Poor Wayfarin' Stranger

AMERICAN FOLK SONG
Arranged by JAMEY RAY

Instrumentation

Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
Bass	5

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About the Arranger

A native Floridian, Jamey serves as the sole arranger and producer for Voctave, crafting every note the group has ever sung and producing all their recordings. Since founding Voctave in 2015, Jamey has guided the group to prominence with their distinct a cappella renditions of Disney classics, Broadway hits, Christmas favorites, jazz standards, and many other exciting projects.

Jamey received his bachelor's degree from Rollins College in Computer Science and Music, with an emphasis in voice and piano. He then received his masters from New York University in Music Technology.

For 14 years, Jamey was a music professor at Rollins College and now is proud to bring his expertise to Excelcia Music Publishing as the choral editor, where he continues to curate the ever-growing choral catalog, ensuring a rich selection of music for choirs of all ages and levels.

With arrangements appearing on albums by Pentatonix, The King's Singers and The Swingles, Jamey has produced hundreds of recordings and dozens of full albums for multiple Broadway and Disney performers as well as groups including Voctave, the Bach Festival Society of Winter Park and the Liberty Voices.

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Poor Wayfarin' Stranger

"Poor Wayfarin' Stranger" is an American folk spiritual about a traveler making their way through hardship toward rest and peace. This string setting, adapted from my choral arrangement, uses changing textures and harmonies to suggest that journey is sometimes dark and unsettled, but can also be warm and hopeful. Encourage players to think of the music as one long, sung line: phrases should breathe naturally, with a consistent, supported legato and clear dynamic contrast.

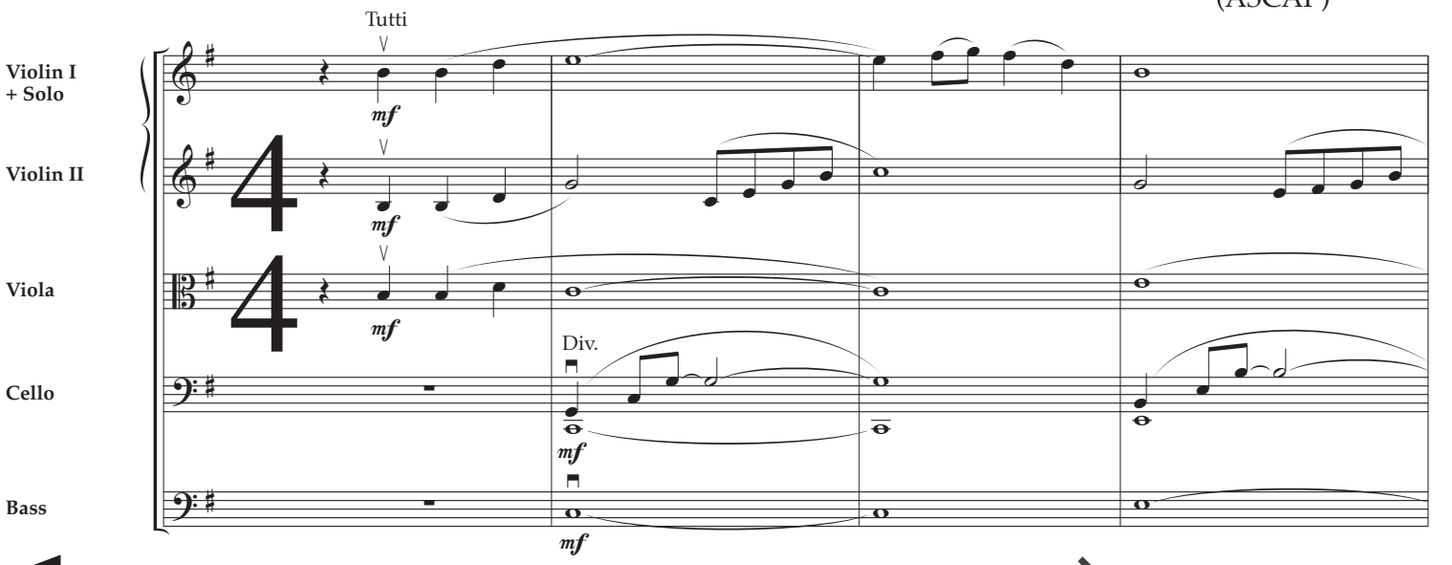
The melody moves around within the ensemble. Being aware of which "voice" should lead is essential to balance within the piece. When the lower strings have the melody, upper strings exist as decoration and should stay out of the way. When the upper strings have the melody, the lower strings should provide a solid foundation of rhythm and harmony.

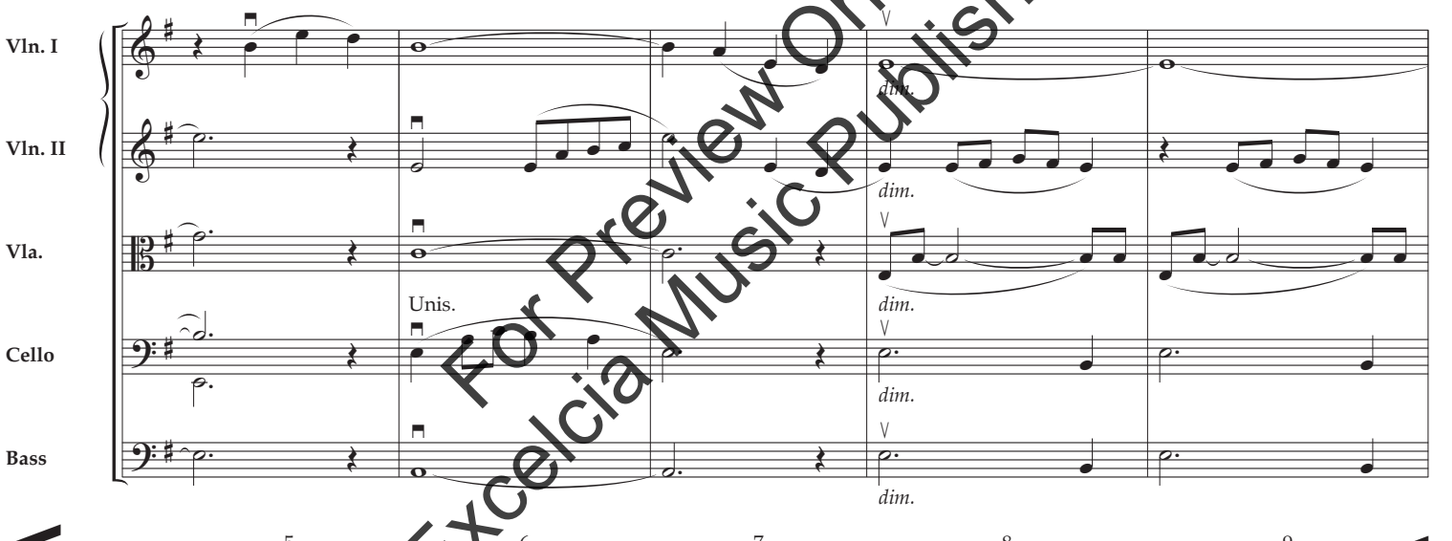
At times, the harmony leans into tension and dissonance to reflect the struggle in the text. Don't avoid those colors. Tune them carefully, let them speak, and then let the resolutions feel like release. The piece also includes many "long notes" within the melody. It's a good opportunity to work on motion within these long notes. Don't let it become stagnant and boring to the listener, always have motion.

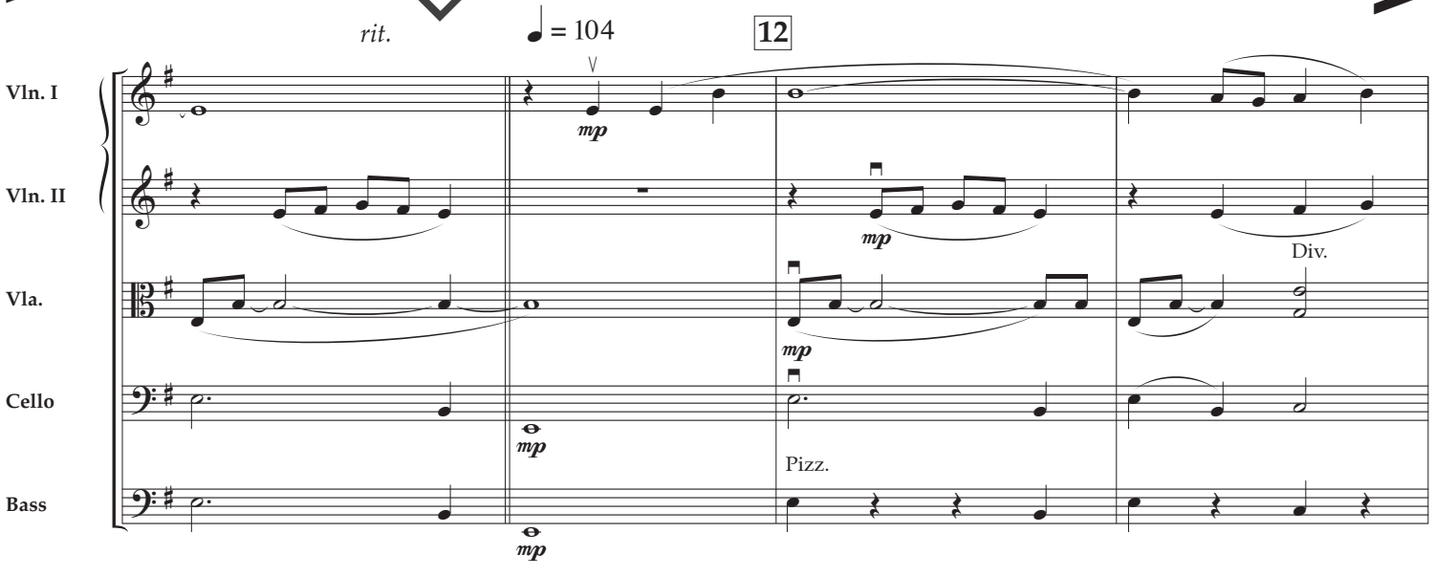
Poor Wayfarin' Stranger

American Folk Song
Arranged by **JAMEY RAY**
(ASCAP)

Hauntingly ♩ = 108-112







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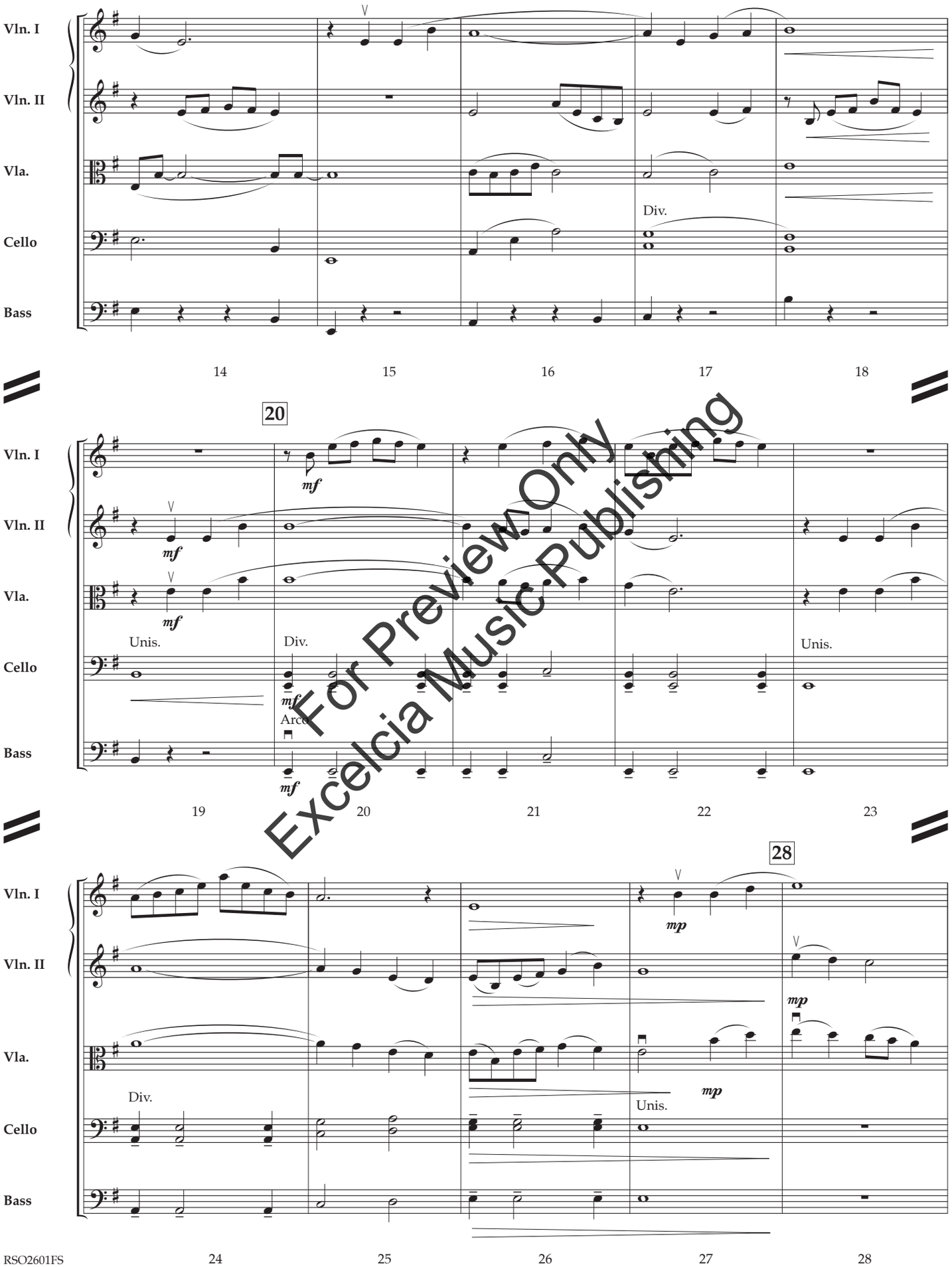

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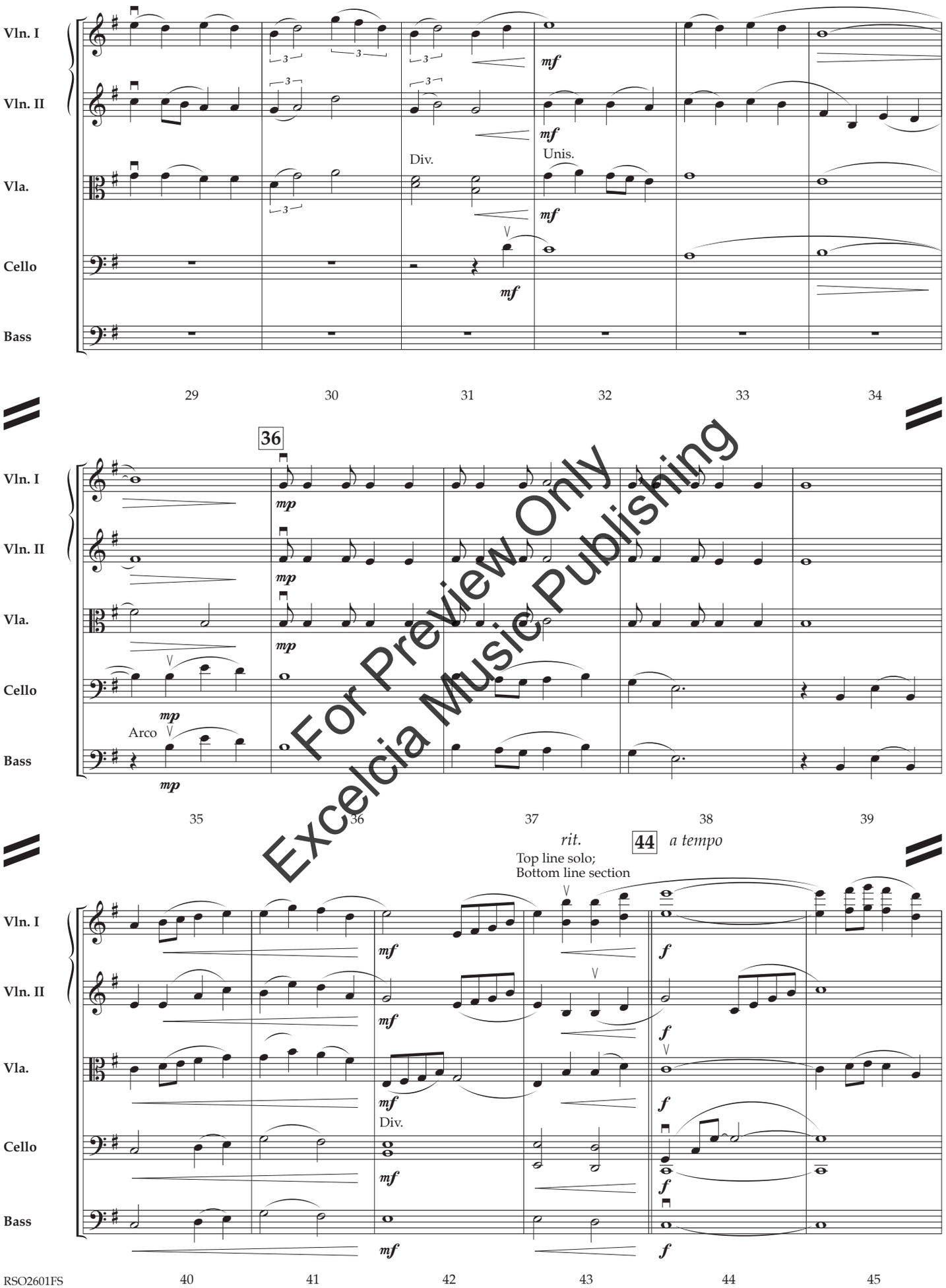

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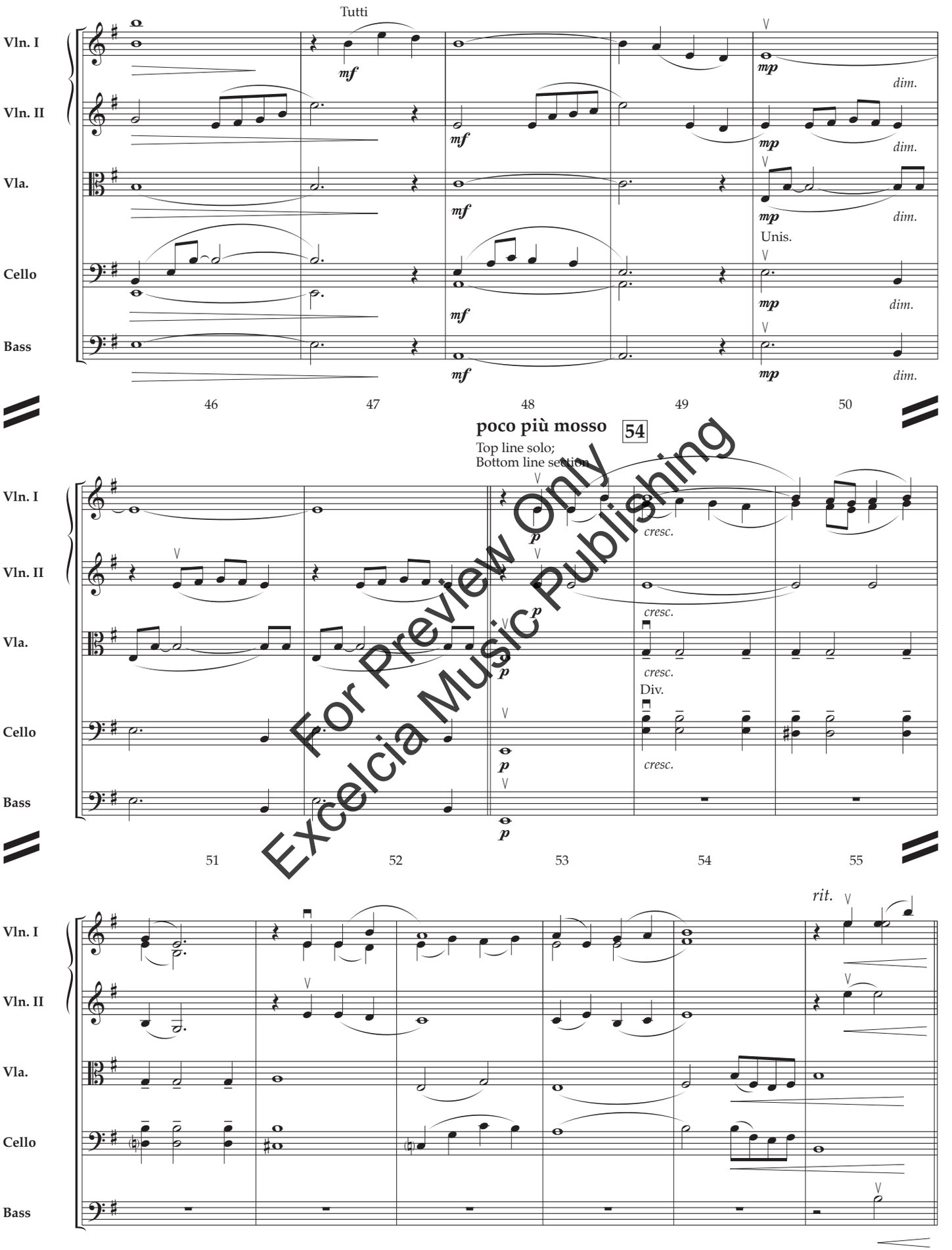

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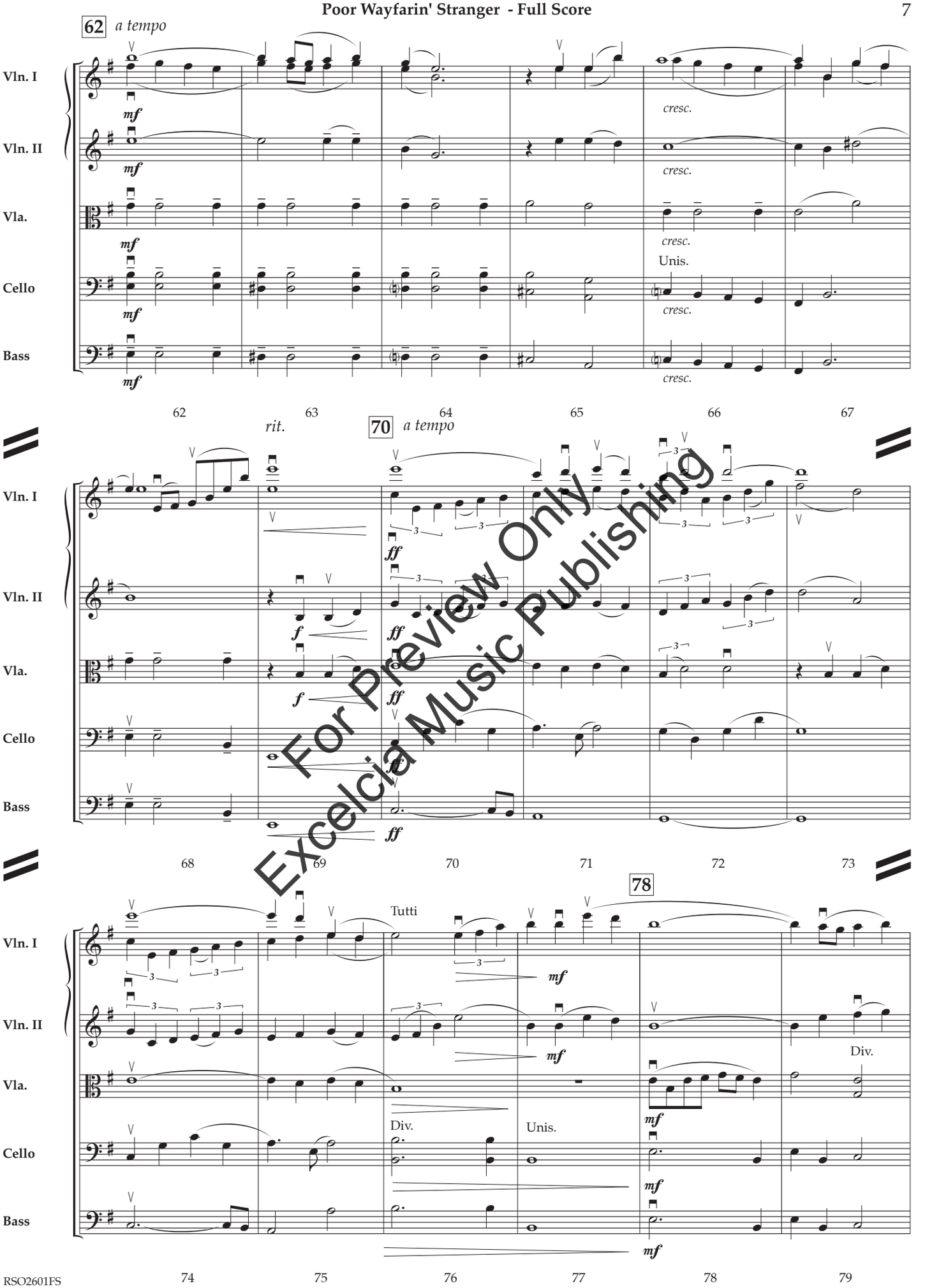

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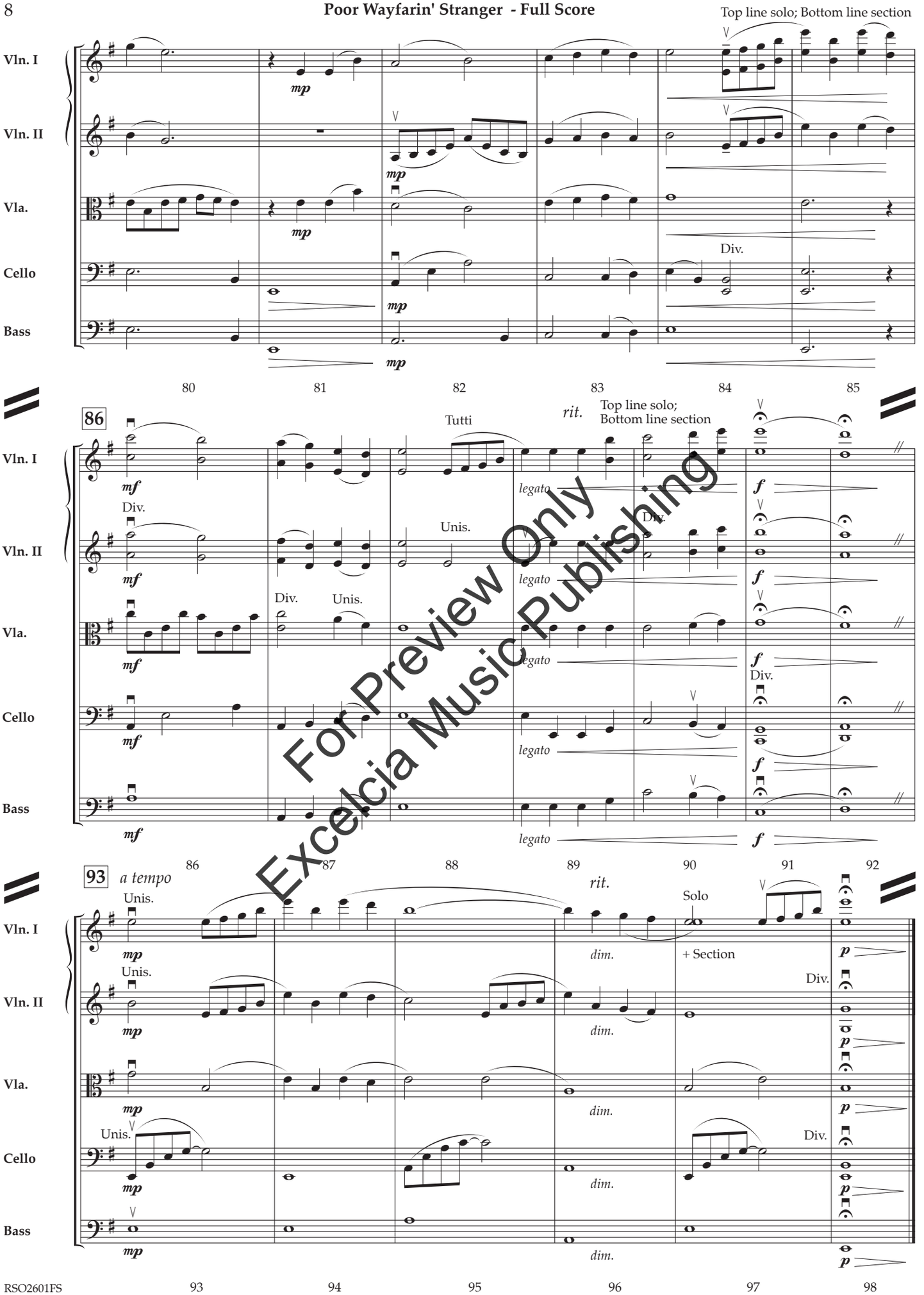

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