The Courage Within

By Michael Kamuf

INSTRUMENTATION

1 Full Score
8 Violin I
8 Violin II
5 Violin III (Viola 𝄞)
5 Viola
5 Cello
5 String Bass

FLEX PARTS

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PROGRAM NOTES

The contrasting themes and the accompaniment figures of this piece were written to convey a sense of perseverance and determination as they change and morph slightly throughout the piece.

Perseverance is a key to achieving personal goals. Suggestions for a discussion within your rehearsal on this topic are:

- Define perseverance.
- Give an example of a time when you had to work hard and persevere.
- How does the composer convey determination in this piece?
- How can perseverance help me achieve my goals?

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This piece begins with a driving figure in the cello and bass that should have a groove. The A theme of the piece is first stated by violin I beginning in measure 4. This theme is based on a pitch cell of D, E, G, F♯, B, and A, while the beginning cello and bass figure is loosely based on the retrograde of this cell: A, B, F♯, G, E, and D. The cellos begin the B theme at measure 12 with pizzicato accompaniment from the ensemble. A strong subdivision of the beat from the ensemble, here and throughout the piece, will help in maintaining tempo. The A theme returns at measure 24 in violin 2 and viola with a different accompaniment from the first statement. Violins I and II state the return of the B theme in thirds at measure 33 with bowed accompaniment in the viola, cello, and bass. Measure 41 begins the new C theme with the softest dynamics of the piece. This theme is restated at measure 49, with the cellos taking over the melody before passing it back to violin I in measure 53. This passage should build dynamically to measure 56.

Measure 59 begins what I think of as a "groovin' recap" of the A theme, with cello and bass stating the cell notes of the beginning groove figure, answered by violin I and viola stating the melody cell pitches. The B theme returns at measure 67, with violin II stating the original melody and violin I stating this melody a sixth higher. The piece should increase in intensity and volume at measure 75 and stay at this level through the end.

I hope you and your students enjoy studying and performing *The Courage Within*!

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

In orchestral music, there are many editorial markings that are open for interpretation. In an effort to maintain consistency and clarity you may find some of these markings in this piece. In general, markings for fingerings, bowing patterns, and other items will only be marked with their initial appearance. For a more detailed explanation of our editorial markings, please download the free PDF at www.alfred.com/stringeditorial.

x	–	’	(♭), (♯), (♮)	⊓ ⊓ or ∨ ∨
extended position	**shift**	**bow lift/reset**	**high or low fingerings**	**hooked bowings**

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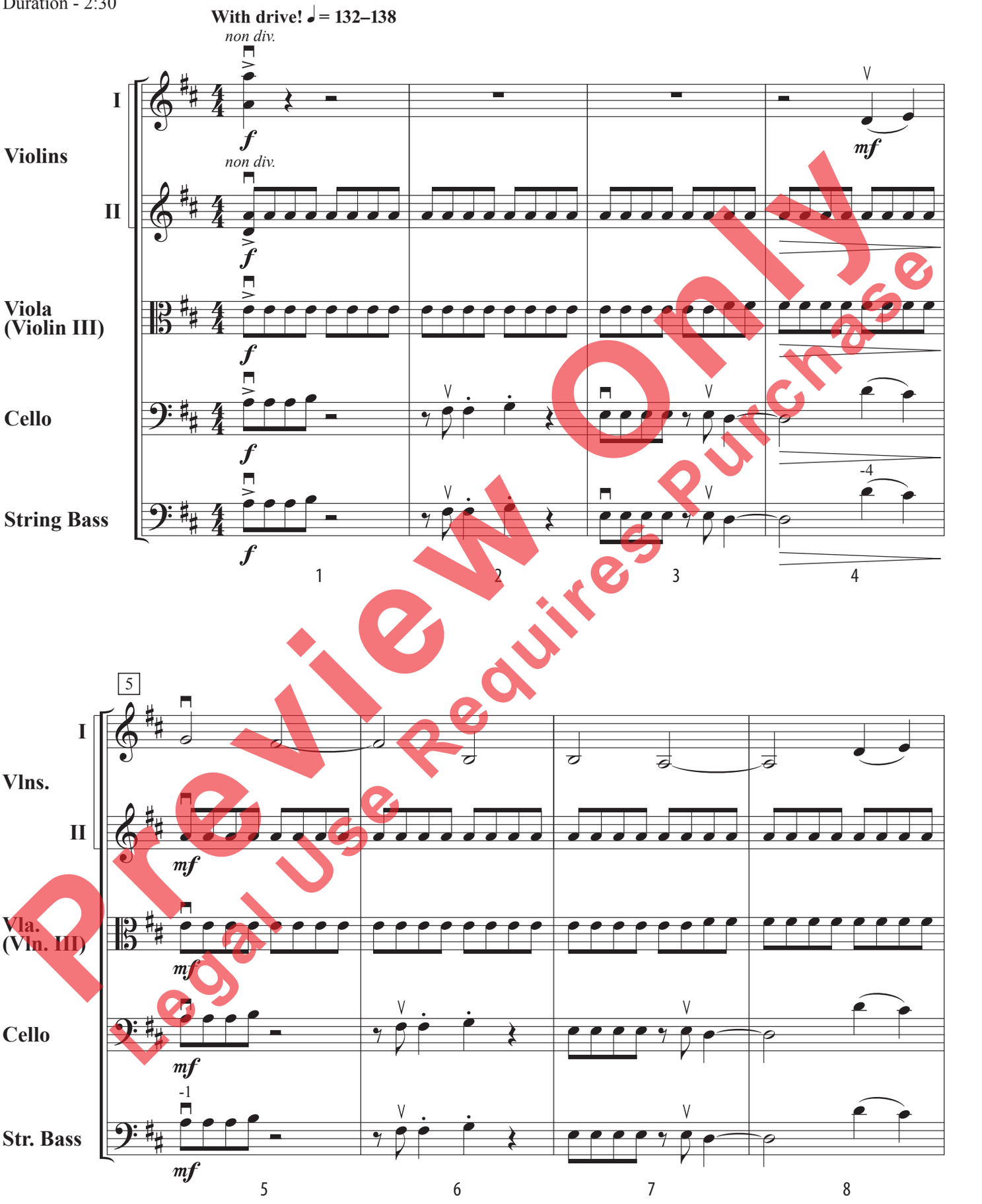
The Courage Within

FULL SCORE
Duration - 2:30

By Michael Kamuf (ASCAP)



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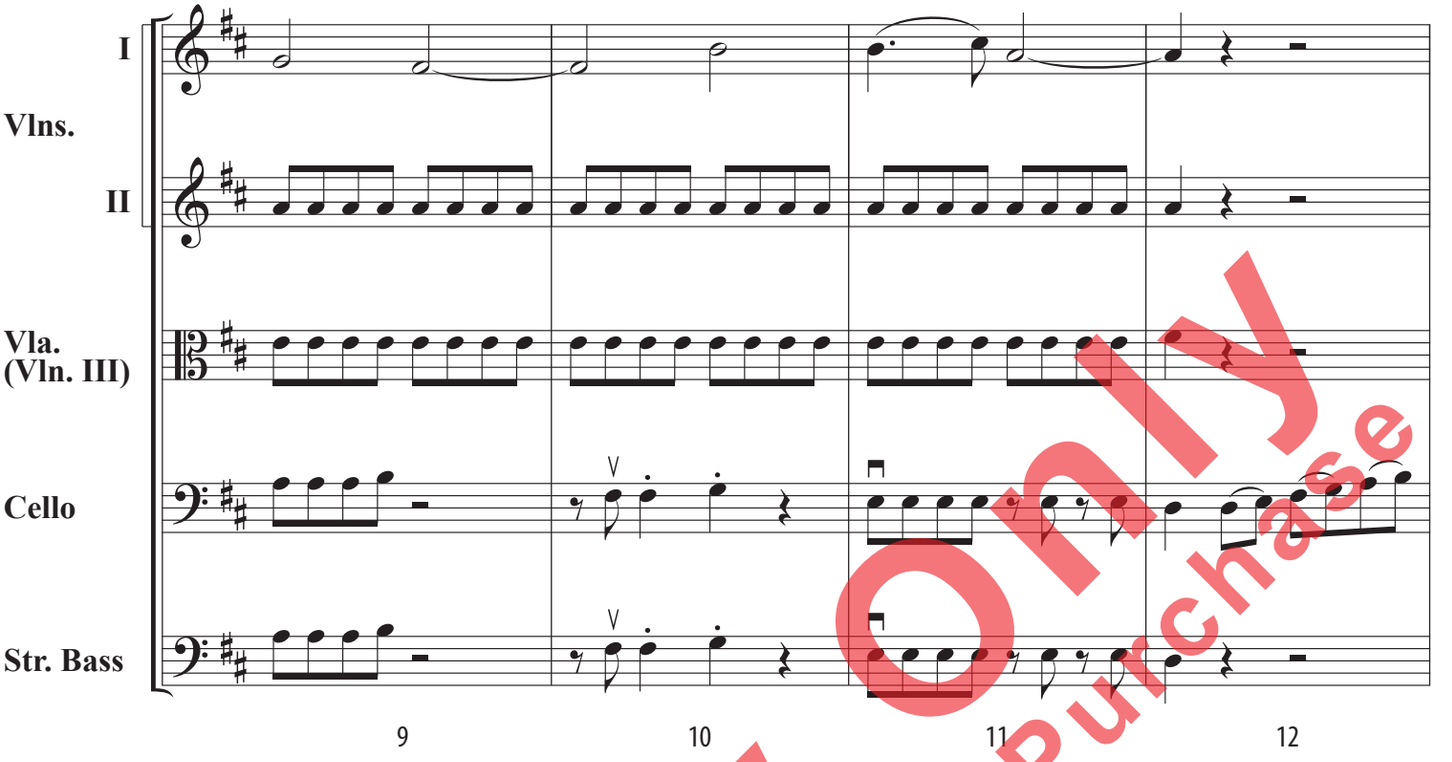

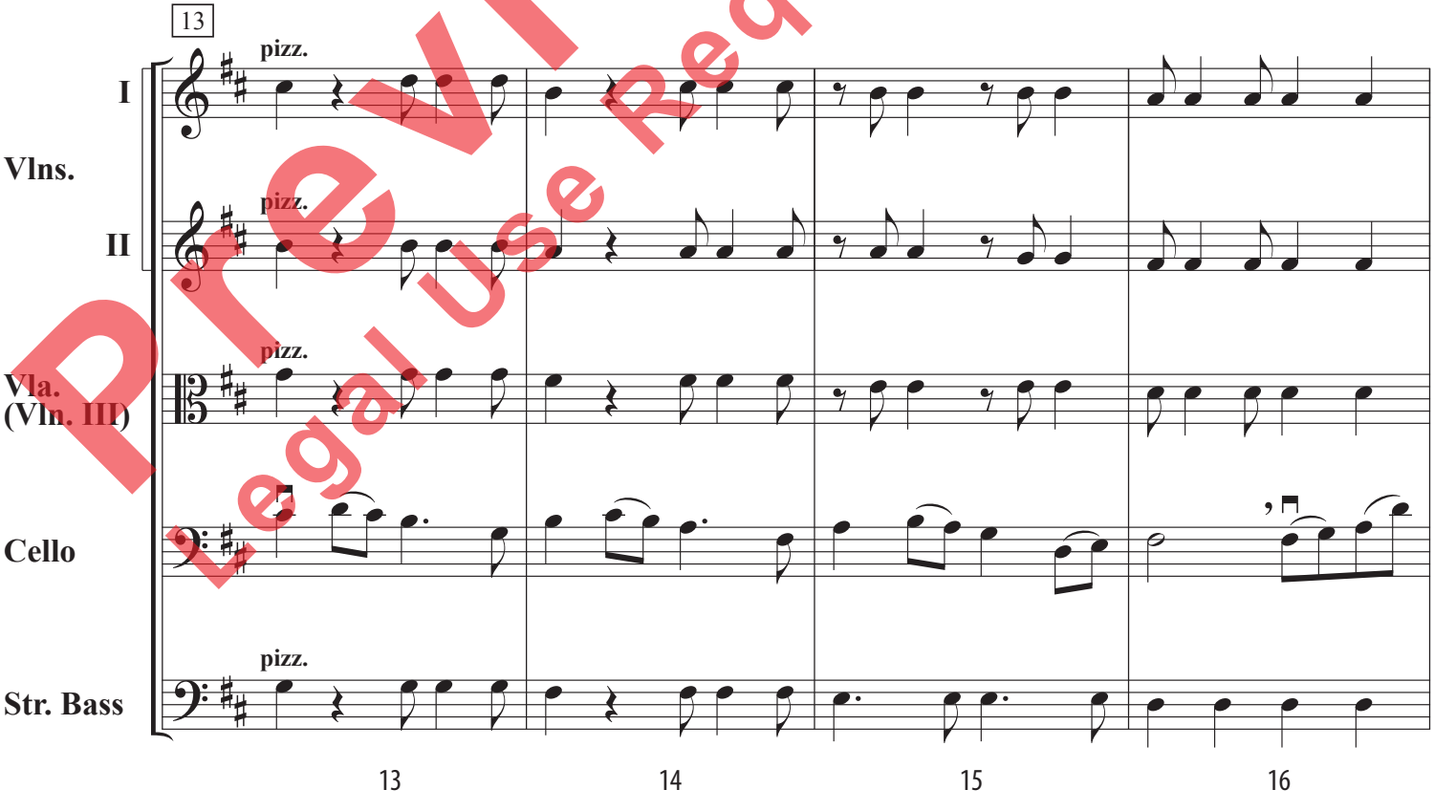

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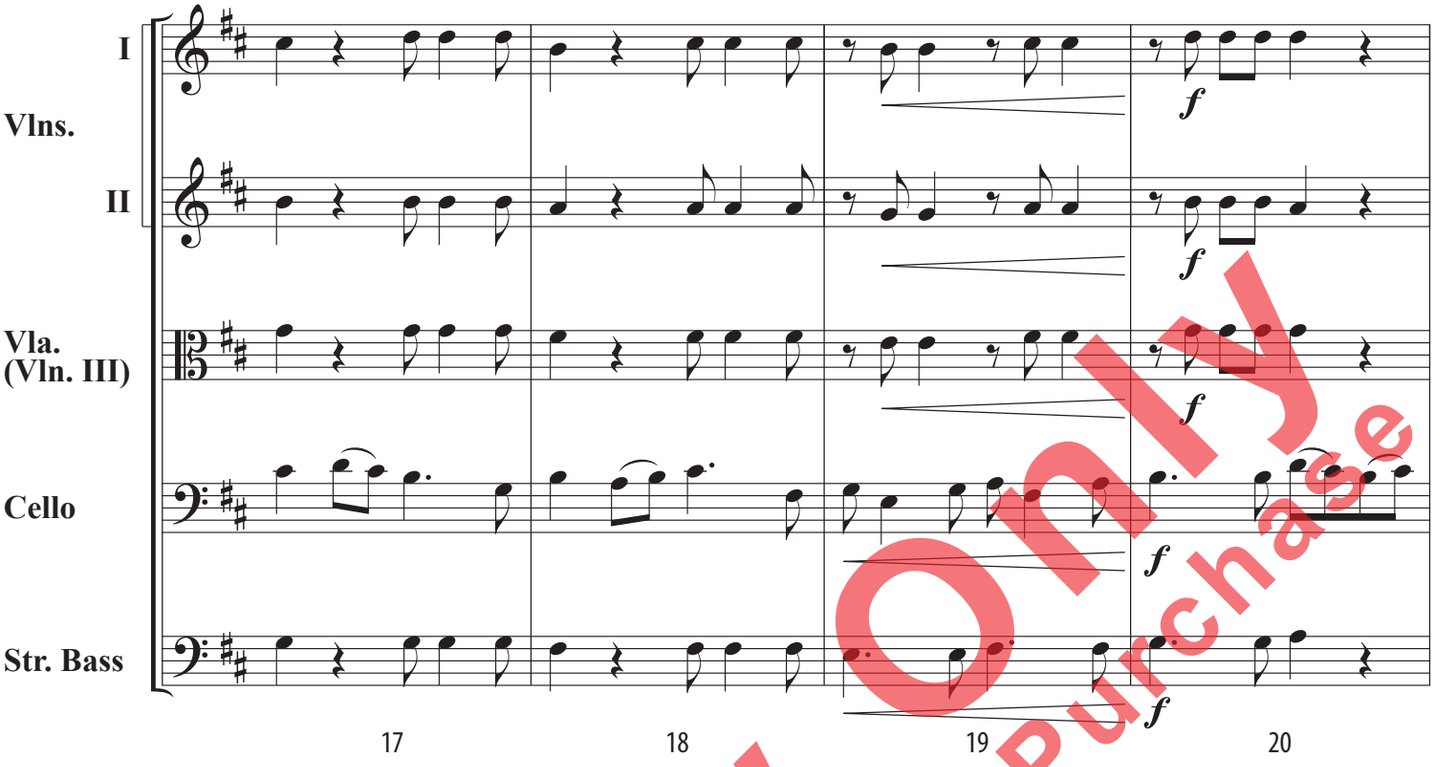

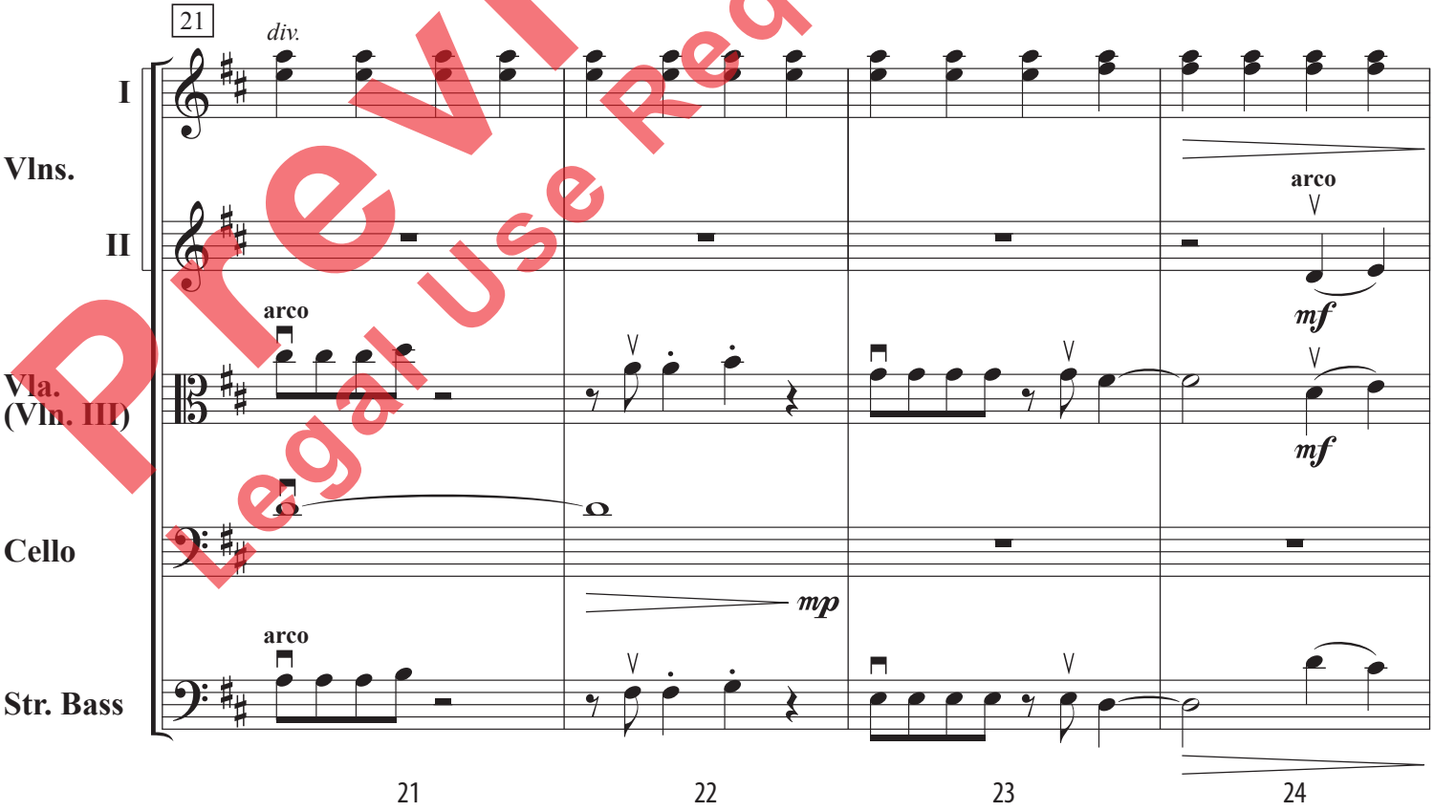

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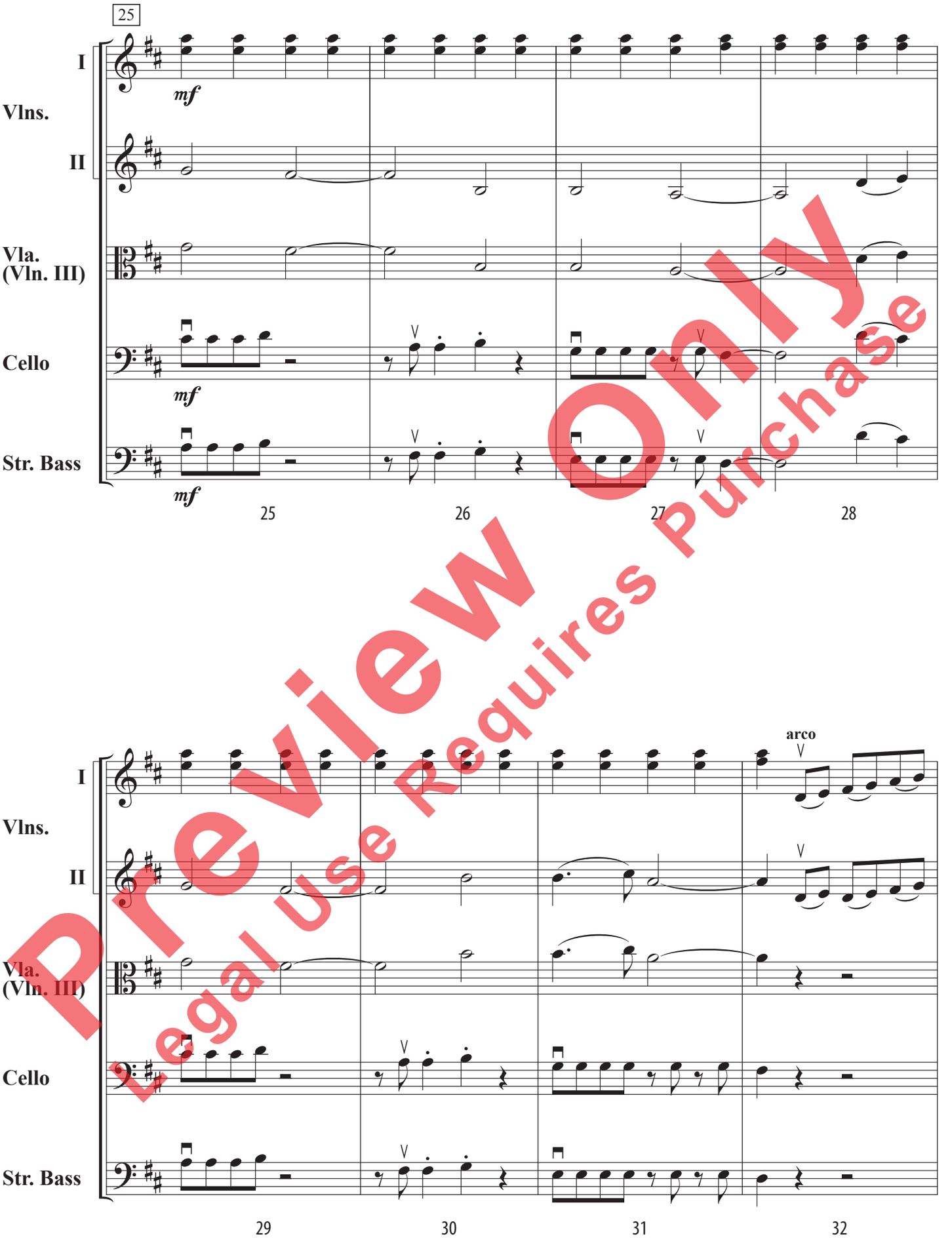

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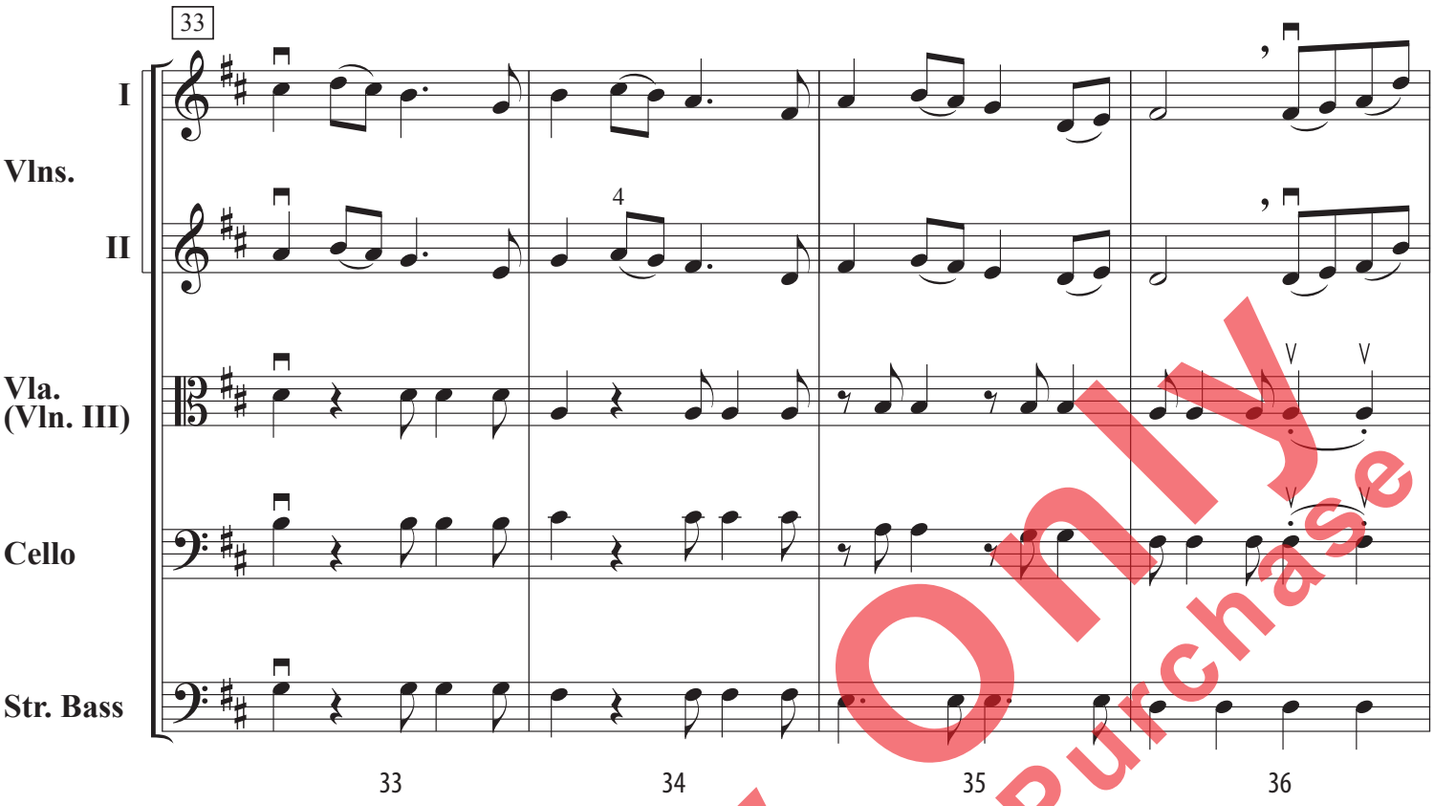

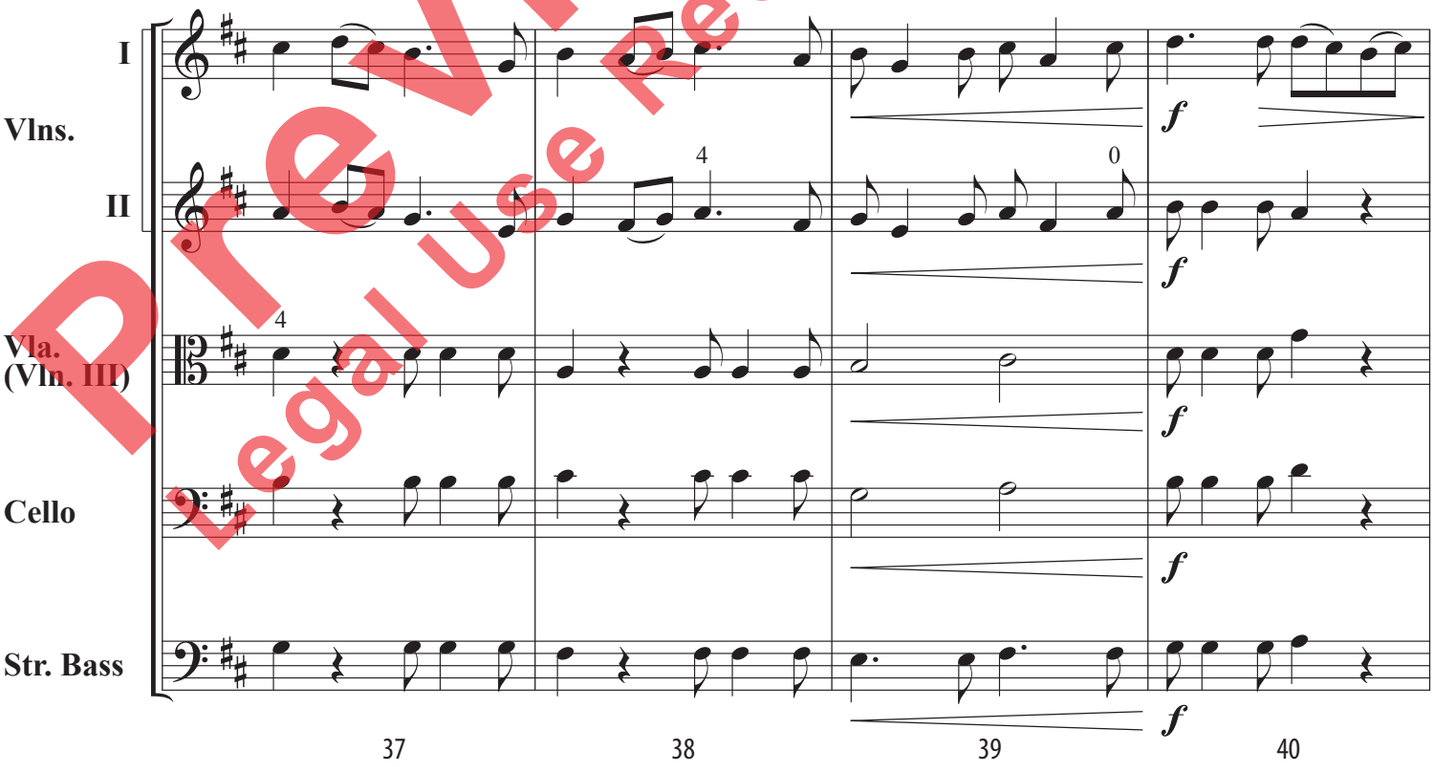

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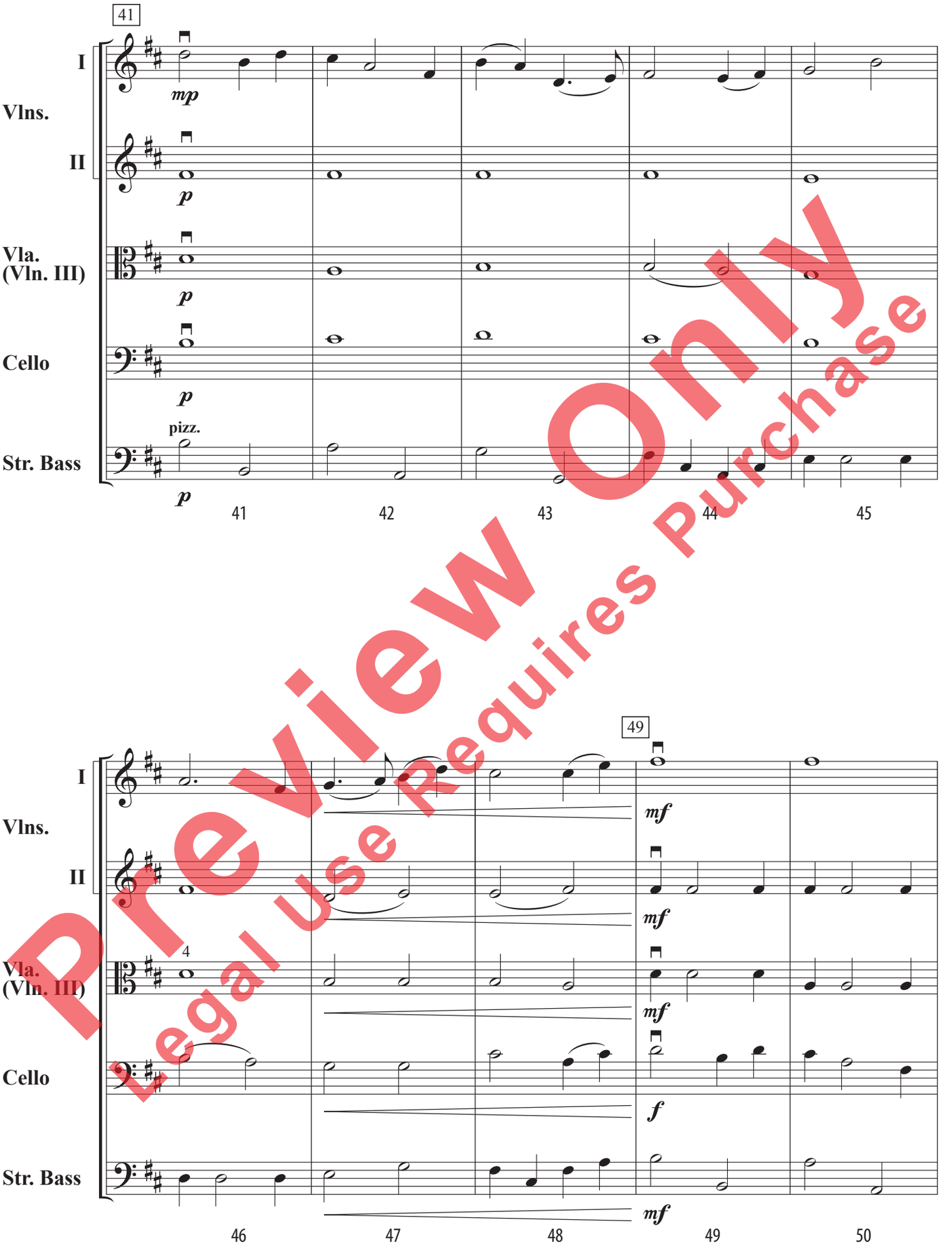

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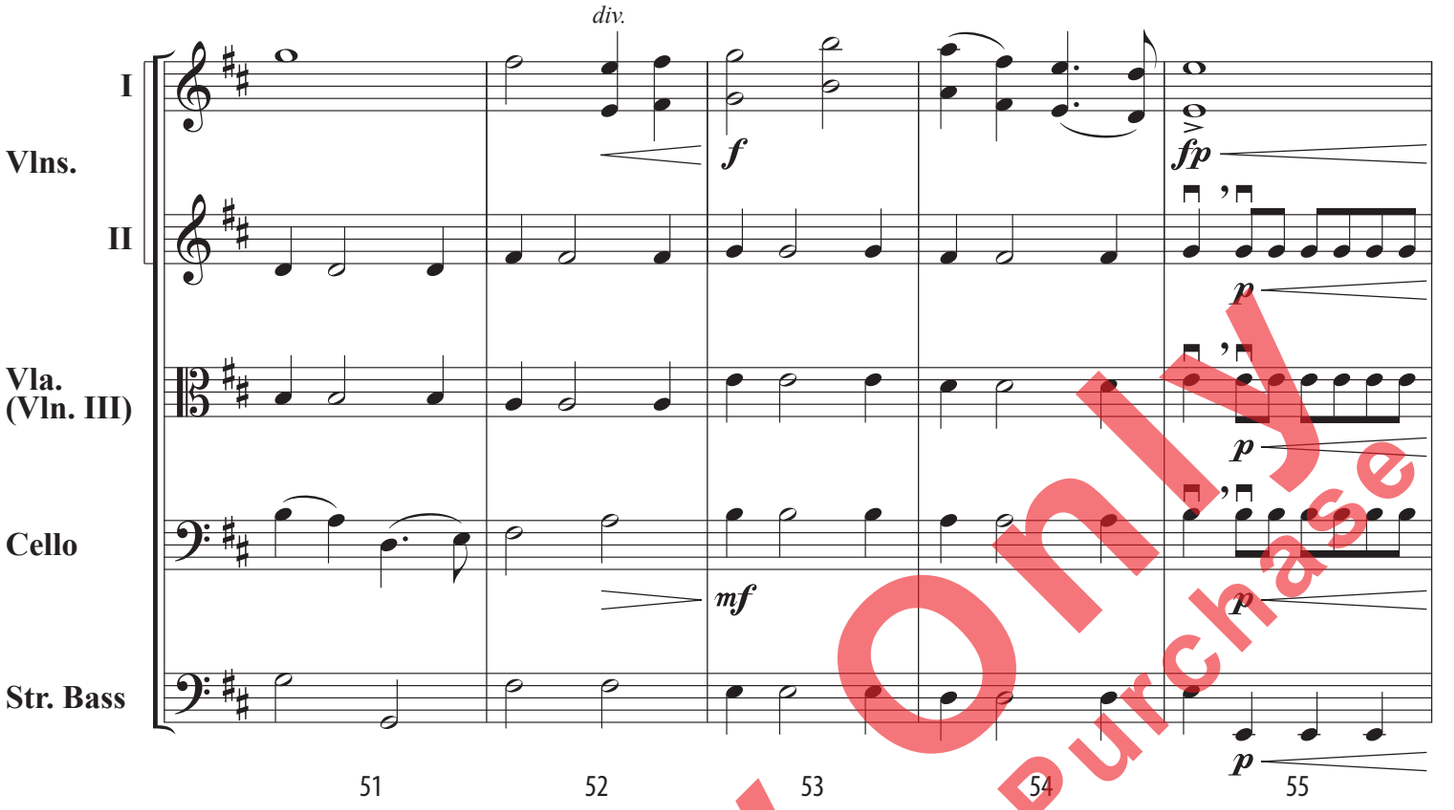

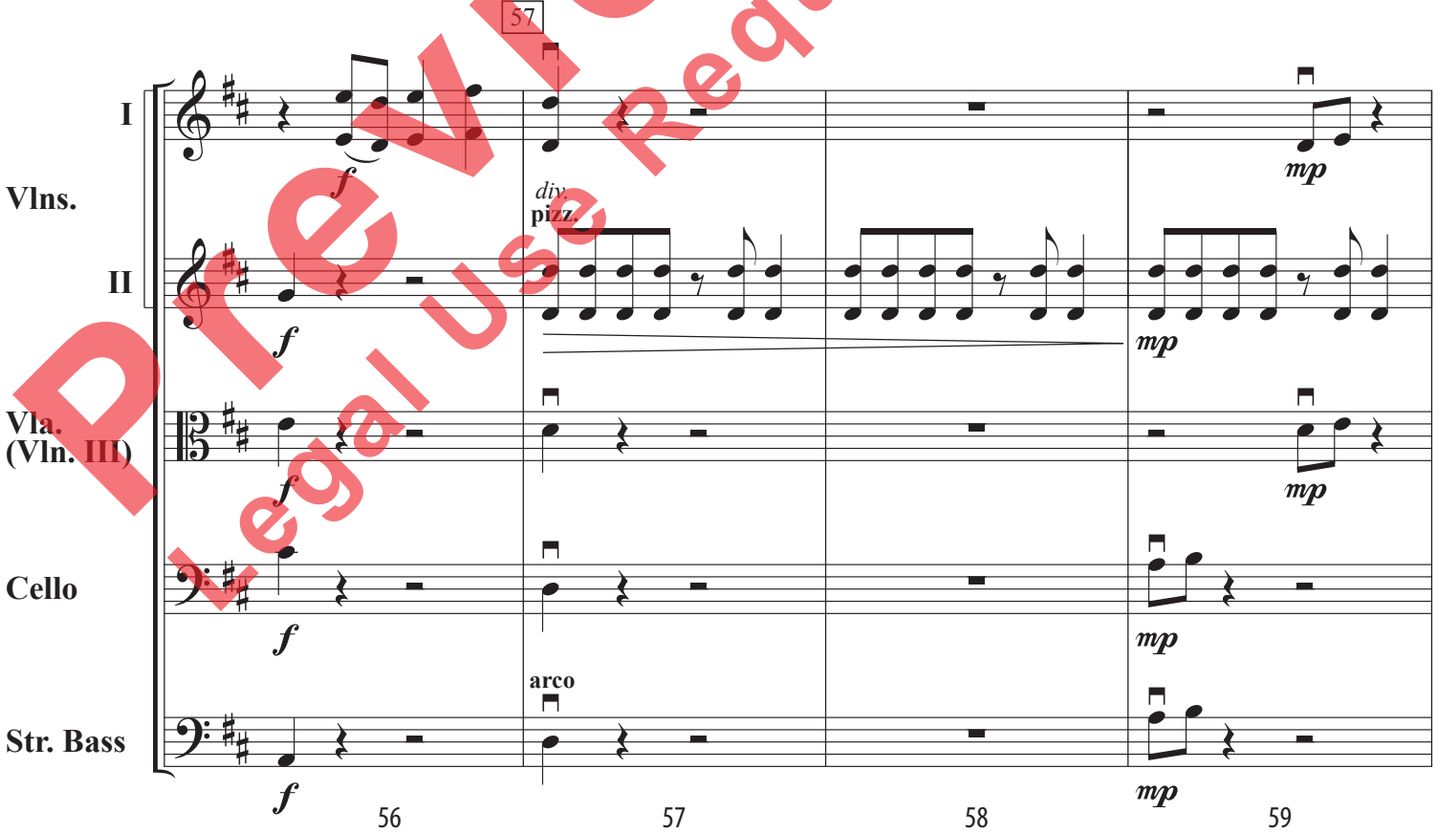

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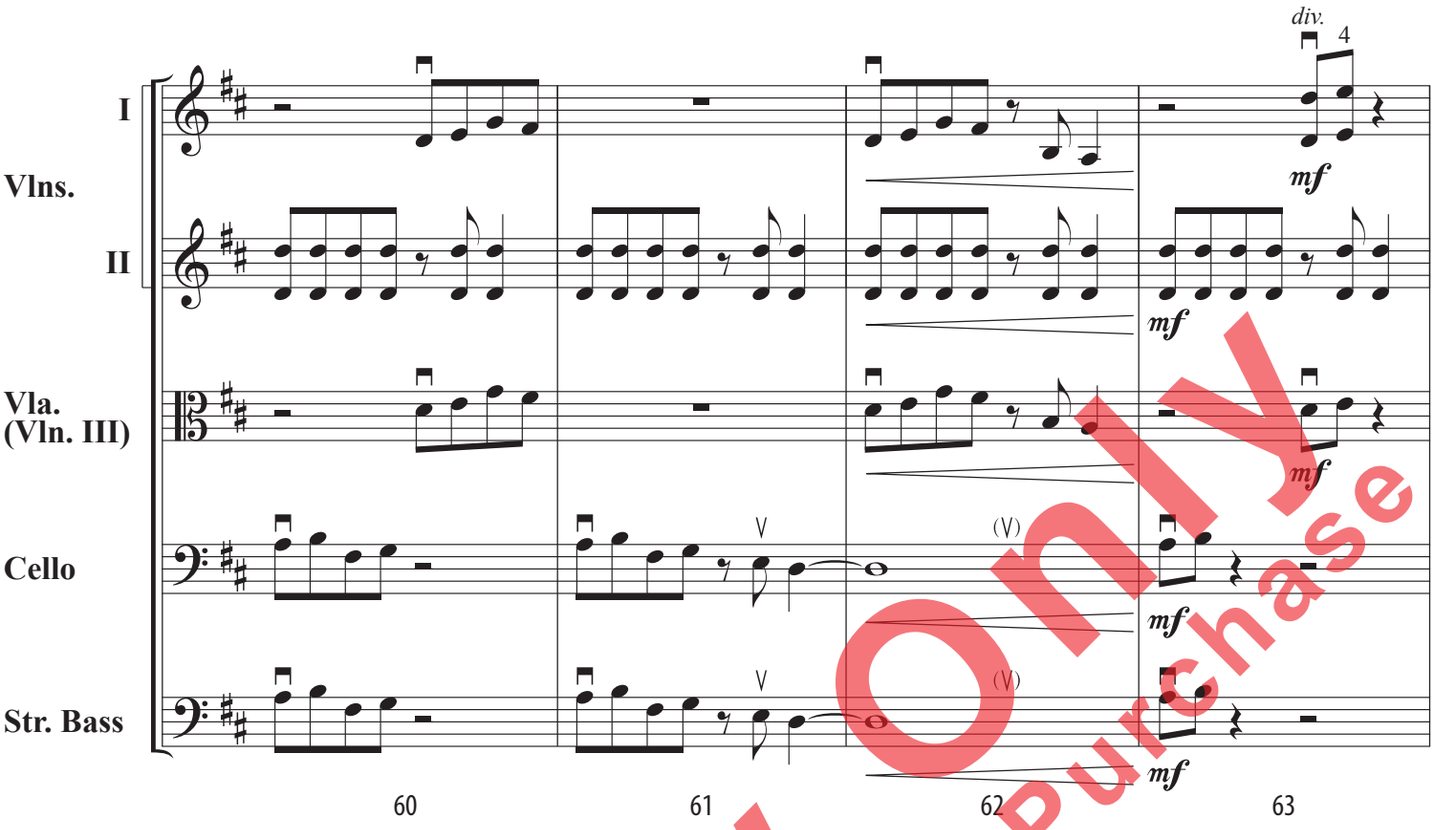

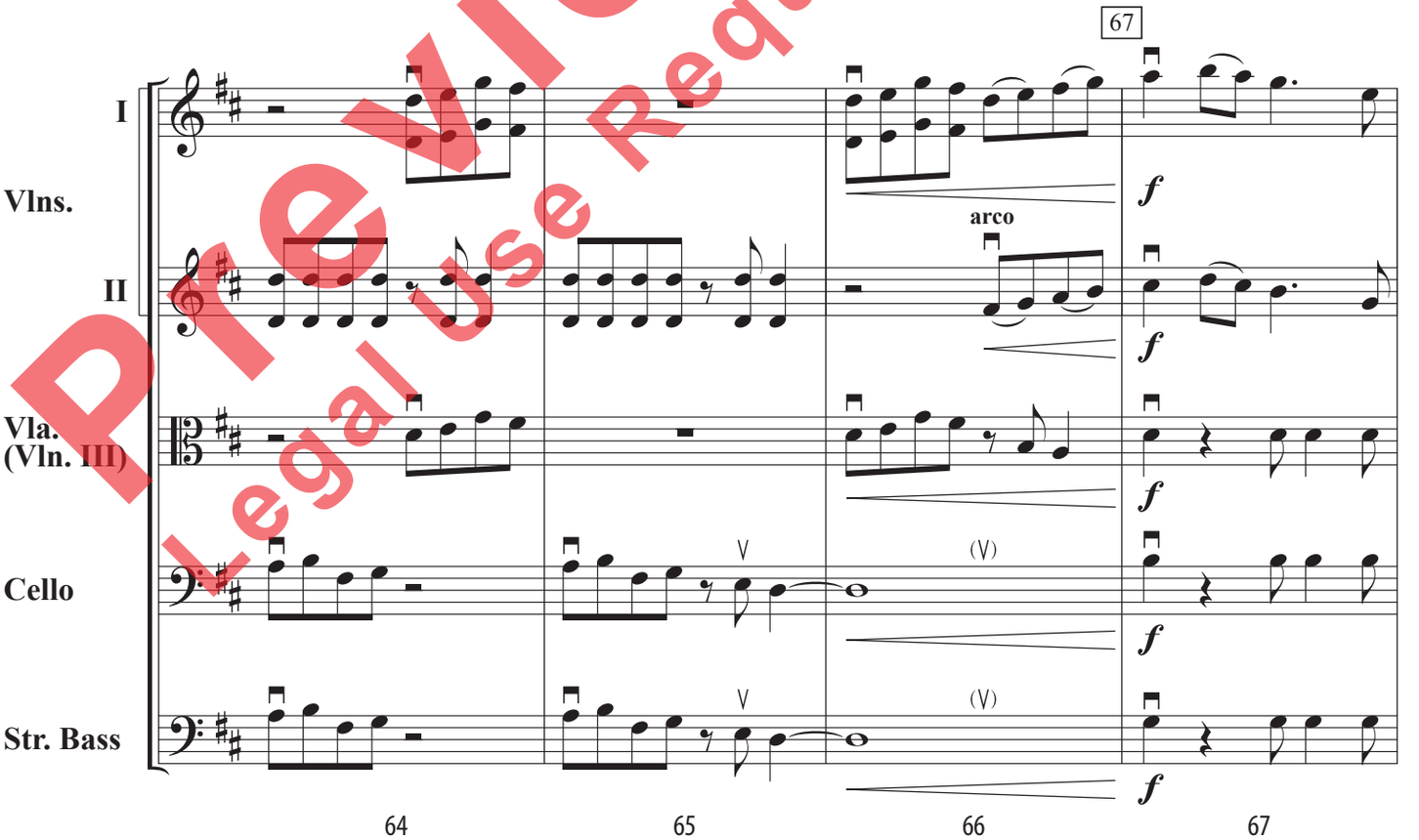

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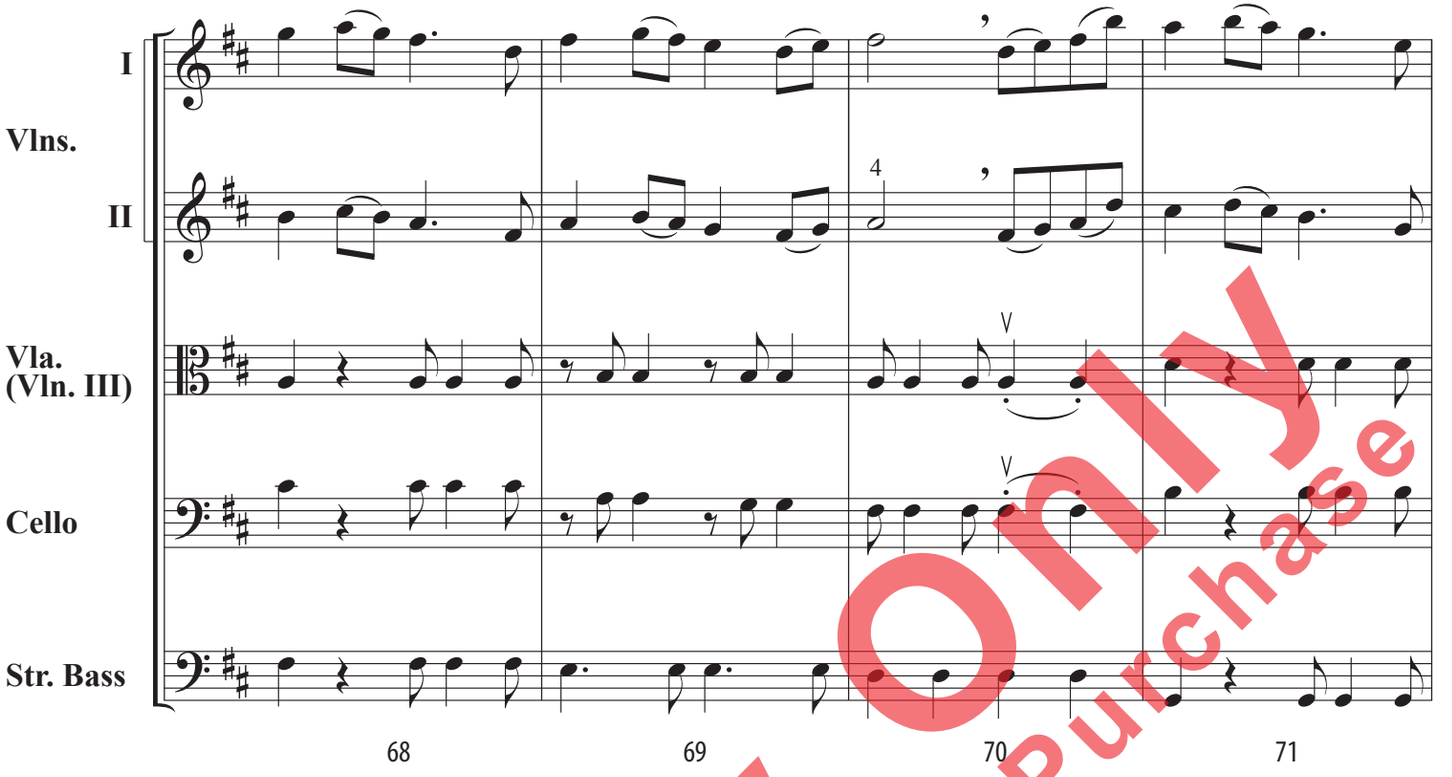

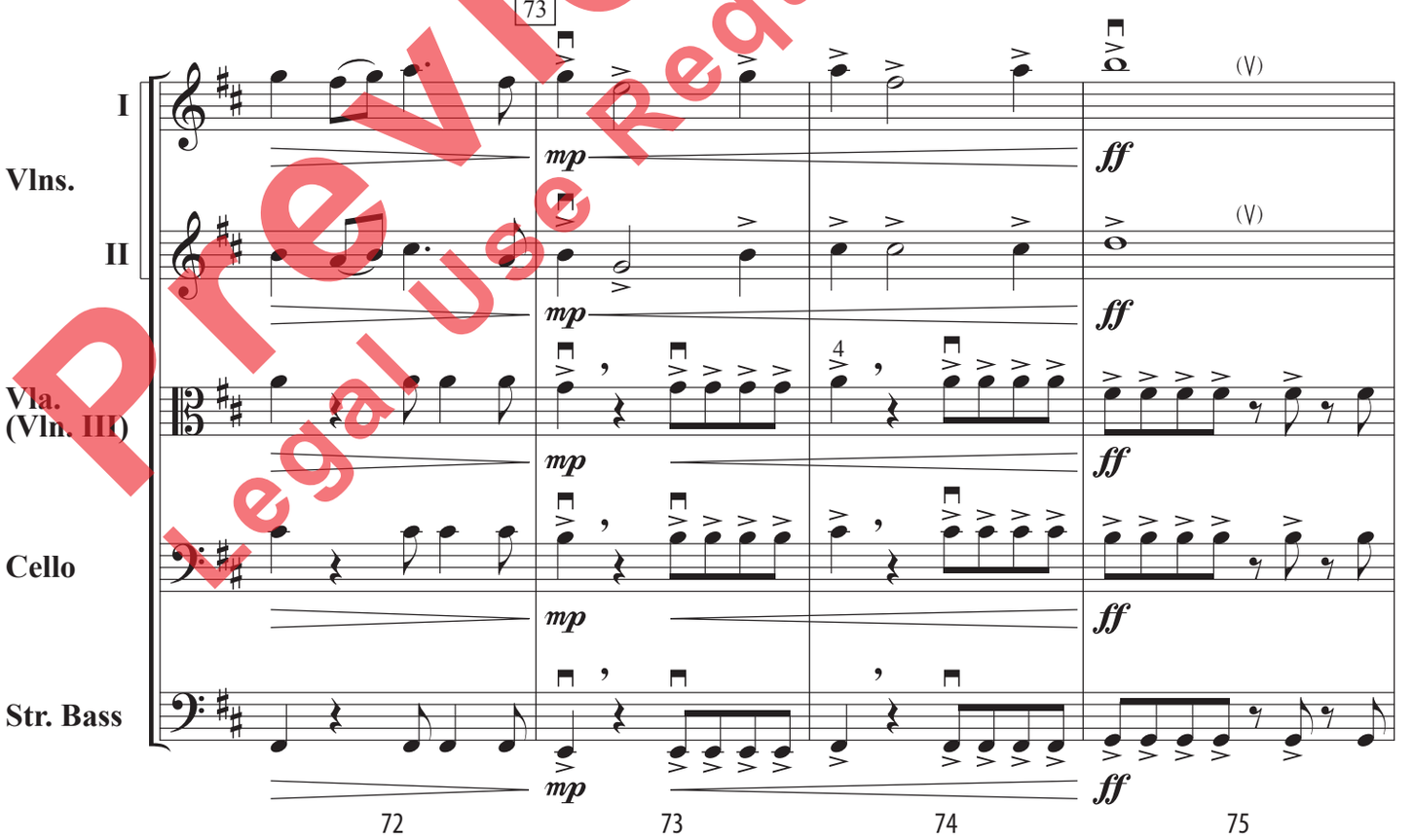

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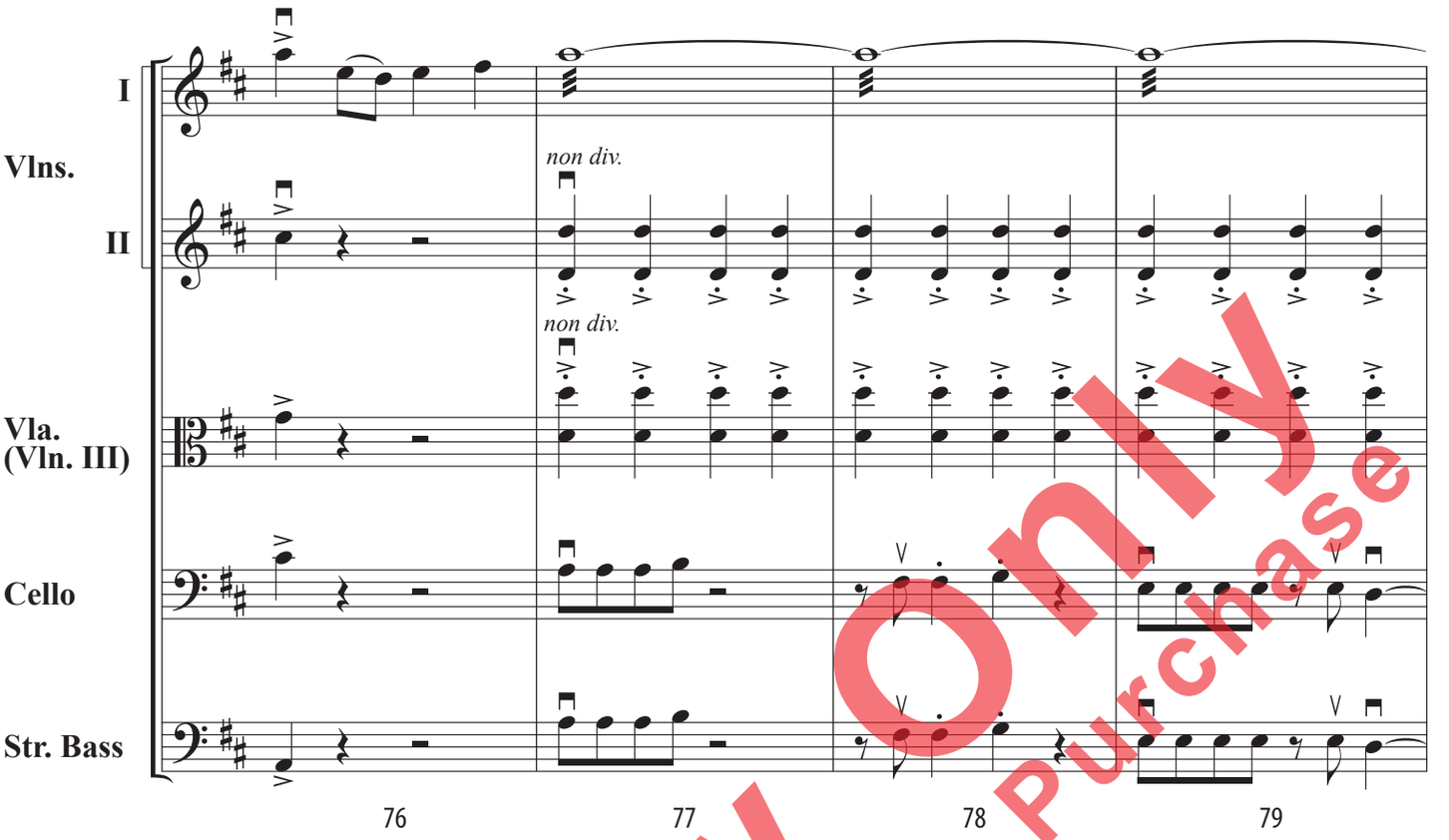

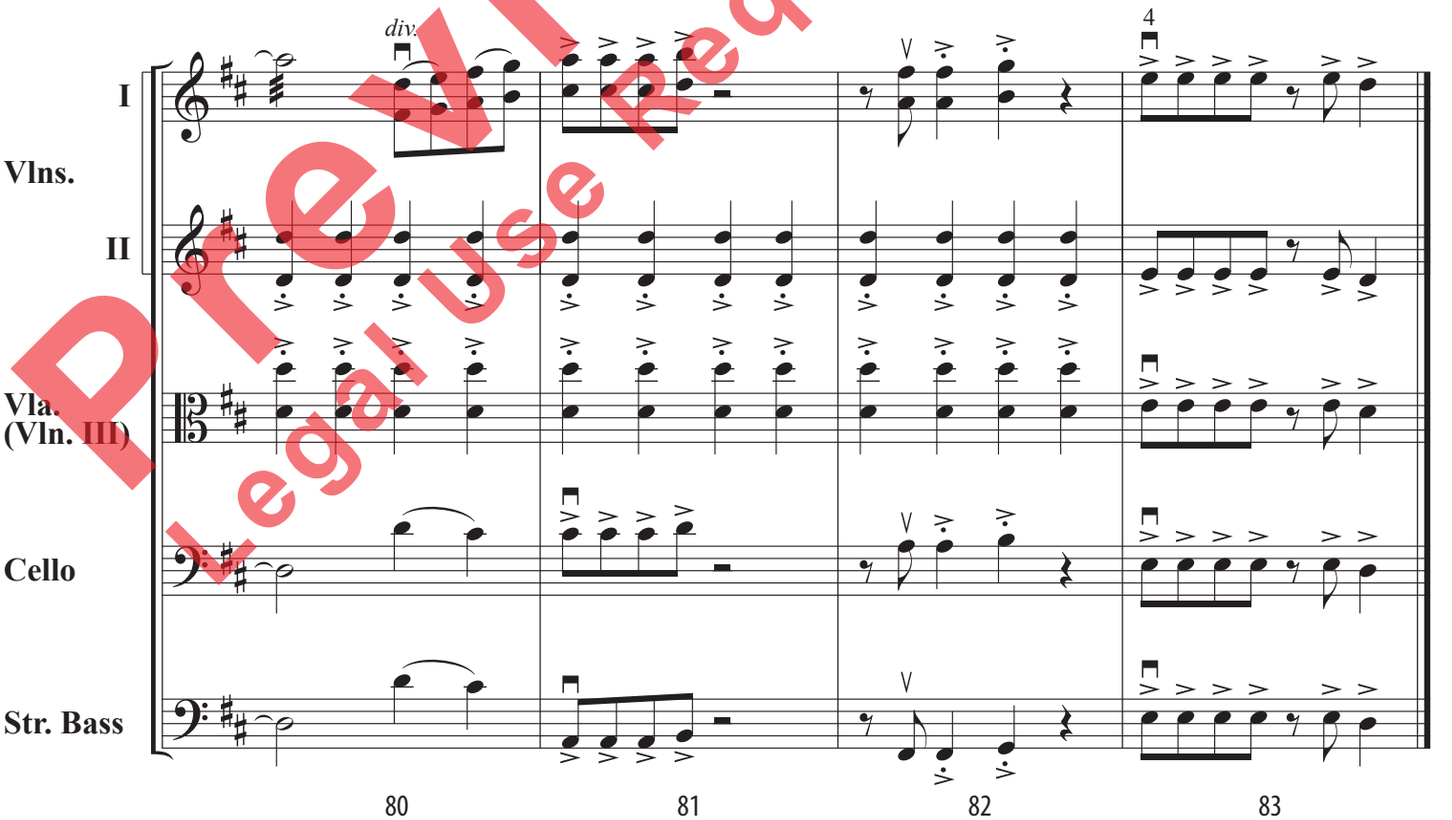

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