Belwin

INTERMEDIATE STRING ORCHESTRA

From the Anna Magdalena Bach Notebook

BACH SUITE

Featuring MENUET IN G, BIST DU BEI MIR and MUSETTE

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
Arranged by LARRY CLARK

INSTRUMENTATION

1	Conductor
8	1st Violin
8	2nd Violin
5	3rd Violin (Viola T.C.)
5	Viola
5	Cello
5	String Bass
1	Piano

PROGRAM NOTES

The three delightful compositions in this collection are taken from the Bach family notebook that was a gift from Johann Sebastian Bach to Anna Magdalena Bach sometime around 1725. Most of the pieces found in this famous collection were notated in the handwriting of Anna Magdalena Bach. Johann Sebastian Bach has been credited with composing this material to help Anna learn to play the piano better. There are no facts to support this claim.

A more likely explanation is that compositions from a variety of composers, including family members, were included because they were favorites of Anna or were used for family social events. No matter who the composers of these three wonderful pieces might be, they continue to be three of the most popular pieces in the repertoire.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

In preparing this transcription for String Orchestra, I have tried to maintain the original as much as possible, including key and structure. Orchestration and tessitura changes were made only to give the arrangement more variety of colors and allow all sections of the Orchestra to have an opportunity to play some melodic material.

MENUET IN G should be performed with a dance-like quality, but not too fast. I have indicated a range of tempi that seems appropriate. The second movement, BIS DU BEI MIR (IF THOU BE NEAR), should be performed as lush and legato as possible. Special emphasis should be given to the chords in measures 37 and 38, and at each recurrence of this harmonic and melodic motif. This movement is a great opportunity to emphasize with your students the use of the full bow. Finally, the third movement, MUSETTE, should be performed with a whimsical nature and an almost pesante feeling on the motive that is stated in measures 71 and 72. Keep the staccato notes light and under the melodic material.

As with all my string works, use the bow markings only as a guide. I feel it is necessary not to over-mark bowings to allow you the flexibility to use bowing techniques that your students are comfortable with. It has been my pleasure to have had the opportunity to write this arrangement. I hope you and your students enjoy it and find it useful to your program.

Larry Clark

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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. We hope this will not present any difficulty for you in distributing the parts. Thank you for your understanding.

Alfred

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CONDUCTOR

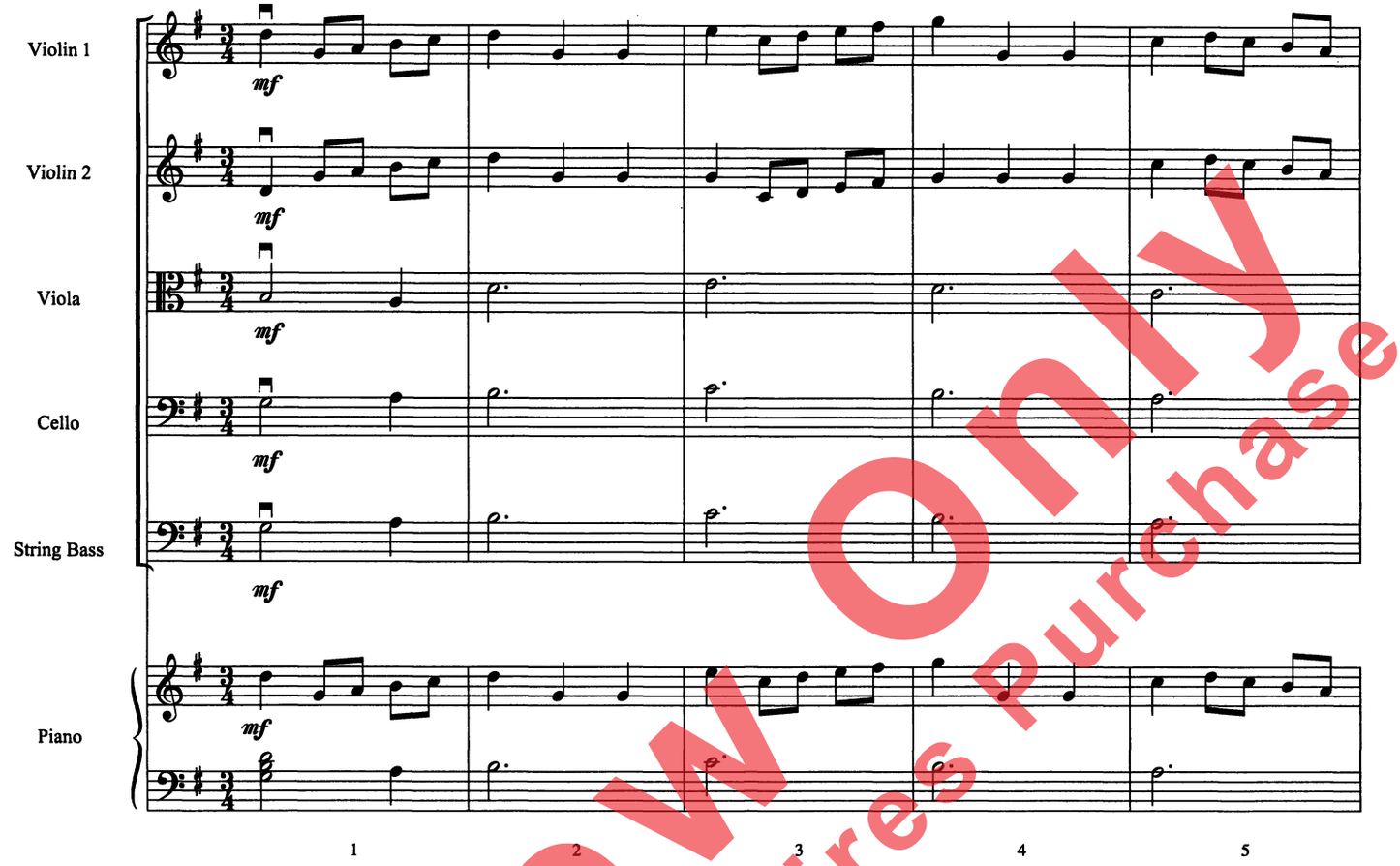
From The Anna Magdalena Bach Notebook

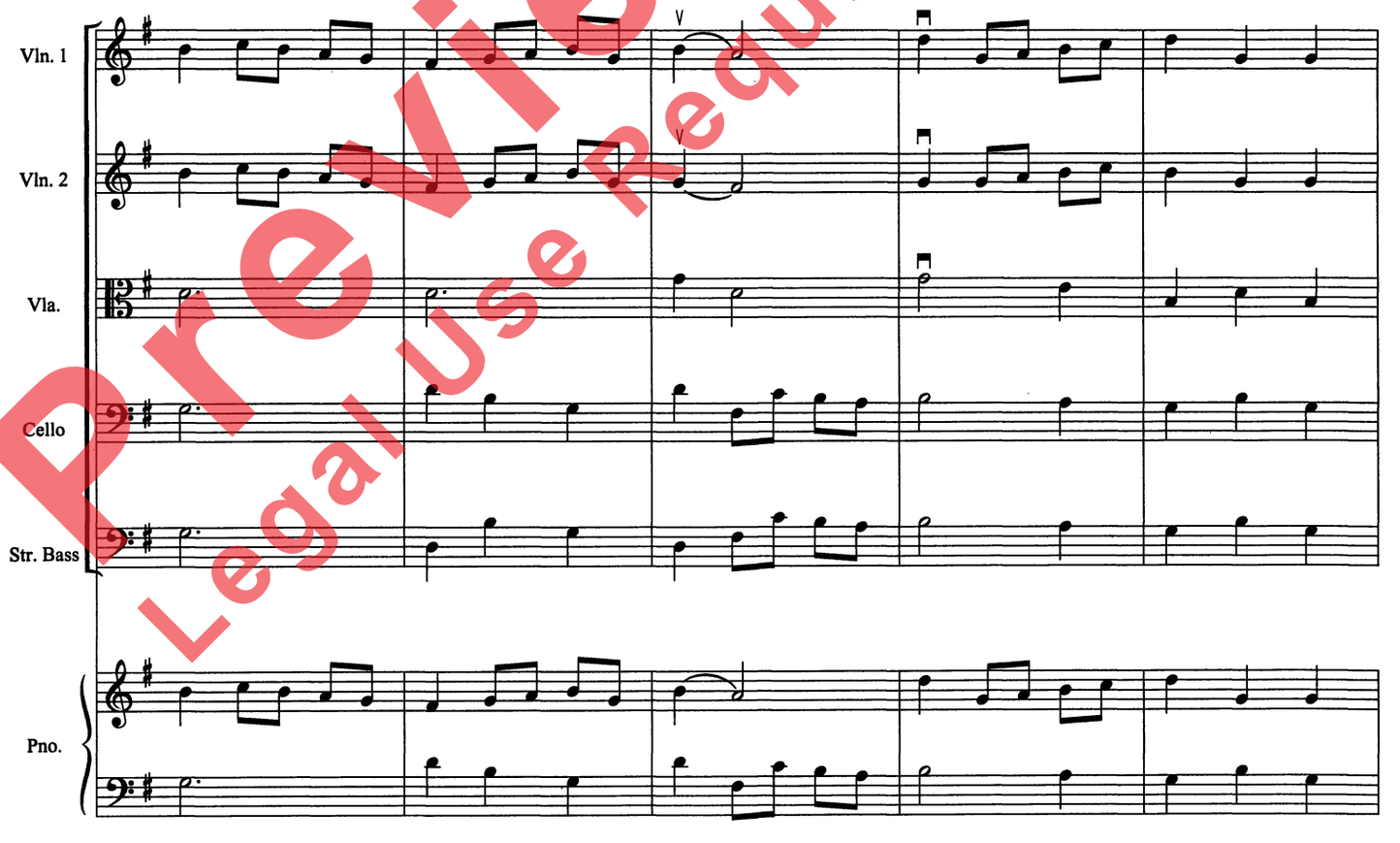
BACH SUITE

I. Menuet in G

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
Arranged by LARRY CLARK

Allegretto ♩ = 108-112





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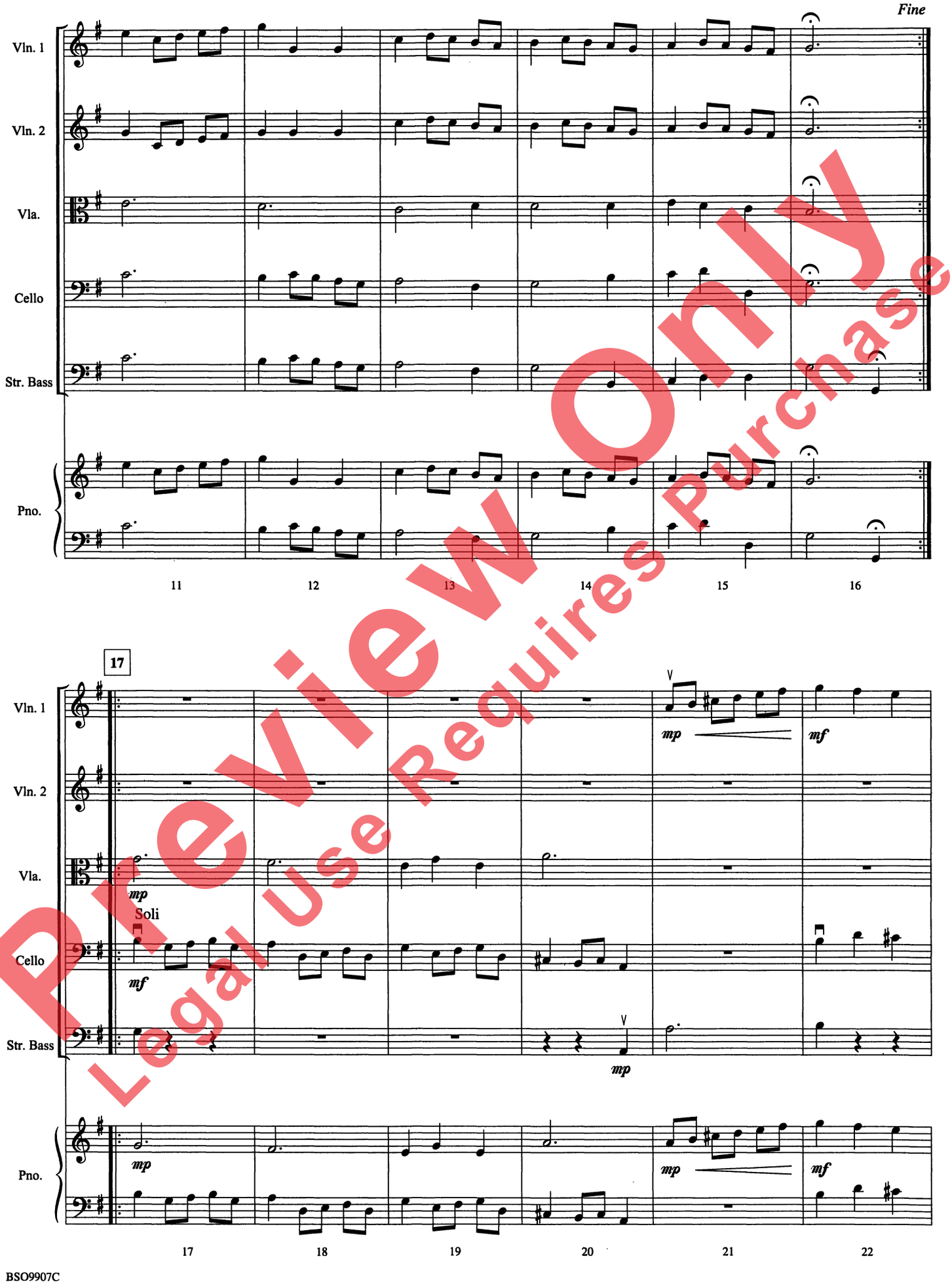

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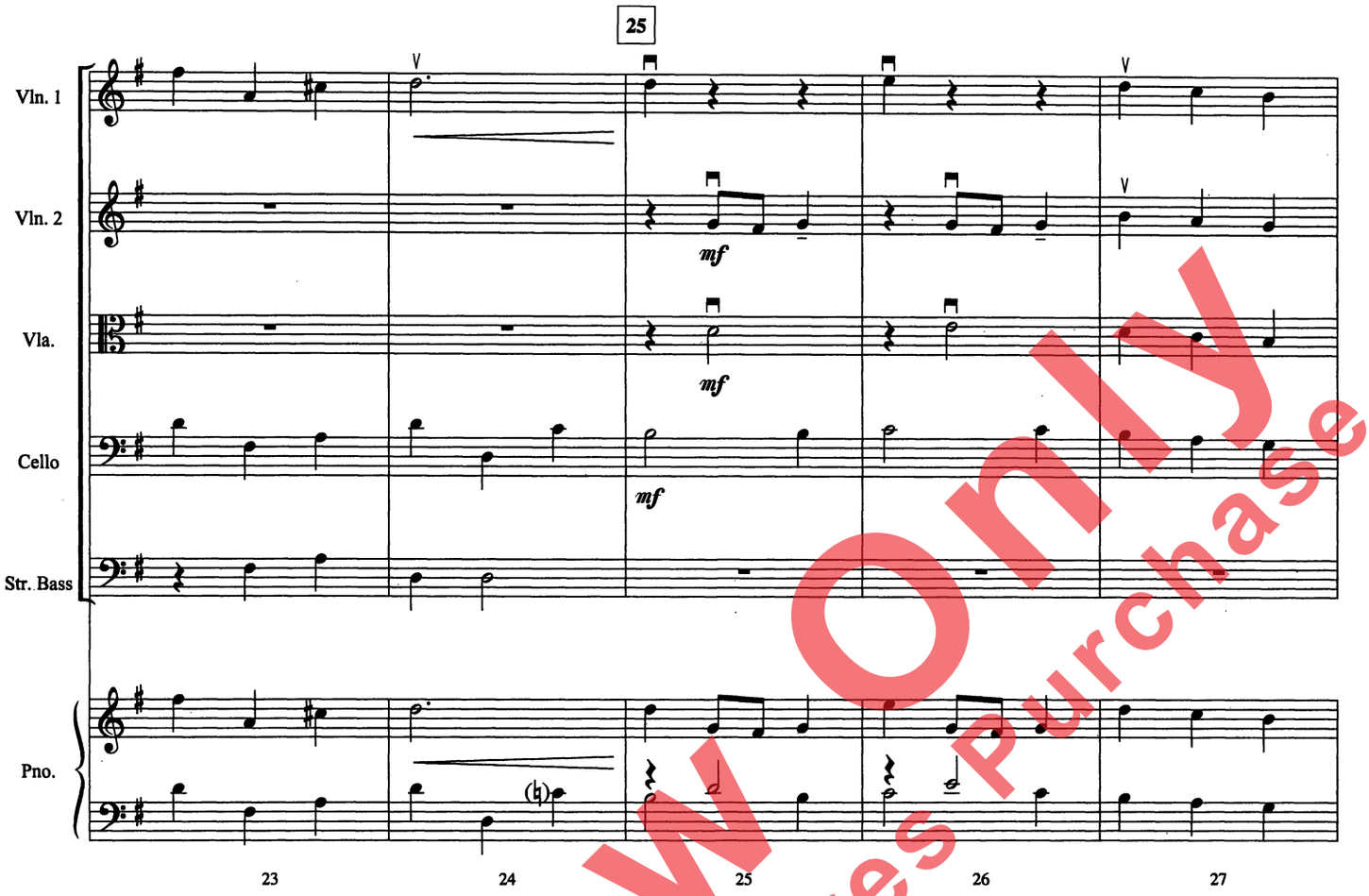

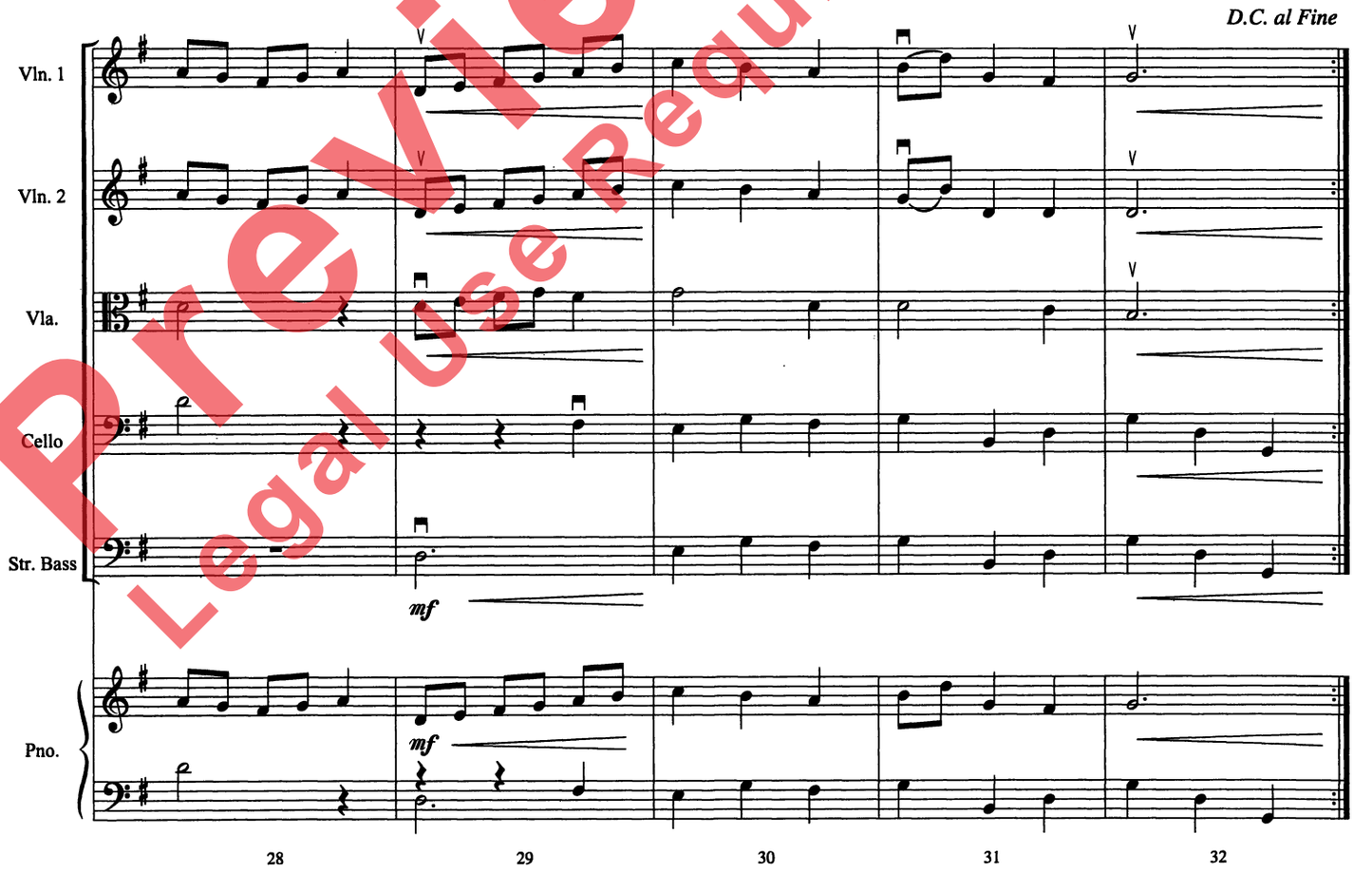

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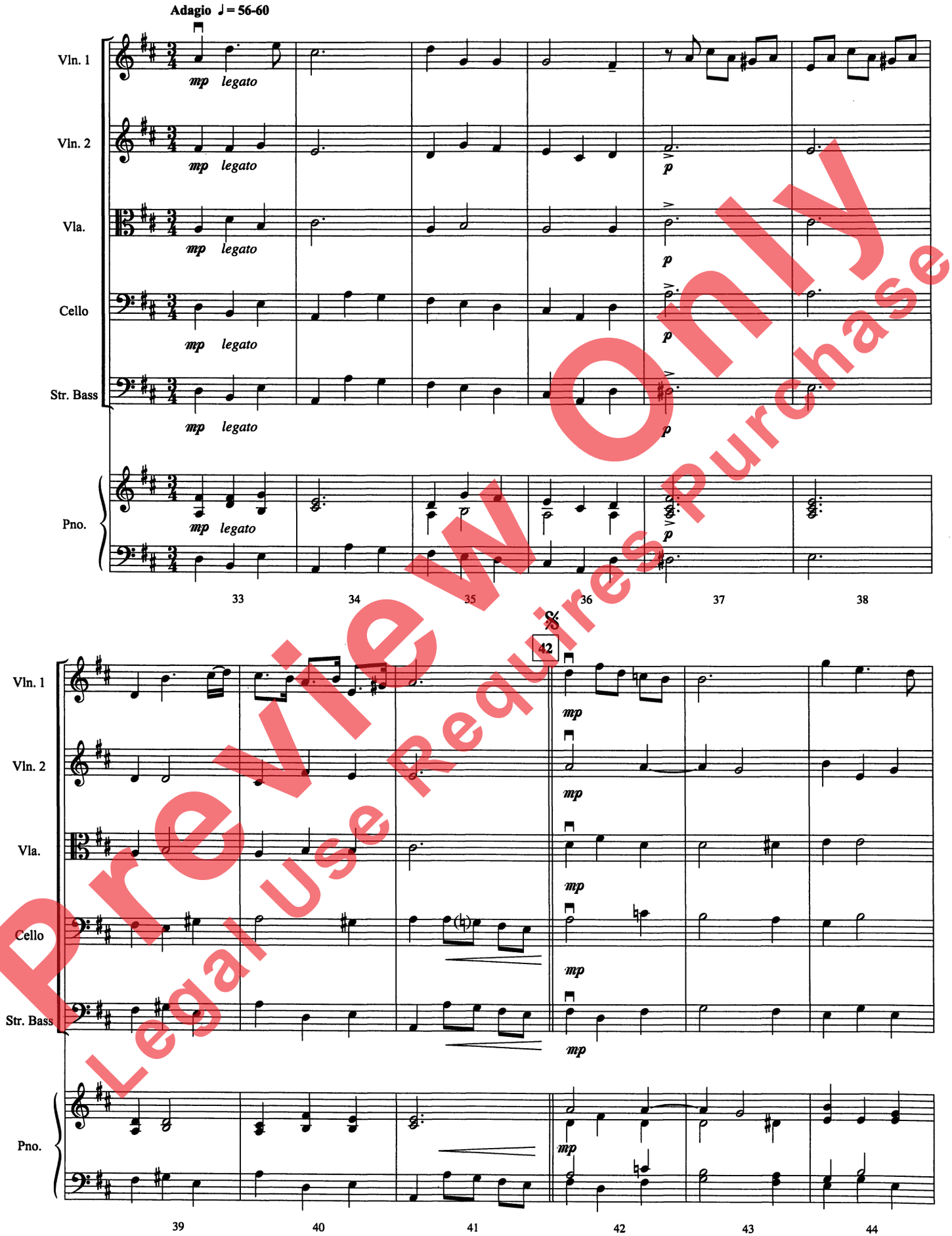
II. Bist Du Bei Mir



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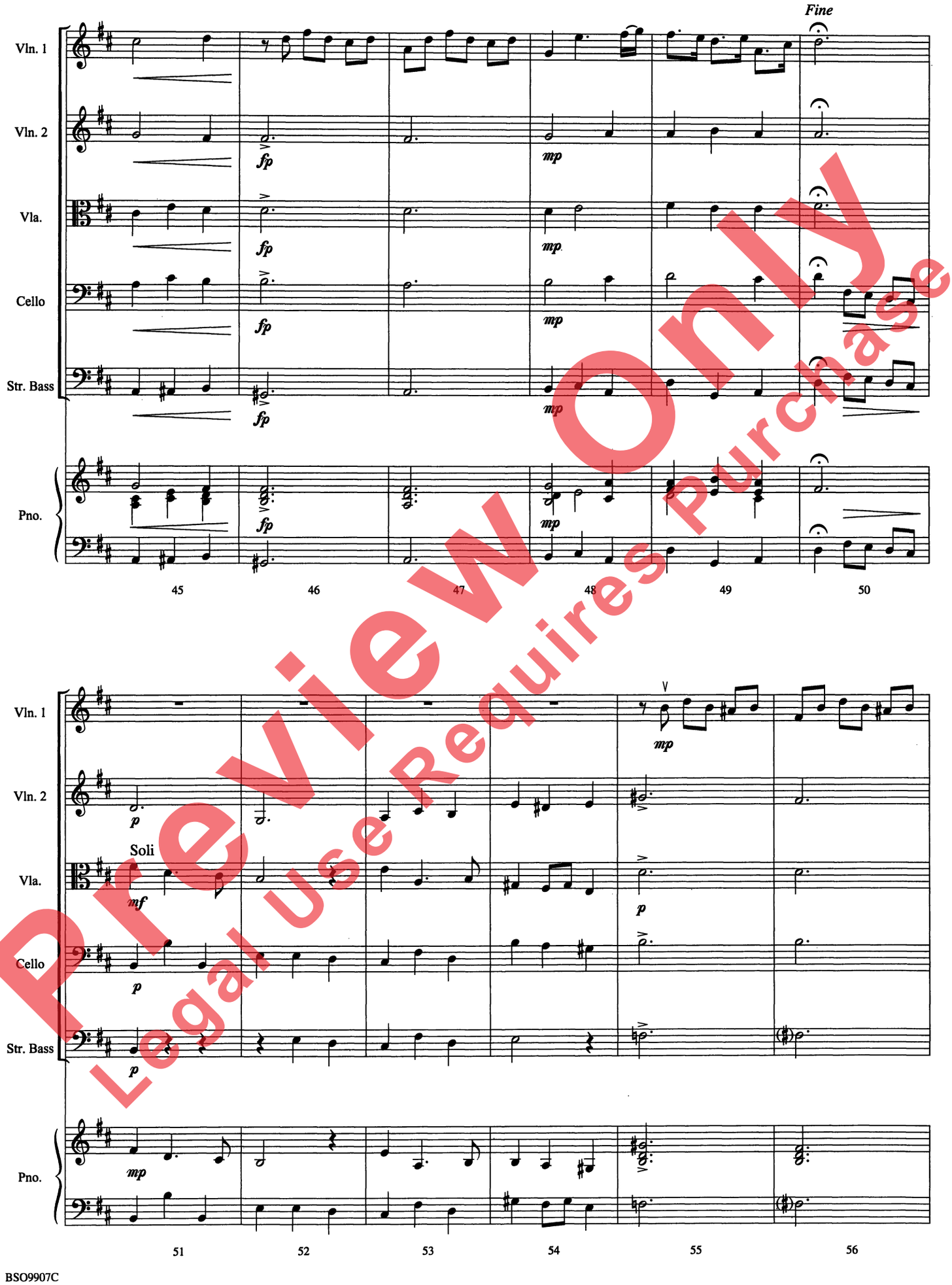

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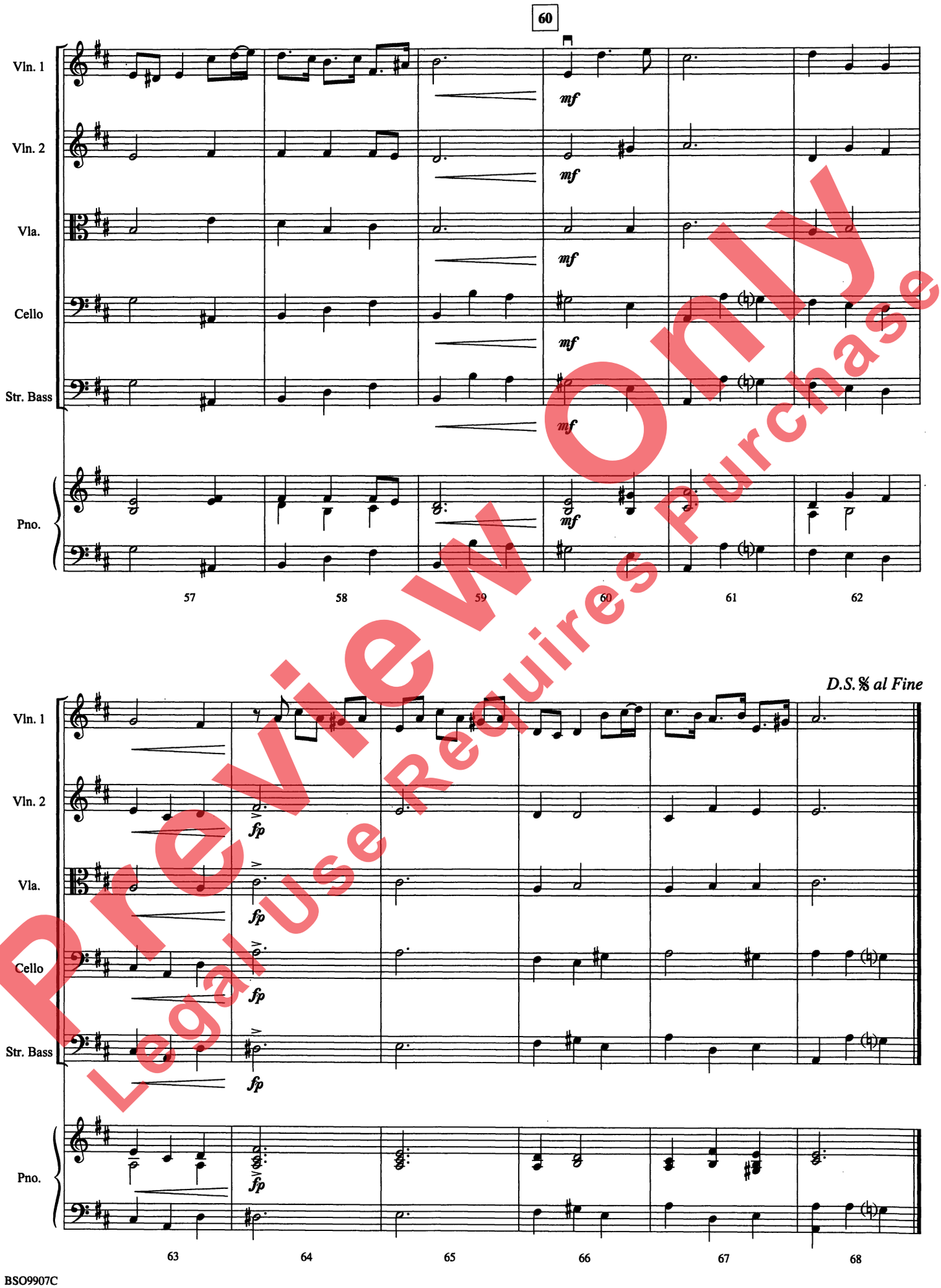

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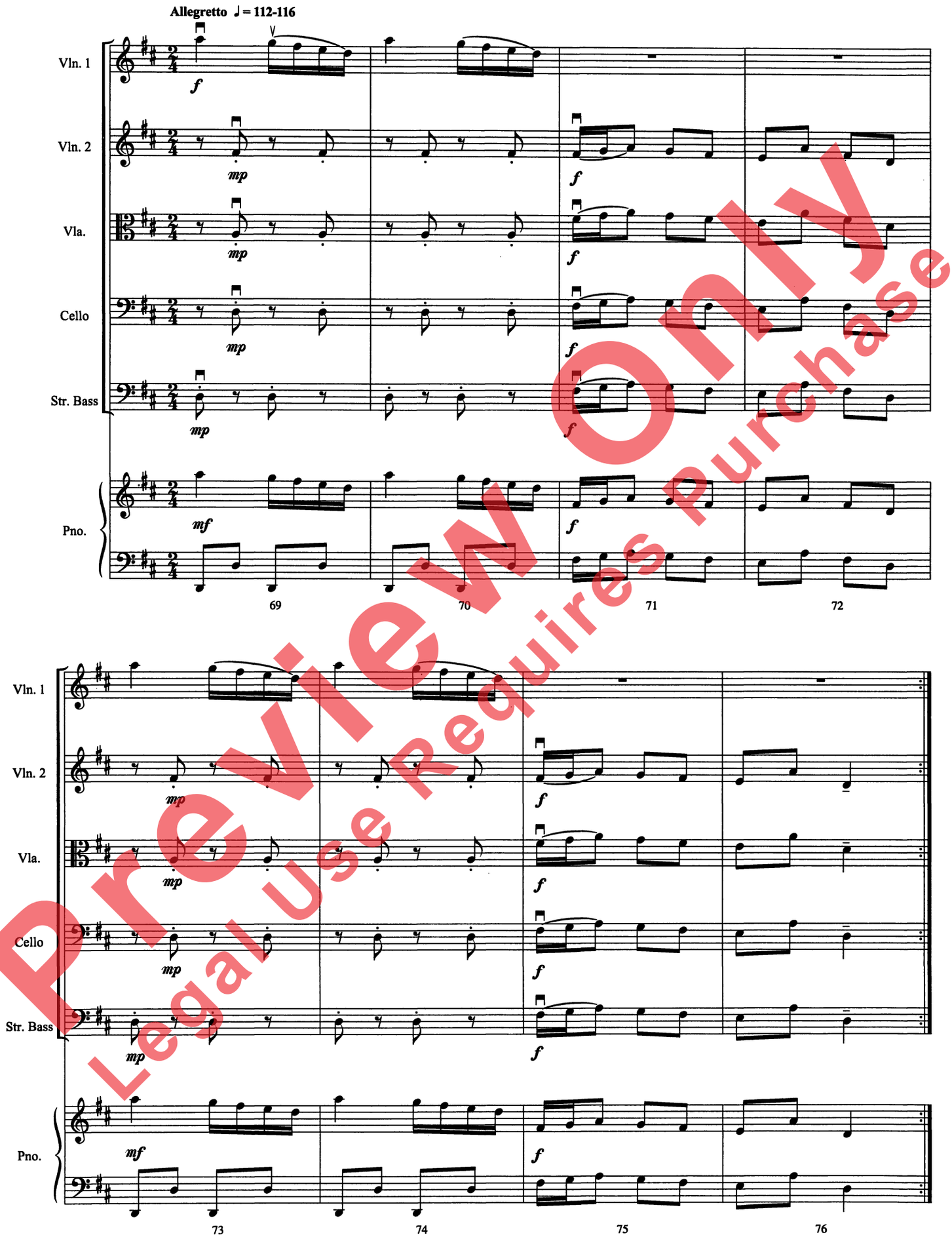
III. Musette



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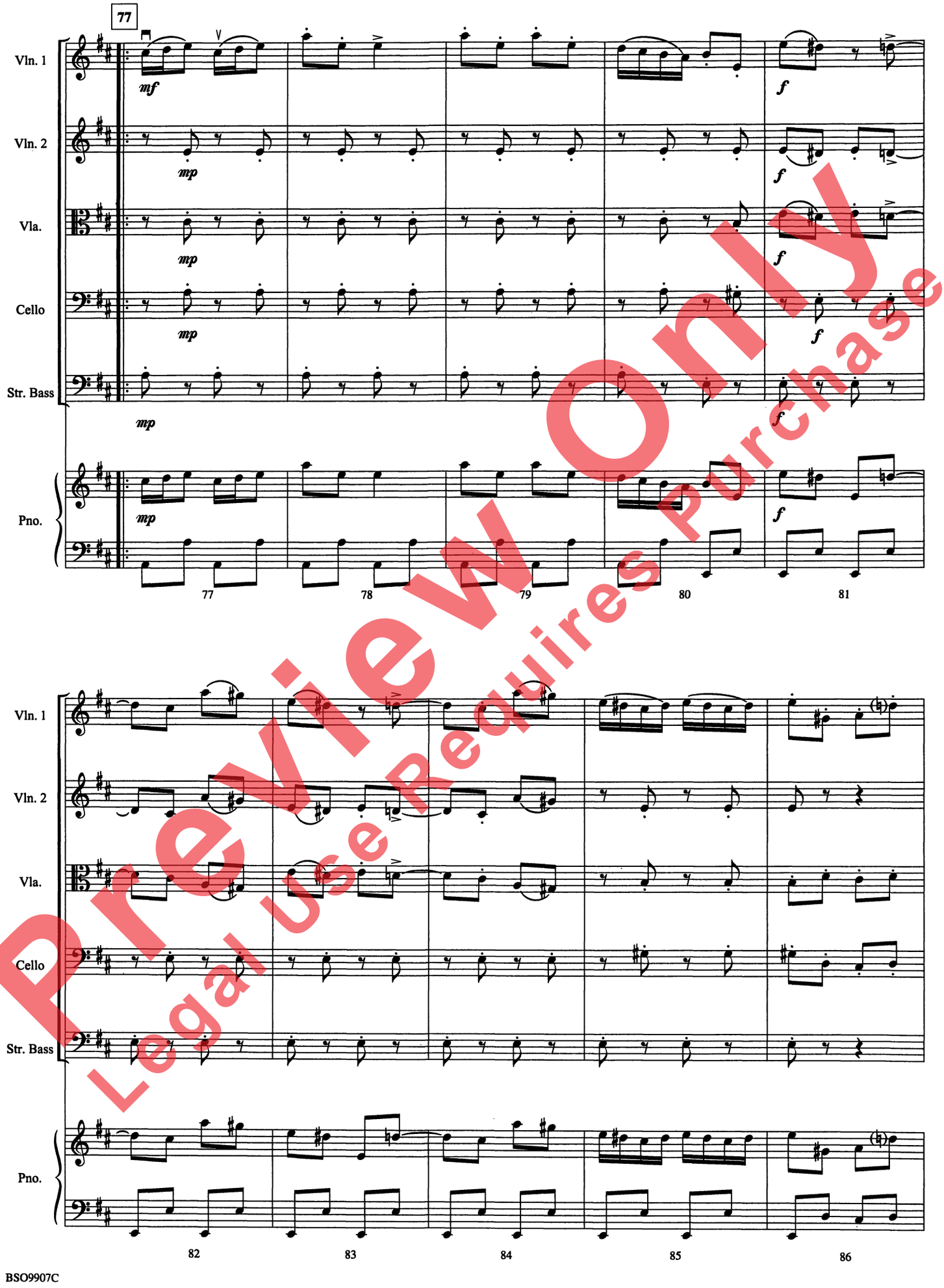

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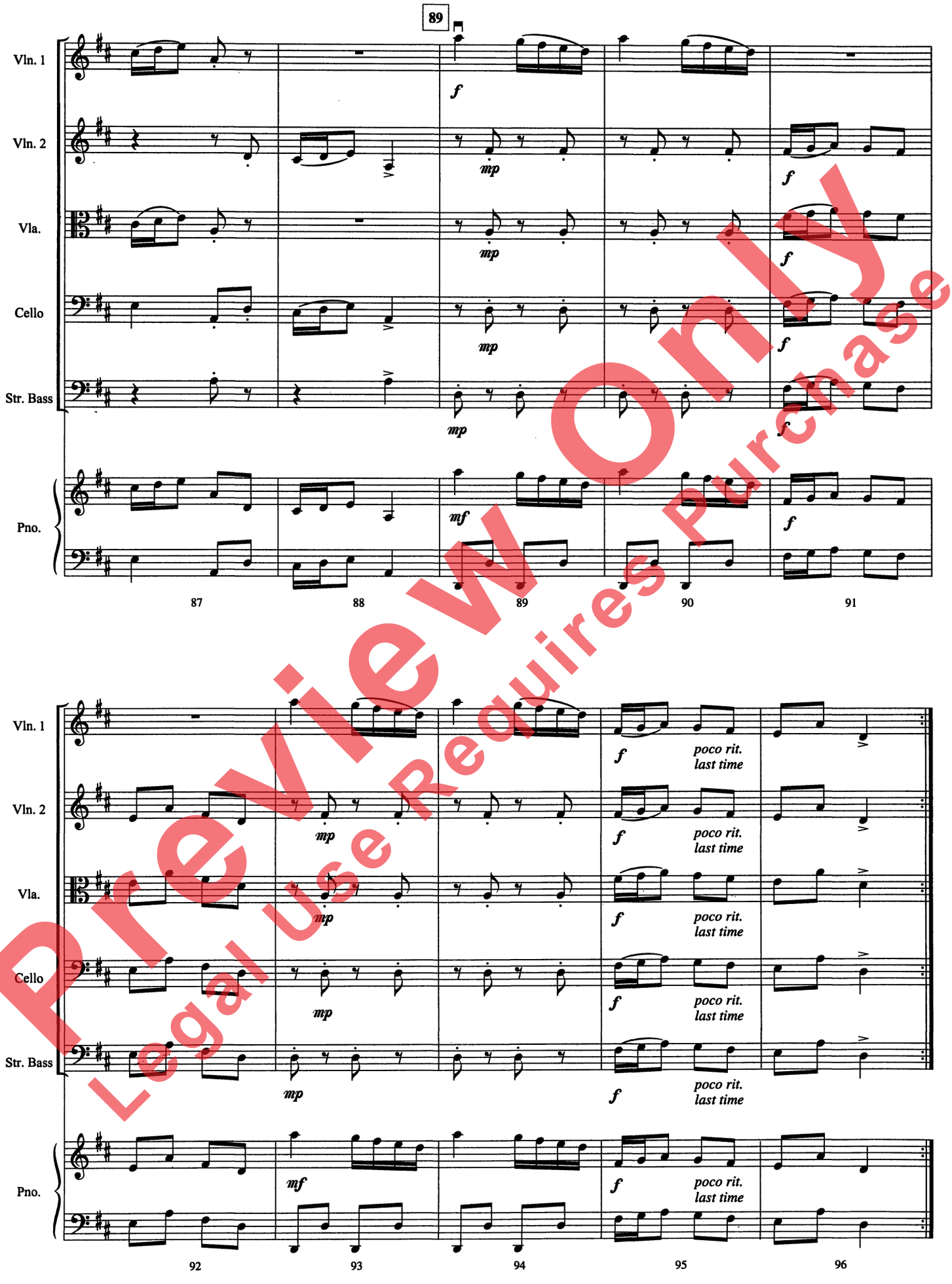

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