SO **FJH STRING ORCHESTRA**

Grade 4
ST6467

PRELUDE TO DIE MEISTERSINGER

RICHARD WAGNER

Arranged by

Robert D. McCashin

Instrumentation

1 - Conductor's Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2
5 - Viola
5 - Violoncello
5 - Double Bass

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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

2525 Davie Road, Suite 360
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33317-7424
www.fjhmusic.com

The Arranger

Robert D. McCashin, DMA, is Professor Emeritus and former Director of Orchestras and Professor of Conducting at James Madison University. He recently retired from academe after a 43-year career of conducting and applied string teaching at the college/university level. He was awarded JMU's Distinguished Teacher Award for the College of Visual and Performing Arts in 2015. From 1992 through 2016, Dr. McCashin was Music Director for the JMU Symphony, Chamber Orchestra and Opera Orchestra. He taught all relevant orchestral conducting and academic courses within the MM and DMA orchestral conducting curricular core, as well as applied studio strings.

Dr. McCashin, a violinist, has been a successful writer and arranger of educational publications, having now published some 90 works for the Grade I through V educational performance levels. He has been a regular guest conductor for a variety of orchestral ensembles, including regional and all-state orchestras across the U.S. as well as regional professional orchestras. He has been invited to present more than 30 conducting workshops and seminars for national and state level teacher conferences throughout the U.S. Dr. McCashin is a Founder, Past President and former National Board member for the College Orchestra Directors Association.

About the Music

At first glance, *Die Meistersinger* is a comic drama about a medieval song contest, where good prevails over evil. Delving a bit deeper, however, we see that it is a story about Wagner unmasking one of his critics, Eduard Hanslick, a famous German-Austrian music critic who hated the music of Wagner, but was most favorable to Brahms and Schumann. Wagner broke strongly from tradition in replacing the overture with the prelude and calling his staged works music-dramas, rather than operas. It is highly likely that Wagner enjoyed the inside joke, excoriating his critic/detractor, that he staged for all to see!

The basic storyline for the music-drama is about the Guild of the Mastersingers, who purported to preserve the highest levels of music tradition. The prize, for the winner of the Summer Song contest, is the hand of Eva—the very attractive daughter of the town's goldsmith. In the end, it is the more modern contestant, Walther (possibly representing Wagner?), who wins. The *Prelude to Die Meistersinger* is a world-renowned work, which contains four primary themes from the staged work: a march and then a fanfare, with a third melodic portion that represents the lovely Eva, and the fourth, poking fun at the Masters.

- Dr. Robert McCashin

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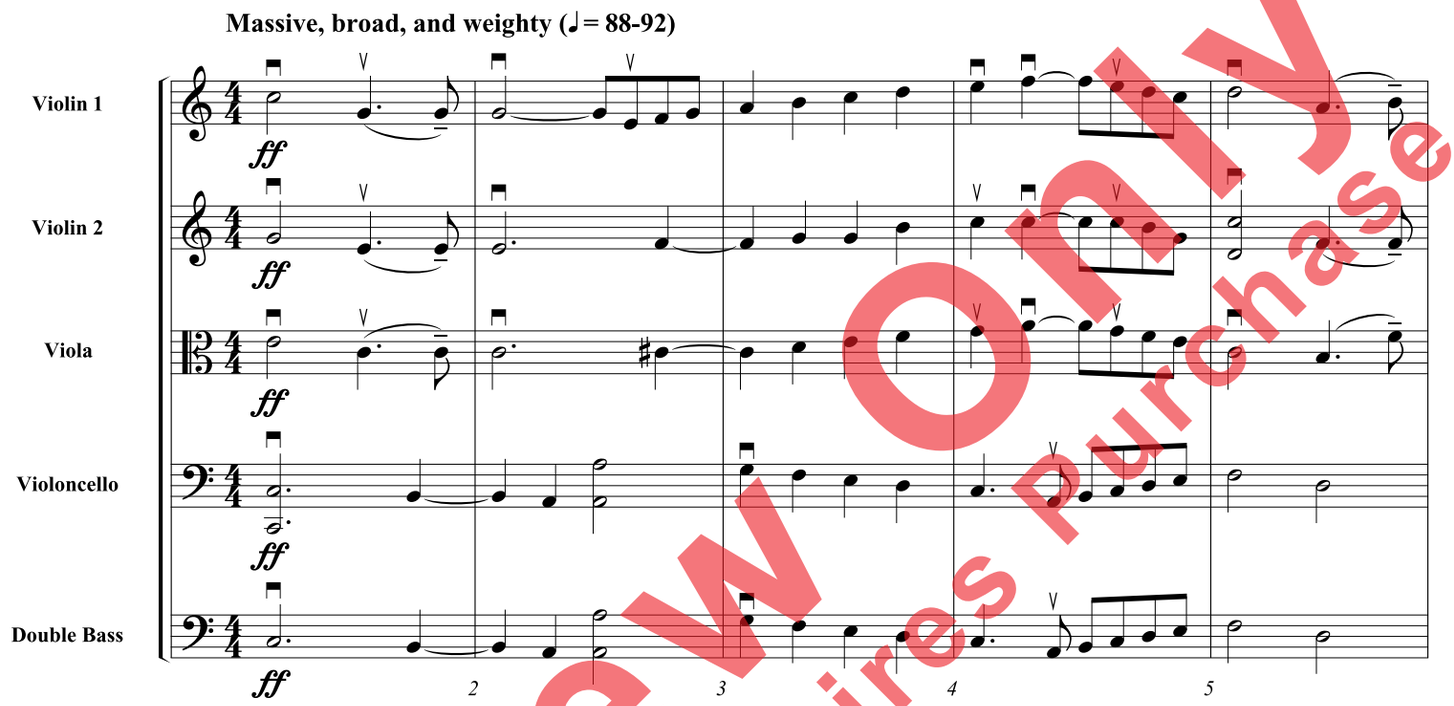
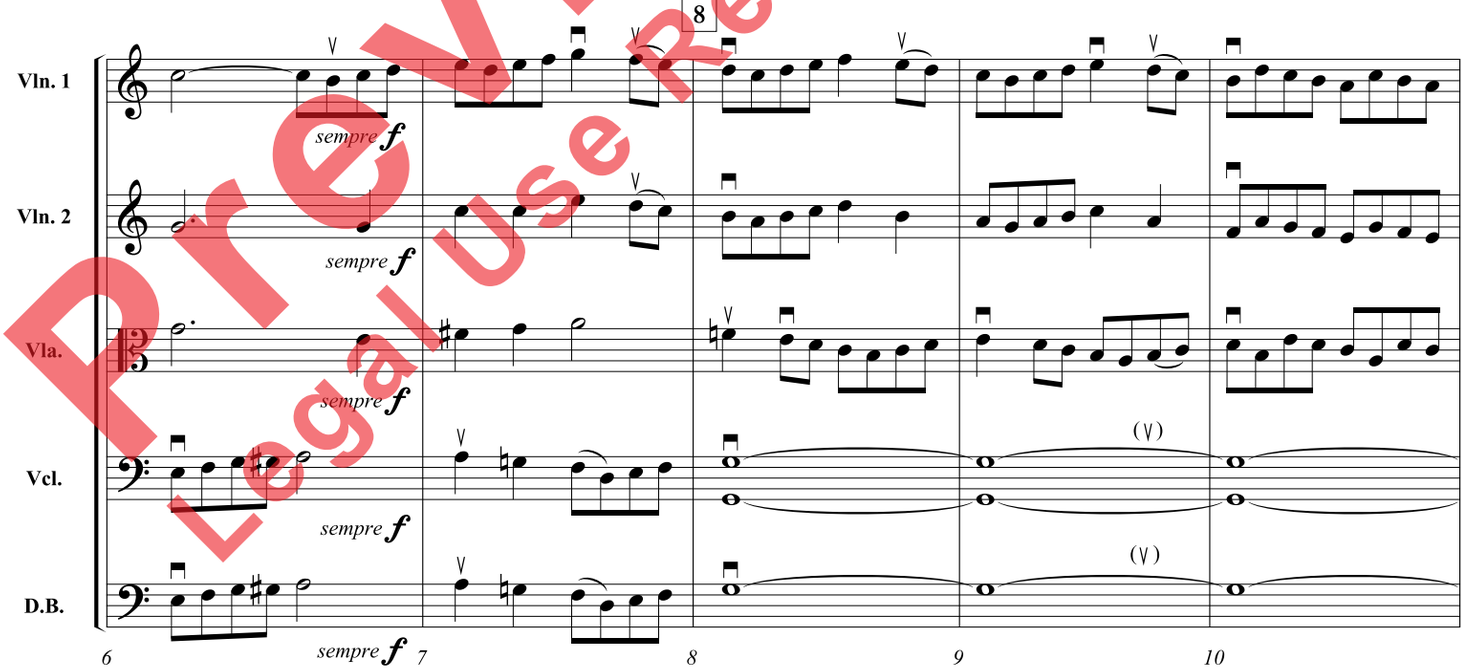
Duration: 3:30

PRELUDE TO DIE MEISTERSINGER

RICHARD WAGNER
Arranged by
ROBERT D. McCASHIN
(ASCAP)





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MP3
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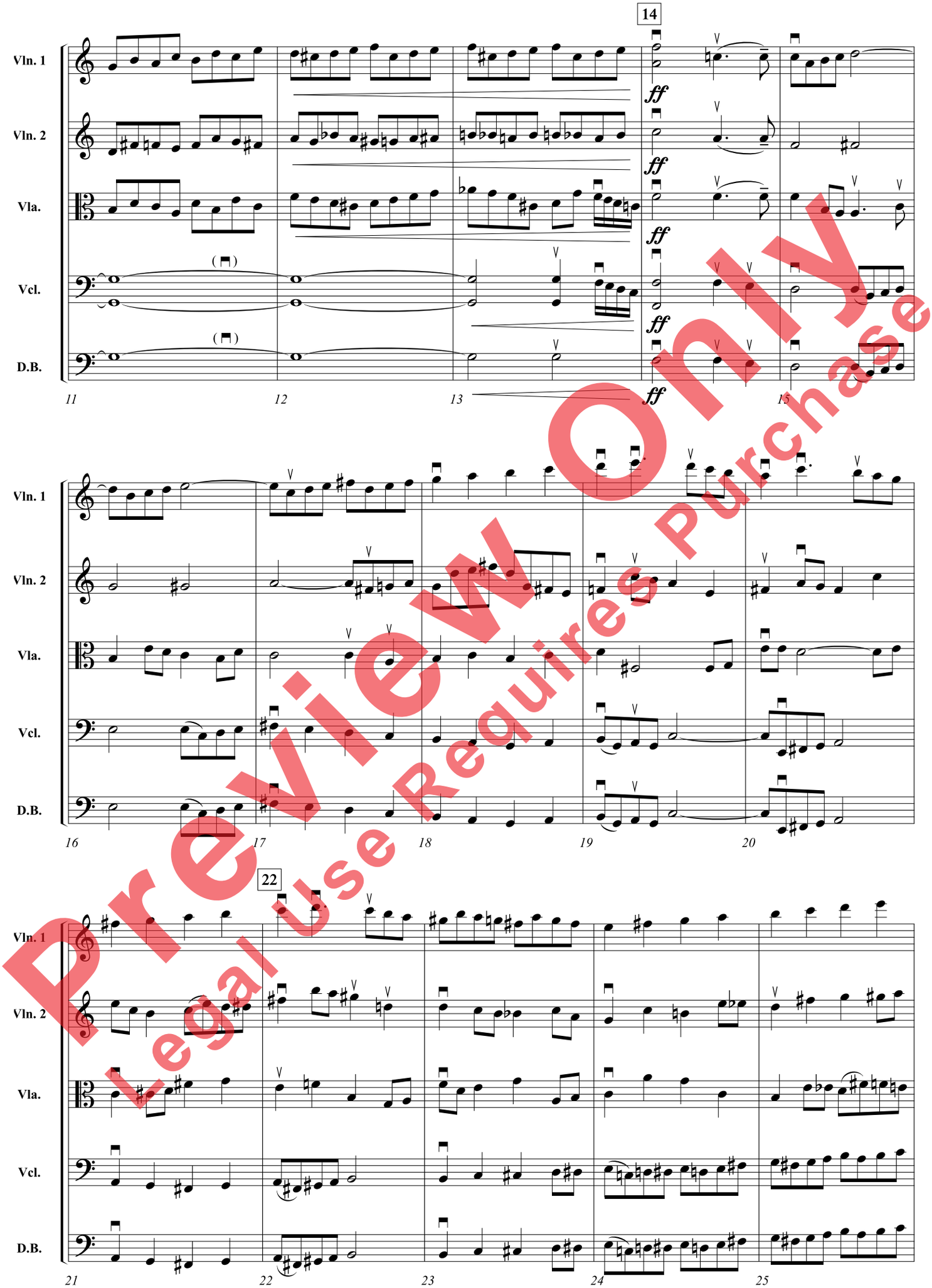

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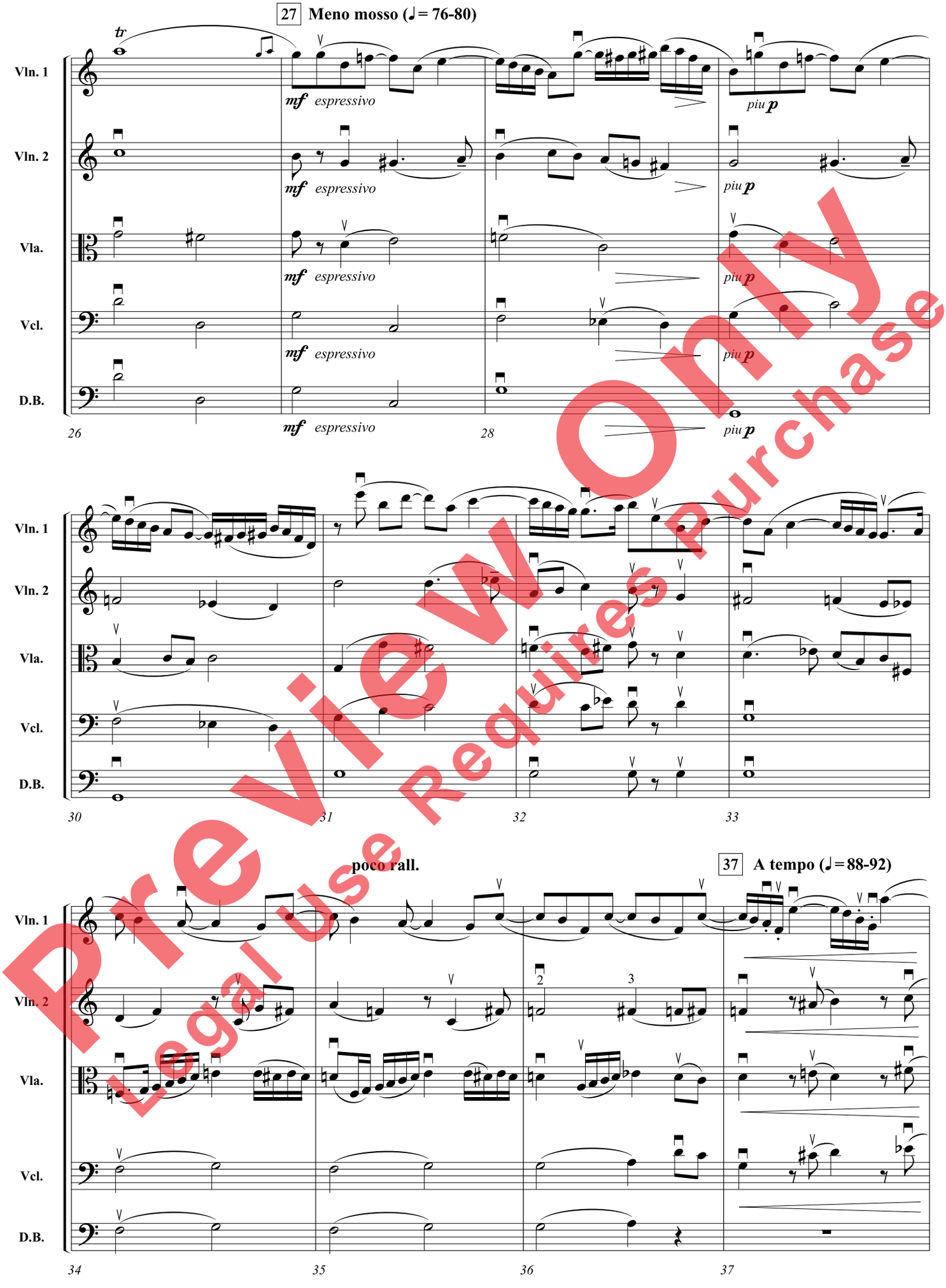

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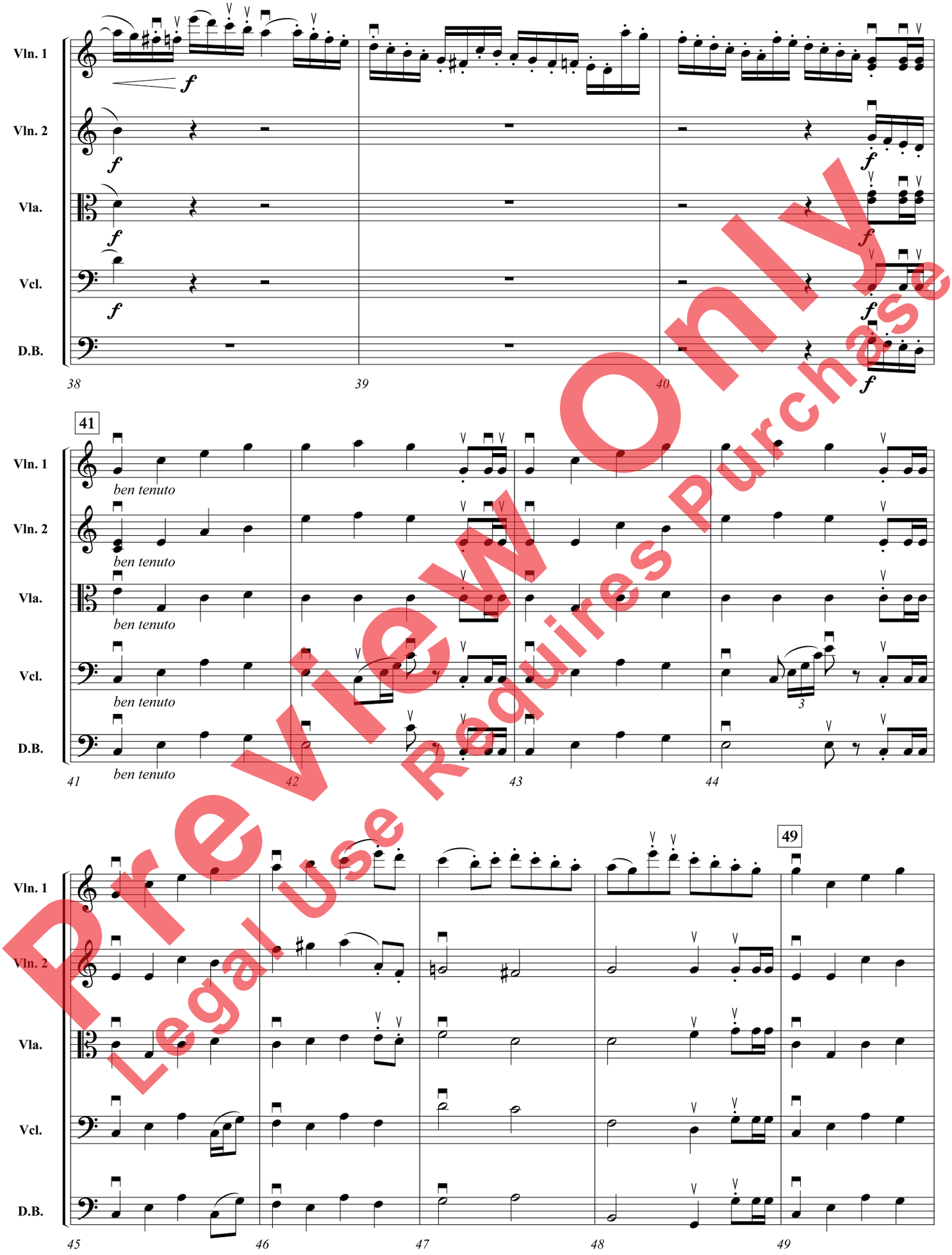

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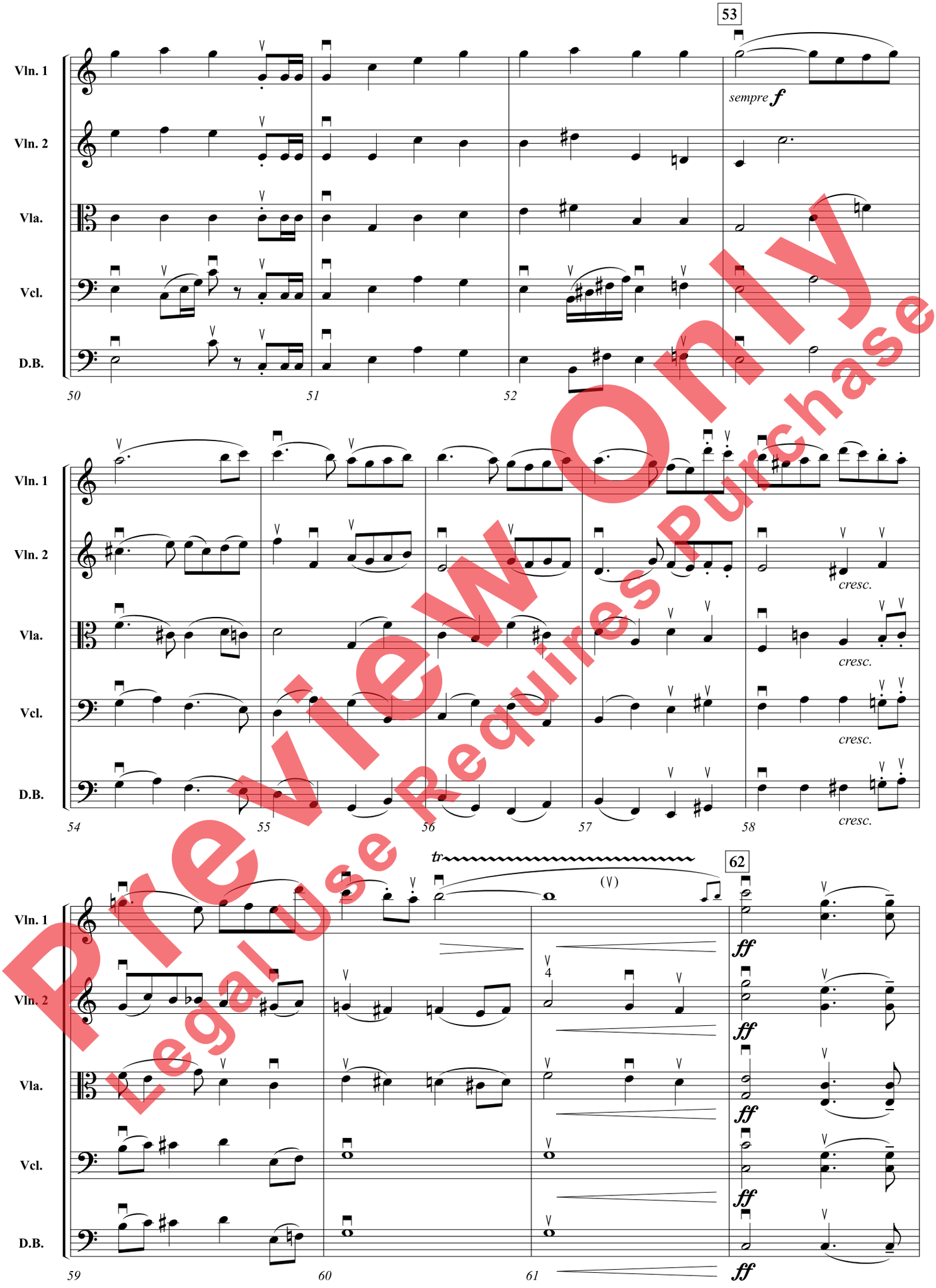

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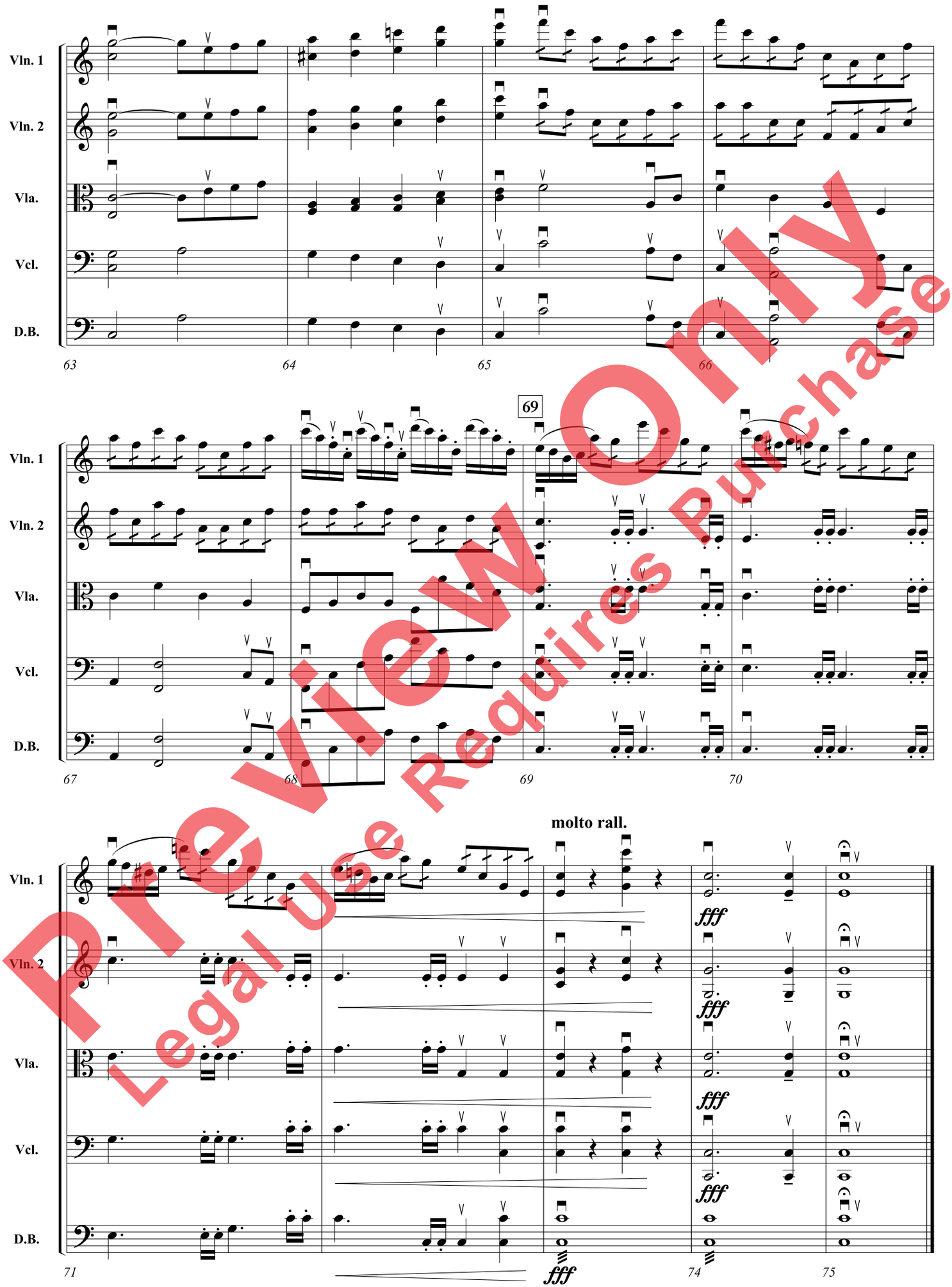

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