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FJH STRING ORCHESTRA

Grade 3.5

LEGEND OF THE PHANTOM PIRATES

Brian Balmages

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Instrumentation

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

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 award-winning 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' compositions have been performed worldwide at conferences including the College Band Directors National Conference, the Midwest Clinic, American String Teachers Association National Conference, and the international trumpet, horn, trombone and tuba/euphonium conferences. His active schedule of commissions and premieres has incorporated groups ranging from elementary schools to professional ensembles, including the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Miami Symphony Orchestra, the University of Miami Wind Ensemble, Boston Brass, members of the United States Marine Band, and the Dominion Brass Ensemble. His music has been performed by members of leading orchestras throughout the country and he has enjoyed world premieres and performances in prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center, as well as performances at the Macy's Day Thanksgiving Parade.

As a conductor, Mr. Balmages enjoys engagements with numerous all-state and regional honor bands and orchestras along with university and professional groups. Notable guest conducting appearances have included the Midwest Clinic, Western International Band Clinic, College Band Directors Eastern Regional Conference, and MENC. Additional conducting appearances have included the Kennedy Center and Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. He has also served as an adjunct professor of instrumental conducting and Acting Symphonic Band Director at Towson University in Maryland.

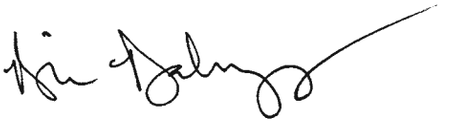
Currently, Mr. Balmages is the Director of Instrumental Publications for The FJH Music Company Inc. in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He resides in Baltimore with his wife, Lisa, and their sons, Jacob and Collin.

About the Music

This musical fantasy paints a vivid picture of ghosts patrolling the dark waters in the middle of a vast sea. It opens with a dissonant shriek before giving way to an eerie calm. As the melody develops, the harmonies become increasingly more unsettled, and a second shriek startles the listener once again. Finally, the music resolves and moves into a fast paced depiction of battle and life on the high seas. After a series of tonal shifts, the opening theme is juxtaposed with the rhythmic intensity of the second section. Eventually, the opening theme again takes command as a third and final shriek brings the music to a grinding halt, signaling the return of despair and solitude. Ms. 78, labeled *grave*, marks the very point where the phantom pirates accept their fate and embrace it solemnly. Once they are able to do that, they can then embark on their never ending journeys to the ends of the earth and back, terrorizing everyone who comes across their path. The ending of the piece marks this acceptance, and the phantom pirates embark on their eternal trip.

The three "shrieks" (beginning with ms. 1) should be very heavy and accented. They should not sound pretty - be sure students use plenty of weight to get as much sound out as possible. Students will tend to be late coming off eighth rests in the second section. Encourage them to play lightly and anticipate all entrances. At ms. 61, 2nd violins need to play strong as they are carrying the rhythmic pulse that appears throughout this section. In addition, violin 1 should use full bows and play sustained, alternating on long notes as needed.

String Editing: Carrie Lane Gruselle



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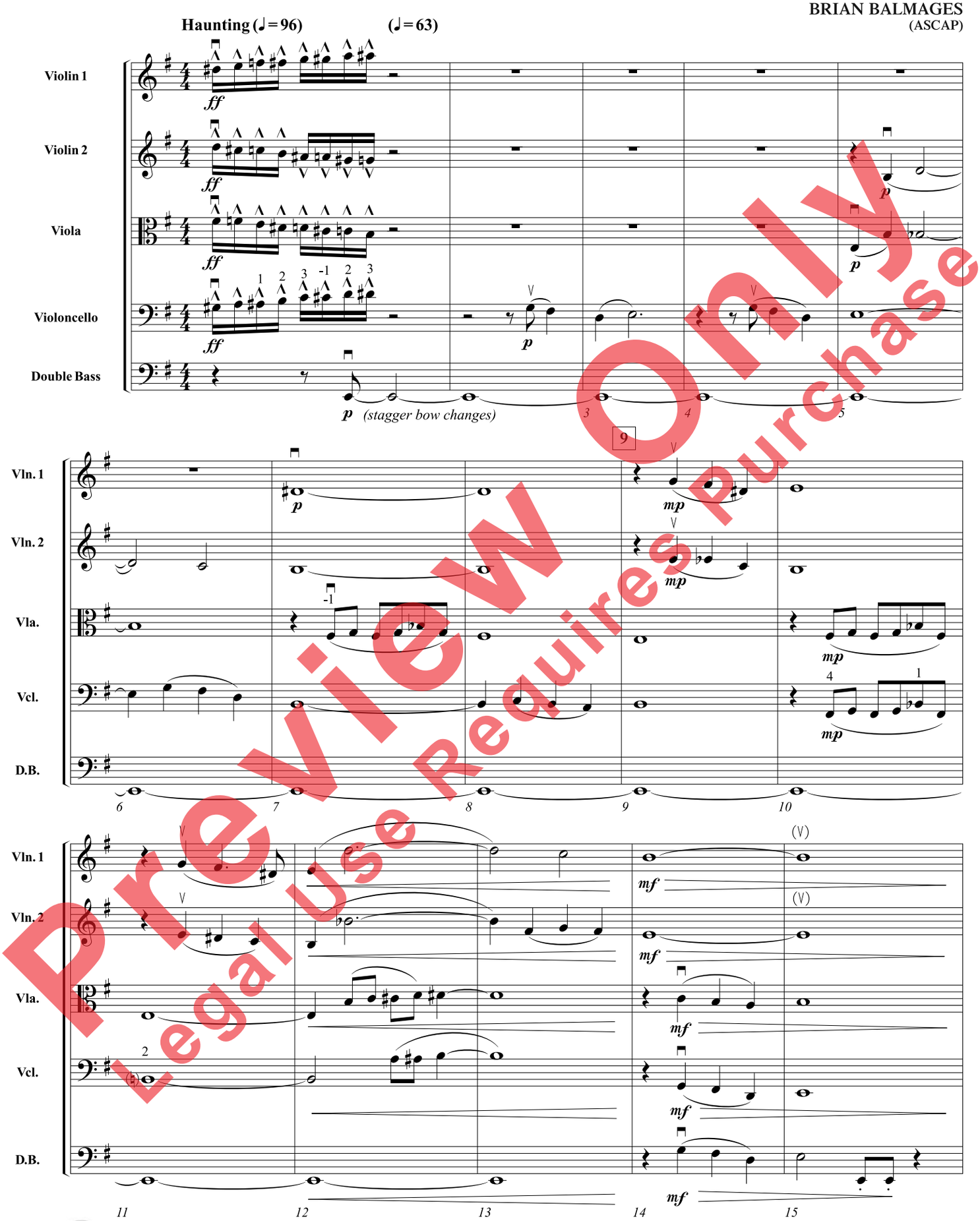
Duration: 4:20

for the Washington Pops
Edward S. Petersen, Conductor

LEGEND OF THE PHANTOM PIRATES

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)



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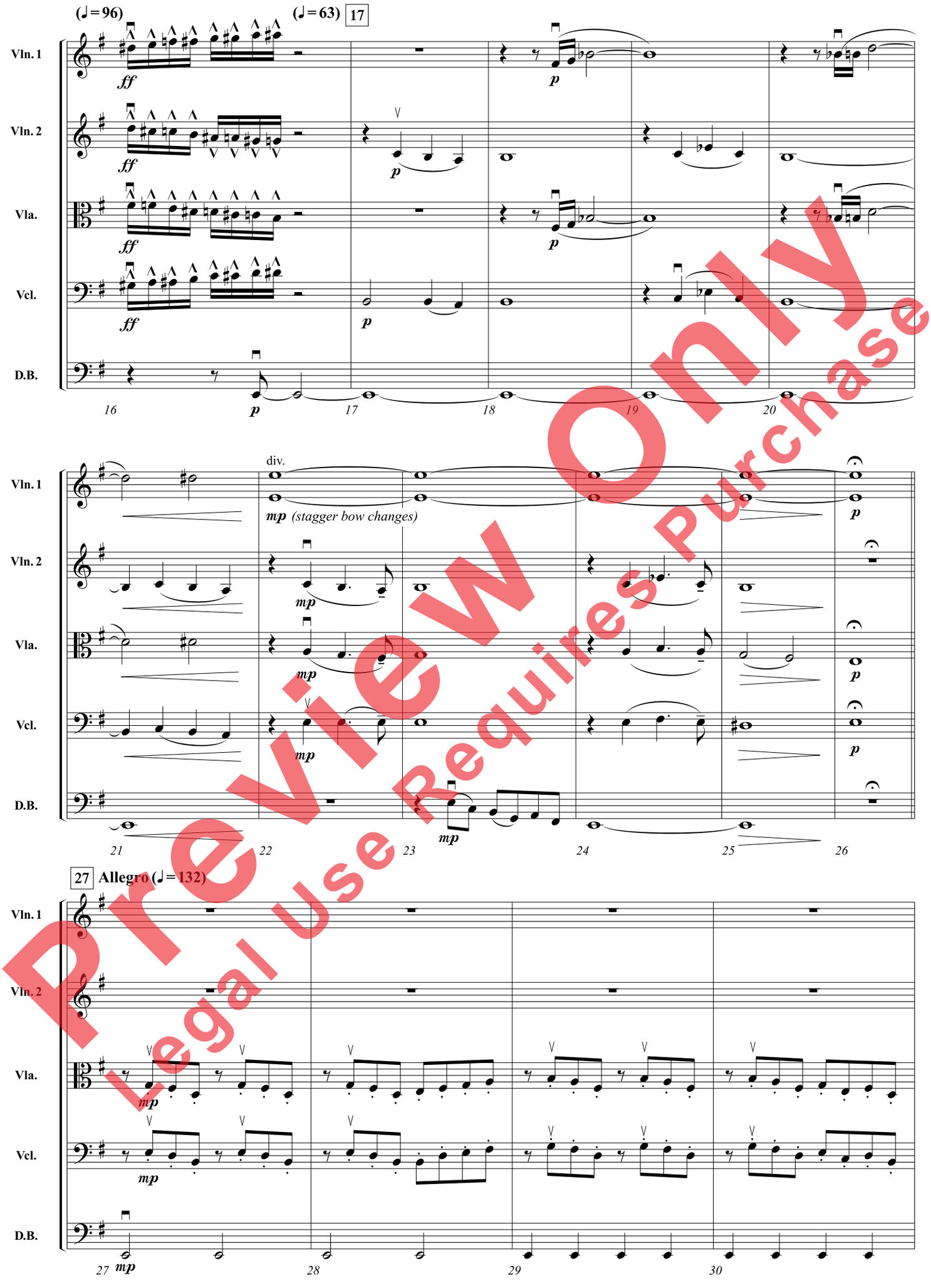

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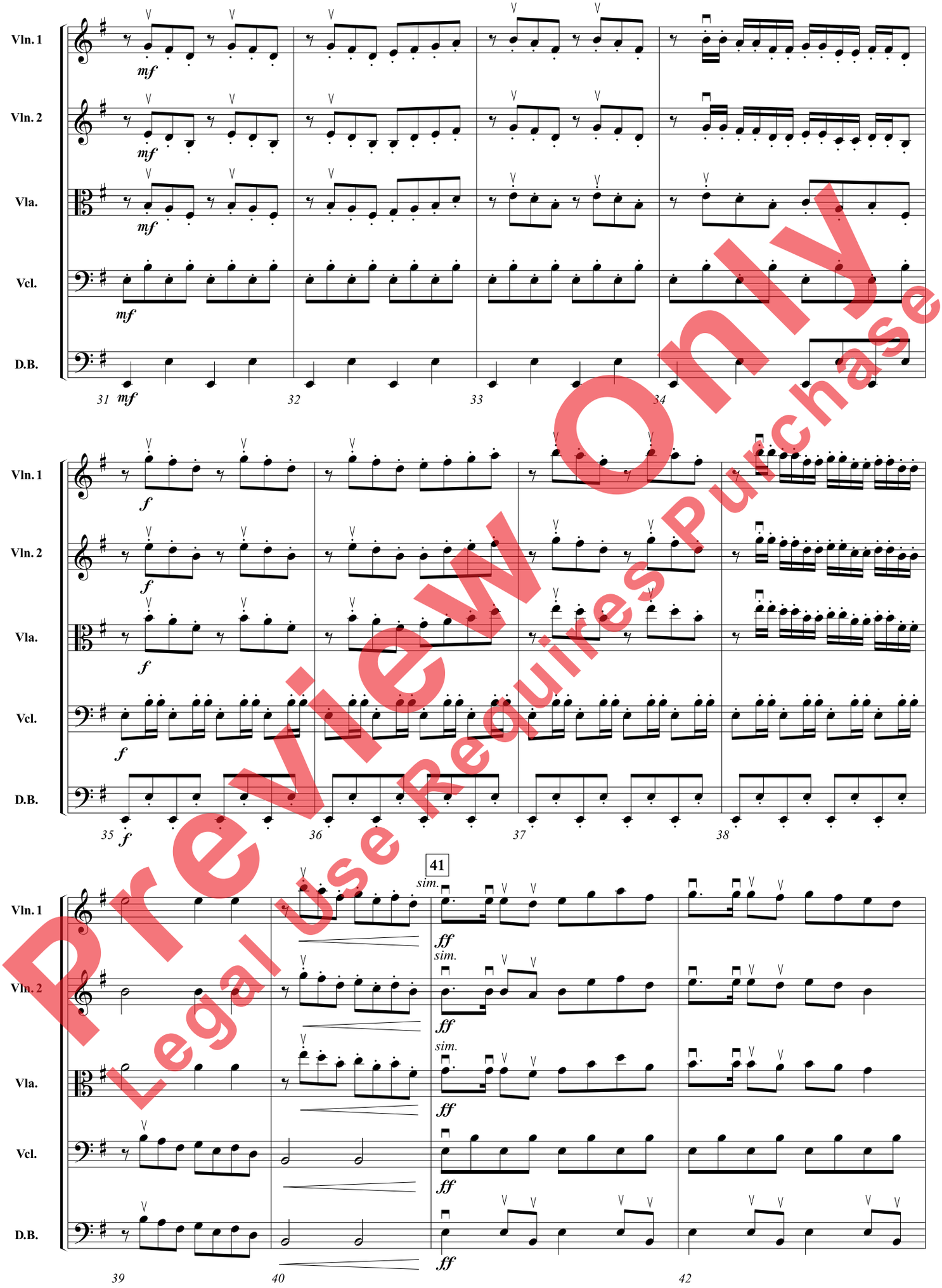

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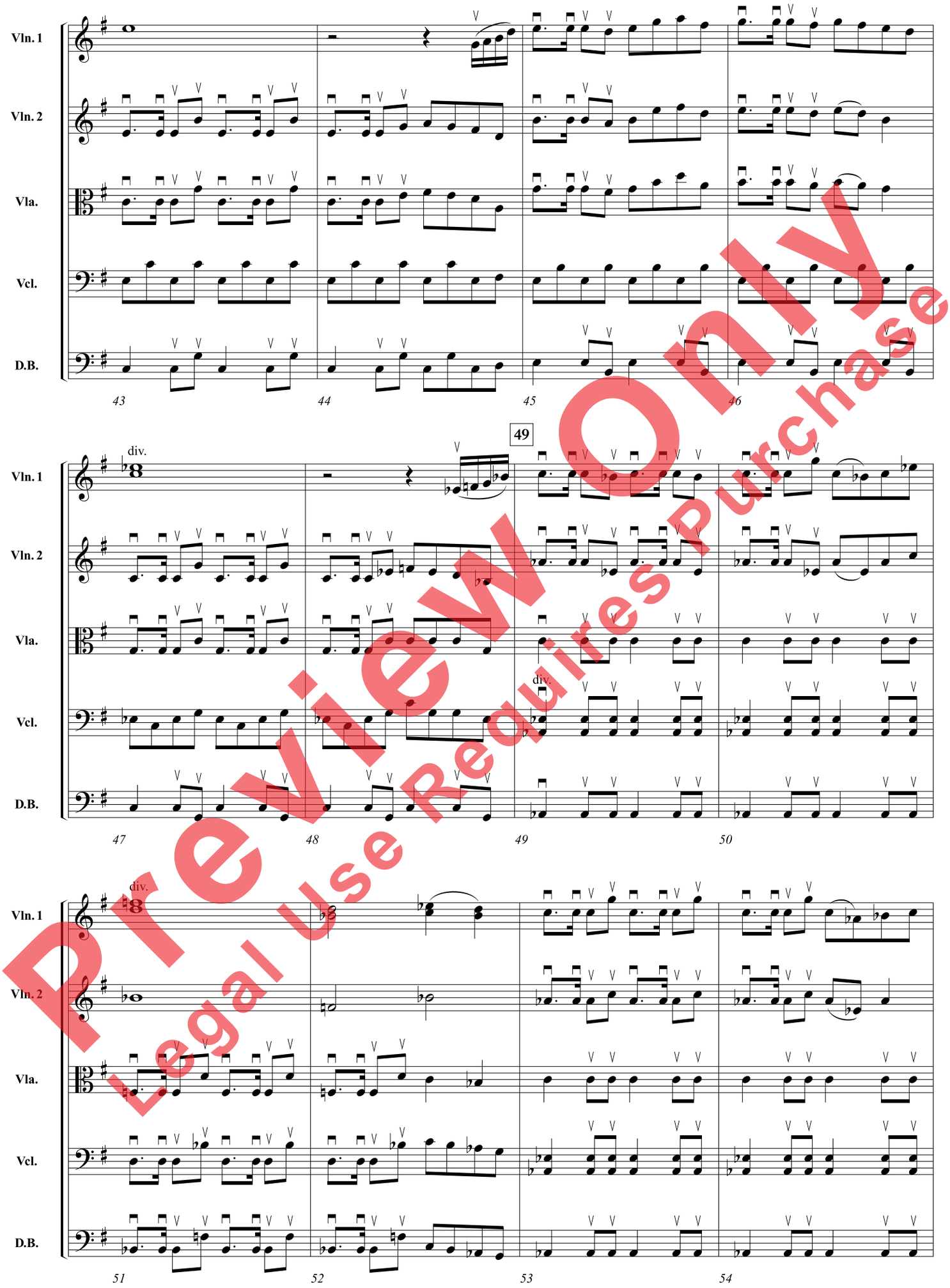

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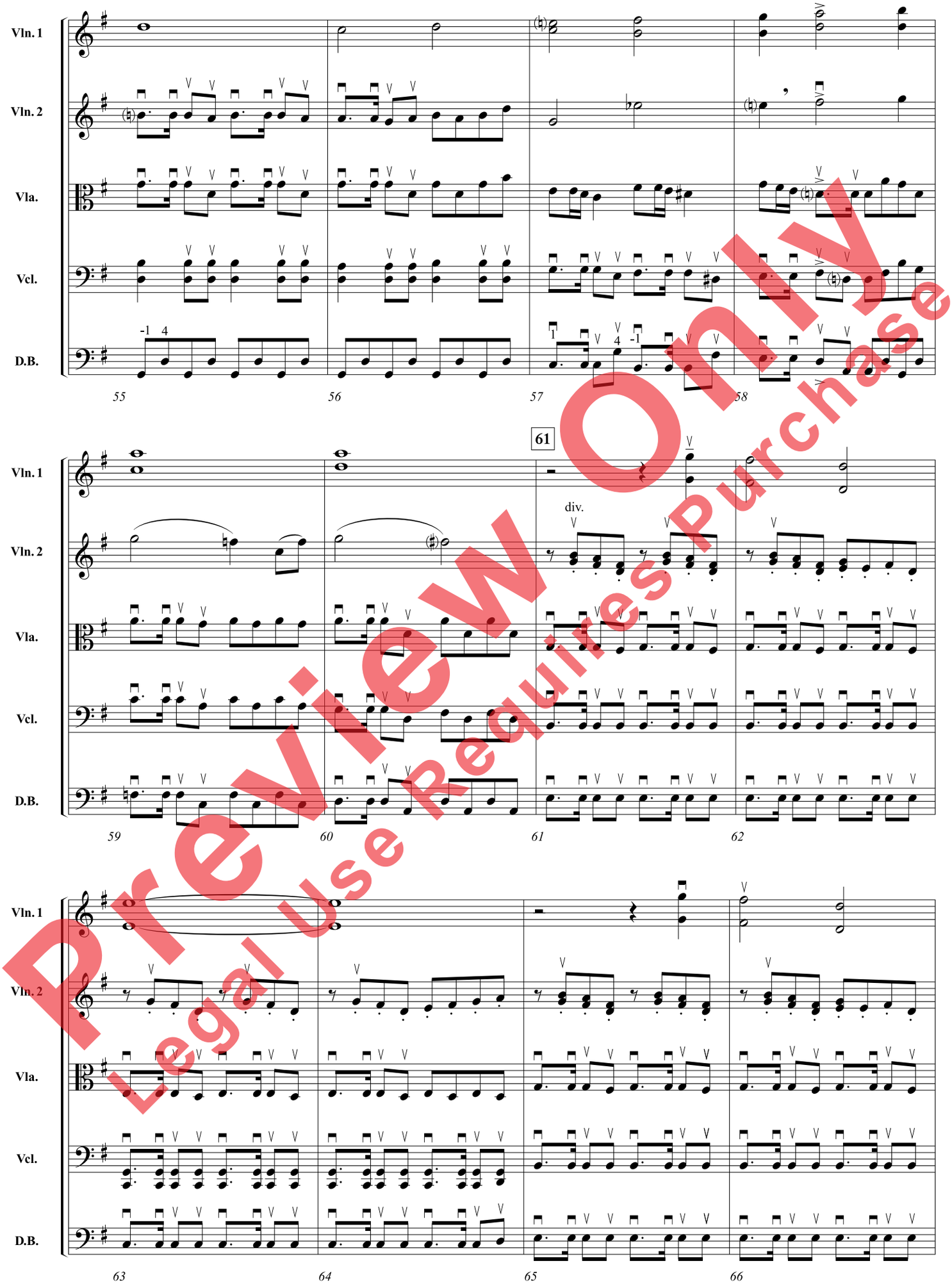

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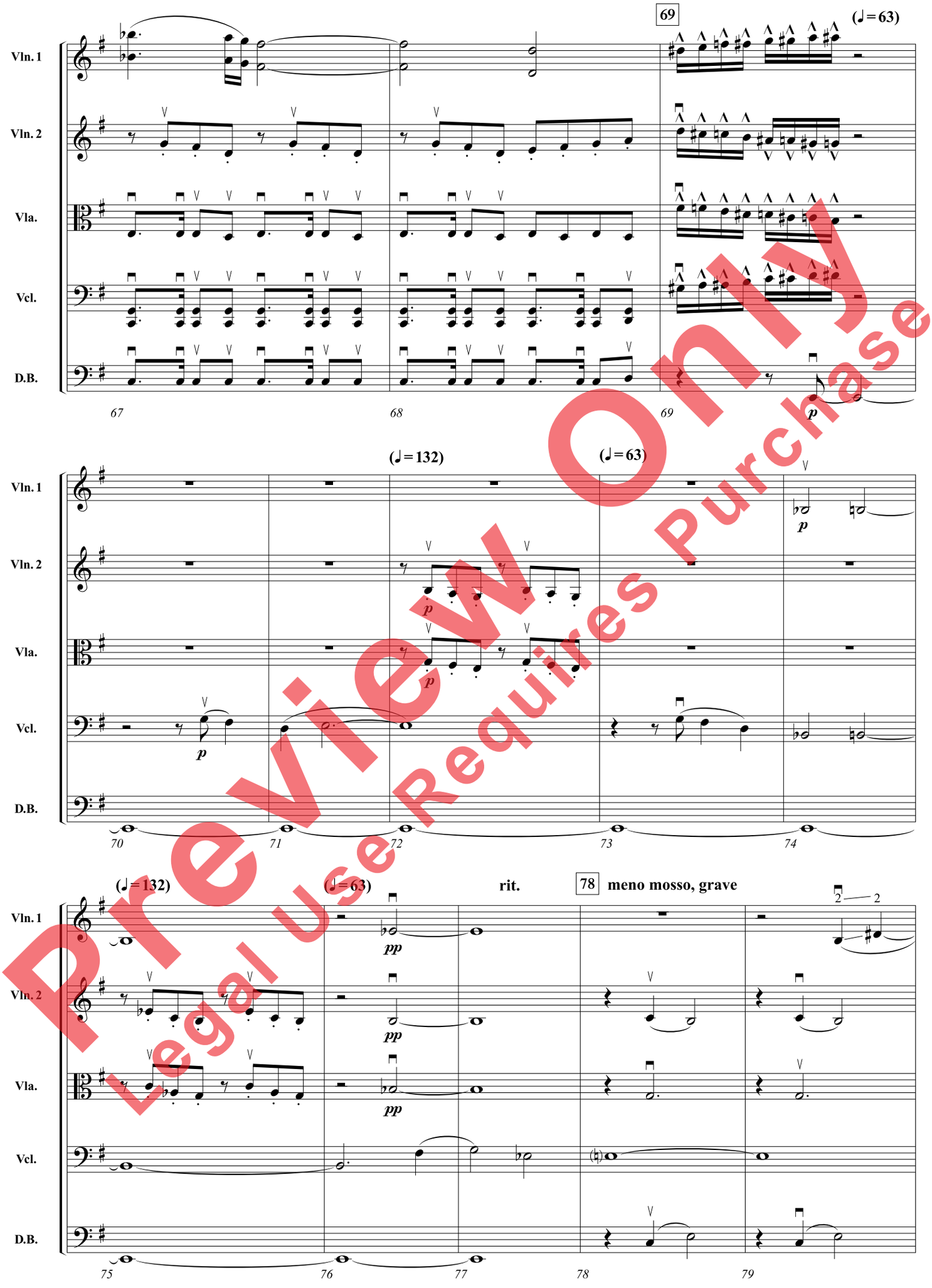

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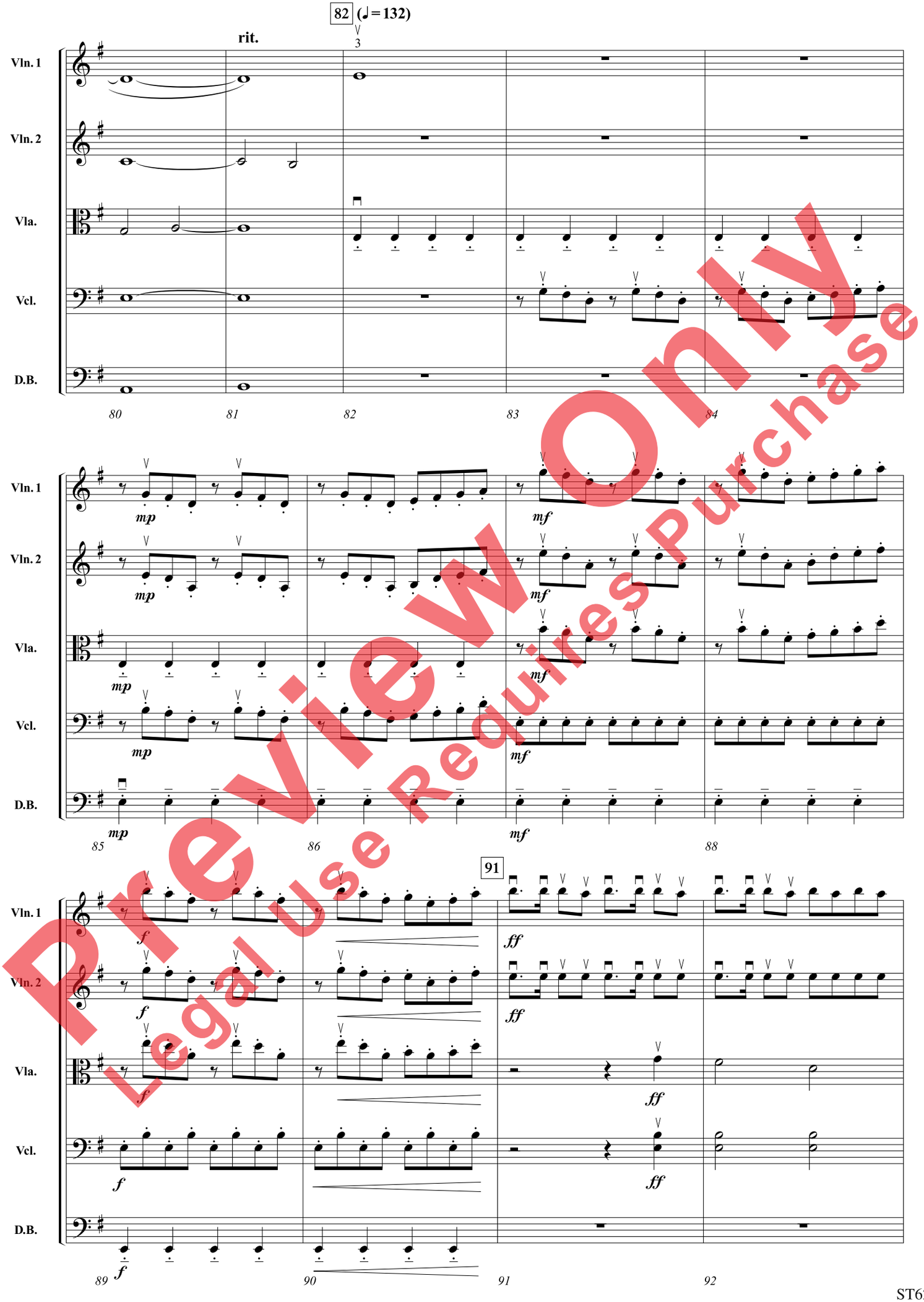

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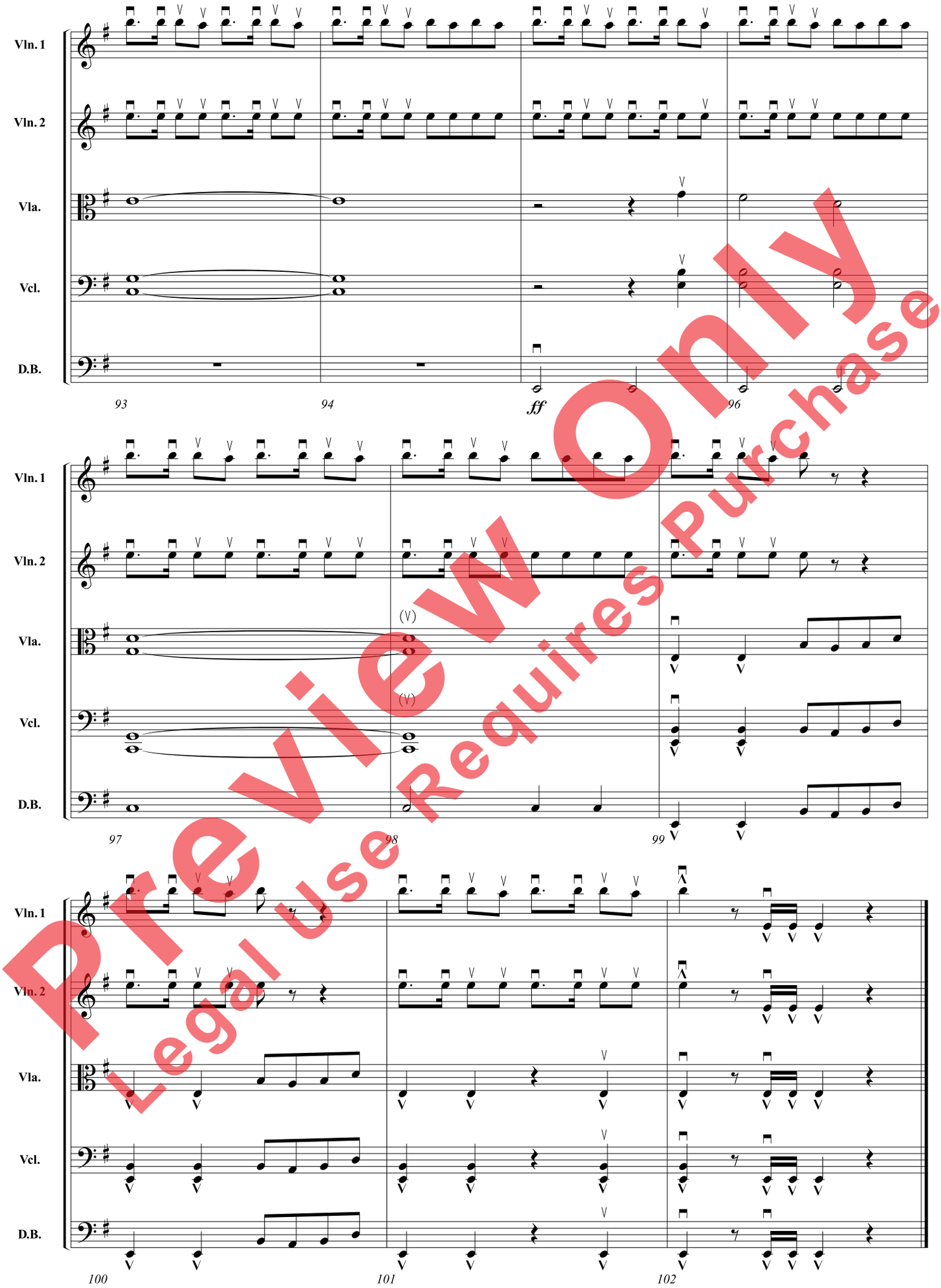

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