RWS Concert Band Series

Grade: 3.5

Conductor Score: RWS-2553-01

With Joyful Tidings

Traditional

Arranged by

Steve Parsons

RWS Concert Band Series

RWS Music Company

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INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1
Piccolo	1
Flute 1	5
Flute 2	5
Oboe	2
B♭ Clarinet 1	4
B♭ Clarinet 2	4
B♭ Clarinet 3	4
B♭ Bass Clarinet	2
Bassoon	2
E♭ Alto Saxophone 1-2	6
B♭ Tenor Saxophone	2
E♭ Baritone Saxophone	2
B♭ Trumpet 1	3
B♭ Trumpet 2-3	6
F Horn 1-2	4
Trombone 1	3
Trombone 2	3
Euphonium B.C.	2
Euphonium T.C.	2
Tuba	4
Mallet Percussion: Crotales (or Bells), Bells, Chimes	3
Timpani	1
Percussion 1: Mark Tree, Bell Tree, Suspended Cymbal, Triangle, Sleigh Bells, Tambourine, Snare Drum, Bass Drum	4
Percussion 2: Triangle, Tam-tam, Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbals, Bell Tree	2

PROGRAM NOTE

Steve Parson shares this insight to his arrangement:

"The sights and sounds of the holiday season have always captivated me. Though my works reveal many stylistic influences and themes, I often find myself returning to the wonder of Christmas and the imagery of this "season of light" remembered from childhood. While much of my Yuletide-themed output has been in the realm of choral music or musical theatre, I felt a strong desire to create a wholly orchestral piece that would encapsulate all of the memories that inspire me about this time of year in the manner of a big-budget holiday film score."

As the work unfolds, imagine soaring through the snowy holiday skies, beholding a kaleidoscope of lights below, the sound of sleigh bells echoing across the landscape. From town squares and churches come brief hints of familiar carols and steeple bells carried on the breeze until a bright star comes into view, heralding the dawn of Christmas morning in the distance. ***With Joyful Tidings*** is based on two original thematic ideas with some quotes from traditional carols throughout.

NOTES TO CONDUCTOR

As might be expected, this piece features many layered percussion parts. It's essential to ensure these elements are carefully balanced dynamically so they contribute to the texture without taking over. Also, if you don't have a set of Crotales, I'd recommend substituting Bells with brass mallets so they still have a bit of "ping."

The brass section has been orchestrated to sound full with many unison rhythms and octave doublings, so make sure they articulate cleanly (but that they also get out of the way when the woodwind and string sections carry the foreground material. I've tried to support this effort with careful dynamic markings, but we brass players (I'm a somewhat lapsed one myself) can sometimes get carried away!

I hope you enjoy ***With Joyful Tidings***! Please visit my composer page at rwsmusic.com to connect.

ABOUT THE ARRANGER

Steve Parsons is an award-winning composer, orchestrator, and music director. Among his many composing credits are: Evensong (for Choir and Orchestra), Distant Thunder, Seascapes, Frankenstein: The Puppet Opera (Translations Art Gallery), Visions (an oratorio), College Slam (video game, Akklaim), and numerous commissions for symphony orchestra, wind ensemble, and choral ensembles.

An experienced arranger for marching bands and show choirs throughout the United States and Canada, many of his original works and arrangements have been featured in national championships and state contest lists, including several Outstanding Music awards at Bands of America finals, and numerous featured works on both J.W. Pepper's "Editor's Choice" list, and Bandworld's Top 100.

Steve's musical adaptation of A Christmas Carol is published by Broadway Licensing in New York and has enjoyed performances at The Players Guild Theatre (15 seasons), New York (Off-Off Broadway), Los Angeles, and Vietnam (The International Choir and Orchestra of Ho Chi Minh City).

As an orchestrator, he has arranged the Grateful Dead musical Cumberland Blues (NYMF, NY), Life Could Be A Dream (Additional vocal arrangements/orchestrations, LA), It's A Wonderful Life (Regional), and Footloose (Additional vocal arrangements/orchestrations, Rodgers & Hammerstein Library).

His other credits include: Nunsense and Nunsense A-Men! (music preparation, NY), The Tick (member of the "Tickestra," FOX), and Defying Gravity: The Creative Career of Stephen Schwartz (consultant and contributor, Applause Books).

Steve has both Bachelor of Music and Master of Arts degrees in composition from Kent State University and is a member of ASCAP and the Dramatists Guild of America.

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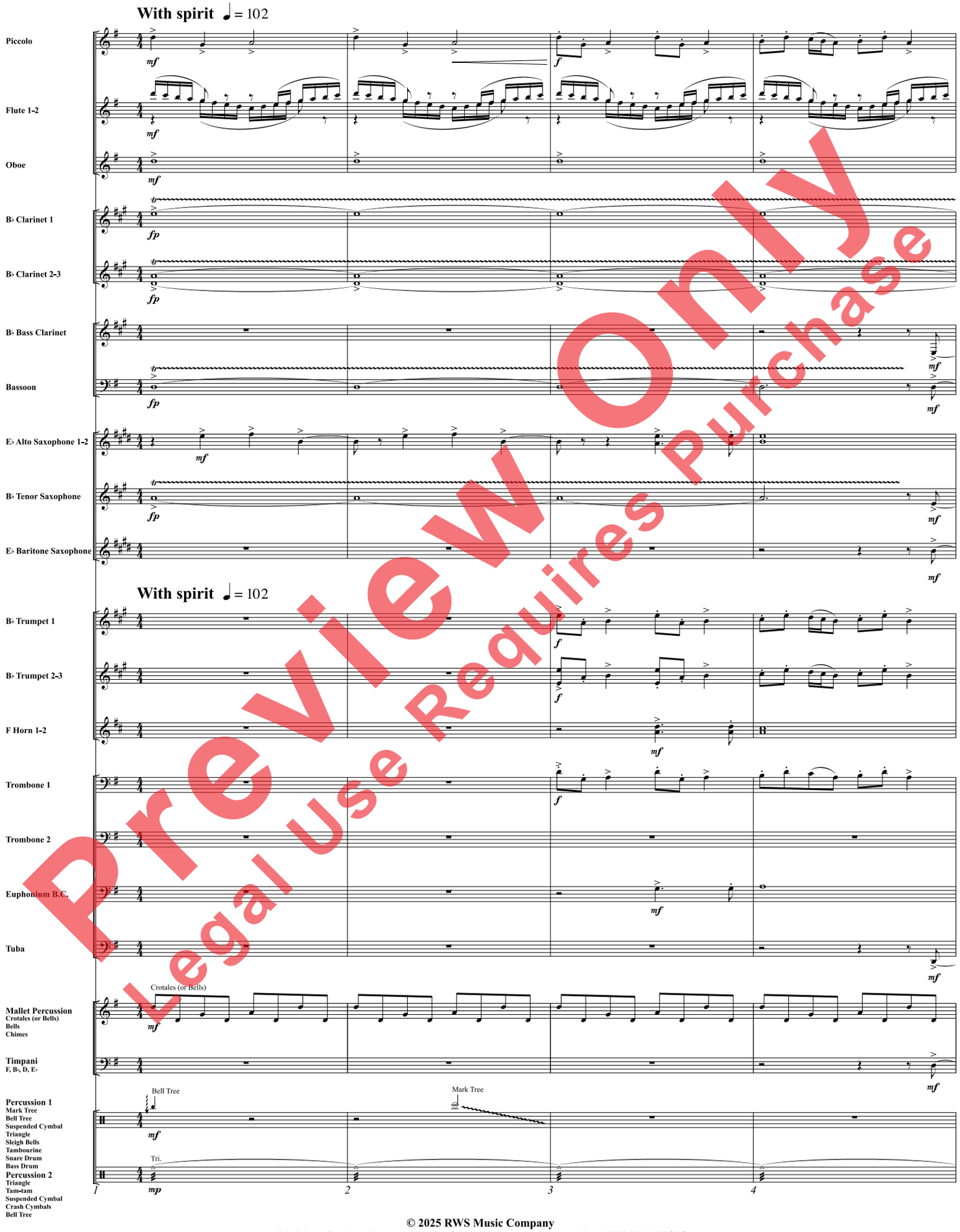
WITH JOYFUL TIDINGS

Conductor Score
RWS-2553-00

Traditional
Arr. by Steve Parsons (ASCAP)



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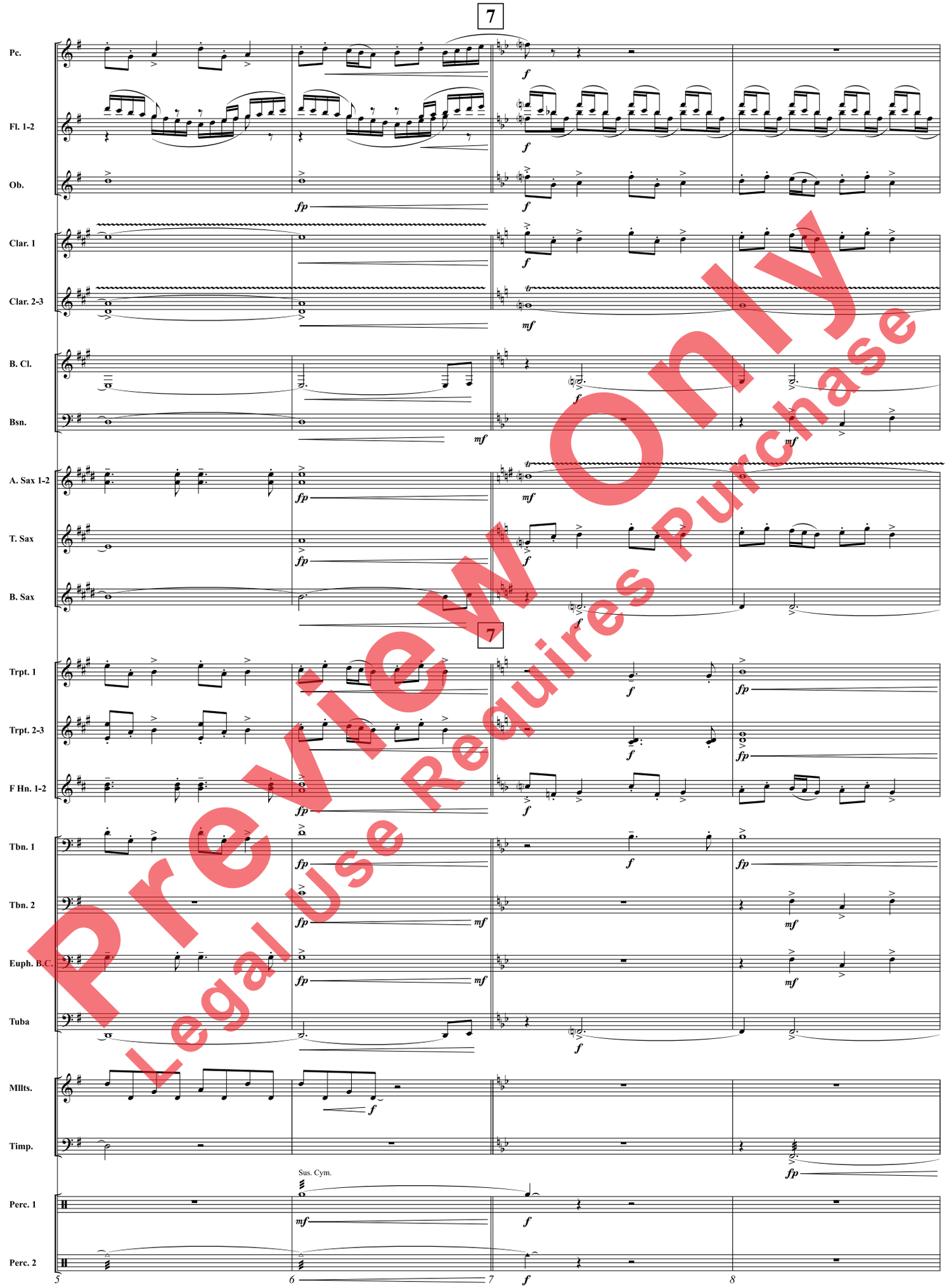

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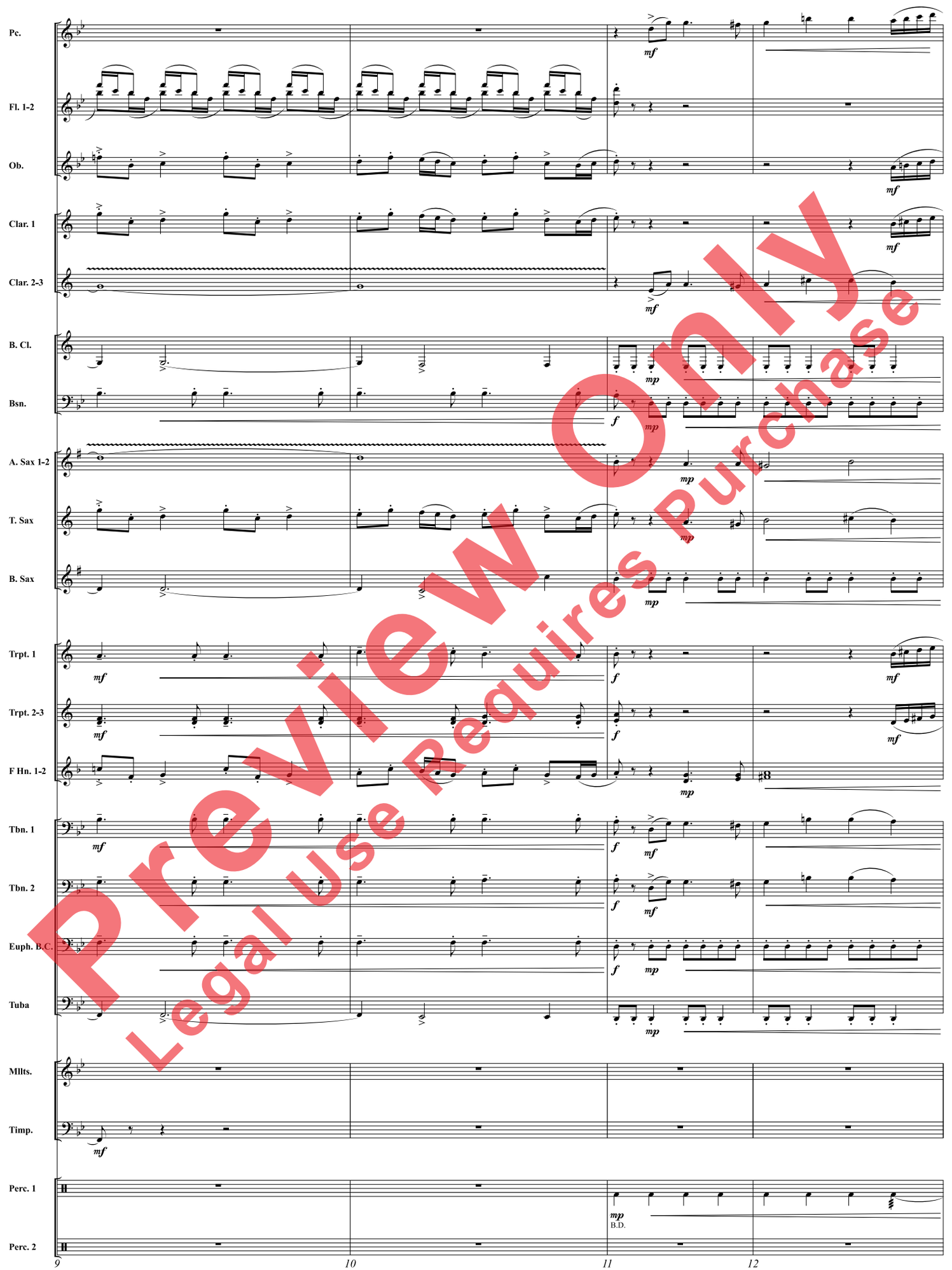

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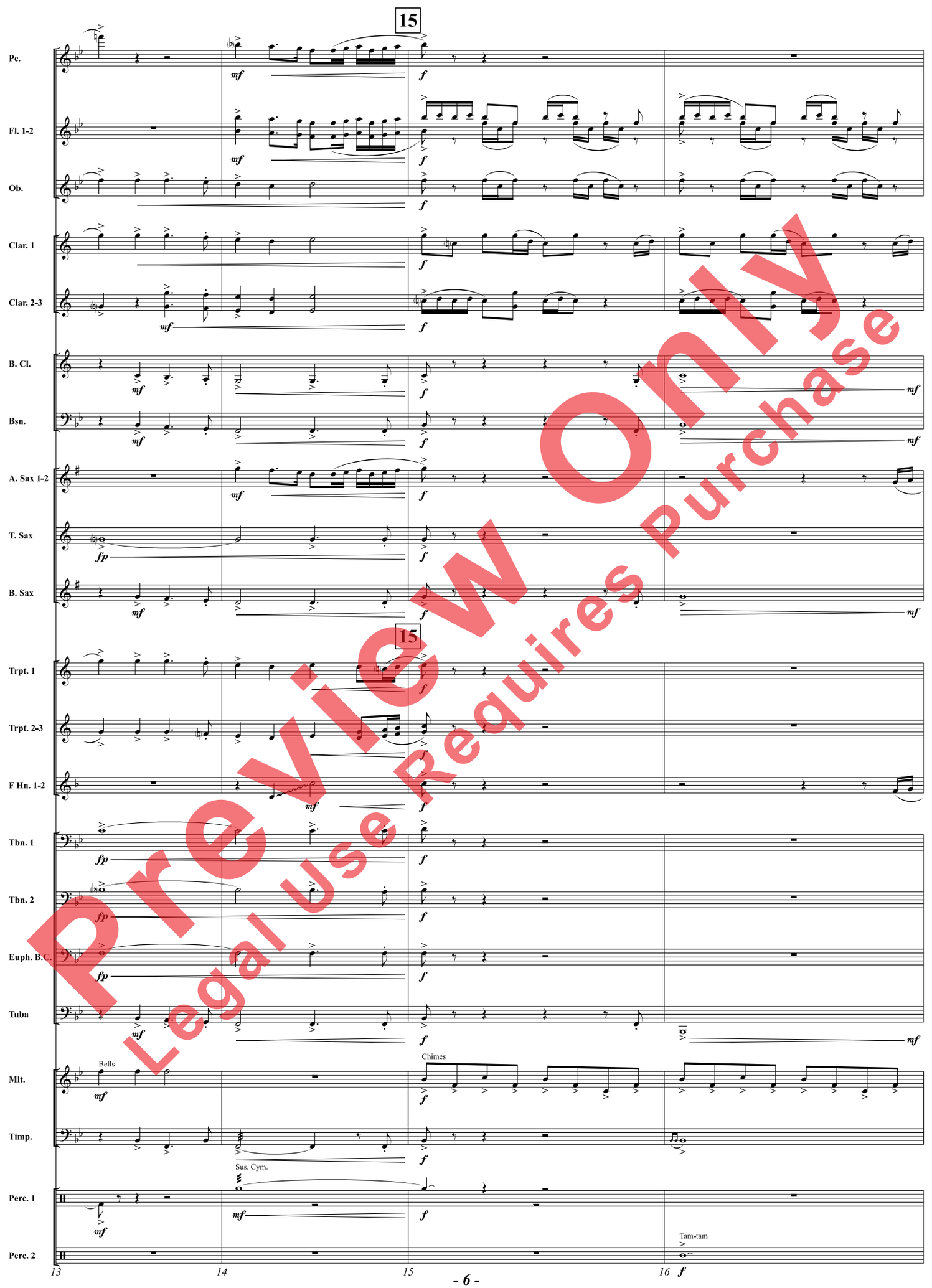

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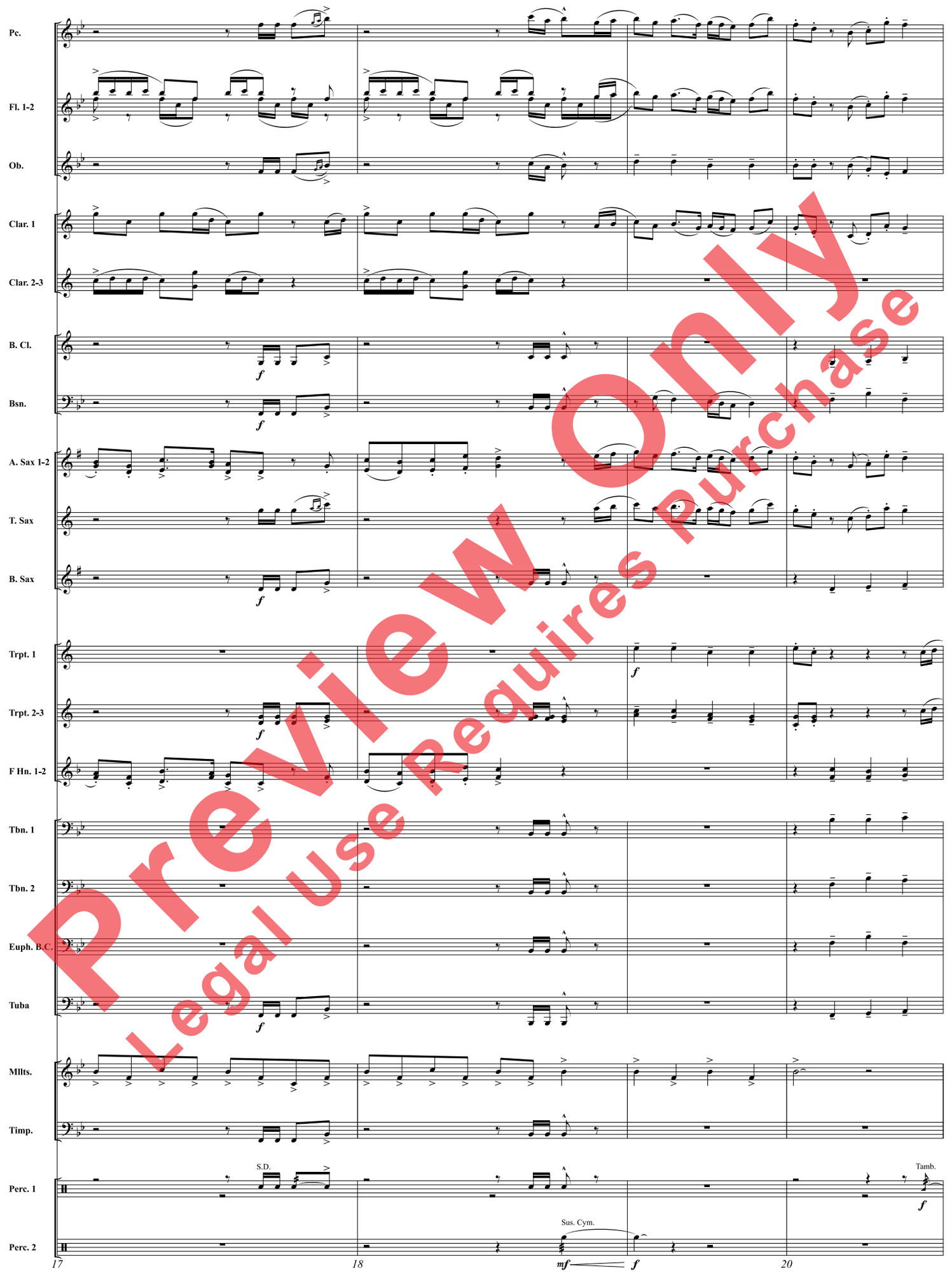

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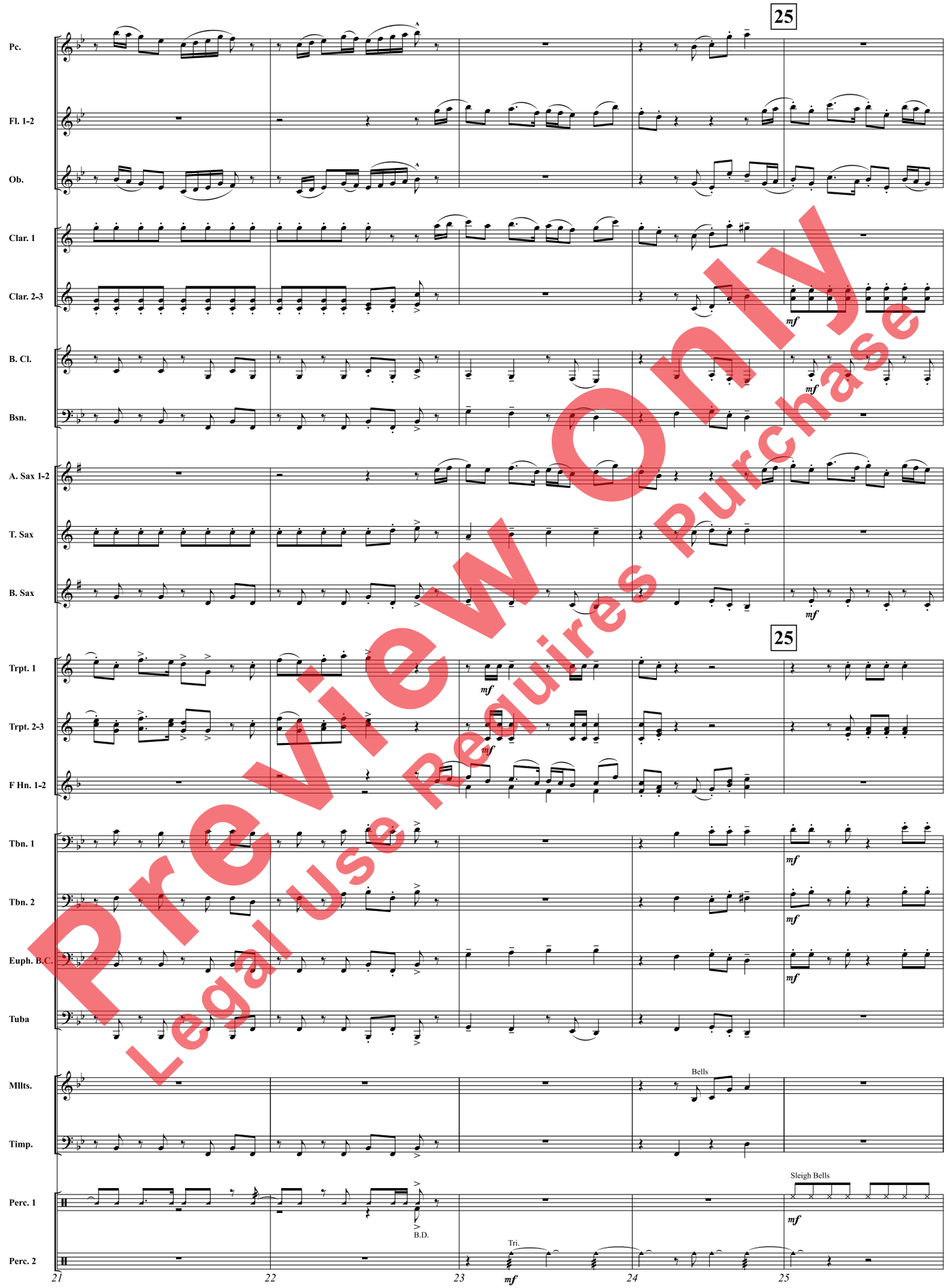

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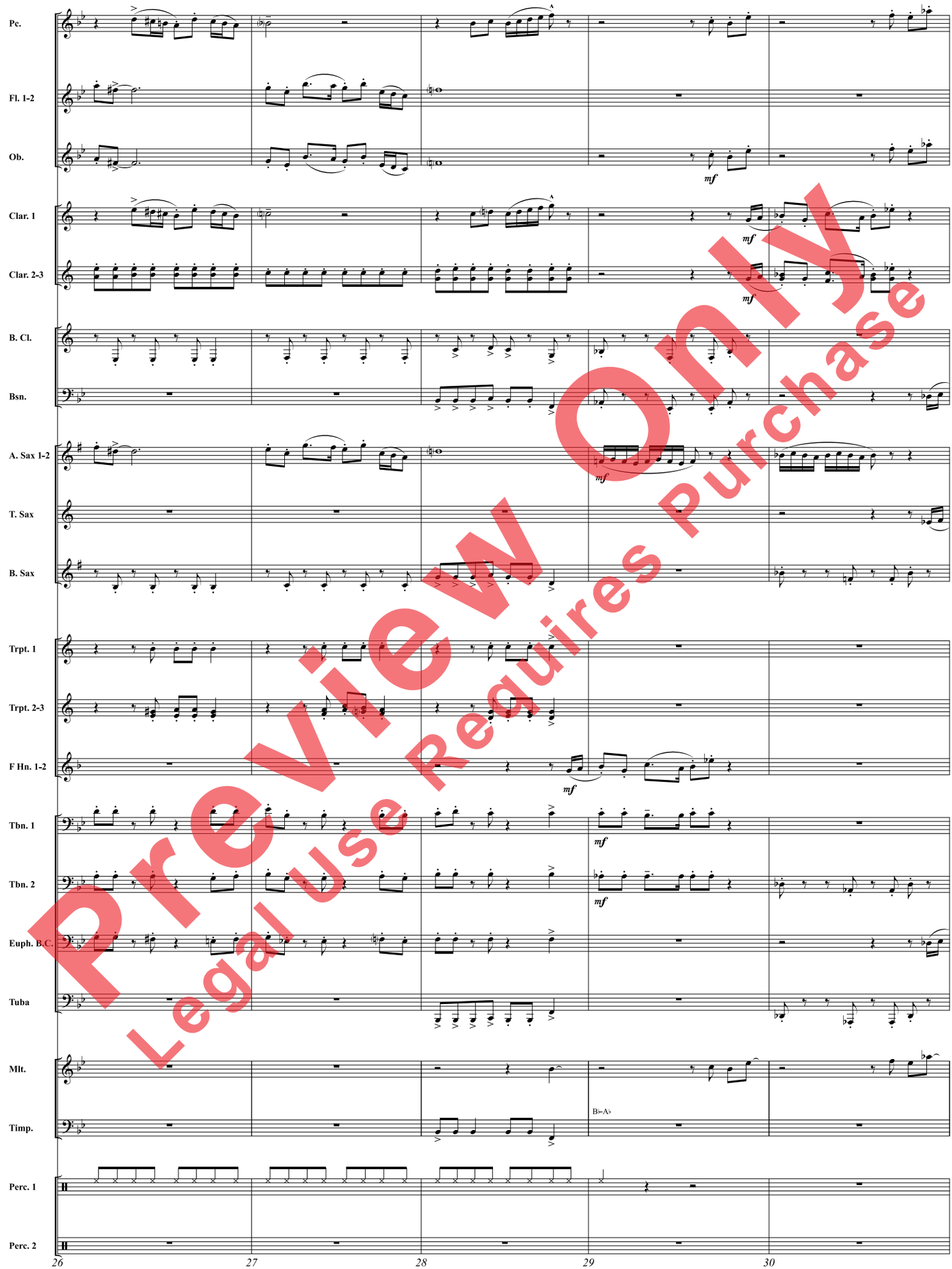

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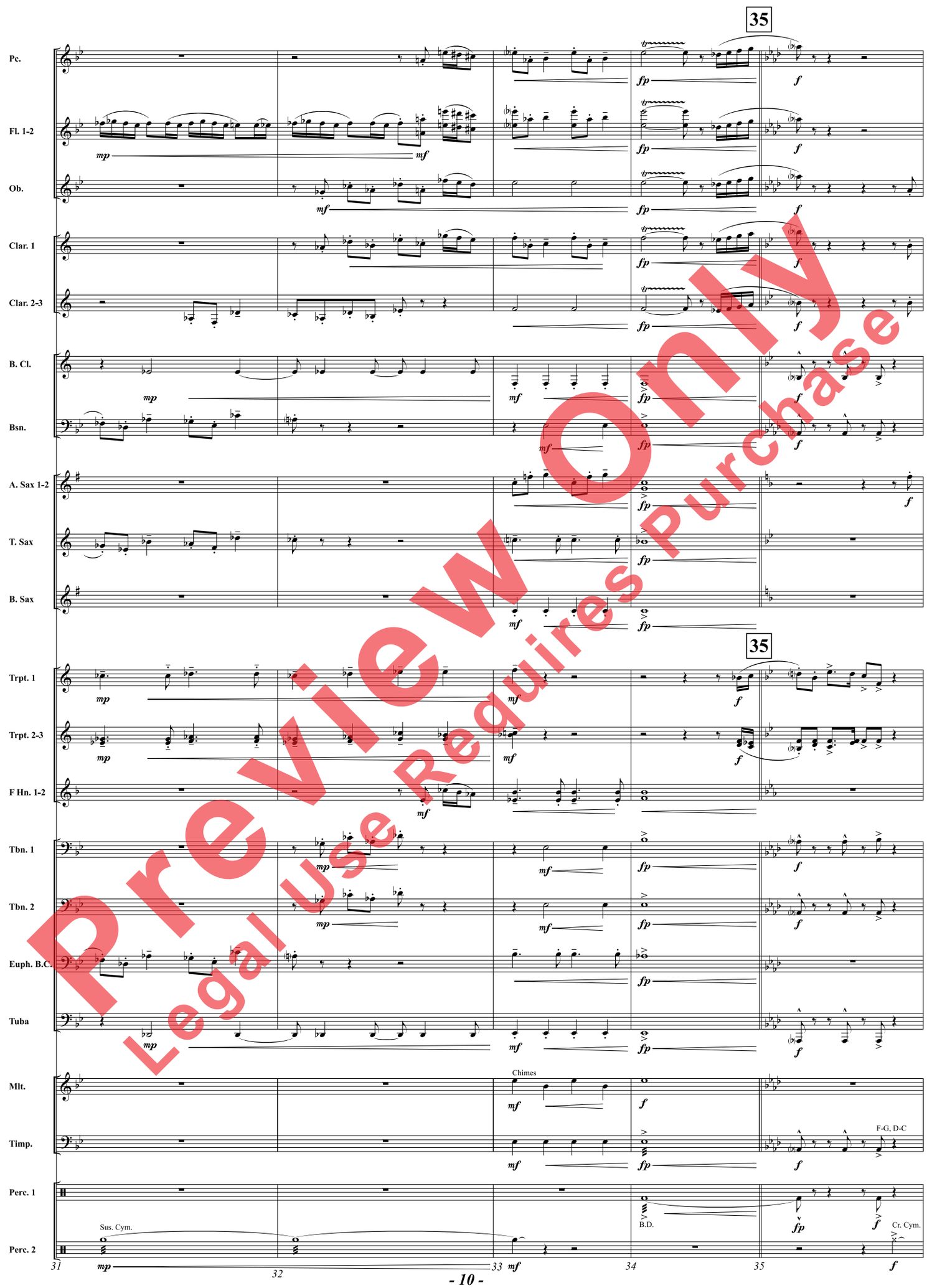

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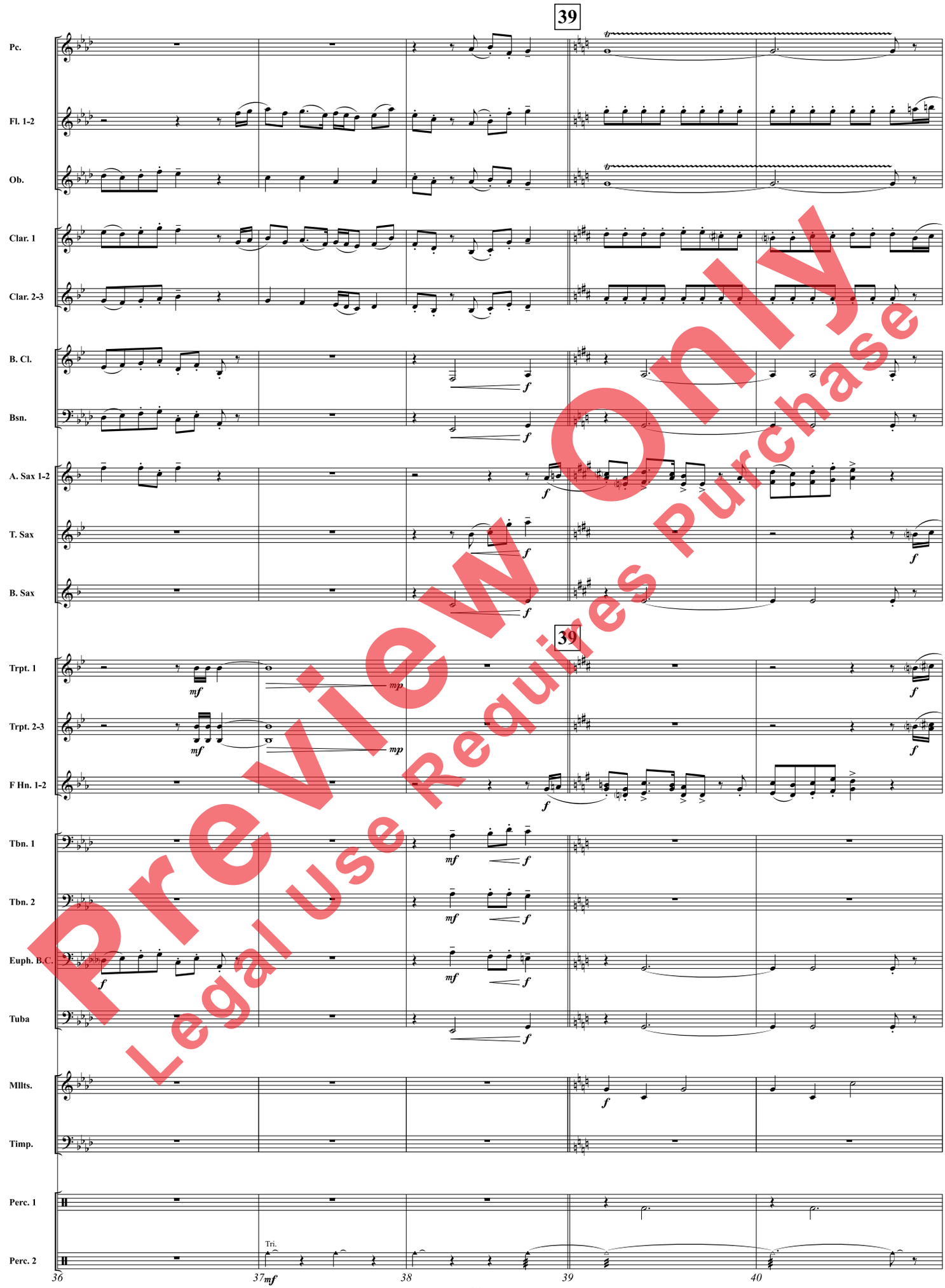

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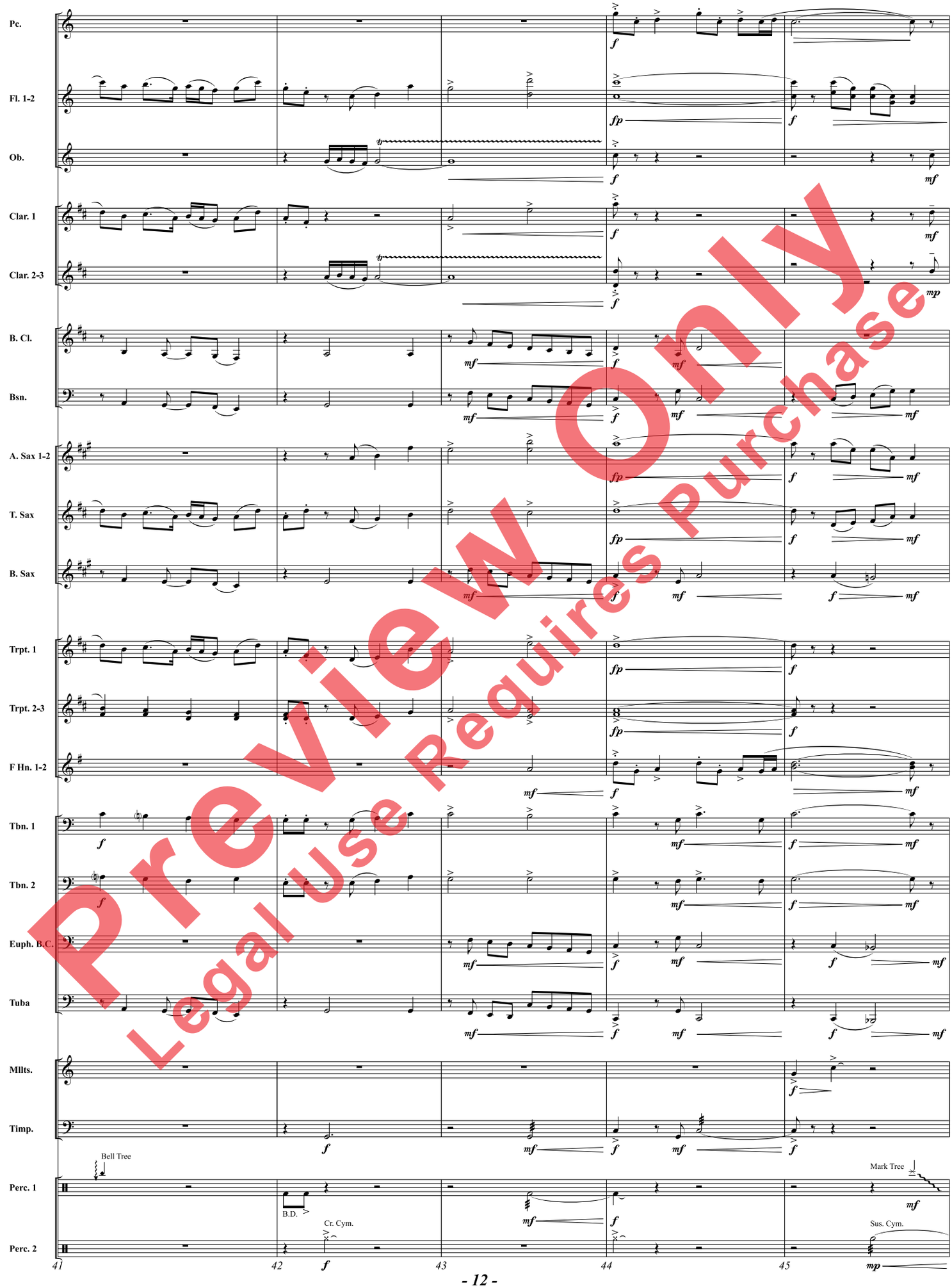

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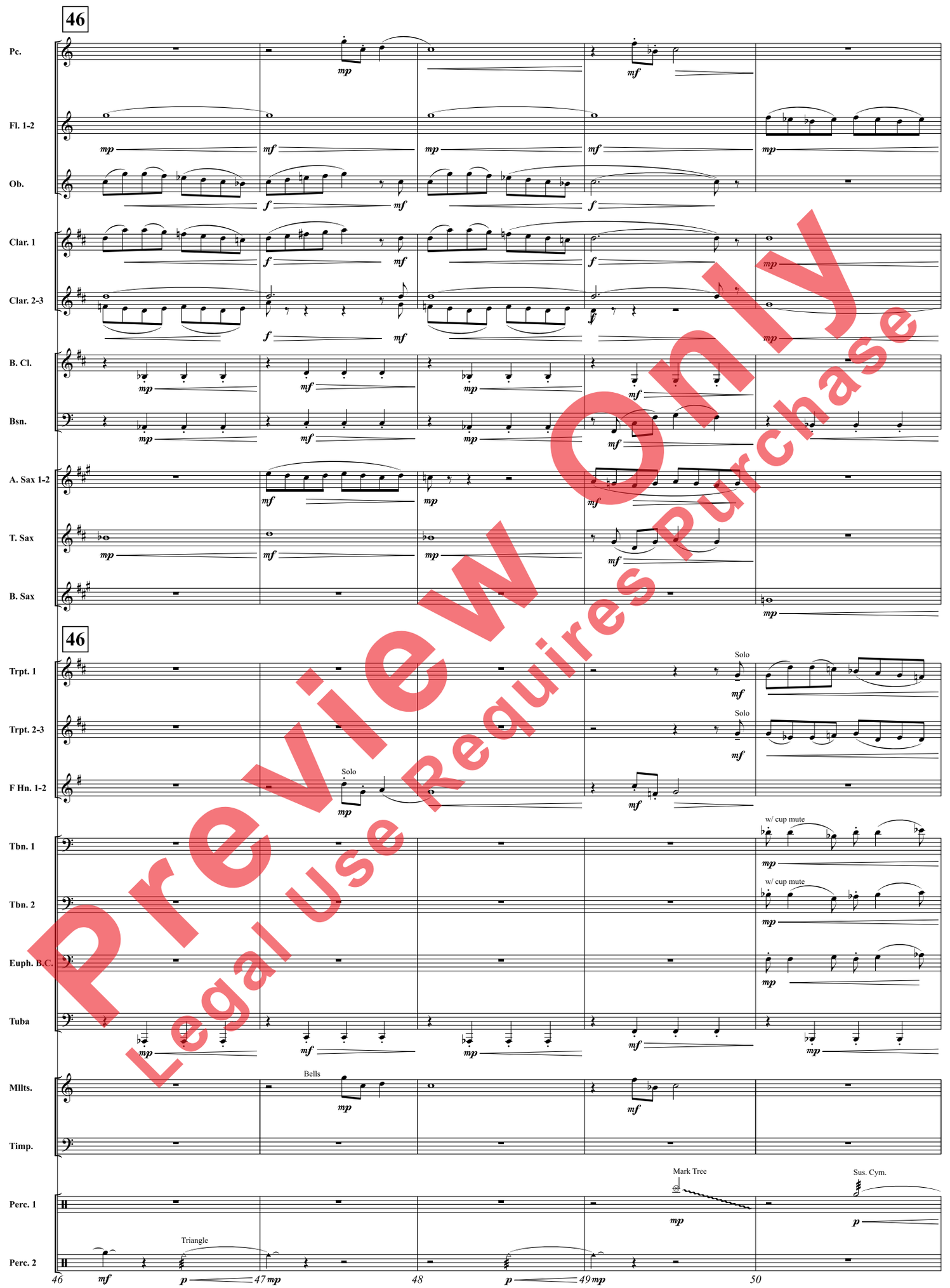

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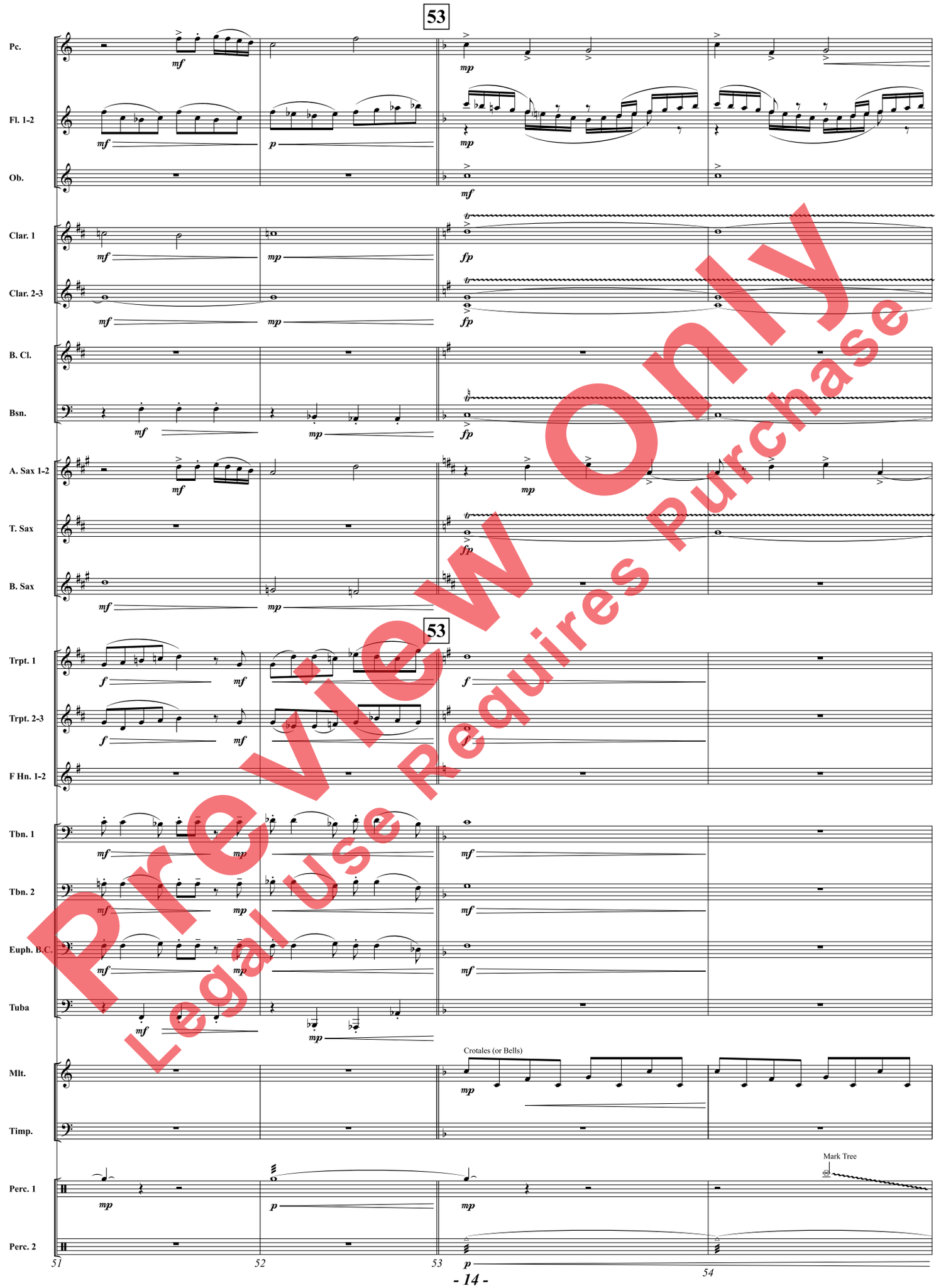

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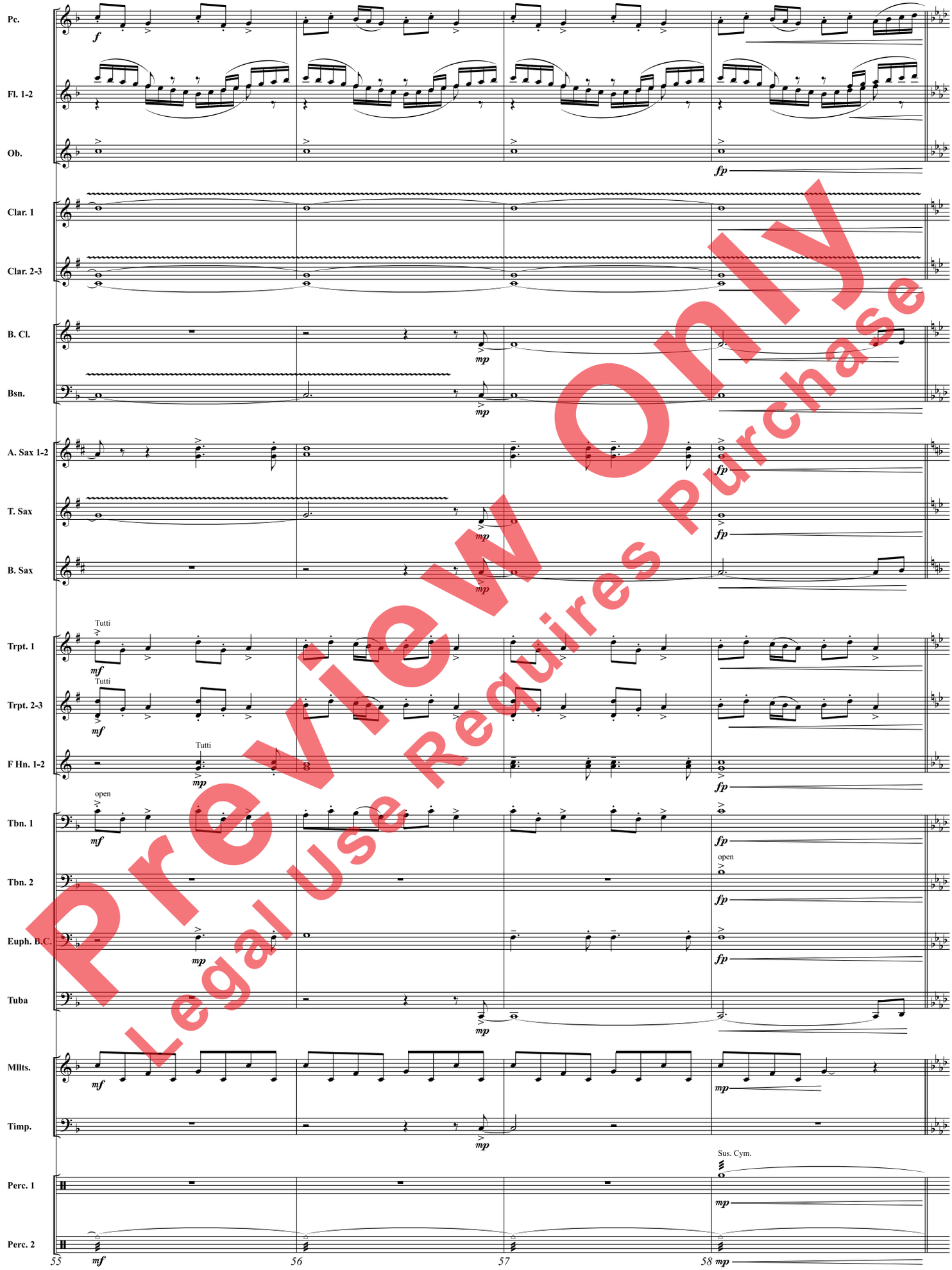

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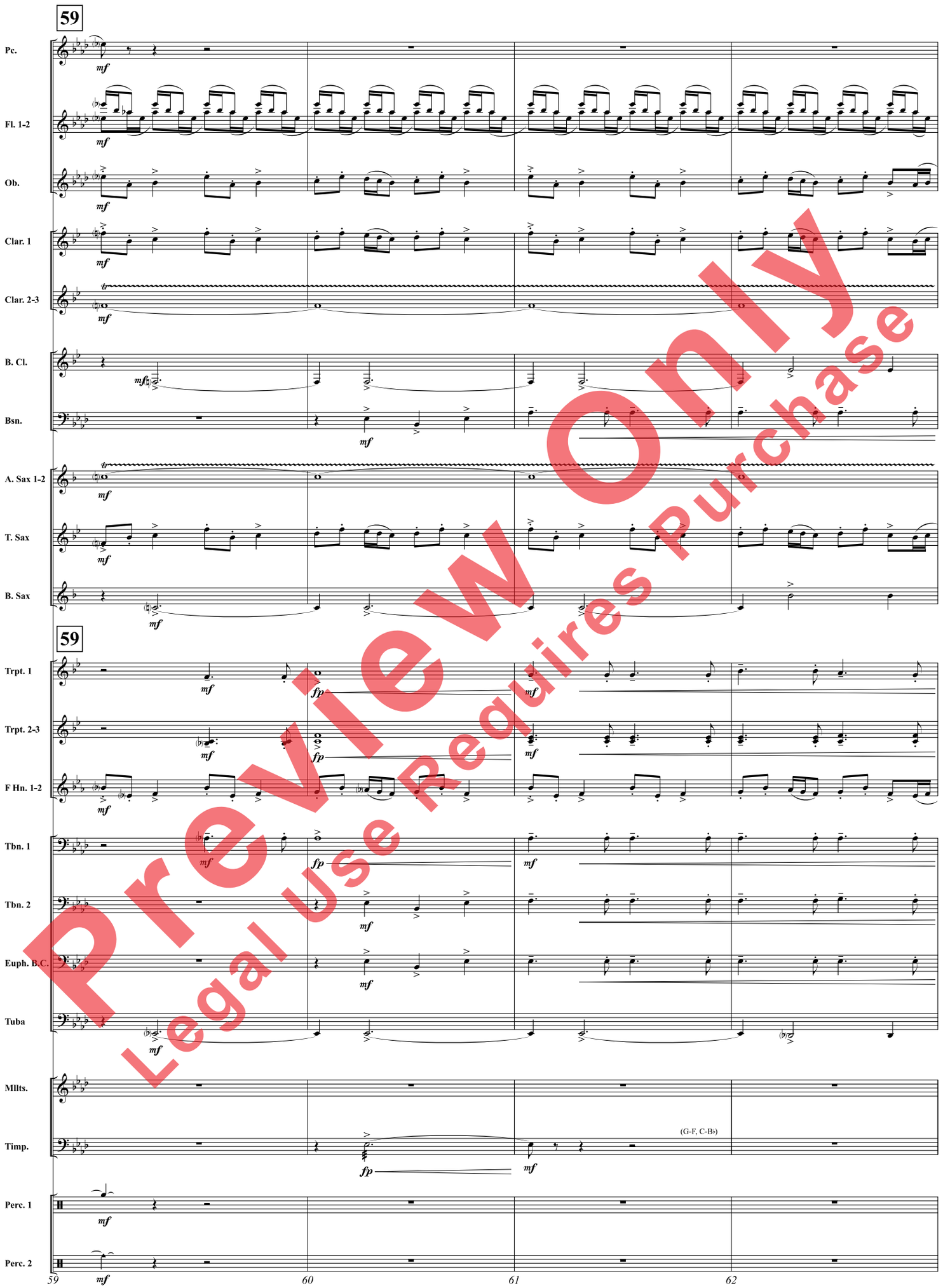

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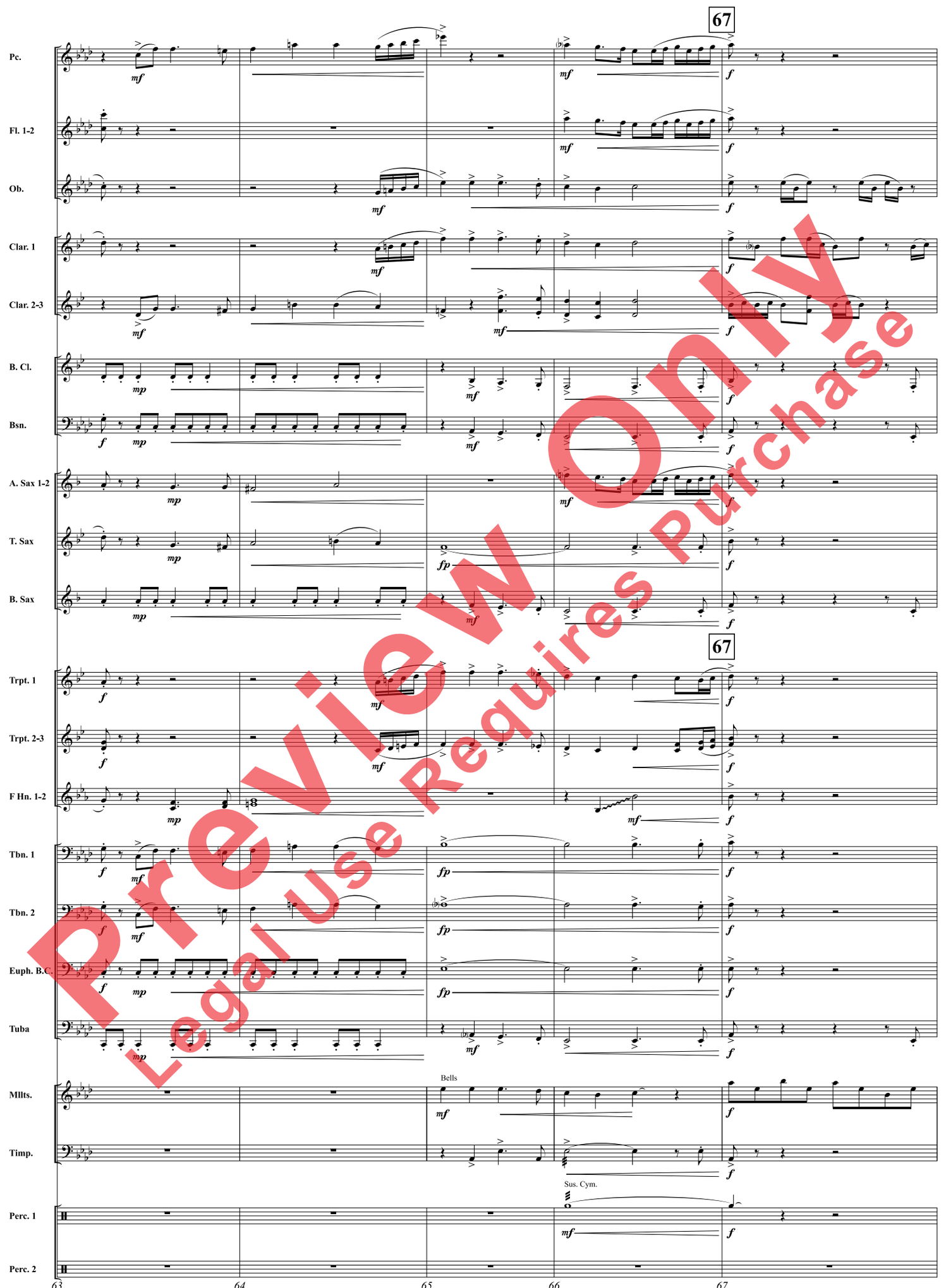

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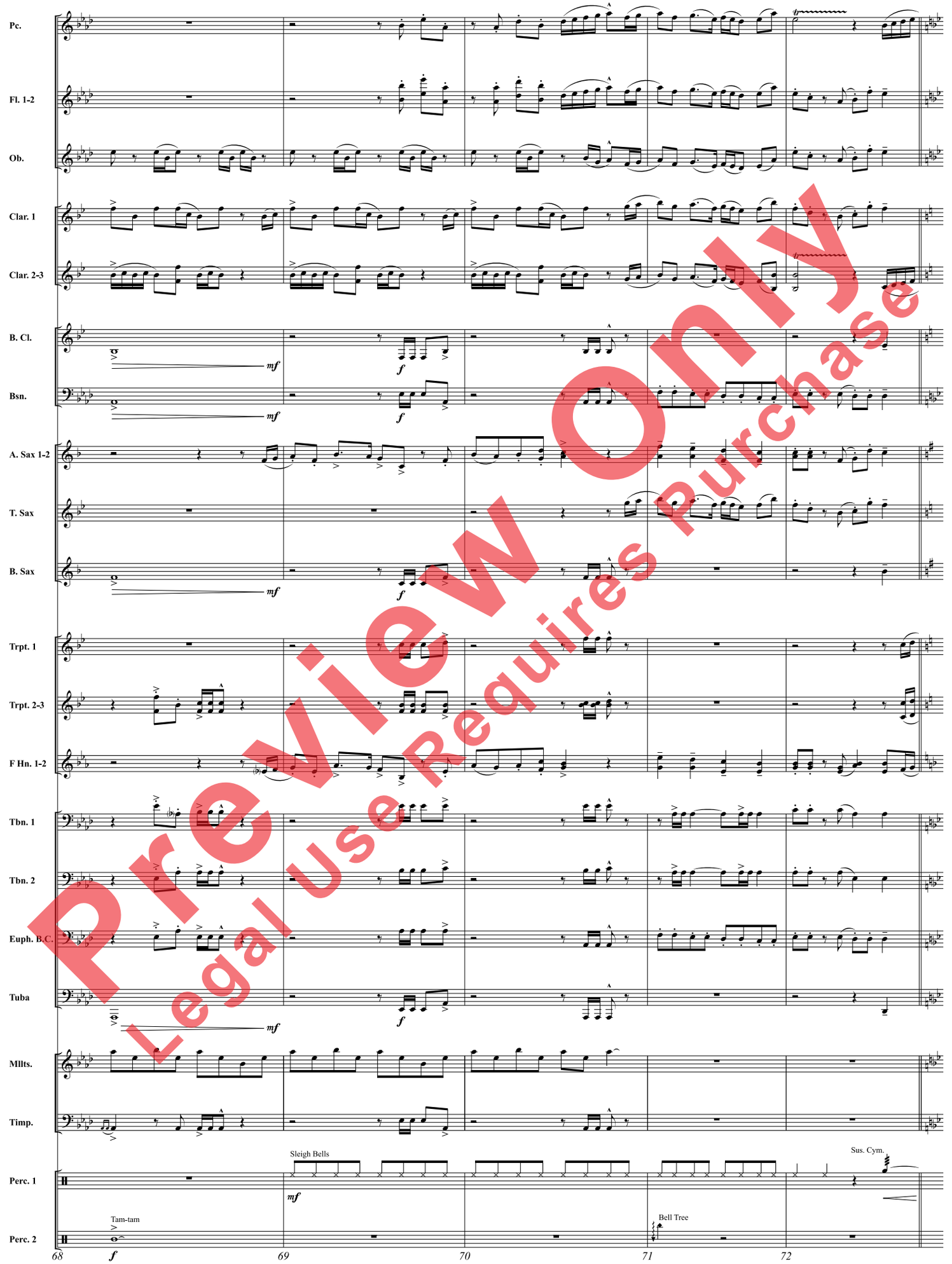

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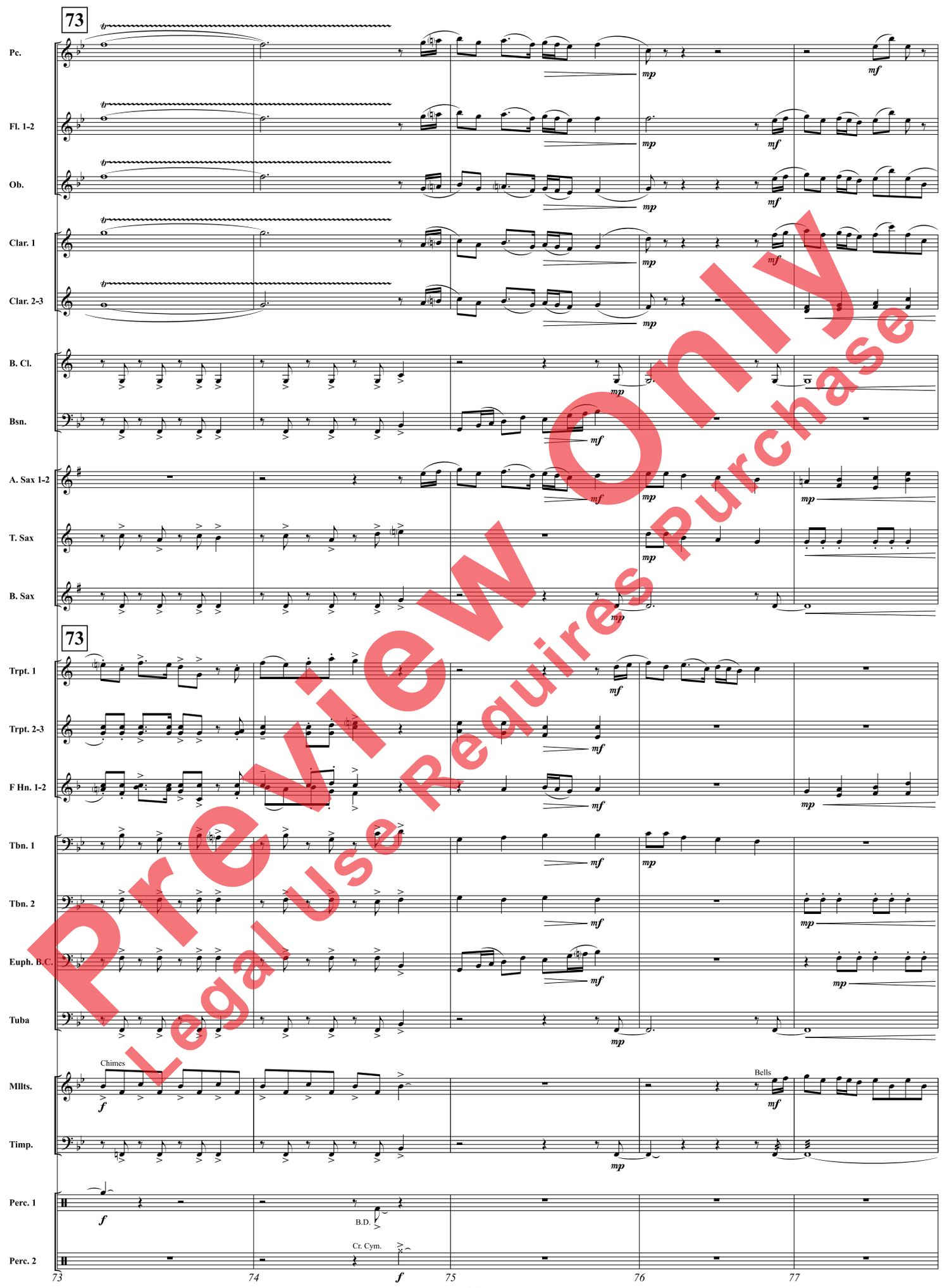

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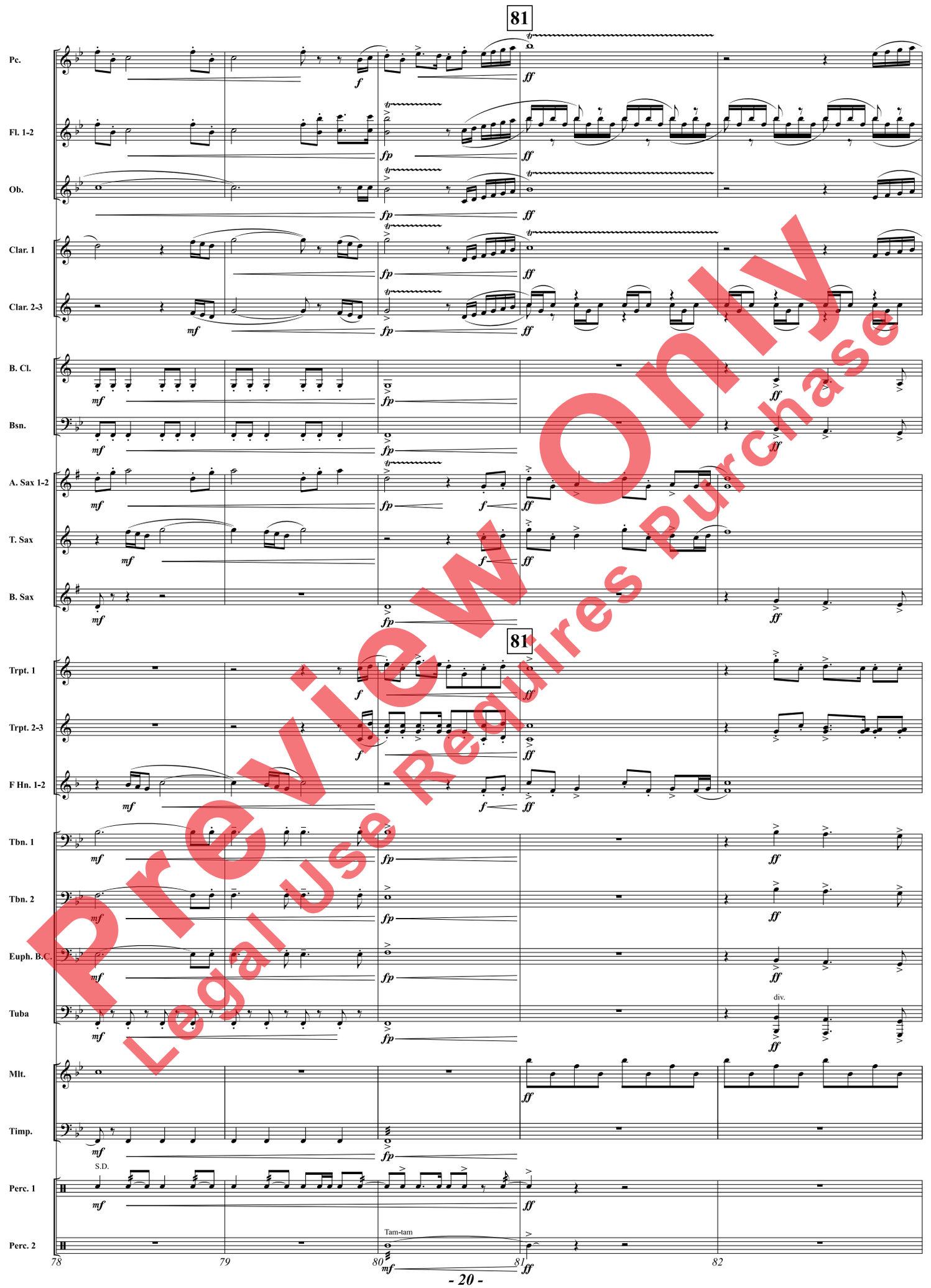

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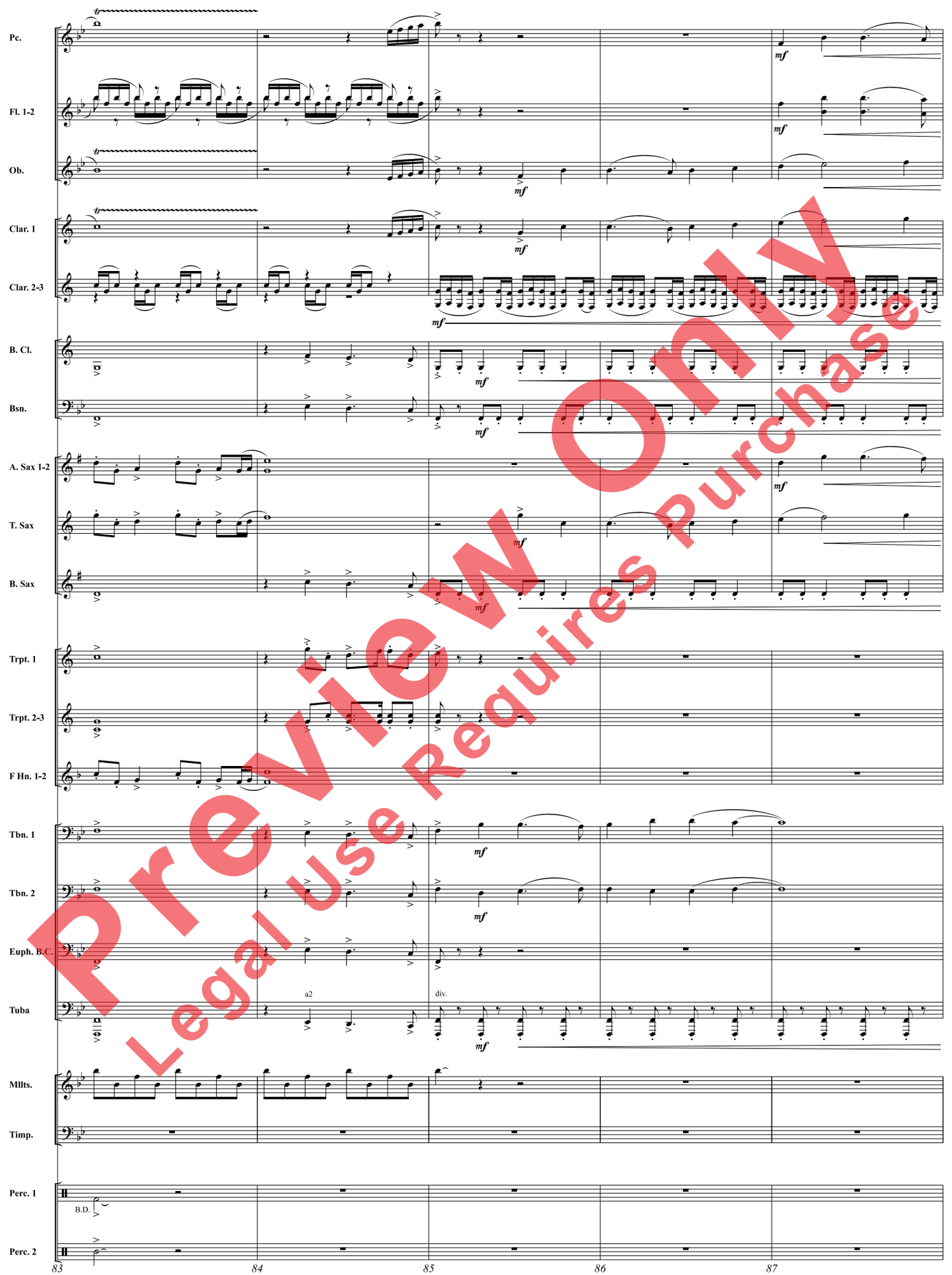

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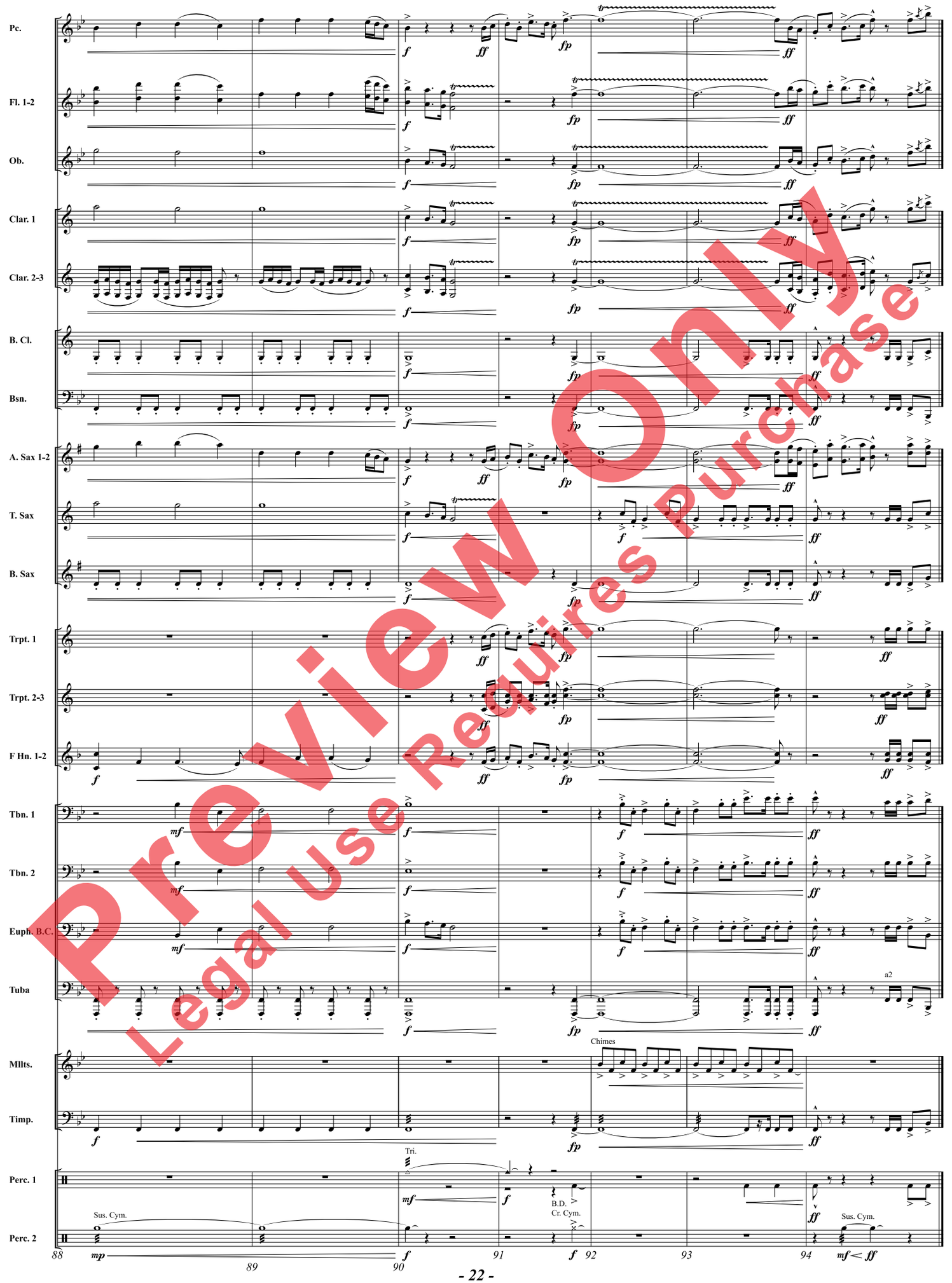

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