Young String Ensemble Series

INSTRUMENTATION

1 - Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2
4 - Violin 3
4 - Viola
5 - Cello
2 - Double Bass
1 - Piano

Rock Steady

by Loreta Fin AM

Program and Rehearsal Notes **Duration: 2:30** **Level: 1.5**

An alternative name for this work could be Rest Easy, as the music is full of rests. A rest is a "note that has no sound" and it is one of the most challenging concepts for students to observe, without pushing the tempo or losing the sense of pulse. Sometimes, rests are even totally ignored. This piece requires the beat to stay Rock Steady. It features straightforward notes and rhythms, with rests in each part. However, every time there is a rest, other parts fill that rest. This helps the resting players to feel the continuous pulse, while being able to "count on" their colleagues to assist them in feeling the spaces in the music. Left hand pizzicato and contrasting articulations are also explored. Block rhythms will facilitate learning in sections. This piece is dedicated to someone I have been able to count on for 40 years – my husband, best friend, musical partner and the "Wil" in the name Wilfin Music – Steven Williams. Without his talent, skill, support and encouragement, I would never have achieved such a body of work, or indeed ever heard it come to life through the notes (and rests!) on the page.

Loreta Fin AM was Director of Strings at Somerville House School in Brisbane, Australia for 35 years. All of the ensembles received Platinum Awards in competitions over the years. Loreta has presented at National and International conferences. She has conducted the String Orchestras at the Queensland and Australian Honours Ensemble Programs over several years. Loreta served as both State and National President of Austa (Australian Strings Association). She is a Federal Examiner with the Australian Music Examinations Board and an advisor on several music education boards.

Loreta studied at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and has performed regularly as a freelance musician. She has been Principal Violist with the Queensland Pops Orchestra for over 30 years. Well known as an experienced educator and adjudicator, Loreta has also written over 100 publications for young string orchestras, which are frequently selected as set works for competitions and festivals. Loreta's aim is to bring an appreciation of music to as many young string players as possible, while teaching valuable rhythmic and technical skills in an enjoyable way. She has received State and National Awards in recognition of her service to AUSTA and the String and Music Communities of Australia. In 2024, Loreta was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours, for significant service to music, to education and to professional associations.

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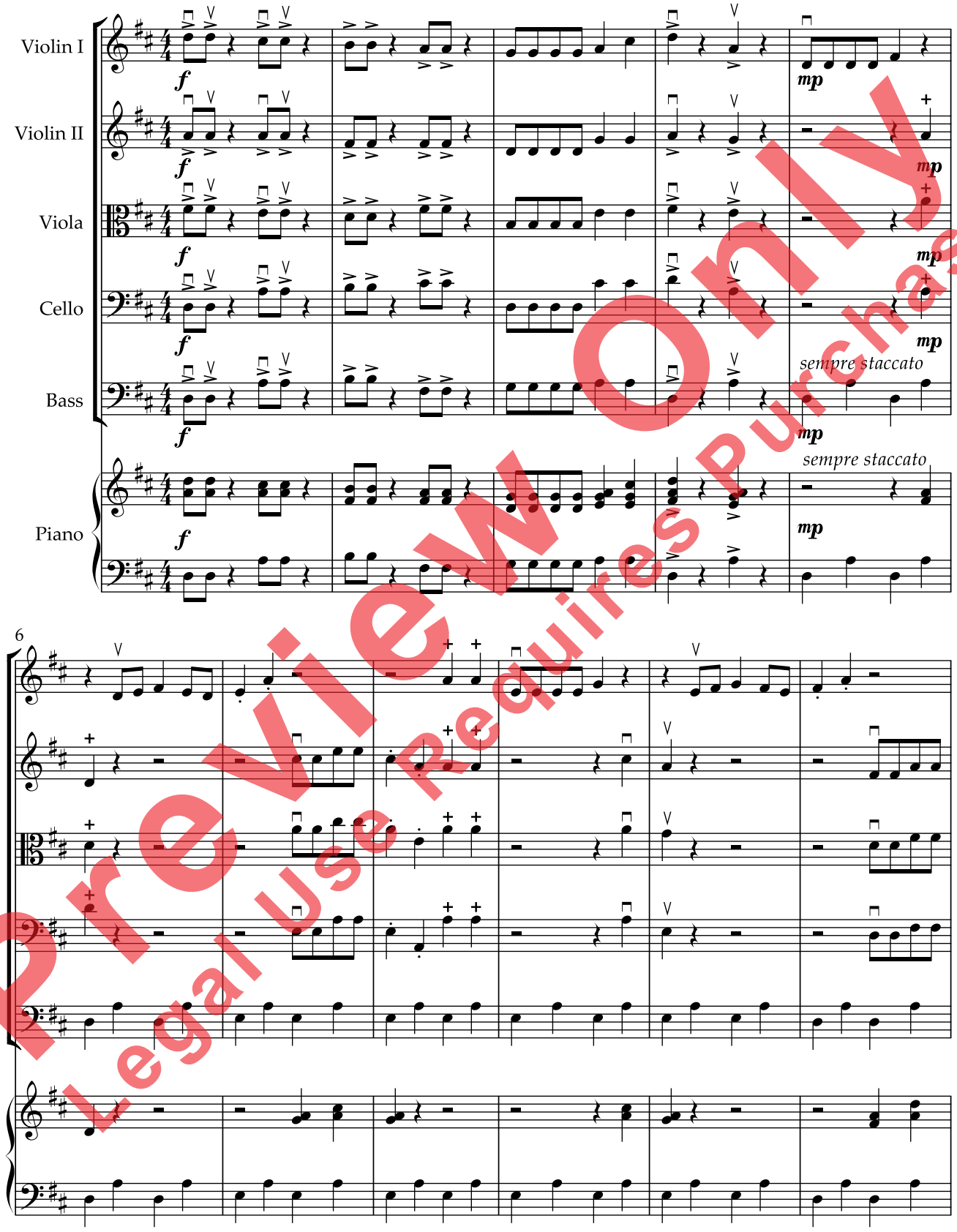
Rock Steady

for Steven Williams, my rock

Loreta Fin



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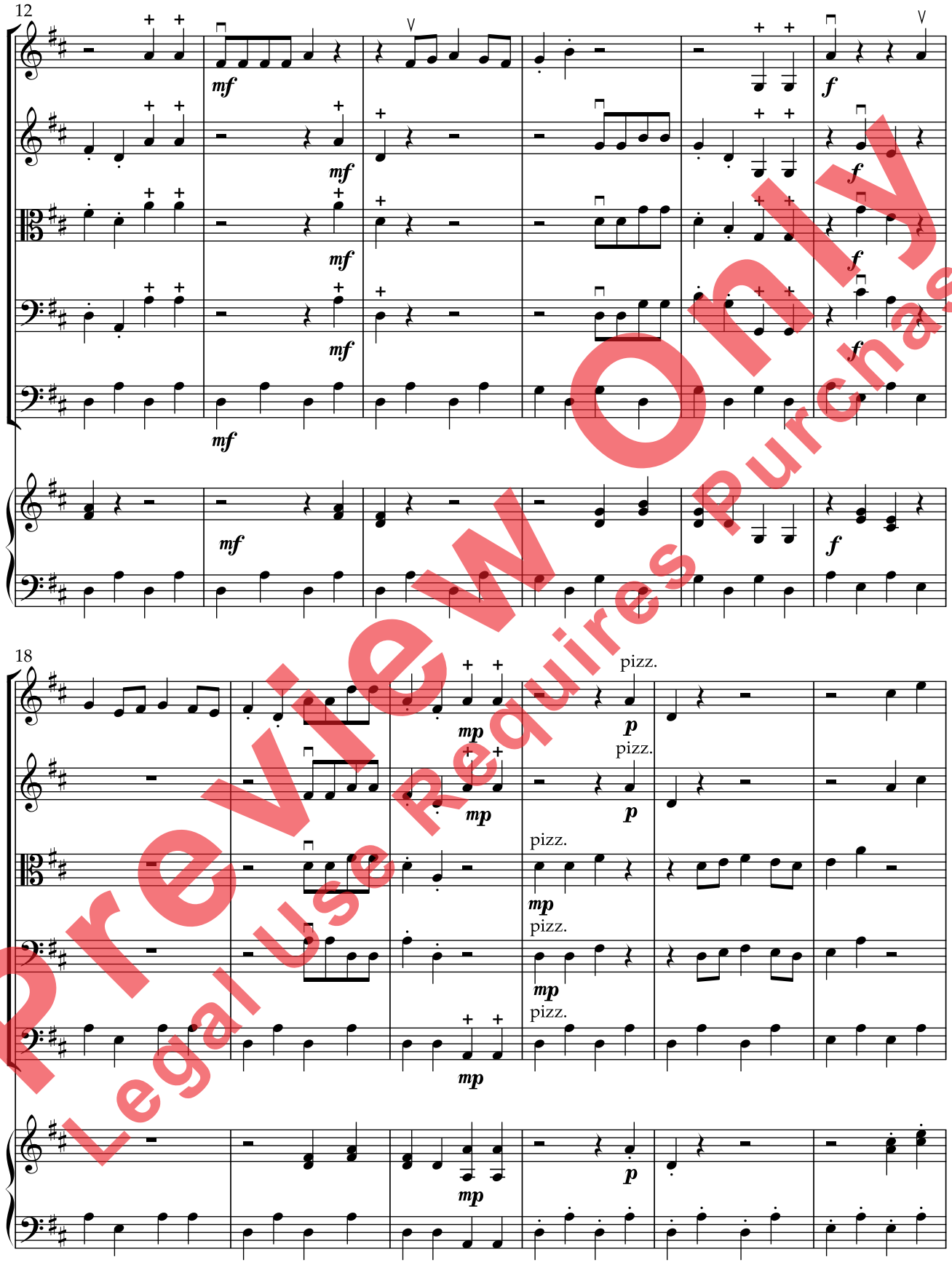

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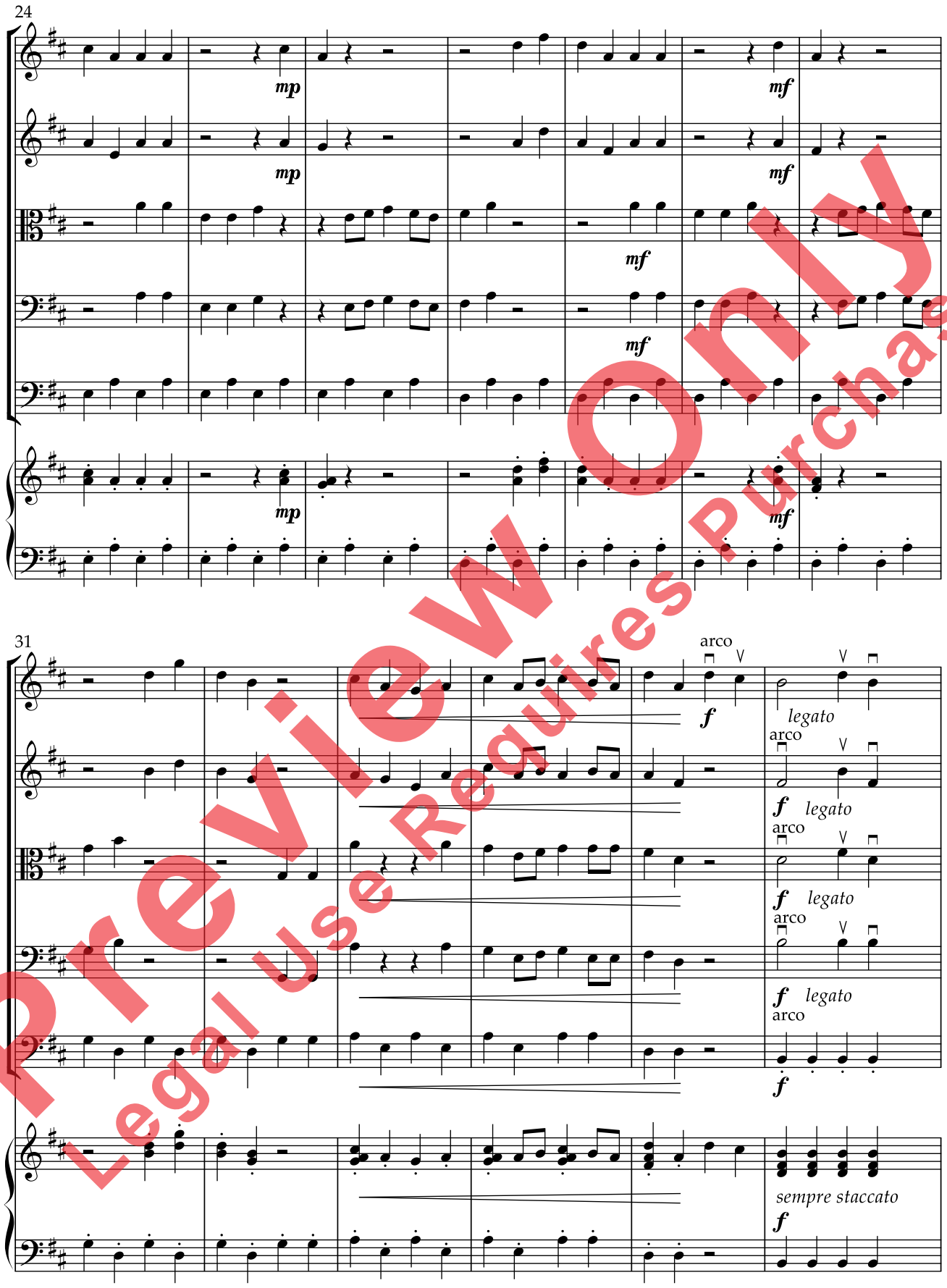

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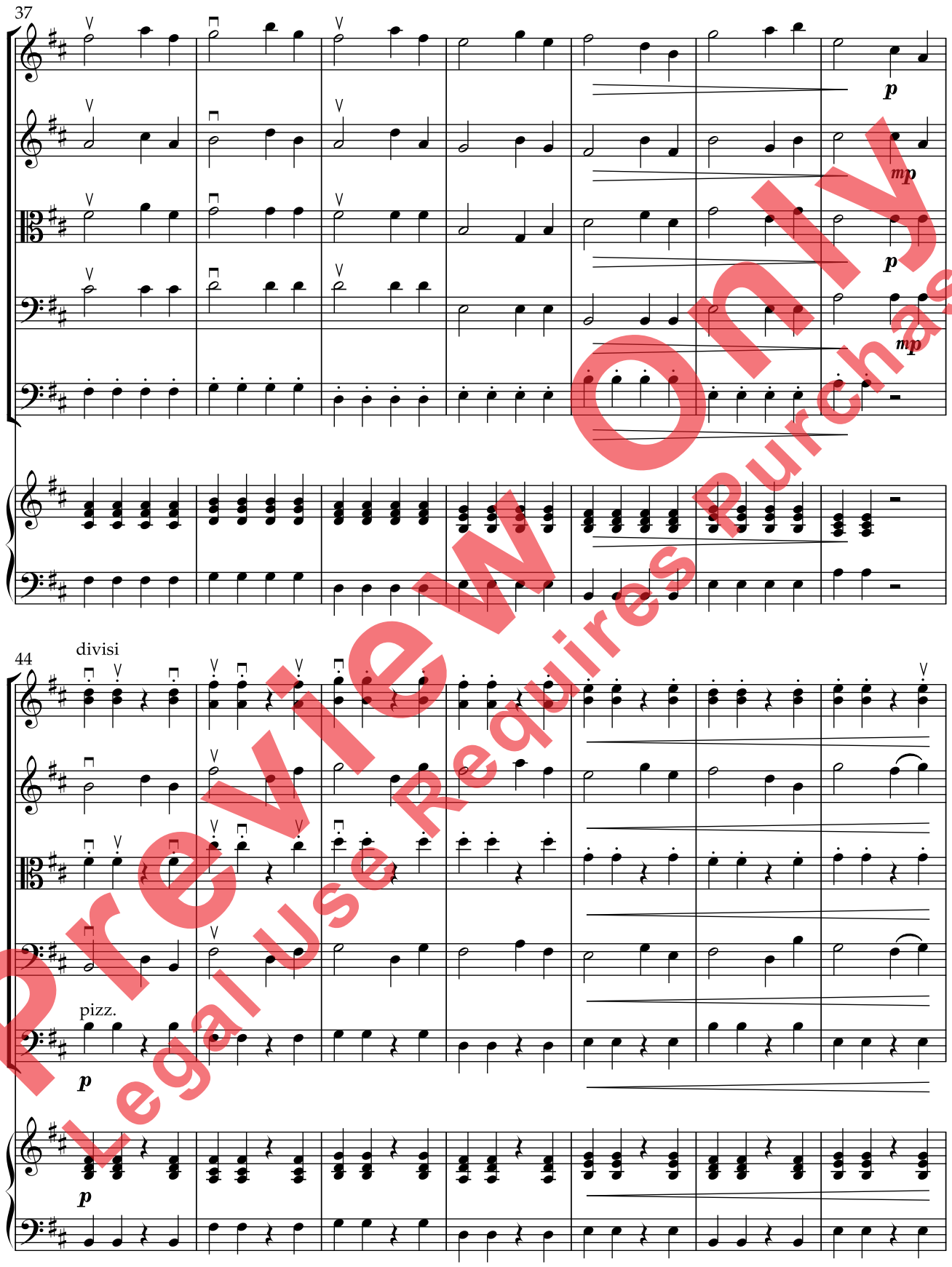

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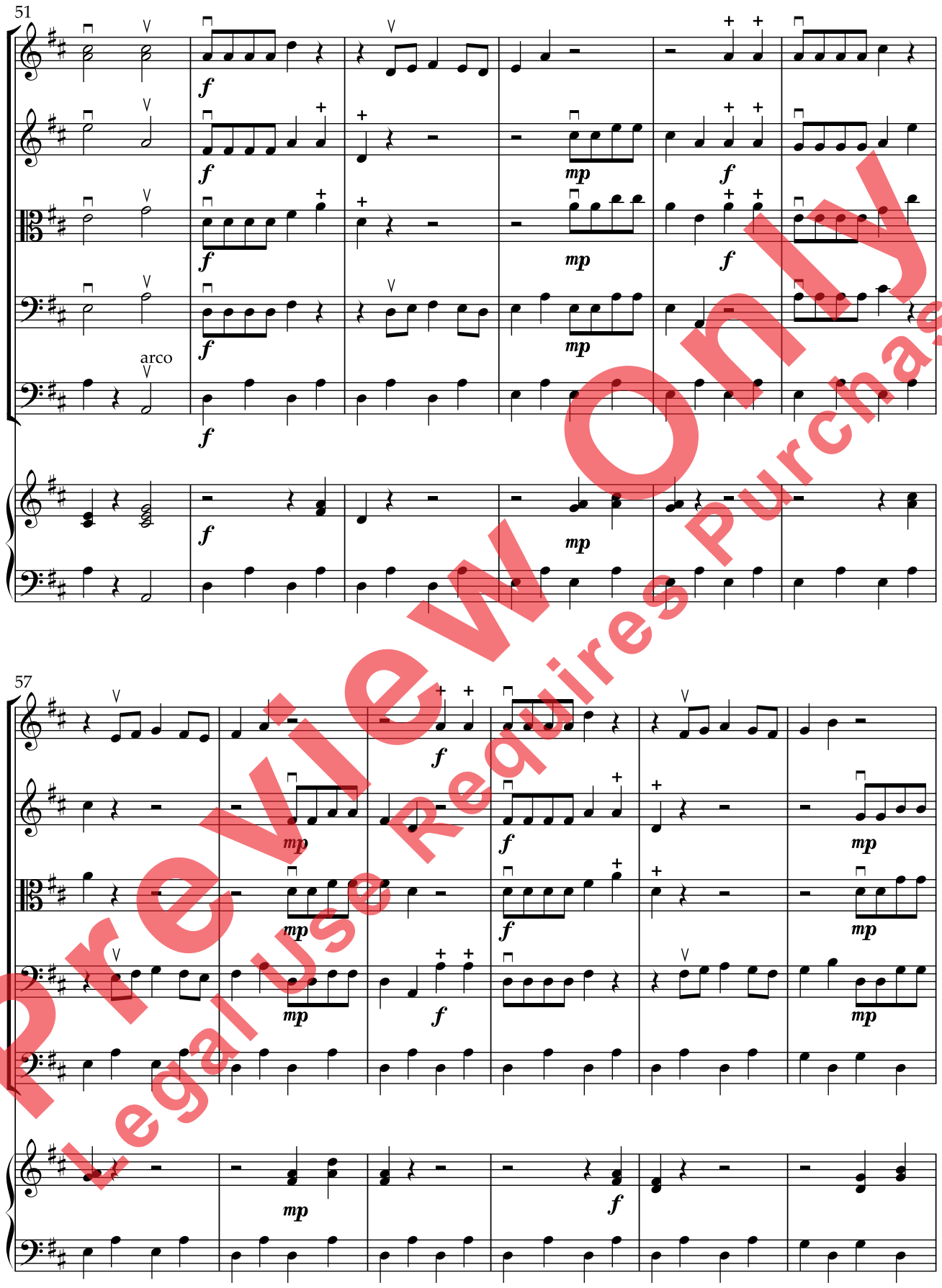

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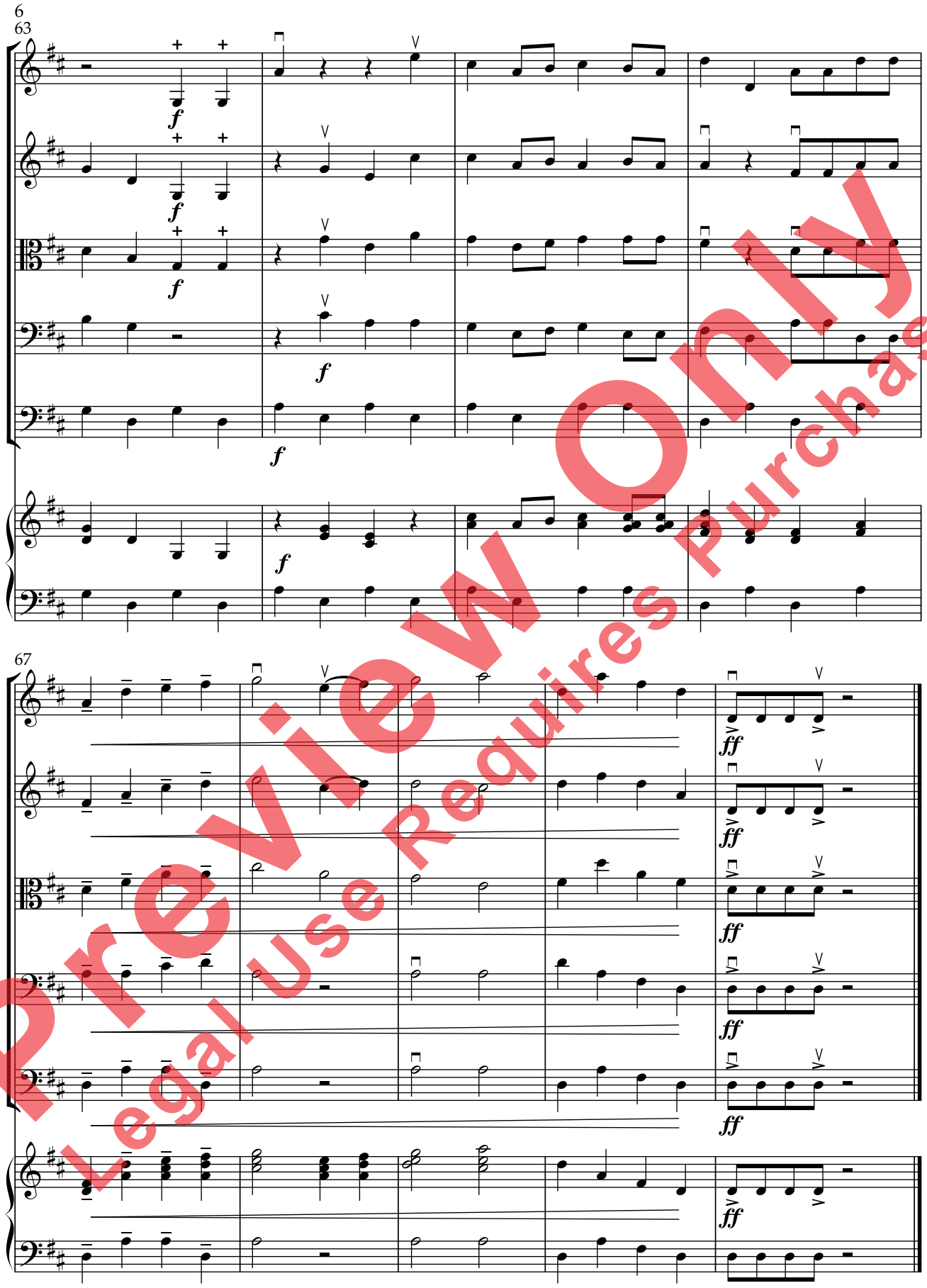

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