Scherzo

(from *"F-A-E" Sonata for Violin and Piano*)

JOHANNES BRAHMS

Arranged by DEBORAH BAKER MONDAY

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Instrumentation

Full Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
Bass	5

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About the Composer

Deborah Baker Monday taught for 25 years in the award-winning Logan City School District Orchestra Program in Logan, Utah. She is a regular faculty member at the Utah State University Summer Music Clinic and performs with the Cache Chamber Orchestra. She received her B.M.E. from Florida State University with an emphasis in strings and an M.M. in composition from the University of Alabama. She continued doctoral studies in composition at Louisiana State University. Baker Monday has published over 130 works for string orchestra with seven leading educational music publishers. She has also presented sessions at numerous state music conferences, including ASTA, The Midwest Clinic, and the prestigious Ohio State String Teachers Workshop.

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I loved this piece from the first time I heard it for solo Violin and Piano. It offered a complete movement of Brahms music which was more accessible than most of his longer, more complex works. I just had to try to arrange it for string orchestra. It has wonderful moving parts in all instrument sections and because it is a scherzo, there are recurring themes and not too many lengthy developmental and shifting tonal passages which are common in his music. It is super exciting and a really wonderful concert selection which also offers many teaching points exploring the keys of c minor, A flat major and C Major.

There is a fascinating history to this *scherzo*. It is part of the *F-A-E Sonata*, a four-movement work for Violin and Piano, included music by 3 composers: Johannes Brahms, Robert Schumann and Albert Dietrich (a student of Schumann). The *sonata* was composed as a gift and tribute to Joseph Joachim, considered one of the greatest violinist of his time. He was a close collaborator of Brahms and performed with Clara Schumann (Robert's wife and pianist) for years. Joachim's motto was the German phrase "Frei aber einsam" (free but lonely), and that was the source for the F-A-E title. Also, cleverly, the movements are based on the musical notes F, A and E. When Joachim and Clara Schumann played the sonata the composers challenged him to guess who composed which movement and he easily identified the music of his friends.

The four movements are:

1 - Allegro by Dietrich (sonata-allegro)
2 - Intermezzo by Schumann
3 - Scherzo by Brahms
4 - Finale by Schumann

The complete *sonata* was published in 1935, long after it was presented to Joachim in 1853 and after the deaths of the 3 composers. Joachim had retained the original manuscript and only allowed the *scherzo* to be published in 1906, almost a decade after Brahms' death.

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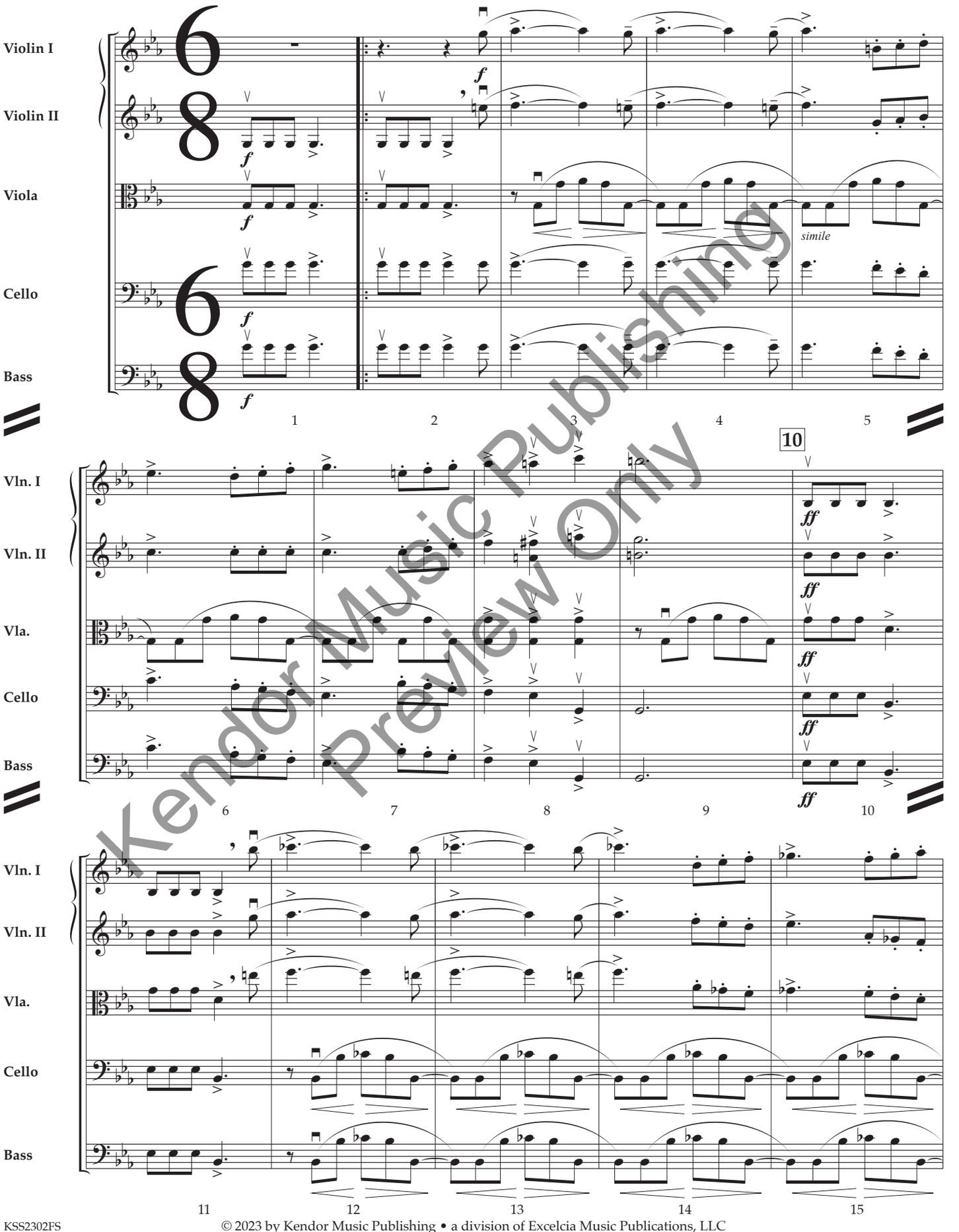
Allegro ♩. = 100



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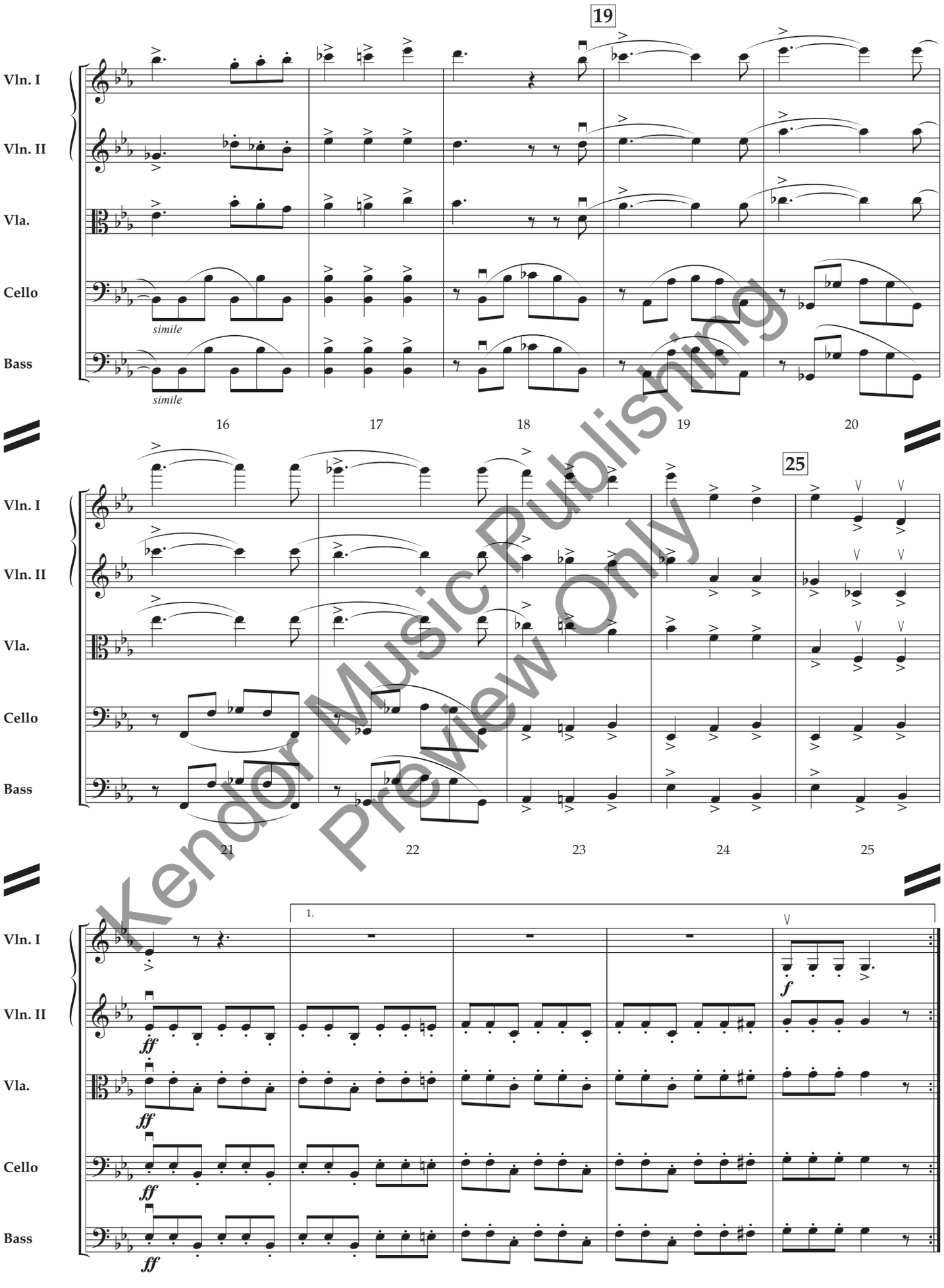

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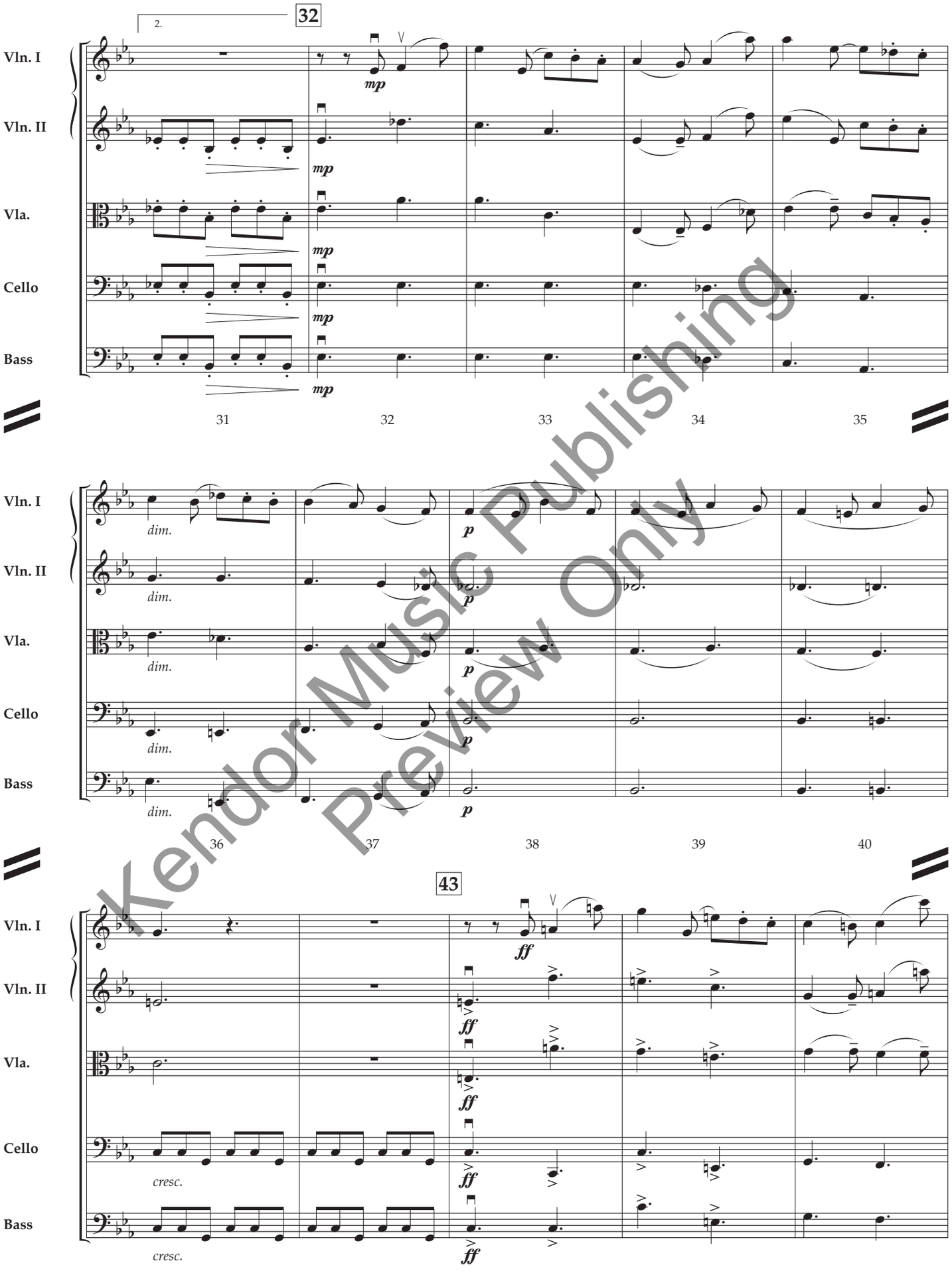

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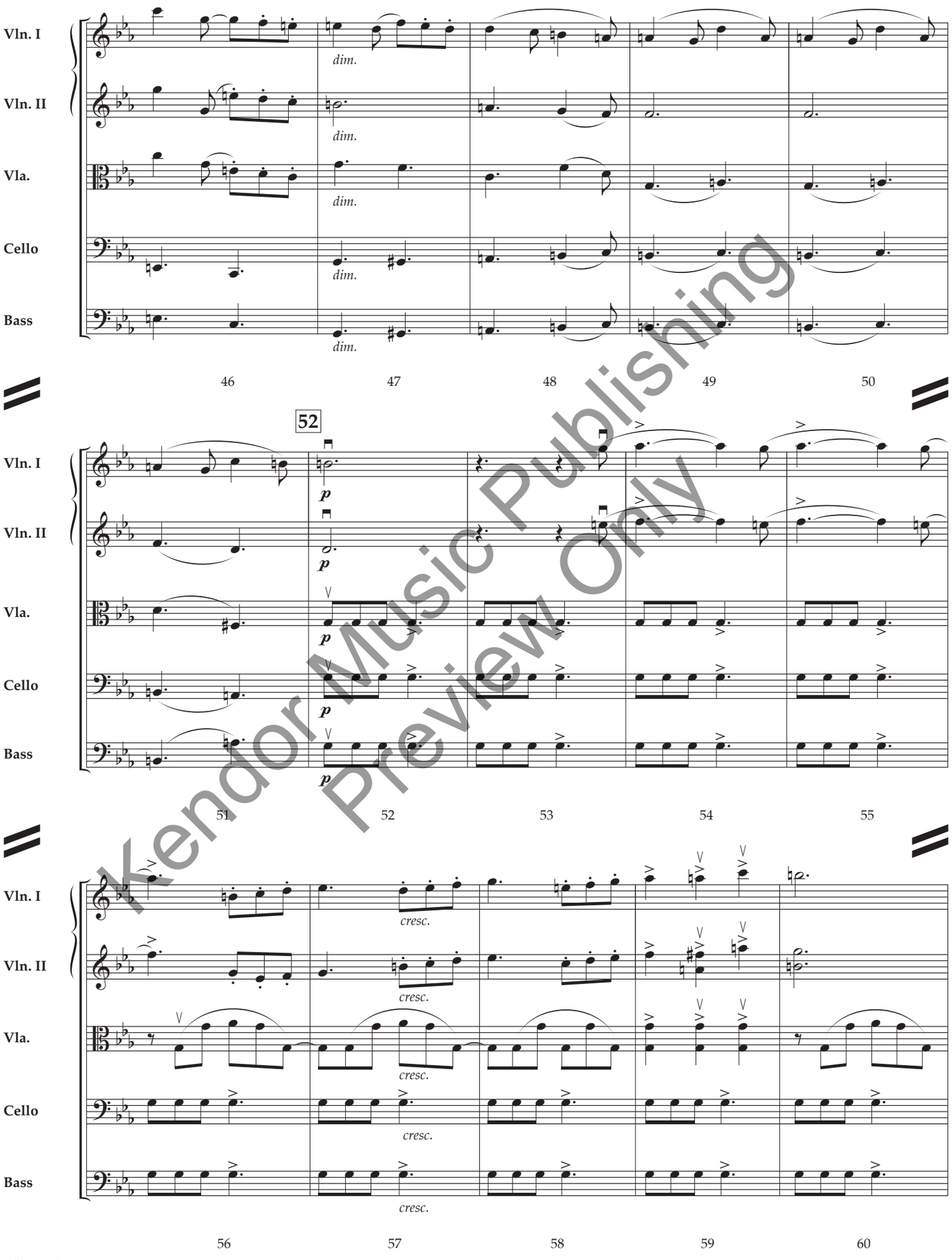

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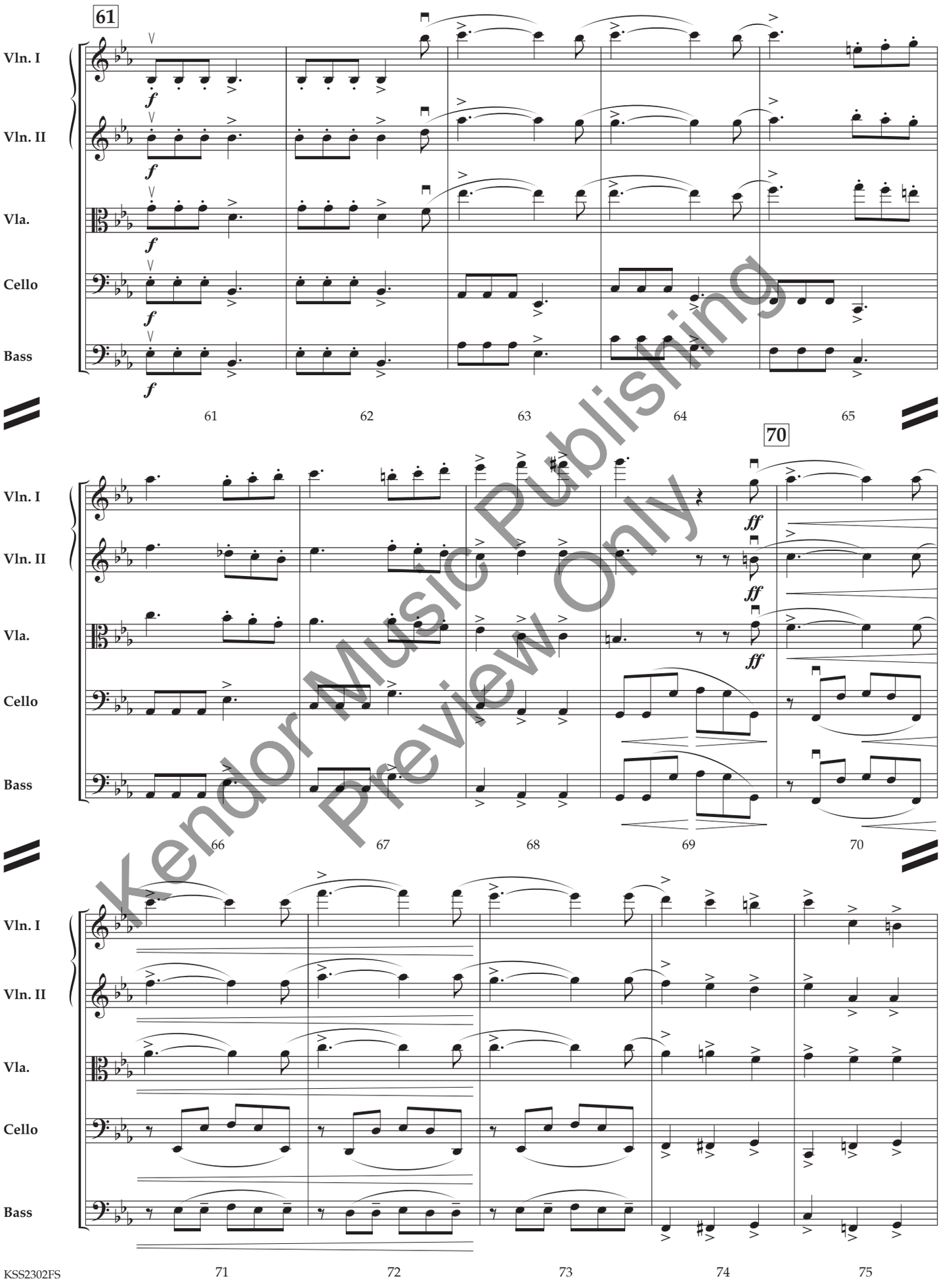

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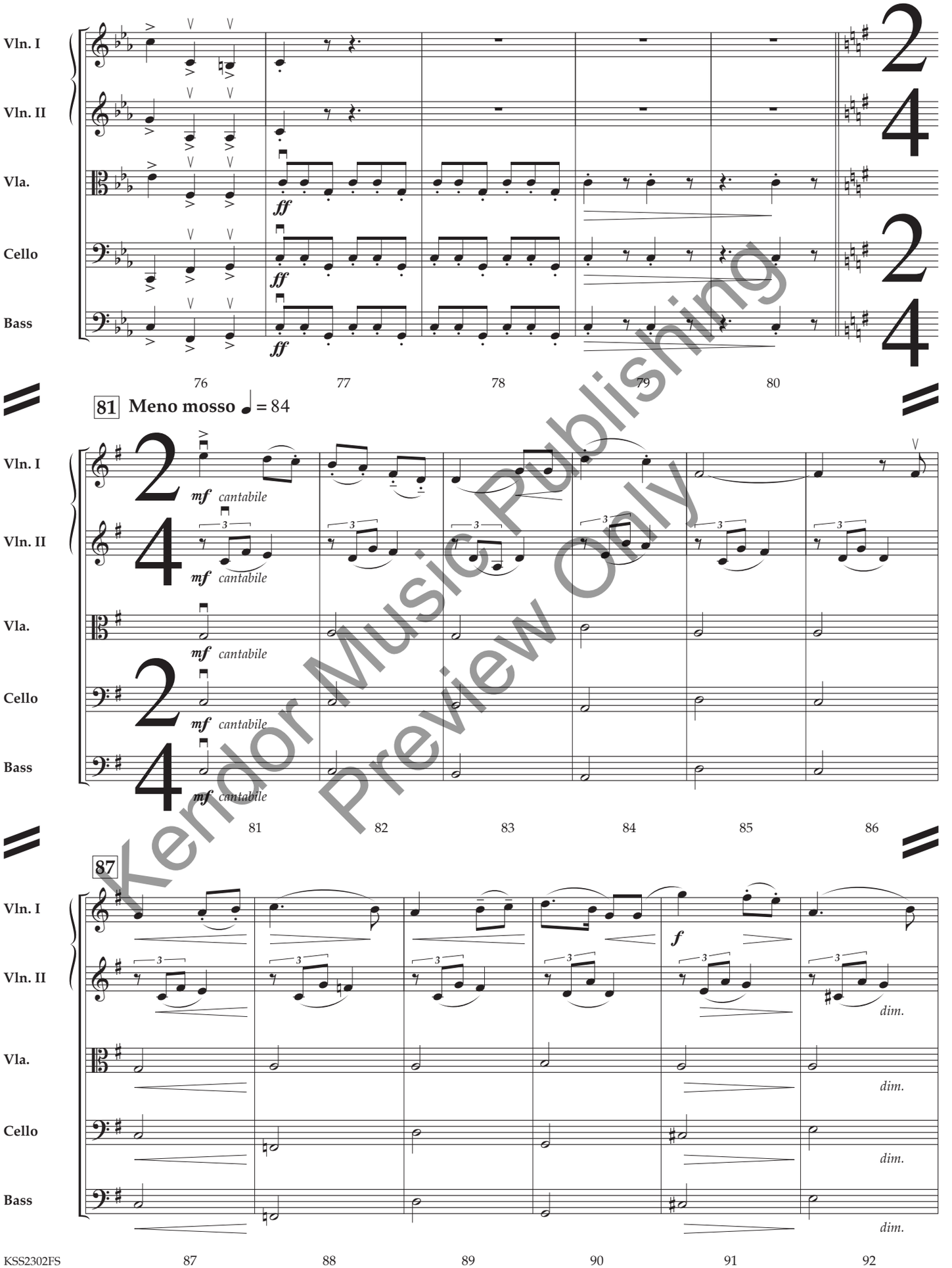

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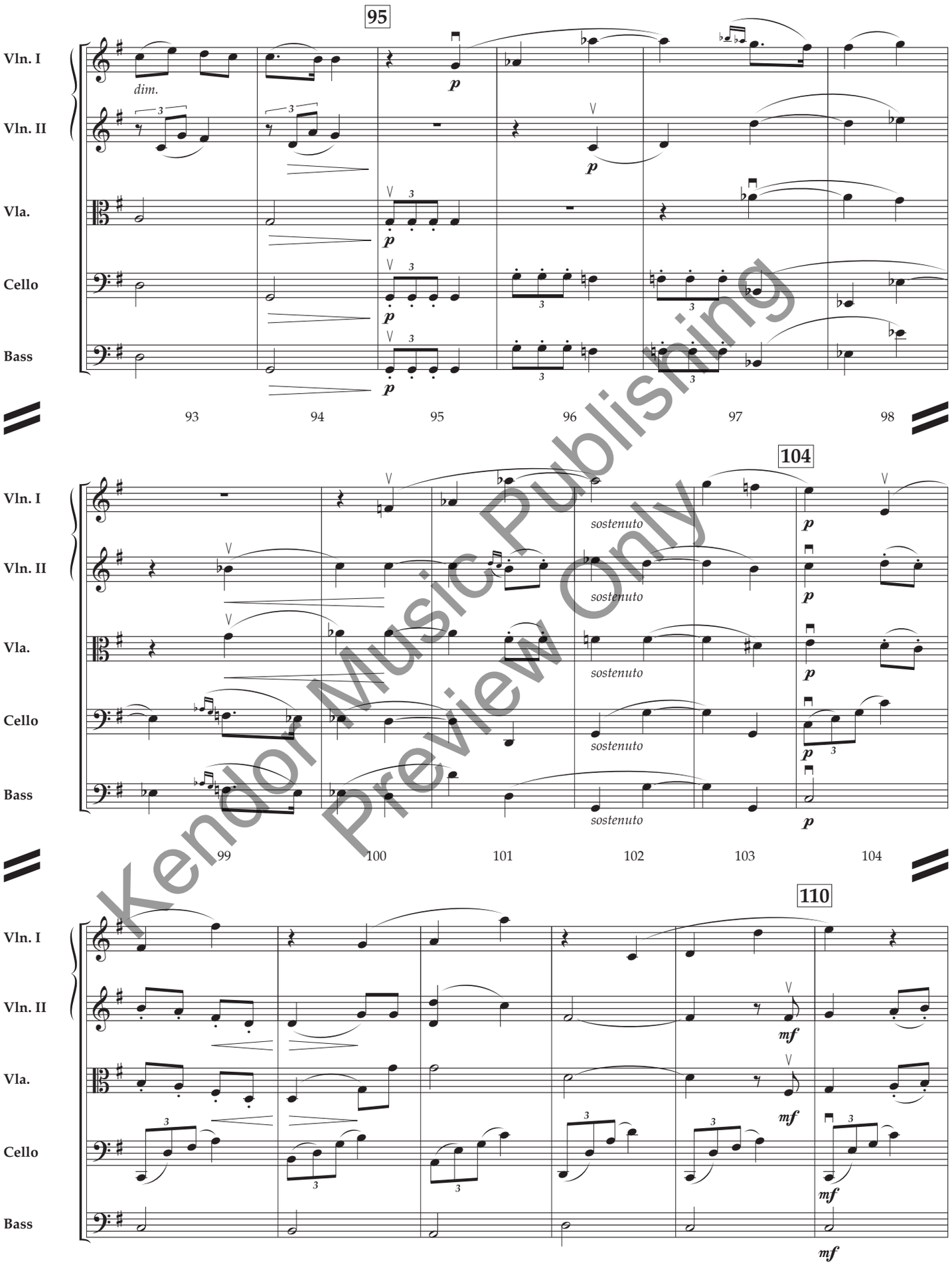

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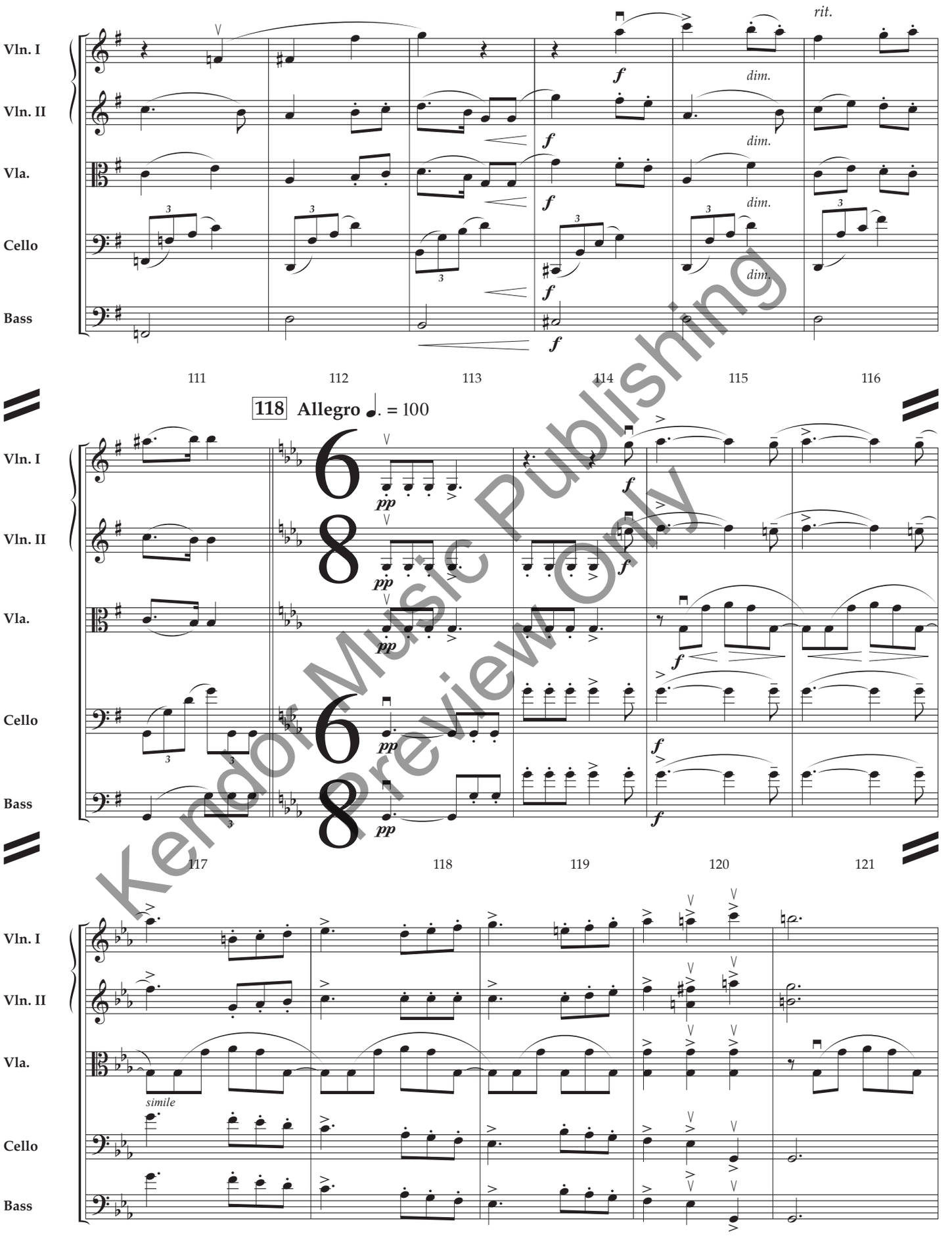

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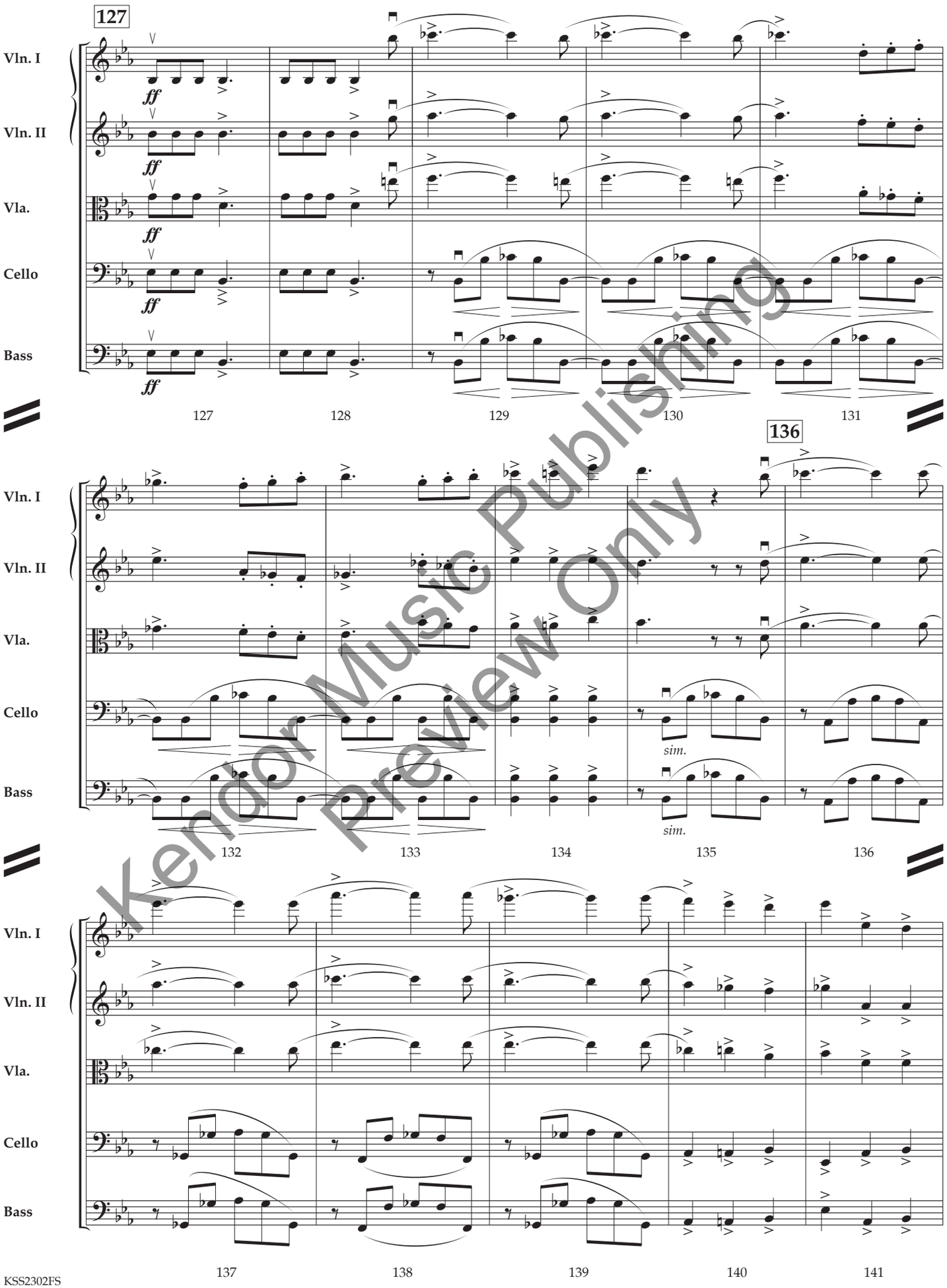

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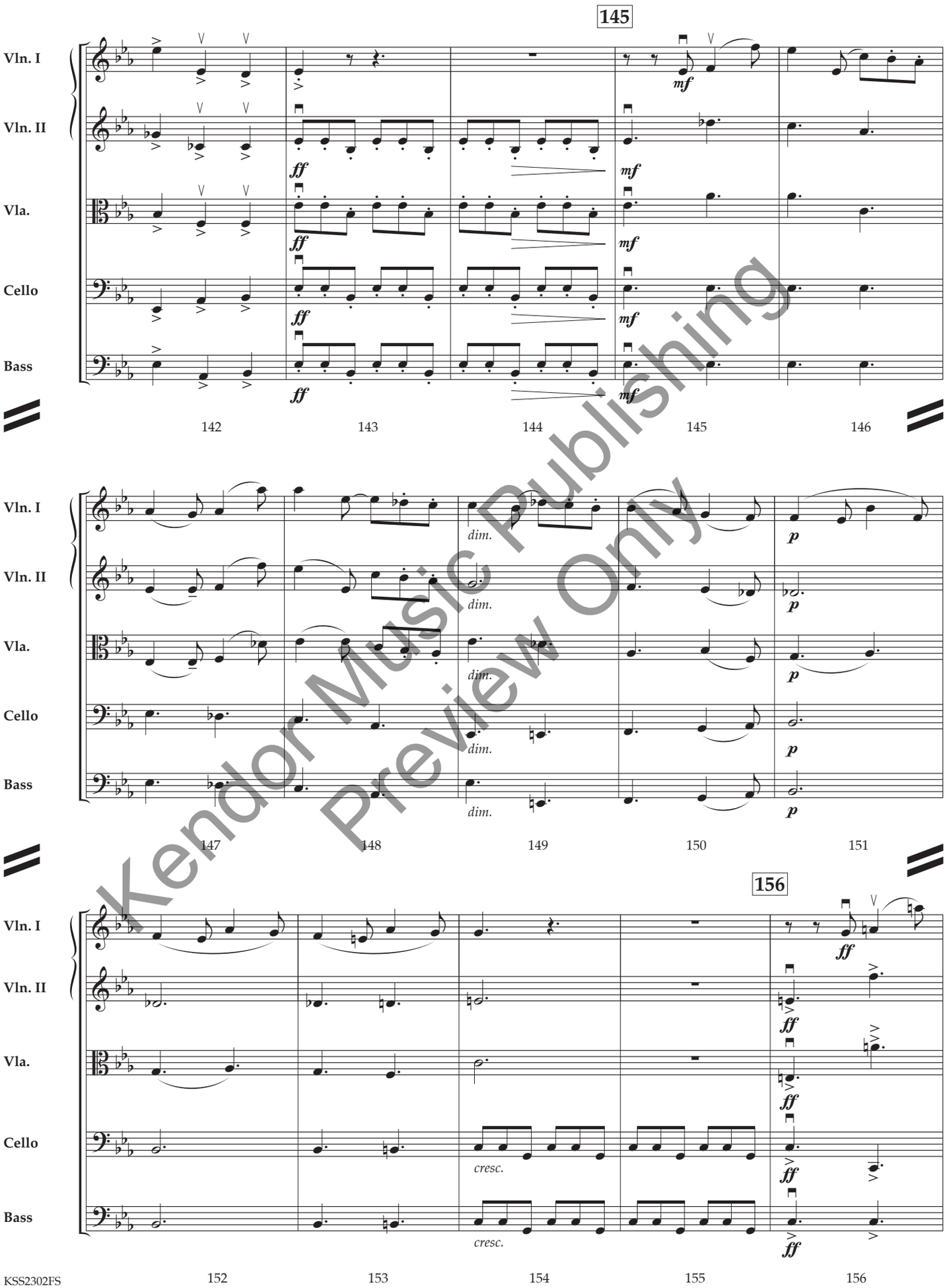

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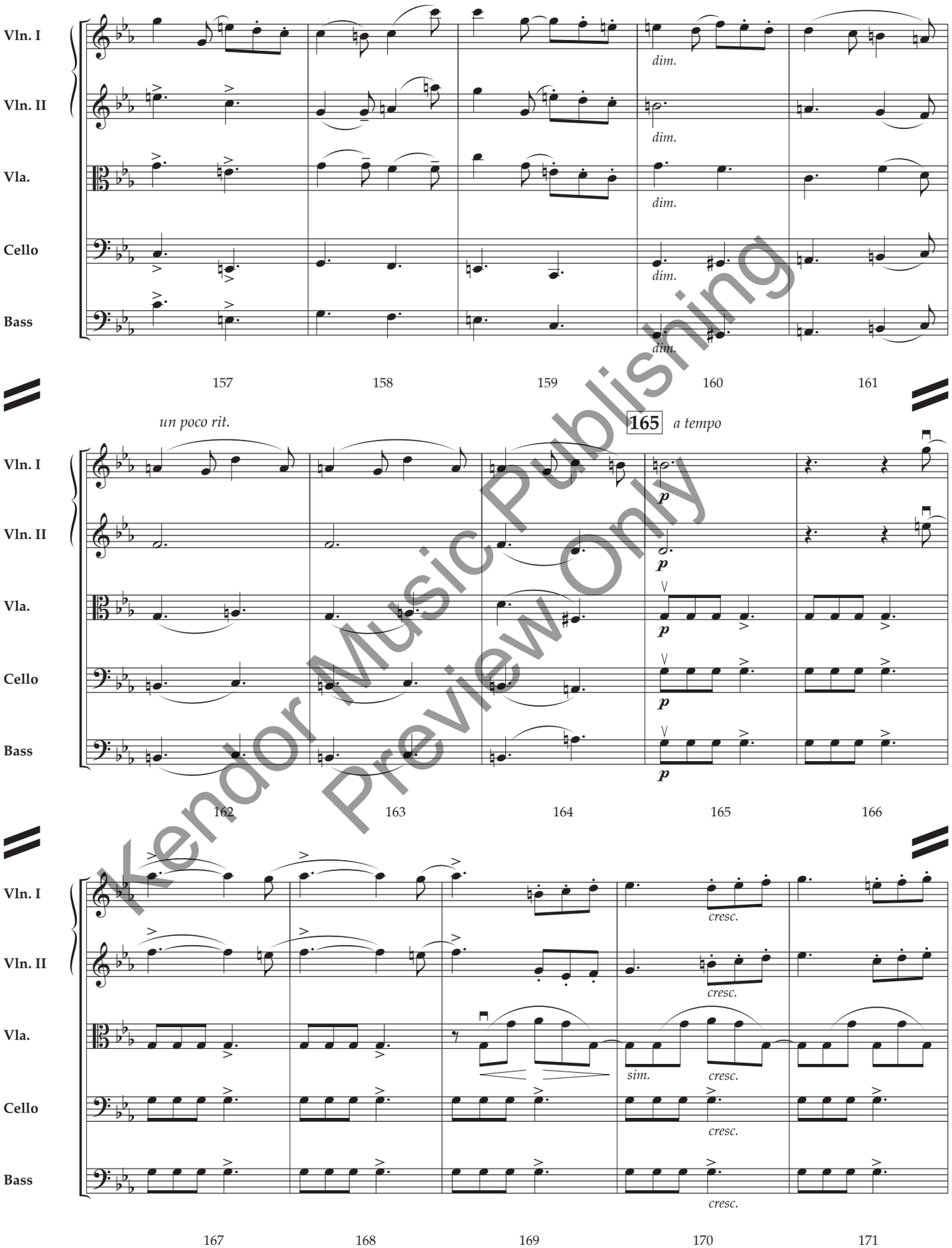

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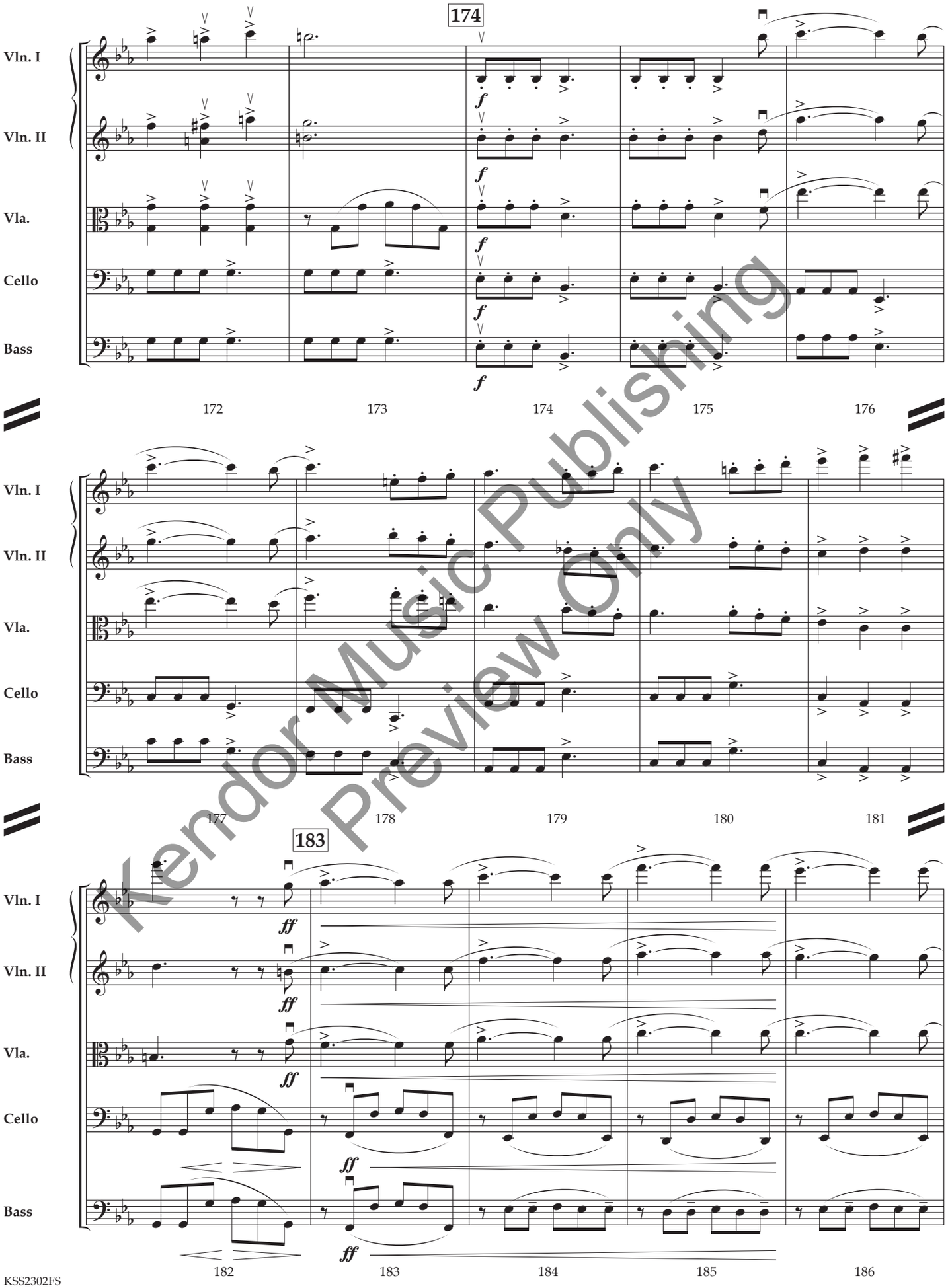

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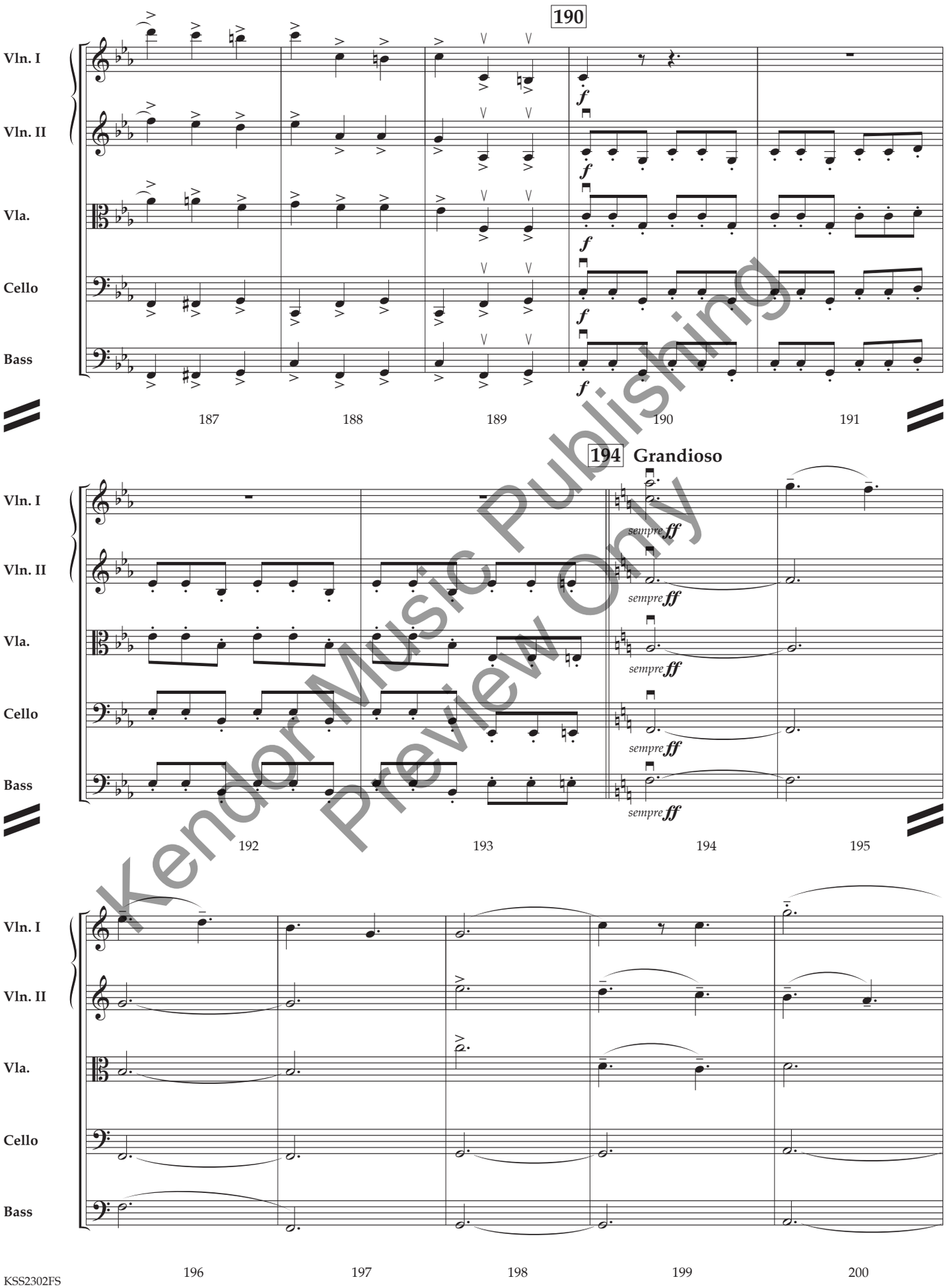

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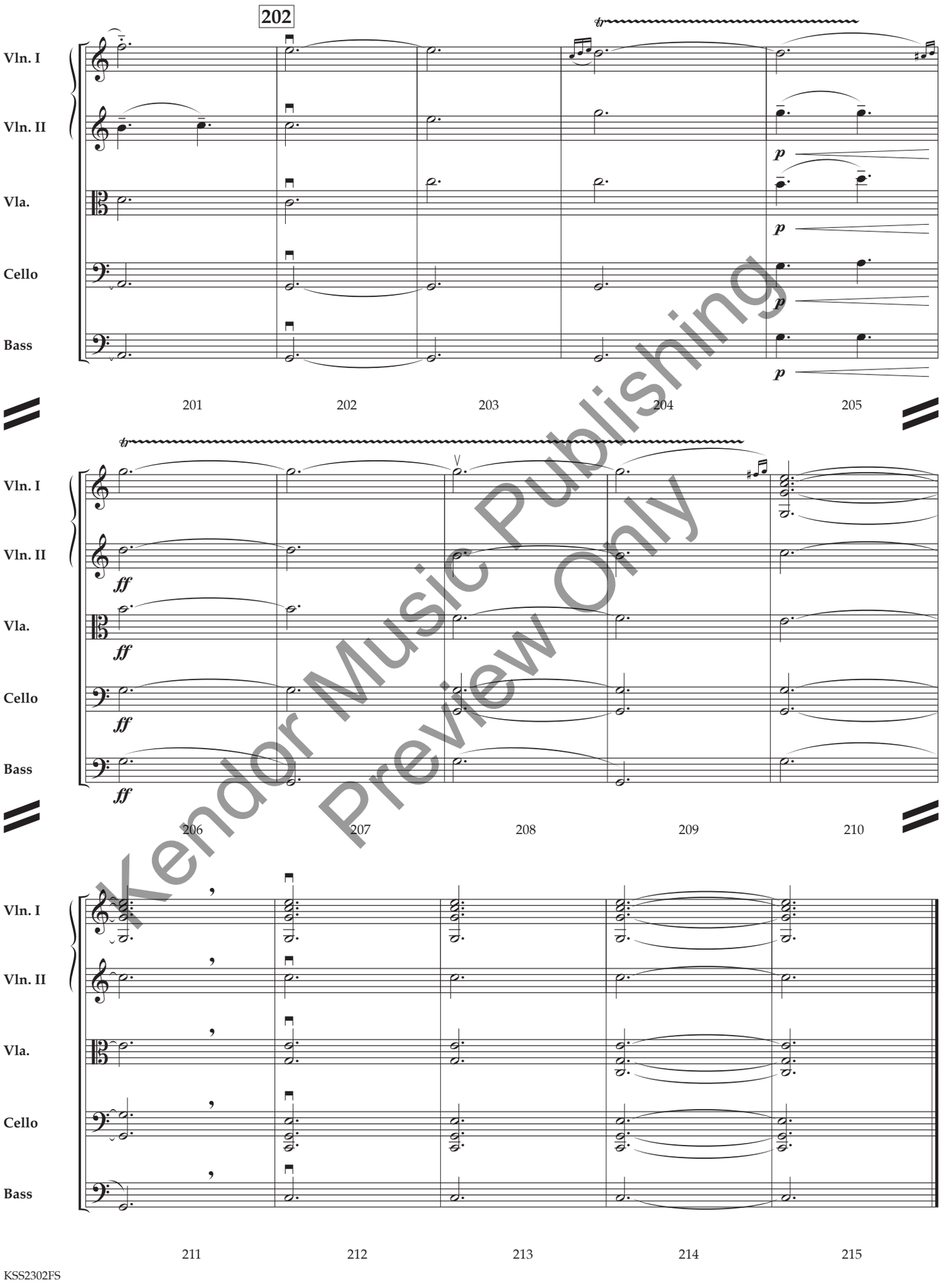

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