Scissortail Suite

for string orchestra

by Aaron Fryklund

Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

Cane River Music

Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

Scissortail Suite, 20'

Aaron Fryklund (2023)

for string orchestra, grade 5

1. On Soaring Wind
2. Over Sun Soaked Prairie
3. In Undisturbed Stillness
4. Under Four Moons
5. Toward Vast Horizon

Program Notes:

Scissortail Suite is named for the state bird of Oklahoma, the Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher. This suite is a lovingly crafted homage to the state and it's glowing, natural beauty. I grew up and spent many years in Oklahoma and have a great appreciation for the wide-open sky with its surreal sunsets and the sweeping, golden prairie lands. There's no over-arching narrative to this piece, but in abstract it can be seen through the eyes of the titular bird soaring over the cities and fields. Scissortail Suite represents a gilded, nostalgic memory of the many years I spent in Oklahoma.

The suite is unified by interconnected themes, some with hidden significance. One of the themes presented in the first movement that reappears in each movement is based on a three-note motive using the numbers of an Oklahoma area code - 405 - which is expressed musically as a pitch class set. The piece is often highly rhythmic and requires a sort of raw, reckless playing similar to bluegrass fiddle styles. It's also built on numerous complex time signatures with sometimes frequent meter changes. The suite may be presented in its entirety, or in part.

Scissortail Suite was a finalist for The American Prize in 2024. Notable performances include the 2023 premiere of "On Soaring Wind" by the Dallas Asian American Youth Orchestra (Erin Fox Wells, director), the 2025 Oklahoma premiere of movements 1, 4, and 5 by the orchestra at Edmond Santa Fe High School (Sarah Neely, director) and the 2026 Music for All national festival performance of movements 1, 3, and 5 by the Keller High School orchestra (Adam Pratt, director).

Performance Notes:

3. In Undisturbed Stillness

- The opening chords should dovetail, like lights fading in and out and overlapping. If the divisi results in one player per note, consider raising the dynamic level here.
- No vibrato before m18, nor after m53.
- In mm29-30, the accented notes should sound at the same volume so they create a melodic line among the parts.
- In measures 59-61, the second violin and viola parts should start from almost nothing, swell up to create dissonance against the A major chord, then diminish back to nothing. The other parts should hold a steady, soft dynamic.

5. Toward Vast Horizon

- This movement should be played on the string with great energy and intensity, making sure the accented notes stand out. The technique is very similar to that utilized in the bluegrass tune, "Orange Blossom Special".

Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

Copyright © 2026 Aaron Fryklund. Distributed Exclusively by Cane River Music at canerivermusic.com

About the Composer:

Aaron Fryklund's music has been described in the press as "a joy to hear", and his film work earned him "BEST SCORE" at the 37th Boston Science Fiction Festival. His aesthetic covers a wide range of compositional styles and his works represent multiple mediums, including concert music, interactive computer music, film scores, theatrical works, and intermedia projects. Fryklund is also a conductor with broad experience before orchestras, wind ensembles, choirs, and small and new music ensembles. Fryklund recently won the Dallas Street Choir's "Home is…" composition contest and was a 2024 American Prize finalist for his orchestra piece "Scissortail Suite". A number of his pieces for young orchestra are published through Cane River Music, Carl Fischer, Kendor, Randall Standridge Music, and RBC Publications. He has been involved for several years in composing sight reading music for many states' Spring orchestra concert and sight reading assessments, including Texas, Virginia, and many others, and he is one of the authors of RBC's "Texas Prep" sight-reading books for string orchestra.

Fryklund earned his bachelor's degree in music composition from Oklahoma City University studying with Edward Knight and his master's degree in music composition from the University of North Texas studying with Andrew May and David Bithell. Besides being a composer, Fryklund is also an educator and a church music minister. He is the associate director of orchestras at Richardson High School and one of the music ministers at First United Methodist Church of Sachse, Texas. He lives in Garland, Texas with his wife and sons.

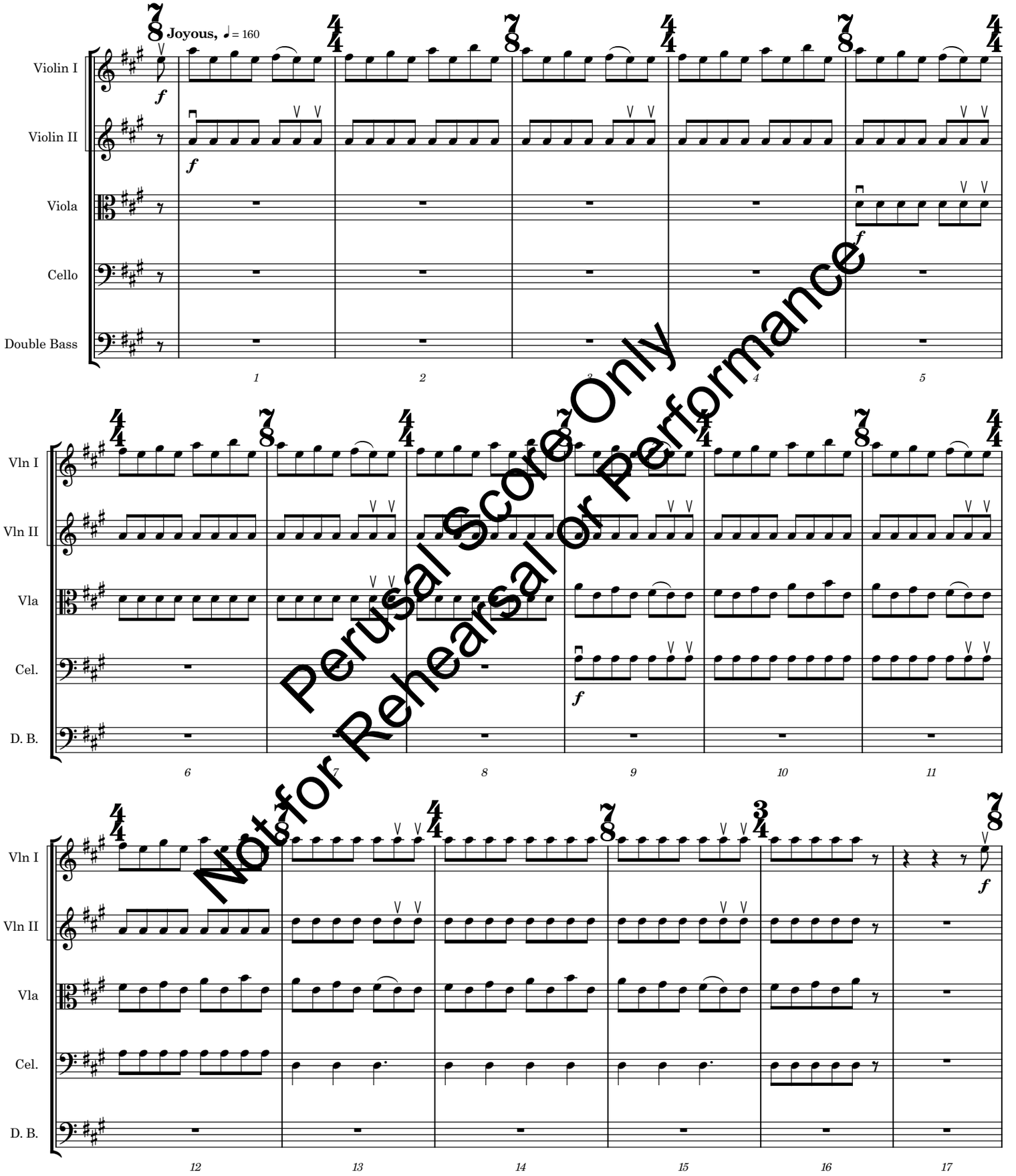
Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

Copyright © 2026 Aaron Fryklund. Distributed Exclusively by Cane River Music at canerivermusic.com

Scissortail Suite

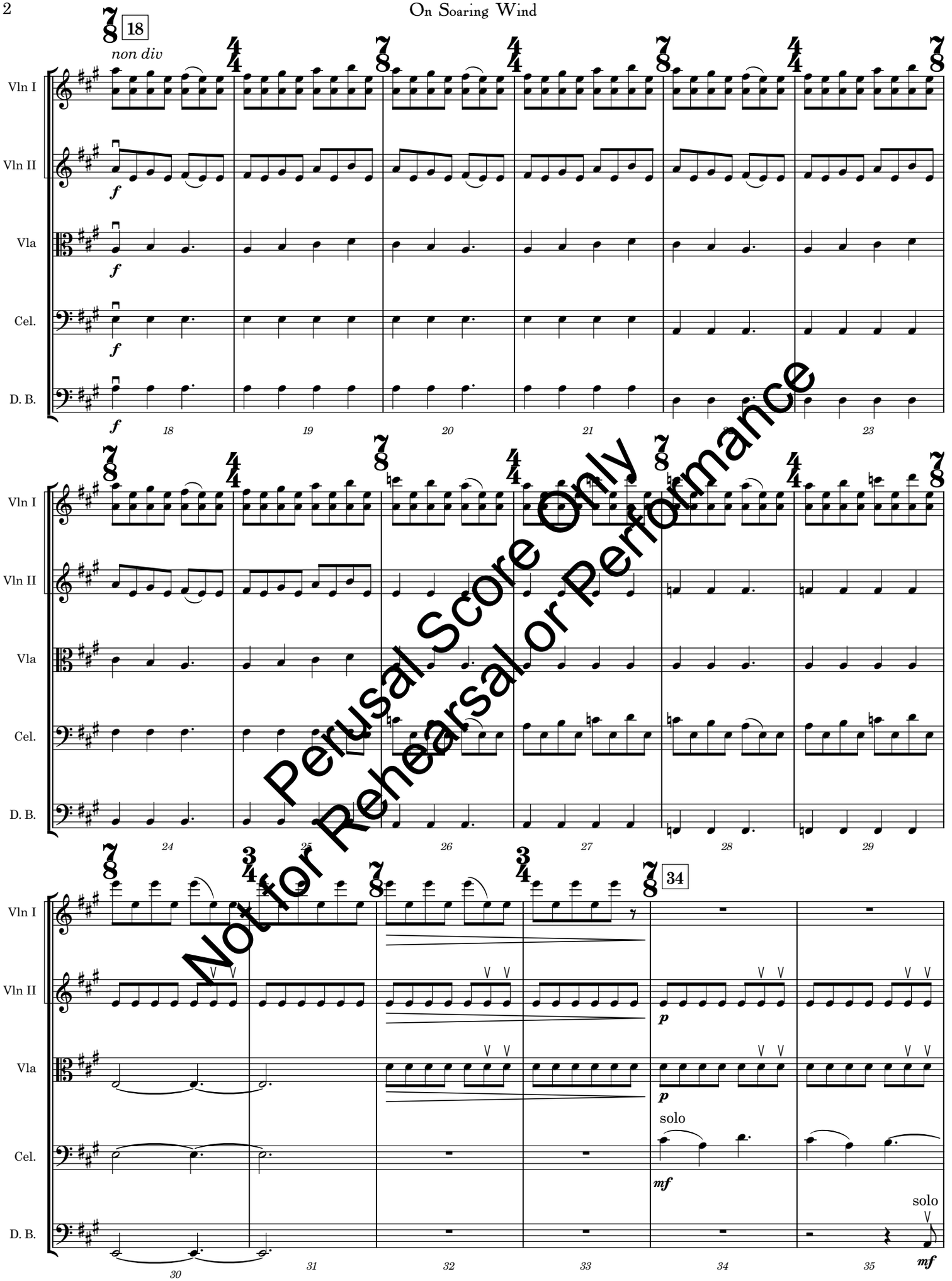
Aaron Fryklund

1. On Soaring Wind

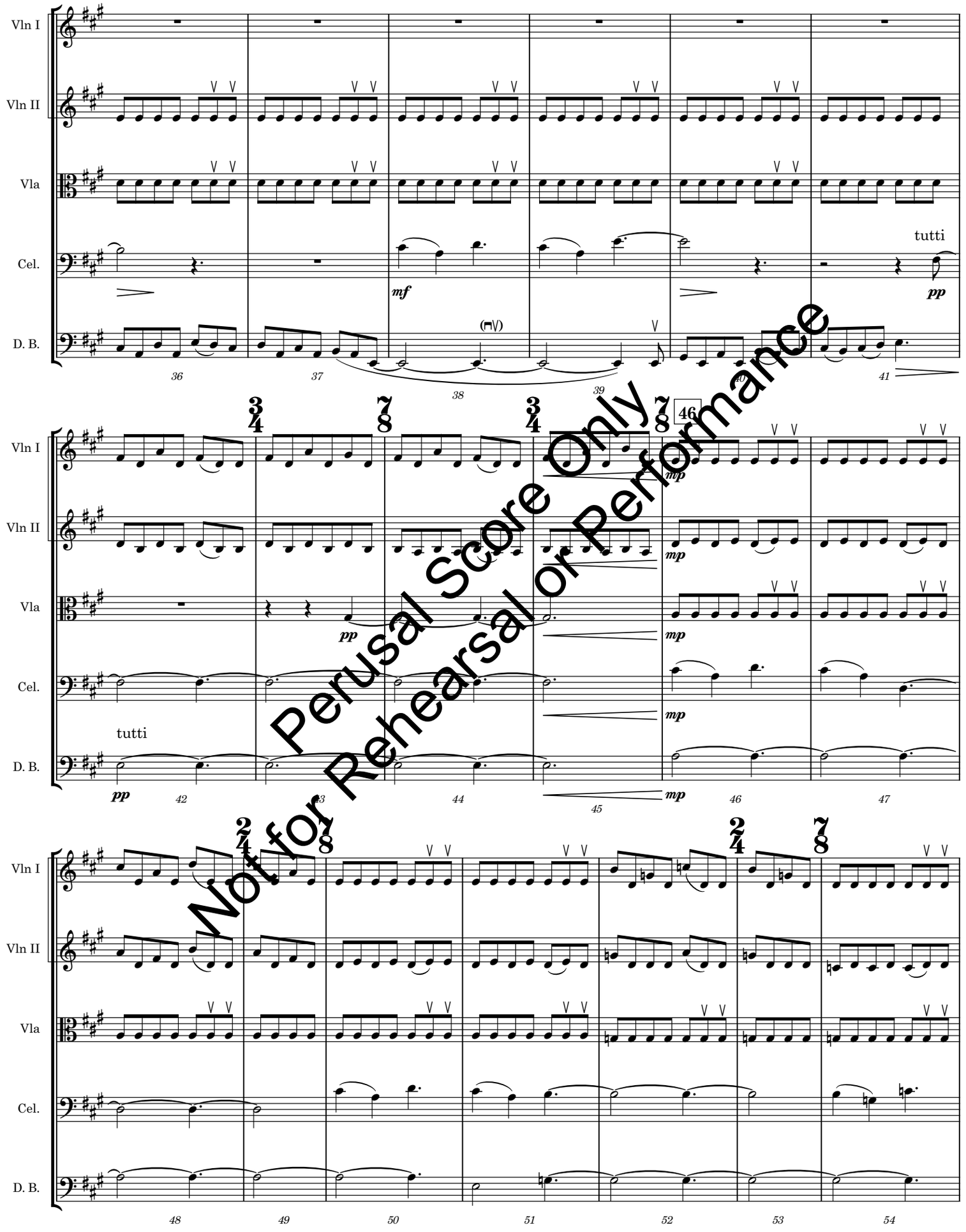


Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

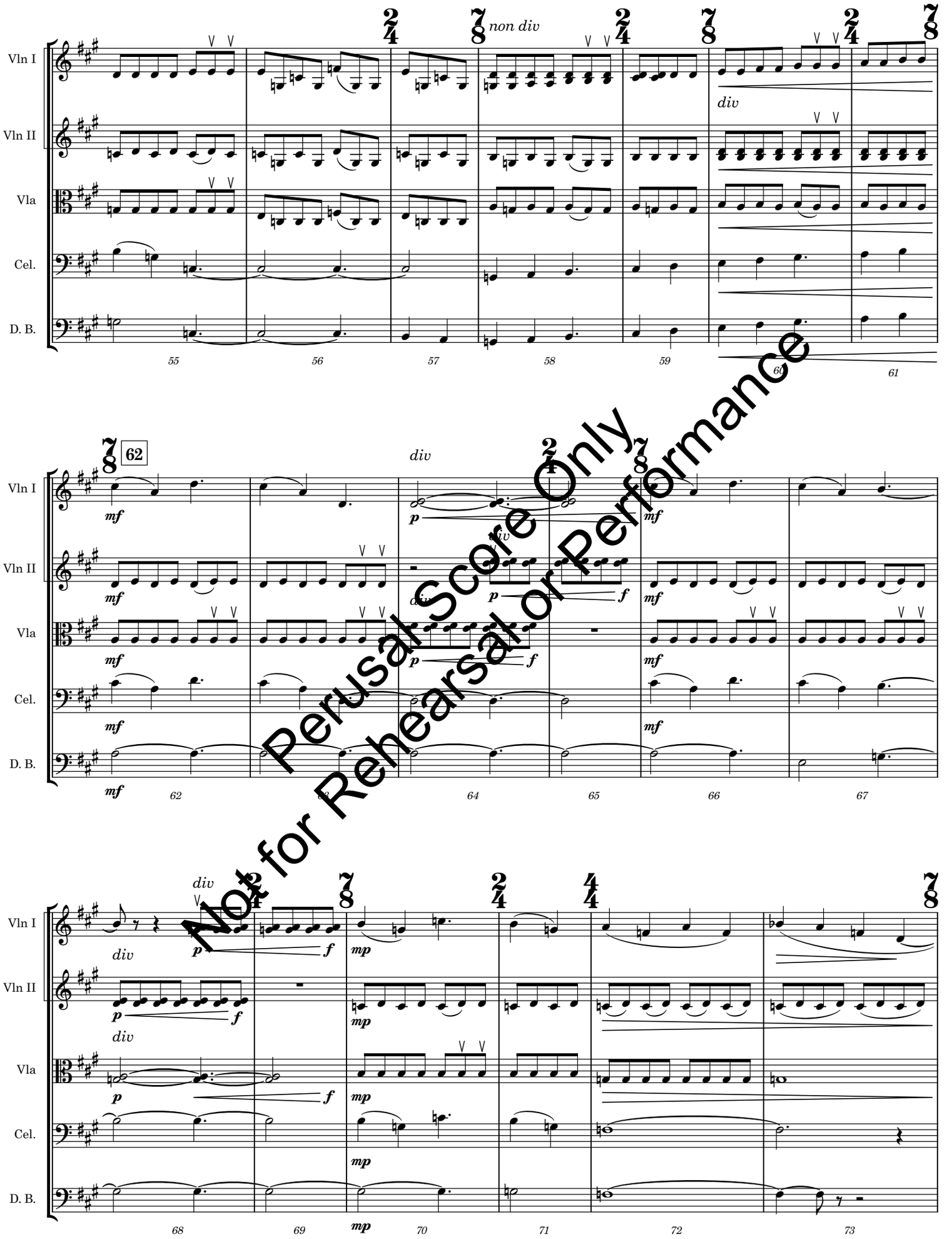
Copyright © 2026 Aaron Fryklund. Distributed Exclusively by Cane River Music at canerivermusic.com



Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

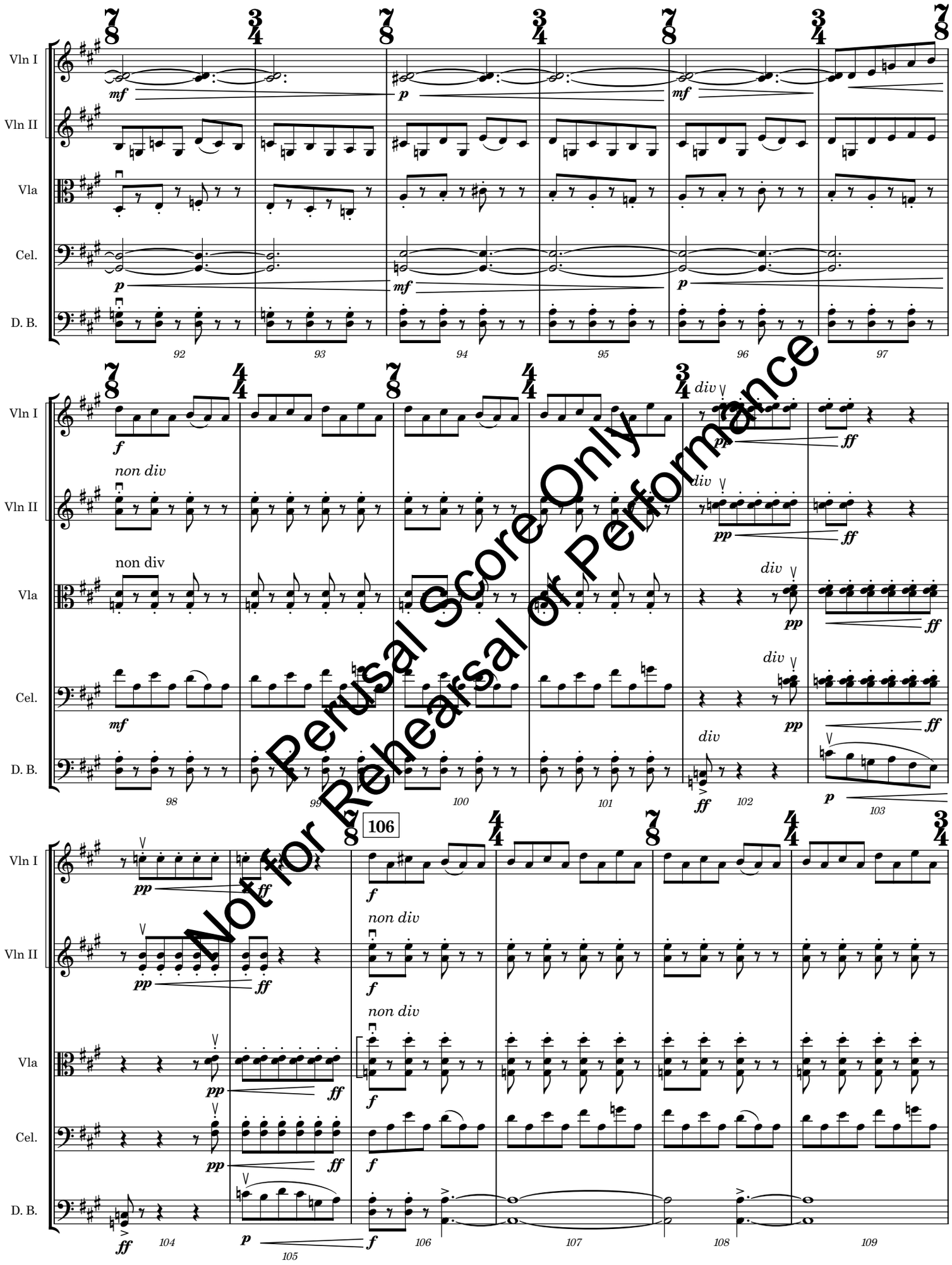


Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

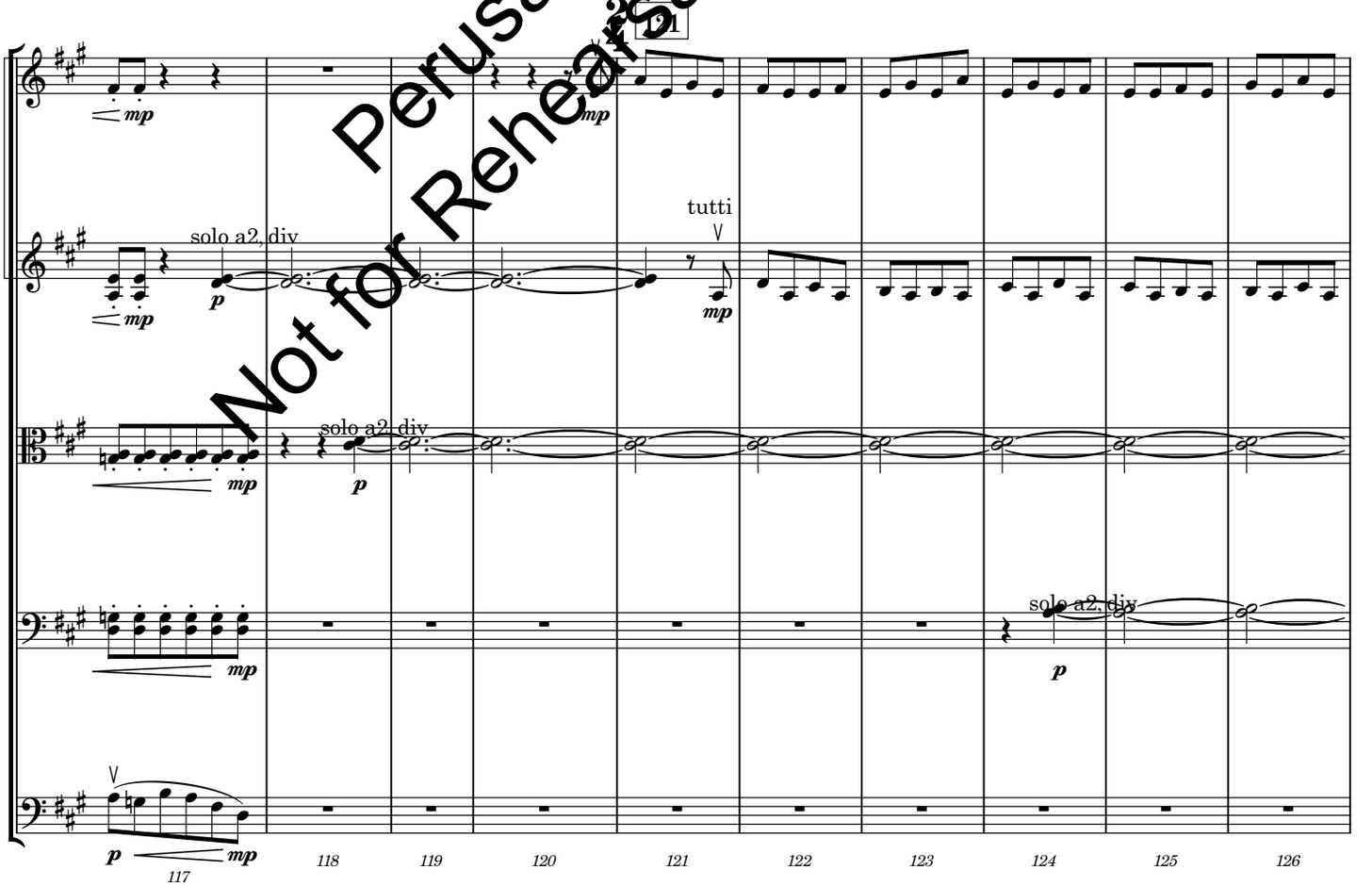


Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

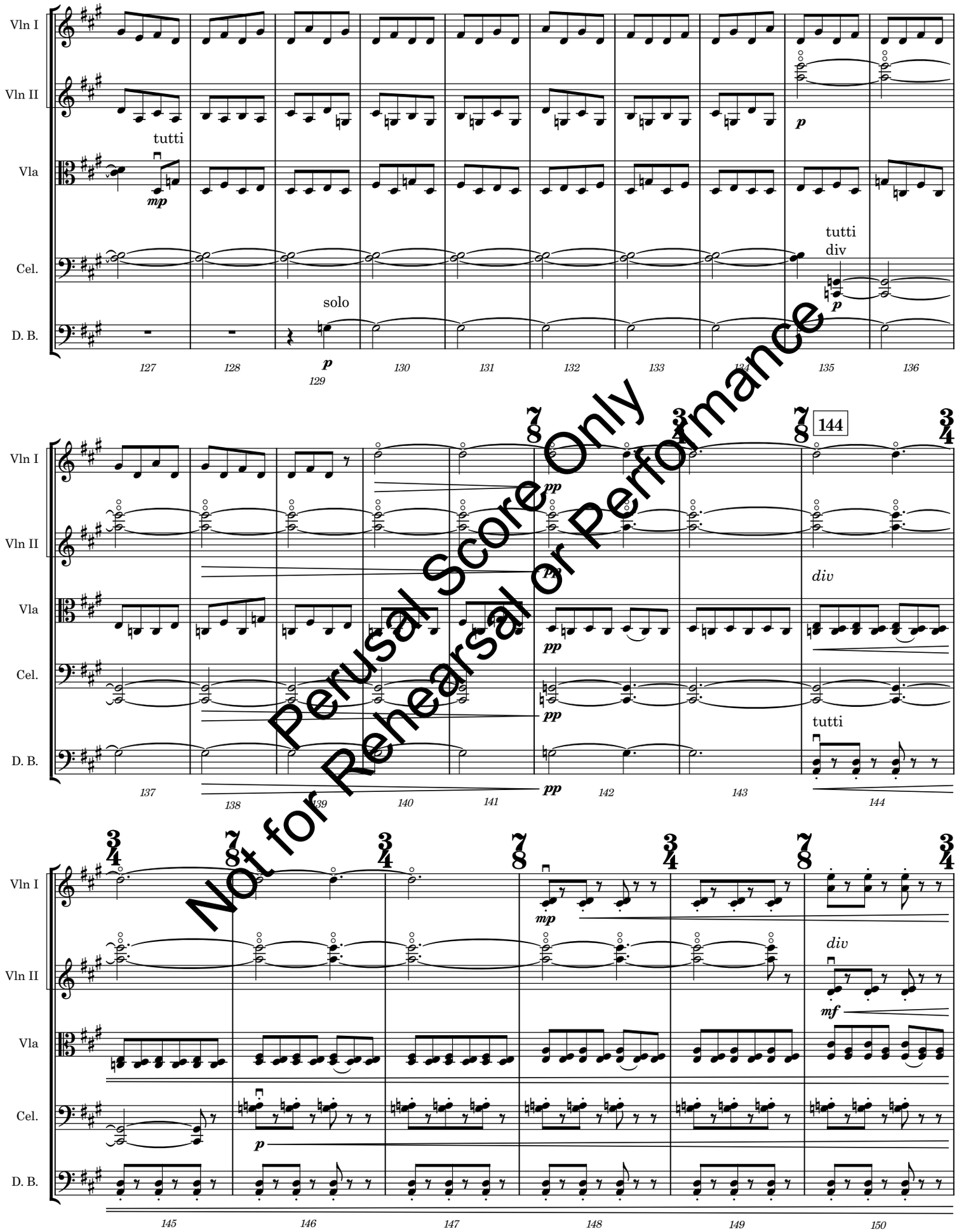
Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance



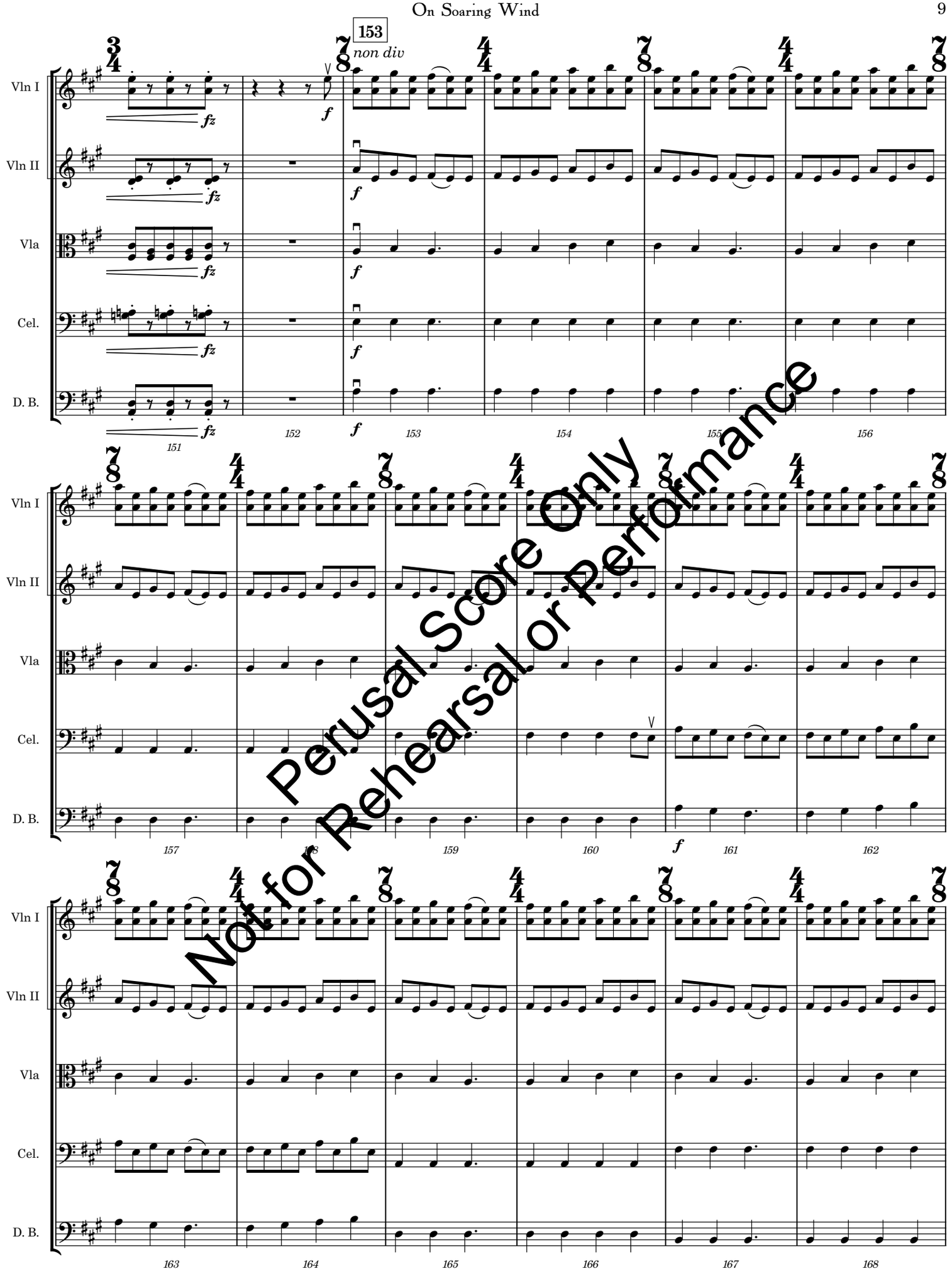
Not for Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance



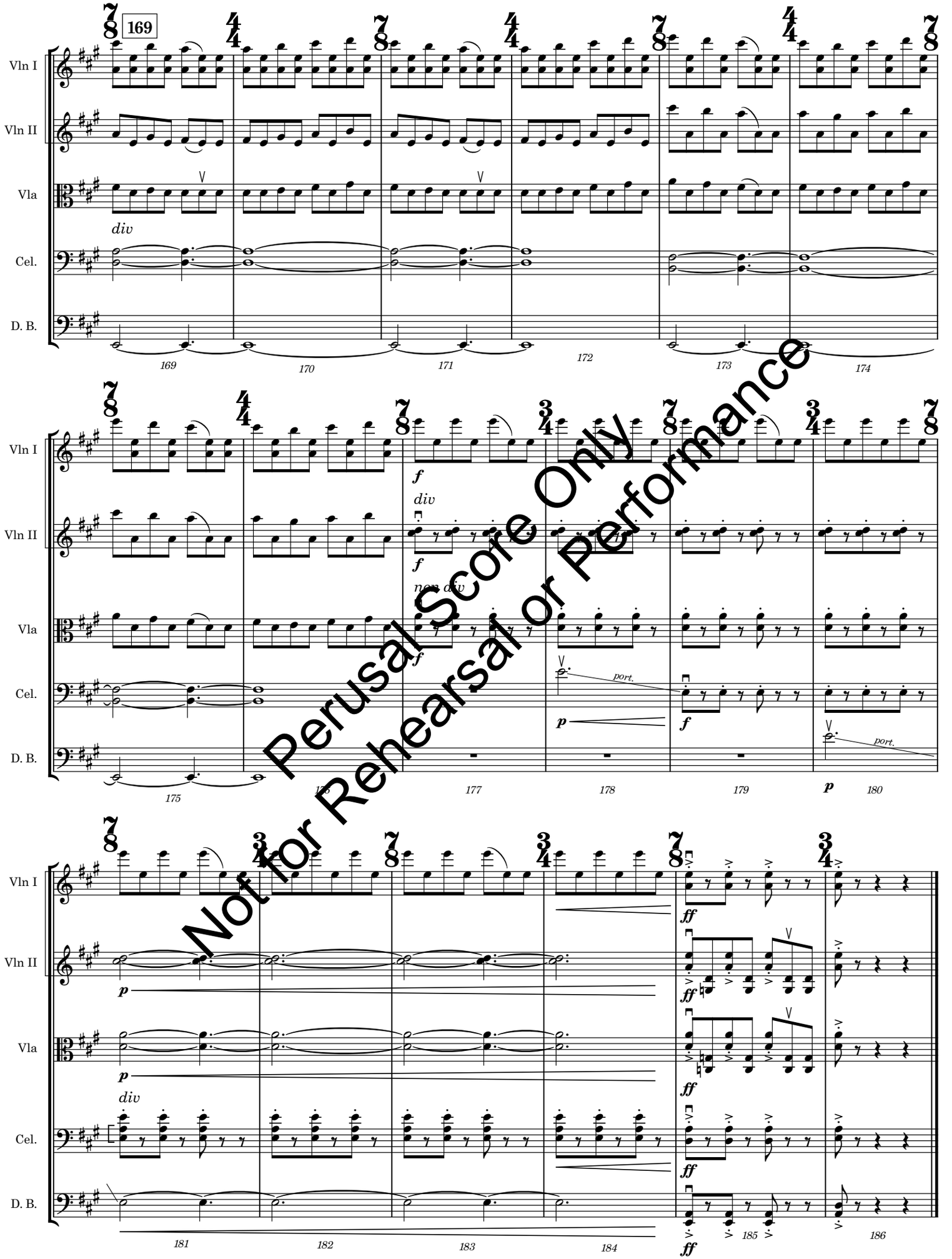
Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance



Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

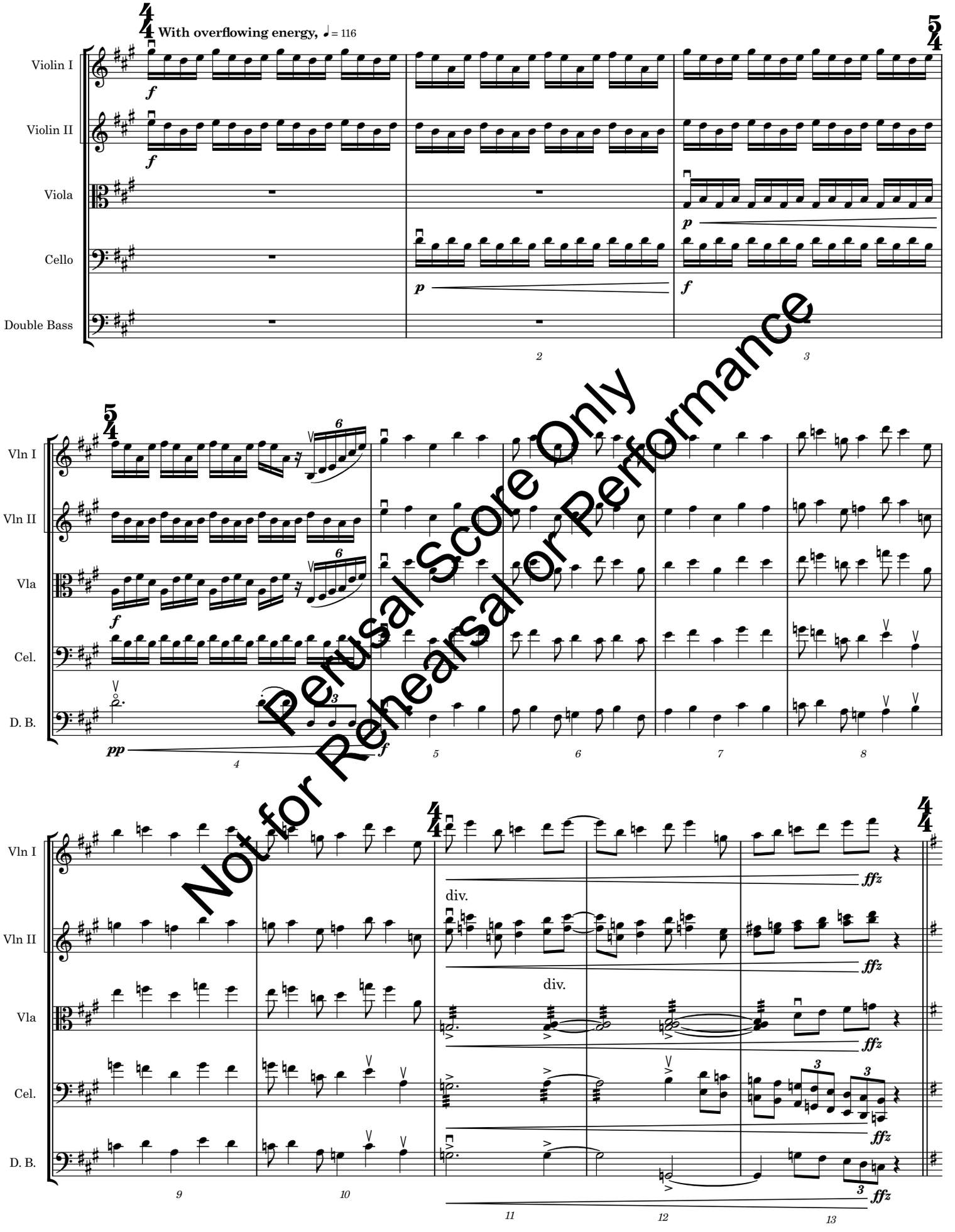


Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

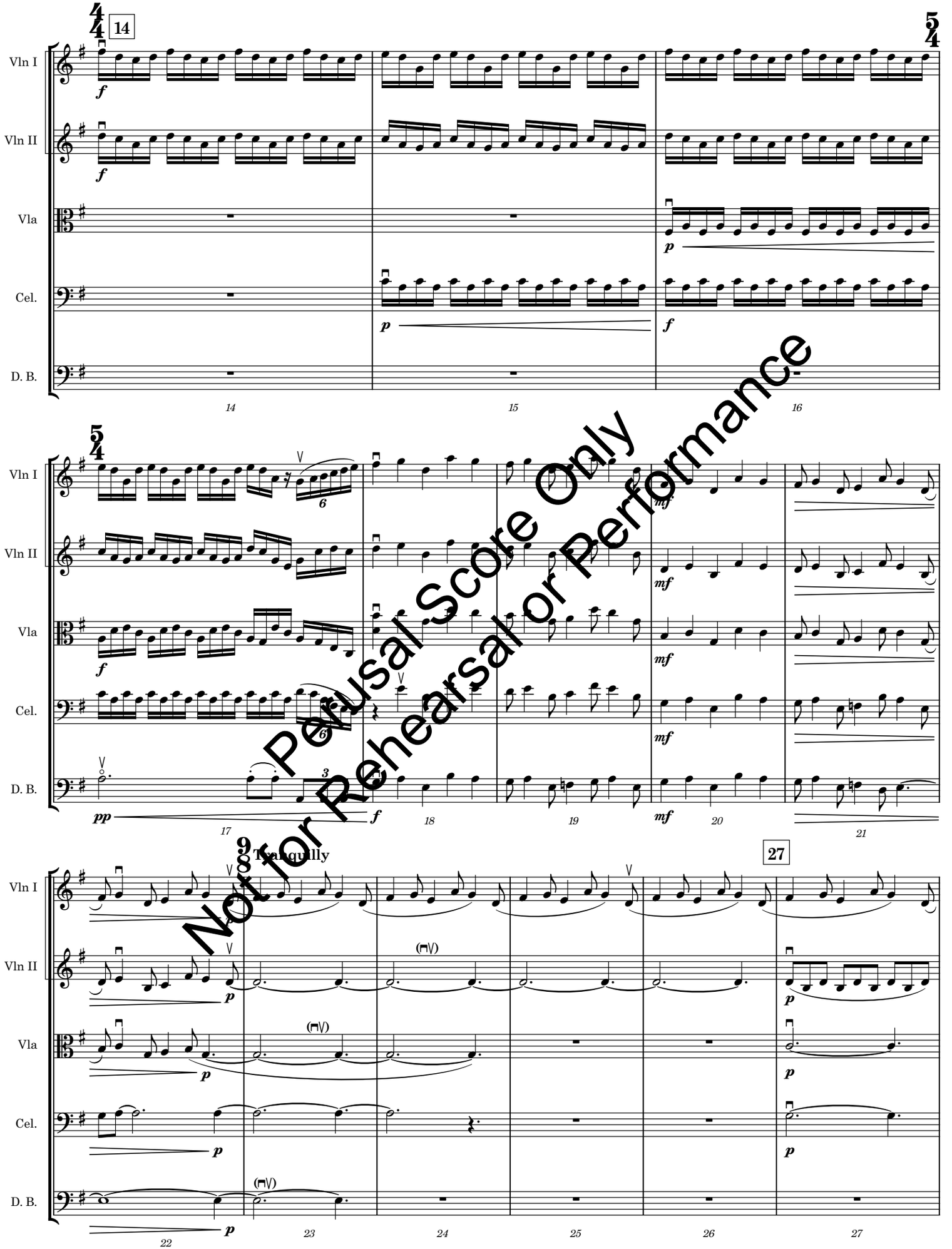


Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

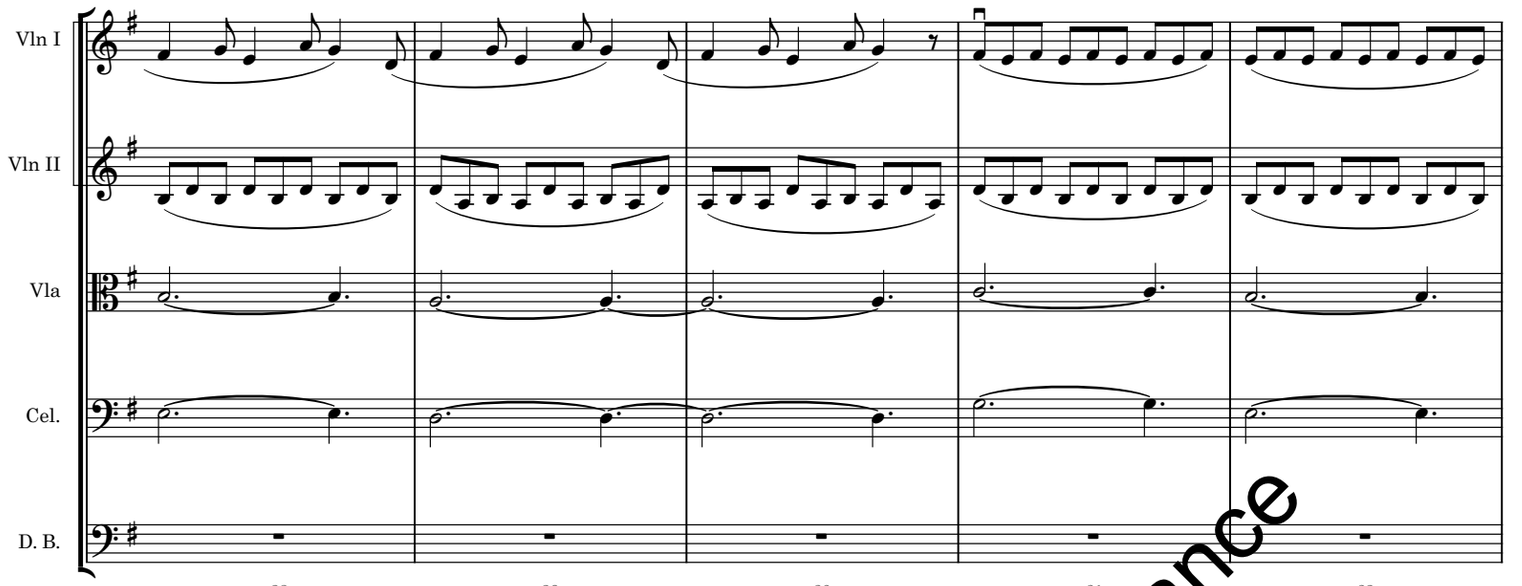
2. Over Sun Soaked Prairie

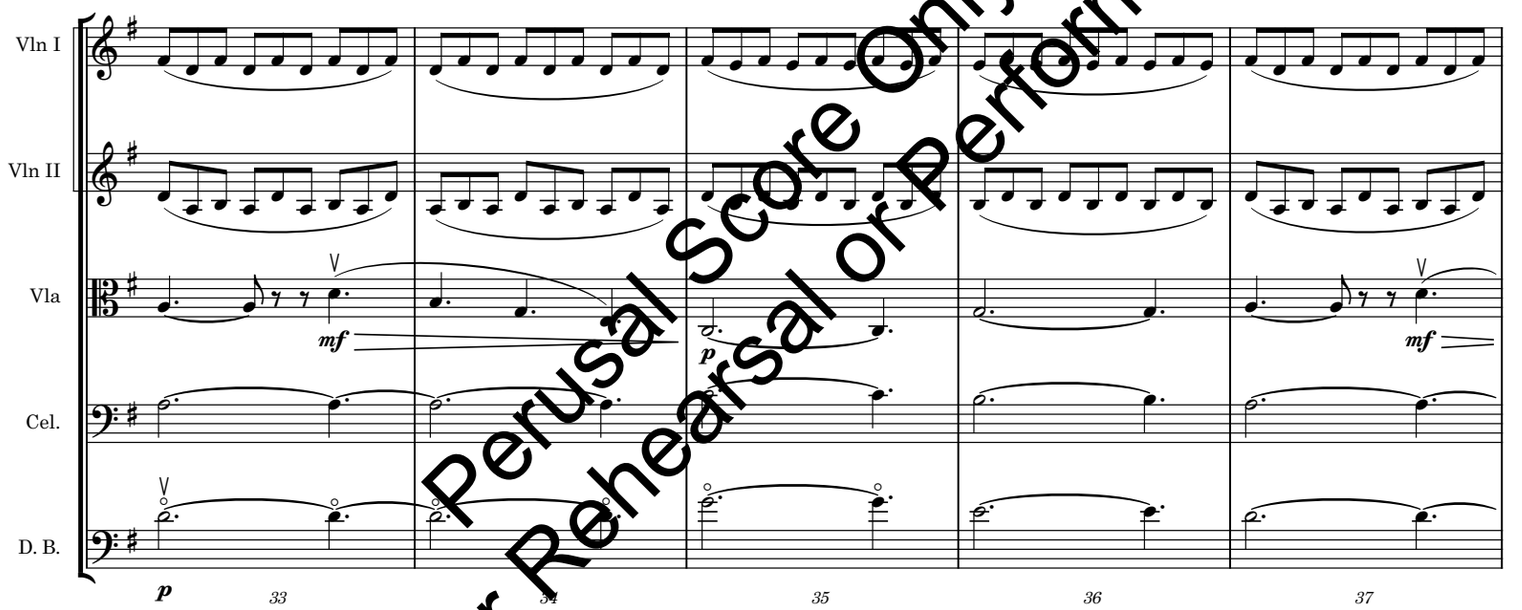


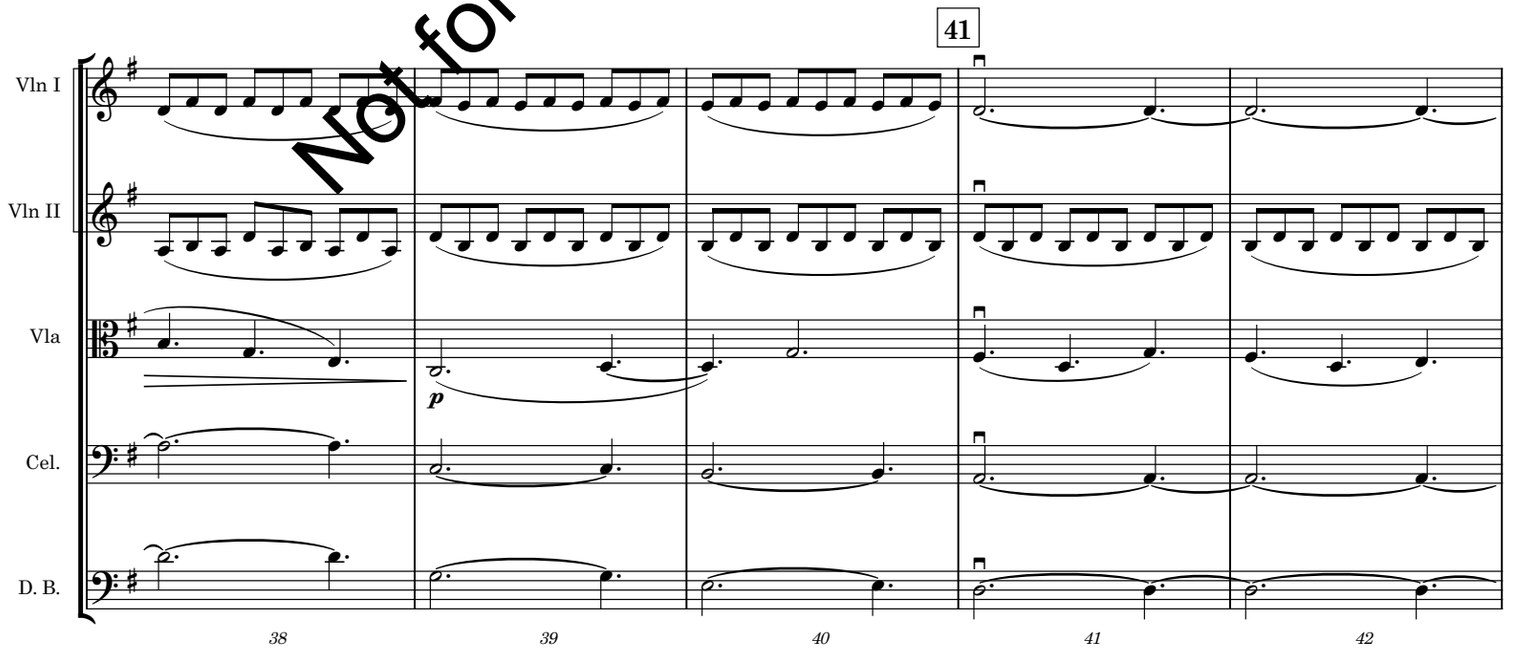
Not for Rehearsal or Performance
Perusal Score Only



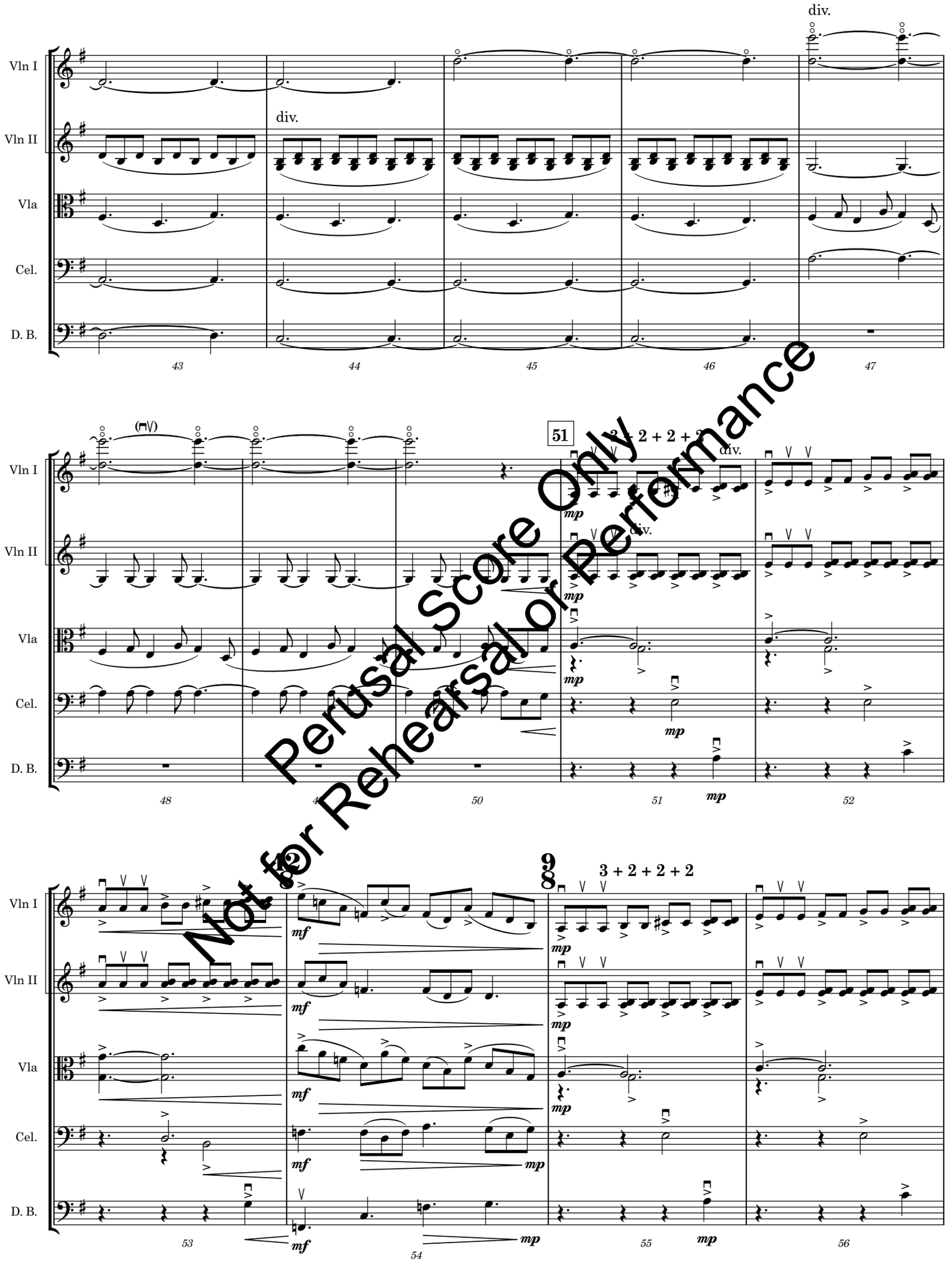
Not for Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance



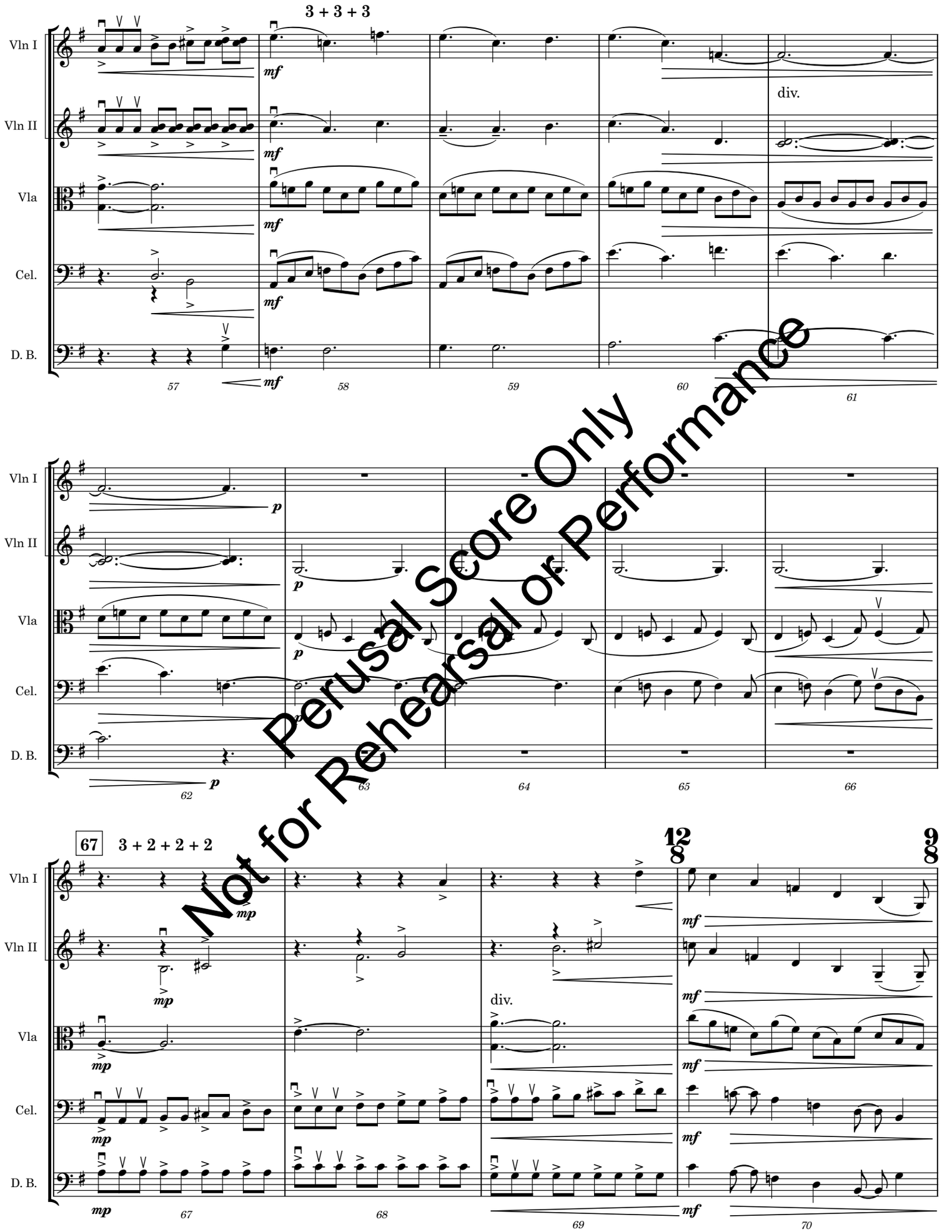




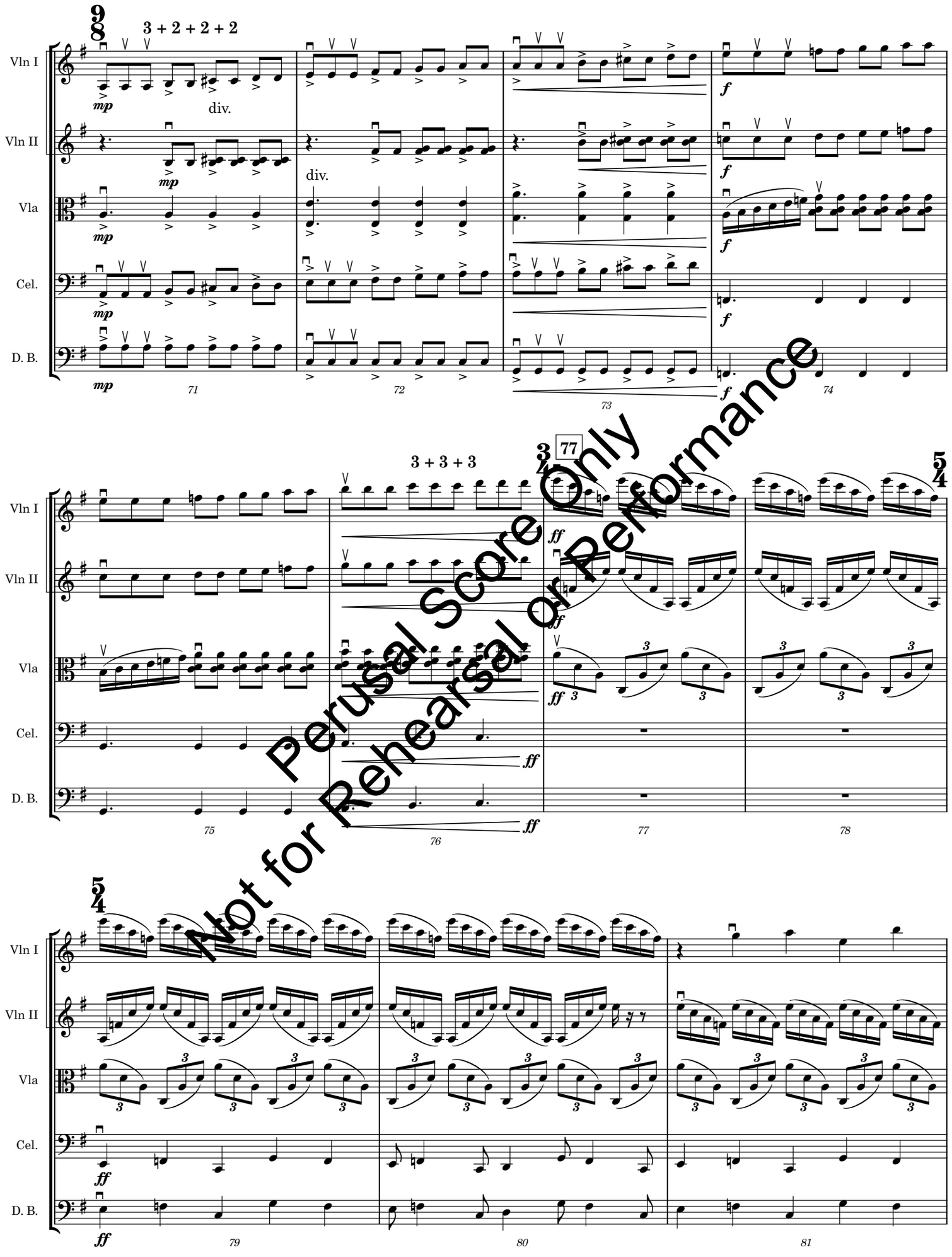
Not for Rehearsal or Performance
Perusal Score Only



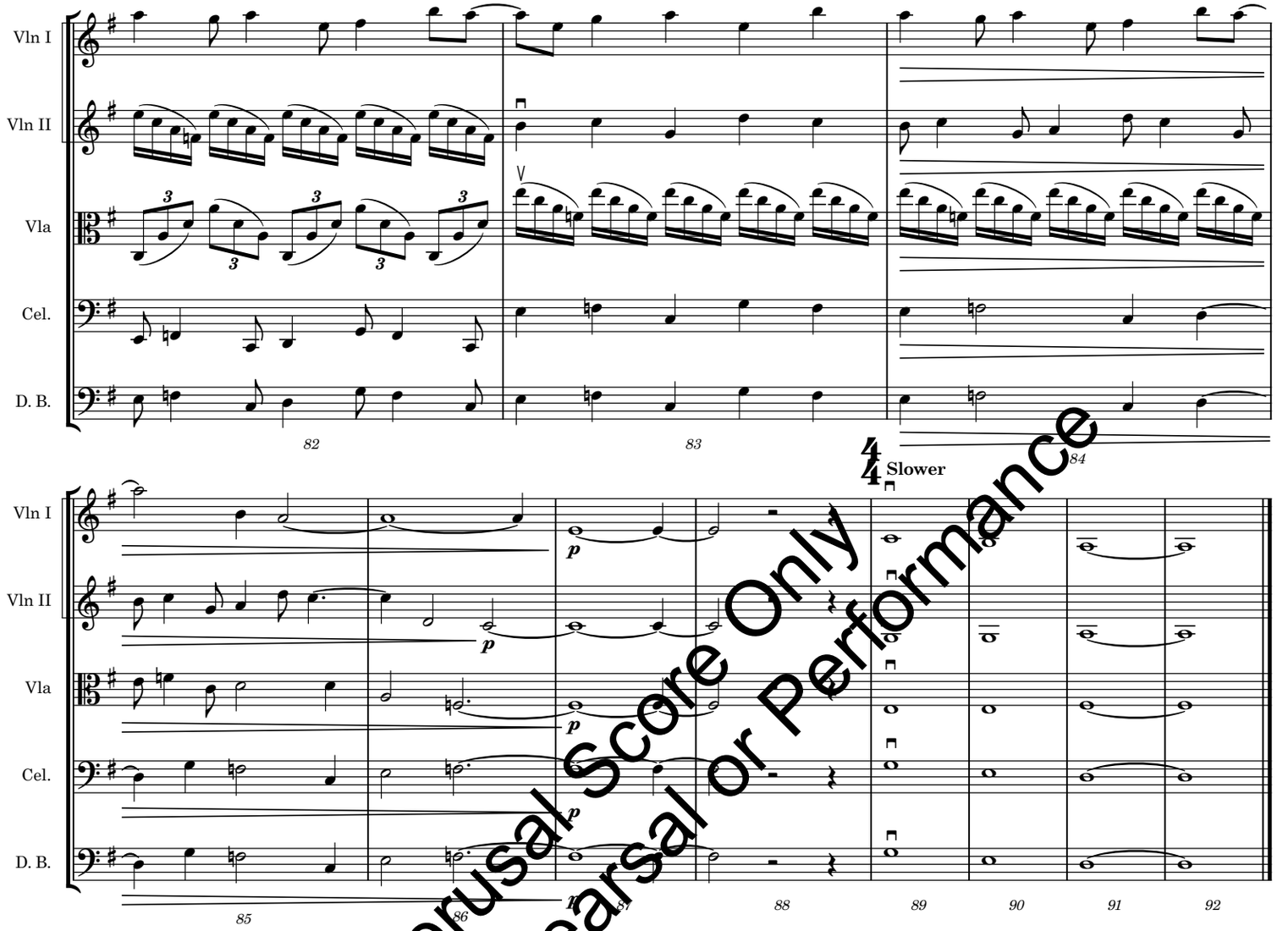
Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance



Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

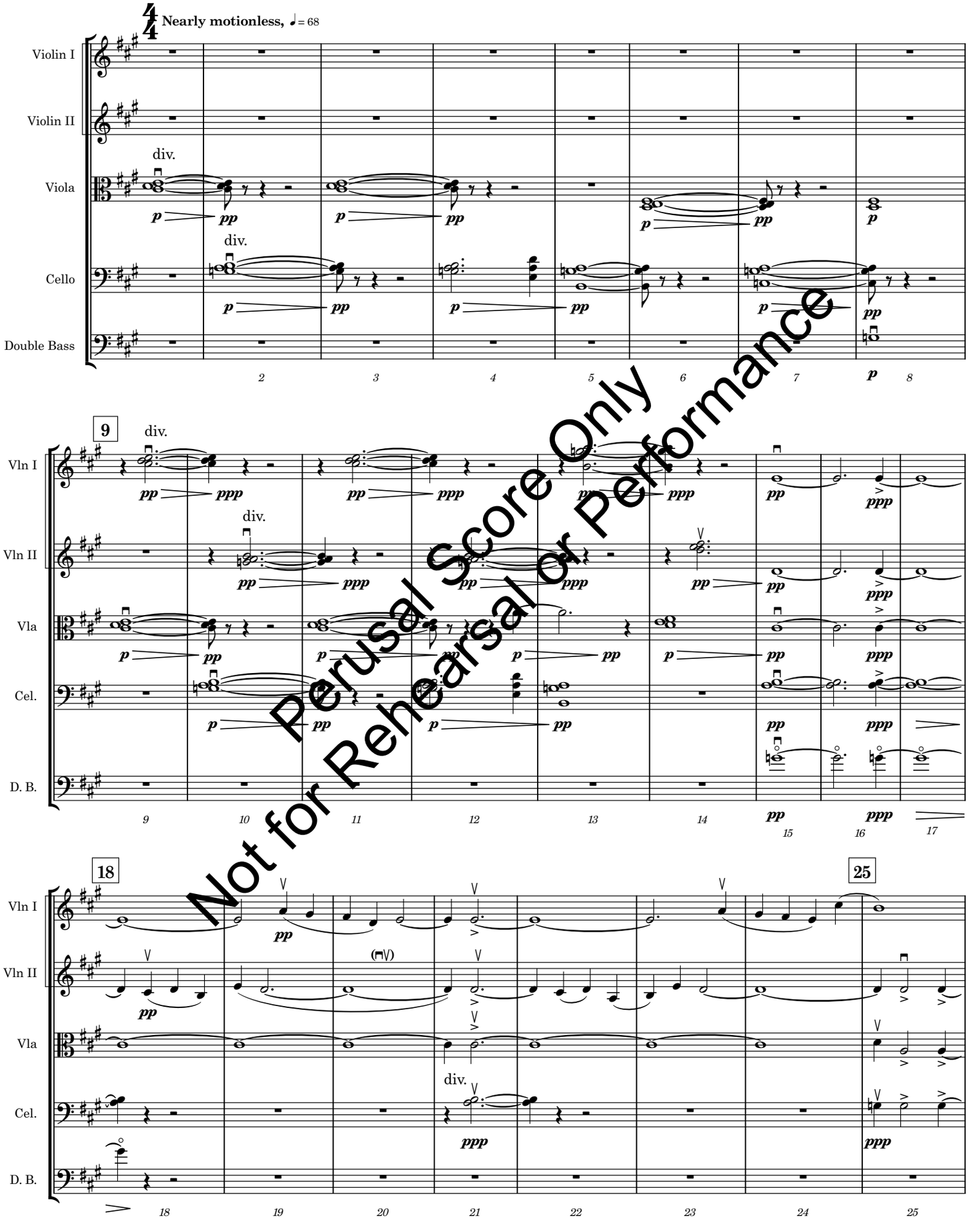


Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

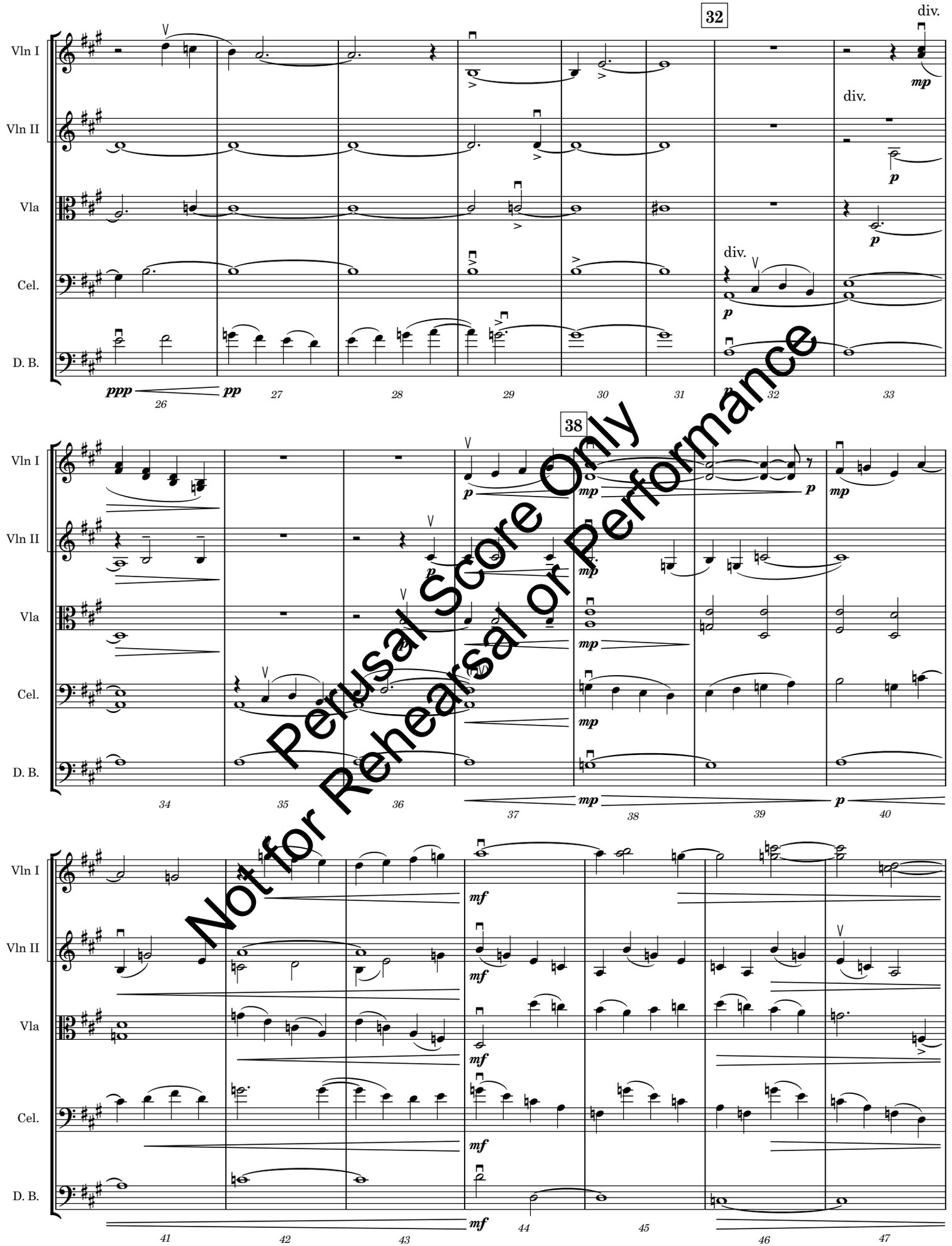


Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

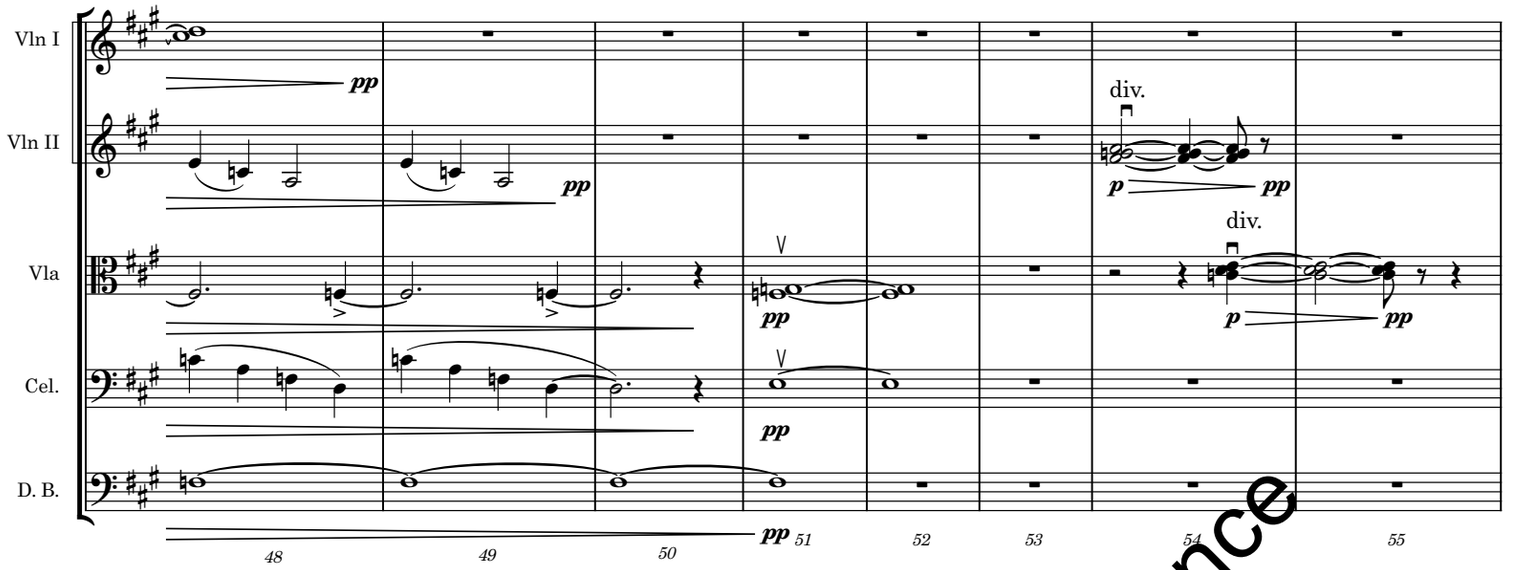
3. In Undisturbed Stillness

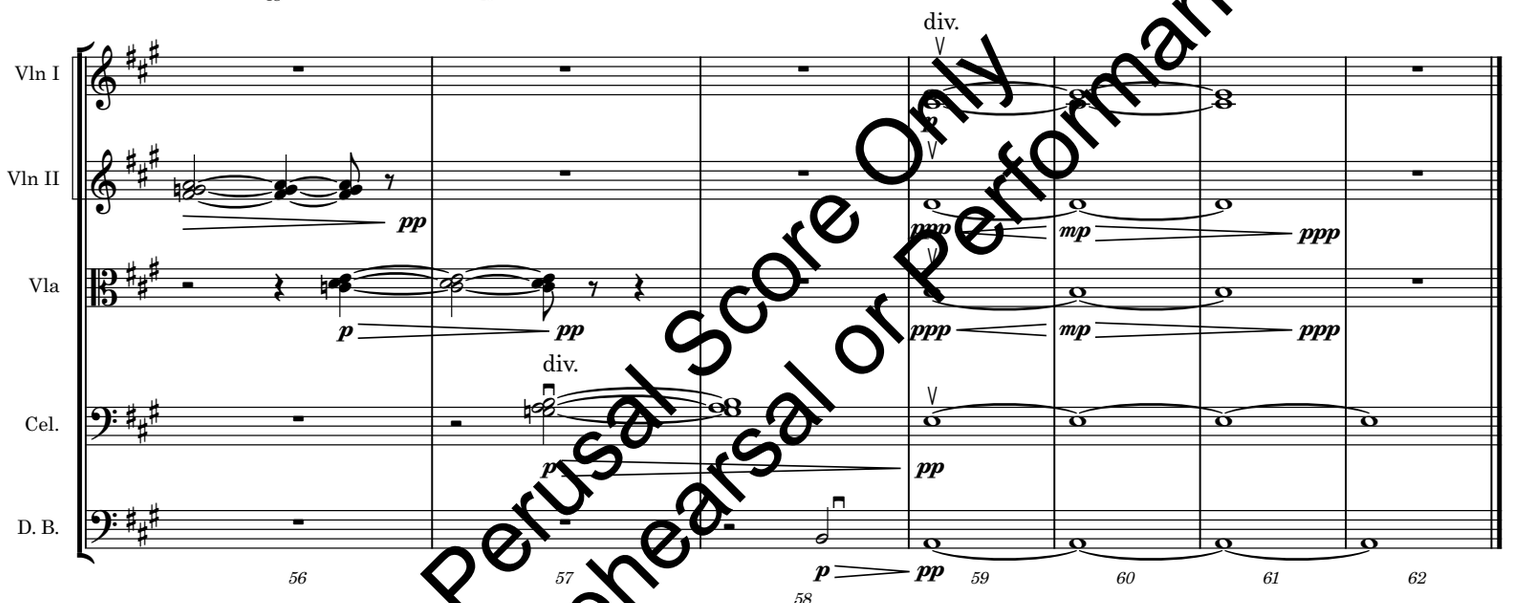


Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance



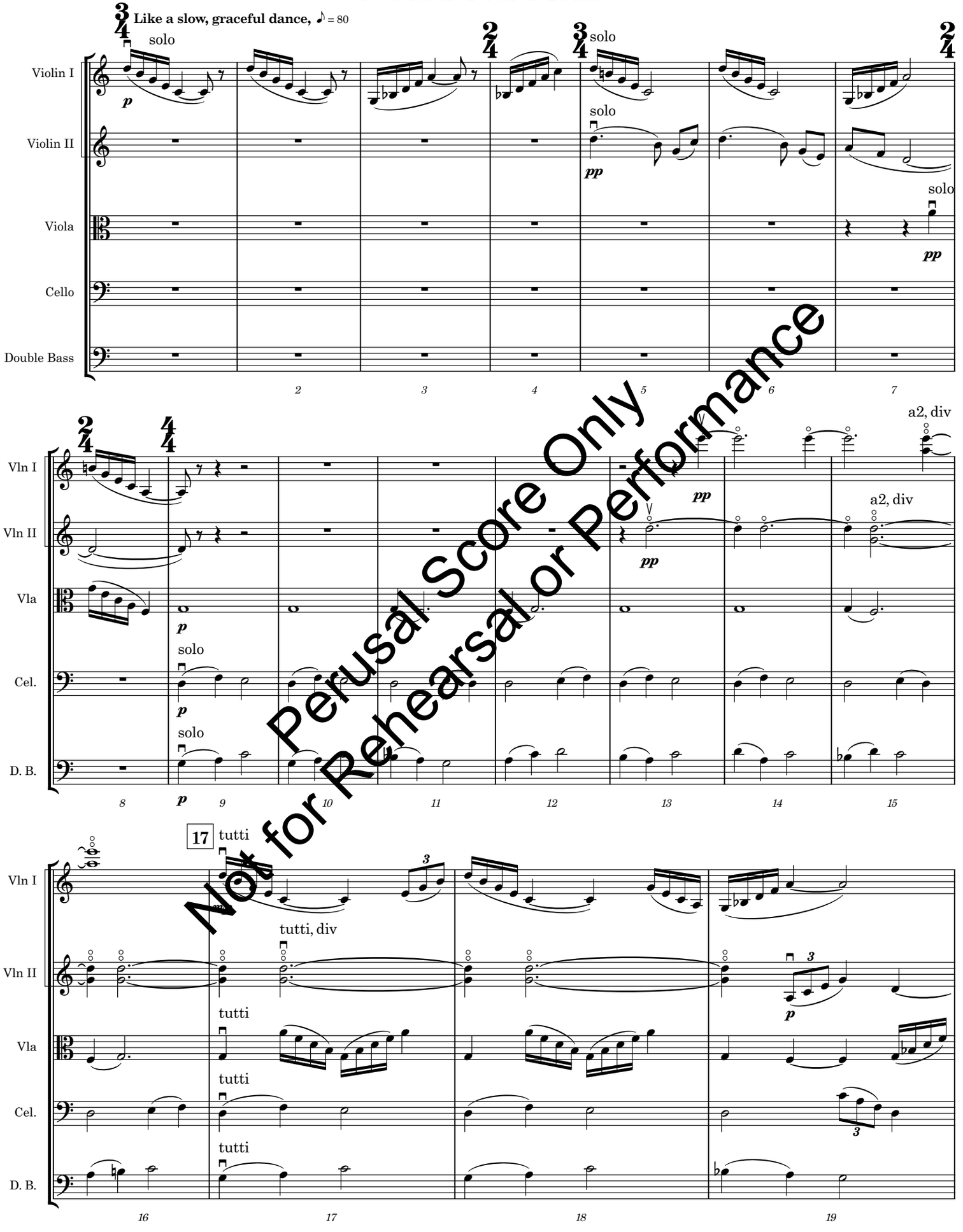
Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance



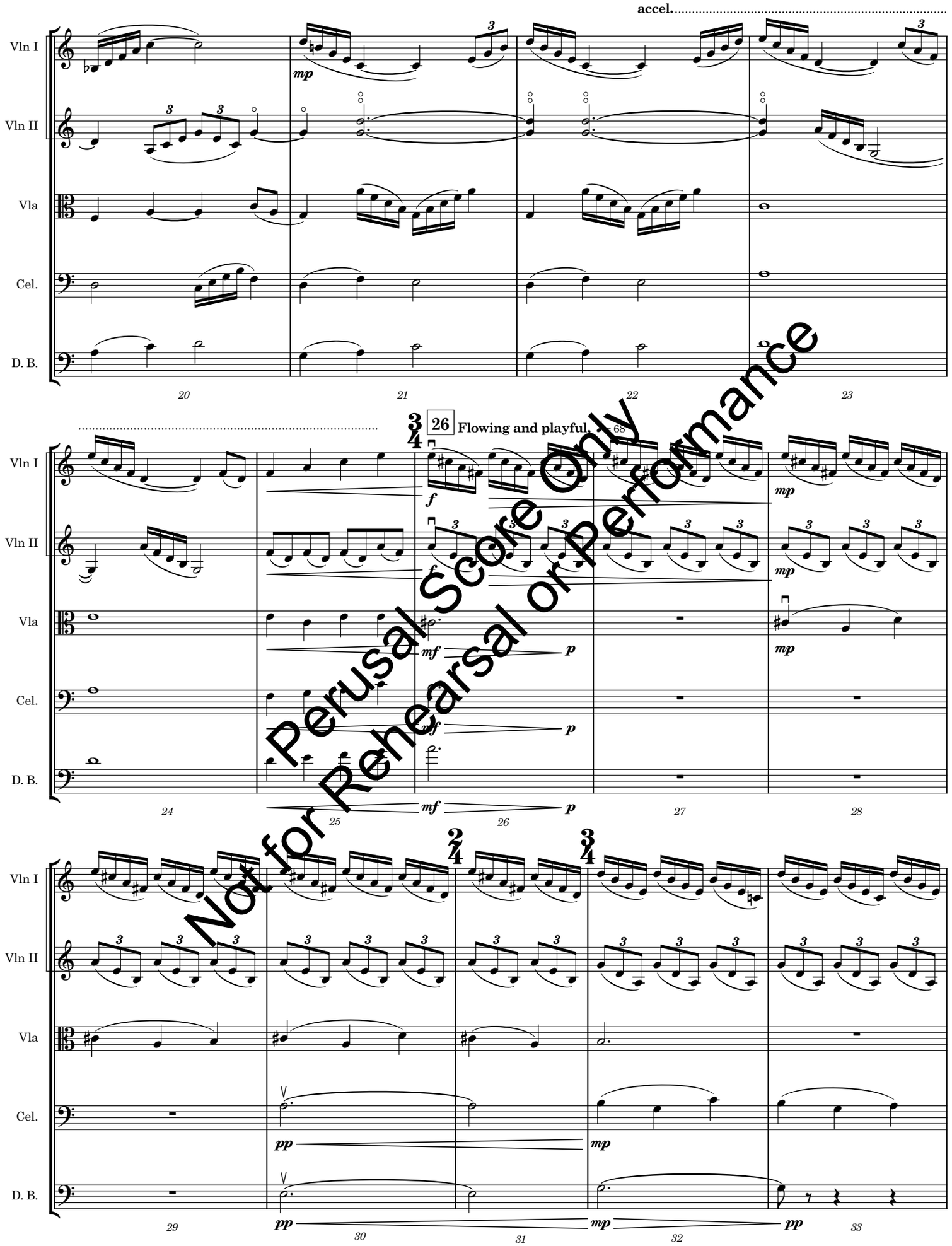


Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

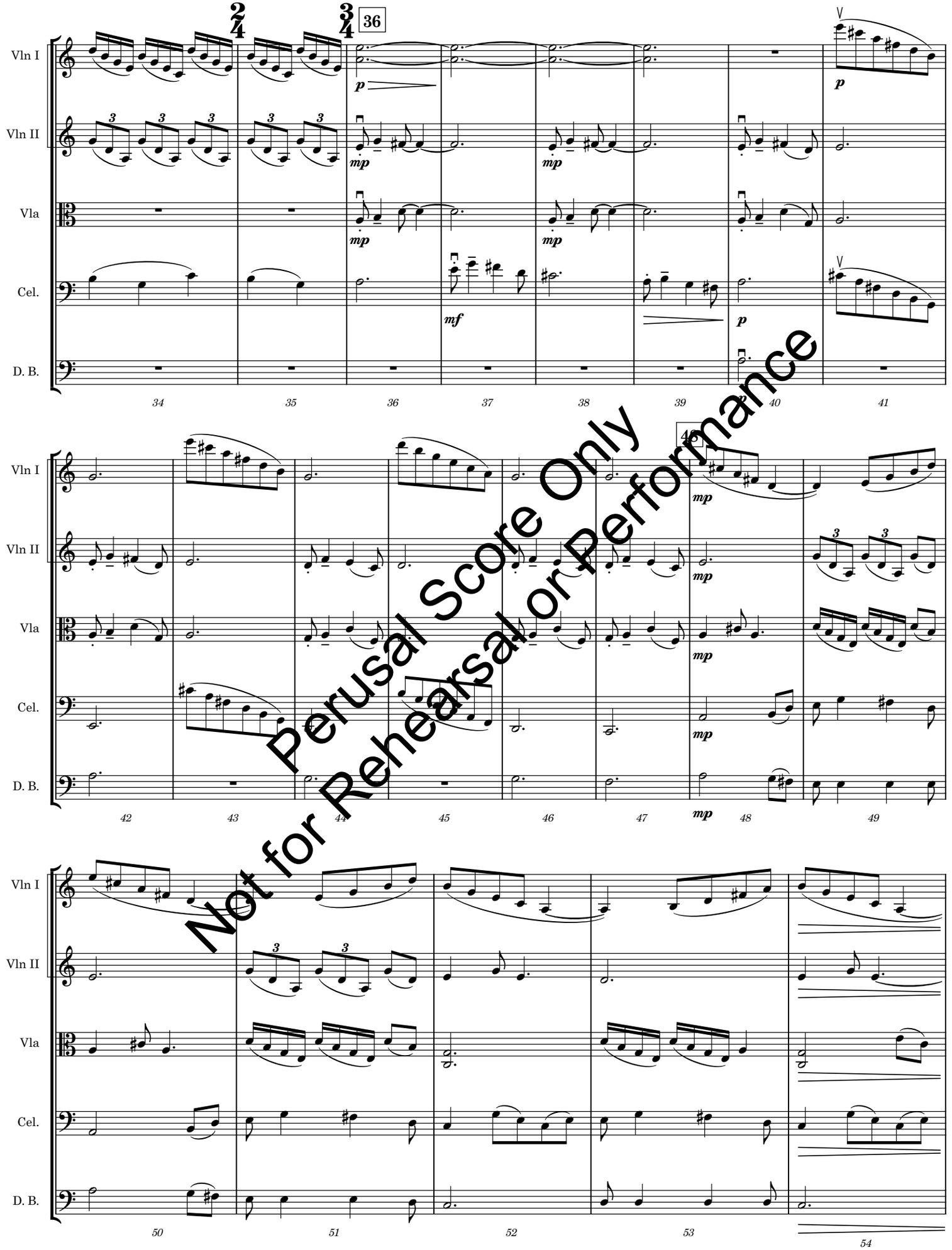
4. Under Four Moons



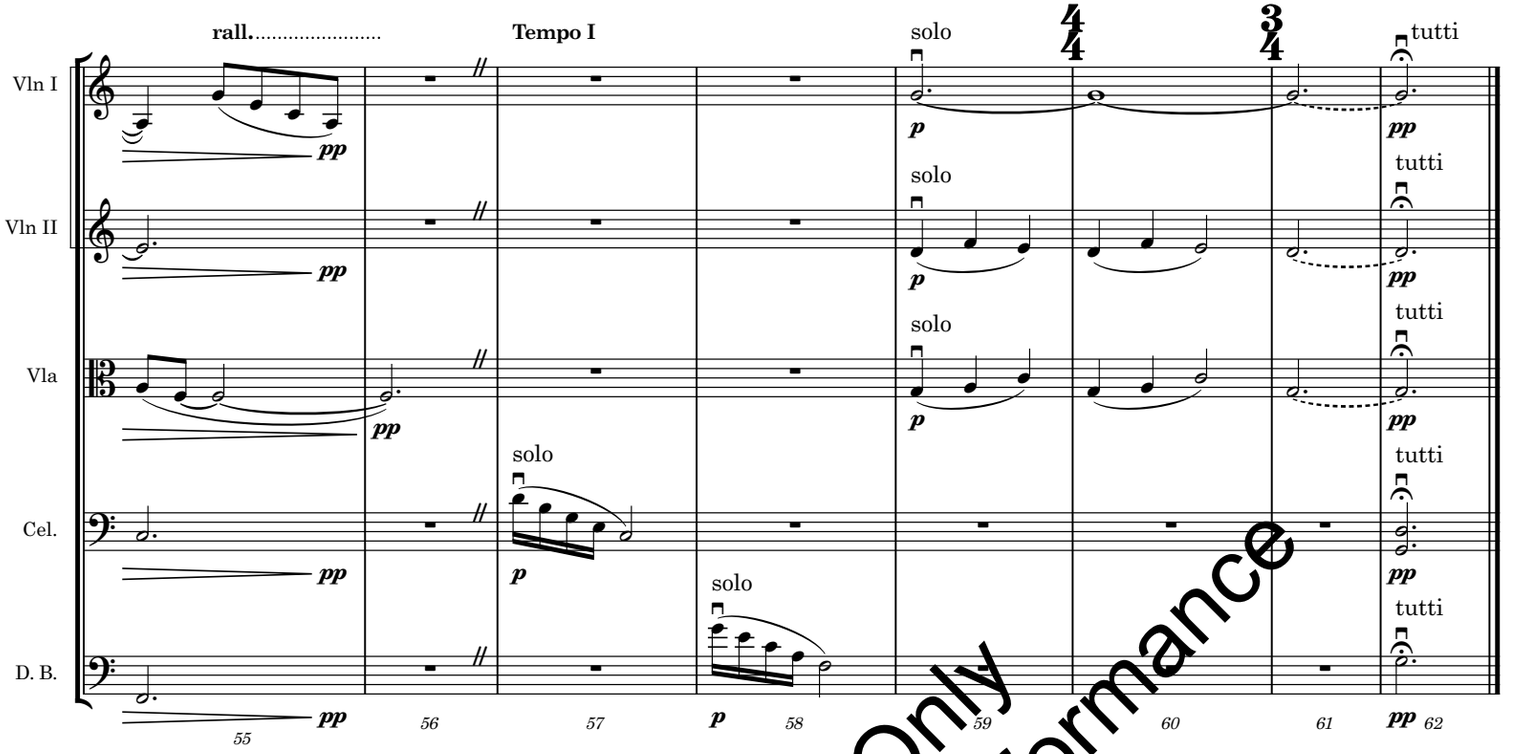
Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance



Not for Perusal Score Only
Rehearsal or Performance

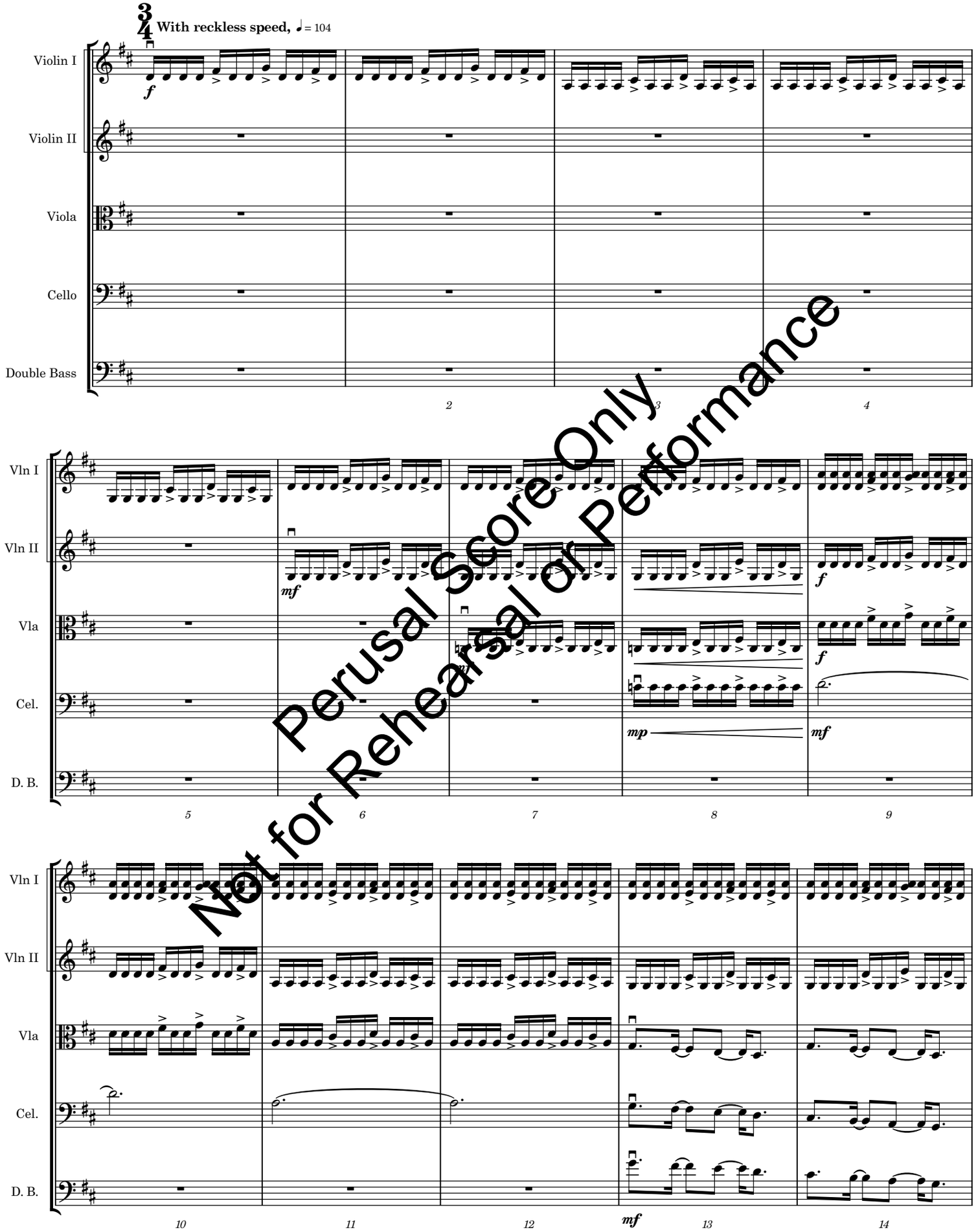


Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

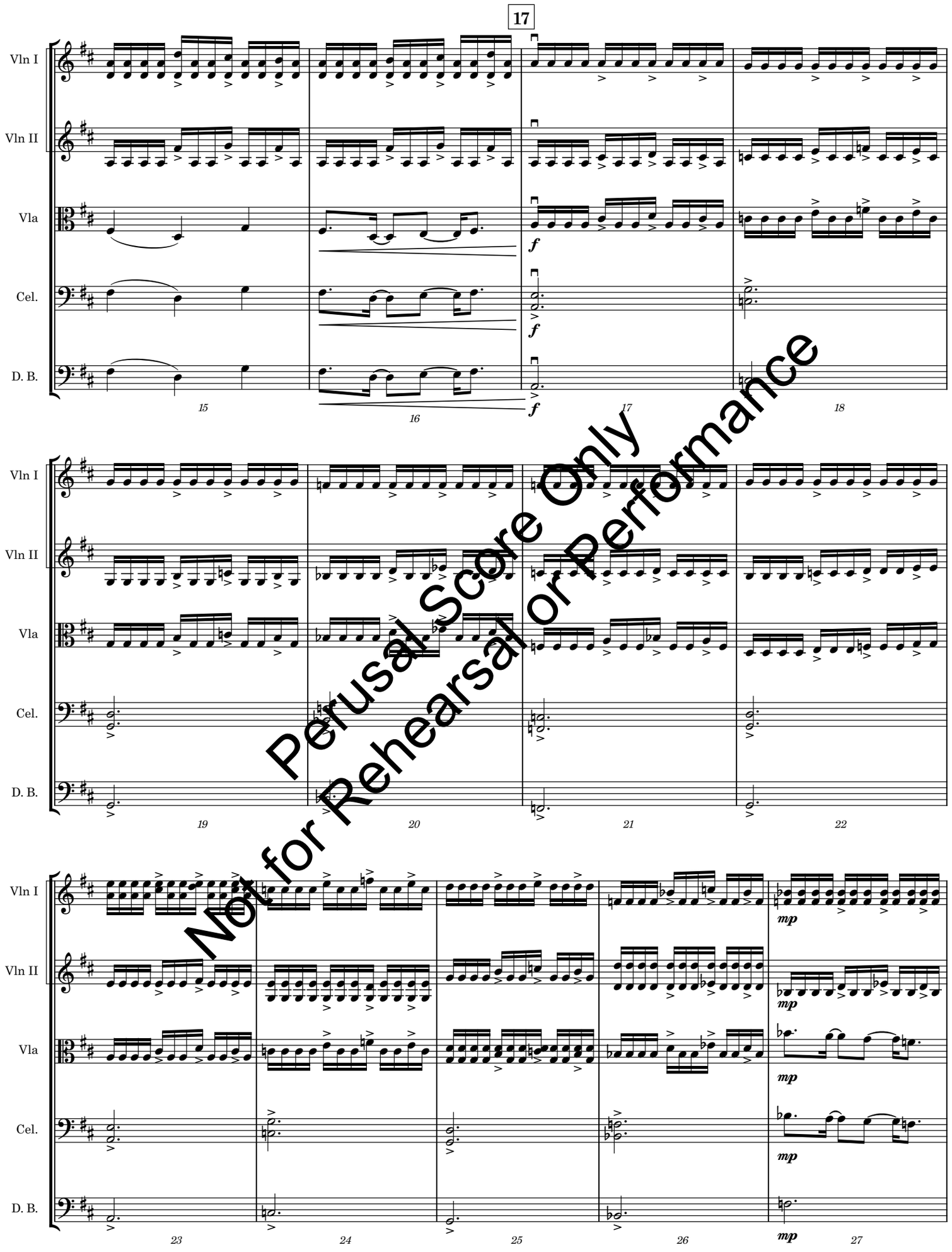


Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

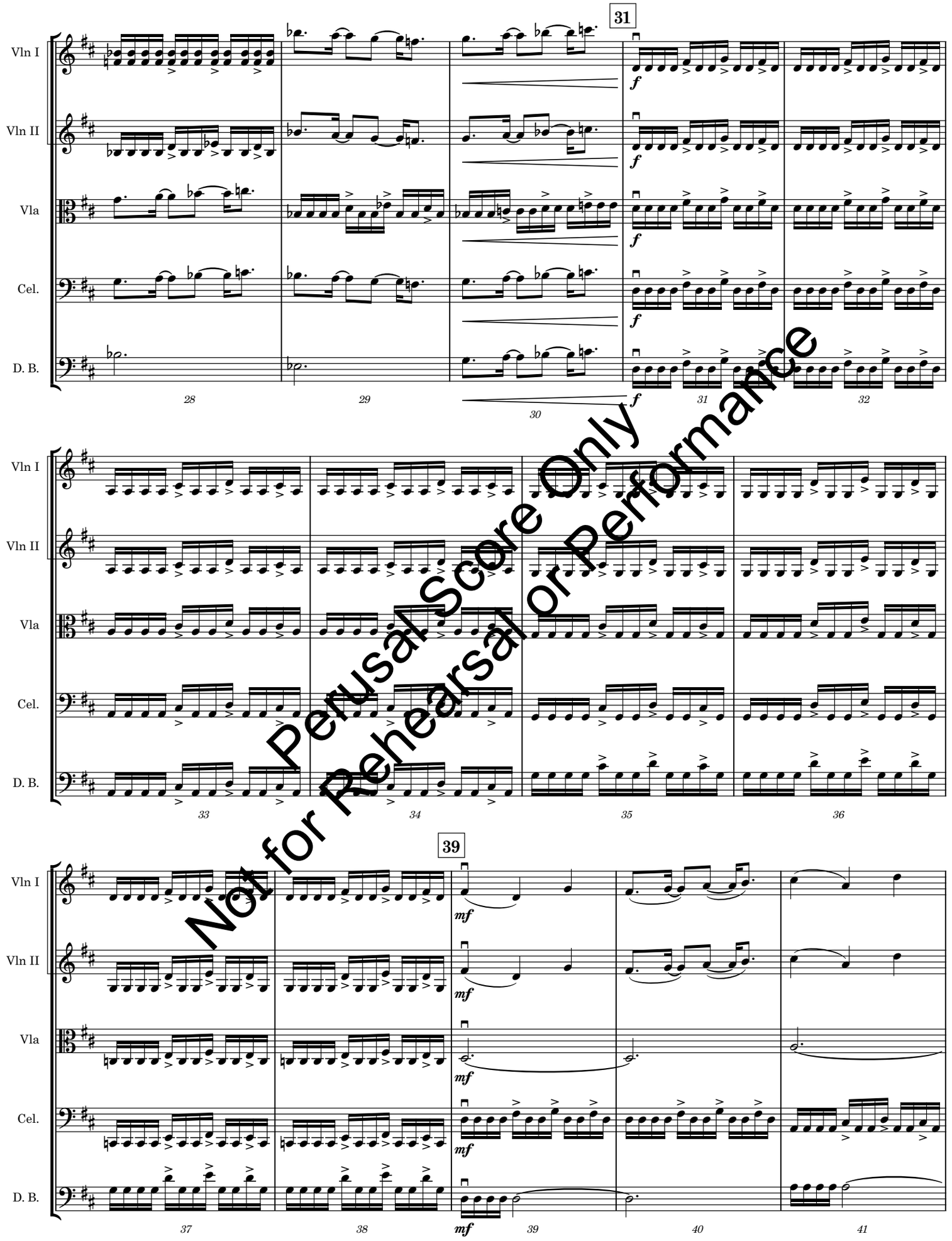
5. Toward Vast Horizon



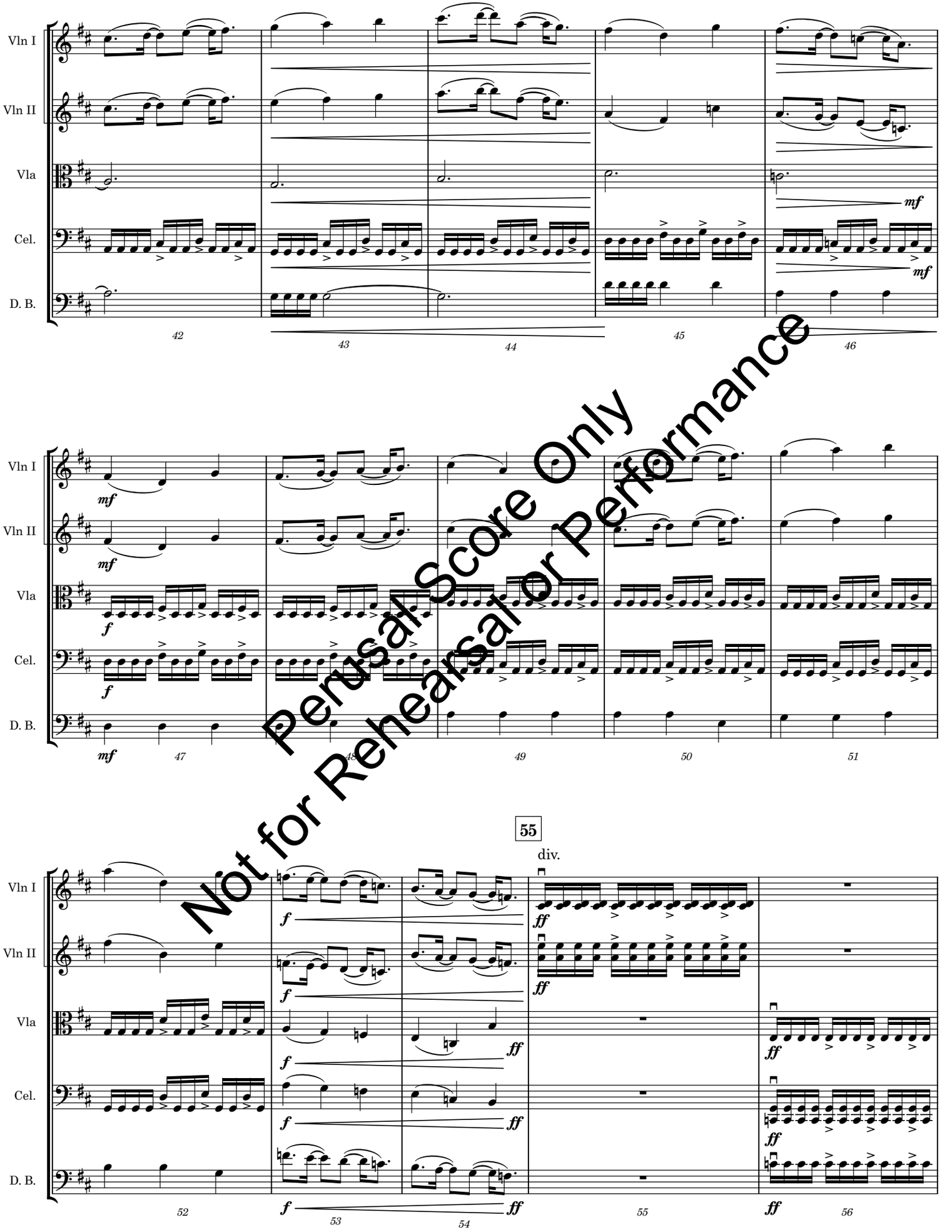
Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance



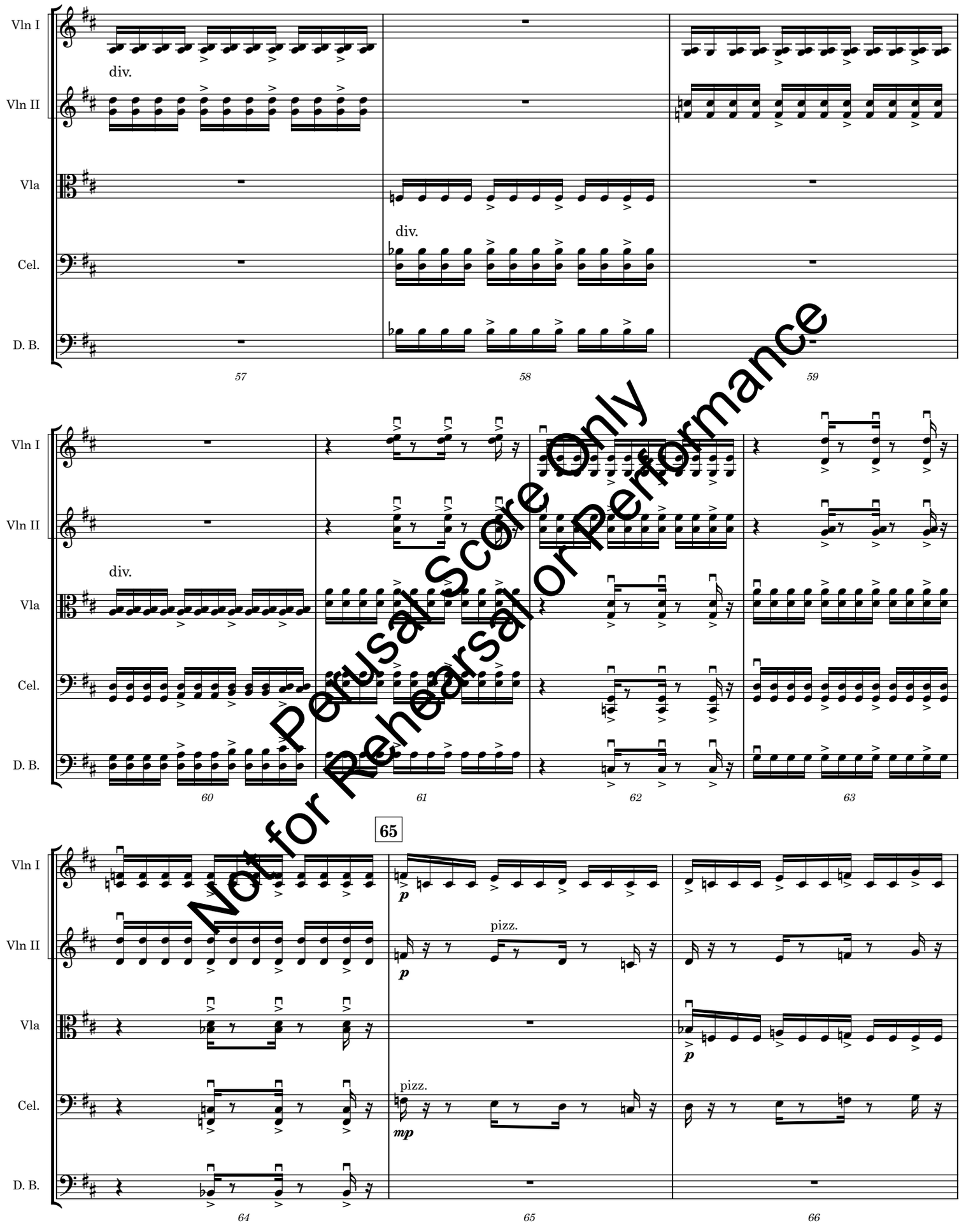
Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance



Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

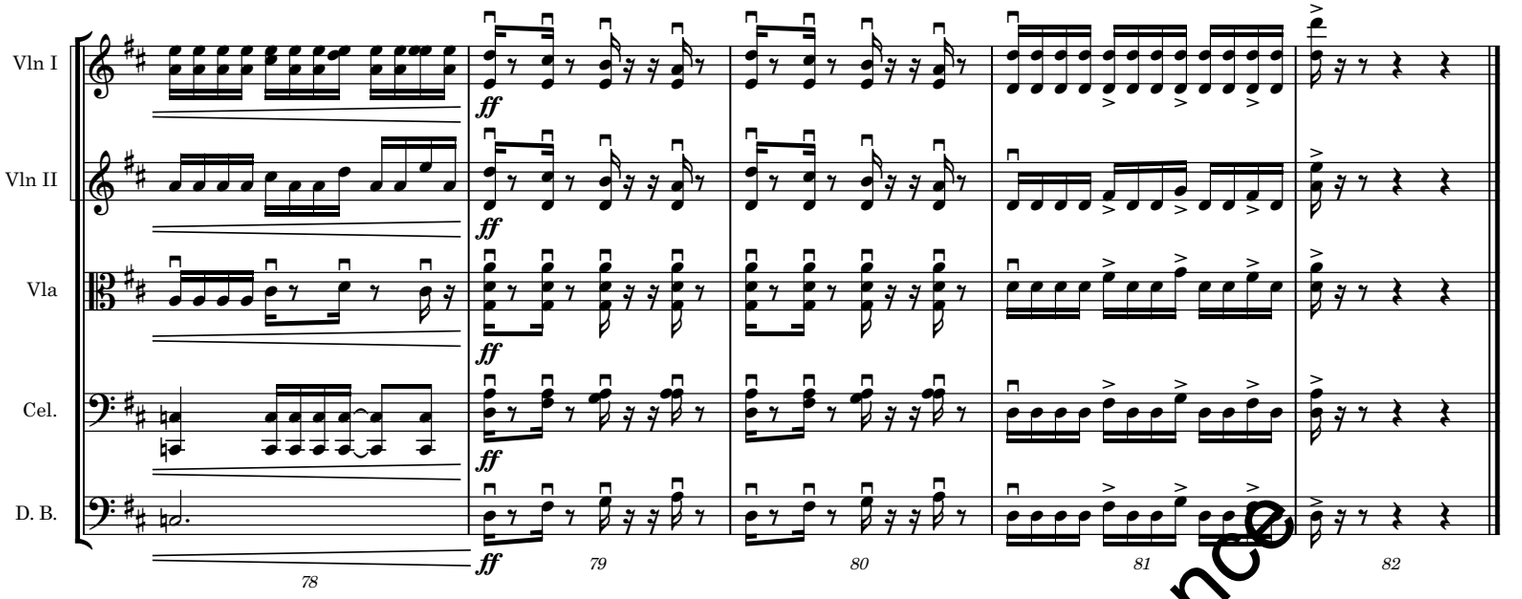


Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance



Not for Perusal Score Only
Rehearsal or Performance

Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance



Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

CANE RIVER MUSIC

Copyright © 2026 Aaron Fryklund. Distributed Exclusively by Cane River Music at canerivermusic.com