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AFTERBURN

Brian Balmages

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

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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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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 Thanksgiving Day 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.

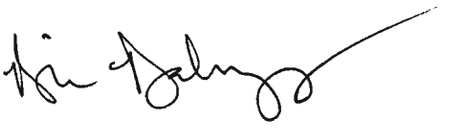
Currently, Mr. Balmages is the Director of Instrumental Publications for The FJH Music Company Inc. in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He resides in Baltimore with his wife, Lisa, and their sons, Jacob and Collin.

About the Music

Two different meanings of the term "afterburn" provided the inspiration for this adrenaline-packed work. The first is an intense and exhausting sensation that follows vigorous exercise (primarily caused by the need to take in more oxygen to help the body recover). The second refers to the use of afterburners in jet engines (typically used in military supersonic aircraft), which provides an incredible boost in thrust compared to a typical jet engine. In both cases, the core element involves the use of tremendous energy in an effort to become stronger and faster.

I am a big proponent of exercise and visit the gym often; thus, I feel the exercise induced "afterburn" often. Ironically, while the body becomes physically exhausted, the mind can become incredibly clear. I find that I do some of my best work after the gym - I am alert, energized, and ready to take on the world. It is in this spirit that I composed *Afterburn,* the musical equivalent of a quick, intense workout that leaves both players and the audience with renewed energy and awareness.

Afterburn also provides the opportunity to explore easy meter changes and some aggressive bowing techniques to create momentum and power. Have students follow bowings carefully as they will help create the musical energy needed to perform the piece. In essence, the orchestra should feel its own afterburn after rehearsing and performing the piece. The ultimate measure of a successful performance will be the tremendous adrenaline rush that follows.



String Editing: Carrie Lane Gruselle

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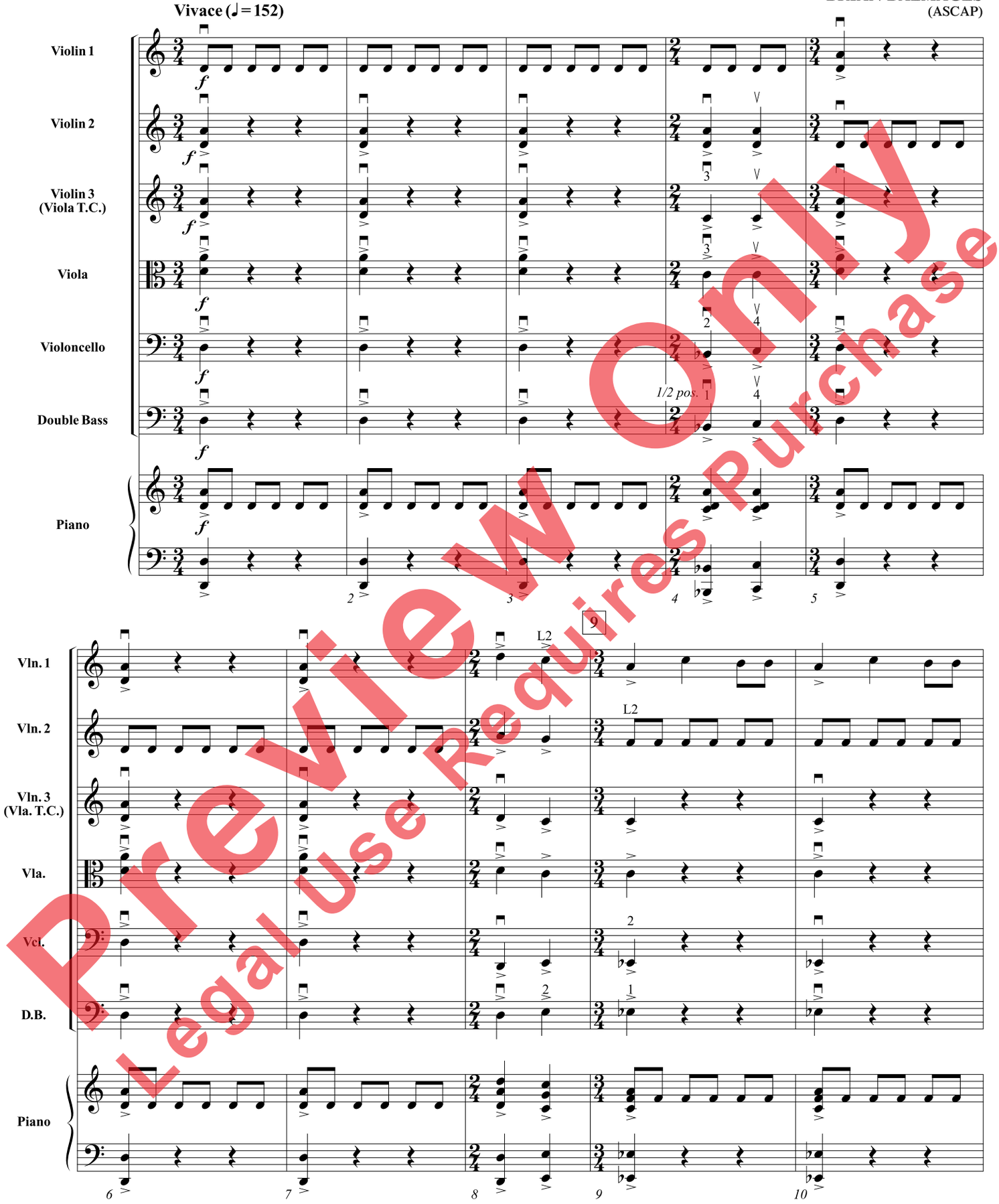
Duration: 2:15

AFTERBURN

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

Vivace (♩ = 152)



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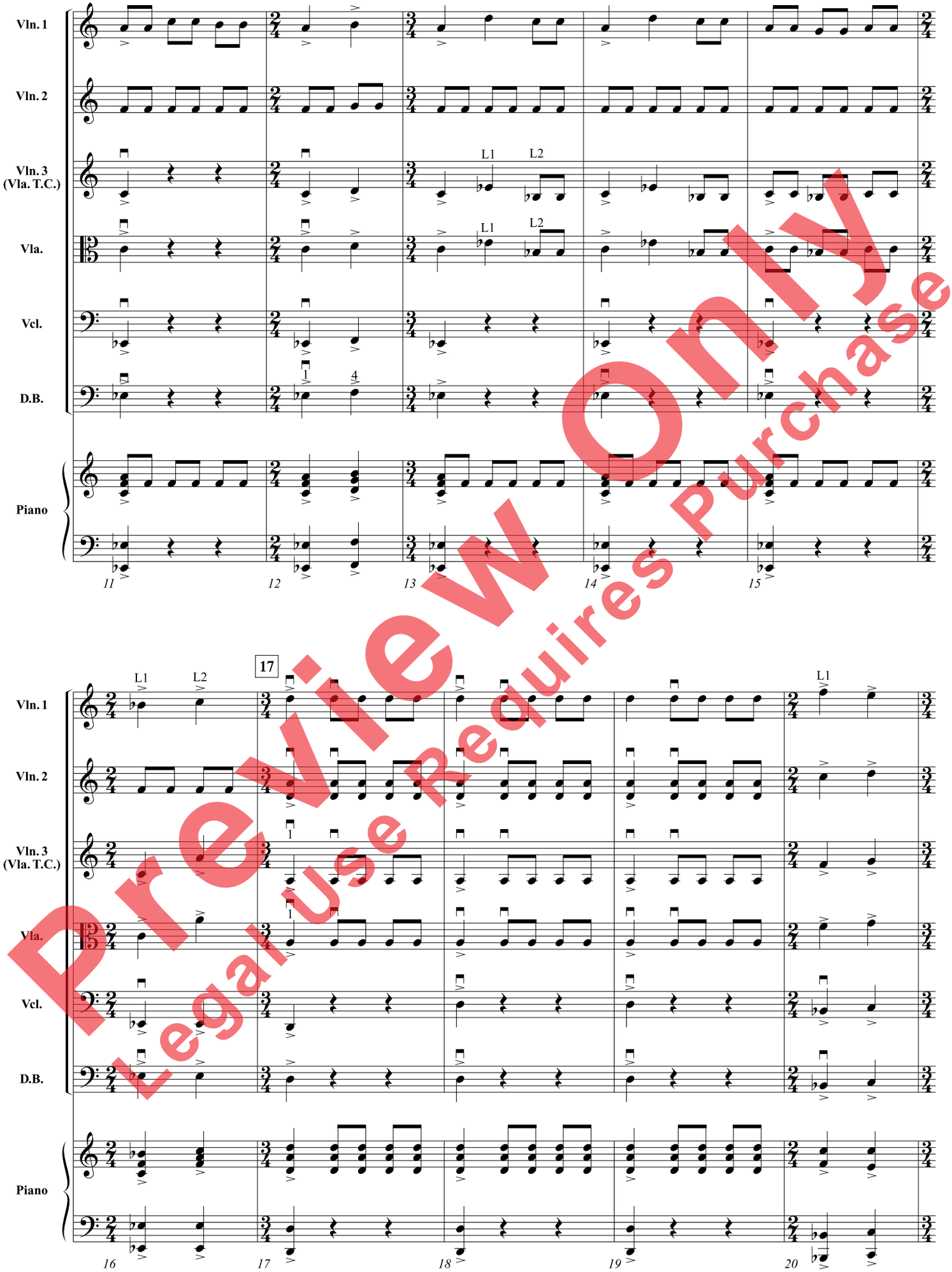

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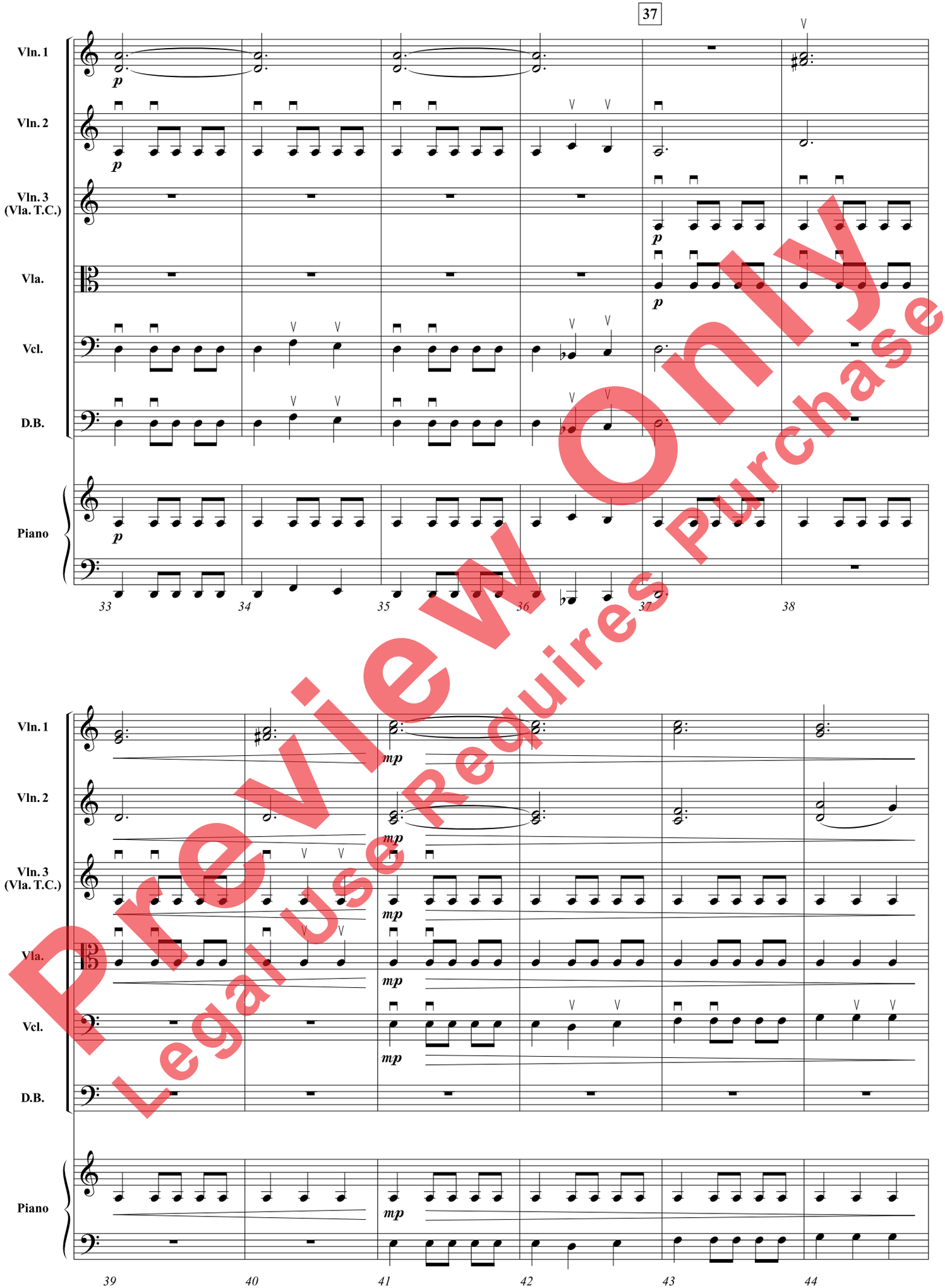

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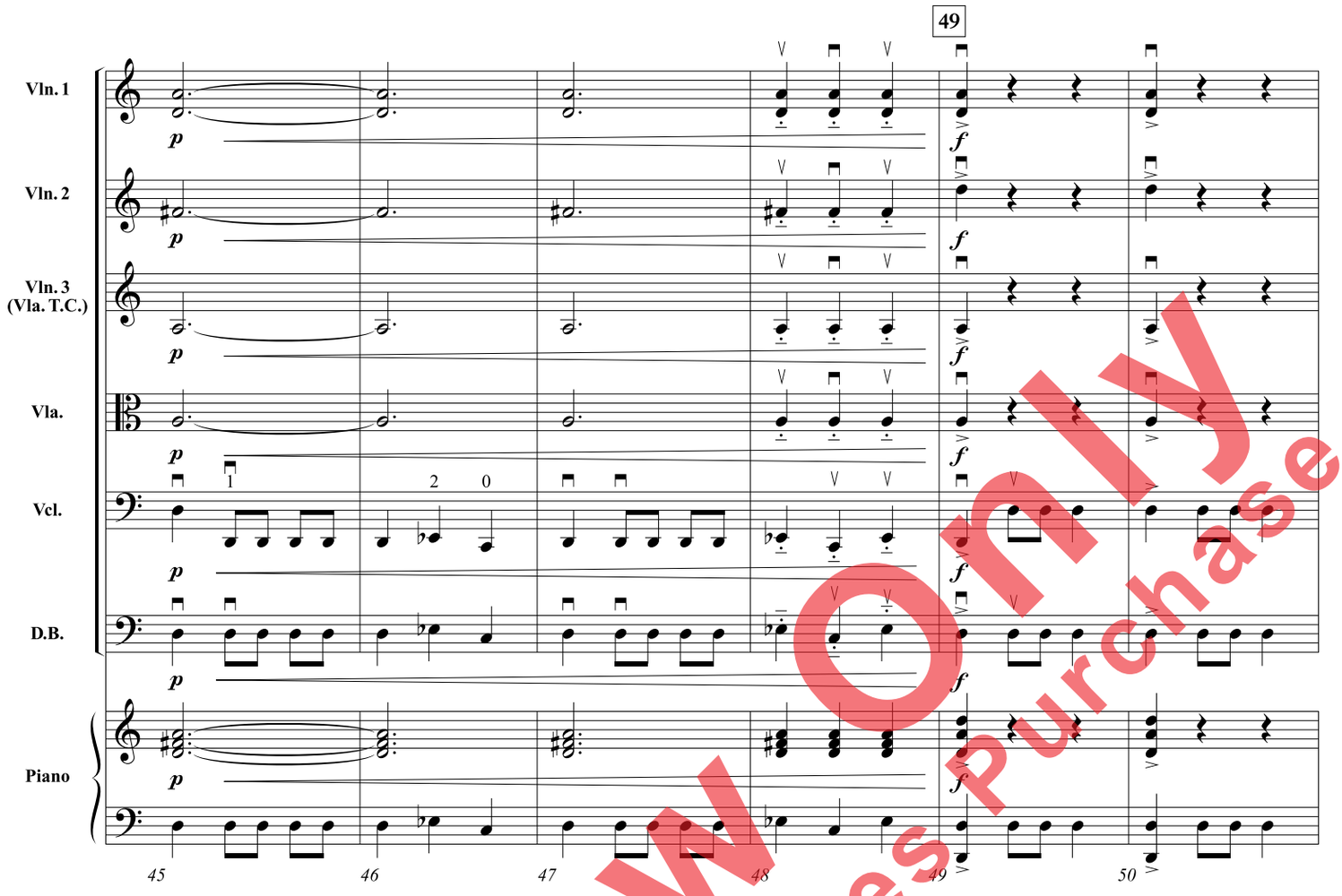

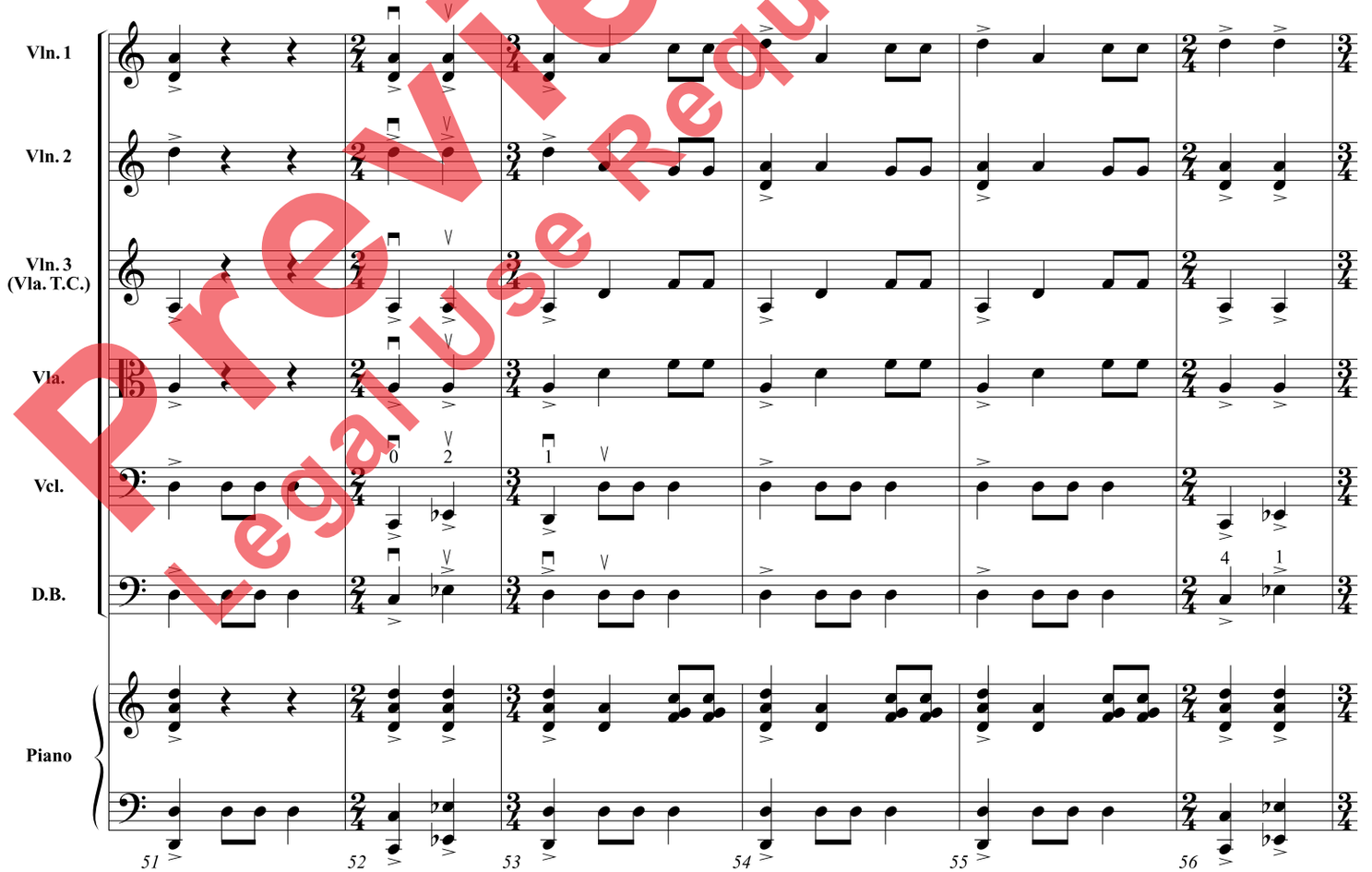

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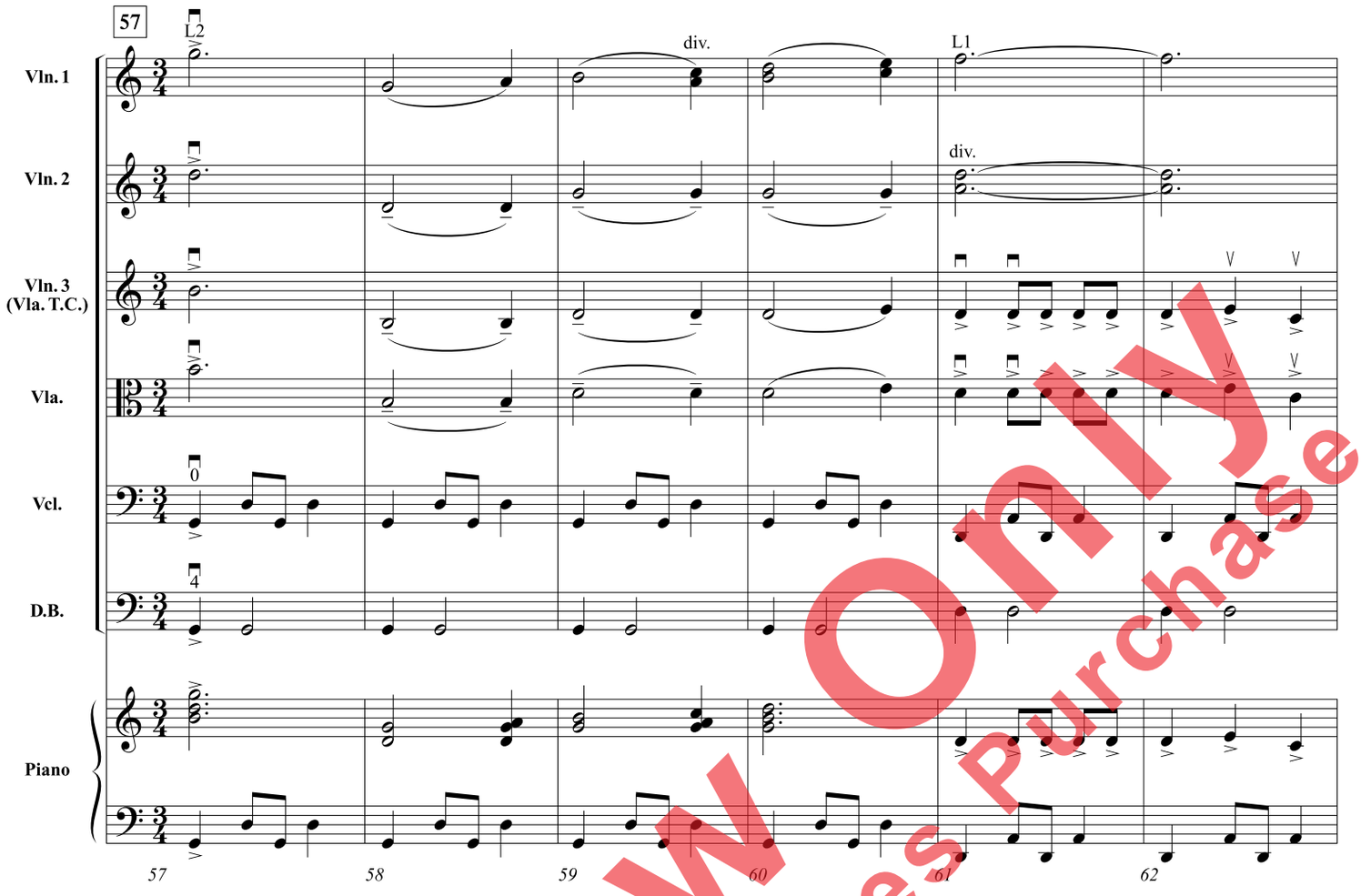

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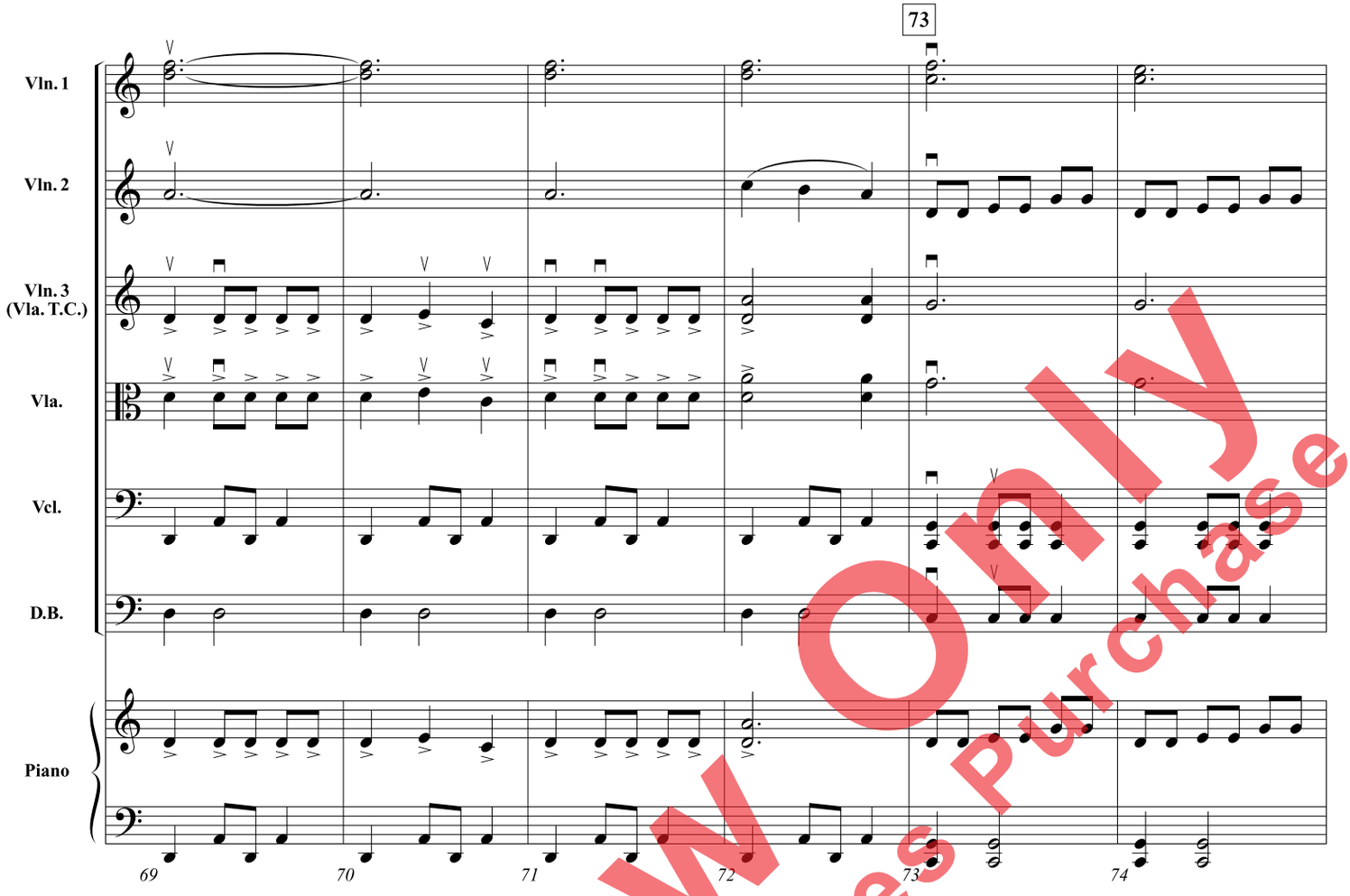

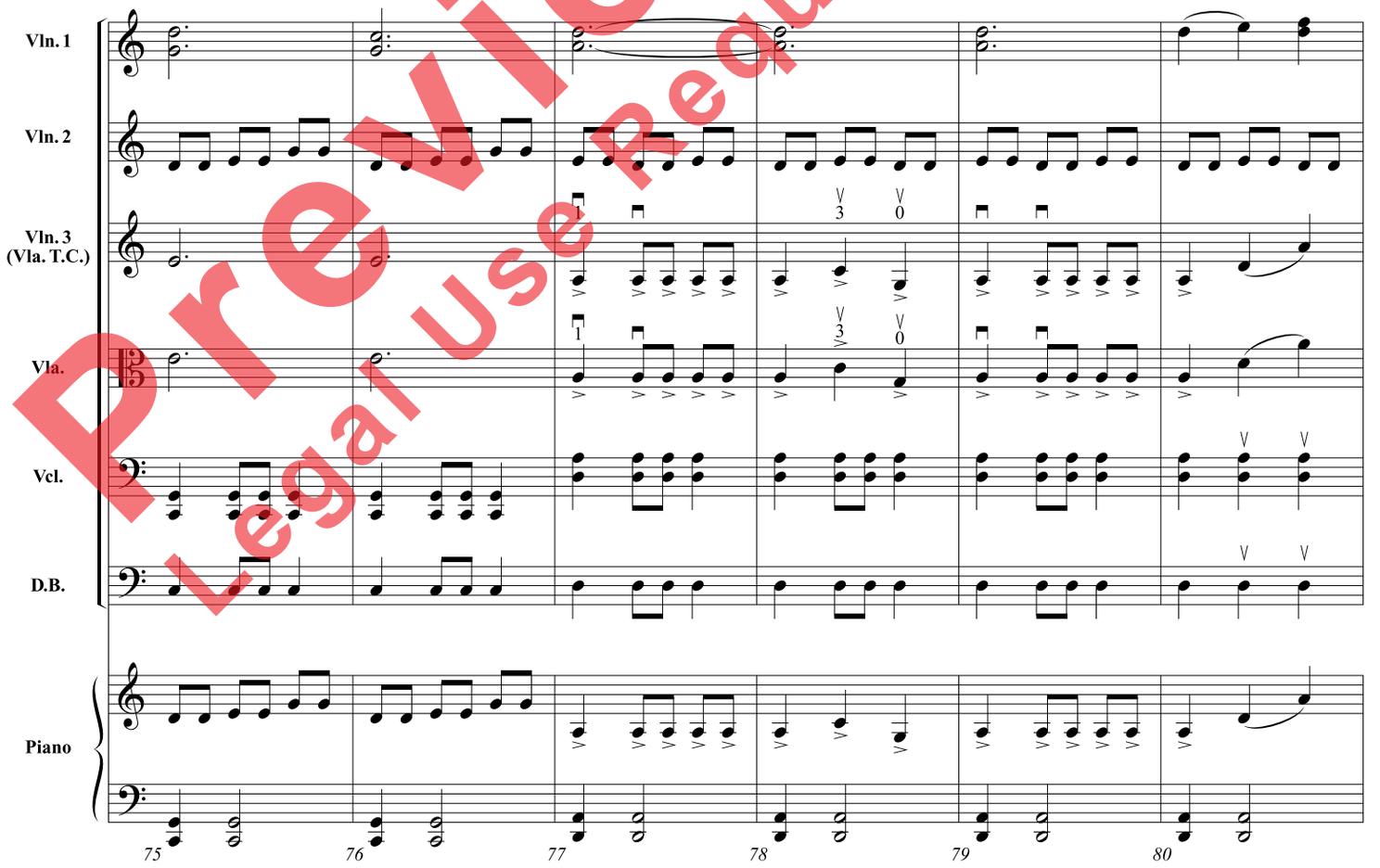

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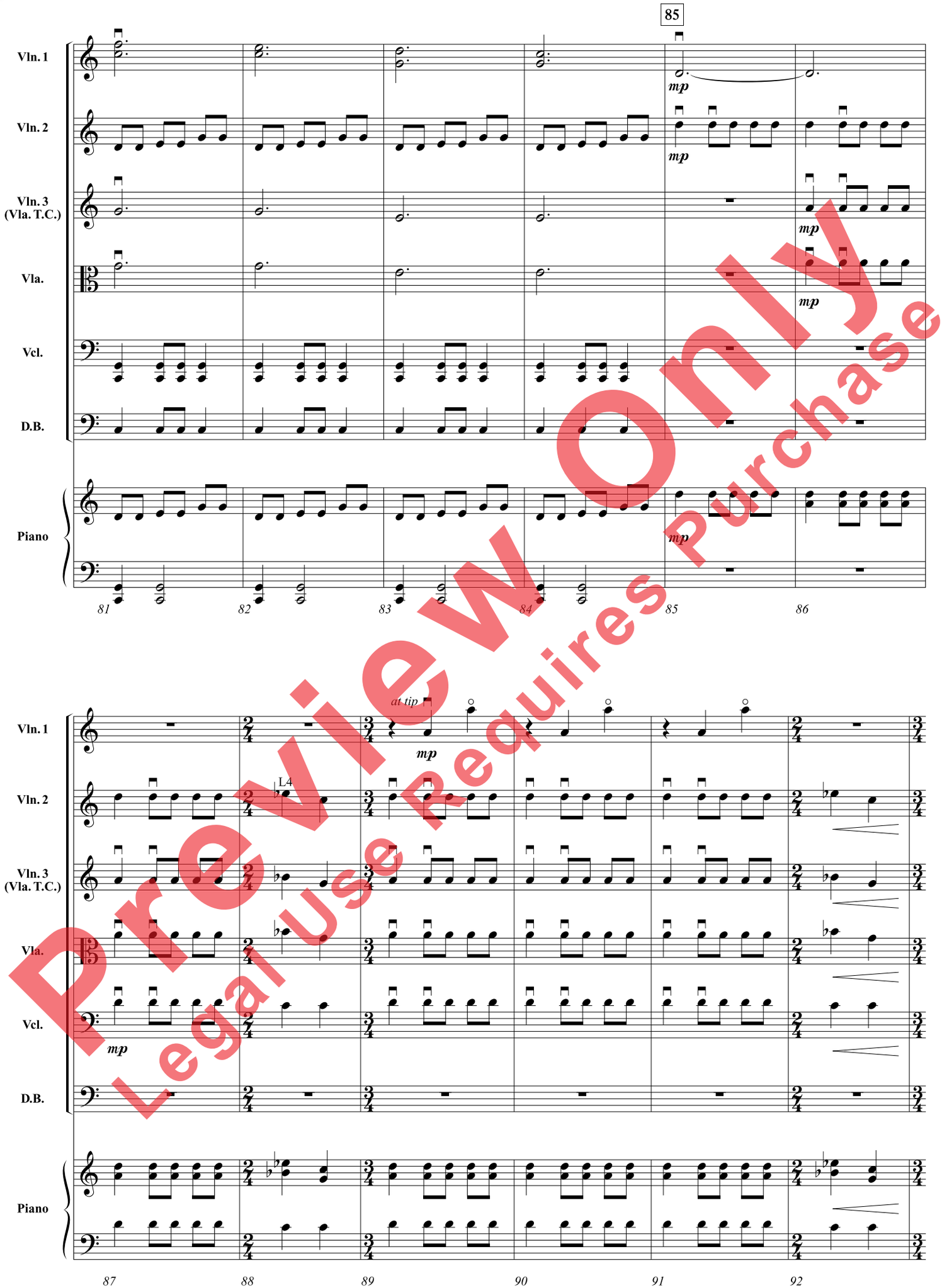

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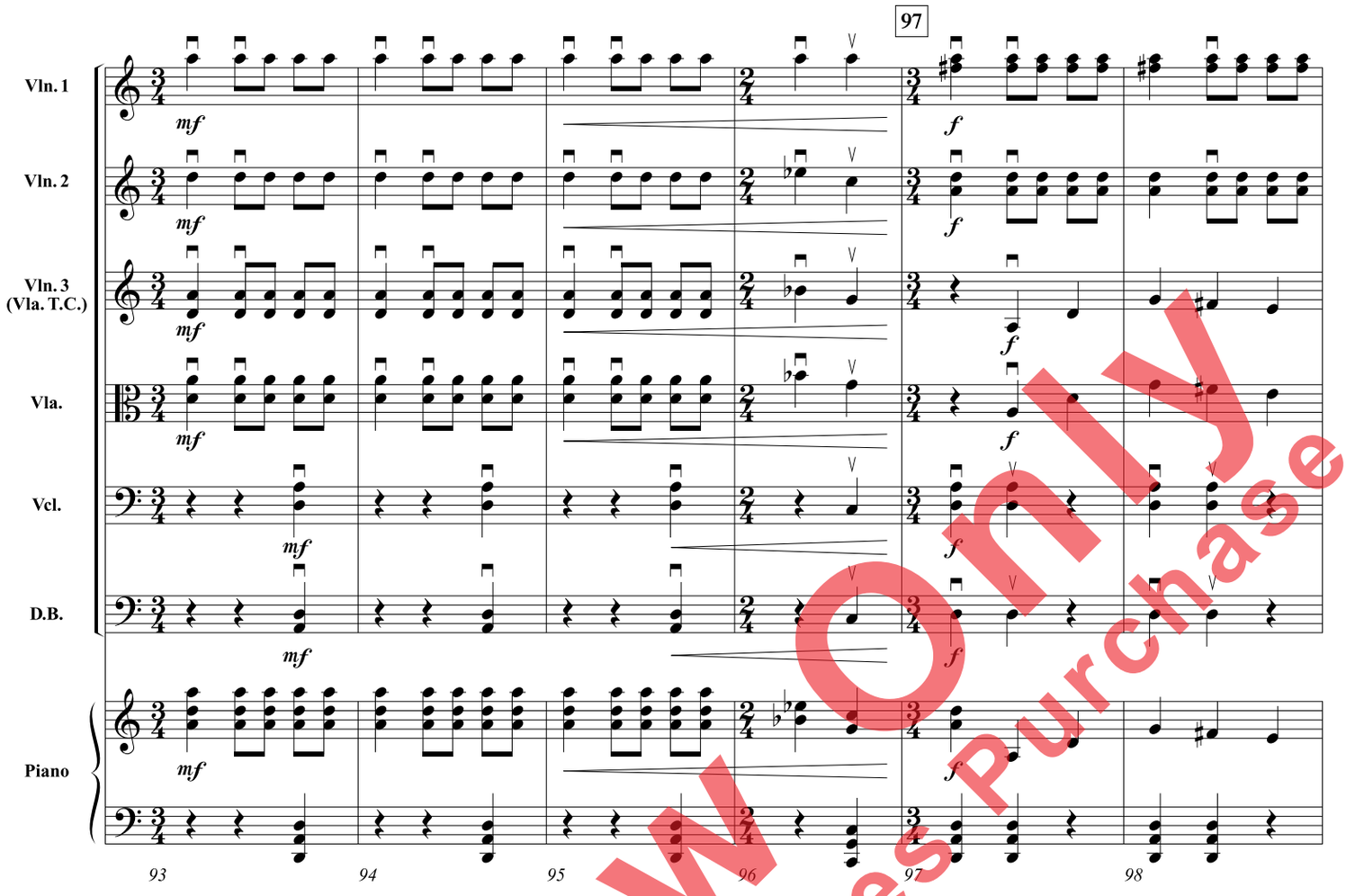

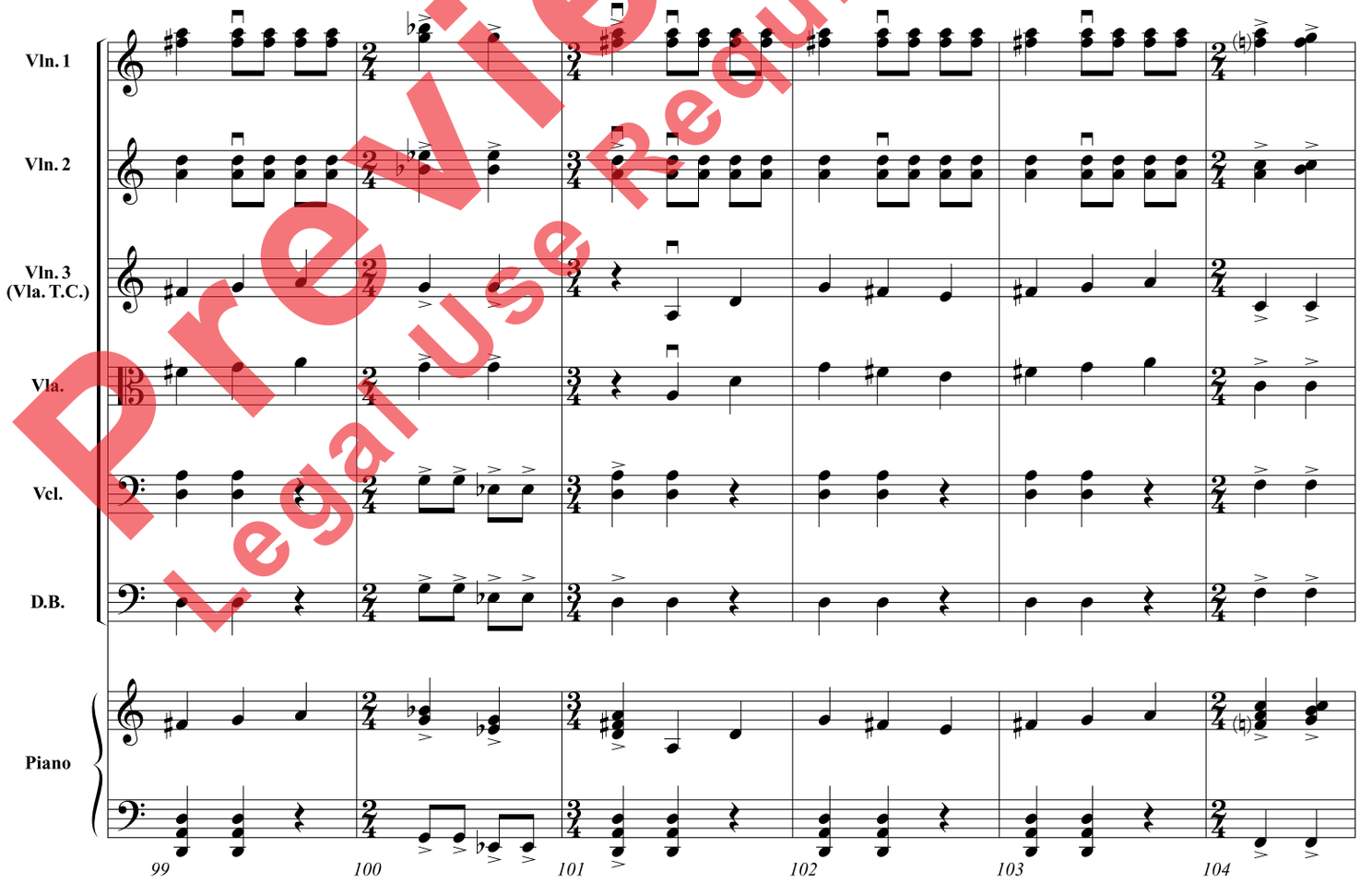

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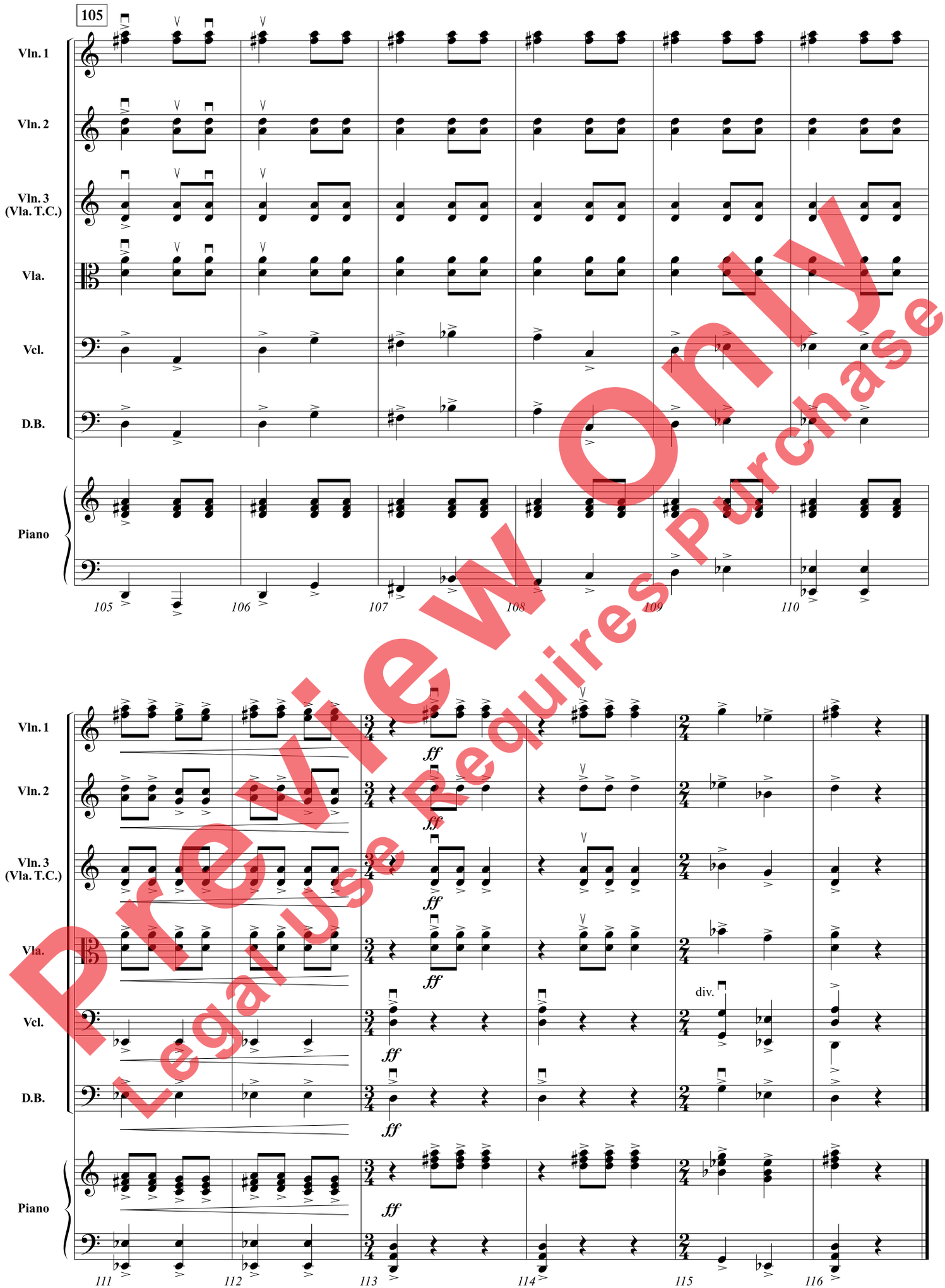

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