Performance Notes

Take care to bring out the melody, which appears in all registers. When the melody is in the middle, as in mm. 8–9 or mm. 50–55, work to keep the up-stem treble from overpowering the melody.

Ringers should be careful to keep stopped sounds from overpowering the melody, especially in cases such as the martellato lifts in mm. 30–31. Remember, a martellato is a technique, not a dynamic. Practice "how softly can you mart?" Prepare for the mart lift by having bells close to the table. This will help to avoid that sound that reminds one of popcorn popping.

Syncopation abounds in "Follow the Star of Bethlehem." The pattern is often "one-and (two)-and-(three/four)." Clap this rhythm before you ring it, making sure everyone feels the pattern.

Changes most often involve moving from handbells to handchimes. Mark music accordingly and practice these moves. Drawing an arrow downward from the bell to be changed indicates to prepare for the change. Remember to change a bell/chime the last time it's played before a change, even though the changed bell/chime to be played may be measures away. Be ready!

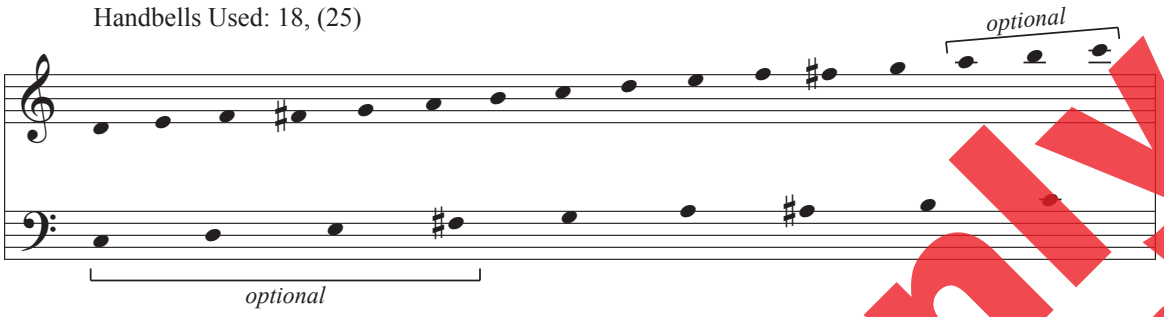
Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

Linda Lamb has been involved with handbells since 1992, as director, composer, and occasional ringer. She is the handbell director at Lexington Park Baptist Church, Lexington Park, Maryland, where she directs a multi-generational choir. She is also the founder and list owner of the Frustrated Friends of Finale (FFFinale), an internet mailing list for handbell composers and arrangers who use the Finale music program. As a composer and arranger, she has numerous handbell titles in print. She graduated from Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tennessee, with a B.A. in sociology, and from Concordia University in Wisconsin with a Master of Church Music (emphasis in handbells). She and her husband Ken are the proud parents of two grown children and three grandchildren.

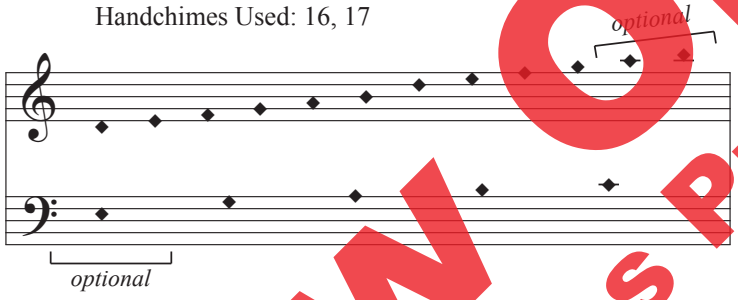
Follow the Star of Bethlehem

for 2–3 octaves of Handbells and optional 2–3 octaves of Handchimes

Handbells Used: 18, (25)



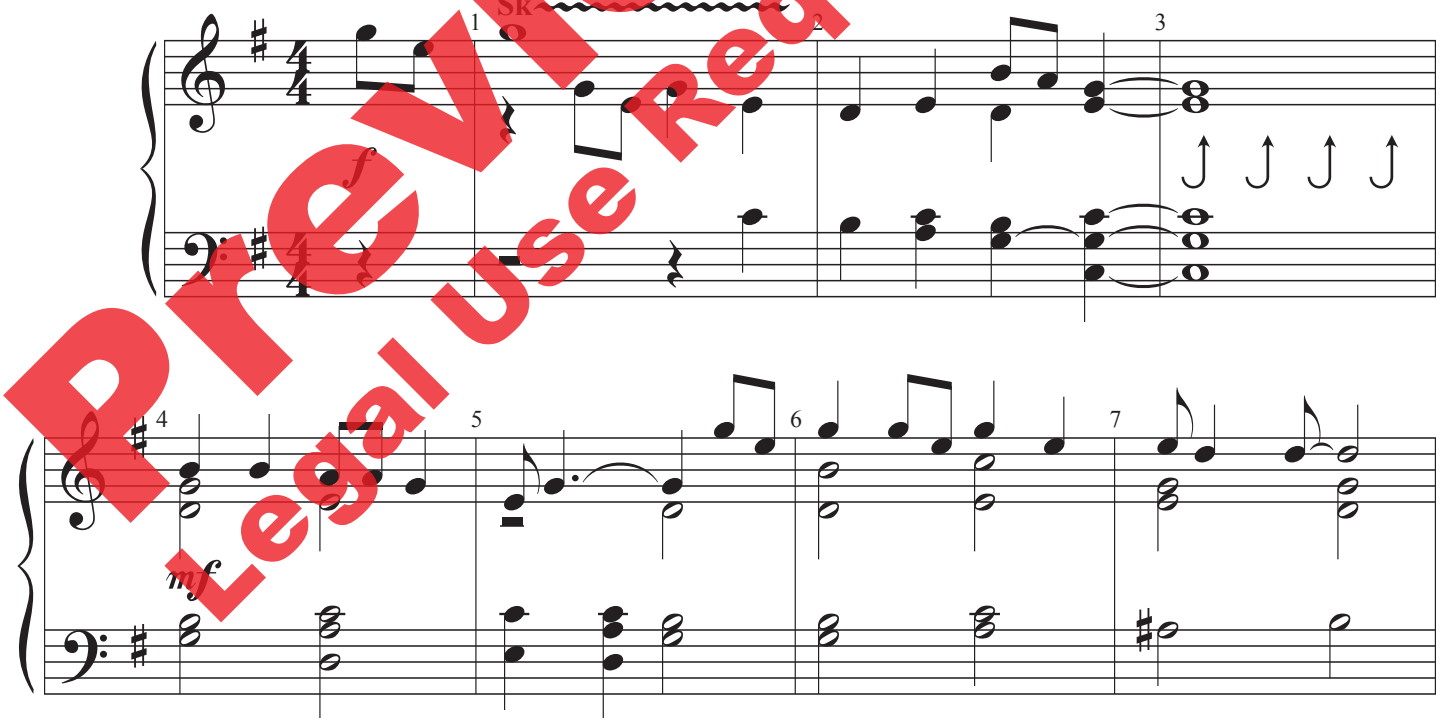
Handchimes Used: 16, 17



2 octave choirs omit notes in ( ).
3 octave choirs omit notes in [ ].

African-American Spiritual
Arranged by **Linda R. Lamb (ASCAP)**

With a bounce (♩ = c. 100)



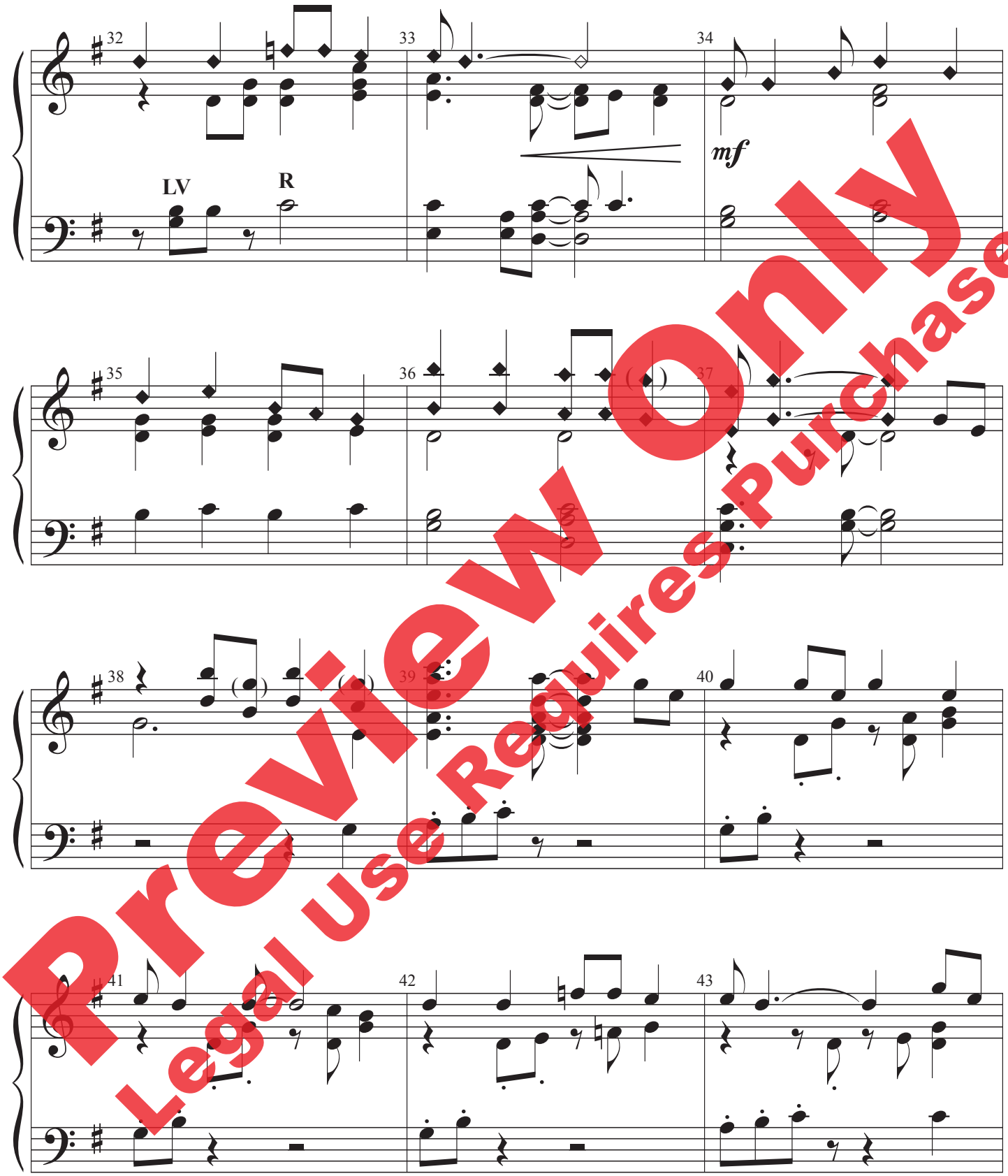
Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

Copyright © 2014 by Alfred Music
All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.
To purchase a full-length recording of this piece, go to alfred.com/downloads

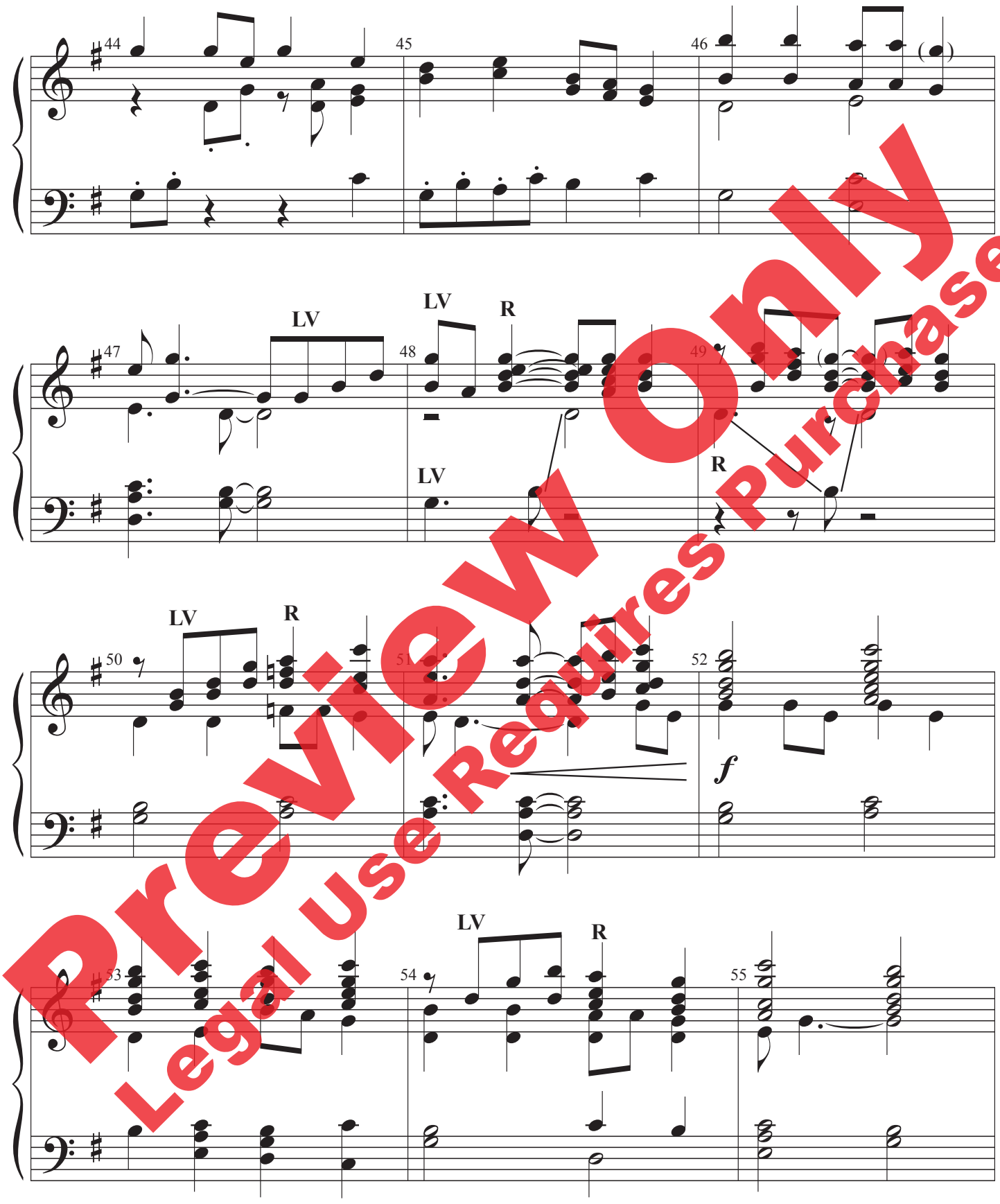
Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

*Staccato notes may be played using TD, Pl, or with mallets on table.

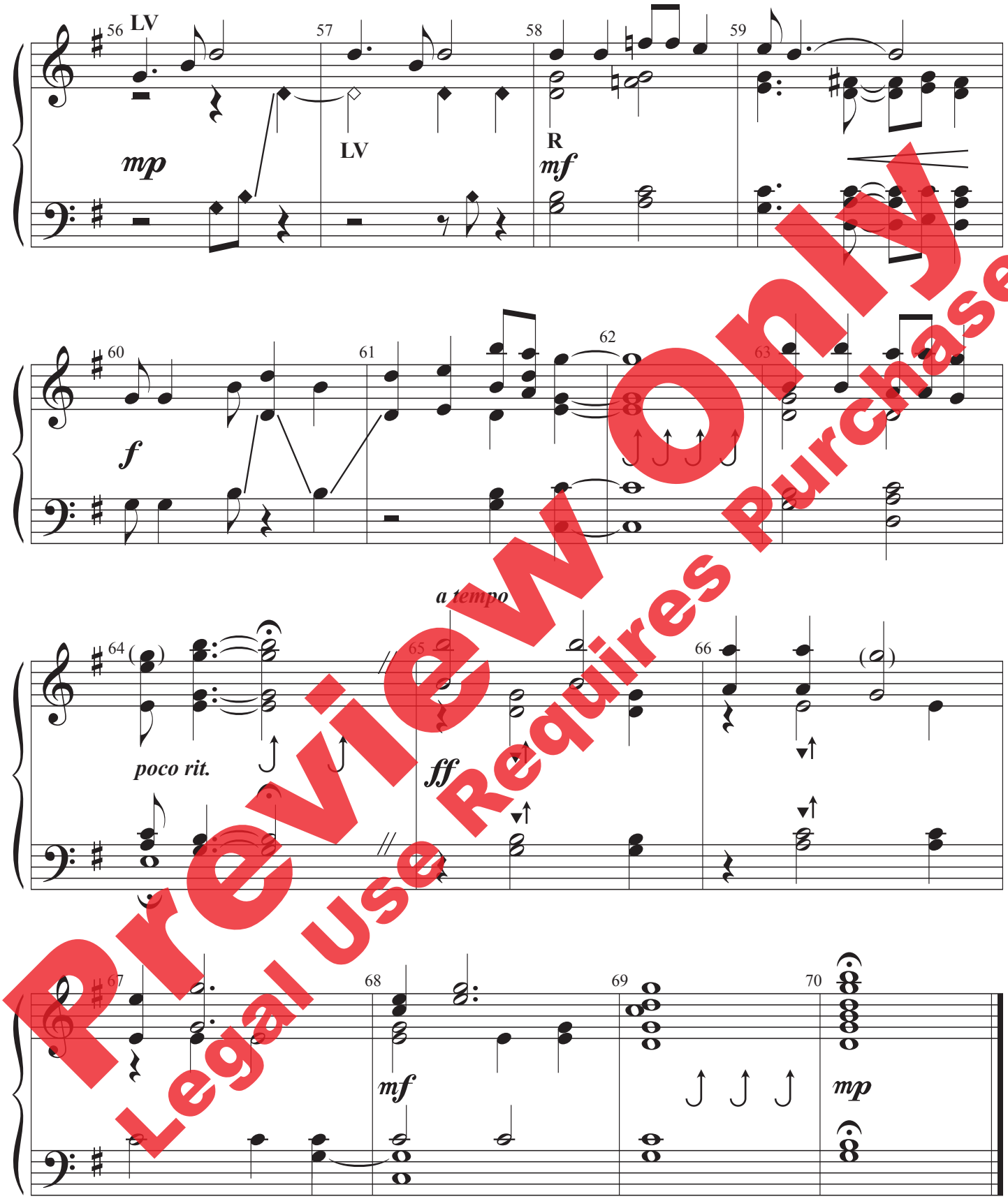
Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase



Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase



Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase



Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

42897 $4.50
0 38081 48447 1