STRING ORCHESTRA

CRAGGY SHORE JIG

composed by ***STEVEN SCHUMANN***

STANDARD INSTRUMENTATION

VIOLIN 1	CELLO
VIOLIN 2	BASS
VIOLA	

FLEX+ *(FlexPlus)* Parts Also Included

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SCAN ME

Program Notes

Craggy Shore Jig by Steven Schumann draws inspiration from Celtic folk music traditions, blending fiddle-style melodies with contemporary string orchestra techniques. The approximately four-minute work centers on a rhythmic groove characteristic of traditional jigs, establishing an energetic foundation that propels the music forward.

Throughout the piece, each section of the orchestra takes turns in the spotlight, showcasing the ensemble's diverse voices. Solos also emerge from the texture at key moments showcasing the fiddle-like folk style. Listen for the distinctive "chopping" technique at play in the orchestra: a percussive bow stroke that strikes the strings at a slight angle, producing a sharp, rhythmic attack similar to a mandolin chop or snare drum. This technique adds a folk authenticity to the overall sound and punctuates the rhythmic drive.

True to its title, *Craggy Shore Jig* evokes the rugged, irregular character of a rocky coastline. The music ebbs and flows between driving, high-energy passages and moments of textural variety, creating a dynamic landscape of sound. The repeated rhythmic patterns allow the ensemble to settle into the Celtic feel, while the fiddle-inspired melodic lines weave through the texture with characteristic ornamentation and energy.

The work offers listeners a vibrant fusion of classical and folk traditions, demonstrating how contemporary composers continue to draw from diverse musical sources to create fresh, engaging repertoire for string orchestra.

About the Composer

Steven Schumann is an award-winning session player, experienced freelance musician, and promising young composer based out of Nashville, TN. Steven is classically trained, holding a Masters degree in Cello Performance from Belmont University. In addition to his formal education, Steven has spent years performing in the studio, on stage, and on video with artists such as; Gayle, Disturbed, Hannah Ellis, Jordan Smith, and Tommee Profitt. He is featured on the winner on the 2019 International Songwriting Competition in the Country Music category (Kate Pederson, The Landing). In addition to performing, Steven regularly manages, arranges, and produces performances of instrumental musicians for live events or studio recordings.

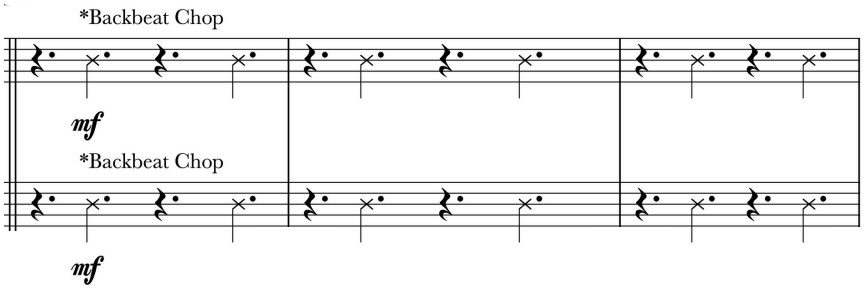
Performance Tips and Techniques

Note from the composer:

1. **The Chop**

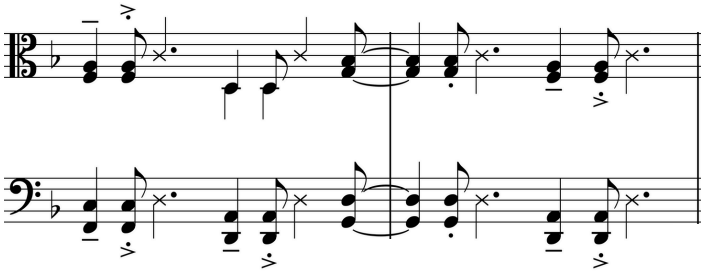
Chopping is a technique employed in numerous styles such as fiddle, Celtic, jazz, and contemporary classical string music. The chop involves striking the strings with the bow in a slightly perpendicular motion which creates a percussive sound similar to a mandolin chop or snare drum. See **Casey Driessen's** instructional video on Youtube titled "Techniques & Skills with Casey Driessen. Series One: The Chop" for a more detailed instruction. In this piece, a chop is denoted by a note with an "x" head attached to the stem.

Example 1a (meas. 21-23)



Some of the grooves in "Craggy Shore Jig" involve playing chord tones and chops within the same measure. This technique may be challenging for some learners and may therefore be preferable to play **divisi**, with one part of the section performing the chords and the other playing the backbeat chop.

Example 1b (meas. 40-41)



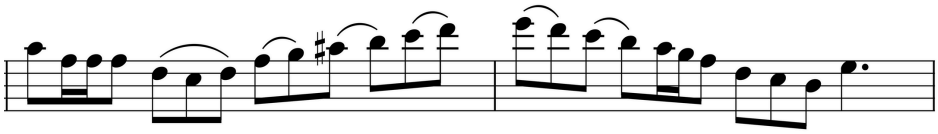
See Example 1b above- a groove featuring both "chords" and "chops" within the same measure

Performance Tips and Techniques
cont.

2. **The Cut**

In many Celtic styles, players will utilize a quick rapid movement of the bow called a "cut." This technique originated from pipers who would use their tongue to create a quick transition between notes similar to a grace note. While there are no cuts strictly denoted in this score, repeated 16th note passages can be performed with this concept in mind. Listen to Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy's "*Fiddler's Despair*" for audible examples of cuts.

Example 2 (meas. 73-74)



3. Open Solos

In addition to each section having a soli, *Craggy Shore Jig* has a section which is open for improvisatory soloists if desired. The piece's "head" can be looped as many times as there are interested soloists. The head at measure 72 contains the chord changes to illuminate the harmony present. There are also two advanced notated solos (for cello and violin) contained in the score for any performers who want an additional challenge!

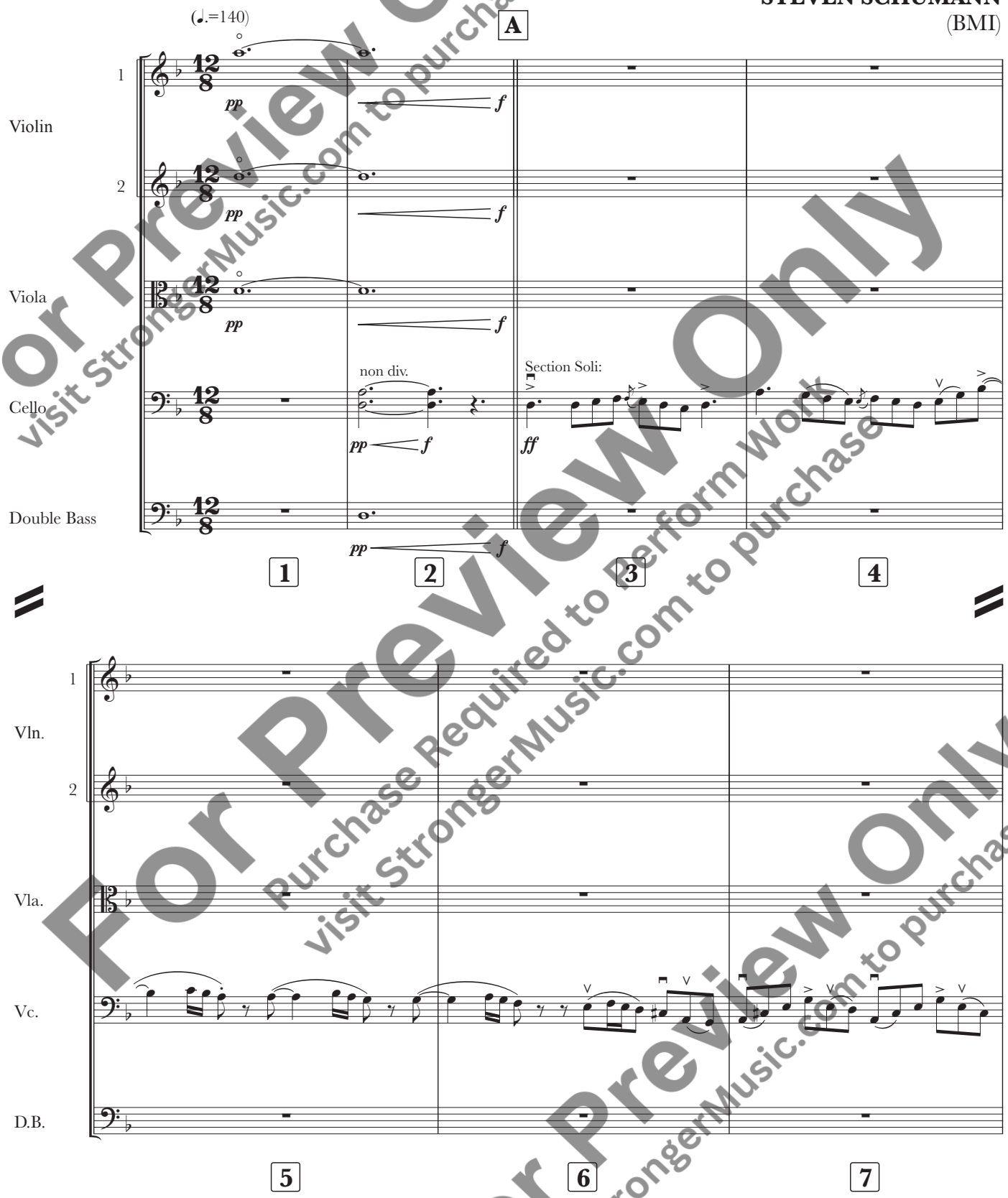
Editor's Note: Notated solo transcriptions in Treble, Alto, and Bass clef are provided for your ease and availability of instrumentation. It is stylistically appropriate for players to "improvise" their own solo and therefore, "chord" markings have been provided in each of the solo parts for students who wish to improvise a solo. Additional suggested markings have been made in the conductor's score to outline suggested solo moments for both a Violin & Cello player, but supplemental parts have also been provided in Alto Clef for Viola players. Please feel free to lengthen/repeat this section to fulfill your desired needs and chosen number of soloists.

Score
Grade 4
Duration: 3'39"

STRONGER MUSIC STRING ORCHESTRA

Craggy Shore Jig

STEVEN SCHUMANN
(BMI)



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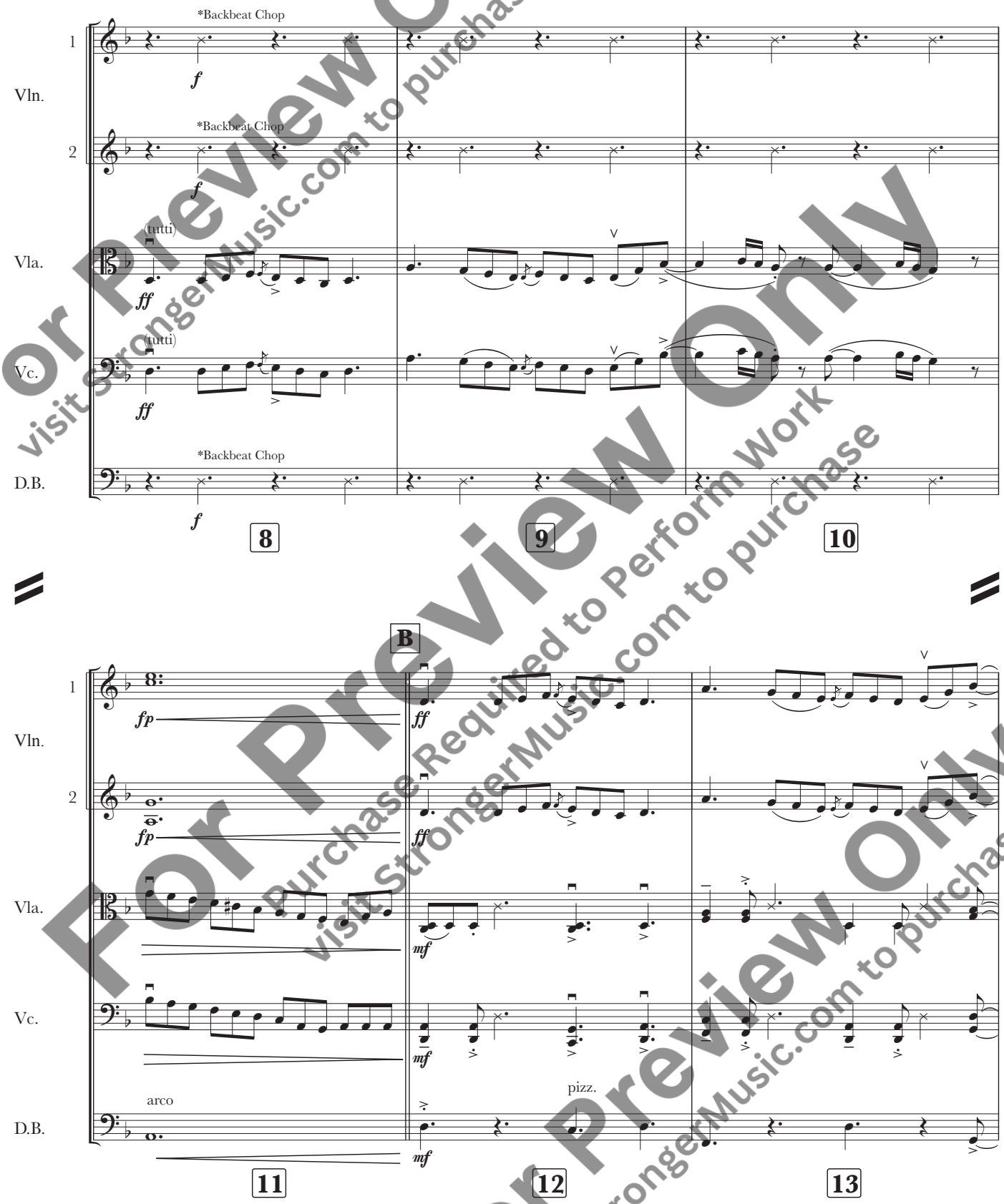

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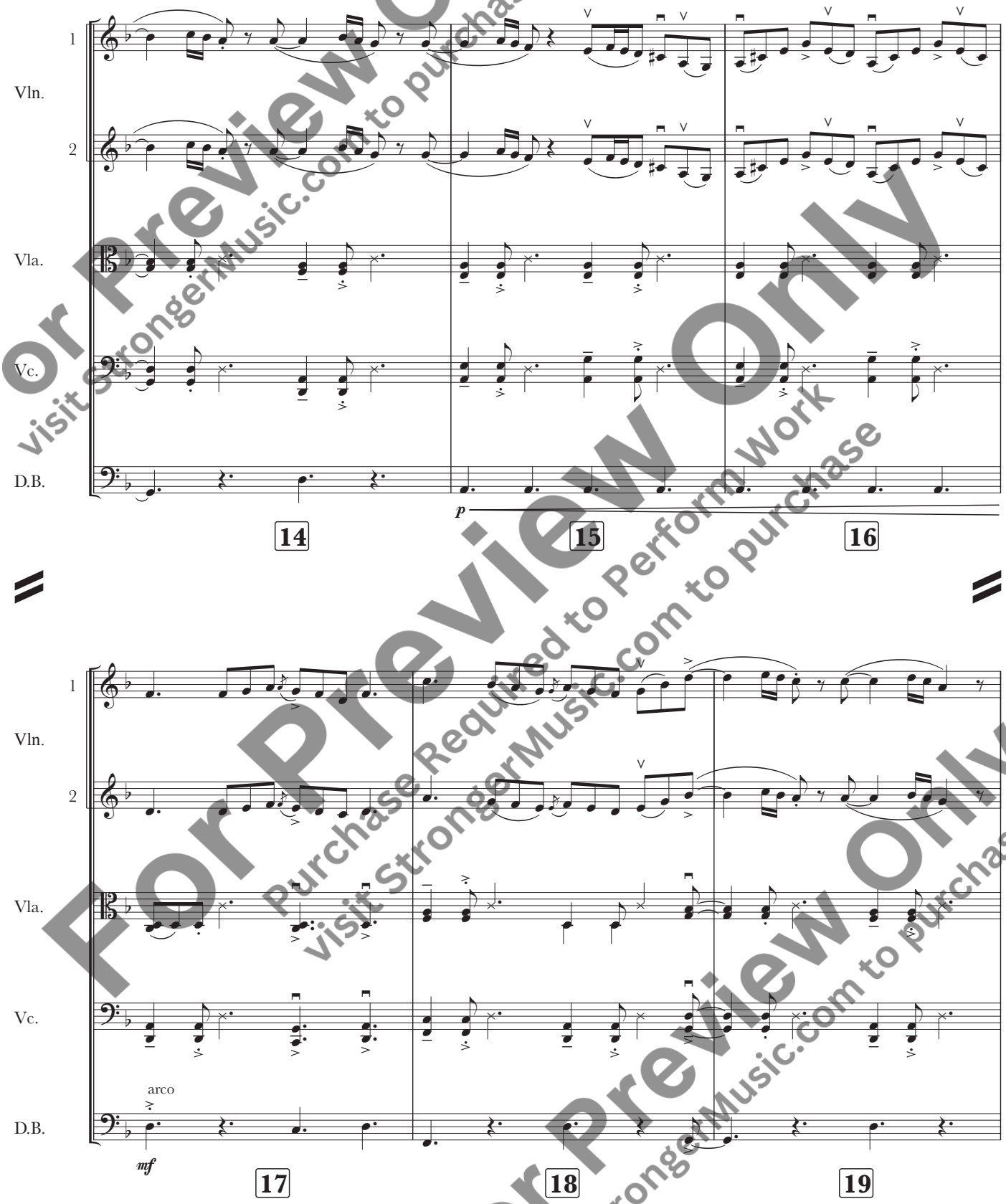

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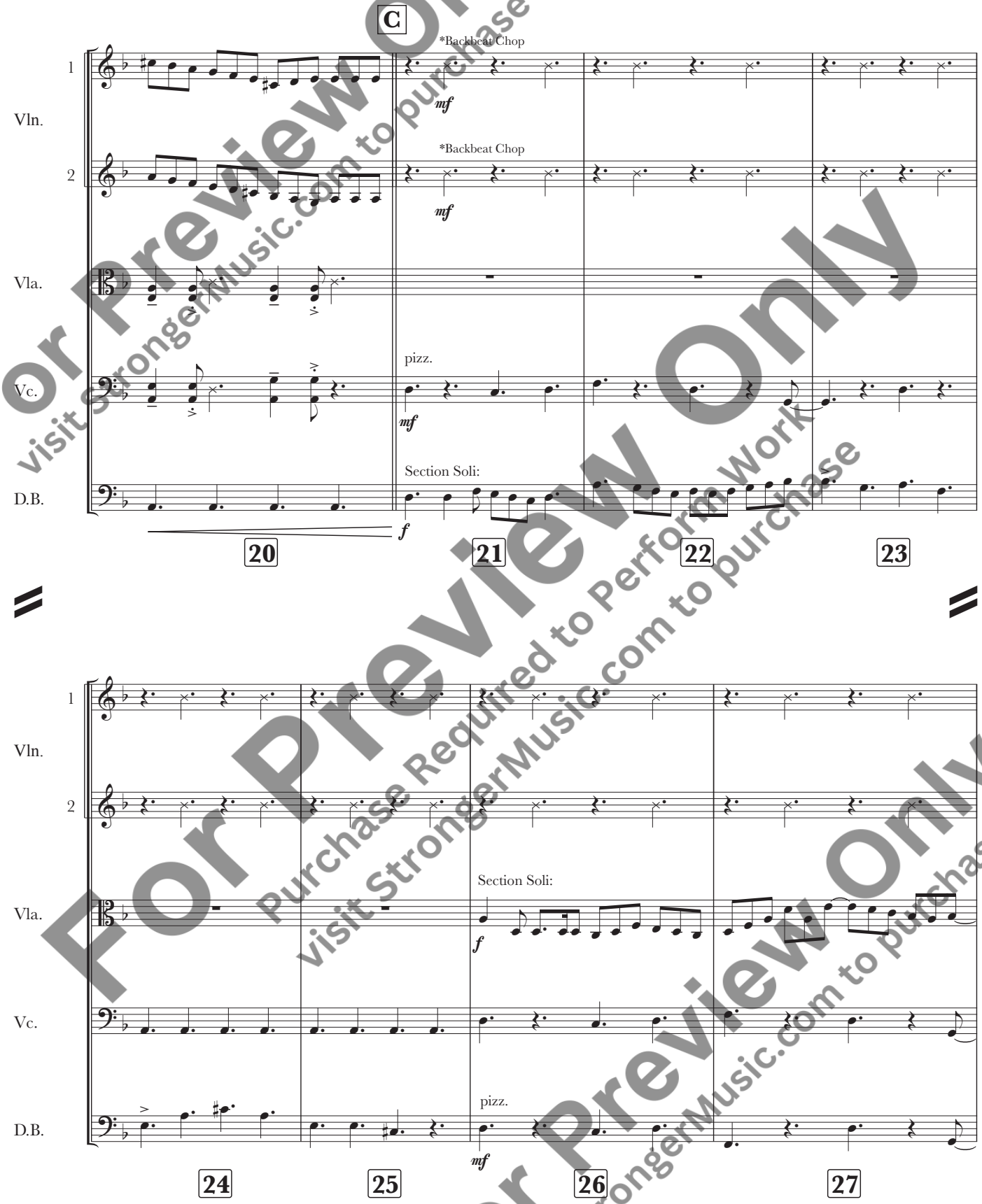

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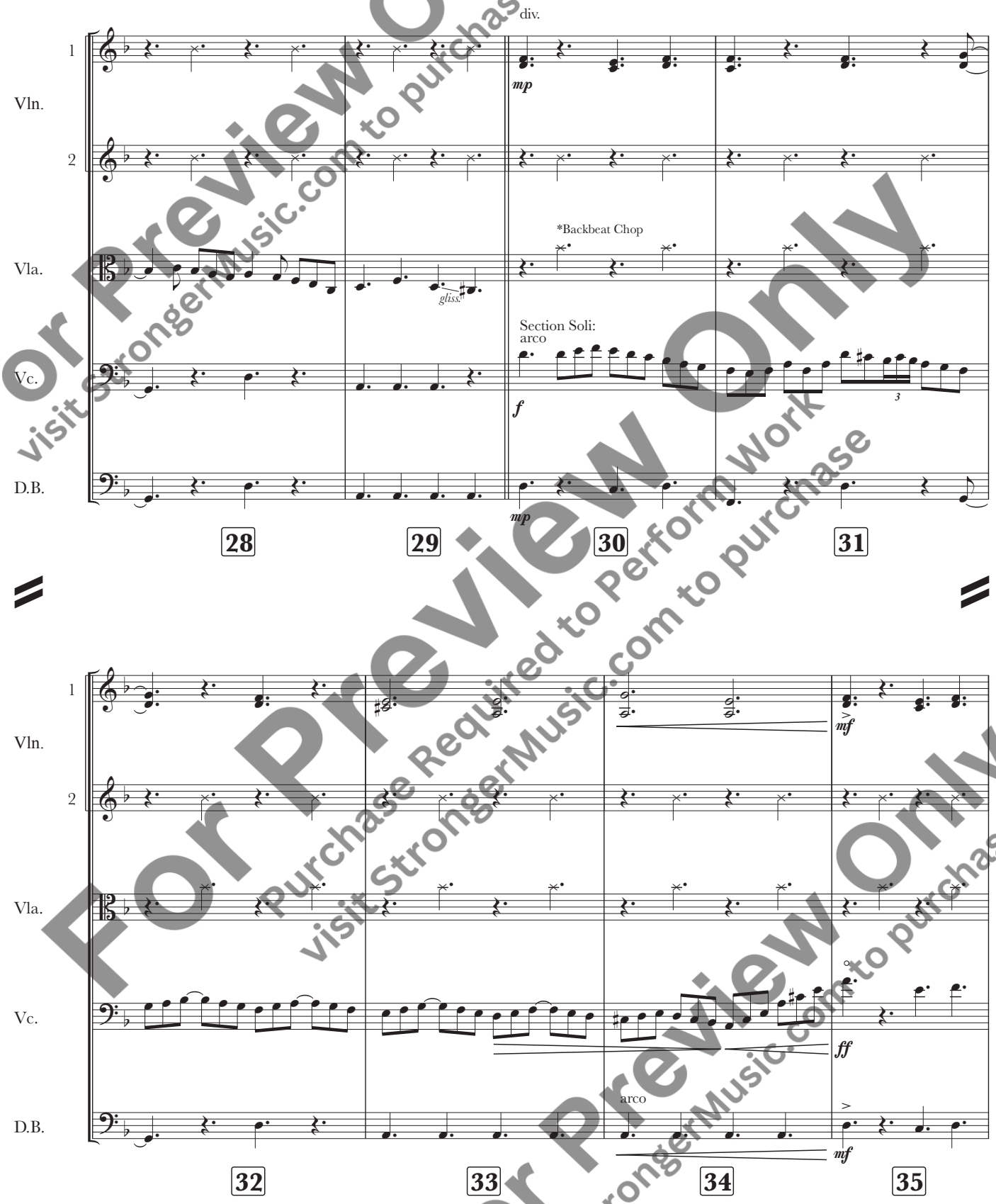

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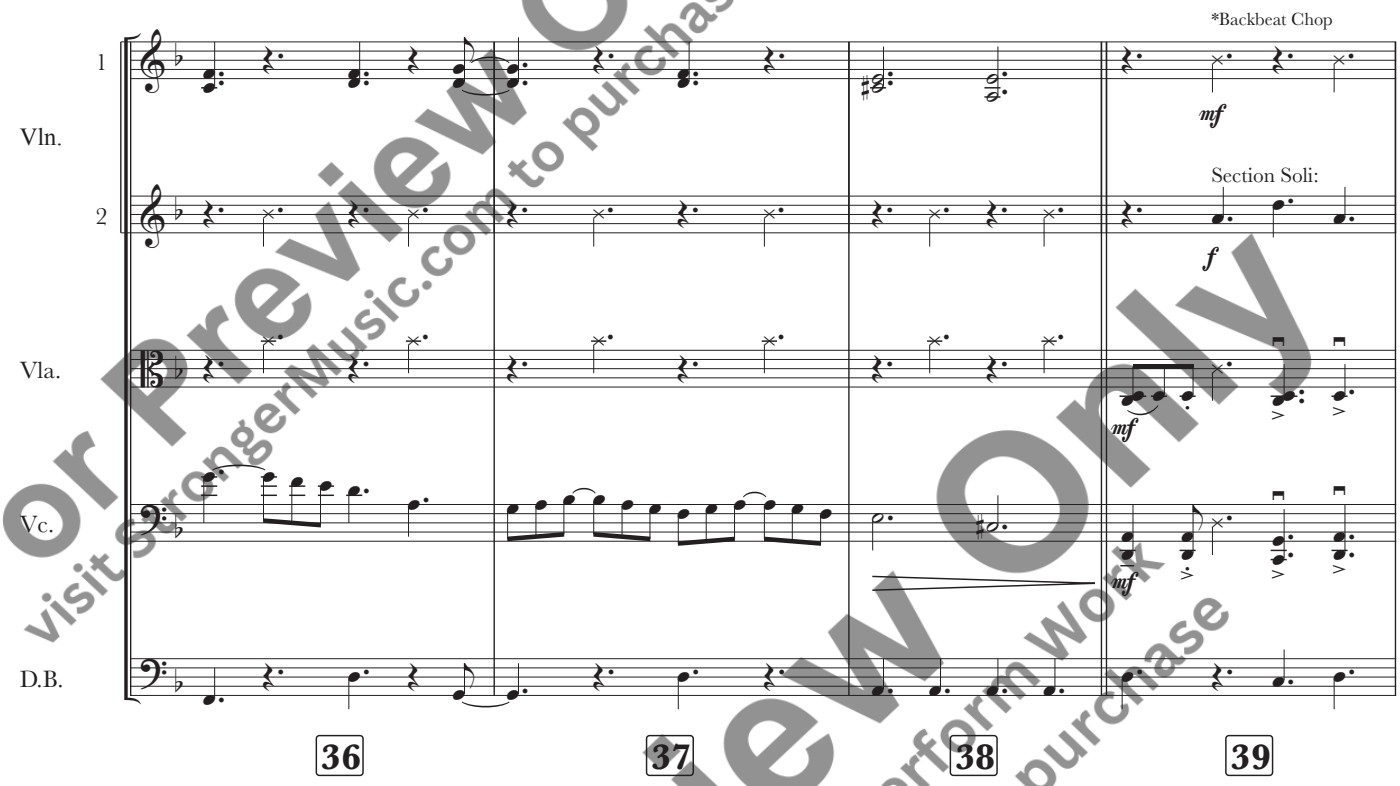

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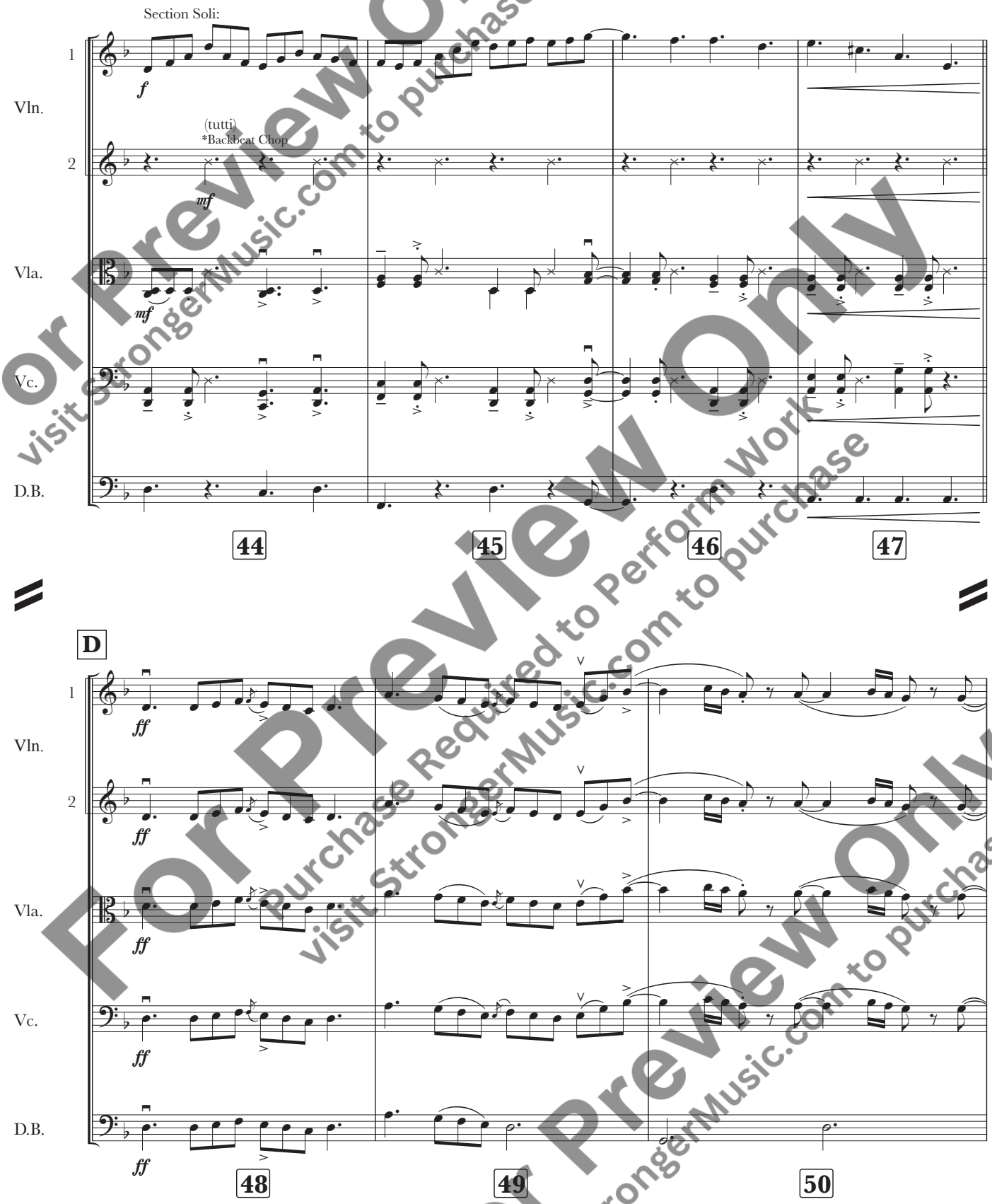

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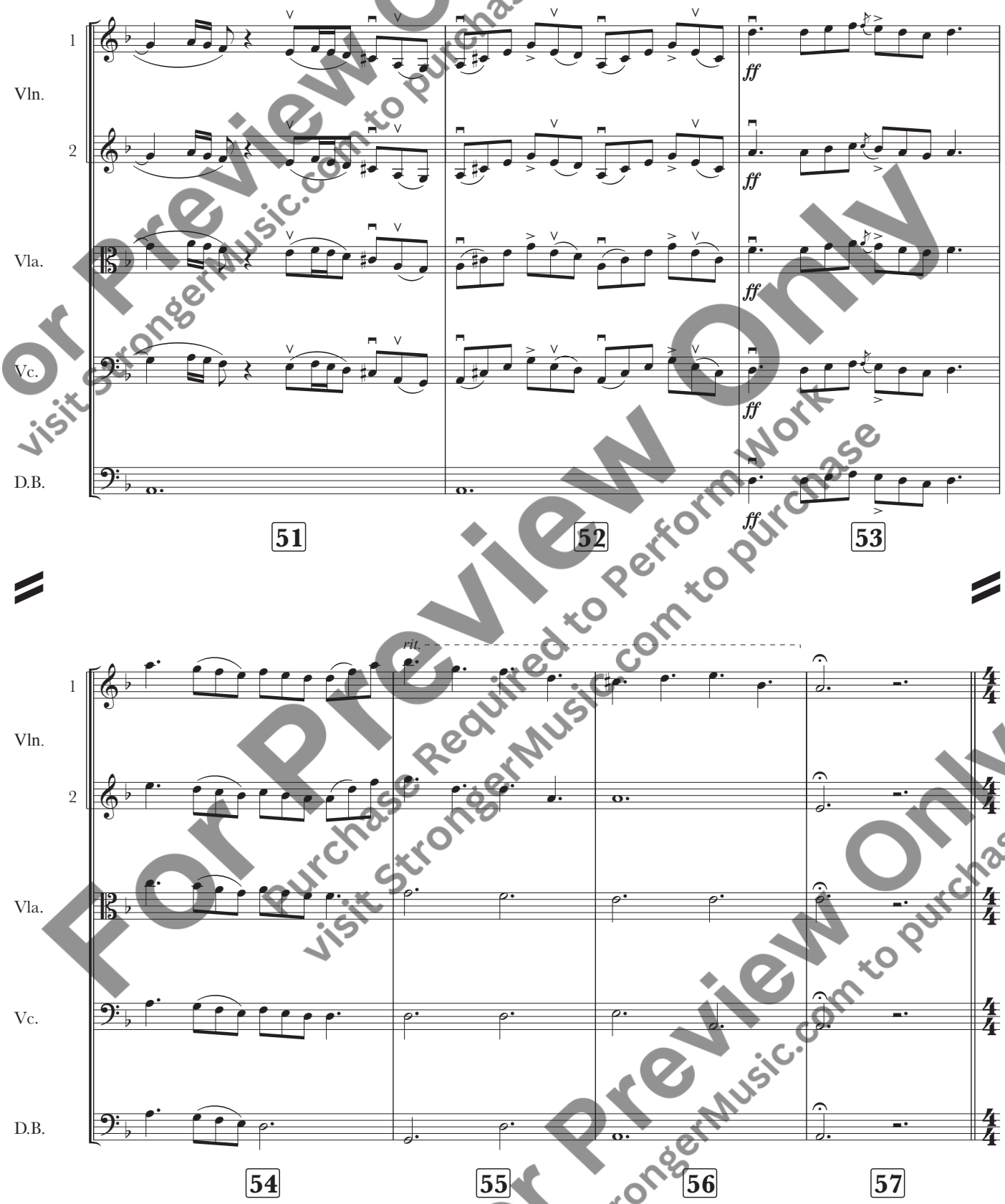

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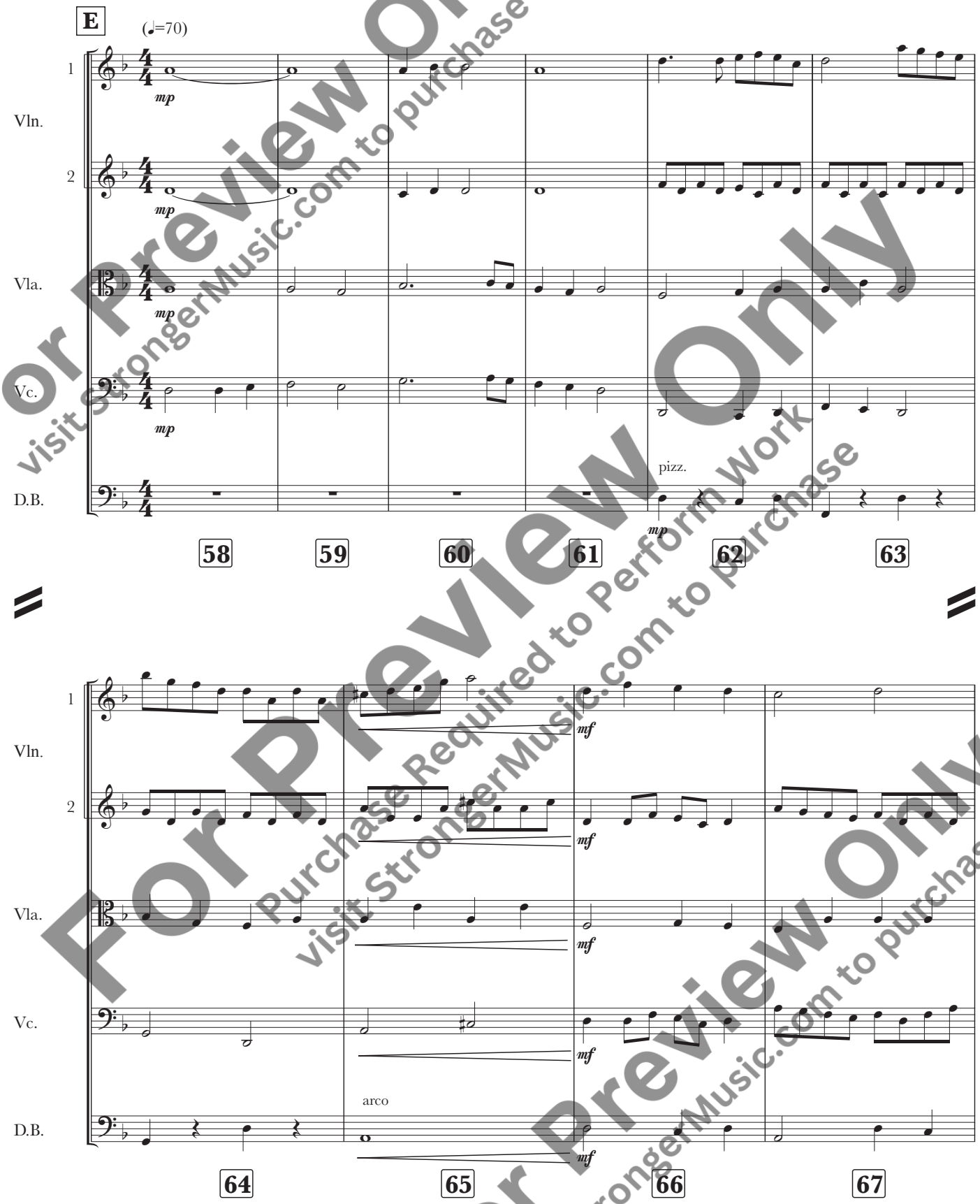

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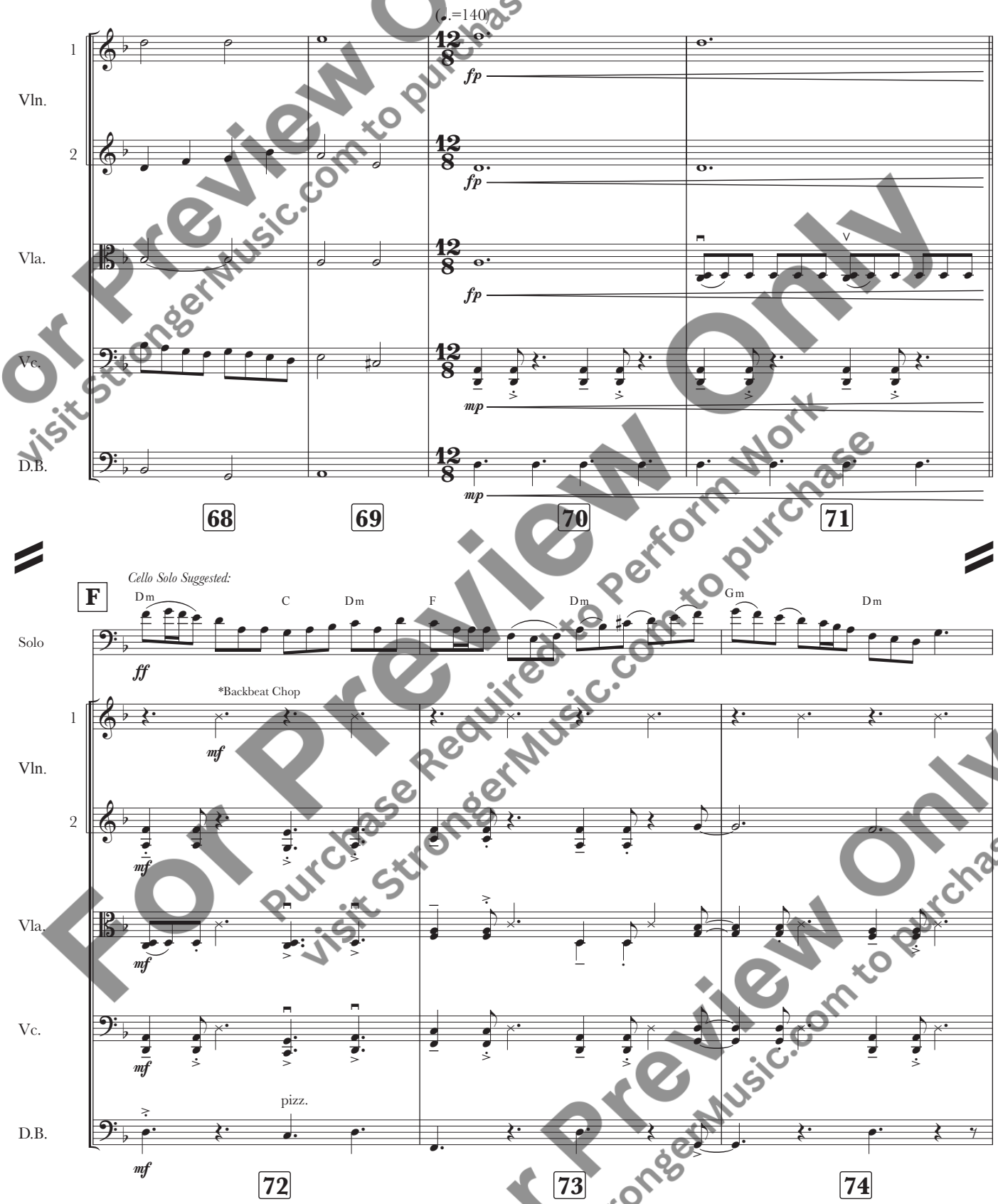

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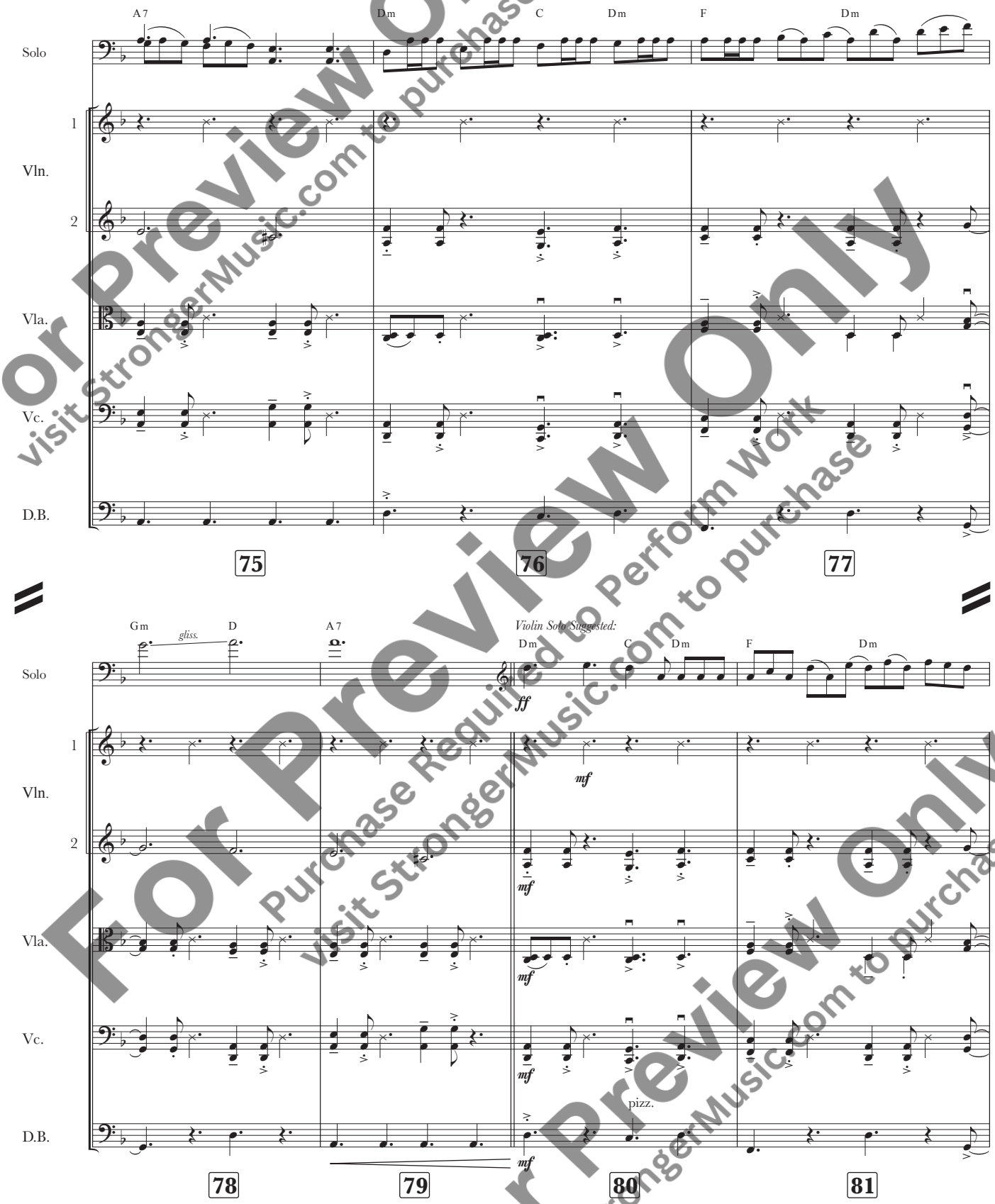

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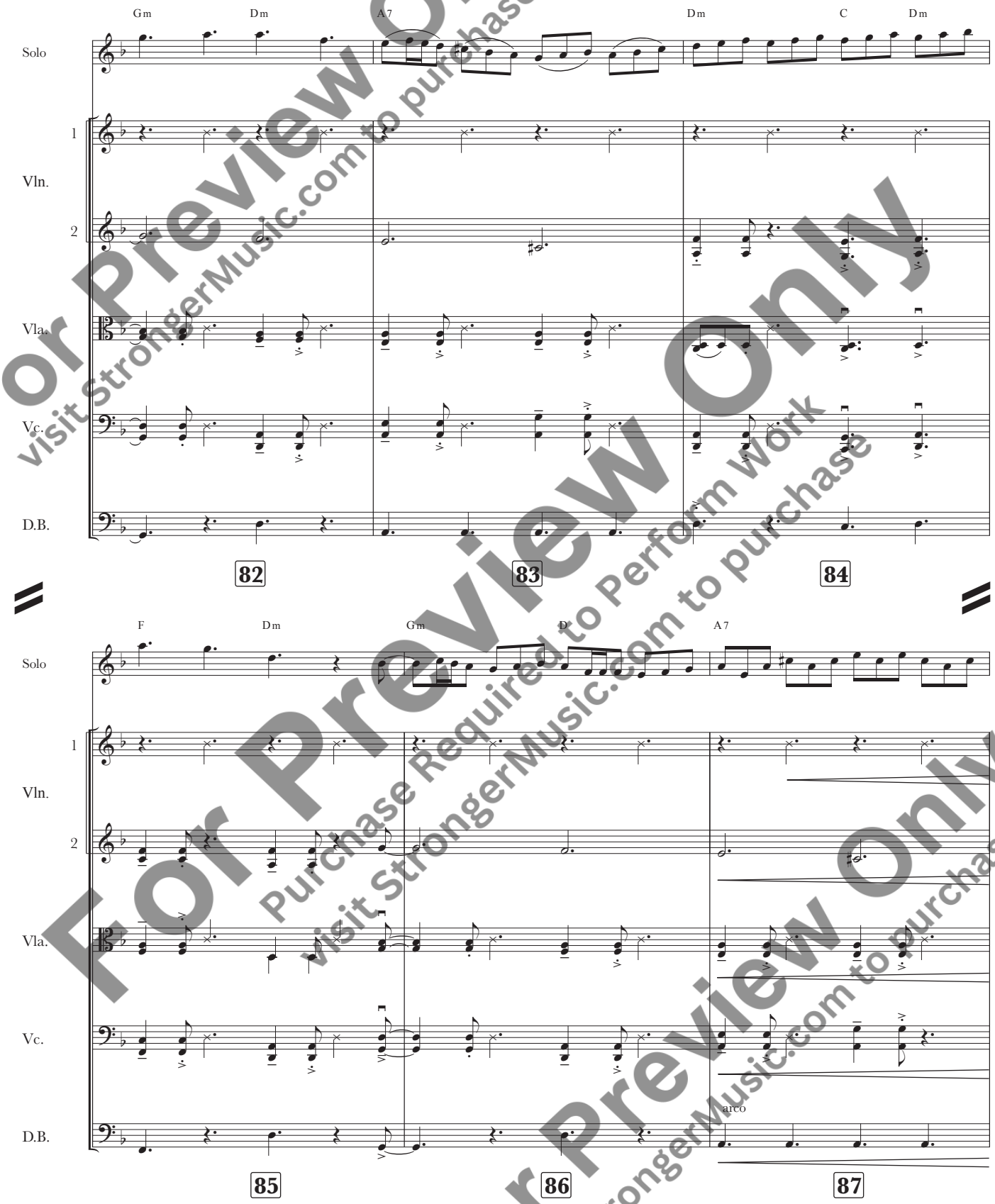

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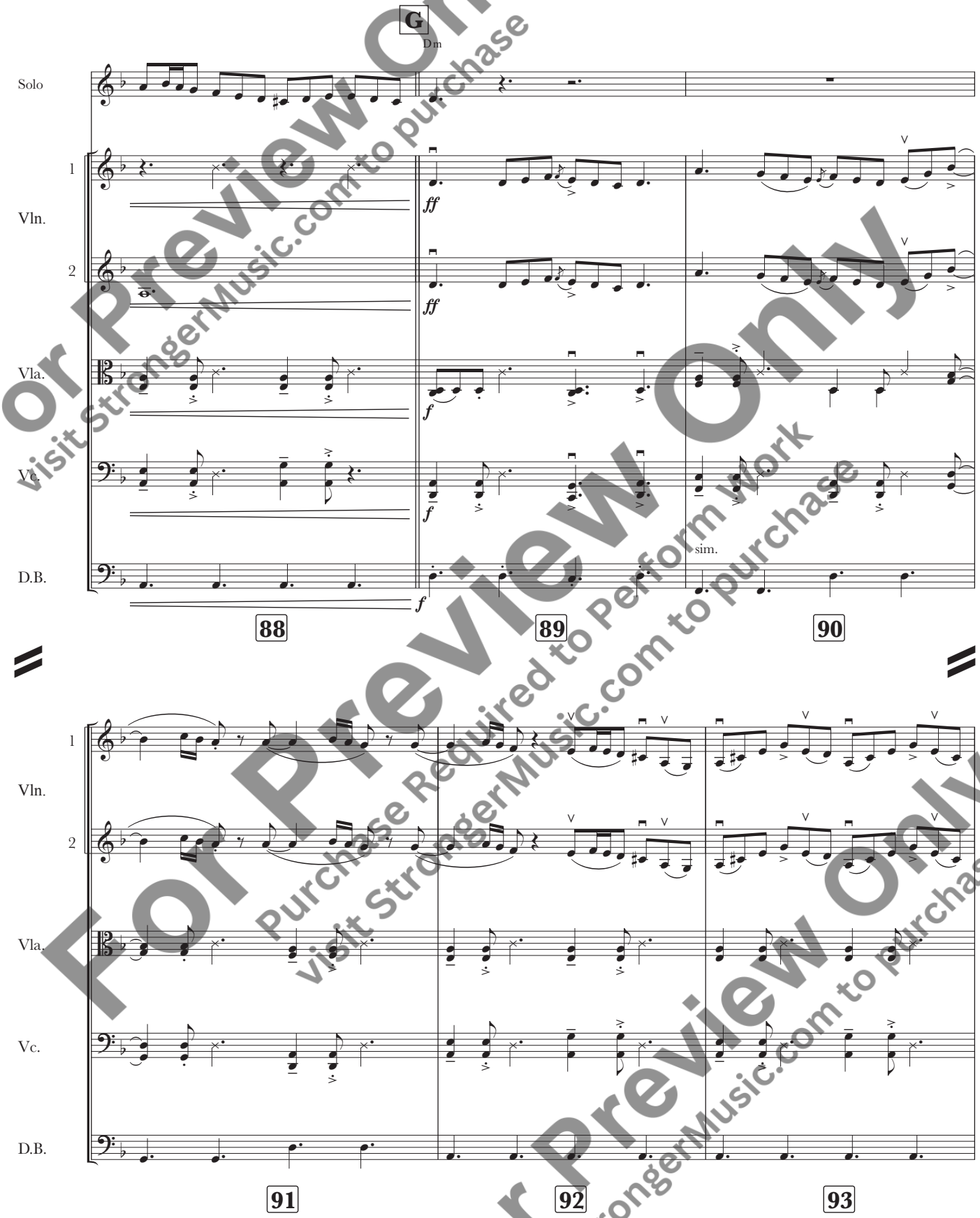

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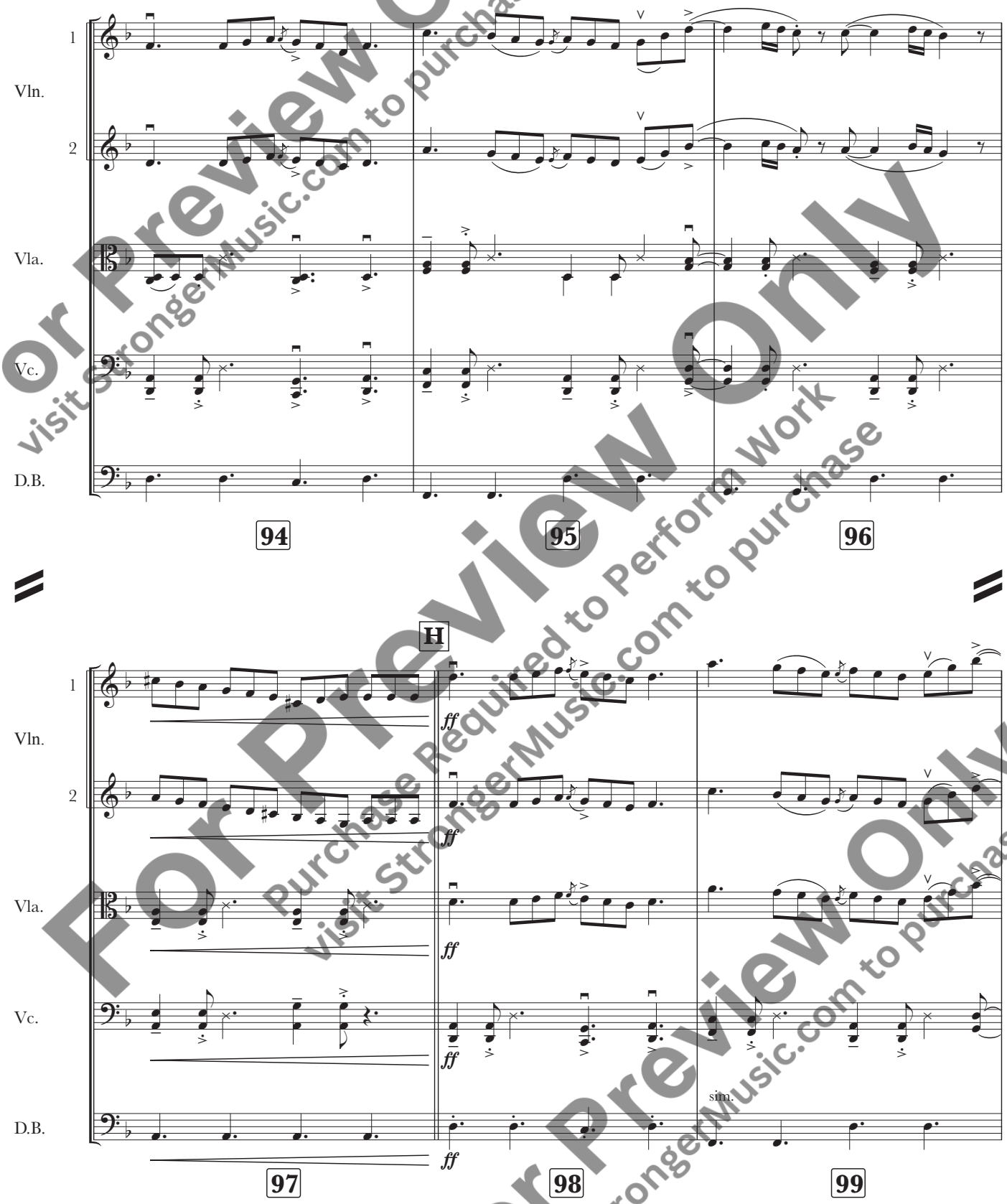

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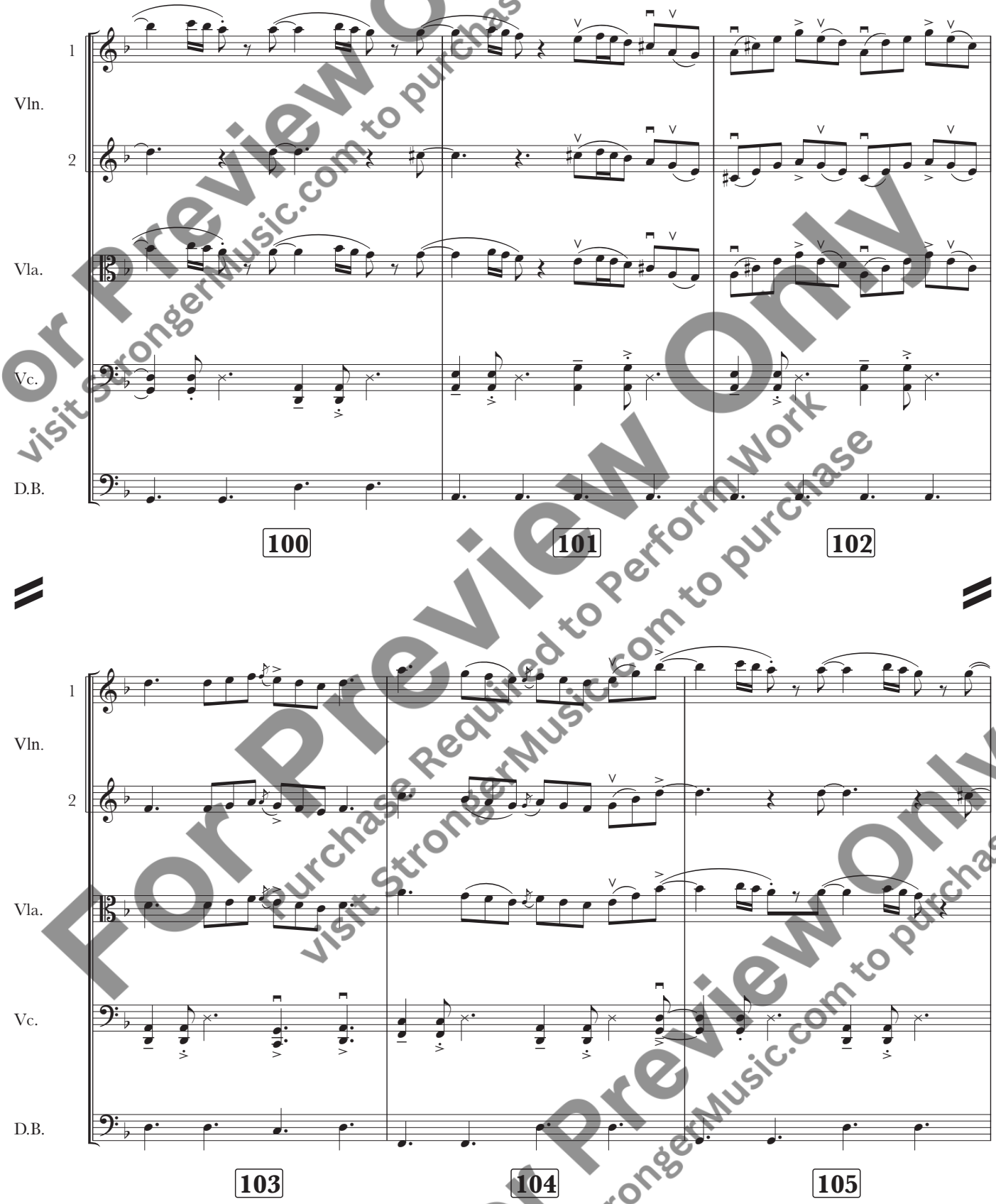

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