VARIATIONS ON AN IRISH TUNE

Brian Balmages

Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

Instrumentation

1 - Conductor's Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2
5 - Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)
5 - Viola
5 - Violoncello
5 - Double Bass
1 - Rehearsal Piano

FJH is now using a high-speed sorting system for parts.
As a result, all single page parts are collated before multiple page parts.

THE F·J·H MUSIC COMPANY INC.
Frank J. Hackinson

2525 Davie Road, Suite 360
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33317-7424
www.fjhmusic.com

The Composer

Brian Balmages (b. 1975) is an active composer, conductor, producer, and performer. He received his bachelor's degree in music from James Madison University and his master's degree from the University of Miami in Florida. Mr. Balmages's works for symphonic band, orchestra, and brass have been performed throughout the world, including College Band Directors National and Regional Conferences, the Midwest Clinic, the International Tuba/Euphonium Conference, the International Trombone Festival, and the International Trumpet Guild Conference. His active schedule of commissions has included groups ranging from elementary schools to professional ensembles, including Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Miami Symphony Orchestra, the University of Miami Wind Ensemble, Dominion Brass, and others. He has also enjoyed world premieres in prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall.

As a conductor, Mr. Balmages enjoys engagements with numerous honor bands, university groups, and professional ensembles throughout the country. Notable guest conducting appearances have included the Midwest Clinic, College Band Directors Regional Conference, Mid-Atlantic Wind Conductors Conference, the Atlantic Classical Orchestra Brass Ensemble, and Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore. He has also served as an adjunct professor of instrumental conducting at Towson University in Maryland.

Currently, Mr. Balmages is director of instrumental publications at The FJH Music Company Inc. in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He resides in Baltimore with his wife, Lisa.

About the Music

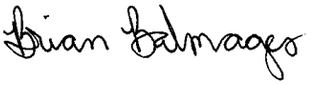
Variations on an Irish Tune is based on *The Minstrel Boy* by Thomas Moore, one of the most important figures in 19th-century Irish music. After a brief, heralding introduction, the piece moves into a drone, simulating the sound of bagpipes. At this point, the original tune is presented in its entirety. Slight variations on the opening motif then begin to appear as the work moves into a lyrical section.

The second section is not a literal variation of *The Minstrel Boy;* rather, the melody is based on altered fragments of the original tune. In measure 44, a minor version of the opening material is heard; and at measure 55, hints of the second half of the tune are heard. These different motifs are combined with original material to create the entire scope of the second variation.

The third variation restates elements of the drone, but also introduces fiddle-style playing. The rhythmic intensity continues to build until violin 1 introduces the final variation. The entire ensemble then builds to an exciting hoedown conclusion.

Observe all accents, particularly those in the third section that occur on offbeats. This accented syncopation is vital to the style and should be exaggerated as much as possible. The cello and bass lines should really "dig in" and soar at measure 93, while upper strings perform long, accented quarter notes.

String Editing: Soon Hee Newbold



Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

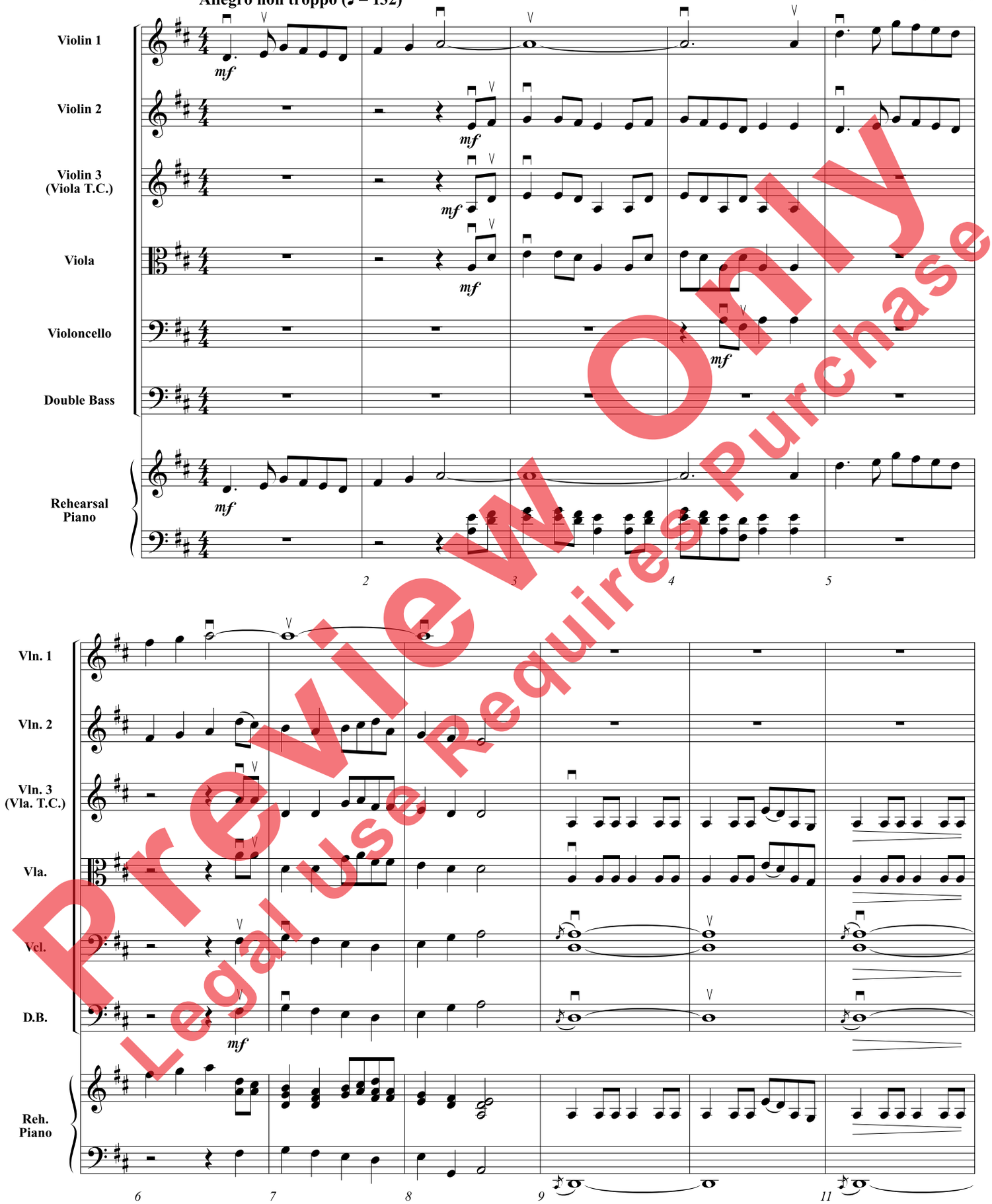
CONDUCTOR'S FULL SCORE

Approx. Performance Time = 3:50

VARIATIONS ON AN IRISH TUNE

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

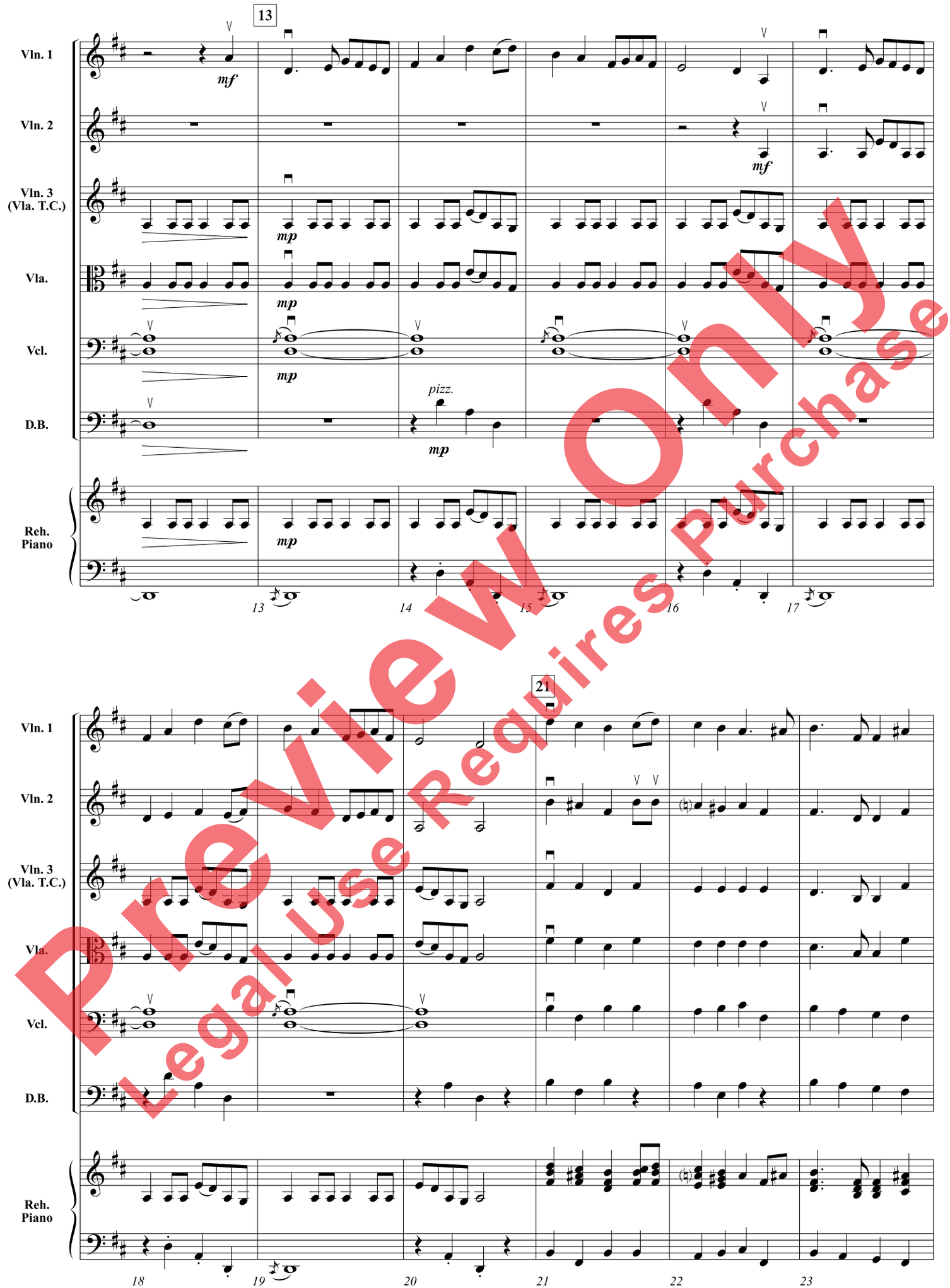
Allegro non troppo (♩ = 132)



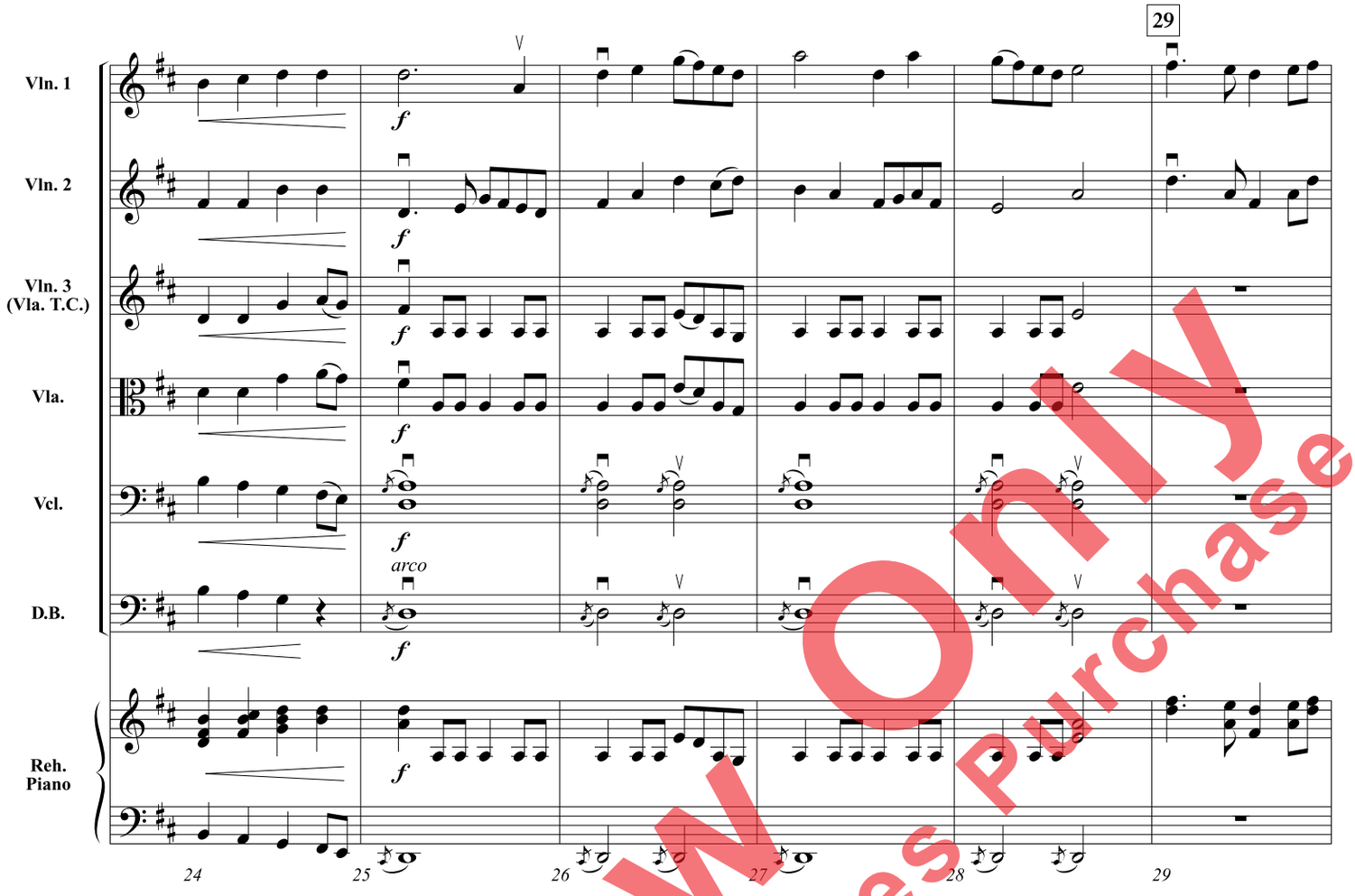
Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

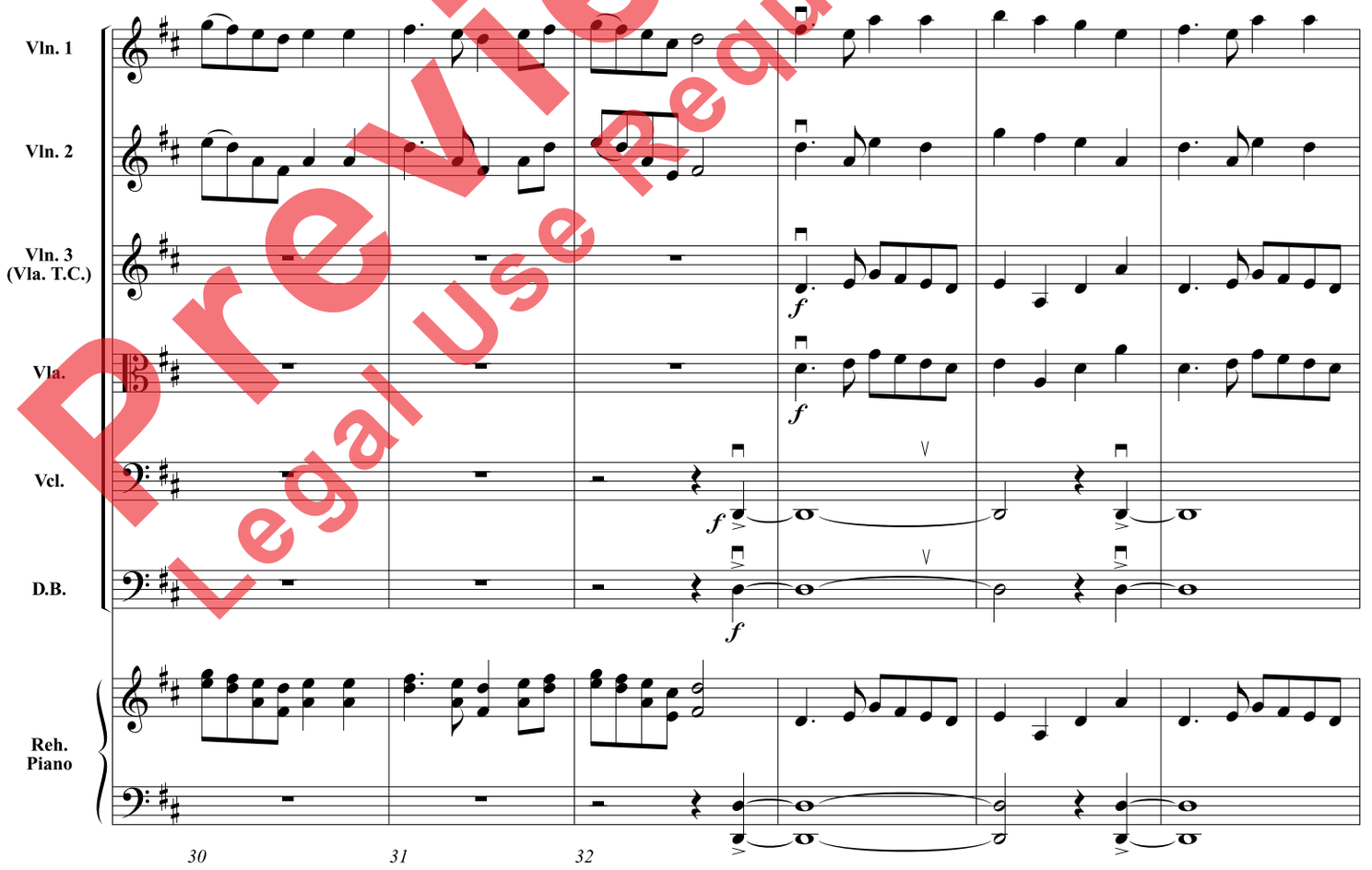
Copyright © 2006 The FJH Music Company Inc.
International Copyright Secured. Made in U.S.A. All Rights Reserved.

WARNING! This arrangement is protected by copyright law. Copying or reproducing it by any method without the publisher's written permission is an infringement of copyright law. Anyone who reproduces copyrighted materials is subject to substantial penalties for each infringement.

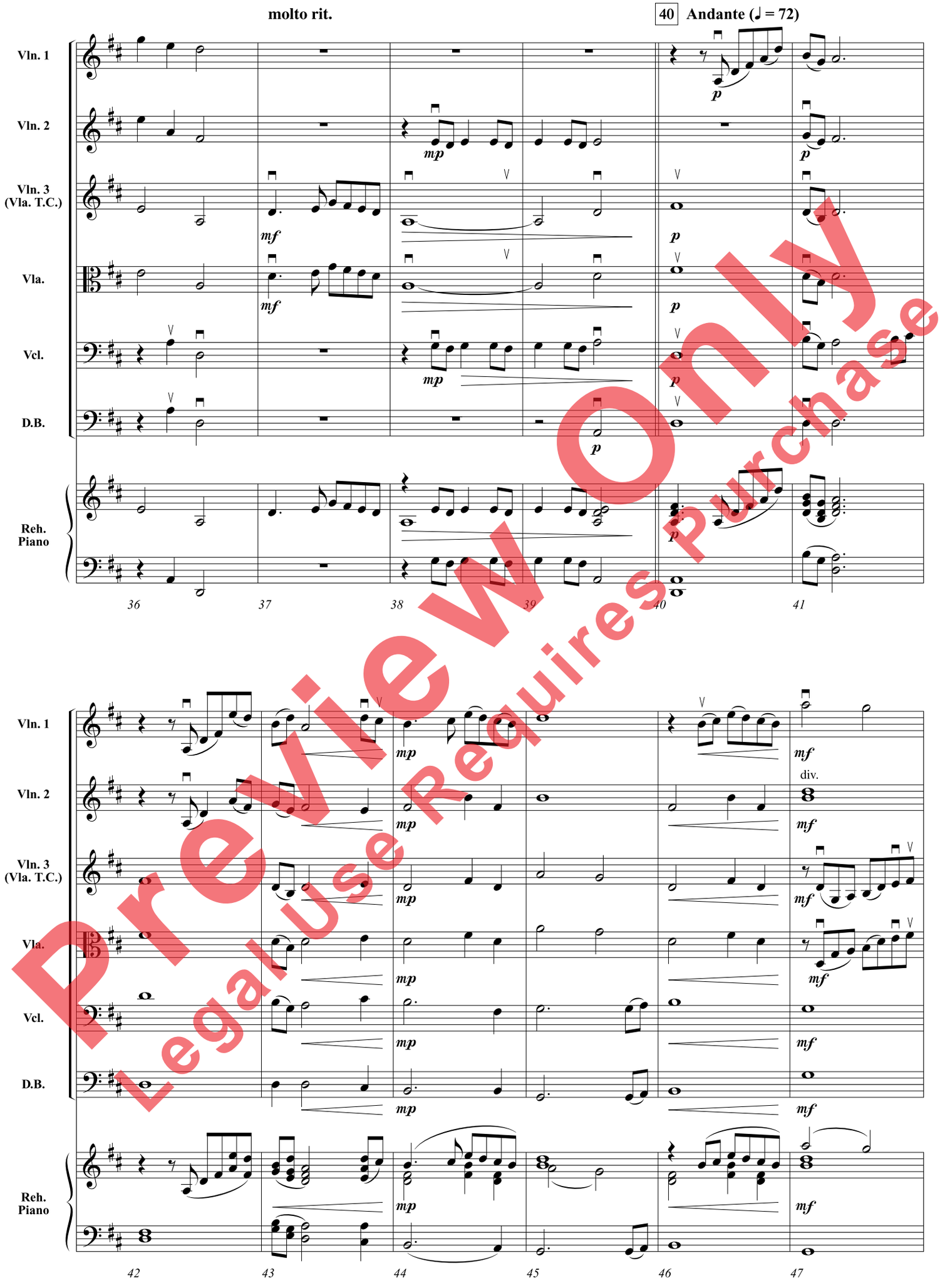


Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

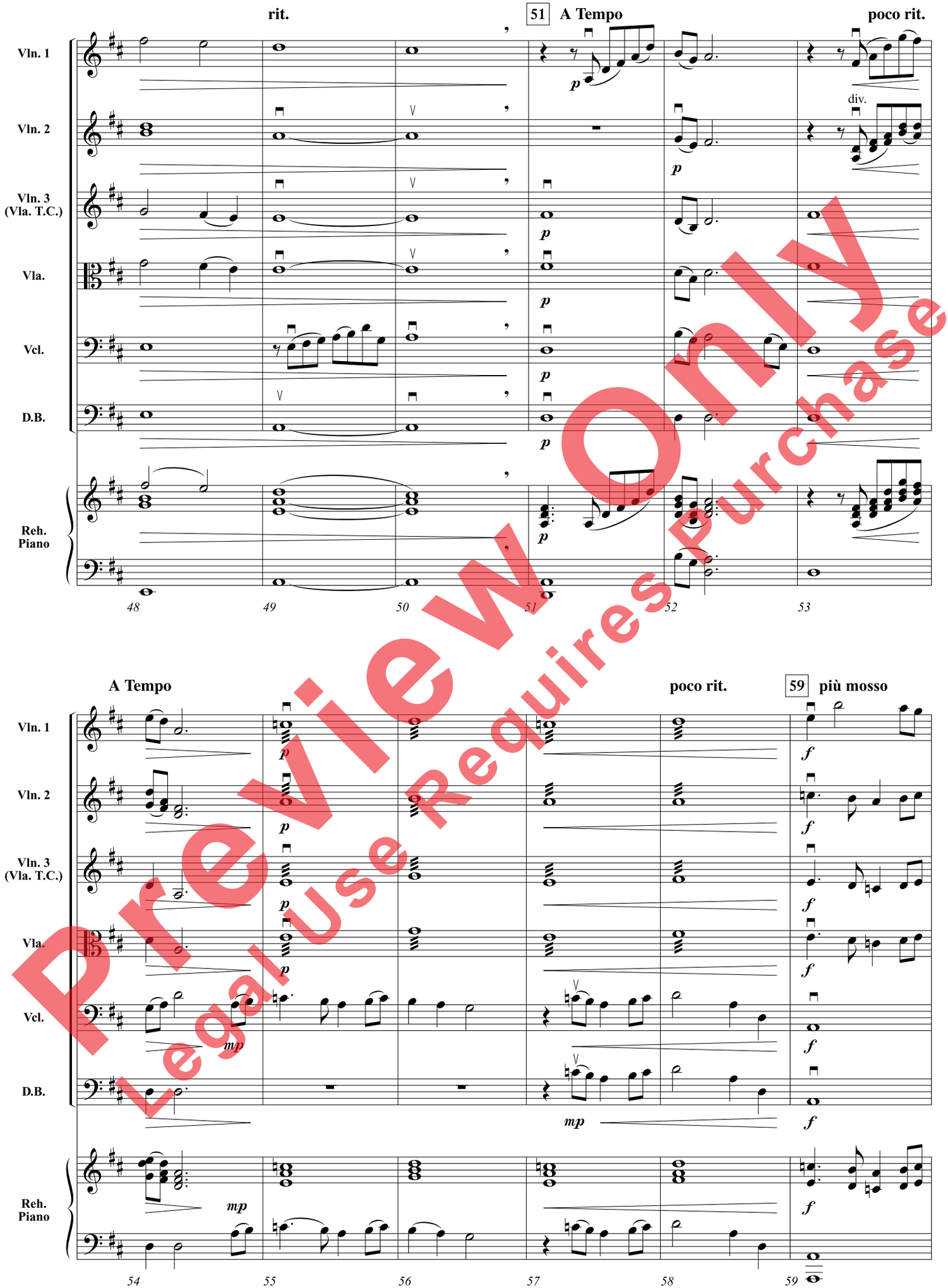




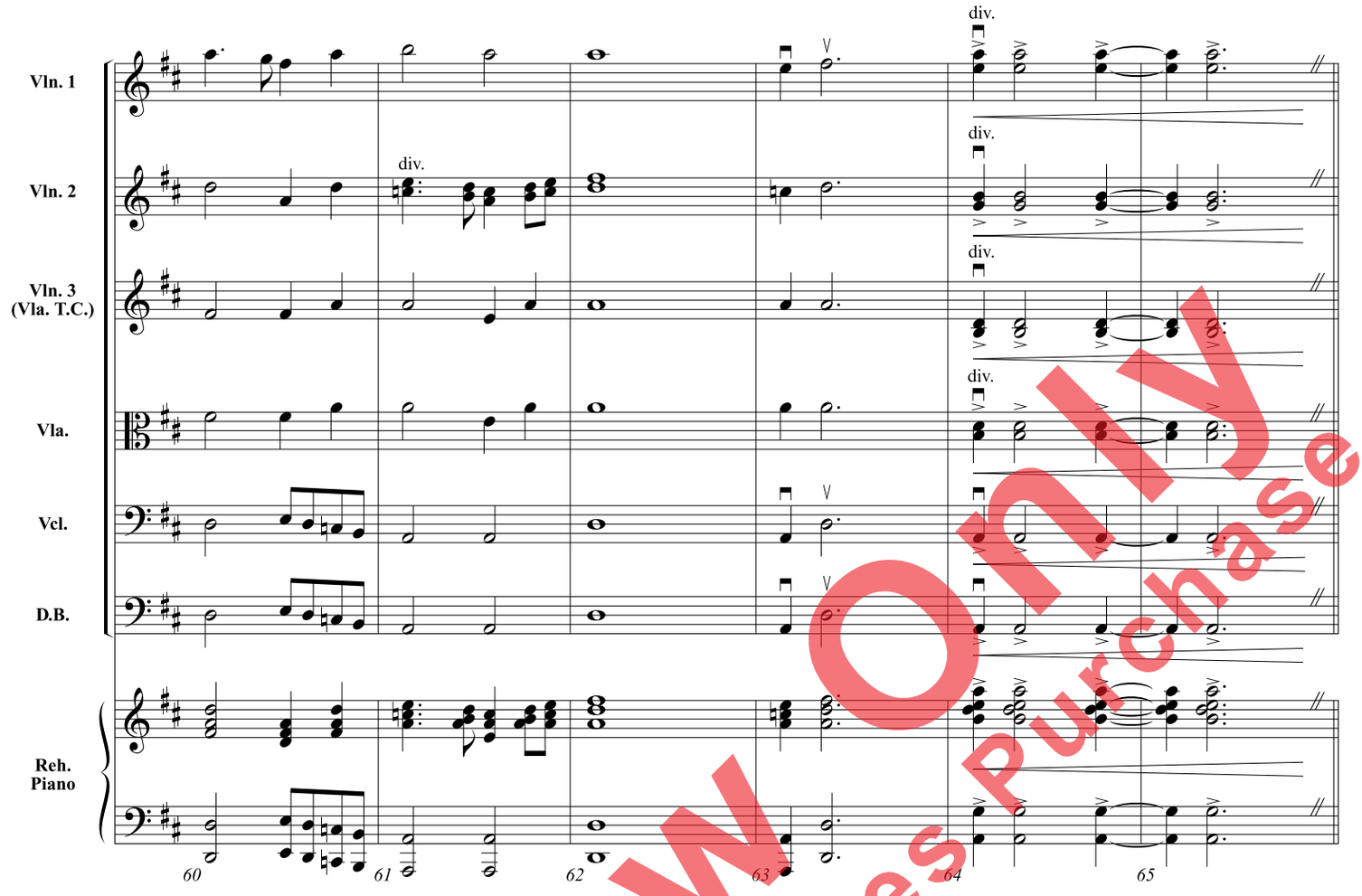
Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

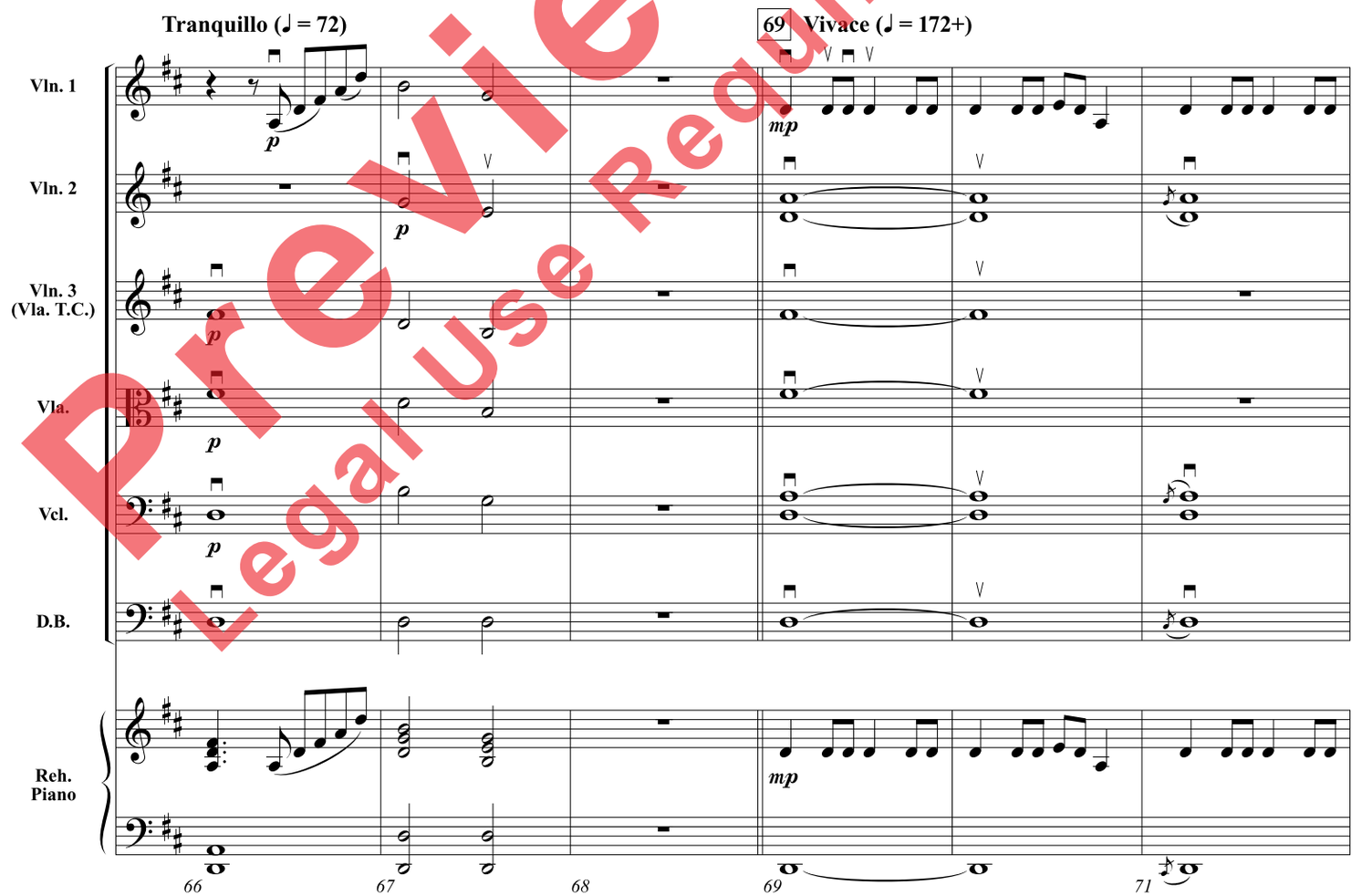


Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

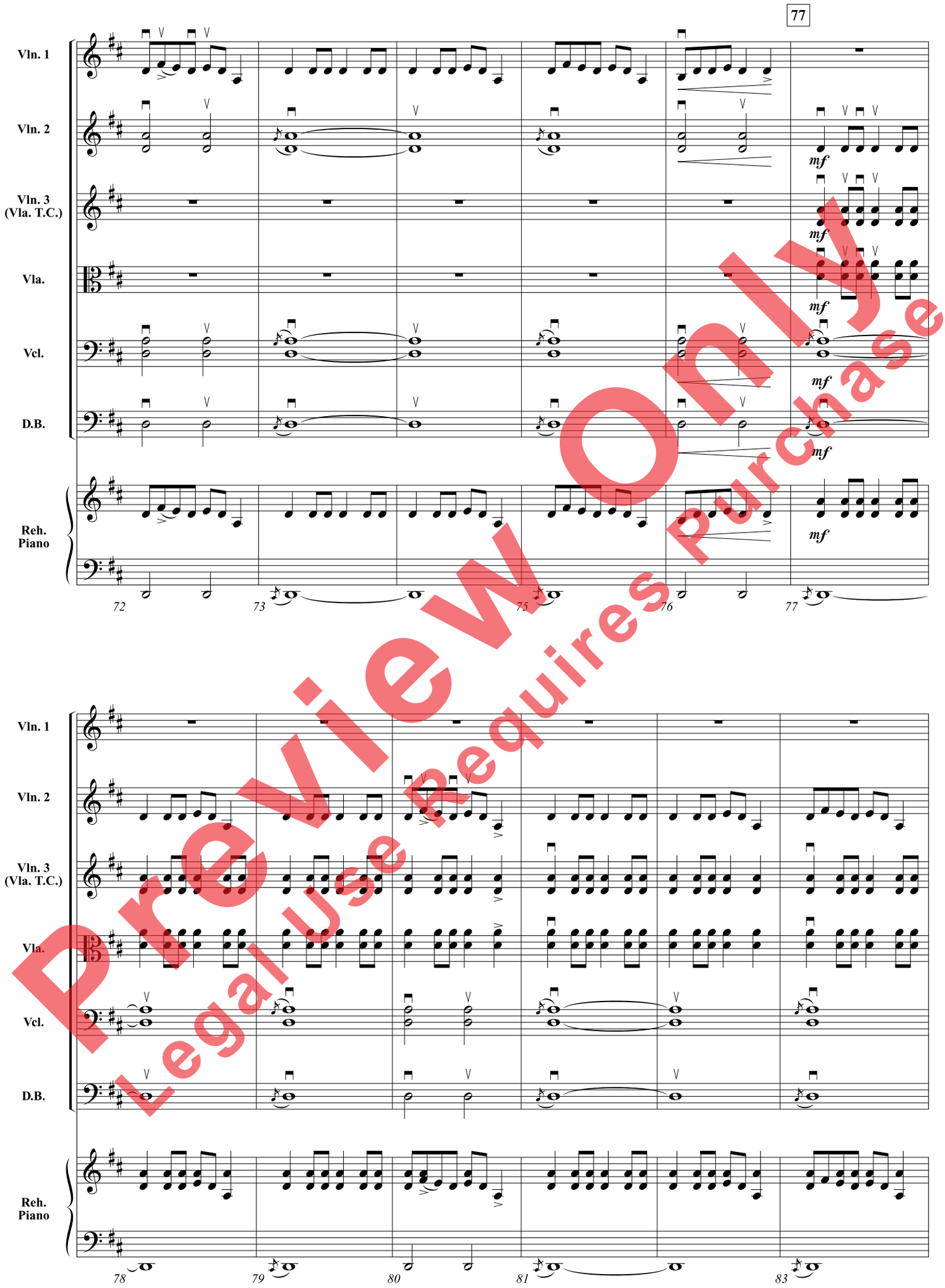


Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

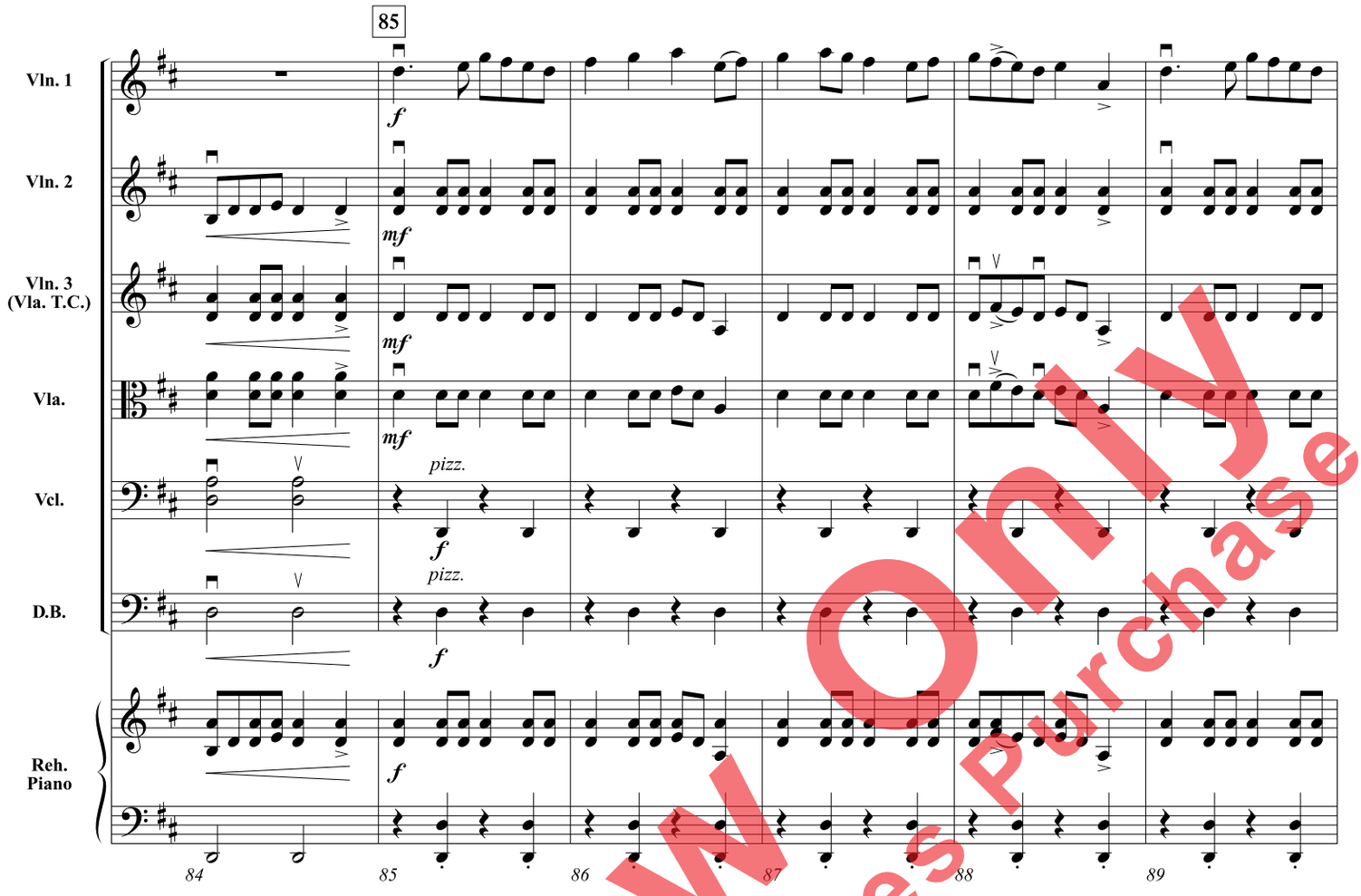


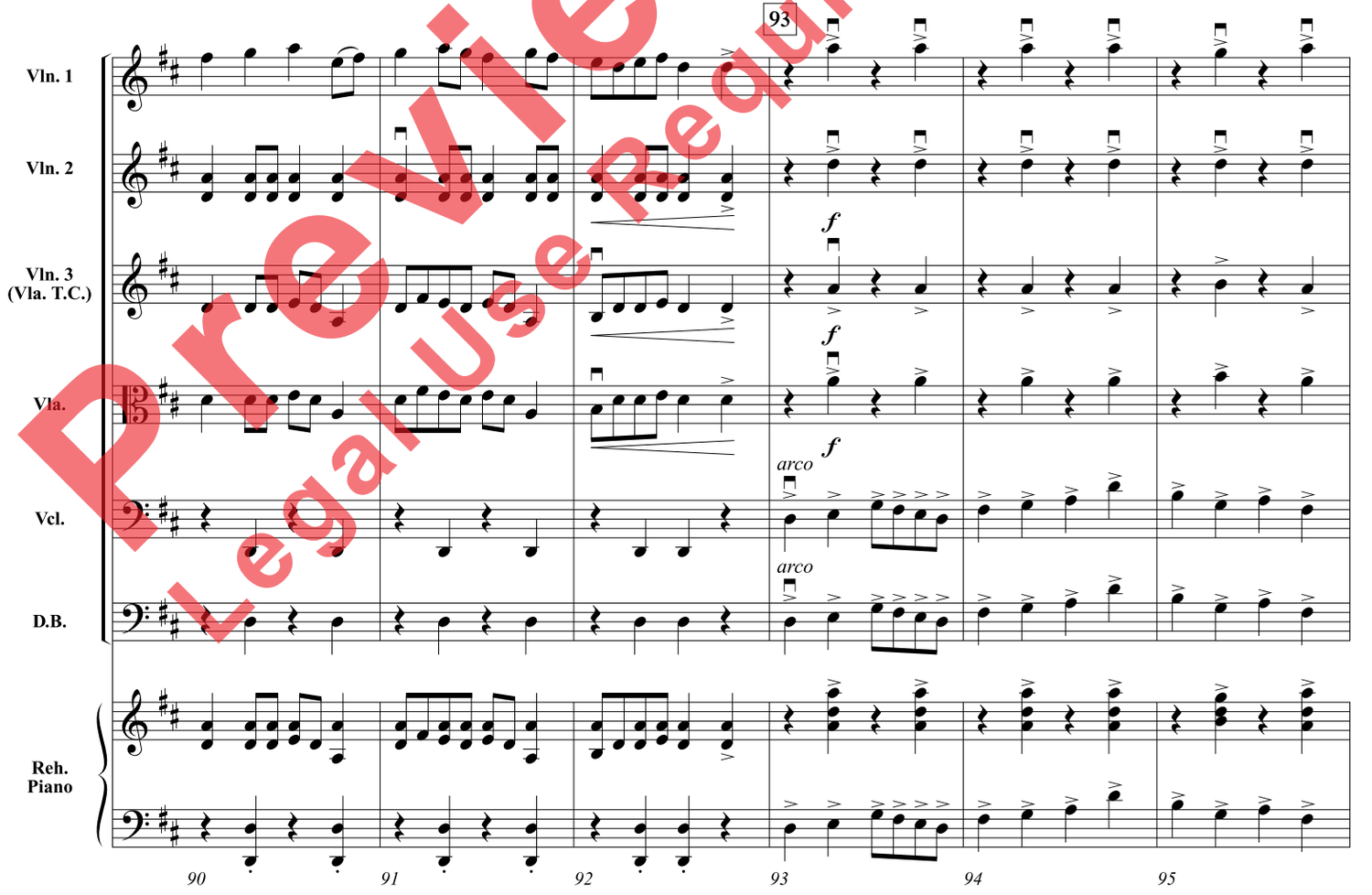


Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

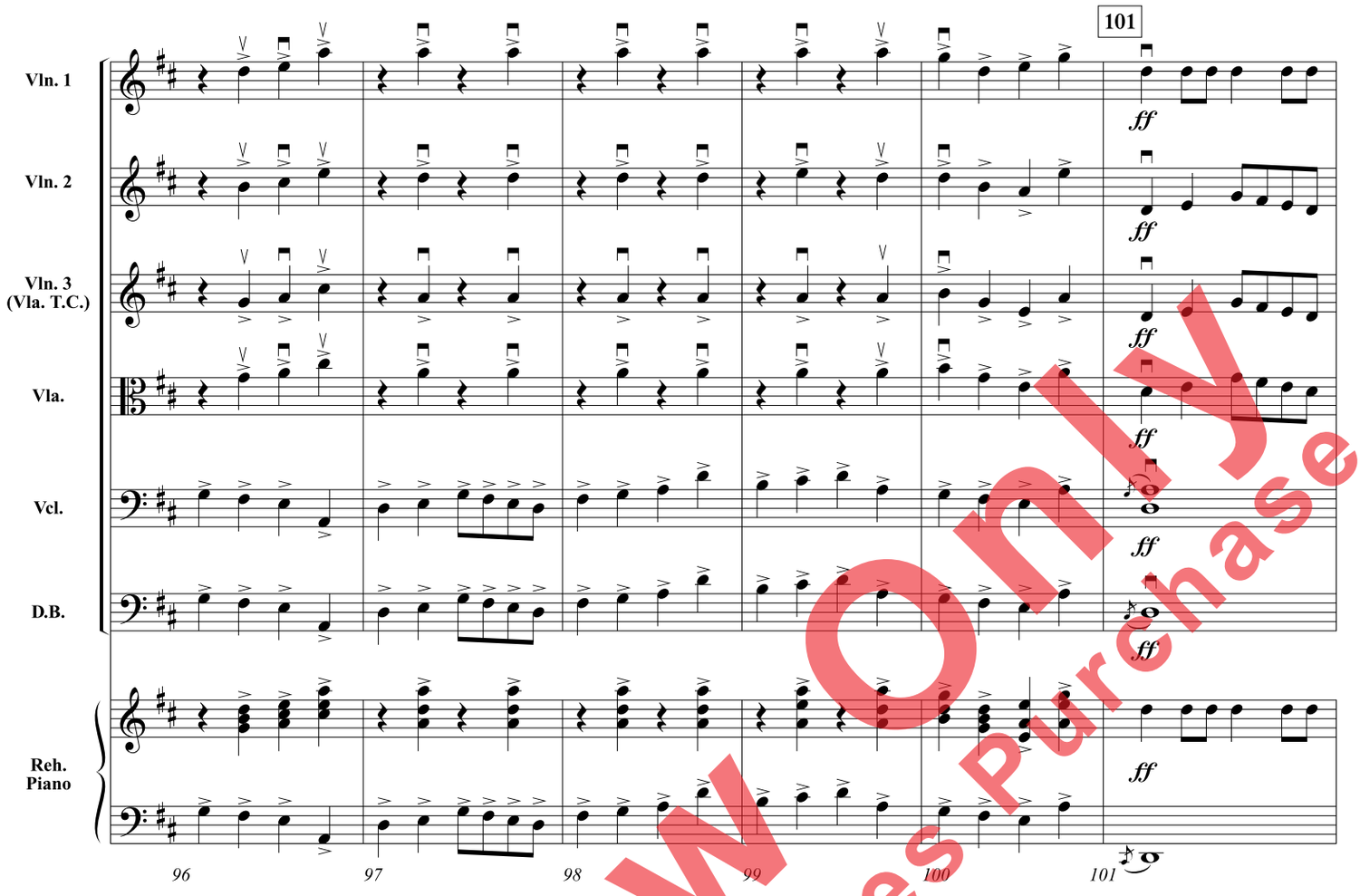


Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

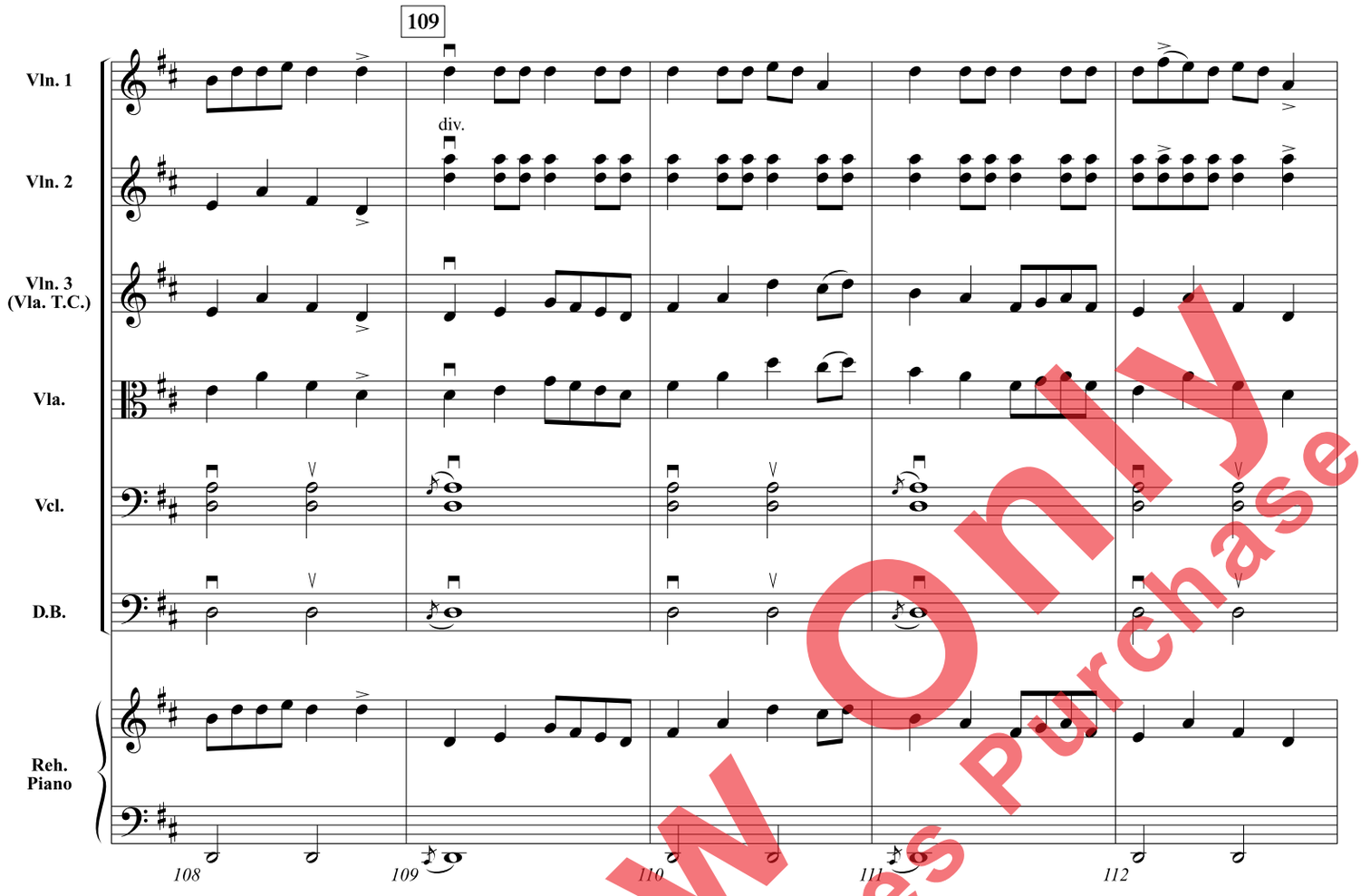




Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase



Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase



Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

ST6116