FULL SCORE

Concert String Orchestra

CARL FISCHER PERFORMANCE SERIES

Grade 4

Forest Incantations

Alan Lee Silva

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CAS72

INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score 1
Violin I 8
Violin II 8
Viola 5
Cello 5
Bass 5
Piano 1

CARL FISCHER®

About the Composition

From the opening ensemble marcato accents and the driving sixteenth-note unisons in the low strings, *Forest Incantations* creates a compelling musical statement from the outset. This active "edge-of-your-seat" composition provides all sections of the string orchestra with unique and satisfying musical challenges. Written in a modified "Fast/Slow/Fast" structure, the piece begins with the lively main theme in E minor, departs to new motifs in mm. 56-96, and ends with variations on the main theme.

The ensemble plays with urgency and energy from the first measure, charging through the introduction to set the stage for the main theme played by the first violins. This theme in mm. 11-26 (and each time it recurs) is played vigorously but not too heavy, as it needs to be executed precisely and effortlessly. The supporting marcato pulses in the rest of the group are strong and provide a solid rhythmic beat.

The momentum slows briefly starting in m. 26 as the rhythms shift from sixteenths to eighths and from eighths to quarters to half notes. The piece disappears to nothing in m. 31, and then is jolted back by the aggressive low strings' pickups into m. 32. The piece lightens a bit at m. 40 with the first violins playing the main tune, and the cellos playing counterlines. In mm. 44-47, the violas and cellos become the stars, accompanied by counterlines in the violins. In mm. 48-55, the melodic rhythm slows to quarters and eighths as the ensemble plays full out on the syncopated accents; this variation of the main theme is showcased in parallel harmony in the high strings and contrary motion in the low strings.

Measure 56 gets quieter, and the tone shifts as the ensemble plays warm, sustained chords. A lyrical, violin solo is featured in m. 59 and continues over light, steady staccatos in the rest of the group at m. 64. Accenting beats 1 and 2 is integral to solidify the feel of the accompaniment. The violin solo and staccato accompaniment ends in m. 72, and the ensemble builds to the next section with an expressive legato swell.

The "Grand" section at m. 73-76 is a short introduction to a new theme. The new theme (m. 77-92), played molto espressivo by 1st violins, soars above the rest of the group who plays tight harmonies and syncopated rhythms underneath. The mid and low strings can dig in to the double stops in m. 83-84. The tempo slows slightly at m. 93 and the group plays staggered, sustained tremolos to bridge back to the main theme at m. 97.

M. 97 to the end is played with the same spirit and fire as the beginning of the piece. The ♩ sustained chords in m. 118-120 briefly vary the momentum as the ensemble starts softly and builds to a strong climax as the voicings ascend. The silent bar in m. 121 is a short pause before the exciting final exclamation in m. 122-125.

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About the Composer

Alan Lee Silva is a composer, arranger, and orchestrator whose credits include the feature films *Cinderella 3* and *Enough*, and television's *7th Heaven*, *Brothers and Sisters*, and *Soul Collector*. He scored the independent films Animated American, Full Moon Fables and Eli's Coming, orchestrated the Ford's Theatre musical Liberty Smith and has written songs, arrangements, and background music for theme parks all over the world, including Sea World's Aquatica, Tokyo Disney Sea, Universal Studios Japan and Sesame Place.

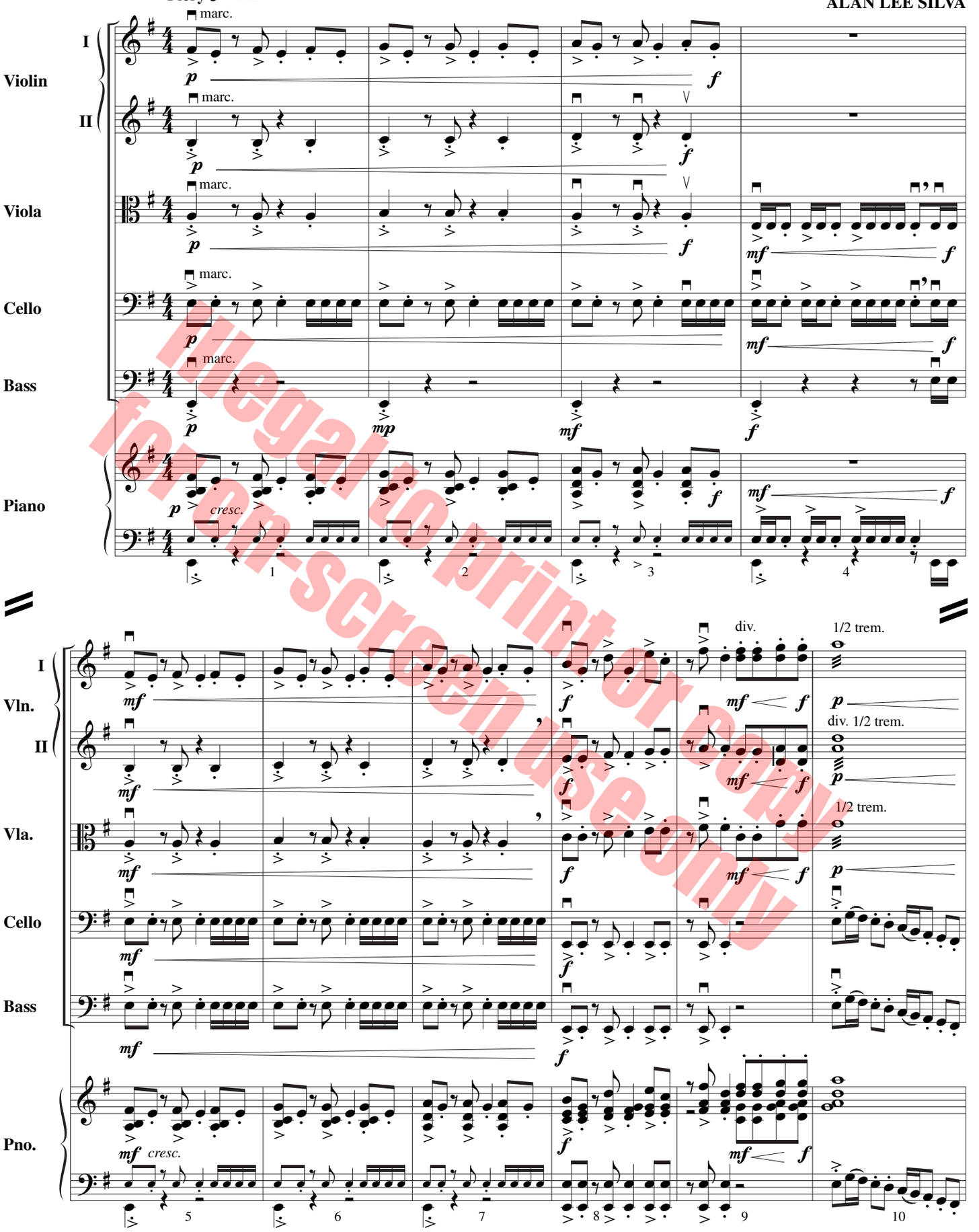
Alan has enjoyed working with an eclectic mix of clients, including Disney Cruise Lines, Sesame Street, Susan Egan, The Nuclear Whales Saxophone Orchestra, and KISS. His catalogue for Concert Band and String Orchestra is published by Carl Fischer, and his contemporary jazz piece *The Flight* was a favorite on San Francisco radio stations.

Alan lives in Culver City, CA with his wife and two daughters.

Forest Incantations

Fiery ♩ = 112

ALAN LEE SILVA



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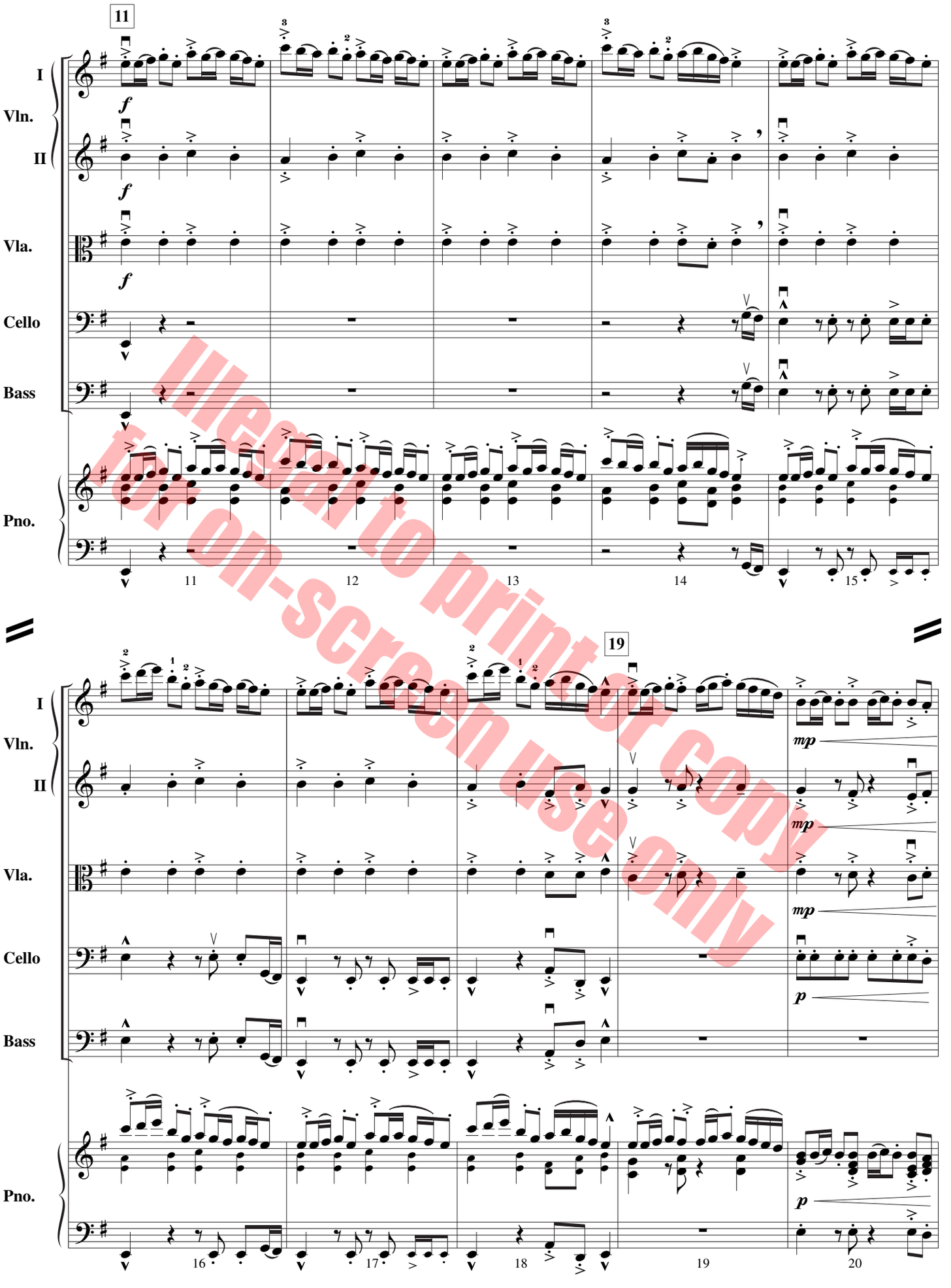

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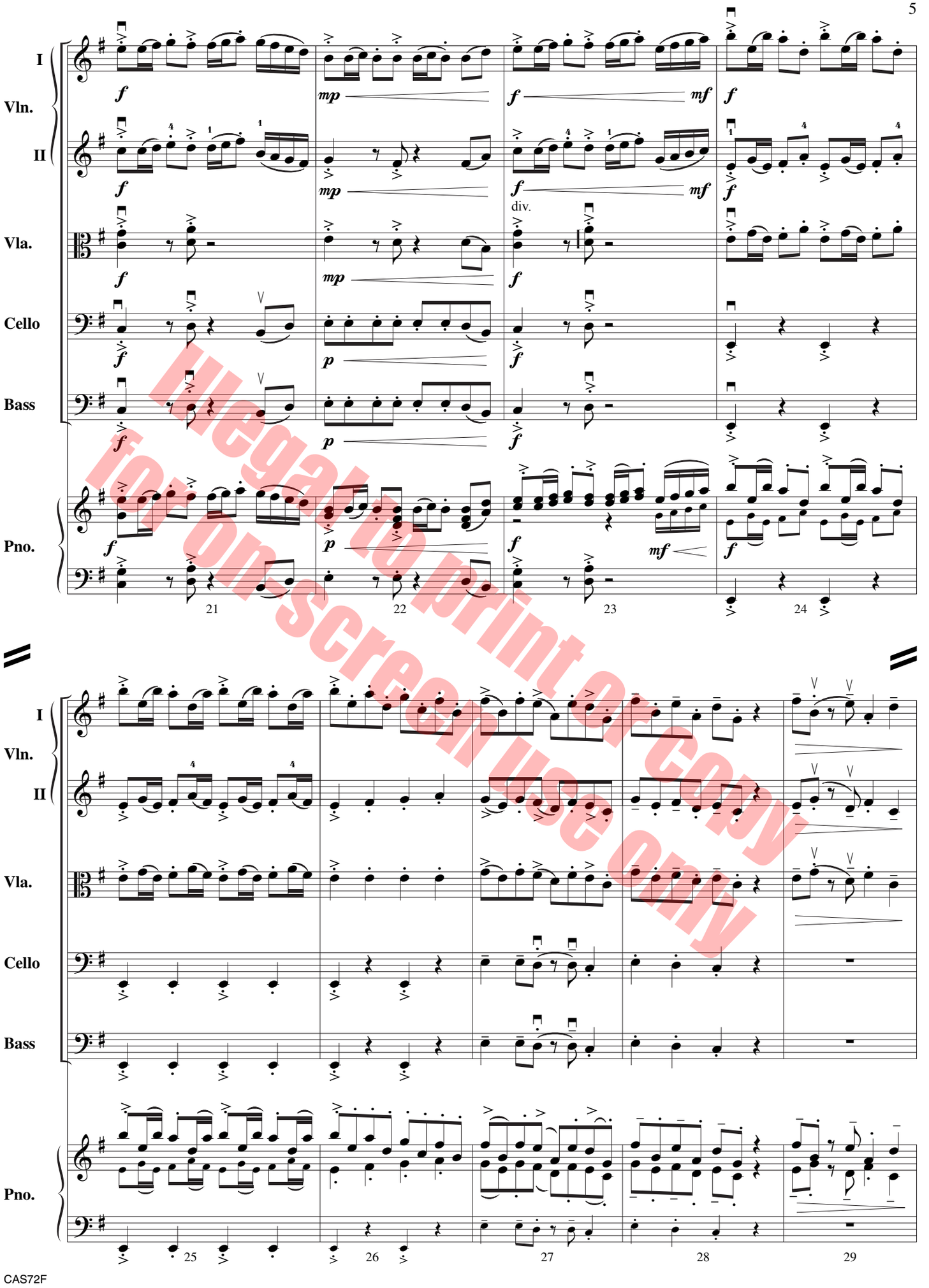

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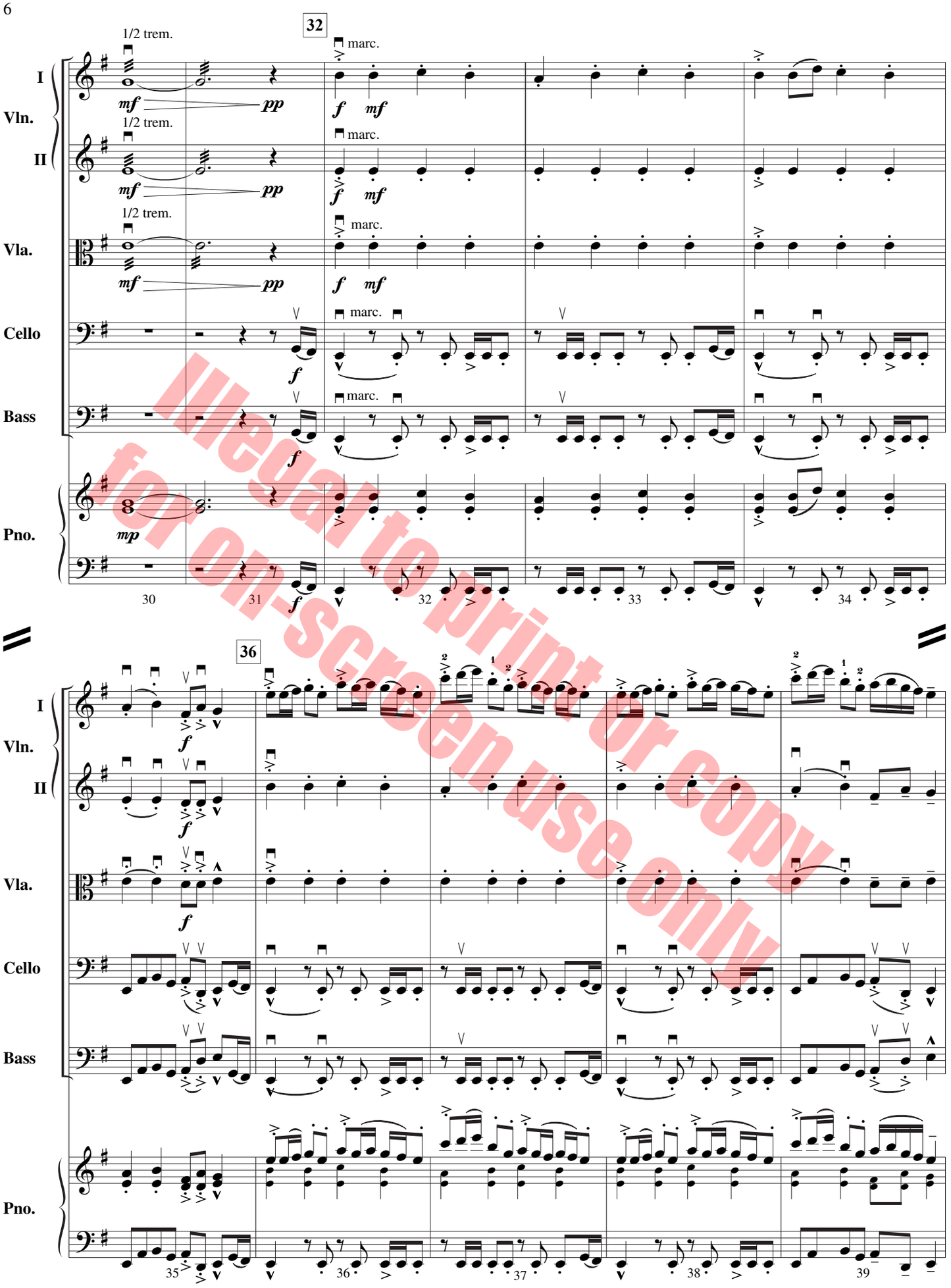

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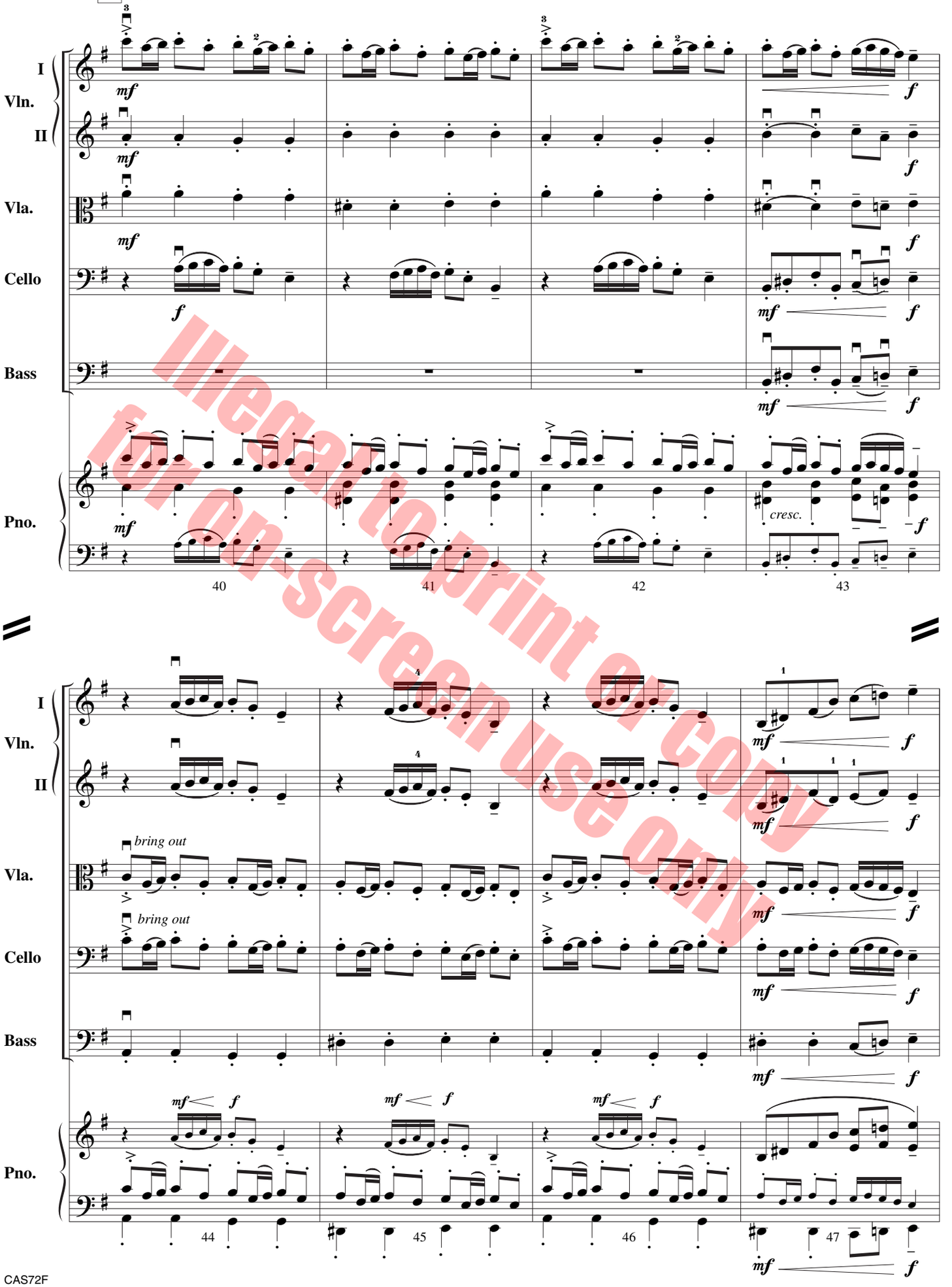

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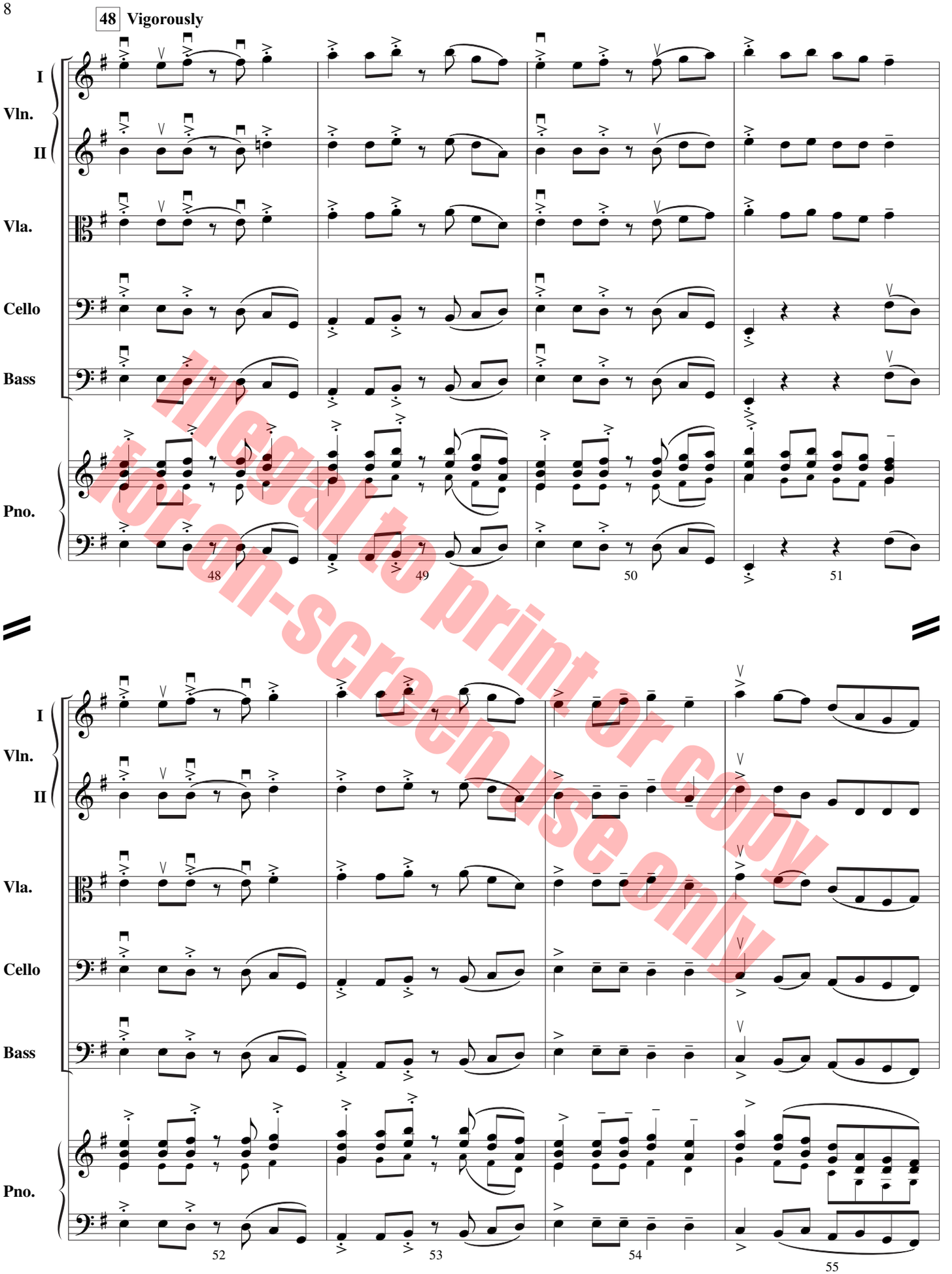

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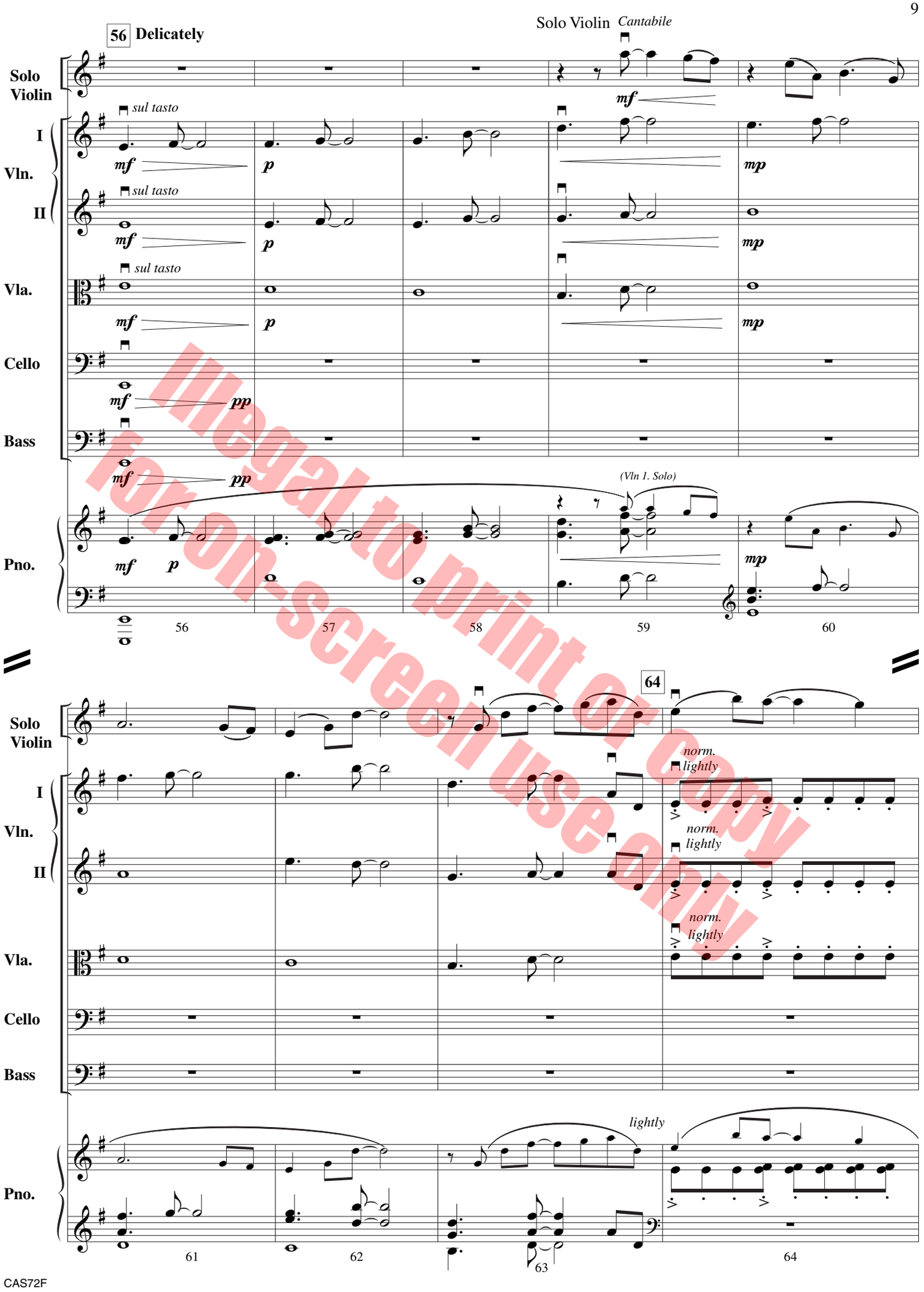

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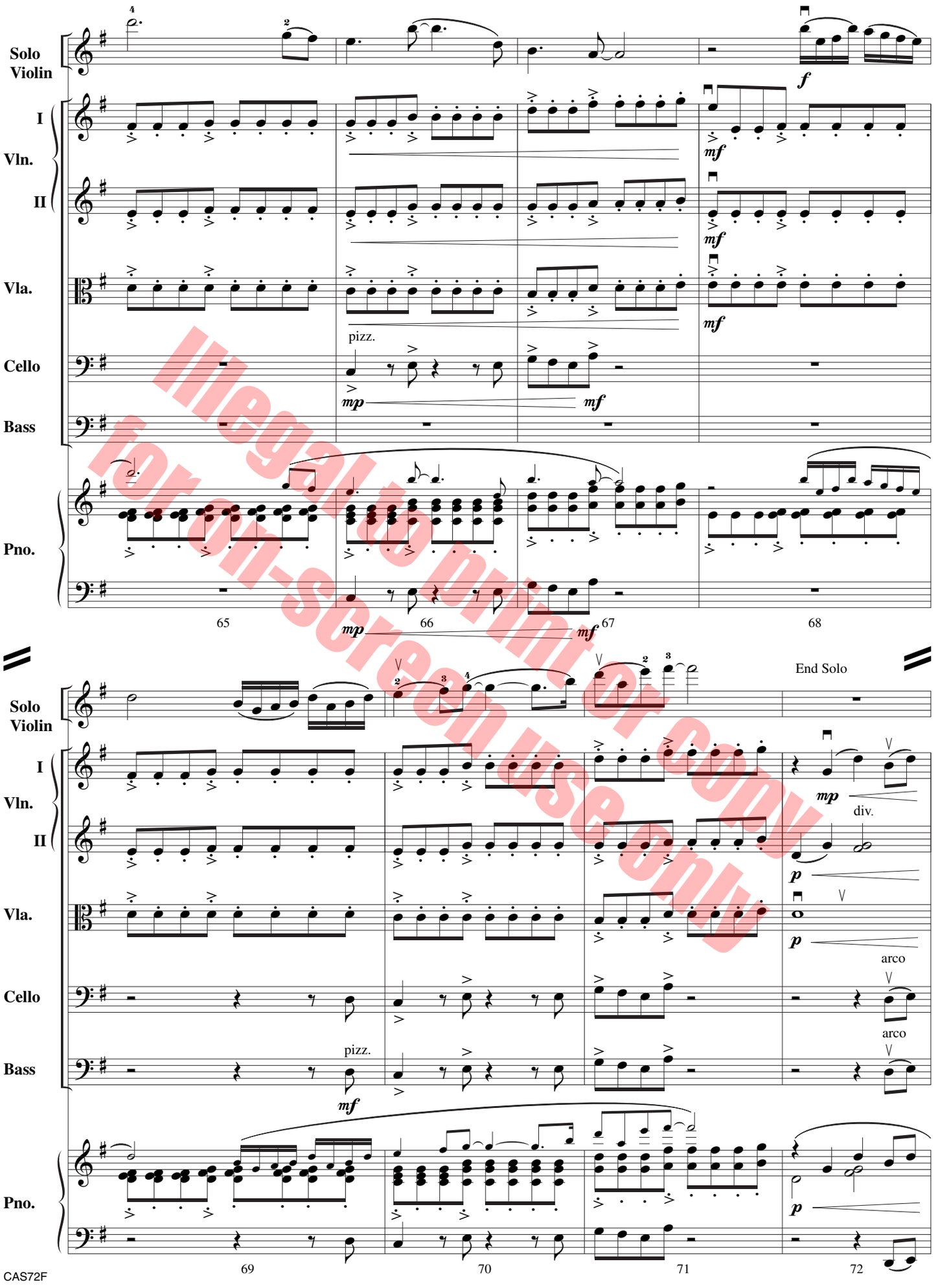

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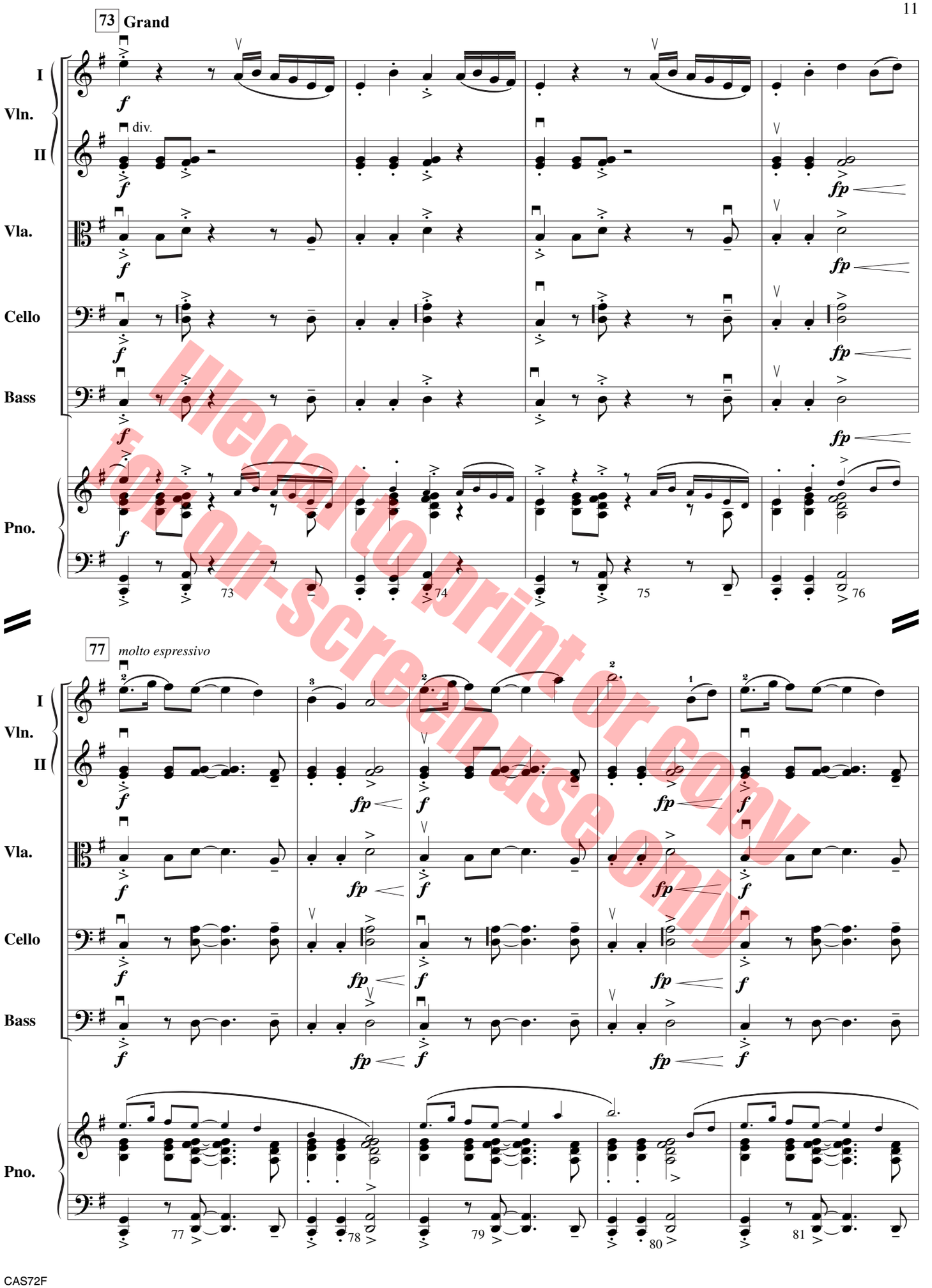

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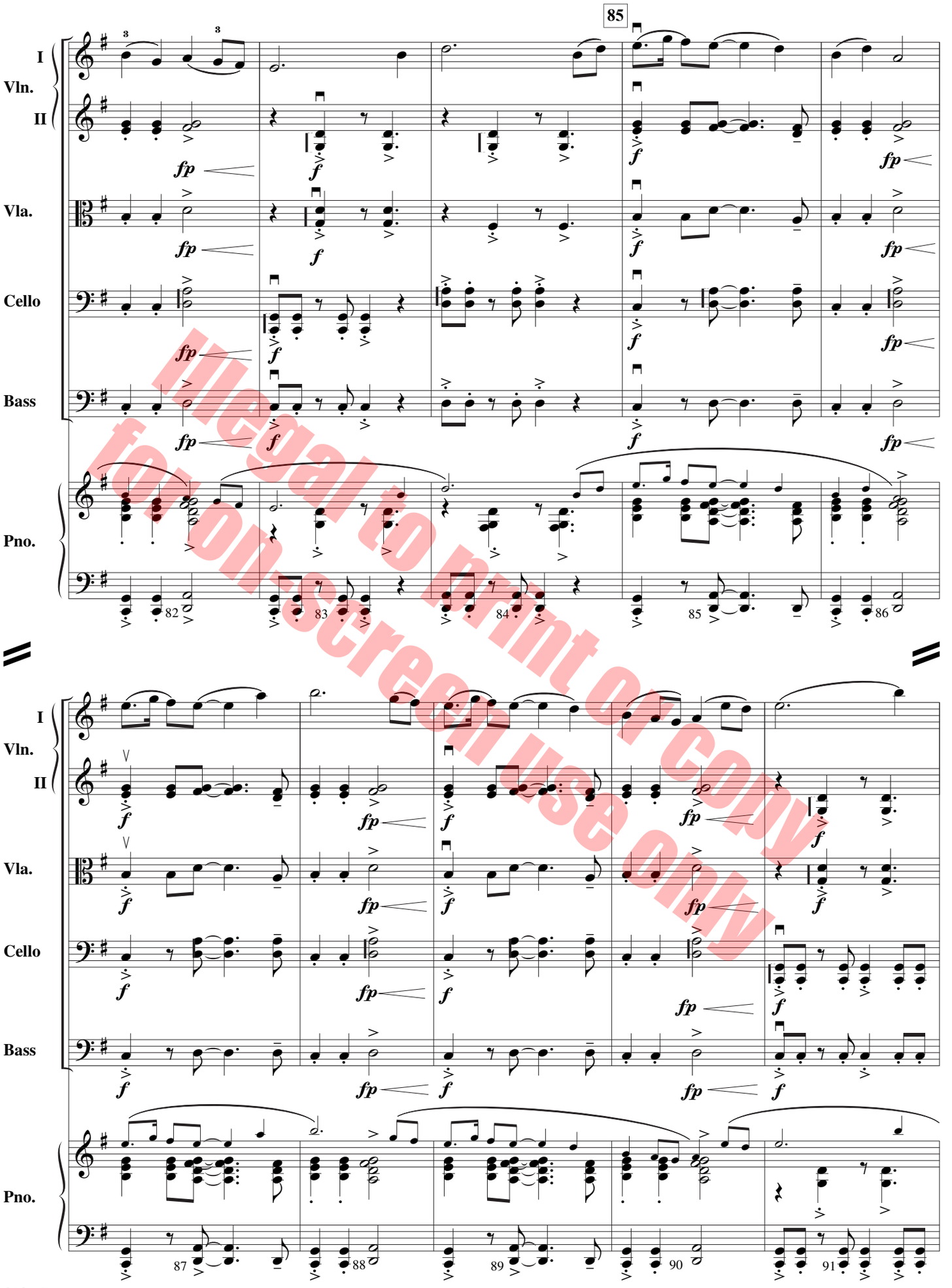

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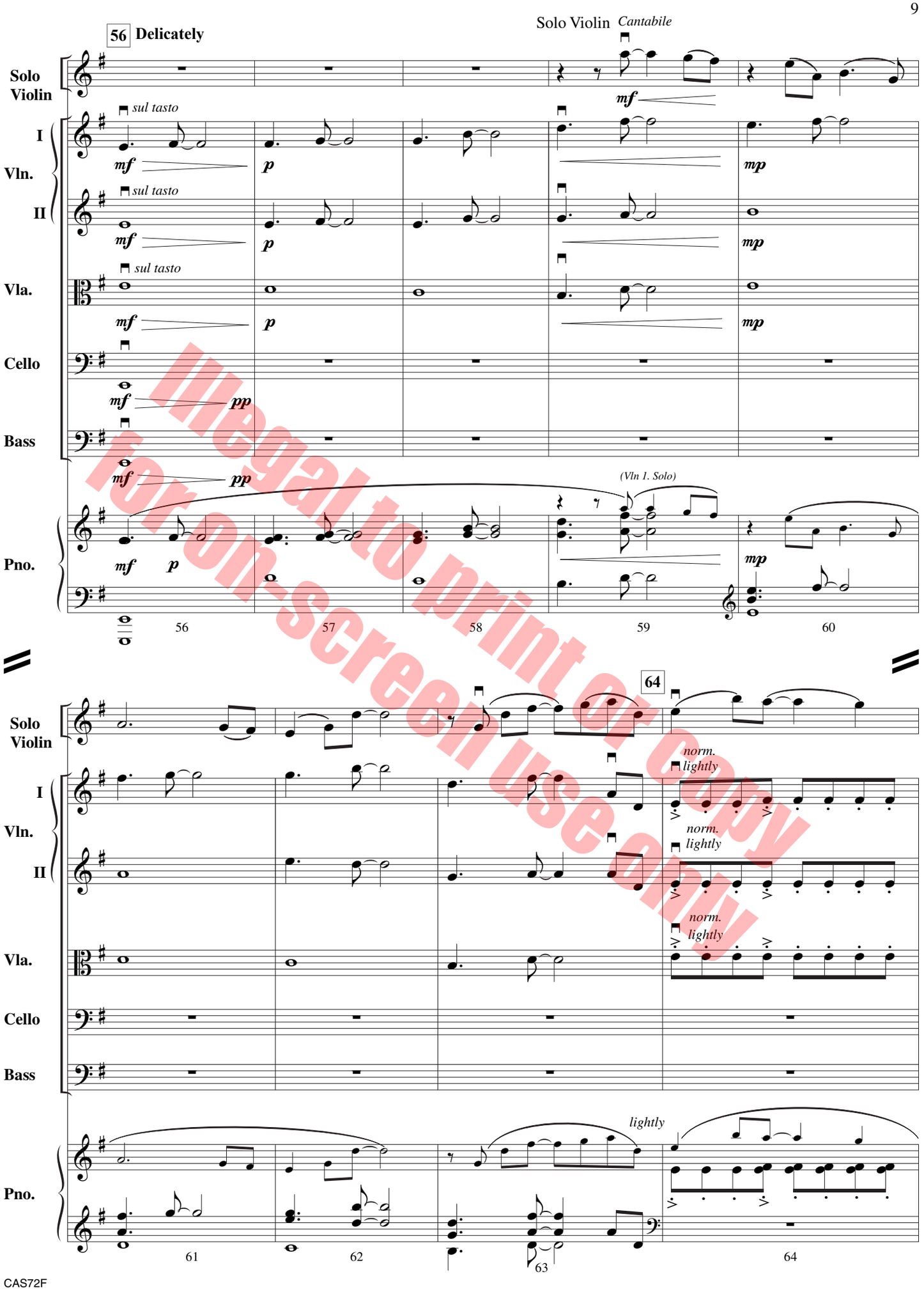

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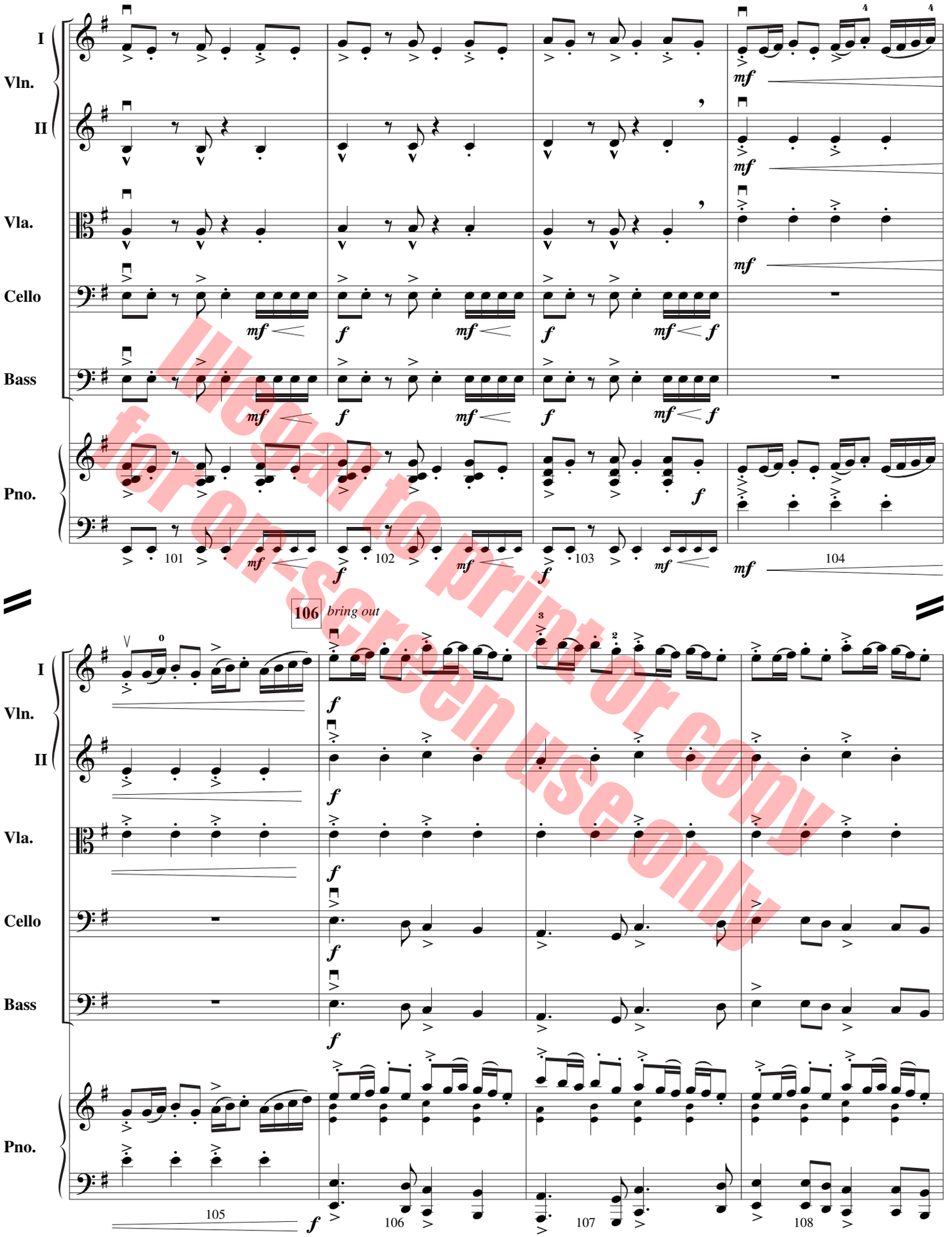

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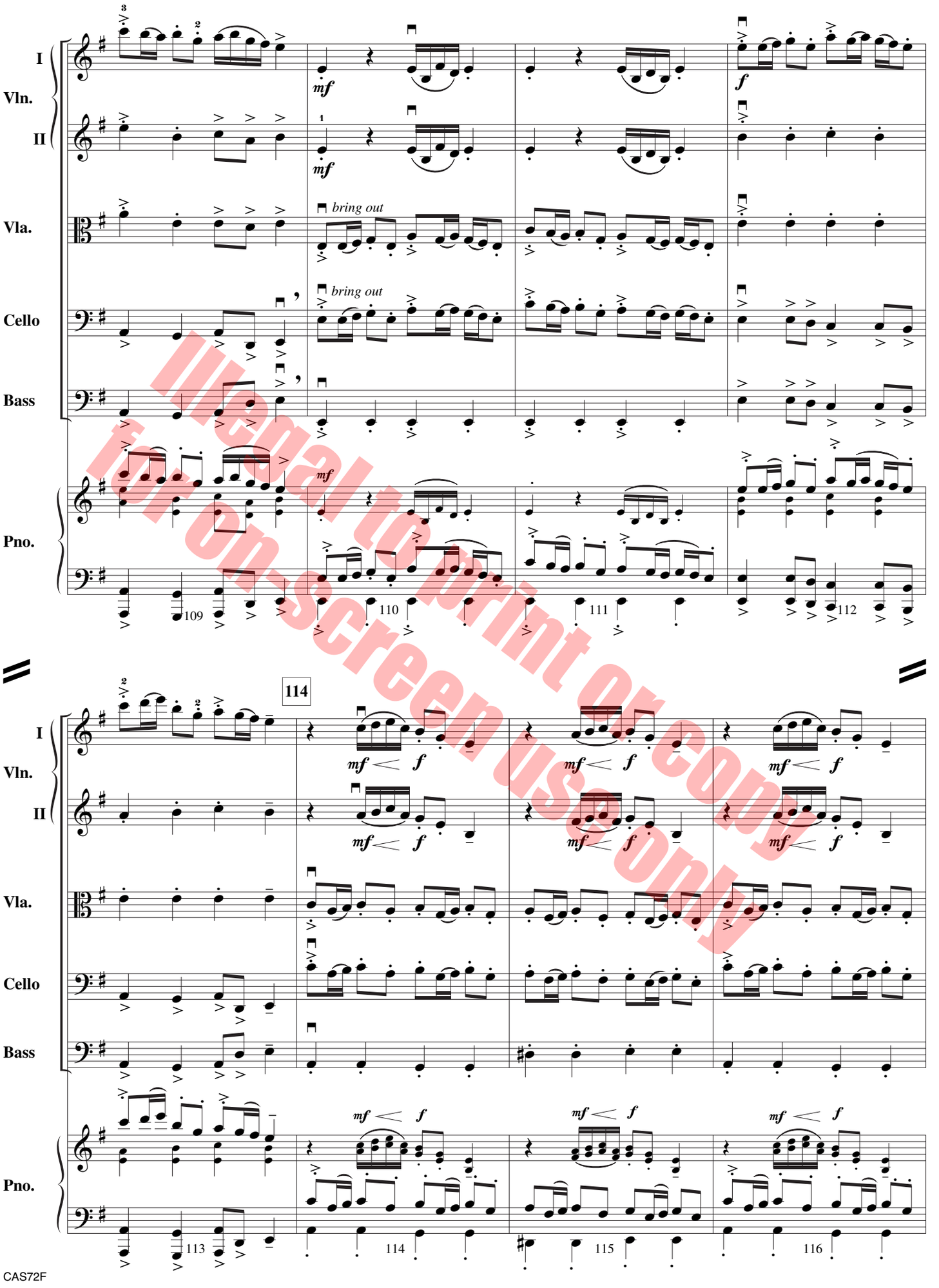

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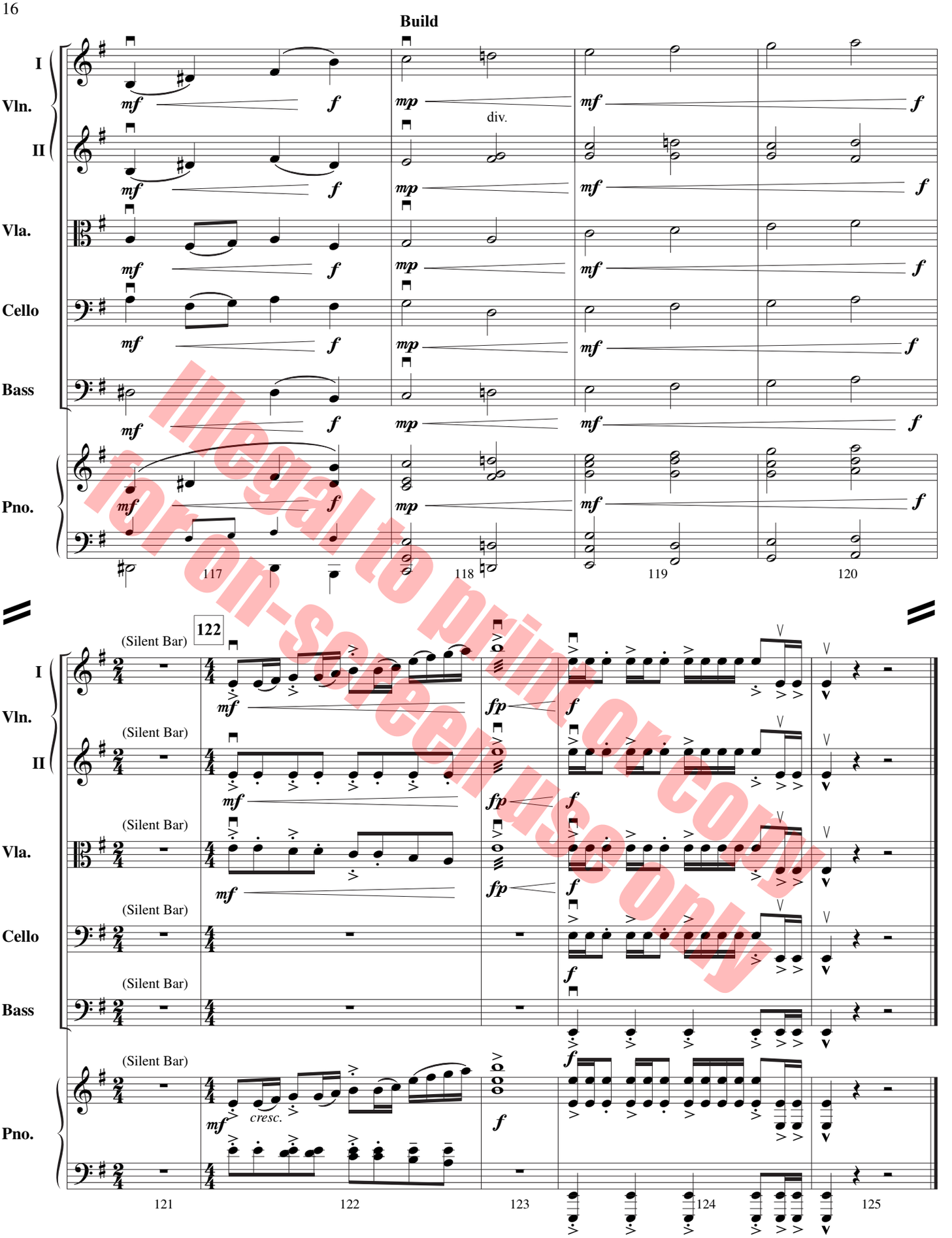

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