Koythu Pattu

For String Orchestra, Grade 2
by Manjula Ramachandran & Cooper Ford

Instrumentation

1 - Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2
5 - Viola
5 - Cello
5 - Bass
2 - Percussion (Djembe, Floor Tom)

Note from the Editor:

This grade 2 piece is based on a traditional South Indian Harvest Song. It uses a pentatonic scale, which lays well in the fingers and is written in only three parts with the 2nds and Violas doubling, and the Celli and Basses doubling. The piece is in 6/8 time and includes simple ornamentation.

- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

Full Set - $60.00 **Extra Conductor Score - $10.00** **Extra Part - $4.00**

Randall Standridge Music, LLC - 26 County Road 472 - Jonesboro, AR 72404 - 870-926-3479
www.randallstandridge.com - randallstandridge@yahoo.com

Koythu Pattu

By Manjula Ramachandran & Cooper Ford, Grade 2

Program Notes:
Koythu Pattu is based on an Indian folk song of harvest. These kinds of songs are often sung by farmers in the countryside while harvesting, separating grains from stalks, and planting to ease their work. The lyrics of these songs are often colloquial with village idioms and rhythmic words like Thandane Thane, Thayyanam Tara. These are syllables without meaning (phonemes) that are sometimes used to imitate a musical instrument. As such, this music is driven by a strong pulsing energy, as well as sections of unified rhythm and call and response between different instruments to mimic the workers in the field. This piece also introduces students to 6/8, using simple groupings, while using the notes of a pentatonic scale. Percussion is optional, but highly recommended!

Notes to the director:

Tempo terms

There are several terms to indicate tempo (kaala) in this piece. These are in Tamil (a prominent language in India) and commonly used in Carnatic music. The beginning is "keezh kaala" (keezh meaning down, kaala meaning tempo). This is commonly known as first speed. "Sama kaala" (sama meaning equal or same level) is the second speed. Mel Kaala (Mel is up or high) is fast tempo or third speed. Practically speaking, the piece will go to a faster tempo at each marking.

Ornamentation - Hammer-ons

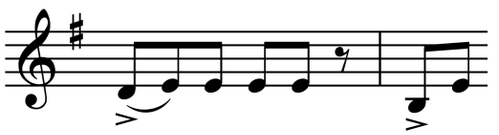
There are several instances of repeated notes with a grace note in between (for example, m.1 for cellos/basses). A high, relaxed hammering action should be used, so that the finger leaves the string and returns quickly.
(See demonstration video)

String Crossings

Several passages have repeated string crossings (such as m. 2 in violin 1, 2, and viola). In the left hand, the fingers should be placed on both strings, with the bow at the balance point to facilitate motion. For violins and viola at measure 2, it will be the 1st finger on the D string and 2nd on the G. At m. 76, cellos will use 1st and 3rd fingers respectively, with basses using the 1st finger across both strings. In both cases, the finger on the lower string creates a tunnel, so that there is no contact with the higher string. (See demonstration video)

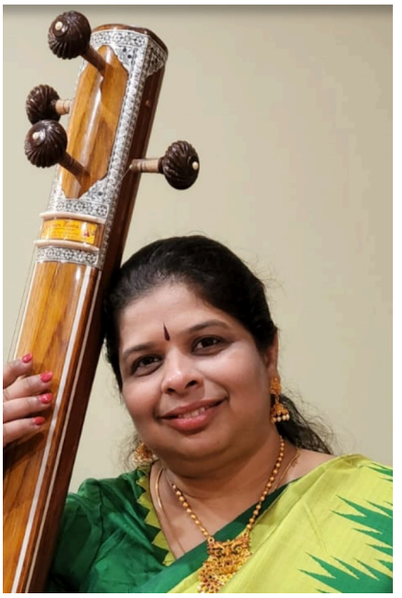
Throwing the Bow (not literally)

A common rhythmic pattern in this piece is a series of five 8ths notes, followed by an 8th rest.



Players should be encouraged to release the weight on the bow at the end of the first measure and let the momentum naturally carry it off the string a bit, so that a downward motion can be applied on the accented downbeat of the following measure. This will help create the sound that is desired. (See demonstration video)

Demonstration videos can be found on the product page at randallstandridge.com under "additional materials."



About the Composing Team:

Manjula Ramachandran (Manjula Mani-Dharmarajan) is a South Indian Classical (Carnatic) Vocalist and Saraswathi Veena player from South India. As a vocalist, she is well known for her deep knowledge of handling the Indian Raagas and Taalas (rhythms), composing in rare ragas, improvisational skills, and classicalism in voice. As a veena player, she is well known for her Gayaki (singing) style of playing, fingering techniques, and ability to engage the listener with high tonal string quality.

Manjula graduated in Music as a String Major (veena) from Sree Swathi Thirunal Music College with State level high score, for which she was awarded the prestigious Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy young musician fellowship. She has been a proud recipient of the CCRT (Centre for Cultural Research Talent) Scholarship for 8 years from the President of India. The Government of India Department of Culture also honored her with a scholarship for 2 years as the best upcoming musician. Manjula is also a proud recipient of AIR (All India Radio - India Government Broadcasting Radio) National Music Competition Award with a Music Gradation. She has been part of numerous recordings and live performances on radio and television in India and the USA. She runs her own Indian music school in New Jersey where she has introduced many young children to the world of Indian Classical Music.

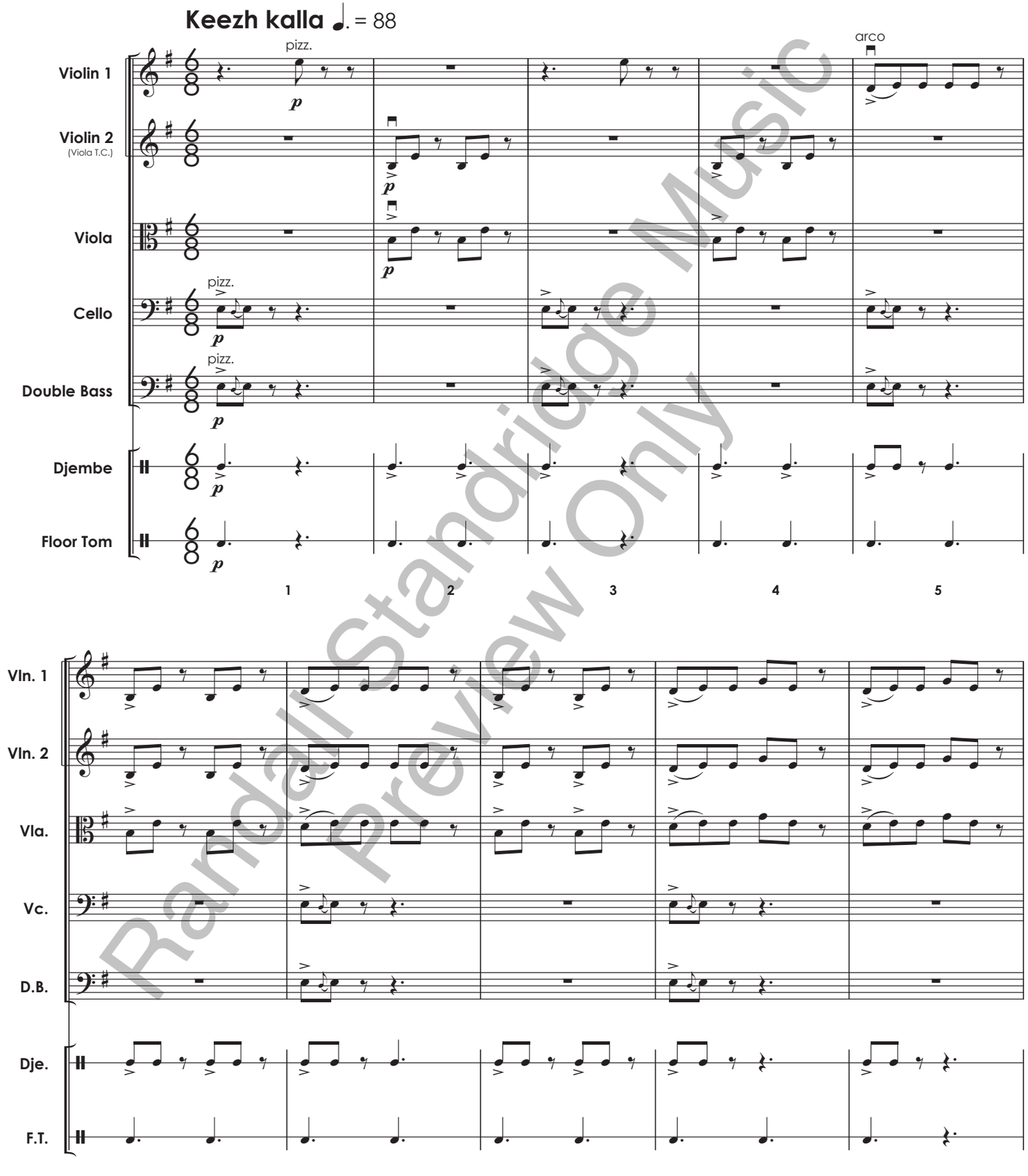
Cooper Ford has been composing and arranging since he began learning the violin and trumpet at a young age in the school music program in his hometown of Chatham, New Jersey. During that time, he was encouraged by his teachers to explore his interest in composition, culminating in the performance of one of his string orchestra pieces, "Ballad and Inferno," during his Senior year of high school. Since then, he has continued to write for a variety of ensembles, focusing on string and full orchestra. He is a winner of the ASTA/NJ Composer Competition with "Scenes from an Unwritten Tale," which was performed by Sinfonia from The New Jersey Youth Symphony.

Cooper received his Bachelor of Music in Music Education from The College of New Jersey and Master of Music in Music Education from the University of Florida. He is currently the Orchestra Director at North Brunswick Township High School in North Brunswick, New Jersey, where he also teaches classes in Music Production. In 2023, he was the ASTA/NJ Classroom Teacher of the Year. The following year, he received the NFHS Outstanding Music Educator Award. He is a member of ASTA and NAfME.

Koythu Pattu

Score
Grade 2
Duration 2:10

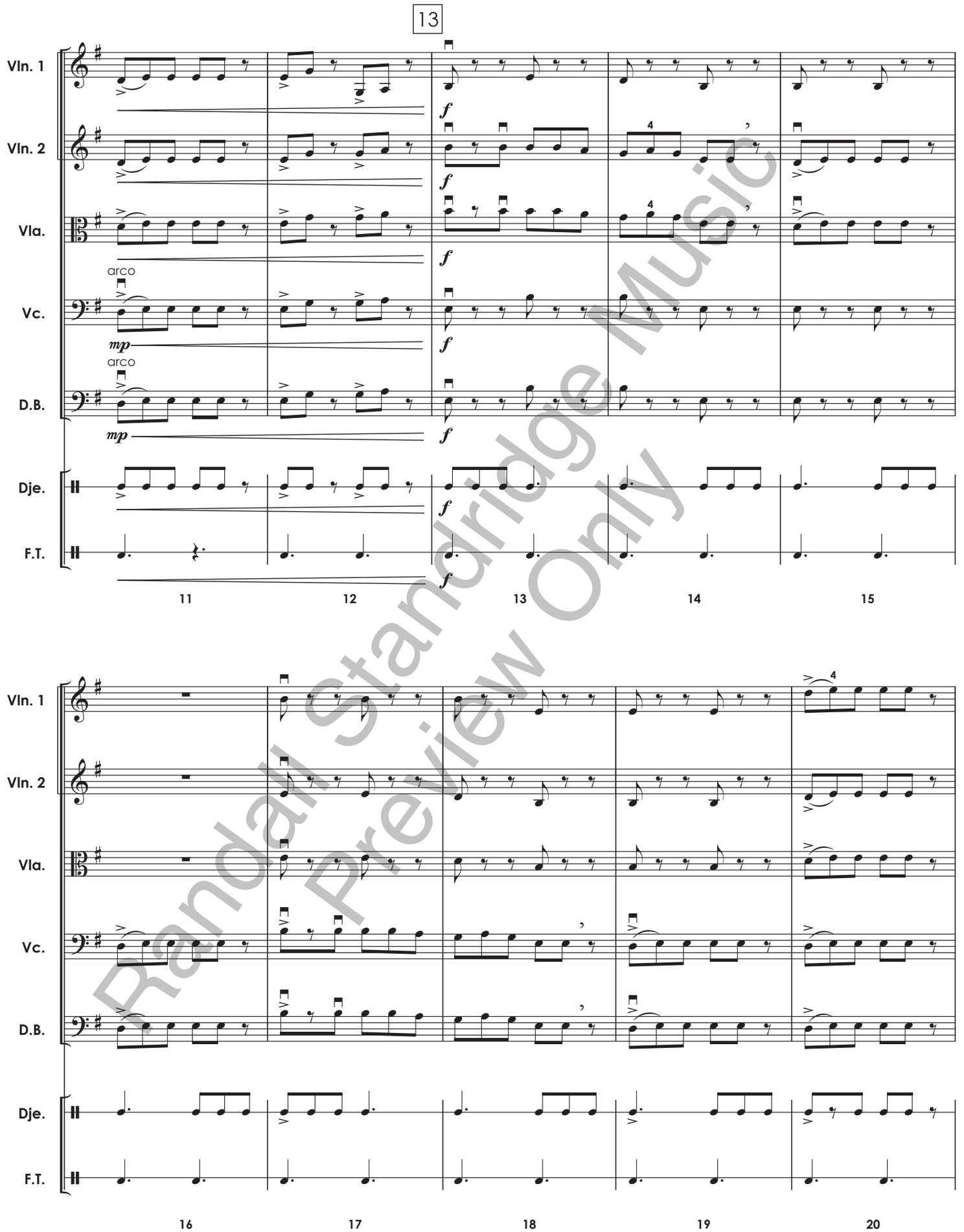
Manjula Ramachandran (ASCAP)
Cooper Ford (ASCAP)



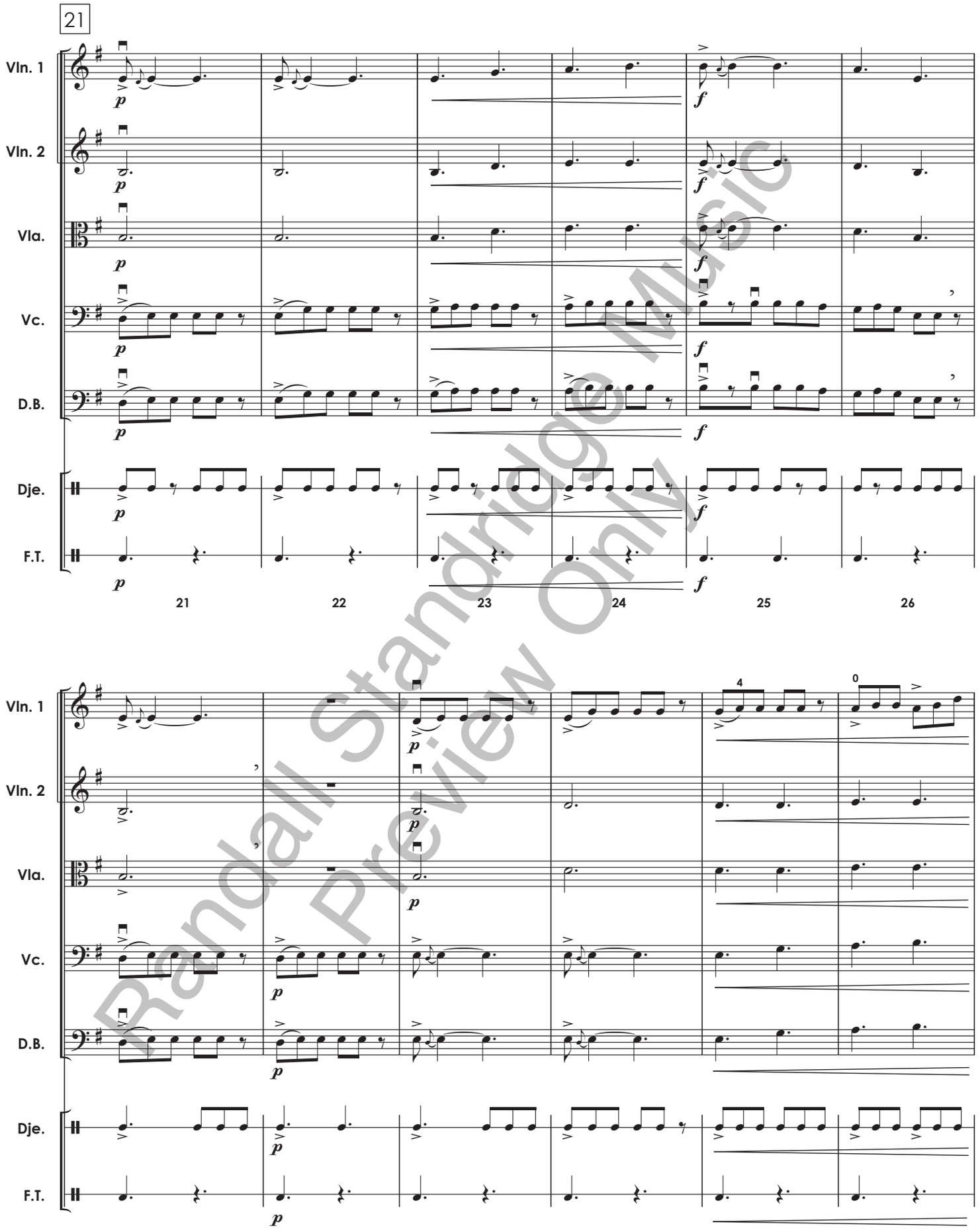
Randall Standridge Music
Preview Only

Copyright © 2025, by Randall Standridge Music, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Purchase required for public or recorded performance.
See **"Permission to Photocopy..."** agreement in score regarding digital distribution rights and usage of copyable parts. **Signature required.**
All other forms of duplication constitute an infringement of U.S. and International Copyright Law, and will be prosecuted by the publisher.

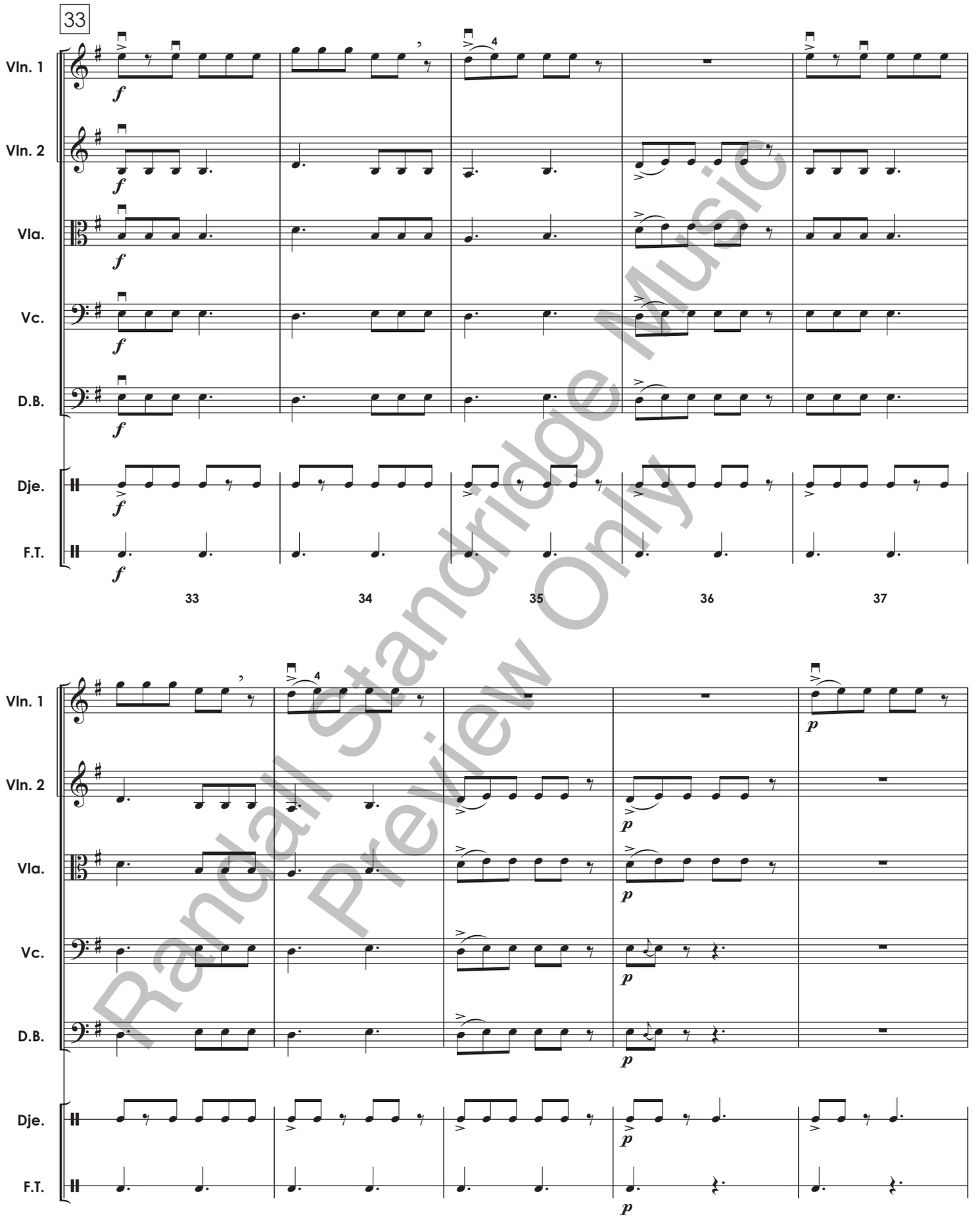
RSMS050



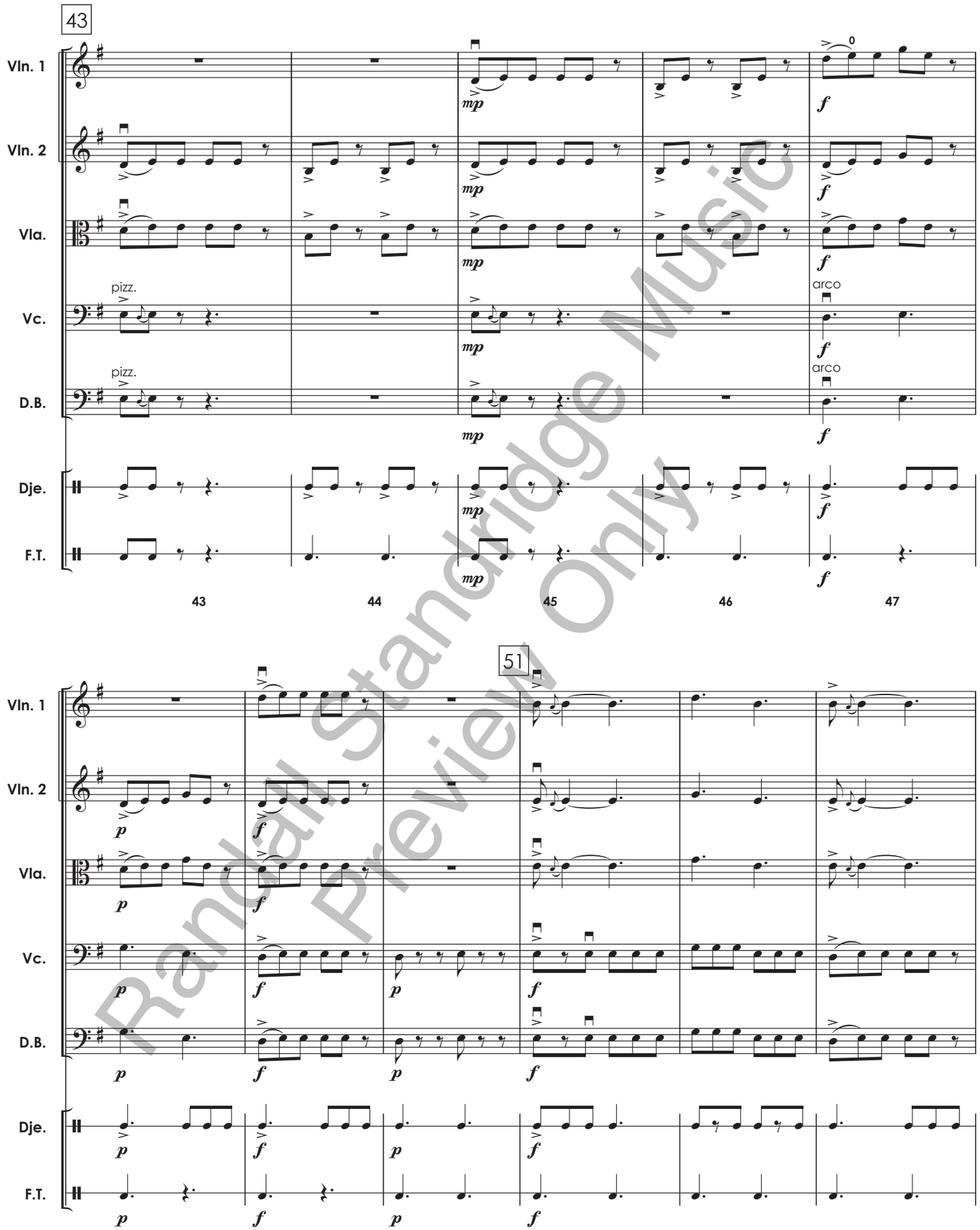
Randall Standridge Music
Preview Only



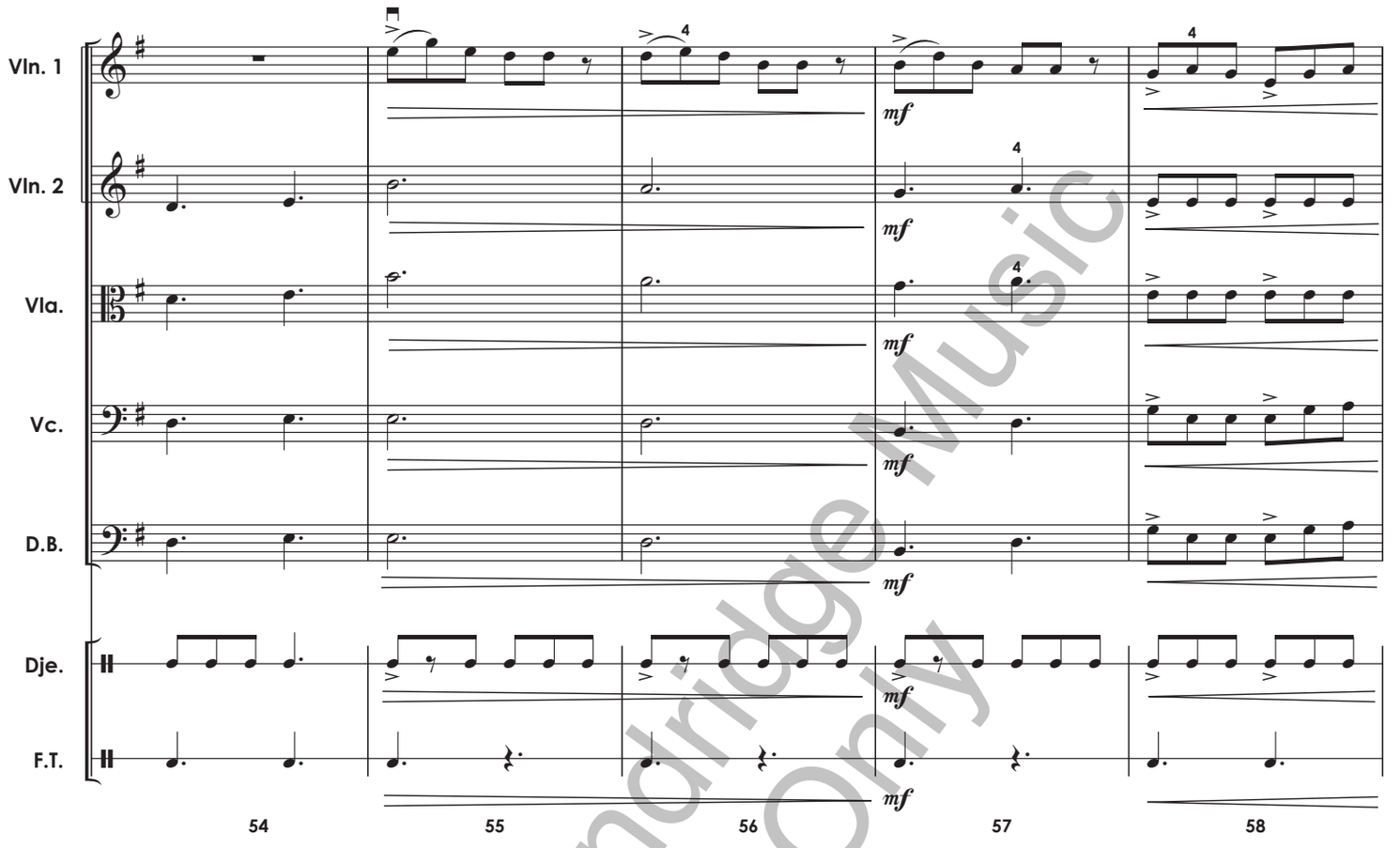
Randall Standridge Music
Preview Only

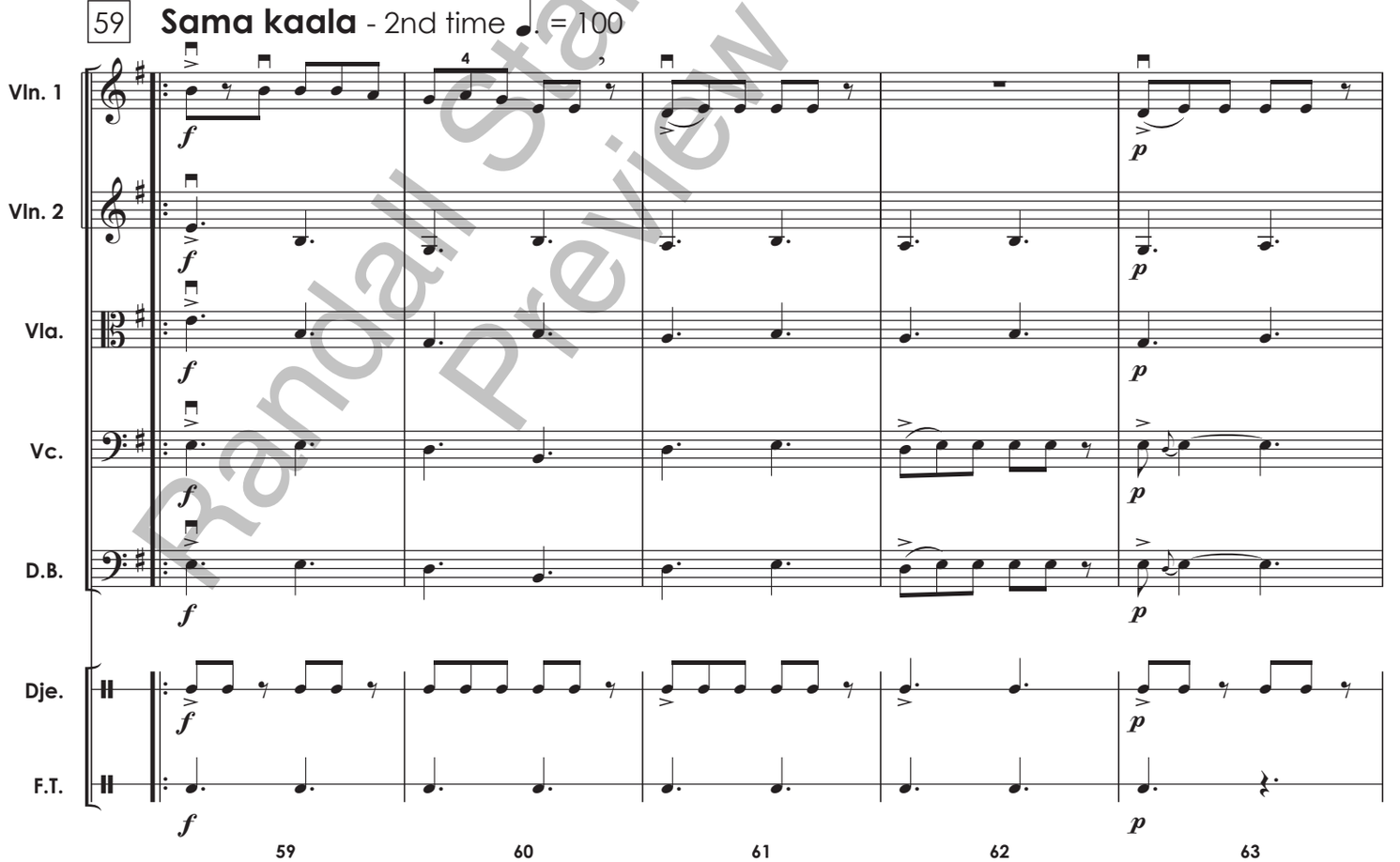


Randall Standridge Music
Preview Only

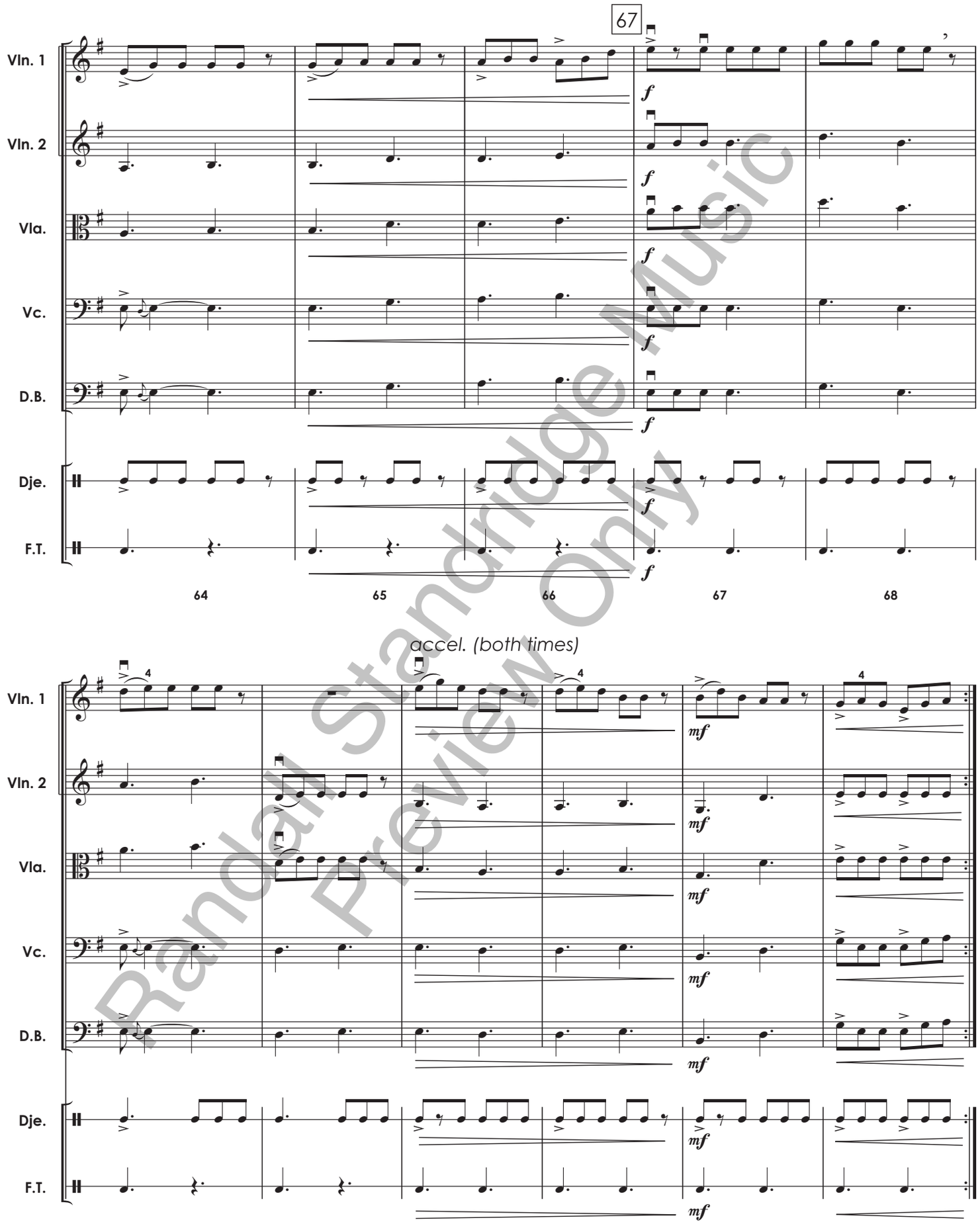


Randall Standridge Music
Preview Only

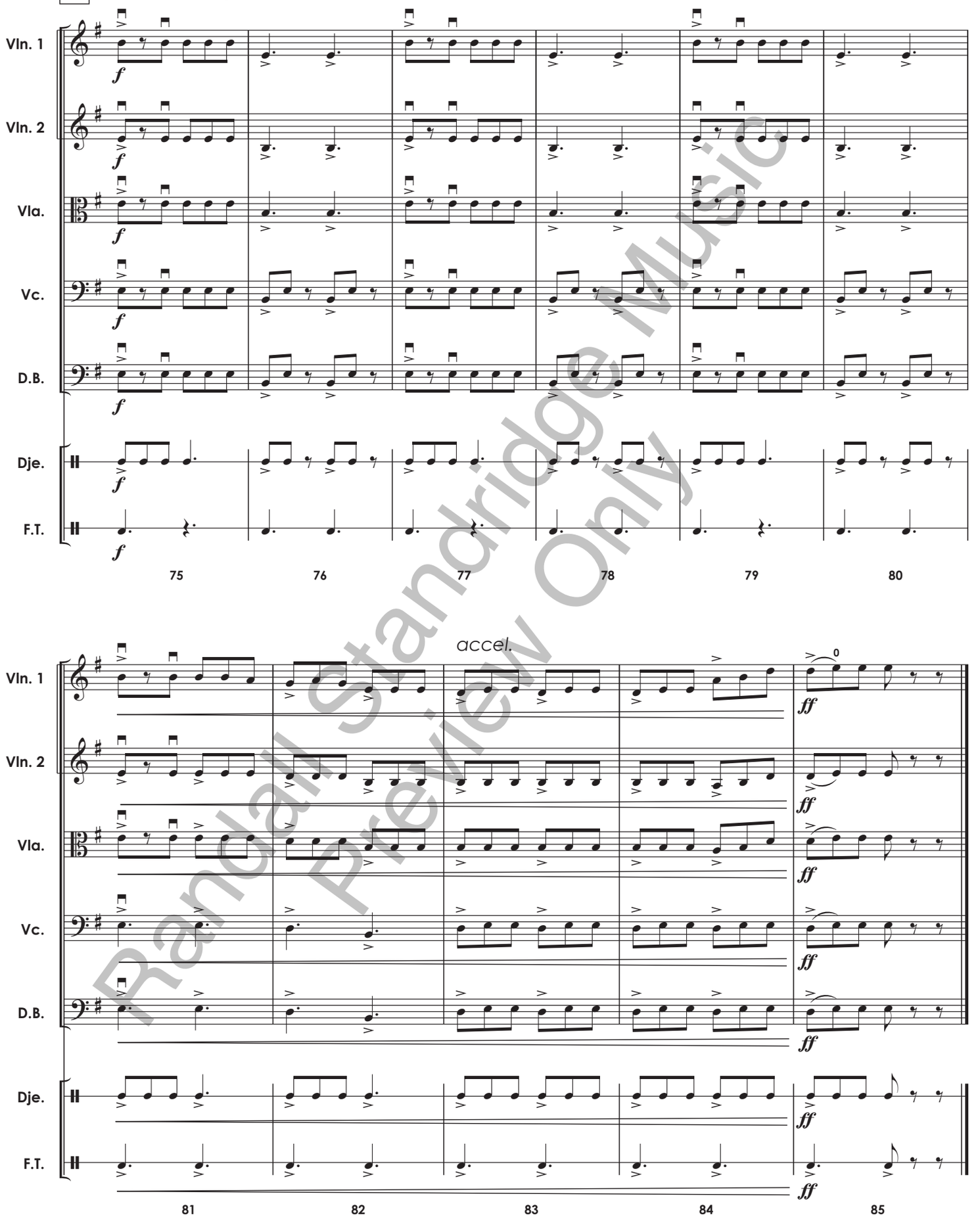




Randall Standridge Music
Preview Only



Randall Standridge Music
Preview Only



Randall Standridge Music
Preview Only