Grade 3

Music for String Orchestra

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba

from *Solomon*

George Frideric Handel

Arranged by

Ken Selden

INSTRUMENTATION

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

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Notes

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759) was among the most celebrated German composers of the Baroque Era. Following great success in Germany and Italy, he moved to London in 1712, where he created some of his most iconic works, including *Messiah* and *Music for the Royal Fireworks*. In 1748, Handel composed his oratorio, *Solomon*, based on biblical stories of the wise King Solomon. The brilliant instrumental sinfonia, *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*, serves as the prelude to Act Three, and portrays the bustling energy of the court, in preparation for the Queen's entrance. Originally scored for strings and a pair of oboes, this string orchestra arrangement provides an opportunity for principal players to cover the oboe solos. These passages have been incorporated into all the parts, so the director can assign them in a variety of combinations.

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About the Arranger

Ken Selden is Director of Orchestral Studies at Portland State University, a position he has held since 2006. Under his direction, the PSU Orchestra has received multiple ASCAP Awards in Adventurous Programming from the League of American Orchestras. In addition to annual ballet and opera productions, the orchestra has hosted guest artists Manuel Barrueco, China Forbes, Jennifer Frautschi, Matt Haimovitz, Anna Polonsky, Awadagin Pratt, and Orli Shaham.

In recent years, Selden has appeared as guest conductor of the Eugene, Newport, Oregon, and Vancouver Symphonies, as well as the Portland Chamber Orchestra, Salem Chamber Orchestra, Third Angle, Fear No Music, and Portland Youth Philharmonic. In addition to two recordings of Mahler and Debussy for MSR Classics, Selden's new Piazzolla CD, featuring violinist Tomás Cotik and the Martingale Ensemble, has recently been released on the Naxos label.

Prior to his appointment at PSU, Selden led a series of performances as assistant conductor of the Brooklyn Philharmonic and the Eos Orchestra. While in New York, he also conducted the Juilliard Pre-College Orchestras and the New Jersey Youth Symphony, and served as music director of orchestras at Brooklyn College and Columbia University. Selden made his professional debut with the National Arts Center Orchestra of Canada at the invitation of Pinchas Zuckerman. He subsequently appeared with orchestras of Baltimore, Denver, Minnesota, and North Carolina, and at music festivals in the United States, Romania, and Switzerland. He has also conducted the Moscow Chamber Orchestra at the David Oistrakh Festival in Estonia and orchestras in Belgium, Finland, and Italy.

Selden is a graduate of New England Conservatory, Indiana University, and Peabody Conservatory. His teachers include violinists James Buswell and Yuval Yaron, chamber music coaches Joseph Gingold and Janos Starker, and conductors Gustav Meier and Markand Thakar. He participated in conducting masterclasses with Neeme Jarvi, Jorma Panula, Carl St. Clair, and Yuri Temirkanov, and attended the National Conducting Institute at the Kennedy Center, where he studied with Leonard Slatkin and conducted the National Symphony. Selden has worked with composers Pierre Boulez, John Cage, and Tan Dun, and has conducted world premieres of music by Peter Lieberson, Michael Nyman, and Stephen Paulus.

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba

from *Solomon*

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

Arranged by Ken Selden

Allegro ♩ = 96



* Viola and cello may play solos in place of the violins at the discretion of the director.

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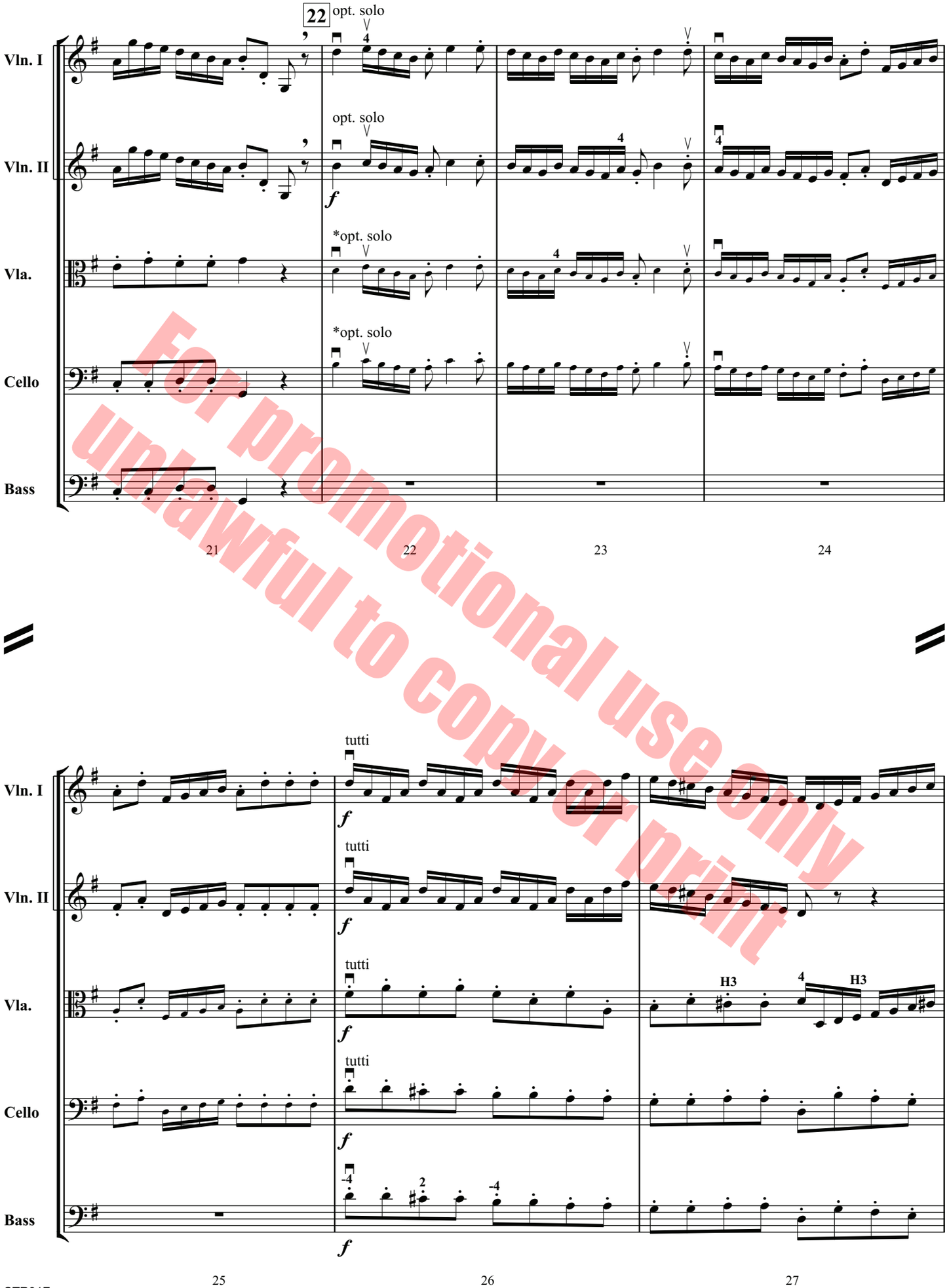




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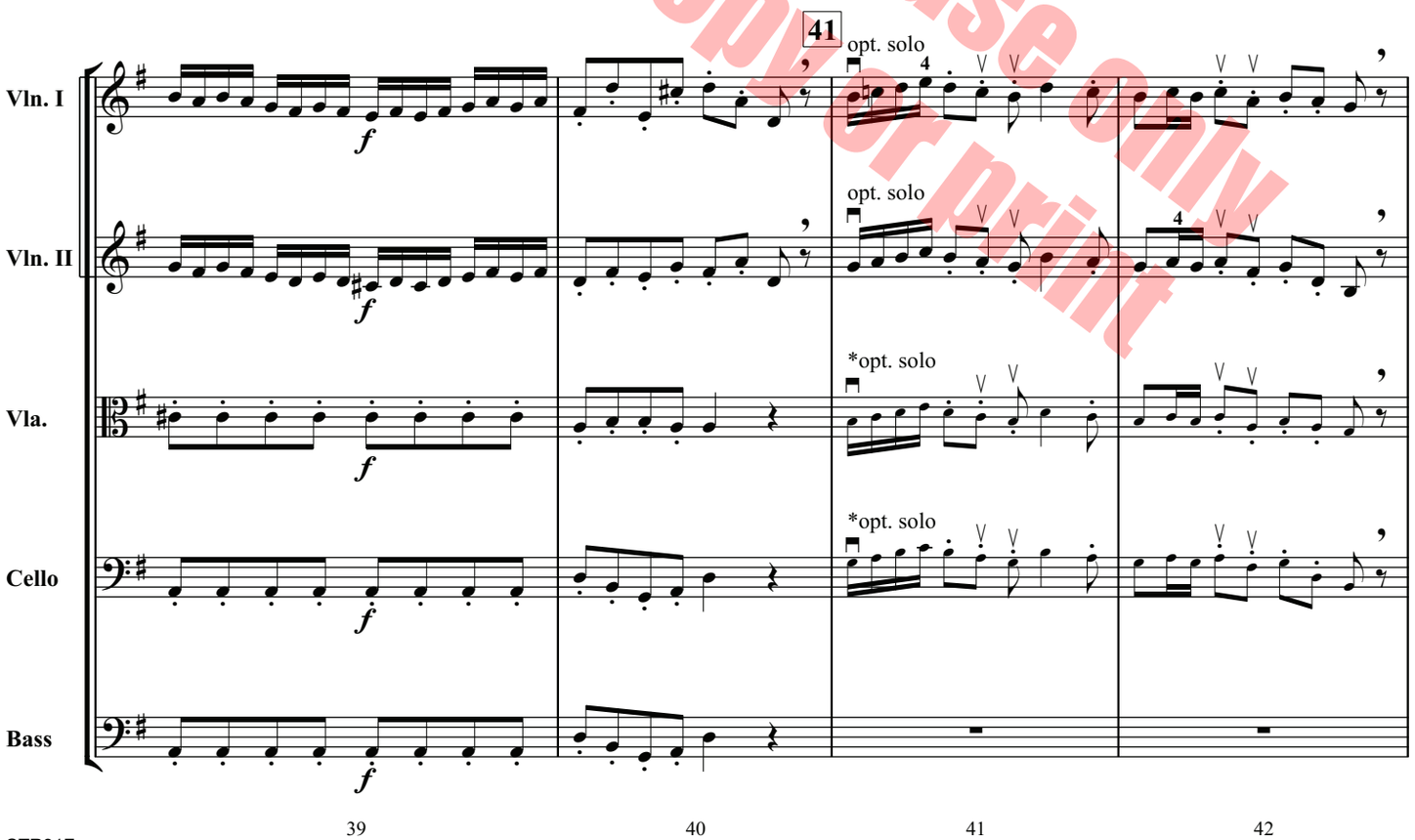




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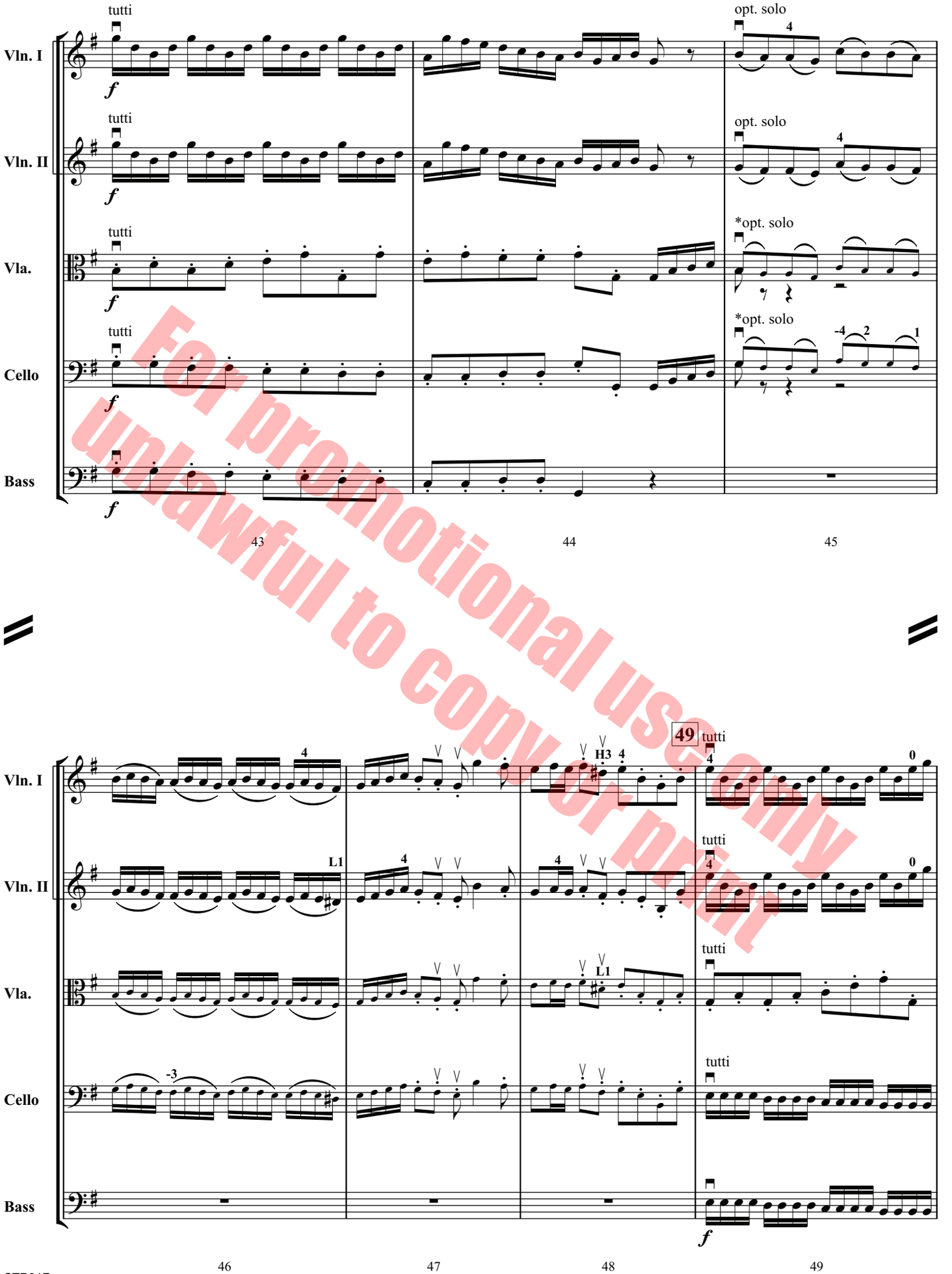


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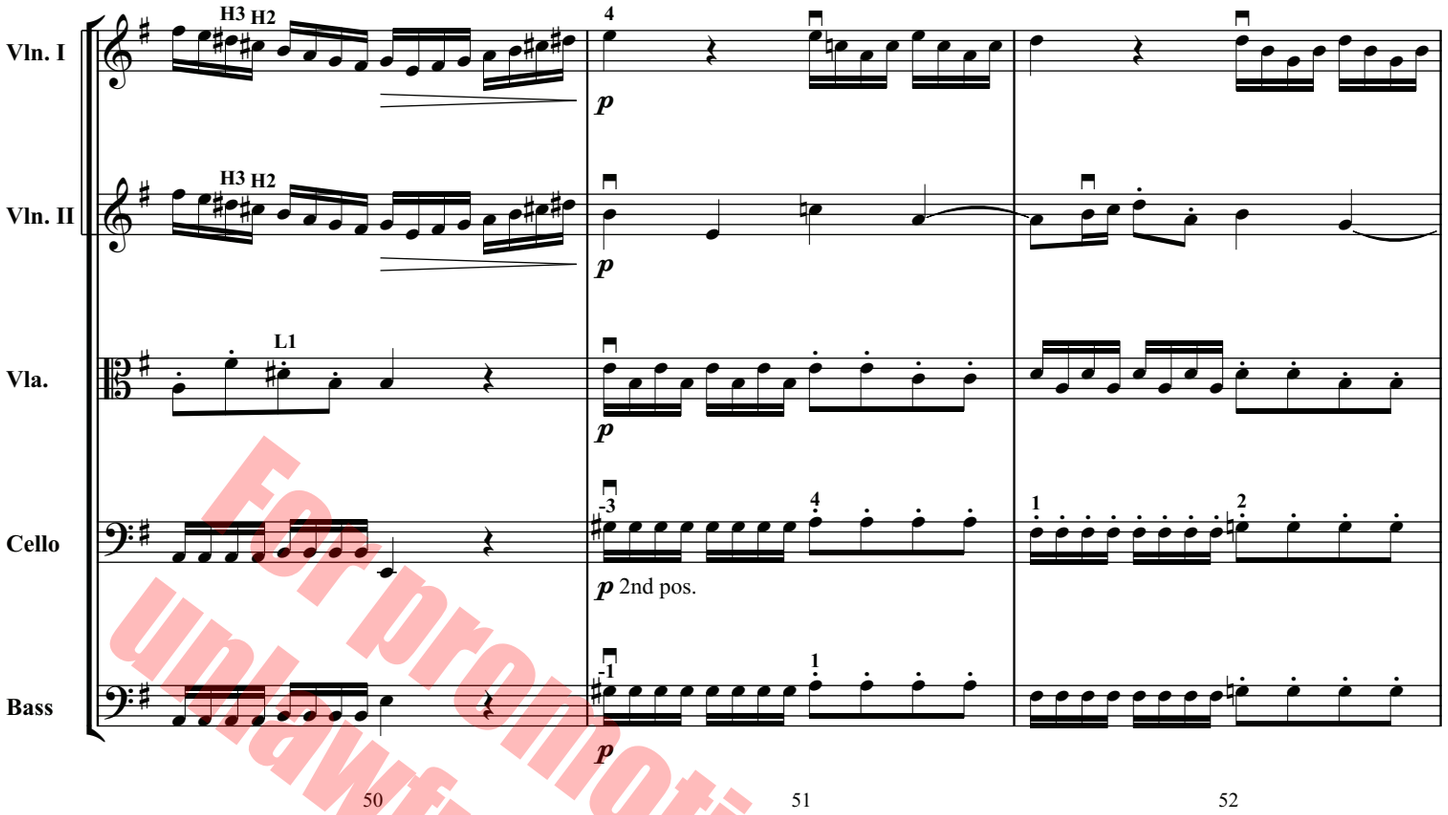




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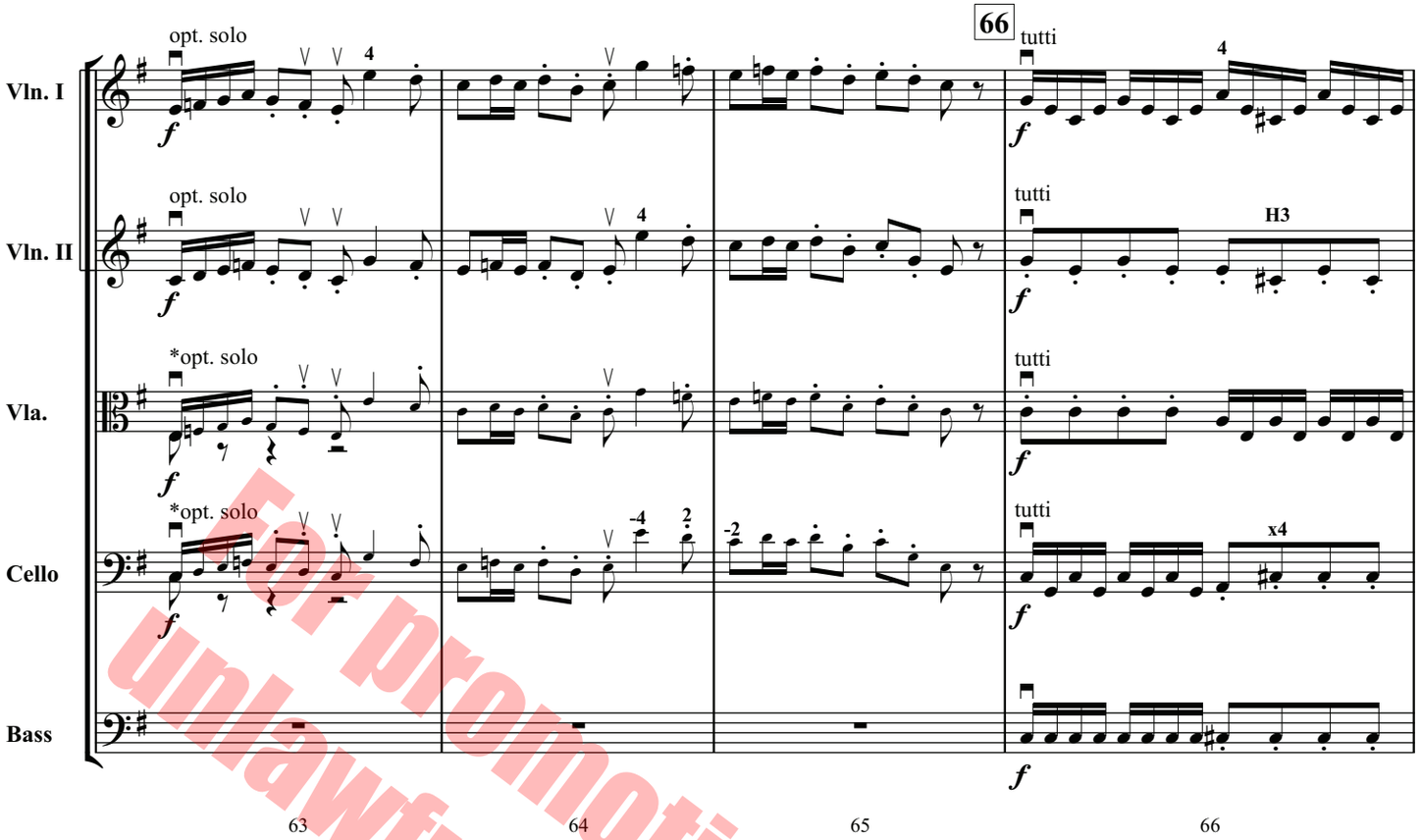


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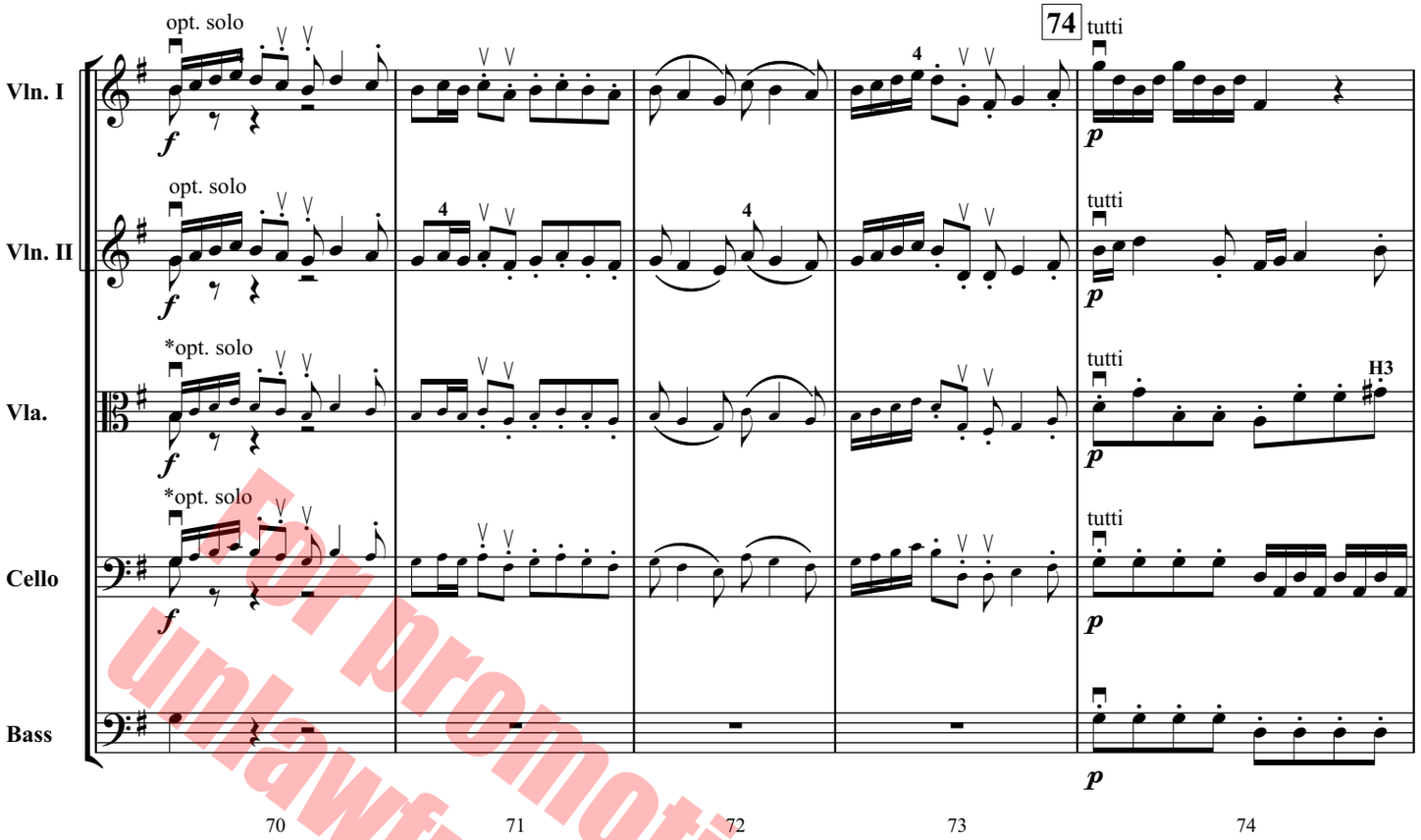






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Music for String Orchestra

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