COUNTERPOINT OF THE ANIMALS

(Contrappunto Bestiale alla Mente)

by Adriano Banchieri

English Text by Russell Robinson

Arranged by Russell Robinson

This wonderful novelty piece was originally written by Adriano Banchieri, an Italian composer and organist active during the Renaissance. (The Renaissance is generally considered to have run from 1400–1600.) Banchieri lived most of his life in Bologna, Italy, where he was born in 1568 and died in 1634.

When performing this piece, all the singers should appear very serious through measure 16. At measure 17 when the animal sounds *(Cuckoo, Meow, Ruff)* begin, the basses should look around, appearing very perplexed by measure 21. The upper voices should act as humorous as the director wants them to.

When repeating the beginning of the piece (measures 1–16) and from measure 33 on, the entire ensemble should again appear very serious. At this point, the basses should look very pleased that order has once again been restored to the group. In the final measure, a few voices should ad lib the animal sounds as indicated "in character."

Although an optional keyboard accompaniment was added to aid intonation and general performance of this work, the piece may also be sung a cappella. This can be accomplished by beginning at measure 5 and repeating directly to measure 5 (eliminating the keyboard introduction) and then skipping from measure 32 directly to measure 37 the second time through (eliminating measures 33–36).

Have fun singing and performing this wonderful novelty choral classic from the Italian Renaissance!

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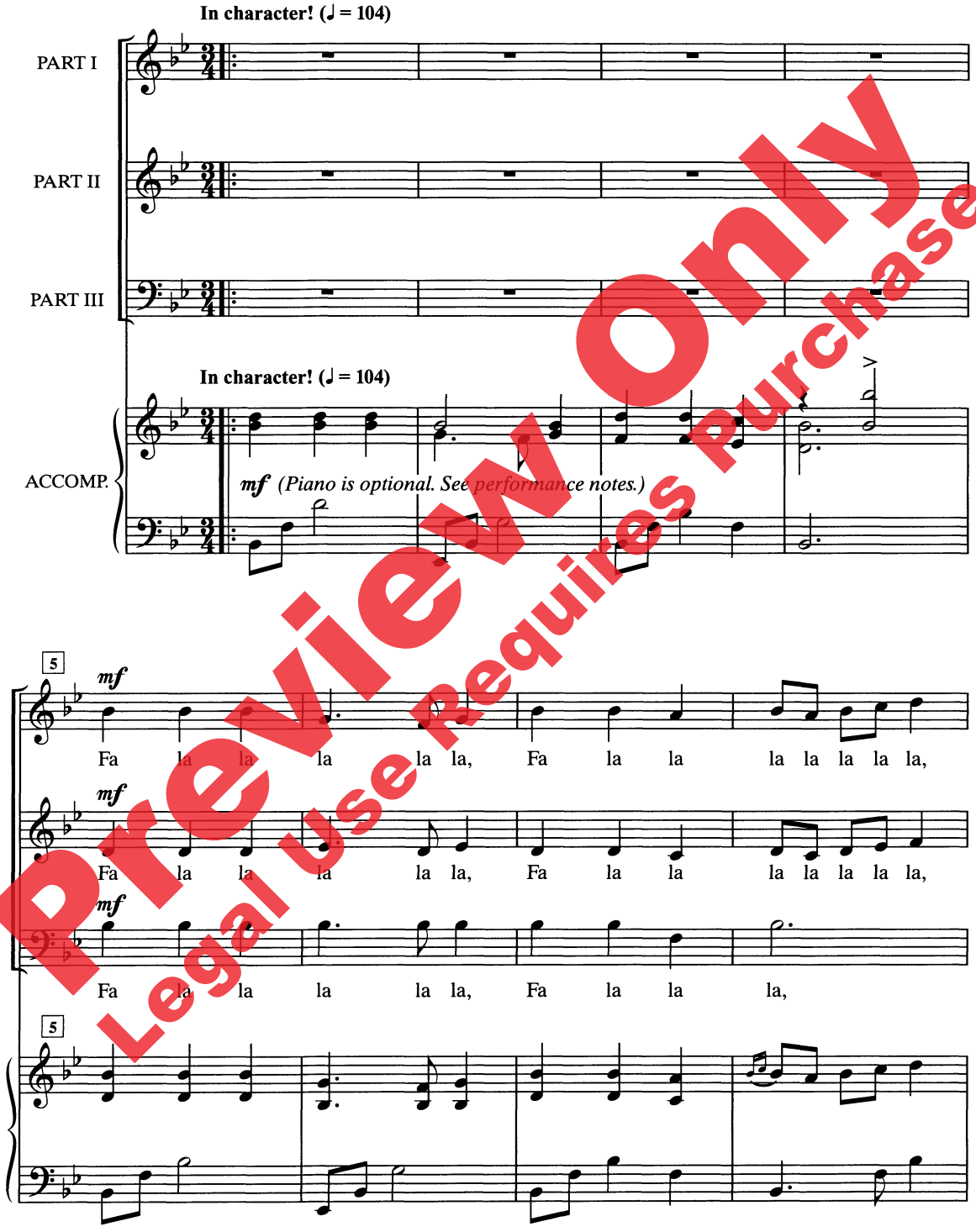
COUNTERPOINT OF THE ANIMALS

(Contrappunto Bestiale alla Mente)

Three-Part Mixed, accompanied (optional a cappella)

Music by ADRIANO BANCHIERI (1565-1634)
English Text by RUSSELL ROBINSON
Arranged by RUSSELL ROBINSON (ASCAP)

Performance time: approx. 3:15



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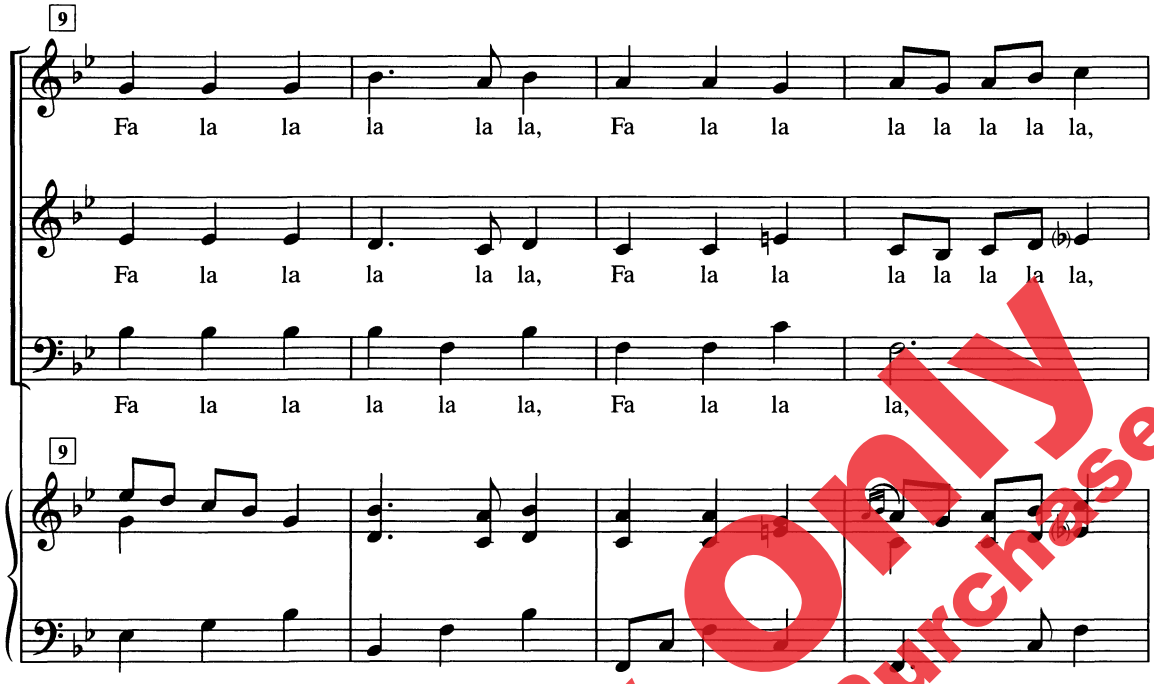

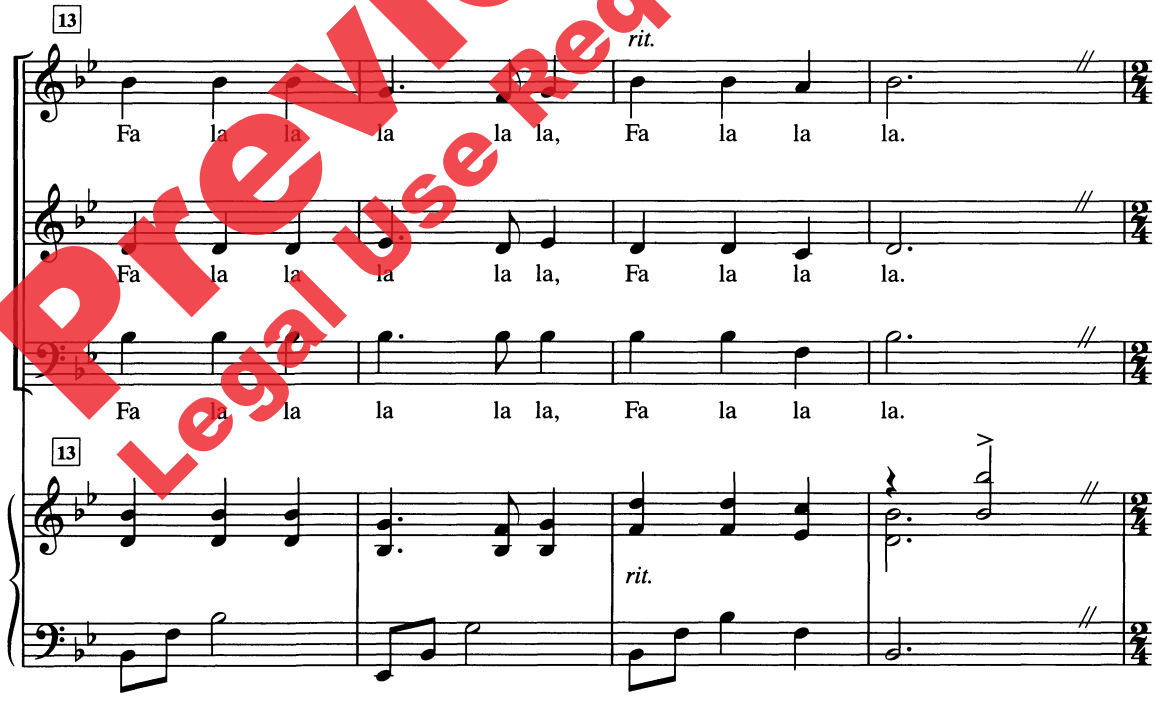

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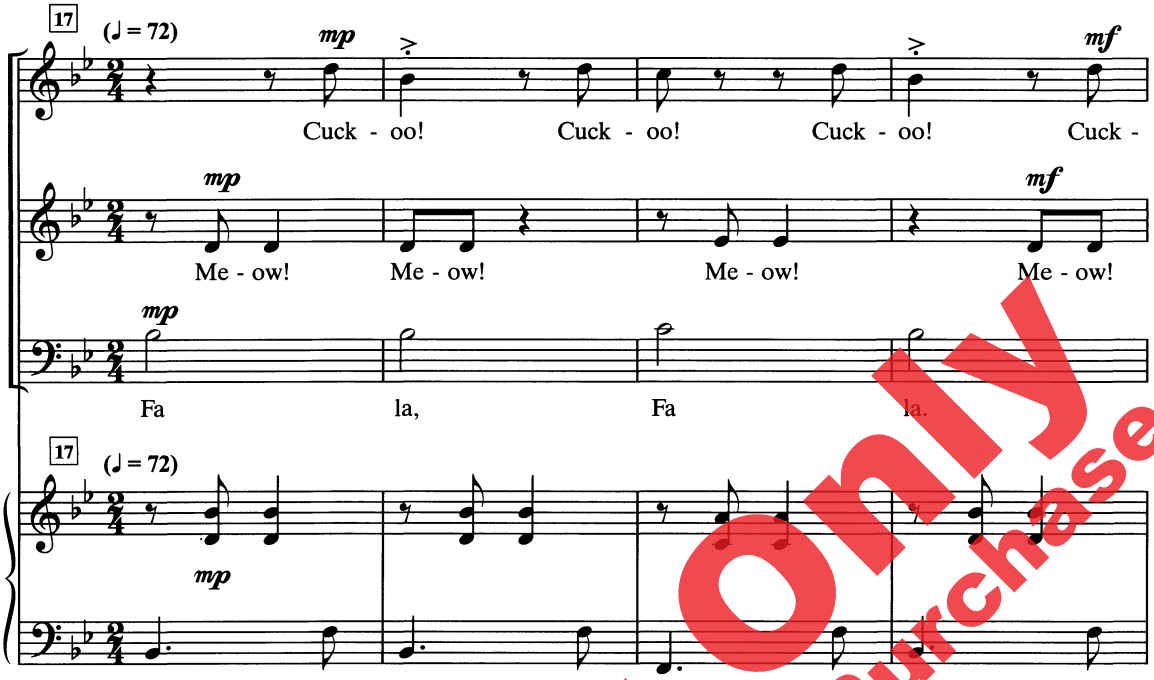

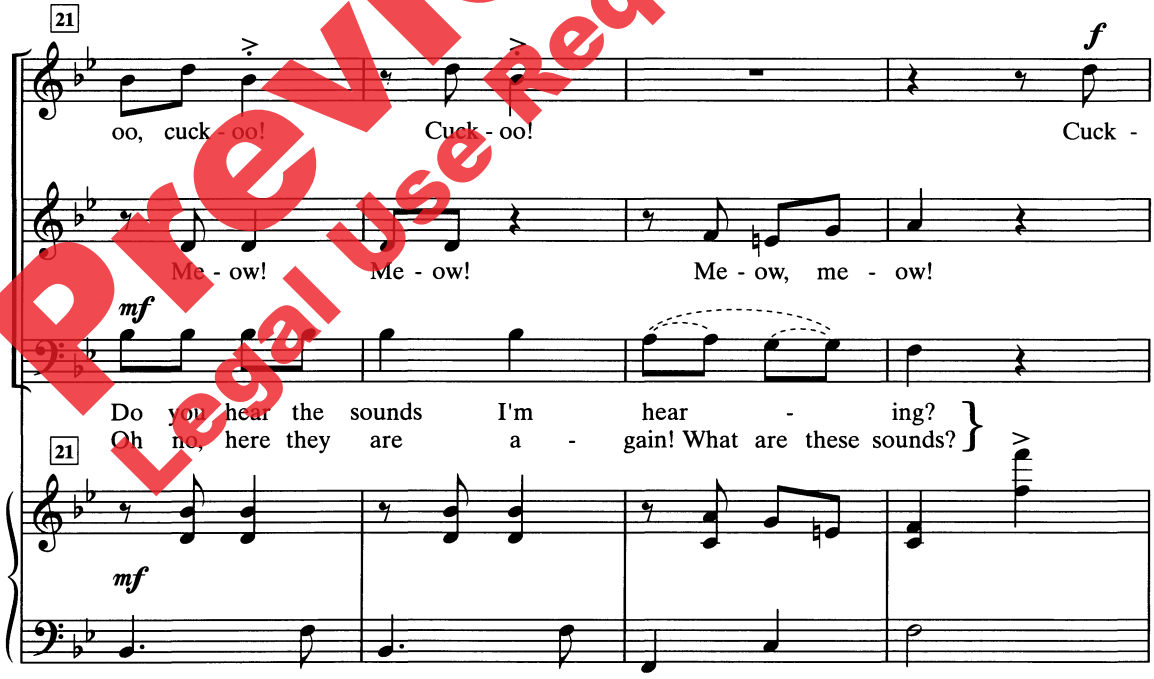

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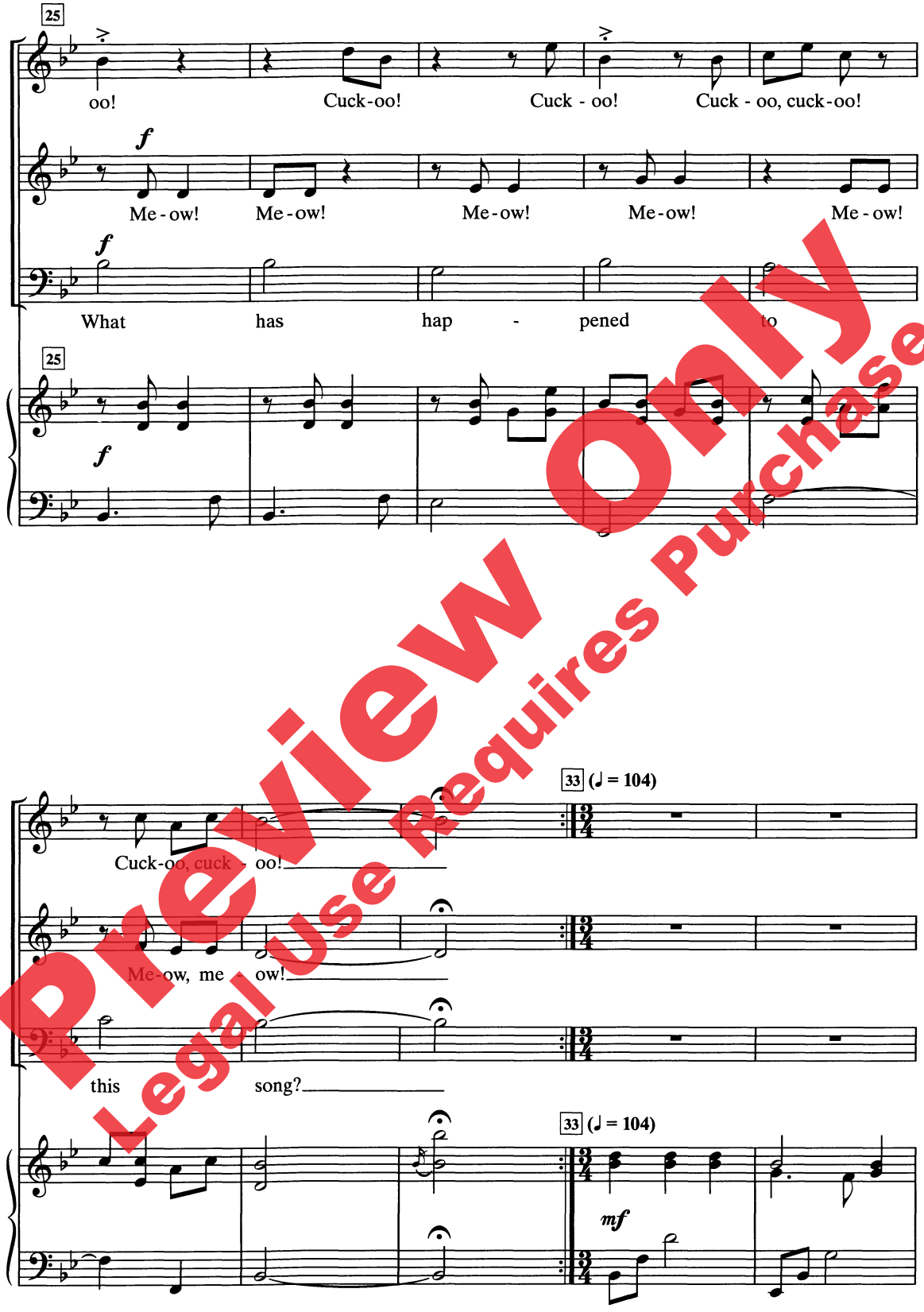

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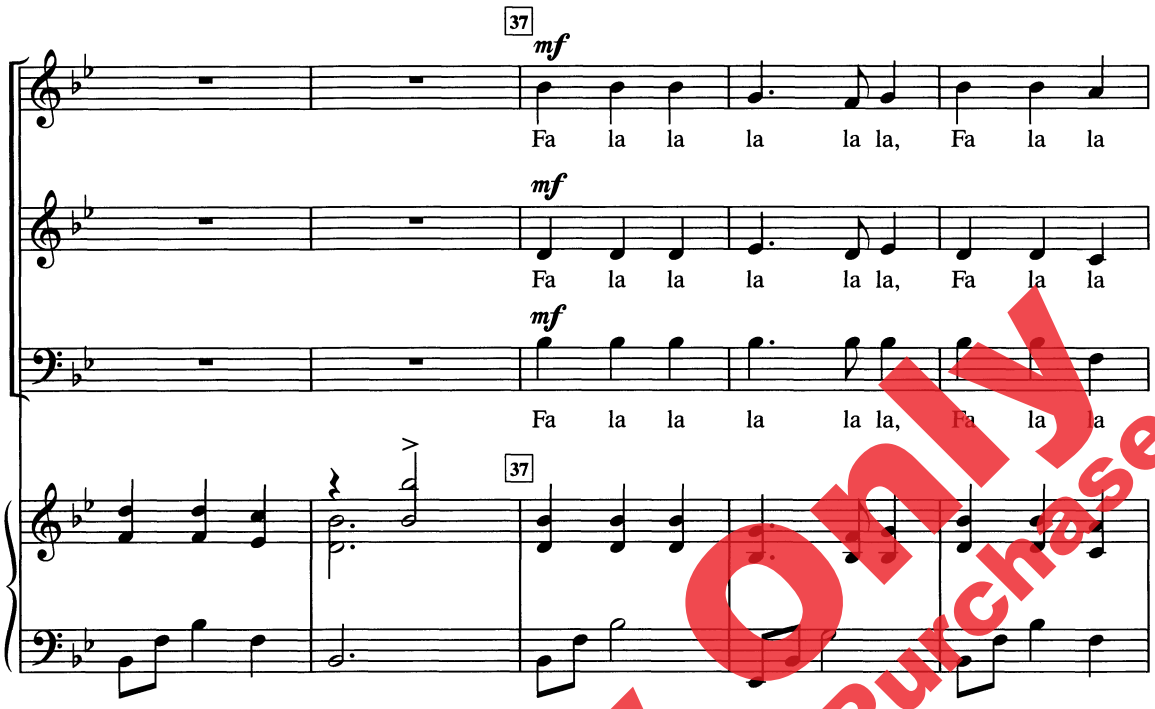

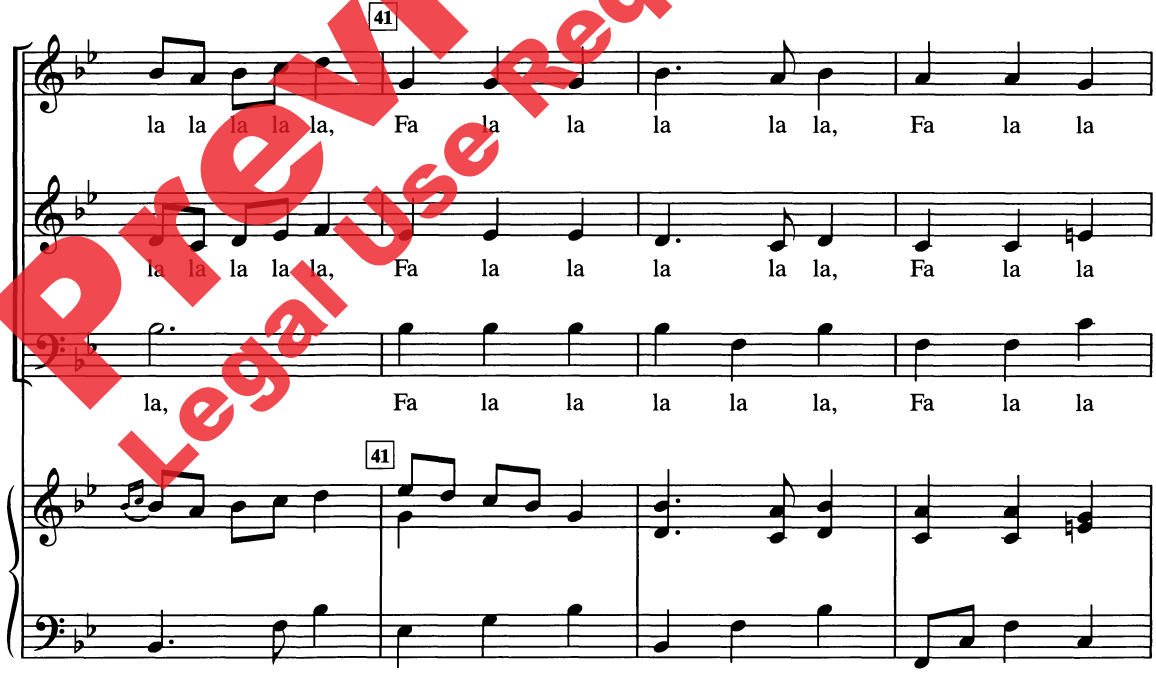

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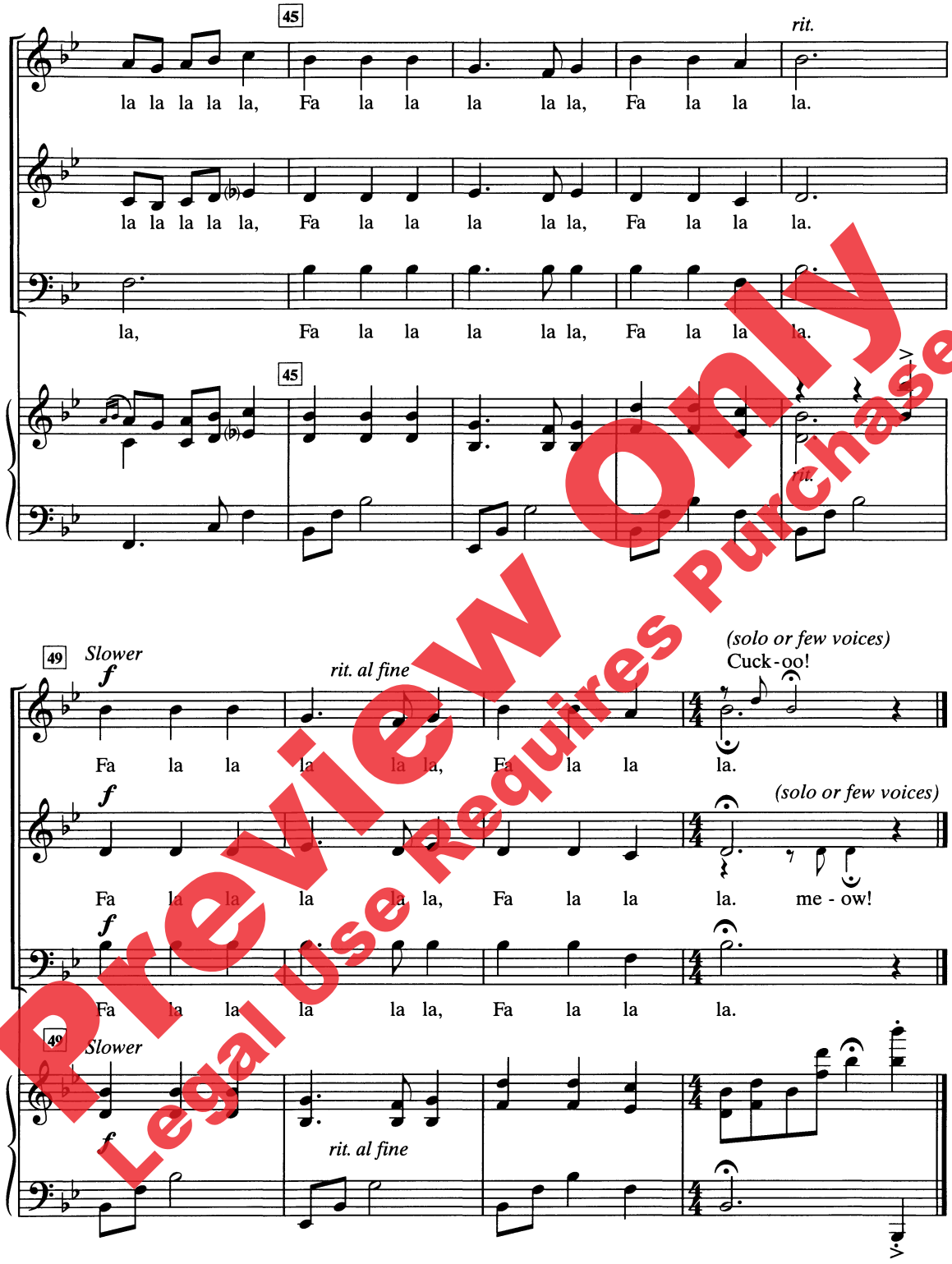

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