Grade 3½

Music for String Orchestra

Zamacueca

Chilean Dance

Joseph (José) White

Arranged by

Robert Debbaut

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INSTRUMENTATION

Violin I 8
Violin II 8
Viola 5
Cello 5
Bass 5

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Arranger's Notes

Afro-Cuban violinist Joseph White (1835-1918) composed thirty-two published works, almost all of them for the violin. These included a violin concerto, a string quartet, a collection of virtuoso studies for violin, Op. 13, and several works influenced by the music of his native Cuba, including the habañera *La Bella Cubana* and *Marcha cubana*. His Zamacueca, Op. 30 (1897) was originally a virtuoso arrangement for violin and piano. This dance form had roots in the music of indigenous people of the Andes mountains of Chile and Peru. Chilean sailors took the dance to Mexico where it became called *La Chilena*. It is likely White came to know this style during his days in South America. "Zamacueca De Los Pobres" (Zamacueca of the poor) were triple-metered flirtatious, courtship dances typically accompanied by rapid, rhythmic guitar music that had been danced by the peasant classes since the Spanish colonial days. Some have suggested the origins of zamacueca in the gitano and Andalusian rhythms of southern Spain, which themselves influenced both the flamenco and the fandango.

About the Arranger

Robert Debbaut has led orchestras and opera companies in the United States as well as in Central and North America, Asia and Europe.

Included among the many ensembles Robert Debbaut has conducted are the Chicago Chamber Orchestra, Chicago Philharmonic, Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra, Dearborn Symphony, Filharmonia Sudecka (Poland), Guatemala City Municipal Youth Orchestra, Hartford Symphony, International Symphony Orchestra (Canada), Kansas City Civic Orchestra, Kharkiv Philharmonic (Ukraine), Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, North Bohemian Philharmonic, Russia's Great Novgorod Philharmonie, Saint Petersburg Classical Orchestra, and Yaroslavl Symphony, Shanghai Conservatory Orchestra, and the National Symphony of Guatemala where he has been a frequent guest conductor during the past two decades including the honor of conducting their 75th anniversary concert in July, 2019.

Throughout his career Robert Debbaut has been an arranger and composer. His only composition teacher was the legendary wind composer Claude T. Smith. Dr. Debbaut's many works include *Flight* and *Running*, both for large orchestra, *Suicide Requiem* for SATB chorus and orchestra, and *A Trilogy of Joy* for SSAA chorus and piano (a setting of the words of Pulitzer-Prize Winning poet Sara Teasdale). He has arranged the works of Afro-Caribbean violinist/composer Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, Afro-Cuban violinist/composer Joseph White, Viktor Kosenko, a pioneer for music education in the USSR, and the music of his beloved Mozart.
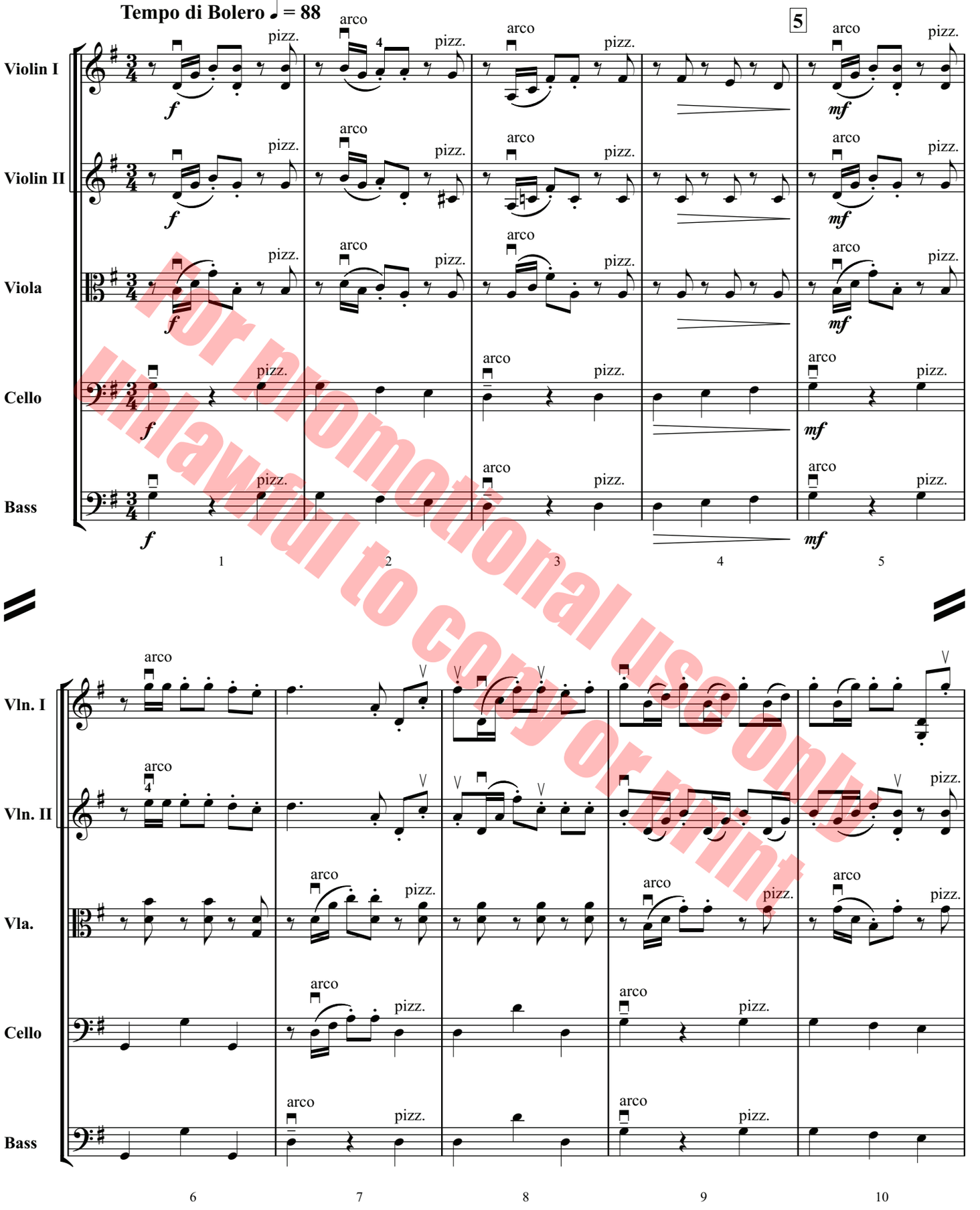
Robert Debbaut holds the degree Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting from the University of Michigan where he was the first American conductor to be Fellow in Conducting. He also studied at the David Oistrakh Festival in Estonia, the International Conducting Workshop in Prague, the Oregon Bach Festival and the Tanglewood Music Center where he was the first recipient of the Maurice Abravanel Award and in the last conducting class of Leonard Bernstein. His teachers and mentors include Maurice Abravanel, Neeme Järvi, Helmuth Rilling and his principal teacher Gustav Meier.

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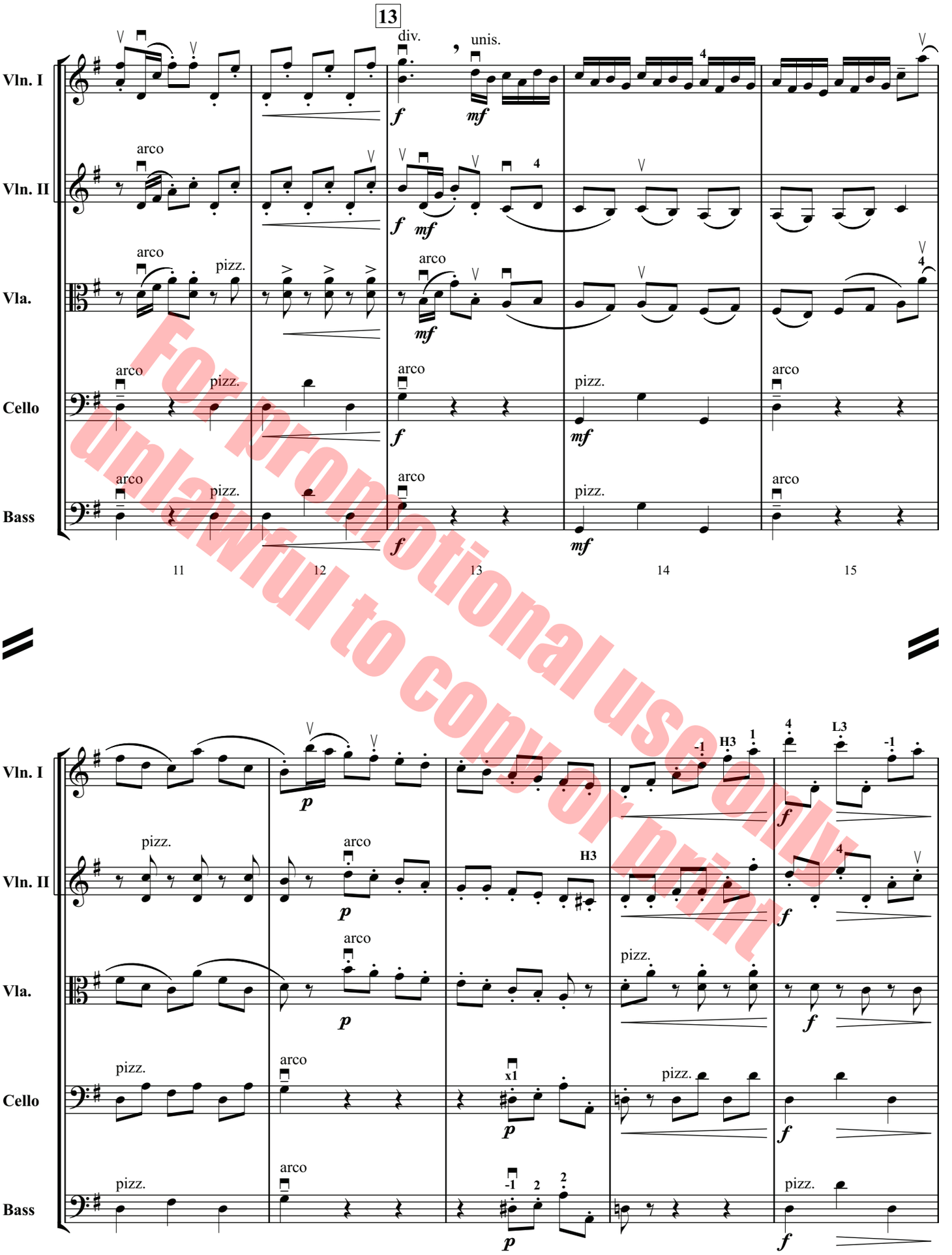
Chilean Dance

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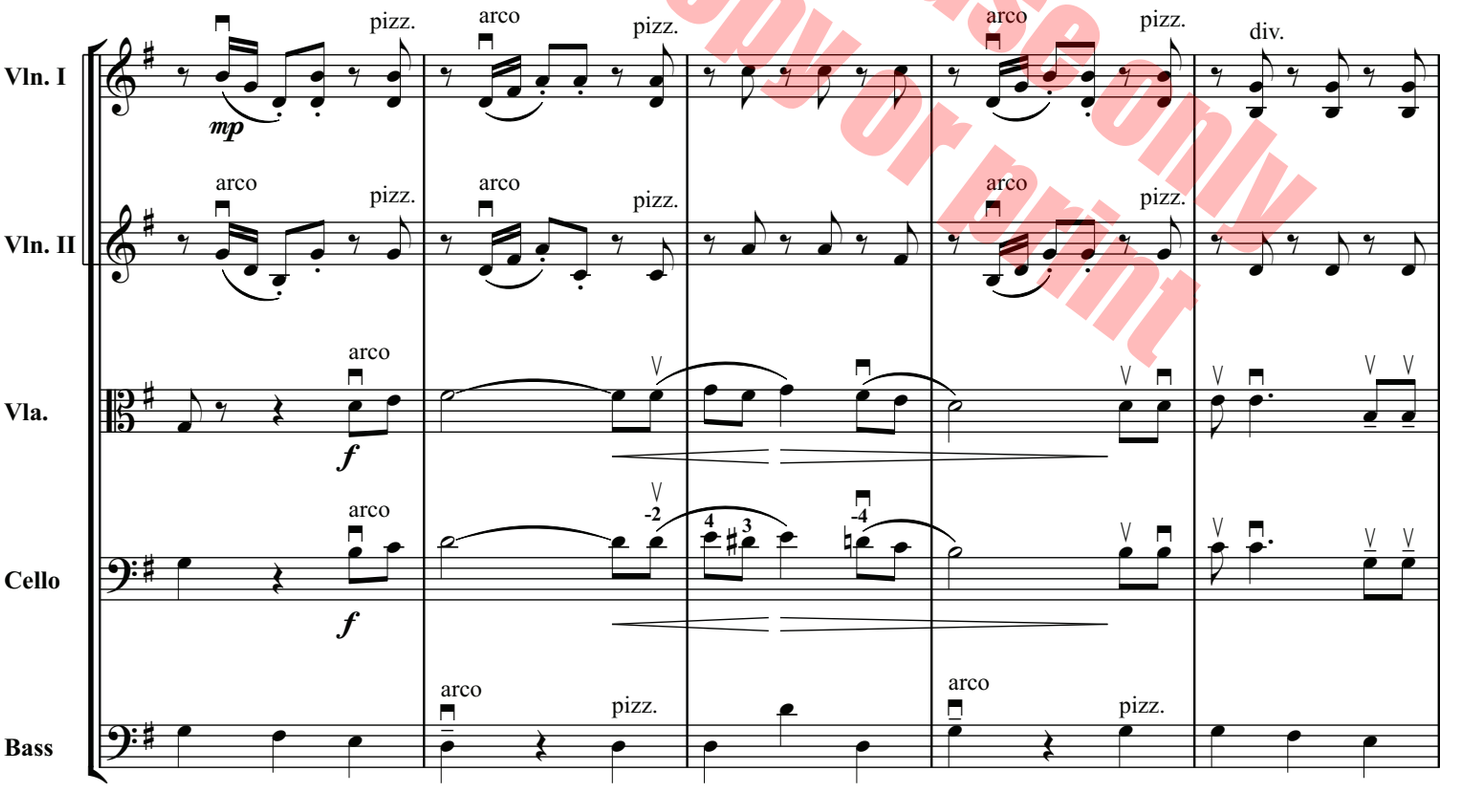


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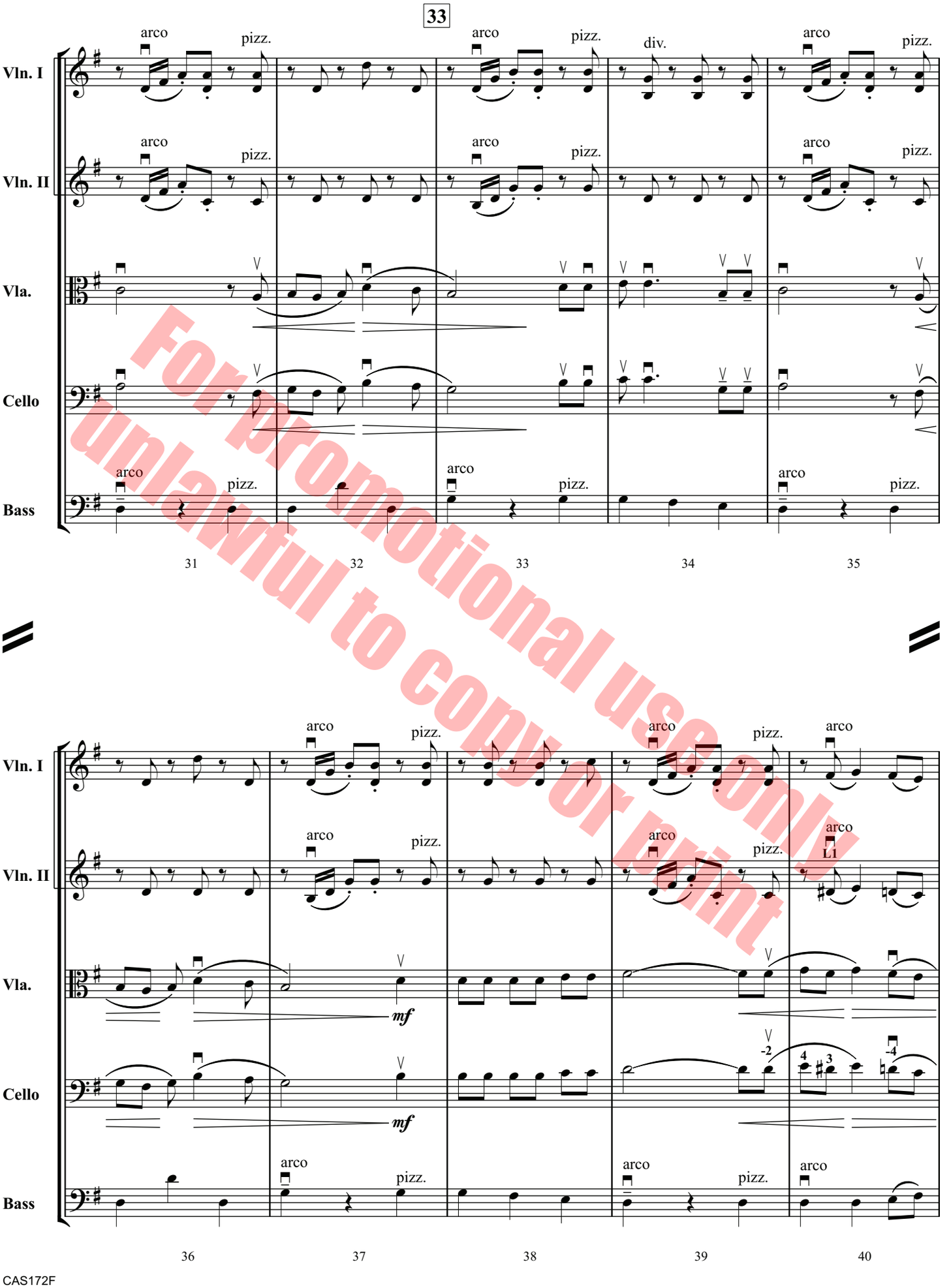


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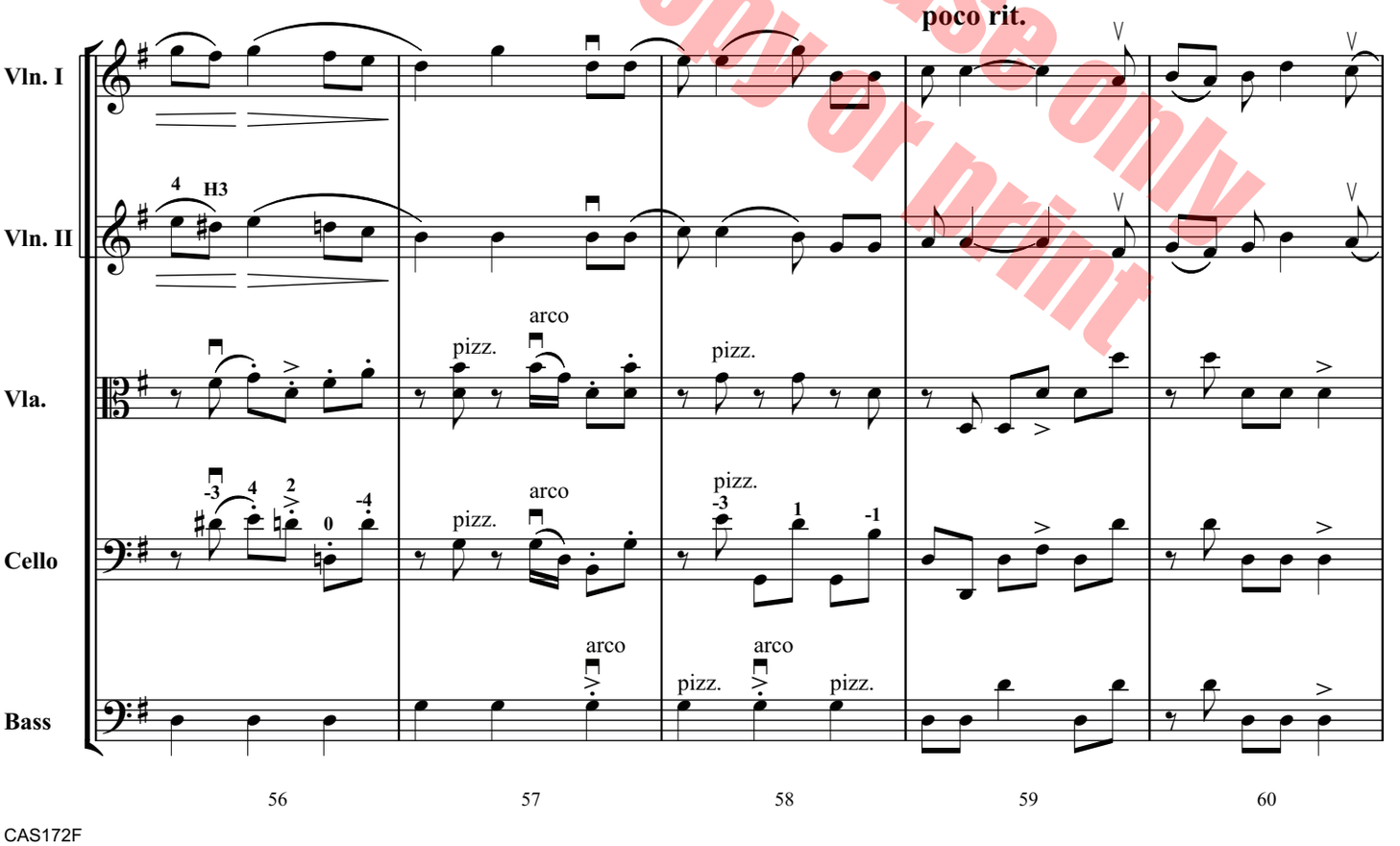




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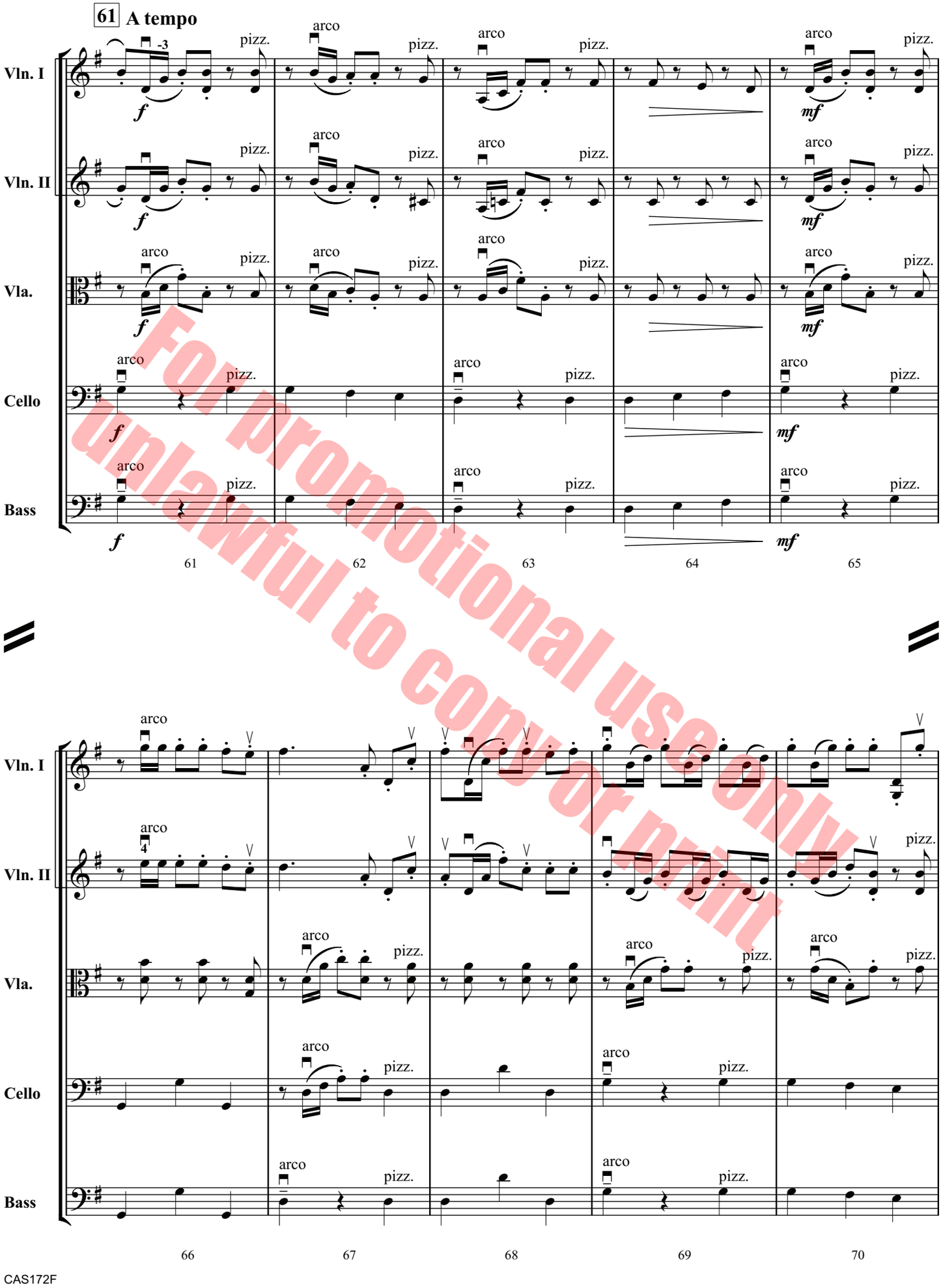


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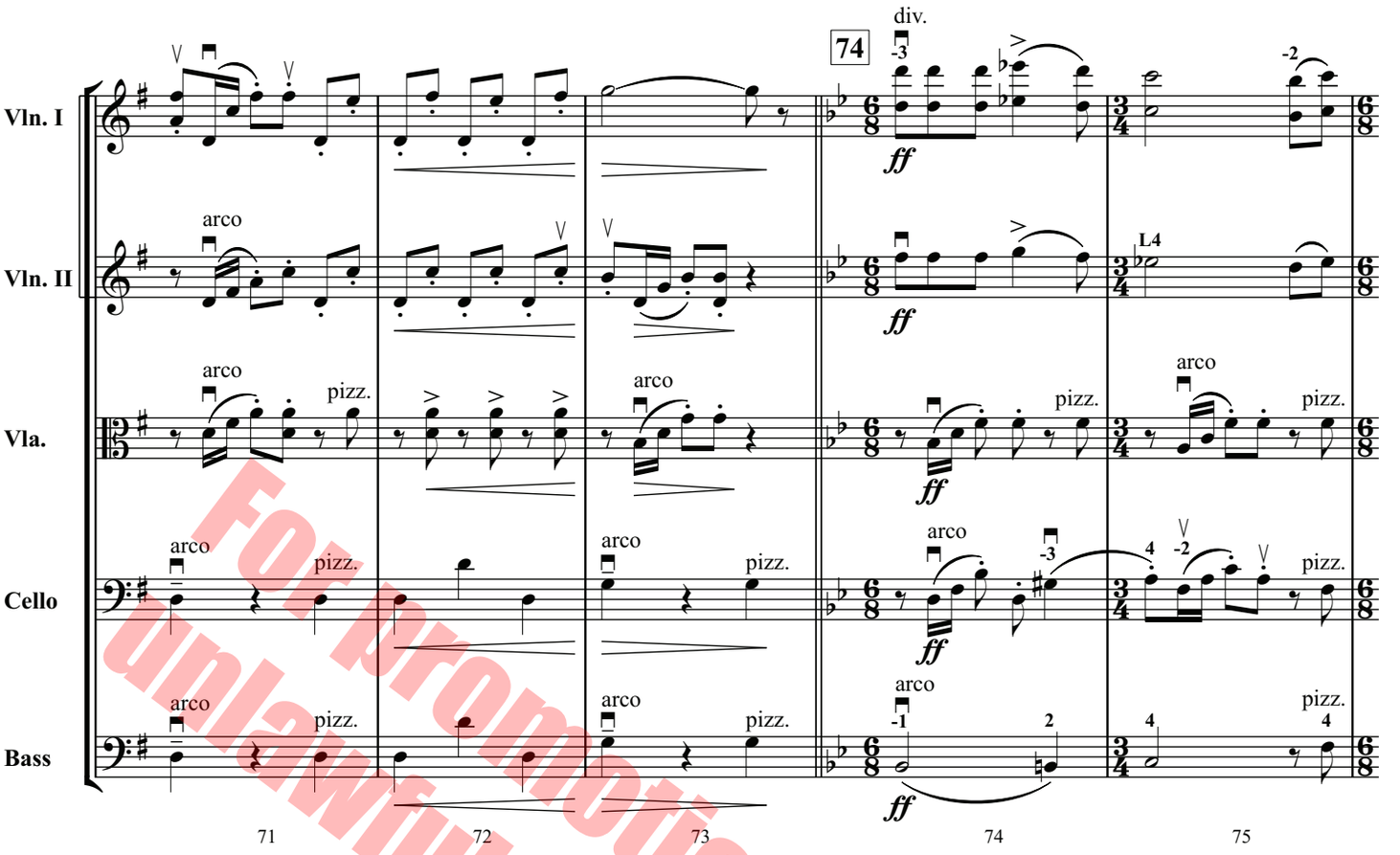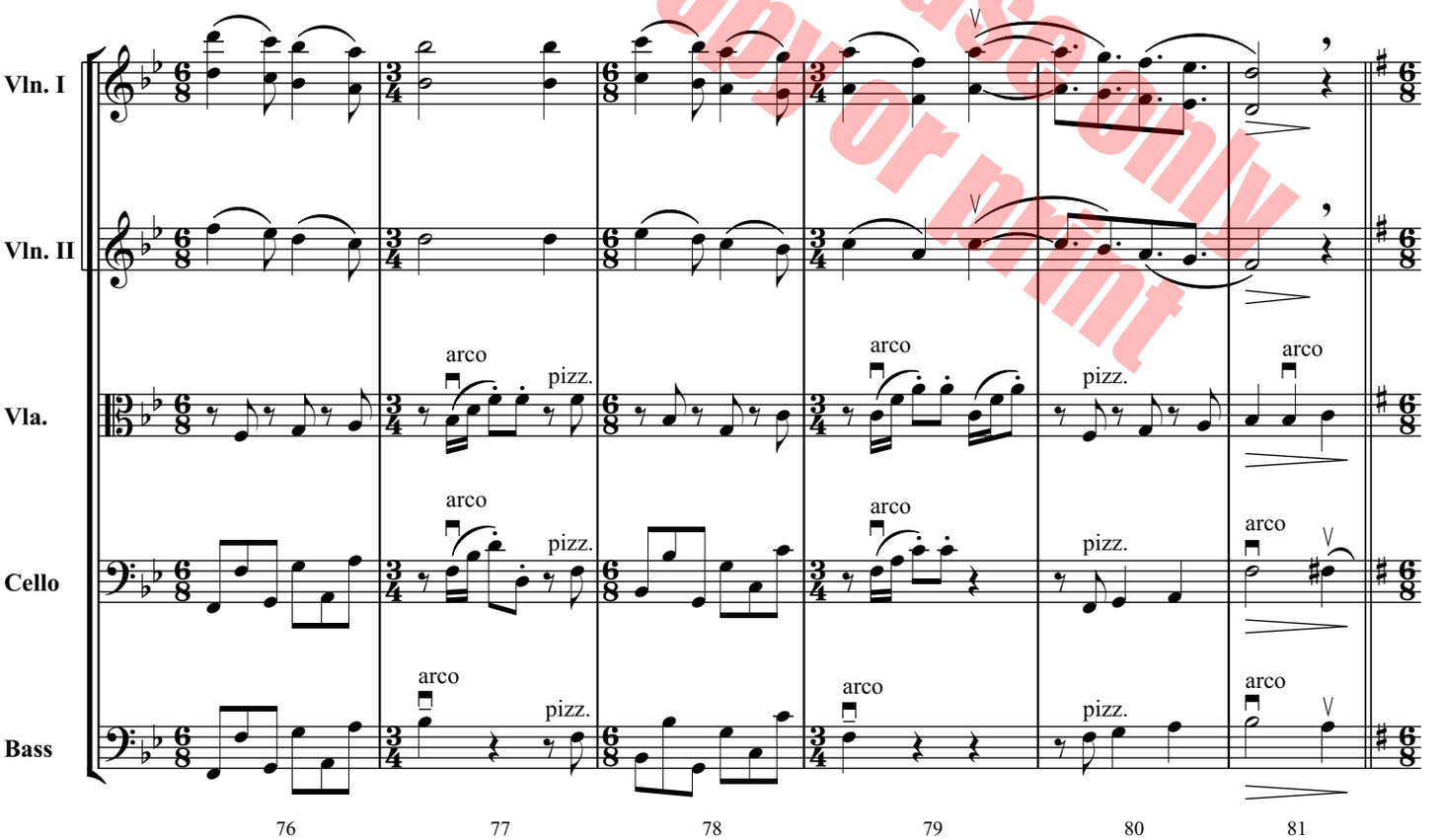




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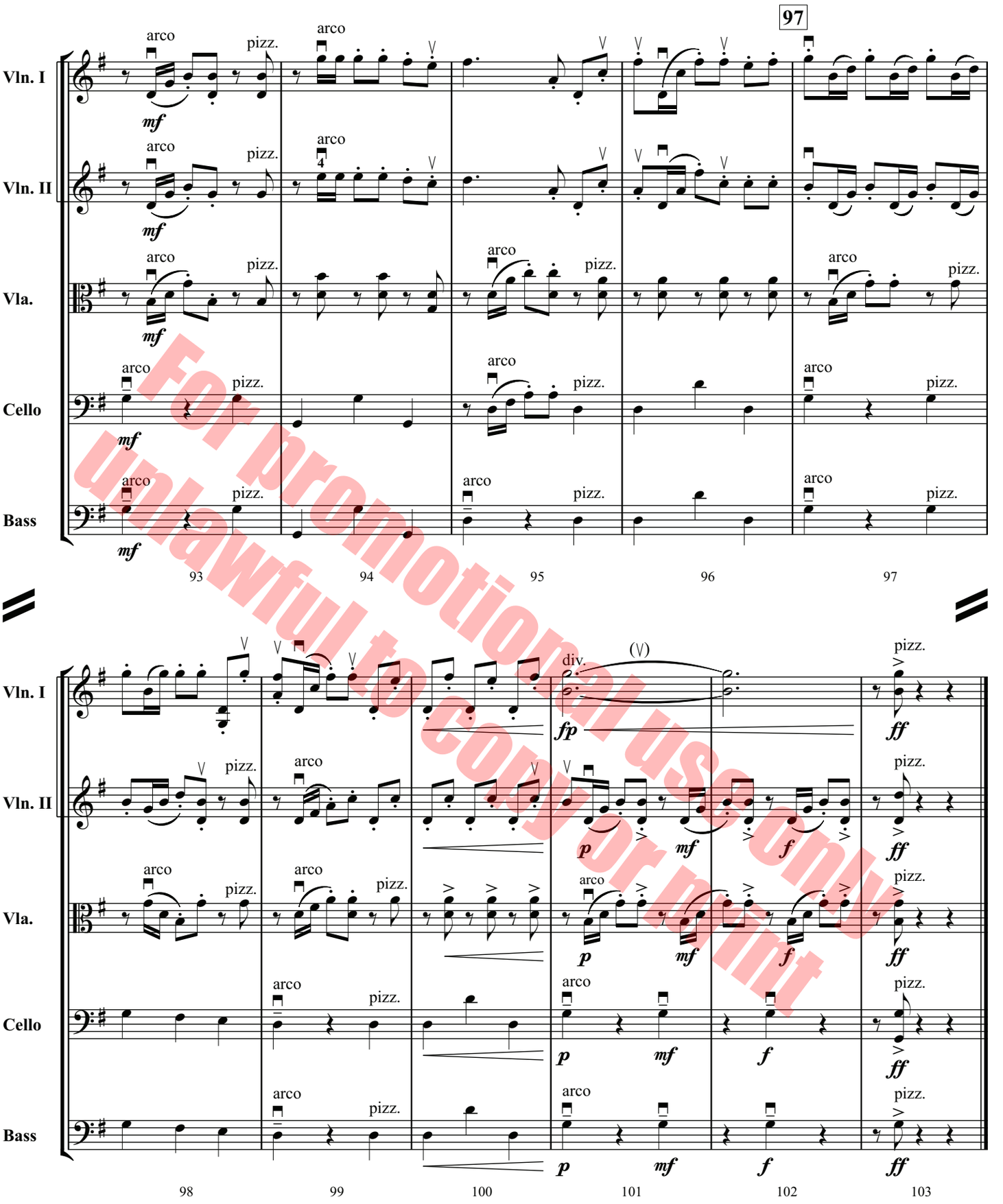




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