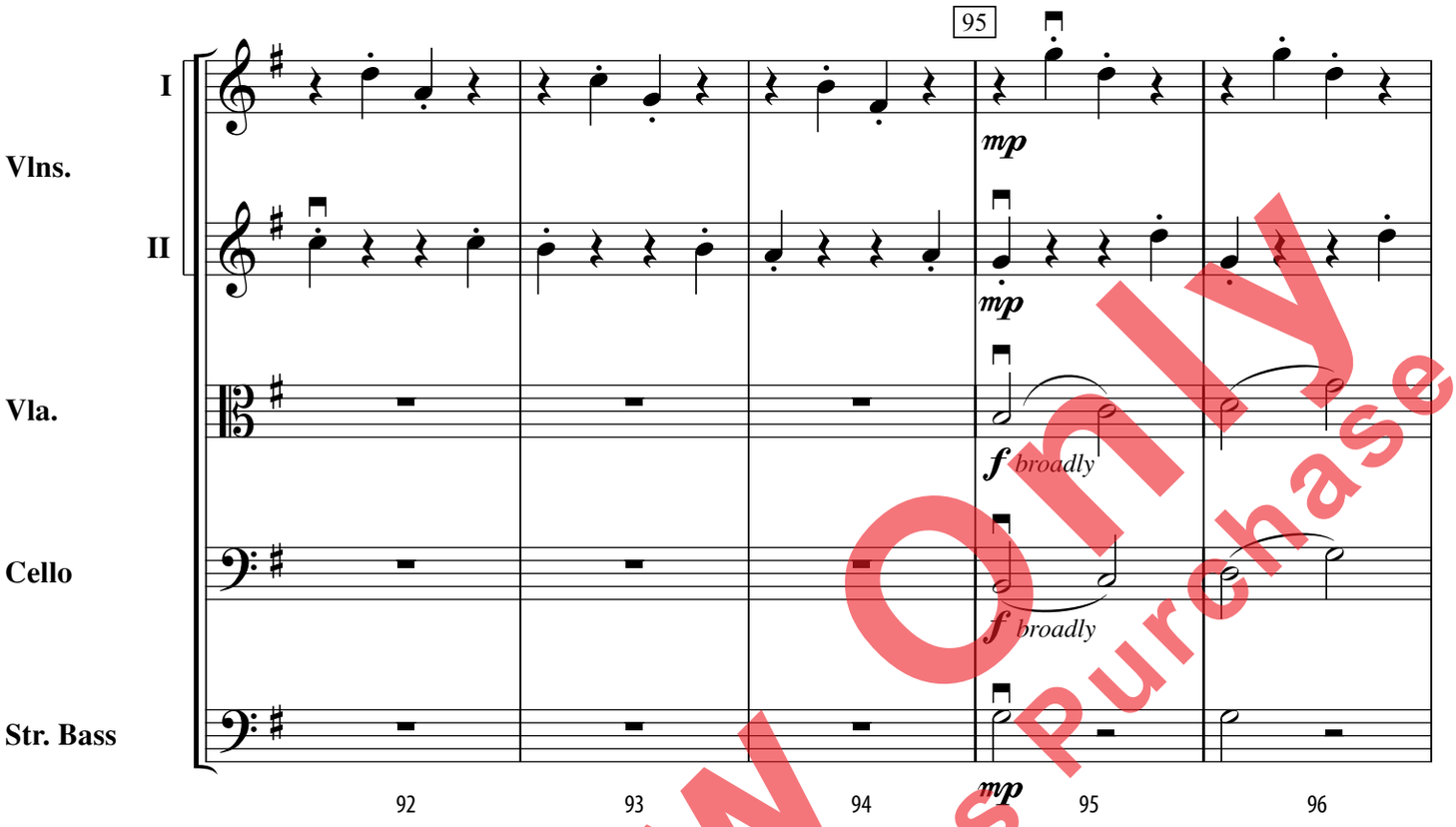

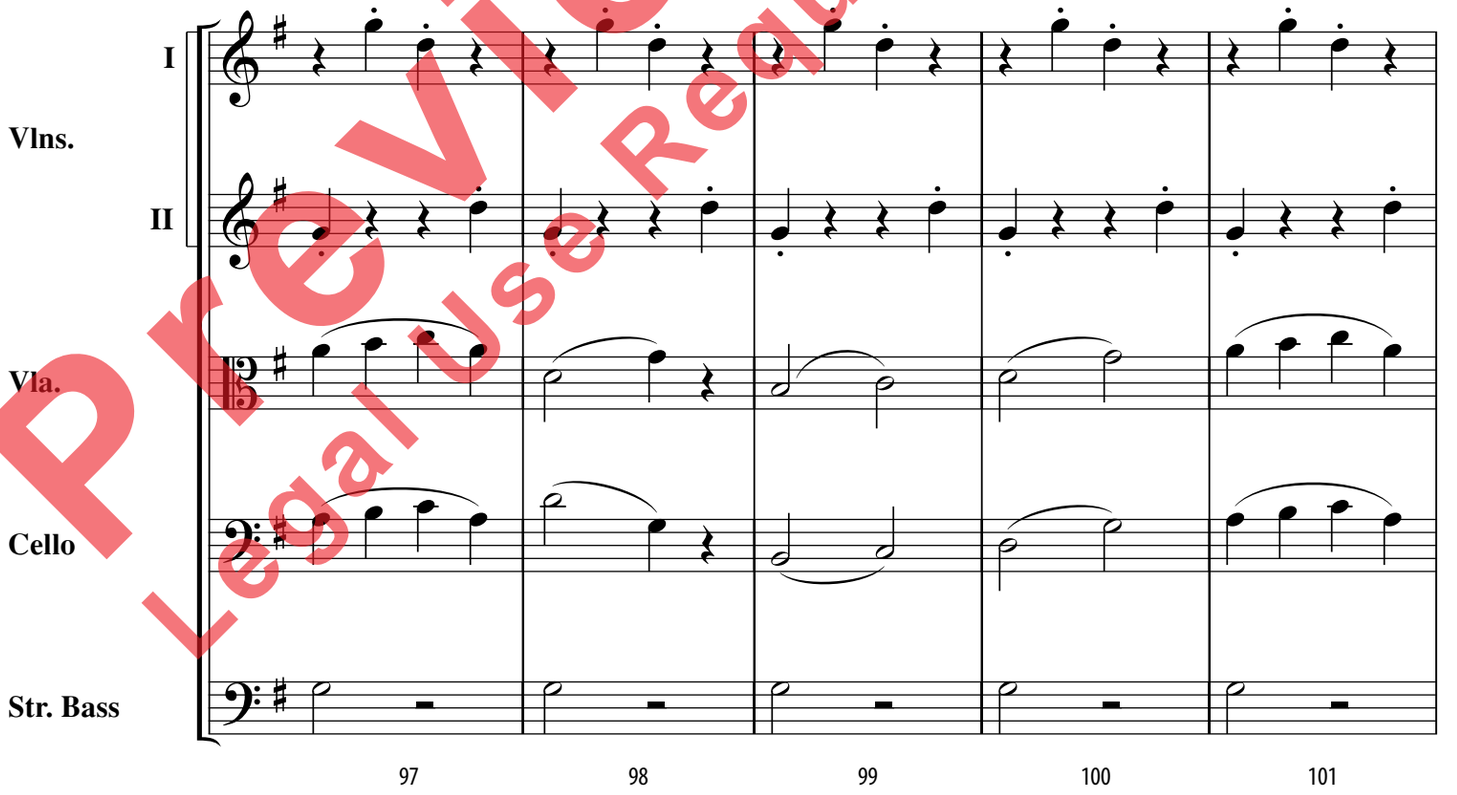

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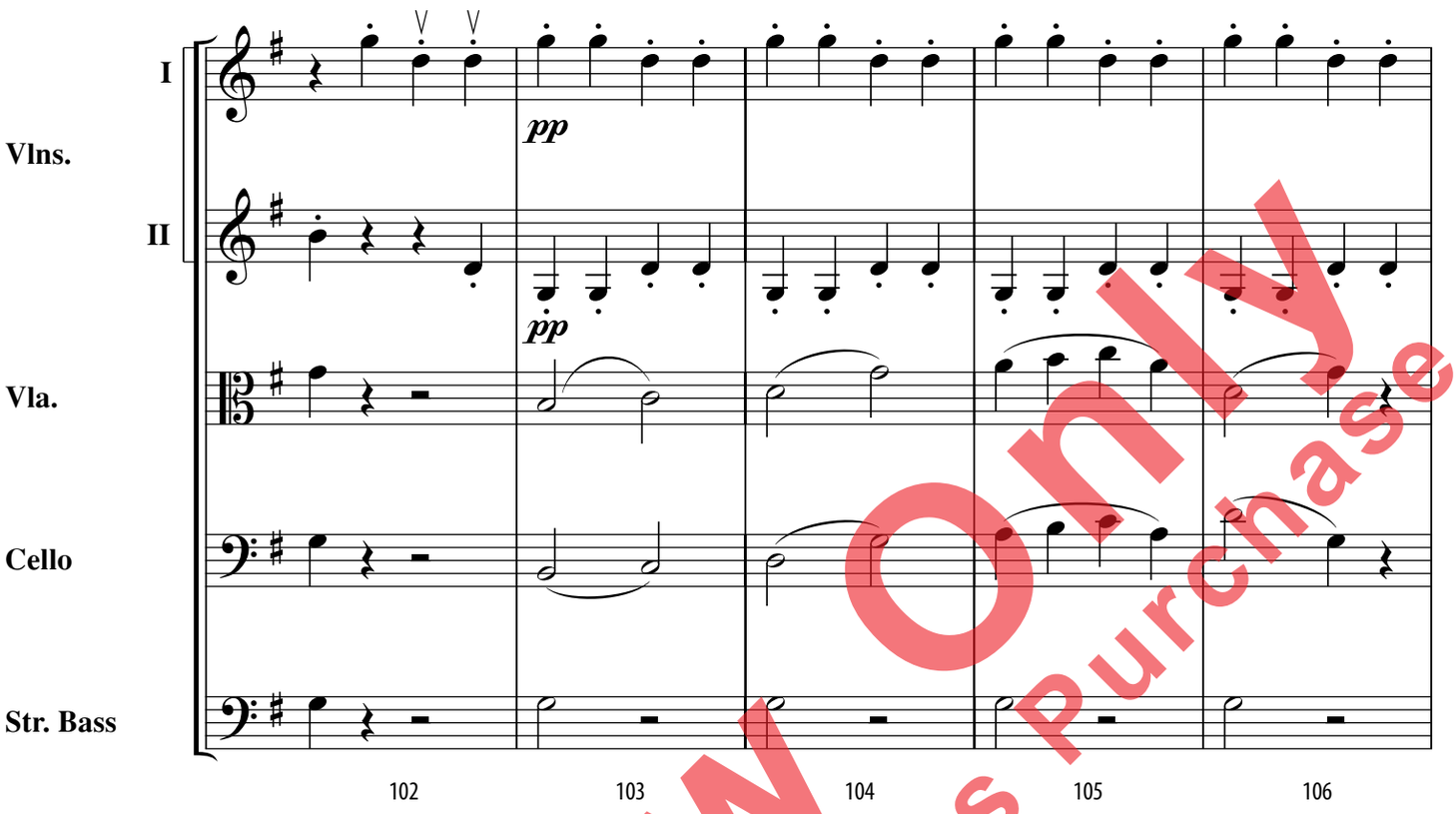

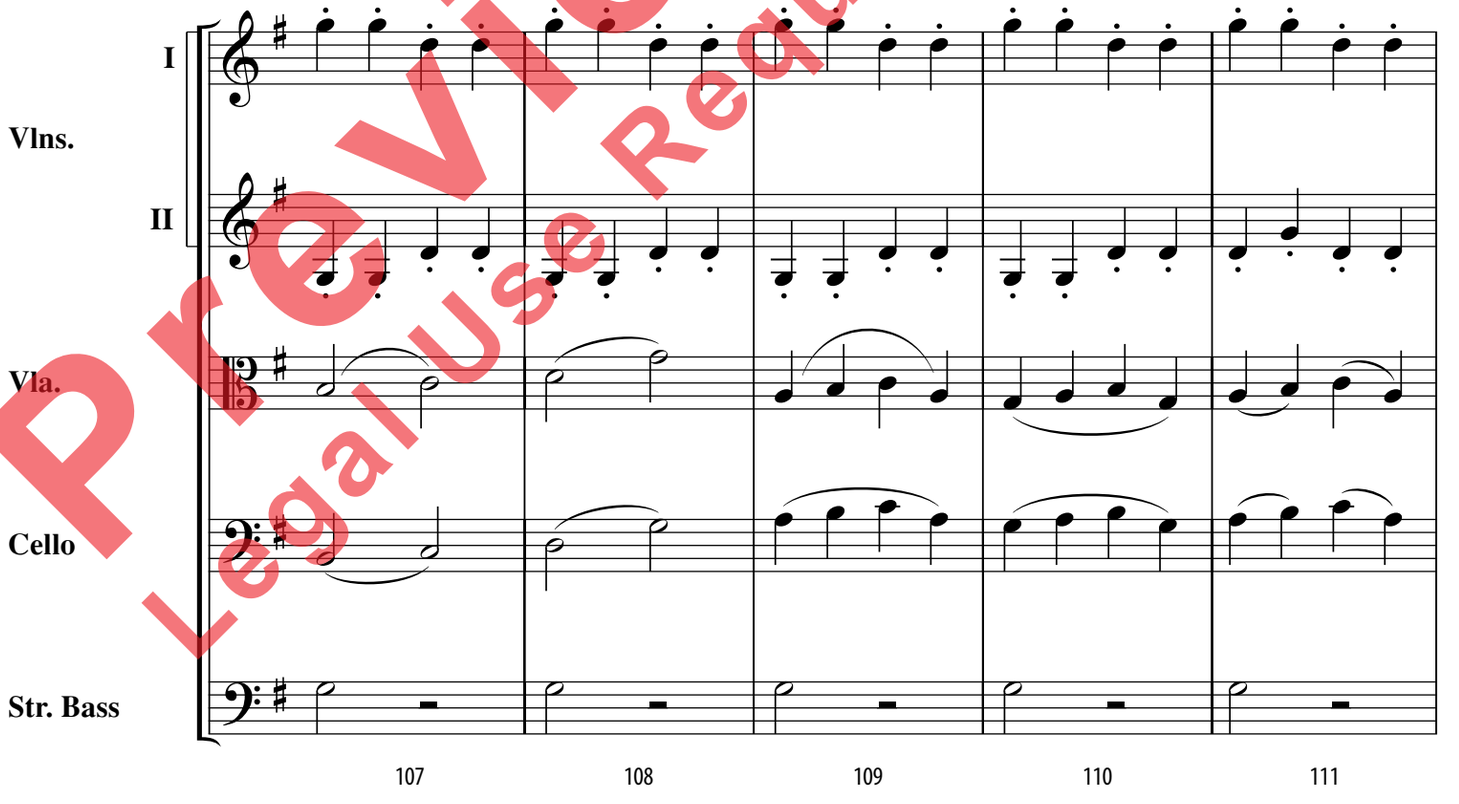

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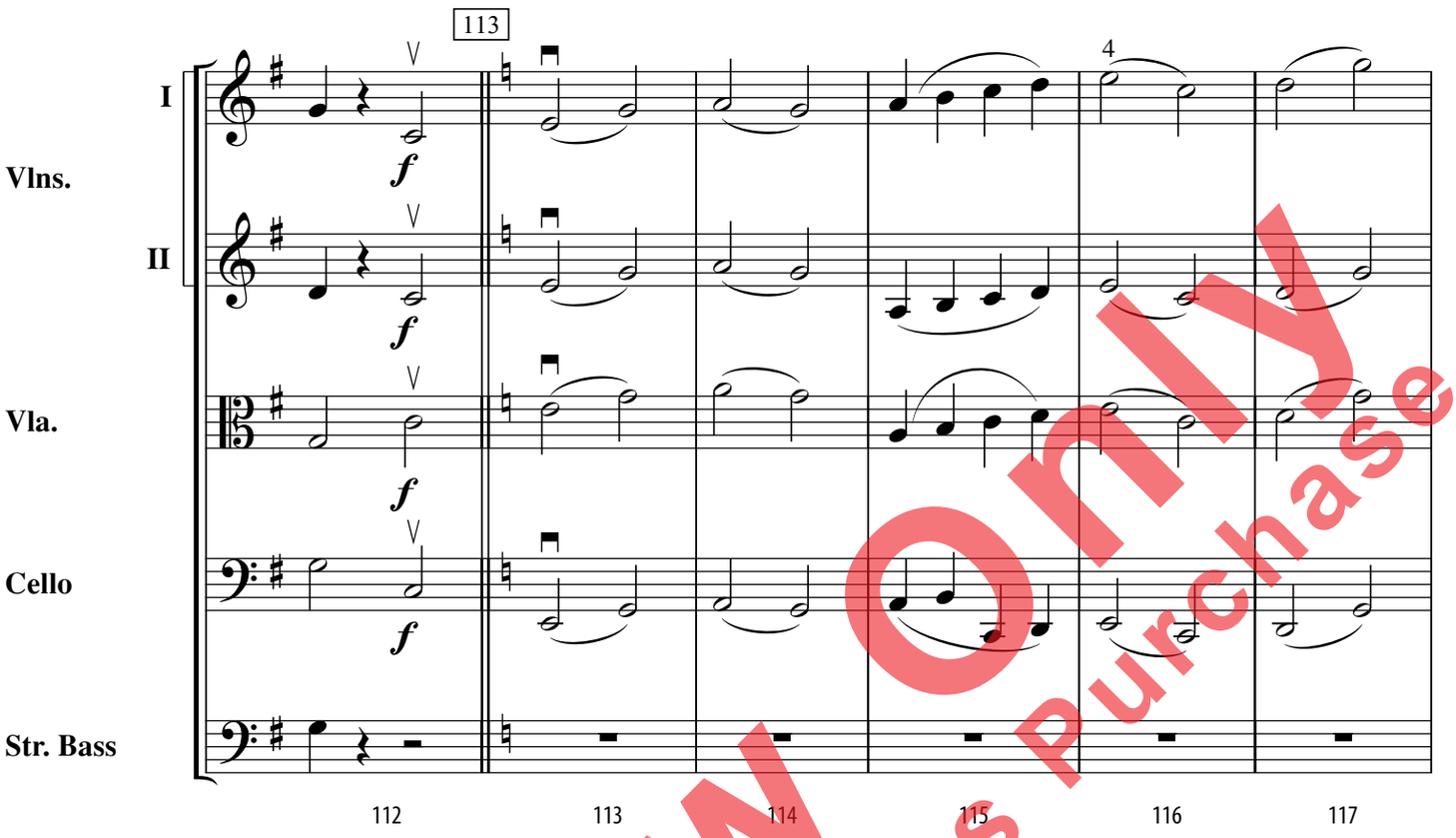

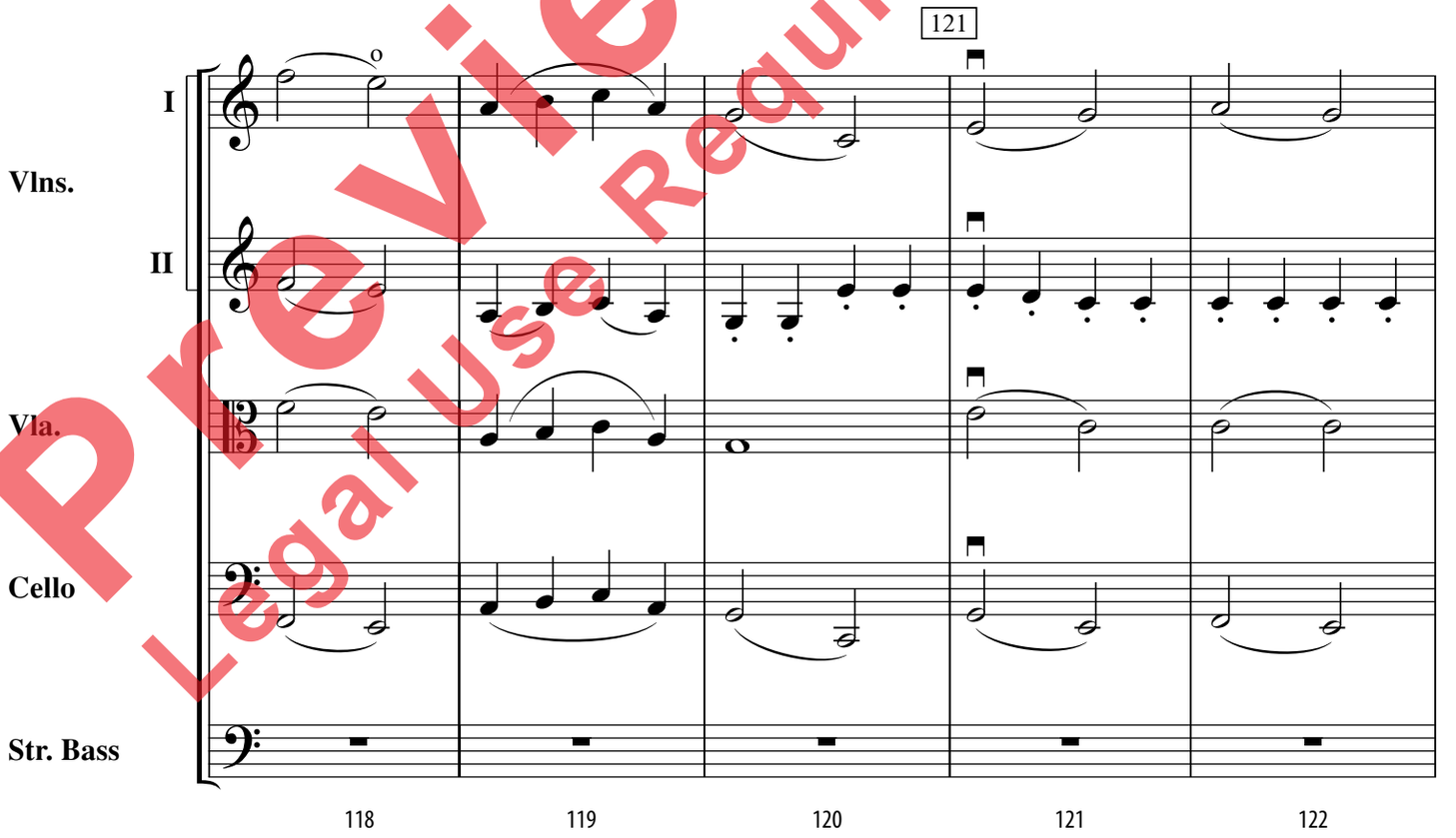

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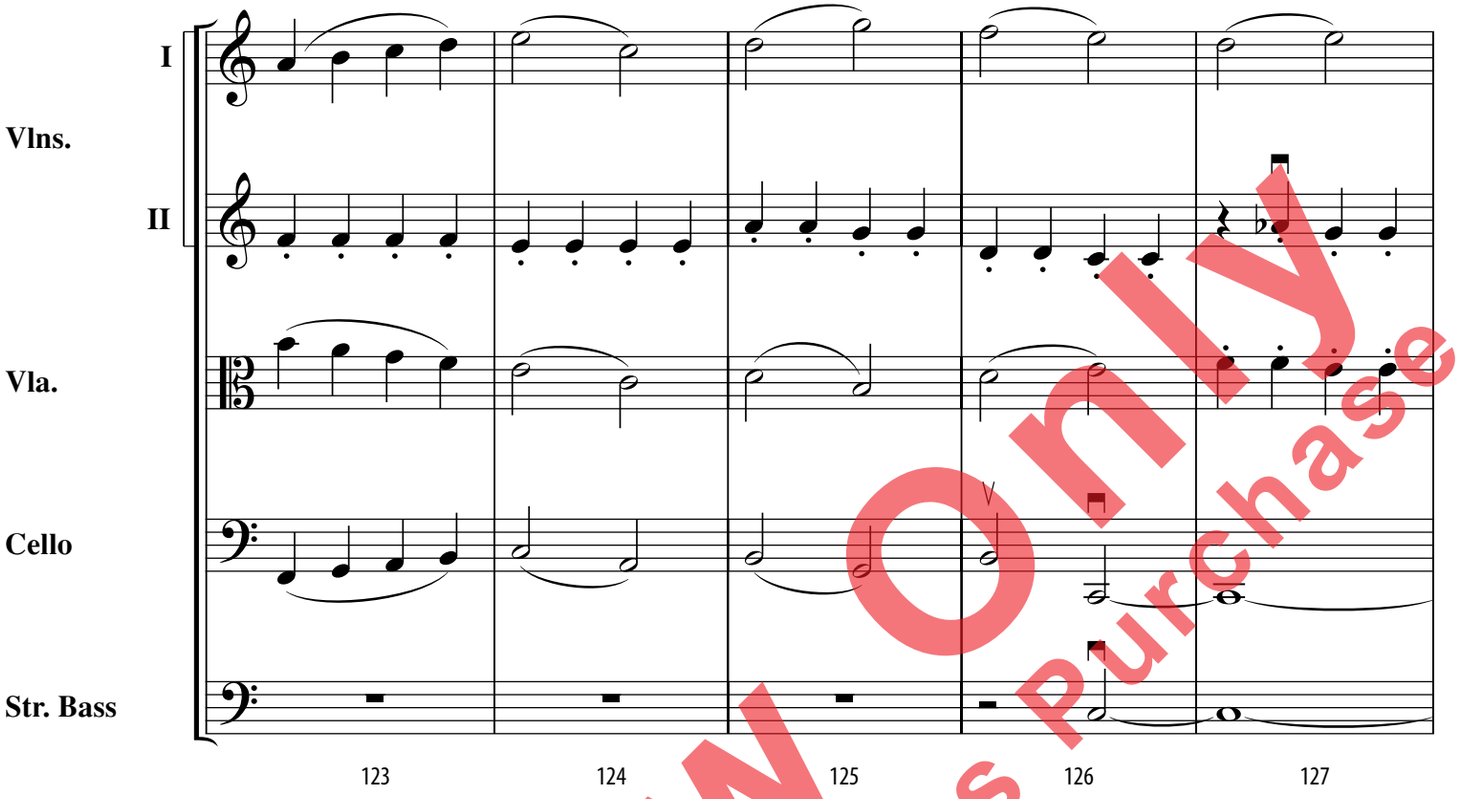

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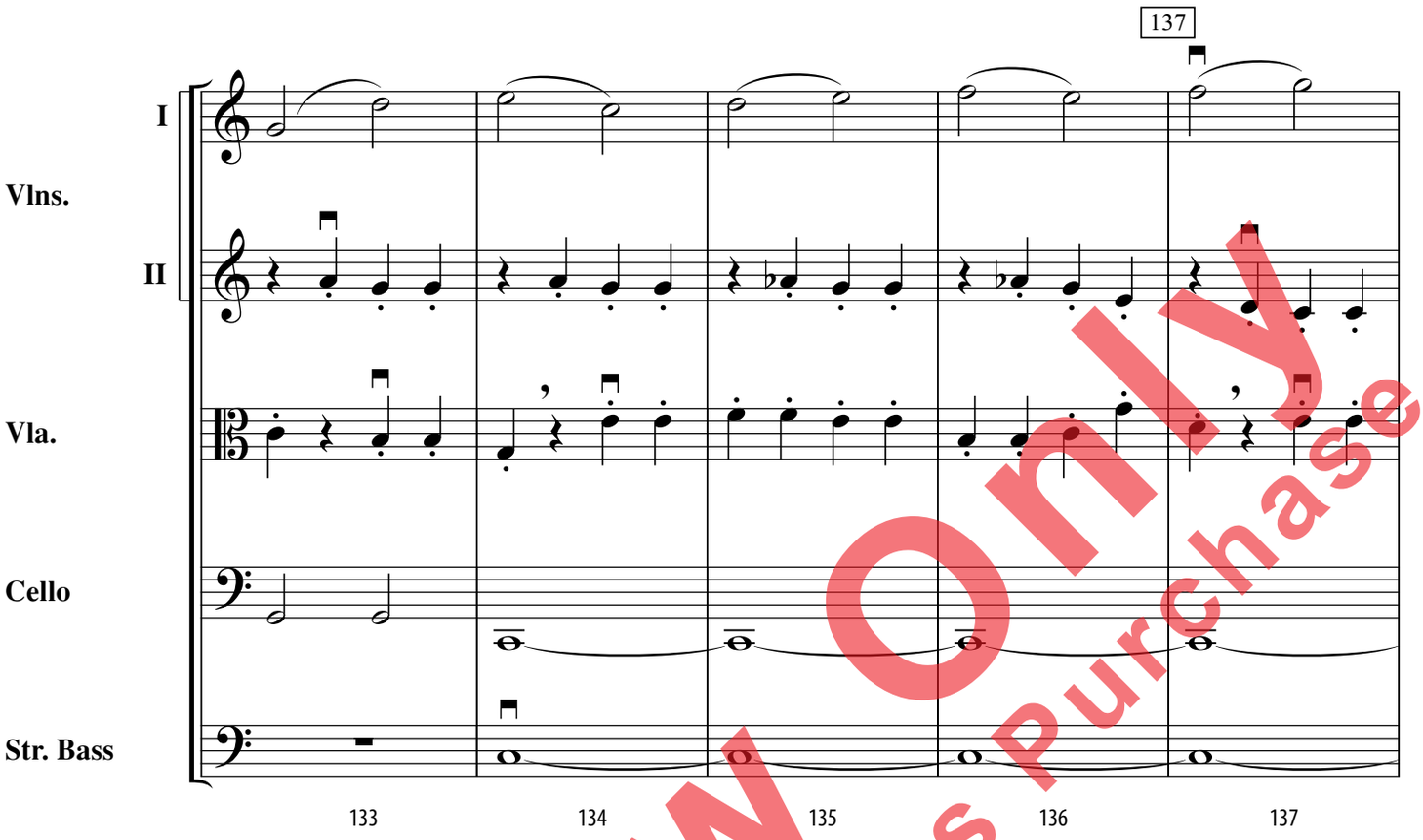

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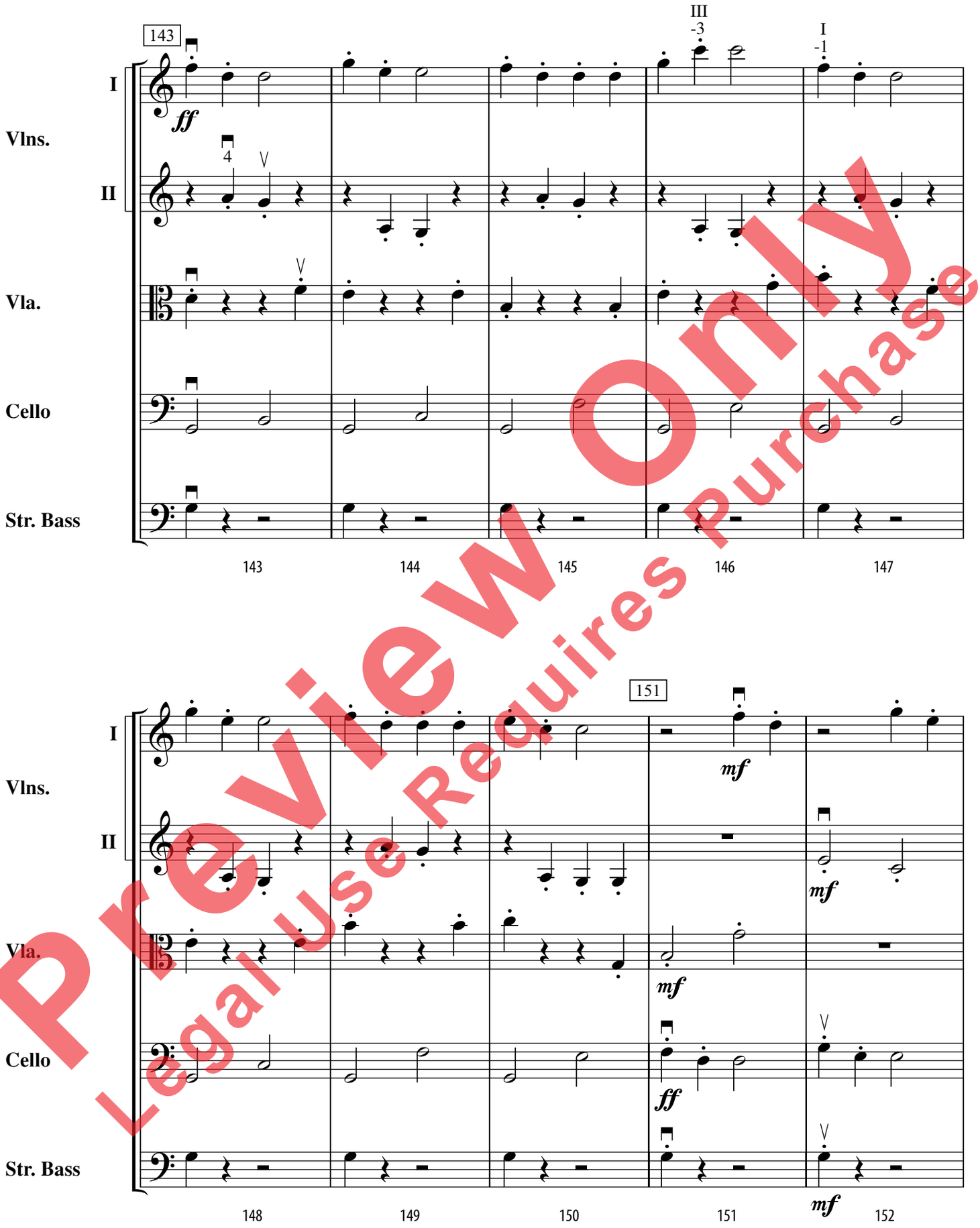

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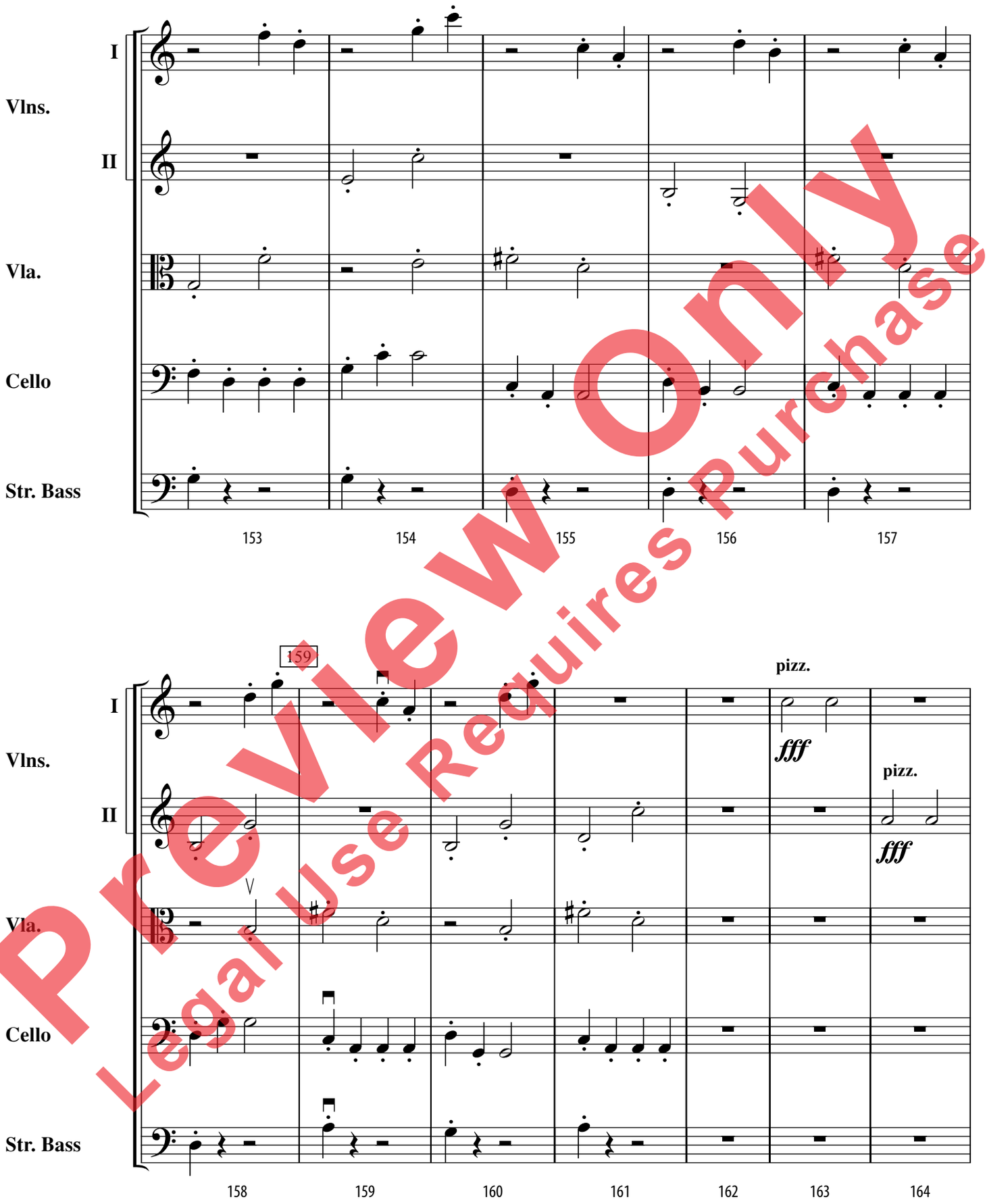

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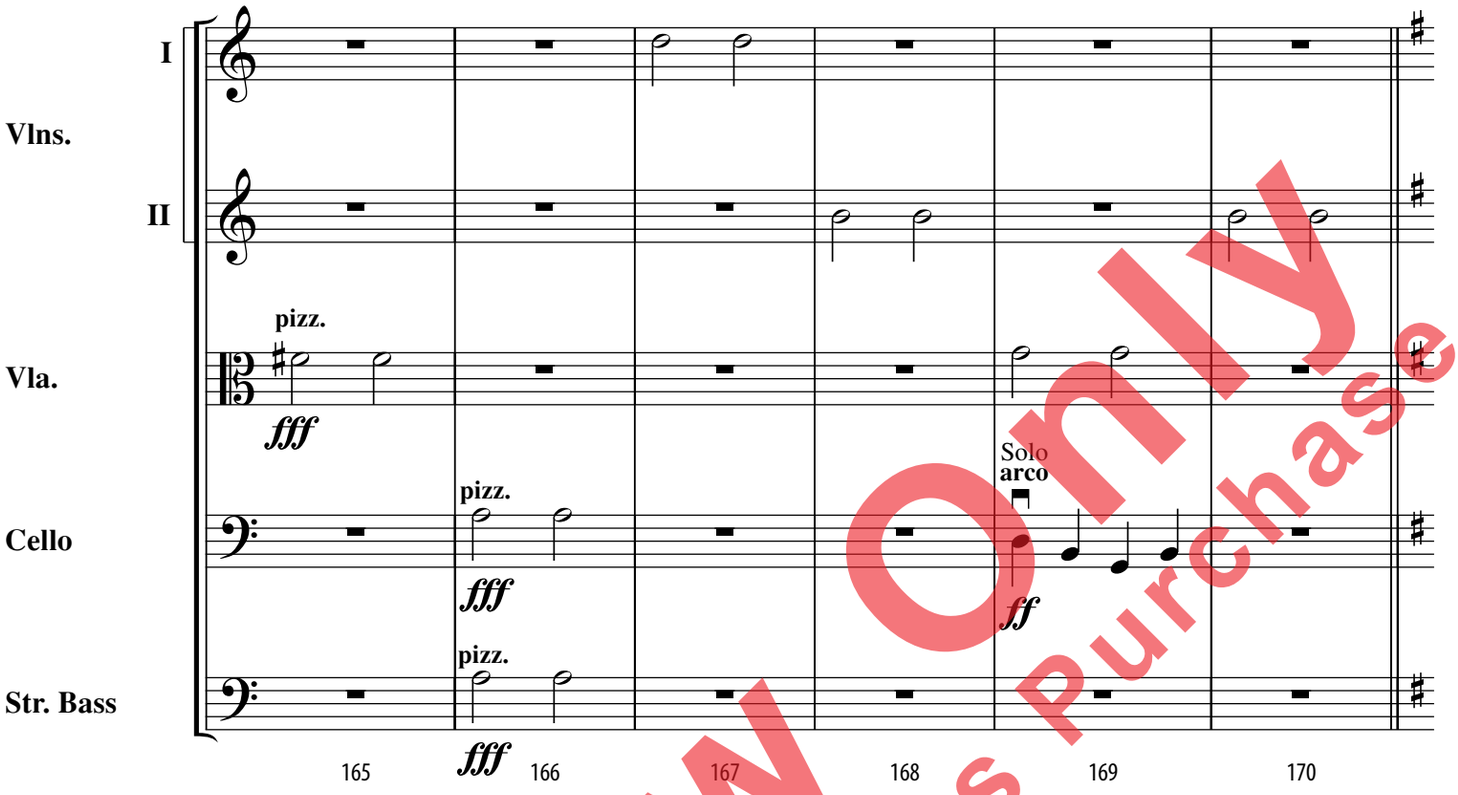

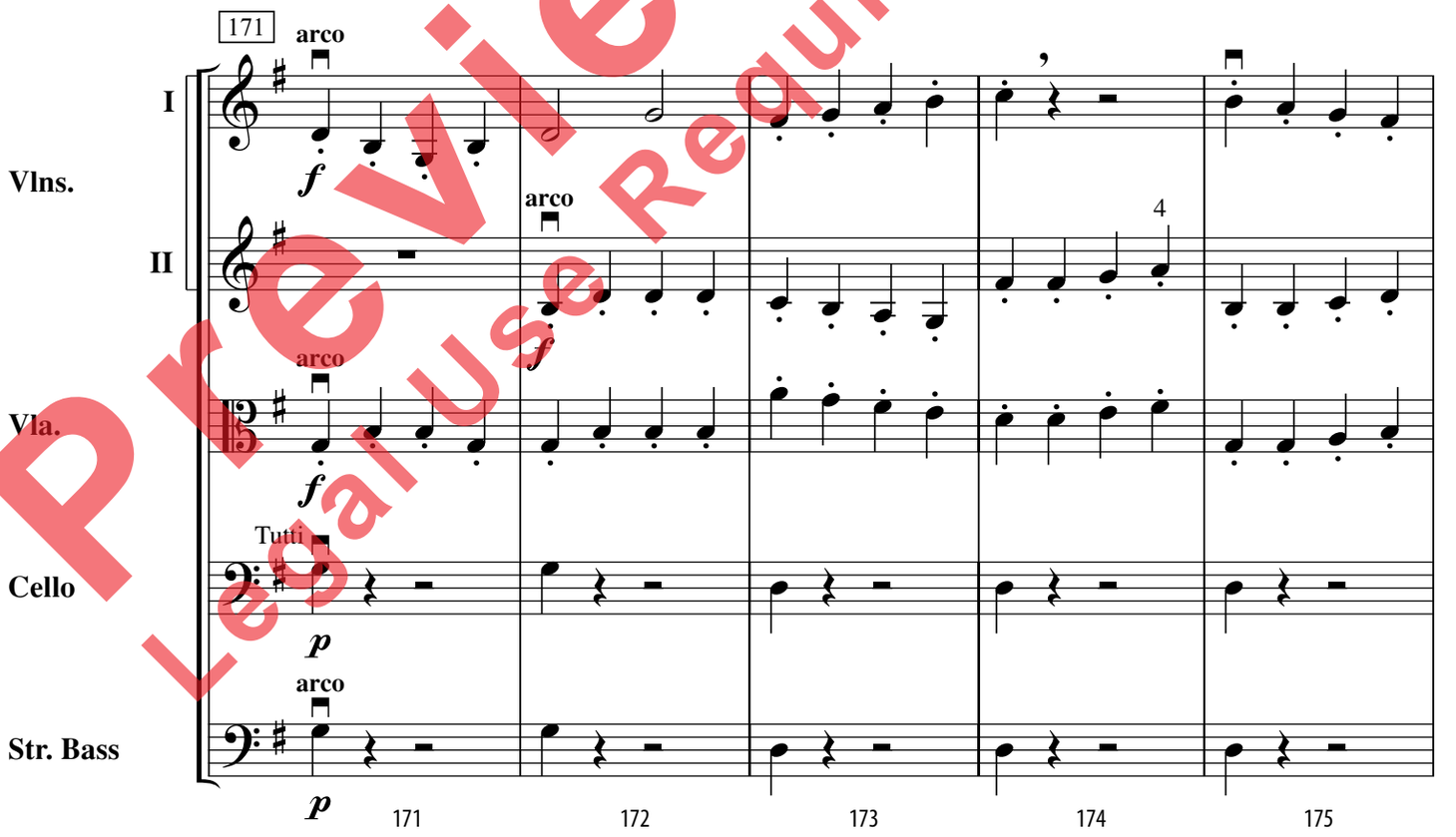

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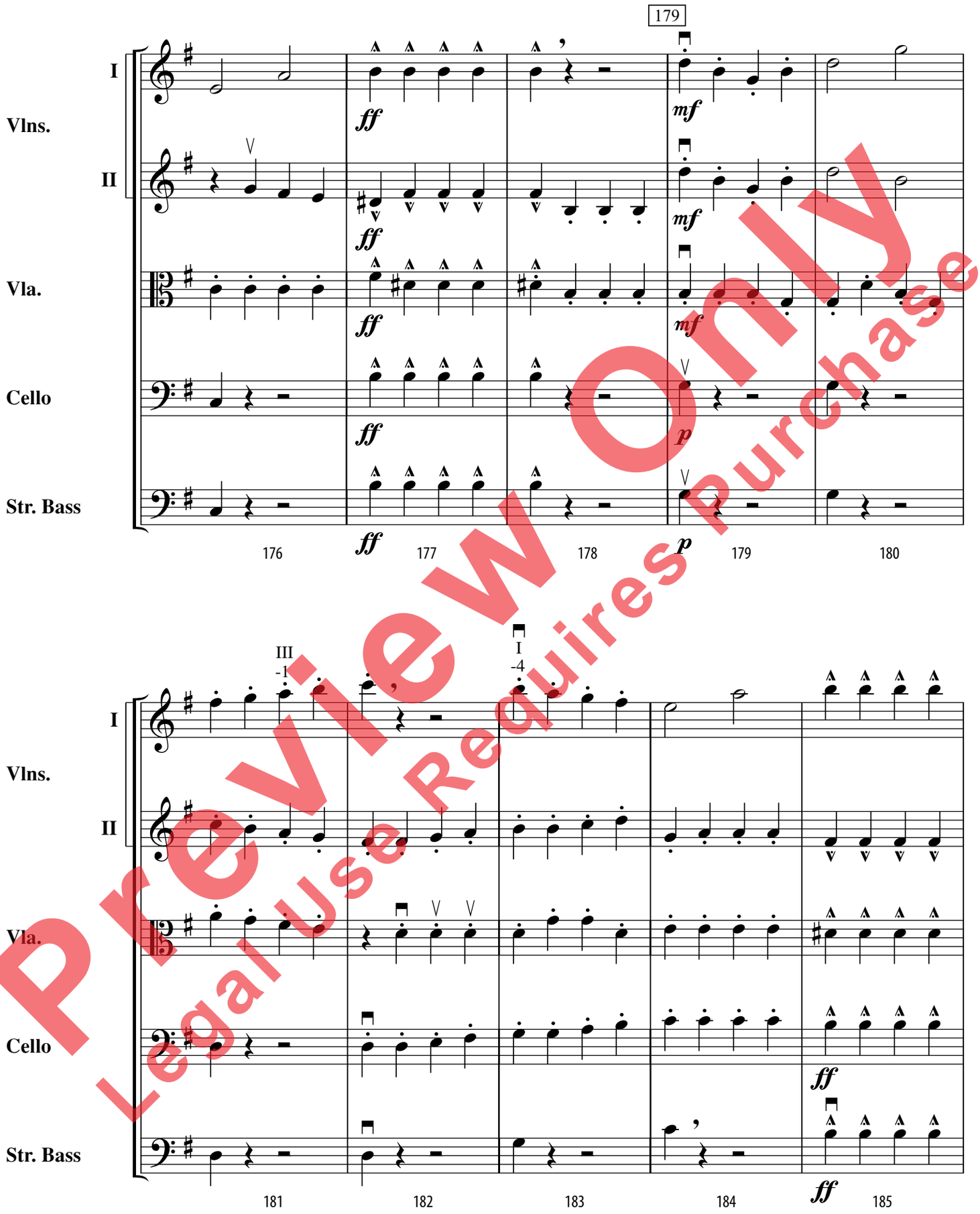

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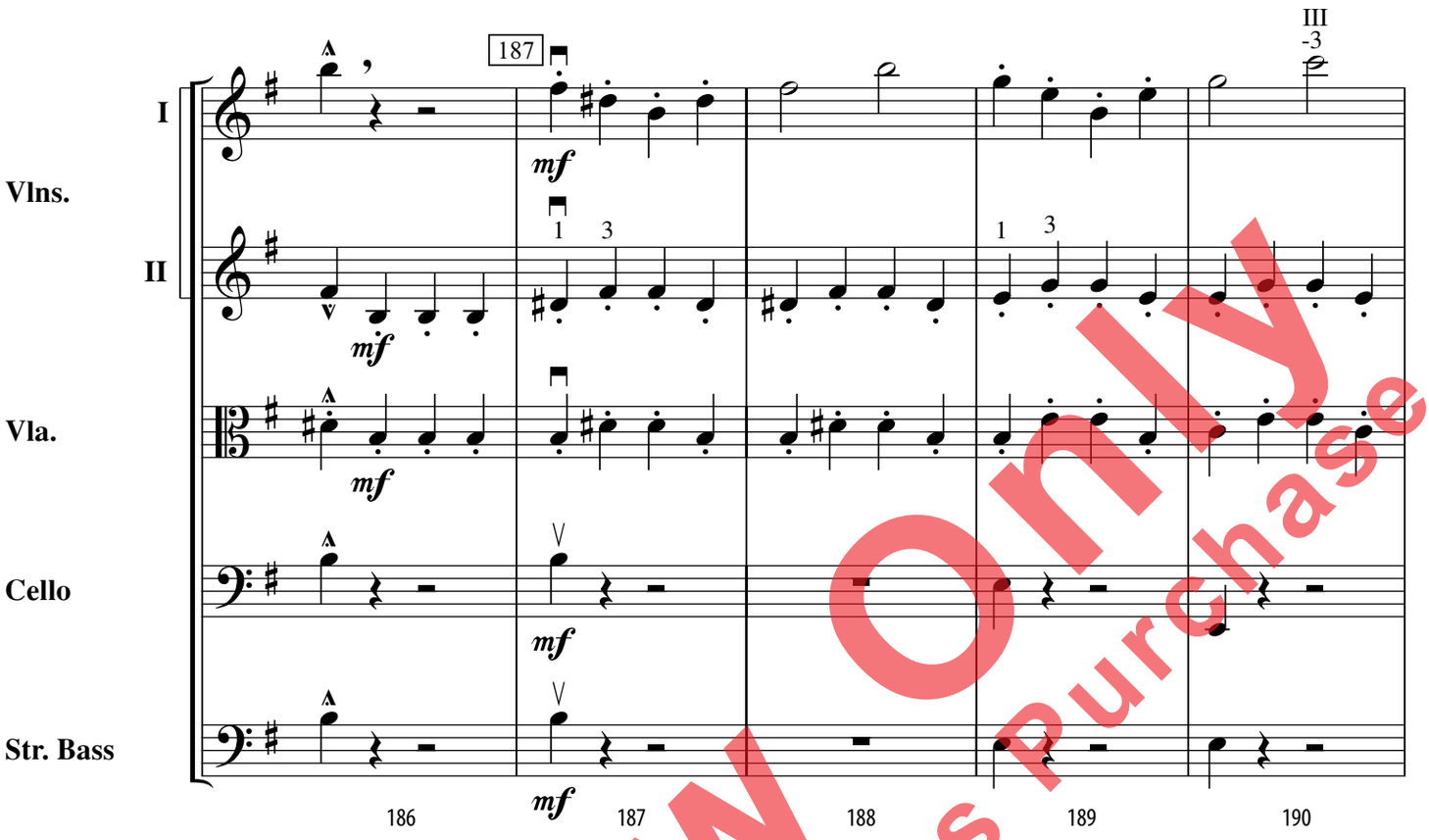

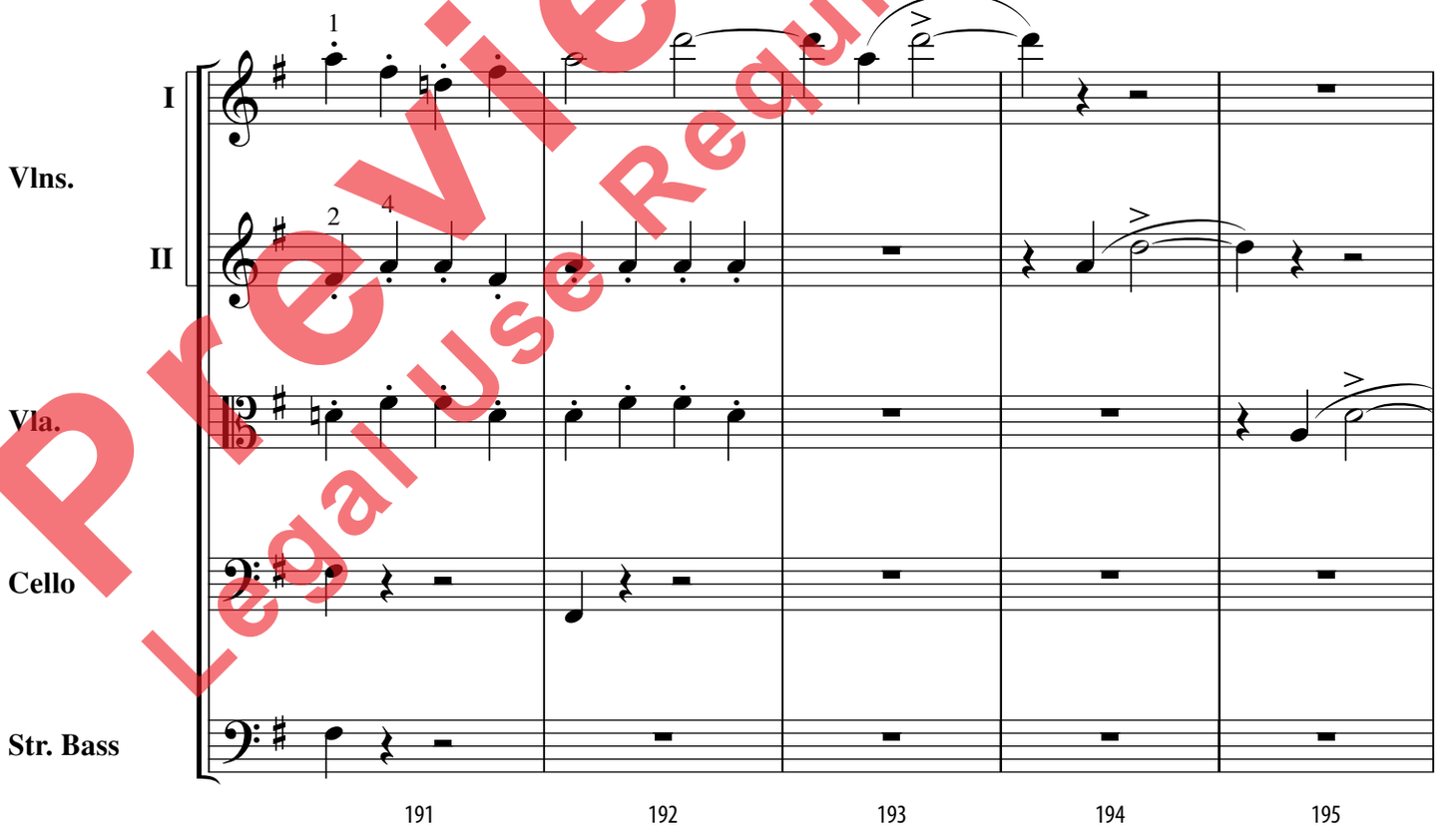

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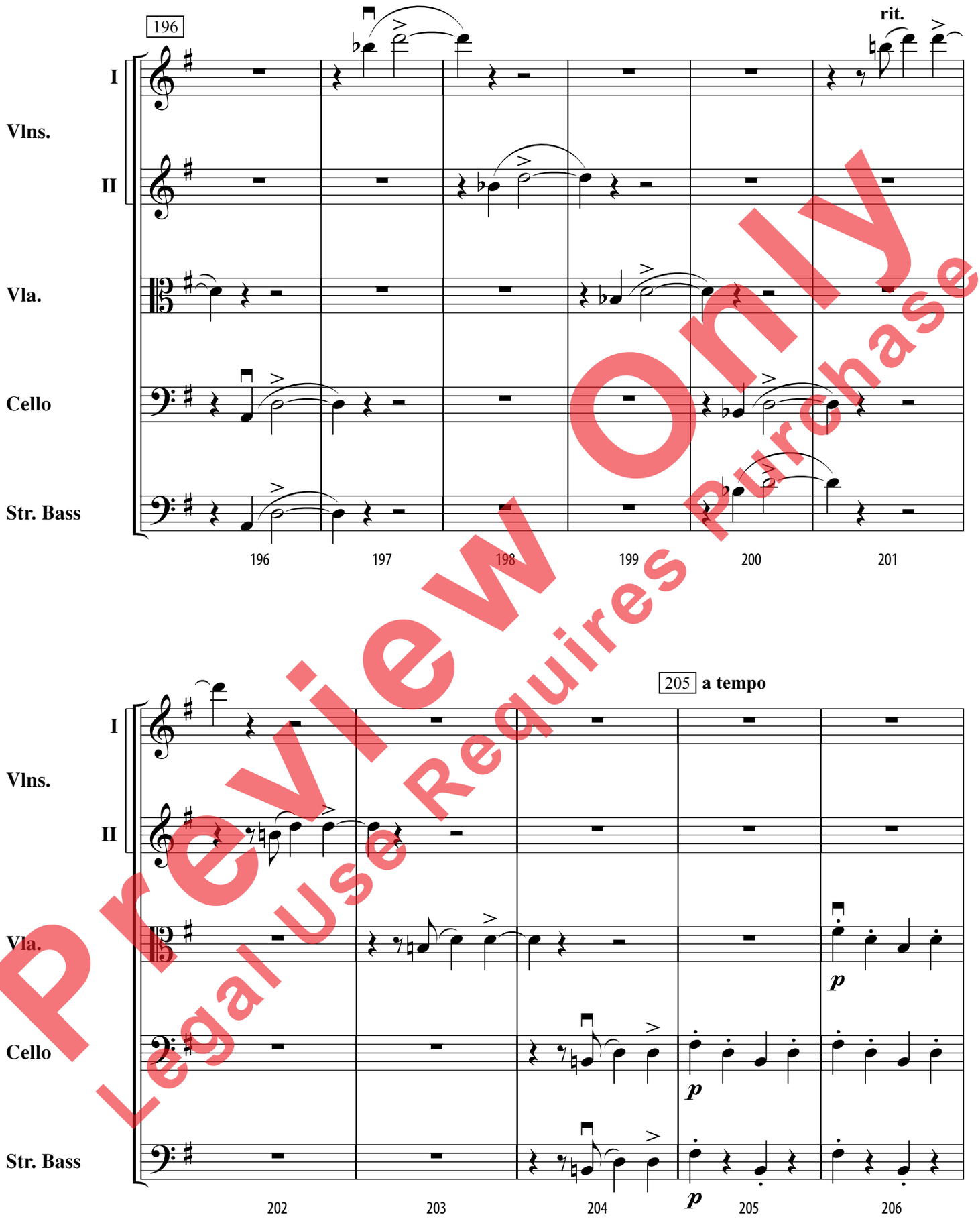

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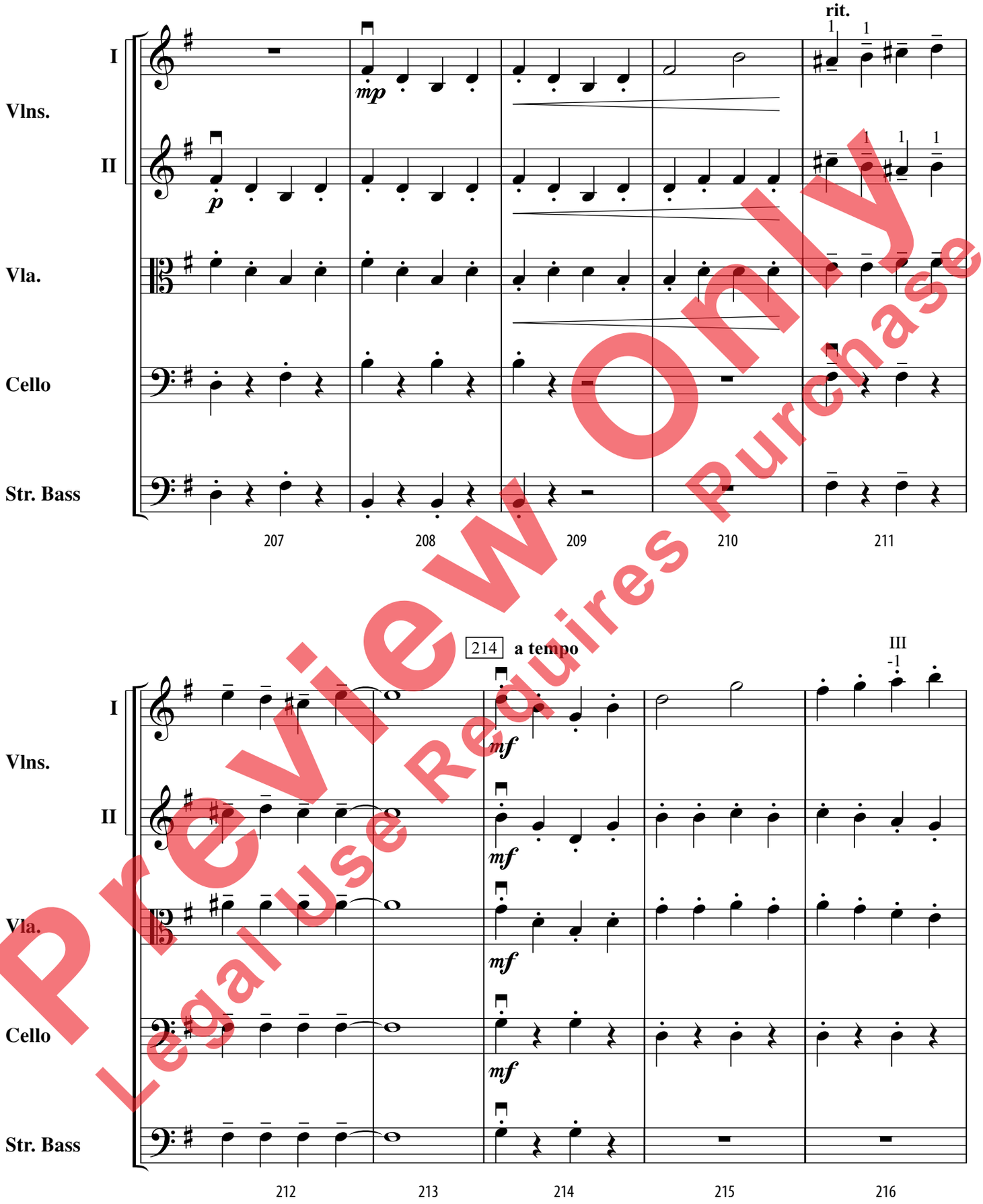

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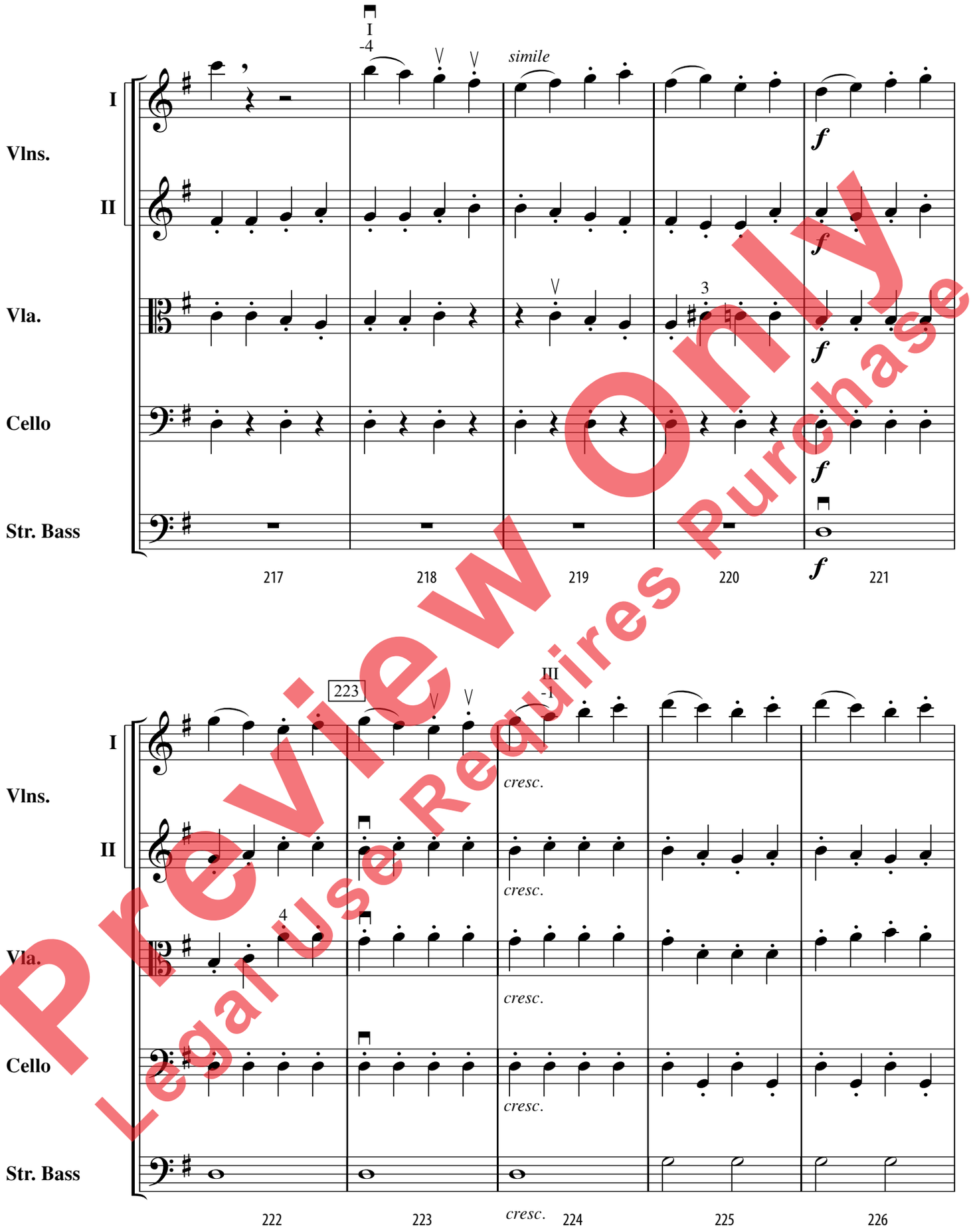

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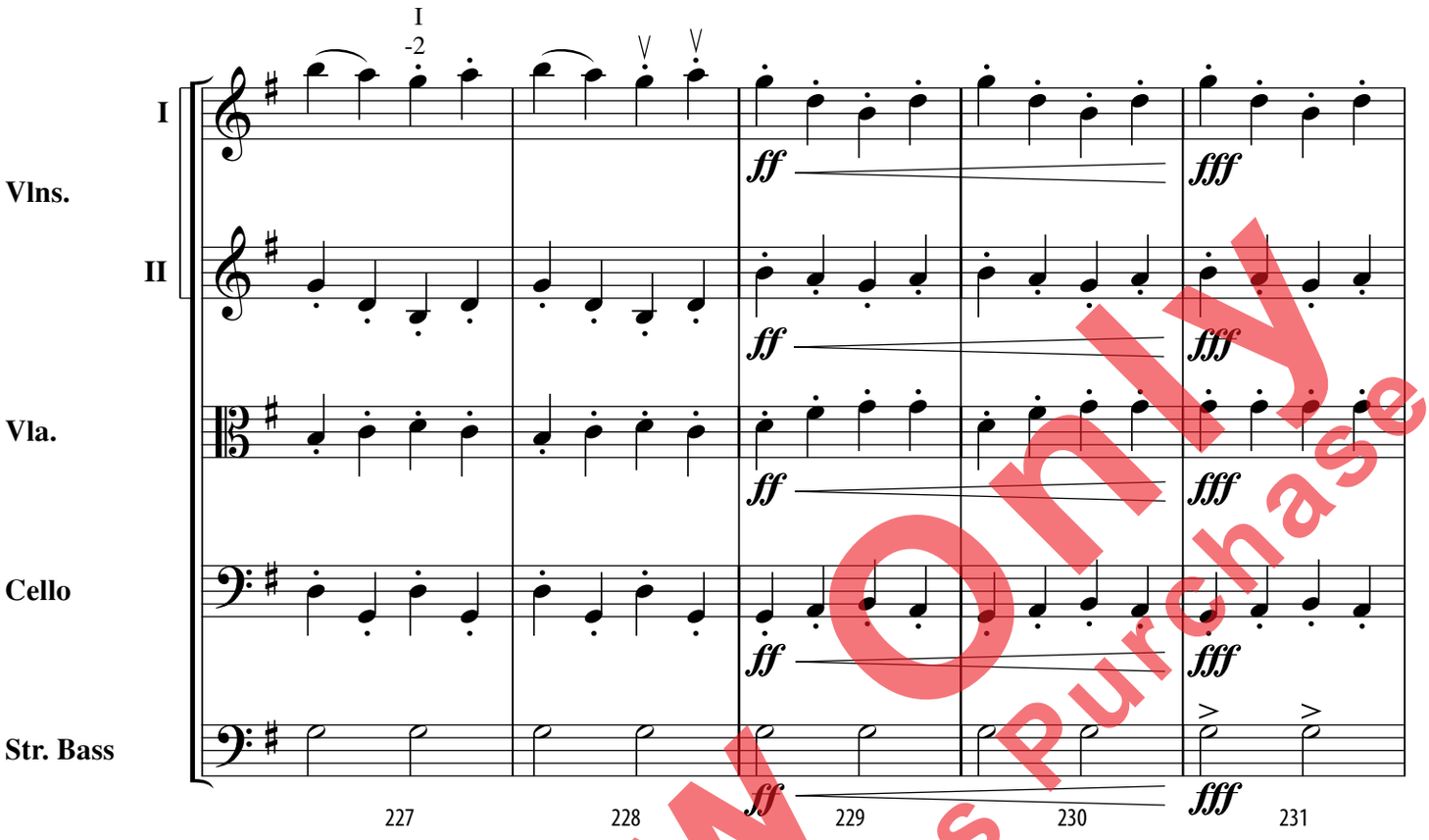

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