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FJH STRING ORCHESTRA

Grade 3

ICE SCULPTURES

Brian Balmages

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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 - 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 the 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 and orchestras, 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 and acting director of the symphonic band at Towson University in Maryland.

Currently, Mr. Balmages is the director of instrumental publications for The FJH Music Company Inc. in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He resides in Baltimore with his wife, Lisa, and their son, Jacob.

About the Music

The original concept of this work was centered around the magnificent ice sculptures that I had seen at various venues throughout my life. It was to reflect everything from simple platters of food to elaborate works of art. As I began researching the topic, I stumbled upon the incredible concept of ice hotels—temporary hotels made entirely of snow and sculpted blocks of ice. There are a handful of these amazing creations throughout the world, reconstructed each year because of their dependence on subzero temperatures during construction and operation.

The world's first ice hotel was built in Sweden. It began as an exhibition area for ice art in 1989. In 1990, French artist Jannot Derid held an exhibition in a cylinder-shaped igloo. One evening, there were no available hotel rooms in the area, so some visitors asked for permission to spend the night in the exhibition hall, sleeping in sleeping bags atop reindeer skin. These became the "hotel's" first guests.

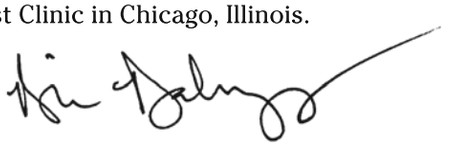
The entire hotel is made completely of ice blocks, including the drinking glasses, plates, furniture, and even beds (though they are typically lined with some type of fur or skin, and a mattress). It typically includes more than 80 rooms and suites, a bar, reception area, and chapel. Each room has a unique theme, although the hotel architecture is changed each year because it must be completely rebuilt from scratch. The structure typically exists from December to April.

As I continued researching, the scope of the piece changed a bit. While still paying homage to ice sculptures, I incorporated the more dramatic concept of ice hotels as well as the many people that set out to visit these unique destinations. Thus, this work depicts both the construction of the ice hotel, the artwork that exists inside of it, and the spirit of the people that lodge within. It begins from nothing but blocks of ice and creative ideas. As the architecture begins to come together, the artwork soon comes to life, telling not only its own story but the story of the individuals who created it. It also reflects the adventure and heart of those who come to experience these amazing creations in extreme conditions.

Toward the end of the work, the music becomes quite soft and reminiscent as the inevitable happens. The ice melts, taking all of its stories and memories with it until the following year when new stories are told.

Ice Sculptures was commissioned by the Bridle Path/Montgomery Elementary Select String Ensemble in Lansdale, Pennsylvania, Ralph Jackson, Director. It was premiered at the 2008 Midwest Clinic in Chicago, Illinois.

String Editing: Soon Hee Newbold



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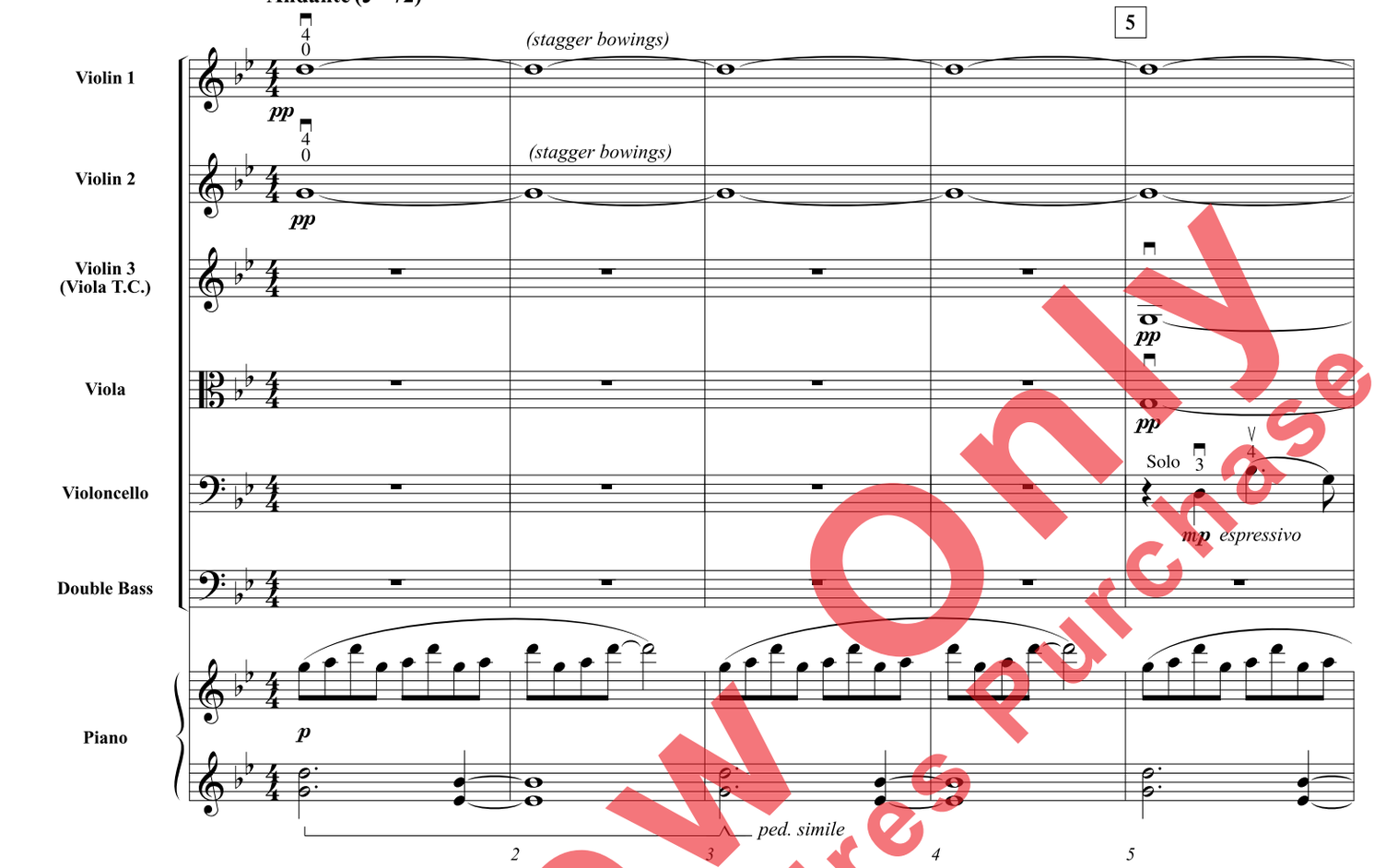
Duration: 4:15

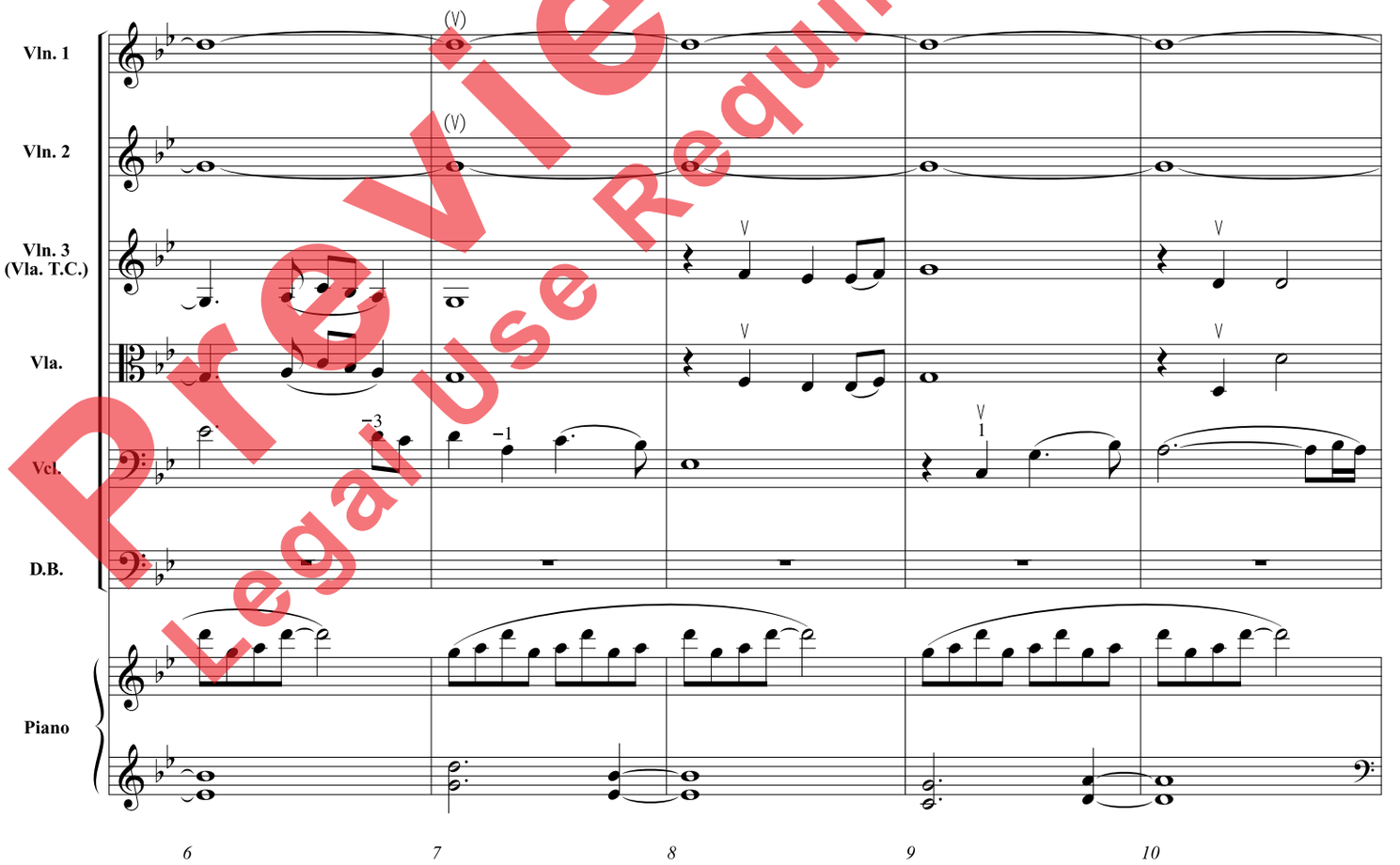
commissioned by the Bridle Path / Montgomery Elementary Select String Ensemble
Lansdale, PA; Ralph Jackson, Director

ICE SCULPTURES

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

Andante (♩ = 72)





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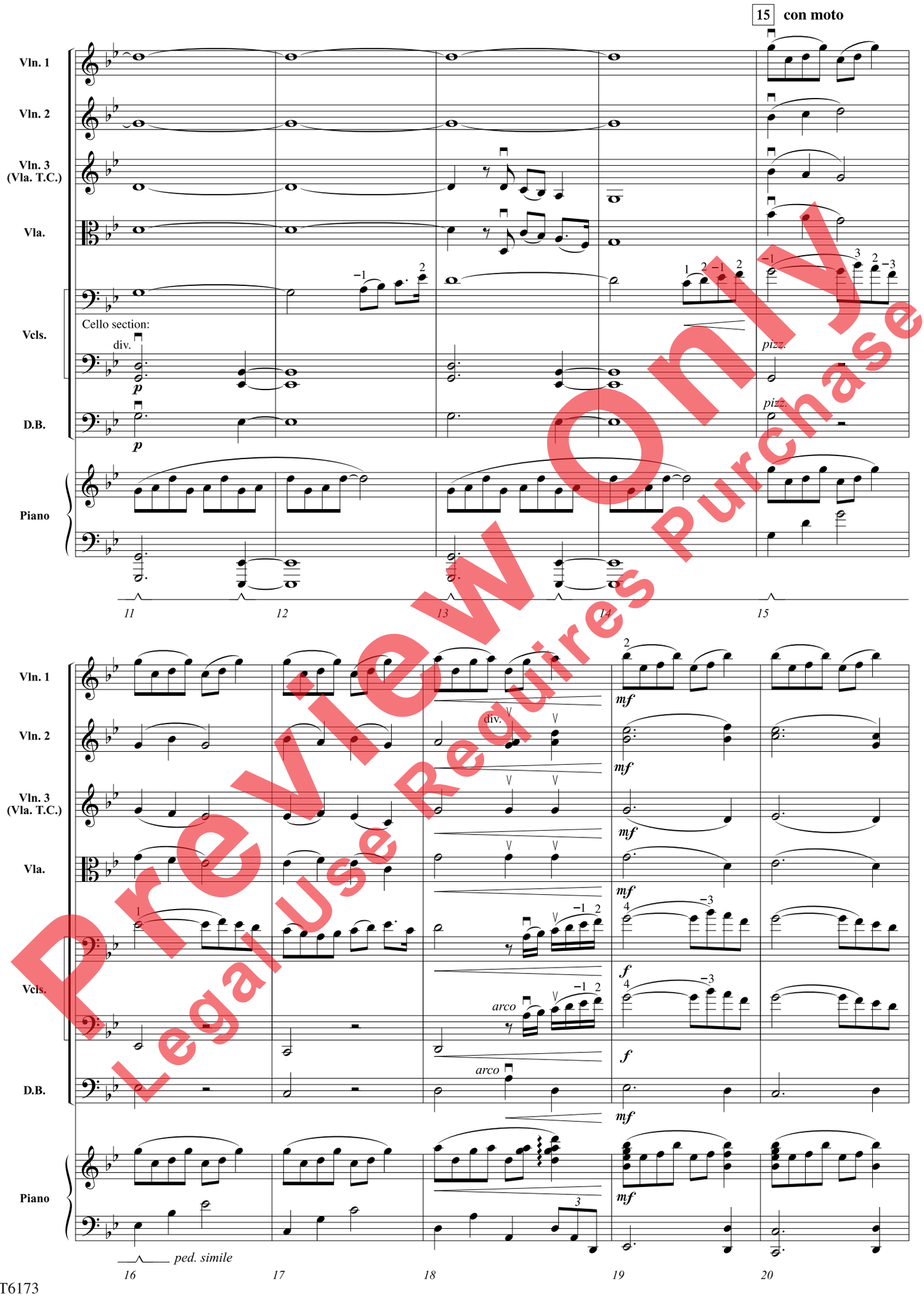

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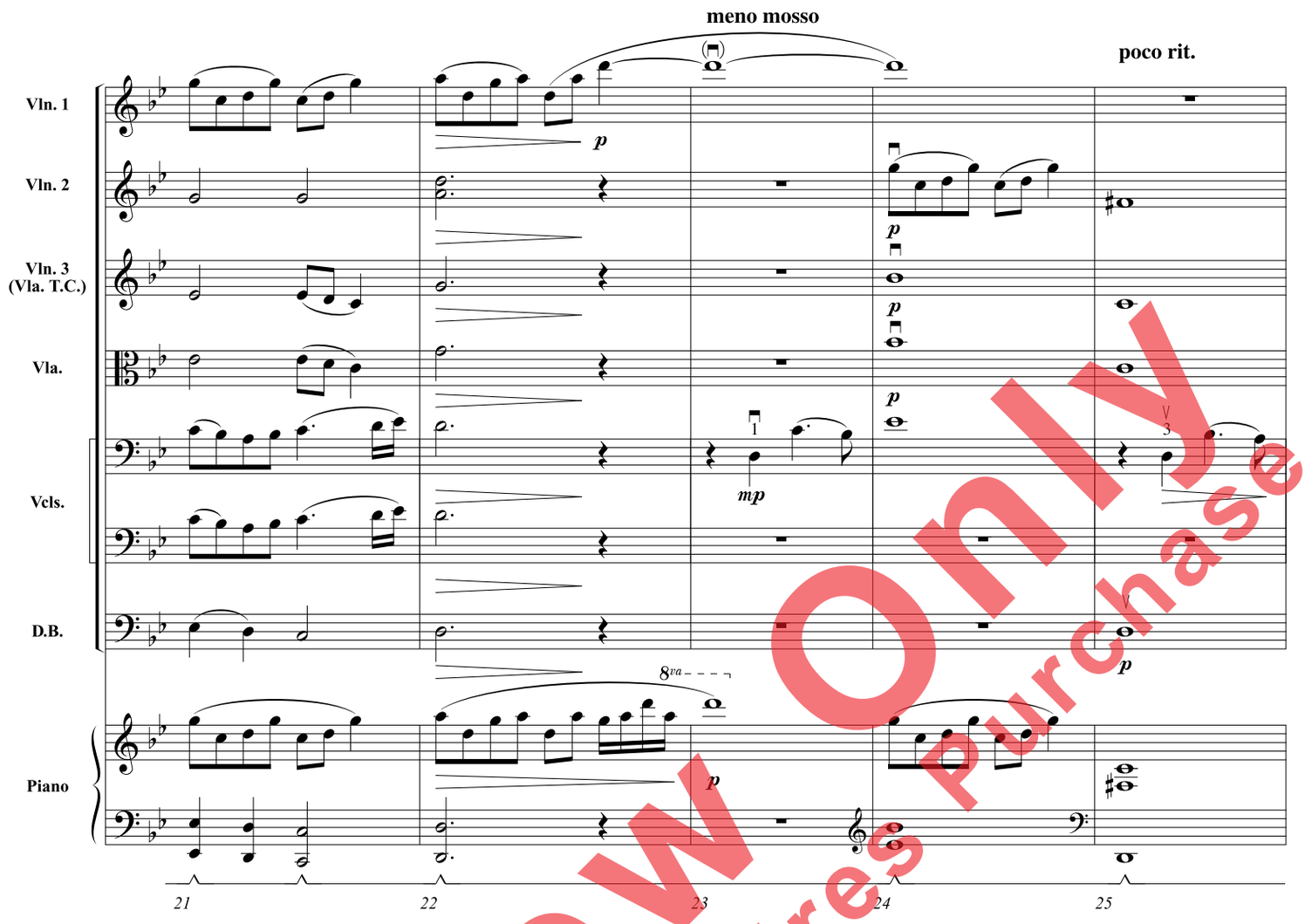

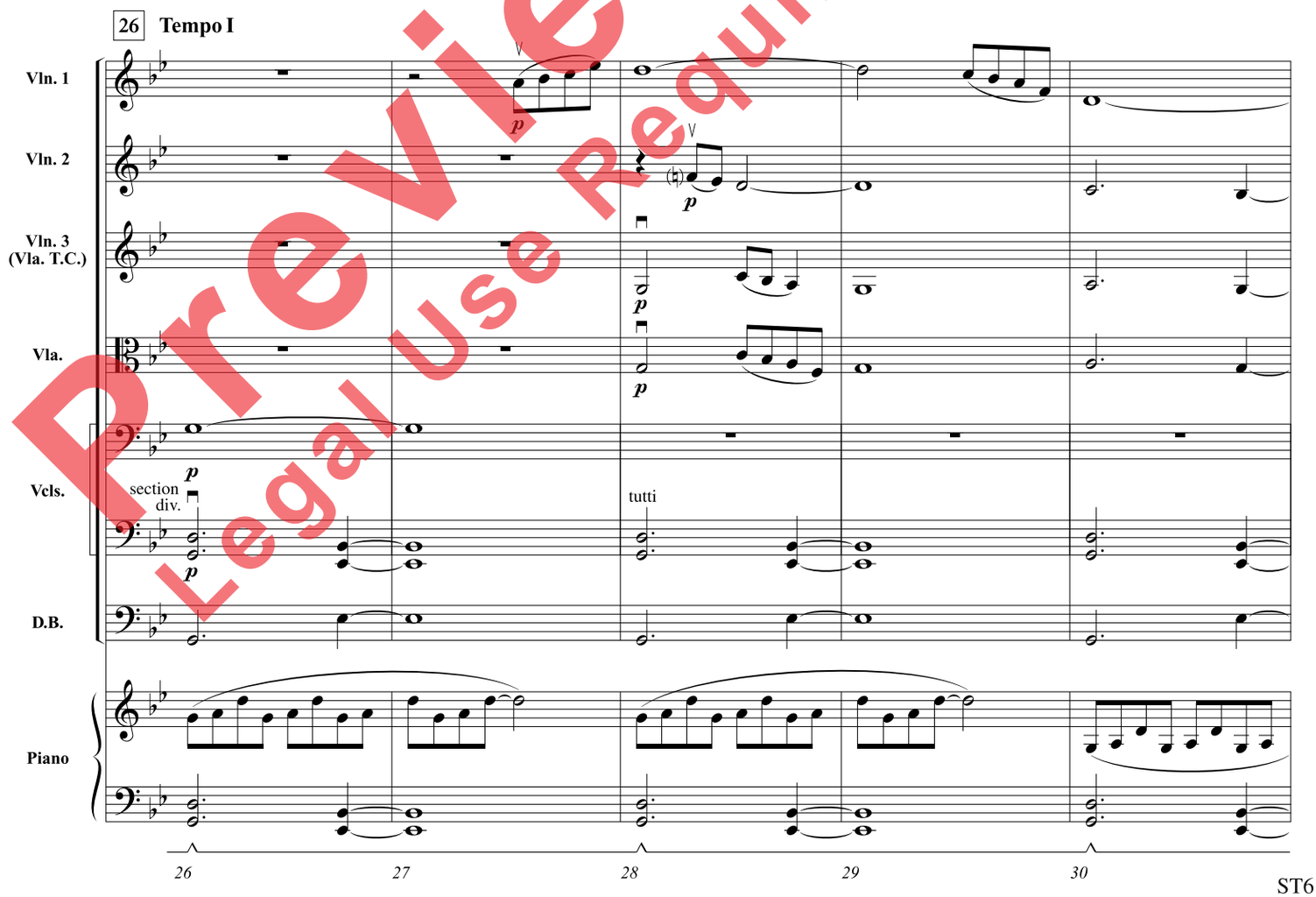

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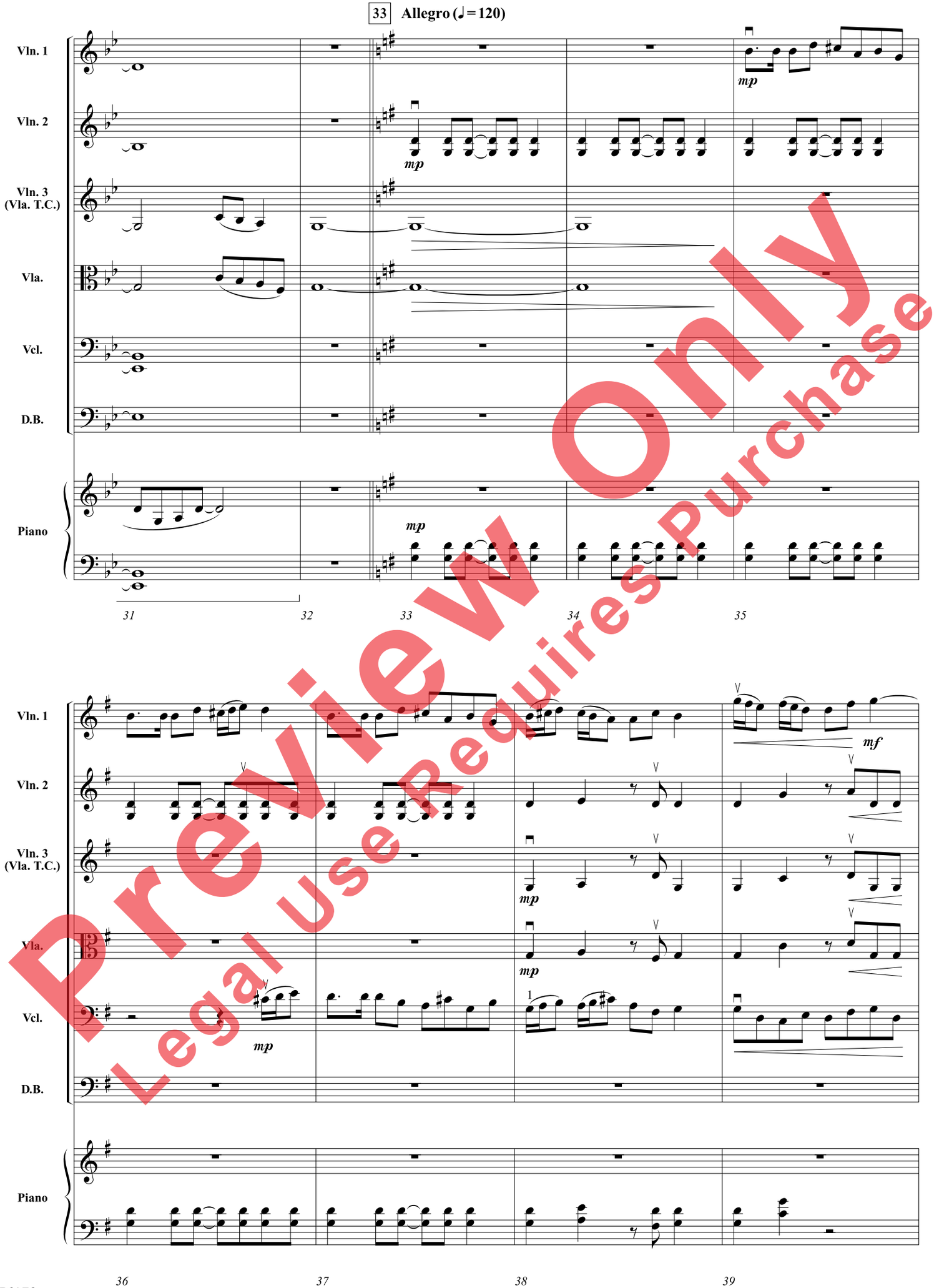

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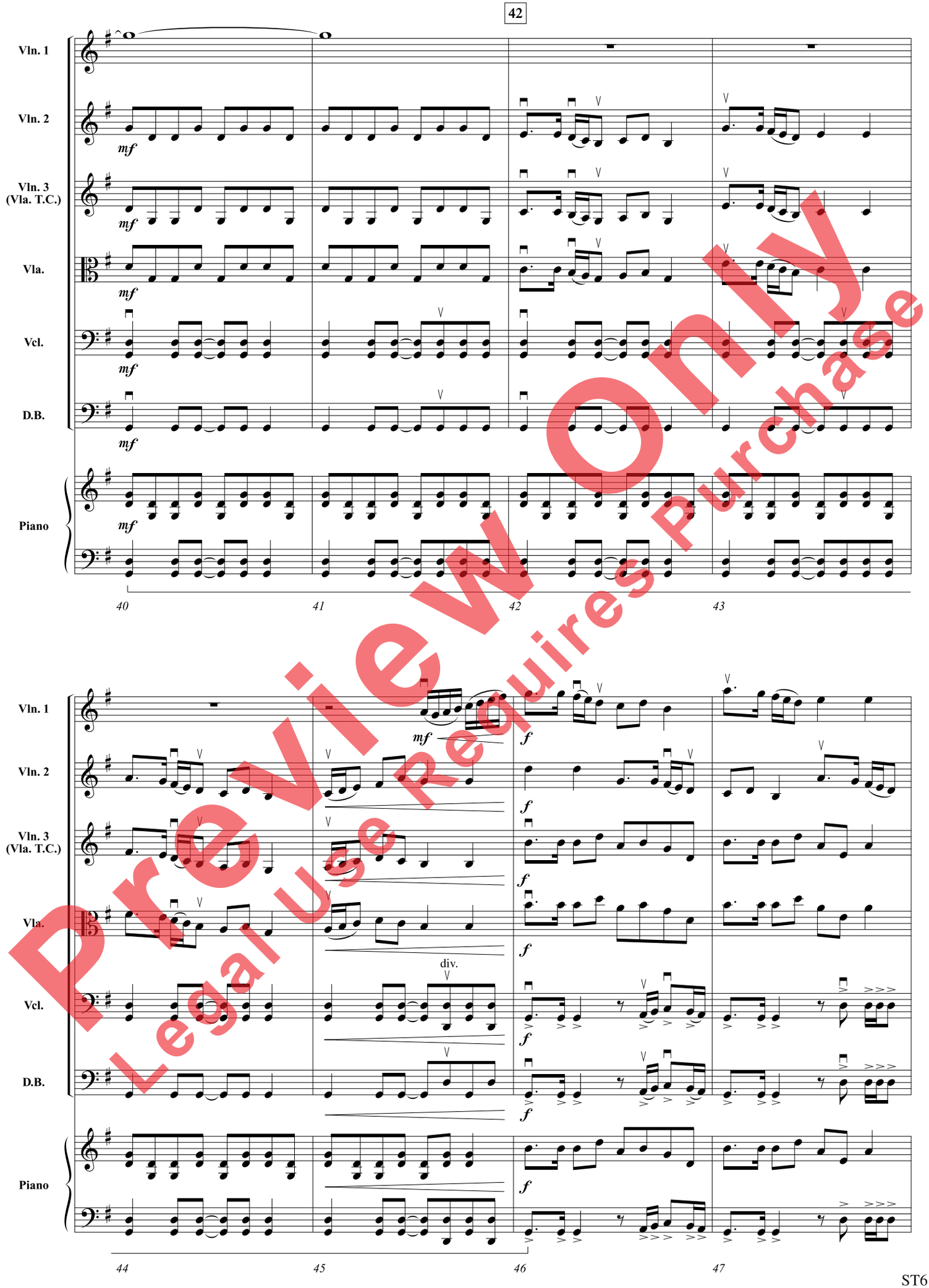

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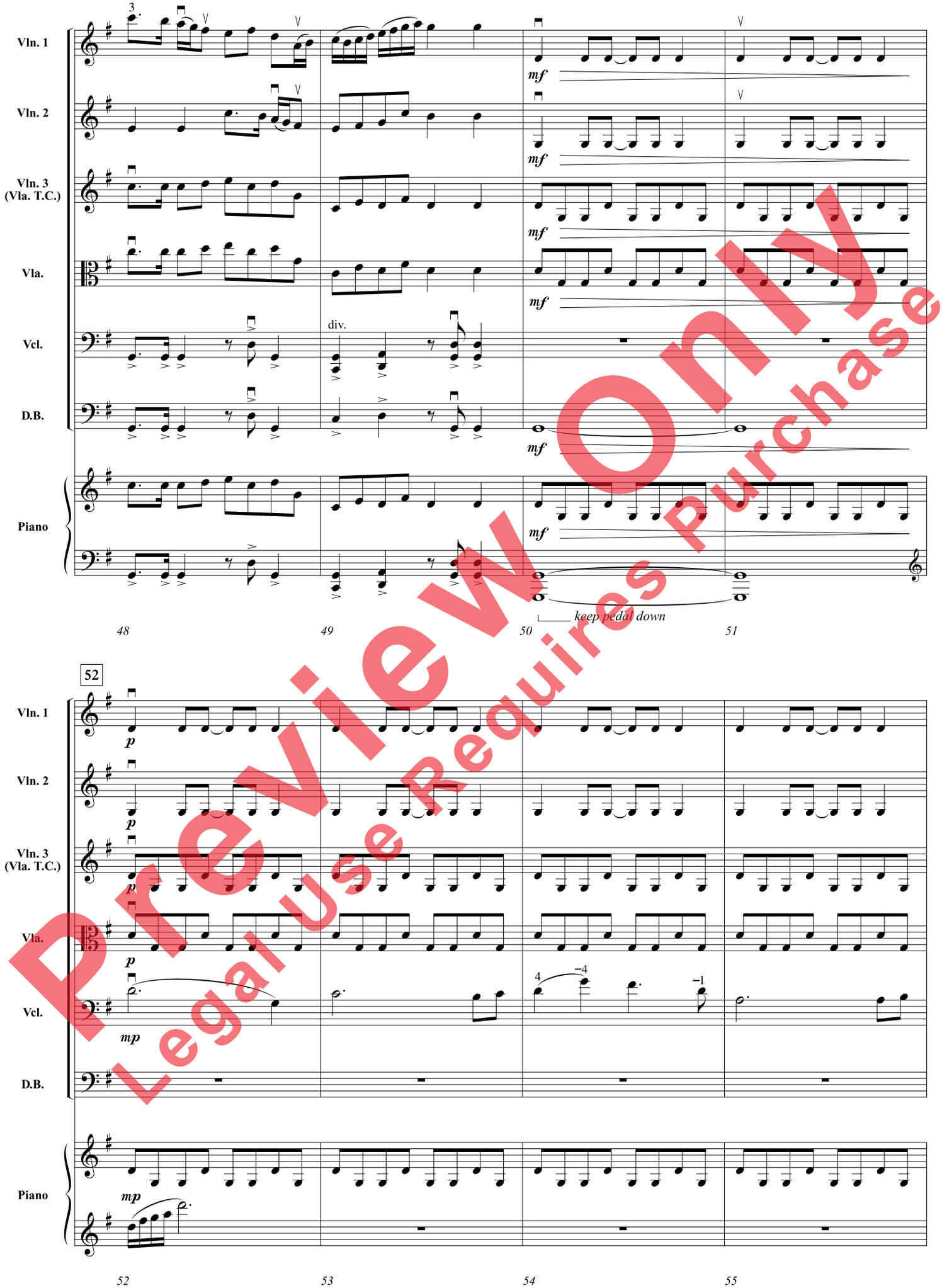

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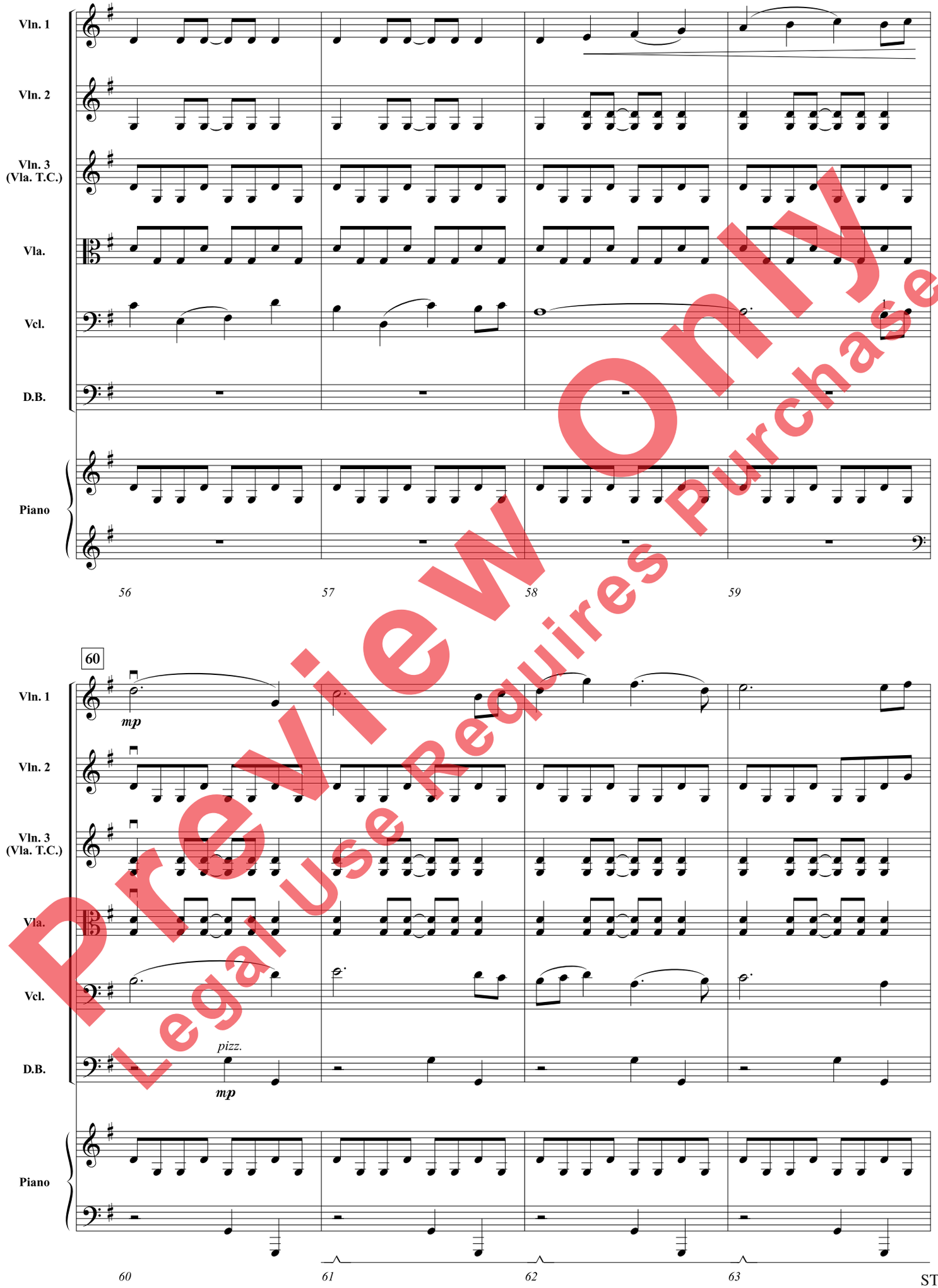

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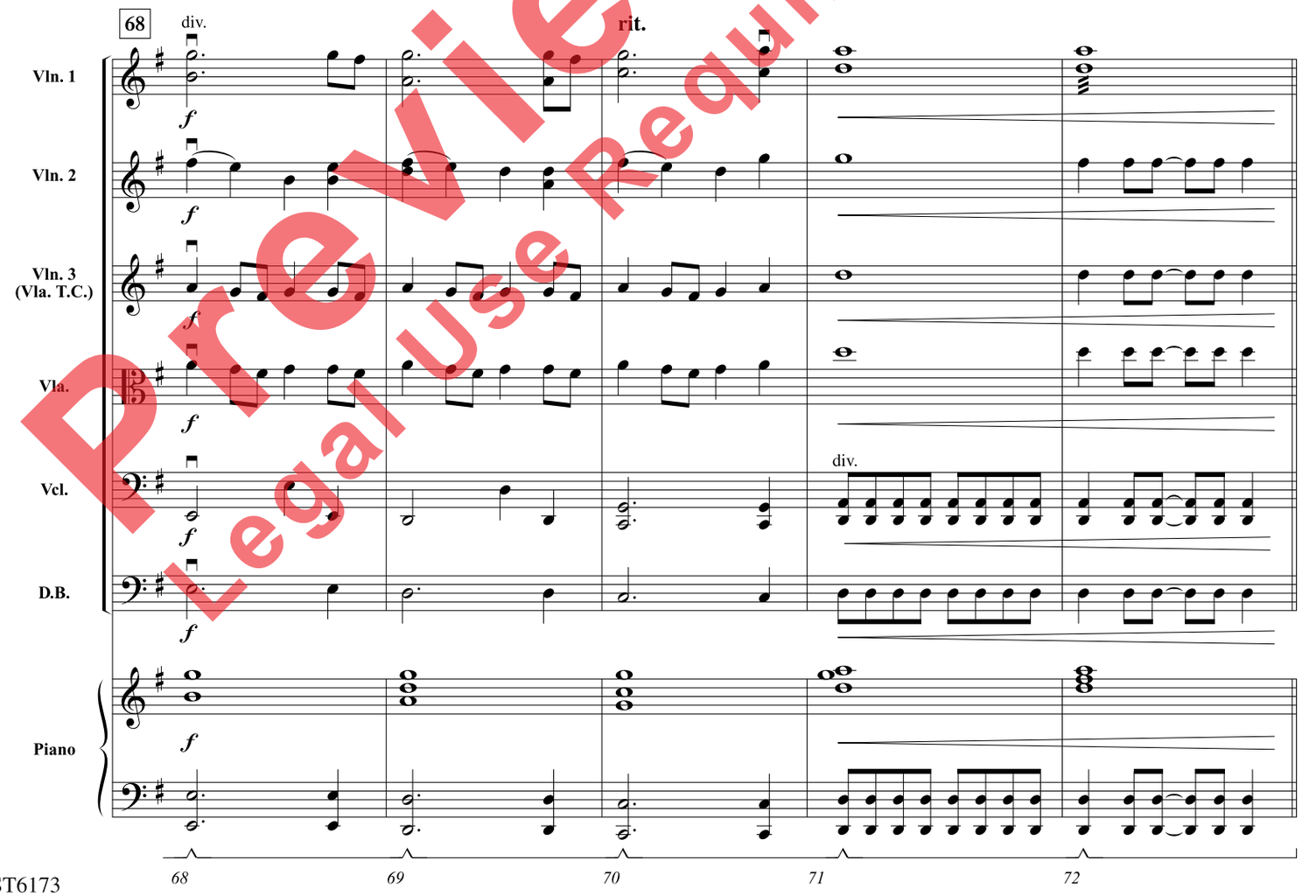

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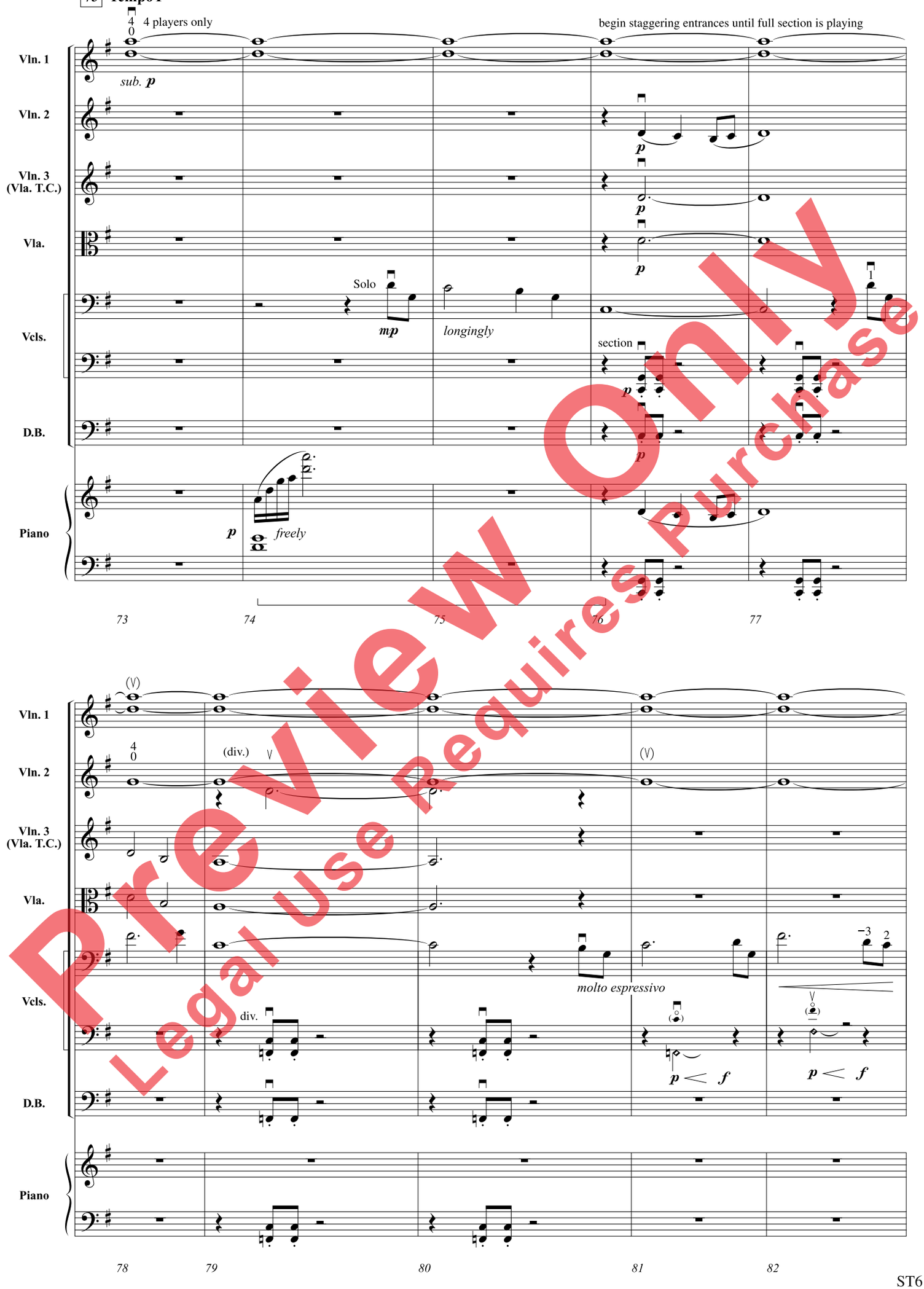

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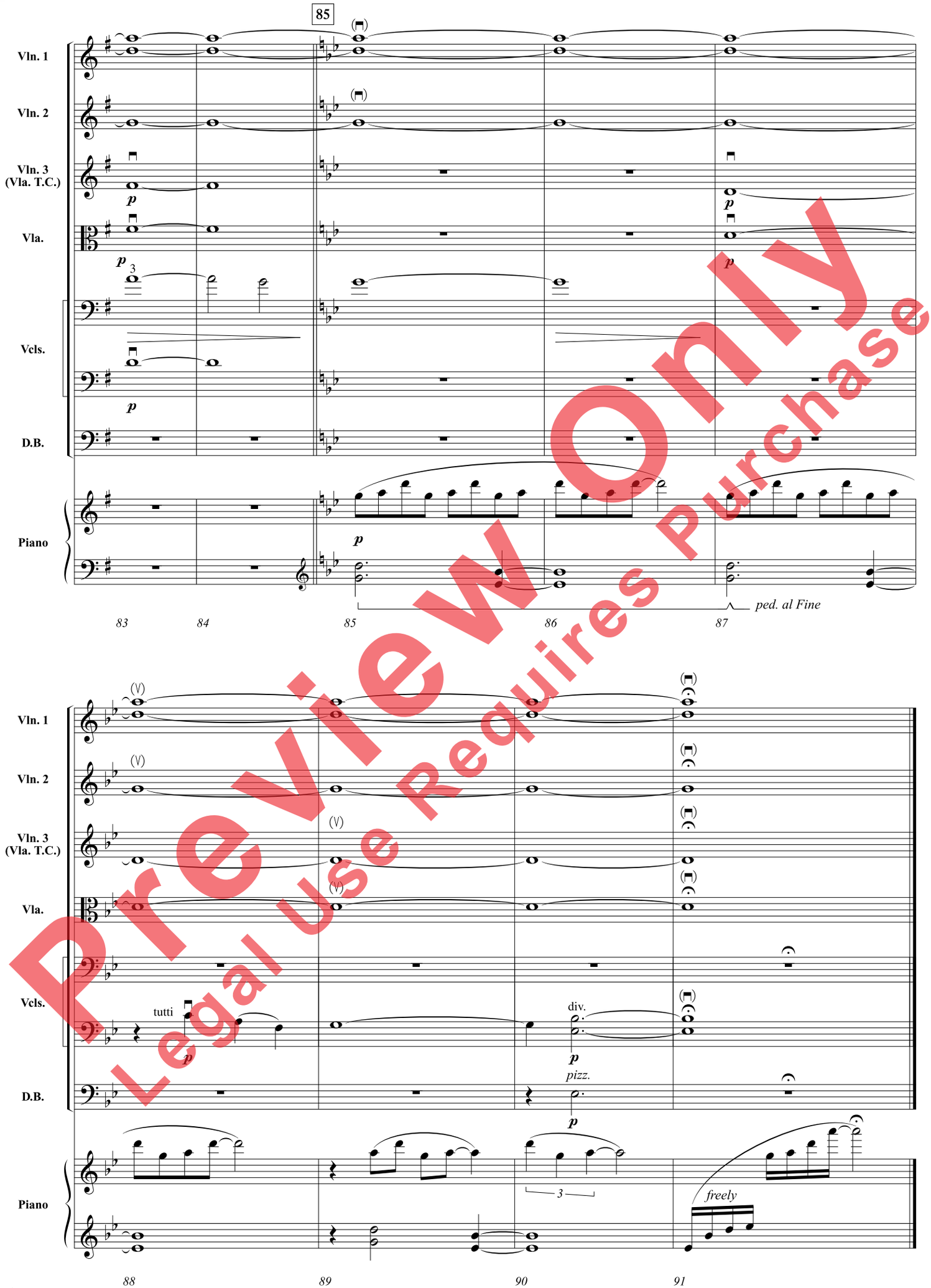

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