SO FJH STRING ORCHESTRA

Grade 4
ST6494

THE INNER PLANETS

Themes from Mercury, Venus, and Mars

GUSTAV HOLST

Arranged by

Carrie Lane Gruselle

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Instrumentation

1 - Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2
5 - Viola
5 - Violoncello
5 - Double Bass

FJH is now using a high-speed sorting system for parts.
As a result, all single page parts are collated before multiple page parts.

THE F·J·H MUSIC COMPANY INC.
Frank J. Hackinson

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www.fjhmusic.com

The Arranger

Carrie Lane Gruselle is recently retired from teaching strings for the Appleton Area School District in Appleton, Wisconsin. Actively involved with the Wisconsin MEA Comprehensive Musicianship through Performance Project, she is also past president of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American String Teachers Association and former lead teacher for the Lawrence University String Project. She is string editor for The FJH Music Company, and co-author of the new FJH method series: Measures of Success® for Strings. The arrangements and compositions she has written for young string players are studied and performed regularly worldwide.

Ms. Gruselle holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from UW-Eau Claire and a Masters of Music Education with Suzuki Emphasis from UW-Stevens Point.

About the Music

The Planets is a suite of seven movements written between 1914 and 1916 by English composer Gustav Holst. This is an arrangement of themes from the three planets closest to the sun. Holst's suite included neither Earth nor Pluto; Pluto was not discovered until 1930, but this is irrelevant—as his intent was to score musical images of only the planets associated with the Zodiac. The subtitles of each movement are references to the ancient gods associated with the planets.

Mercury, the Winged Messenger

This is the planet closest to the sun, and in the fastest orbit around the sun. In the opening the eighth note arpeggios should flow buoyantly and seamlessly between the sections.

In measure 11 the E harmonic, which sets up the ostinato, is the octave harmonic on the E string played with 4th finger. It changes to a B in measure 26. This harmonic can be played on the E string with the 4th finger in first position. Select just a few players for the harmonics so they are audible yet in the background, and so that the voices in the upper strings at measure 14 are in balance. Consecutive staccatos should be off the string, emulating fanfares.

Venus, the Bringer of Peace

Venus is the brightest star in the nighttime sky. Its perpetual cloud cover supports the musical choices made by Holst. Descriptions of this movement include the words simple, peaceful, calm, soothing, tranquil, serene and mystical. Intonation must be attended to for the clustered chord structures to be effective, in stark contrast to the following movement.

Mars, the Bringer of War

Mars is the red planet and corresponds to the bloodshed of war. The asymmetrical beat pattern in the ostinato supports the fierce and resolute nature of the movement. At measure 93 the upper strings are asked to divide and half play *col legno*—that is, tapping the string at pitch with the wood of the bow. This applies to the ostinato only. *Naturale* indicates that all should bow normally. From measure 126 to the end, performers must embrace and affirm the dissonances. When the dissonances resolve, the pitches must be beautifully in tune for closure.

- Carrie Lane Gruselle

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Duration: 4:30

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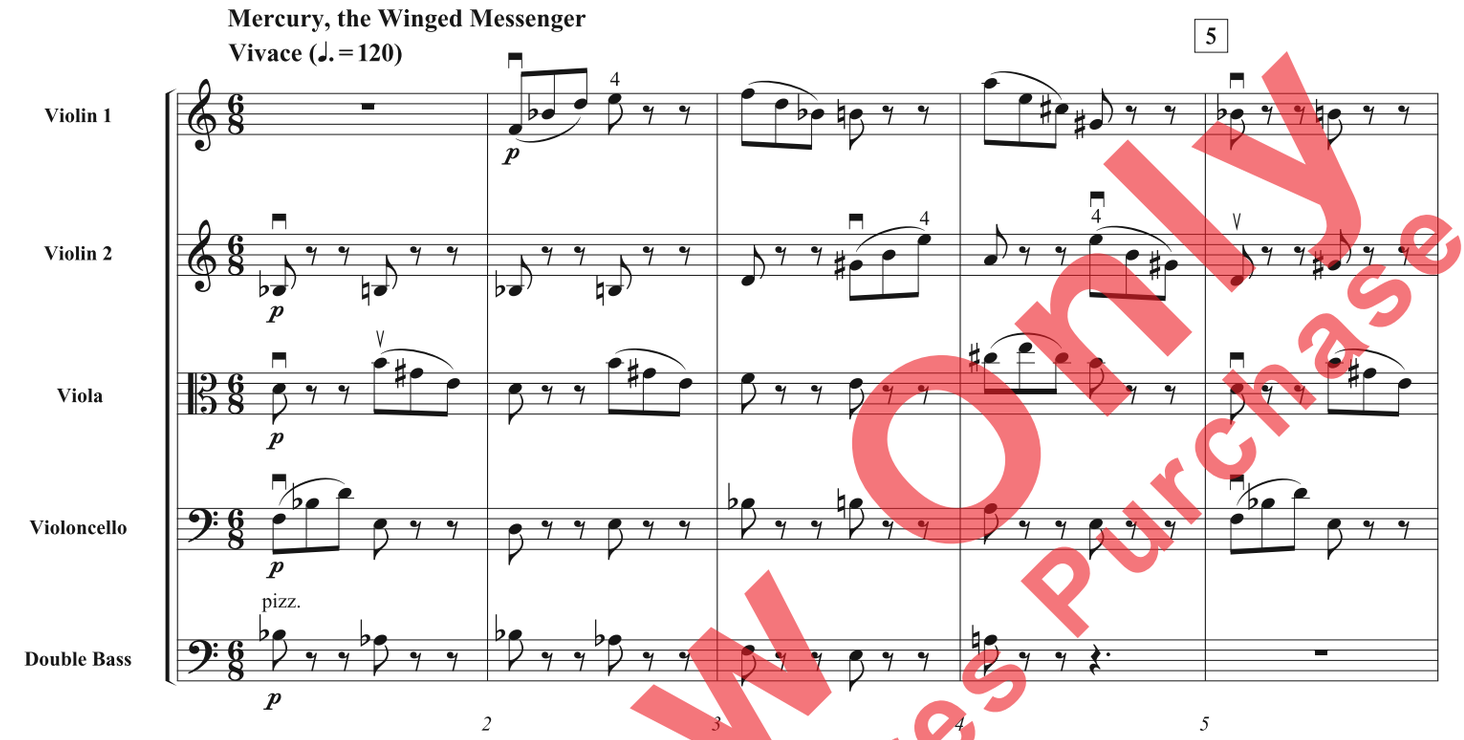
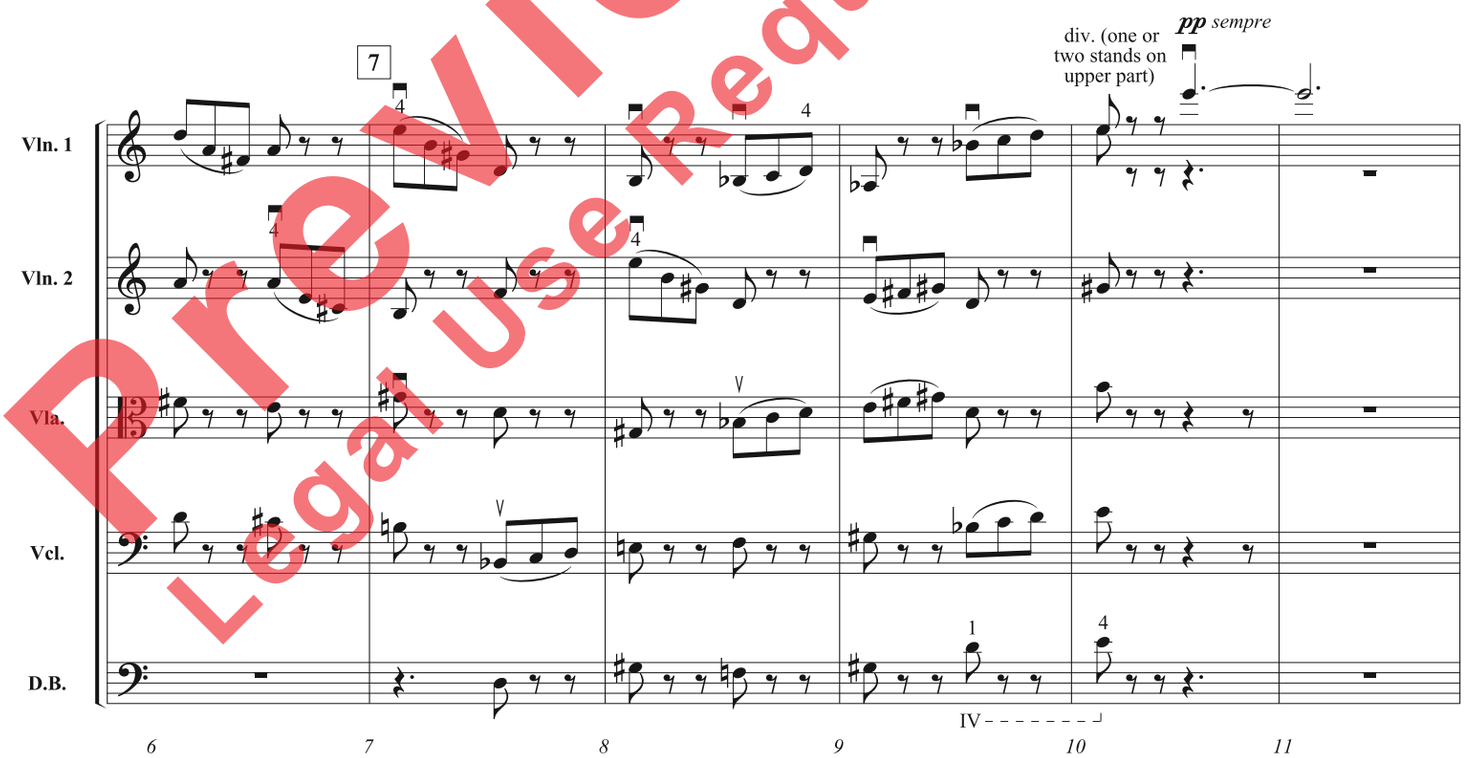
GUSTAV HOLST
Arranged by
CARRIE LANE GRUSELLE
(ASCAP)





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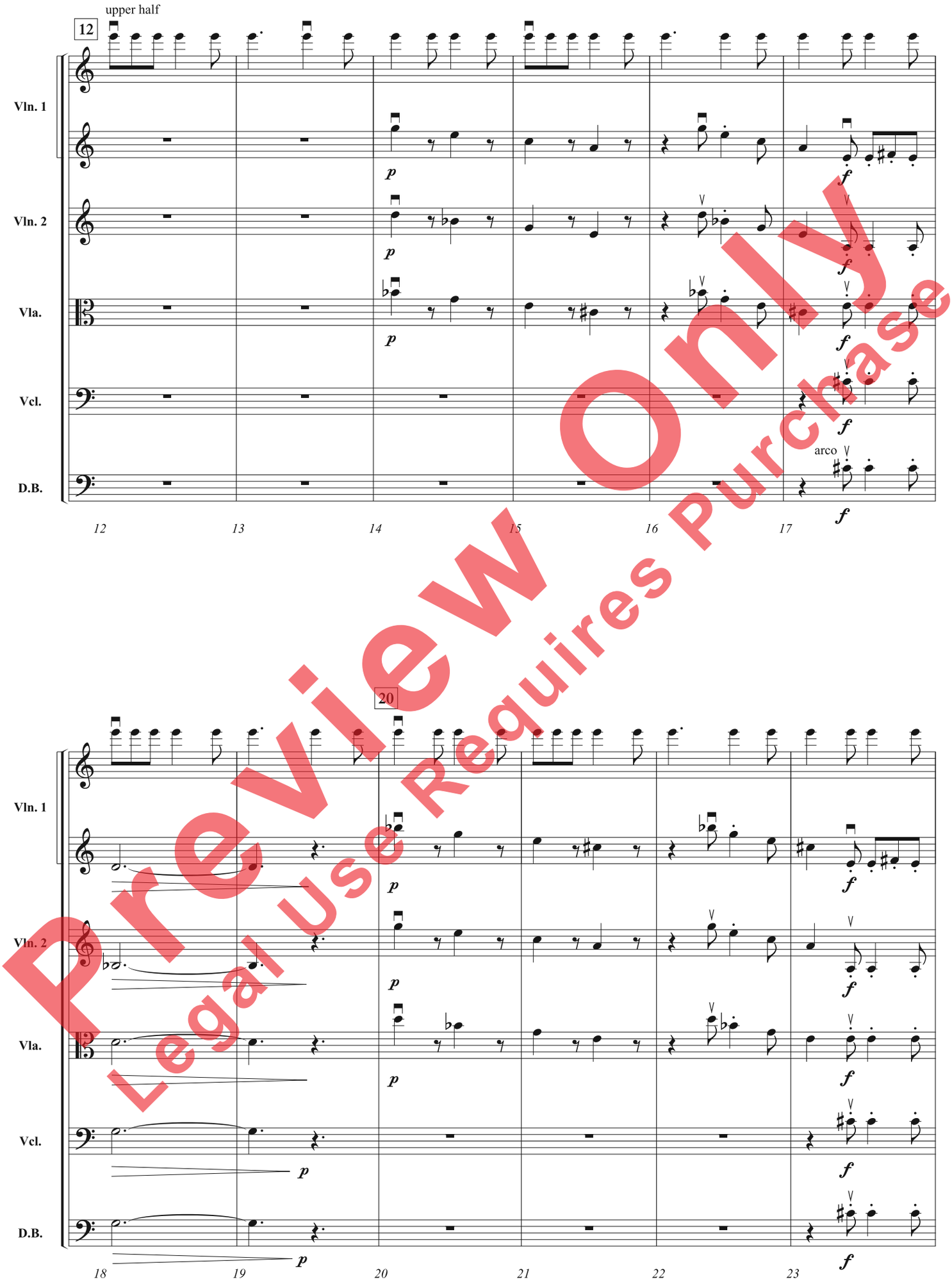

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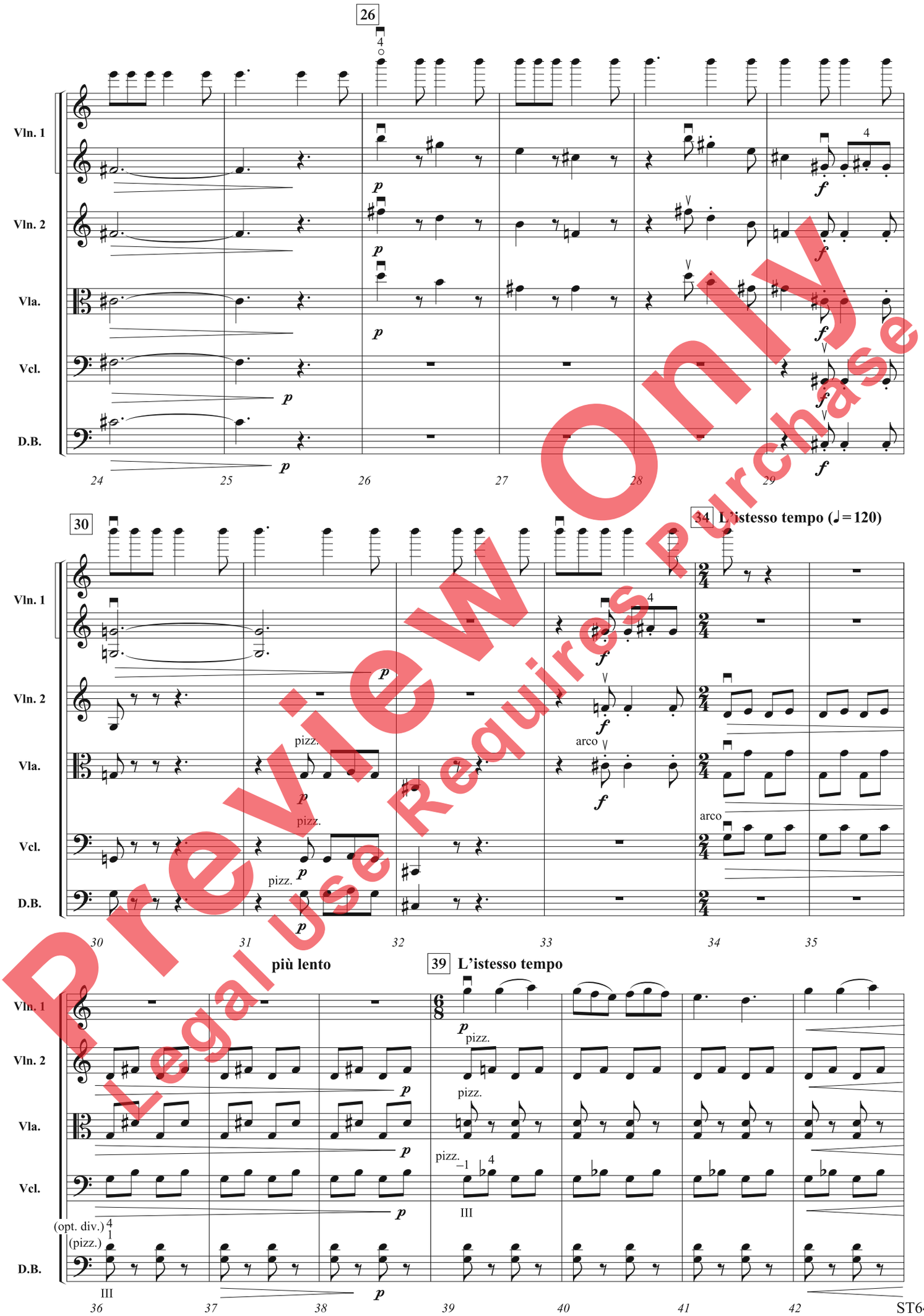

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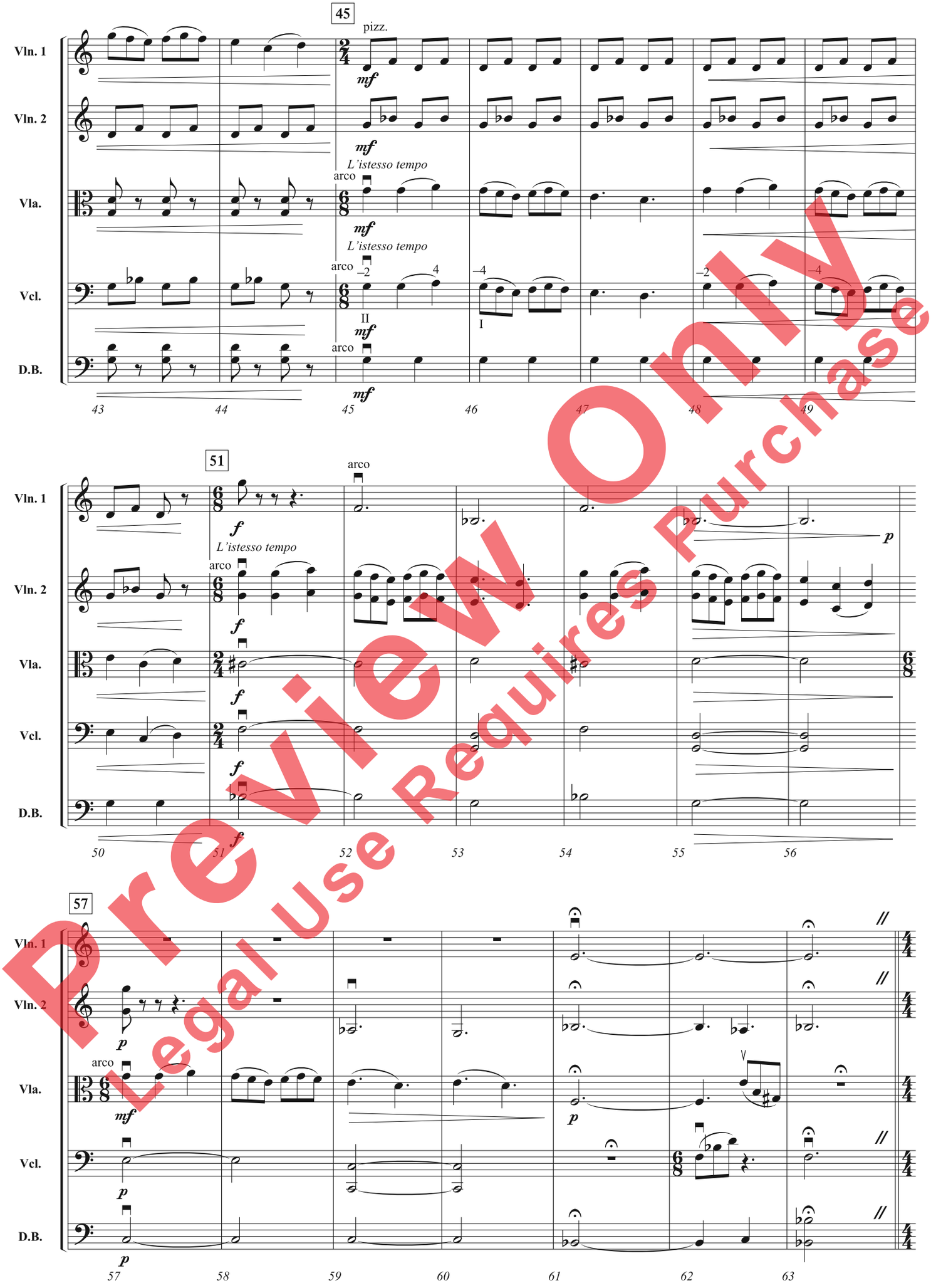

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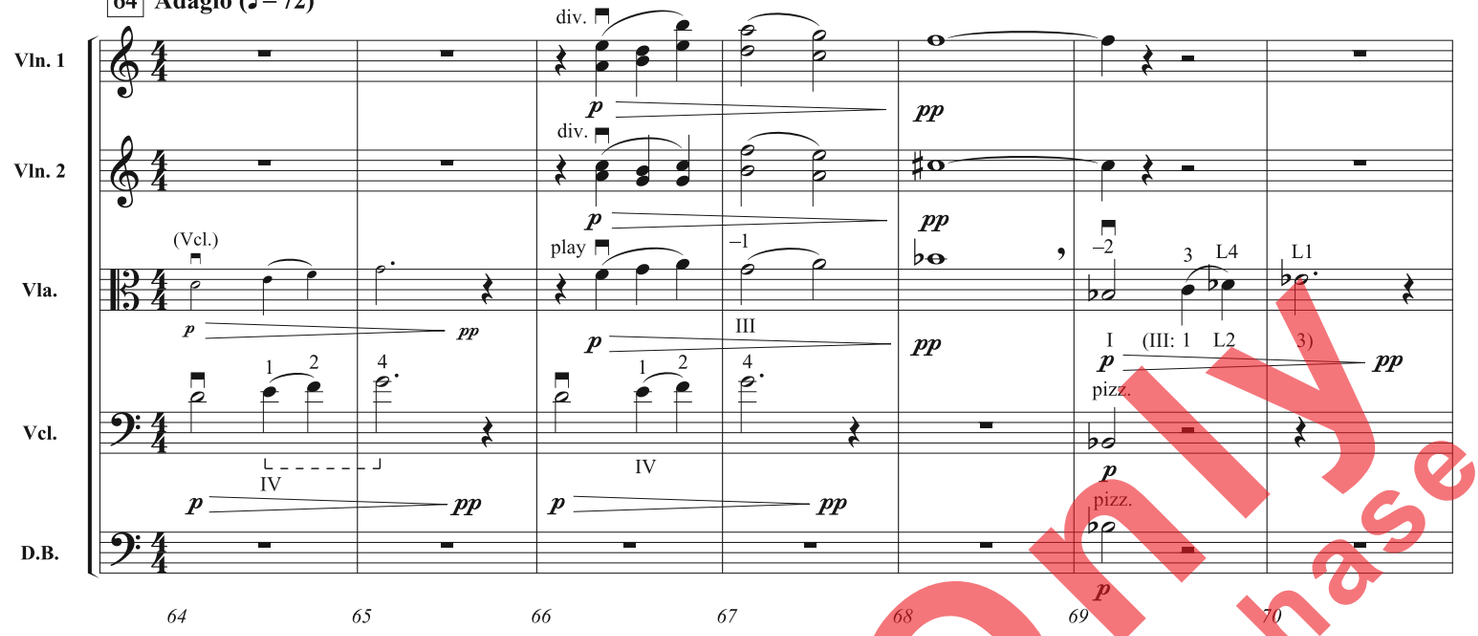
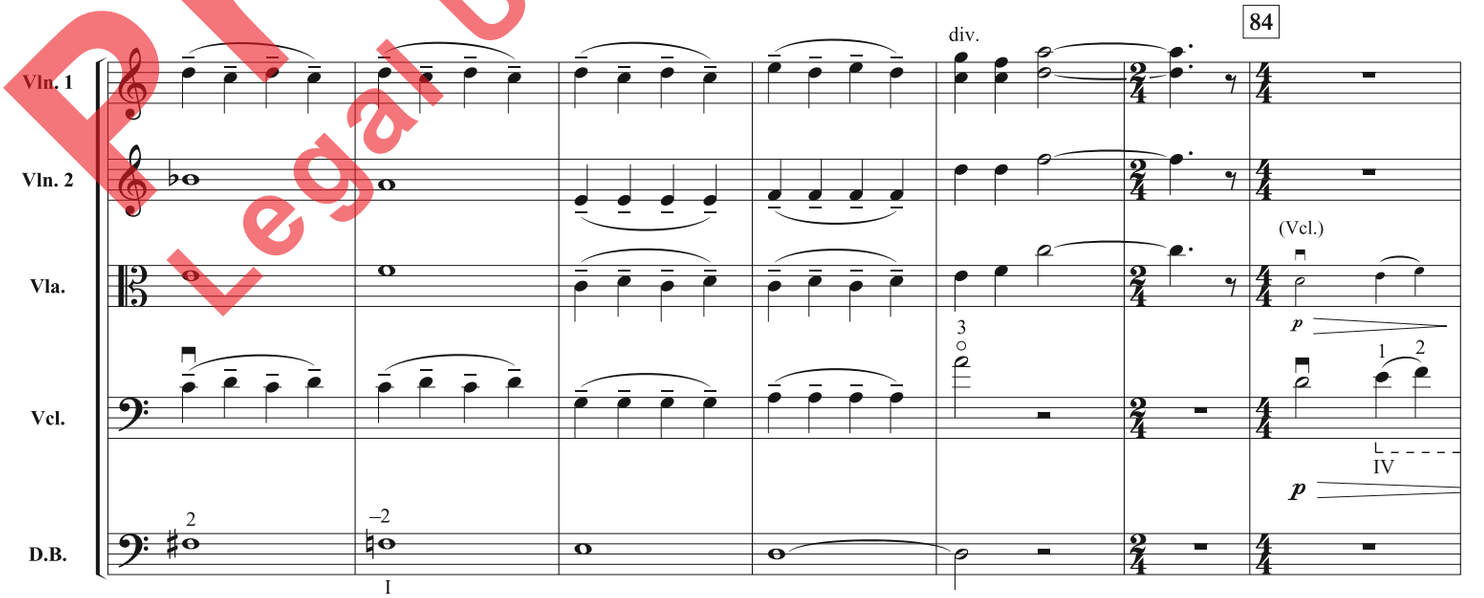
Venus, the Bringer of Peace

64 **Adagio (♩ = 72)**





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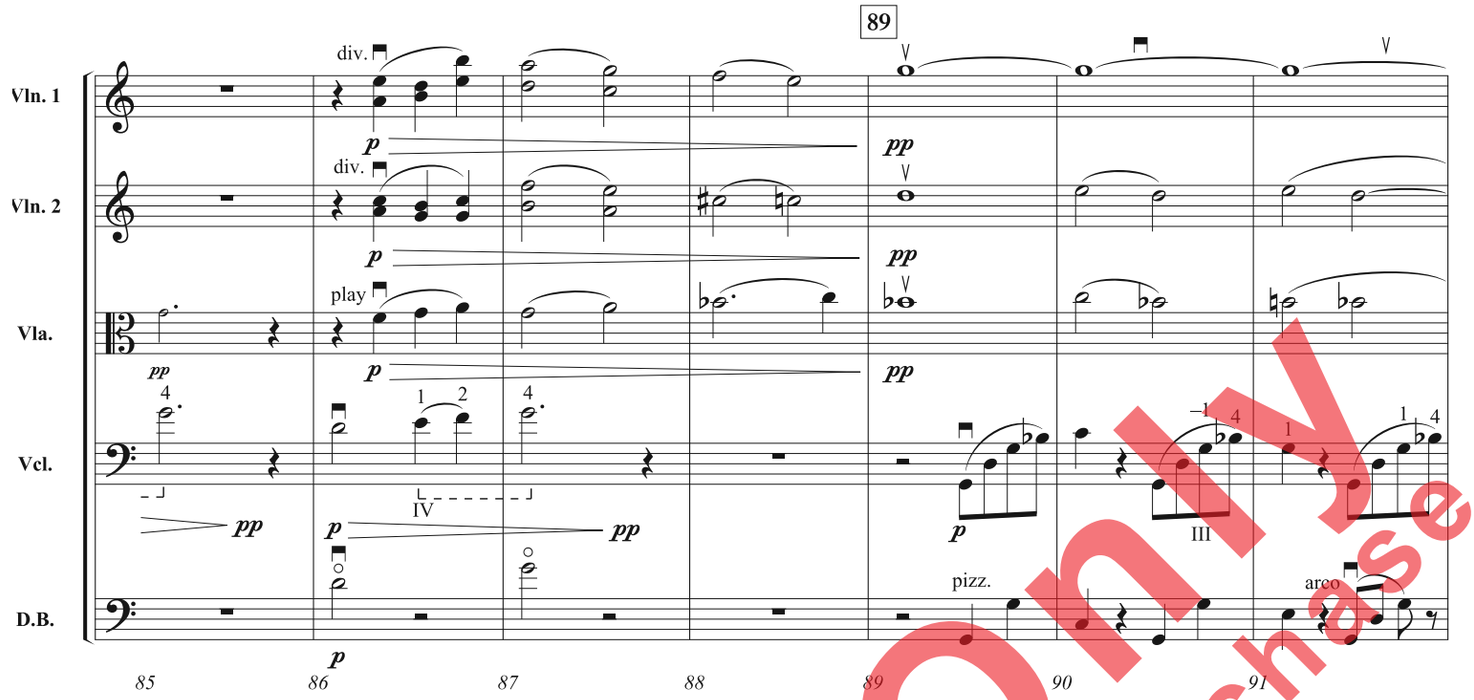

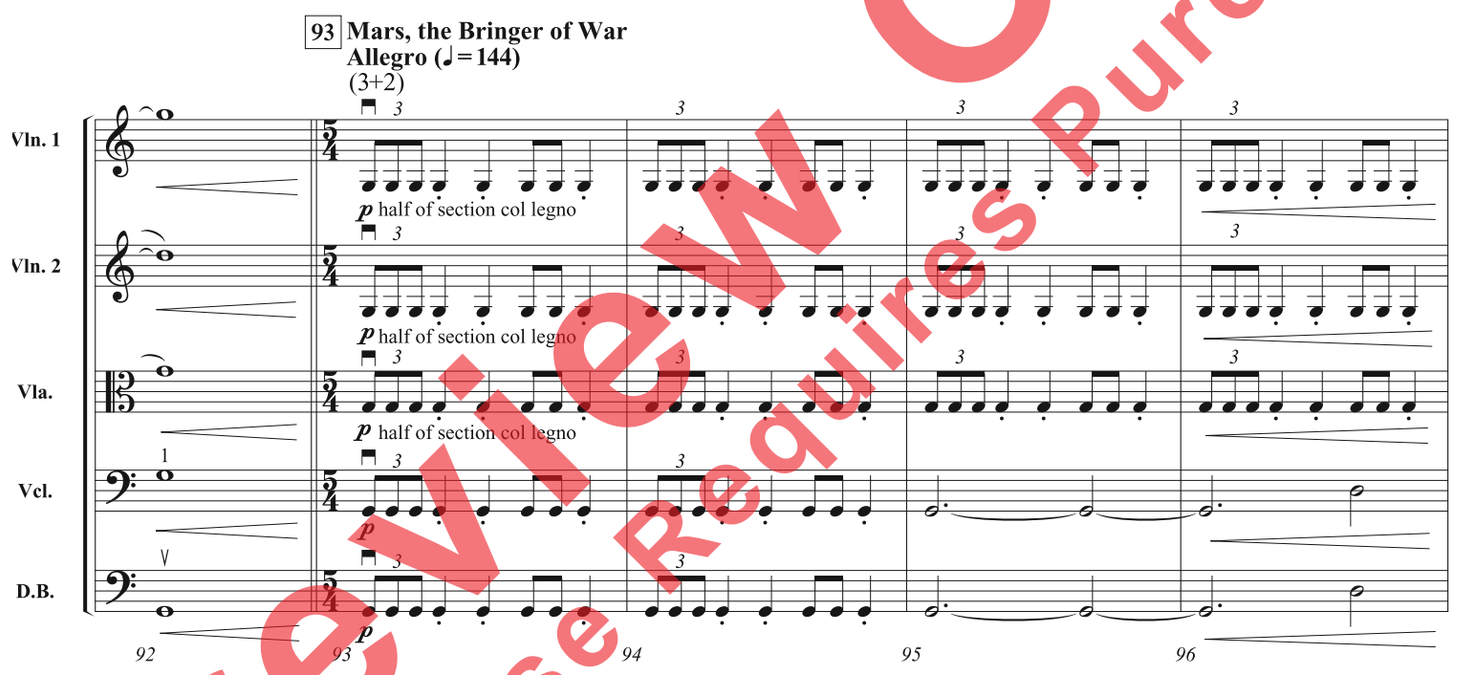

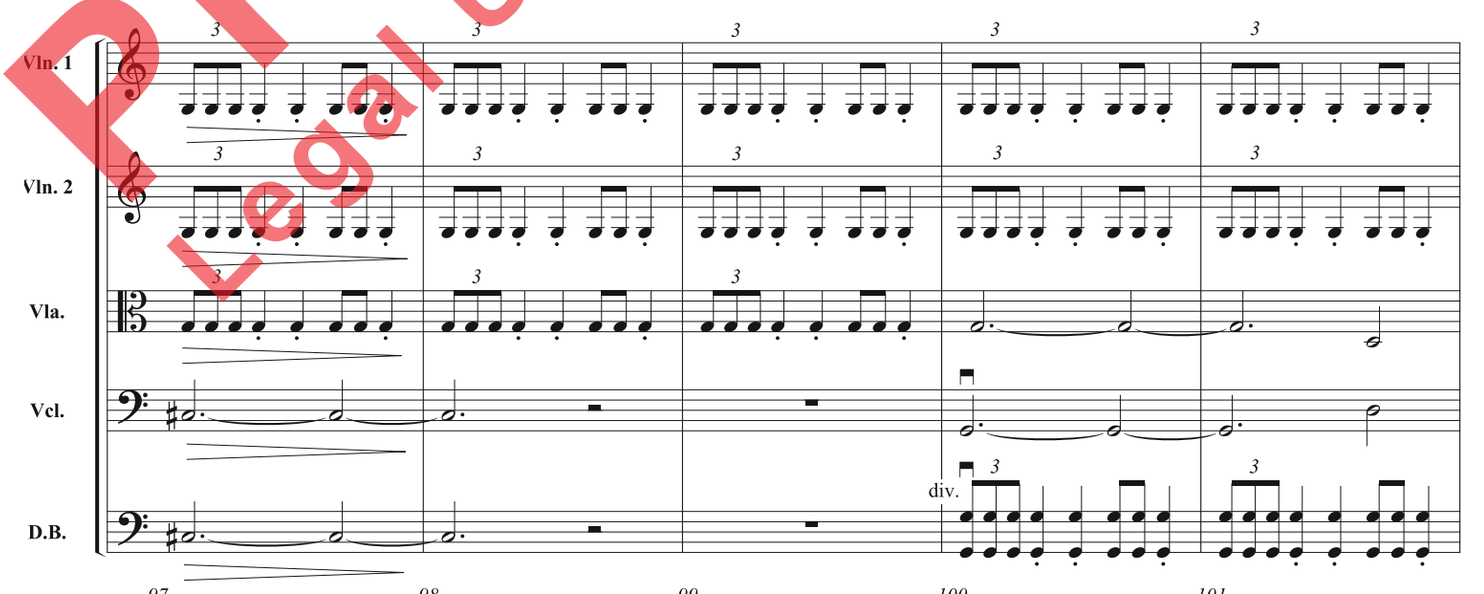

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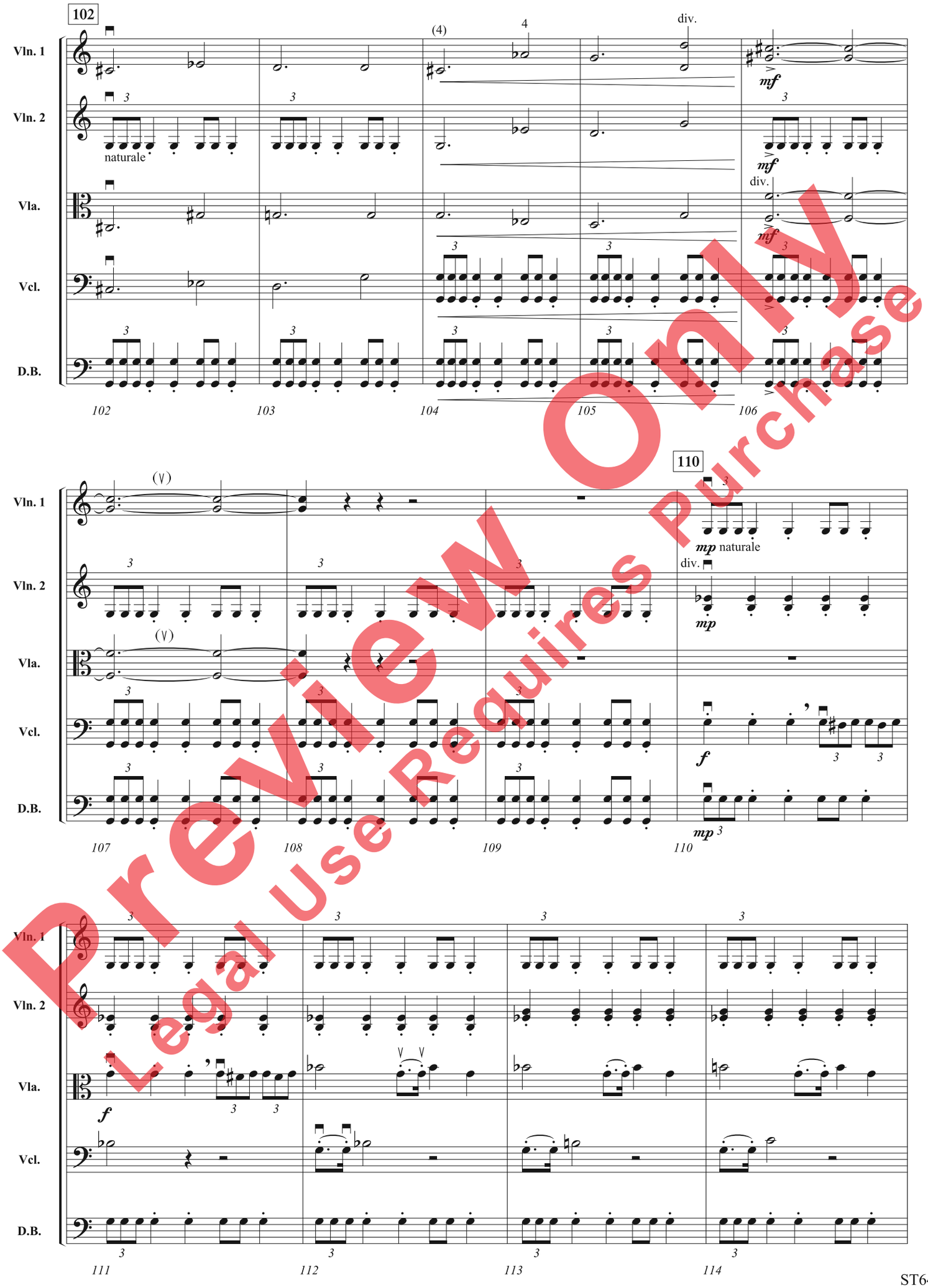

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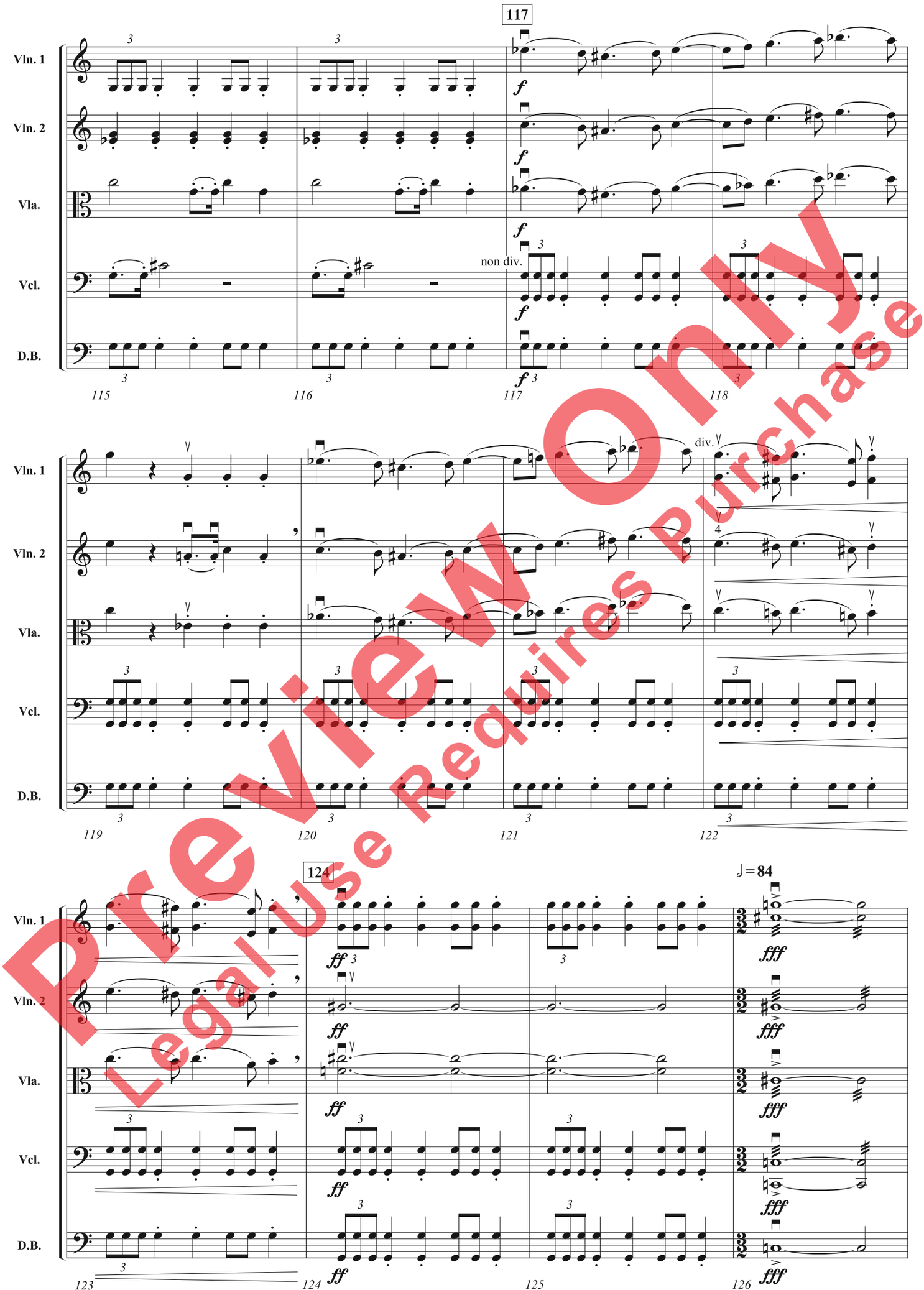

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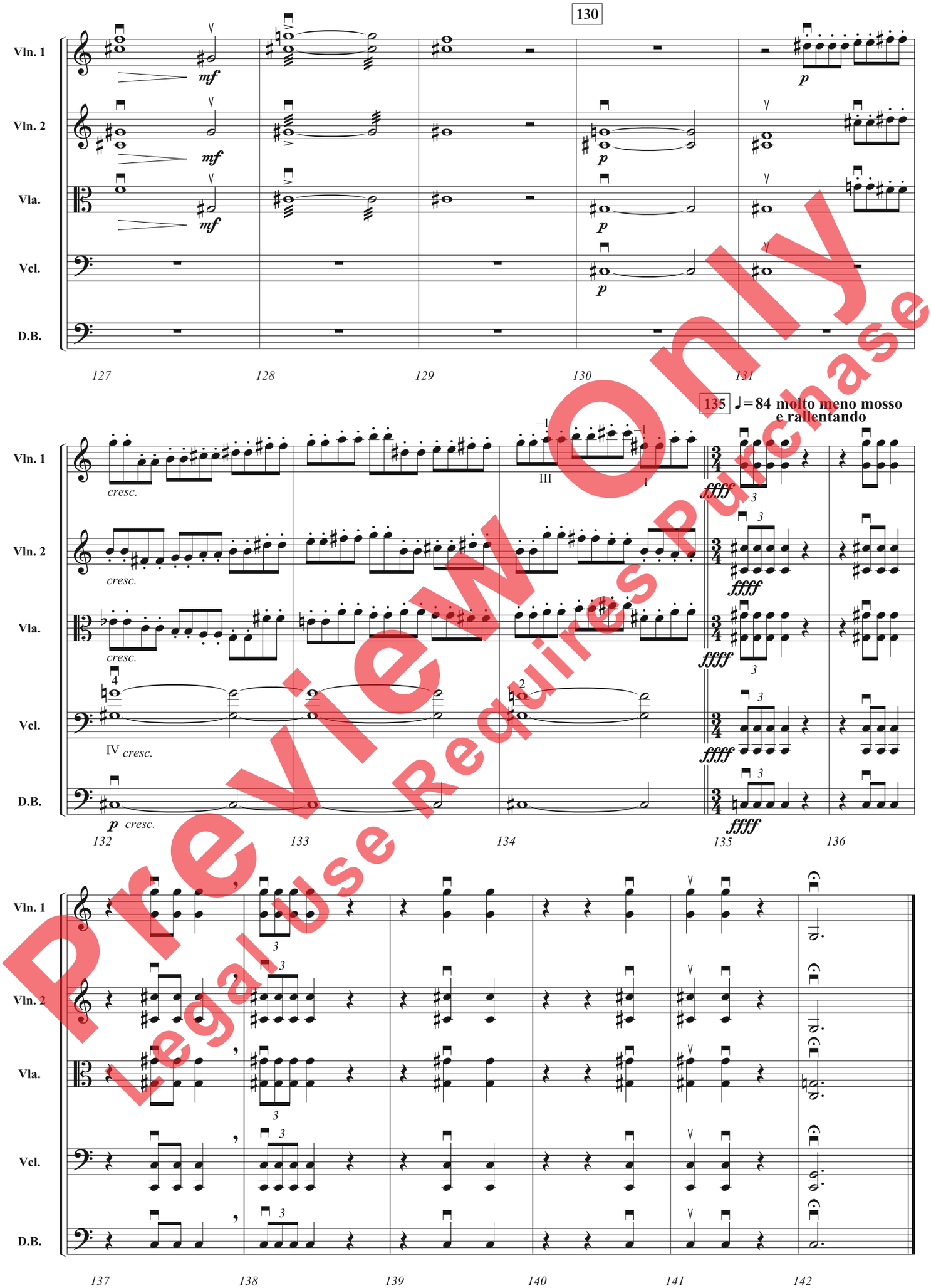

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