I DREAMT I DWELT IN MARBLE HALLS

An Irish Ballad

MICHAEL WILLIAM BALFE
Arranged by FRANK ERICKSON

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INSTRUMENTATION

1	Full Score
8	Flute/Piccolo
2	Oboe
4	1st B♭ Clarinet
4	2nd B♭ Clarinet
4	3rd B♭ Clarinet
2	E♭ Alto Clarinet/ E♭ Contrabass Clarinet
2	B♭ Bass Clarinet/ BB♭ Contrabass Clarinet
2	Bassoon
2	1st E♭ Alto Saxophone
2	2nd E♭ Alto Saxophone
2	B♭ Tenor Saxophone
1	E♭ Baritone Saxophone
3	1st B♭ Trumpet
3	2nd B♭ Trumpet
3	3rd B♭ Trumpet
2	1st F Horn
1	2nd F Horn
1	3rd F Horn
2	1st Trombone
2	2nd Trombone
2	3rd Trombone
2	Baritone T.C.
2	Baritone B.C.
4	Tuba
1	Bells
1	Timpani
3	Percussion (Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Crash Cymbals, Suspended Cymbal)

Frank Erickson Publications

Alfred

Please note: Our band and orchestra music is now being collated by an automatic high-speed system. The enclosed parts are now sorted by page count, rather than score order.

About the composer

The Irish composer and singer, Michael William Balfe, was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1808 and died in 1870. It is interesting that two important events in his early life were associated with military bands. At the age of seven he began to take violin lessons from Joseph Halliday, a military bandmaster, and one of his first compositions was a polka, scored for band. During his life time he was highly acclaimed worldwide both as a composer and Irish tenor. He is credited with having written 29 operas, all in which he was featured as a performer. But as has happened with so many other composers, fame diminished and his name is hardly known today.

About the composition

Although not widely known, the ballad *I Dreamt I Dwelt in Marble Halls*, from Michael Balfe's opera *The Bohemian Girl*, has found its way into some recent recordings by Irish folk singers. The melody and harmonies are quite simple in style: this, in addition to Balfe's heritage, could account for its Irish folk-song quality.

Rehearsal suggestions

Although the melody should be prominent throughout (which the scoring should assure) counter-melodies in this arrangement also have an importance of their own and the conductor should be aware of this. Measure 36: the continuous arpeggio figures in the clarinets will necessitate staggered breathing. Measure 46: make sure the lower part of the high counter-melody (in thirds) balances the top line. All crescendos, dimuendos and changes in tempo should be gradual, nothing sudden. Although a certain amount of freedom is in order, do not let the tempo drag. Obviously, the bass voice in the last four measures should be predominant.

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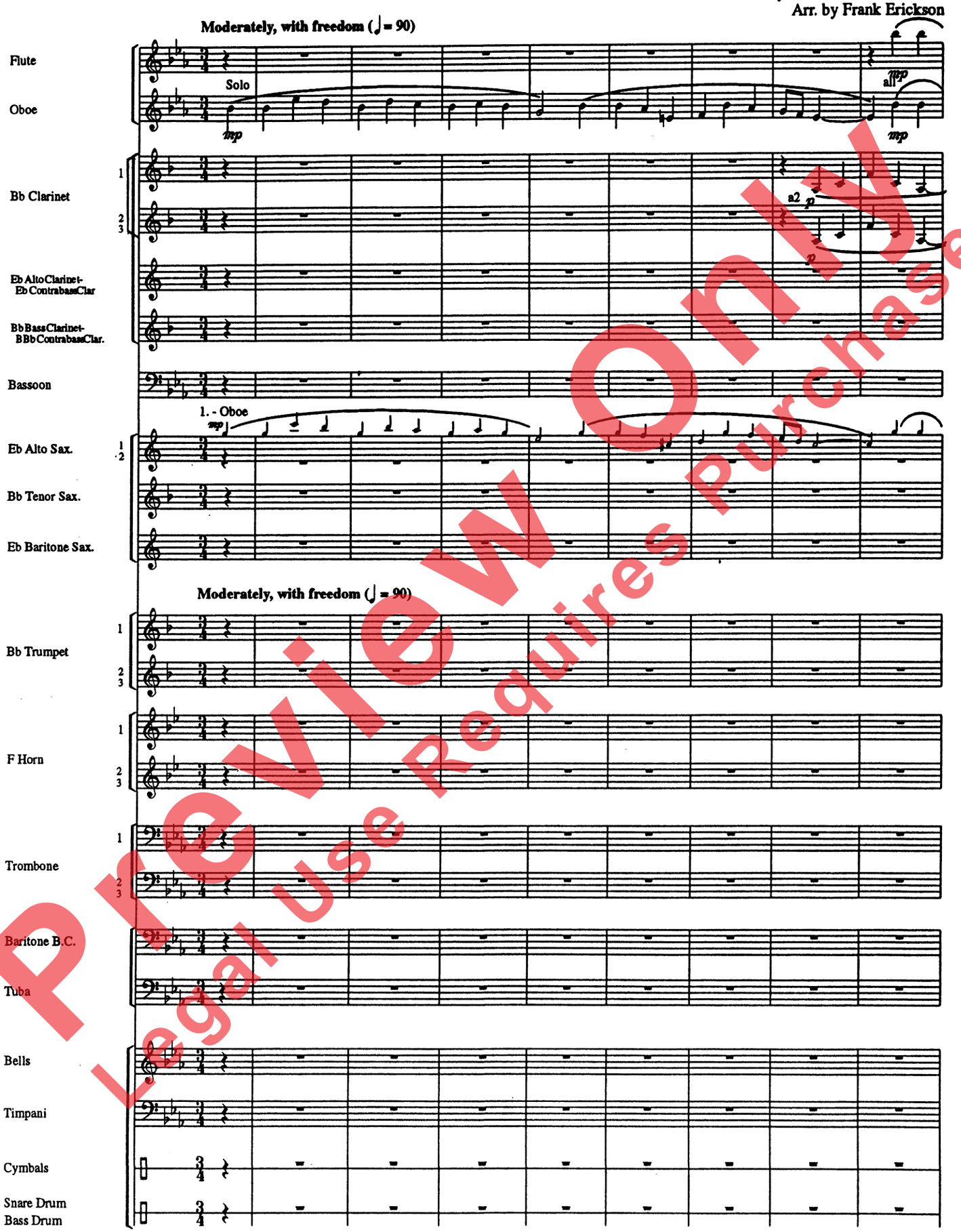
Full Score
Duration 2:45

I Dreamt I Dwelt in Marble Halls

An Irish Ballad

By Michael William Balfe
Arr. by Frank Erickson



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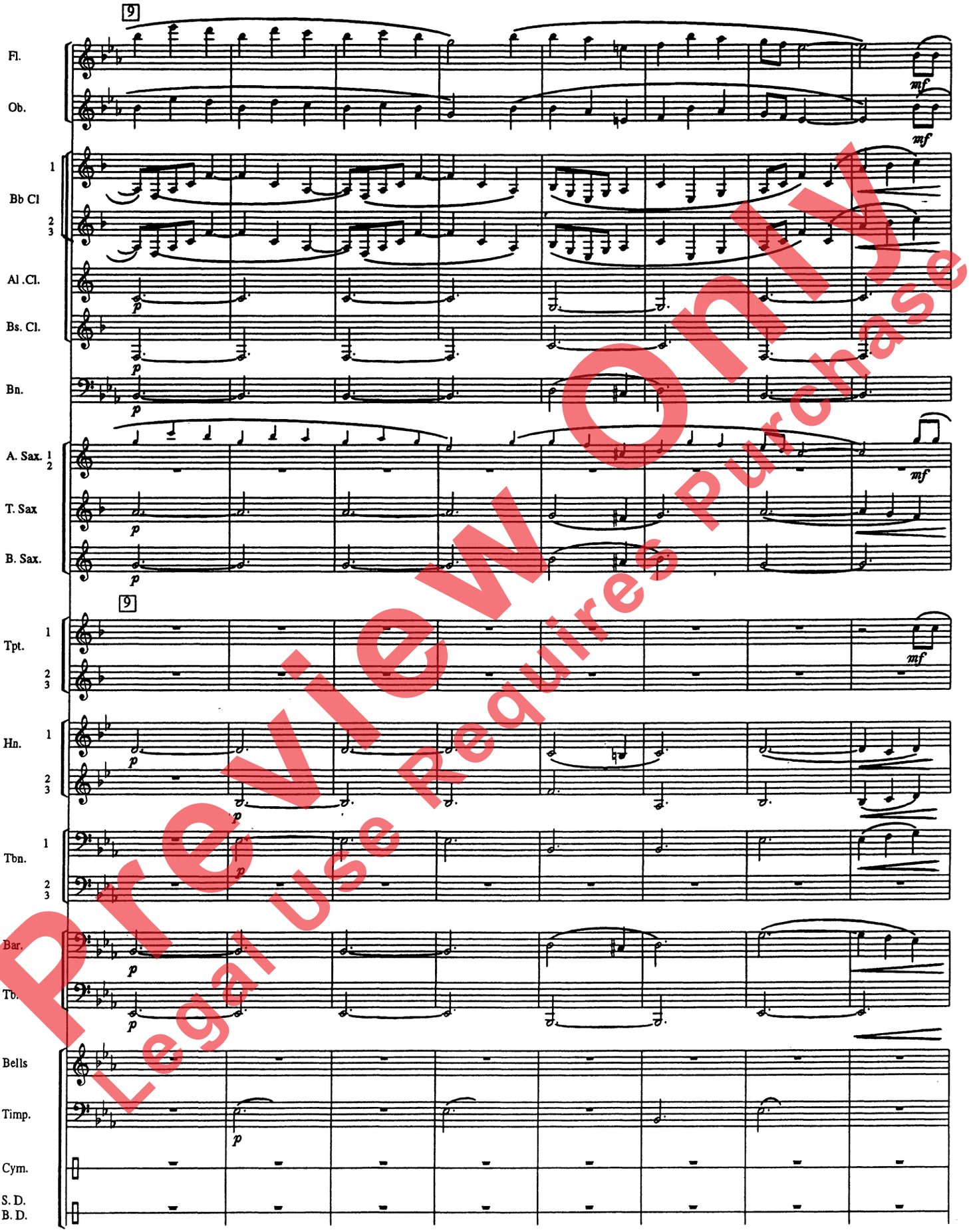

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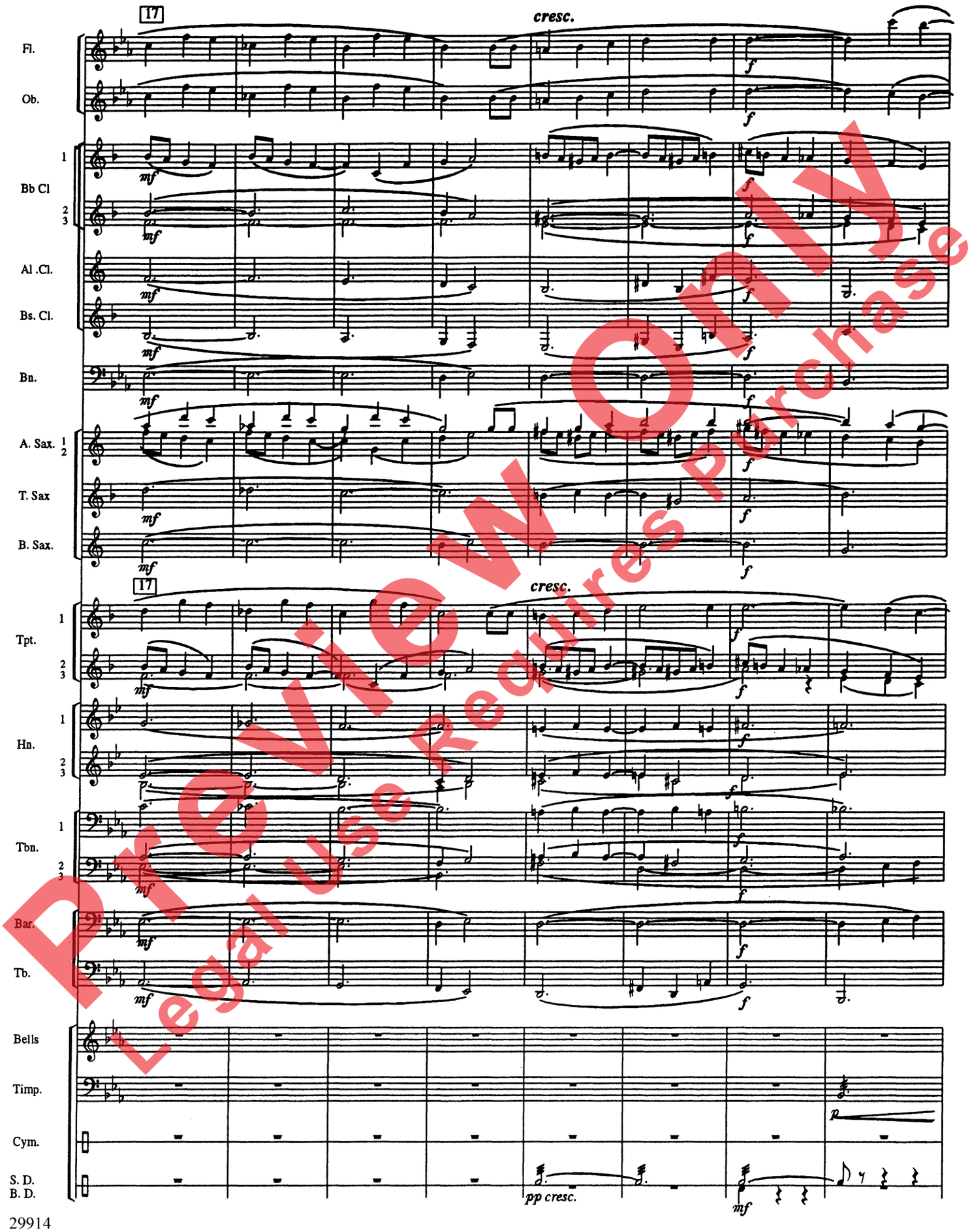

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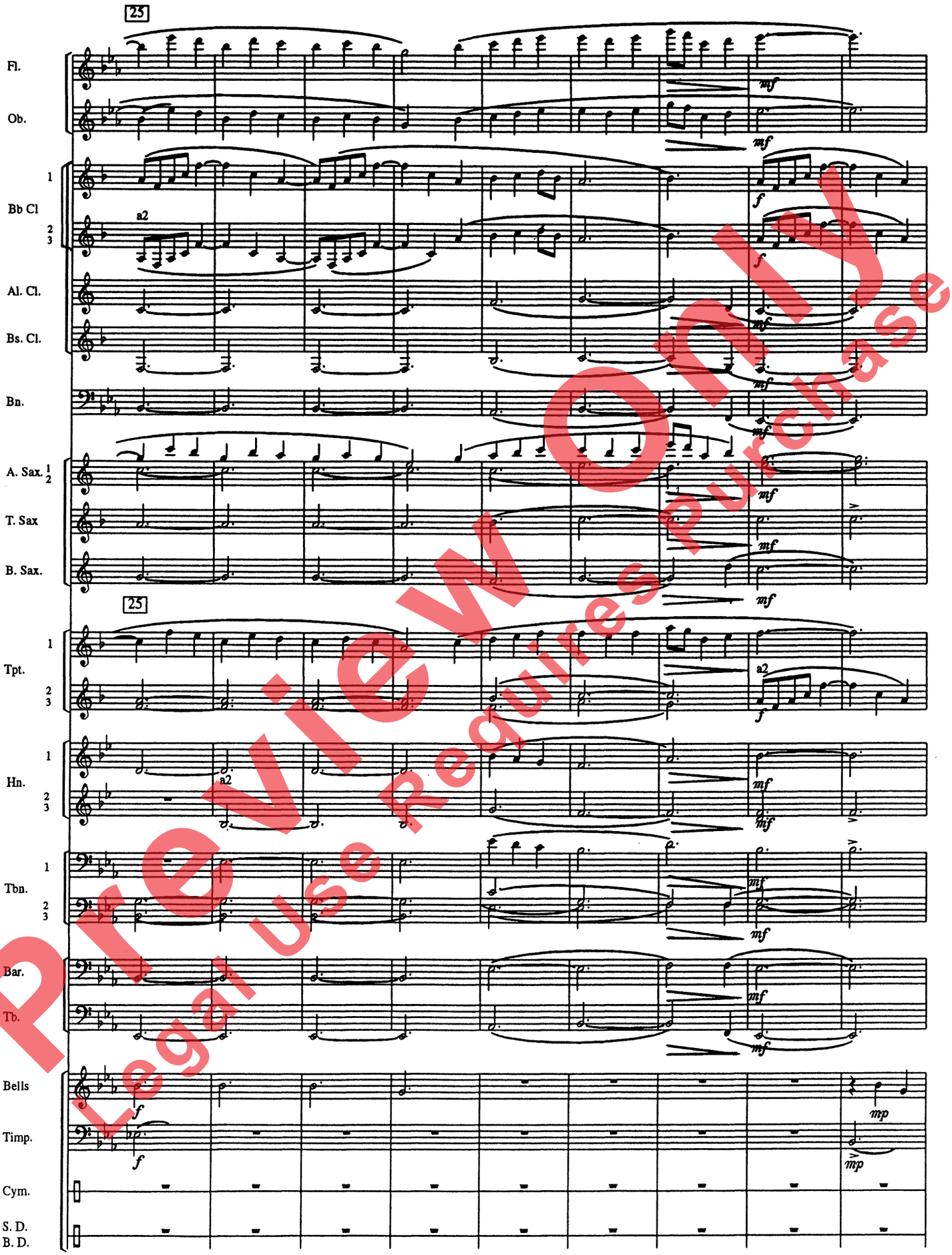

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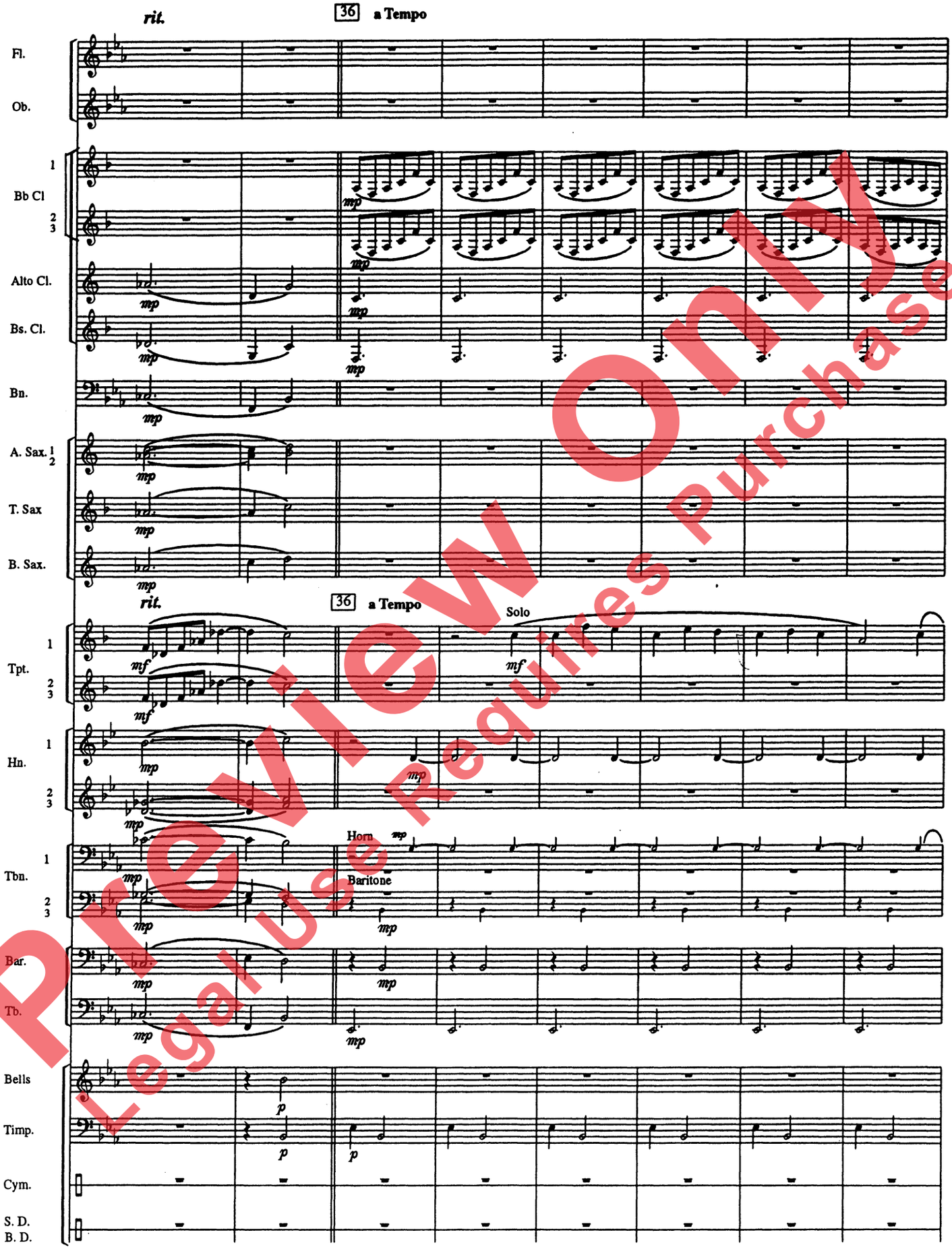

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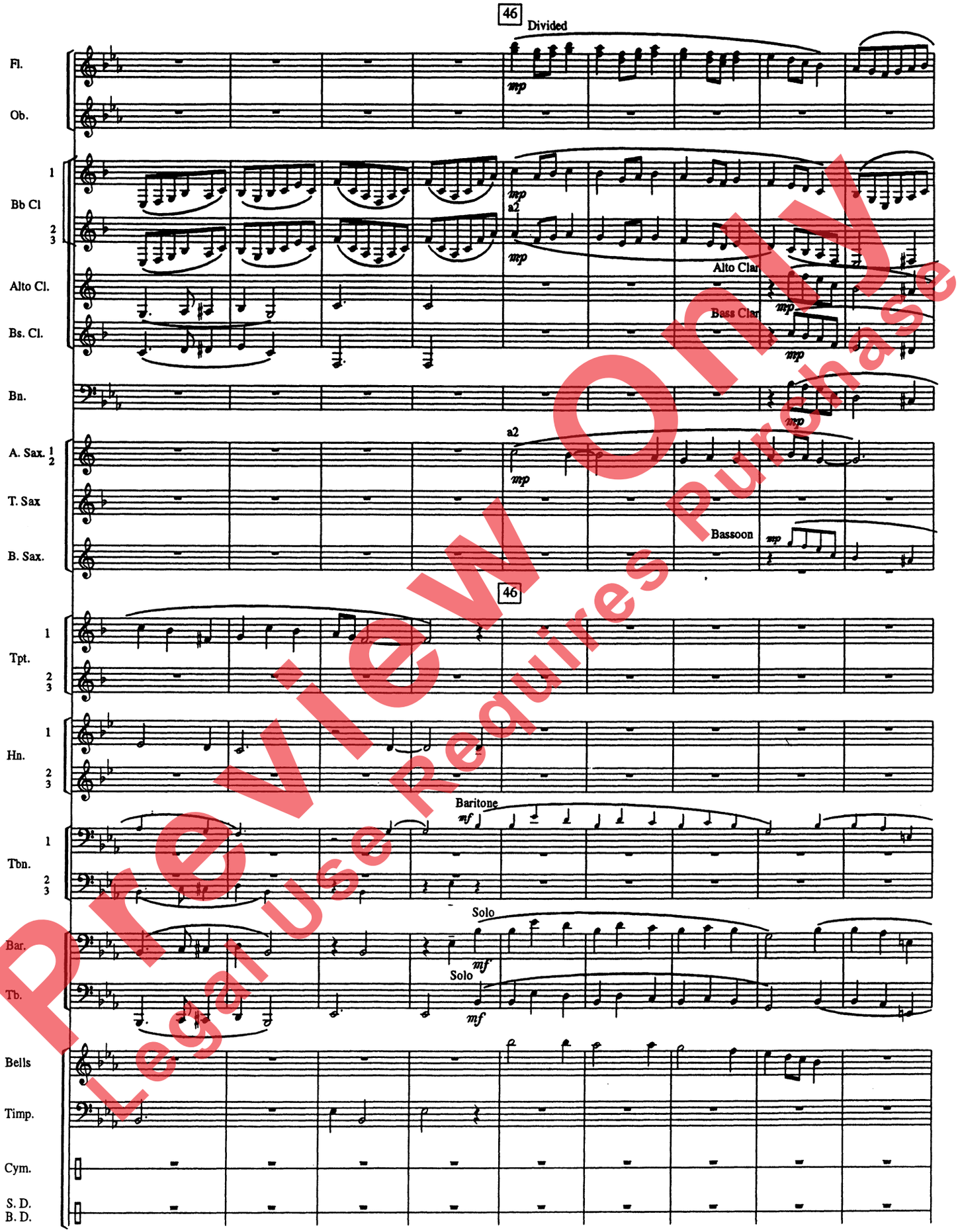

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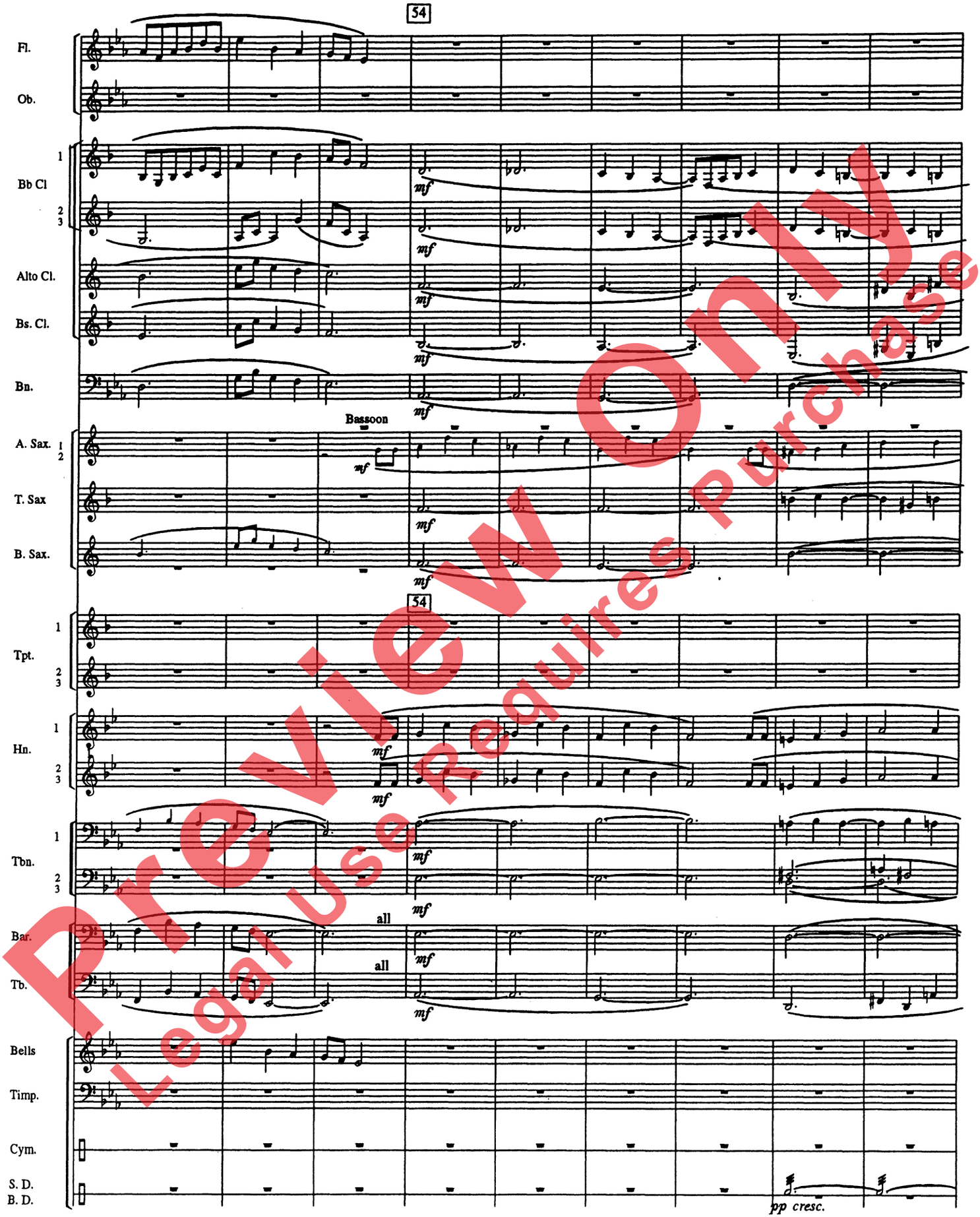

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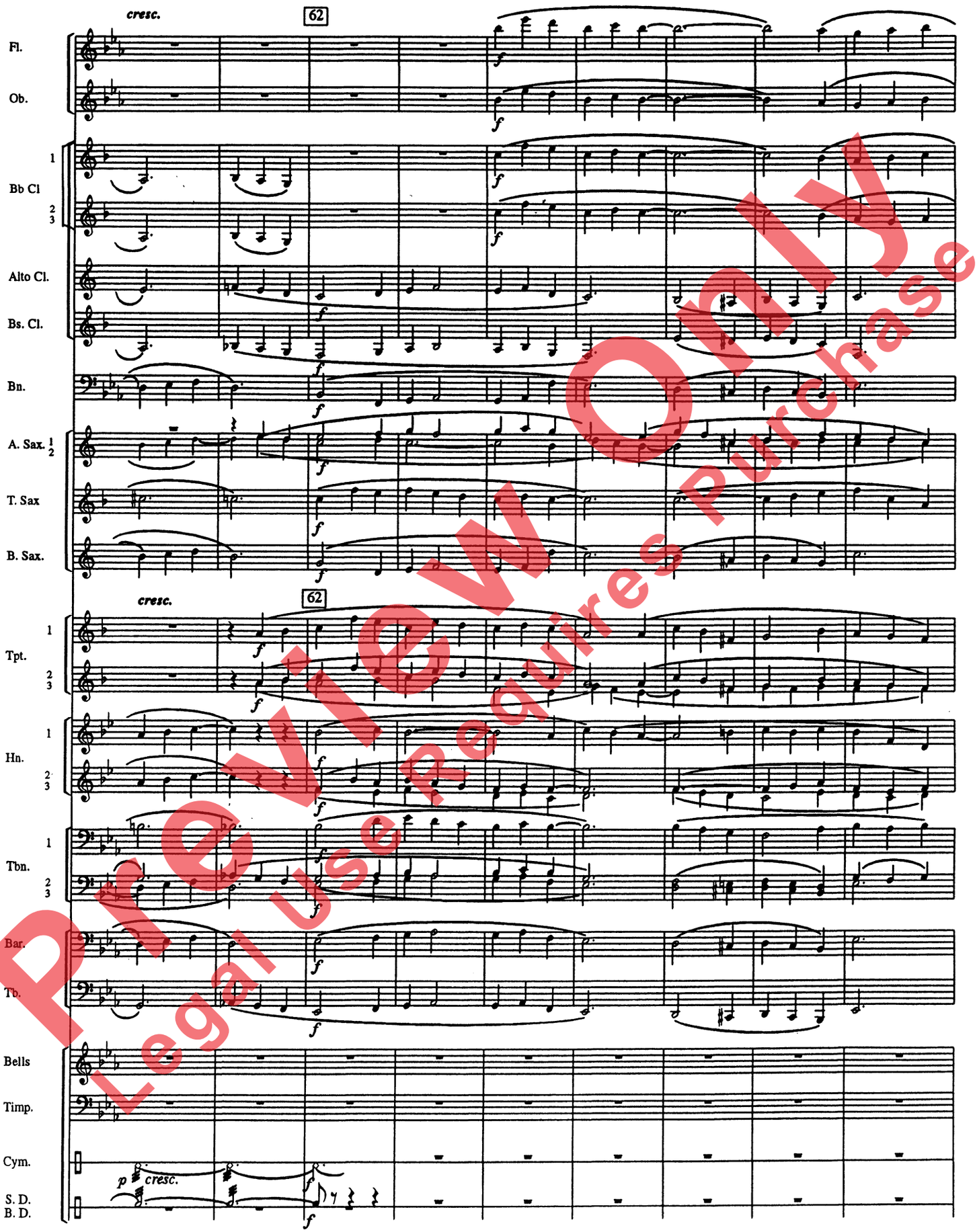

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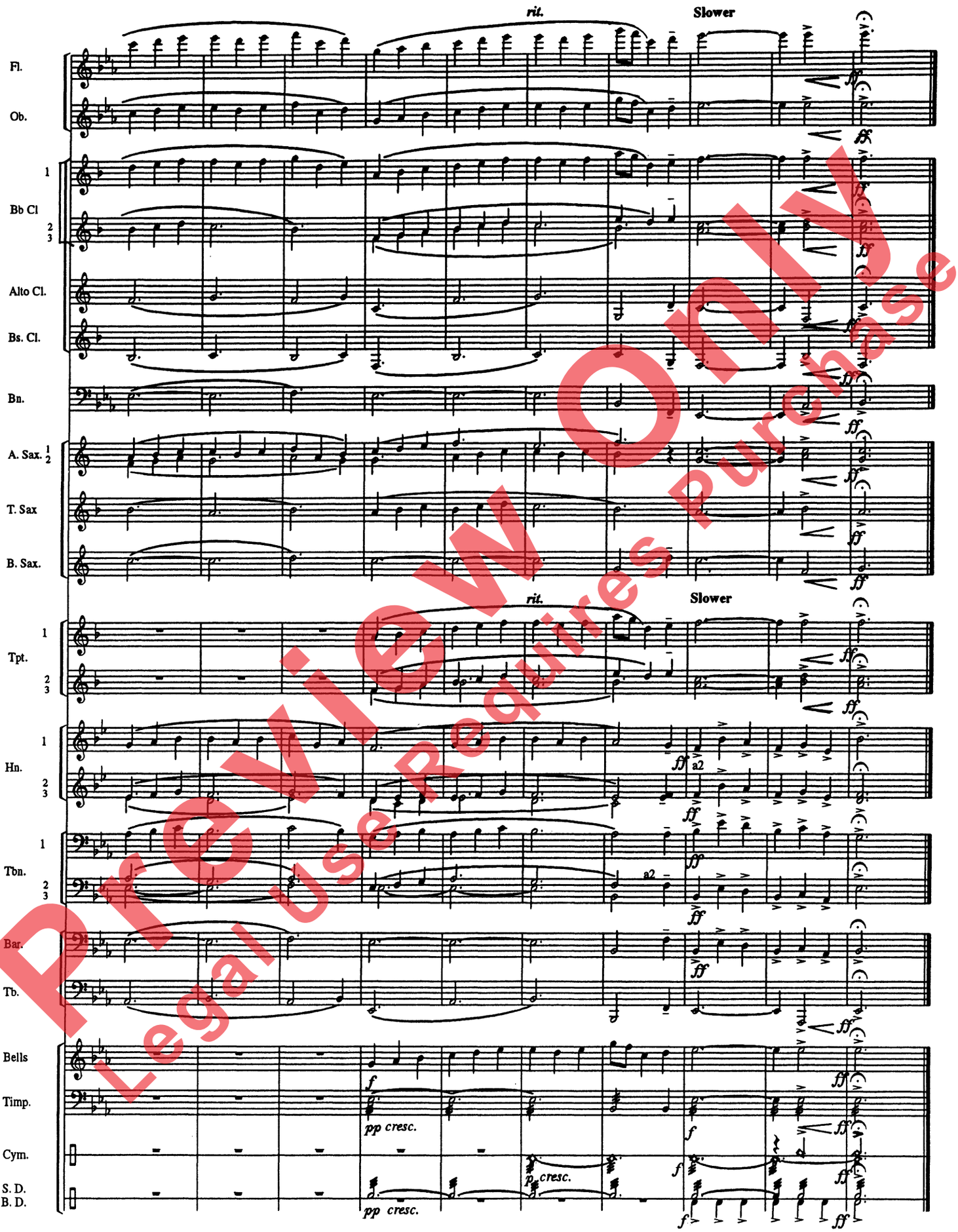

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