Editor's Note

Giovanni Paisiello (1740-1816) was a highly successful Italian composer of operas in the late eighteenth century. His fame as a composer can be attributed to his over 80 operas, although he wrote a number of sacred works, including masses, motets, and oratorios.

Paisiello first studied music at the Conservatory of St. Onofrio in Naples, where he established his early reputation for writing comic operas. Paisiello was eventually commissioned to write two operas for Bologna, which led to his fame throughout Italy as a leading composer. When his reputation spread beyond Italy, Catherine II of Russia was the first of many national figures to recruit him. Paisiello worked in Russia for nine years at the imperial court in St. Petersburg, composing all the operas and theatrical works, including his very popular *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, and directing the court orchestra. He eventually returned to Naples to work for Ferdinando IV, composing some of his most famous operas, such as his highly revered *Nina* in 1789.

The wars at the end of the eighteenth century had a great effect upon the career of Paisiello. He remained in Naples to serve as composer through much political unrest. But in 1802 Paisiello moved to Paris for a couple of years at the request of Napoleon Bonaparte, to be Napoleon's director of chapel music. Returning to Naples to assume his duties as composer, Paisiello eventually lost his position and pension because of continued political unrest.

"Classic Alleluia Canon" was scored by Paisiello for three solo voices and keyboard accompaniment for performance in his opera *Nina*. Originally titled "Son Già Tuo, Bell' Idol Mio," this new arrangement for S.A.B. voices reveals Paisiello's ability to compose artistic settings of very tuneful melodies and simple harmonies with traditional cadences. The dynamic and tempo indications, text setting of the Latin word "alleluia," and eight measure introduction have been added by the editor.

This chorus should be performed quite smoothly while the singers emphasize the normally stressed syllable "lu" of the word "alleluia." An accent mark is indicated over that syllable in the following pronunciation guide.

Latin Pronunciation Guide

Al-le-lu-ia.
Ahl-leh-loó-yah.

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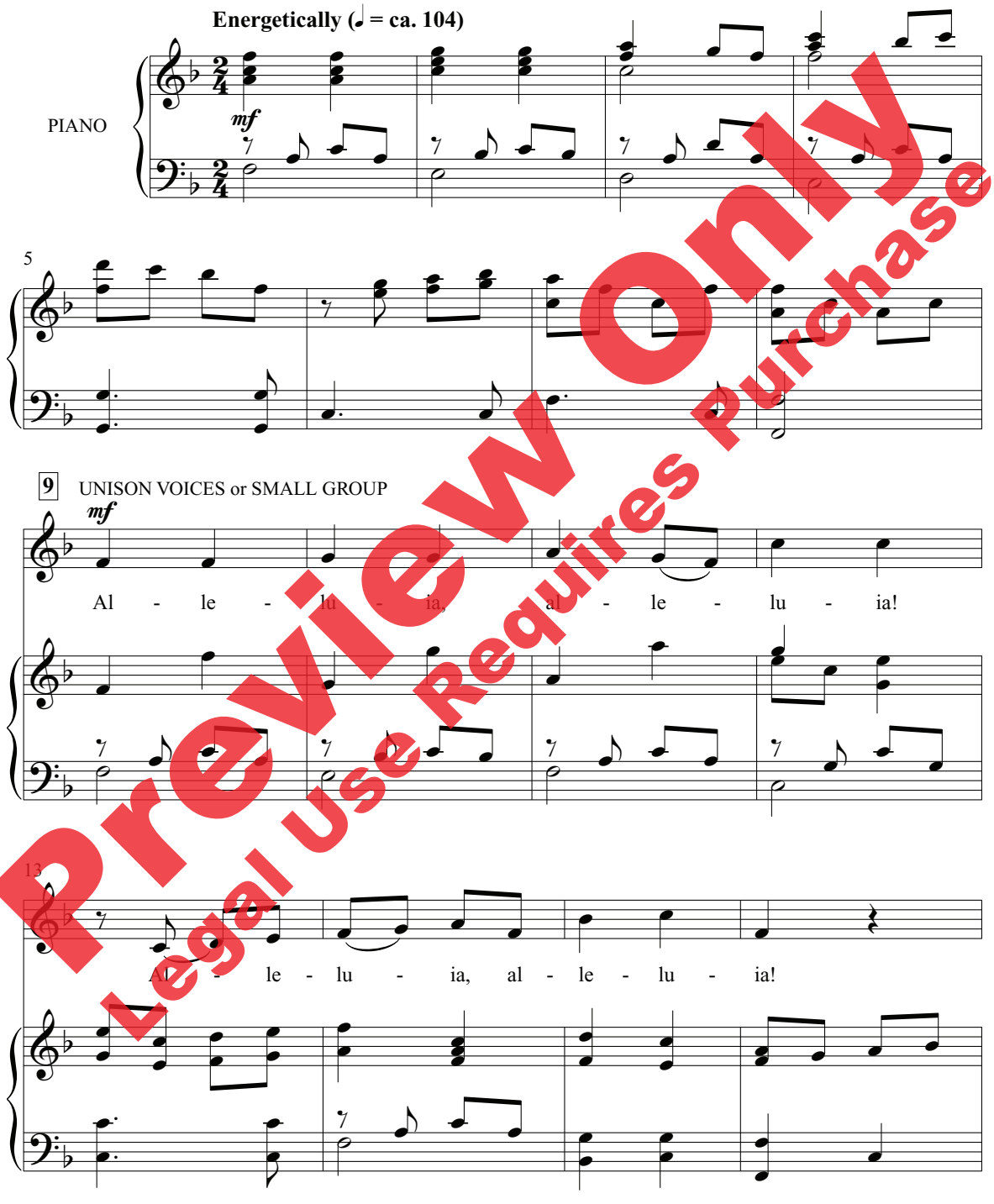
CLASSIC ALLELUIA CANON

from *Nina*

for S.A.B. voices and piano
with optional PianoTrax CD*

Edited and Arranged by
PATRICK M. LIEBERGEN

Music by
GIOVANNI PAISIELLO (1740-1816)



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* PianoTrax 4 Accompaniment CD available (35870).

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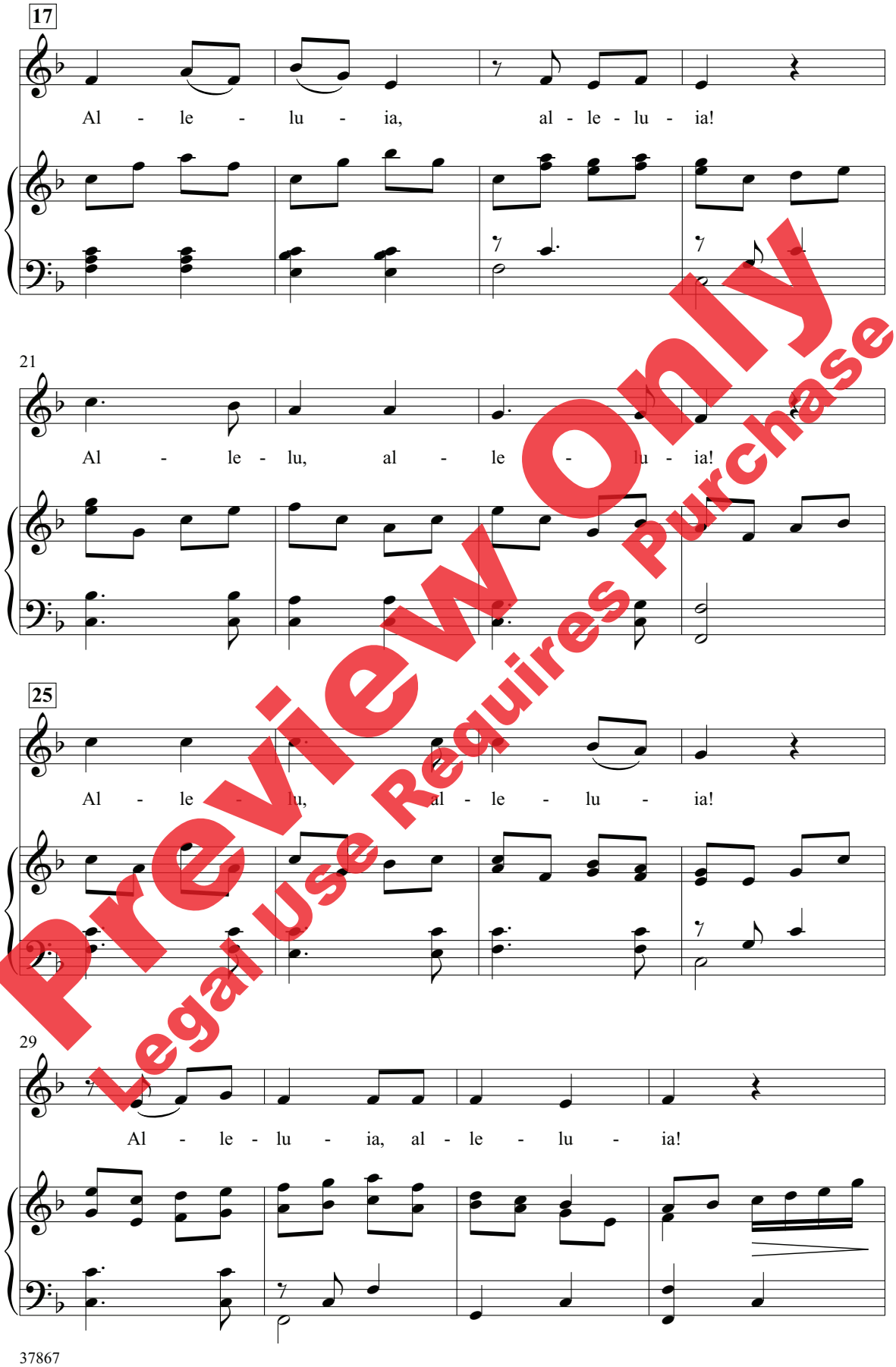

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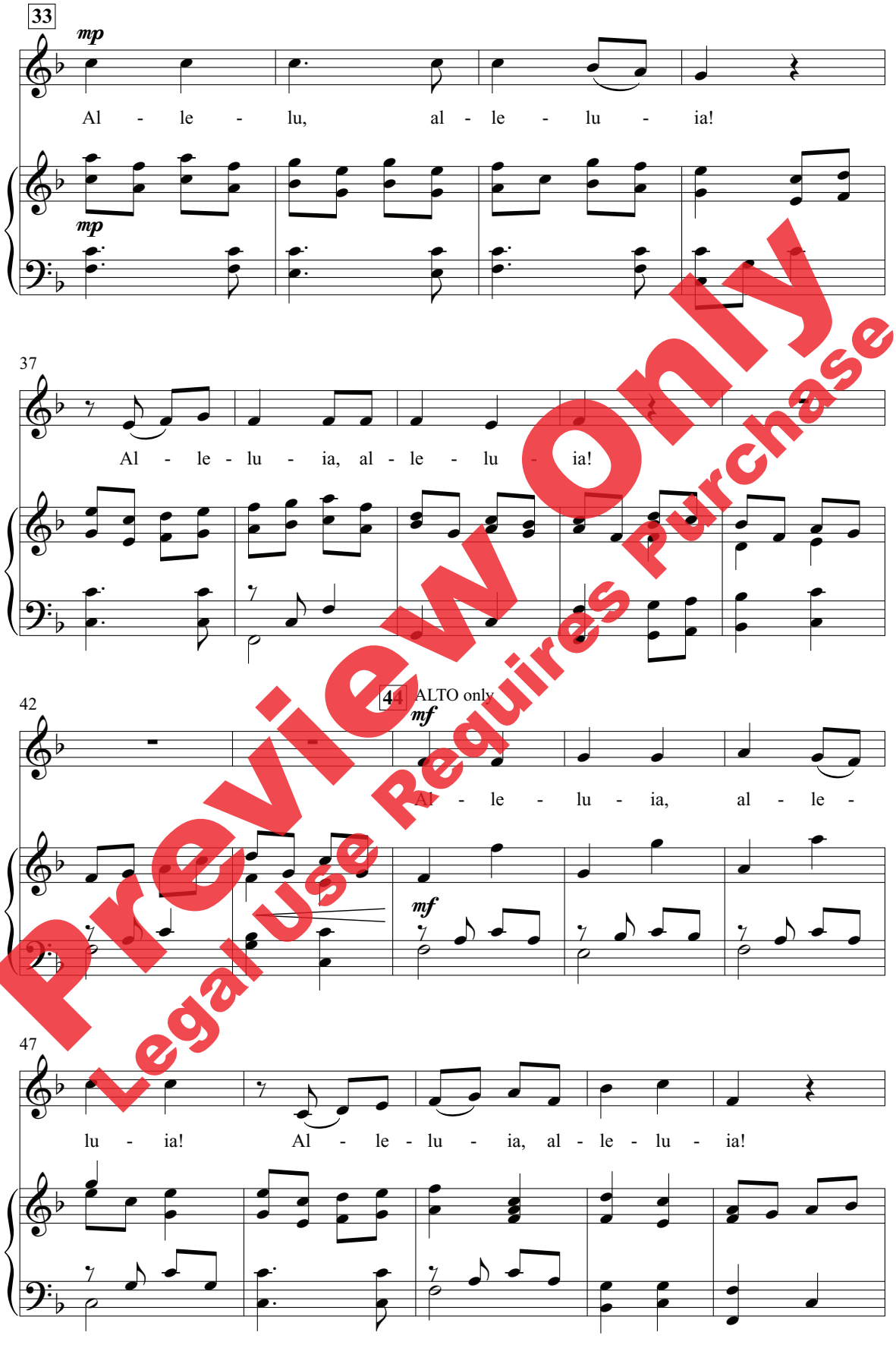

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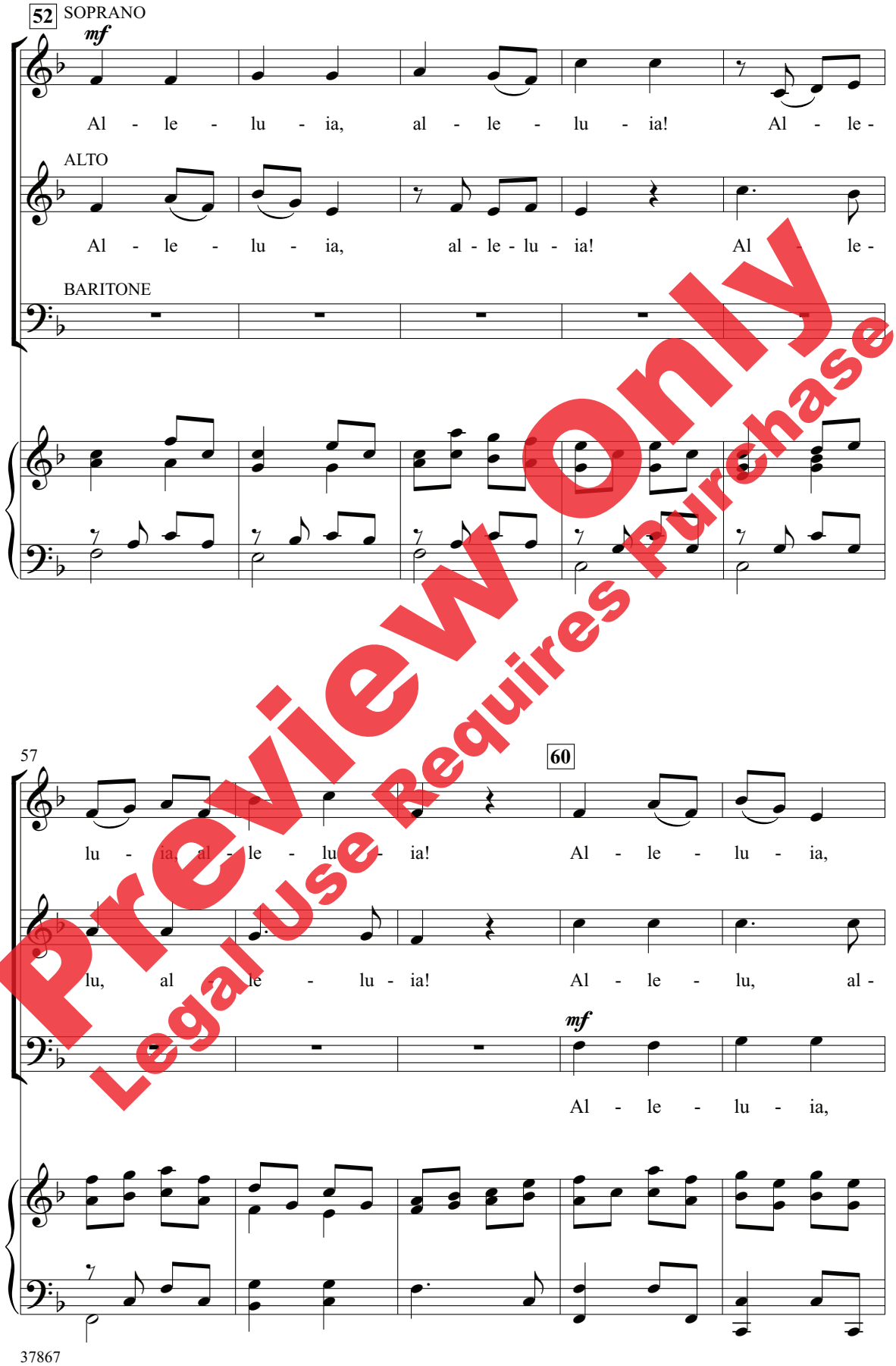

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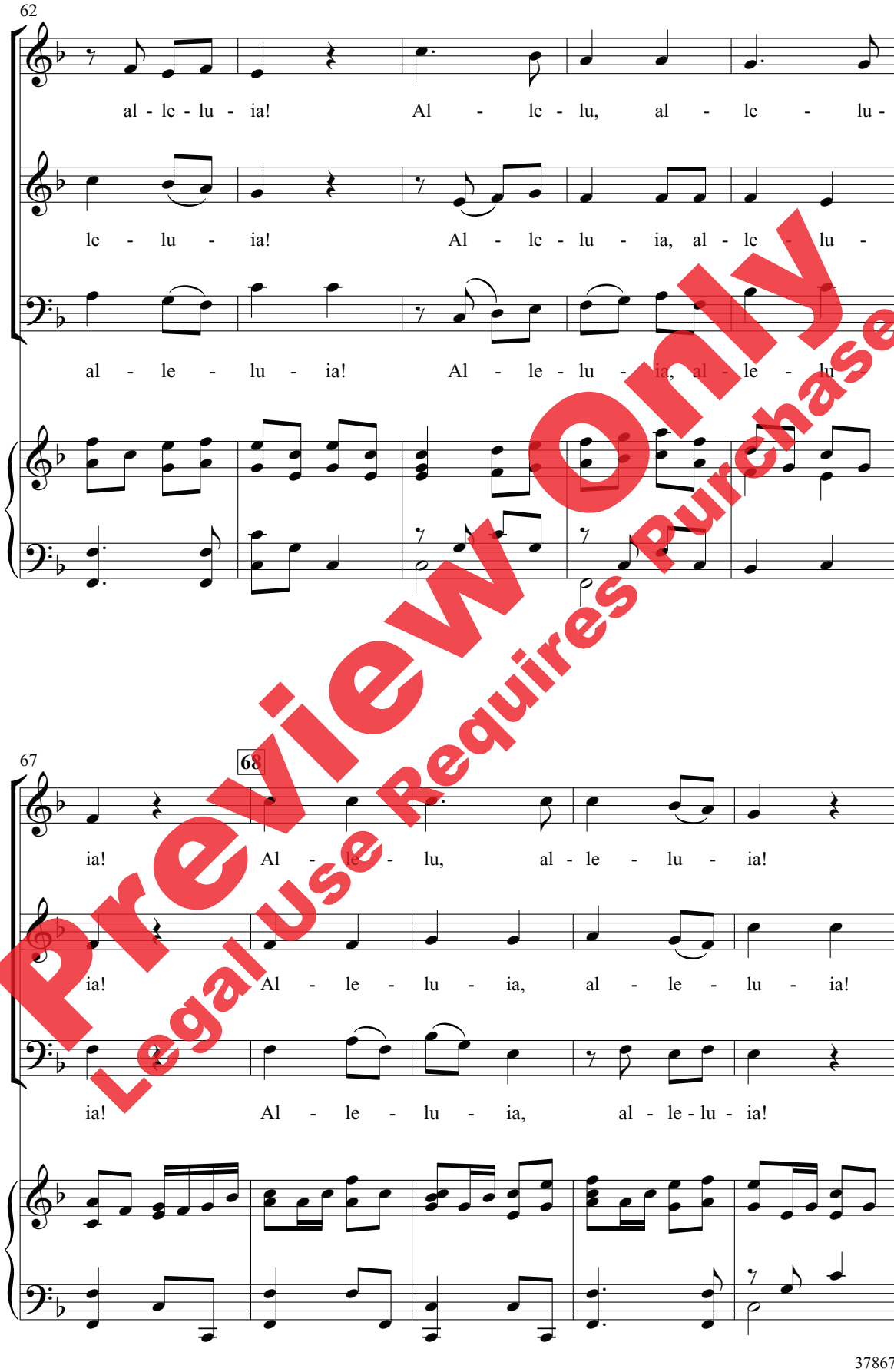

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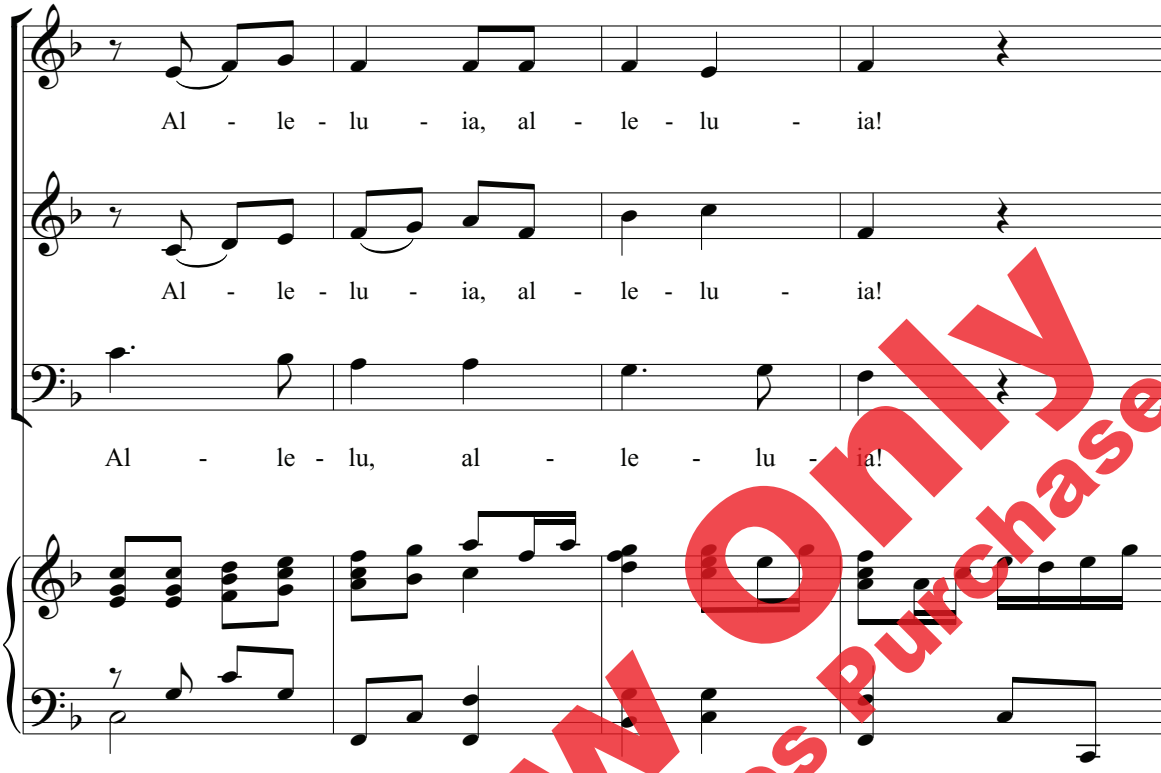

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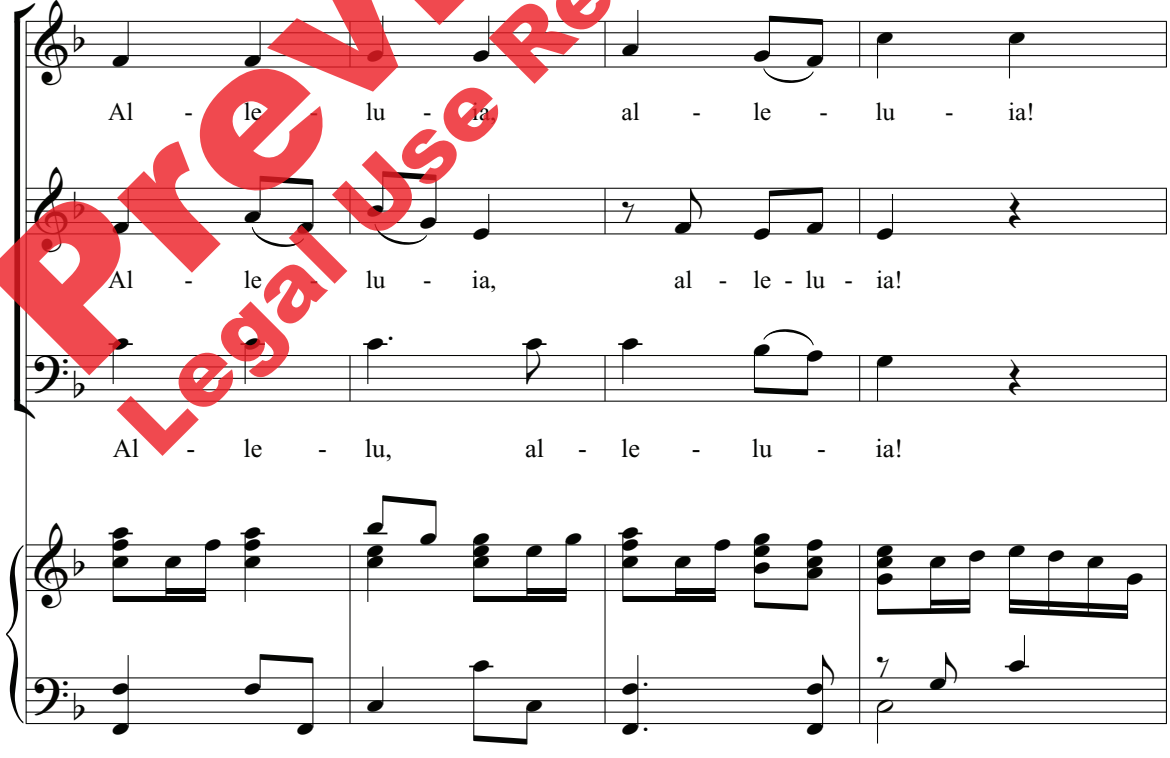

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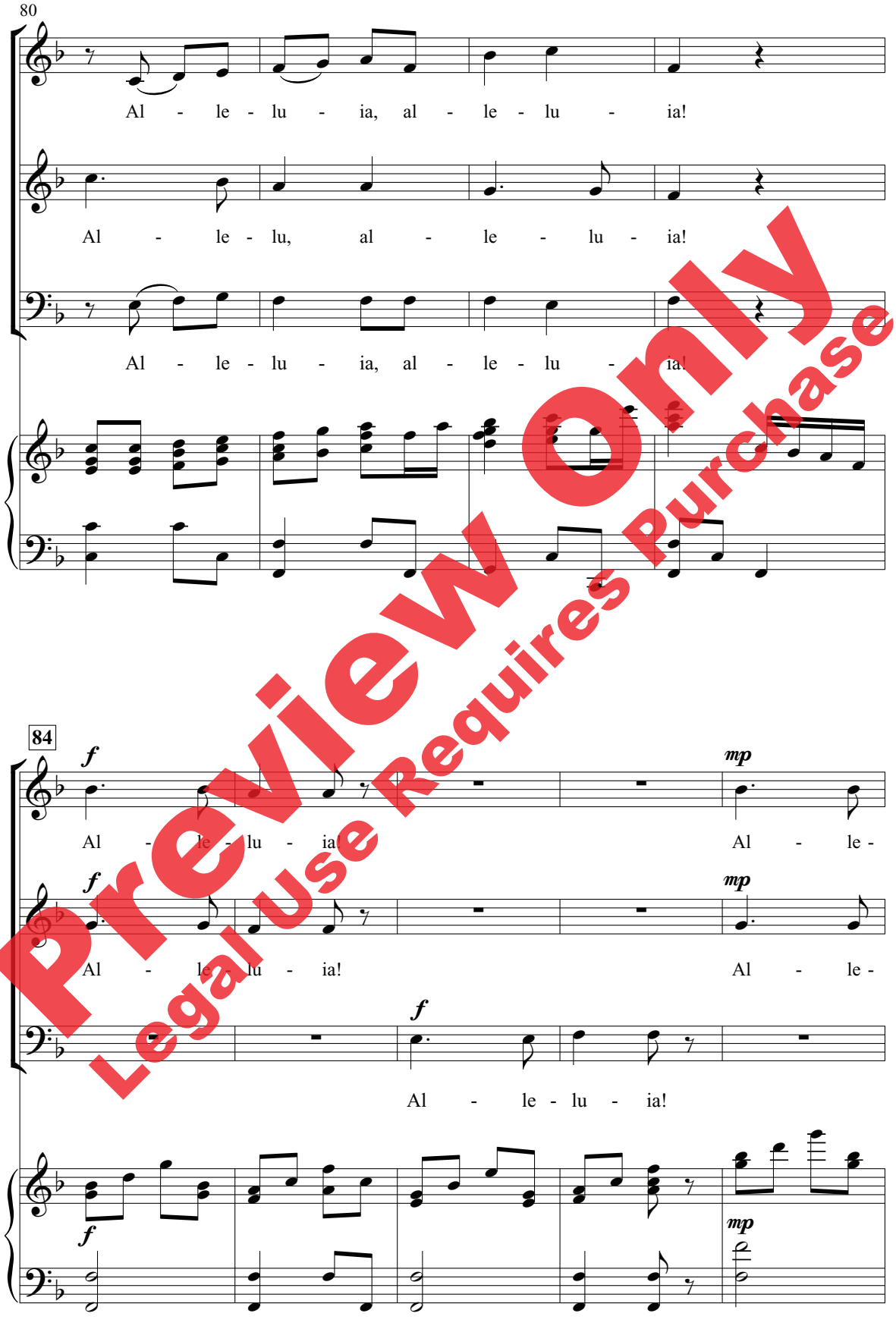

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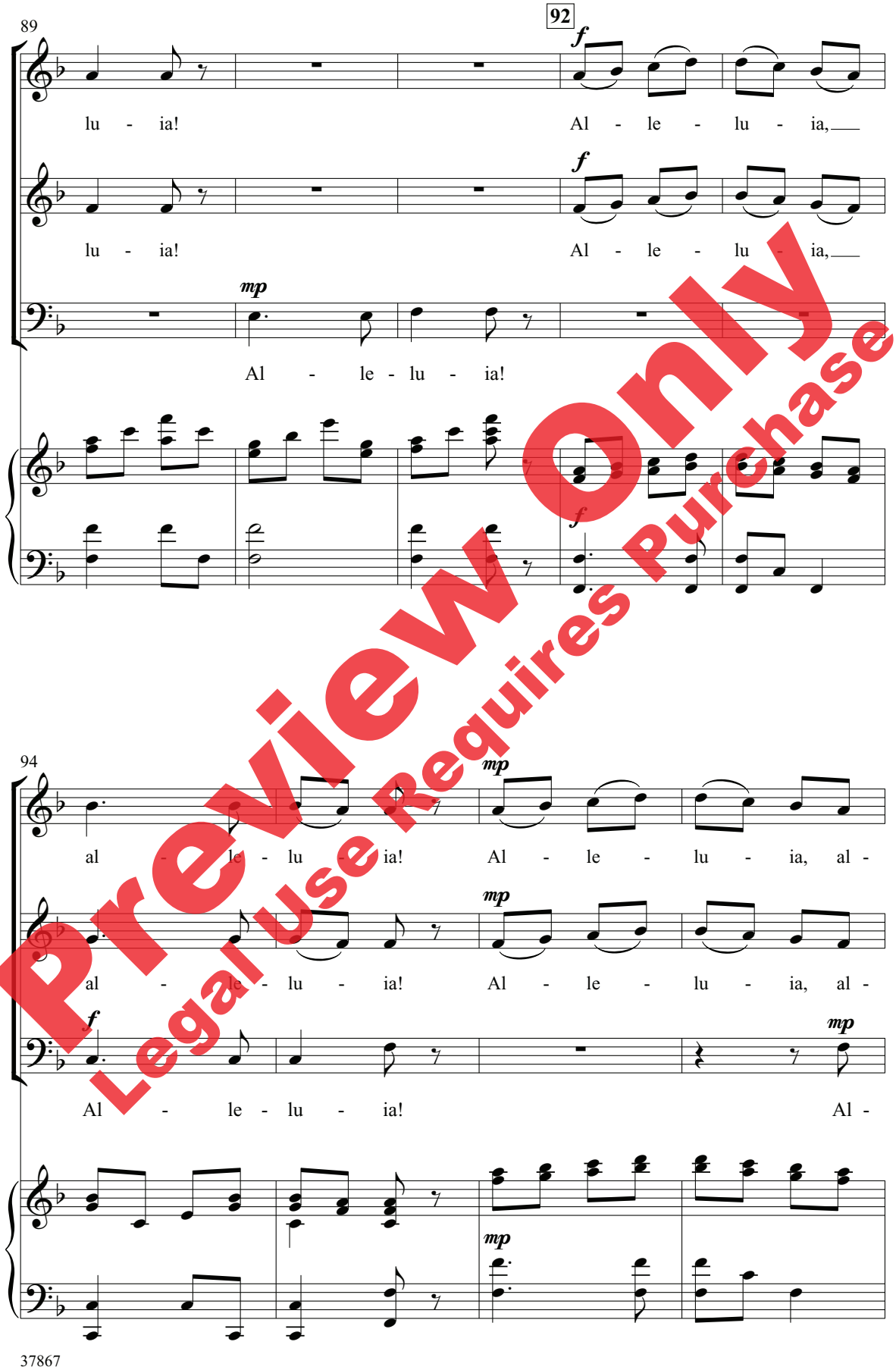

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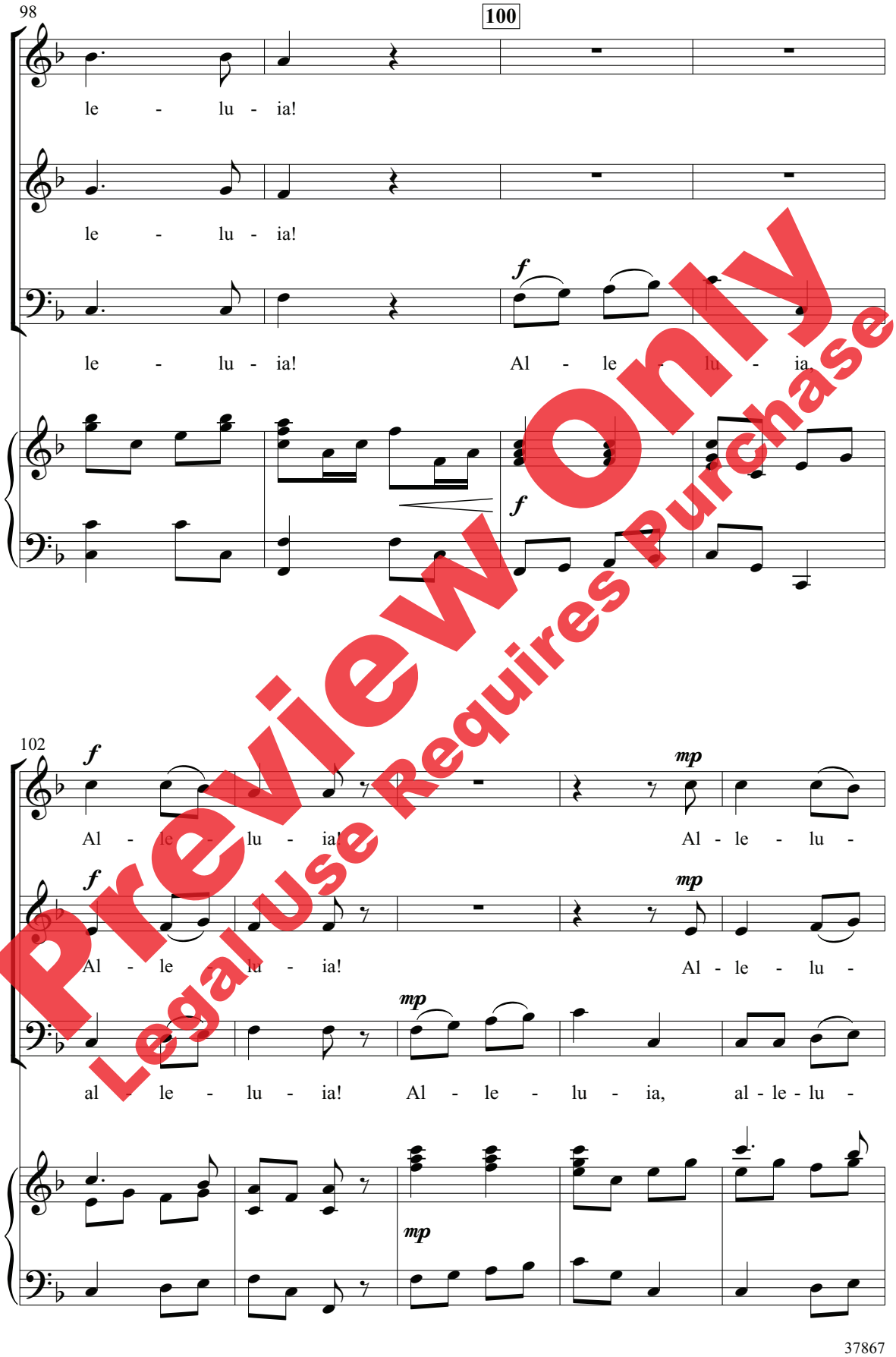

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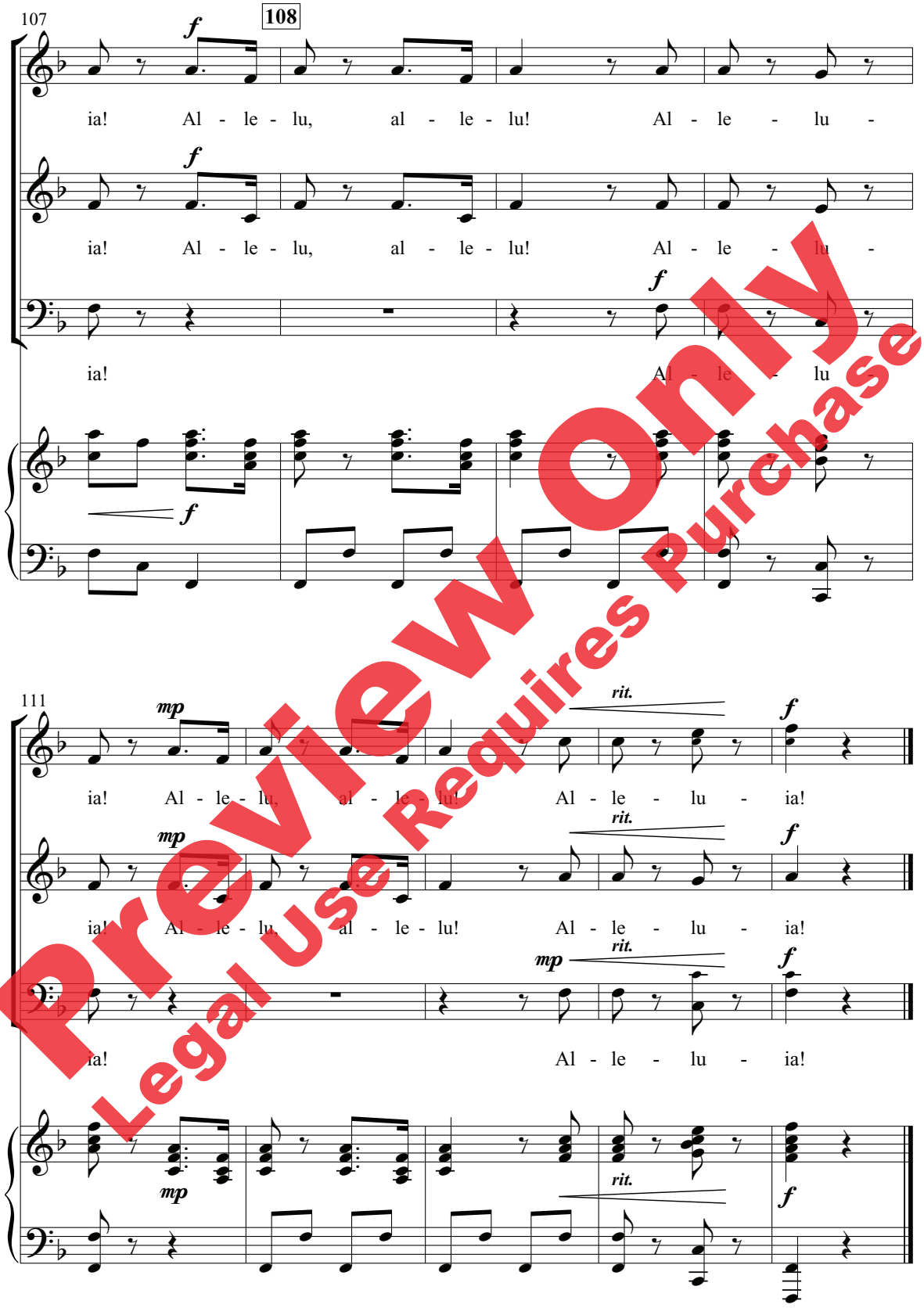

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