JAZZ BEGINNINGS SERIES

Belwin JAZZ
a division of Alfred

St. Louis Blues

By W.C. Handy
Arranged by Victor López

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor
1st E♭ Alto Saxophone
2nd E♭ Alto Saxophone
1st B♭ Tenor Saxophone
2nd B♭ Tenor Saxophone (Optional)
1st B♭ Trumpet
2nd B♭ Trumpet (Optional)
1st Trombone
2nd Trombone (Optional)
Guitar Chords
Guitar (Optional)
Piano
Bass
Drums
Auxiliary Percussion
(Timbale Bell, Tambourine)

Optional/Alternate Parts

1st C Flute
2nd C Flute
1st B♭ Clarinet
2nd B♭ Clarinet
E♭ Baritone Saxophone
Vibraphone
Tuba (Doubles Bass)
Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone)
Baritone Horn T.C./B♭ Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone)

Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

W. C. Handy—often referred to as the "father of the blues"—originally composed *St. Louis Blues*. Since the birth of the blues, there have been many influential blues artists that have performed, recorded, and published blues music. However, there seems to be a consensus among many notable musicians and blues historians that the most famous blues song ever is Handy's *St. Louis Blues*.

The introduction is written in a moderate Latin style that emphasizes a "bomba" rhythmic pattern—a style of Afro-Puerto Rican music and dance that is commonly found in salsa repertoires. The eighth notes are to be played straight throughout. Before the start of the rehearsal, review the D.S. al Coda so that everyone is familiar with the form of the piece.

The drumset part is very repetitive; for added color and variation, the "and" of beat 3 and beat 4 (the last two notes of mm. 1–14) may be played on a medium tom-tom. The snare should be played close to the edge of the drum rim. Note that the timbale bell in the percussion part has a different rhythm that is complementary to the snare. Practice both parts slowly, paying attention to the accents, and aim for intensity and not volume.

At m. 18, notice that the style and groove changes to a rock feel; however, keep in mind that the eighth notes are still played straight, not with a swing feel. Practice the rhythm section separately, and make certain the groove is well established. In mm. 42–53, to get an impactful stop-time effect, the staccato quarter notes are to be played tight without rushing the tempo. Measure 54 features a unison/tutti line for all winds. Direct the players to listen closely to their intonation, and I suggest the lower parts play out a bit more than the top parts to balance the ensemble sound. At m. 66, keep the background figures dynamically under the soloist.

Ensure that all transitions are seamless, and that all articulations are played as indicated. Attention to these details will certainly help the ensemble achieve a tight, polished, and mature sound. Don't forget to have the students listen to the promotional demo recording of the chart, which can be found at alfred.com.

Enjoy!

—Victor López

Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

Victor López

Victor López is a highly acclaimed educator, composer, arranger, and adjudicator. He holds music degrees from the University of Florida and Florida International University, with an Ed.D. in Educational Administration and Supervision. He has served as director of bands at the middle and senior high school levels and as an administrator in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. He has recorded and performed with various artists and has appeared in numerous music videos. He has over 450 compositions/arrangements published as an exclusive composer, arranger, and clinician for Alfred Music.

CONDUCTOR
48210S

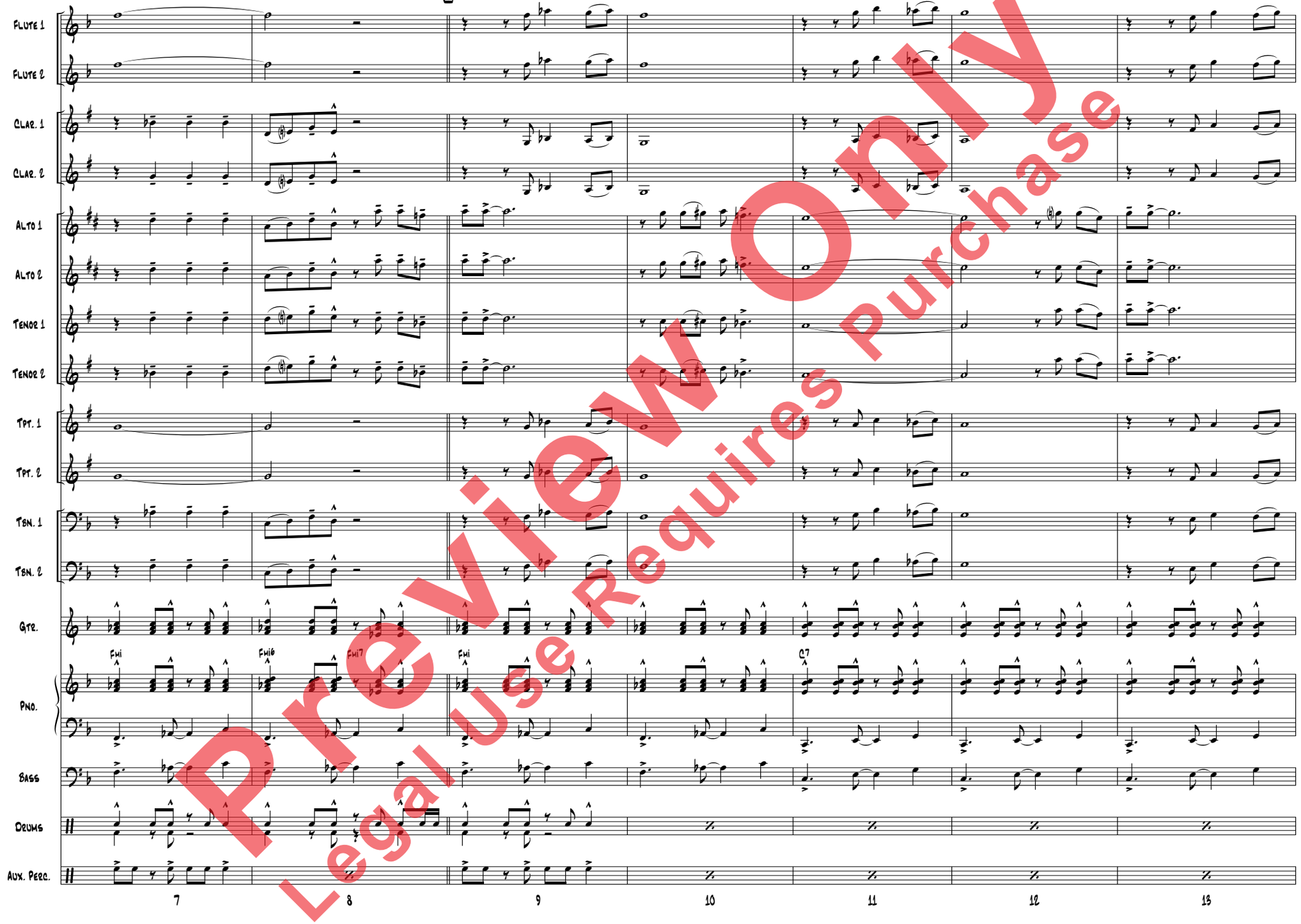
ST. LOUIS BLUES

By W.C. Handy
Arranged by Victor López

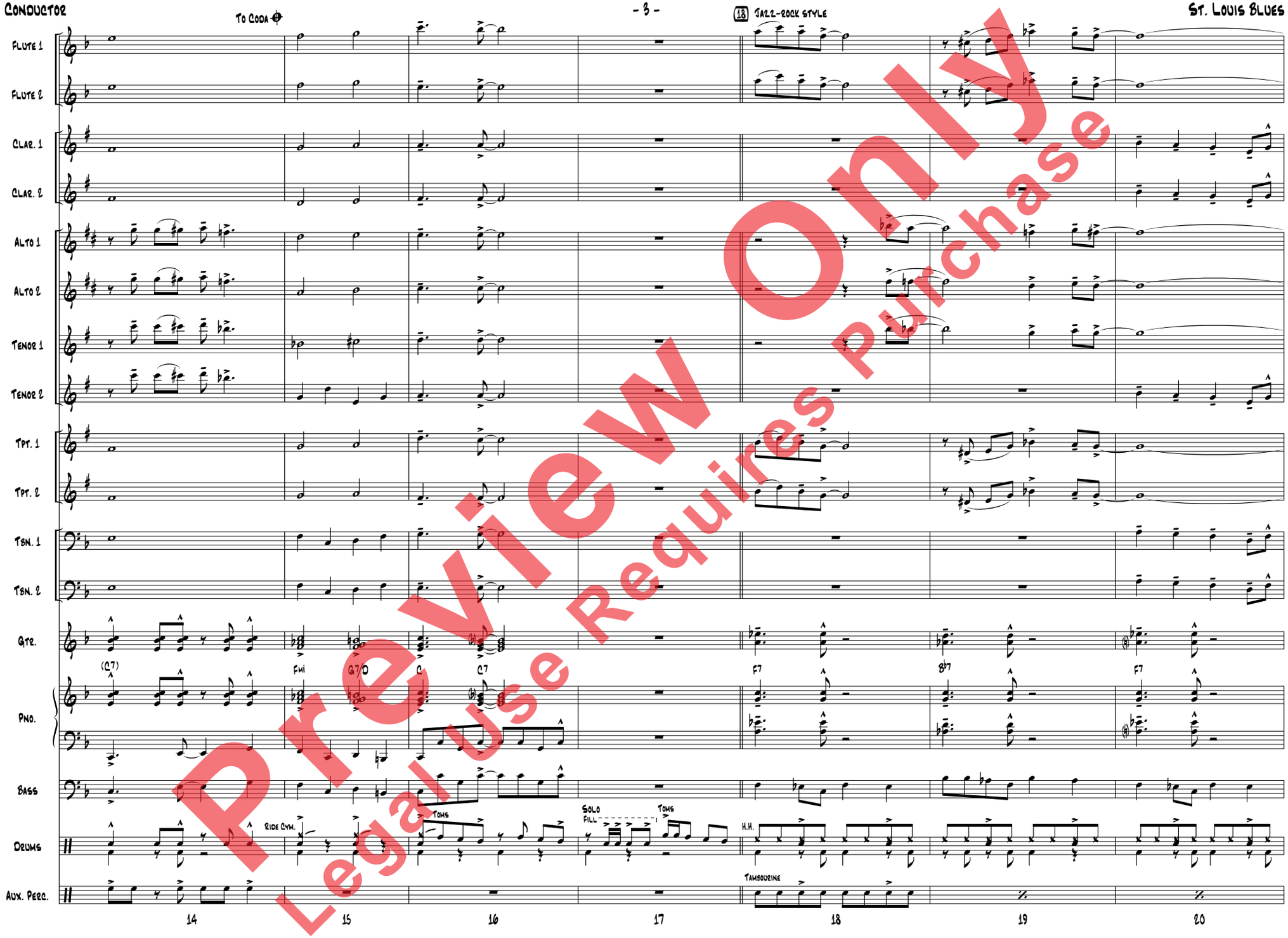
Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

© 2020 BELWIN-MILLS PUBLISHING CORP., a division of ALFRED MUSIC
All Rights Reserved including Public Performance

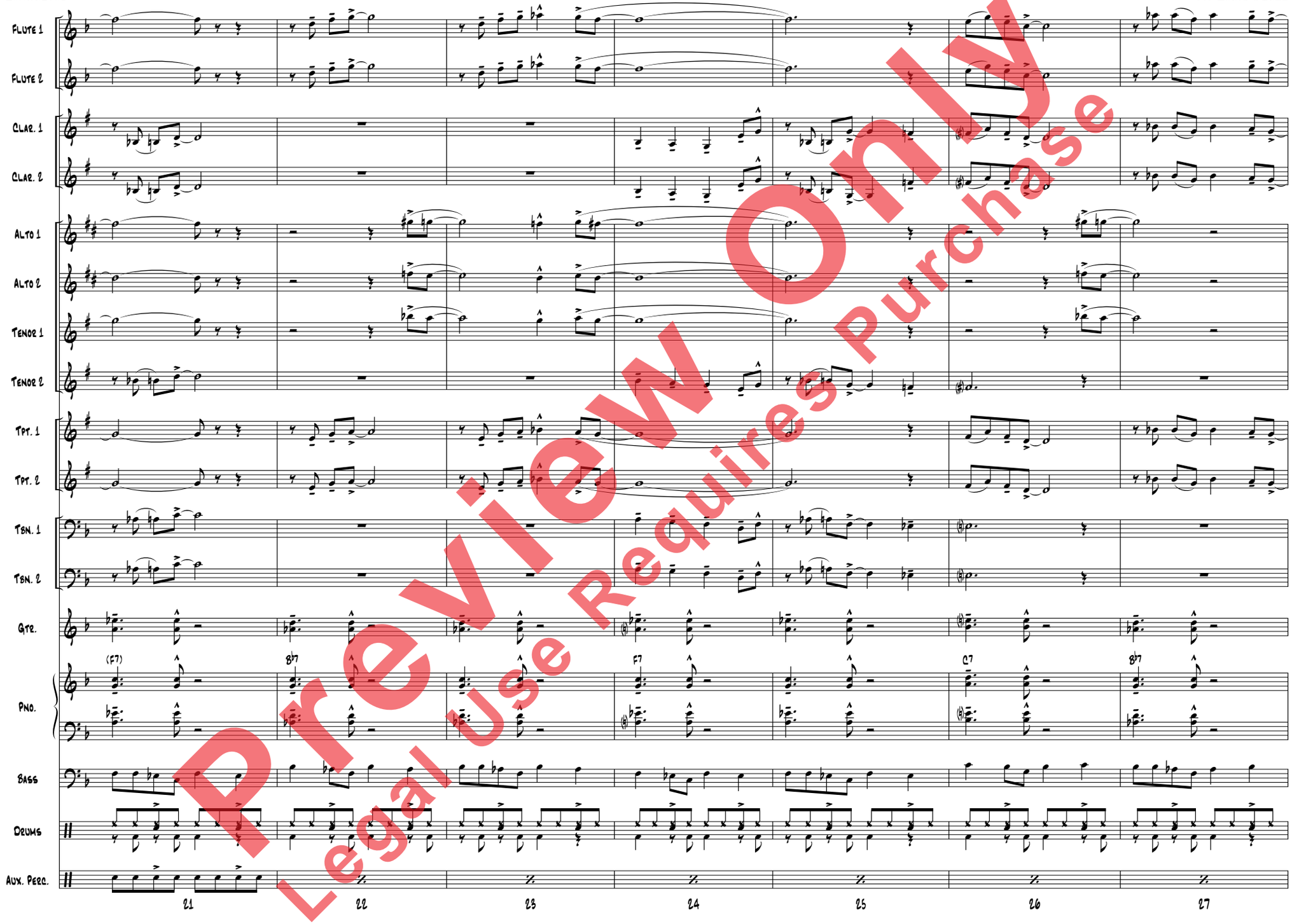
mp3
Purchase a full-length performance recording!
alfred.com/downloads



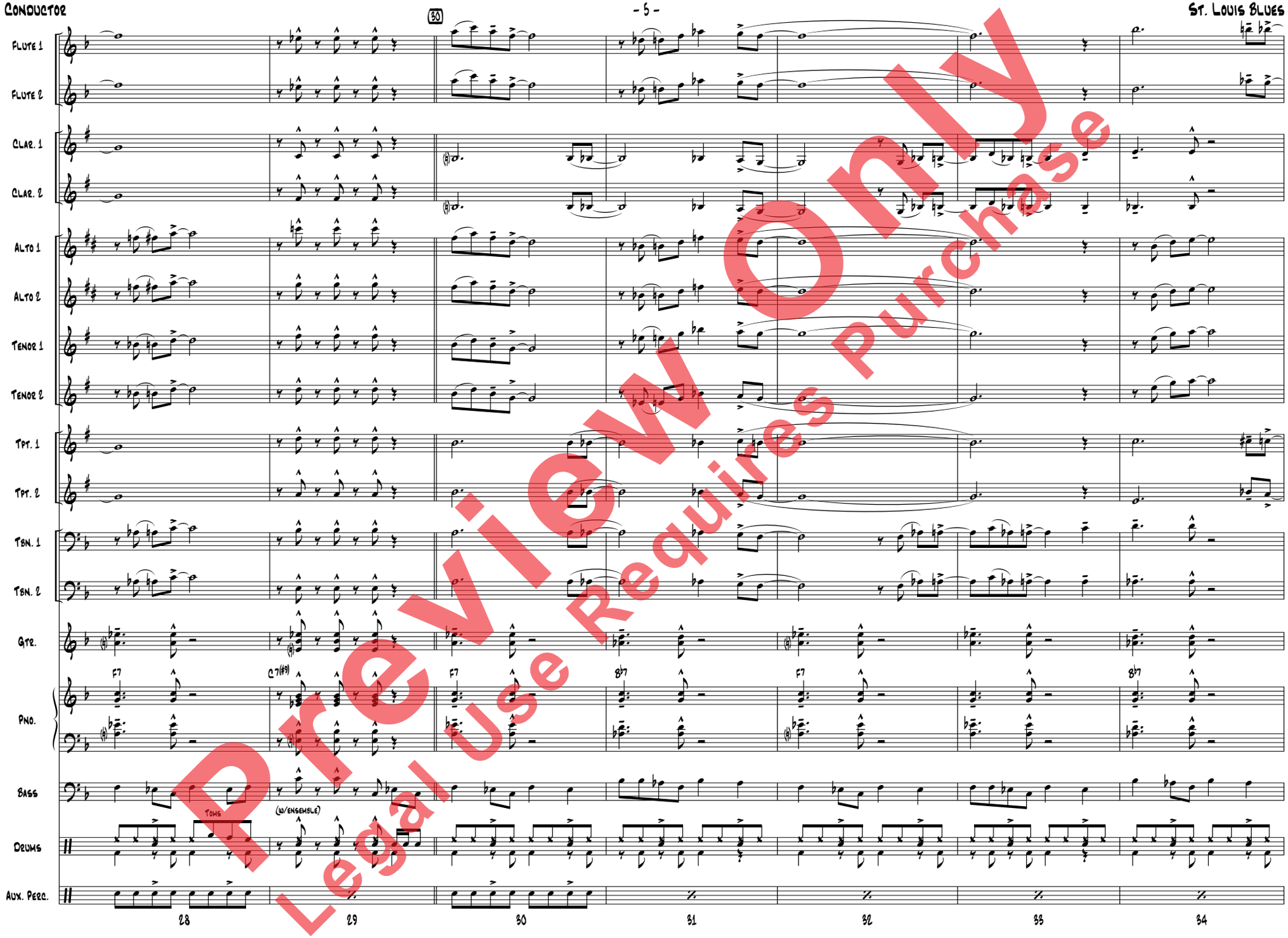
Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase



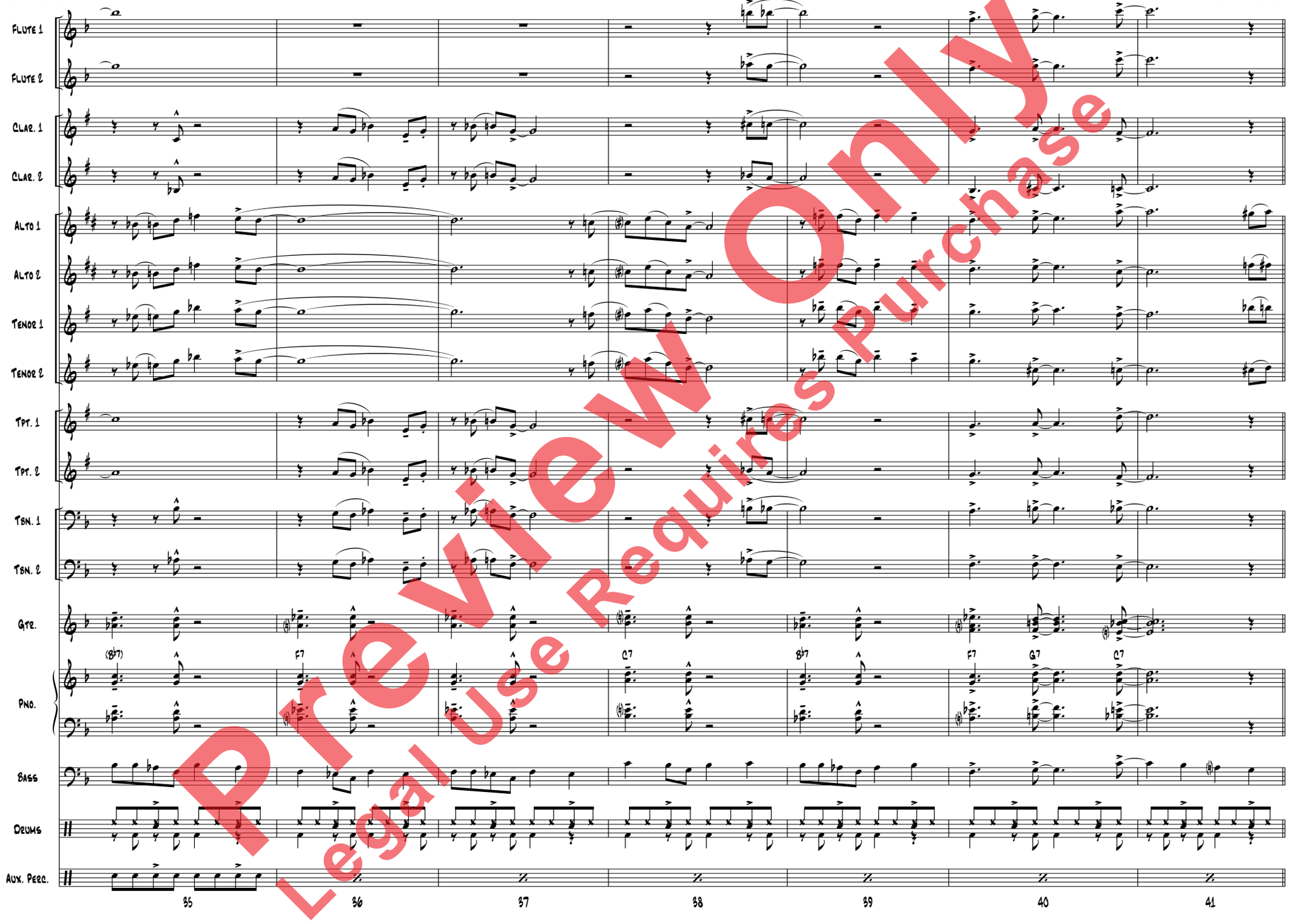
Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase



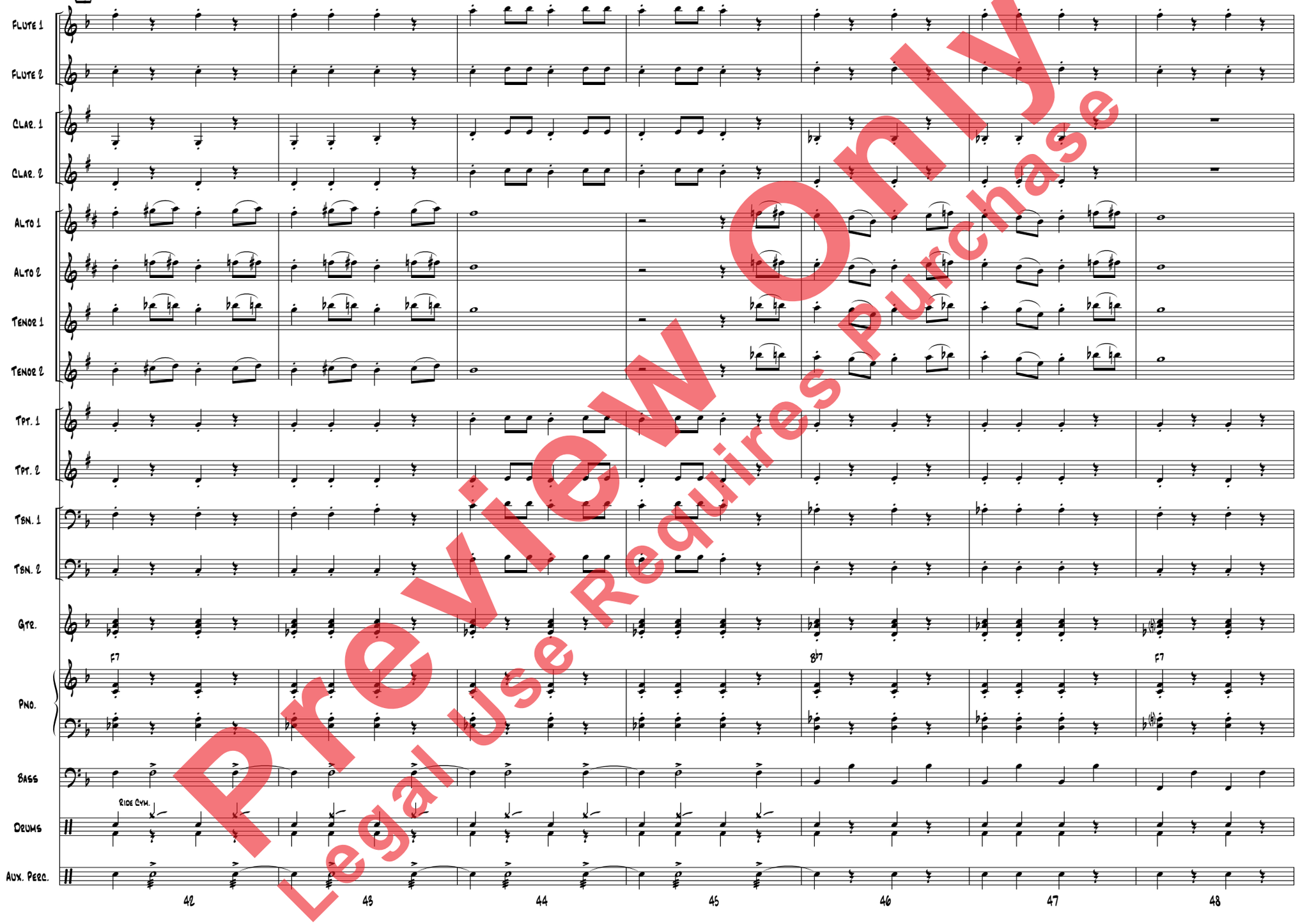
Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase



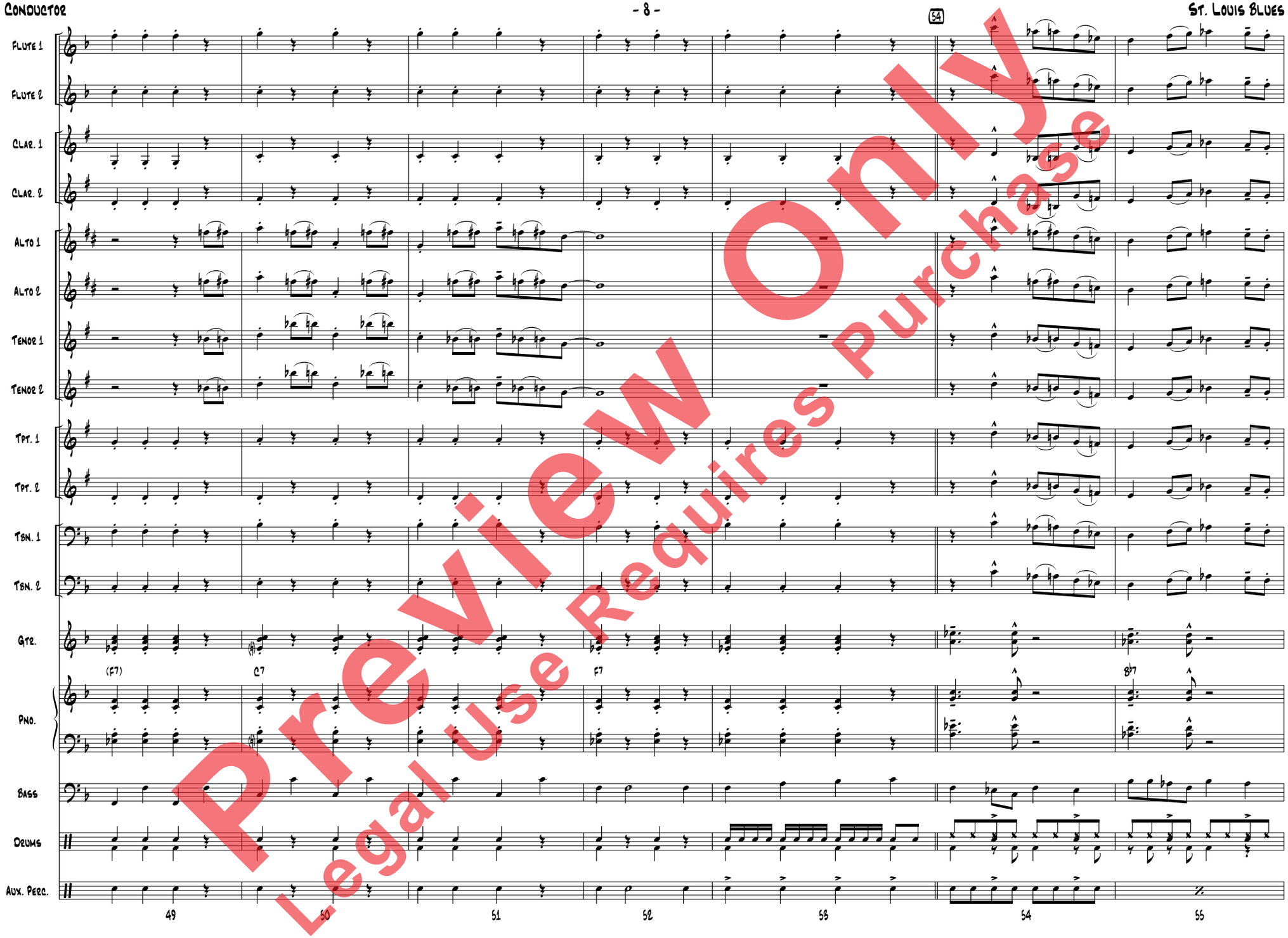
Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase



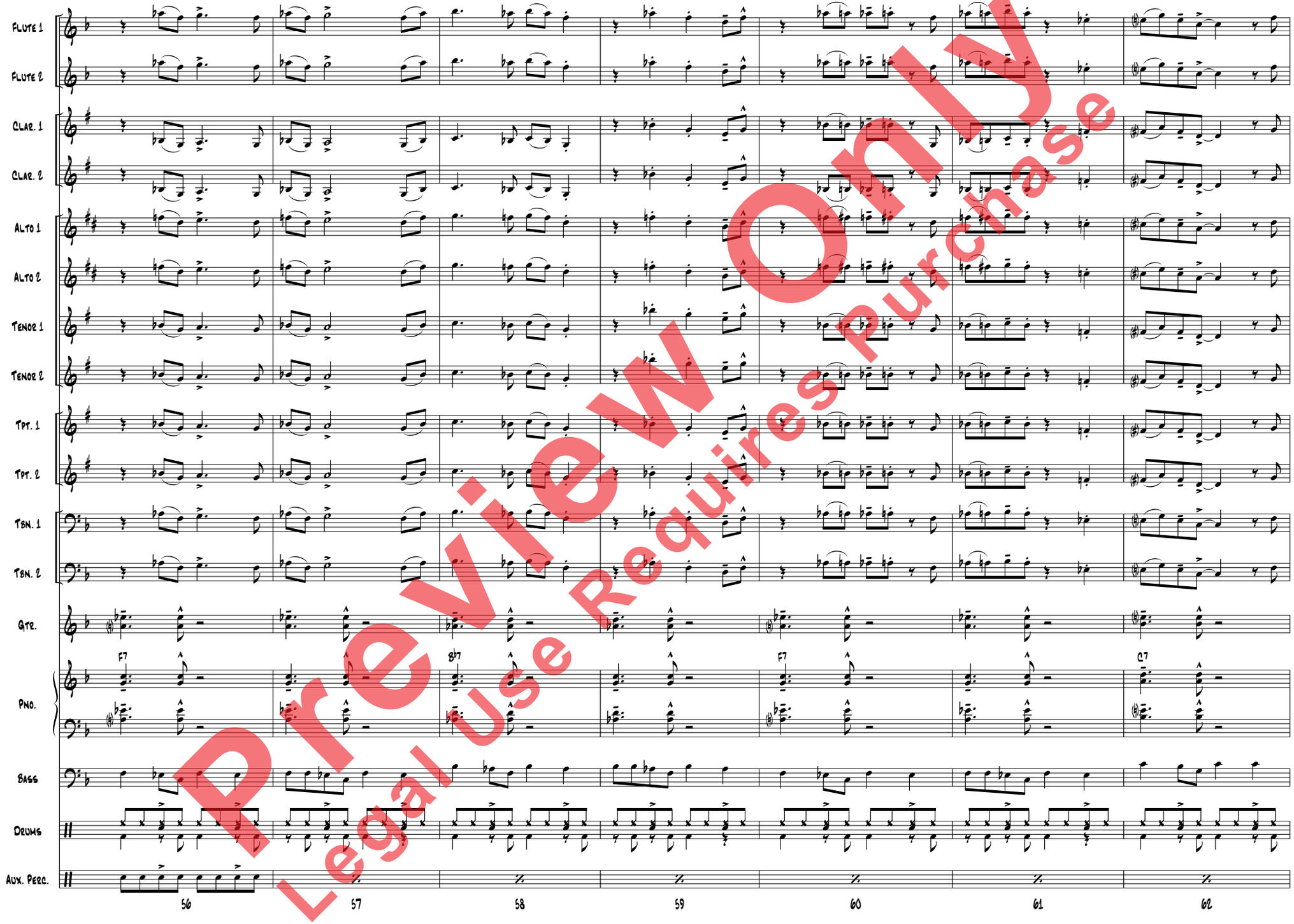
Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase



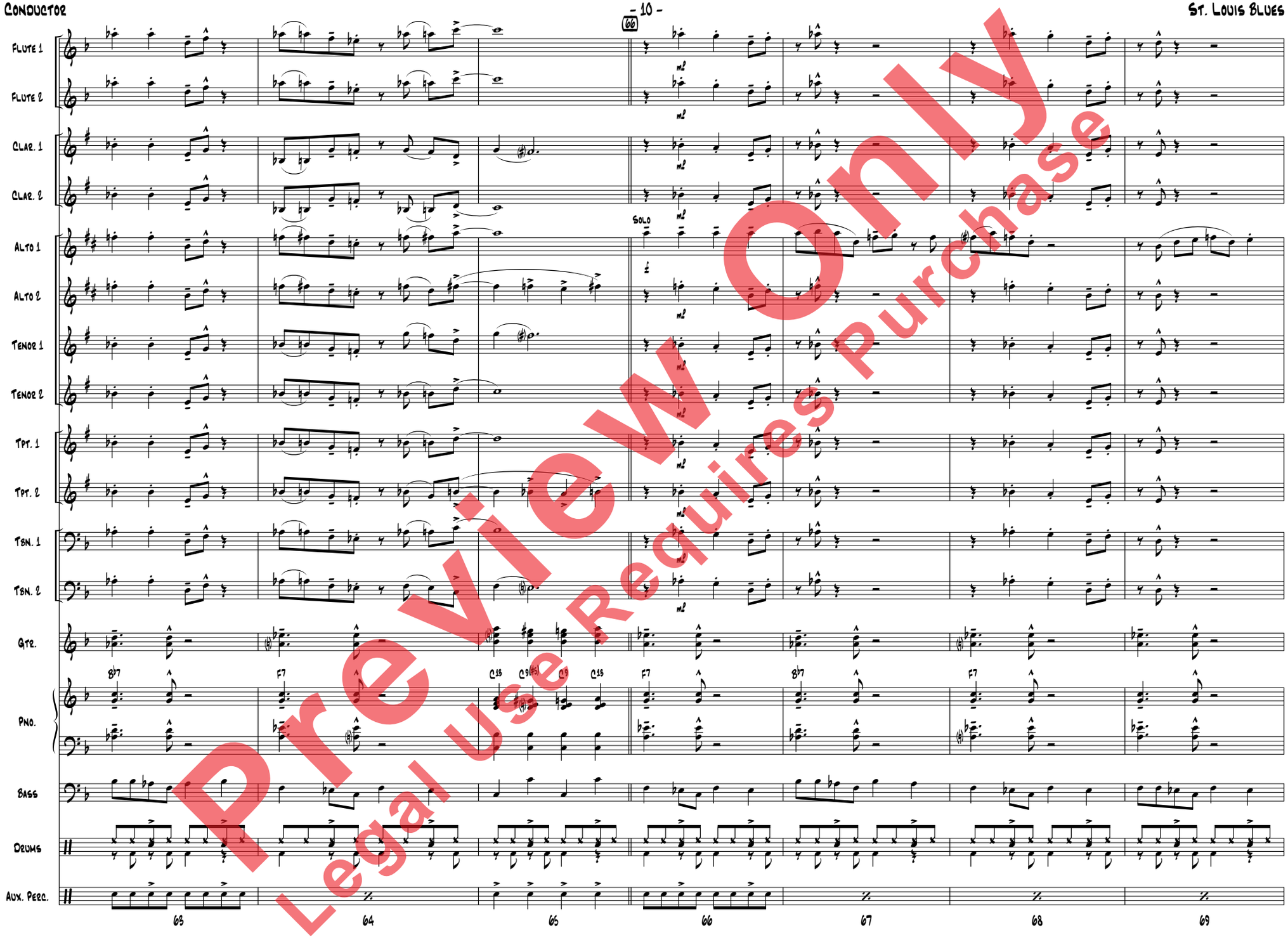
Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase



Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

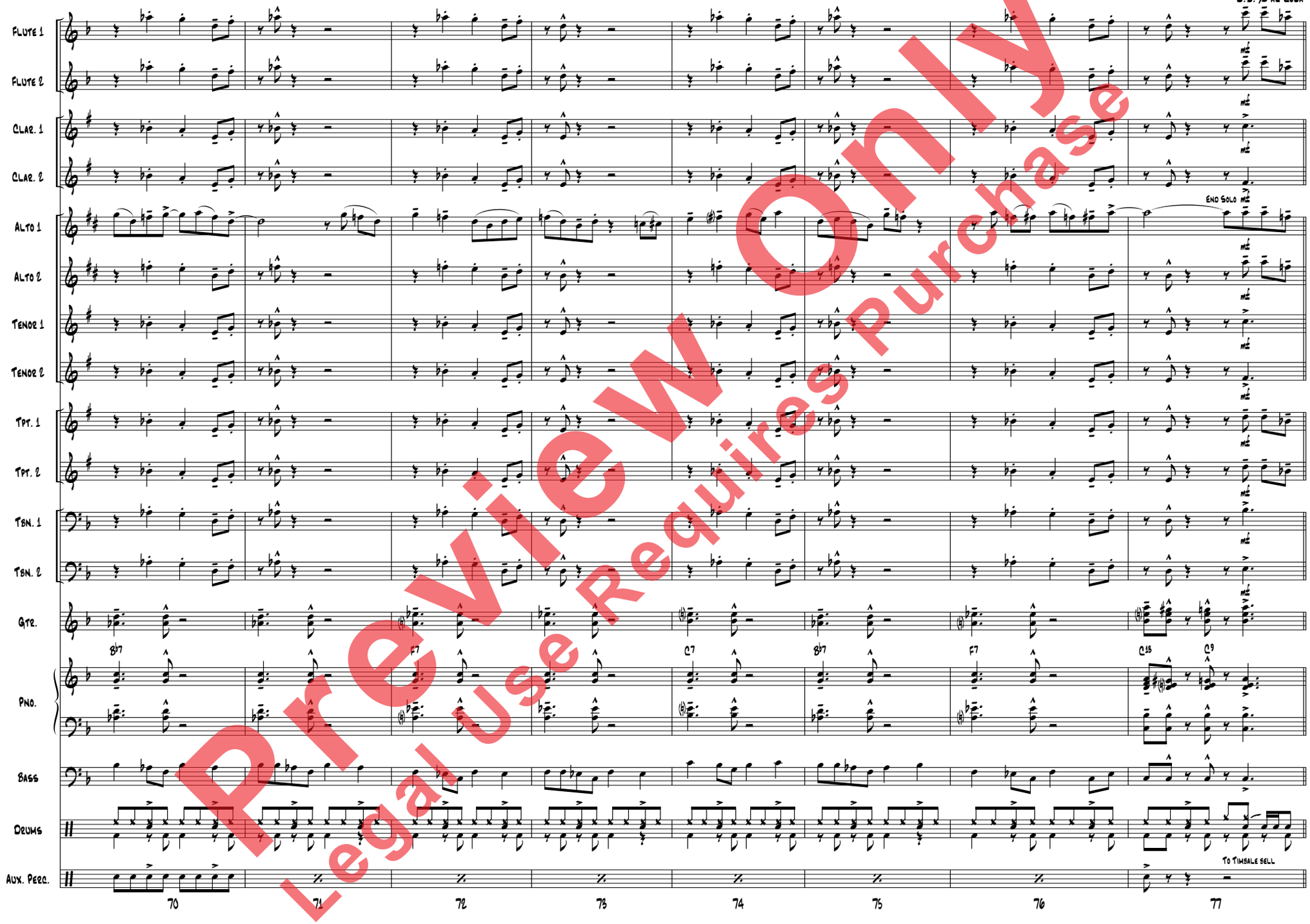


Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

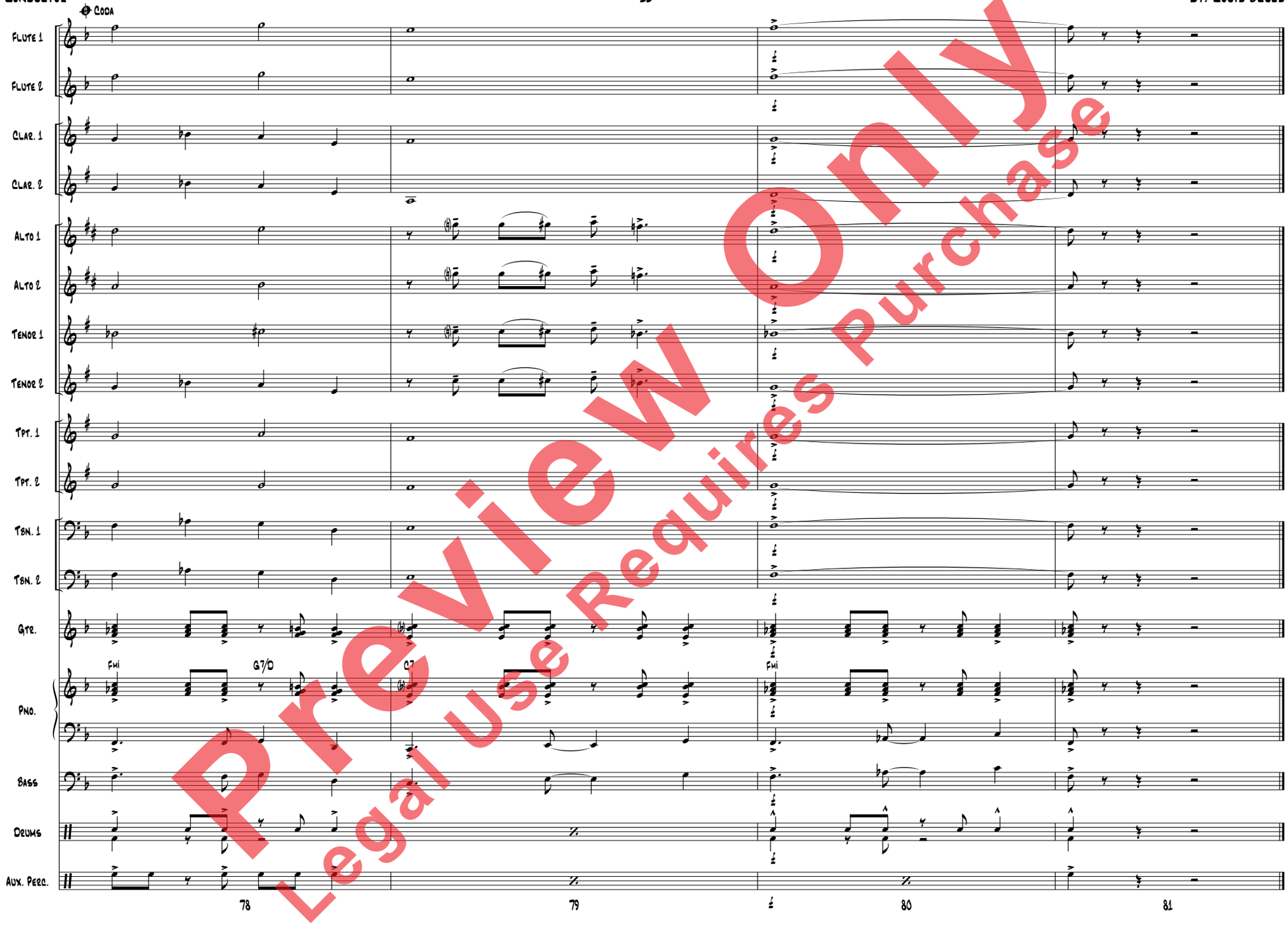


Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase

D.S. 𝄋 al Coda



Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase



Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase