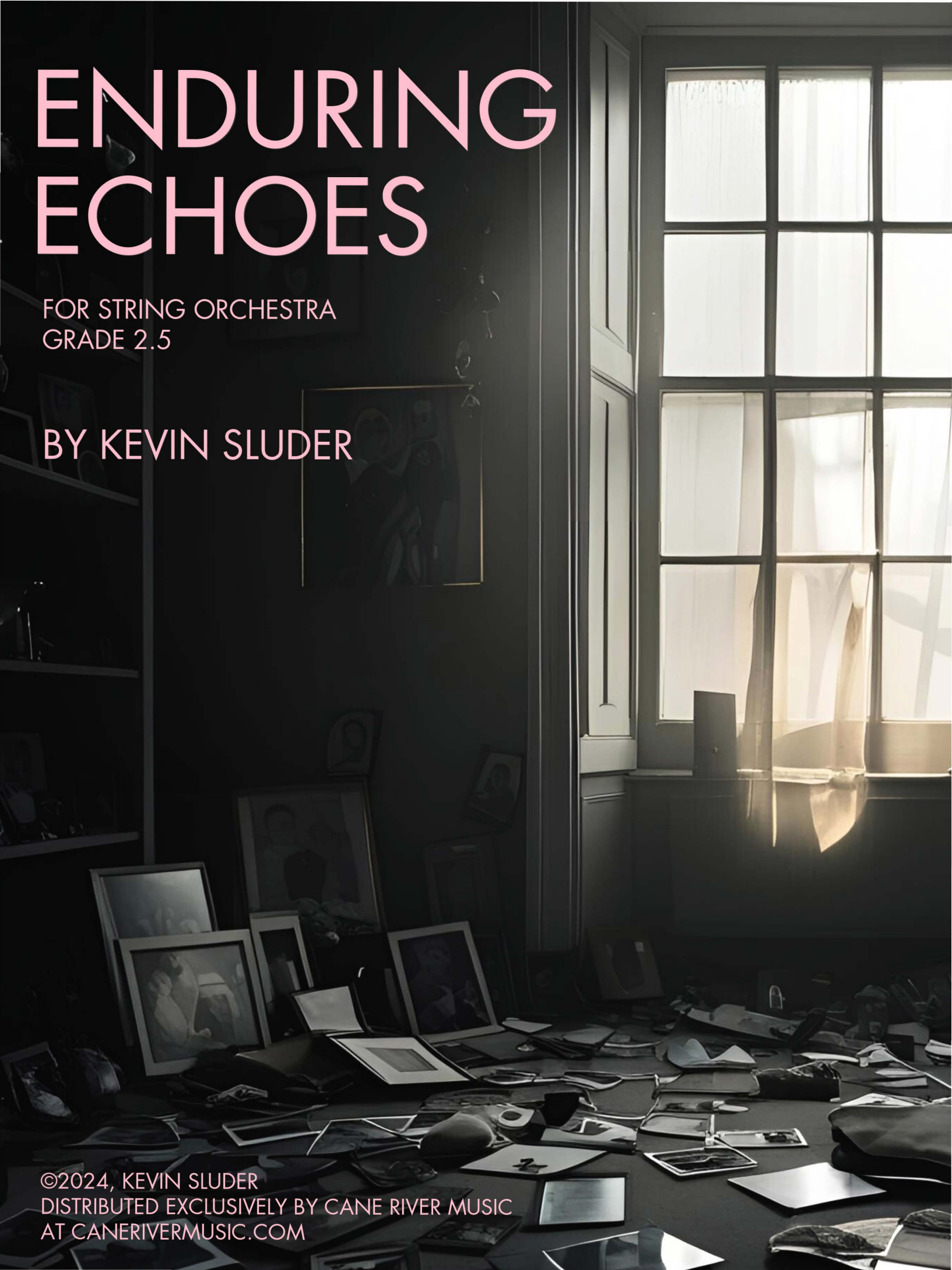
ENDURING ECHOES

FOR STRING ORCHESTRA
GRADE 2.5

BY KEVIN SLUDER



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About the Composer

Kevin Sluder is an orchestra director in Frisco, TX. Since 2007, he has taught at both the middle and high school levels.

In addition to writing for string orchestra, Mr. Sluder enjoys songwriting, recording his own music, getting lost in video games, camping, and co-hosting the string education podcast Rite of String. He resides in McKinney, TX with his wife (and fellow orchestra director) Bethany Hardwick.

Program Notes

This piece was commissioned by the Shadow Ridge Chamber Orchestra to honor the life and loss of loved ones, and the enduring echoes of their memory. *Enduring Echoes* is a reflection on the ways our lives are shaped by those we've loved and lost; an invitation to remember and feel the lasting resonance of connection that binds us all.

Set in A minor and C Major, this piece features a somber yet lyrical melody that moves forward with a gentle persistence. The harp opens and closes the work, introducing a simple, repeating motif that becomes the connecting thread woven throughout the music. As the piece progresses, this motif expands and transforms, as we do when a person's presence continues to echo through our lives, even after they are gone. The impact of our loved ones never fades. Instead, it grows, evolving in the hearts of those who carry their memory. This piece seeks not to explain loss, but to sit with it; to give shape to absence and voice to memory. We invite the audience into a space where love and sorrow coexist in harmonic connection with each other.

Conductor's Notes

Enduring Echoes can be played with harp or piano (or electric keyboard with a harp patch). If performing with a piano, have the player strategically use the sustain pedal throughout, but specifically hold it down for two bars at a time during the 5/8 theme.

Have your ensemble listen closely to the harp/piano during the 5/8 sections, as the repeated 8th note figure will help guide them through this less-familiar time signature. The staccato 8ths in the viola and cello should be performed with a light brush stroke, but not too short.

The upper octave 1st violin divisi at m102 is not necessary, but is a lovely addition if there are players able to handle the position work.

A "Bass on Cello" part is included for groups with little-to-no basses.

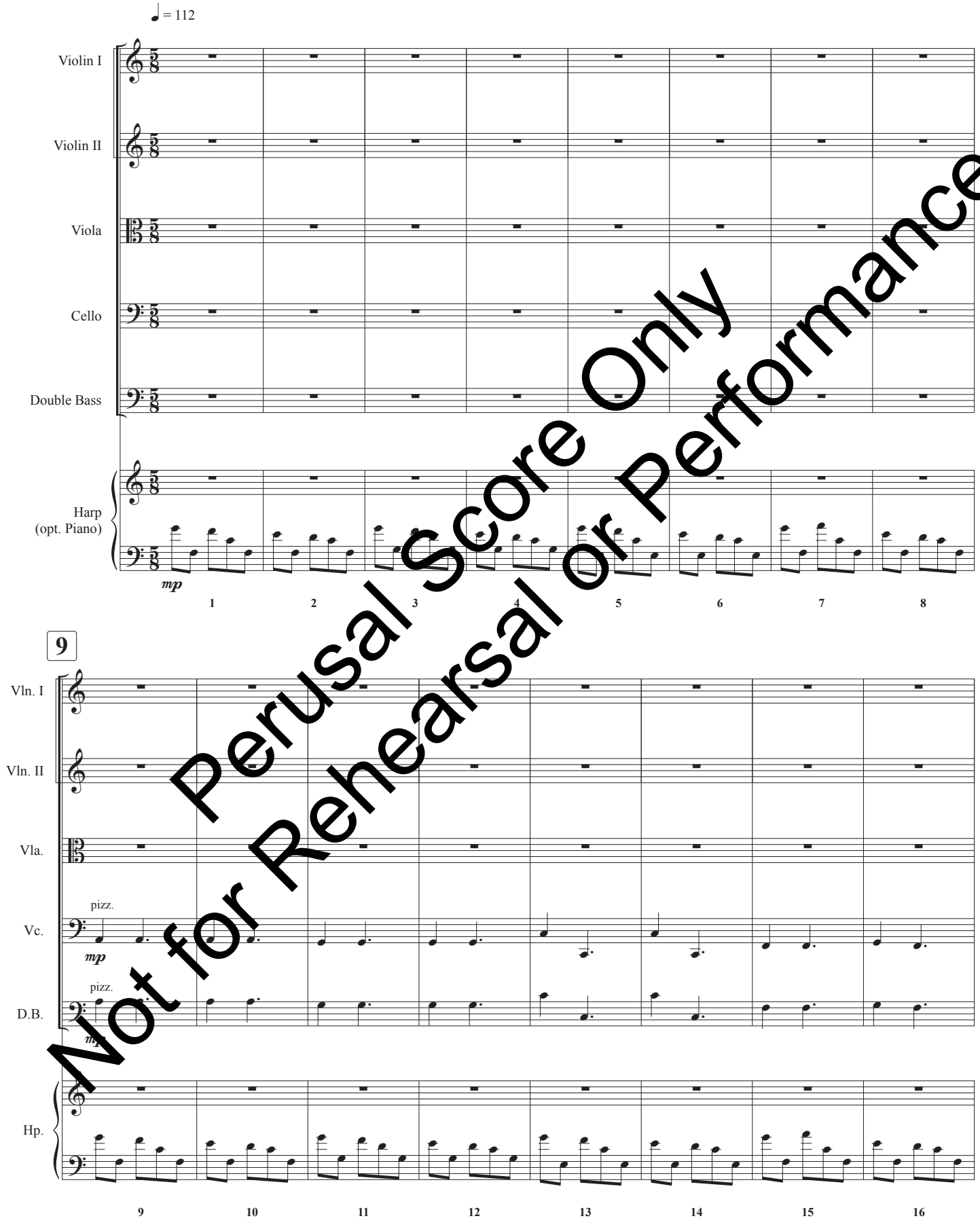
I hope you and your students enjoy *Enduring Echoes*.

Score

Commissioned by the Shadow Ridge MS Chamber Orchestra
To honor the life and loss of loved ones, and the enduring echoes of their memory

Enduring Echoes

Kevin Sluder



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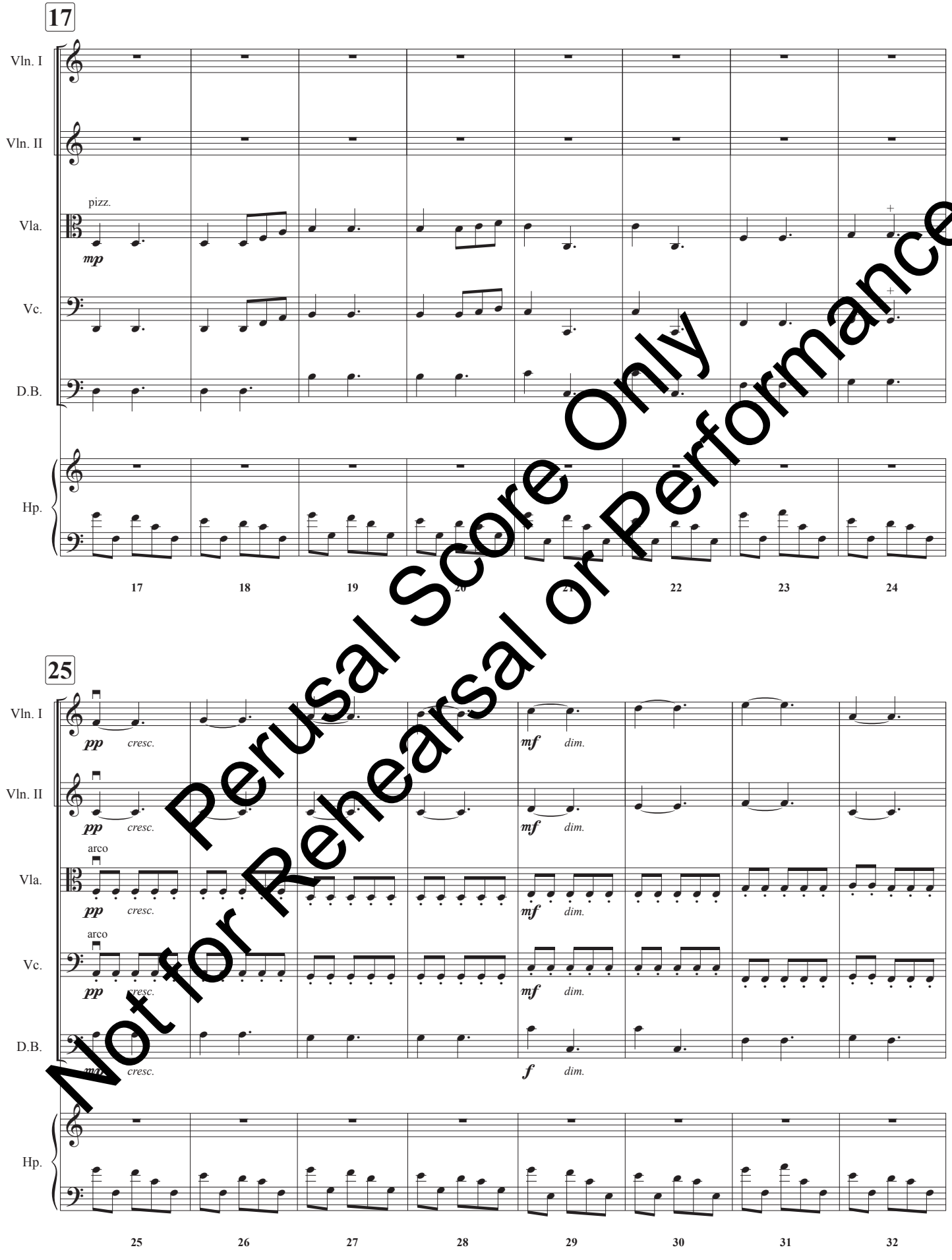

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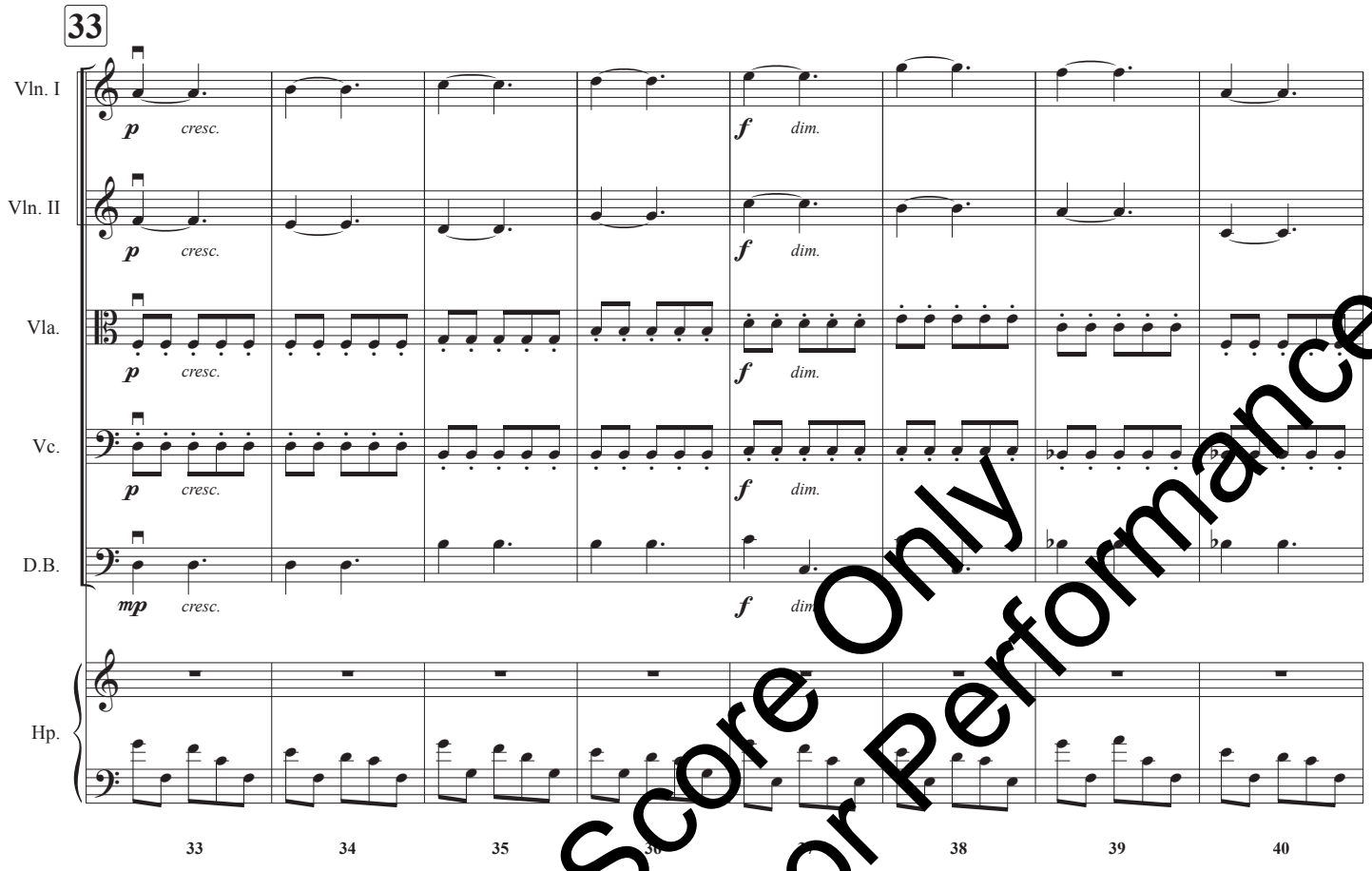

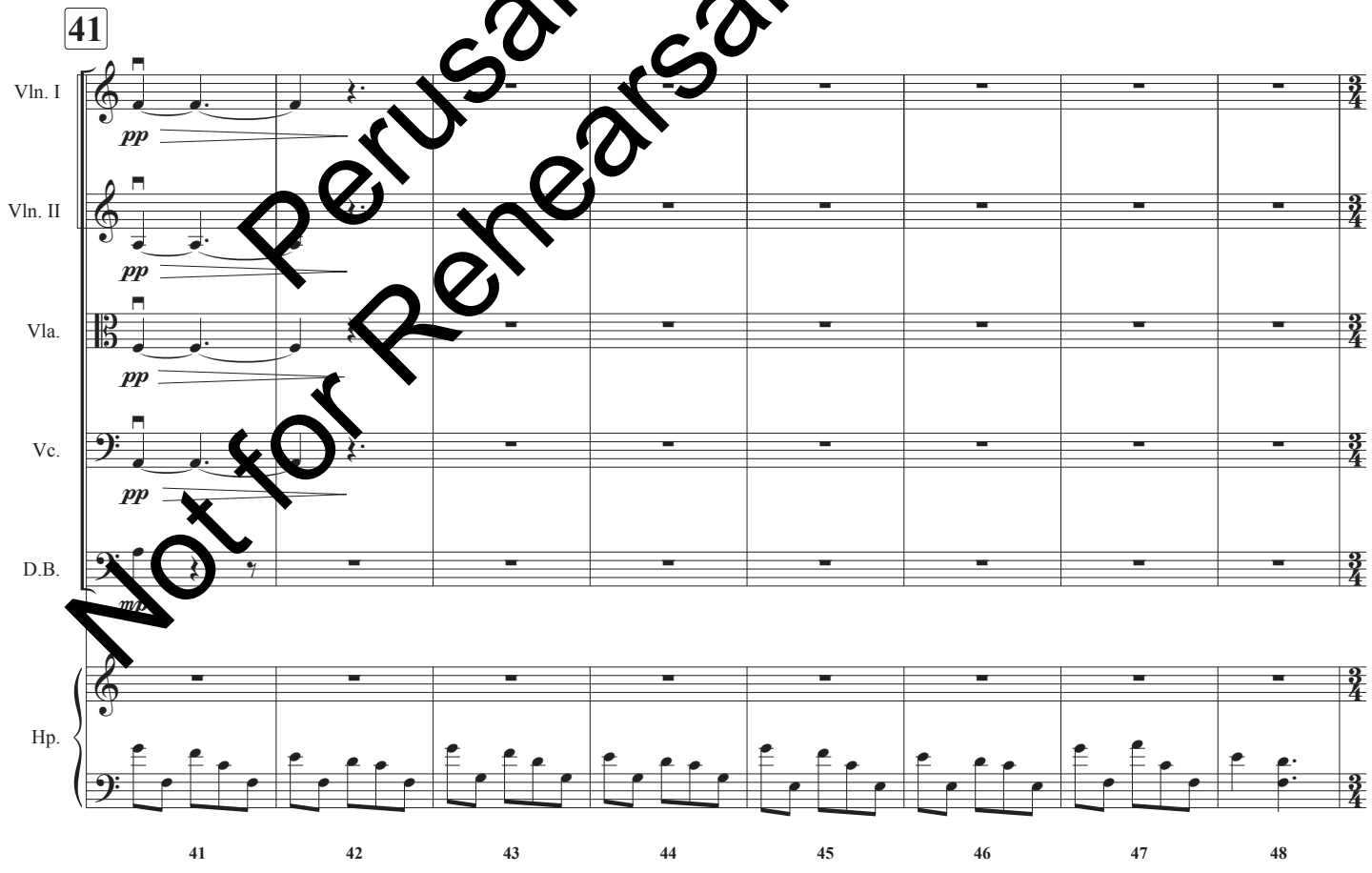

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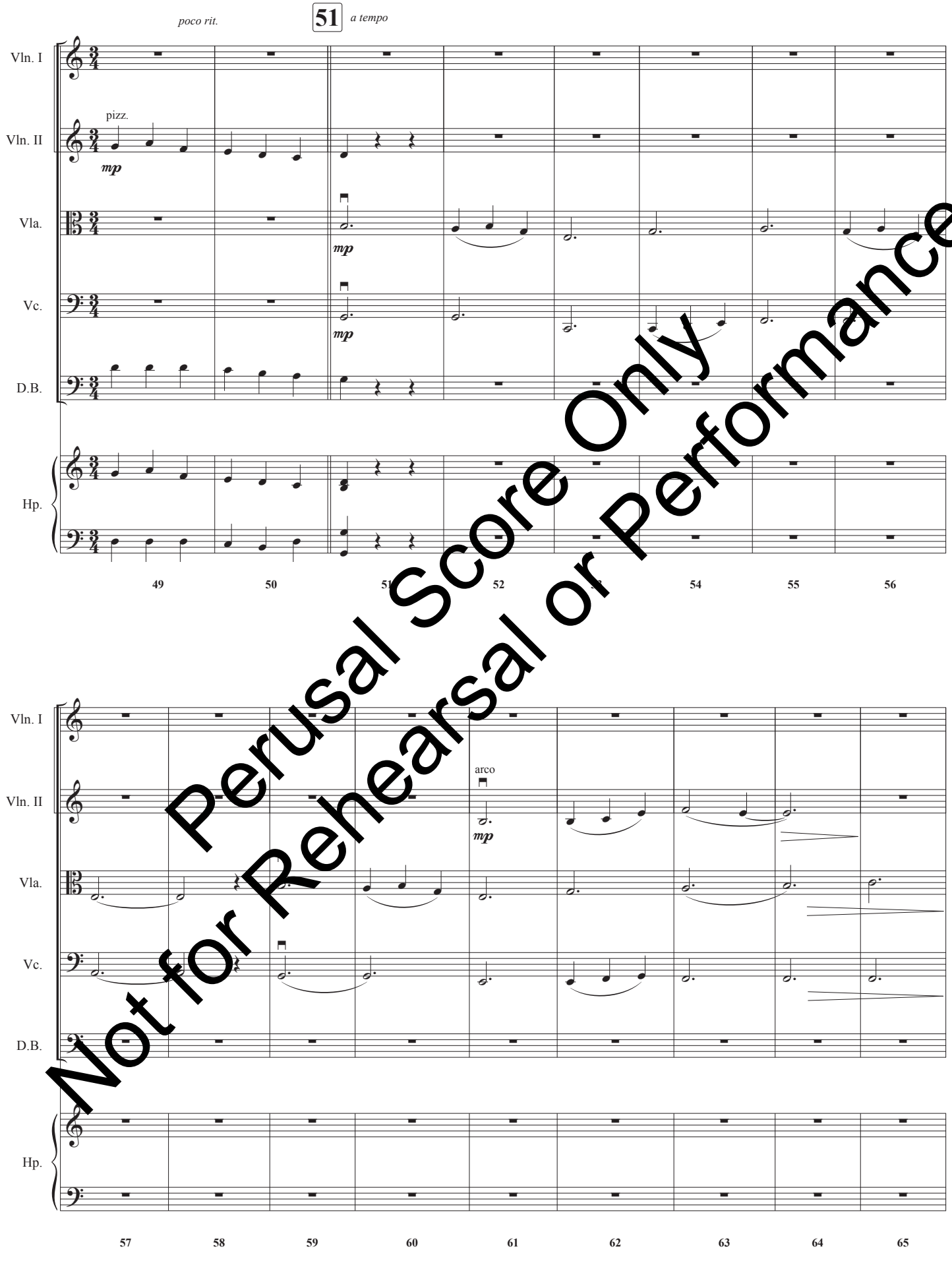

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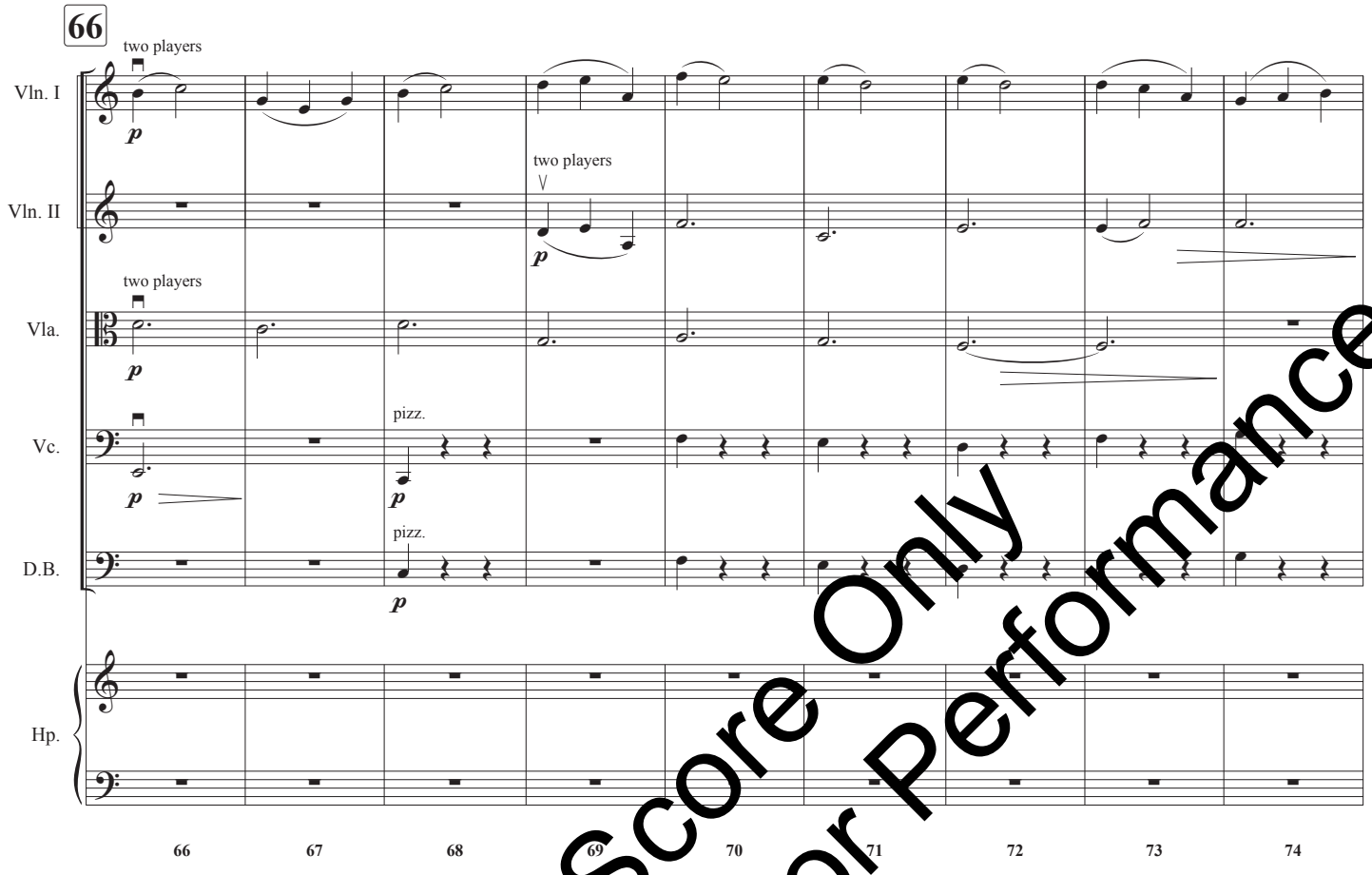

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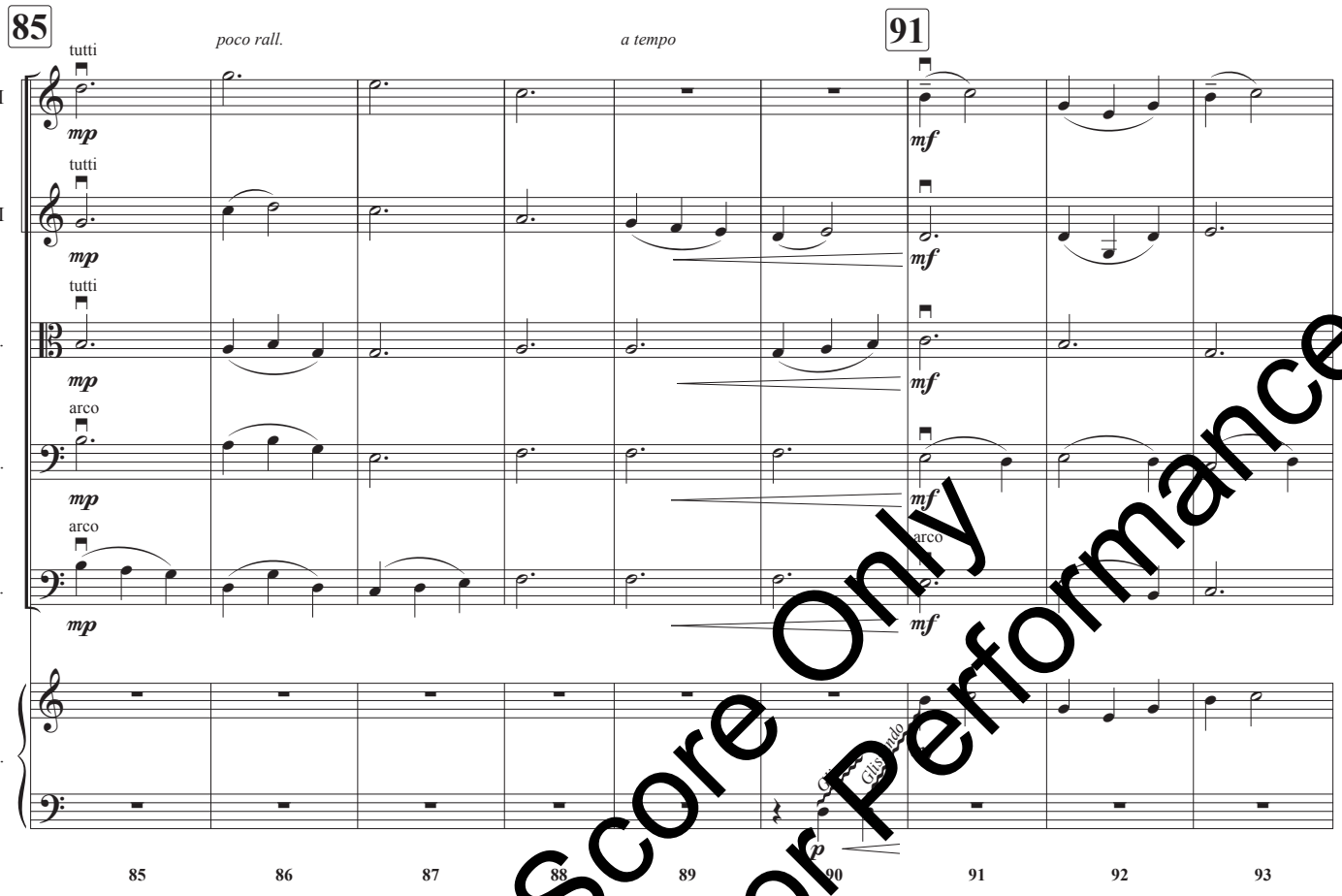

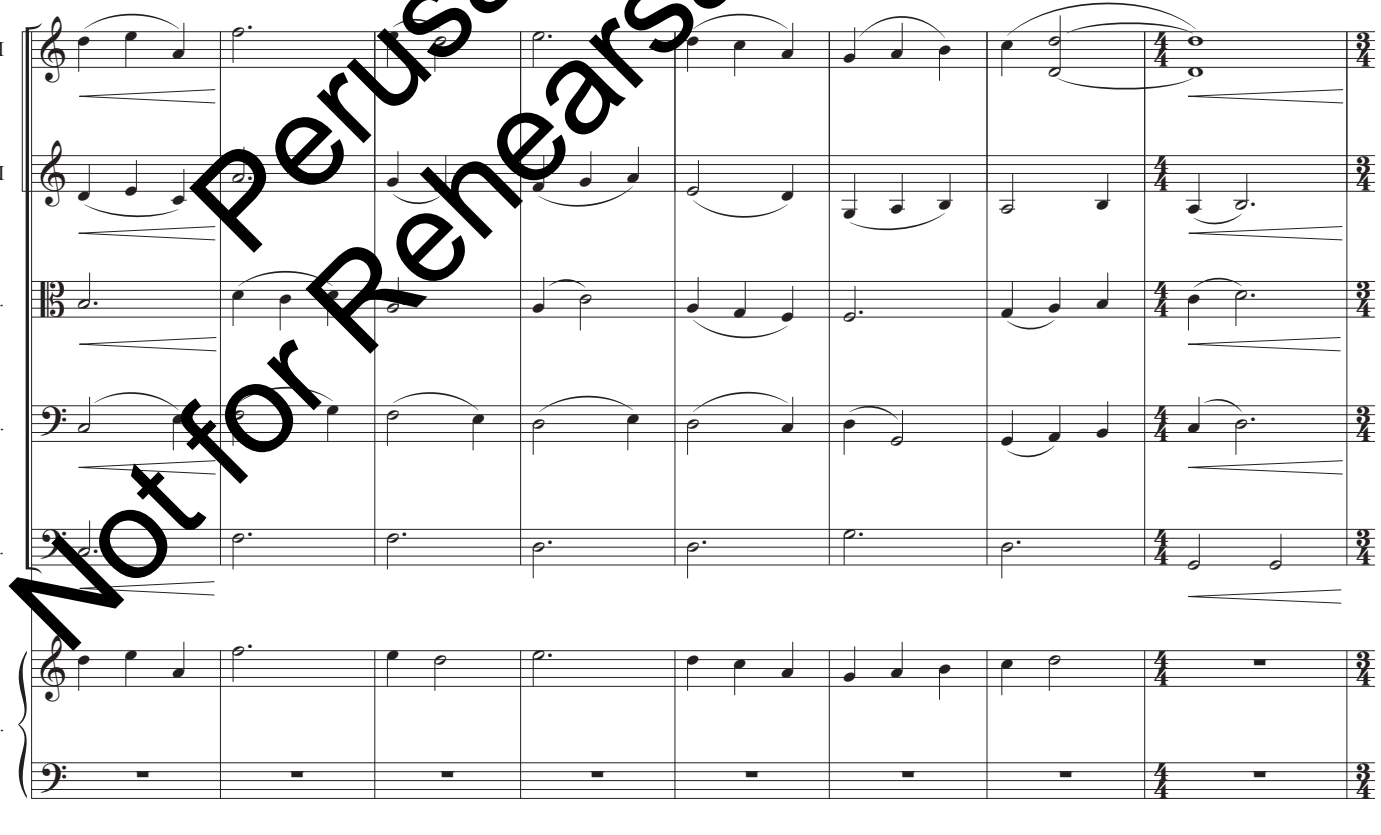

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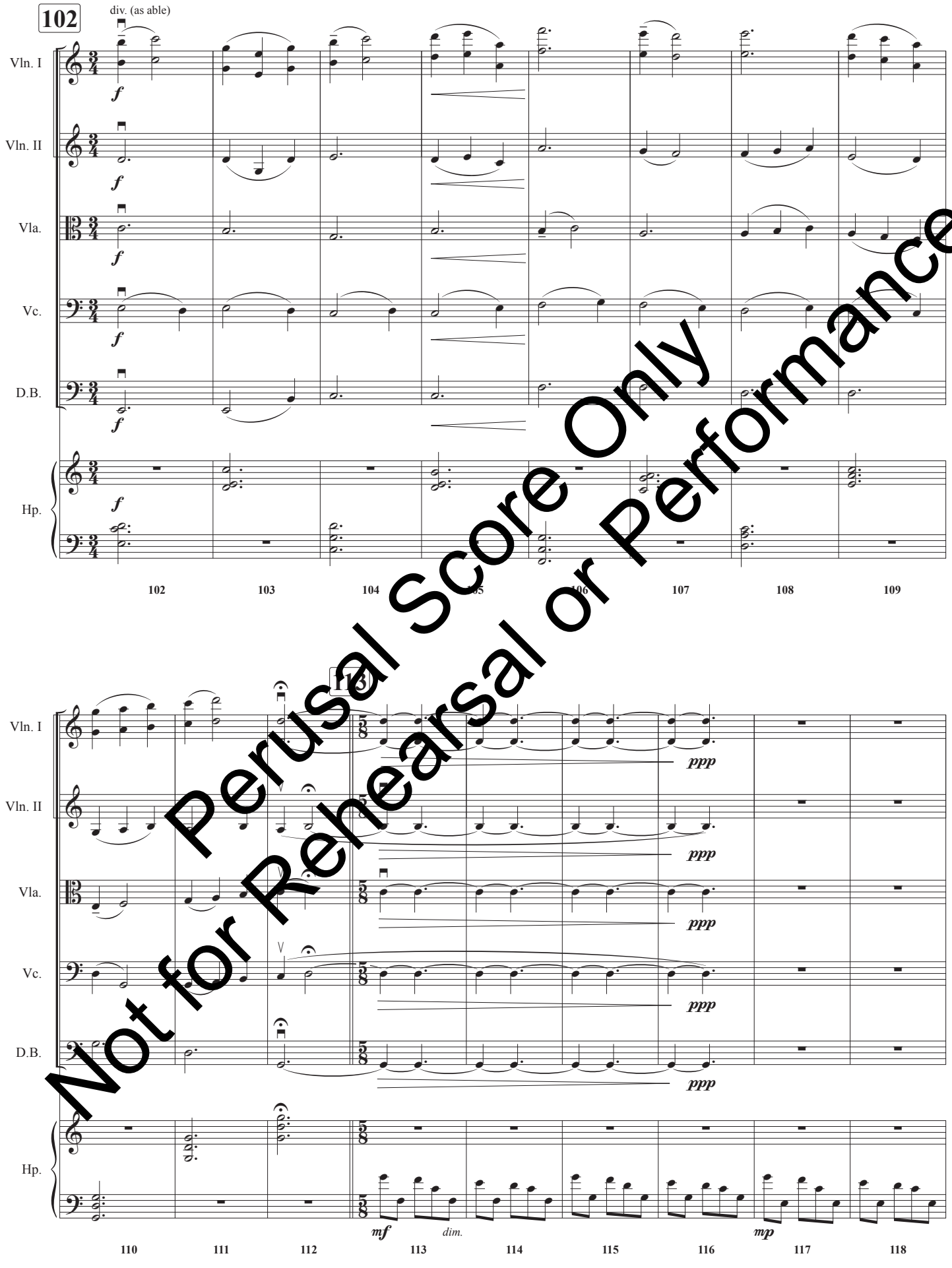

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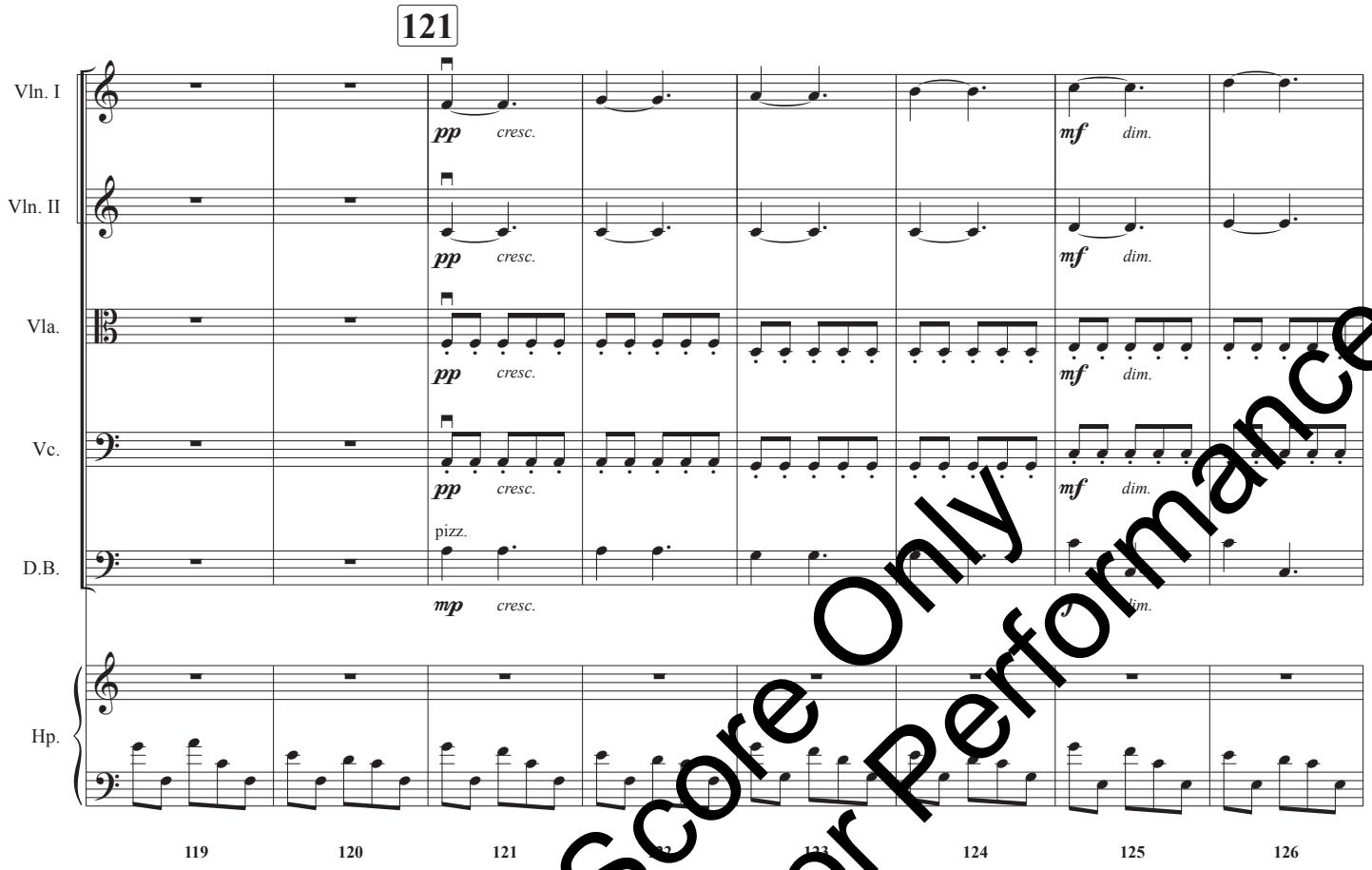

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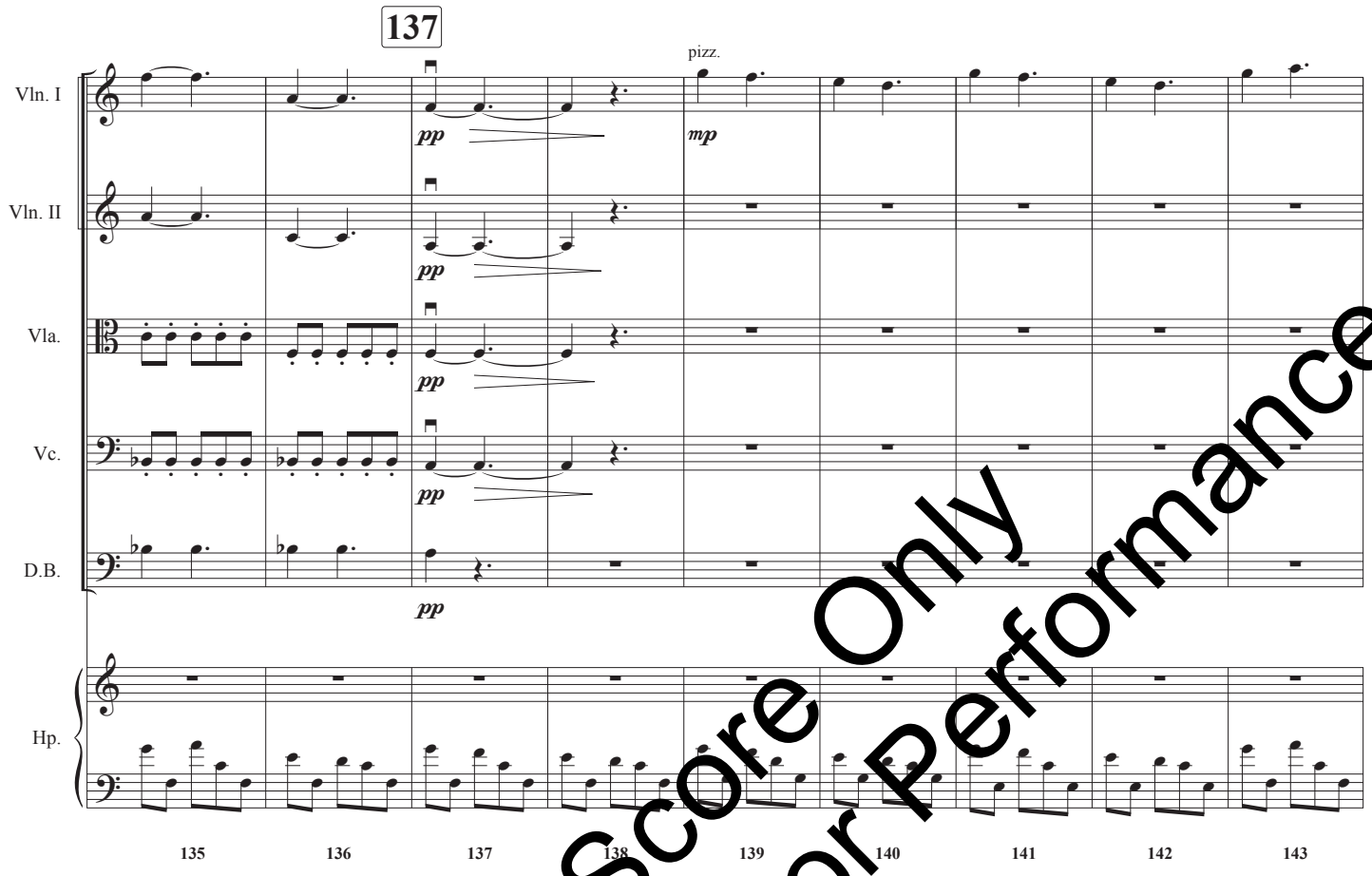

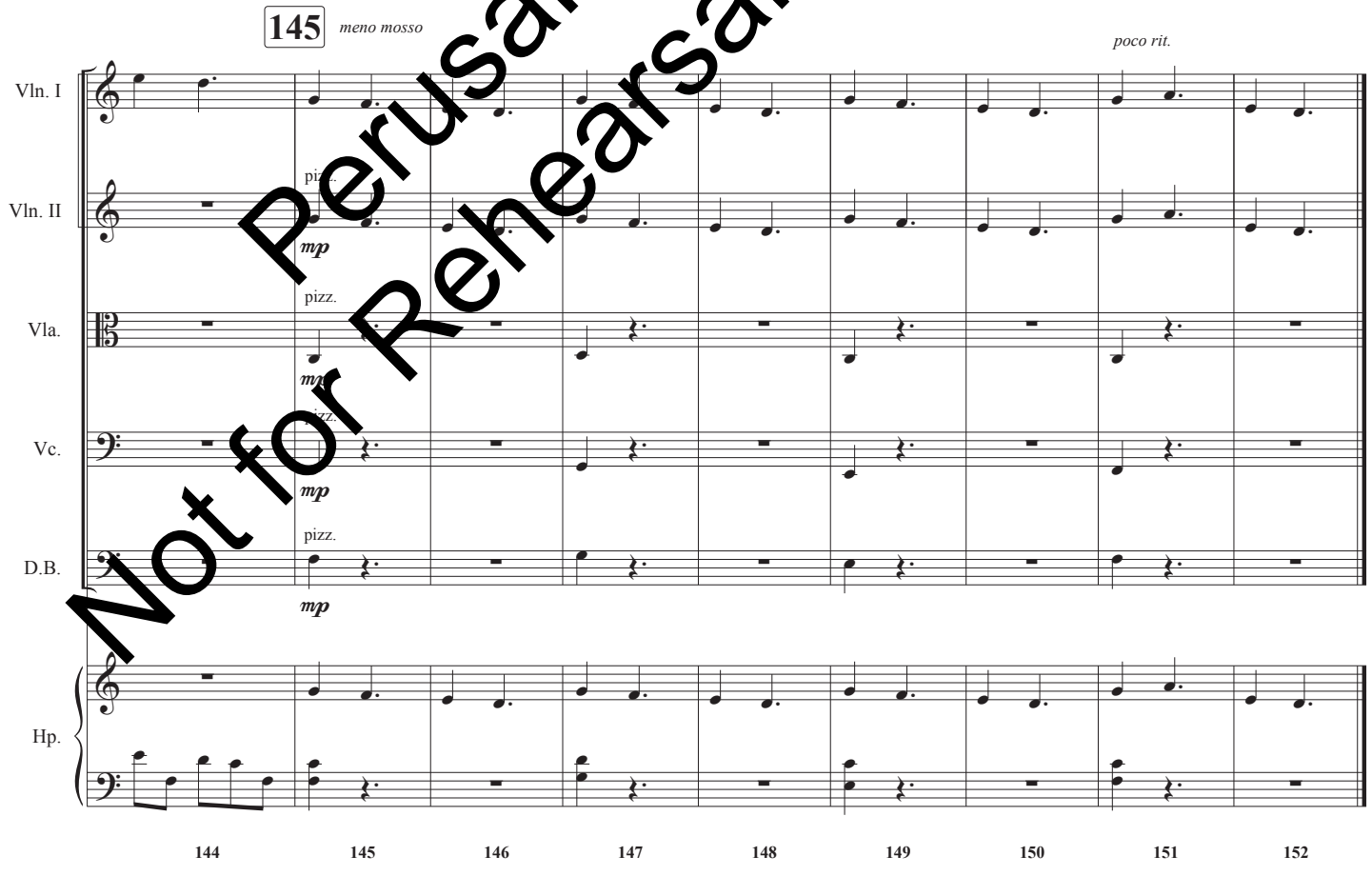

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