ORCHESTRA EXPRESSIONS™ SERIES

Soldier's Joy

Scottish/Irish/American Fiddle Tune
Arranged by Sandra Dackow

INSTRUMENTATION

1	Conductor
8	1st Violin
8	2nd Violin
5	3rd Violin (Viola 𝄞)
5	Viola
5	Cello
5	String Bass
1	Piano Accompaniment (for rehearsal only)

This familiar fiddle tune is a great way to open or close any concert. Teaching a variety of string techniques, this piece will feature all of your players on both the melody and the accompaniment.

PROGRAM NOTES

"Soldier's Joy" is one of the most popular fiddle tunes, reaching back 200 years to Scotland. It can be defined as a reel or a country dance. "Soldier's Joy" traveled across the ocean to America and was especially popular during the American Civil War. Richard Haymen, an American composer, arranger, and conductor, included "Soldier's Joy" in his still frequently performed *Pops Hoedown*—guess who got this tune? The trumpet. (Hint: It's a lot easier and more fun to play this tune on strings!).

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.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Soldier's Joy lies very well under the hand and is great fun to play. In keeping with the style and function of reels, there are a lot of 16th-note passages, which are combined with string crossing; such music really energizes the dancers. Hint: There is a surprise hidden in the introduction—can anyone find it?

The opening introduces *col legno*: "with the wood of the bow," not the hair. Students should rotate the bow in the hand so that they can tap the opening notes with the wood of the bow. This should bring up the picture in the listener's mind of soldiers marching towards us from far away. The word *arco* cancels col legno, just like it cancels pizzicato.

All 16th notes should be played vigorously. All sections toss the theme back and forth and everyone is featured. Try to build up the suspense as the fragments come into focus during the introduction. Since the piece is a lot easier than it looks on paper, just cut loose and have fun! Everything remains in first position.

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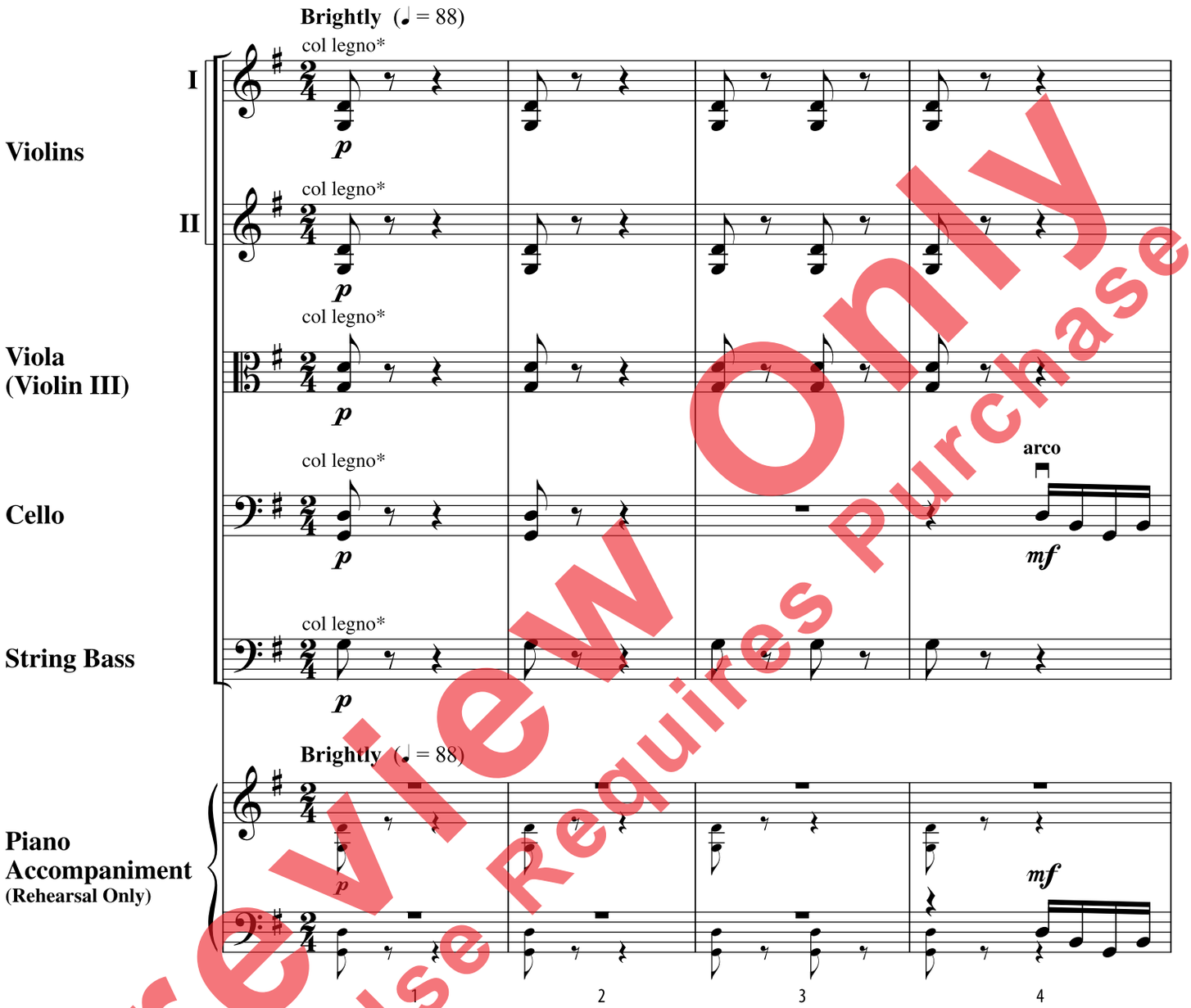
Soldier's Joy

CONDUCTOR SCORE
Duration - 2:00

Scottish, Irish, American Fiddle Tune
Arranged by Sandra Dackow



* col legno — tap the strings with the wood of the bow.

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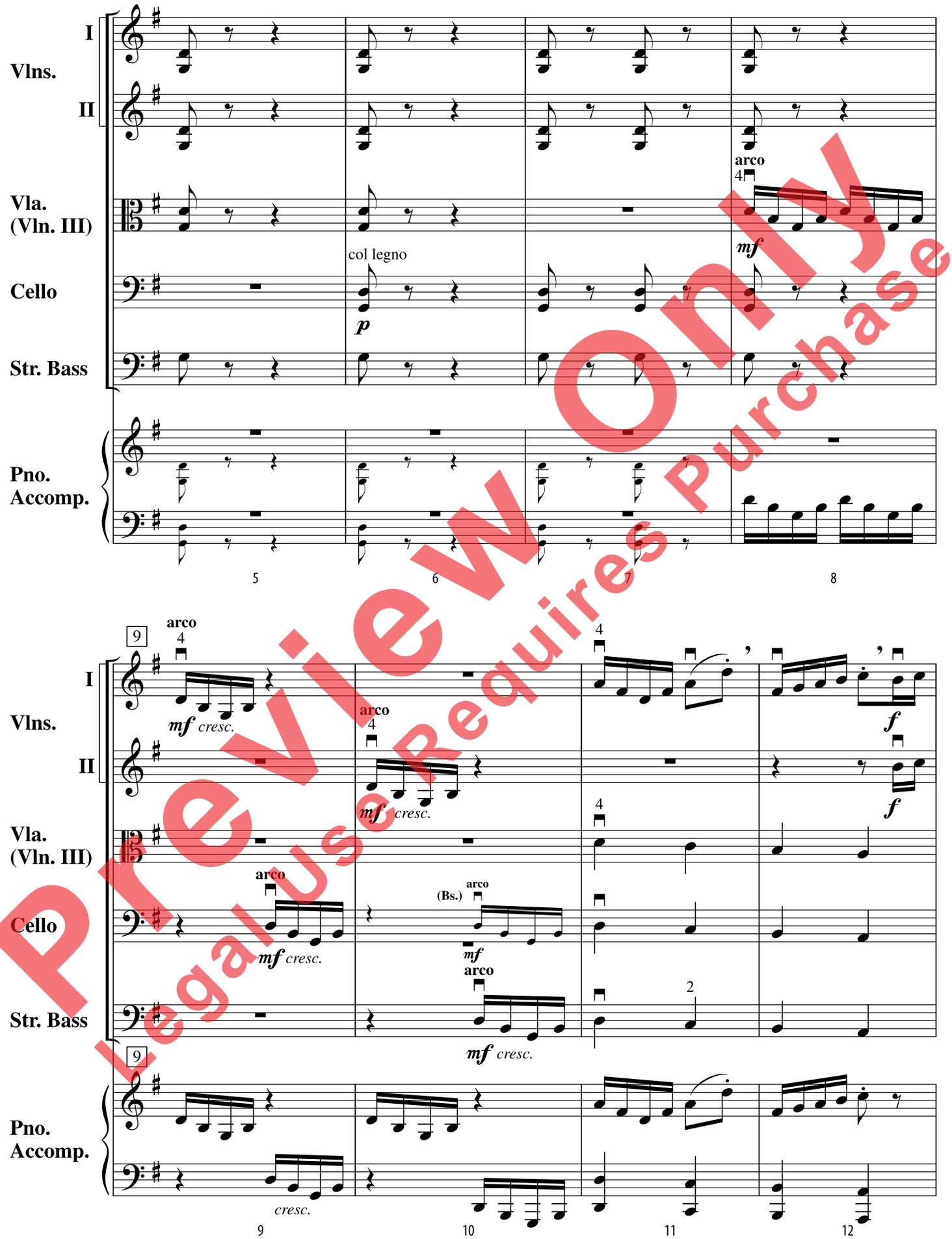

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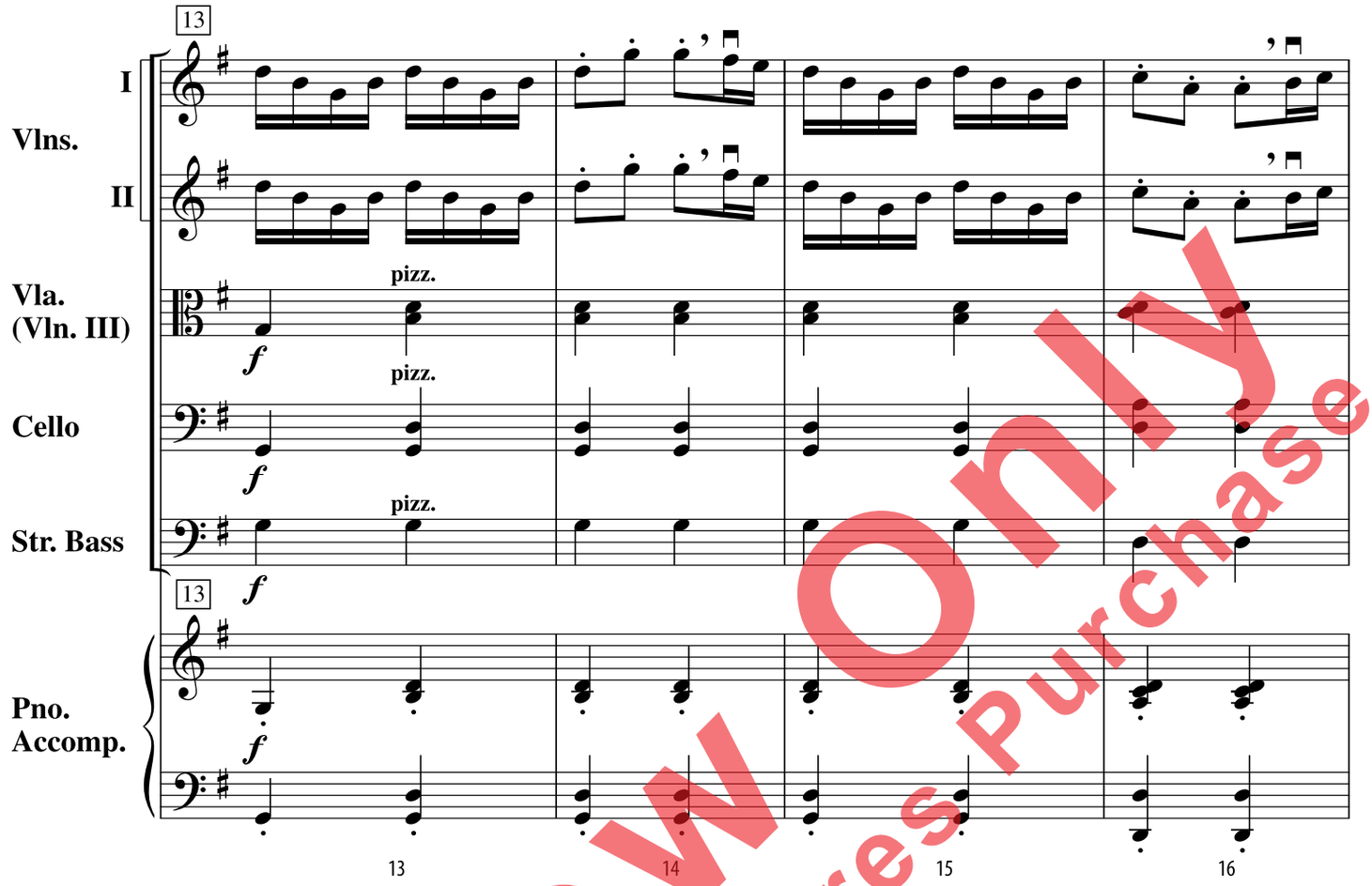

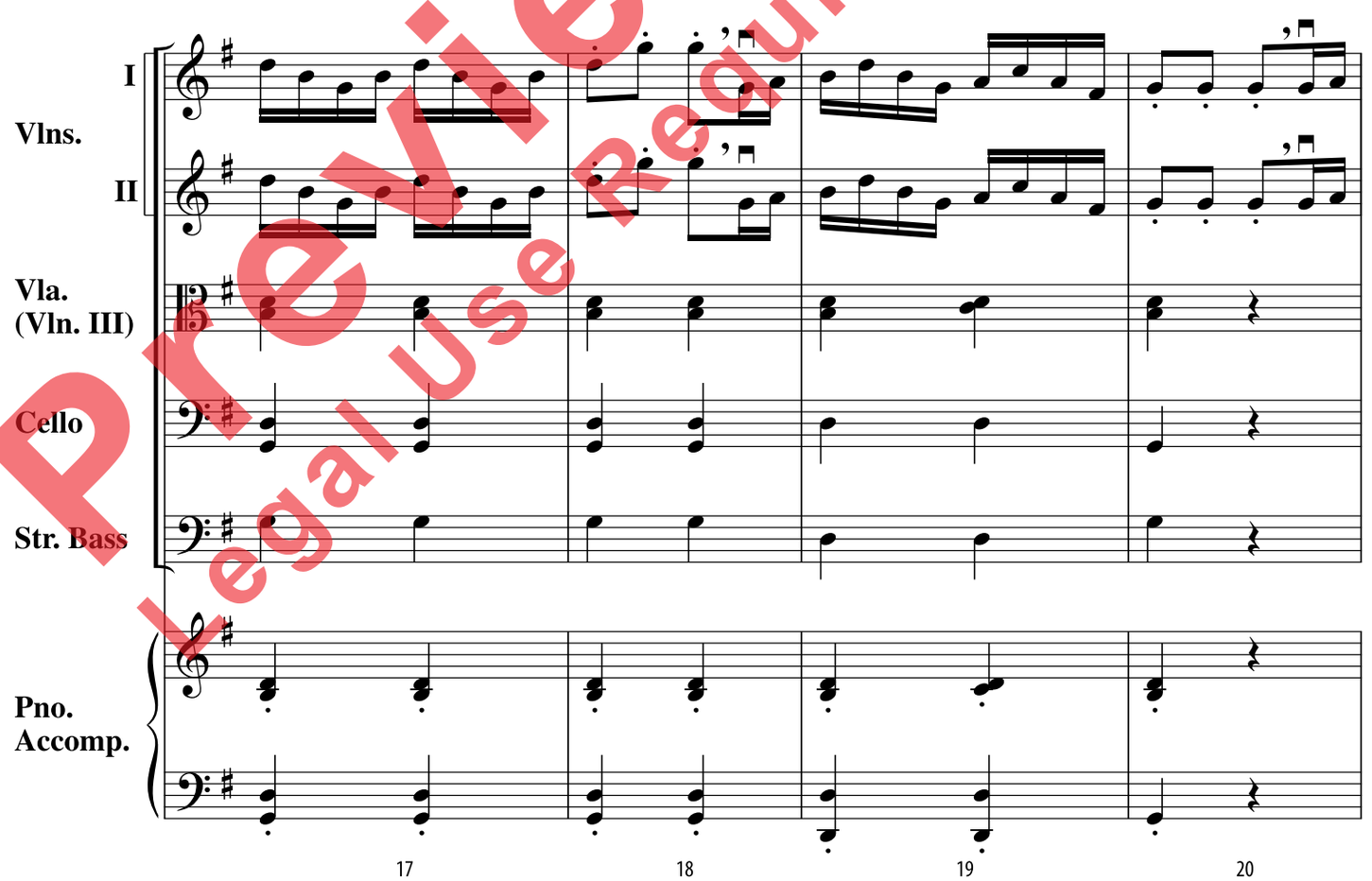

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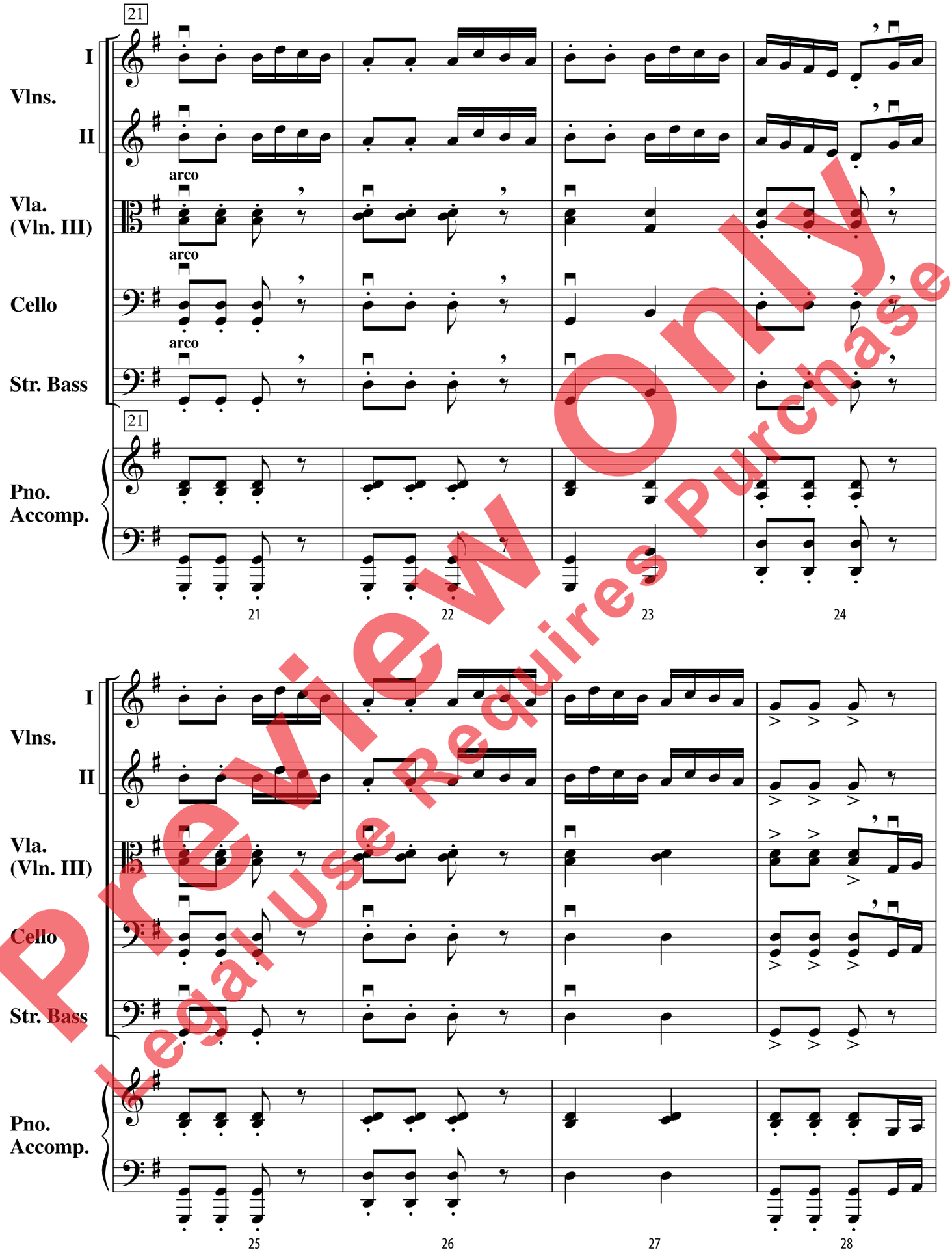

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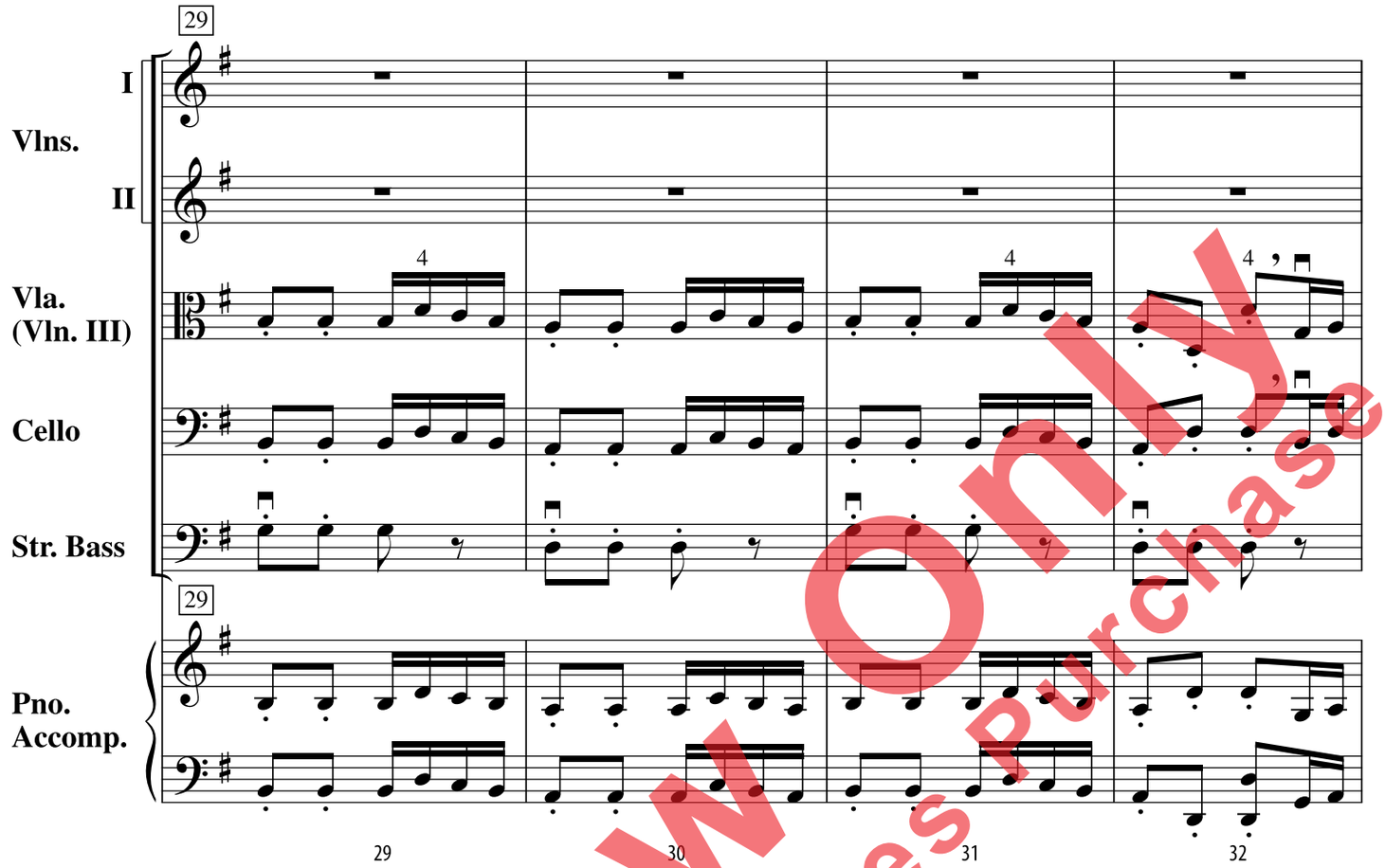

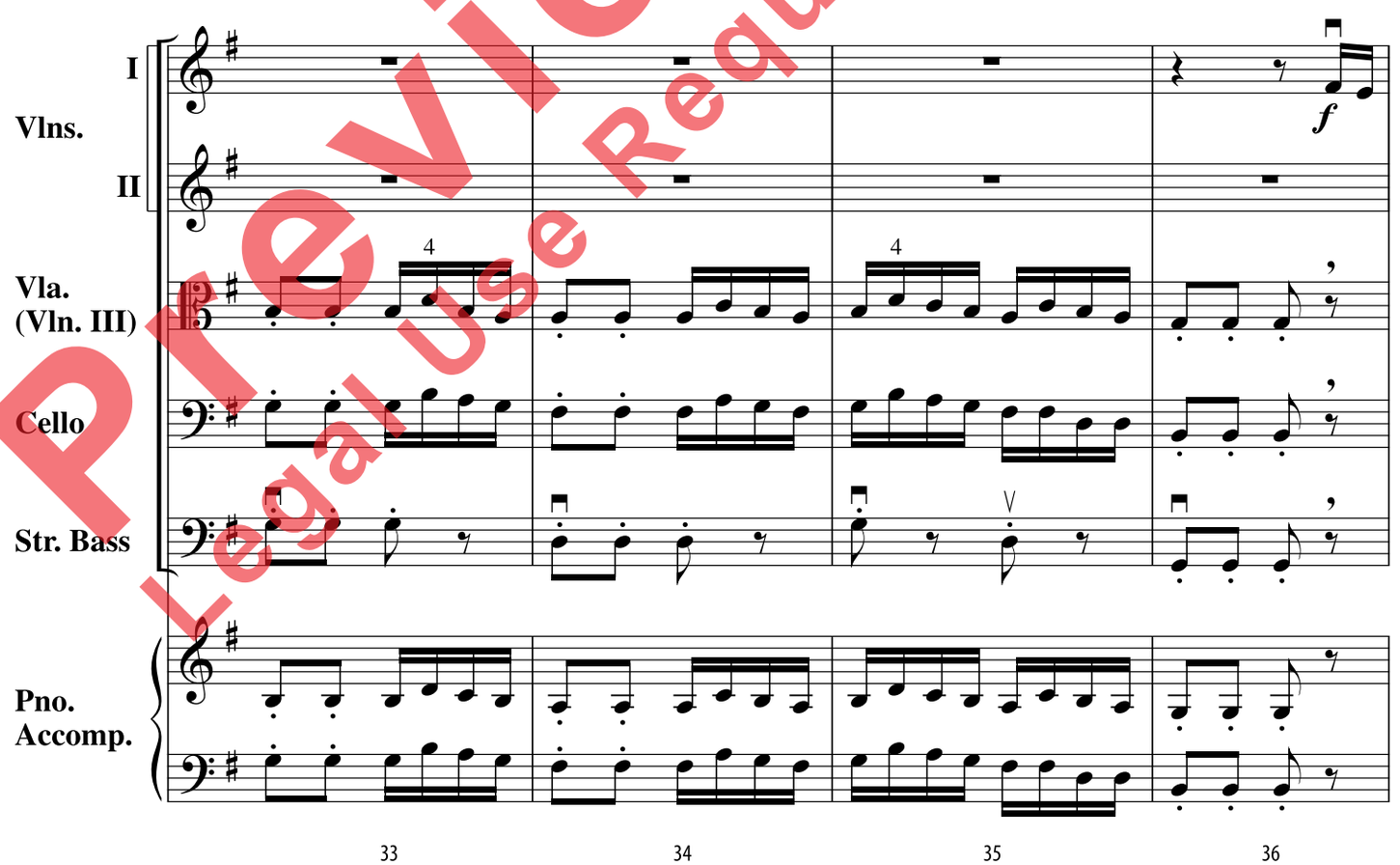

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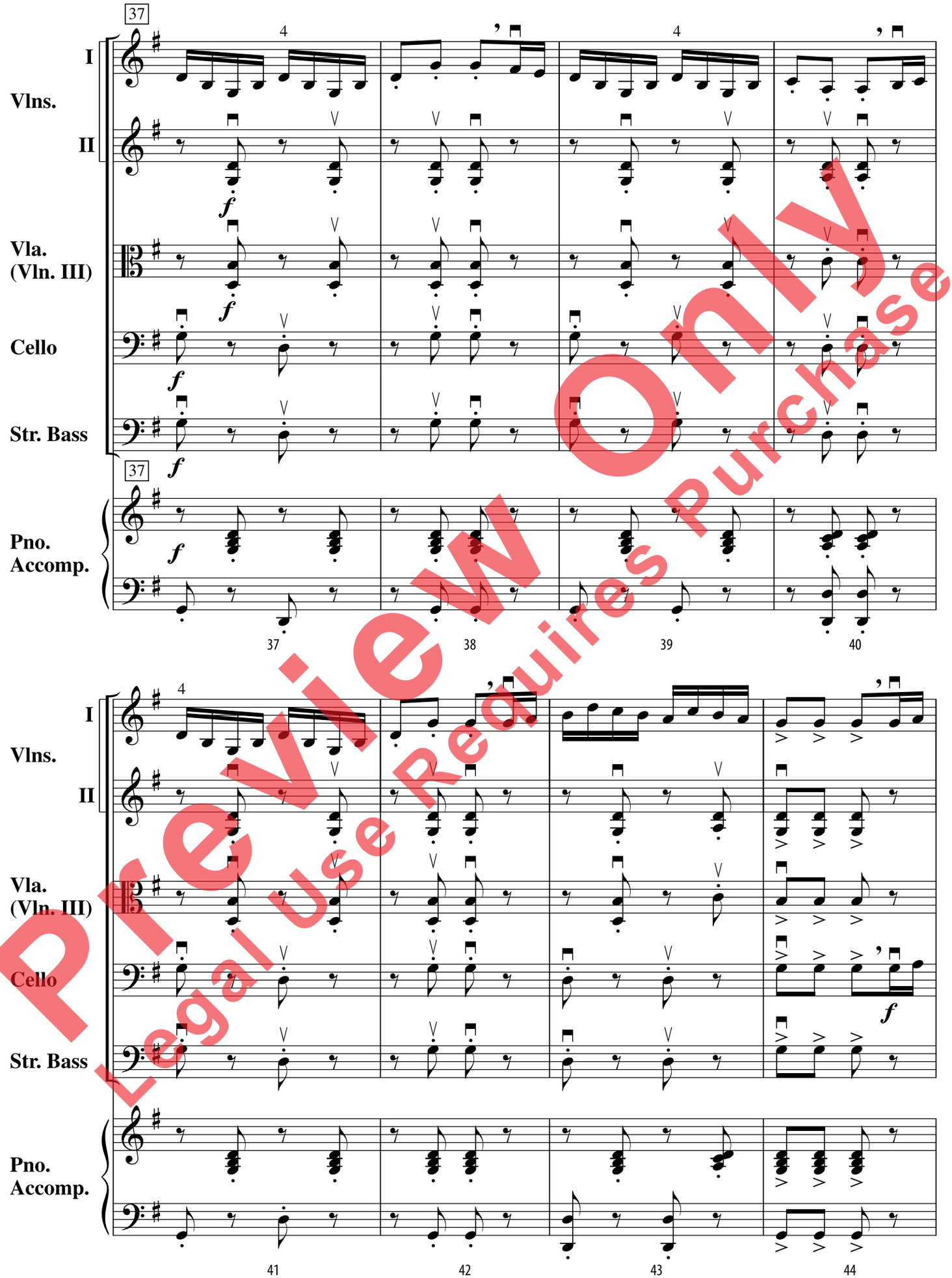

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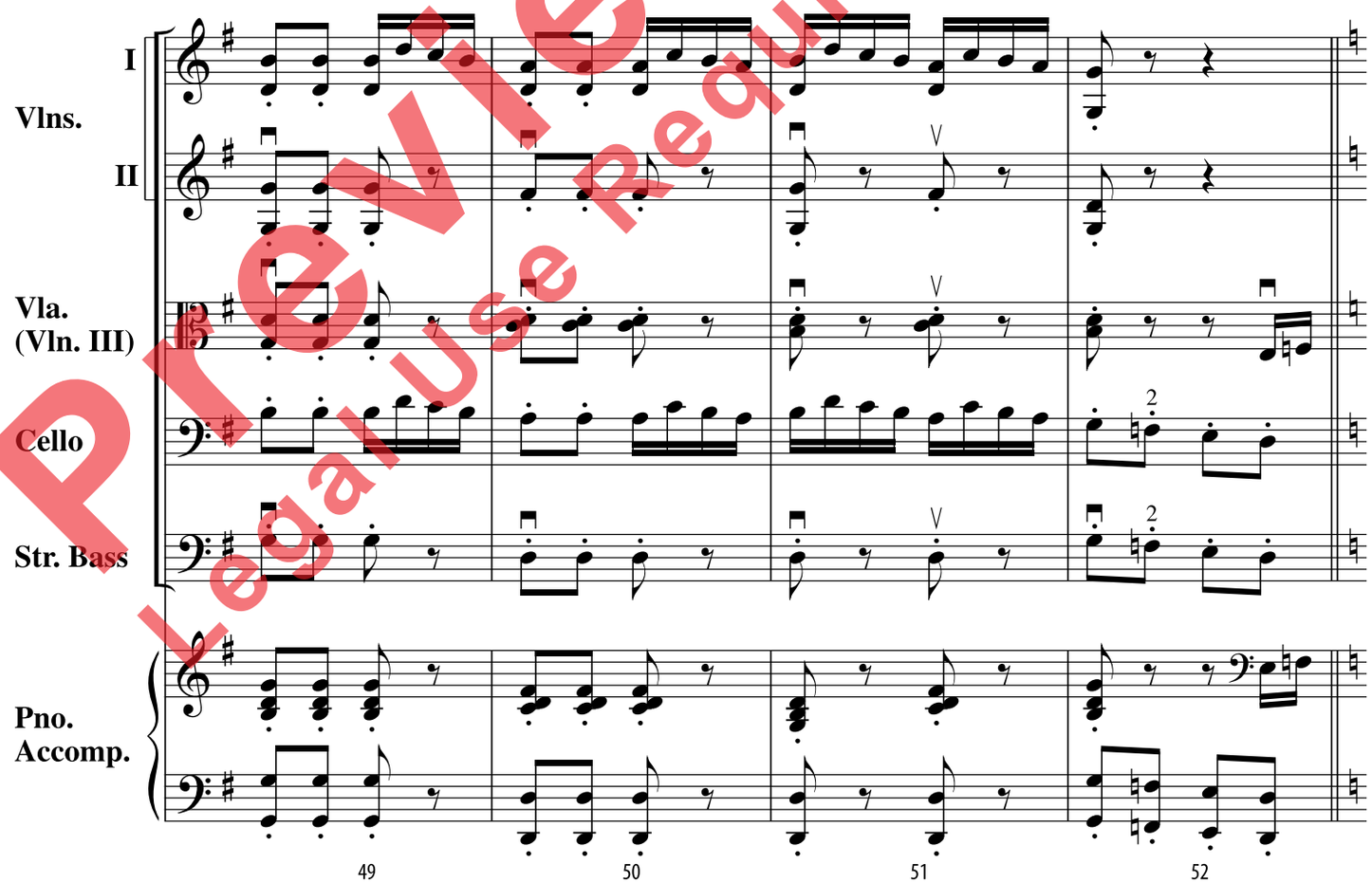

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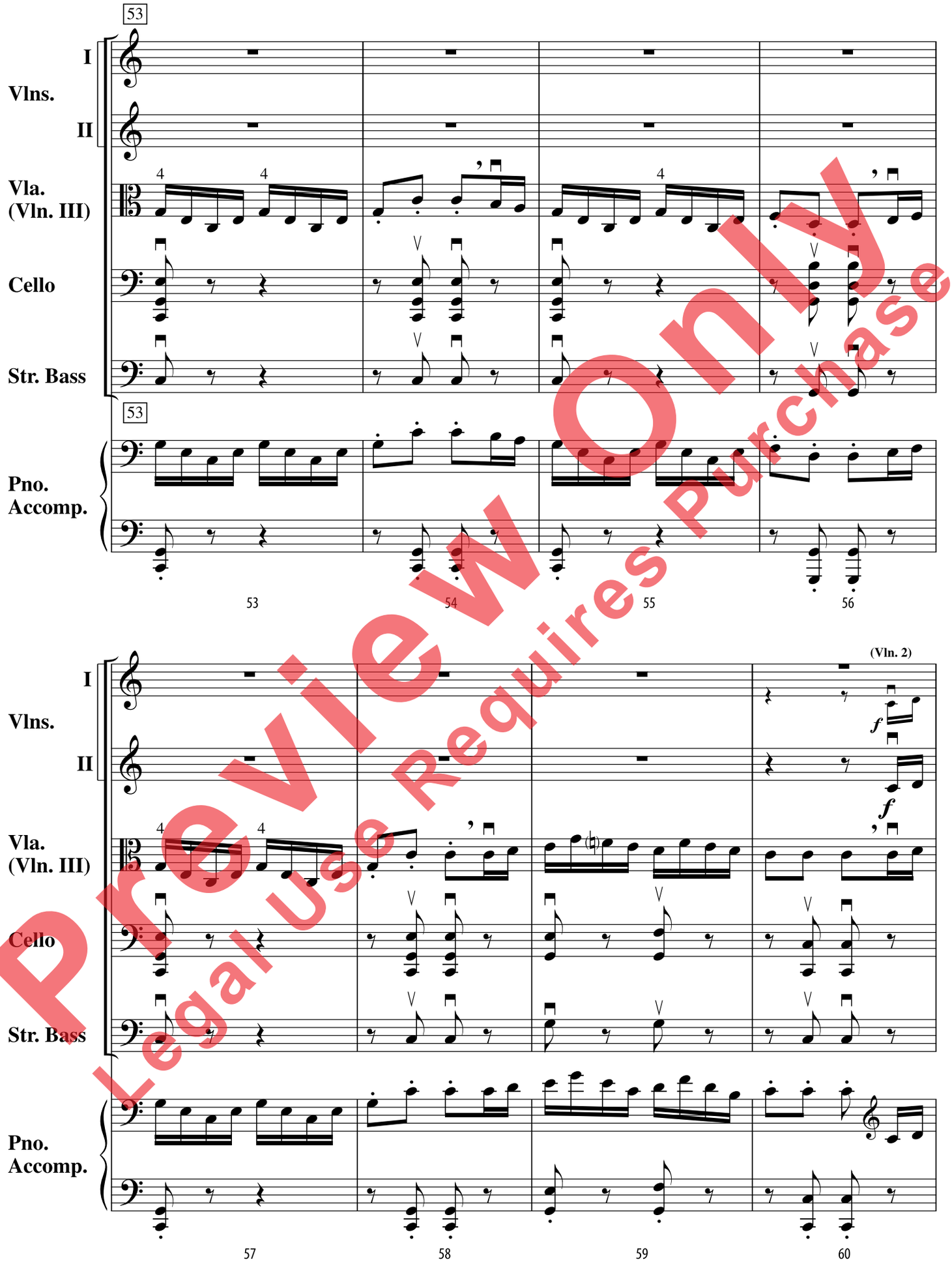

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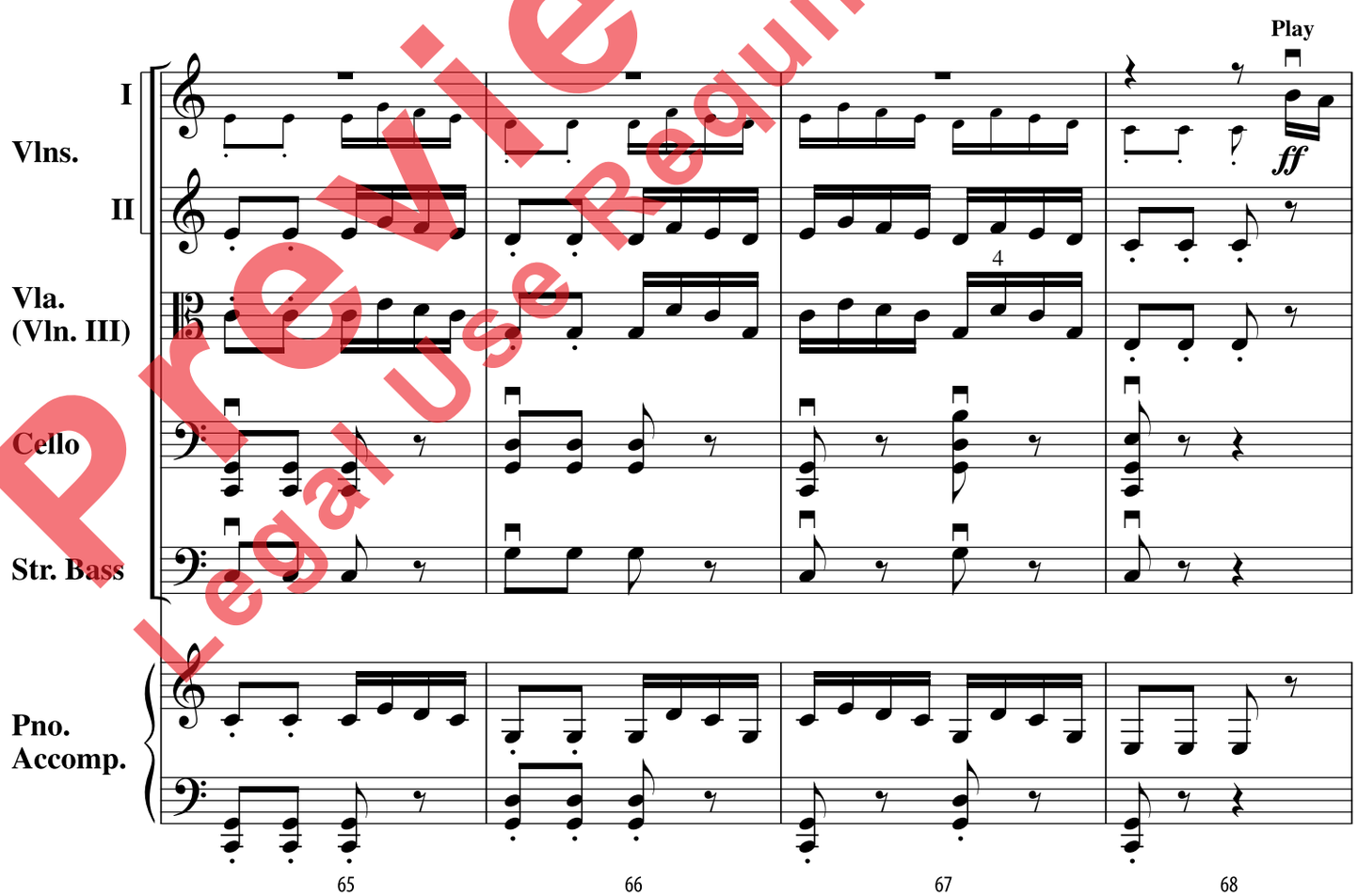

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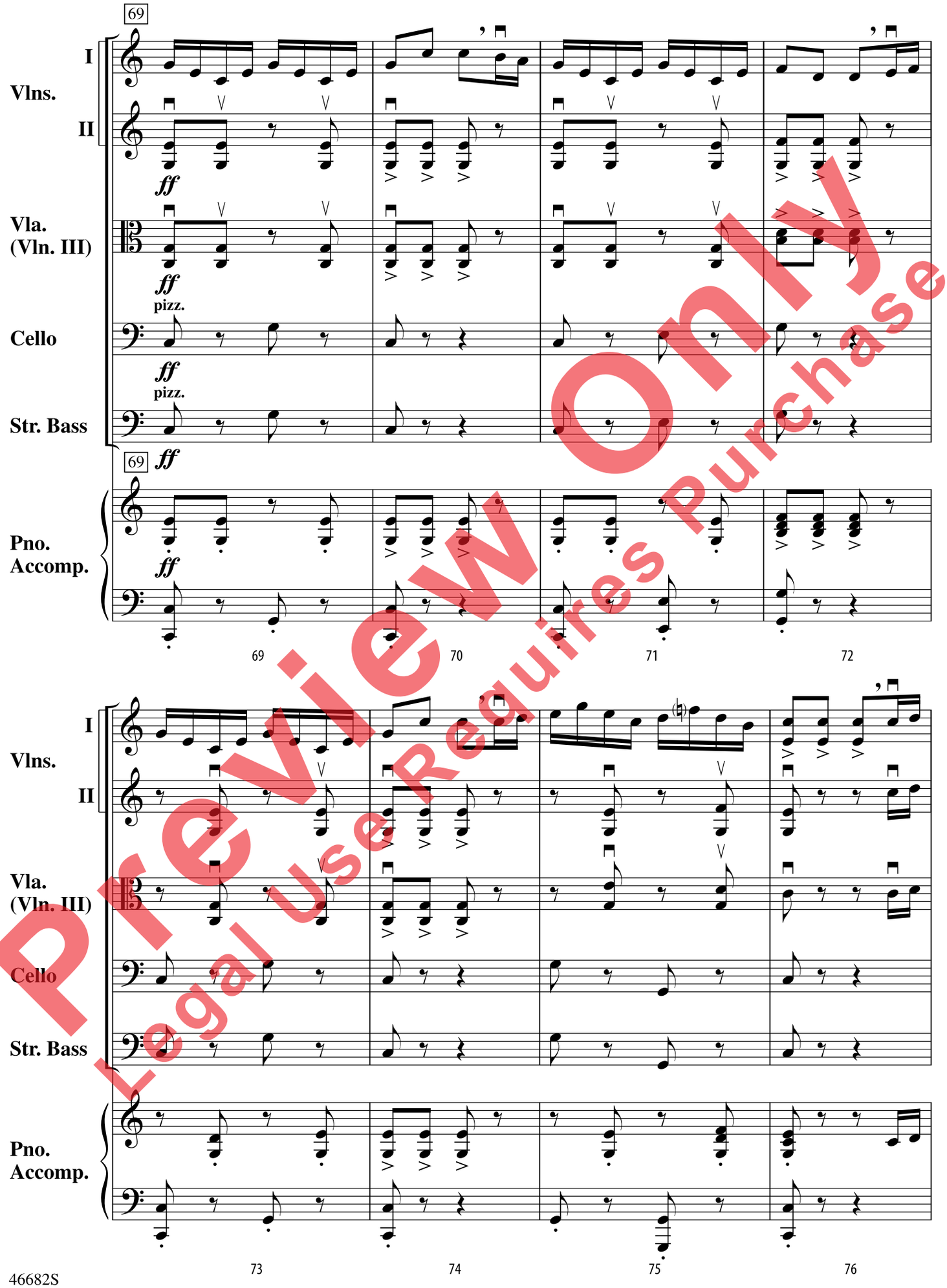

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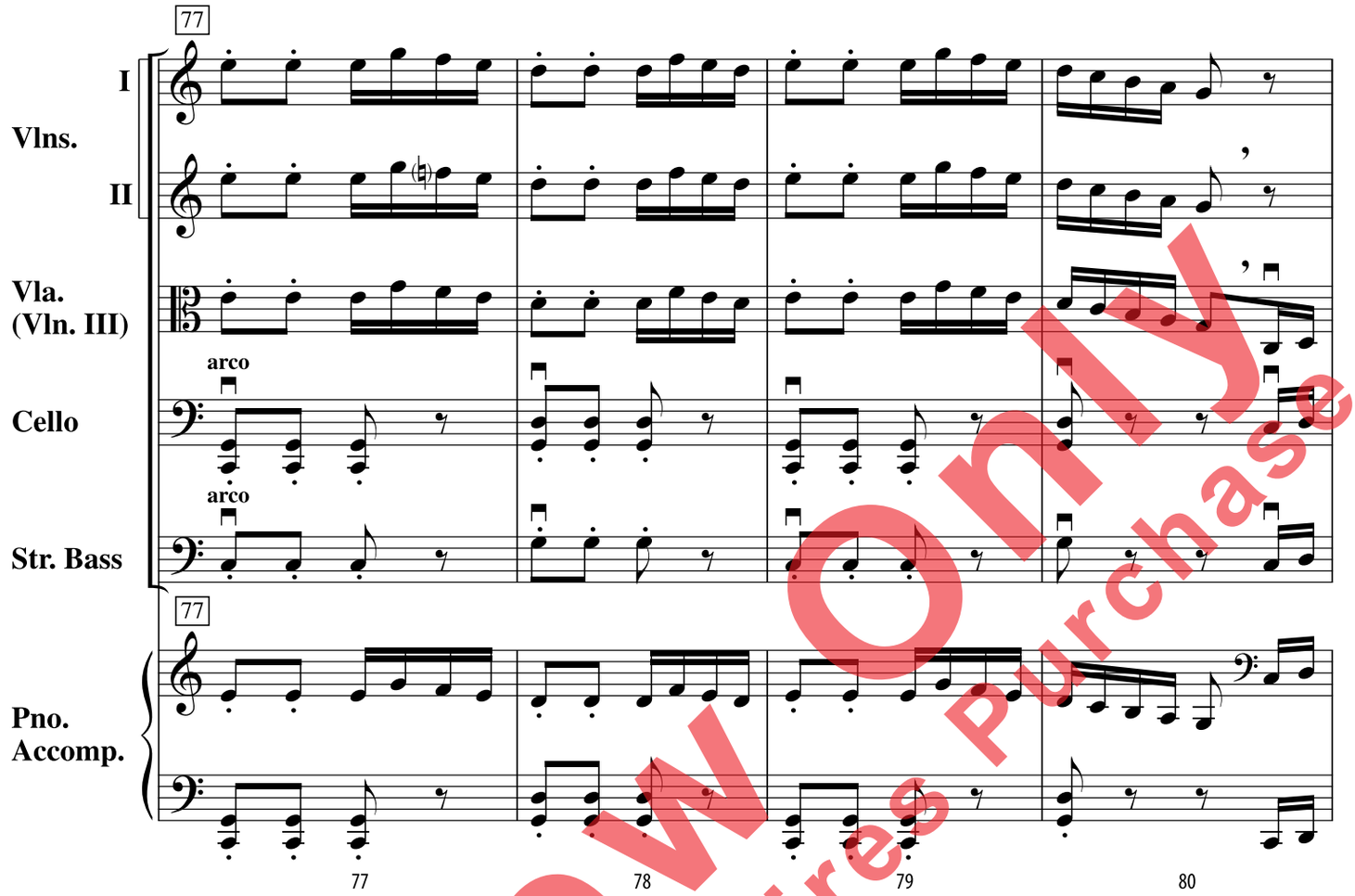

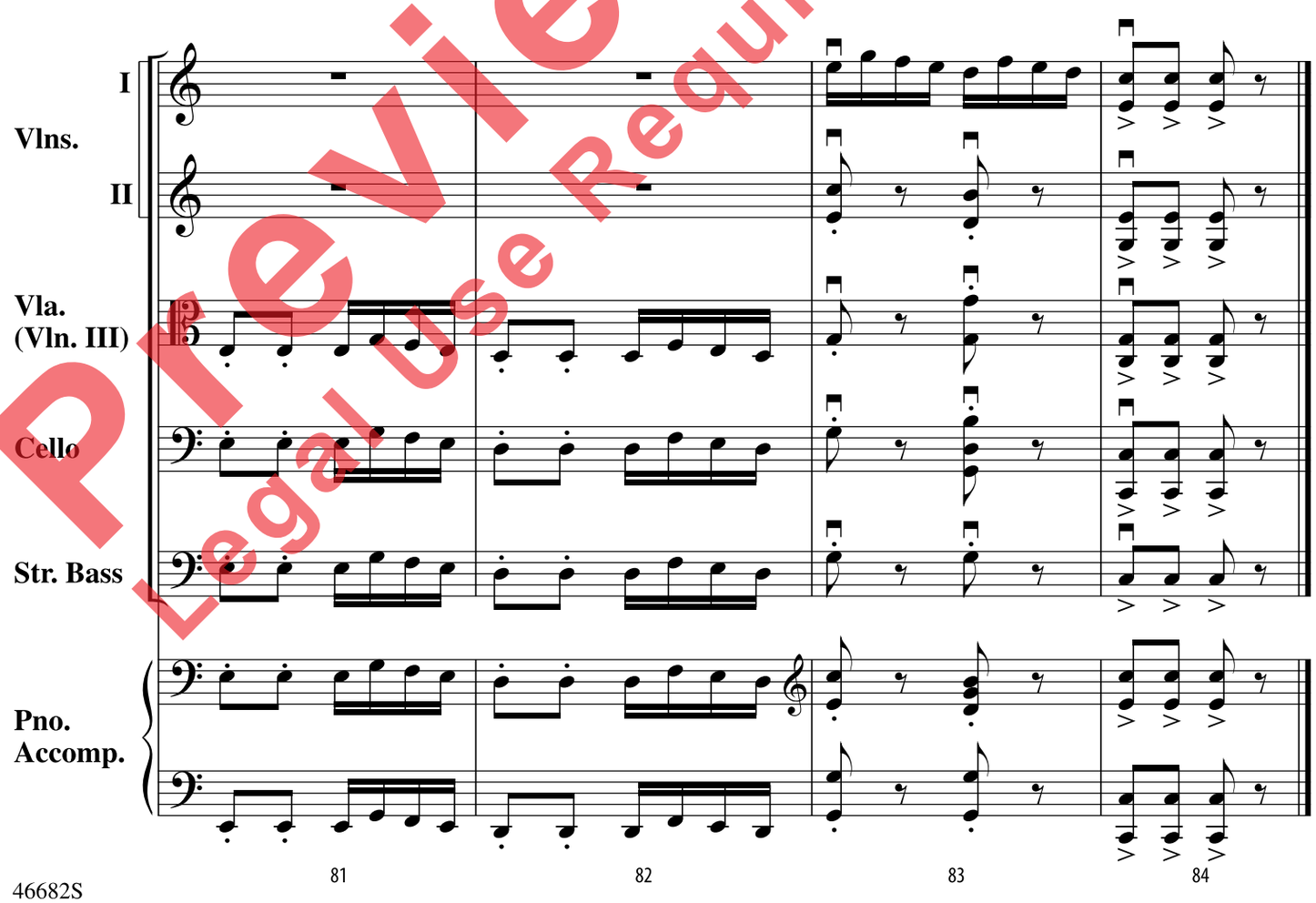

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