Riu, Riu, Chiu

MATEO FLECHA EL VIEJO

Arranged by STEVEN L. ROSENHAUS

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Instrumentation

Full Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Violin III (Viola T.C.)	3
Viola	5
Cello	5
Bass	5
Piano (Rehearsal Only)	1

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About the Composer

Steven L. Rosenhaus (b. Brooklyn, NY) is a composer, lyricist, arranger, conductor, author, educator and clinician, and performer. His concert music has been called "clever, deftly constructed and likable" by The New York Times; the Sächsiche Zeitung (Dresden, Germany) declares it "expressive....Its song-like melodic sequences and balladic aspects give it a lyrical beauty, within a newer soundworld." Back Stage magazine called his music and lyrics for the off-Broadway show "Critic" "sprightly, upbeat, and in the ballad repertory, simply lovely." His original works and arrangements are performed by such musicians as the New York Philharmonic, the Kansas City Symphony, pianist Laura Leon, violinist Florian Mayer, the Dresden Sinfonietta, the Meridian String Quartet, several U.S. military ensembles including the U.S. Navy Band (Washington, DC), and educational ensembles at all levels throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, and the EU. Dr. Rosenhaus holds a Ph.D. from New York University where he serves as Adjunct Assistant Professor of Composition; other degrees are from Queens College (CUNY). He has over 200 original works and arrangements in print with Excelcia Music Publishing and other publishers. Recordings of his music are on the Musical Tapestries, Richardson, Capstone, and MPP labels. Dr. Rosenhaus is a frequent guest conductor and clinician of service, professional, community, and educational groups at all levels. In addition Dr. Rosenhaus is a dramatruge for Broadway- and off-Broadway-bound musicals. He has consulted on approximately 30% of musicals presented in those venues since 2006. Steven L. Rosenhaus is the author of "The Concertgoer's Guide to the Symphony Orchestra" (Music Gifts Company) and co-author with Allen Cohen of "Writing Musical Theater" (Palgrave Macmillan). Dr. Rosenhaus is a National Patron of the Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity and has received numerous awards and grants from ASCAP, the American Composers Forum, and other organizations.

Riu, Riu, Chiu

Program Notes

The lovely *Riu, Riu, Chiu* is a Spanish villancico, a 15th century type of popular song derived from medieval dance forms. It was composed by Mateo Flecha El Viejo (Mateo Flecha the Elder) (1481-1553). It was first published as a madrigal in Venice as part of the Cancionero de Upsala in 1556. The word riu translate as "river" in the Catalan language; chiu, on the other hand, seems to derive from early Italian for "closed." The refrain "*Riu, riu, chiu, la guarda ribera/Dios guardó el lobo de nuestra cordera*" is most often translated as "River, river, closed[?], the kingfisher/God kept the wolf from our Lamb," with the imagery used as metaphor for the immaculate conception and Jesus' birth. The work has been performed by both Classical music performers and popular singers, the most famous renditions sung by The Monkees (1967) and Chanticleer (2003). Steven Rosenhaus has adapted and arranged the music for string orchestra in a manner in keeping with Flecha's original intentions.

Conductor's Notes

Like other madrigals of the 15th century, *Riu, Riu, Chiu* uses a steady pulse but flexible phrasing. It should be played with a light, dance-like touch. The modal harmonies are also fluid. Although "in D" there is no key signature, and Flecha allows shifts in pitch for coloration and cadences. This gives us C naturals (Viola at m. 13, 17) and B flats (Cello and Bass at m. 15) in some instances but C sharps (Violin II at m. 16) and B naturals (Viola at m. 17) in others. Please take care to make the differences in pitch clear. The syncopation that first appears at mm. 2–3 is used throughout by all at some point, sometimes as a group and others more independently. It's worth spending some rehearsal time on this; it will help maintain the dance-like feel. Finally, think of the *pizzicato* moments given at different times to the Bass, Viola, and Violin II, as drums (tambours) used not only for harmonic purposes but rhythmic ones as well.

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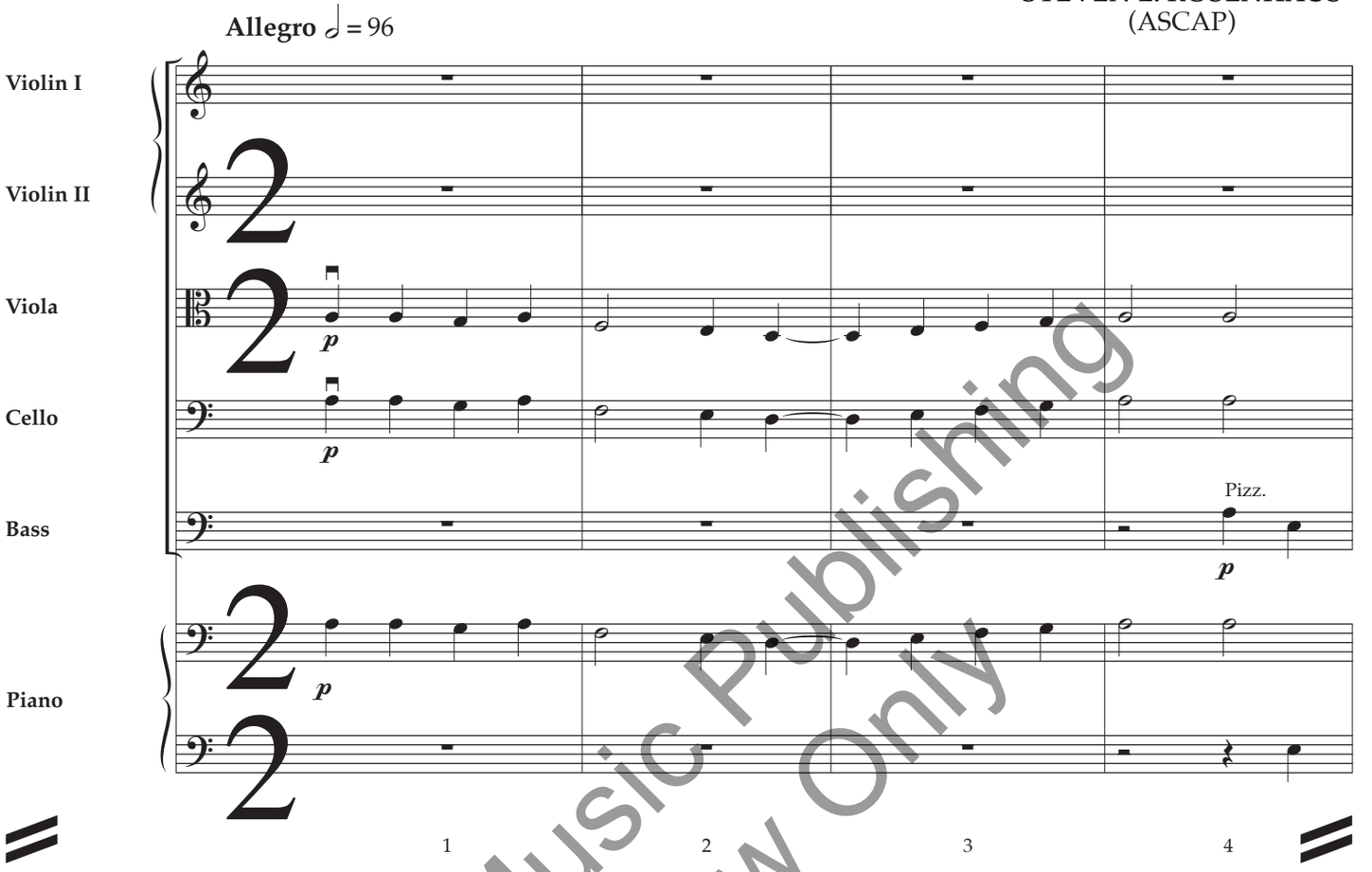
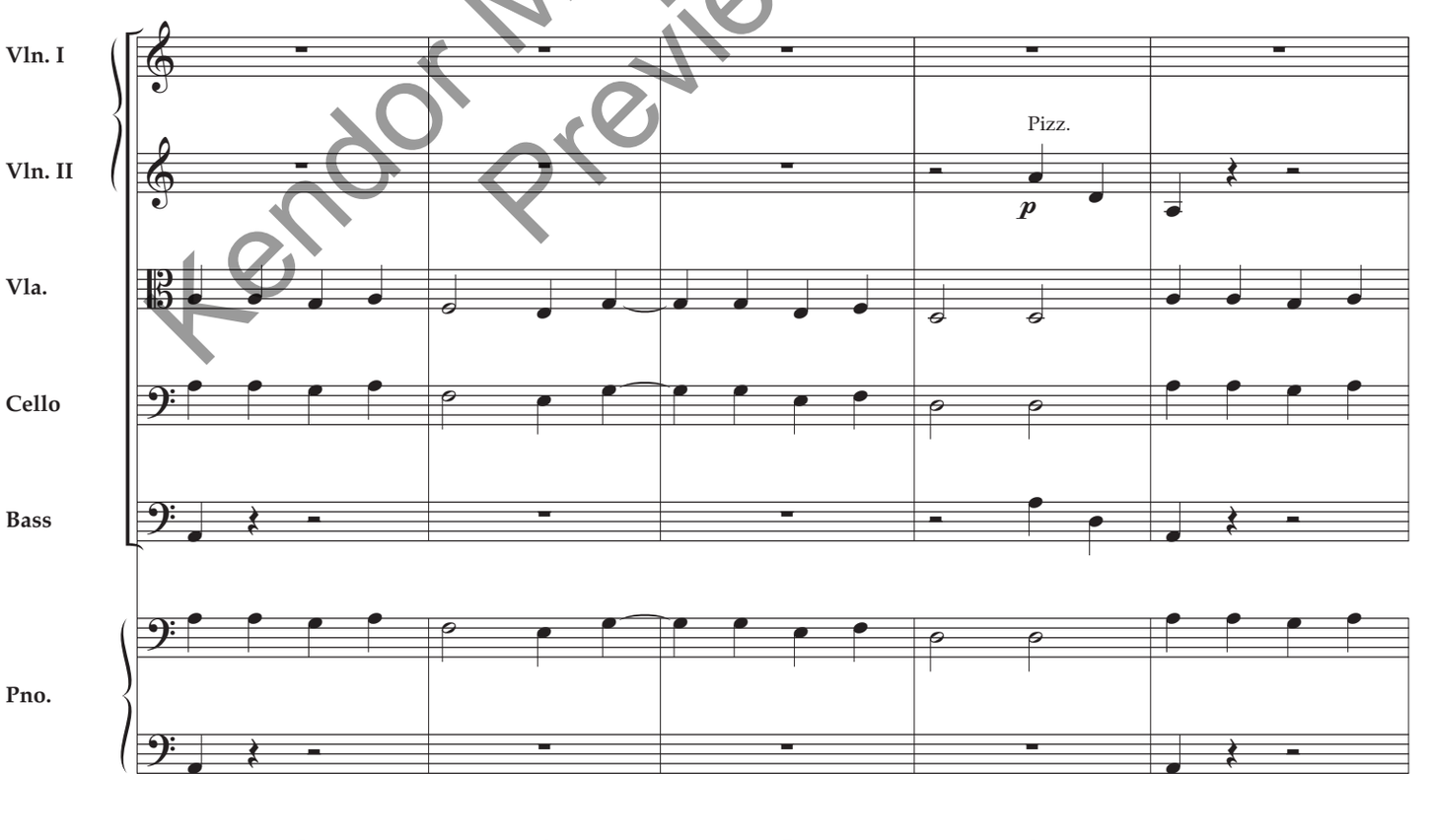
MATEO FLECHA EL VIEJO
Arranged by
STEVEN L. ROSENHAUS
(ASCAP)





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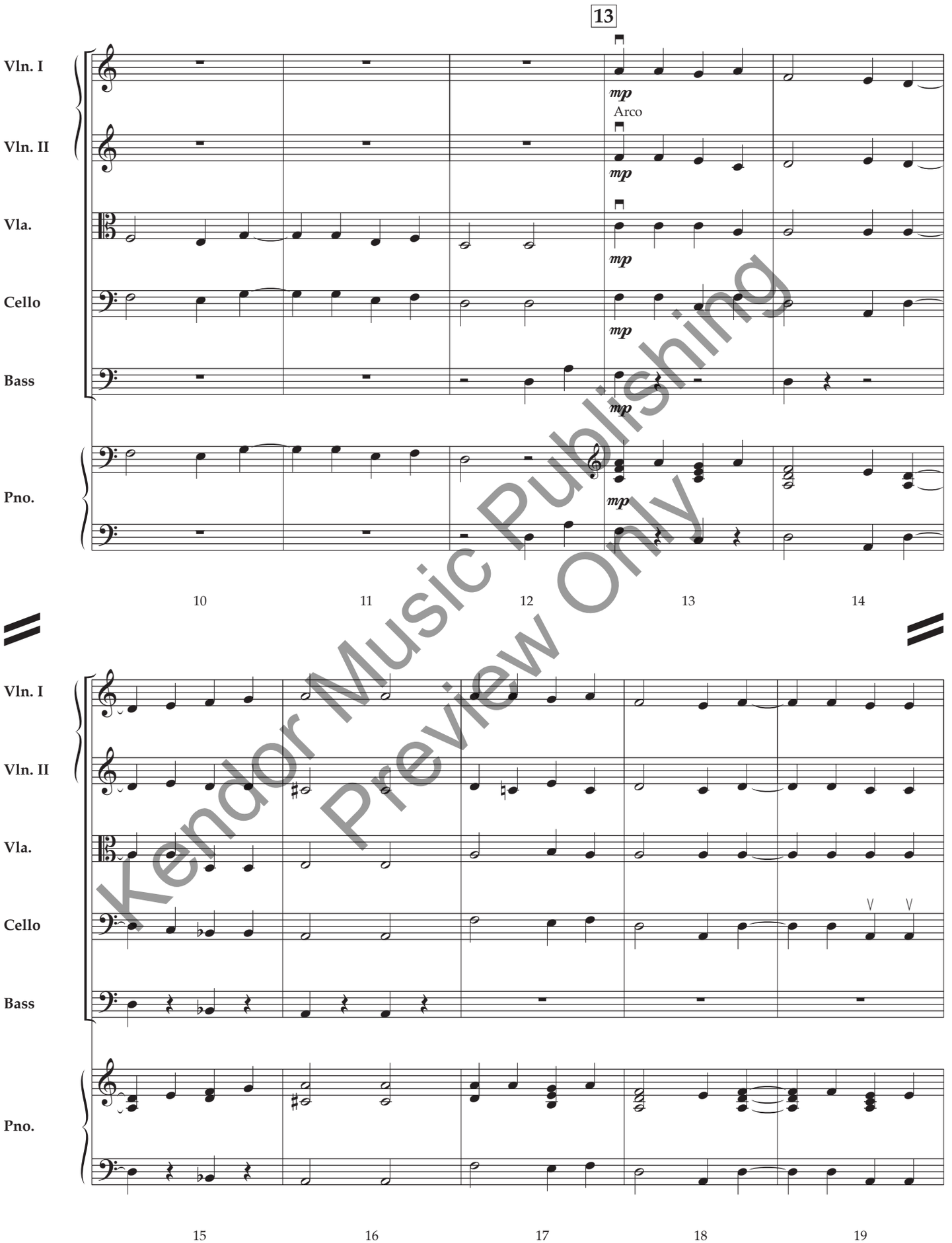

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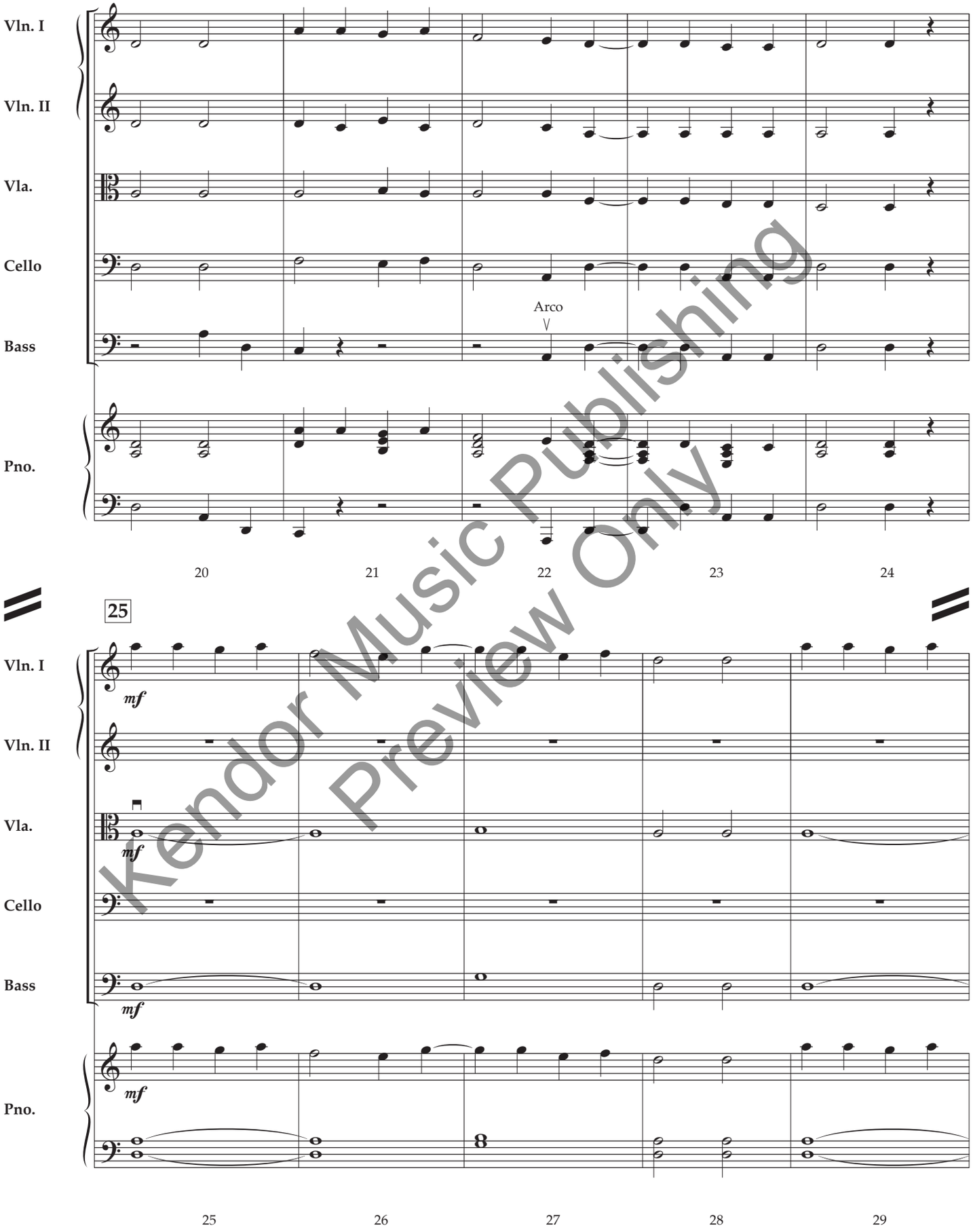

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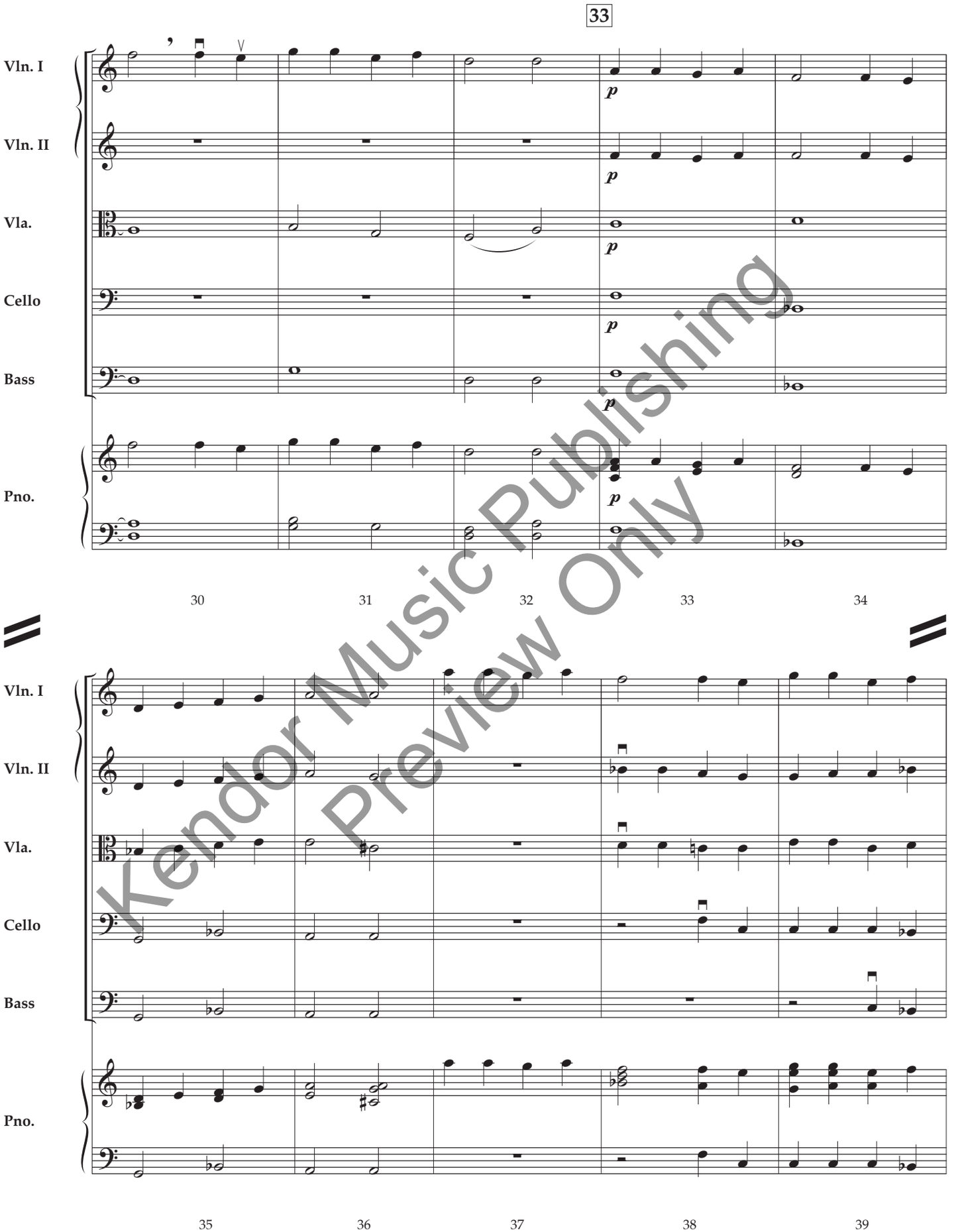

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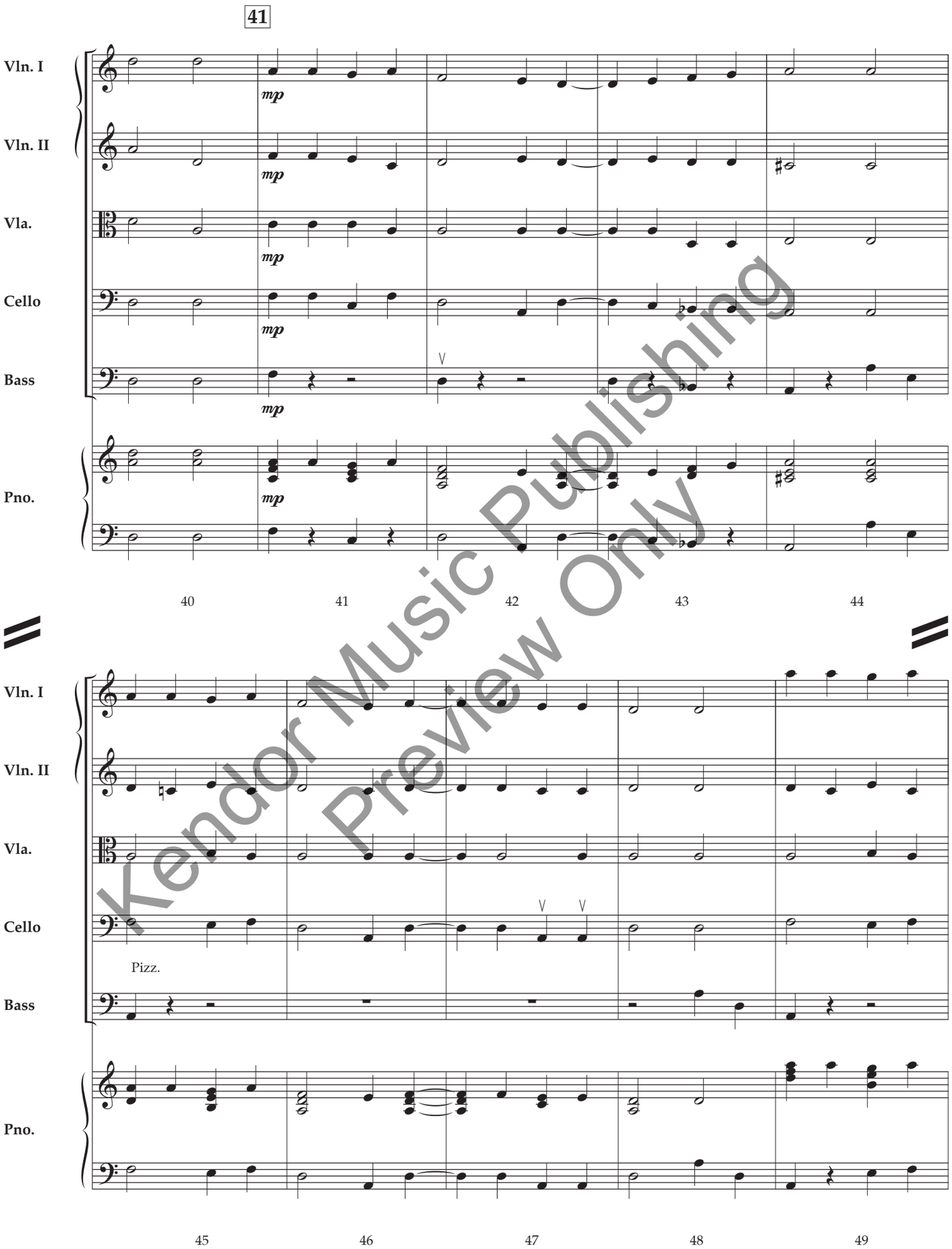

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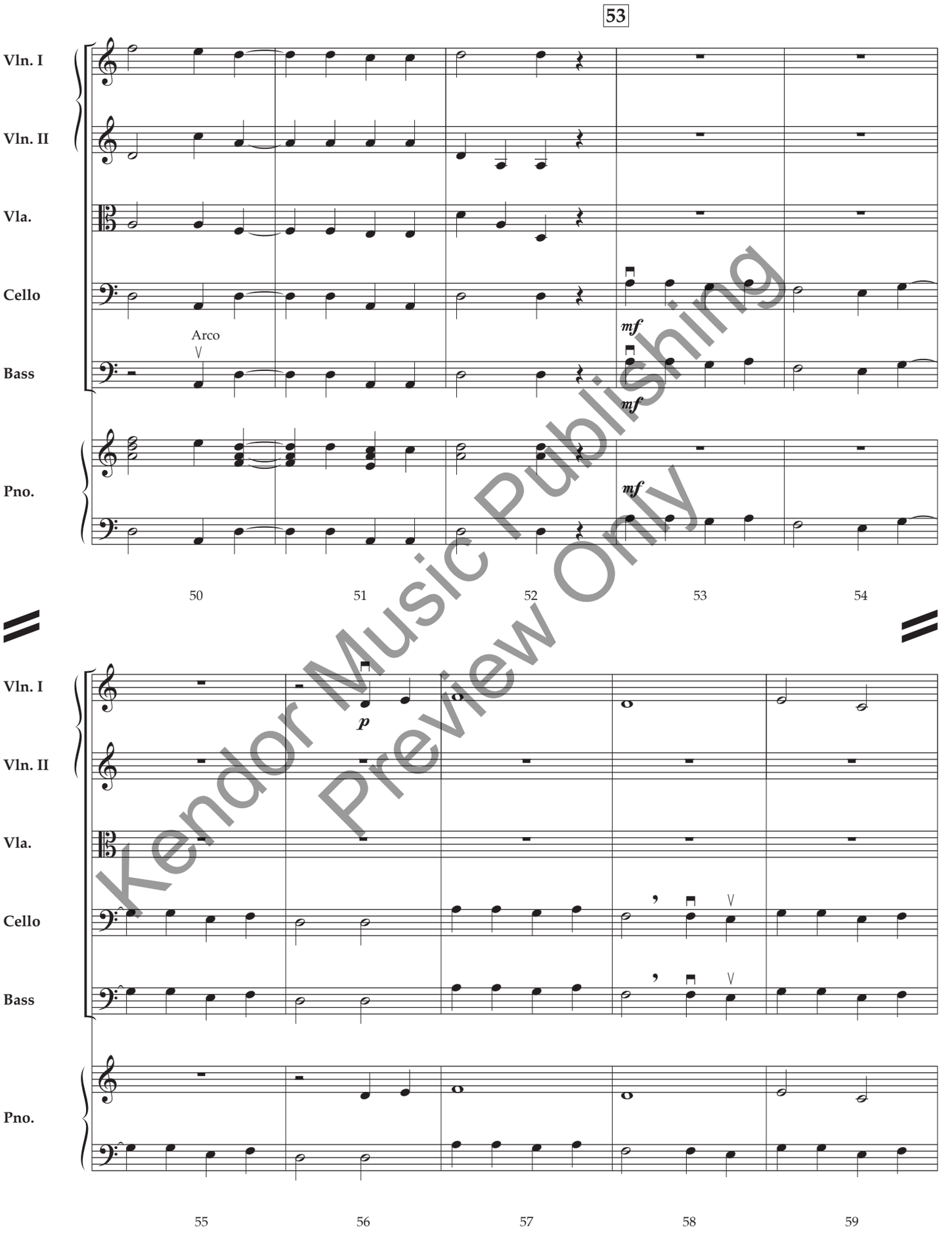

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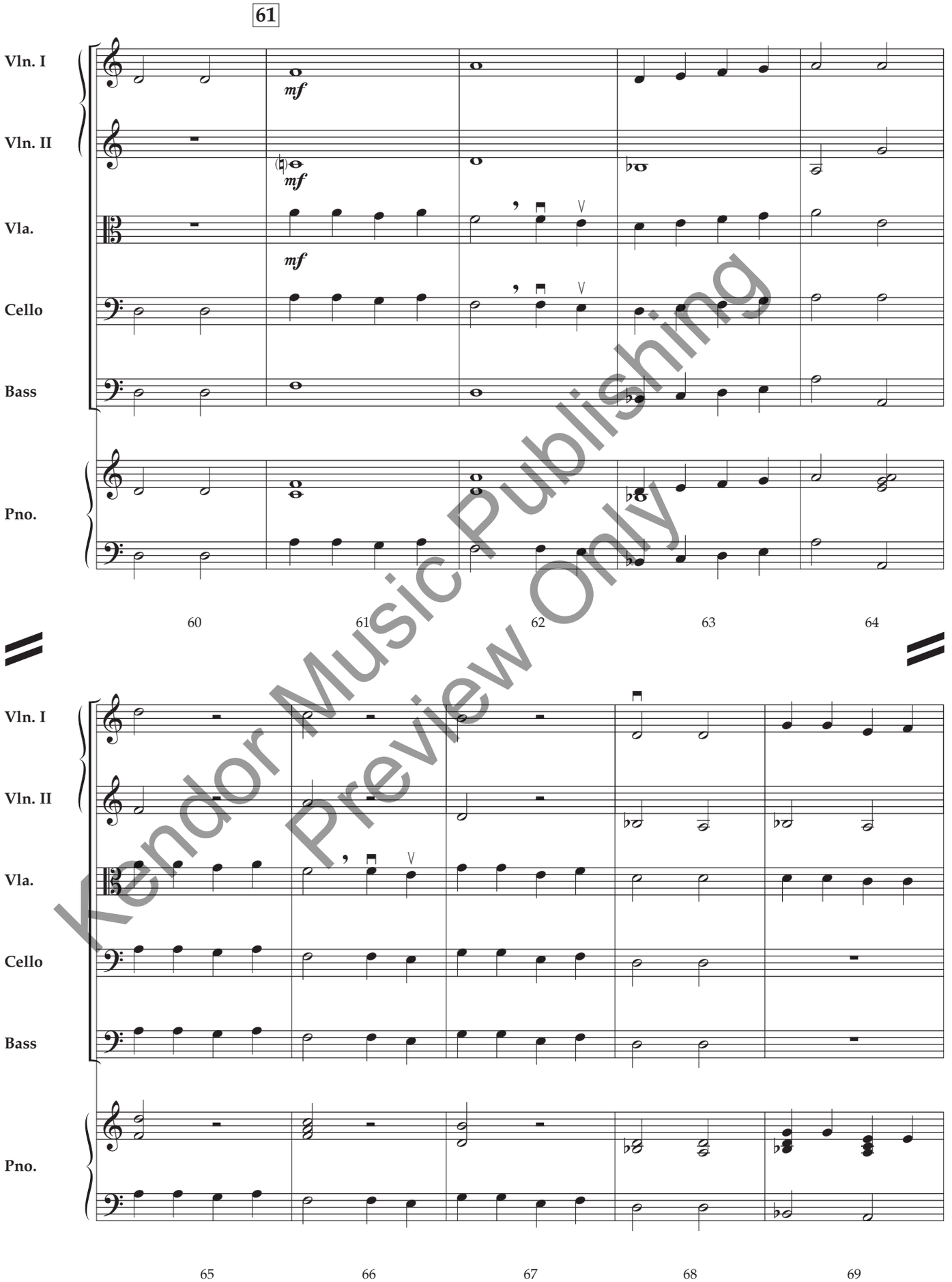

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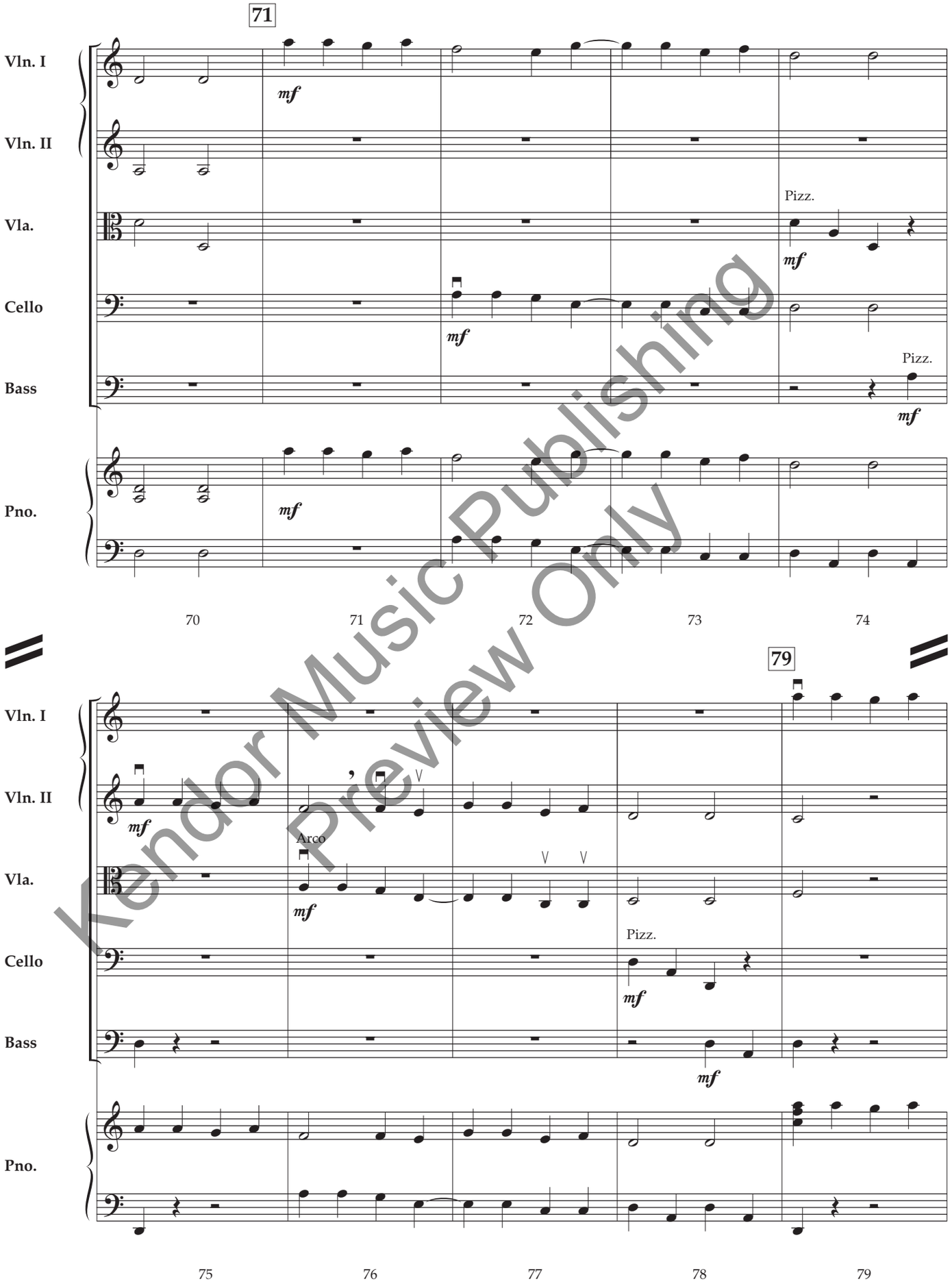

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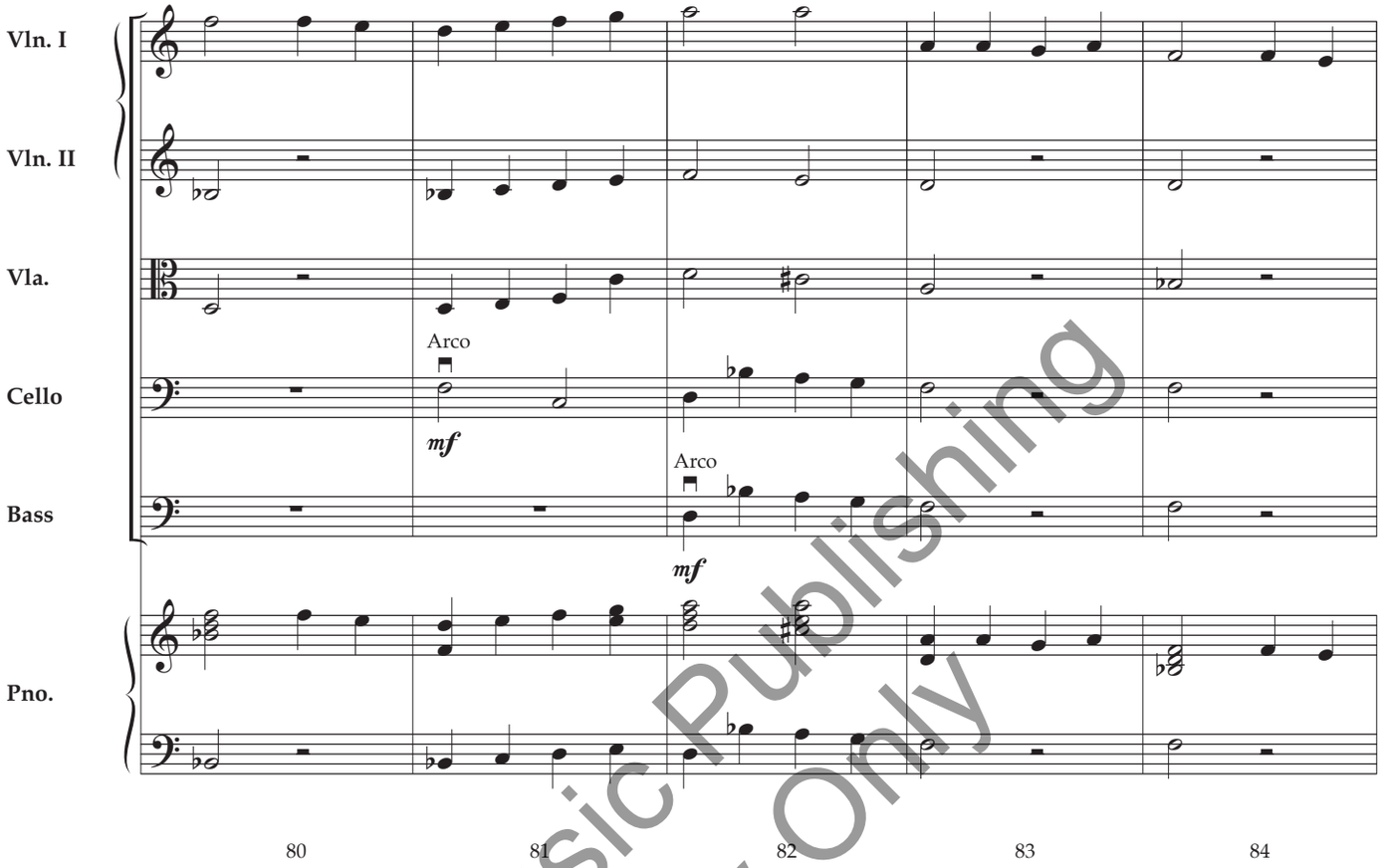

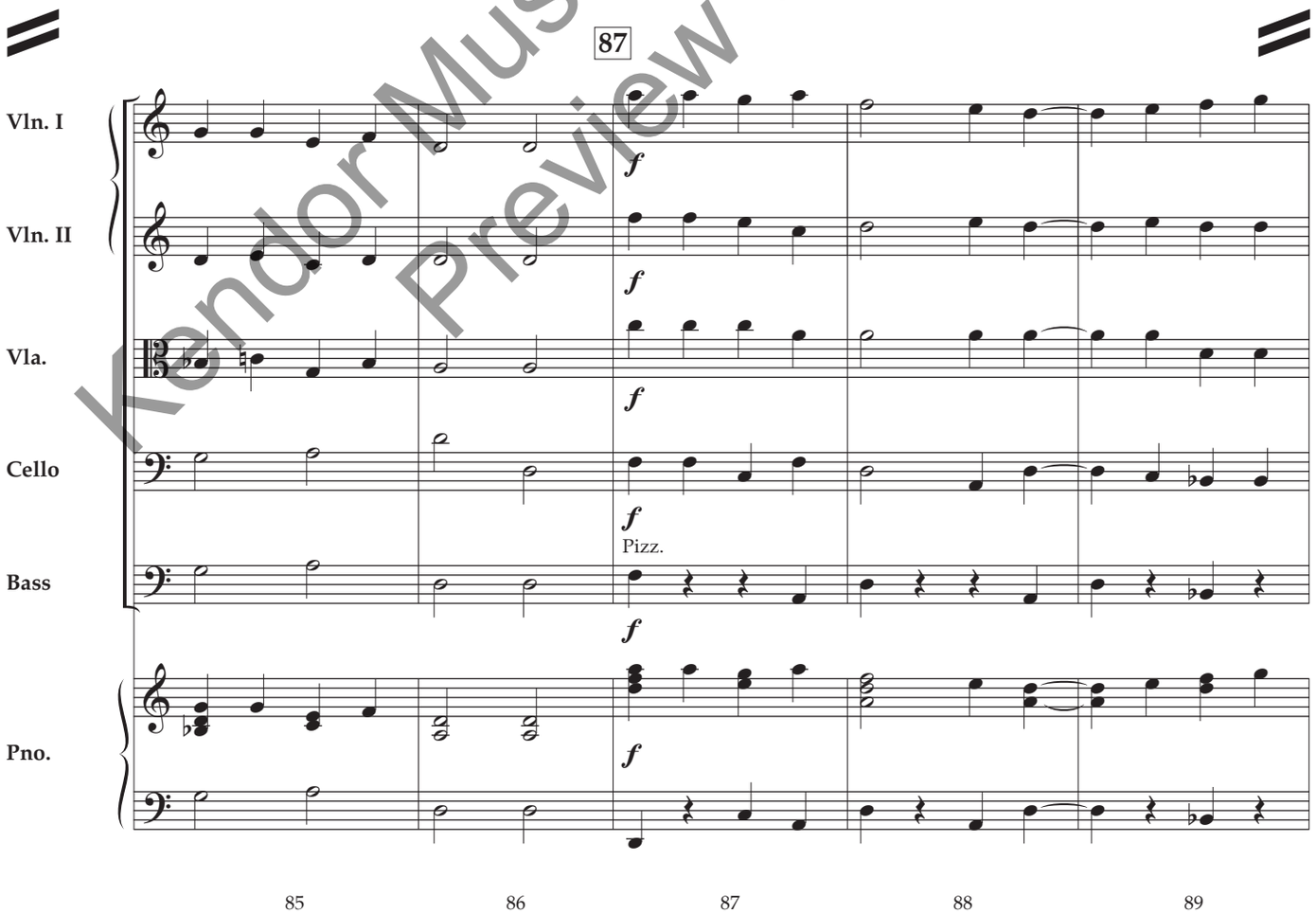

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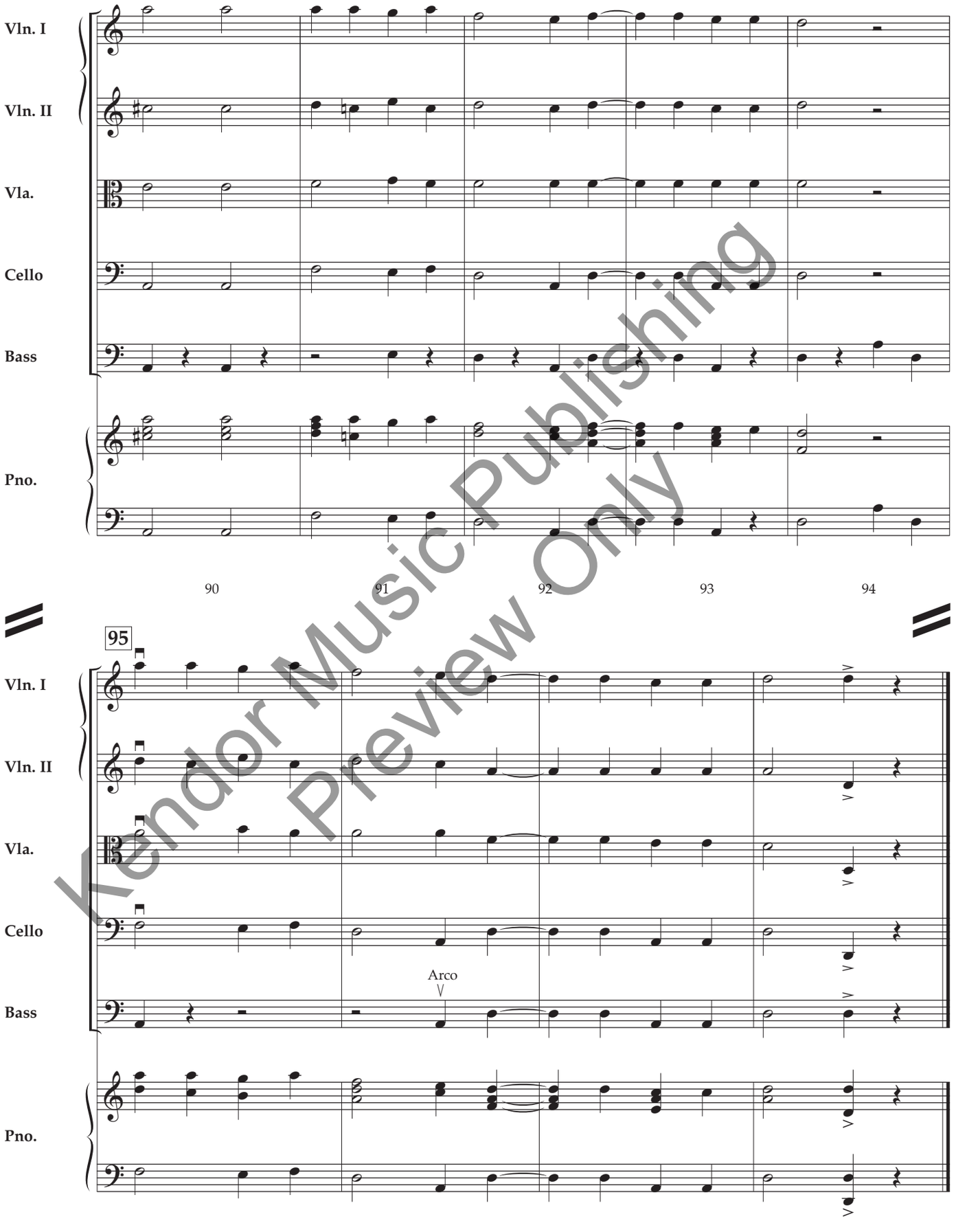

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