# Cloud Drifting

For String Orchestra, Grade 3.5
by Gavin Lendt

Instrumentation

1 - Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2
3 - Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)
5 - Viola
5 - Cello
5 - Bass*

Note from the Editor:

Imagine soaring through the clouds in this 6/8 dance-like work. The piece uses ties and hairpin dynamics to emulate that feeling of floating. It is mostly written in 1st position, with some 3rd position for 1st violins.
*A Cello 2 part that doubles the Bass is available as a free download at randallstandridge.com.
- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

**Full Set - $65.00** **Extra Conductor Score - $12.00** **Extra Part - $5.00**

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# Cloud Drifting

By Gavin Lendt, Grade 3.5

**Program Notes:**
*Cloud Drifting* is an uplifting 6/8 waltz for string orchestra that captures the feeling of floating and soaring among the clouds. Light, bouncing rhythms and changing textures lead to a big, exciting climax before settling into a calm, peaceful ending. It is a fun and rewarding piece to play and hear.

As I worked on the music, I imagined friendly "sky people" drifting from cloud to cloud, exploring the atmosphere together and enjoying the freedom of flight. This playful image helped shape the character of the piece, giving it both warmth and imagination.

The music moves between light, joyful moments and broader, more powerful sections, always keeping a sense of motion and flow. *Cloud Drifting* blends dance-like energy with space to breathe, inviting players and listeners into a colorful musical sky. A steady pulse guides the music through gentle ups and downs. As the layers build, the sound grows into a sweeping high point before slowly relaxing into a quiet finish as the clouds drift apart.

– Gavin Lendt

**Notes To the Conductor:**

- At the beginning, focus on strong rhythmic accuracy in the viola and cello parts. Even at slow, rehearsal tempos, make sure rhythms are clean and steady, especially when notes change.
- The main melody in bar 3 should have slightly stronger downbeats, but without heavy accents. Think "light and lifted," not heavy. We are floating in the air, not stomping on the ground.
- Bar 27 should sound soft and dreamy. There are lots of tension-and-release moments in this piece, so help students listen for how notes want to lean and resolve.
- At bar 46, remind the first violins to blend within the second violins and violas. No section should overpower the others here.
- From bar 46 to 53, have students feel like they are building toward something big. When it suddenly drops at bar 53, keep the energy going so the next buildup feels natural.
- There are no tempo changes until the very end. Keeping a steady beat all the way through is very important.
- At the ending, the final sound should be the double bass pizzicato. All other strings should fade away so the bass pizzicato is the last sound the audience hears. You may double it with a few cello pizzicato on their low C.
- Optional light percussion, such as soft djembe, claves, or shakers, may be added to help support the groove.

**About the Composer:**
Gavin Lendt is an award-winning composer, conductor, and horn player. Known mostly for his band works, he is also a recognized composer of music for orchestra, choir, solo instruments, and small ensembles, and writes music for YouTube and Twitch content creators. He has received several commissions throughout the United States, and his music has been performed all over the world. Most recently, his work "A Wind in Time" was selected as a winner of the 2021 Grand Mesa Music Composition Contest. In December of 2022, he premiered his large-scale work for orchestra and choir, "Living in the Light."

His music is known for incorporating rich harmonies and dramatic counterlines. Gavin studied composition at the University of Kansas with James Barnes and has had private instruction with luminary composers such as Stephen Melillo, John Mackey, Julie Giroux, Charles Rochester Young, and Gabriela Frank

An avid horn player, Gavin has performed with the Topeka Symphony, Kansas City Civic Orchestra, Hollywood Hills Orchestra, and the Lenexa Orchestra. Gavin is also the musical director and arranger for the Kansas City Horn Club, a nonprofit organization designed to share enthusiasm and increase interest for the horn. Gavin lives in Lenexa, Kansas, with his music educator wife, Stacy. Visit gavinlendt.com for more.

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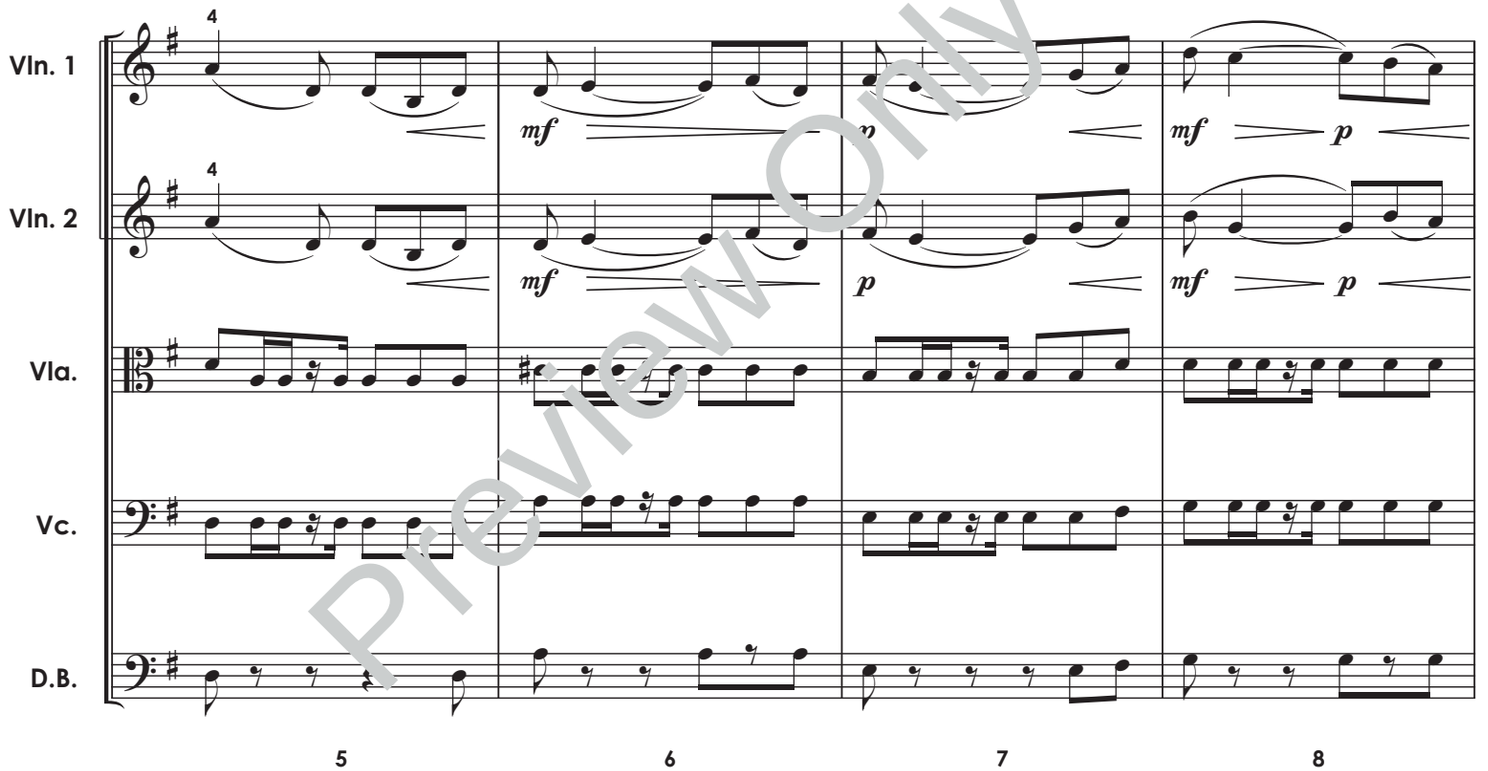
# Cloud Drifting

Score
Grade 3.5
Duration 3:00

Gavin Lendt
(ASCAP)

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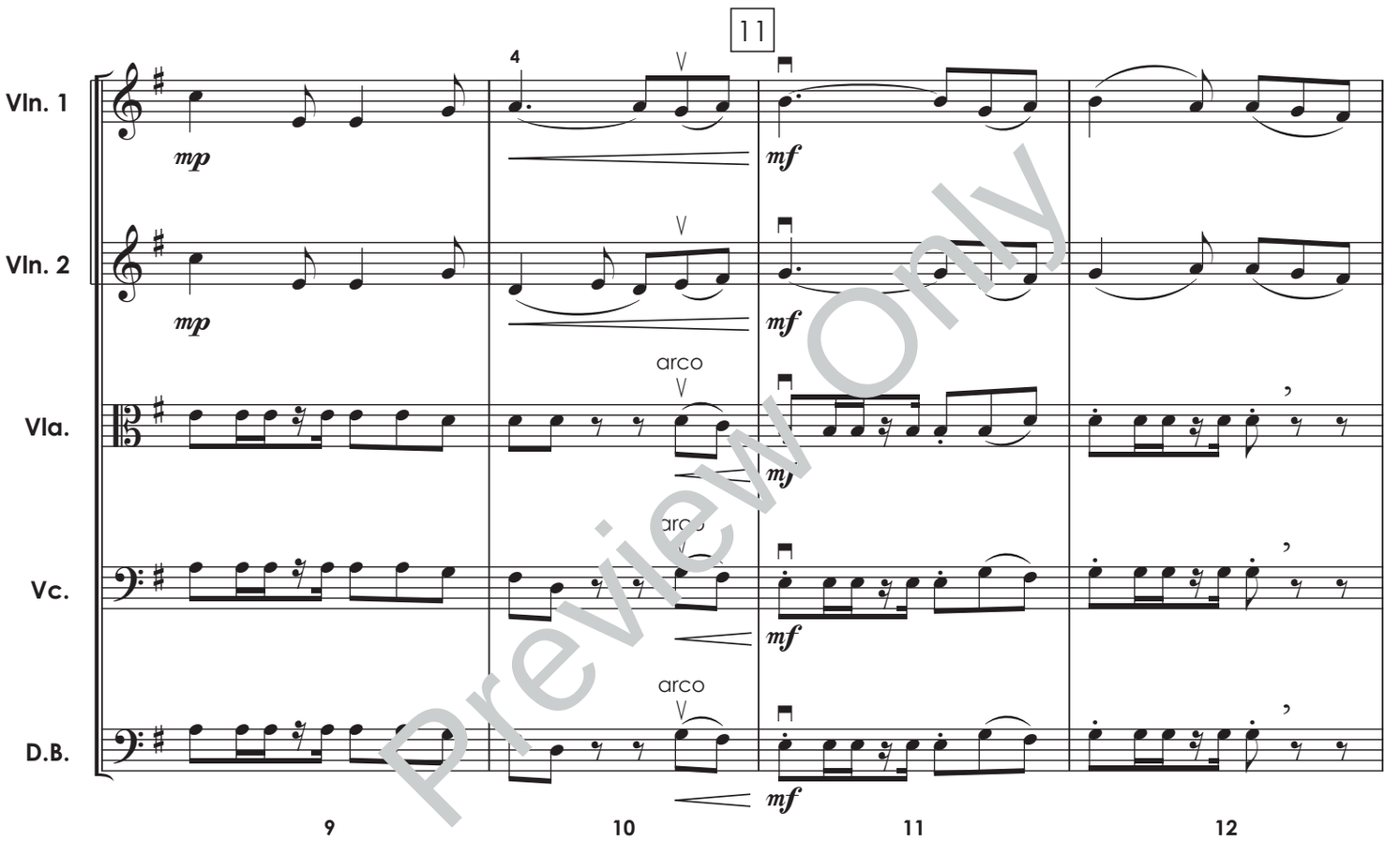
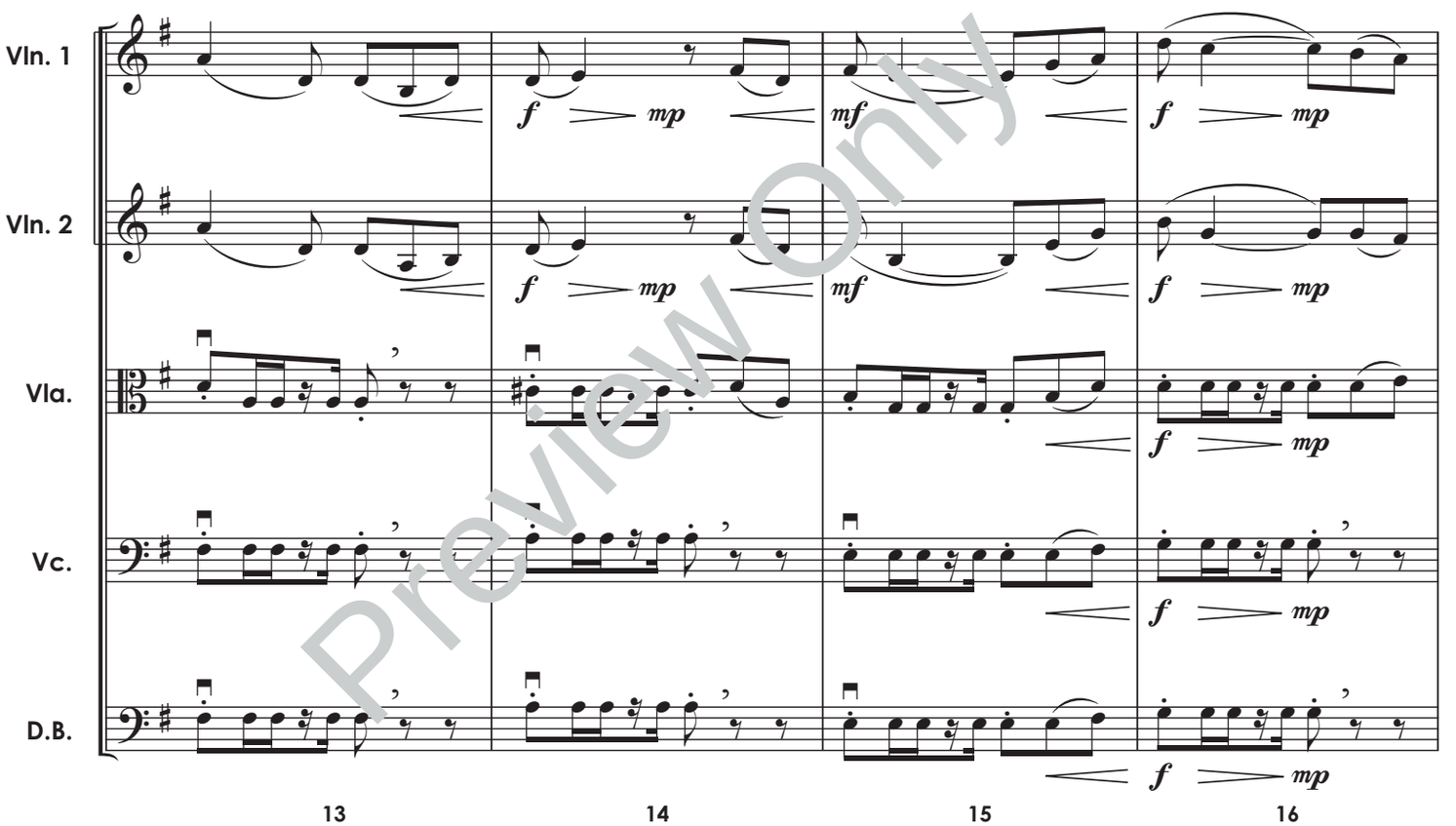
**RSMS092**

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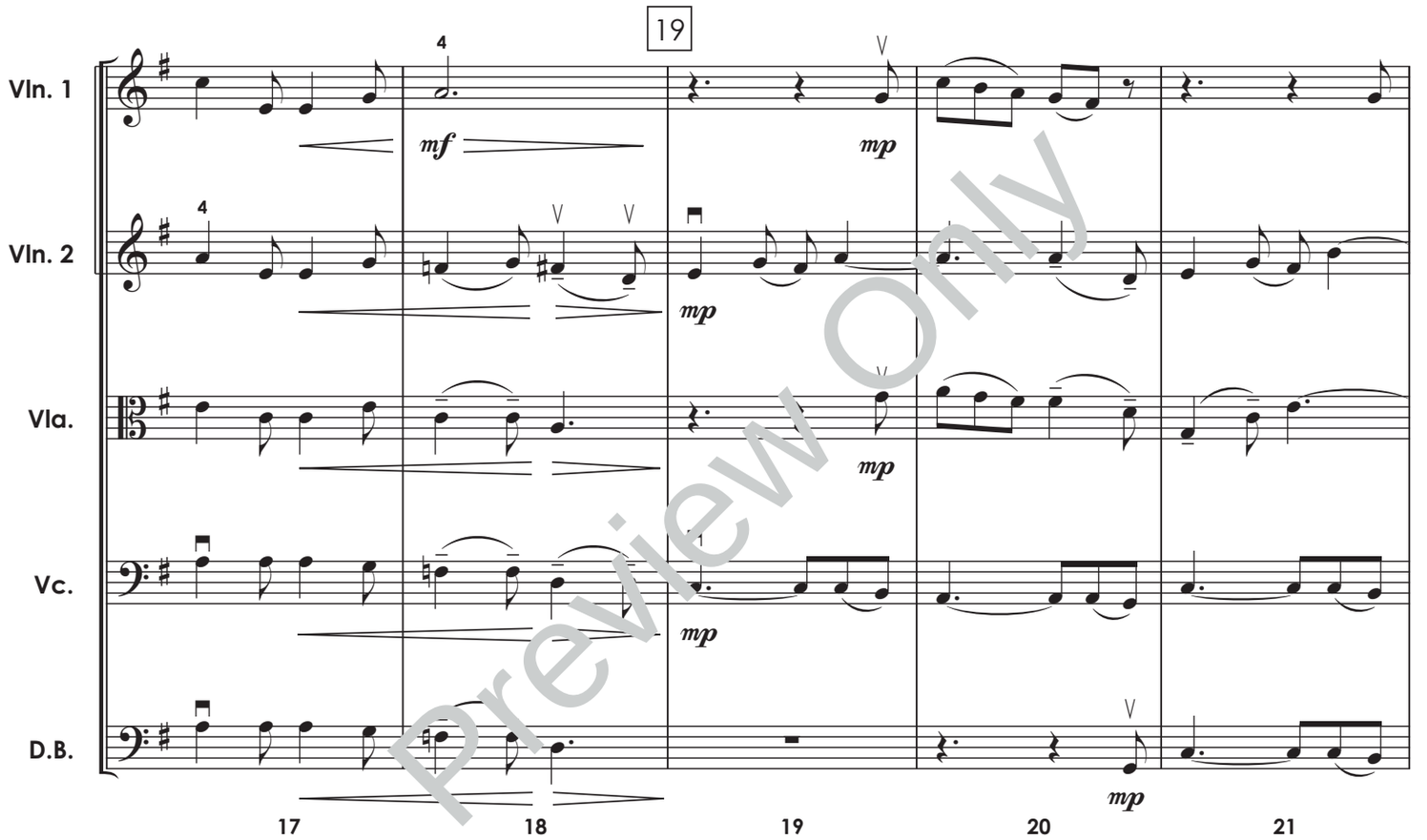

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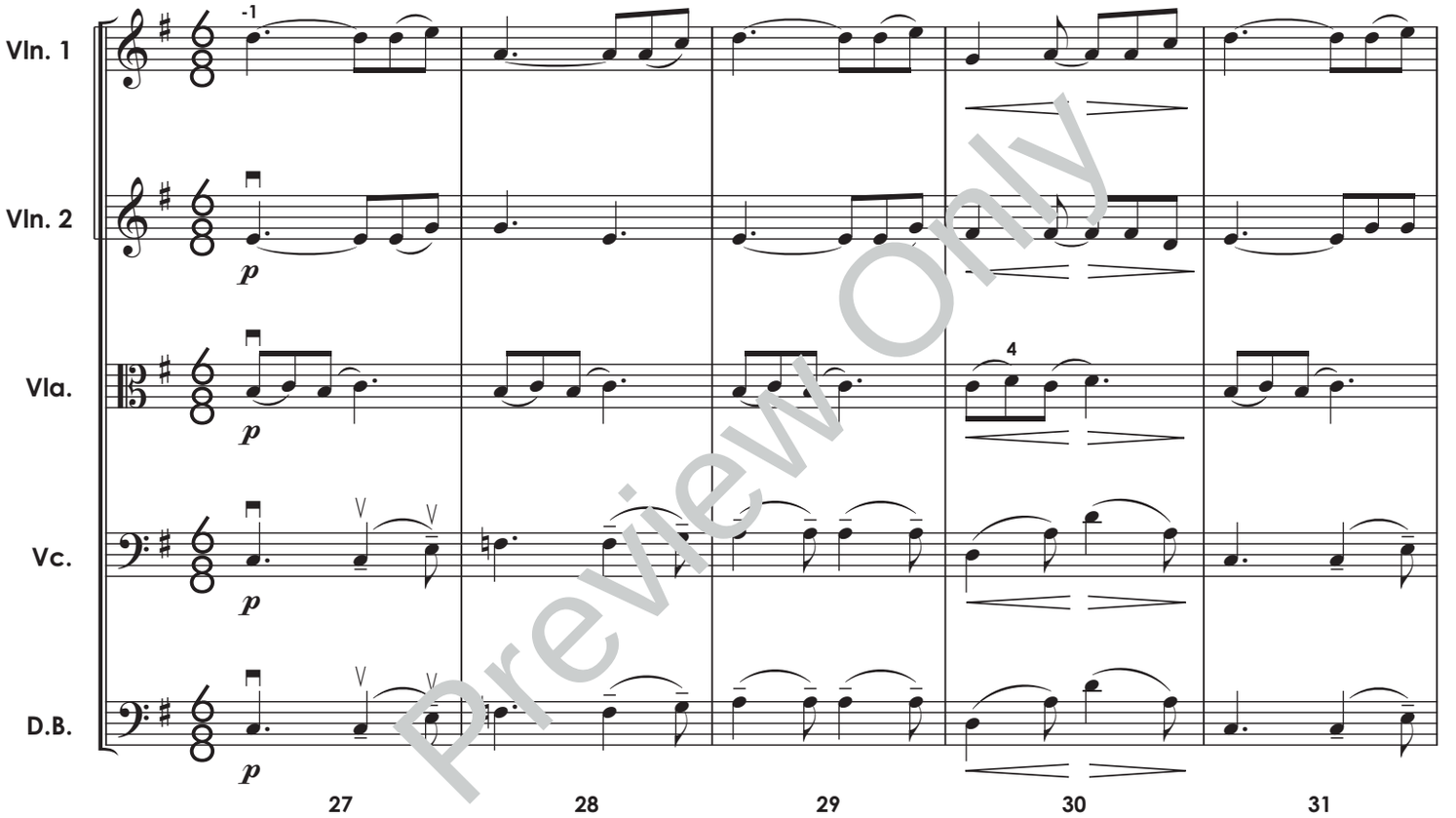
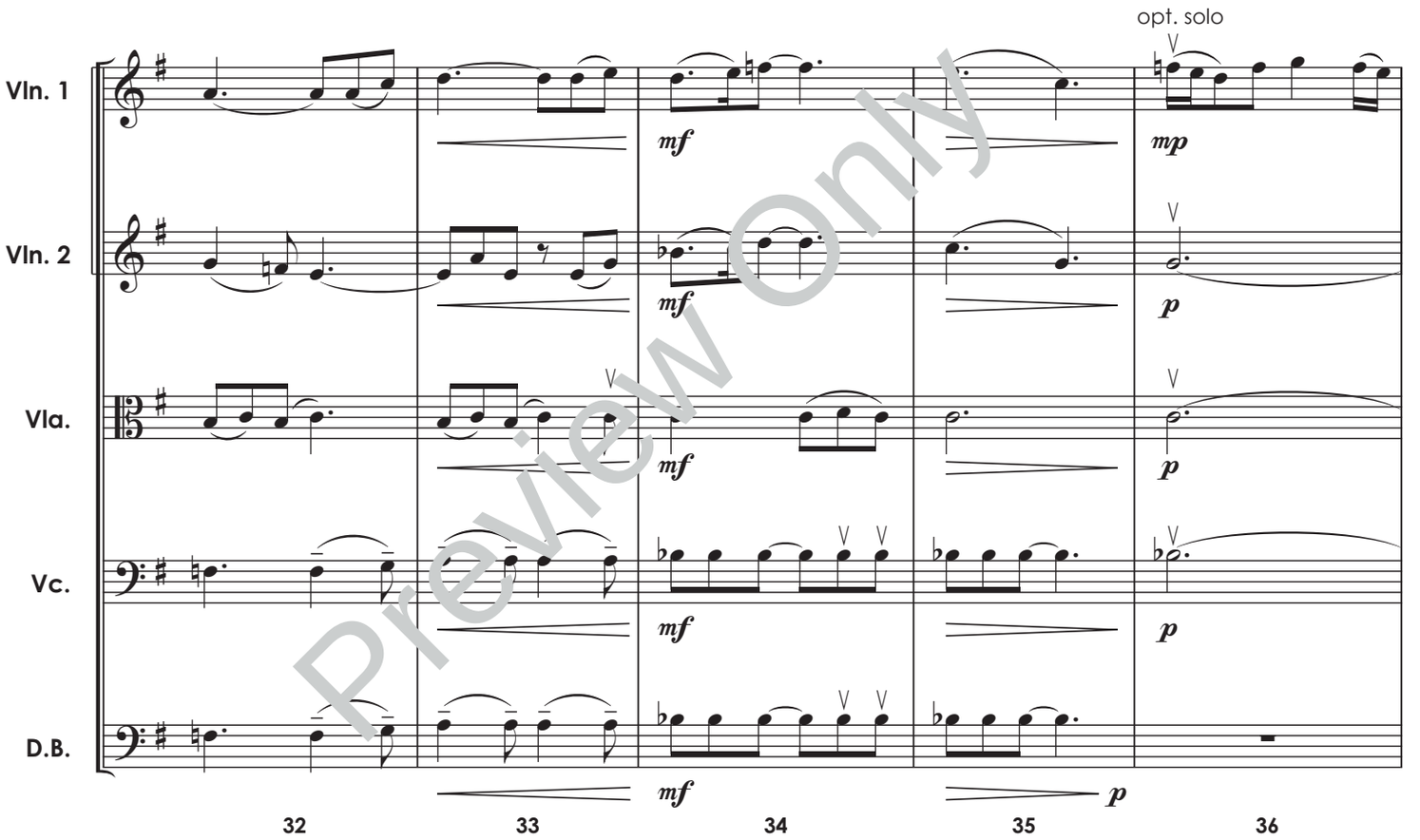
27 **Floating on air**

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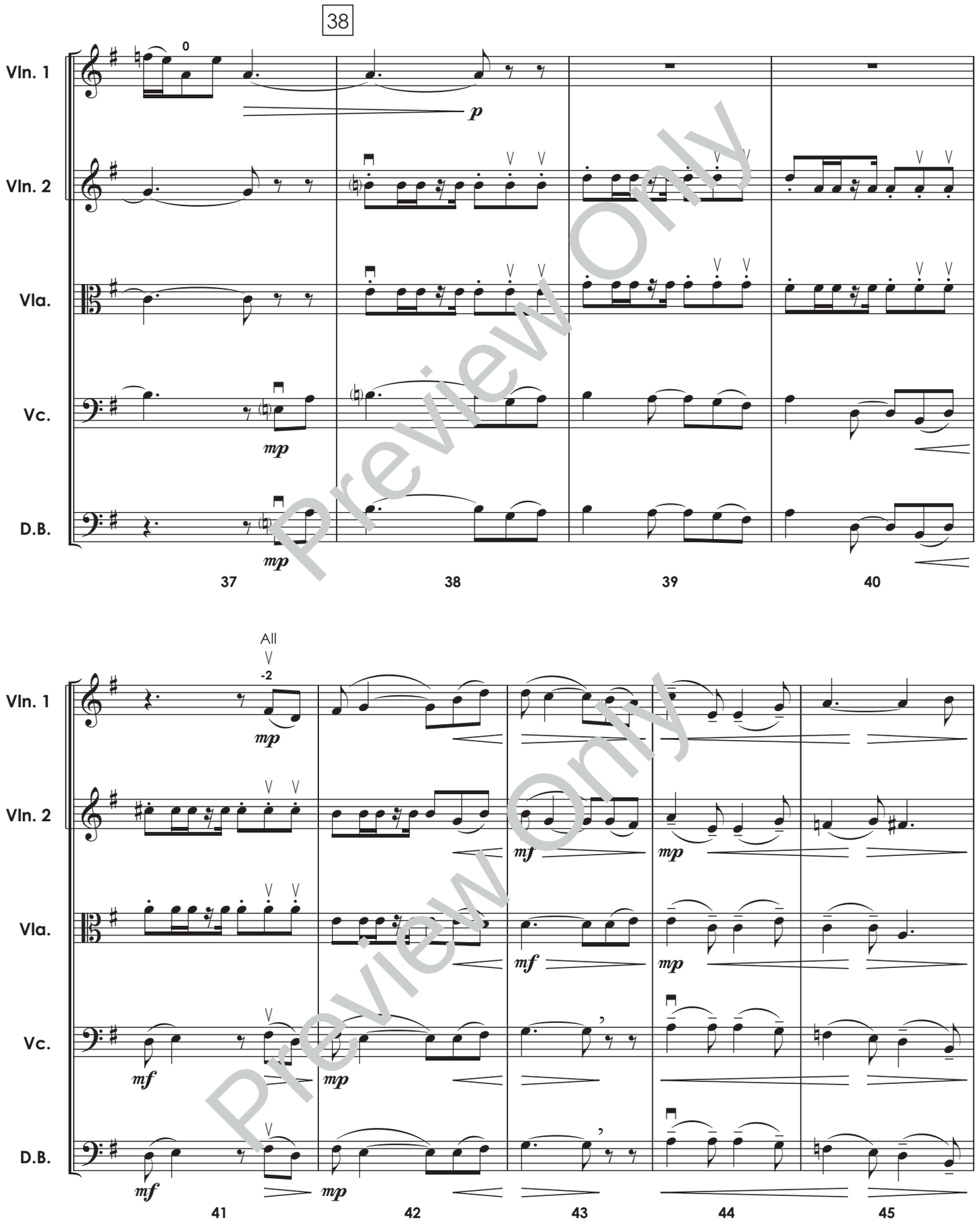


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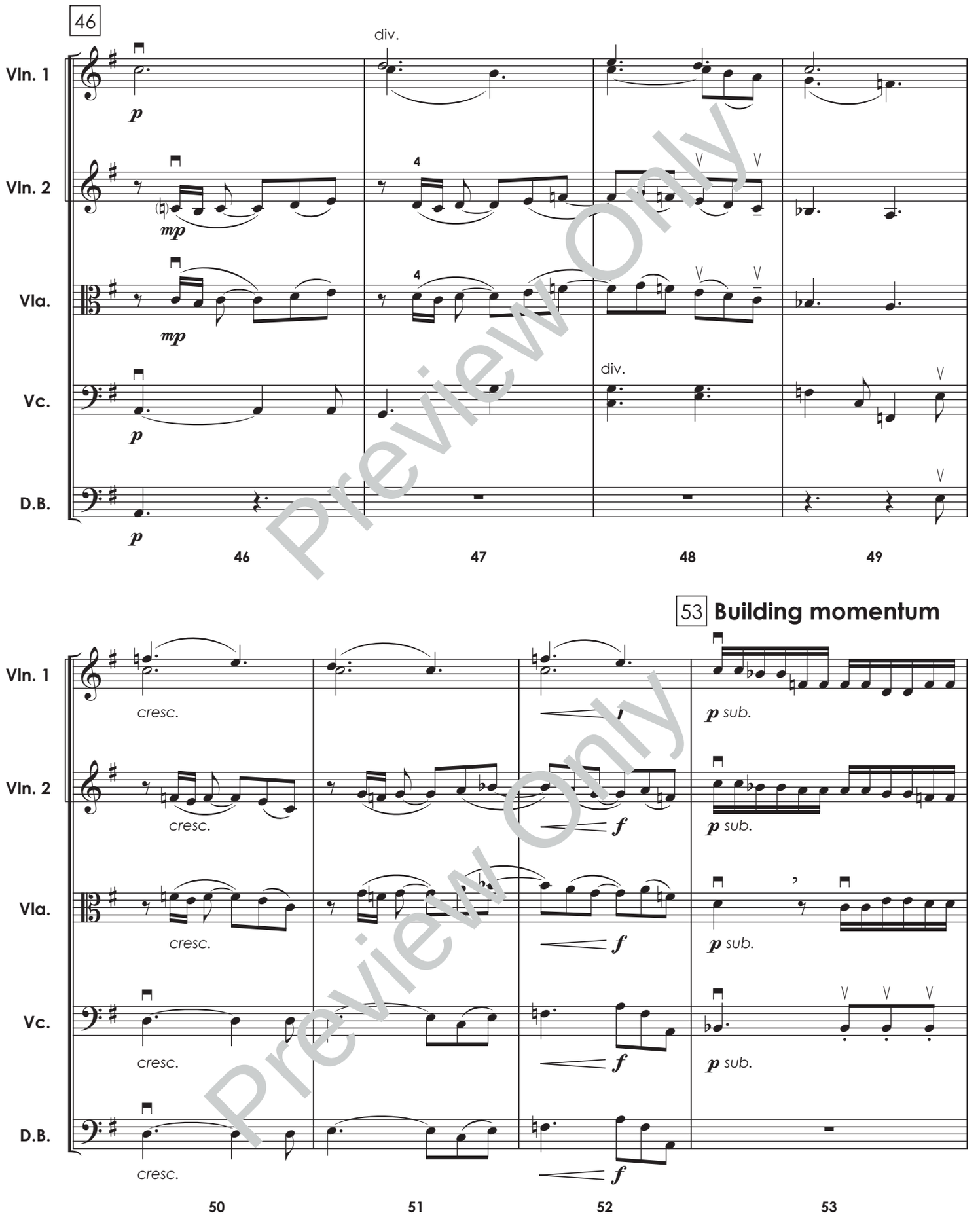


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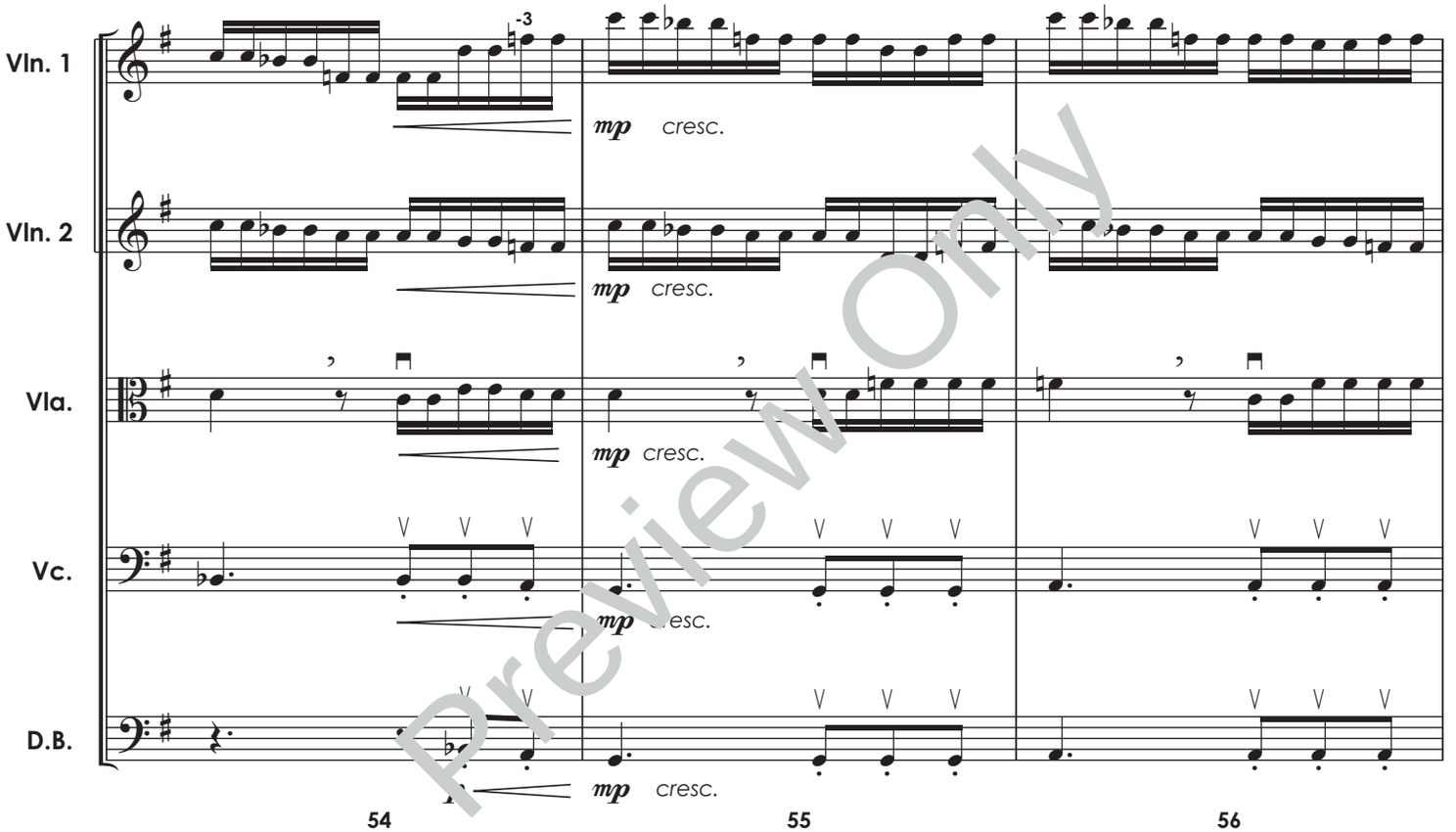


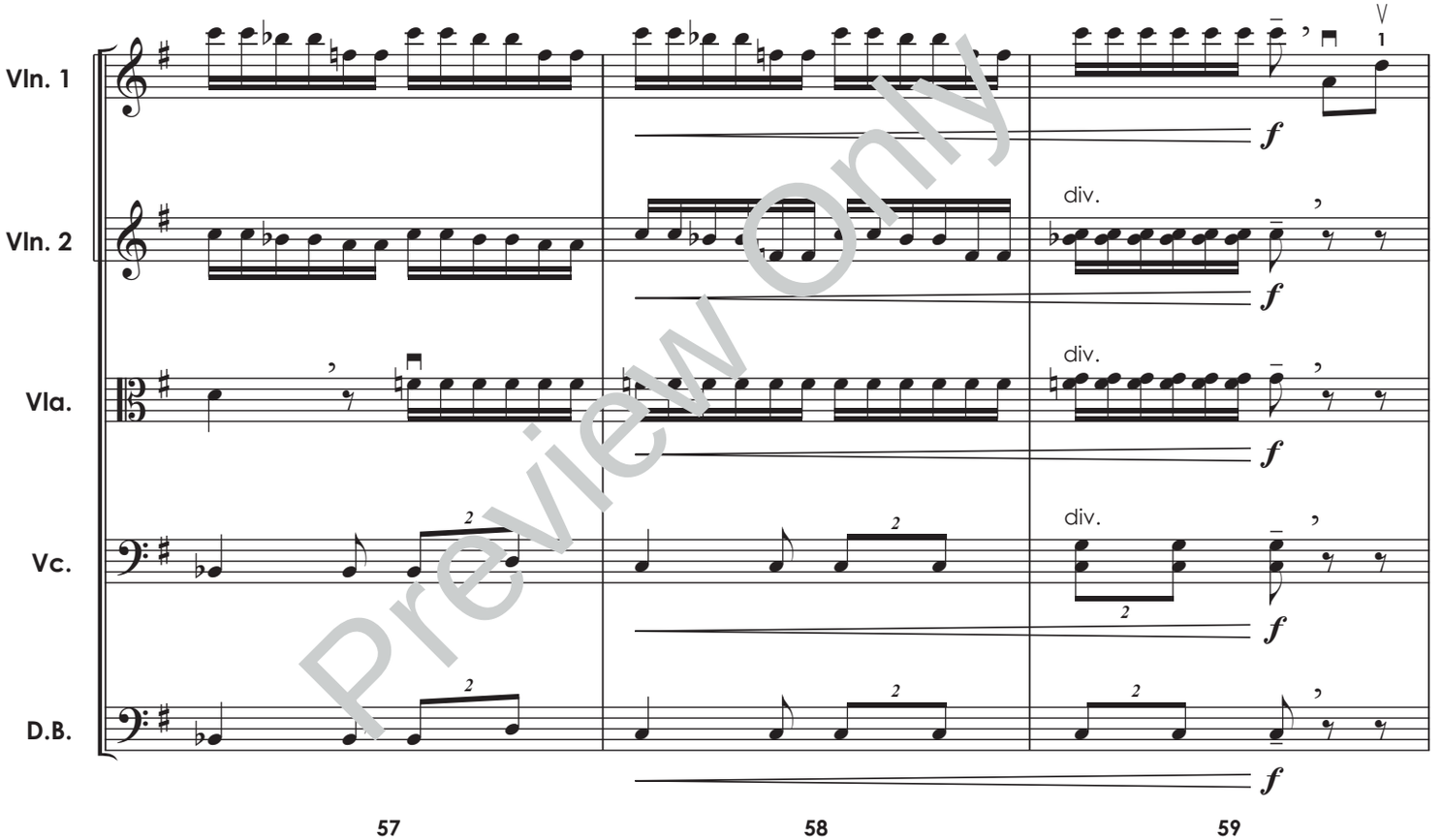


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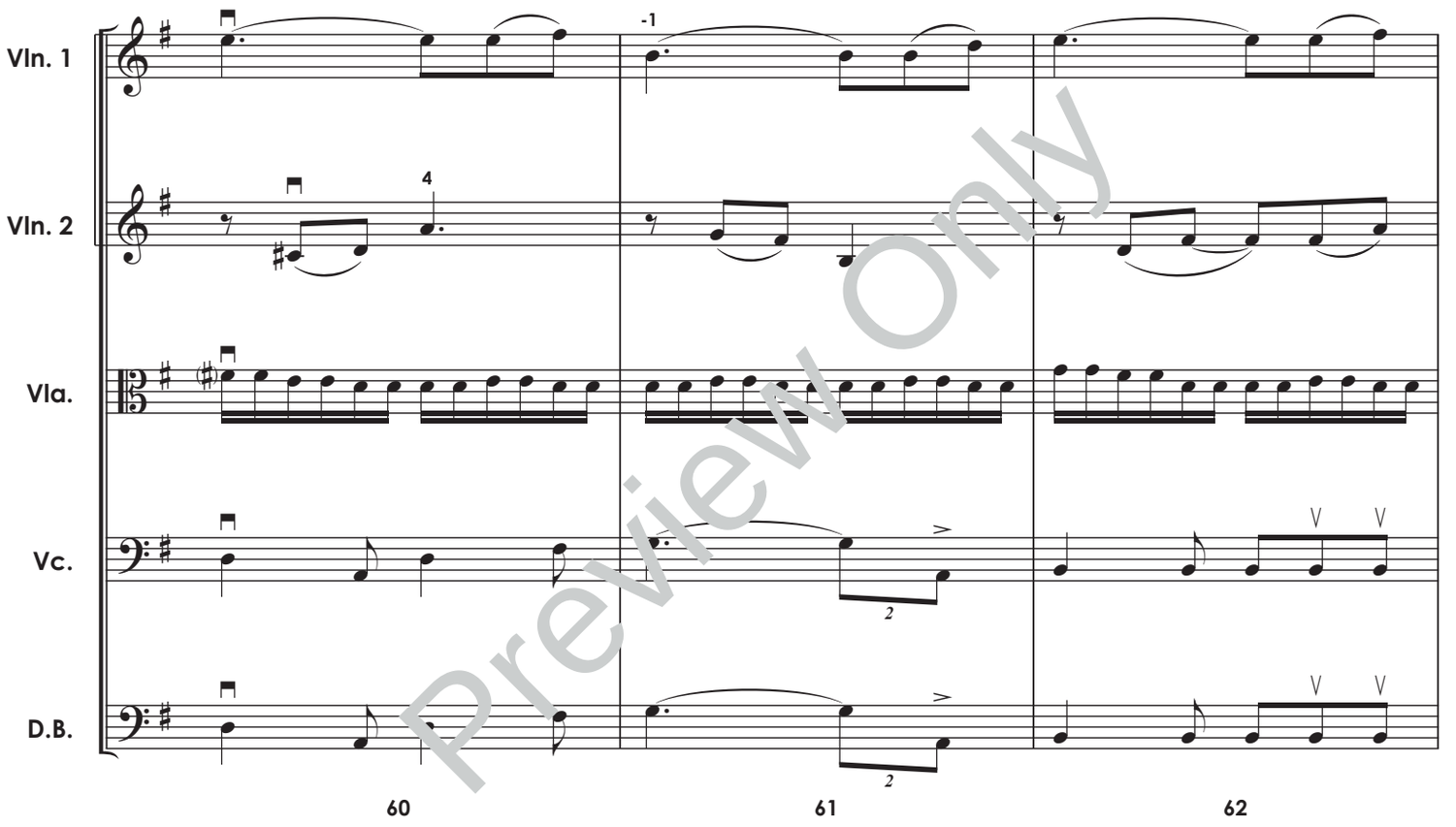
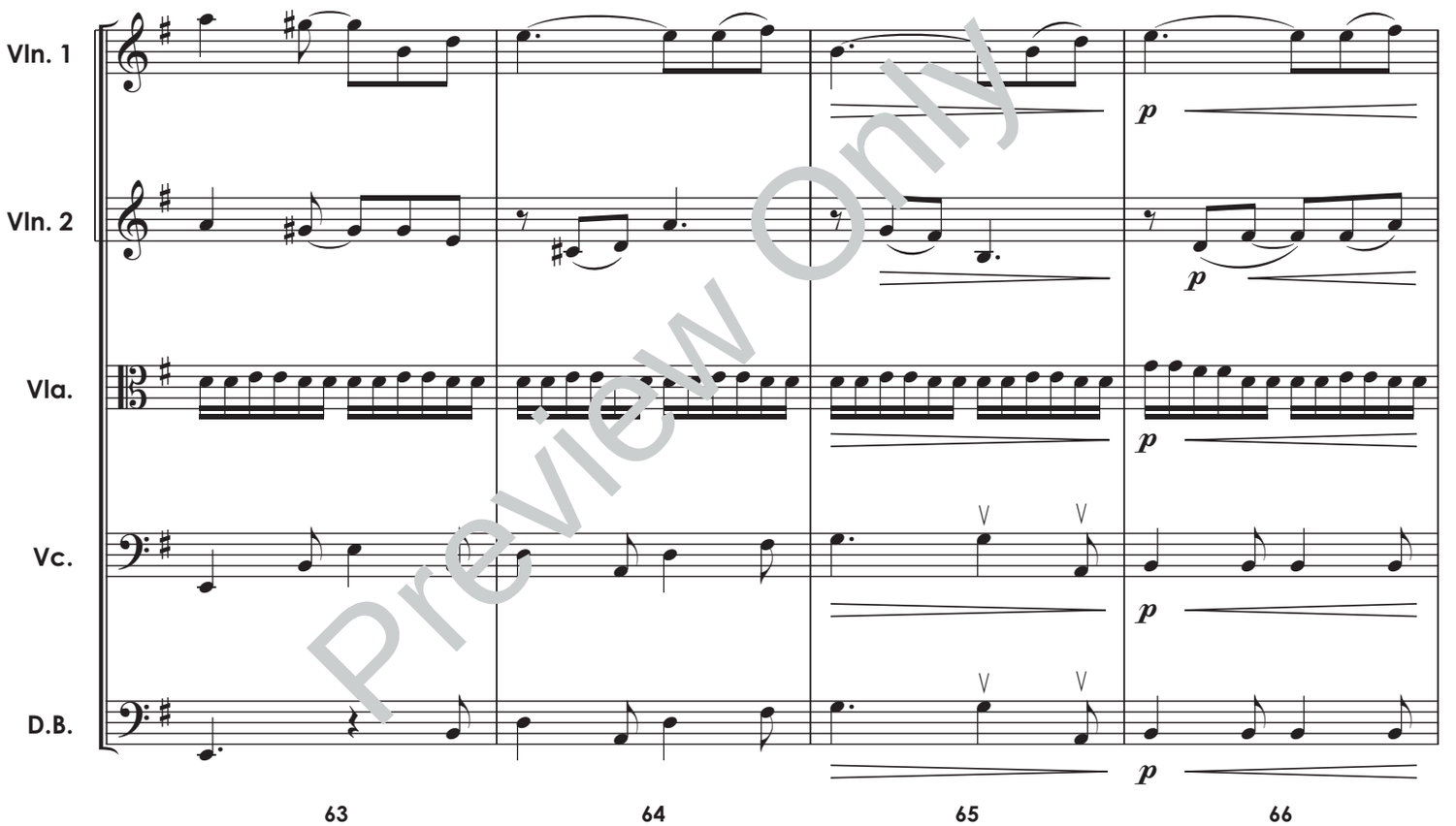
60 **Soaring through clouds!**

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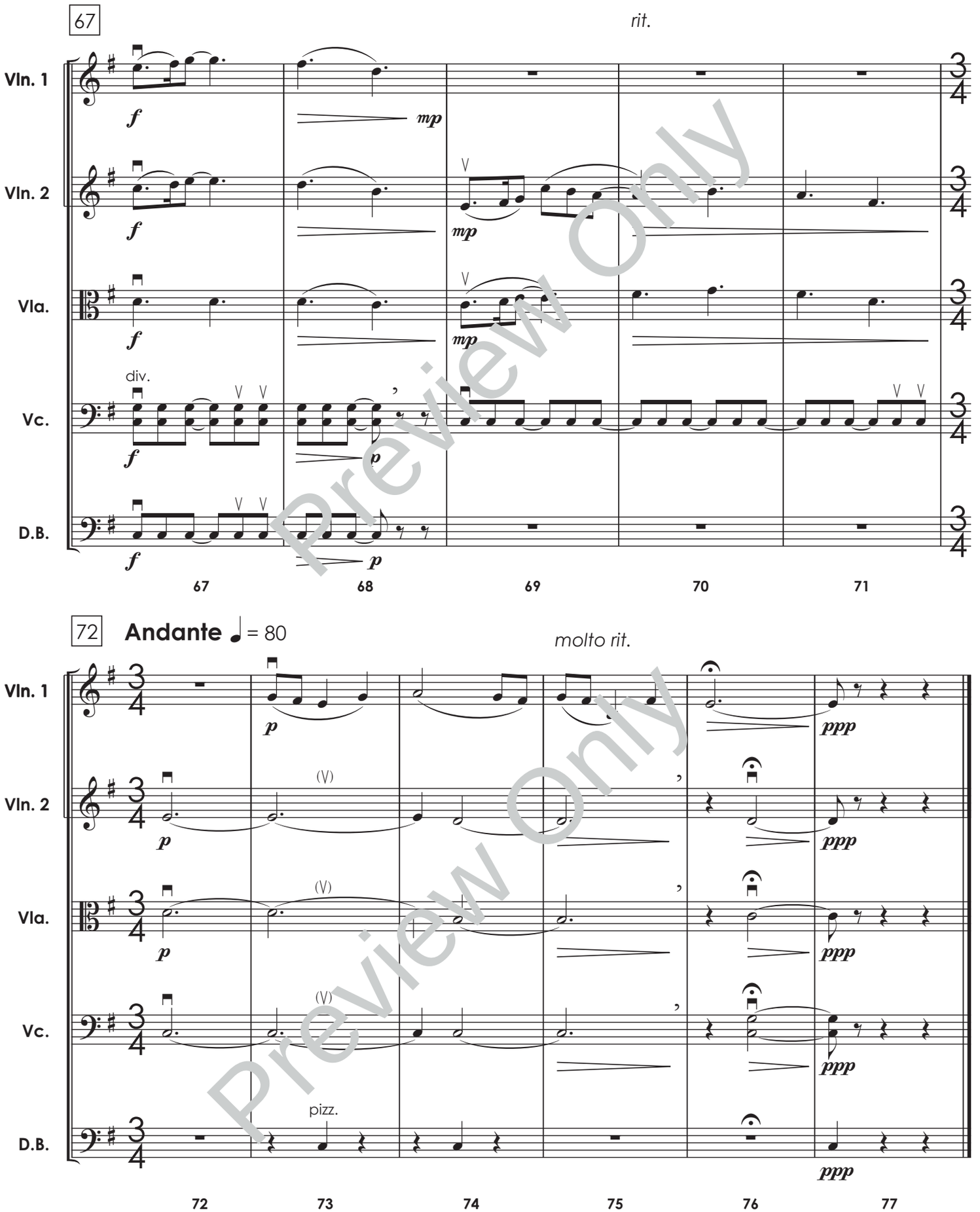


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