This setting of **THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY** was created to be easily mastered by the singers without sacrificing creativity. The four-hand piano part was designed to be playable by average pianists, but with lots of sparkle and energy. The text of this beloved Christmas song often plays second fiddle to vocal drumming effects. It was my intent to allow the pianos (and percussion) to fulfill that role, giving room for the vocals to express the warmth and tenderness inherent in the text. This piece should be approached playfully by the pianists and sincerely by the singers, culminating with a very expressive, rubato delivery of the phrase "Then He smiled at me," which, for me, is the most important line in the text.

JOEL RANEY is a composer/arranger from the Chicago area, where he serves as an editor for Hope Publishing Company. Joel has over 300 titles in print, with an ever-growing catalog that includes choral, instrumental, piano, and handbell music. Best known for the wide variety of styles in his works, Joel is a sought-after concert artist and clinician. He resides in Lombard, Illinois, with his wife and three sons, Charlie, Sawyer, and Jesse, and currently serves as Minister of Music at the First Baptist Church of Oak Park, Illinois.

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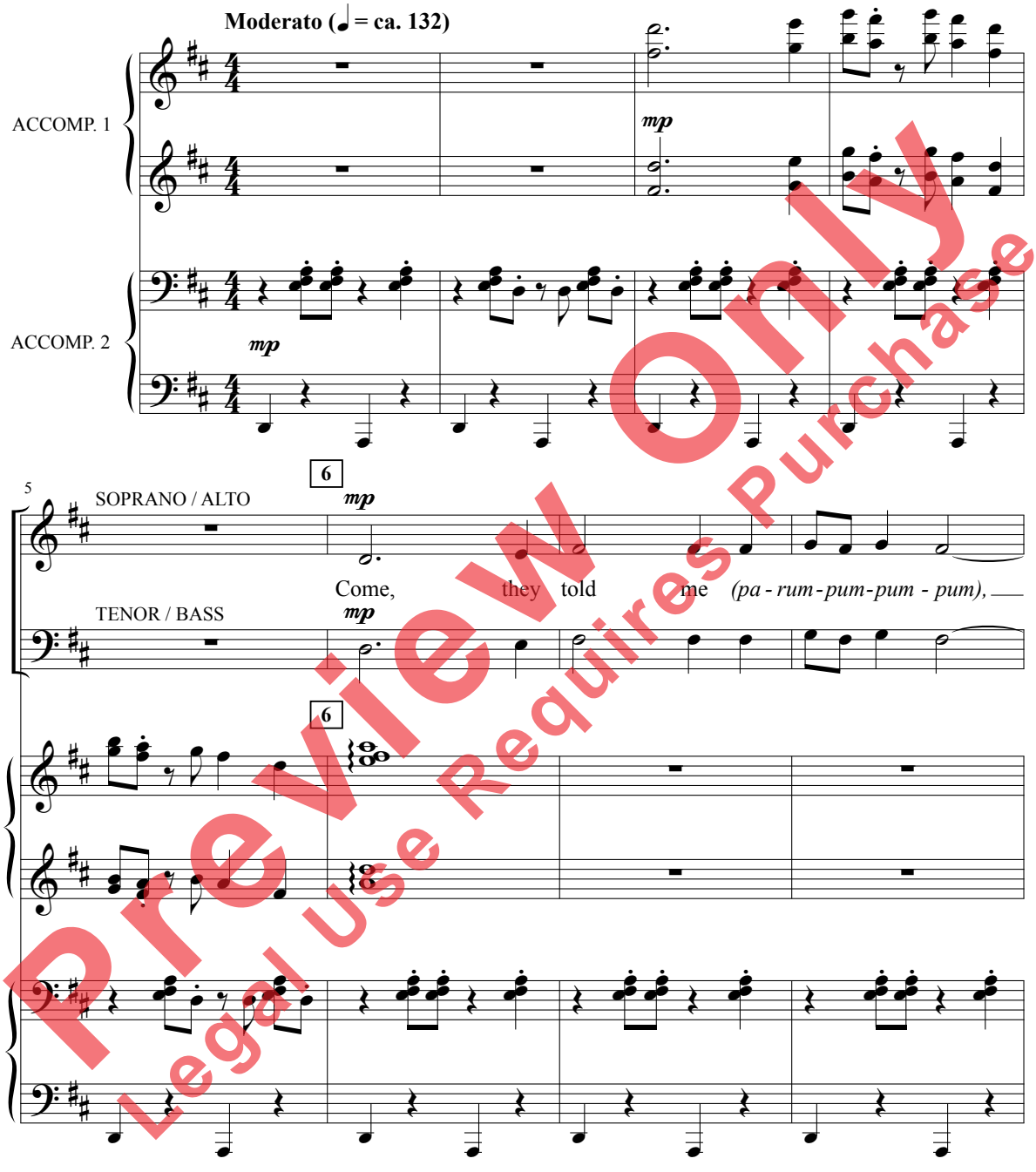
THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY

for S.A.T.B. voices, 4-hand accompaniment*

Arranged by
JOEL RANEY

Words and Music by
KATHERINE DAVIS, HENRY ONORATI, and HARRY SIMEONE



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* To purchase a full-length performance recording (44610) of this piece, go to alfred.com/downloads.
8.5x11 pdf of the 2-hand version is available as a free download at alfred.com/choralparts (enter 44610 when prompted).

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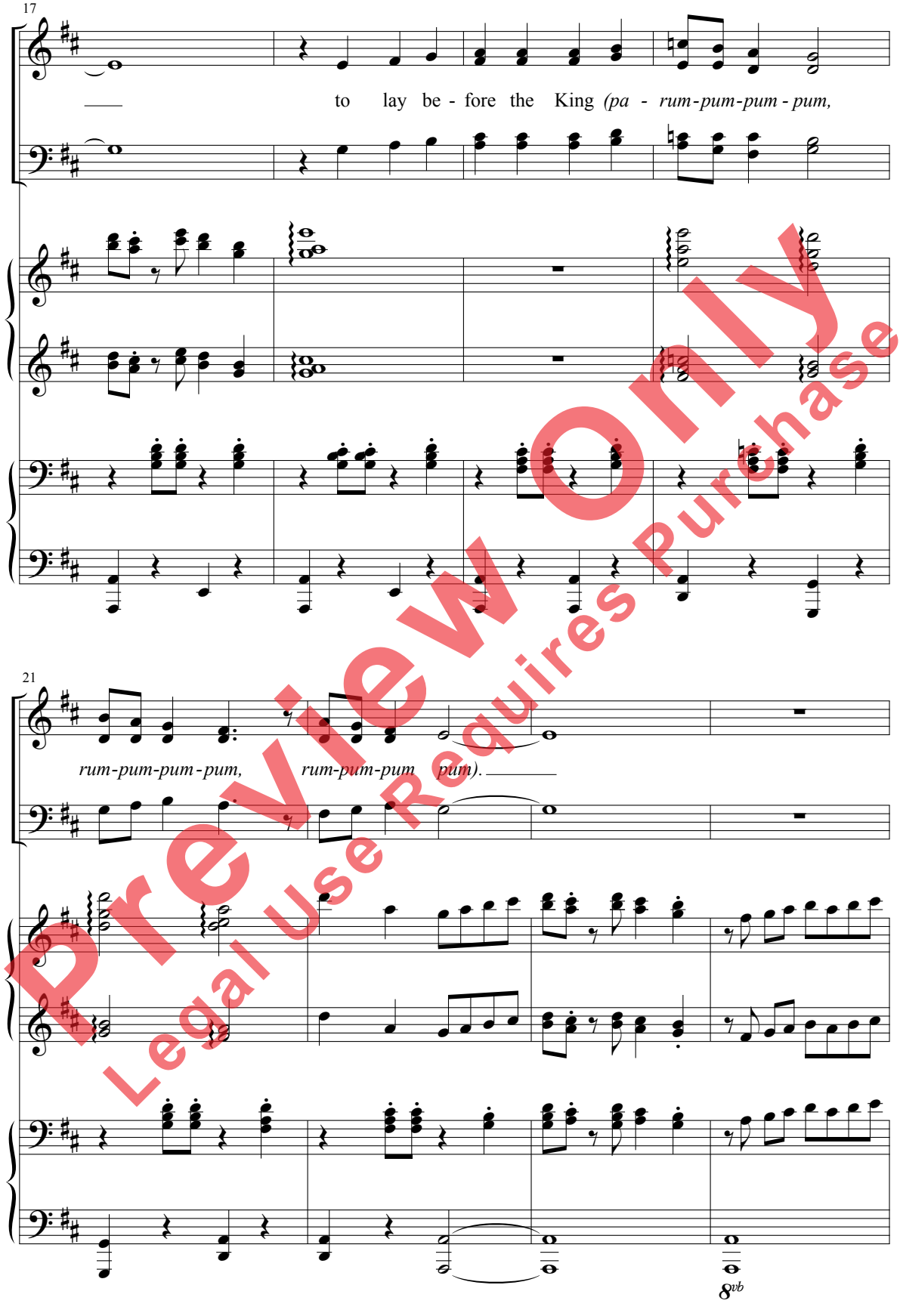

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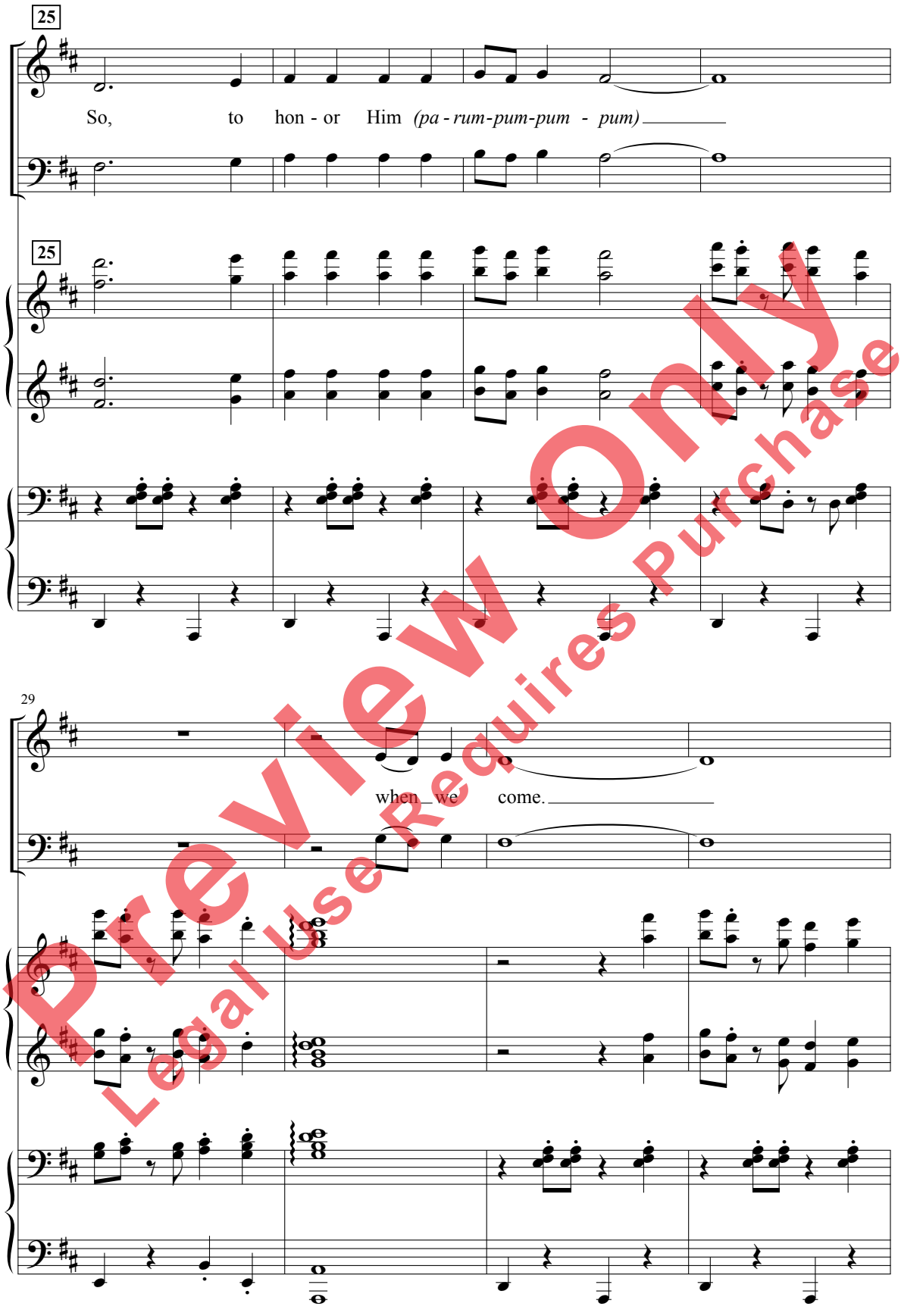

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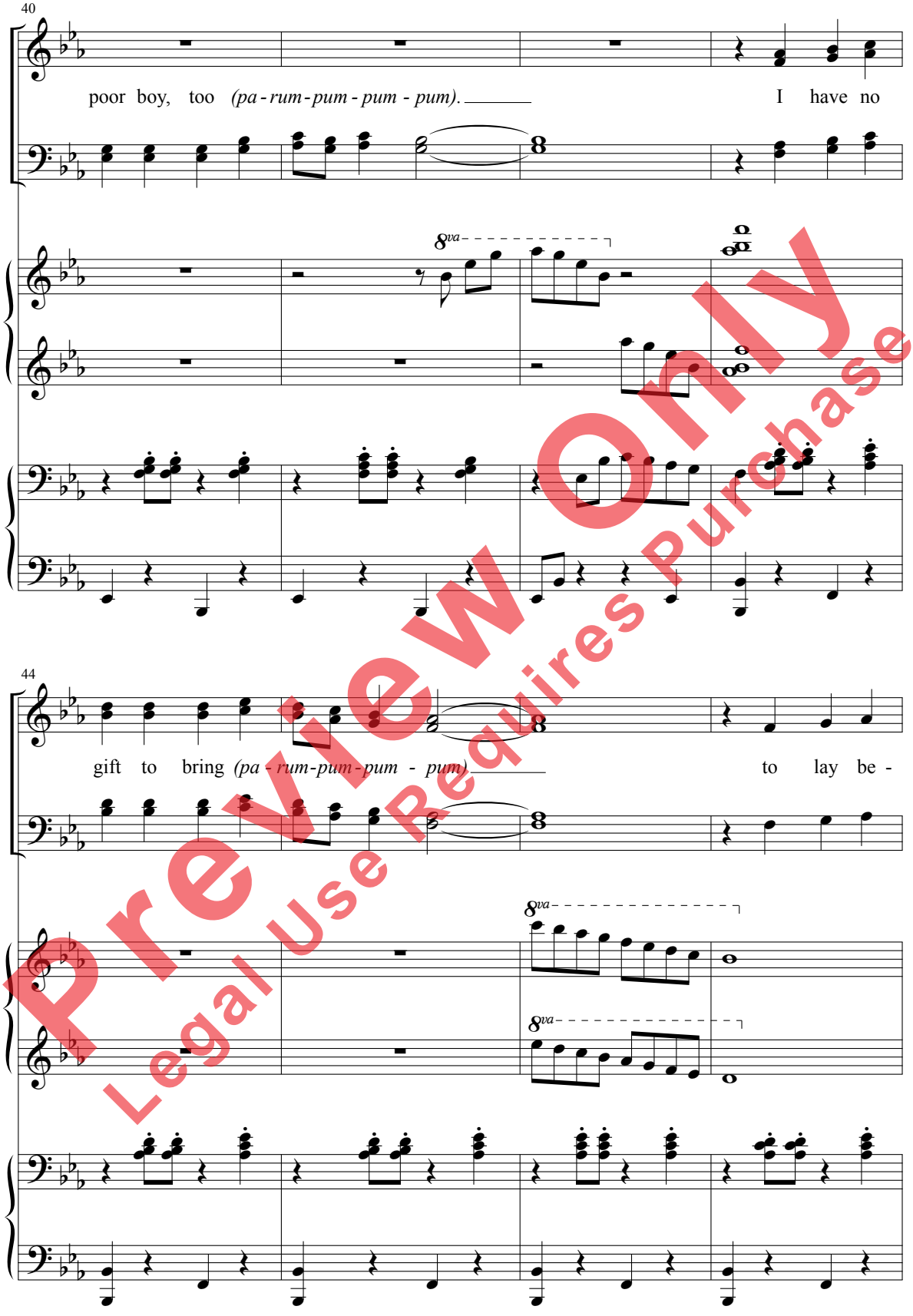

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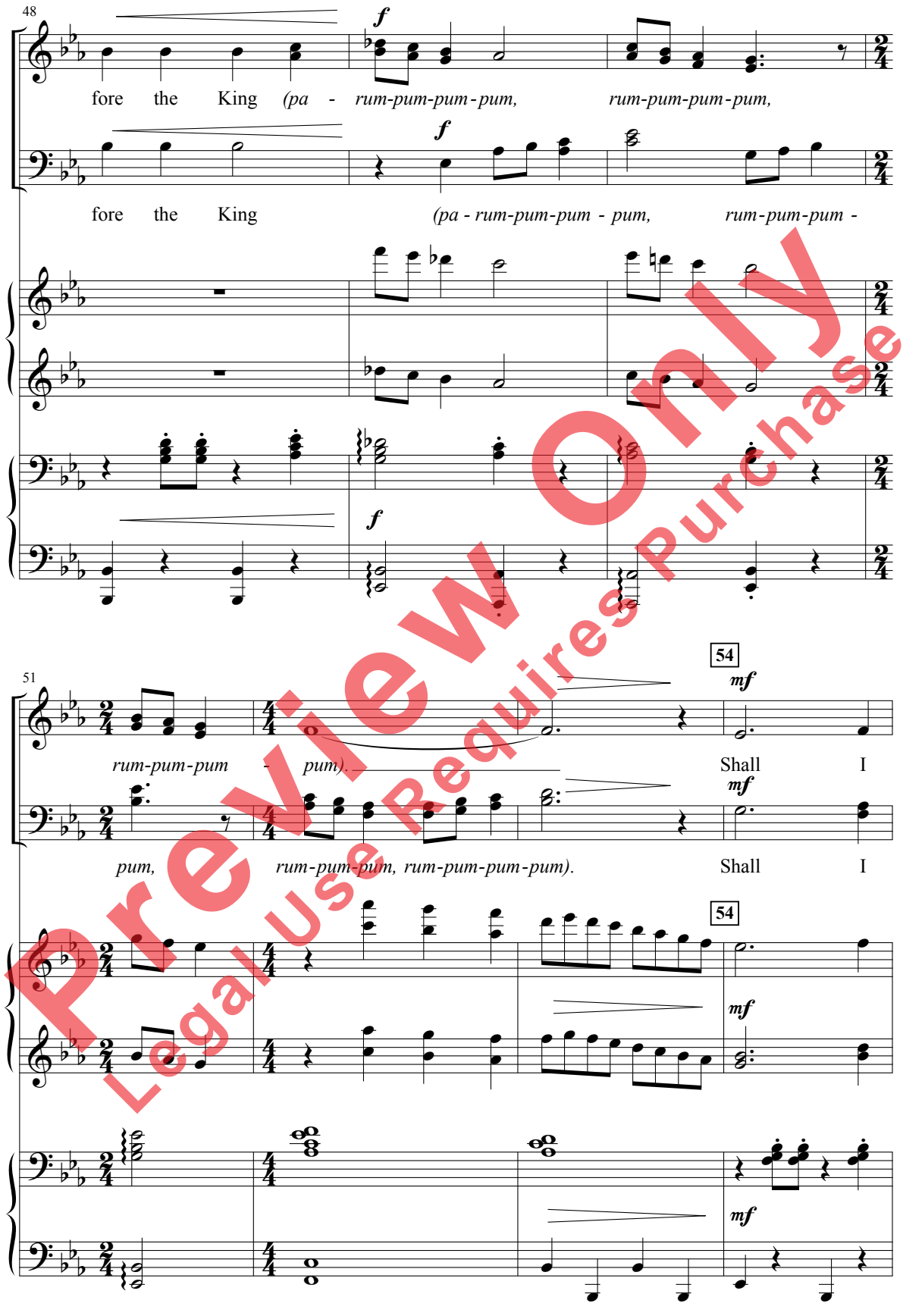

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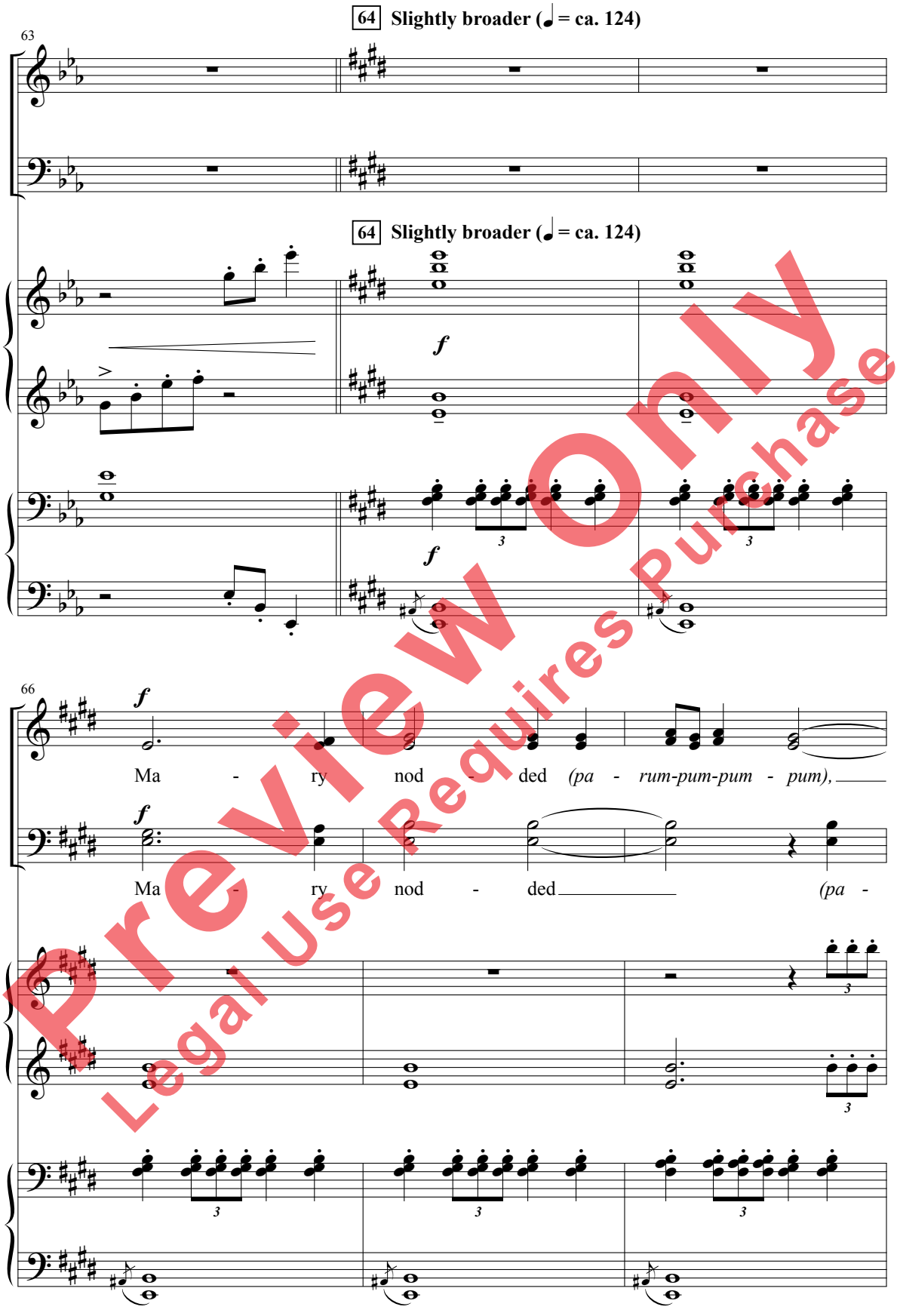

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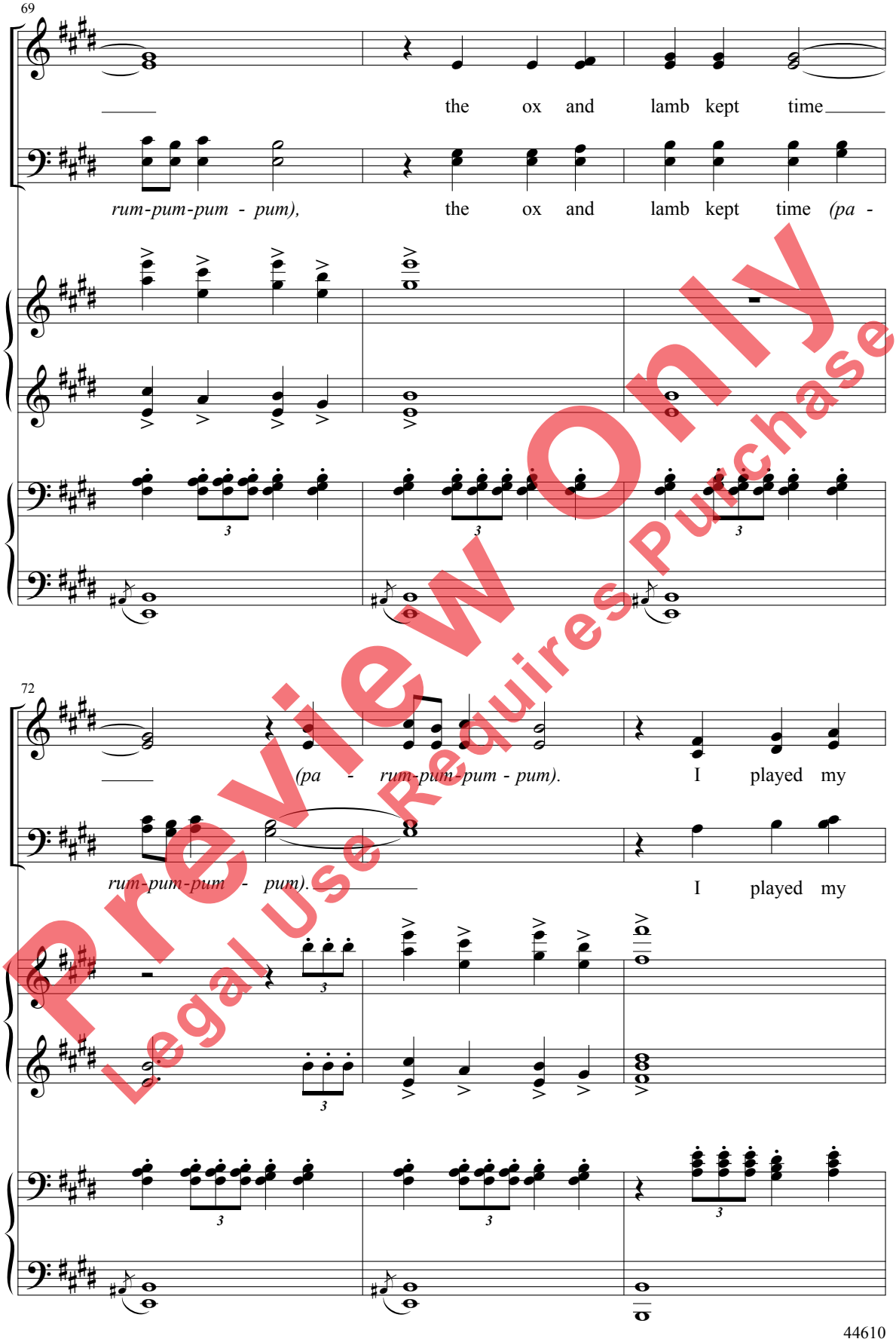

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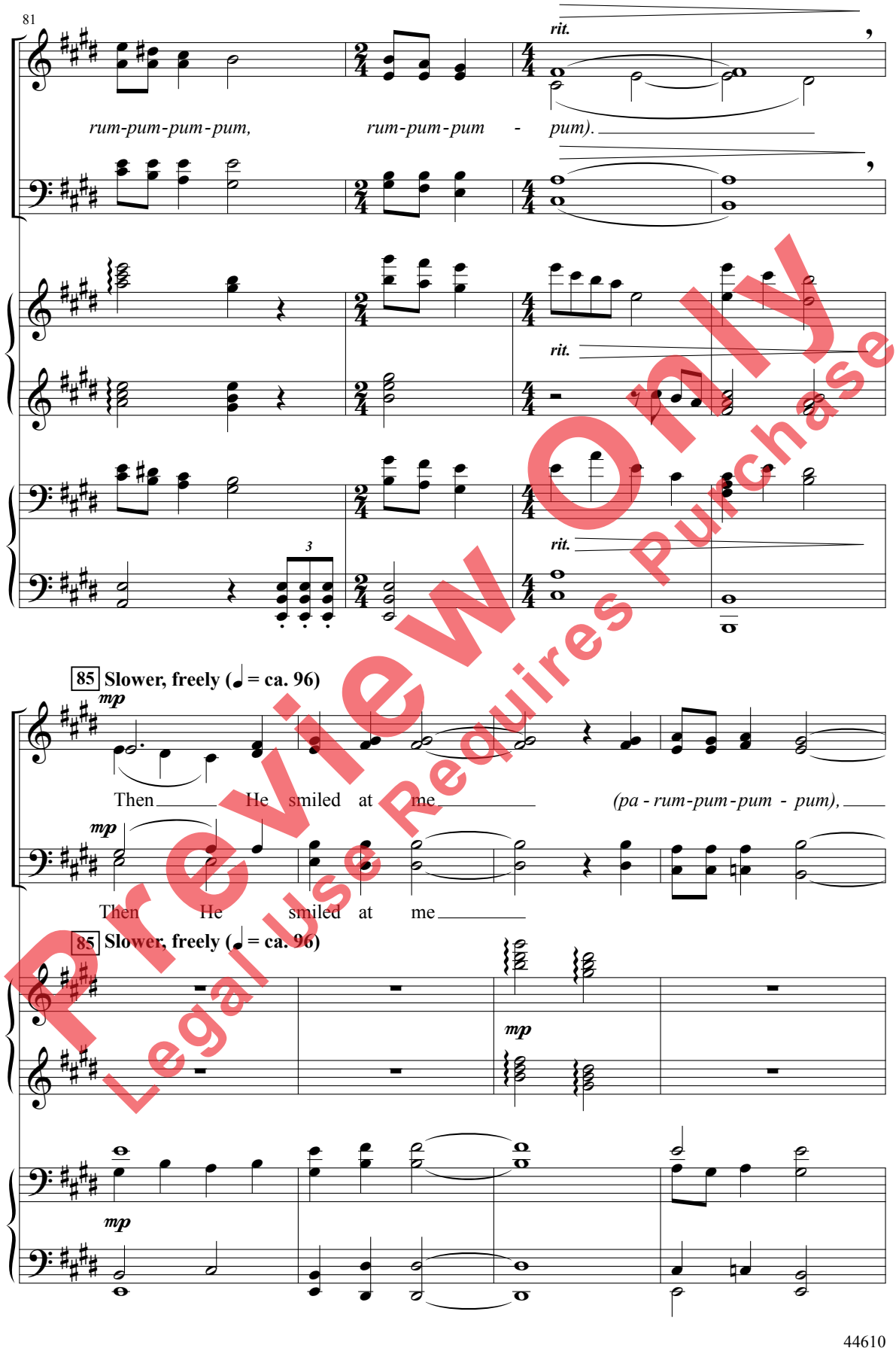

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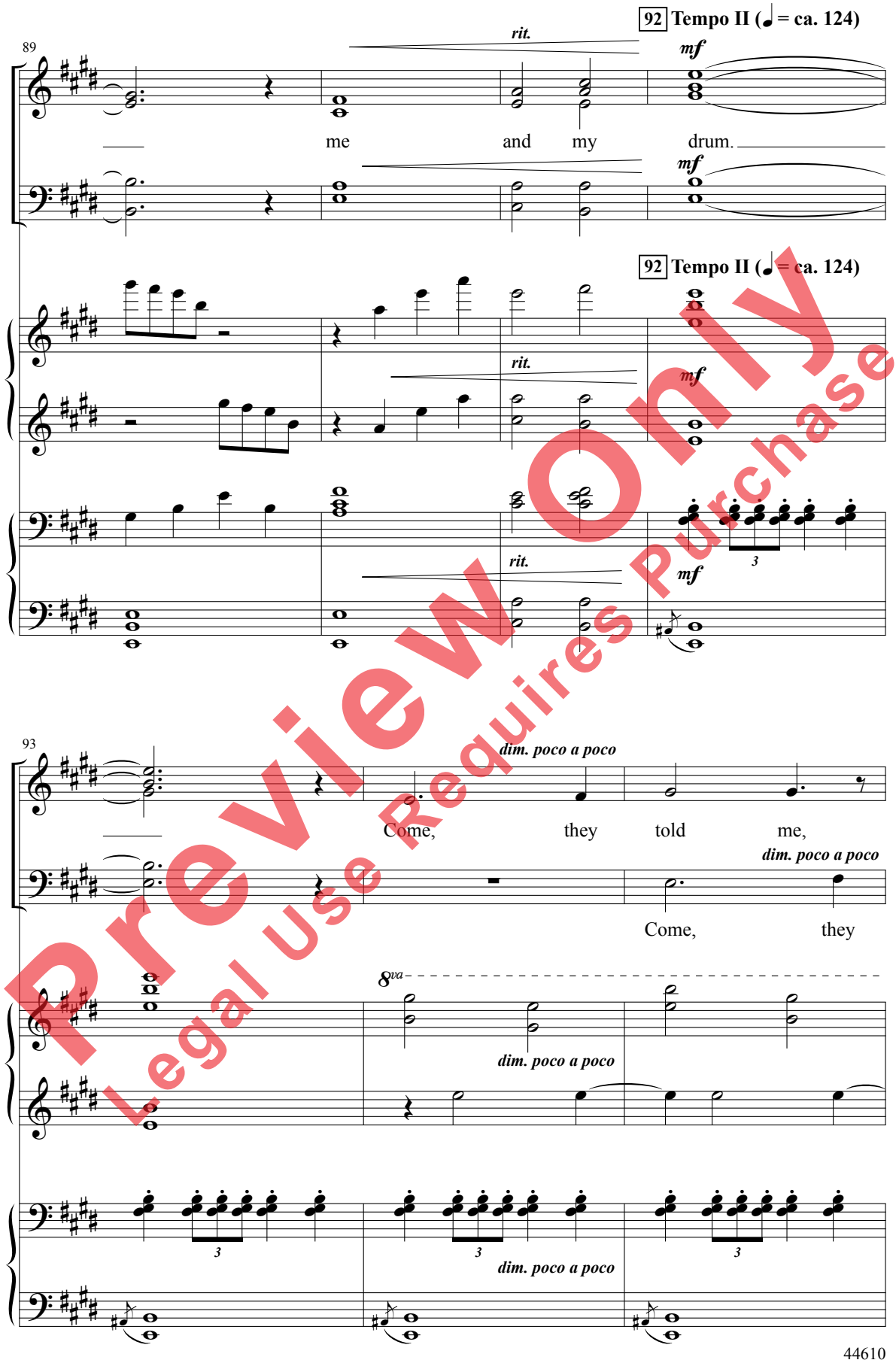

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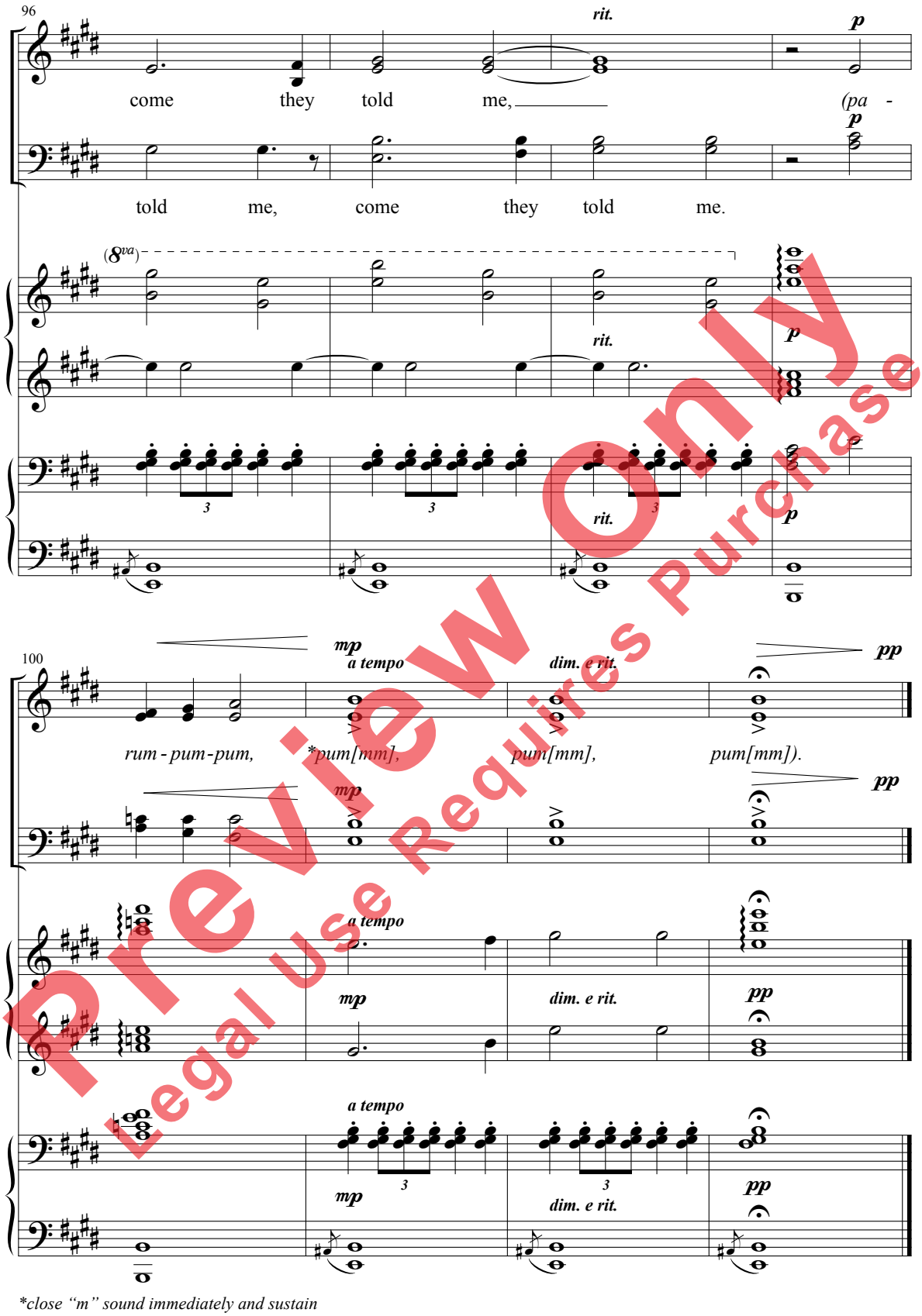

*close "m" sound immediately and sustain

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