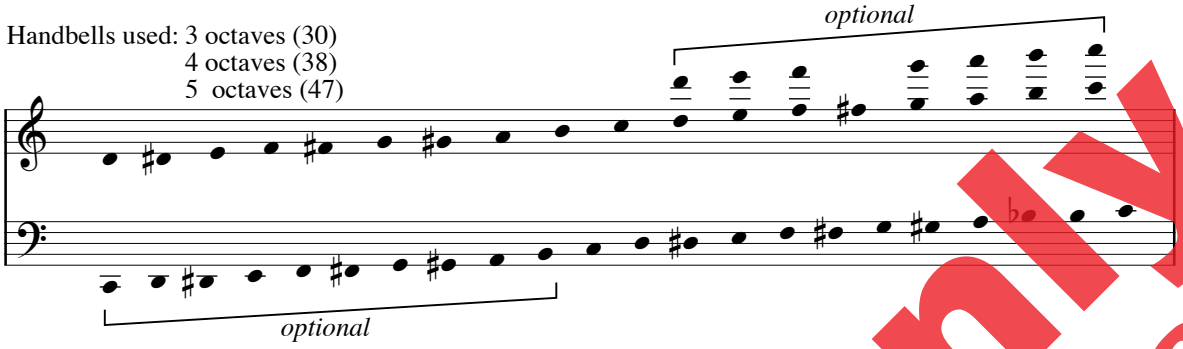
for Rev. Ron Bergman
in celebration of his forty years of ordained ministry

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

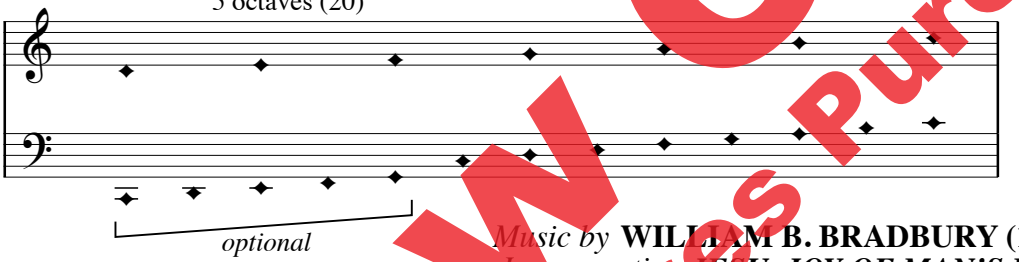
for 3-5 Octave Handbell Choir and 3-5 Octave Handchime Choir

Handbells used: 3 octaves (30)
4 octaves (38)
5 octaves (47)



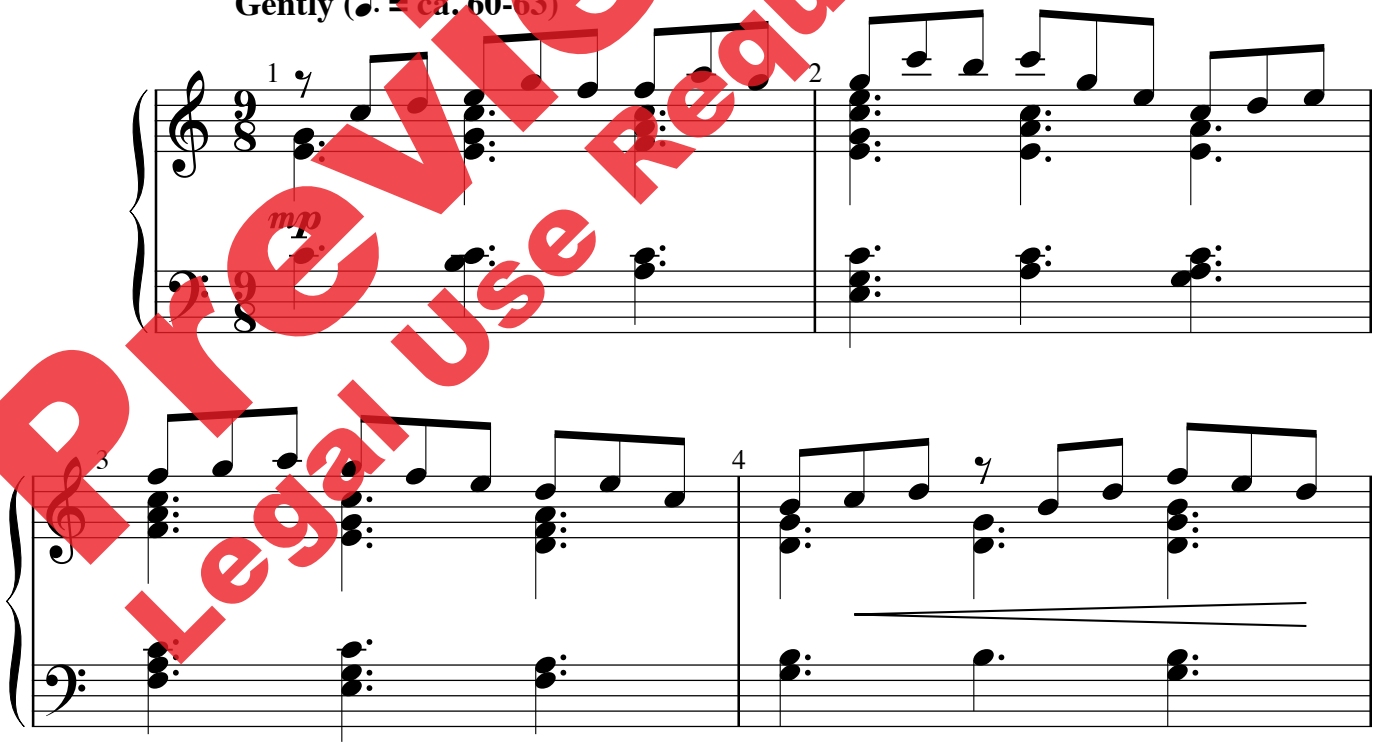
3 octave choirs omit notes in ( ); 4 octave choirs omit notes in [ ]; 3 and 4 octave choirs omit notes in < >.

Handchimes used: 3 octaves (15)
4 octaves (16)
5 octaves (20)



Music by **WILLIAM B. BRADBURY (1816-1868)**
Incorporating ***JESU, JOY OF MAN'S DESIRING***
Music by **JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)**
Arranged by **MICHAEL HELMAN**

Gently (♩. = ca. 60-63)



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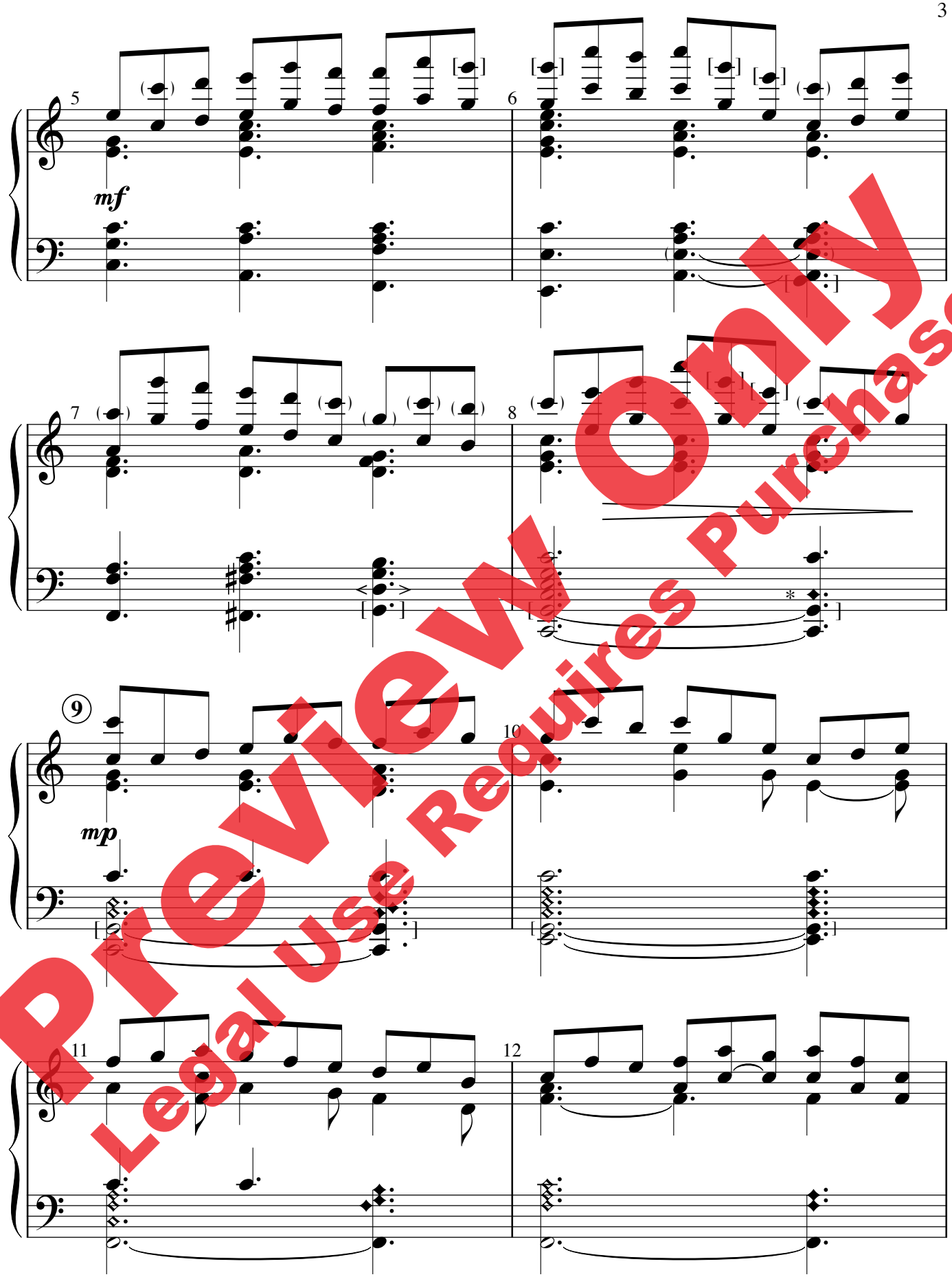

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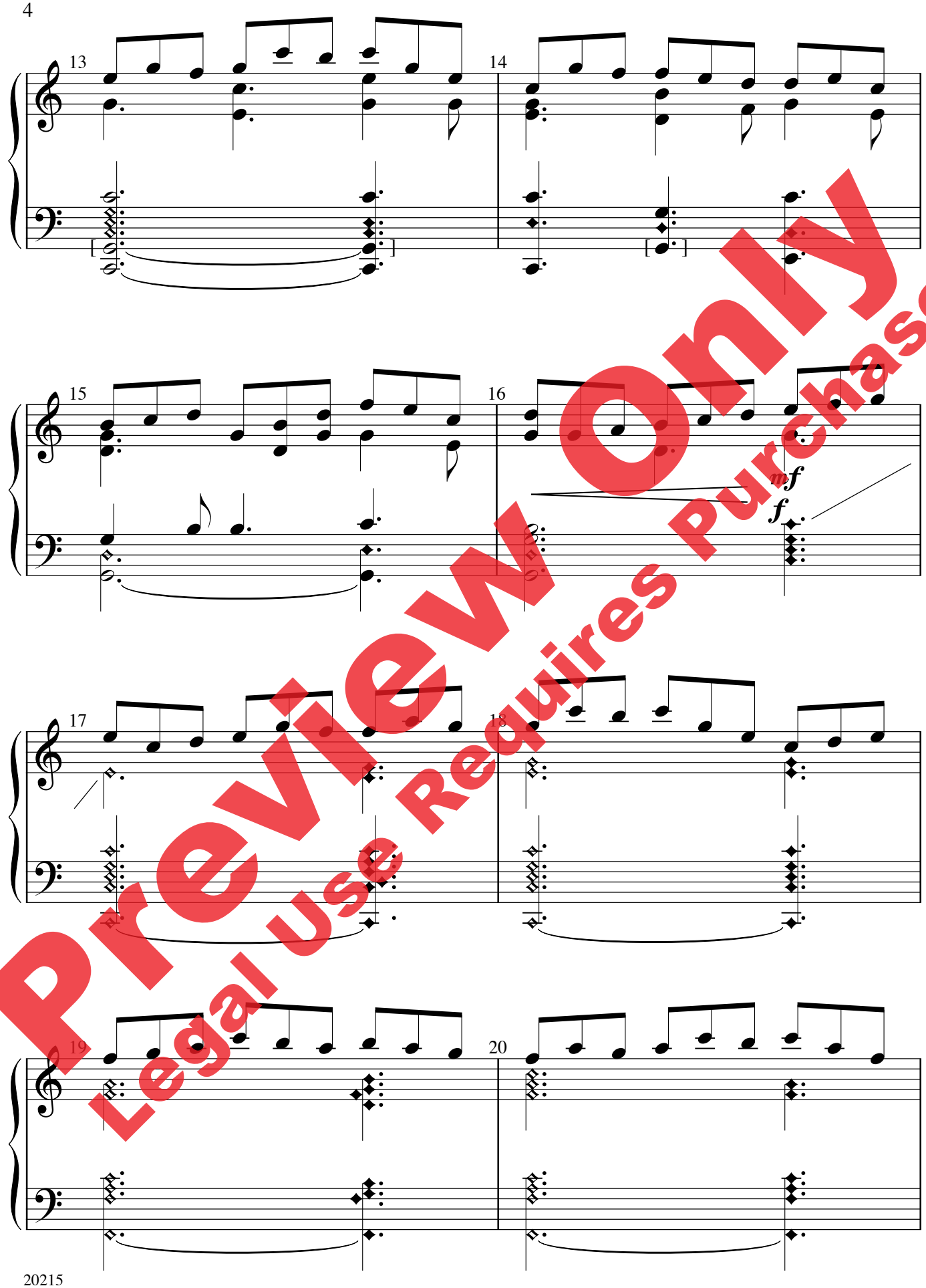
* Bring out the melody in the chimes.



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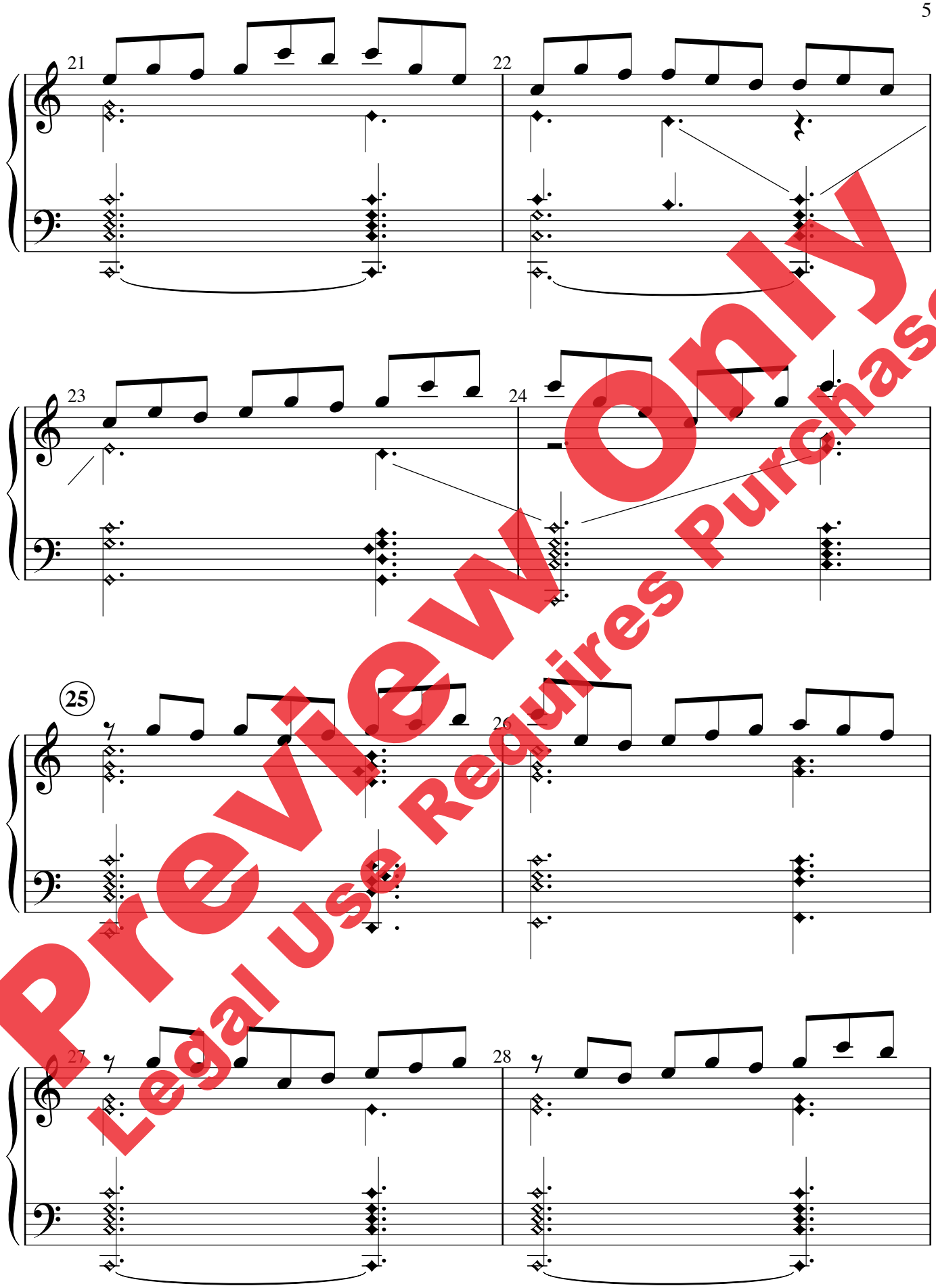

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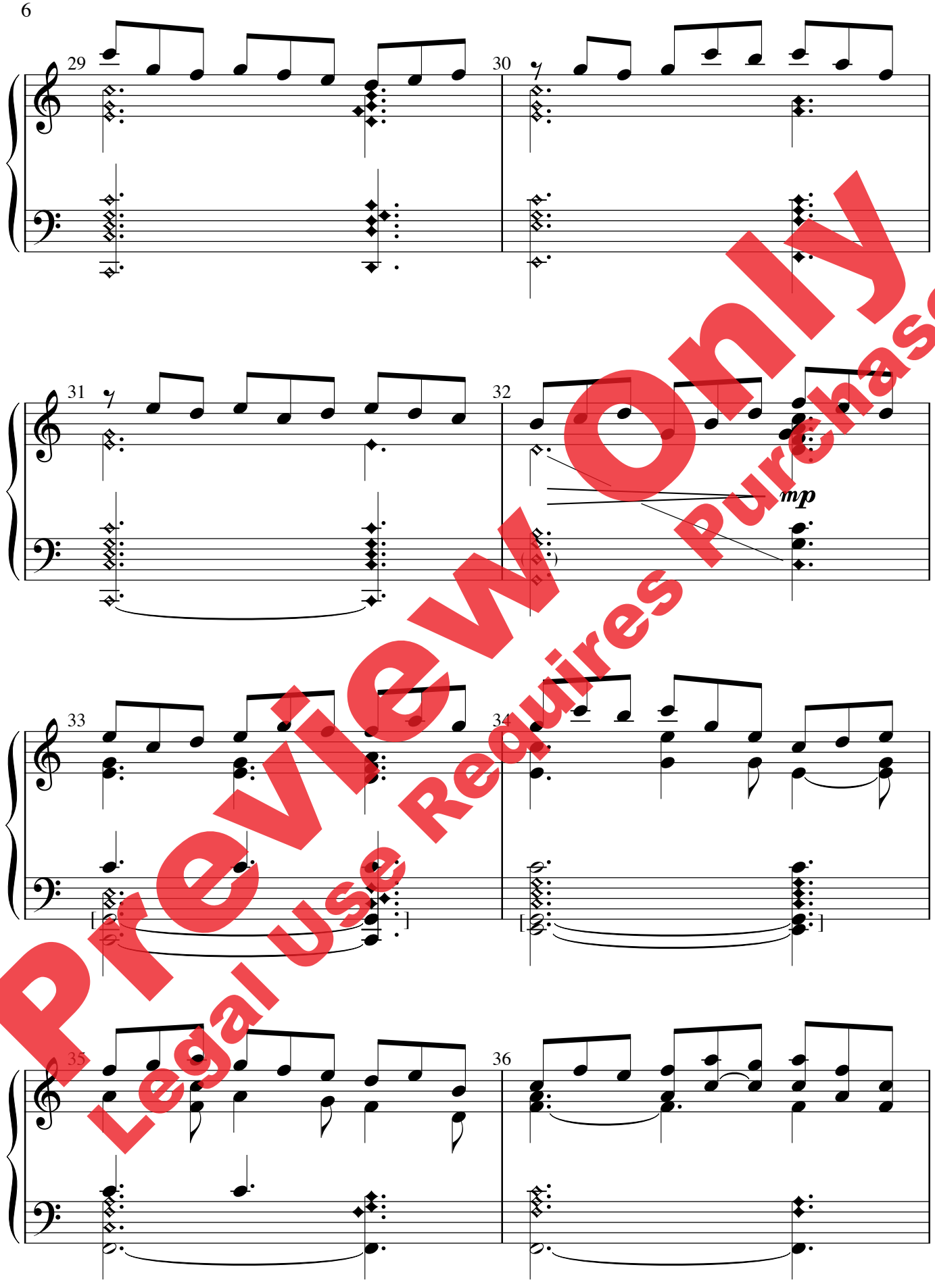

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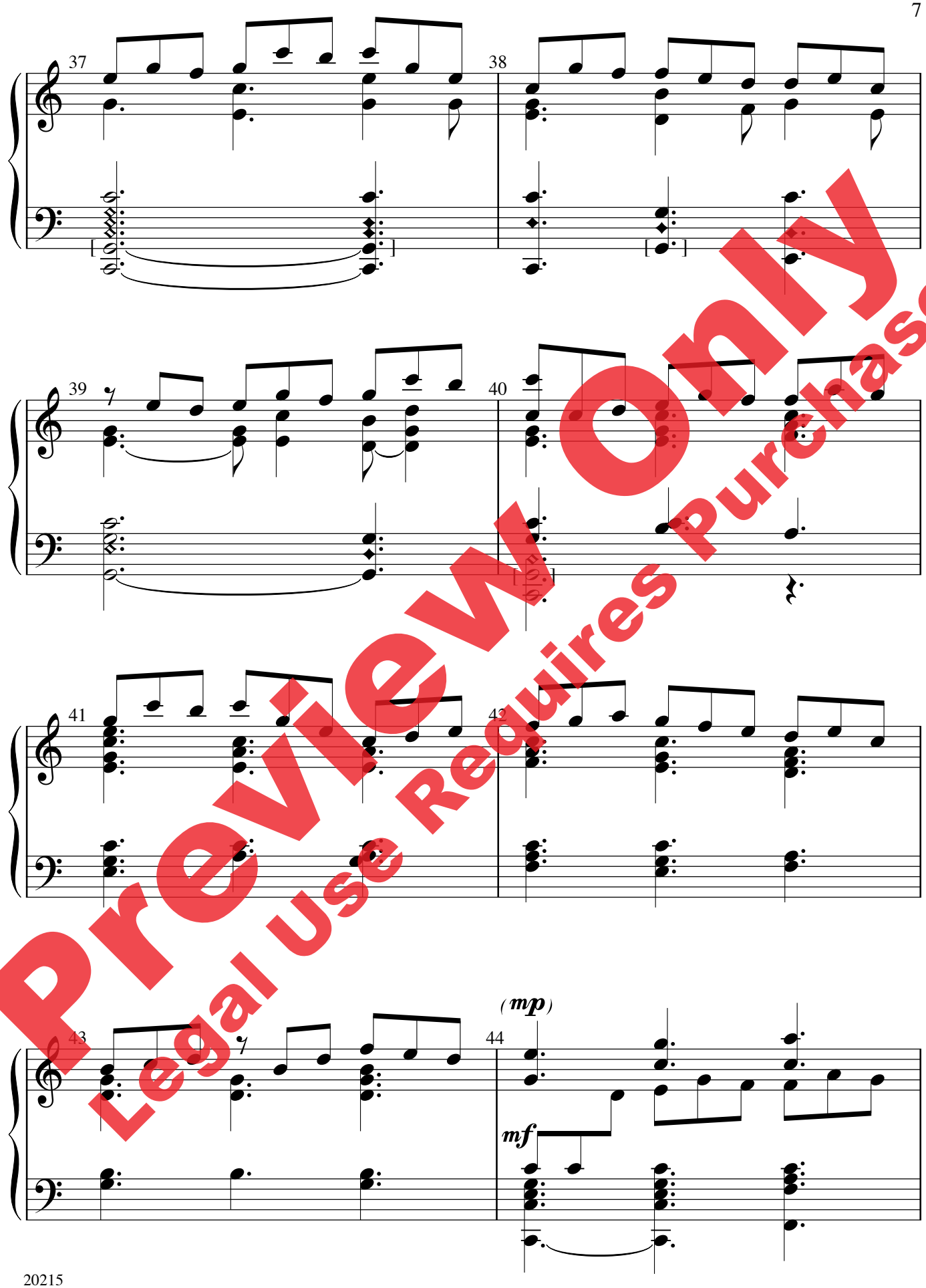

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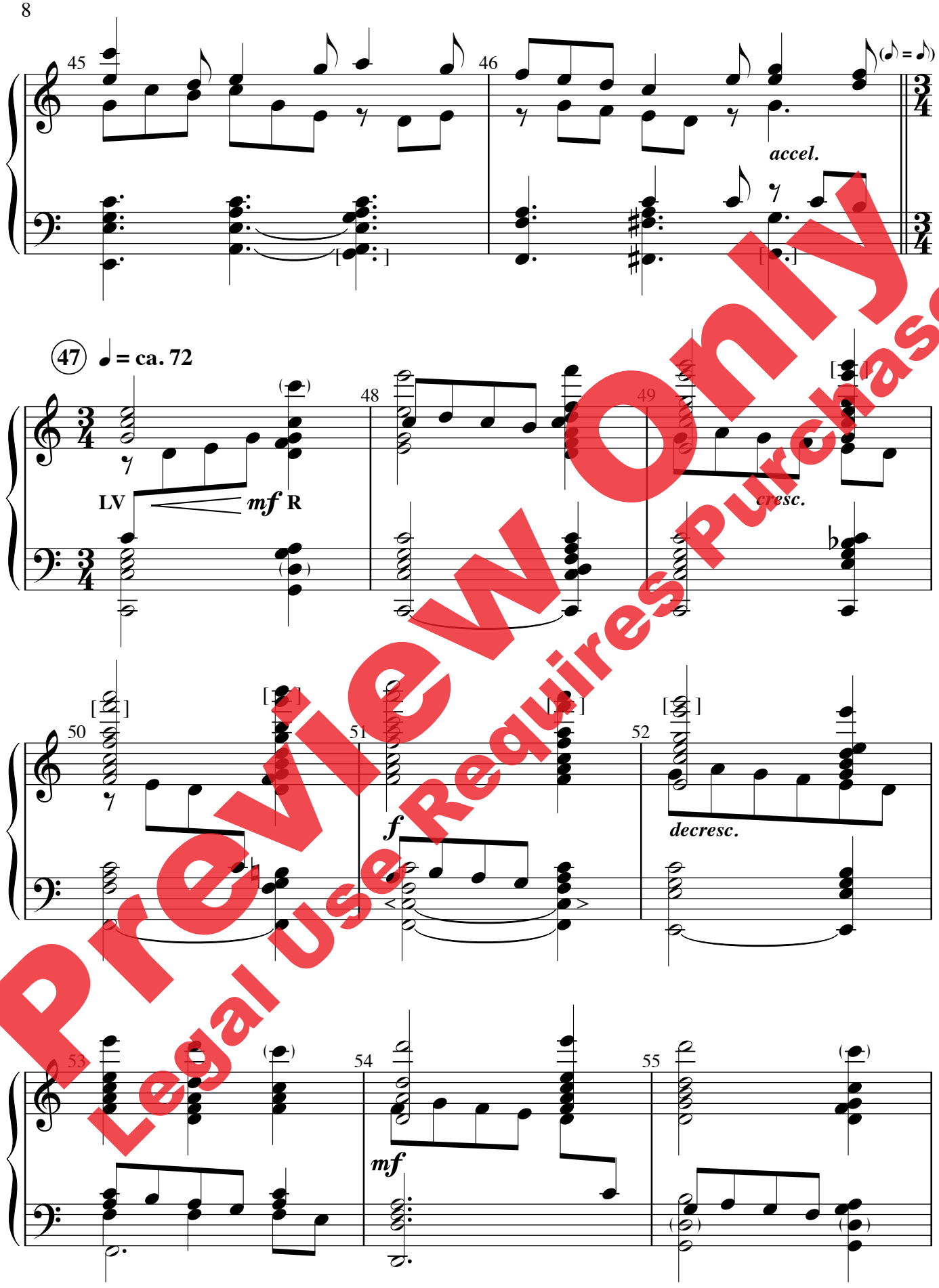

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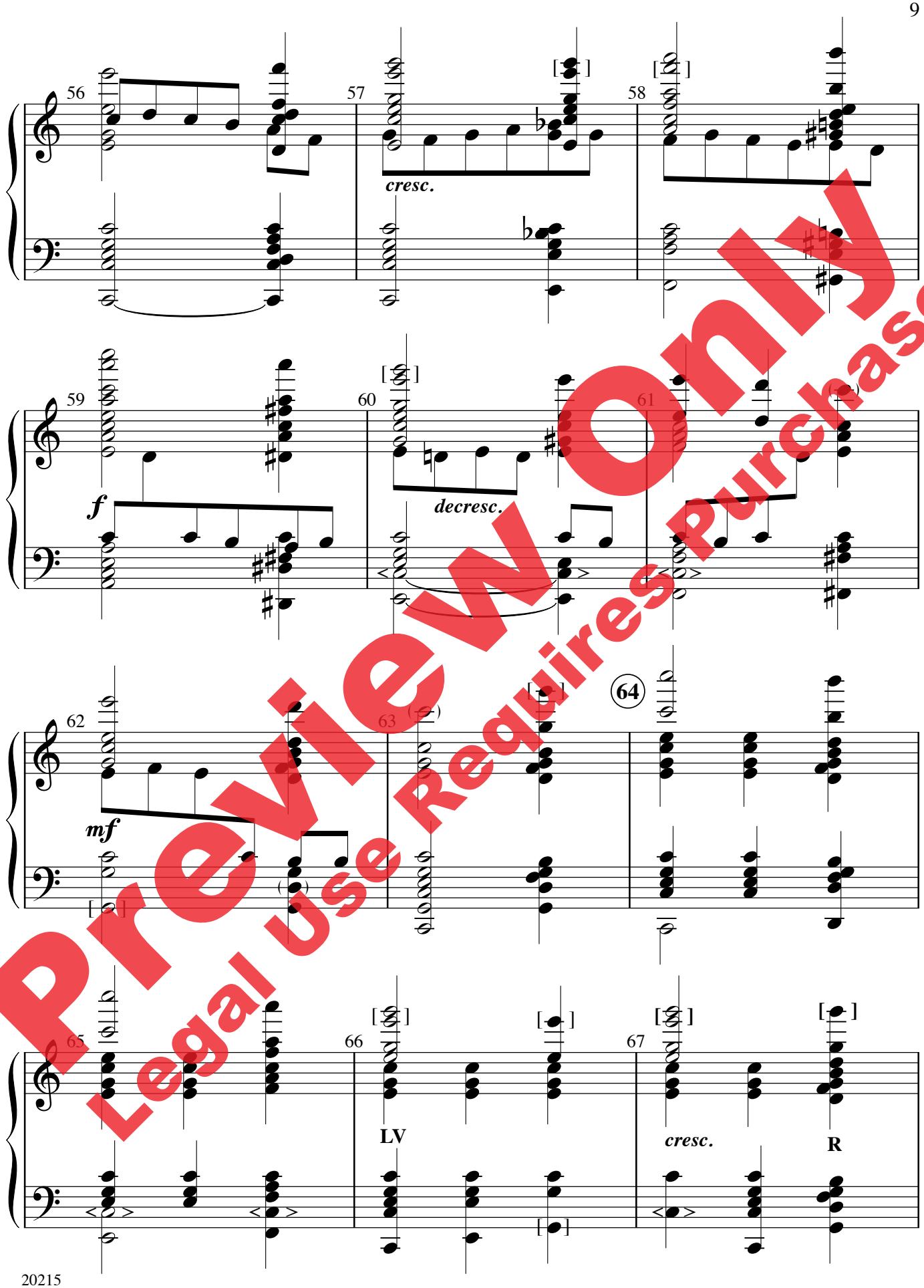

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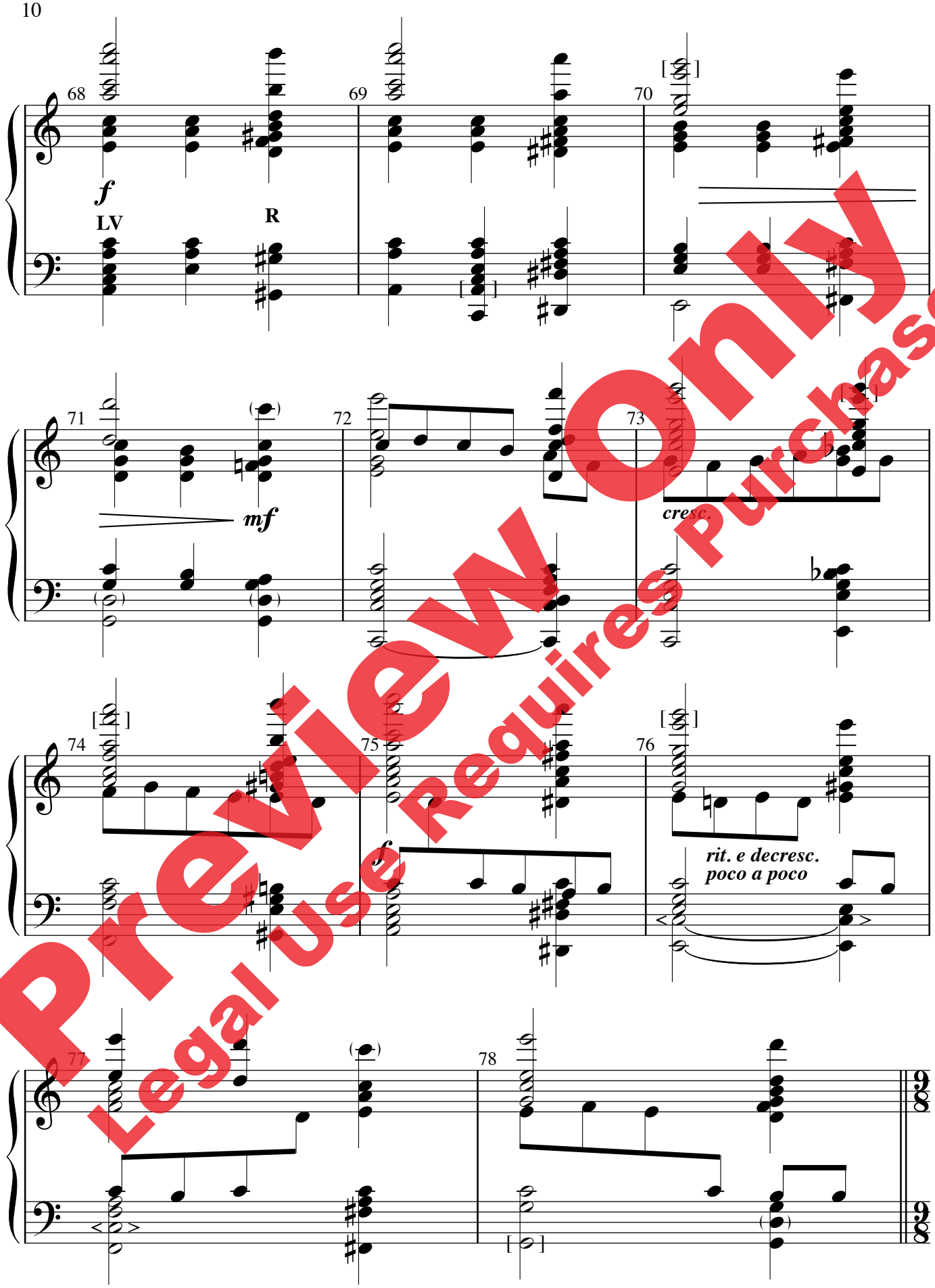

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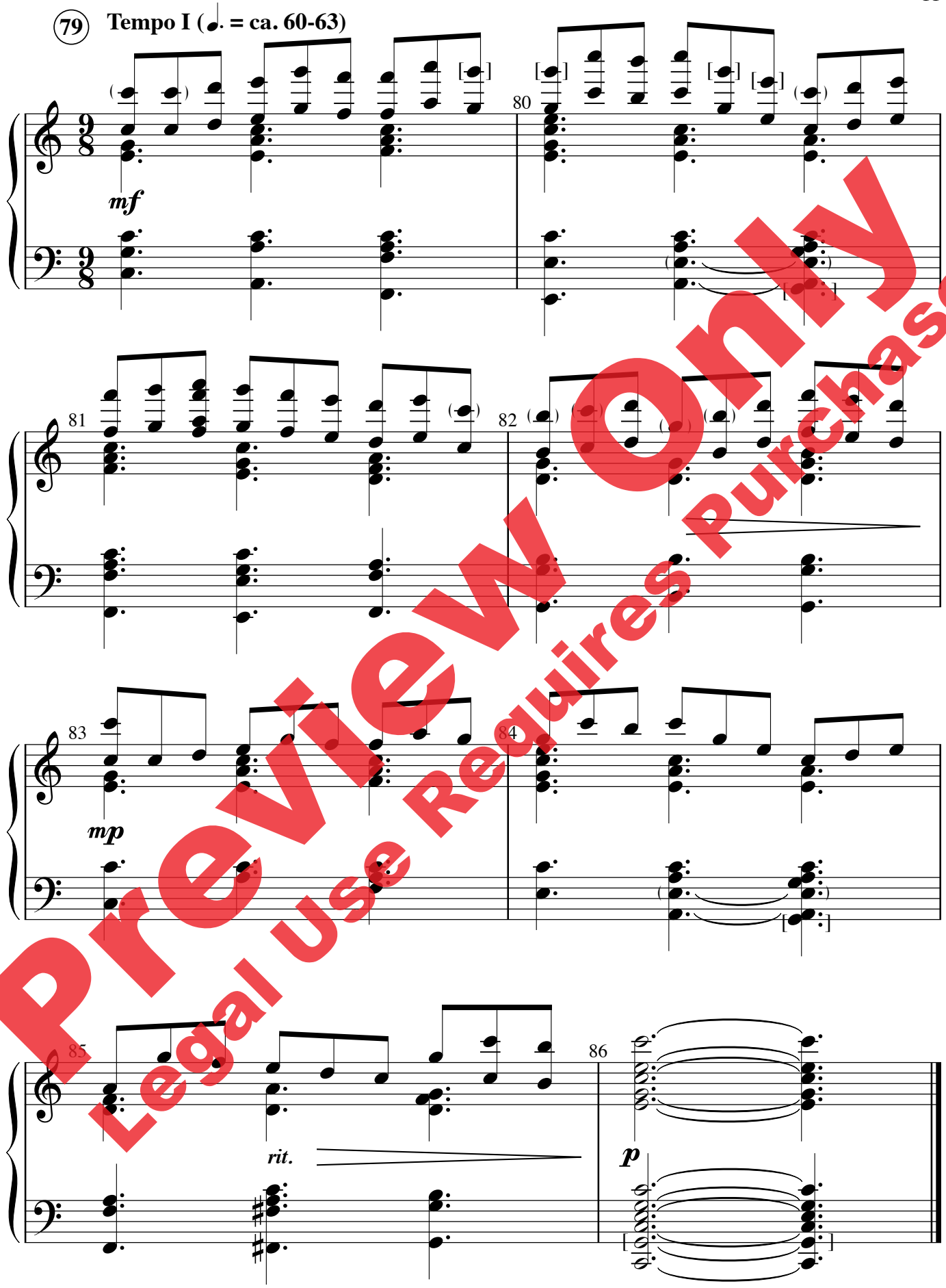

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Sweet Hour of Prayer is a beautifully written setting of the familiar hymn that incorporates the beloved *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* by Johann Sebastian Bach. It is arranged for 3-5 octave handbell choir with 3-5 octave handchime choir and is appropriate for general worship services as well as those special services involving dedication or peace themes.

The hymn tune enters with the pick-up to measure 9 in the bass clef and is notated in shaped notes for handchimes. If handchimes are unavailable, using handbells to ring the shaped notes is acceptable; however, the timbre of the handchimes allows the joining of the two themes to be more prominent.

In measure 46 there is an *accel*. that leads into a meter change in measure 47. Keep the eighth note constant even though the tempo increases slightly. Beginning in measure 76 the *rit*. *e decresc*. brings the original tempo and meter back, leading to a beautiful and quiet ending.

Johann Sebastian Bach was born in 1685 in Eisenach, Germany and died in 1750 in Leipzig, Germany. Considered to be the most important composer of the early 1700's, Bach is most famous for his sacred cantatas, **St. Matthew Passion** and **St. John Passion** and the **B-Minor Mass**. He also wrote music for orchestra, chamber music, clavier, organ and other choral compositions.

Michael Helman received his Bachelor of Arts degree in organ performance from Lebanon Valley College and continued graduate work in music history at West Chester State University. He serves as Director of Music at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Wilmington, Delaware, where he directs five handbell choirs and three vocal choirs. In addition, he serves on the faculty of Immaculata College. He is the winner of numerous AGEHR area composition contests, three national AGEHR competition contests and has many fine publications to his credit.

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