RWS Developing Band Series

Grade: 2.5

Conductor Score: RWS-2528-01

We Belong

Evan VanDoren

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RWS Music Company

We Belong

Evan VanDoren

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score 1
Flute 10
Oboe 2
B♭ Clarinet 1 6
B♭ Clarinet 2 6
B♭ Bass Clarinet 2
Bassoon 2
E♭ Alto Saxophone 6
B♭ Tenor Saxophone 2
E♭ Baritone Saxophone 2
B♭ Trumpet 1 5
B♭ Trumpet 2 5
F Horn 4
Trombone 6
Euphonium B.C. 2
Euphonium T.C. 2
Tuba 4
Mallet Percussion: Xylophone, Bells 2
Timpani 1
Percussion 1: Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Suspended Cymbal, Wood Block, Wind Chimes 3
Percussion 2: Triangle, Crash Cymbals, Tambourine, Suspended Cymbal 2

PROGRAM NOTE

In today's fast-paced and often judgmental world, finding a place for students to genuinely be themselves seems more challenging than ever. With its unique role in fostering a sense of belonging, the band hall stands out as a haven. Here, individuals are encouraged to express themselves freely through the universal language of music, fostering deep connections and understanding among peers and forming a tightly-knit community where everyone feels valued and included. Through rehearsals, performances, and shared musical experiences, band members learn to listen, collaborate, and support one another. The collective achievement of creating beautiful music together instills a profound sense of accomplishment and belonging.

Composer Evan Van Doren shares "I stand among the vast millions of musicians who have experienced the special kind of magic that takes root when embraced in a community of caring, empathetic individuals with a shared purpose. Some of the most powerful memories in my life have taken place within a music community, often physically inside a band hall. These core memories helped form the foundations of my character and personality, and I continue to feel immense gratitude towards those who made these experiences possible. This sense of appreciation fuels our commitment to the band community and the music we create together.
Today, more than ever, the band hall serves as a beacon of hope and positivity, reminding us of the power of community and the importance of spaces where everyone is welcome."

This work was commissioned by the Bee Cave Middle School Band from Austin, Texas, under the direction of band directors Greg Demoore, Amy Palese, & Brittany Baptista.

NOTES TO CONDUCTOR

We Belong was written with the young band in mind, with careful attention to range, rhythmic challenge, and phrase length. A consistent percussion presence throughout the up-tempo segments can help ensure ensemble vertical alignment. Additionally, considerations have been taken to ensure playability with limited instrumentation through careful orchestration, doublings, and occasional cueing. In the lyrical section, phrase lengths are kept somewhat short, and dynamic shapes are unified to set up the young band for a successful performance.

This work is intended to be performed by six percussionists. The mallet and timpani parts are each intended to be performed by one player. The Percussion 1 and 2 parts are intended to be divided as follows:

Percussion 1: Player 1: Snare Drum, Suspended Cymbal, Wind Chimes
Player 2: Bass Drum, Woodblock
Percussion 2: Player 1: Crash Cymbals, Triangle
Player 2: Suspended Cymbal, Tambourine

Should the double stops prove too challenging for the mallet performer, omit the bottom note of each double stop throughout the piece.

Ensemble balance to the melody (first heard in meas. 4 in the trumpets) is paramount to a successful performance of this work. As shorter forms of this melody are passed around the band more quickly (as in meas. 39), feel free to adjust dynamic markings, bringing melodic content to the foreground and accompaniment to the background, as it makes sense to do so within the performing band's specific instrumentation. Staccato eighth notes are marked through to indicate a "lifted" style - but be cautious not to let these notes become too short or dry.

In the lyrical segment (beginning at meas. 49), it's essential to keep the final notes of phrases followed by rests "long." (For example, the quarters note in m. 51 and m. 52).

Feel free to stretch the tempo rubato in measures 57 and 66-67 as much as the ensemble feels comfortable.

I sincerely hope you enjoy bringing ***We Belong*** to life! Best wishes for a successful performance! Please visit my composer page at rwsmusic.com to connect!

(Bio on page 24)

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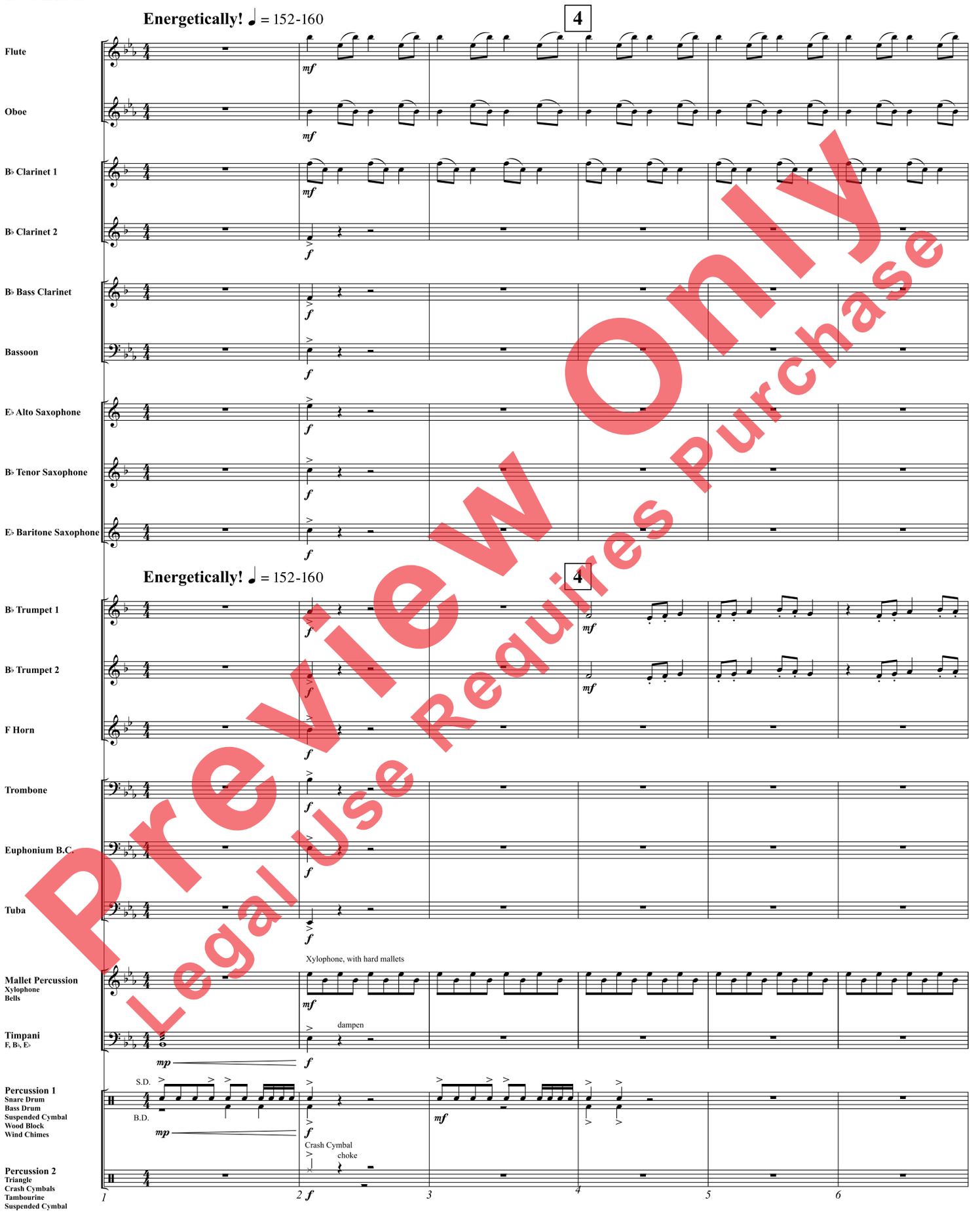
Commissioned by Bee Cave Middle School, Austin, Texas, Directors Greg Demoore, Amy Palese, & Brittany Baptista

WE BELONG

Conductor Score
RWS-2528-00

Evan VanDoren (ASCAP)



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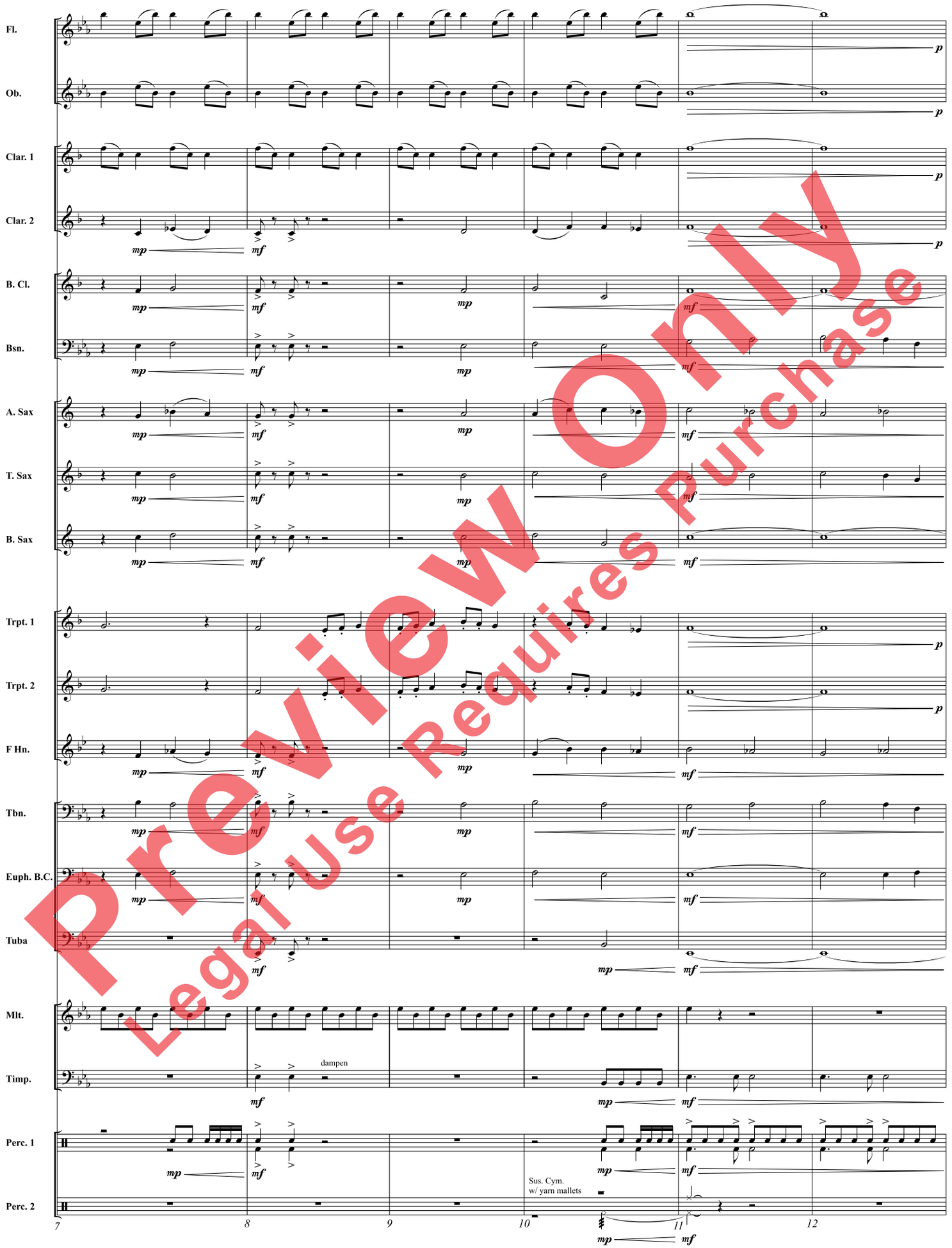

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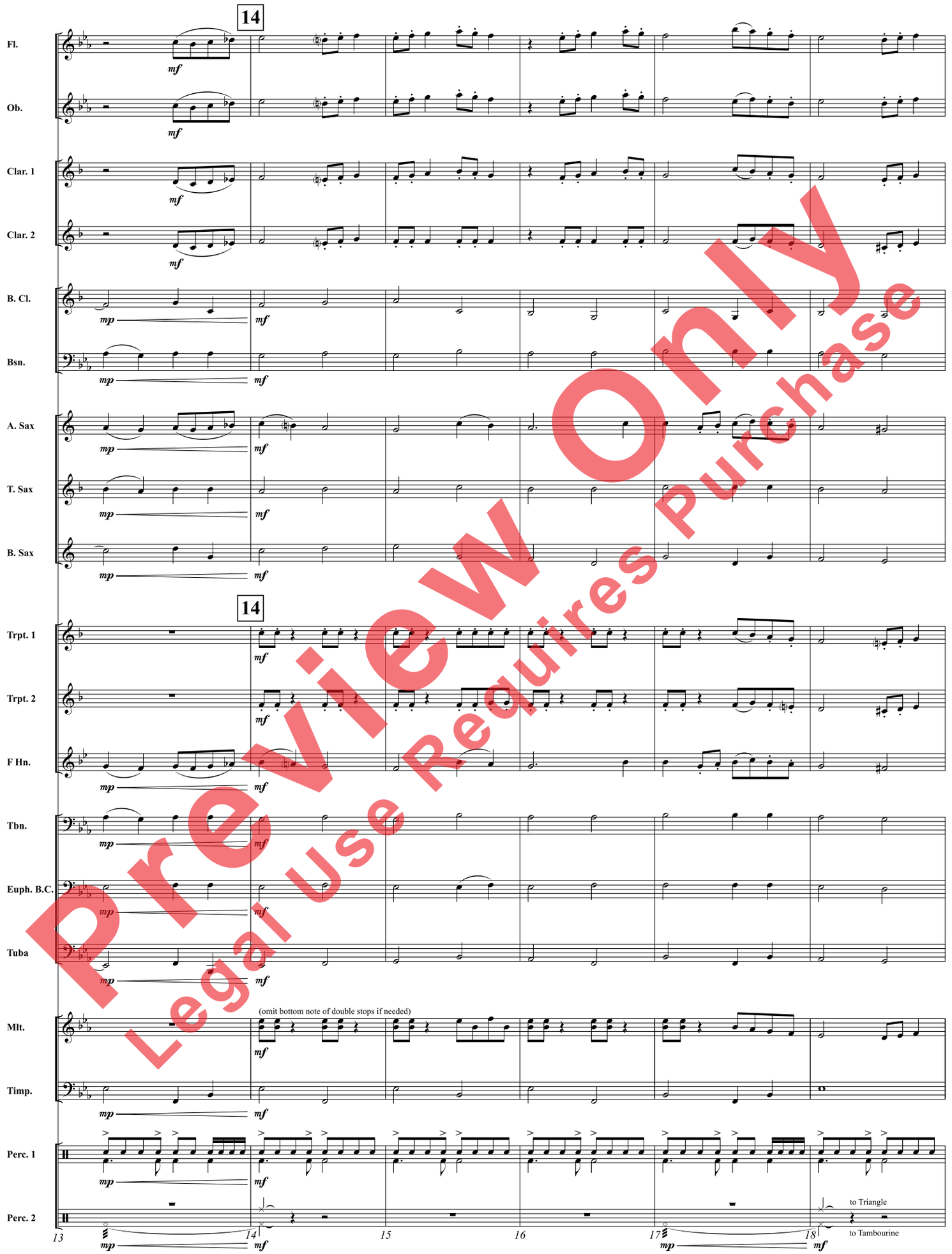

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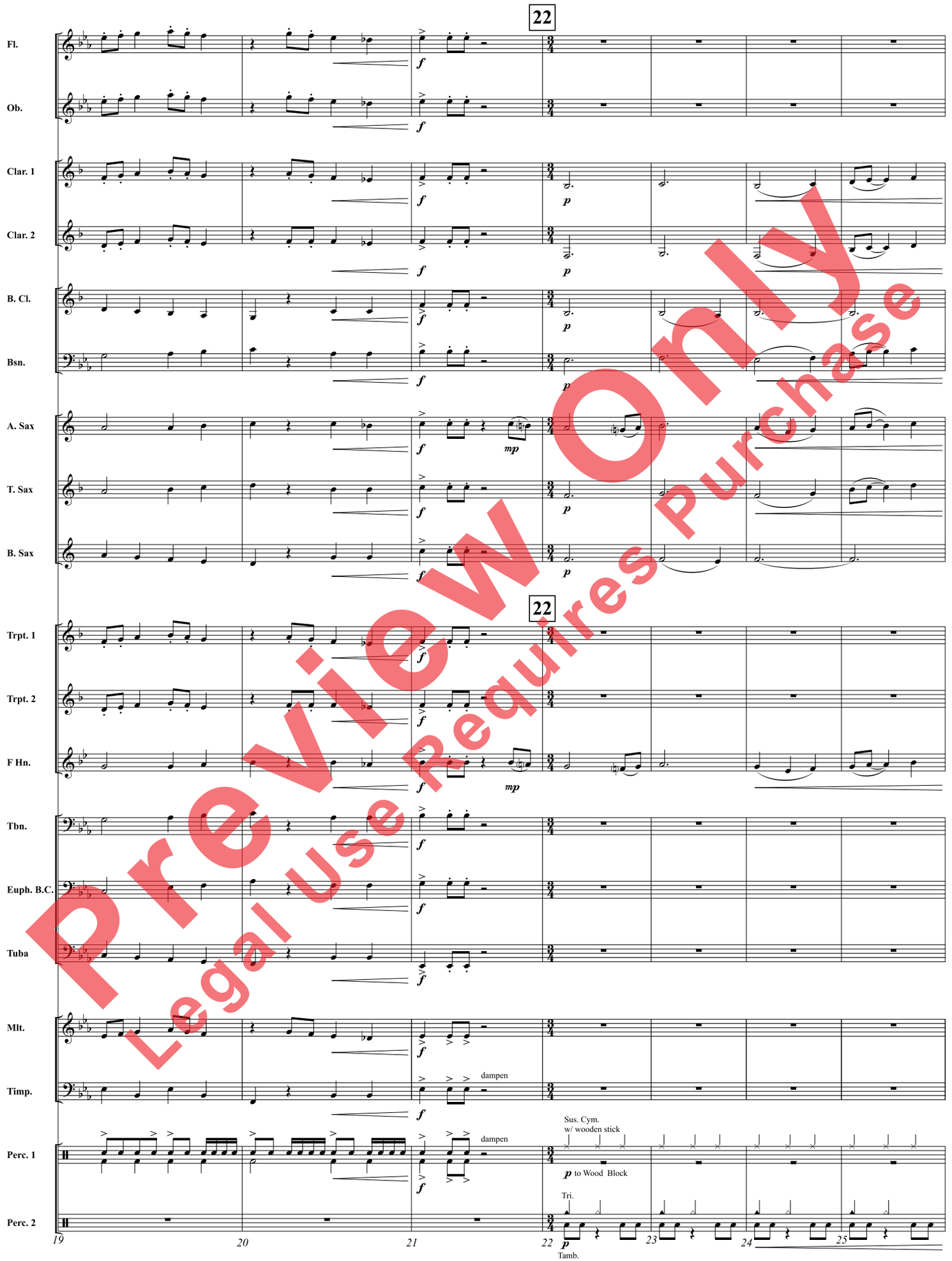

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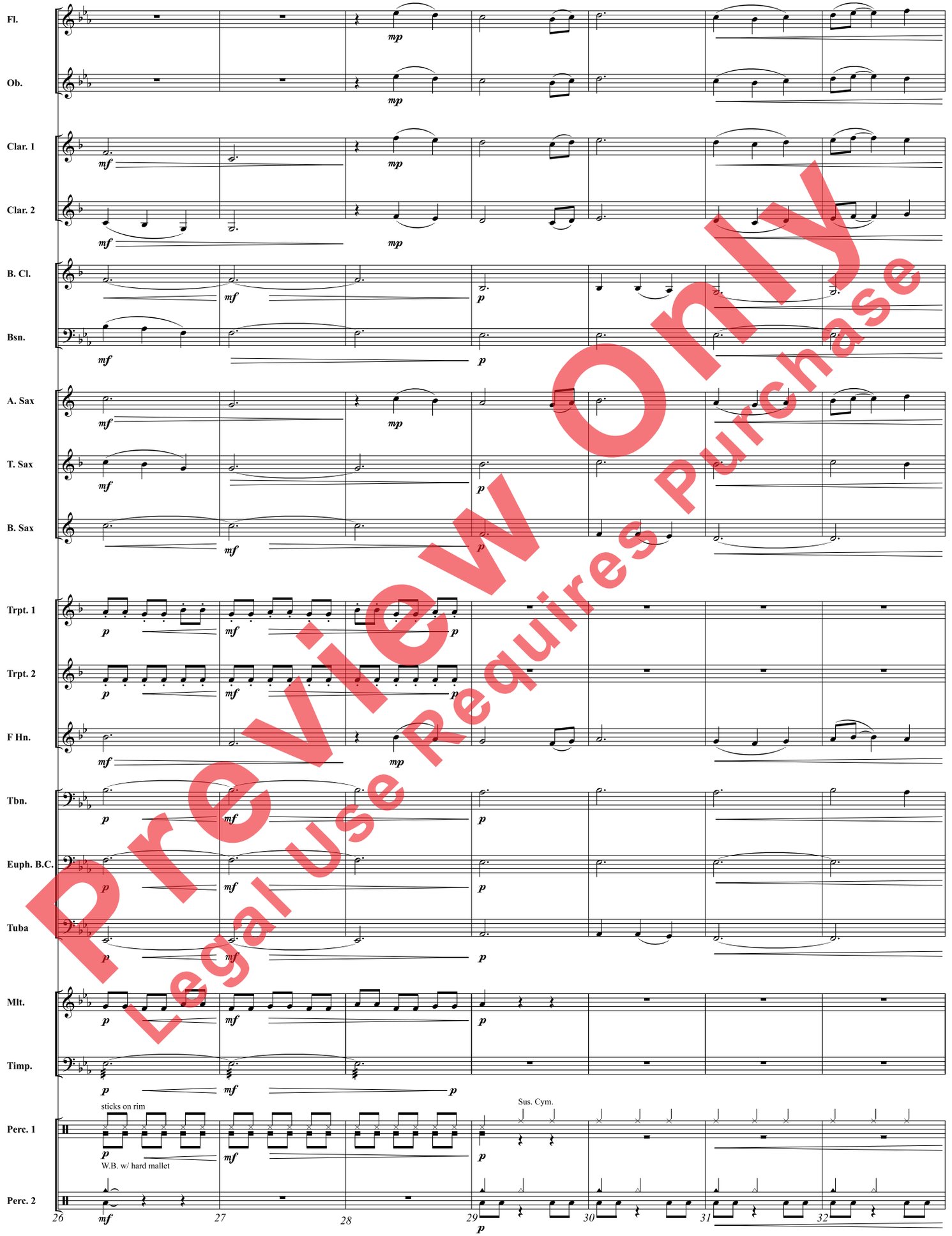

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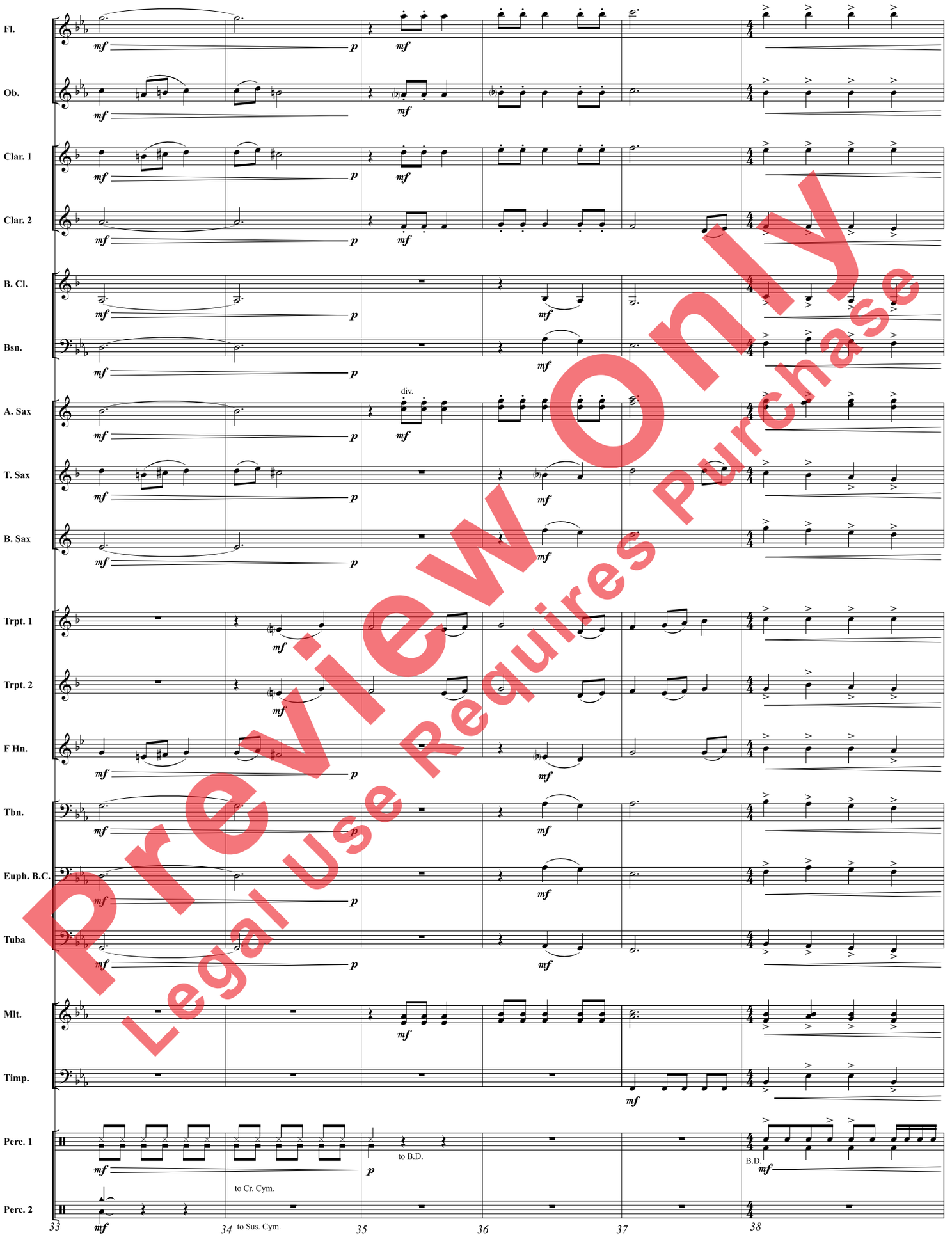

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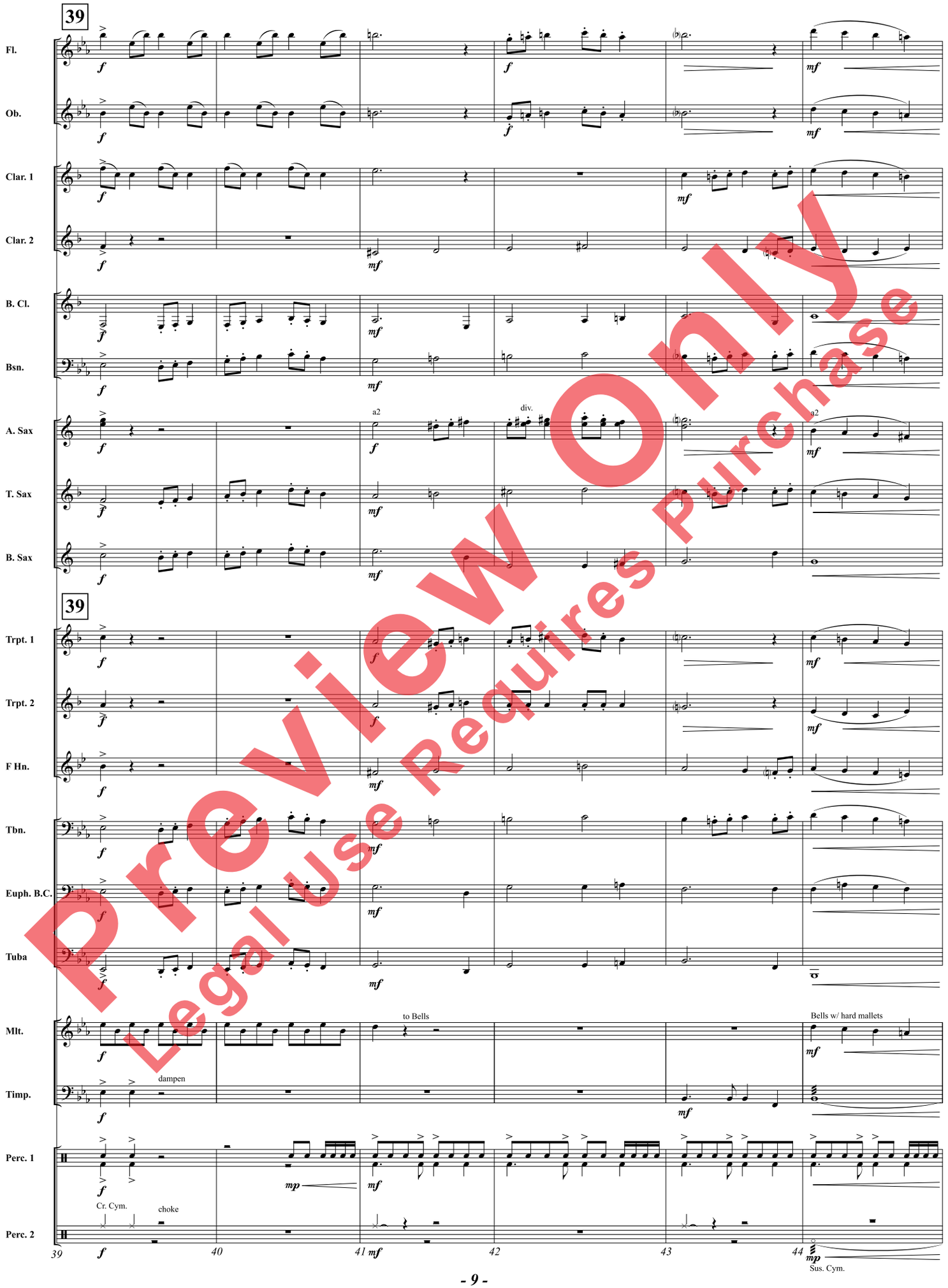

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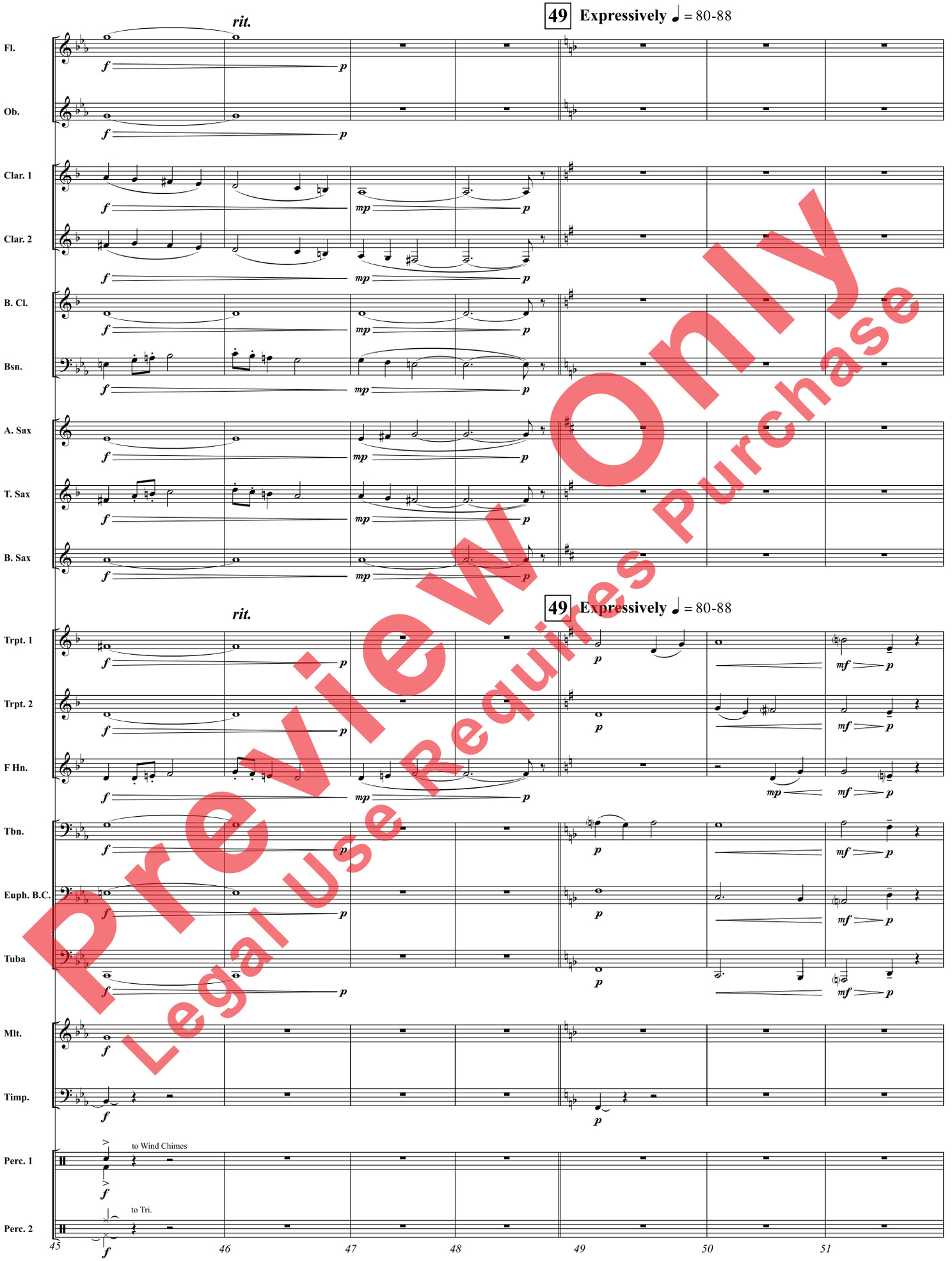

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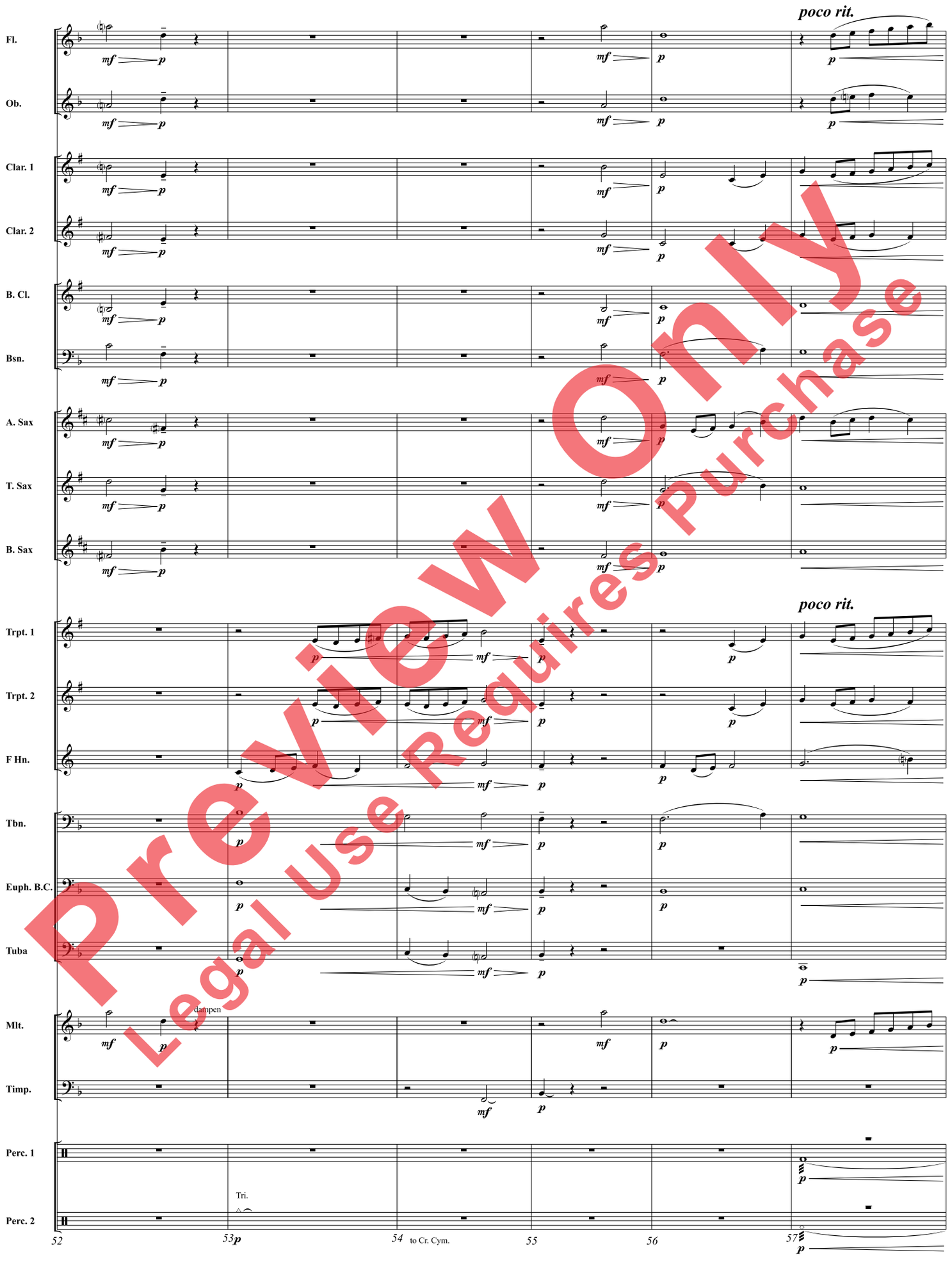

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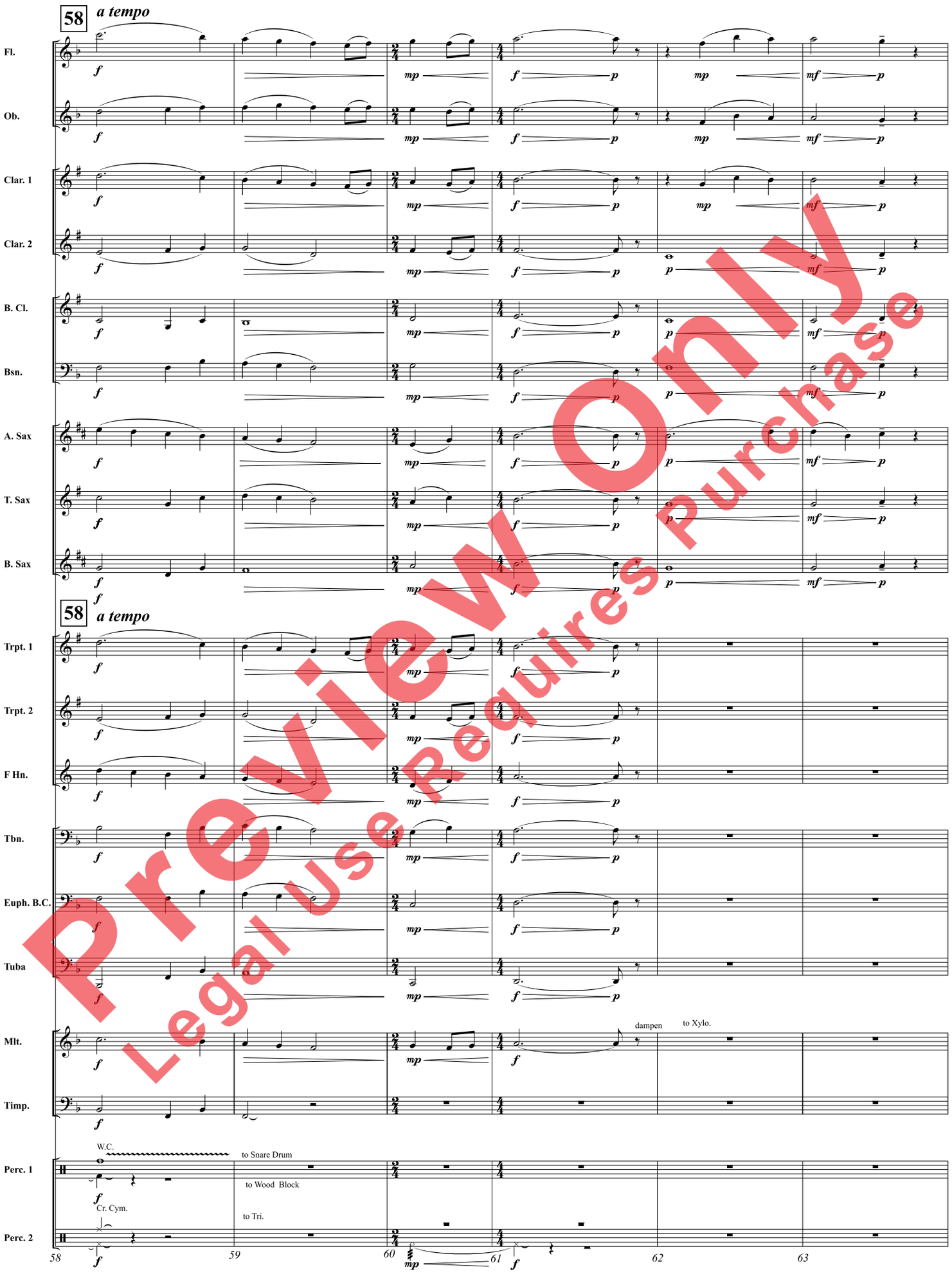

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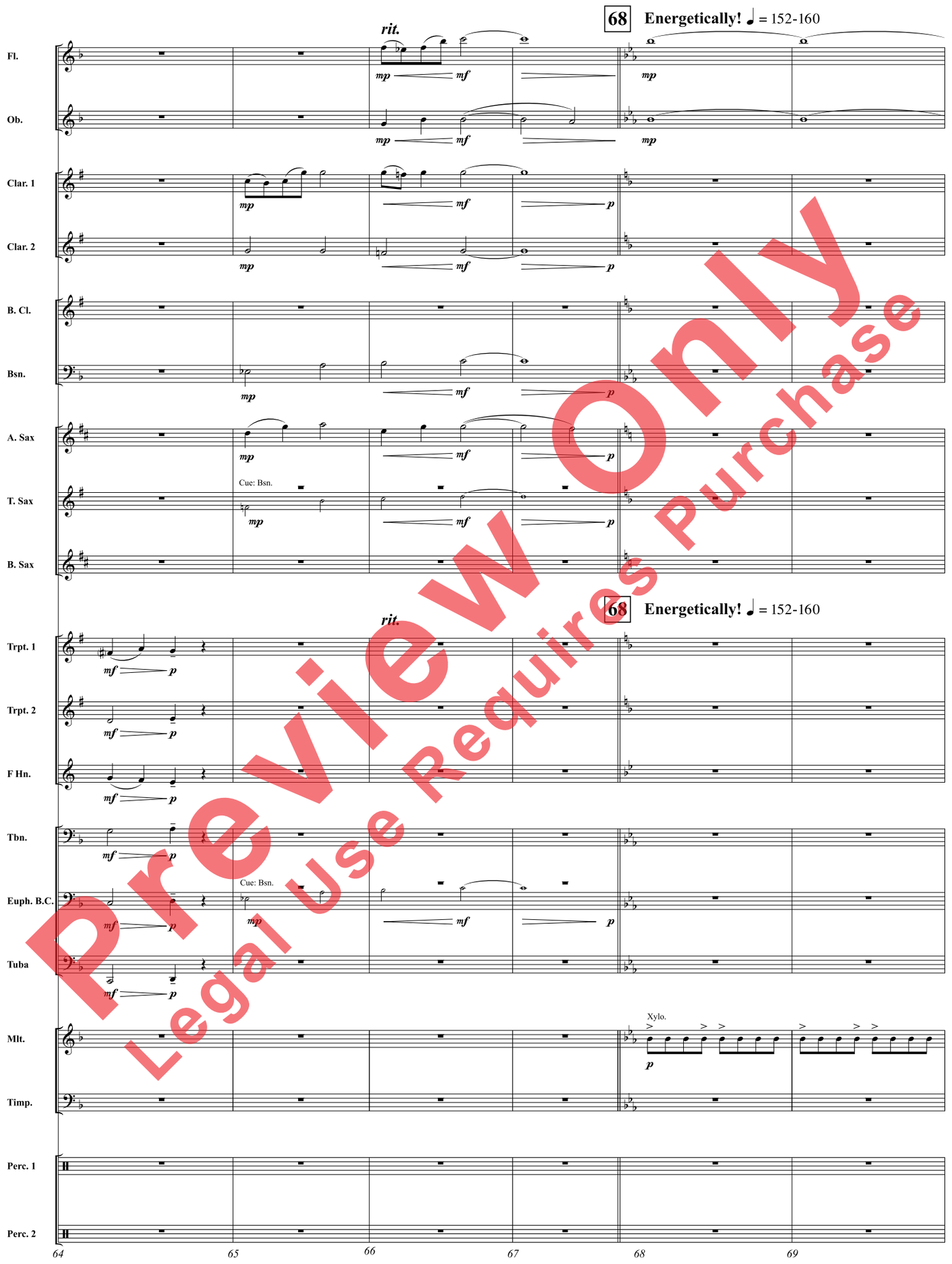

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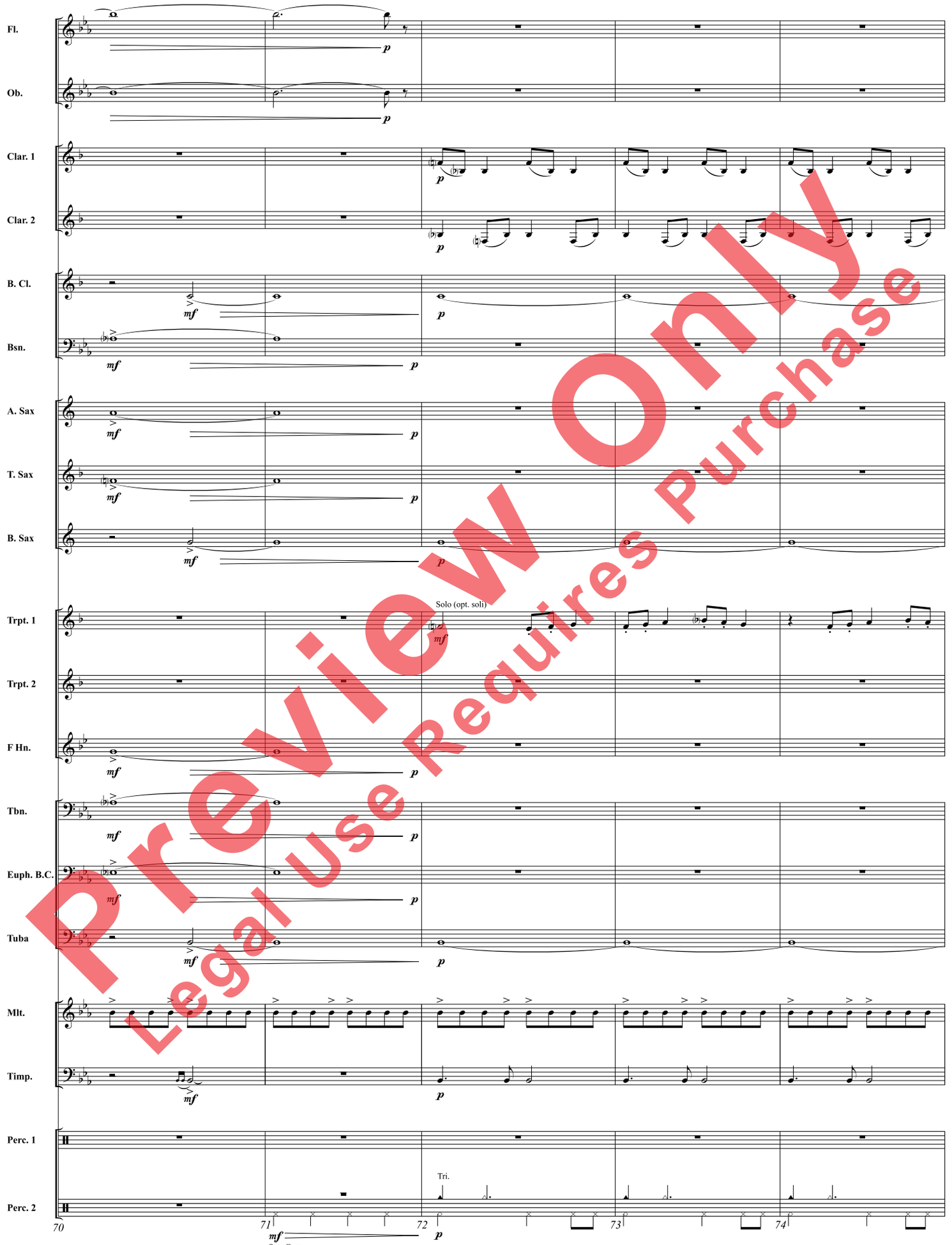

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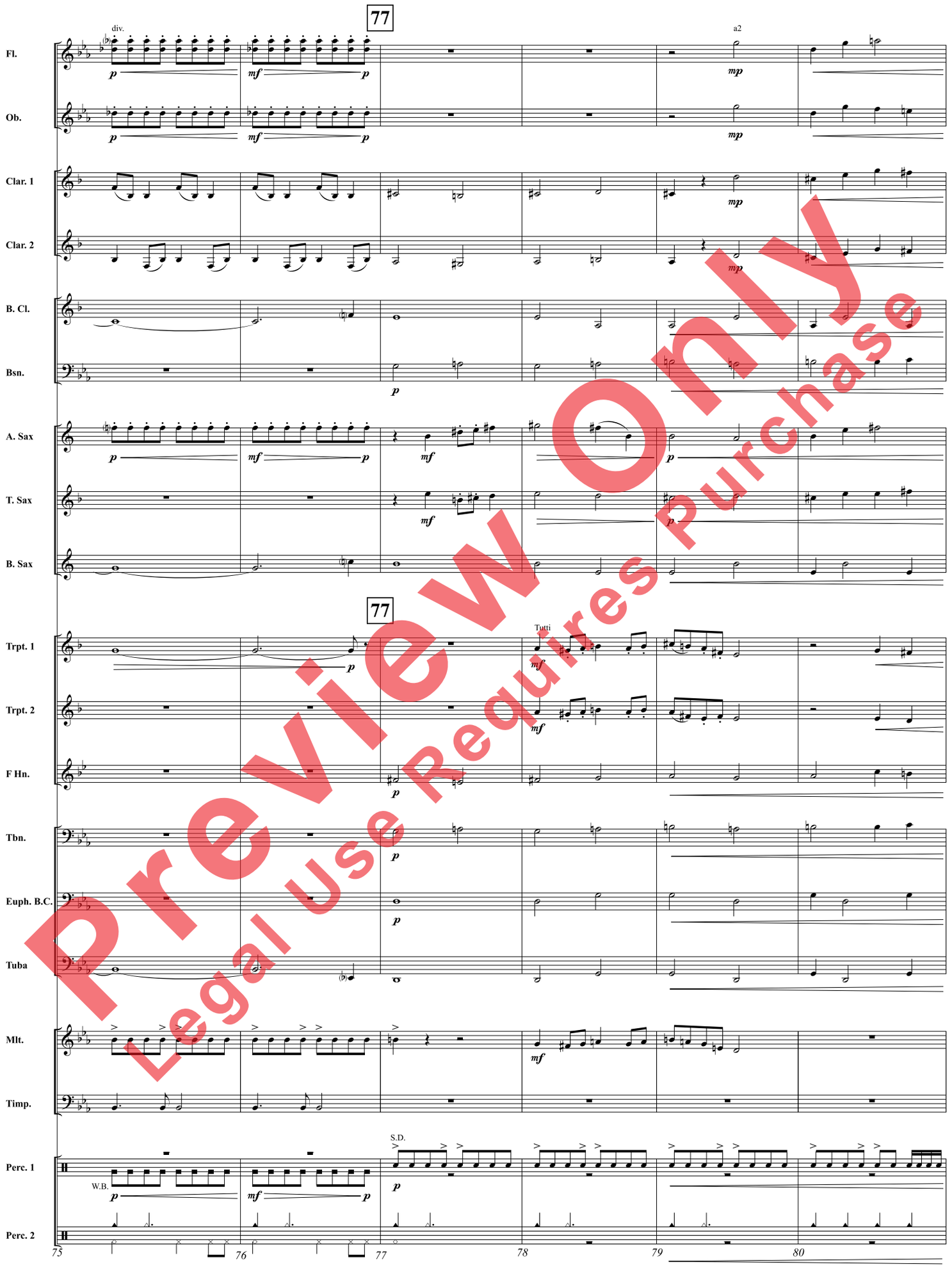

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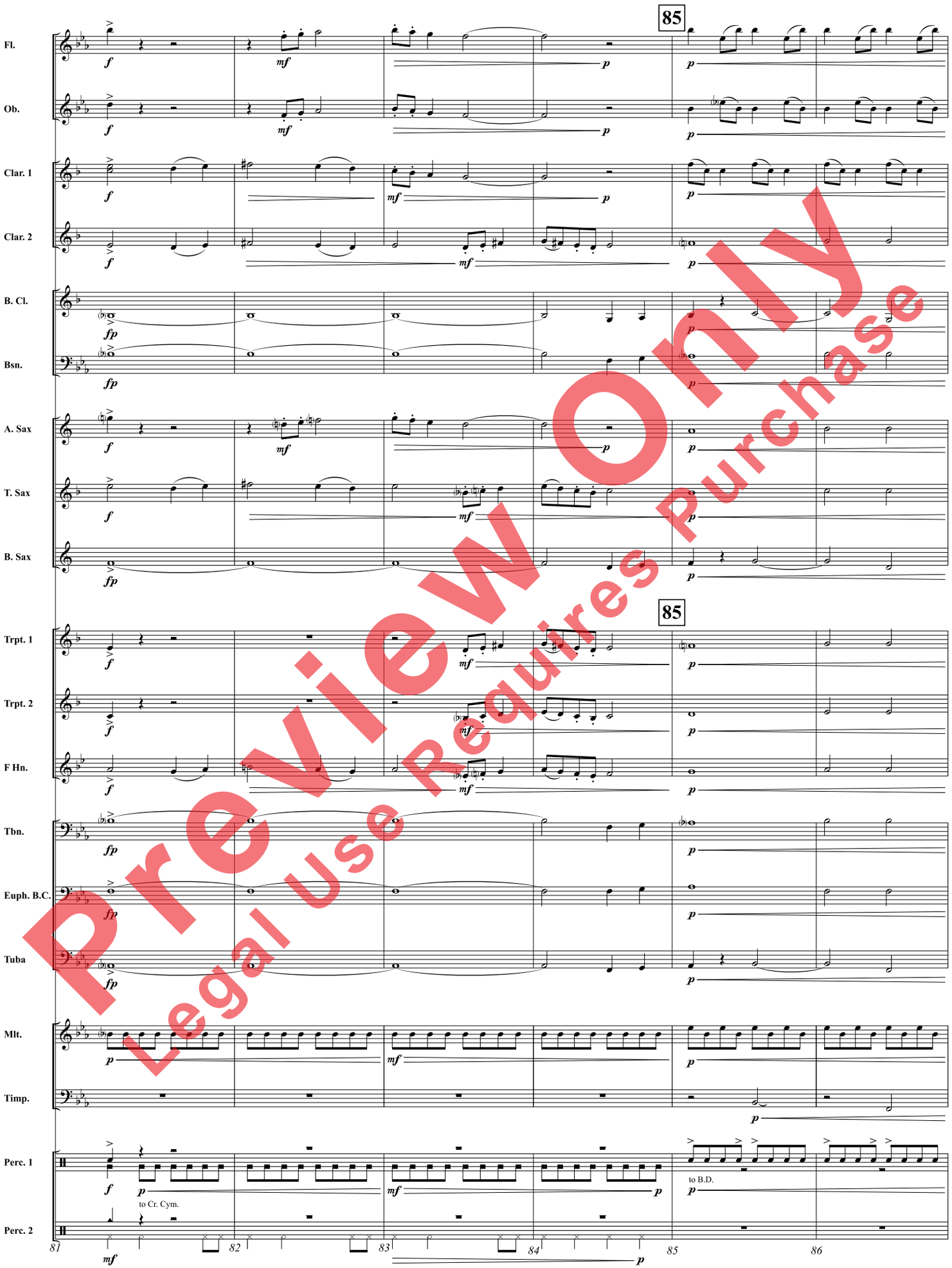

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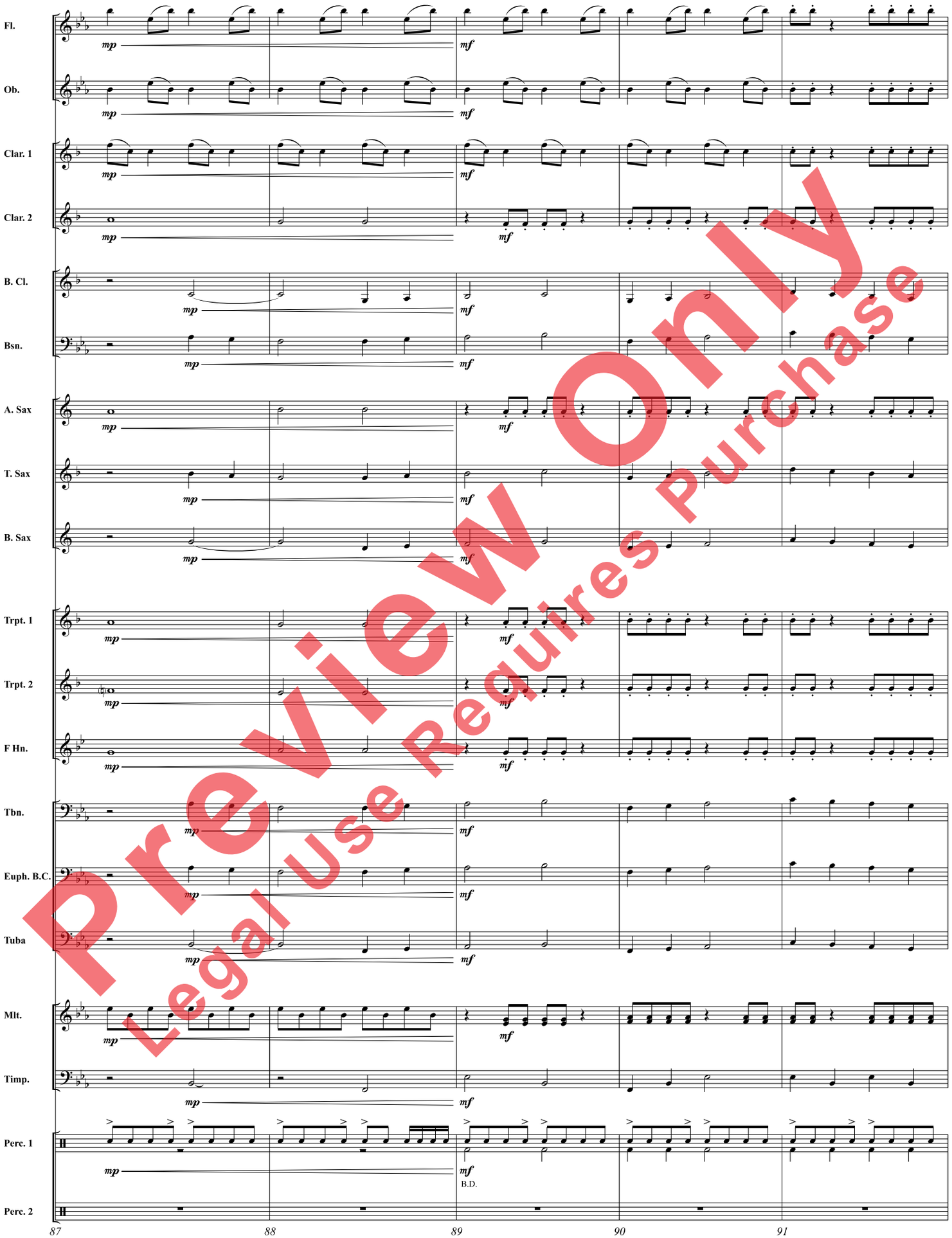

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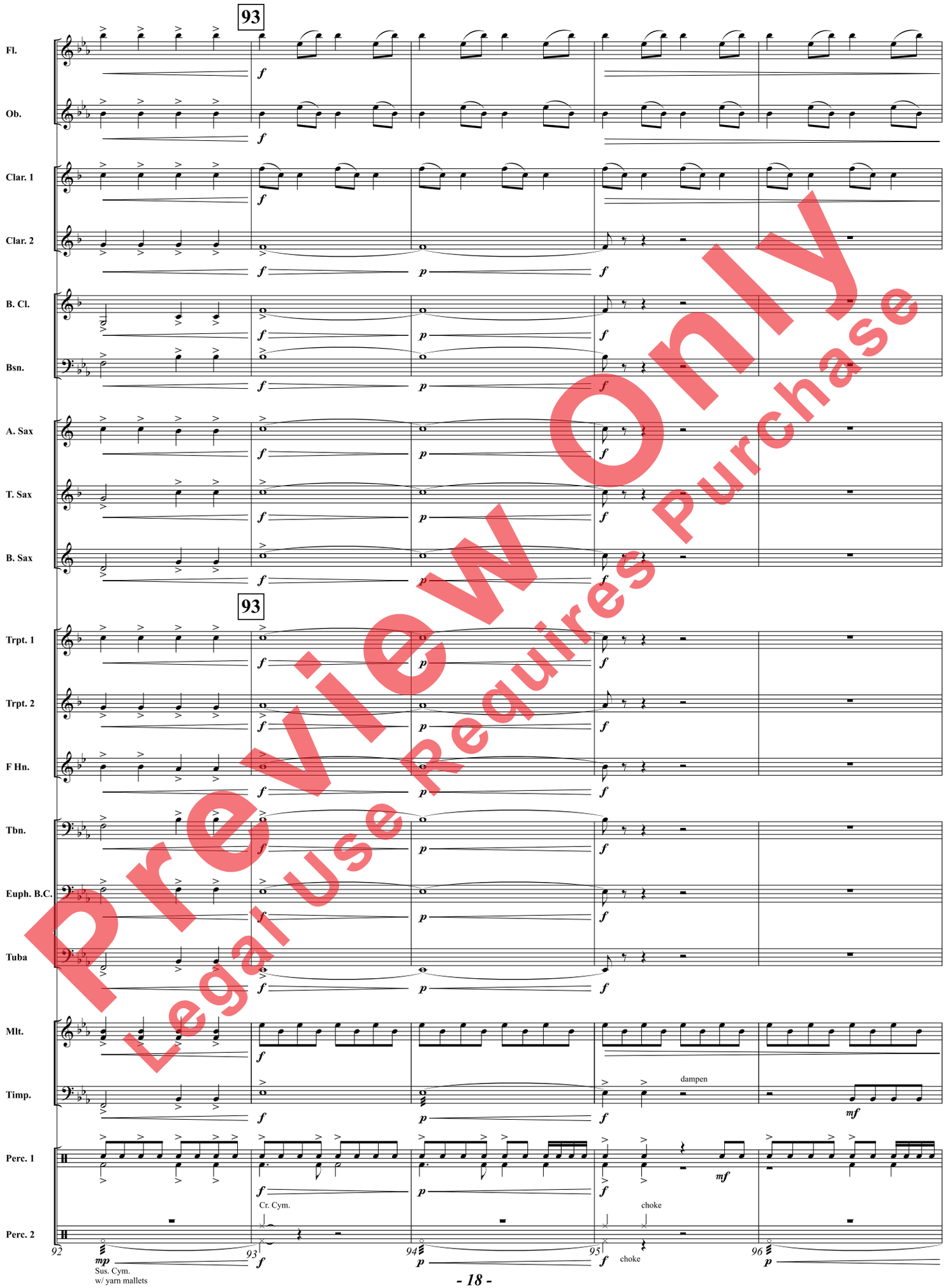

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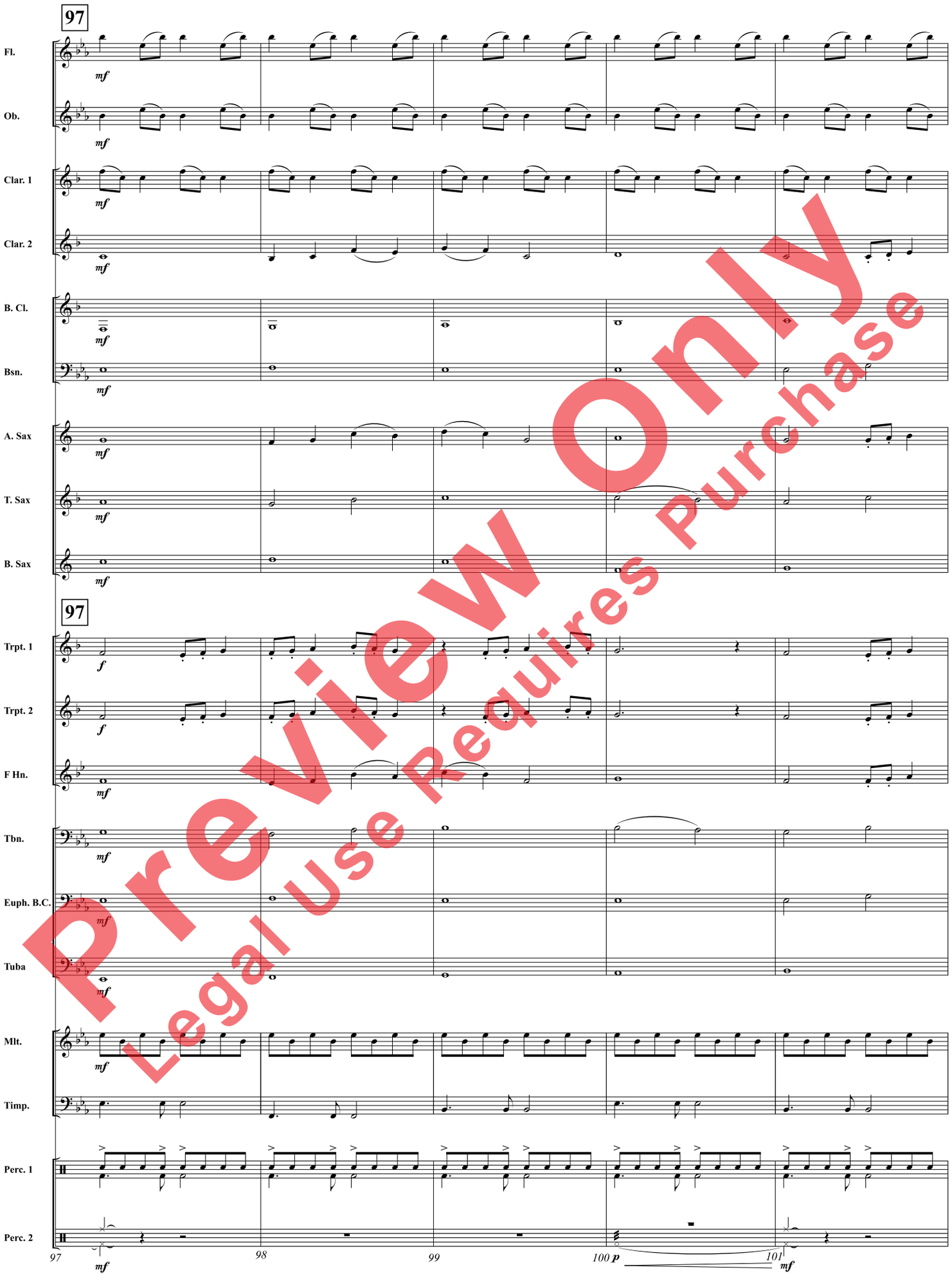

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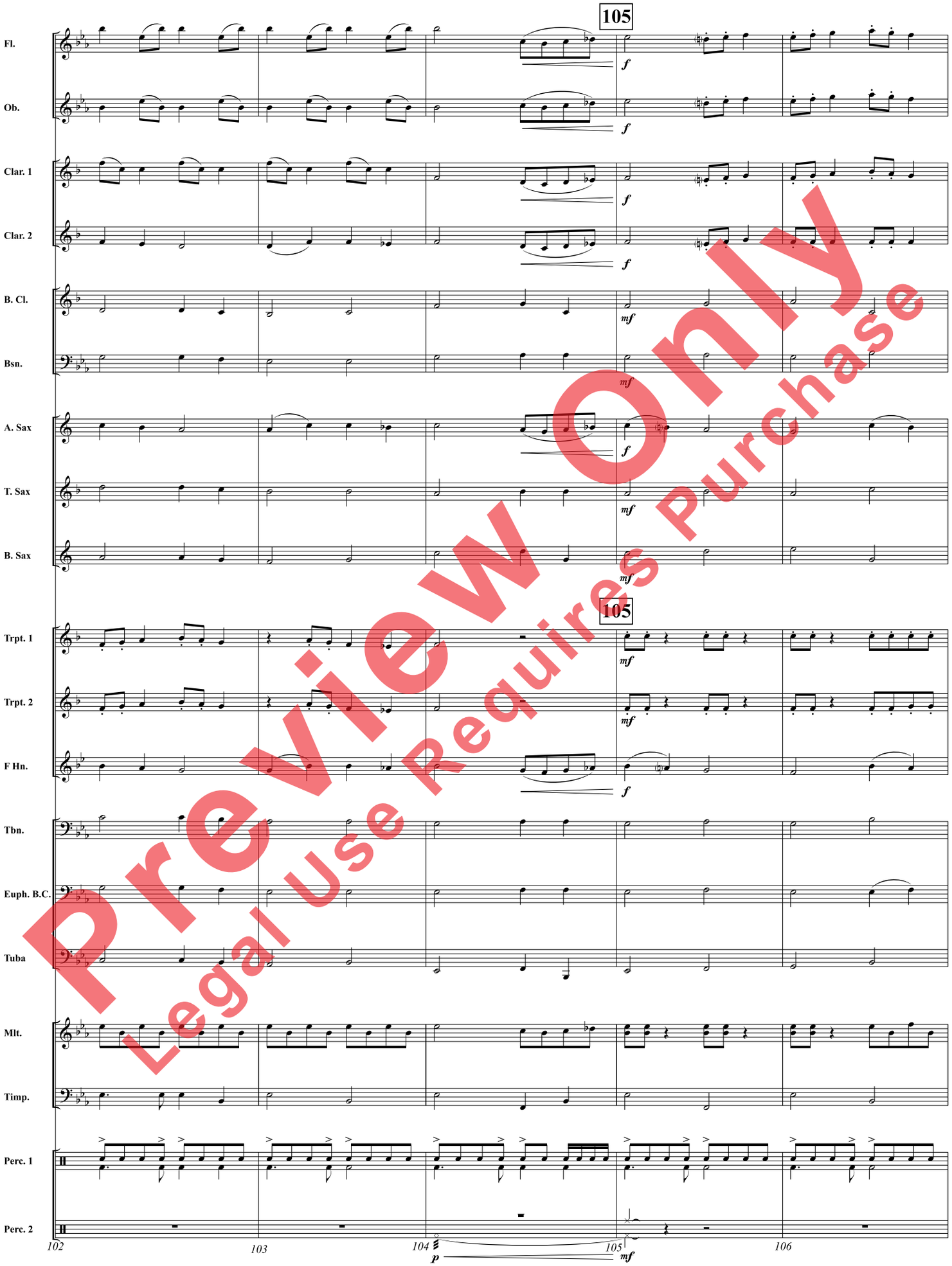

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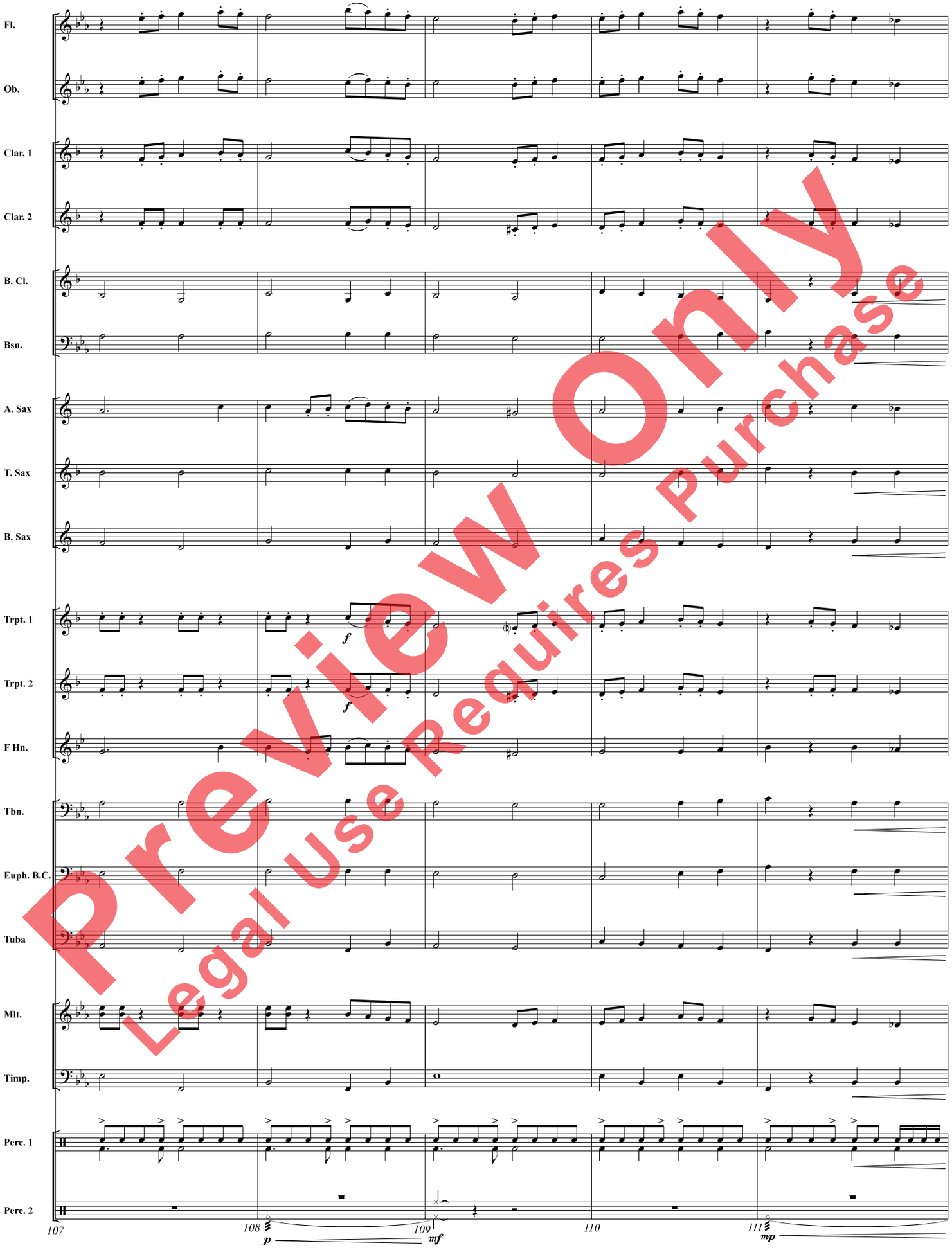

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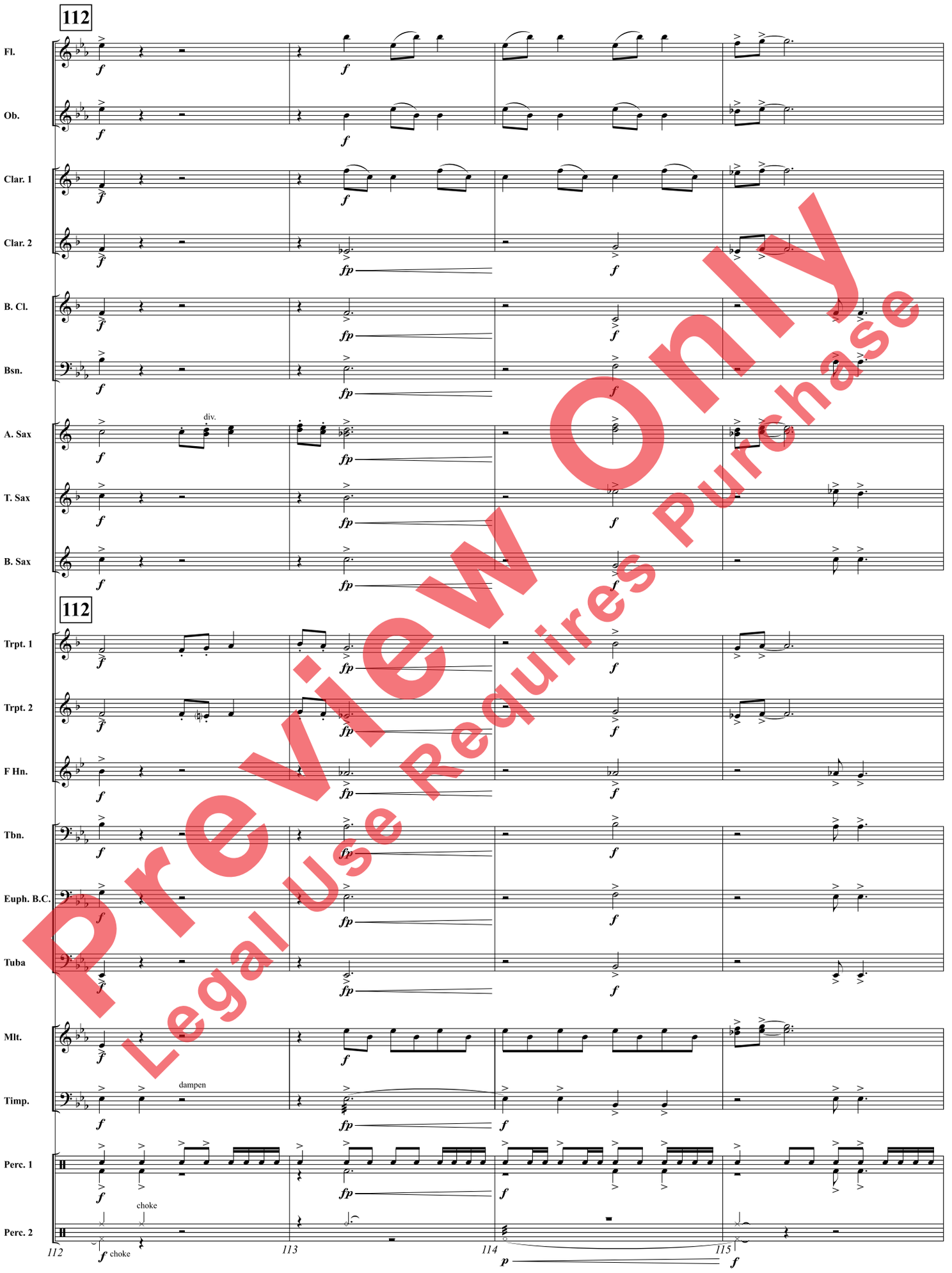

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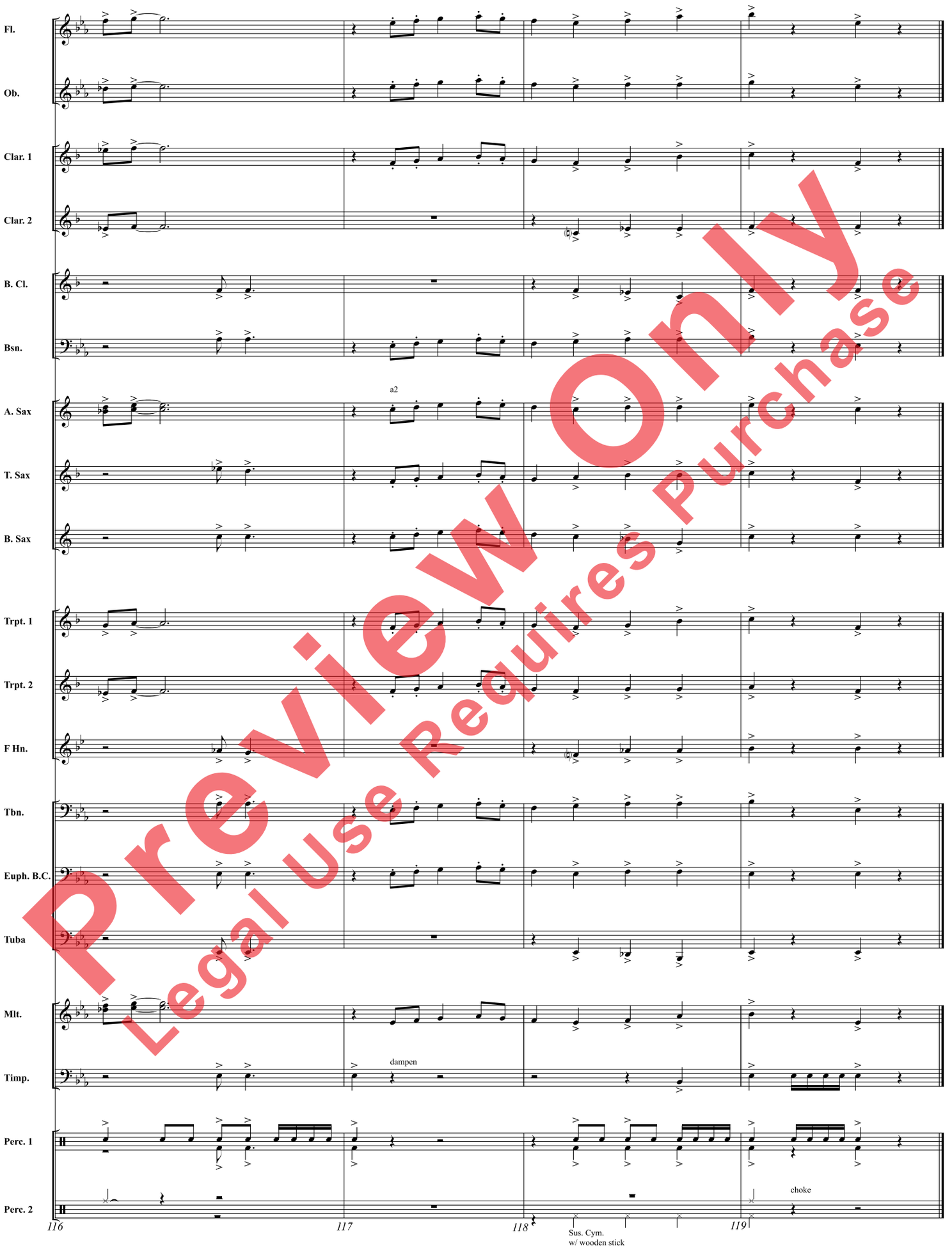

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ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Evan VanDoren is a freelance arranger, composer, and educational consultant. As the owner of VanDoren Music, Evan is commissioned each year to create works for concert and marching ensembles. He has arranged and orchestrated award-winning marching shows for numerous high school bands across the country.

Evan is an active clinician, presenting for Drum Corps International, the Music Educators National Convention, the Texas Bandmasters Association, the Texas Music Educators Association, and Music for All. He regularly consults with band programs around the country. Additionally, Evan is an active adjudicator with Bands of America, the University Interscholastic League, and the Texas Music Adjudicators Association.

Evan is the brass arranger for the Santa Clara Vanguard Drum and Bugle Corps, from Santa Clara, California, as well as the leadership faculty of SASI Leadership, based in central Texas.

Before devoting his life to creating music, Evan was a band director at Cedar Park High School, in Cedar Park, Texas, during which time the band was awarded multiple marching state championships and national recognition. He received a Bachelor in Music Education with Honors from Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. Currently, he lives in Cedar Park, Texas, with his wife, Katie, and their dog, Cooper.

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