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FJH BEGINNING STRINGS

Grade 1

PRELUDE AND FUGUE

(AFTER J.S. BACH)

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

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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 the 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.

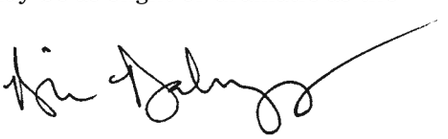
Currently, Mr. Balmages is the Director of Instrumental Publications for The FJH Music Company Inc. in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He resides in Baltimore with his wife, Lisa, and their son, Jacob.

About the Music

Inspired by the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, this work celebrates the elaborate contrapuntal technique that was used in such famous works as *The Art of the Fugue* and *Toccata and Fugue in D Minor.* Written strictly in the Baroque style, this work is designed to introduce young musicians to counterpoint without being overly demanding. It gives students an opportunity to study style and technique, and offers a wide variety of teaching opportunities.

The opening prelude in B minor moves to its relative major of D as the fugue begins, providing an excellent theory discussion that can be as broad or detailed as the director wishes. To work on style and to understand the true concept of the fugue, the director may wish to begin all fugue entrances at the same time. (In other words, violin, viola, and cello play the fugue entrances at the same time.) While harmonies tend to be quite interesting, this approach provides an excellent opportunity for matching style and dynamic. It also helps reinforce the differing tonal centers of each entrance (D, then A, then G), which is often typical of a fugue. The piece encourages independence in all parts, and is excellent in preparing students for more advanced literature in which they do not consistently play the same rhythms.

Stylistically, encourage students to emphasize their entrances on beat 2 in all measures throughout the fugue, even when four quarter notes appear in a measure. For example, in measure 35, the theme in violin 1 actually begins on beat 2. (Beat 1 completes the previous idea.) Have low strings emphasize the D pedal point that begins in measure 44. This imitates the sound of an organ, as it moves toward the final cadence. Tempo in the final measures may be as slight or dramatic as the director wishes.



String Editing: Soon Hee Newbold

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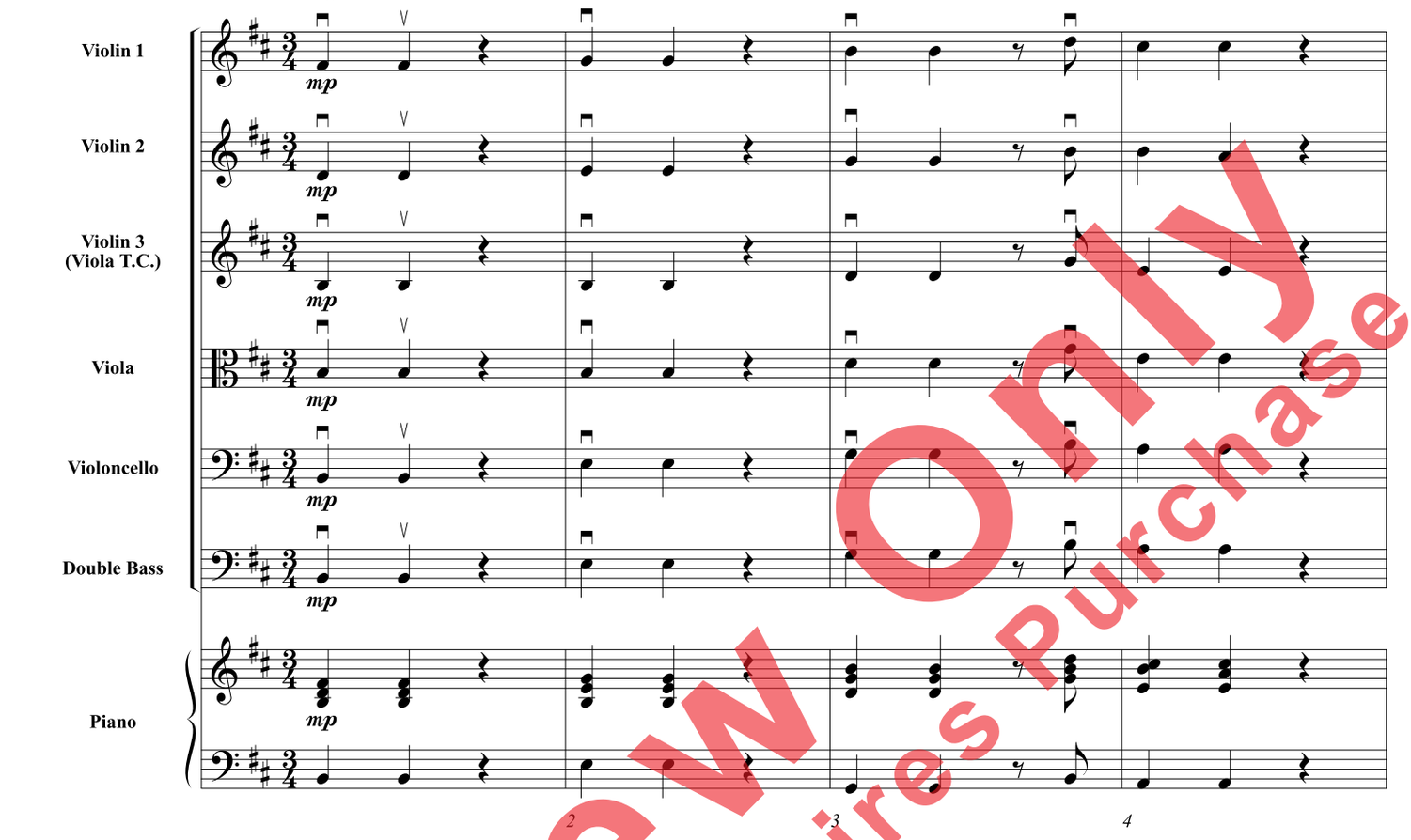
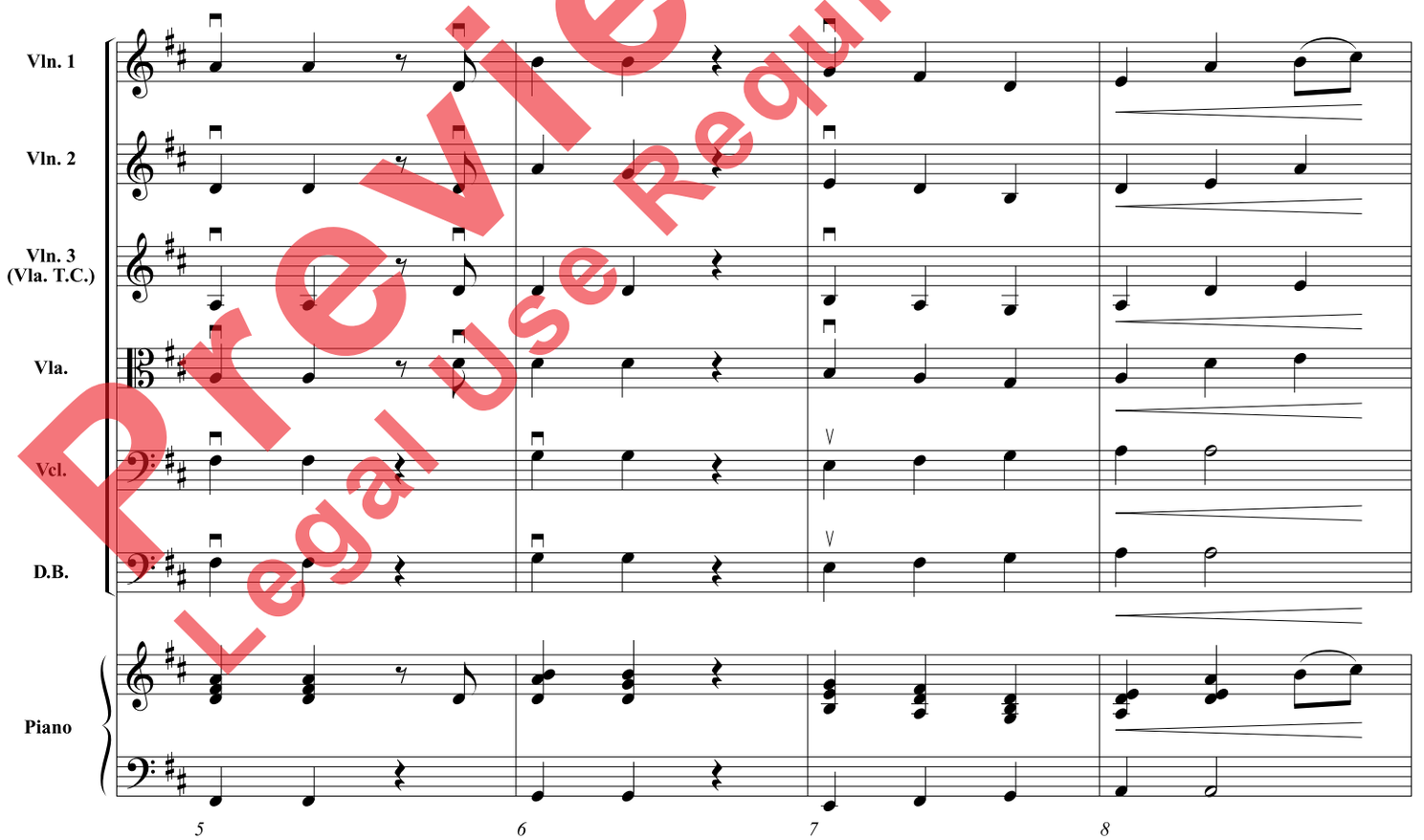
Duration: 2:15

PRELUDE AND FUGUE

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

Adagio (♩ = 64)





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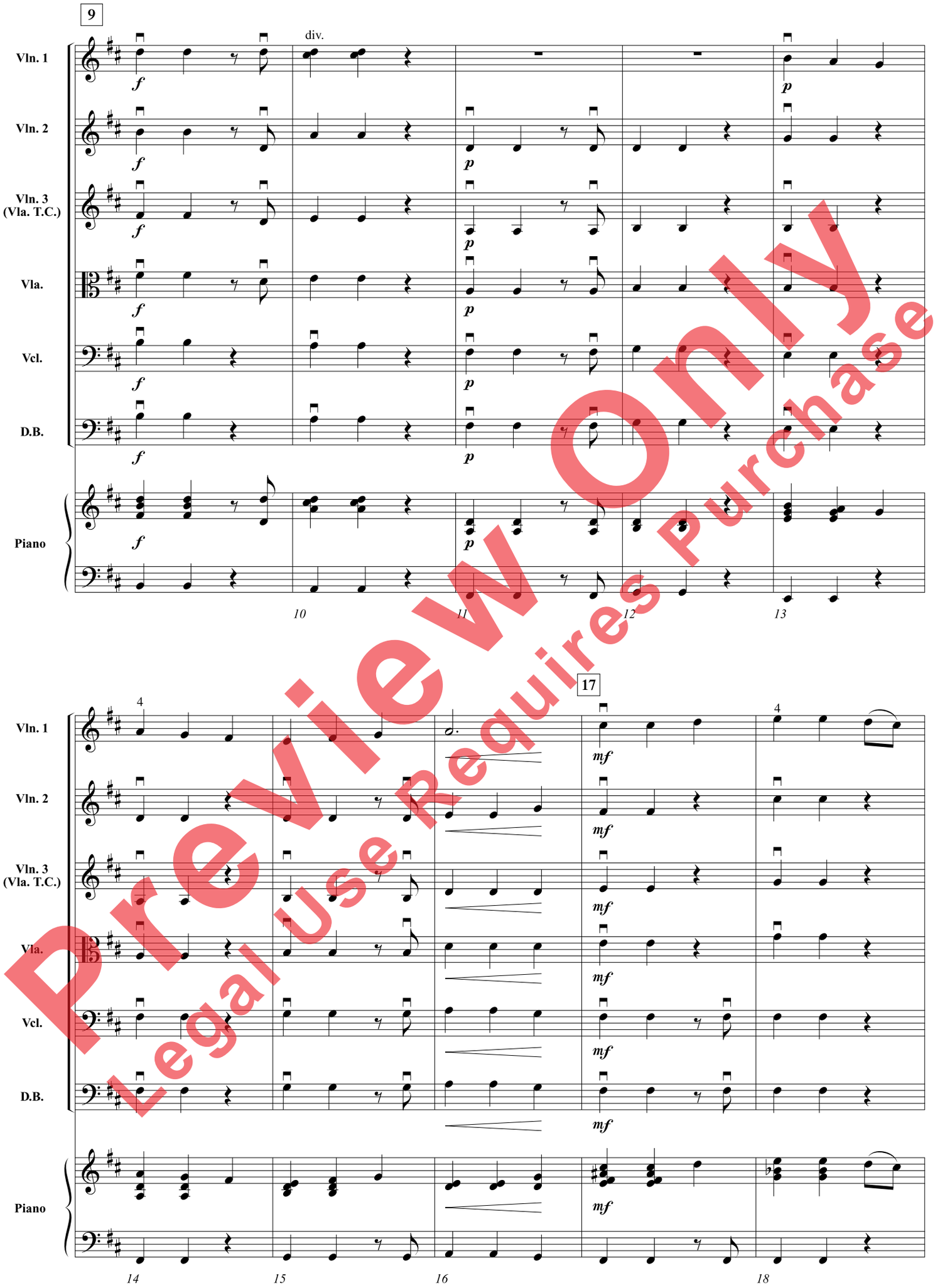

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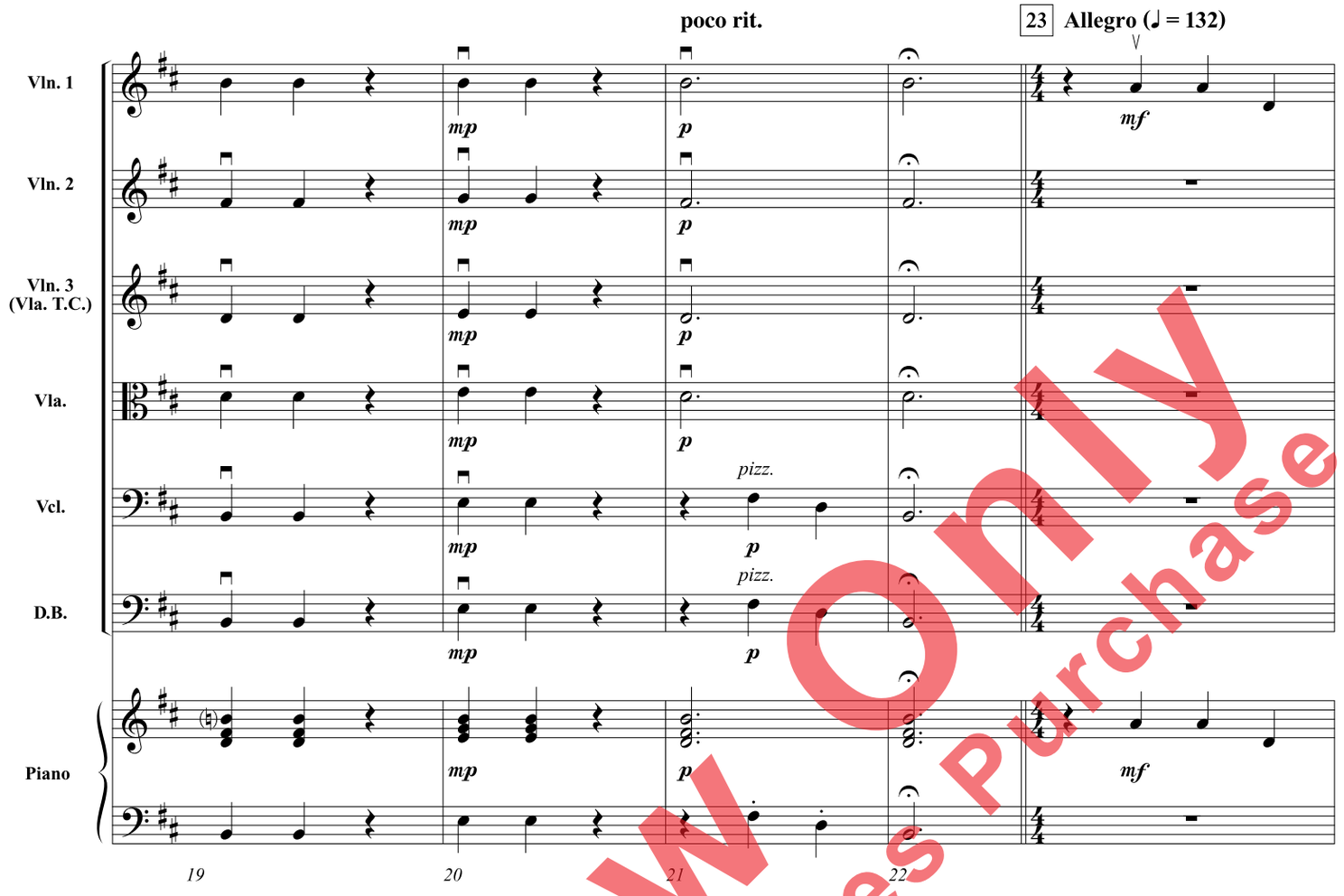

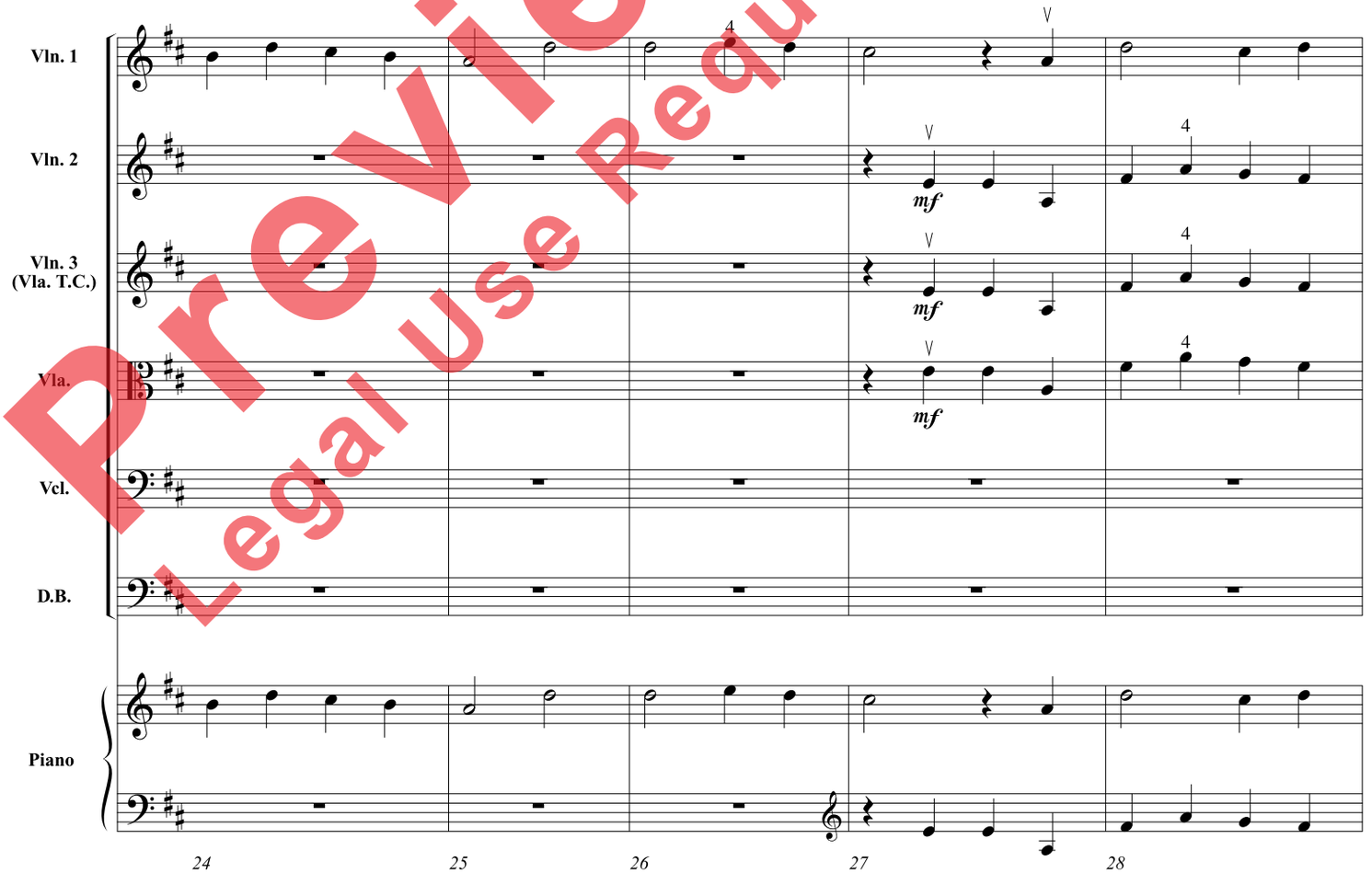

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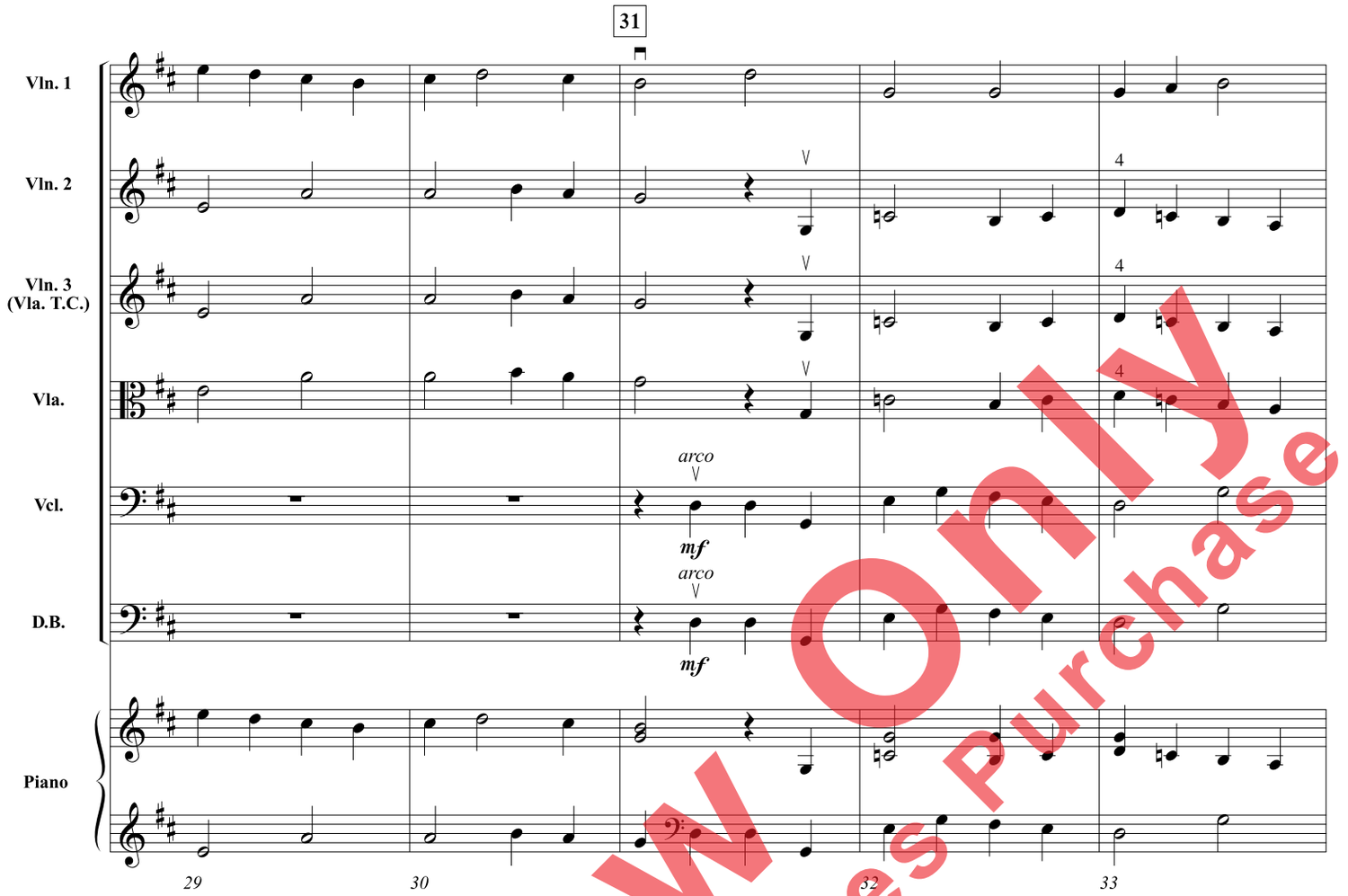

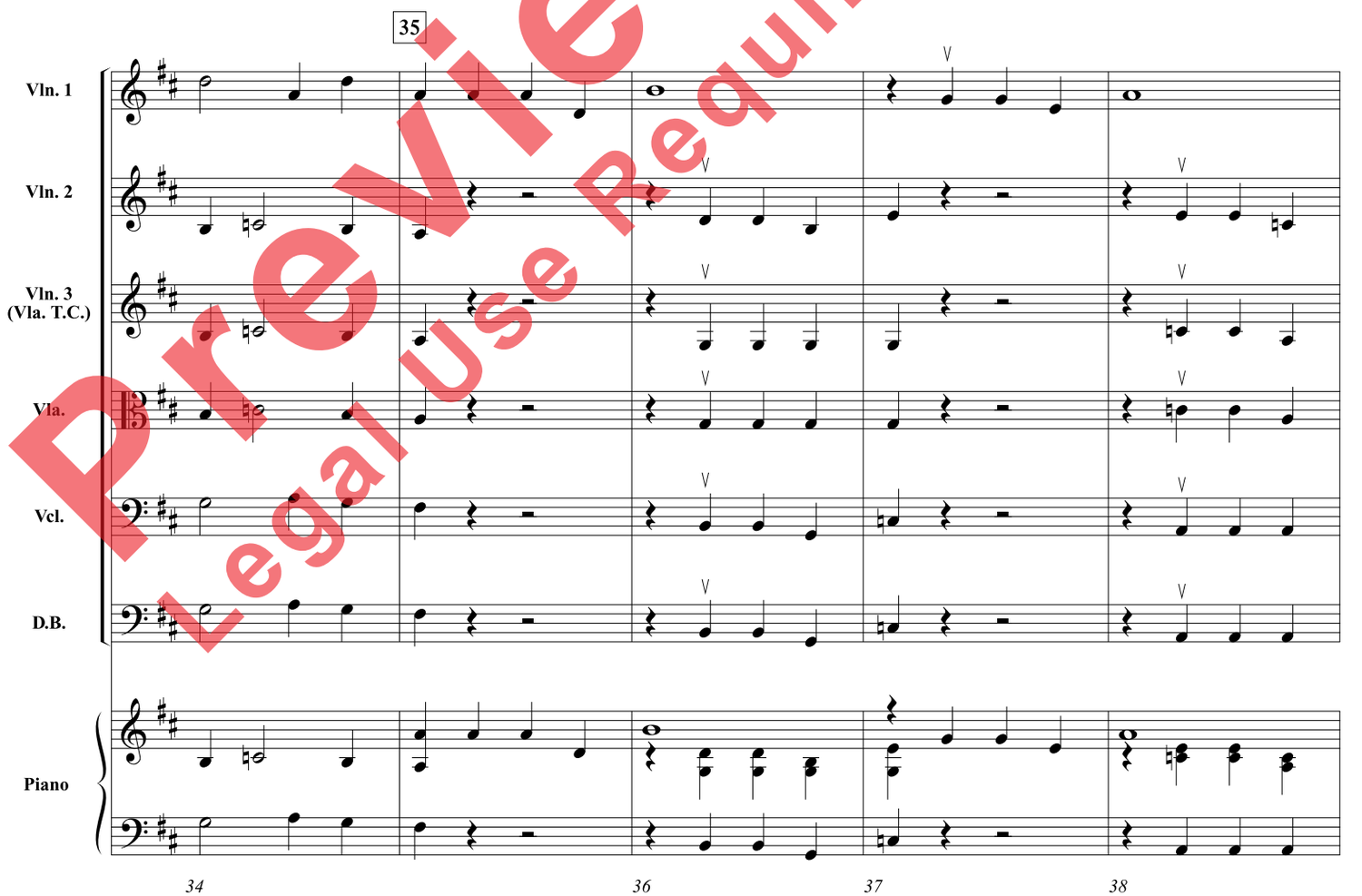

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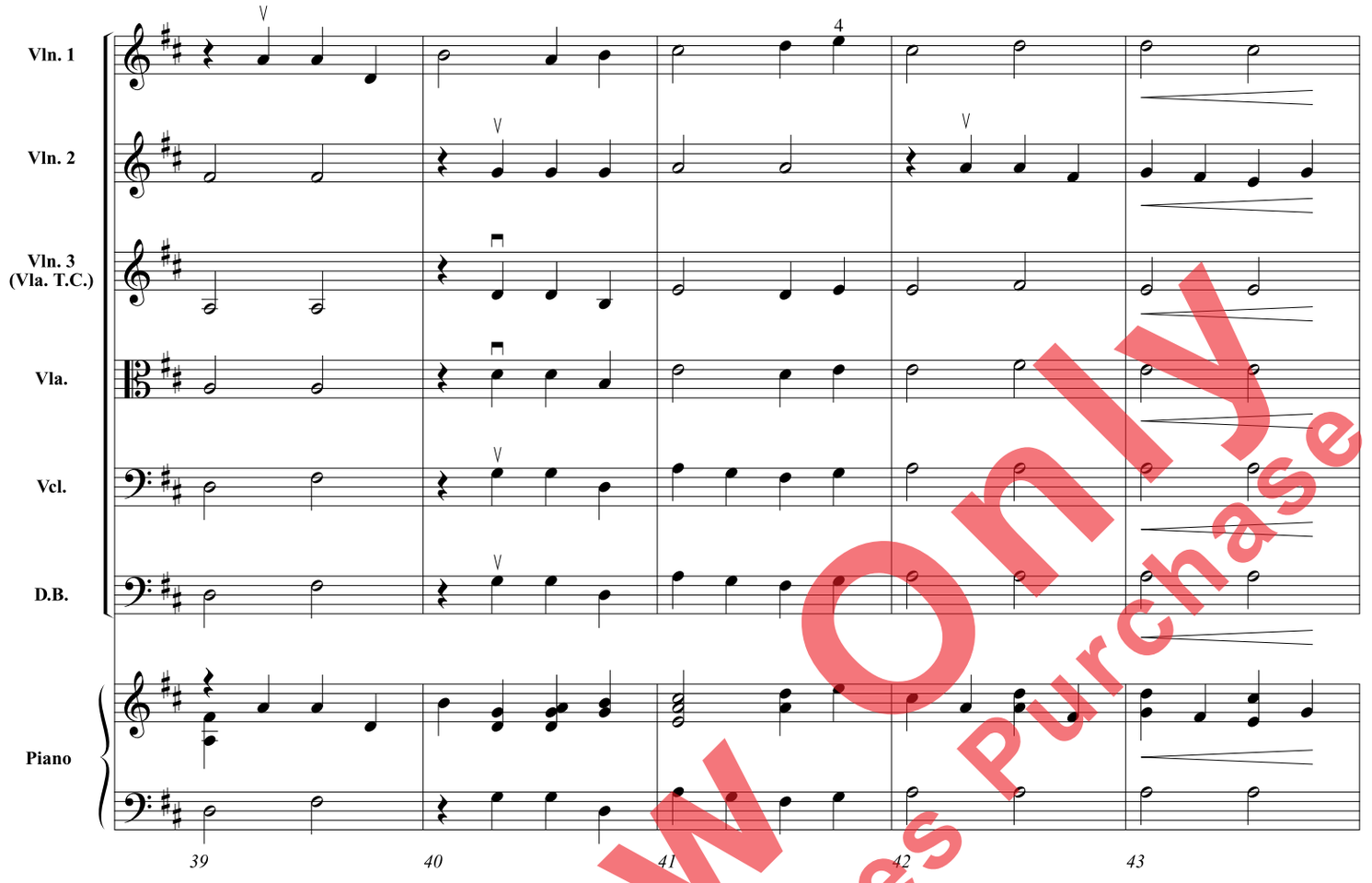

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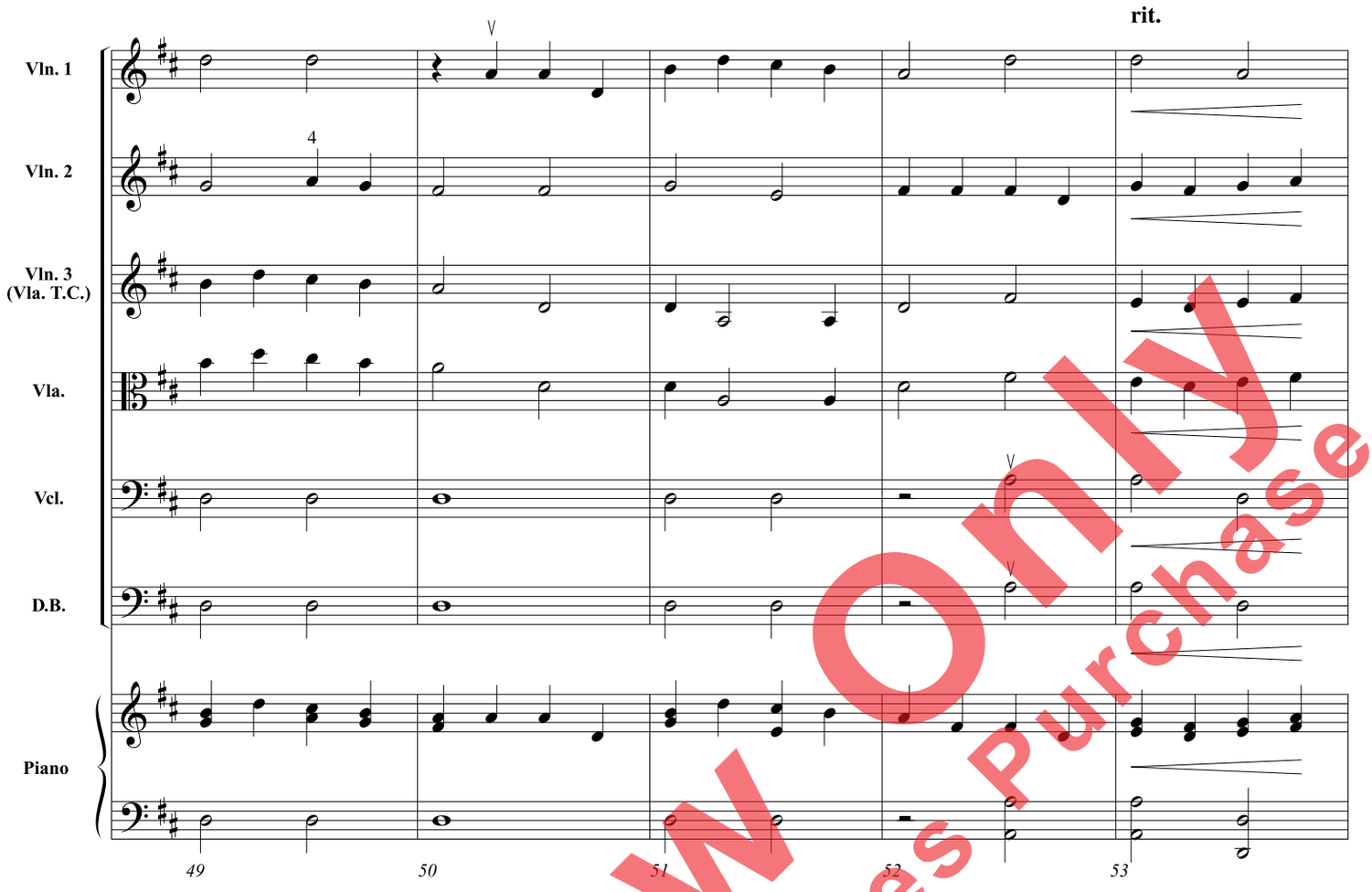

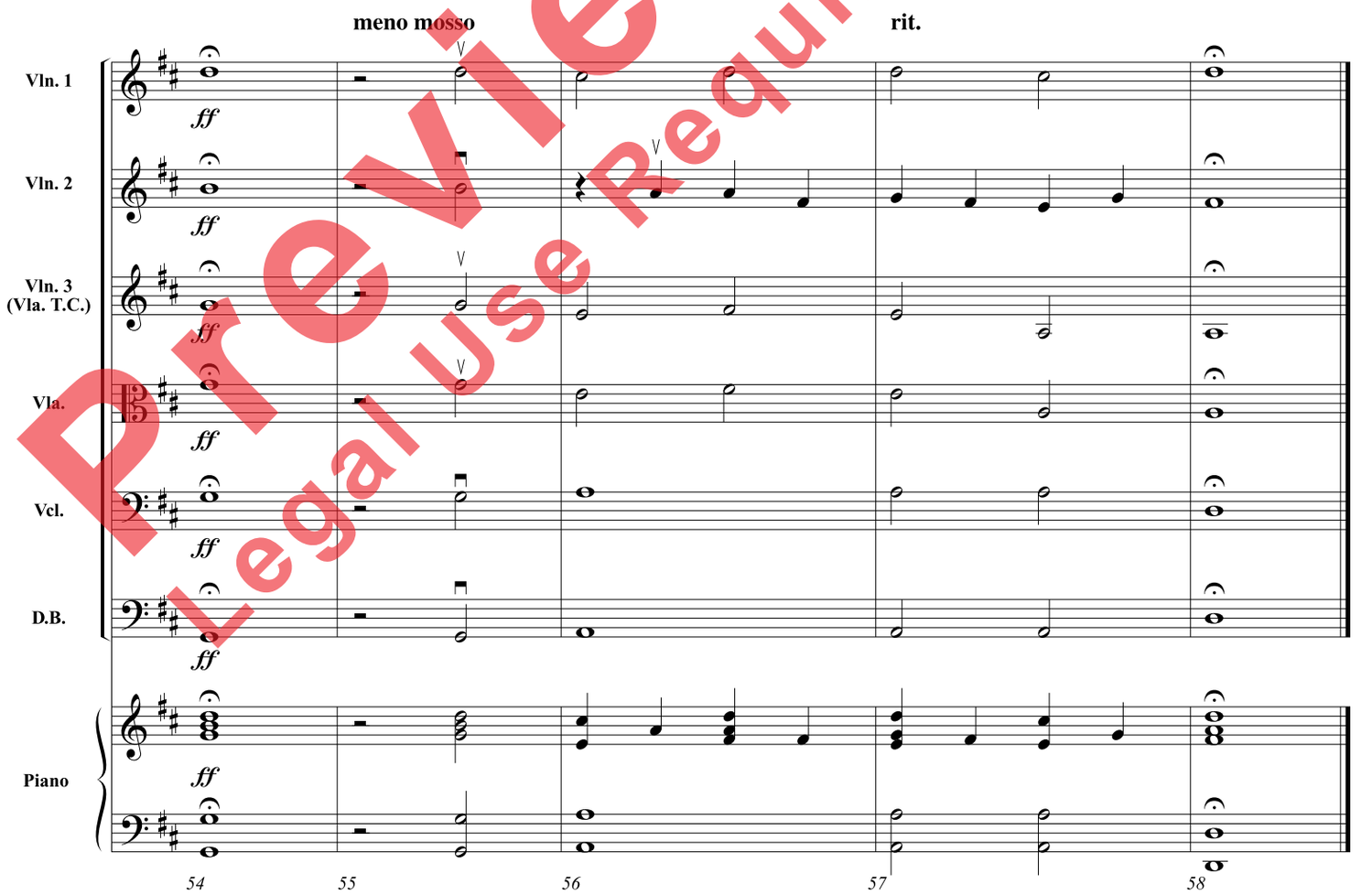

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