RWS Festival Ensemble Series

Grade: 4-5

Conductor Score: RWS-2660-01

Songs from the Hearth: Holiday Classics for Horn

Arranged by
Russell Greene

F HORN QUARTET/CHOIR

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Festival Ensemble Series

RWS Music Company

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FOREWORD

"This collection of Horn quartets designed for the Holiday season is a wonderful new offering spawned from the creativity of Russell Greene. Russell is a talented arranger, and this collection represents a long-needed addition to the seasonal repertoire that lends itself so well to the sound of a Horn quartet. These quartets are interesting, entertaining, and most importantly, fun to play. They appropriately challenge performers with something for players at all levels. I appreciate the fact that the Horn studio at the University of Alabama had the opportunity to be directly involved in this project, and we have been very honored to do so. These are quartets that we will look forward to performing on an annual basis, and I'm sure that many Horn players around the world will do the same."

– **Charles "Skip" Snead**
Professor of Horn at The University of Alabama

PROGRAM NOTES

Songs from the Hearth: Holiday Classics for Horn was created to bring familiar seasonal melodies into a fresh and inviting setting for Horn quartet. These arrangements are designed to be approachable for a wide range of players while still offering musically satisfying parts, warm ensemble writing, and opportunities for expressive performance.

The collection draws inspiration from the close harmonies and ringing sonorities of barbershop-style singing. Rather than simply transferring the melodies to Horn quartet, each arrangement reimagines these classics through rich voicings, smooth voice leading, and moments of harmonic color that give the music a renewed sense of character.

At its heart, this collection is meant to be useful, enjoyable, and communal. Whether performed by students, collegiate players, community musicians, or professionals, these quartets offer a way for Horn players of different levels to share in the warmth, nostalgia, and joy of the holiday season.

NOTES TO THE PERFORMERS

Throughout each piece, focus on identifying your roles within the ensemble texture. Some might consider these melody, countermelody, and harmony, but I like to think of them as foreground, middle ground, and background. Successful quartet playing involves identifying who has which role in each passage and being comfortable switching between those roles. In particular, when a melody is in a lower voice (H2, H3, or H4), it is critical that upper voices adjust their balance appropriately.

Three of the selections go beyond traditional settings and push into new genres. *What Child is This?* invokes Latin rhythms and harmonies, emblematic of a Zorro-style love ballad. *O Tannenbaum* pays homage to Vince Guaraldi and Big Band jazz. *Jingle Bells on the House Top* is a goofy mashup of *Jingle Bells* and *Up on the House Top*. Have fun and take risks!

Dr. Russell Greene

ABOUT THE ARRANGER



Dr. Russell J. Greene is Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Music Education at Alabama State University, where he teaches music education courses and conducts the ASU Wind Ensemble. A music educator, conductor, composer, and arranger, Dr. Greene's work reflects a commitment to practical, meaningful music-making for students and ensembles. His writing and arranging are informed by his background in instrumental music education, with an emphasis on clarity, accessibility, and musical growth for developing performers.

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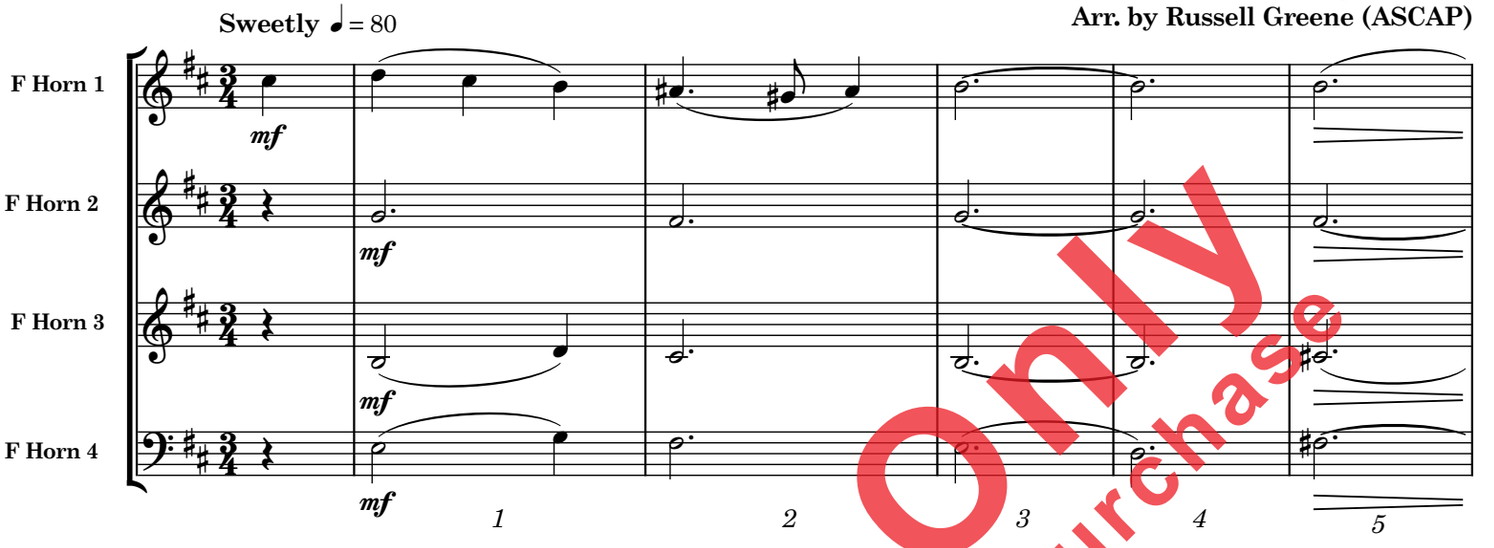
With heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Charles "Skip" Snead—mentor, teacher, and friend—and to the University of Alabama Horn Studio for bringing these quartets to life.
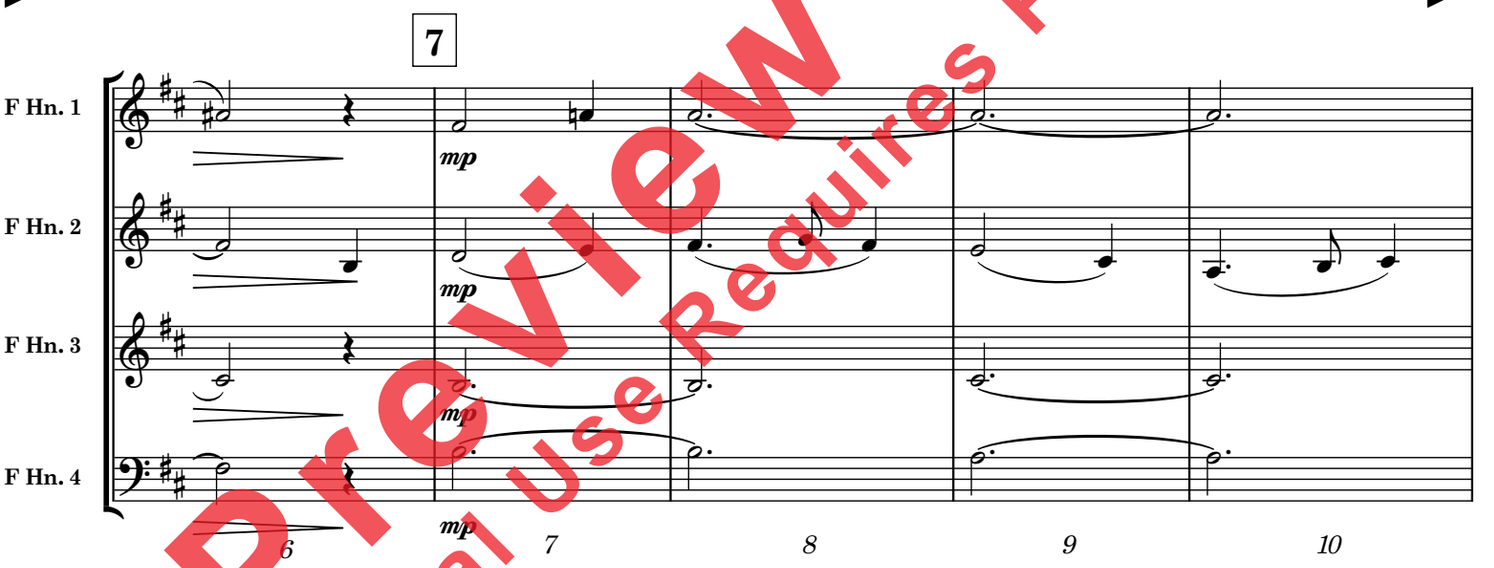
SONGS FROM THE HEARTH: HOLIDAY CLASSICS FOR HORN
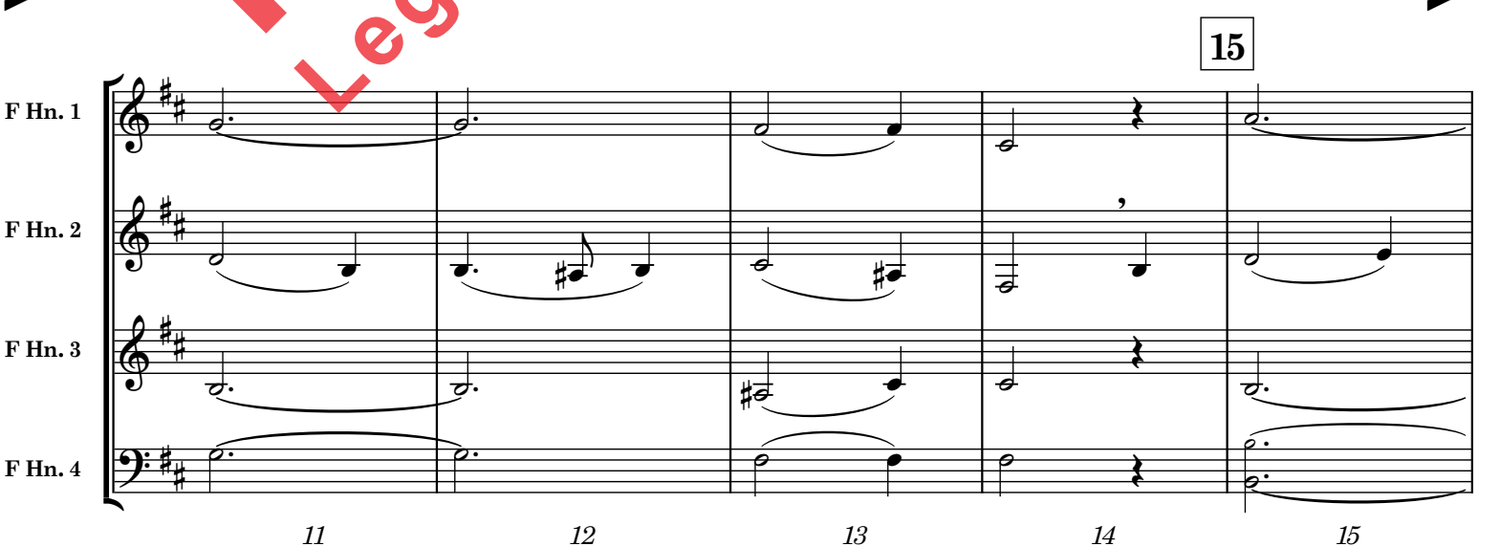
Conductor Score
RWS-2660-00

1. What Child is This?

Traditional English Carol
Arr. by Russell Greene (ASCAP)
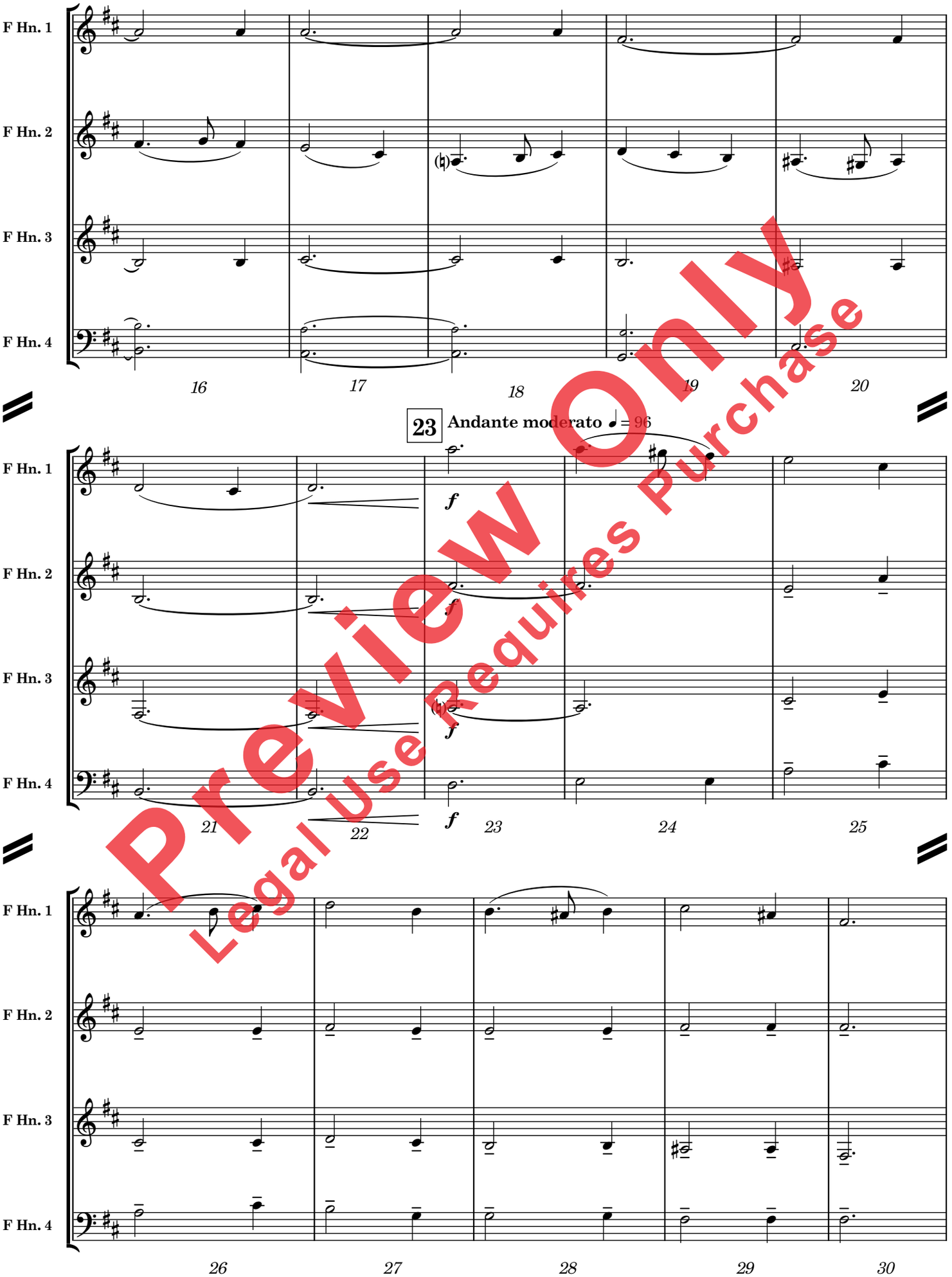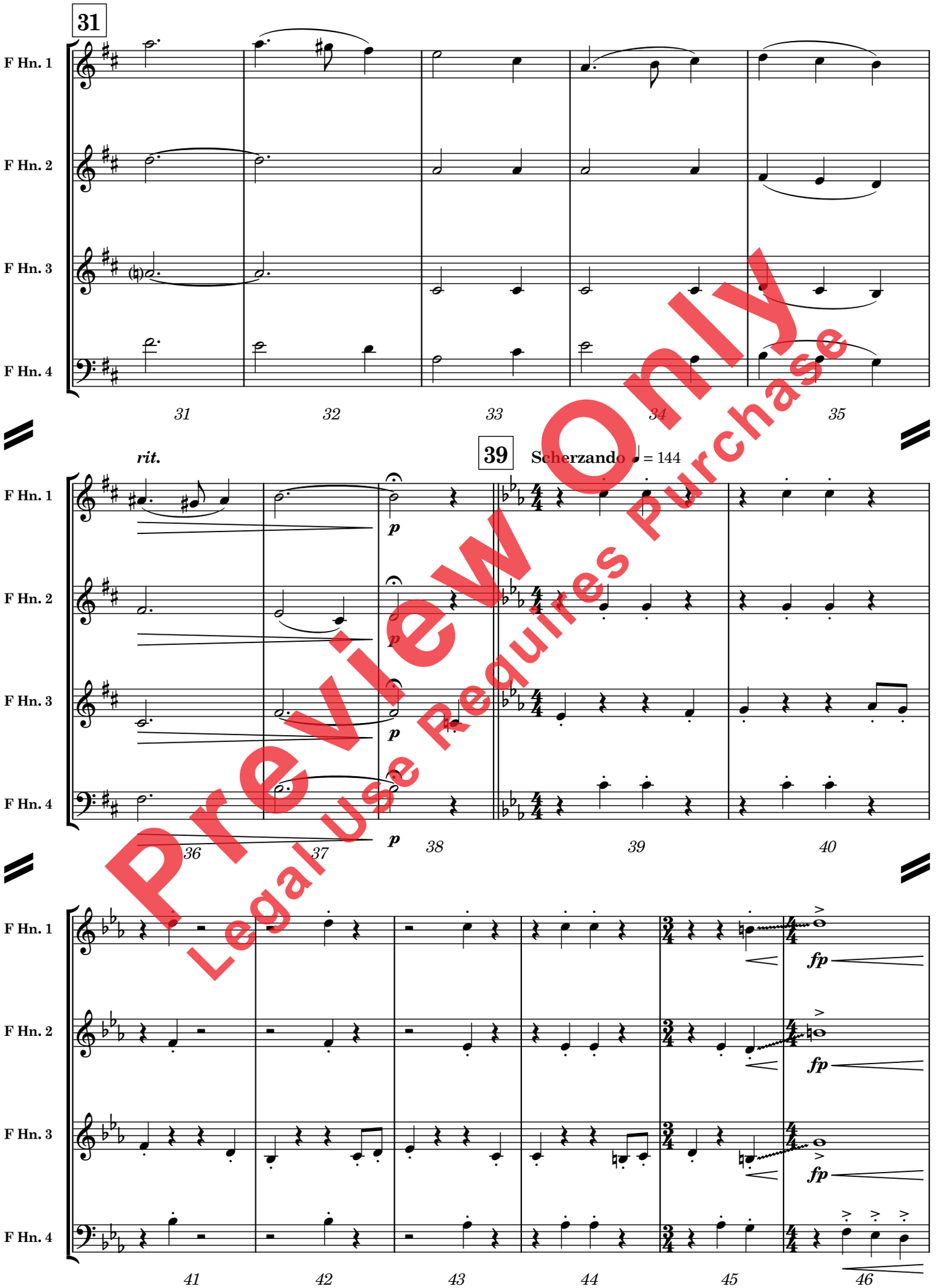






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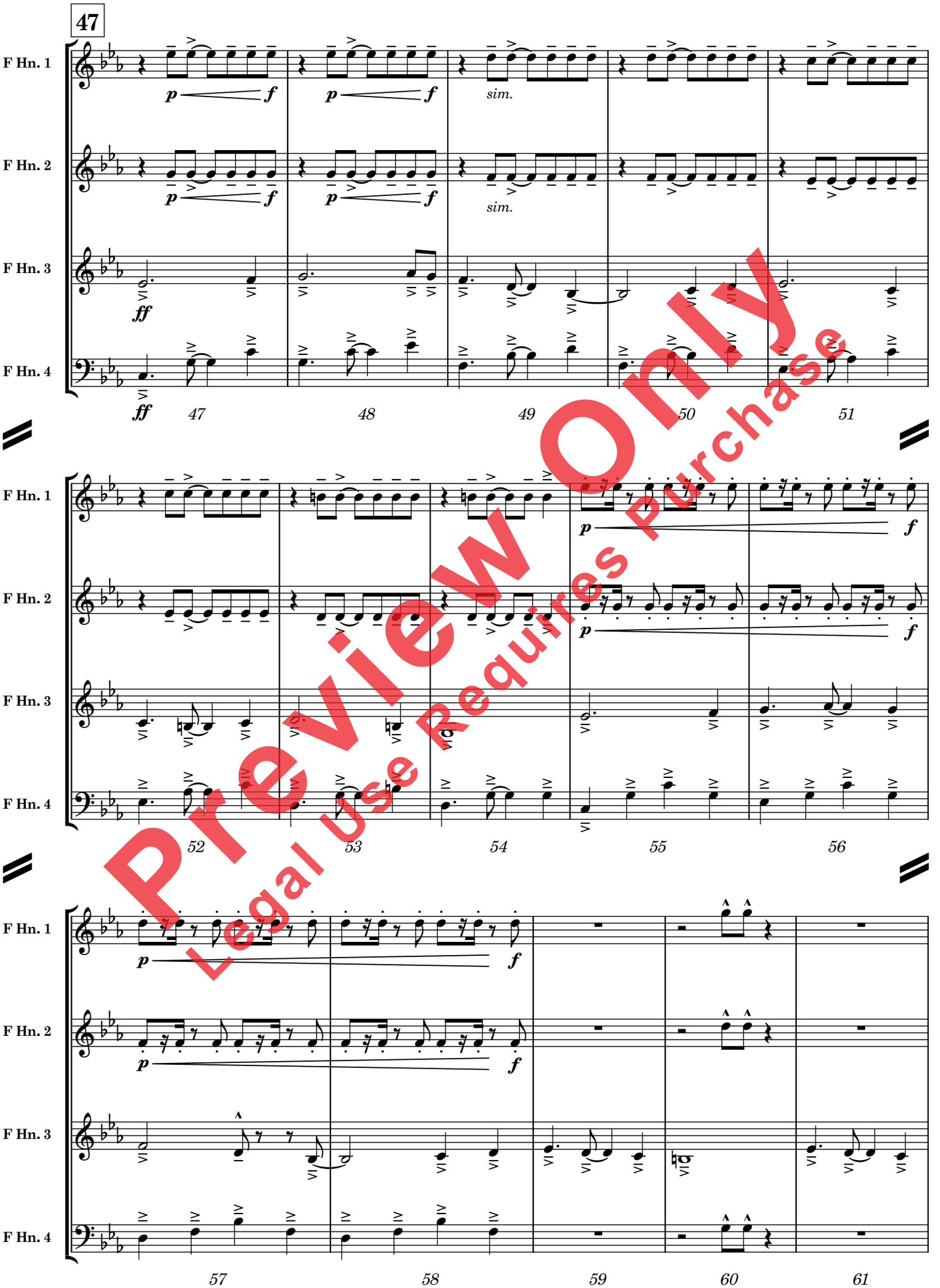
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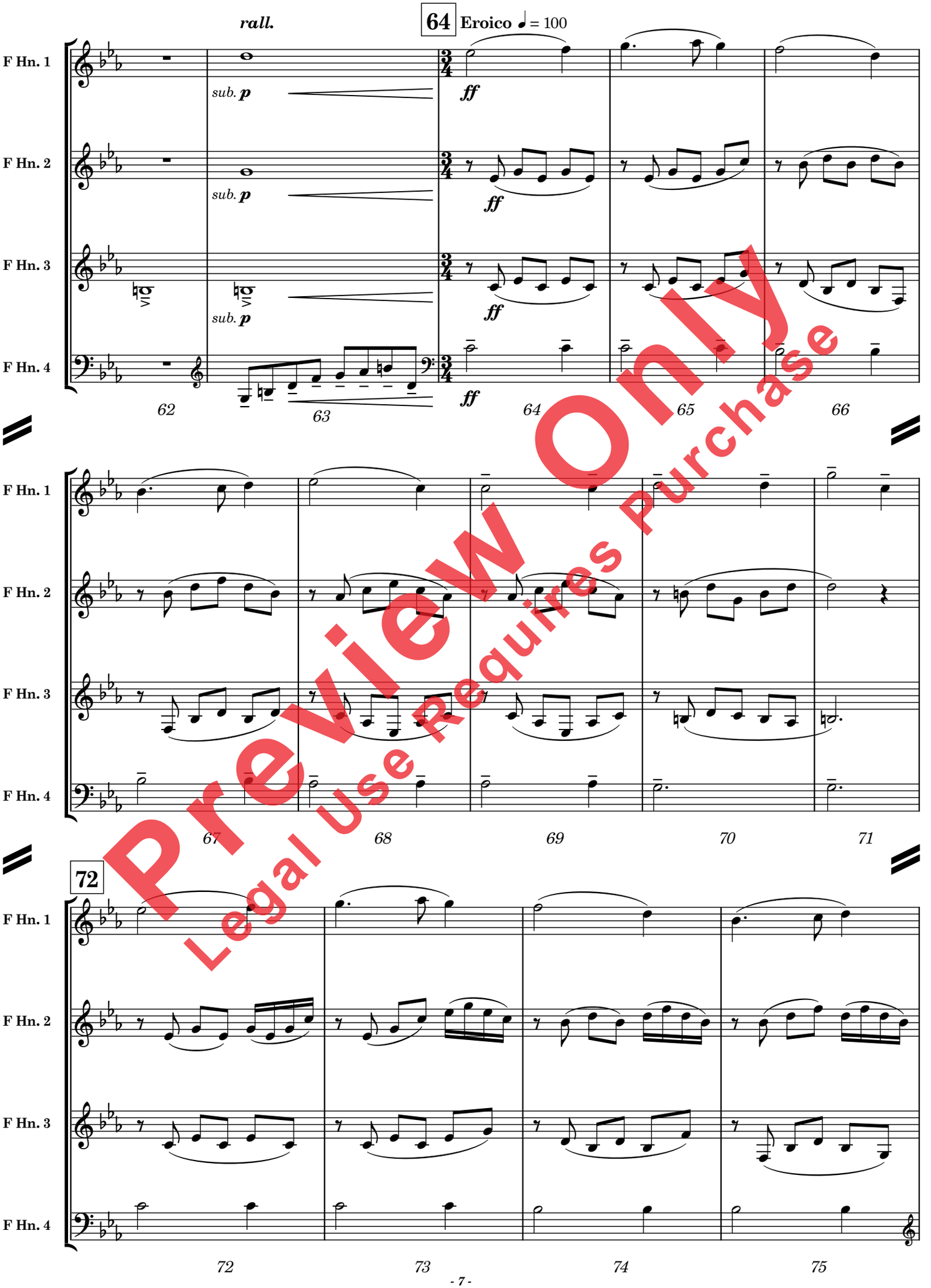


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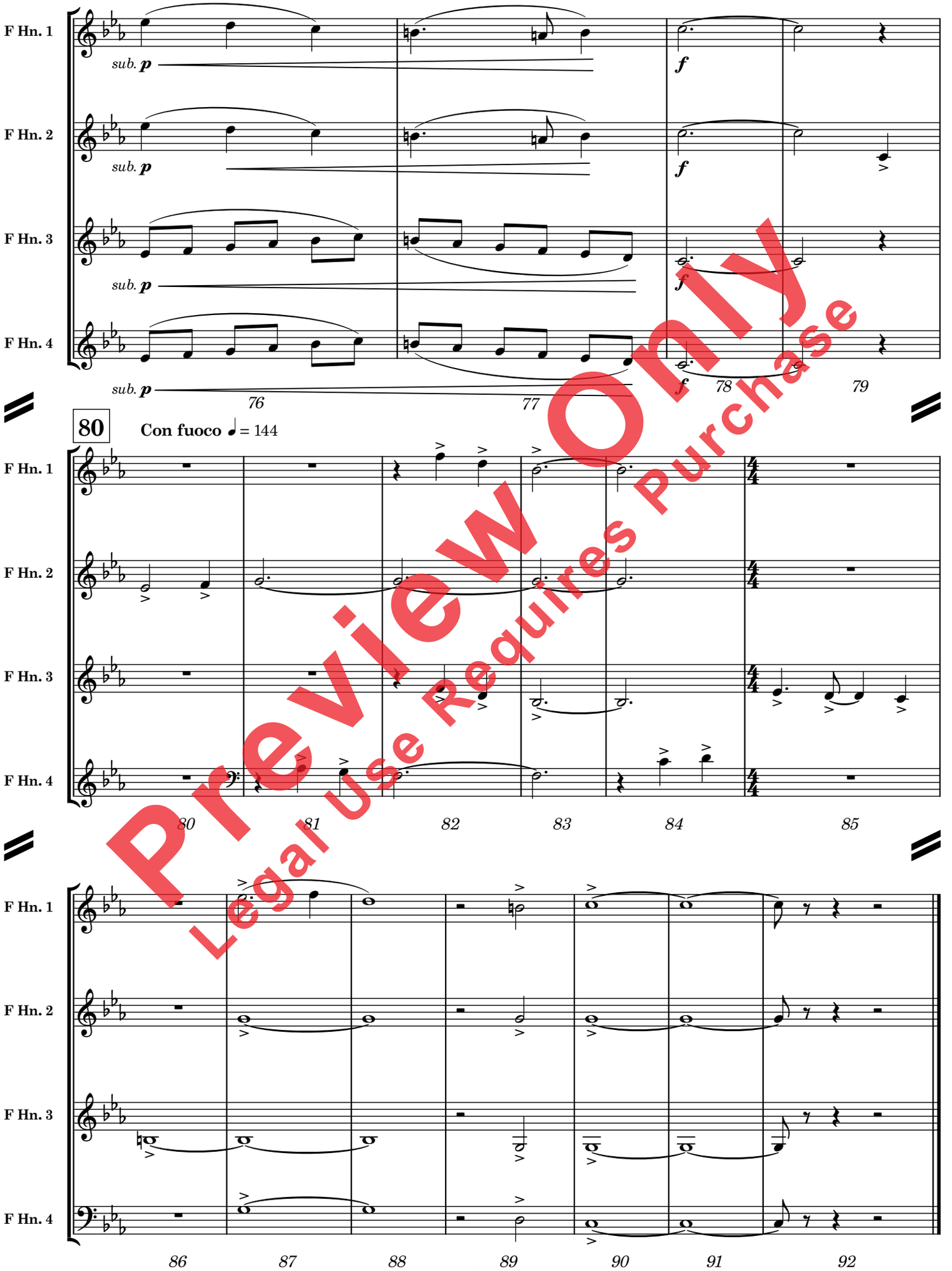


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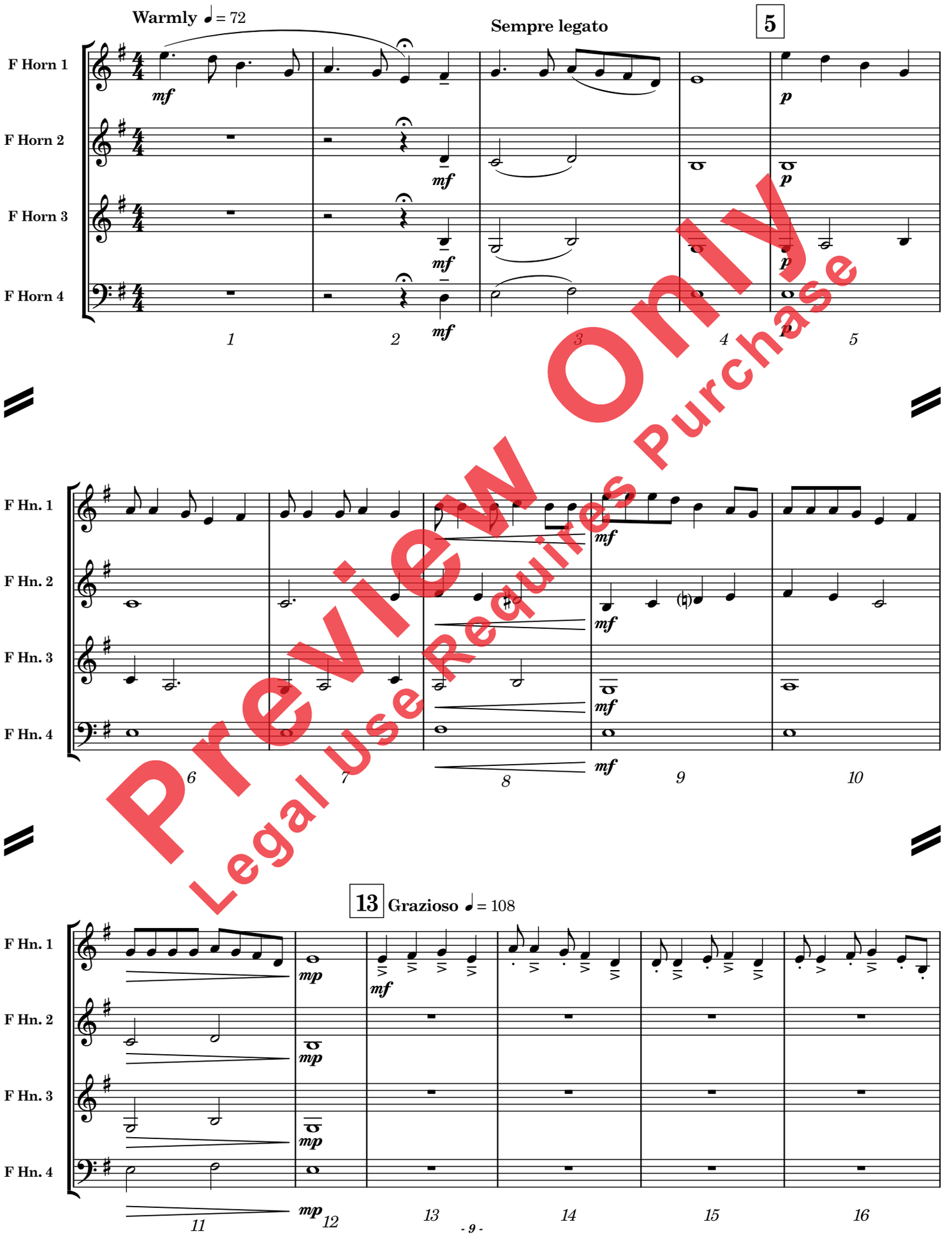


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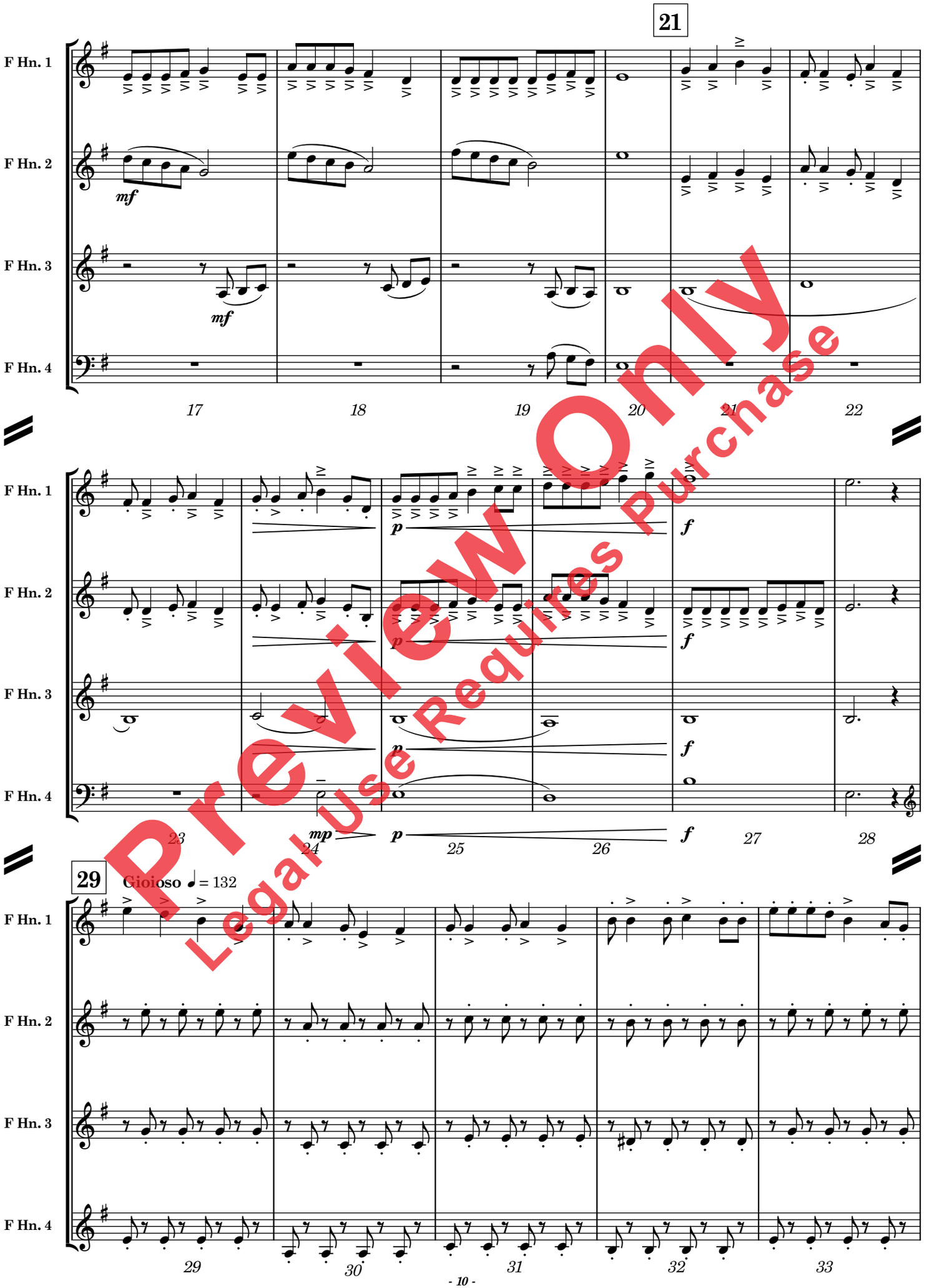


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2. Al HaNissim
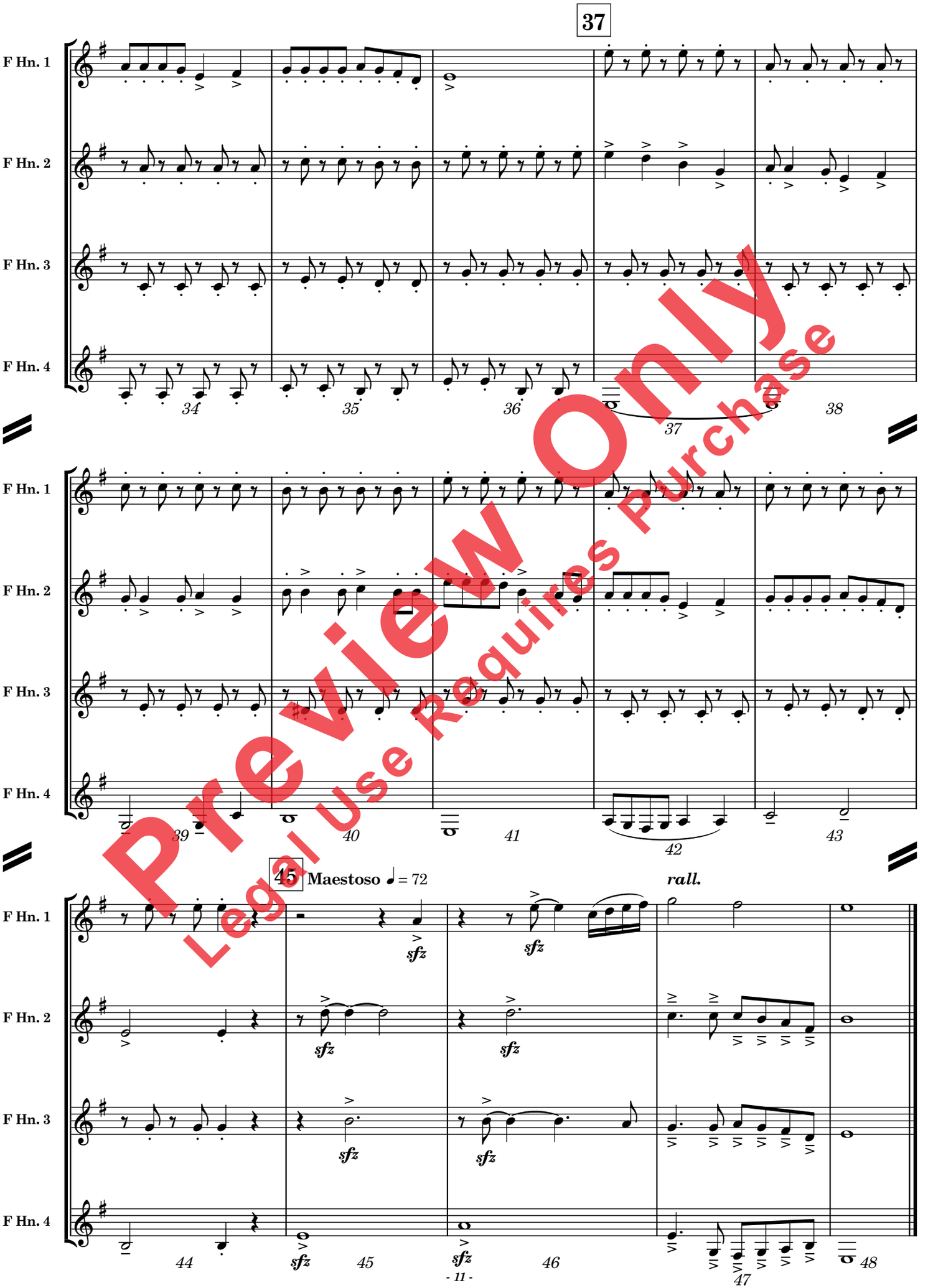
Jewish Traditional
Arr. by Russell Greene (ASCAP)



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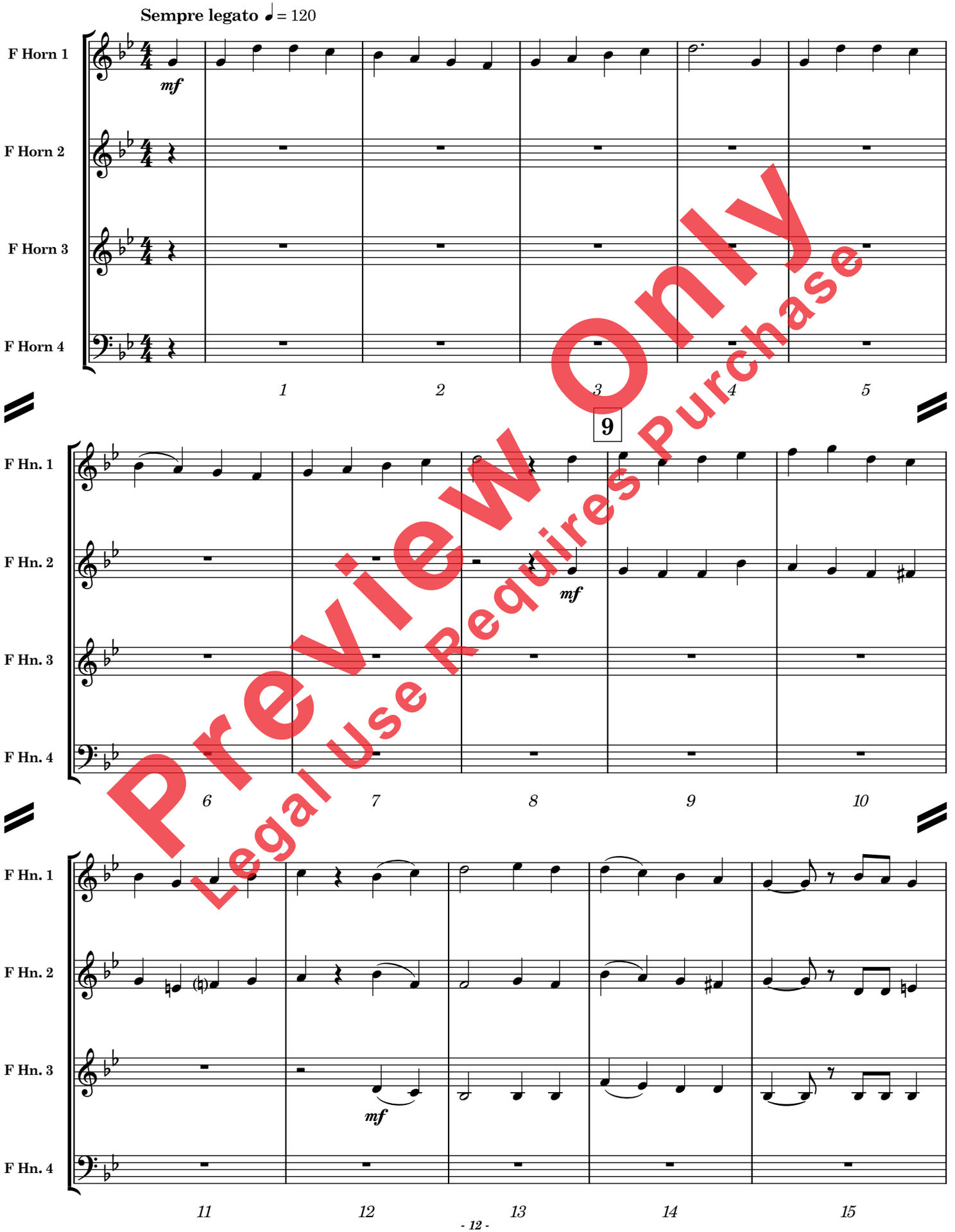


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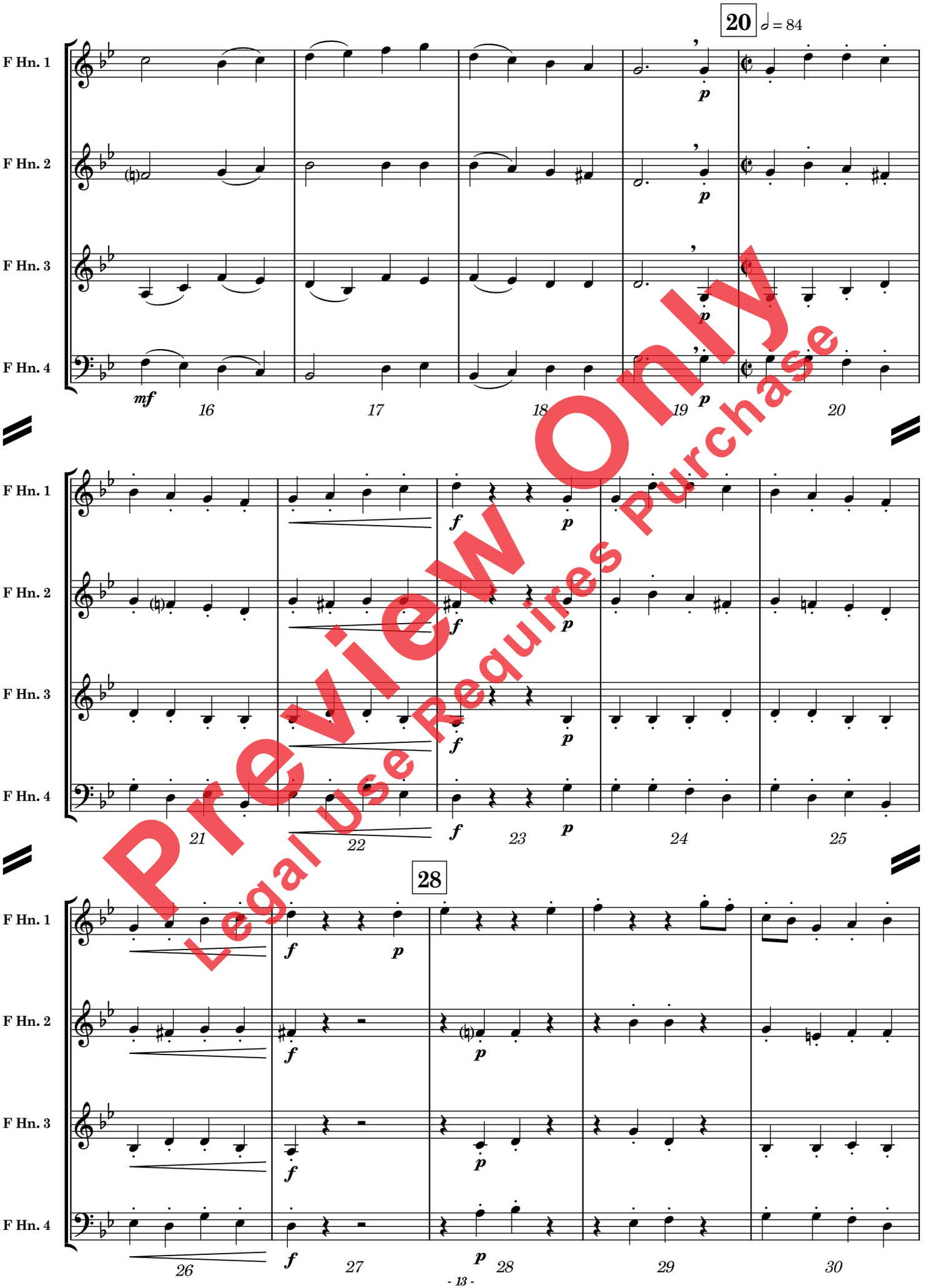


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3. God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman
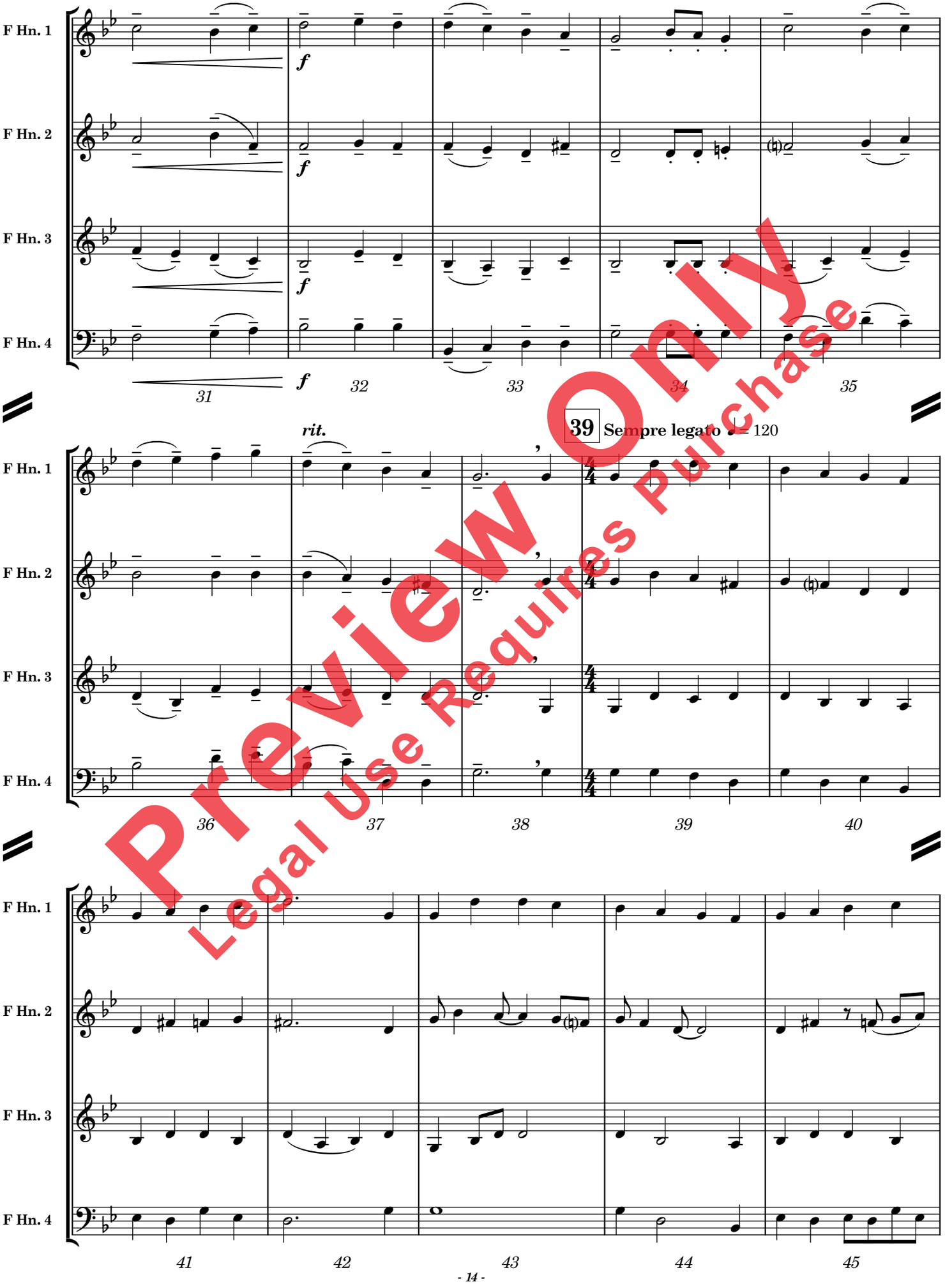
Traditional English Carol
Arr. by Russell Greene (ASCAP)
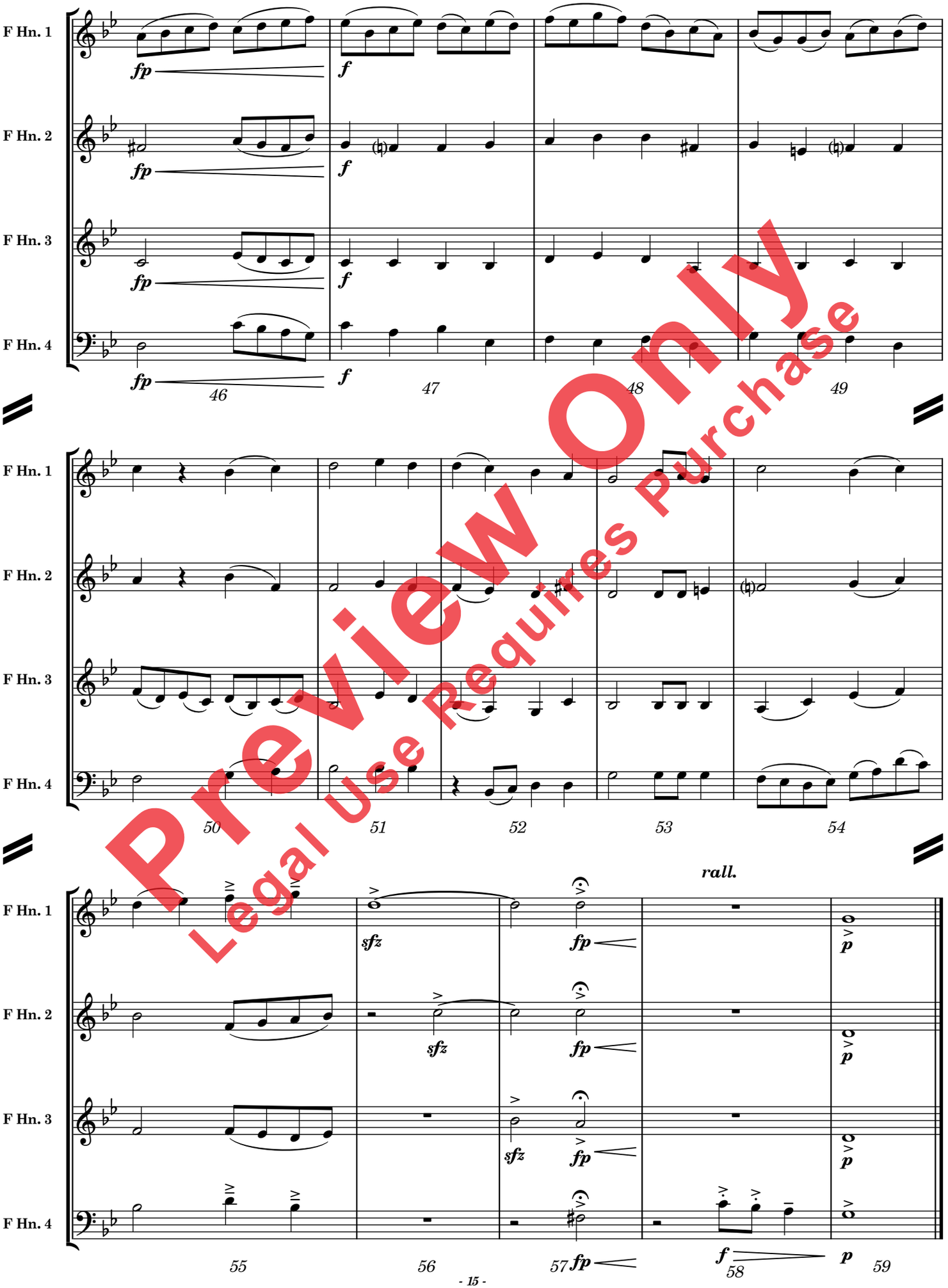


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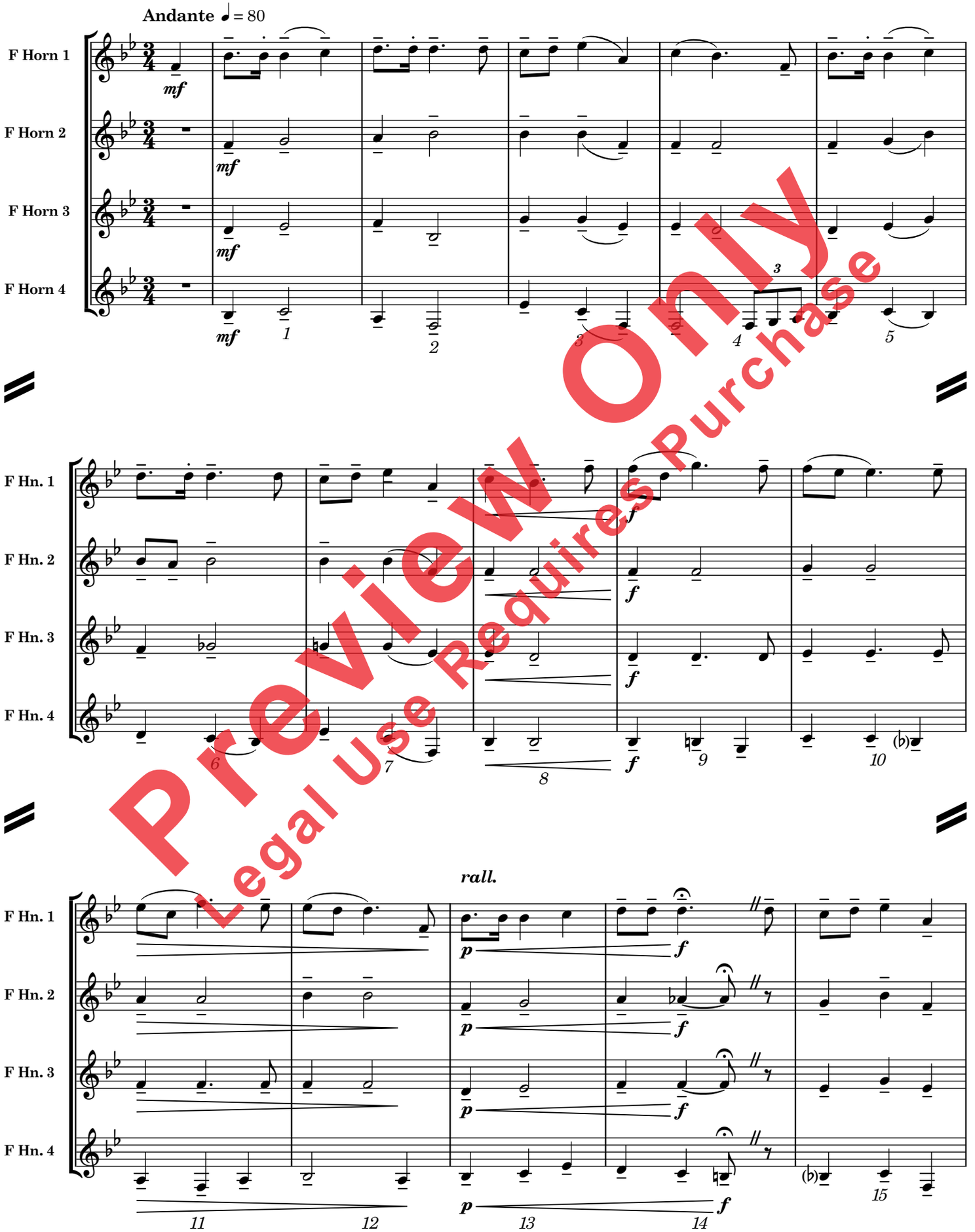


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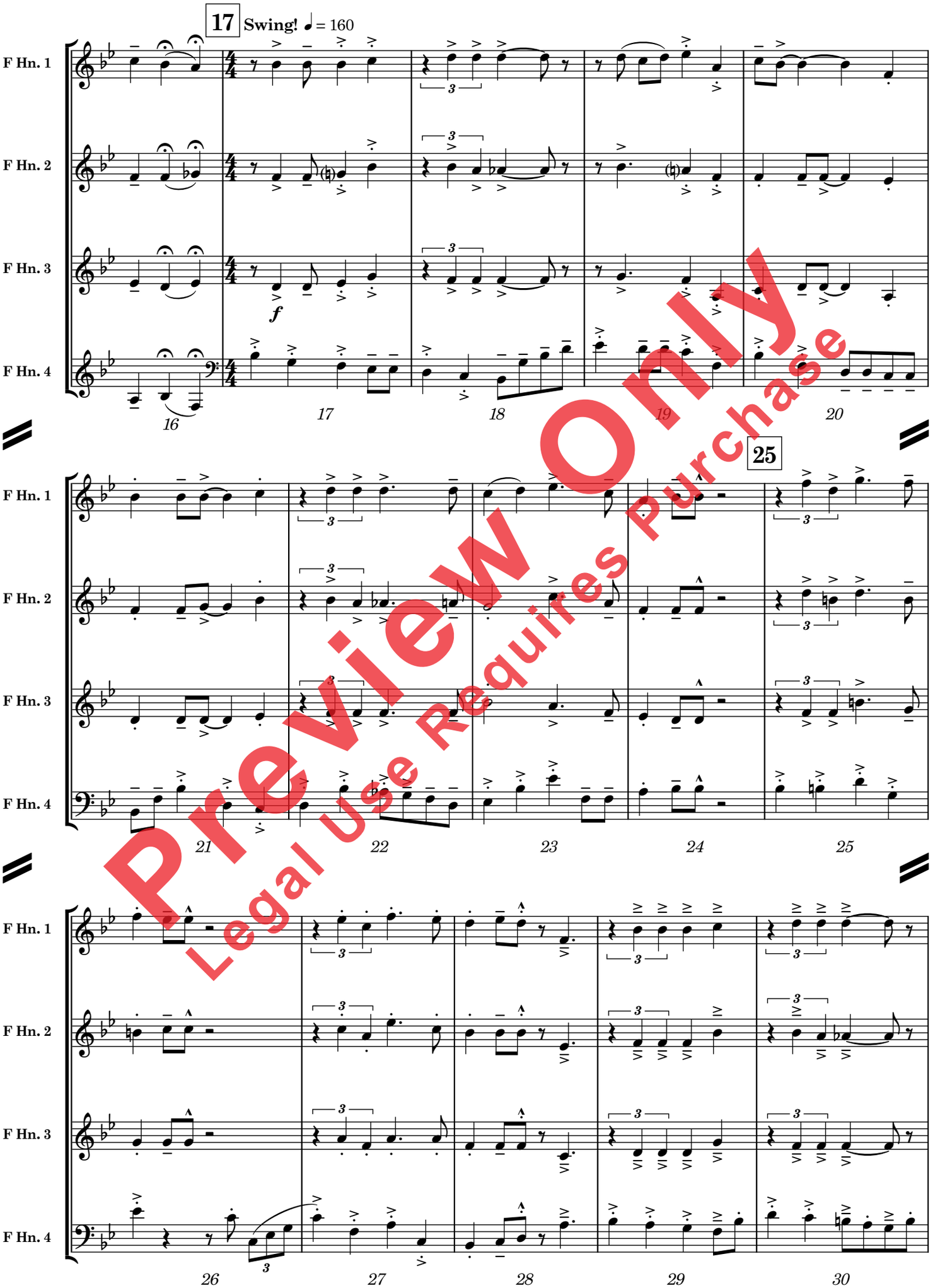


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4. O Tannenbaum
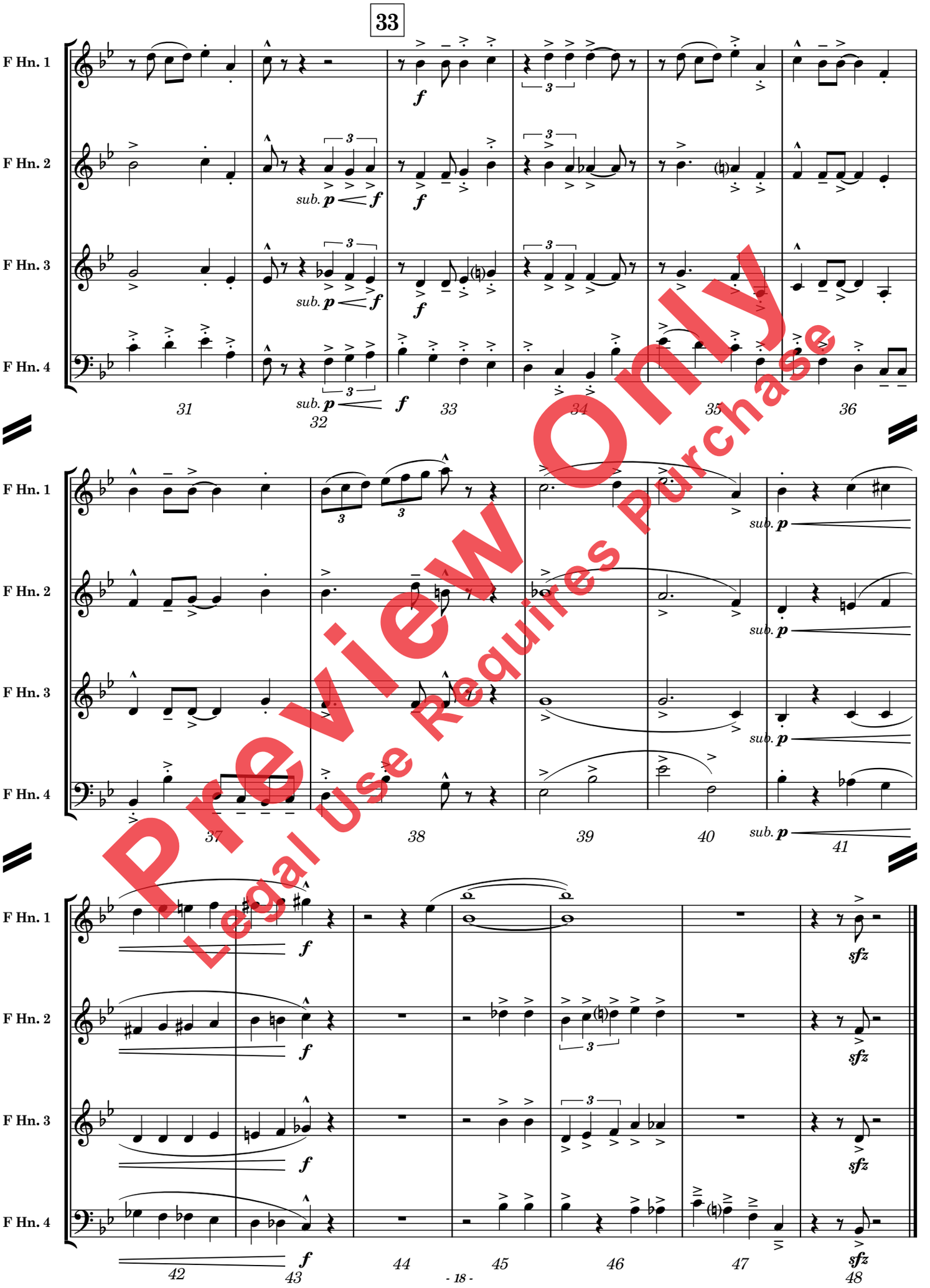
Ernst Anschütz
Arr. by Russell Greene (ASCAP)



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5. Auld Lang Syne

Traditional Scottish Air
Arr. by Russell Greene (ASCAP)

Sempre legato ♩ = 60

F Horn 1
F Horn 2
F Horn 3
F Horn 4

p *mp* *mf*

1 2 3 4 5

rit.
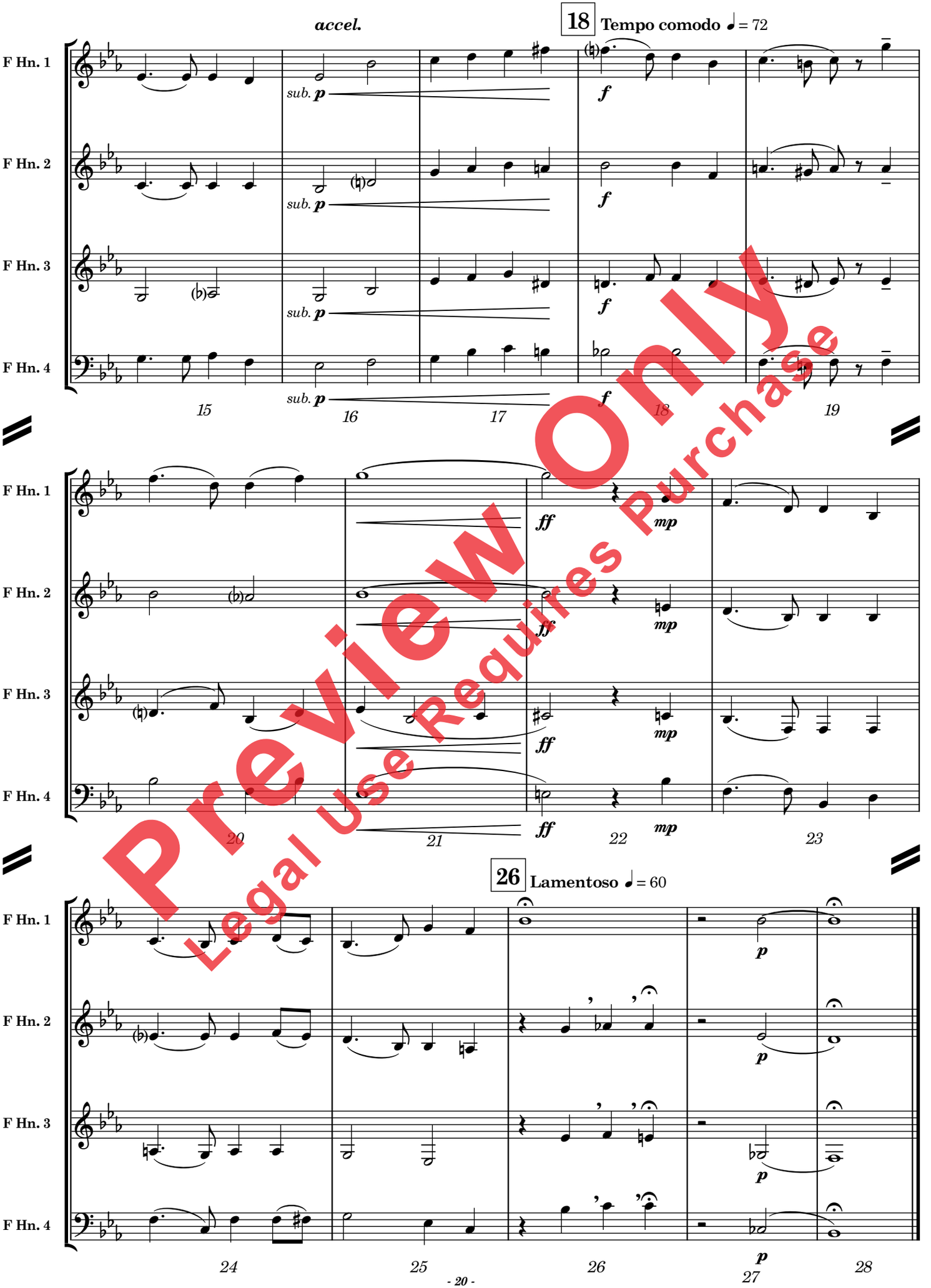
9 *a tempo*

F Hn. 1
F Hn. 2
F Hn. 3
F Hn. 4

6 7 8 9

10 11 12 13 14
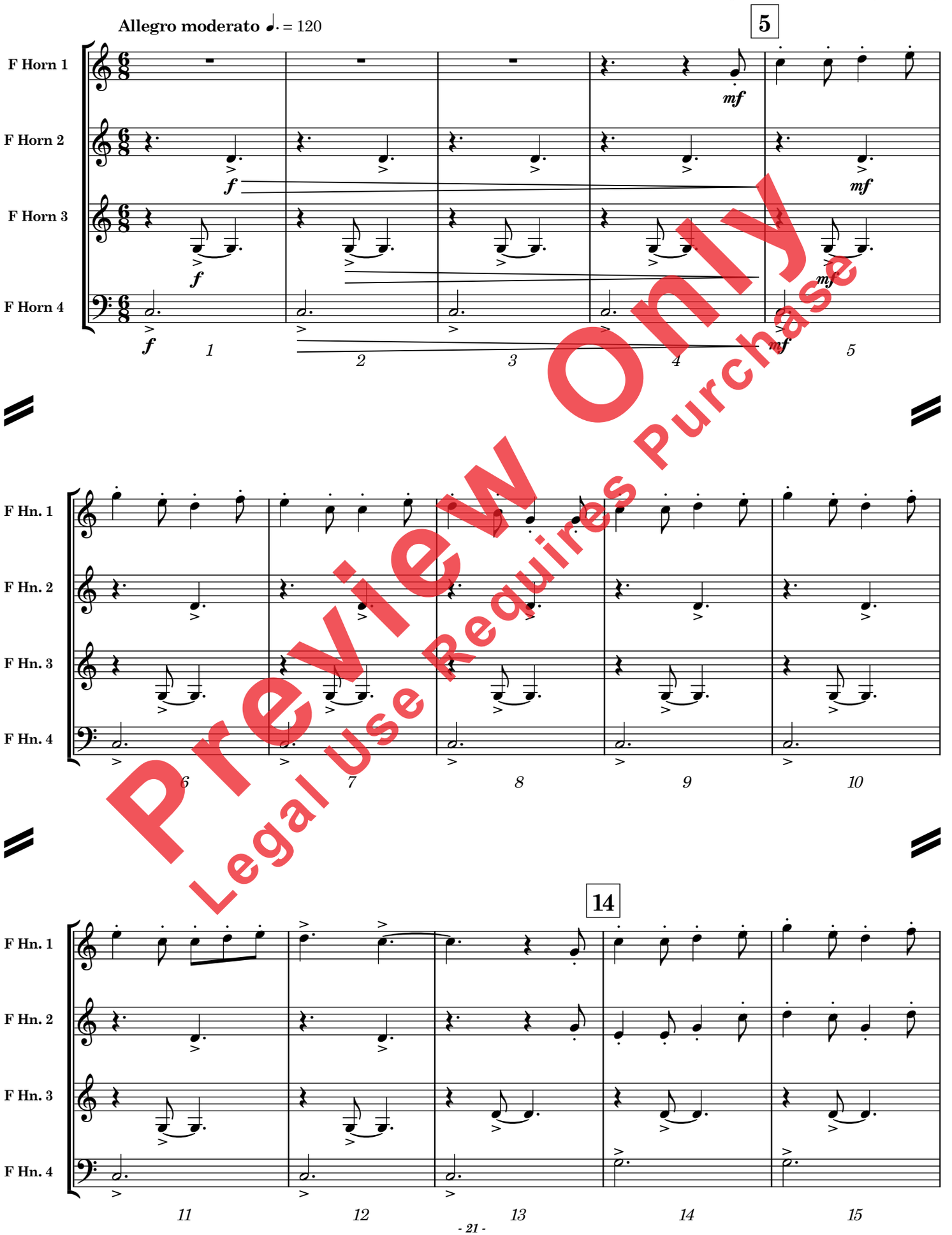
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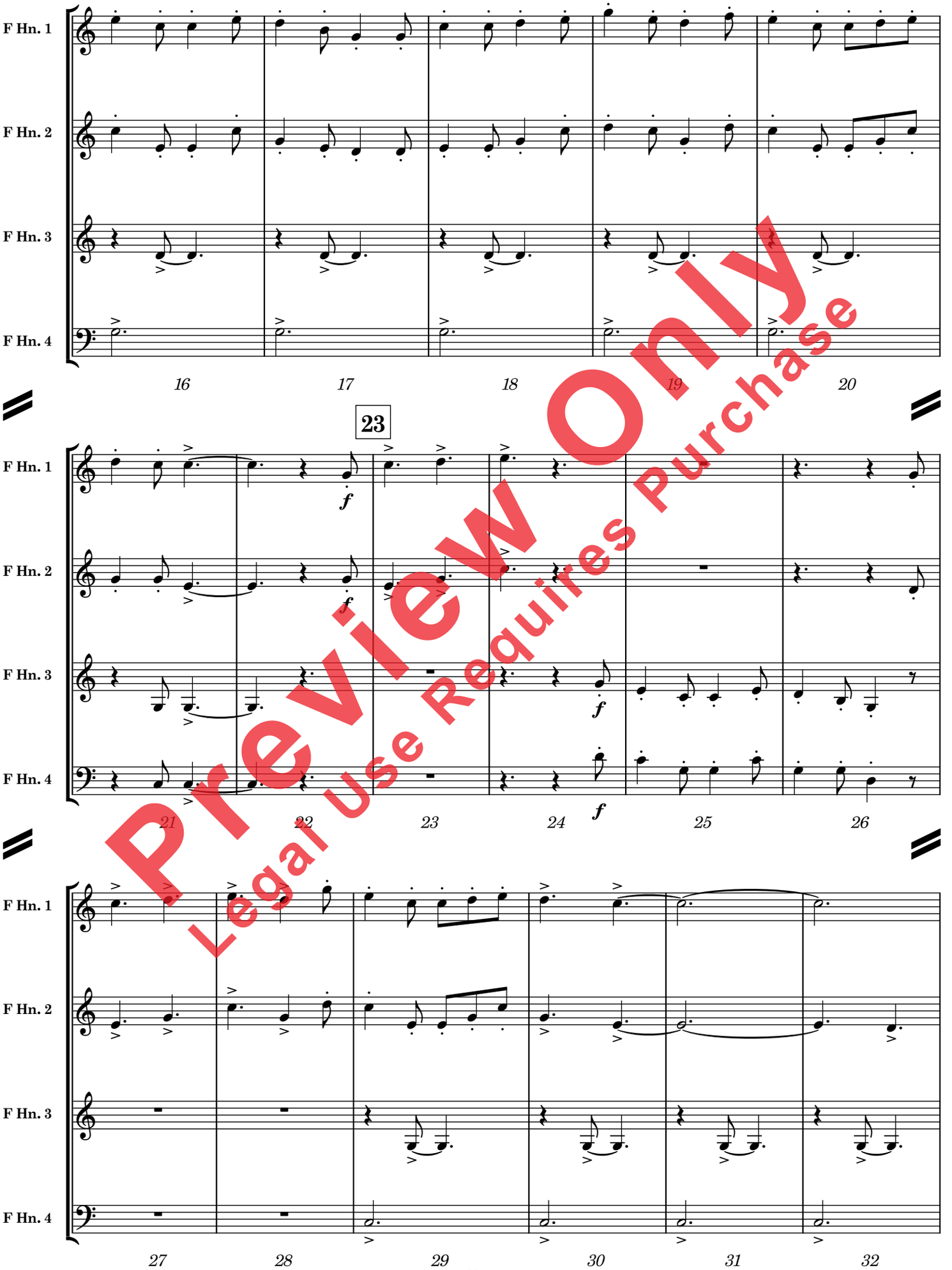


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6. I Saw Three Ships
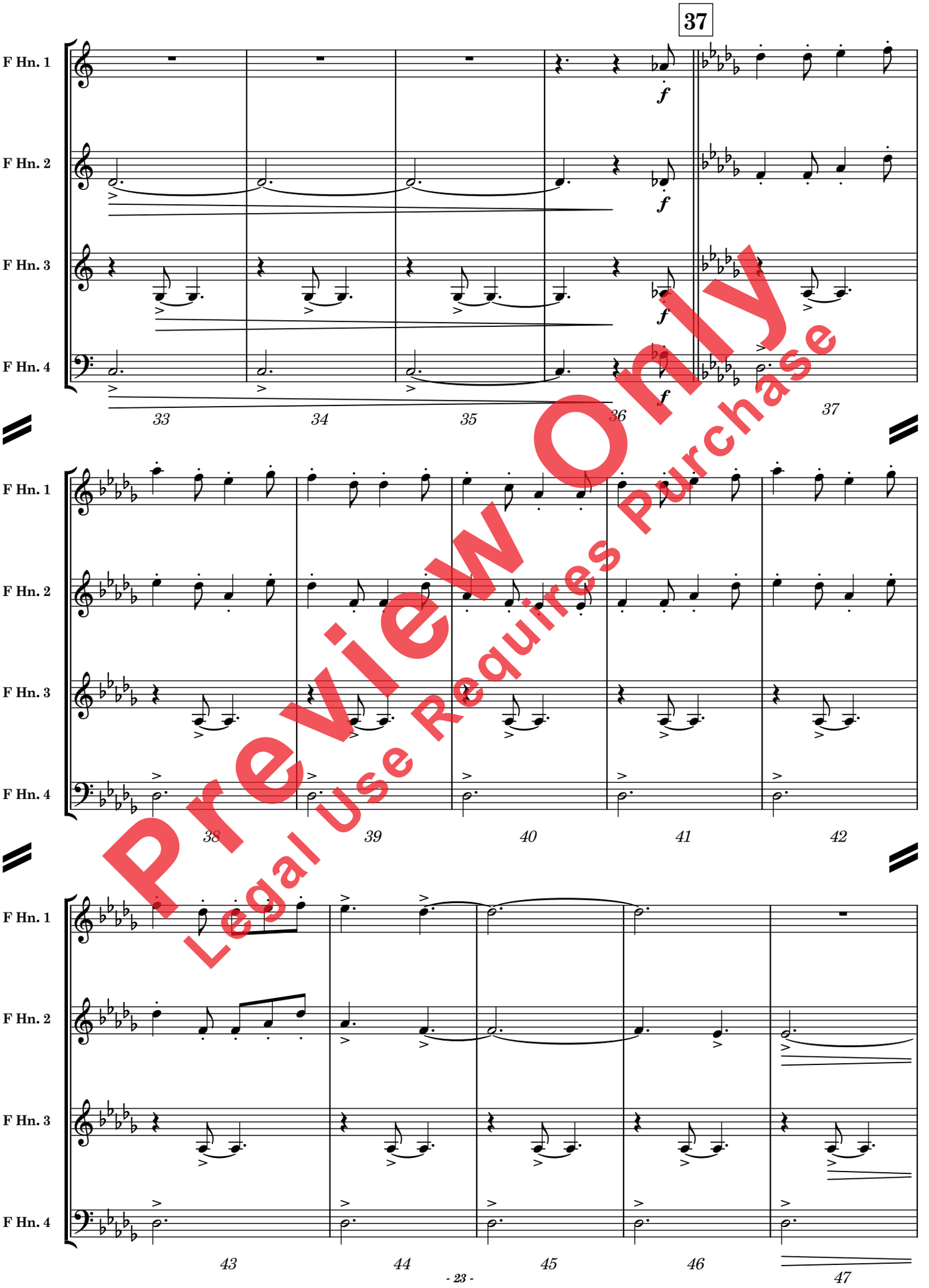
Traditional English Carol
Arr. by Russell Greene (ASCAP)
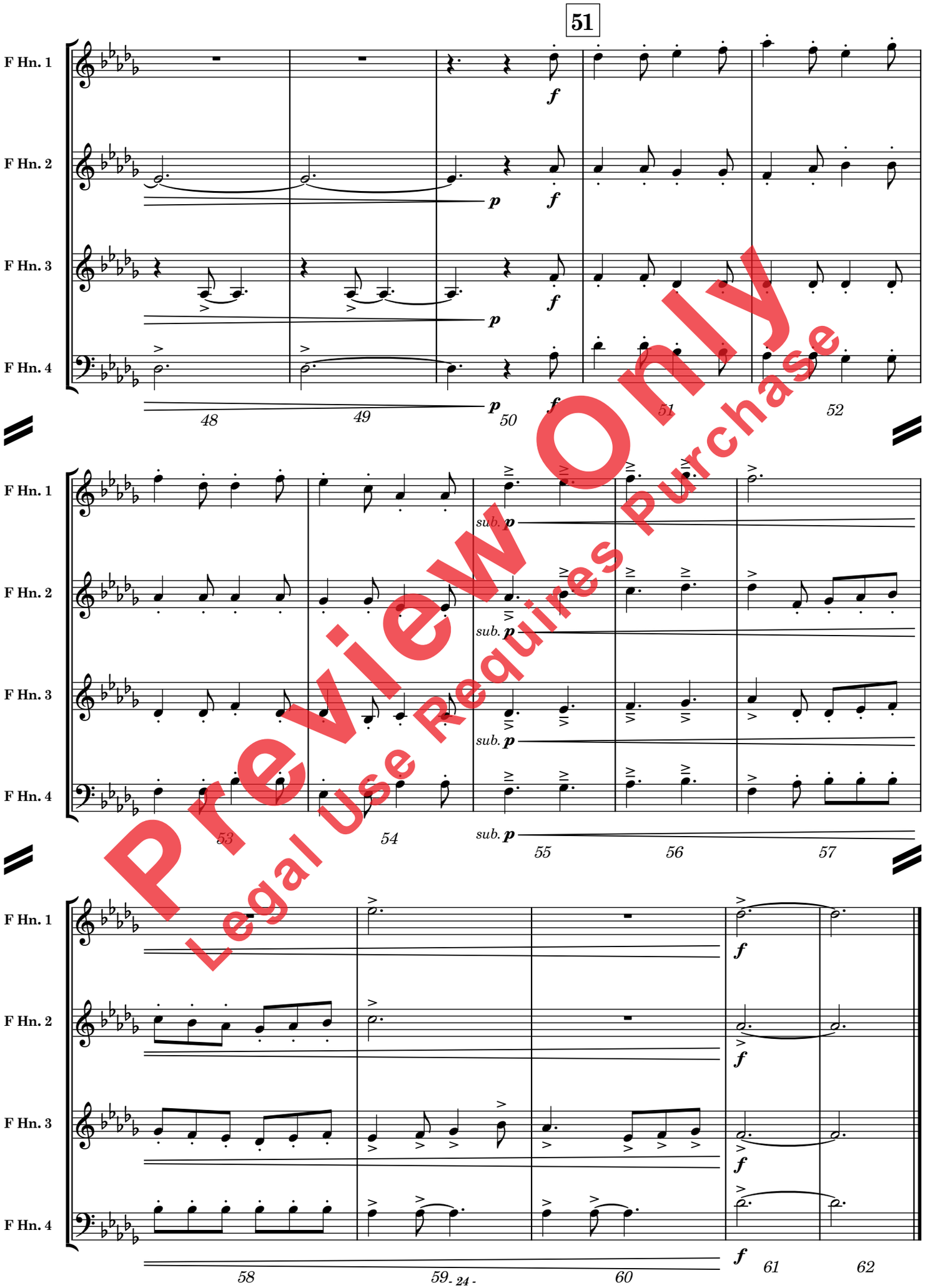


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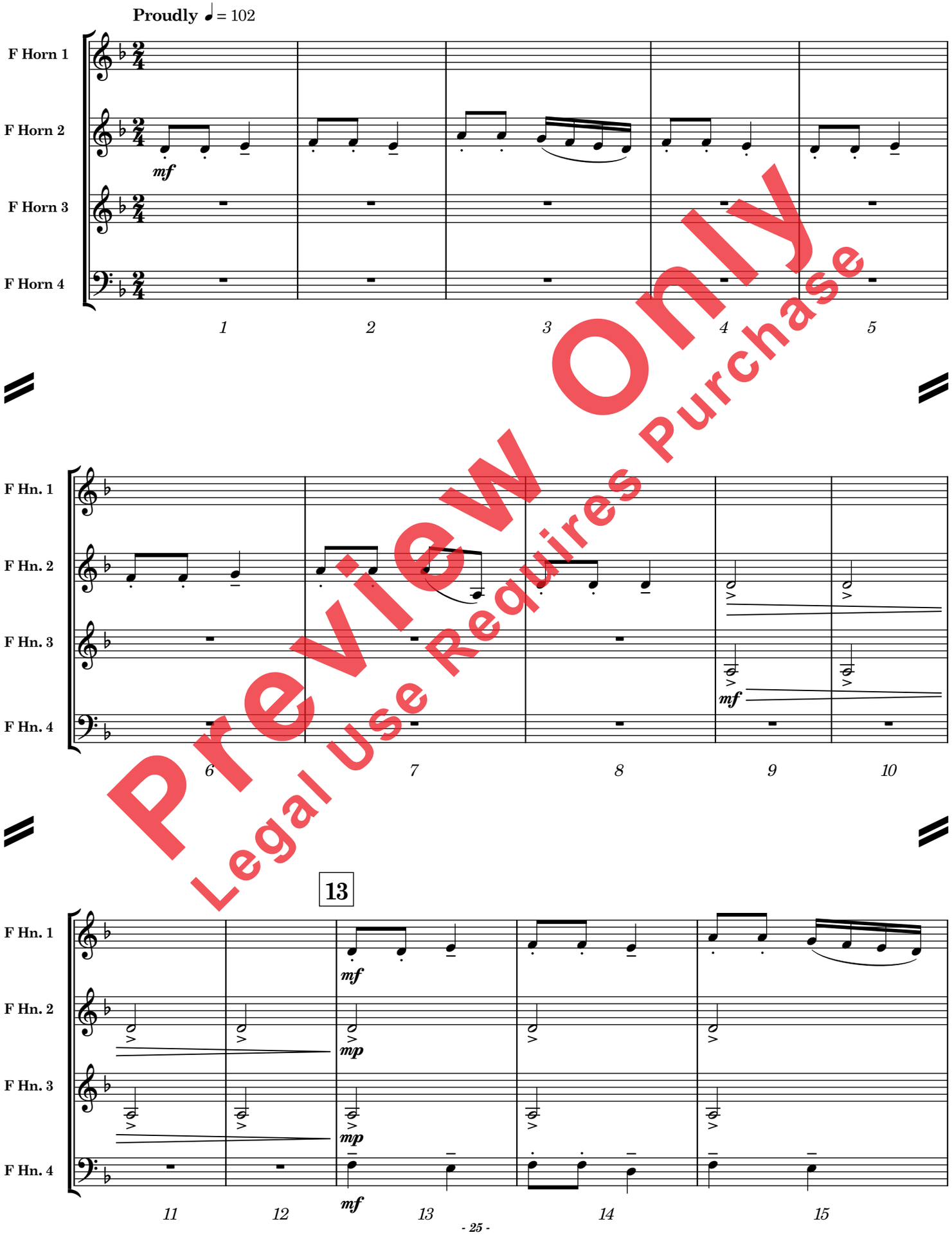


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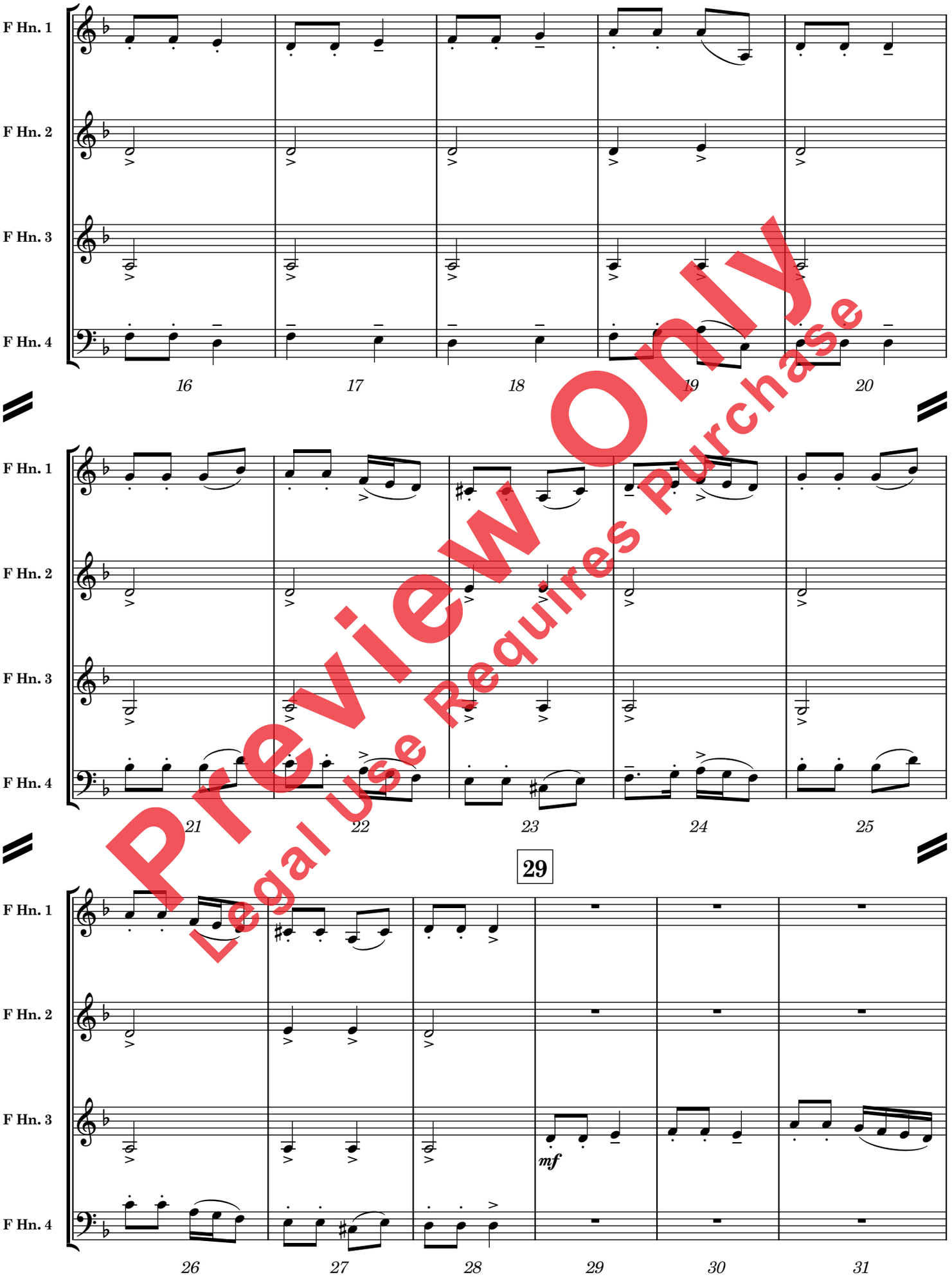


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7. Sevivon
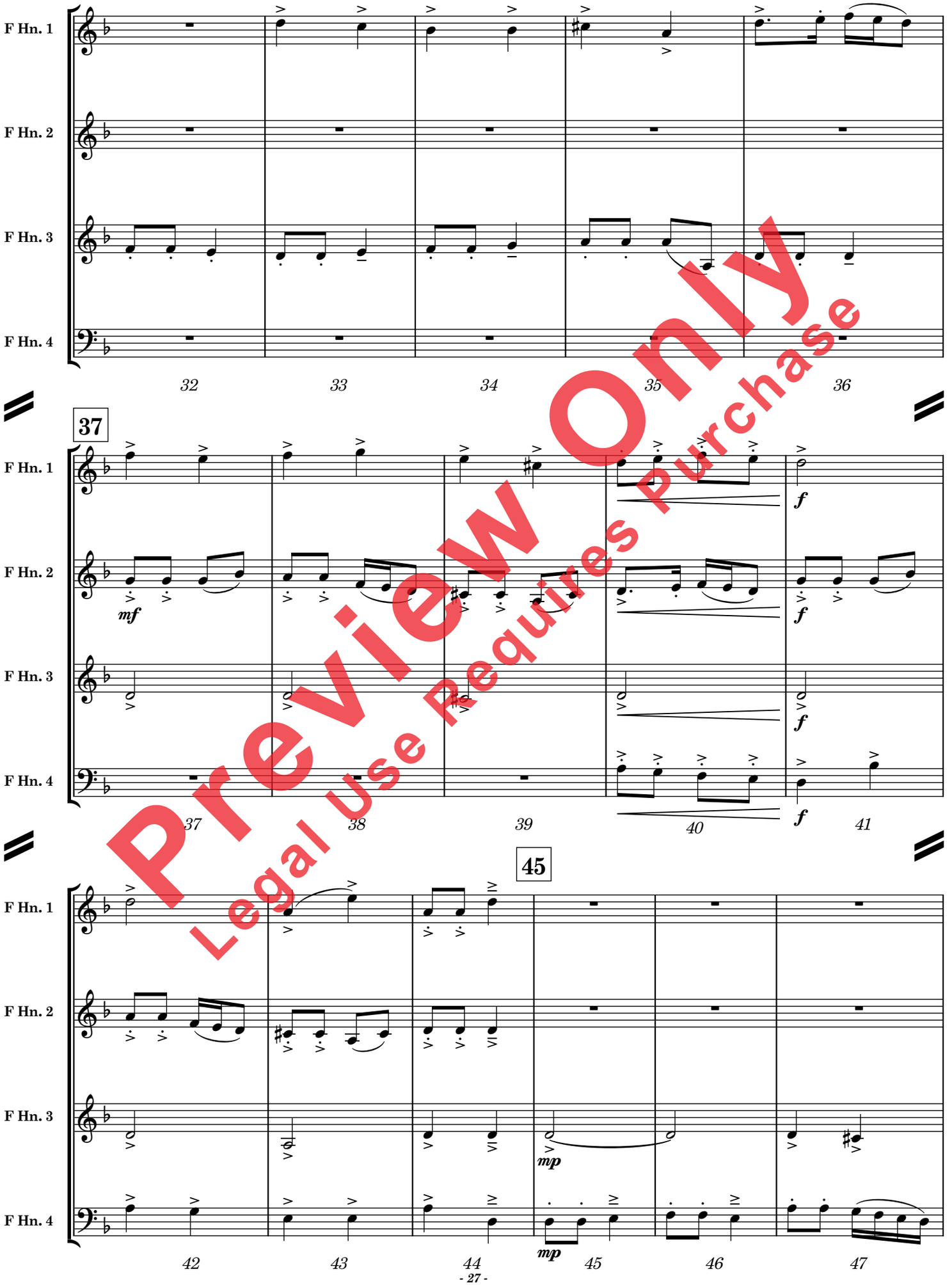
Traditional Hanukkah Song
Arr. by Russell Greene (ASCAP)
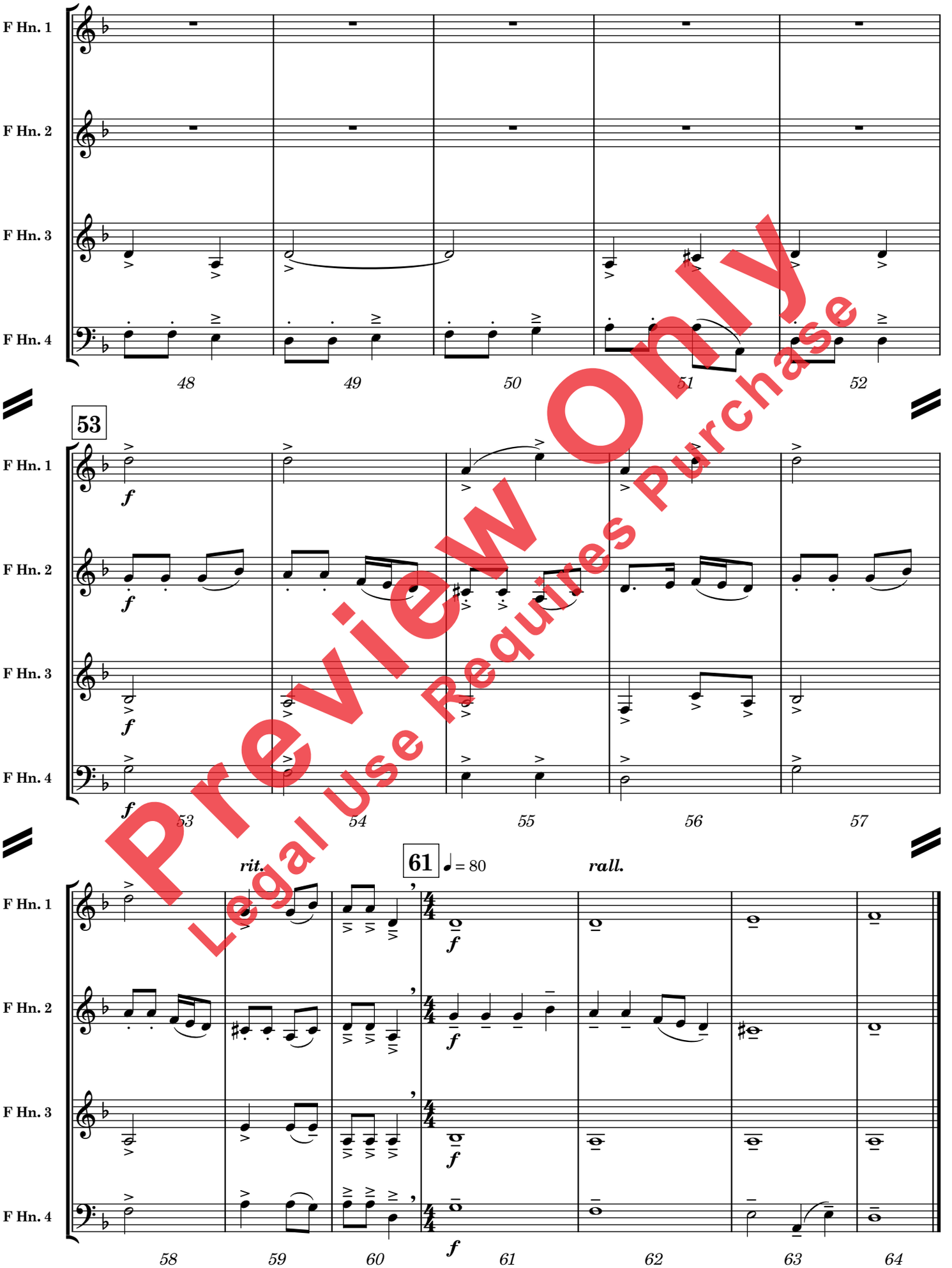


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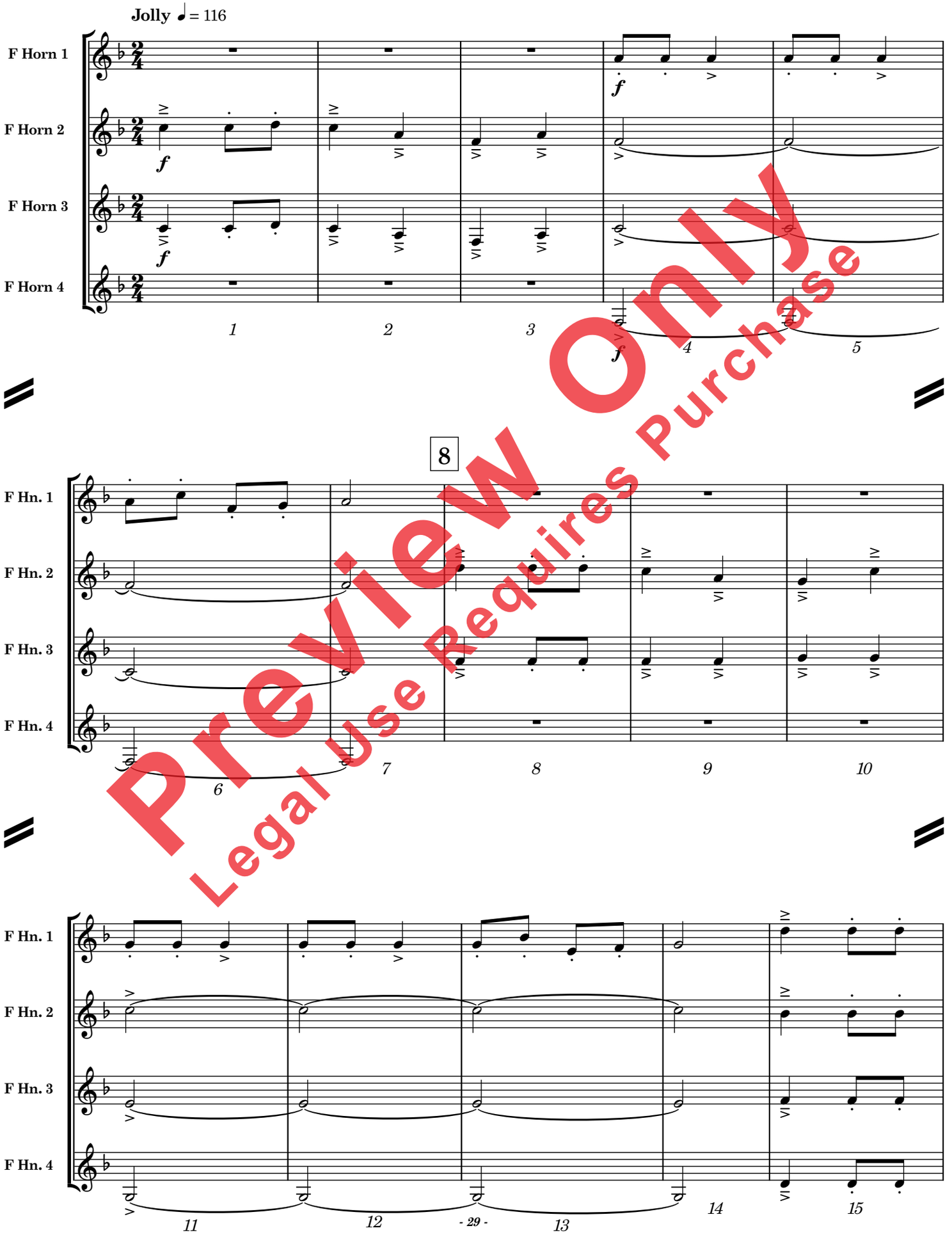


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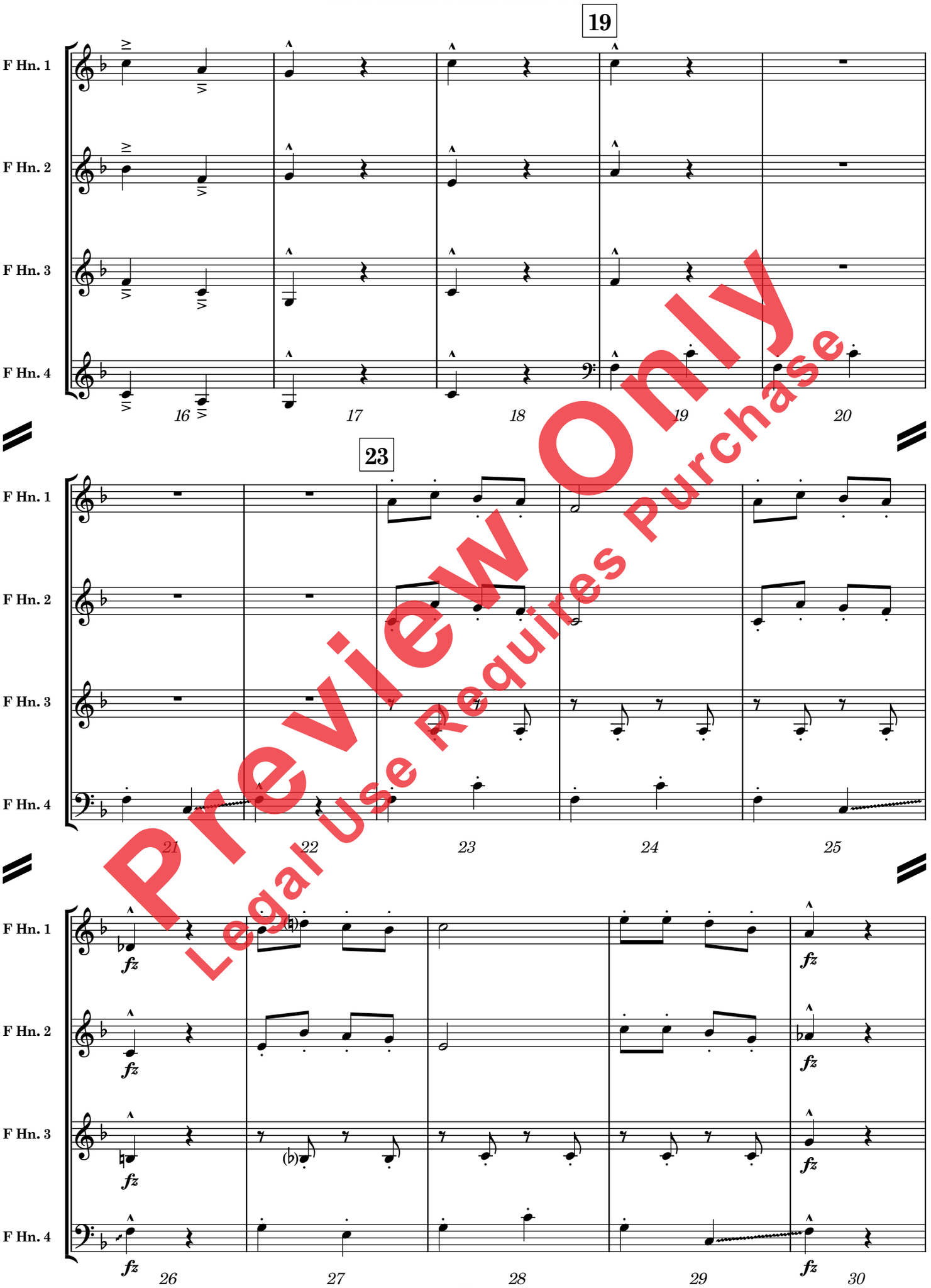


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8. Jingle Bells on the House Top
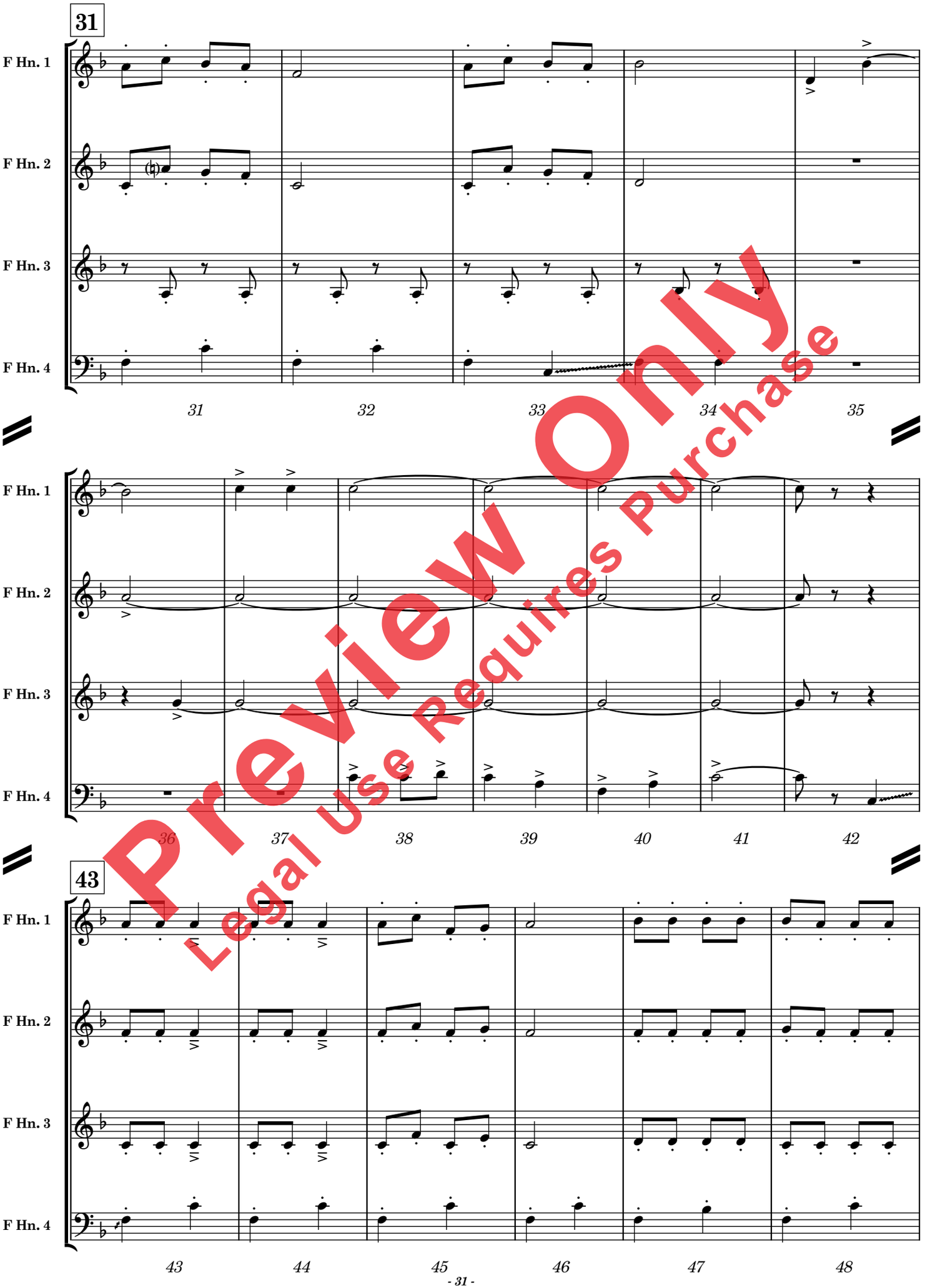
James Lord Pierpont/Gene Autry
Arr. by Russell Greene (ASCAP)
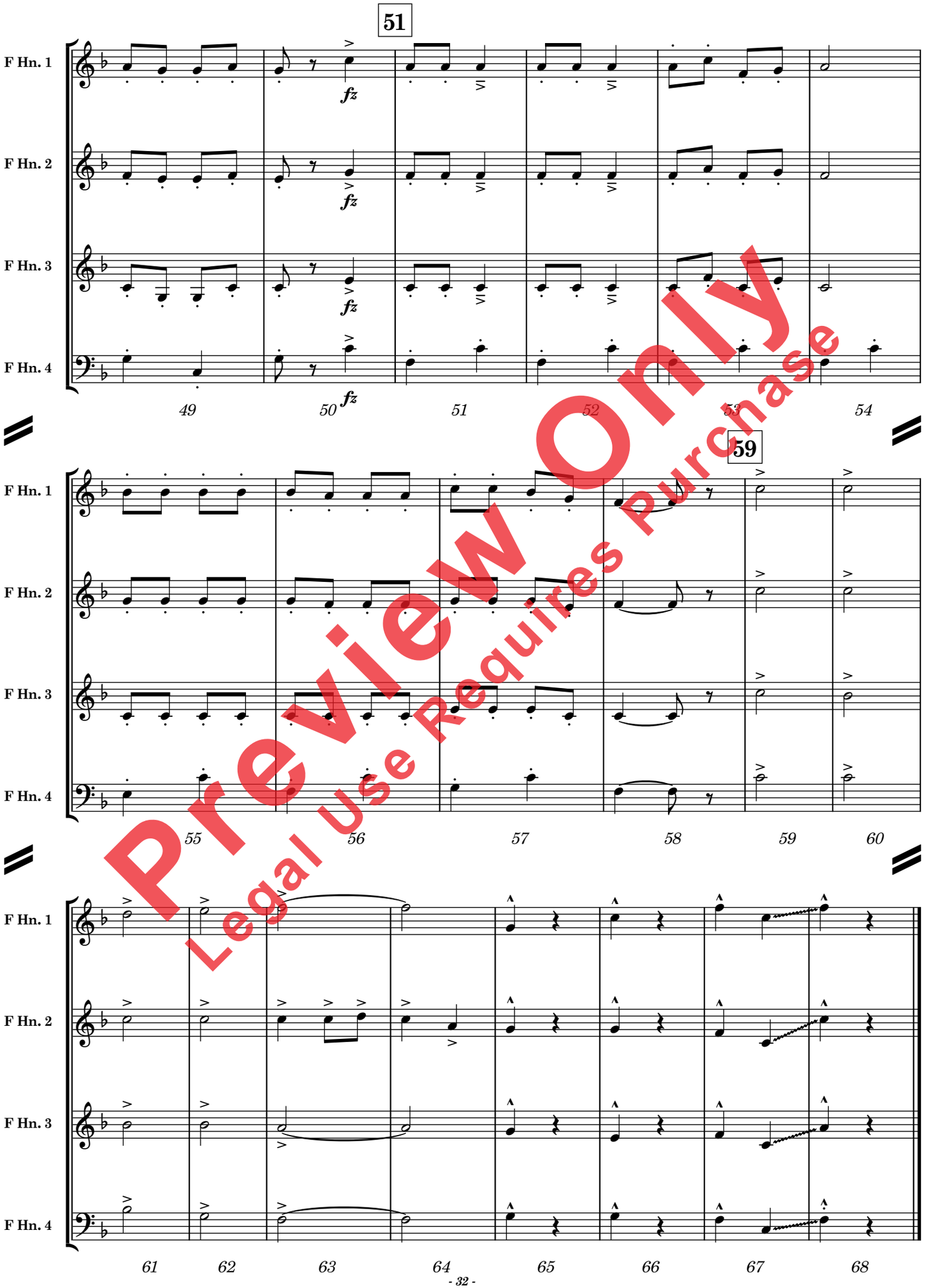


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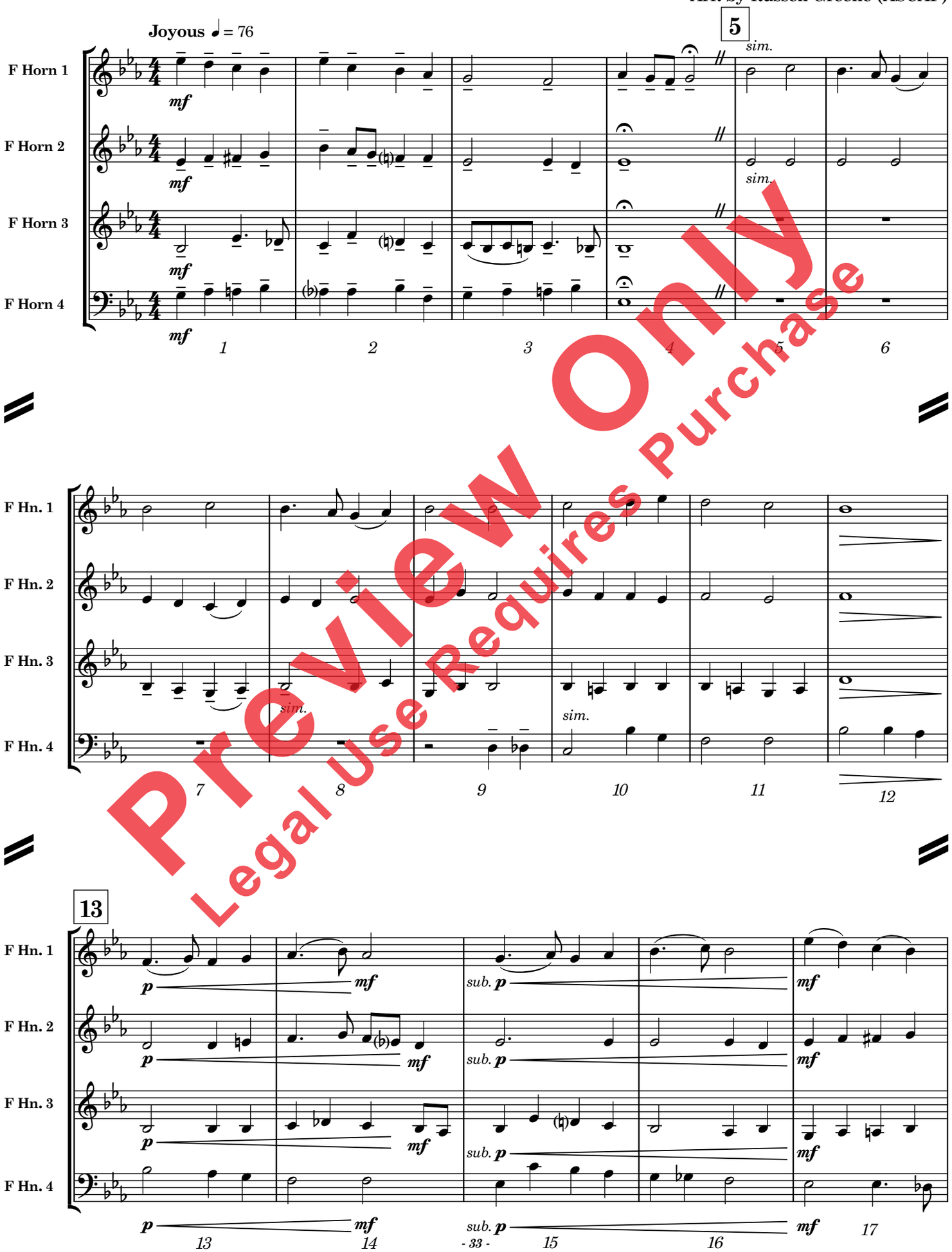


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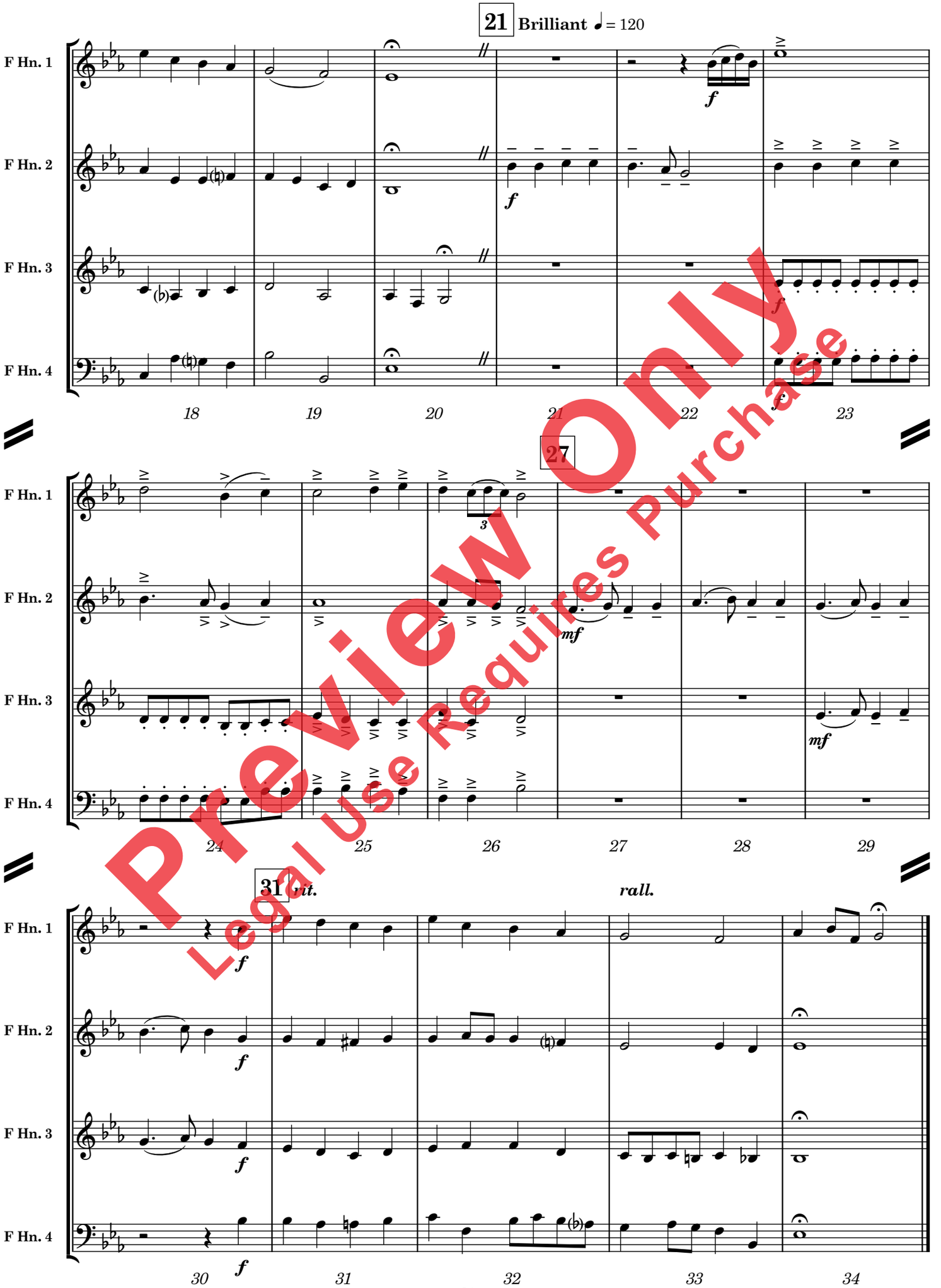


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9. O du fröhliche

Hymn based on a Sicilian melody
Arr. by Russell Greene (ASCAP)
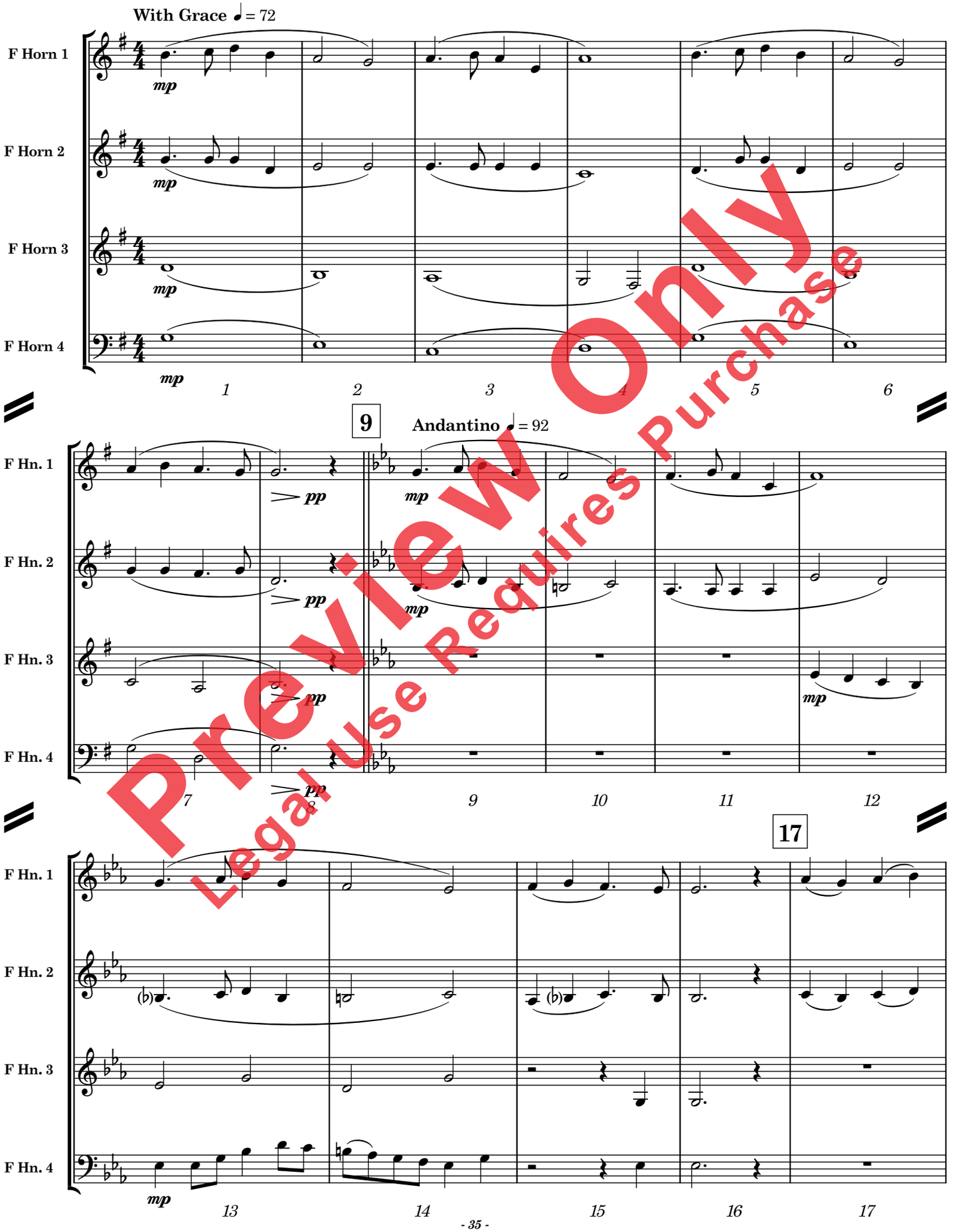


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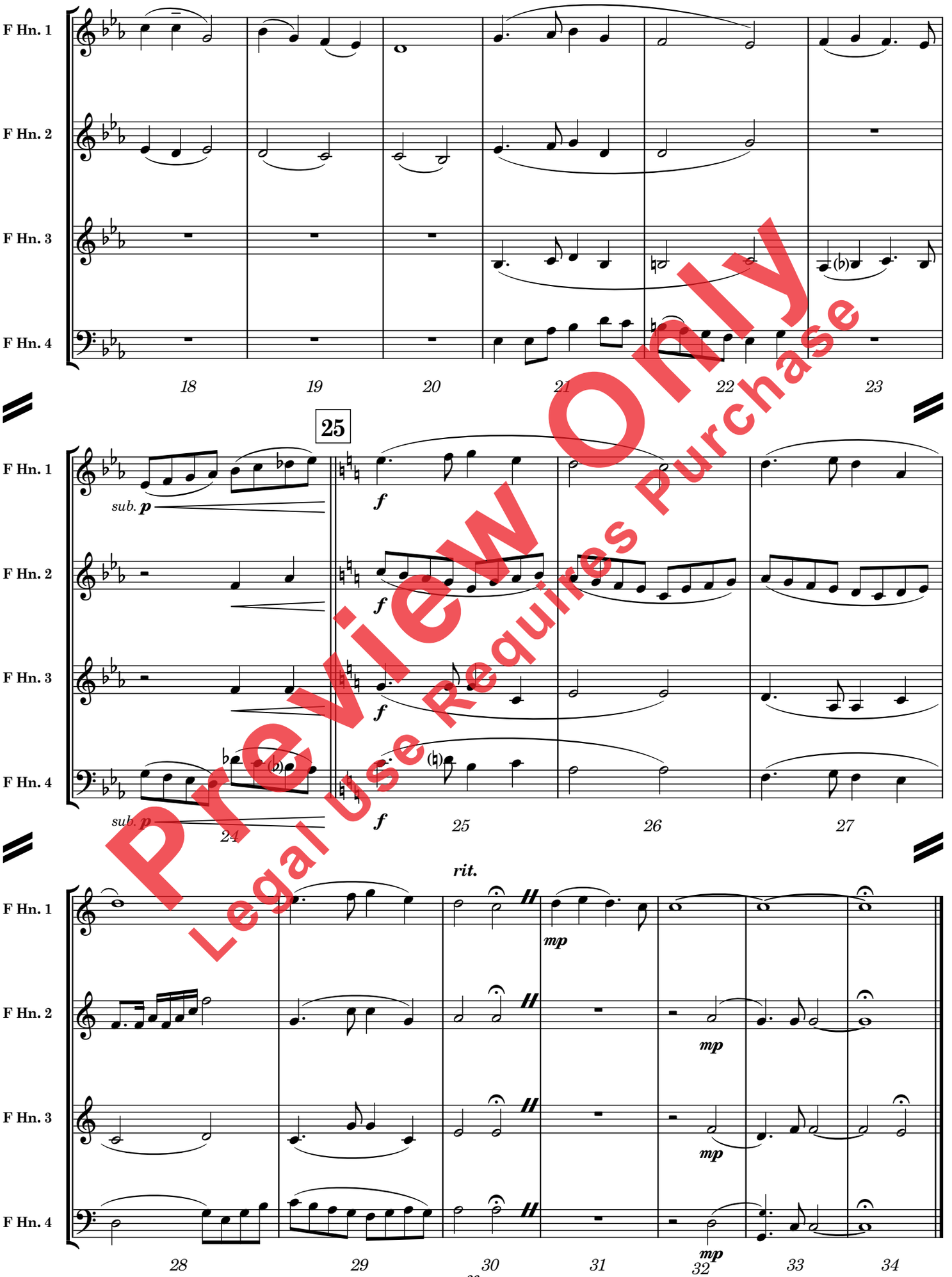


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10. In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst
Arr. by Russell Greene (ASCAP)



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