Climbing Above the Clouds

By Michael Kamuf

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INSTRUMENTATION

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

PROGRAM NOTES

Inspired by the beginning moments of flight, this work captures the excitement and exhilaration of flying through the clouds. These emotions are conveyed in the piece with the use of flowing melodies, driving rhythms, and a short developmental "groove" passage that gradually ascends through the D major scale.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This piece begins with and makes great use of the inverse "pepperoni pizza" rhythmic and bowing pattern (two quarter notes followed by four eighth notes). The A Theme occurs first at measure 5 in the violin 1 part. Here and throughout the work, all players should adjust dynamics to allow the melody to be at the forefront.

The B theme is introduced at measure 21, with the violin 2 and viola parts stating the melody. Violin 1, cello, and basses should subdivide the beat here so the pizzicato accompaniment is clear and precise. A second statement of the B theme occurs at measure 29, with violin 1 playing the melody.

A brief developmental "groove" passage occurs at measure 37, which should build from piano at measure 37 through the forte in measure 43. The A theme returns at measure 45 in the cello and bass parts, and a strong subdivision of the beat from the upper strings will help with the precision of the pizzicato figures. Violin 1 plays the final statement of the A theme at measure 53. The dynamics from measure 56 through the end will create a powerful and satisfying conclusion. The piece should peak in intensity and volume at measure 61.

I hope you and your students enjoy studying and performing *Climbing Above the Clouds*!

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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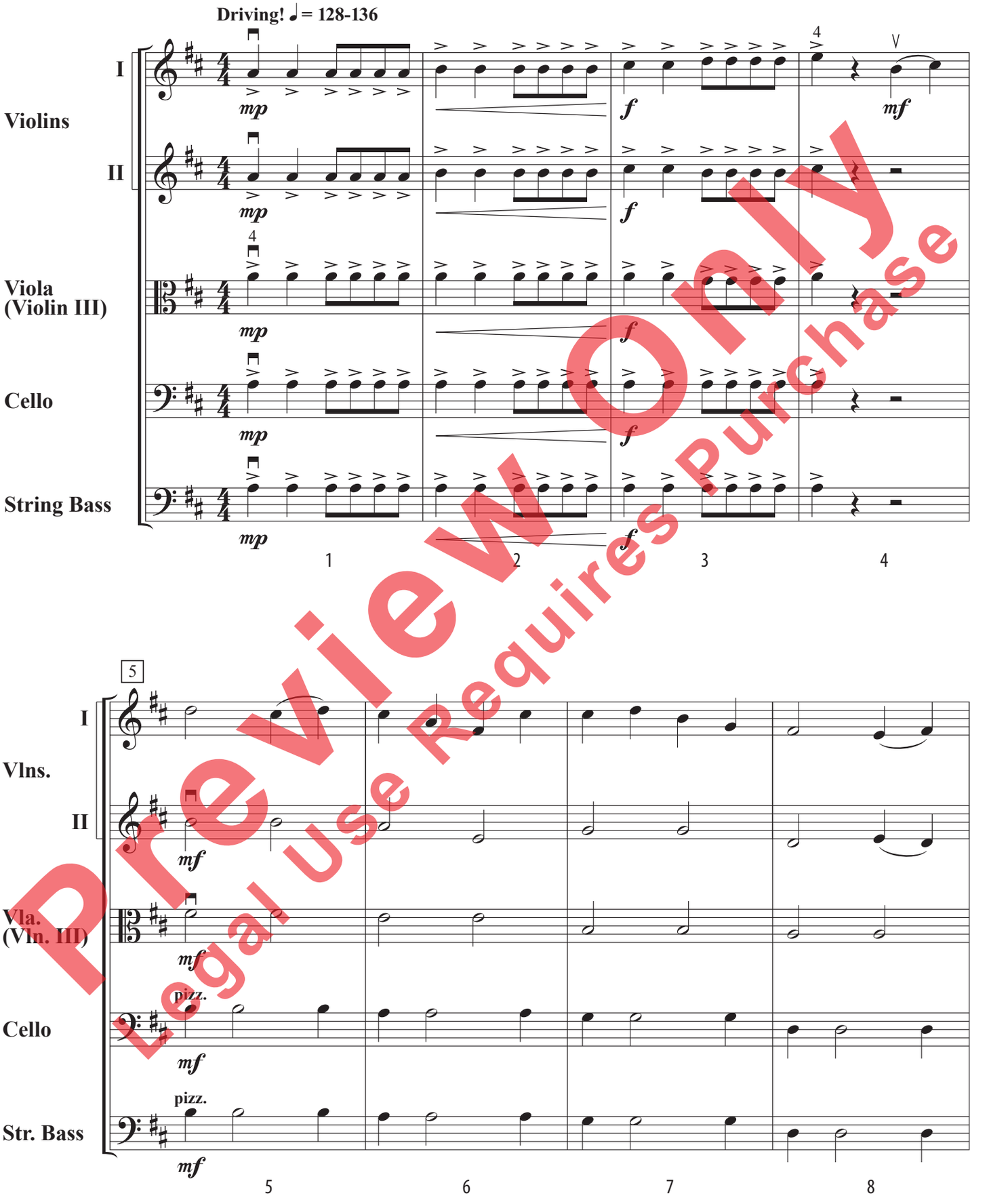
FULL SCORE
Duration - 2:00

By Michael Kamuf (ASCAP)



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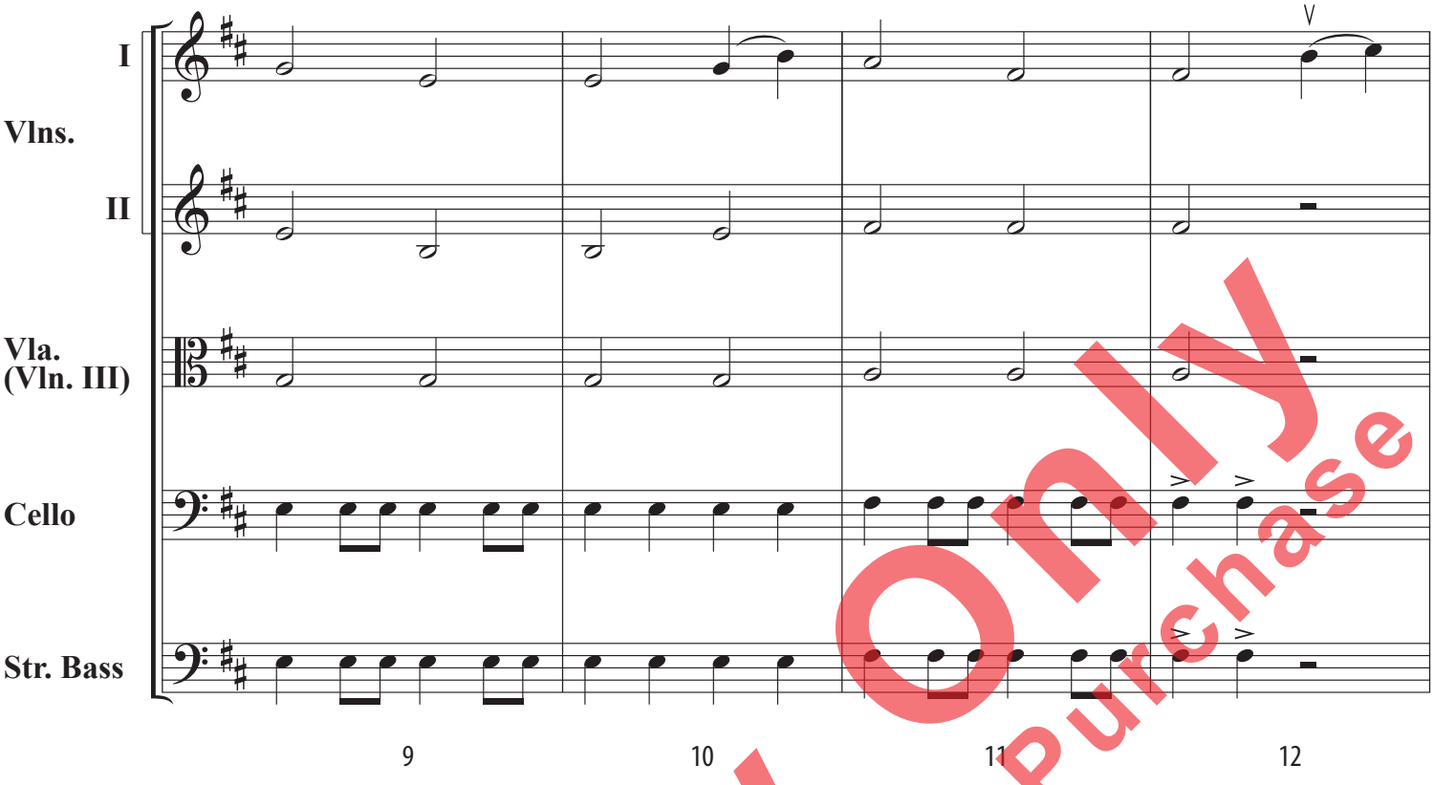

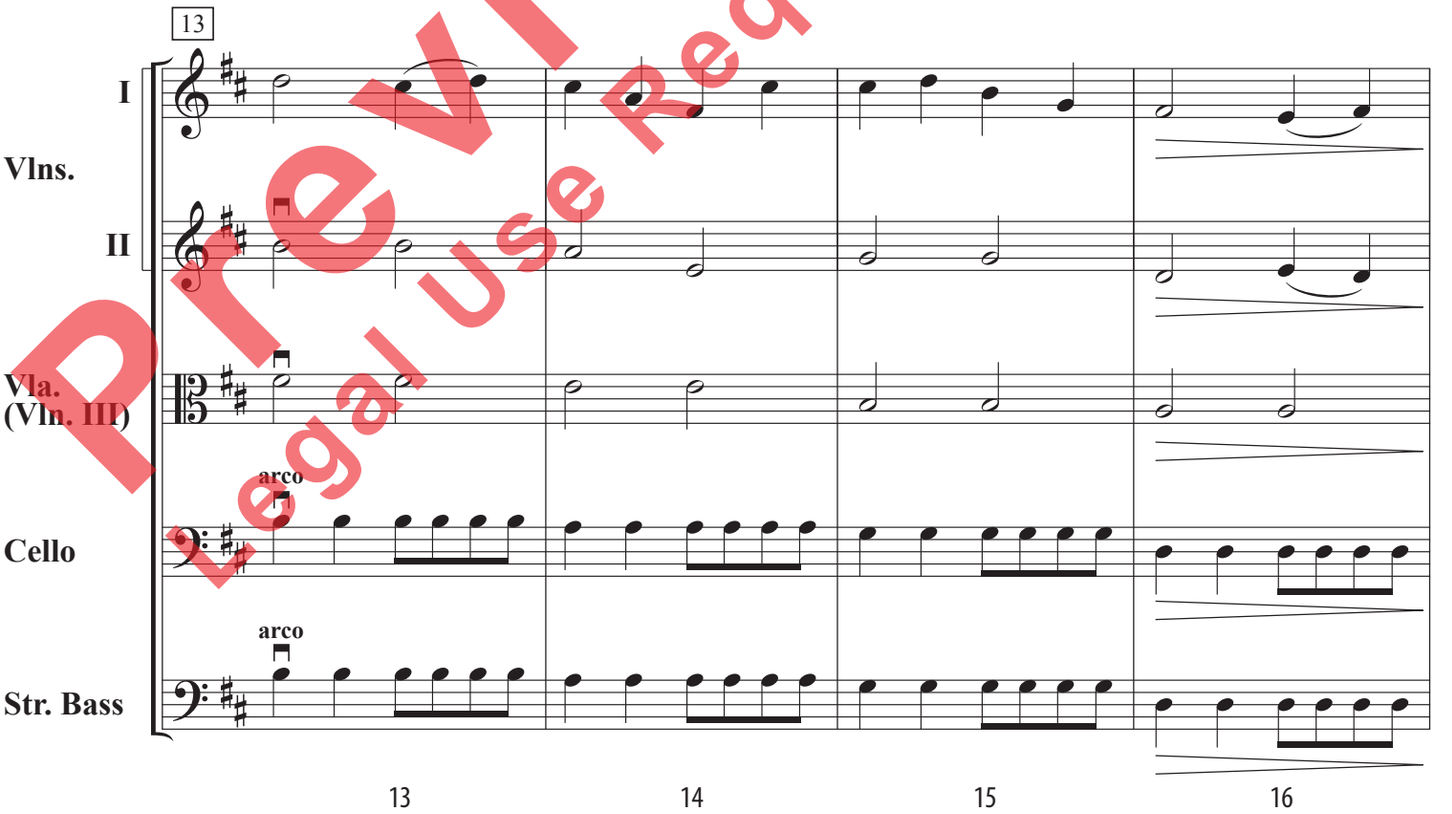

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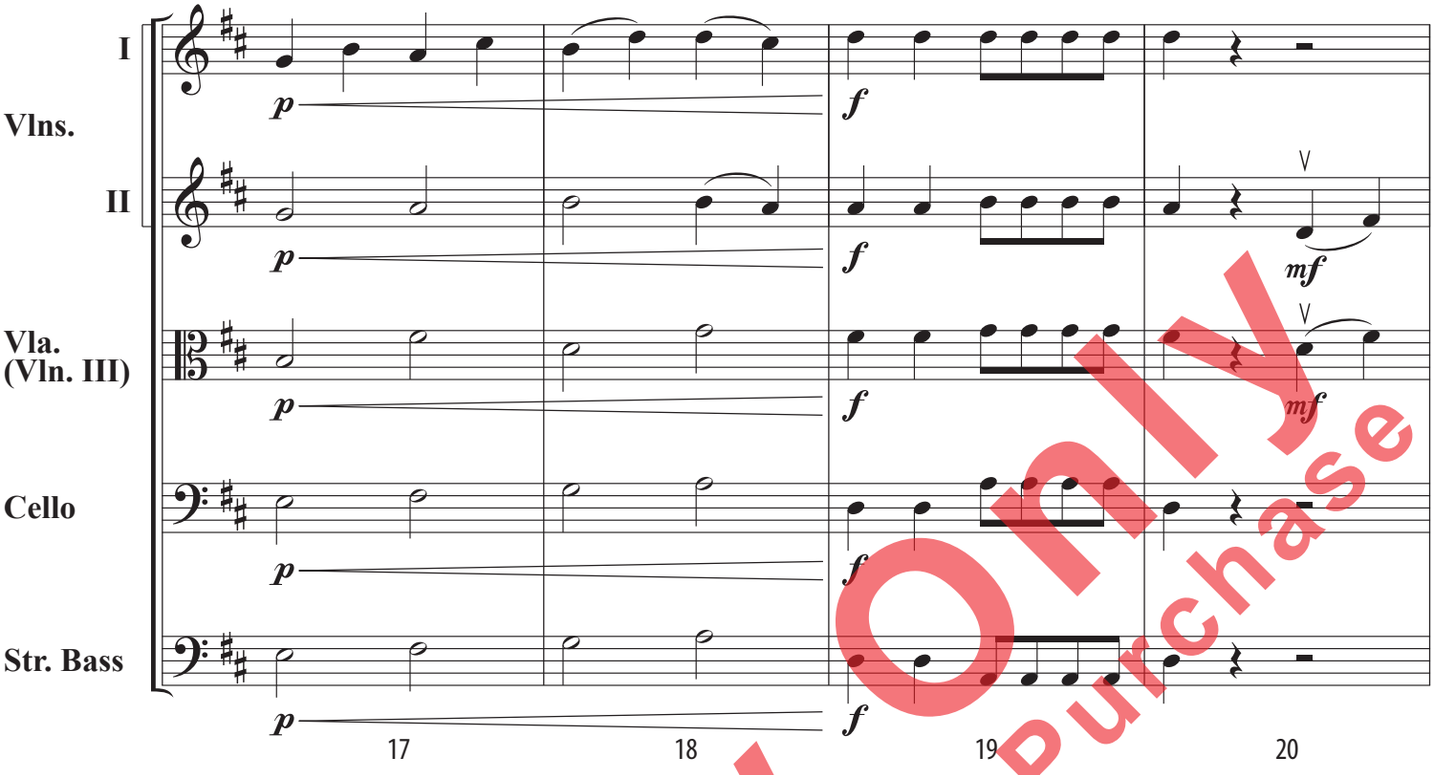

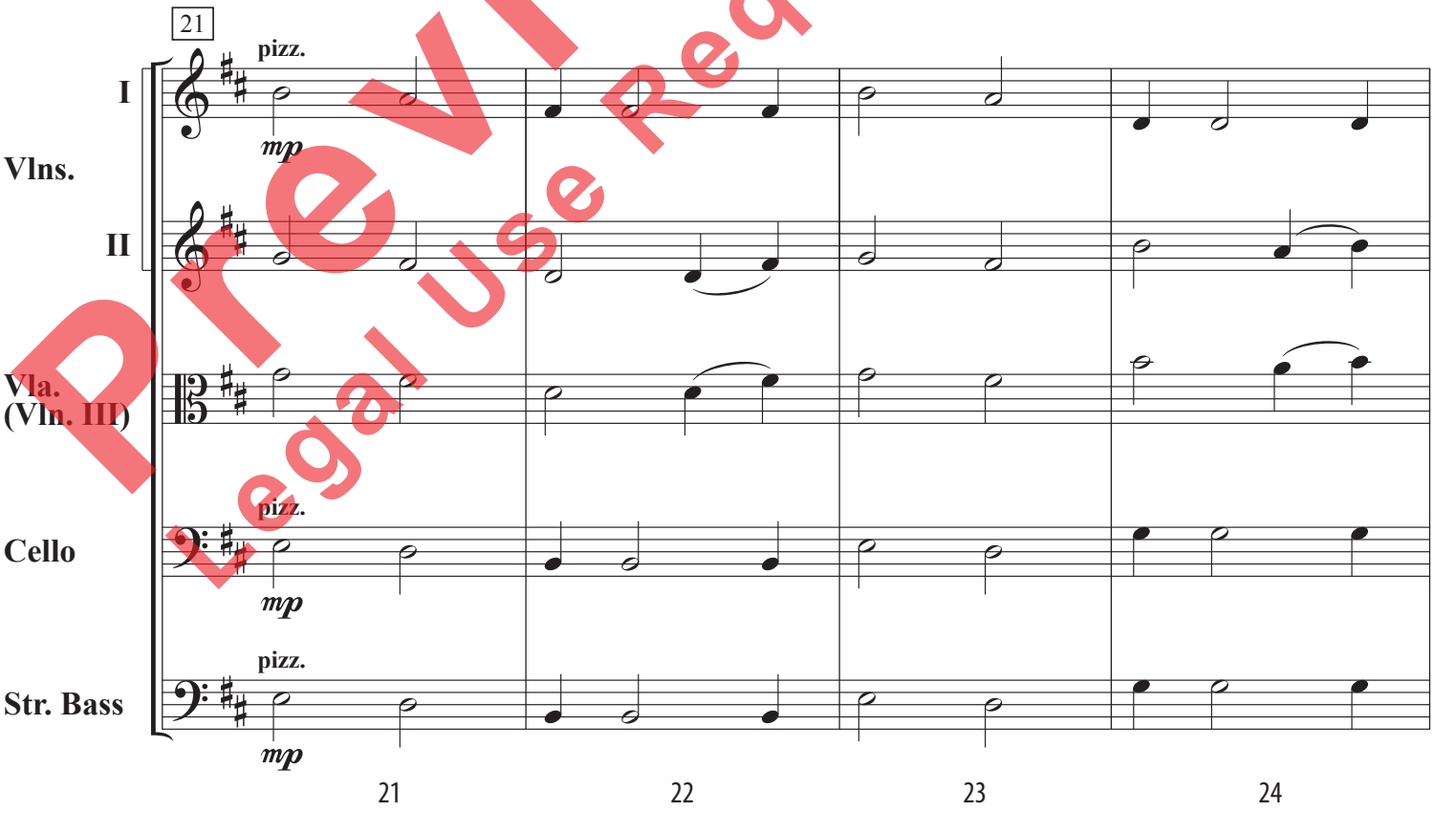

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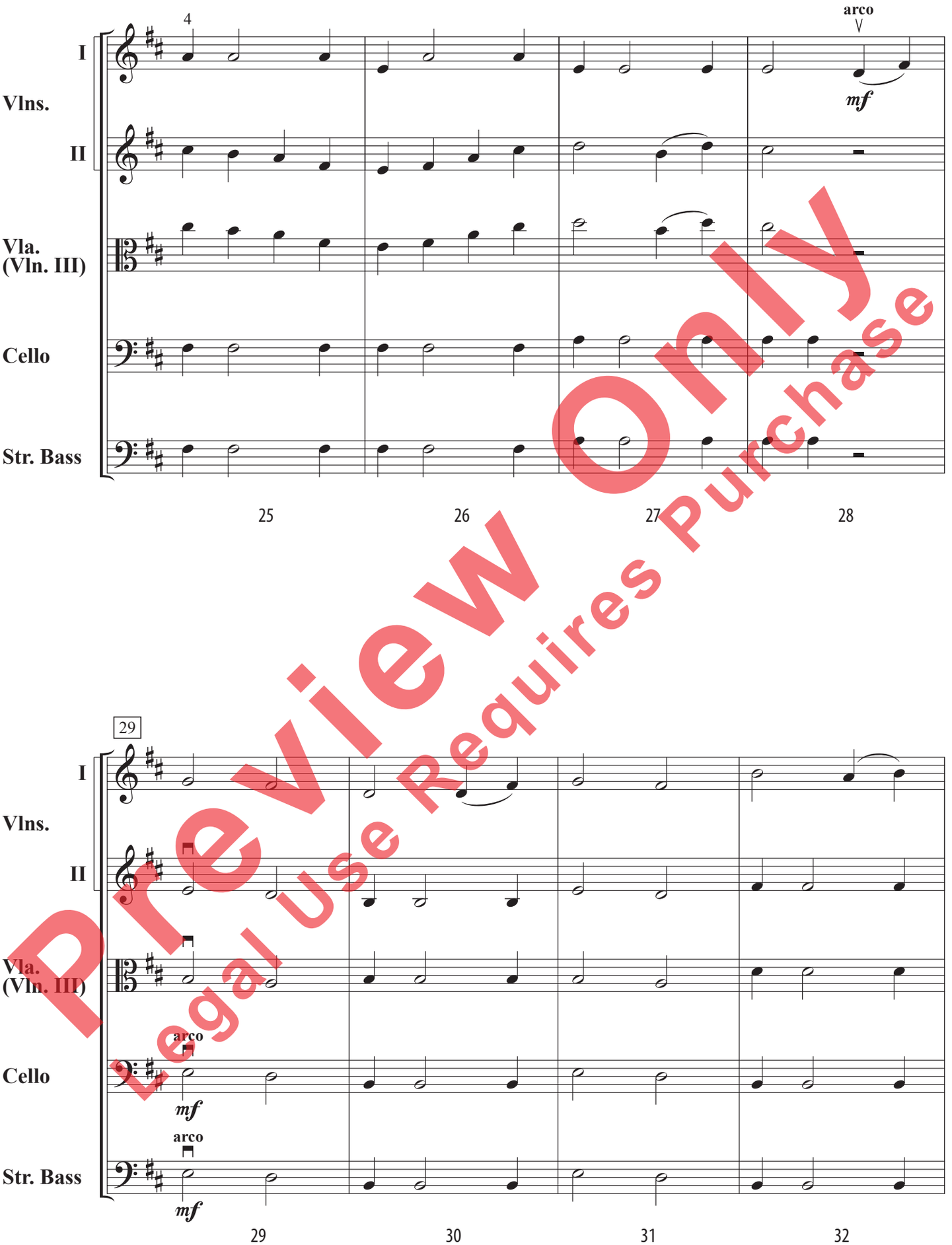

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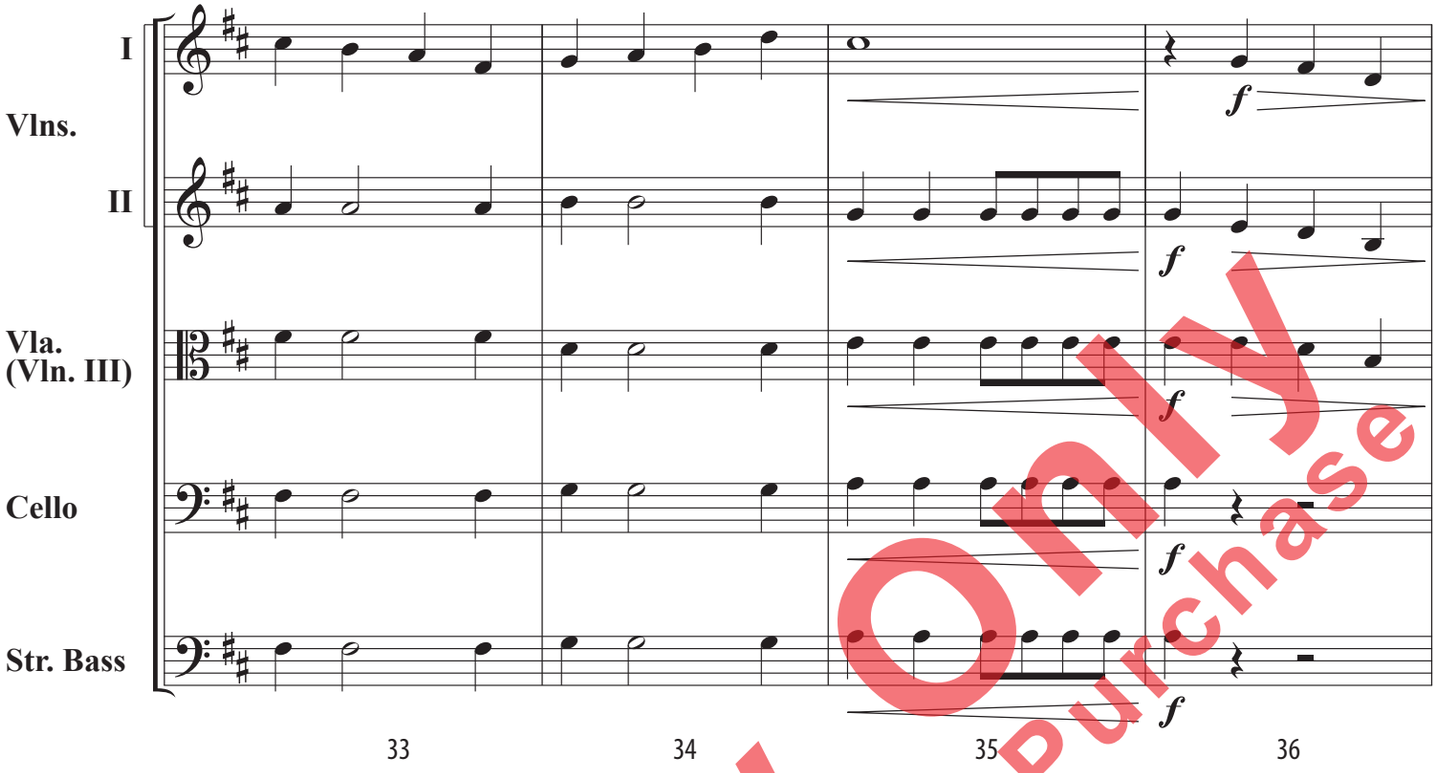

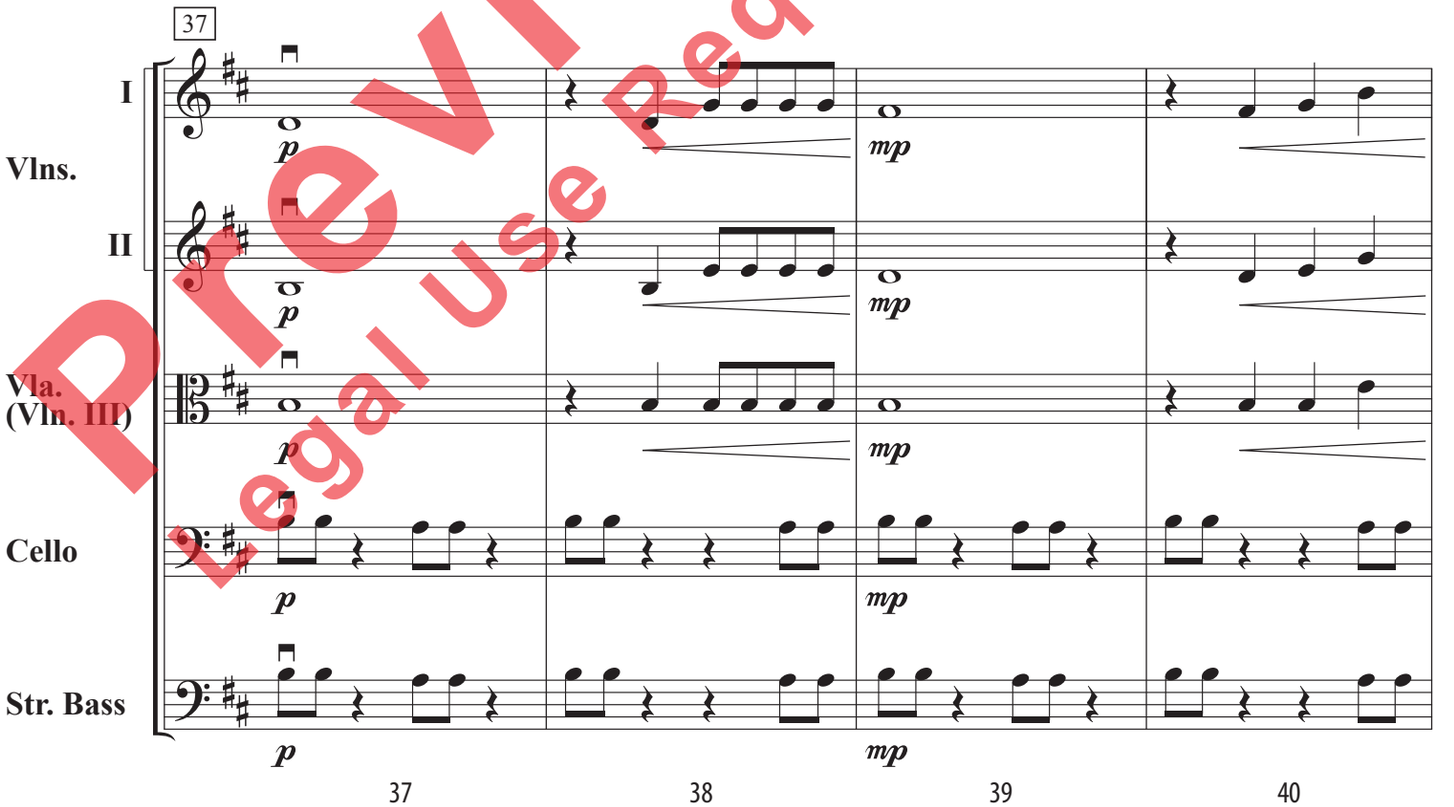

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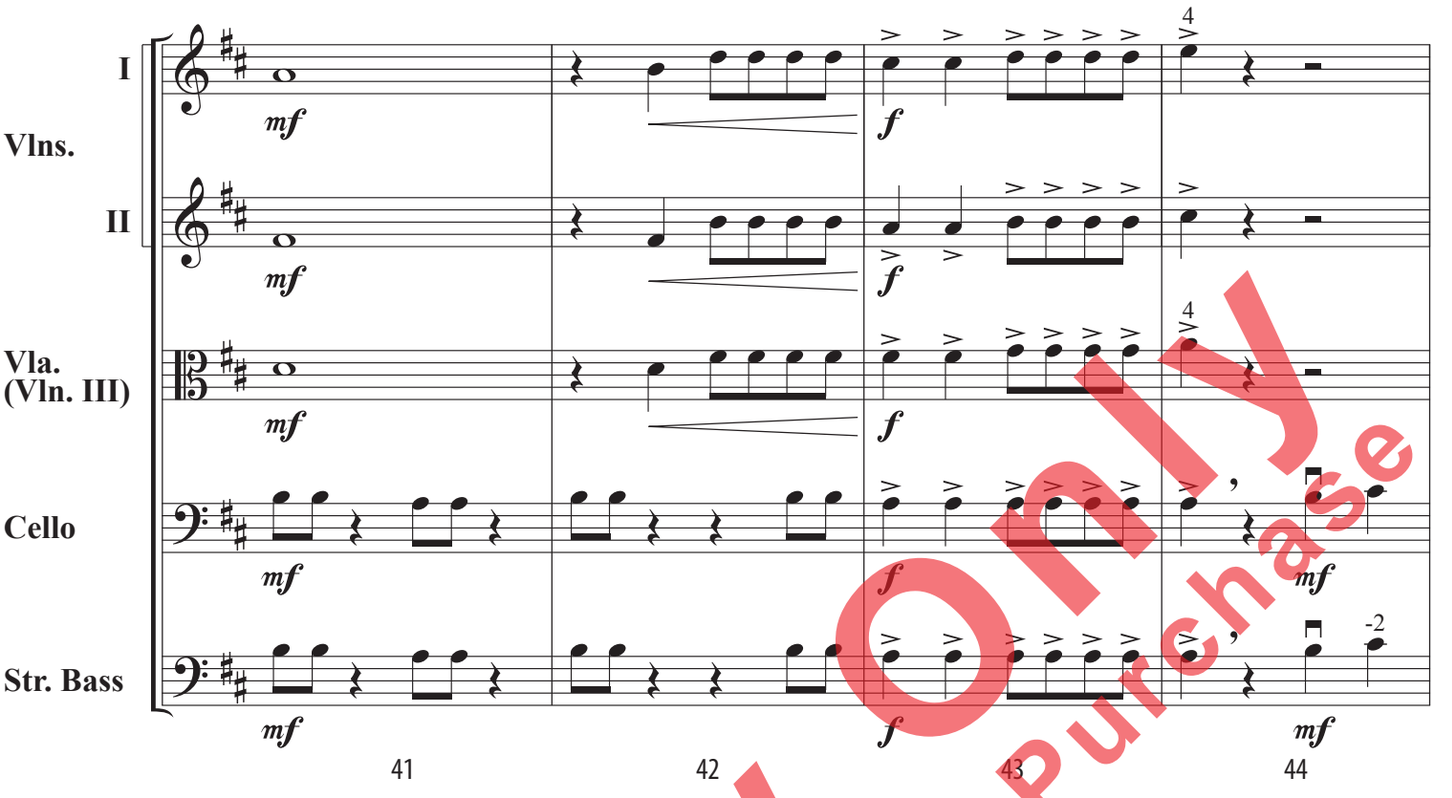

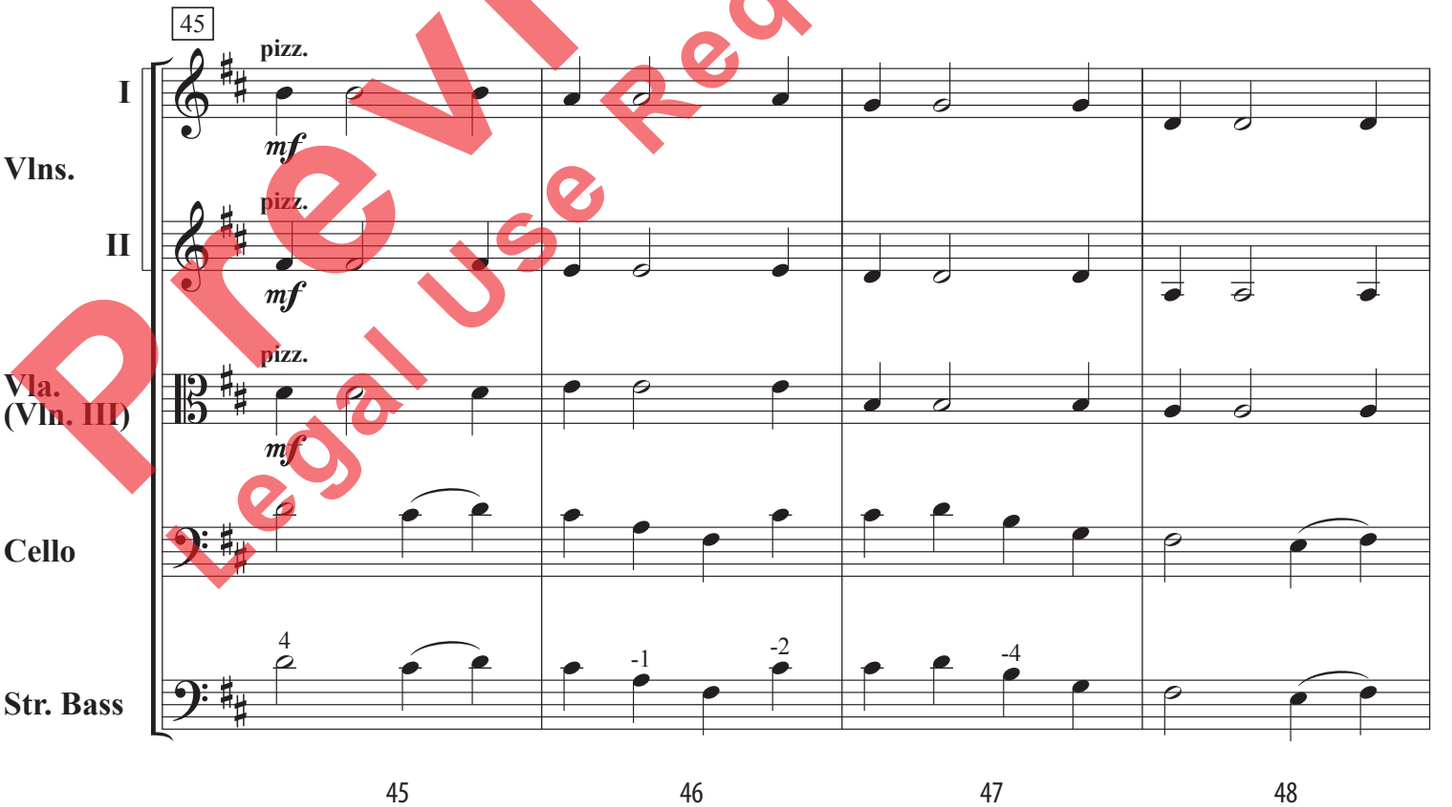

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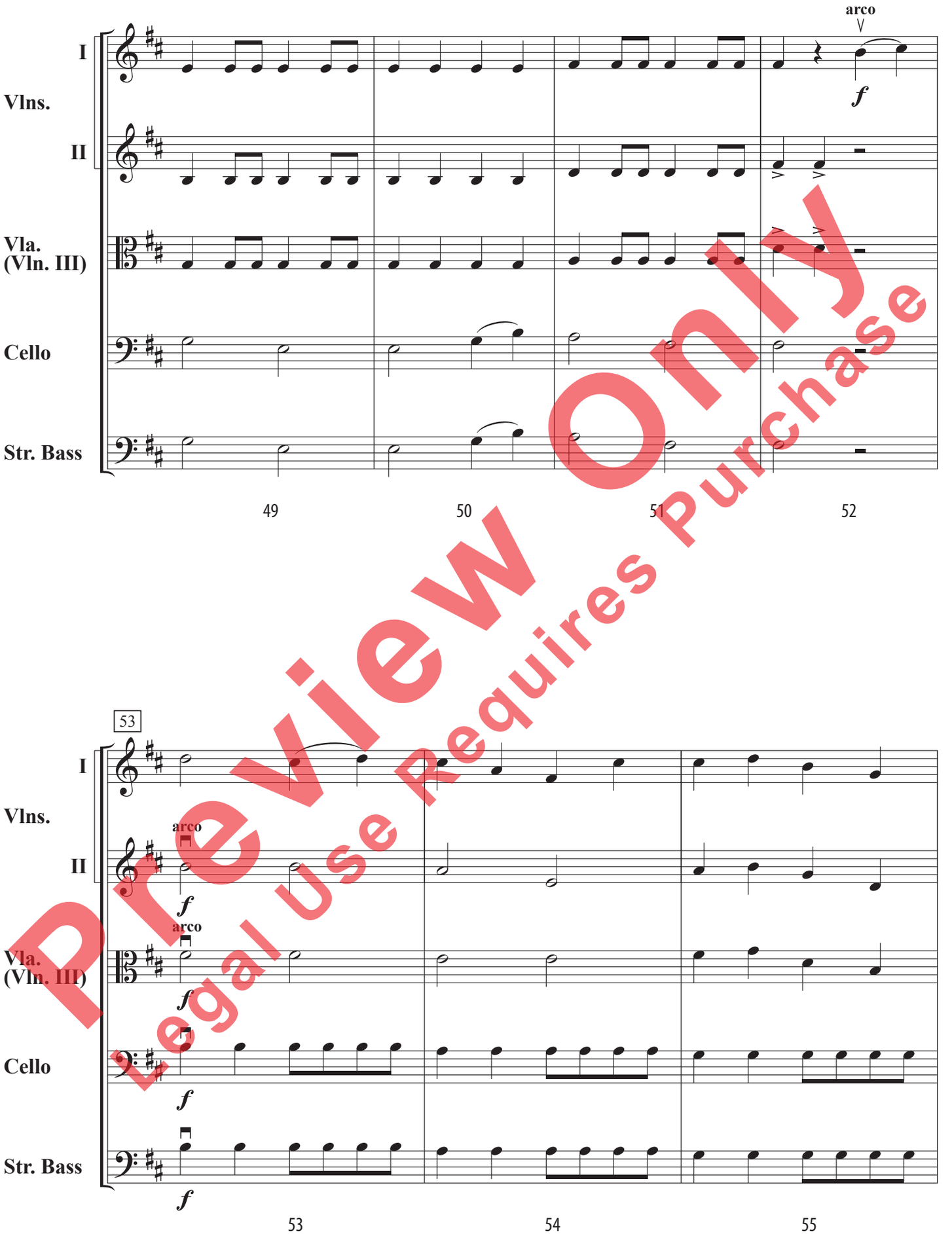

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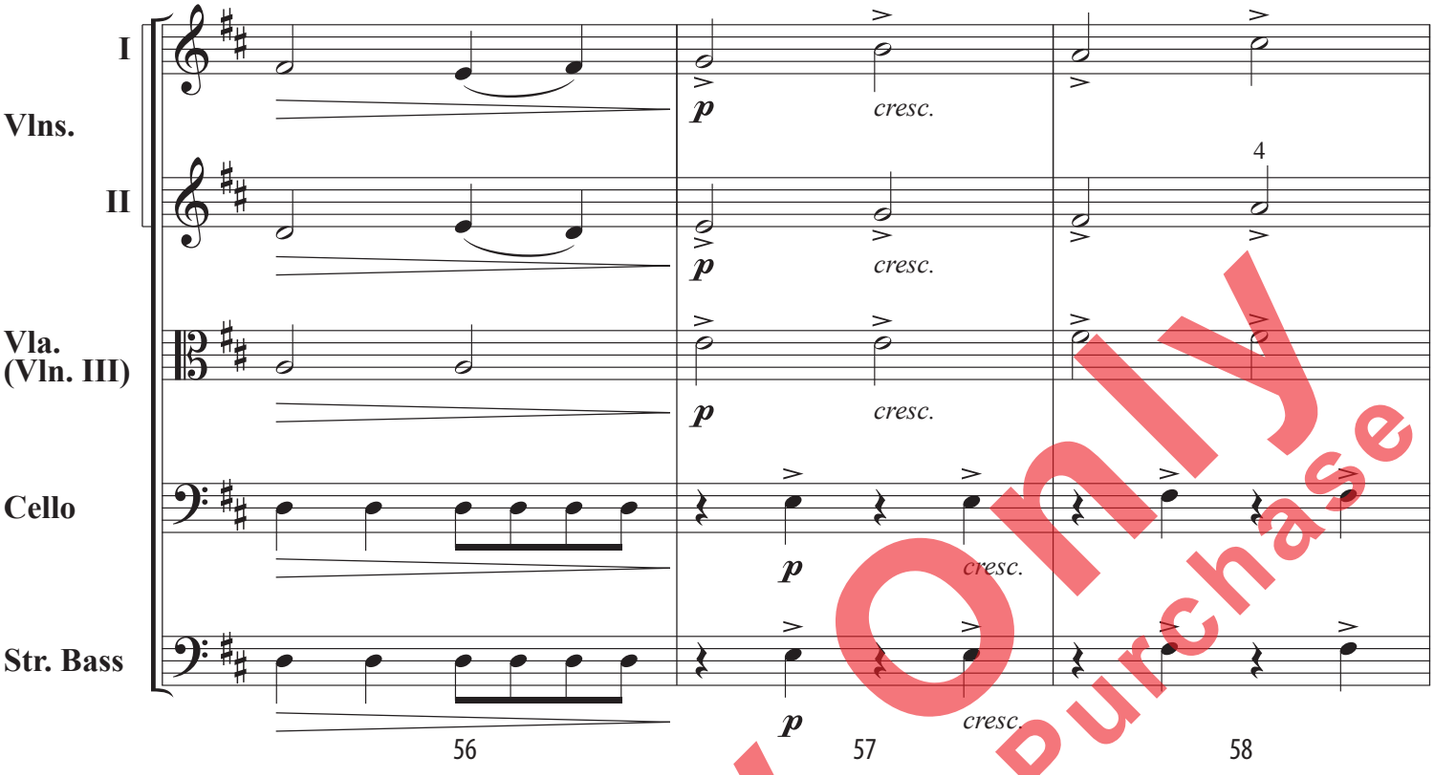

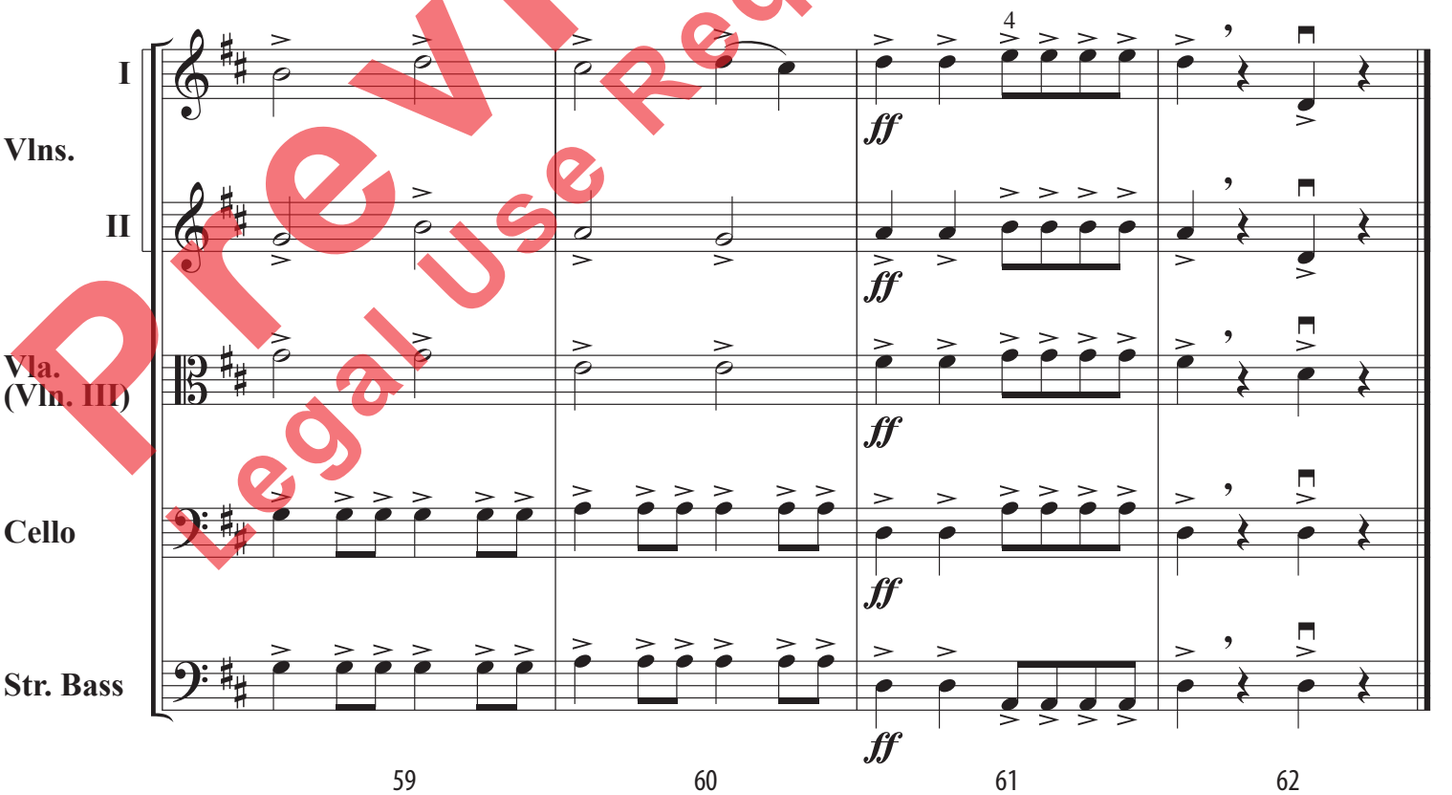

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