PERFORMANCE NOTES

"Ain't-a That Good News" uses the technique of word-painting. The first verse is "I got a crown up in-a that kingdom" and the song uses shakes and stacking chords above the melody. The second stanza is "robe" which uses the "good news" ostinato and some call and response and even a singing bell at the end of the verse to indicate a robed heavenly choir singing. The third stanza is "harp" and it features arpeggiated chords. Next is "slippers," sometimes translated as shoes, so listen for the walking bass and some "ad libs" on the melody as if someone was walking and singing to himself. The final stanza is "I've got a Savior in-a that kingdom" and is a triumphant verse.

KEVIN McCHESNEY graduated with highest honors from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a BMus in Composition and Theory. A composer and arranger of handbell music, Kevin currently has over 900 titles in print and is one of the very few musicians who makes handbells a full-time vocation. He has won numerous awards for his work, including winning American Guild of English Handbell Ringers Composition Contests and Jeffers Composer of the Year. Kevin is the handbell editor for Jeffers Handbell Supply and the RingingWord catalog. He is also co-founder of the Solo To Ensemble Project, STEP, http://www.sonologymusic.com. He is Music Director of the one of the premier handbell concert groups the Pikes Peak Ringers of Colorado Springs and also the Artistic Advisor of the Atlanta Concert Ringers. His work with PPR includes the premiere and 13 further performances of his Concerto for Handbell Choir and Orchestra and a recording with world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma. He is in demand throughout the handbell world as a workshop clinician and festival conductor.

Kevin lives in Colorado Springs, CO, with his wife Tracy and their cats, Pearl and Aileen.

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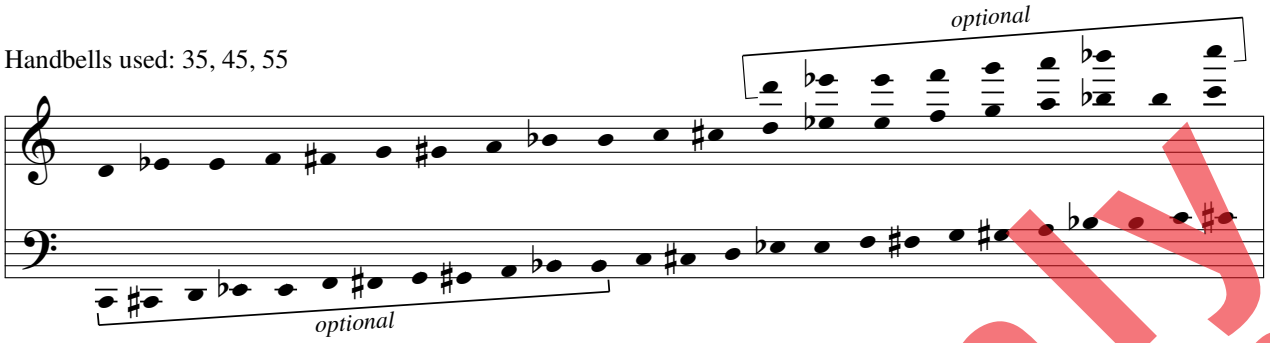
Ain't-a That Good News

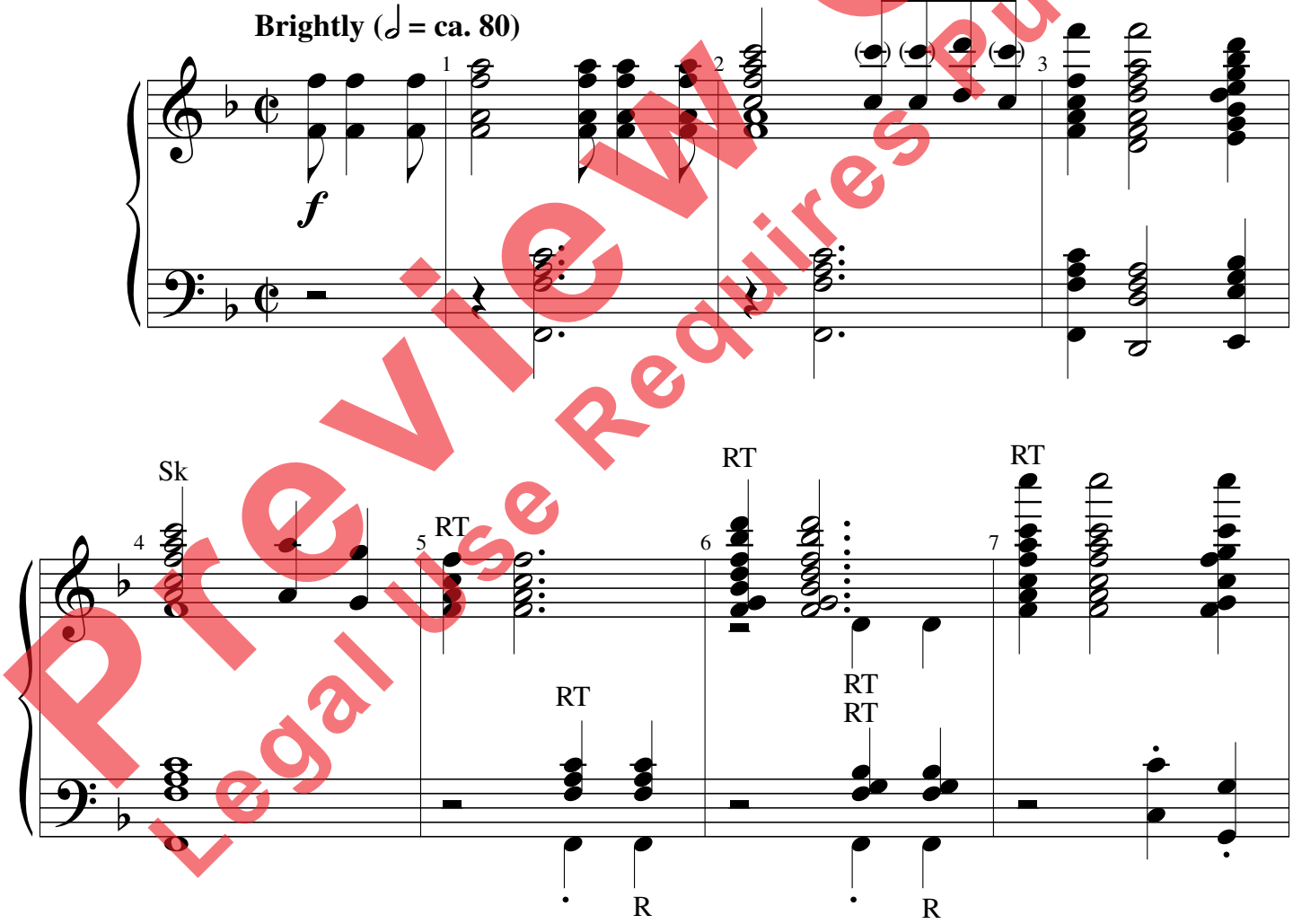
for 3–5 octaves of Handbells*

Handbells used: 35, 45, 55



3 octave choirs omit notes in ( ).
4 octave choirs omit notes in [ ].
Staccato notes may be plucked or malleted on the padded table.

African-American Spiritual
Arranged by KEVIN McCHESNEY (ASCAP)



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* To purchase a full-length recording of this piece, go to alfred.com/downloads.

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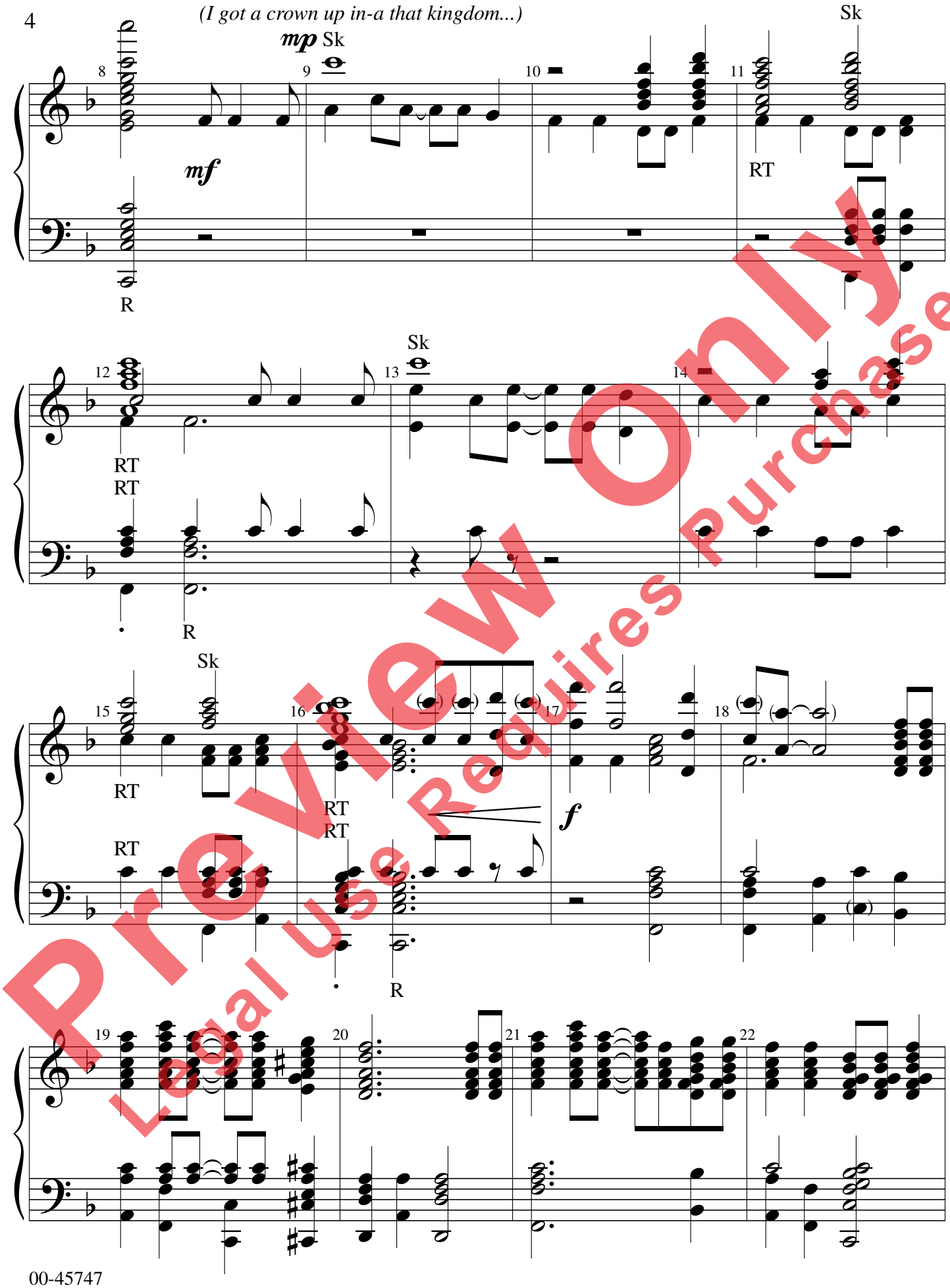

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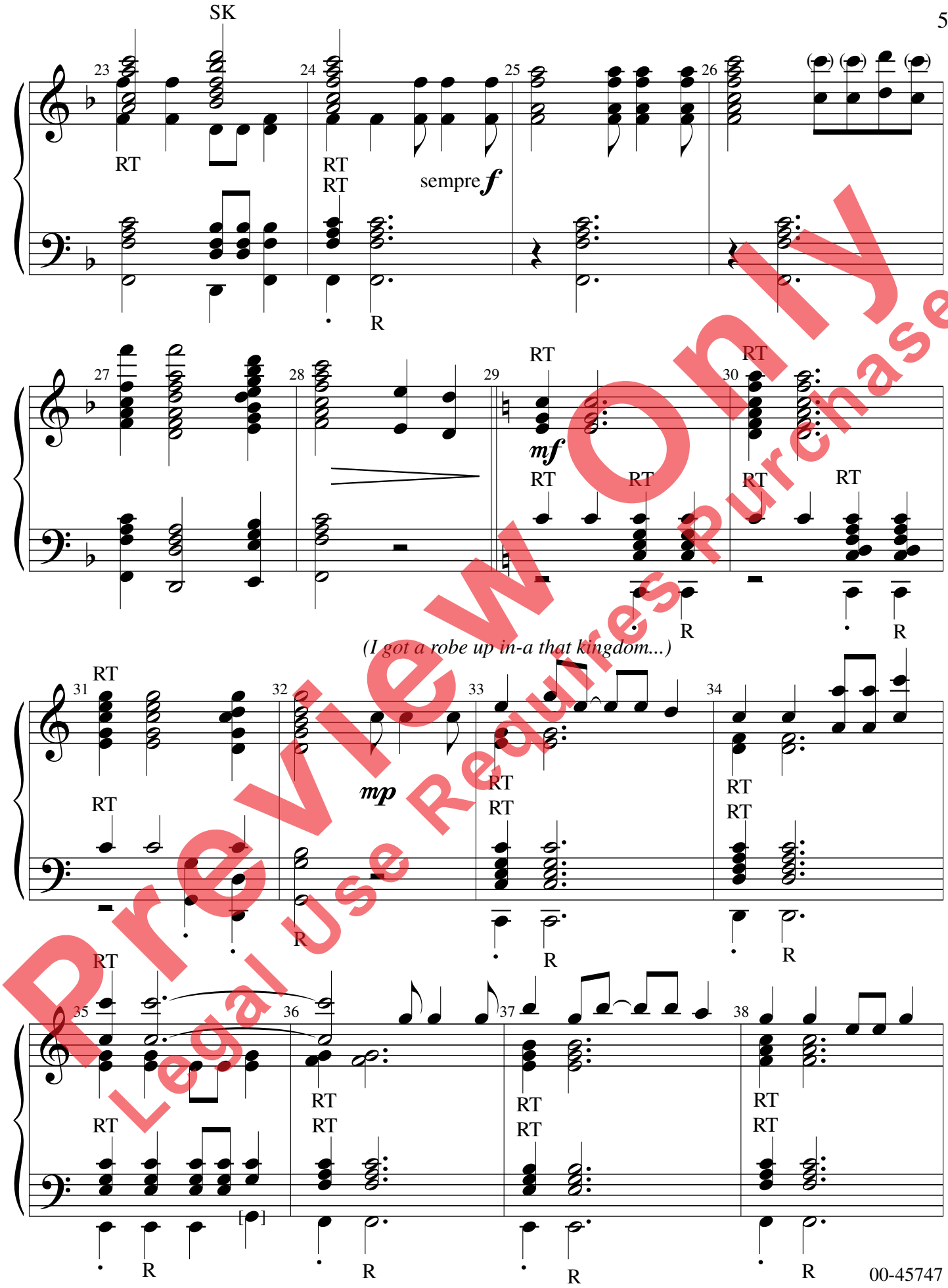

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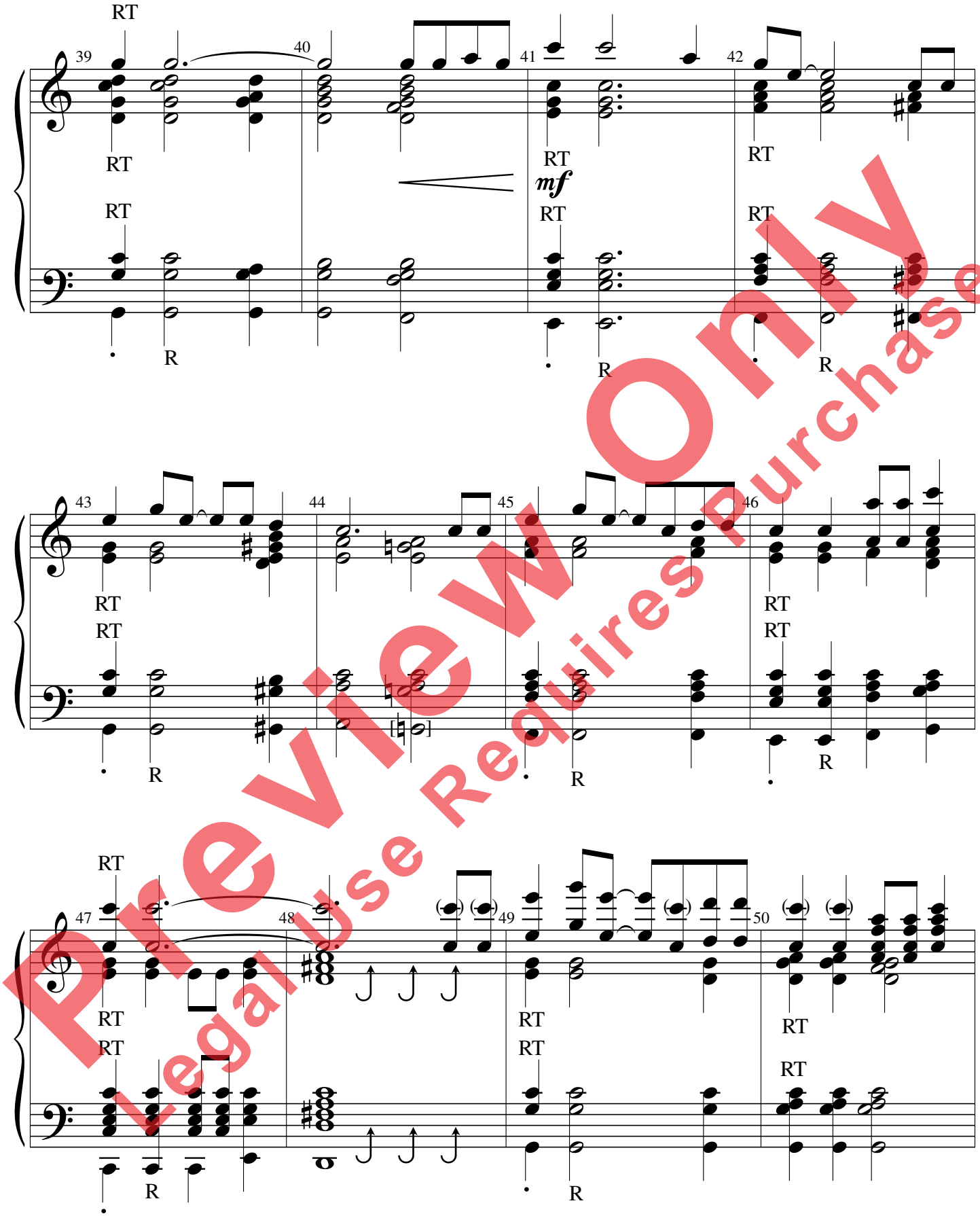

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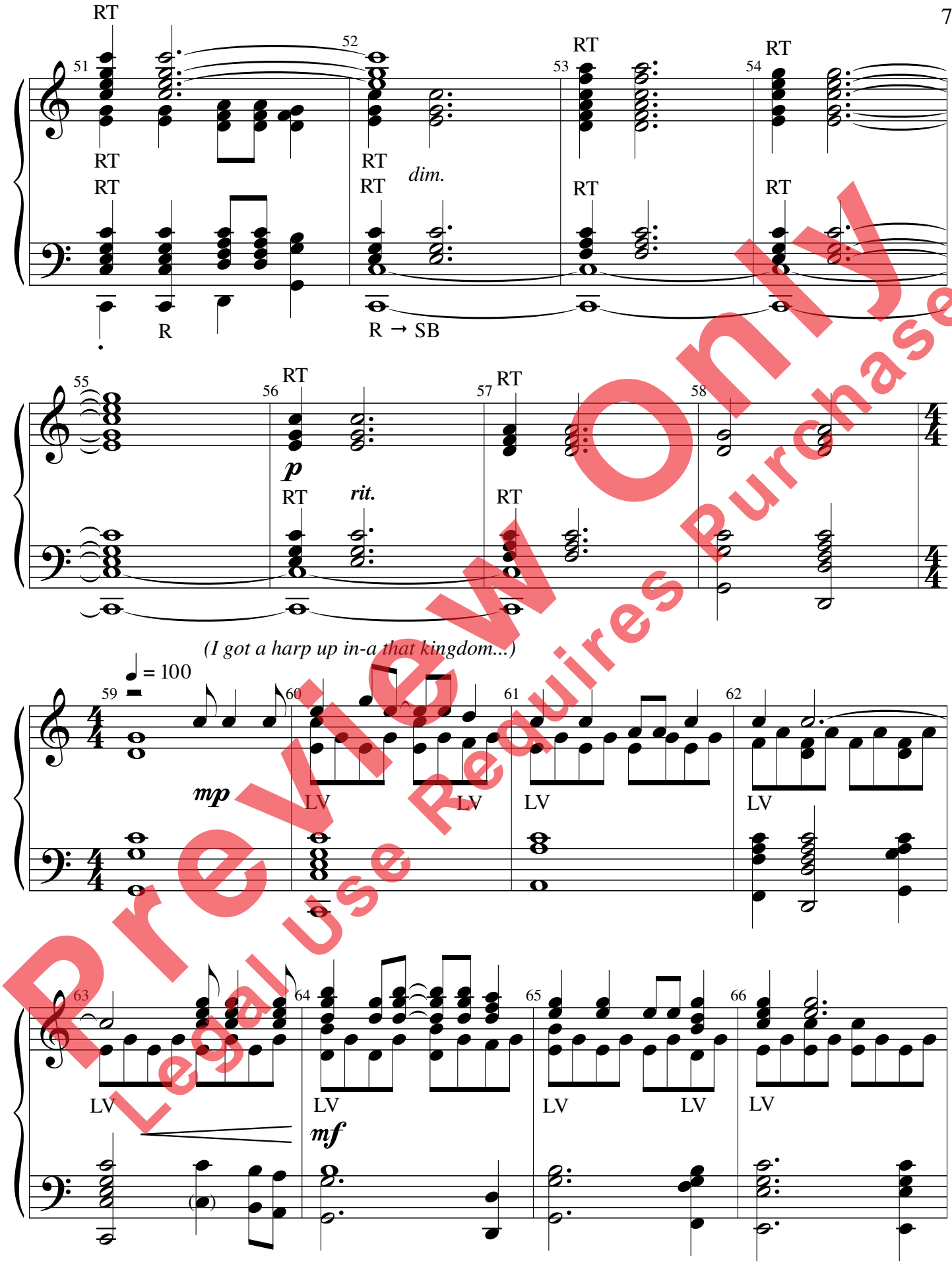

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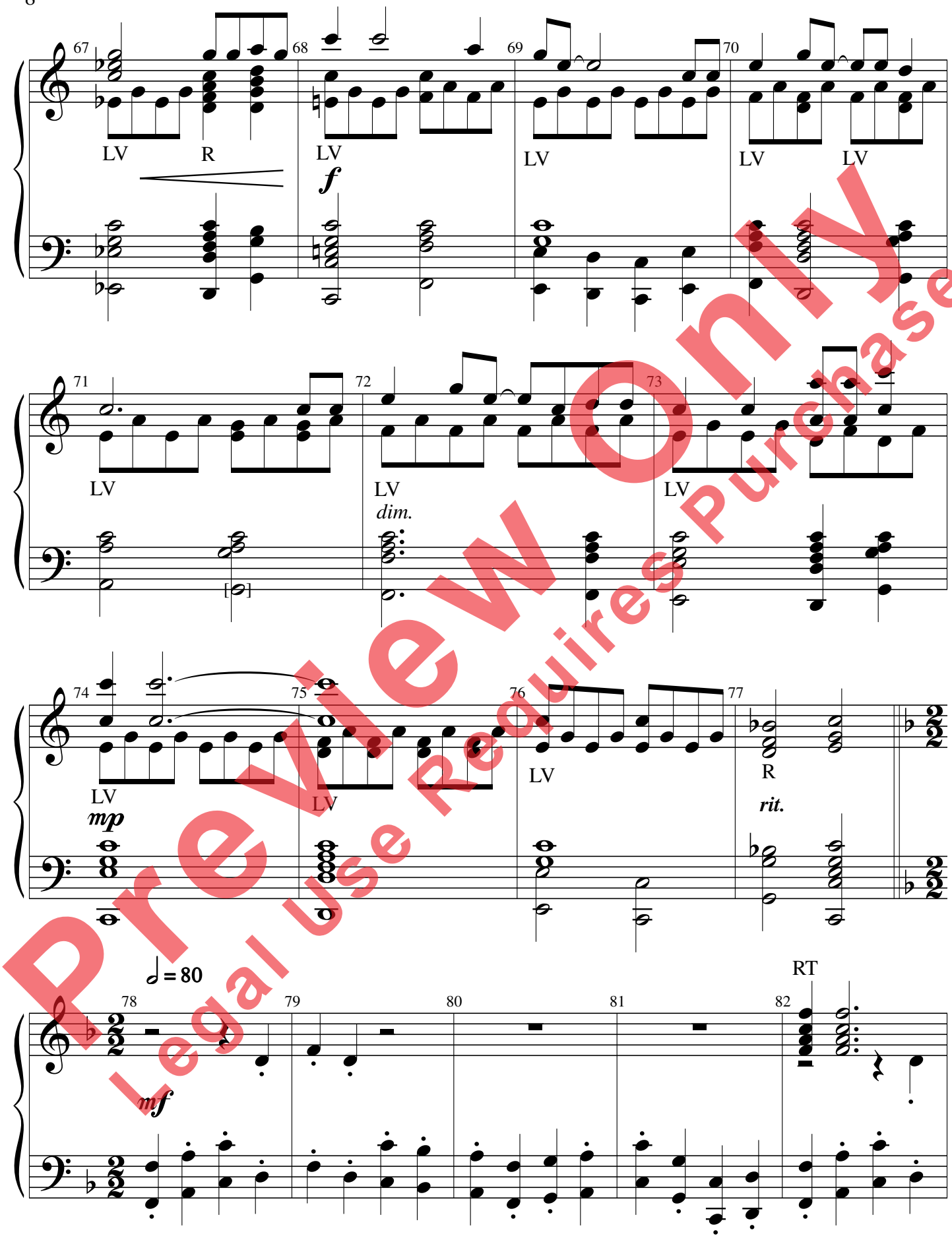

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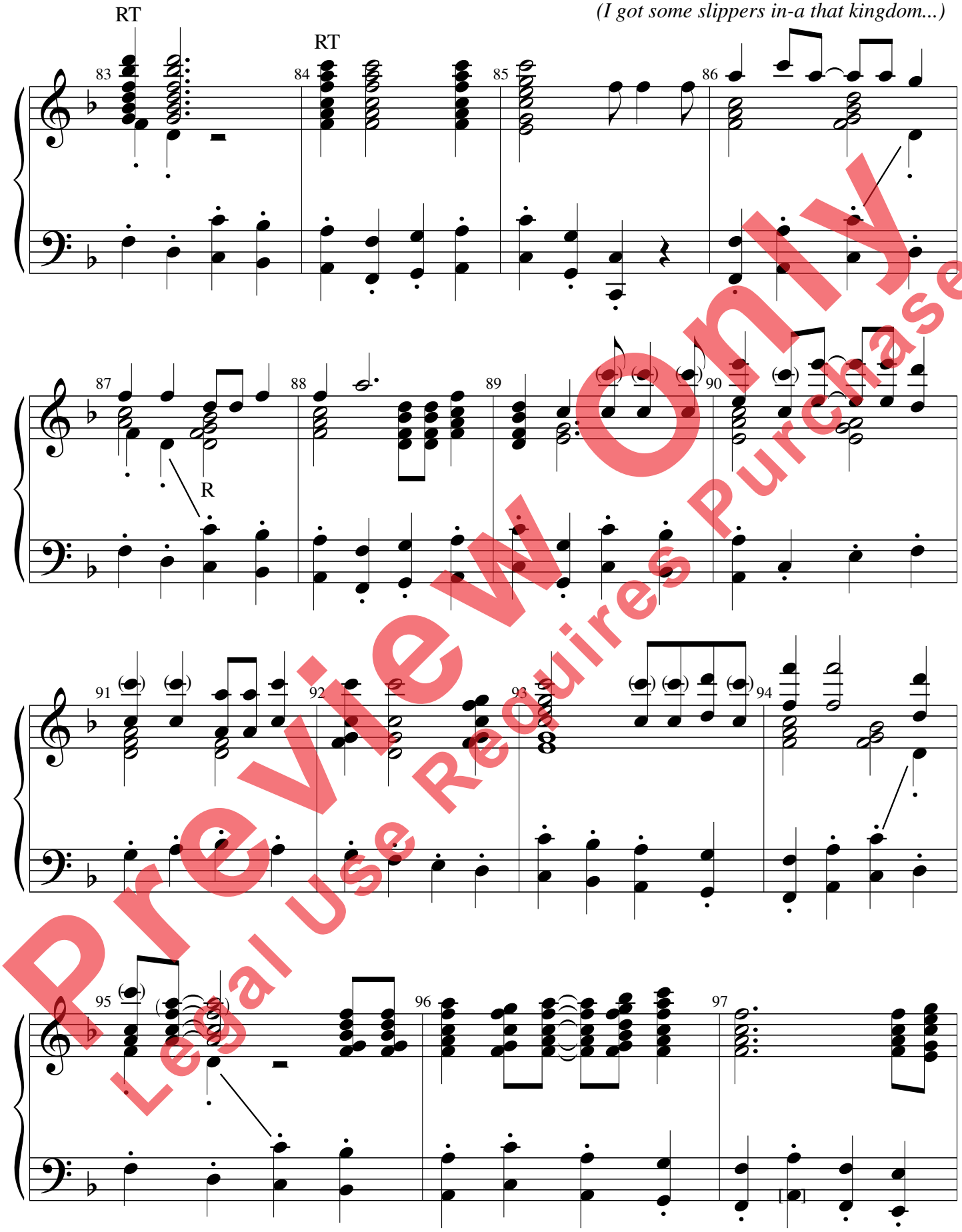
(I got some slippers in-a that kingdom...)



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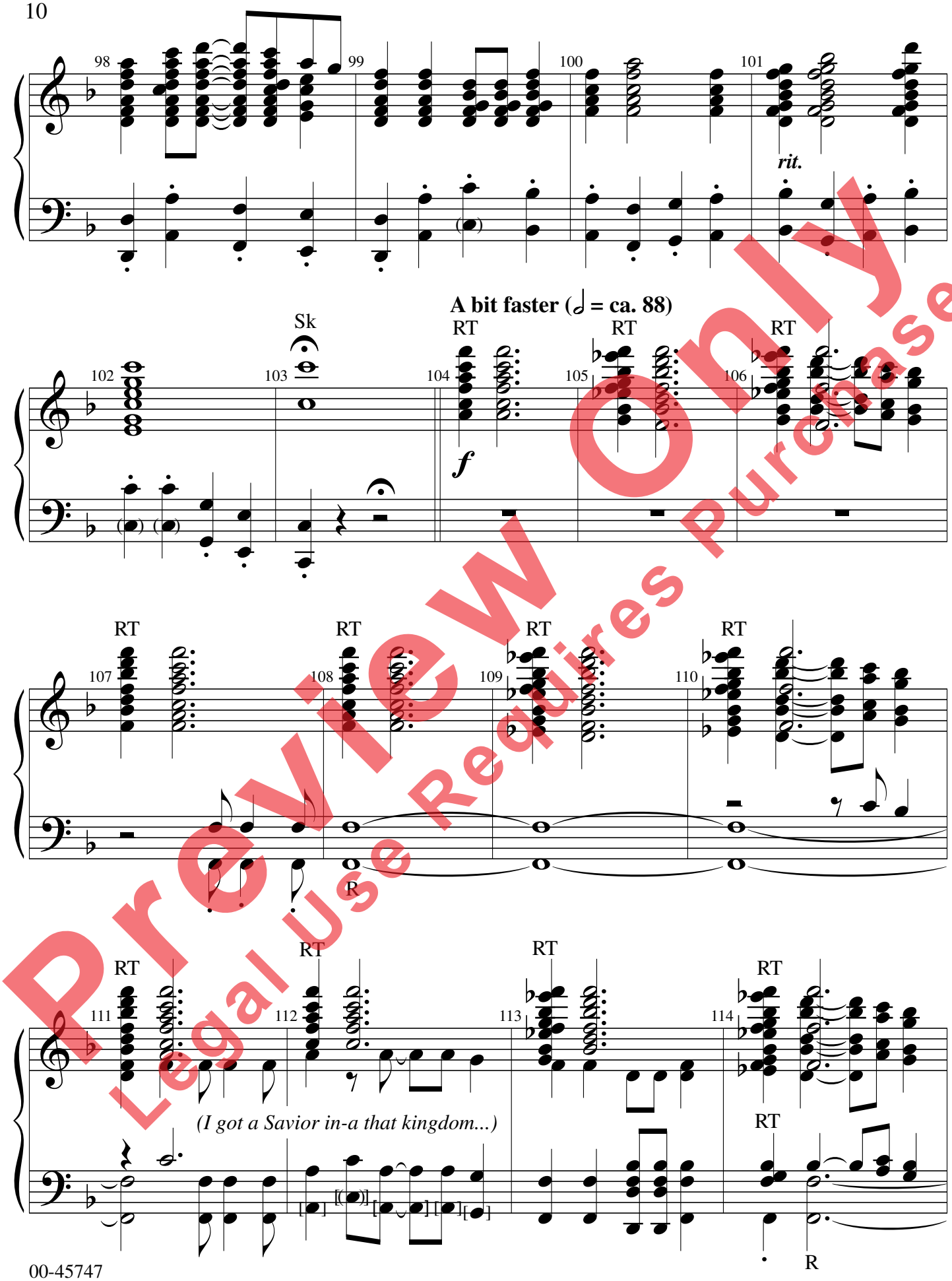

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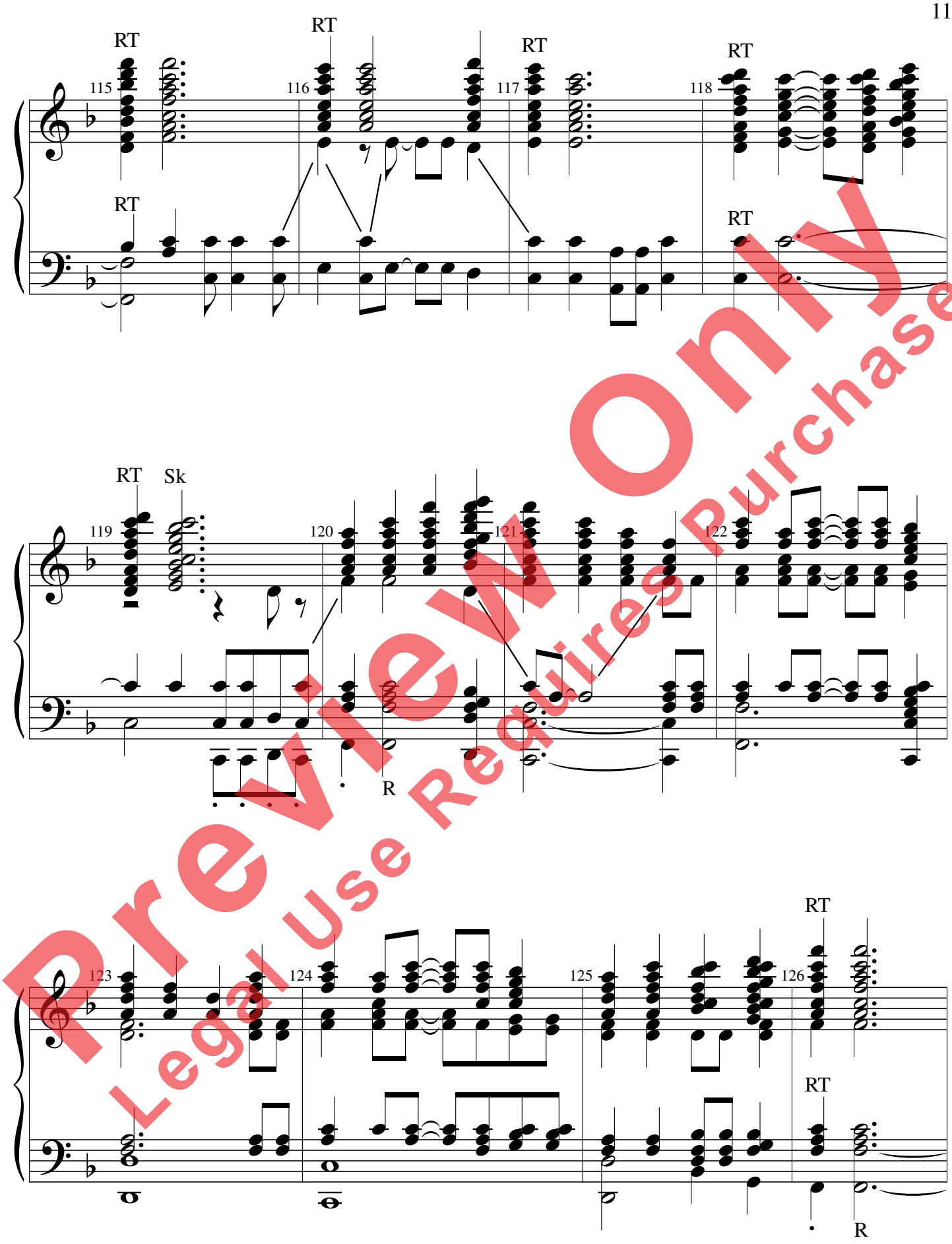

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