Prem

For String Orchestra, Grade 3
by Manjula Ramachandran & Cooper Ford

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:
This piece starts with a short slow introduction before propelling forward in tempo and energy. Based on the Brindavana Saranga raga students will have to pay close attention to accidentals switch from F natural to F#. The piece has a syncopated feel and contains slide ornamentation.
*A Cello 2 part that doubles the Bass is available as a free download at randallstandridge.com.
- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

Full Set - $45.00 **Extra Conductor Score - $12.00** **Extra Part - $5.00**

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Prem

By Manjula Ramachandran & Cooper Ford, Grade 3

Program Notes:
Prem is based on the raaga Brindavana Saranga (Brindavani Saranga in Hindustani) and is a fusion of Indian (Carnatic) and Western European styles. Translated "love" in Hindi, it focuses on a spirit of affection or devotion, such as parent to a child, strong friendships, or a deep affinity for something, such as music. It was originally commissioned by the McKamy Middle School Orchestra in Flower Mound, Texas, to honor an enthusiastic long-time supporter of music in the community. This uplifting work features rhythmic passages, ornamentations, and a variety of sections to engage the entire orchestra and bring forth many of these positive emotions.

Notes to the Conductor:
This piece incorporates the Carnatic (South Indian) style, which may be unfamiliar to students. To build familiarity, it is helpful for students to listen to a recording of this piece, as well as to listen to or watch Carnatic performers. Authentic Carnatic recordings can easily be found on YouTube.. Students should also practice the raaga and build a comfort level and increase pitch accuracy before working through their parts. While improvisation is not used in this piece, it is a foundational part of the Carnatic style. Having students explore improvisation using this raaga not only can provide a unique musical experience, but also help strengthen the foundations to learn and perform this piece well.

Tempo terms
There are several terms to indicate tempo (kaala) in this piece. These are in Tamil (a prominent language in India) and commonly used in Carnatic music. The beginning is " keezh kaala" (keezh meaning down, kaala meaning tempo). This is commonly known as first speed. "Sama kaala" (sama meaning equal or same level) is second speed. Mel Kaalam (Mel is up or high) is fast tempo or third speed. Practically speaking, the piece will go to a faster tempo at each marking.

Ornamentation (Gamakas)
Slides are the primary ornament used in this piece, and should move quickly to the pitch. Ornaments are strongly encouraged, but can be left out if an individual is not ready.

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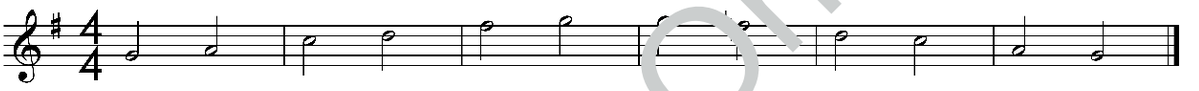
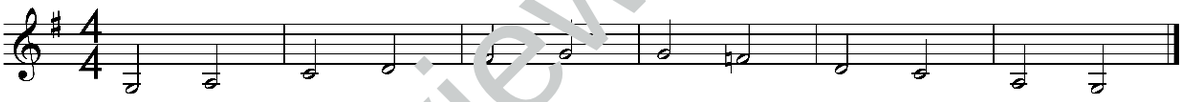
Raaga Brindavana Saranga

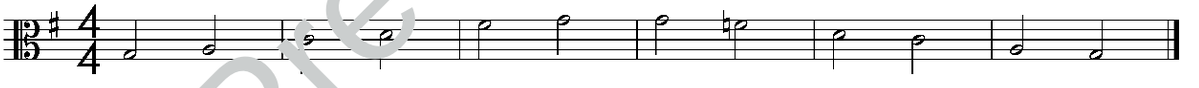
Violin - Upper Octave



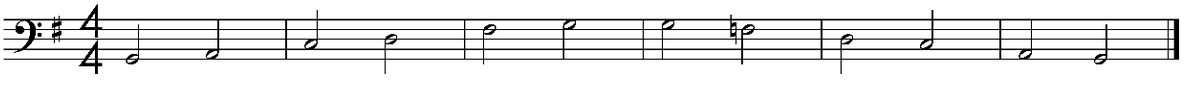
Violin - Lower Octave

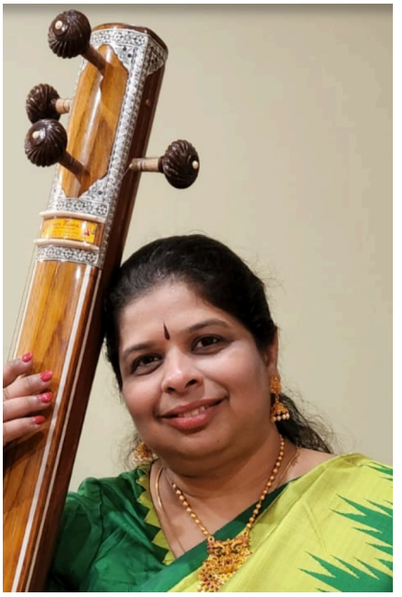


Viola



Cello / Bass





About the Composing Team:

Manjula Ramachandran (Manjula Mani-Dharmarajan) is a South Indian Classical (Carnatic) Vocalist and Saraswathi Veena player from South India. As a vocalist, she is well known for her deep knowledge of handling the Indian Raagas and Taalas (rhythms), composing in rare ragas, improvisational skills, and classicalism in voice. As a veena player, she is well known for her Gayaki (singing) style of playing, fingering techniques, and ability to engage the listener with high tonal string quality.

Manjula graduated in Music as a String Major (veena) from Sree Swathi Thirunal Music College with State level high score, for which she was awarded the prestigious Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy young musician fellowship. She has been a proud recipient of the CCRT (Centre for Cultural Research Talent) Scholarship for 8 years from the President of India. The Government of India Department of Culture also honored her with a scholarship for 2 years as the best upcoming musician. Manjula is also a proud recipient of AIR (All India Radio - India Government Broadcasting Radio) National Music Competition Award with a Music Gradation. She has been part of numerous recordings and live performances on radio and television in India and the USA. She runs her own Indian music school in New Jersey where she has introduced many young children to the world of Indian Classical Music.

Cooper Fo d has been composing and arranging since he began learning the violin and trumpet at a young age in the school music program in his hometown of Cherry Hill, New Jersey. During that time, he was encouraged by his teachers to explore his interest in composition, culminating in the performance of one of his string orchestra pieces, "Ballad and Inferno," during his Senior year of high school. Since then, he has continued to write for a variety of ensembles, focusing on string and full orchestra. He is a winner of the ASTA/NJ Composer Competition with "Scenes from an Unwritten Tale," which was performed by Sinfonia from The New Jersey Youth Symphony.

Cooper received his Bachelor of Music in Music Education from The College of New Jersey and Master of Music in Music Education from the University of Florida. He is currently the Orchestra Director at North Brunswick Township High School in North Brunswick, New Jersey, where he also teaches classes in Music Production. In 2023, he was the ASTA/NJ Classroom Teacher of the Year. The following year, he received the NFHS Outstanding Music Educator Award. He is a member of ASTA and NAfME.

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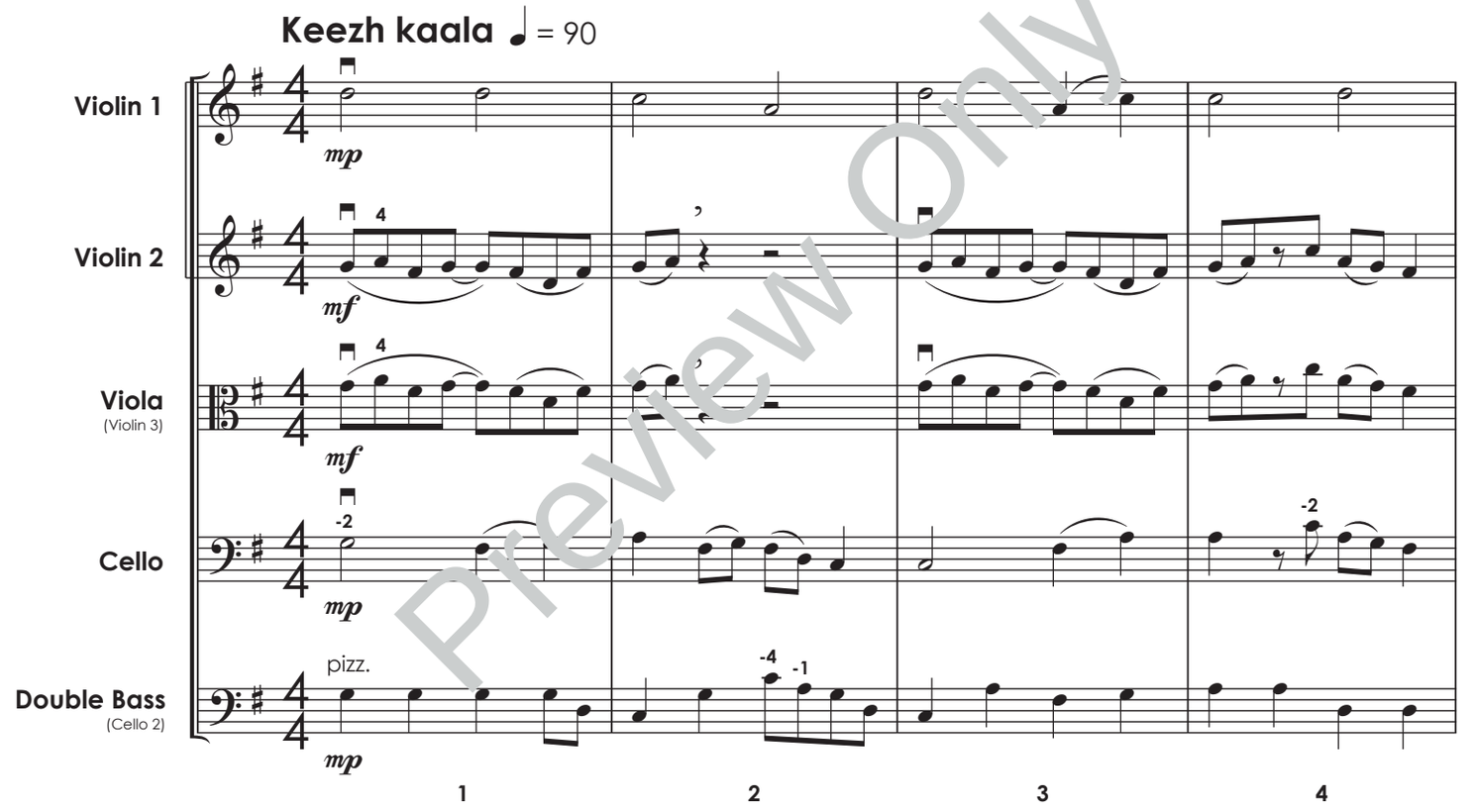
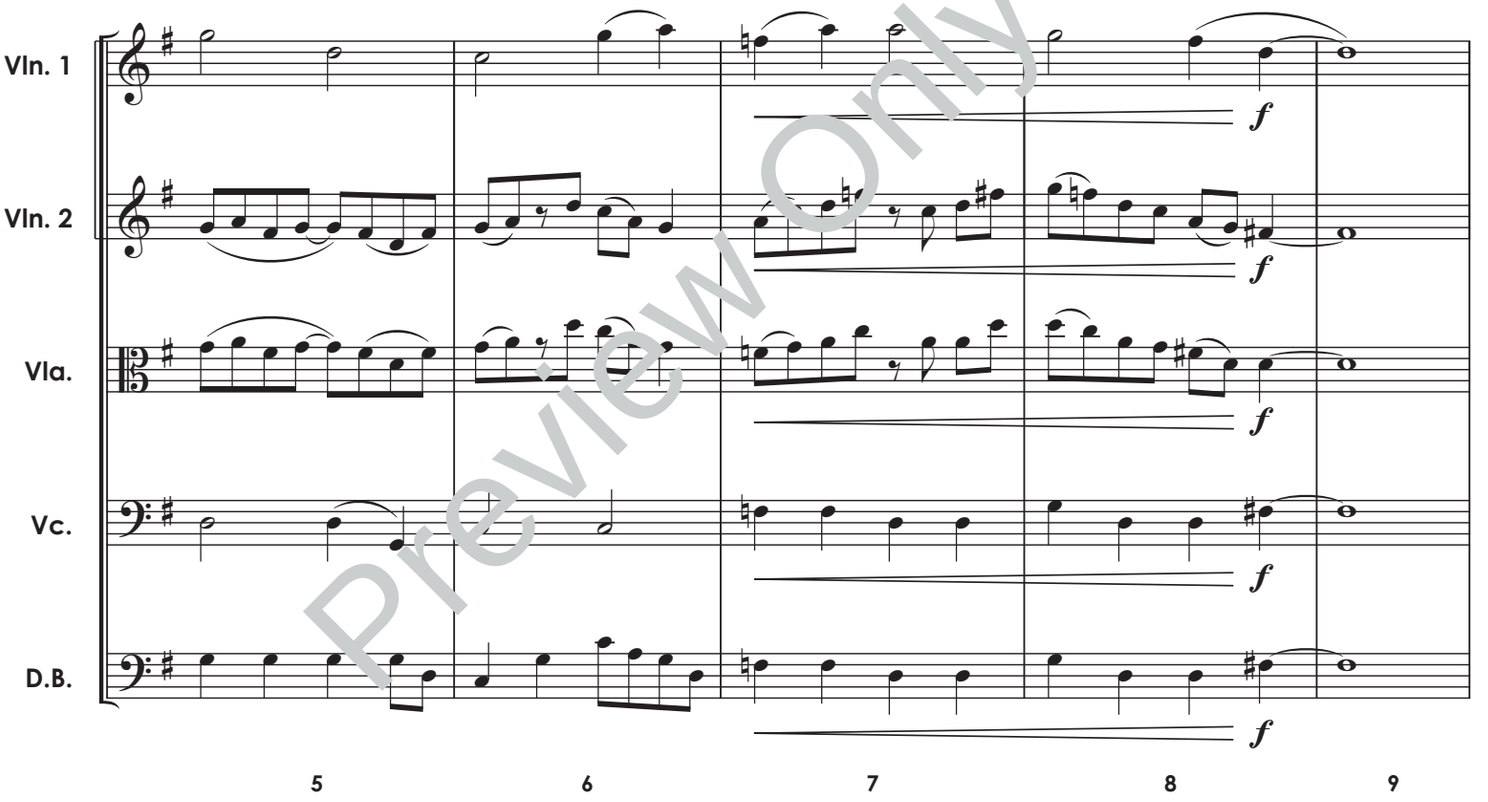
Commissioned by the McKamy Middle School Orchestra, Flower Mound, Texas
In honor of Nick Jani, an ethusiastic supporter of music

Prem

Score
Grade 3
Duration 3:20

Manjula Ramachandran (ASCAP)
Cooper Ford (ASCAP)





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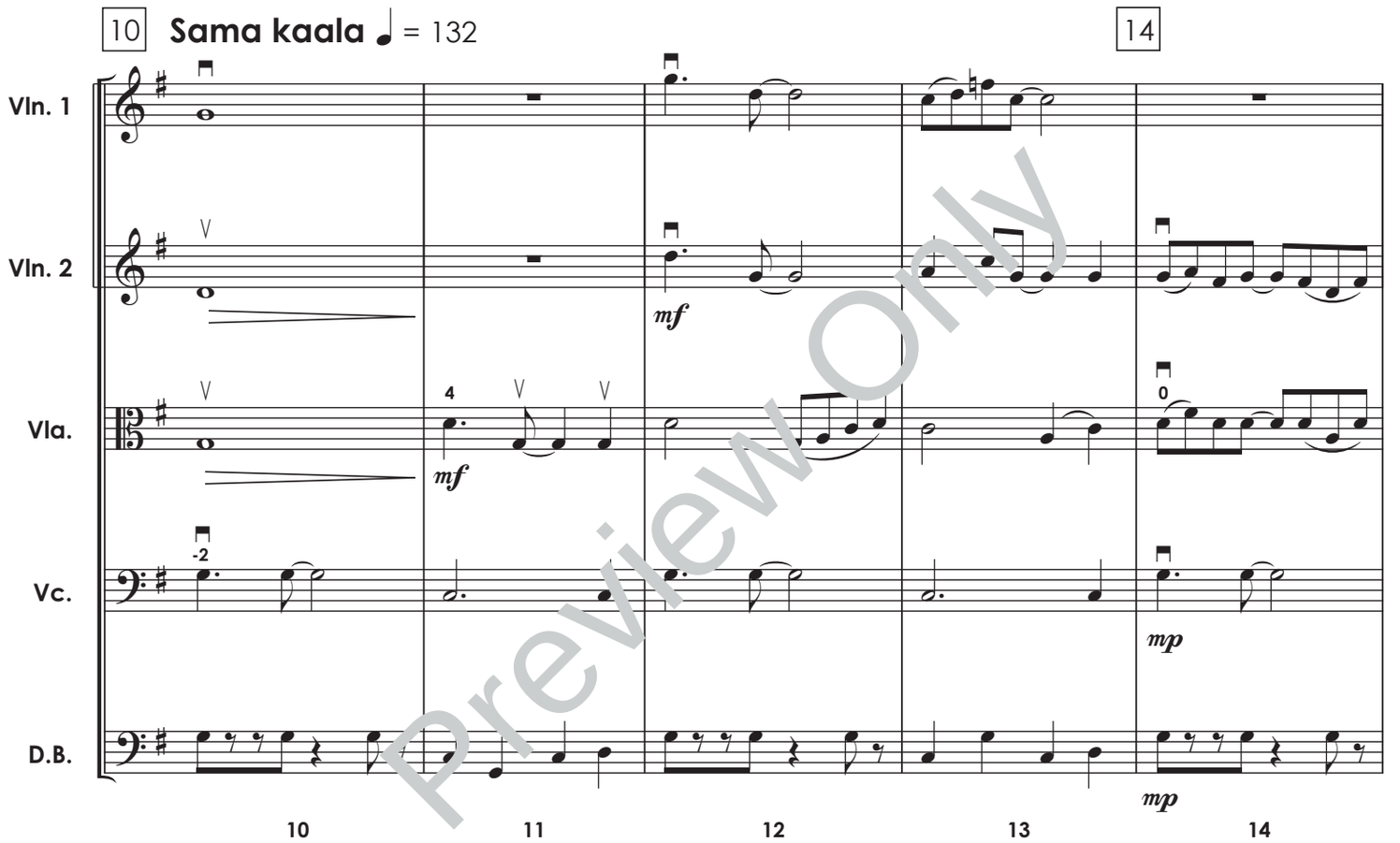

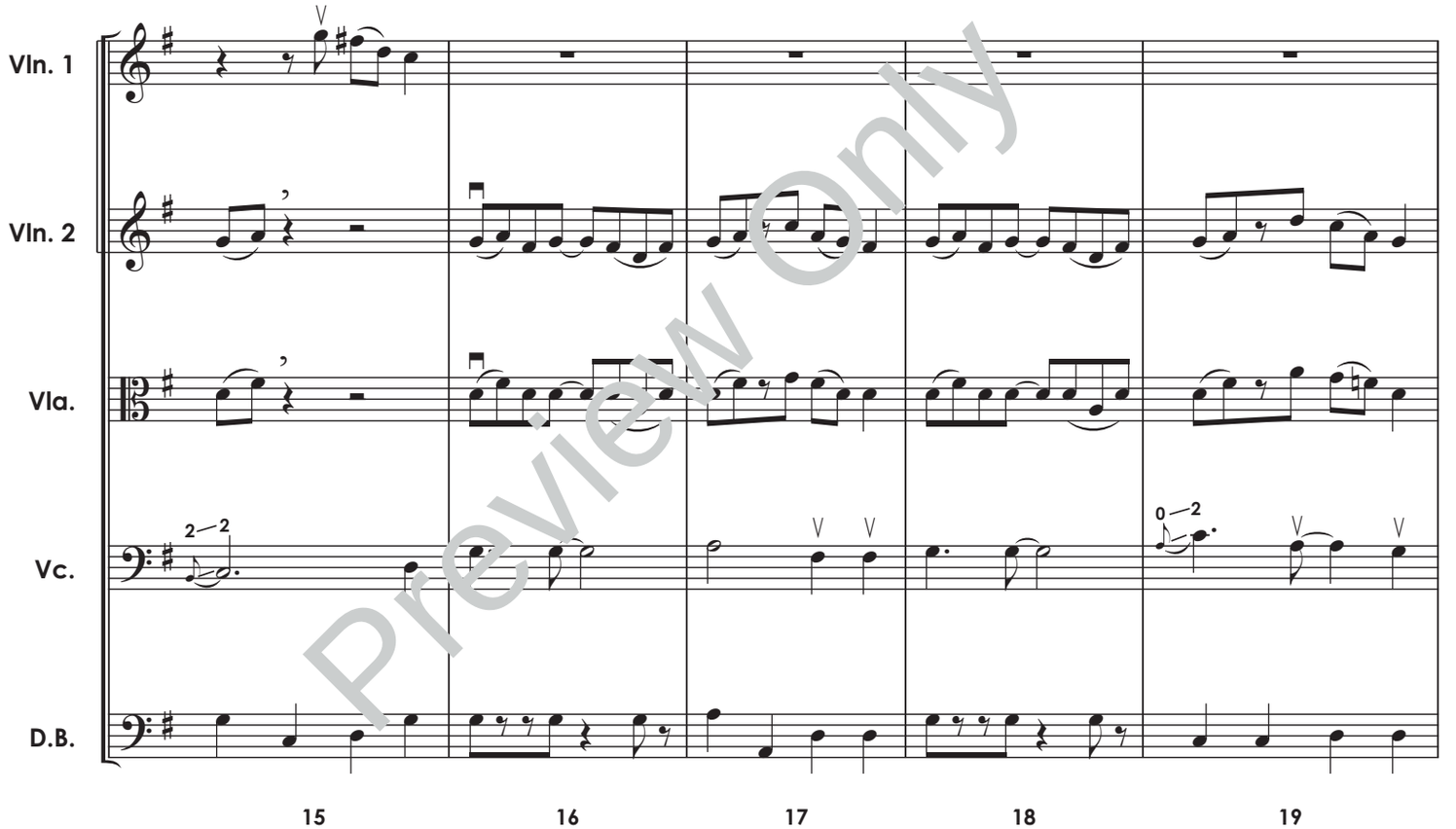

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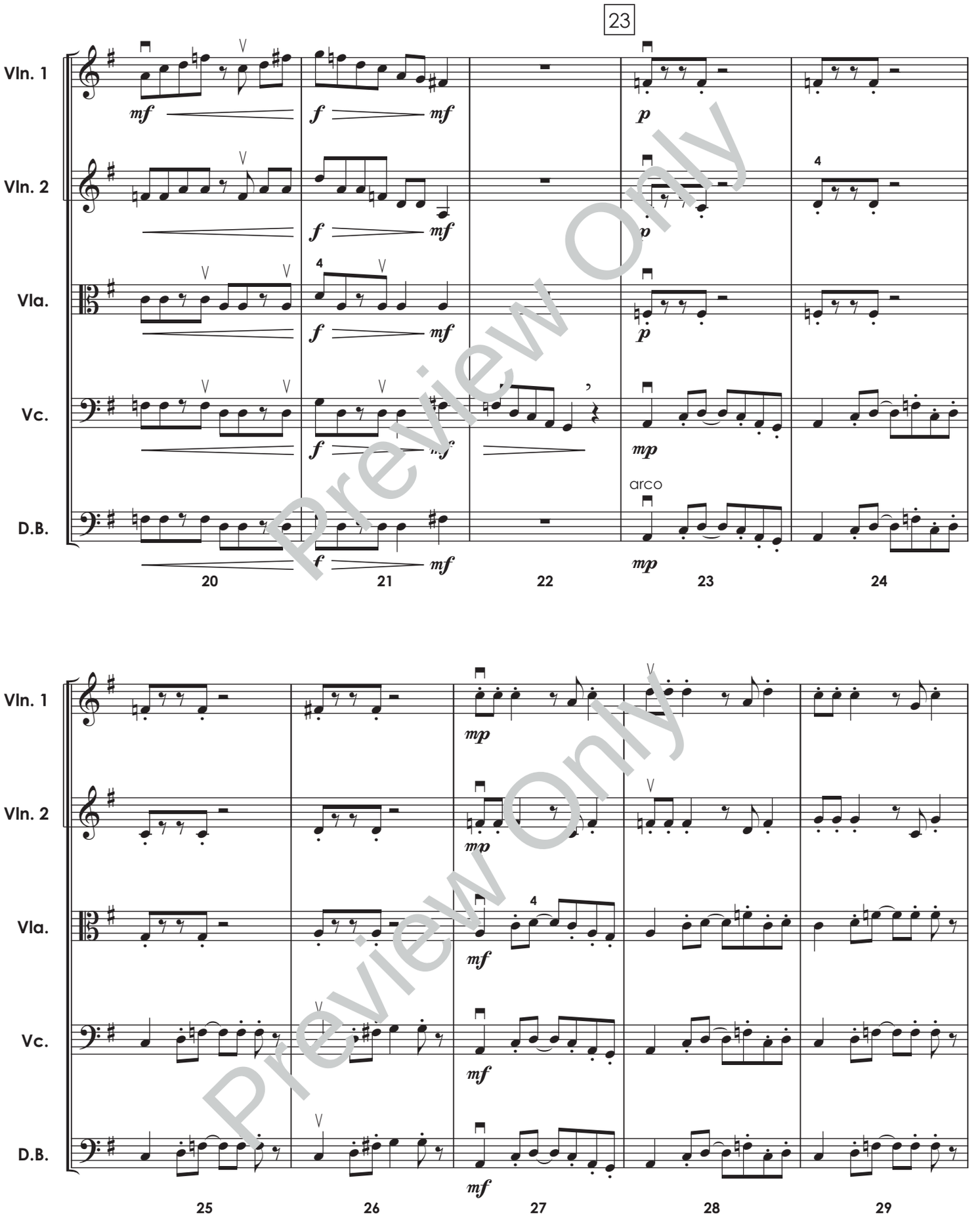

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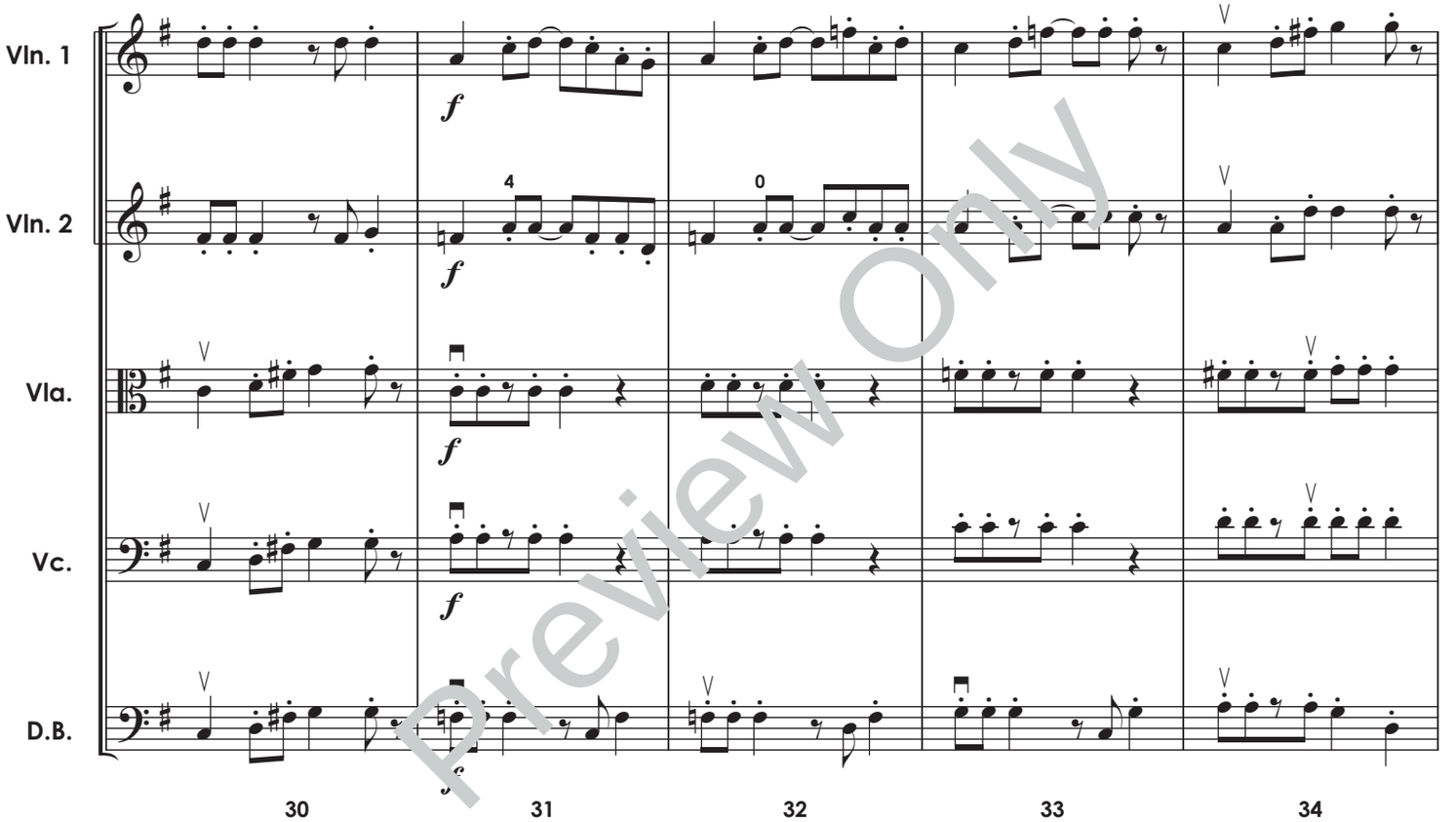

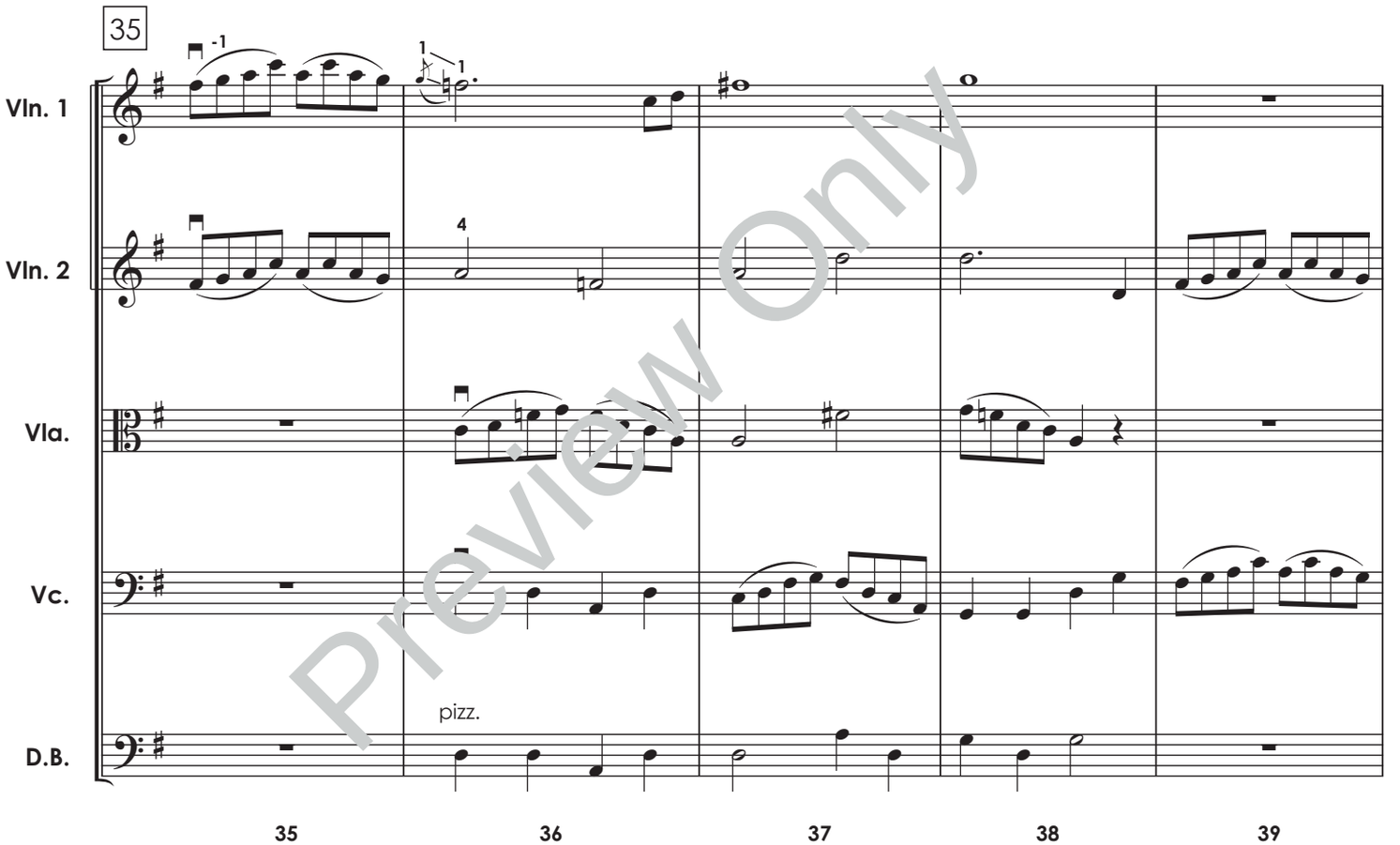

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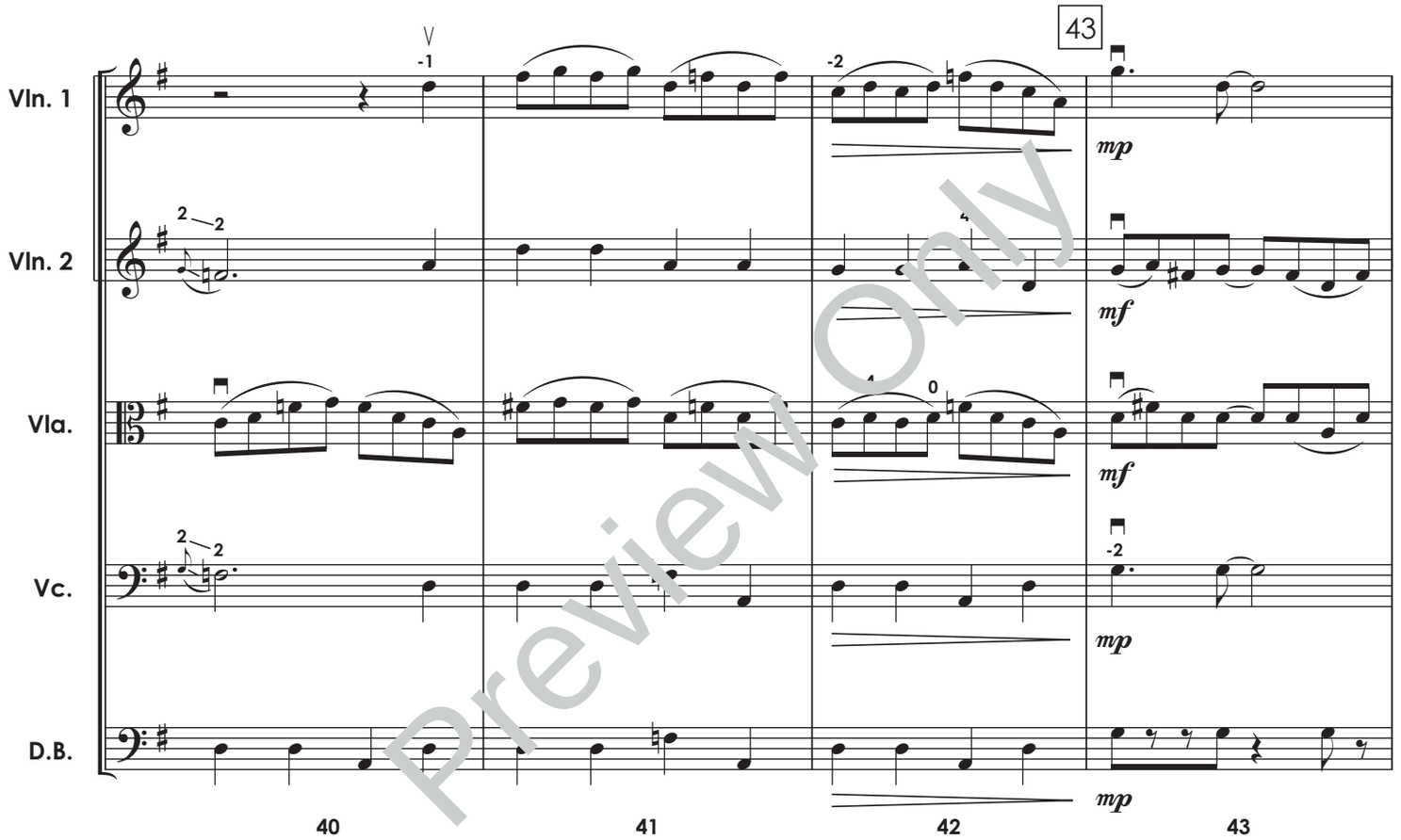

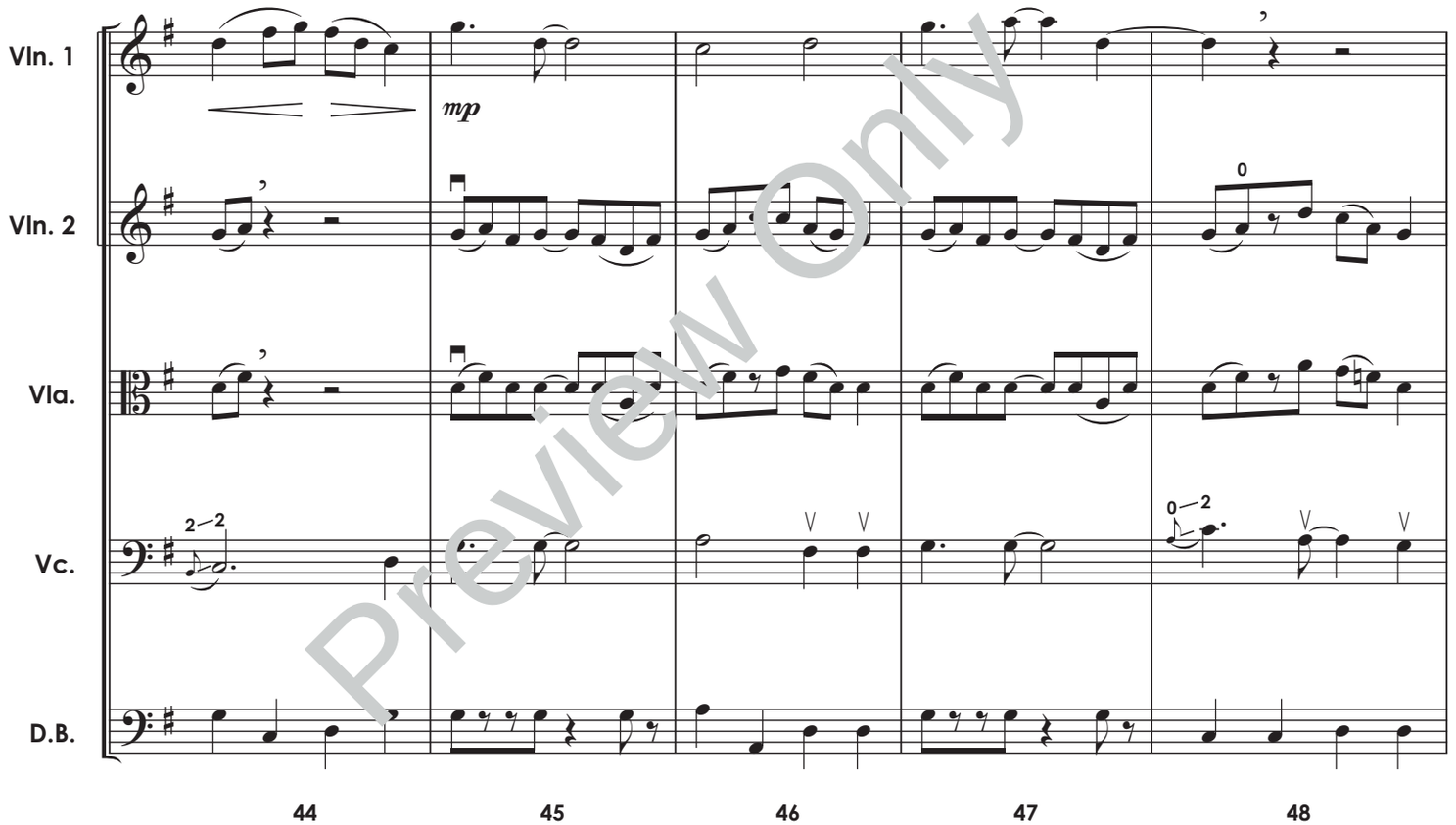

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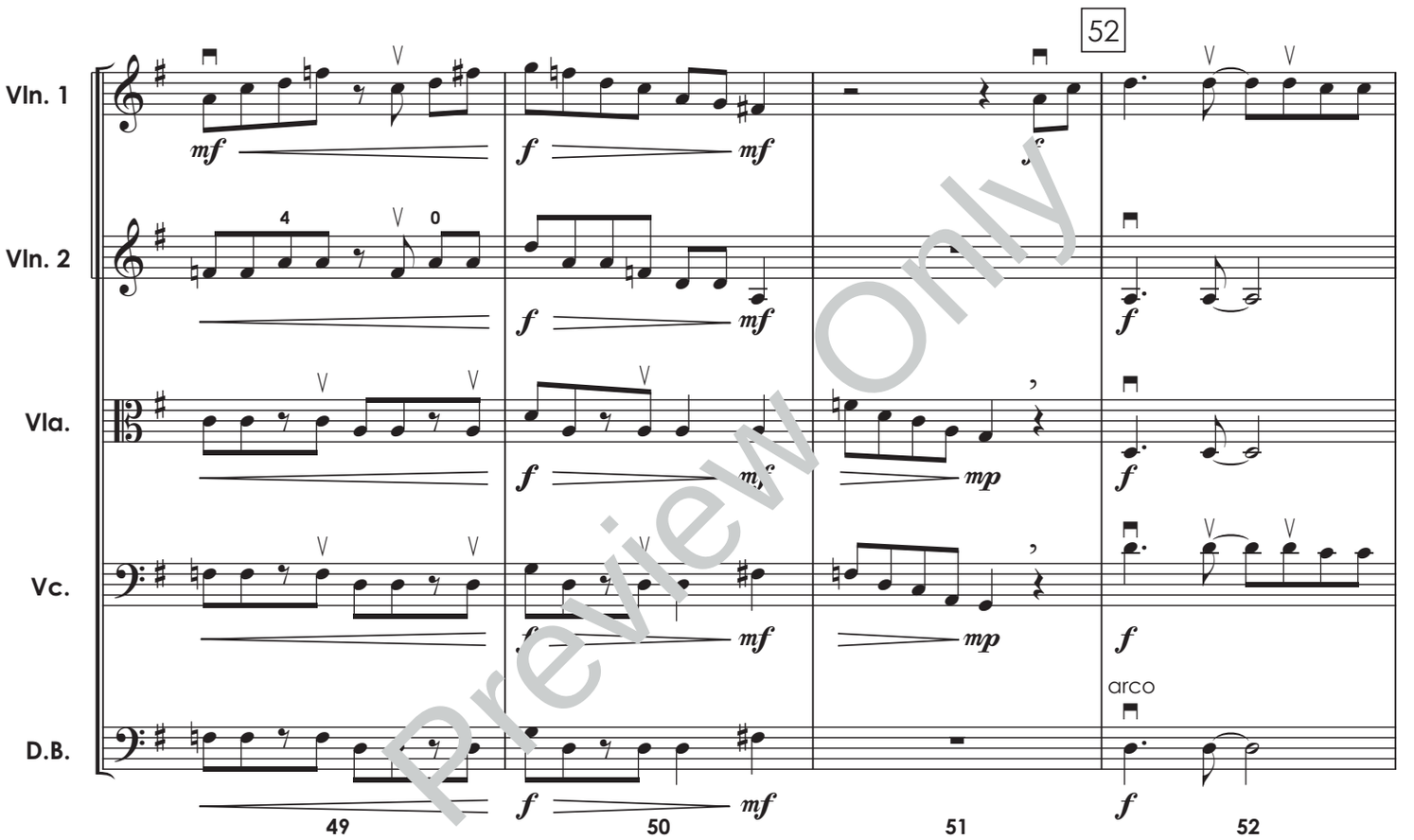

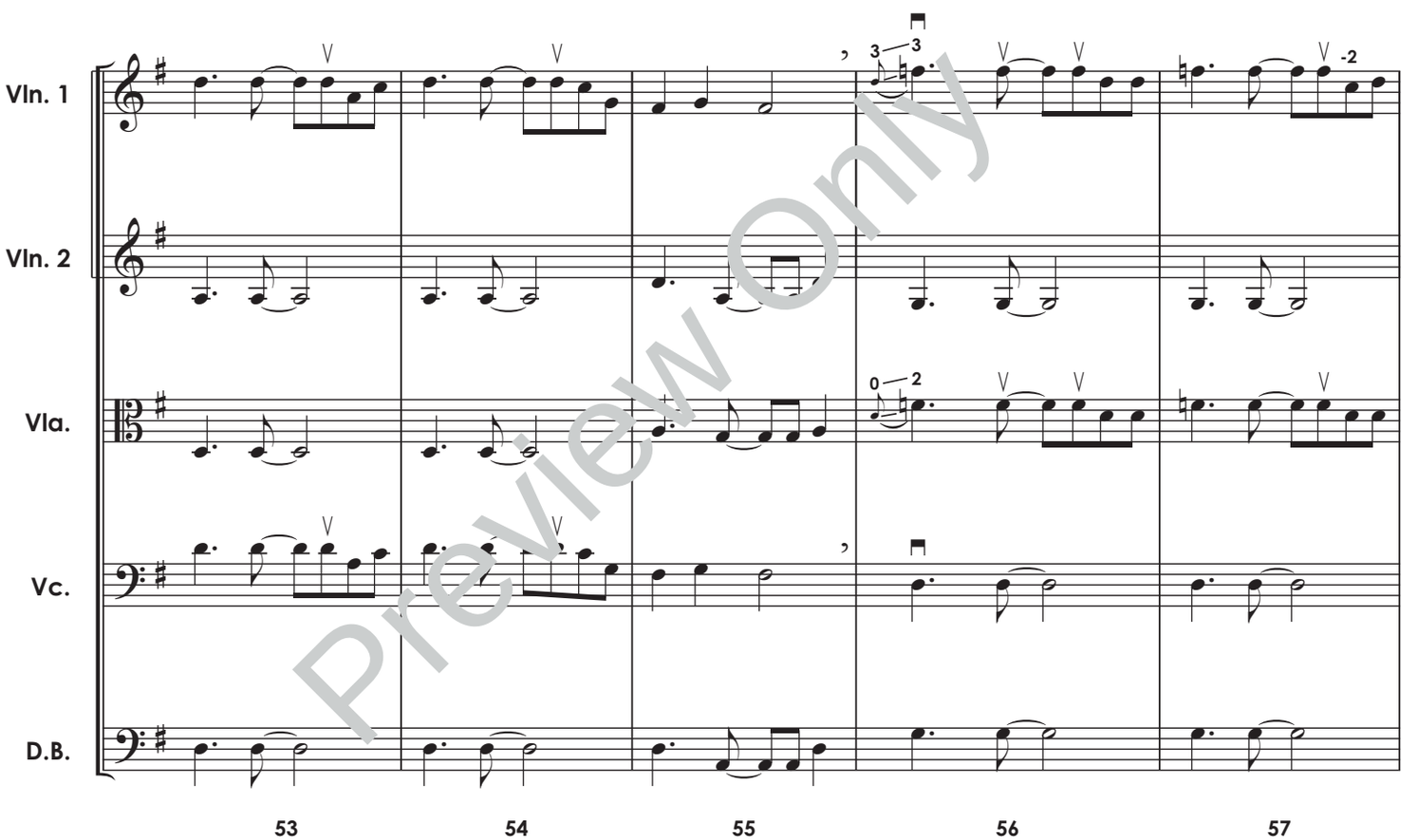

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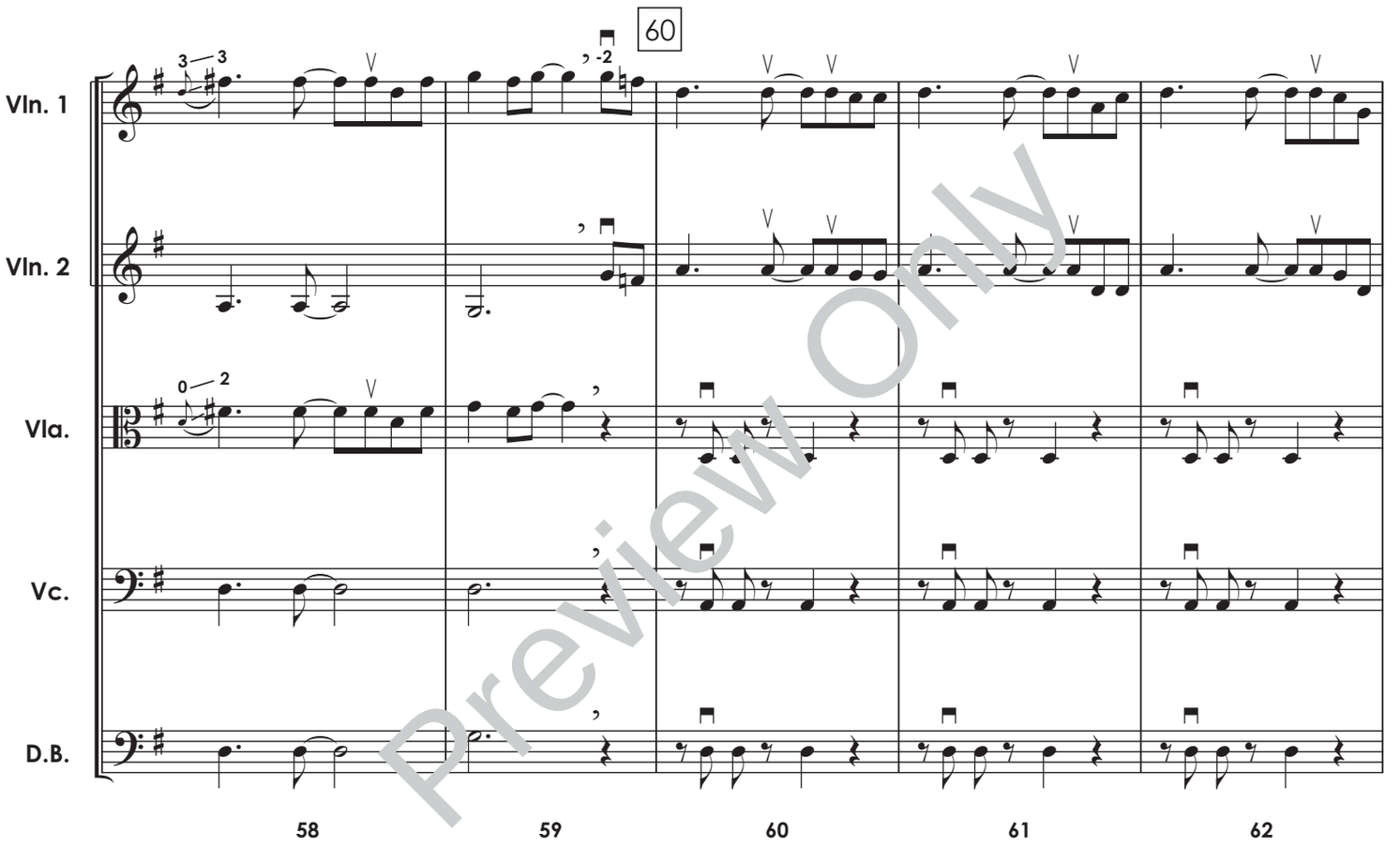

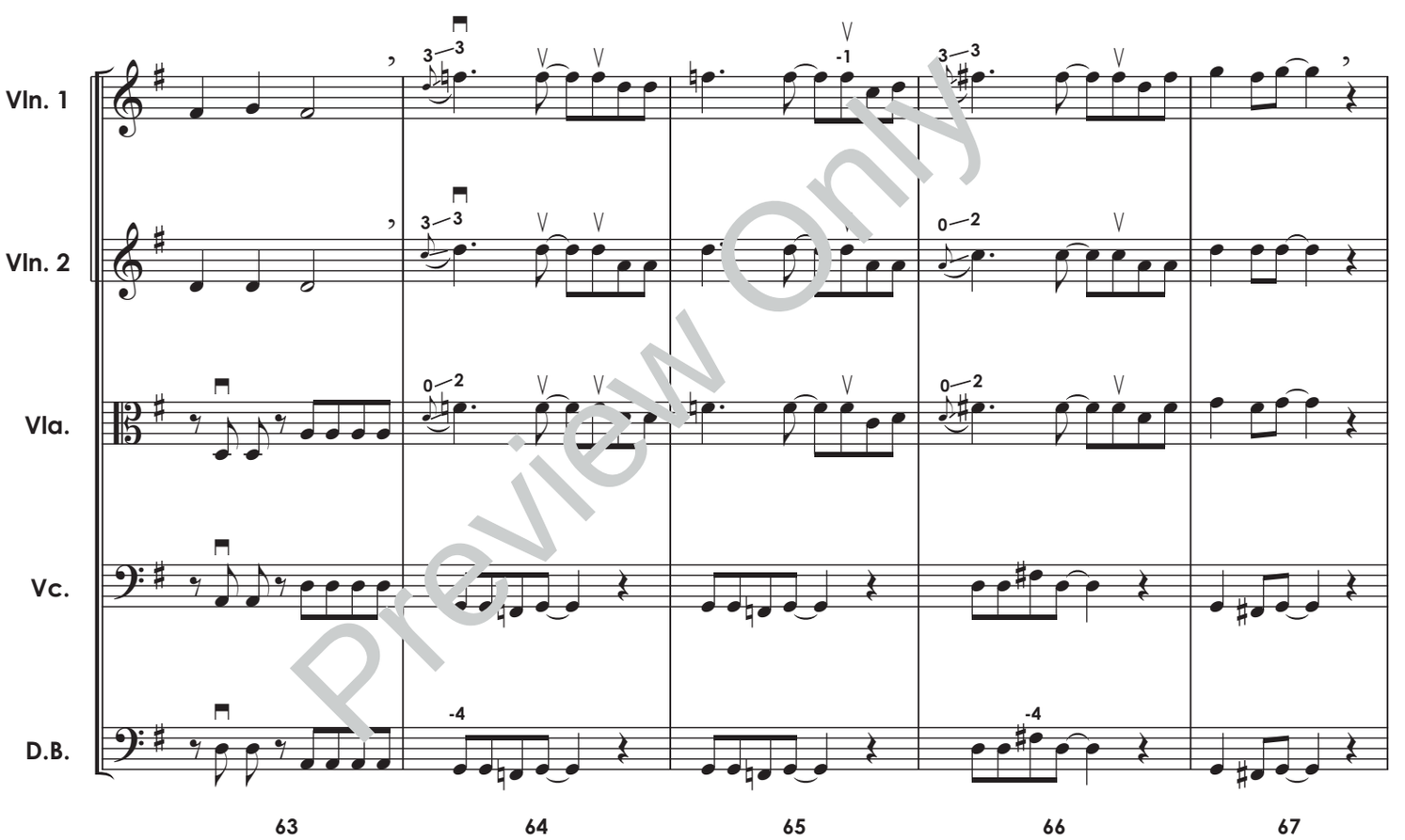

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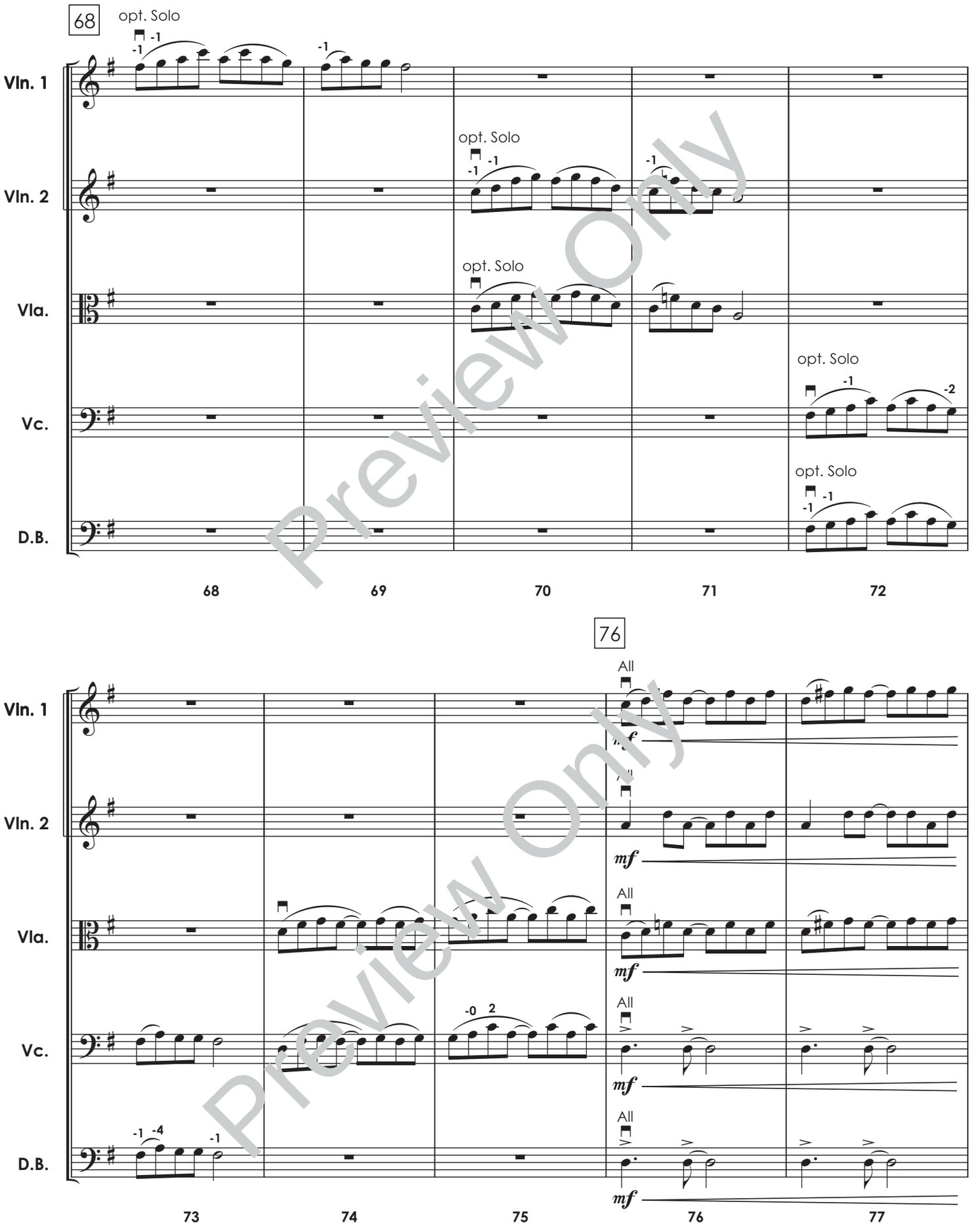

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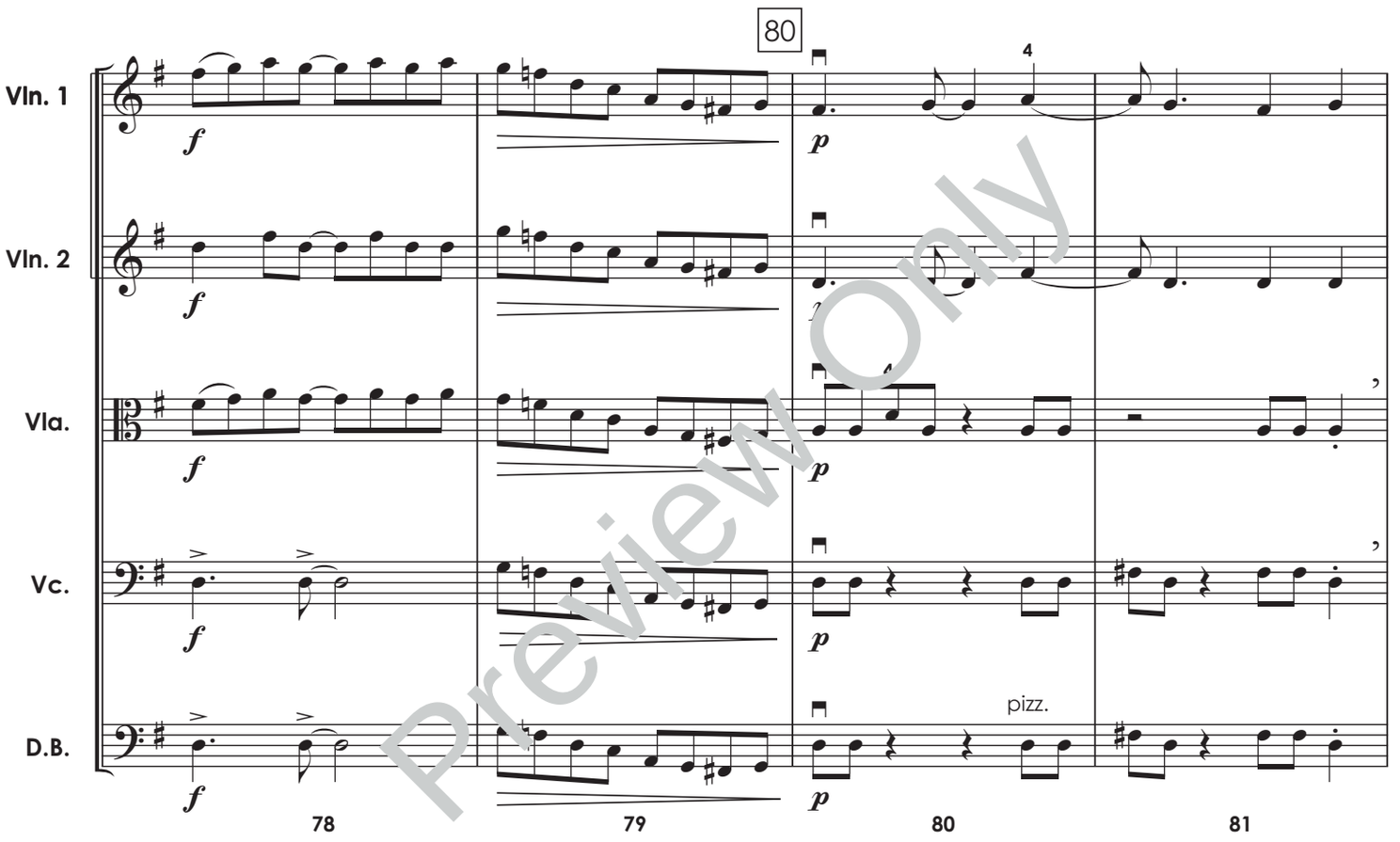

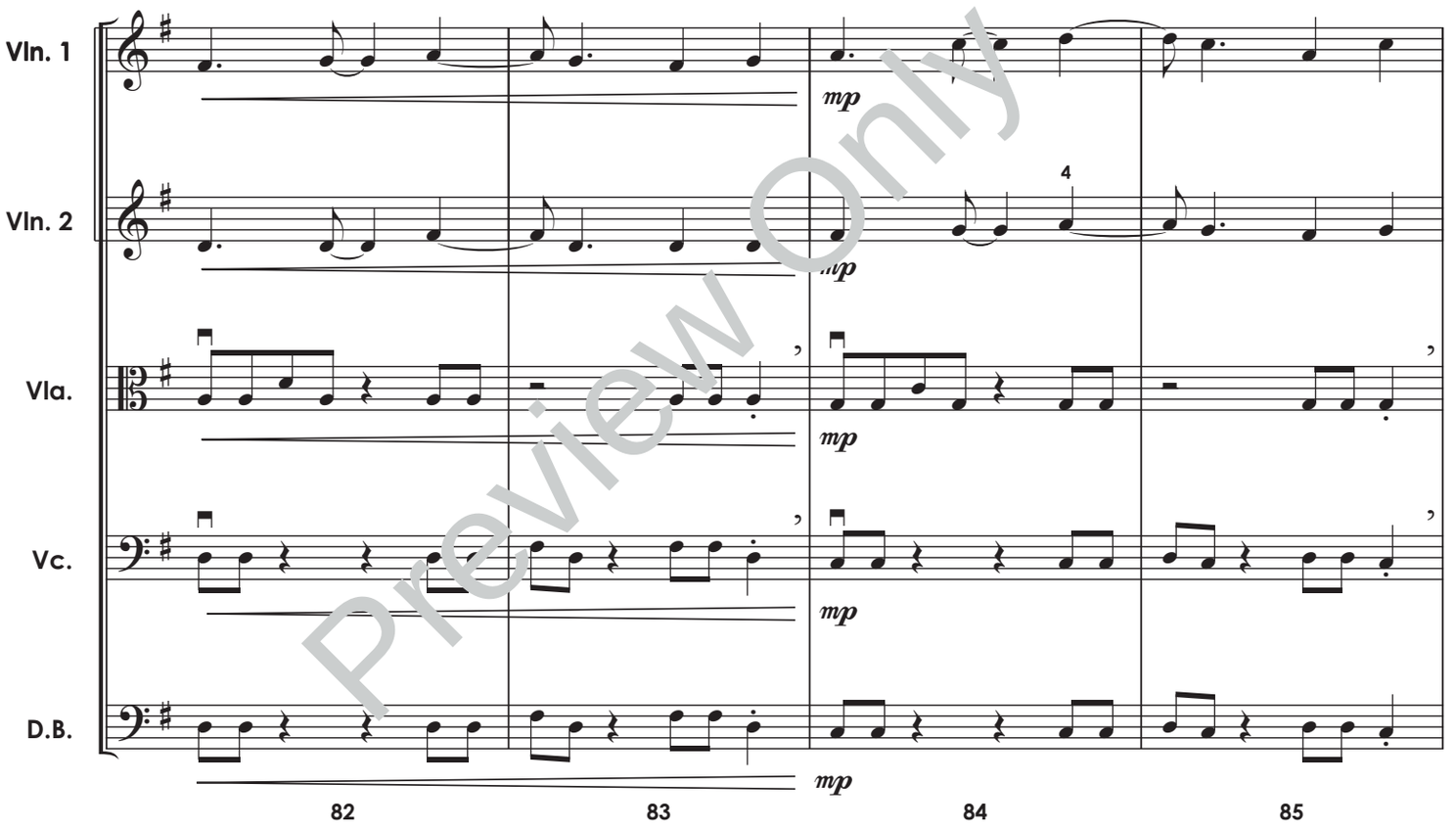

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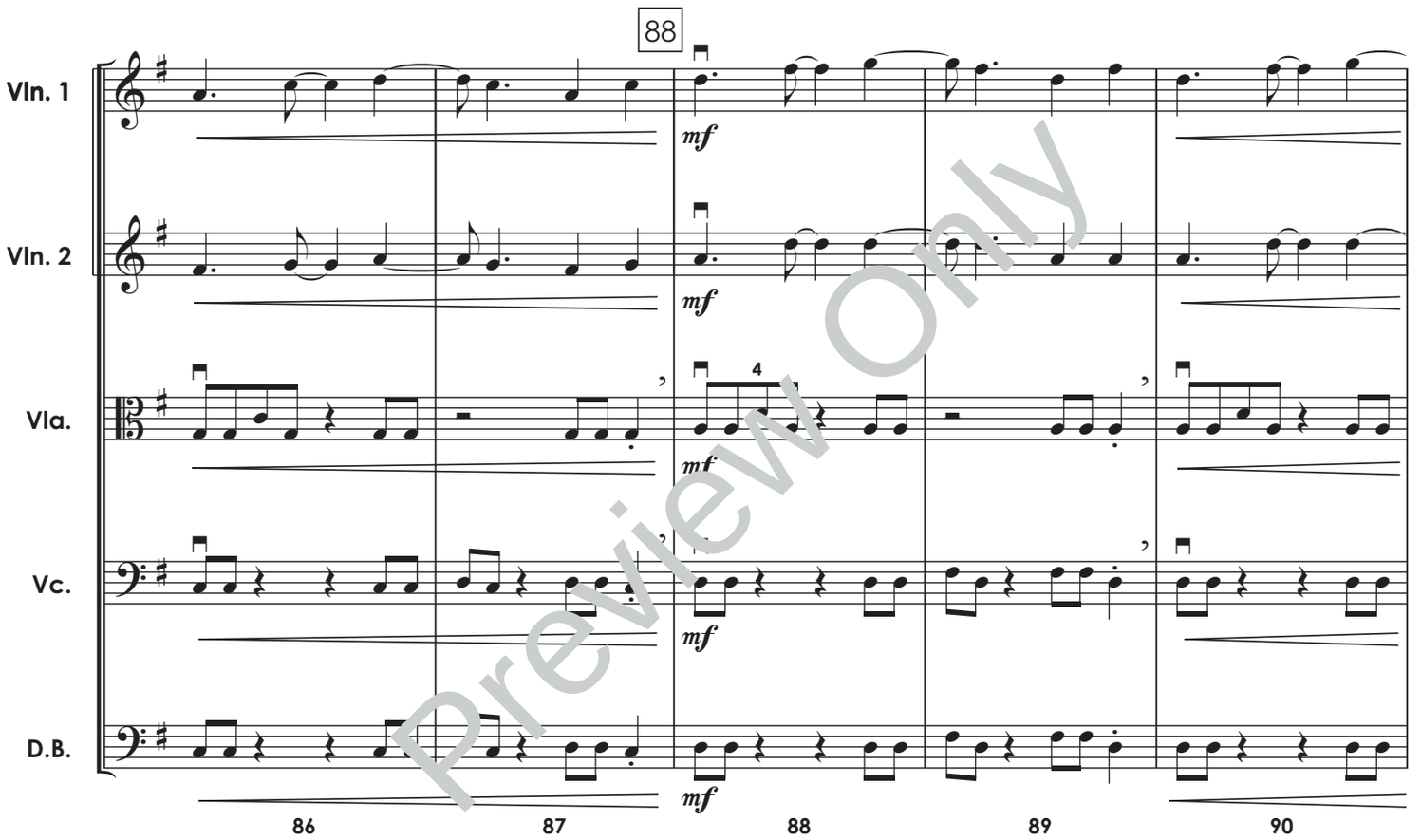

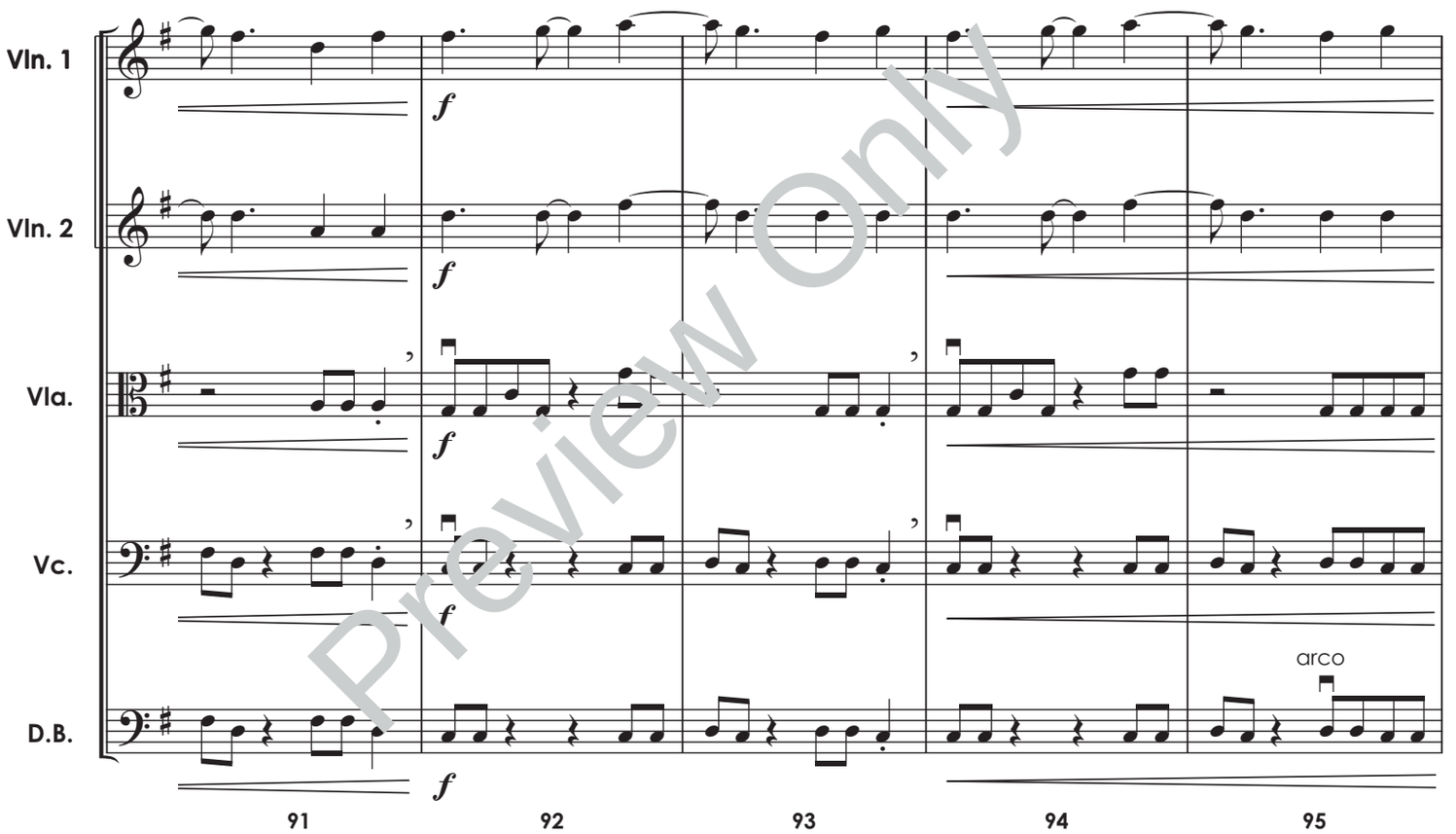

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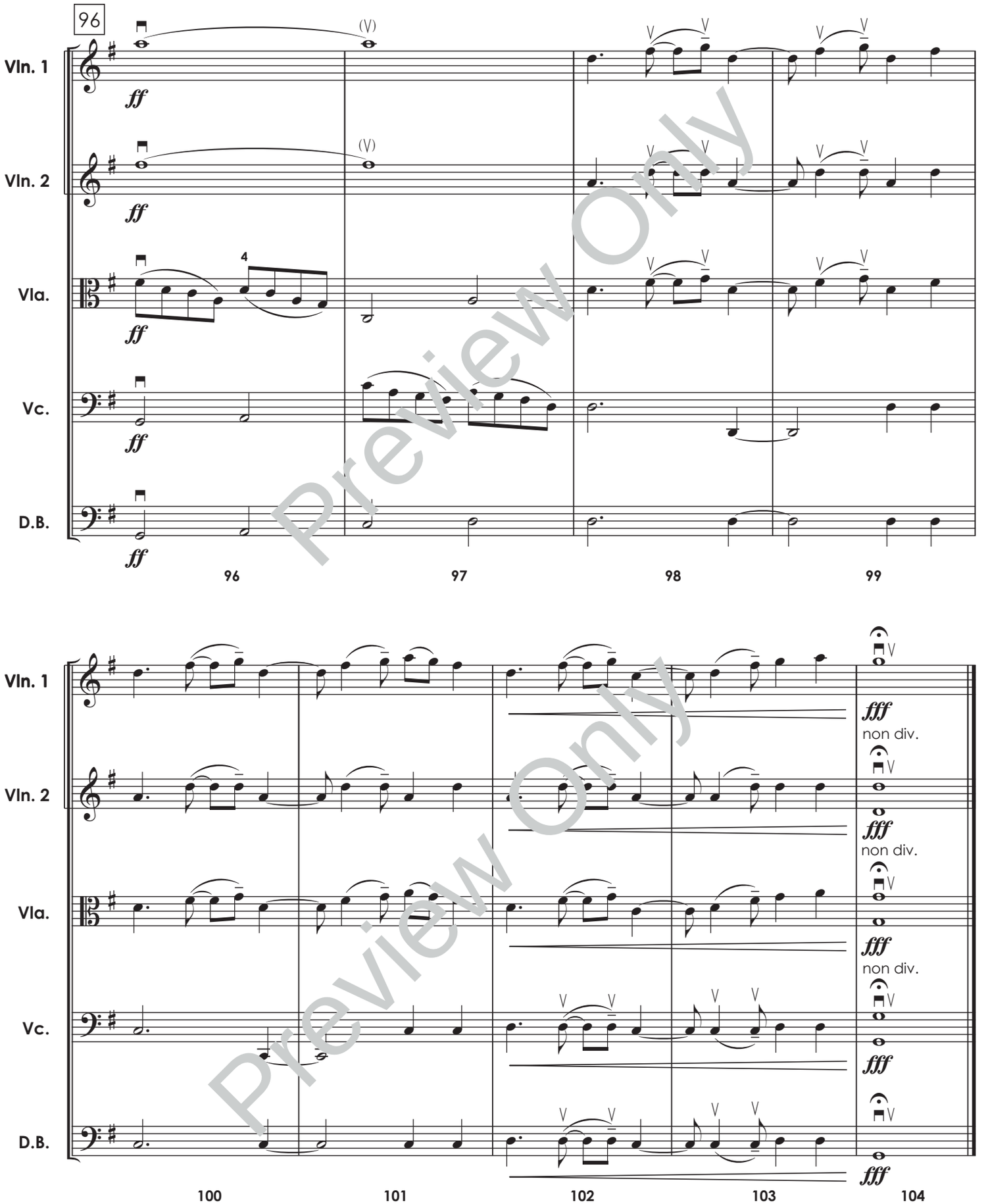

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