# VISIONS OF SUGAR PLUMS

*Arranged by*

Chris Sharp

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## Instrumentation

1 - Conductor's Full Score
4 - Flute 1
4 - Flute 2
2 - Oboe
1 - Bassoon
4 - B♭ Clarinet 1
4 - B♭ Clarinet 2
2 - B♭ Bass Clarinet
3 - E♭ Alto Saxophone 1
3 - E♭ Alto Saxophone 2
2 - B♭ Tenor Saxophone
1 - E♭ Baritone Saxophone
4 - B♭ Trumpet 1
4 - B♭ Trumpet 2
3 - F Horn
2 - Trombone 1
2 - Trombone 2
2 - Baritone/ Euphonium
2 - Baritone T.C.
3 - Tuba
2 - Bells
1 - Timpani
4 - Percussion 1
Snare Drum
Bass Drum
Tambourine
Hi-hat
4 - Percussion 2
Crash Cymbals
Sleigh Bells
Triangle
Suspended Cymbal
Temple Blocks

THE F·J·H MUSIC COMPANY INC.

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## The Composer

Born in 1959, Chris Sharp is a Florida native raised in Cocoa Beach. He received a Bachelor of Music degree in theory and composition from the University of Florida, where he performed in bands under Frank Wickes and Gary Langford, and studied privately with Richard W. Bowles and Edward Troupin. He earned a Master of Music degree in studio writing and production from the University of Miami, studying with Gary Lindsay, James Progris, Alfred Reed, Ron Miller, and Whit Sidener. Since 1984, Mr. Sharp has served as a staff arranger for Walt Disney World Creative Services, providing music for events ranging from street bands to national television broadcasts. He has also written for Universal Studios (Florida and California); Ringling Brothers Circus; high school and college bands throughout the United States; and several service bands, including the famed USAF Airmen of Note. Active nationwide as a clinician and adjudicator, Mr. Sharp's present focus is on developing material for high school and middle school concert bands, jazz bands, and small ensembles. He currently lives in the Orlando area, where he is a composer, arranger, orchestrator, freelance trombonist, and active music educator.

## About the Music

*Visions of Sugar Plums* is a musical representation of the pure joy of Christmas as seen through the eyes of a child. This collection of pieces recreates that magic along with all the special feelings that happen during the weeks leading up to that blessed day.

Style is the most important consideration in ensuring the success of this work. The operative word is "light." Carefully observe the abundant staccato markings, strive for a consistent style of articulation, and encourage students to listen for note length uniformity and separation. Dynamic markings should always be taken in context.

After the opening fanfare, make the most of the dynamic contrast at measure 5. In *Jolly Old Saint Nicholas,* encourage communication between clarinets and French horn so the countermelody may be in tune. Tuning responsibilities in the timpani are minimal but vital.

*Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy* should not change tempo from the previous section. Watch that percussion decorations accompany without overwhelming woodwinds. The famous bass clarinet part should sound fluid, not frantic. Pay close attention to bells and make certain the correct octaves are being played. Measures 56–63 may need attention to focus the chords in the baritone and *divisi* French horns.

Warmth of tone should characterize the beautiful *Czech Lullaby.* The sustained woodwind tones at measure 70 should be supplementary to the harmonized melody in the clarinets. Although specific markings are absent, encourage the ensemble at measure 75 to mirror the contour of the melody with appropriate rising and falling dynamics. *Up on the Housetop* is characterized by a continuous dialogue that alternates between woodwinds and brass. Temple blocks represent the reindeer, and low brass and woodwinds recreate Santa's "Ho, ho, ho."

Measure 121 is a complex tapestry of interacting motifs. At measure 129, a recap of introduction material ties sections together. Although not indicated, there is a key change to D♭ for *We Wish You a Merry Christmas.* Observe each concert G♭, reminding players to carry the accidental through the measure. A bell solo occurs on beat 3 of measure 143 to usher in the final chorale statement.

Chris Sharp

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CONDUCTOR'S FULL SCORE

Approx. Performance Time = 3:35

# VISIONS OF SUGAR PLUMS

*Arranged by*
CHRIS SHARP
(ASCAP)

**Joyously (♩ = 132)**

Flutes 1, 2
Oboe
Bassoon
B♭ Clarinets 1, 2
B♭ Bass Clarinet
E♭ Alto Saxophones 1, 2
B♭ Tenor Saxophone
E♭ Baritone Saxophone

**Joyously (♩ = 132)**

B♭ Trumpets 1, 2
F Horn
Trombones 1, 2
Baritone/Euphonium
Tuba
Bells
Timpani (E♭, A♭, E♭)
Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Tambourine, Hi-hat) — S.D., B.D., Cr. Cym.
Percussion 2 (Crash Cymbals, Sleigh Bells, Triangle, Suspended Cymbal, Temple Blocks)

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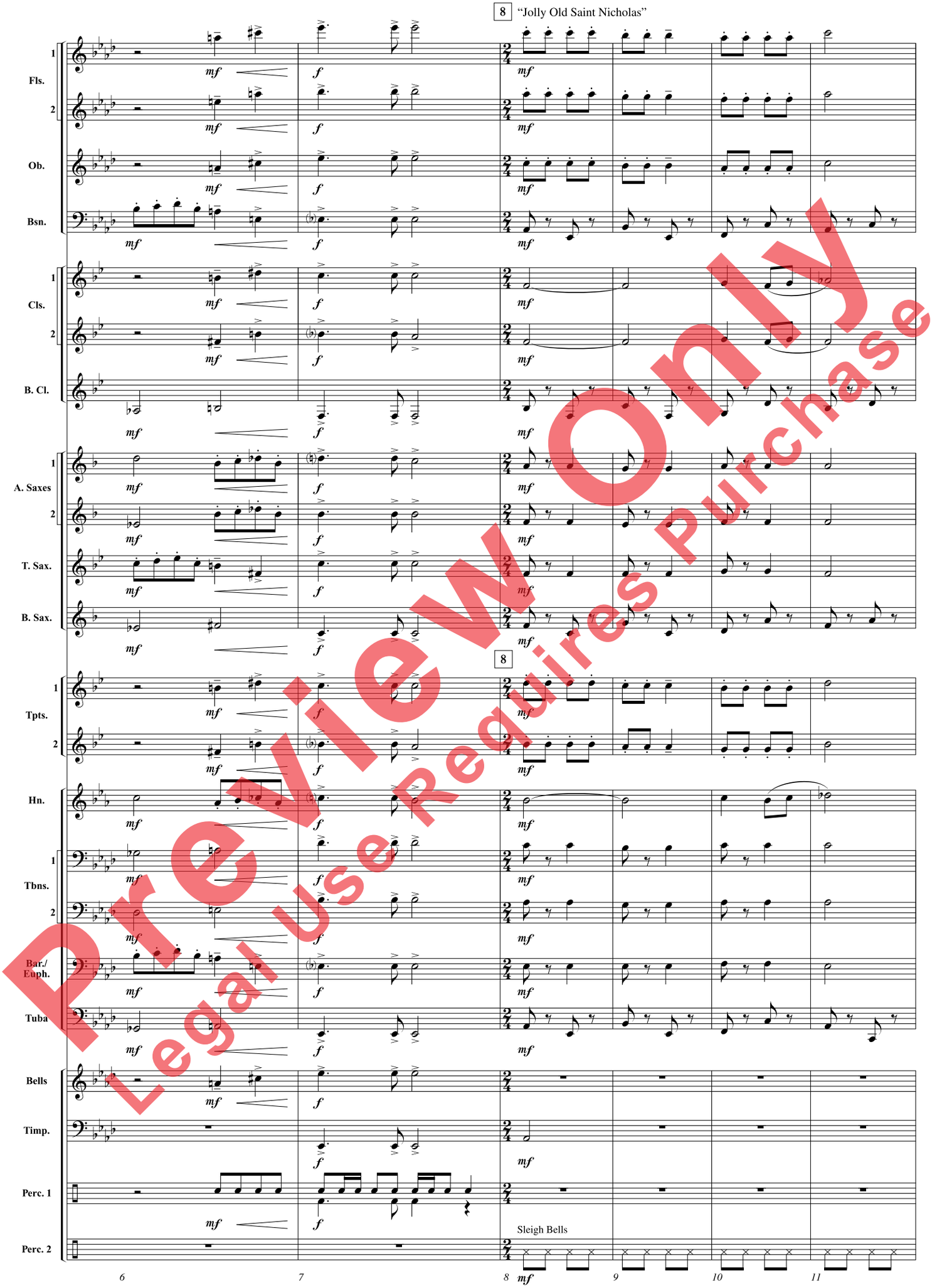


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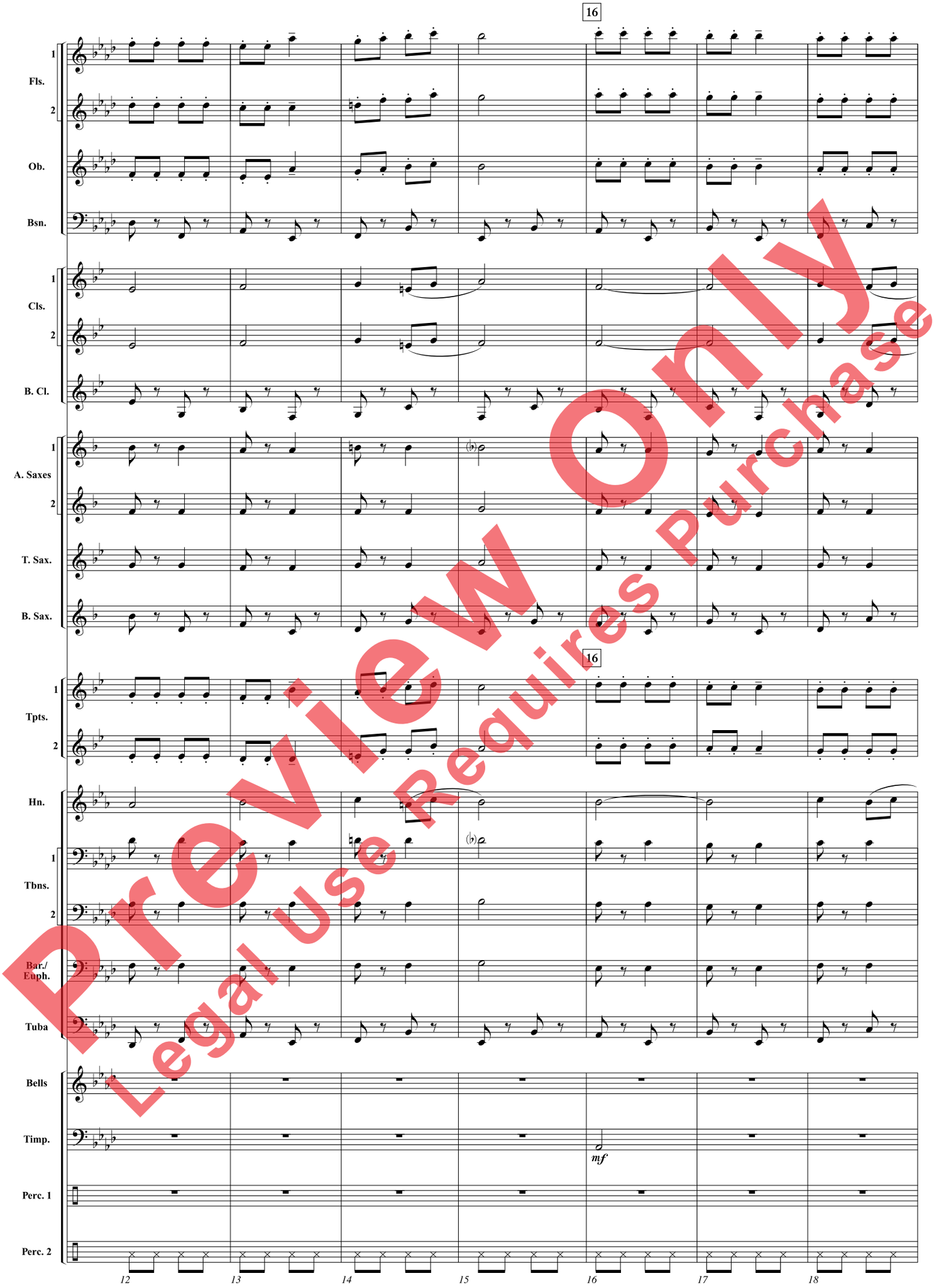


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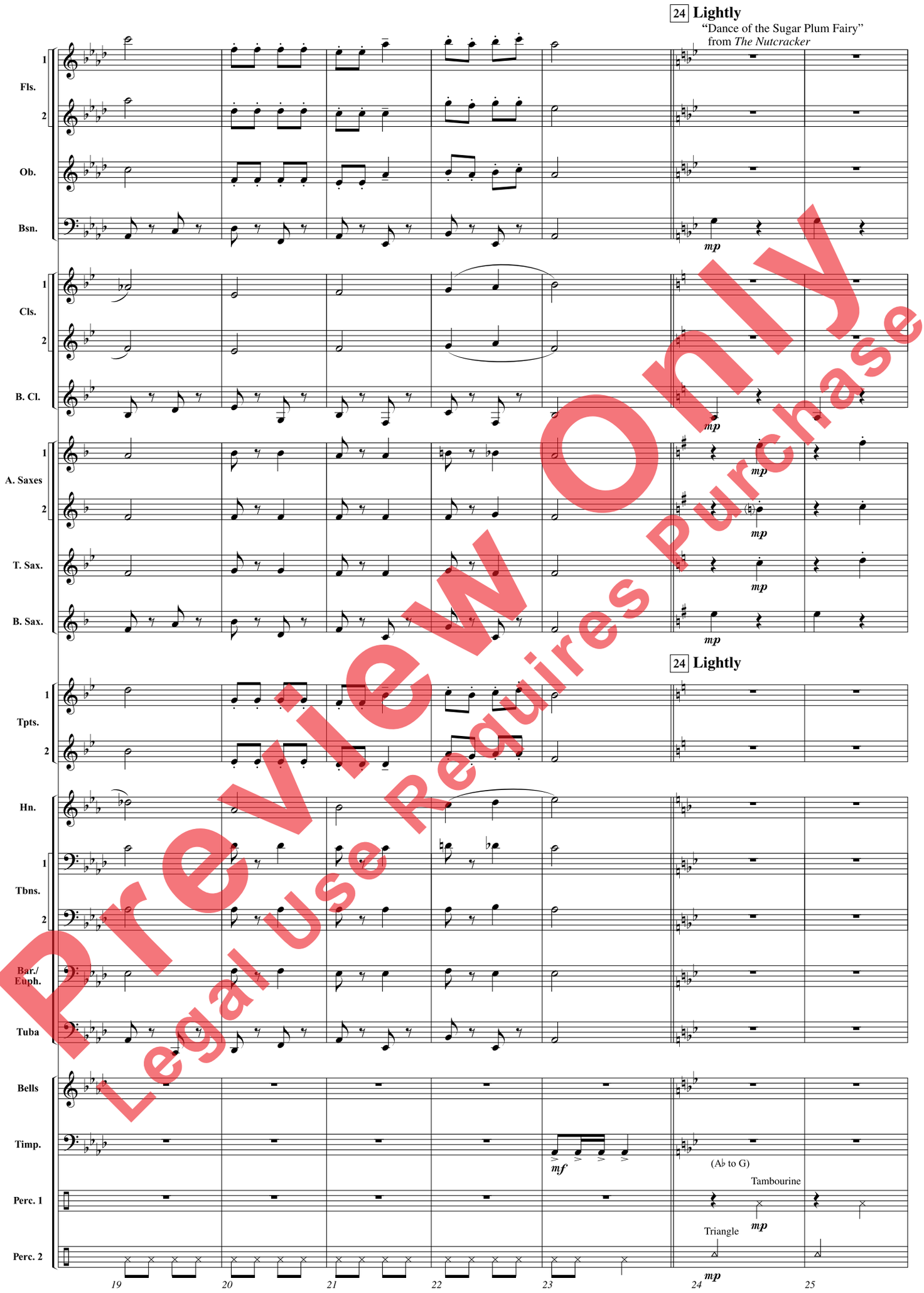


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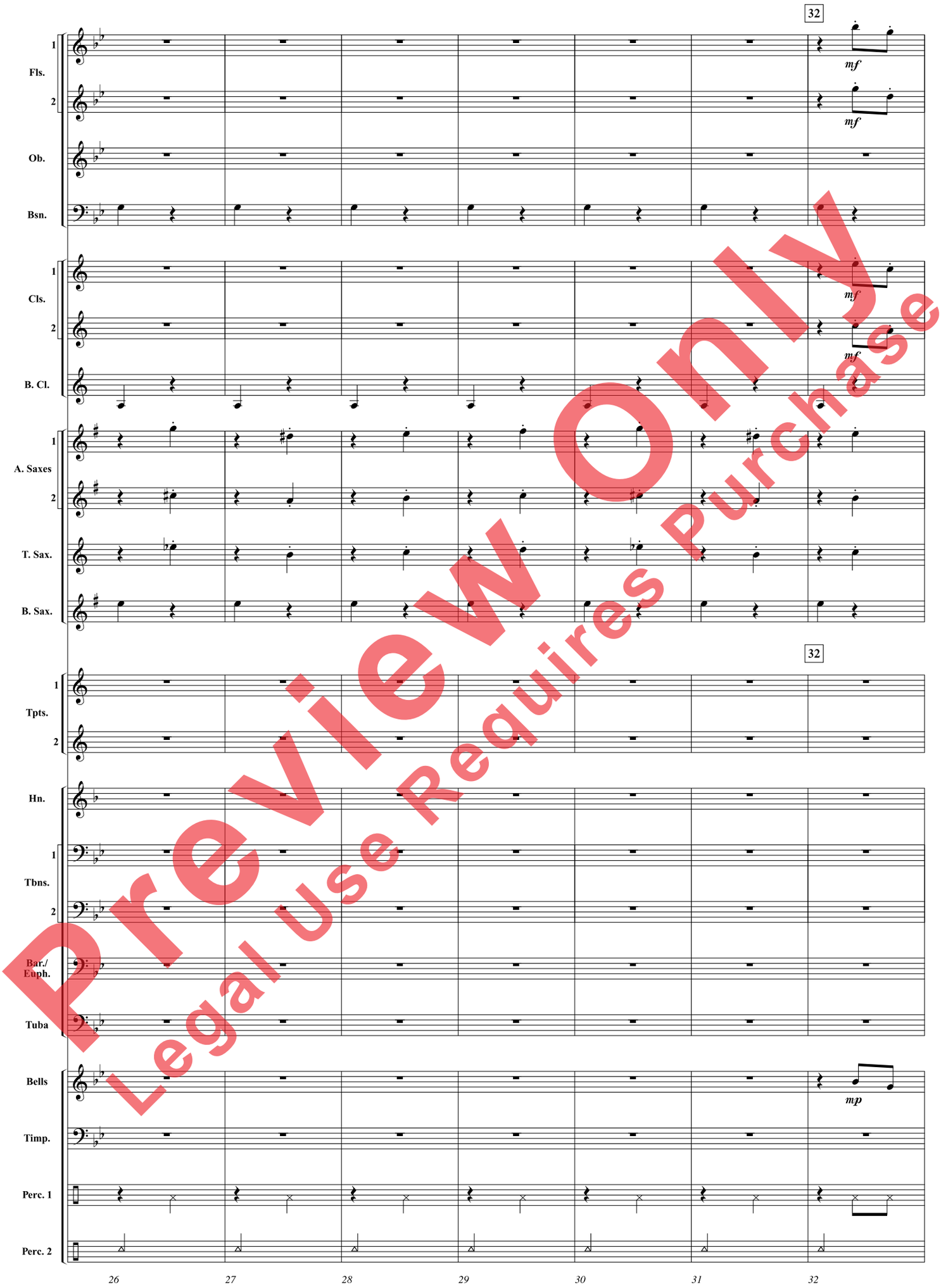


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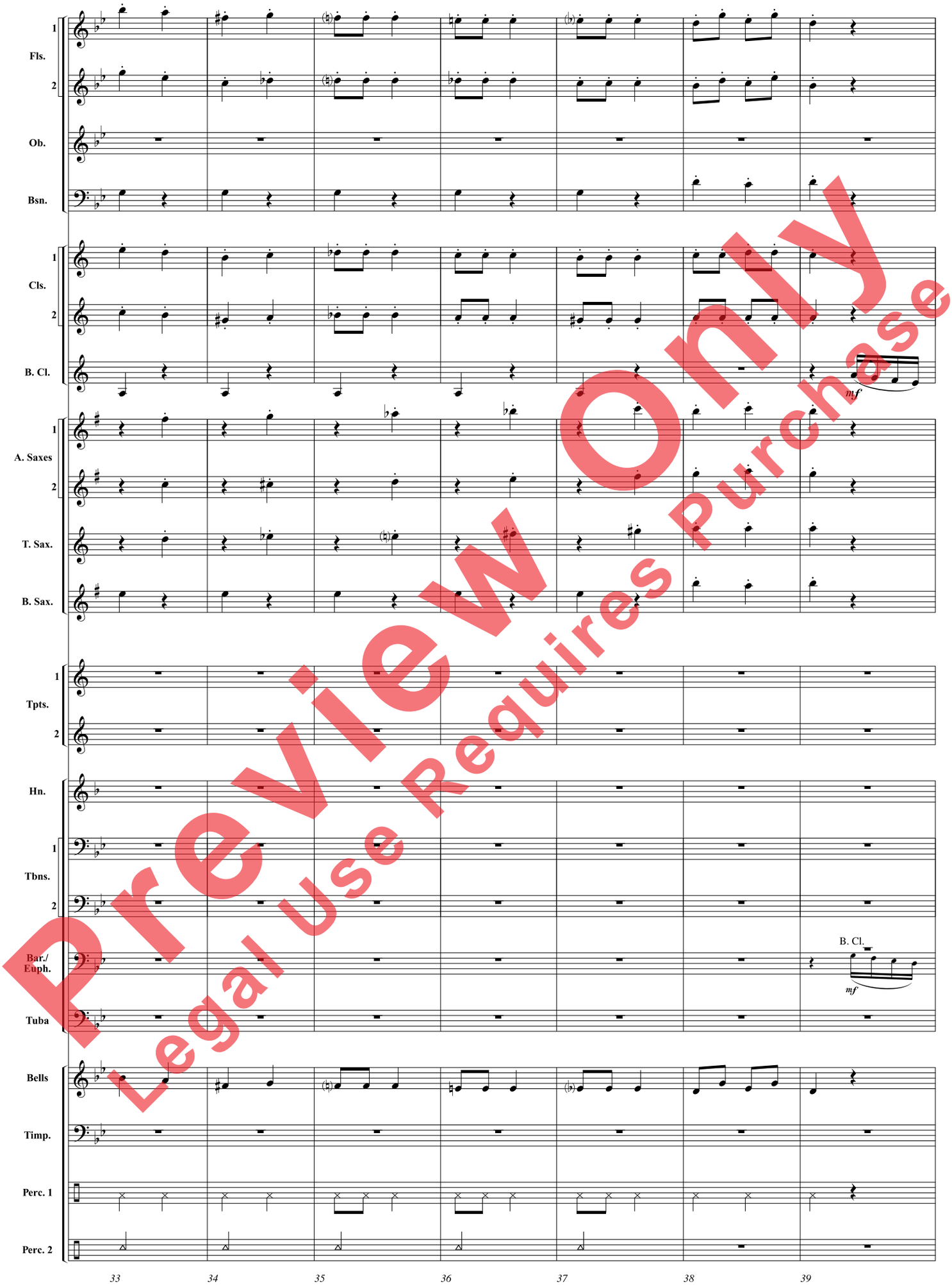


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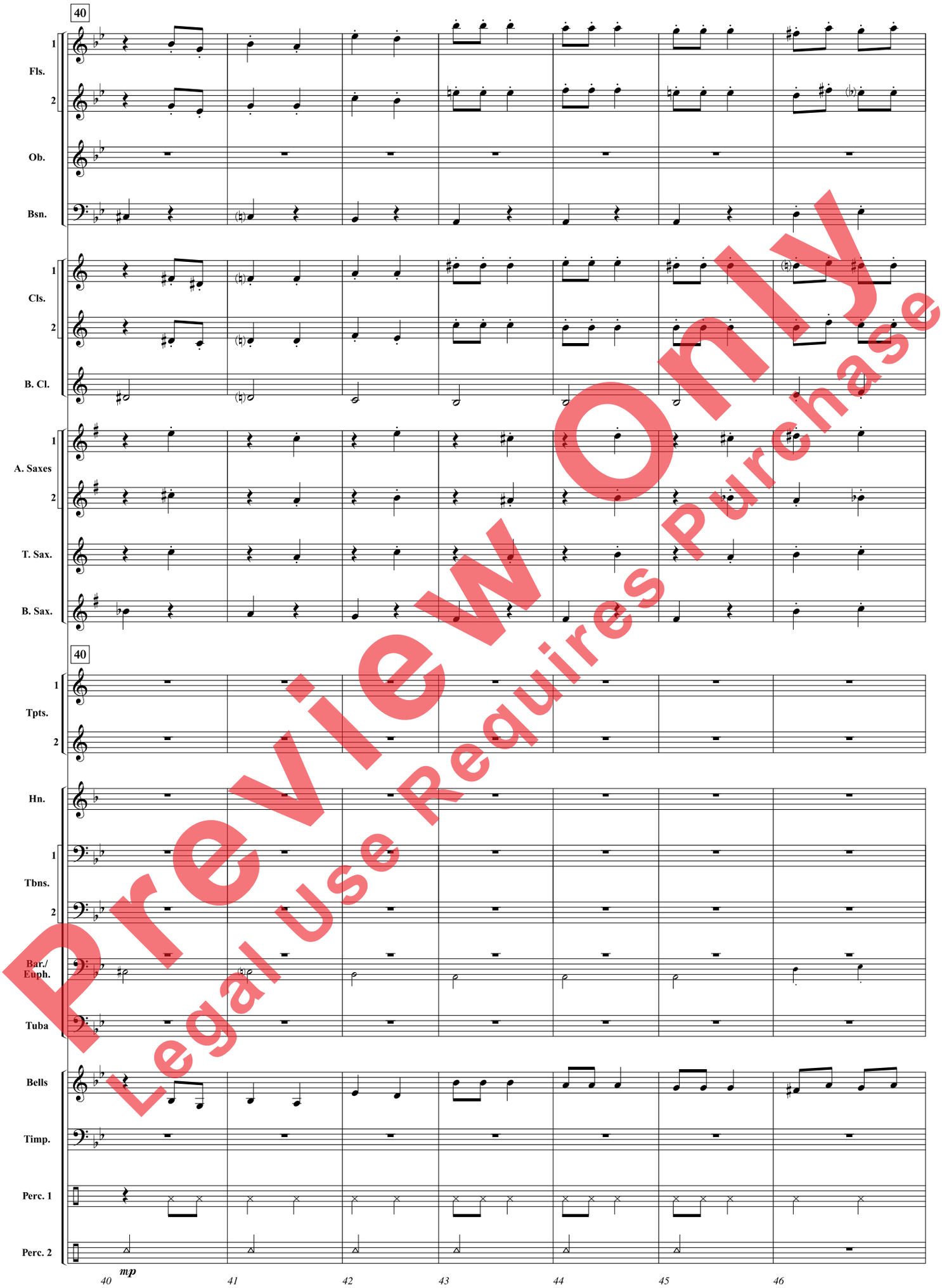


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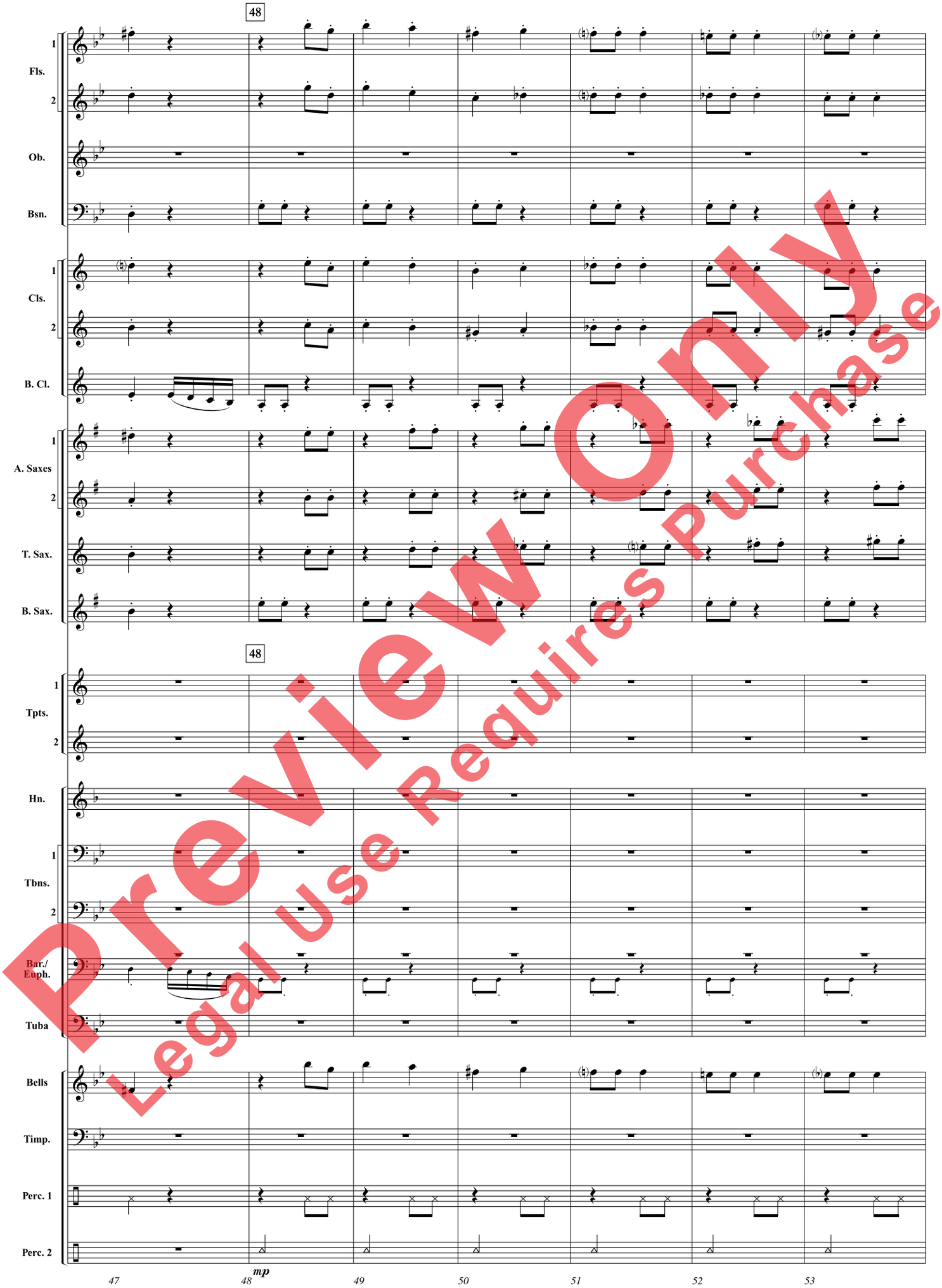


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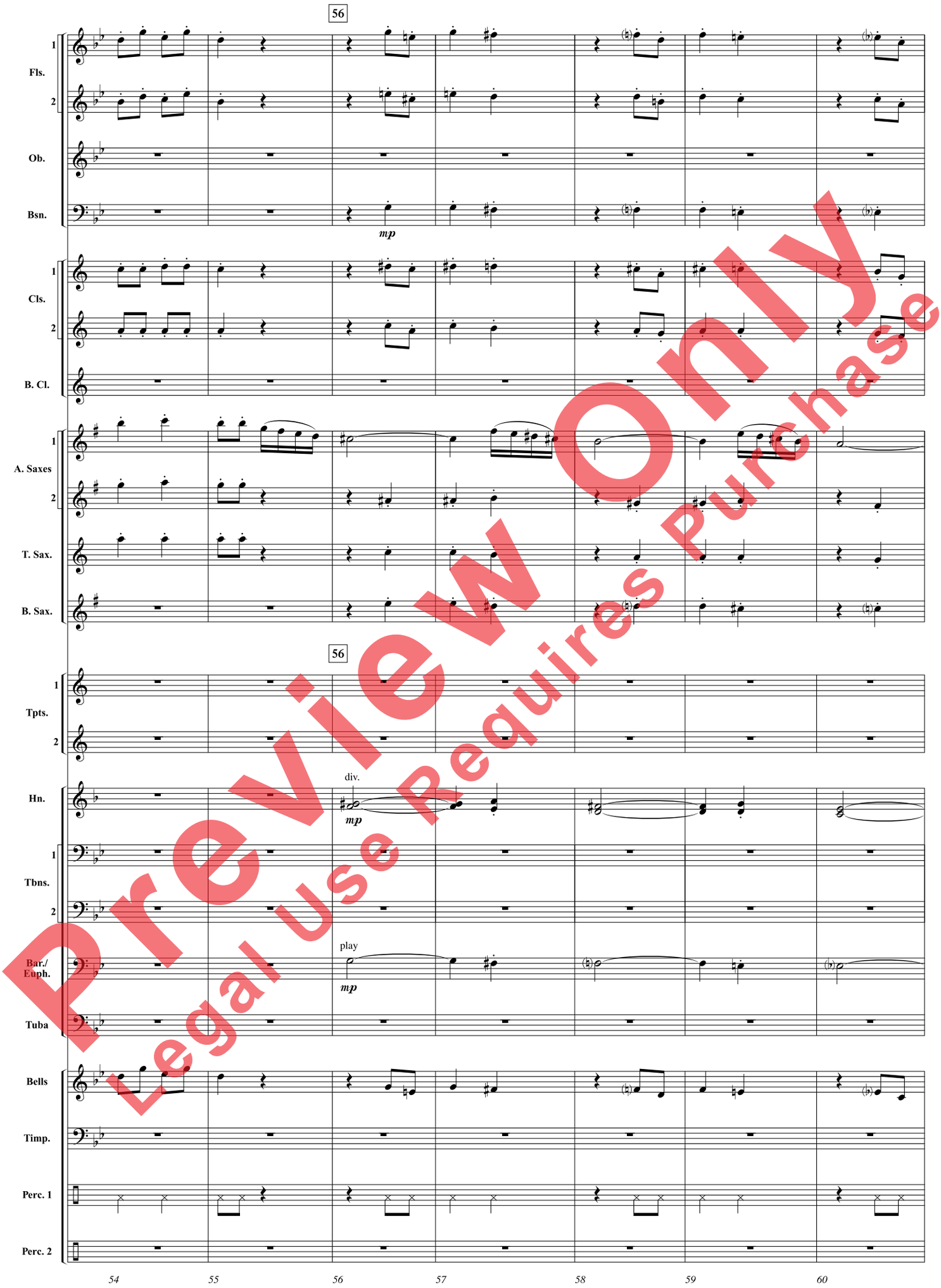


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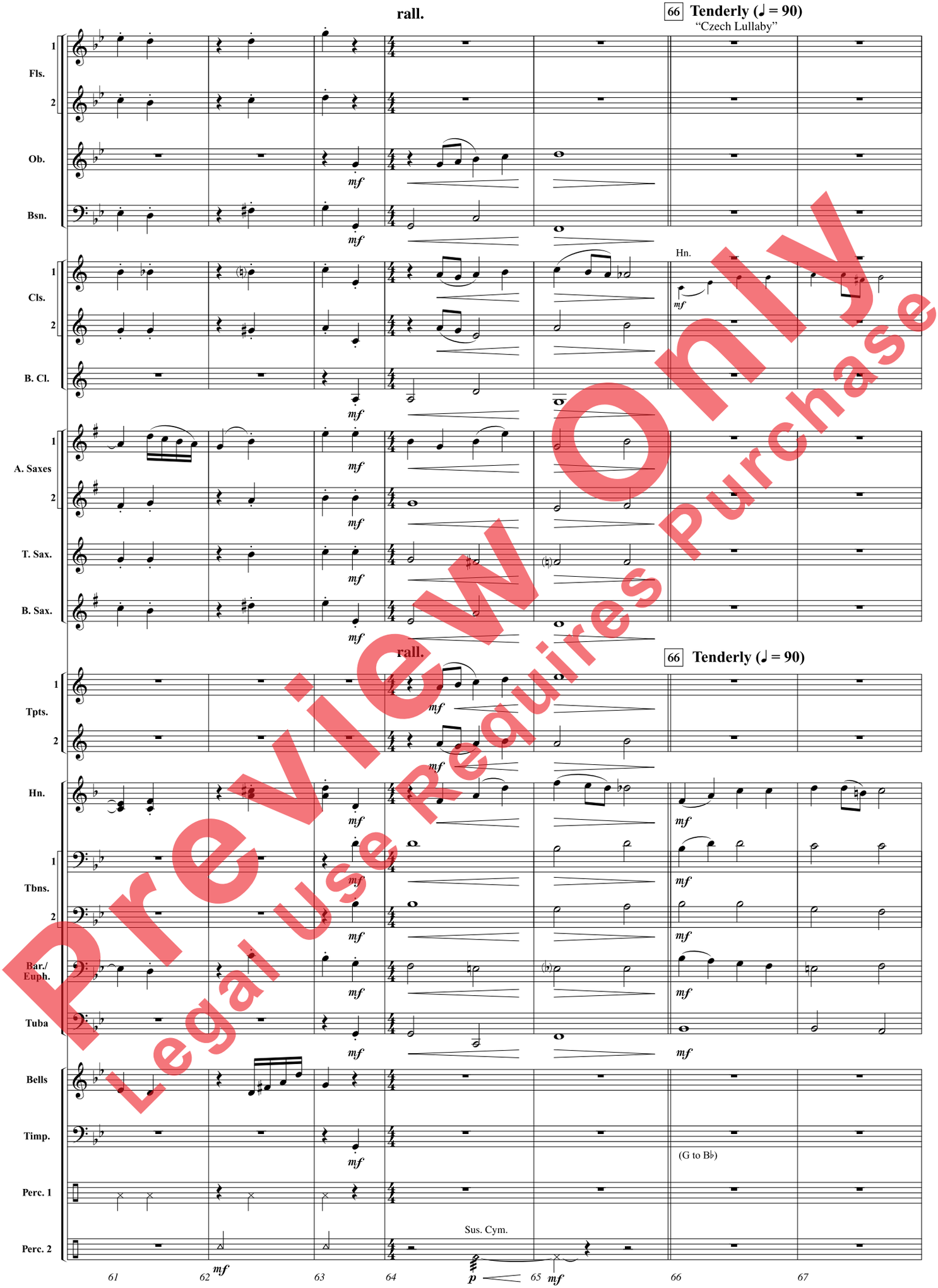


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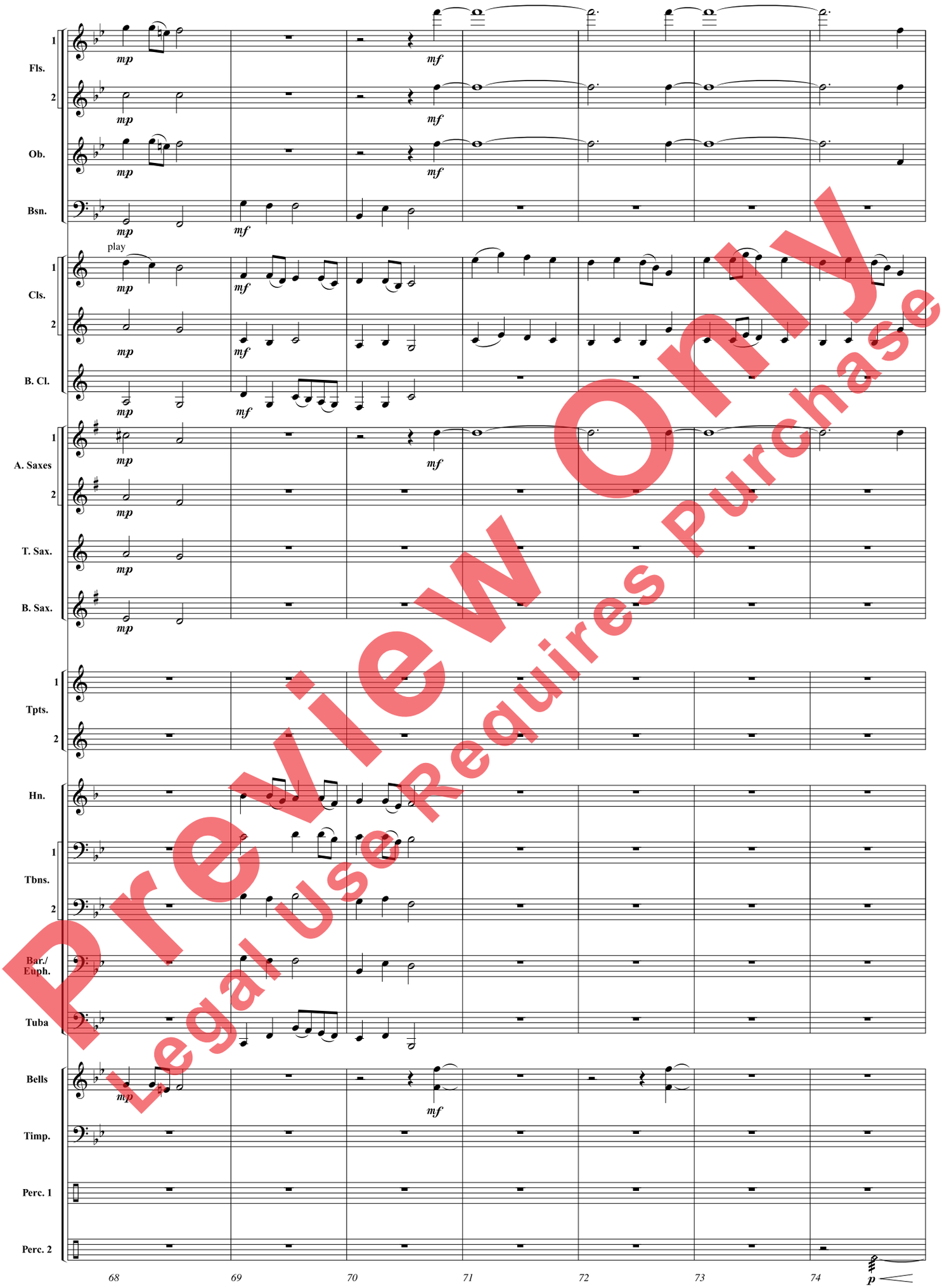


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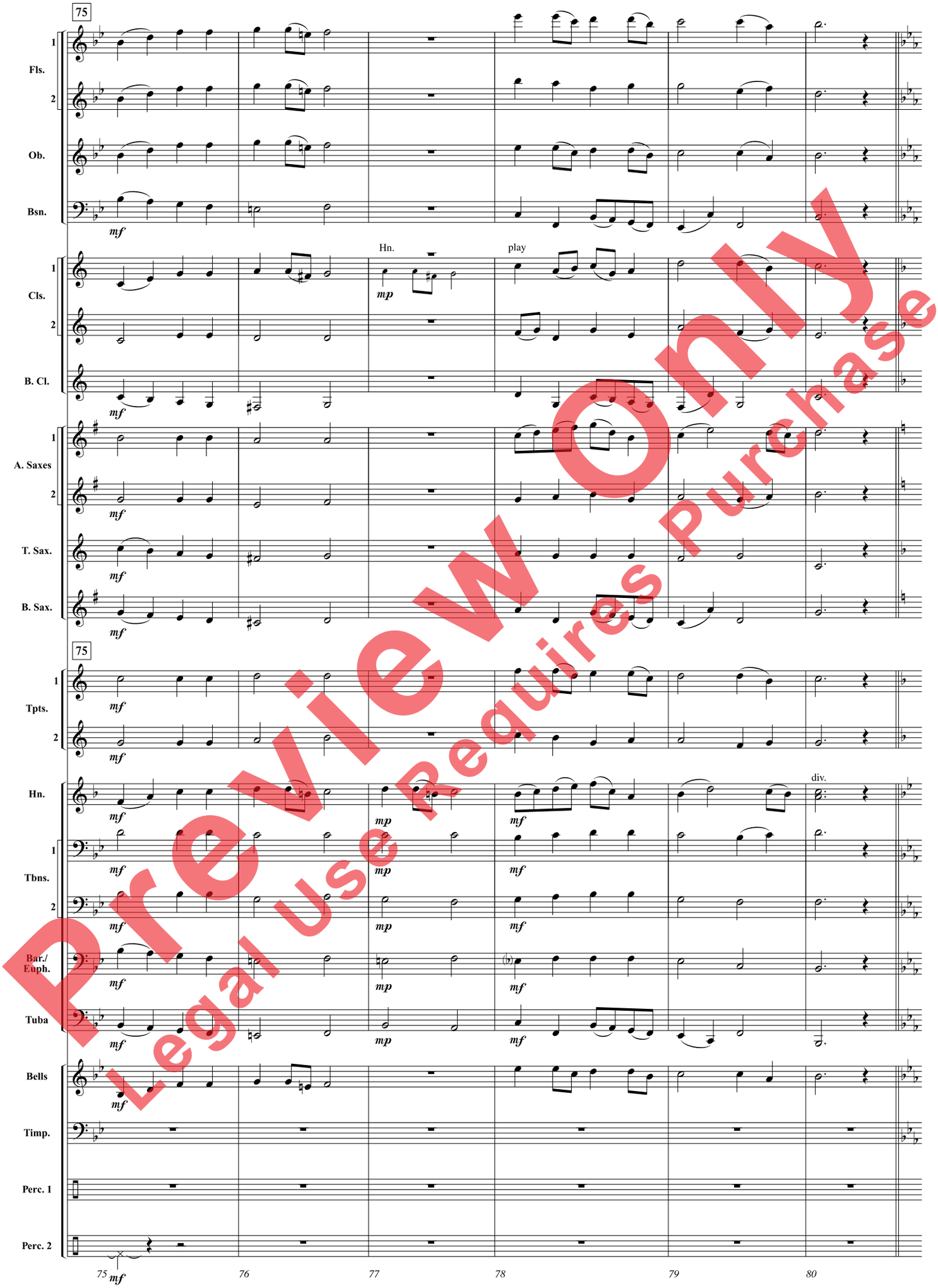


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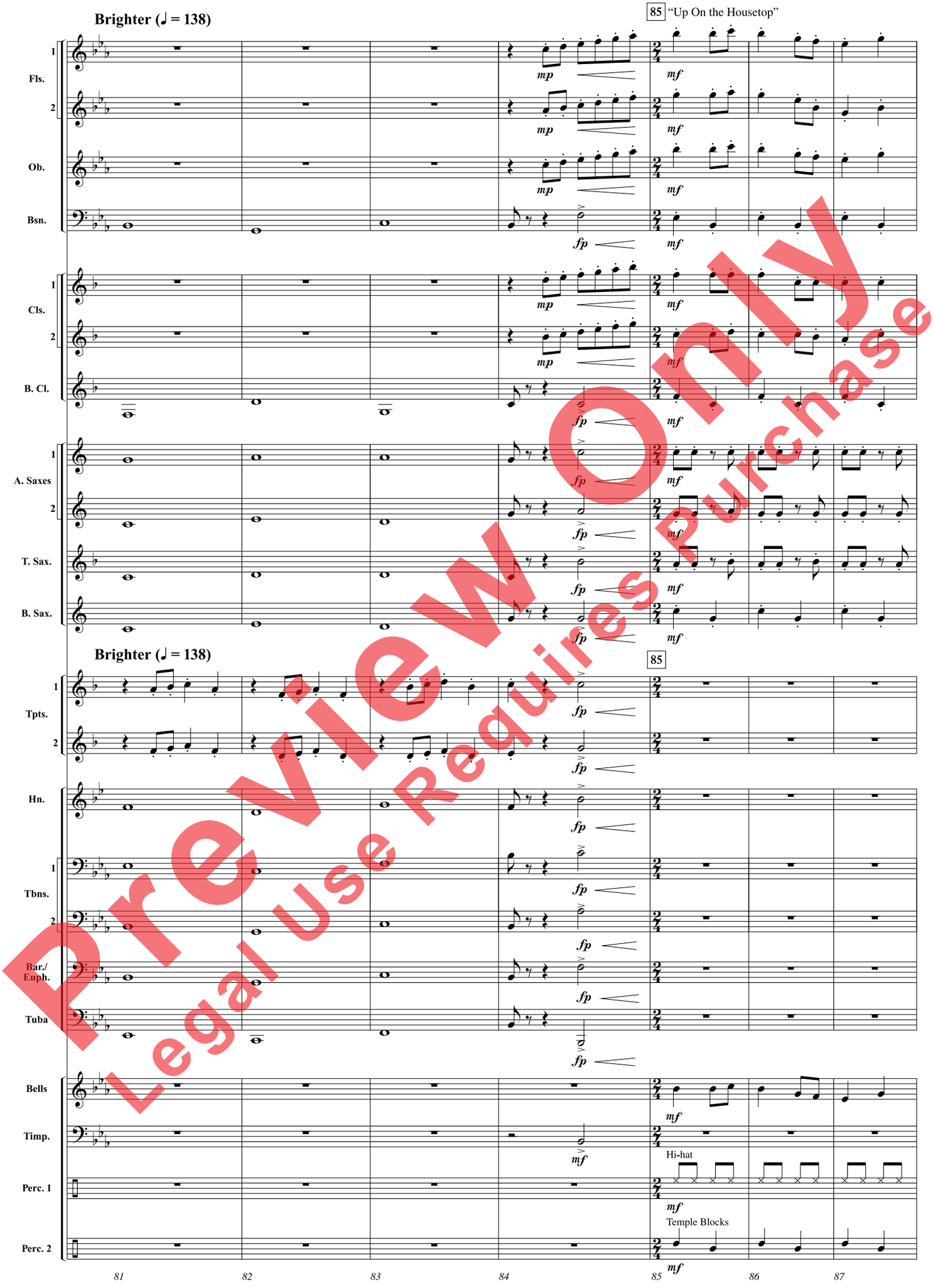


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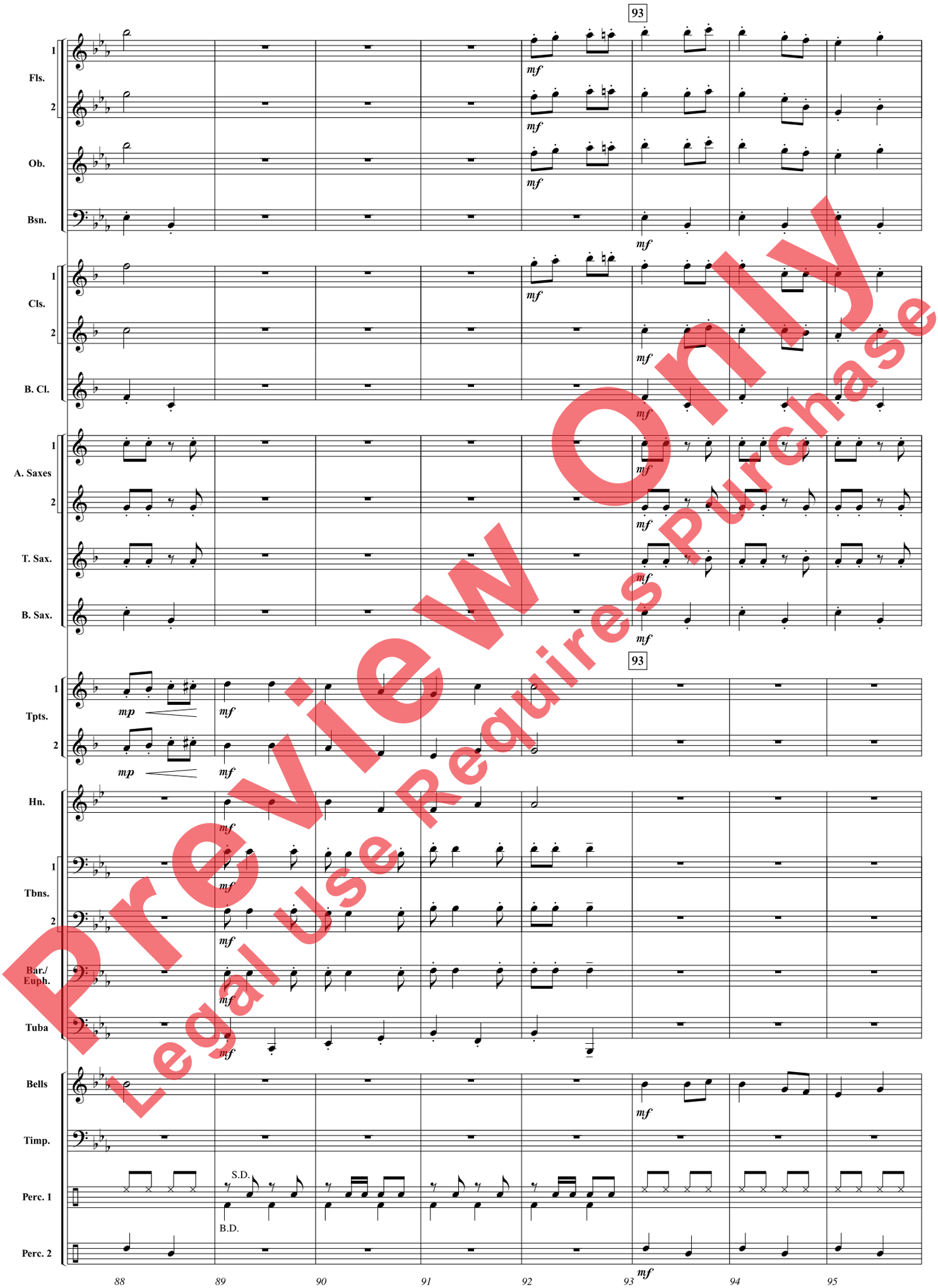


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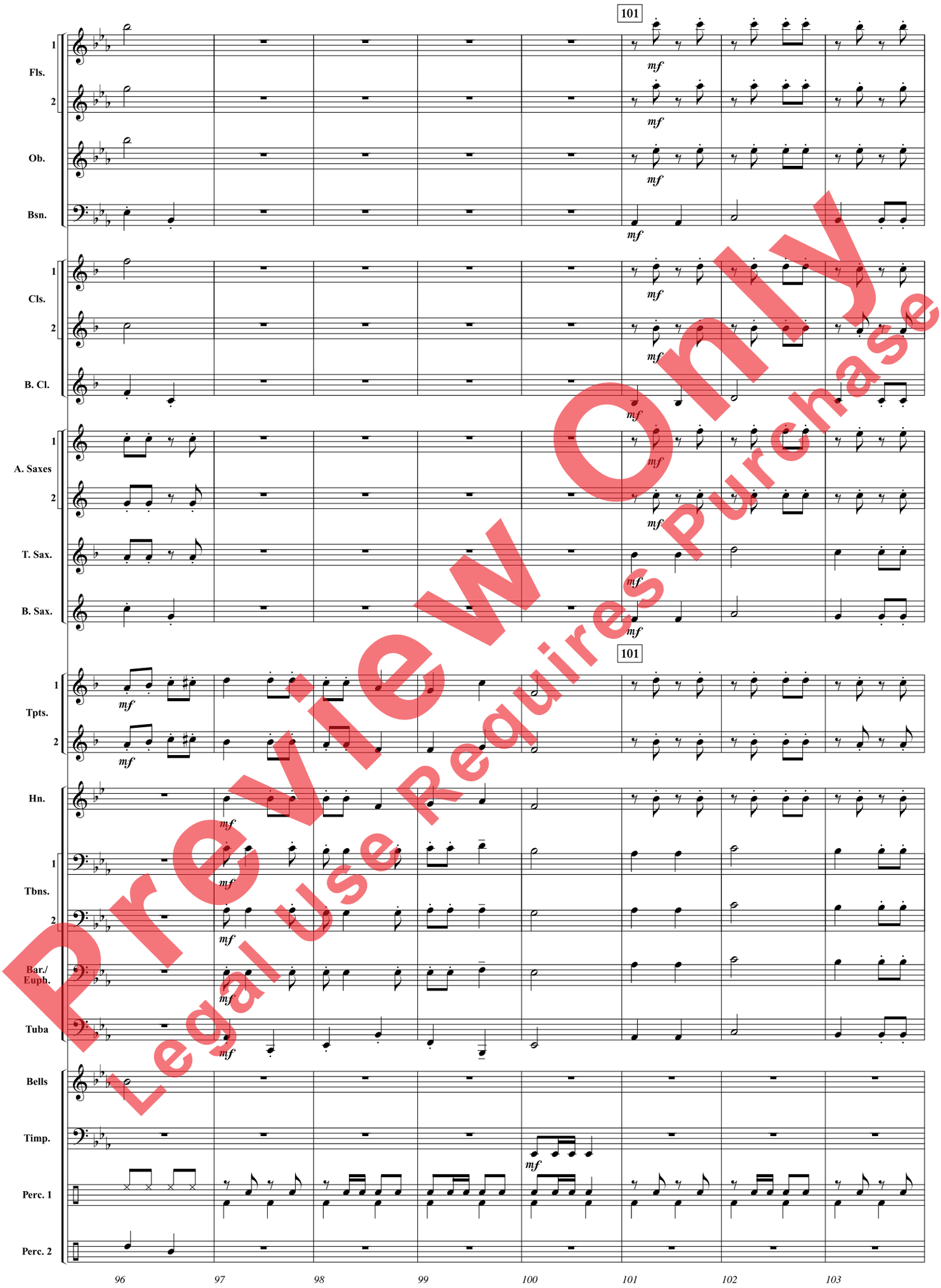


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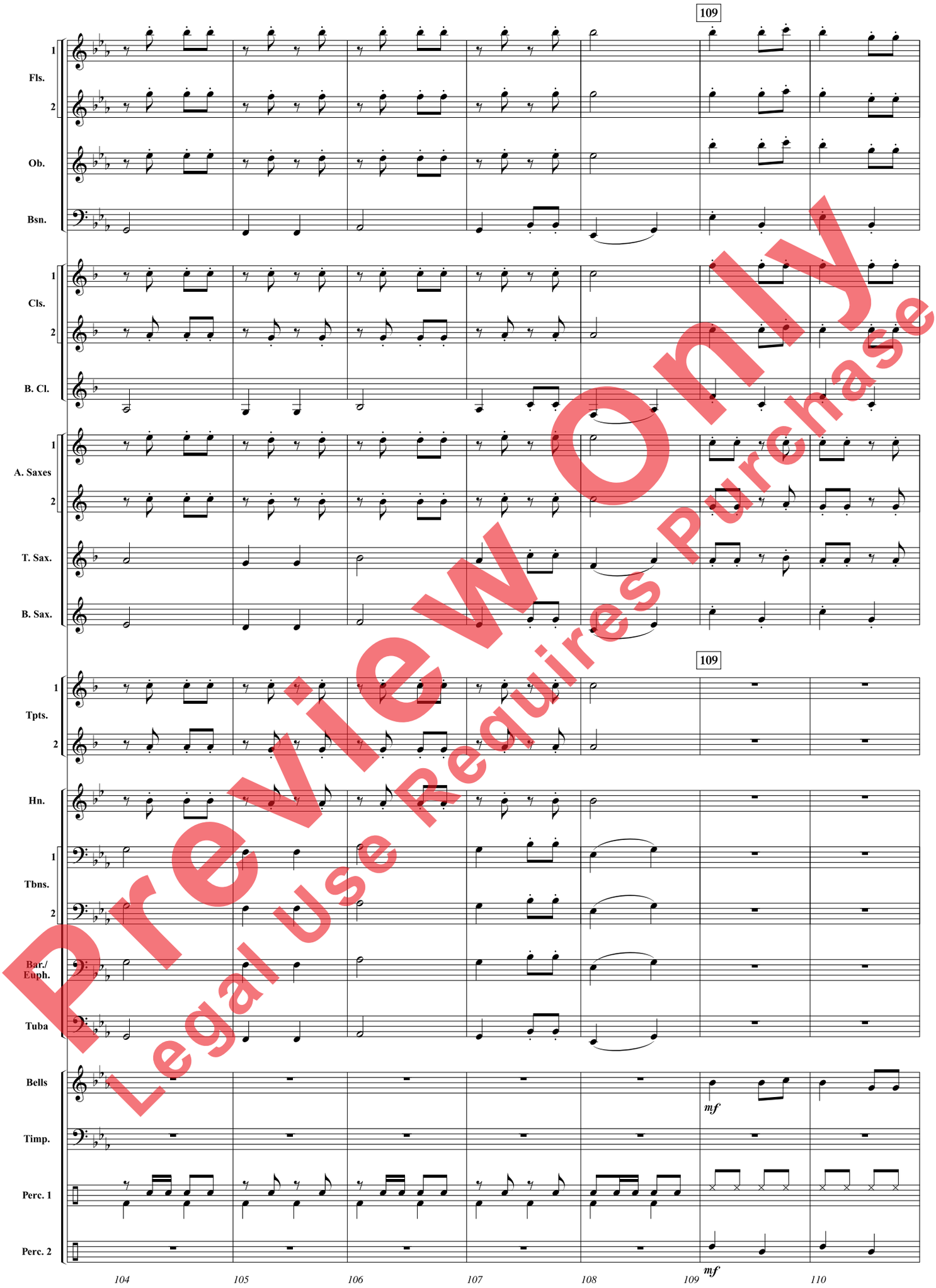


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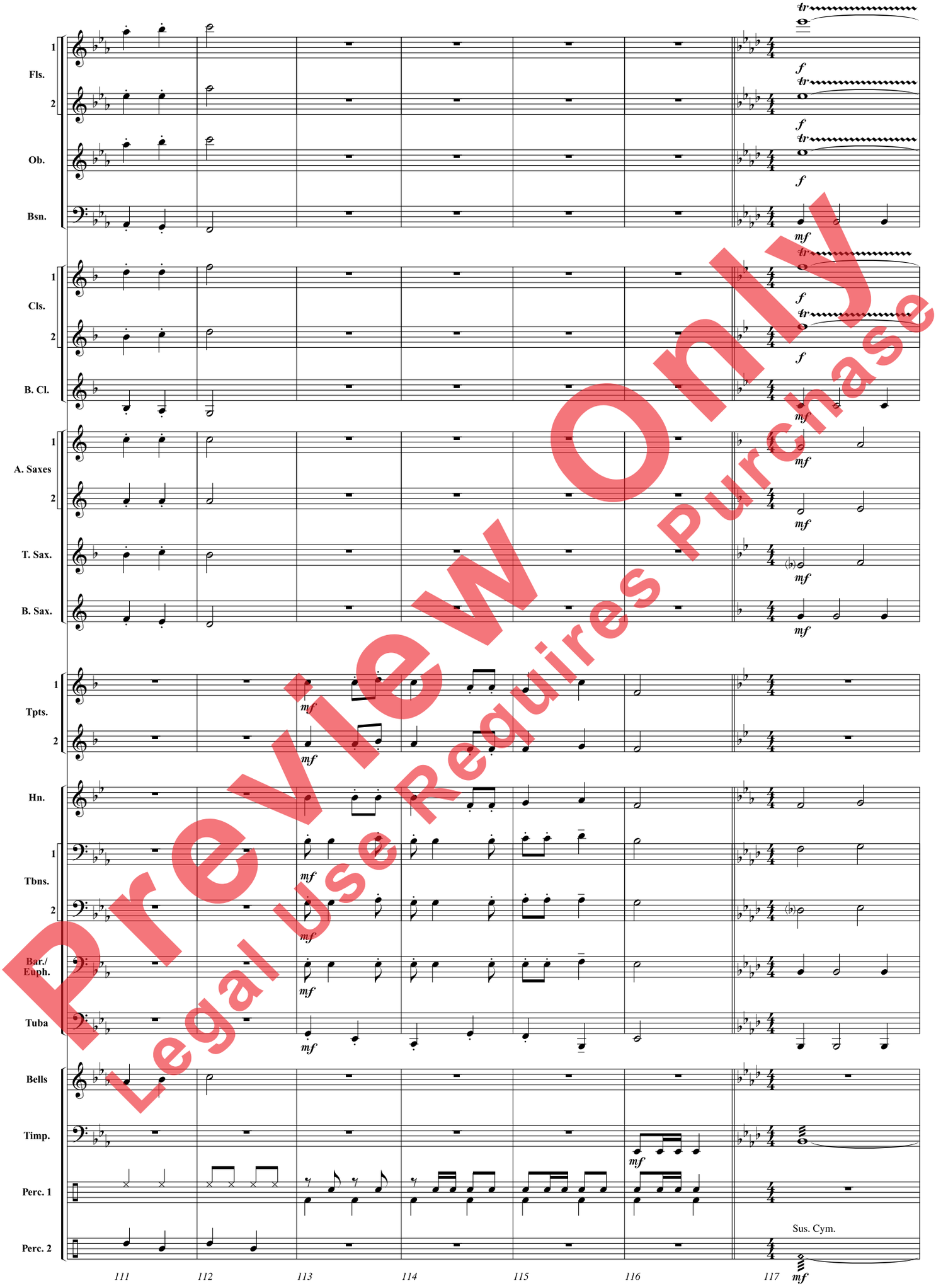


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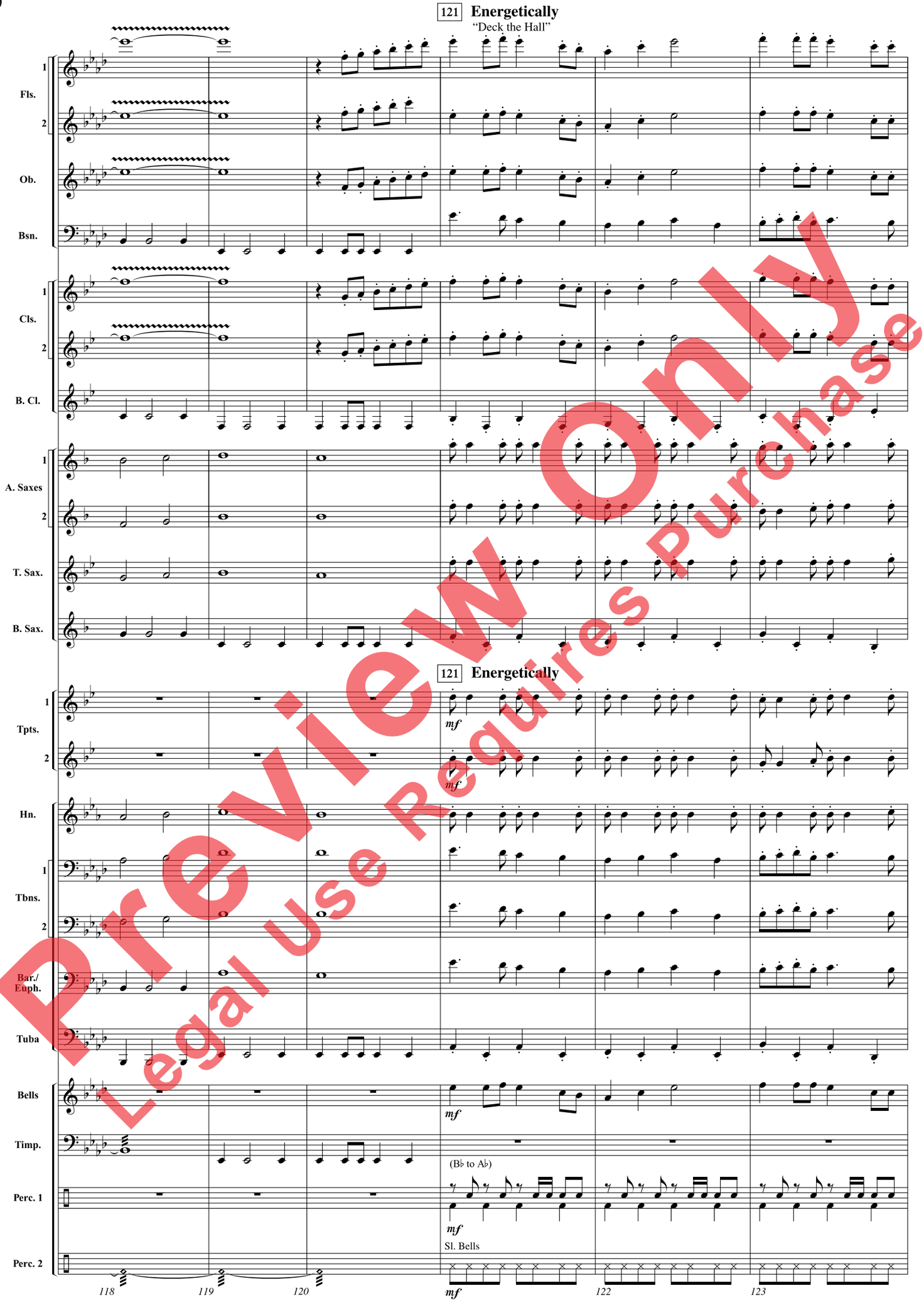


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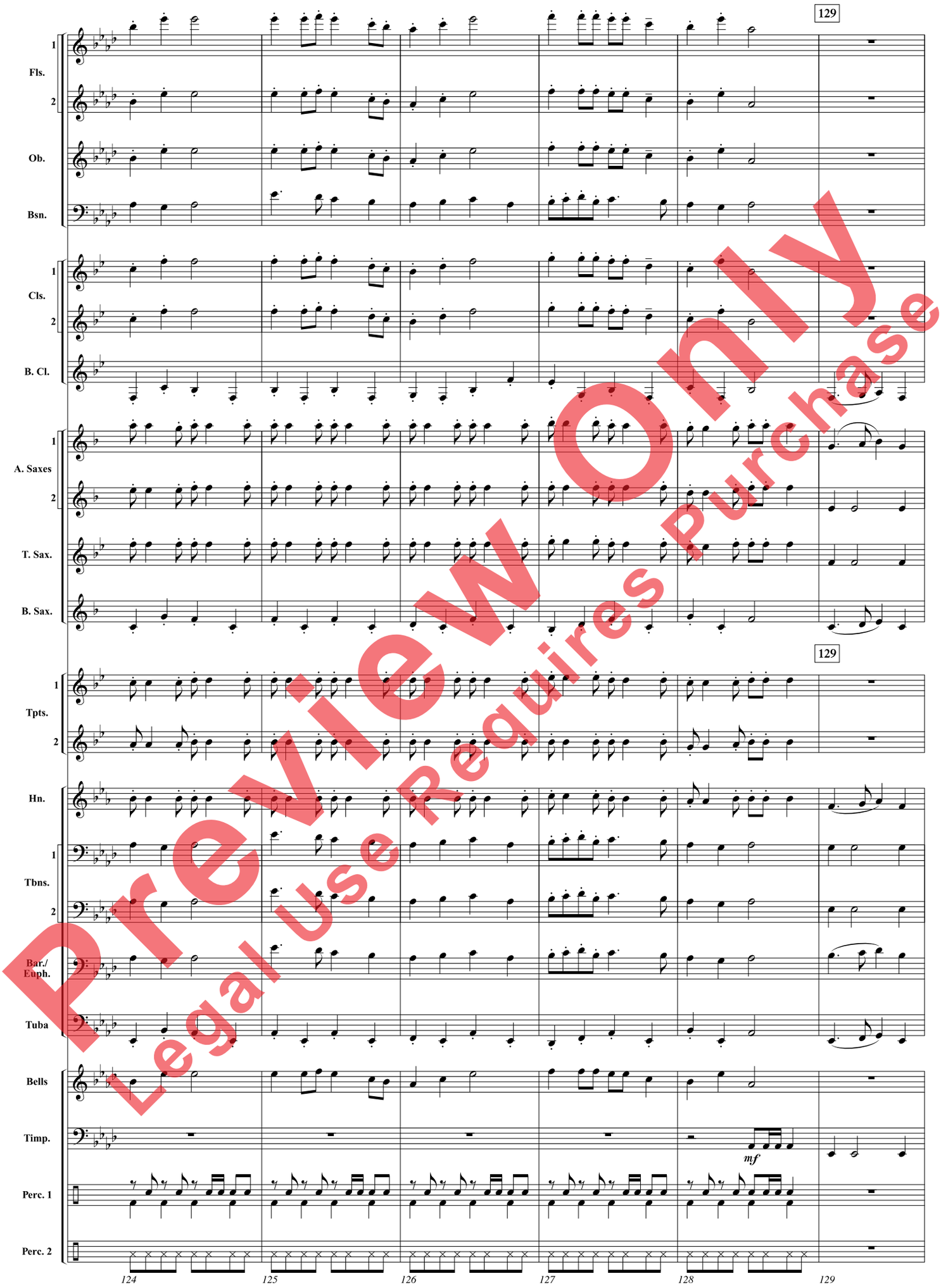


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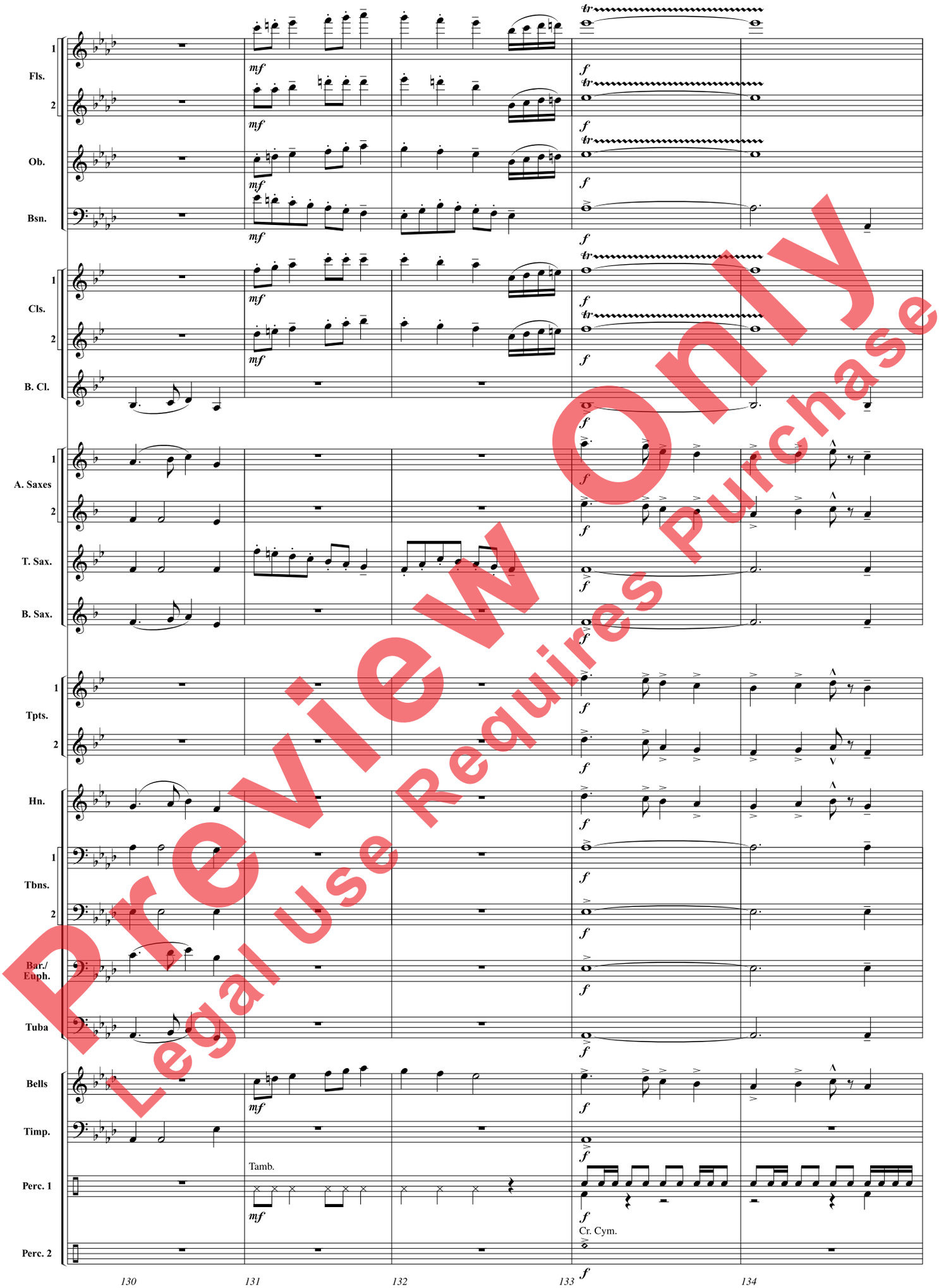


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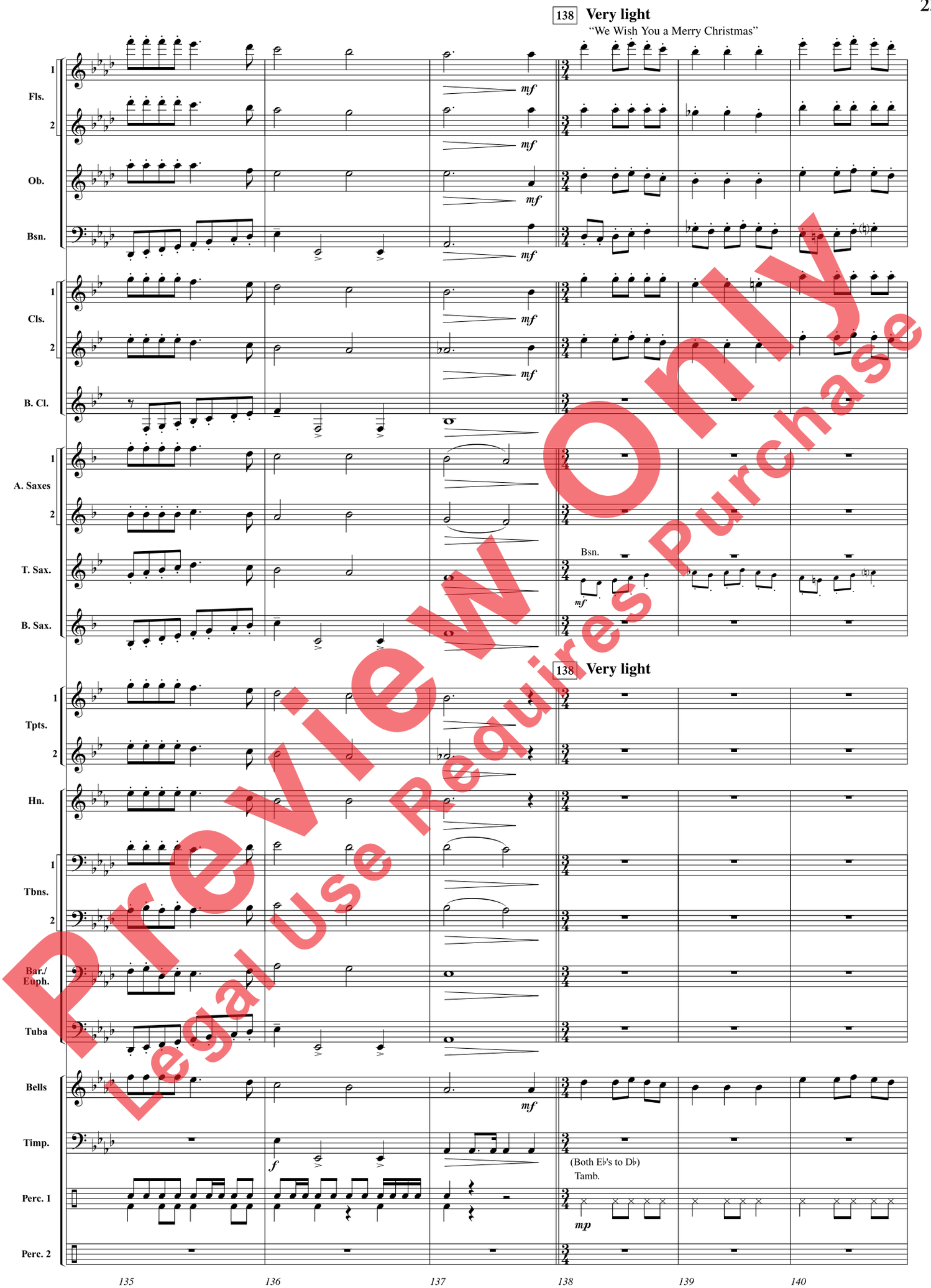


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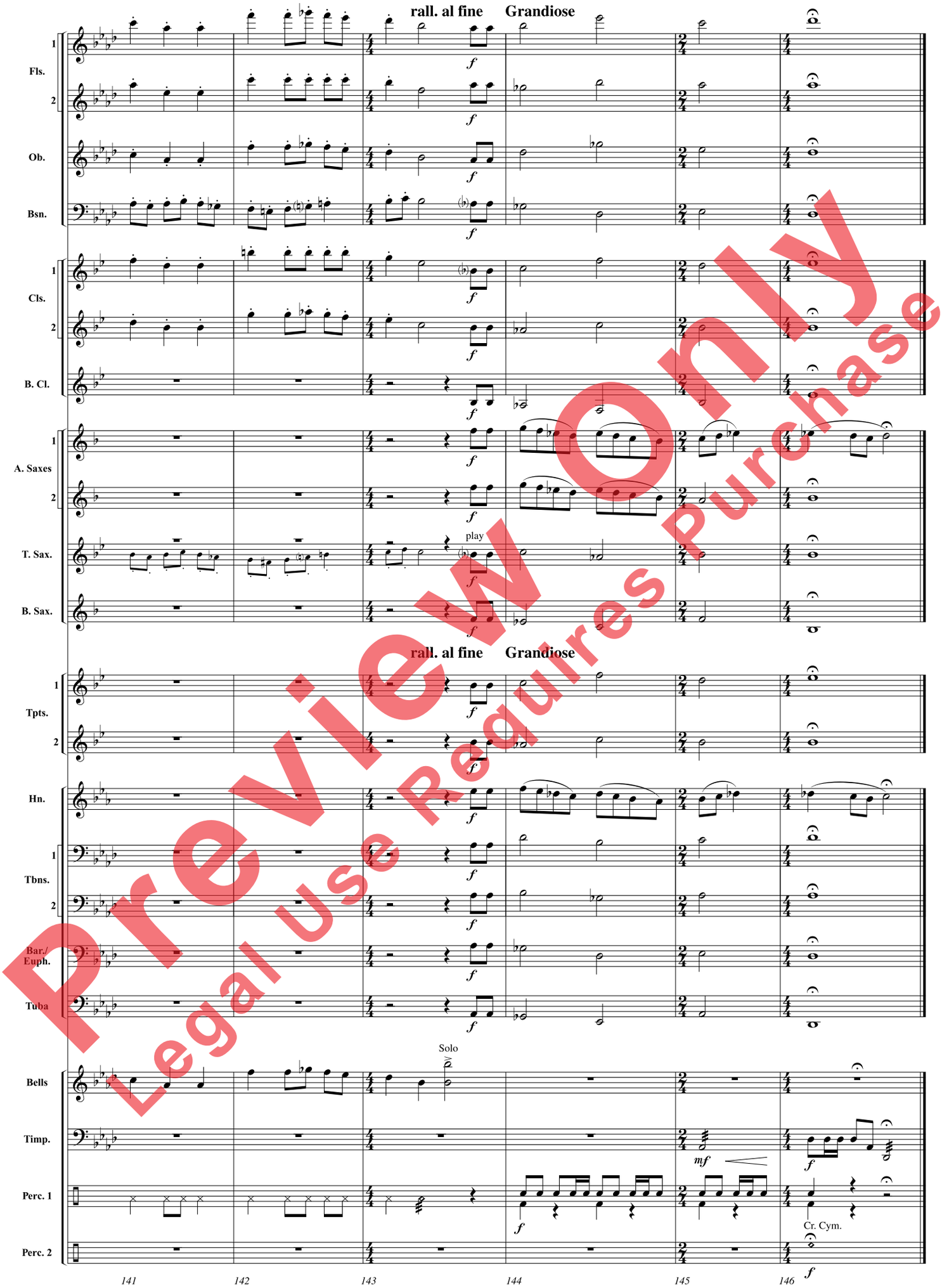


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