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FJH BEGINNING STRINGS

Grade ½

THE ABANDONED FUNHOUSE

Brian Balmages

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Instrumentation

1 - Conductor's Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2 (Viola T.C.)
5 - Viola
5 - Violoncello
5 - Double Bass
1 - Piano
1 - Celesta (opt.)

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
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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

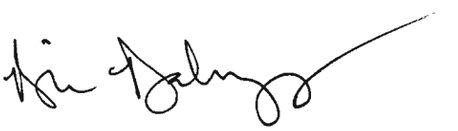
Written as a piece for the true beginner, *The Abandoned Funhouse* takes the listener on an eerie tour that can best be described as an unsettling experience with a touch of curiosity and anxiousness. My intent was to compose a piece that was extremely playable, yet I wanted it to sound like a legitimate film score that did not sound watered down. The piano part is required (and very playable) and serves as an integral voice in the composition as well as the orchestration. An optional celesta part is included as well – this can easily be played on a keyboard and adds a great deal to the mildly disturbing mood of the piece.

String parts do not include any eighth notes. Even though the piece is in 3/4 time, I have taken great care to allow for proper bow distribution so students do not get “stuck” at one end of the bow. There is only one measure that includes a half note and a quarter note (and it occurs at the end of a phrase). The majority of every part moves by stepwise motion to help students with note reading while also allowing them to develop a good hand frame. All string crossings involve an open string.

Instrument ranges are as follows, and only use the notes of a D Major scale.

Violin 1 – one octave D Major scale
Violin 2 and Viola – 5 notes (D through A)
Cello and Bass – 6 notes (D through B)

The Abandoned Funhouse was written for the Lutherville Laboratory String Orchestra and instrumental music teacher Alison Tunison. My son was a student at Lutherville Lab before we were redistricted to another school. We will always treasure the time we spent there.



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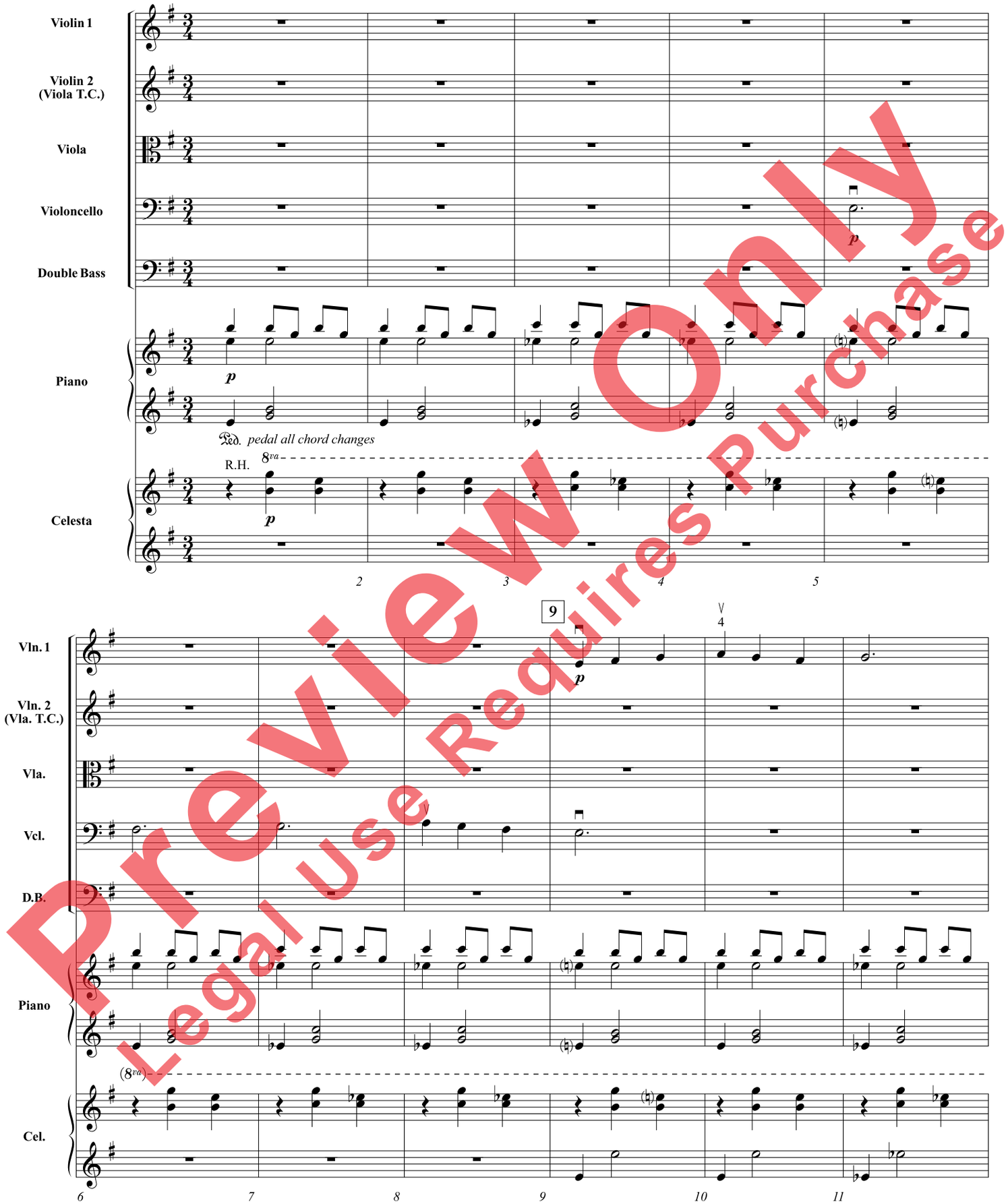
Duration: 2:00

for the Lutherville Laboratory String Orchestra
Lutherville, Maryland; Alison Tunison, conductor

THE ABANDONED FUNHOUSE

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

Hauntingly (♩ = 108)



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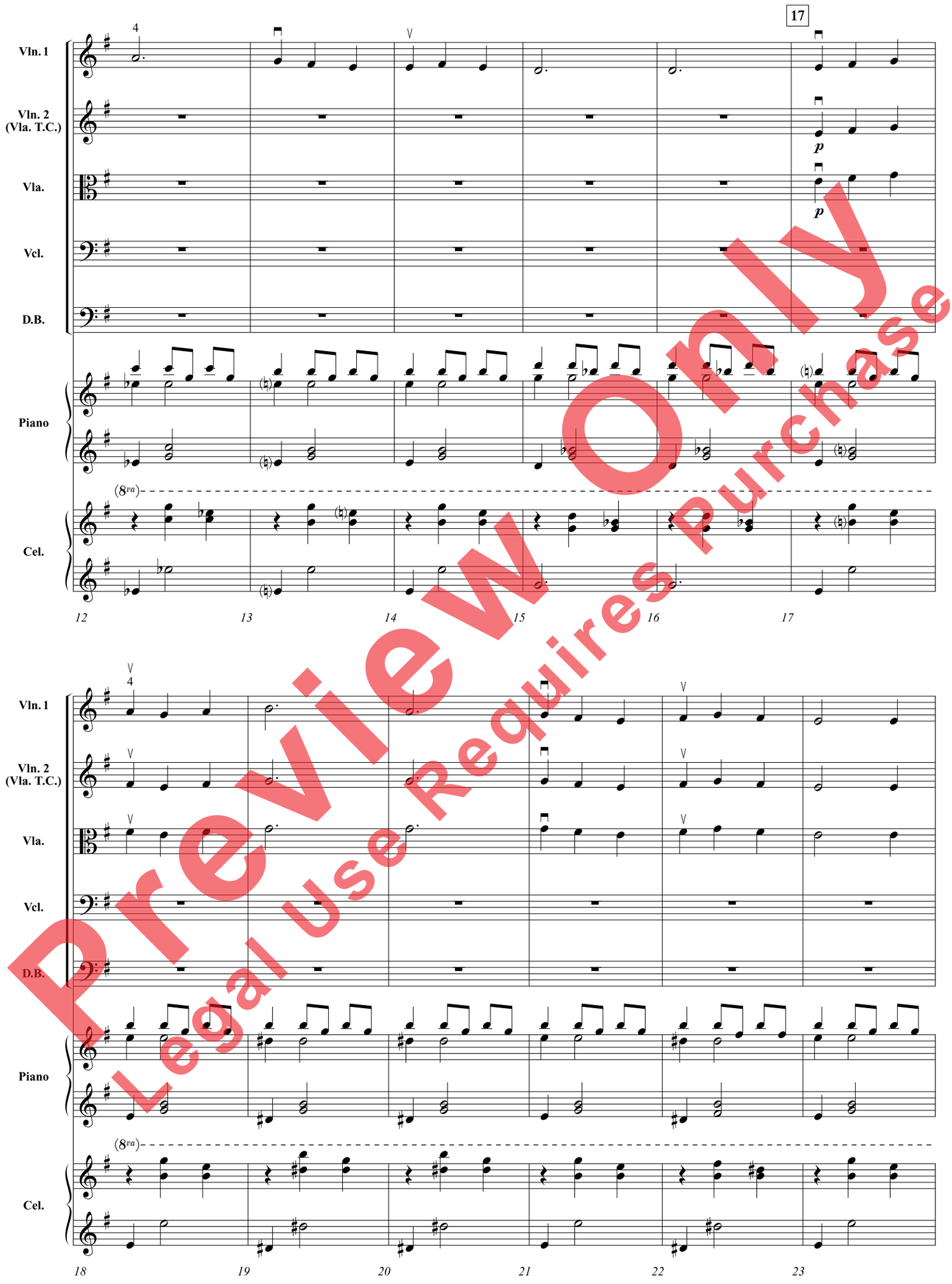

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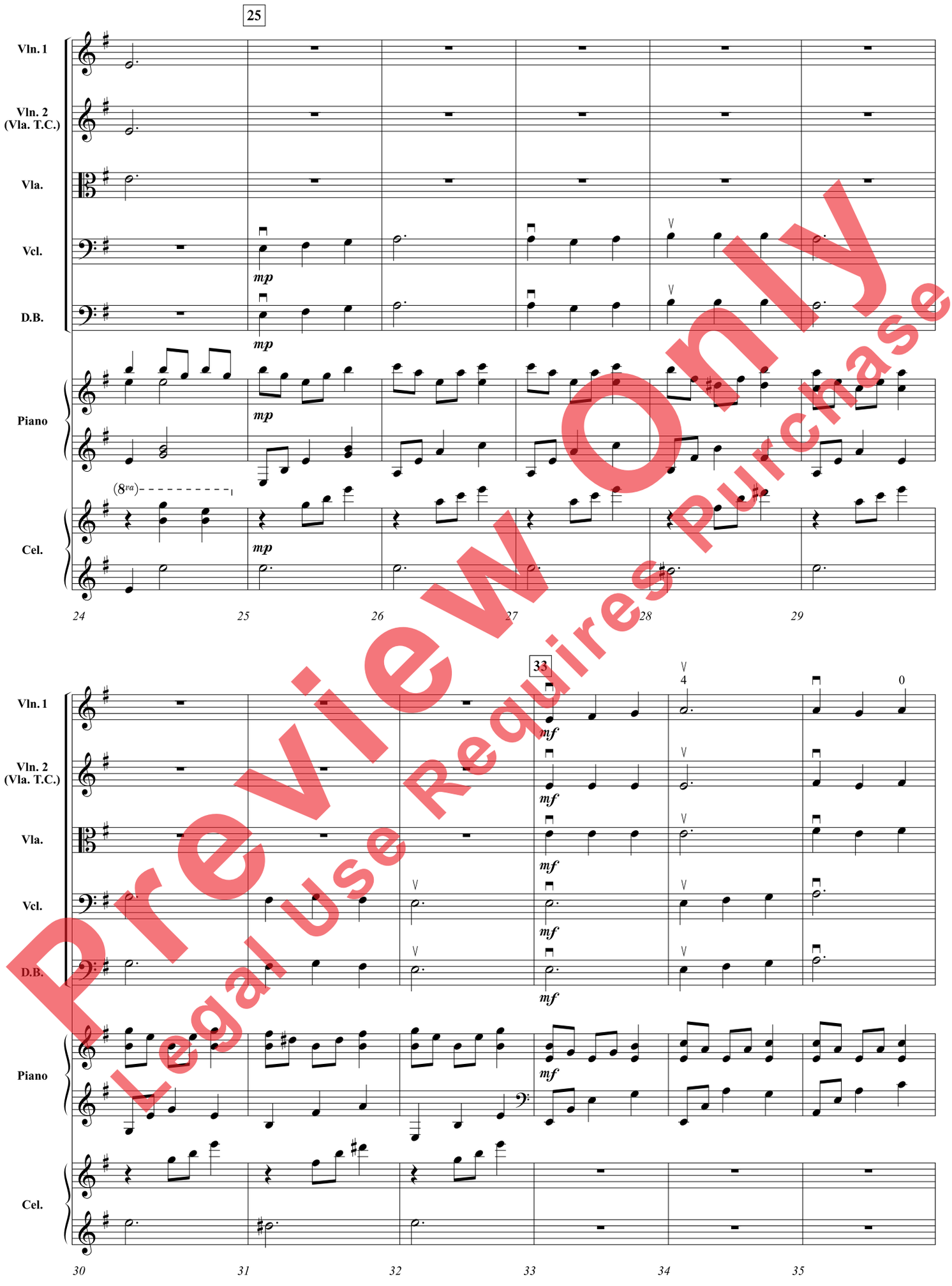

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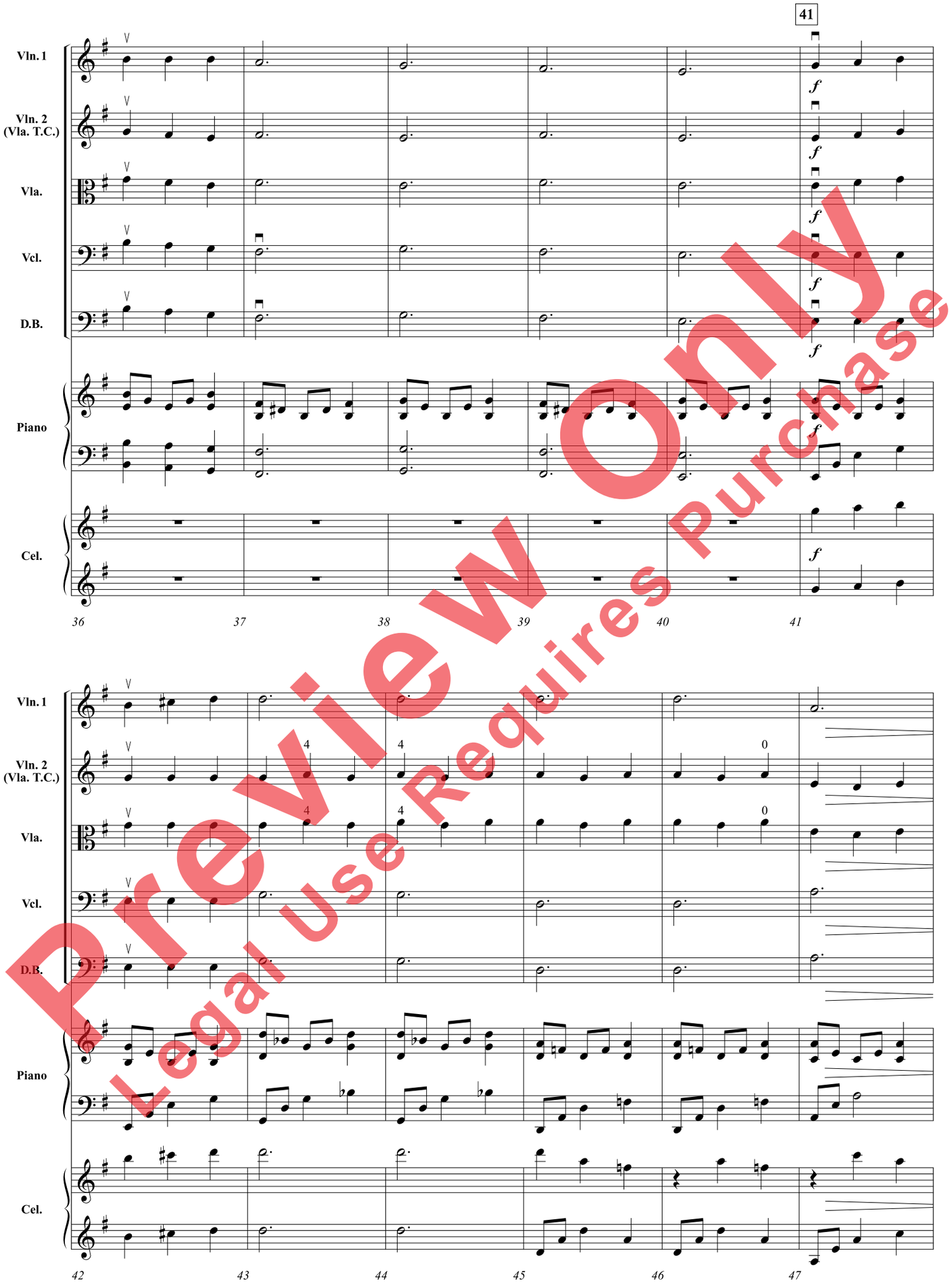

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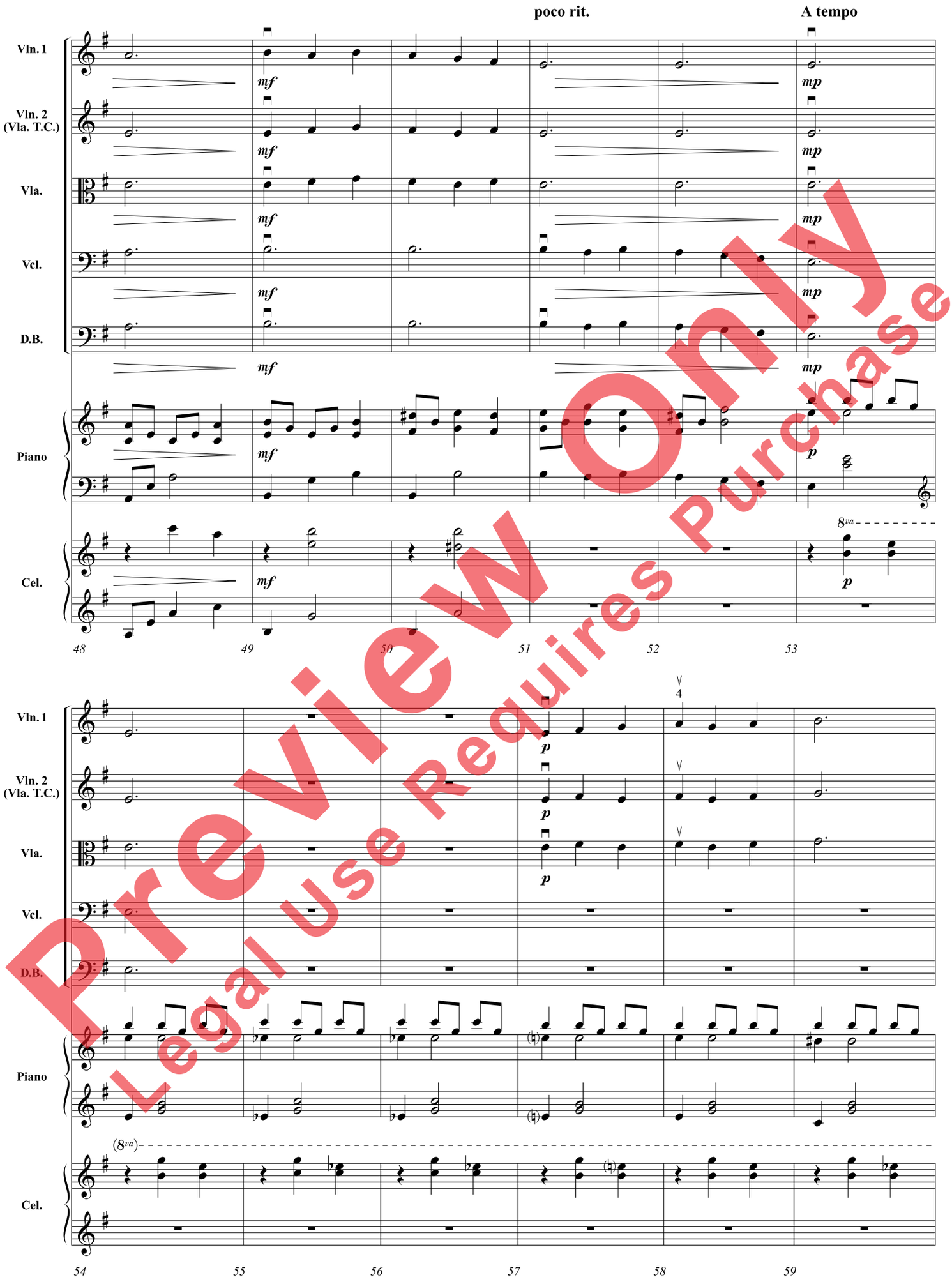

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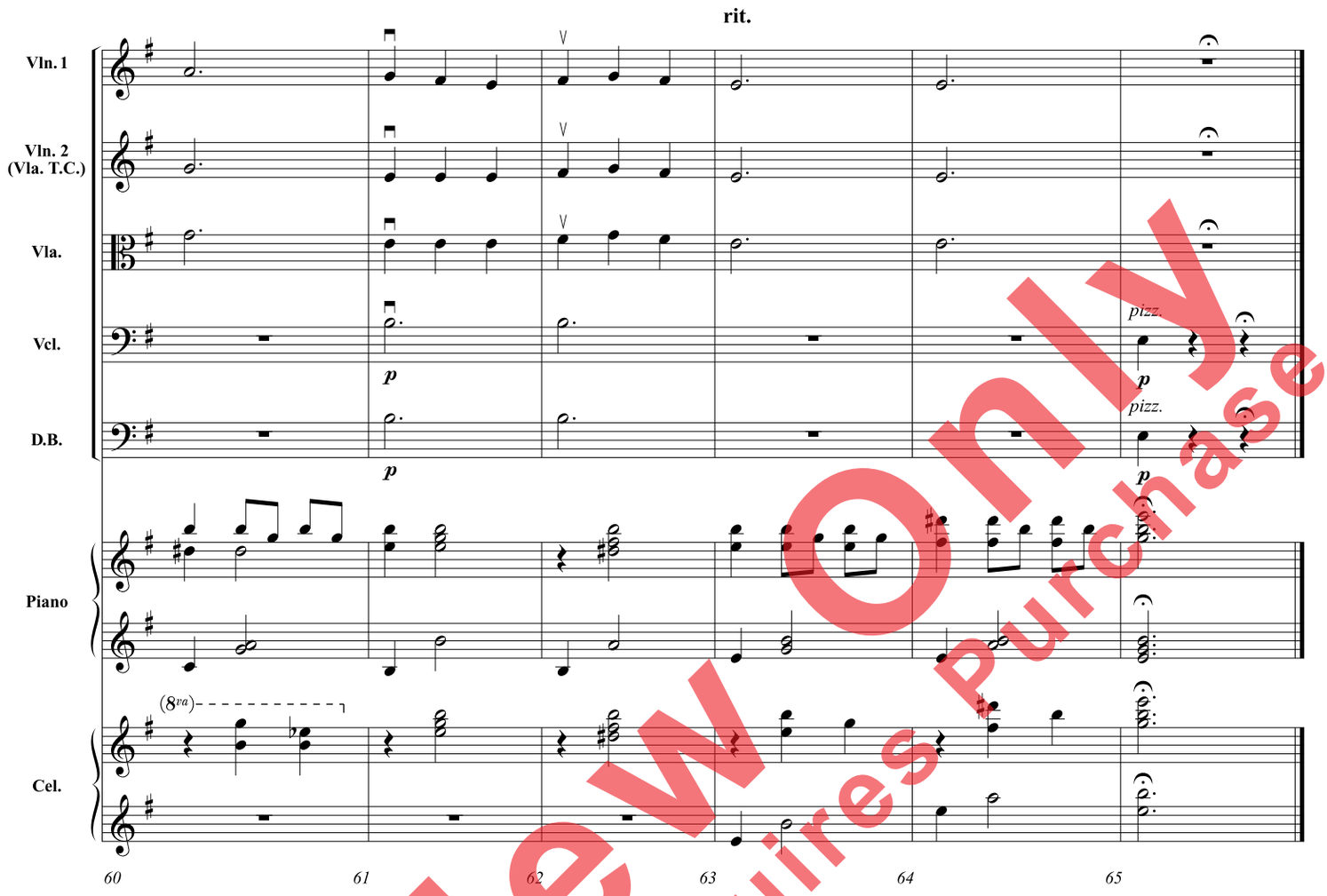

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