Grade 3

Music for String Orchestra

Ancient Wonders Suite

Todd Parrish

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INSTRUMENTATION

Violin I 8
Violin II 8
Viola 5
Cello 5
Bass 5
Timpani 1

CAS126F

CARL FISCHER

Performance Notes

Ancient Wonders Suite is a musical description of four of the wonders from the ancient world. Movement one describes the awe-inspiring grandeur and size of the Temple of Artemis located in Ephesus (now present day Turkey). Movement two depicts the majesty of the Great Lighthouse at Alexandria, Egypt, which lasted into the 14th century. Movement three portrays the mystery and amazing craftsmanship used to build the Great Pyramid at Giza, the only ancient wonder still standing today. Movement four represents the overwhelming feeling one might have felt gazing at the Statue of Zeus at Olympia, Greece. It concludes with a majestic feeling of victory, celebrating the Olympic spirit.

Though written through contemporary means, this programmatic work seeks to remember the great architectural achievements of past generations. As a former director with the Bay Youth Orchestras of Virginia, it was truly an honor to write this piece commemorating the years of dedication and inspiration from my former colleague, Christina Morton.

Movements were written with the traditional symphonic order in mind, but they may be played in any order or as stand-alone works. The timpani part is optional, but very highly recommended as it significantly adds to the majestic nature of these works.

About the Composer

Todd Parrish (b. 1971) has taught public school orchestras at all levels for 20 years in Illinois, Virginia and Florida. Under his direction, the Hickory High School Chamber Orchestra (Chesapeake, Virginia) was chosen to perform at the VMEA State Conference in Hot Springs, Virginia. In addition, the orchestra performed at many outstanding venues, including Atlanta Symphony Hall, the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, and Carnegie Hall in New York City.

He received a Bachelor of Music Education from ORU in Tulsa, Oklahoma where he studied violin and piano. He received a Master of Music in orchestral conducting from the University of Arizona in Tucson, where he studied with Jindong Cai. He has also studied conducting at workshops with many leading teachers in Colorado, South Carolina, Maine, and Aix-en-Provence, France.

In August 2013, Mr. Parrish became the orchestra editor for J.W. Pepper sheet music and the string editor for Wingert-Jones Publications based in Exton, PA. He arranges classical music for school orchestras and writes original compositions for all levels. In the Fall of 2018, Mr. Parrish became the orchestra editor for Carl Fischer Music in New York City. He currently teachers orchestra at Winter Park High School near Orlando, Florida.

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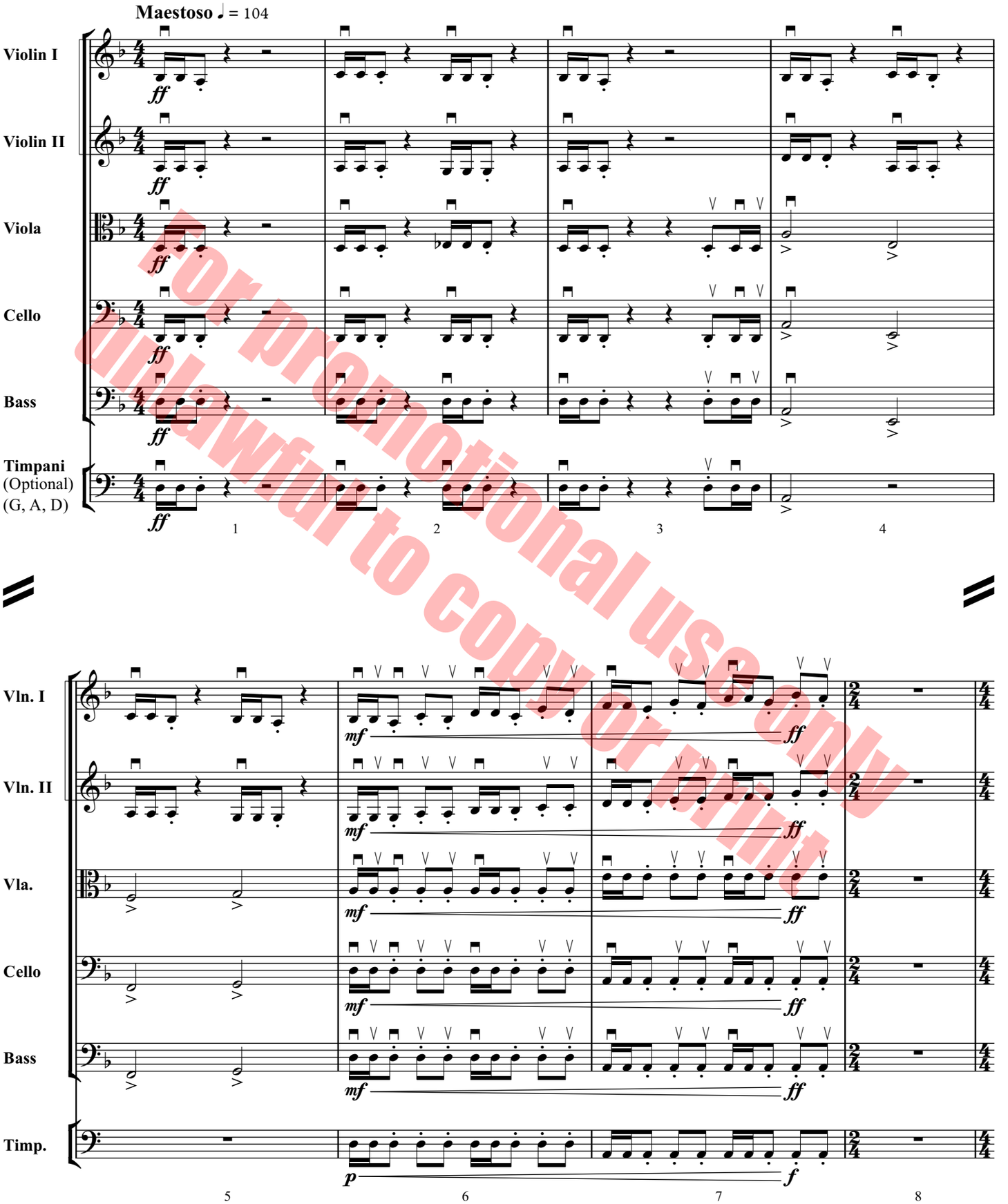
Ancient Wonders Suite

TODD PARRISH

I. Temple of Artemis at Ephesus



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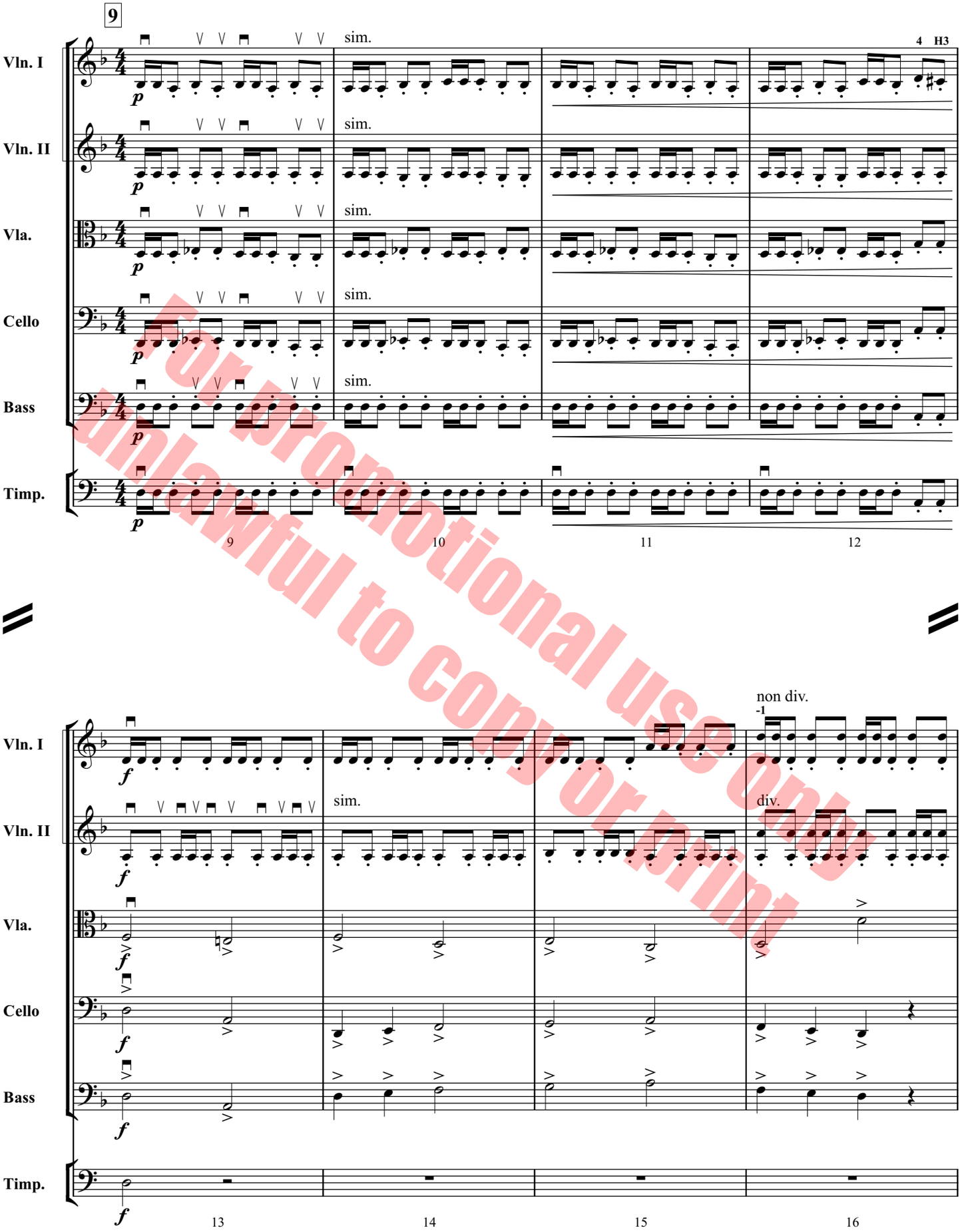

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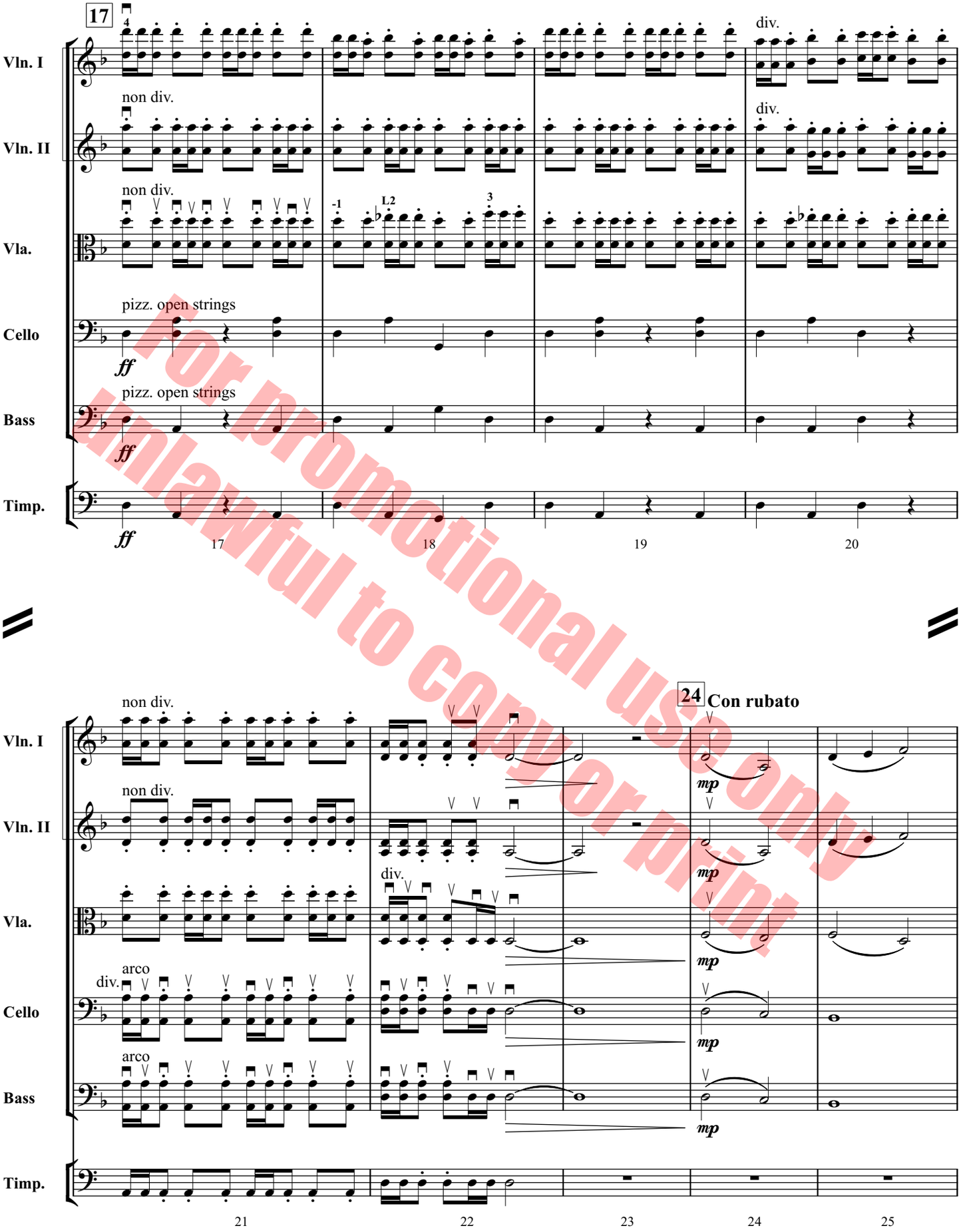

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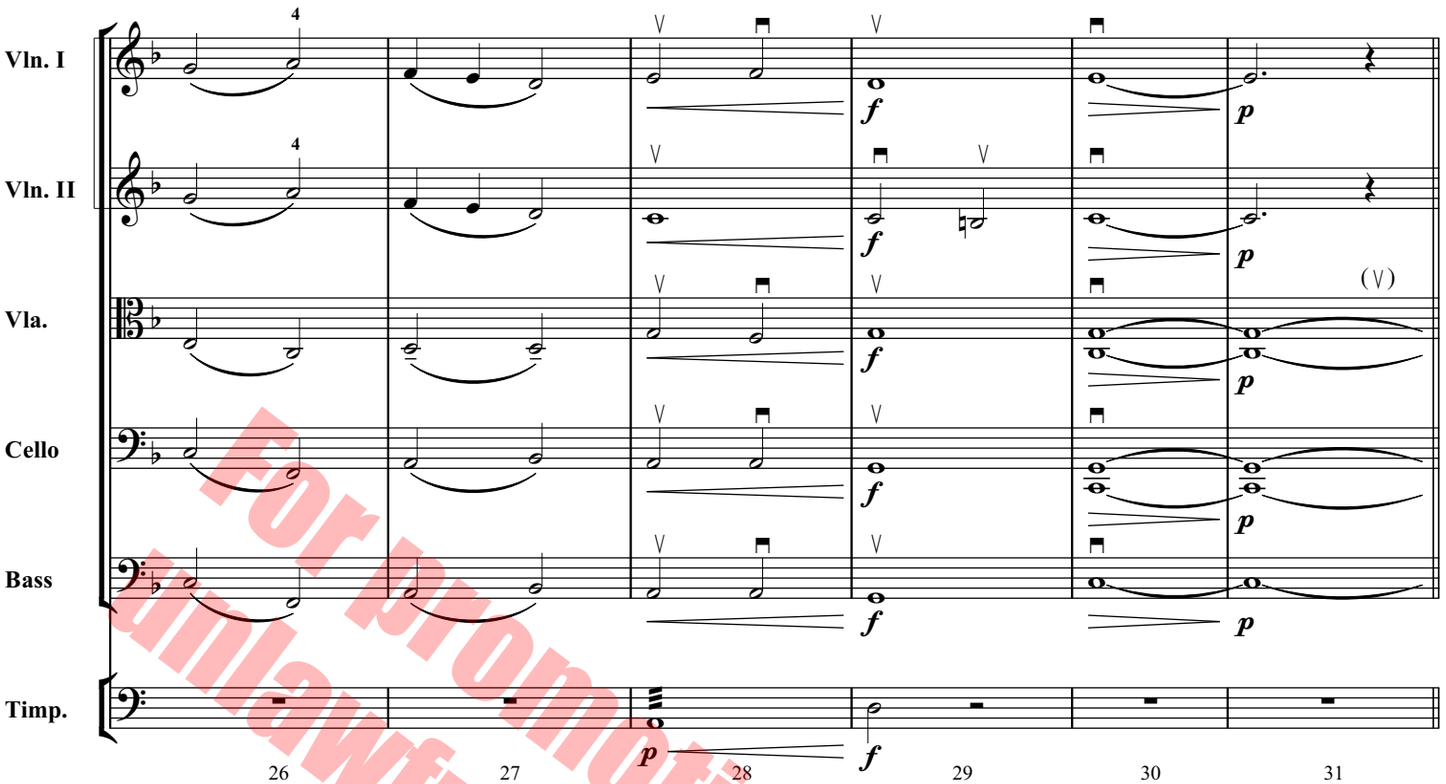

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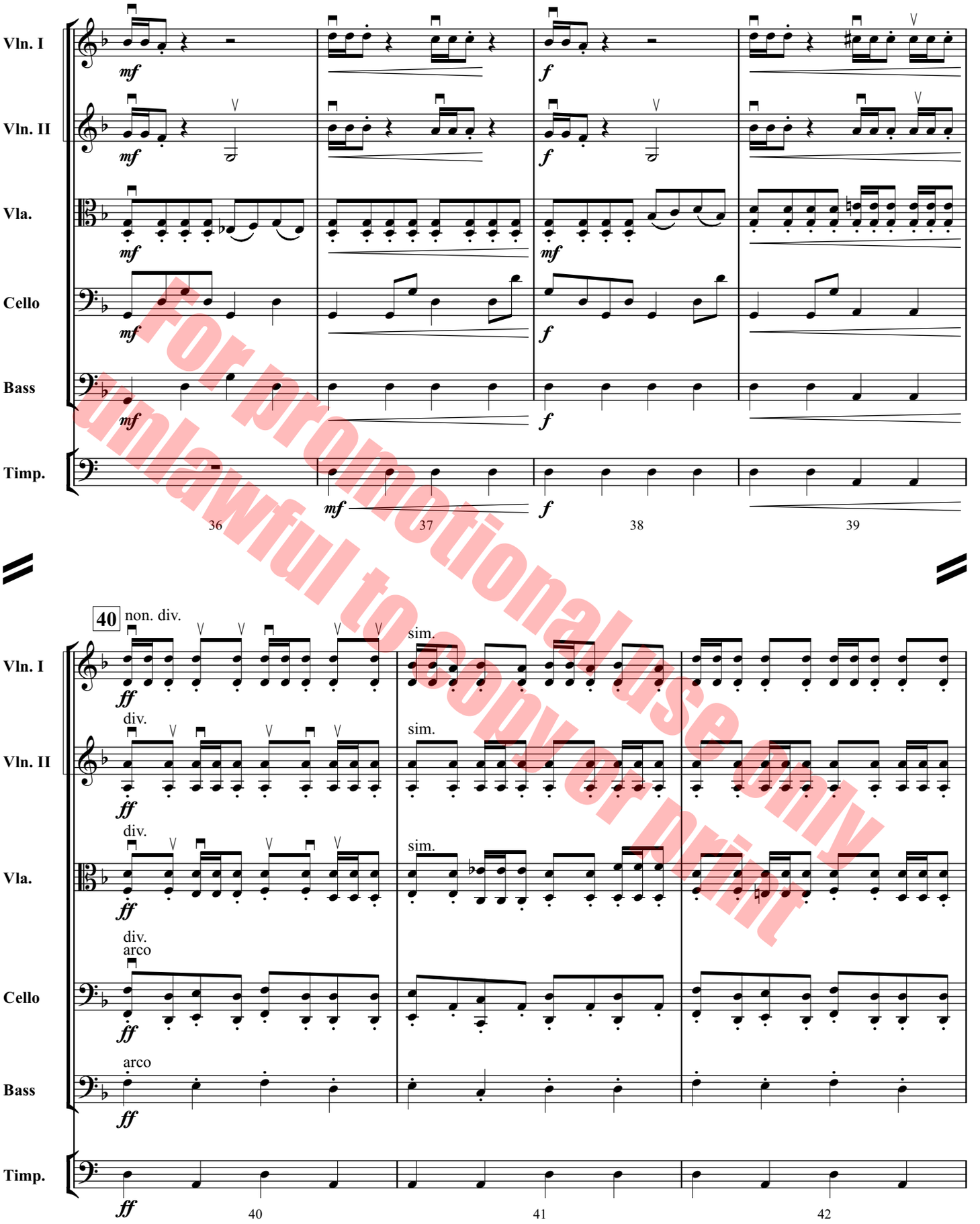

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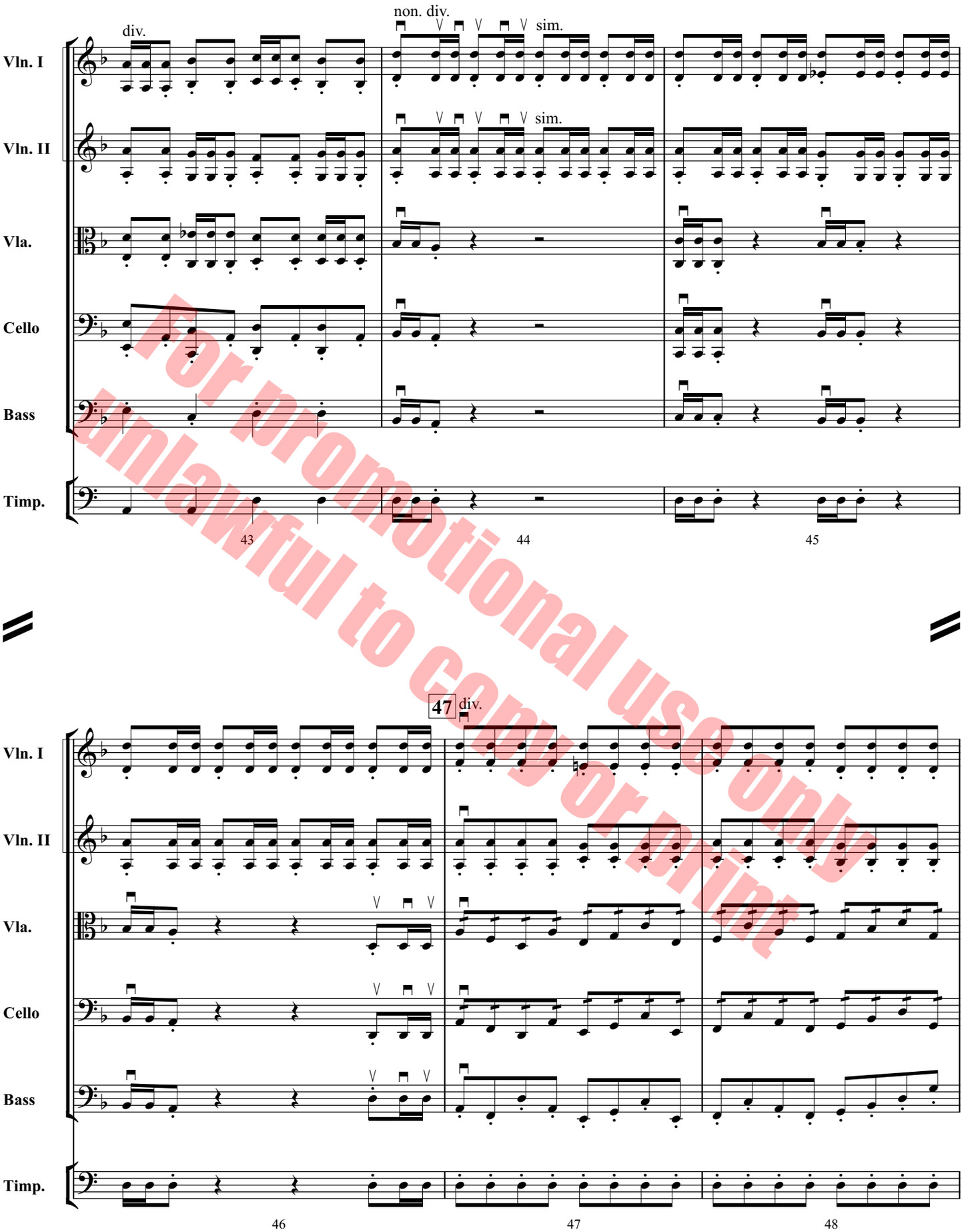

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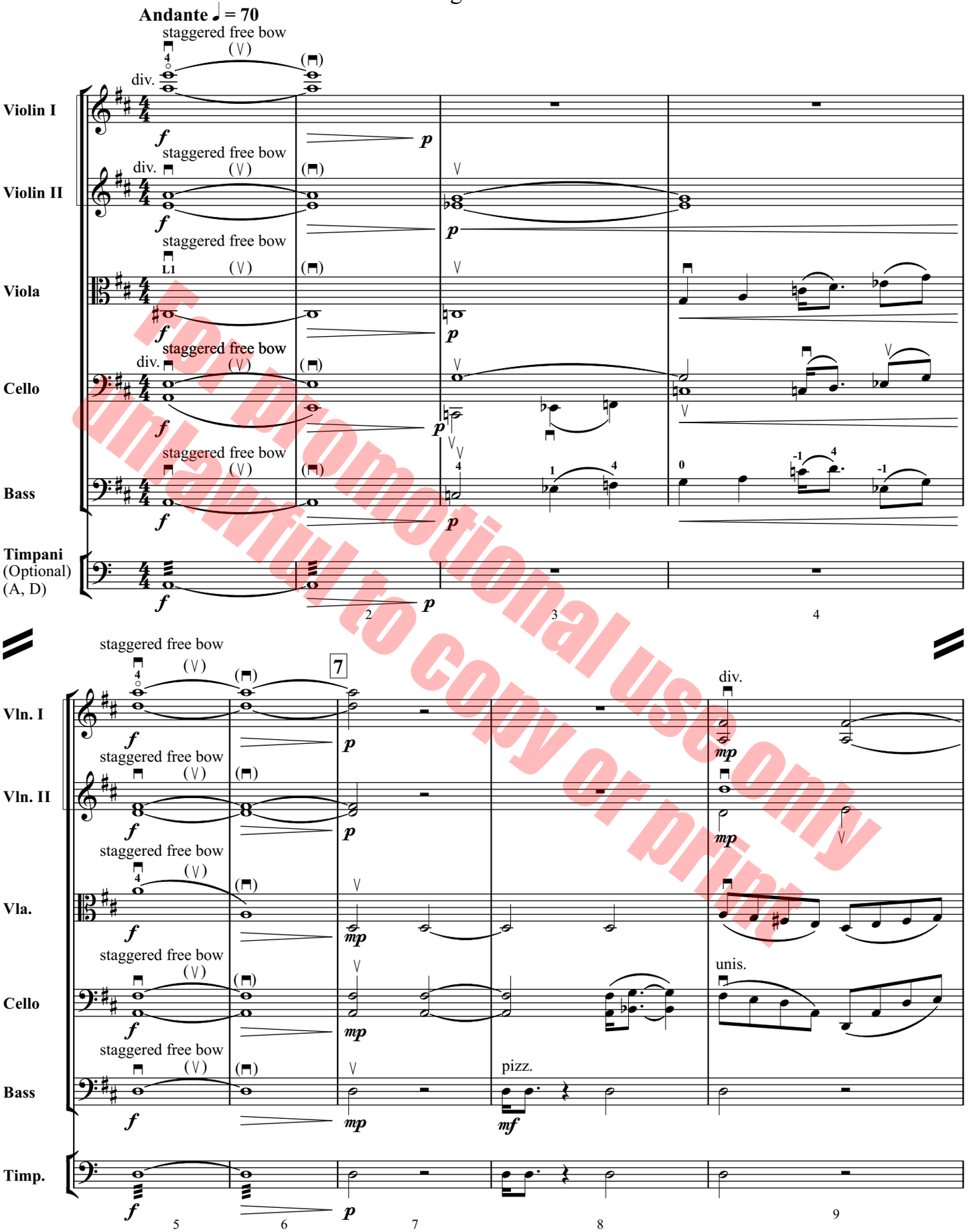
II. The Great Lighthouse at Alexandria



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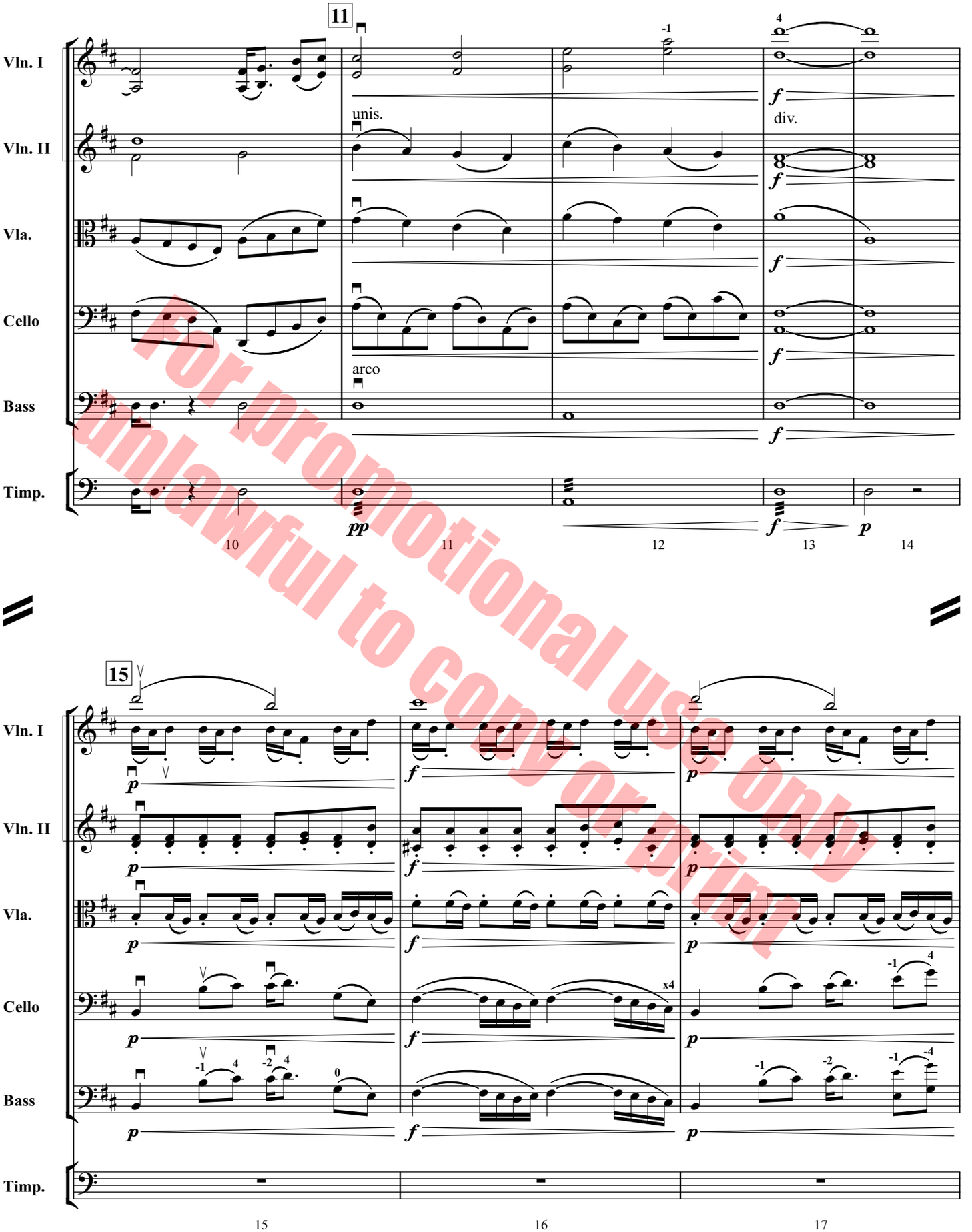

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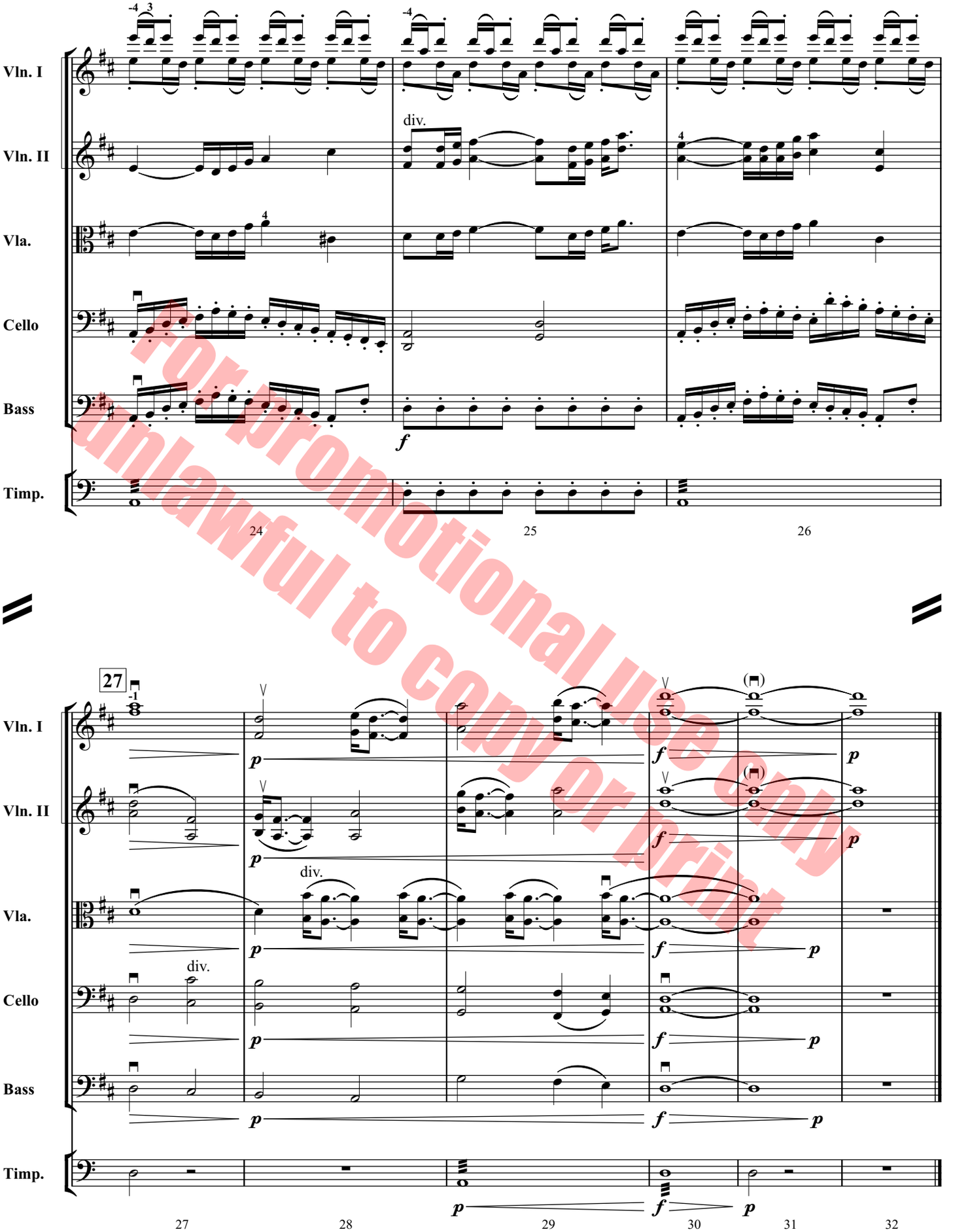

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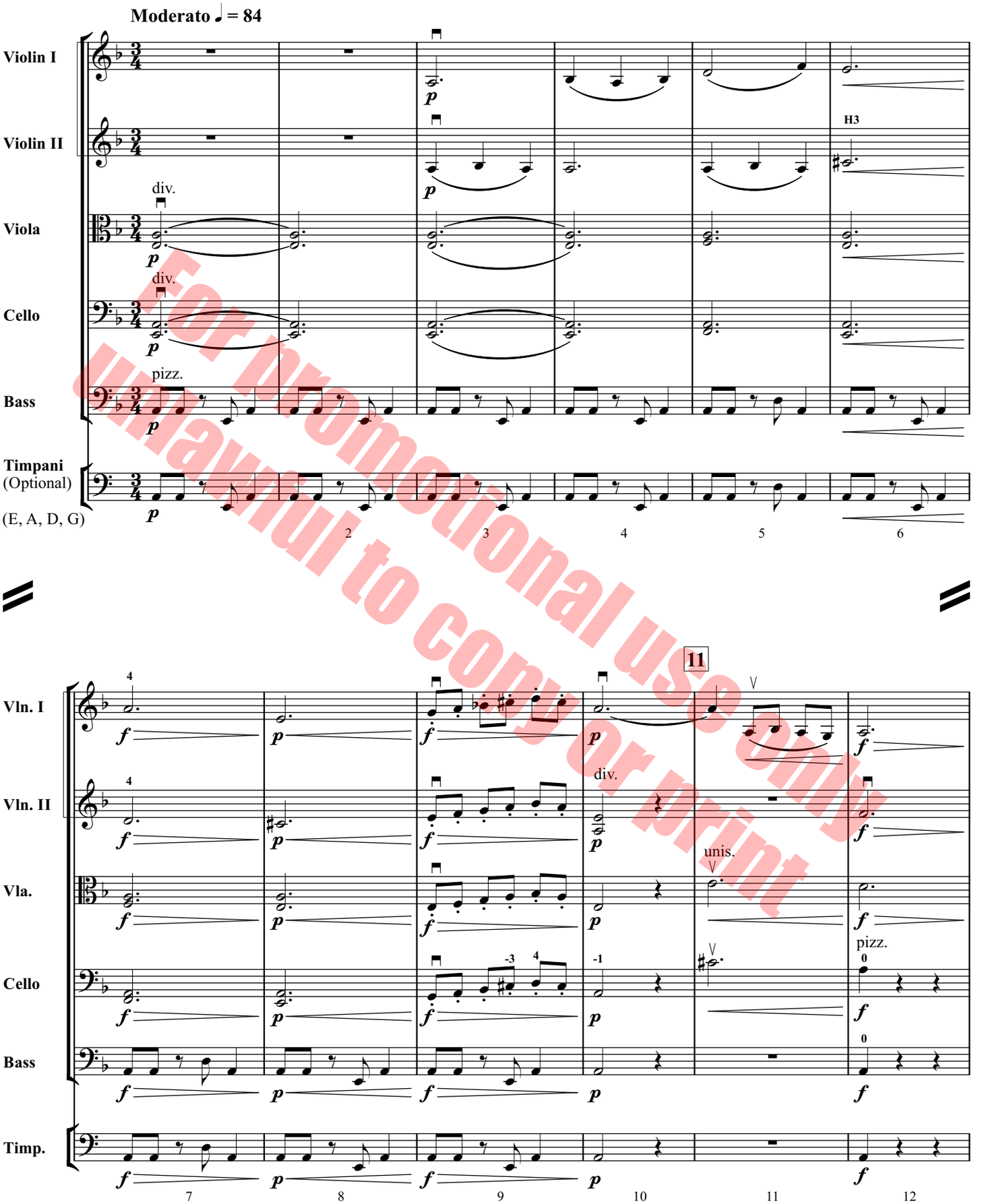
III. The Great Pyramid at Giza



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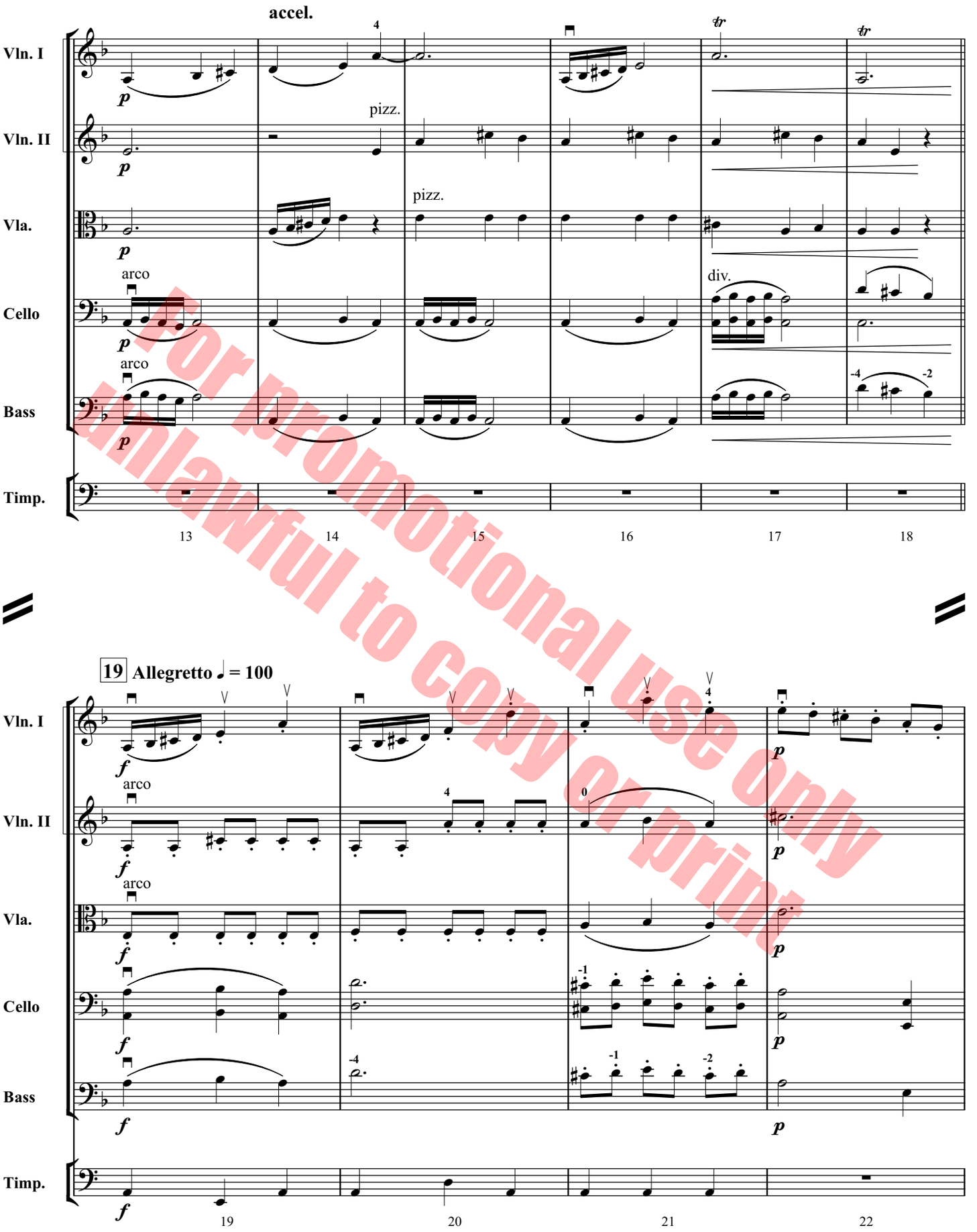

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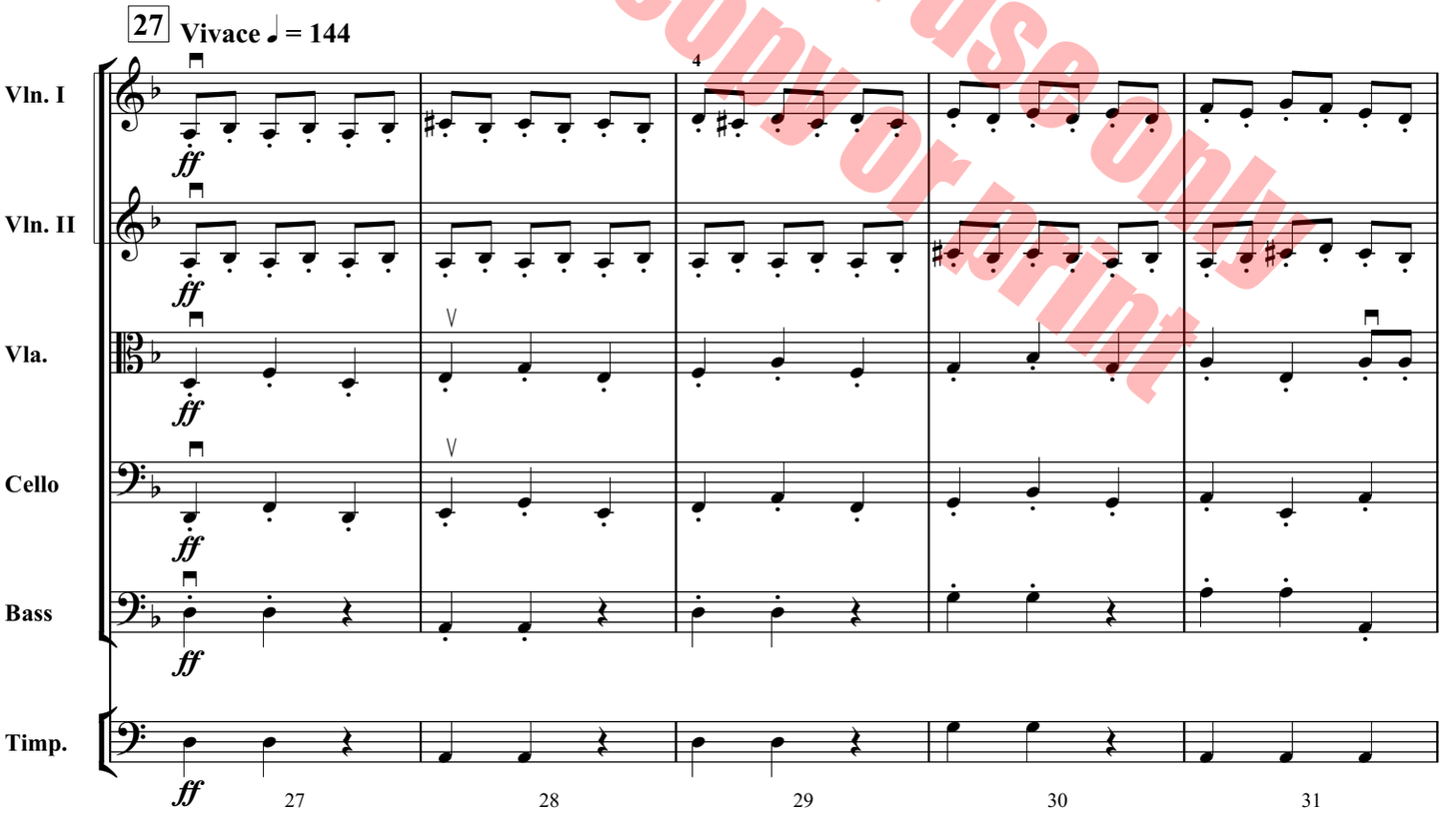

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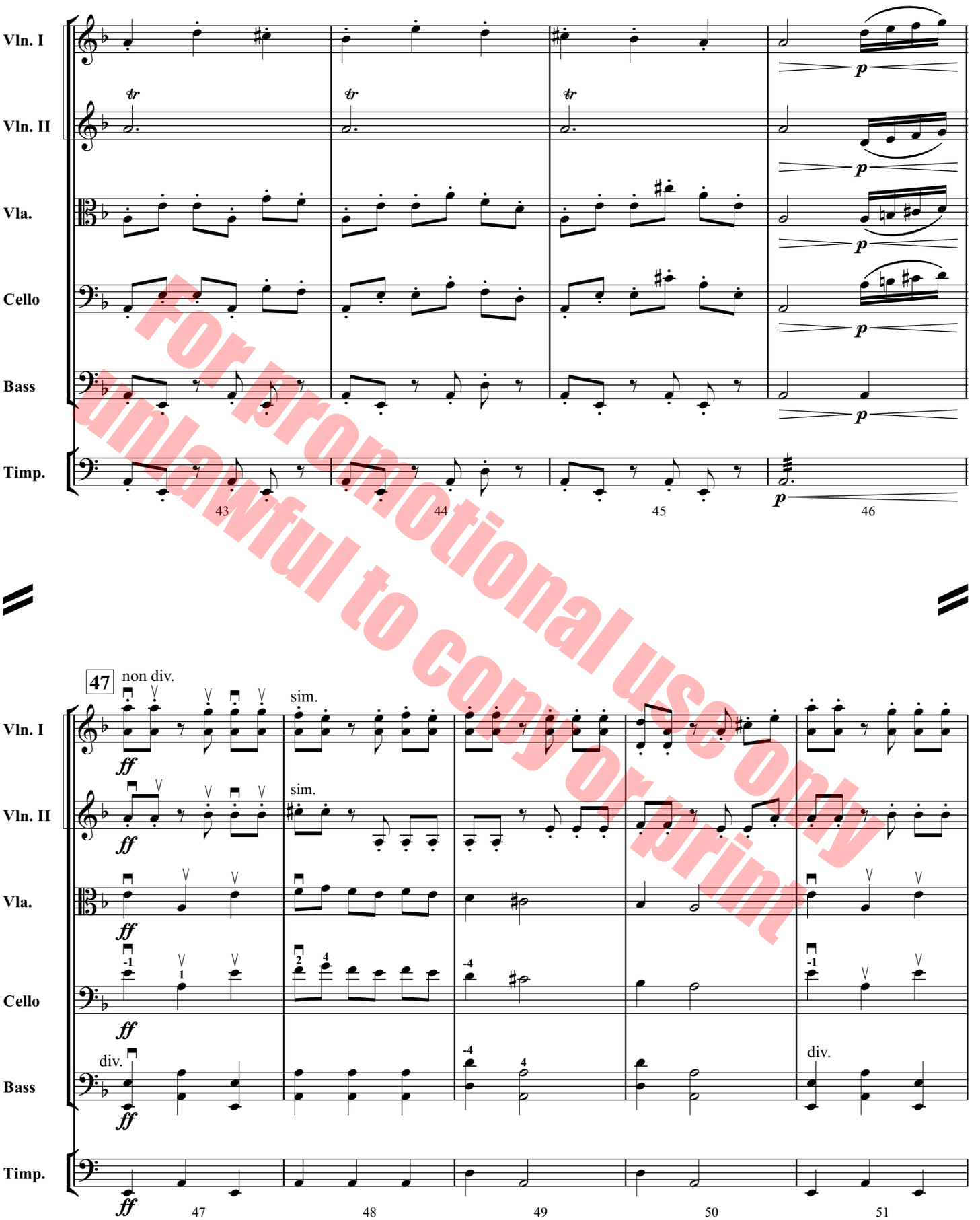

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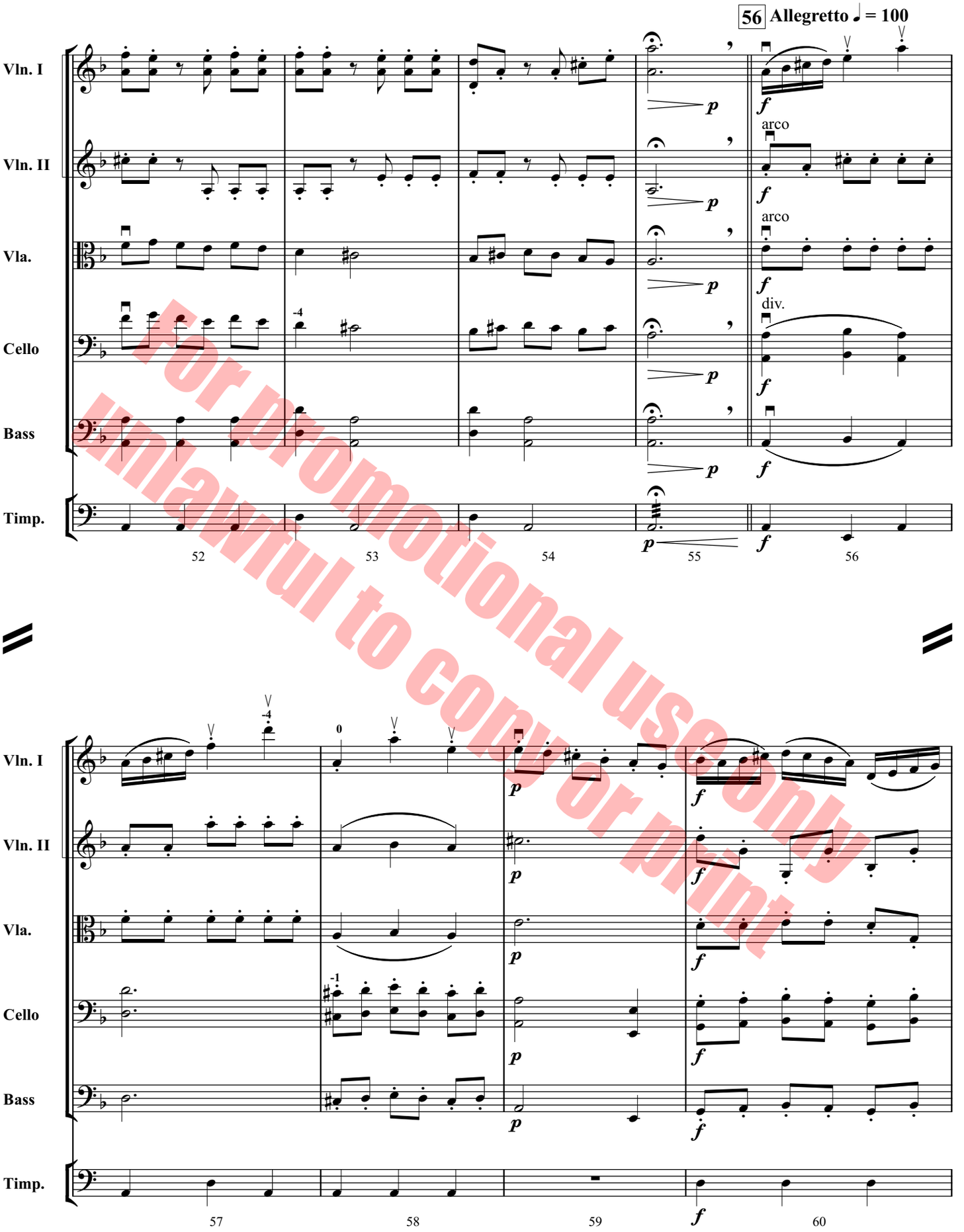

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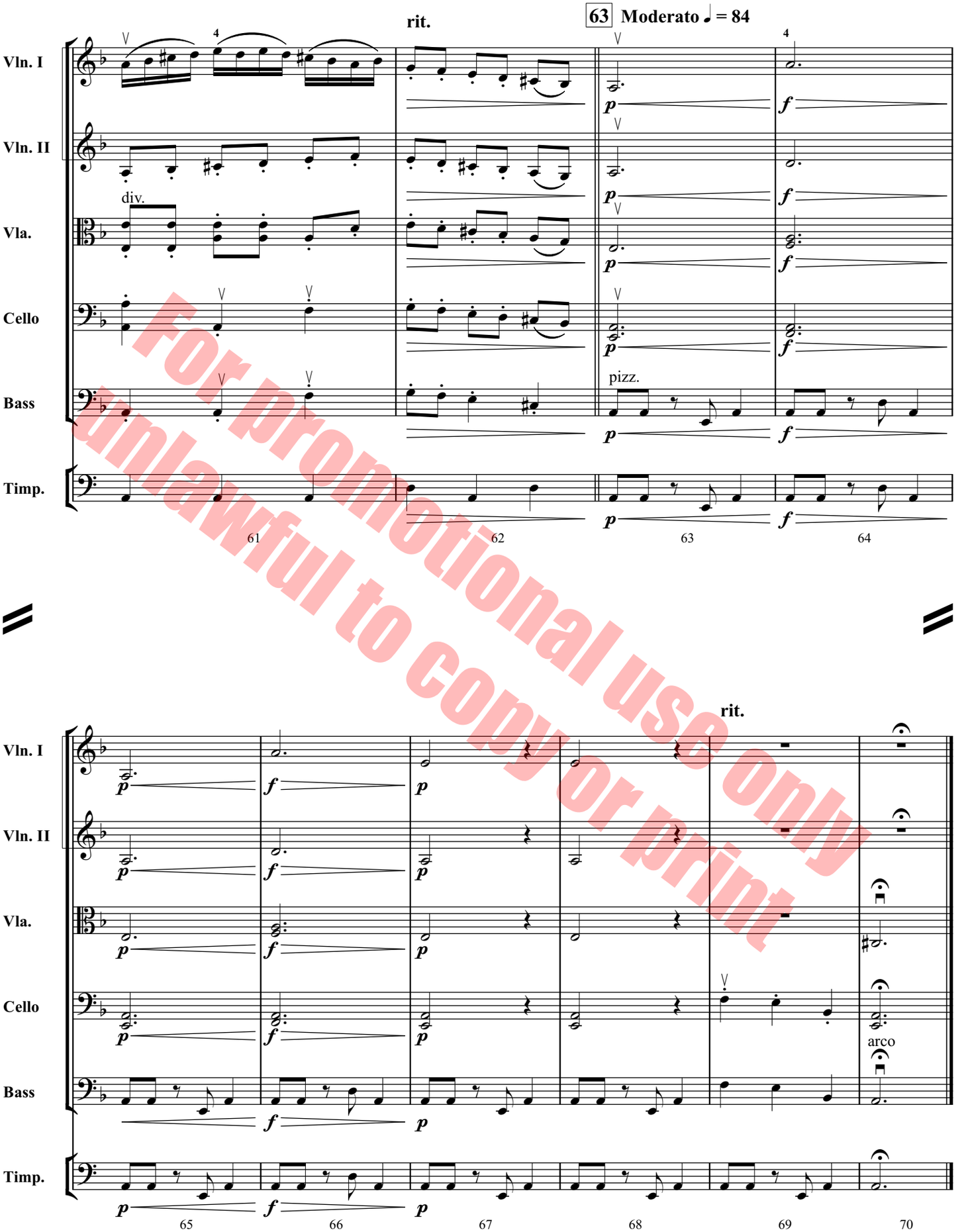

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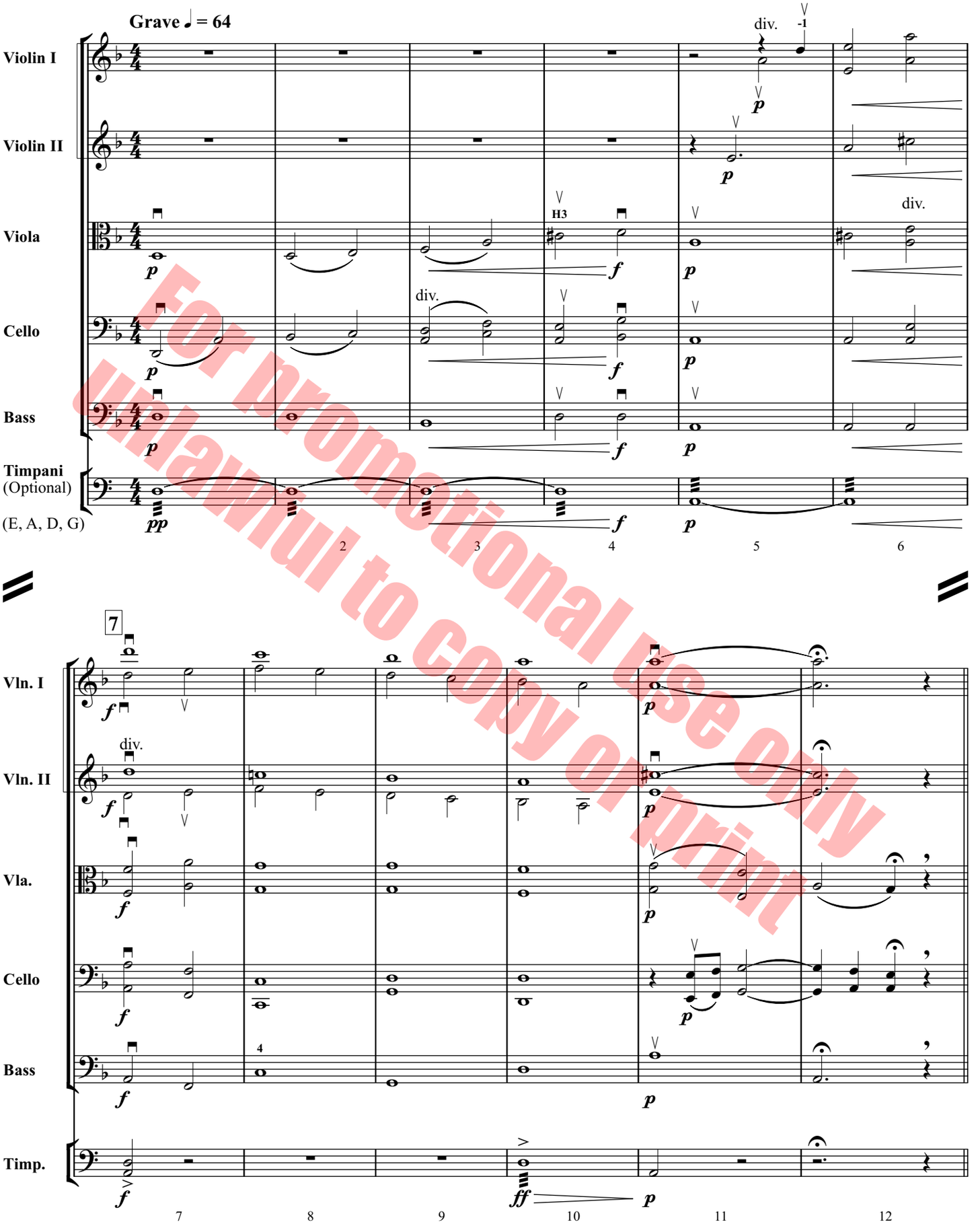
IV. Statue of Zeus at Olympia



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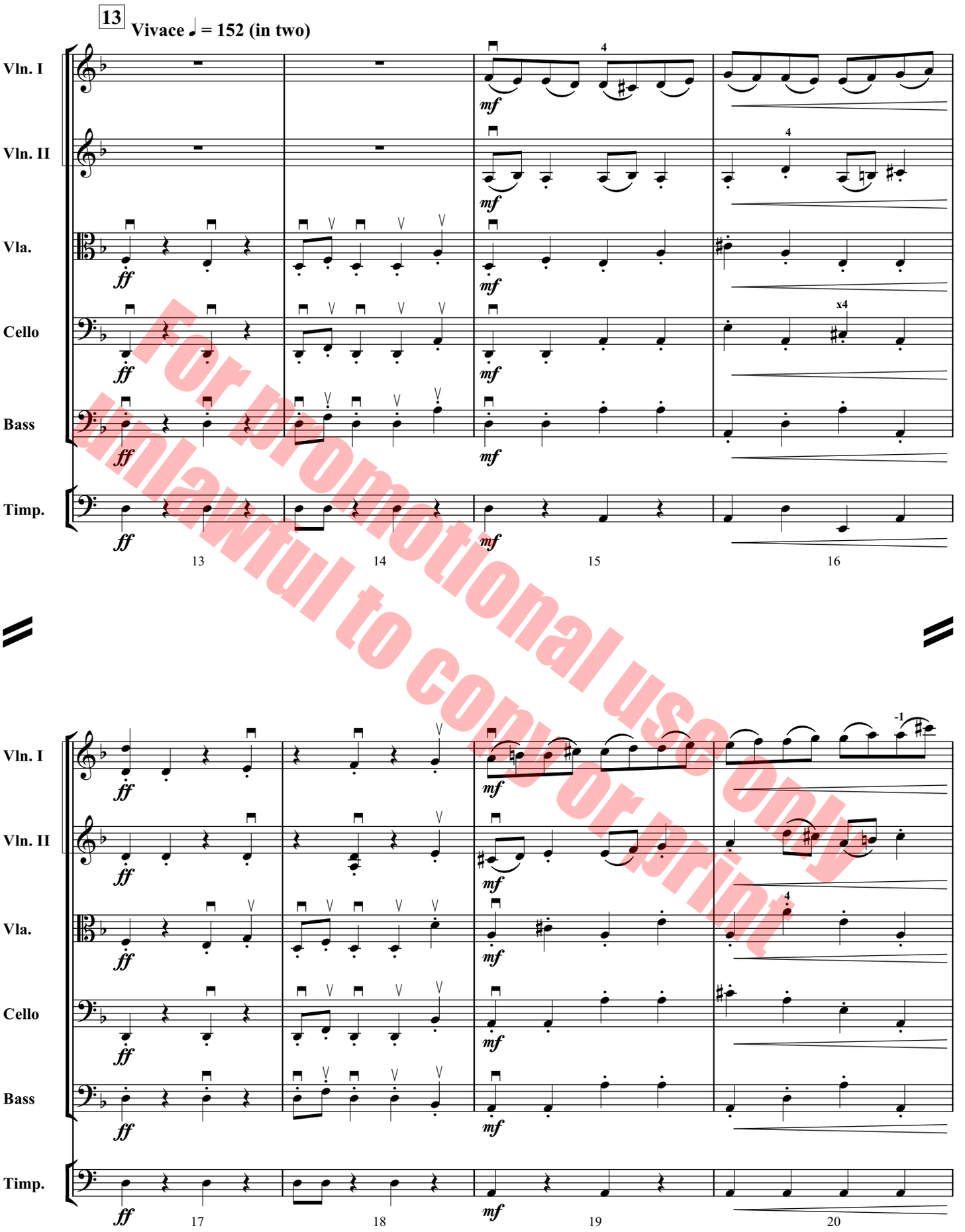

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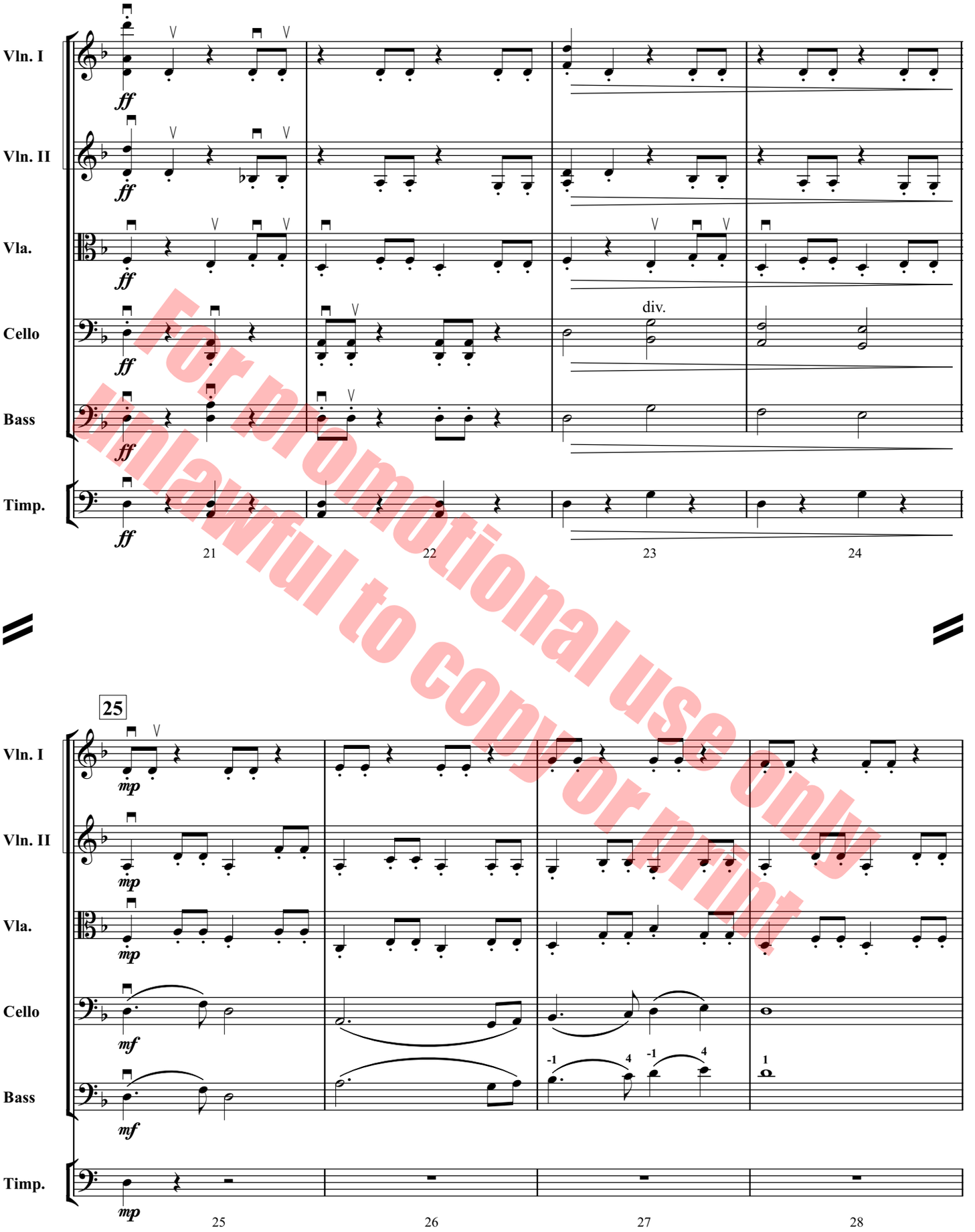

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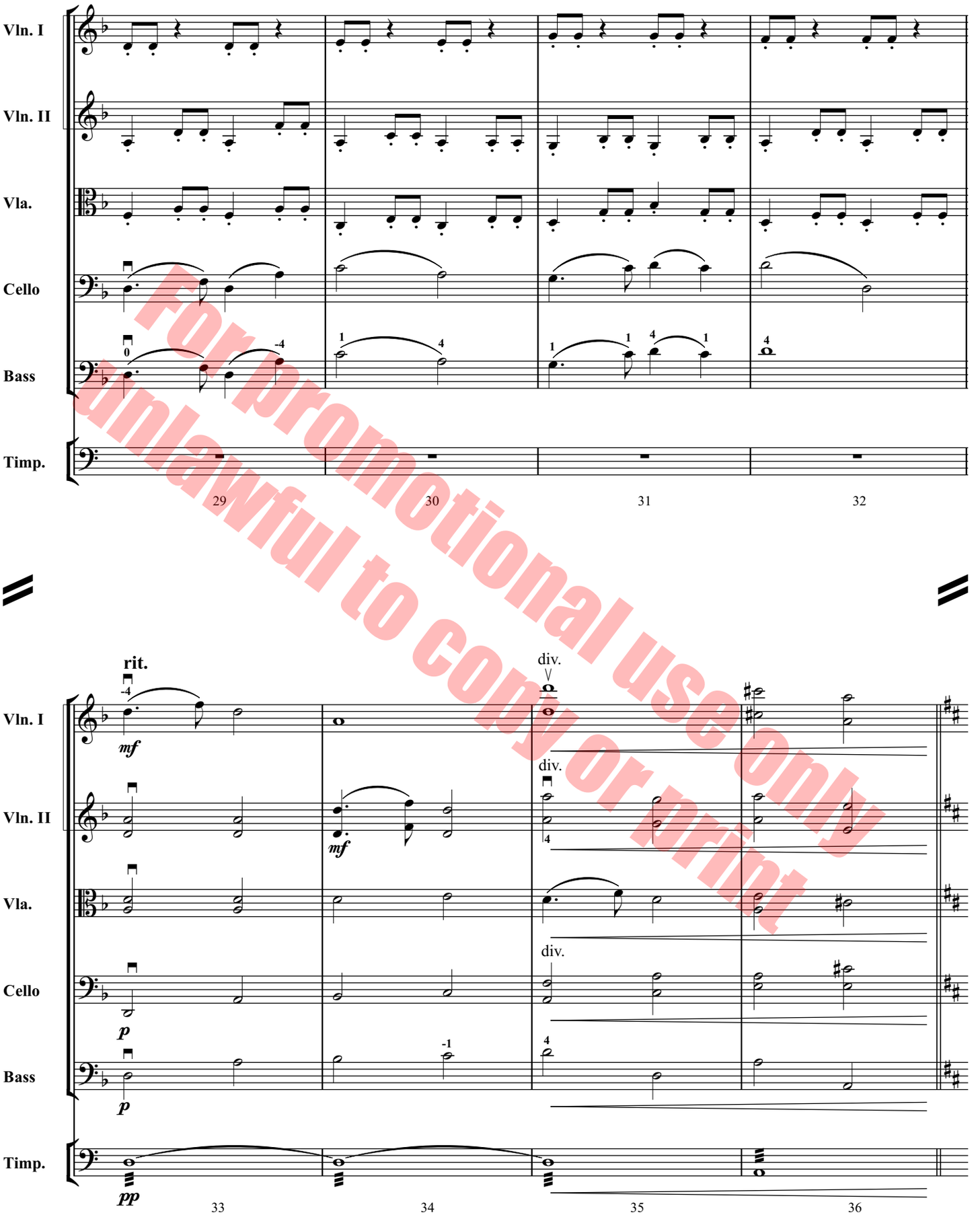

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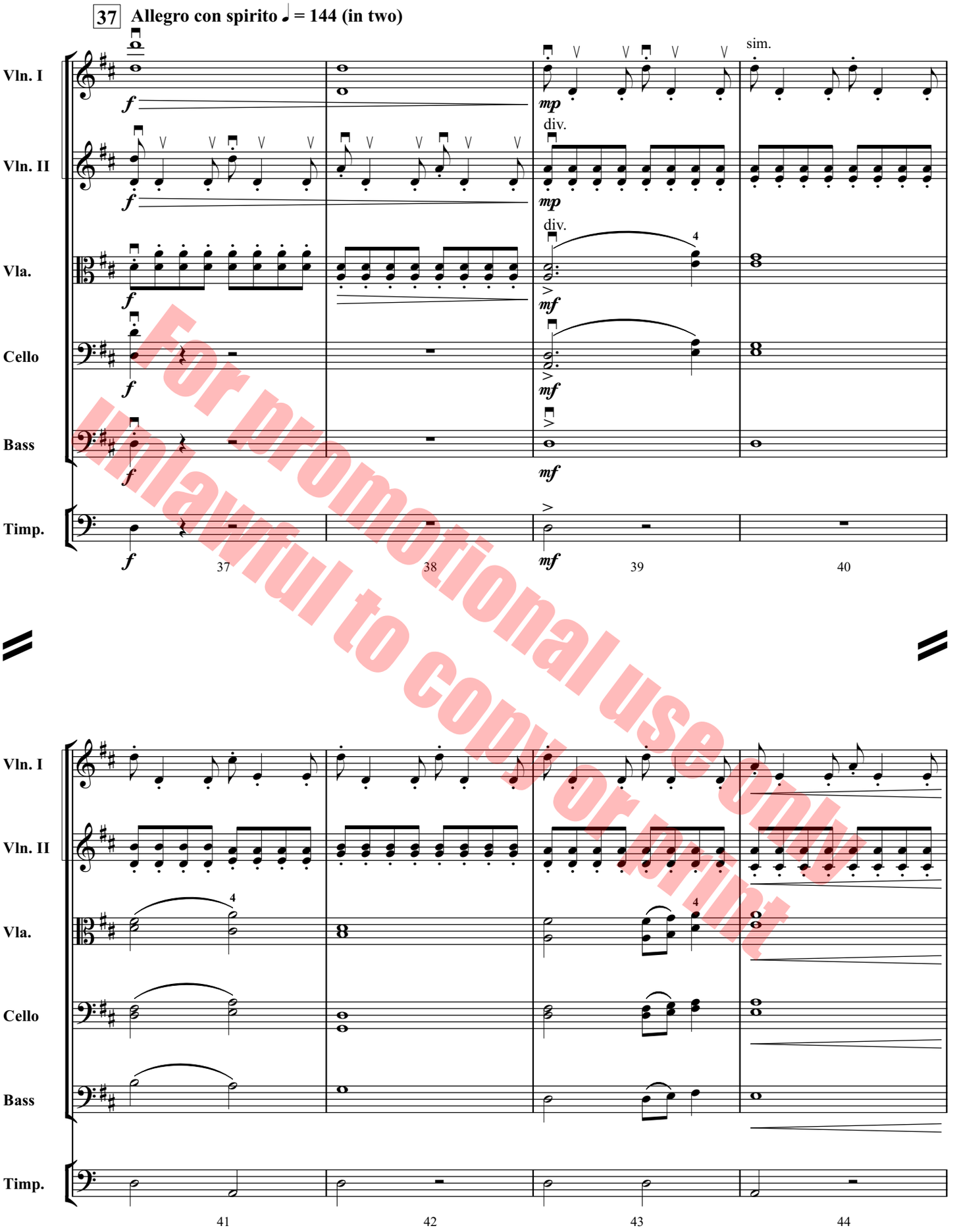

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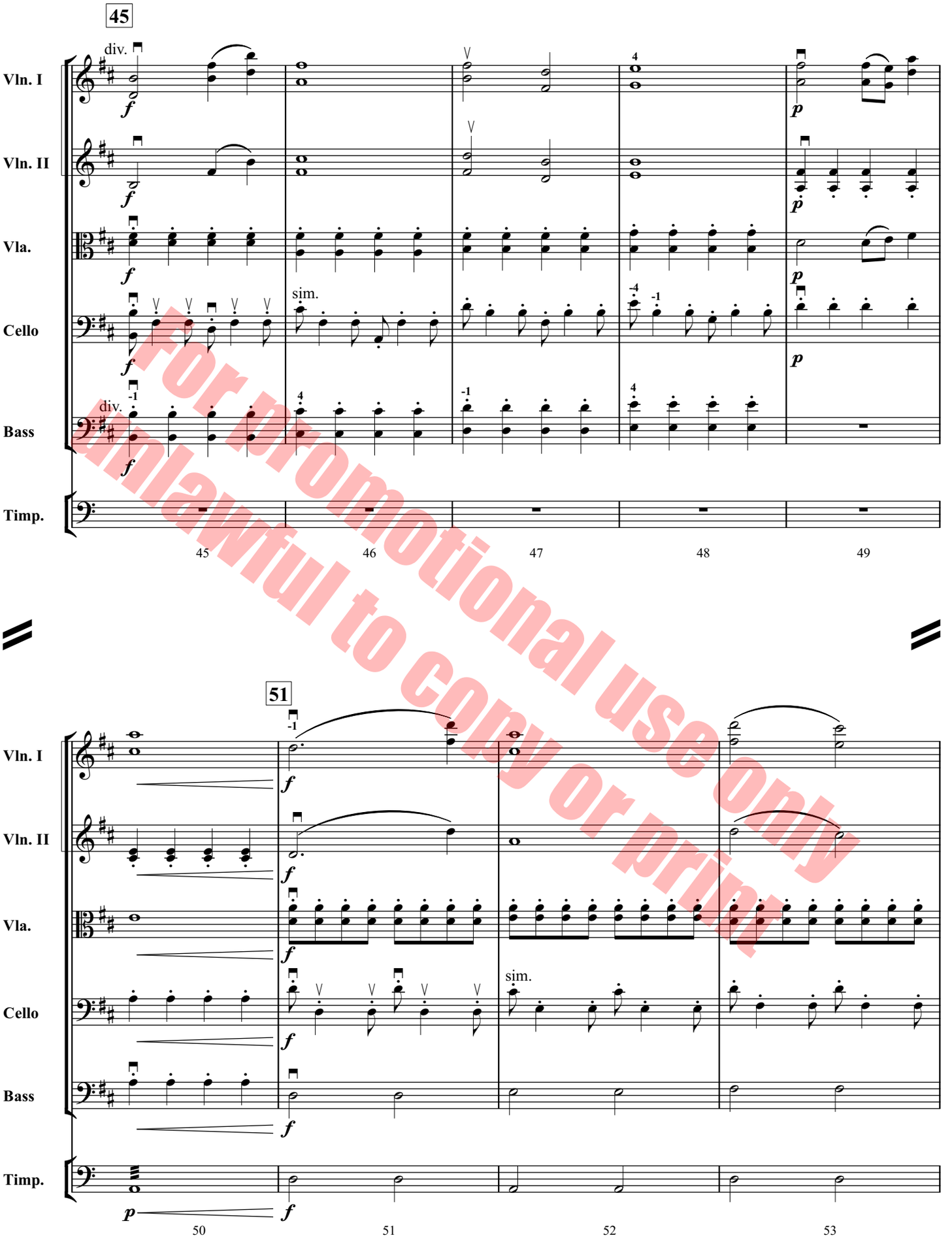

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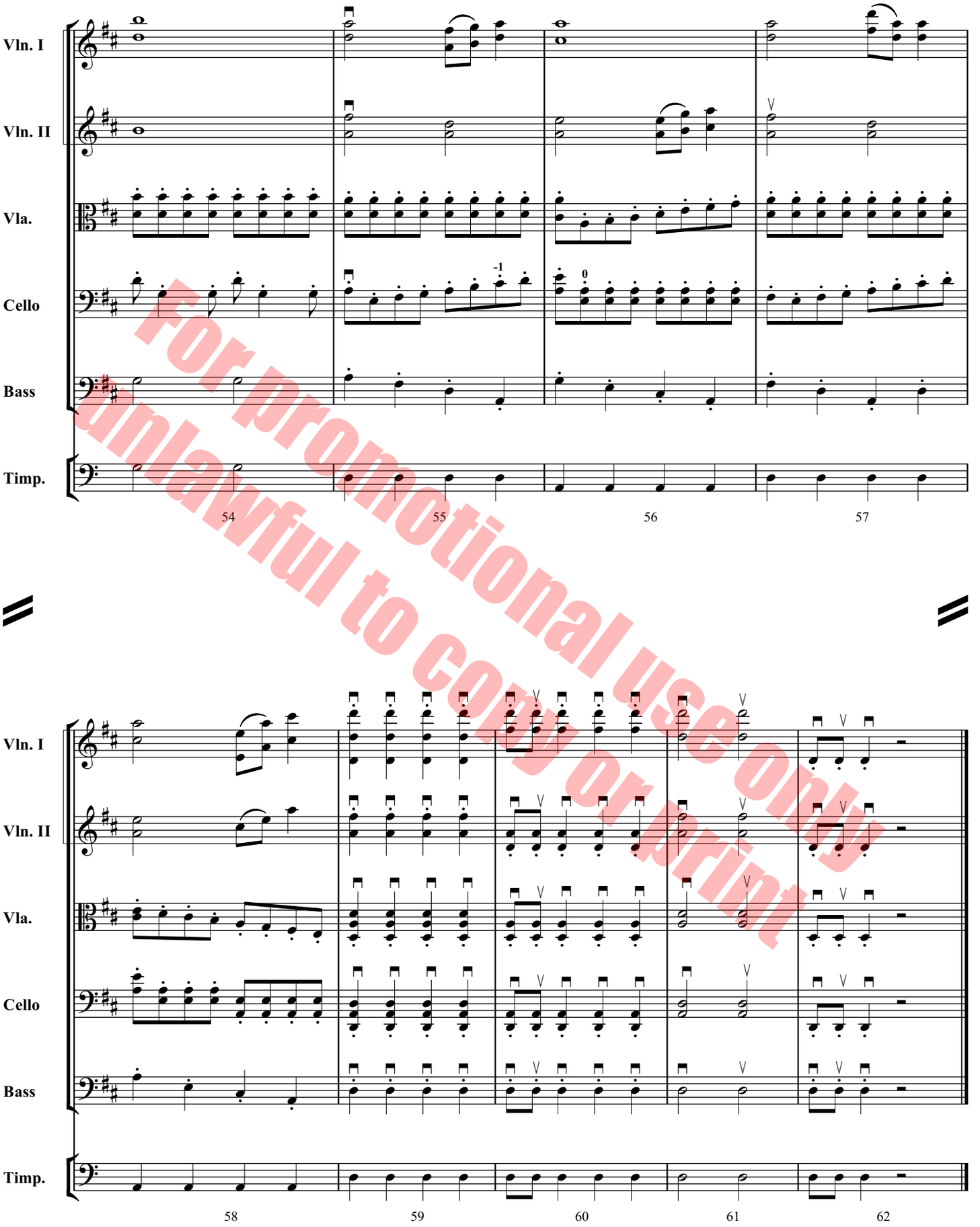

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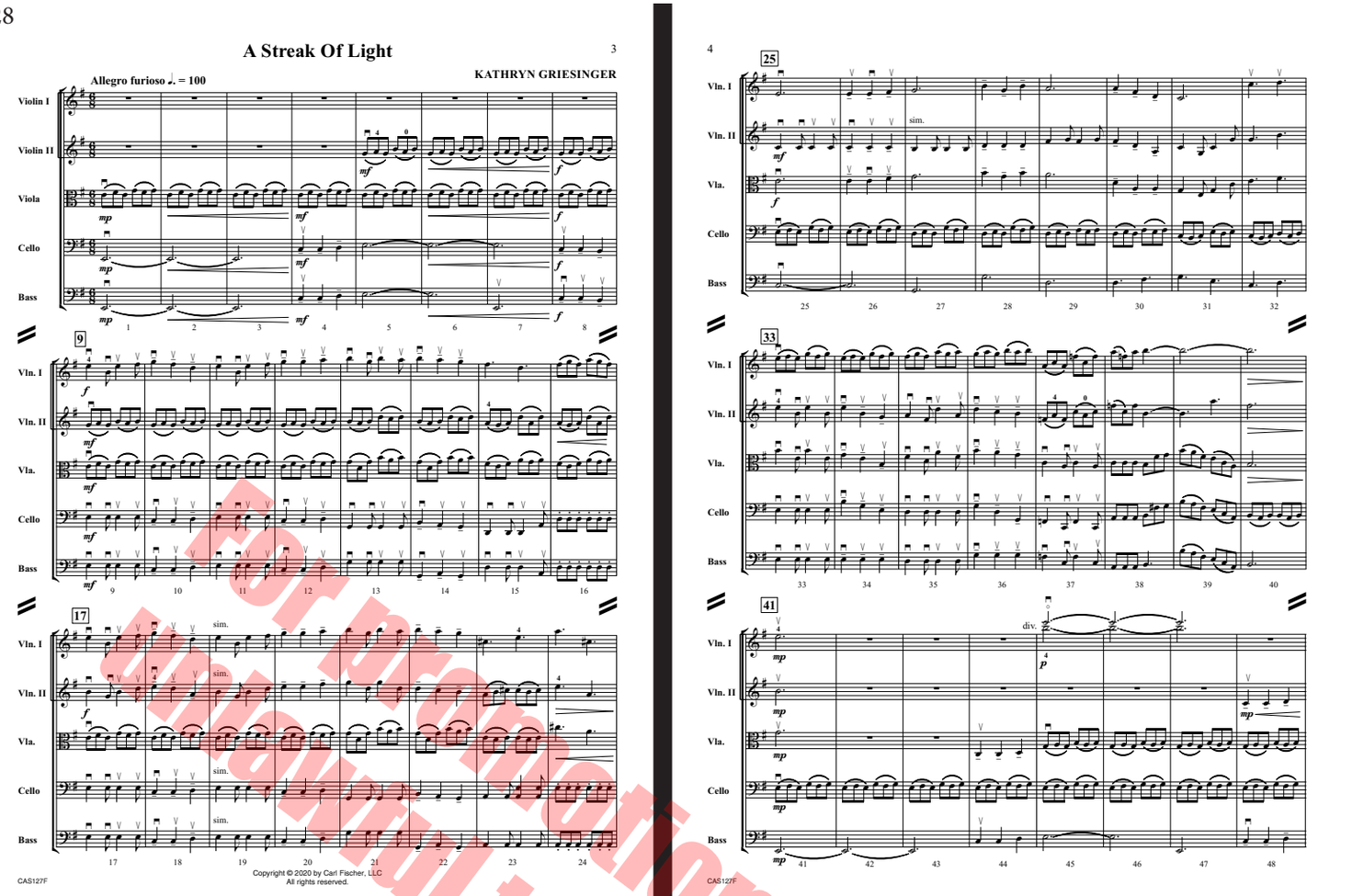

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