STRING ALTERNATIVES SERIES

Today

Robert Gardner

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INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score 1
Violin I 8
Violin II 8
Viola 5
Cello 5
String Bass 5

HIGHLAND/ETLING
A DIVISION OF Alfred

Please note: Our band and orchestra music is now being collated by an automatic high-speed system. The enclosed parts are now sorted by page count, rather than score order.

Program Notes

Today is an intense, up-tempo piece in a power-rock style, similar to the Ramones, Green Day, or the Foo Fighters. The spirit of the piece is the enthusiastic embracing of living in the moment. This piece utilizes an aggressive style that is fun to perform, and a tonality that is familiar to the students. The piece is technically accessible but also challenging because of its energetic tempo, independent voicing, and syncopated, interlocking rhythms. There is an underlying repeated rhythmic accompaniment that runs throughout and is the driving engine behind the groove in a rock style. The melody moves around the ensemble, and is sometimes understated and mysterious, and other times stridently soars above the raucous rhythm section. The energy of the performance grows throughout the piece, and builds to a wall of sound with the orchestra playing expanded chords with double stops. This piece celebrates the confident enthusiasm and 'joie de vivre' that we experience when we gain independence, strive to seize the day, and live our lives to the fullest.

Notes to the Conductor

Today is technically accessible, using mostly first position (some third position in the first violin) and few accidentals. At the same time, this piece will challenge your group with its energetic tempo, independent voicing, and syncopated, interlocking rhythms. The entire piece should be performed with a heavy punk rock or power pop style in mind. Students should be taught to use a lot of bow weight into the string and sharp articulation, and to play as if they had a drum set accompaniment behind them. Perform the piece as close to the indicated tempo as possible, and keep a steady tempo, because allowing it to drag can create a flat and uninteresting performance. Play all syncopated rhythms with strong and clear staccato articulation. Be sure to bring out the accents in the running eighth note accompaniment patterns, which run almost throughout the piece and should always groove. Parts marked with louder dynamics are generally the melody line in that section. Balancing the melody with the accompaniment patterns so all can be heard will facilitate a tighter and more exciting performance. Adding a drumset player to the piece would enhance the performance. The drummer can play a basic two-beat punk rock pattern (e.g., "Ballroom Blitz" by Sweet), with the bass drum using the syncopated rhythms in the eighth note accompaniment patterns, and the accents in the melodies to guide improvised fills.

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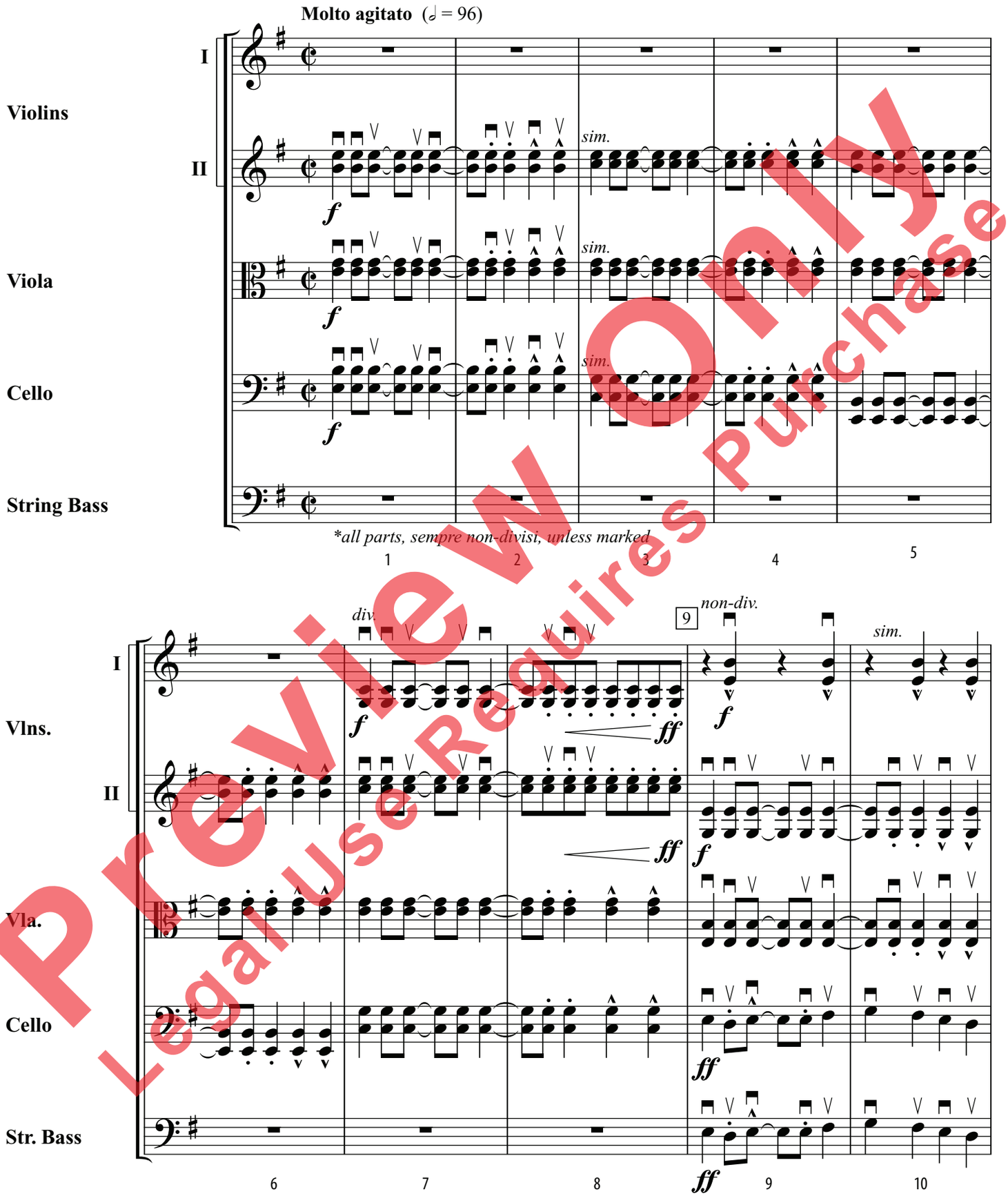
Today

CONDUCTOR SCORE
Duration - 4:00

Robert Gardner



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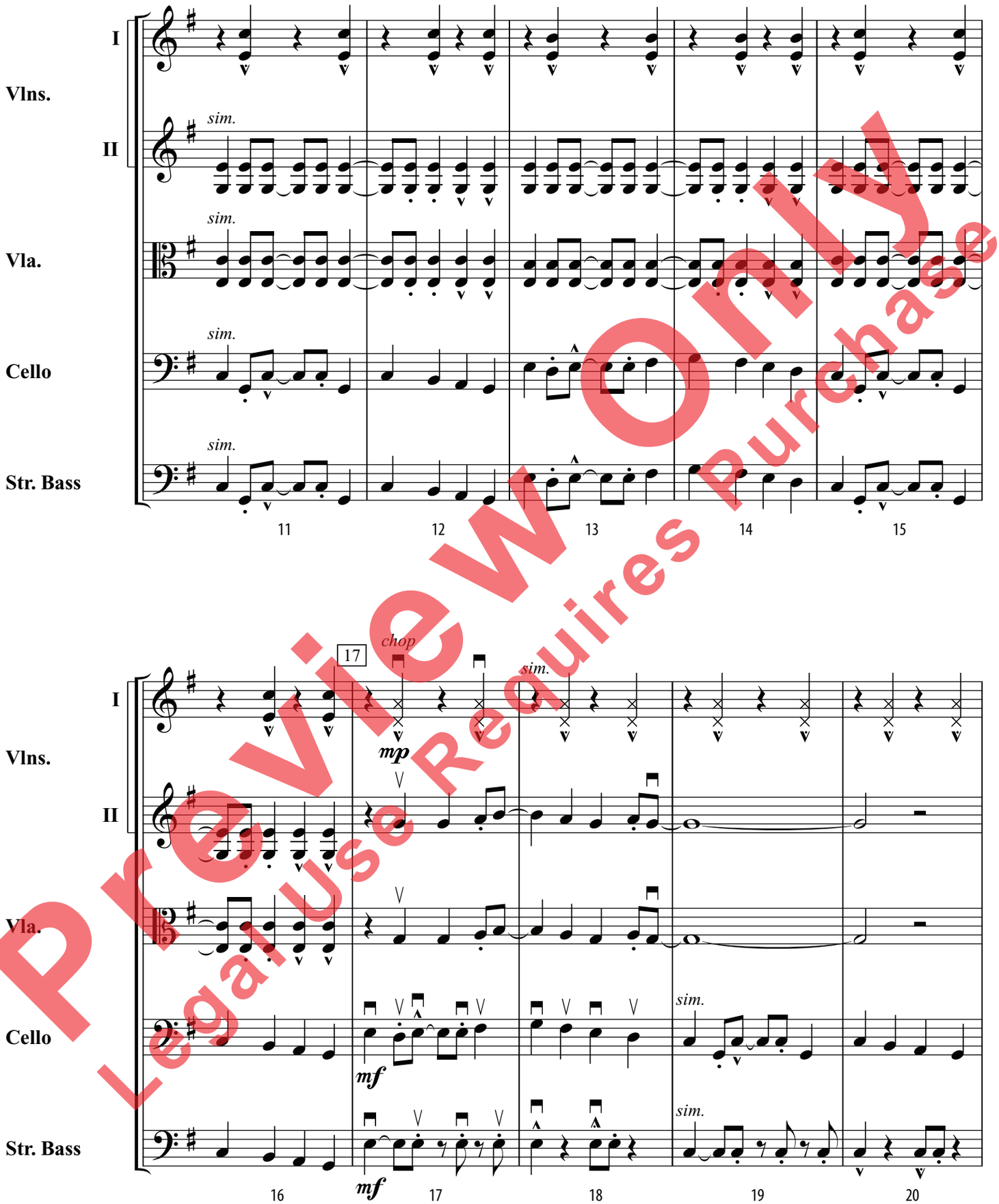

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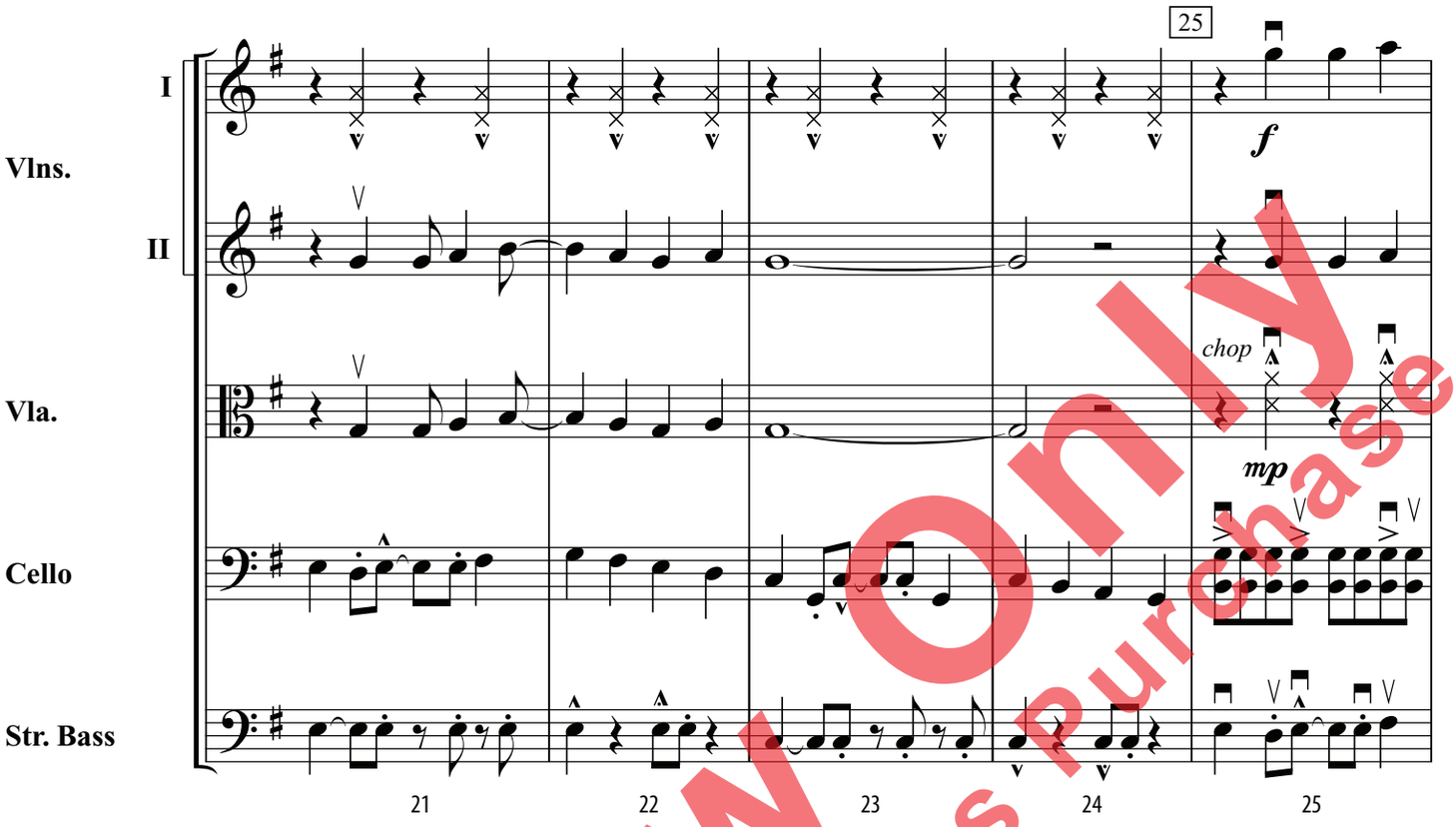

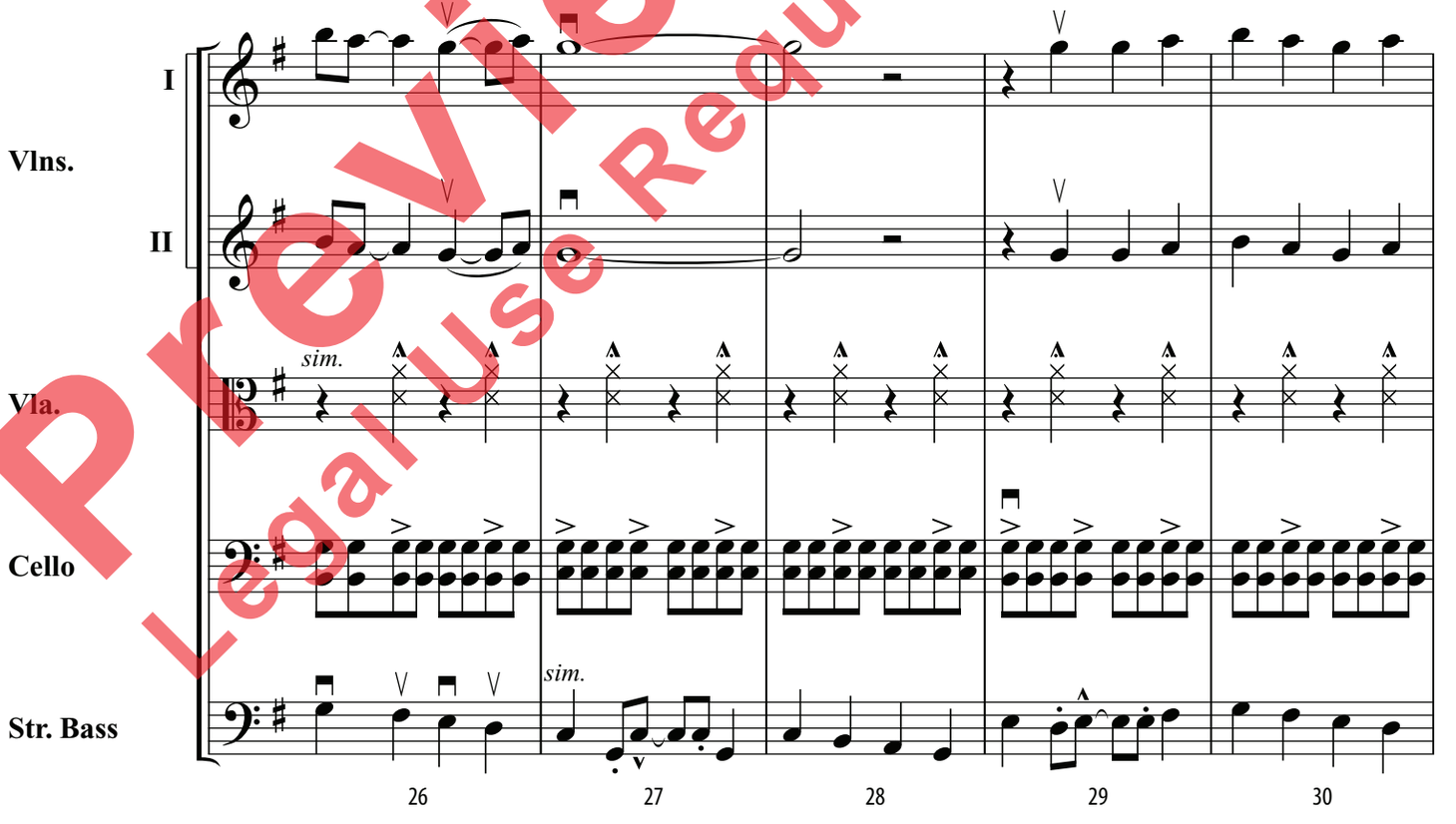

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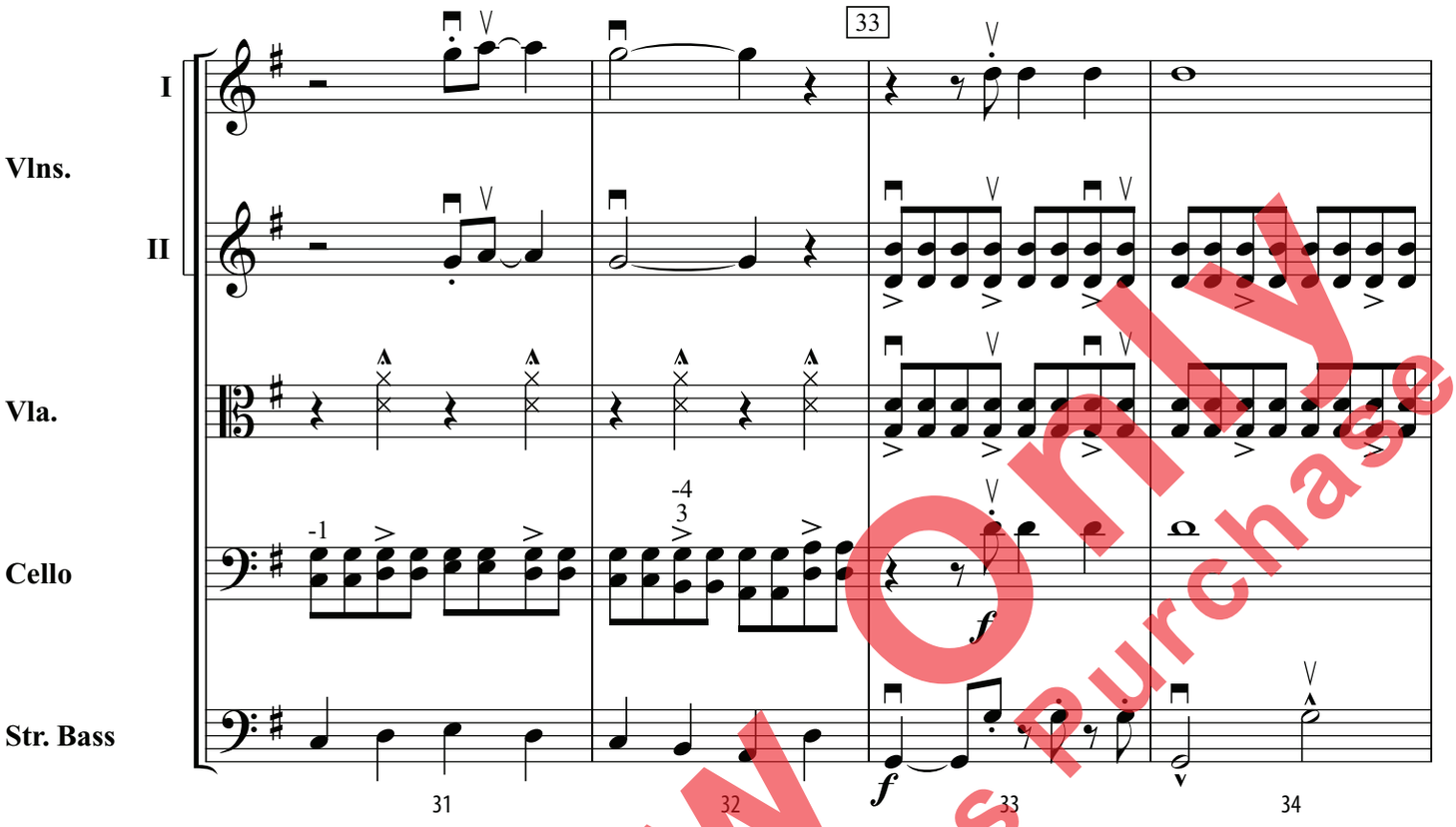

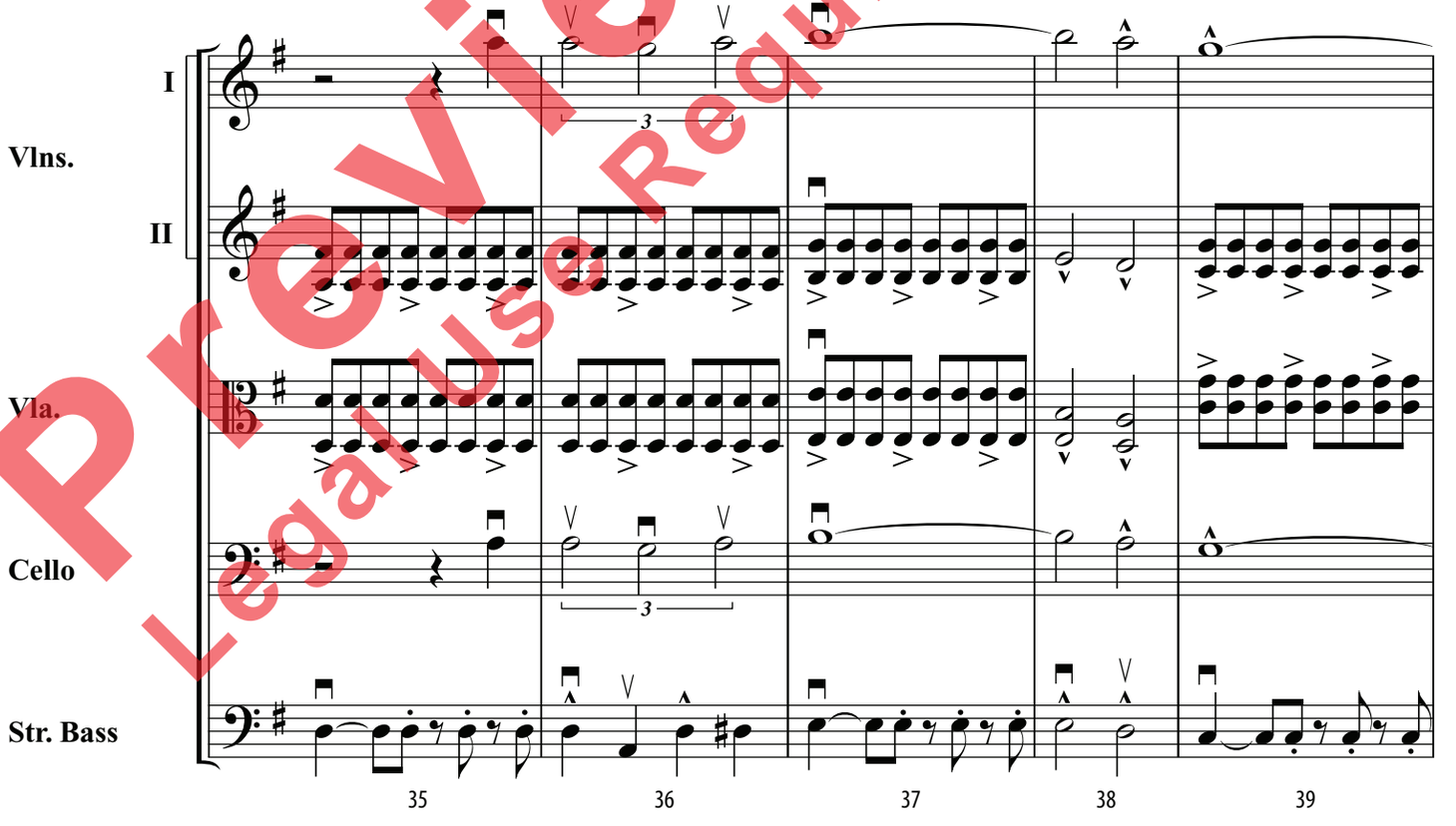

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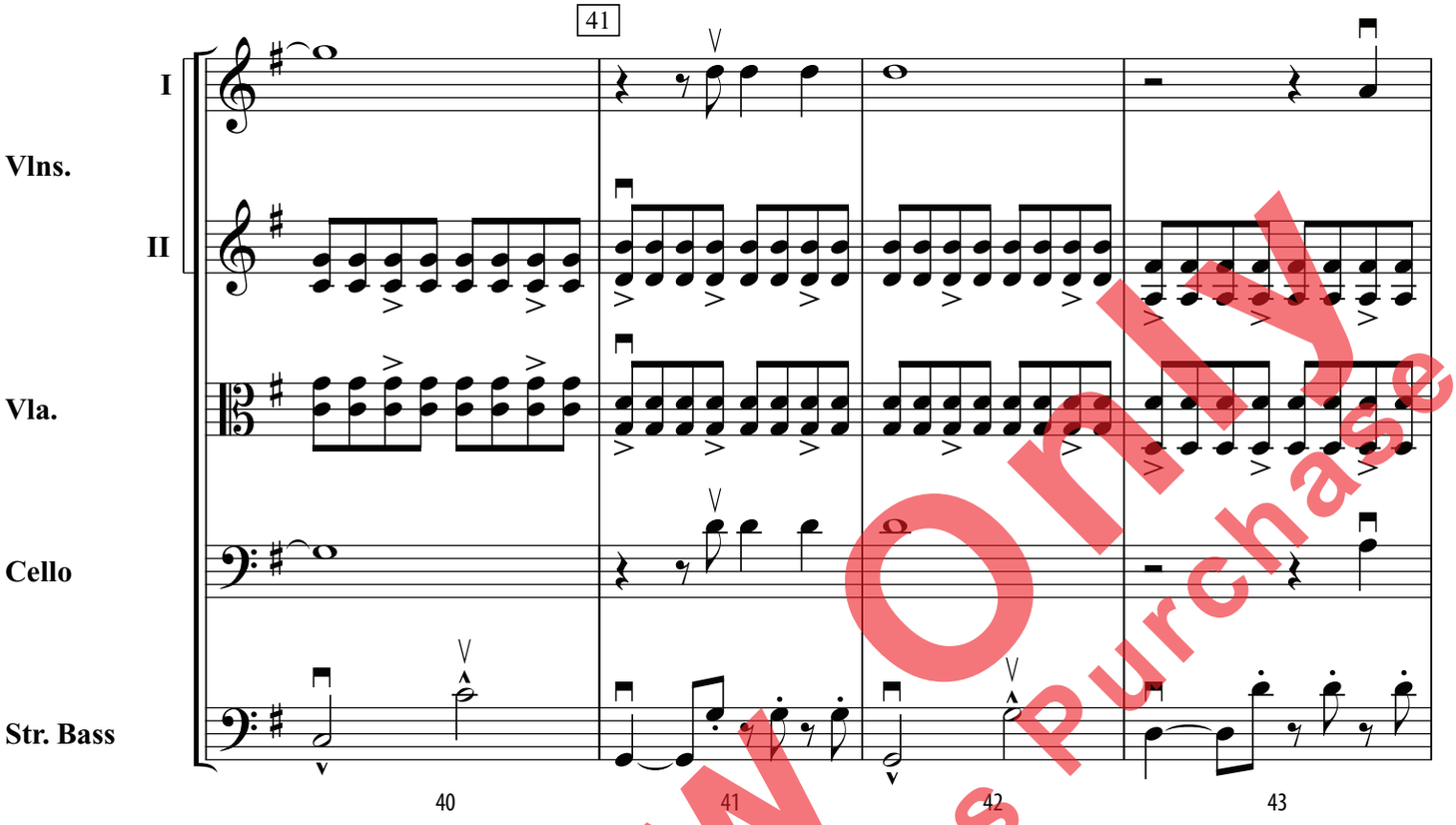

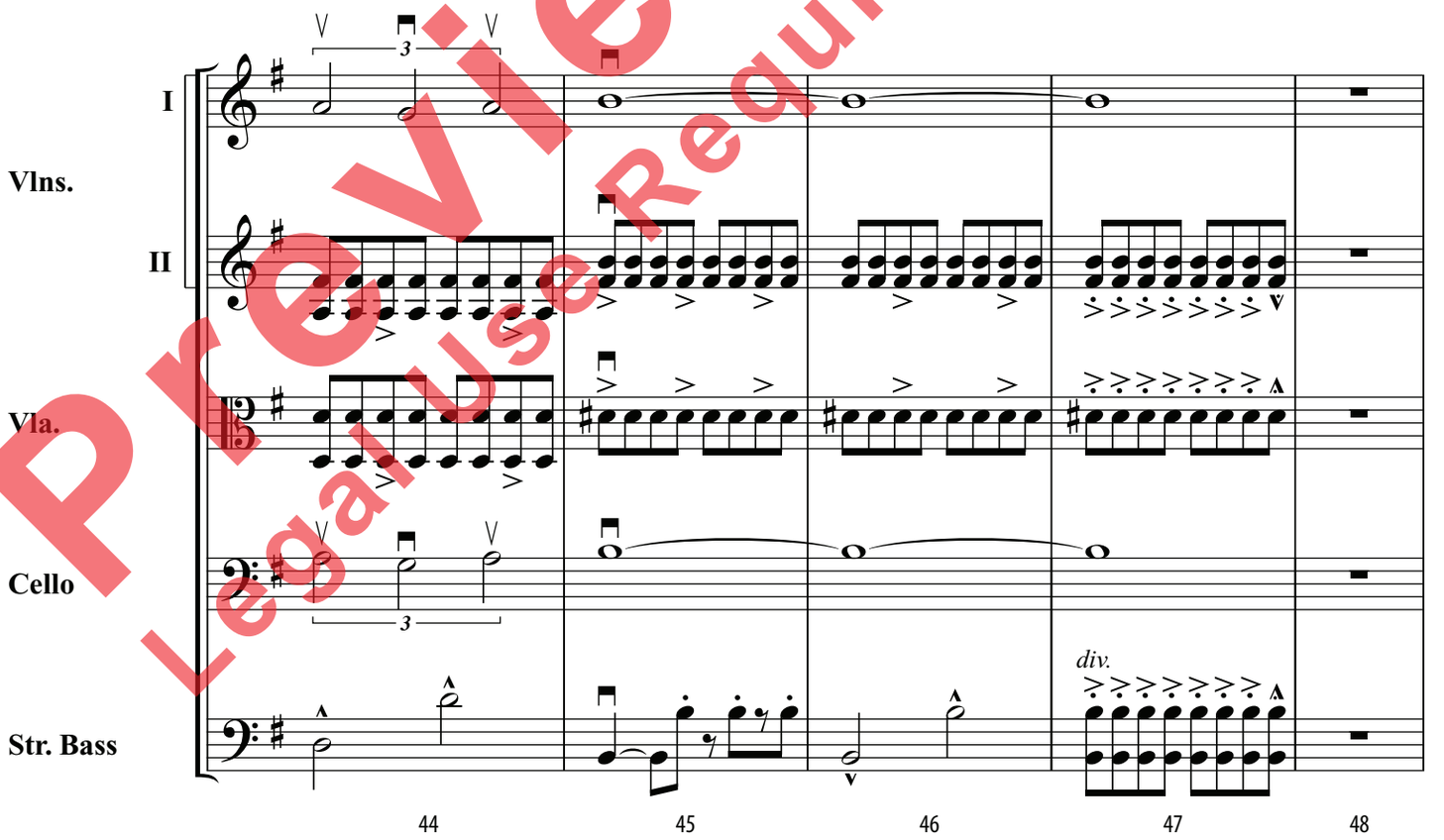

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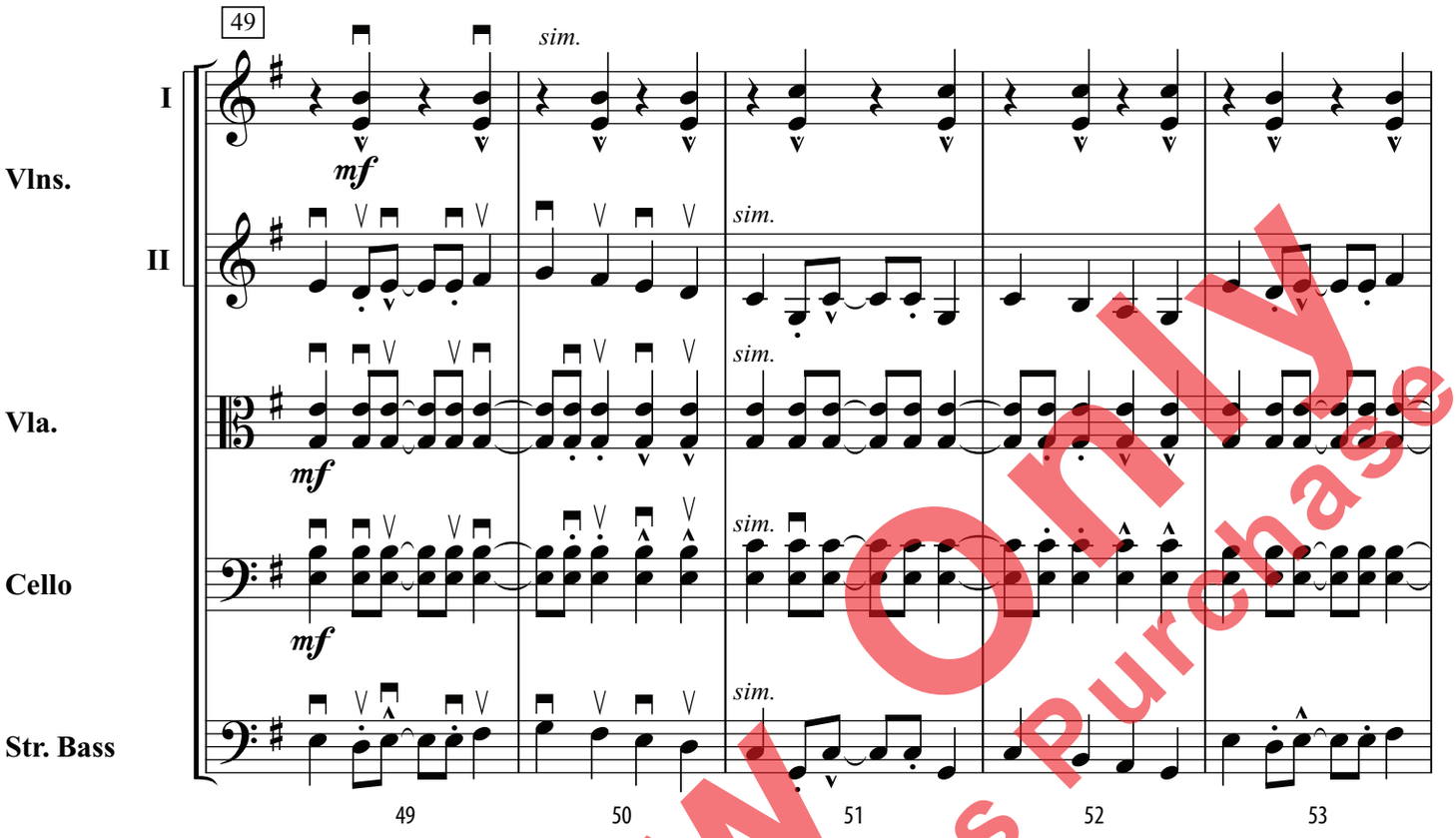

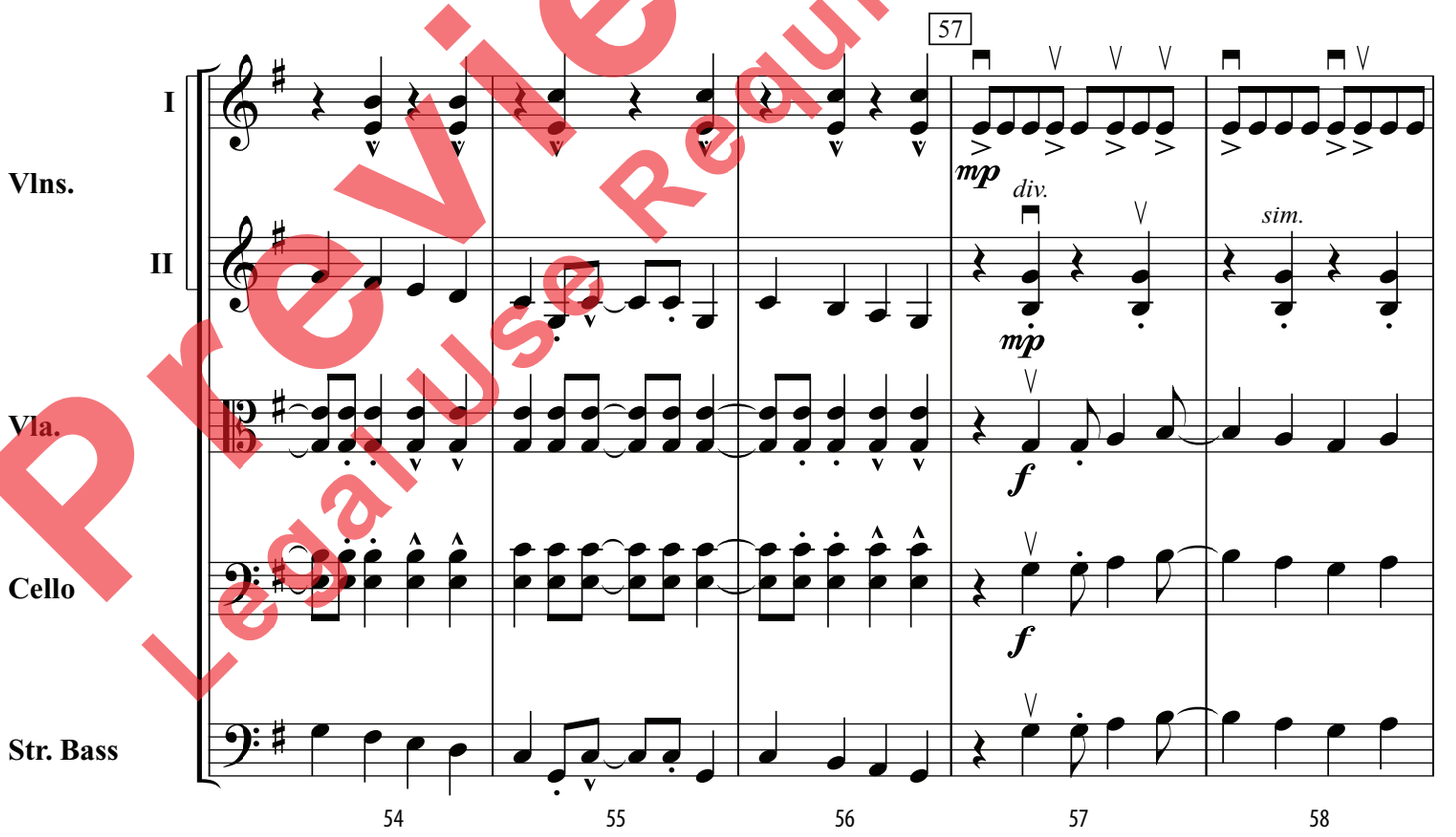

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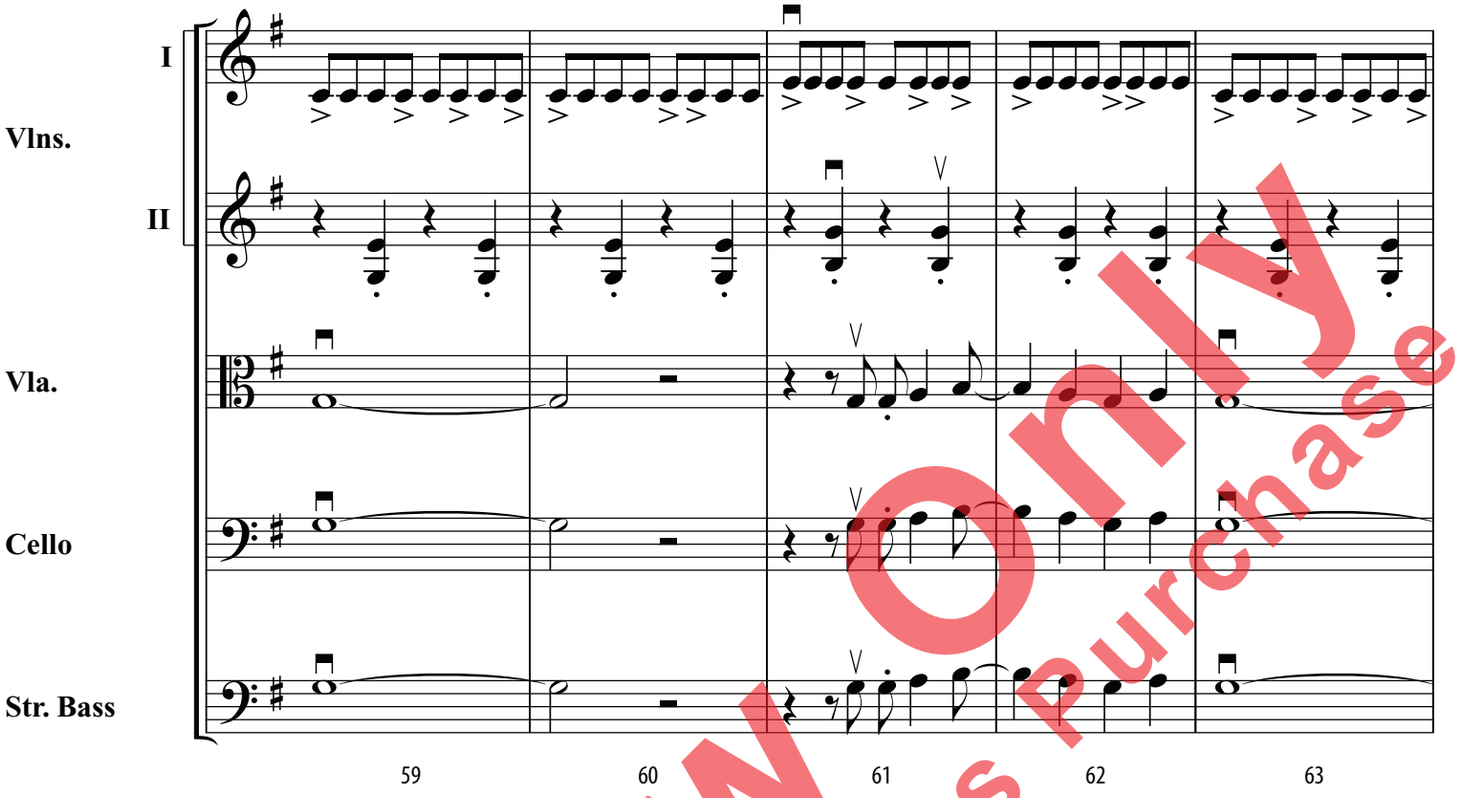

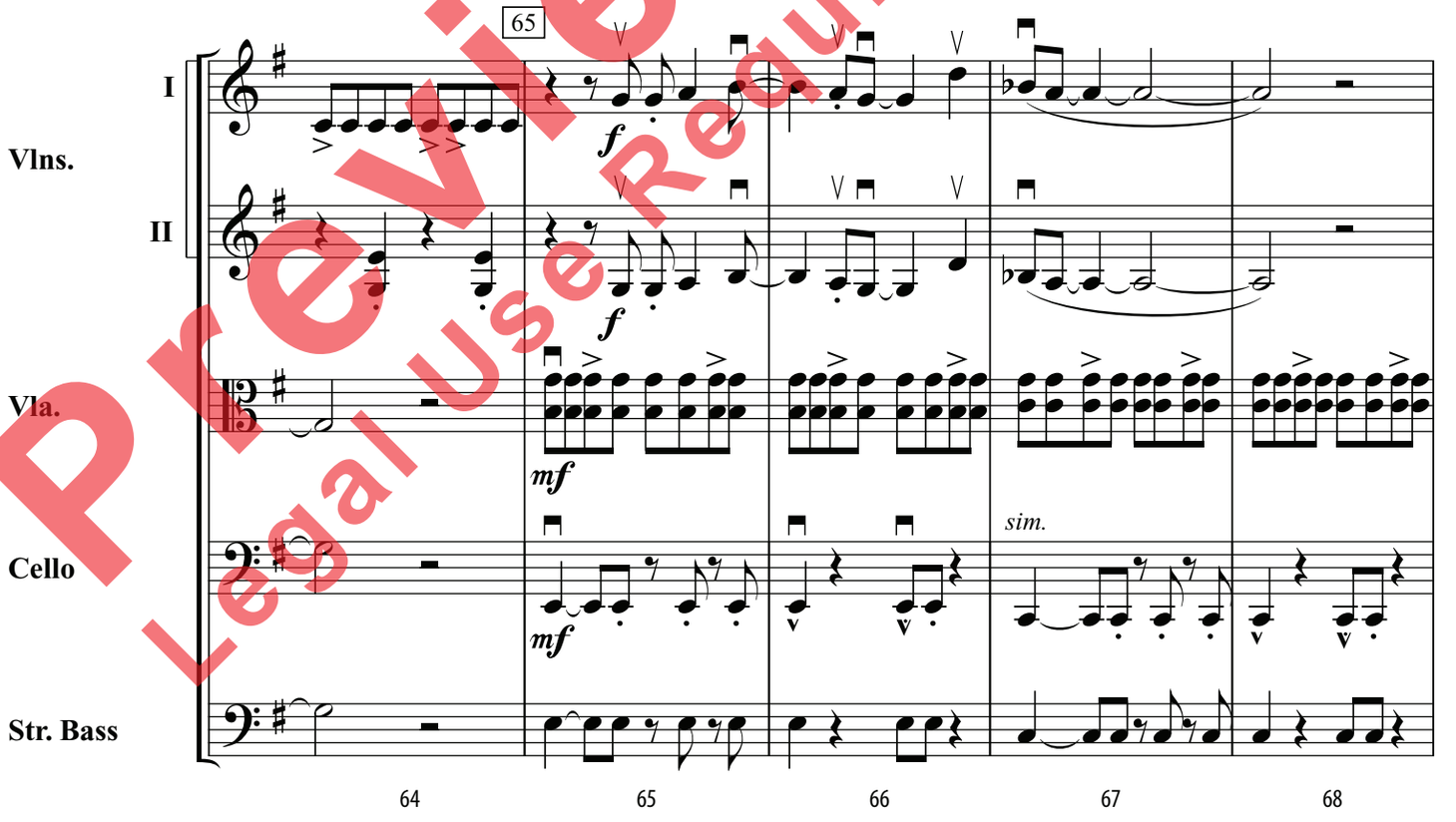

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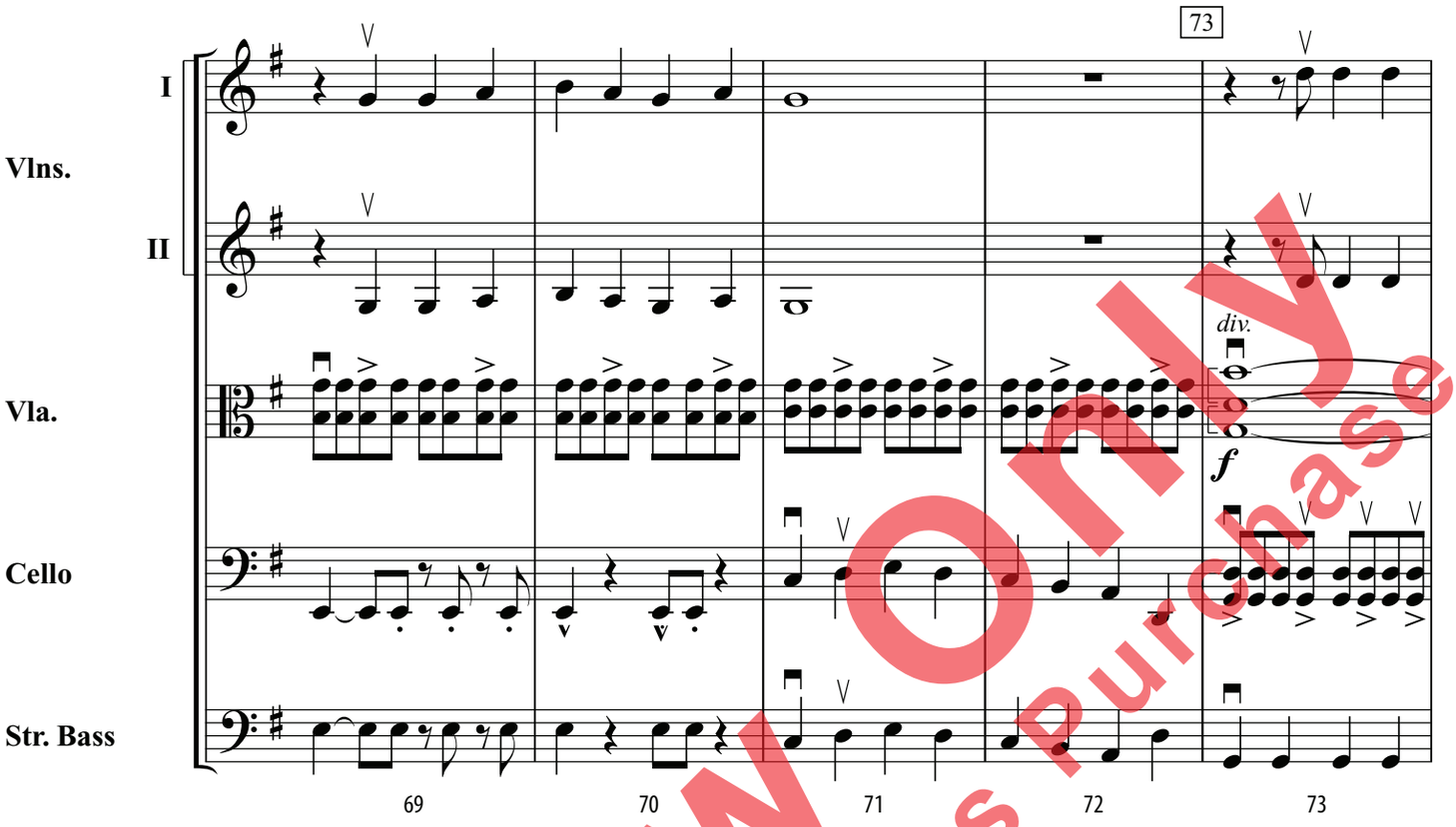

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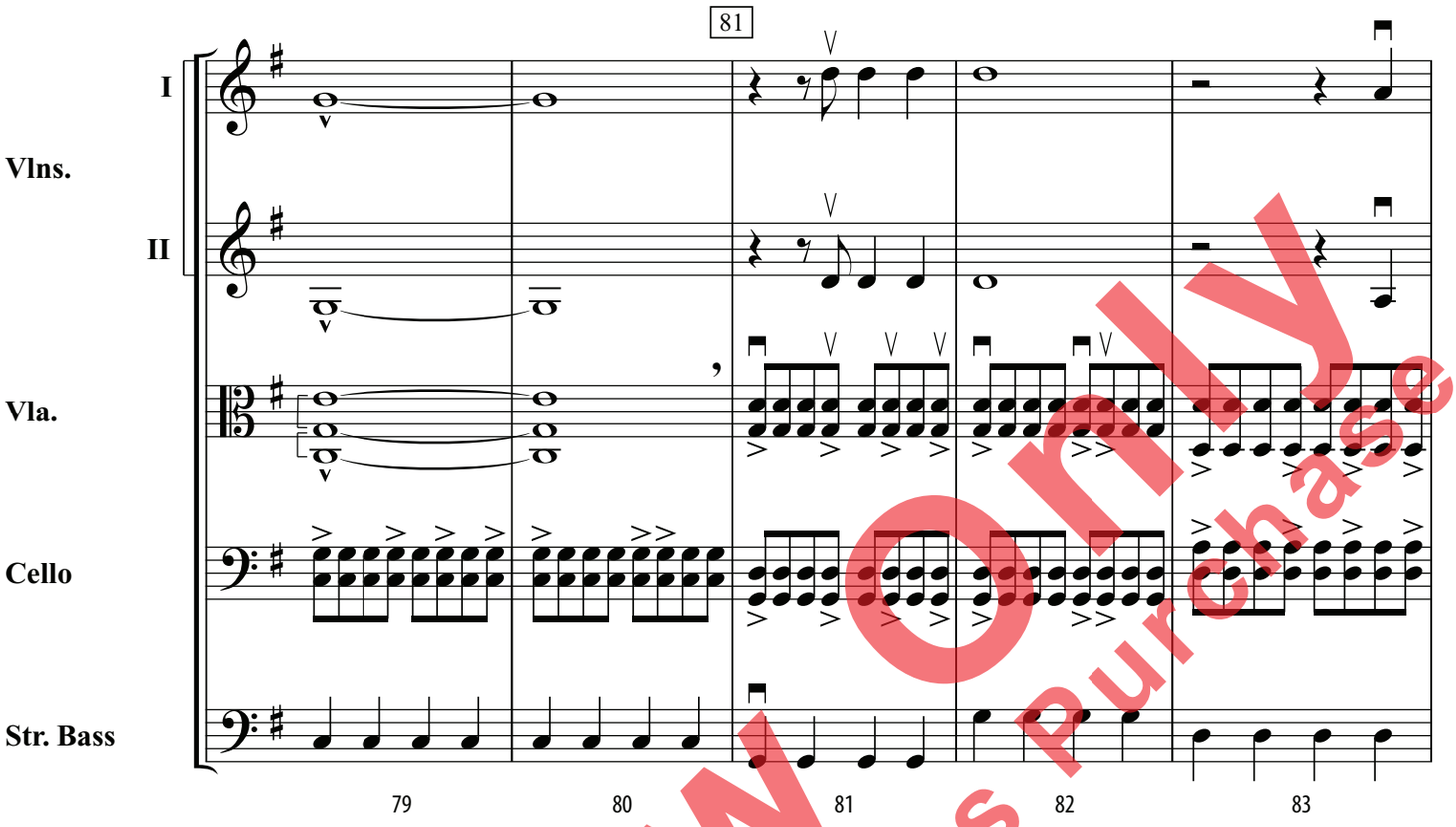

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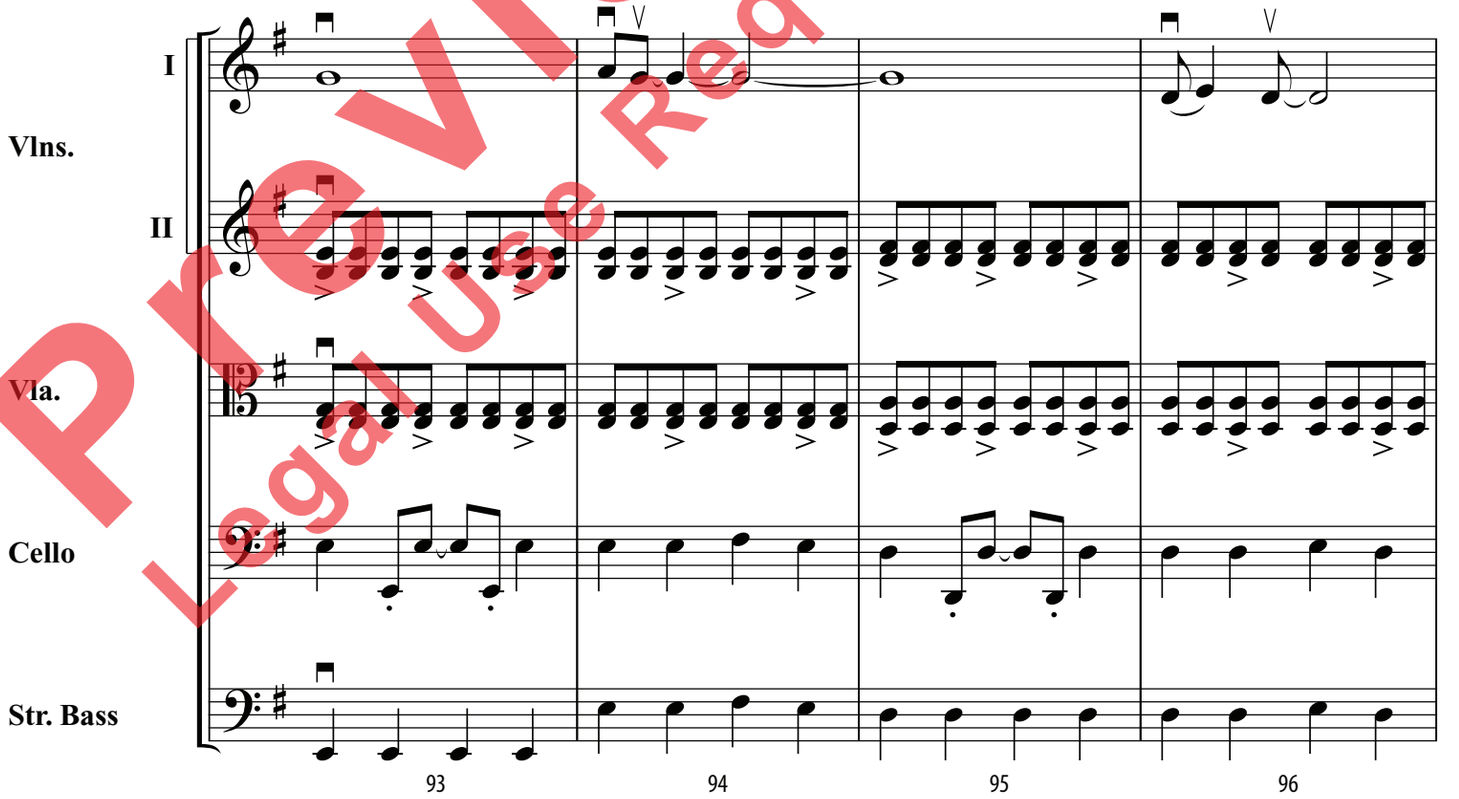
*quick slides into notes, like guitar bends



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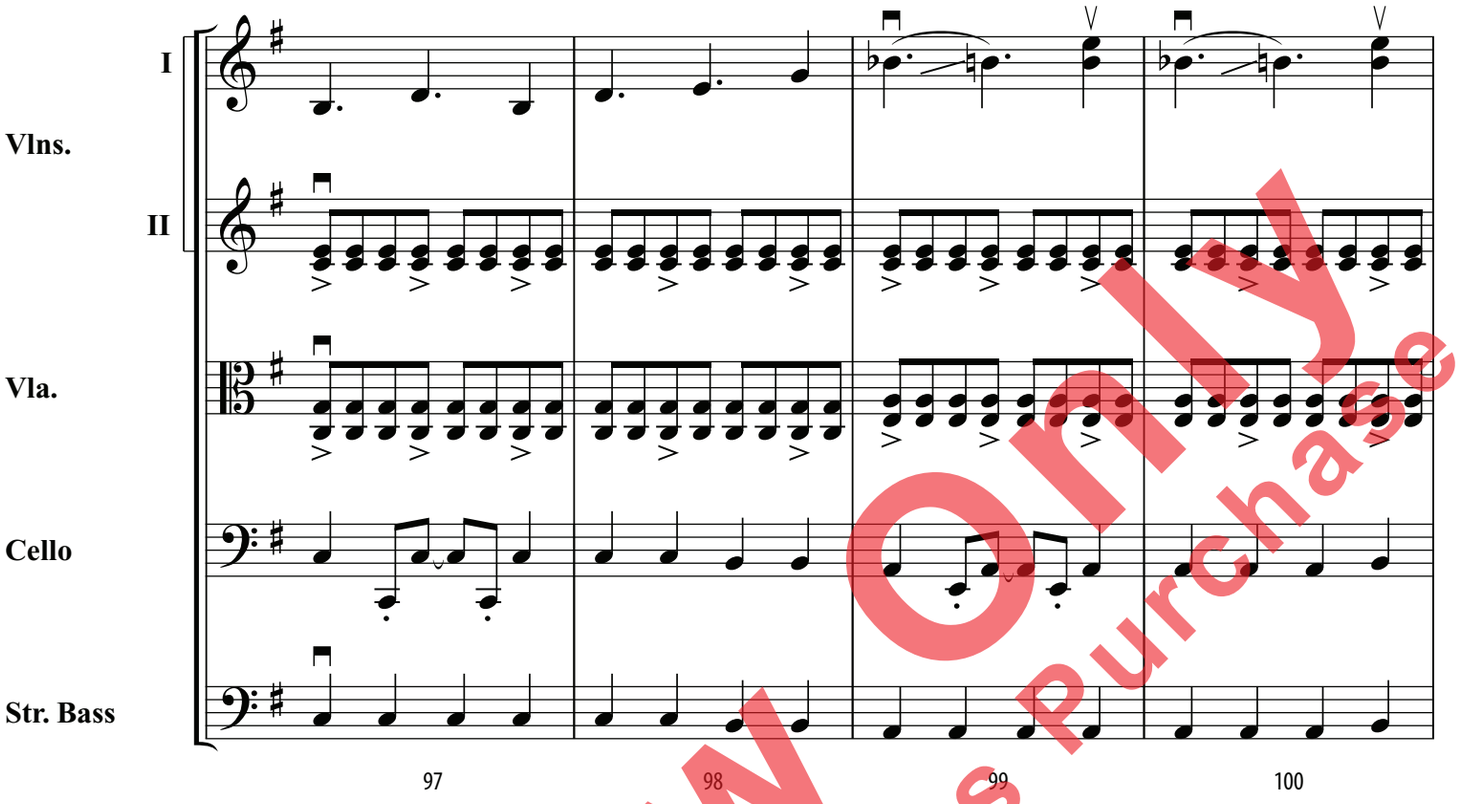

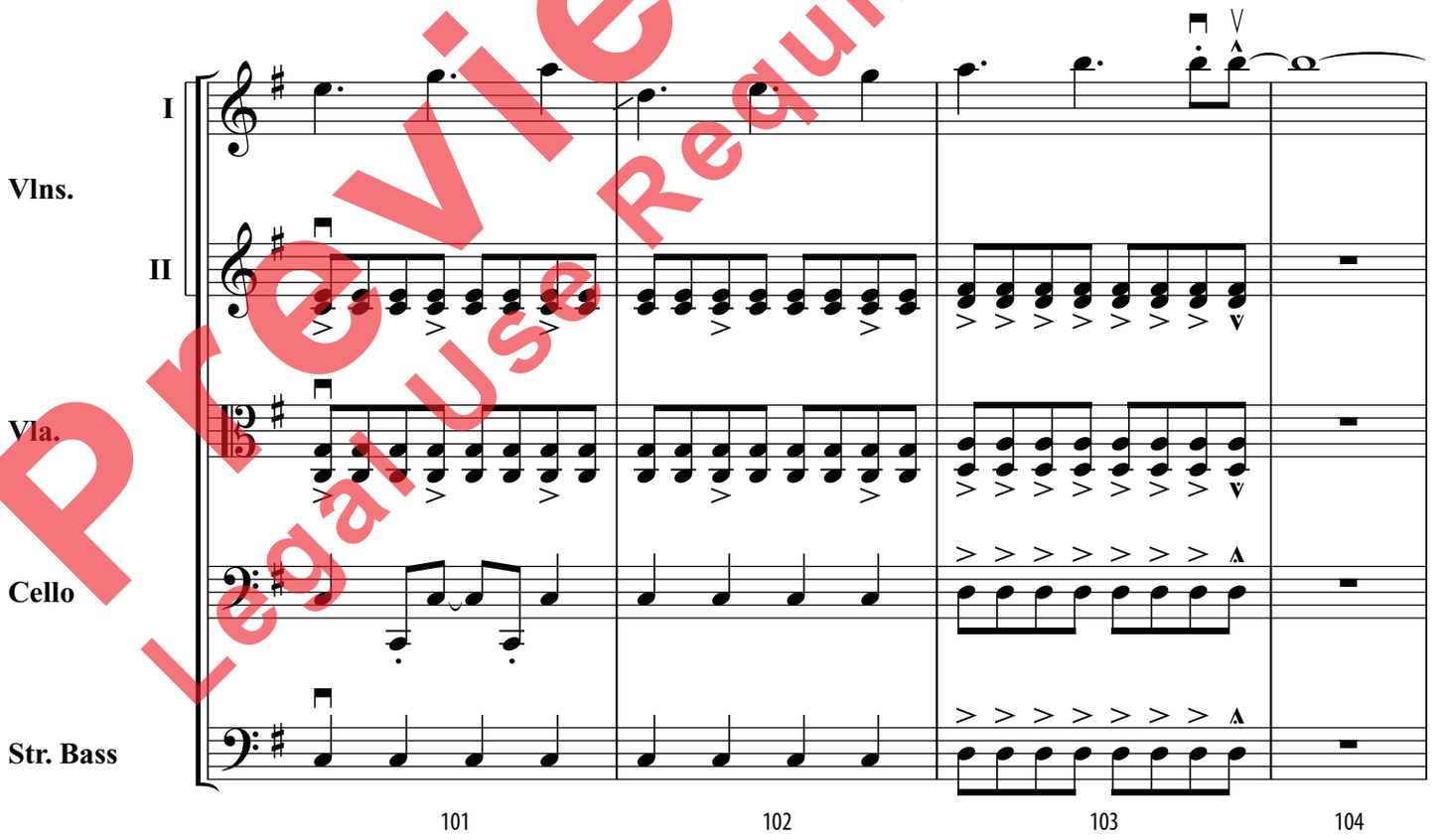

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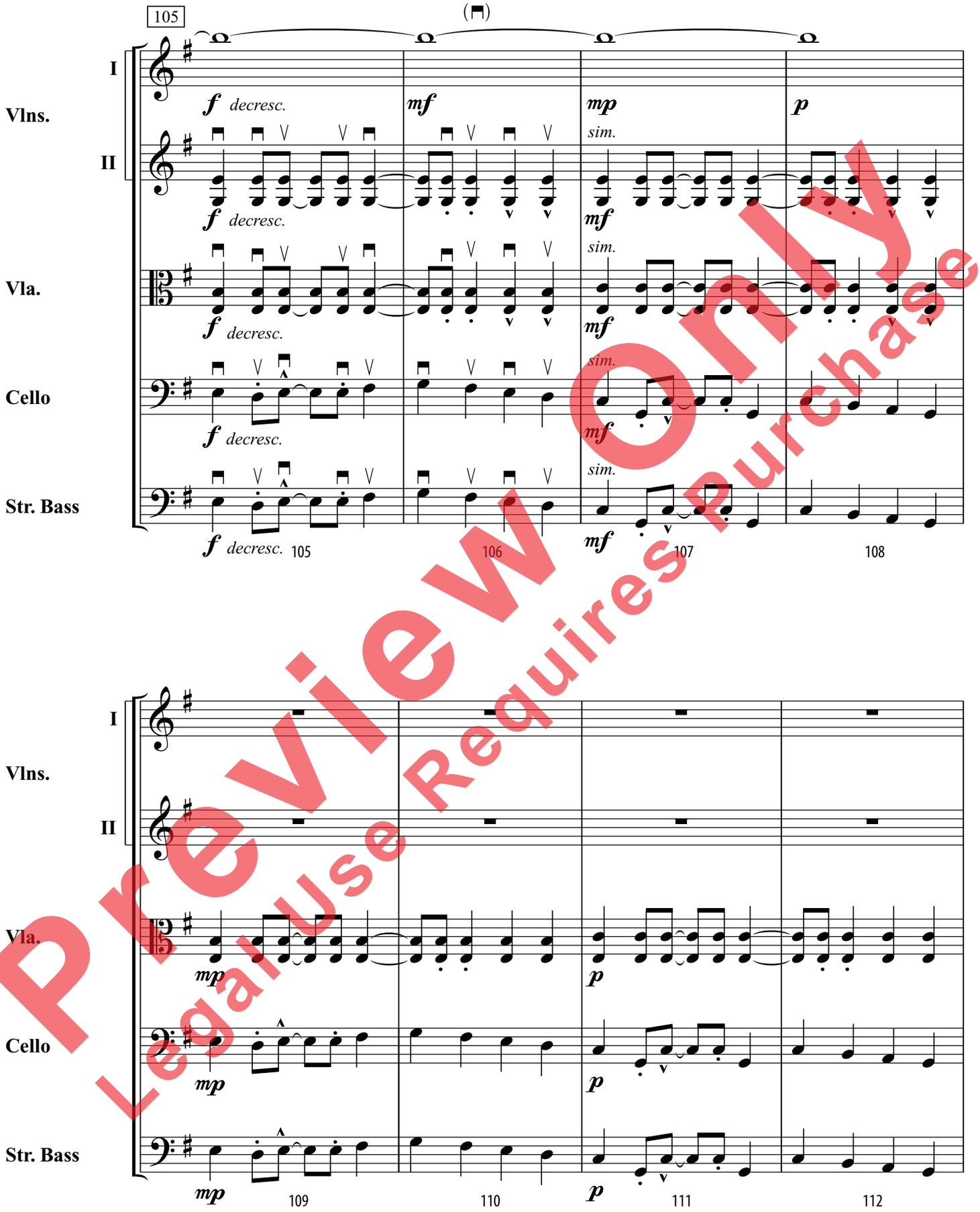

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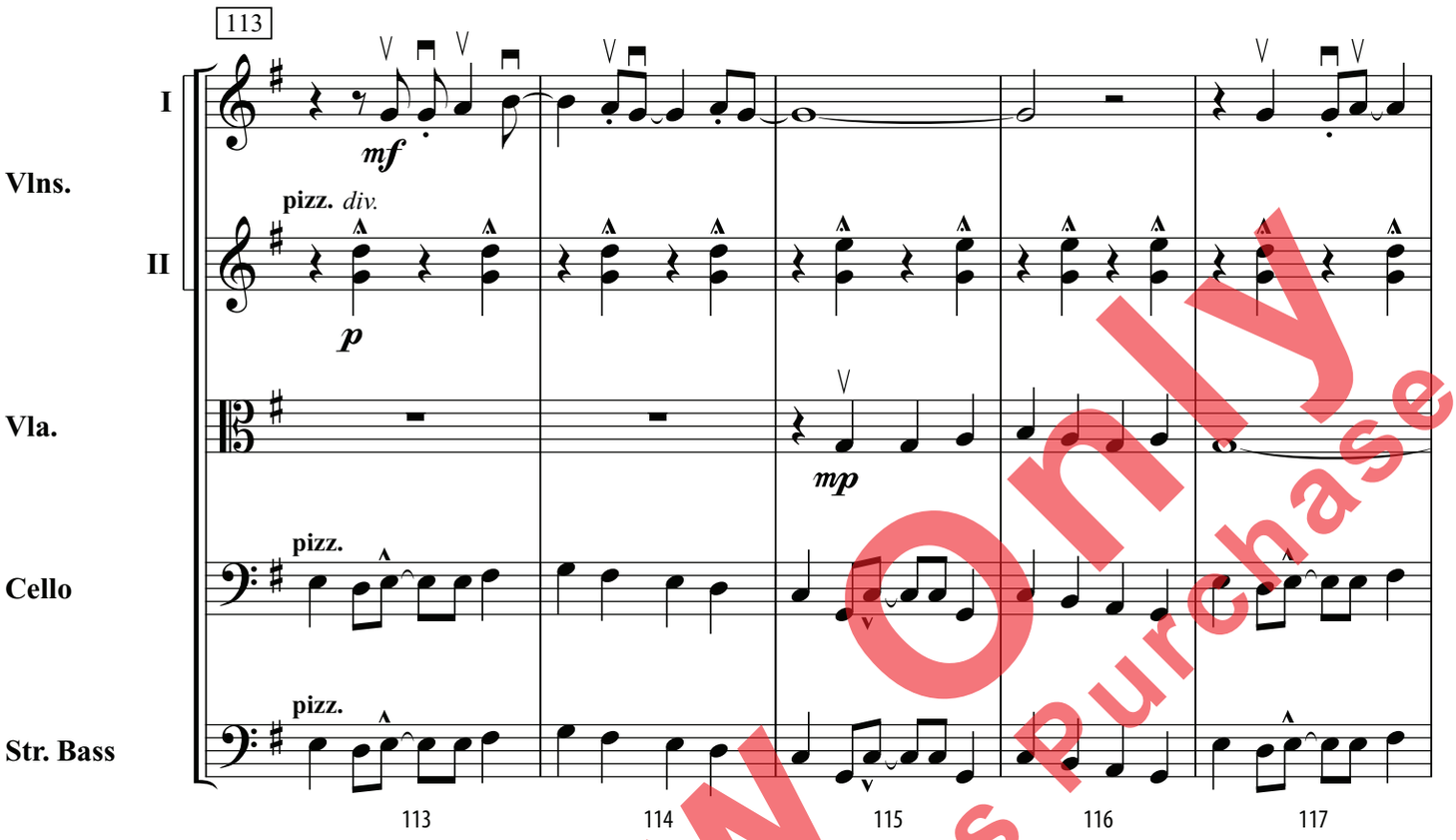

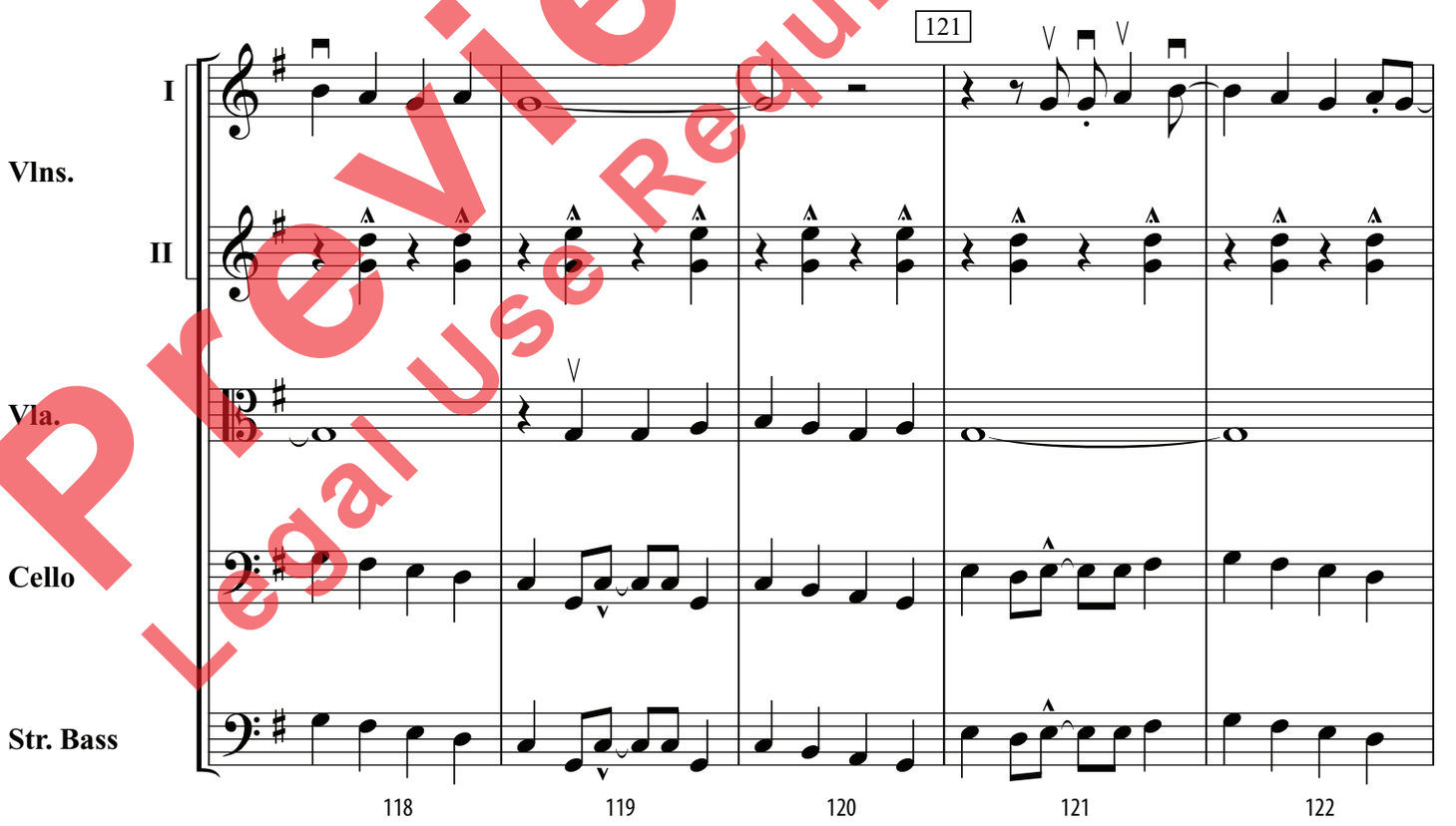

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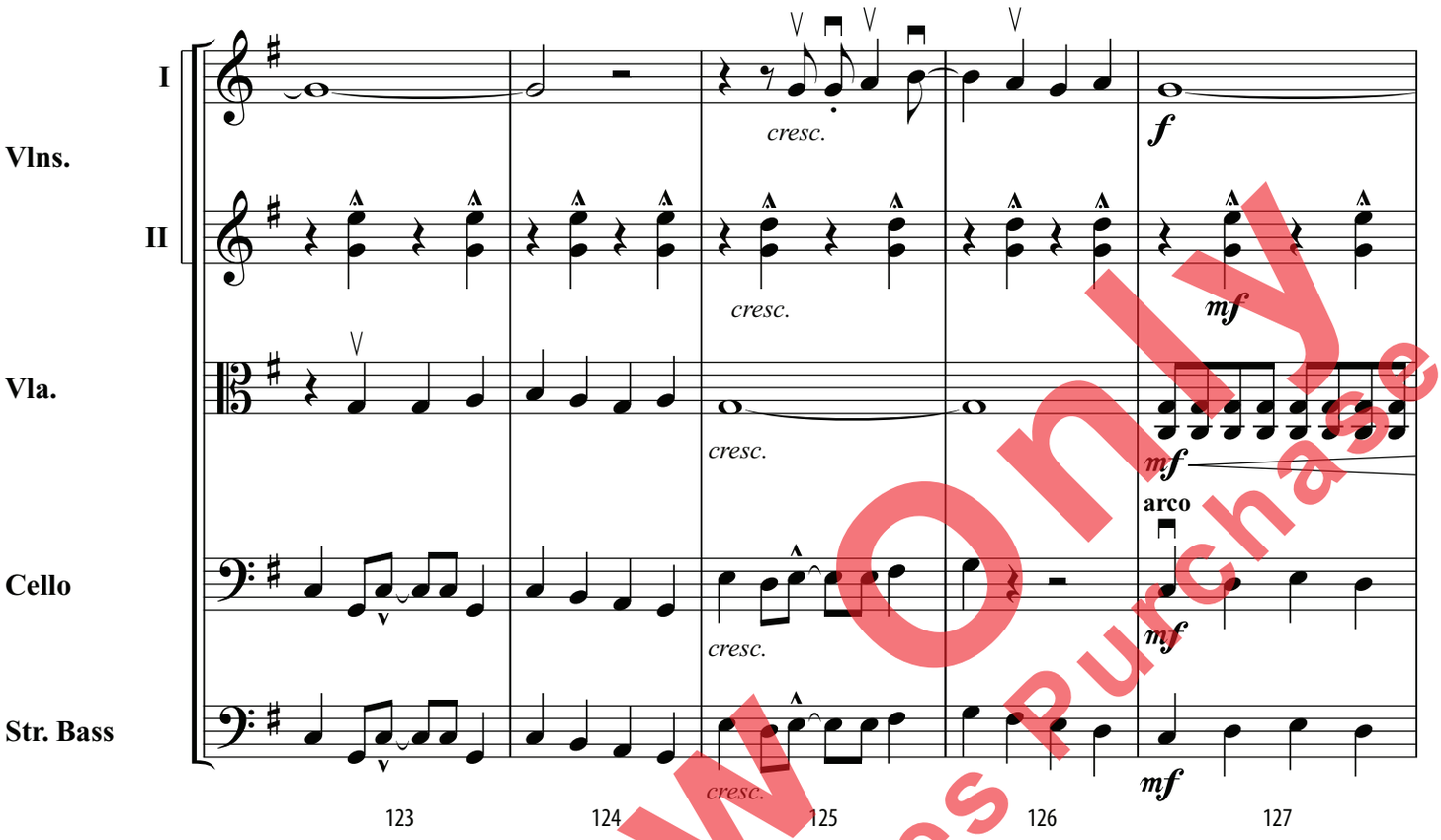

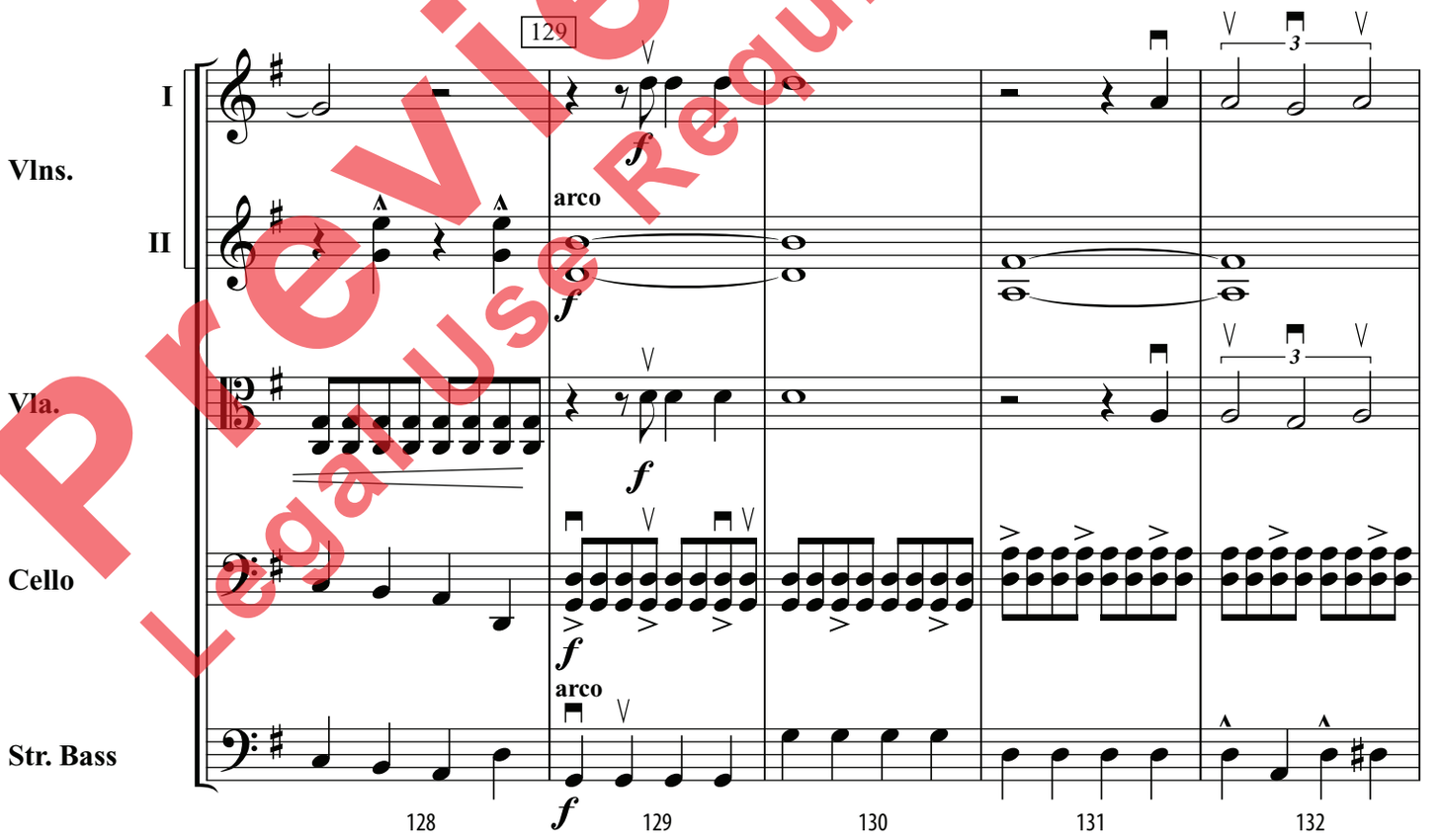

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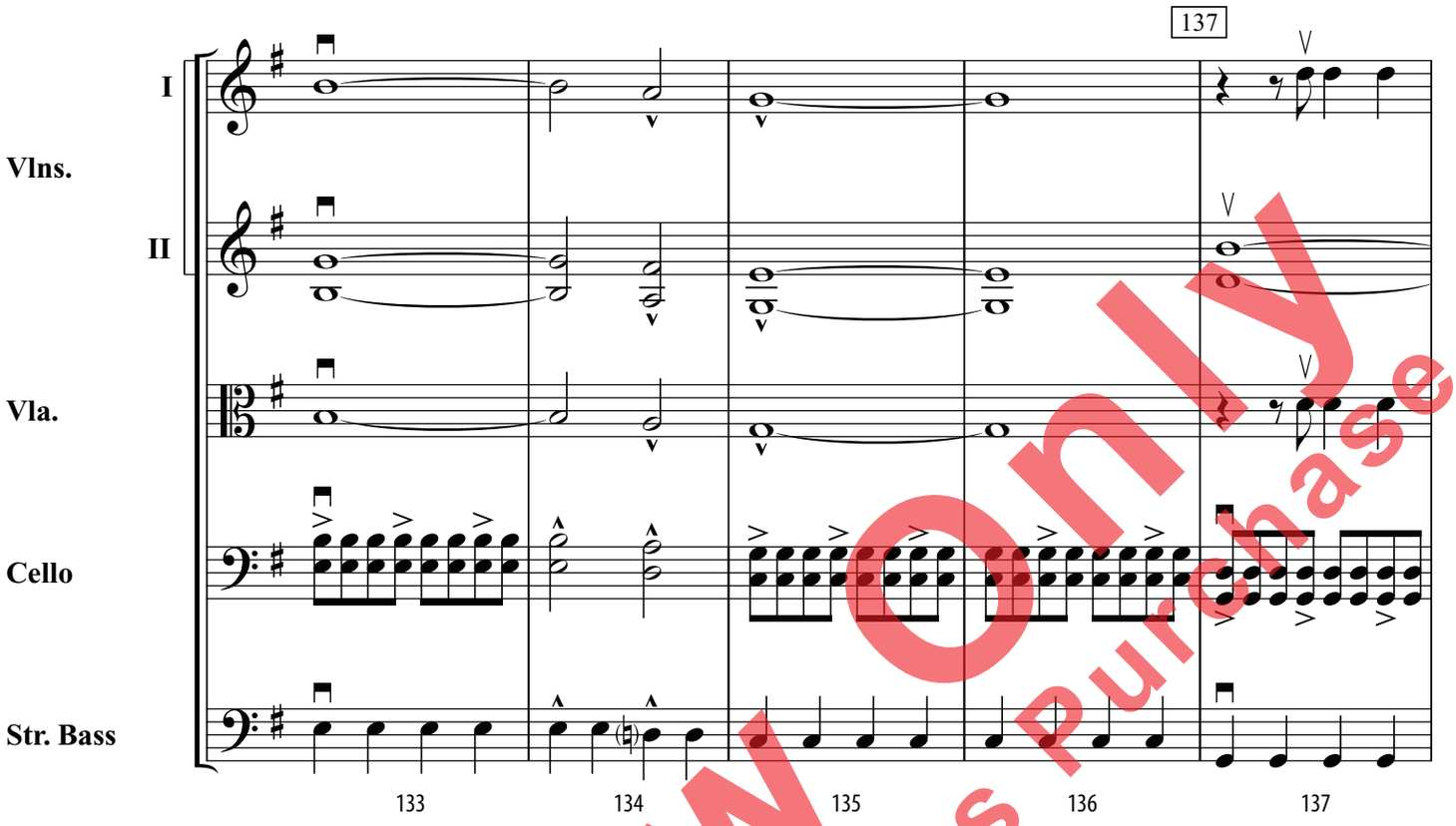

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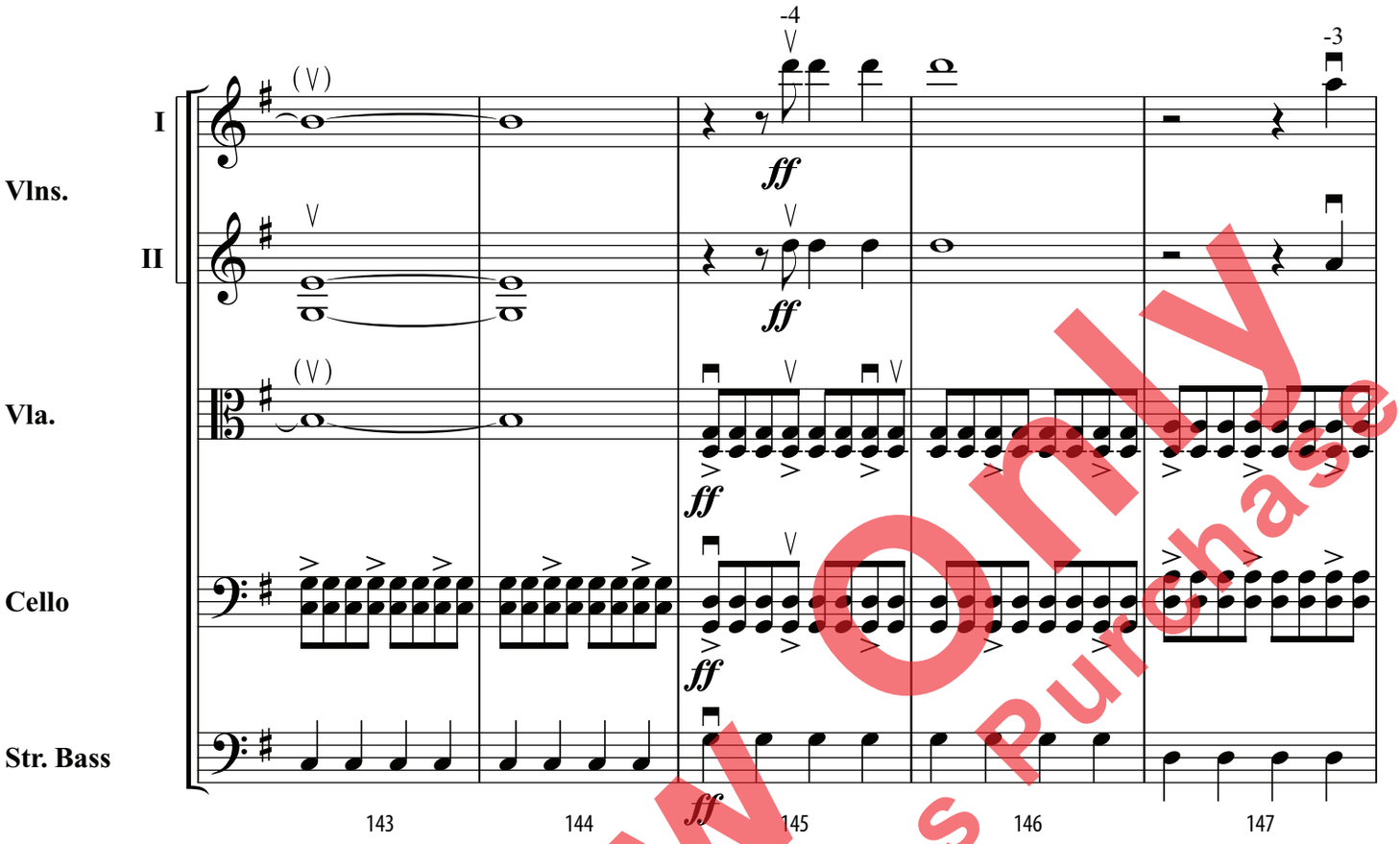

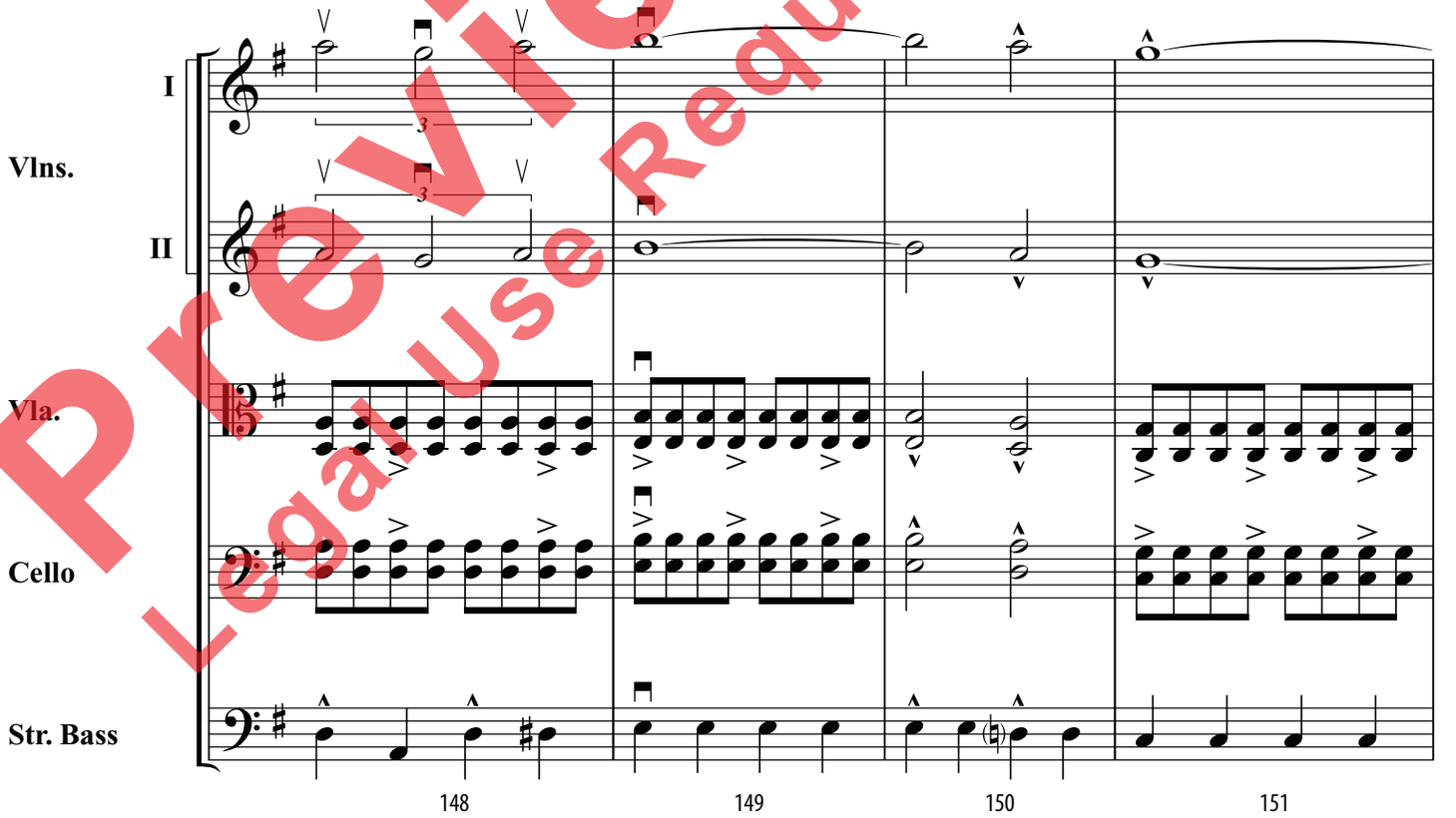

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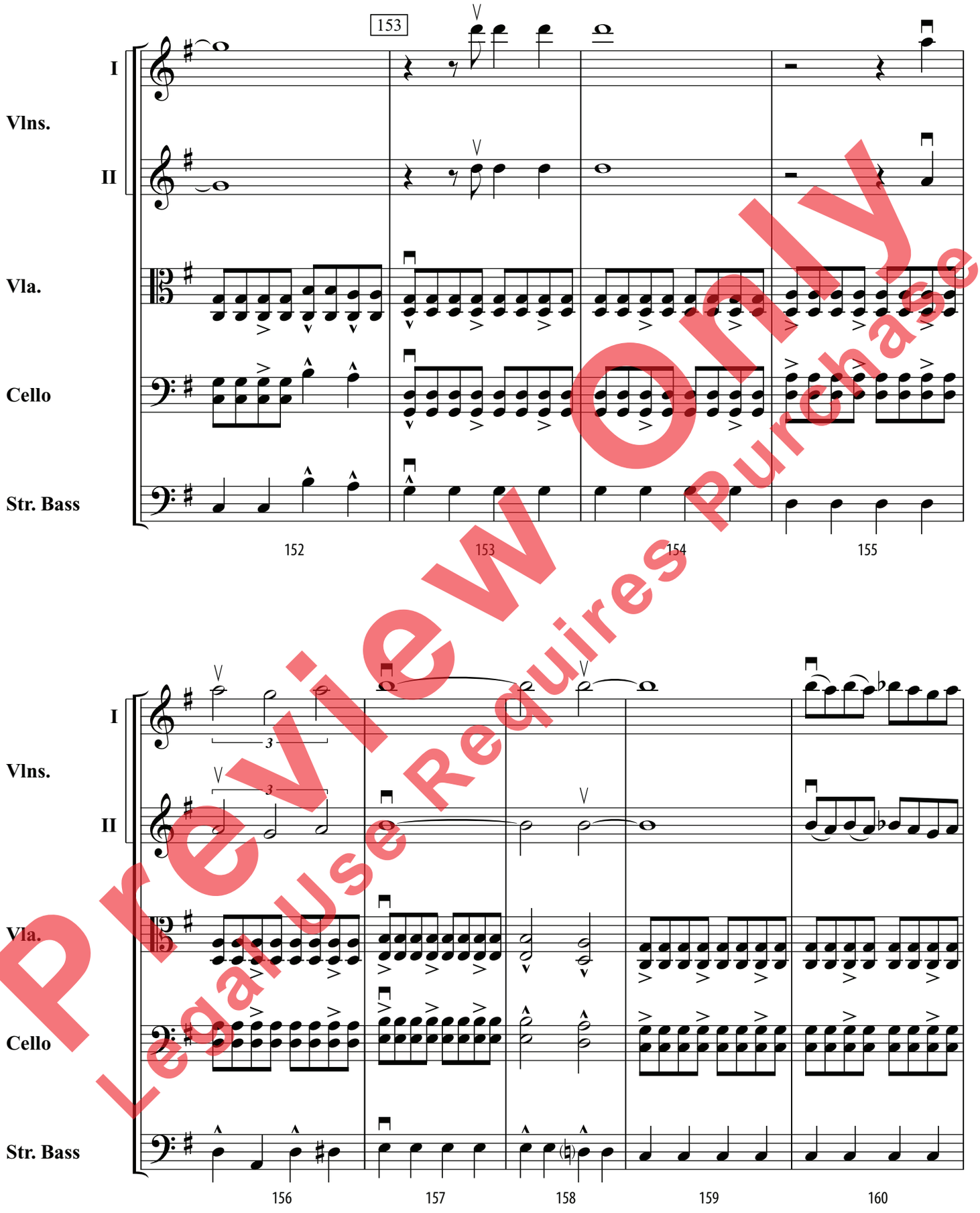

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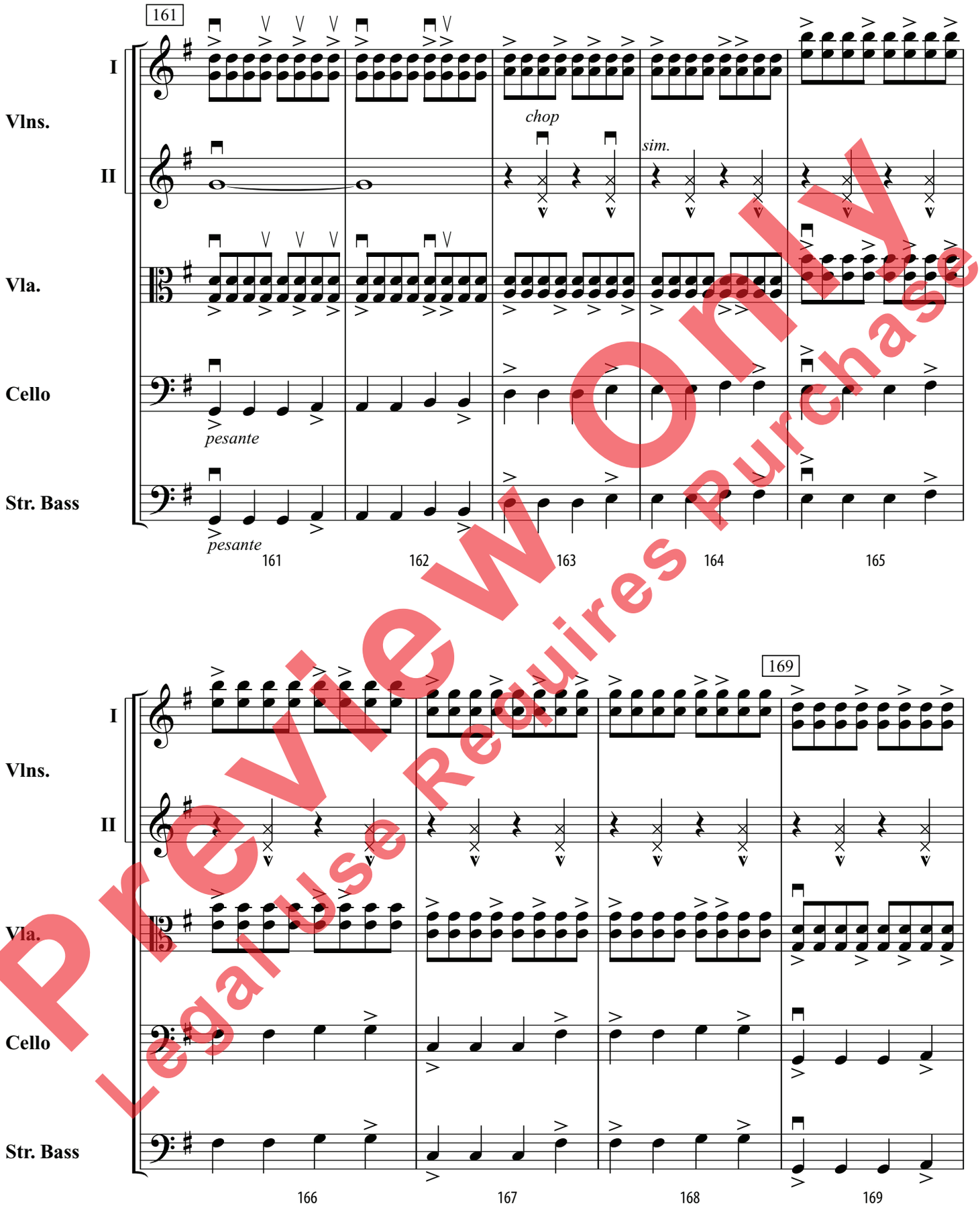

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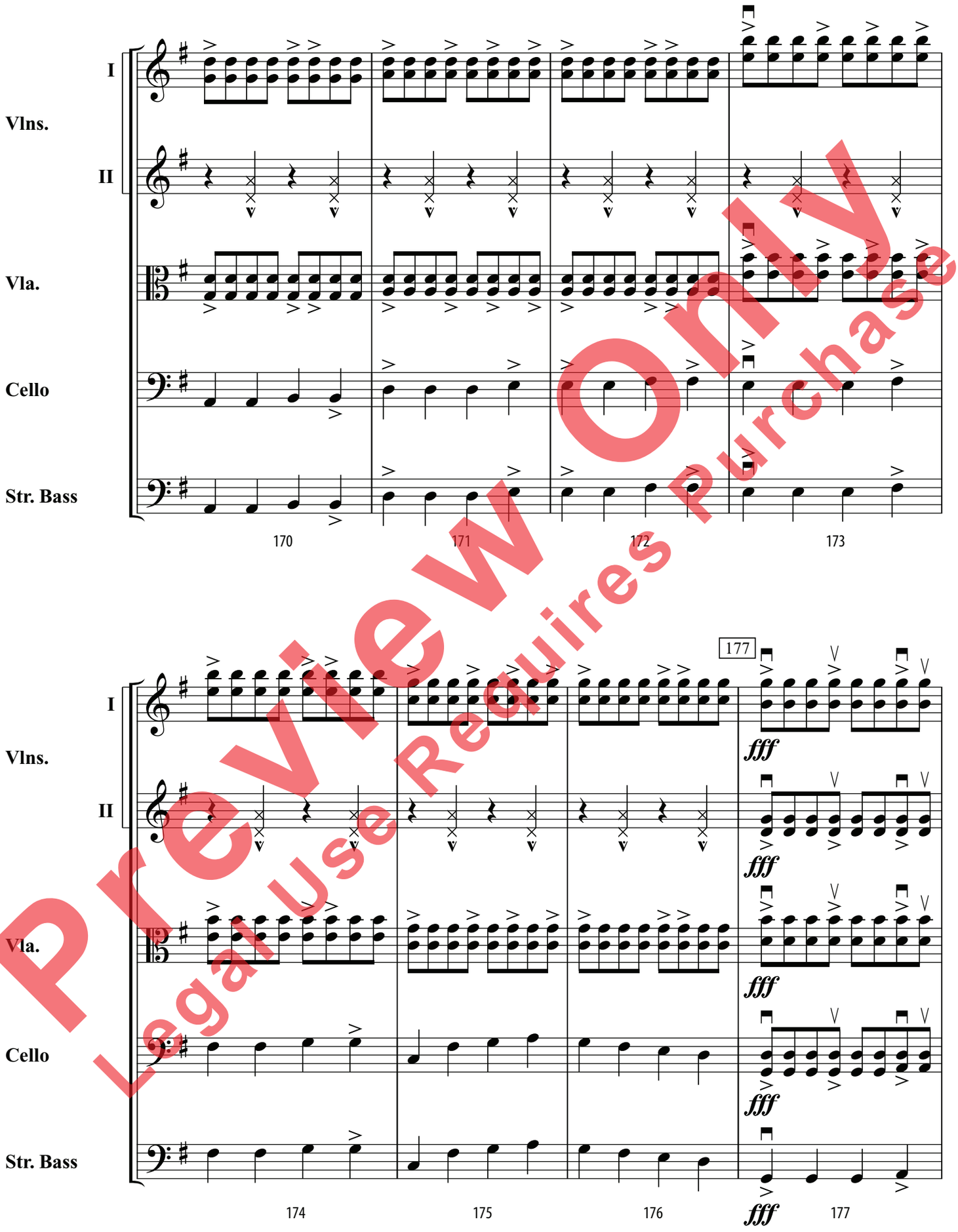

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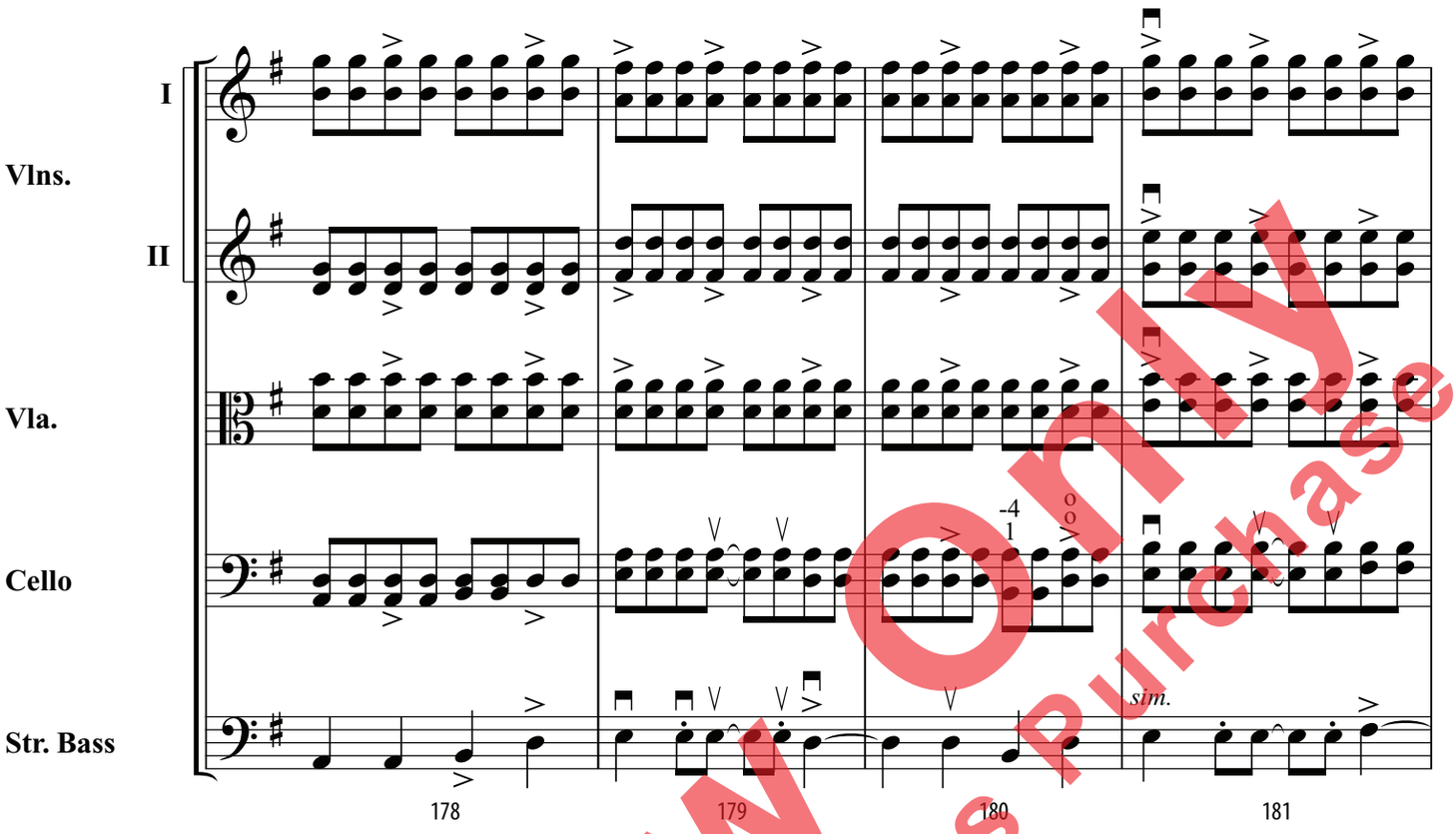

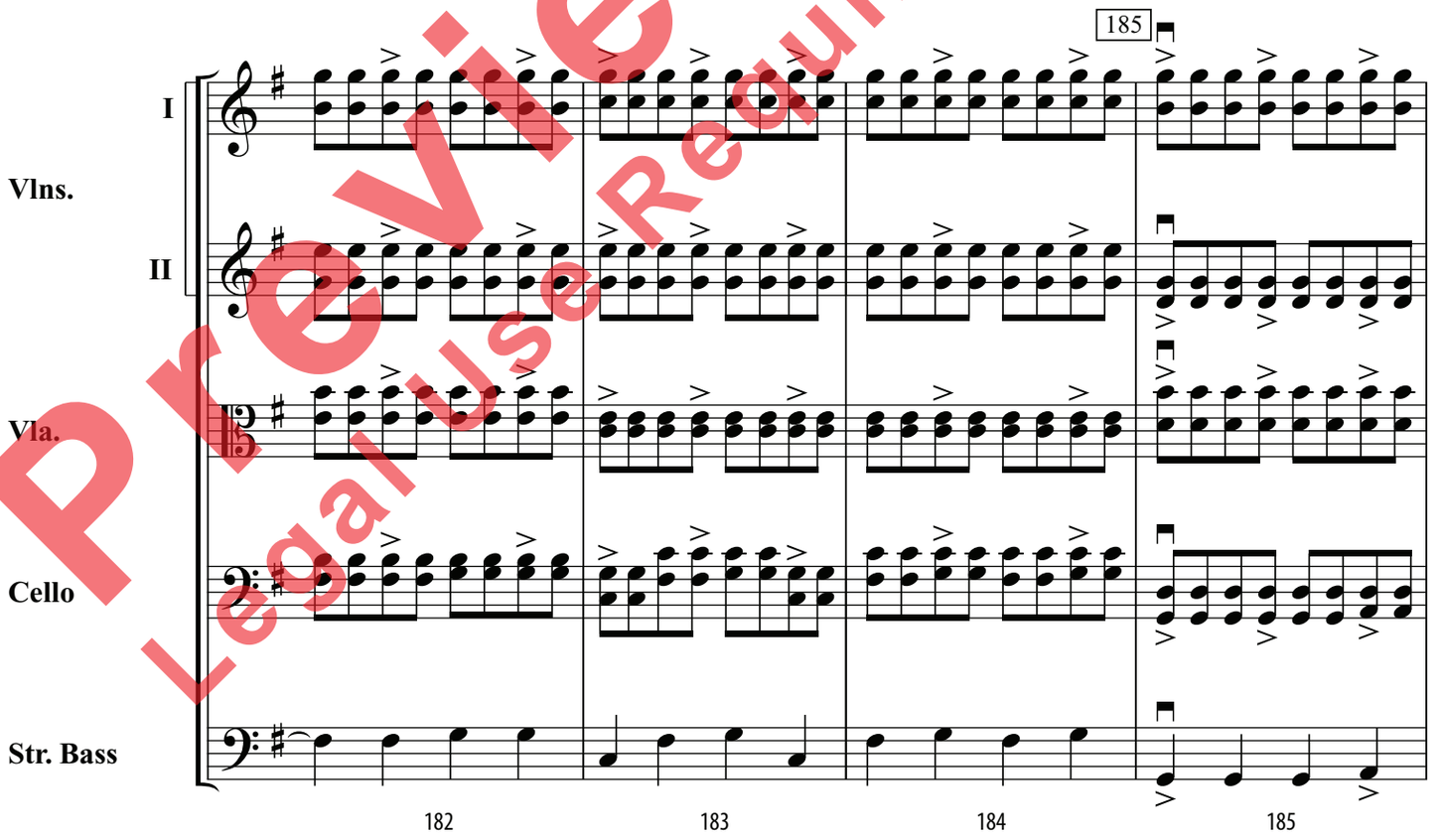

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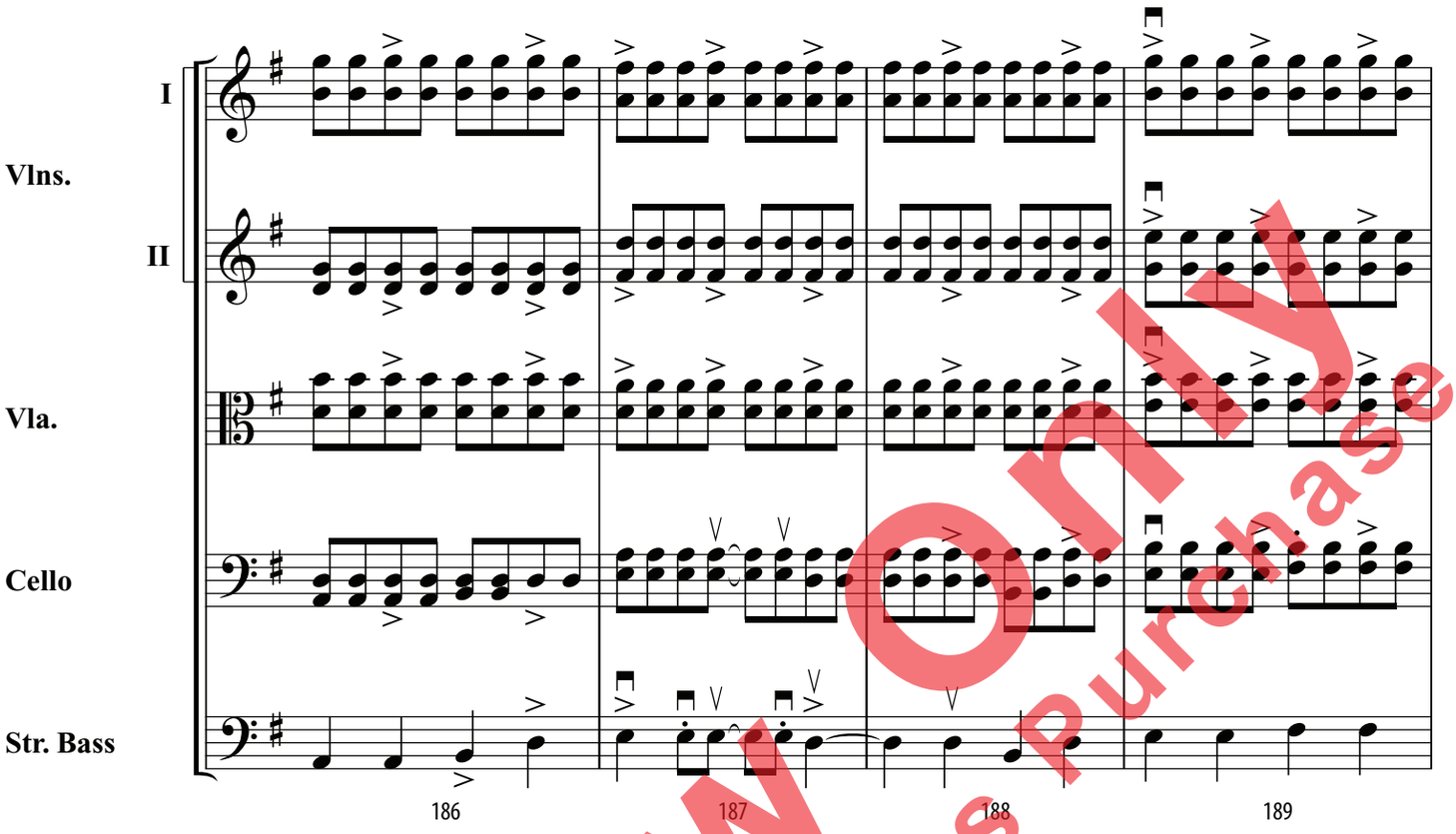

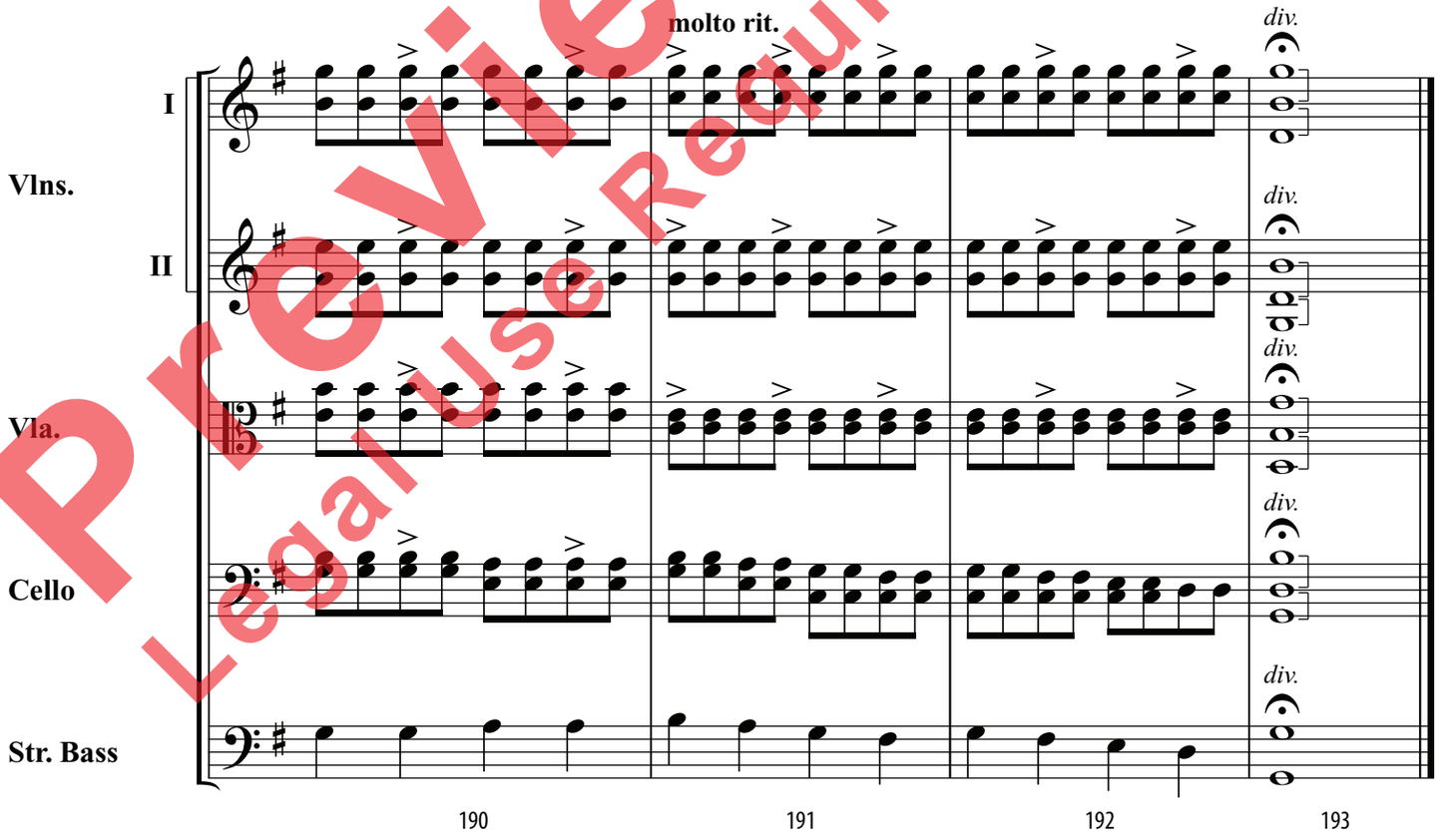

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