GUIDE FOR SINGERS OF THE YORUBA TEXT

A a	should be pronounced	Á á	as in HARD
E e	should be pronounced	Ā ā	as in HATE
Ẹ ẹ	should be pronounced	Ẹ́ ẹ́	as in HELP
I i	should be pronounced	Í í	as in HEEL
O o	should be pronounced	Ō ō	as in GO
Ọ ọ	should be pronounced	Ọ́ ọ́	as in BORN
U u	should be pronounced	Ú ú	as in BOOK
Ṣ ṣ	should be pronounced	SH sh	as in SHE
GB gb	should be pronounced	GB gb	as in *Bow* to rhyme with *go*. Lips together with open throat, but sound to be limited without lip movement.
Pp	should be pronounced	Pp	as in *Wee* Lips together with closed throat and teeth, but sound to be limited without lip movement. (Sound explosive)

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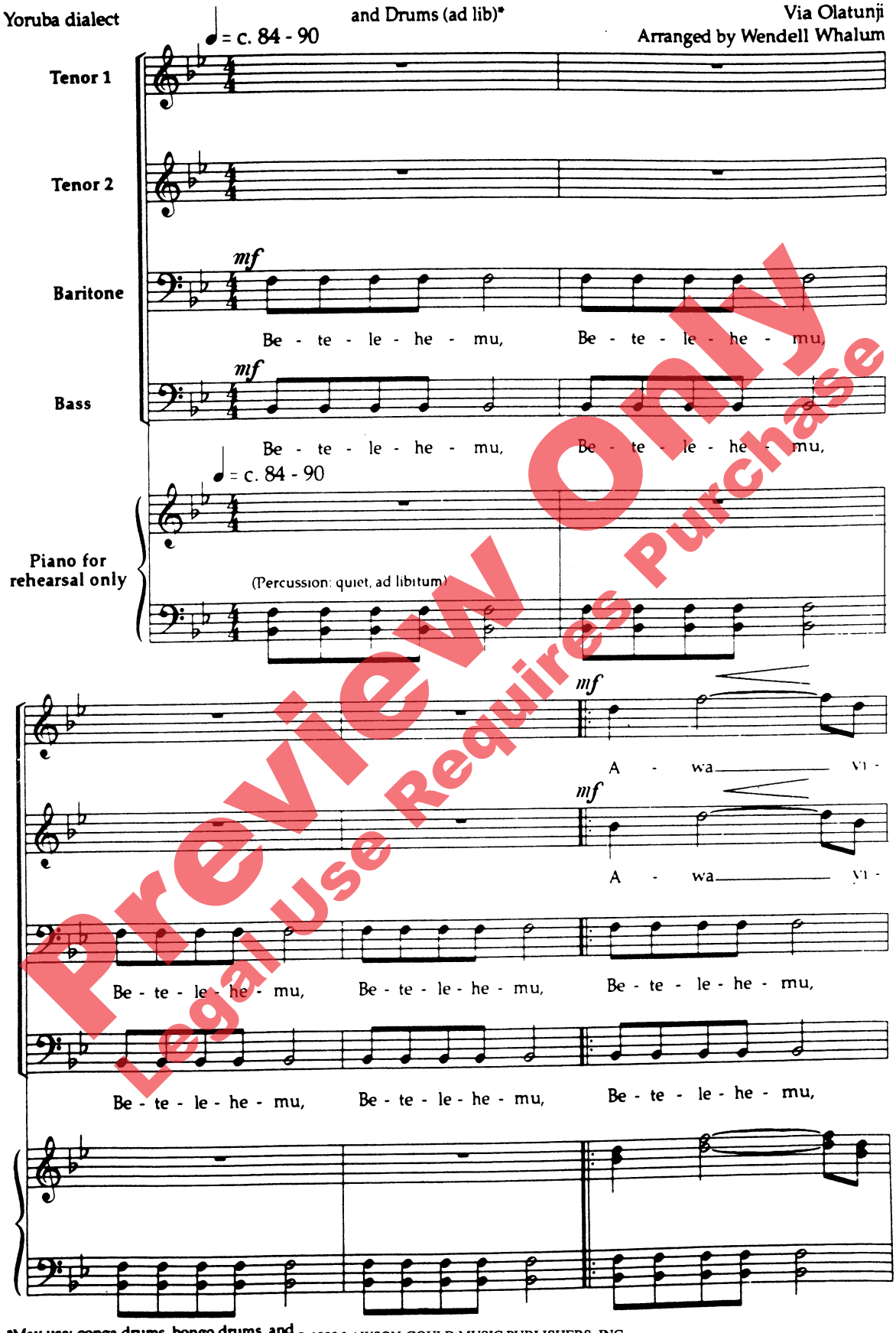
Betelehemu

(Nigerian Christmas Song)

For Four-Part Chorus of Men's Voices
and Drums (ad lib)*

Yoruba dialect

Via Olatunji
Arranged by Wendell Whalum

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*May use: conga drums, bongo drums, and tambourines.

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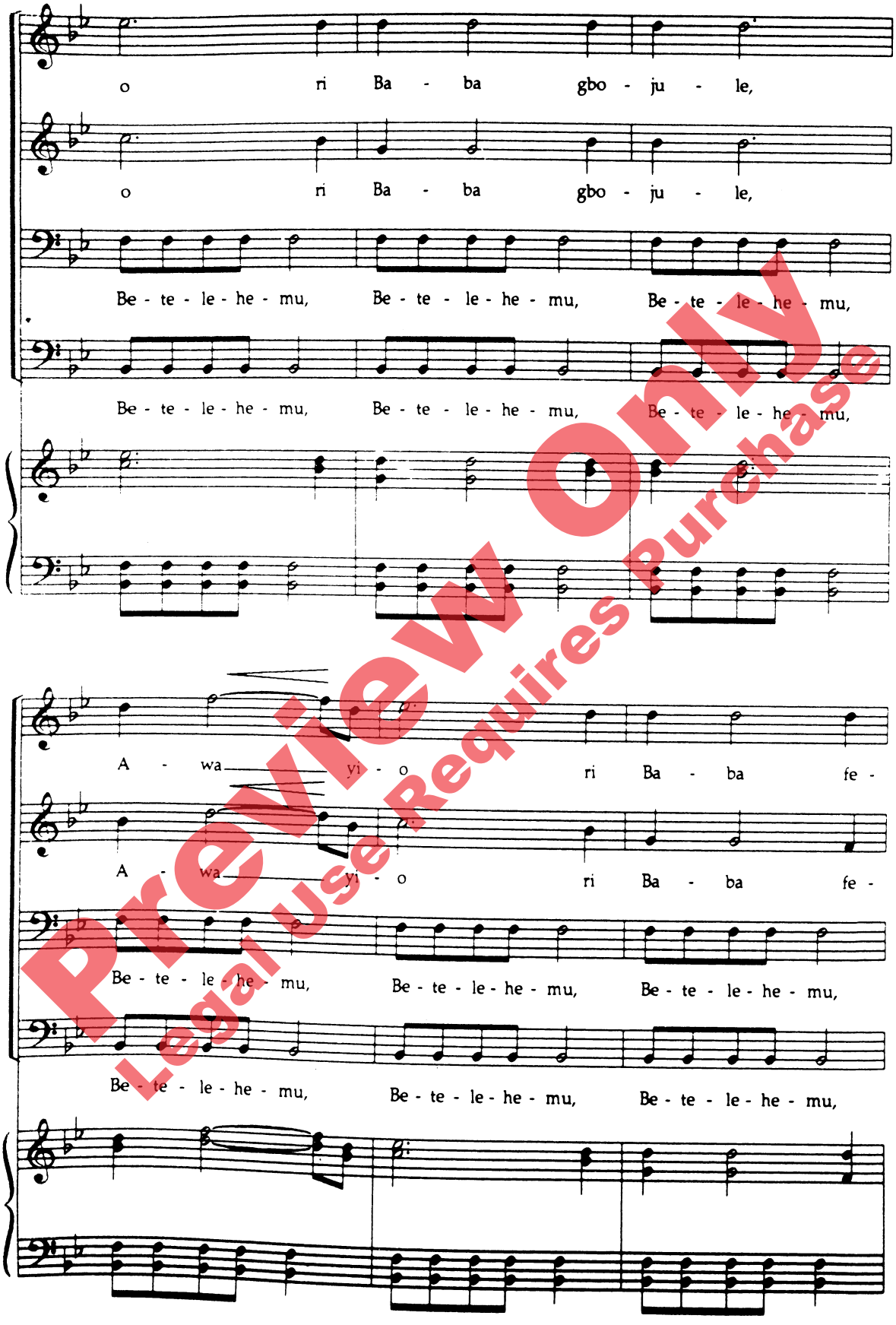
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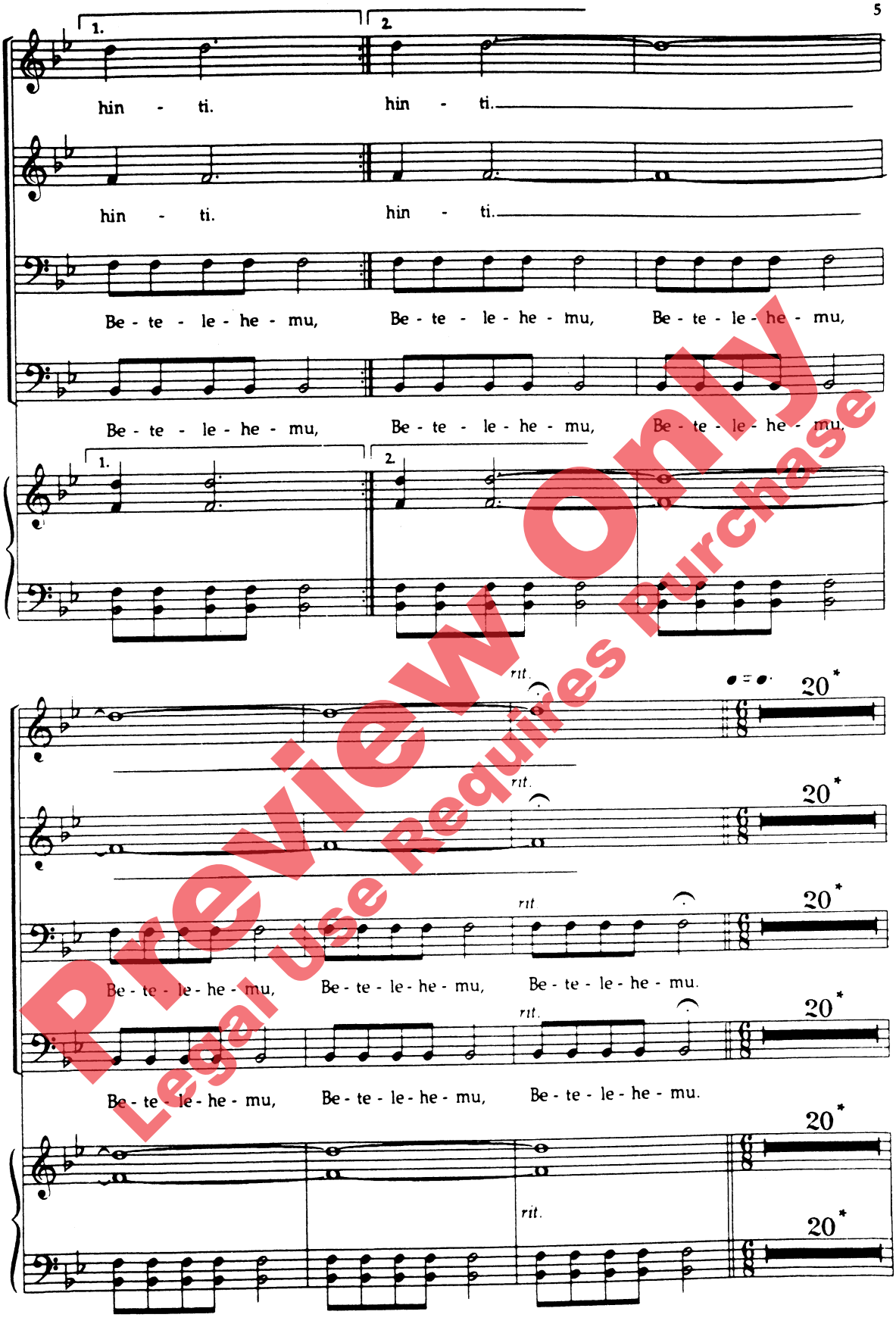
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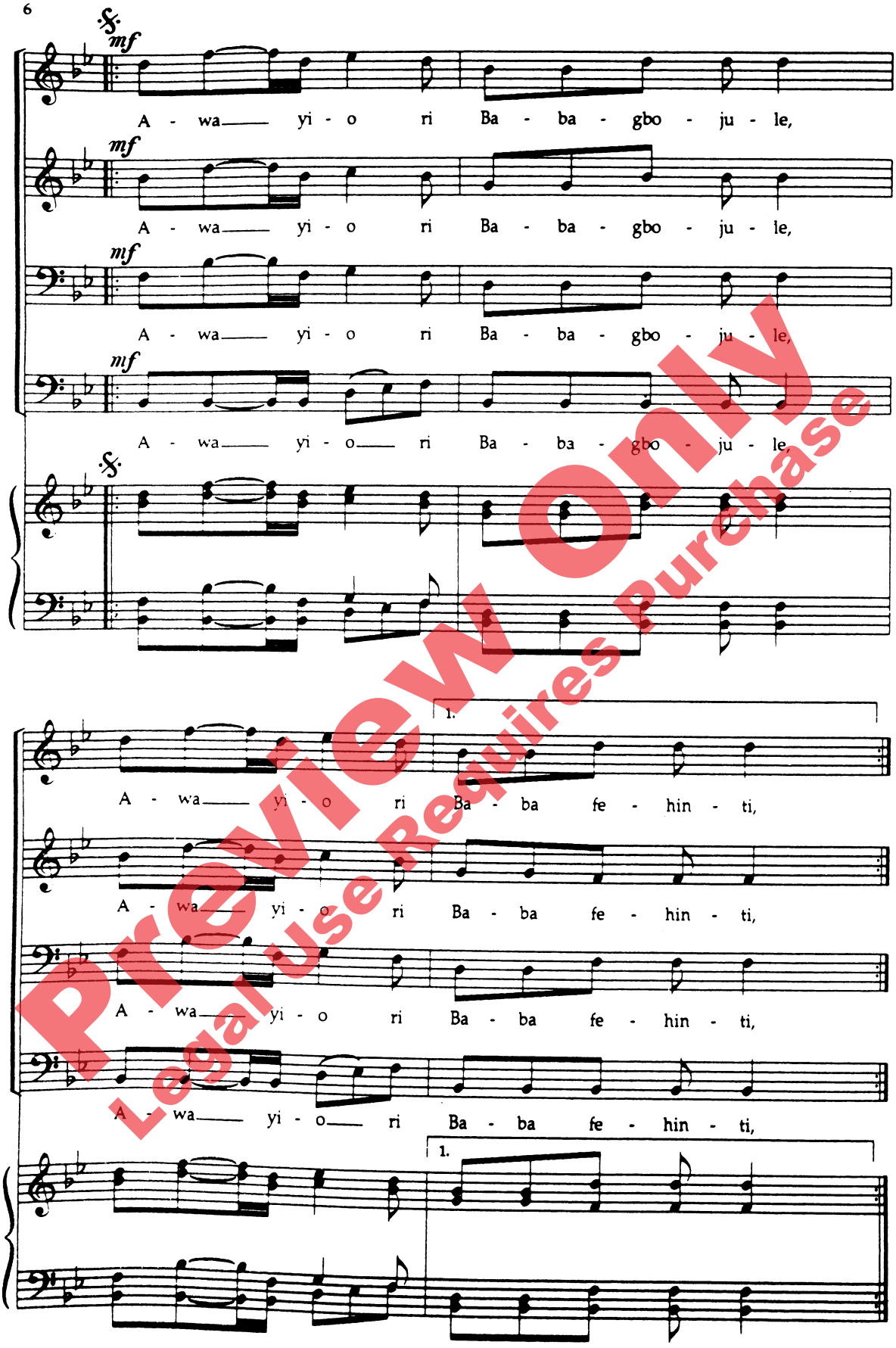
* At this point an ad libitum drum interlude is suggested. If it is used, it may be shortened and should continue as accompaniment when the voices enter again.

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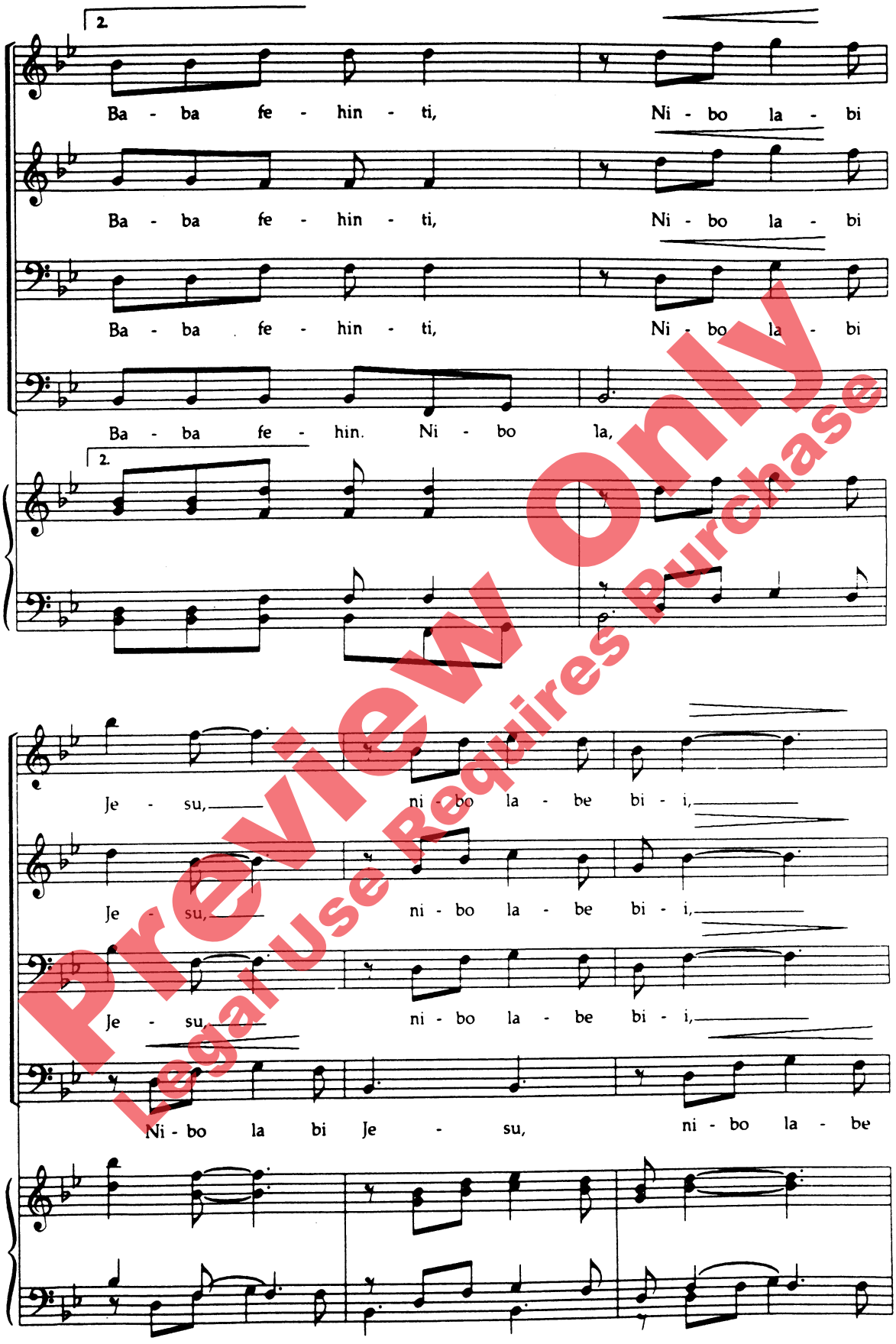
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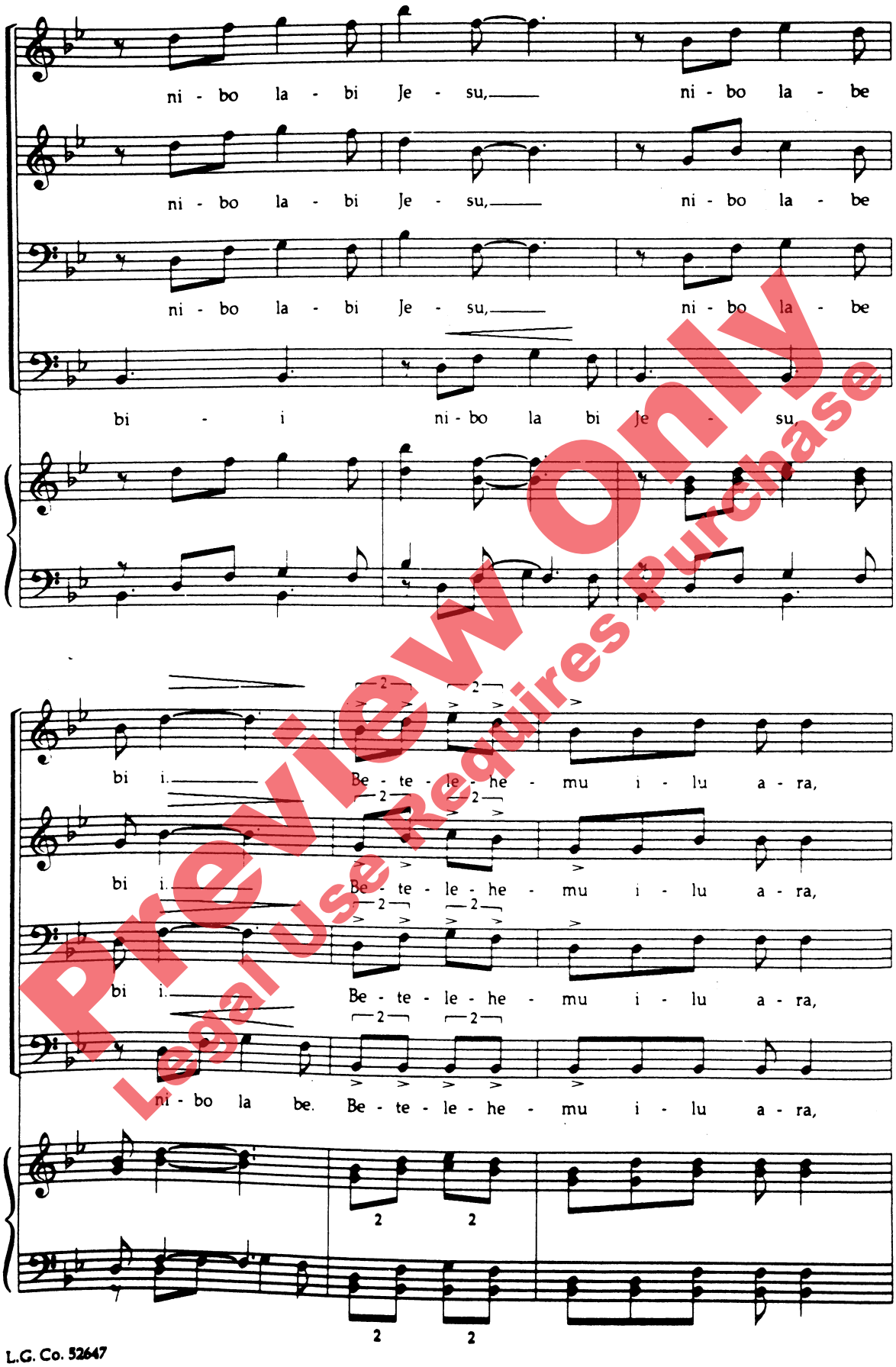
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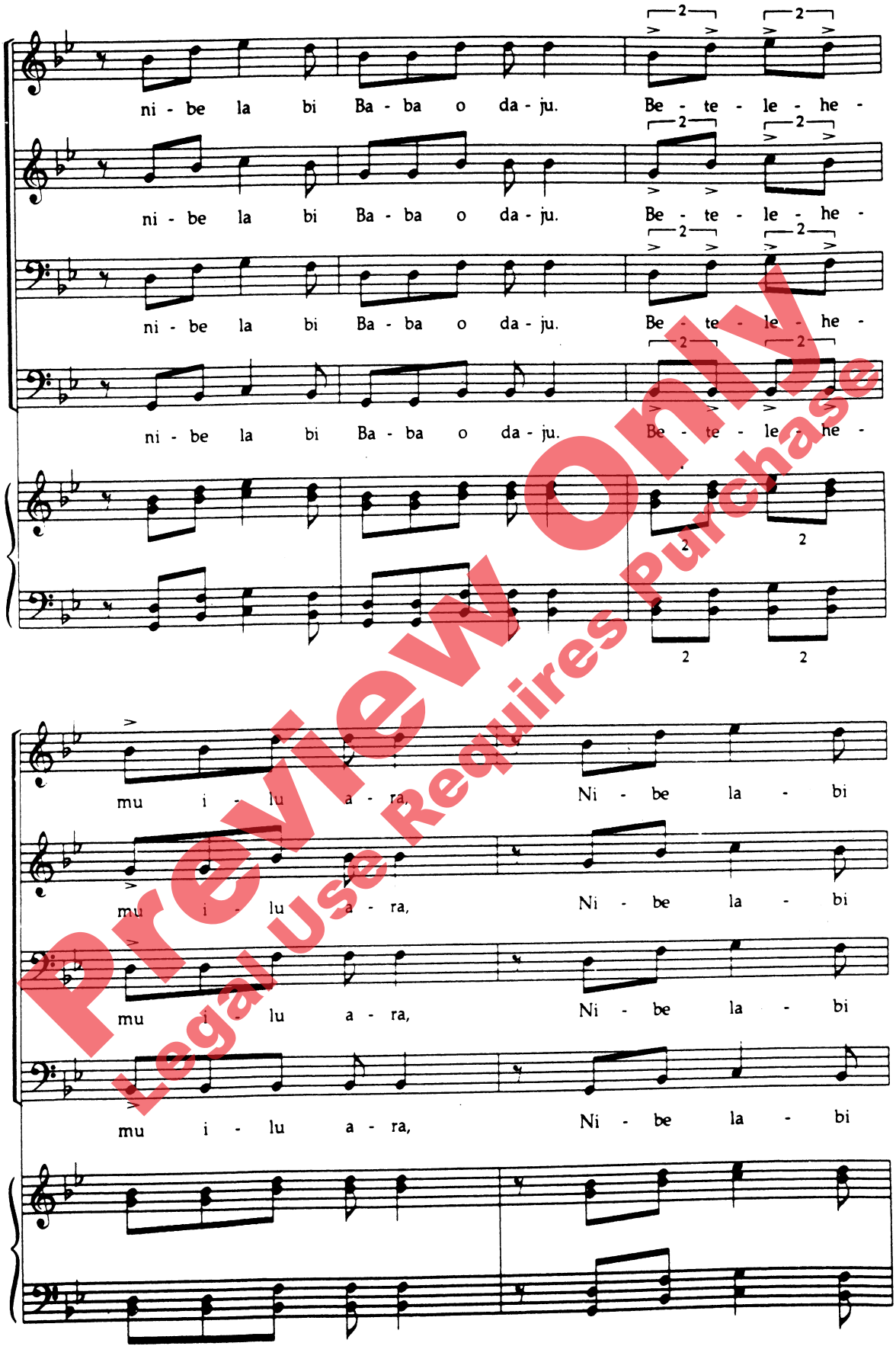
To coda

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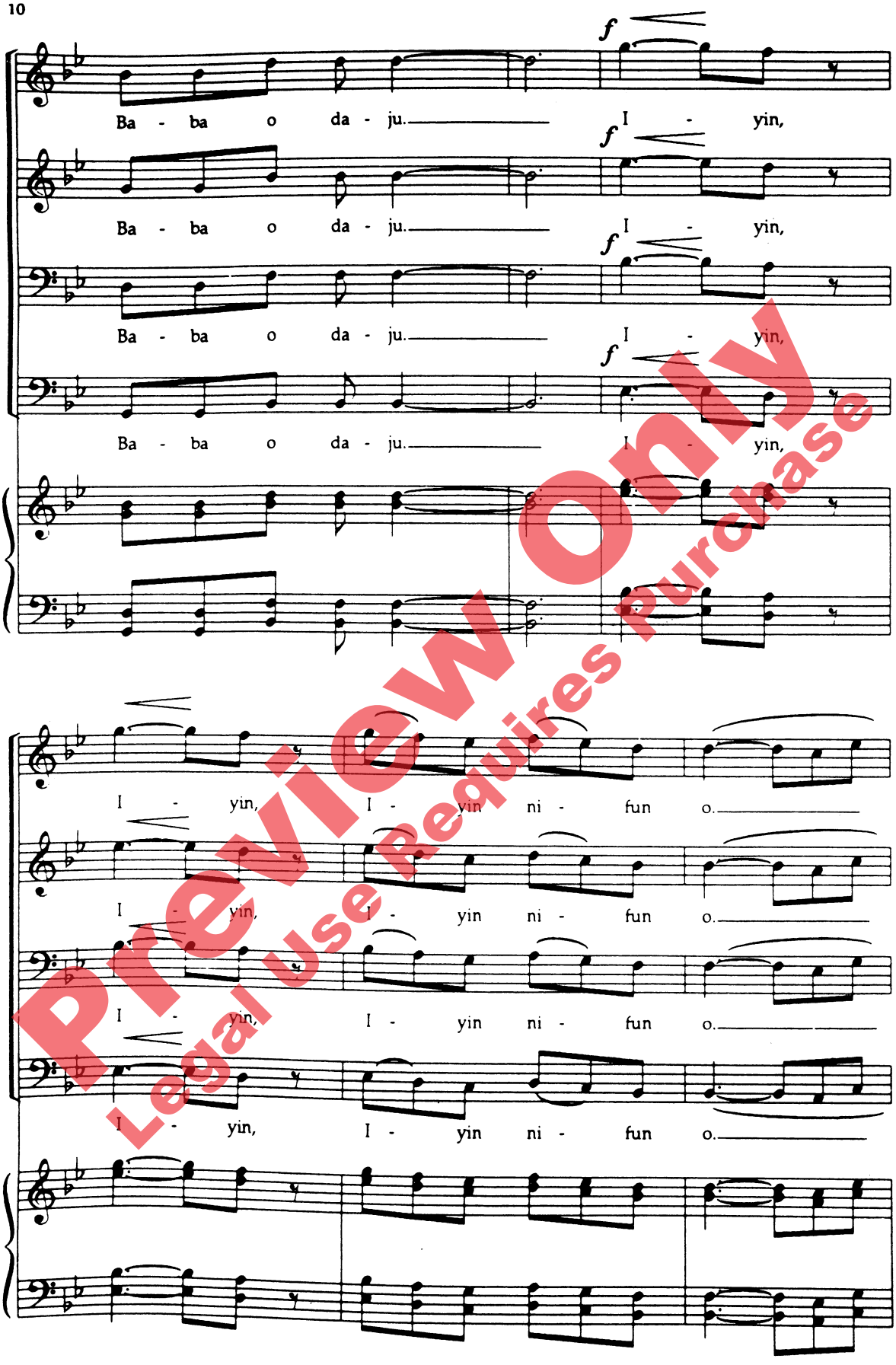
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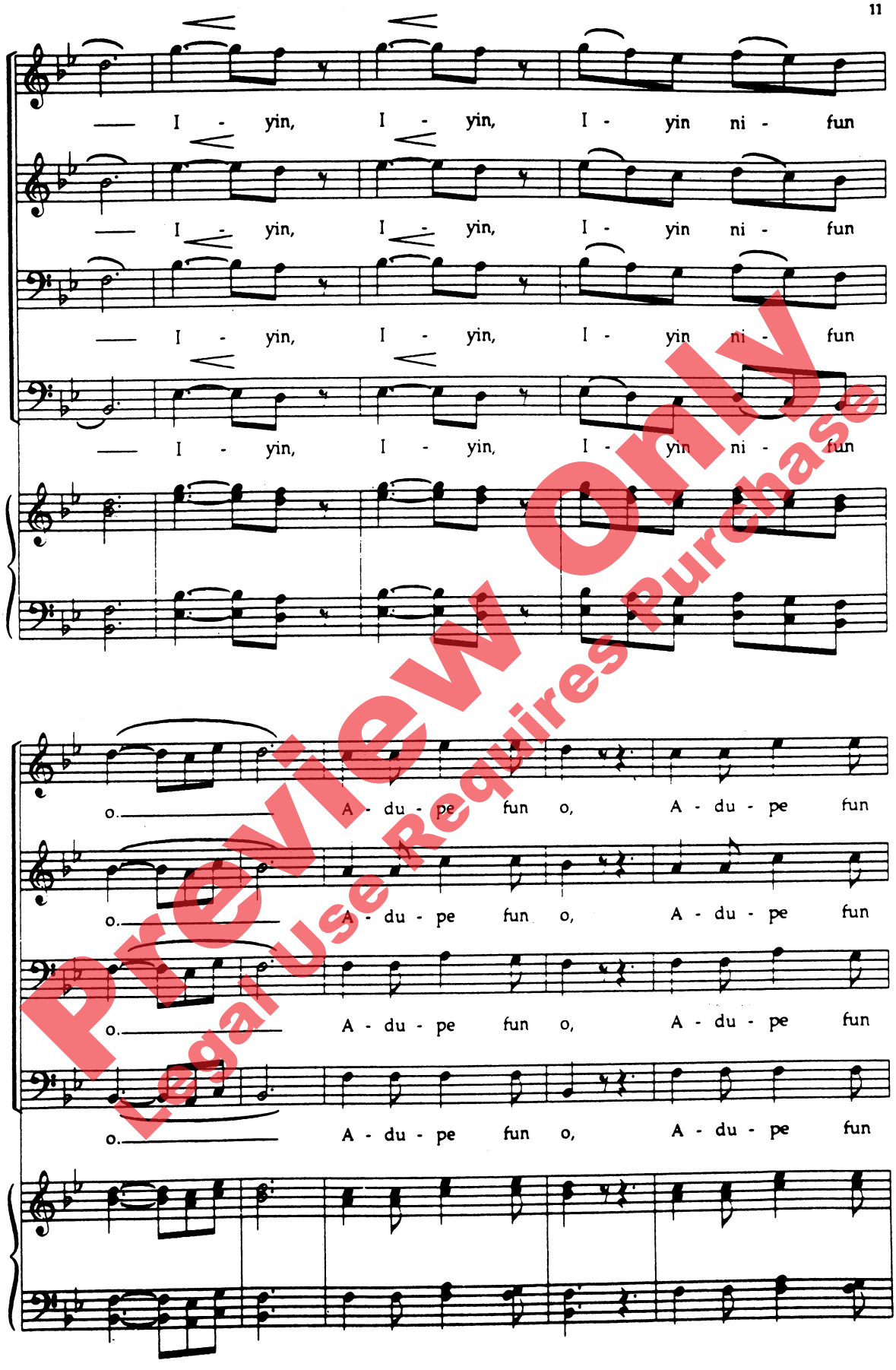
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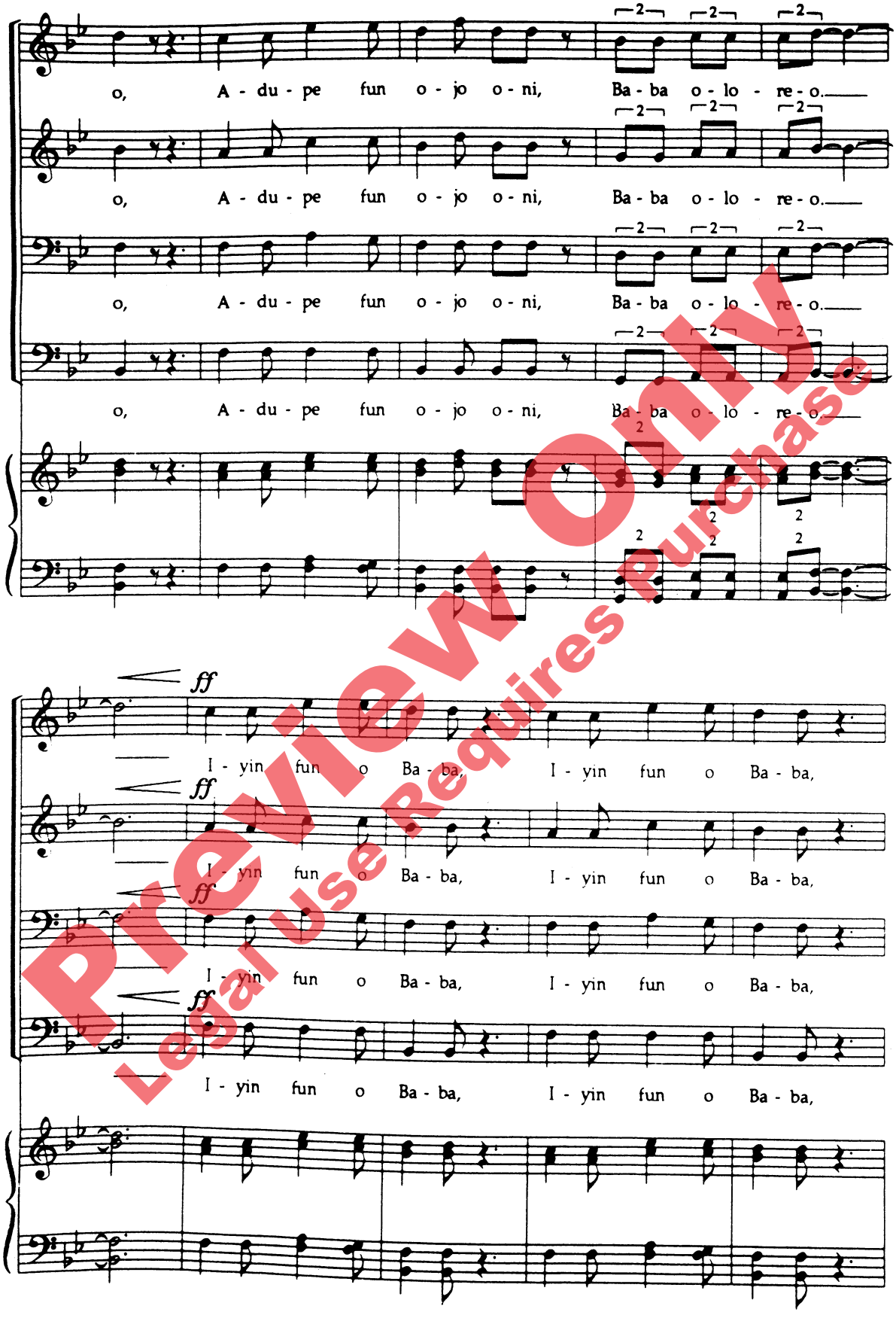
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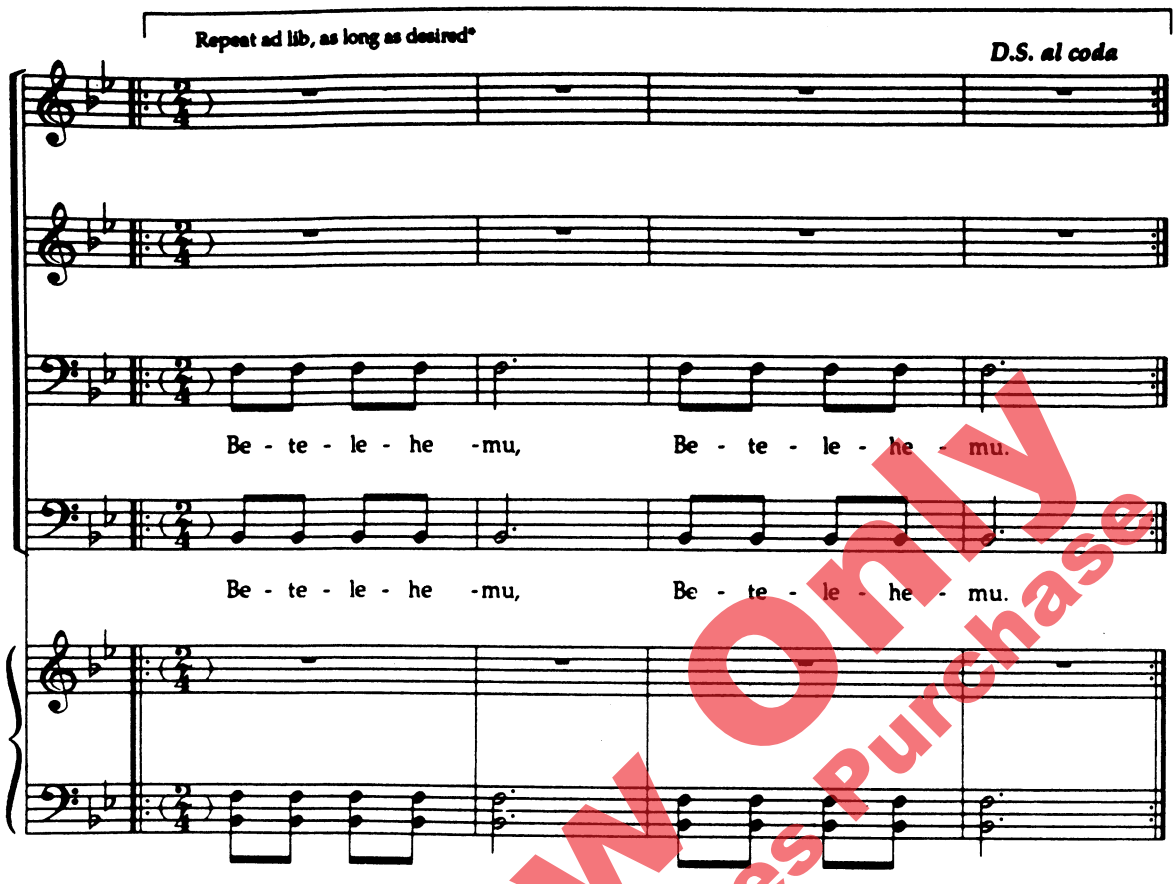
*It is suggested that the following events may be used during the repeats.

1. Add soloists of different character and timbre, using texts.

2. Add hand clapping

3. Stop singing but continue to use drums as in the interlude. Continue drums then D.S. al Coda.

4. If no drum is used go immediately to D.S. al Coda.

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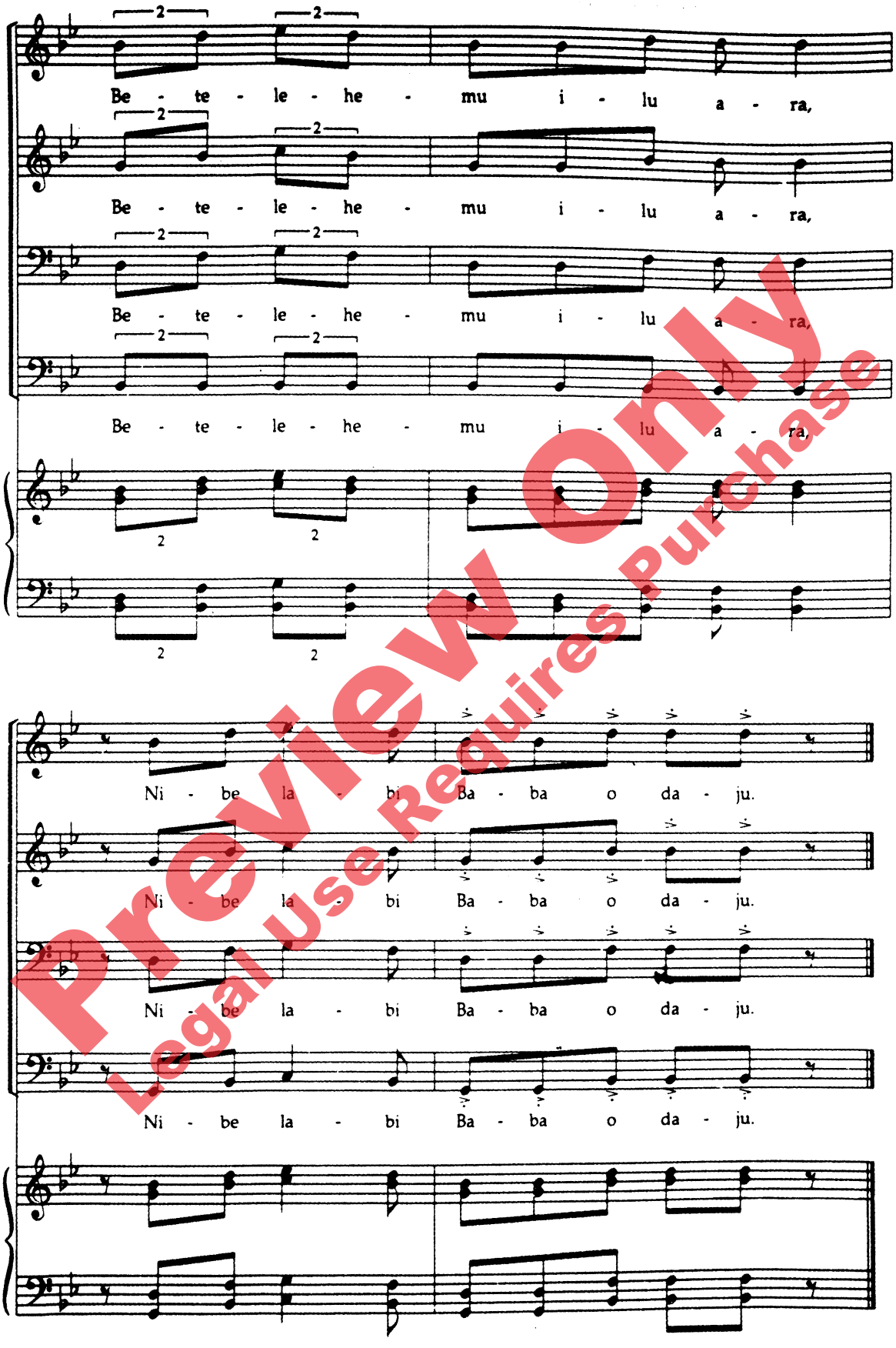
Coda

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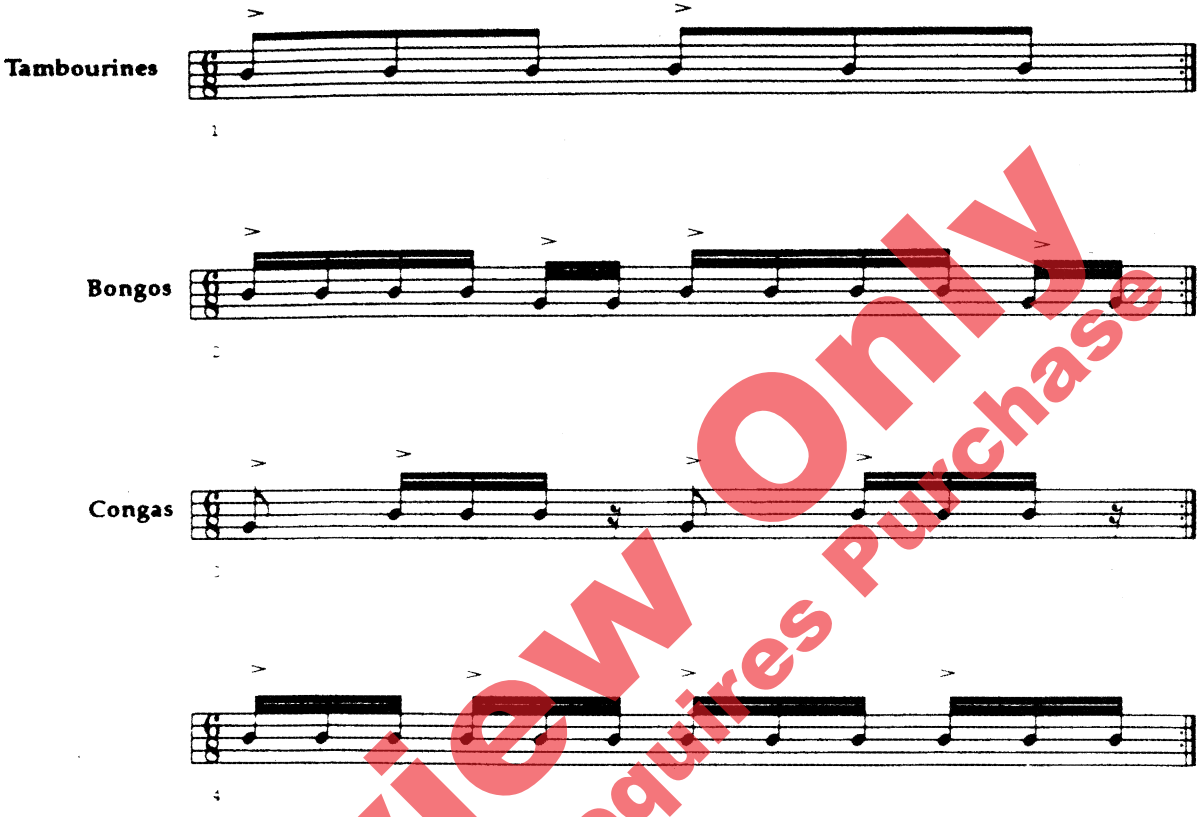
Some Suggested Percussion Rhythms
(Others May Be Improvised)

Betelehemu Translation

We are glad that we have a Father to trust.
We are glad that we have a Father to rely upon.
Where was Jesus born?
Where was He born?
Bethlehem, the city of wonder.
That it where the Father was born for sure.
Praise, praise, praise be to Him.
We thank thee, we thank Thee, we thank Thee for this day,
Gracious Father.
Praise, praise, praise be to Thee,
Merciful Father.

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