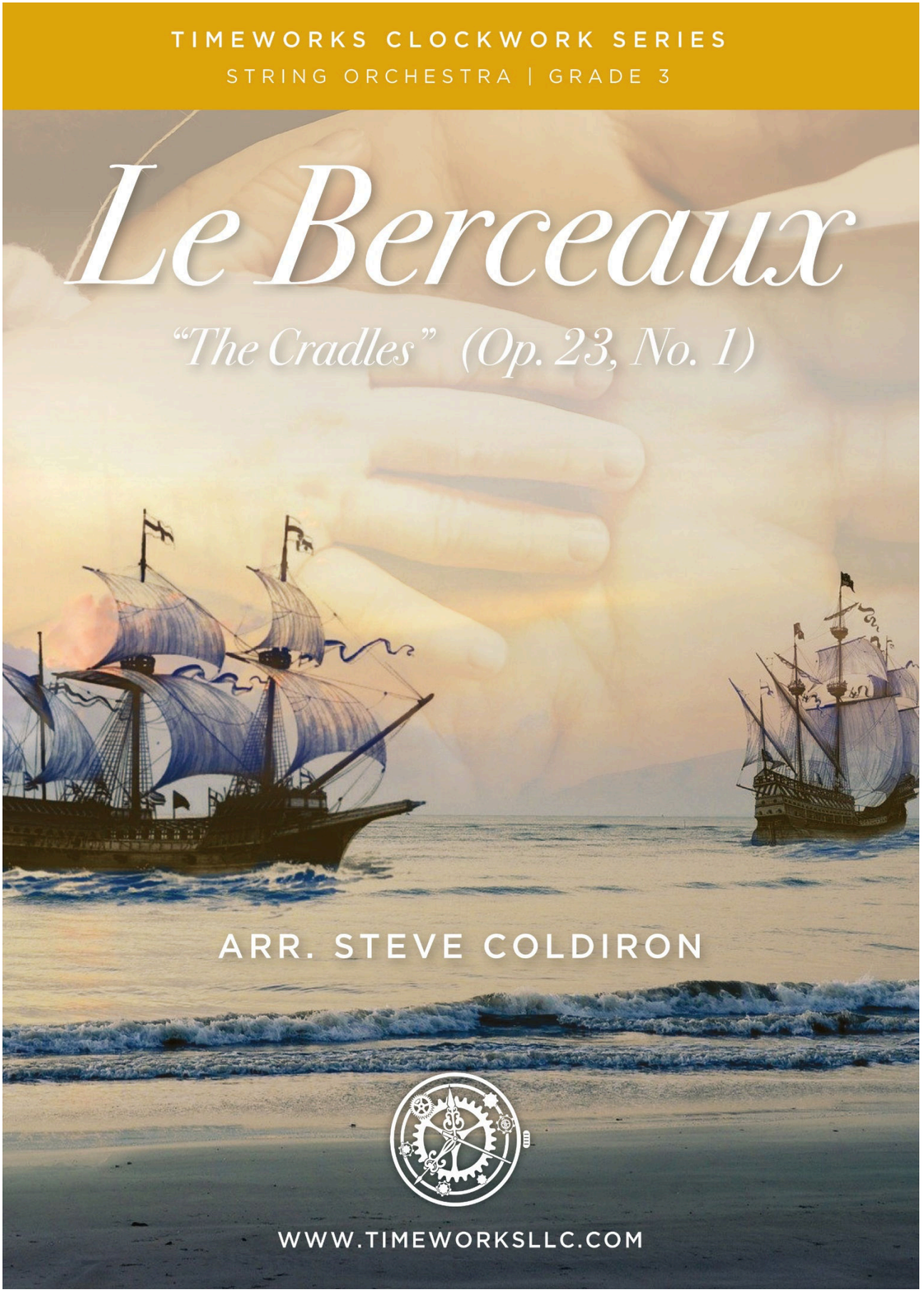
TIMEWORKS CLOCKWORK SERIES
STRING ORCHESTRA | GRADE 3
Le Berceaux
"The Cradles" (Op. 23, No. 1)
ARR. STEVE COLDIRON
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TIMEWORKS CLOCKWORK SERIES
STRING ORCHESTRA | GRADE 3

LE BERCEAUX

“The Cradles” (Opus 23, No. 1)

ARR. STEVE COLDIRON

INSTRUMENTATION

(Parts Included)

(1) Conductor's Score, (10) Violin I, (10) Violin II, (5) Viola, (5) Violincello, (5) Double Bass

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Gabriel Faure (1845 – 1924) was one of the foremost French composers of his generation. He wrote in several types of music, but many people remember his music in the form of piano, and **"Art Songs."** The latter, featured beautiful melodies written to promote the imagery of poetry. Still today, aspiring vocalist study and perform these works.

The text of this famous selection, was written by Sully Prudhomme. He was a prolific writer, and the first ever winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, in 1901.

Faure wrote a sad flowing melody in 6/8 meter as a backdrop for text that depicts the sea, beautiful ships, cradles, and sailors that must leave their homes and family behind.

This piece should be performed in a legato and flowing manner, paying attention to dynamics, and overall ensemble balance so that the melody is heard at all times. A general feeling of slight rubato may be allowed to express emotion in the music.

Texture and recurring rhythm illustrate the underlying intent towards visualizing the movement of the sea, and the rocking of children's cradles in the background.

The Cradles

Along the quay the great ships,
Listing silently with the surge,
Pay no heed to the cradles
Rocked by women's hands.

But the day of parting will come,
For it is decreed that women shall weep,
And that men with questing spirits
Shall seek enticing horizons.

And on that day the great ships,
Leaving the dwindling harbor behind,
Shall feel their hulls held back
By the soul of the distant cradles.

About the Composer

Steve Coldiron, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan where he studied composition with Dr. James Hartway. He was also awarded a Master of Church Music Degree with a major in music theory from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky studying with renowned pianist and educator Dr. Maurice Hinson.

He served as a director of music in Baptist and Methodist churches for 42 years, retiring in 2019. He is an active instructor with Brenau University Lifelong Learning Institute, in Gainesville, GA.

Mr. Coldiron is currently serving as the Area 4 (GA, SC, and FL) chair for Handbell Musicians of America. He is the founder, musical director, and conductor of the Gainesville String Orchestra, and remains active as a composer specializing in music for handbell, orchestra, and band music.

Full Score

Les Berceaux

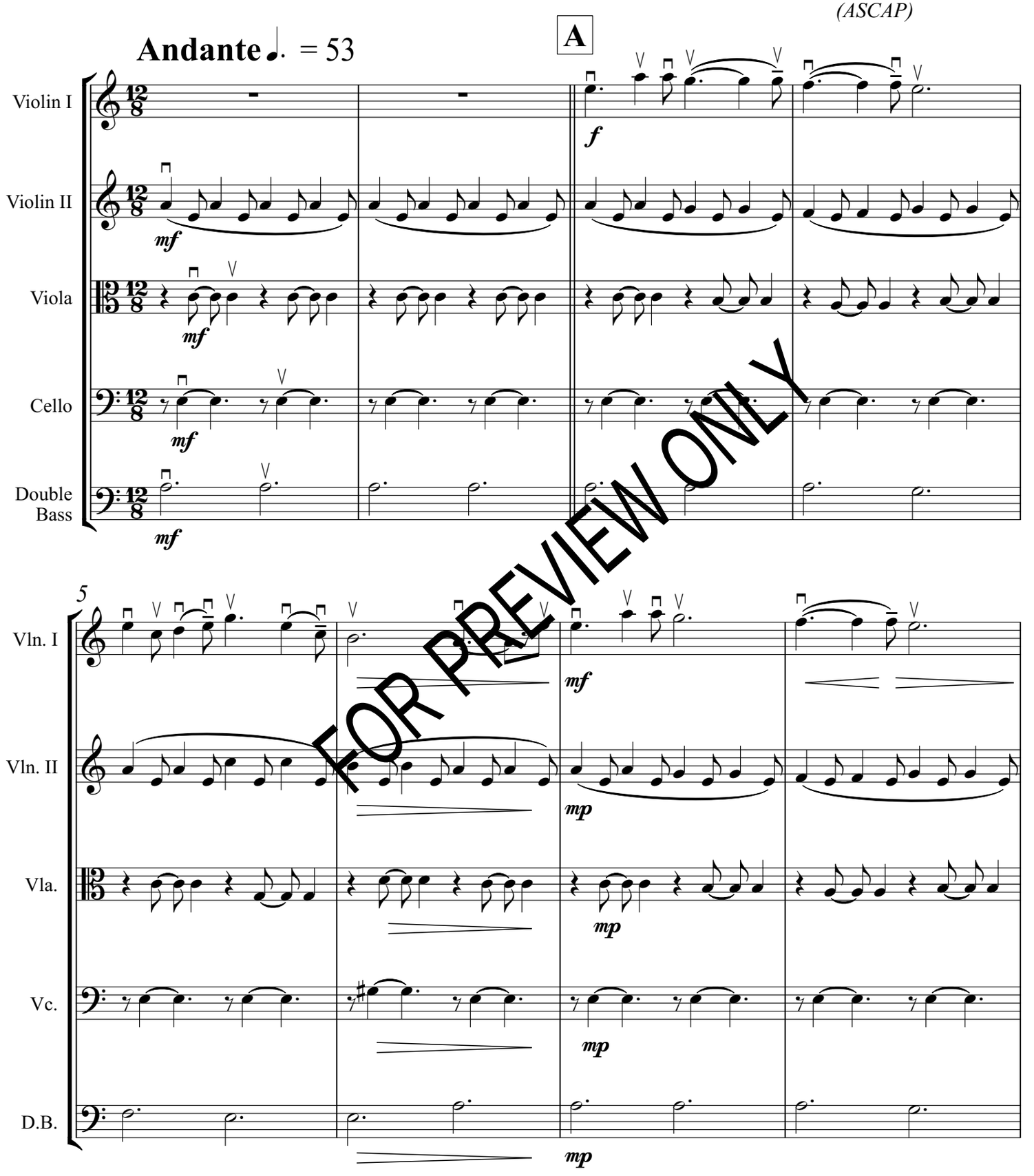
Op. 23 no.1

"The Cradles"

Gabriel Faure
(1845-1924)

Arr. Steve Coldiron

(ASCAP)



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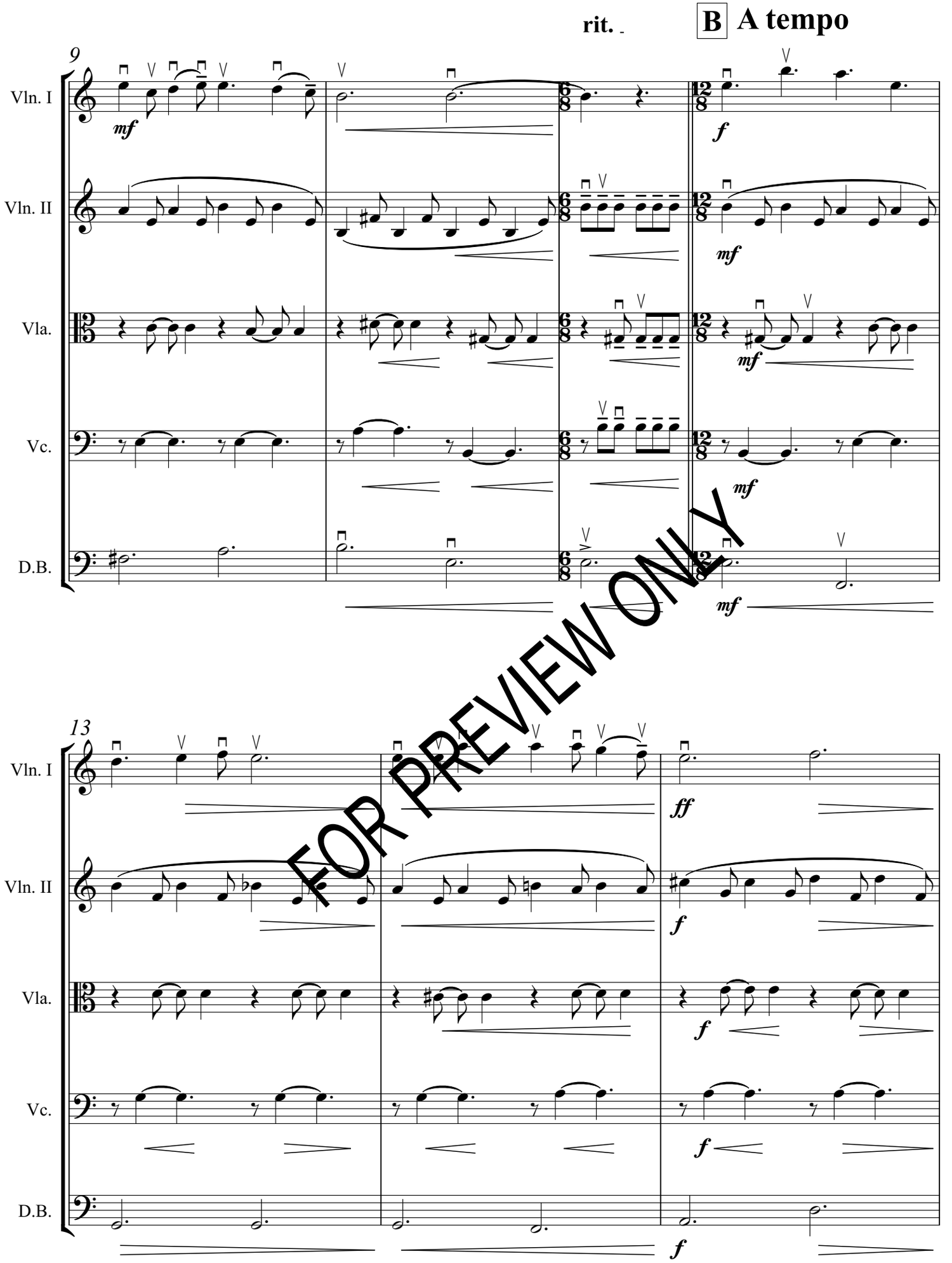

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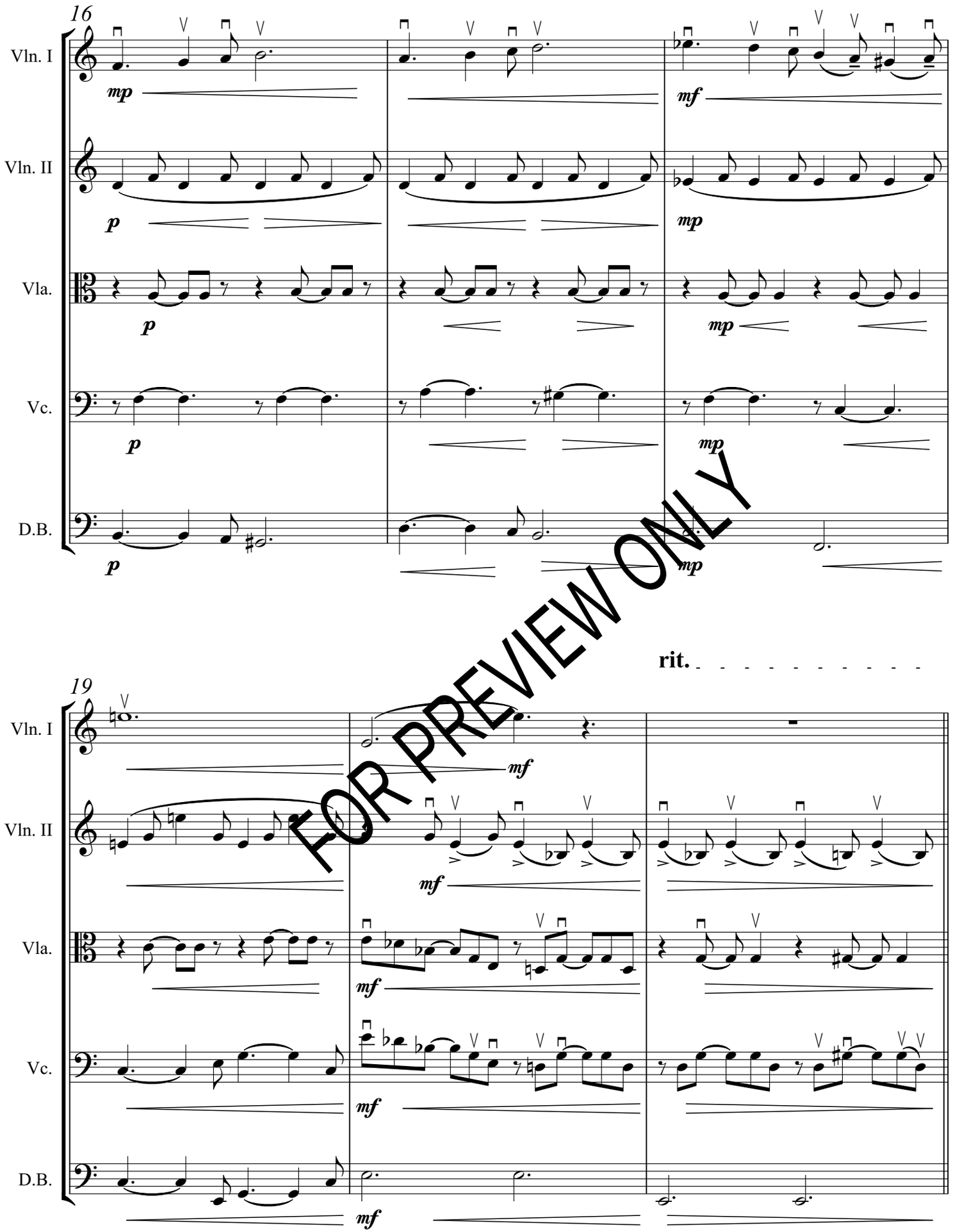

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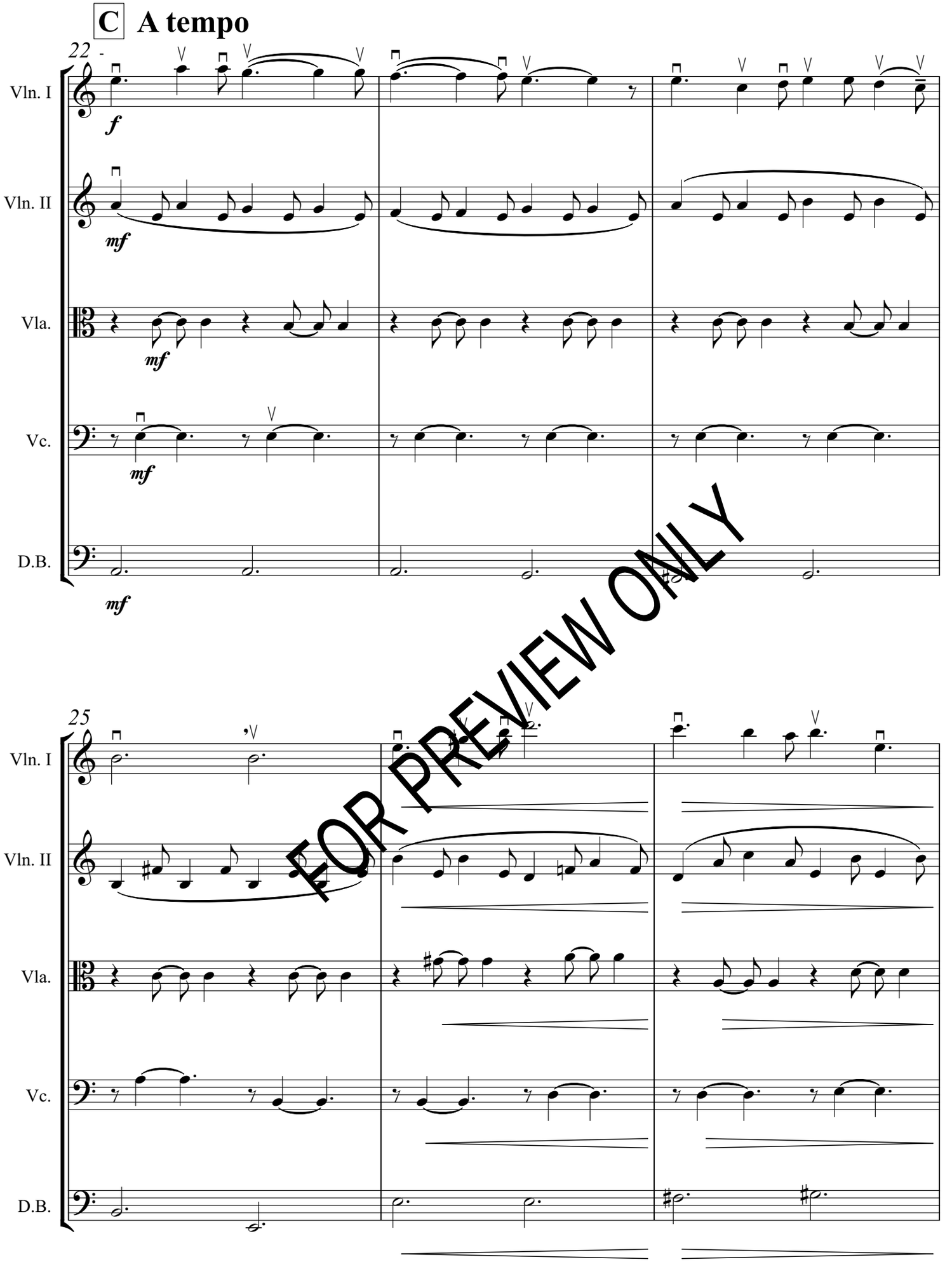

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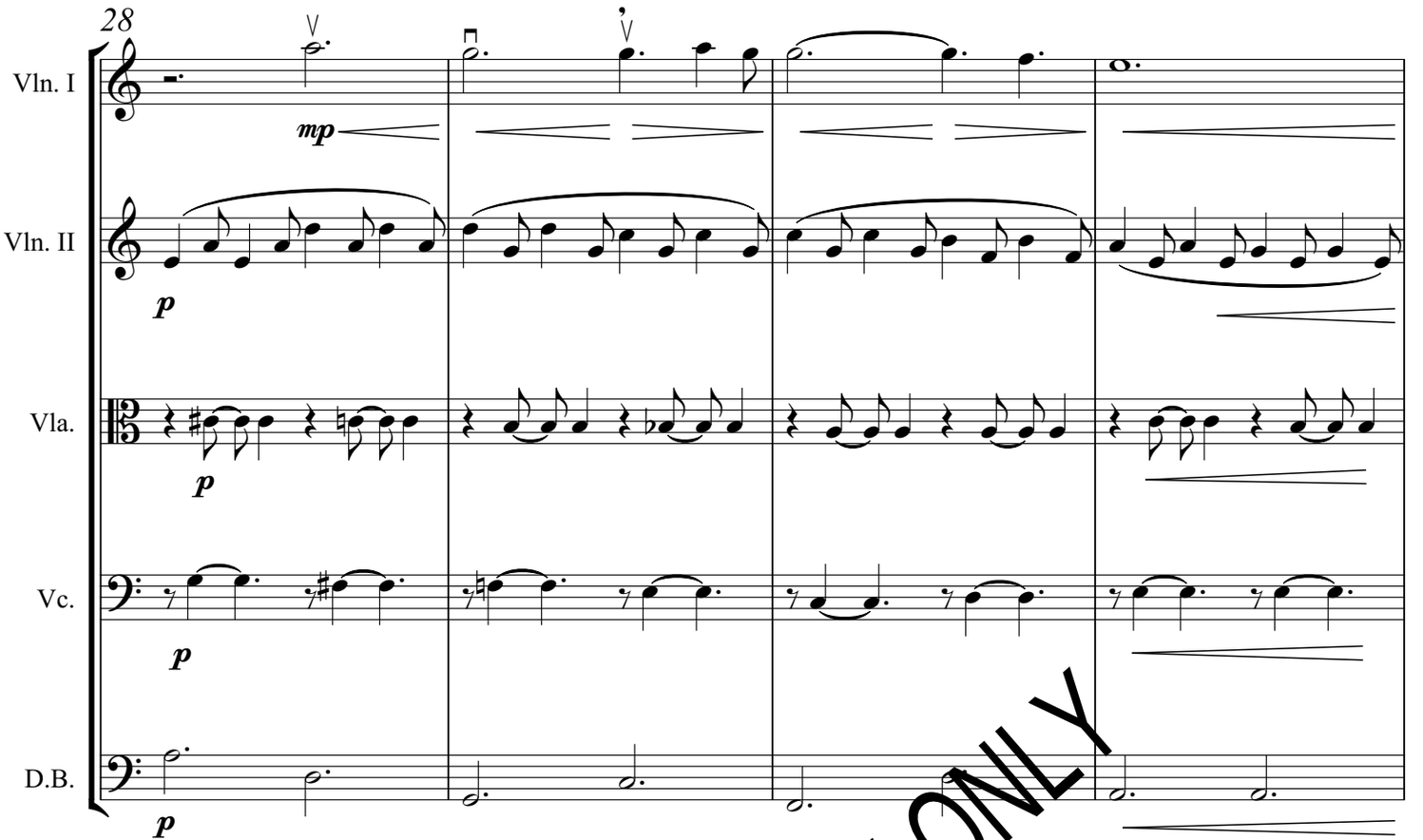

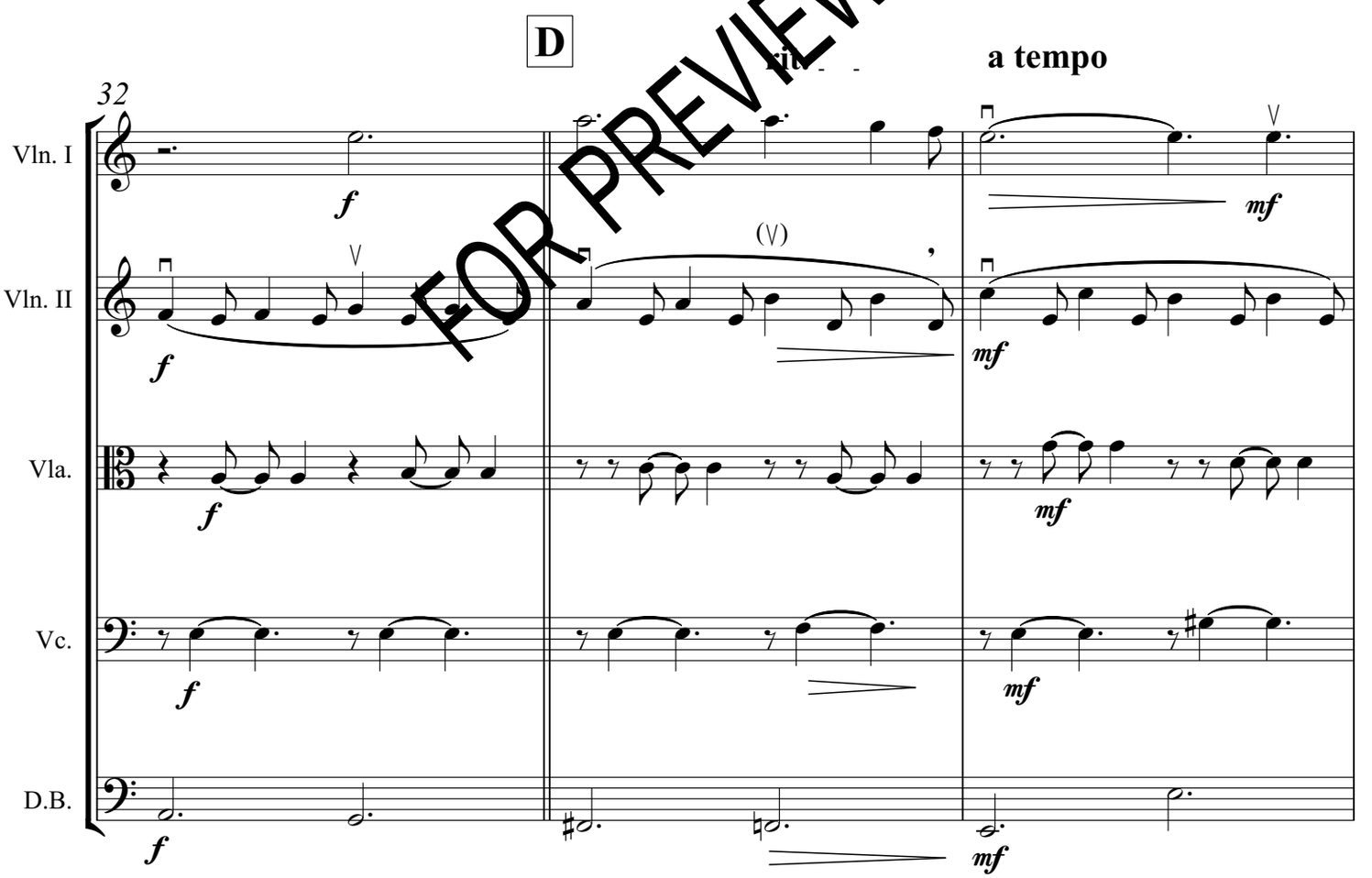

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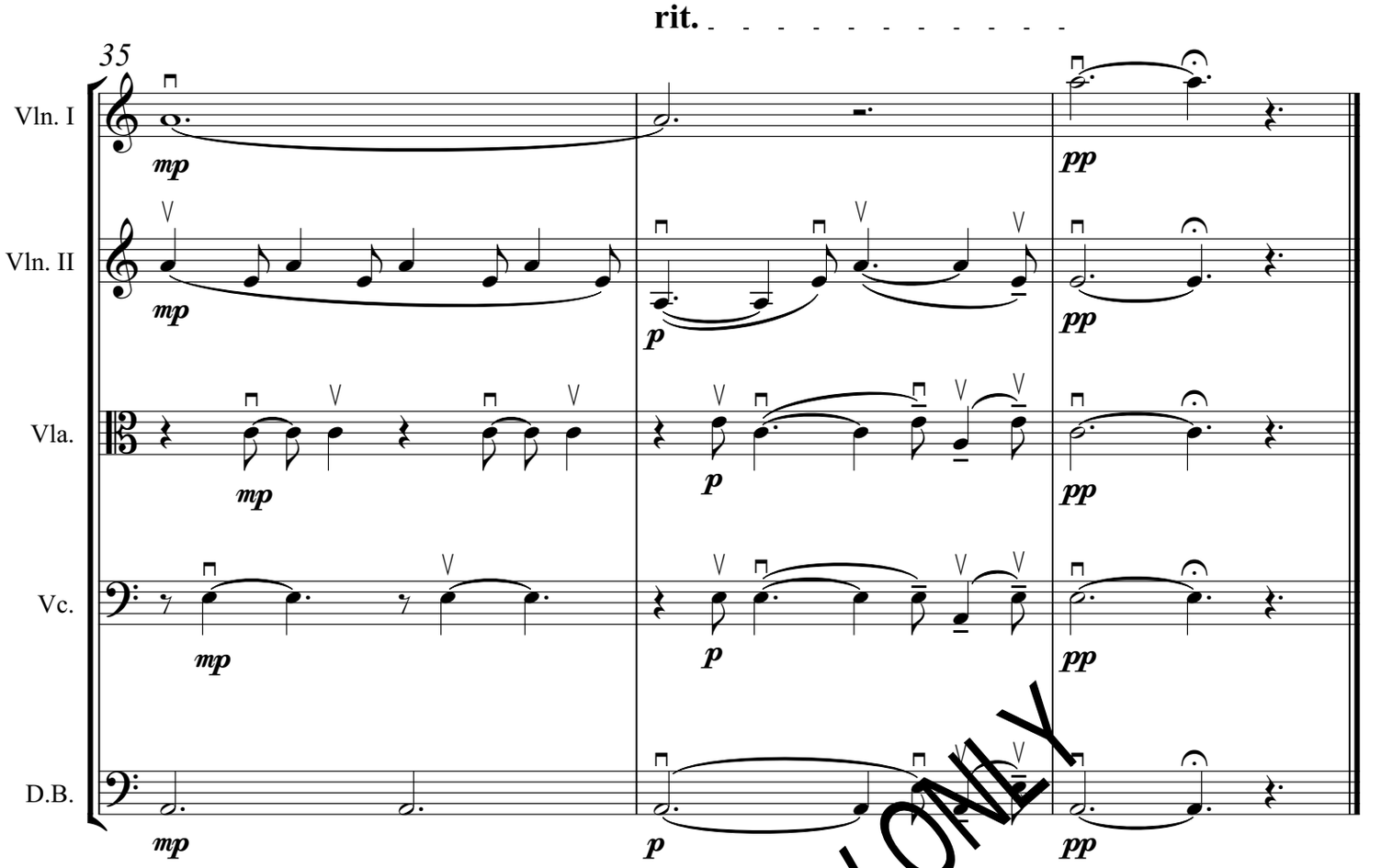

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