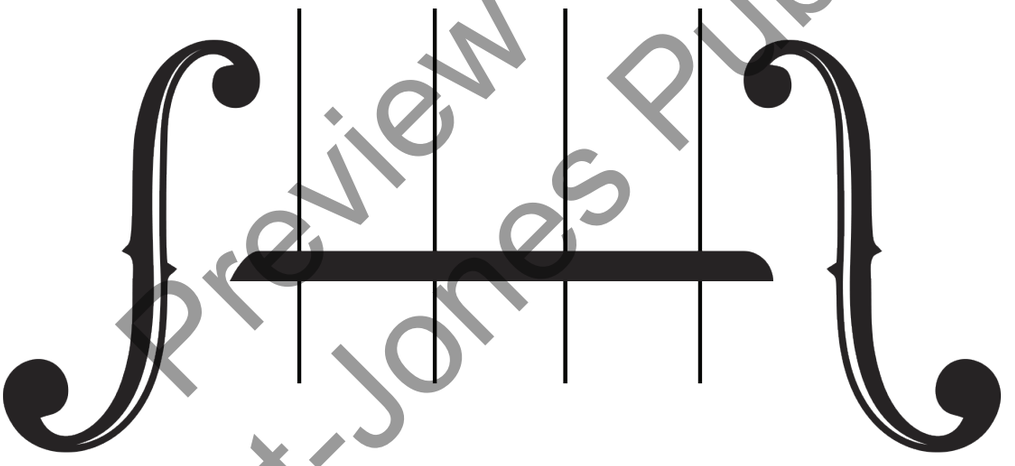
conductor

more masterworks

for strings



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BEN CLINESMITH

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MORE MASTERWORKS FOR STRINGS

COMPILED & ARRANGED BY BEN CLINESMITH

table of contents

	Teacher	Student
Rondeau from *Abdelazer* Henry Purcell (1659-1695)	1	1
"Spring" from *The Four Seasons* – First Movement Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)	4	2
Bouree from *Water Music Suite No. 2* George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)	9	3
The Hunt from *String Quartet No. 17* – First Movement Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)	13	4
Presto from *Piano Trio No. 2* Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)	20	6
William Tell Overture Gioacchino Rossini (1792-1868)	25	8
Saint Anthony Chorale from *Variations on a Theme of Haydn* Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)	30	9
Largo from the *"New World" Symphony* – Second Movement Antonin Dvořák (1841-1904)	35	10
Theme from *Symphony No. 1* – First Movement Gustav Mahler (1860-1911)	40	11
Finlandia Theme Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)	45	12

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about the composers

Henry Purcell was a highly respected English composer and organist who lived from 1659 to 1695. Only the 20th century produced English composers that are regarded as highly as Purcell. His Rondeau (from *Abdelazer*) is included in this collection. It is the theme used in Benjamin Britten's popular 1945 composition *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*.

Italian composer and Catholic priest **Antonio Vivaldi** (1678-1741) was one of the masters of the Italian Baroque period and a major influence on the music of J.S. Bach. His best-known work, a collection of four violin concertos called *The Four Seasons*, is represented in this collection by music from the first movement, *Spring*.

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) was born in Germany the same year as his noted contemporaries Johann Sebastian Bach and Domenico Scarlatti. He later moved to London and became a British citizen for most of his career; he is buried in the Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey. Though his most recognized work is *Messiah*, composed in 1742, he also wrote many operas and large works for the British monarchy, one of which is his *Water Music*. The *Bouree* that concludes his *Water Music Suite No. 2* is included in this collection.

The musical output of **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** (1756-1791) is astounding in its scope and pure mastery: 41 numbered symphonies, 27 piano concertos, 21 operas, 18 liturgical Masses, 17 church sonatas, and 23 string quartets. His music is represented in this collection by the first movement of his String Quartet No. 17 in B-flat Major, nicknamed "The Hunt."

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) was an influential figure in the transition between the Classical and Romantic periods. Although perhaps best known for his compositions requiring a full symphony orchestra, his chamber music was equally influential and extensive. A movement from his Trio in G Major for Violin, Cello and Piano, Op. 1 No. 2 (his first published work) appears in this collection.

The Italian opera composer **Gioachino Rossini** (1792-1868) was extremely successful during his lifetime, both musically and financially. Rossini's operas are still some of the most performed works worldwide. This melody from *William Tell* is remembered as the theme for a popular TV show in the 1950s called *The Lone Ranger*.

When **Johannes Brahms** wrote his *Variations on a Theme by Haydn* in 1873, he probably could not have imagined that future scholarship would call into question the composer of the main theme. Whether or not it was written by Haydn – scholars are still not sure – the *Saint Anthony Chorale* is still a wonderful piece of music. It is the foundation of Brahms' marvelous set of variations, and it is a worthwhile addition to this collection.

While living in the United States from 1888 to 1891, Czech composer **Antonín Dvořák** (1841-1904) wrote two of his most successful pieces: the "New World" Symphony and his "American" String Quartet. Both pieces were highly influenced by the American spiritual music Dvořák heard while living in the U.S. The slow movement of the "New World" Symphony (also known as *Going Home*) appears in this collection.

German-born composer **Gustav Mahler** (1860-1911) made his living primarily as a successful orchestra conductor. However, his symphonies composed "in his spare time" are now considered some of the greatest ever written. Mahler relied on folk melodies in his Symphony No. 1; the third movement is based on the French melody *Frère Jacques*, still a popular children's tune.

The music of **Jean Sibelius** (1865-1957) was extremely important to the people of his native Finland. Sibelius' music helped the people of Finland develop a sense of national identity during their struggle for independence from Russia. Of all his works, his most recognized melody is the original hymn that appears in the tone poem *Finlandia*. This piece is now considered by many to be Finland's unofficial national anthem.

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about the arranger

Ben Clinesmith was a student of cellist Bernard Greenhouse at Indiana University, the University of Hartford Hartt School, and the Manhattan School of Music. As a young professional cellist, Ben was a member of the Houston Symphony conducted by Sir John Barbirolli and André Previn, and the American Symphony Orchestra conducted by Leopold Stokowski. While living in Maine from 1976 to 1990, Ben was the cello instructor at both Bates College and Bowdoin College and played in the New England Trio with violinist Alan Grishman and pianist Yeeha Chiu. Throughout those years, Ben also conducted the Brunswick Regional Youth Orchestra, which was made up of select high school students from throughout southern Maine. BRYO was located at Bowdoin College.

Wanting to return to New York City, in 1992 Ben earned an MA degree from Bank Street College of Education and has taught at the progressive Calhoun School in New York City since that time. In addition to teaching music and conducting the Calhoun Community Orchestra, he is also the composer of five music CDs for children called *Calhoun Kids for Kids*, written in collaboration with Calhoun's lower school students. The fifth Calhoun CD was produced by Atlantic Records and contains Ben's Calhoun songs sung by Cyndi Lauper, Ute Lemper, Jewel, David Garza, Victoria Williams and other Atlantic artists. Ben currently has 12 different arrangements for string orchestra published by Wingert-Jones, including the collection *Baroque and Classical Masterworks*.

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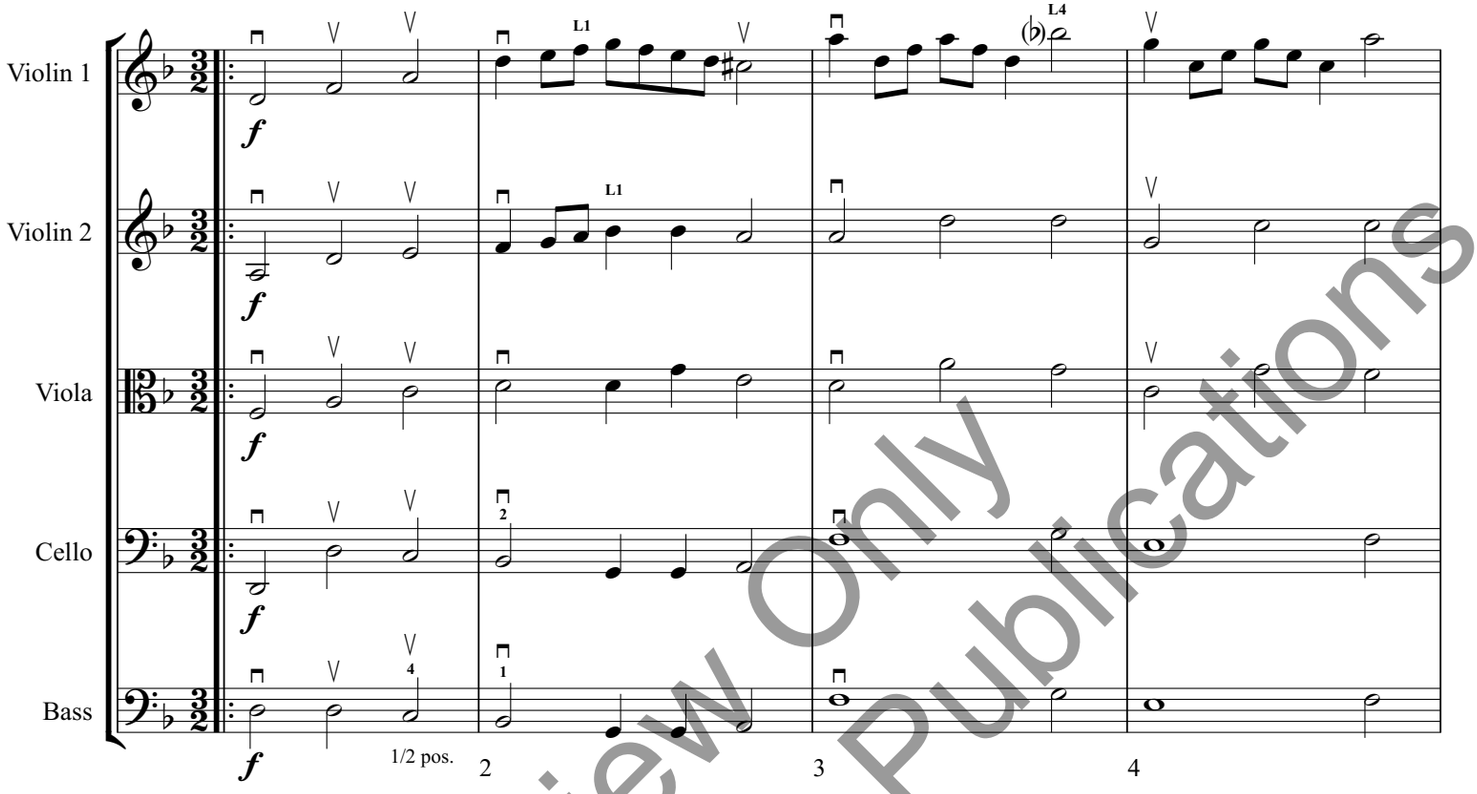
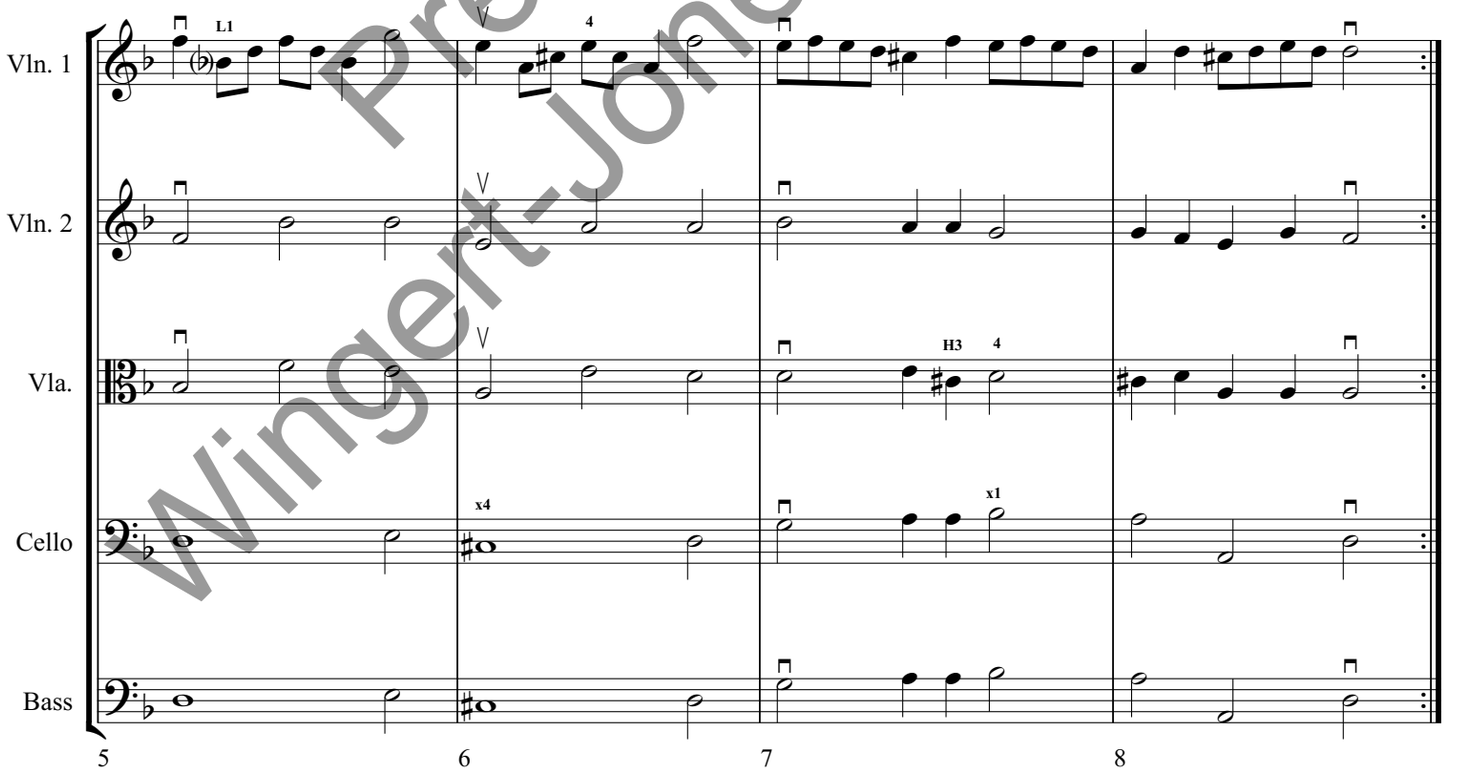
Rondeau

from *Abdelazer*

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

Majestic ♩ = 80





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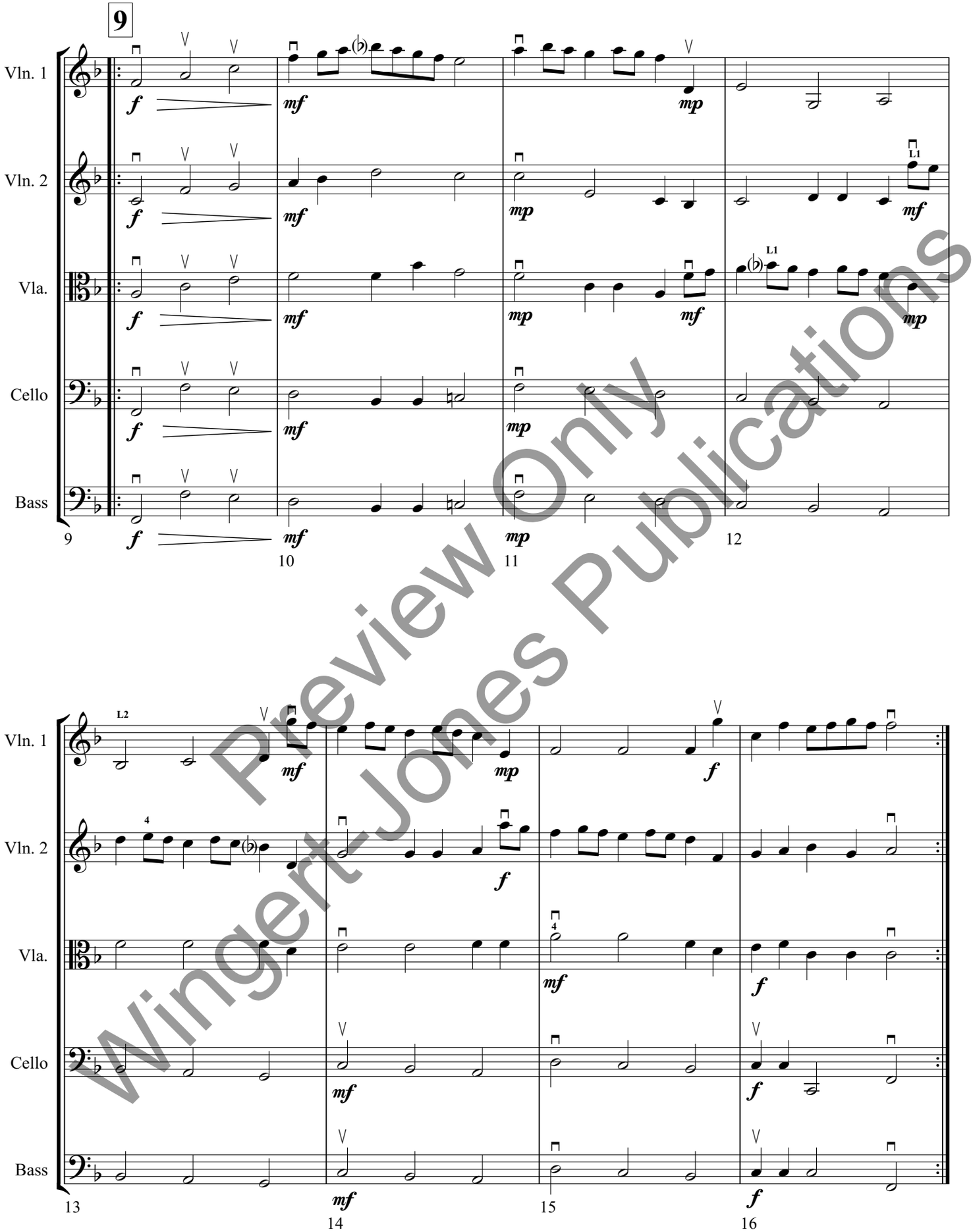

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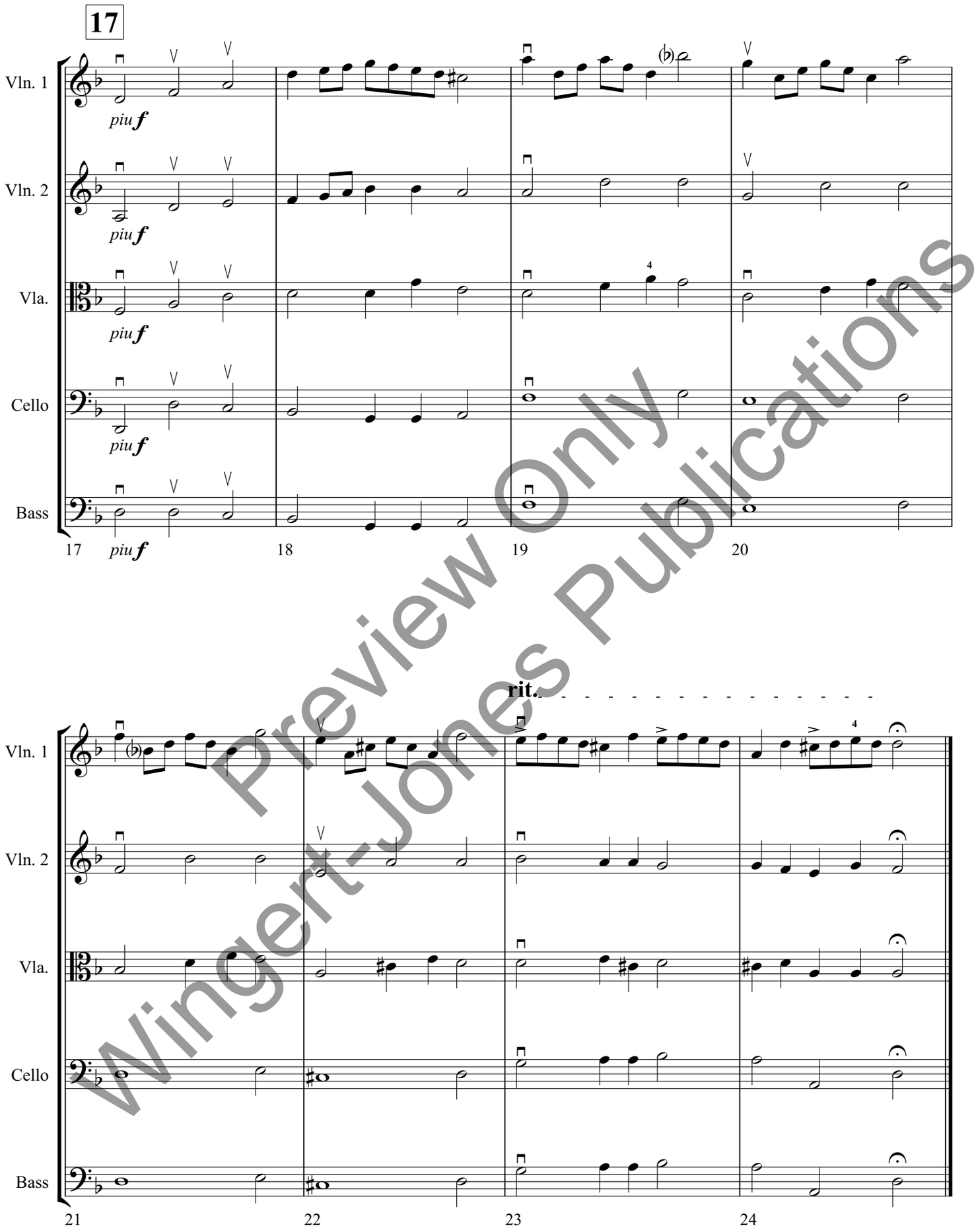

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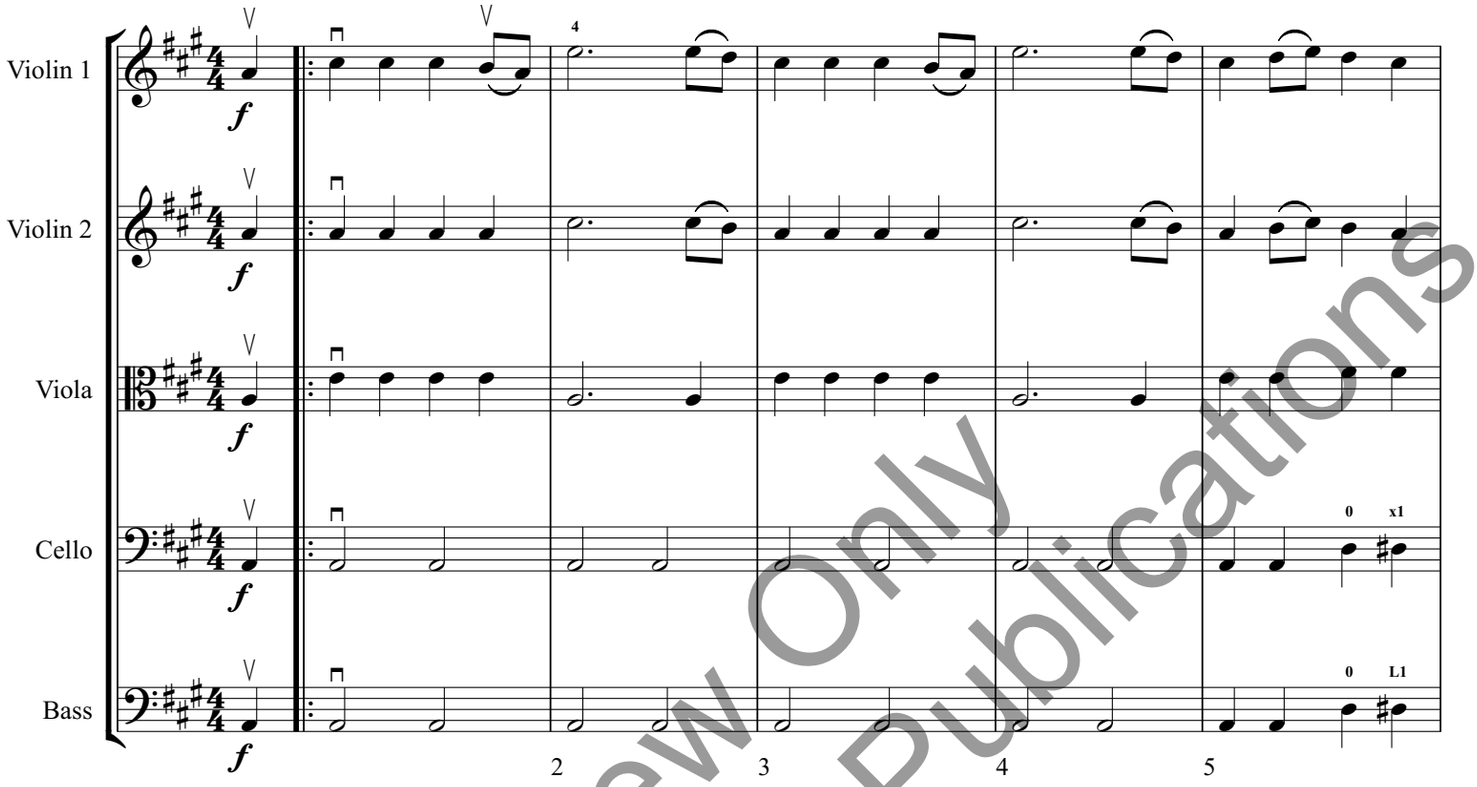
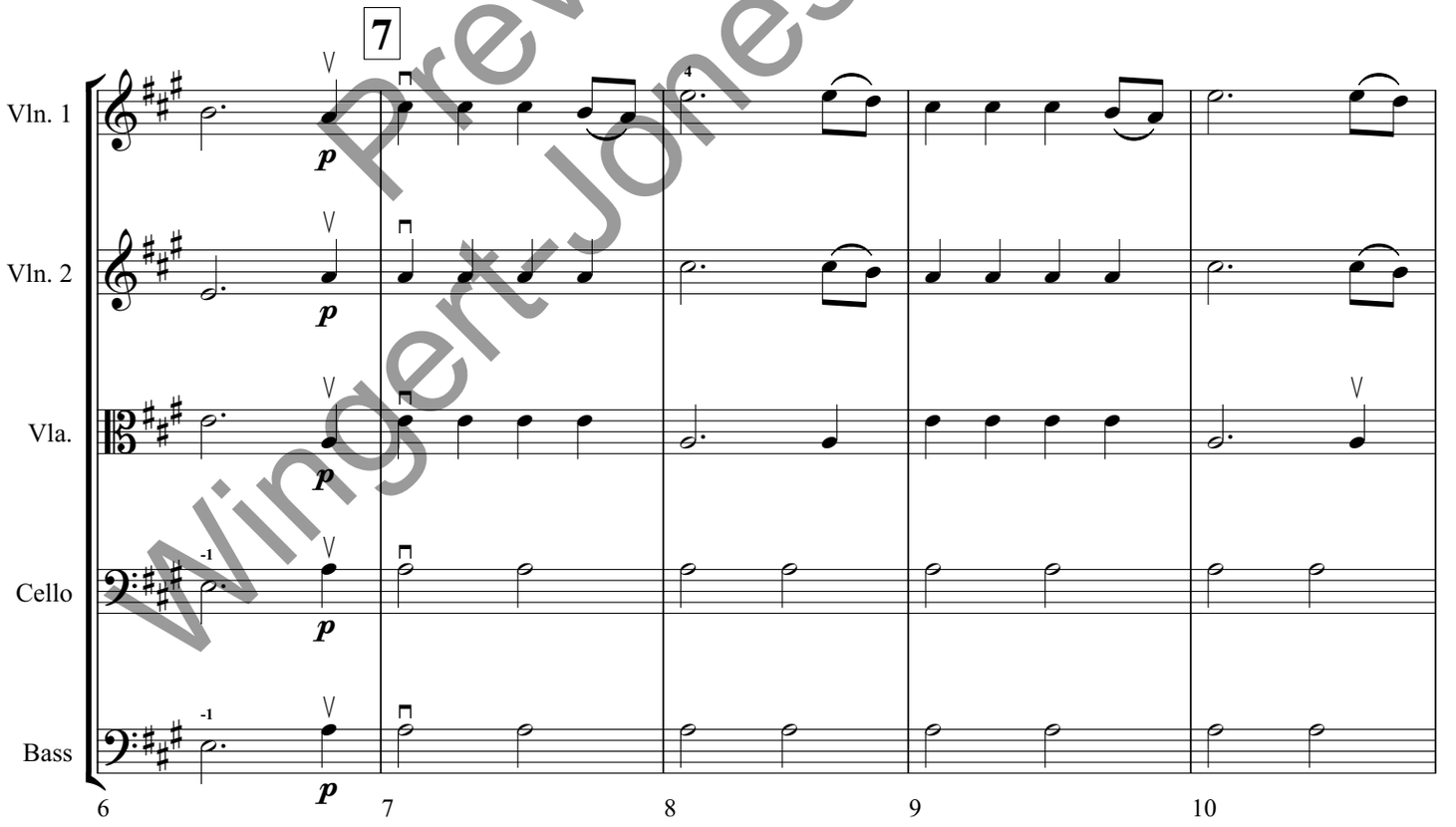
"Spring"

from *The Four Seasons* - First Movement
Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Allegro ♩ = 136





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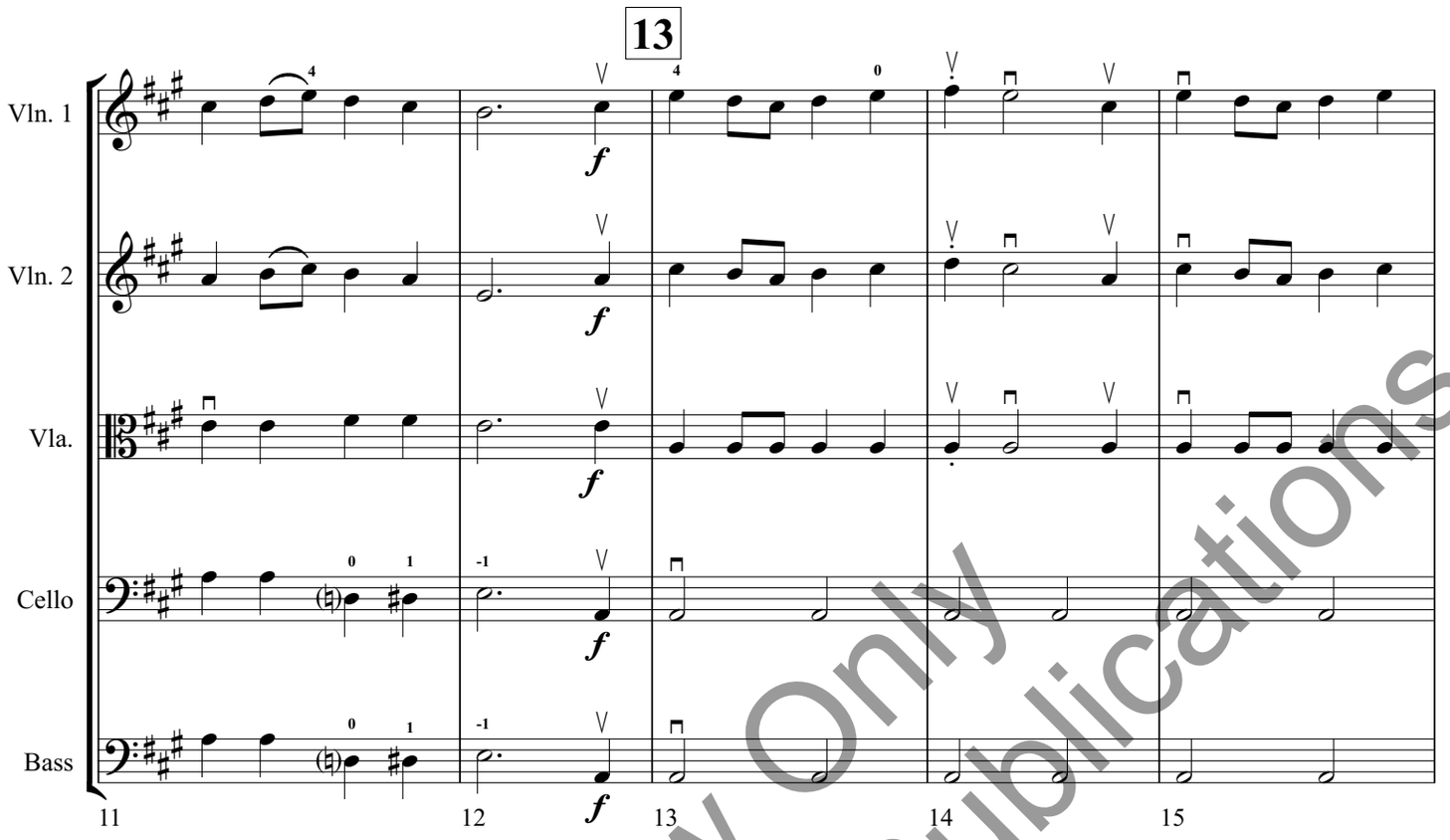

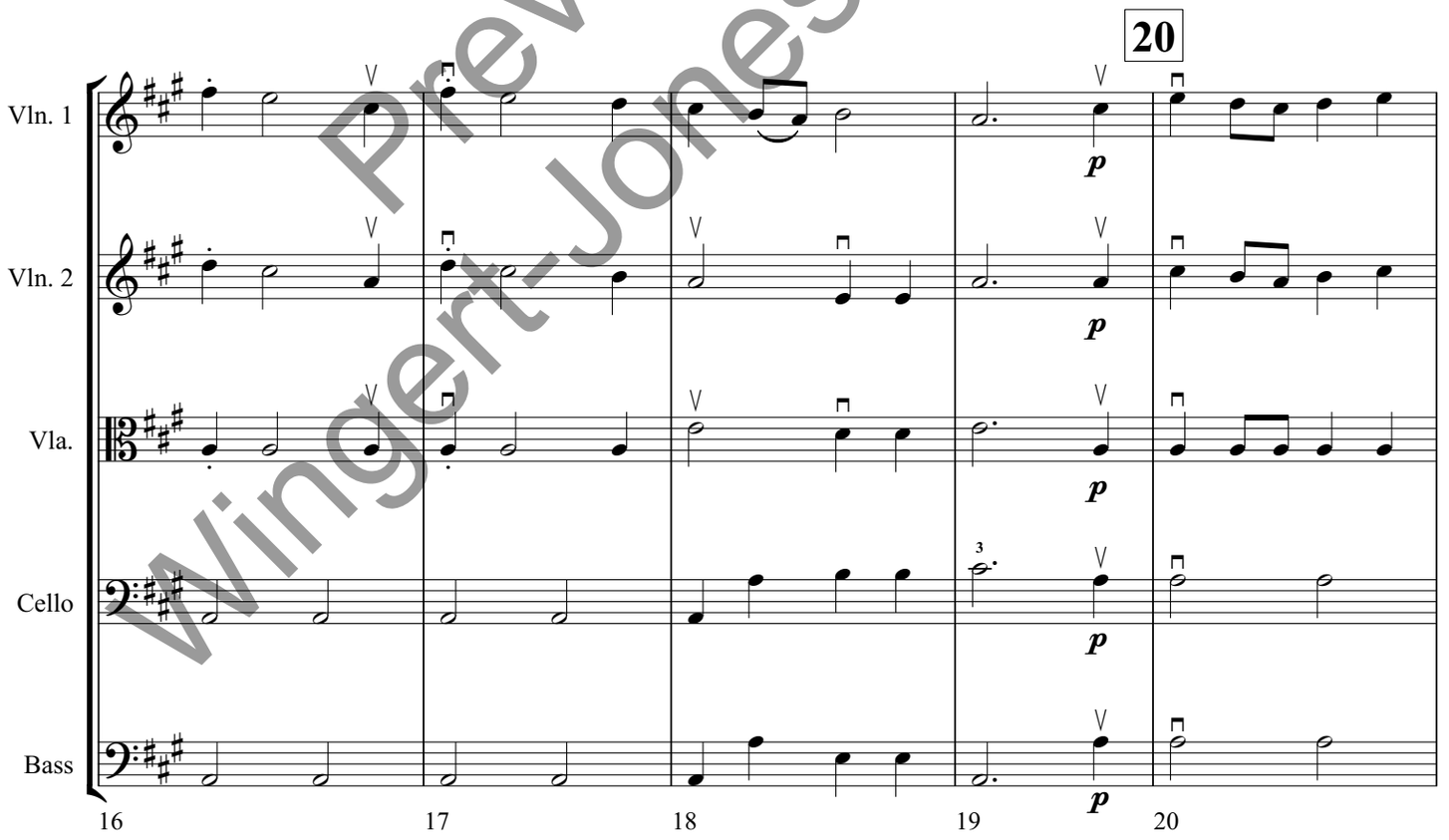

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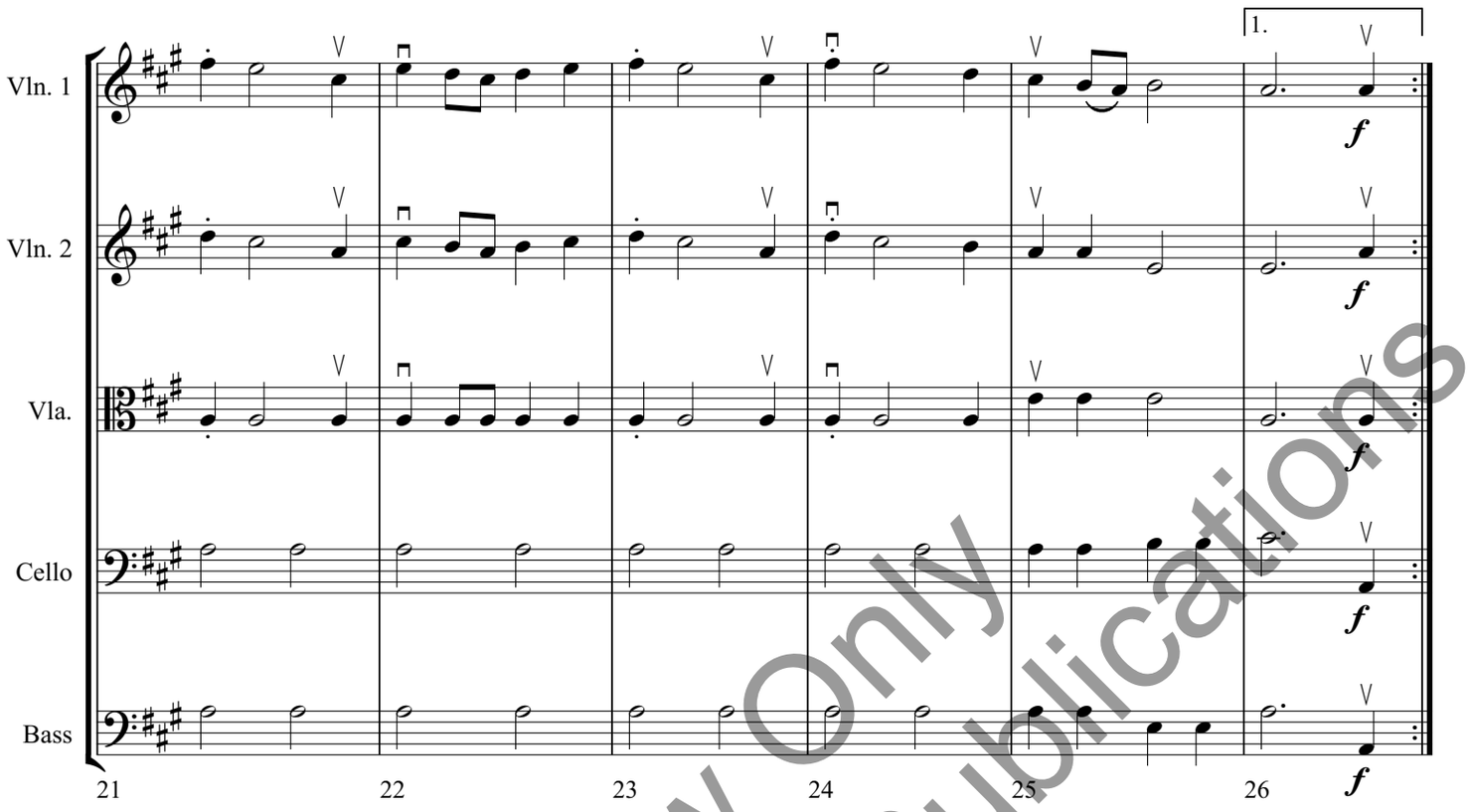

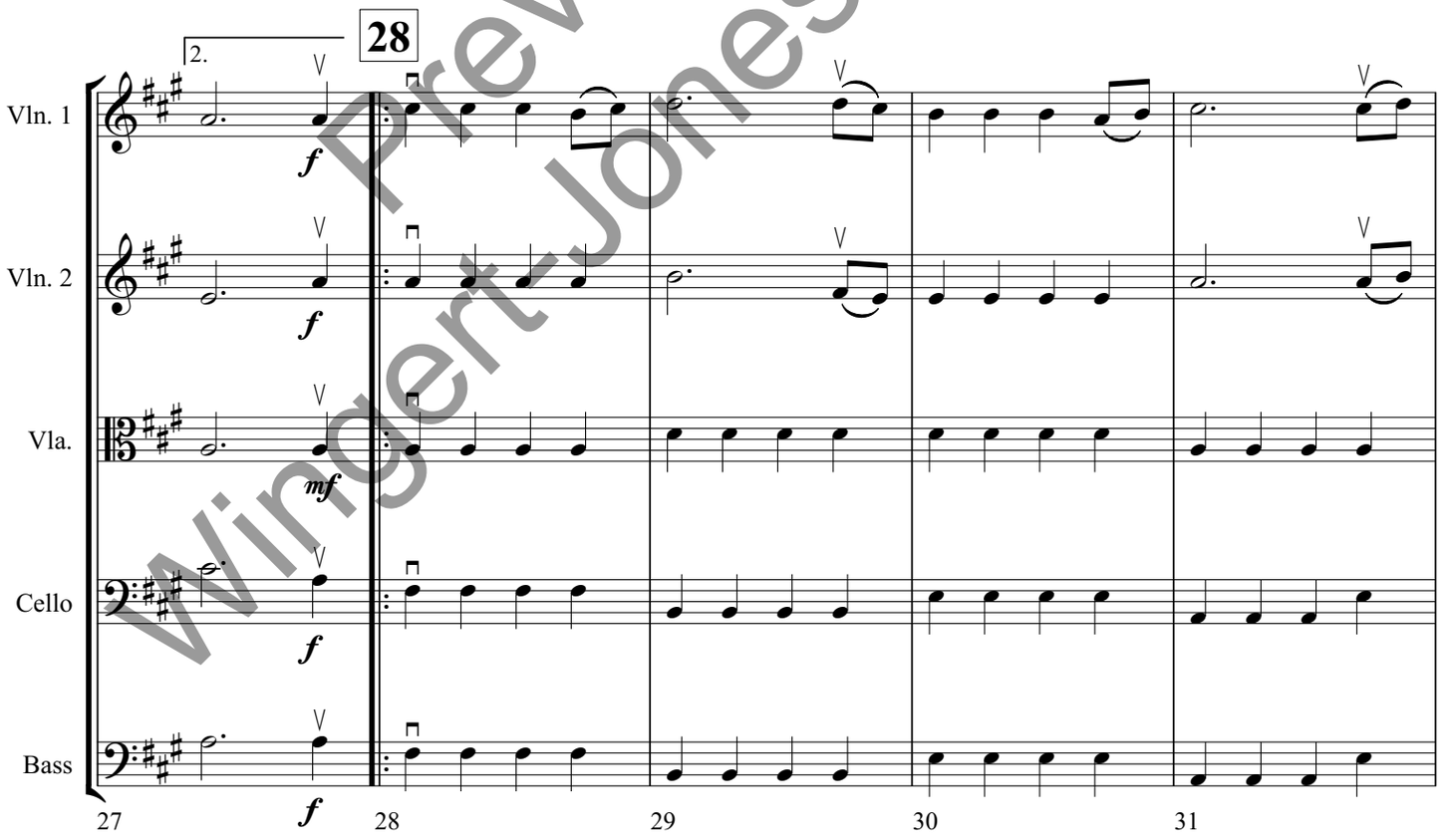

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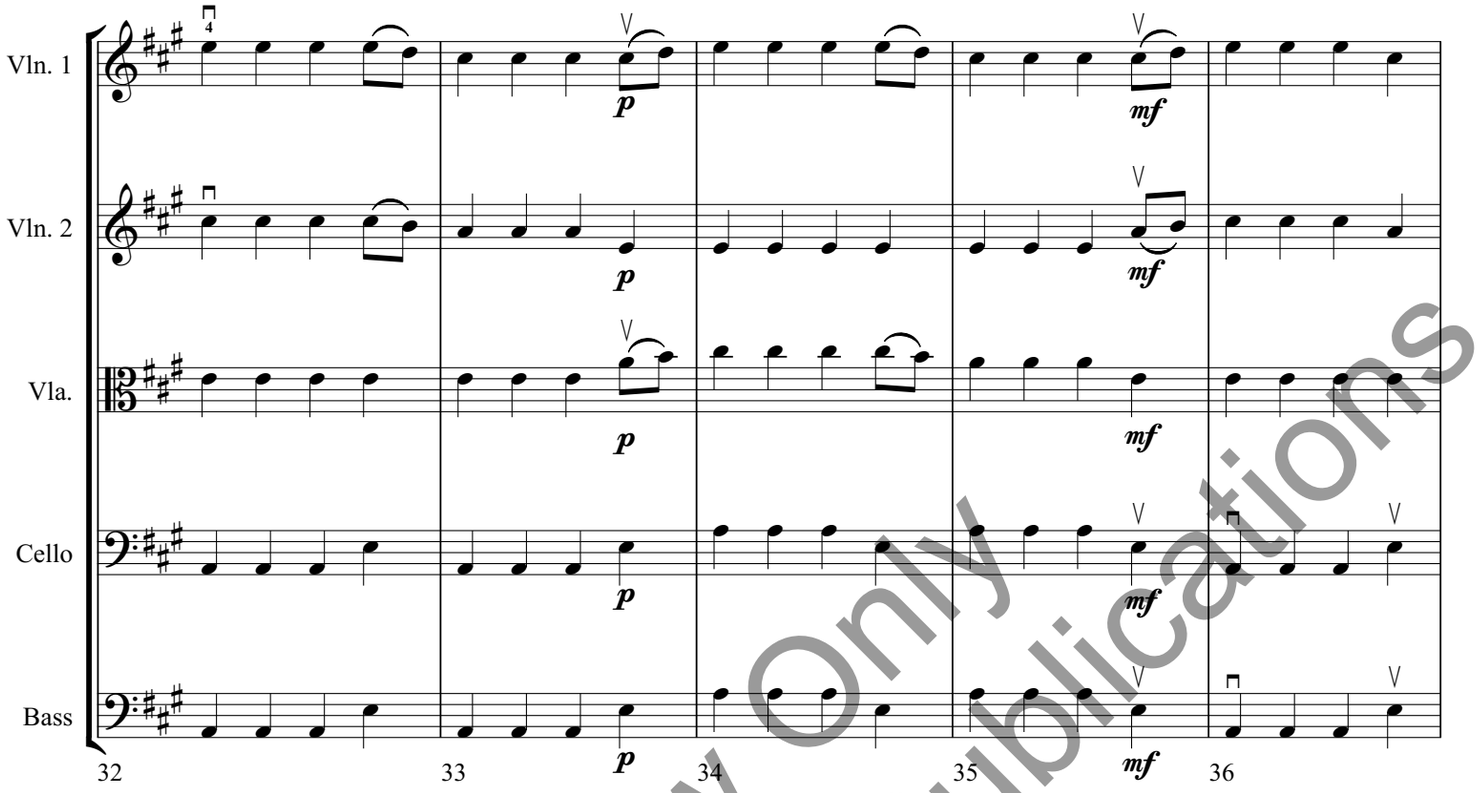

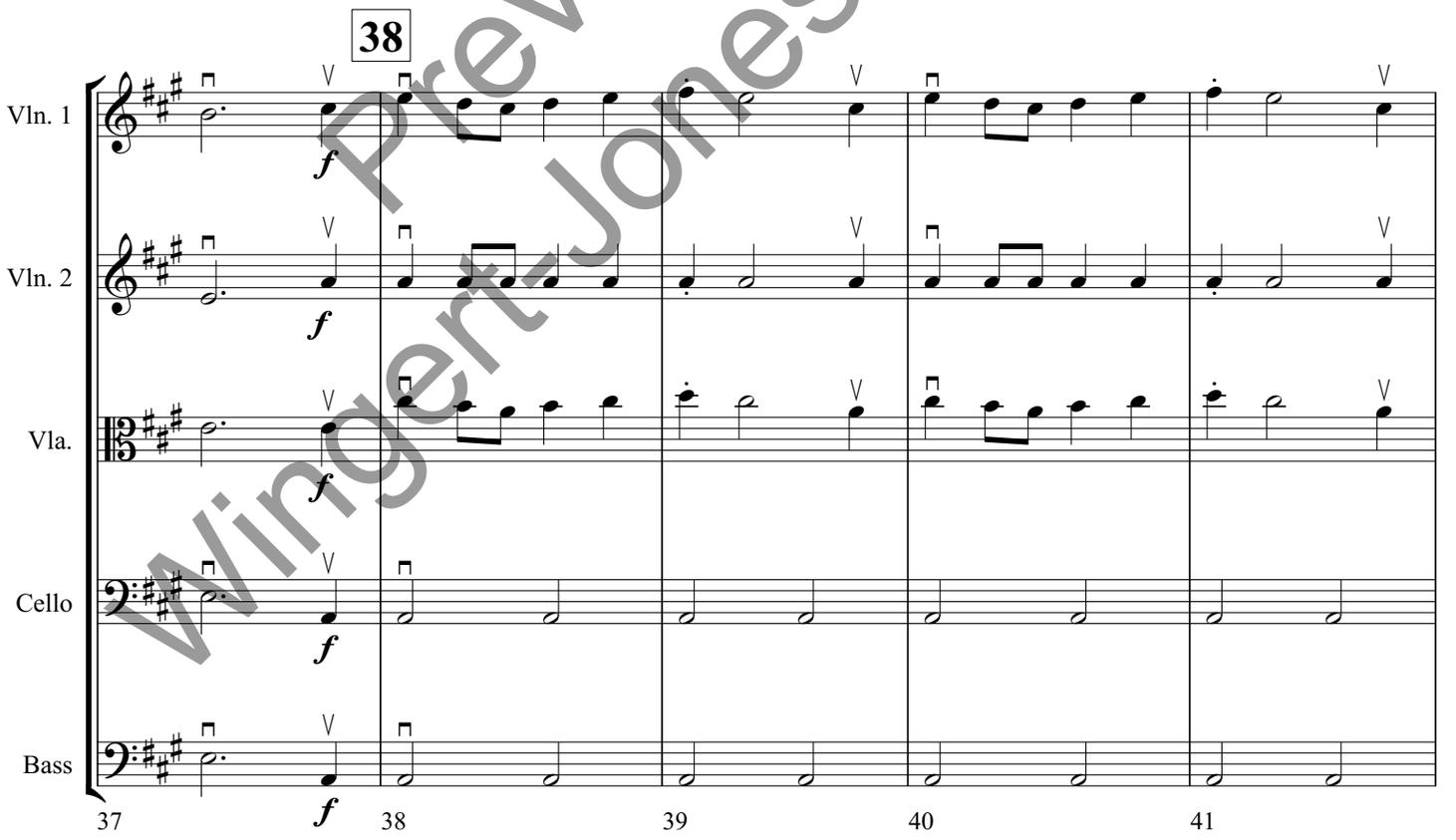

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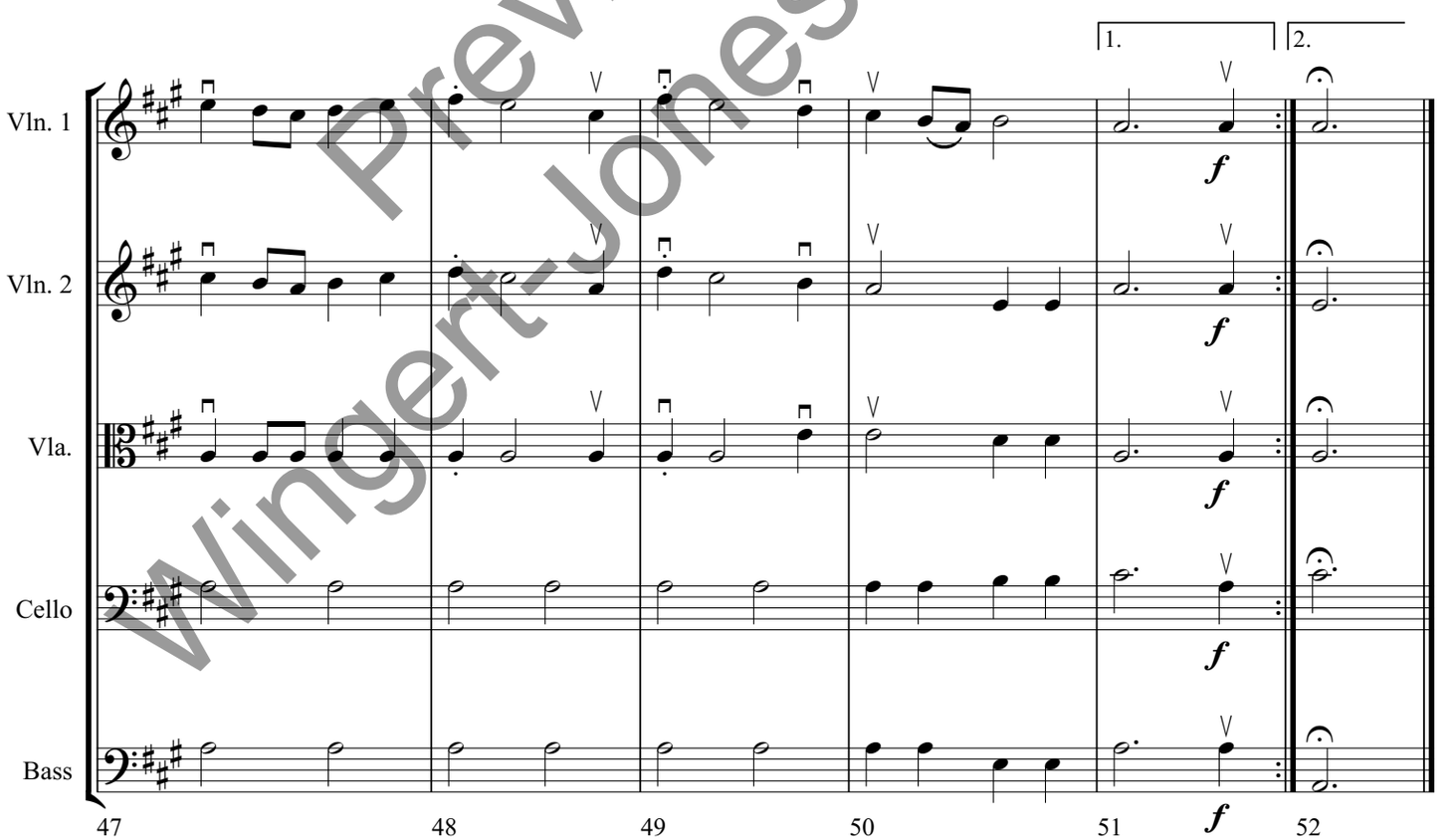

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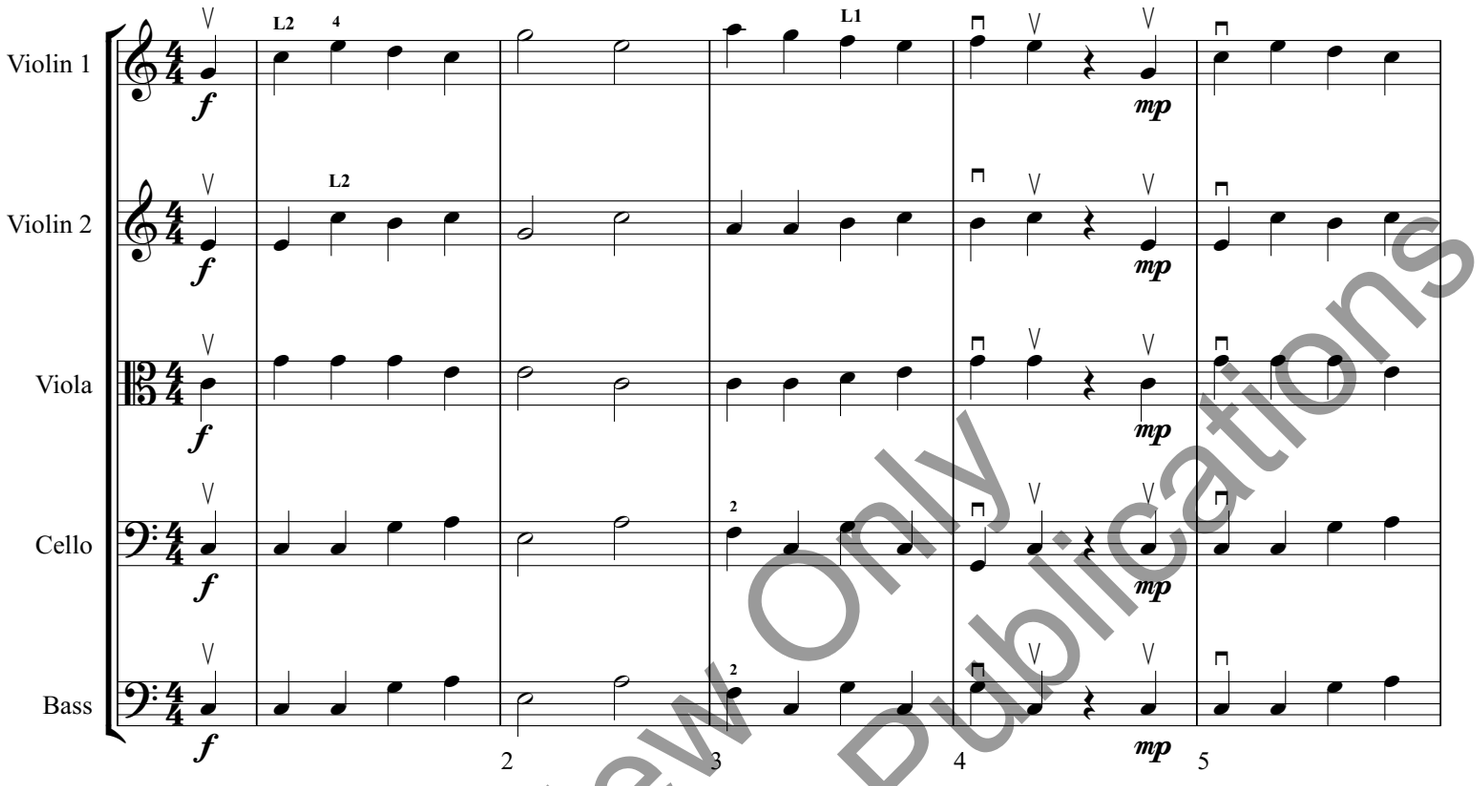
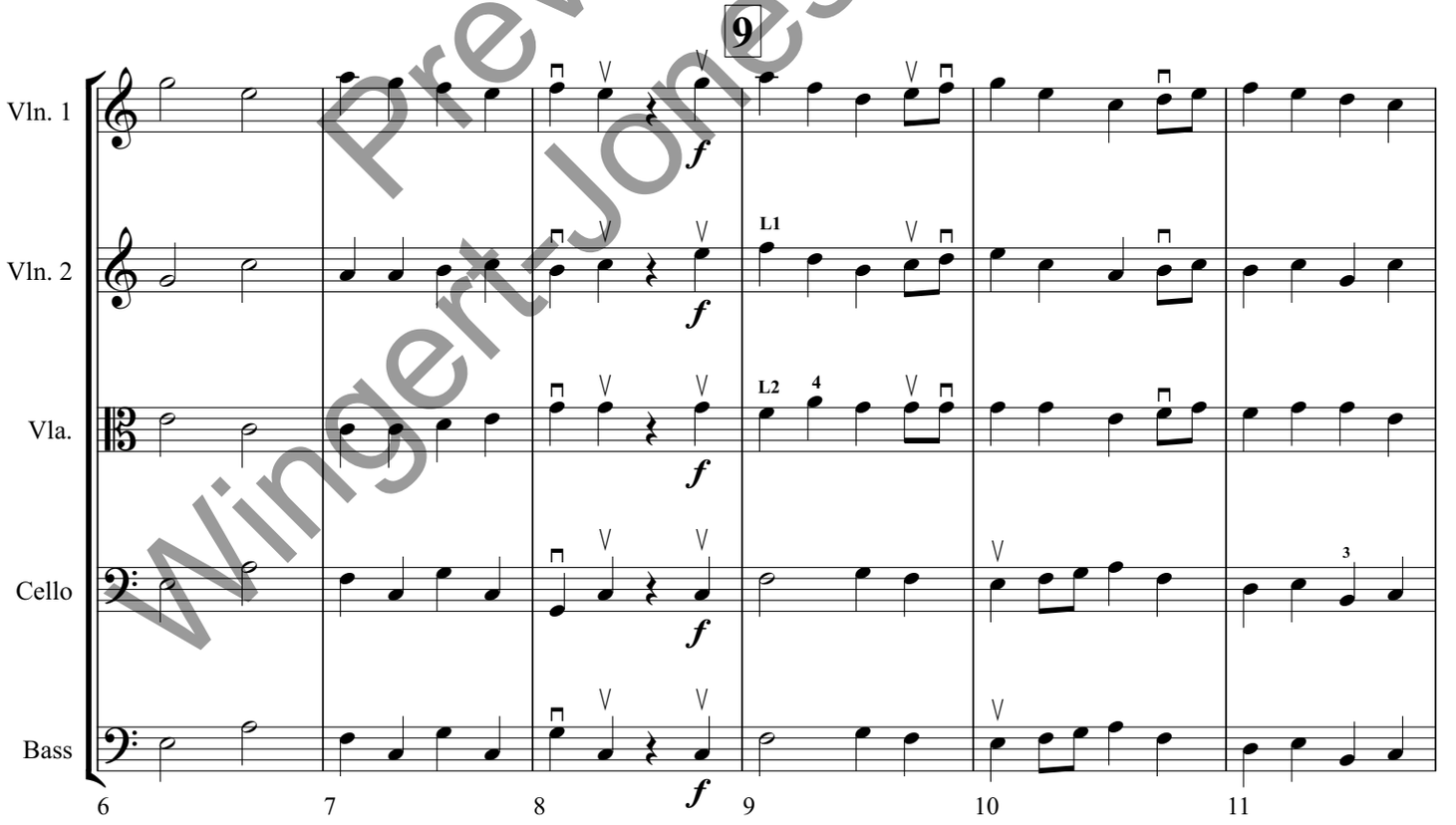
Bourree

from *Water Music Suite No. 2*

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Allegro ♩ = 140





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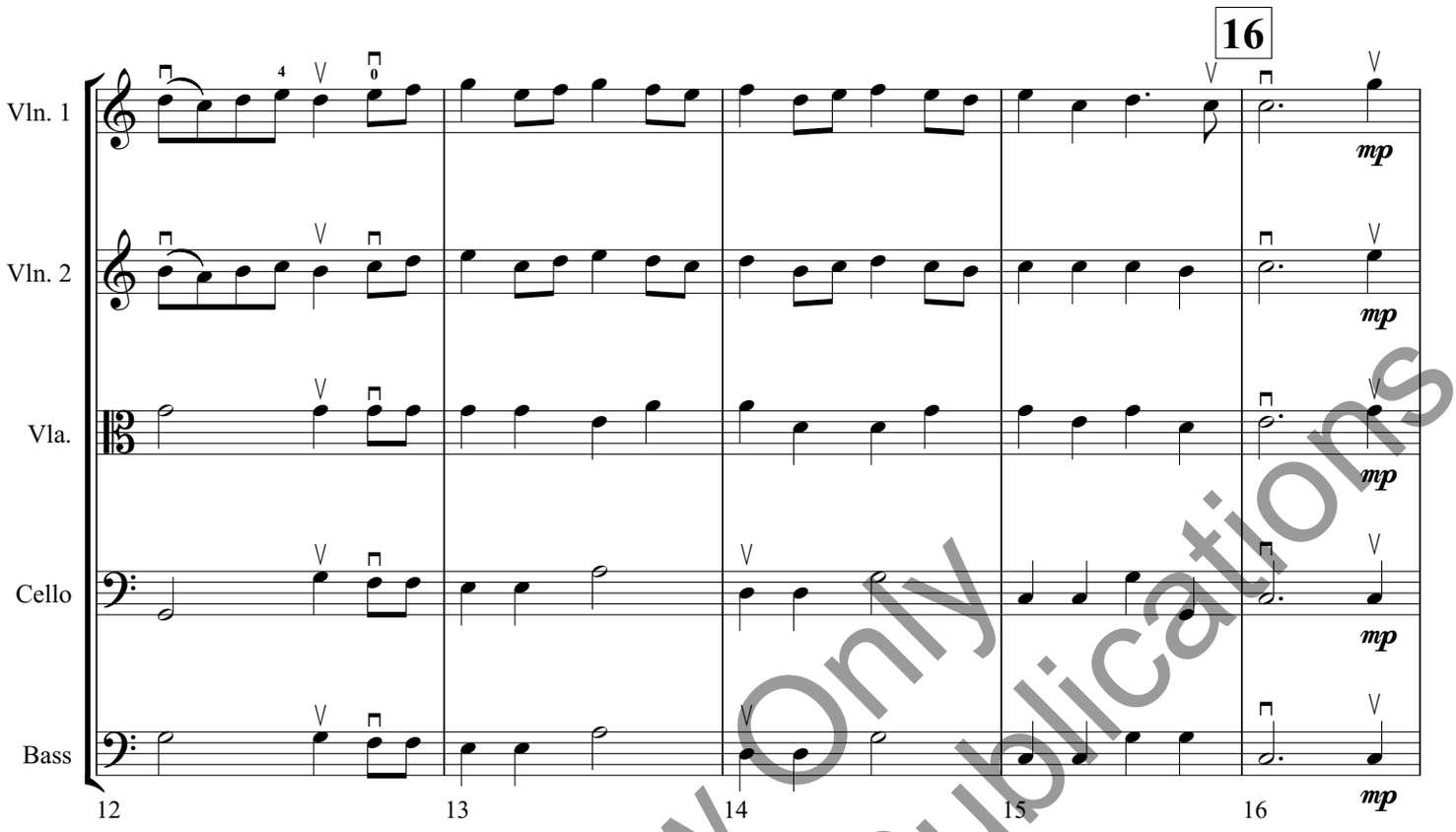

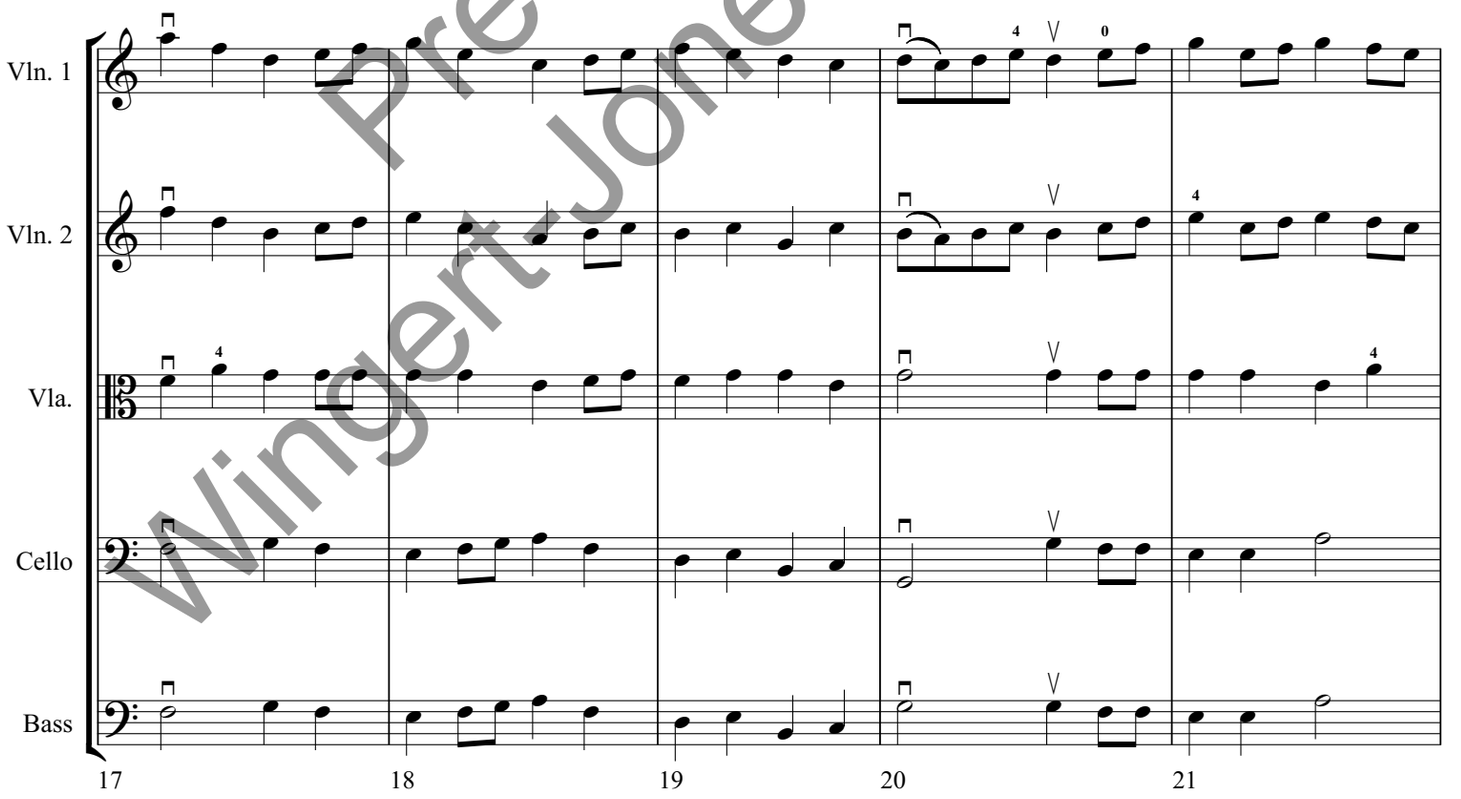

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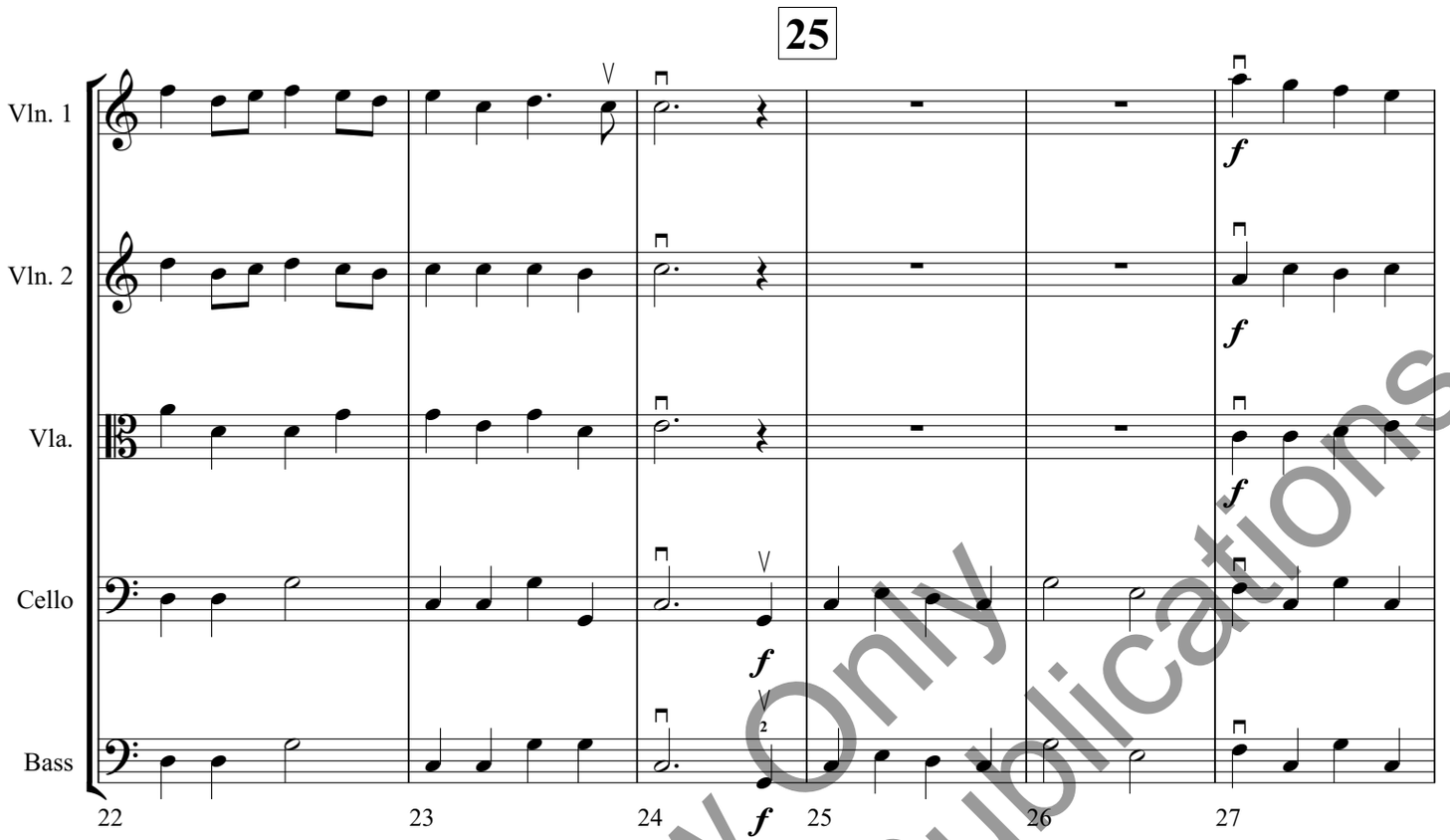

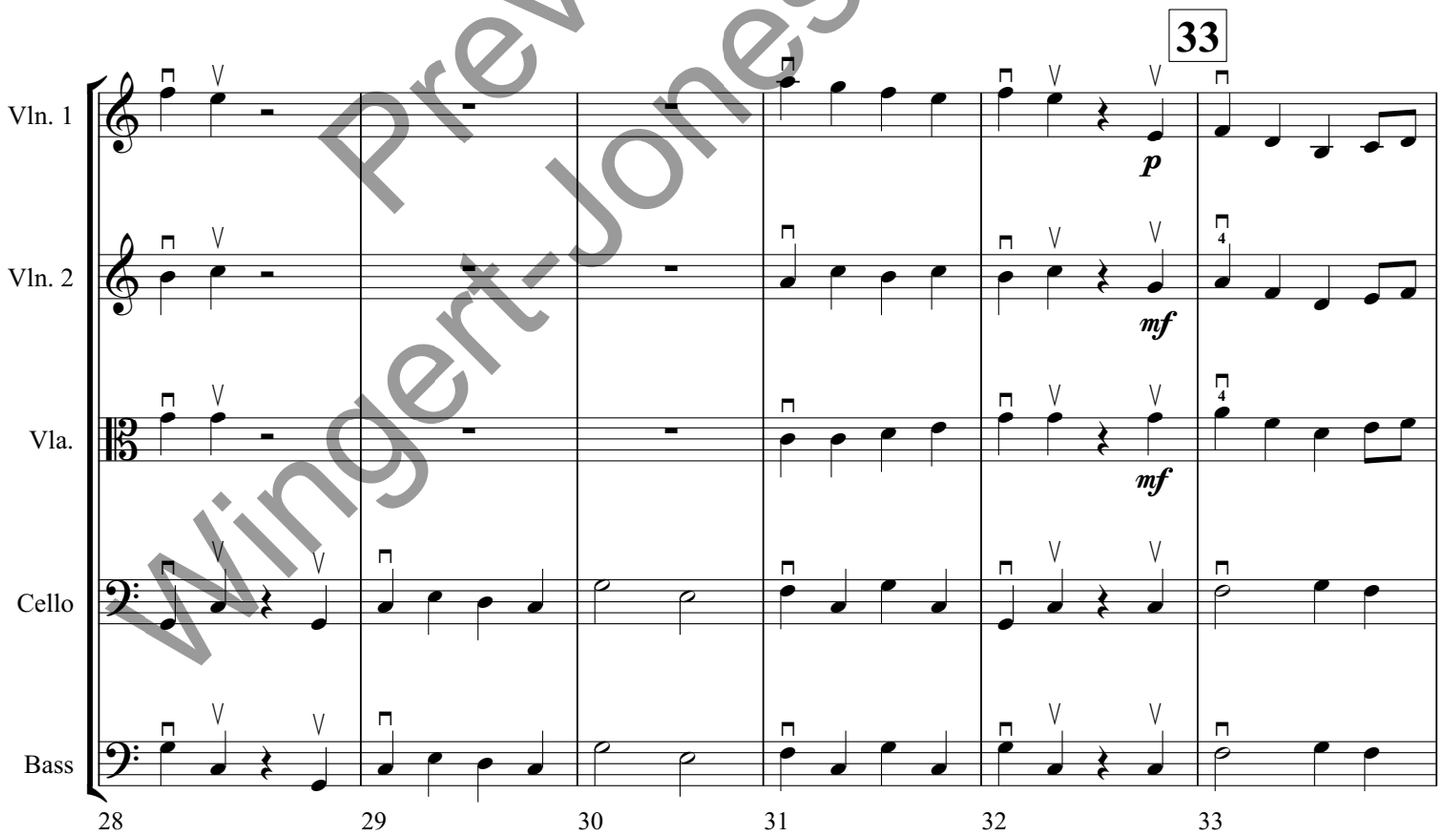

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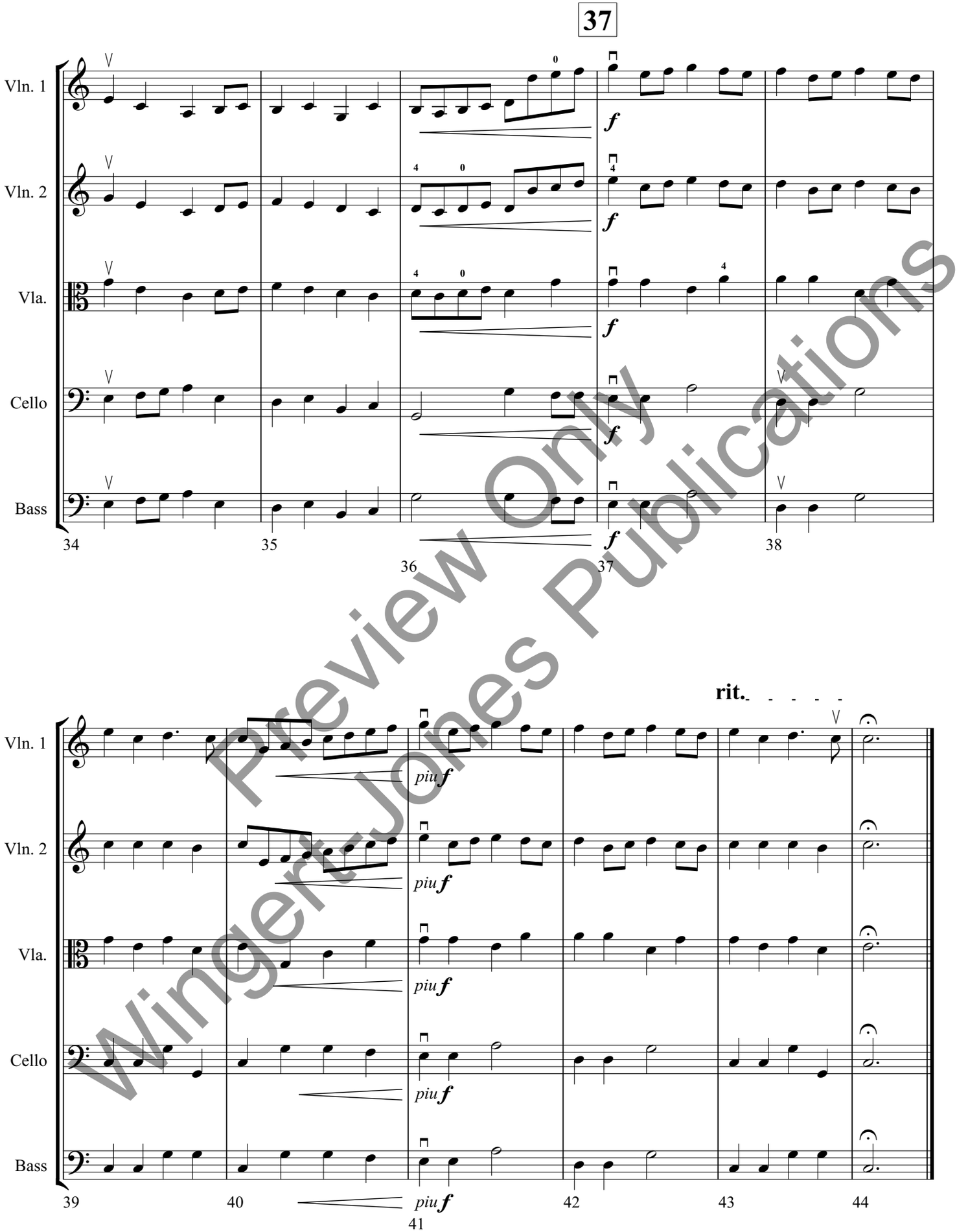

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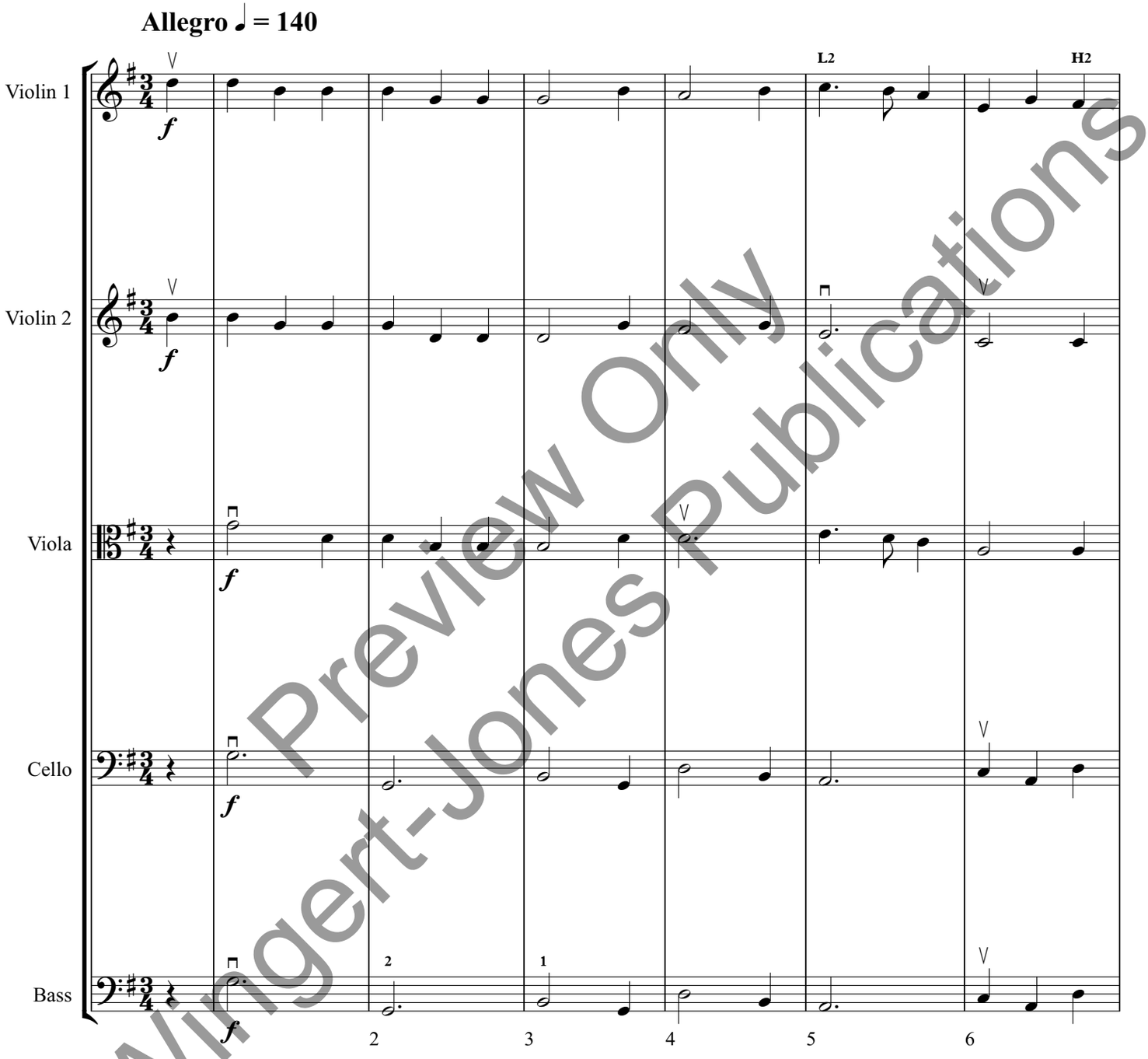
The Hunt

from *String Quartet No. 17* - First Movement
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)



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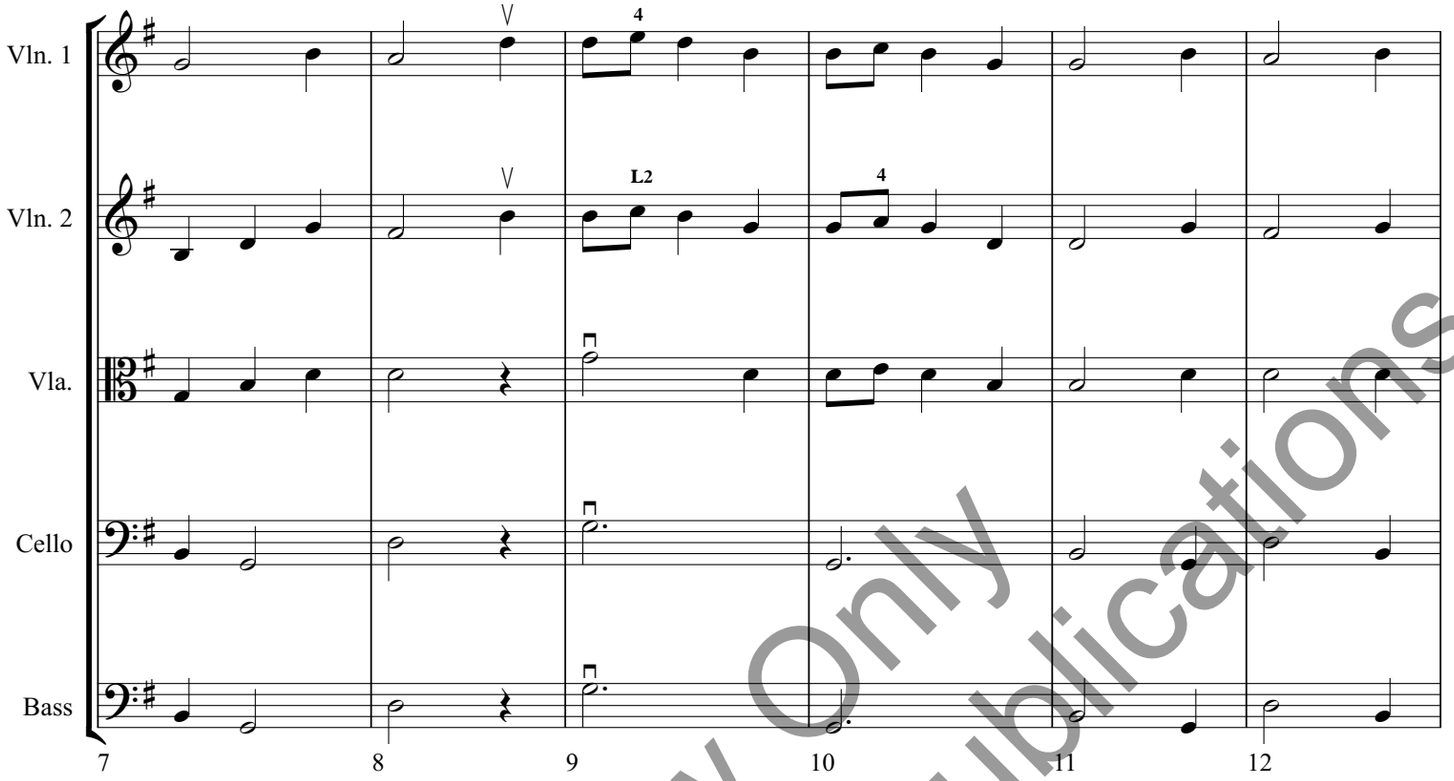

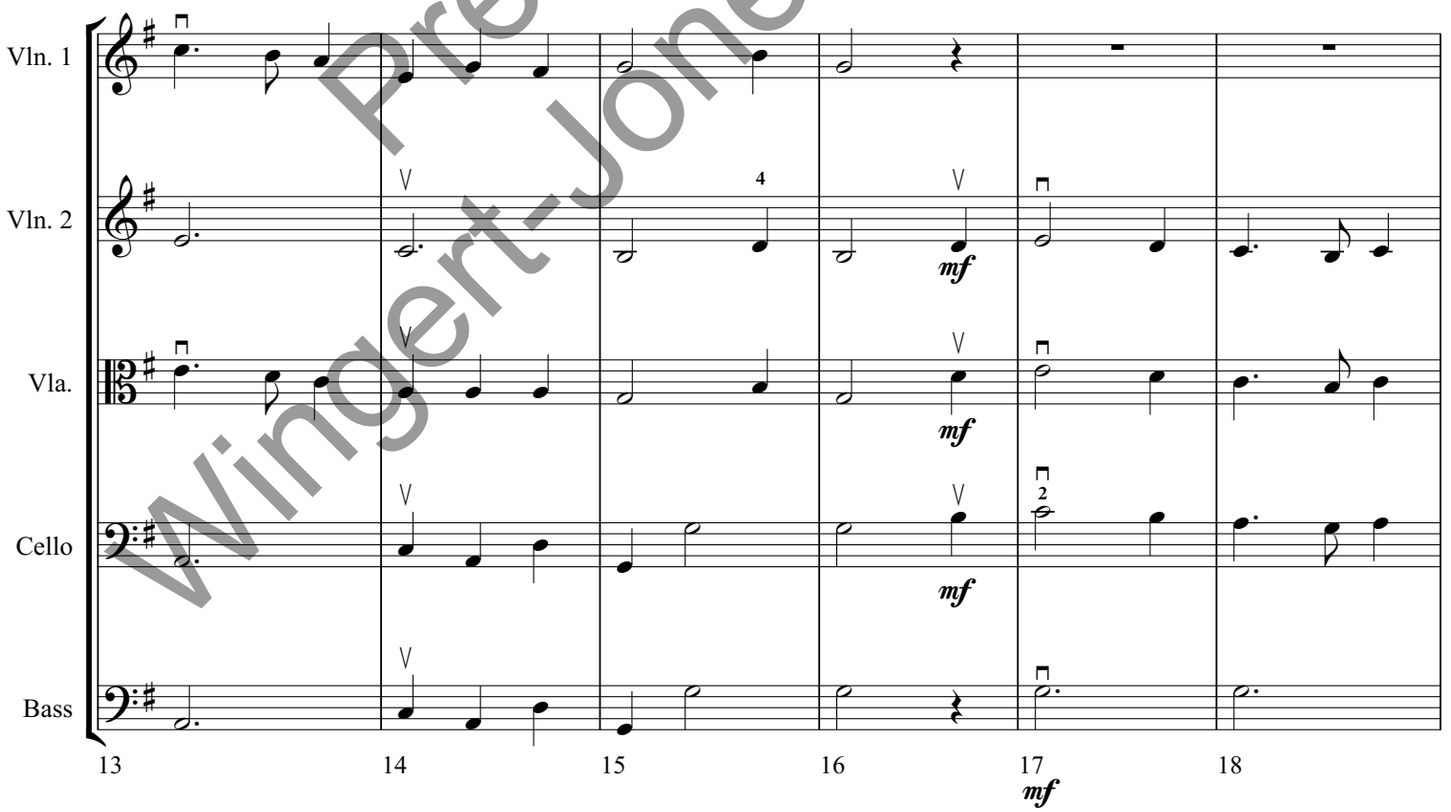

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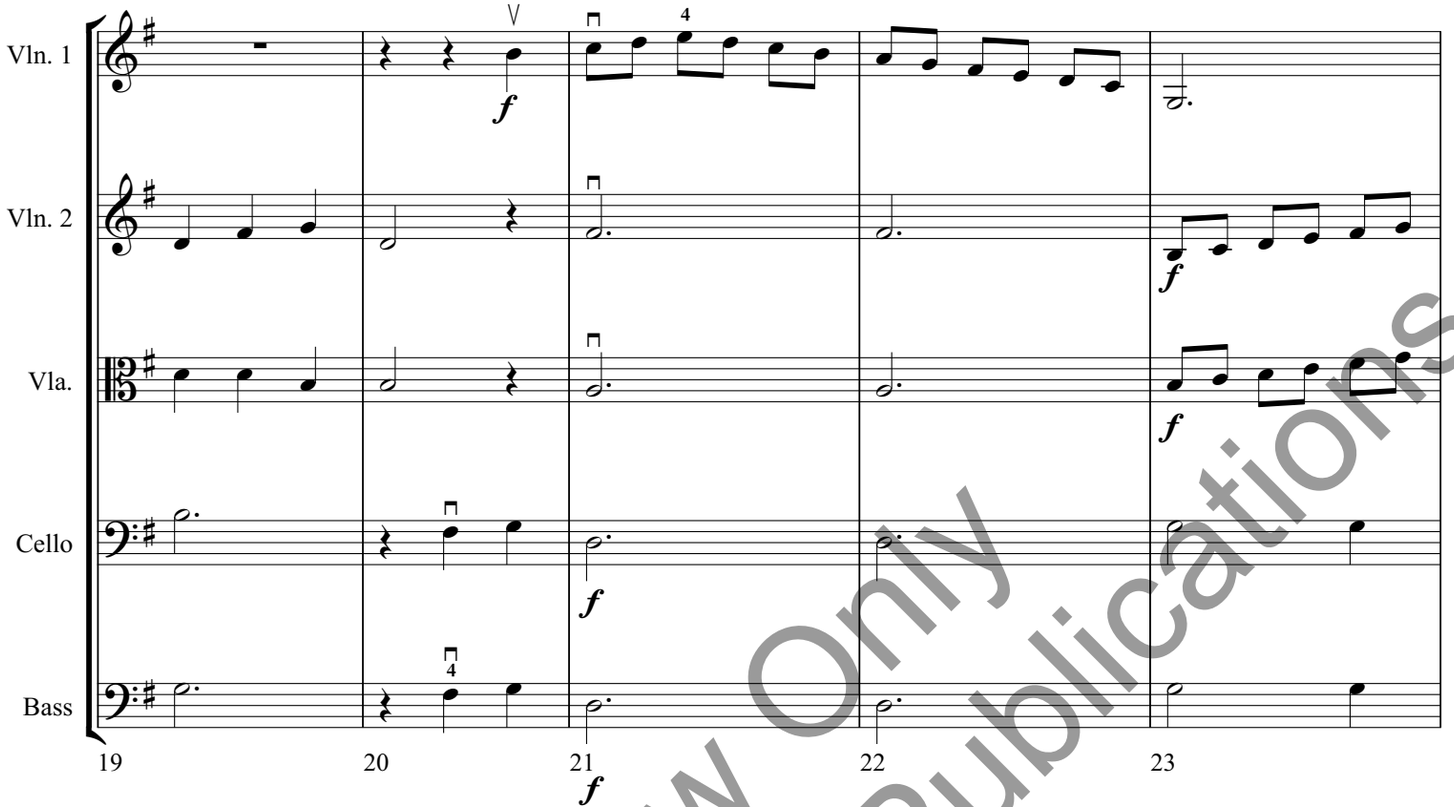

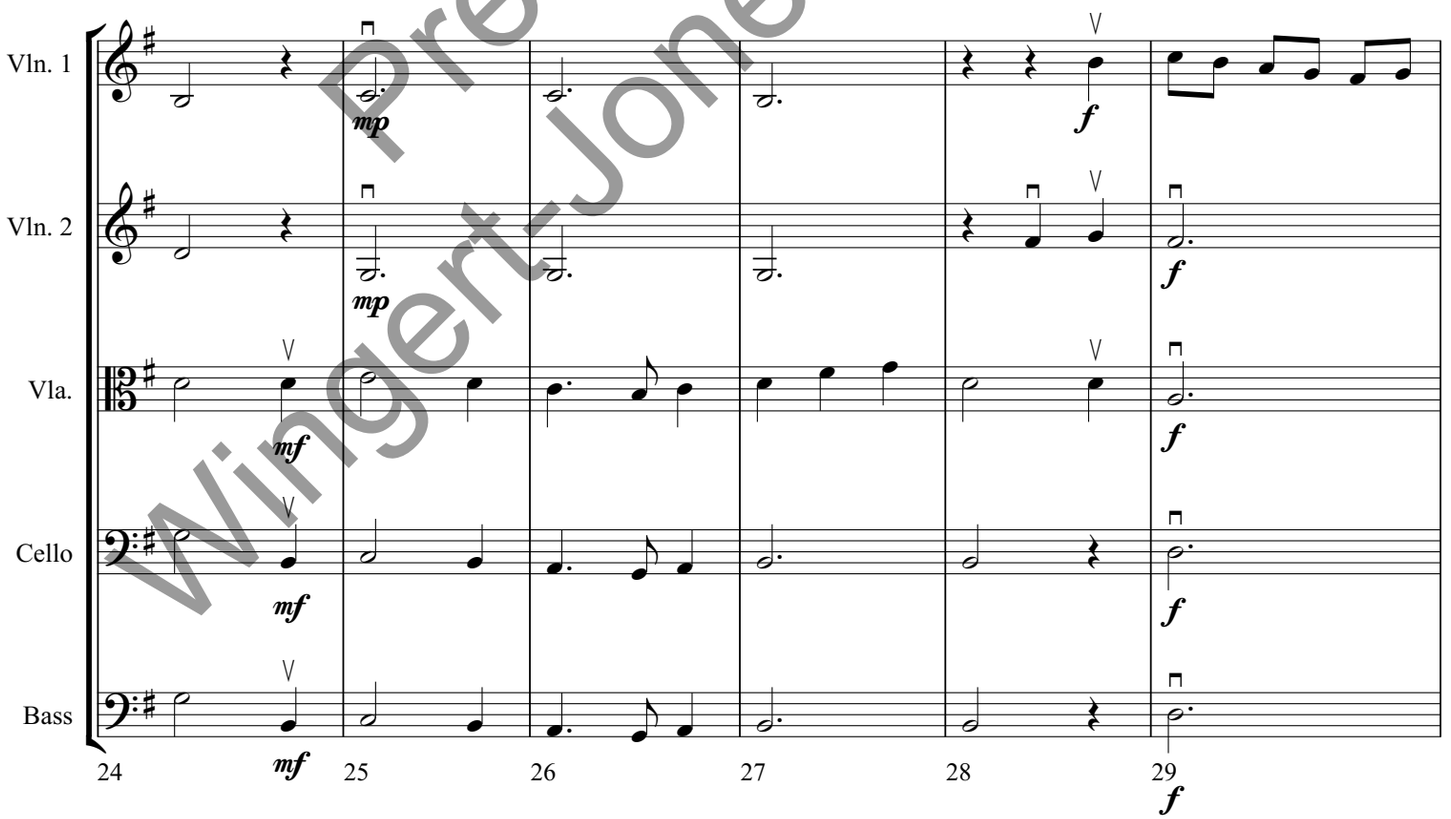

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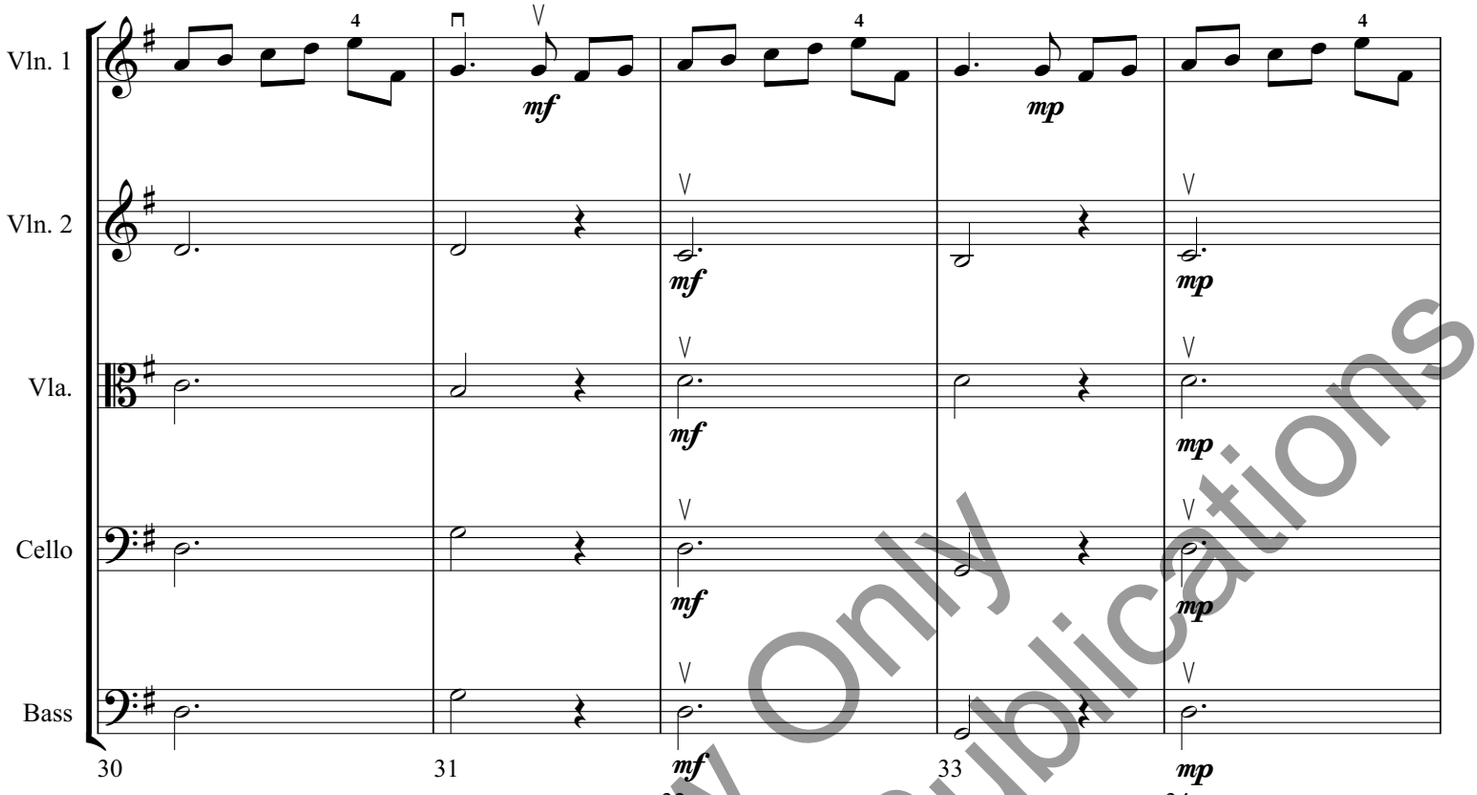

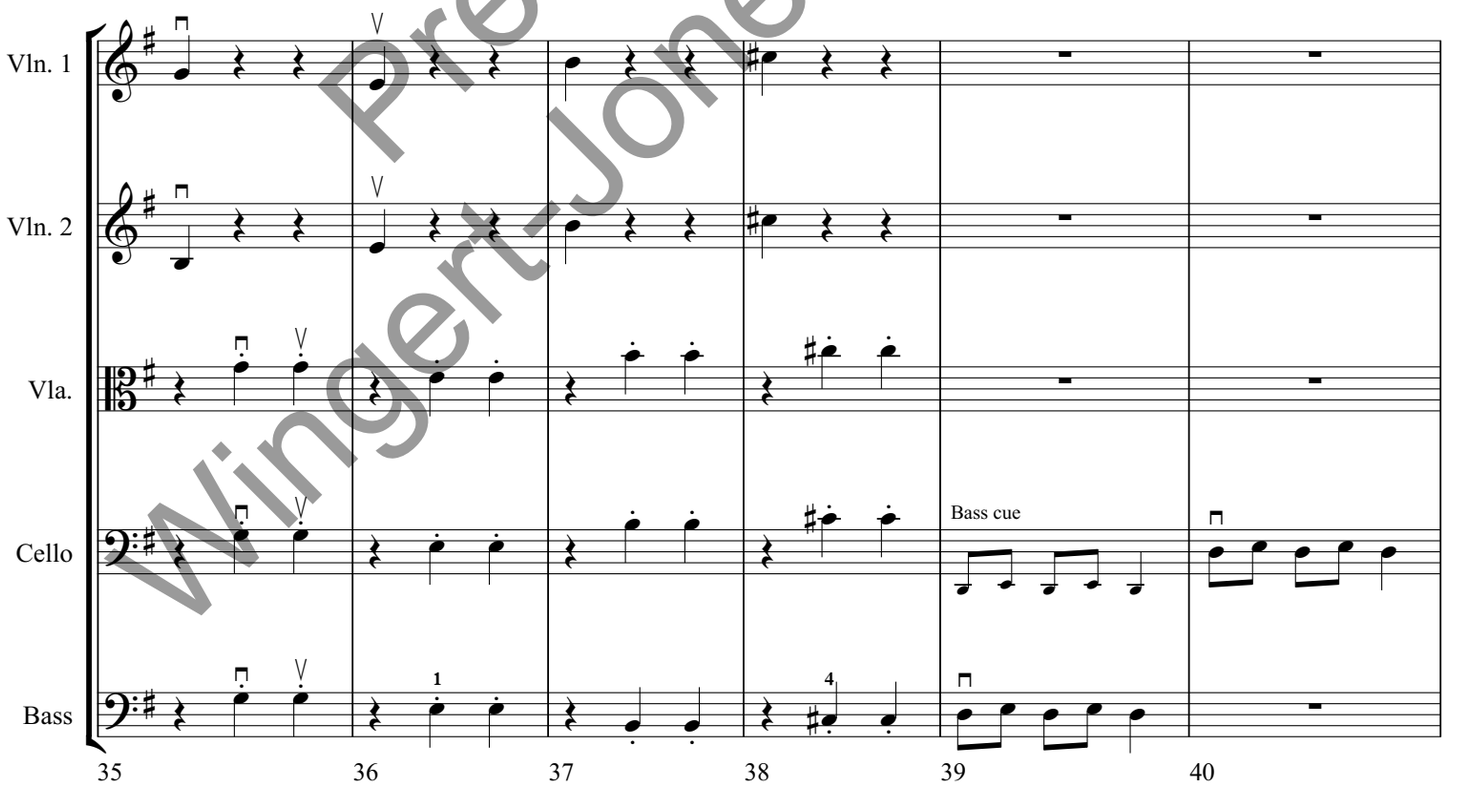

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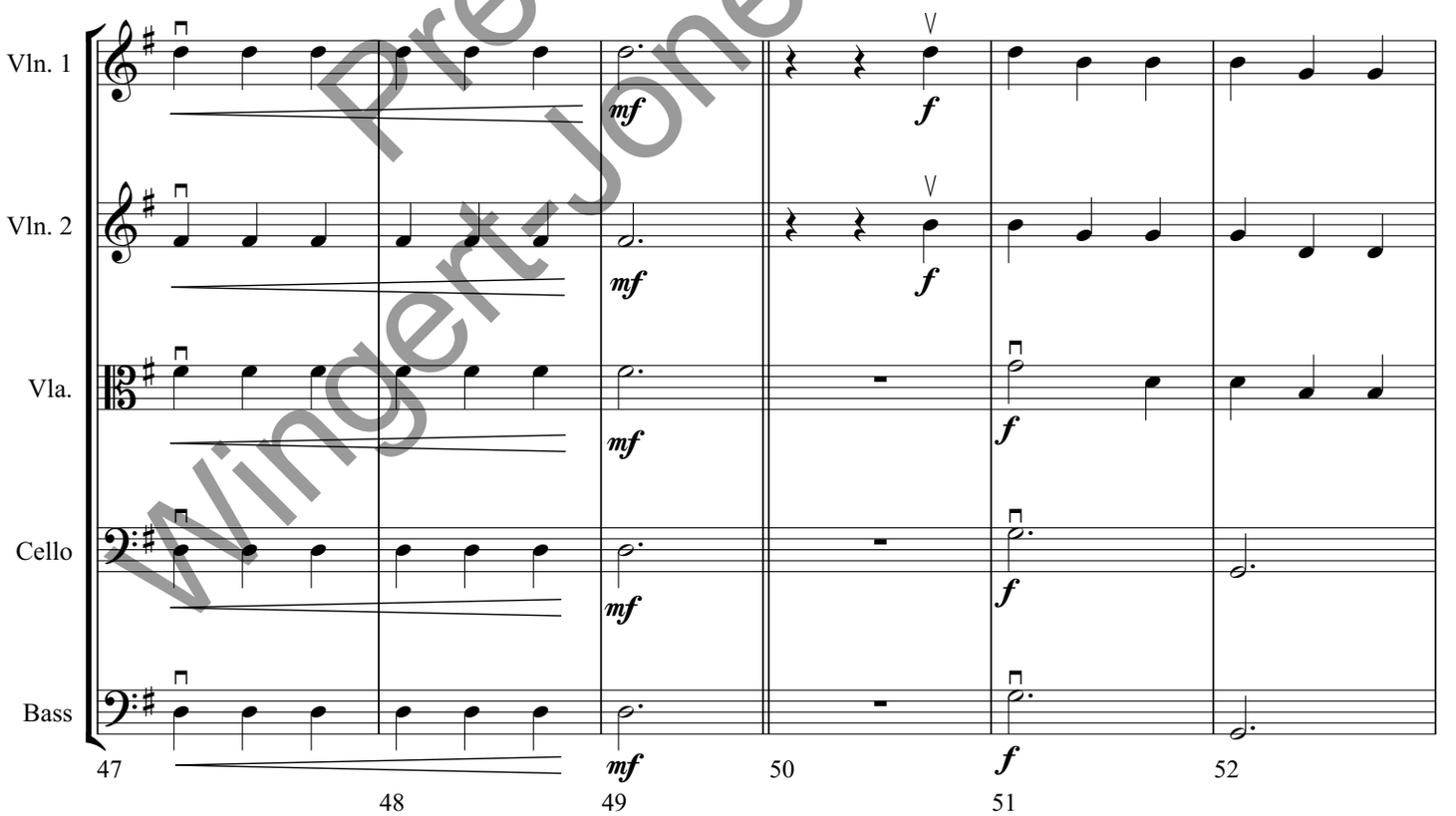

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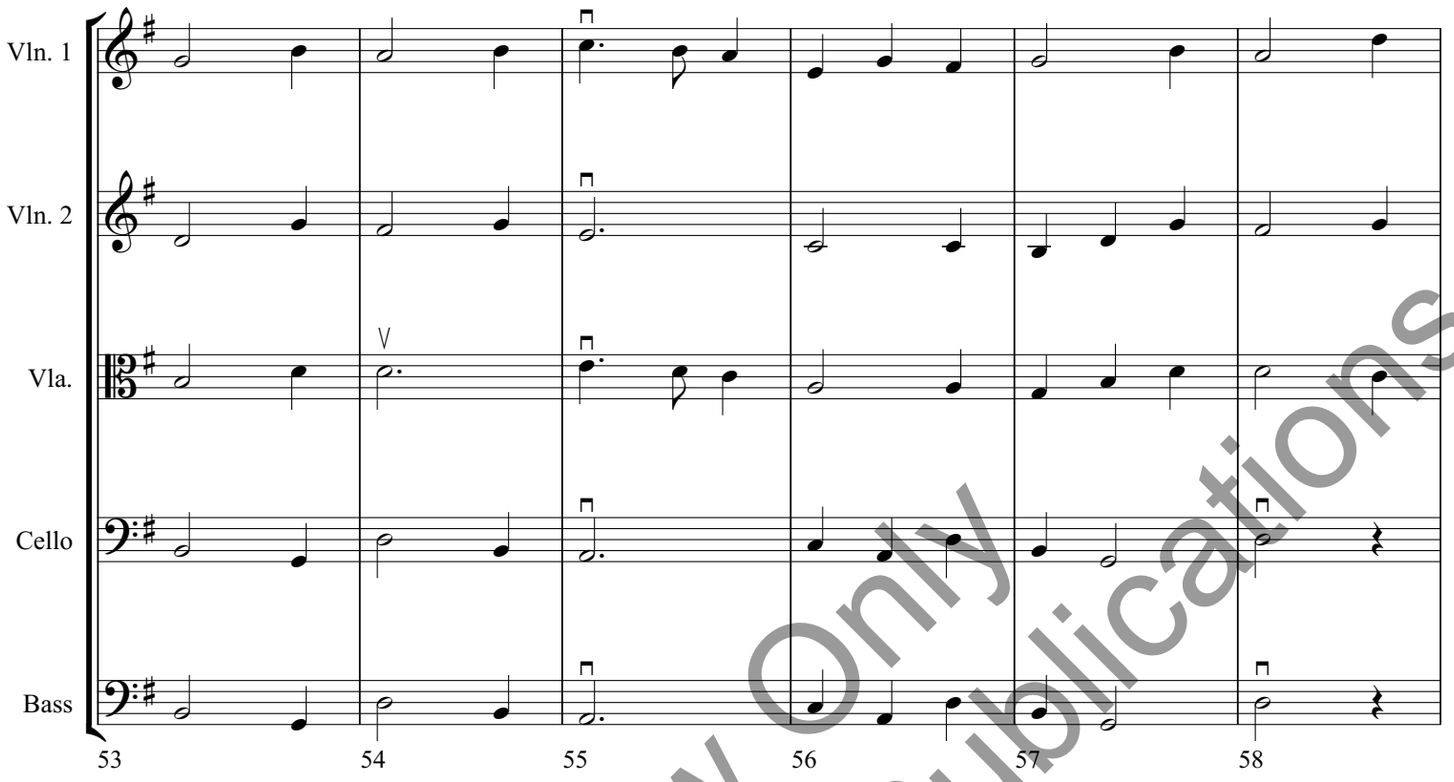

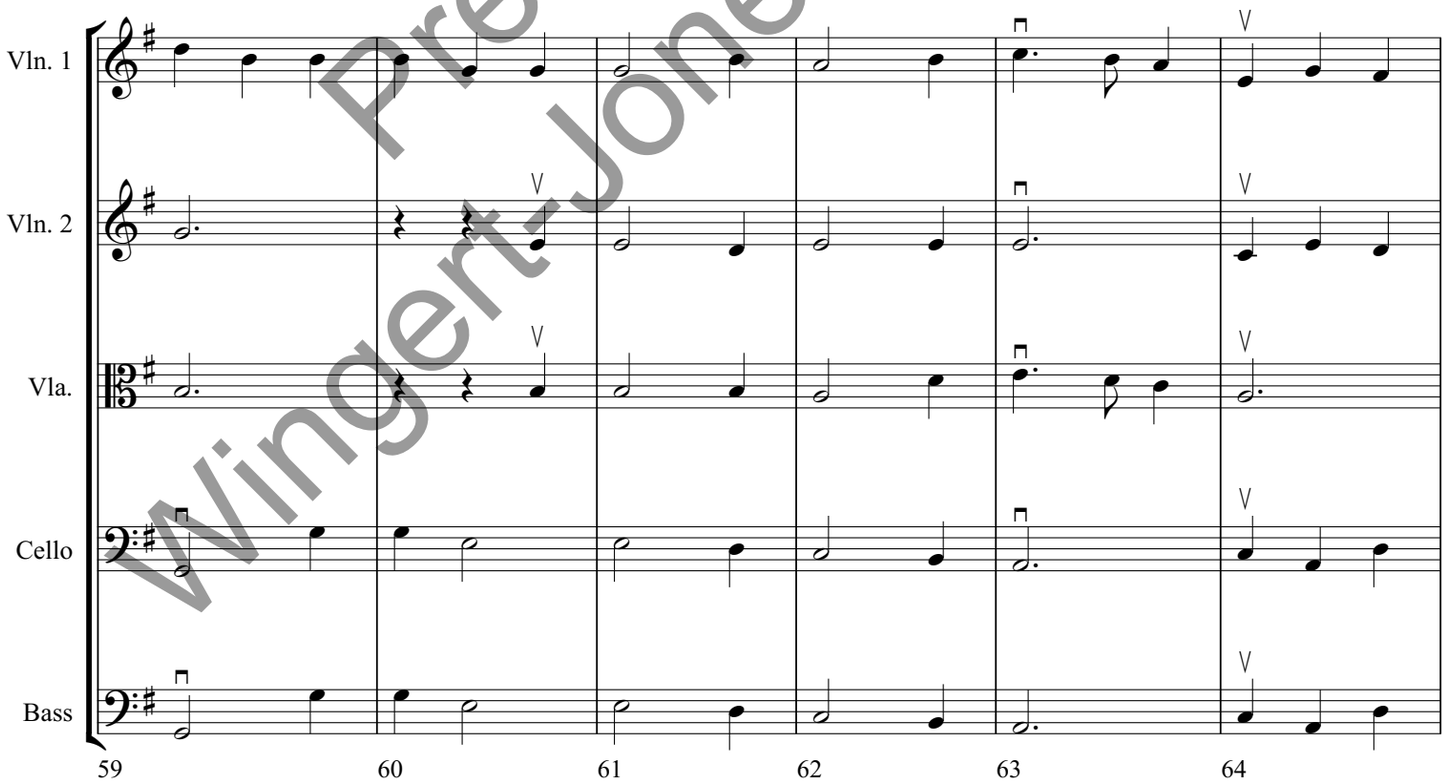

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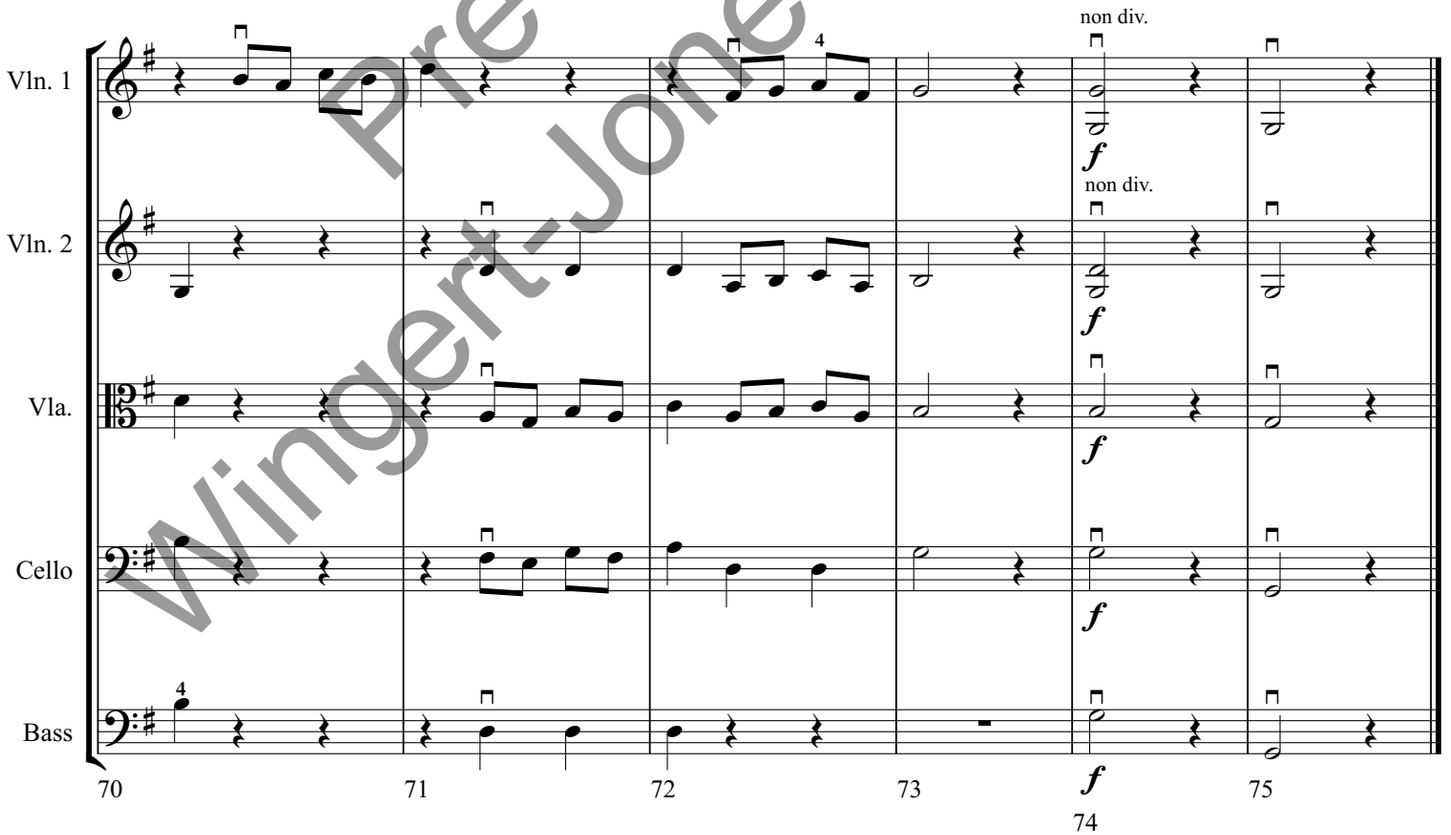

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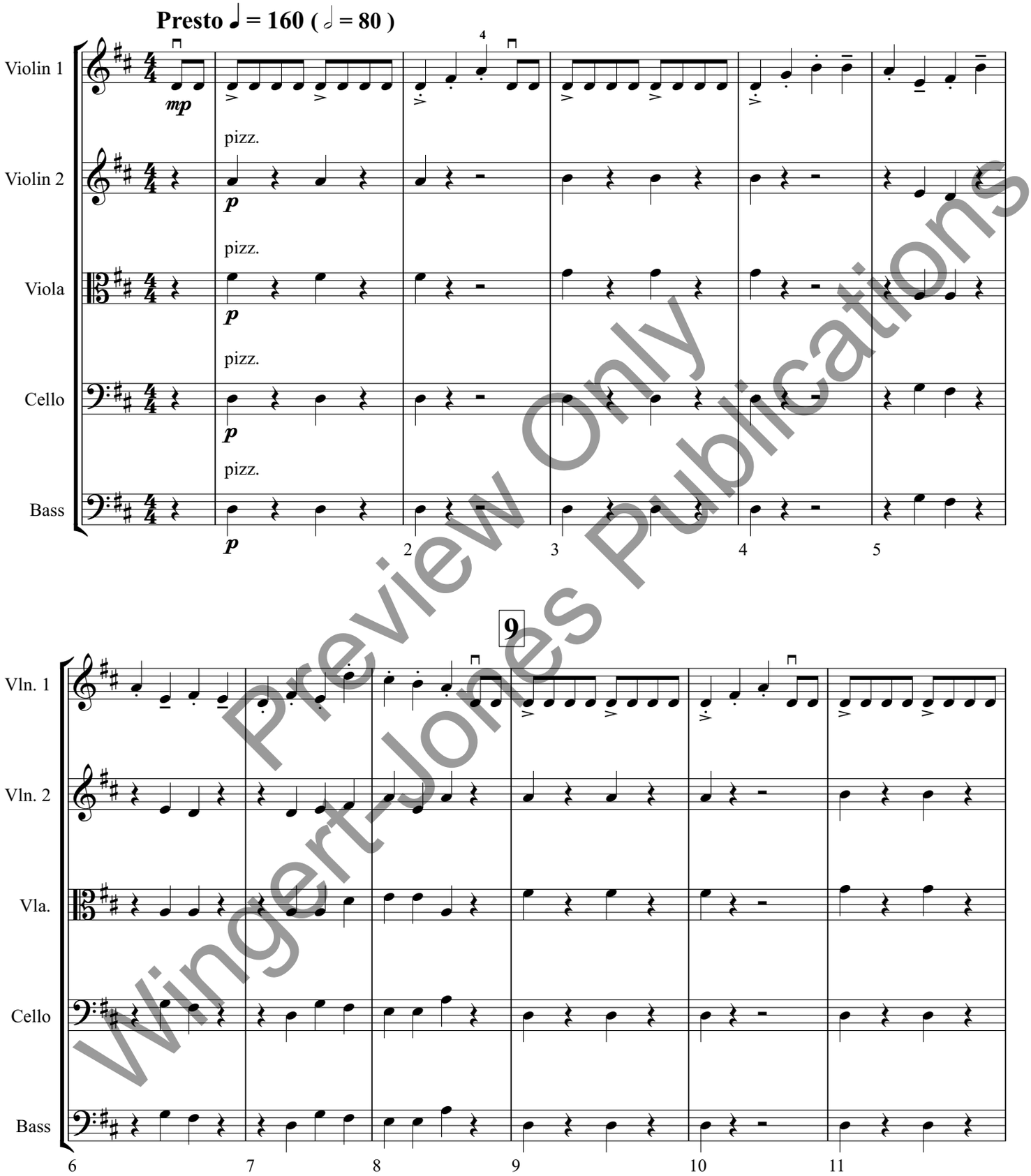
Presto

from *Piano Trio No. 2*

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 - 1827)



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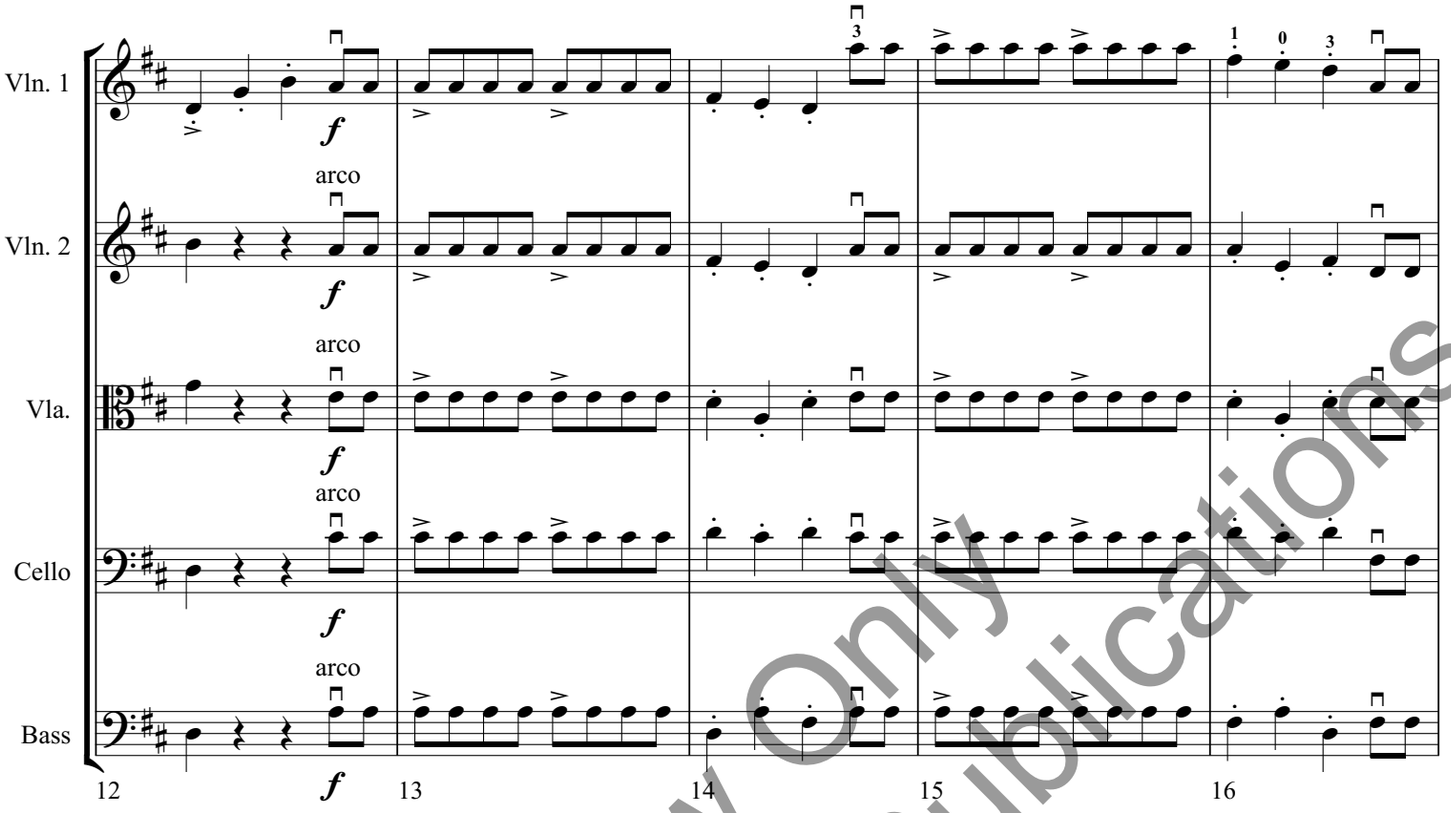

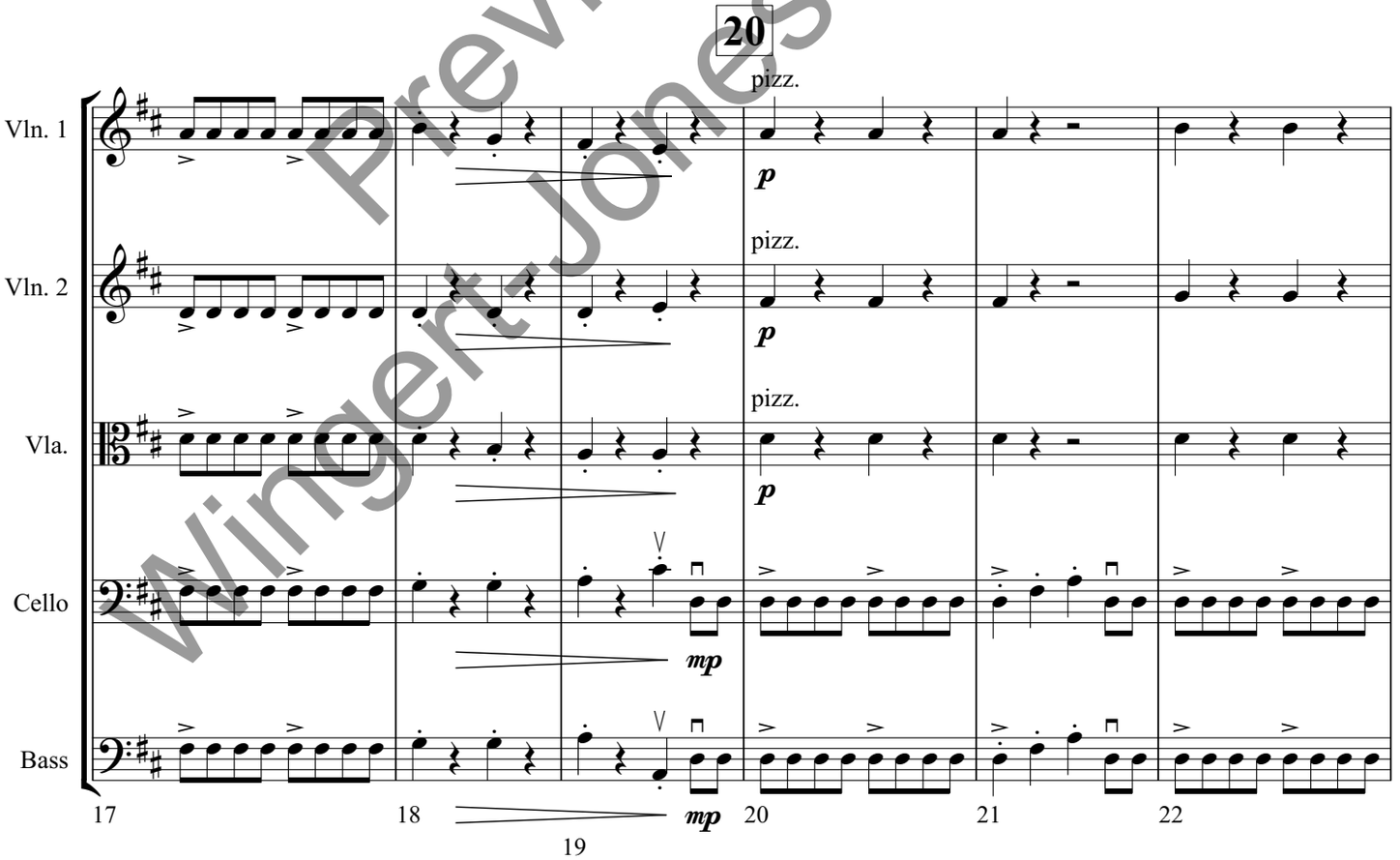

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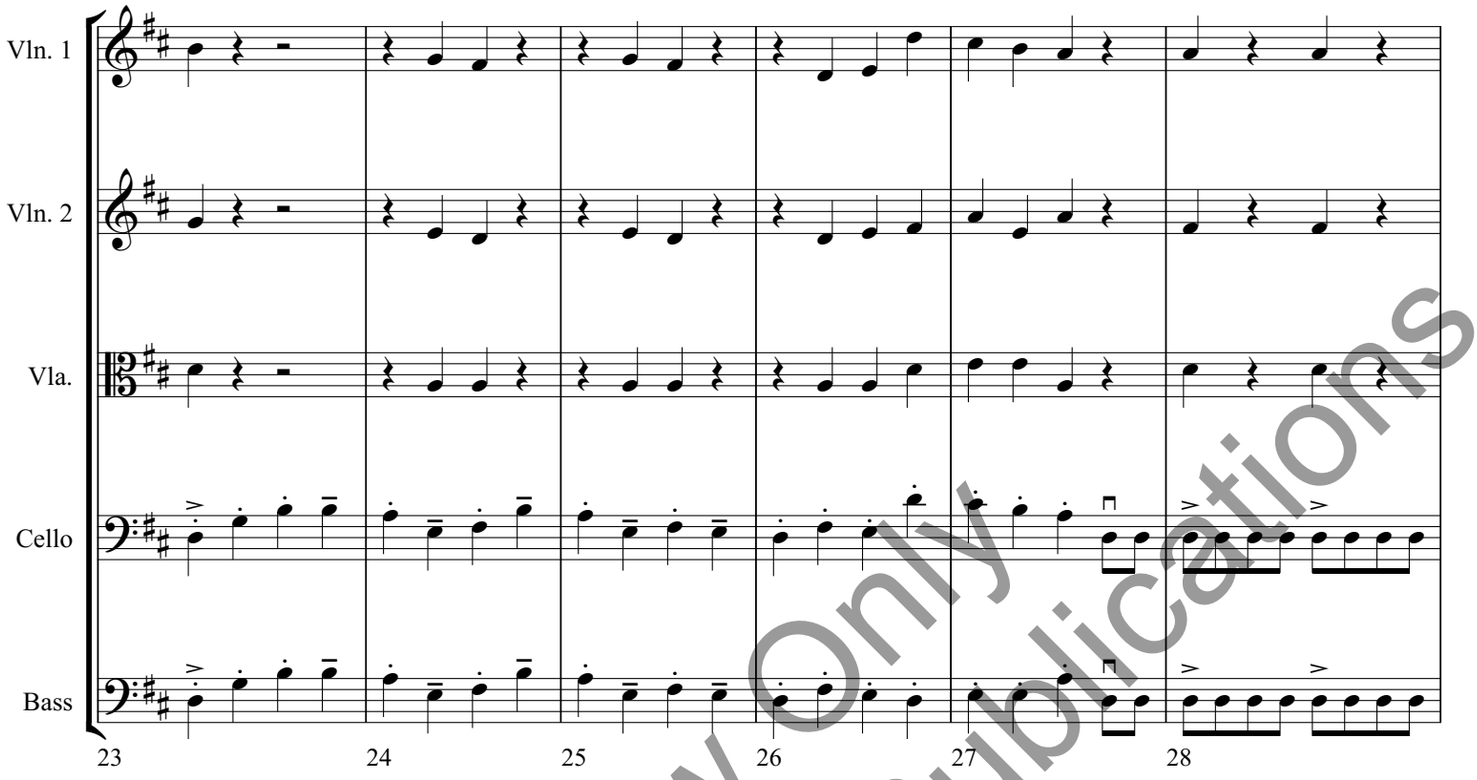

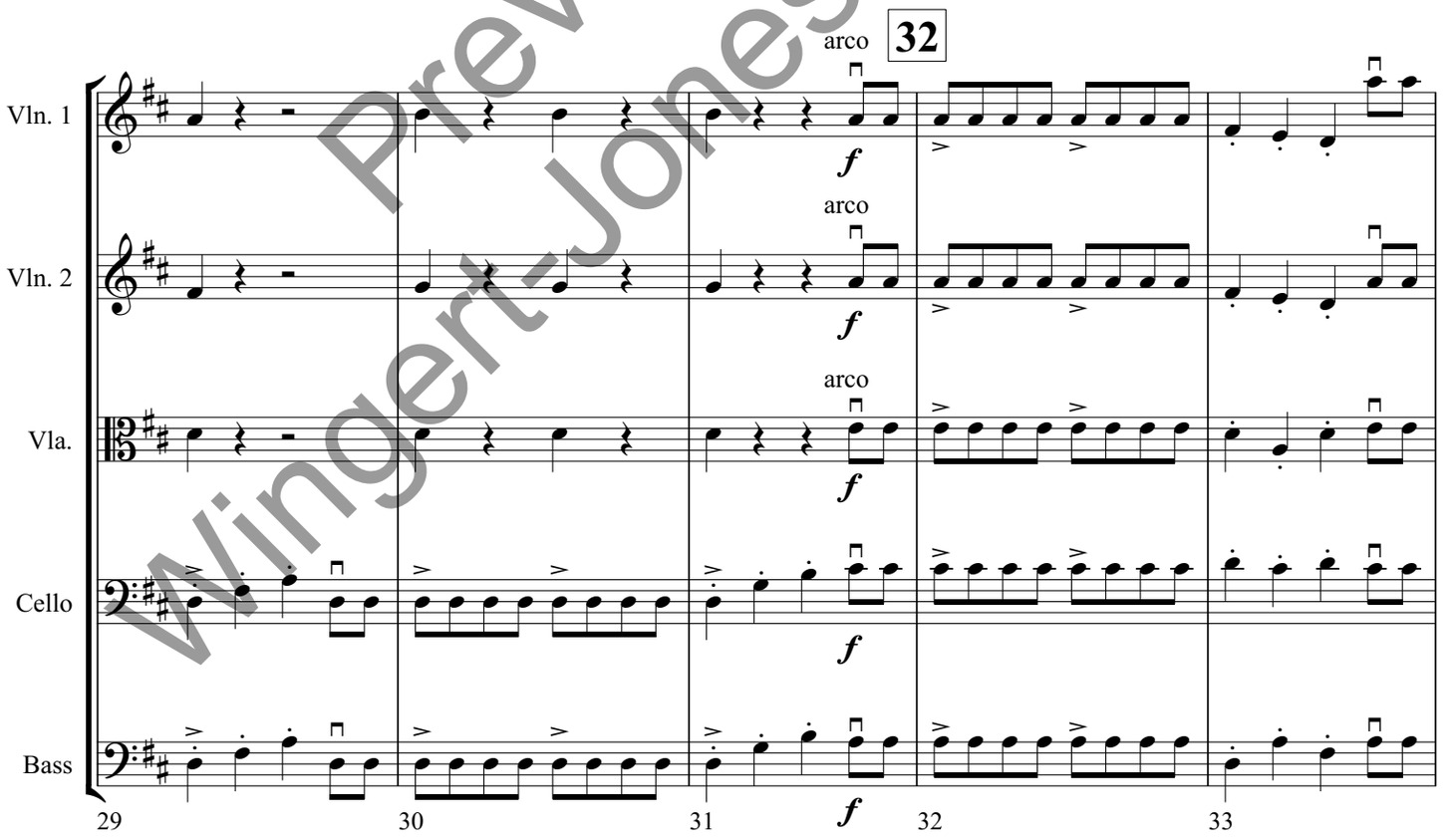

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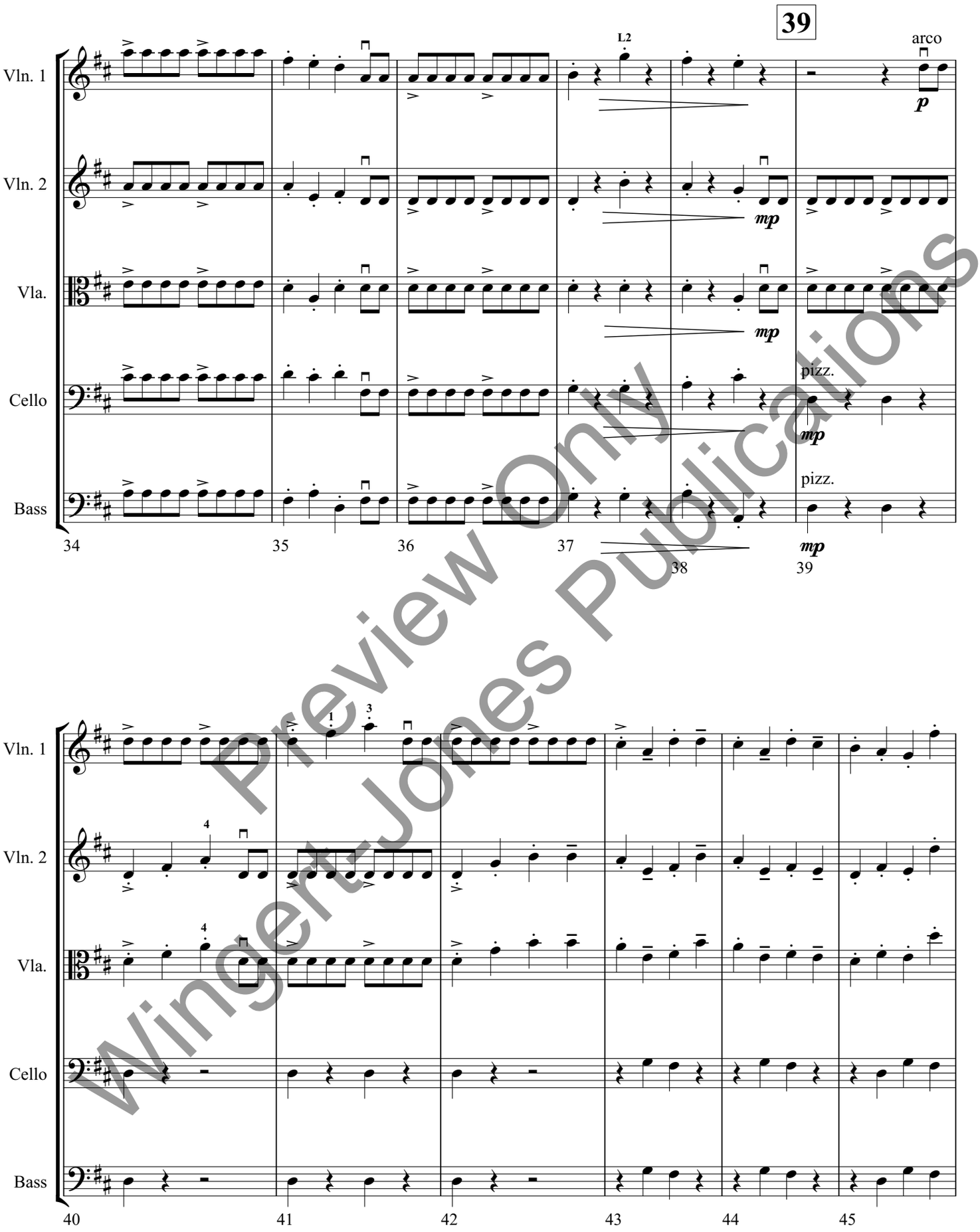

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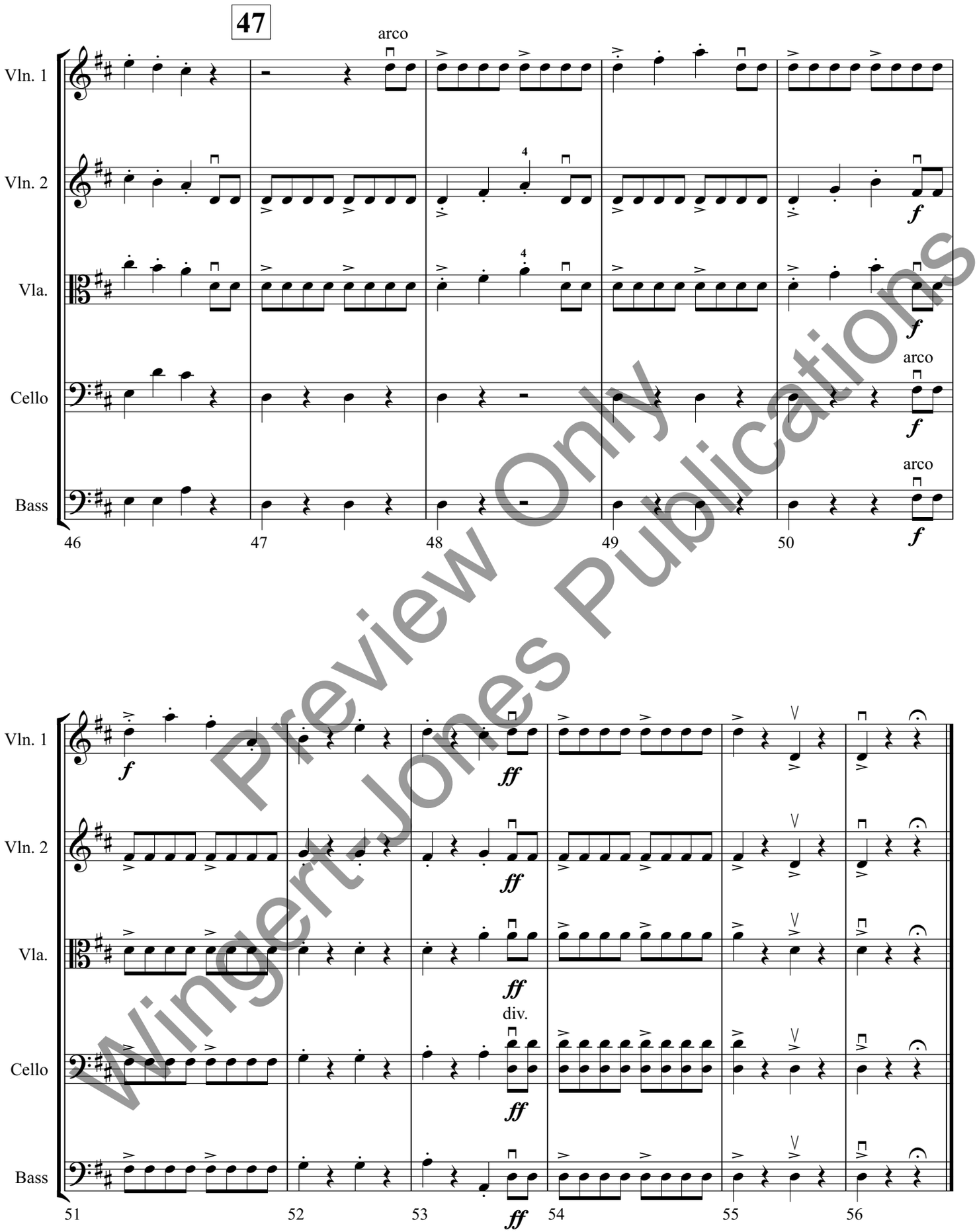

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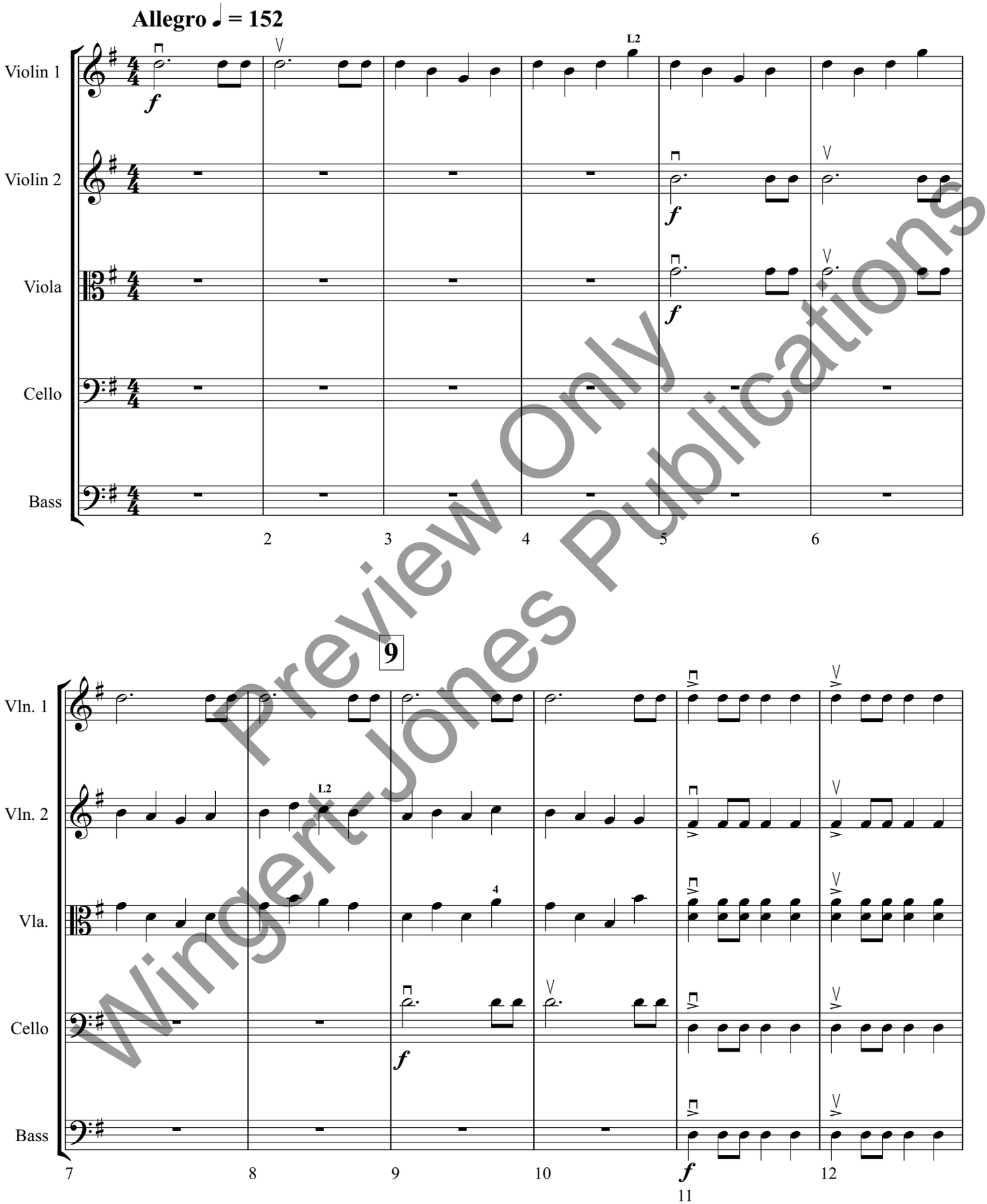
William Tell Overture

Gioacchino Rossini (1792-1868)



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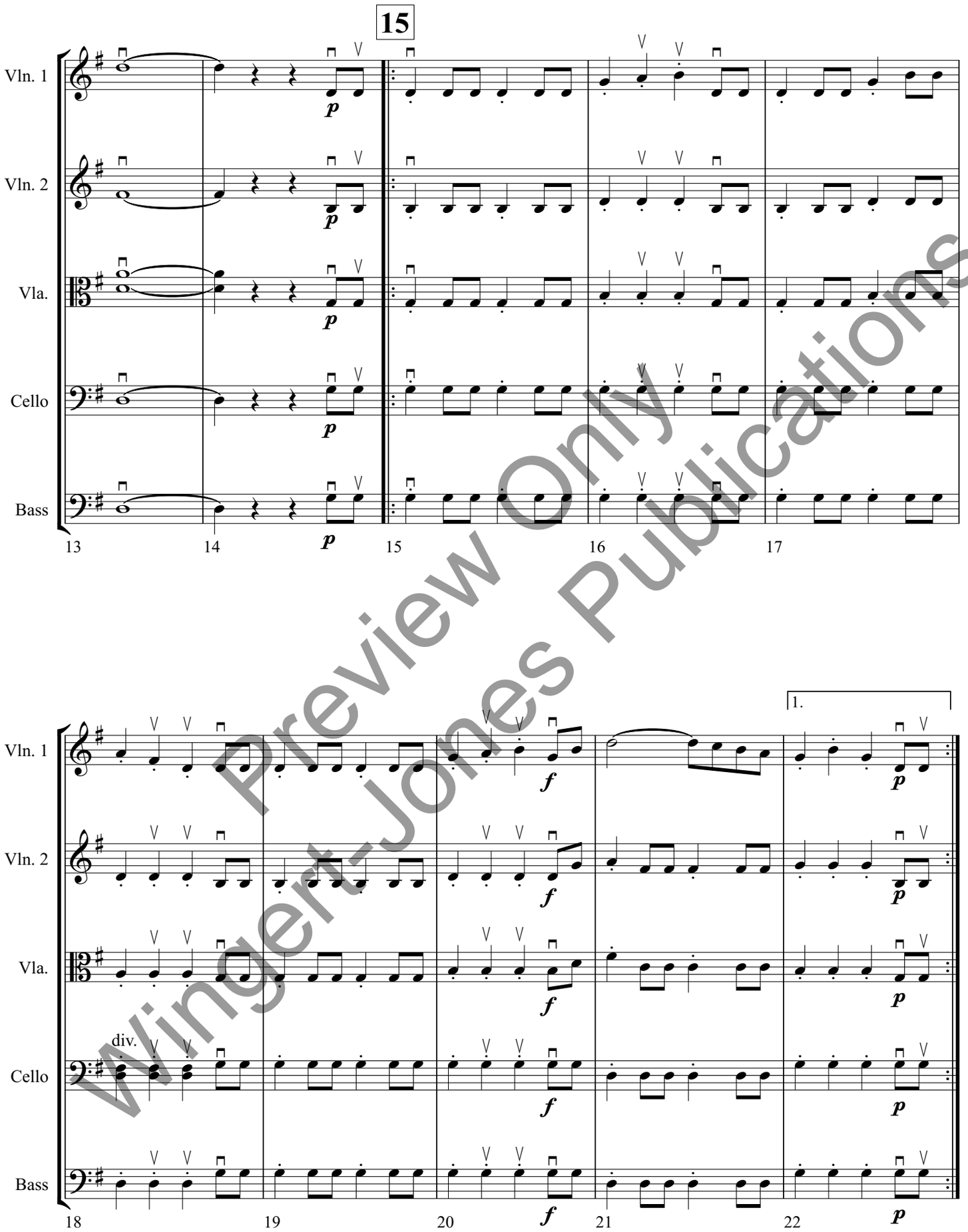

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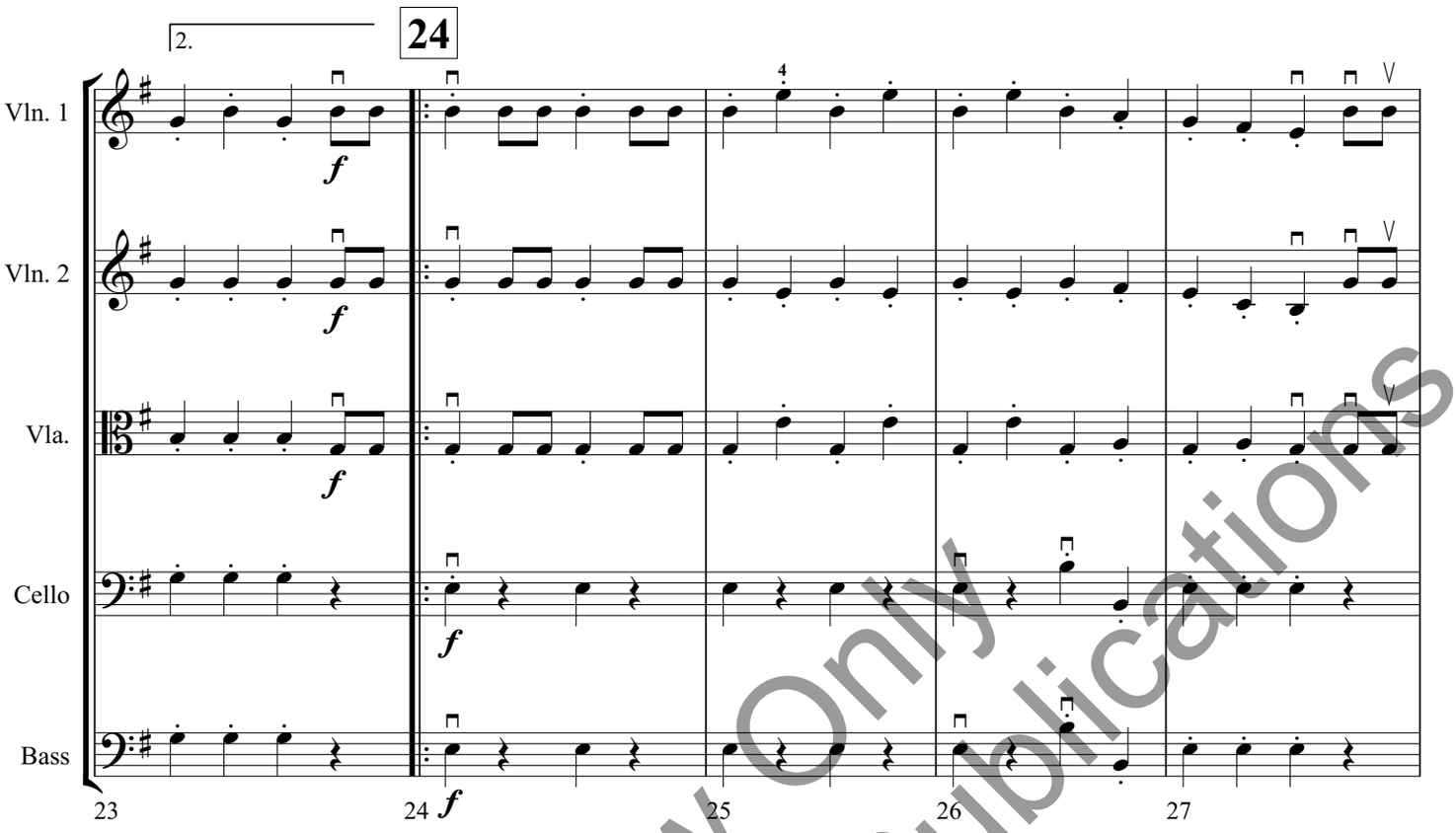

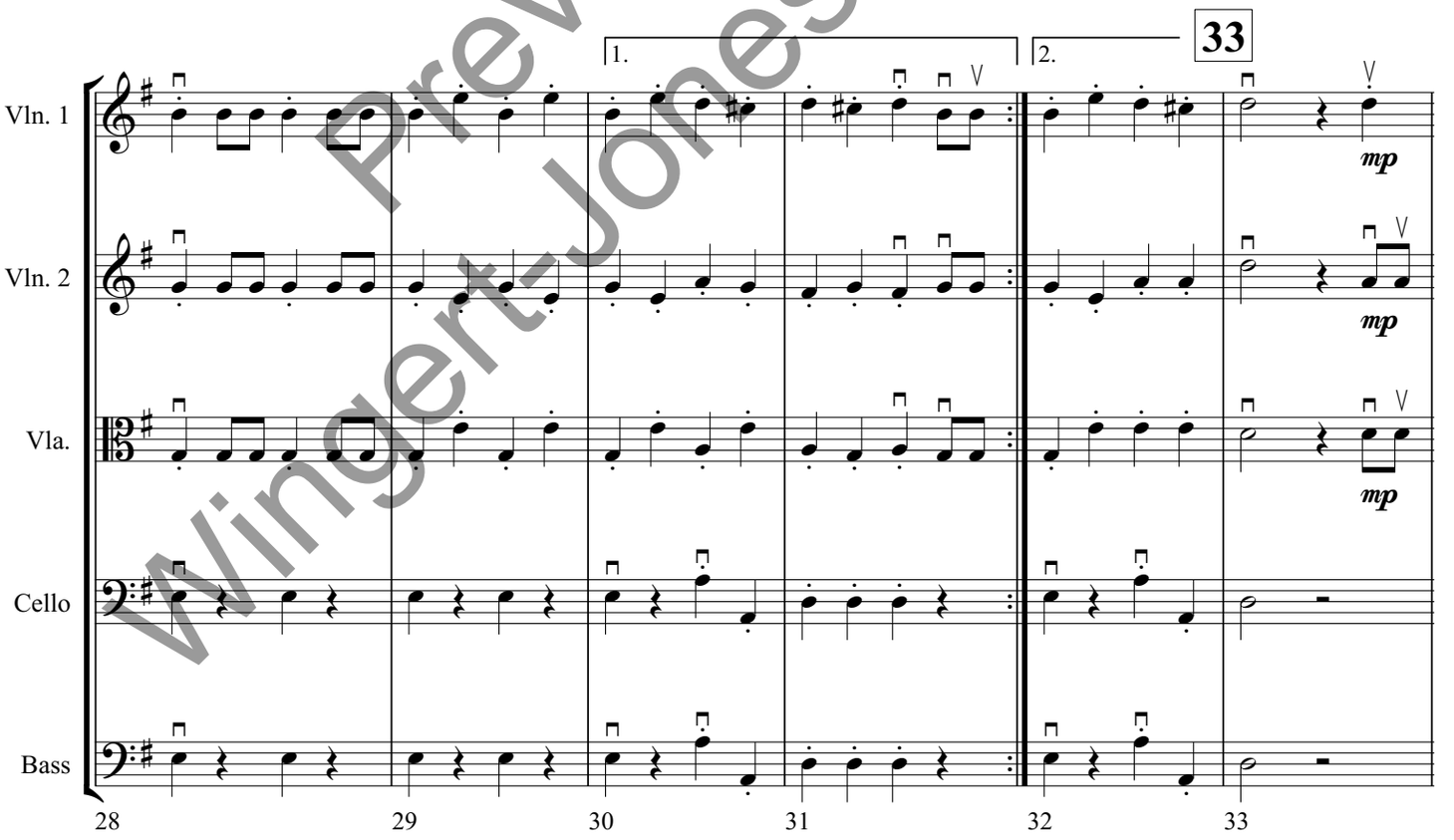

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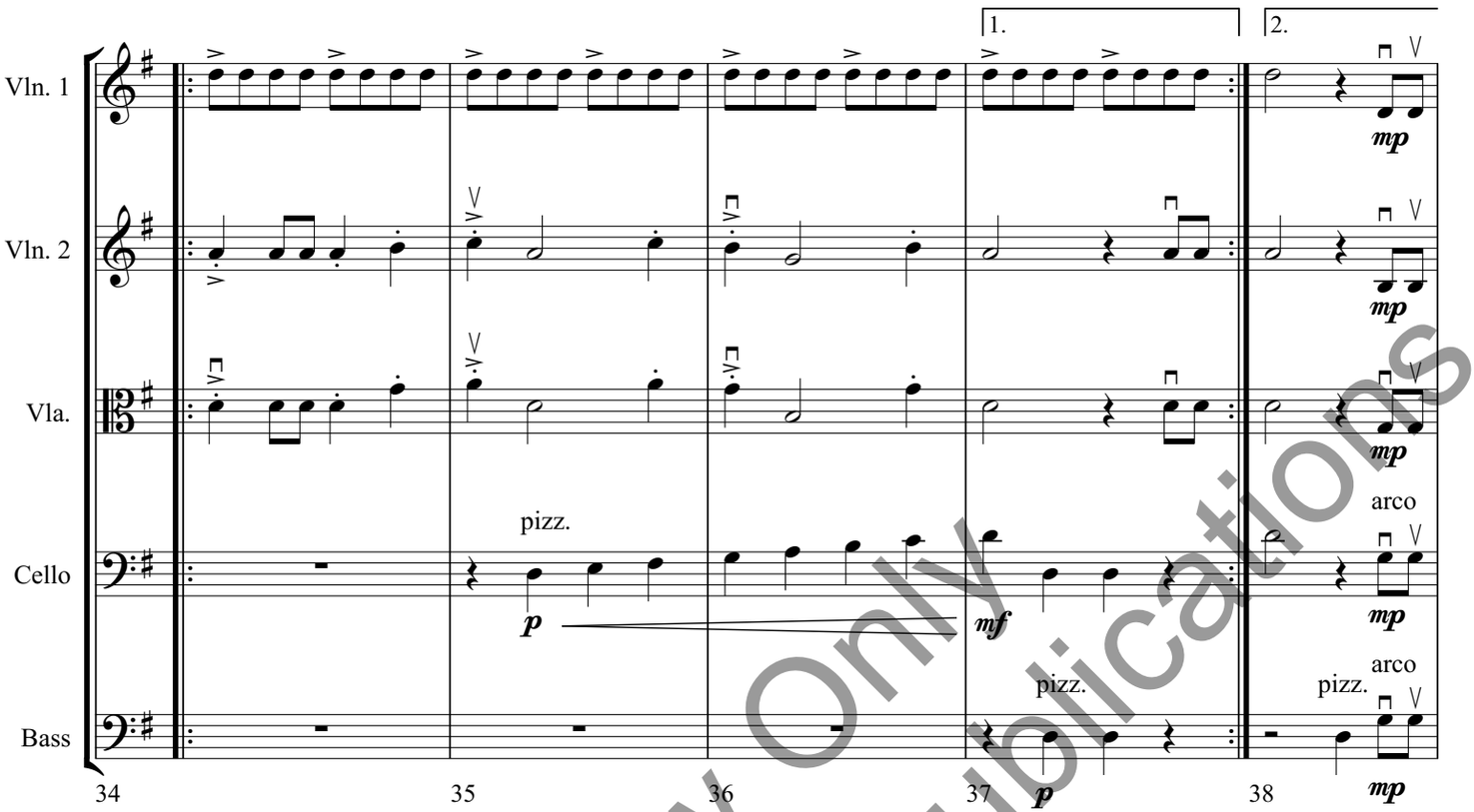

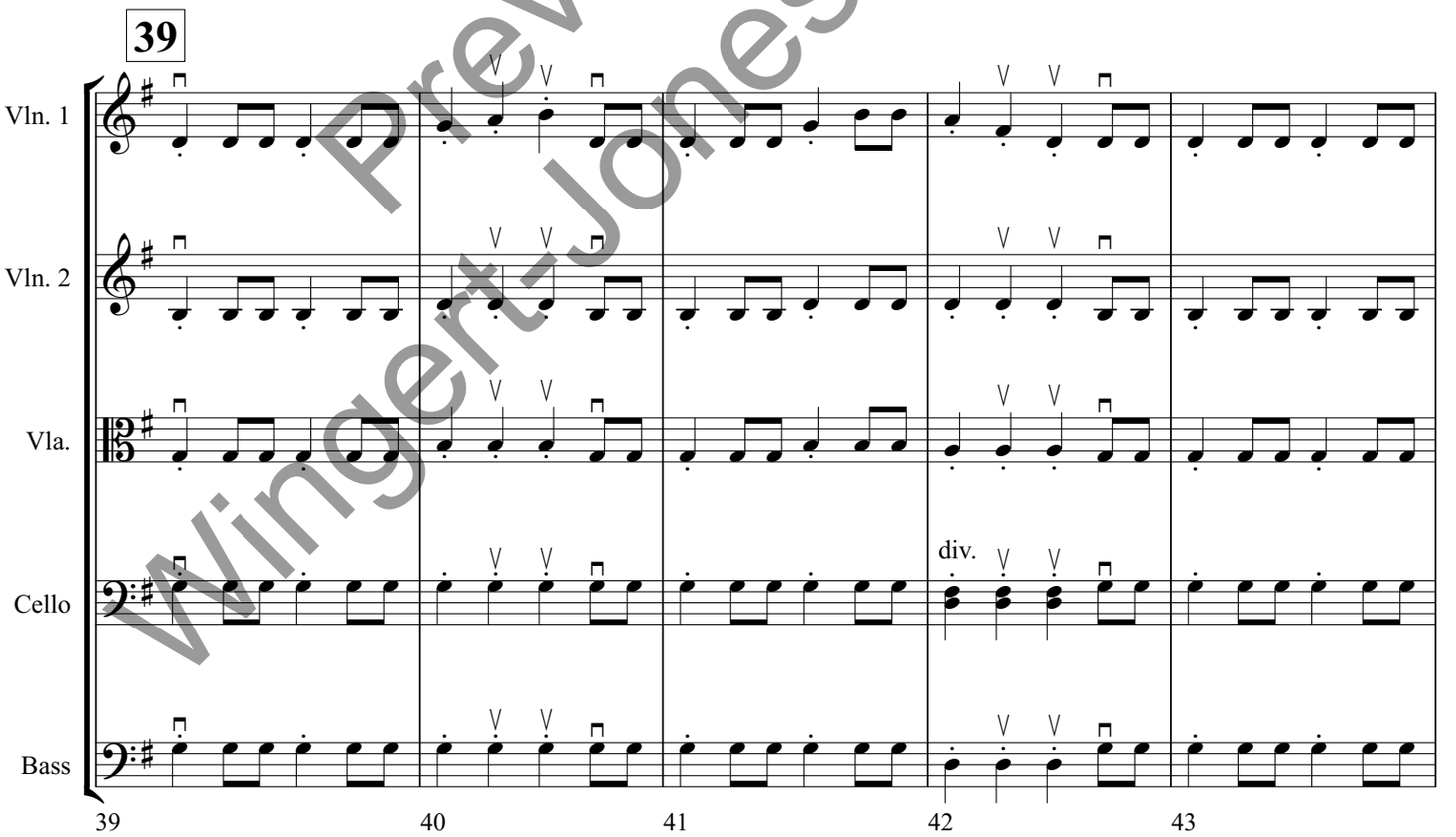

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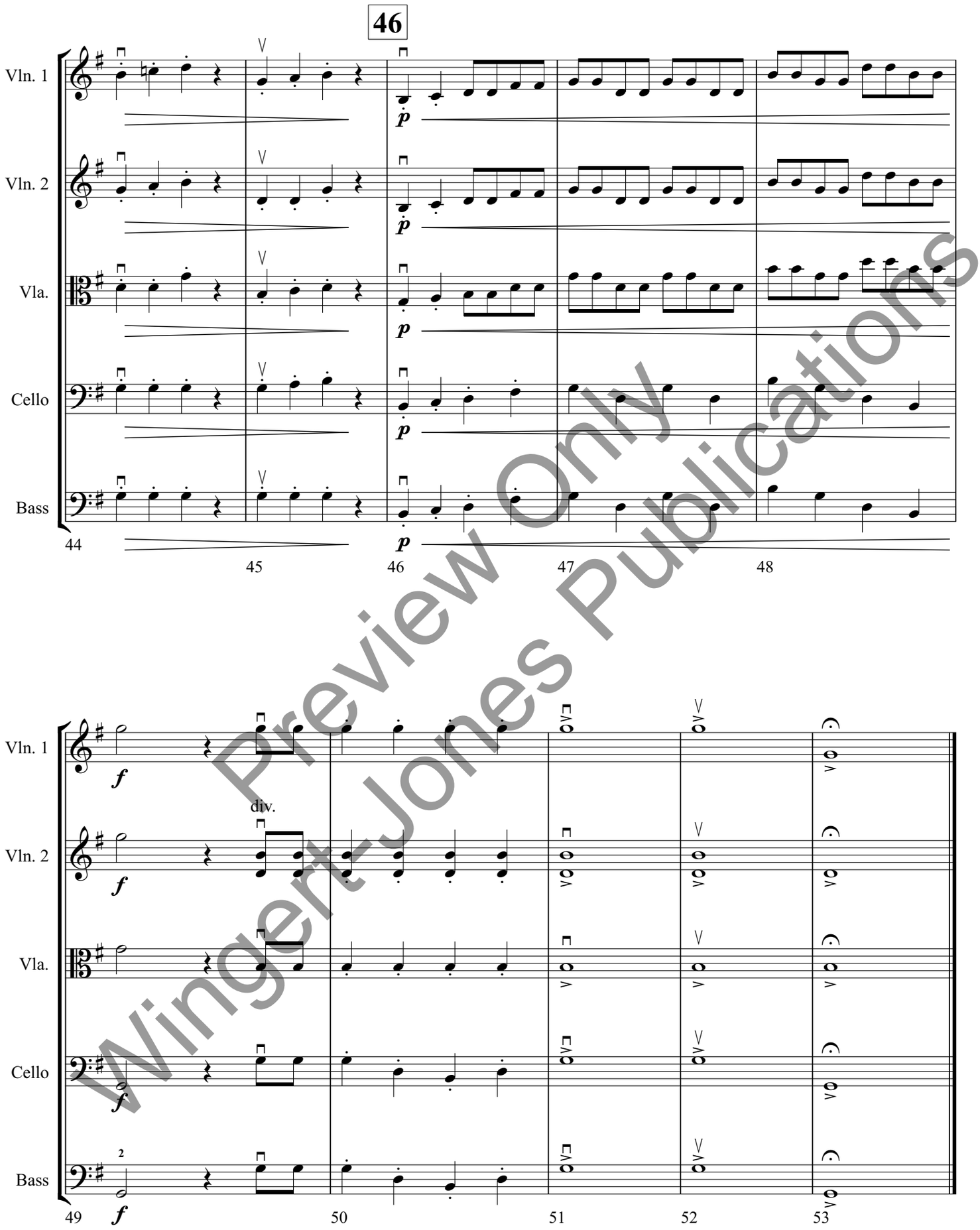

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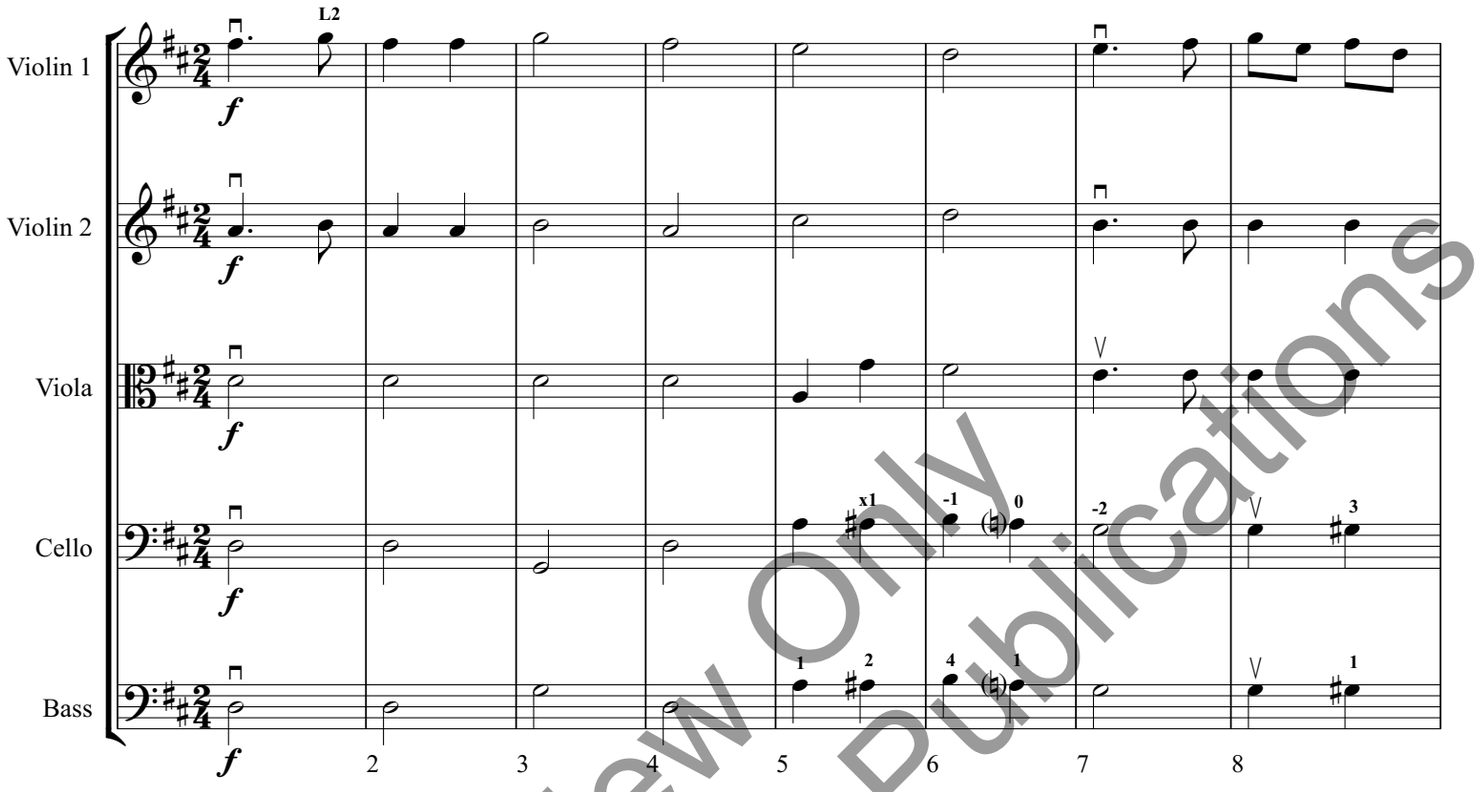
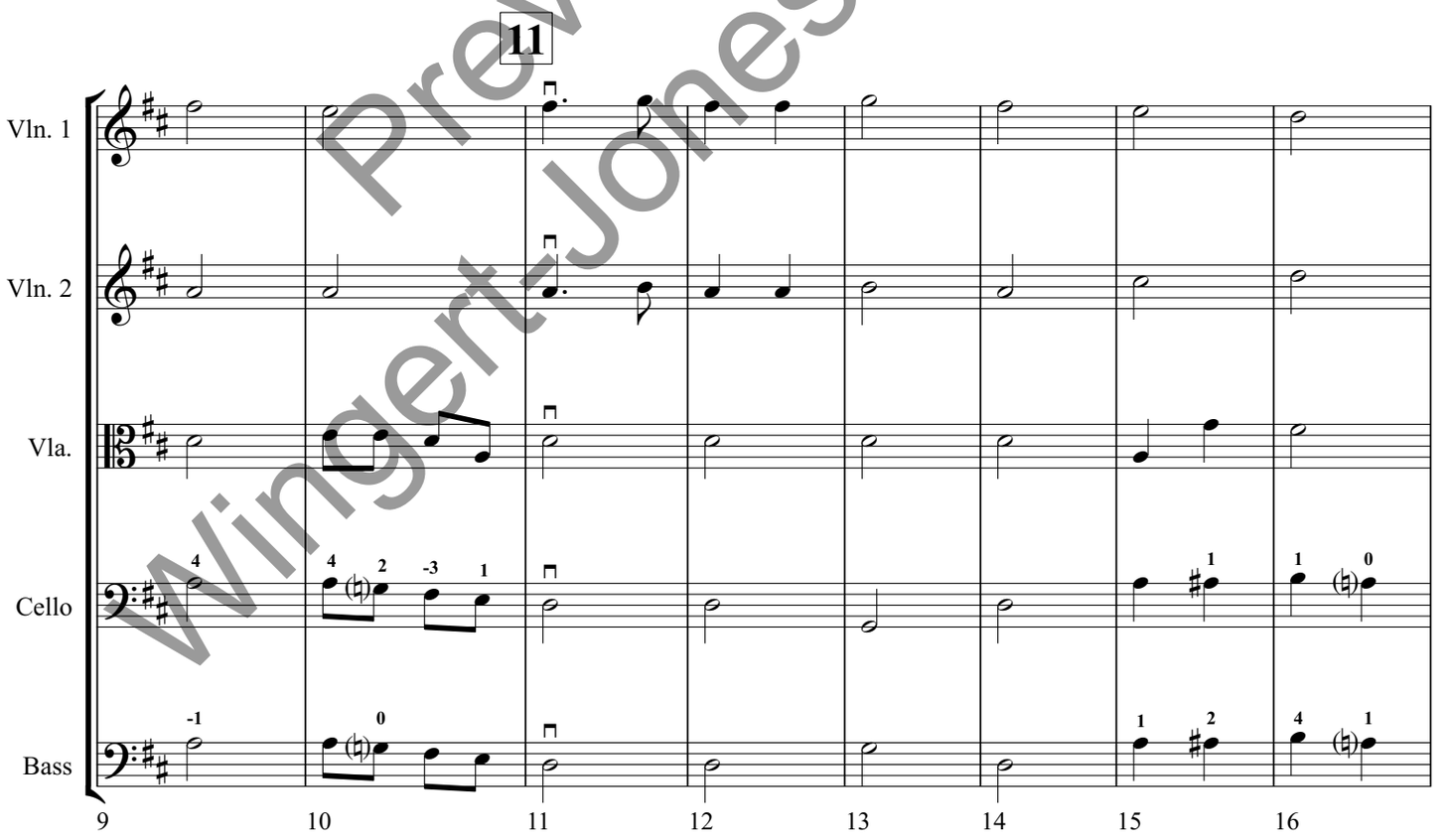
Saint Anthony Chorale

from *Variations on a Theme of Haydn*

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Andante ♩ = 100





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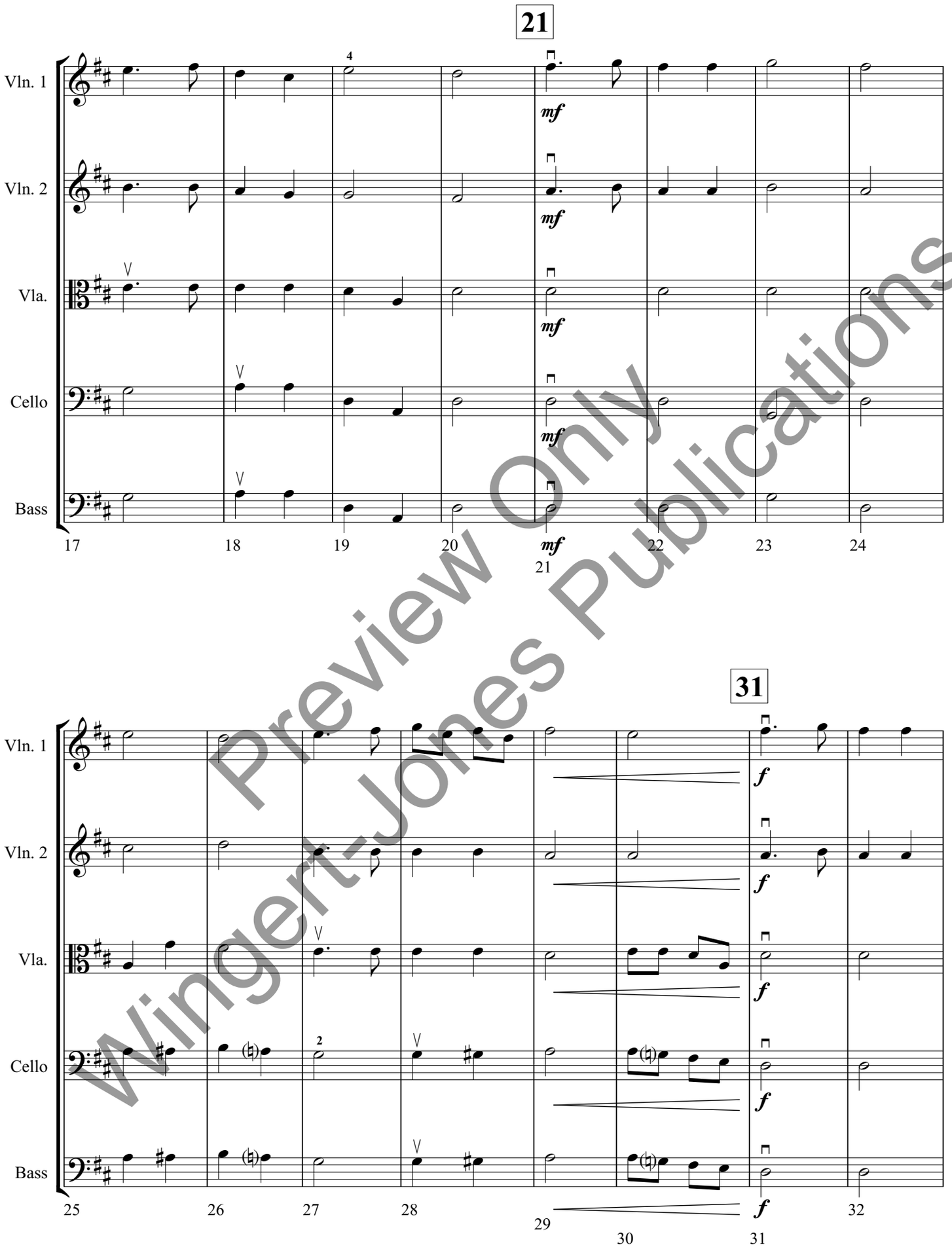

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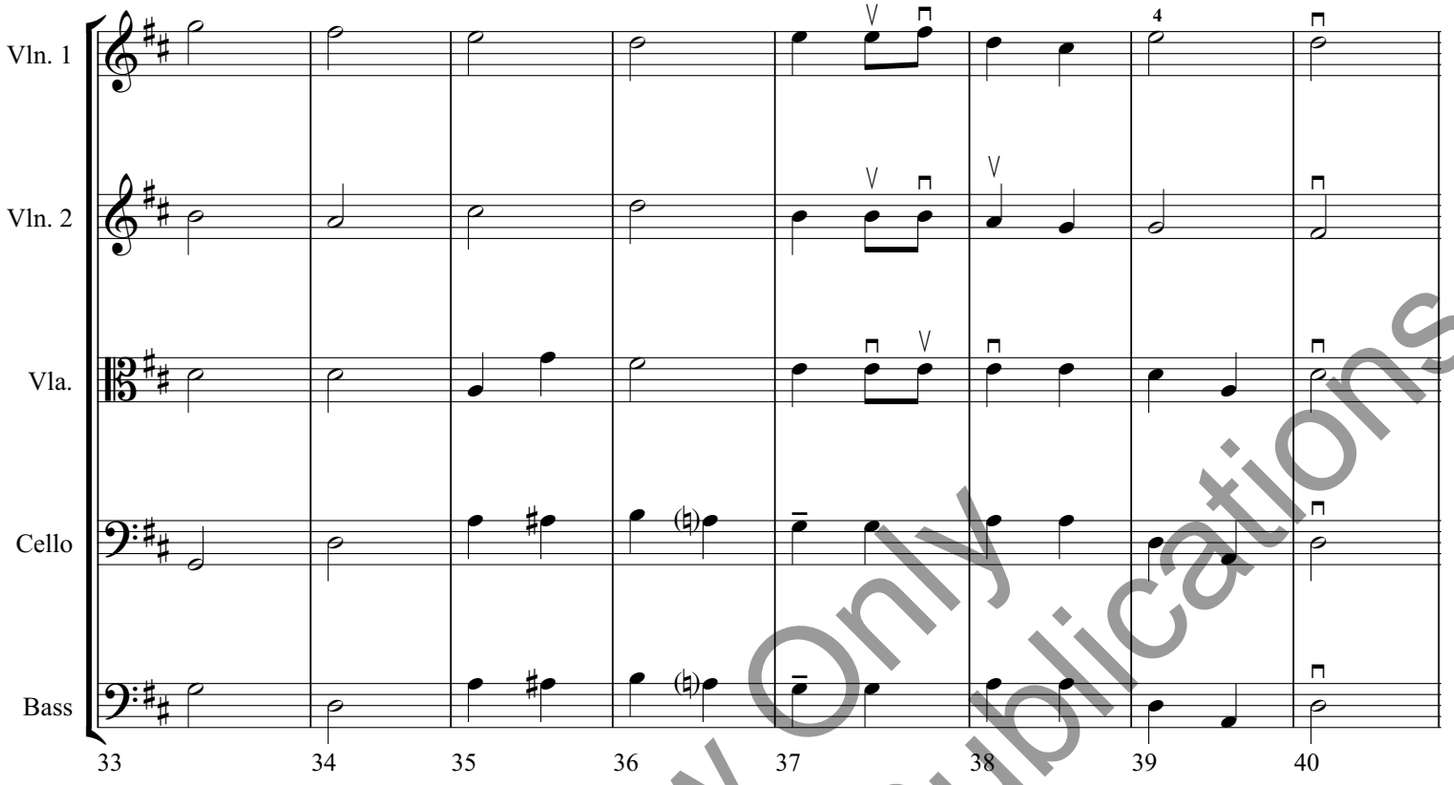

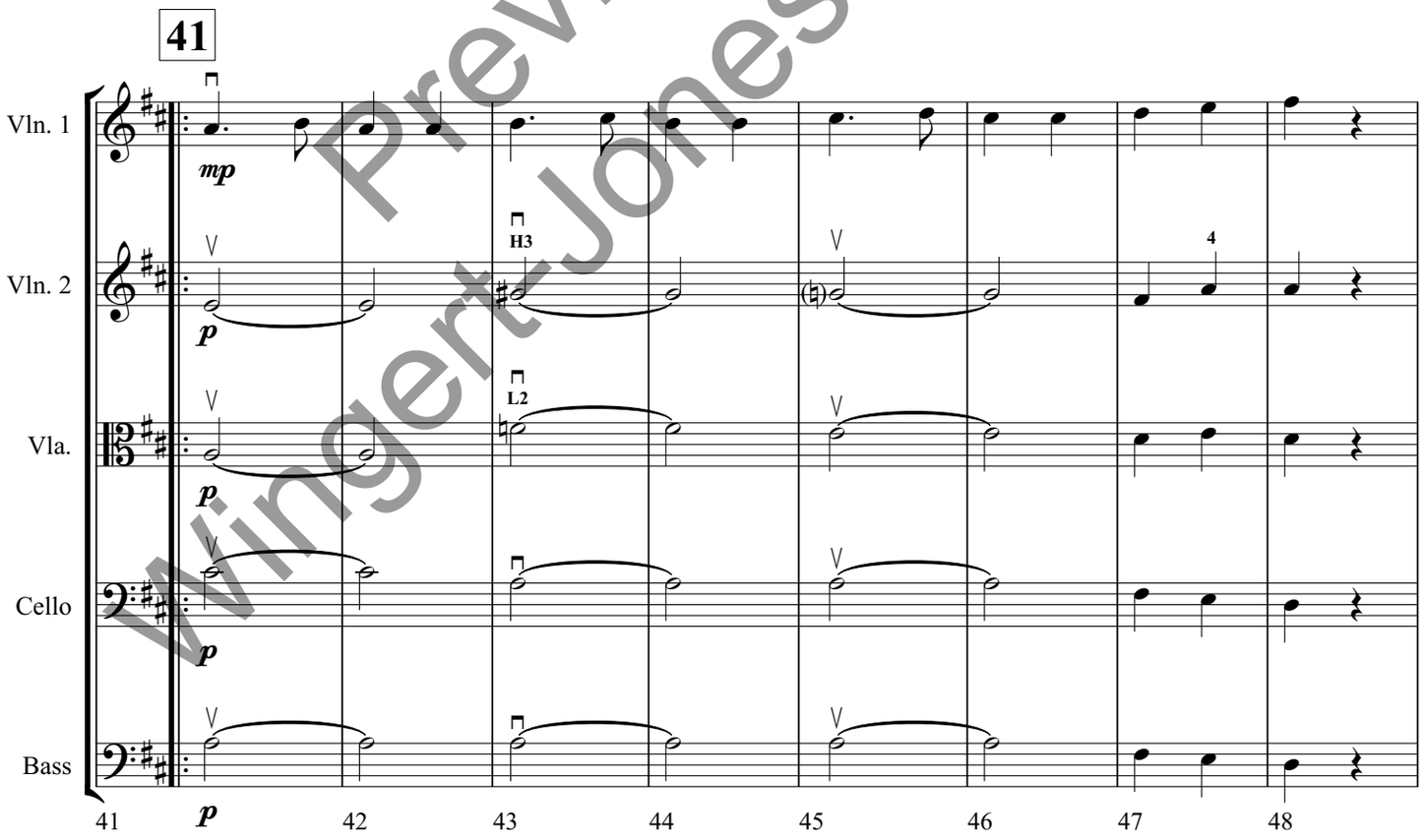

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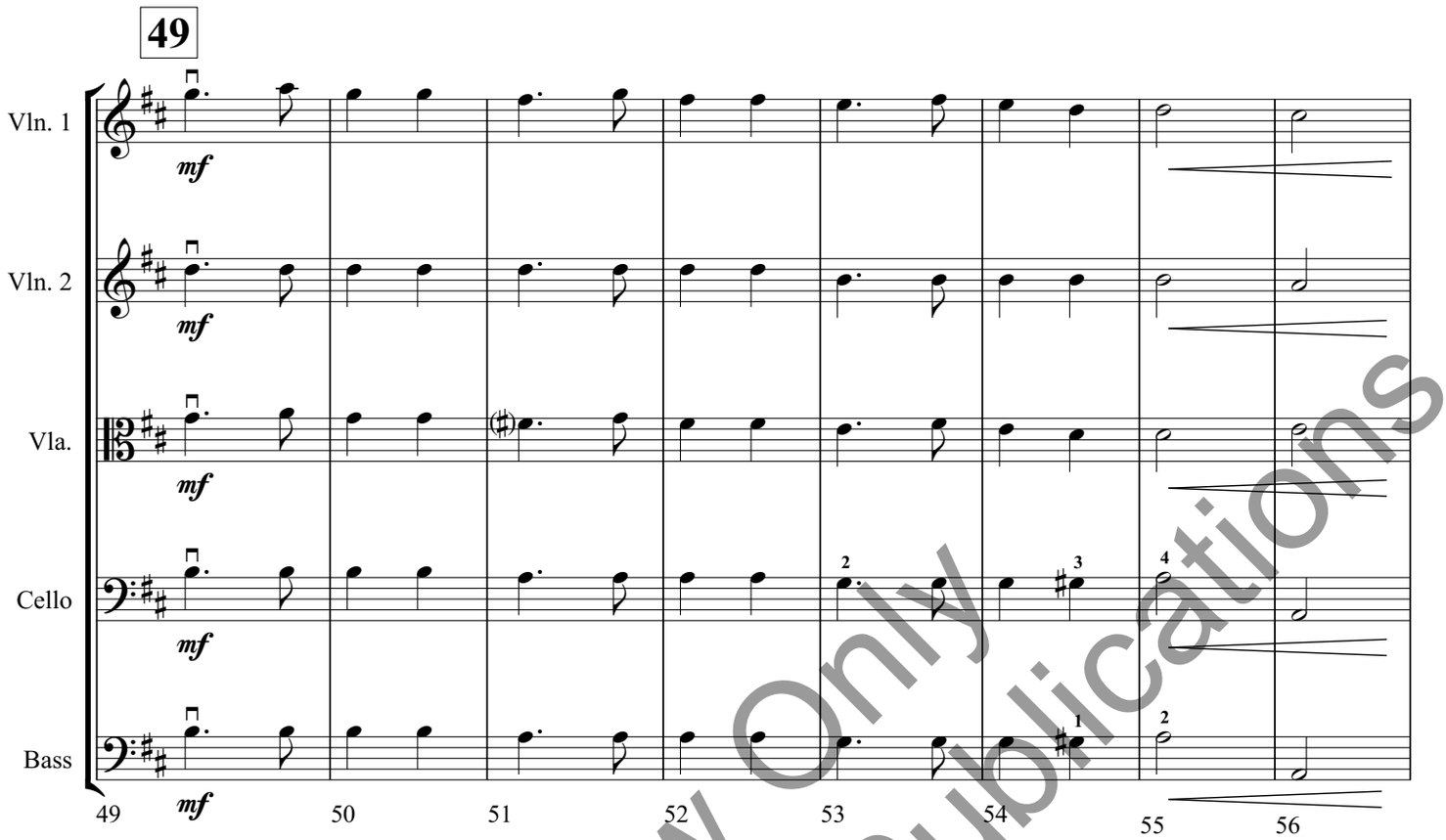

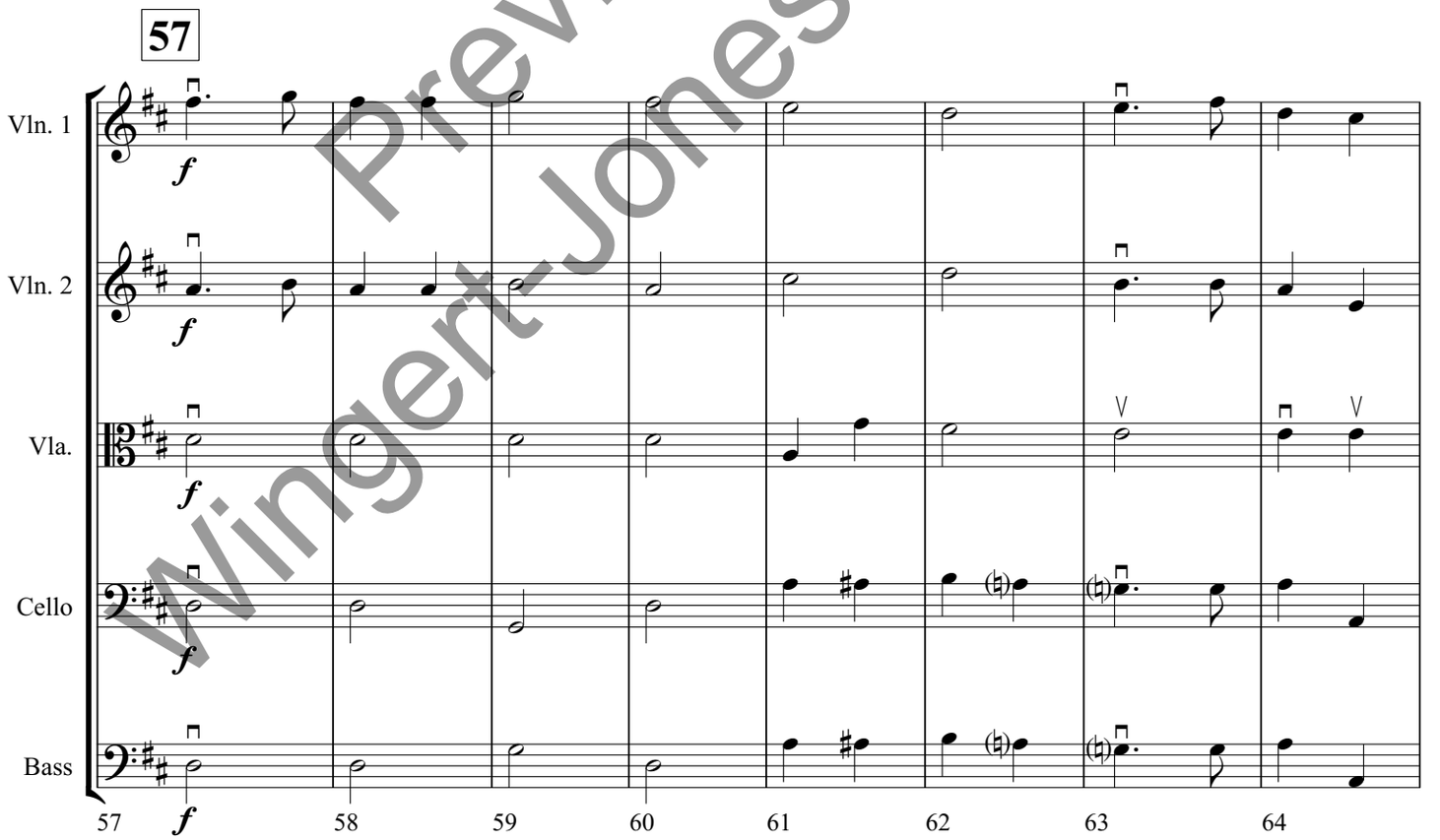

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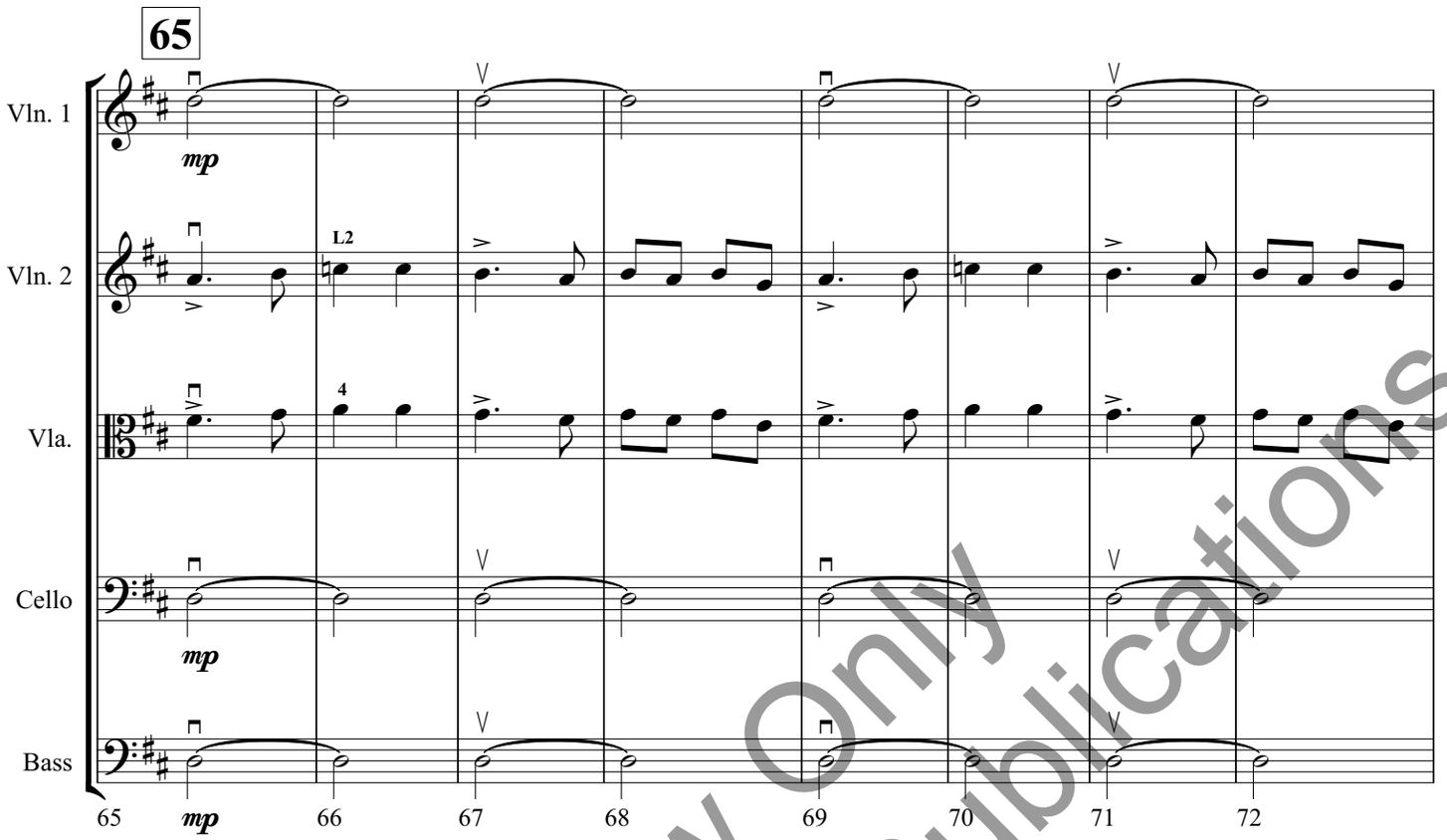

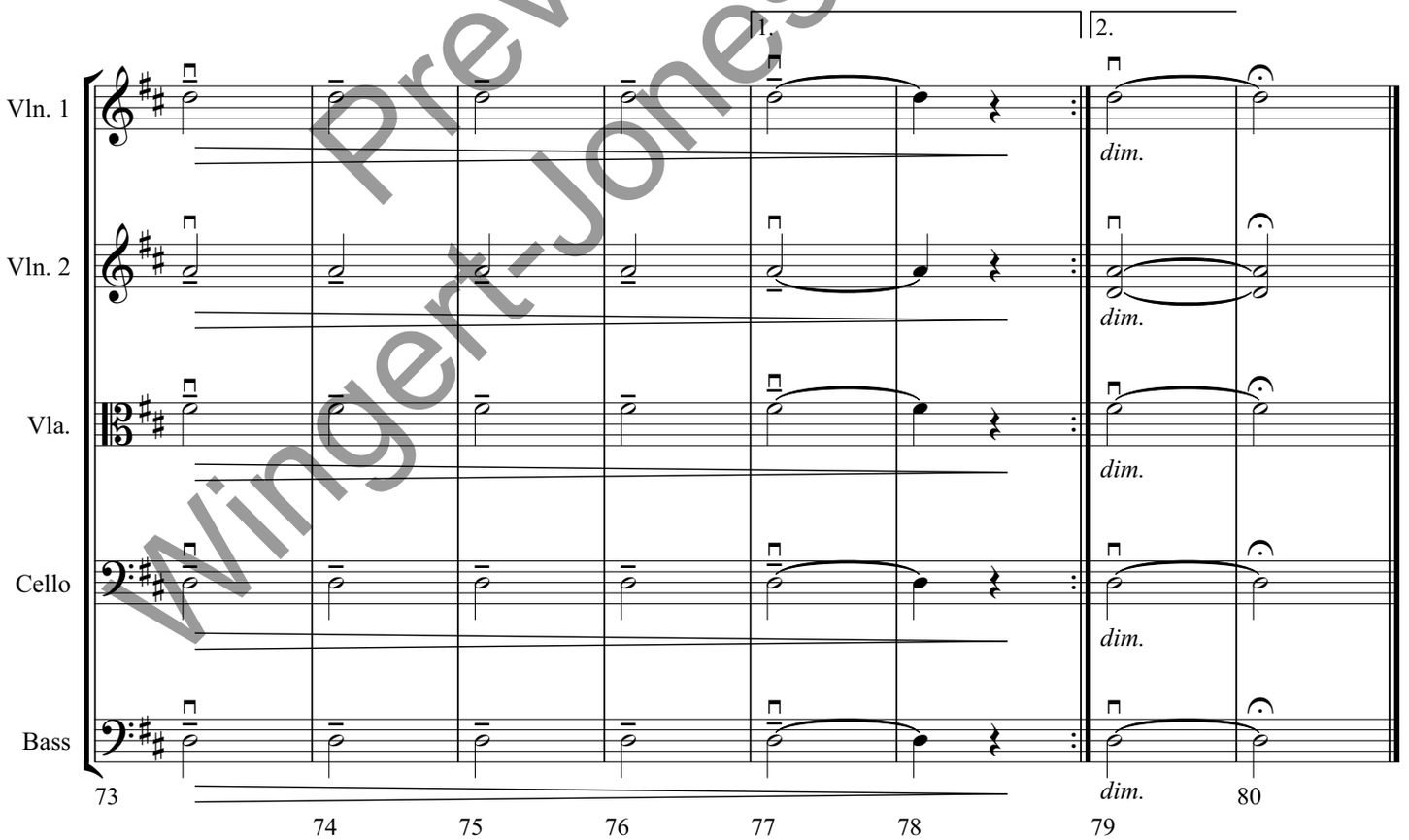

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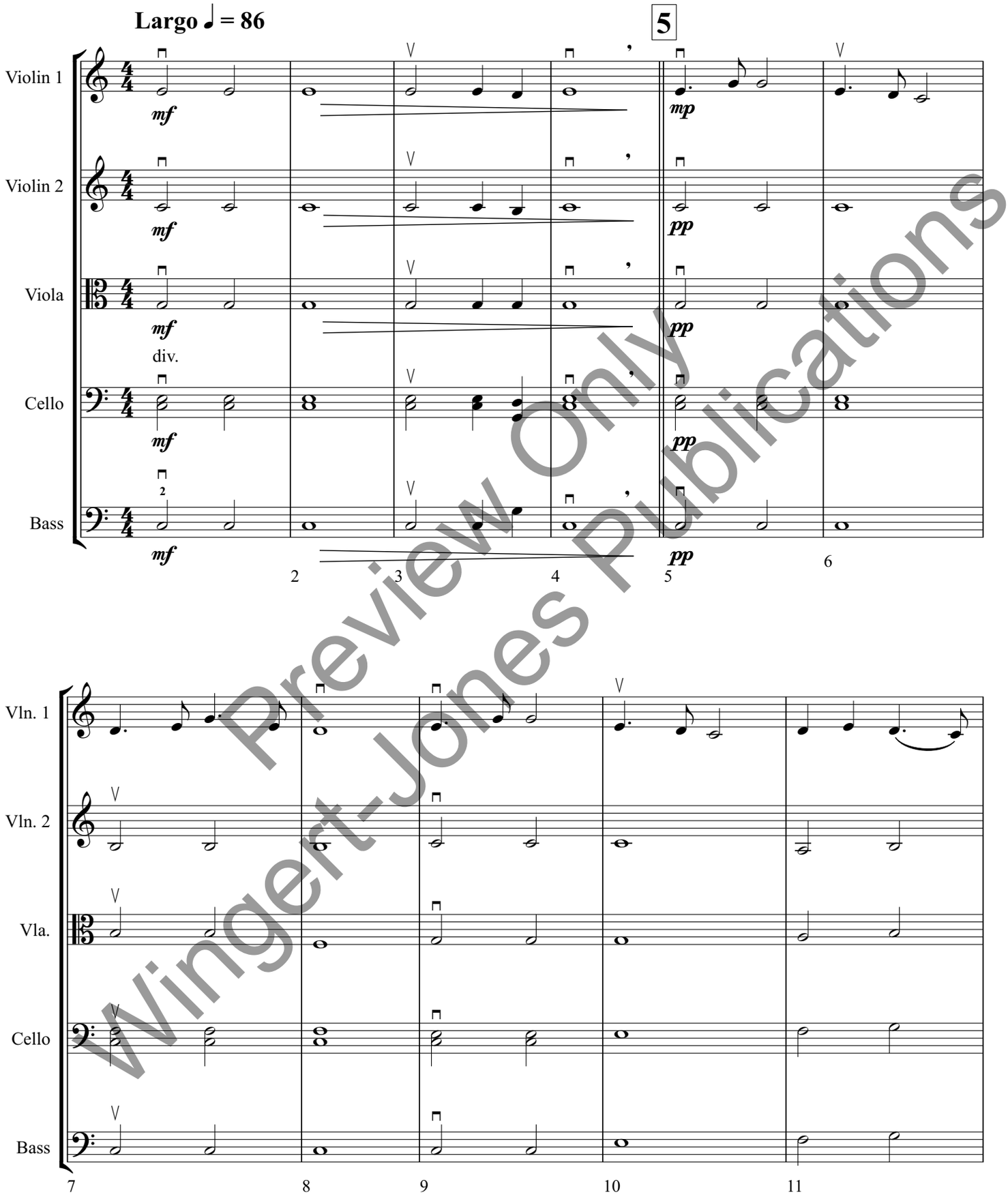
Largo

from the *"New World" Symphony* - Second Movement
Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)



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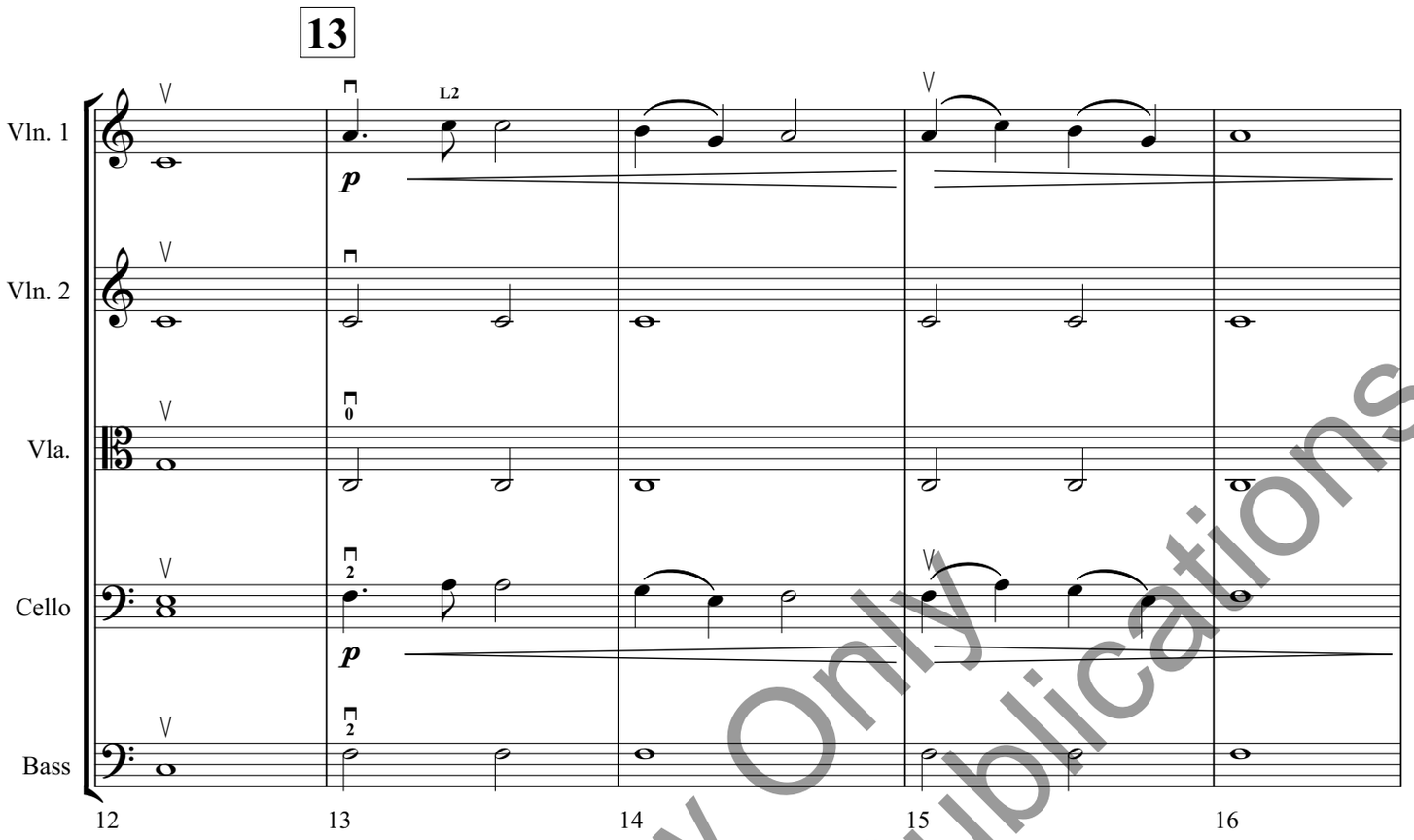

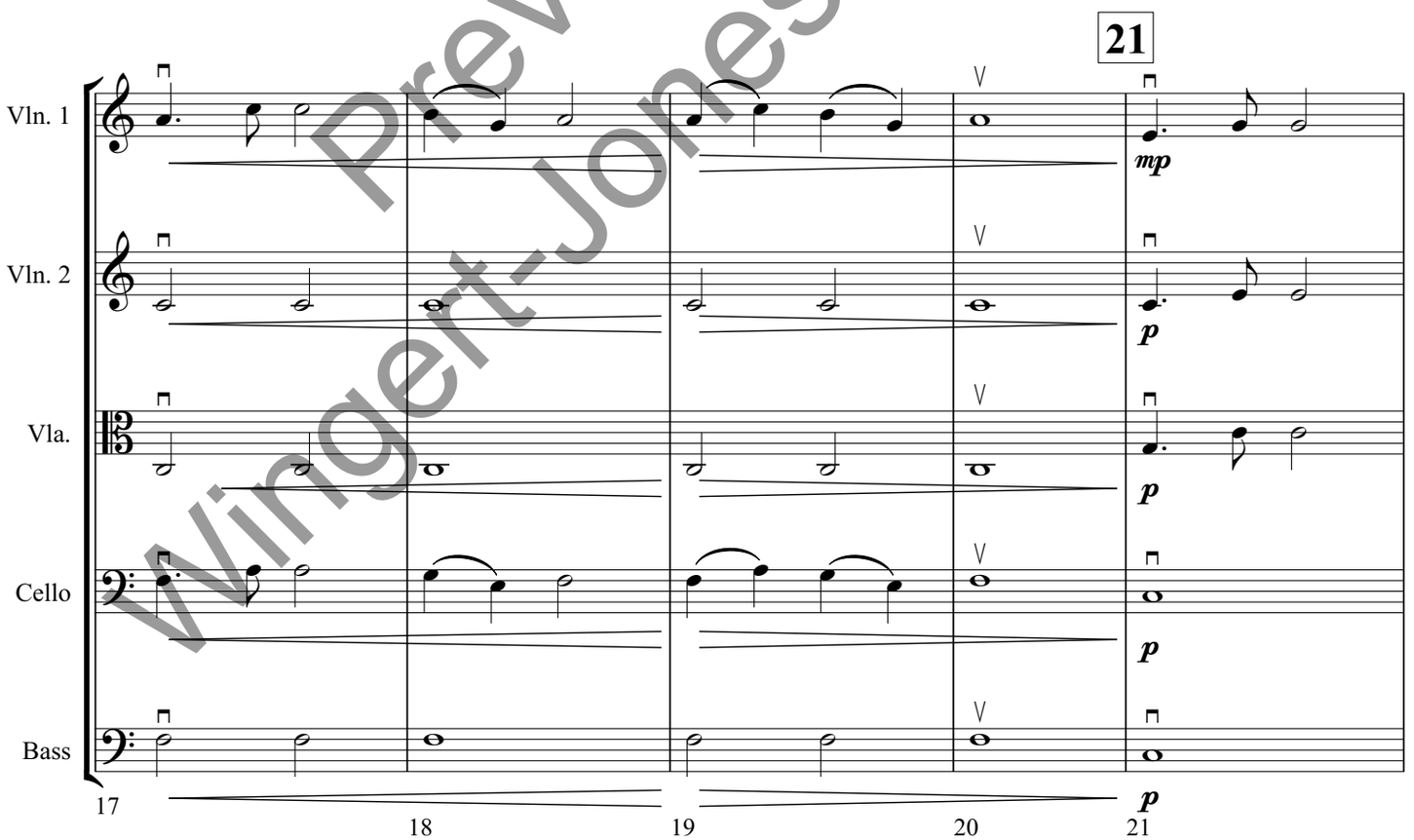

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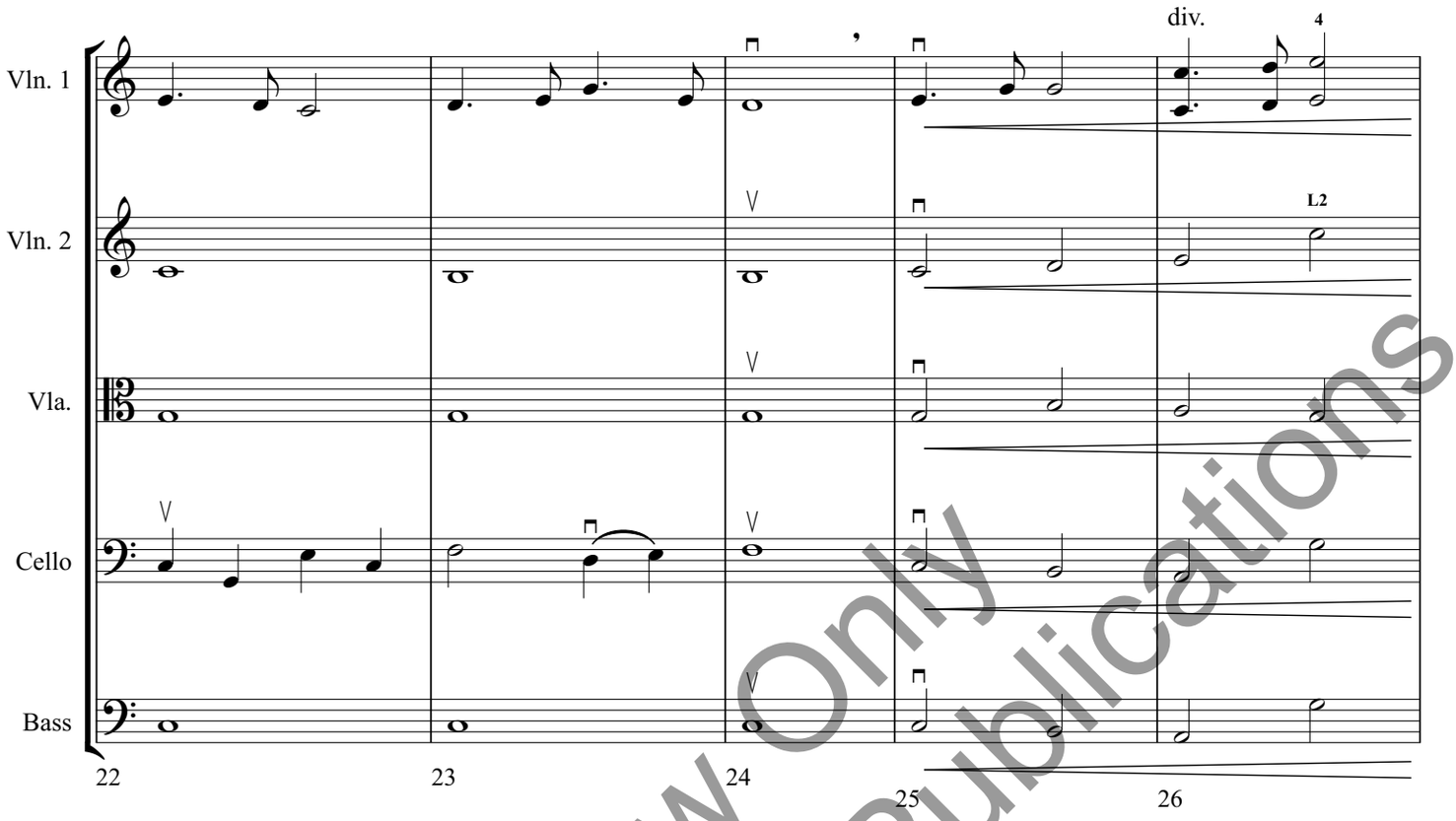

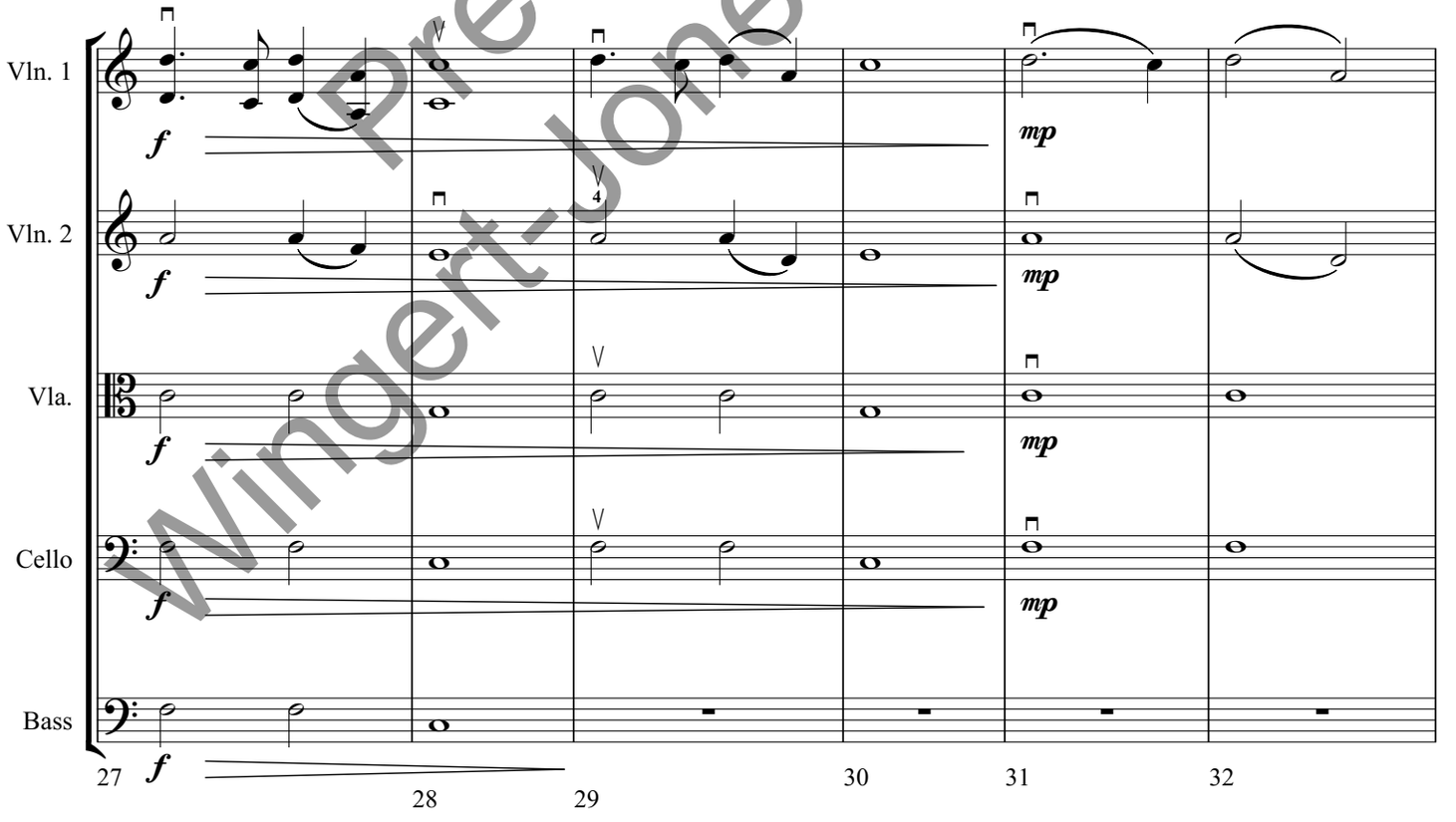

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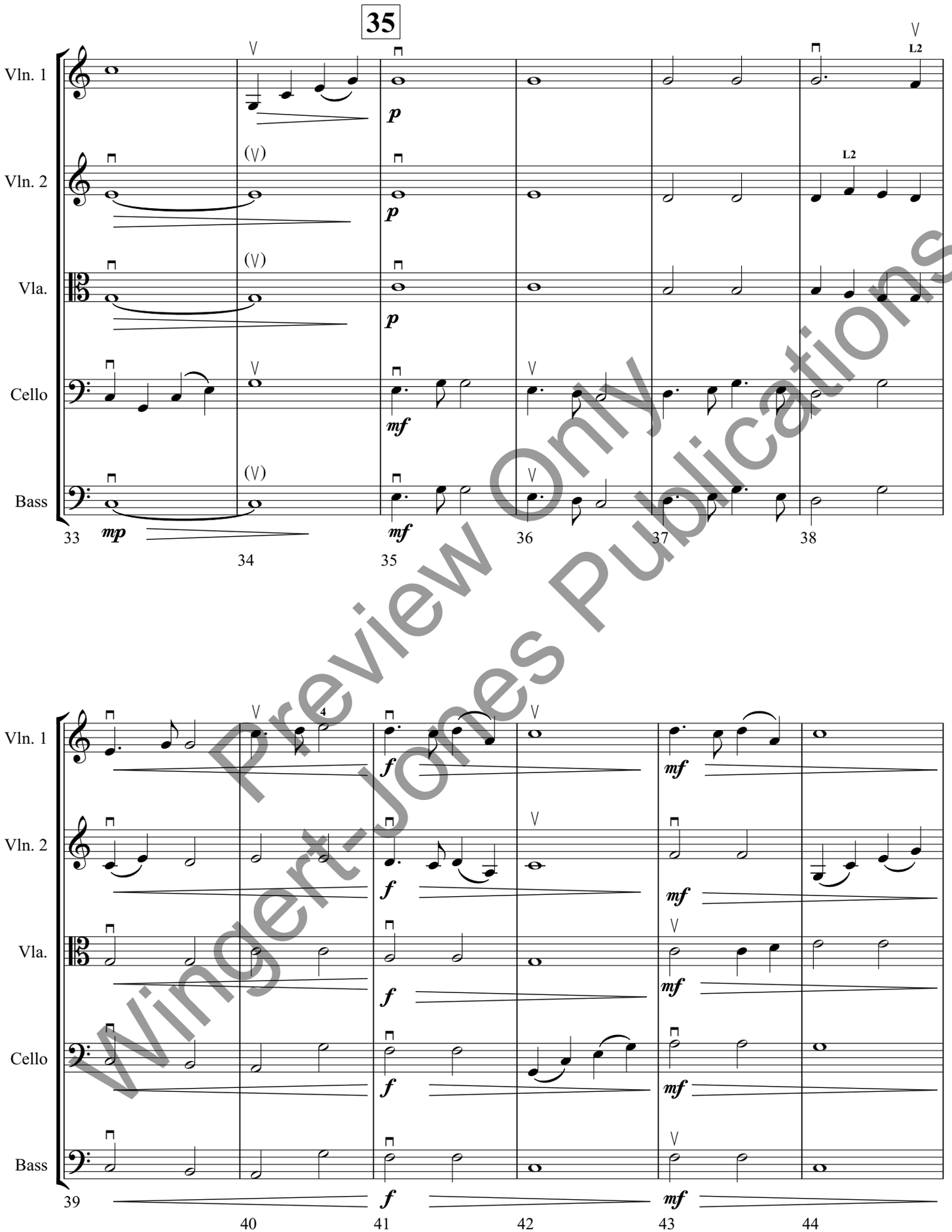

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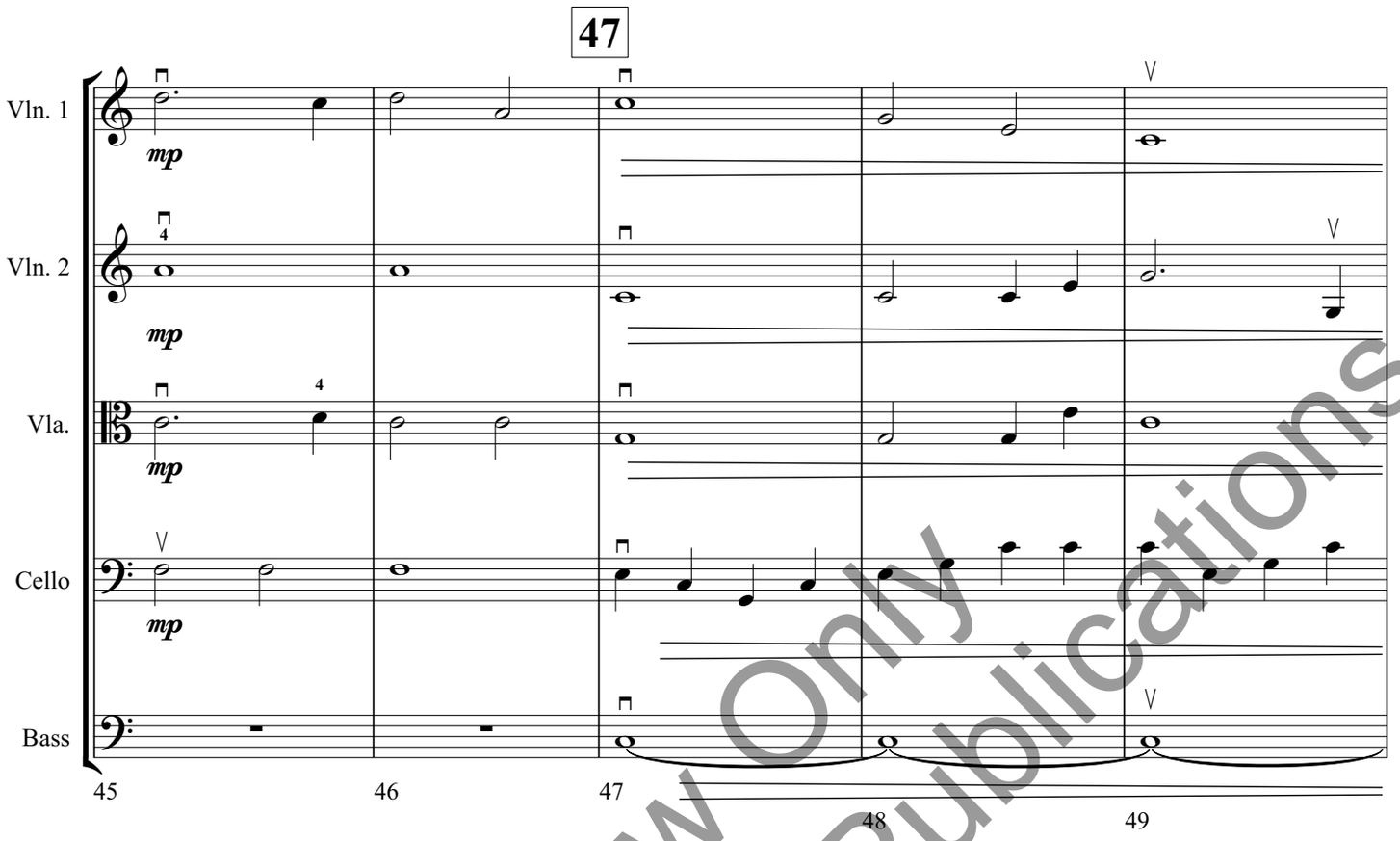

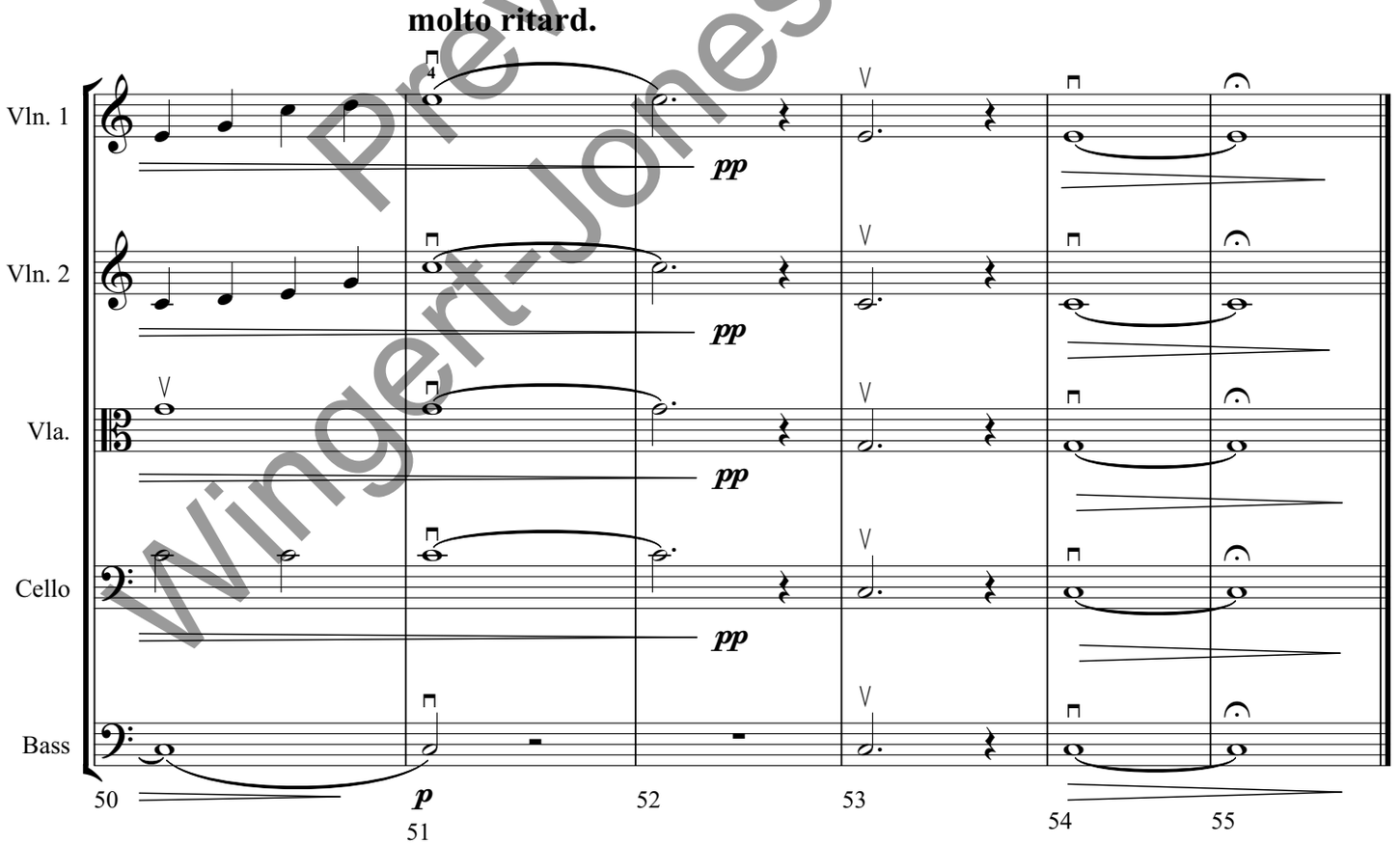

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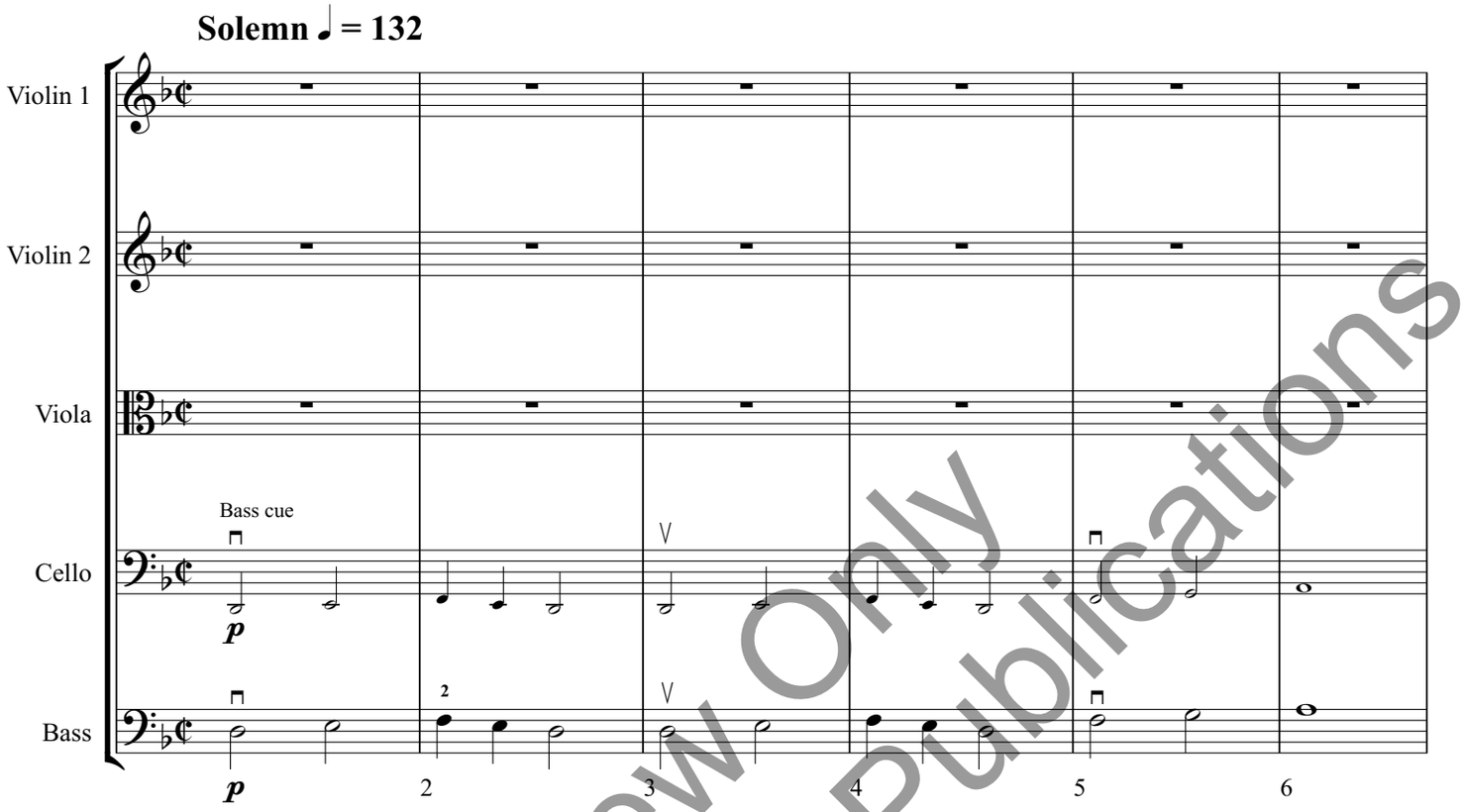
Theme from *Symphony No. 1* - First Movement

Gustav Mahler (1860 - 1911)



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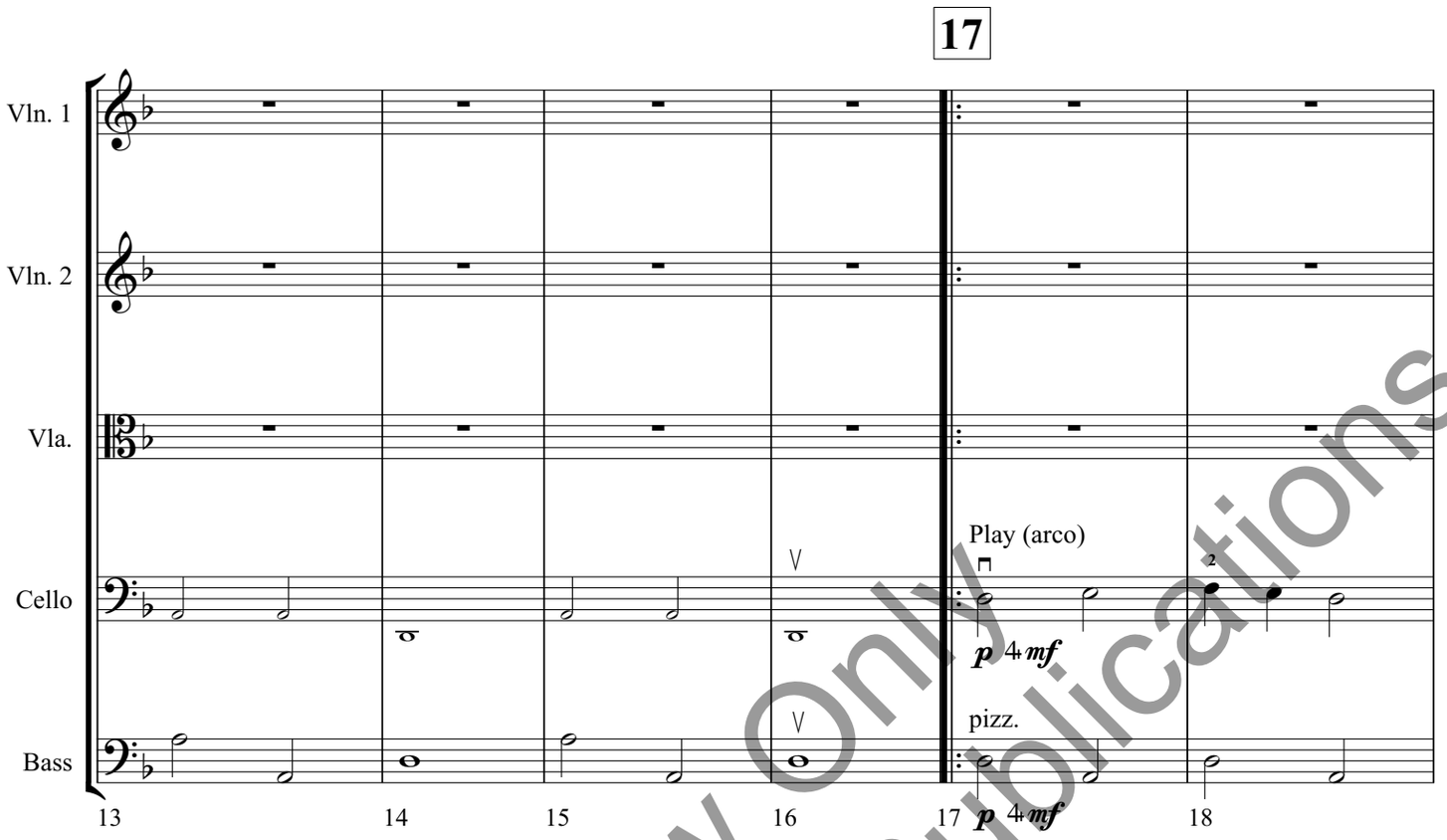

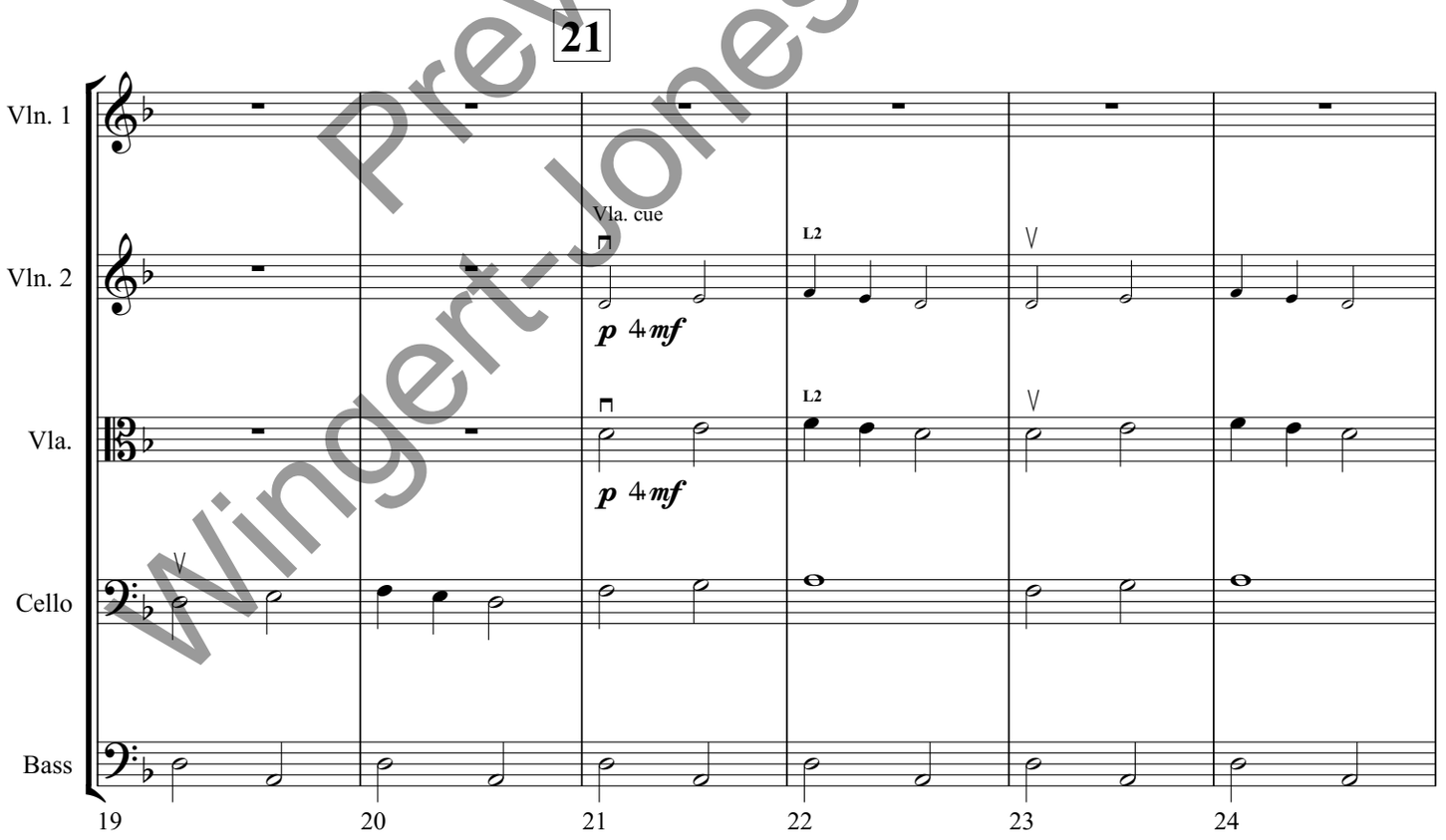

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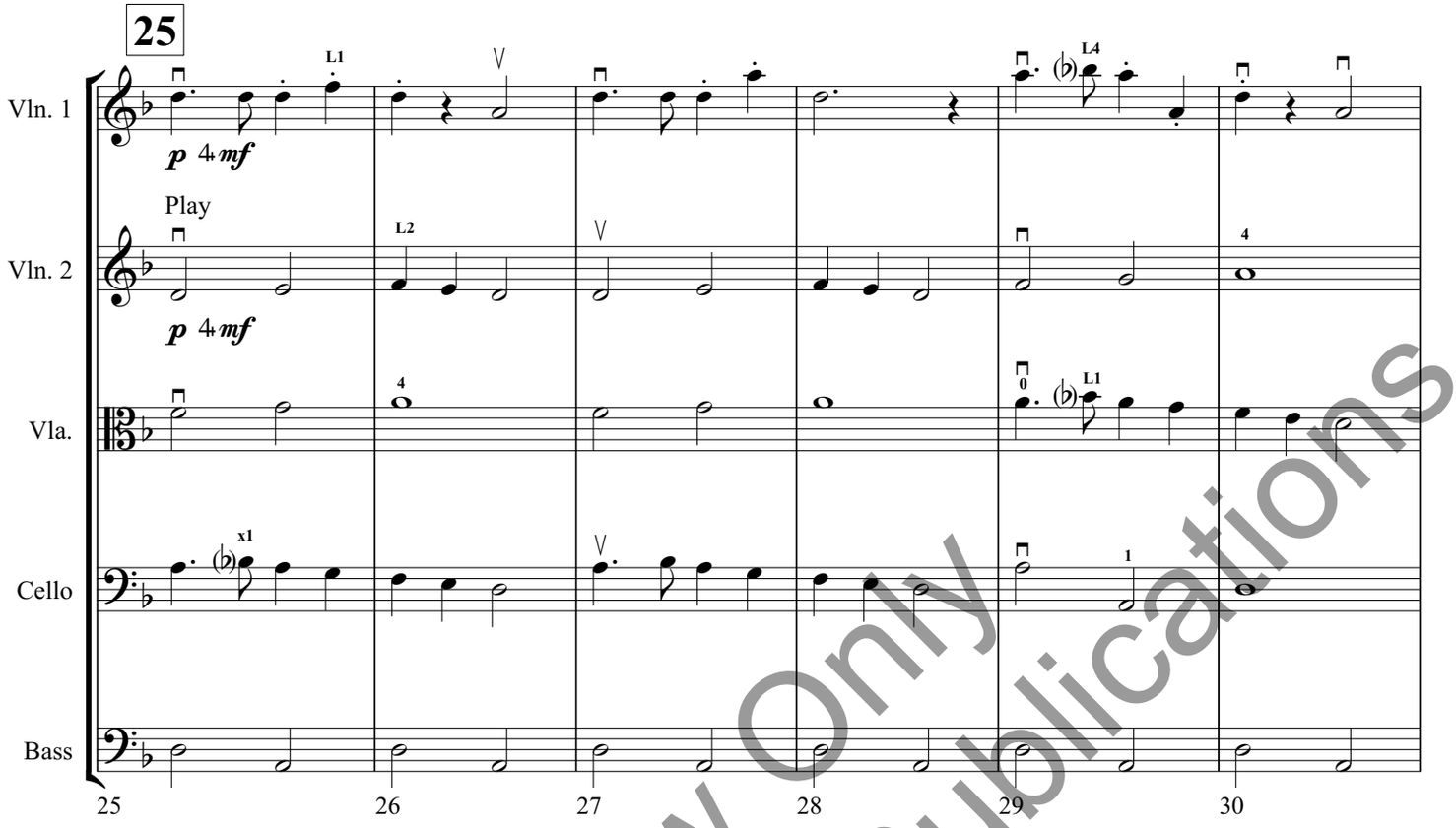

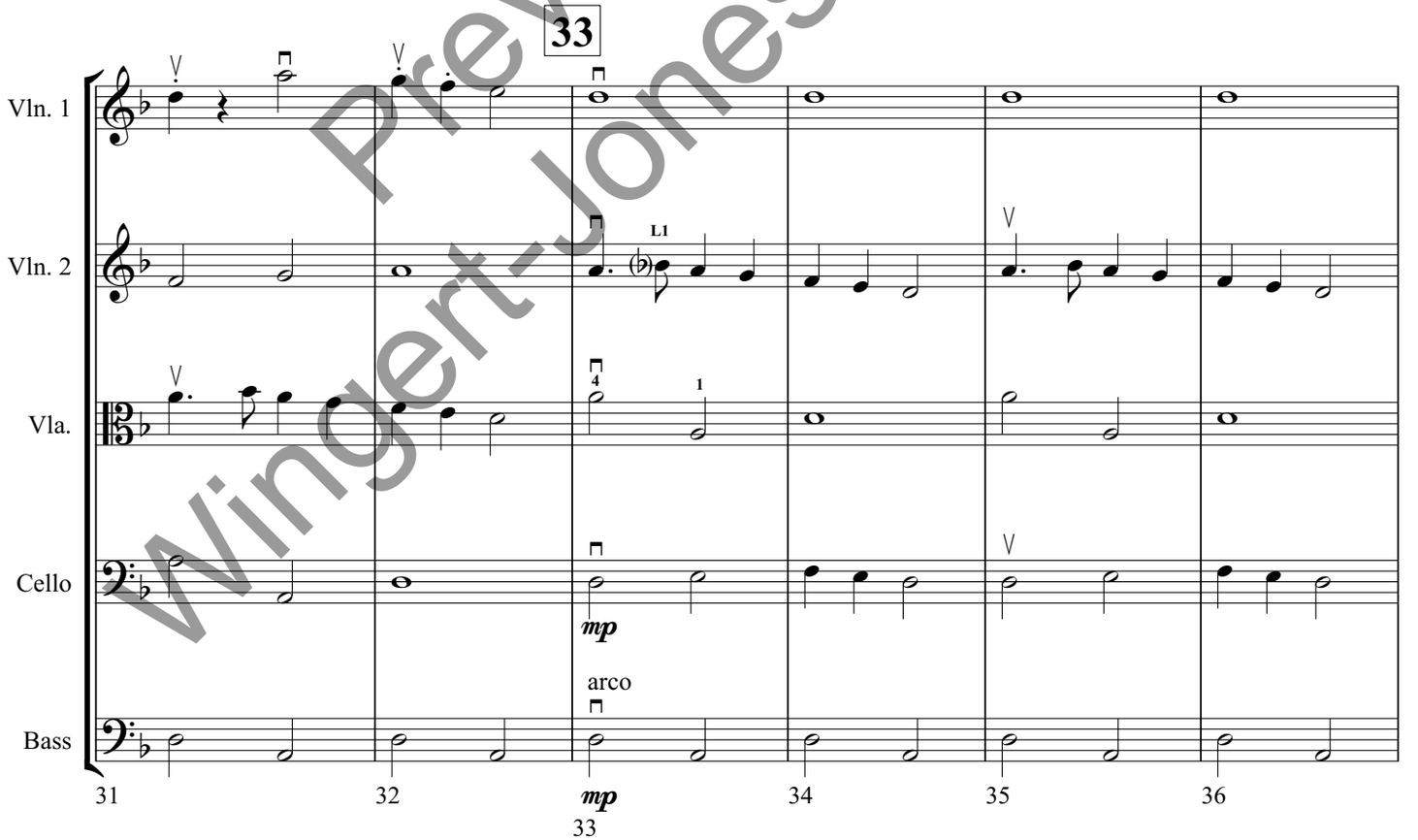

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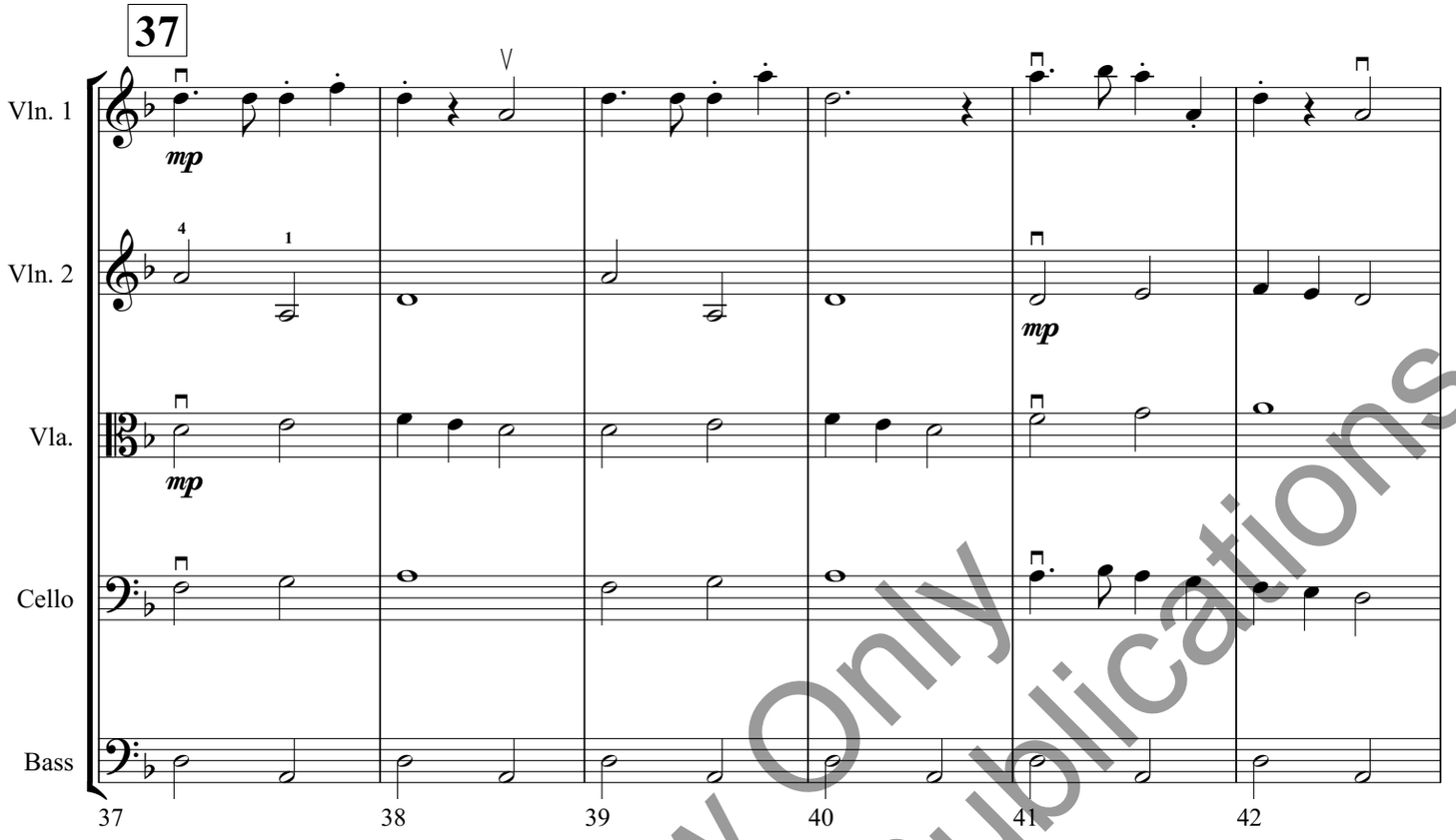

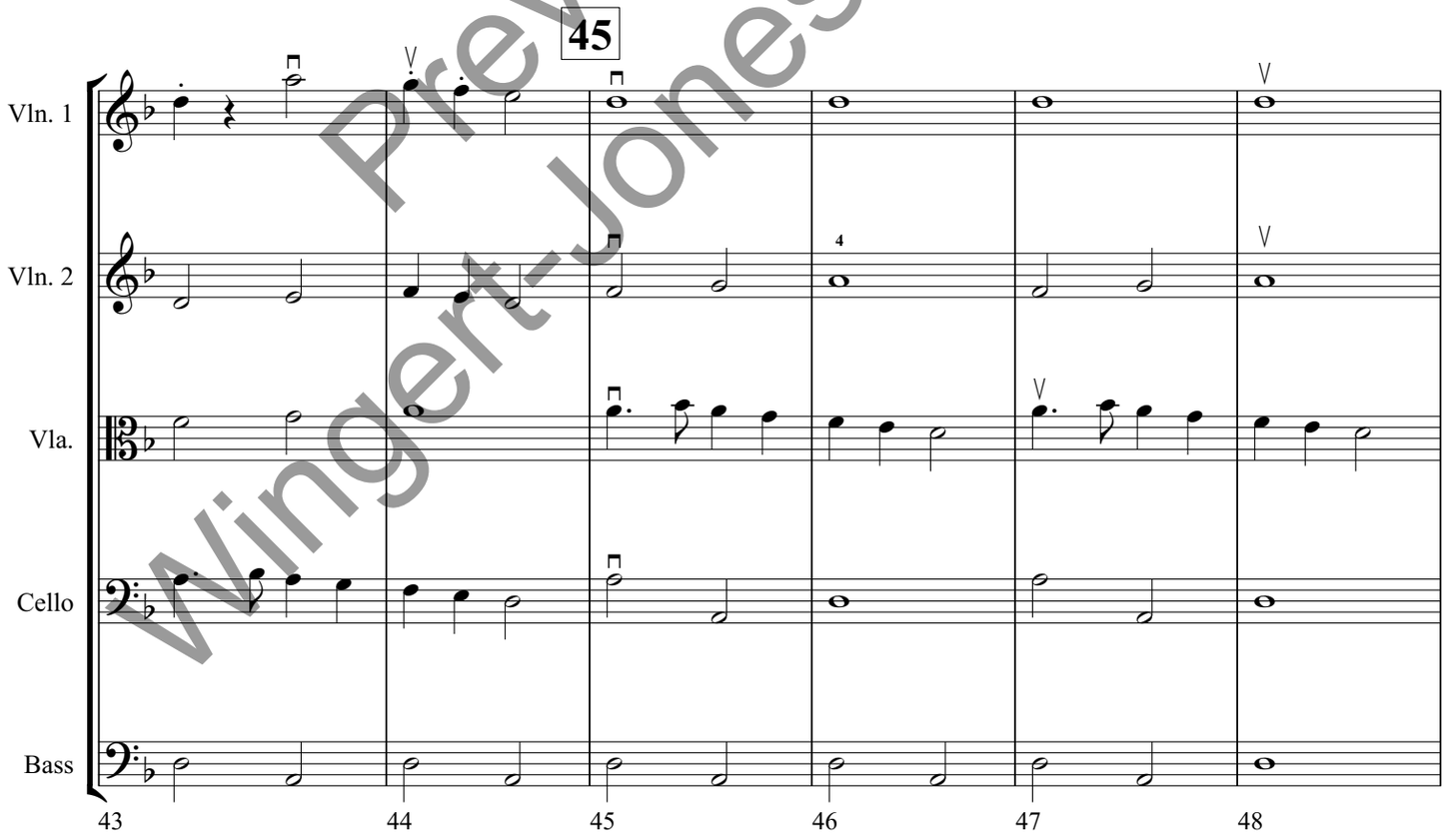

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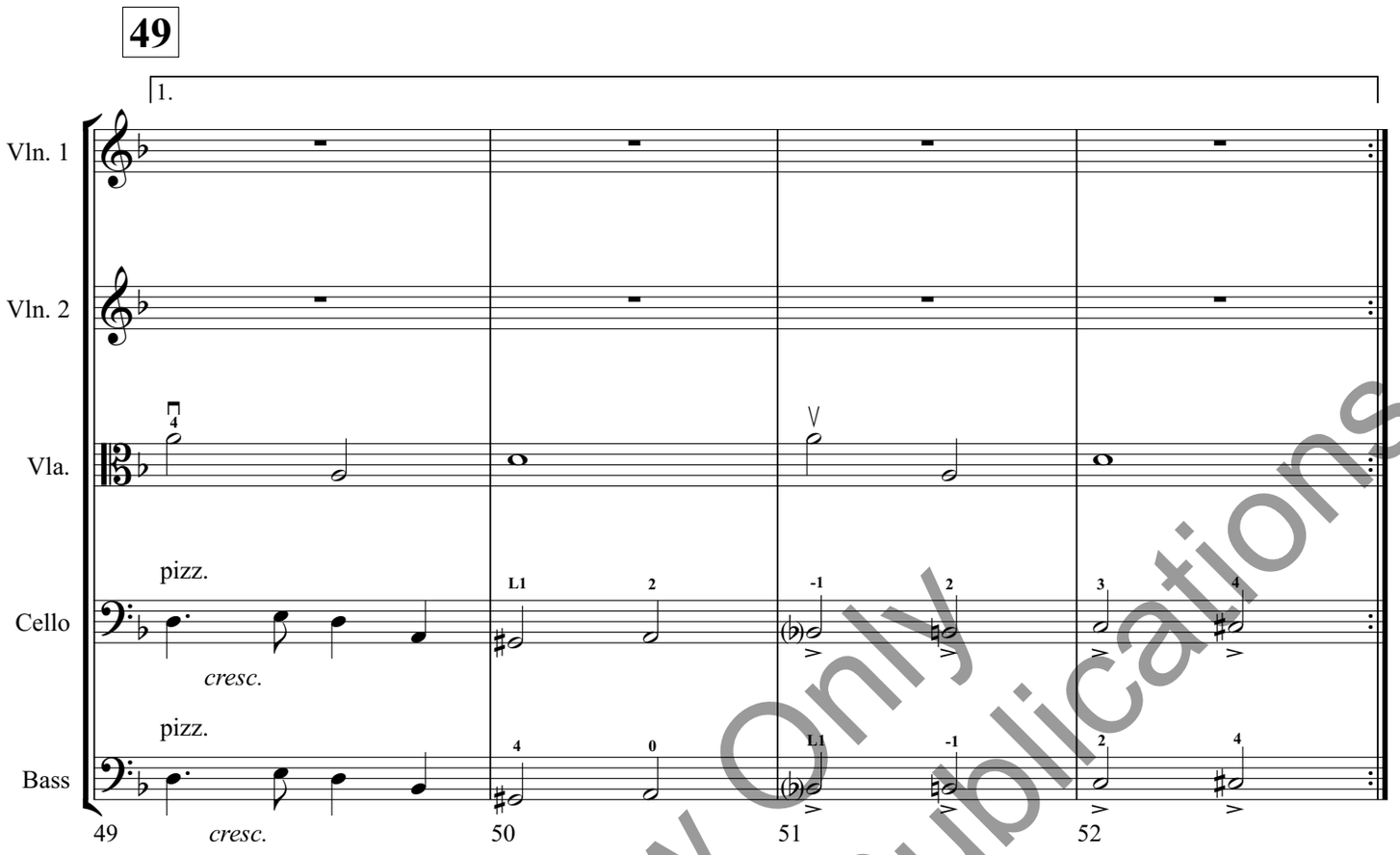

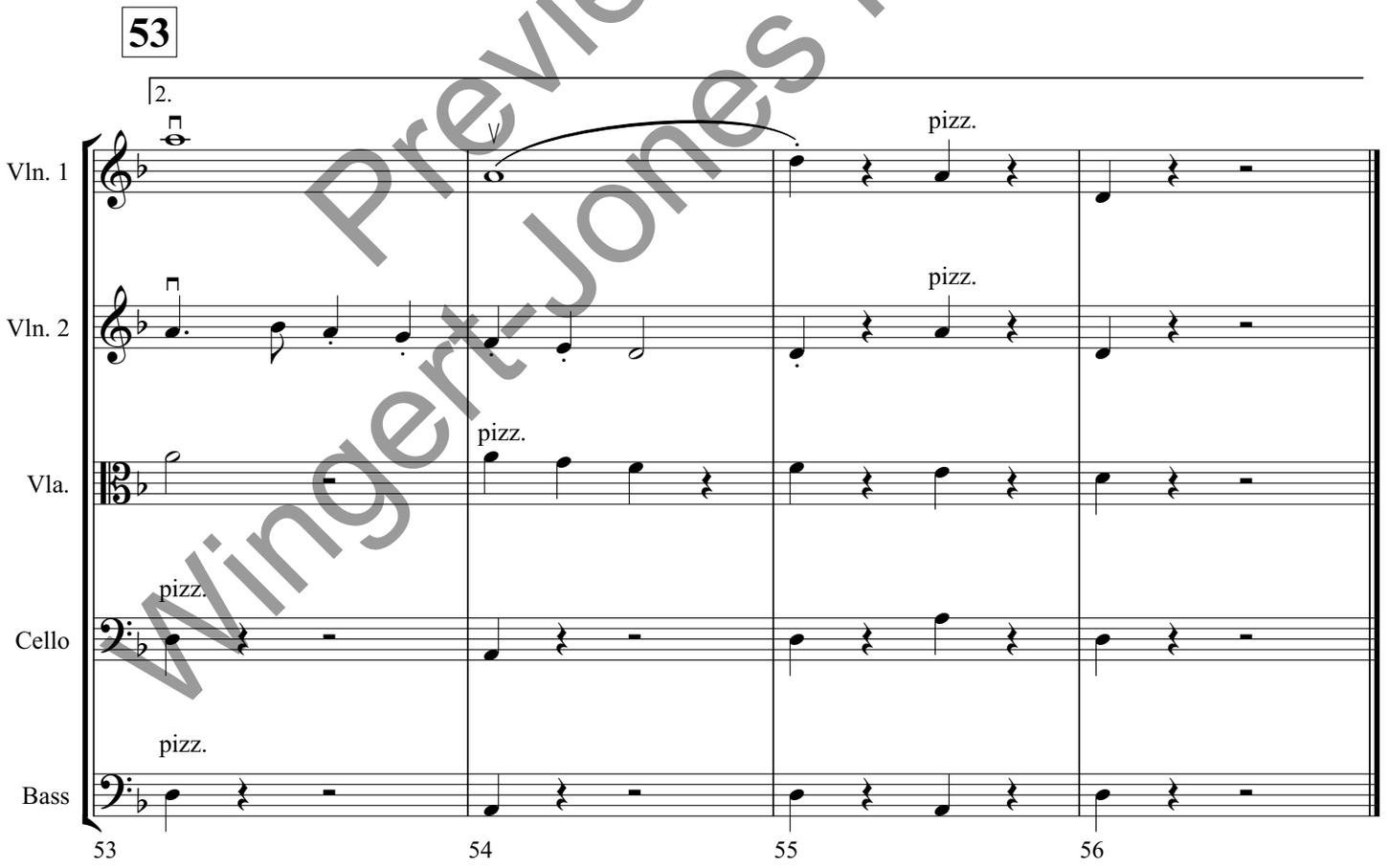

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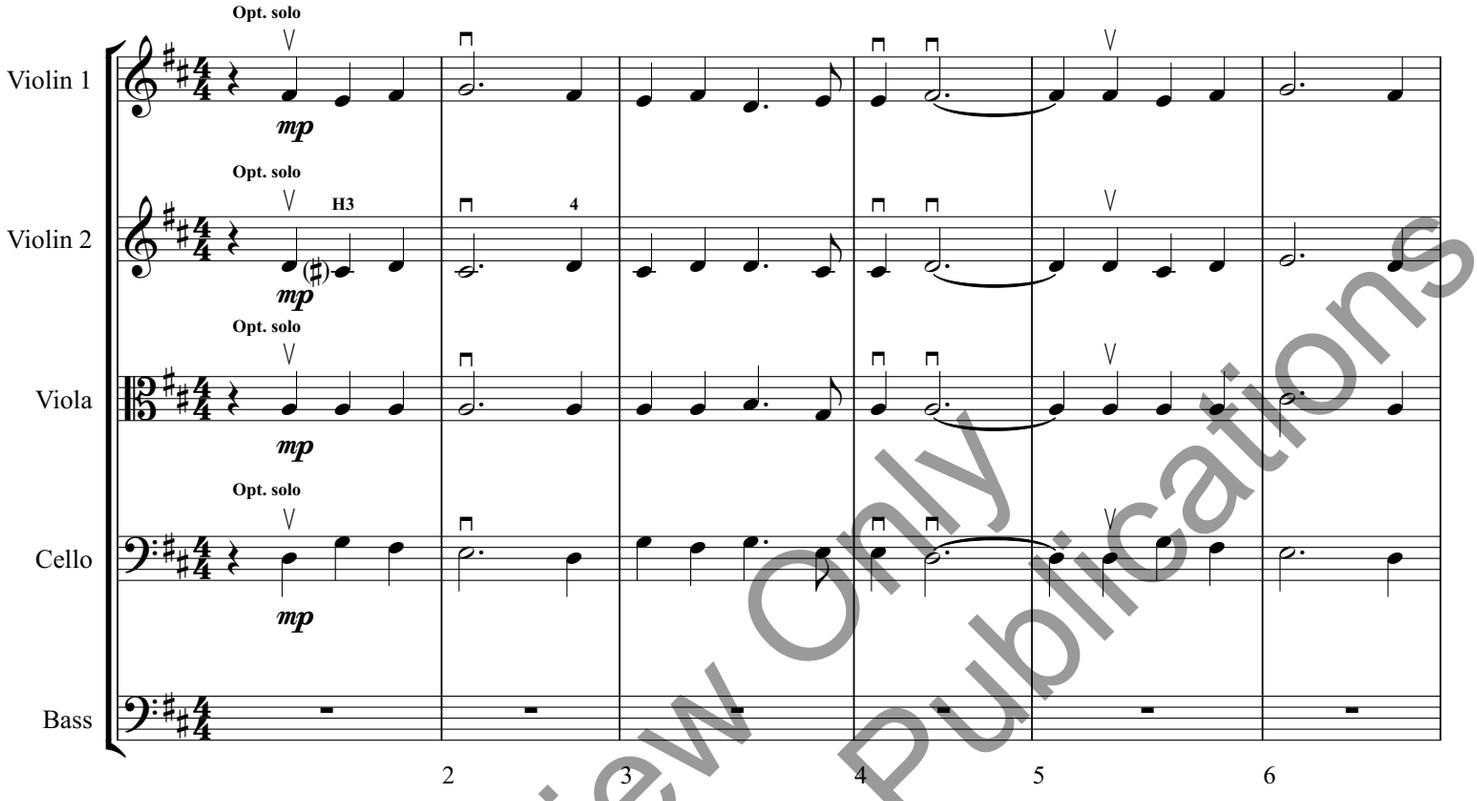
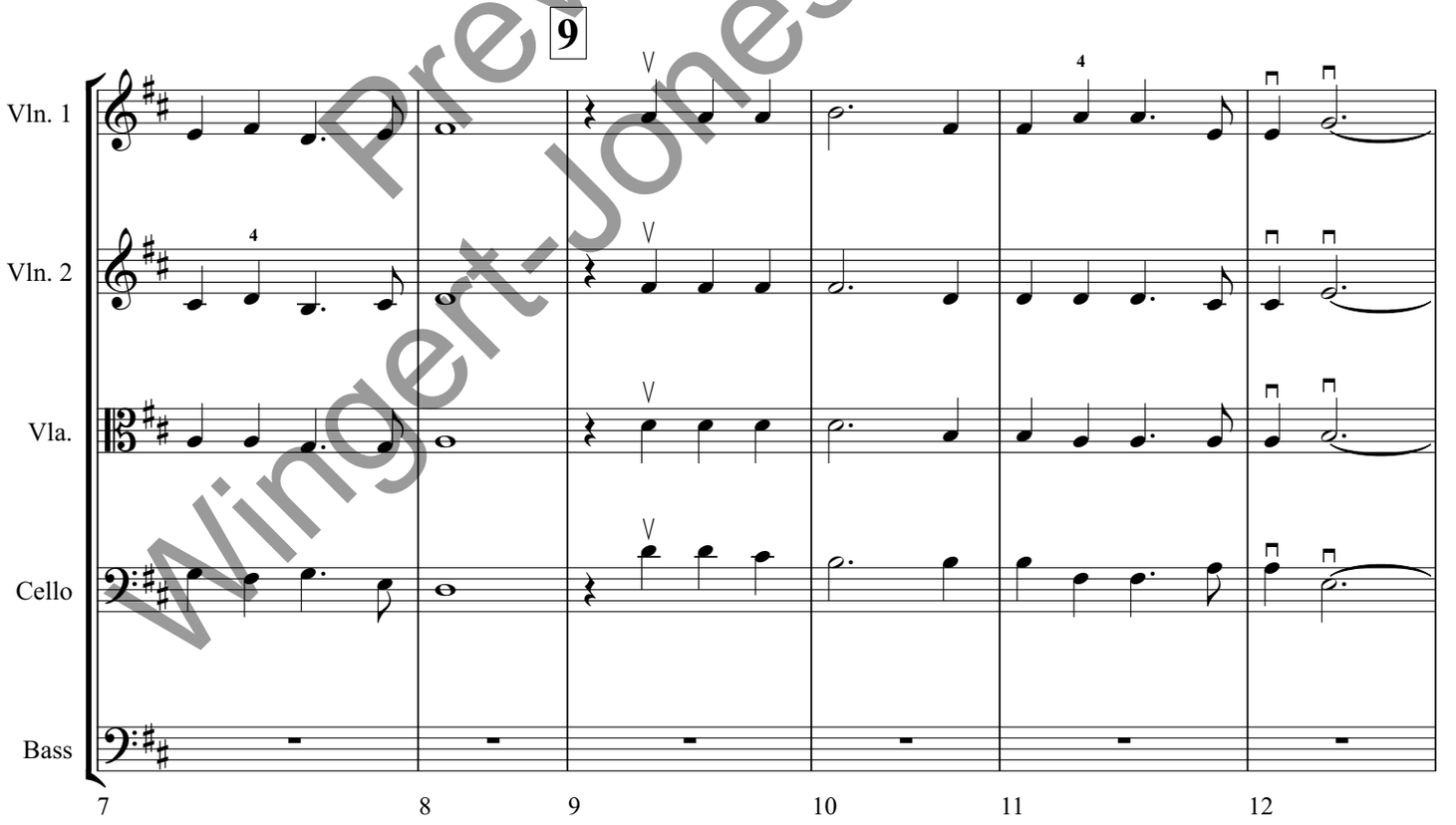
Finlandia Theme

Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

Slow and expressive ♩ = 88





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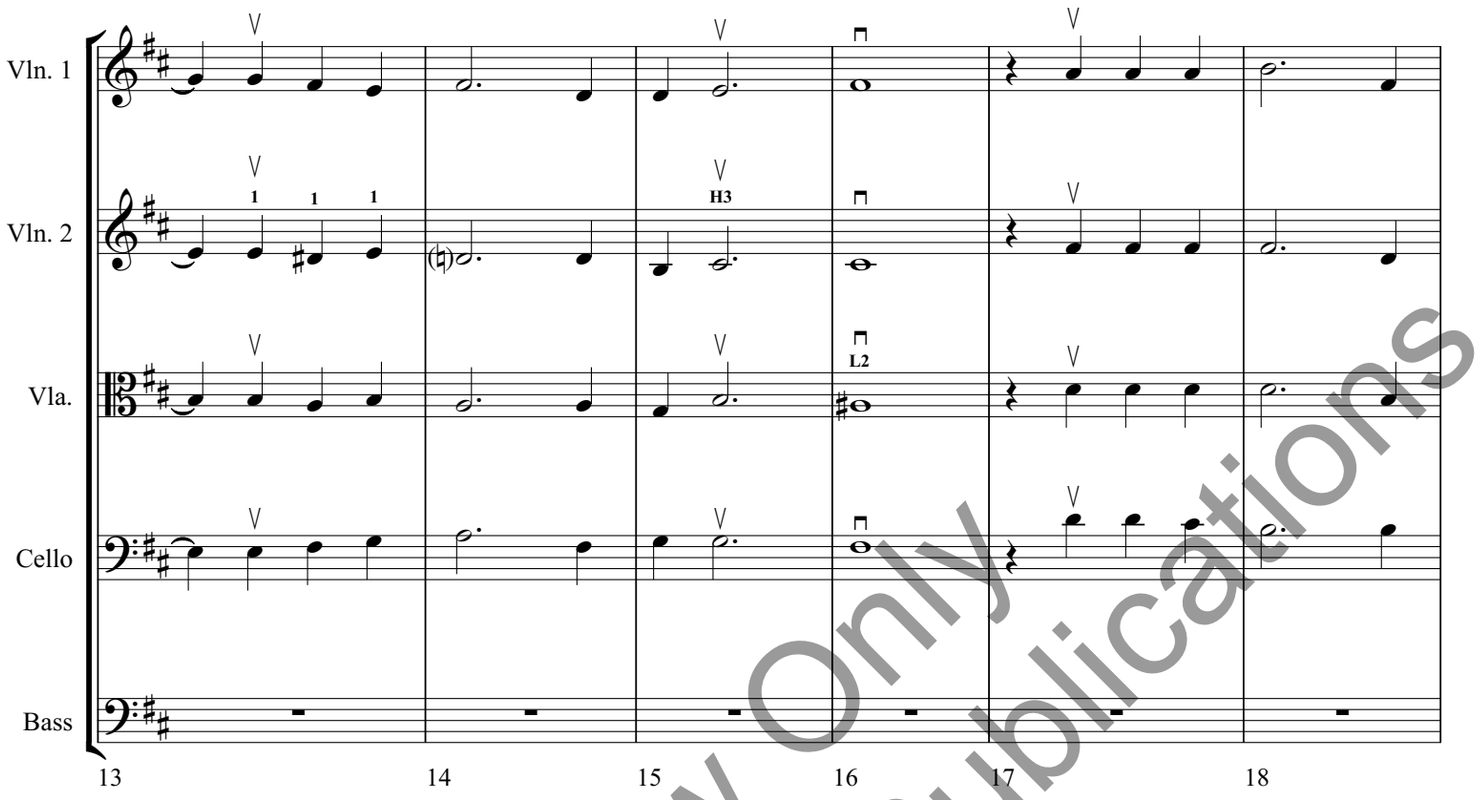

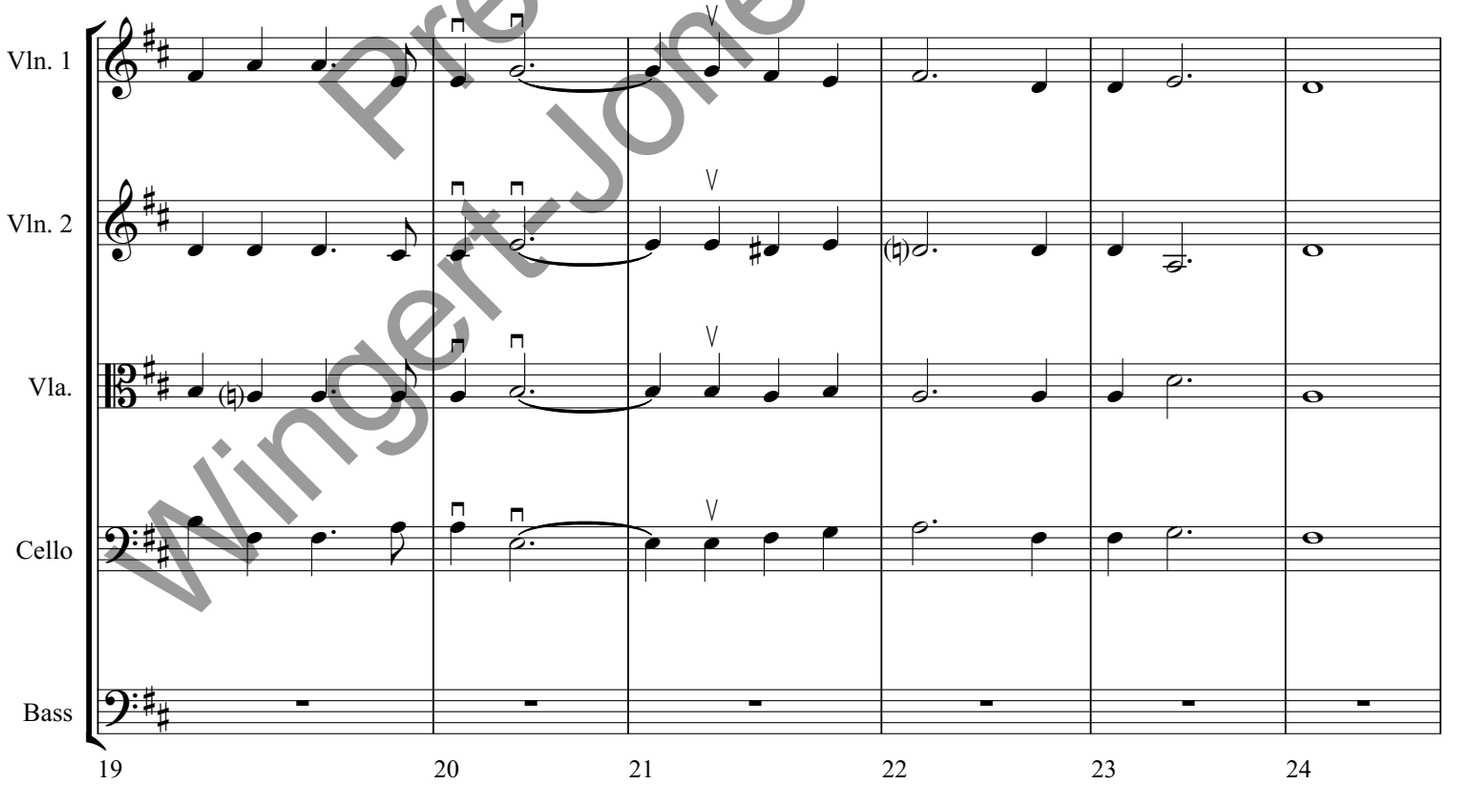

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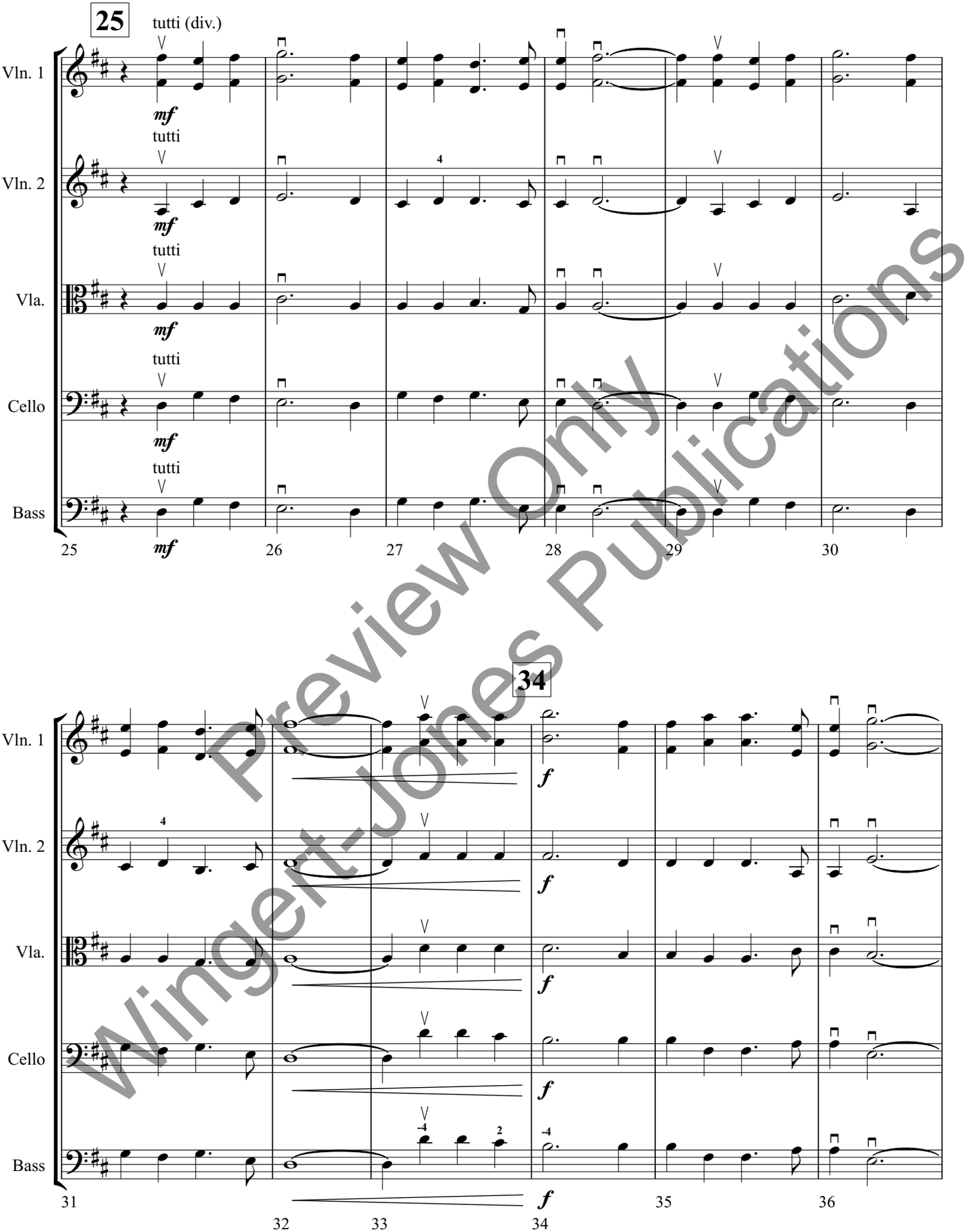

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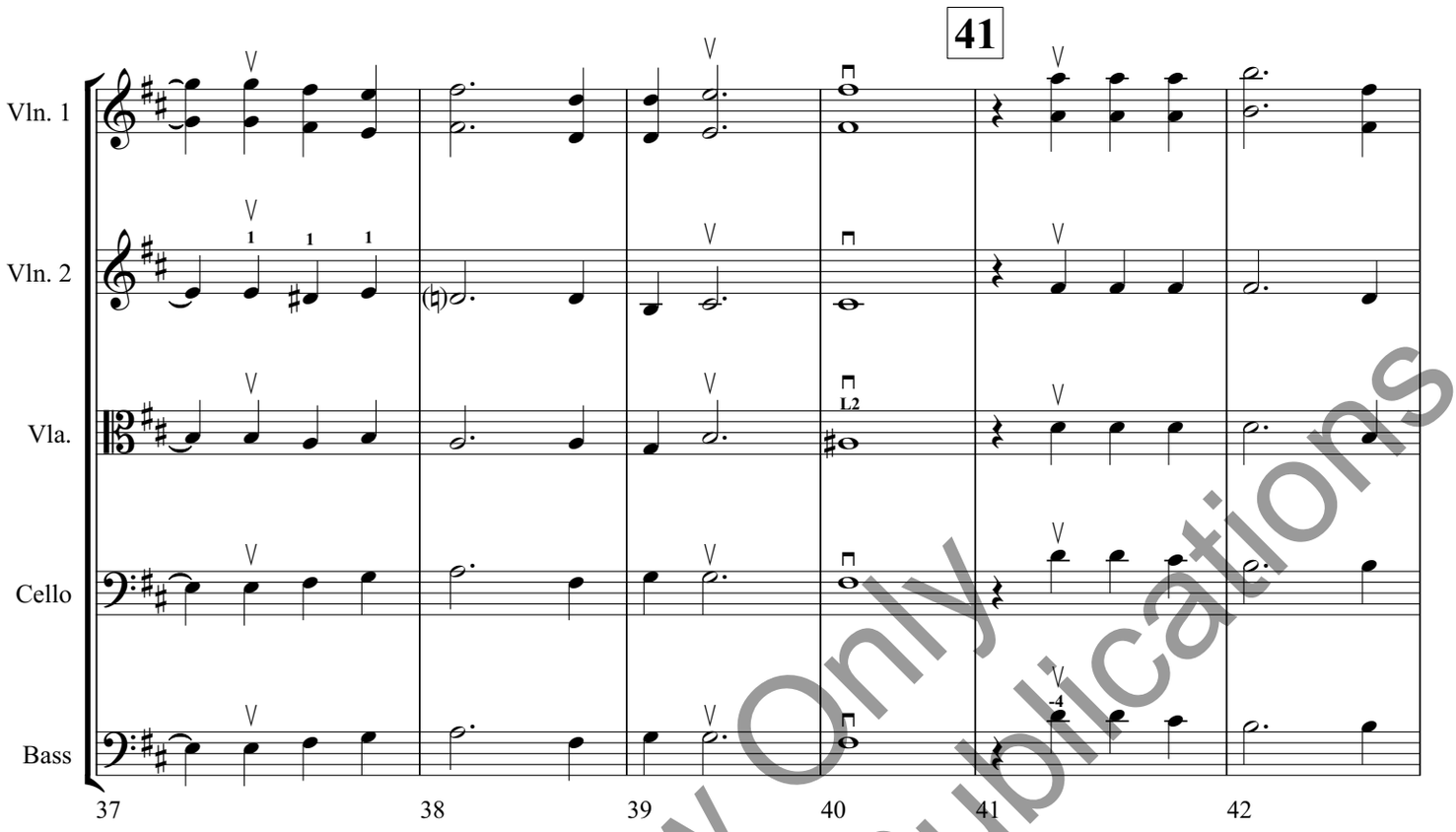

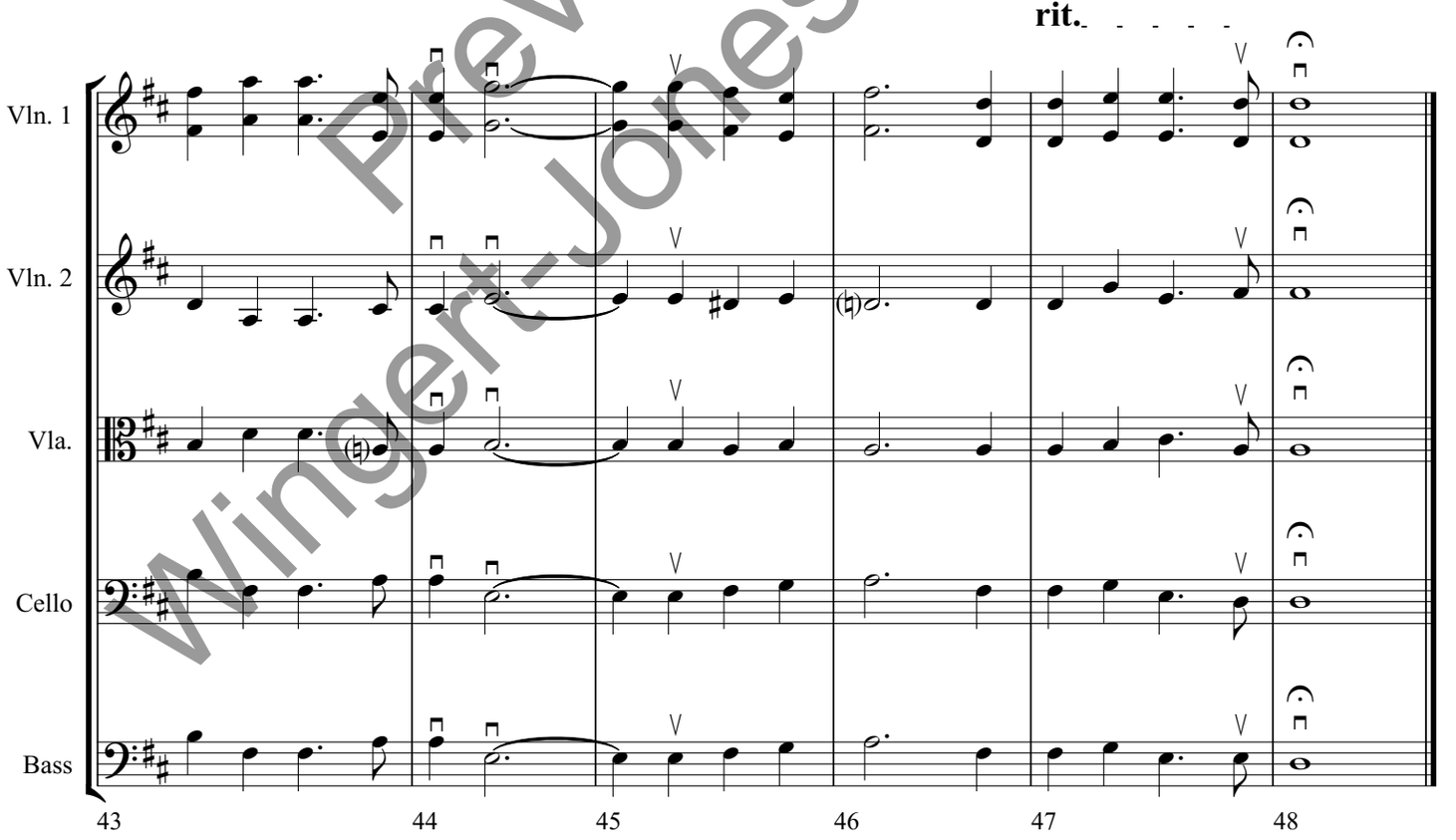

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