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FJH BEGINNING STRINGS

Grade 1.5

FANTASY ON A JAPANESE FOLK SONG

Brian Balmages

Instrumentation

1 - Conductor's Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2
5 - Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)
5 - Viola
5 - Violoncello
5 - Double Bass
1 - Piano

Extra Conductor Score: $5.00
Extra Parts: $2.50

FJH is now using a high-speed sorting system for parts.
As a result, all single page parts are collated before multiple page parts.

THE F·J·H MUSIC COMPANY INC.
Frank J. Hackinson

2525 Davie Road, Suite 360
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33317-7424
www.fjhmusic.com

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The Composer

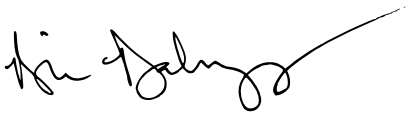
Brian Balmages (b. 1975) is an award-winning composer, conductor, producer, and performer. He holds a bachelor's degree in music from James Madison University and a master's degree from the University of Miami in Florida. His compositions have been performed worldwide at the state, national and international level. His active schedule of commissions and premieres has incorporated groups ranging from elementary schools to professional ensembles, including the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Miami Symphony Orchestra, University of Miami Wind Ensemble, Boston Brass, and the Dominion Brass Ensemble. In 2012, Mr. Balmages received the prestigious Albert Austin Harding Award from the American School Band Directors Association. He is also a 2010 winner of the Harvey G. Phillips Award for Compositional Excellence, presented by the International Tuba-Euphonium Association.

As a conductor, Mr. Balmages enjoys engagements with numerous all-state and regional honor bands and orchestras along with university and professional groups. Notable guest conducting appearances have included the Midwest Clinic, Western International Band Clinic, National Association for Music Educators, American School Band Directors Association, CBDNA, the Kennedy Center, and Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. He has also served as an Adjunct Professor of Instrumental Conducting and Acting Symphonic Band Director at Towson University in Maryland.

Currently, Mr. Balmages is the Director of Instrumental Publications for The FJH Music Company Inc. in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He resides in Baltimore with his wife Lisa and their two sons.

About the Music

Based on the enchanting melody of *Sakura, Sakura,* this fantasy on the popular Japanese folk song winds through several harmonic shifts and melodic variations. The fantasy begins almost immediately. While the phrase structure of the original tune remains intact (one can superimpose the original melody over the initial 6 measures and hear how phrasing is the same), the melody itself develops subtly beginning in measure 3. The true melody of the folk song is presented almost verbatim at measure 9 before the music starts to develop and transform in the section beginning at measure 15. The first major harmonic shift of the piece occurs at measure 23, when the total center moves from B minor to D Major. This continues into measure 29, where the bass voices introduce an altered version of the melody based on the exact same rhythm of the traditional tune, but the overall melodic contour has been changed, now moving upward (whereas the original has an overall downward motion, especially by the end of the fourth measure). Finally, after the second (and most powerful) climax of the work, the music moves back into the opening tonality of B minor. This time, however, the B minor tonality embraces the upward movement of the melodic line (which began at measure 29). The fantasy concludes with a shift back to D Major in the last measure, making the transition smooth by using two notes as common tones to each chord (F♯ and D).



String Editing: Carrie Lane Gruselle

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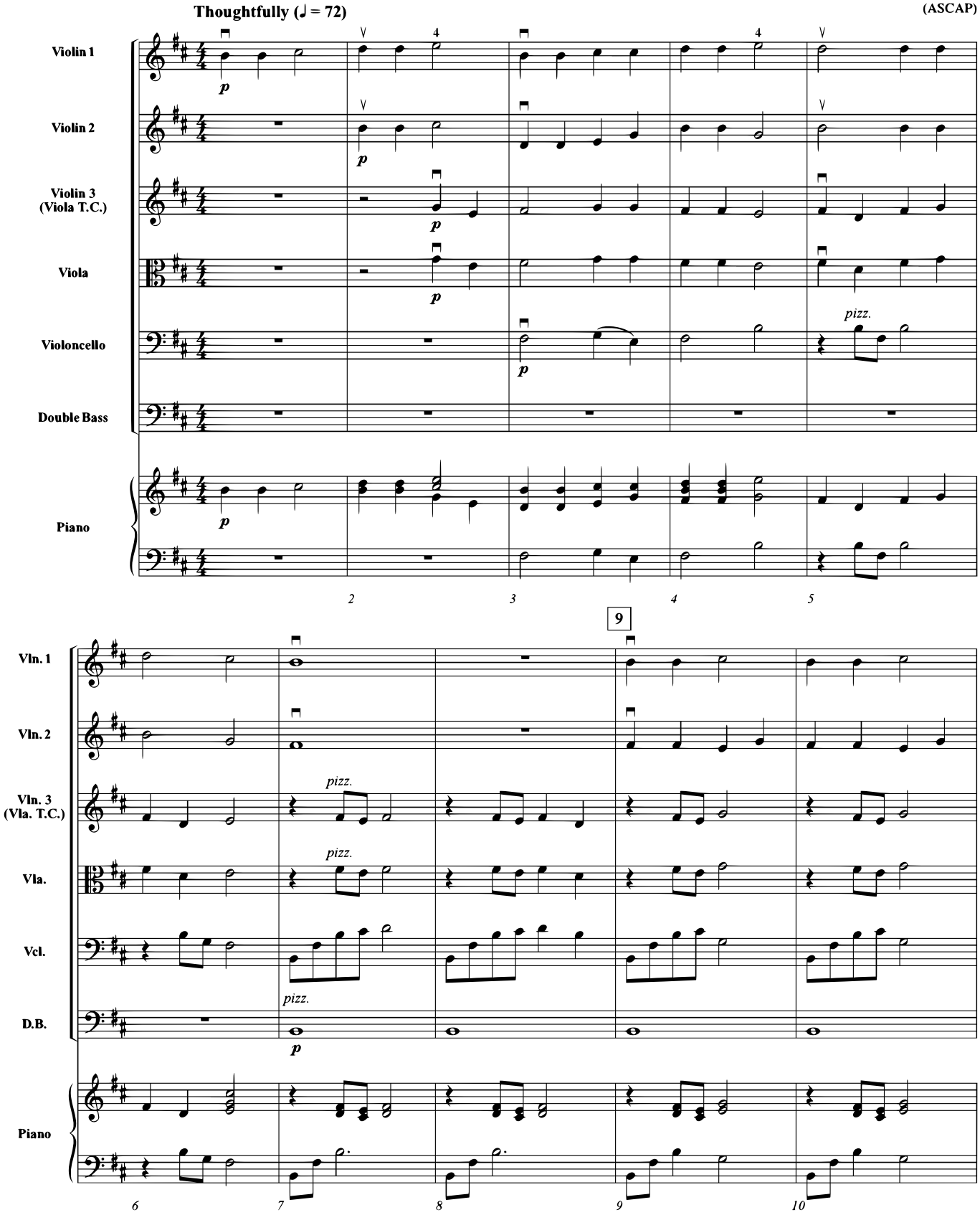
Duration: 3:00

FANTASY ON A JAPANESE FOLK SONG

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)



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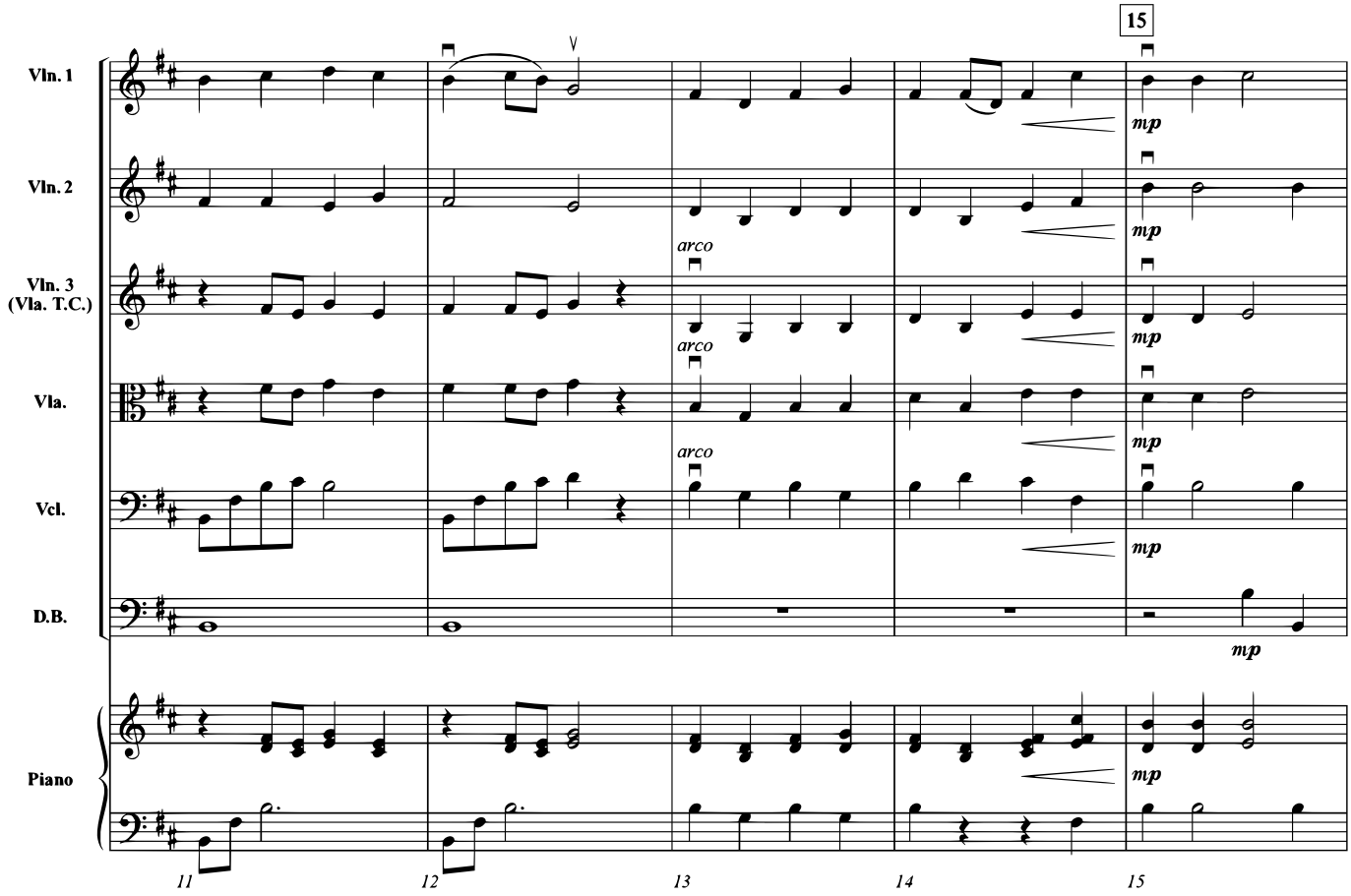

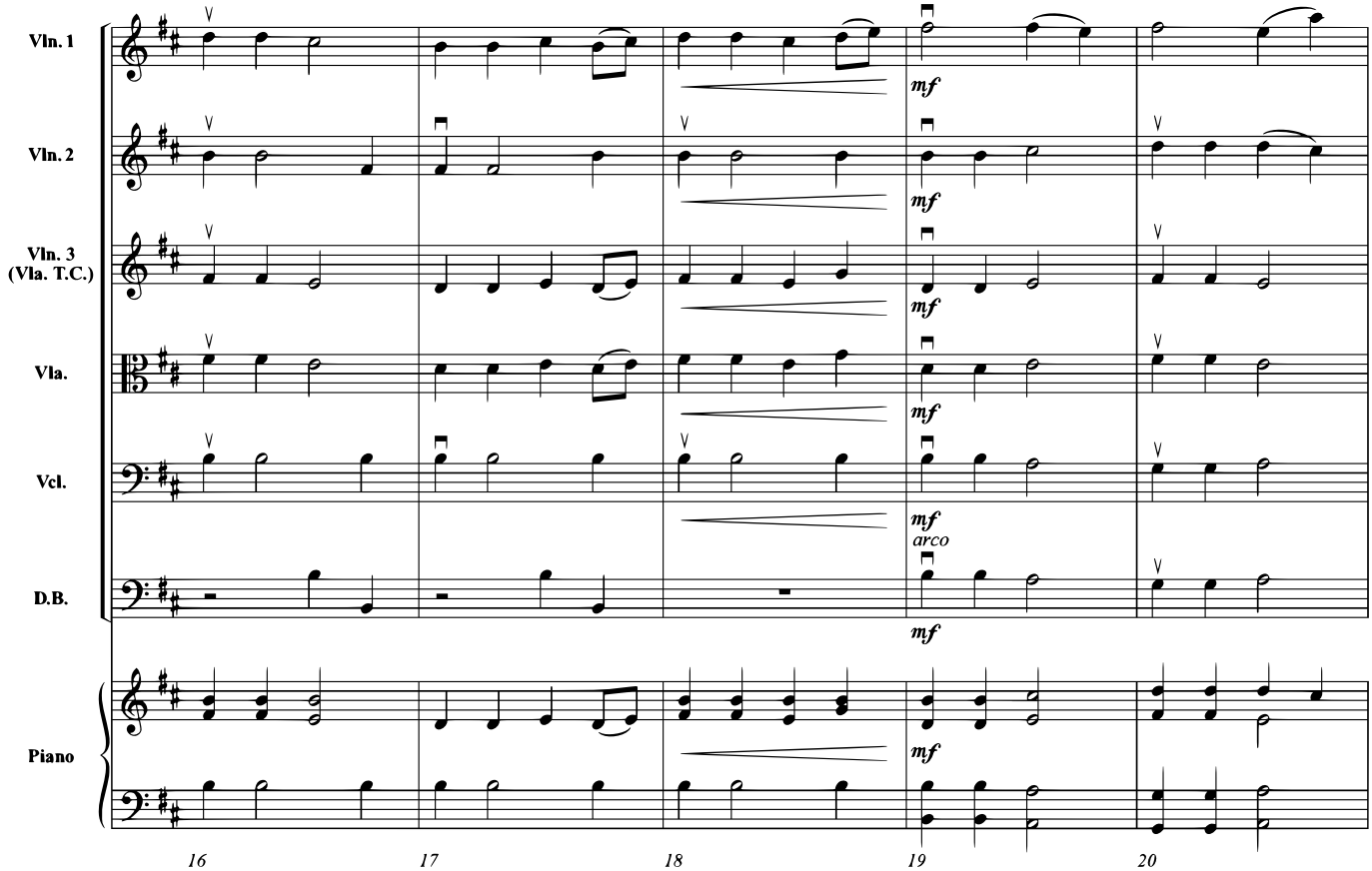

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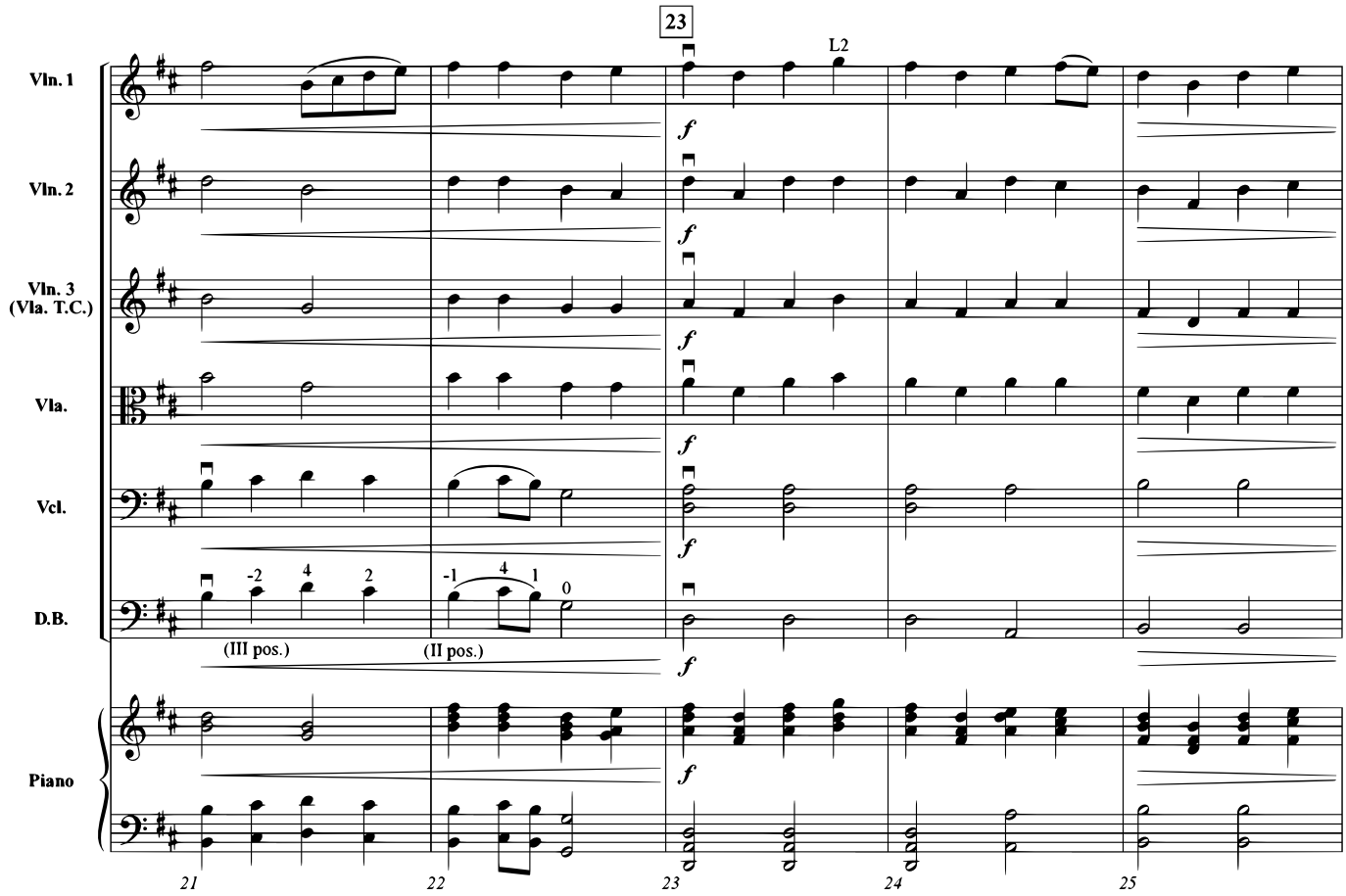

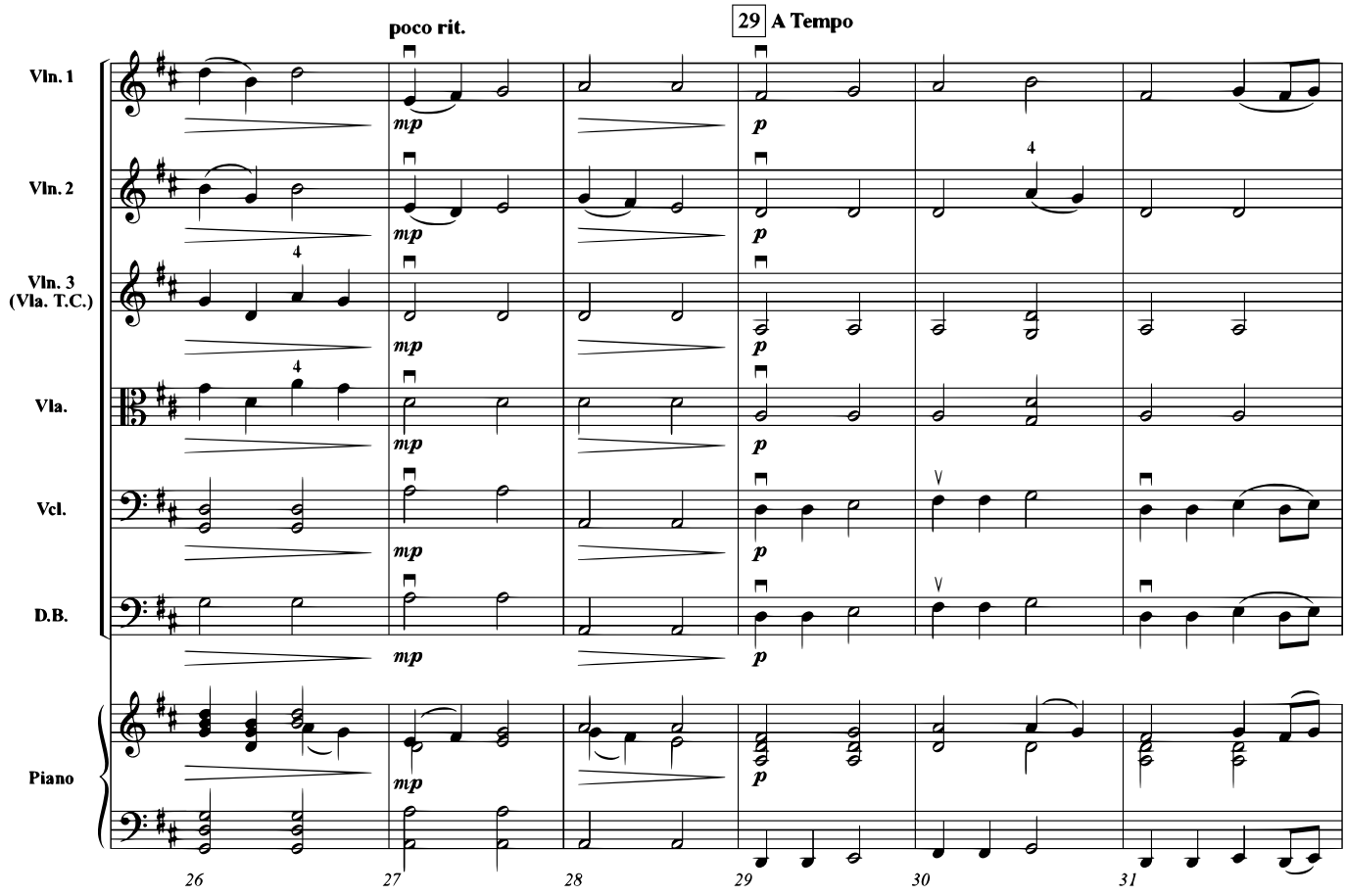

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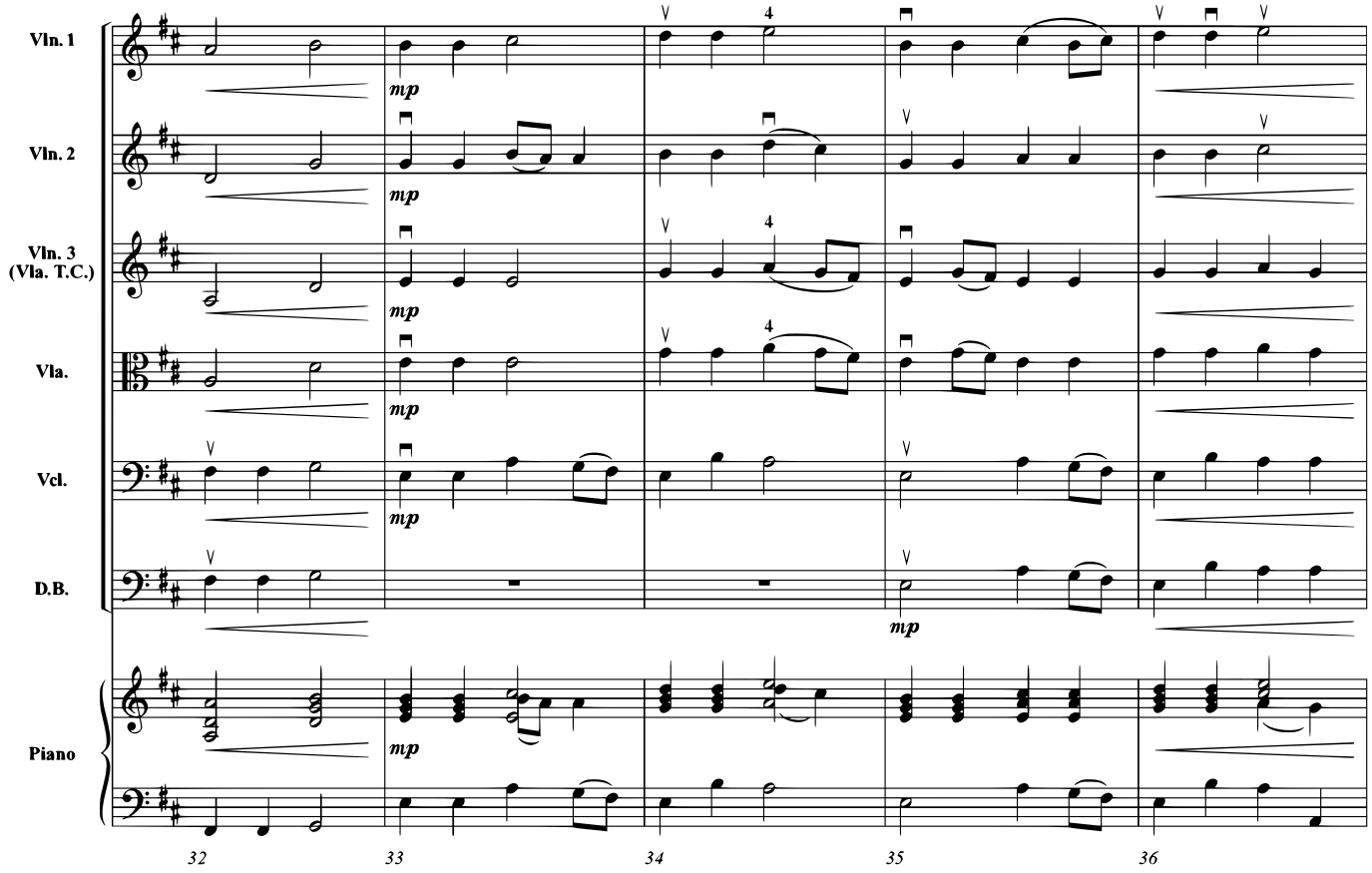

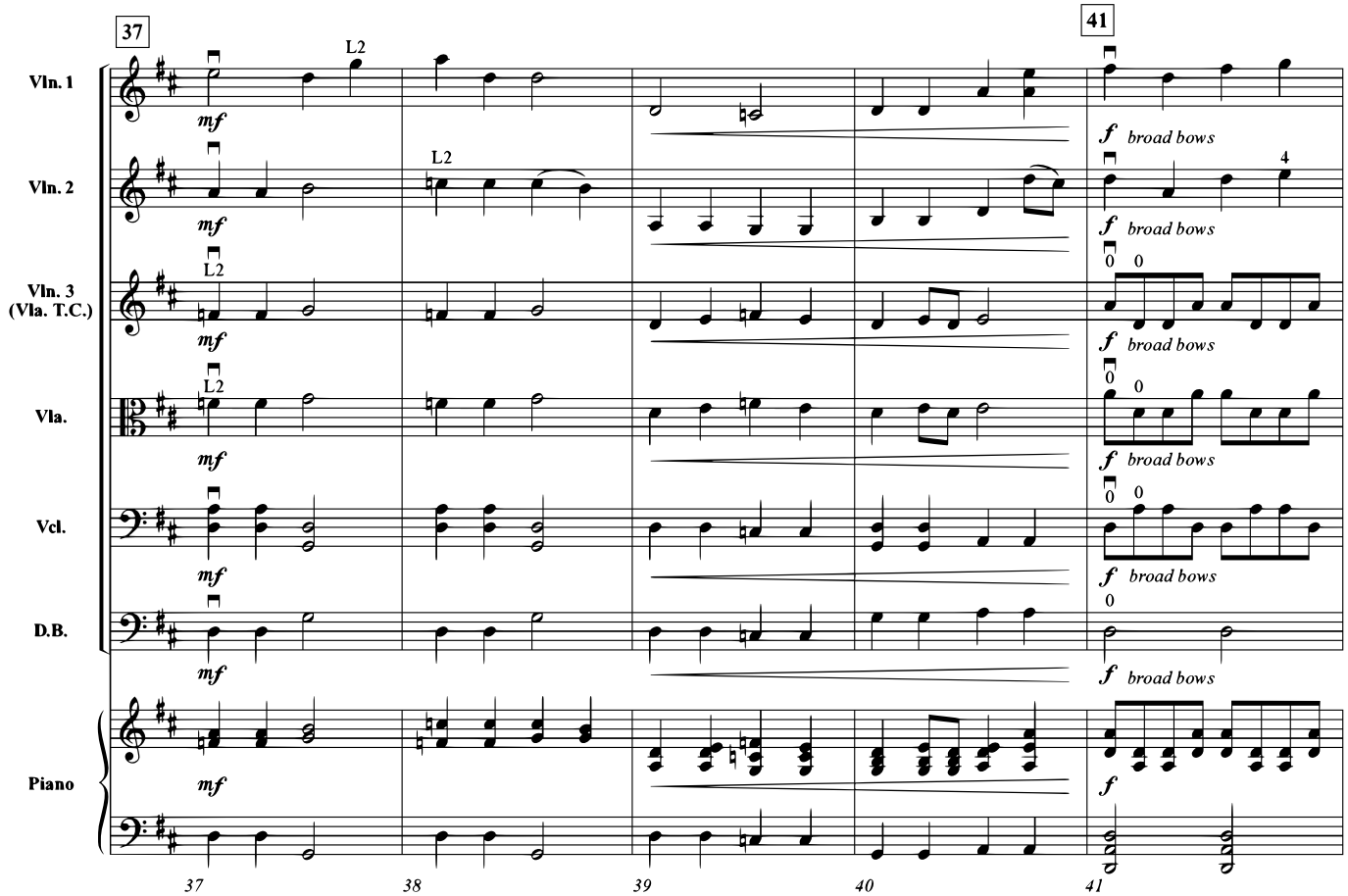

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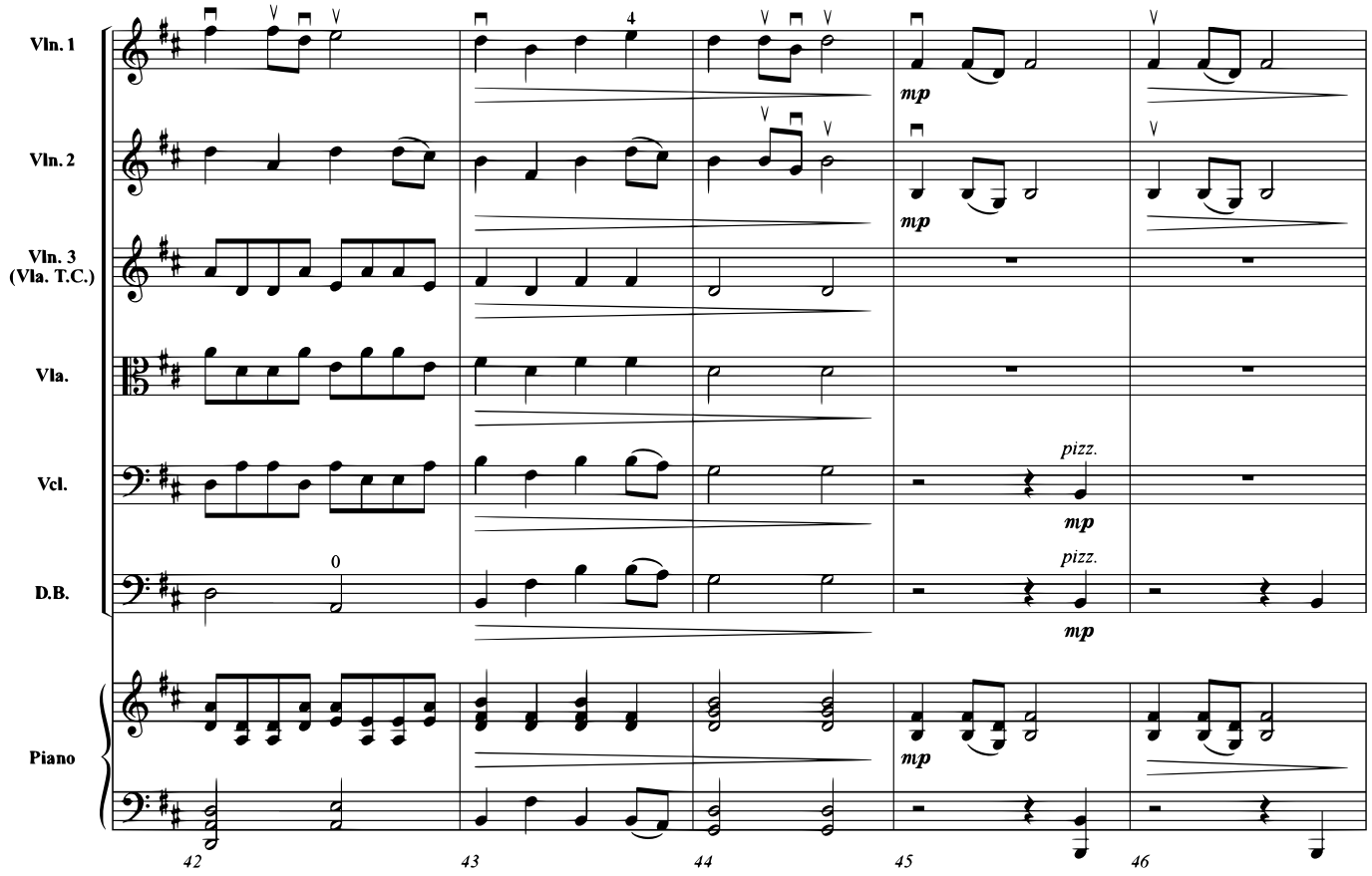

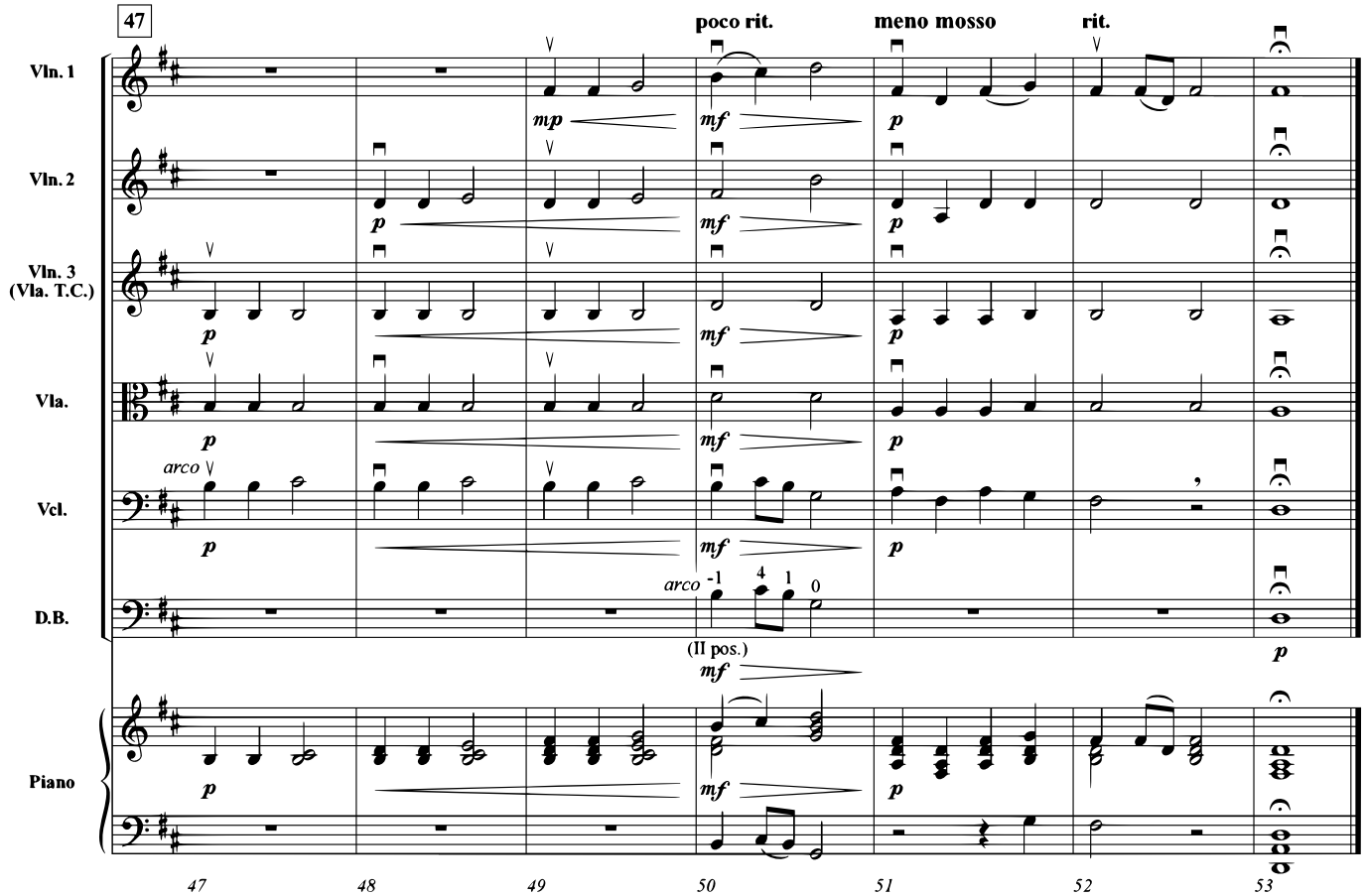

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