We Can and We Will

SUSAN H. DAY

Instrumentation

Full Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Violin III (Viola T.C.)	3
Viola	5
Cello	5
Bass	5
Rehearsal Piano	1

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About the Composer

Susan Day holds music degrees from Ithaca College and Columbia University, New York. She has taught strings at all grade levels in Colorado for over 30 years. Her award winning orchestras were chosen to perform seven times at state and national conventions. In 2000, she received the "Outstanding Teacher of the Year" Award from the American String Teachers Association (ASTA) of Colorado. Besides teaching, she is a composer, arranger, clinician, guest conductor, and violinist with the Lone Tree Symphony.

Ms Day has written more than 100 original, published, educational string works and several commissions. Her music is performed internationally and throughout the U.S. including 16 performances at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago. She was the winner of the 1997 ASTA Composition Contest for her string bass duet, "Bass-ic Blues for Two" recorded by master bassist, Gary Karr. Ms Day was the two time winner (2006, "Tango d'Amour" and 2011 "Tango Mysterioso") of the Texas Orchestra Directors' Association (TODA) Composition Contest and the 2008 winner of the ASTA sponsored Merle J. Isaac Composition Contest ("Shores of Ireland"). She was Composer-in-Residence at the 2015 and 2021 Ohio State University Summer String Teachers Workshop, and has presented sessions in Colorado, Arizona, Florida, and the 2018 ASTA National Convention in Atlanta. Ms Day was the 2017 LISFA (Long Island String Festival Association) guest conductor/composer. Most recently, three of her original works were featured in Volume 4 of the "Teaching Music through Performance in Orchestra" series.

Among her many awards, she received the Colorado Music Educators Association (CMEA) 25 Year Service Award, 6 Board of Education Awards, numerous ASCAP Plus Awards, and the 2016 Lifetime Service Award from ASTA of Colorado. In 2008, Ms Day was inducted into the Colorado Music Educators Association (CMEA) Hall of Fame. She is a member of CMEA, ASTA, NAfME, and ASCAP.

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This Grade 2.5 piece was commissioned by Kinard Middle School in Ft. Collins, Colorado, to celebrate their orchestra's performance at the 2025 National Orchestra Festival in Atlanta, as well as the 20-year anniversary of the school. It is also a tribute dedicated to the school's namesake, Hal Kinard, whose inspiration became the school's motto: *"We Can and We Will."*

Written in D Major and G Major, in 4/4 time throughout, the melody has a joyous and celebratory feel. Thinking of the words that go with the 8-bar melody—"*We are celebrating, for all the world to see, heads held high we can reach the sky, and our hearts are full of joy and glee"*—gives students a basis on which to make this piece sound lyrical and expressive, while also incorporating dynamics and using *legato* bows. Piano is optional.

This is a great piece to perform for any celebratory occasion!

We Can and We Will

We are celebrating / For all the world to see
Heads held high / We can reach the sky
And our hearts are full of / Joy and glee
We are celebrating / Twenty years Kinard's here still
Shout out loud that our school / Makes us proud
And remember that / We Can and We Will

Commissioned by Kinard Middle School Orchestras, Leanne M. Griffey, Director, in celebration of the school's 20th Anniversary and premiered at the 2025 National Orchestra Festival in Atlanta, Georgia

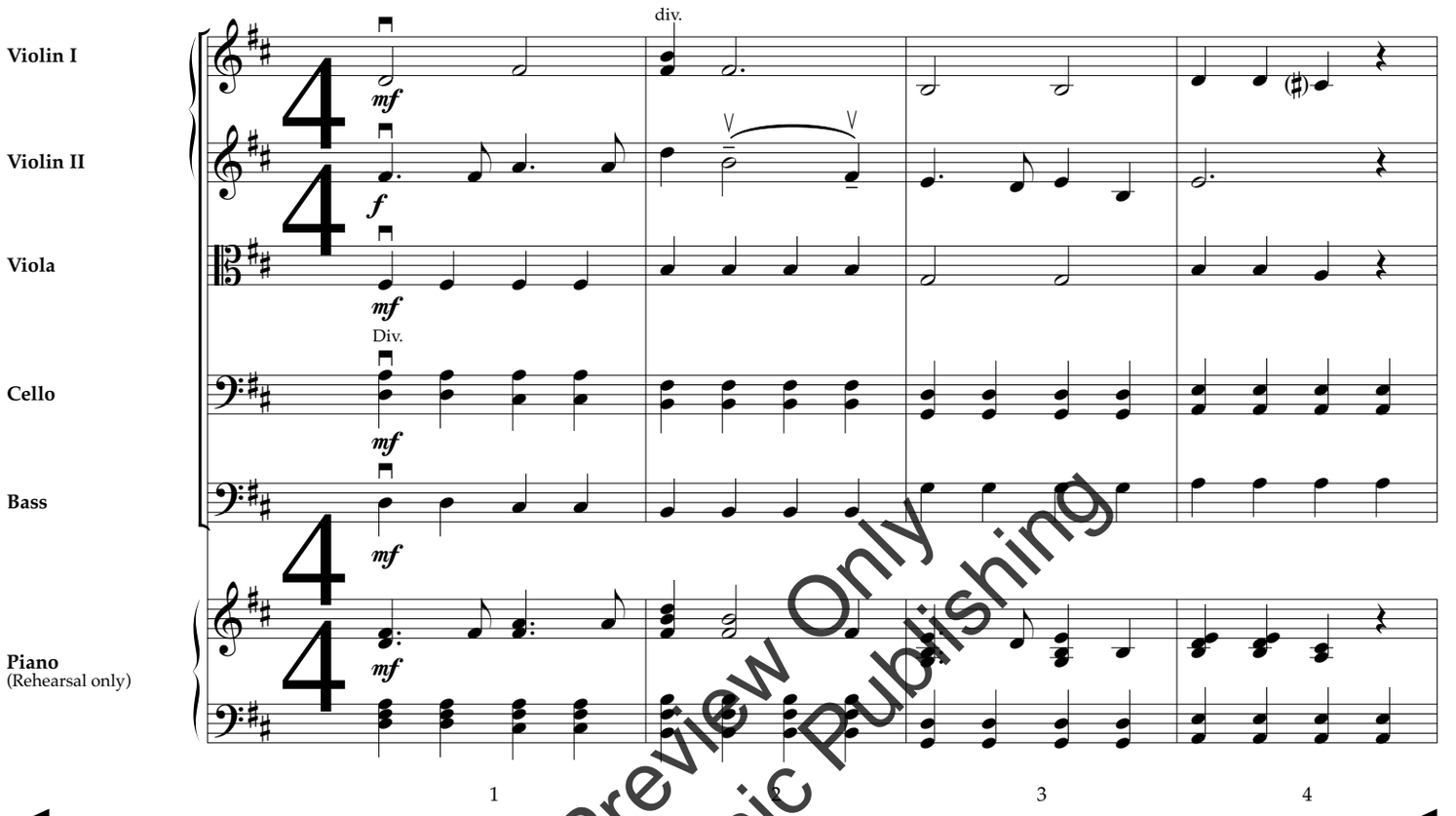
Full Score

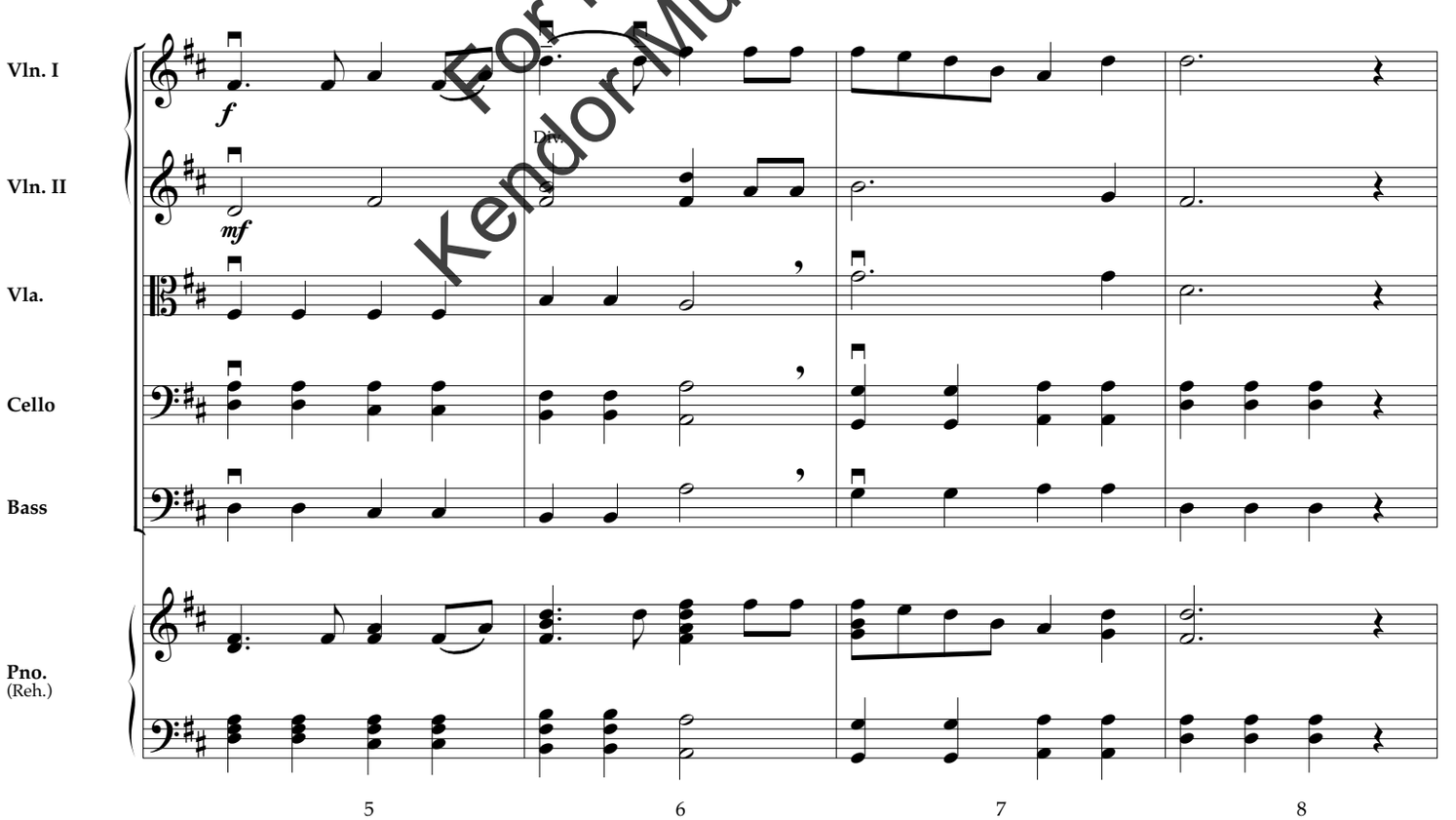
We Can and We Will

Dedicated to our namesake, mentor, and friend, Hal Kinard.

SUSAN H. DAY
(ASCAP)

Jubilantly ♩ = 100





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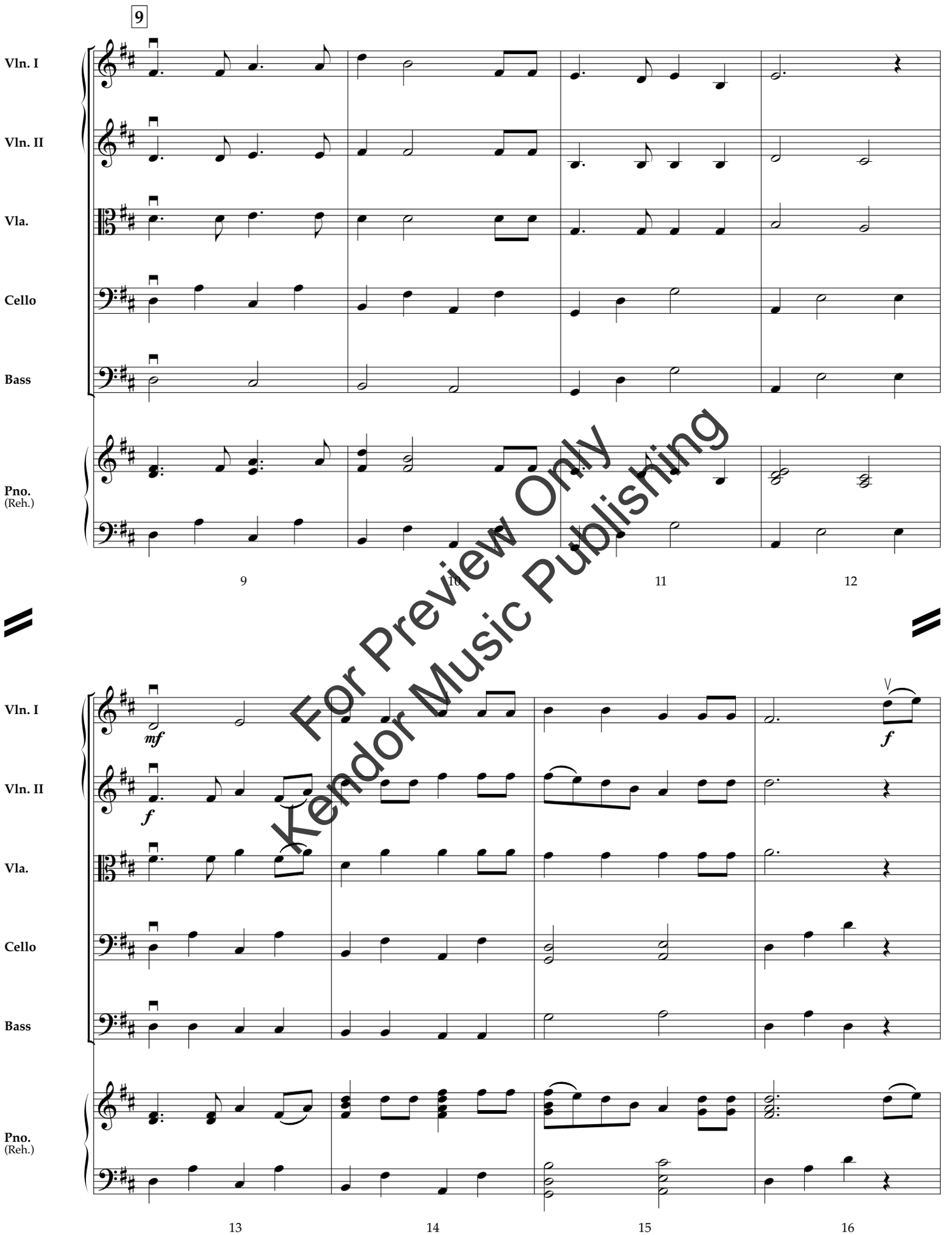

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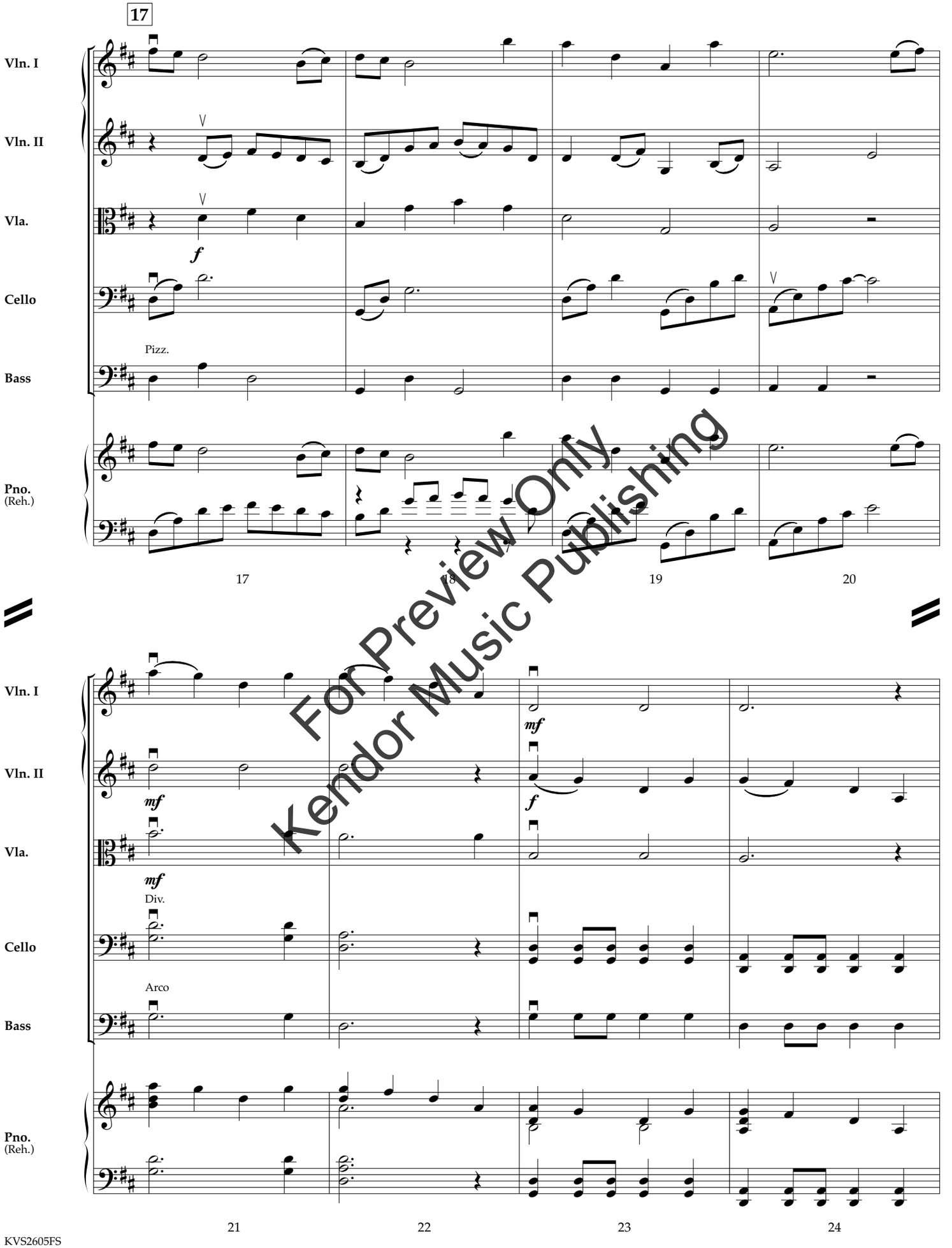

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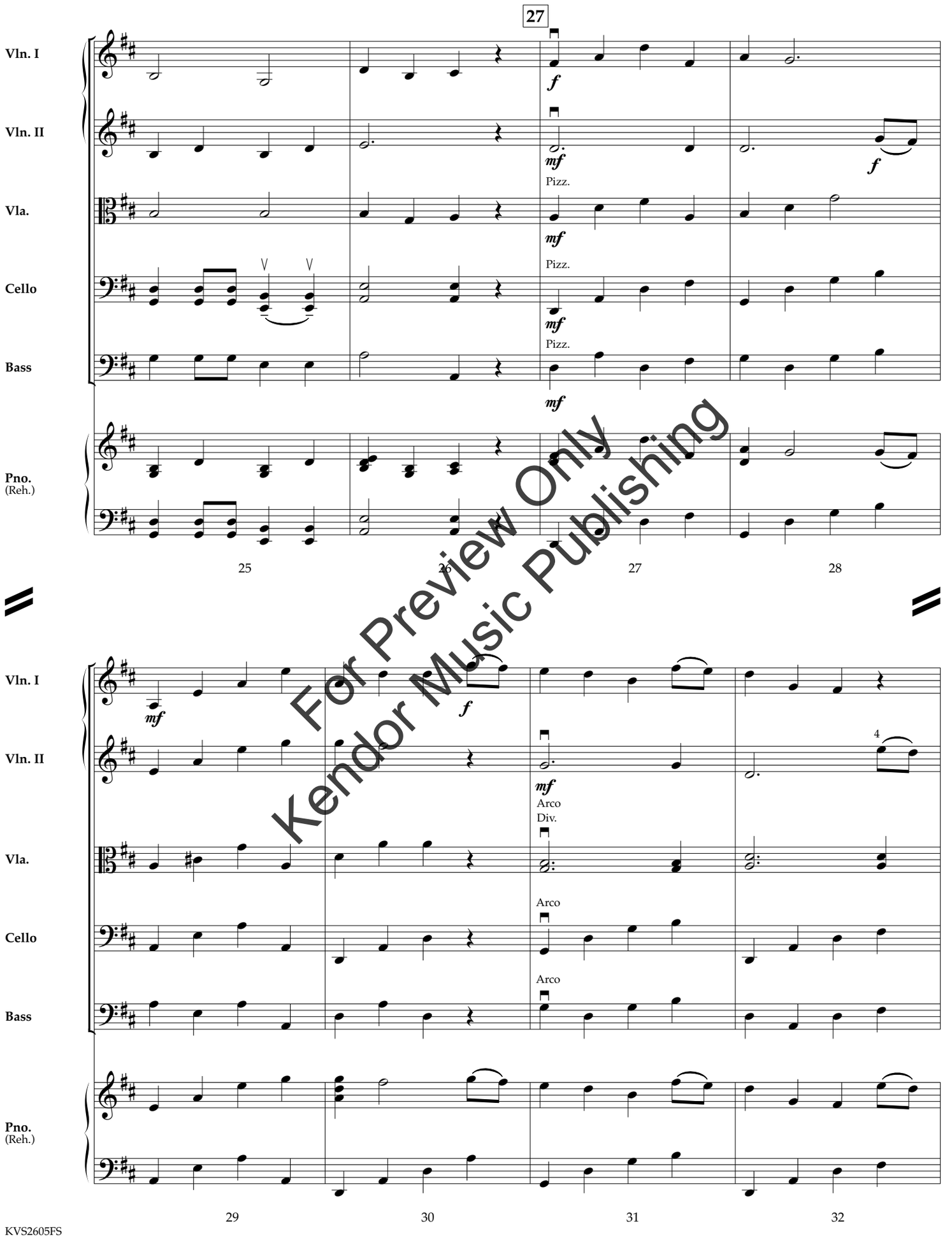

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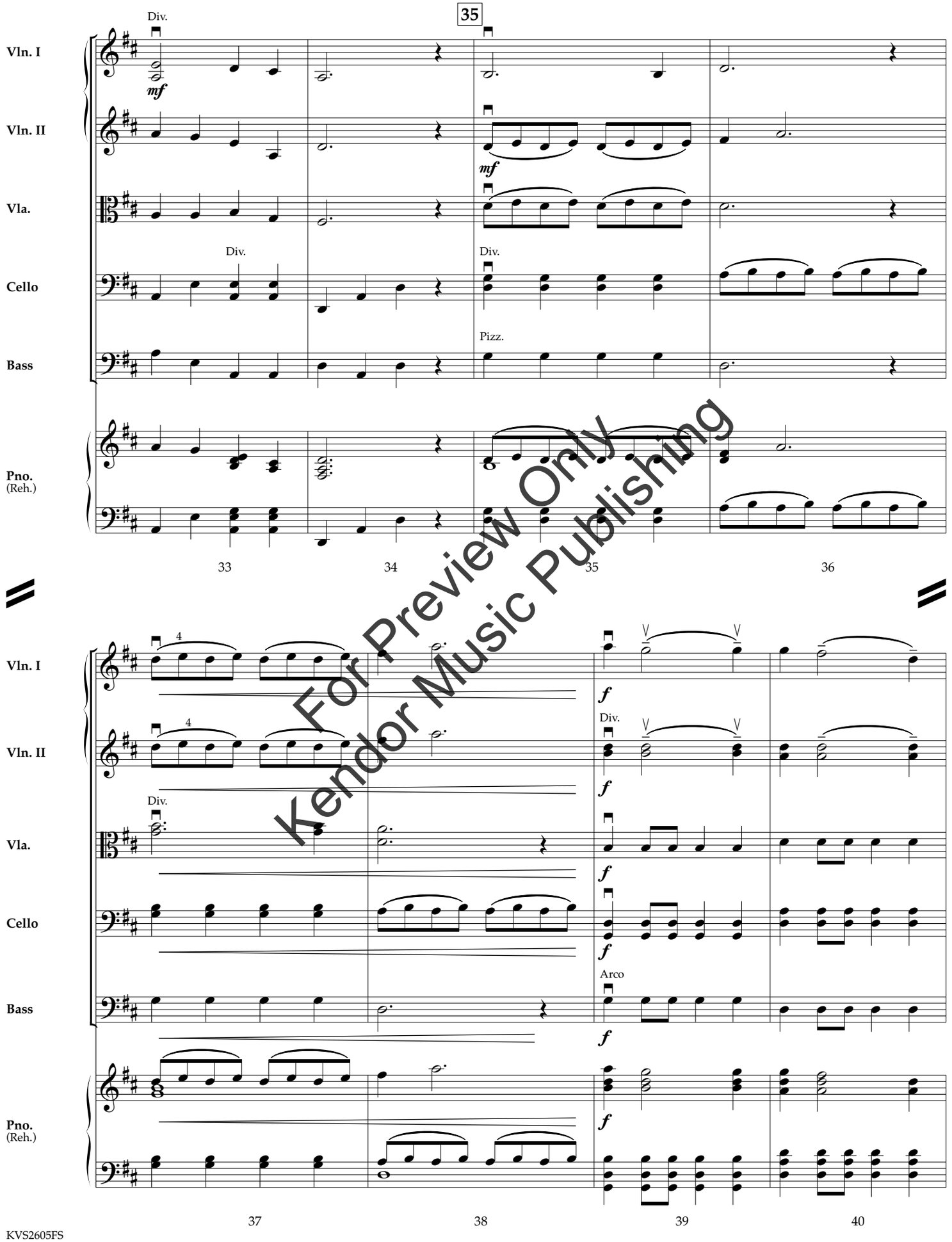

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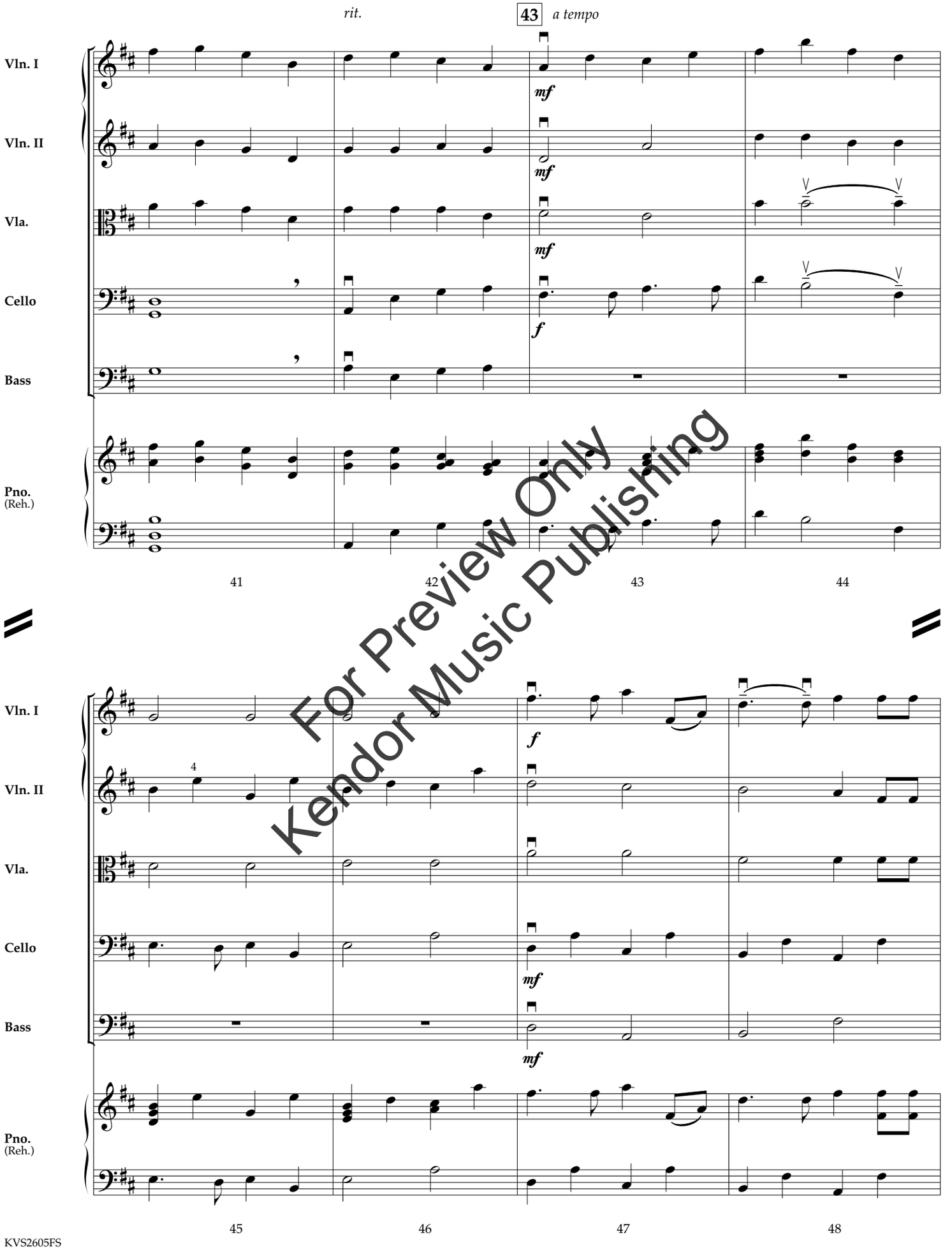

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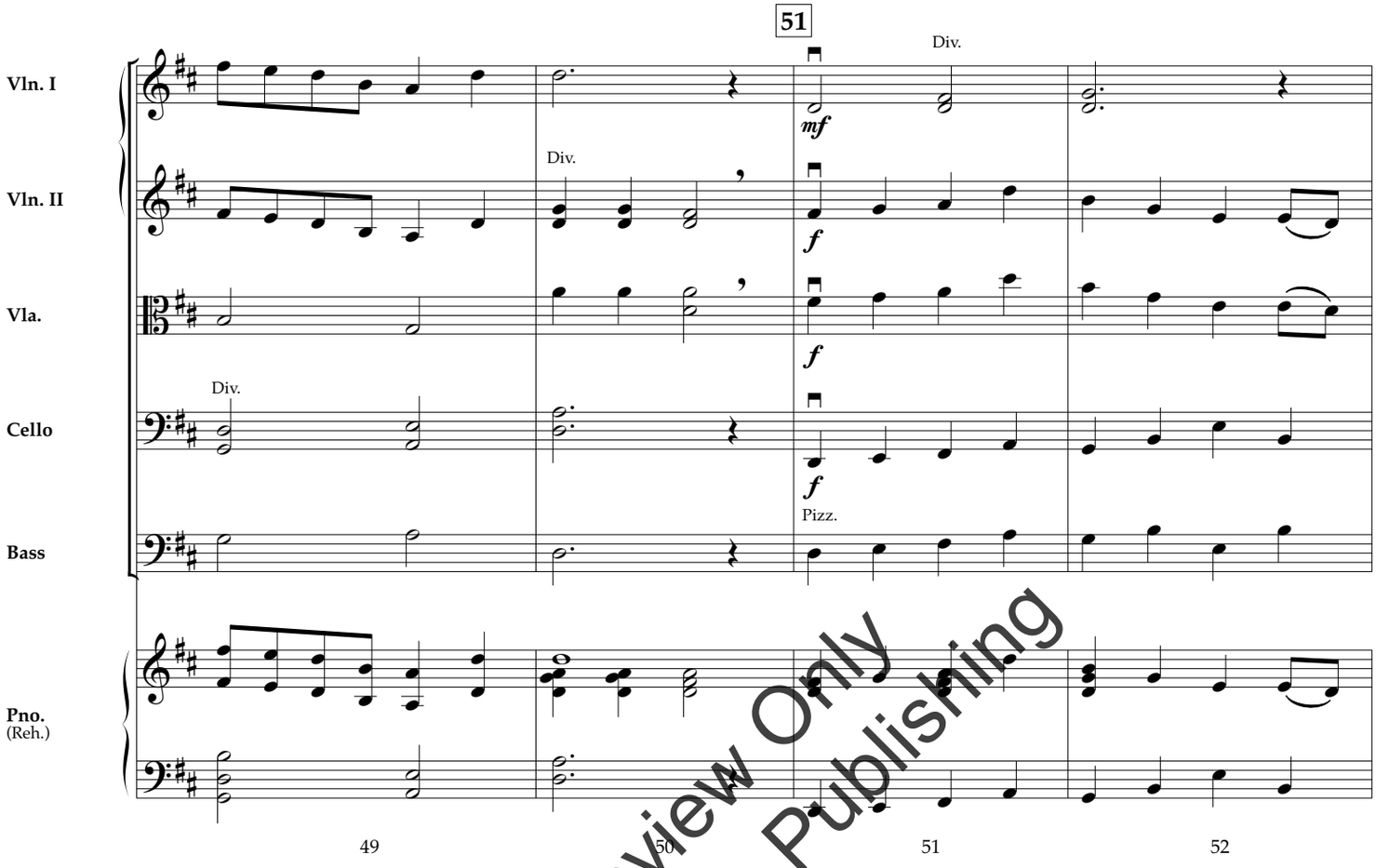

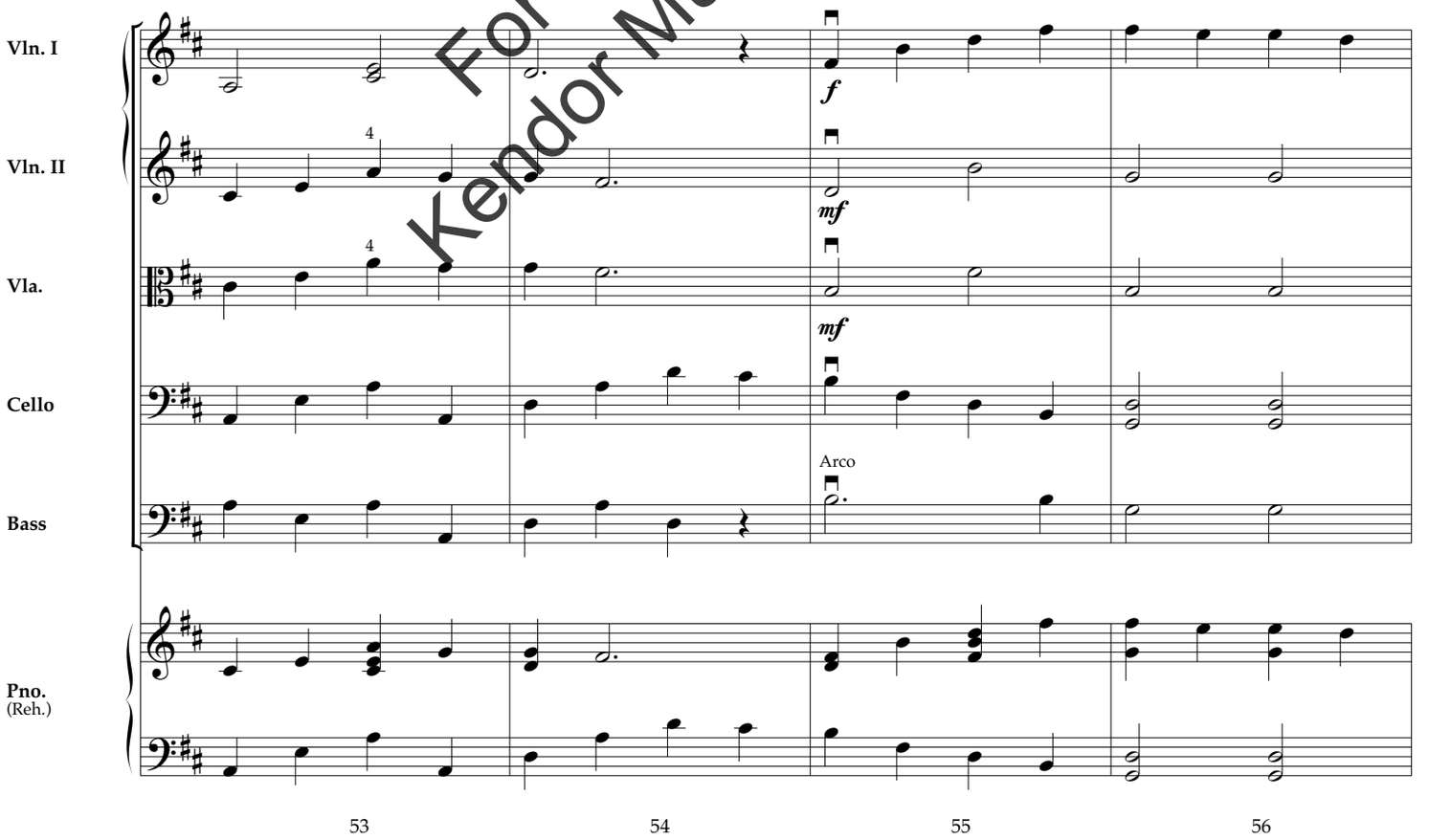

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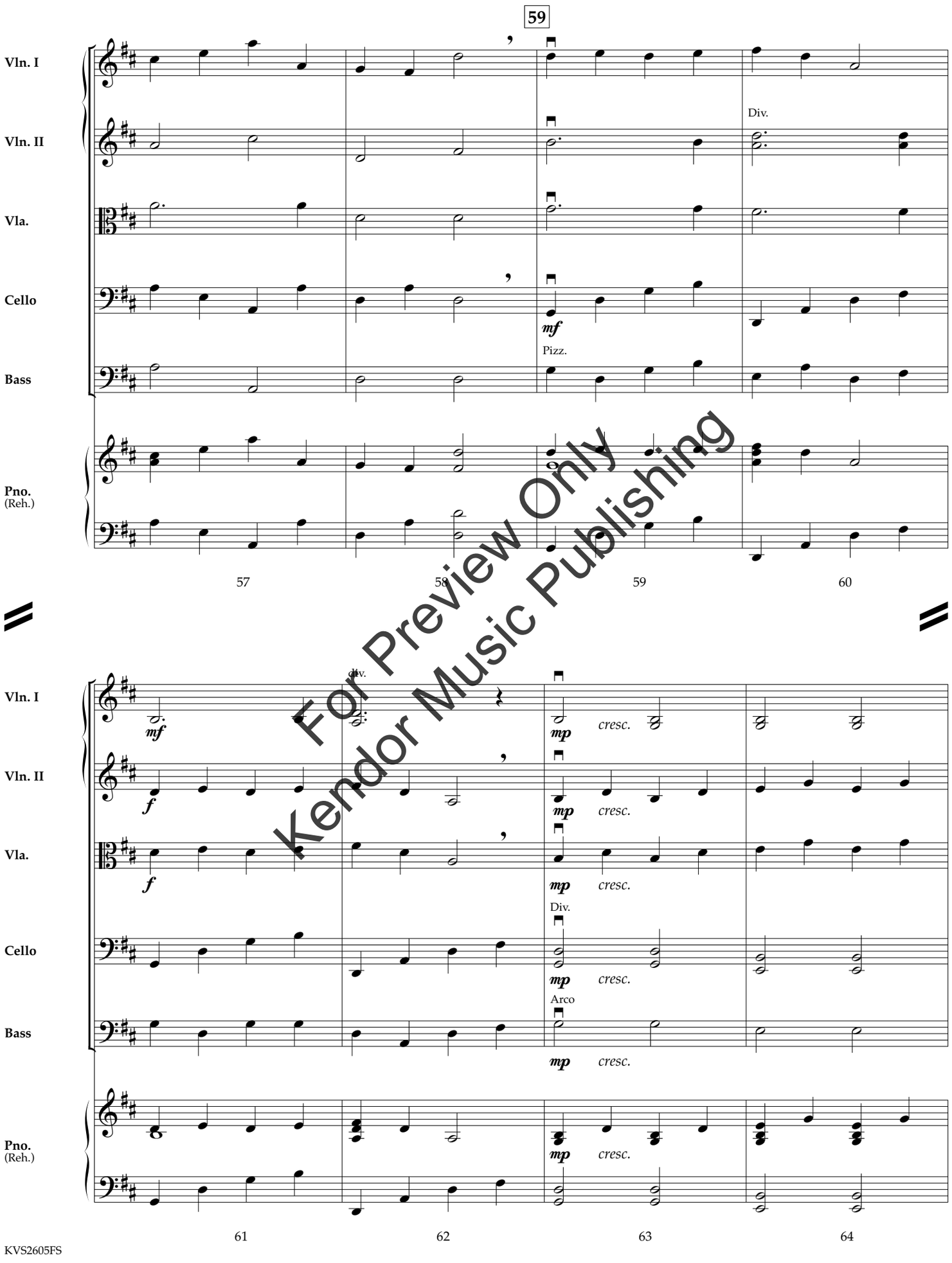

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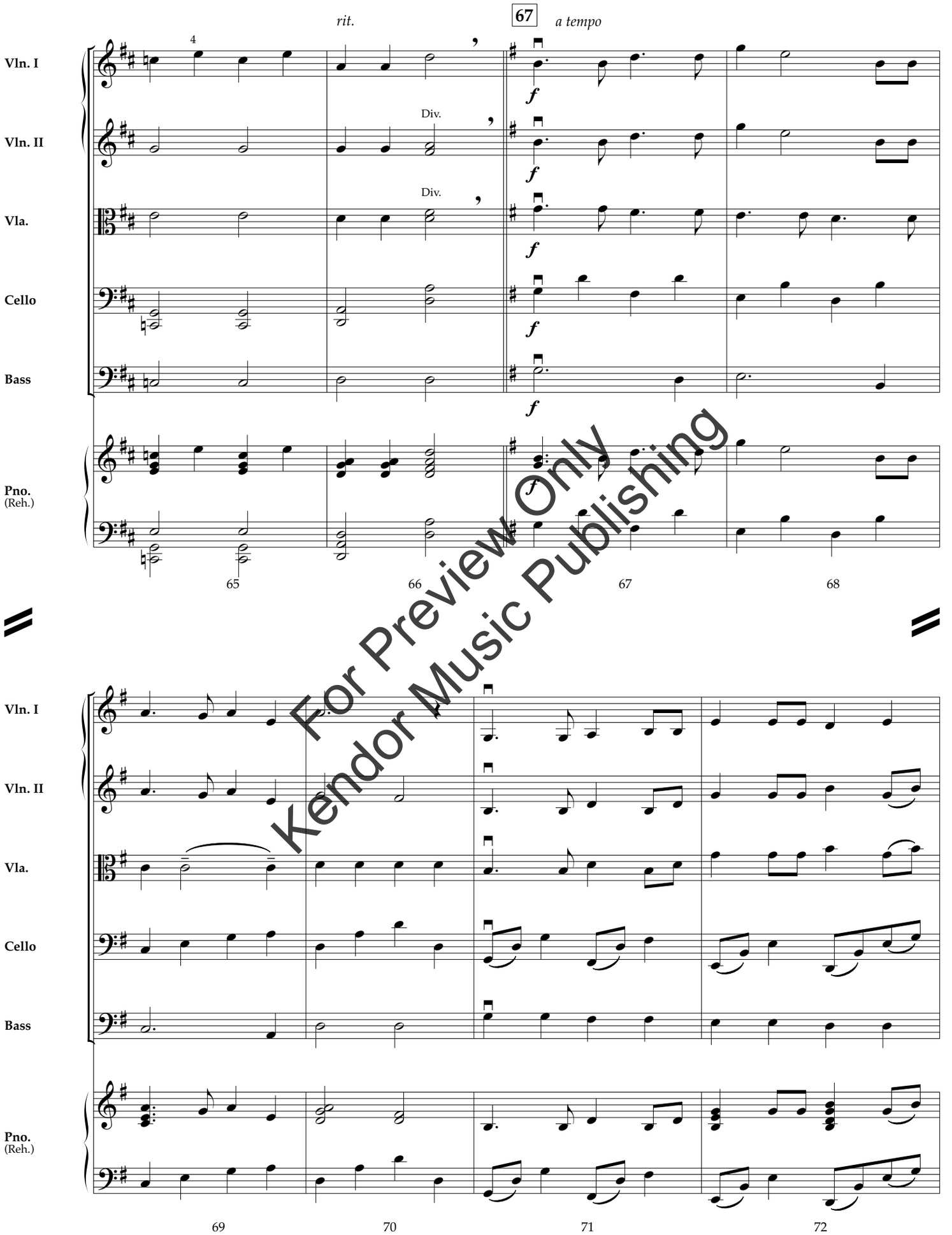

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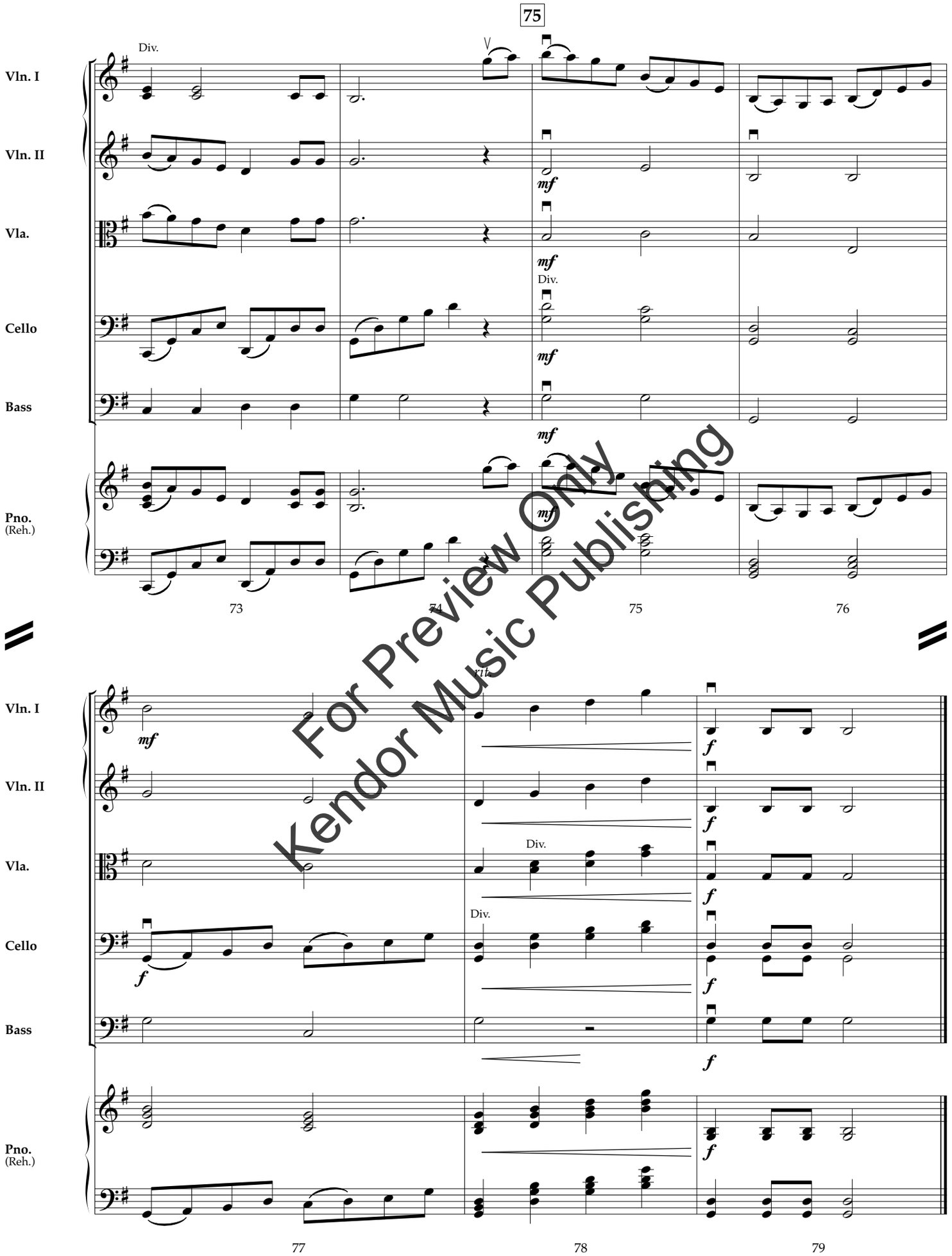

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