Firebirds

For String Orchestra, Grade 3
by Randall Standridge

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 grade 3 mash-up of original material and Stravinsky's Firebird is dynamic and full of syncopation and accents. Shifting occurs in all voices. *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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Firebirds

By Randall Standridge, Grade 3

Program Notes:
In 2024, I went through one of the most difficult mental health episodes of my life.

For months, I struggled with a deep depression that left me exhausted, unfocused, and disconnected from myself. As part of my ongoing unBroken Project—a musical initiative dedicated to mental health awareness—I knew I wanted to eventually write something that reflected not just the weight of that experience, but the journey back from it. The spark that finally lit the fire came from an unexpected place: Igor Stravinsky.

While reading during my recovery, I learned that Stravinsky himself experienced a period of profound depression late in his career. It struck a chord with me. Here was a composer whose music I admired—who had helped shape the sound of the 20th century—who had walked a similar path. That connection gave me a sense of comfort… and the idea for *Firebirds* was born.

Around that same time, I received a commission from the Falls Lake Academy Middle and High School Bands of Creedmoor, North Carolina, and their director, Jaron Cox. Their school mascot? The Firebird.

Funny how the universe works sometimes.

The timing felt too perfect to ignore, and the symbolism of the phoenix—rising from the ashes, renewed and reborn—tied together my personal experience, Stravinsky's legacy, and the spirit of the commissioning school in a way that felt meant to be.

This piece blends original material with themes from Stravinsky's The Firebird Suite, reimagining them in a setting for younger ensembles. The result is a high-energy work filled with fiery rhythms, shifting meters, bold percussion, and moments of soaring triumph. Like the mythical phoenix, the music is meant to symbolize resurgence, hope, and transformation.

Firebirds is dedicated to the loving memory of FLA staff member Chris "THE BOSS" Williams, and students Nathan George and Hailey Brooks. It is my hope that this music not only honors their lives, but also offers strength to those who carry their memory forward.

While Firebirds serves as a great introduction to Stravinsky's music, it's also a personal reflection—on perseverance, creativity, and finding your way back to the light after being lost in the dark.

To the students and teachers performing this work:
Know that you are stronger than your hardest days. Being down does not mean it's over.
It might just mean that a new beginning is waiting.

And just like a phoenix…

You can rise.

Peace, Love, and Music,
– Randy Standy

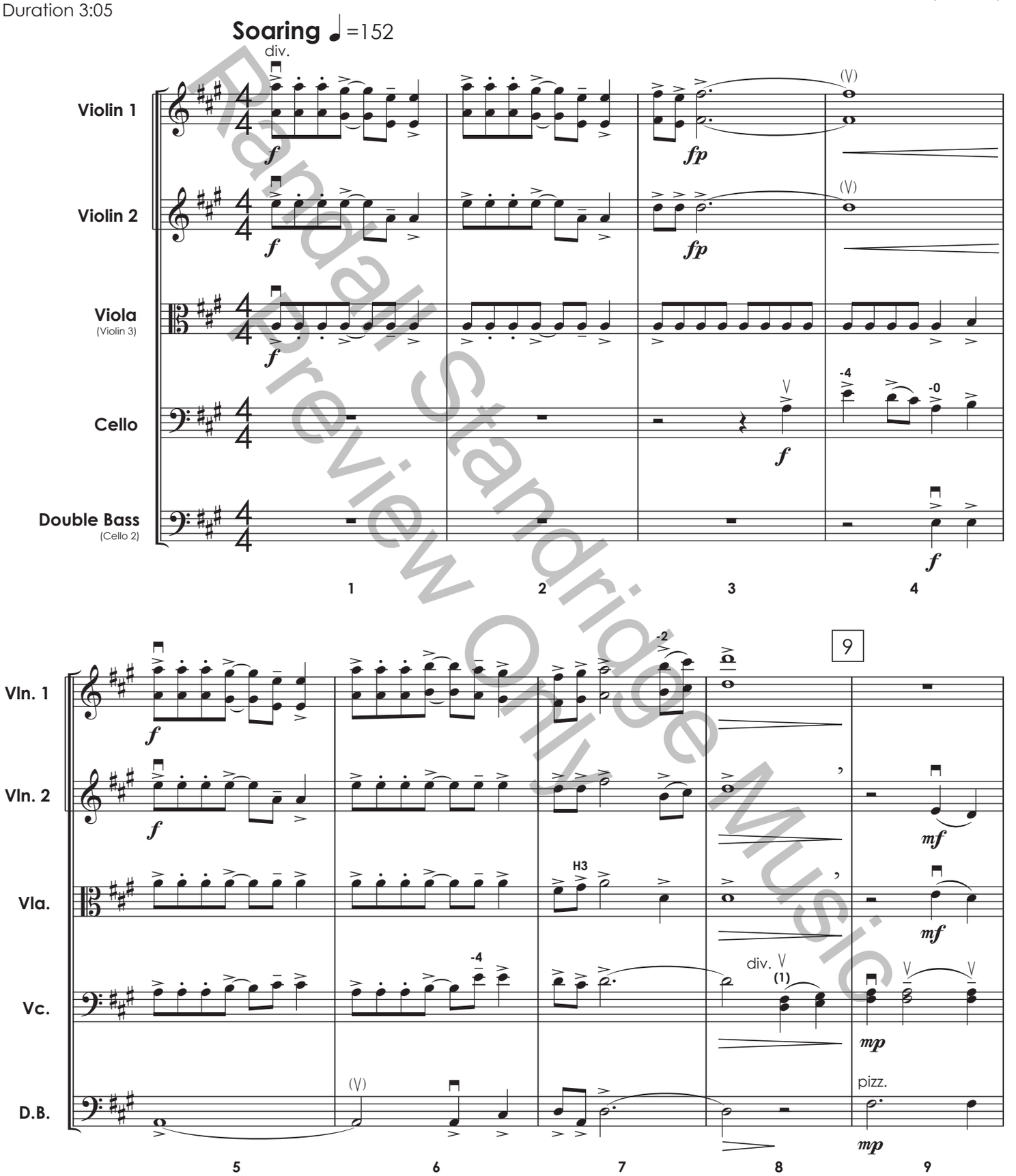
Rehearsal Suggestions:

- The tempo of this work is critical to its character. When planning your preparation, make sure to allow time for proper technical development to achieve the written tempos, lest the work come off as "boring."
- Dynamics should be noticeable and taken to extremes.
- 2nds and Violas are encouraged to play the "Firebird" theme Sul G at m. 78 AND m. 9 if they are able.
- Bring out the Bass soli at m. 68.
- The split line cello divisi starting at m. 103 should be split in whatever best fits the balance of your ensemble.

Firebirds

Score
Grade 3
Duration 3:05

Randall D. Standridge
(ASCAP)



Randall Standridge Preview Only Music

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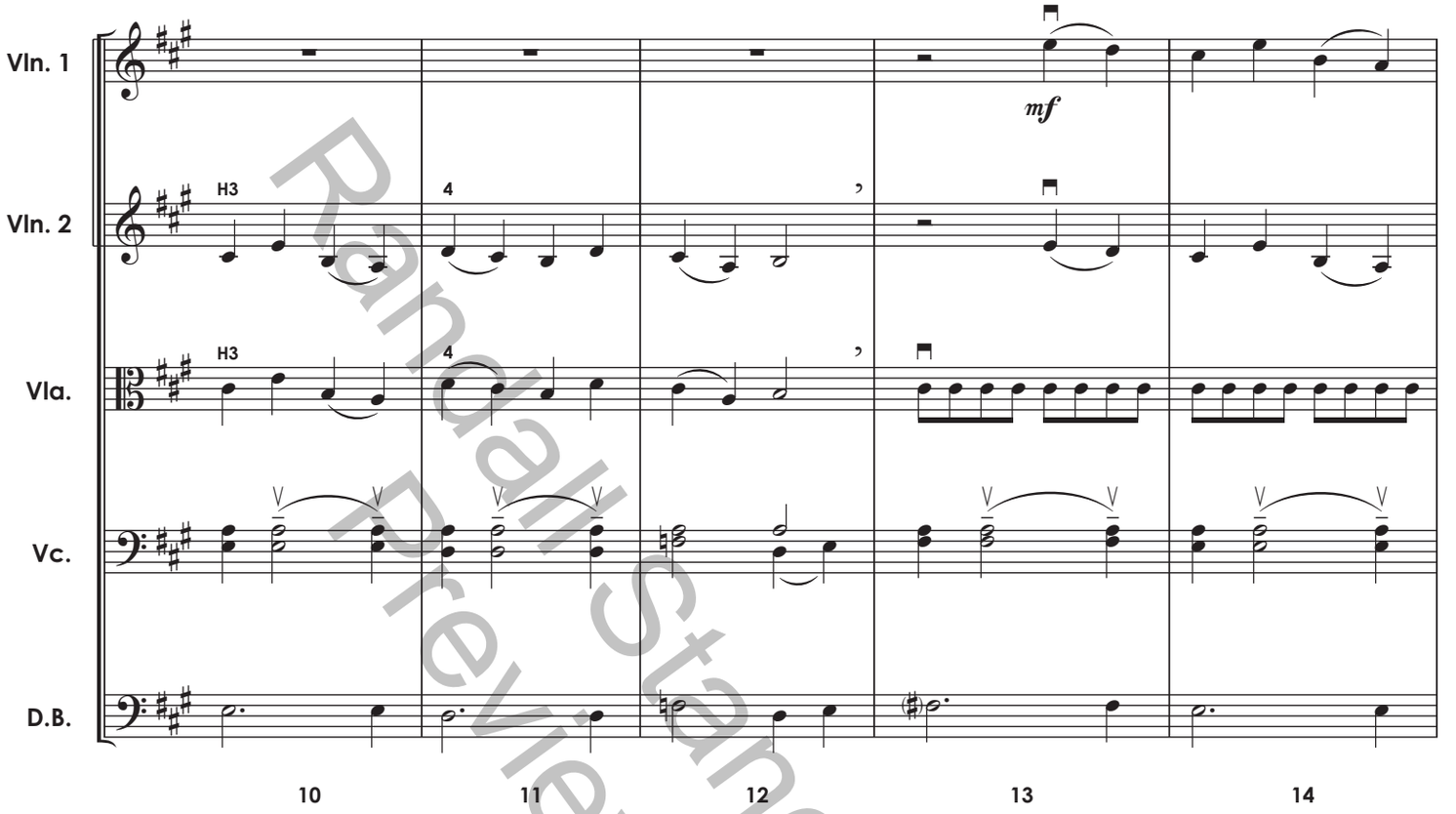

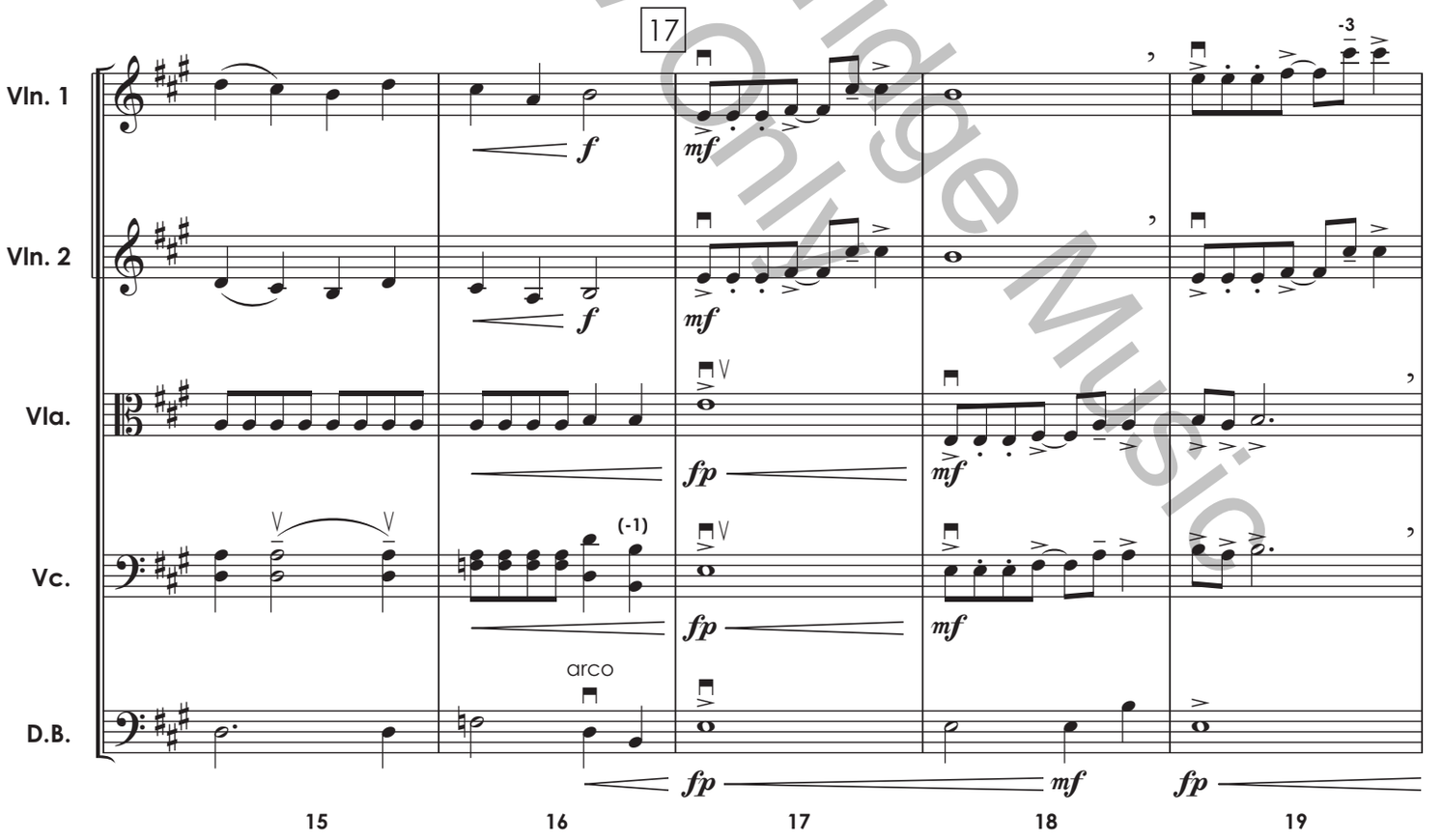

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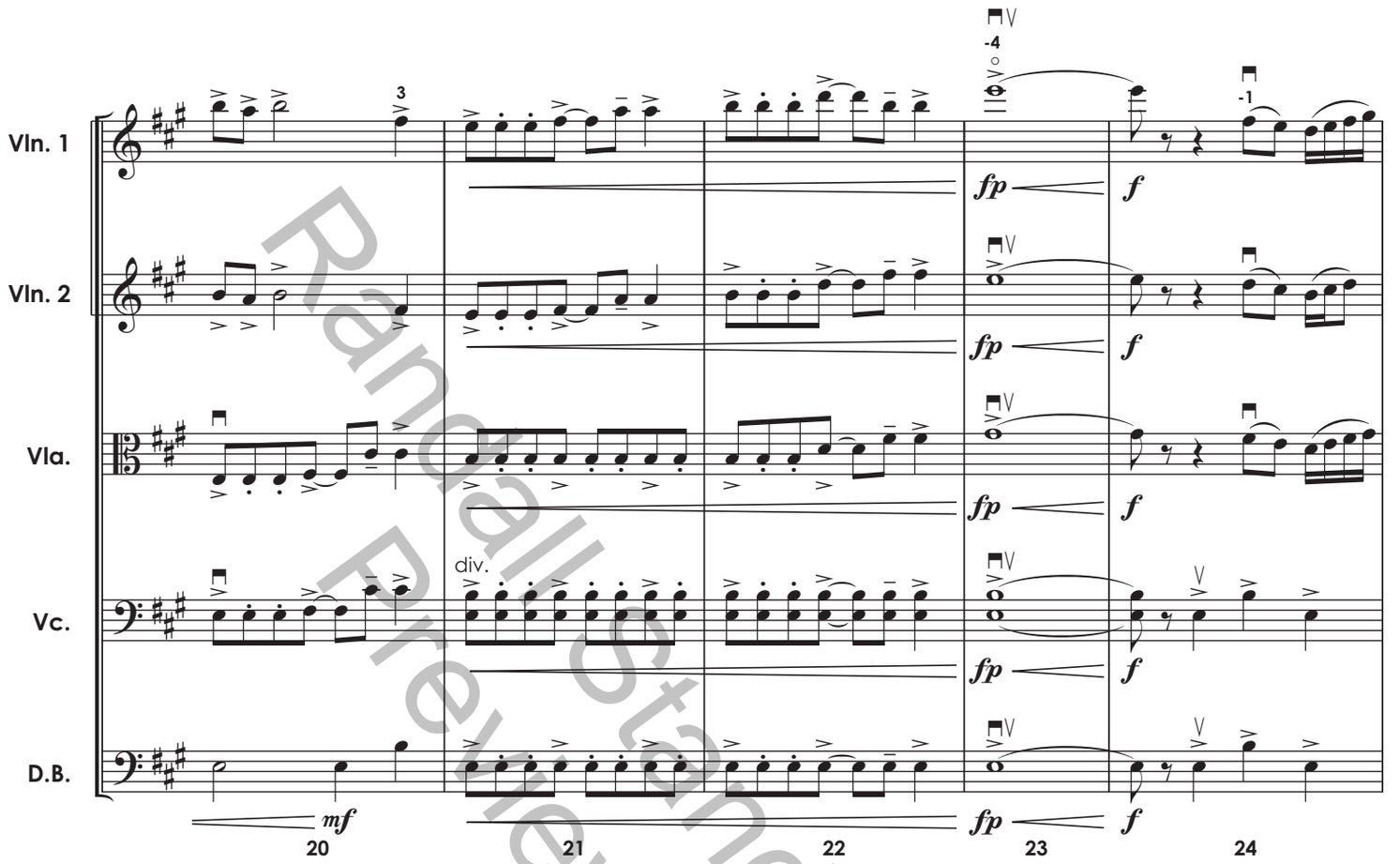

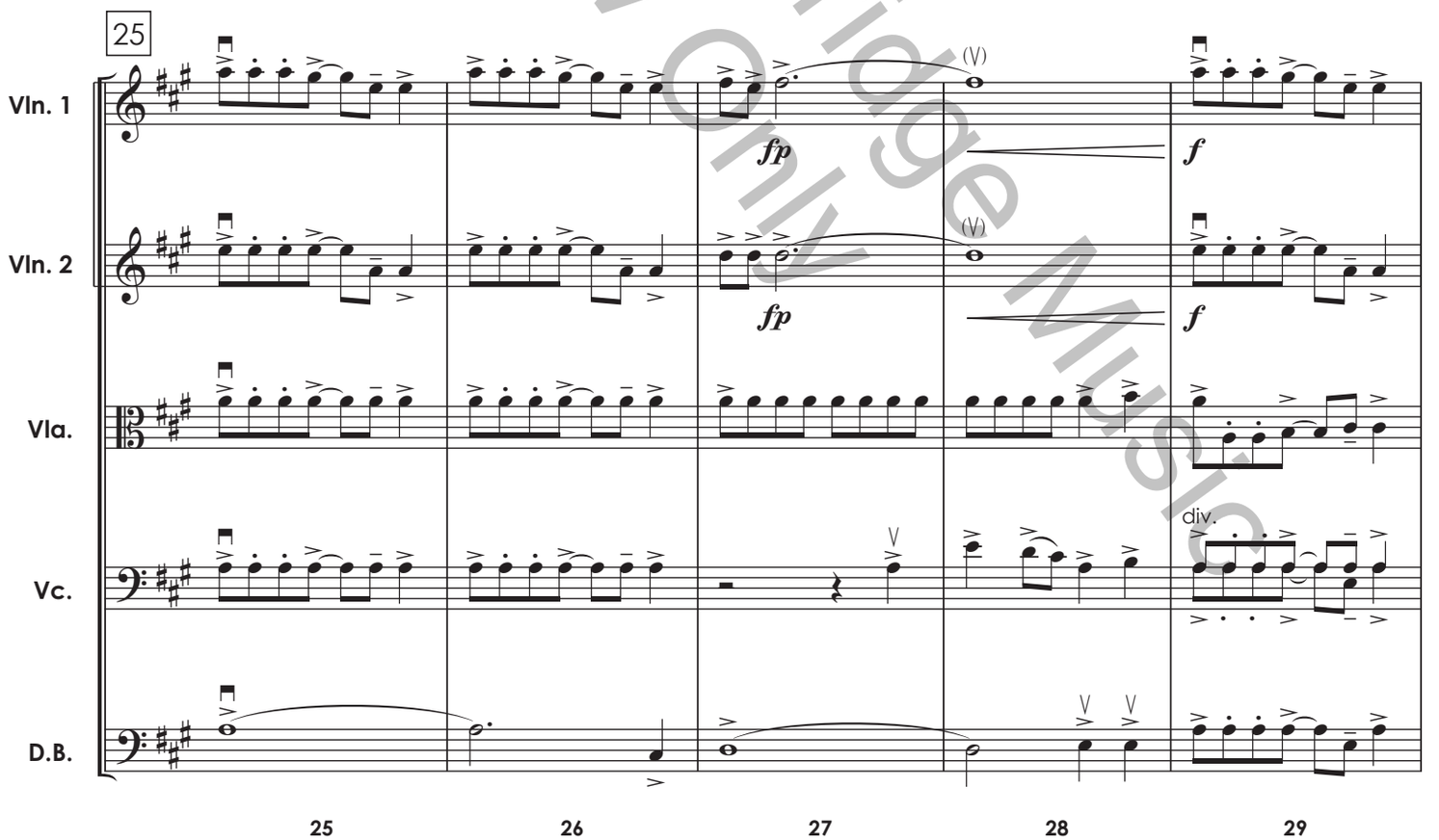

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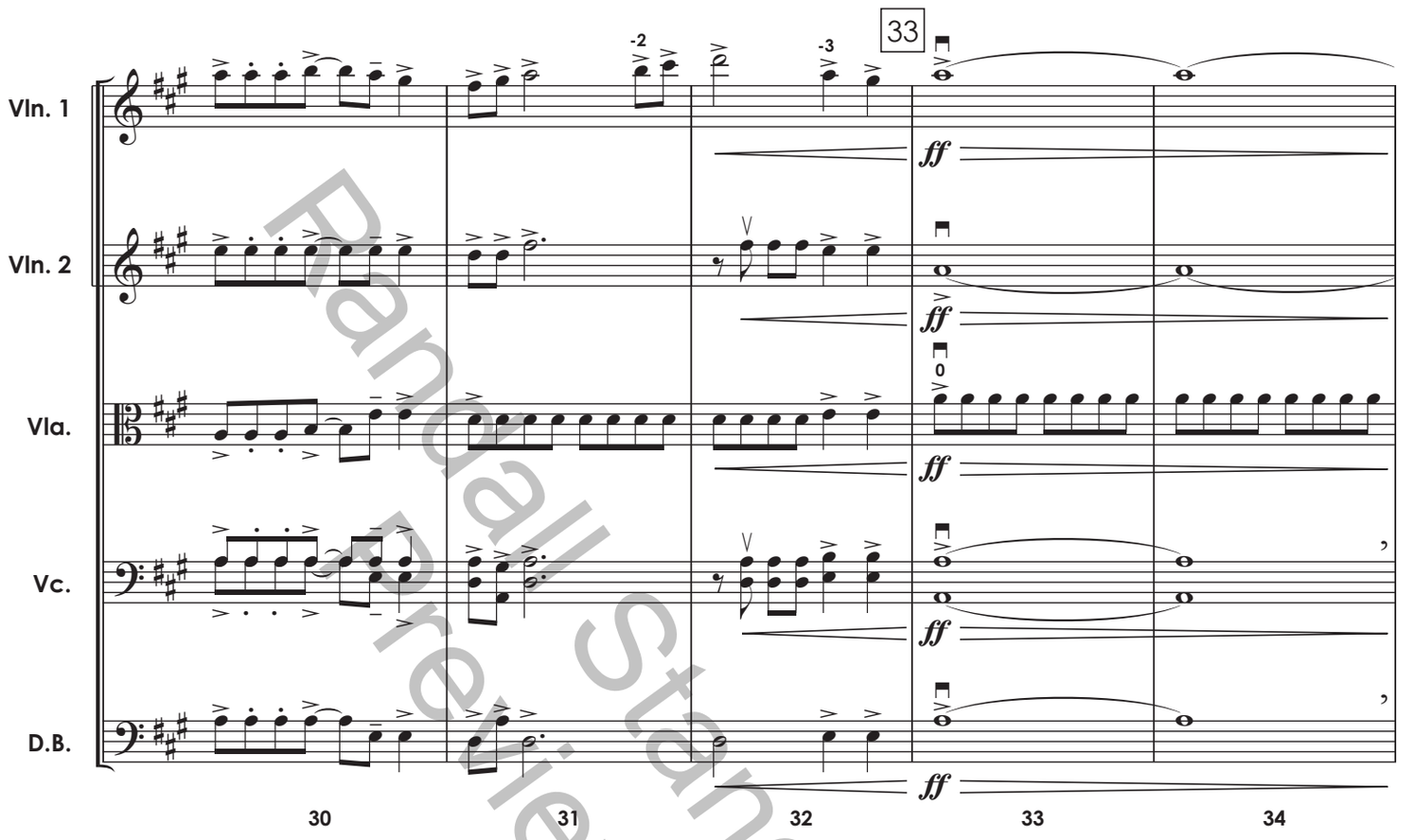

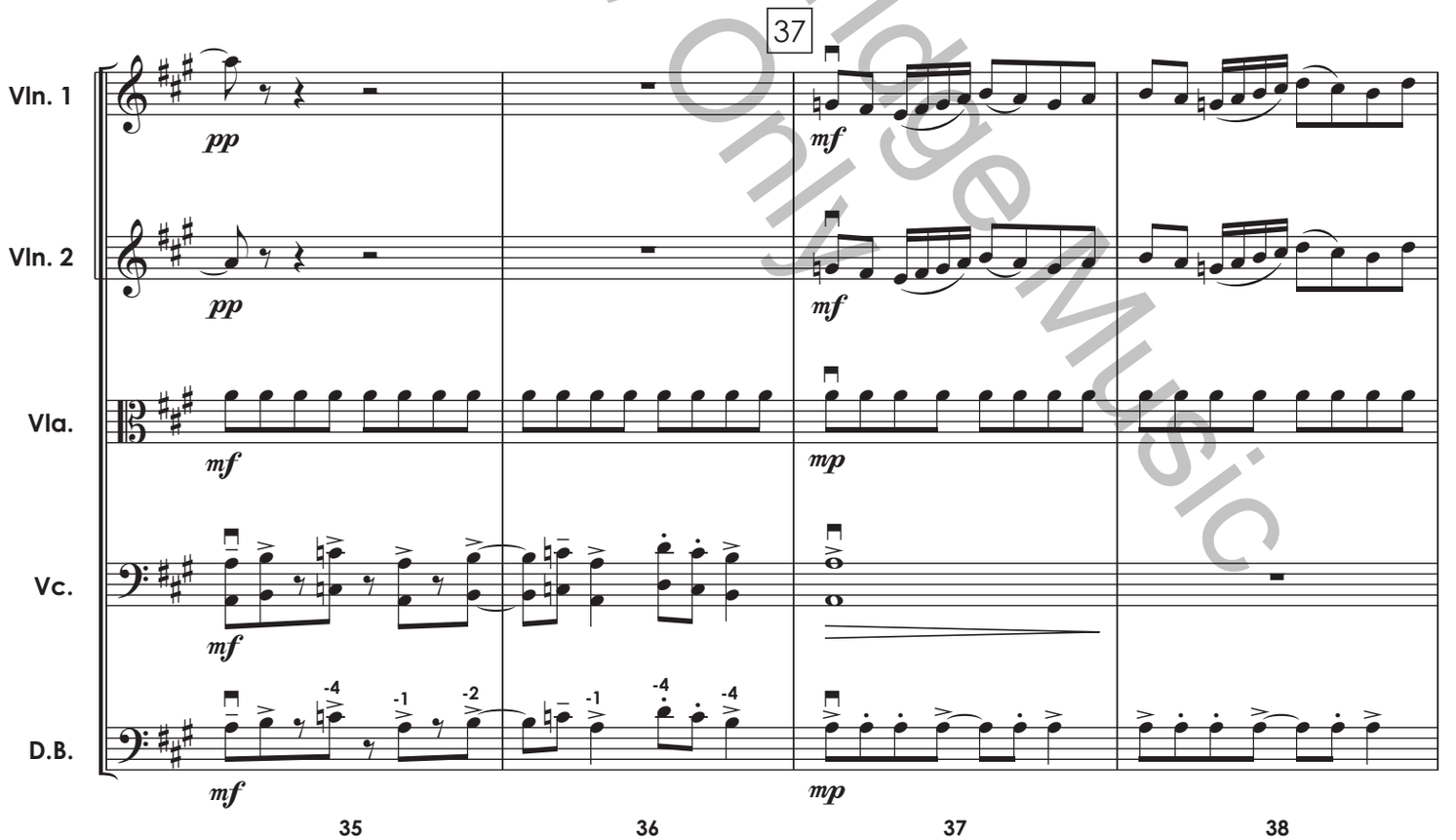

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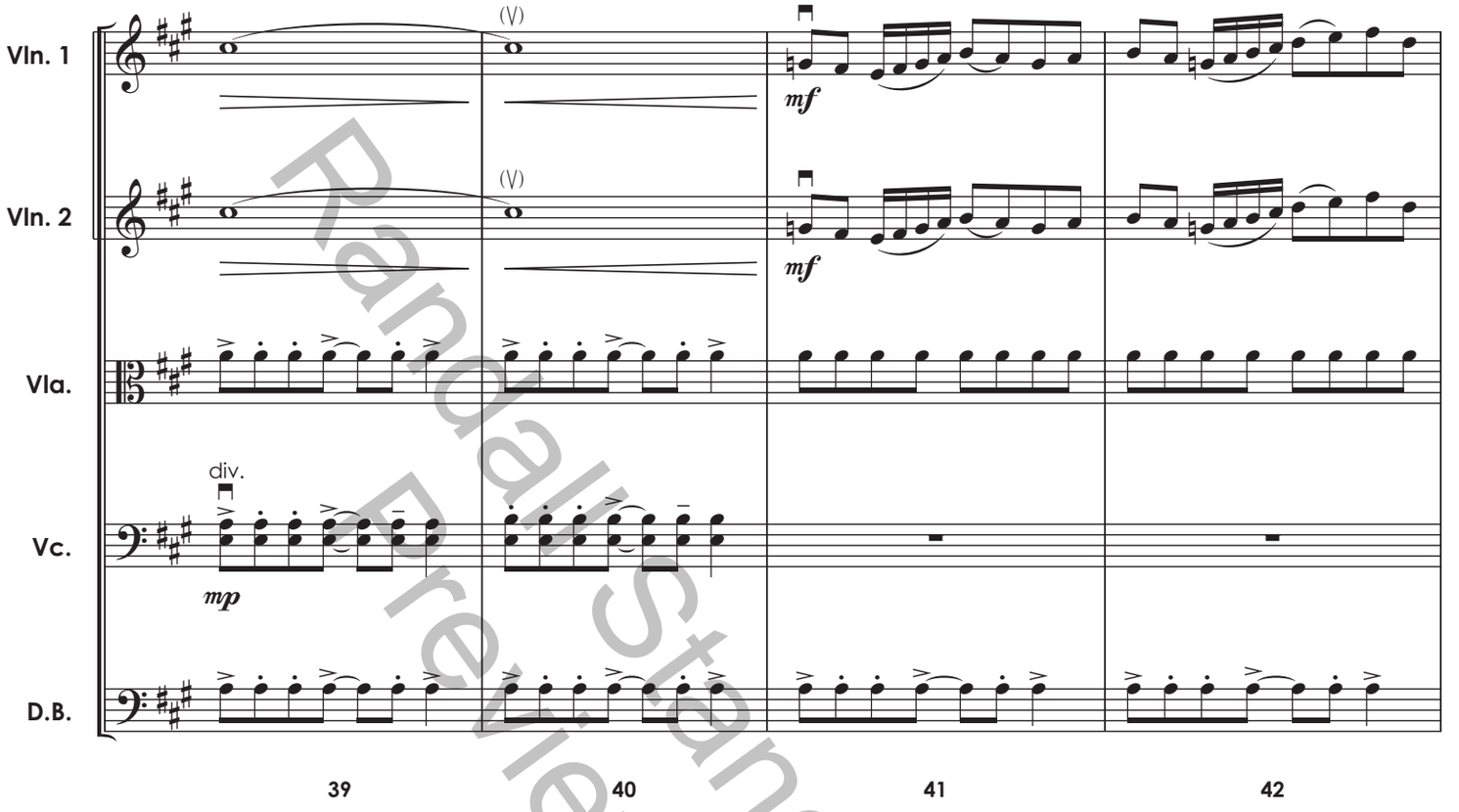

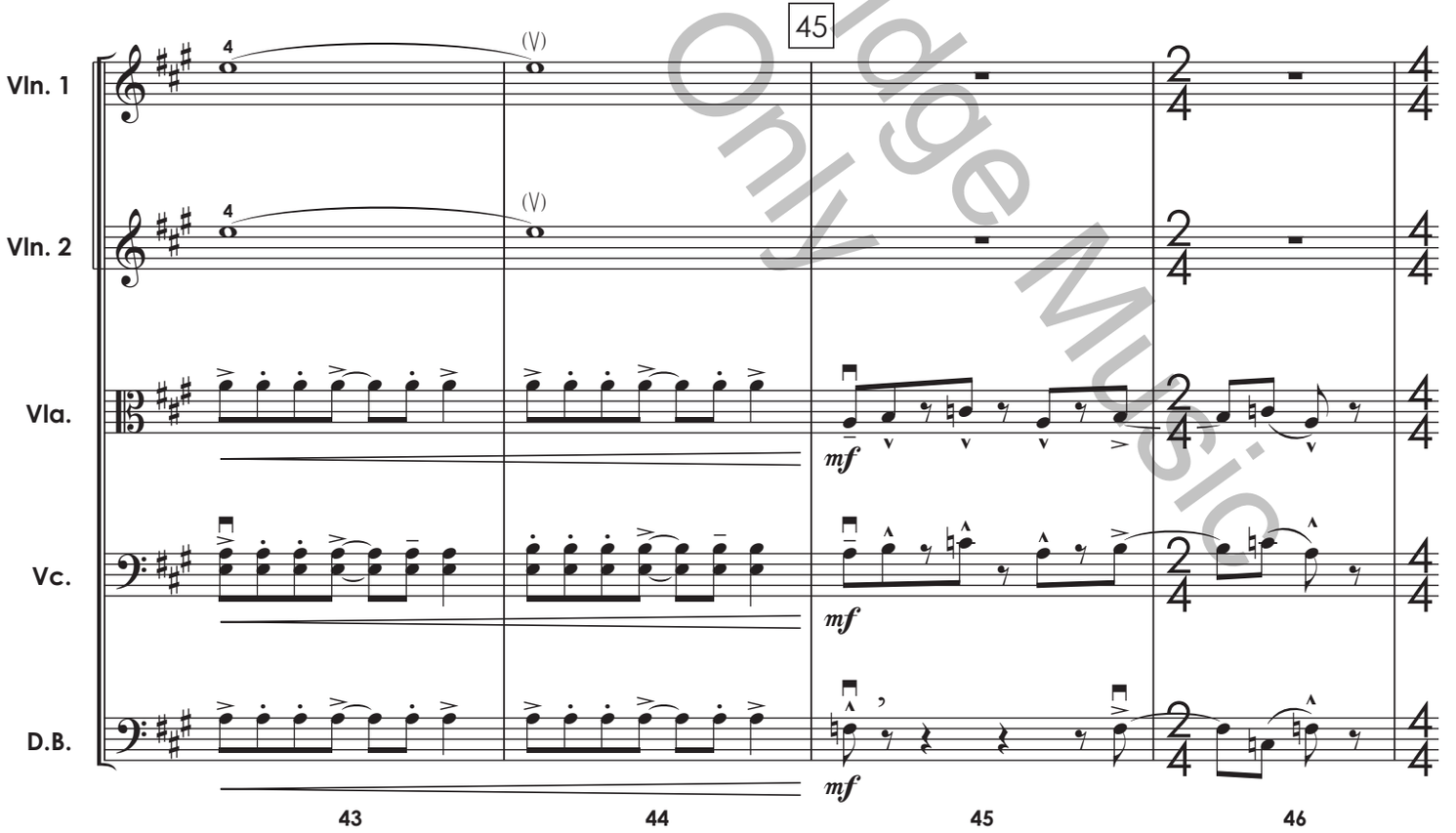

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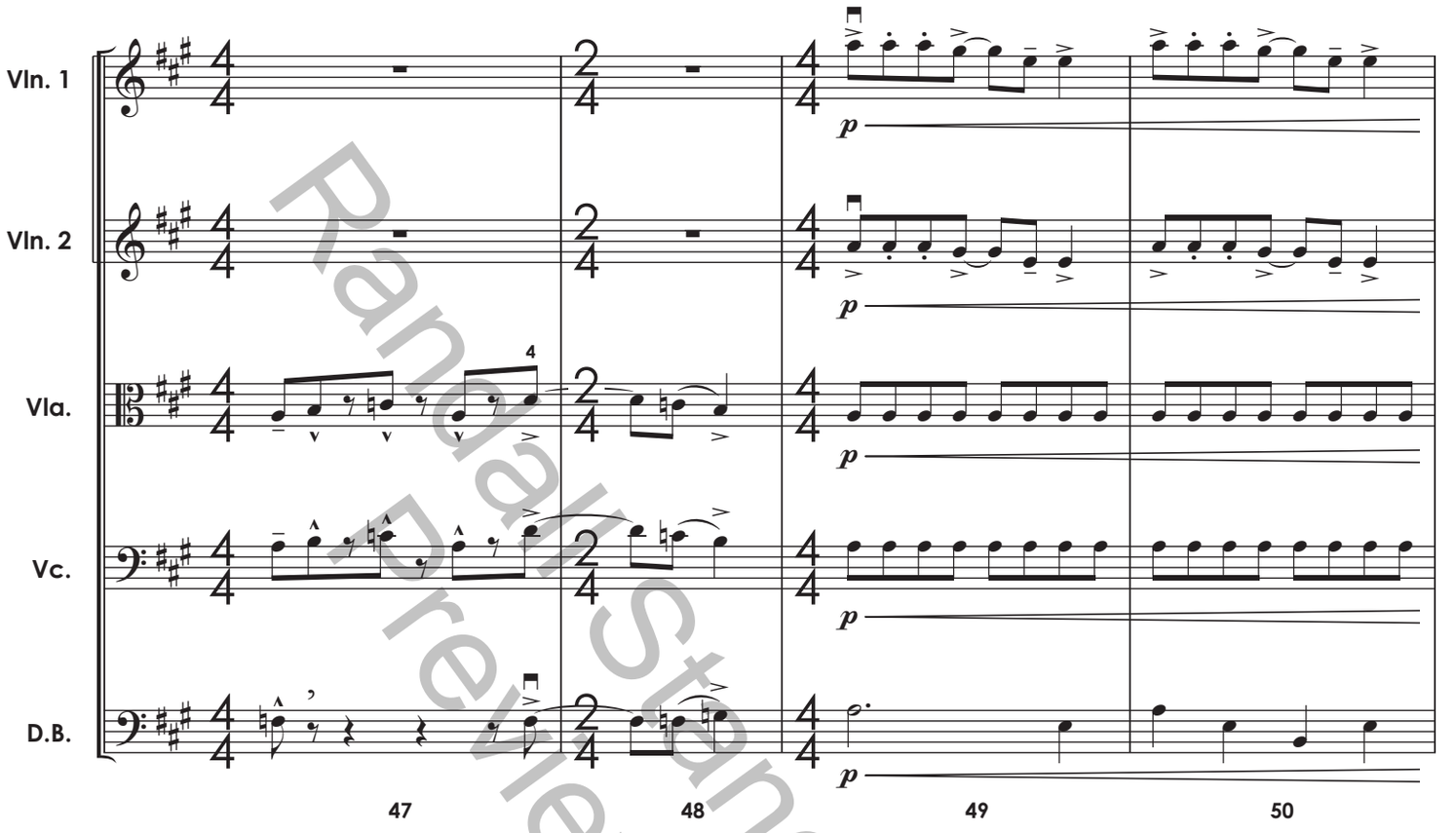

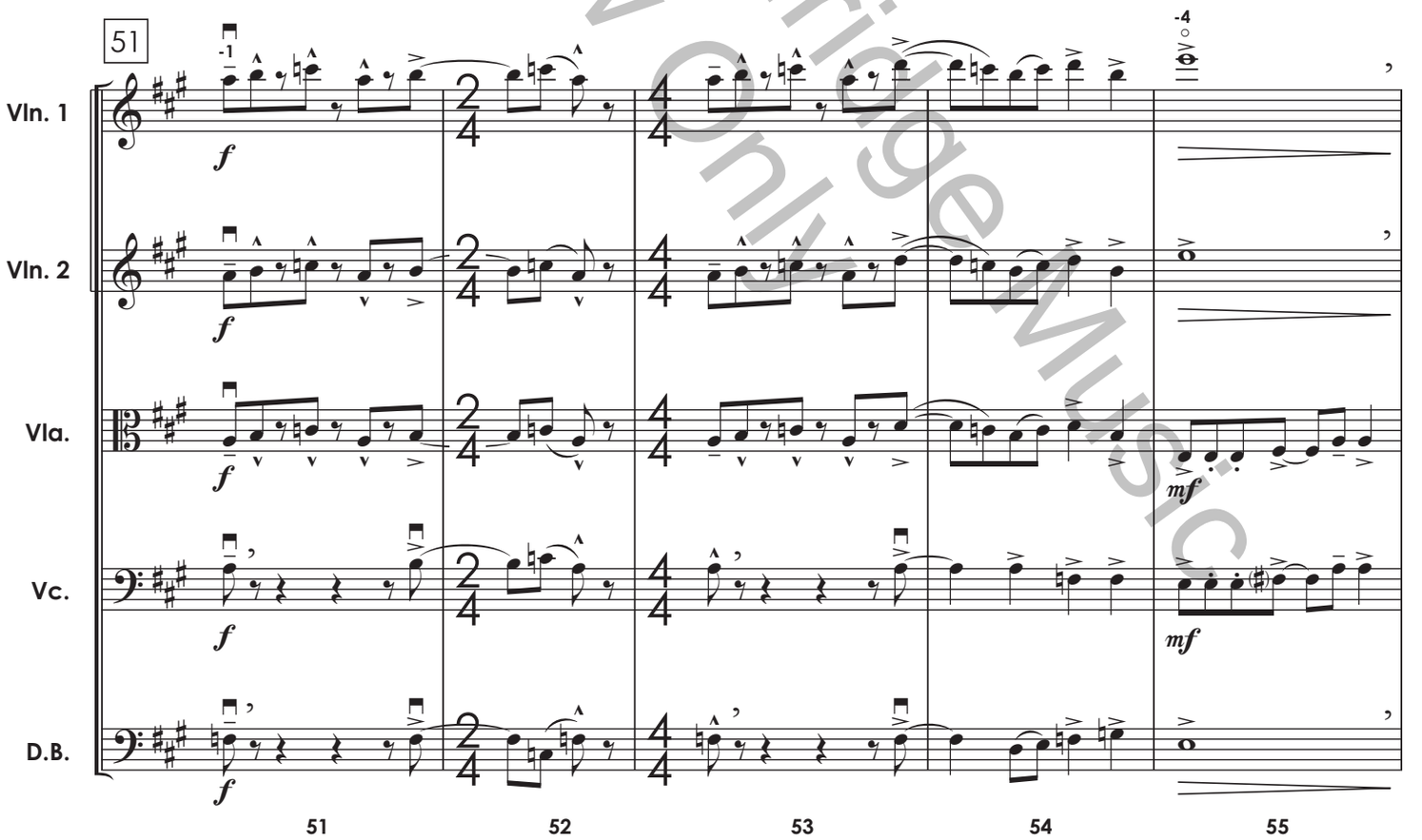

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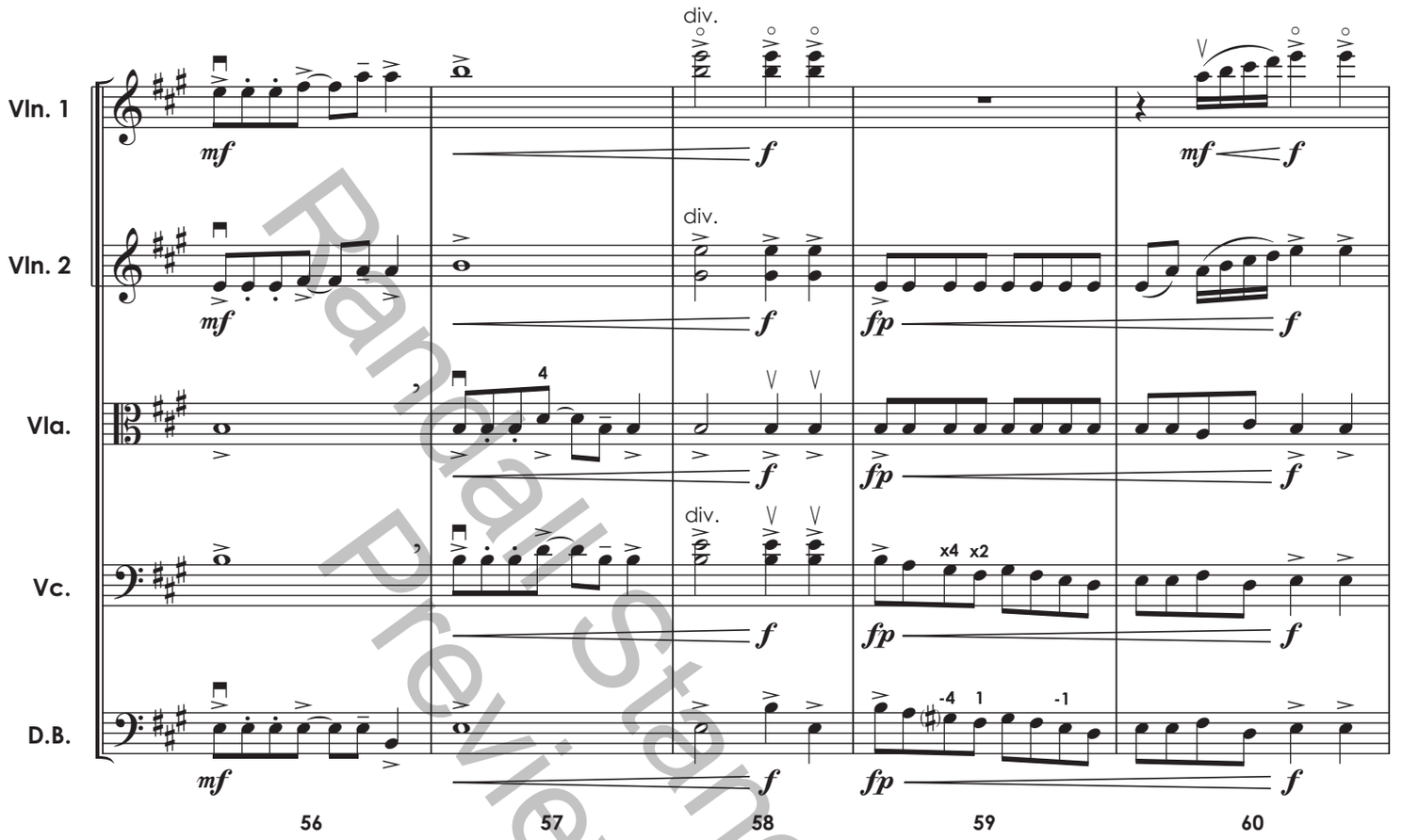

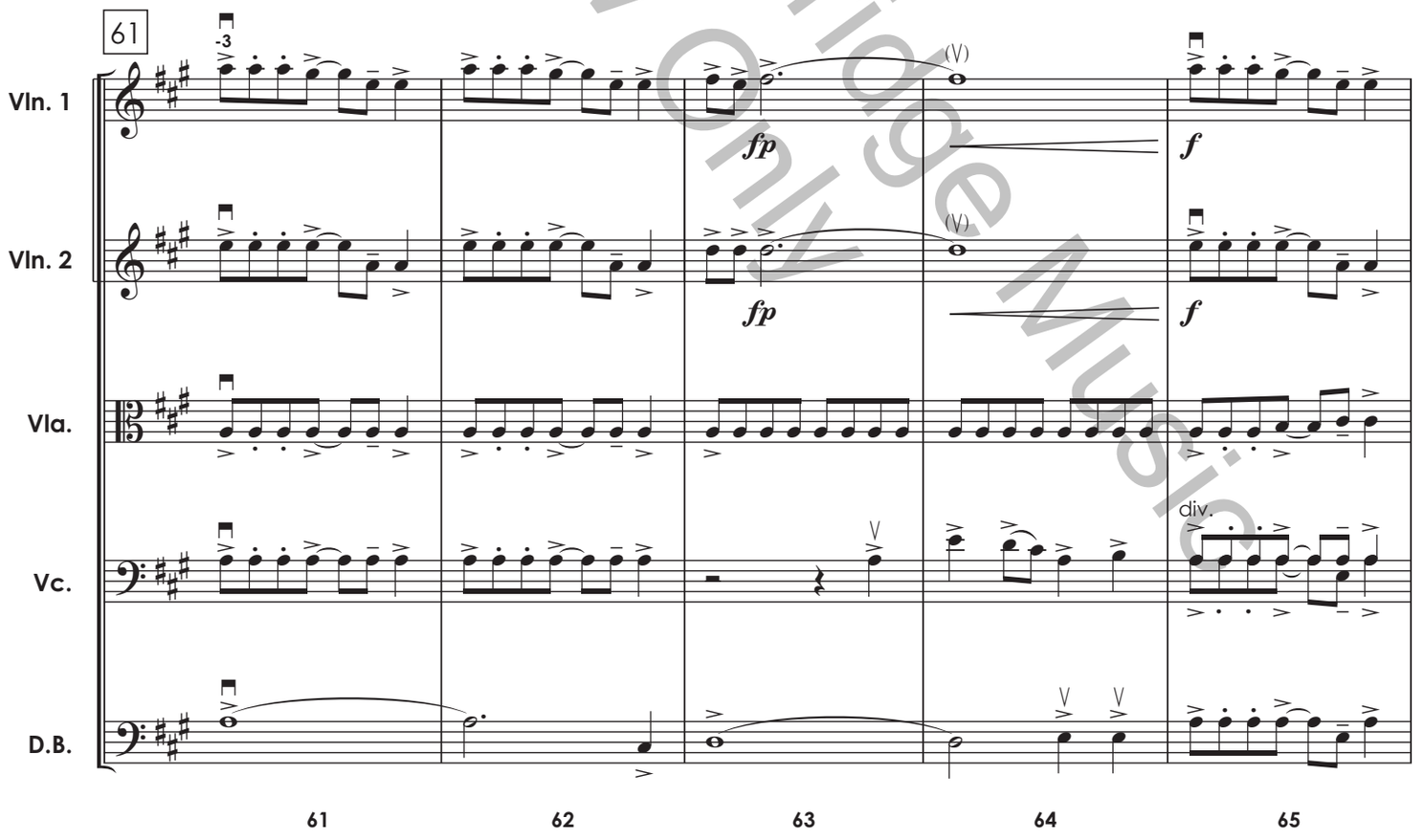

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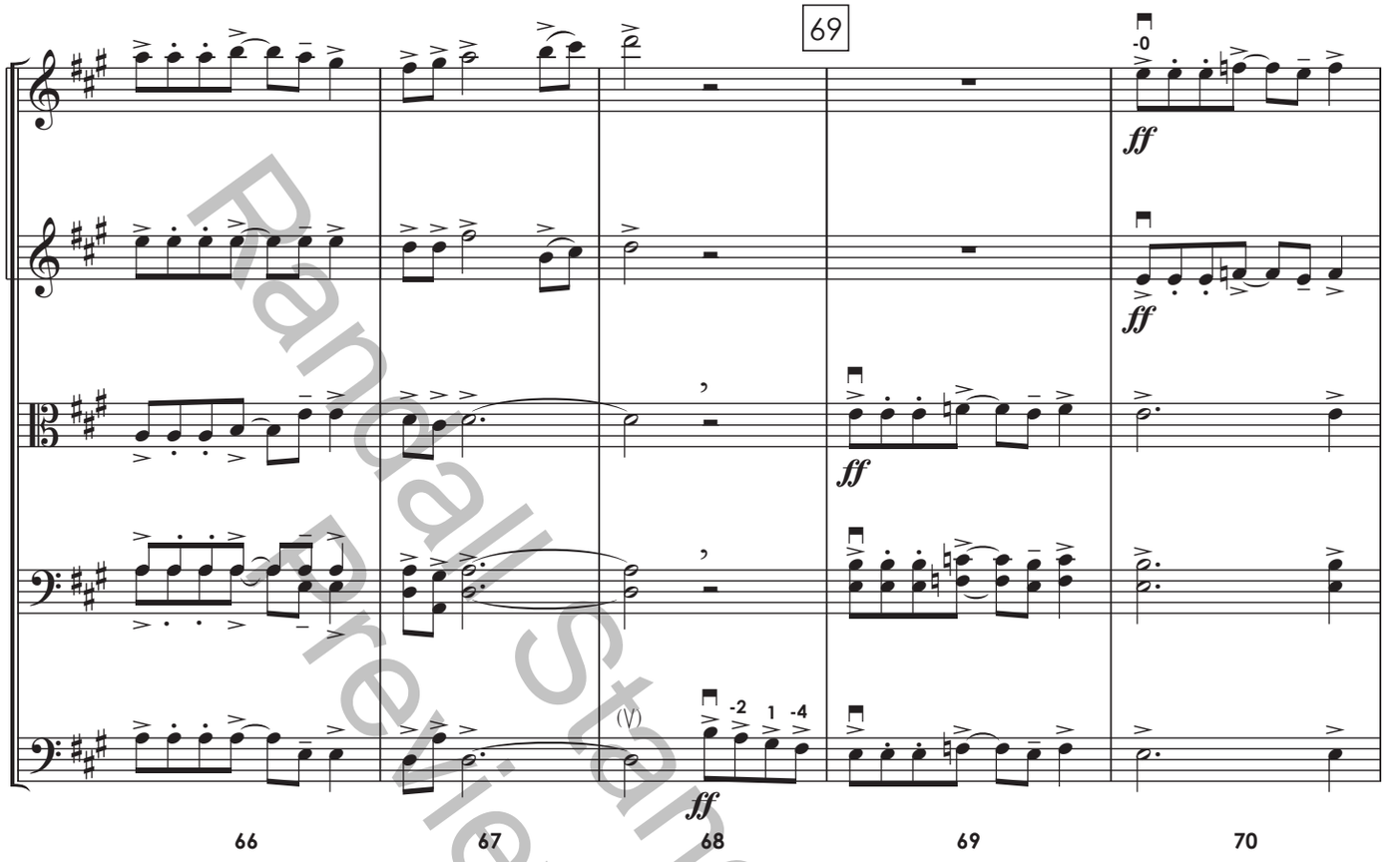

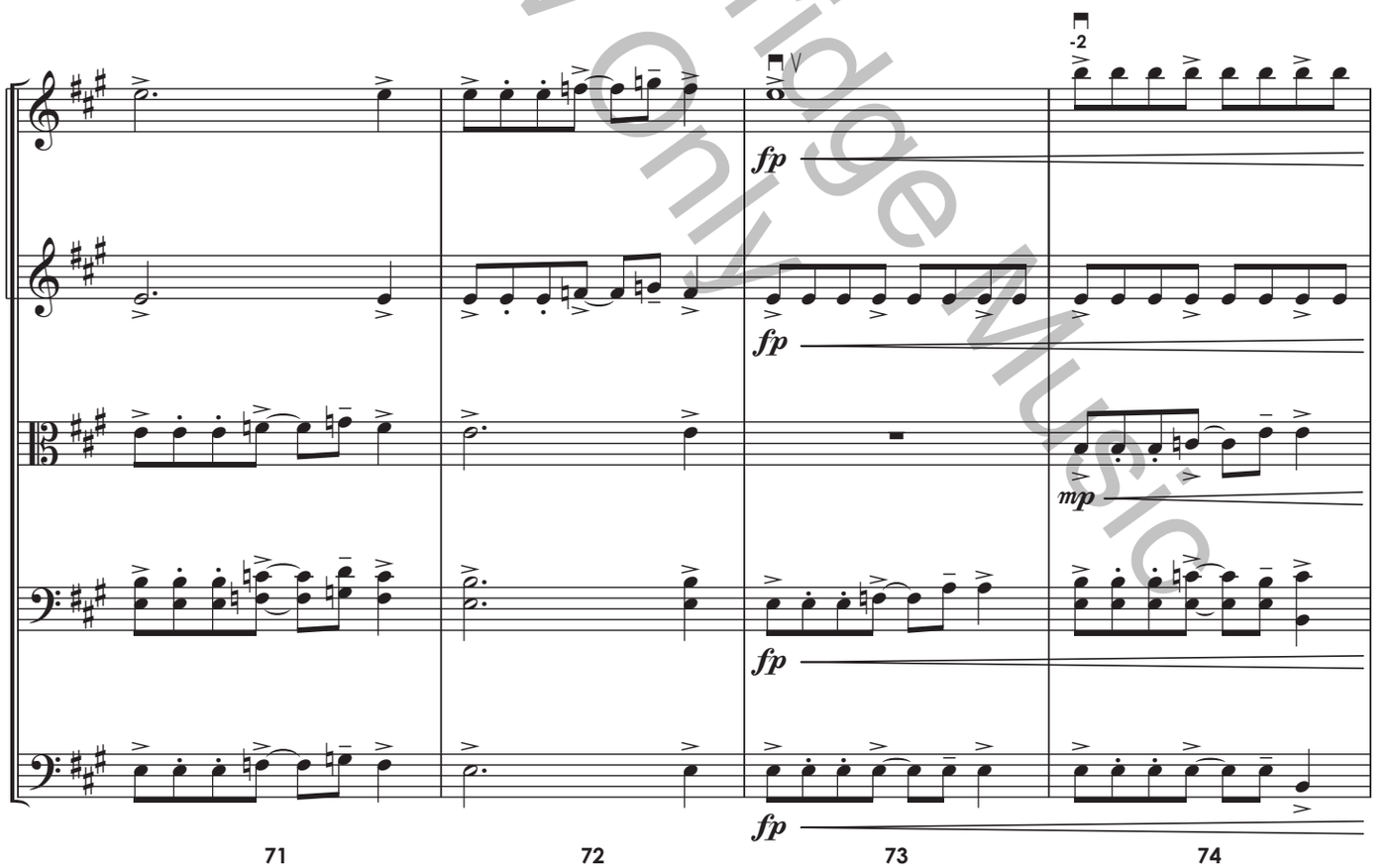

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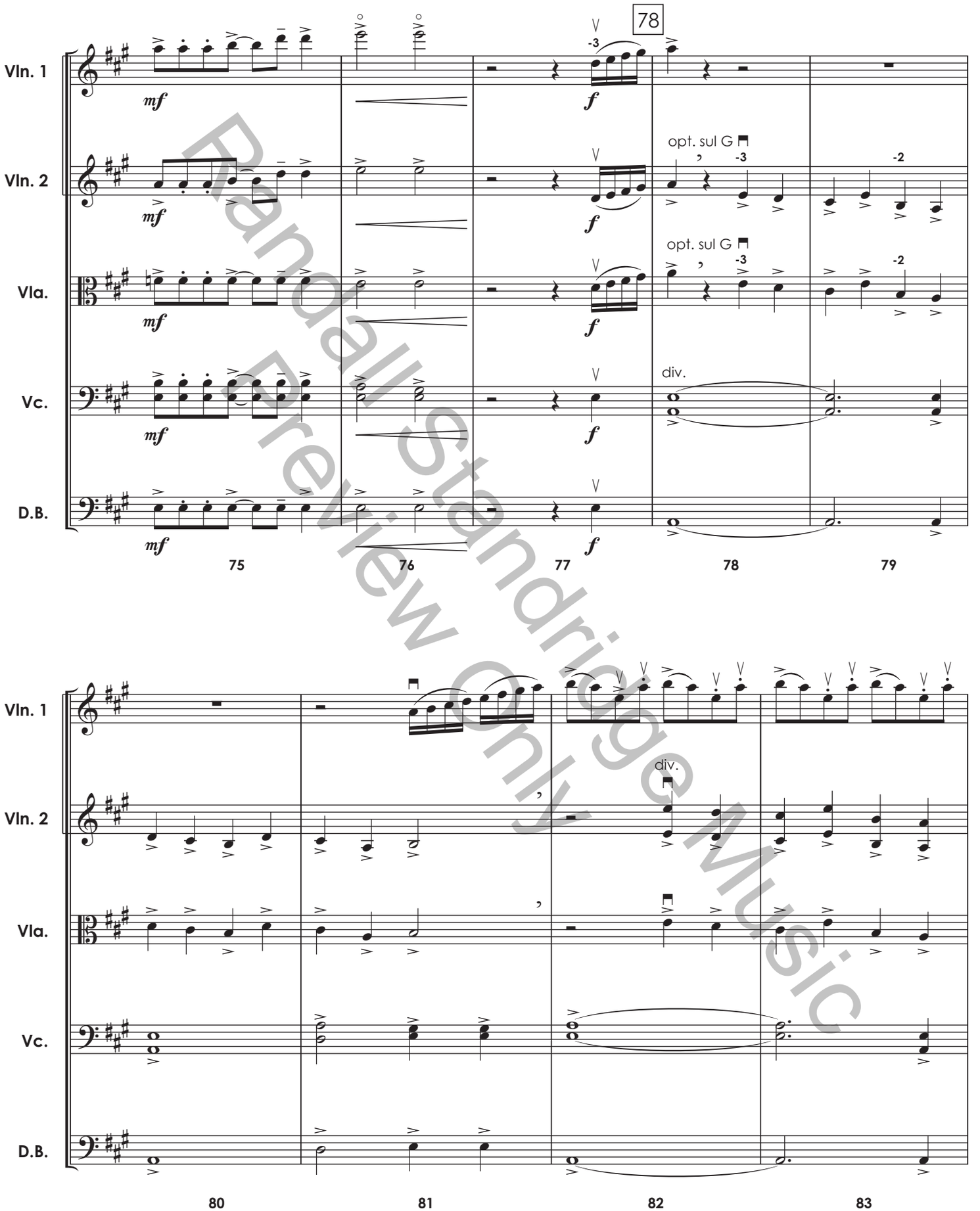

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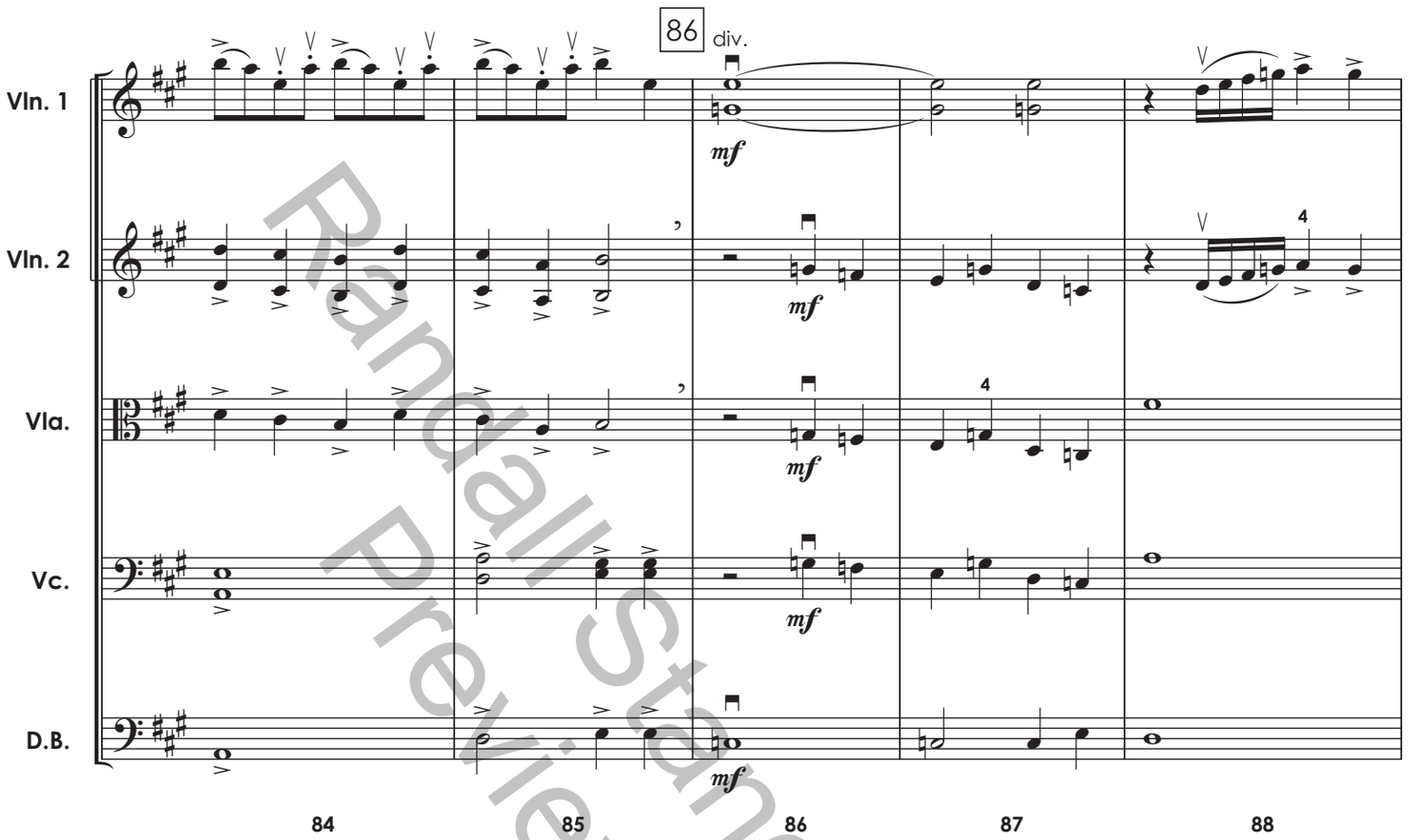

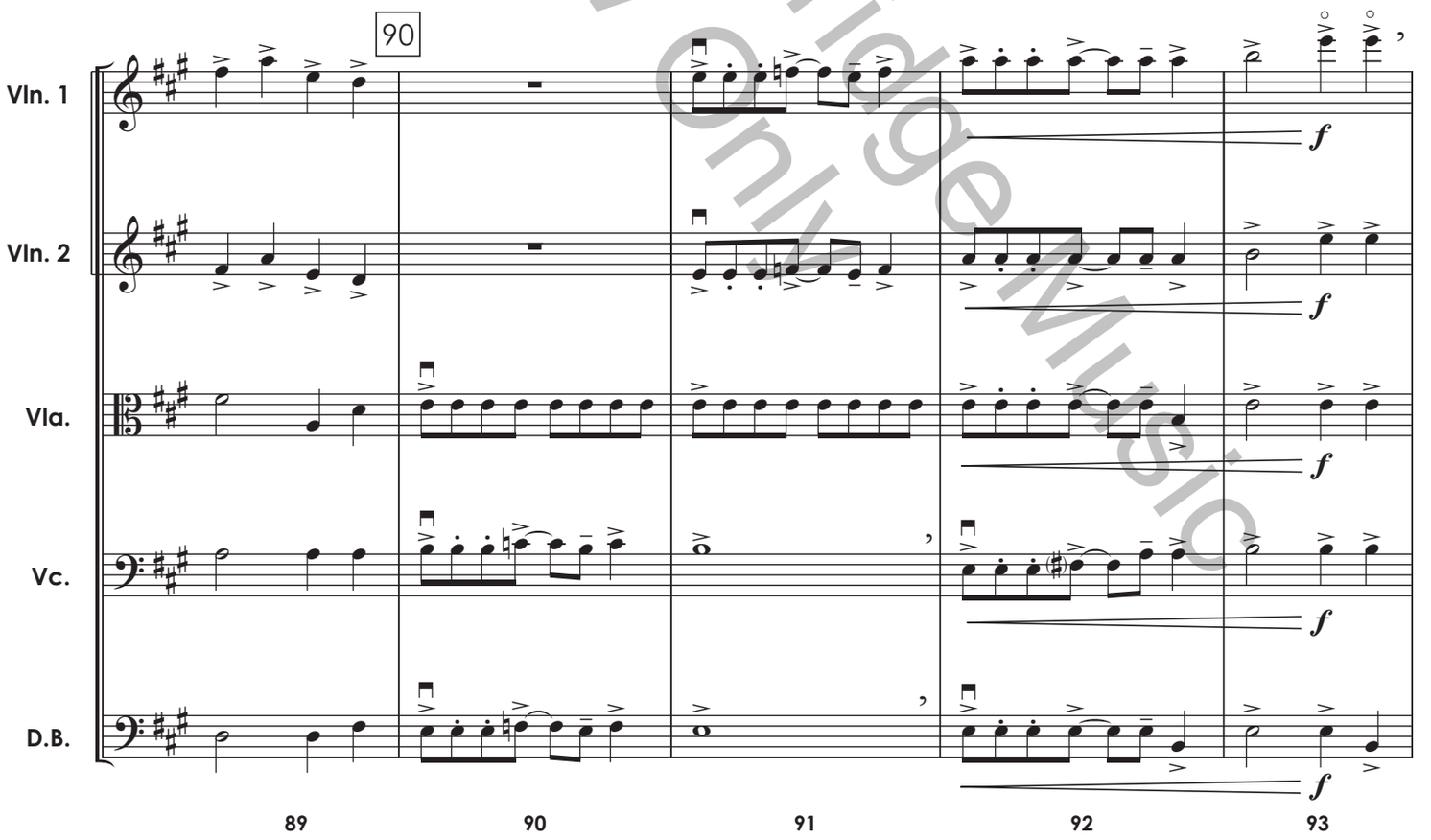

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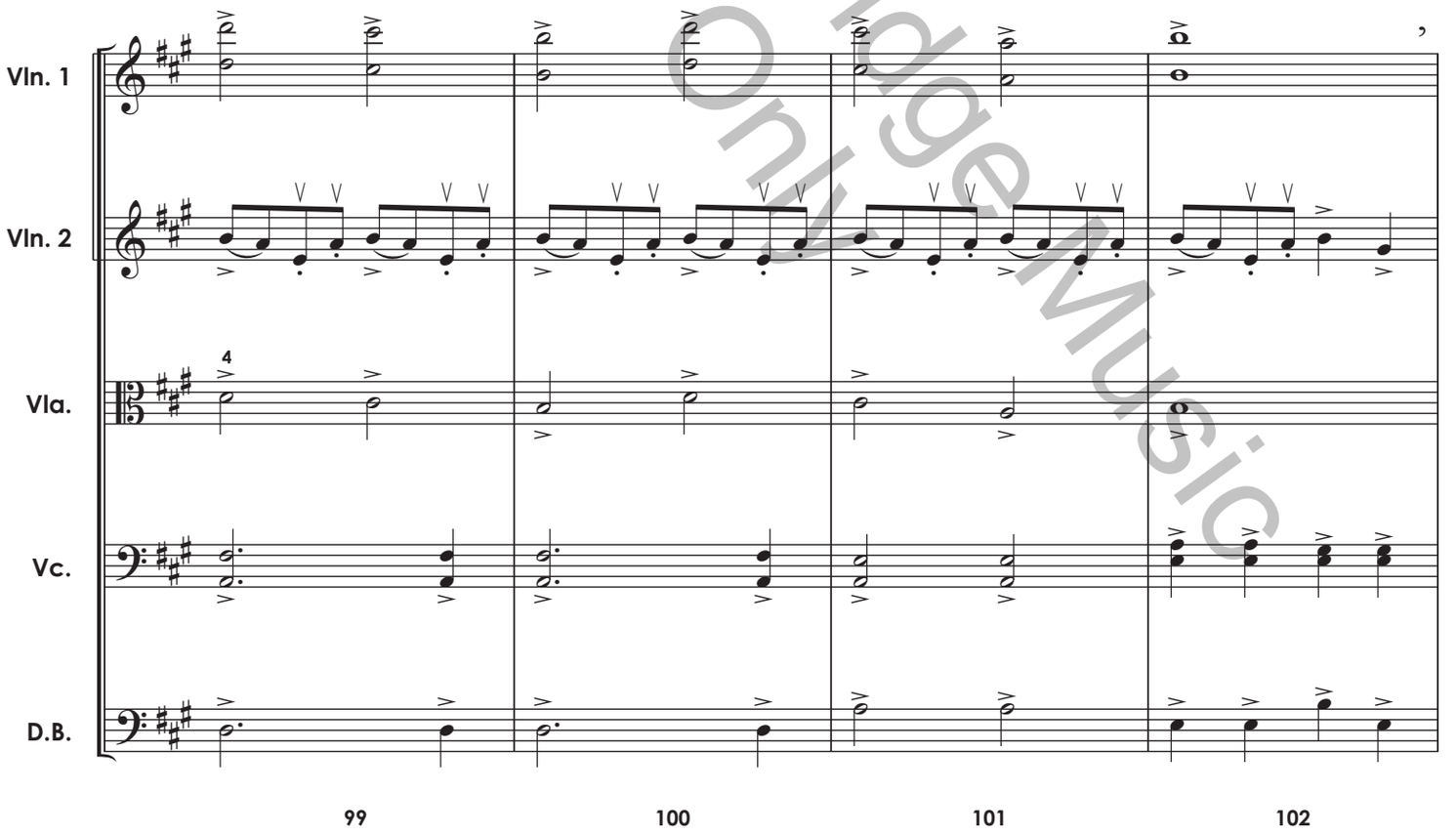

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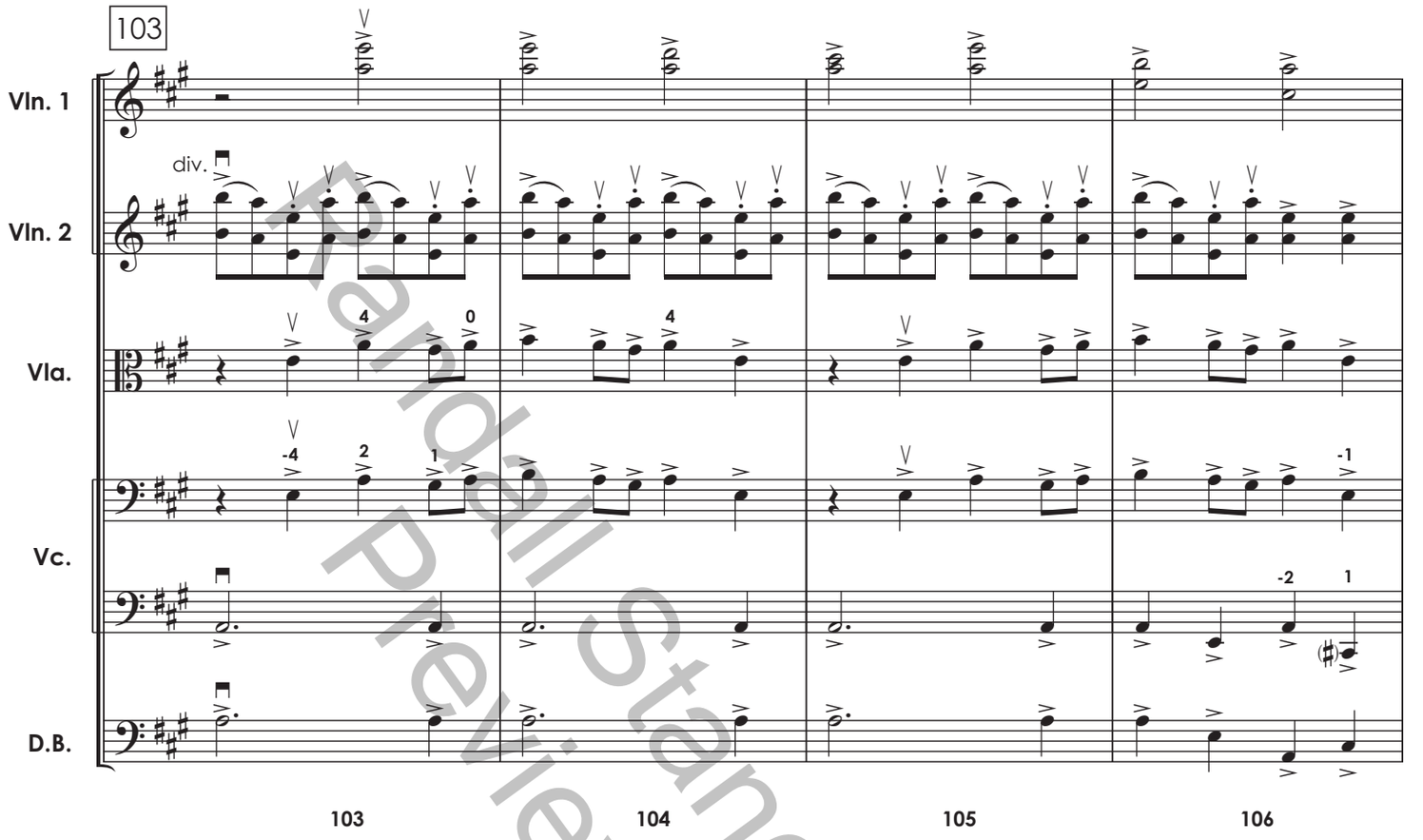

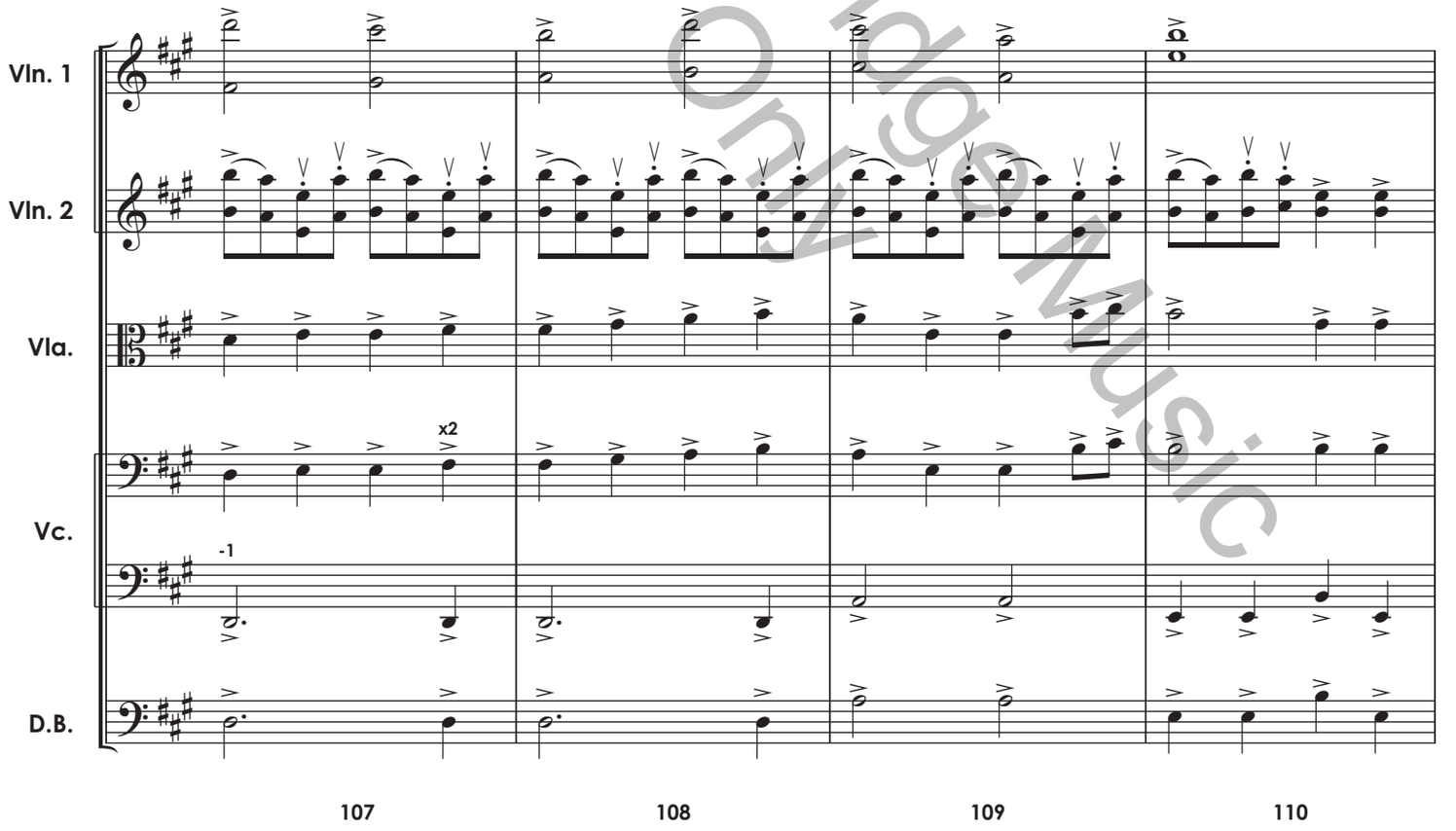

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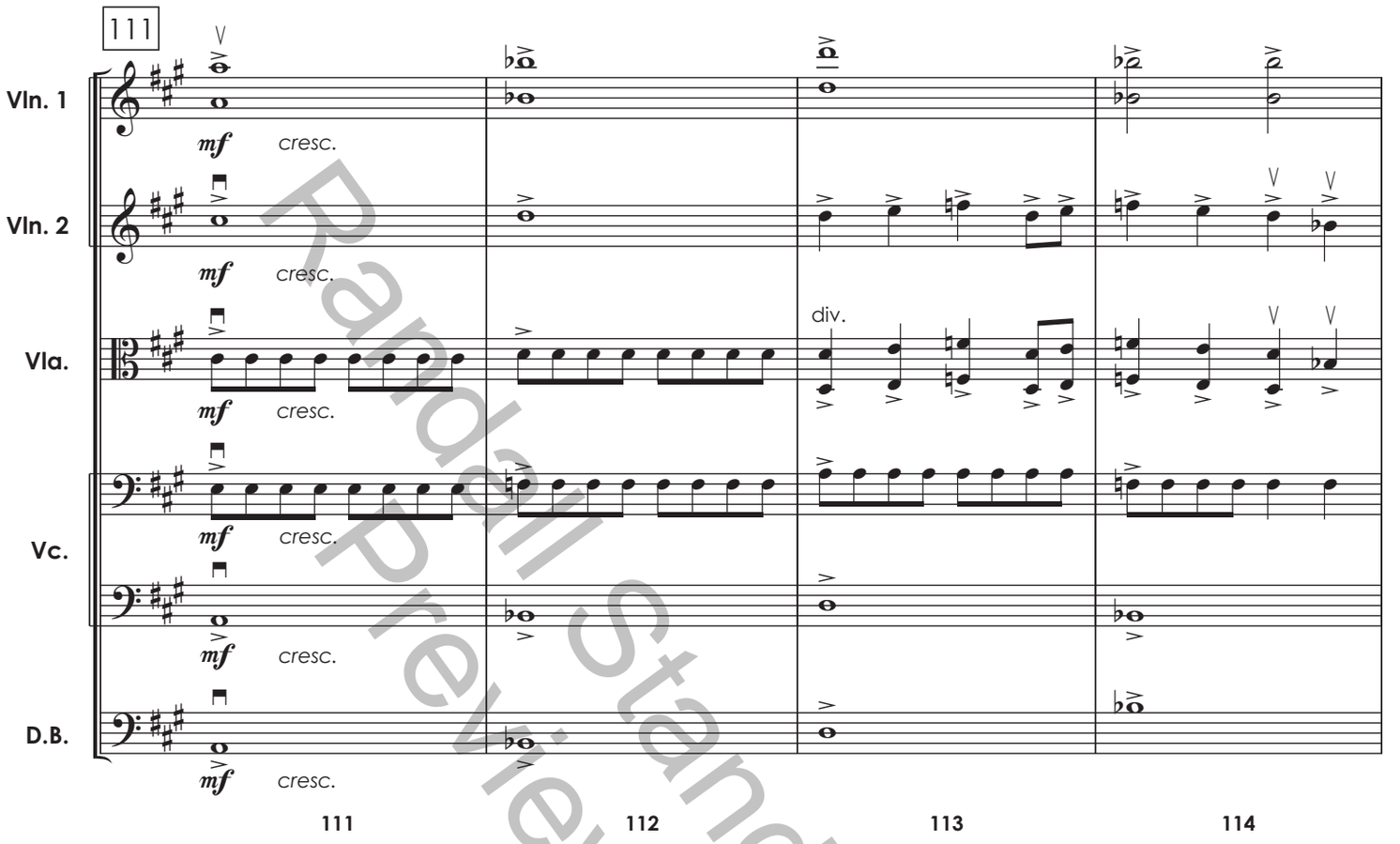

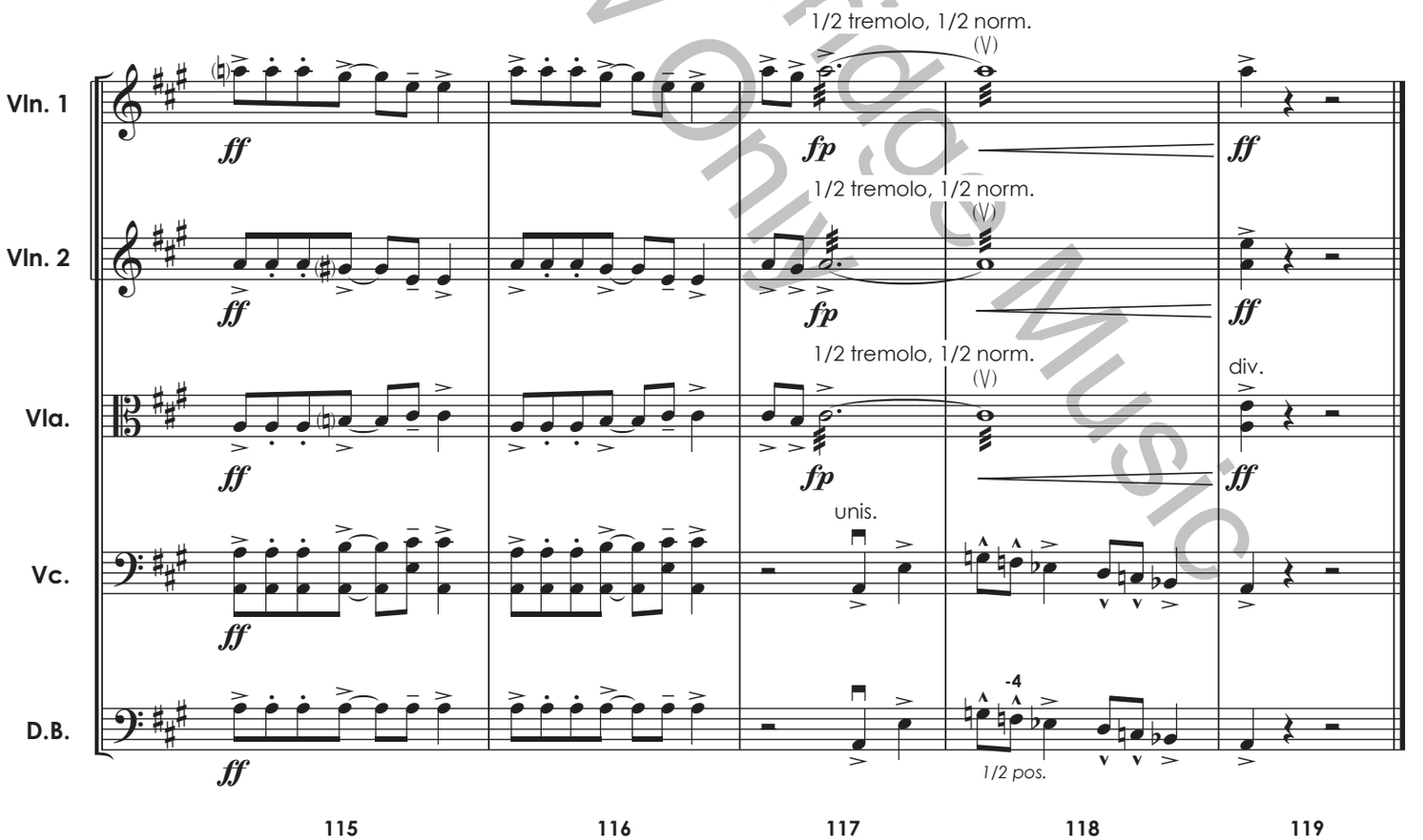

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