NOCTURNE

From *String Quartet No. 2*

Alexander Borodin

Arranged by Andrew H. Dabczynski

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INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
String Bass	5

In this arrangement of one of the most popular tunes in all of classical music, the marvelous melodies, counterpoint, and textures of Borodin's original composition remain, but are technically approachable, with options to accommodate varied abilities. This is a showpiece that performers and audiences will long remember.

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Please note: Our band and orchestra music is now being collated by an automatic high-speed system. The enclosed parts are now sorted by page count, rather than score order.

Program Notes

Russian composer Alexander Borodin (1833–1887) originally composed his famous "Nocturne" in 1881 as the third movement of his *String Quartet No. 2*. He wrote the work after returning to life as a musician following a successful career as an accomplished physician and chemist. Borodin dedicated the quartet to his wife, and the "Nocturne" movement is said to be a remembrance of their courtship in Heidelburg, Germany.

Notes to the Conductor

Throughout the arrangement, *divisi* options—usually indicated with small "cue" notes—are provided as simplified alternatives in technically challenging sections. Whenever possible, the original, larger-note option is recommended in order to maintain clarity in scoring. As the piece begins, the syncopated and pulsating rhythm (2nd violin/viola/bass) should be audible, but not played staccato or loudly (the challenging hooked bowing may be played *detaché* at the tip of the bow). Throughout the initial presentation of the primary theme (beginning mm. 3–10, repeated), attention should be paid to articulations and dynamic levels, especially the hairpin swells that give direction and depth to the canonic voices. In the transition sections (mm. 17–18, 1st vln, and subsequently in other voices), the scales should be played off-the-string, if possible, whenever it appears. The 2nd violin accompaniment tremolo (mm. 19–26, repeated) should be performed quietly, at the tip of the bow, while coordinating with the steady, interlocking pizzicato eighth note line in the celli and basses. The final two measures of the famous main theme provide the material for the coda (mm. 52–59), traded among the upper four voices of the orchestra. The final held note fades to silence.

This arrangement is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Robert S. Frost (1942–2013), a superb arranger/composer, and champion of string teaching and orchestra performance.

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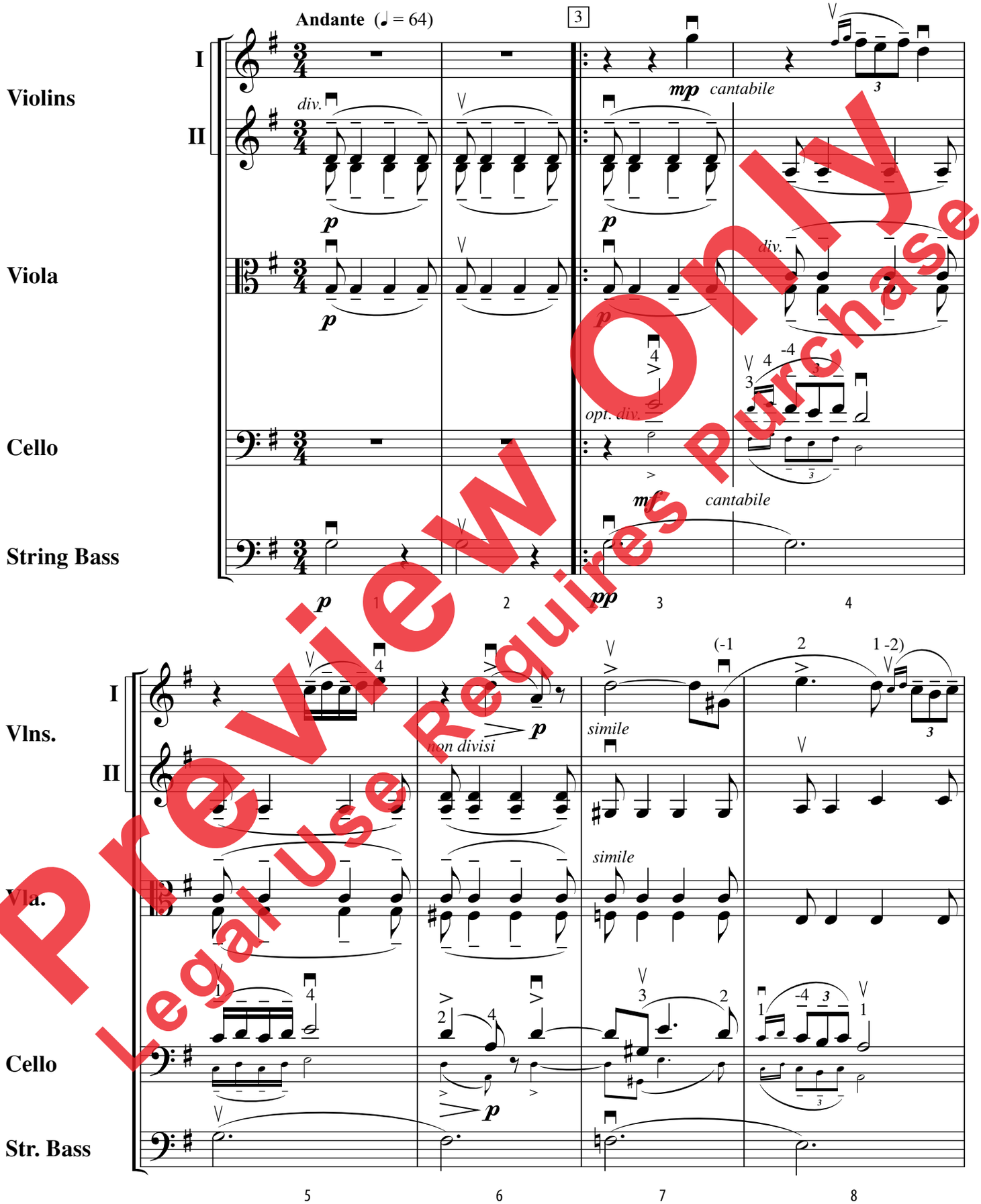
Dedicated to the memory of Dr. Robert S. Frost (1942-2013)

Nocturne

From *String Quartet No. 2*

CONDUCTOR SCORE
Duration - 3:15

Alexander Borodin
Arranged by Andrew H. Dabczynski



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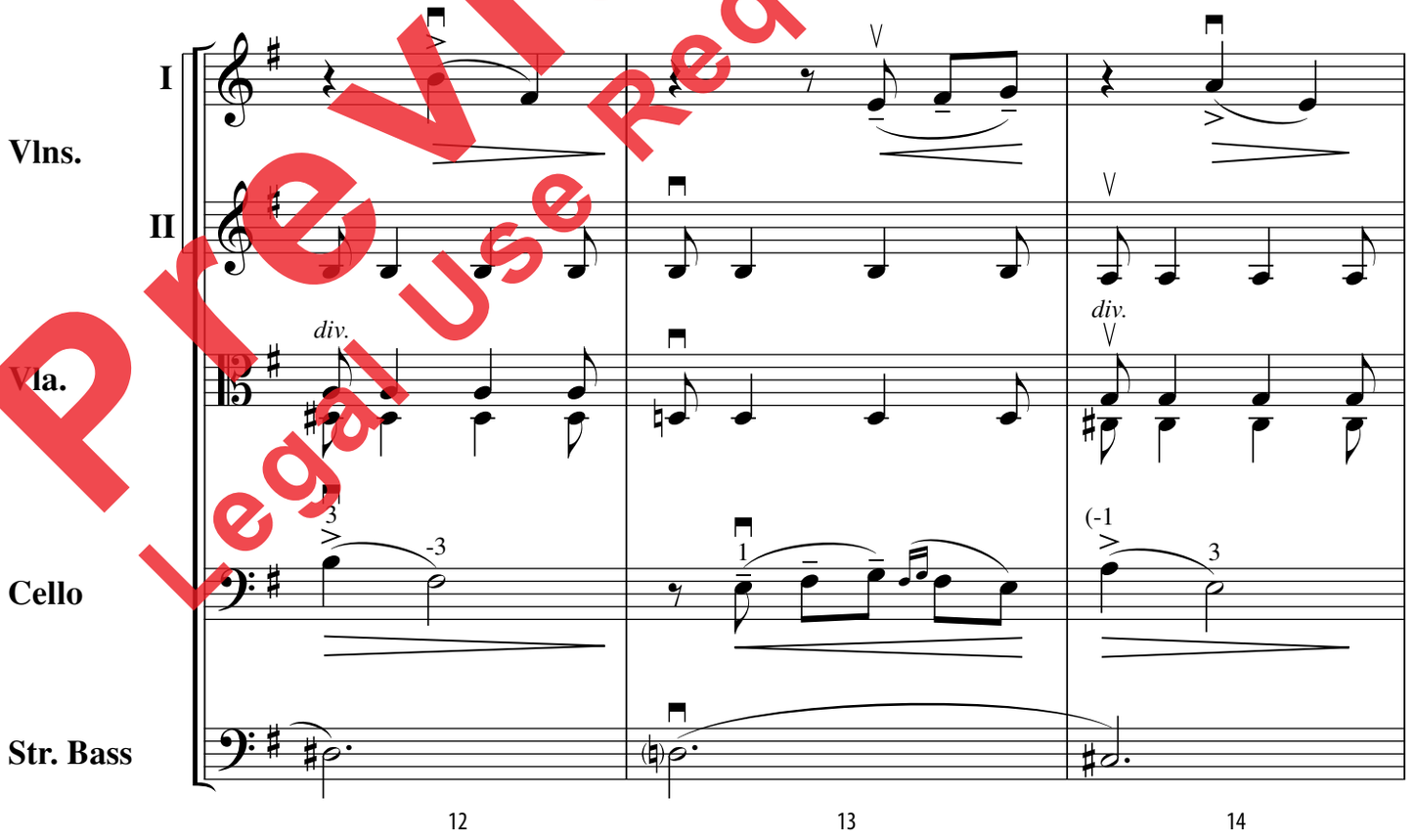

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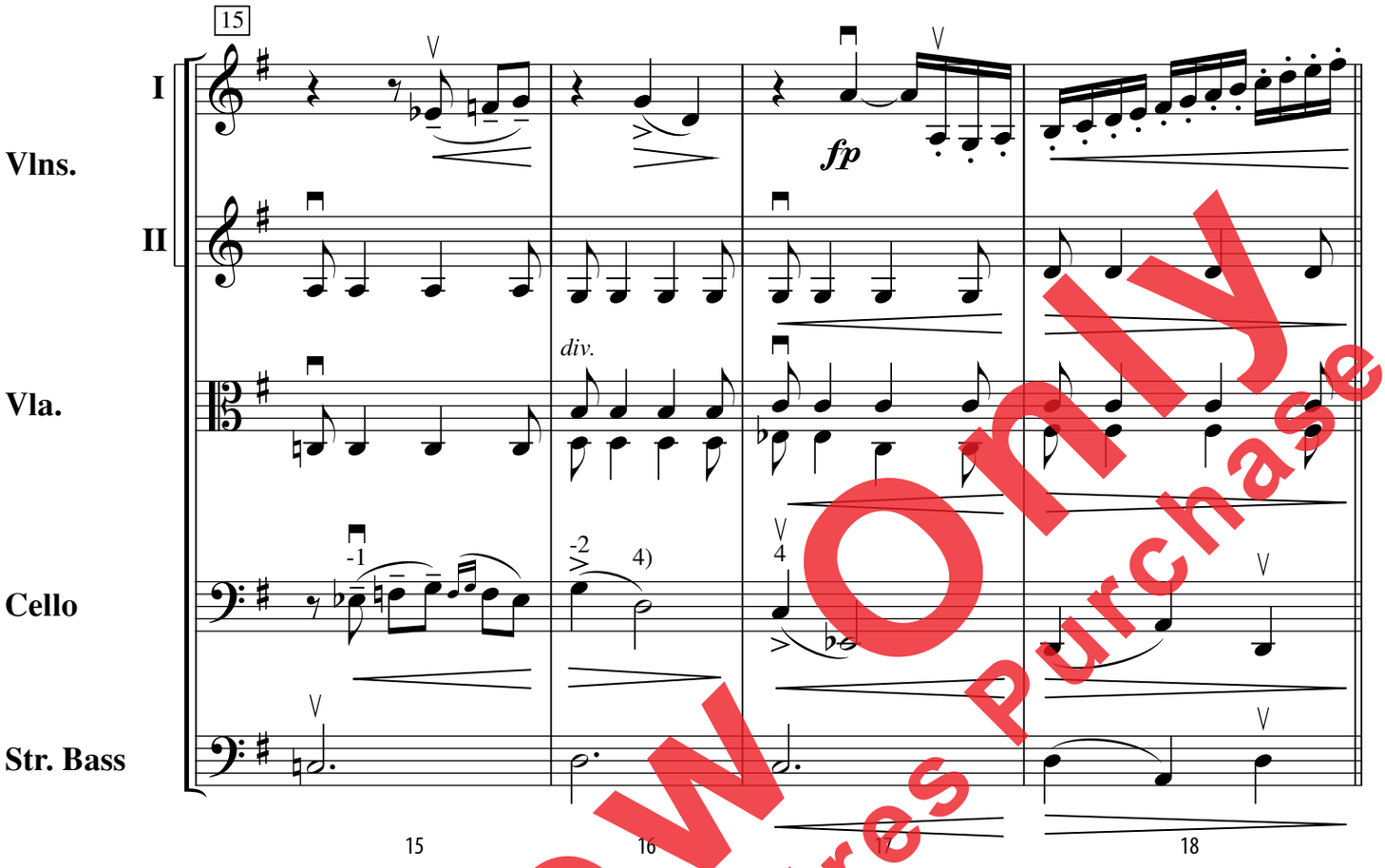

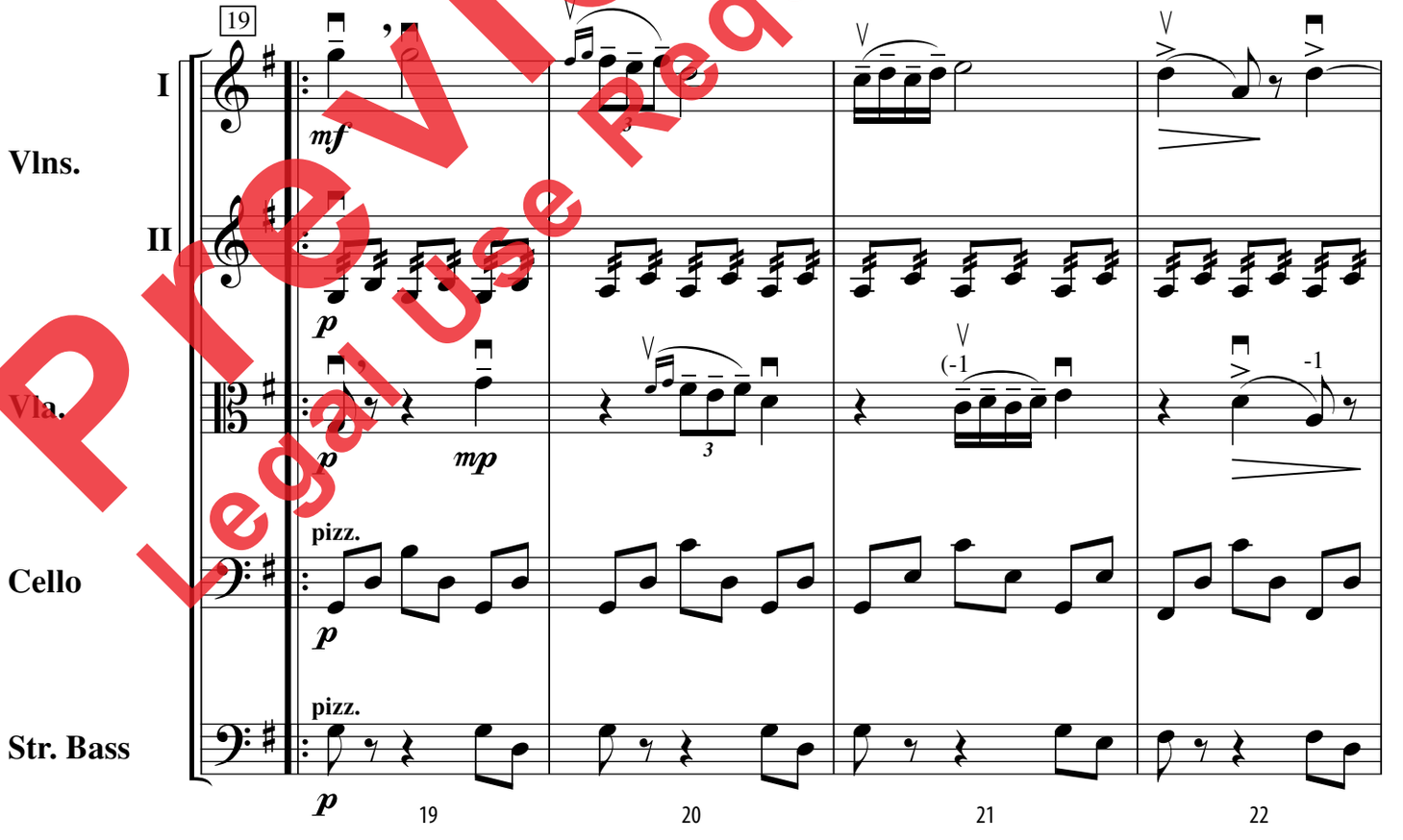

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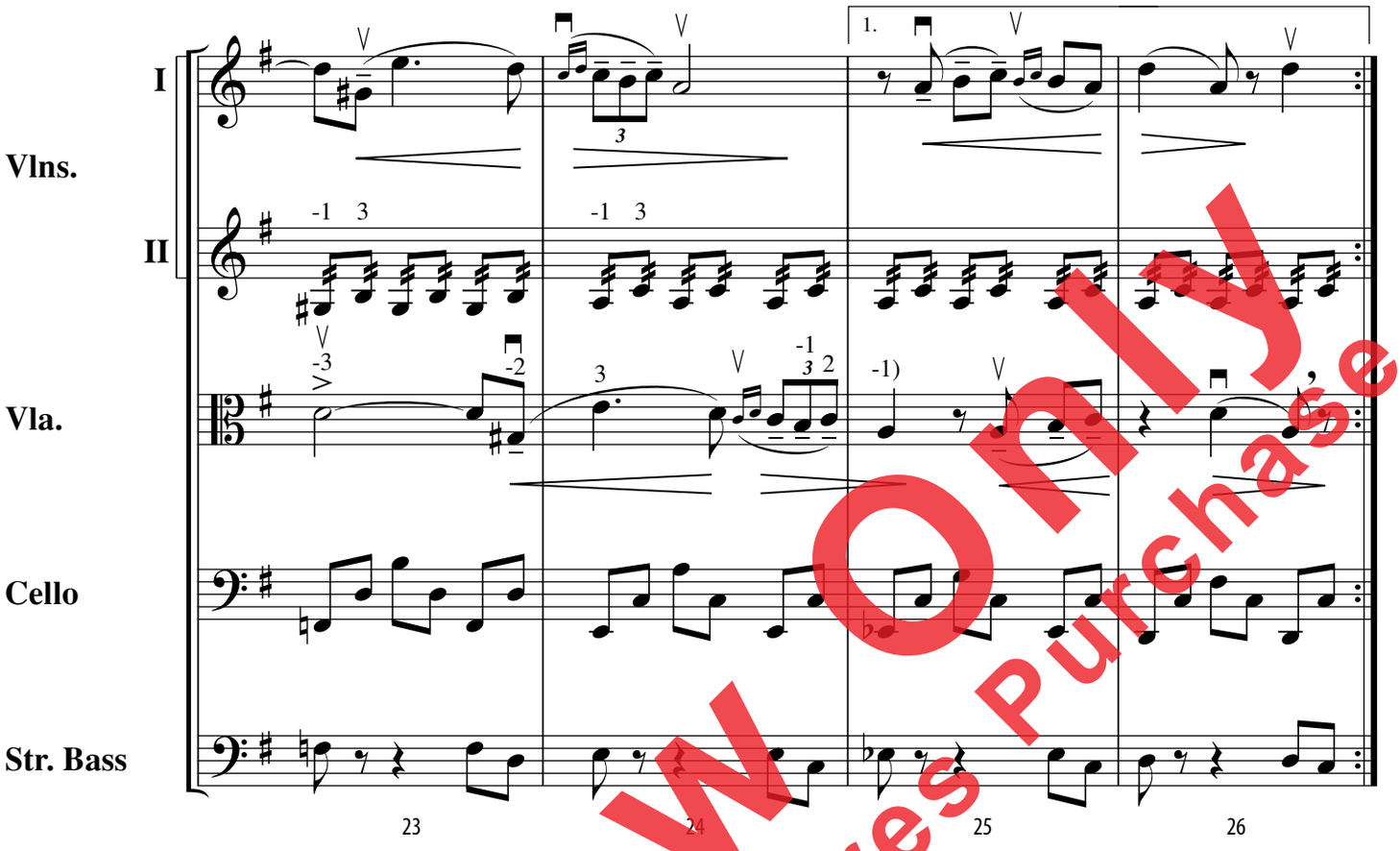

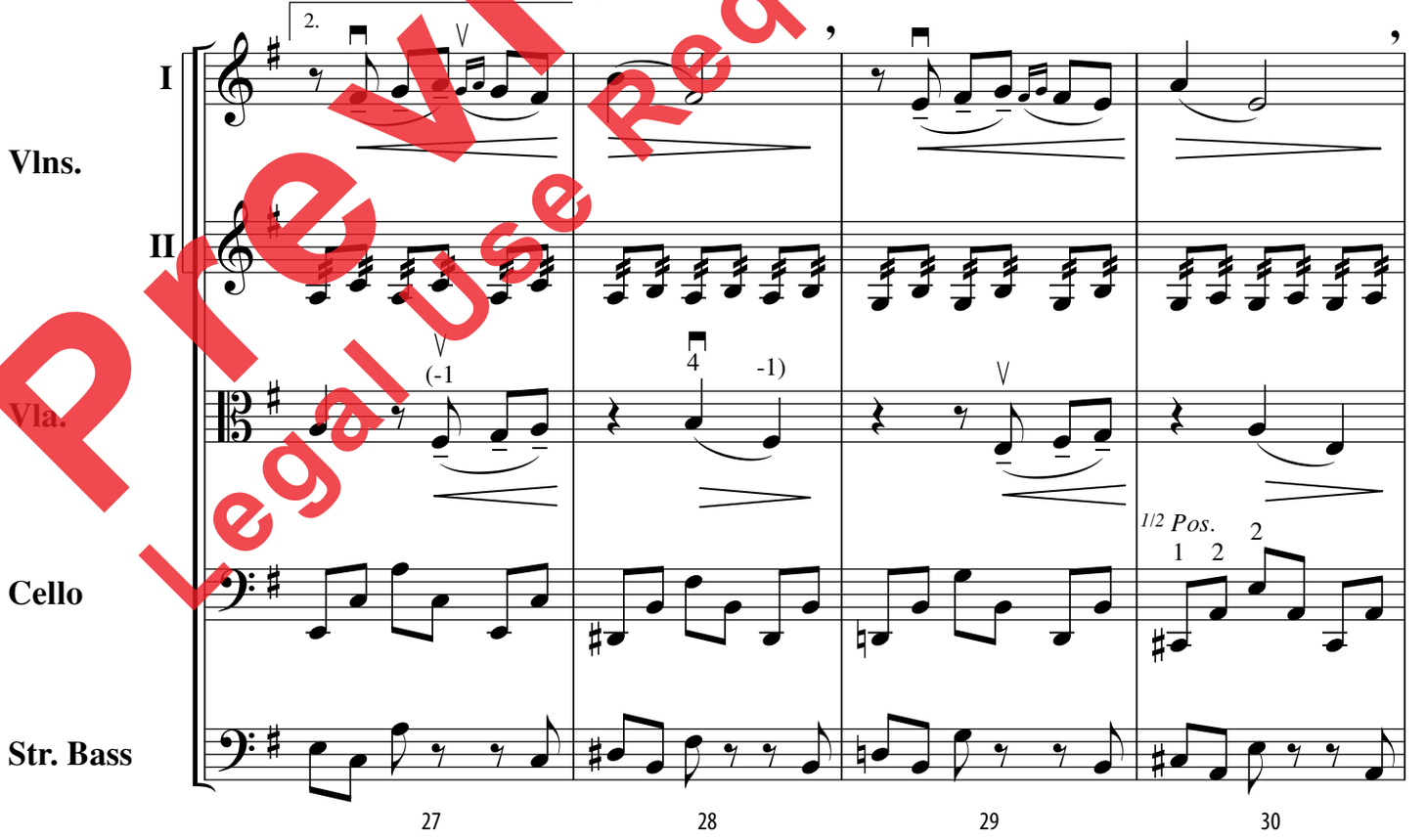

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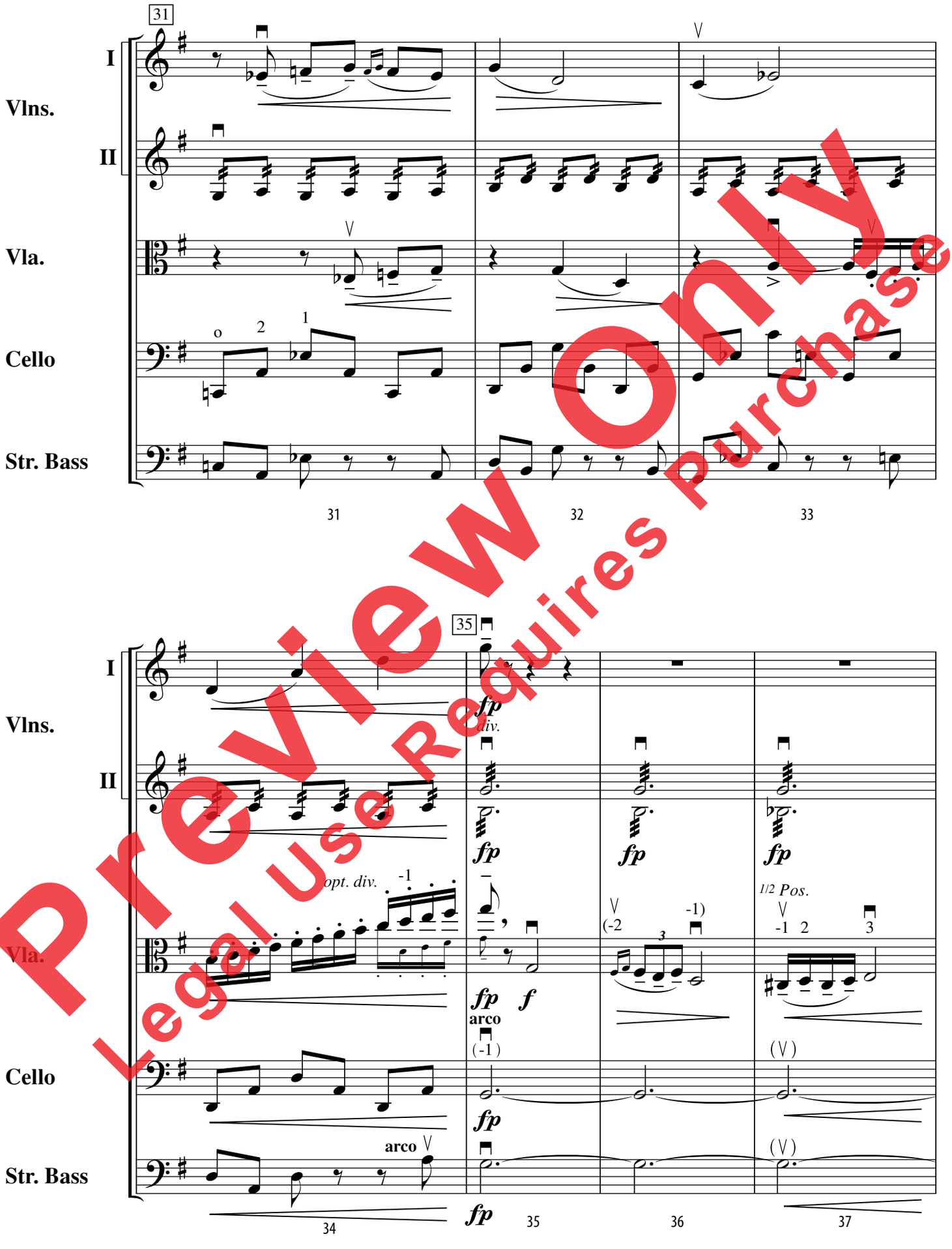

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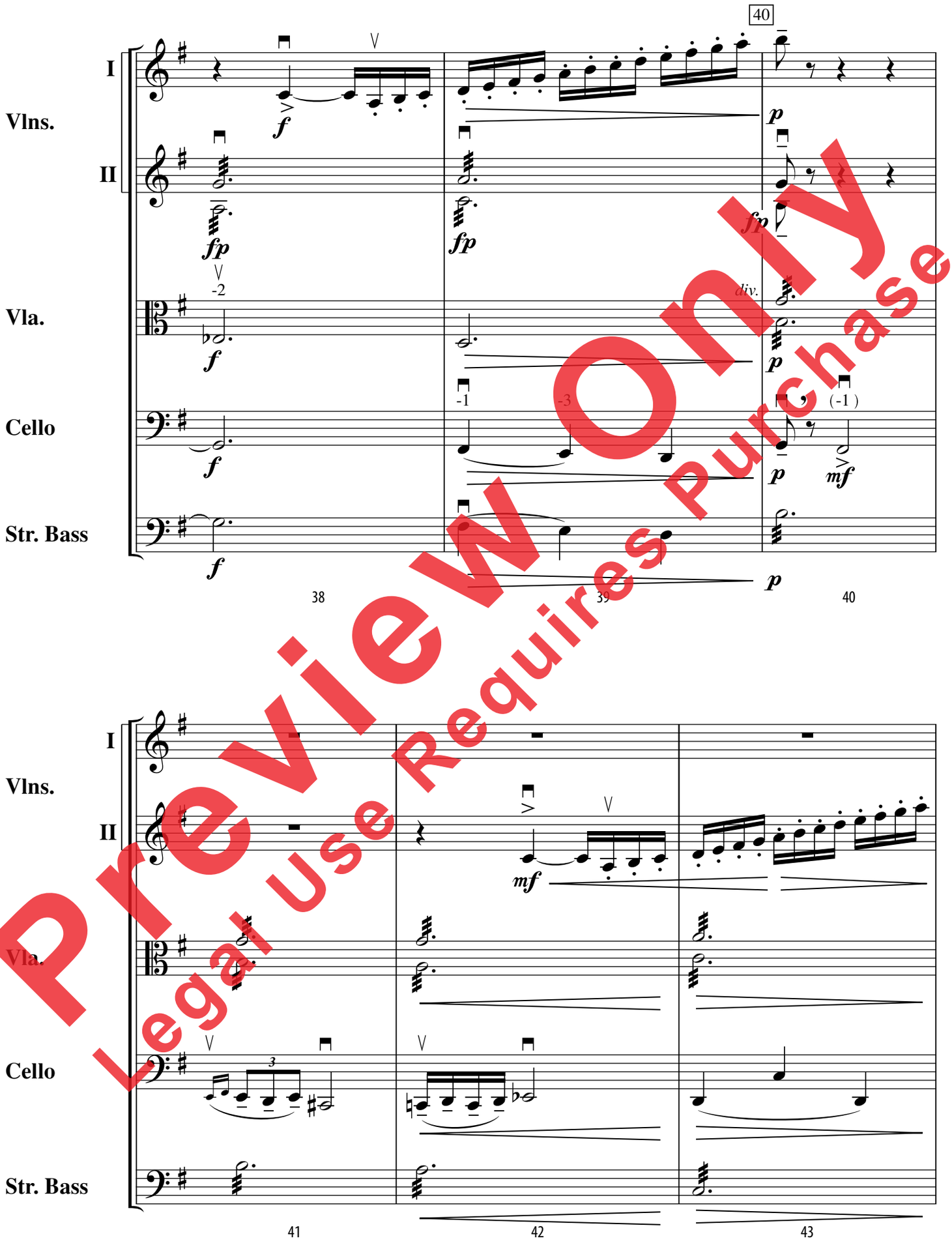

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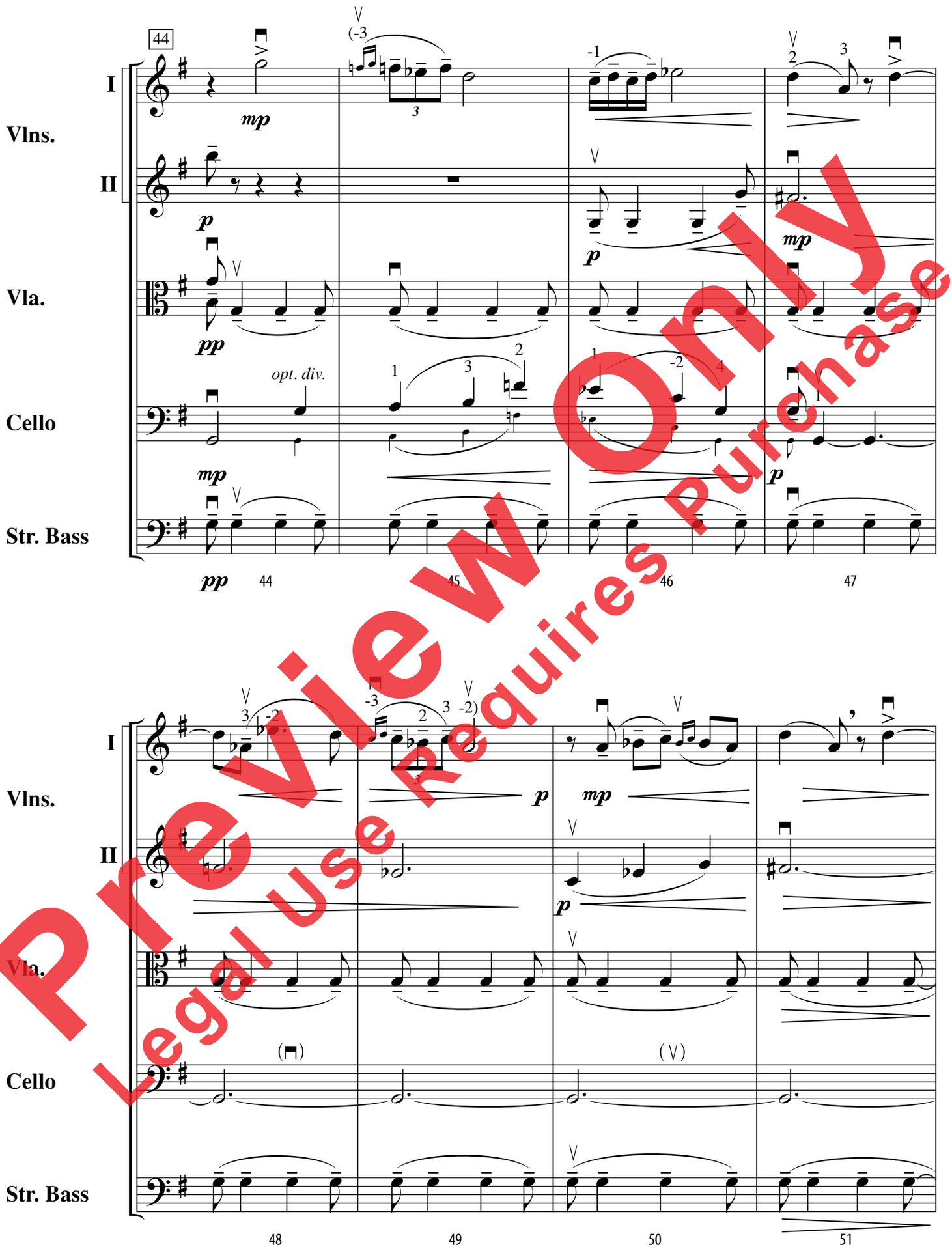

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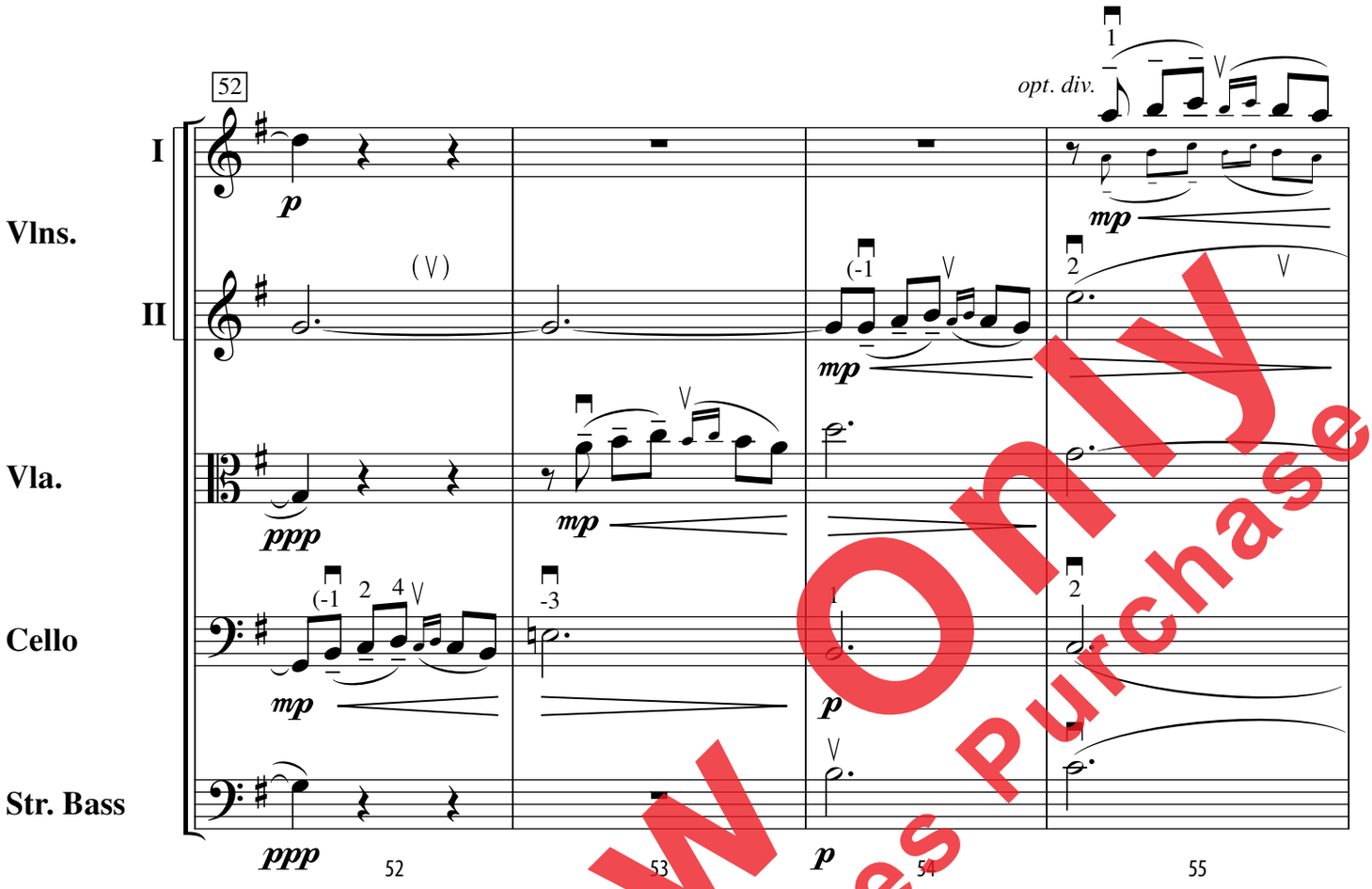

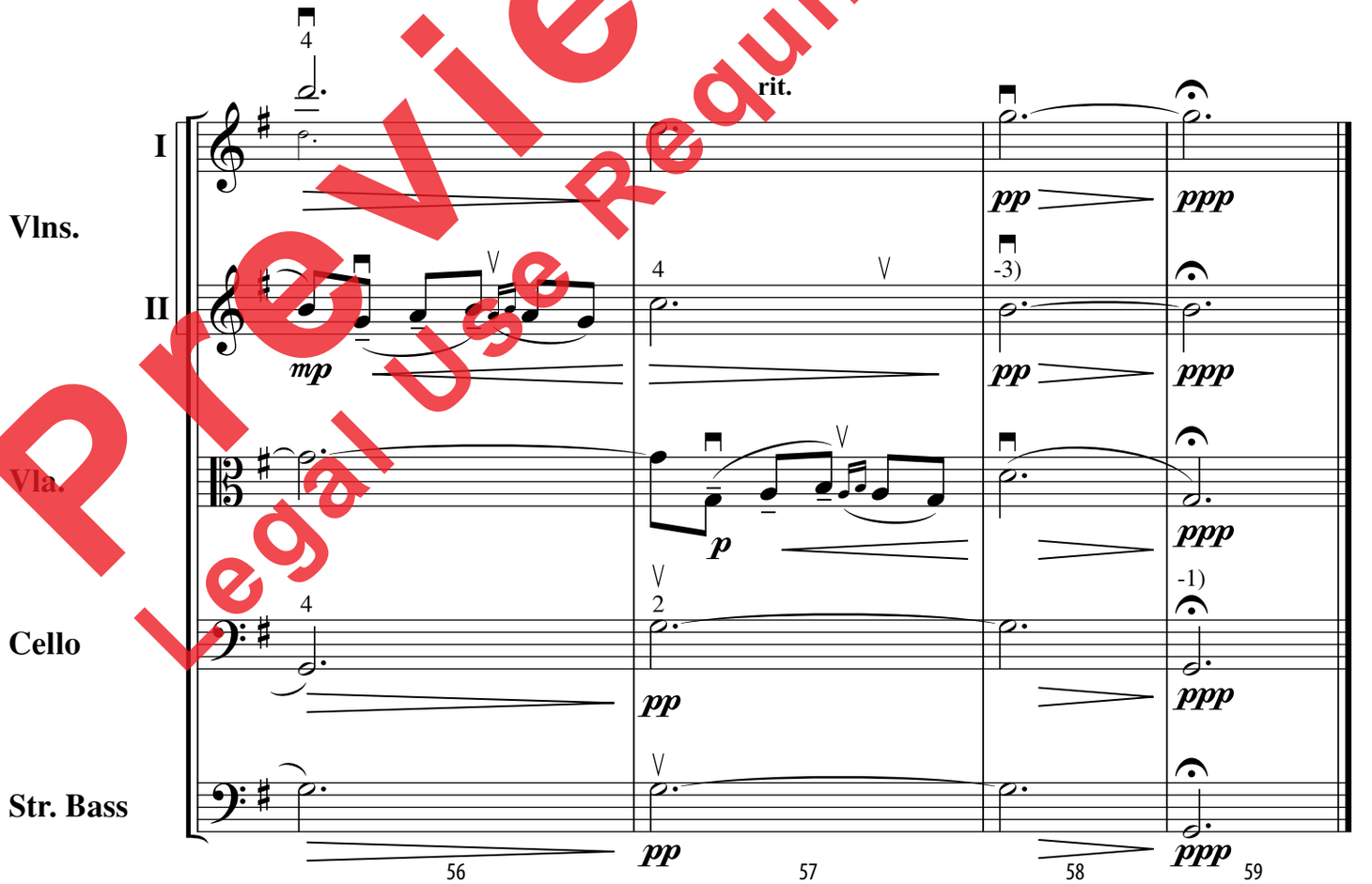

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