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FJH STRING ORCHESTRA

Grade 3

STRINGS CUT LOOSE

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

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 holds a bachelor's degree in music from James Madison University and a master's degree from the University of Miami in Florida. His compositions have been performed worldwide at the state, national and international level. His active schedule of commissions and premieres has incorporated groups ranging from elementary schools to professional ensembles, including the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Miami Symphony Orchestra, University of Miami Wind Ensemble, Boston Brass, and the Dominion Brass Ensemble. In 2012, Mr. Balmages received the prestigious Albert Austin Harding Award from the American School Band Directors Association. He is also a 2010 winner of the Harvey G. Phillips Award for Compositional Excellence, presented by the International Tuba-Euphonium Association.

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, National Association for Music Educators, American School Band Directors Association, CBDNA, 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.

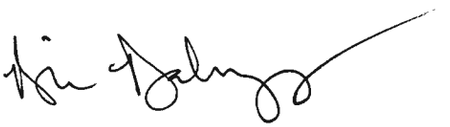
Currently, Mr. Balmages is the Director of Instrumental Publications for The FJH Music Company Inc. in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He resides in Baltimore with his wife Lisa and their two sons.

About the Music

Strings Cut Loose is a marriage of my love for alternative styles and string orchestra. It is centered around a funk groove, yet is based loosely on blues form and its harmonic progression. The entire groove is created organically in the strings alone - I heard no percussion while writing the music. The intent was to write music that fits the string orchestra naturally while also exploiting the range of styles that are achievable in an orchestra without the use of percussion or rhythm section.

This piece should be performed with straight eighth notes. Given some of the blues influence, students may try to swing some of the rhythms, but they are not intended to be swung. At measure 43, the director may choose to turn around and get the audience involved with clapping. It adds a lot to that particular section. Encourage the audience to continue into measure 71.

Strings Cut Loose was written for the Southwest Middle School String Symphony (Orlando, Florida) and their director, Jennifer O. Erickson. The piece was premiered at the Florida Music Educators Association state conference in Tampa.



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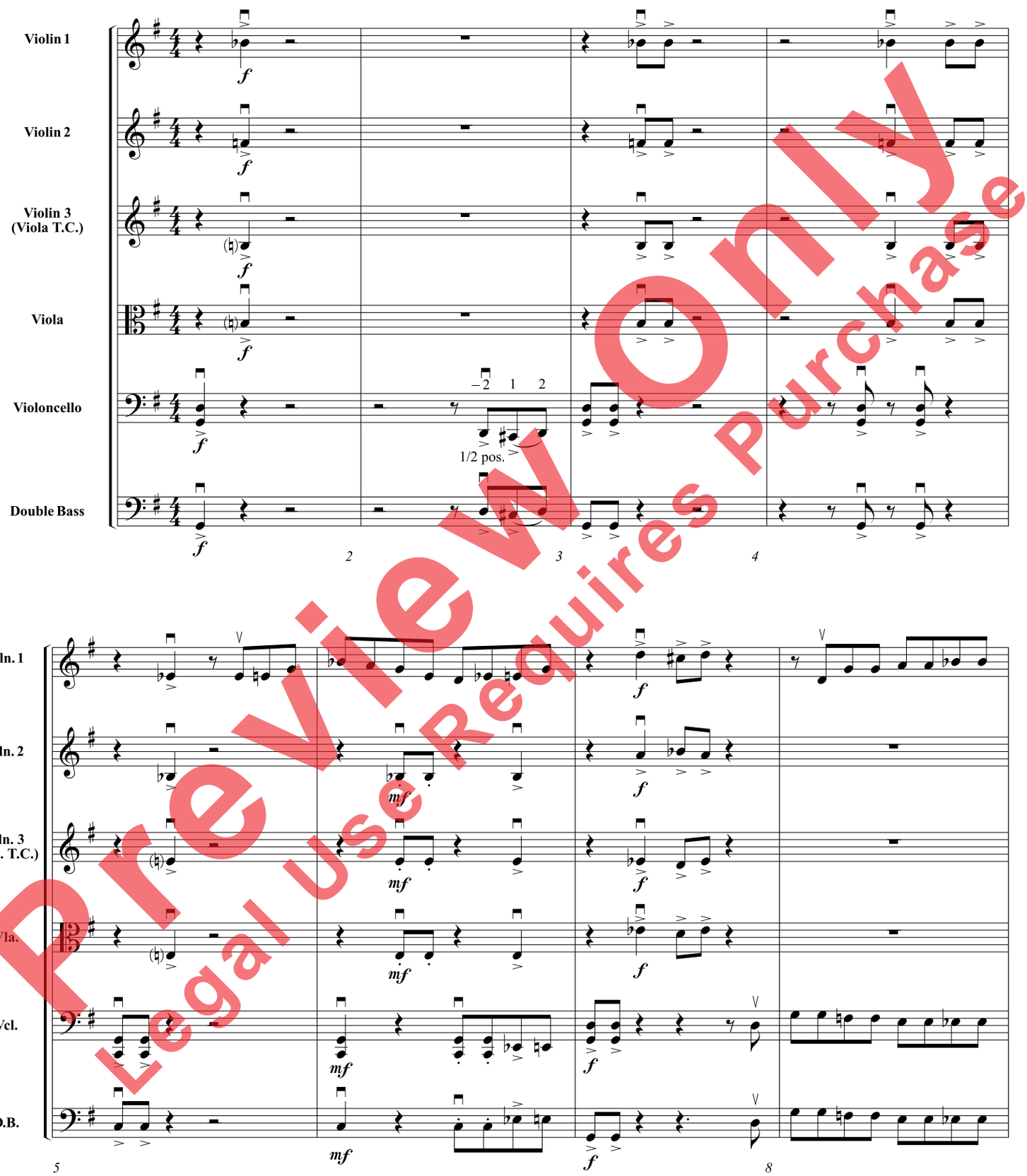
Duration: 3:30

for the Southwest Middle School String Symphony
Orlando, Florida; Jennifer O. Erickson, Director

STRINGS CUT LOOSE

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

With attitude (♩ = 92)



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MP3
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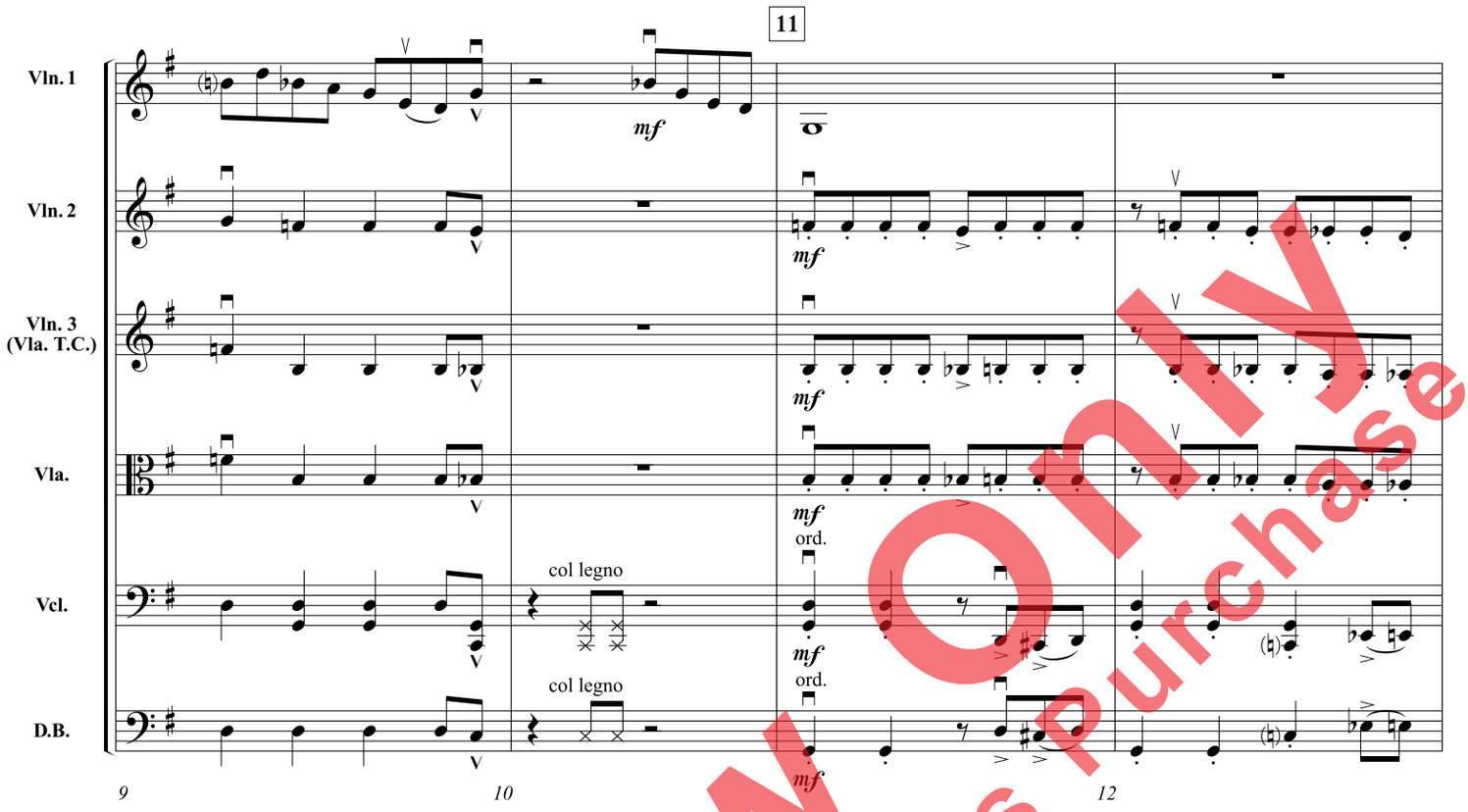

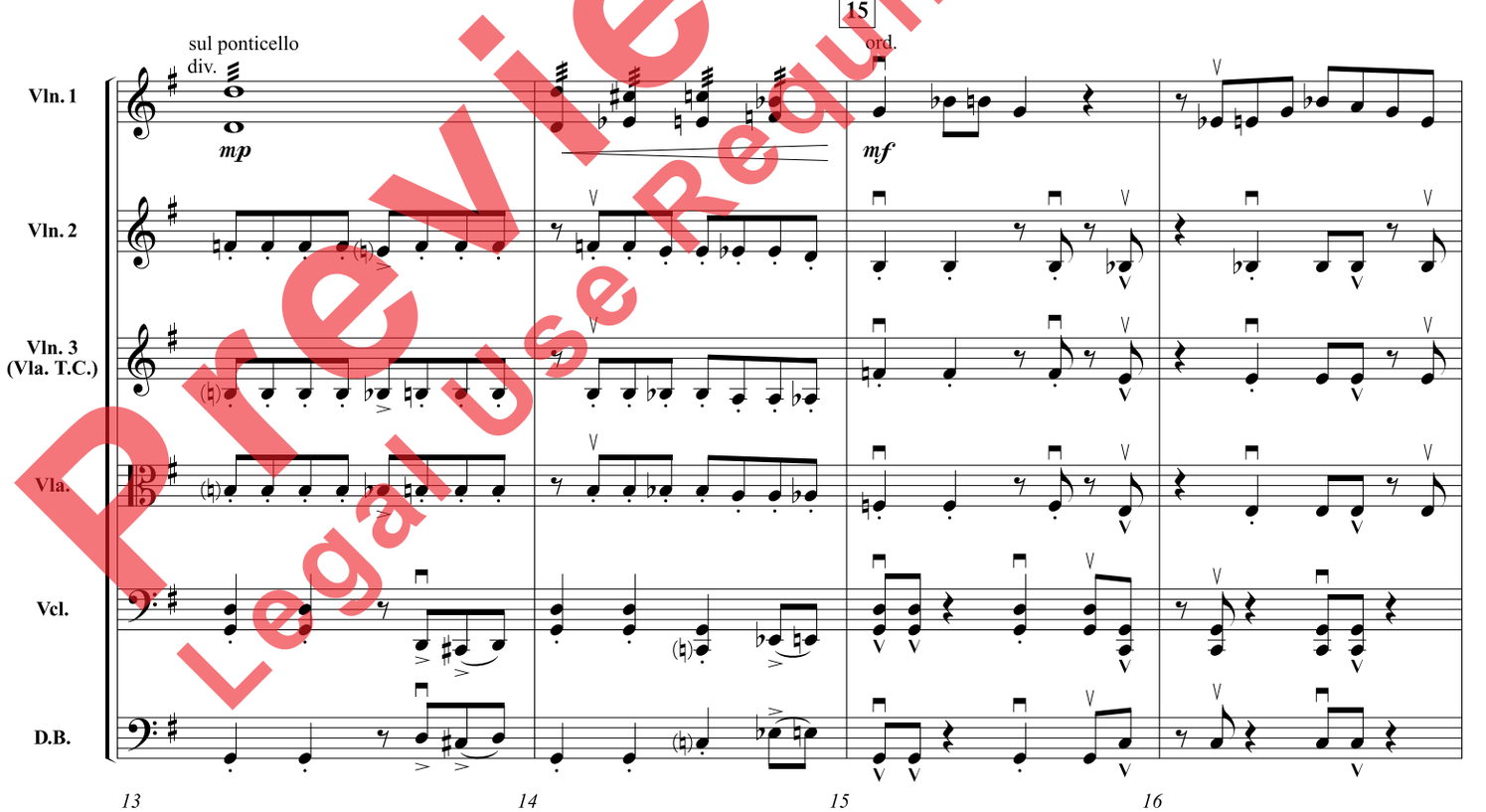

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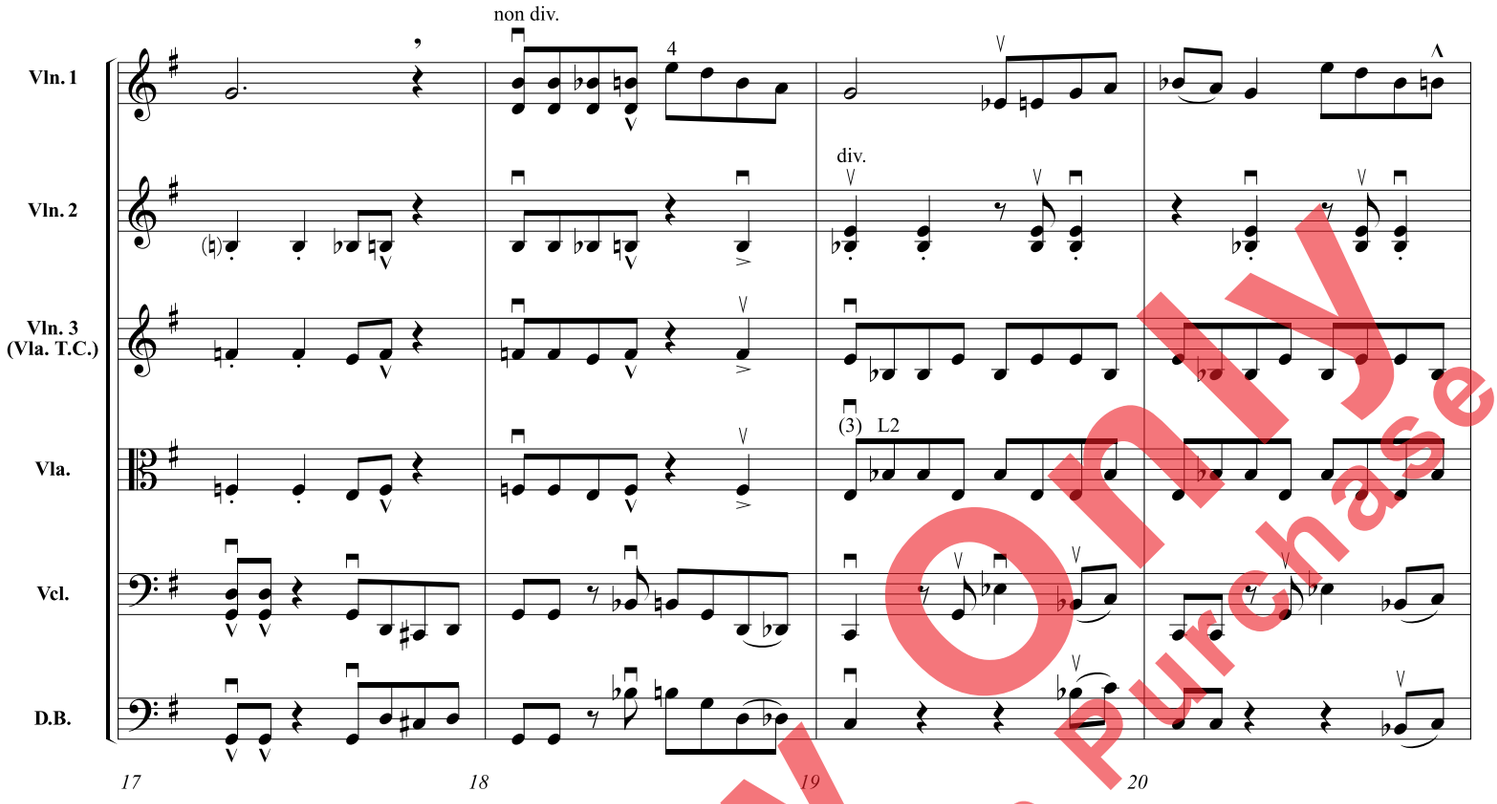

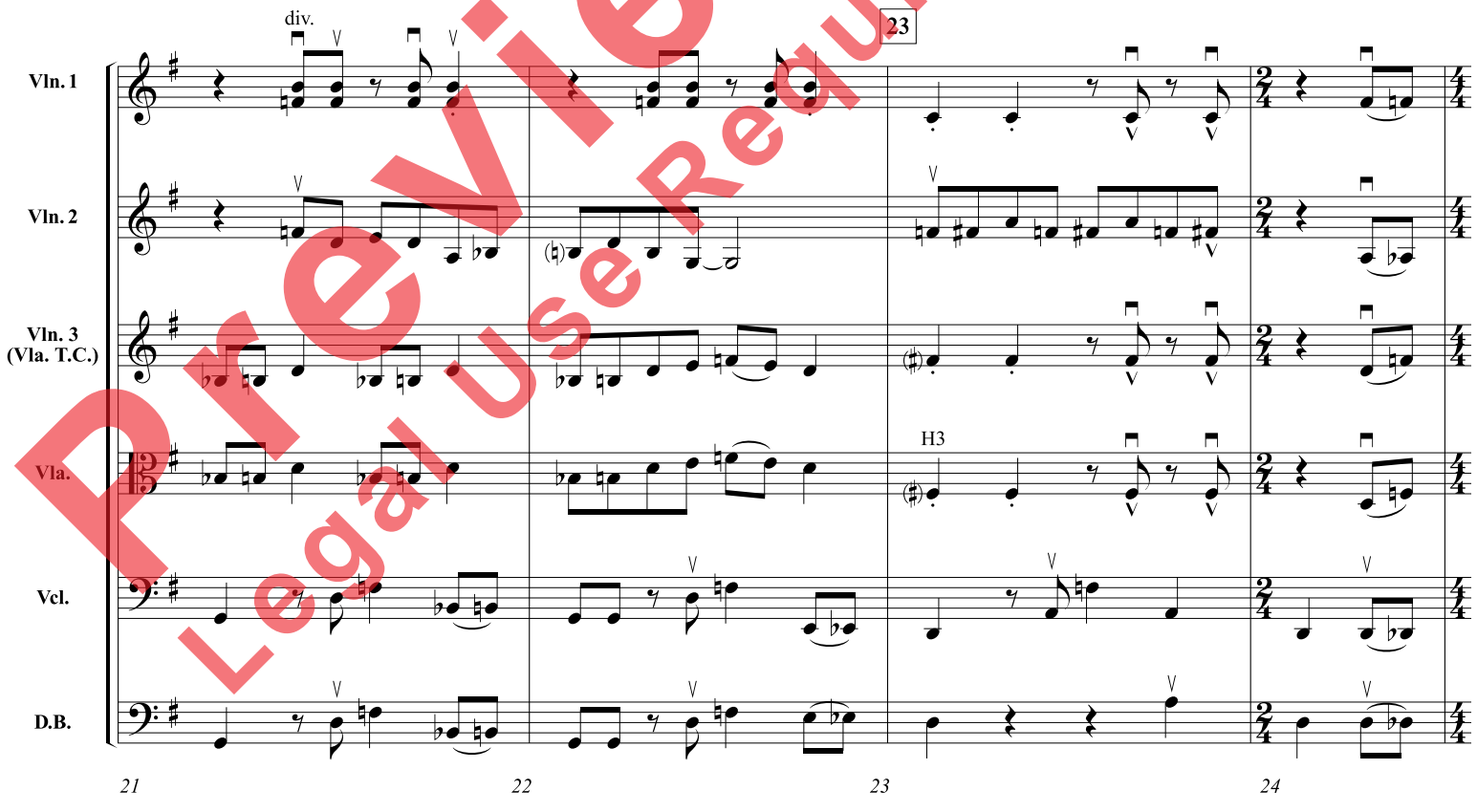

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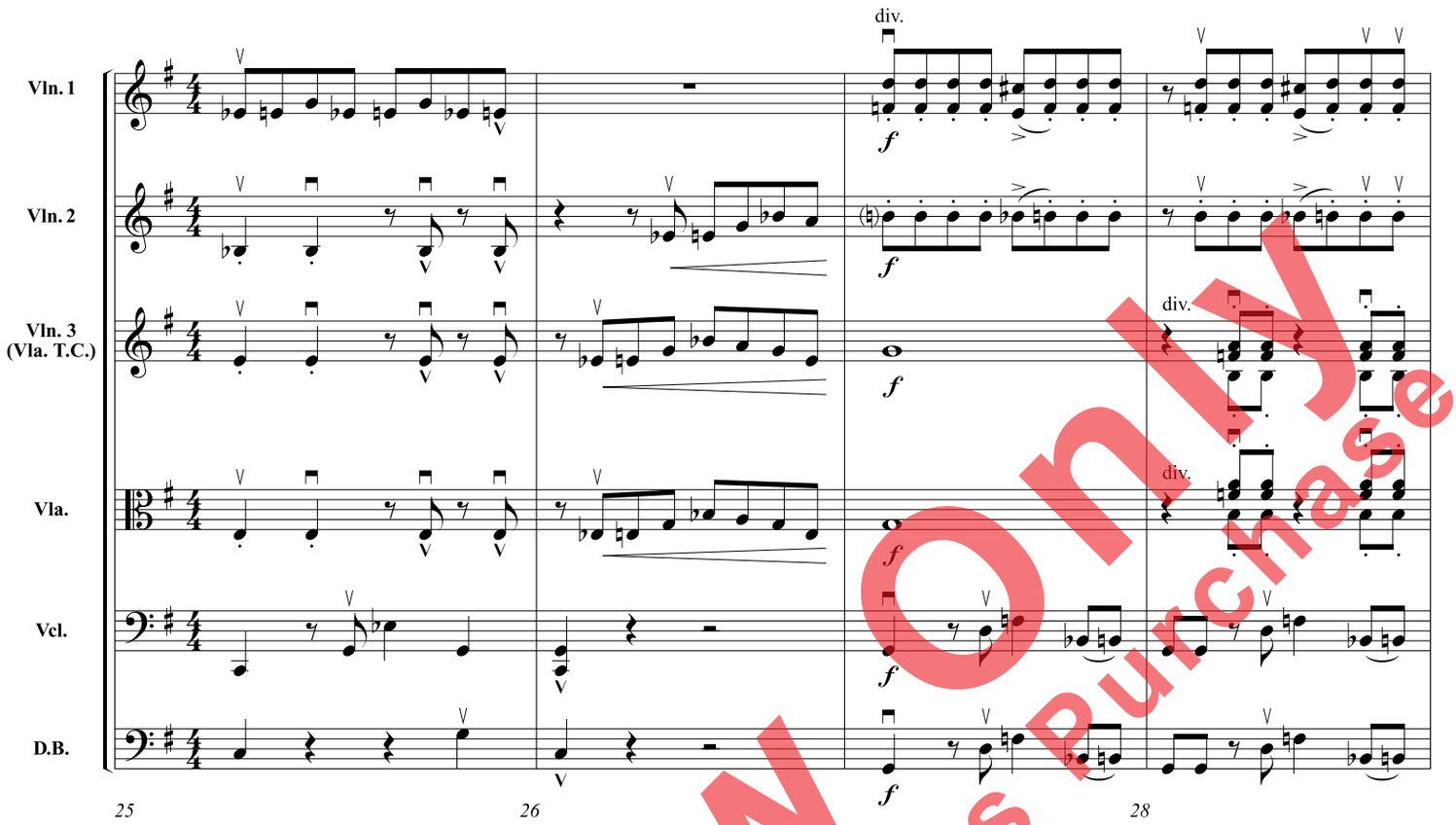

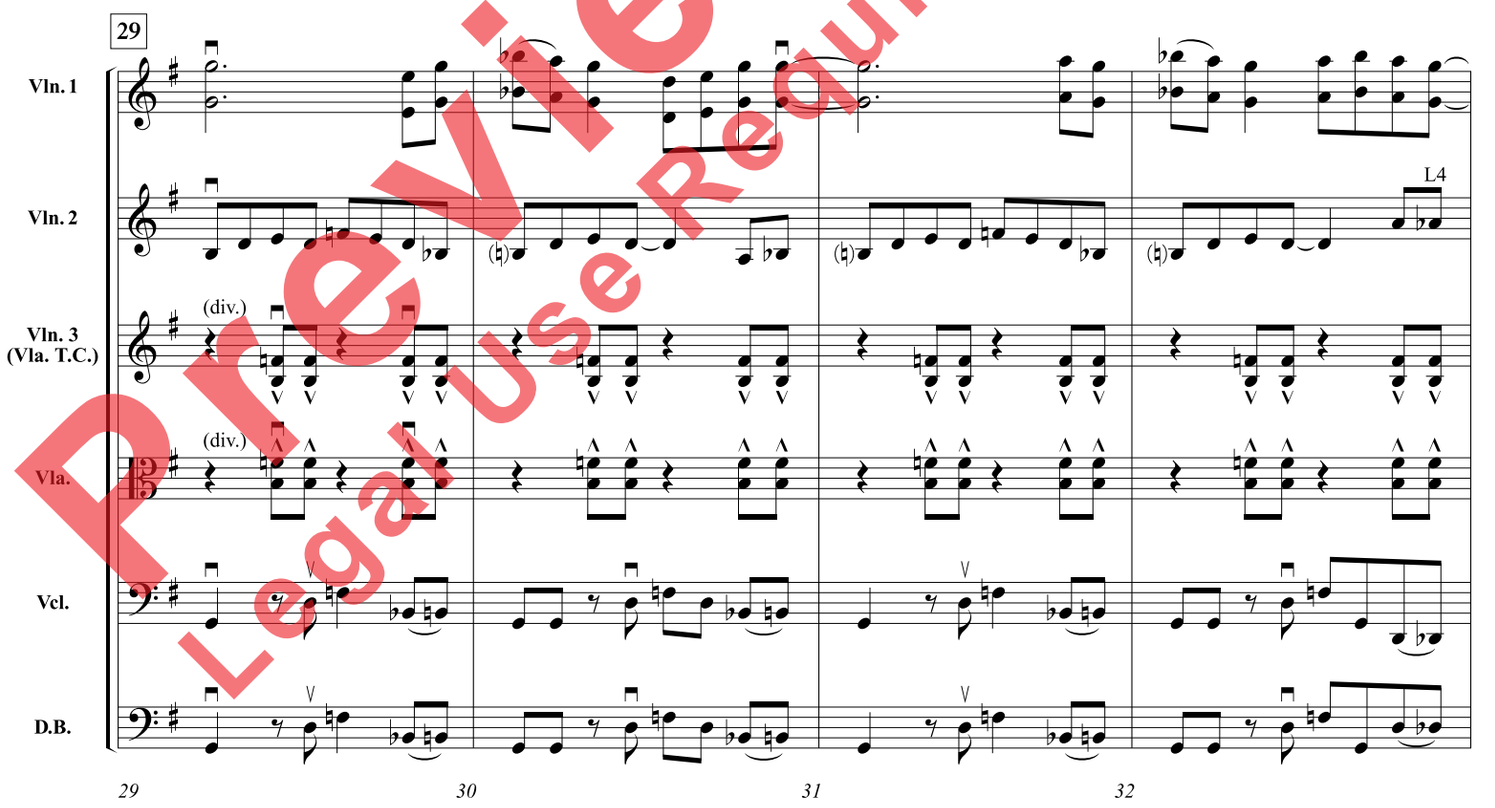

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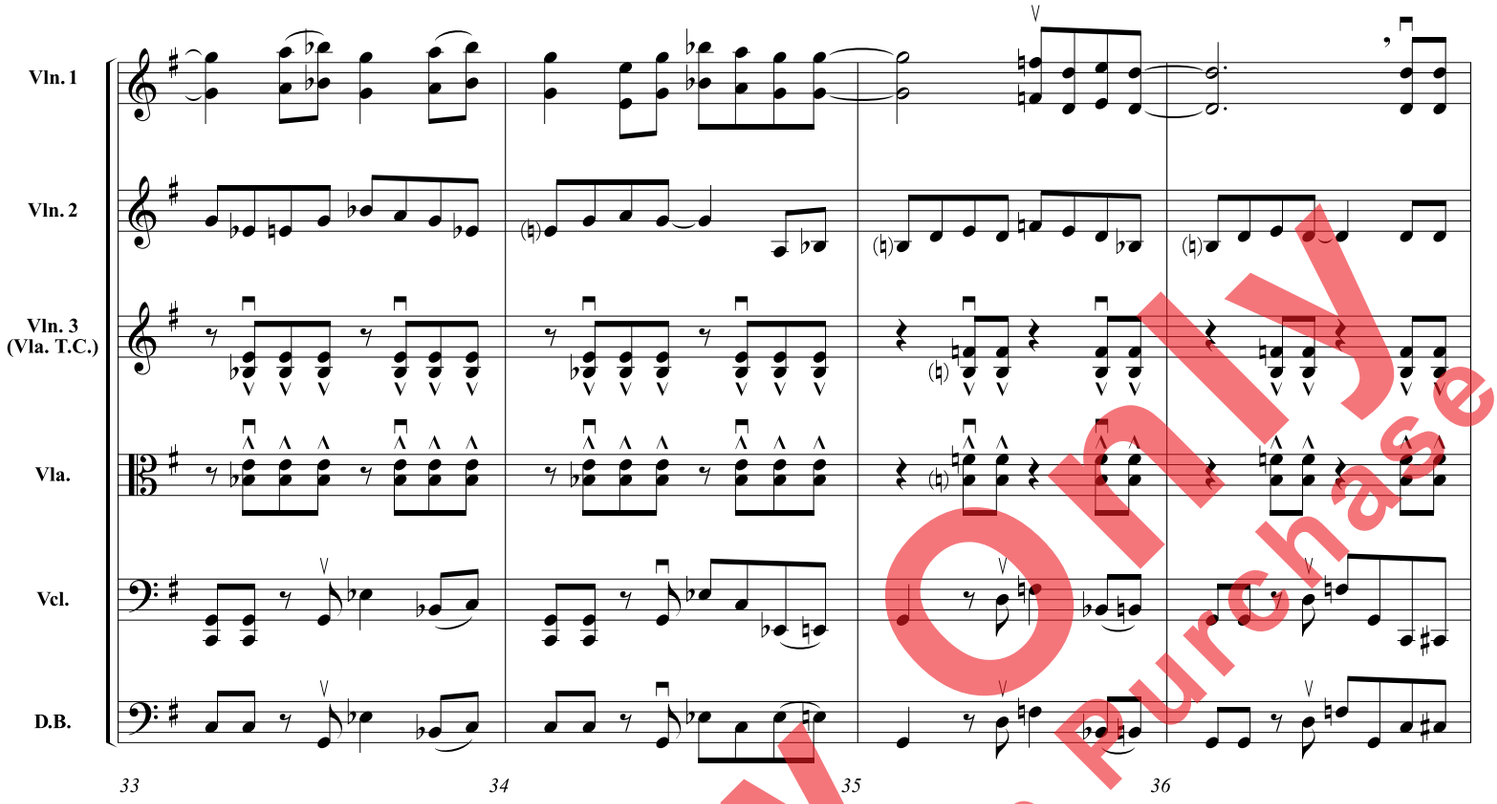

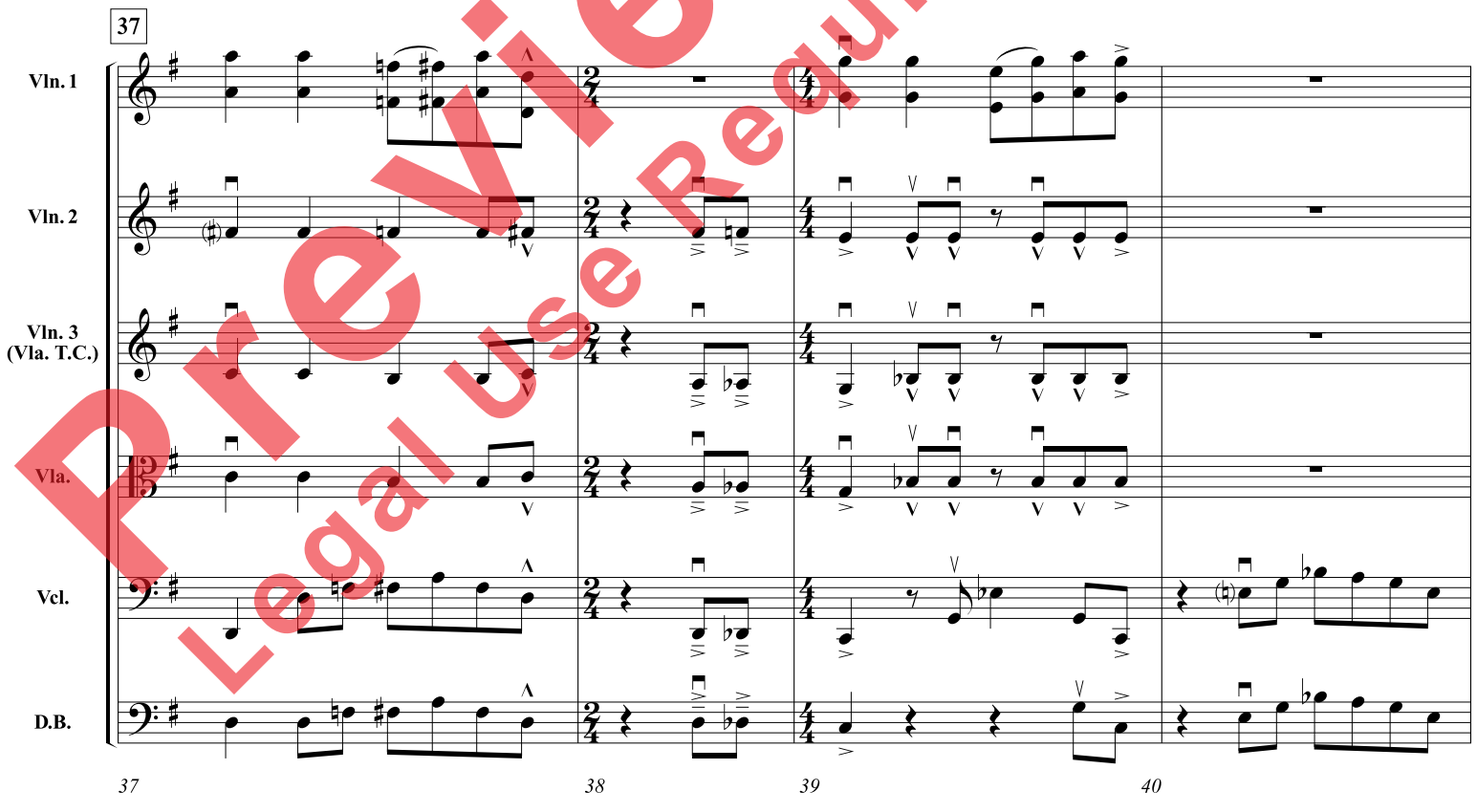

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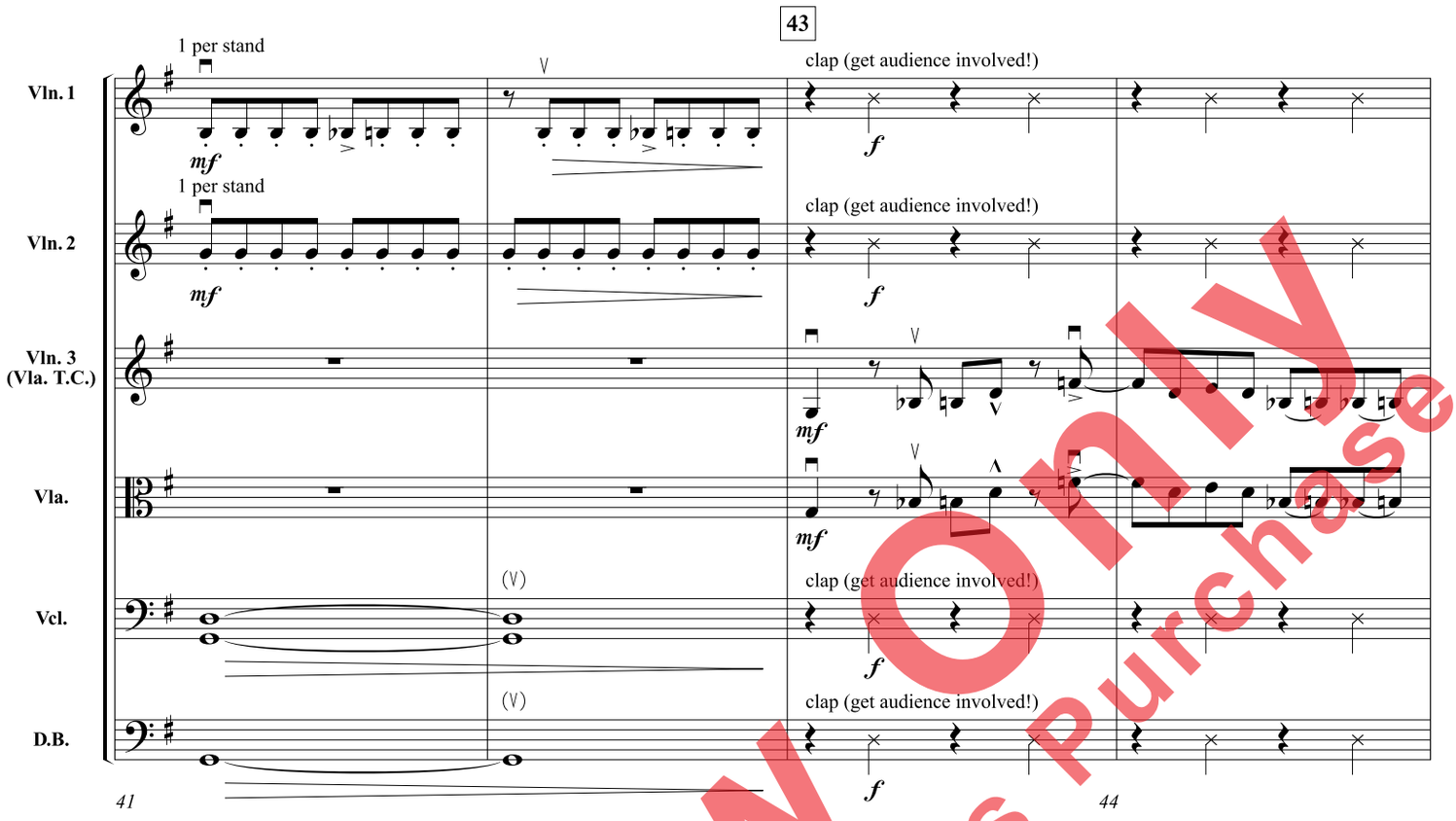

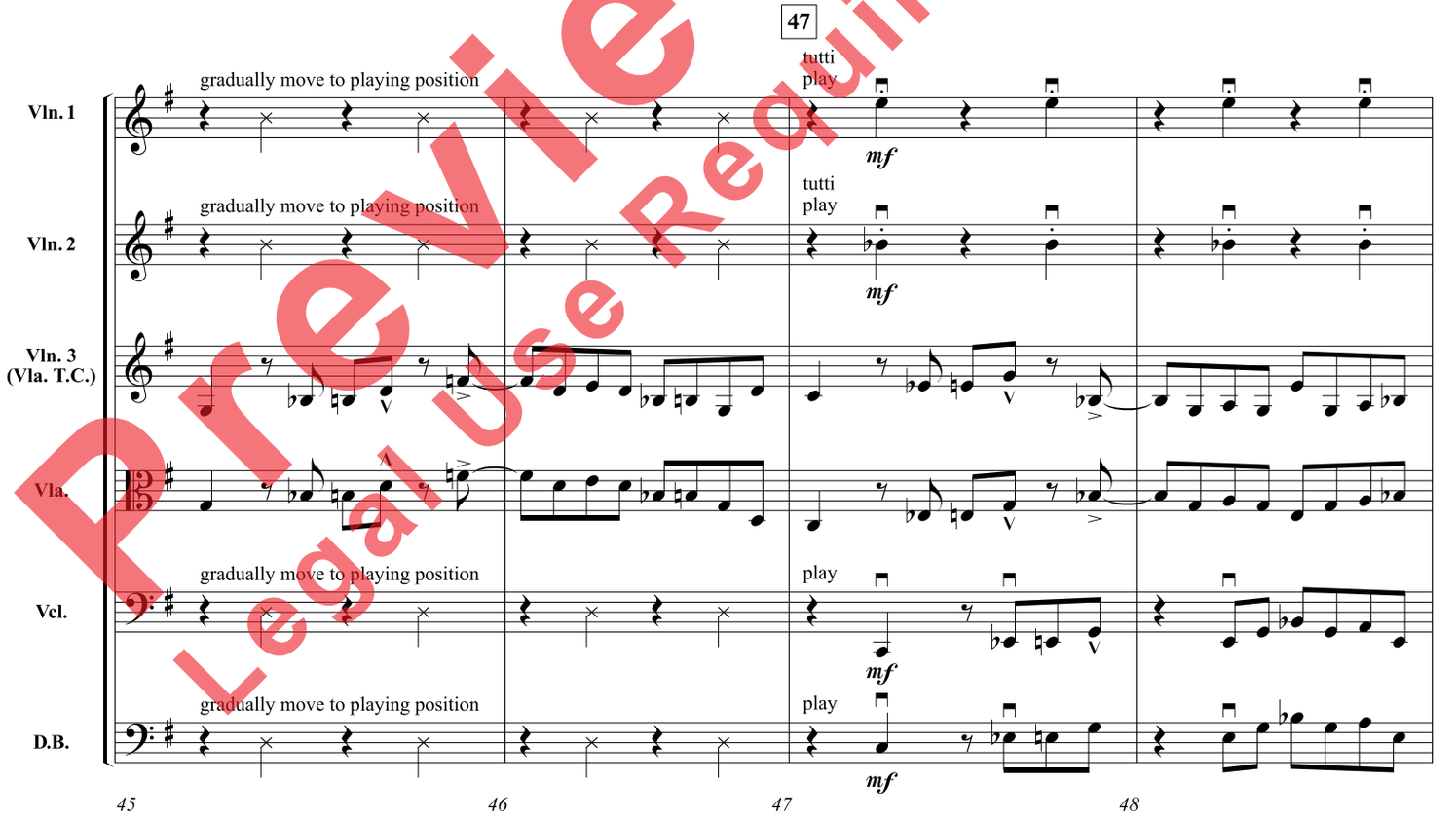

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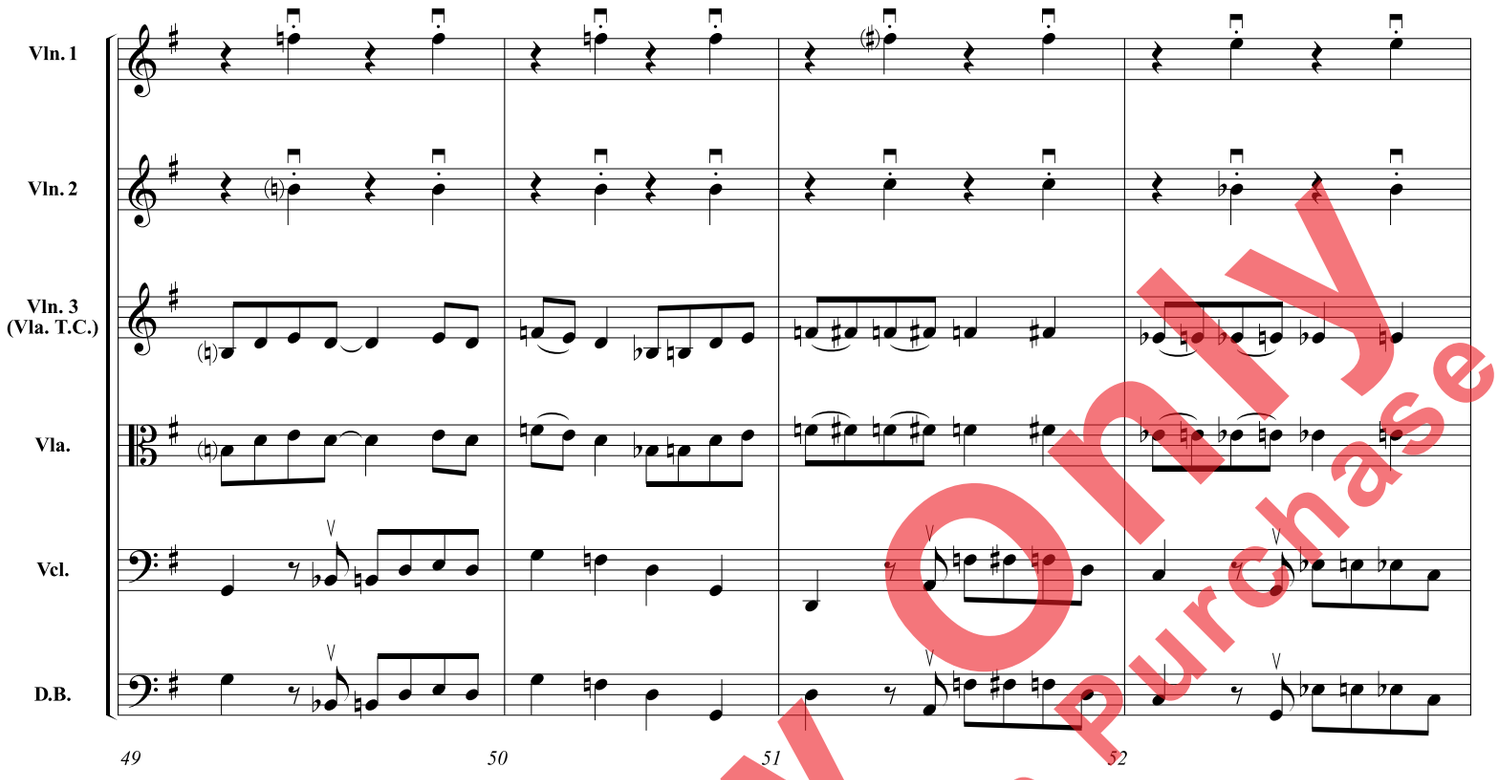

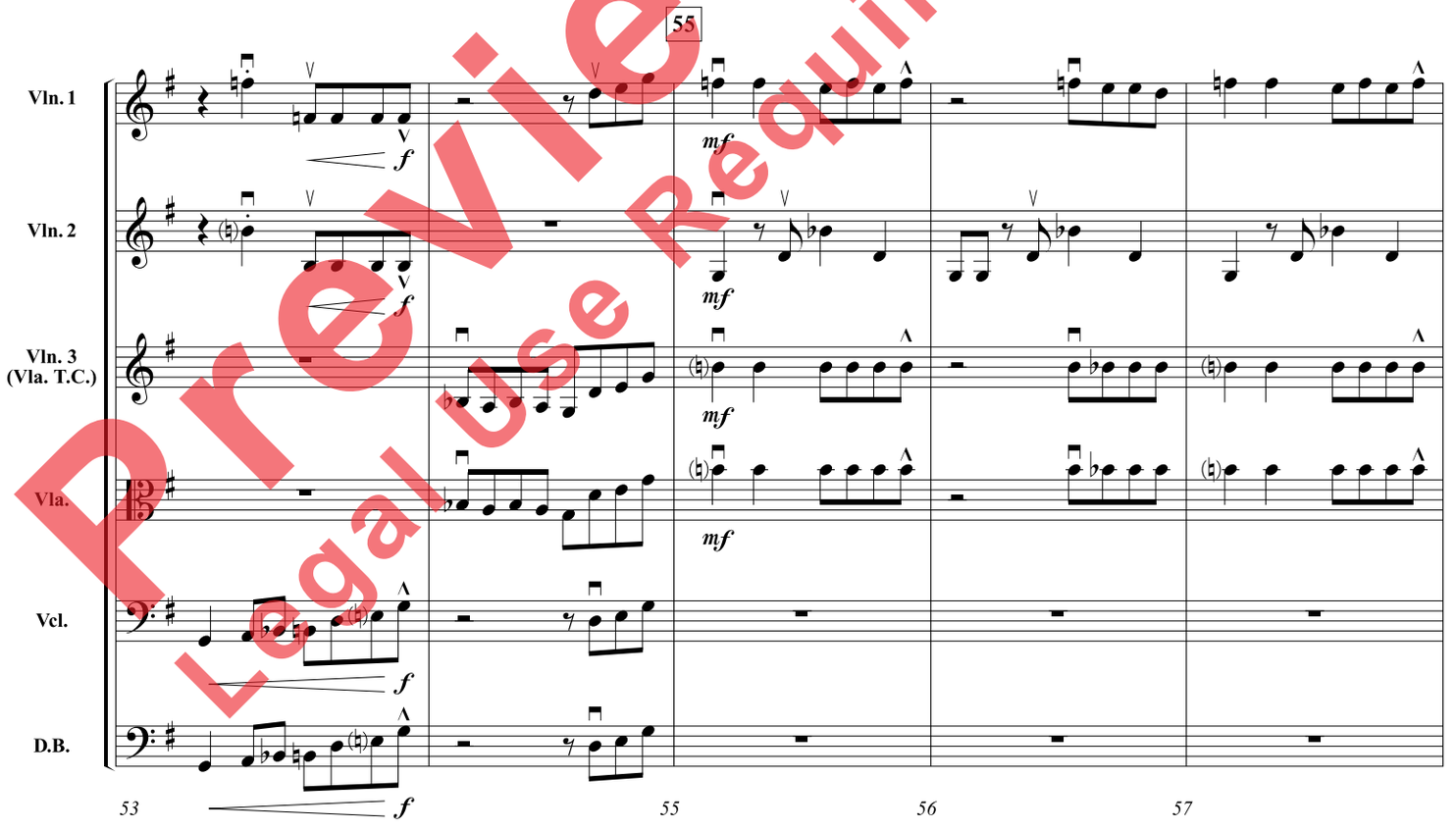

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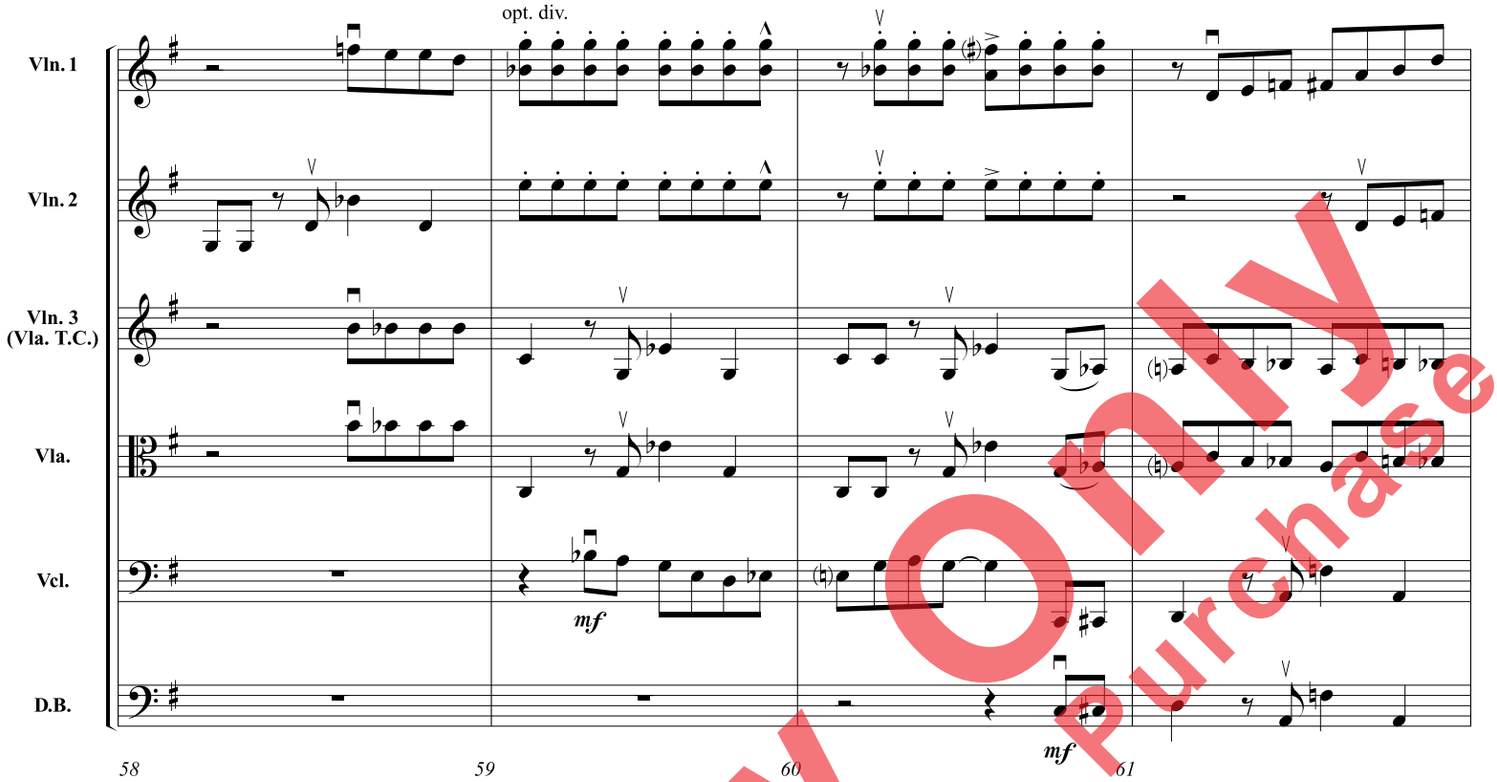

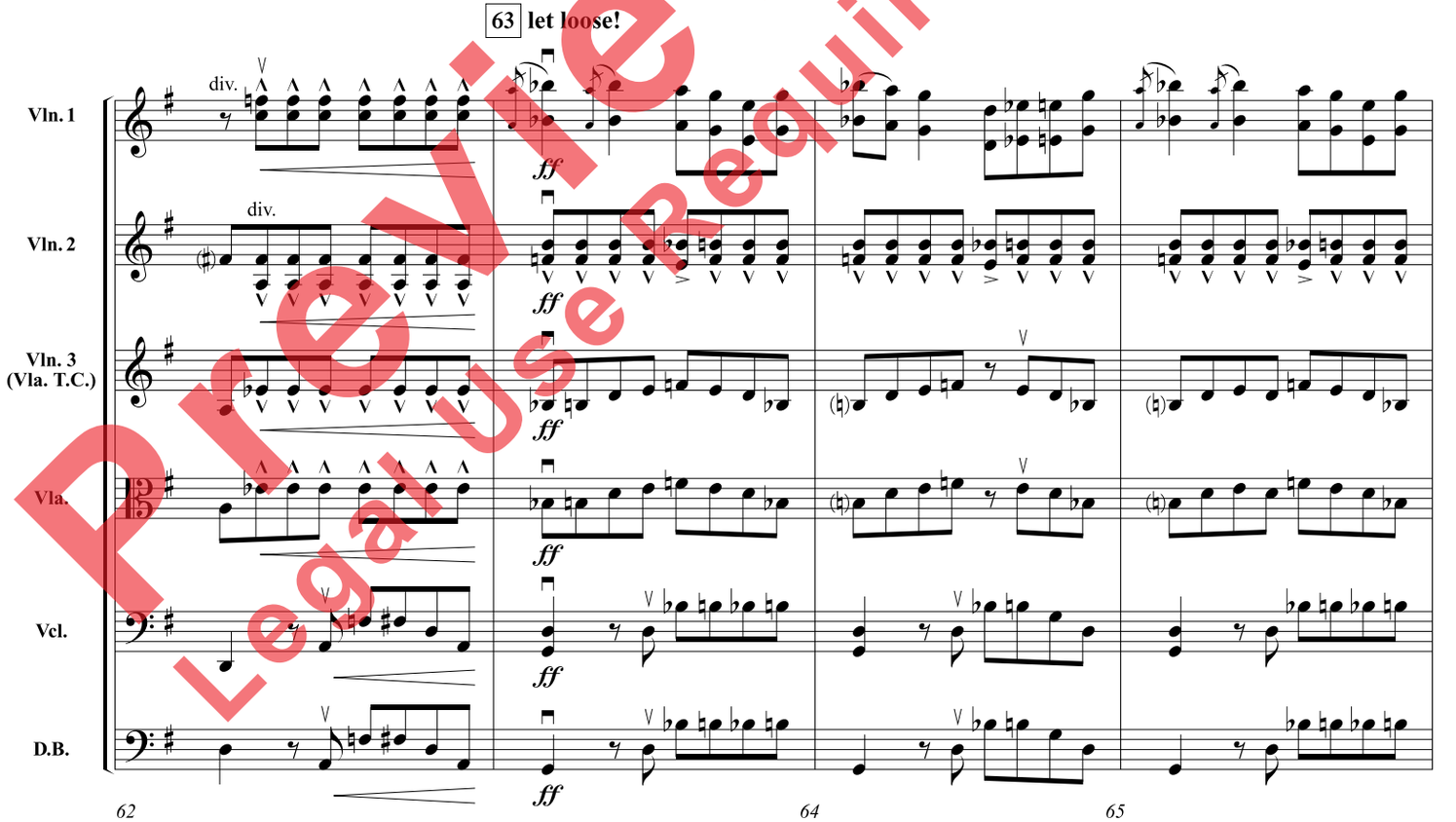

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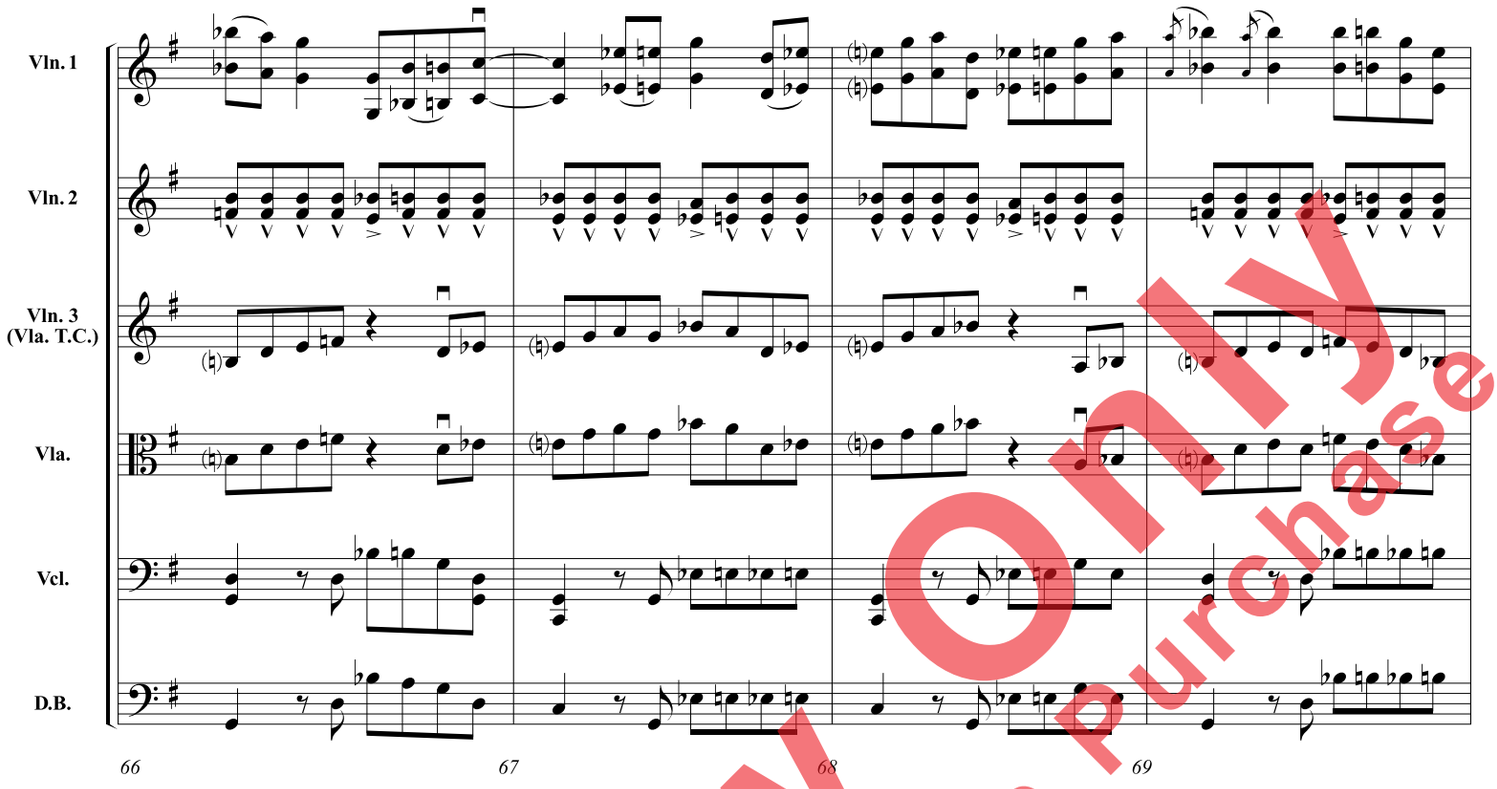

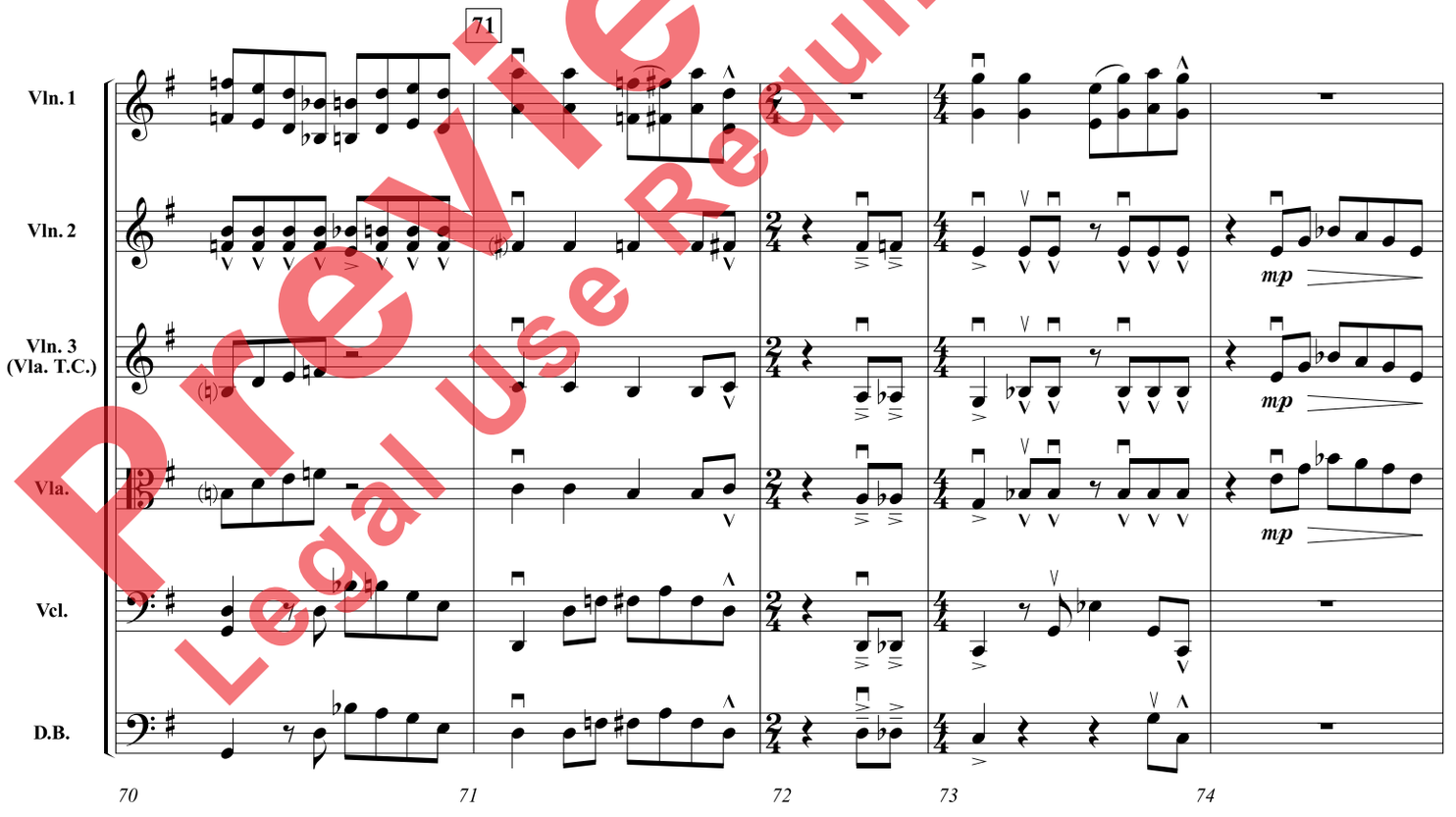

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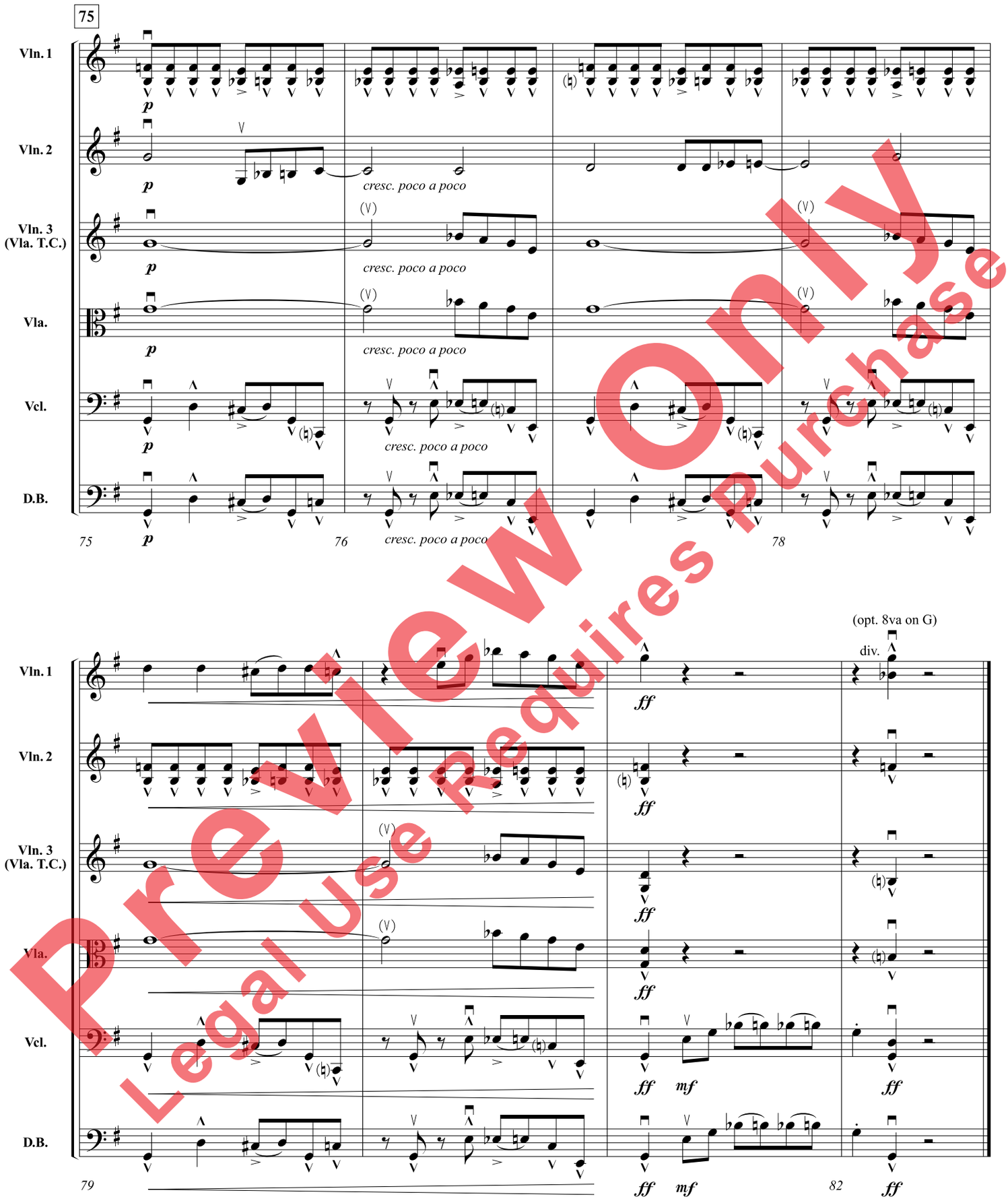

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