SO FJH STRING ORCHESTRA

Grade 4.5
ST6462

IRISH JUNKYARD JAM

for string quartet and string orchestra

Brian Balmages

Instrumentation

1 - Conductor's Full Score
1 - Solo Violin 1
1 - Solo Violin 2
1 - Solo Viola
1 - Solo Violoncello
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2
5 - Viola
5 - Violoncello
5 - Double Bass
1 - Harp (opt.)

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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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www.fjhmusic.com

The Composer

Brian Balmages (b. 1975) is an award-winning composer, conductor, producer, and performer. The music he has written for winds, brass, and orchestra has been performed throughout the world with commissions ranging from elementary schools to professional orchestras. World premieres include prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. His music was also performed as part of the 2013 Presidential Inaugural Prayer Service, which was attended by both President Obama and Vice President Biden. He received his bachelor's degree in music from James Madison University and his master's degree from the University of Miami in Florida. He is a recipient of the prestigious A. Austin Harding Award from the American School Band Directors Association and in 2016 was awarded the James Madison University Distinguished Alumni Award from the School of Visual and Performing Arts (the first year the award was given). In the same year, he was commissioned by his other alma mater, the University of Miami, to compose music for the inauguration of the institution's 6th president, Dr. Julio Frenk.

As a conductor, Mr. Balmages enjoys regular engagements with all-state and region bands and orchestras, as well as university and professional ensembles throughout the world. Notable guest conducting appearances have included the Midwest Clinic, Western International Band Clinic, College Band Directors Conference, American School Band Directors Association National Conference and others. Additional conducting appearances have included the Kennedy Center and Meyerhoff Symphony Hall as well as engagements in Australia, Canada and Italy. Currently, he is Director of Instrumental Publications for The FJH Music Company and Assistant Director of Bands and Orchestras at Towson University.

About the Music

The inspiration for this piece came after a conversation with commissioner Jason Kneebone (conductor of the Mountain View High School Chamber Orchestra in California). He had written a grant proposal for innovative learning and was brainstorming ideas to add that special innovation component to a commission that otherwise would have been relatively low tech. He ultimately got in touch with a local 3D design engineer and came up with the idea to feature a 3D printed string quartet with string orchestra. At the time, neither of us was sure as to what the instruments would ultimately sound like, and he was playing around with the idea of making them electric with some form of pickup. Thus began the process of writing a piece for four string instruments that no one had ever heard!

As I began formulating concepts, I found out that the group was going to be touring Ireland the following year. I immediately started thinking of Irish music, and the idea of a "junkyard-style" piece flooded into my mind. In essence, I pictured a few musicians walking into a junkyard in Ireland. One by one, they find some scrap instruments, pick them up, and start playing. Eventually, they start to develop a groove and are joined by the rest of the orchestra (I have no idea how the rest of the orchestra wound up in the junkyard, but just go with it). While the piece is not based on a specific Irish folksong, it draws on elements ranging from a traditional pub band to Irish stepdance.

The soloists can play on electronic or acoustic instruments (similar to my *Urban Concerto Grosso*). Directors may even want to include some staging (such as having just 1 or 2 soloists on stage to begin, then the others coming out to join them as their parts begin). More than anything, the piece needs to feel alive and fun!

Irish Junkyard Jam was commissioned by the Mountain View High School Chamber Orchestra (Jason Kneebone, conductor) in Mountian View, California.

- Brian Balmages

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Duration: 4:45

commissioned by the Mountain View High School Chamber Orchestra
Mountain View, California; Jason Kneebone, Conductor

IRISH JUNKYARD JAM

for string quartet and string orchestra

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

Allegro (♩. = 126)

Solo Violin 1
Solo Violin 2
Solo Viola
Solo Violoncello
Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violoncello
Double Bass
Harp (opt.)

mp

D C B | E F♯ G A

2 3 4 5 6 7

9

S. Vln. 1
S. Vln. 2
S. Vla.
S. Vcl.
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Hp.

sim.

mp

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

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MP3
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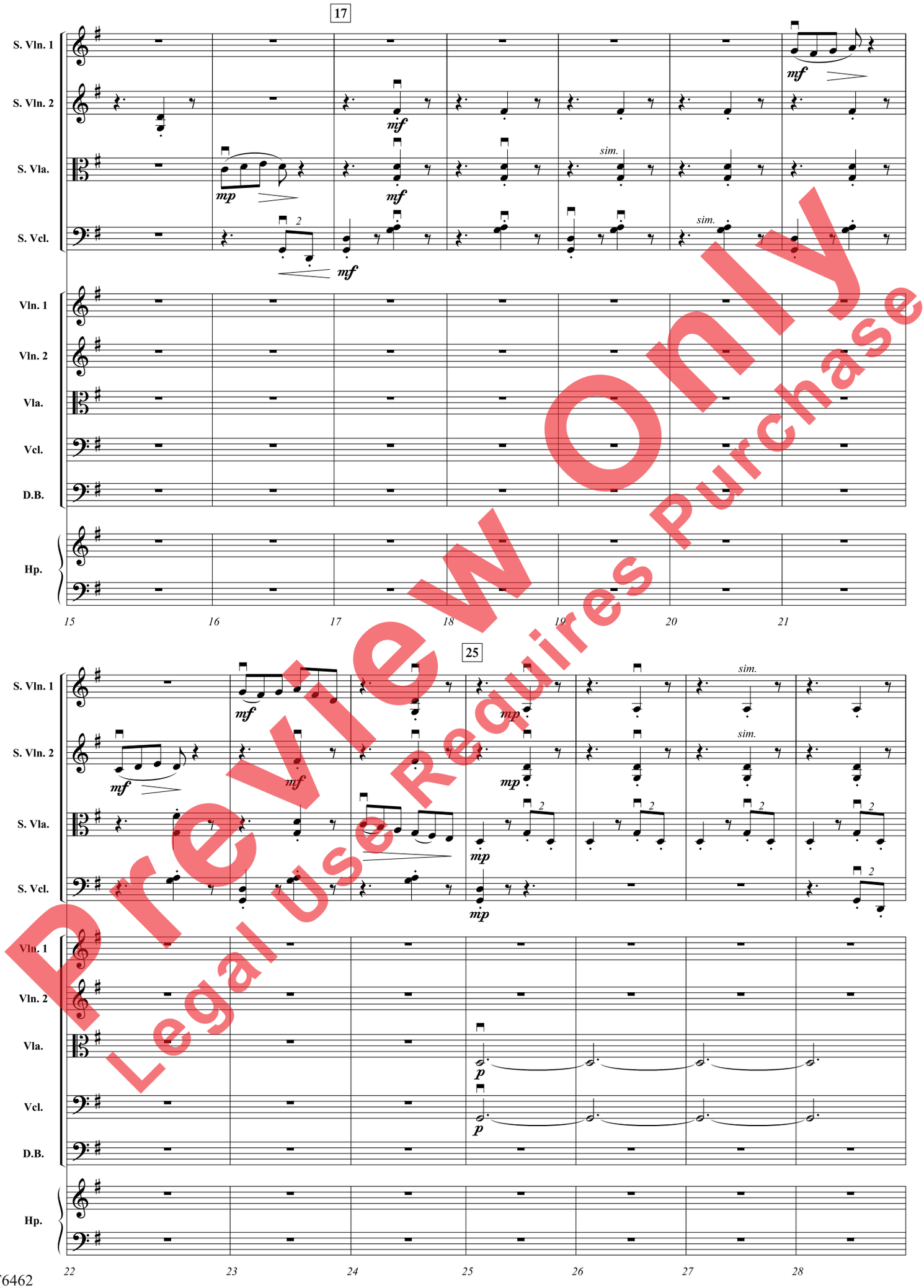

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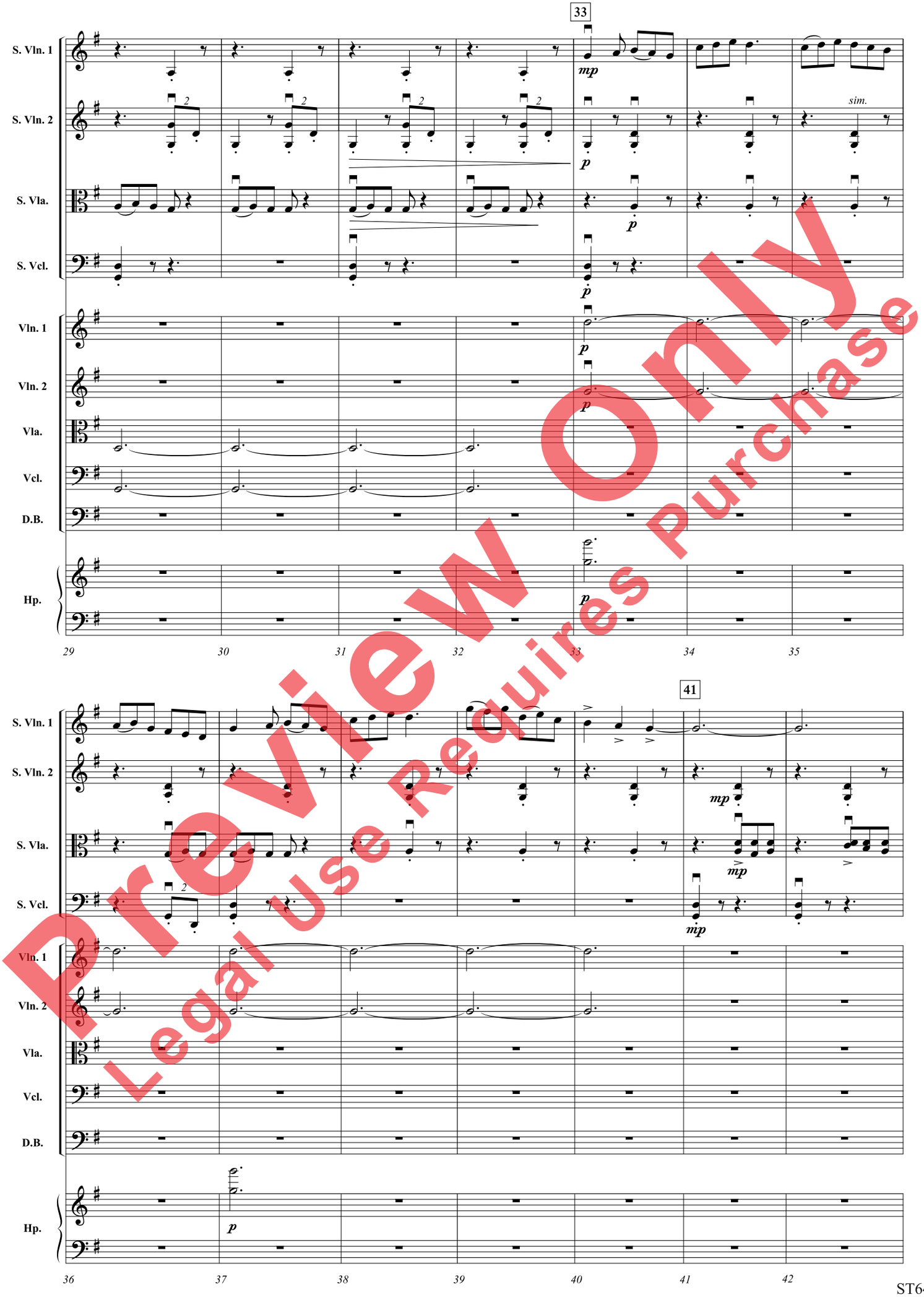

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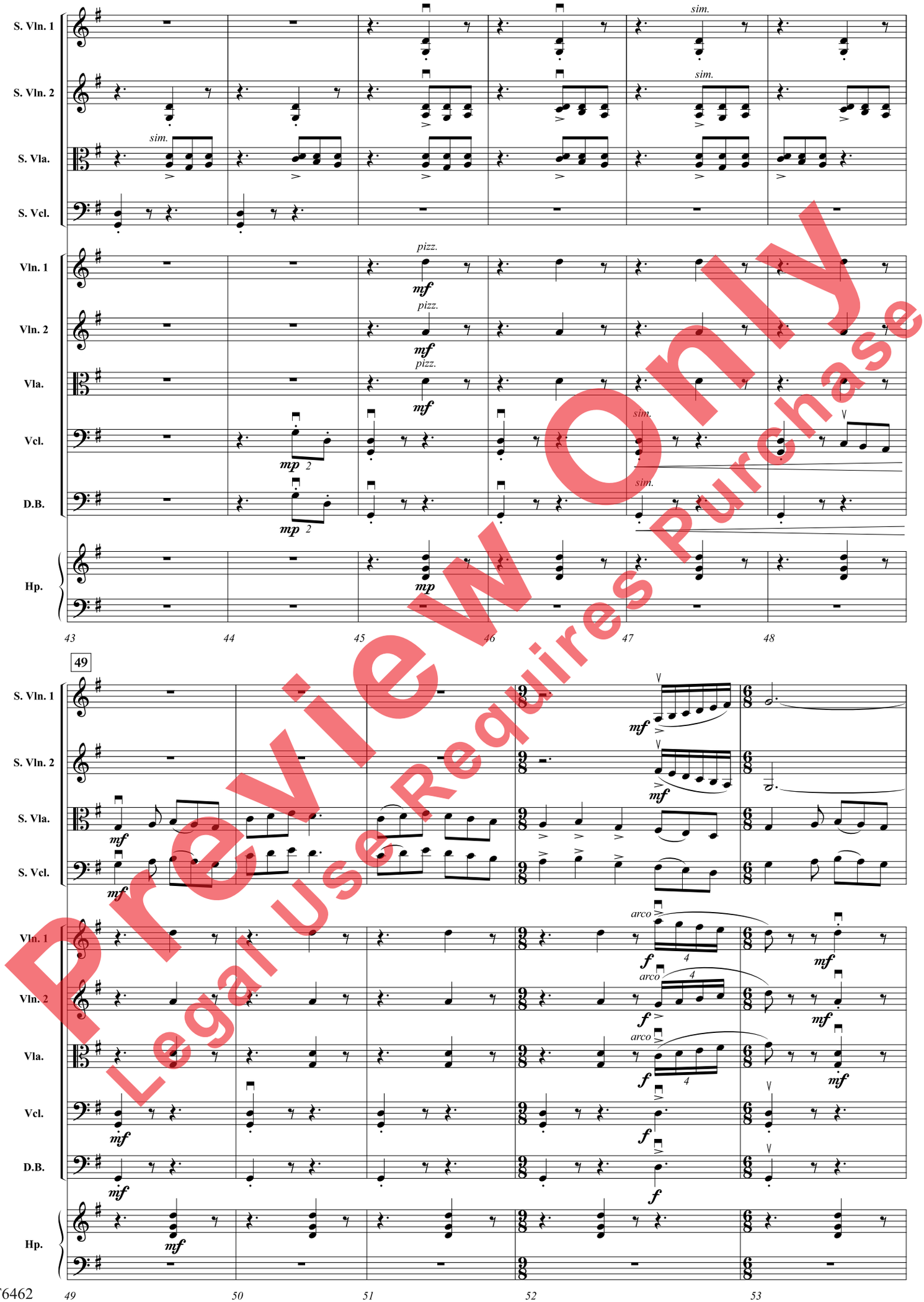

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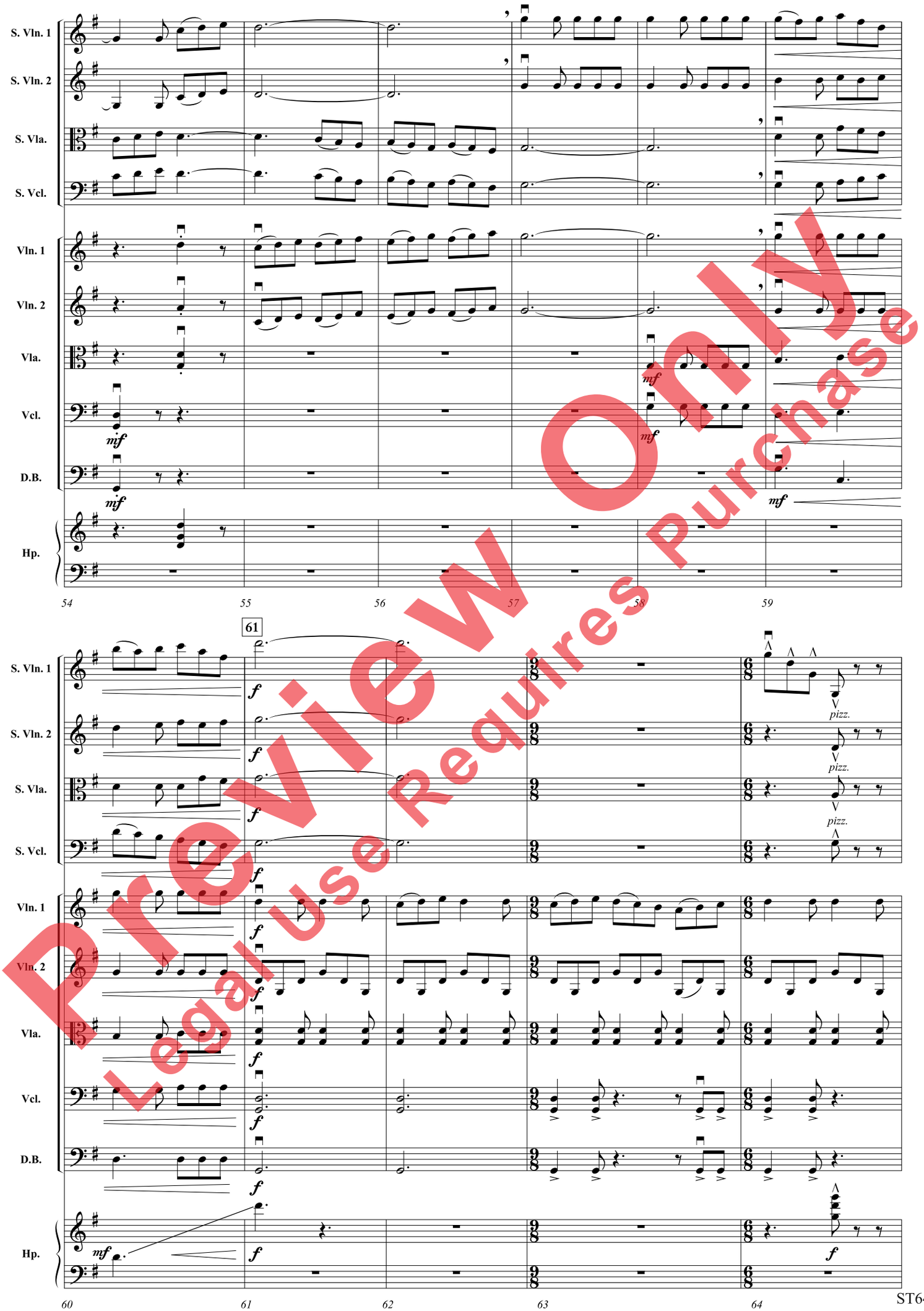

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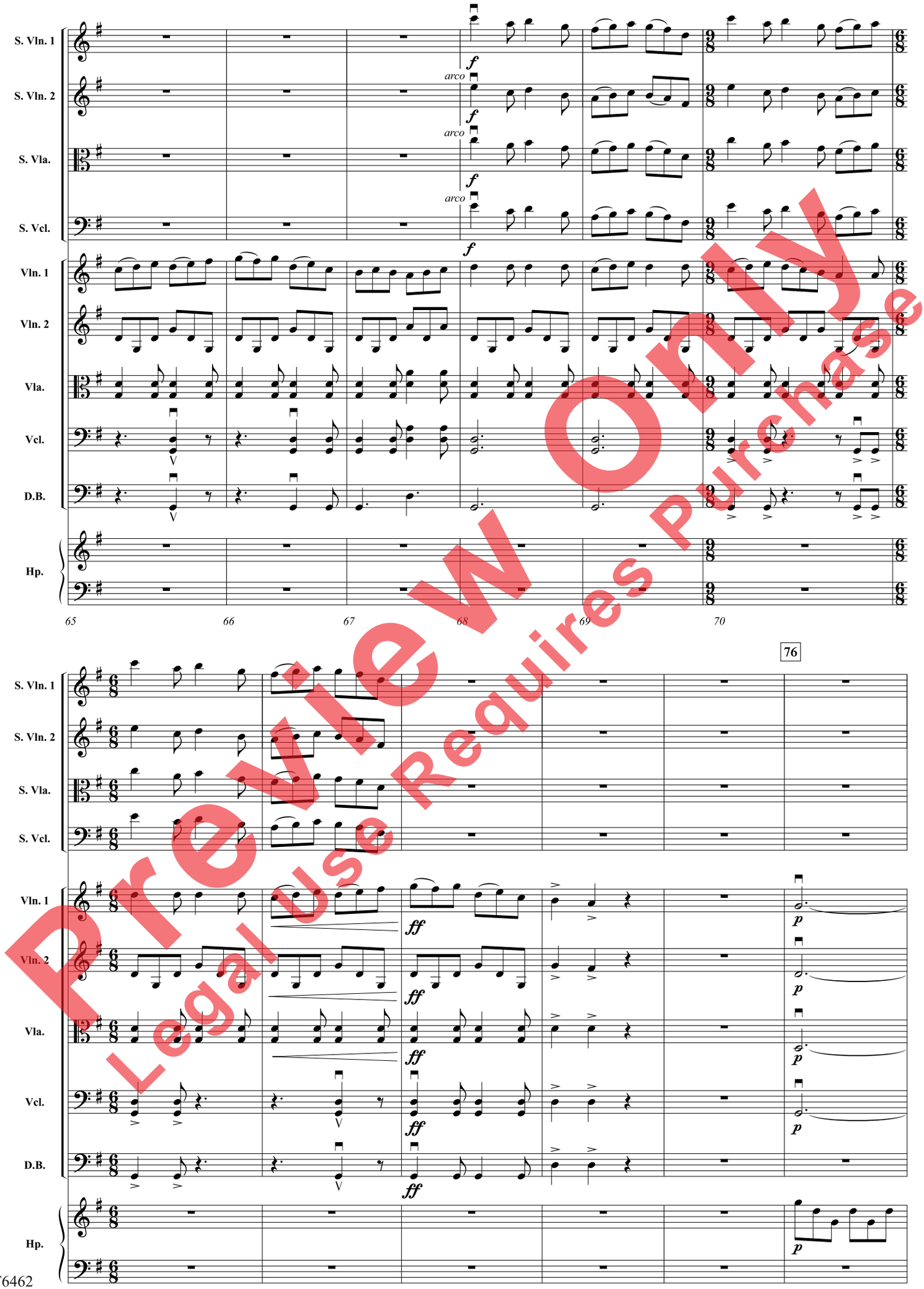

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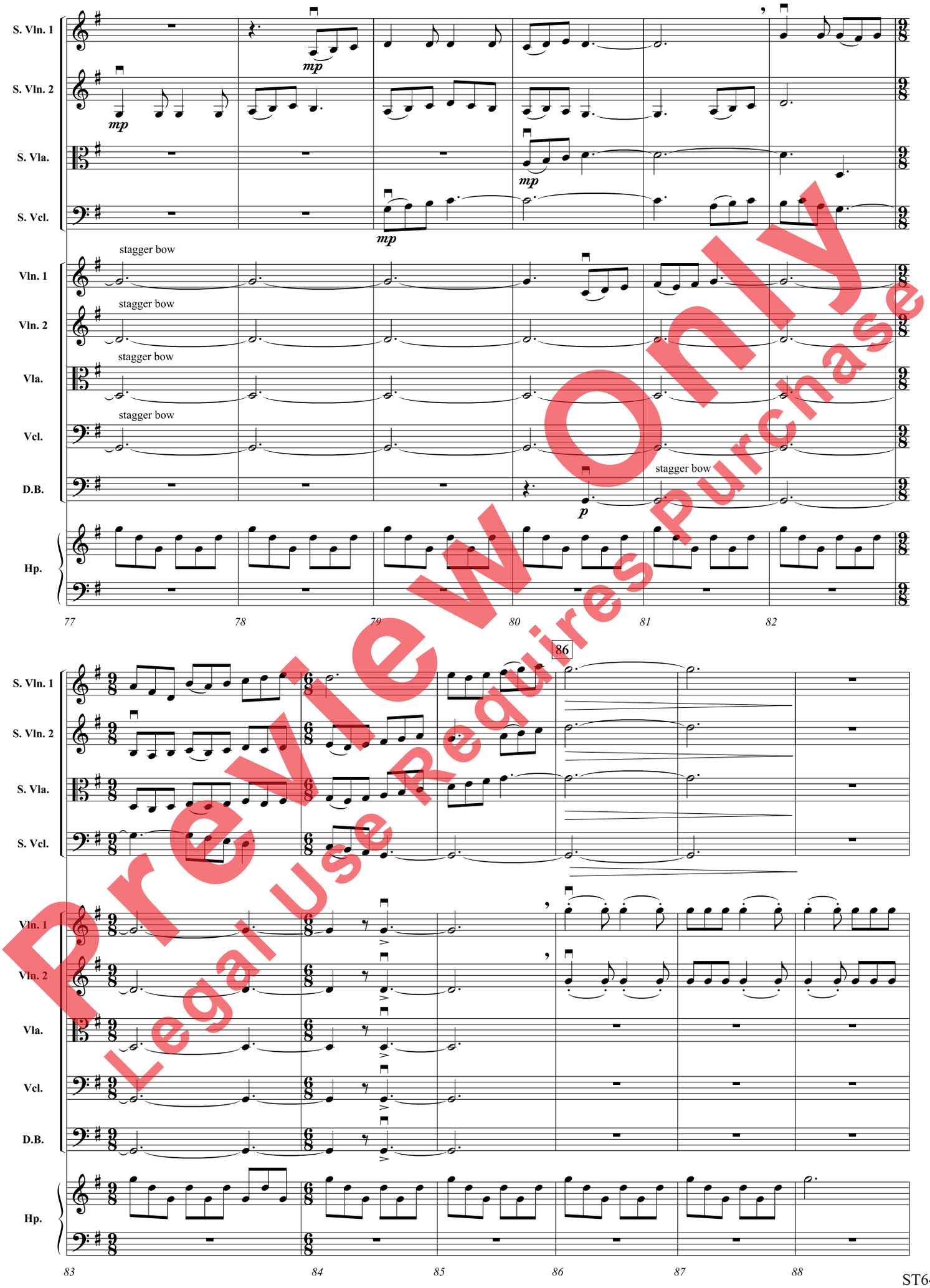

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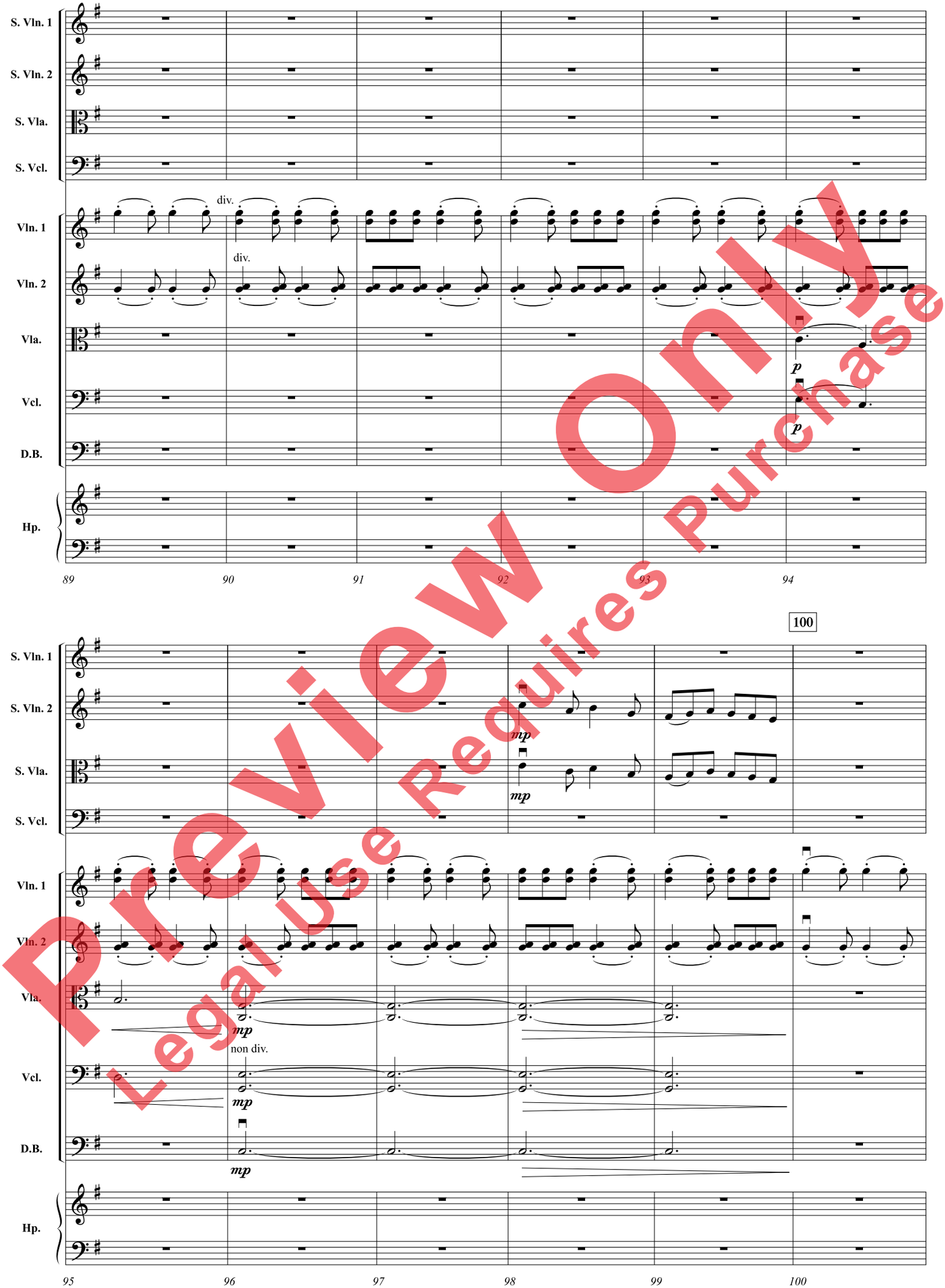

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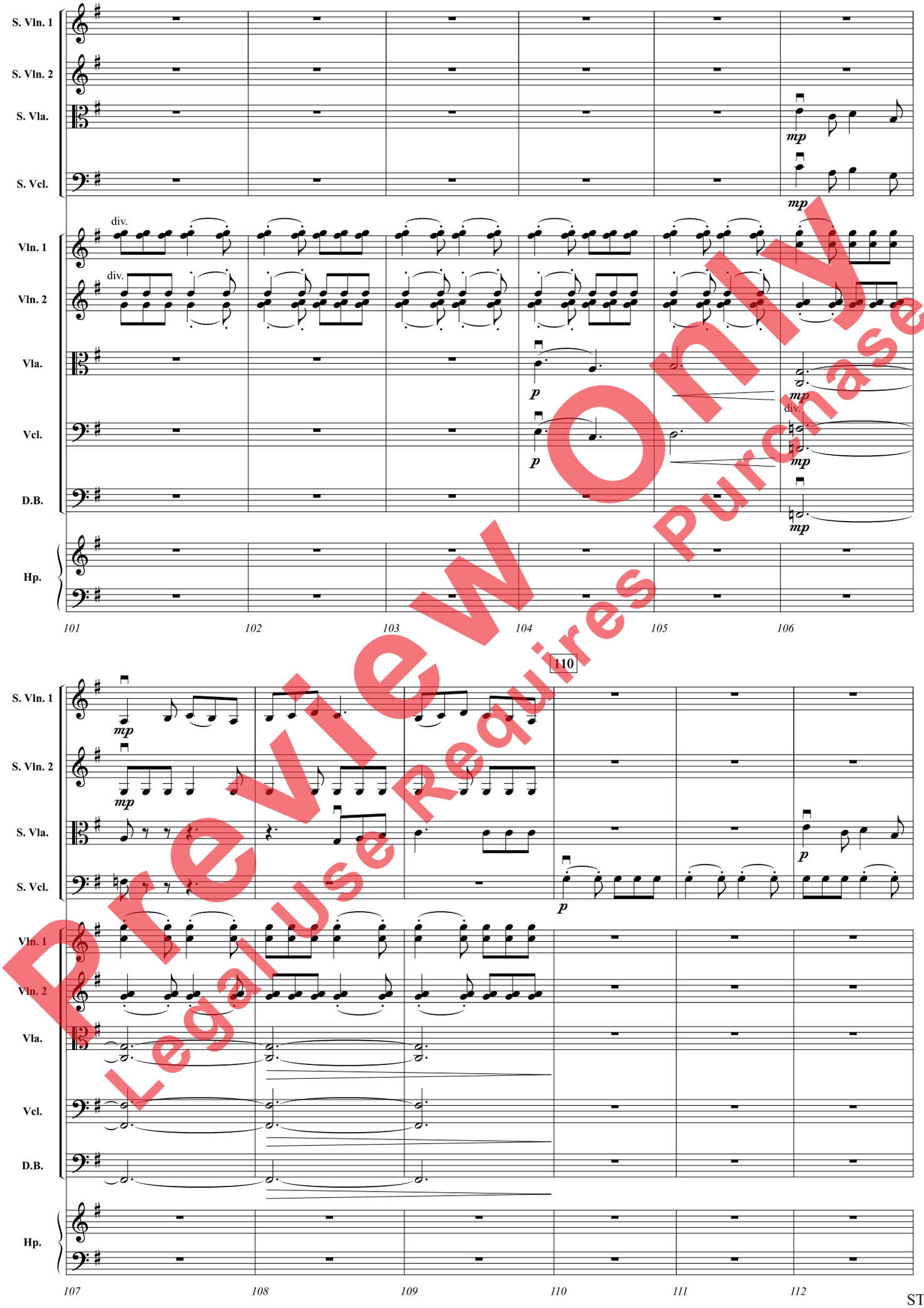

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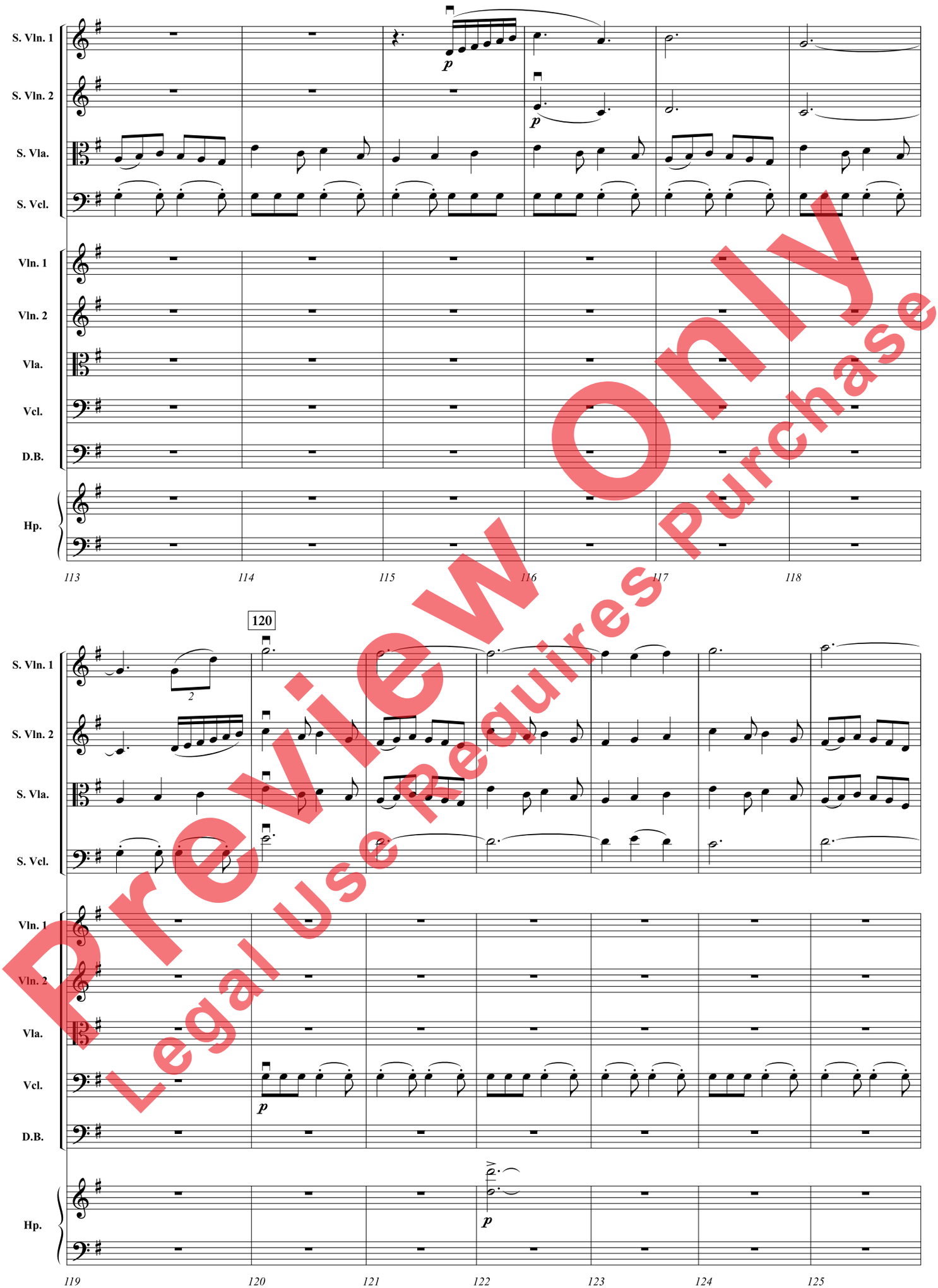

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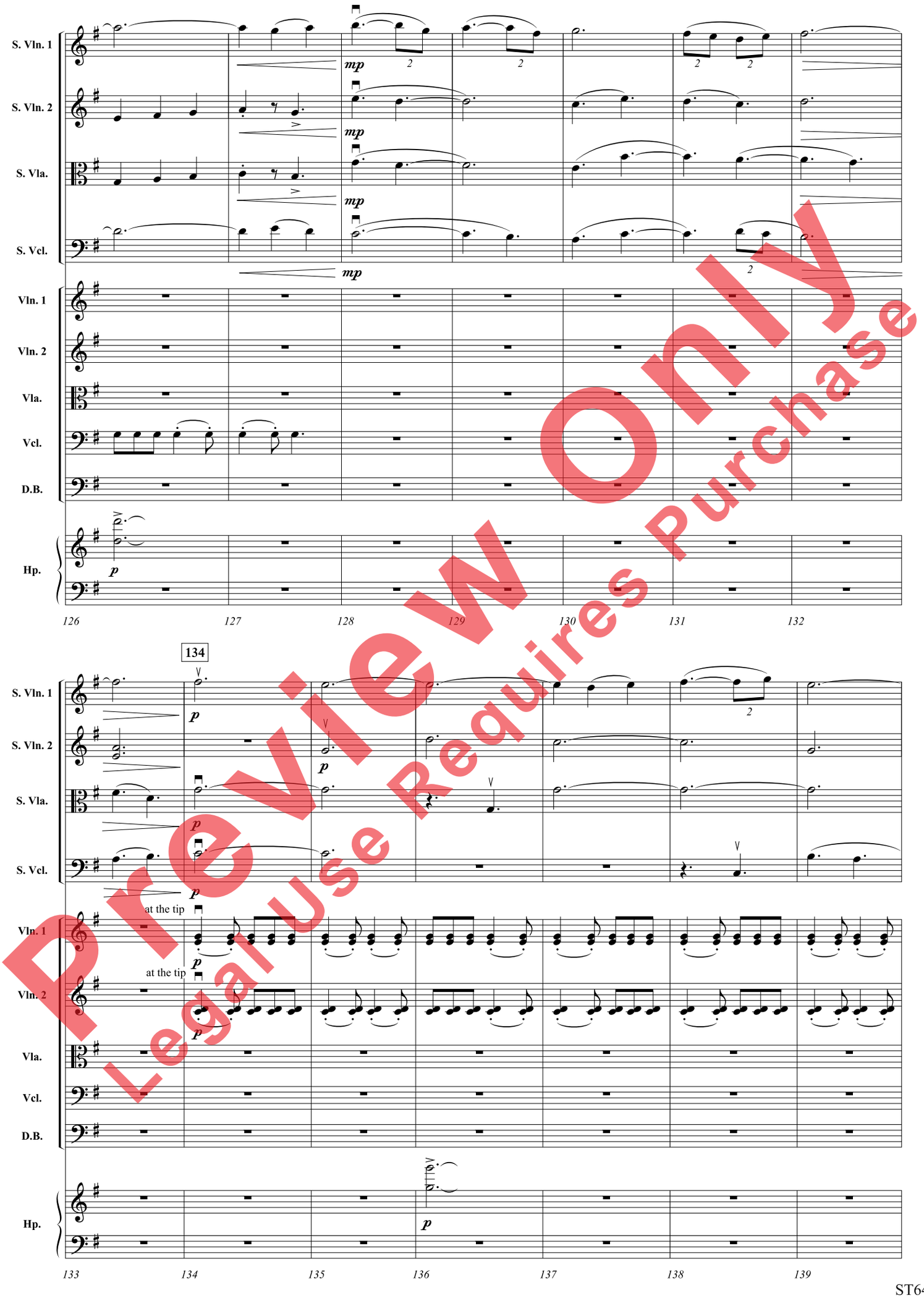

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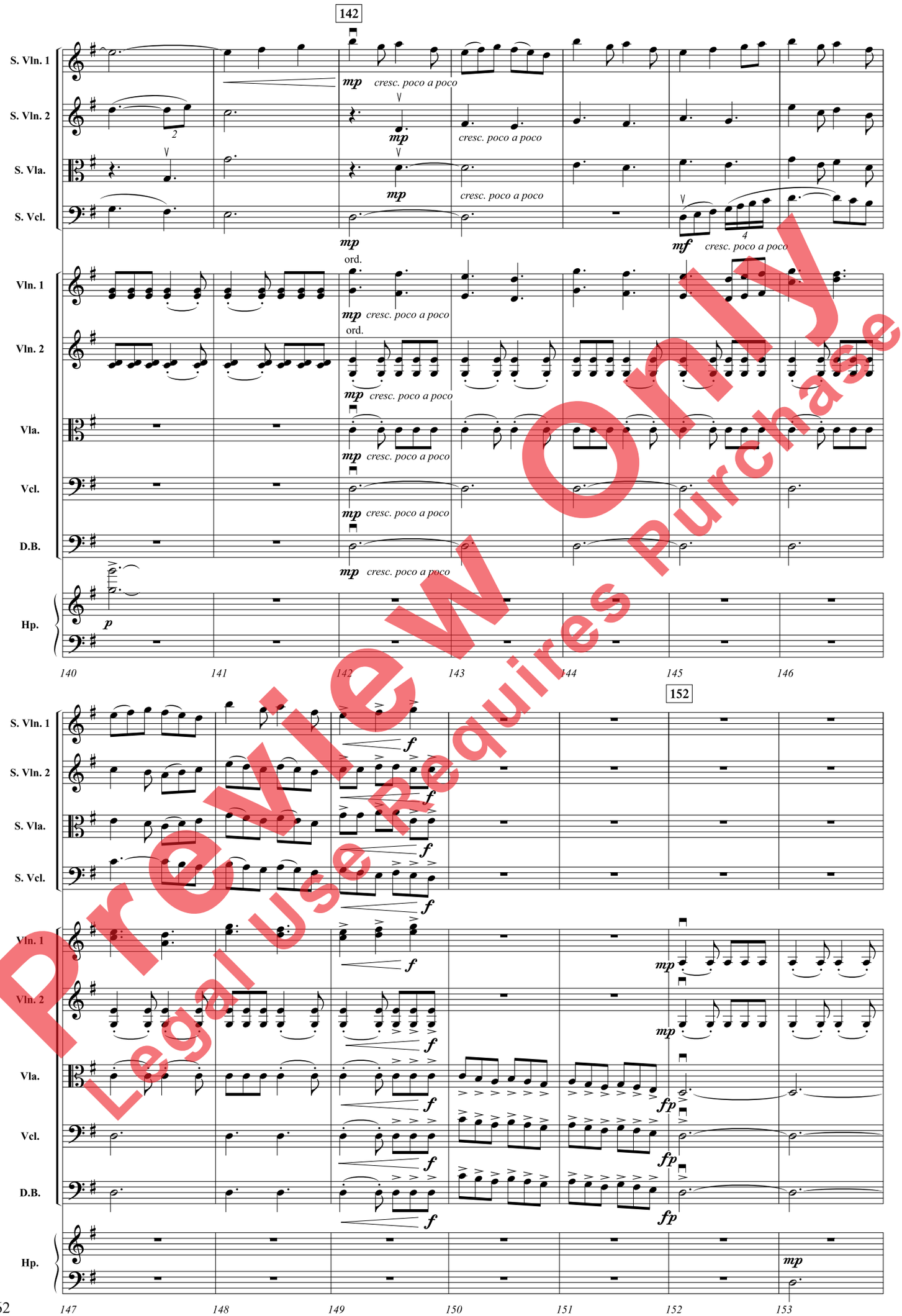

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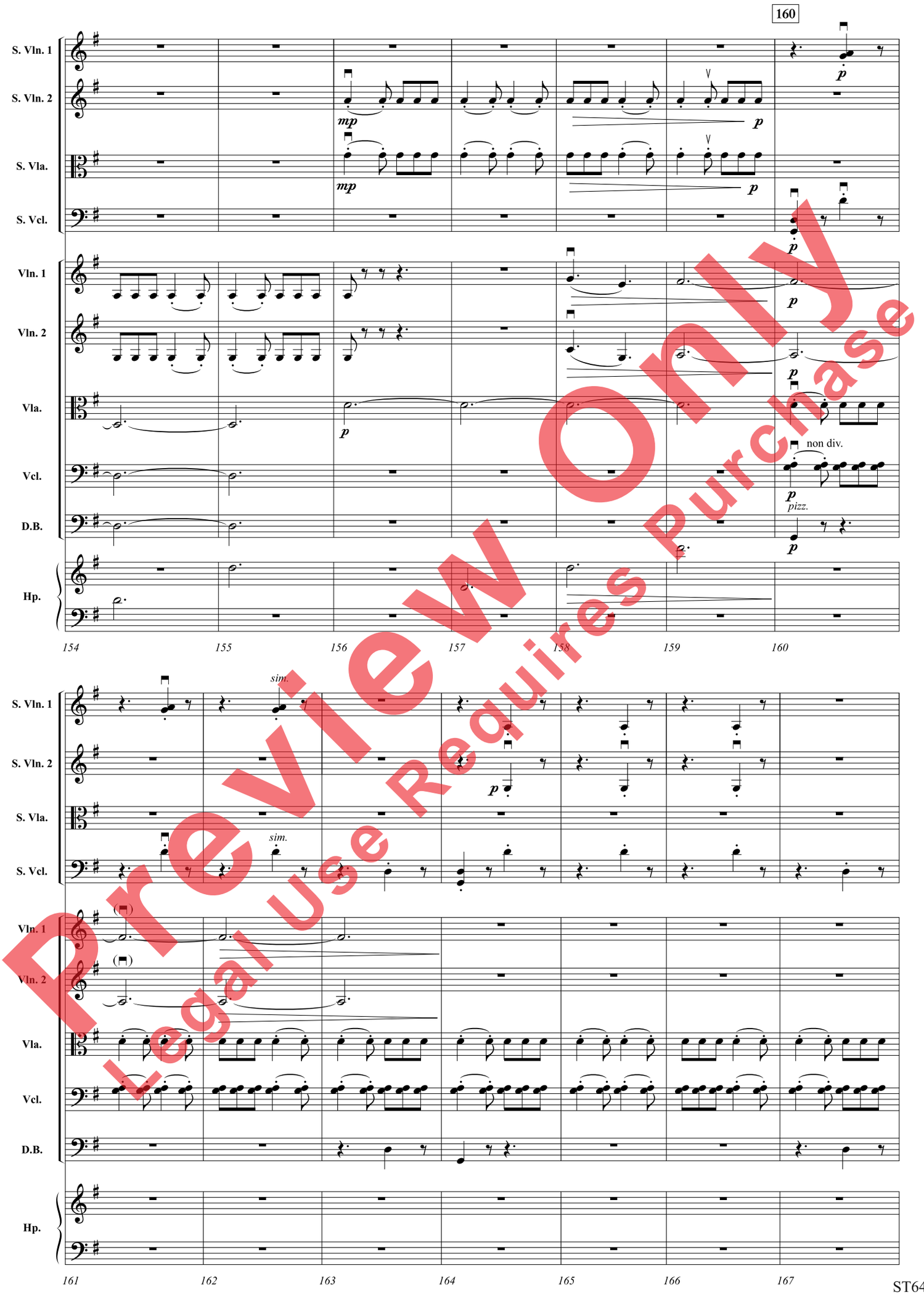

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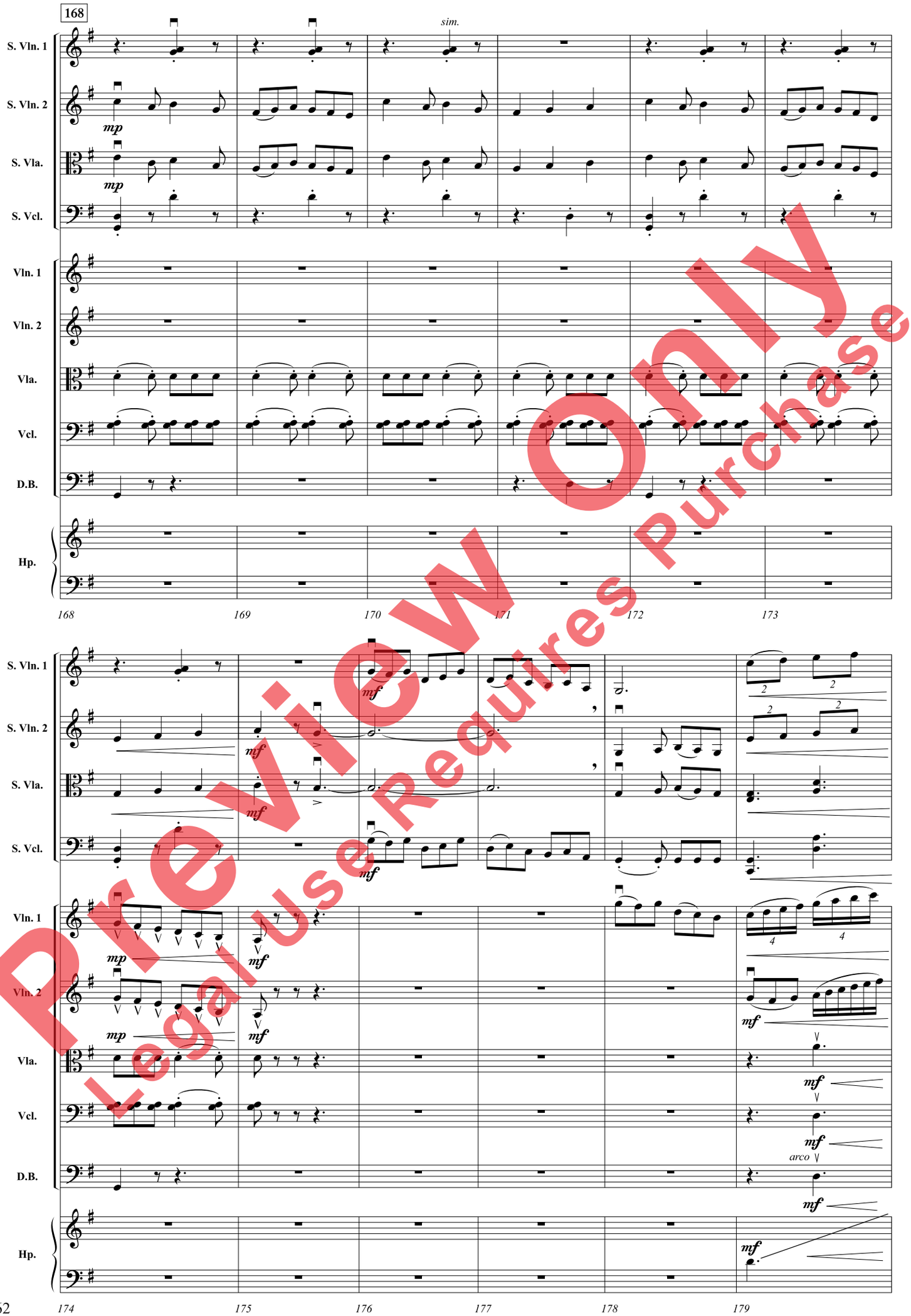

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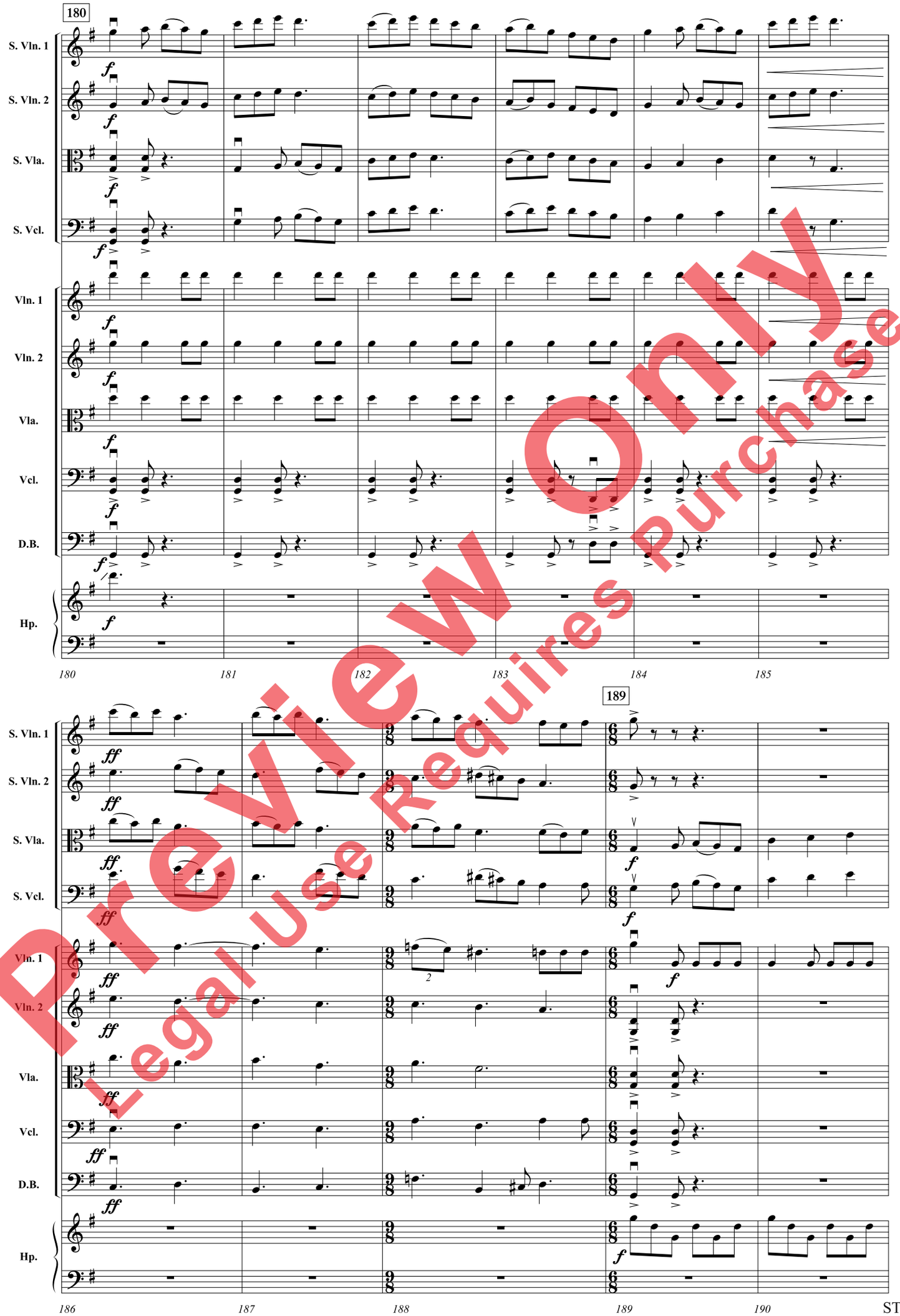

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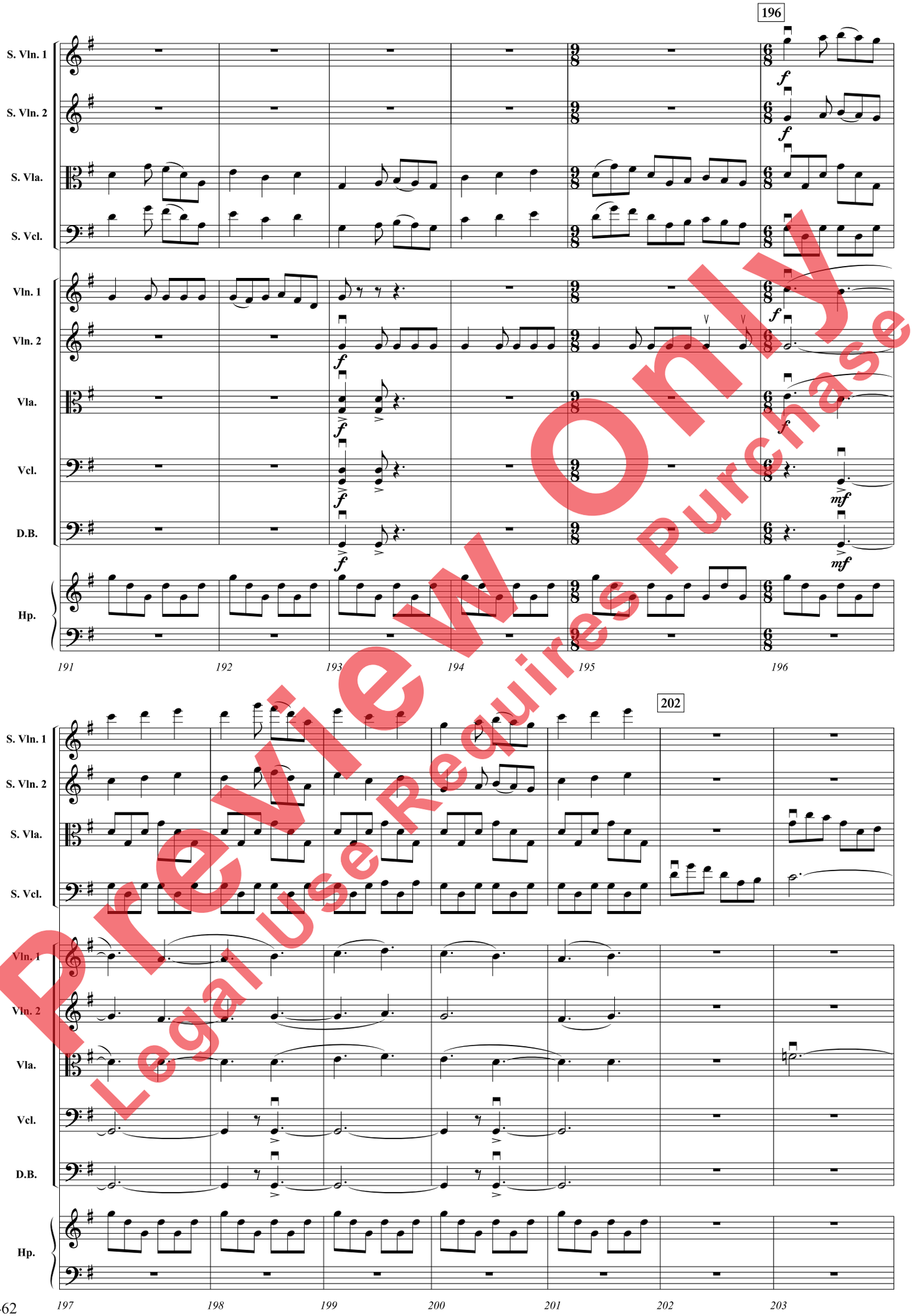

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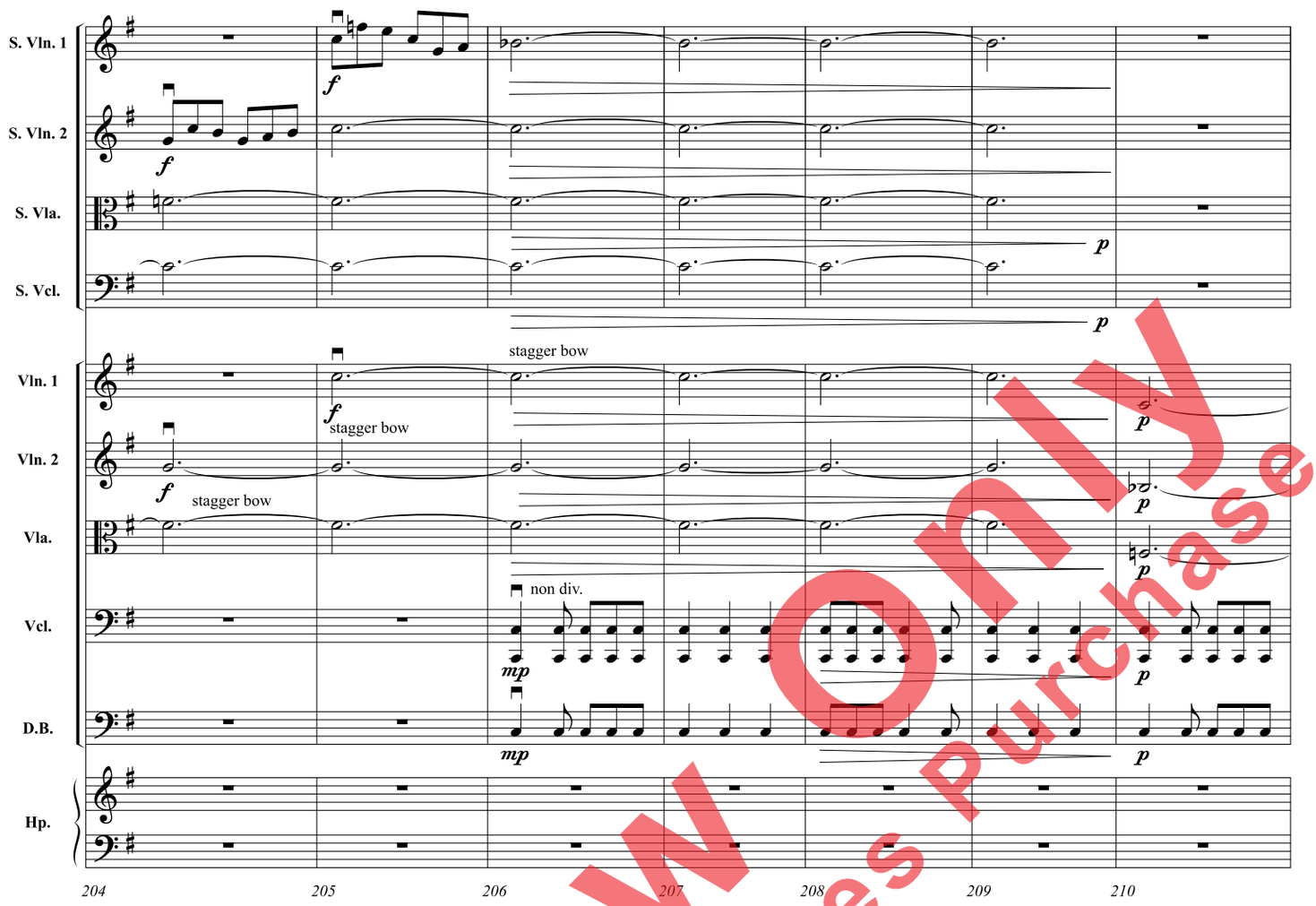

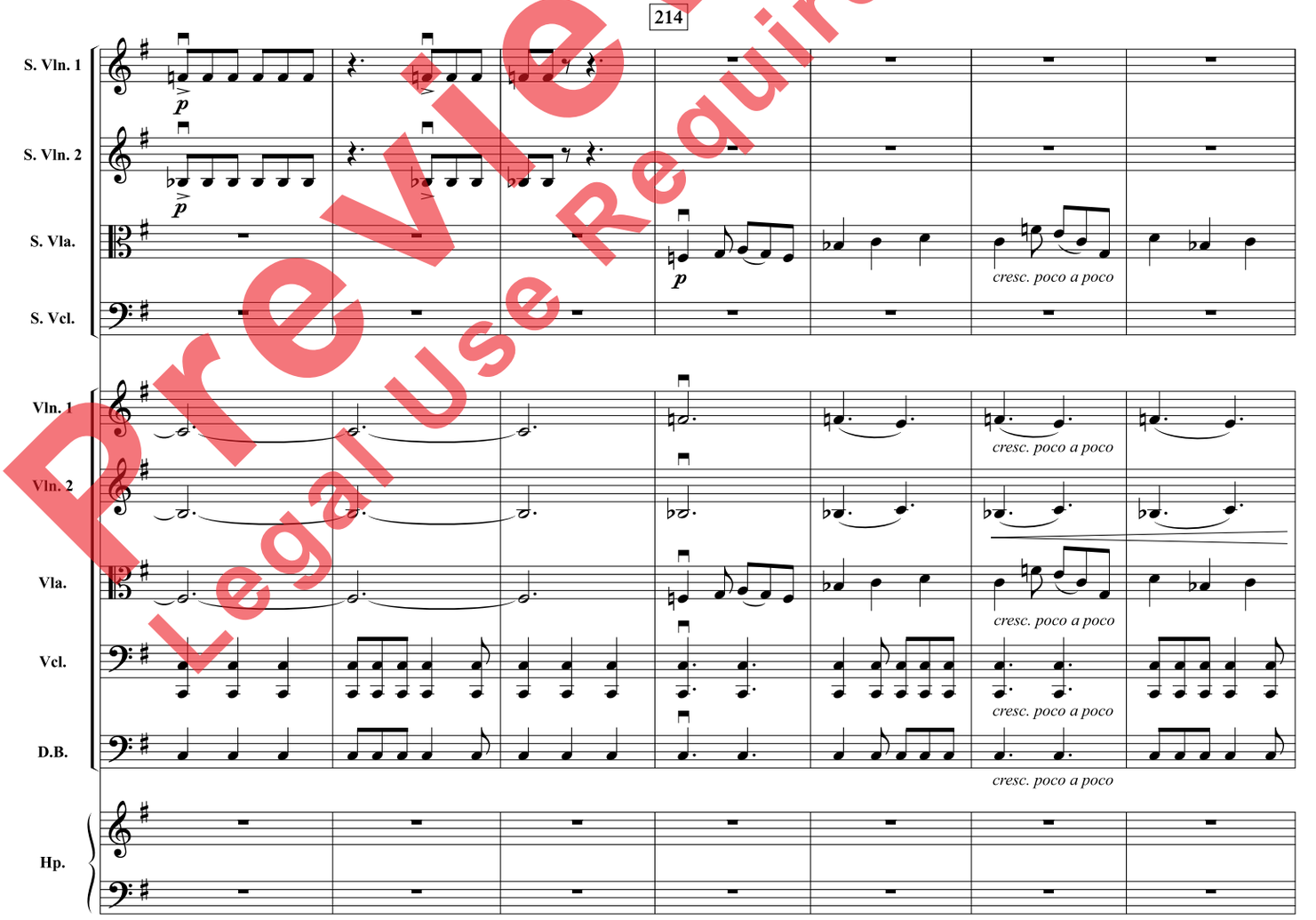

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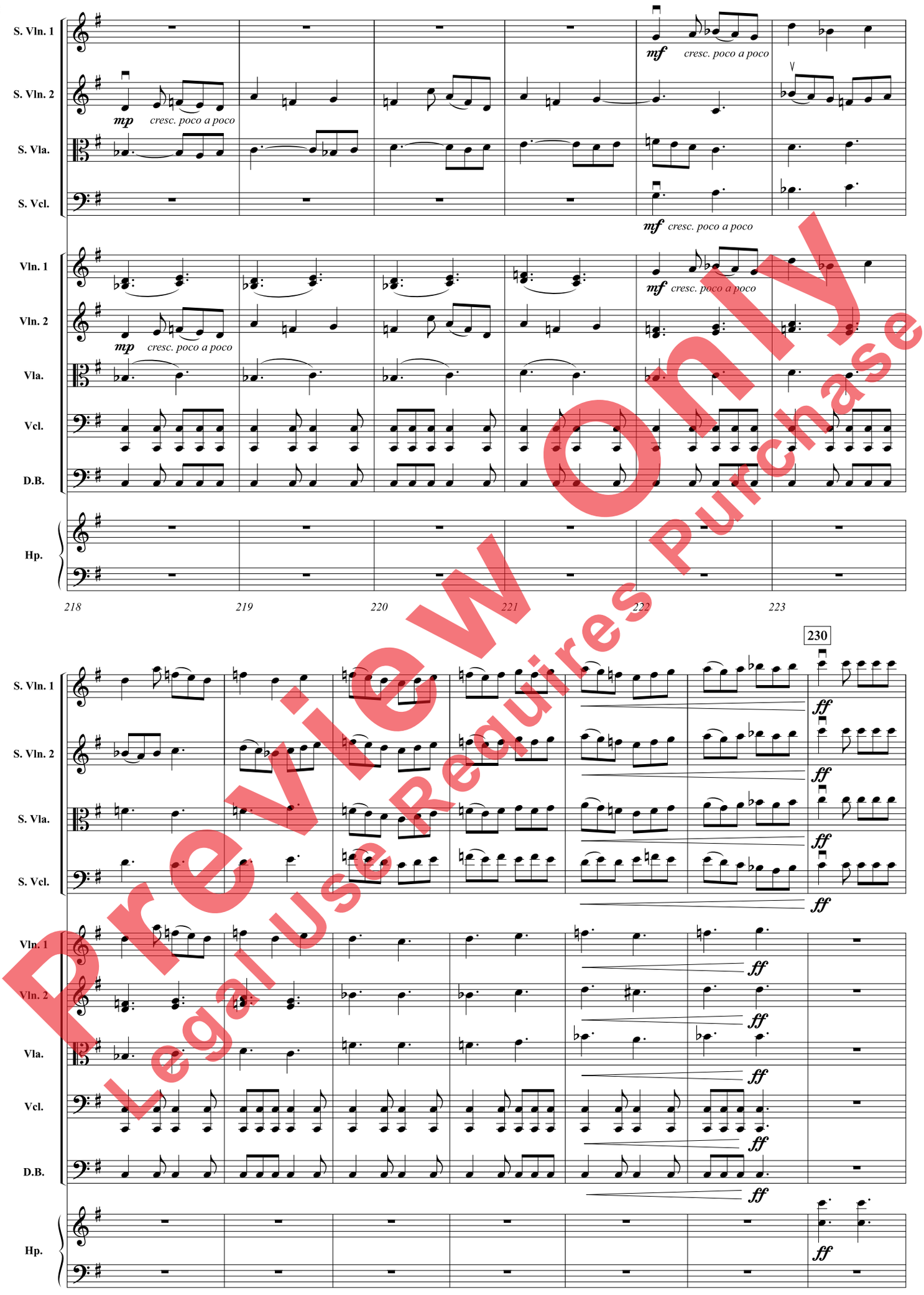

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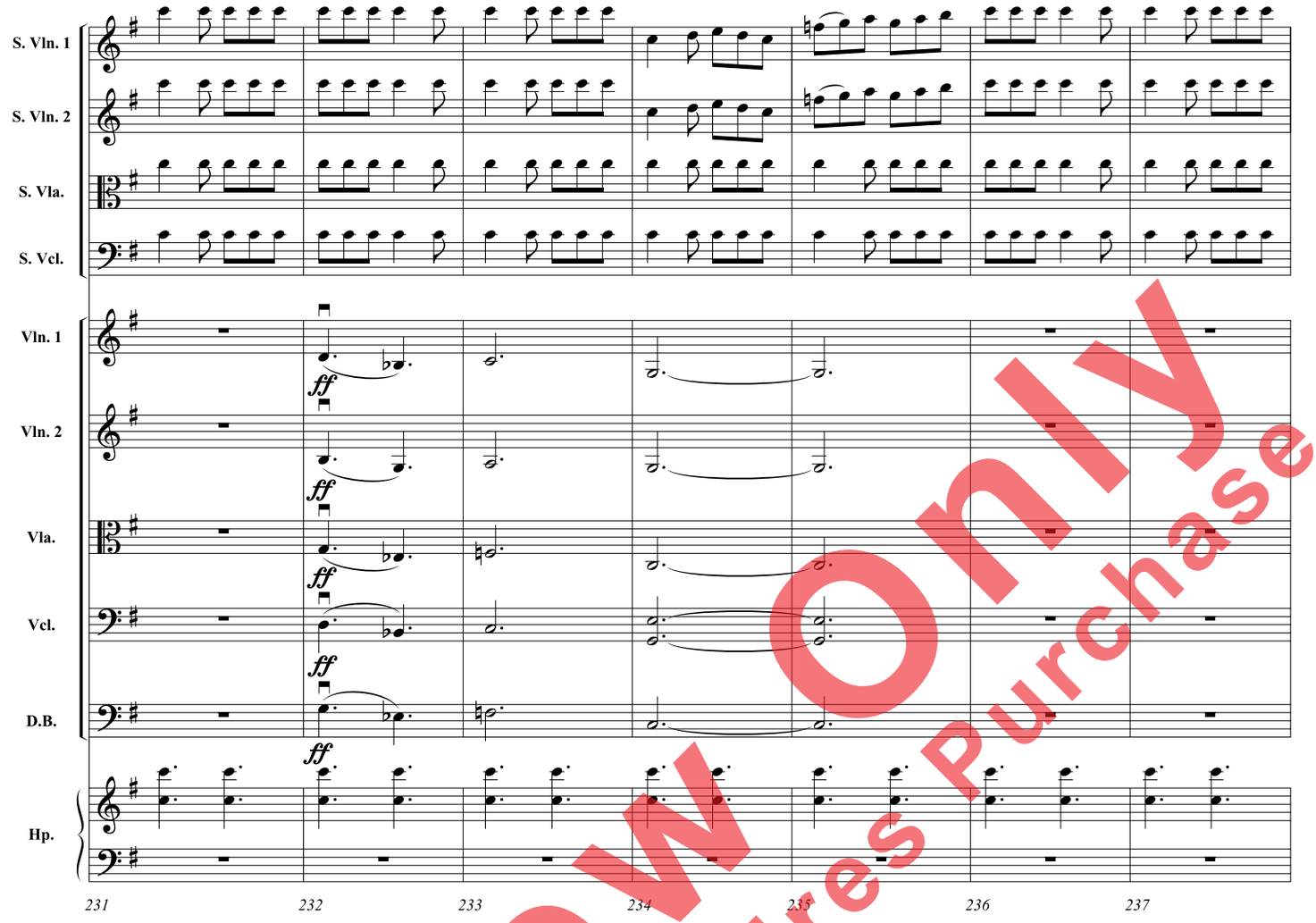

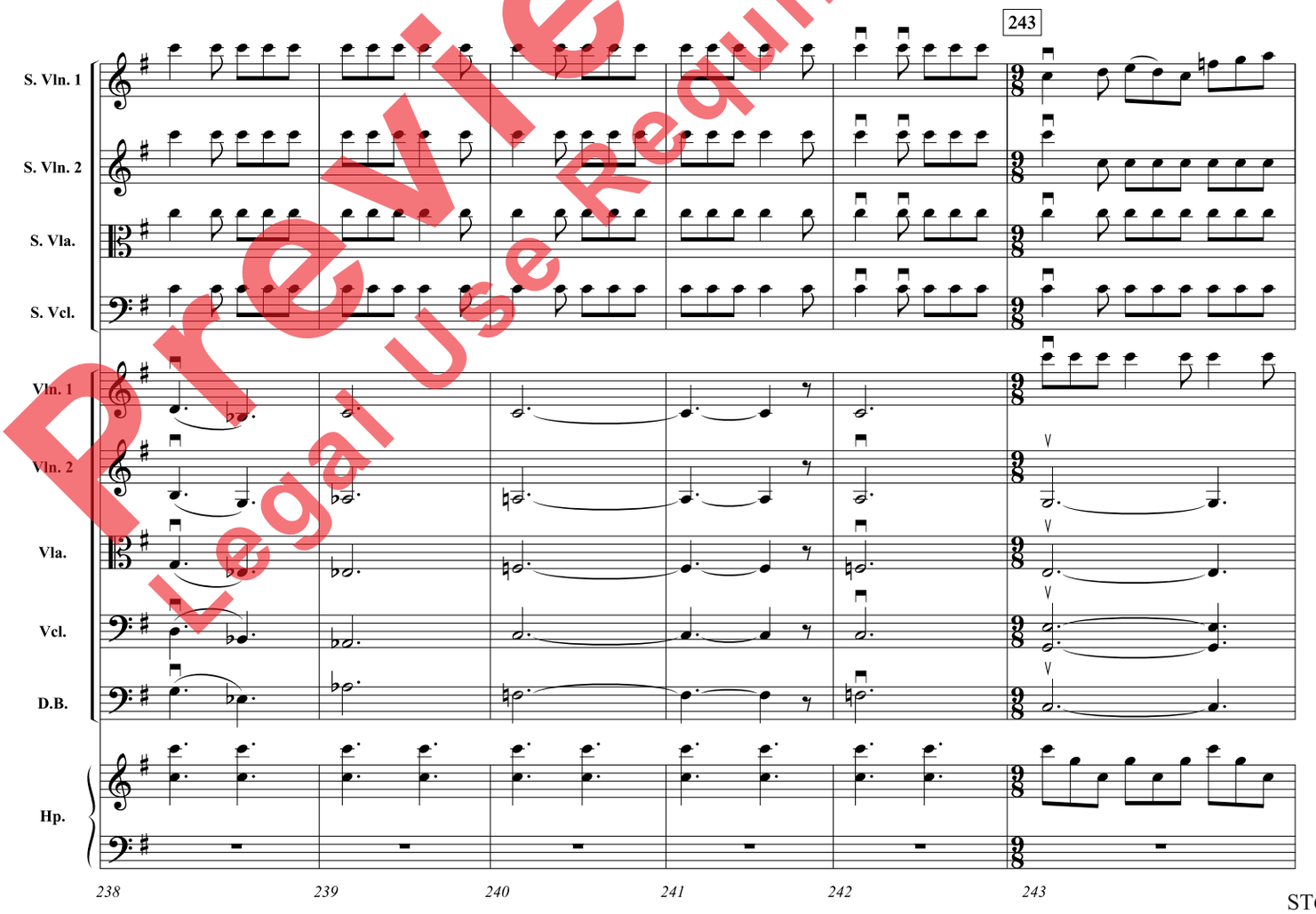

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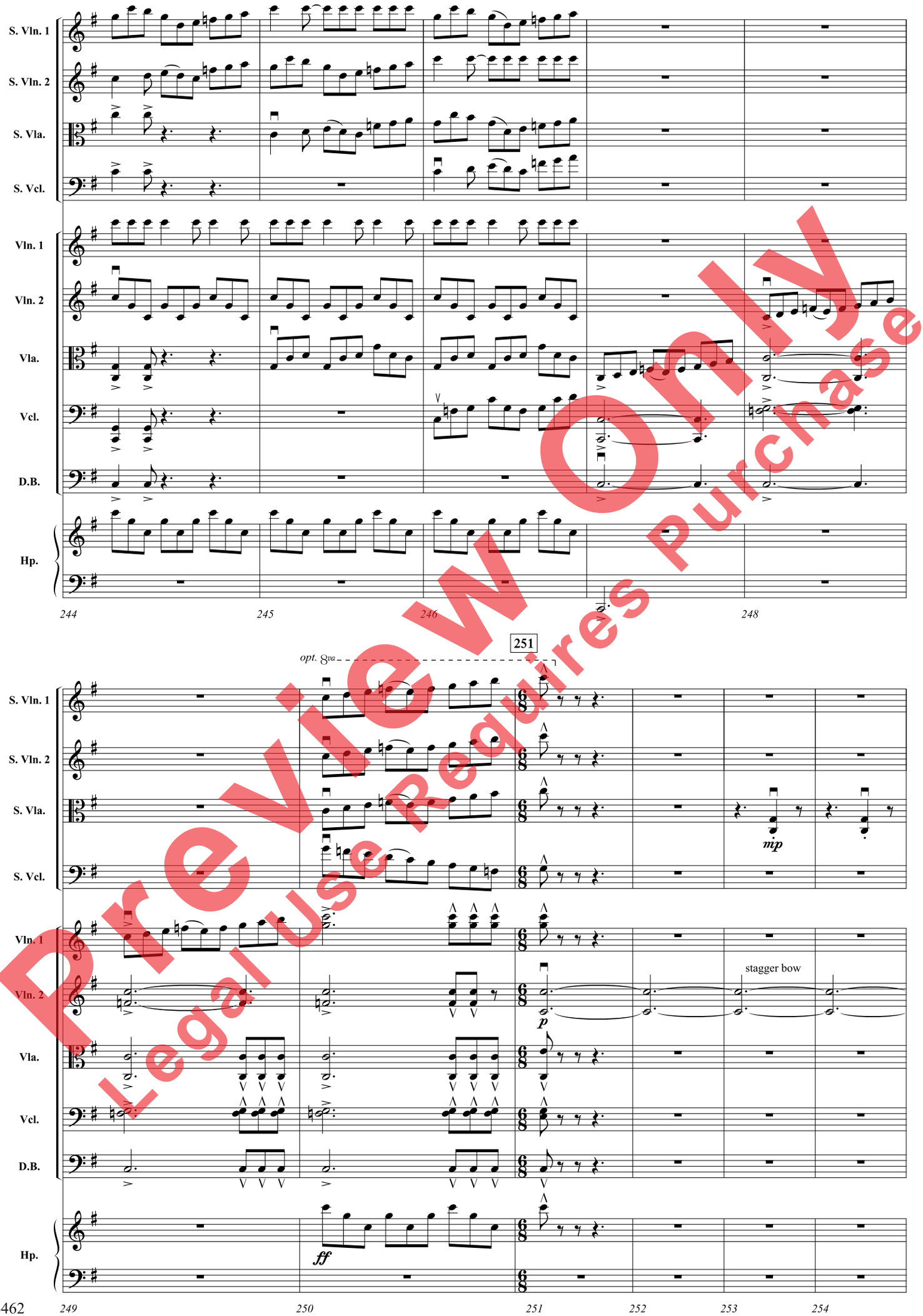

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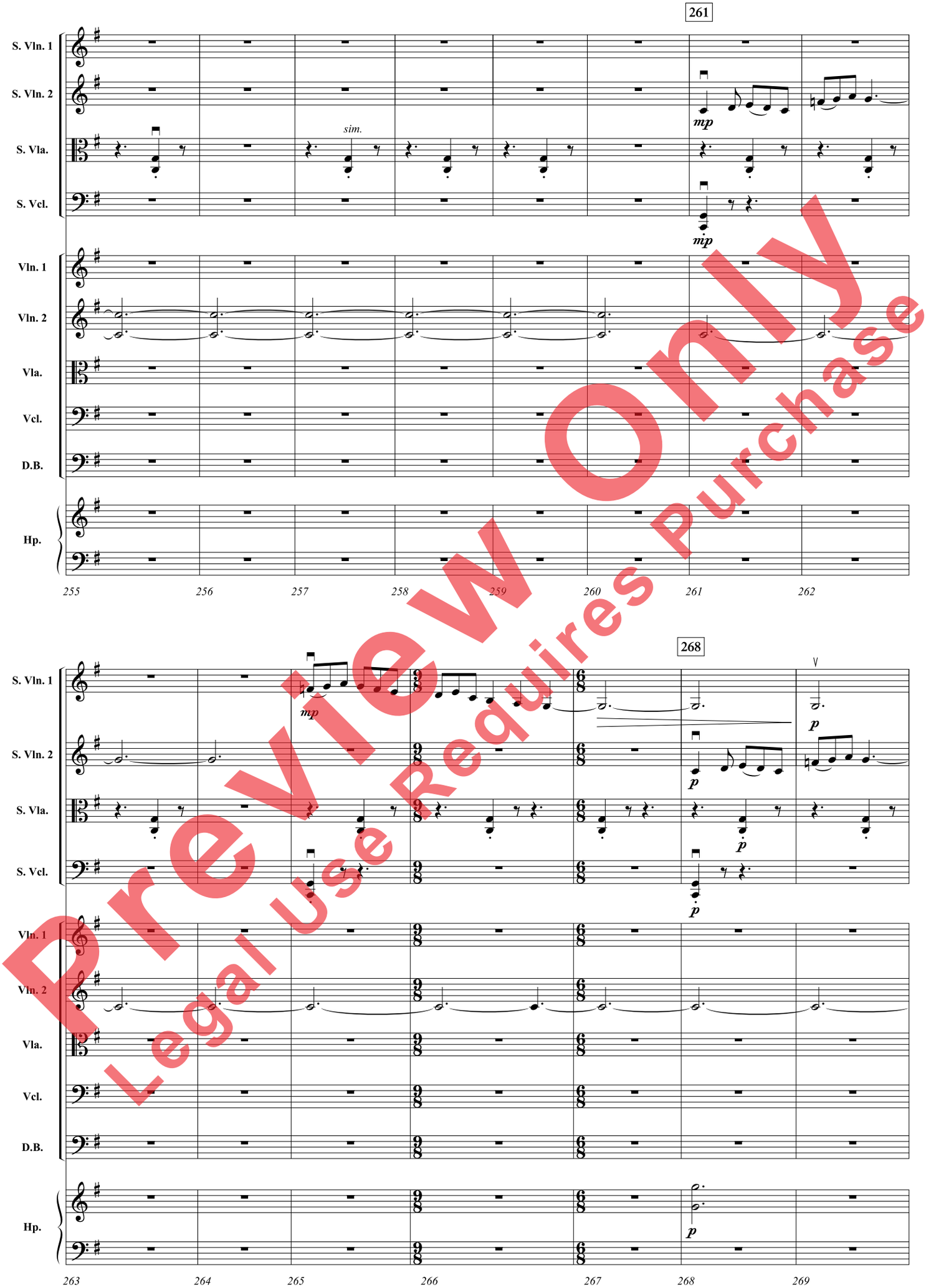

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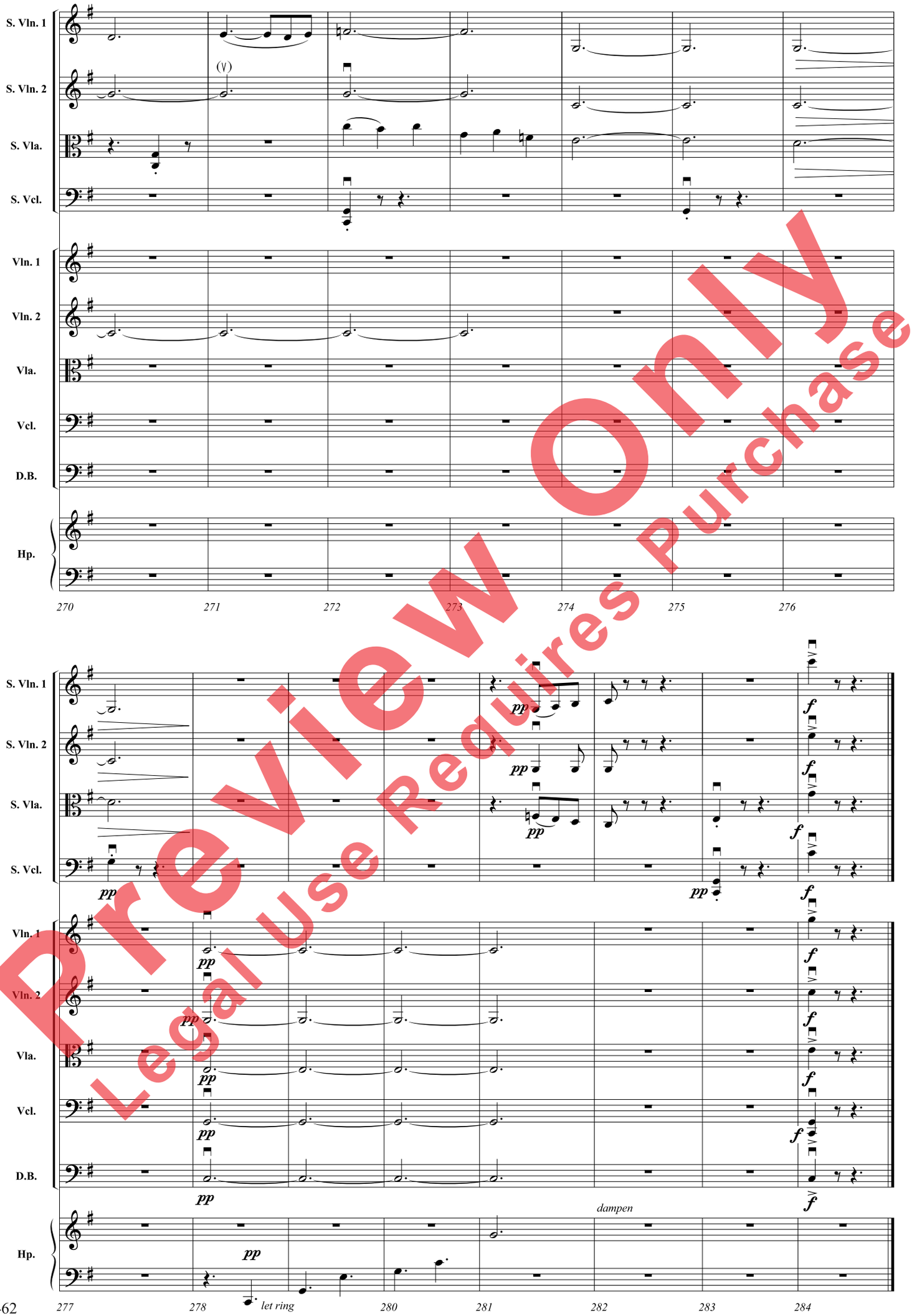

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