Classic Mallet Trios—Bach

(4 Classics Arranged for Orchestra Bells, Vibraphone and Marimba)

Music by Johann Sebastian Bach

Arranged by Brian Slawson

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Performance Notes

The enclosed works from the Baroque era by German composer J. S. Bach (1685–1750) are arranged for mallet trio consisting of orchestra bells, vibraphone, and marimba (minimum range: 4⅓ octaves). These pieces may also be performed as a four-movement work in the order listed below.

Musette—When Bach composed *Notebook for Anna Magdalena* for his beloved wife, he couldn't have imagined its appeal would last for centuries. Although "Musette in D" is simple in nature, this arrangement challenges beginning percussionists to perform unison passages on attack instruments while also focusing on balance and character.

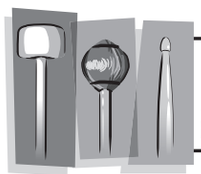
Sheep May Safely Graze—Excerpted from one of Bach's great cantatas, "Sheep May Safely Graze" is a gentle, choral work. Its use of thirds is wonderfully suited to mallet instruments. However, percussionists are sometimes tempted to accent passages when striking with two hands simultaneously. All double stops in this soothing piece should be played in a connected, melodic style.

Minuet in G—Also from *Notebook for Anna Magdalena*, "Minuet in G" is one of the daintiest tunes ever written. When playing mallet instruments, soft dynamics can be difficult to maintain. Be sure to keep a delicate music-box style throughout.

Gavotte—From Bach's French Suite No. 5 for keyboard, this "Gavotte" (a popular peasant dance of the day) is a tricky little tune that requires all players to stay on their toes, particularly being that the apparent downbeat occurs on beat 2, characteristic of the gavotte form. Although many of the details in this arrangement are specific, the trio should be encouraged to lend its own unique character to the performance.

Instrumentation (Number of Players: 3)

1 Conductor Score
1 Orchestra Bells
1 Vibraphone
1 Marimba



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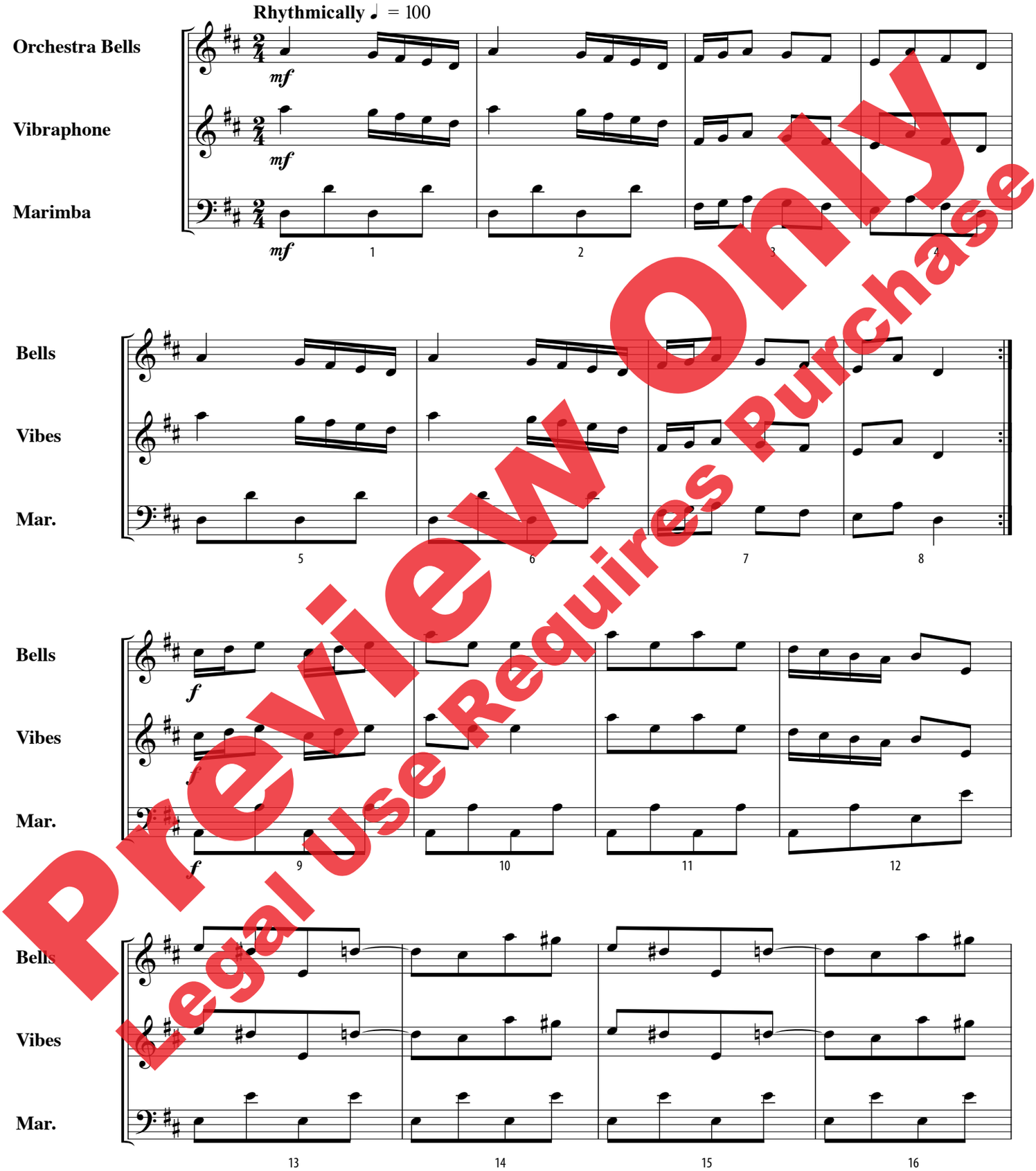
Musette in D

(from *Notebook for Anna Magdalena)*

CONDUCTOR SCORE
Duration - 0:50
(Total Time - 6:43)

Composed by J.S. Bach
Arranged by Brian Slawson



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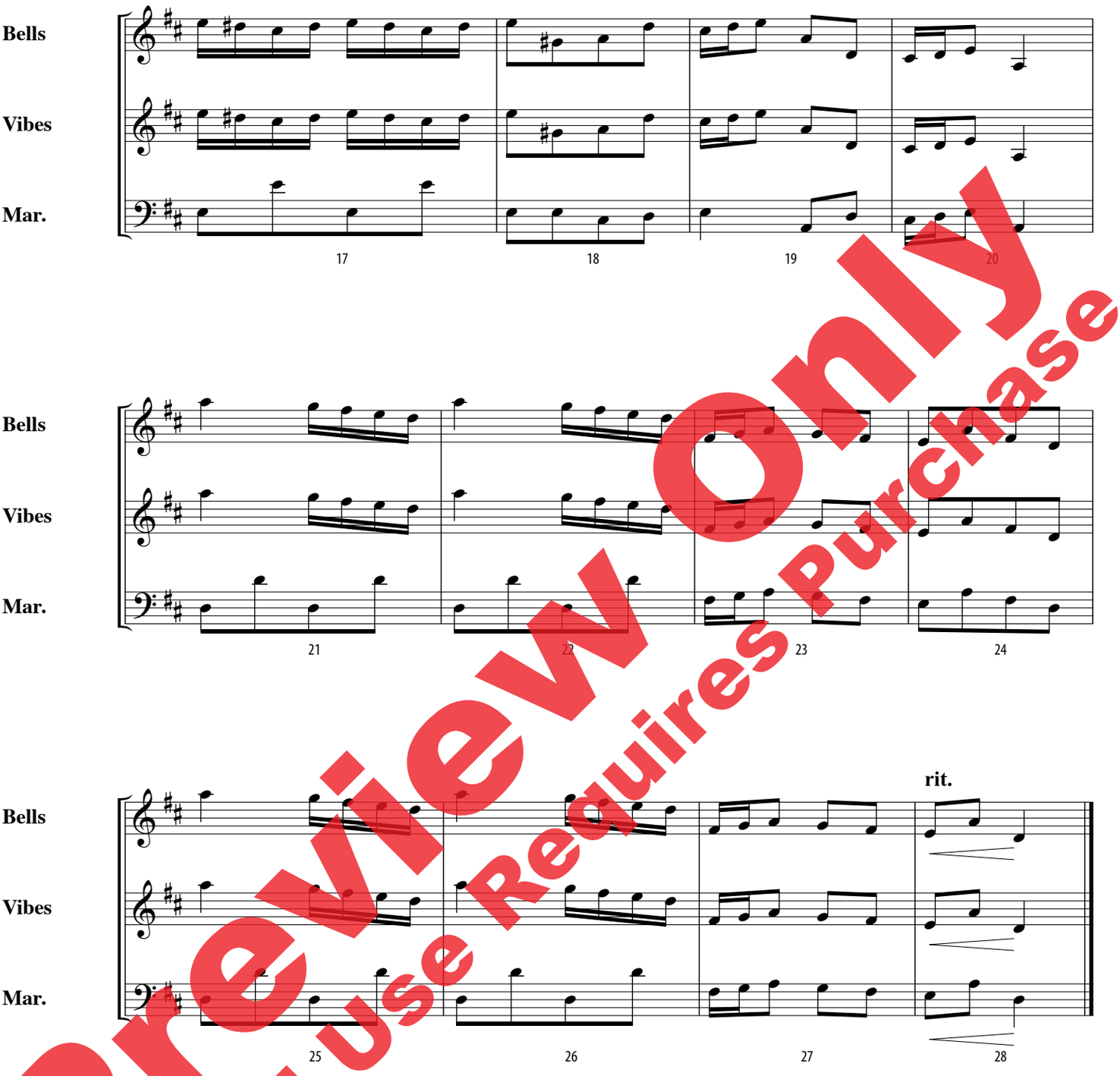

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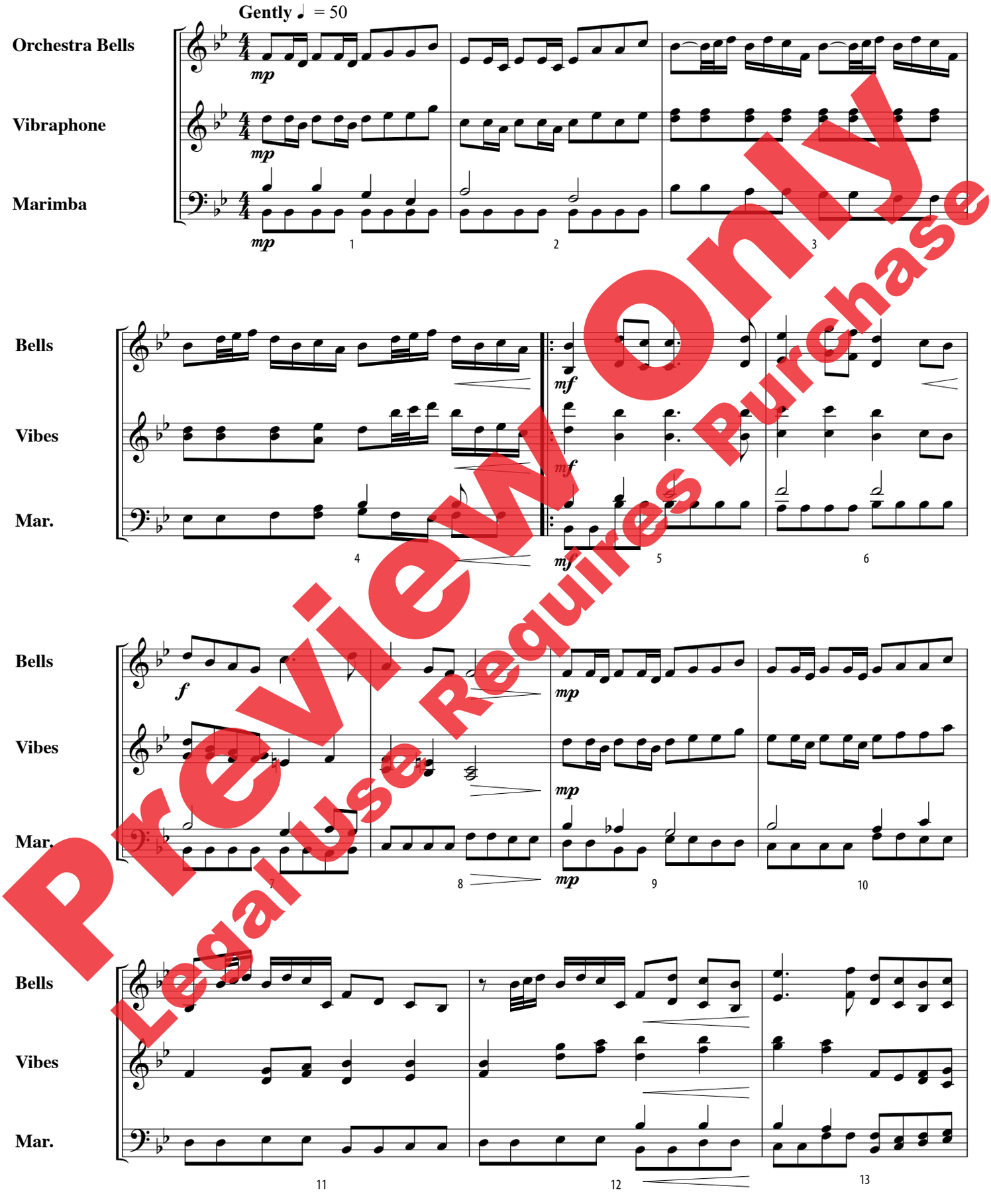
Sheep May Safely Graze

(from the *Hunting Cantata)*

CONDUCTOR SCORE
Duration - 3:00

Composed by J.S. Bach
Arranged by Brian Slawson



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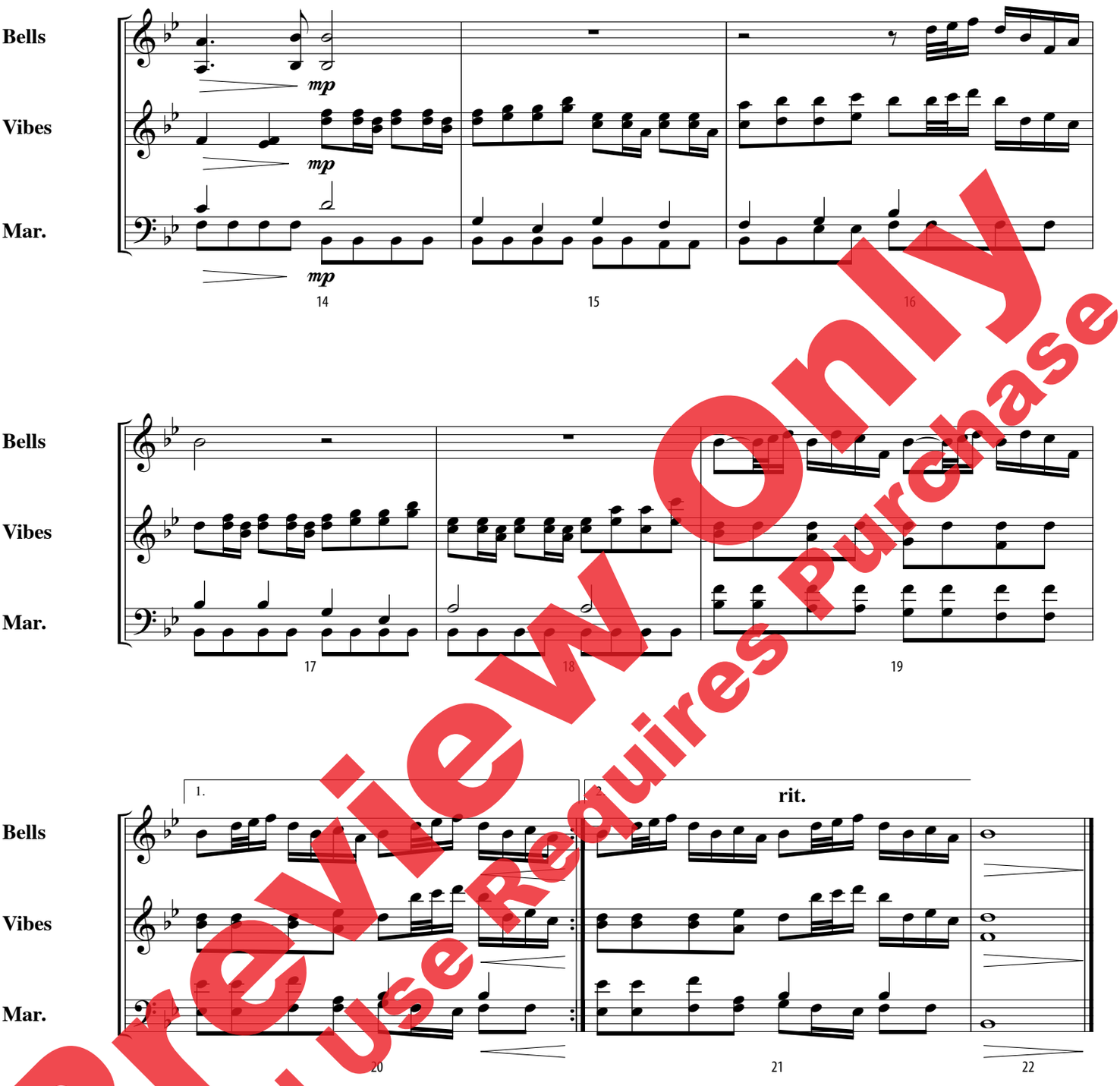

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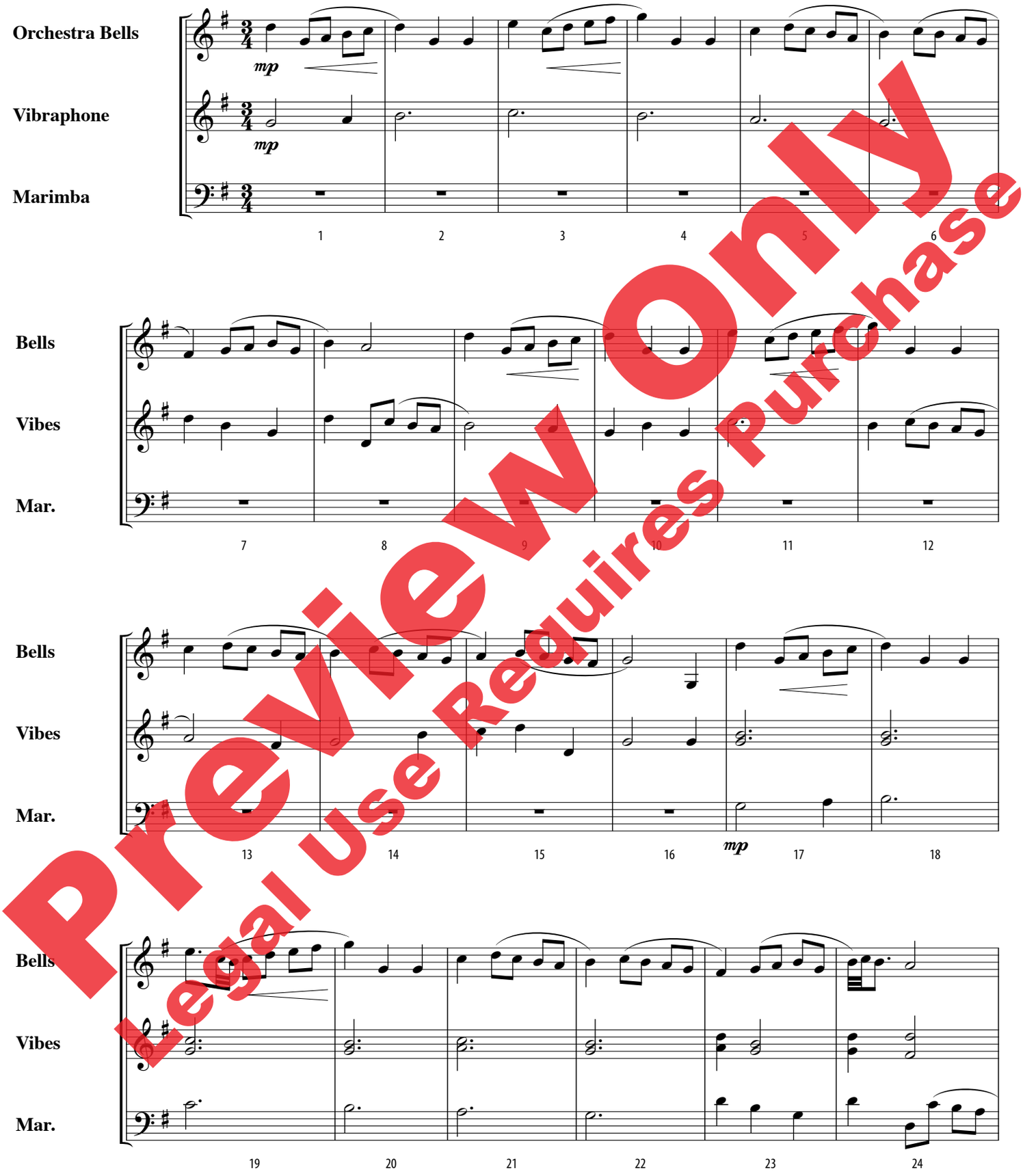
Minuet in G

(from *Notebook for Anna Magdalena)*

CONDUCTOR SCORE
Duration - 1:38

Composed by J.S. Bach
Arranged by Brian Slawson

Like a music box ♩ = 126



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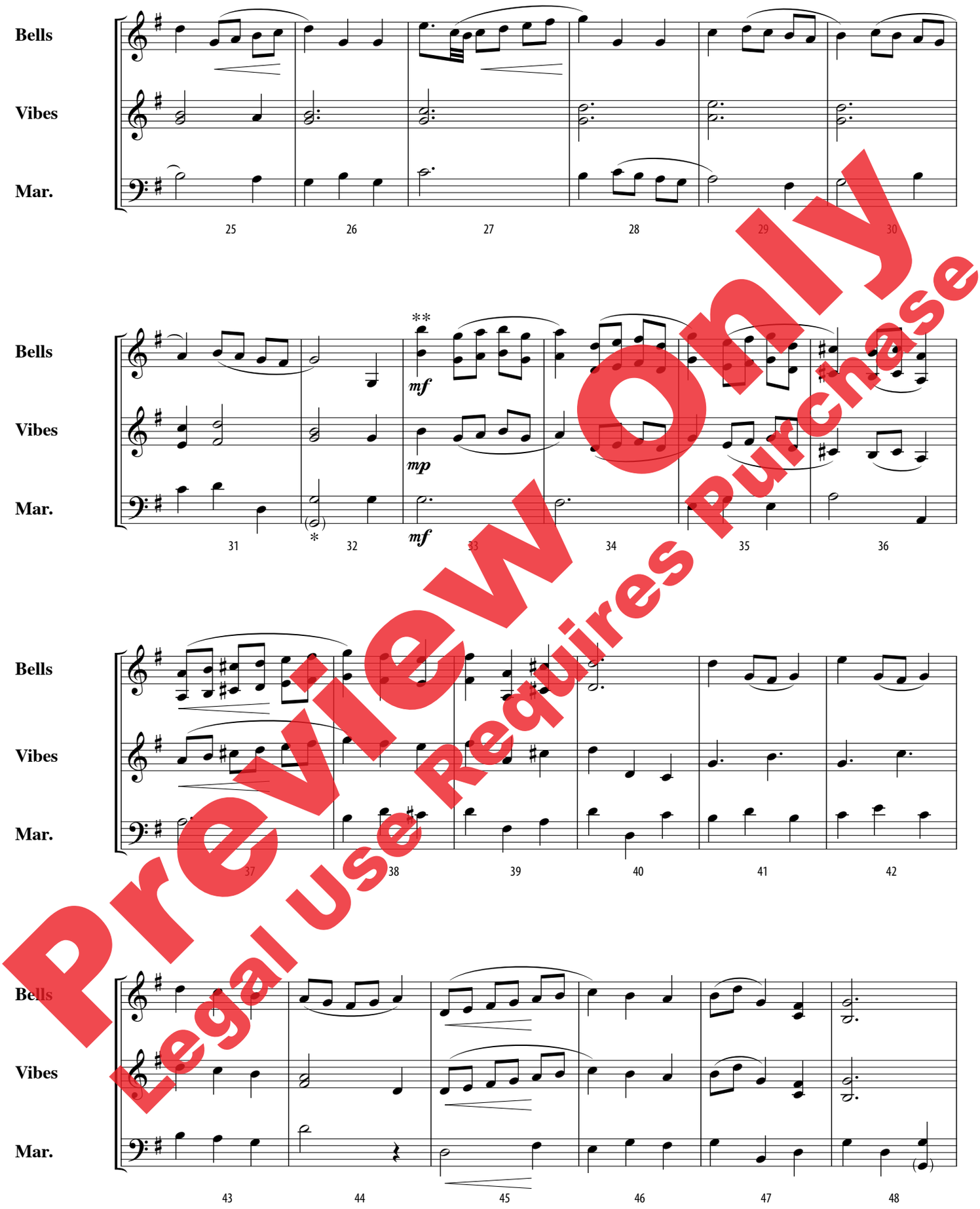

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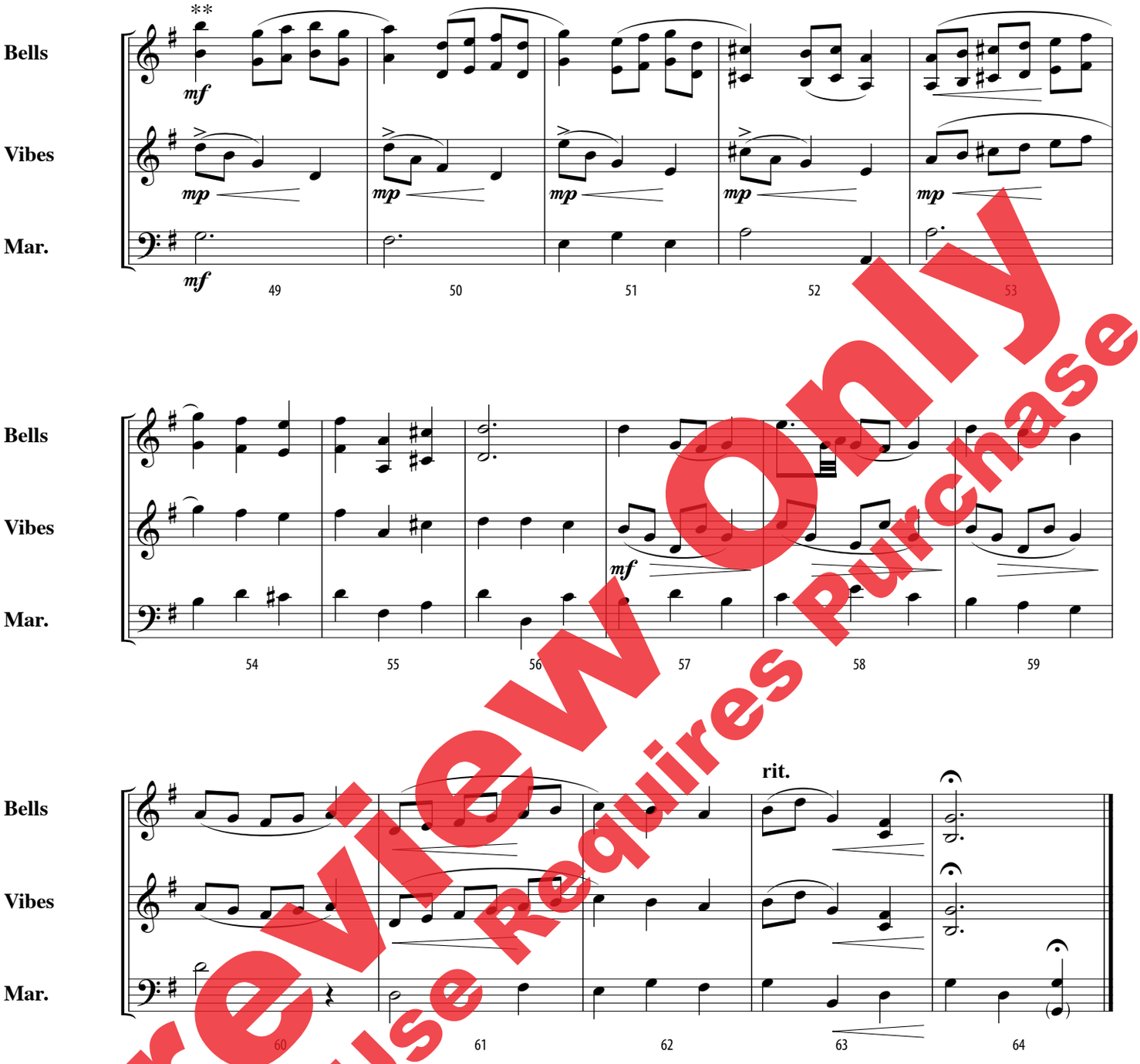
* Substitute the lower notes in parenthesis when playing a 5-octave marimba.
** May be played with just the lower octave from mm. 33–40 and mm. 49–56.



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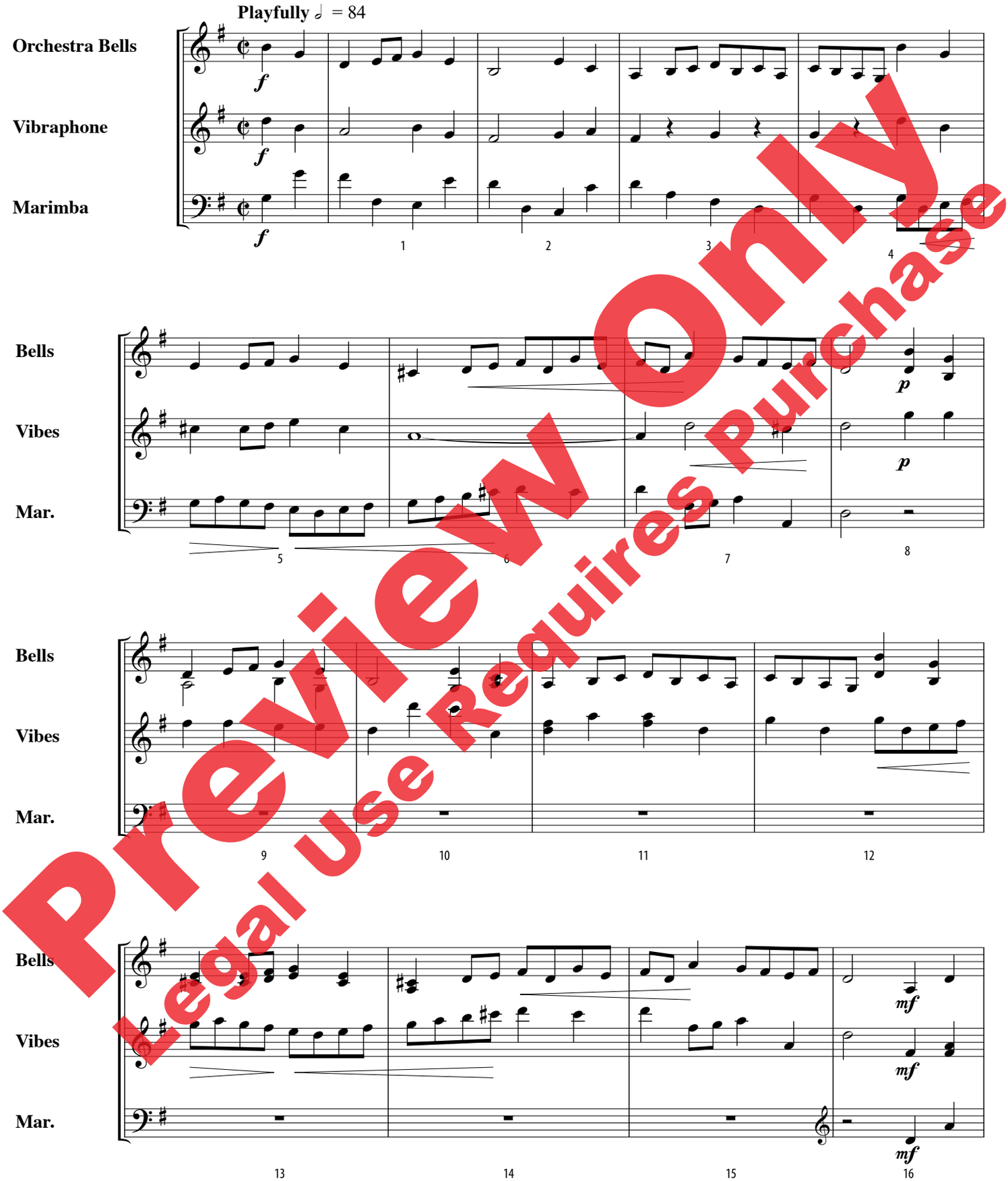
Gavotte

(from *French Suite No. 5)*

CONDUCTOR SCORE
Duration - 1:15

Composed by J.S. Bach
Arranged by Brian Slawson



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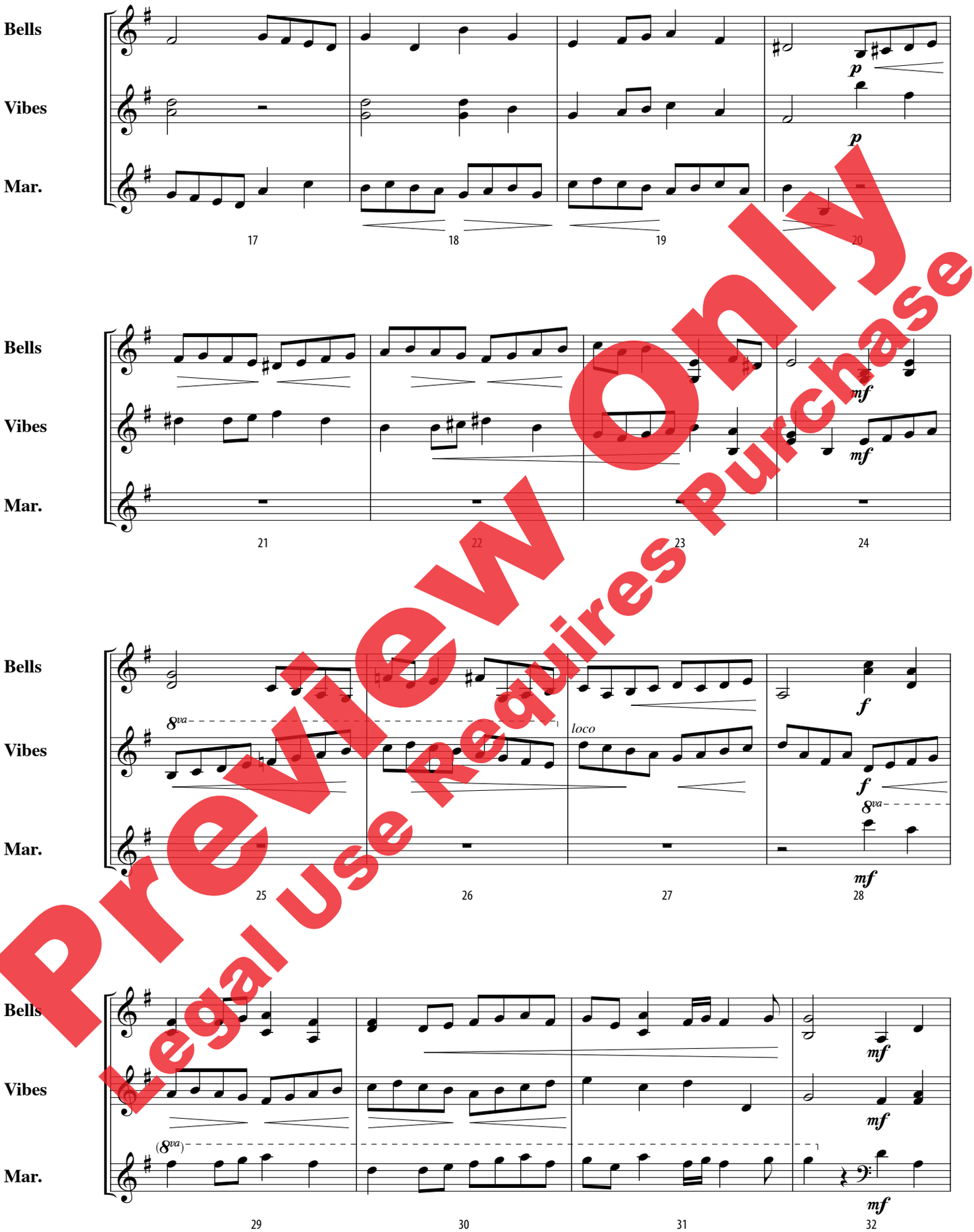

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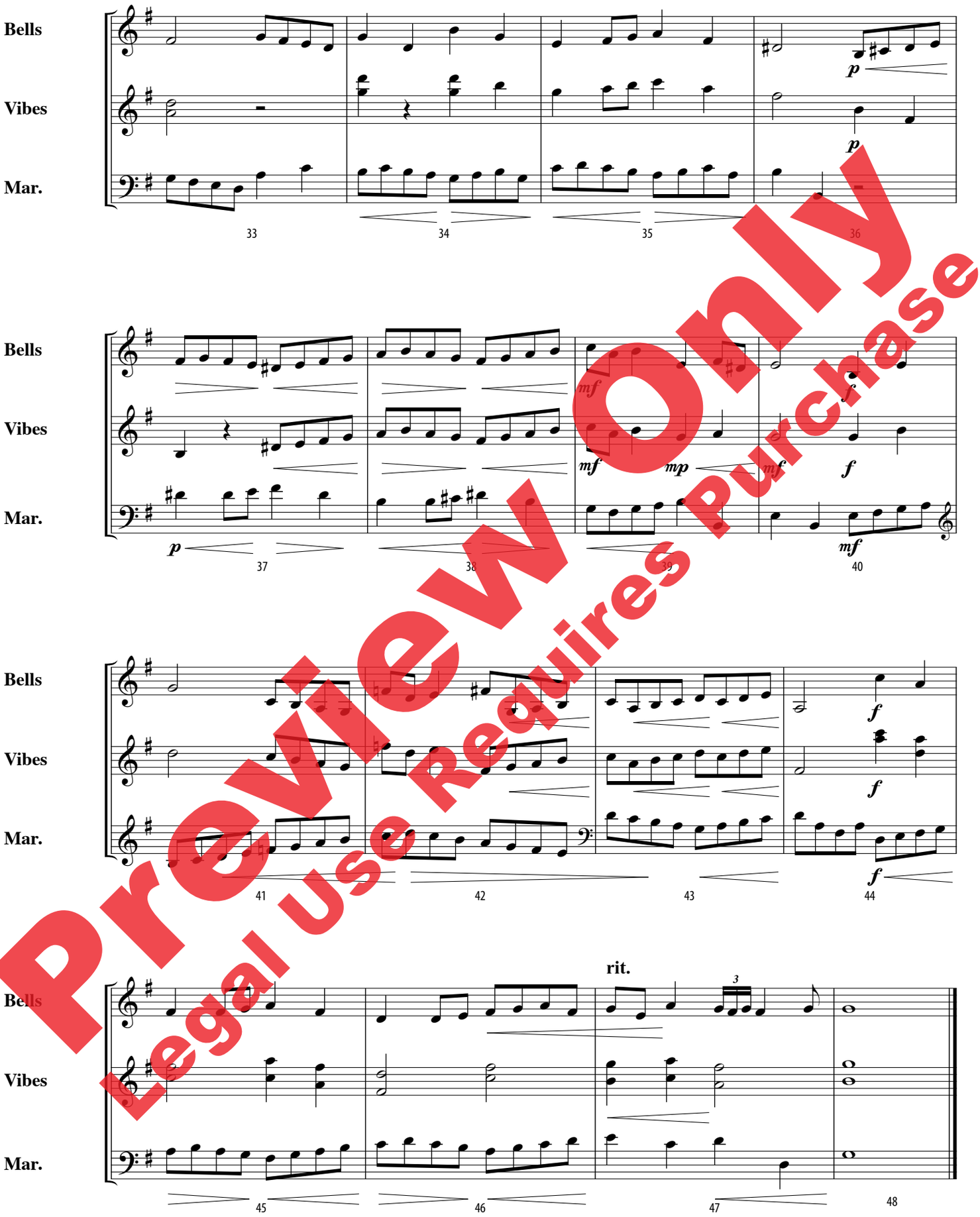

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