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FJH STRING ORCHESTRA

Grade 5

OVERTURE TO RUSLAN AND LYUDMILA

MIKHAIL IVANOVICH GLINKA

Arranged by

Robert D. McCashin

Instrumentation

1 - Conductor's Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2
5 - Viola
5 - Violoncello
5 - Double Bass

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THE F·J·H MUSIC COMPANY INC.
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The Arranger

Dr. Robert McCashin is the director of orchestras at James Madison University. He serves as Music Director/Conductor for the orchestras and teaches graduate orchestral conducting. Dr. McCashin earned B.M. and M.M. degrees in violin performance from LSU, and a D.M.A. in conducting from the University of Arizona.

Dr. McCashin was previously on the faculties of UT Arlington and Texas Wesleyan University. He was a member of the Fort Worth Symphony and Opera orchestras, and performed extensively as an orchestral and chamber musician throughout the north Texas region. He was founding conductor of the Arlington Youth Symphony, and also served as associate conductor of the Youth Orchestras of Greater Fort Worth.

As a guest conductor and active clinician, Dr. McCashin has spent nearly 35 years working with young string players, elementary through high school. He maintains a busy schedule of conducting at the regional, state, and national levels. His conducting appearances include professional regional orchestras as well as regional and all-state honor orchestras. Dr. McCashin served two terms as founding president of the College Orchestra Directors Association and has been a board member for the Virginia ASTA organization.

About the Music

The story line to the opera revolves around Ruslan's attempt to rescue the beautiful Lyudmila who has been abducted. If he succeeds in the rescue, he wins her hand in marriage. In typical Russian folklore fashion, the story involves a magic sword, sleeping potions, and of course an evil dwarf.

The opera earned Glinka substantial recognition as the leading composer of Russian nationalism. The overture, inventive in it's harmonic and rhythmic content, is the only music from the opera regularly performed outside of Russia, and is likely the composer's most performed orchestral work. The music for the overture is extracted primarily from the opera's final act, where Ruslan and Lyudmila are married.

The overture is full of driving rhythmic figures, vigorous themes, and popping bass lines. The second theme, from Act II, appears in the cello line, and offers a completely contrasting melodic character. The primary music returns—although one hears a bit of the evil dwarf—and the overture comes crashing to a close with a vivacious coda. This somewhat shortened and simplified version brings this inimitable work within reach of nearly all moderate-to-advanced high school performers.

String Editing: Dr. Robert D. McCashin

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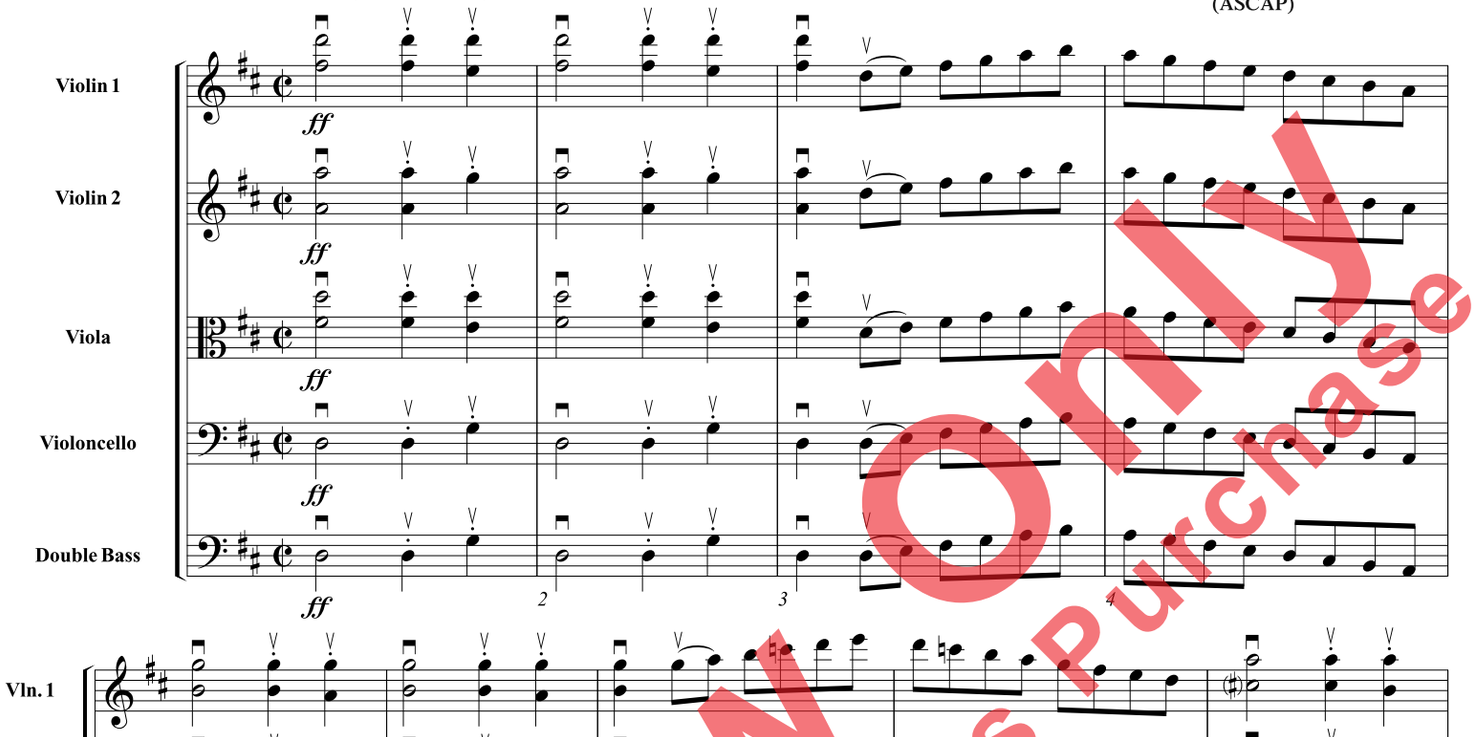
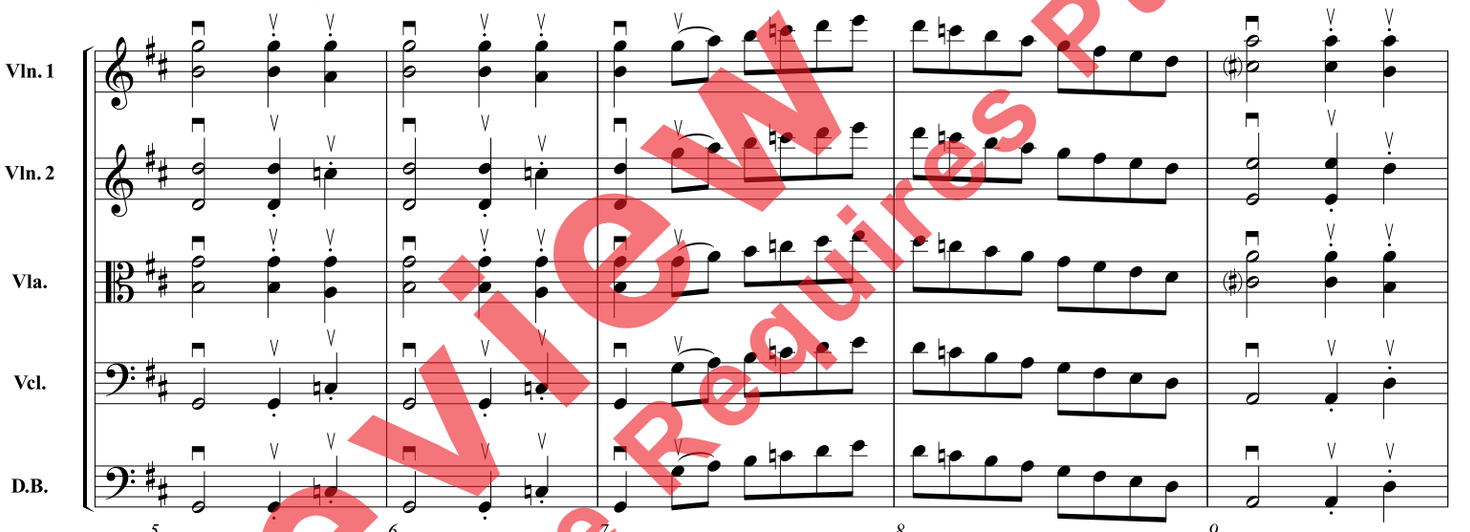
Duration: 3:15

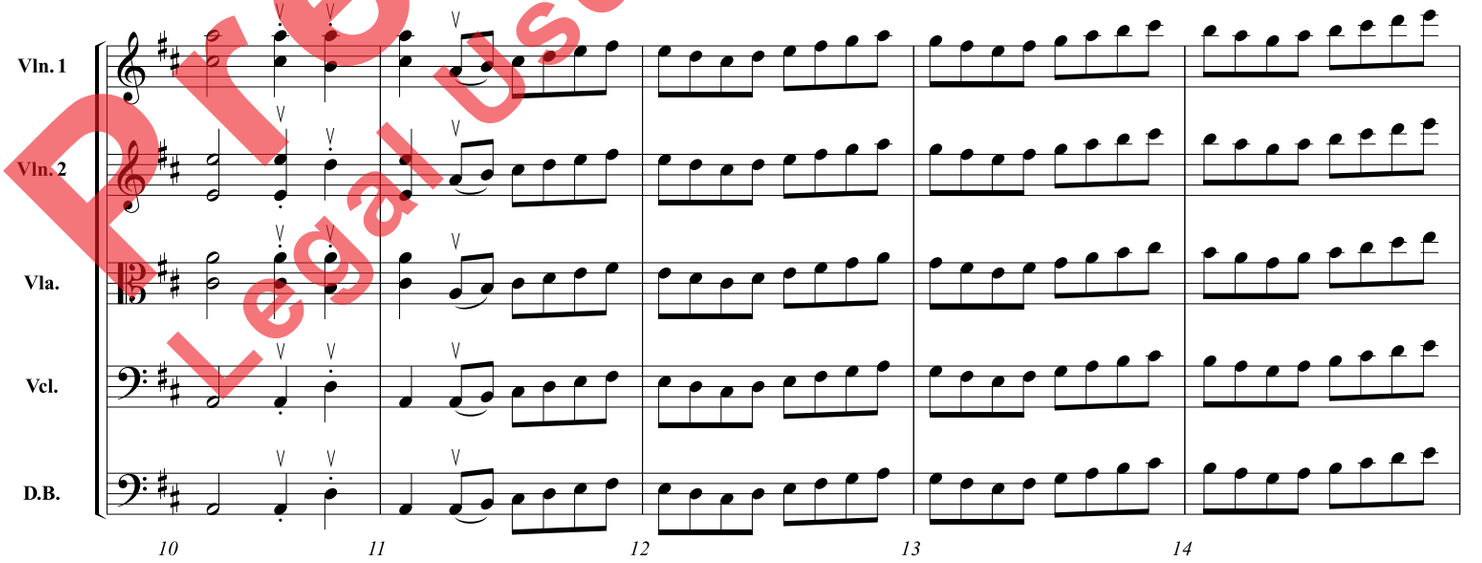
OVERTURE TO RUSLAN AND LYUDMILA

MIKHAIL IVANOVICH GLINKA
Arranged by
ROBERT D. McCASHIN
(ASCAP)

Presto (♩ = 116 – 120)







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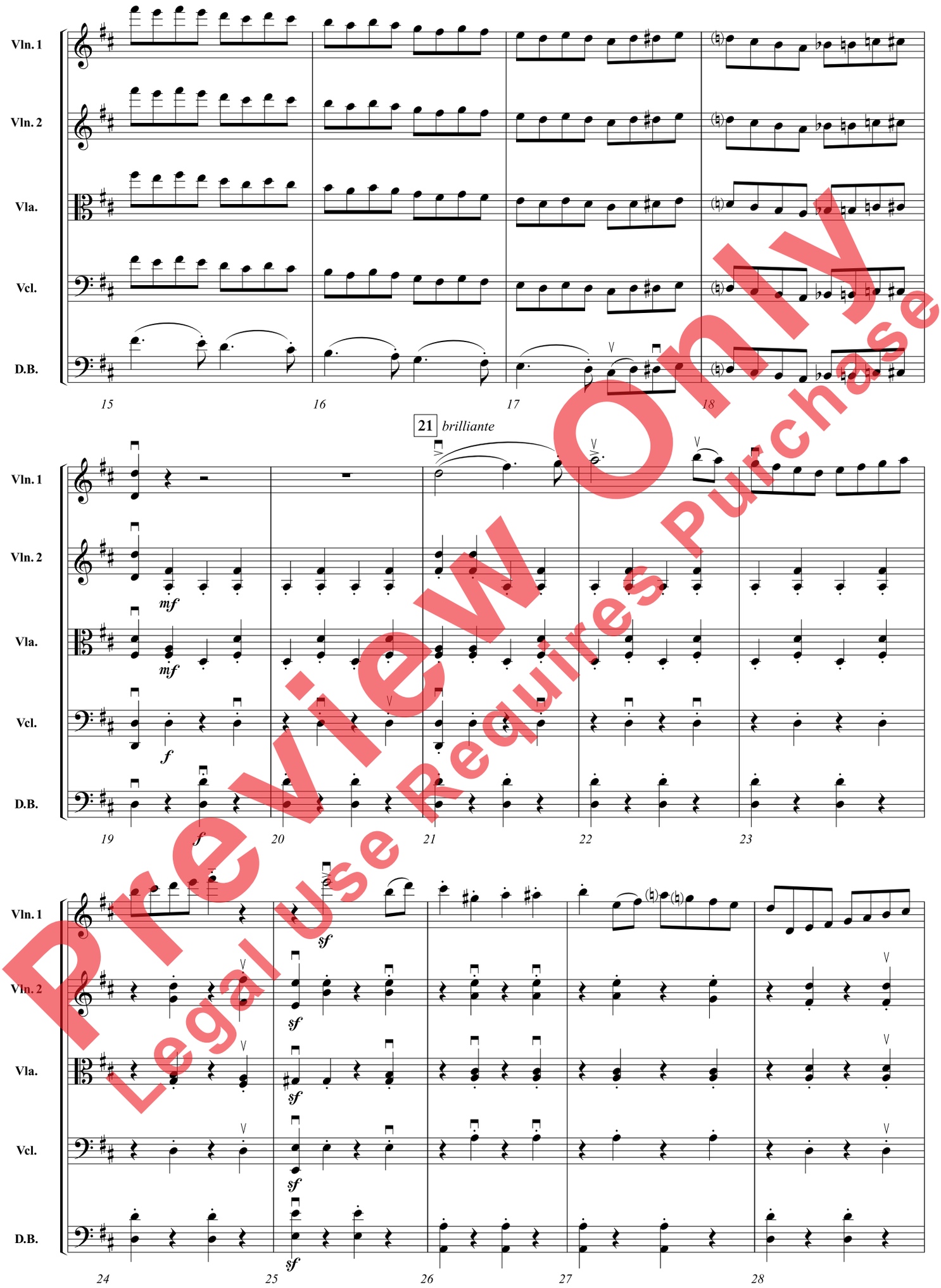

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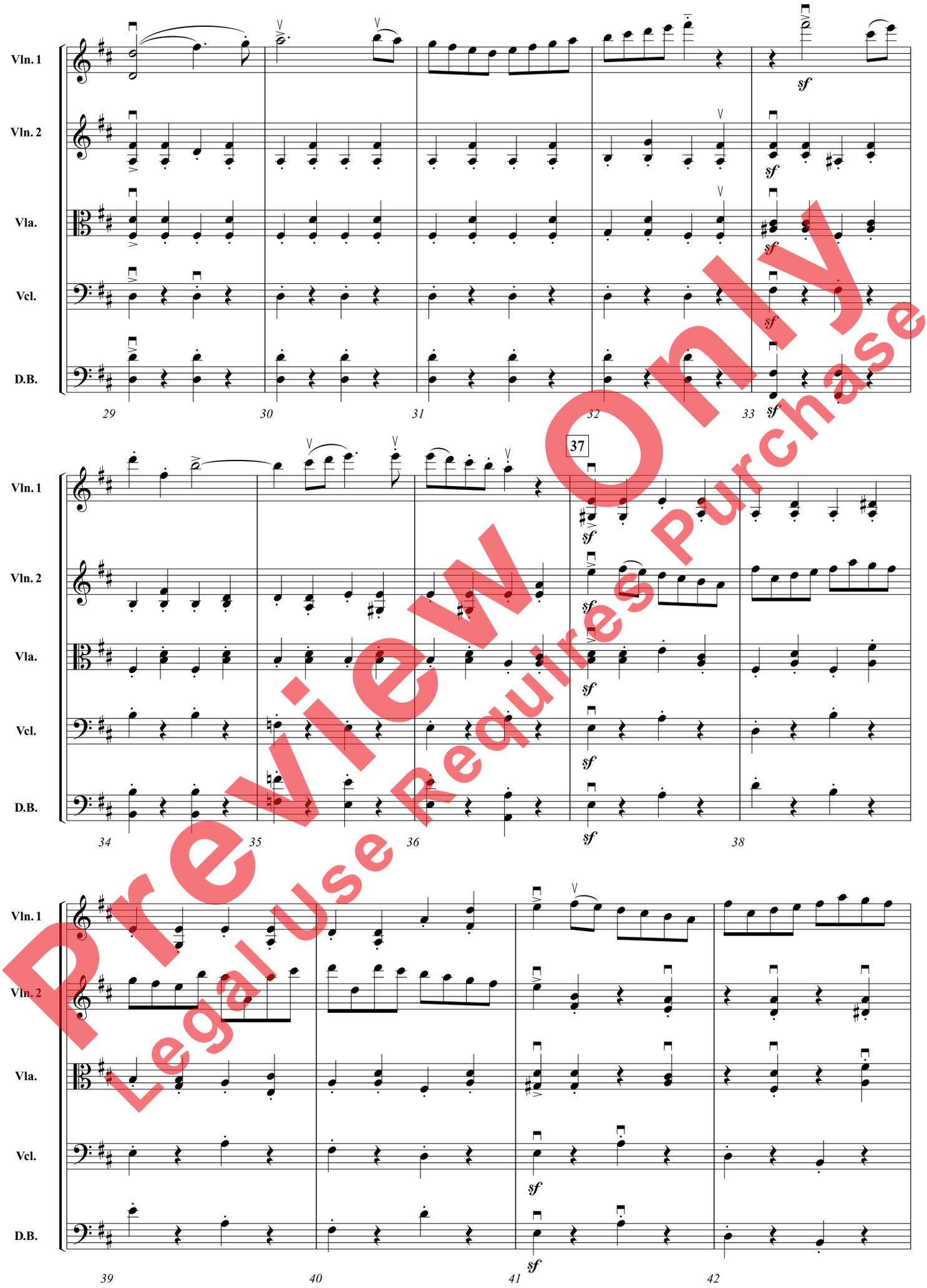

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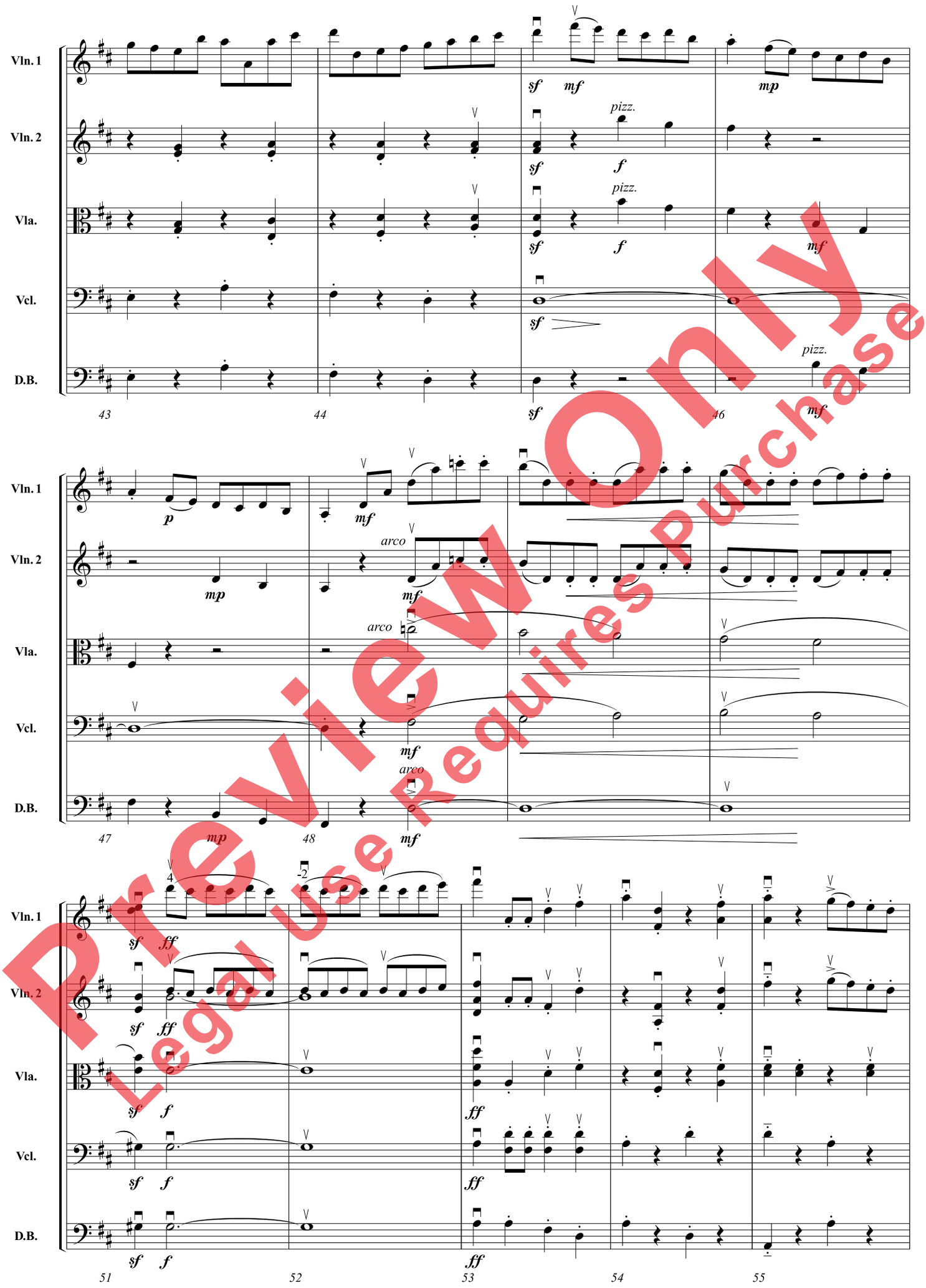

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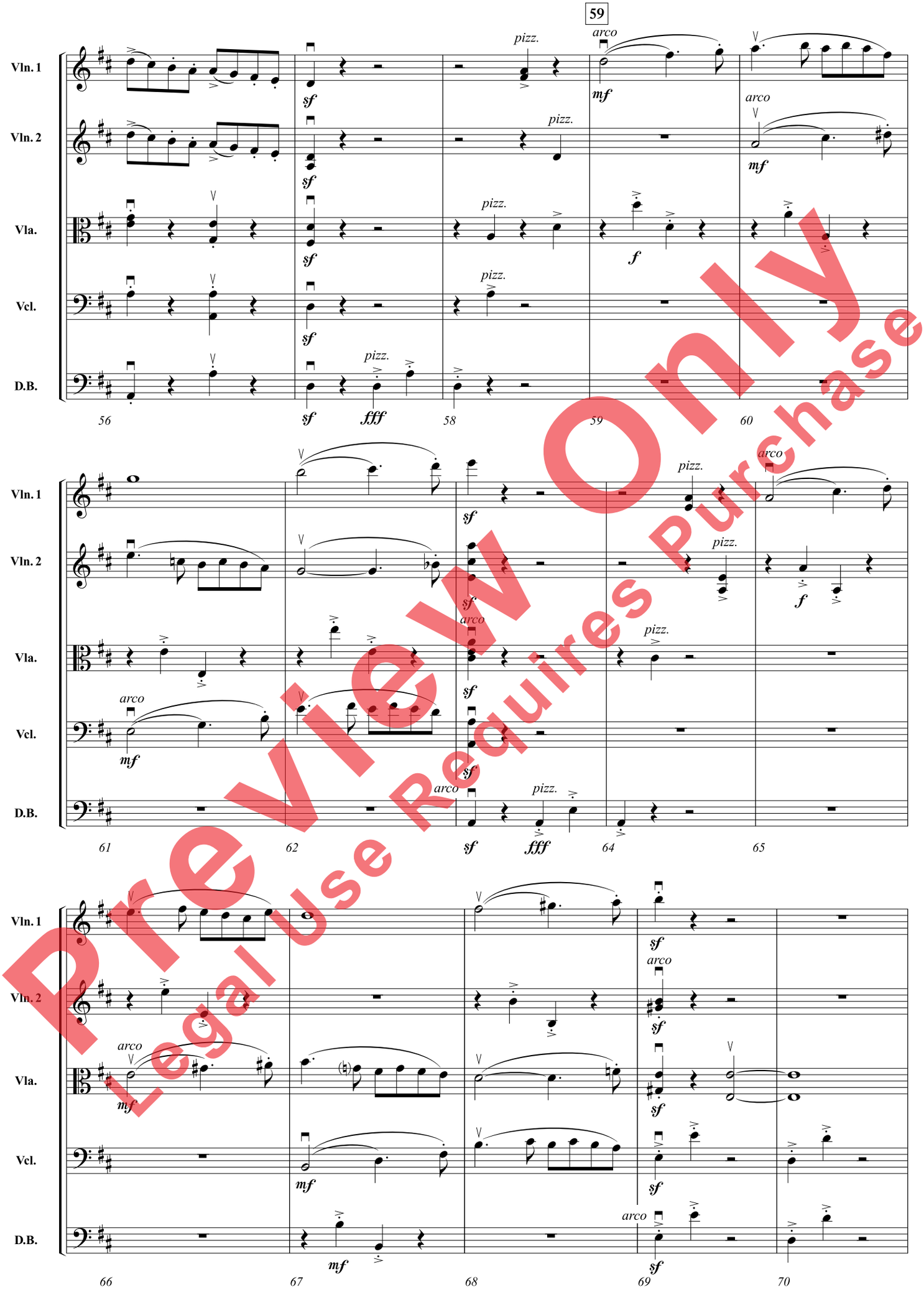

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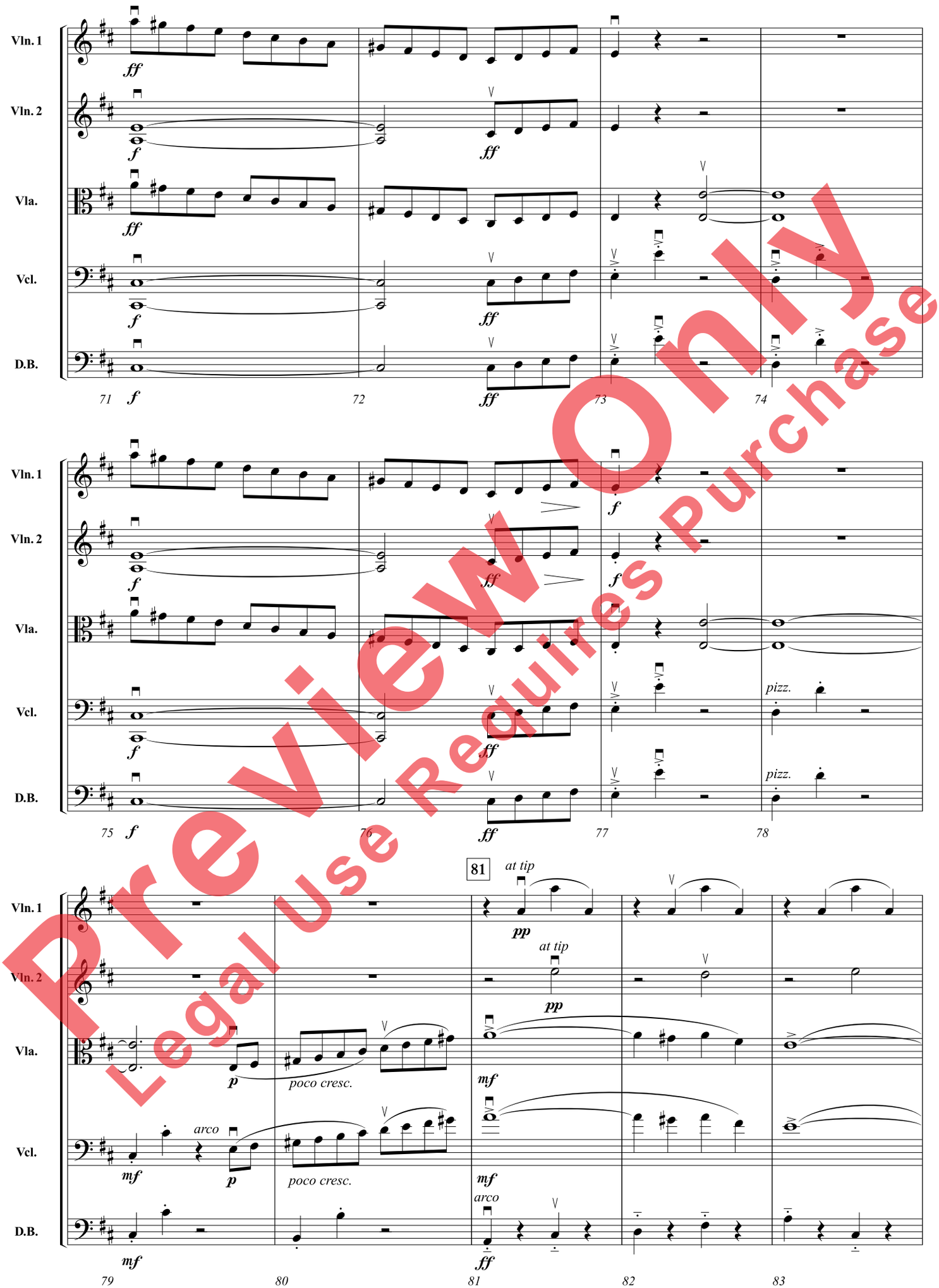

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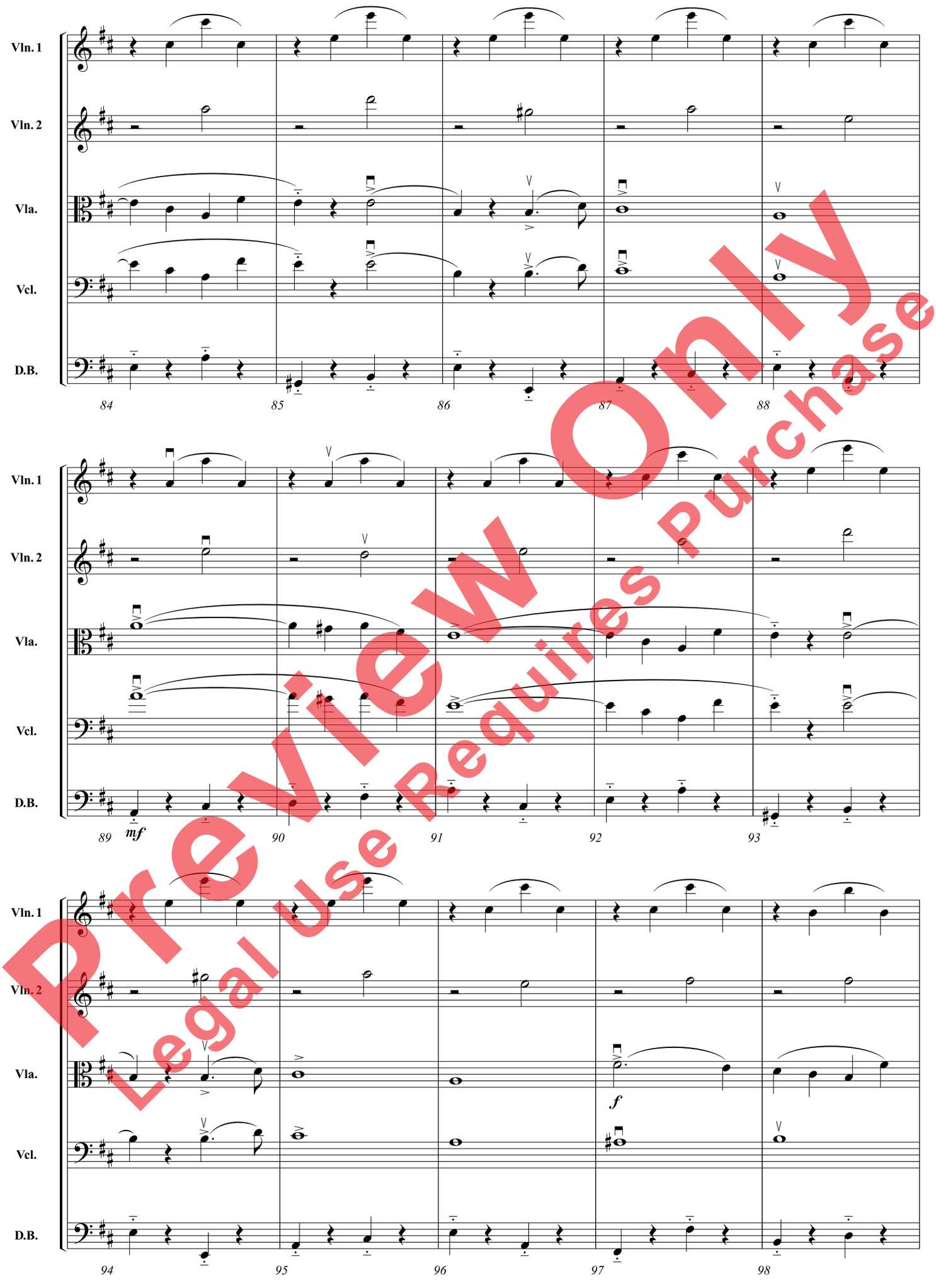

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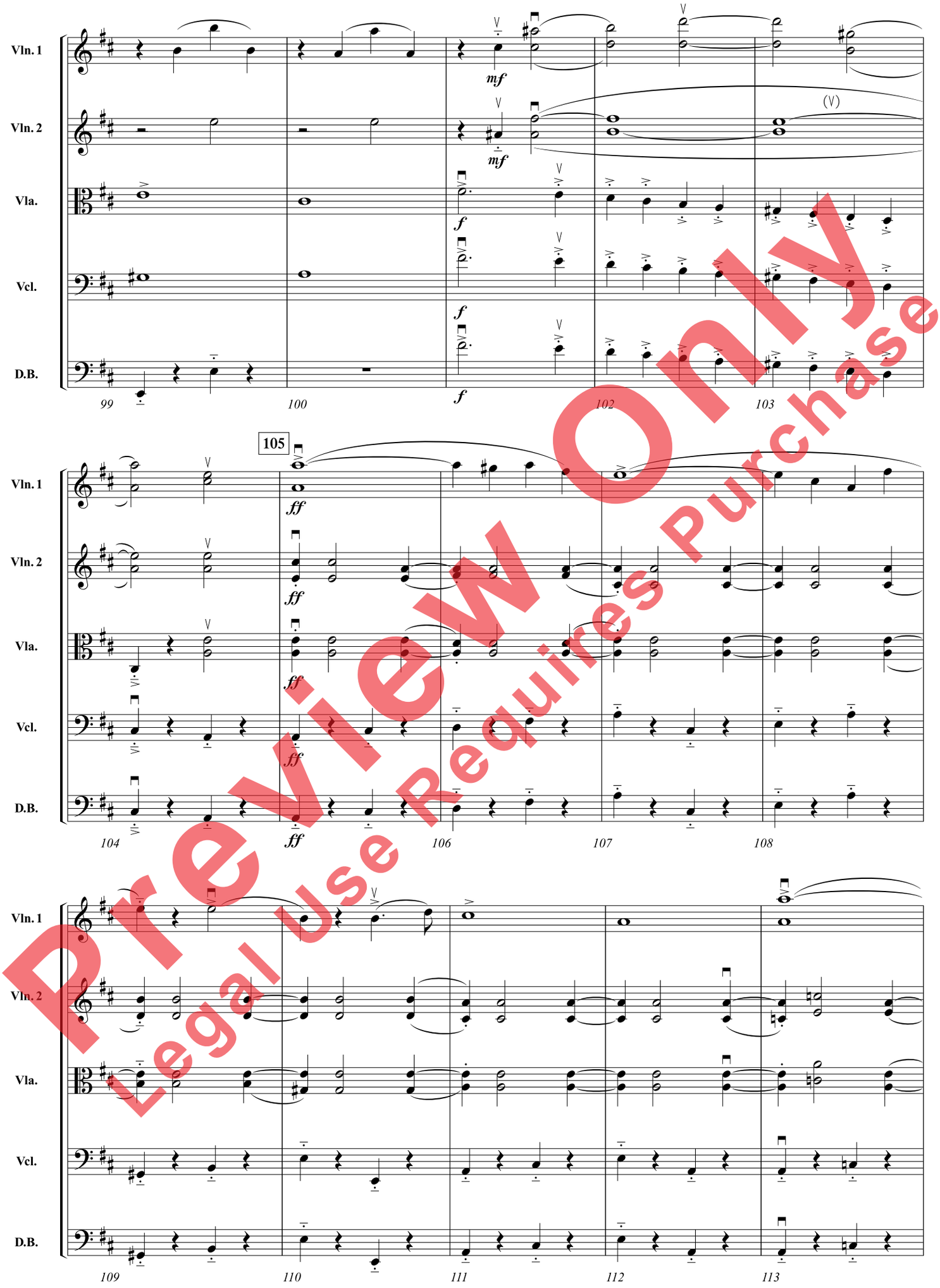

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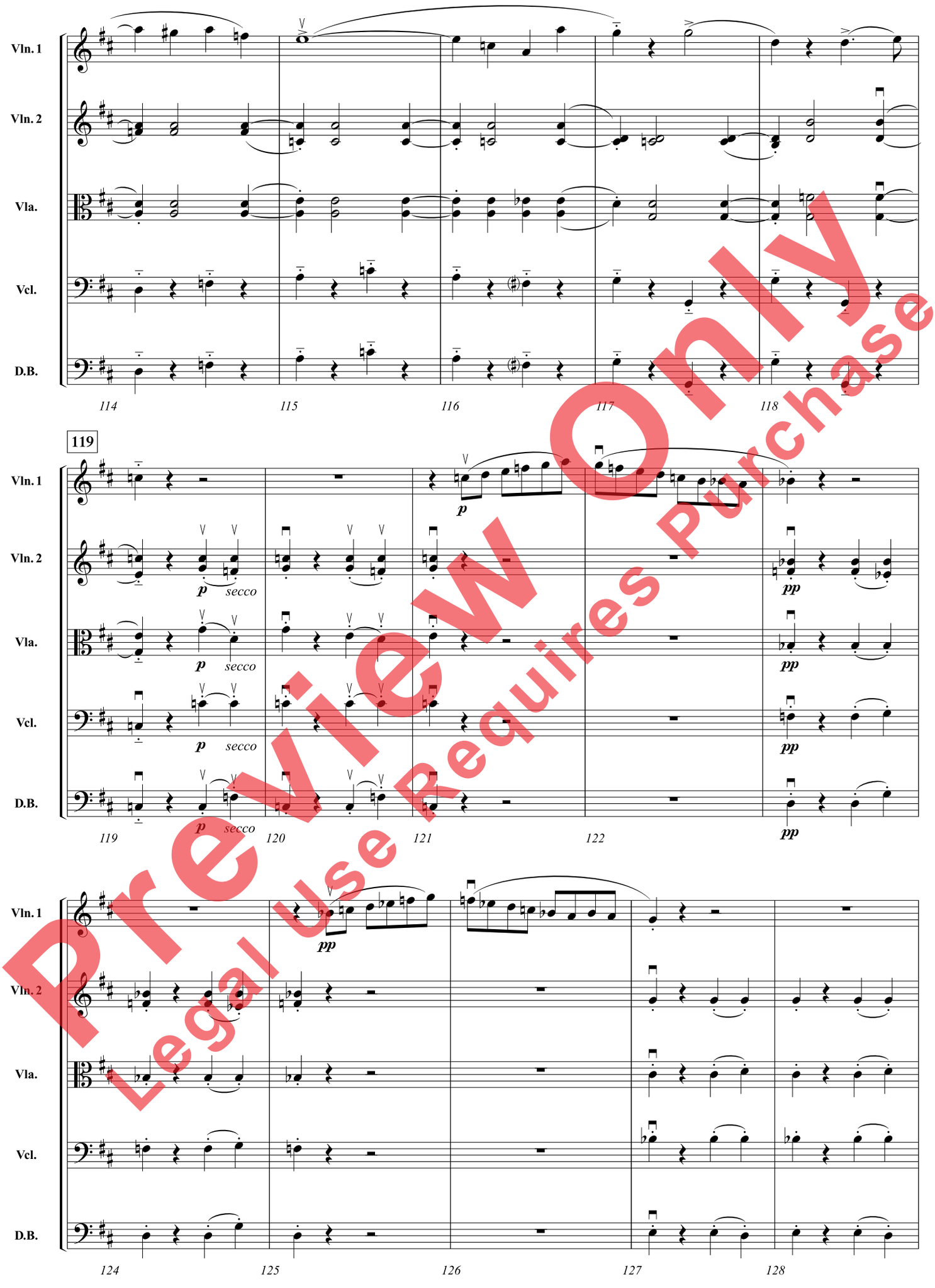

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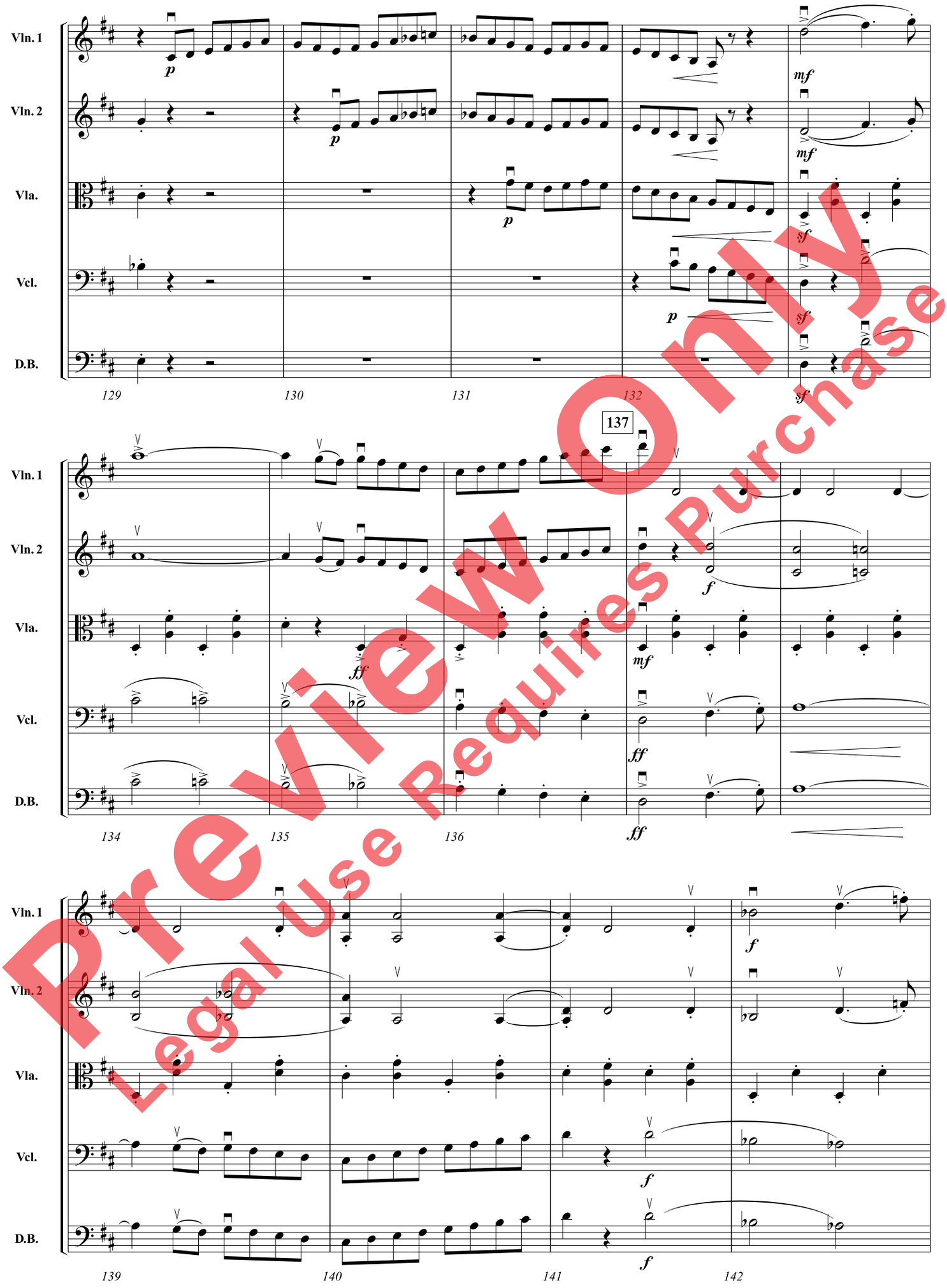

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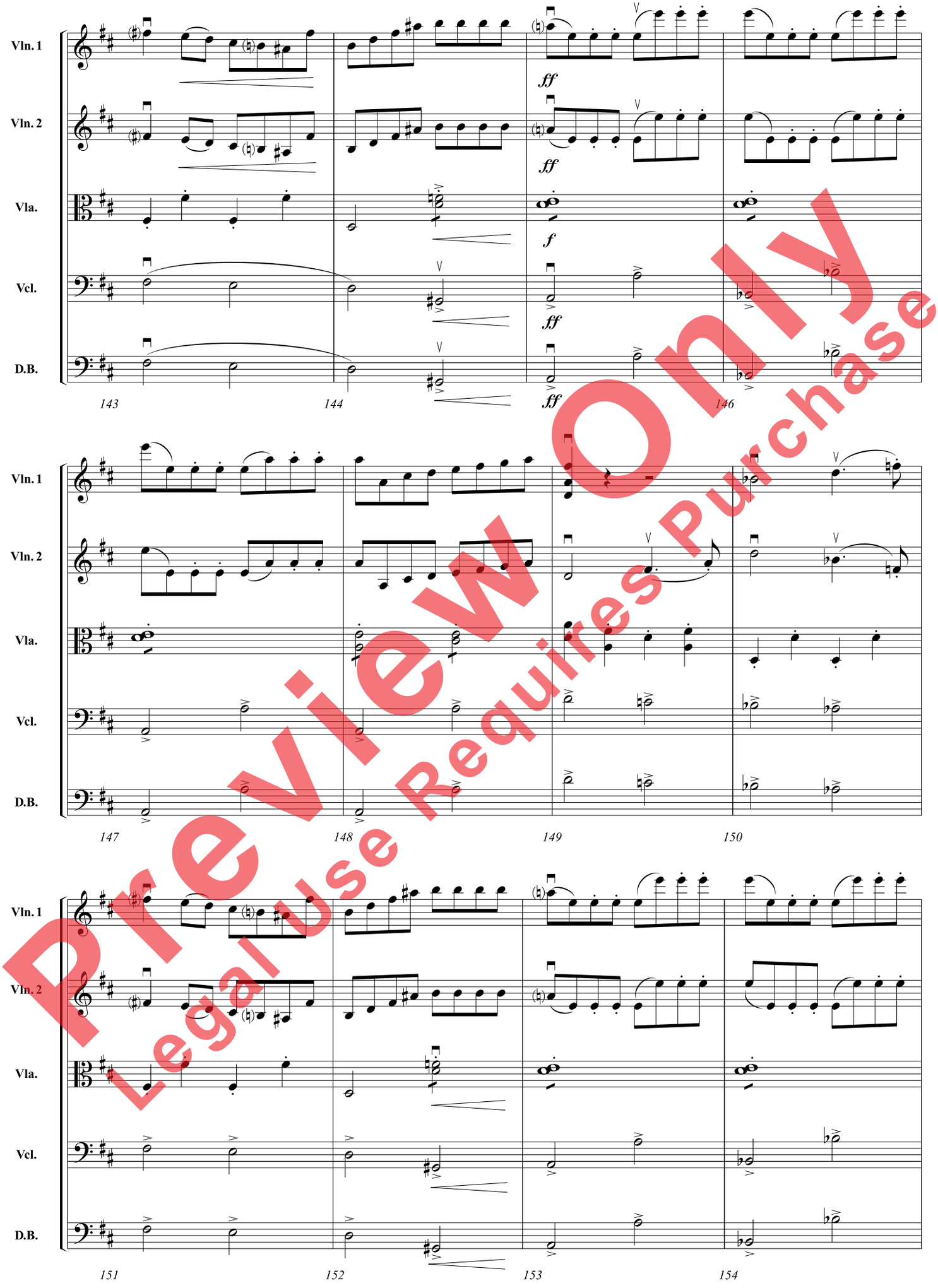

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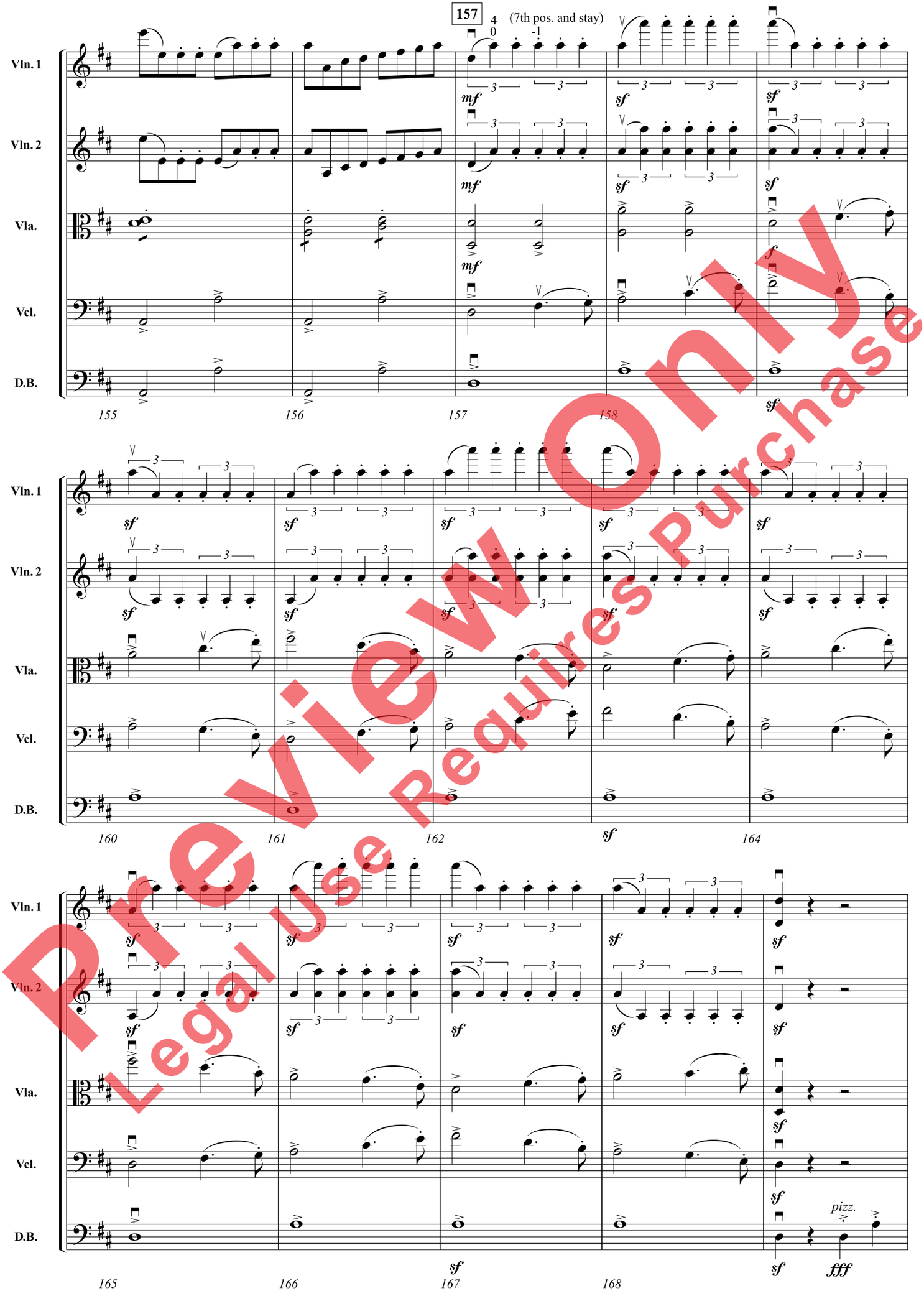

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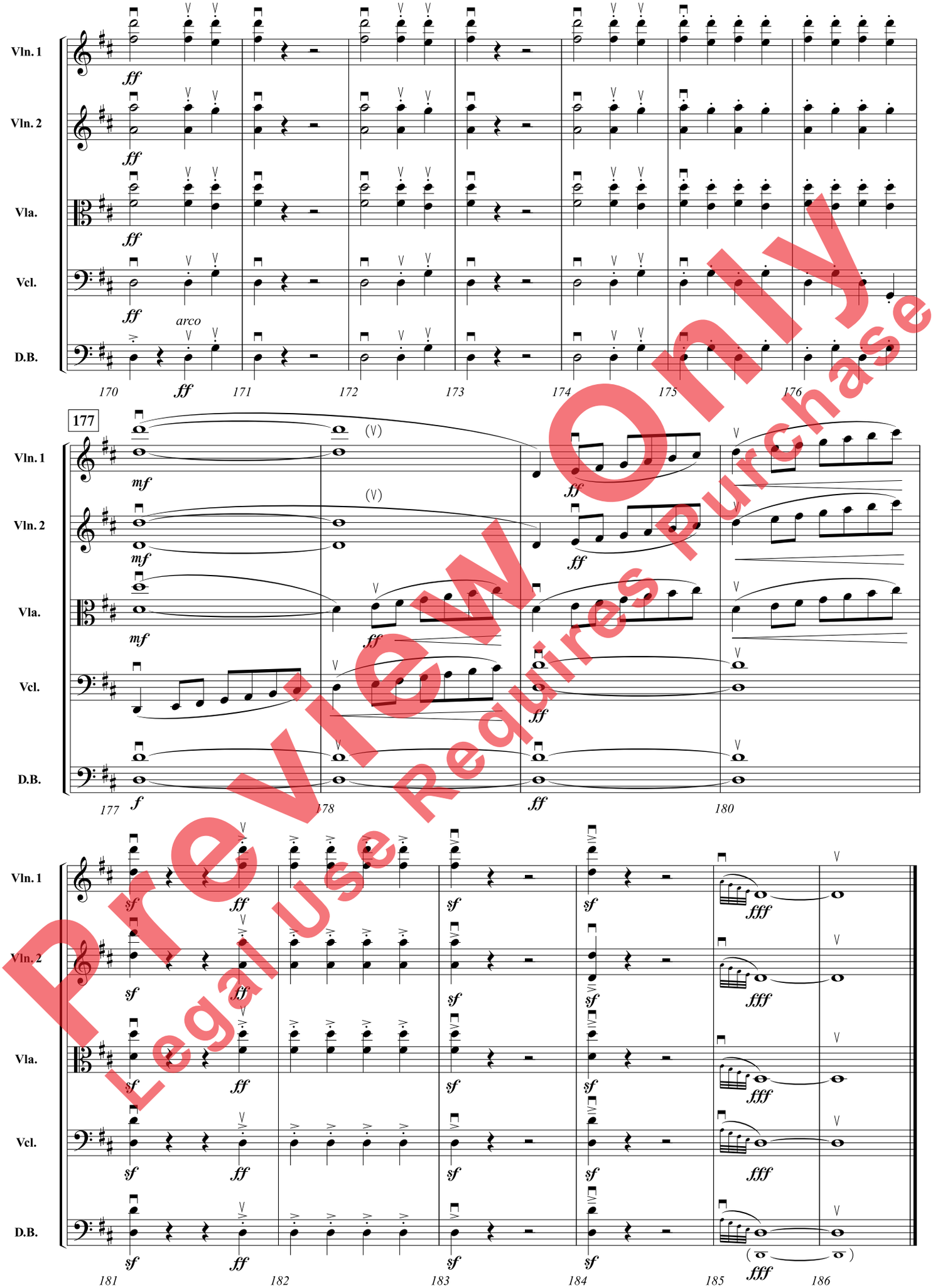

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