Grade 3

Music for String Orchestra

Elegy

from *Three Short Pieces*

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

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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Notes

The story of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor is of a rising star composer, one with a significant gift for melody and a simple lyricism, who embraced the previously unexplored song and dance forms from his father's native West Africa and incorporated them into his own very European art music. Coleridge-Taylor began playing the violin at age five and by age fifteen was admitted to London's Royal College of Music, where he studied both violin and composition and composed his first works.

First appearing in Novello's Album for the Organ, No. 3, this plaintive *Elegy* dates from 1898, the same year as Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's Opus 33 *Ballade for Orchestra* and his Opus 30 cantata *Song of Hiawatha*. The expressive dignity of the somber melody in G minor is both heartfelt and melancholy.

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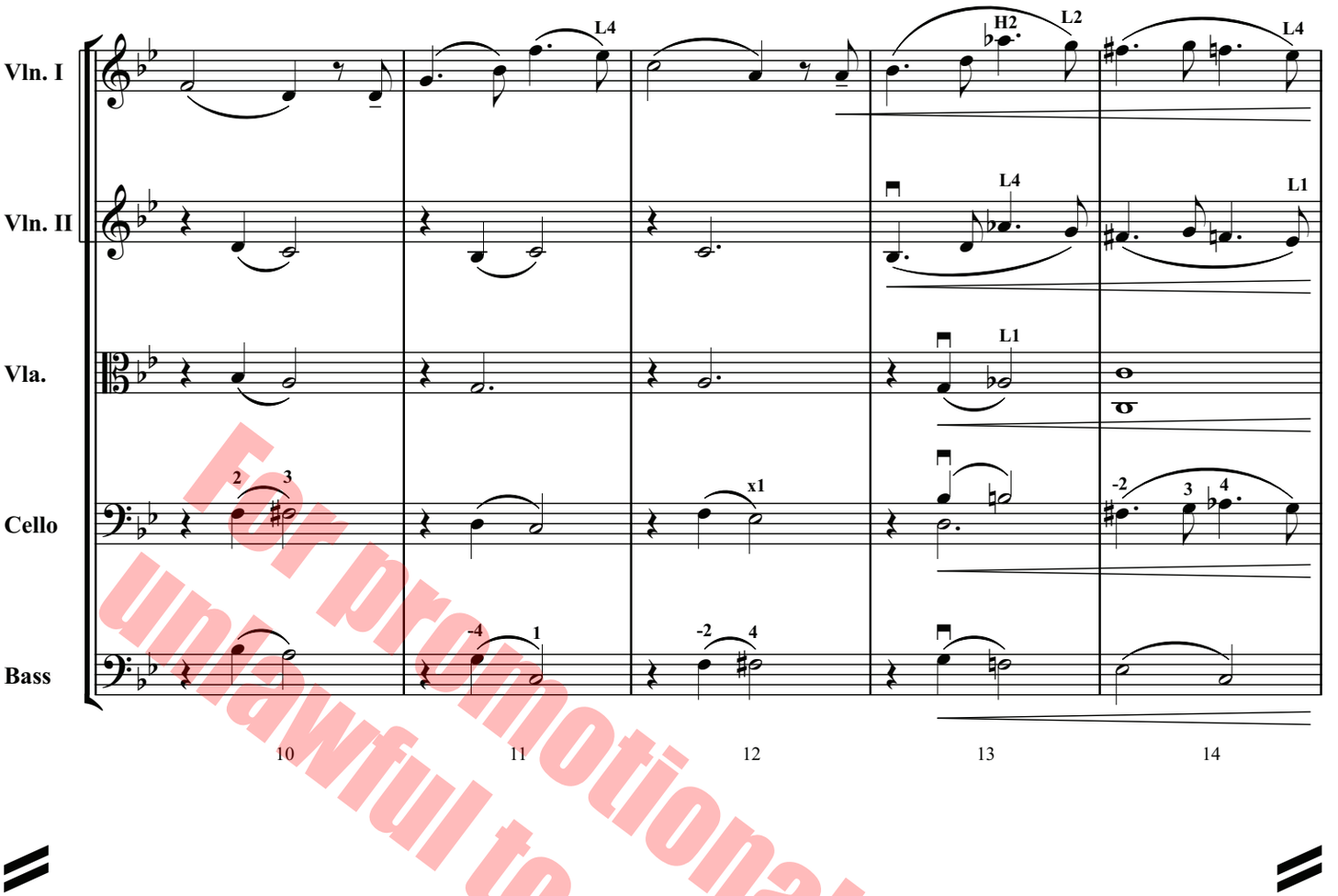
About the Arranger
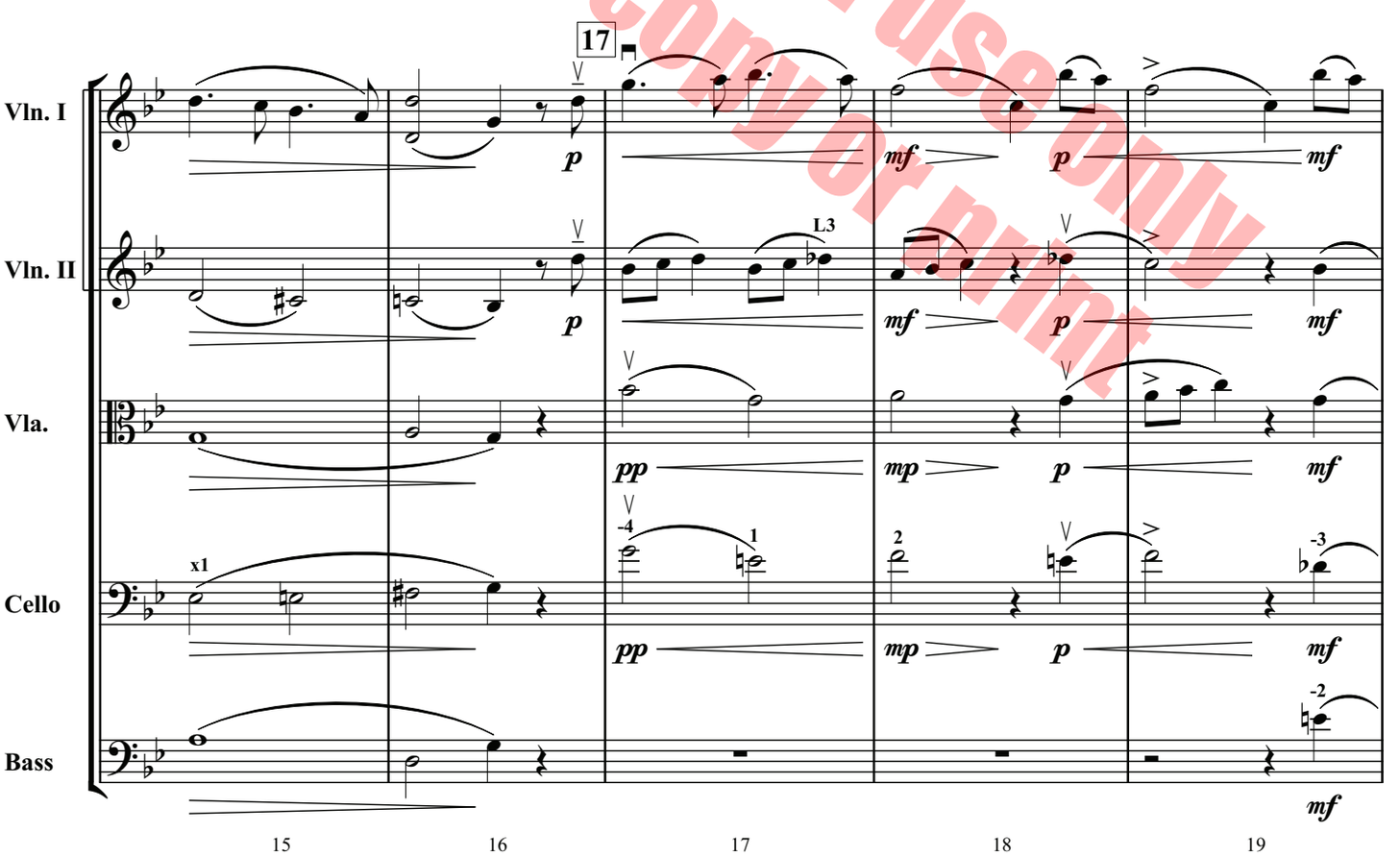
Robert Debbaut has led orchestras and opera companies in the United States as well as in Central and North America, Asia and Europe.

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.
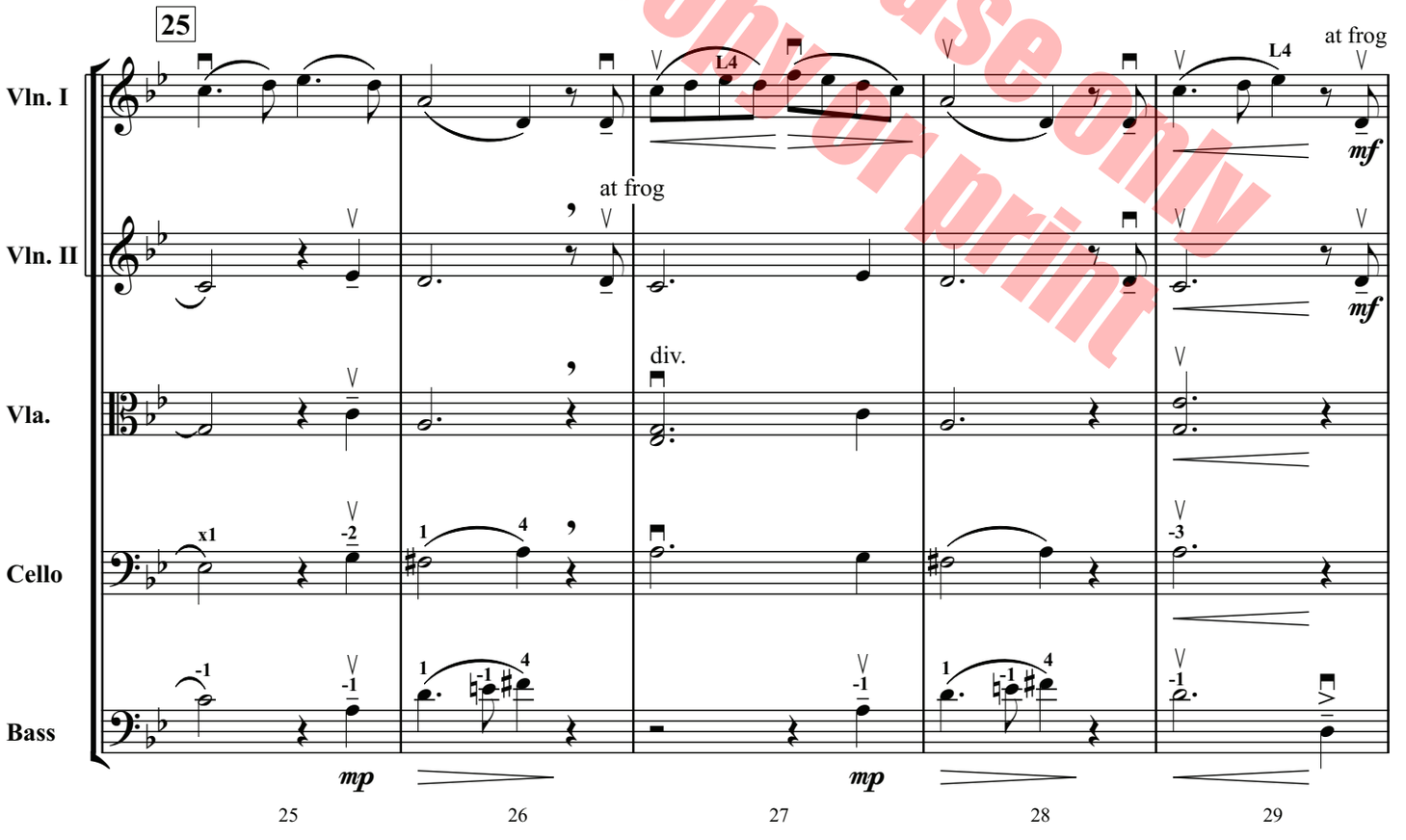
Robert Debbaut holds the degree Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting from the University of Michigan where he was the first American conductor to be Fellow in Conducting. He also studied at the David Oistrakh Festival in Estonia, the International Conducting Workshop in Prague, the Oregon Bach Festival 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.
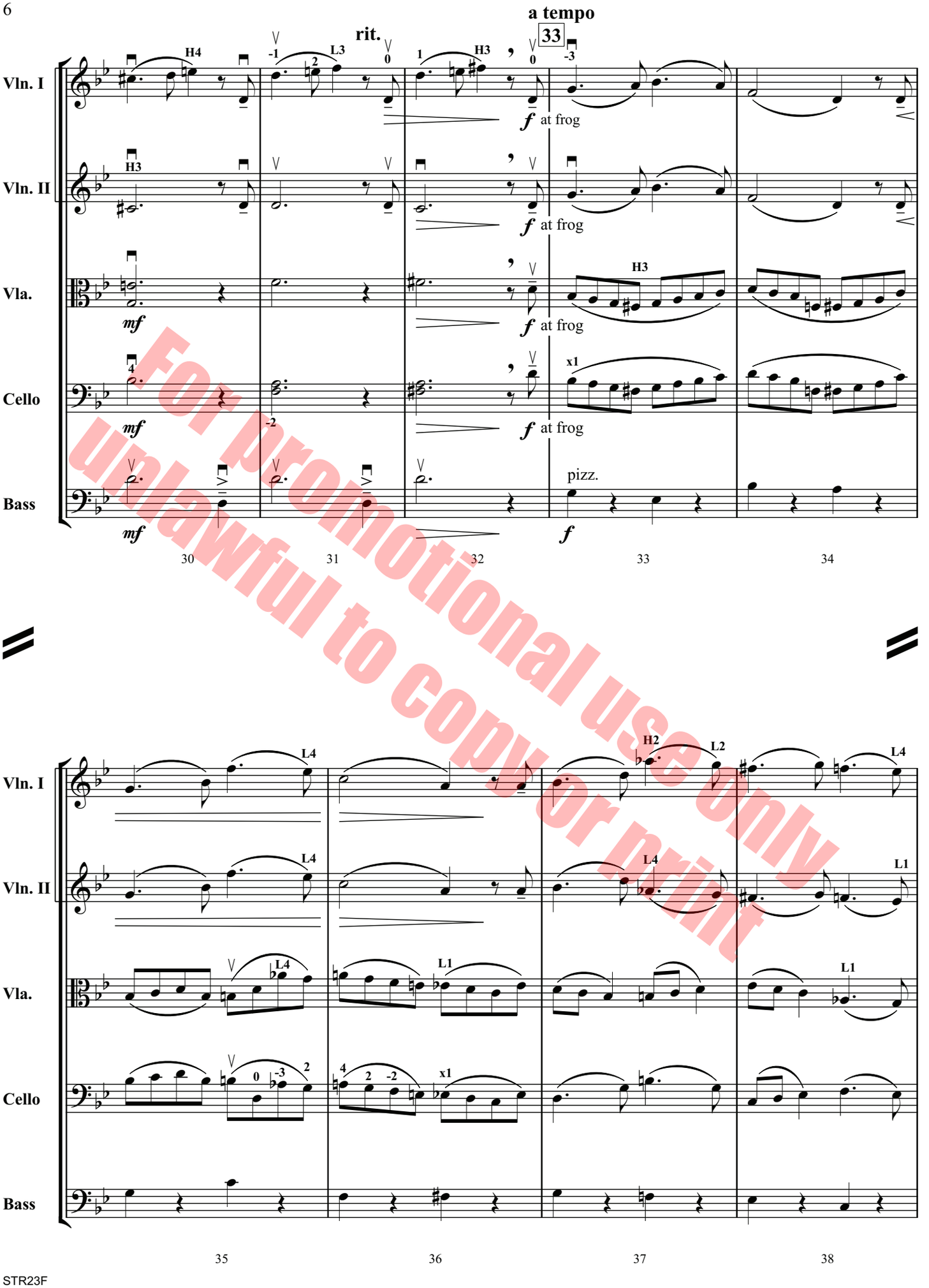




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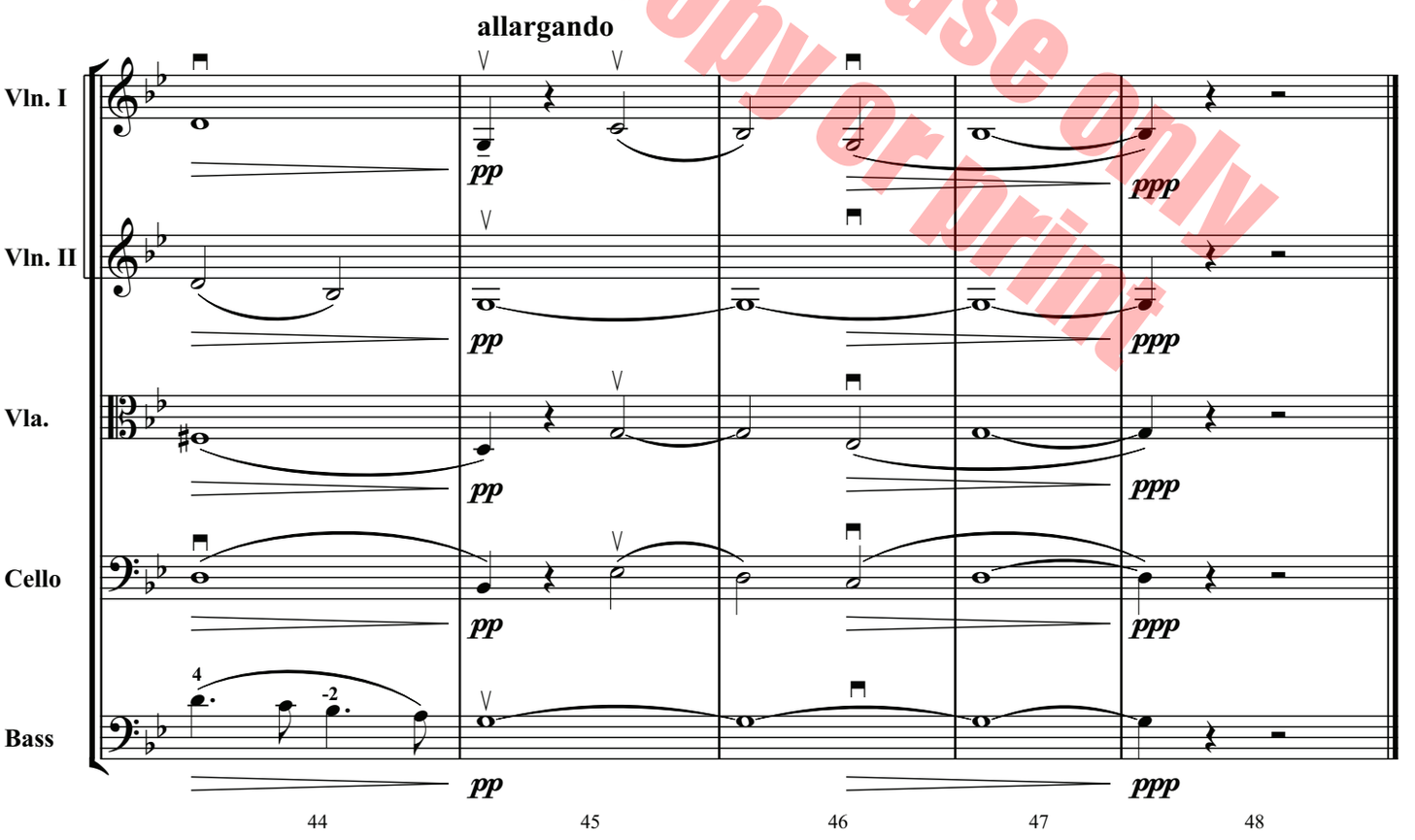




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Music for String Orchestra

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