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FJH STRING ORCHESTRA

Grade 3

BLUE MOUNTAIN

Alexander Safford

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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

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Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33317-7424
www.fjhmusic.com

The Composer

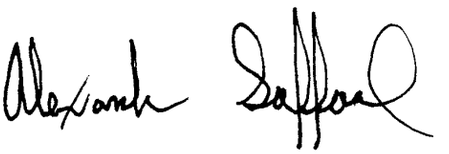
Alexander Safford was born and raised in Bozeman, Montana. He received a Bachelor of Music degree in music education from Montana State University and a Master of Music degree in music composition from the University of Arizona. He is currently the orchestra director at Orchard Park High School in New York, where he directs the Symphonic Orchestra, Concert String Orchestra and is a conductor for the high school musicals. He has served as a guest conductor in New York State for regional honor orchestras at the elementary and secondary levels. As a composer, Mr. Safford has been commissioned to write music for string orchestra, children's chorus and chamber ensembles. He is the winner of the 2002 Texas Orchestra Director's Association Composition Competition, and the winner of the 2012 American String Teacher's Association Merle J. Isaac Composition Competition. Mr. Safford lives in Western New York with his wife and two children.

About the Music

Blue Mountain is an energetic and upbeat work in cut time. If you're looking for a short concert selection with driving rhythms and lots of spirit, *Blue Mountain* is an ideal choice. Accents are prevalent and are important for achieving the proper rhythmic vitality. For best results, maintain a proper balance between accents and dynamics. While performing *Blue Mountain*, be careful not to play too heavily during sections that are marked ***p*** or ***mp***. Pay special attention to getting the softer dynamics adequately quiet, while maintaining the accents and rhythmic drive throughout.

Viola cues are offered in the top cello part at measures 5-11 and measures 63-70. Only use these cues when the viola section needs strengthening at the original octave. In such cases, consider having a cello or two play the cues, but be judicious, as having too many cellos could make the line too heavy. *Blue Mountain* features a divided cello section. Whereas the cellos can certainly be divided equally, it is recommended that directors choose how many cellists play each part based on the balance considerations of their ensemble.

I am indebted to Dr. Johannes Dietrich, professor of Instrumental Music and the Orchestra Director at Lebanon Valley College, for the commission to write *Blue Mountain*. The work was premiered on October 31, 2015 by the Lebanon Valley Honors String Orchestra. I hope you enjoy *Blue Mountain*!



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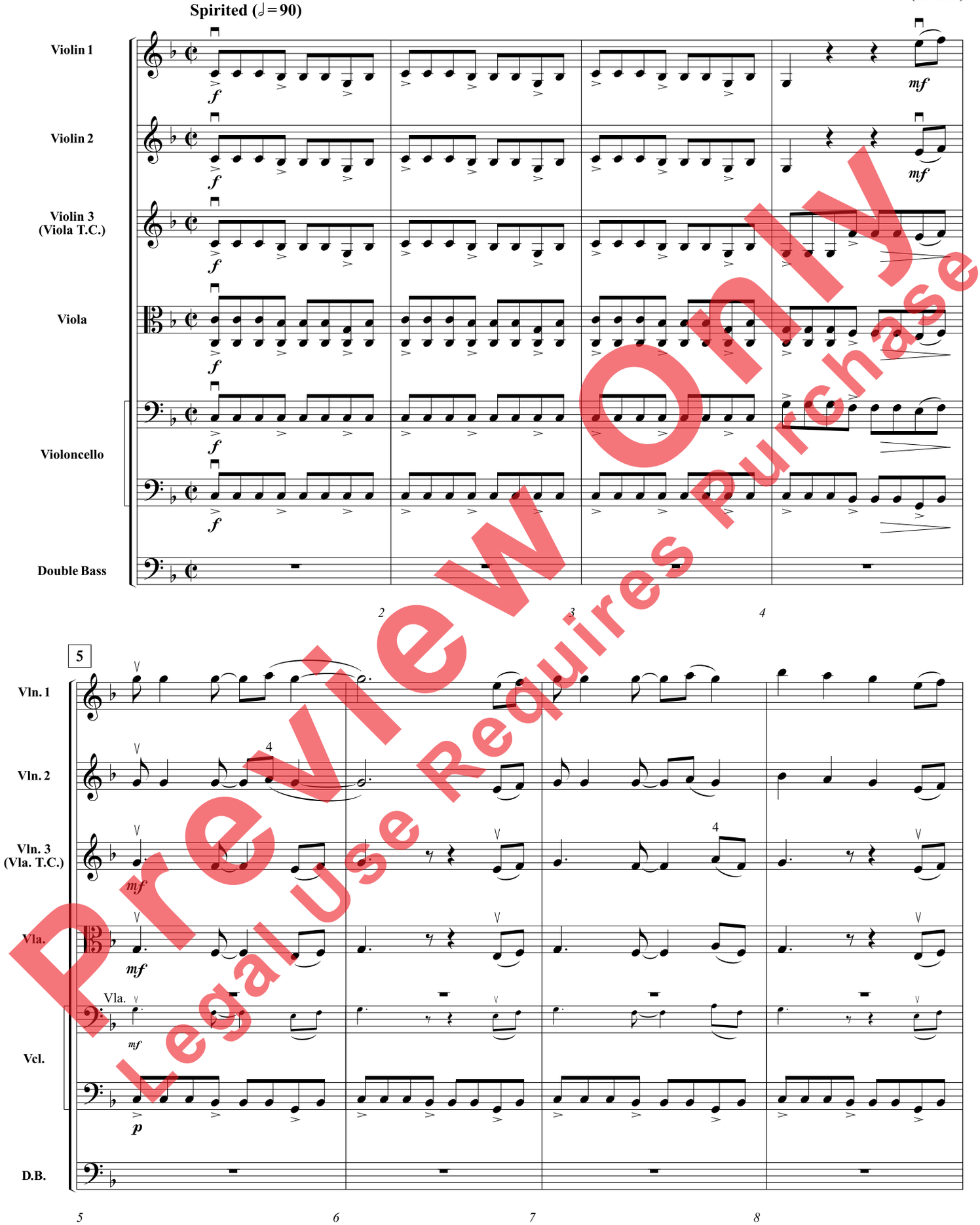
String Editing: Carrie Lane Gruselle

Duration: 2:30

BLUE MOUNTAIN

ALEXANDER SAFFORD
(ASCAP)

Spirited (♩=90)



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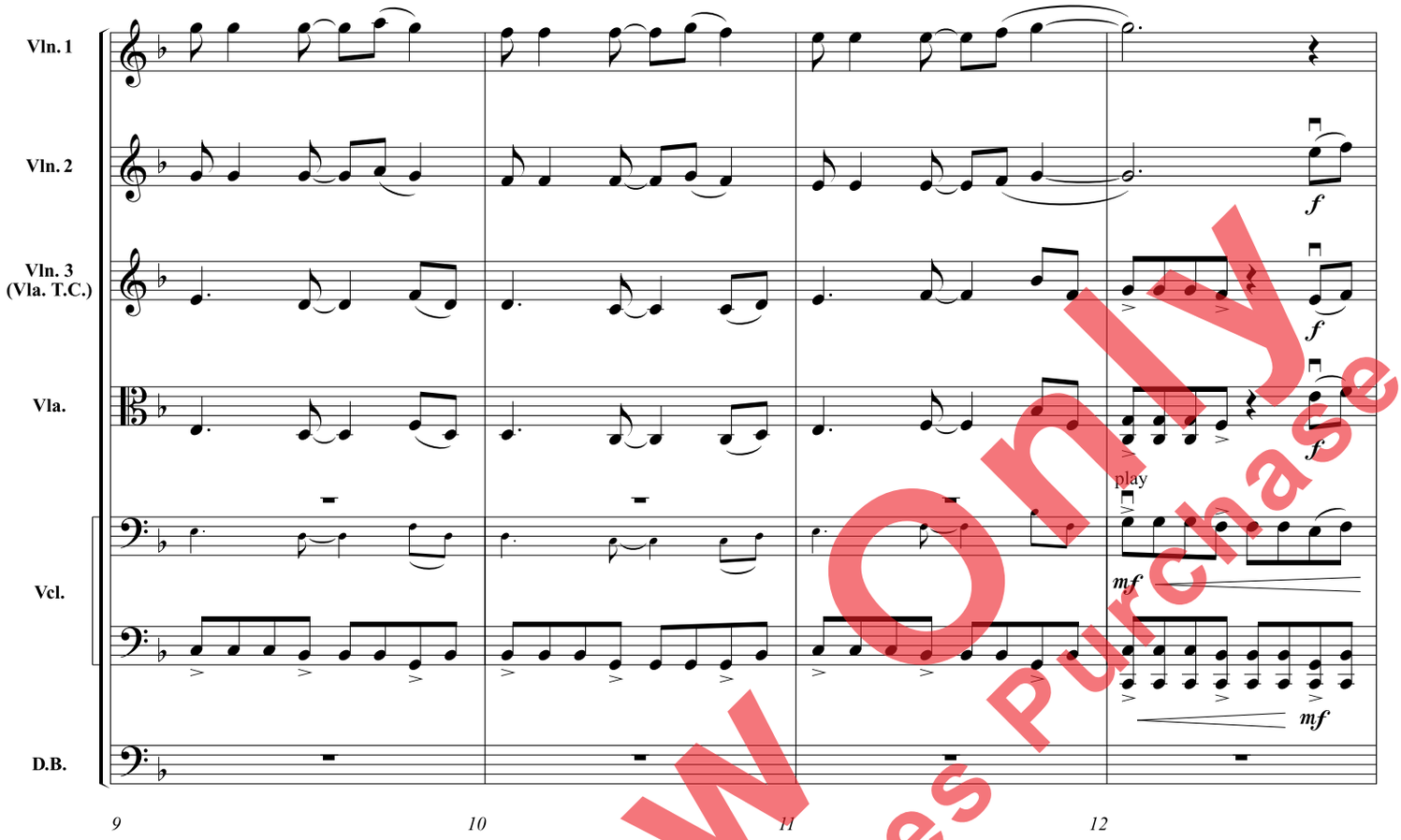

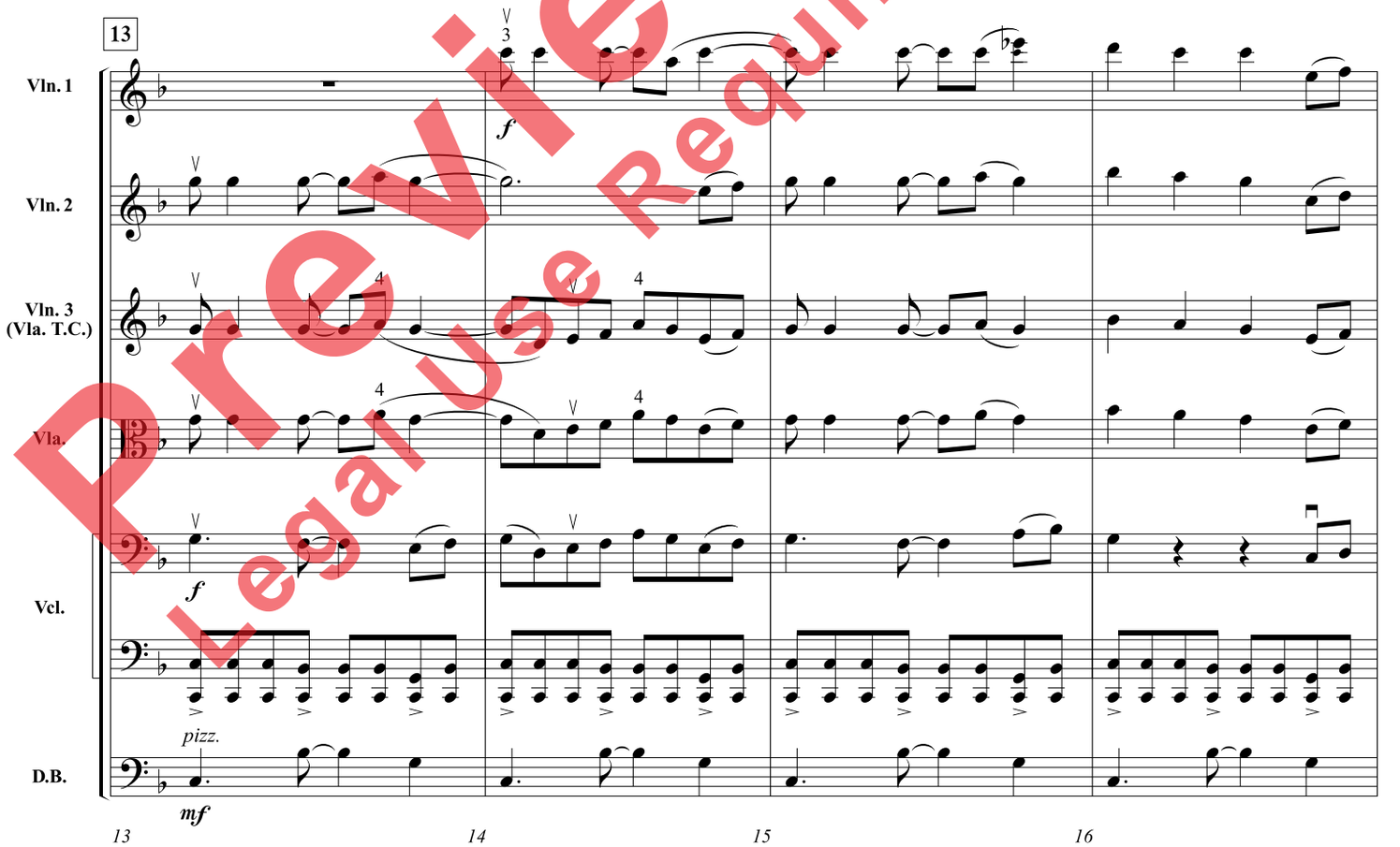

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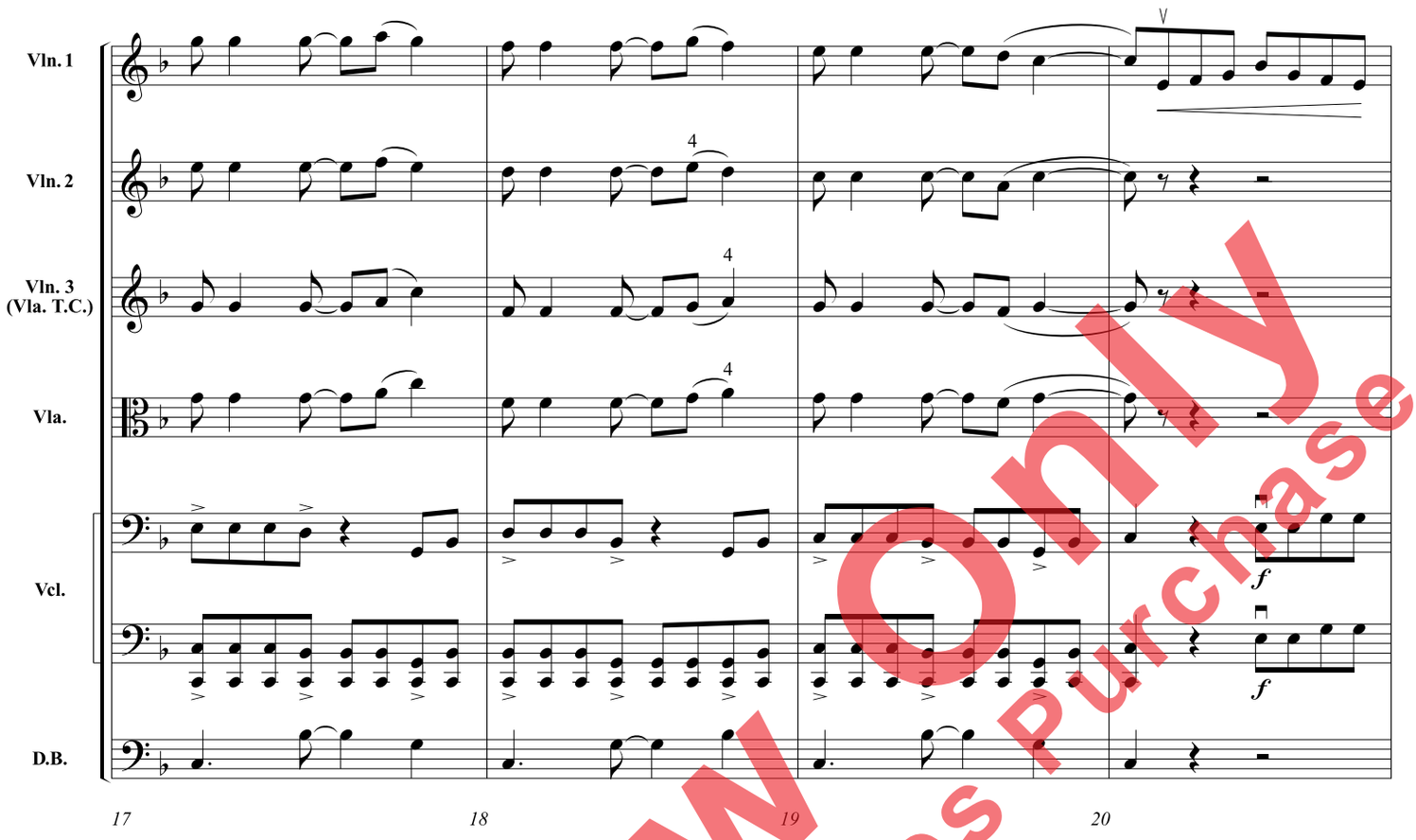

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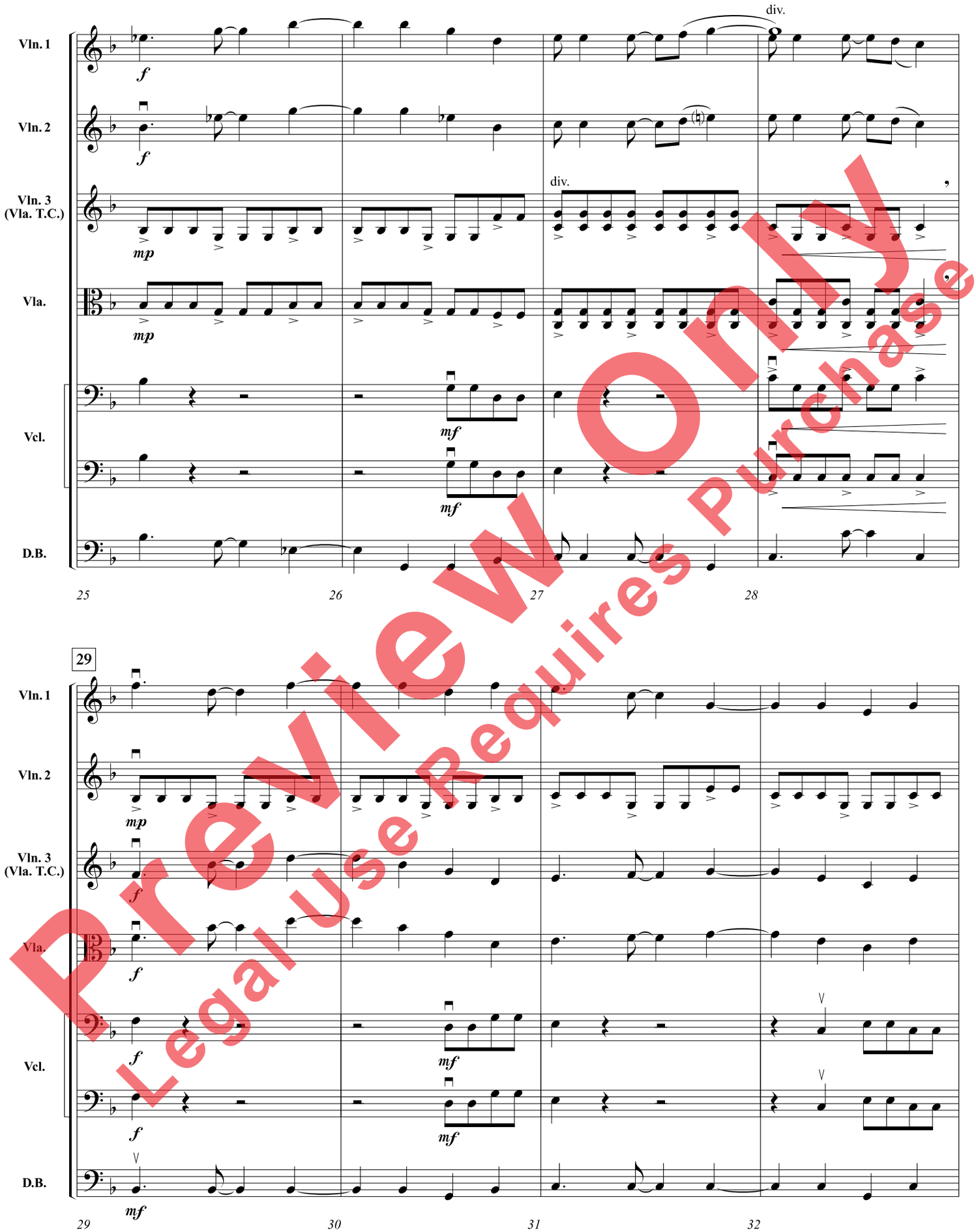

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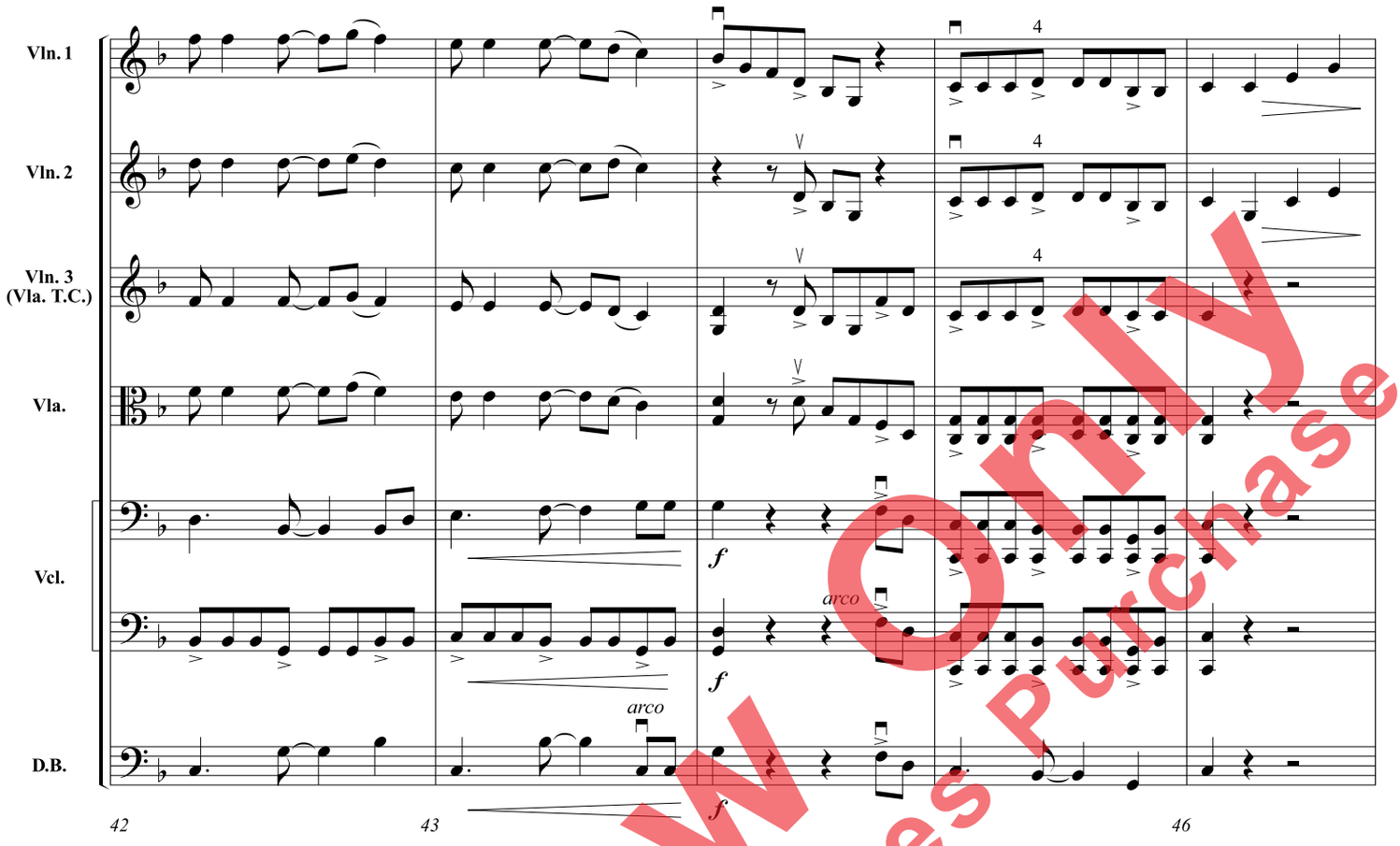

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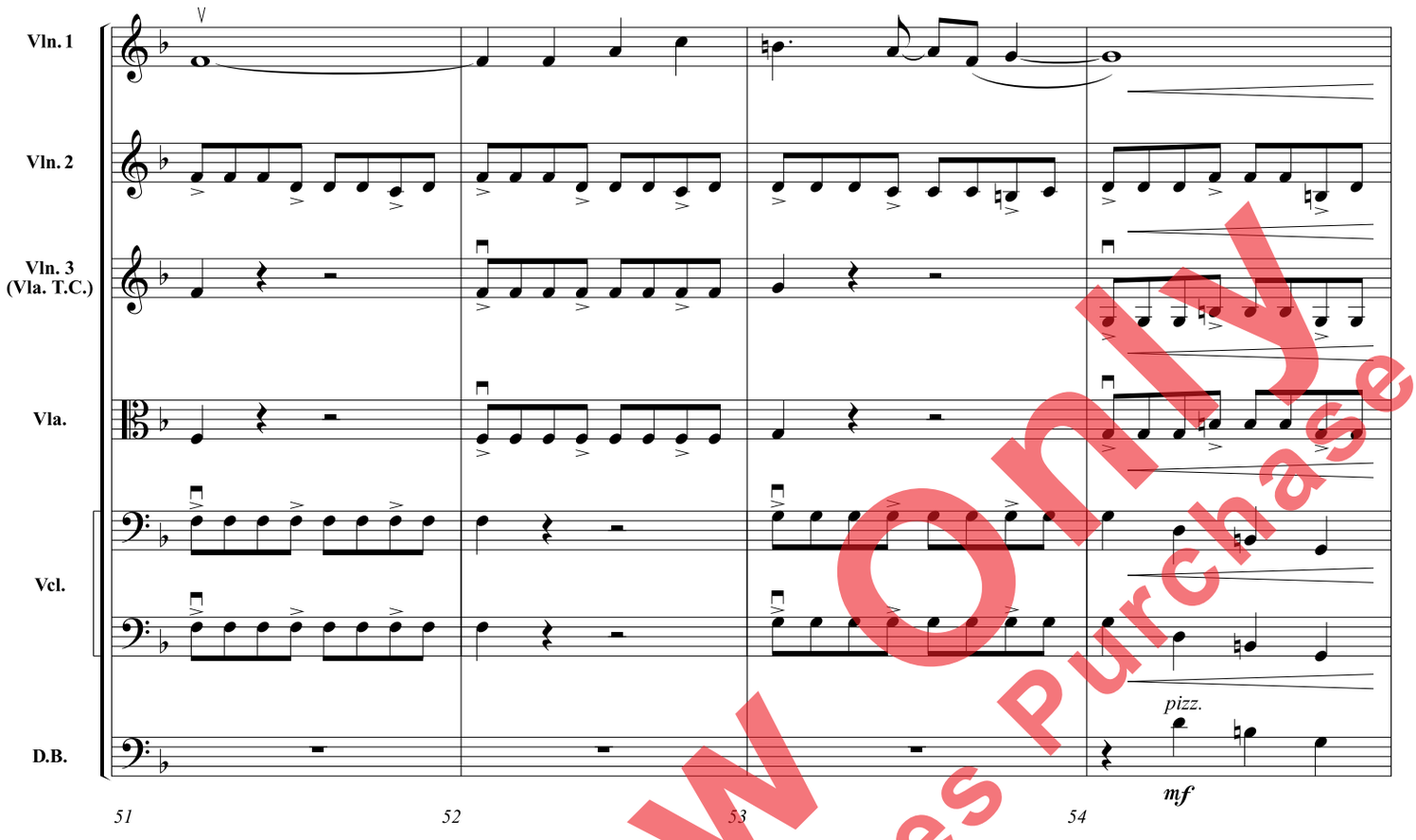

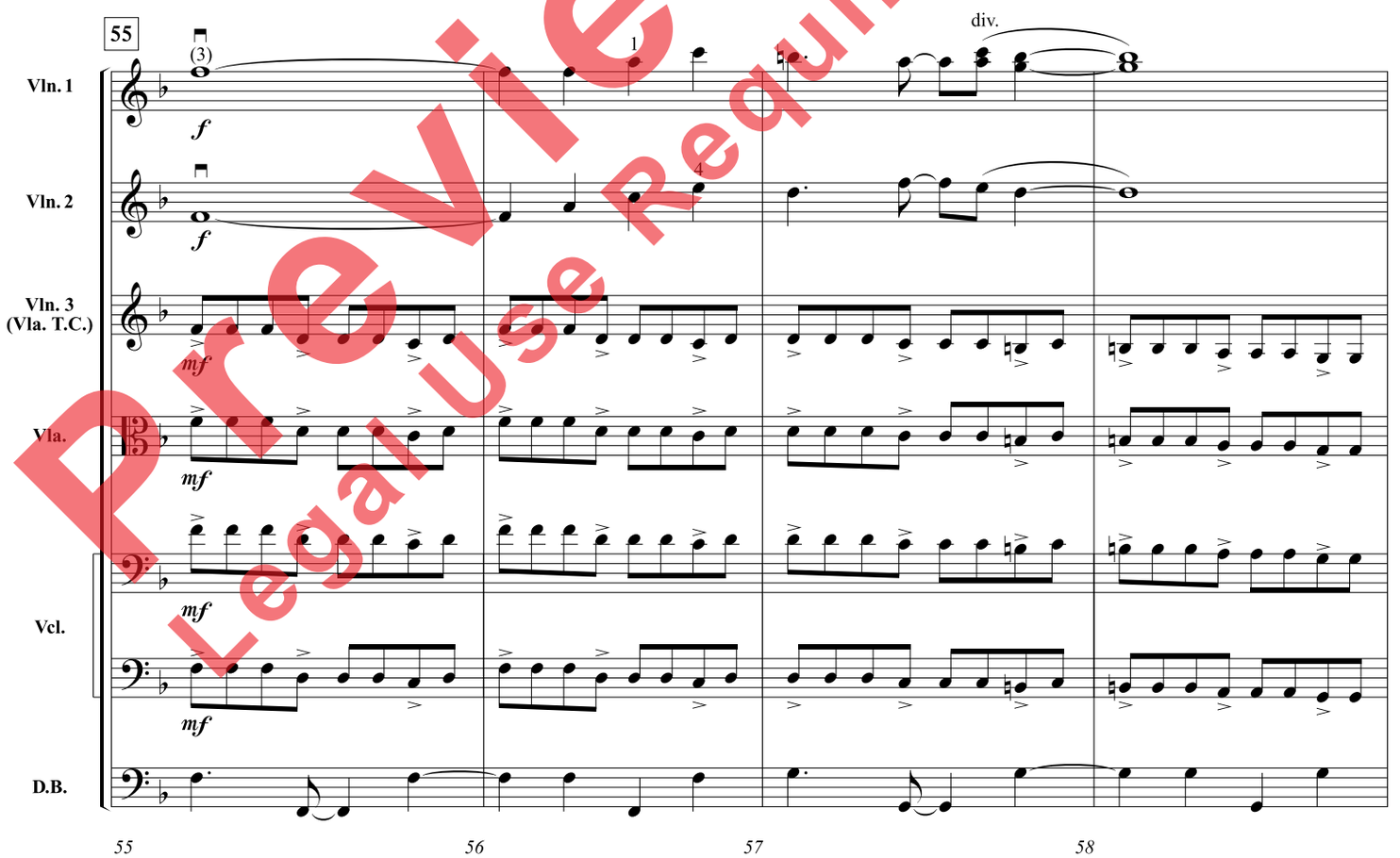

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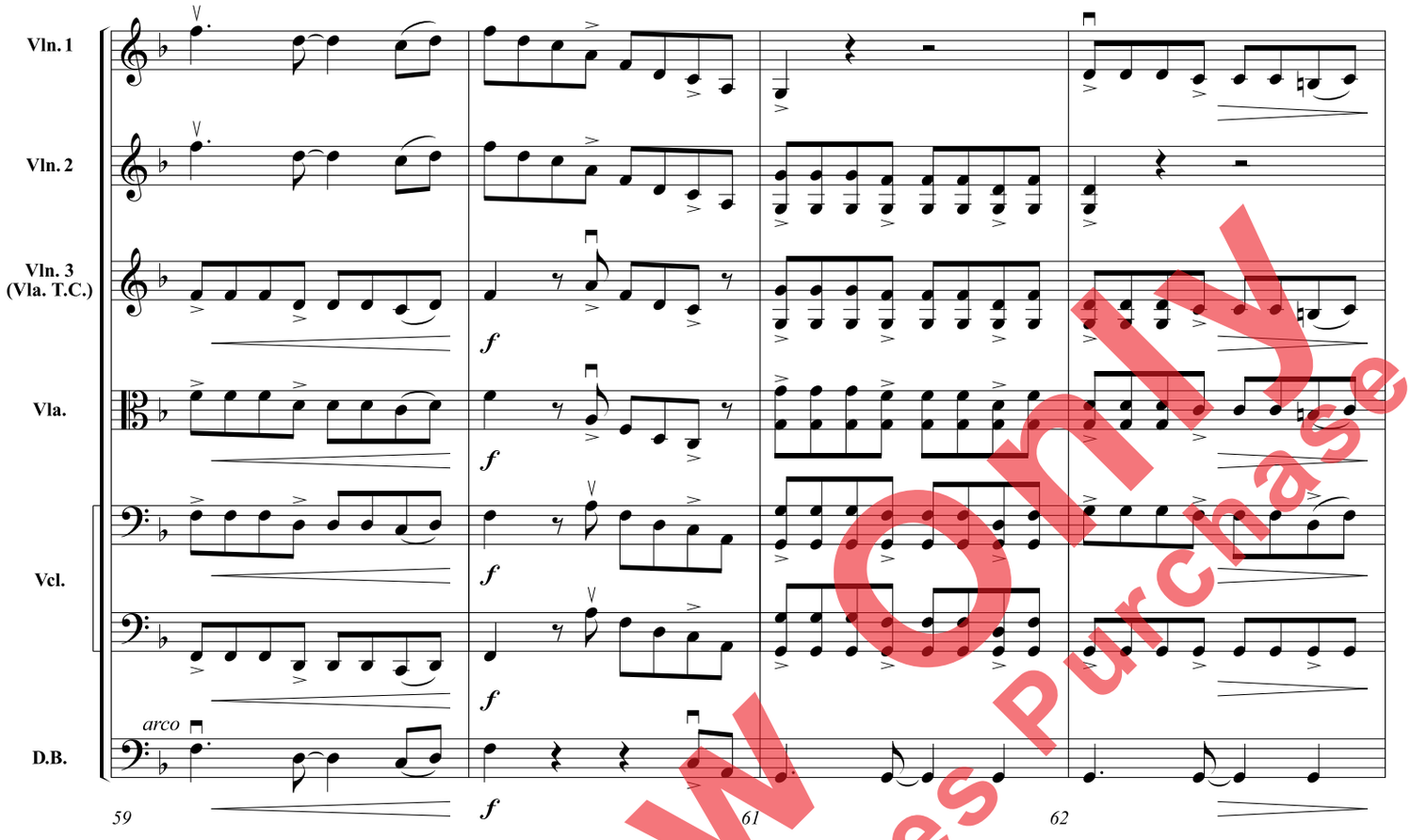

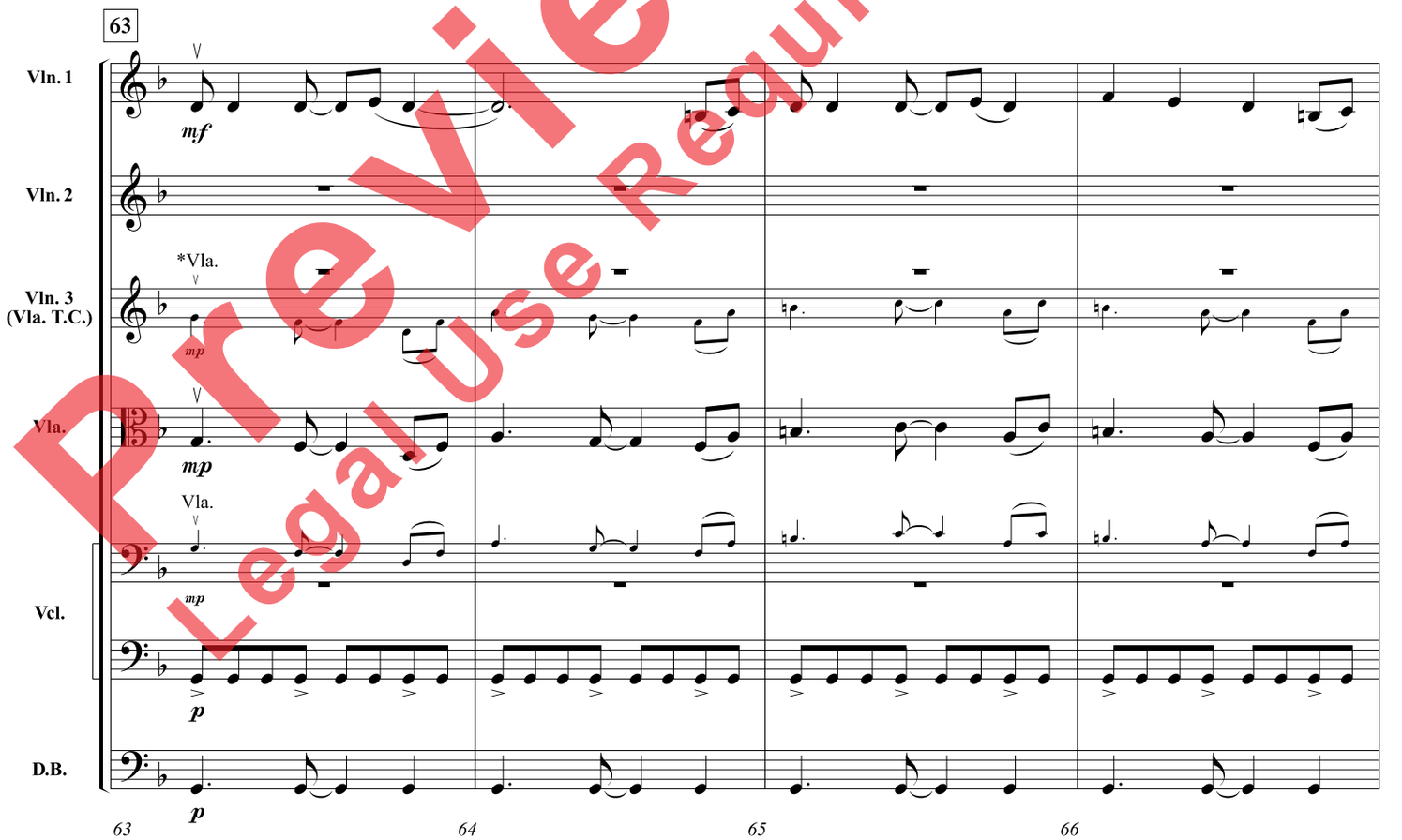

* Note to Violin 3: Because of the low register of the 1st Violin here and at mm. 79-80 and mm. 83-84, consider having any Violin 3 players drop out where the cue notes are written. Some Violoncello 1 players can perform the Viola cues if needed.

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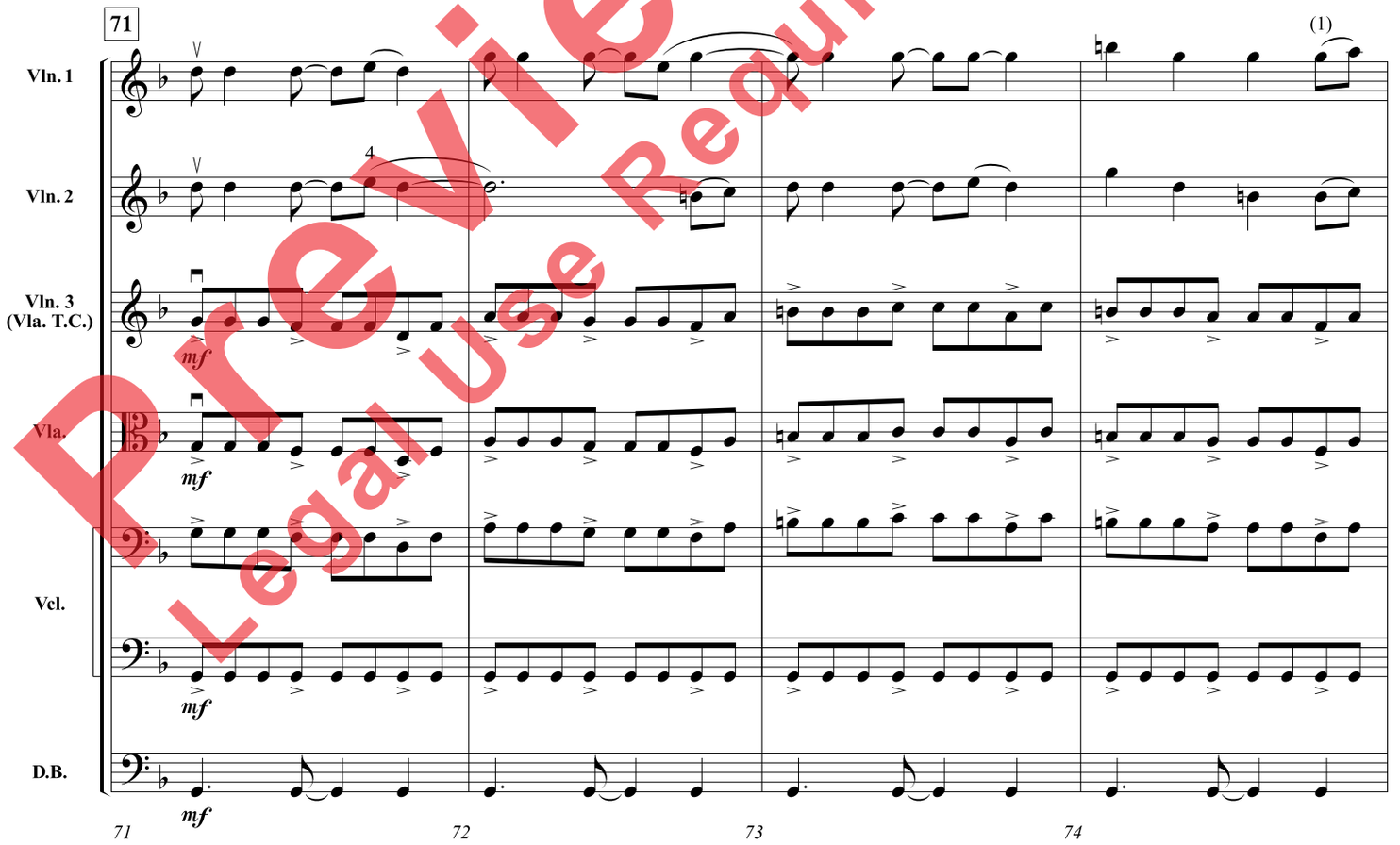

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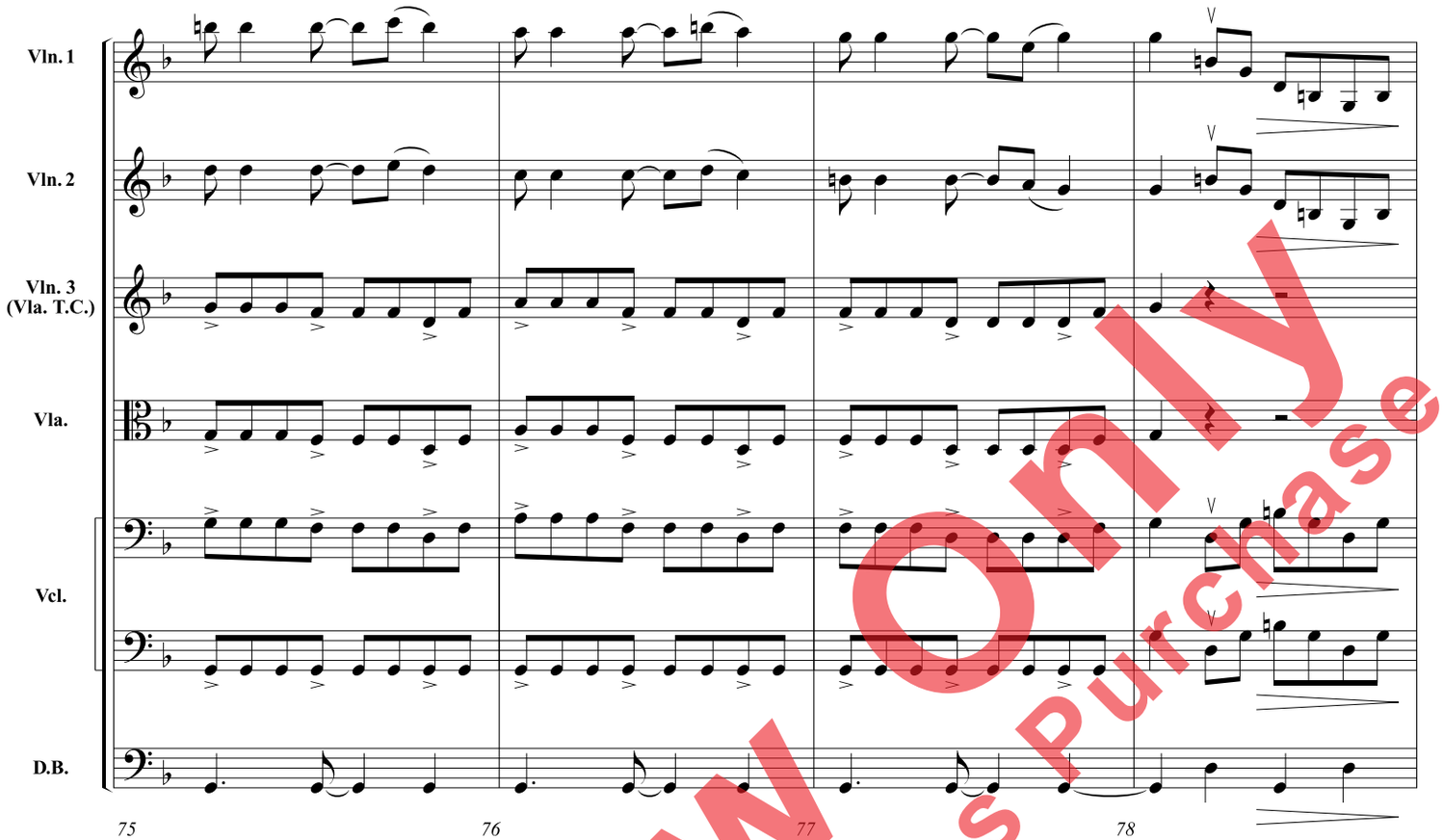

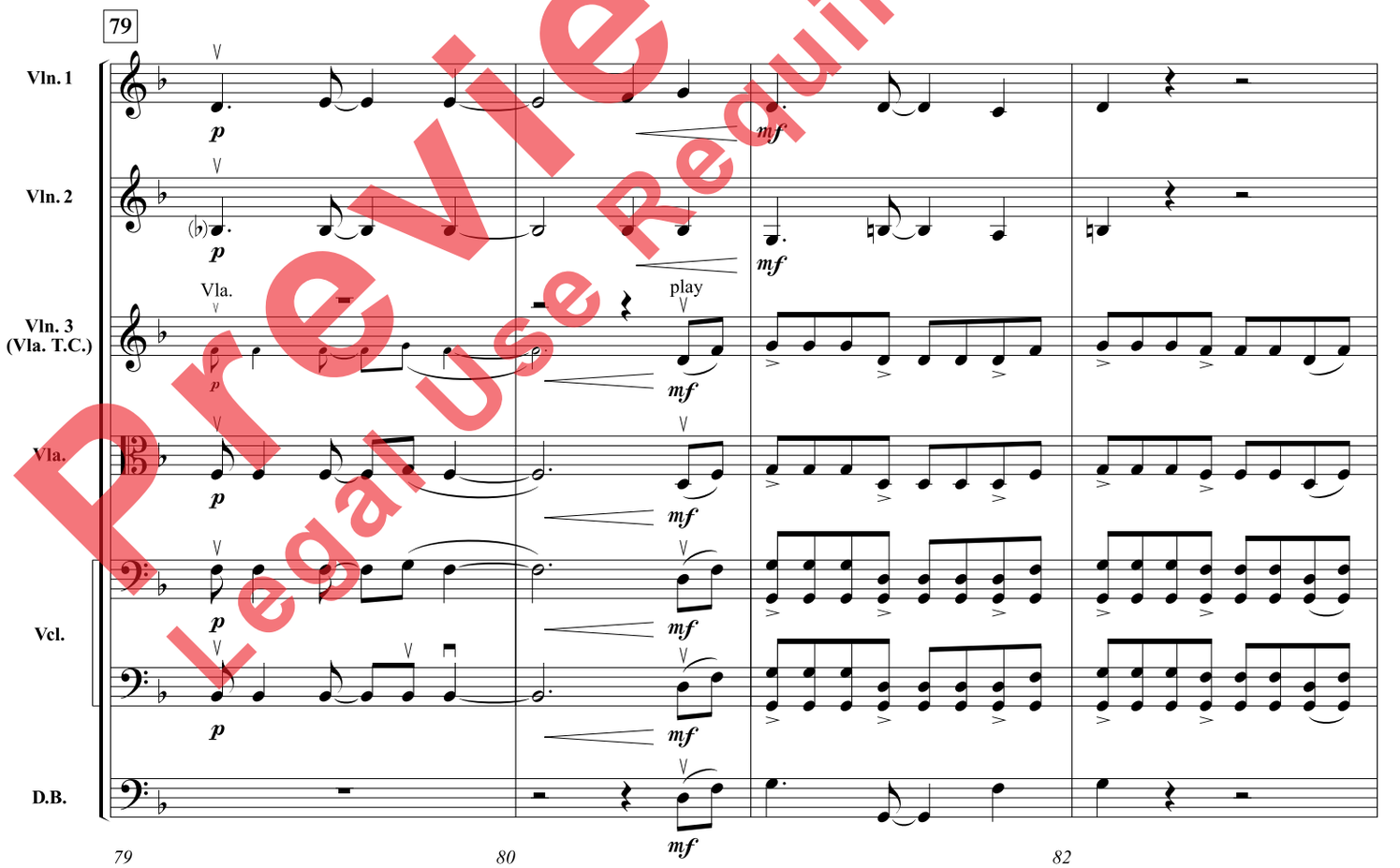

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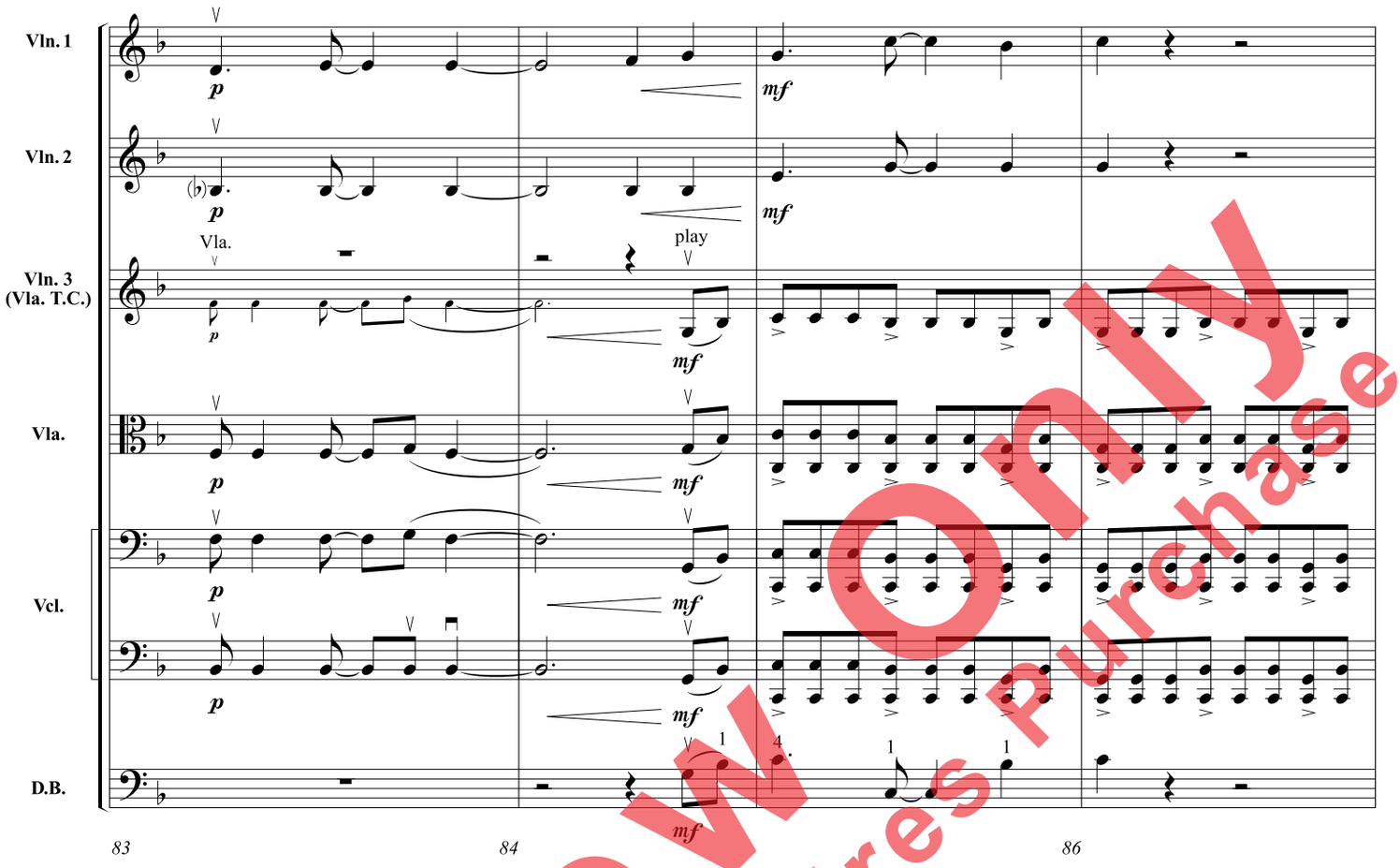

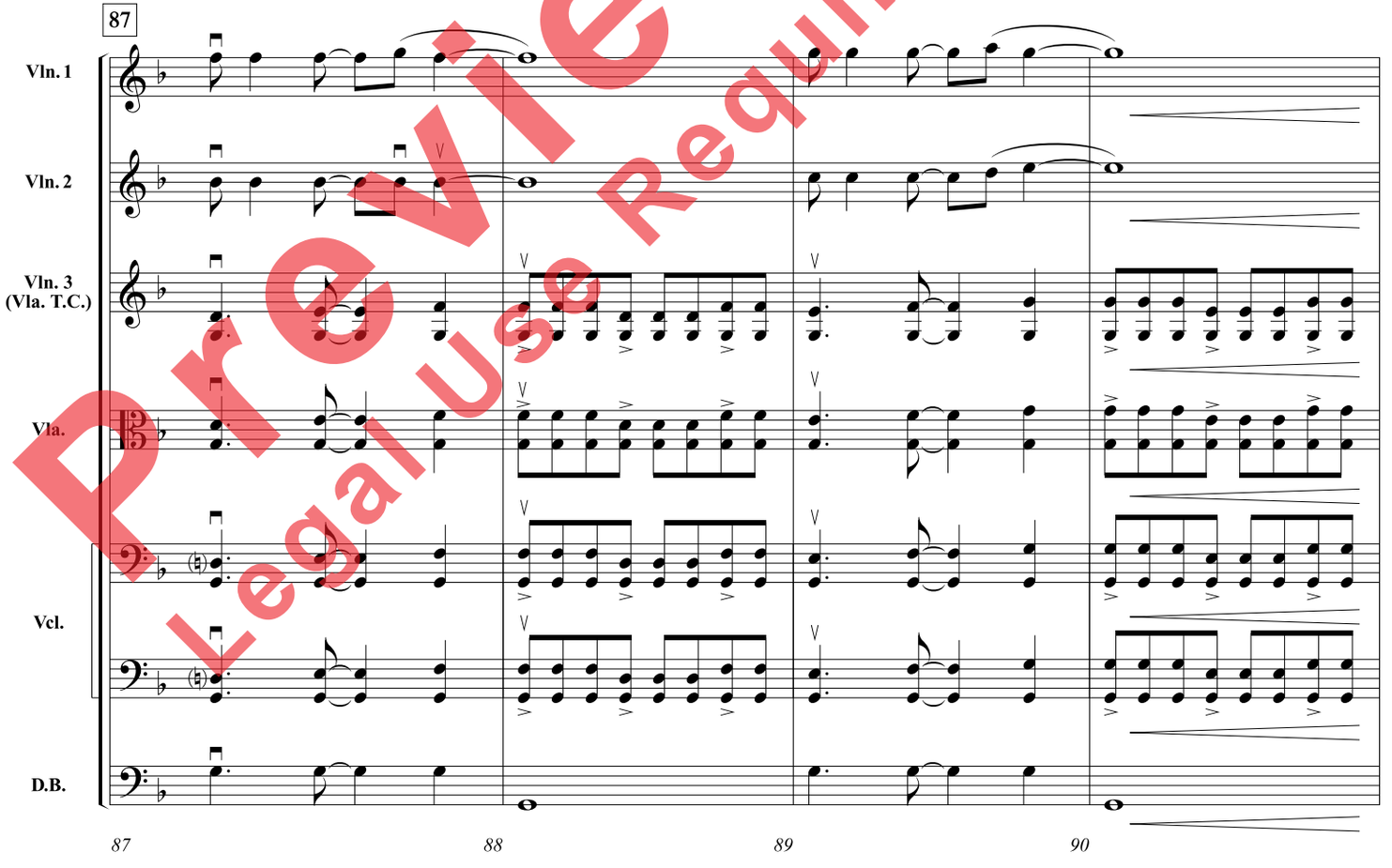

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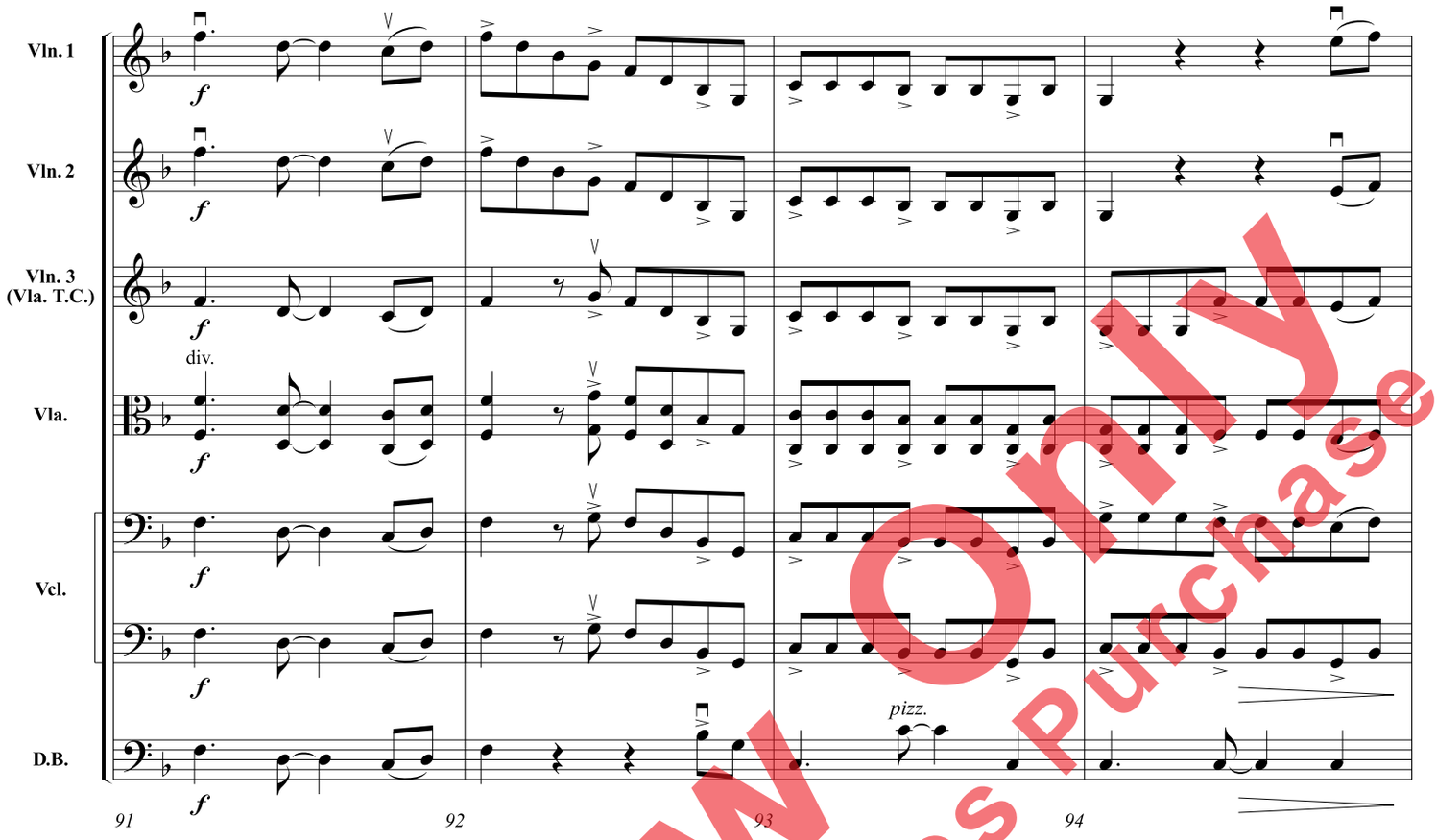

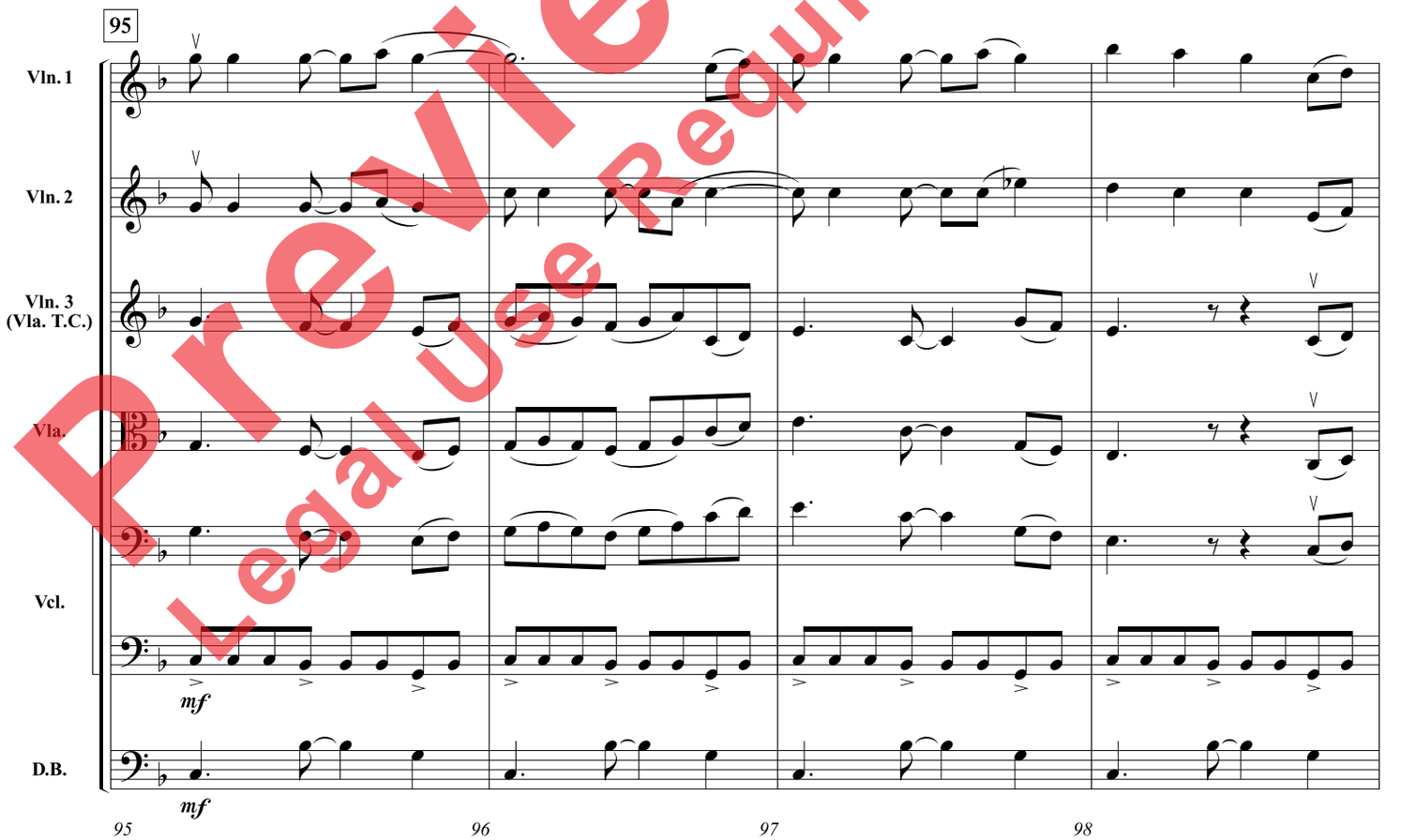

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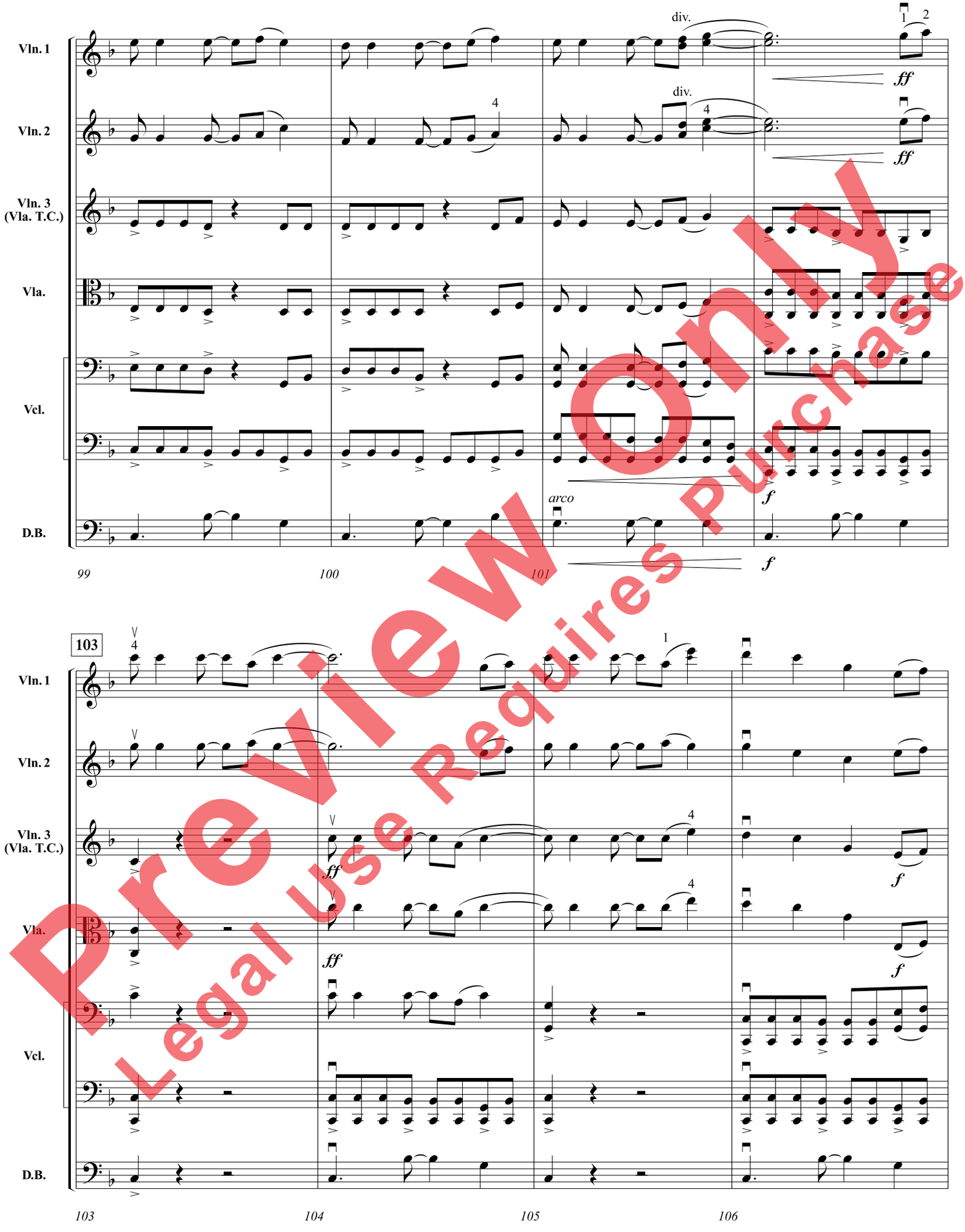

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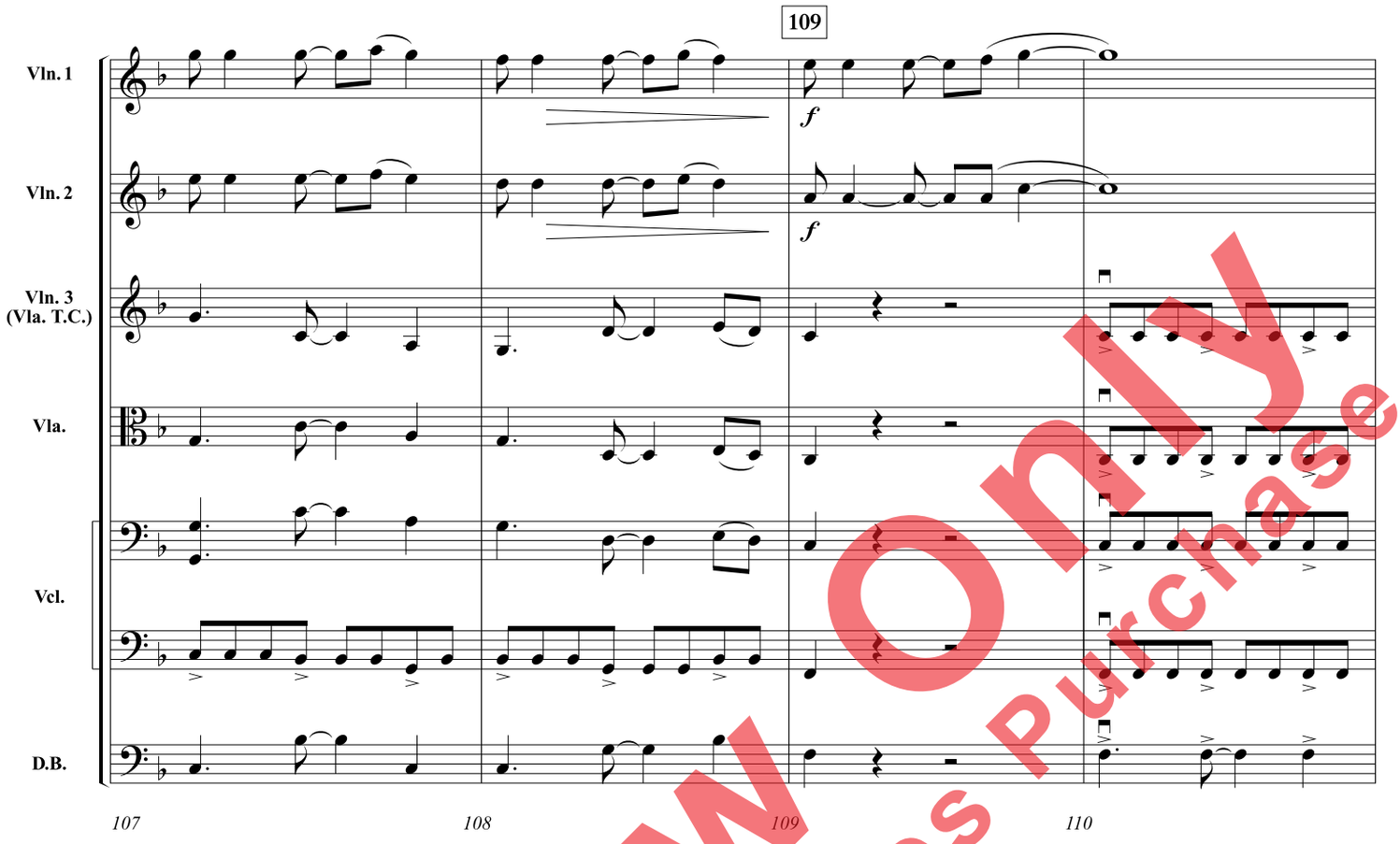

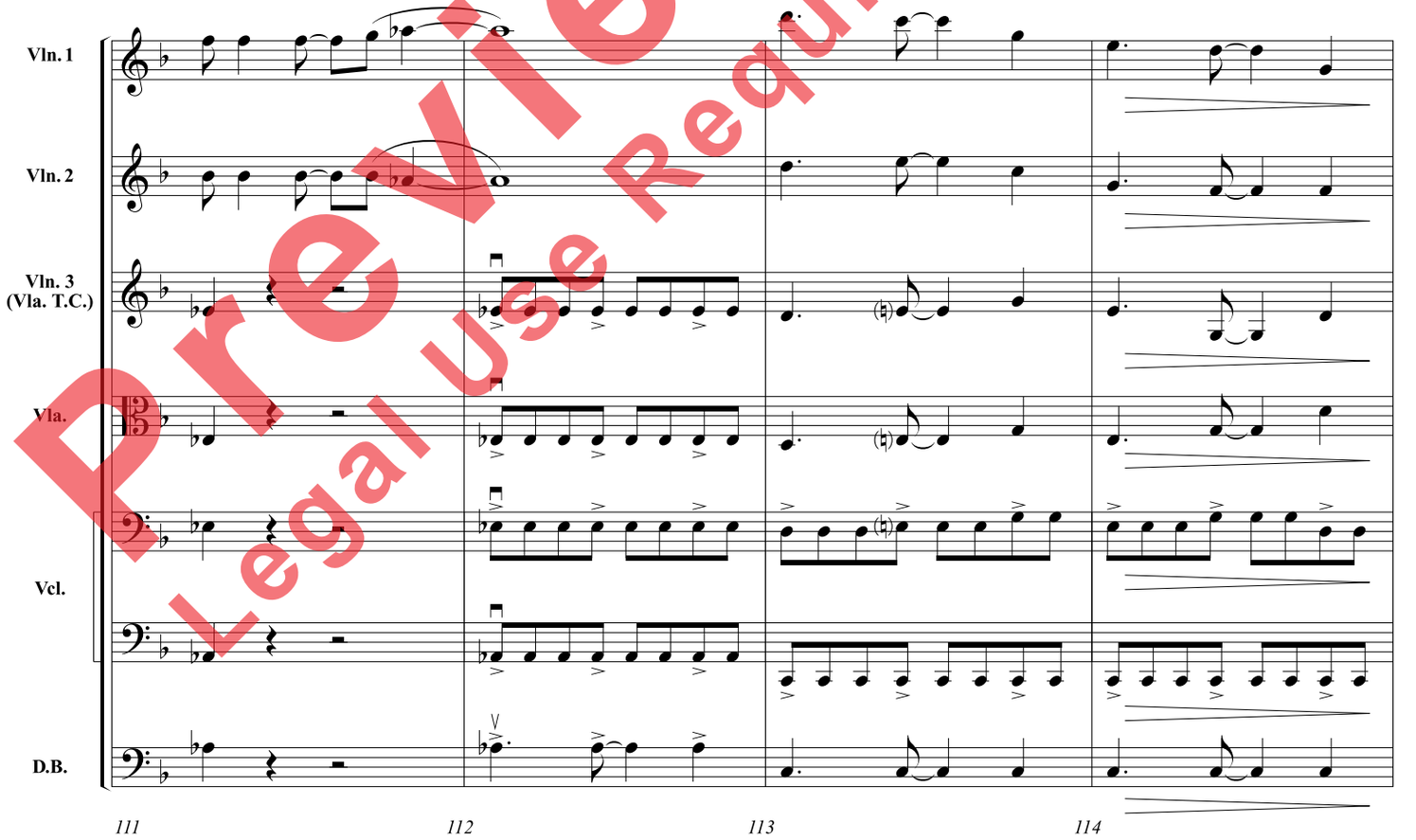

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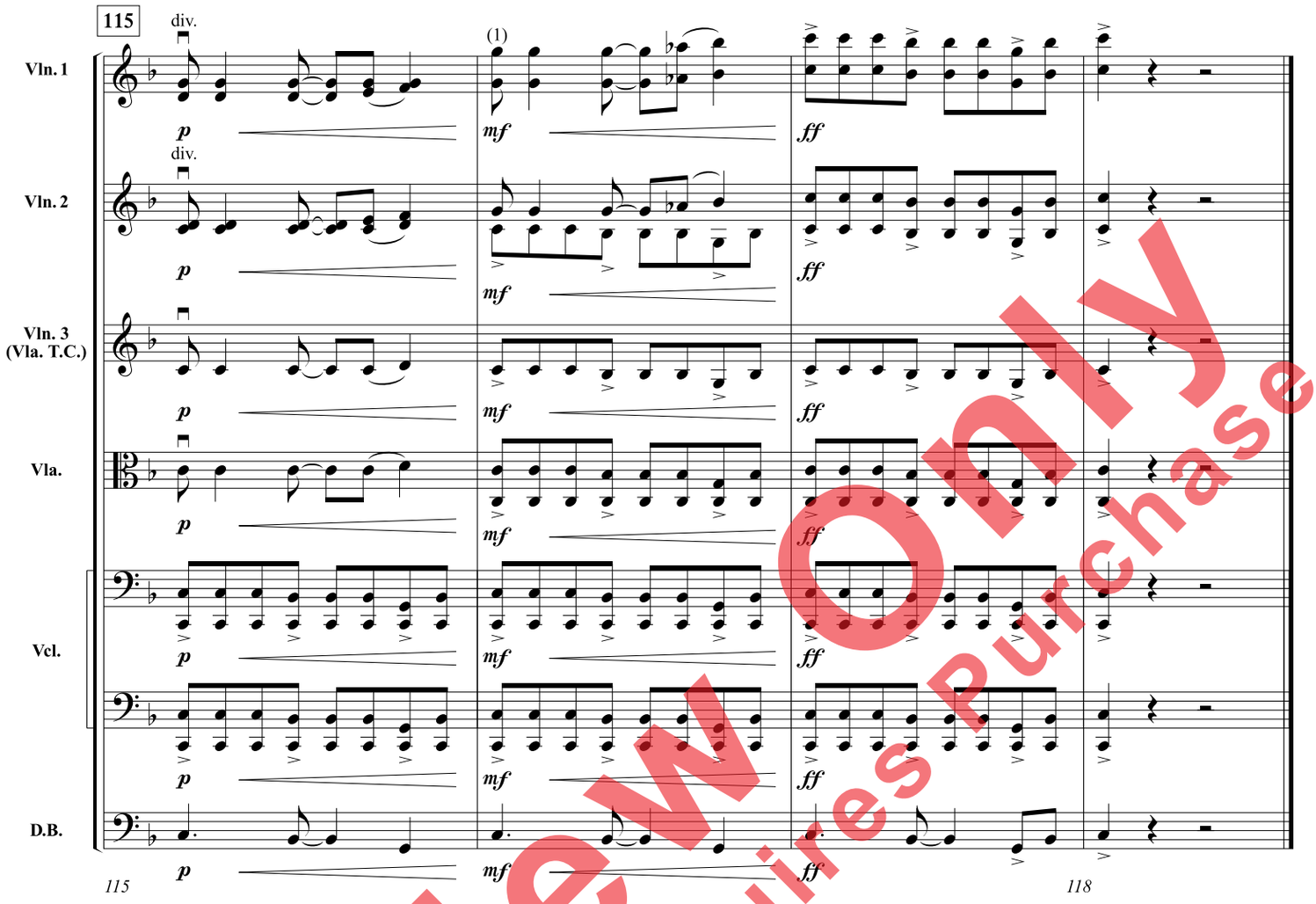

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