Fever Dream

For String Orchestra, Grade 4.5
by Kevin Sluder

Instrumentation

1 - Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2
5 - Viola
5 - Cello
5 - Bass*

Note from the Editor:

This through-composed work for grade 4.5 orchestra explores a variety of playing styles, from expressive lyrical sections to aggressive spiccato ostinati.
Every section has a featured moment, including a bass soli at the end of the piece.
* A Cello 2 part (alternate to bass) is available as a free download at randallstandridge.com

- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

Full Set - $75.00 **Extra Conductor Score - $15.00** **Extra Part - $4.00**

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Fever Dream

By Kevin Sluder, Grade 4.5

Program Notes:
At home with the flu, you begin to drift off to sleep. At first, there is nothingness; calm and nebulous. As if out of nowhere, a growing sense of unease begins to infiltrate your dream. Suddenly, a person you seem to recognize (but their face is different somehow?) begins to chase you. Every corner you take, every building you hide behind, they always seem to find you and the chase begins again.

You blink and find yourself out in nature. Beautiful mountains, desert, and coastlines all intersecting. How did you get here? Where is the person that was pursuing you? You are filled with a sense of adventure. You sit under a tree and have a moment of respite, finally feeling at peace again.

Like a flashback in a movie, you now find yourself in a memory from your childhood, in a room that feels both familiar and foreign. You look around for your friends and family, and suddenly catch the eyes of the person that was chasing you before, and you bolt. As you burst through the door to outside, you see the mountains, desert, and seaside once again. But, those don't belong in this memory...

Your eyes fly open. You were just sleeping. But, this isn't your room. Your pursuer tries to grab your arm, but you slip away and start running again. Your alarm goes off. You're sweating. You're in your room. It was a nightmare after all, but it is hard to shake the feelings you had during it. You feel like your fever has broken, but dream and daylight are still blending. Then someone grabs your arm...

Notes to the Conductor:
As a composer and educator, I'm so excited for your students to experience this piece. The raw power and through-composed nature of Fever Dream lights up my brain in a different way than any other piece I've written to date. I encourage you to really lean into the dynamic changes and explore tonal colors (both the beautiful and the aggressive) as the dream winds its way through the mind of the sleeper.

For the main driving staccato 8th notes, try a heavy brush stroke close to the frog. Encourage your students to dig in and sustain the accent/tenuto combo notes. The emphasis on both volume and length for these notes will help your students sink into the half-time feel of this dark groove.

– Kevin Sluder

About the Composer:
Kevin Sluder is a Texas string orchestra director in the DFW area and has been teaching in the public school system since 2007. His middle school program in Frisco, TX was named the 2024 TMEA JH/MS Full Honor Orchestra.

Born and raised in Mansfield, TX, Mr. Sluder obtained his bachelor's degree in music education from the University of North Texas in Denton. A bass player by trade, he also has experience in percussion and guitar, with a deep love of rhythm.

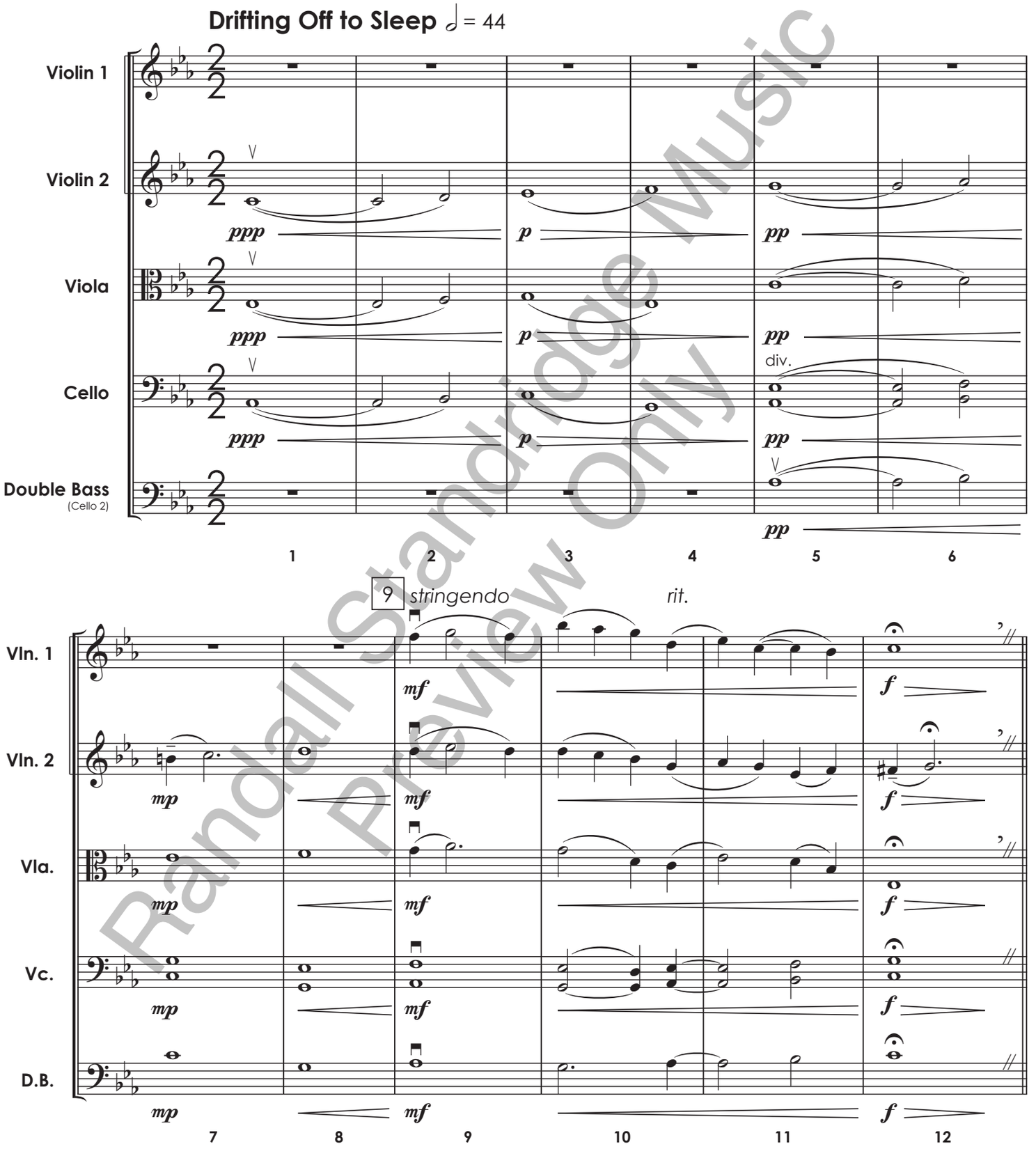
Outside of the classroom, Mr. Sluder spends a great deal of time composing and arranging music. He also runs two podcasts. *Rite of String*, co-hosted with Matthew Moreno, focuses on string education. *SluderMusic* is a showcase of Mr. Sluder's published pieces. In addition to his work in the "classical" world, he has written and recorded several rock/electronic albums that are available on most streaming services.

Mr. Sluder currently resides in McKinney, TX with his wife (and fellow Orchestra director), Bethany Hardwick. In his limited spare time, he enjoys taking naps, camping, and playing video games.

Fever Dream

Score
Grade 4.5
Duration 5:30

Kevin Sluder



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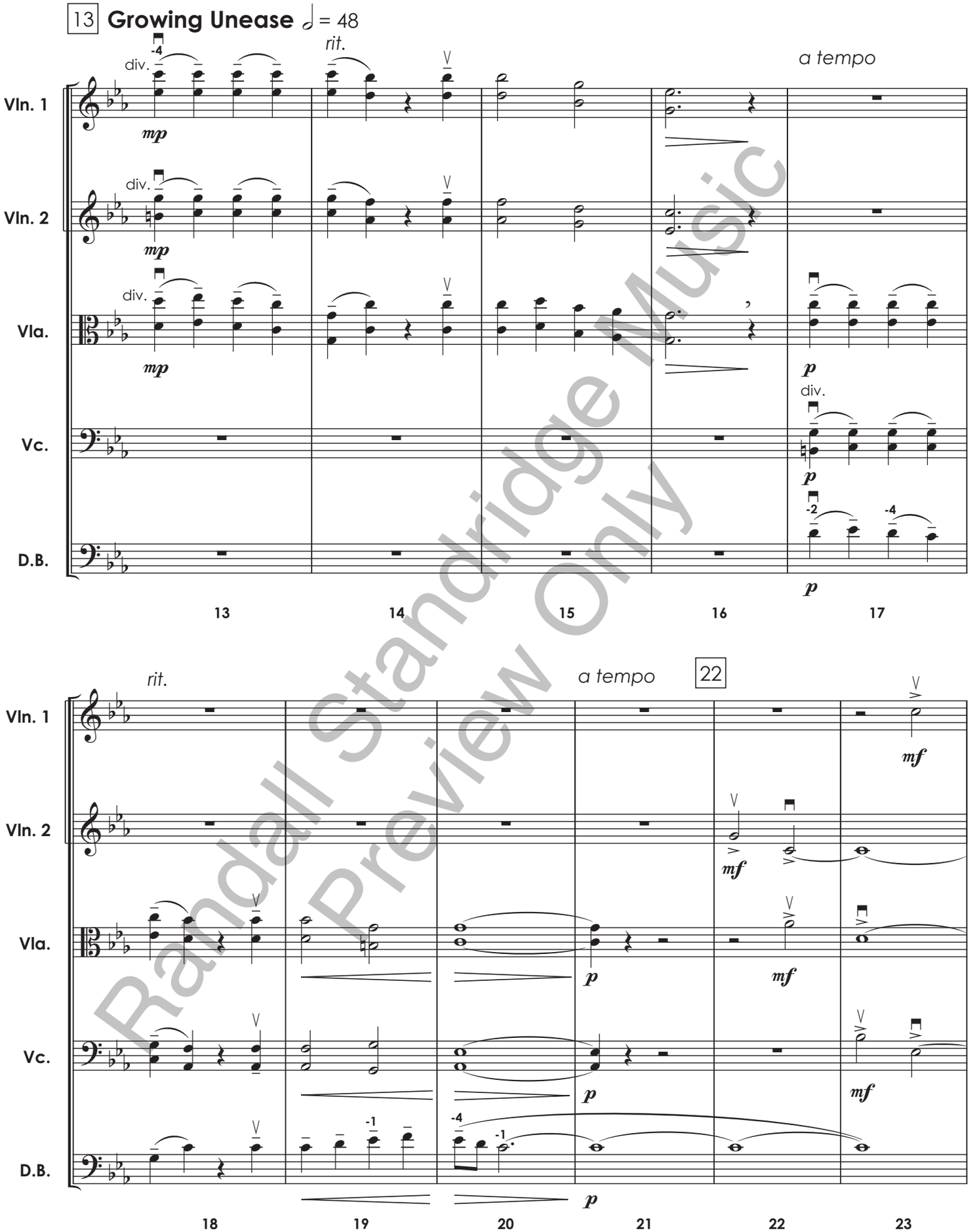

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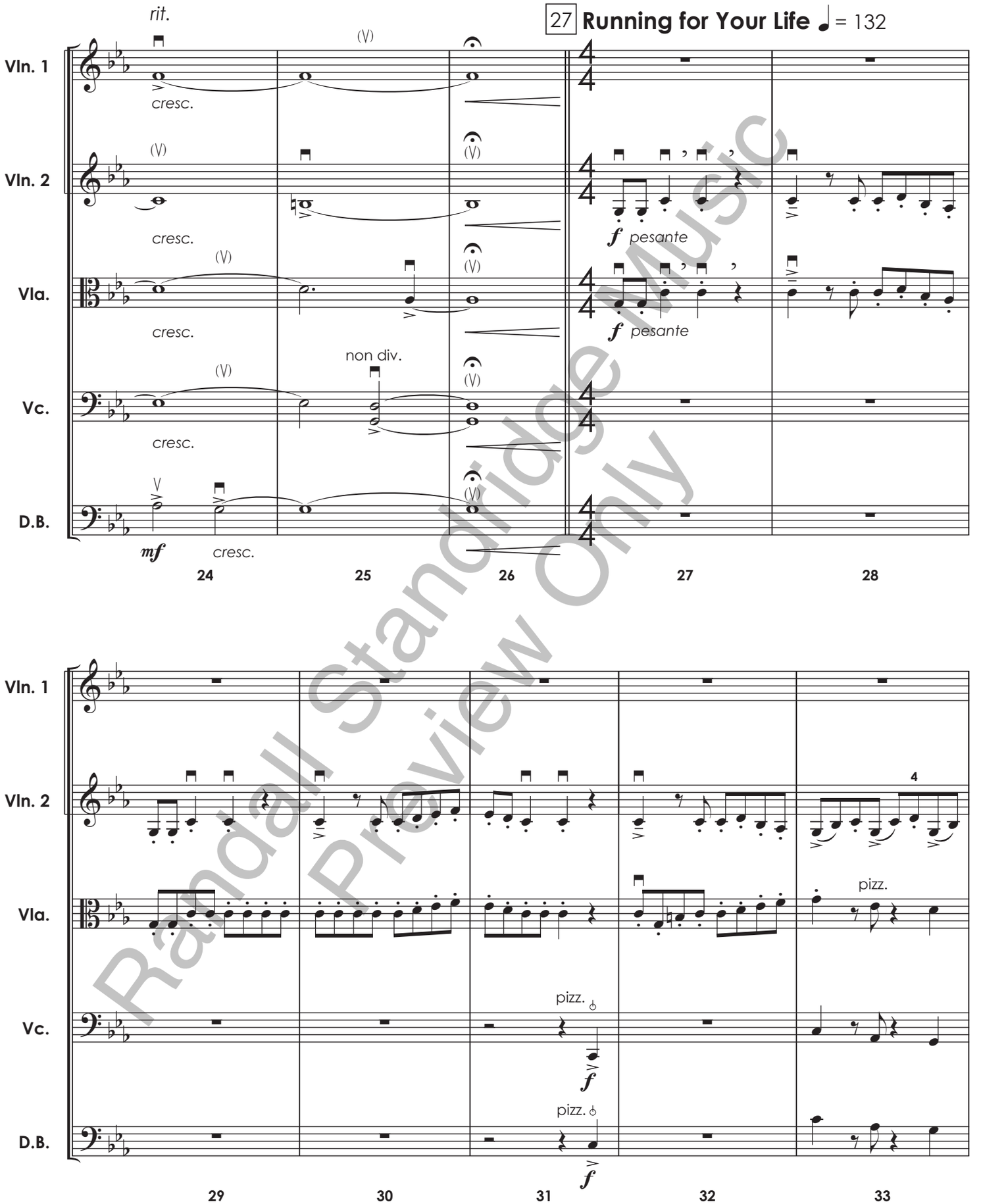

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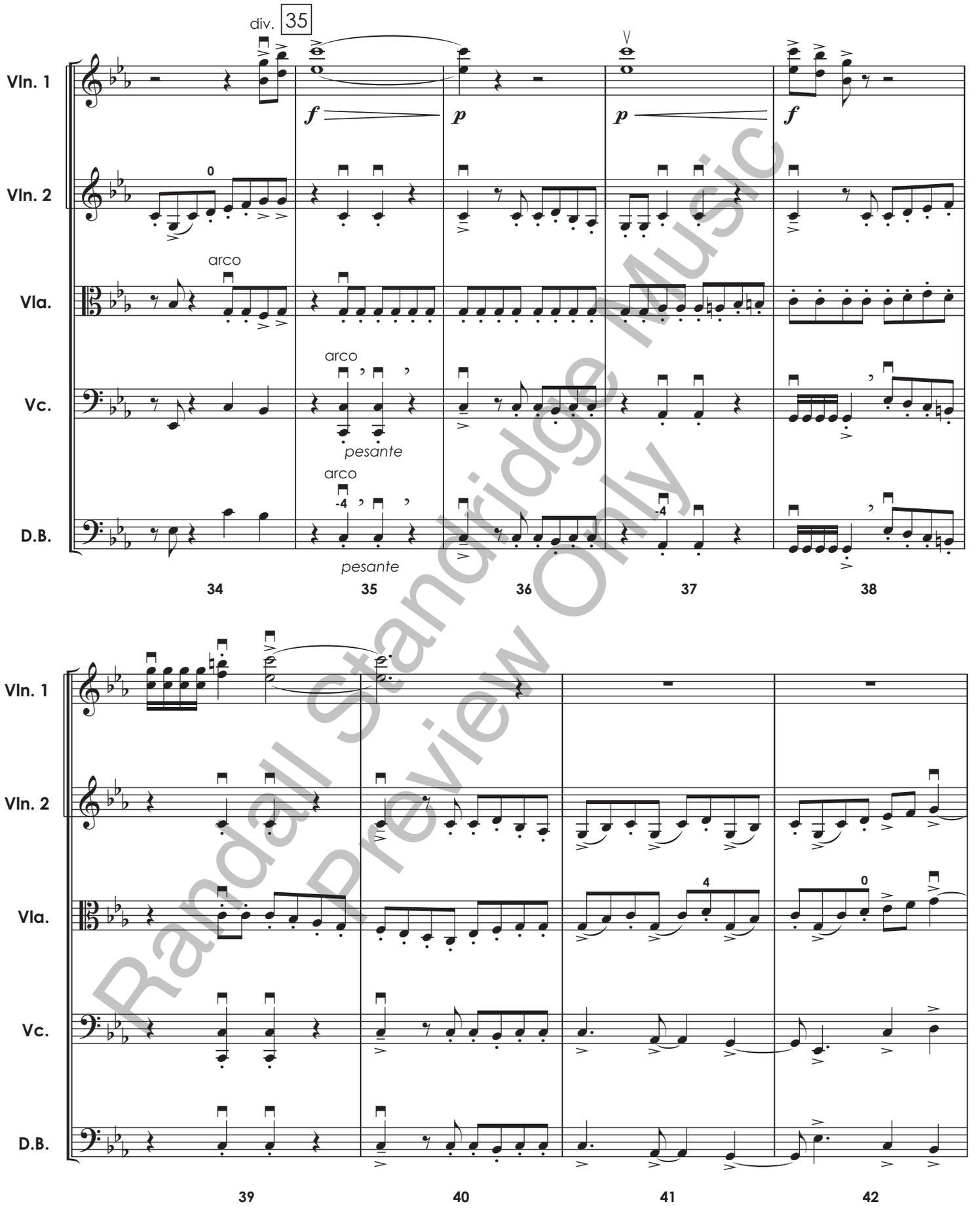

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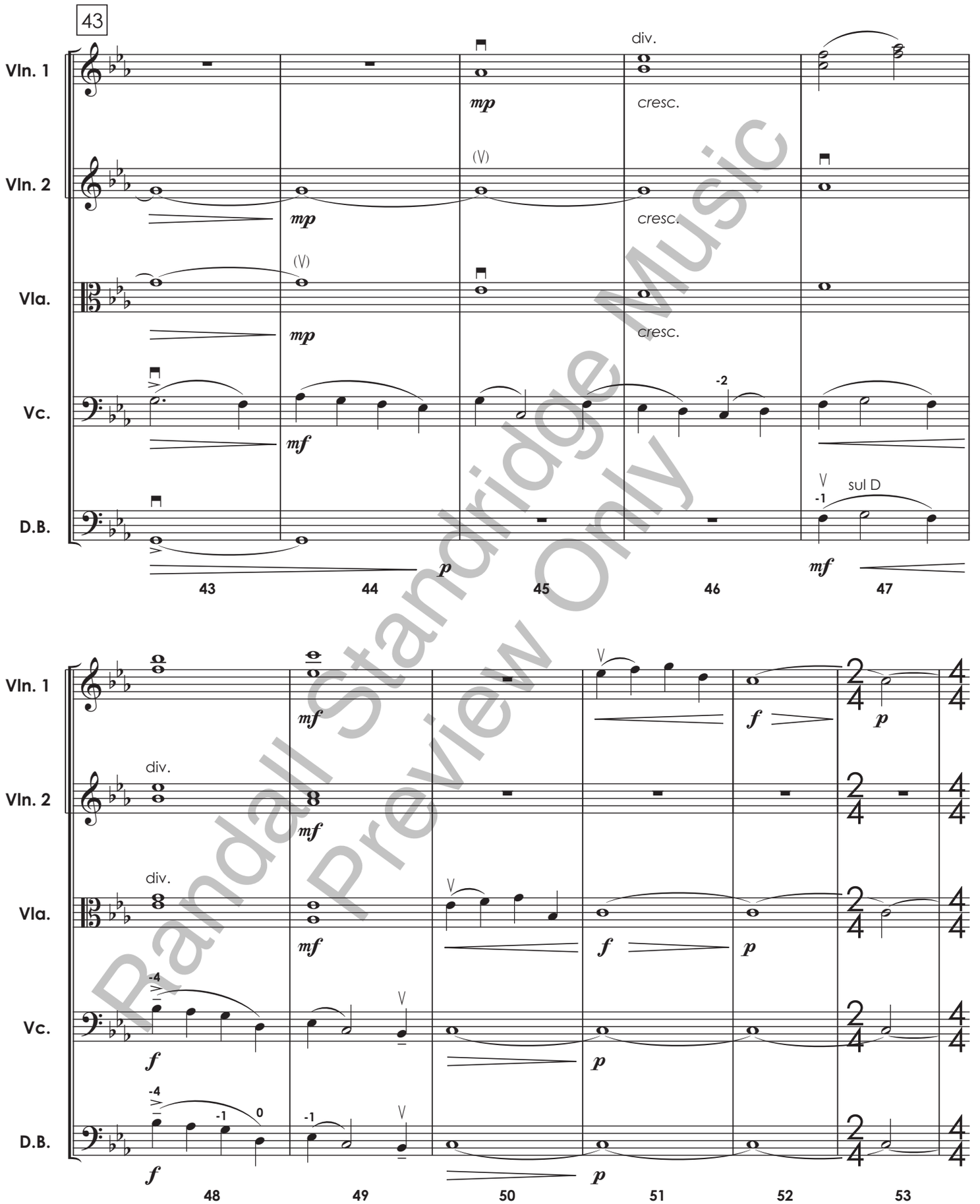

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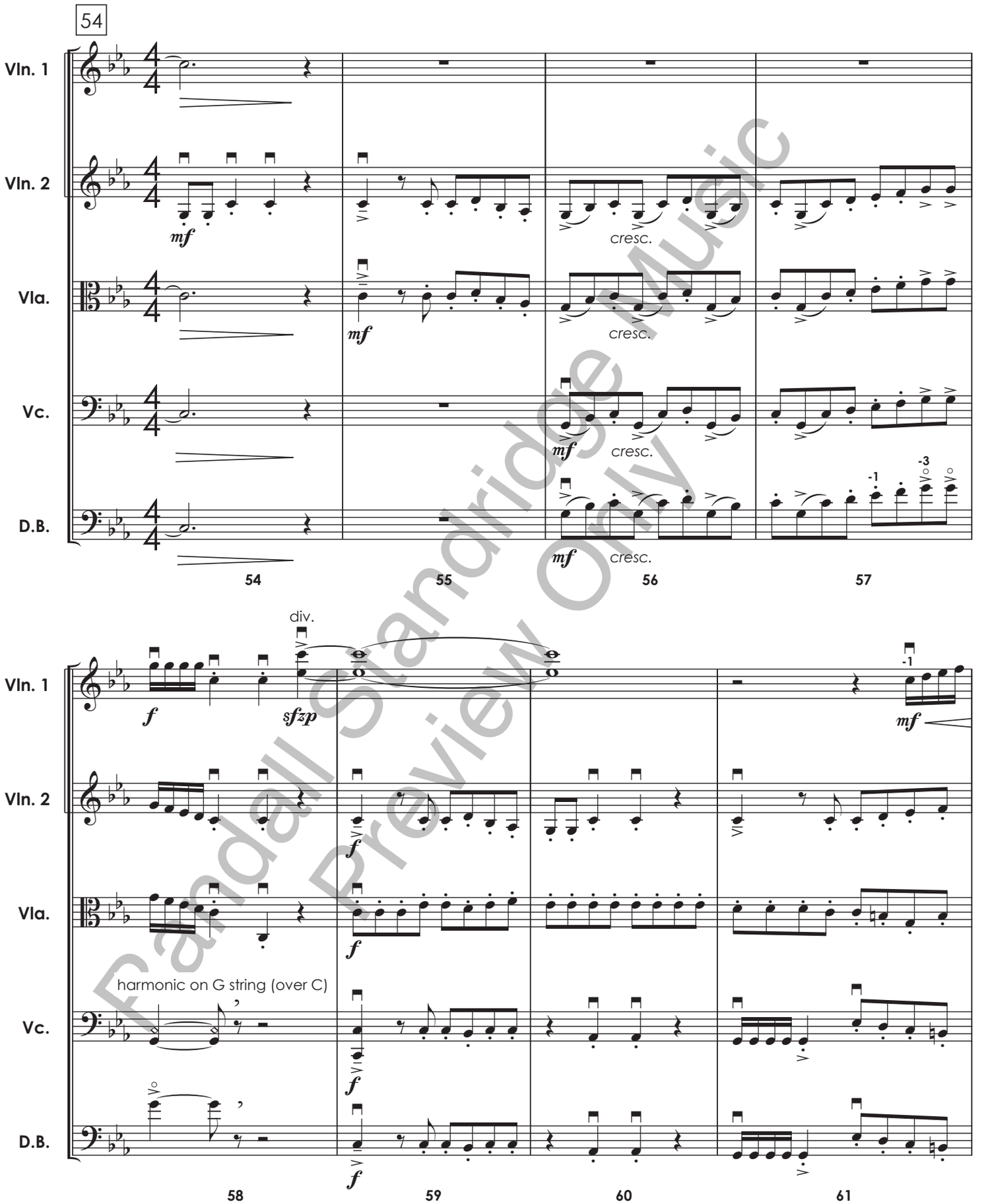

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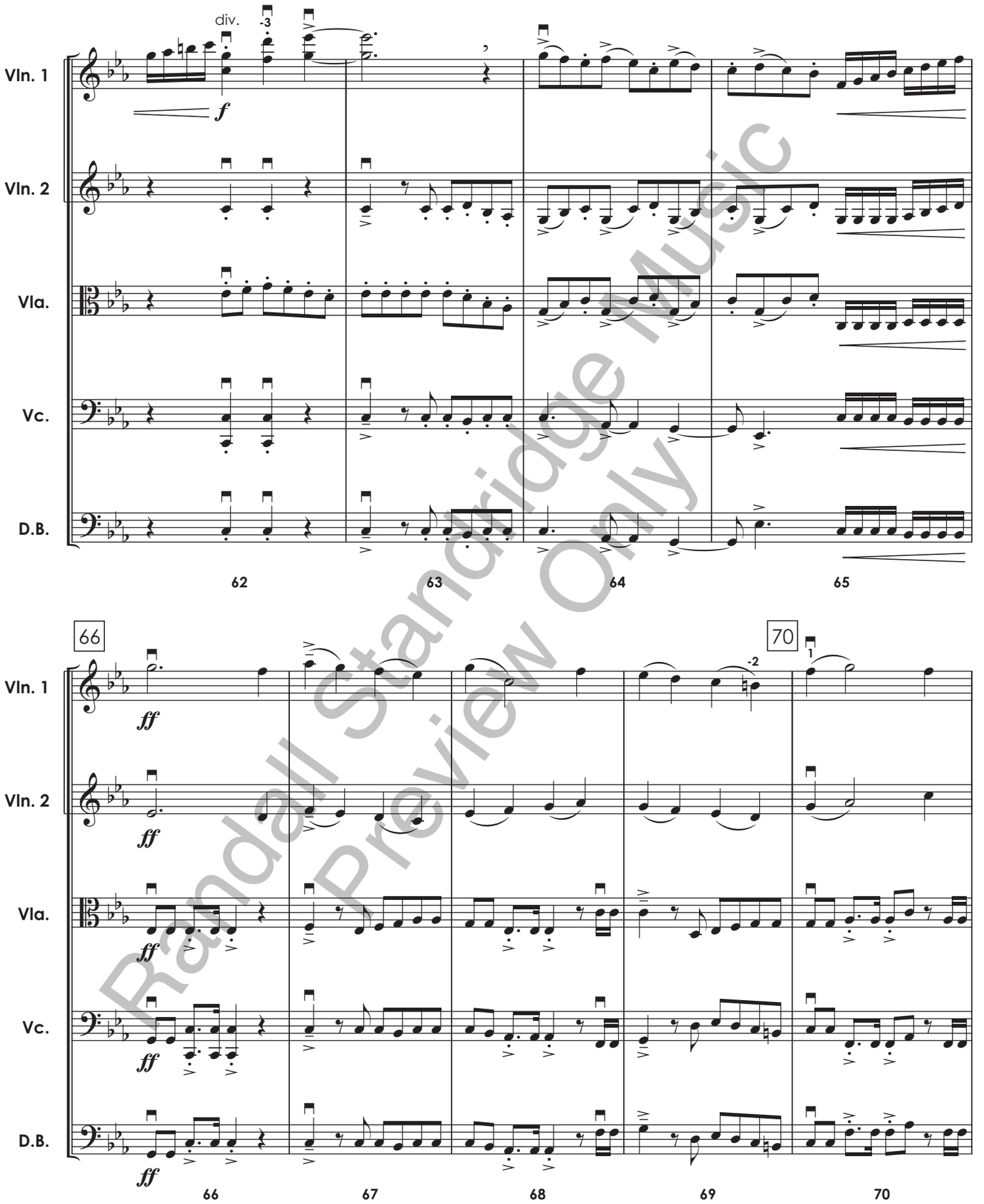

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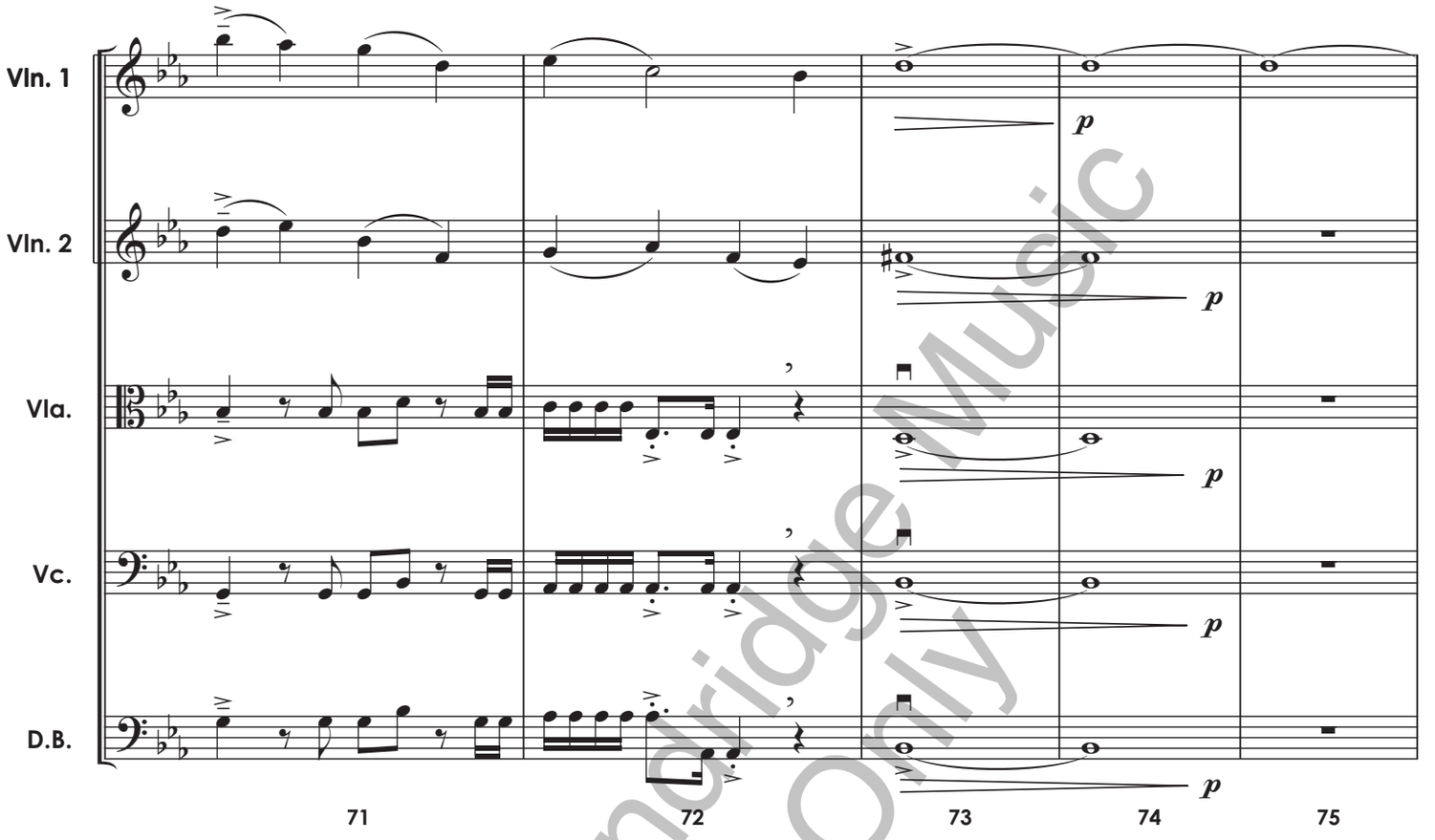

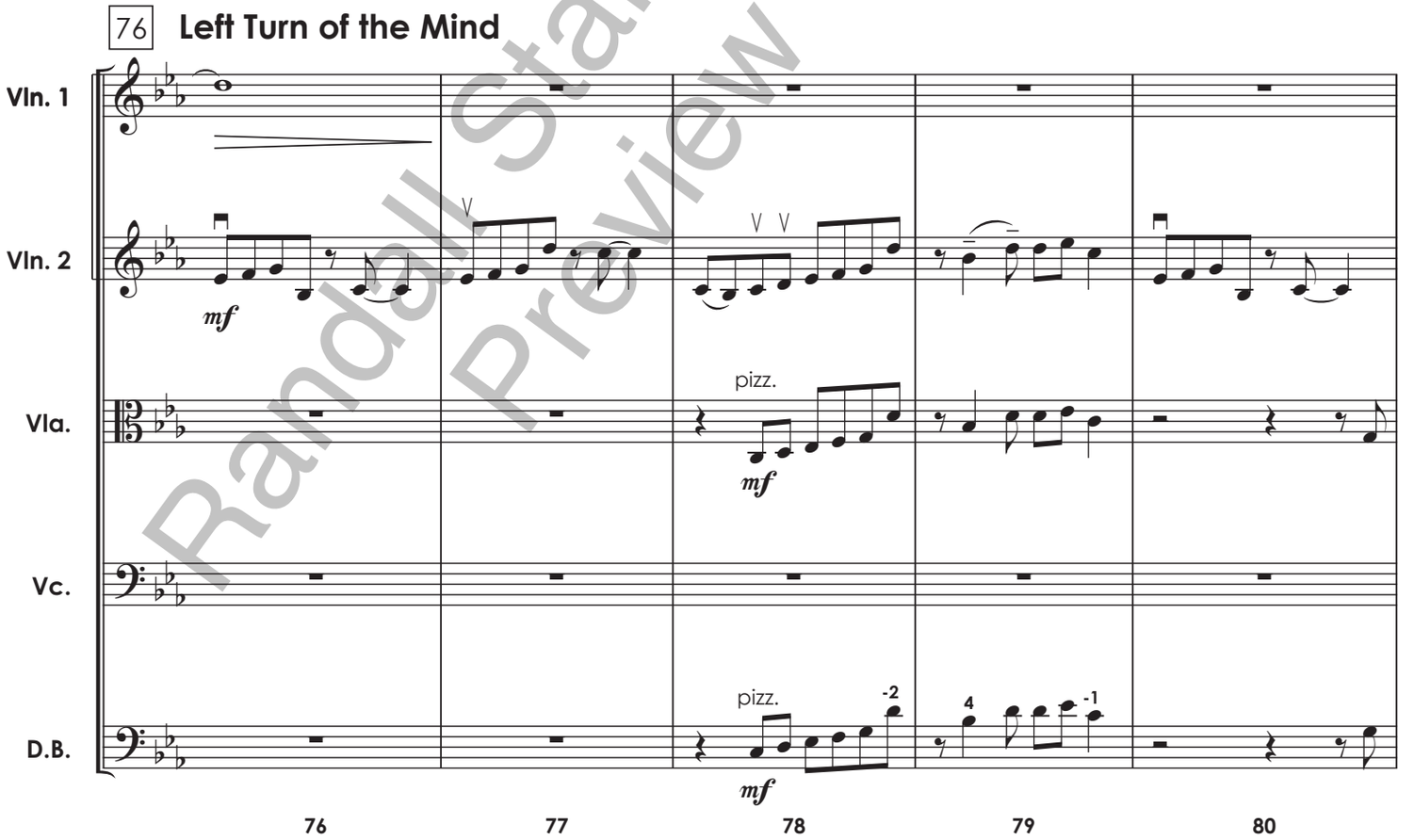

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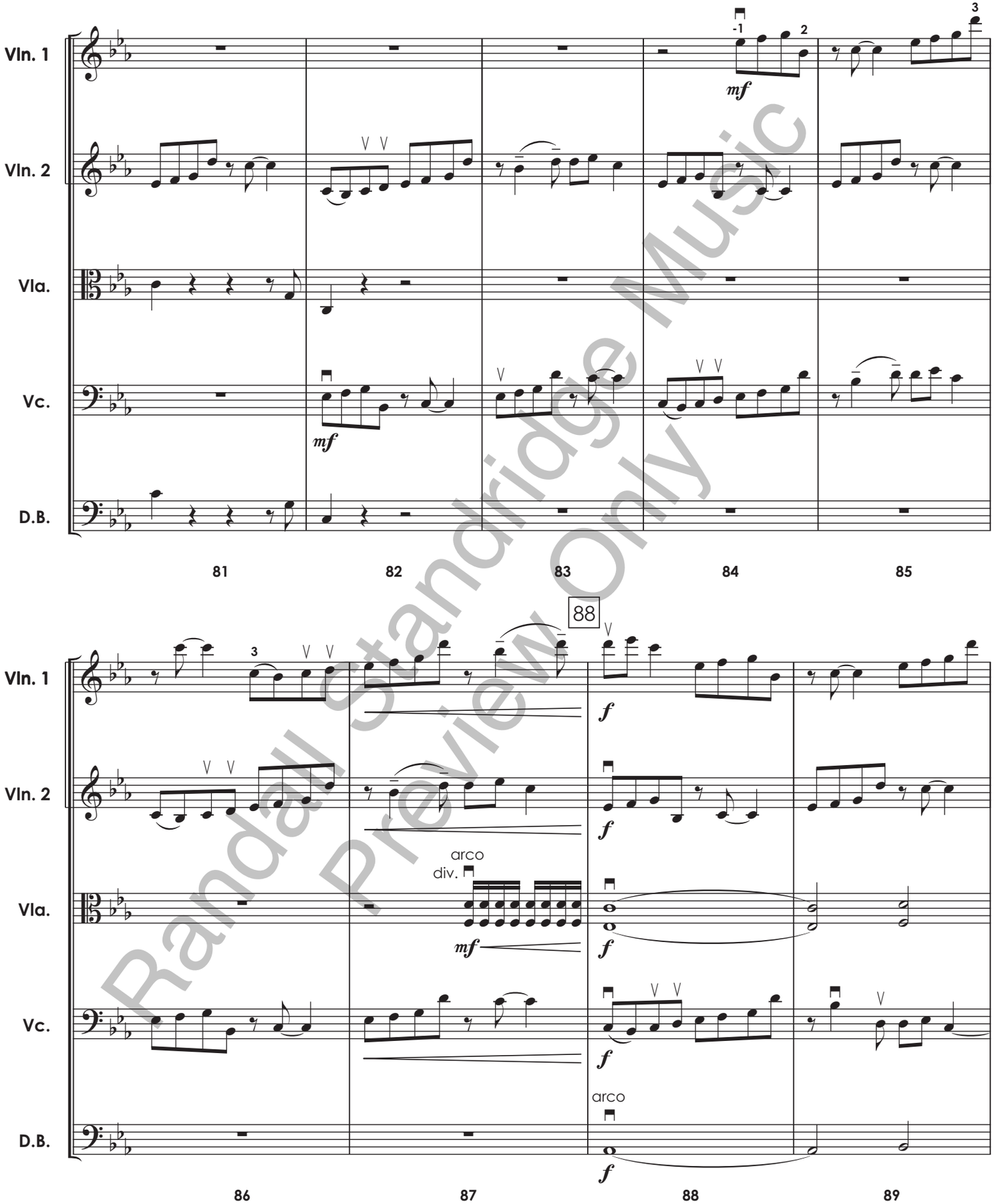

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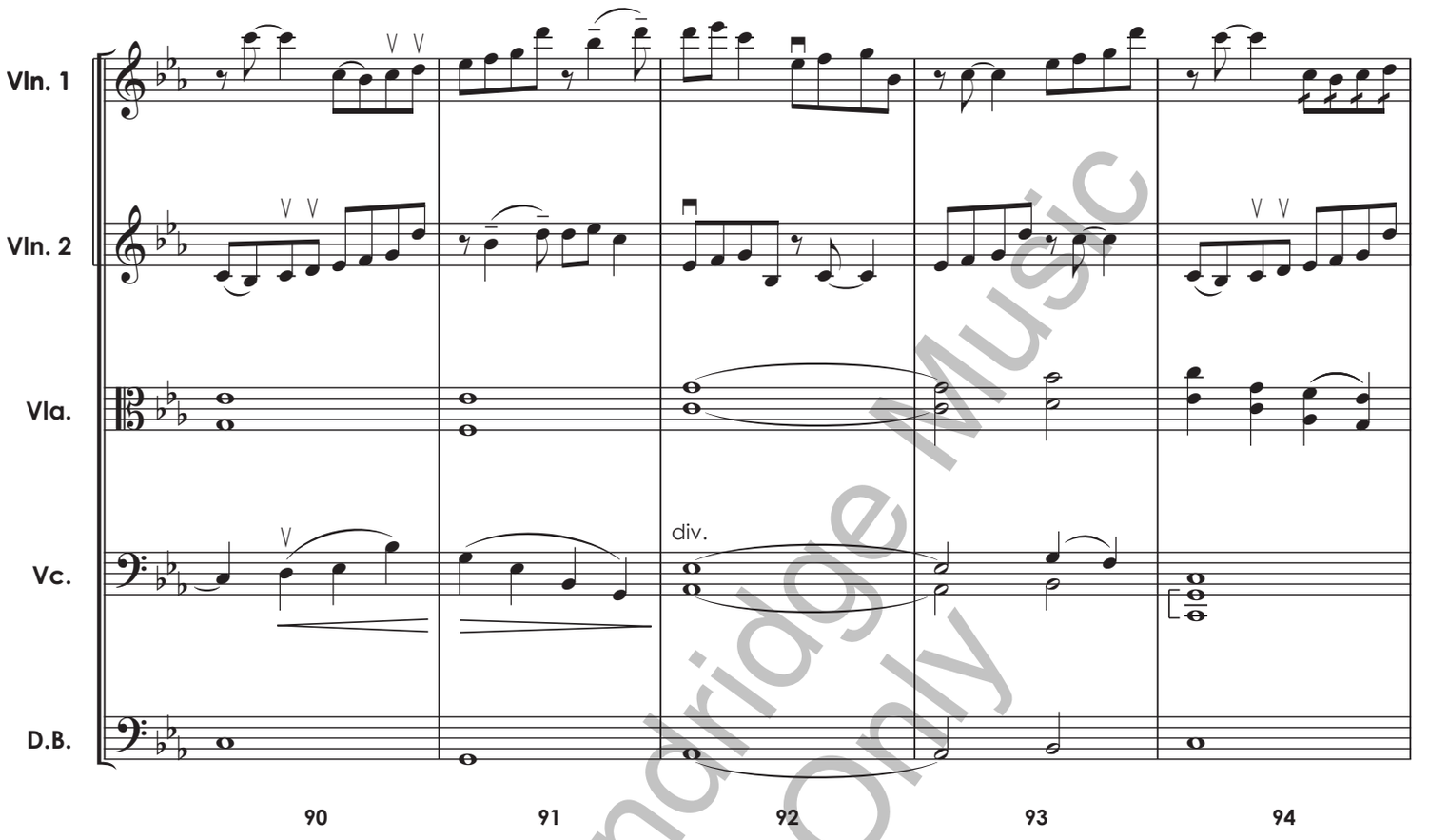

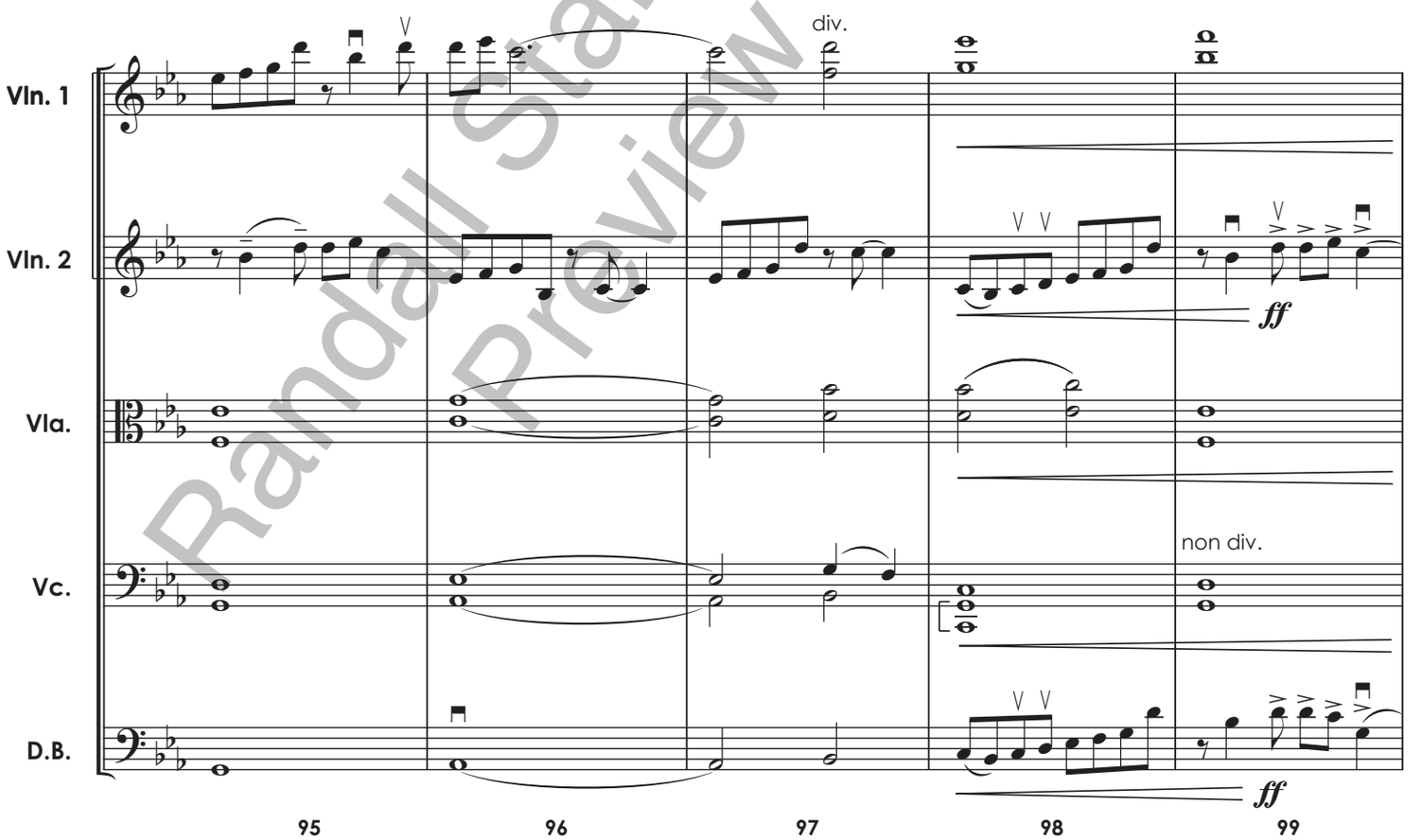

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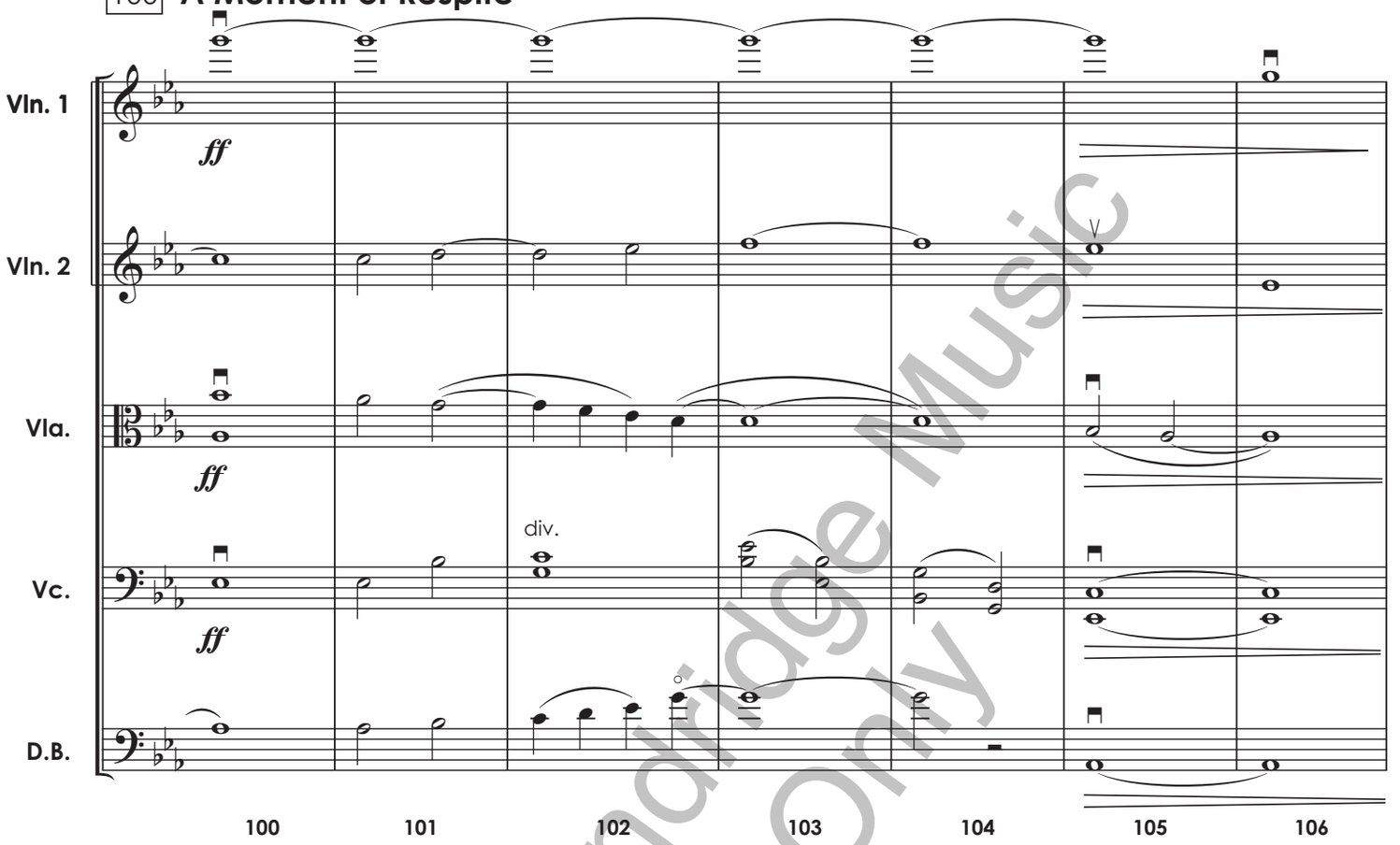
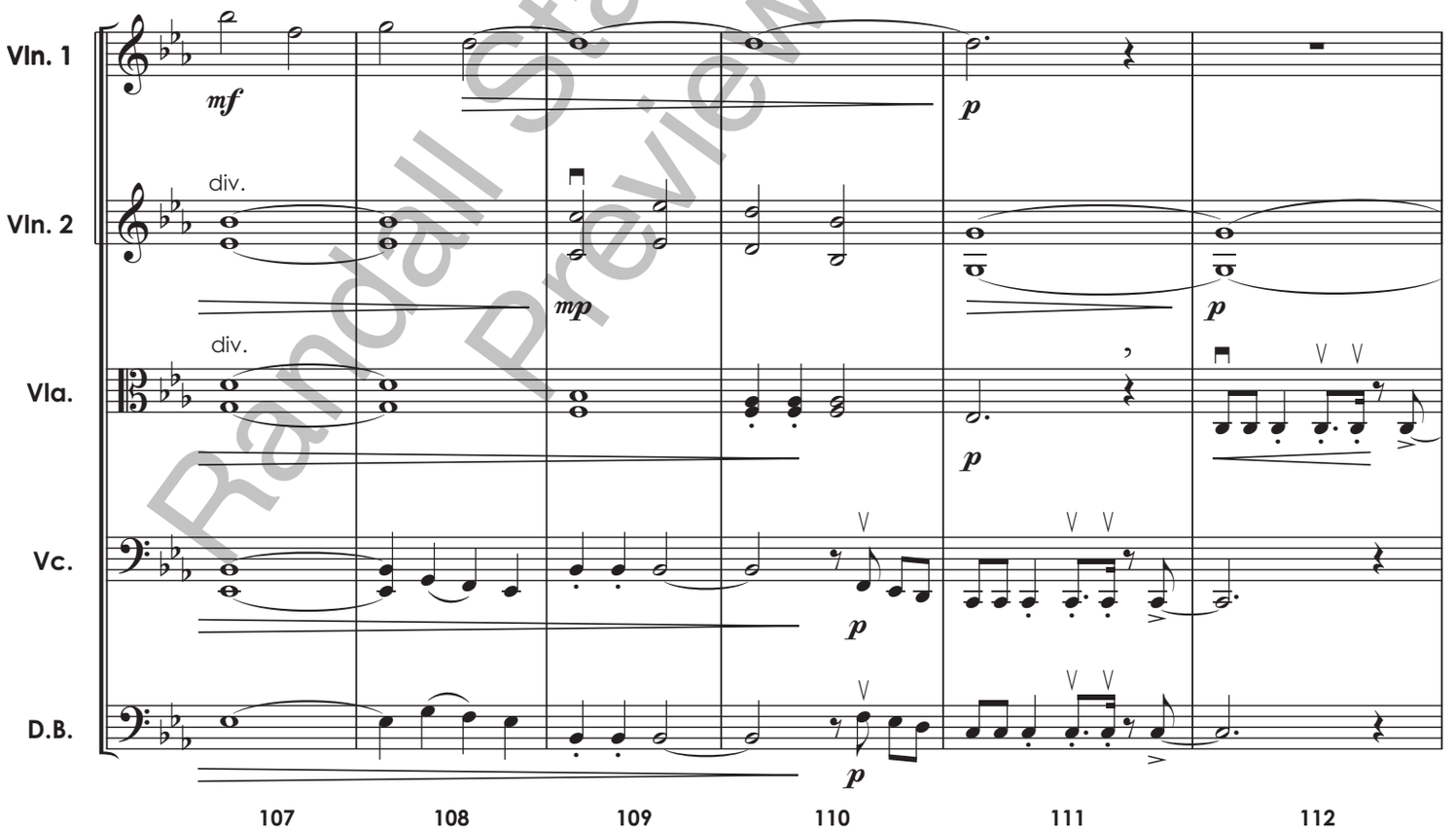
100 **A Moment of Respite**





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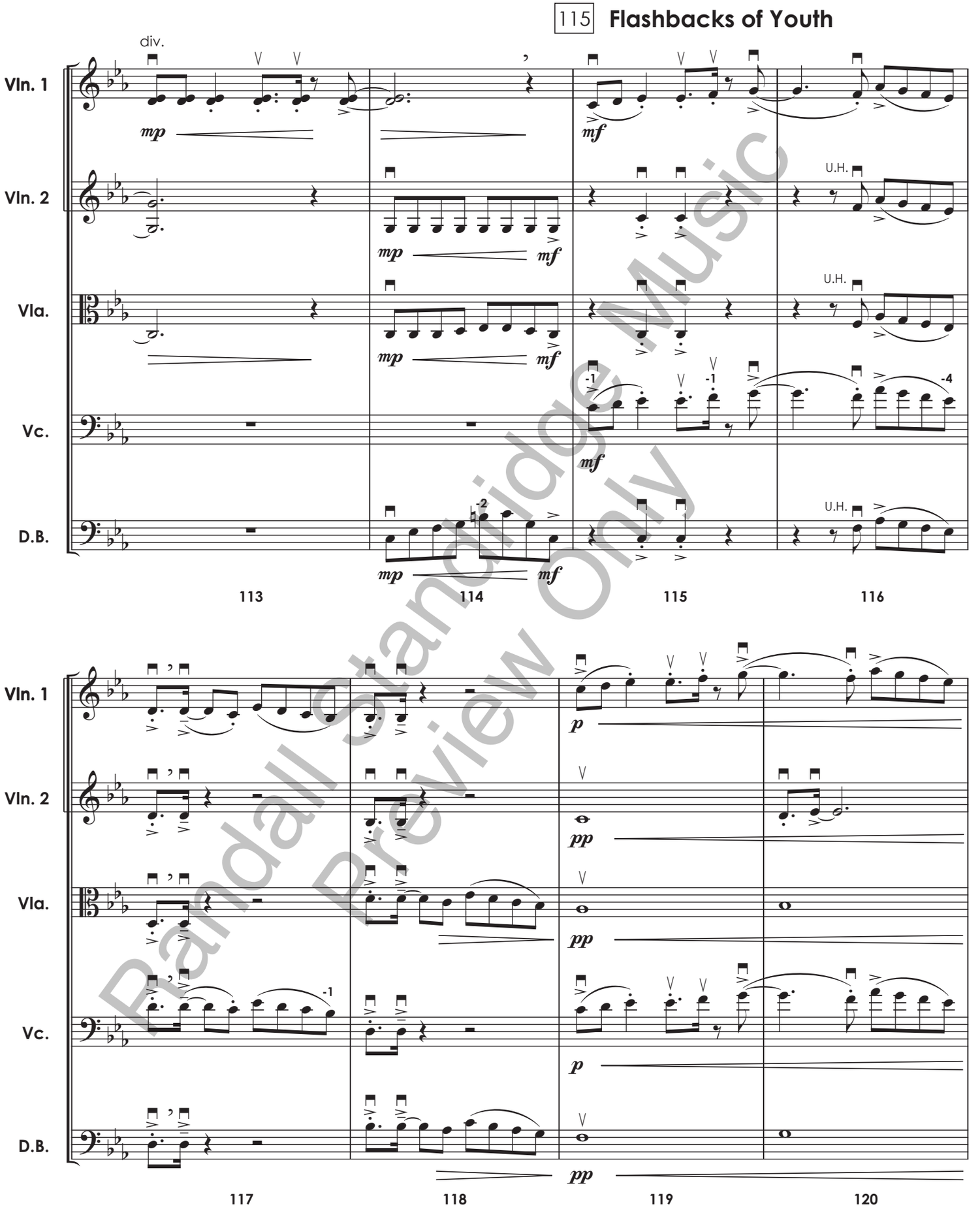

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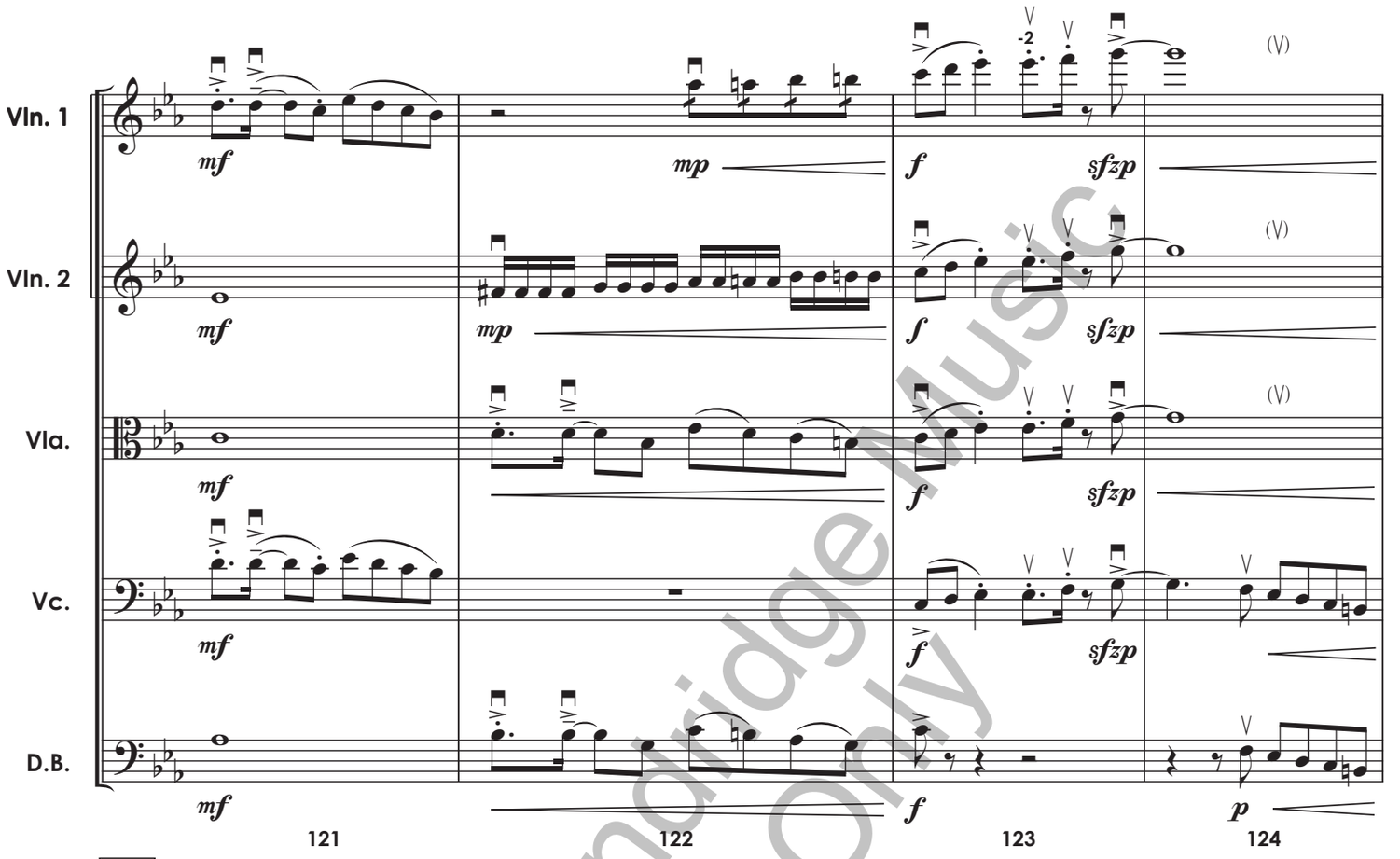
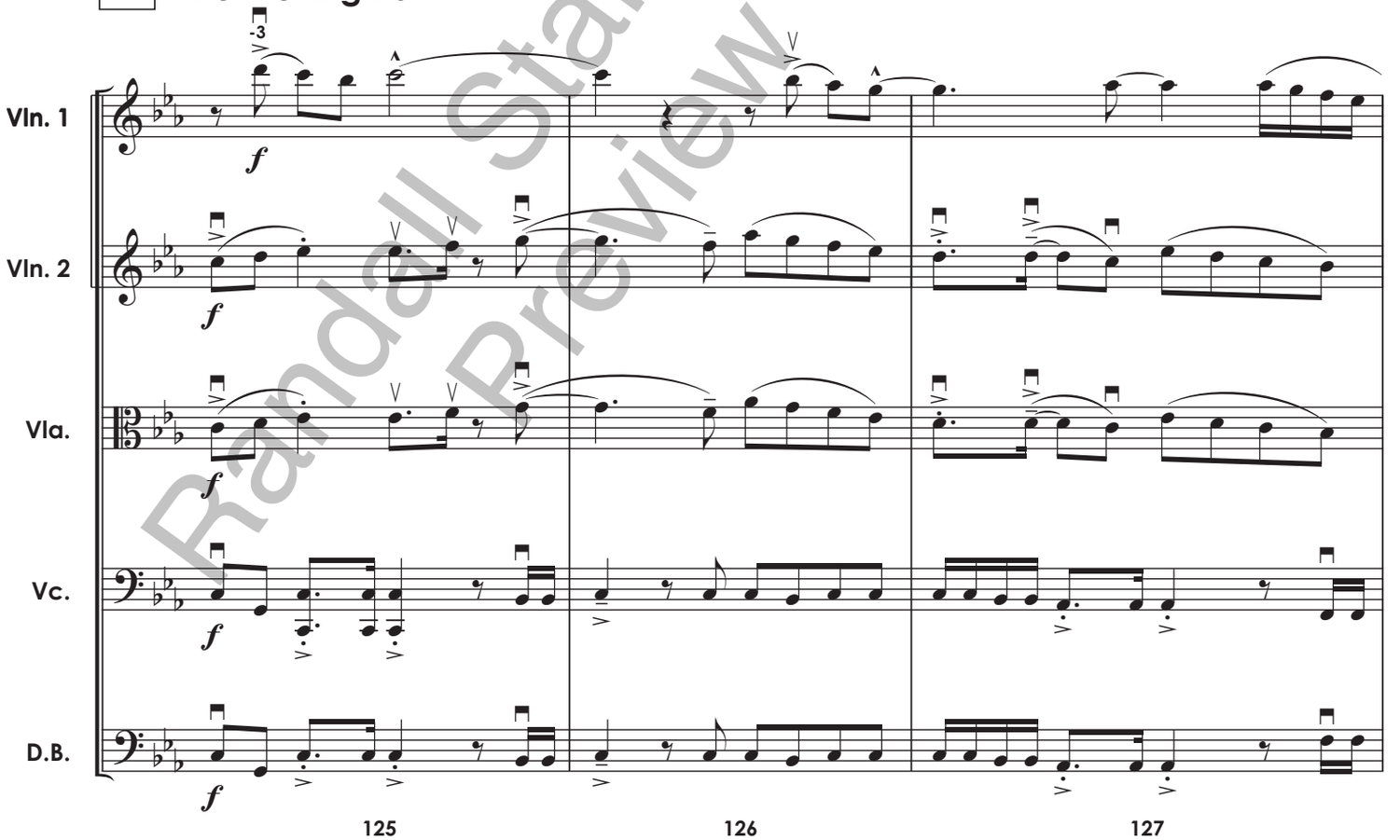


125 **The Melting Pot**



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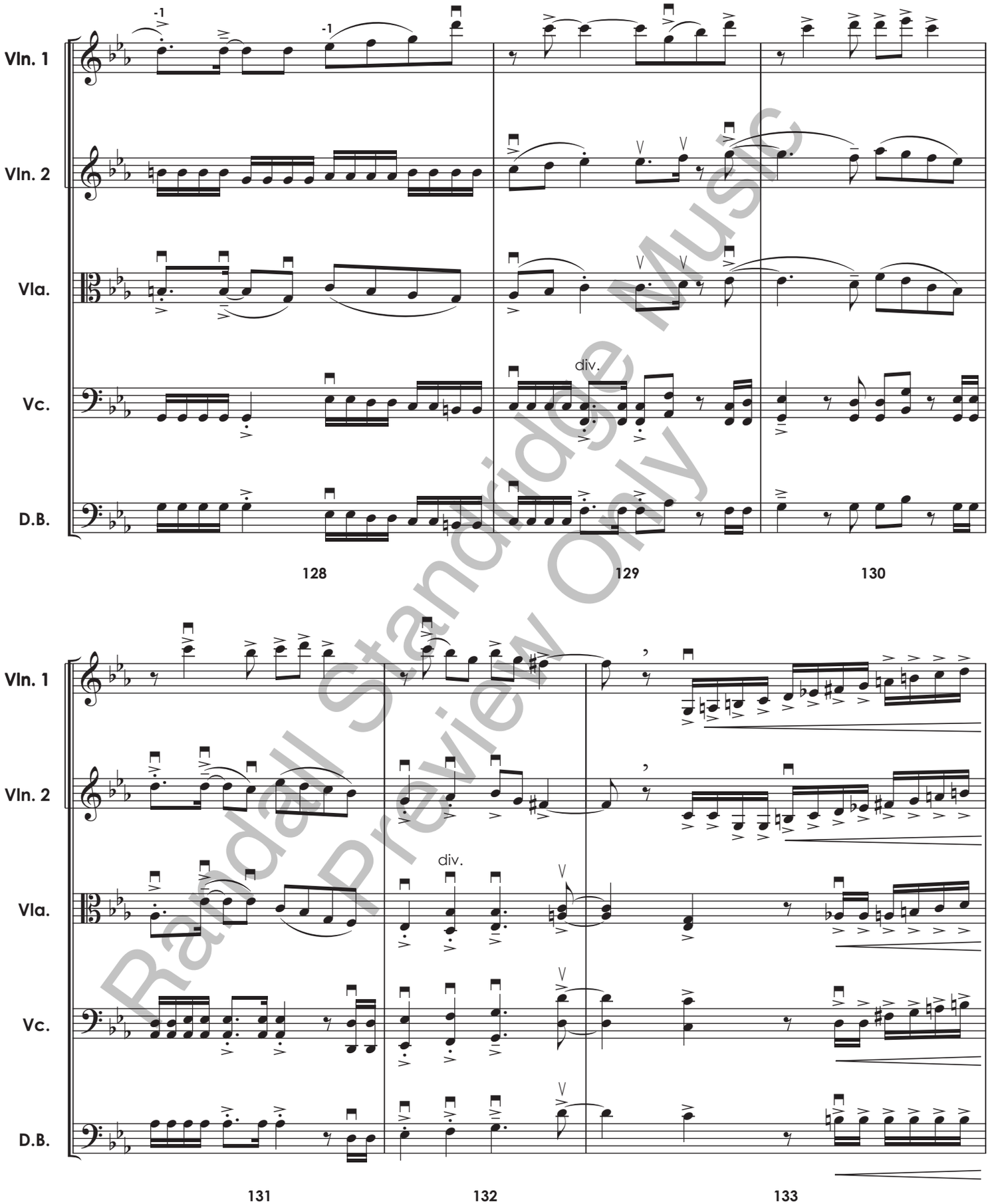

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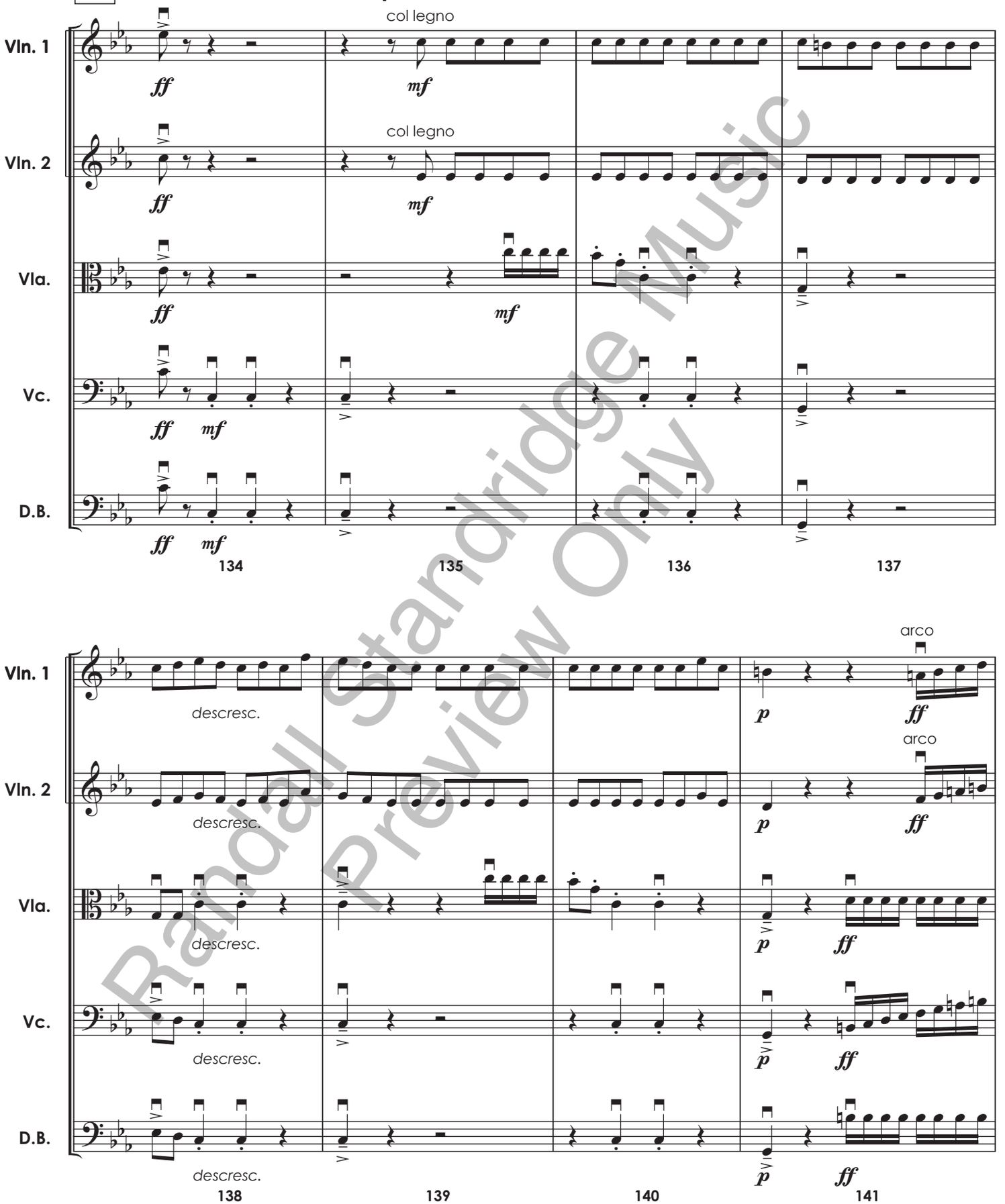
134 The Fake-Out Wake-Up



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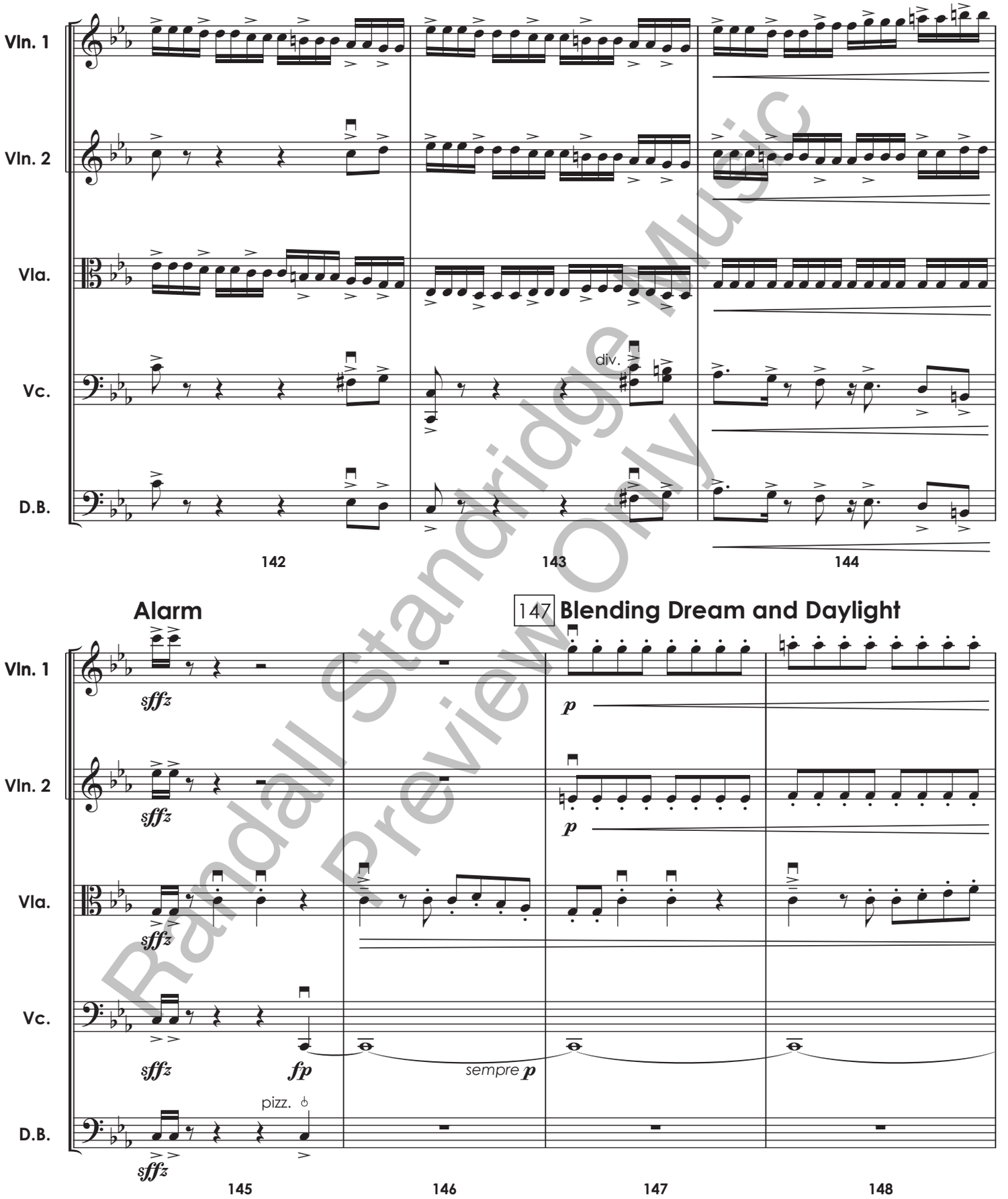

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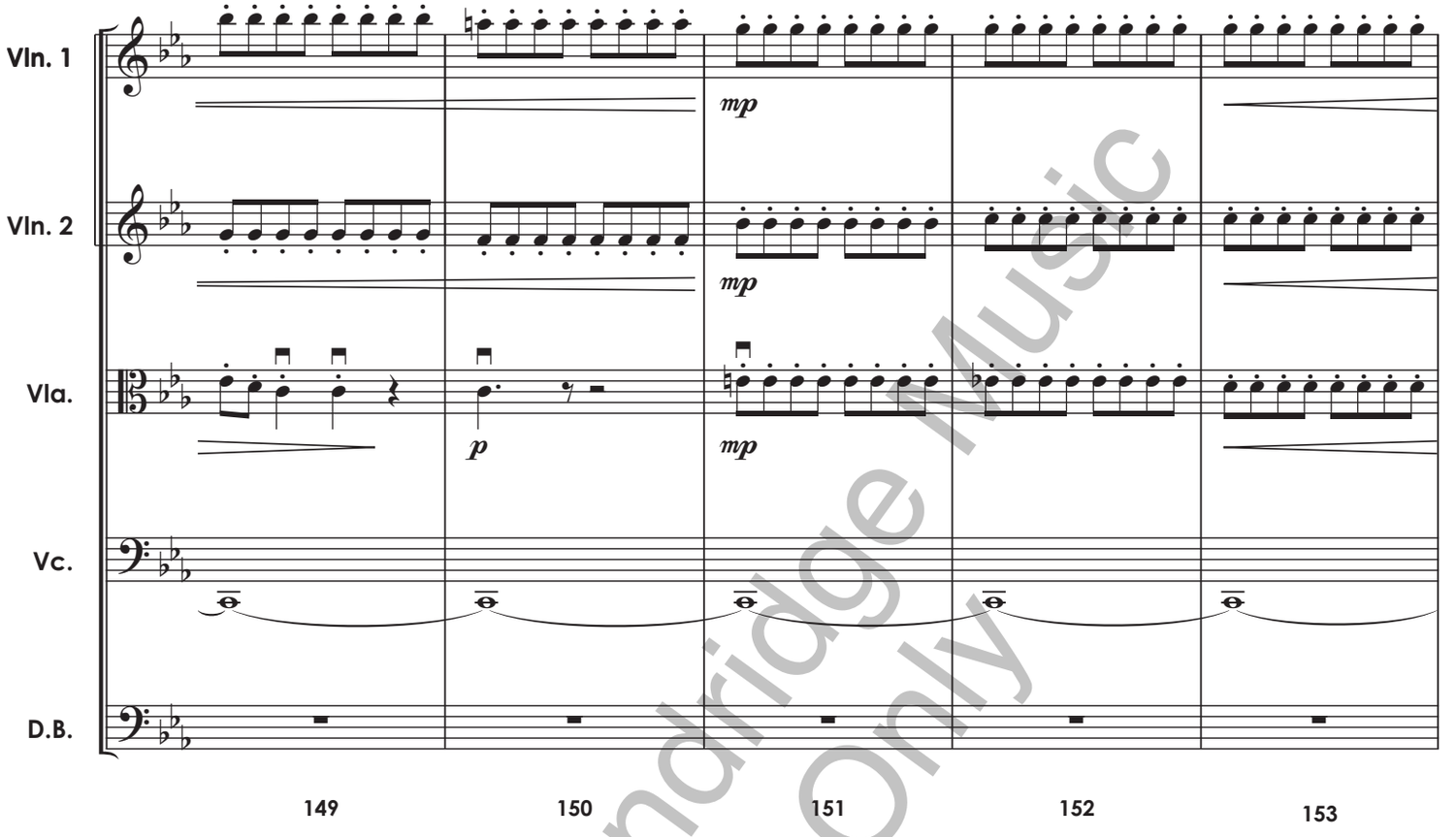
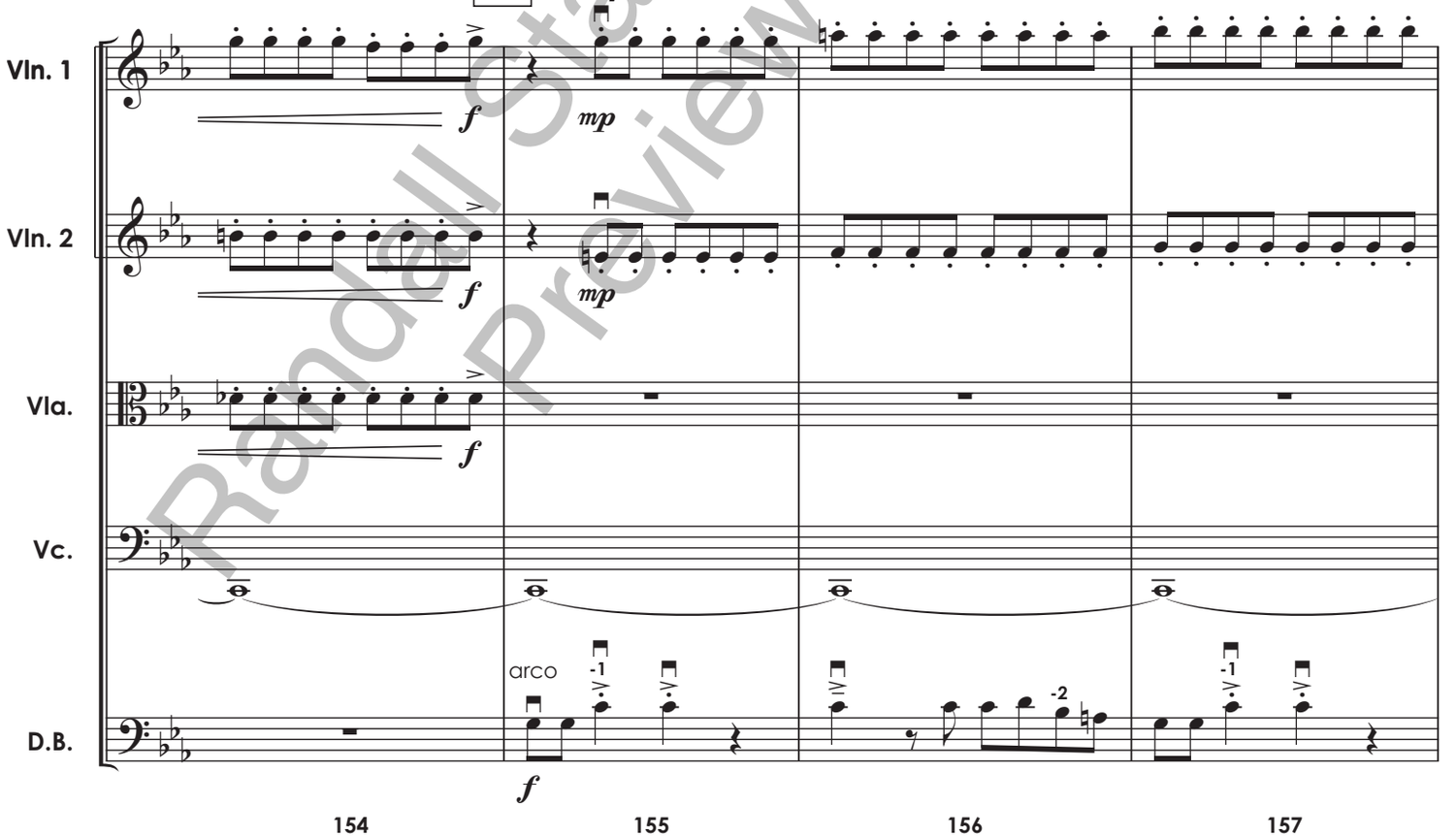


155 **Hazy Recollections**



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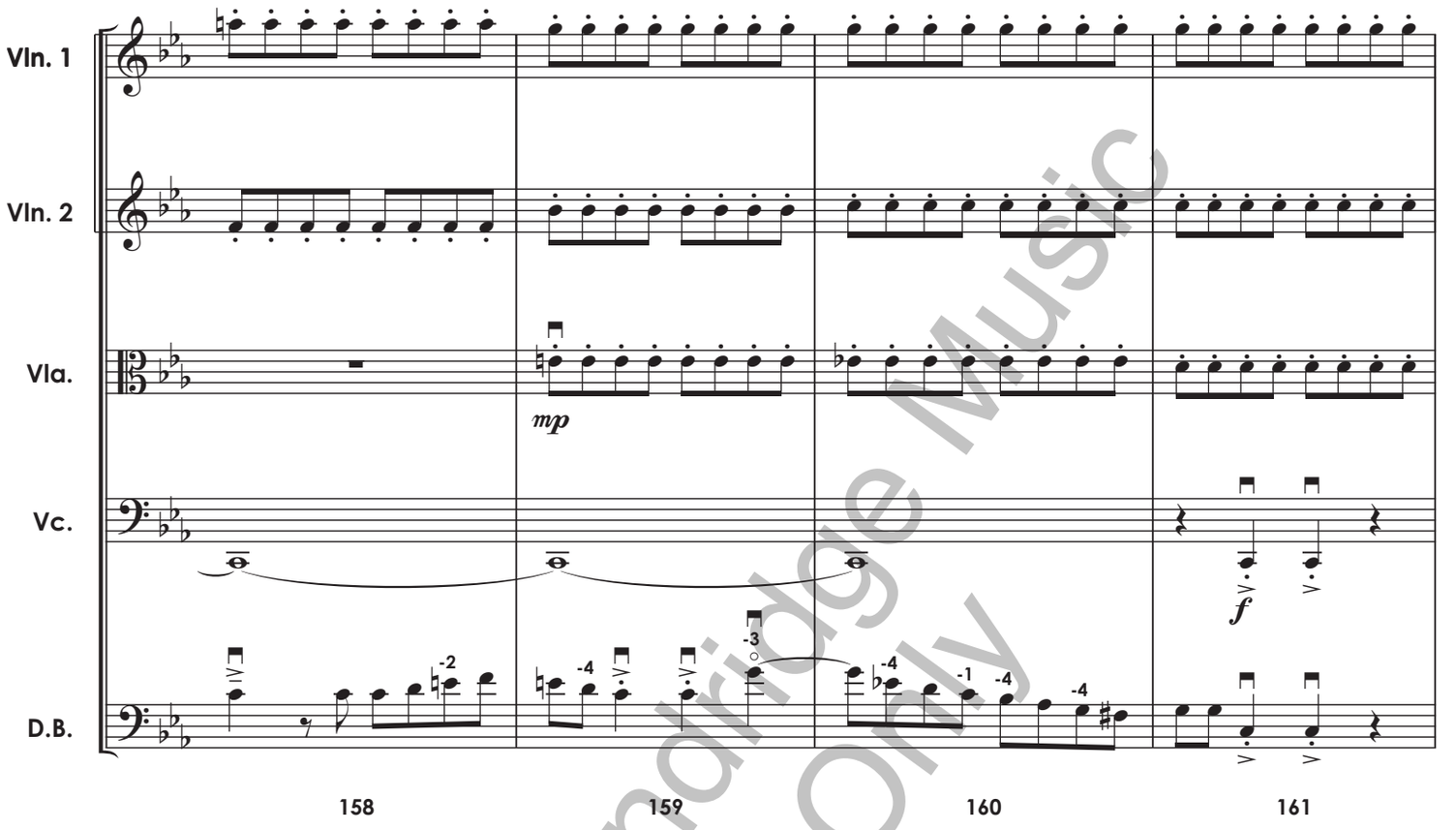

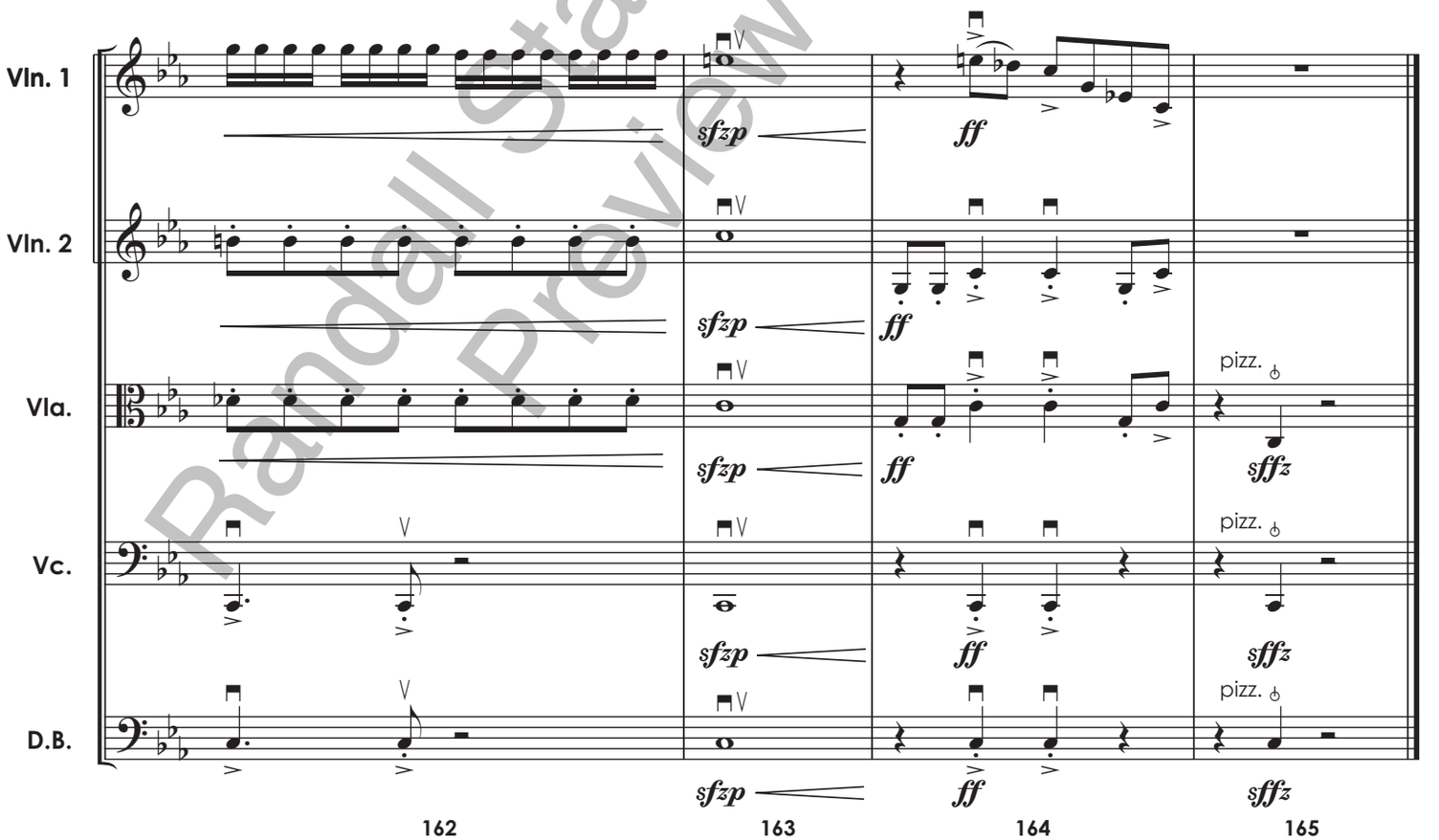

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