The Gershwin Mallet Collection

(5 Classics Arranged for Marimba and Vibraphone)

Music by George Gershwin®

Arranged by Anders Åstrand

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Preface

Many years ago I heard a piano roll of George Gershwin playing, and it was very inspiring! It was a nice mixture of a classical virtuoso playing with a "jazzy" approach. This experience, combined with my passion for the mallet instruments and all the possibilities available with four-mallet playing, inspired me to arrange five of Gershwin's classics for this collection.

In writing these arrangements, it occurred to me that these tunes are usually played by musicians who have a background in improvisation. With that in mind, my idea was to give those with limited improvisational experience the opportunity of playing the melody using chords, and a bass line played on marimba. To enhance the performance of these pieces, I suggest using medium-soft mallets for the marimba part, and medium-hard mallets for the vibraphone part. Feel free to incorporate the use of the motor.

Enjoy!

Anders Åstrand

About the Arrangements

'S Wonderful — This piece utilizes an easy ostinato pattern on the marimba (in a classical style) before moving to a Latin feel on the bridge and vibe solo.

I Got Rhythm — On this particular tune, the marimba functions as the bass player, while the vibraphone plays some variations on the melody. There is also a combined, simple melody idea in the middle of the tune.

They Can't Take That Away from Me — After improvising around the melody of the tune, I settle into a slow Latin feel. Once again, the marimba functions as the bass part, while the vibraphone plays some variations on the melody.

Summertime — Because this is one of the most arranged tunes of all time, it was a challenge for me to do something unique. In this particular arrangement, I switched the role of the marimba and vibes, and came up with the underlying use of triplets, which reminds me of a Bolero feel.

Oh, Lady Be Good — This piece actually started out as a vibe solo. After listening to it, I decided to add the marimba accompaniment to create an arrangement with a funky groove.

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'S Wonderful

Music and Lyrics by
GEORGE GERSHWIN and IRA GERSHWIN
Arranged by Anders Åstrand

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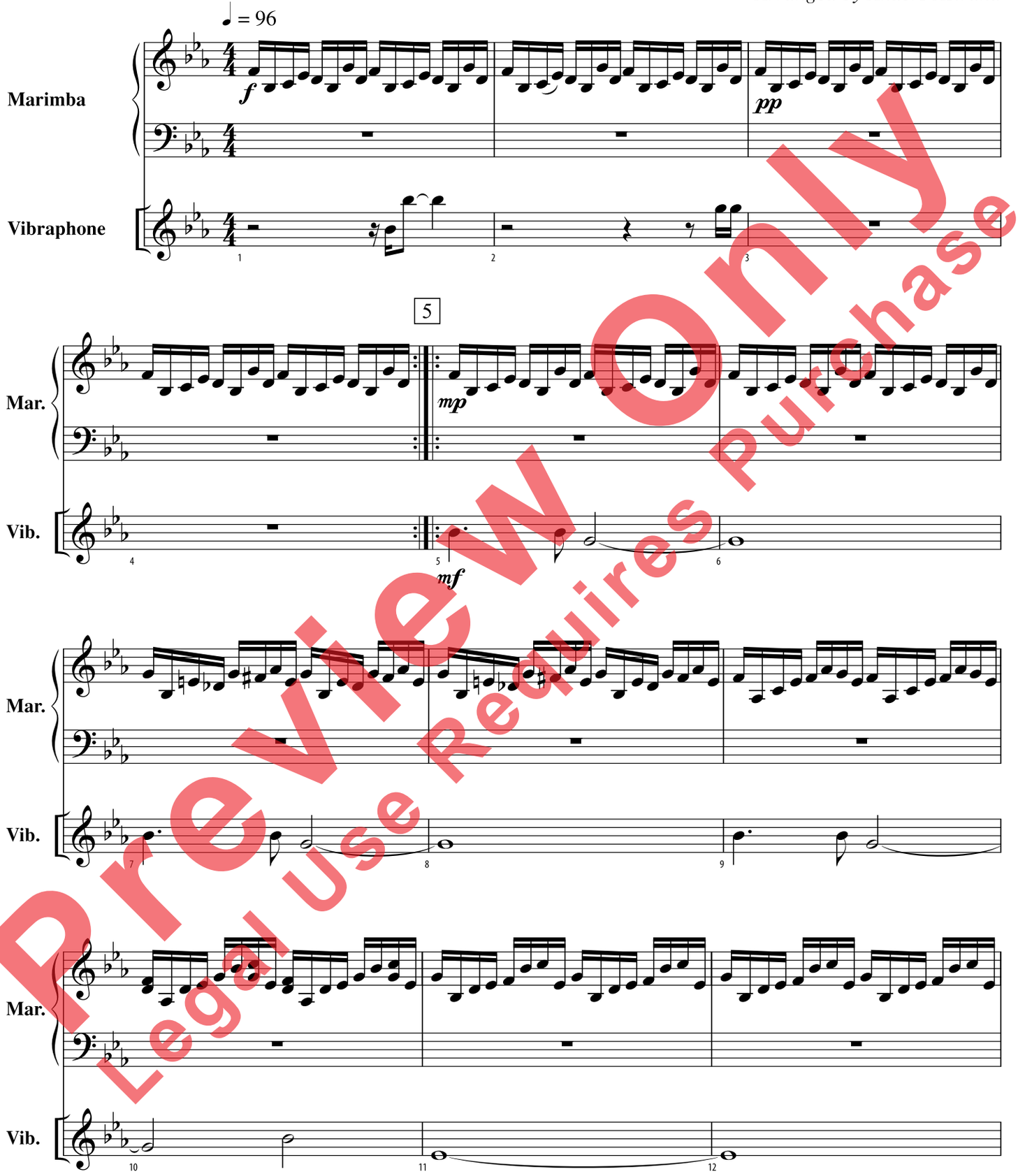

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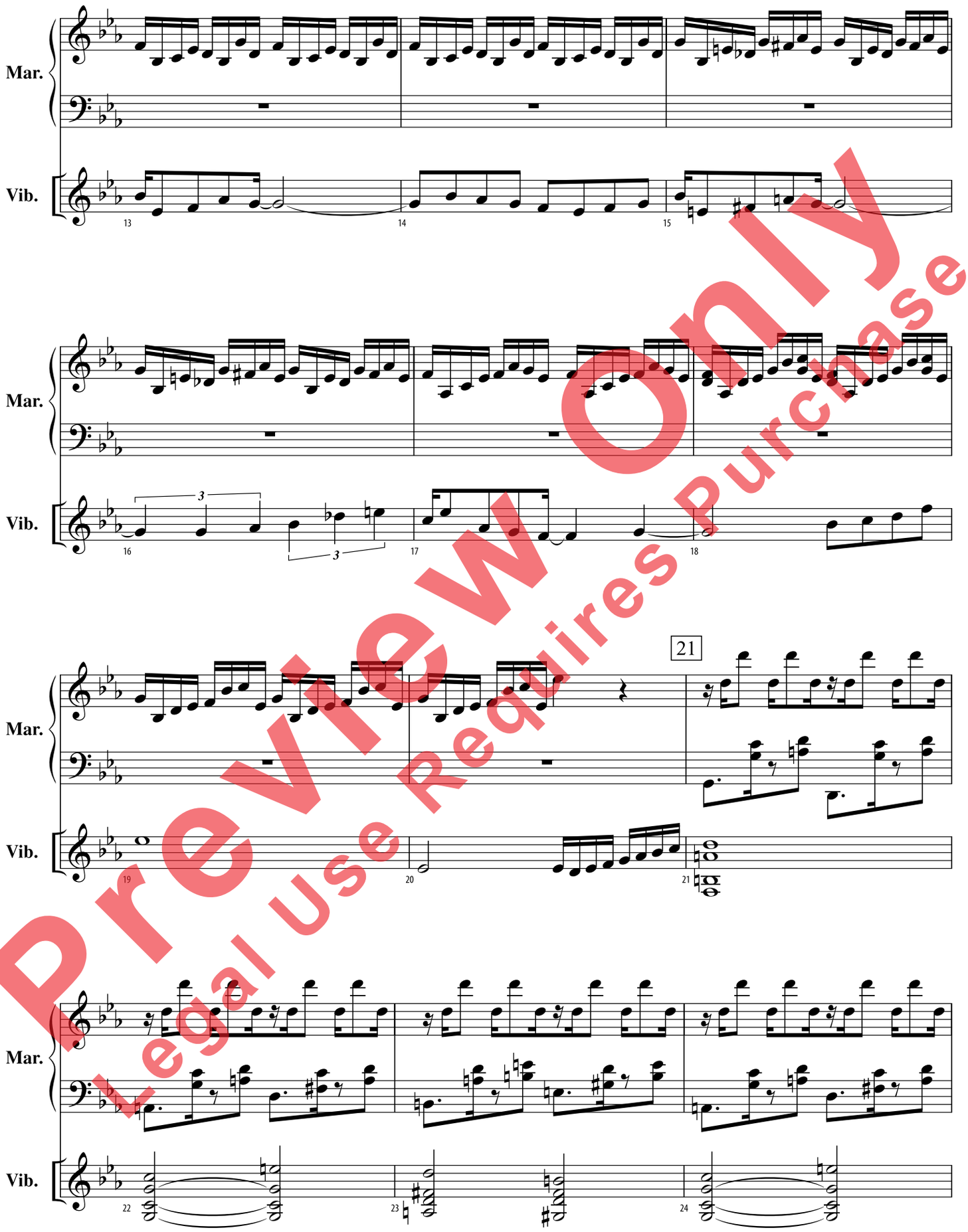

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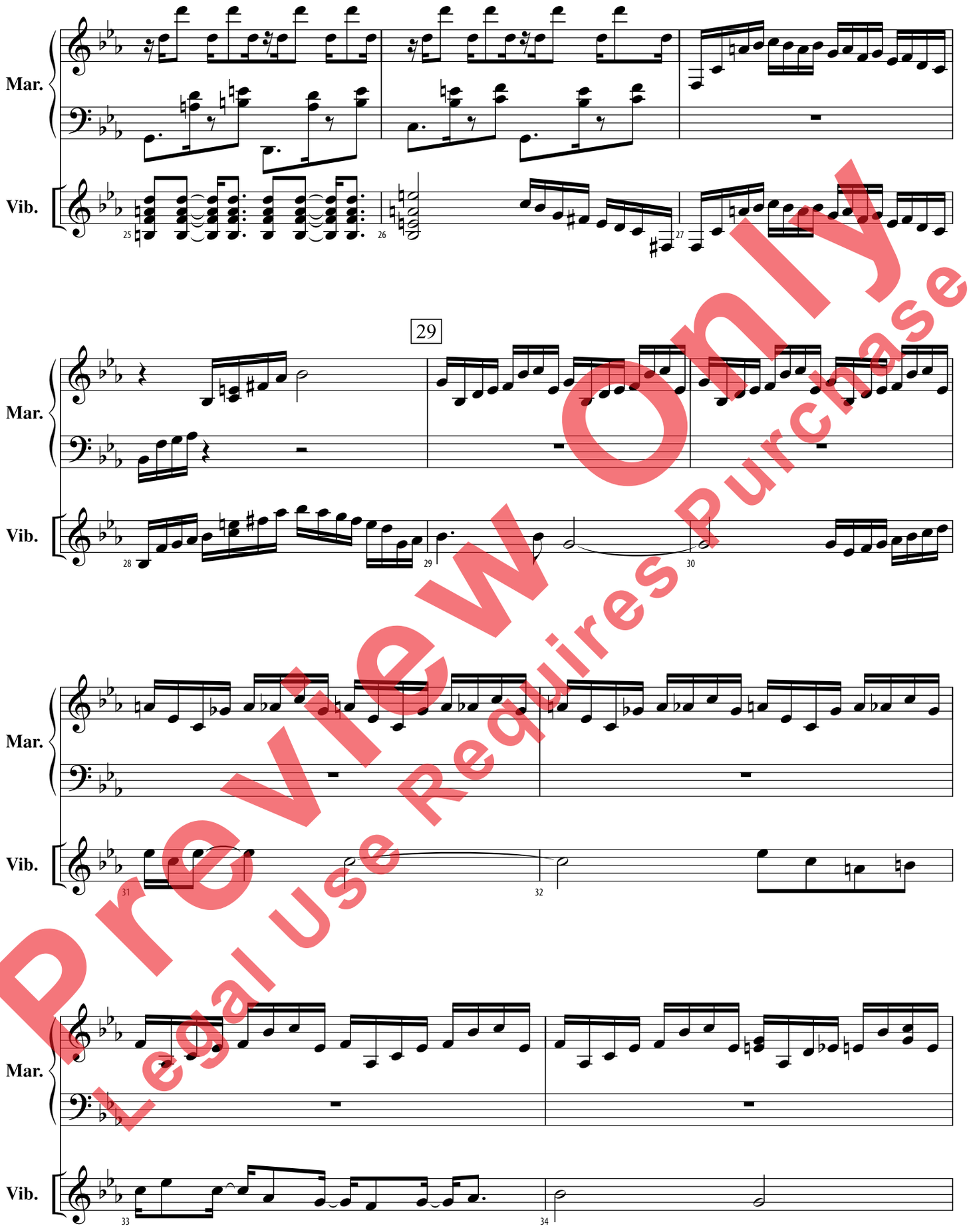

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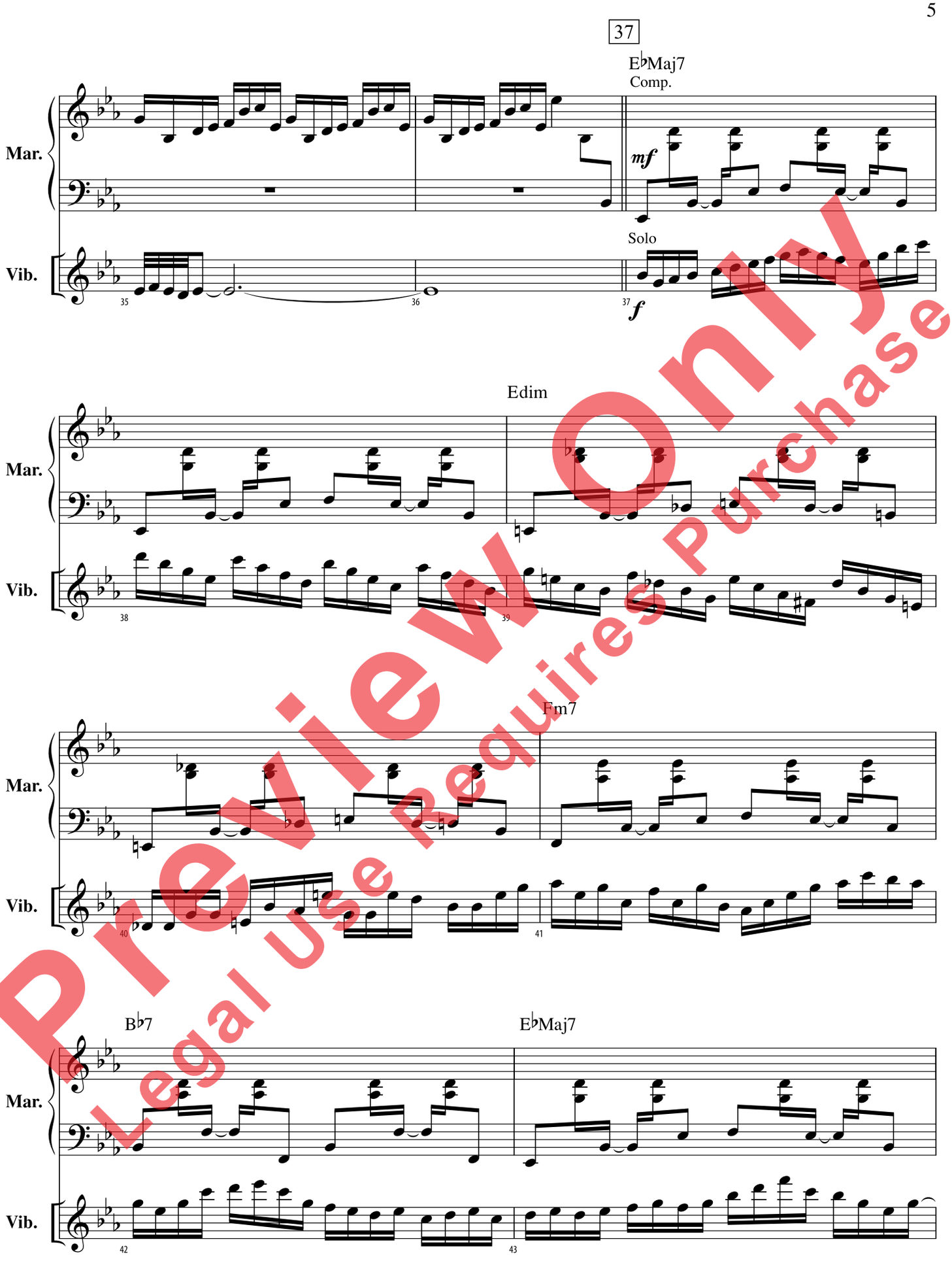

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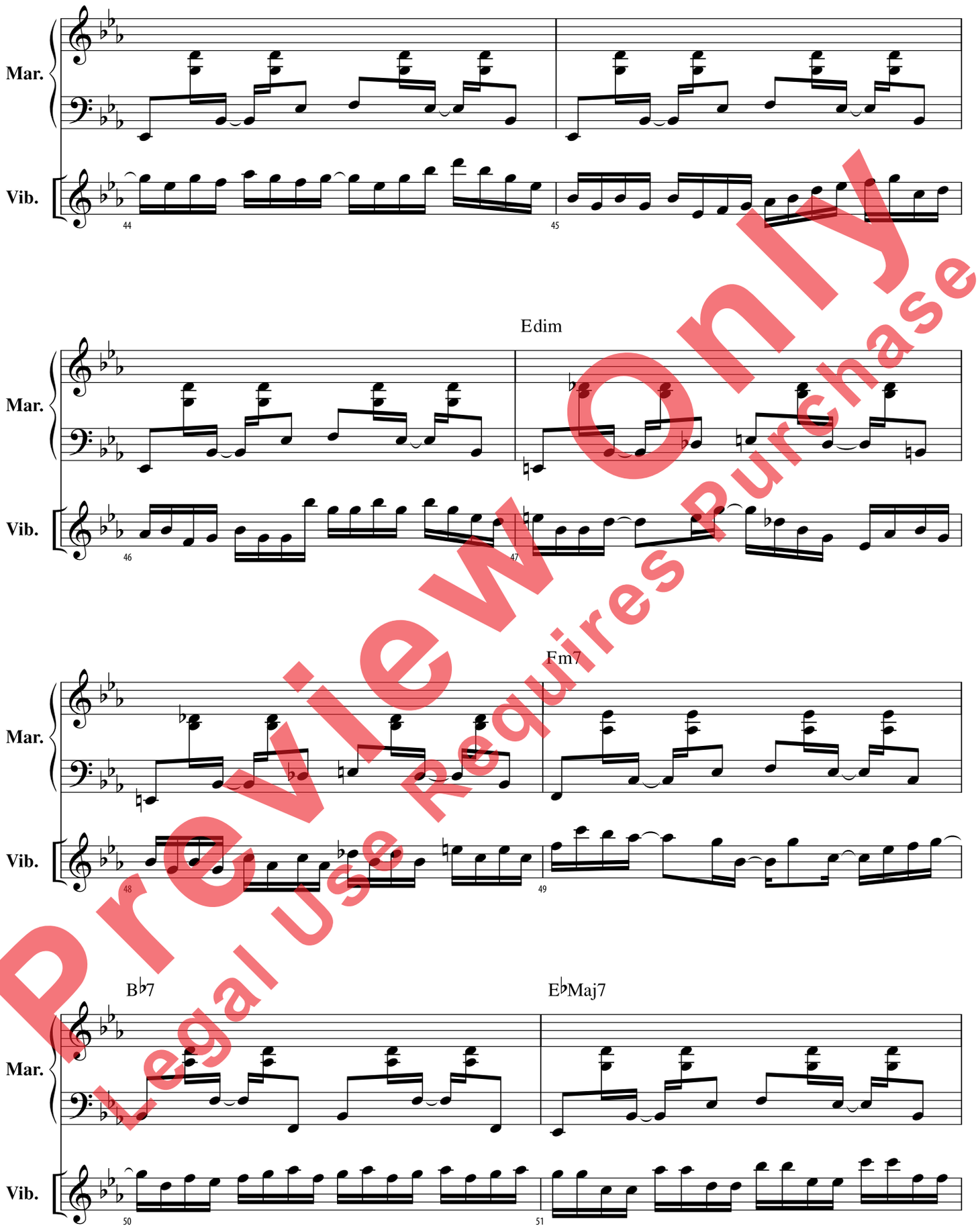

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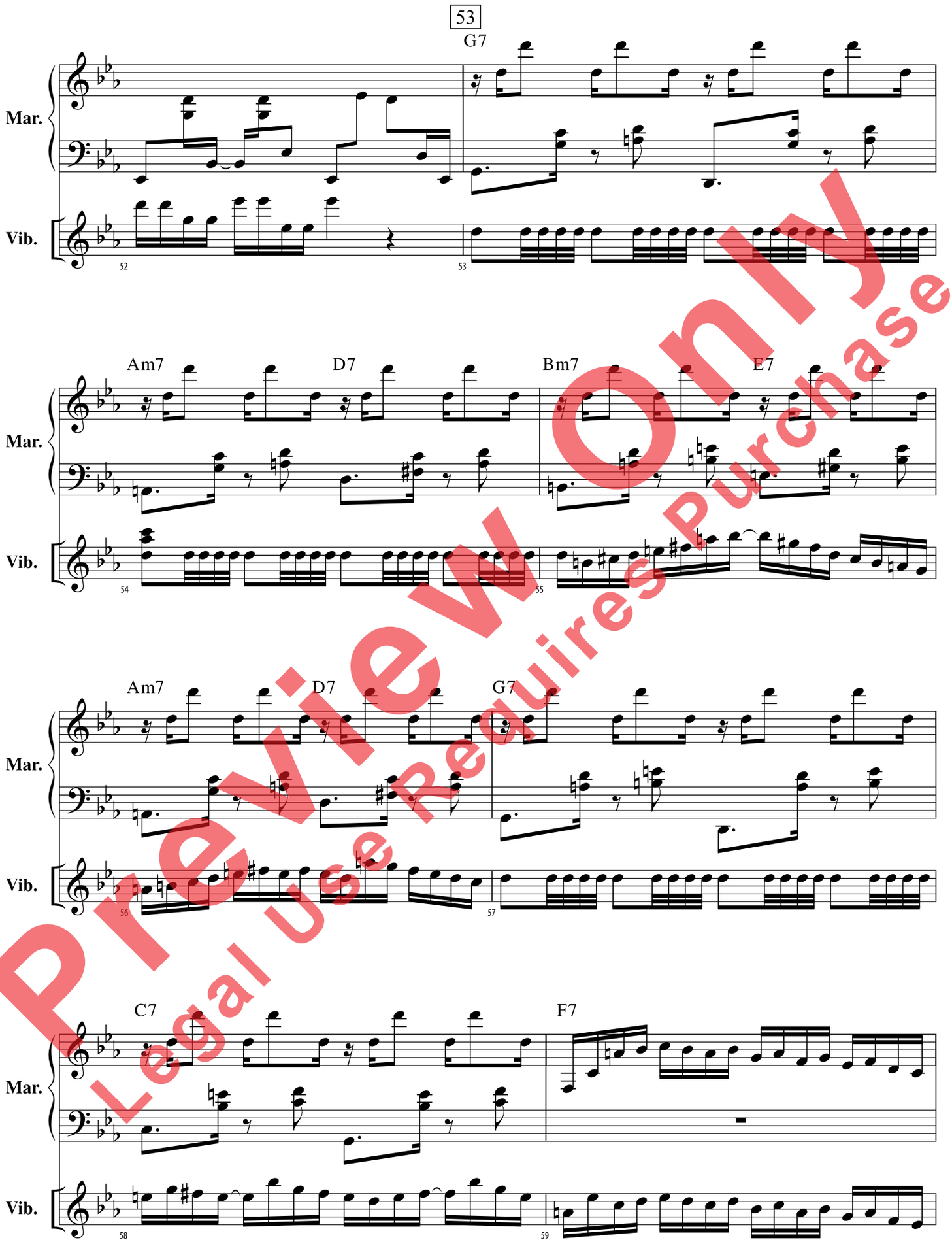

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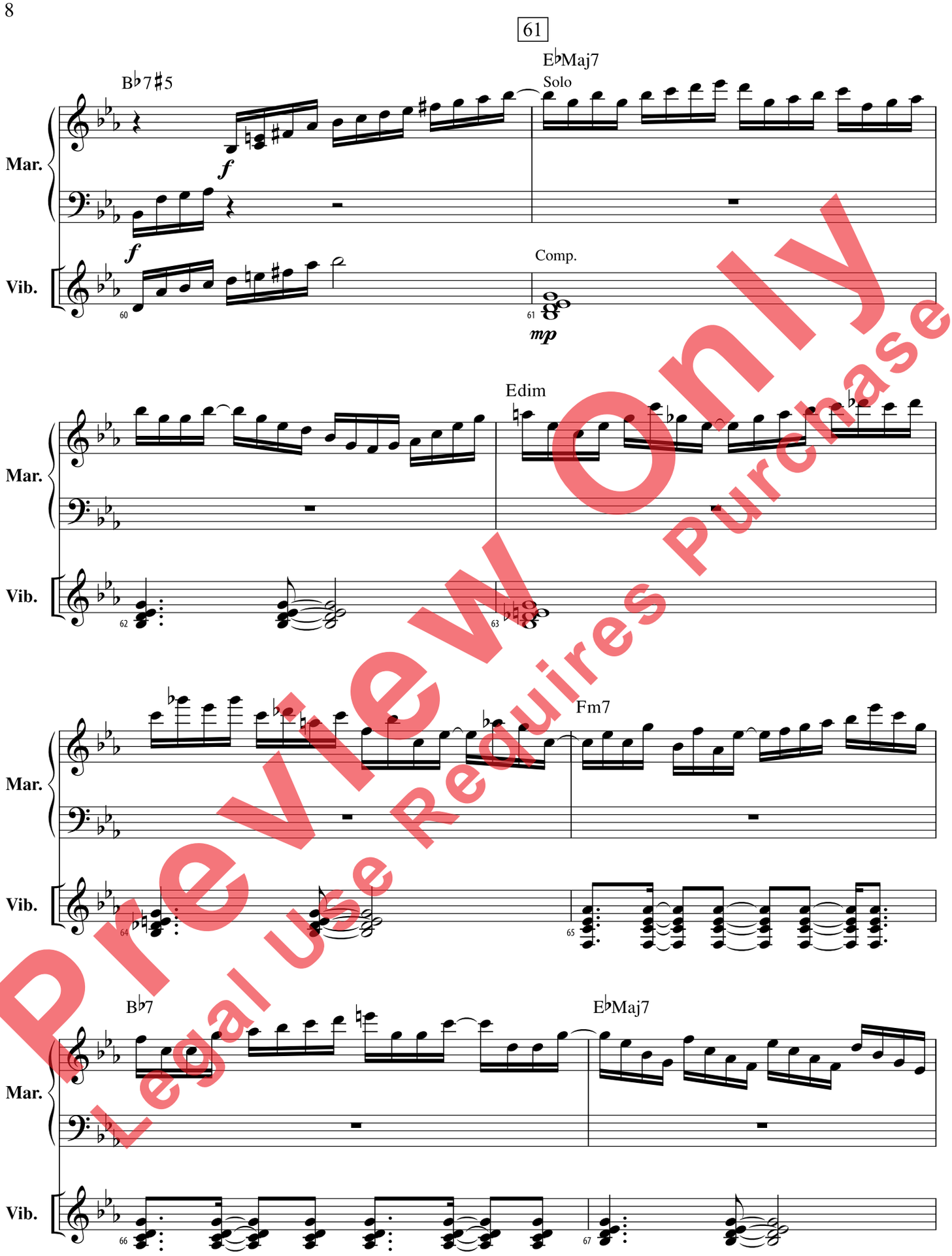

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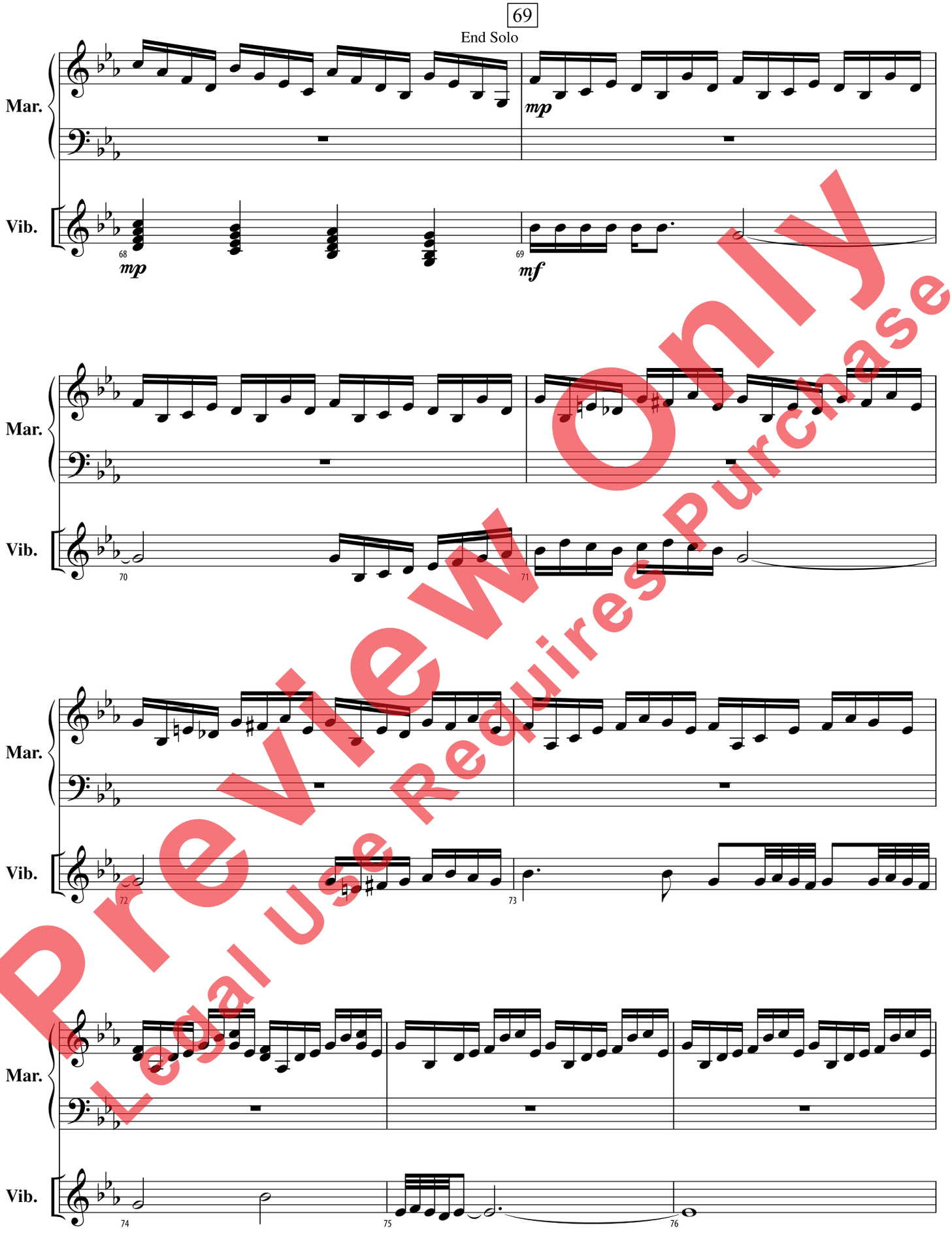

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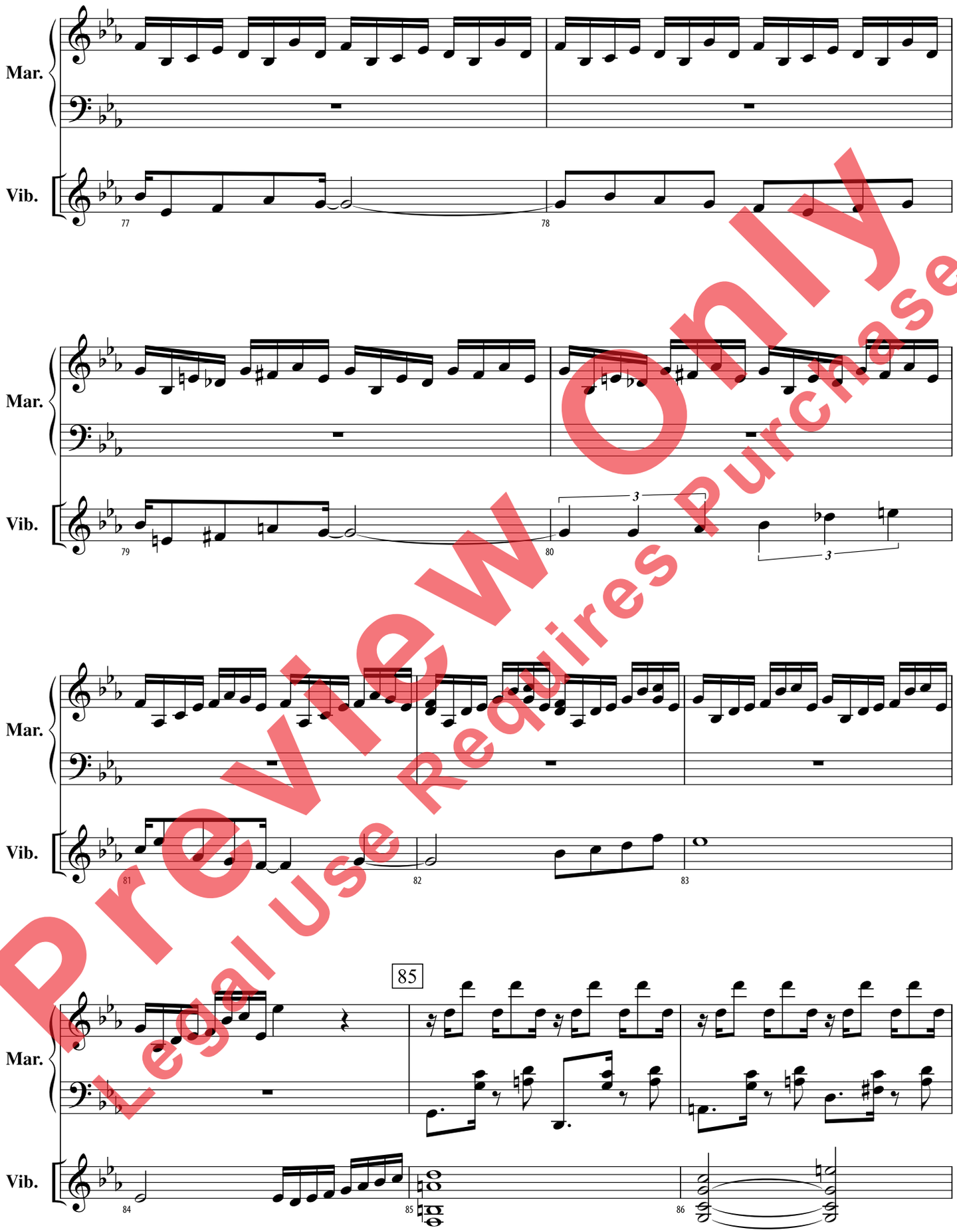

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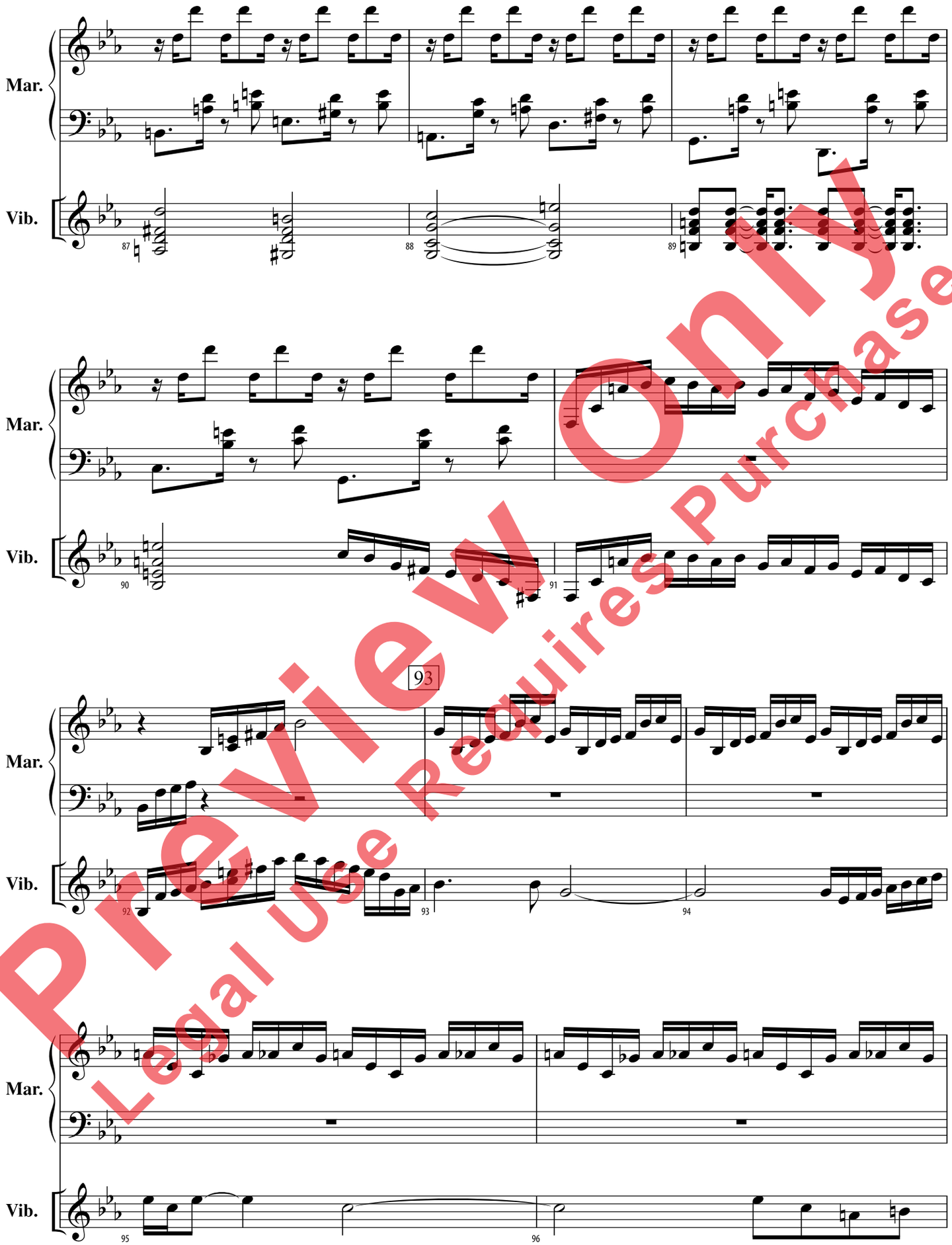

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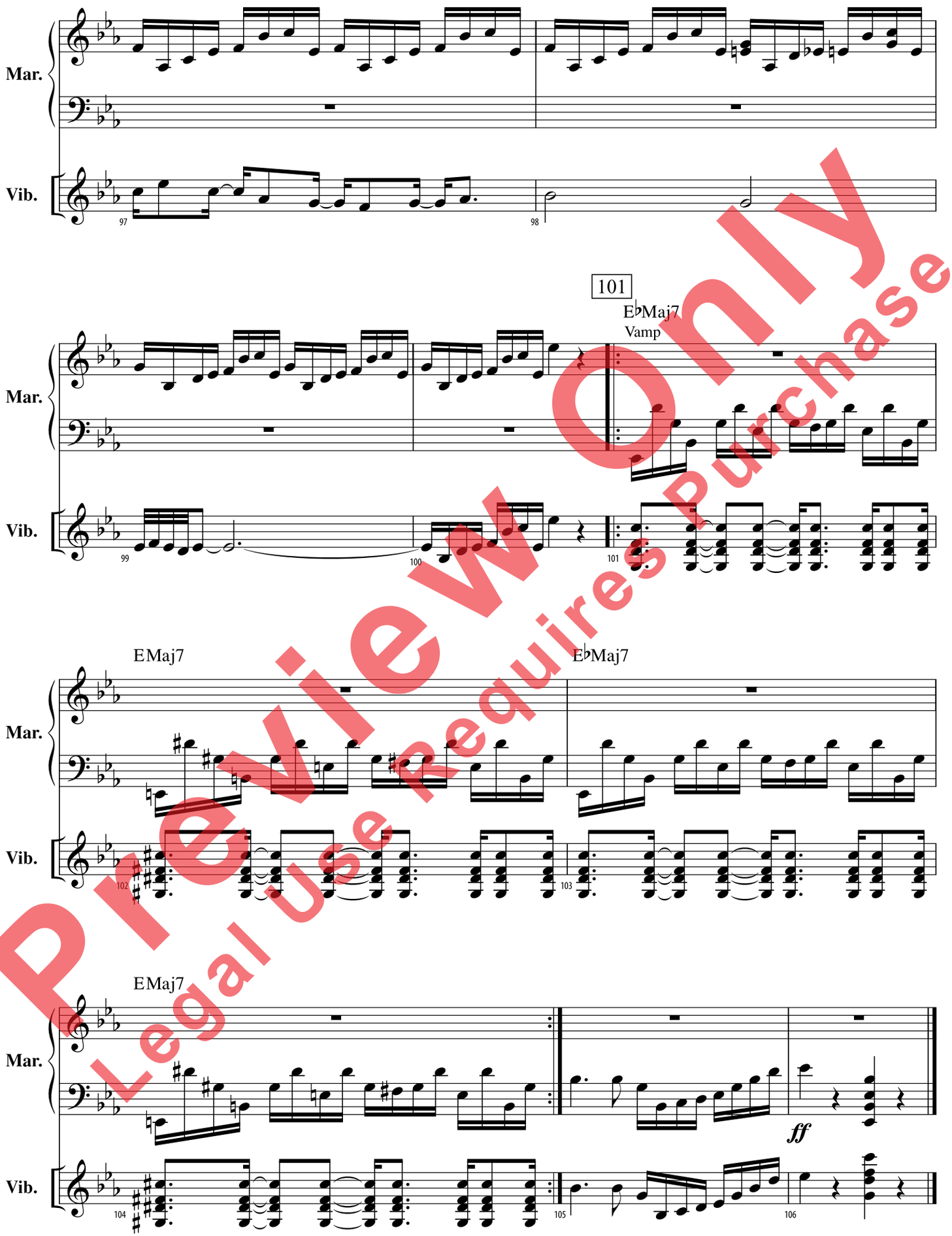

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I Got Rhythm

Music and Lyrics by
GEORGE GERSHWIN and IRA GERSHWIN
Arranged by Anders Åstrand

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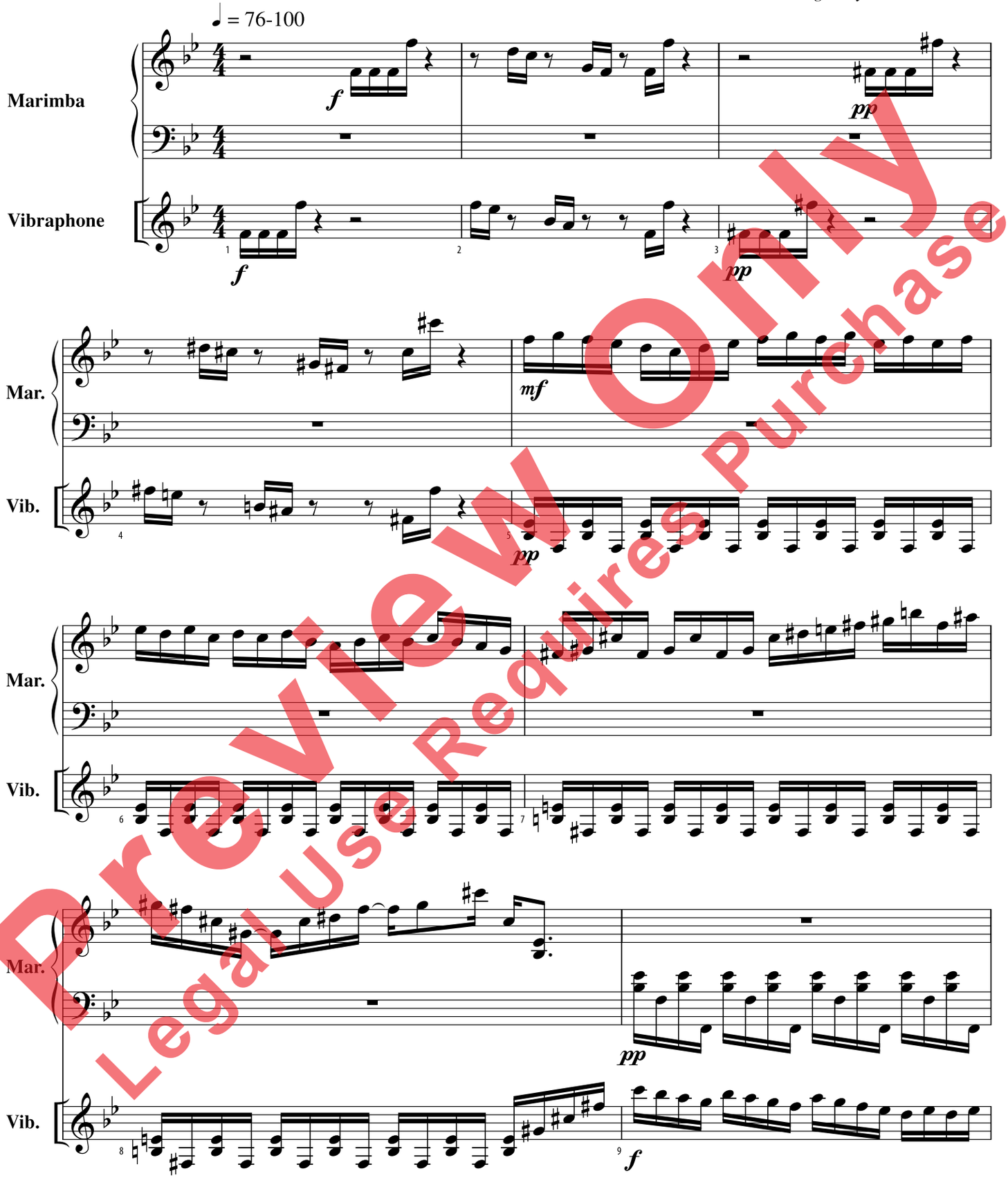

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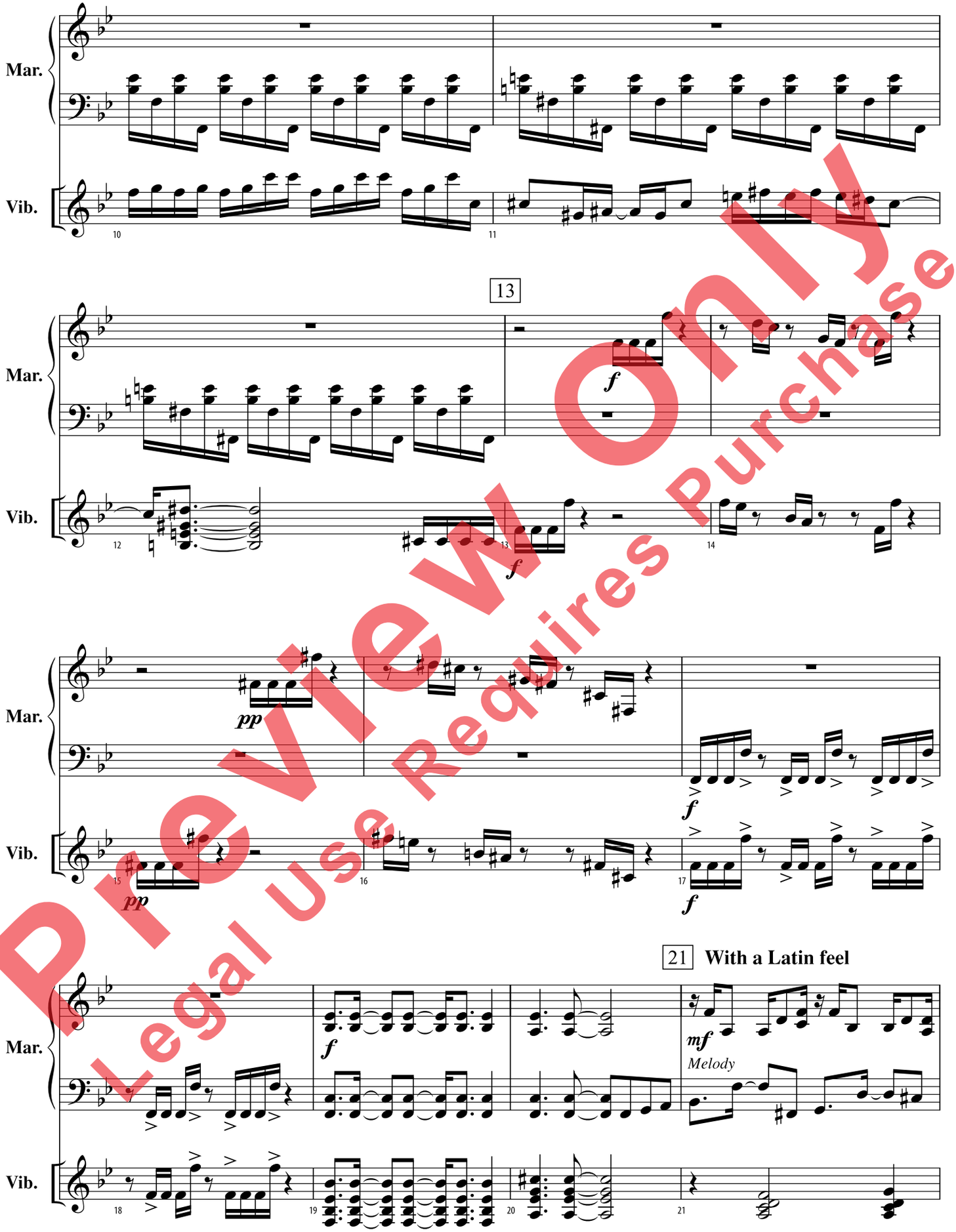

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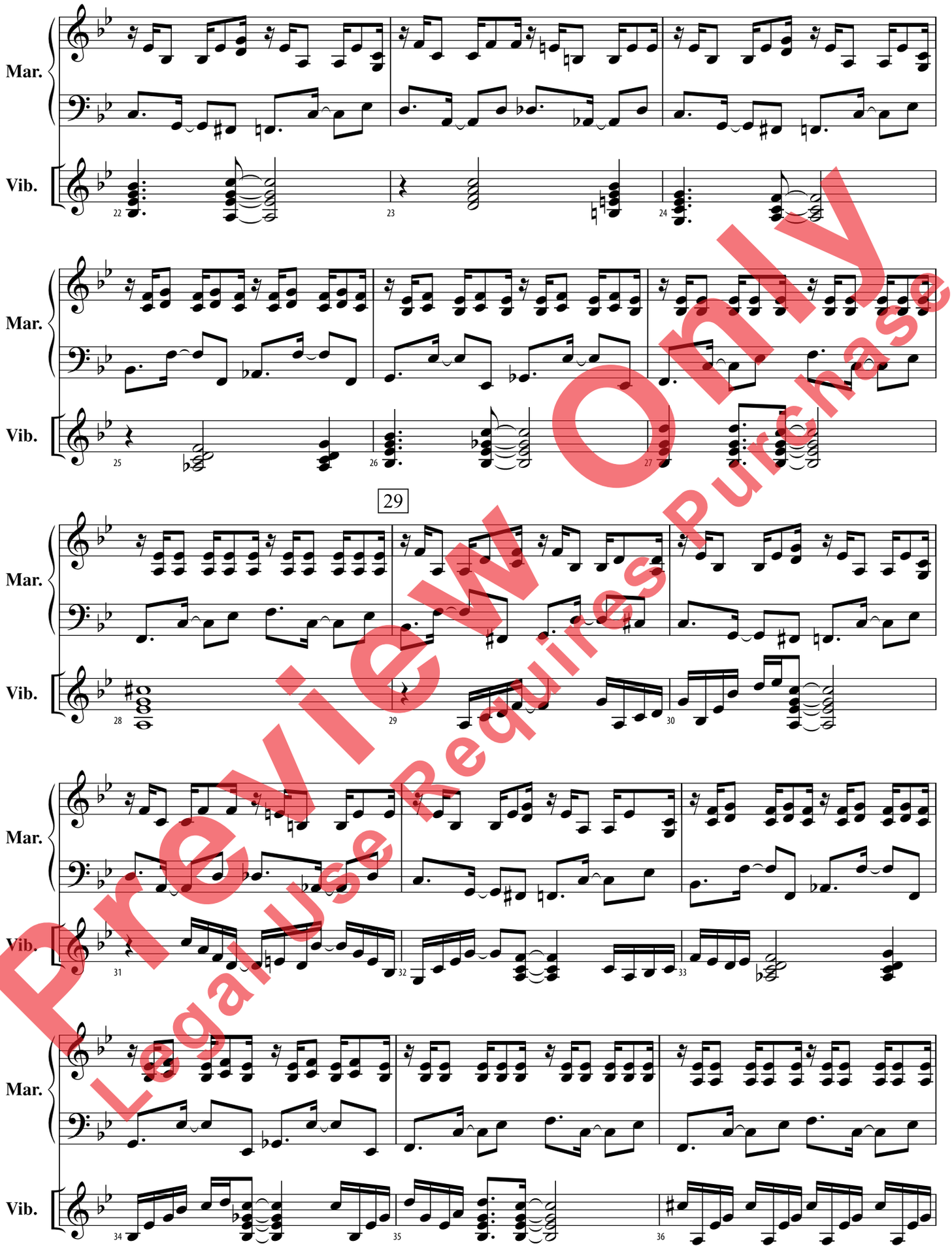

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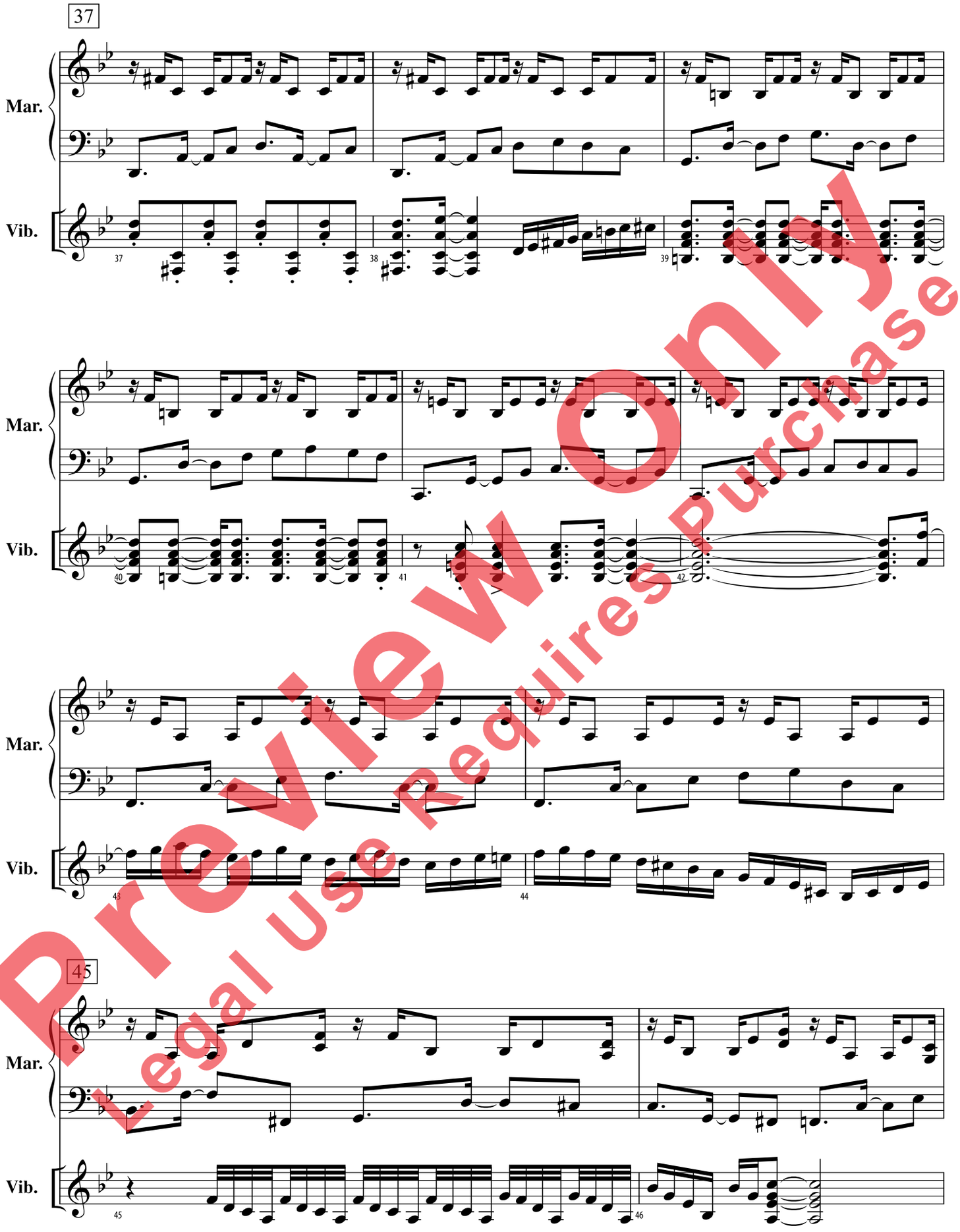

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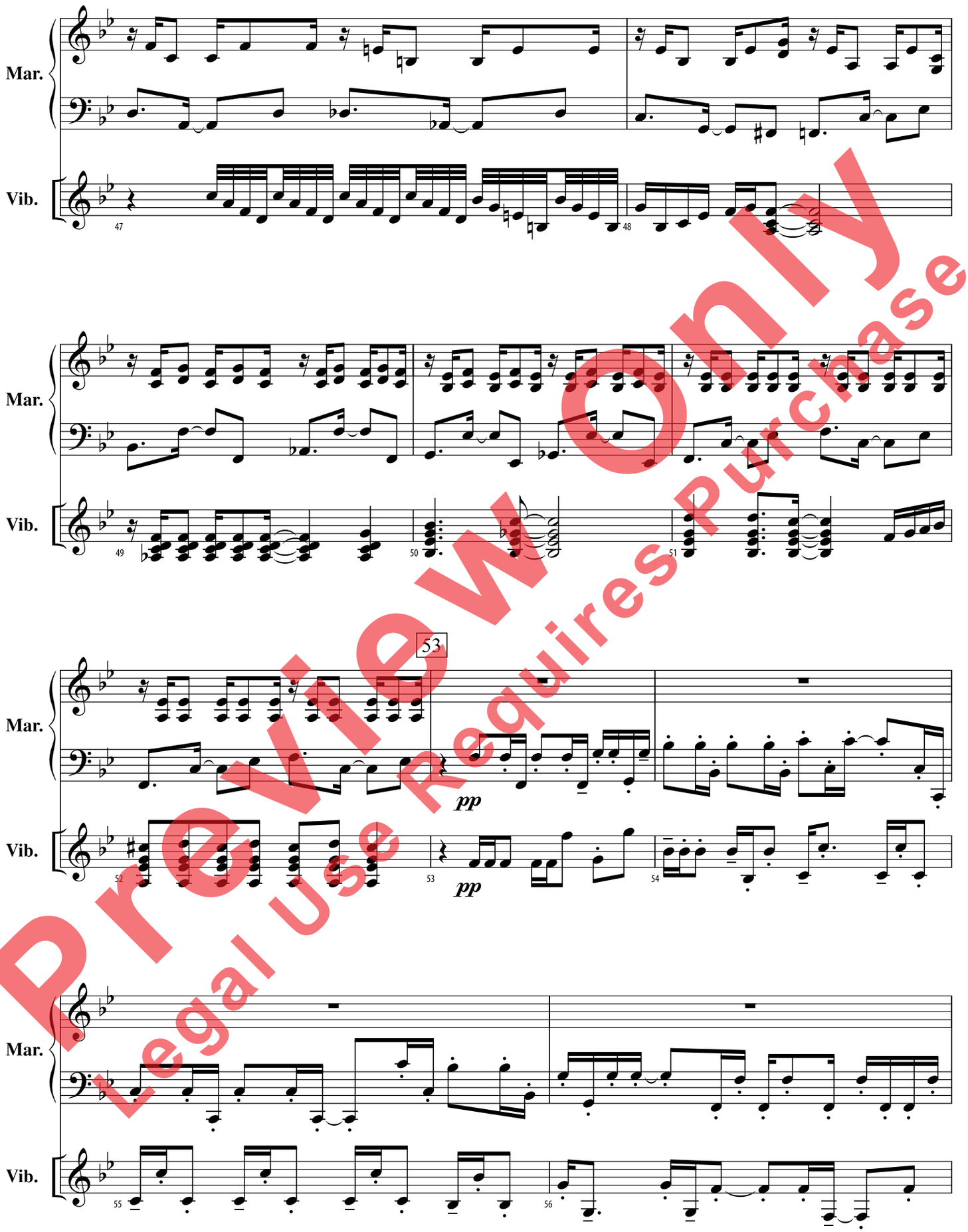

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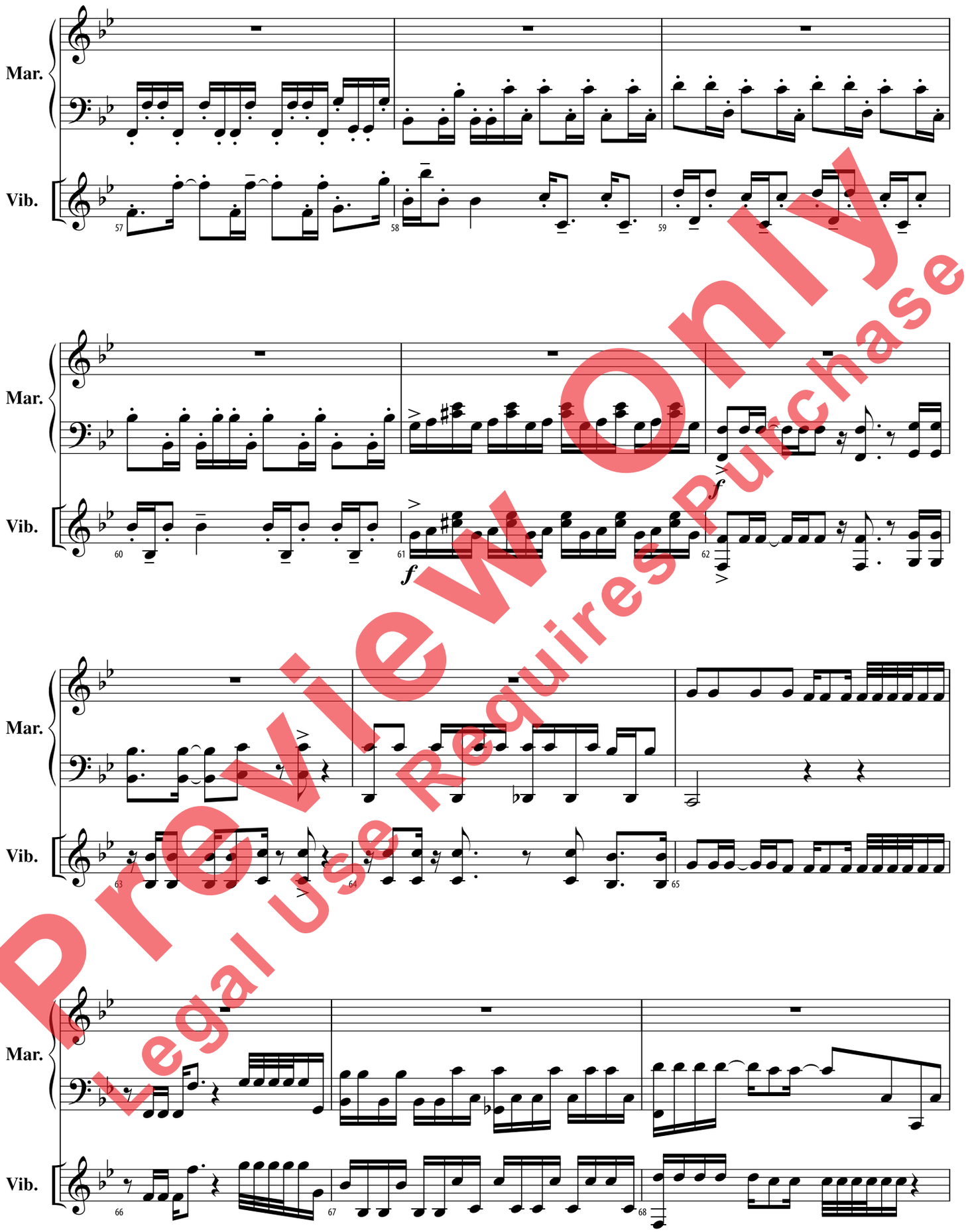

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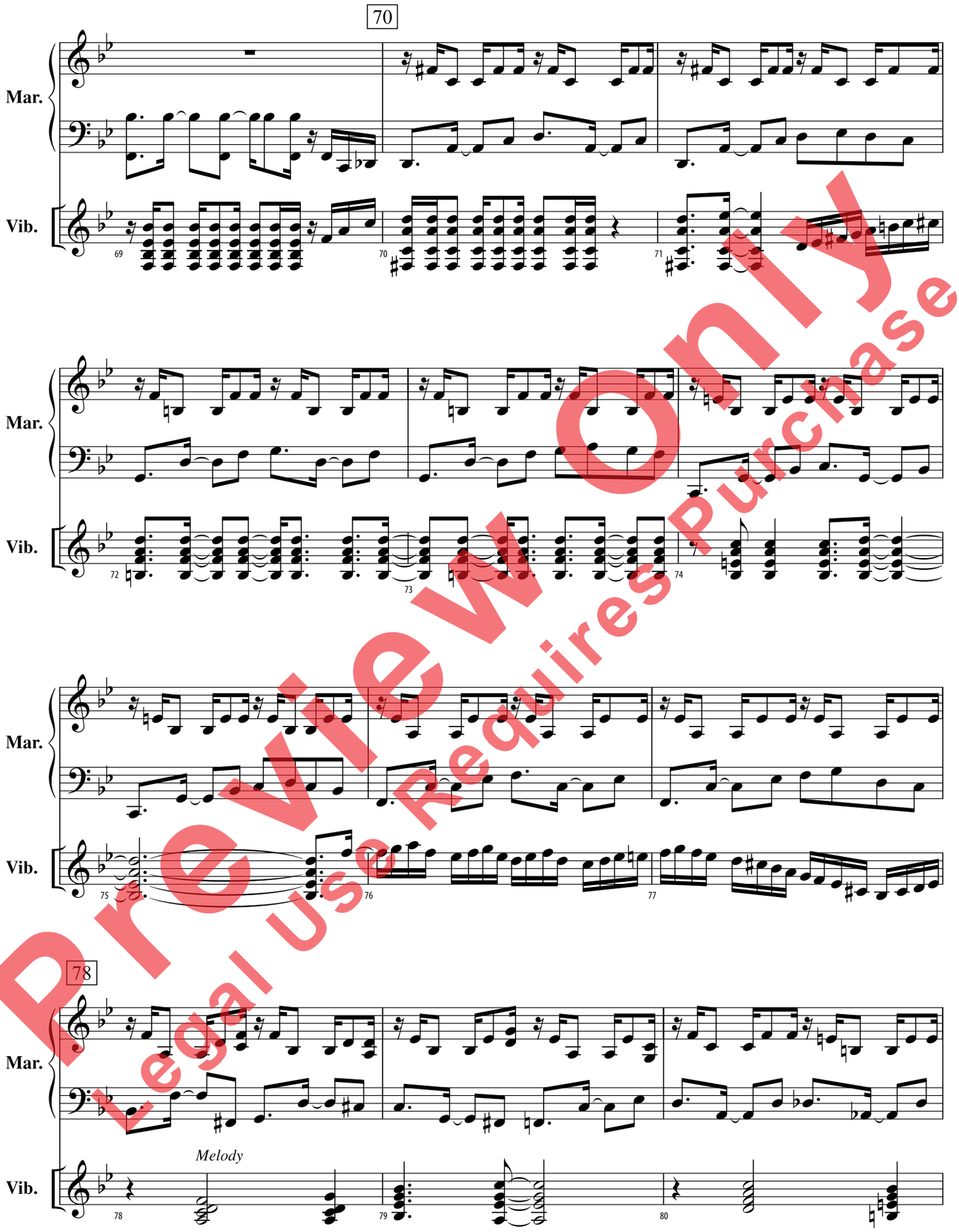

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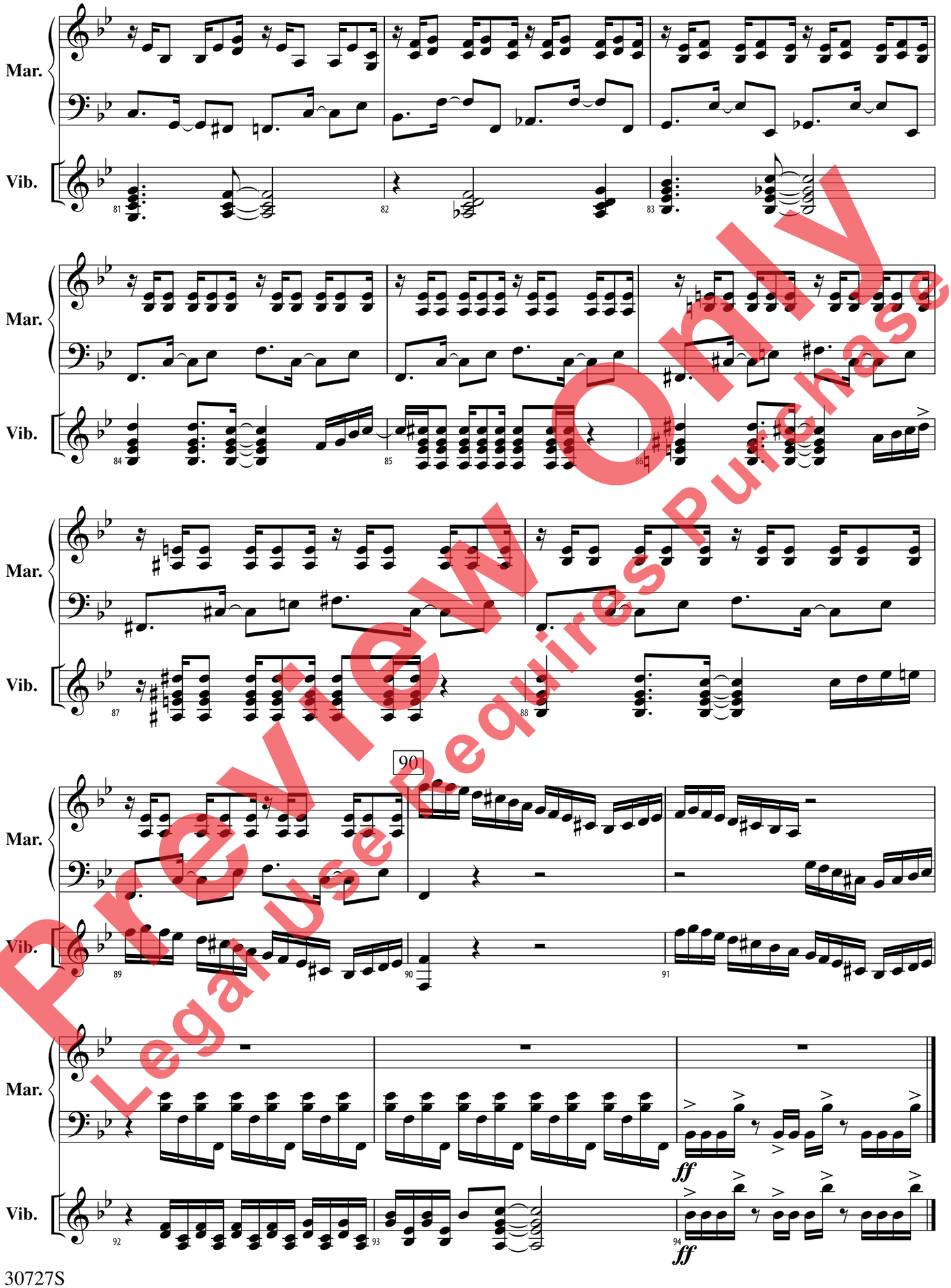

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They Can't Take That Away from Me

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GEORGE GERSHWIN and IRA GERSHWIN
Arranged by Anders Åstrand

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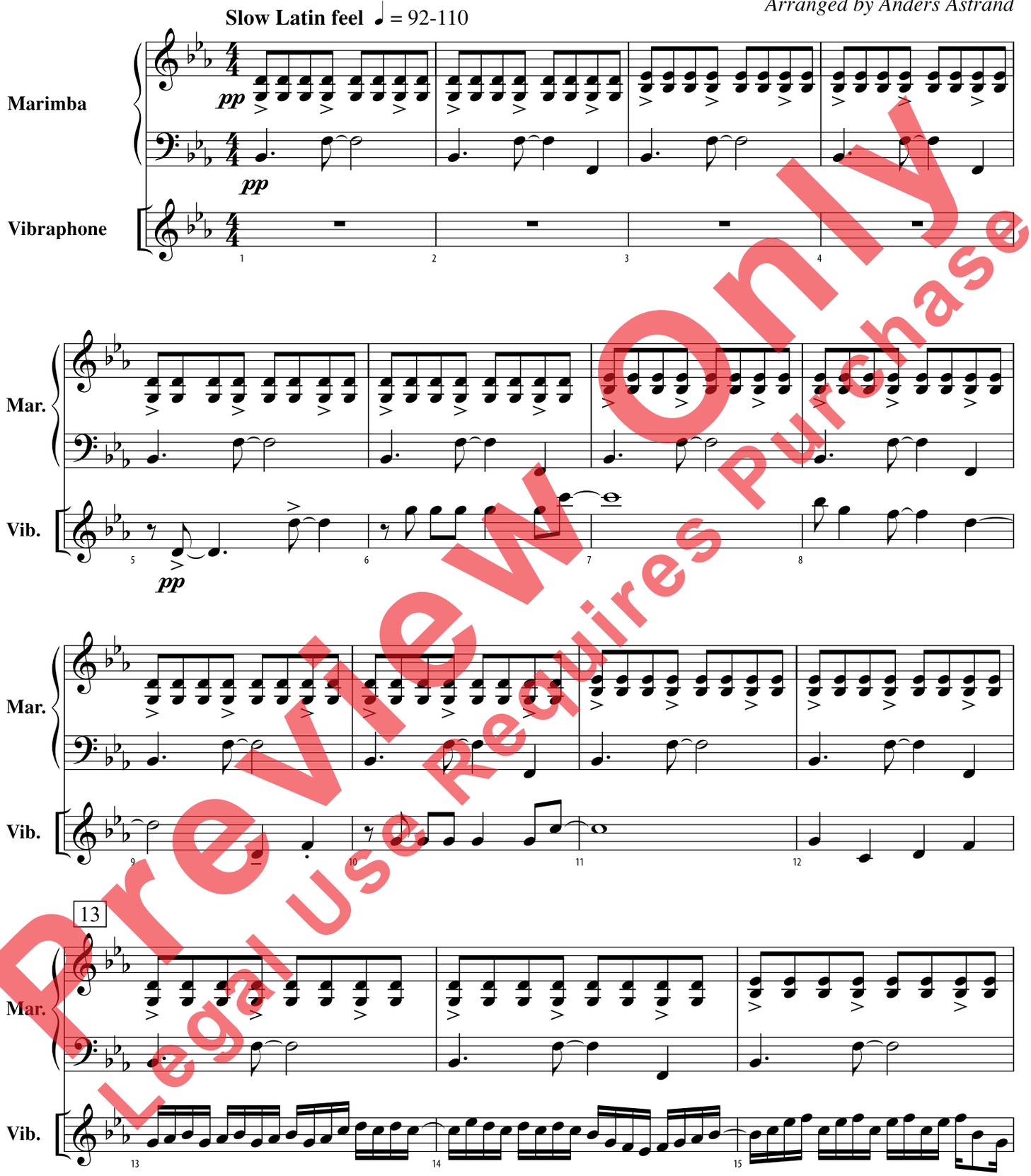

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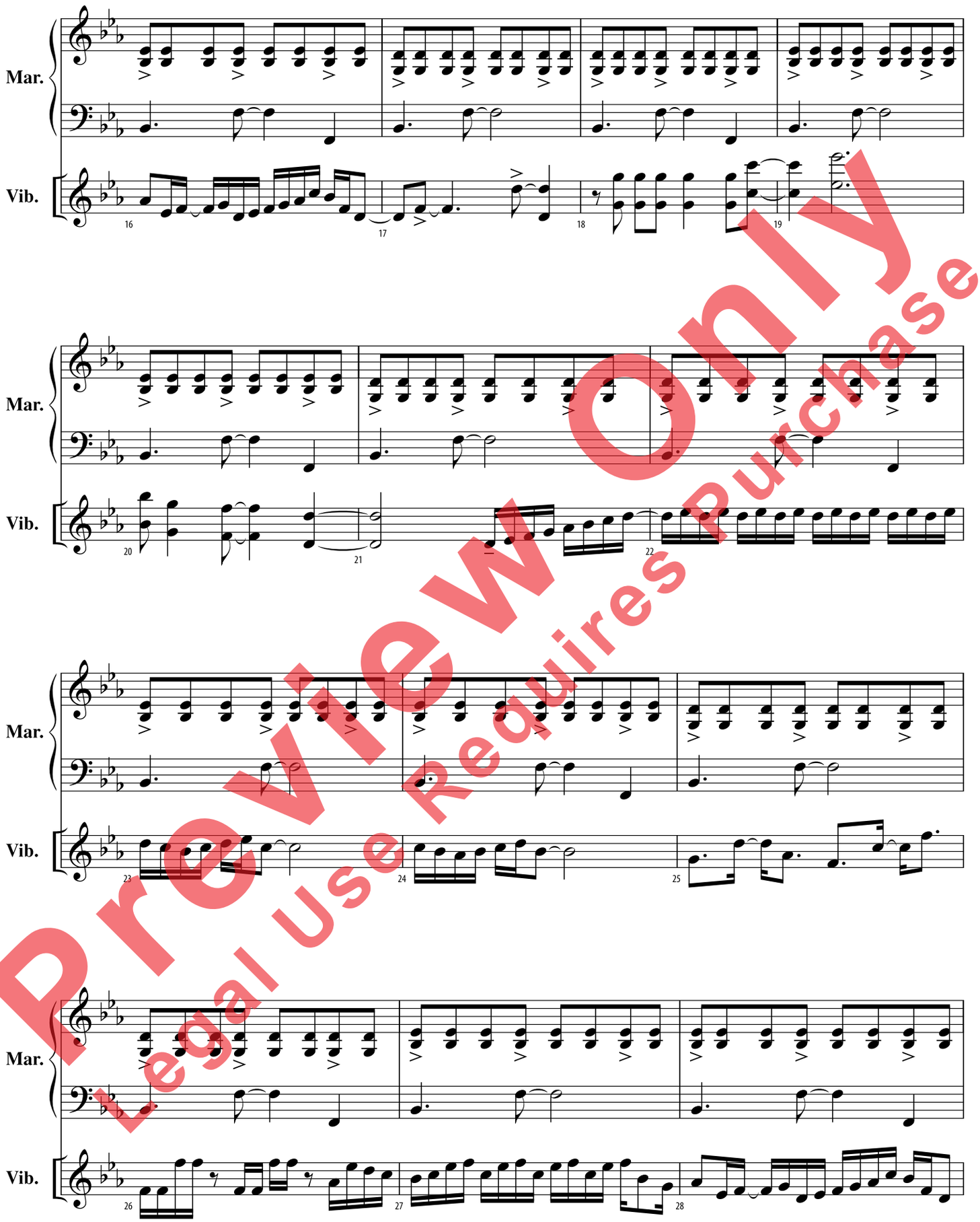

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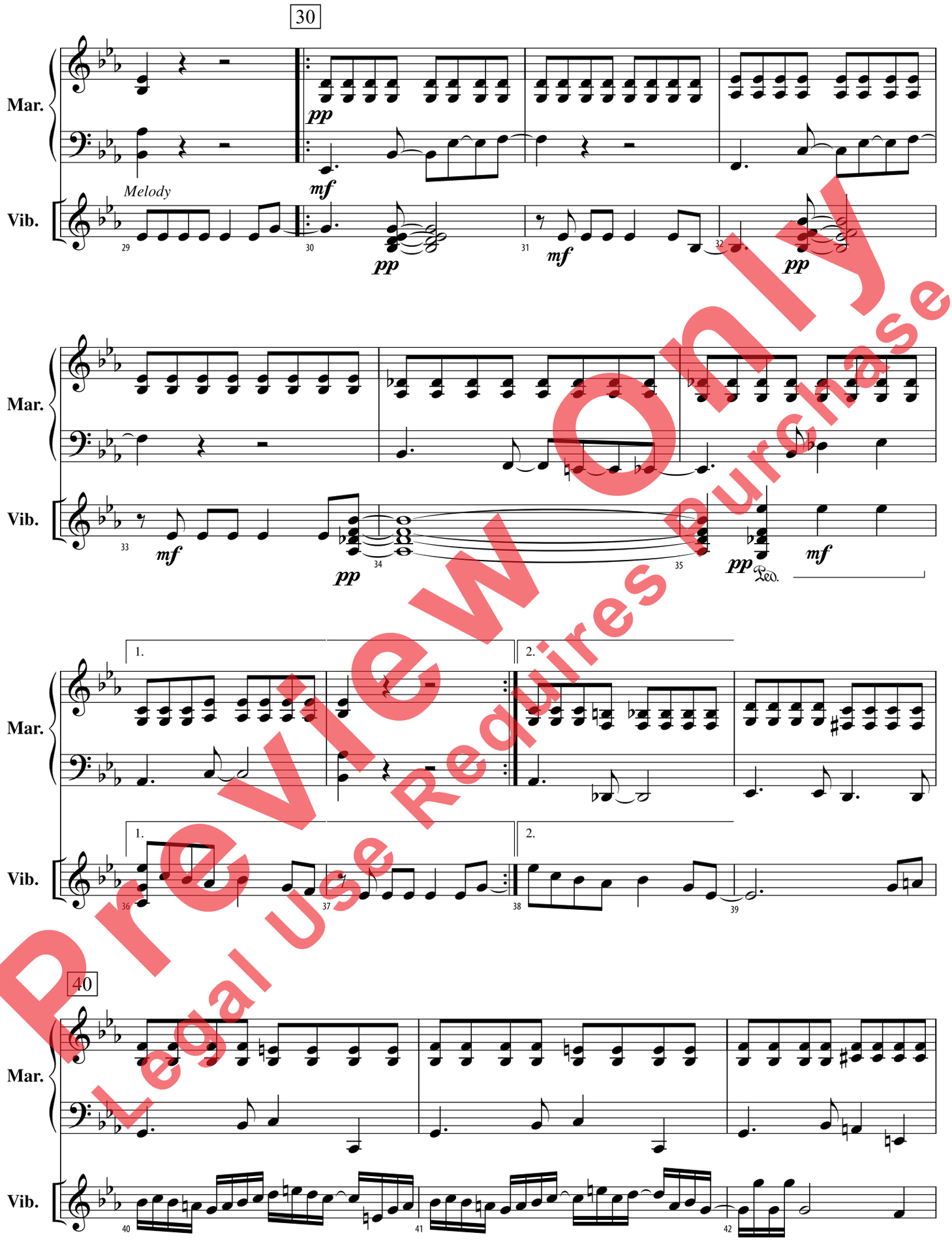

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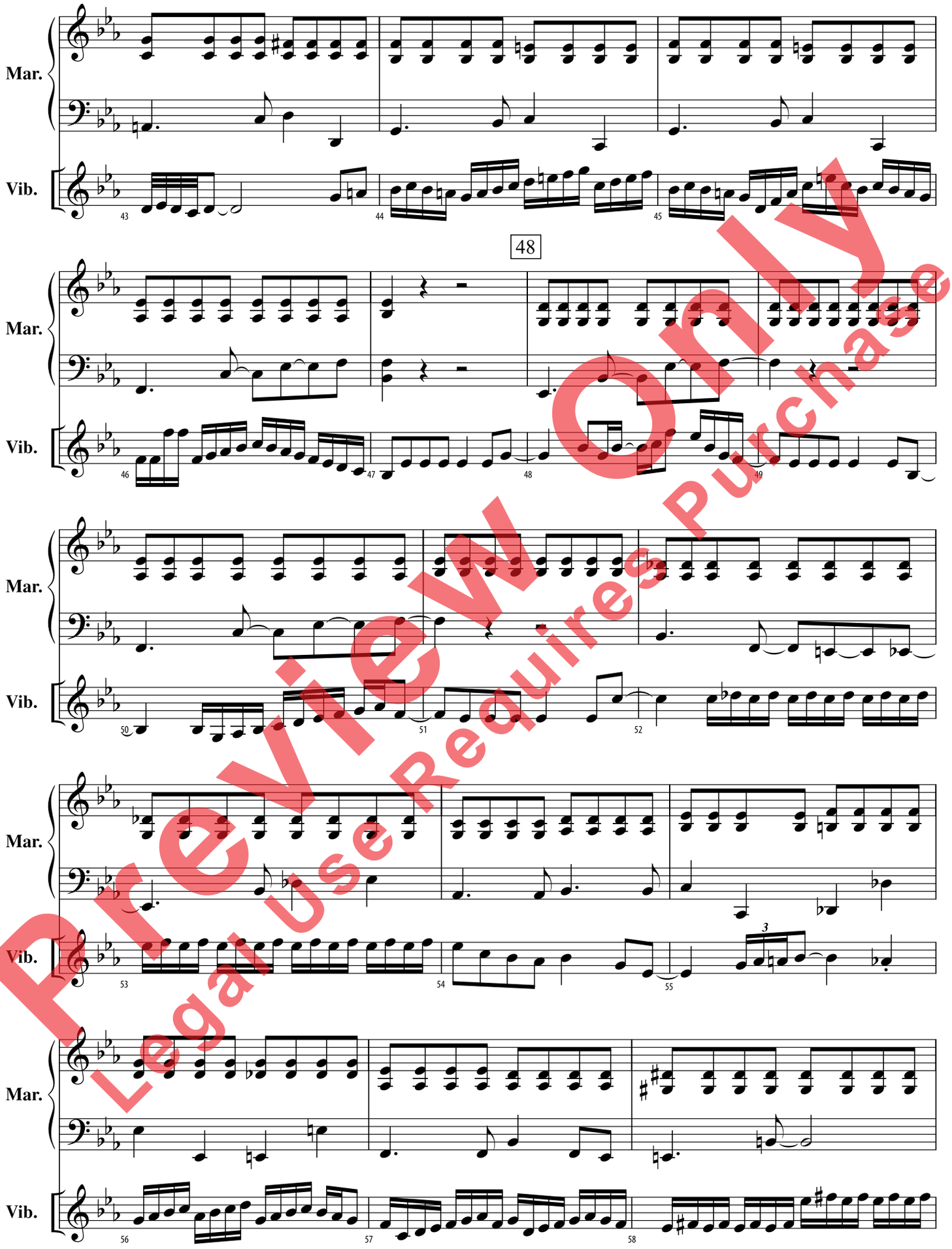

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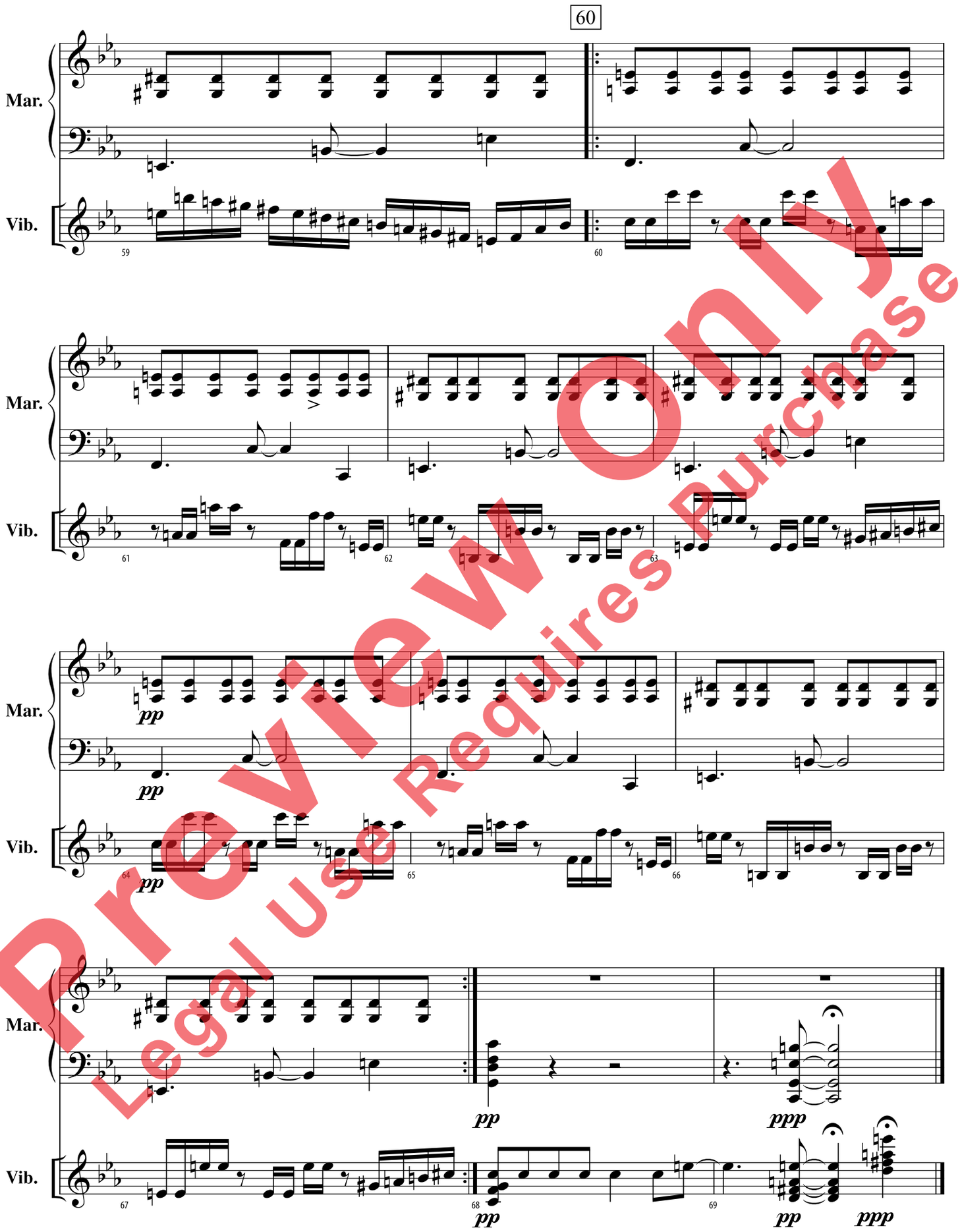

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Summertime
(from *Porgy and Bess*)

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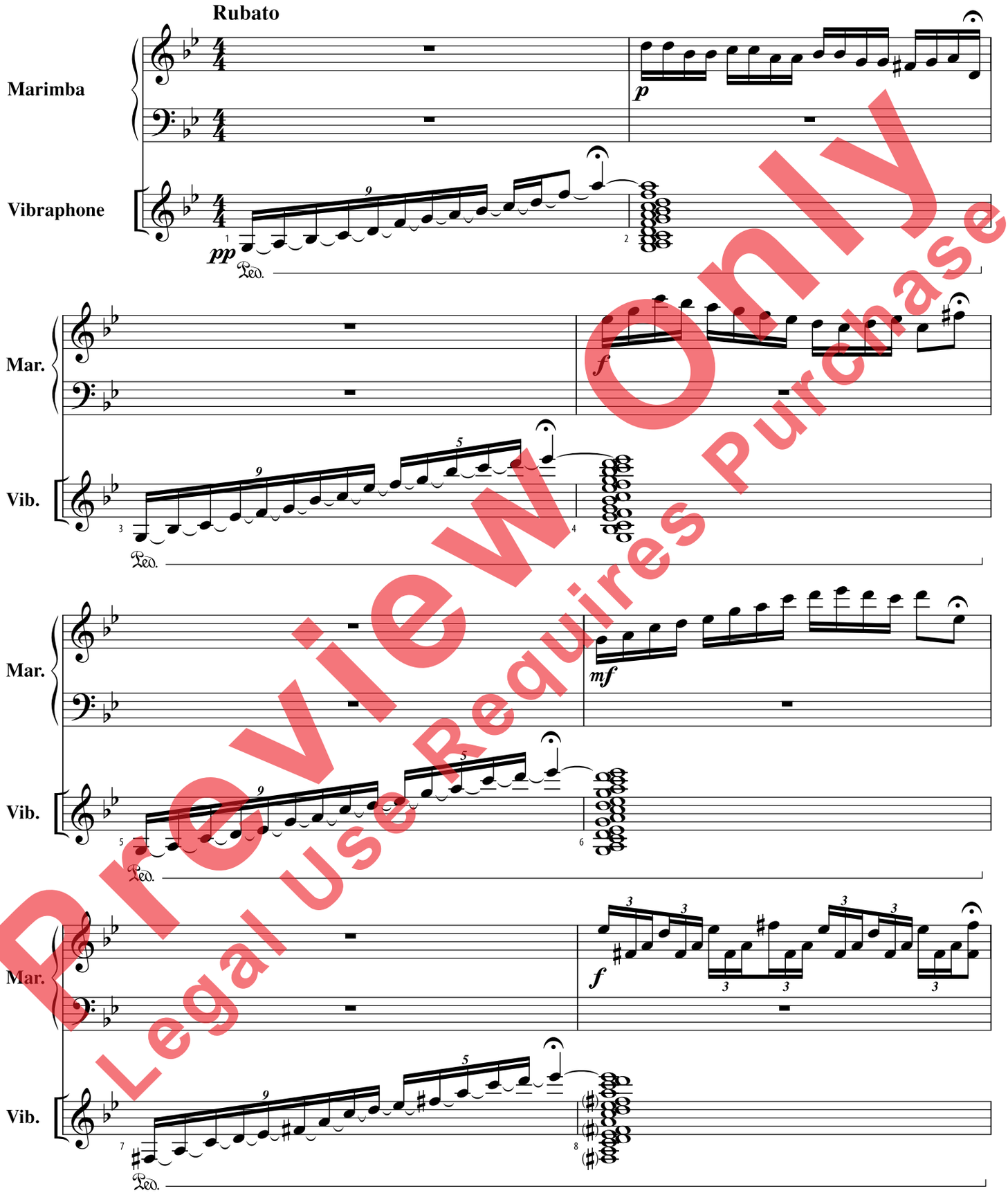
Arranged by Anders Åstrand



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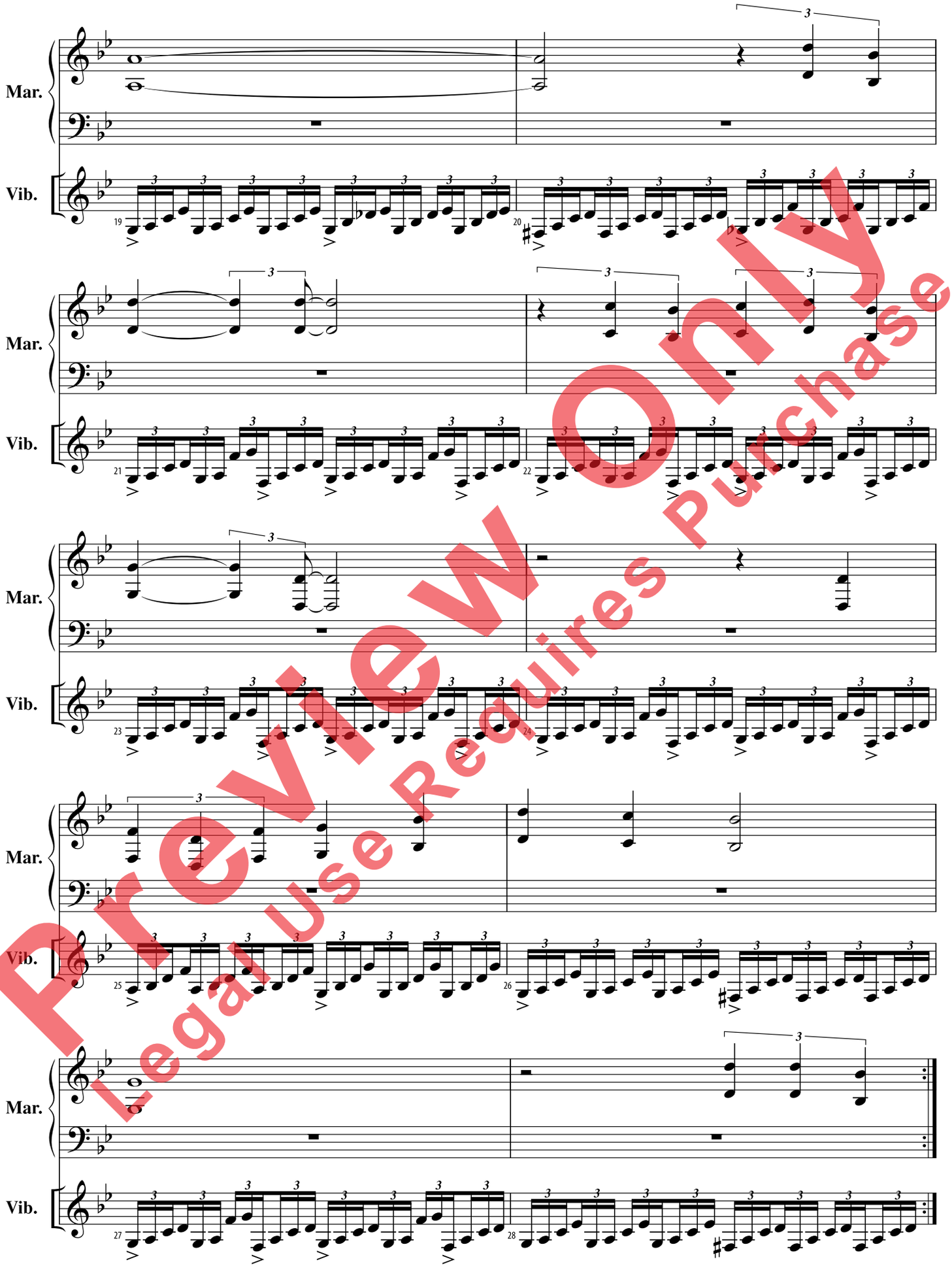

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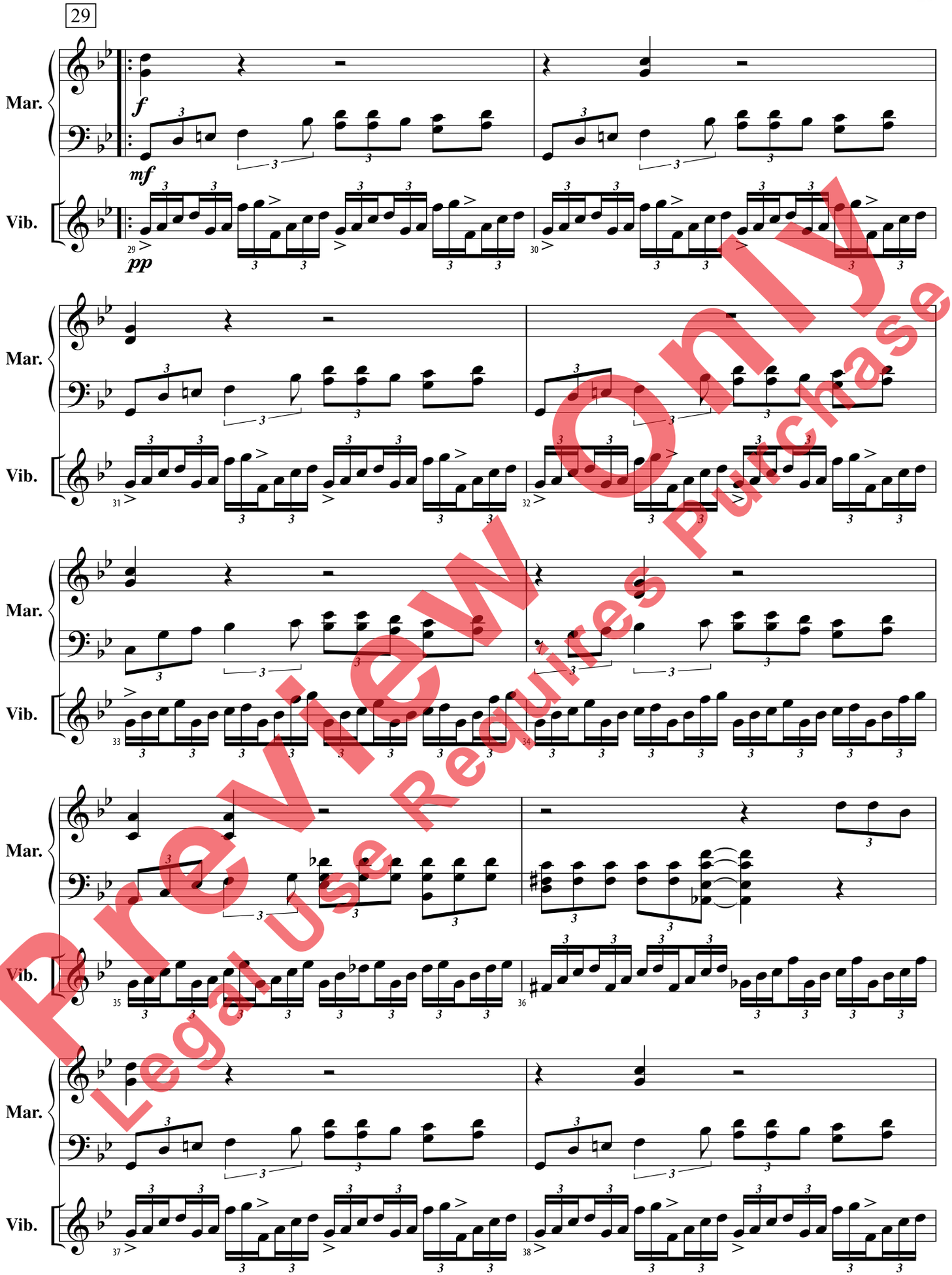

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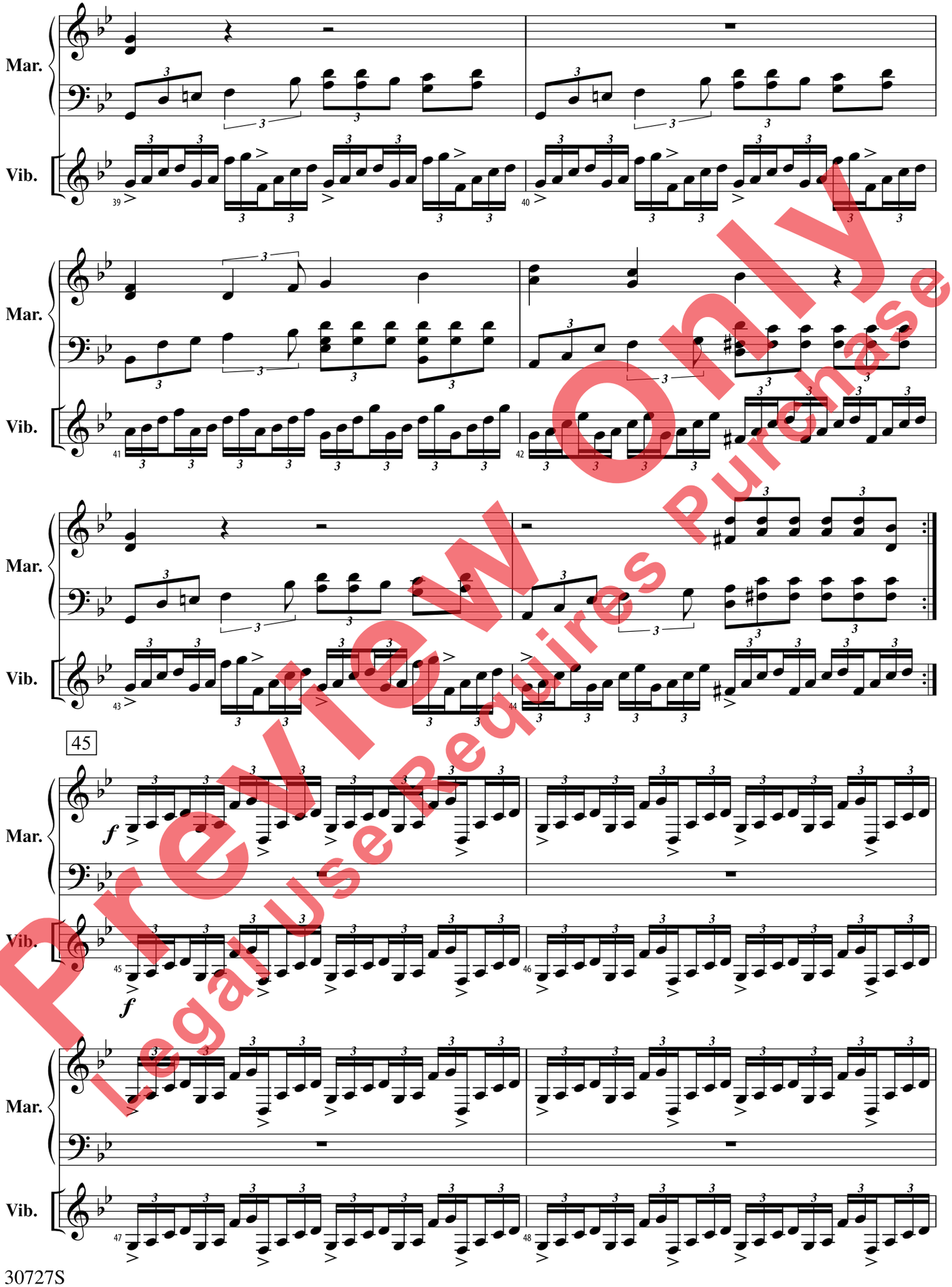

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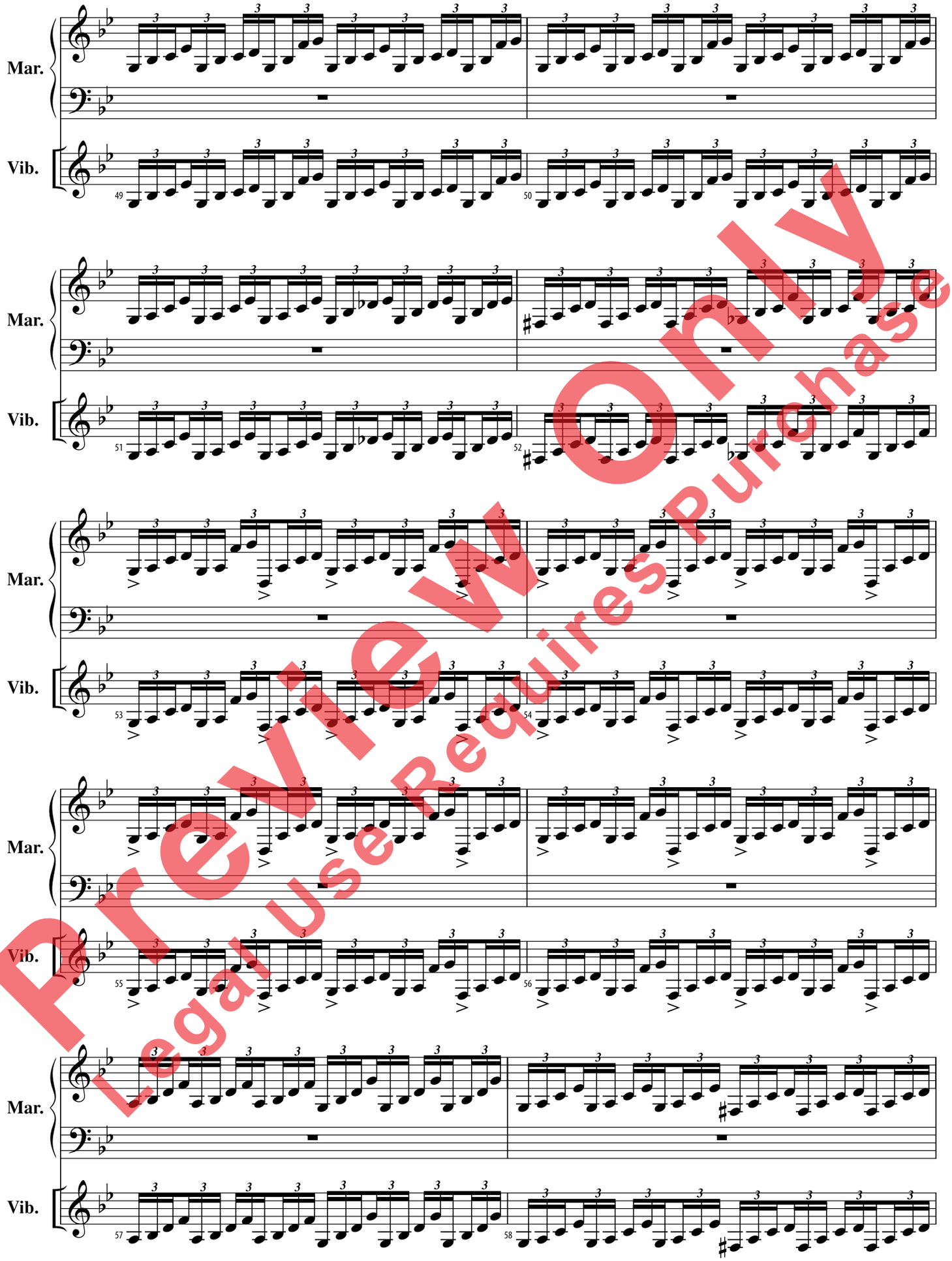

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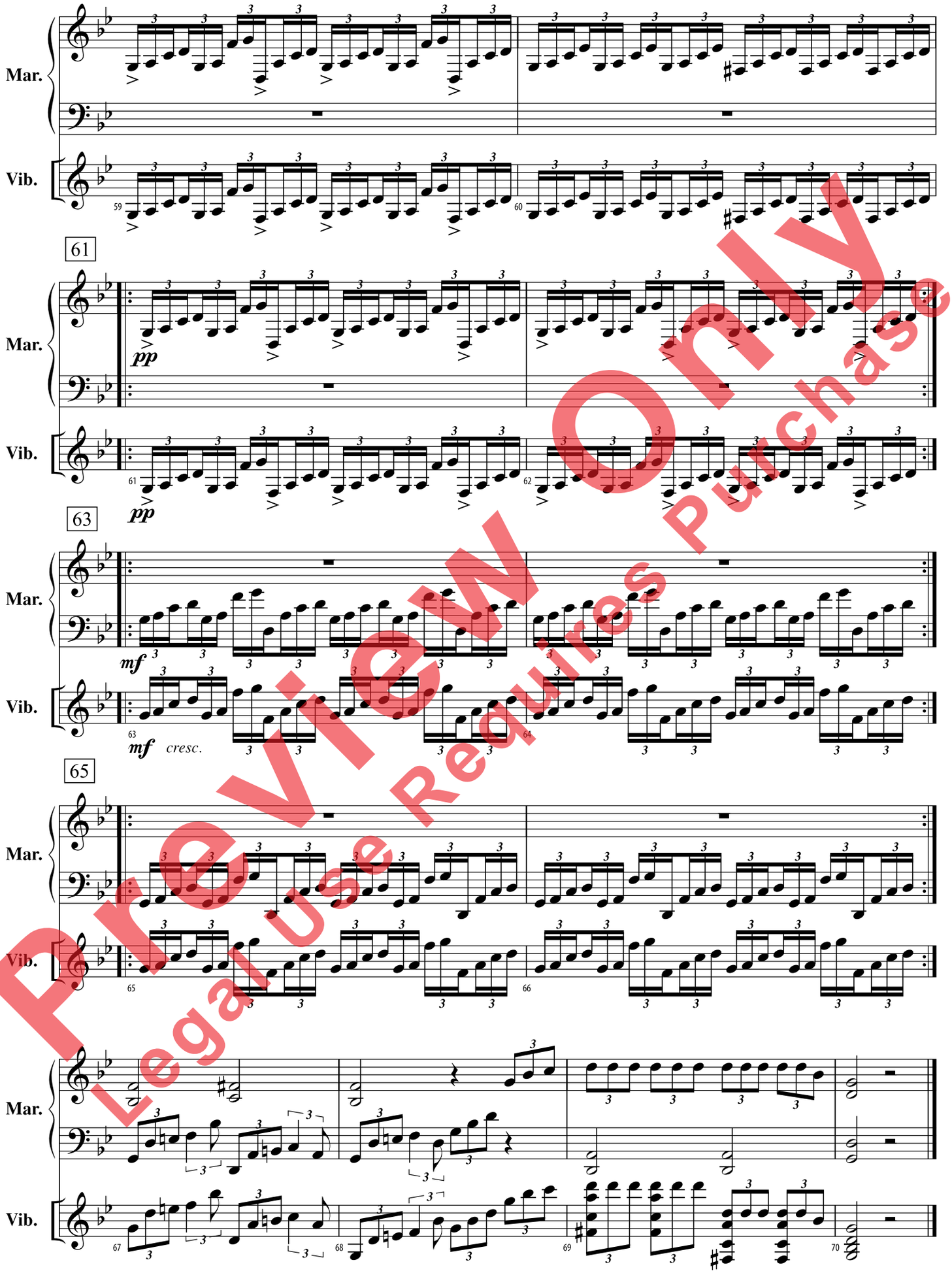

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Oh, Lady Be Good!

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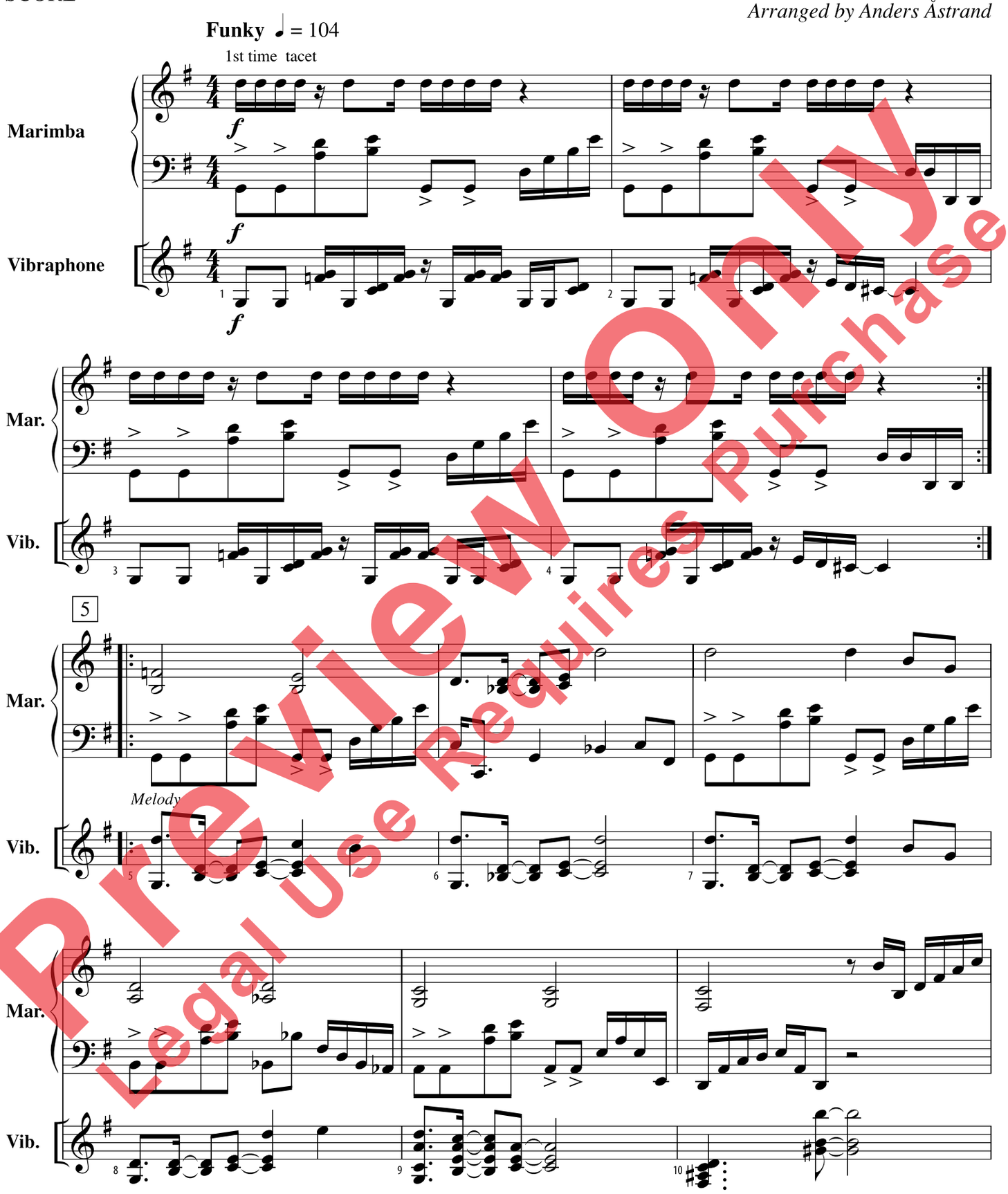

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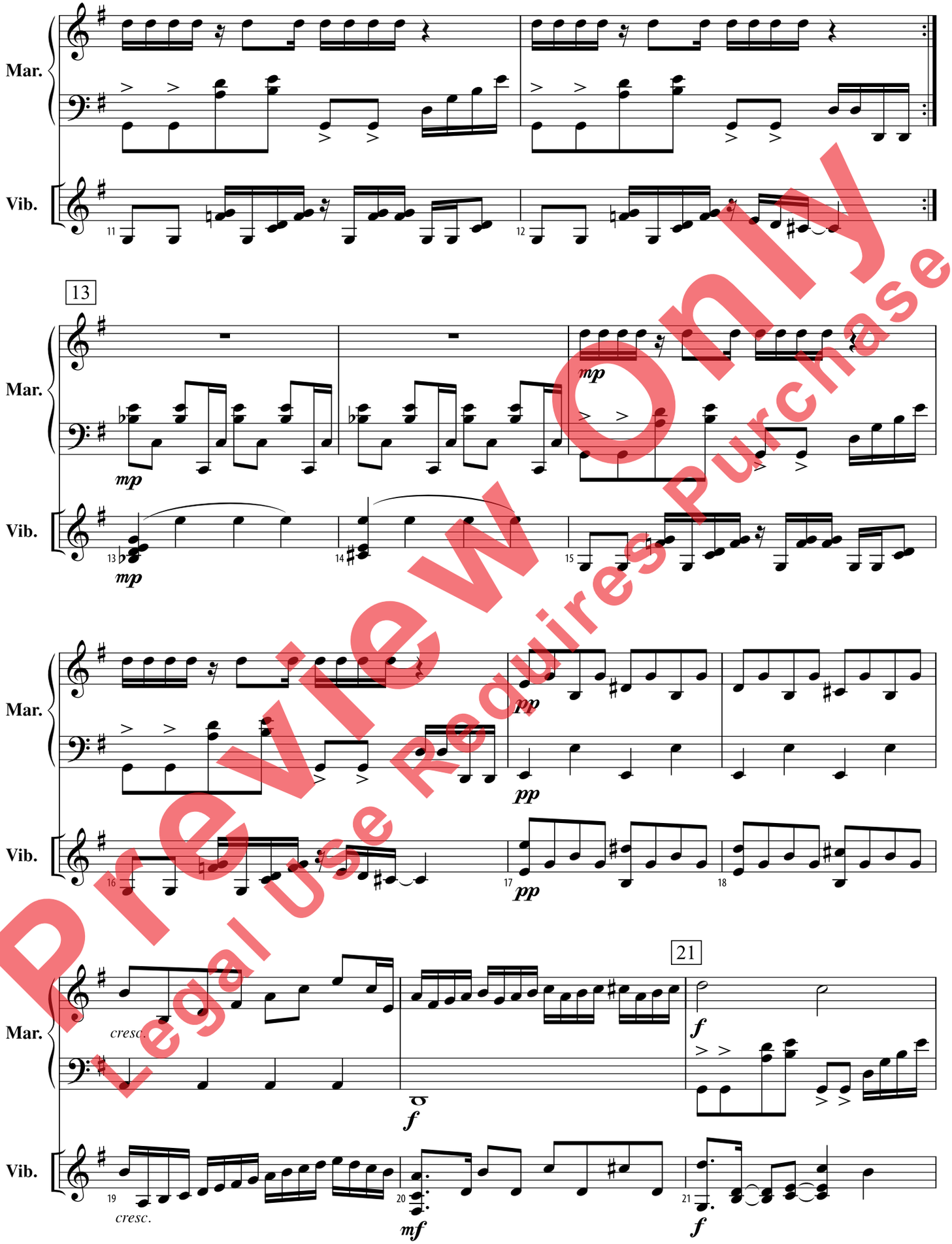

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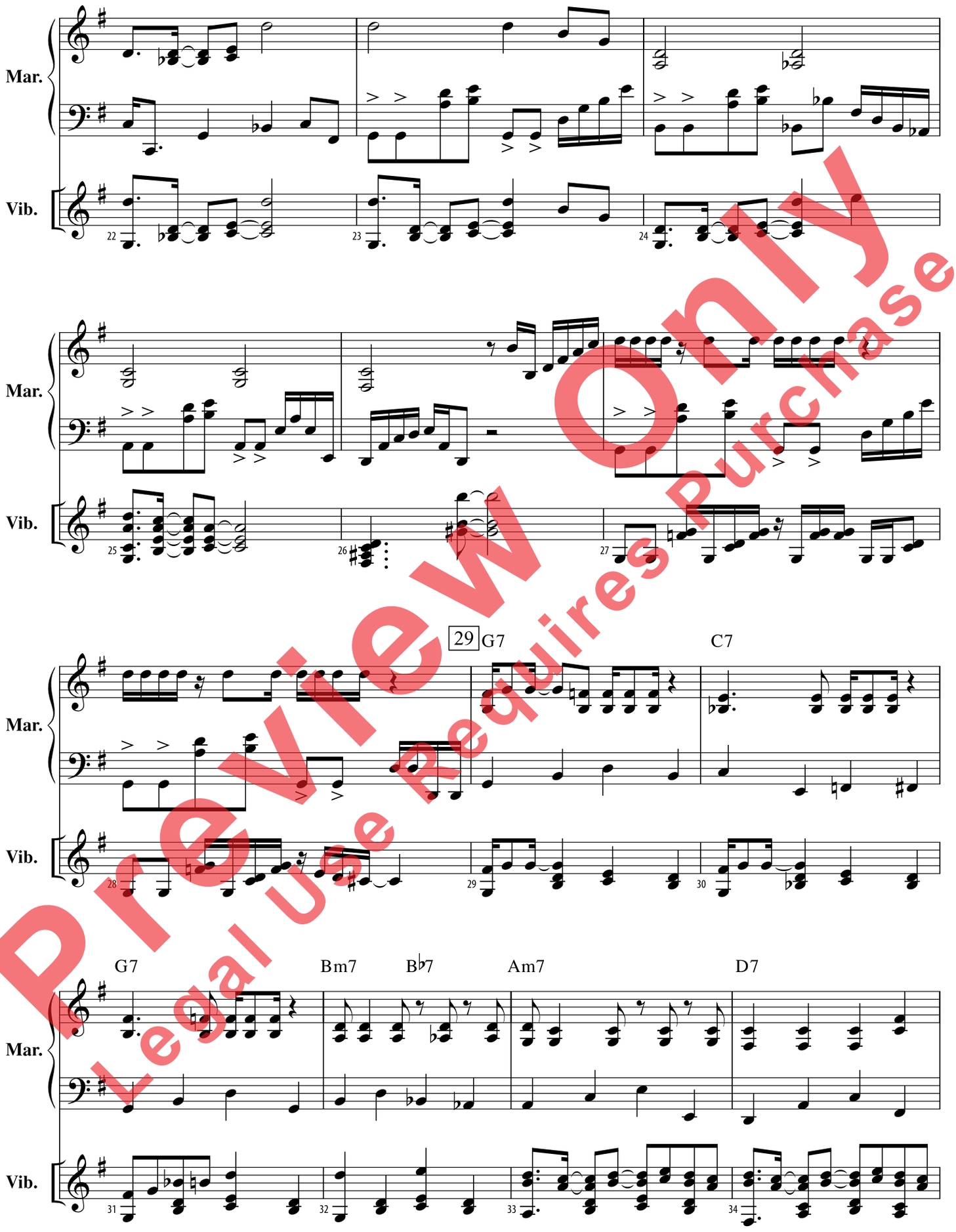

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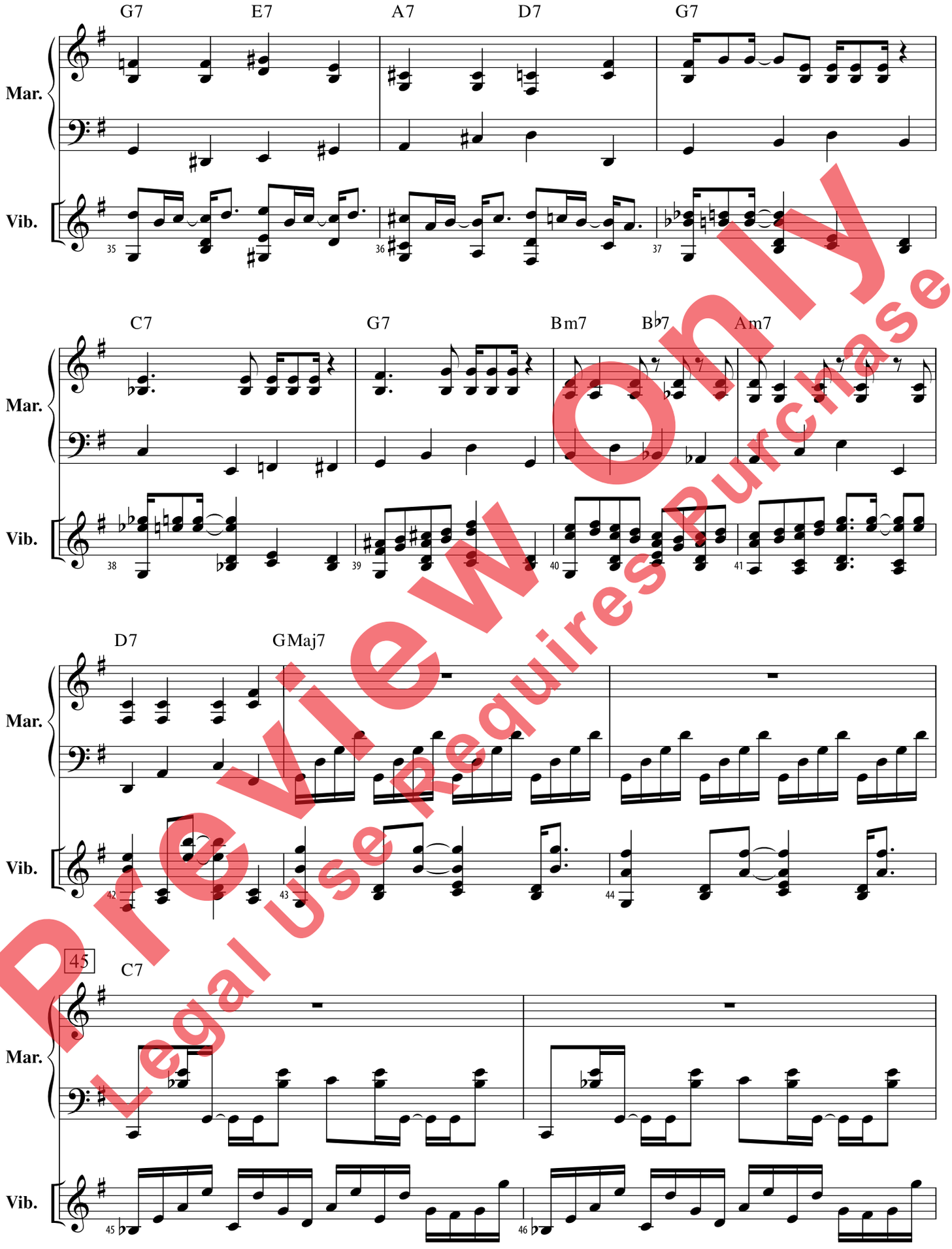

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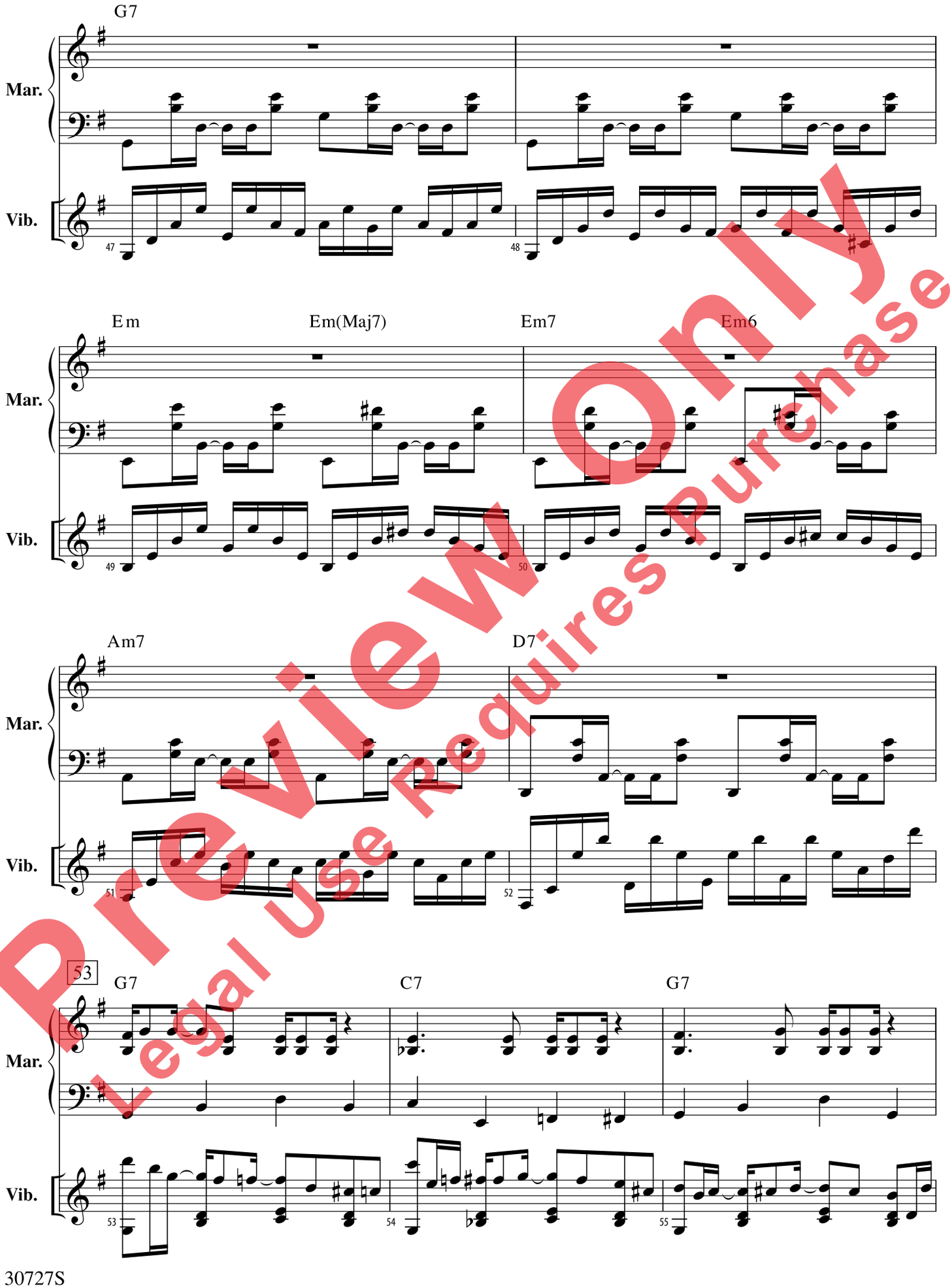

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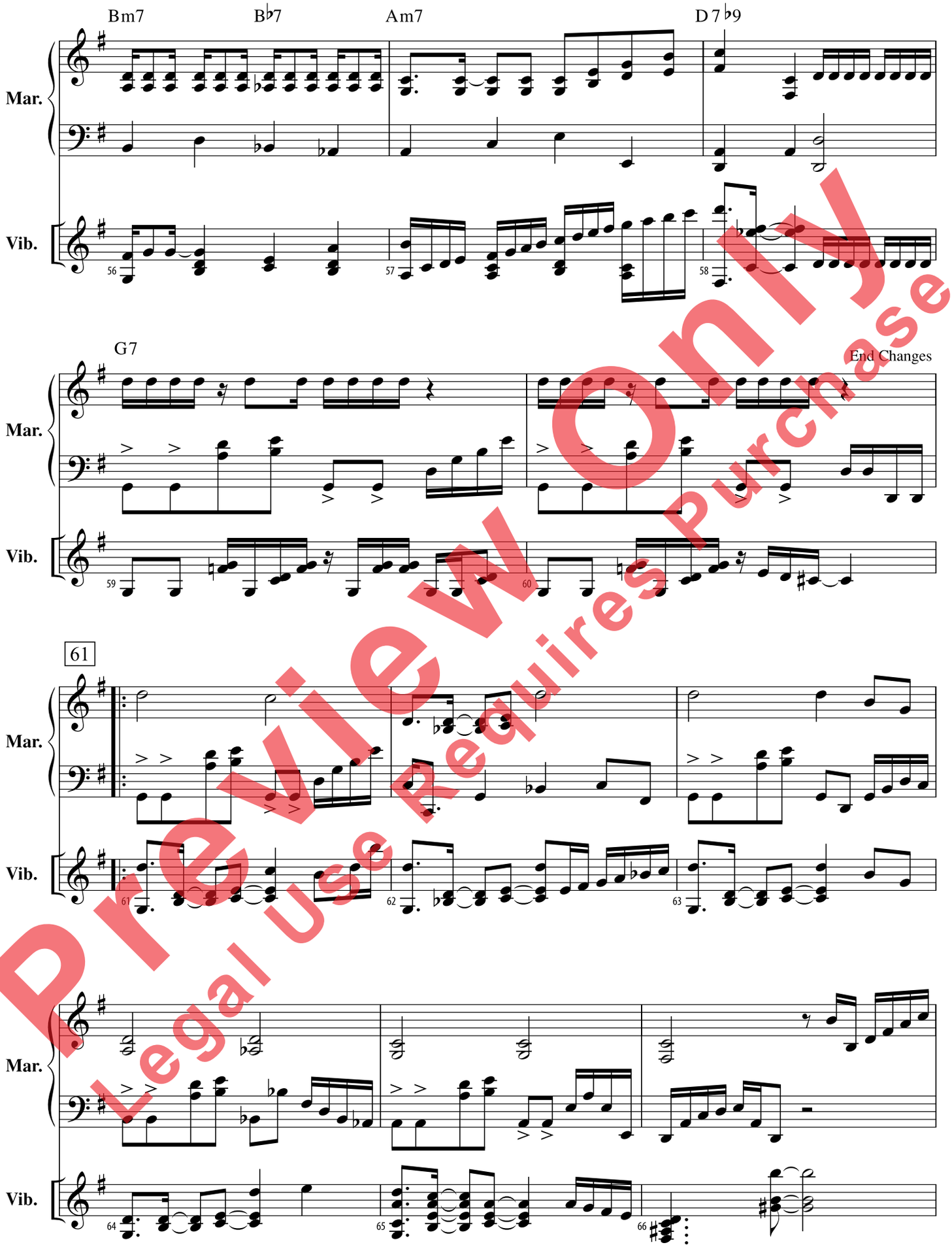

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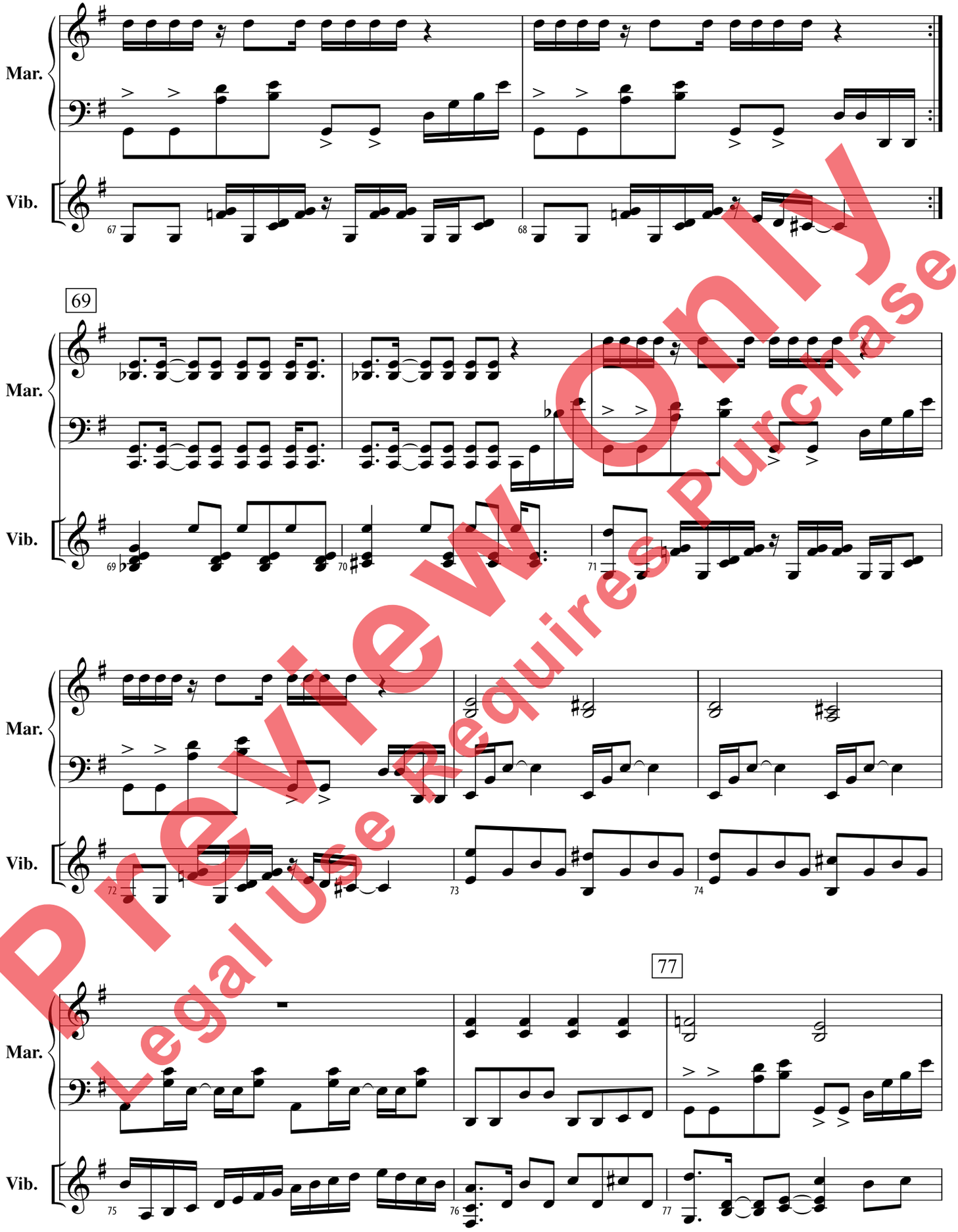

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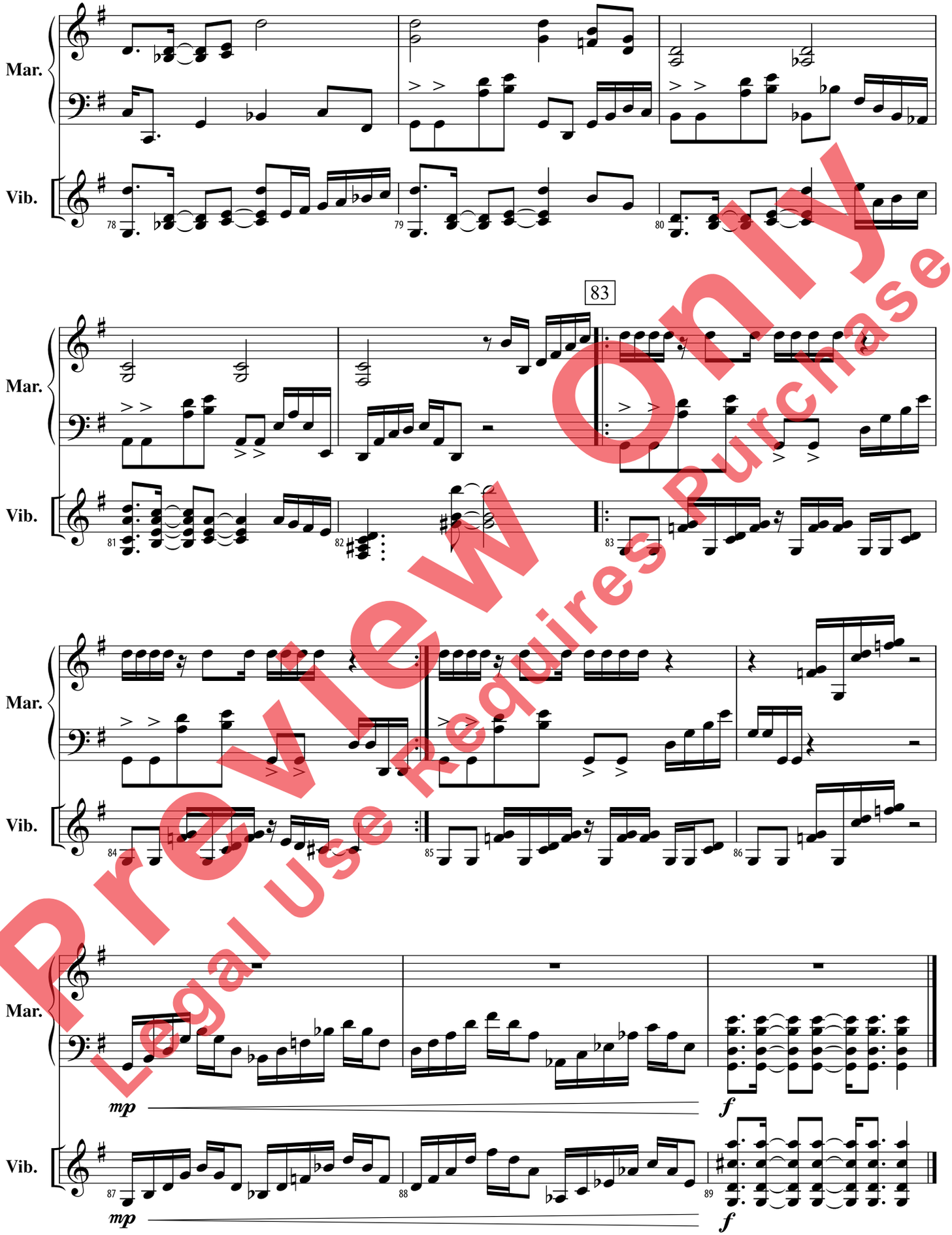

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