Grade Level: 2½

THE HIGHLAND/ETLING STRING ORCHESTRA SERIES

A Song for Adra

By Brendan McBrien

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
String Bass	5

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HIGHLAND/ETLING
A DIVISION OF Alfred

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.

Program Notes

Years ago I wrote a work called "Adra's Dance" about the imaginary friend our then 3-year-old daughter, Megan, created. Years have passed and all three of our children have grown. But for my wife and I, the inevitability of our children growing up and ultimately leaving home has been a reality since they were born. But nothing, not even knowing that, could fully prepare us for it actually happening—the "growing up" part I mean.

Our daughter Megan is now 16, and she has developed into a bright, funny, and beautiful young lady. Even though she doesn't talk about her imaginary friend Adra anymore, there's always going to be part of her that will remind me of Adra, and as I watch her grow and her interests in school, tennis, and boys begin to crowd out that precious childhood imagination, it's important for us to look between the cracks of adolescence and recognize that all of that creativity has not been pressed out, but has taken root and become a vital part of who she is and who she will continue to become.

"A Song for Adra" mingles the energy and optimism of "Adra's Dance" with a hint of sadness at the inevitable growth and maturation of our children. It's not a work that holds regret, but dutifully acknowledges the "march of time" and that nothing can be done to stop it. So it celebrates where we are, where we're going, and how thankful we are to have this one life to live, love, and grow in. God bless you, Megan, and never let your imagination grow old.

Brendan McBrien

Notes to the Conductor

With the same sparkle and energy of its predecessor, "Adra's Dance," this new companion piece adds a touch of maturity as Adra's creator, the composer's daughter, has grown into a young lady. Your students and audiences will love the optimism and joy in this music.

The repeated eighth-note lines should be played with a light brush-stroke to give it energy. If this is not possible then play them slightly detached (*poco staccato*) to create energy. The passage marked *spiccato* should be played true to style—light and off the string. In the final measure, the first violins , cellos, and basses have an arco half note followed by a pizzicato quarter. The half note should be held as long as possible before lifting for the pizzicato to avoid a large break in the line.

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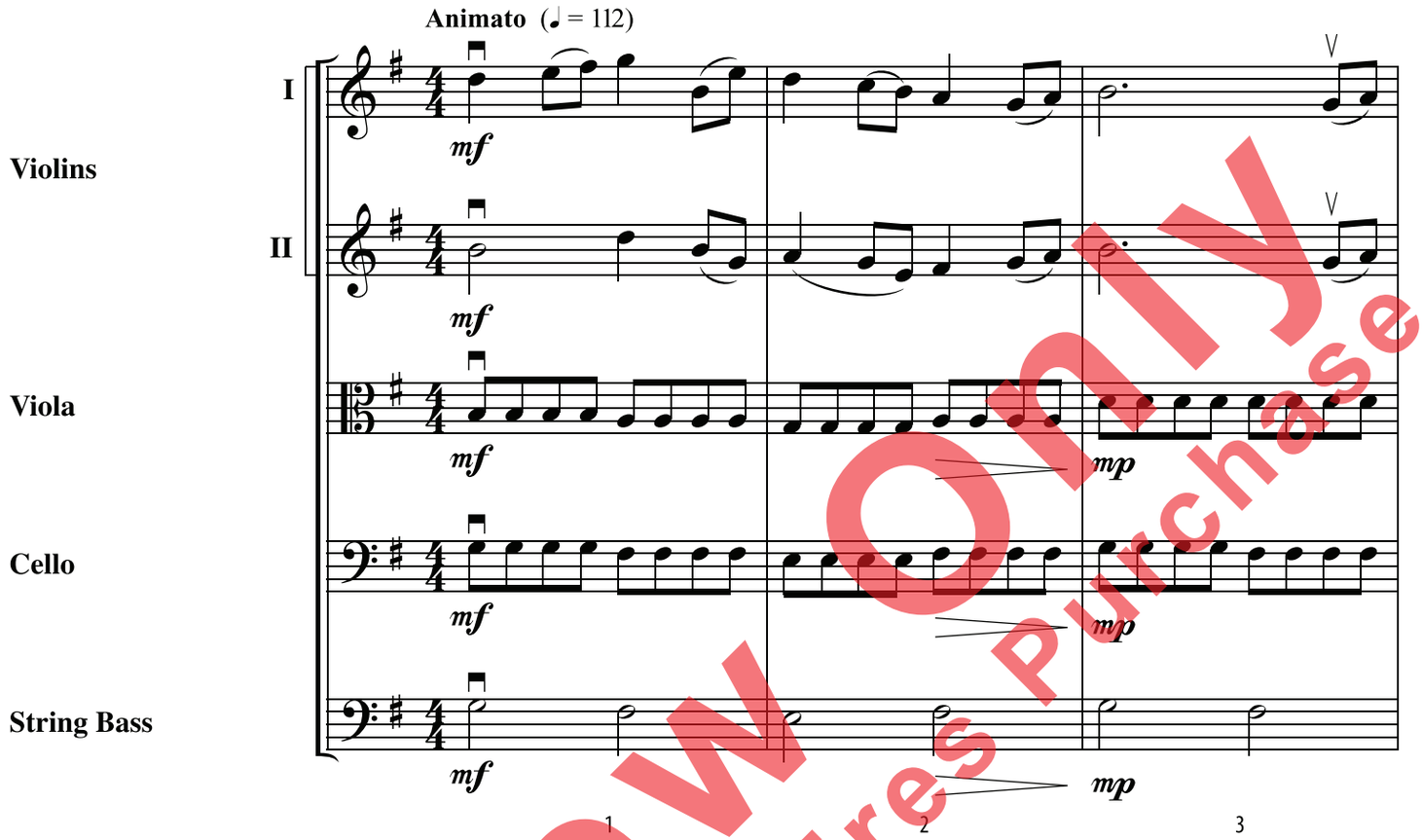
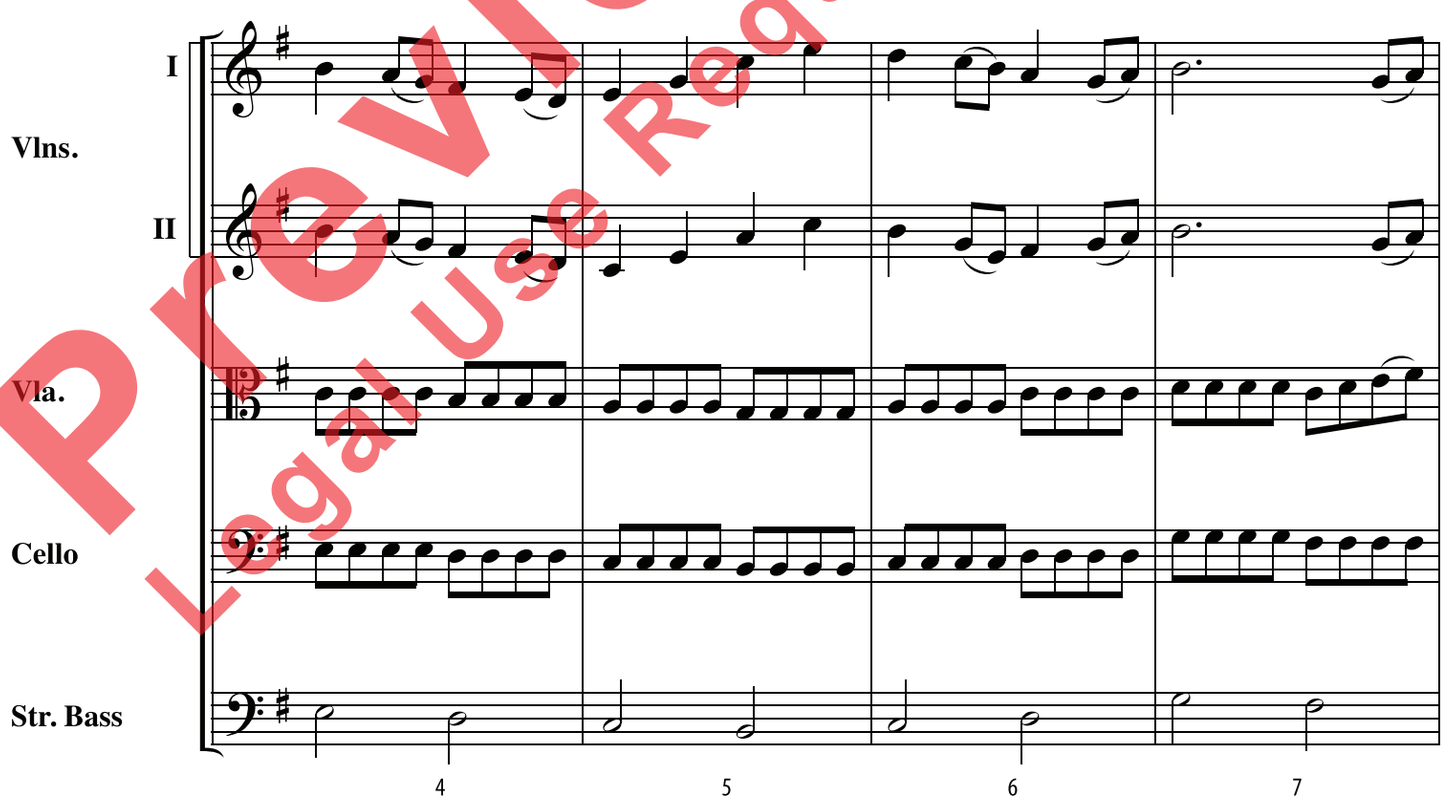
To my daughter, Megan, for giving life to Adra

A Song for Adra

CONDUCTOR SCORE
Duration - 3:30

Brendan McBrien





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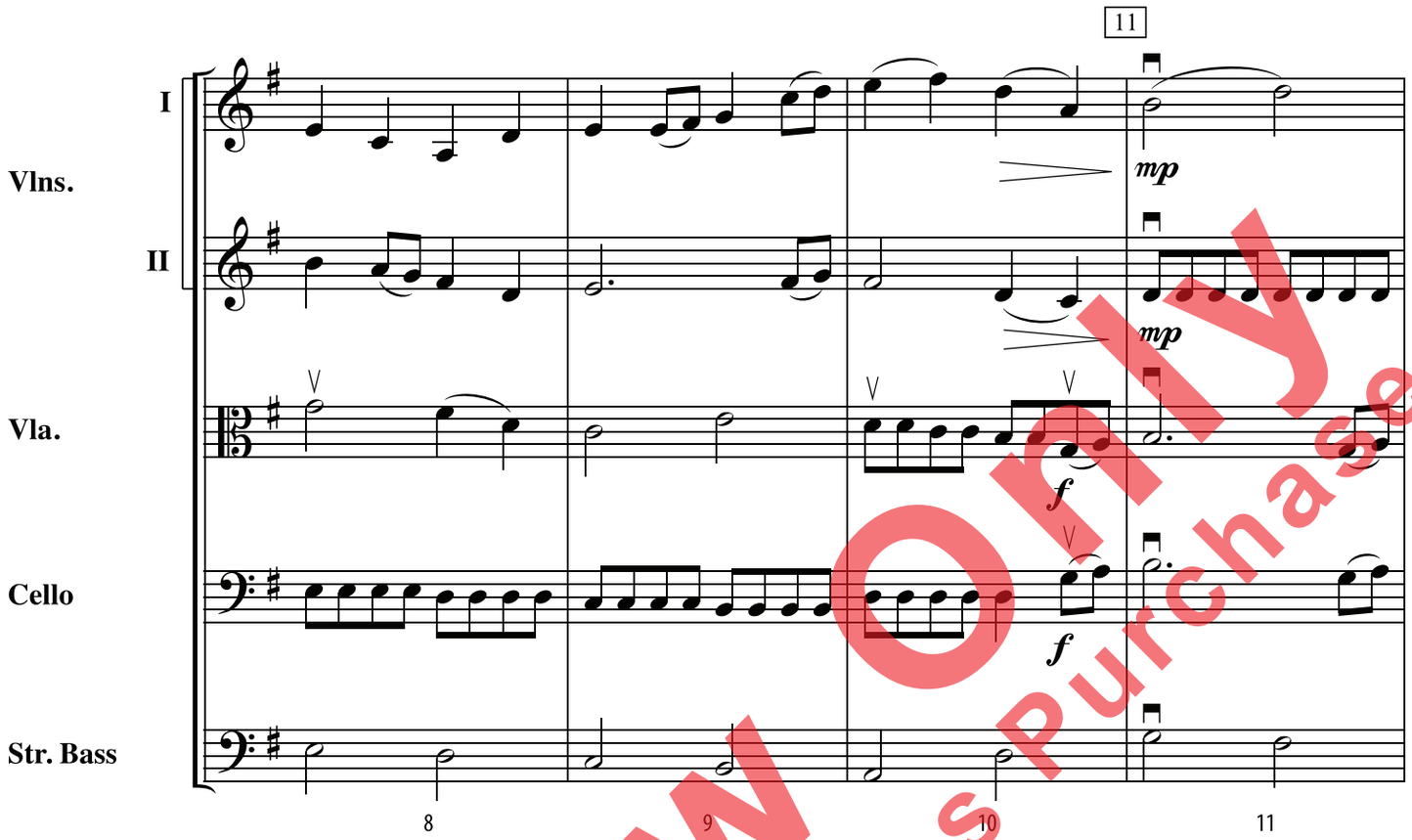

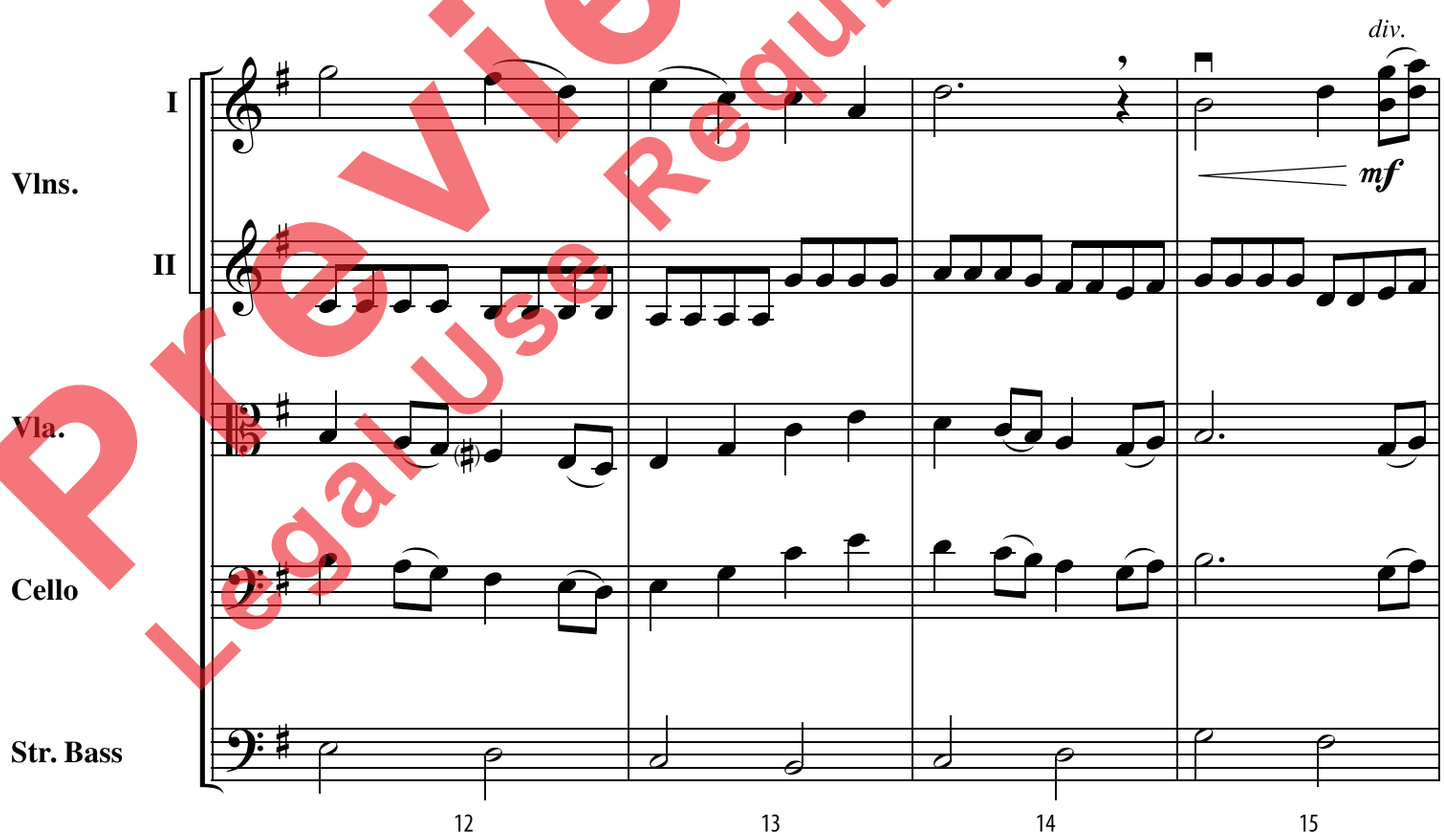

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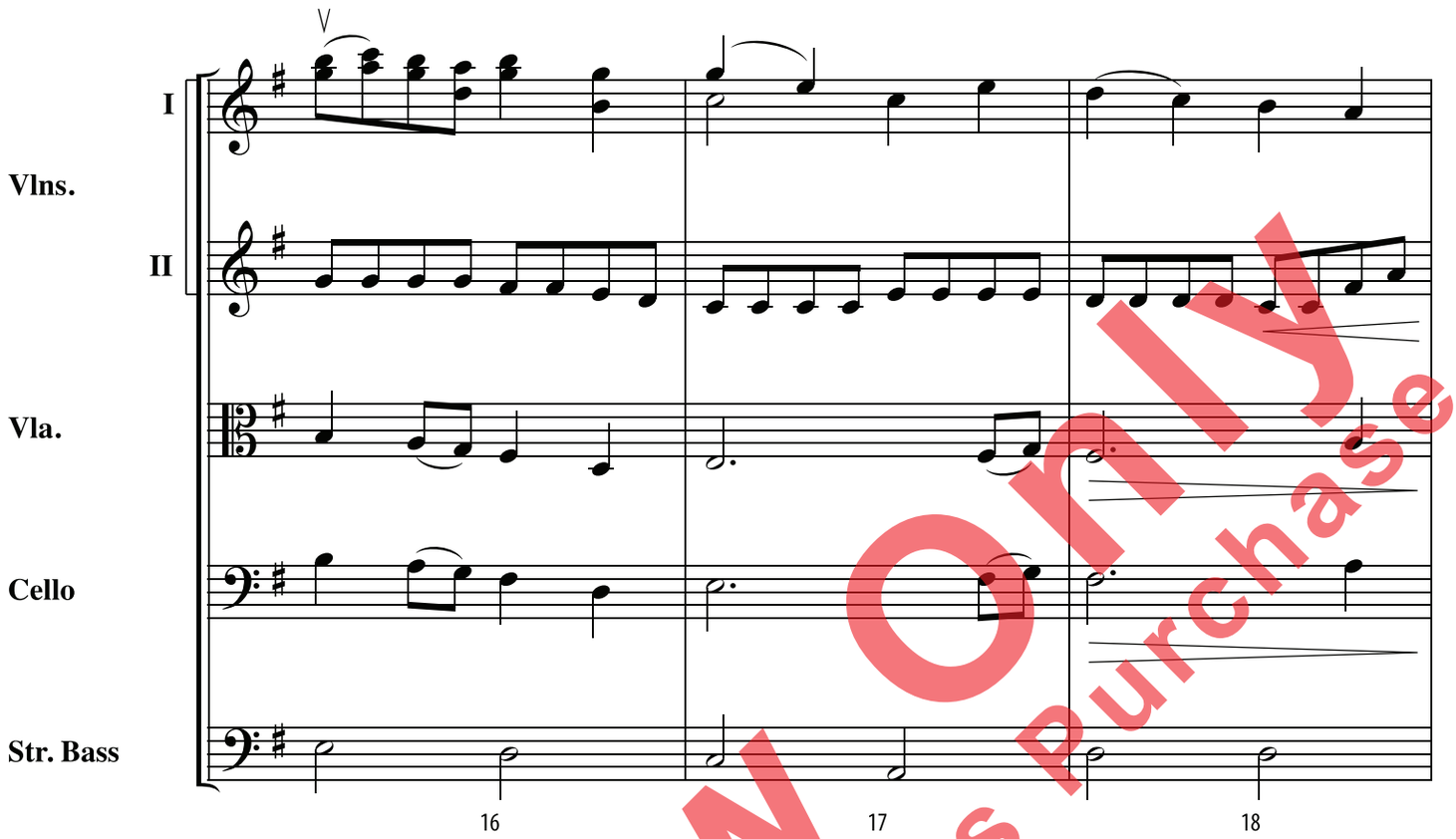

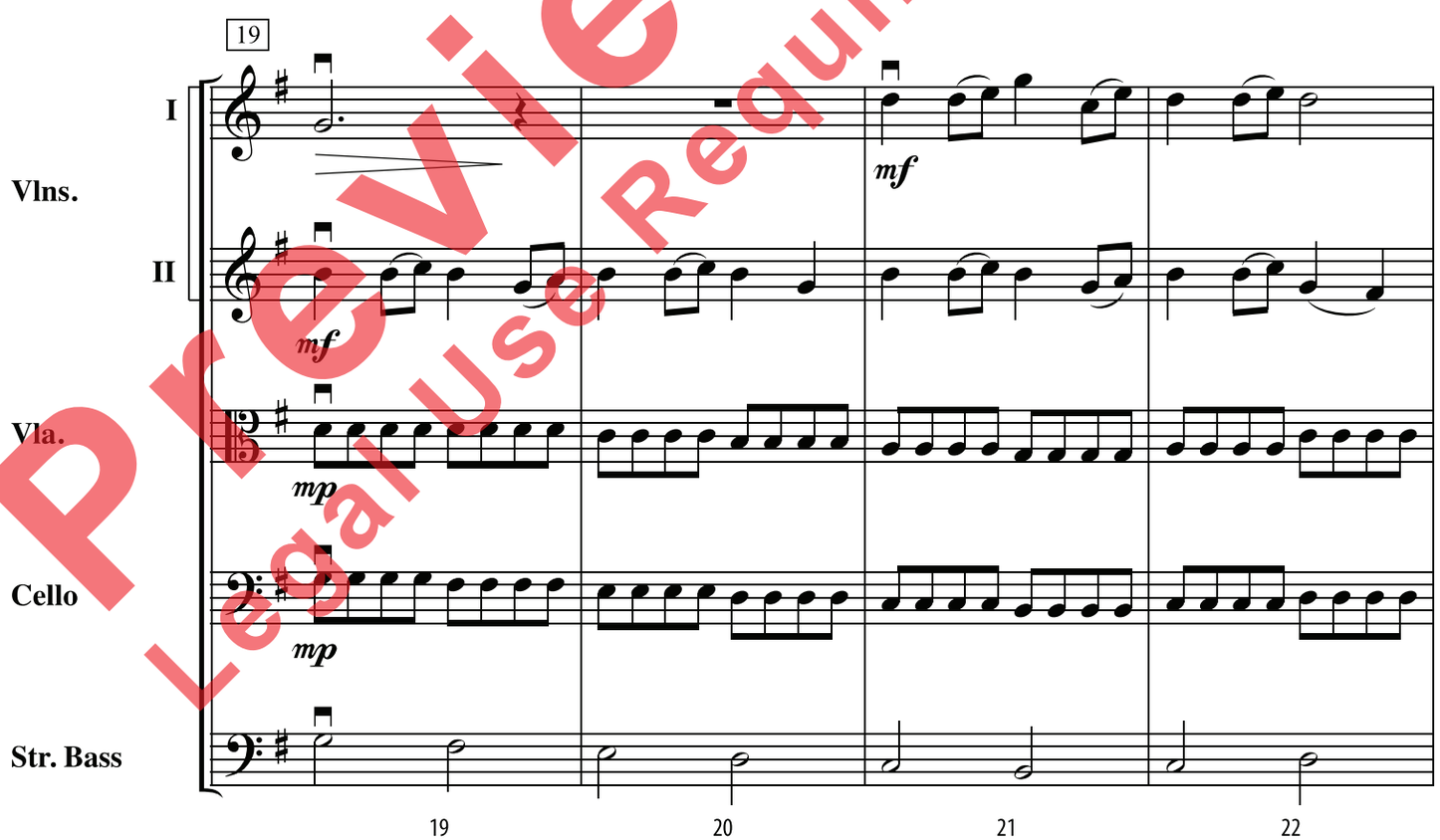

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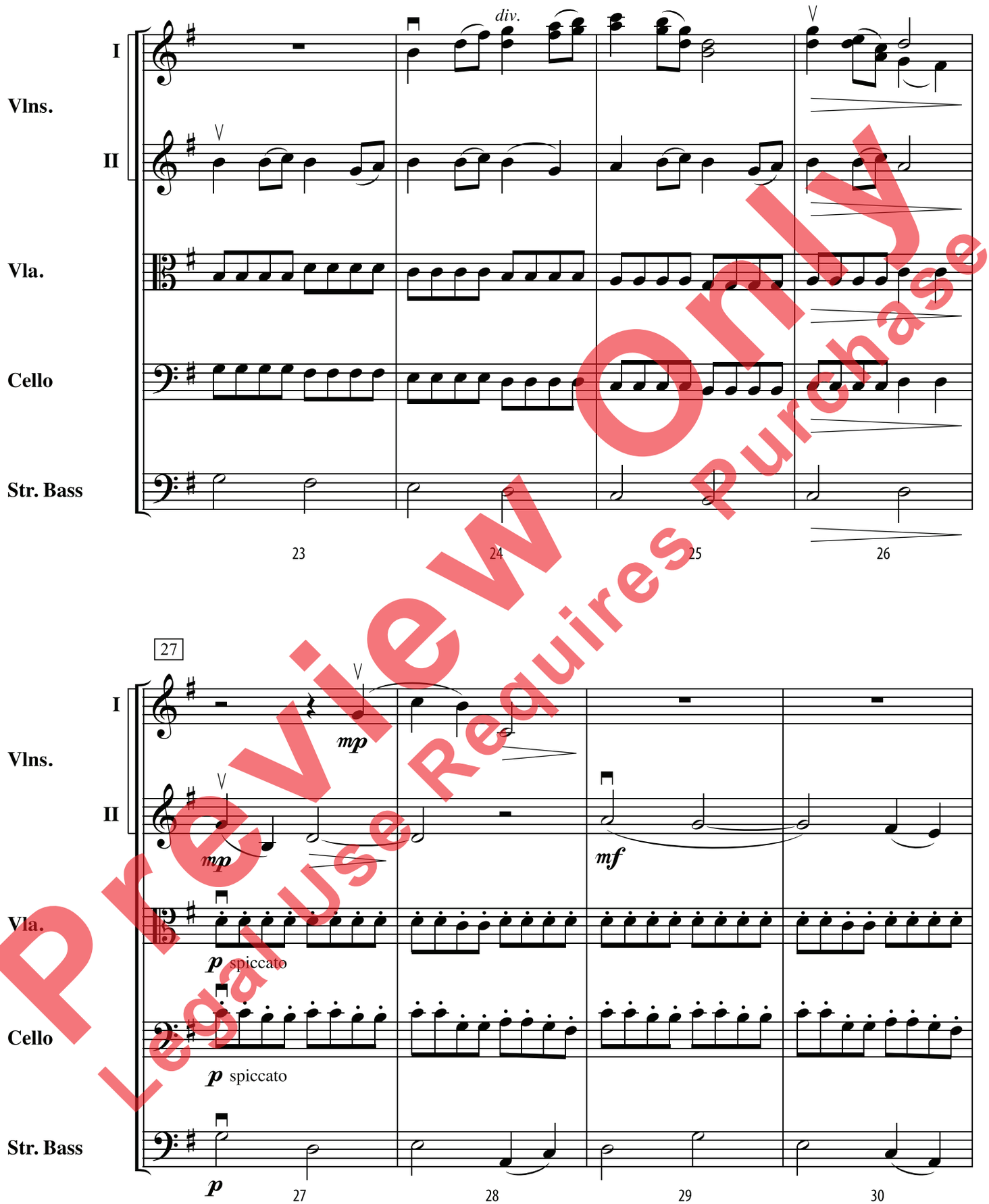

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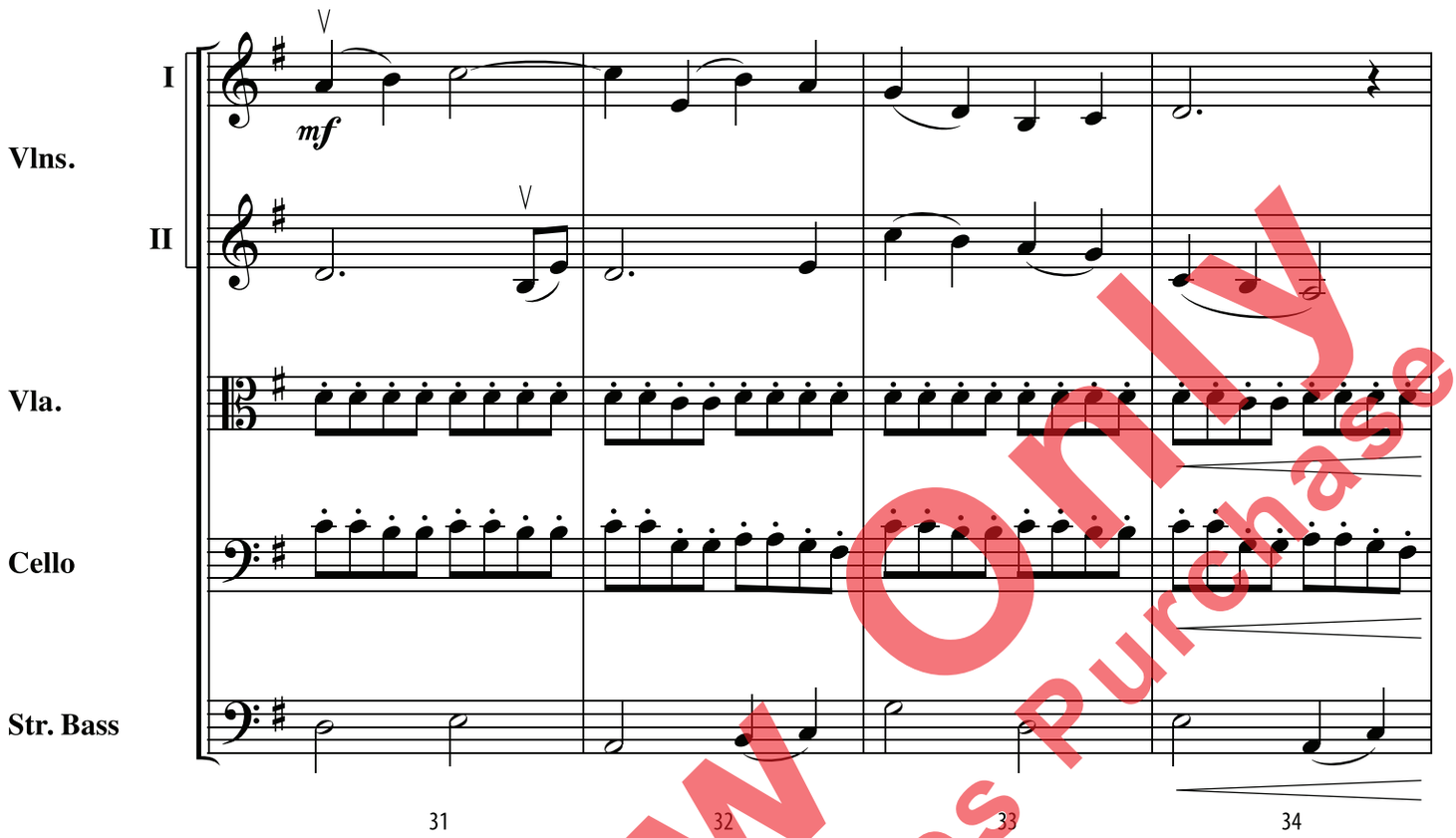

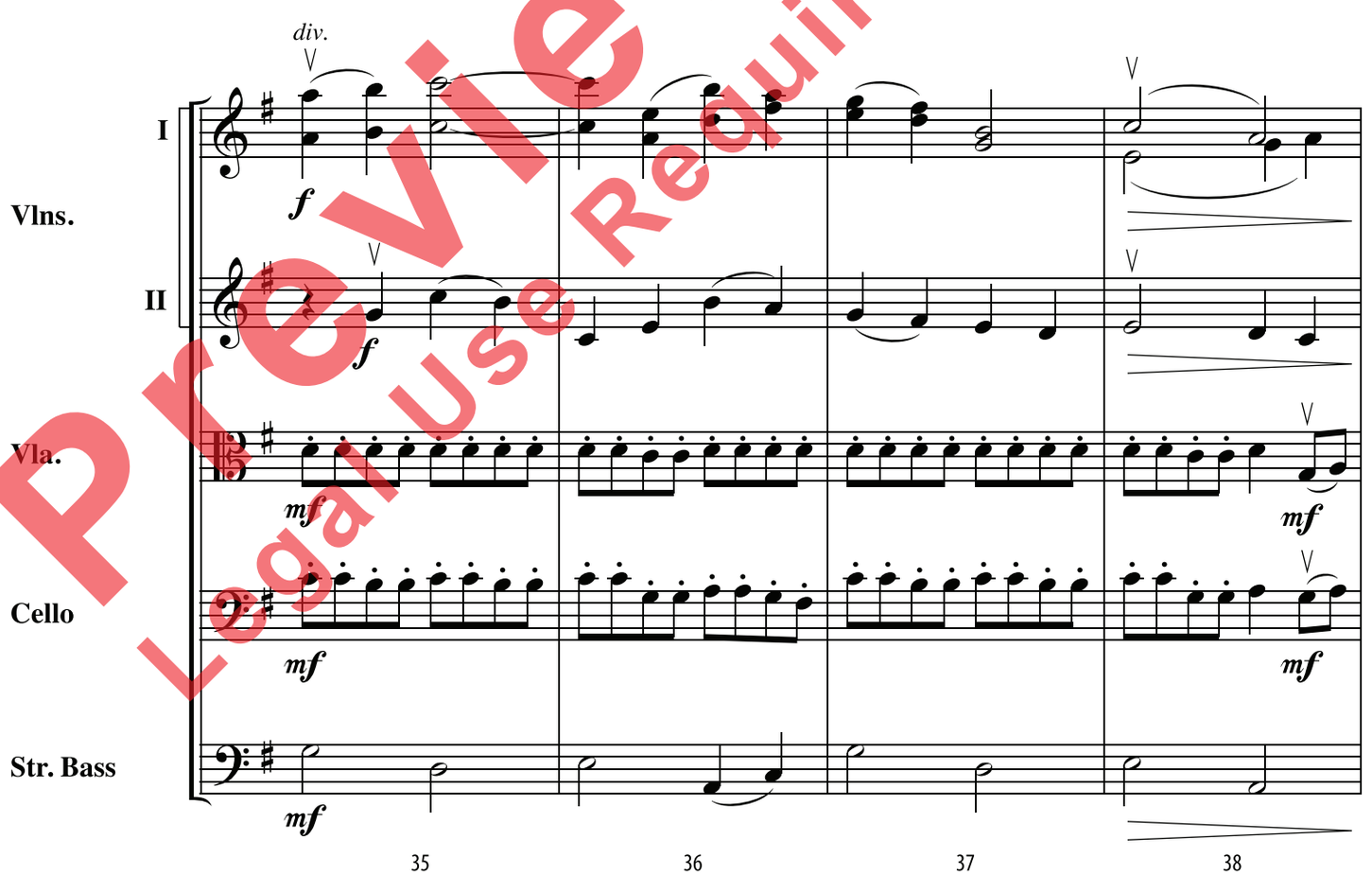

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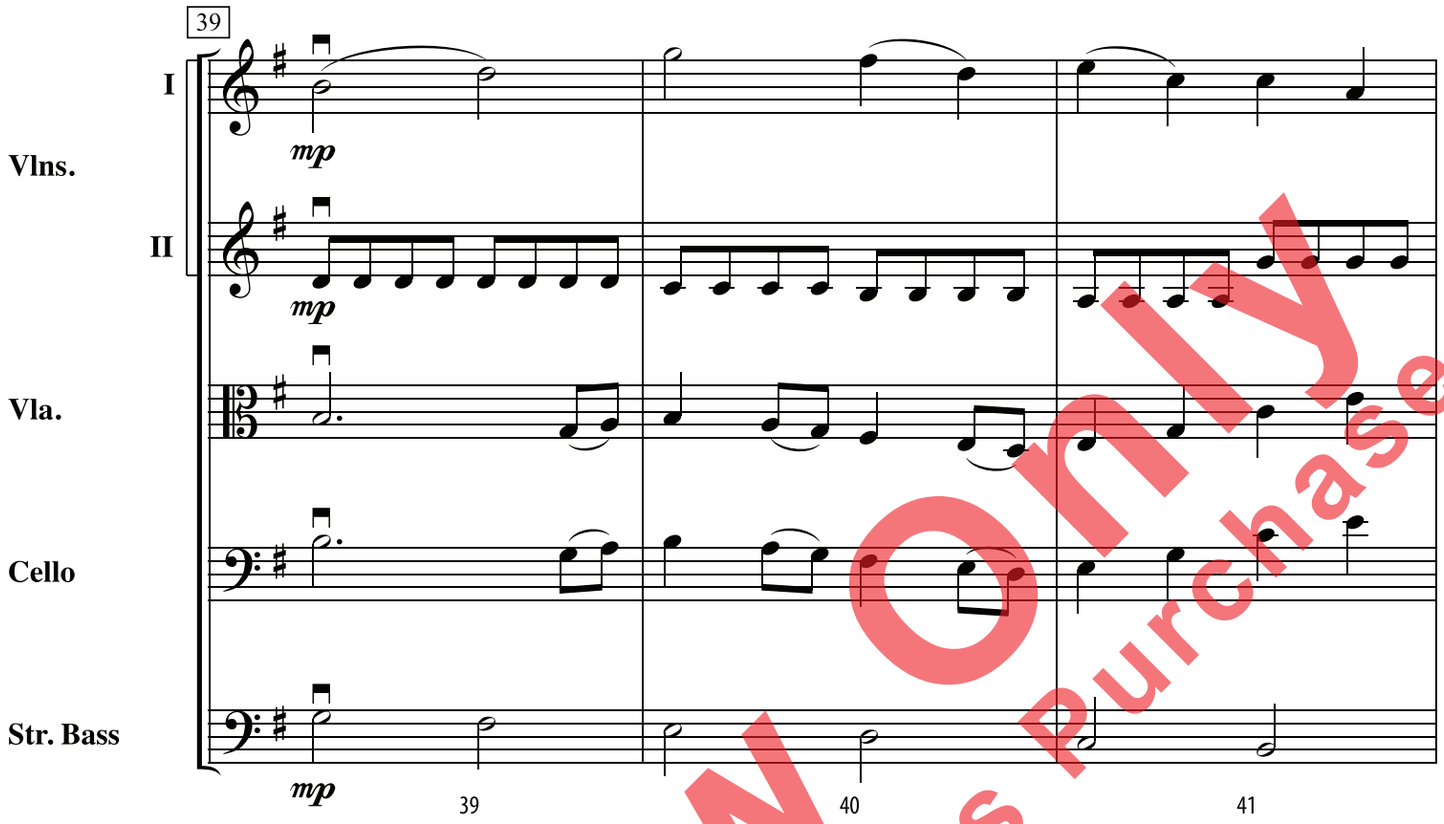

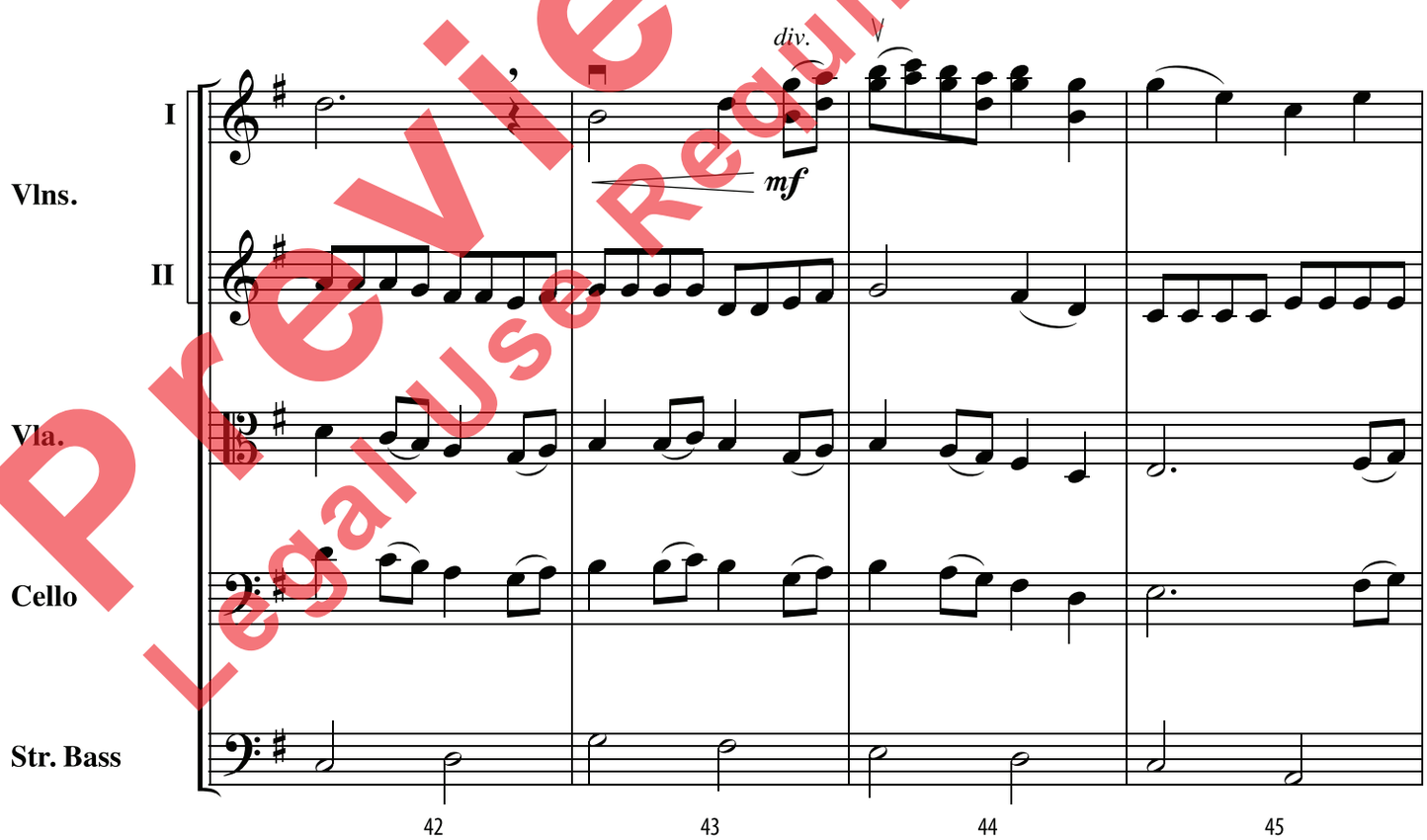

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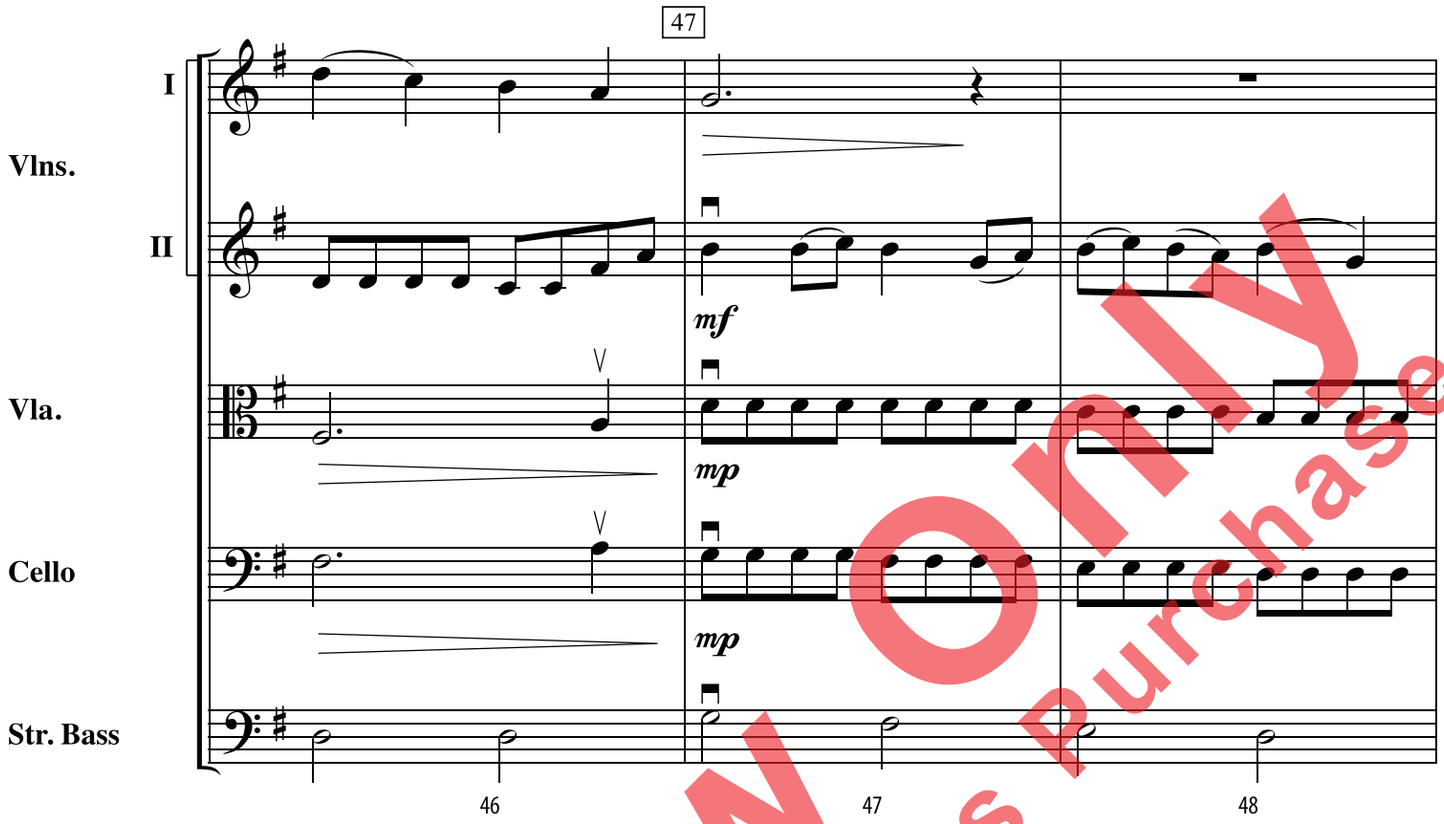

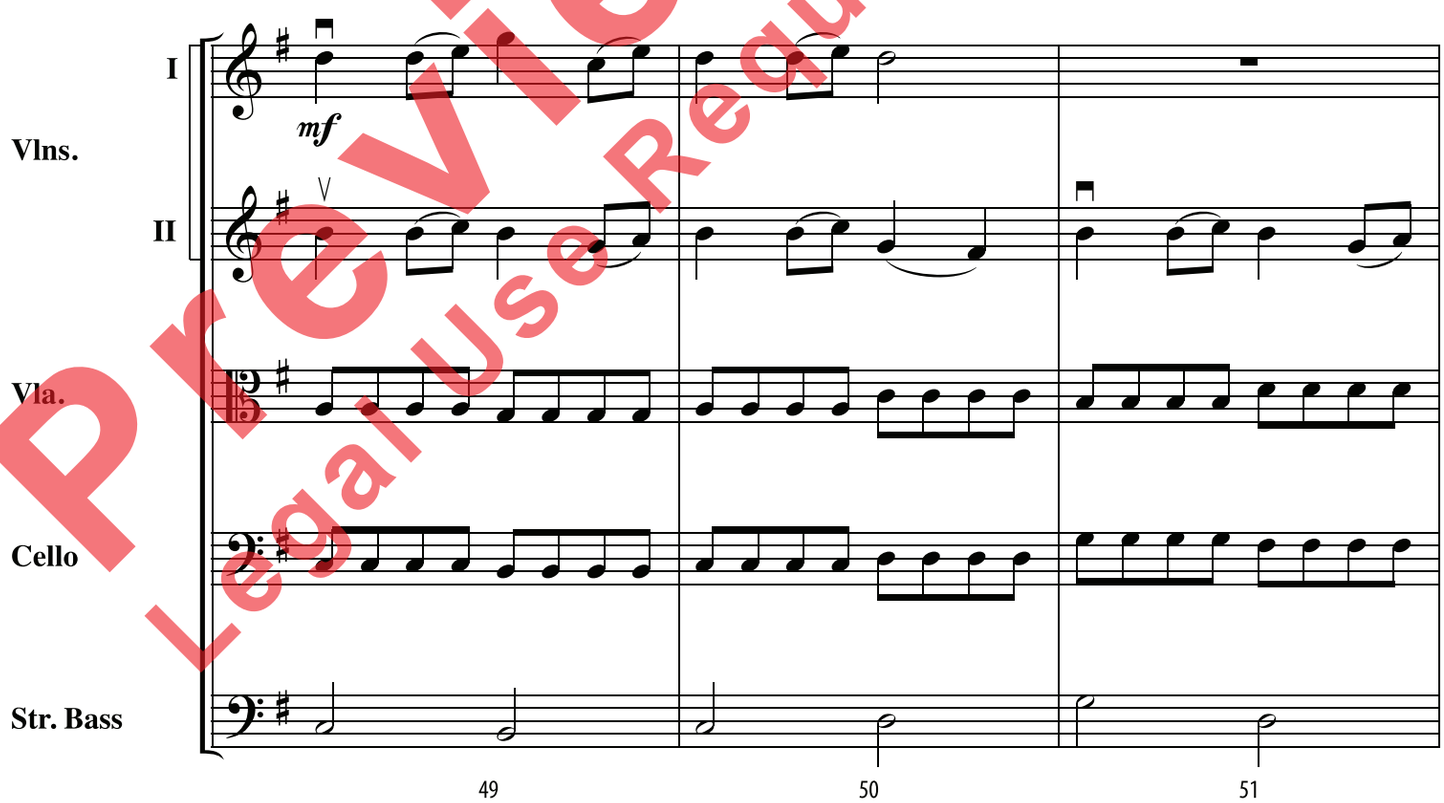

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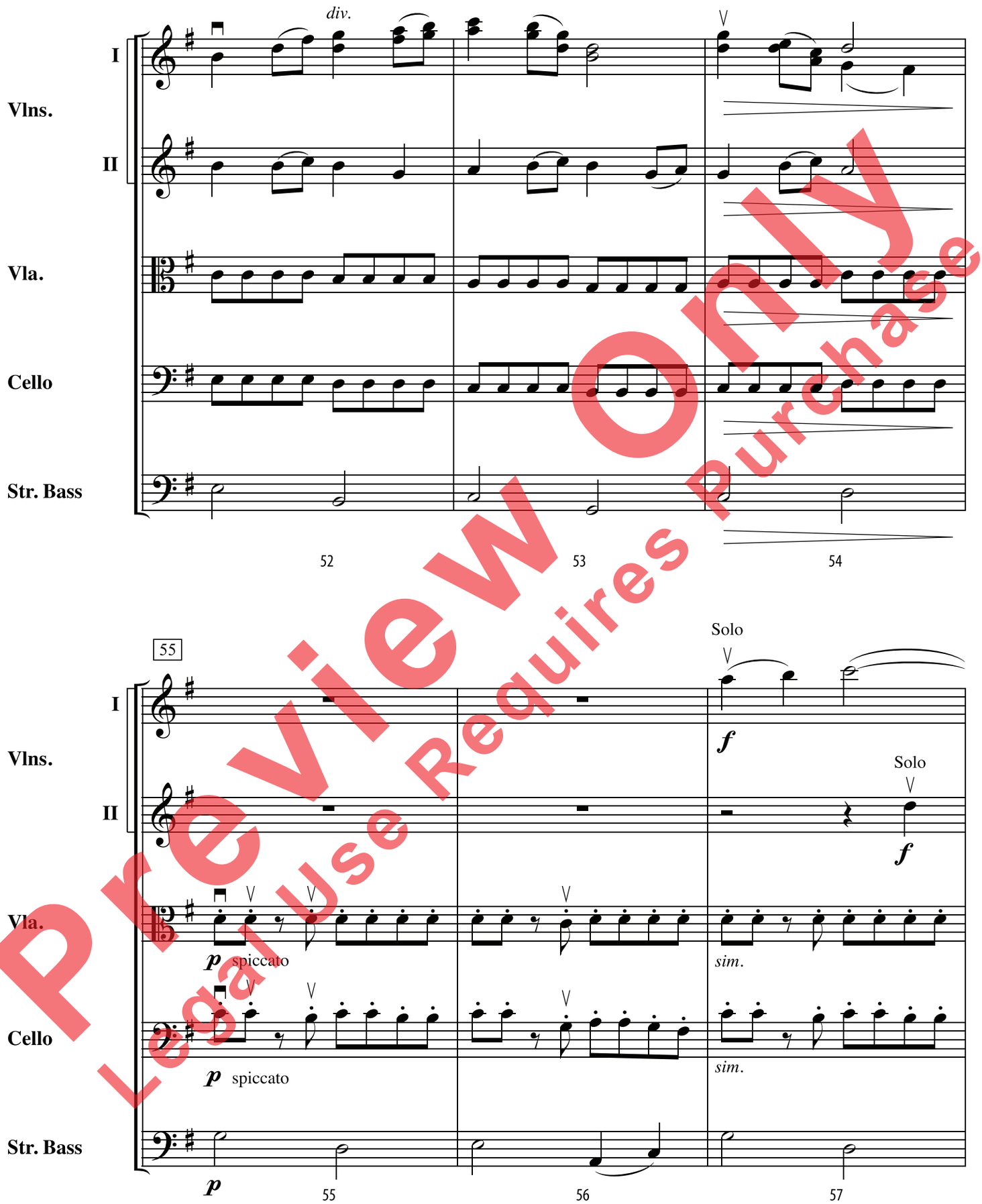

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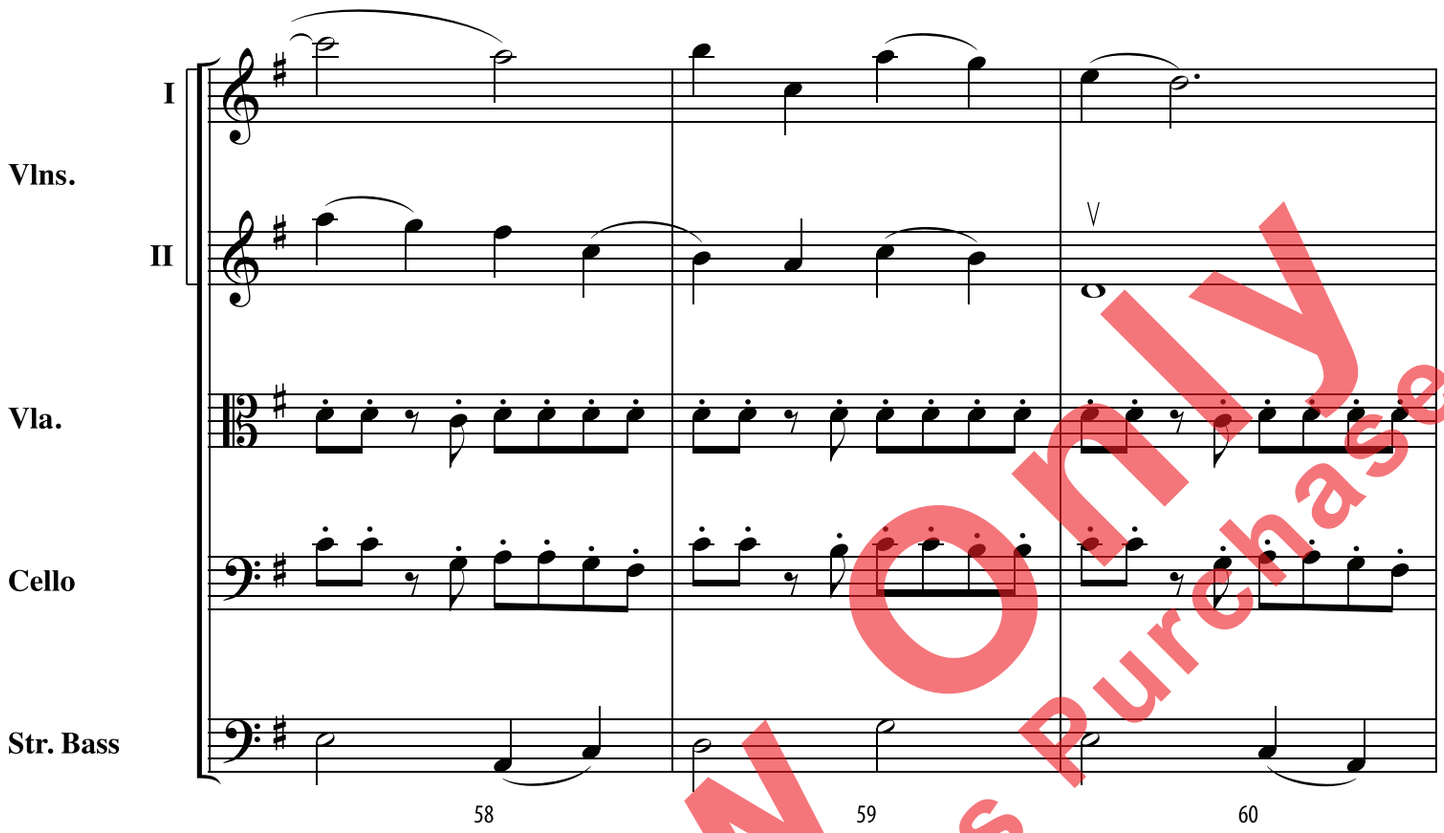

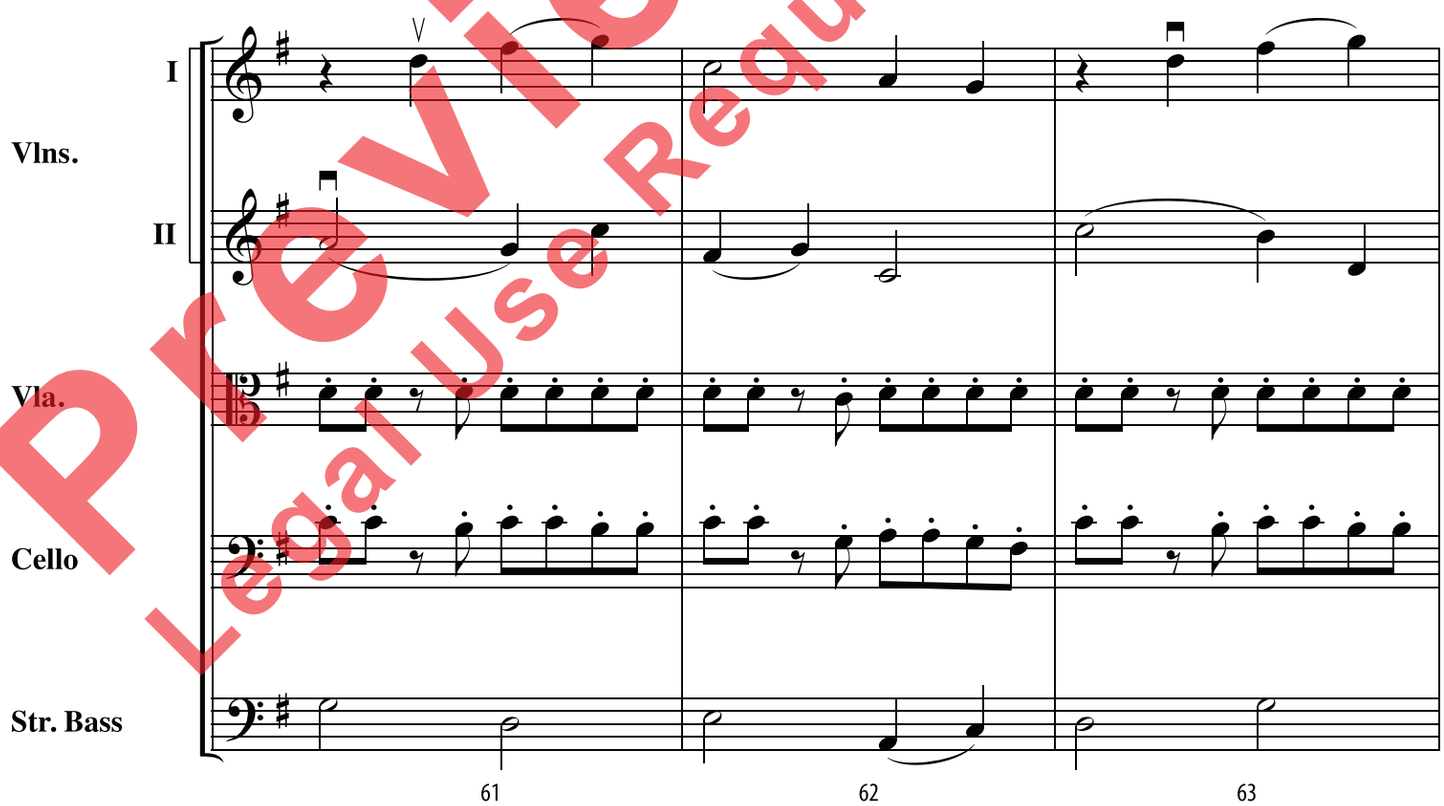

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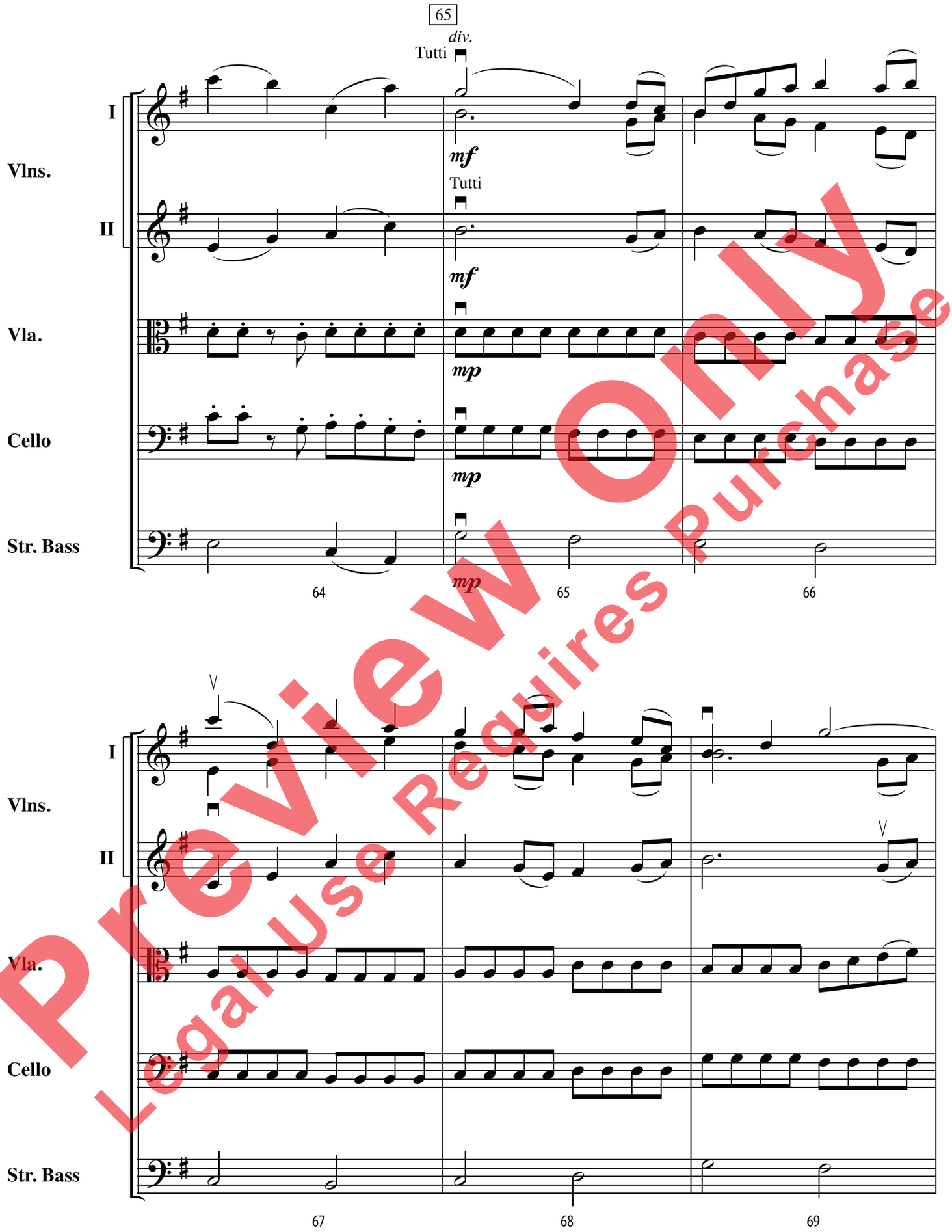

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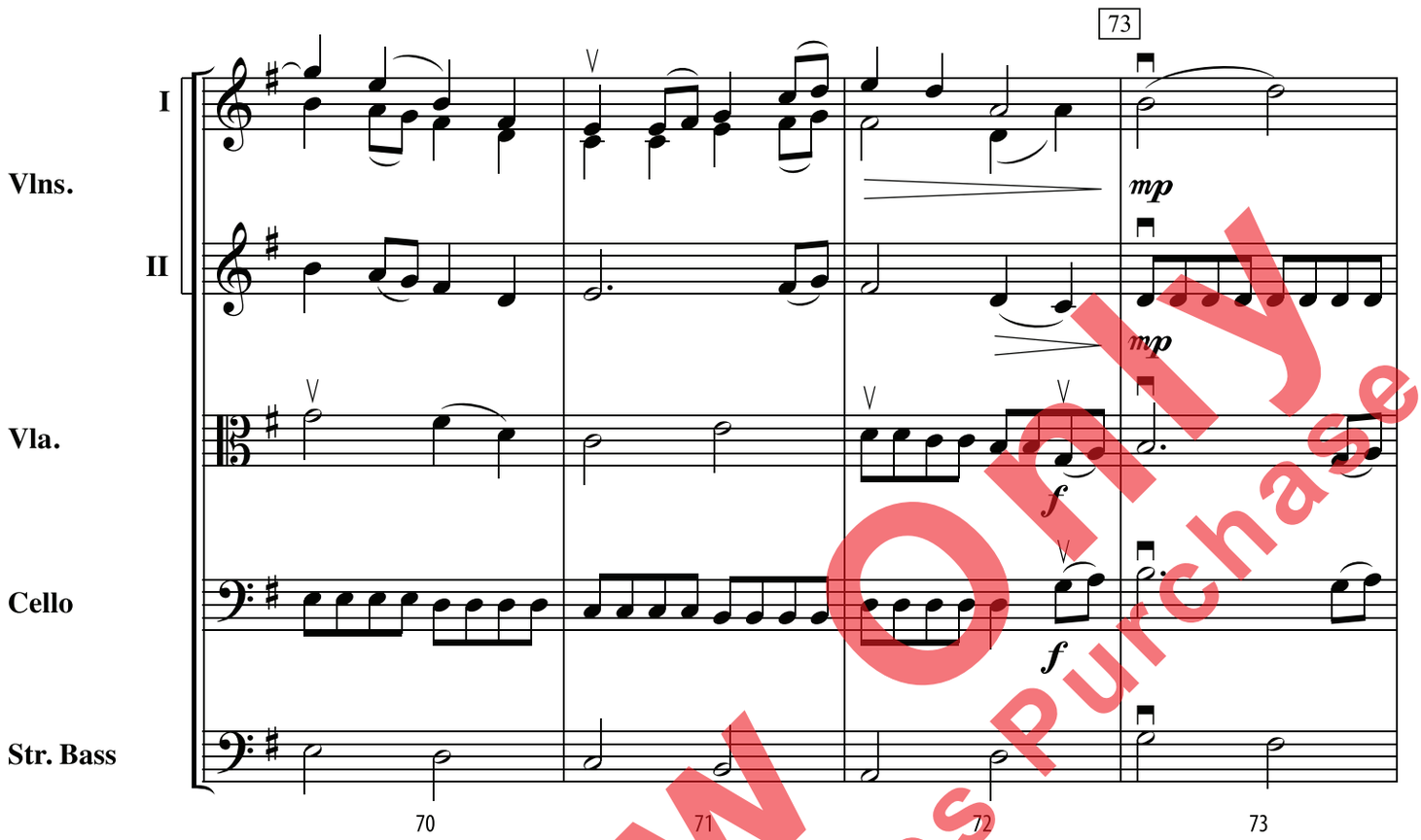

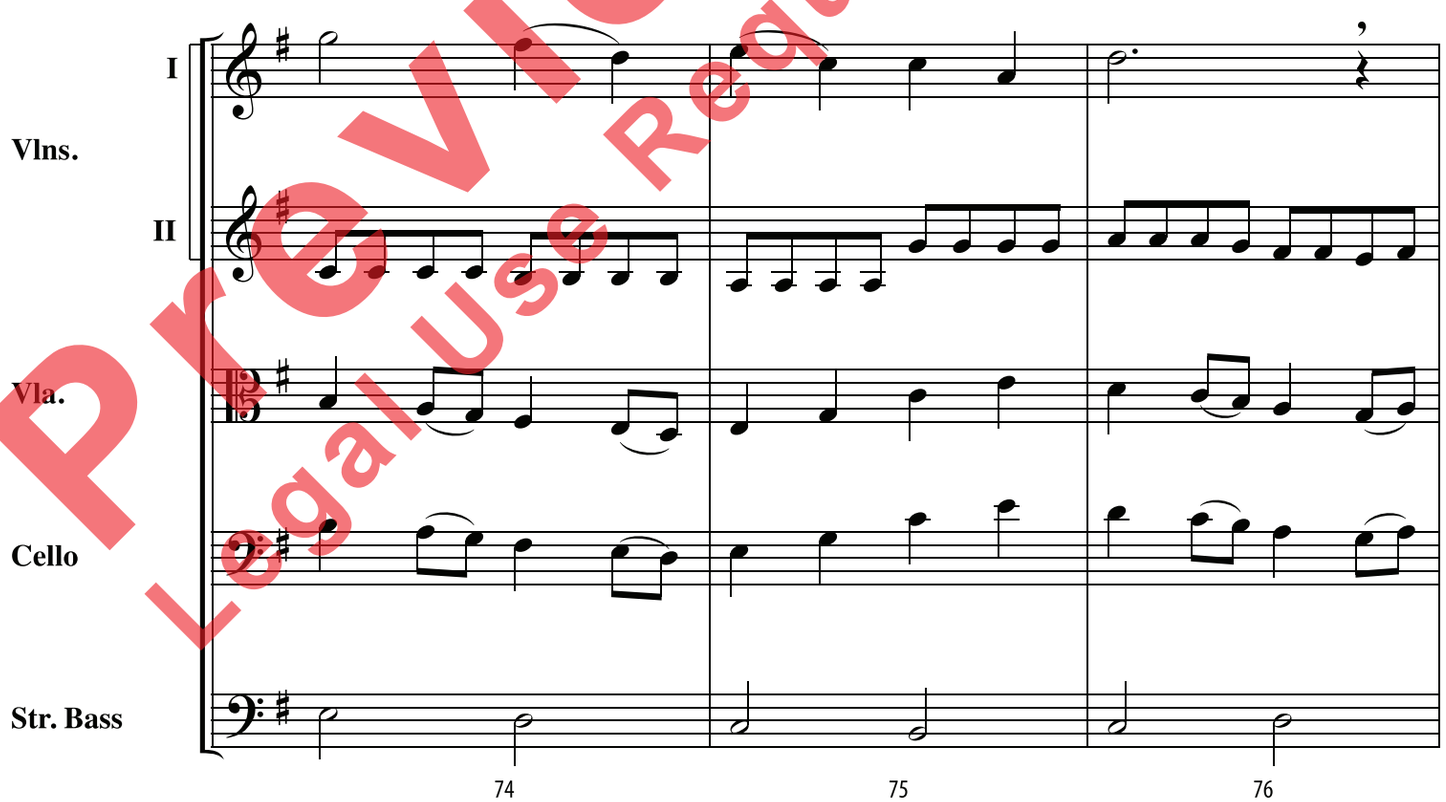

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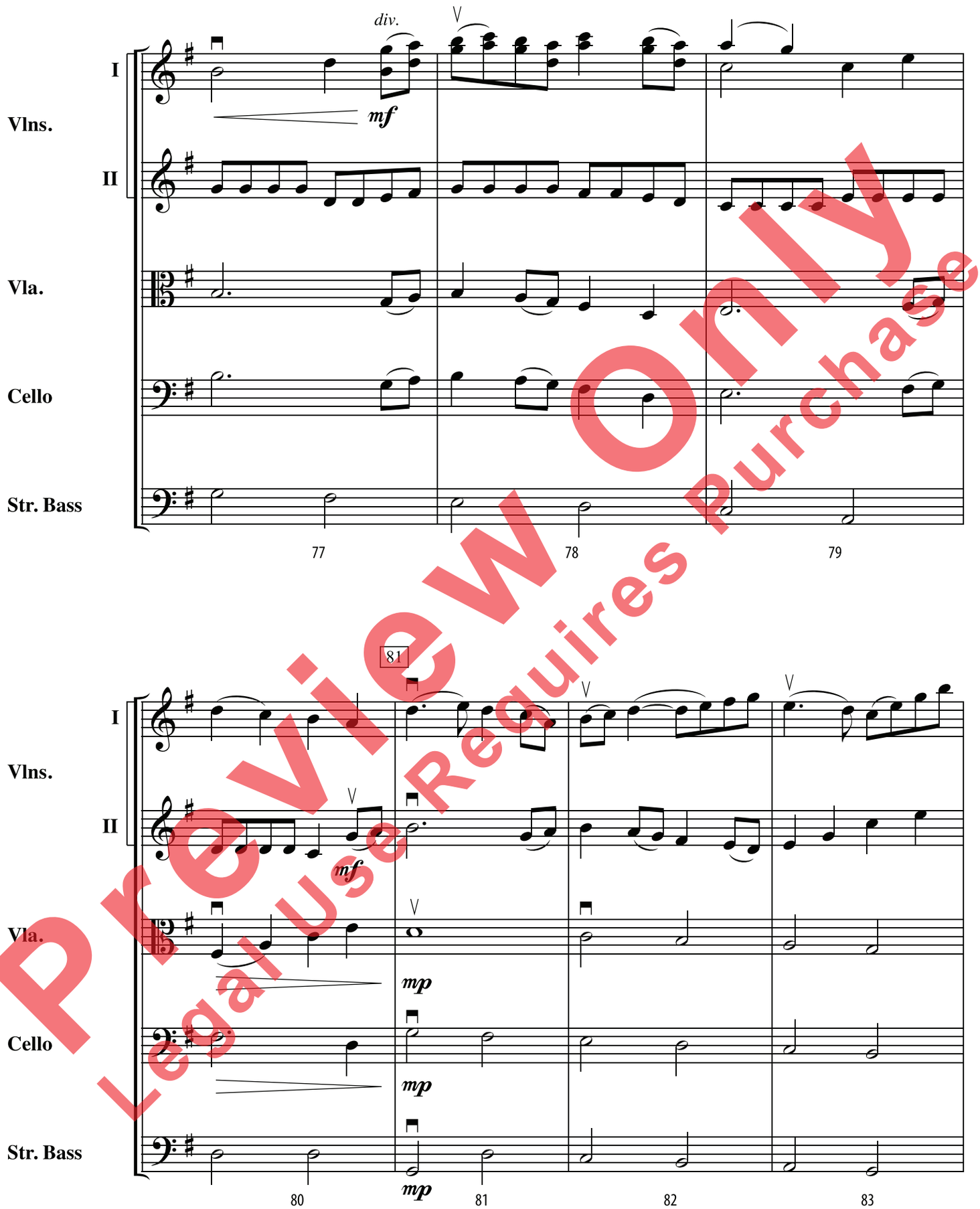

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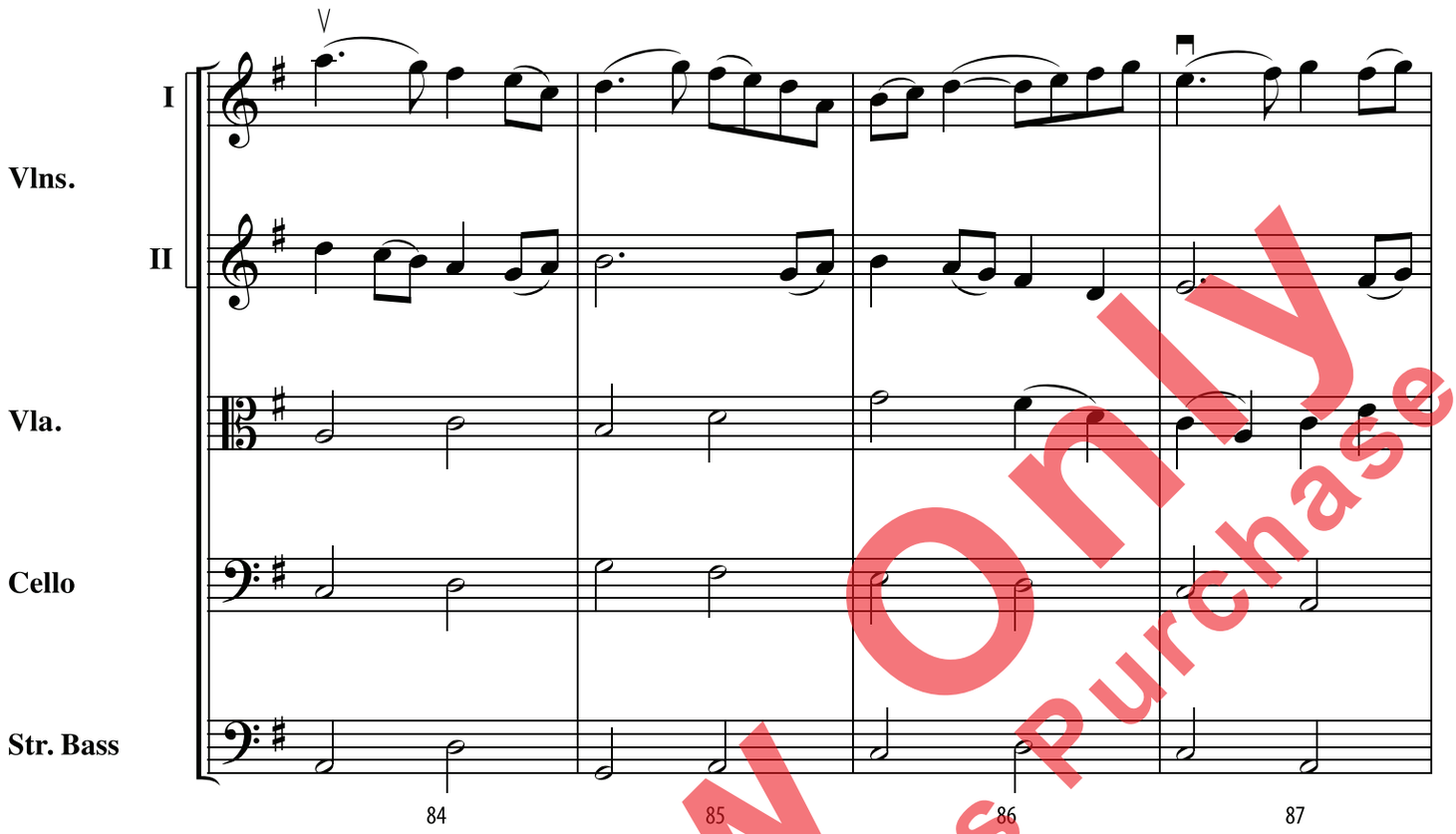

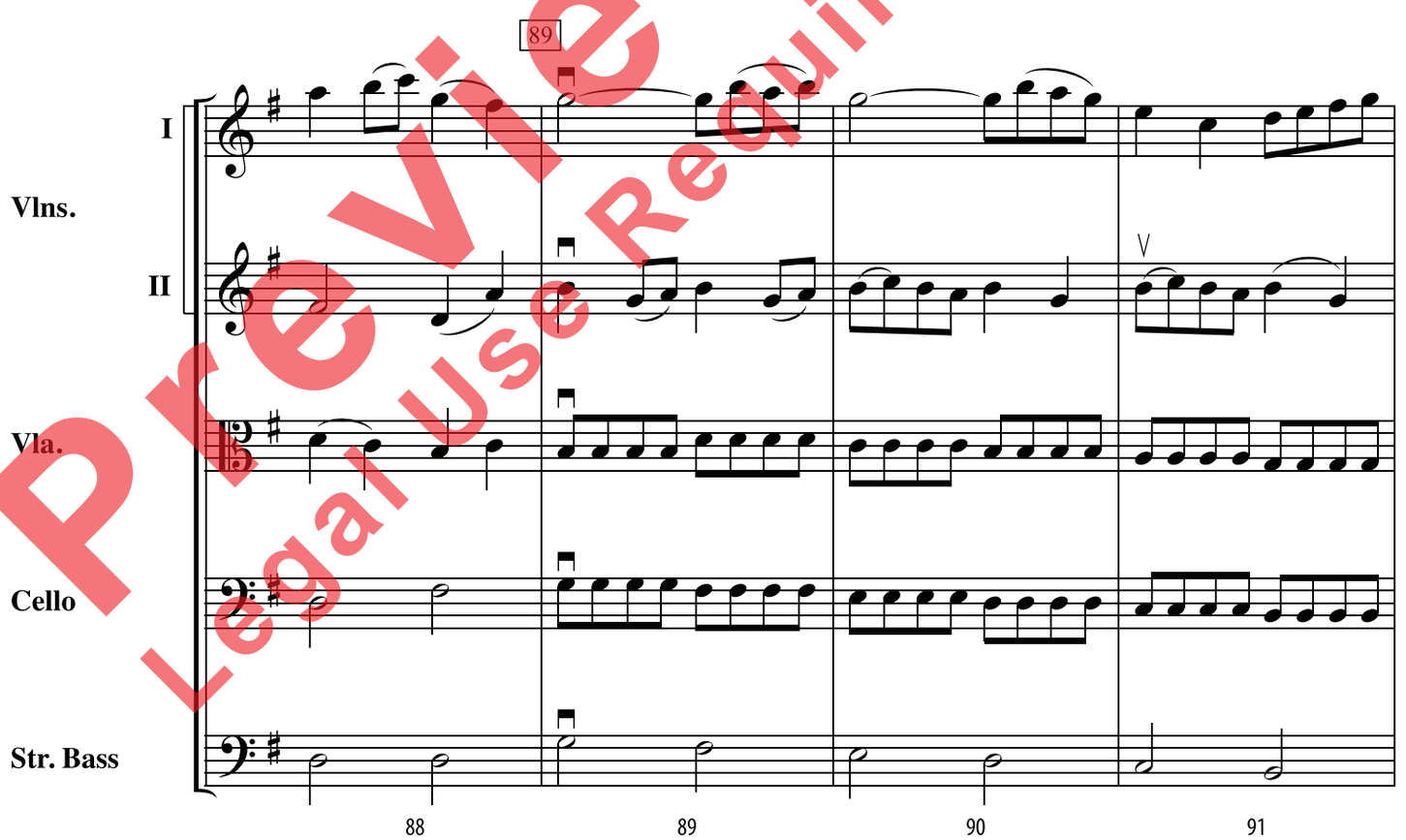

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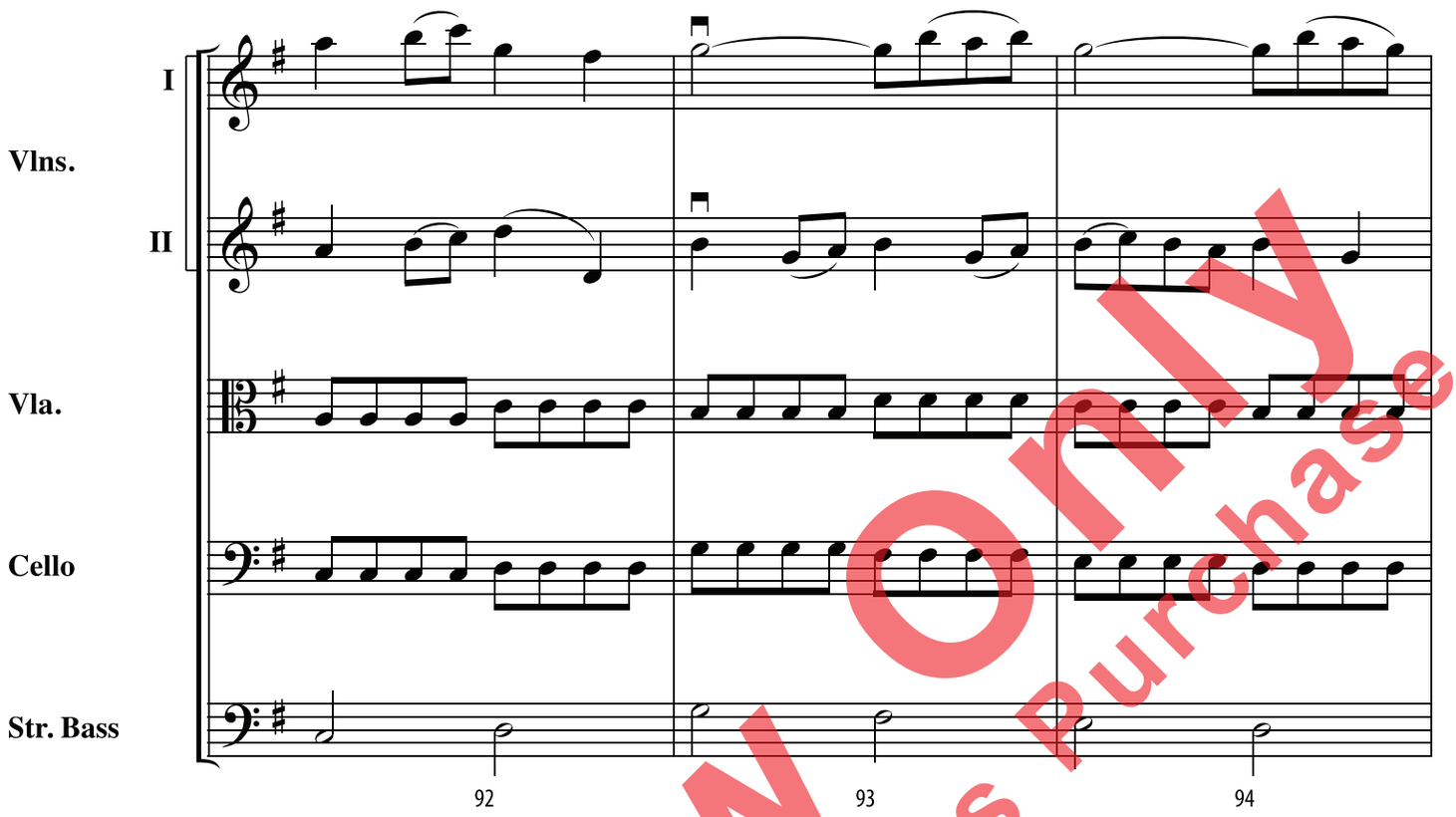

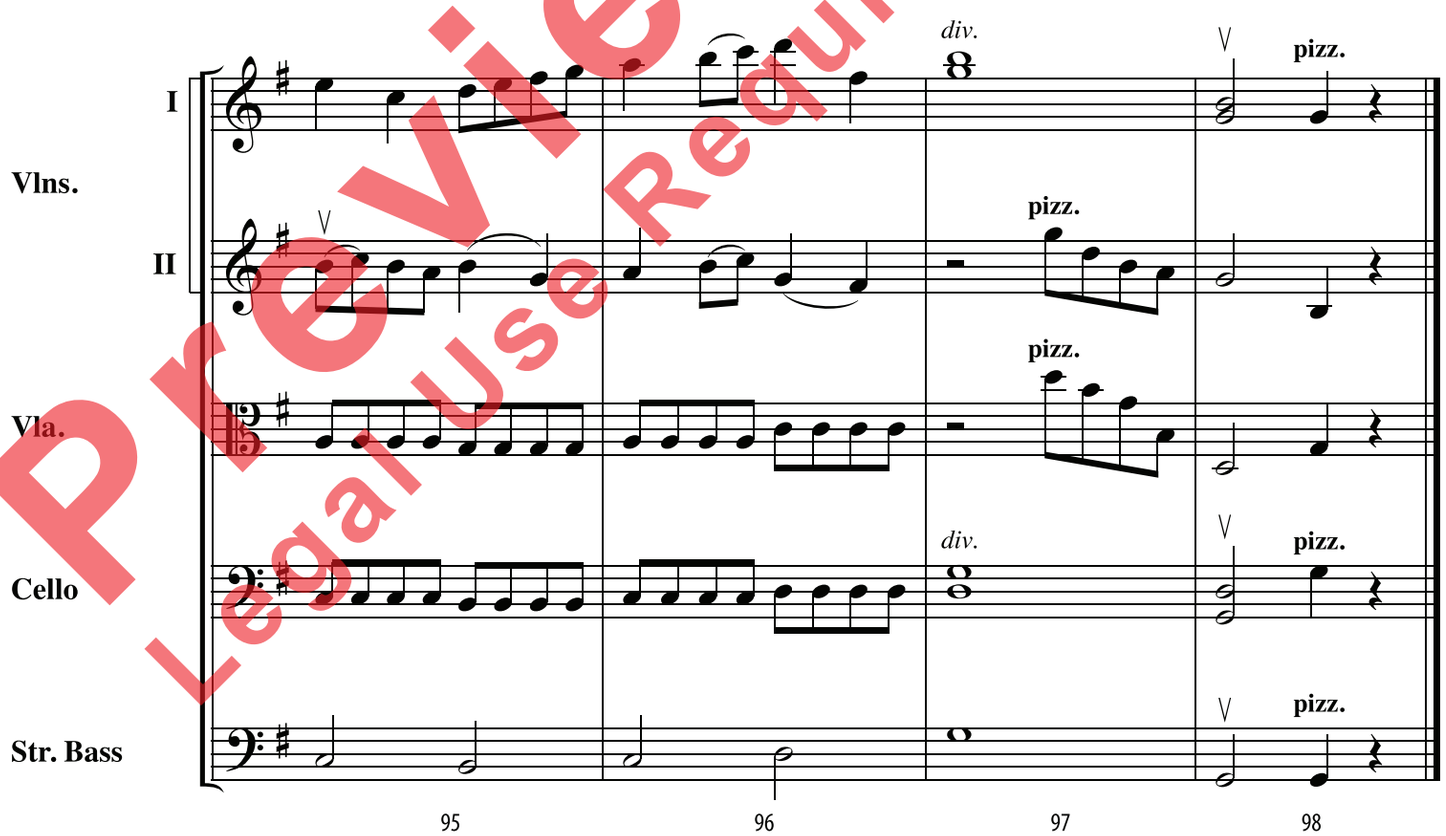

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