THE WEAVER

A Cantata for SATB Choir
and Soloists by

Ken Medema
and Buryl Red

Performance Time: Approximately 40 minutes

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Orchestration Instrumentation:

Flute; Oboe; Bassoon; Violin 1, 2; Viola; Cello; Double Bass;
Horn 1, 2; Trumpet 1, 2; Trombone 1, 2; Percussion 1, 2;
Harp; Guitar; Keyboard (opt. Celeste & Harpsichord); Organ, Handbells (3 octaves) (opt.)

H·W·GRAY
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Foreword

The Weaver is a cantata and concert work which presents the age-old gospel story in a fresh way. From the uncommonly creative minds of Ken Medema and Buryl Red, the cantata is in a classic style, with folk-like qualities and melodies.

God is pictured as a weaver, Who, in the beginning, sews the tapestry of the universe together. With the entrance of sin into the world, human beings take the thread and break it, making their own designs which bring about an estrangement from God.

The coming of Christ gives all a chance to reconnect the threads of the tapestry. God is always remaking what has been broken.

— Ken Medema and Buryl Red

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Table of Contents

Prologue **4**
The Weaver-Ballad I **11**
Let There Be Light **19**
Dance **20**
God of Harmony / Dance (Reprise) **40**
Ballad II **44**
I See You **48**
Ballad III **58**
See How the Thread is Broken **60**
Ballad IV **72**
Here is the One **76**
Ballad V **85**
Raise Your Voices in Praise **87**
Children of Earth **99**

Performance Notes

The Weaver is conceived as a sacred cantata performed in concert by SATB chorus, female soloist (mezzo-soprano), and male soloist (baritone or tenor). The female and male solo parts can be divided among additional singers if desired. While the work is challenging for average volunteer choirs, to make it more accessible to a wide variety of church choirs, a chamber choir of any size (or SATB quartet) consisting of selected voices can sing the more complex pieces in the work. If that approach is desired, here is a suggested breakdown:

1.	**Prologue**	**Full**
2.	**The Weaver-Ballad I**	**Chamber**
3.	**Let There Be Light**	**Full**
4.	**Dance**	**Chamber**
5.	**God of Harmony**	**Full**
6.	**Dance (Reprise)**	**Chamber**
7.	**Ballad II**	**Duet**
8.	**I See You**	**Duet**
9.	**Ballad III**	**Full**
10.	**See How the Thread is Broken**	**Chamber**
11.	**Ballad IV**	**Duet**
12.	**Here is the One**	**Full**
13.	**Ballad V**	**Solo**
14.	**Raise Your Voices in Praise**	**Full**
15.	**Children of Earth**	**Full**

Collegiate, community, and professional choirs can likely sing the entire work with no chamber breakdown needed (although the differing timbre of a chamber choir or quartet can provide an interesting varied vocal texture and reduce rehearsal time for the full group).

Accompany with the keyboard accompaniment in this score (plus optional organ and handbells as noted in this score). Or, a full orchestration is available by calling 866-742-7212.

Orchestration Instrumentation: Flute; Oboe; Bassoon; Horns 1, 2; Trumpet 1, 2; Trombone 1, 2; Violin 1, 2; Viola; Cello; Double Bass; Percussion 1, 2; Harp; Guitar; Piano (playing from the choral score).

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Prologue

The cantata begins with the following solo. The audience should be unaware of any reference pitch provided for the soloist. The prologue may be used as a processional for the choir. It may be effective for the soloist to be in front (in view of the audience), for the handbells to be positioned in various places around the auditorium, and for the choir to begin in the back in order to process as it begins to sing the second stanza. Eventually all participants reach the front where the soloist is already positioned.

*Dynamics relative to acoustics; the effect should be one of spaciousness and simplicity.

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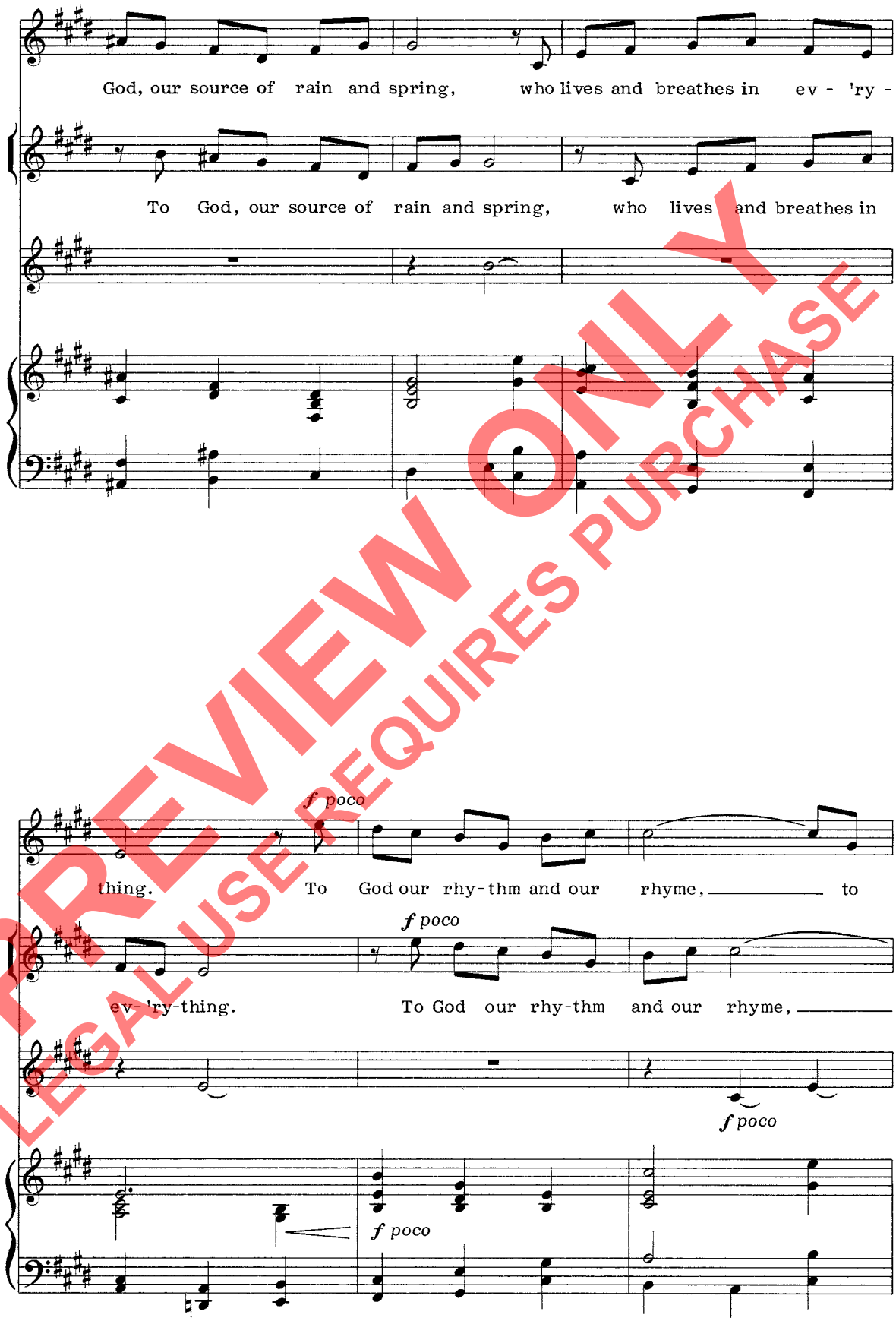

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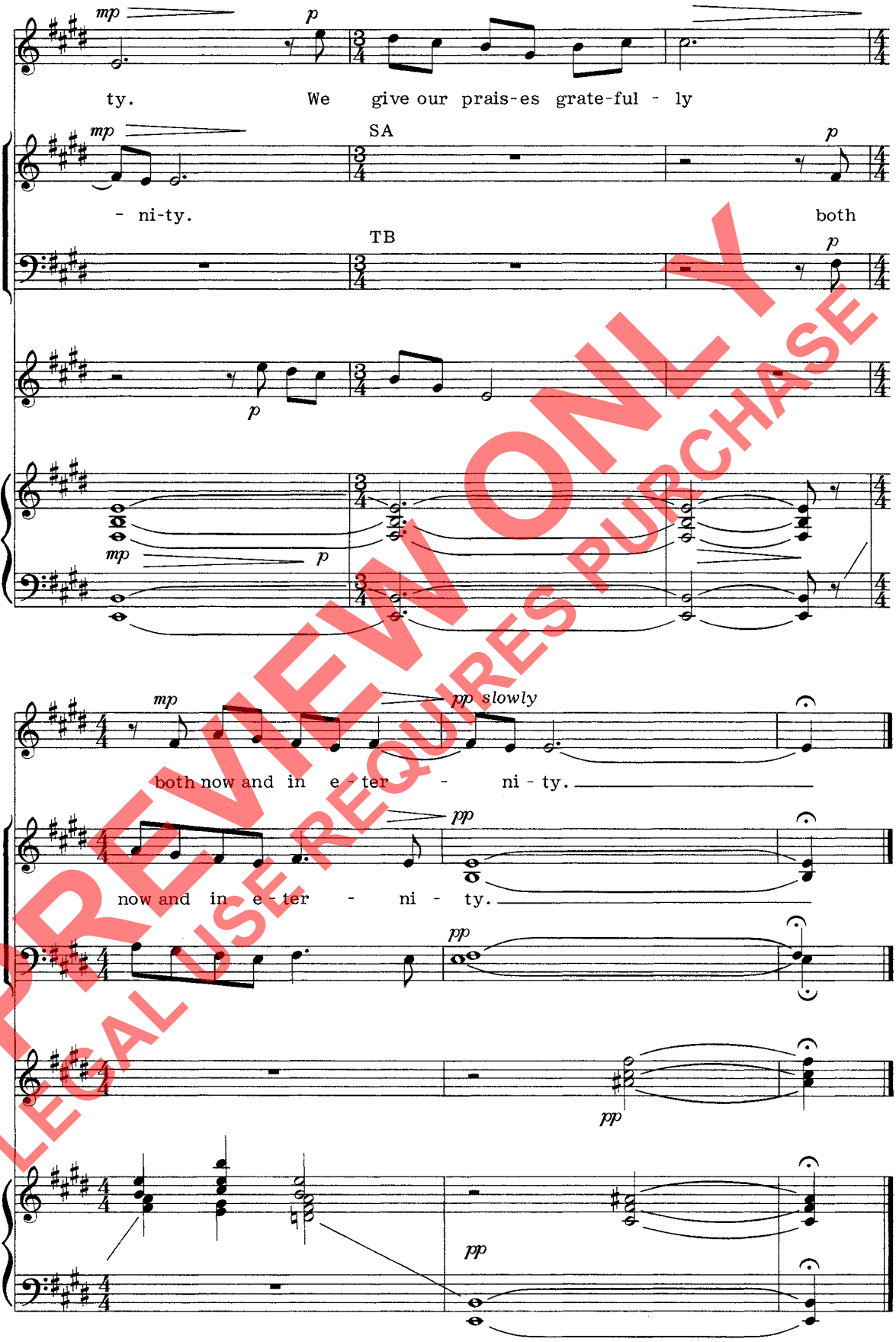

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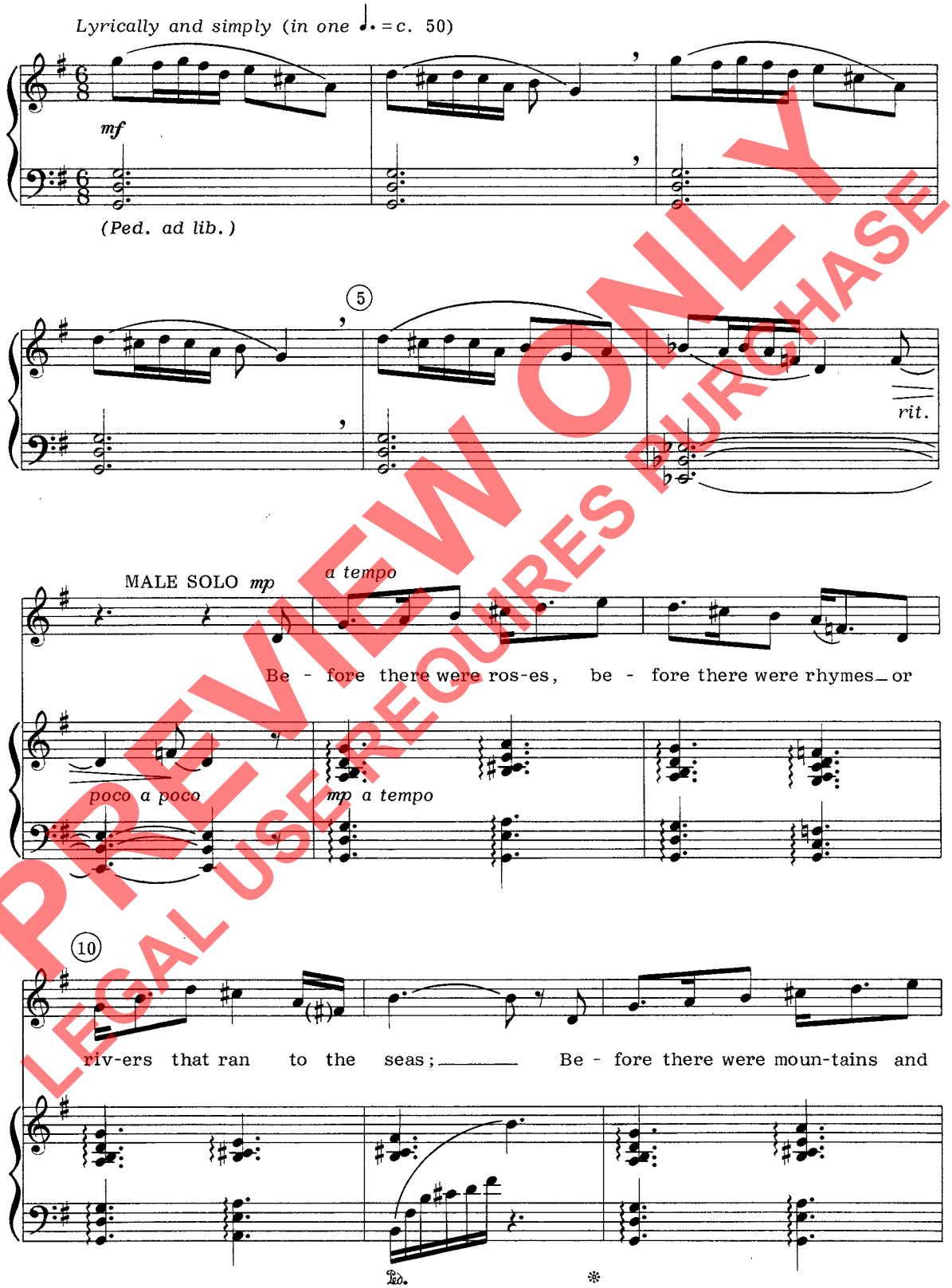
The Weaver — Ballad I



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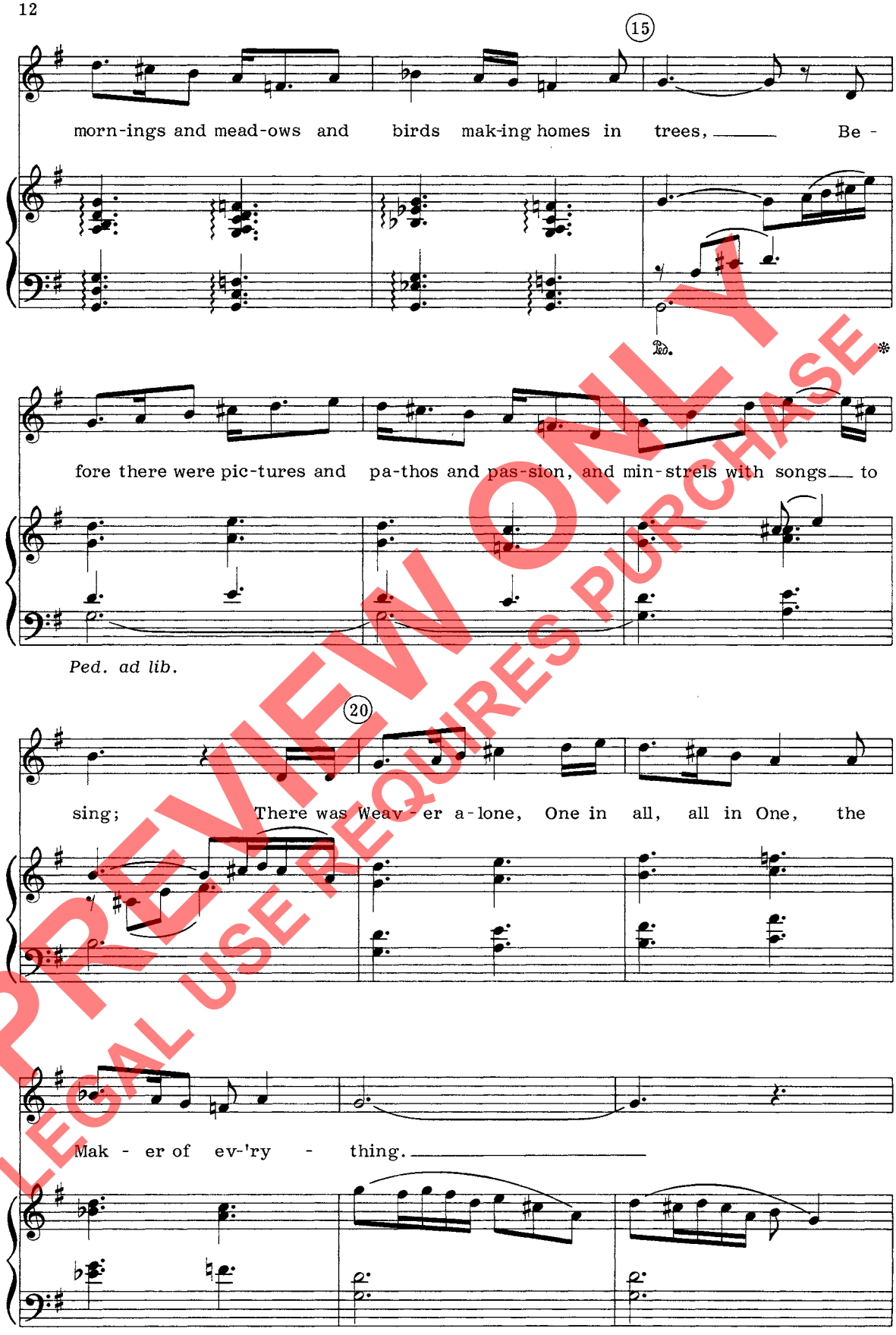

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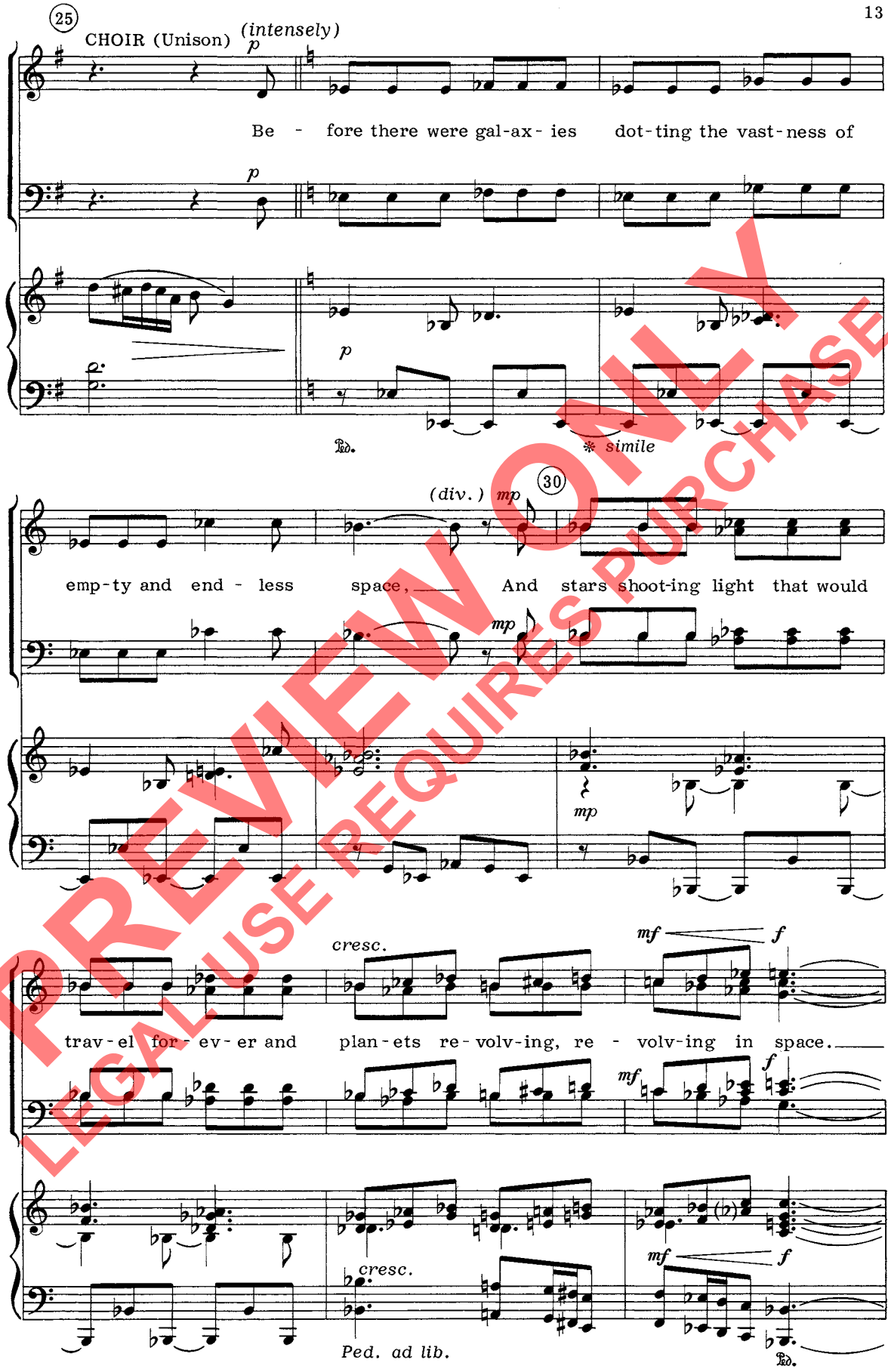

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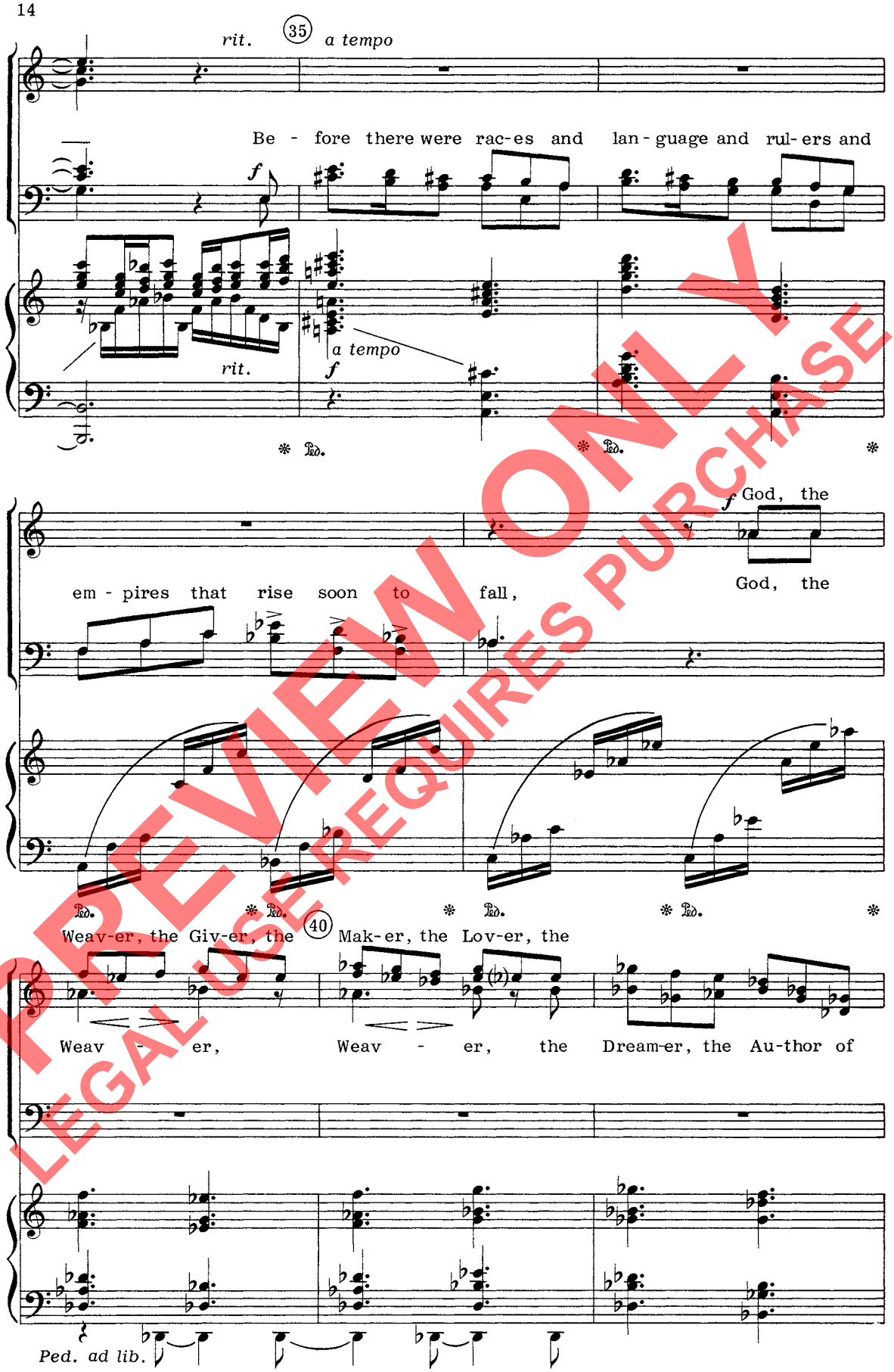

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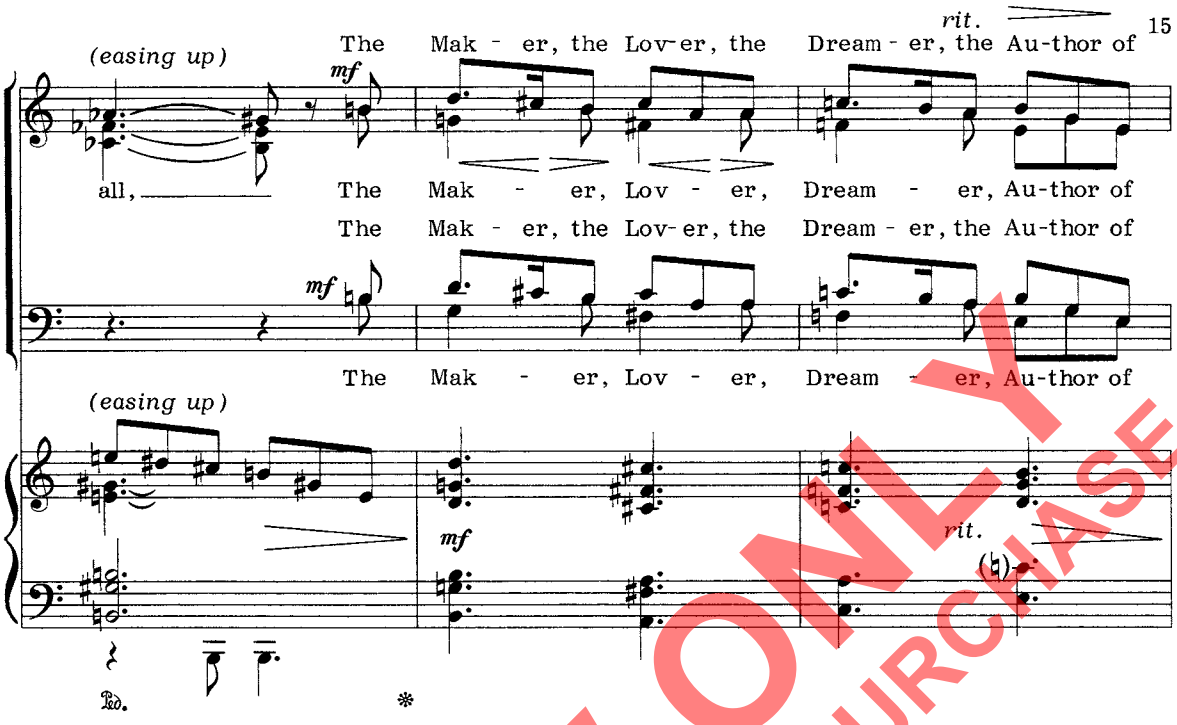

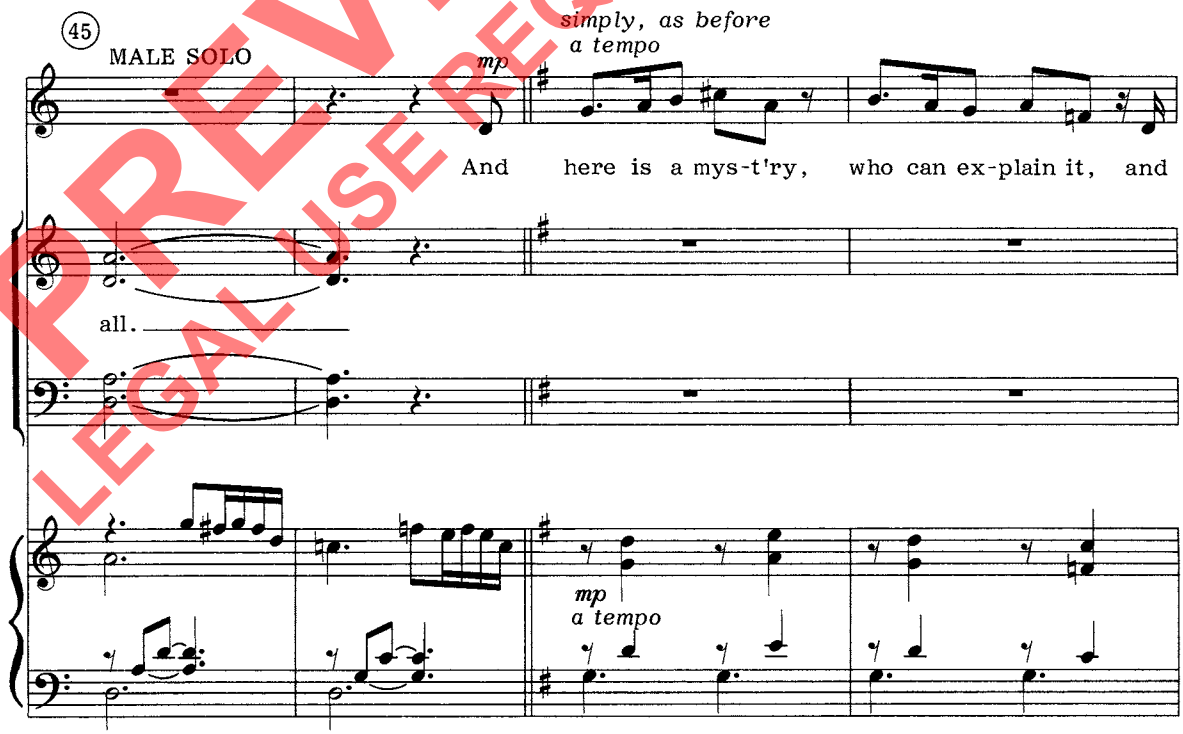

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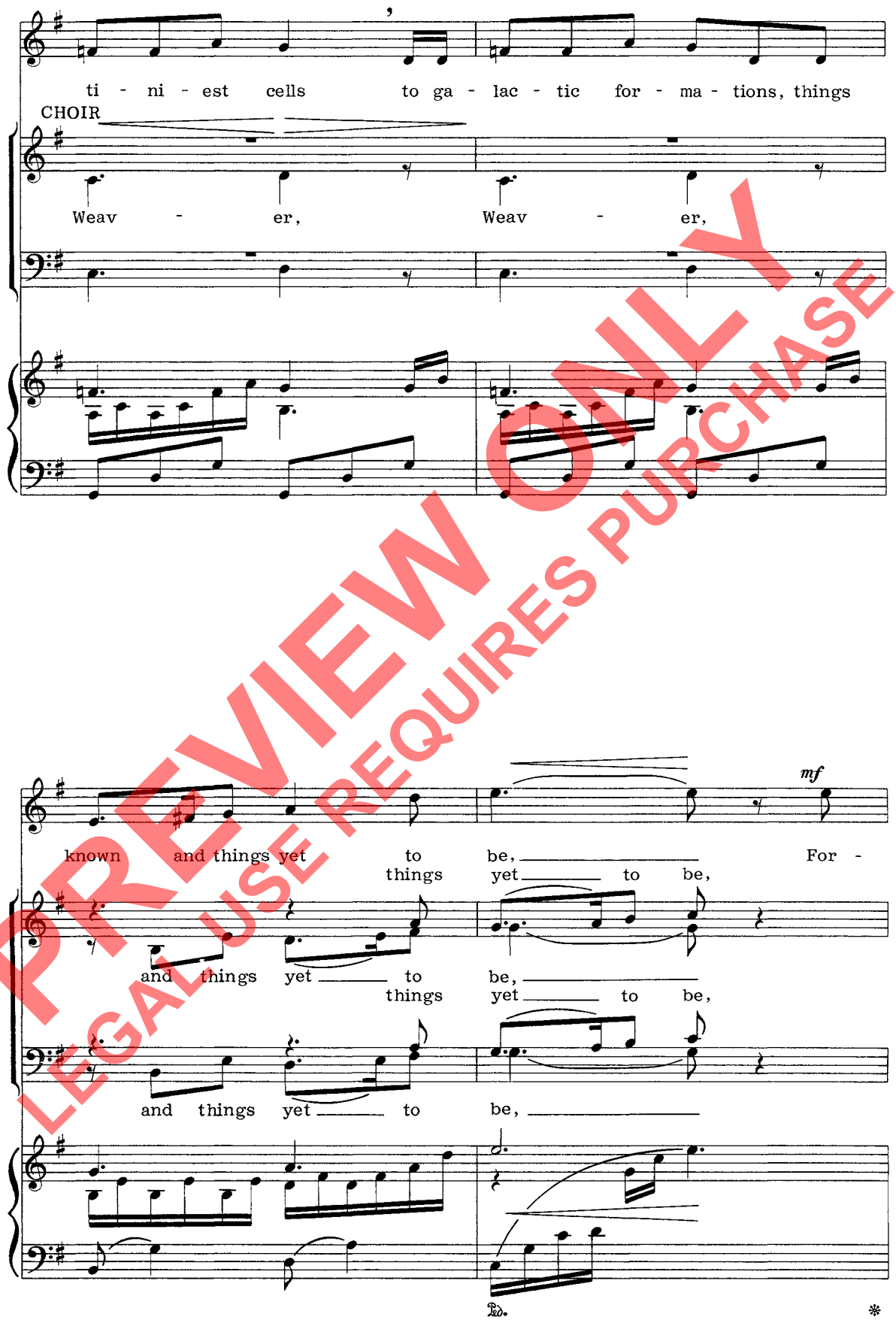

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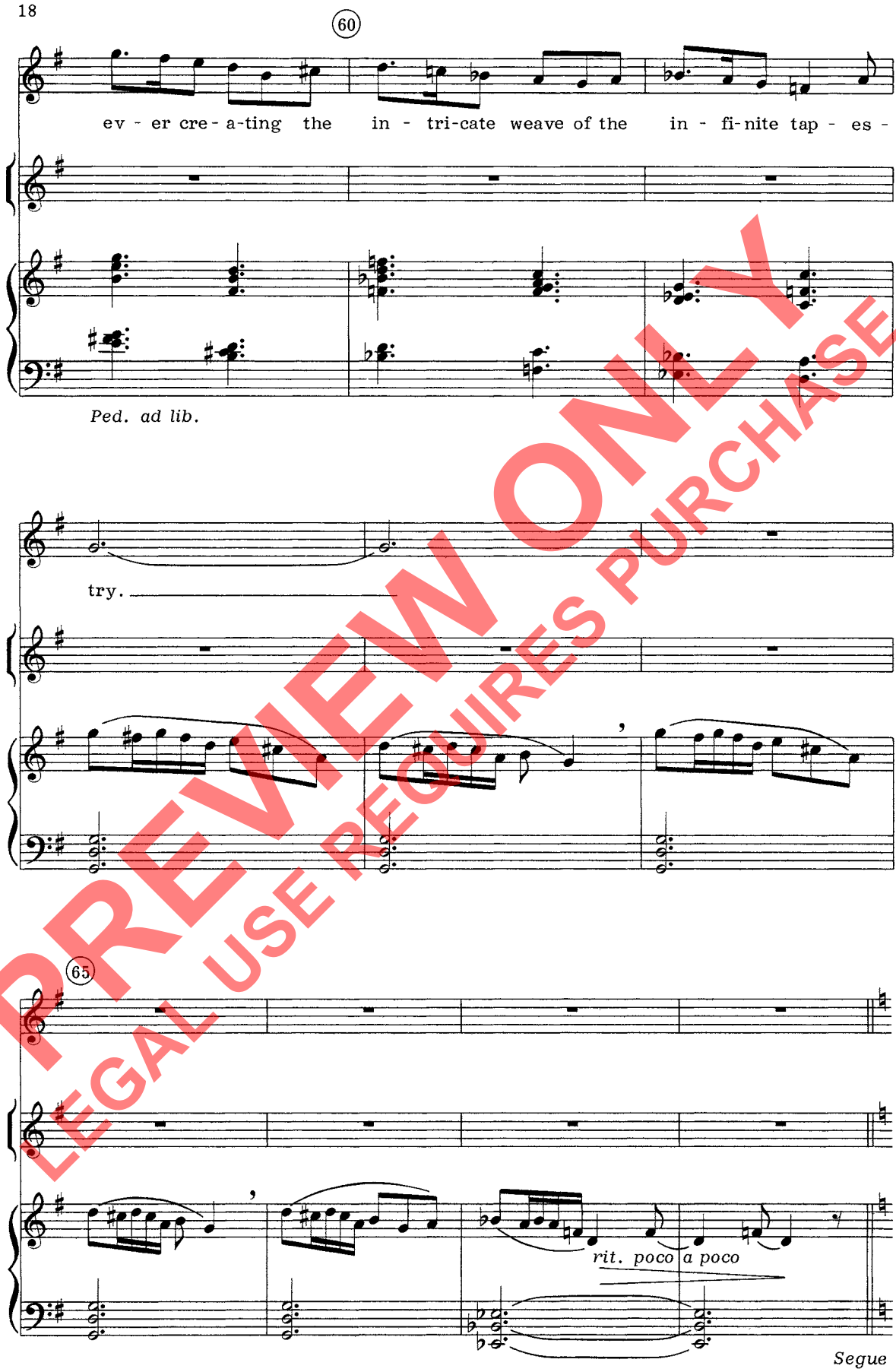

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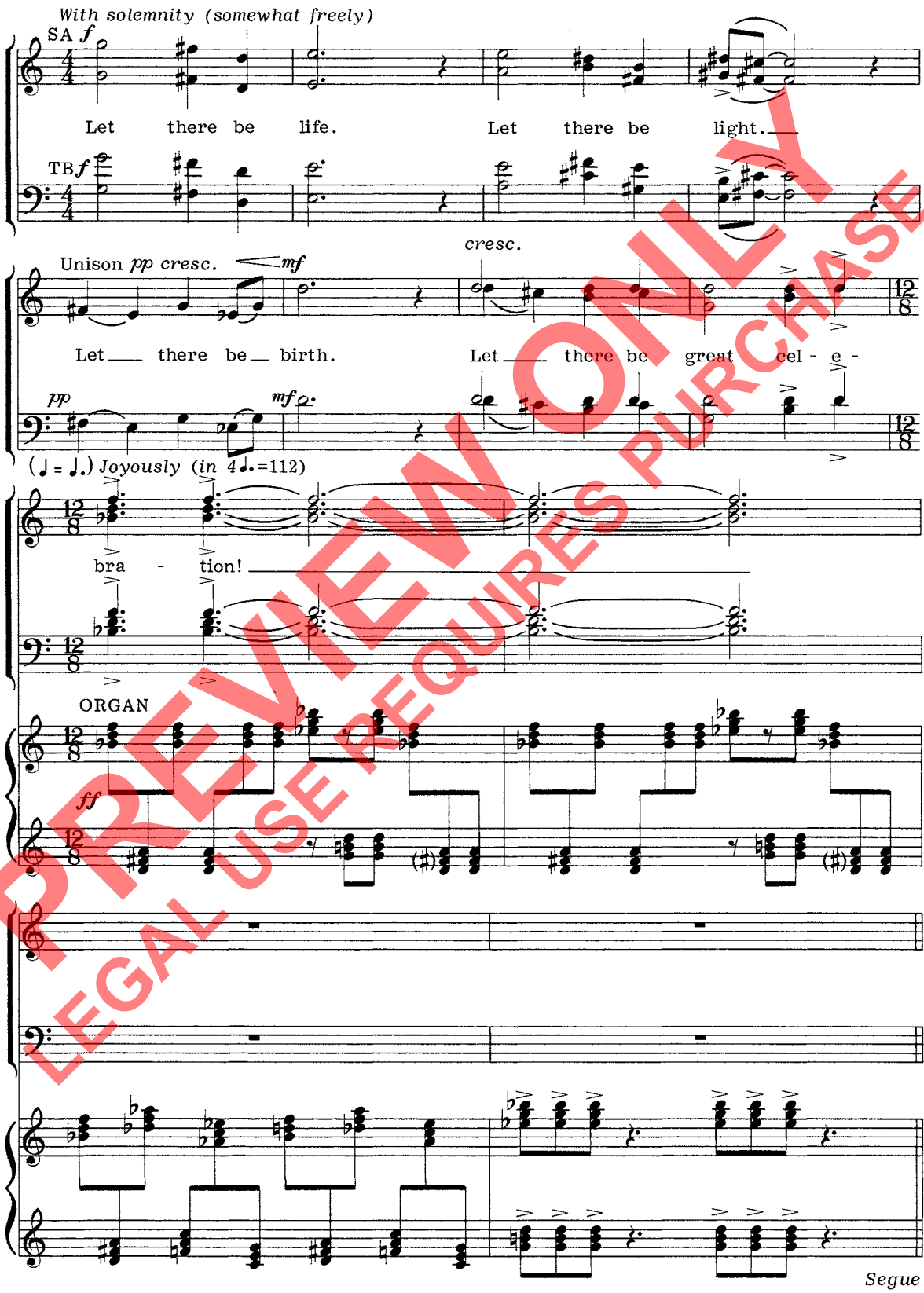
Let There Be Light



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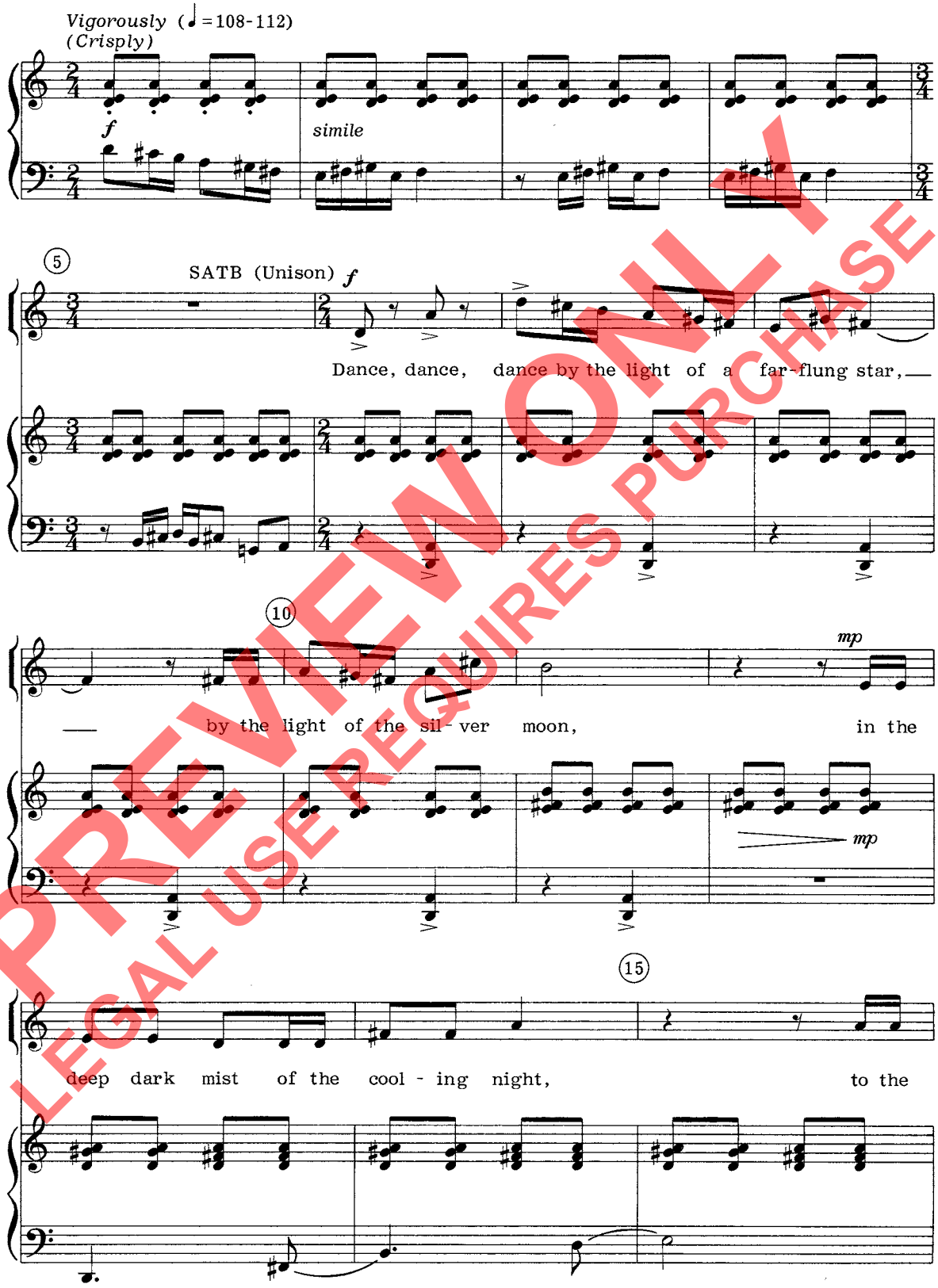
Dance



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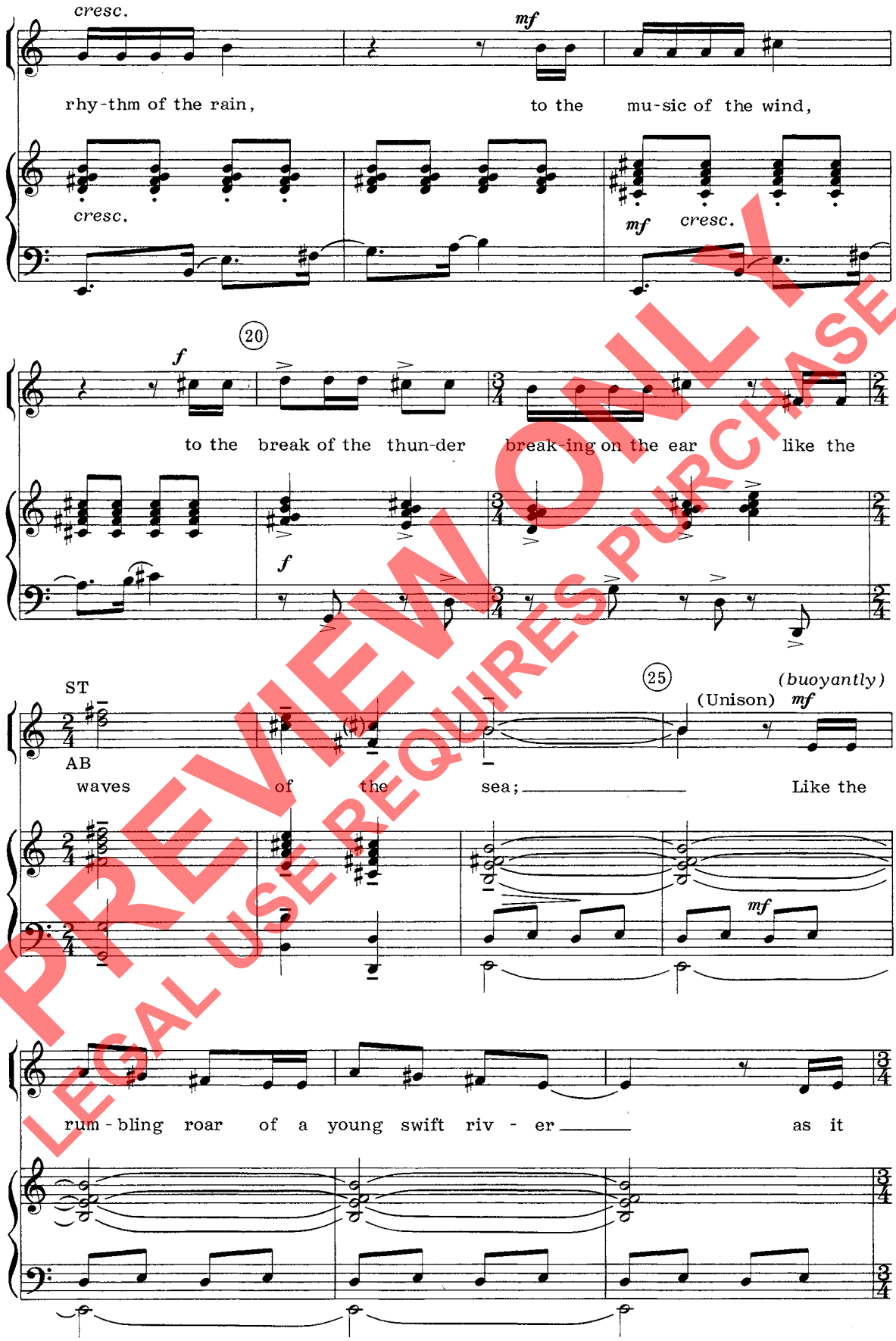

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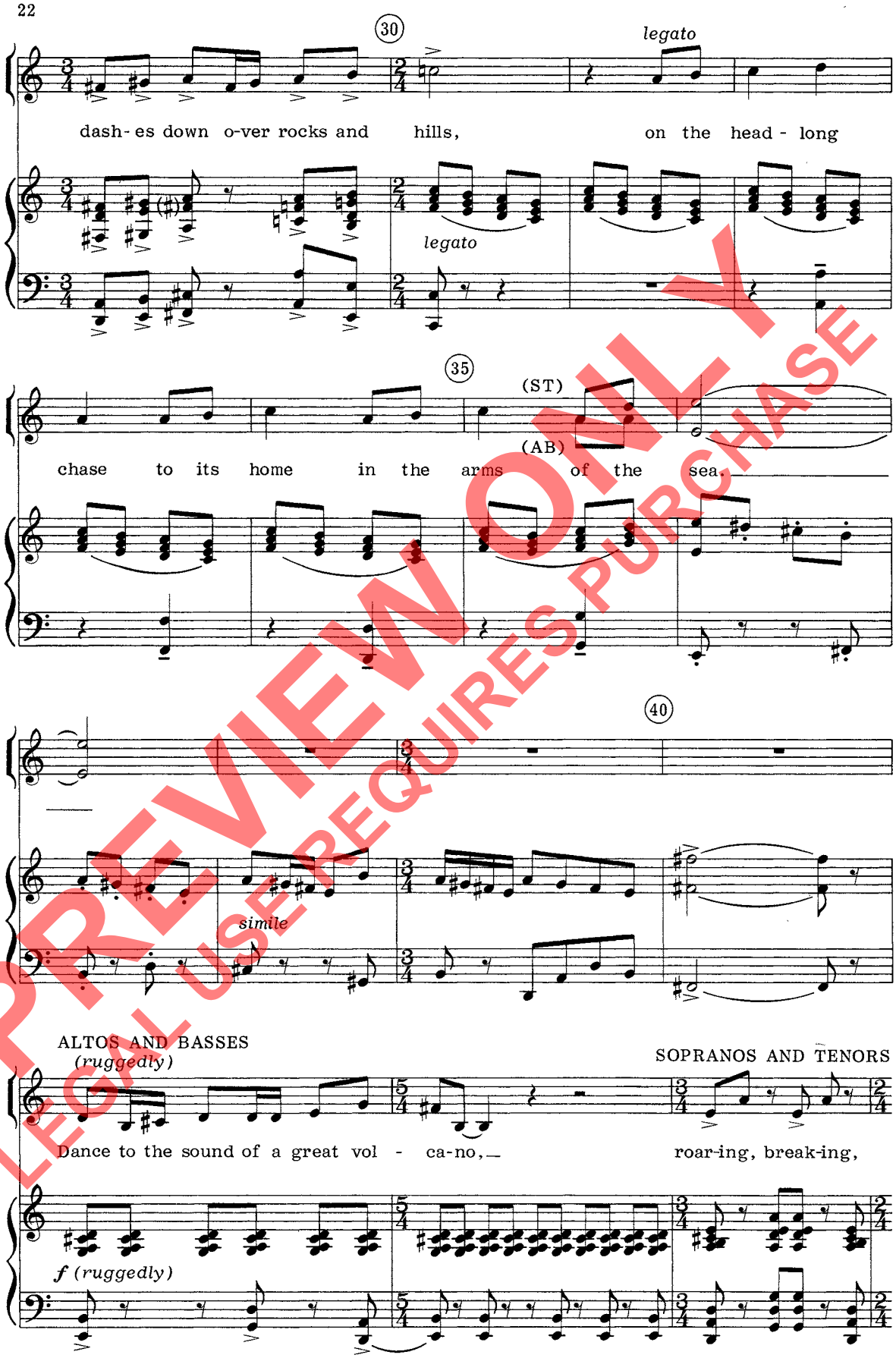

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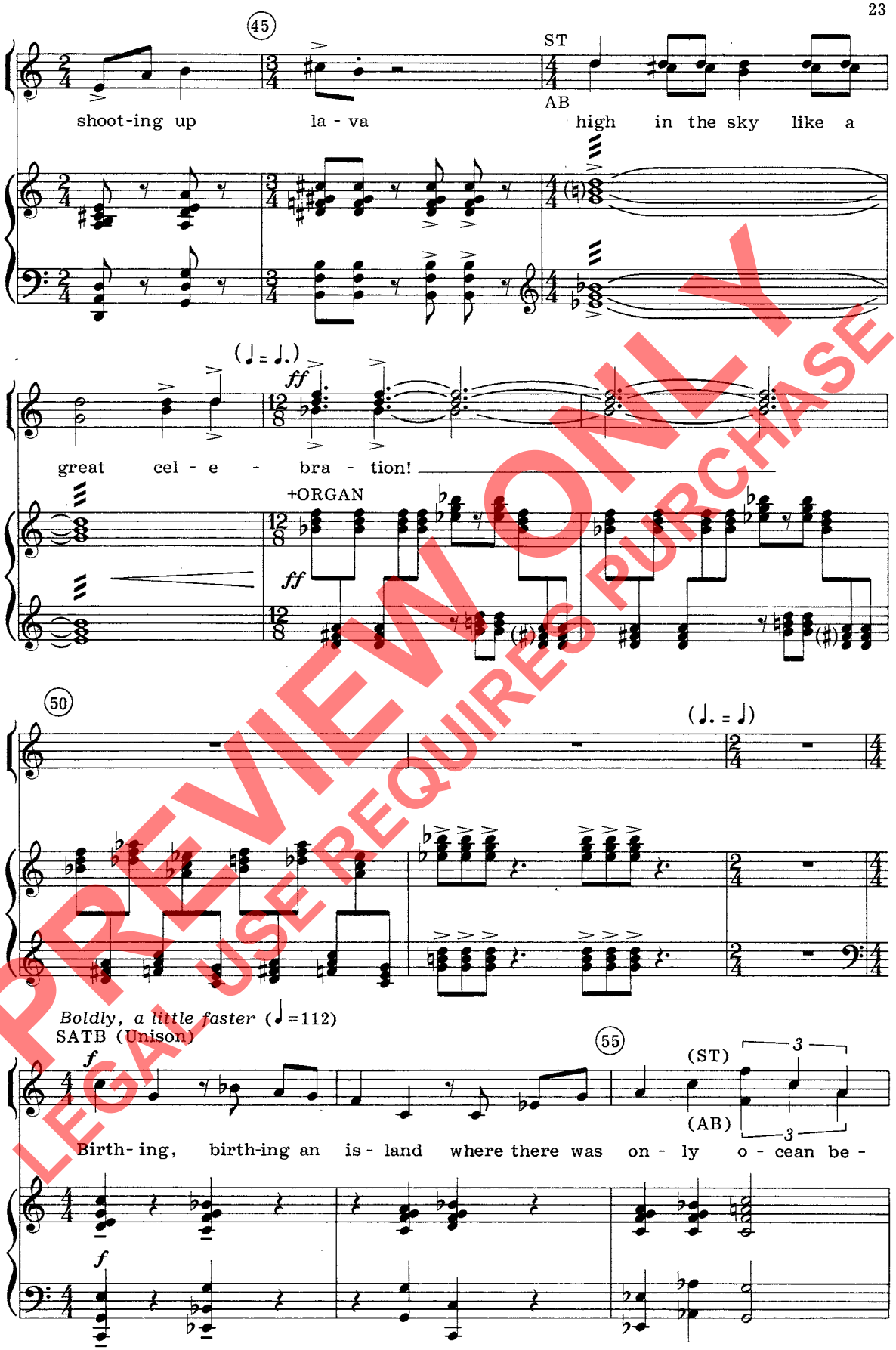

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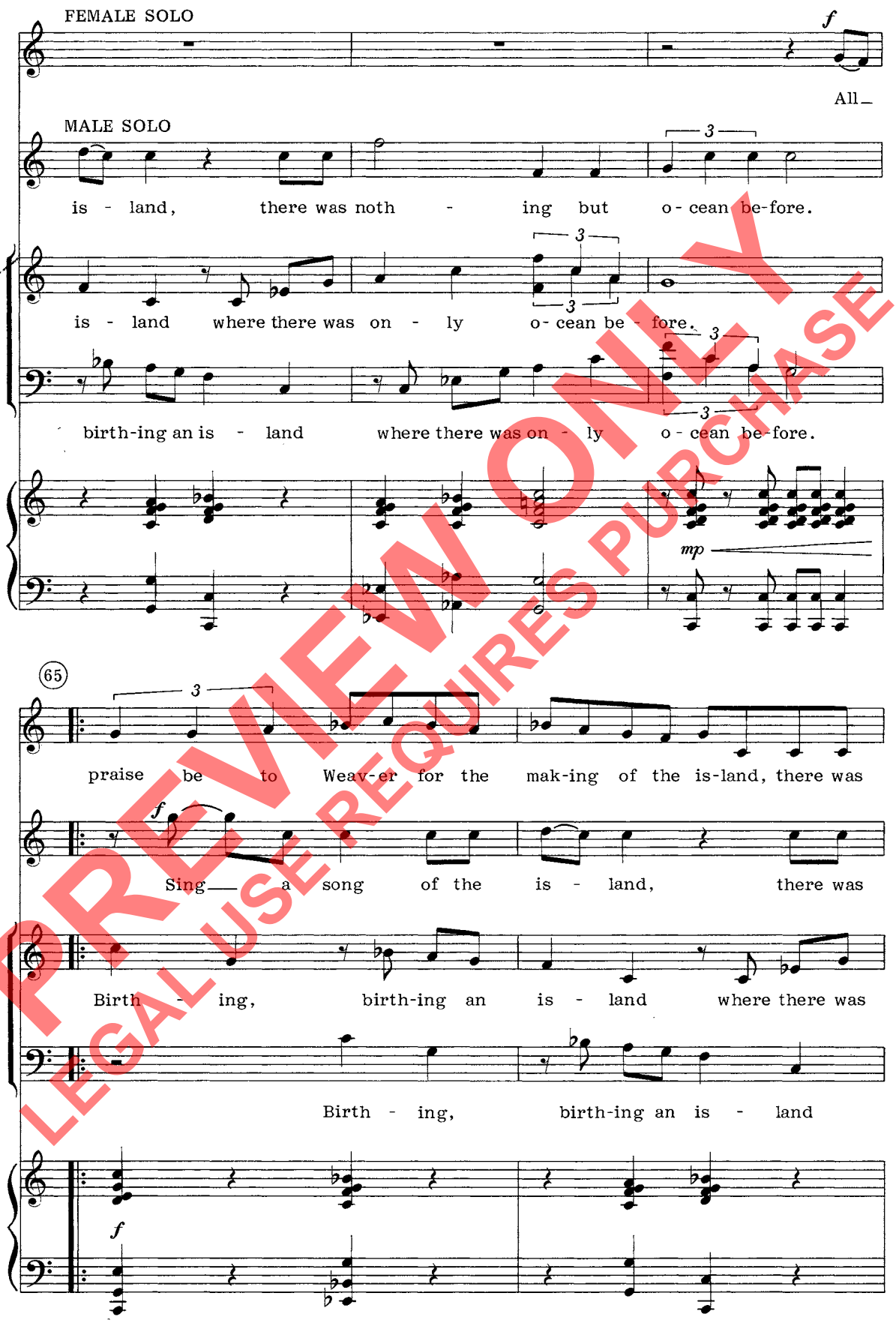

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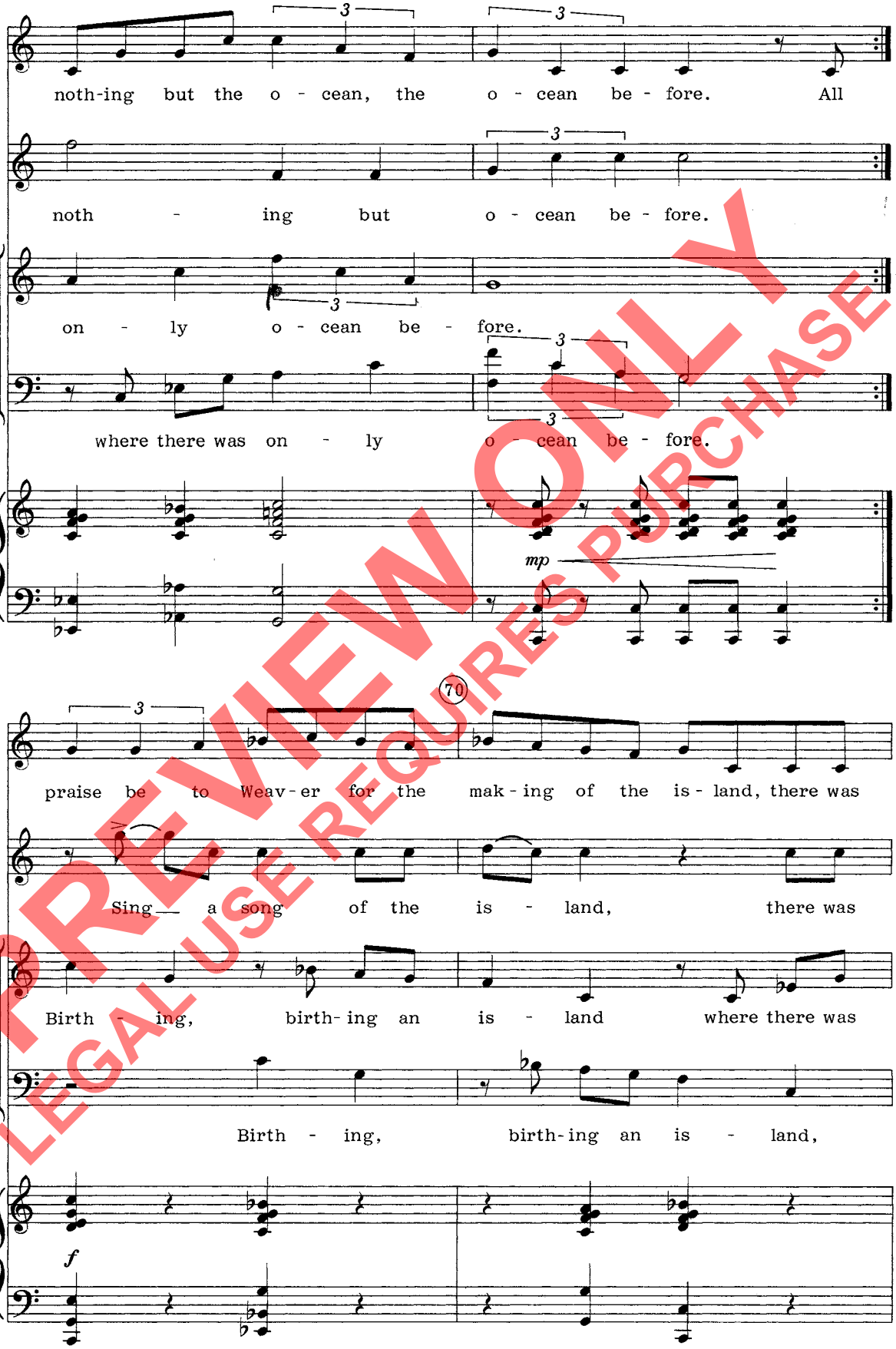

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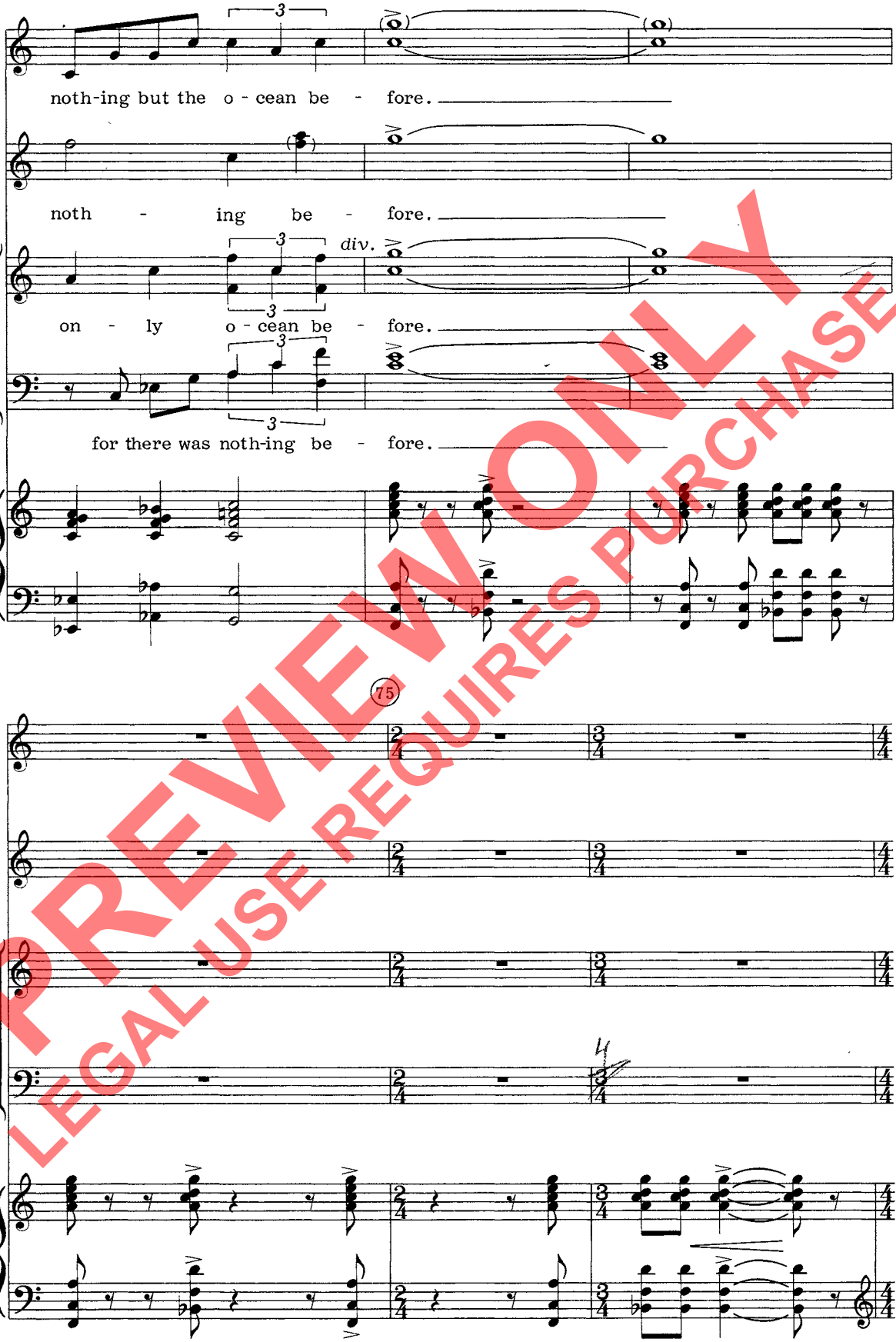

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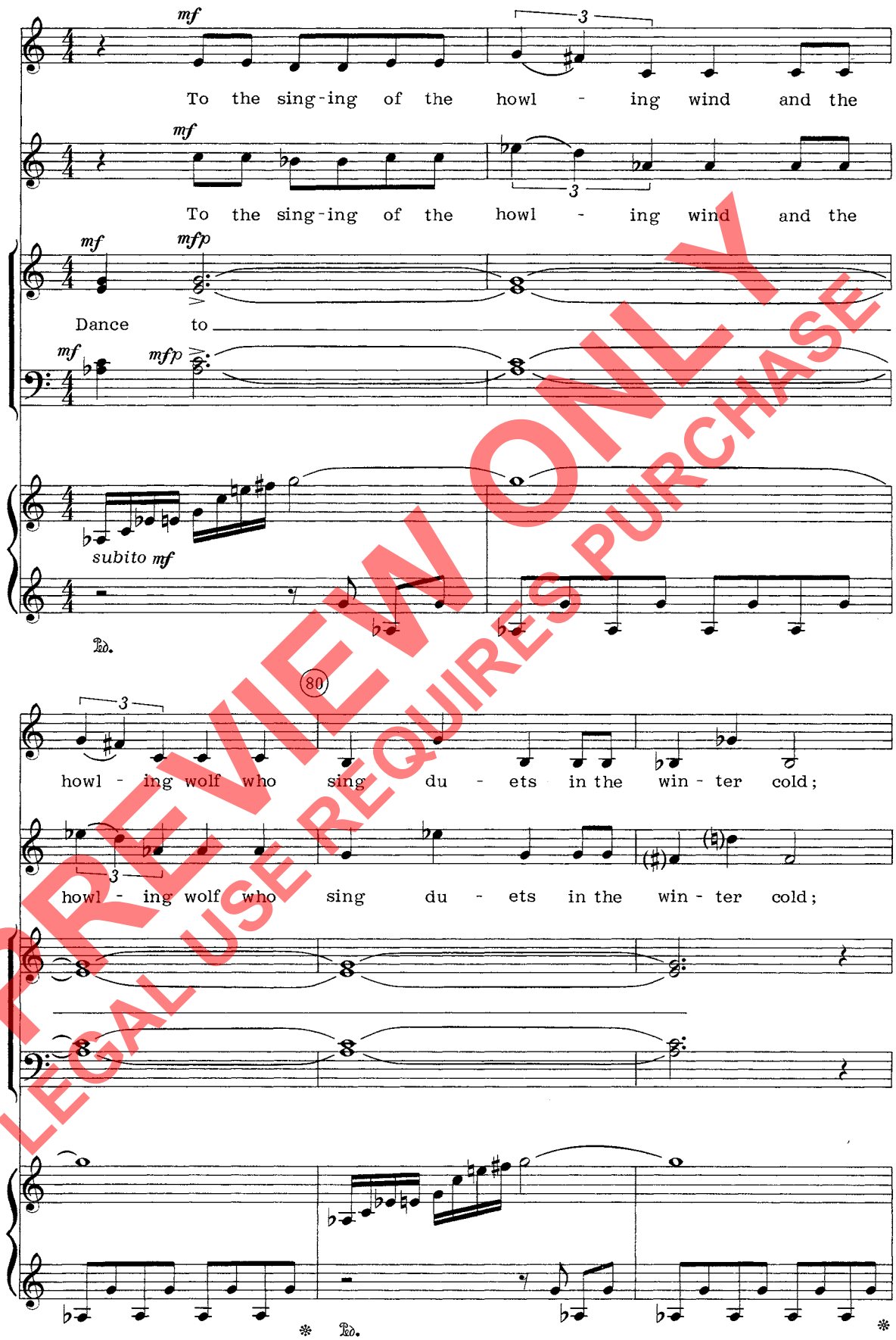

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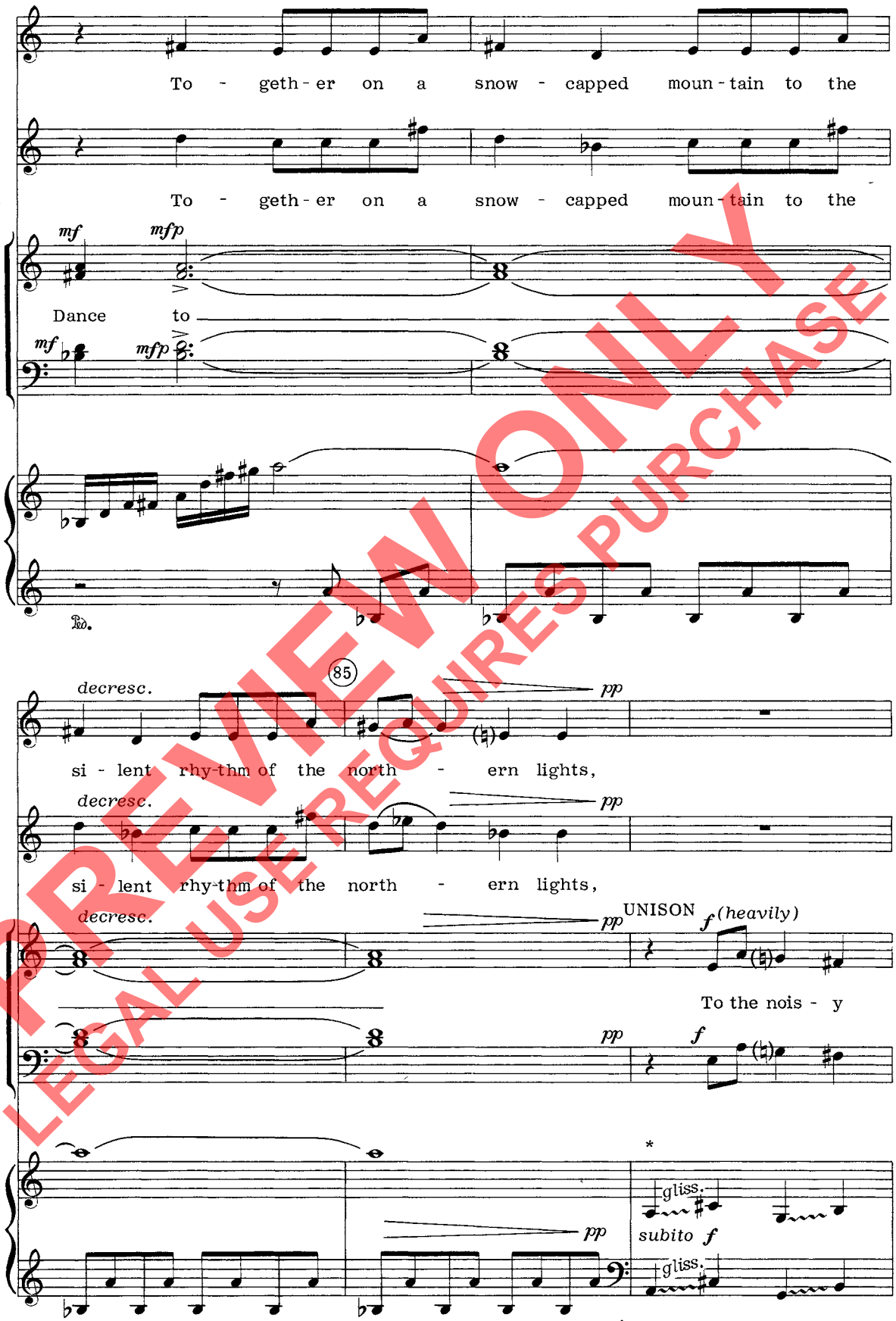

*play all notes between the principal notes.

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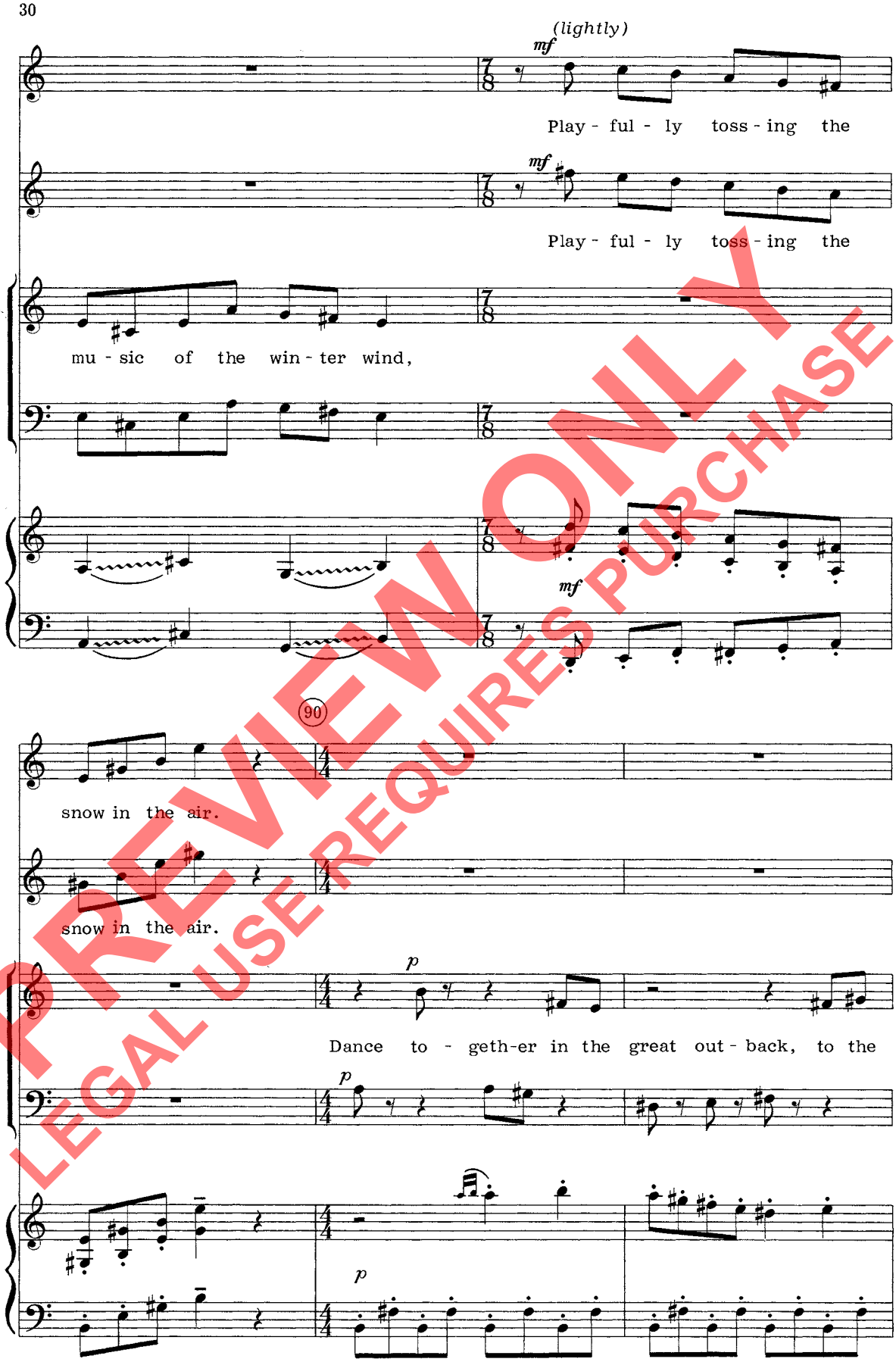

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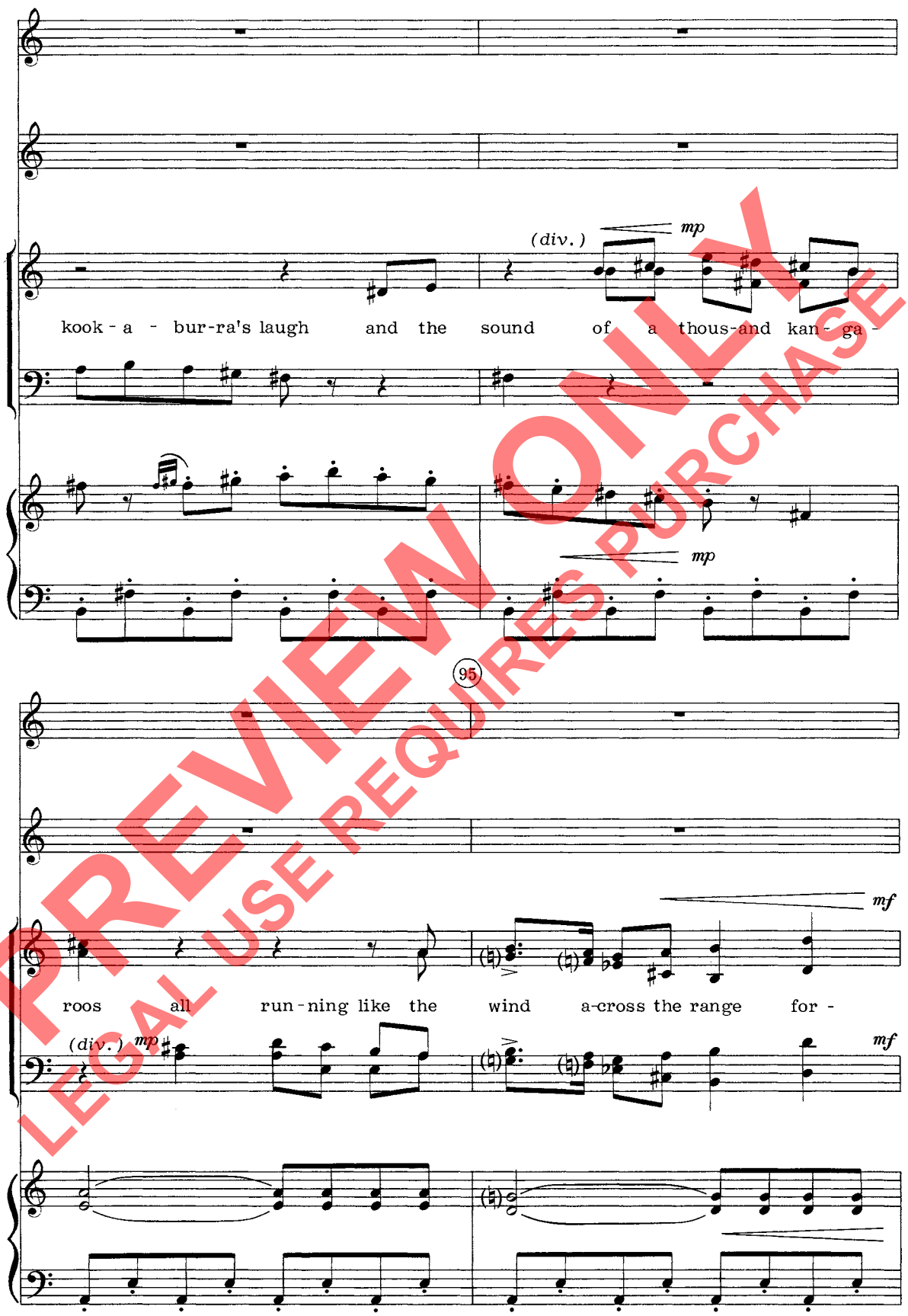

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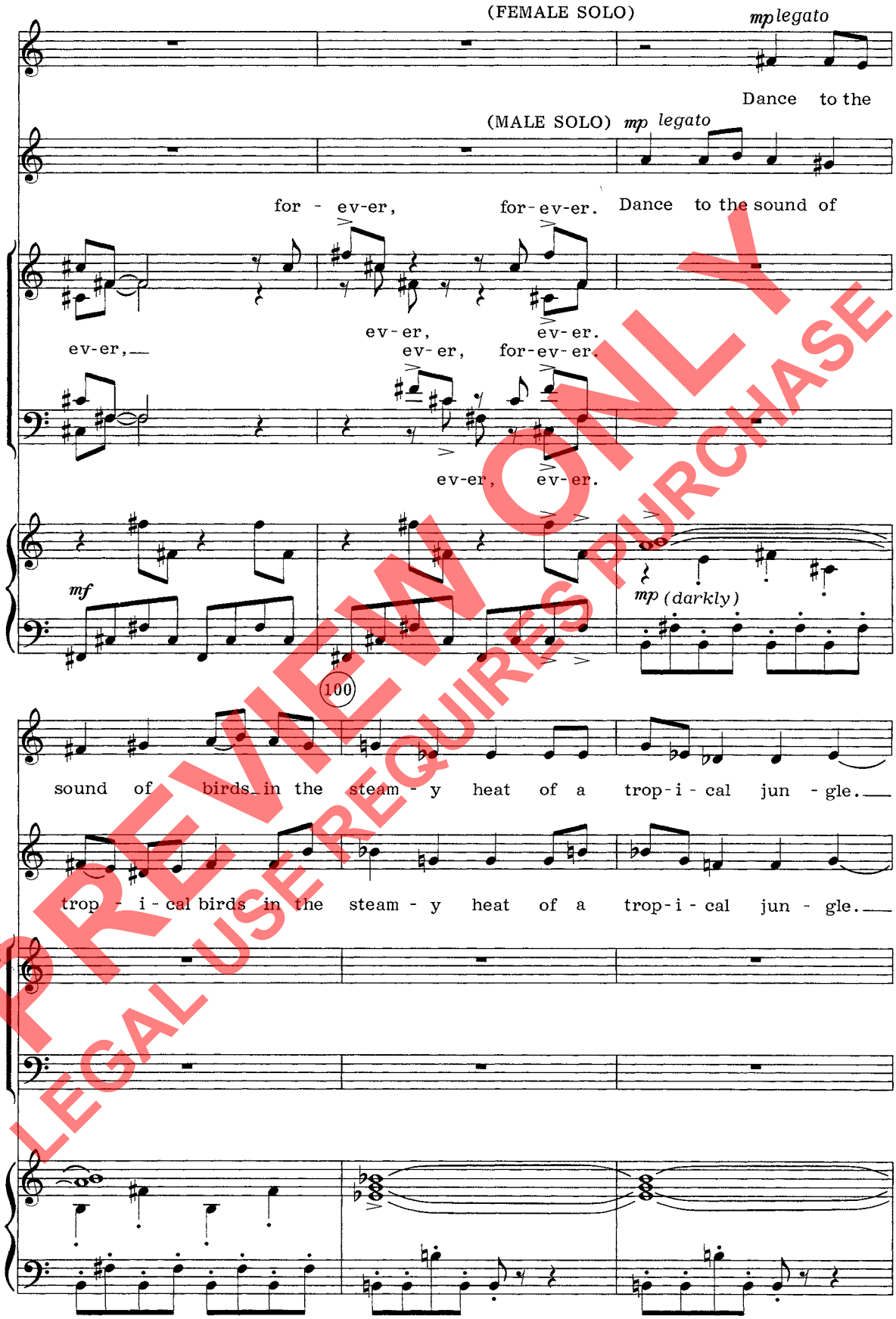

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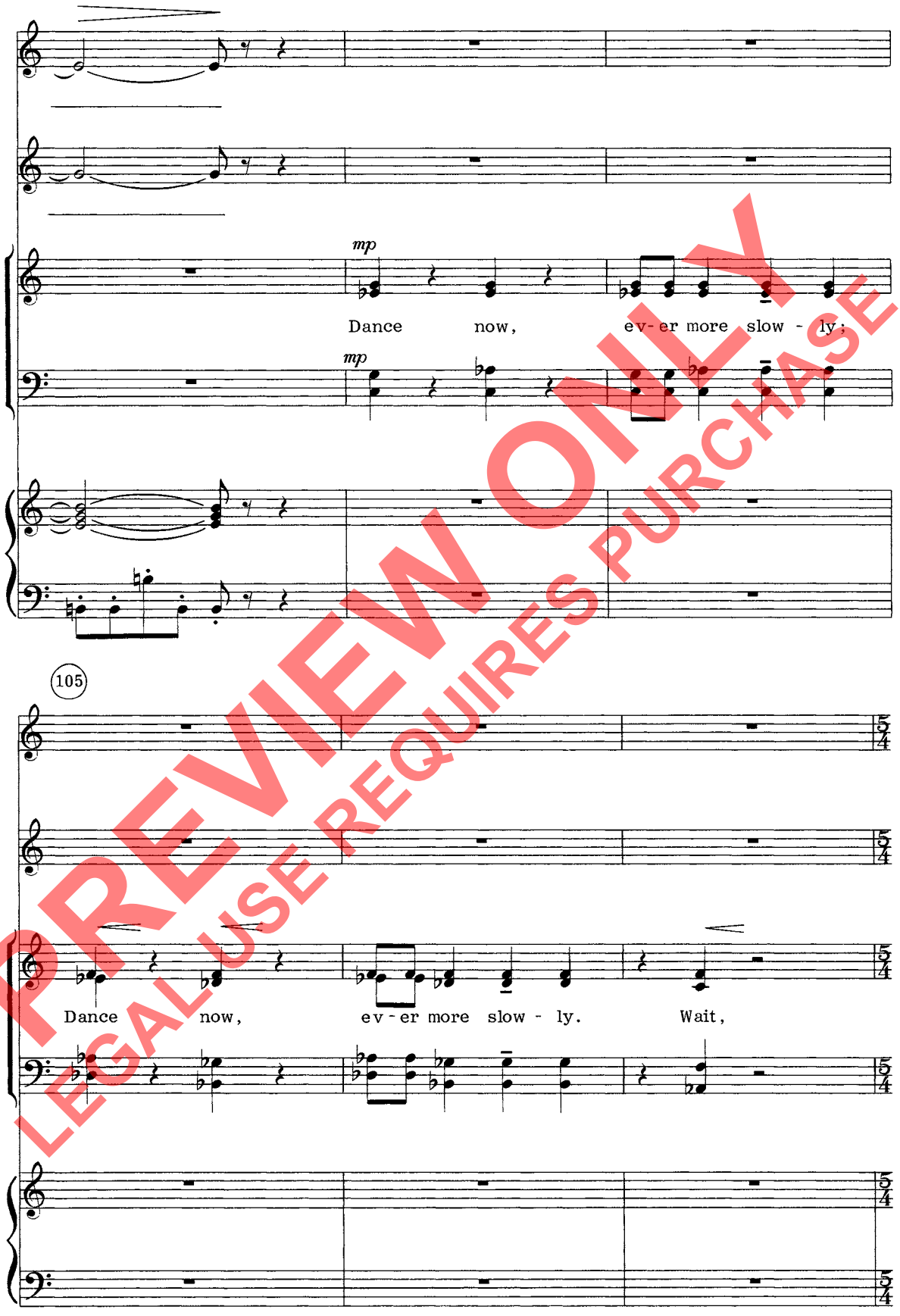

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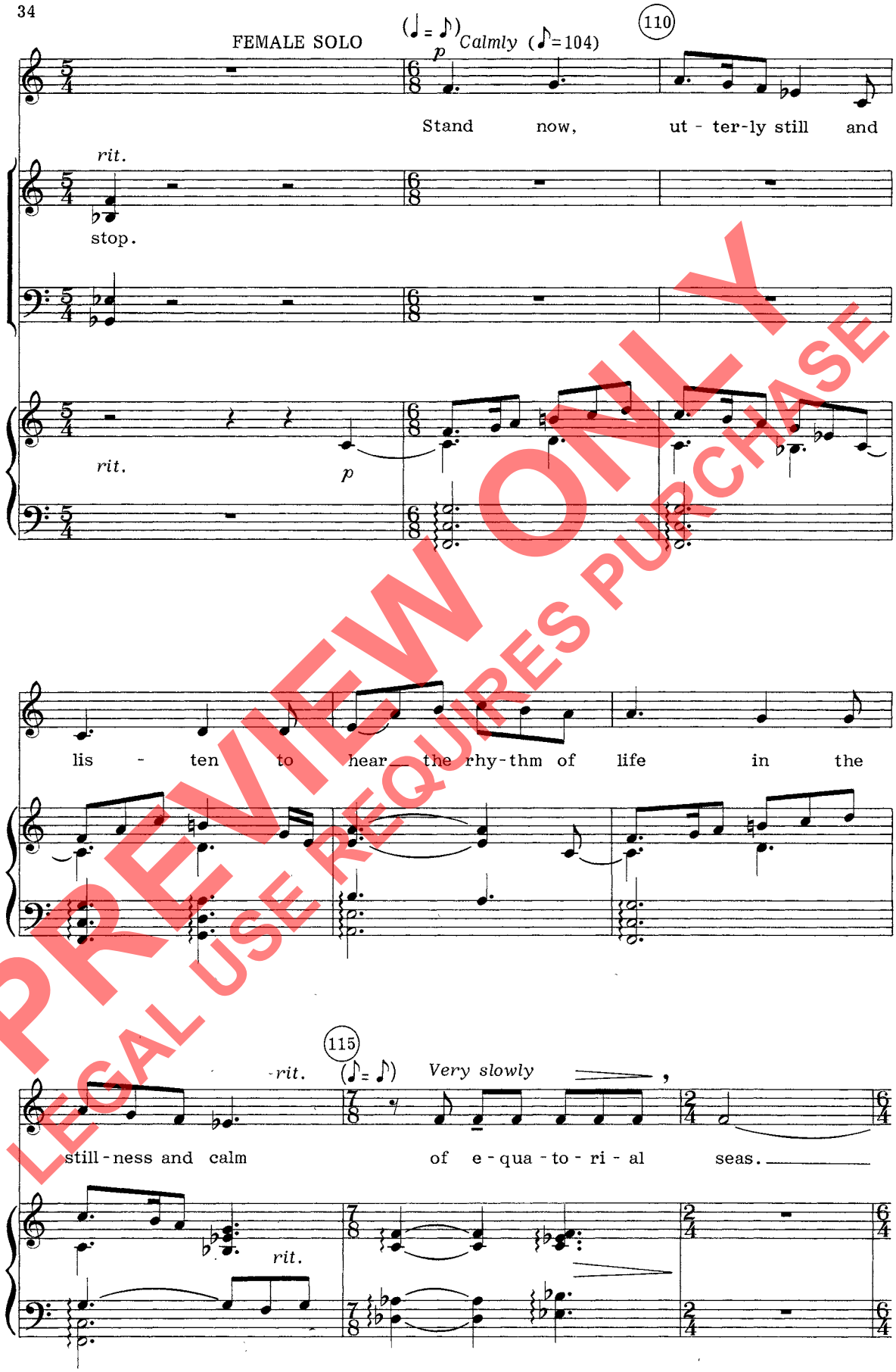

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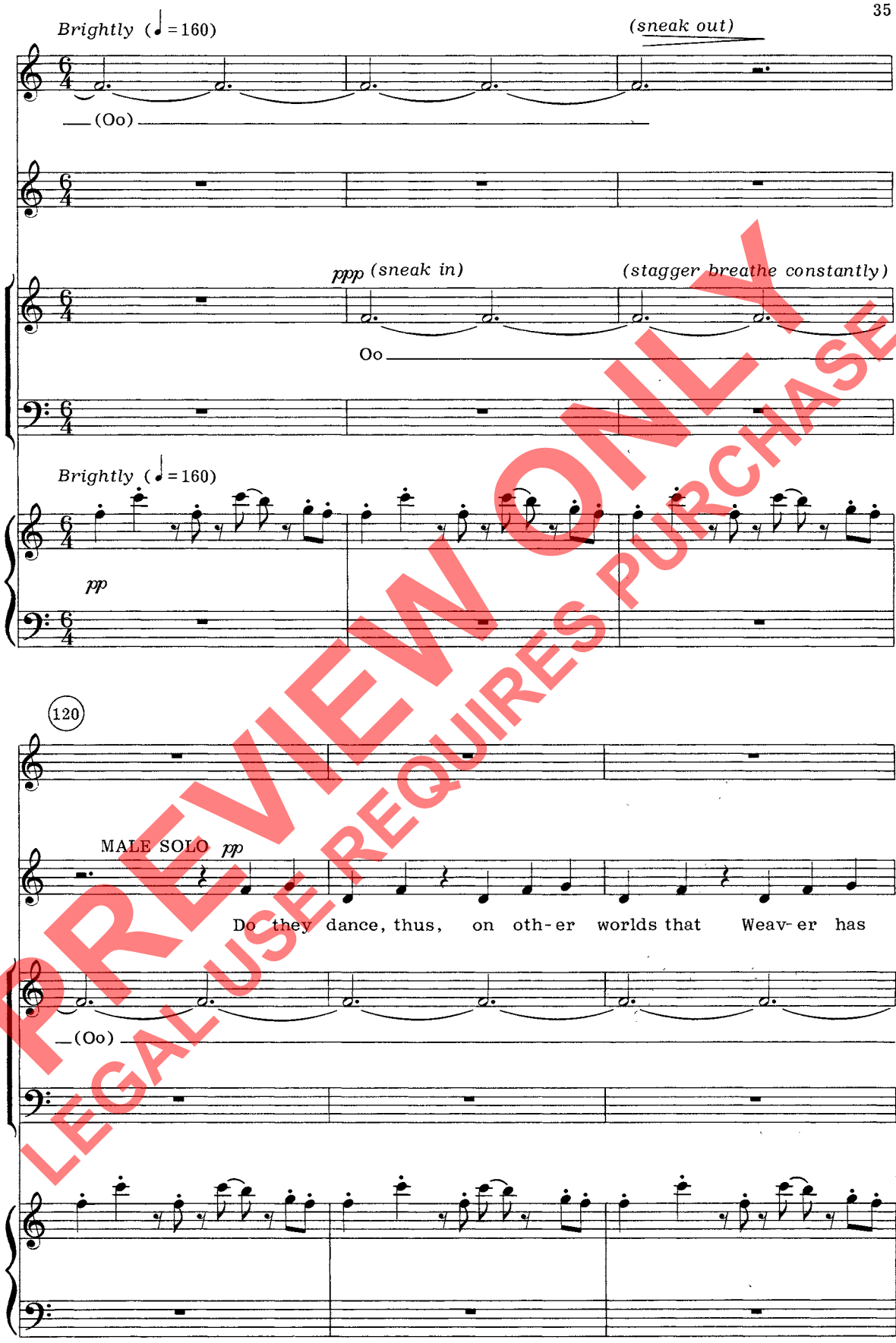

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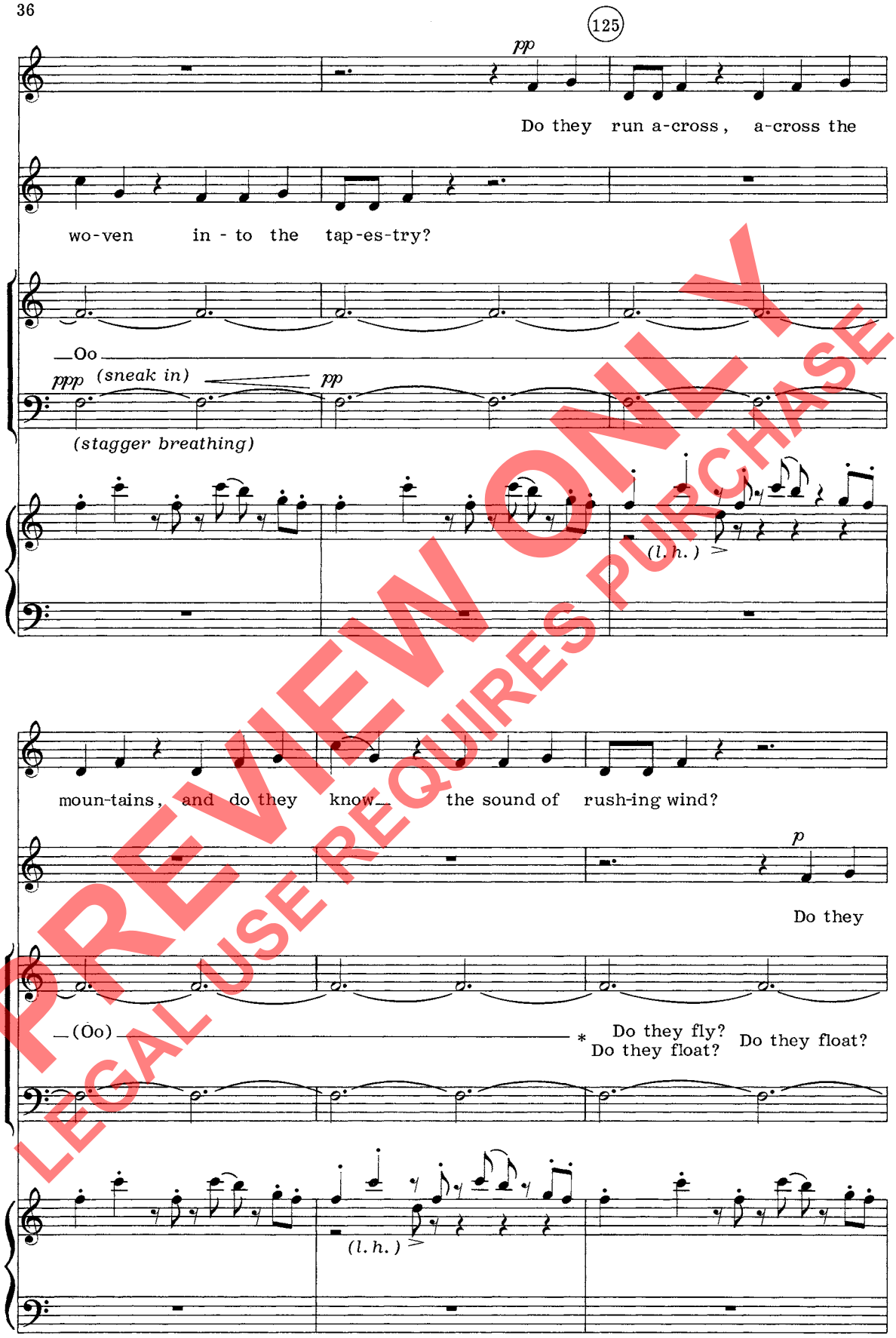

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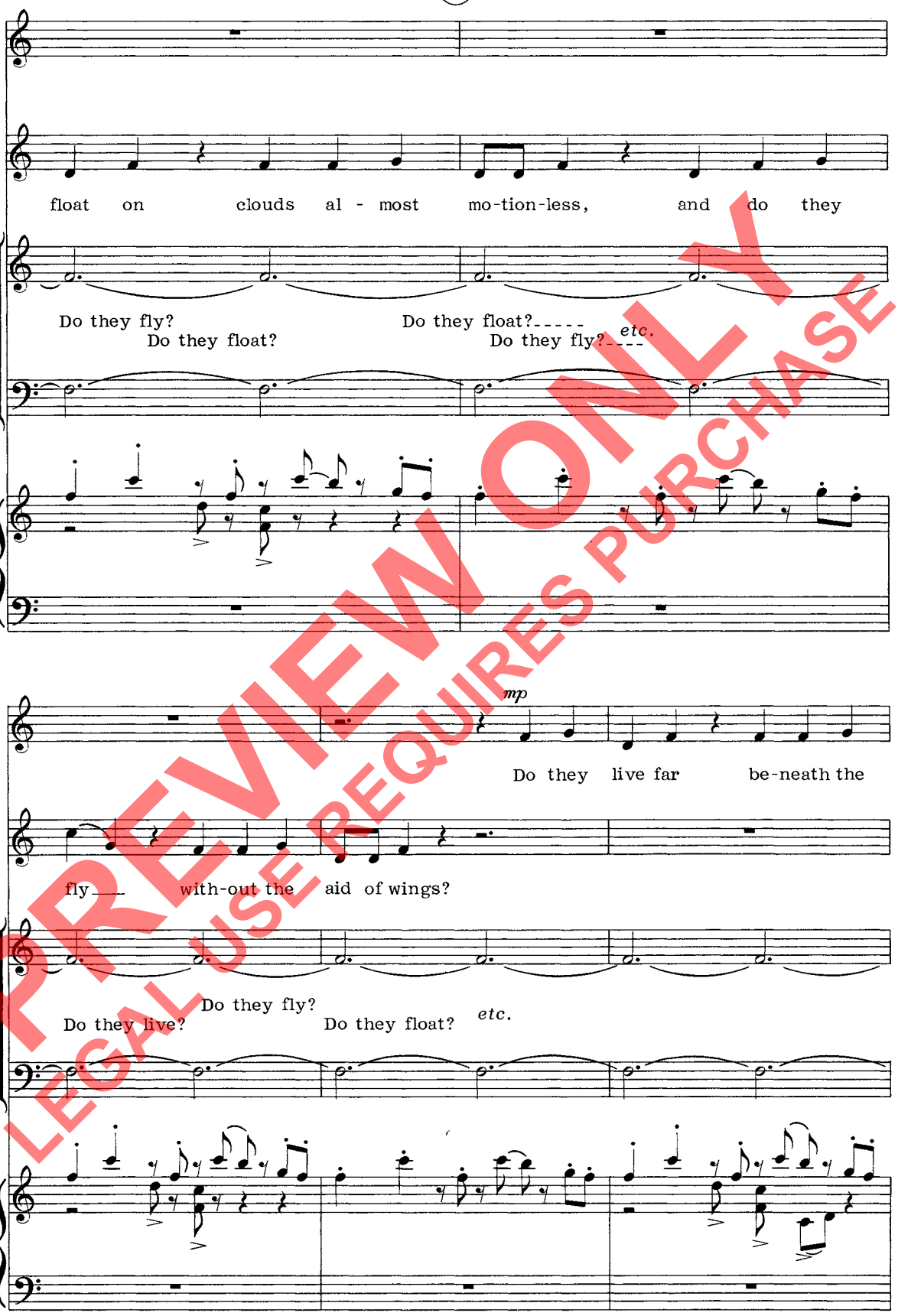
Starting at different times, in a very slow and legato manner, voices should move through the words (on pitches indicated) at random (neither individuals nor sections should move together except by chance). Elongate the vowels and minimize the consonants.

130



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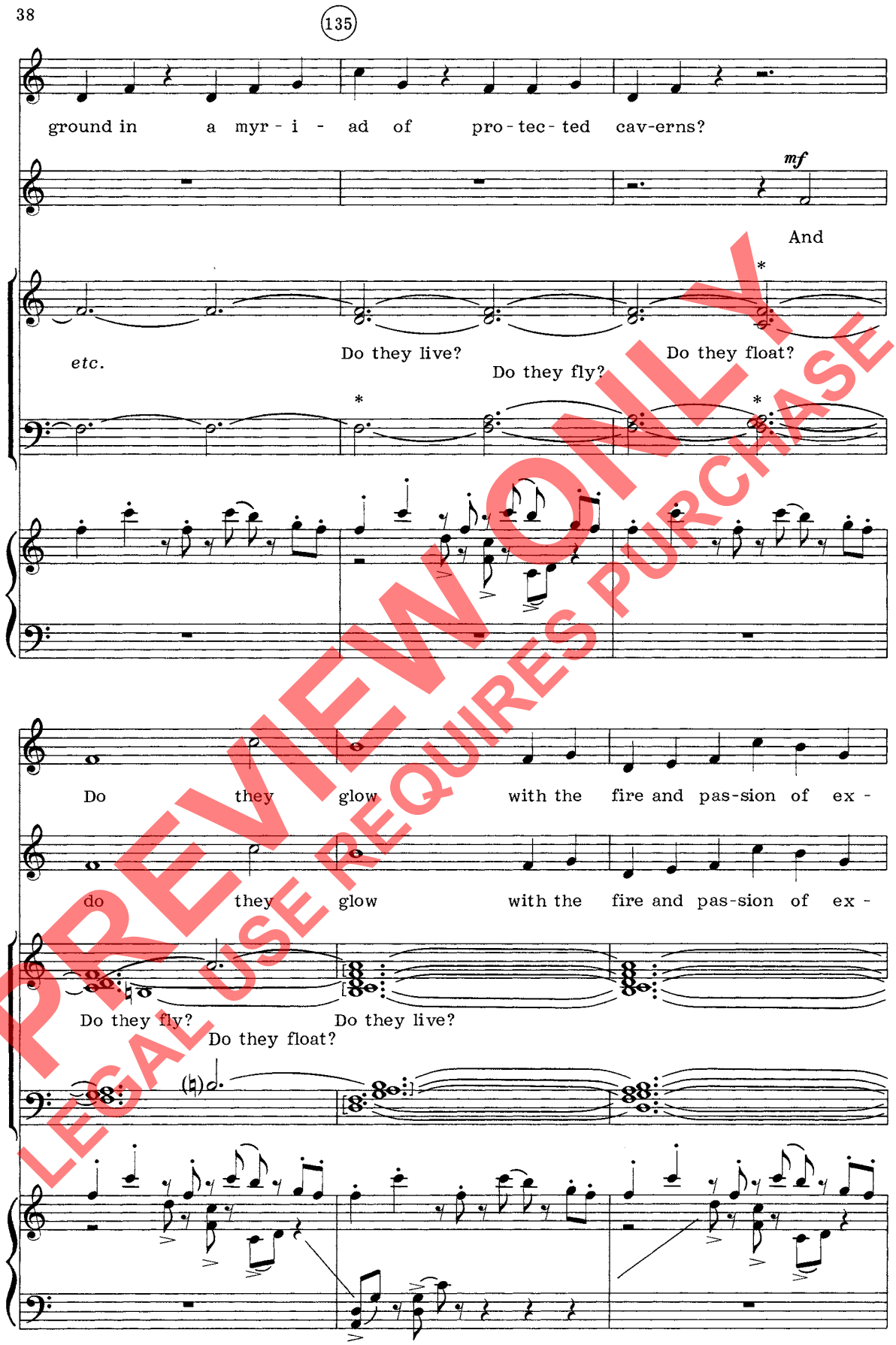

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Voices at random gradually divide into parts at the approximate points indicated and continue to slowly sing words as before.

is - tence? Do they sing, and with what voic - es?

is - tence? Do they sing, and with what voic - es?

Do they fly? Do they float?

Do they sing? Do they live?

subito p

Do they won - der a - bout the oth - er worlds?

subito p

Do they won - der a - bout the oth - er worlds?

etc.

subito p

Segue

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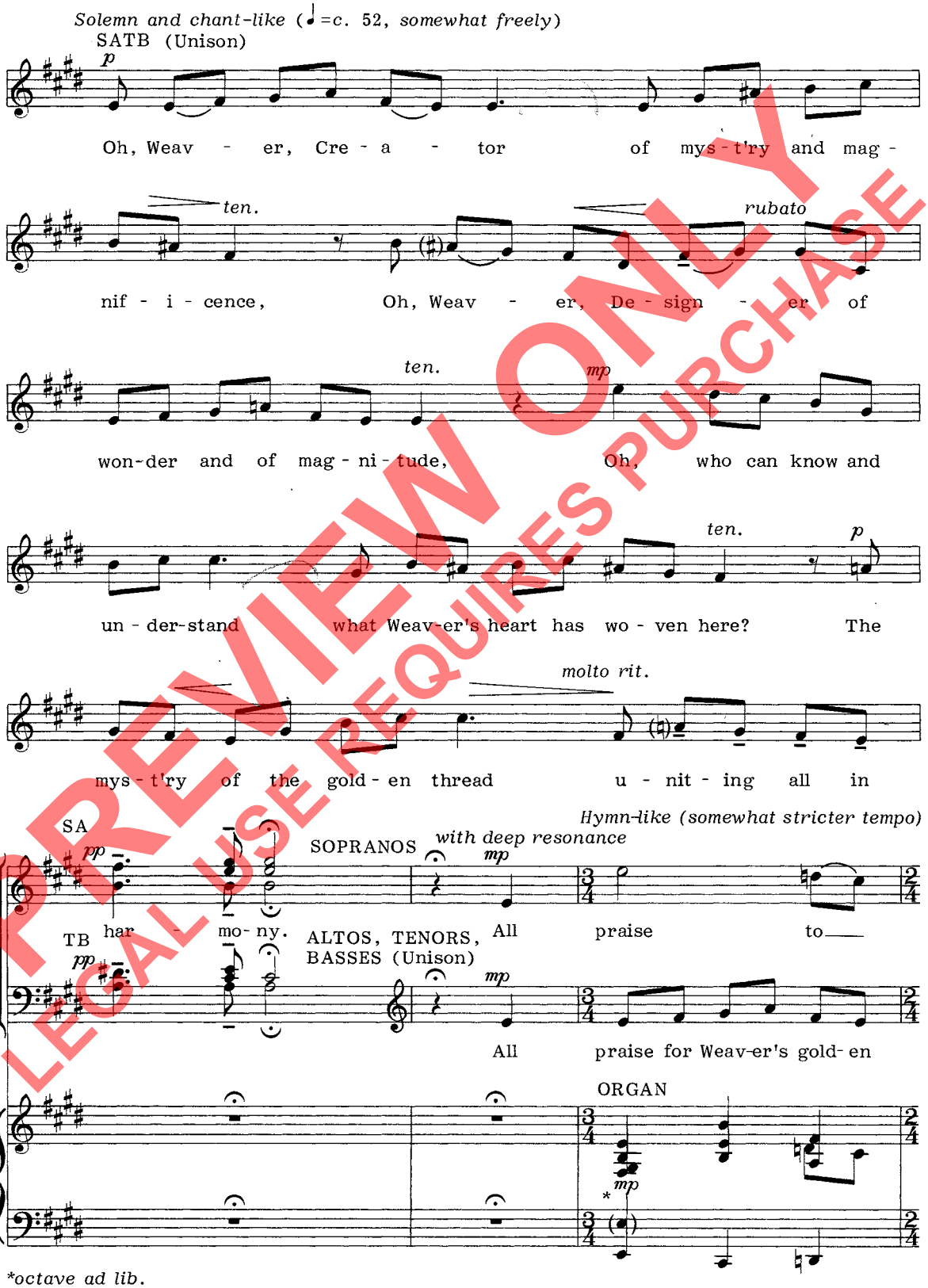
God of Harmony



*octave ad lib.

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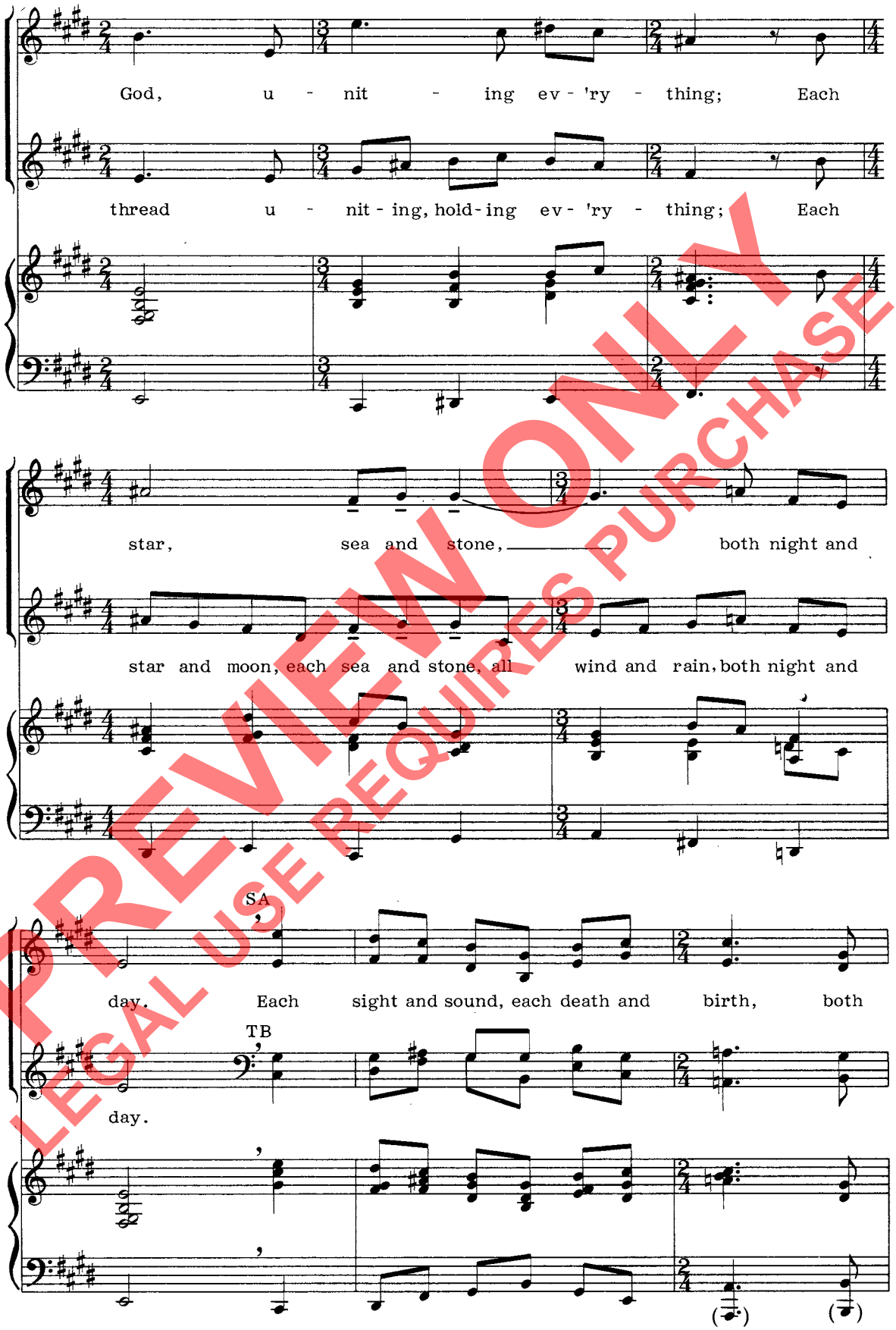

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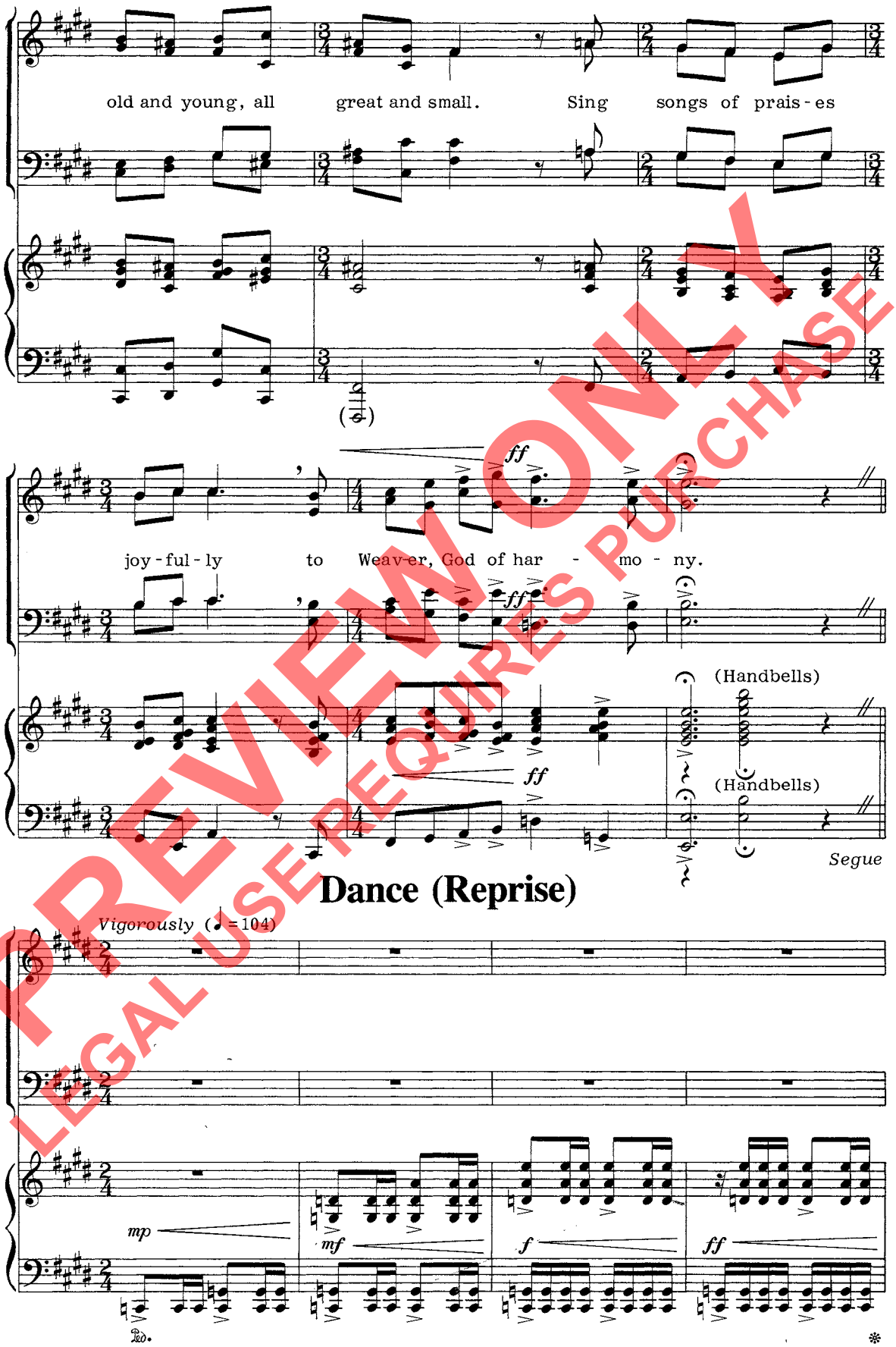

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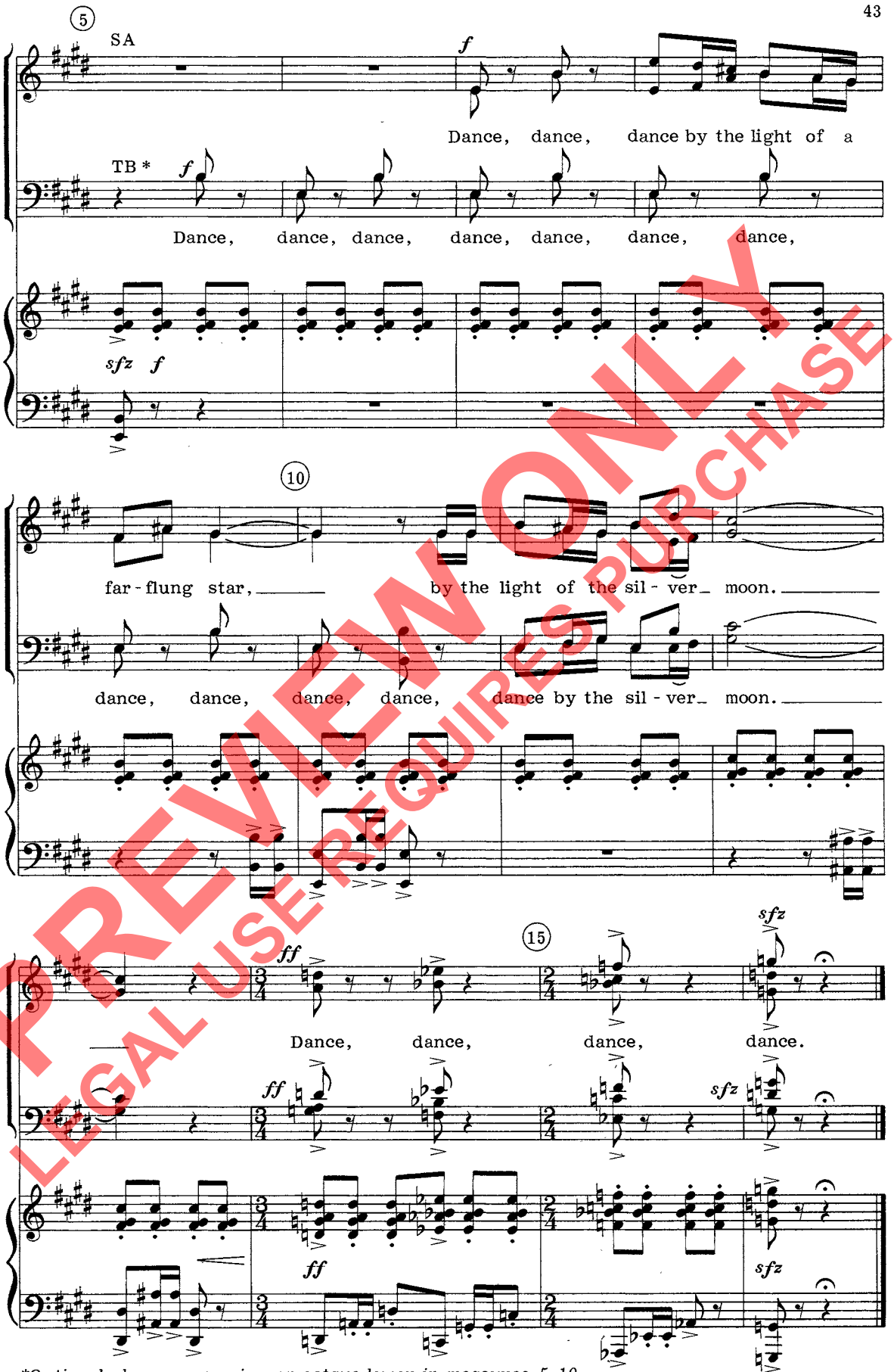

*Optional: basses may sing an octave lower in measures 5–10.

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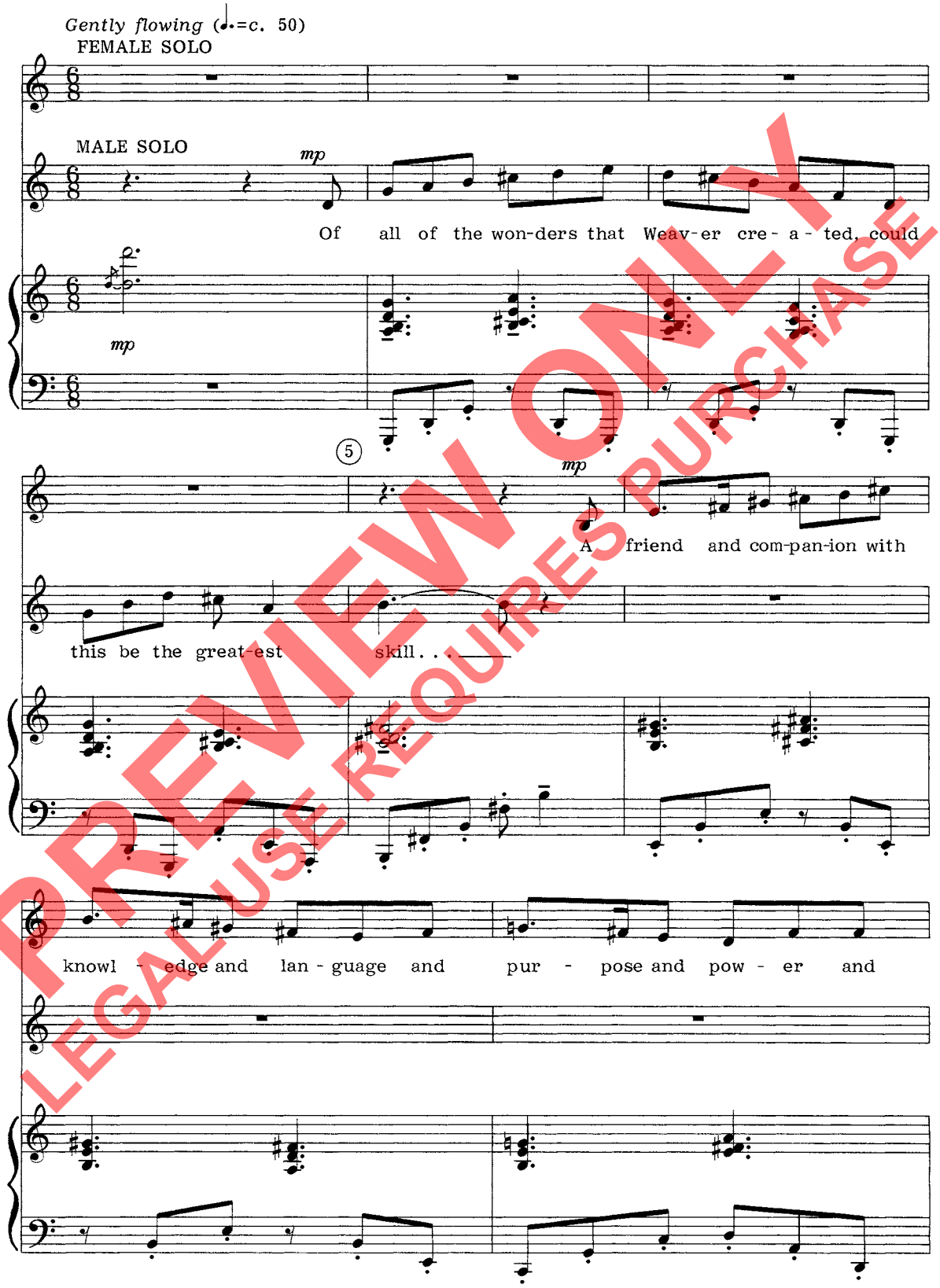
Ballad II



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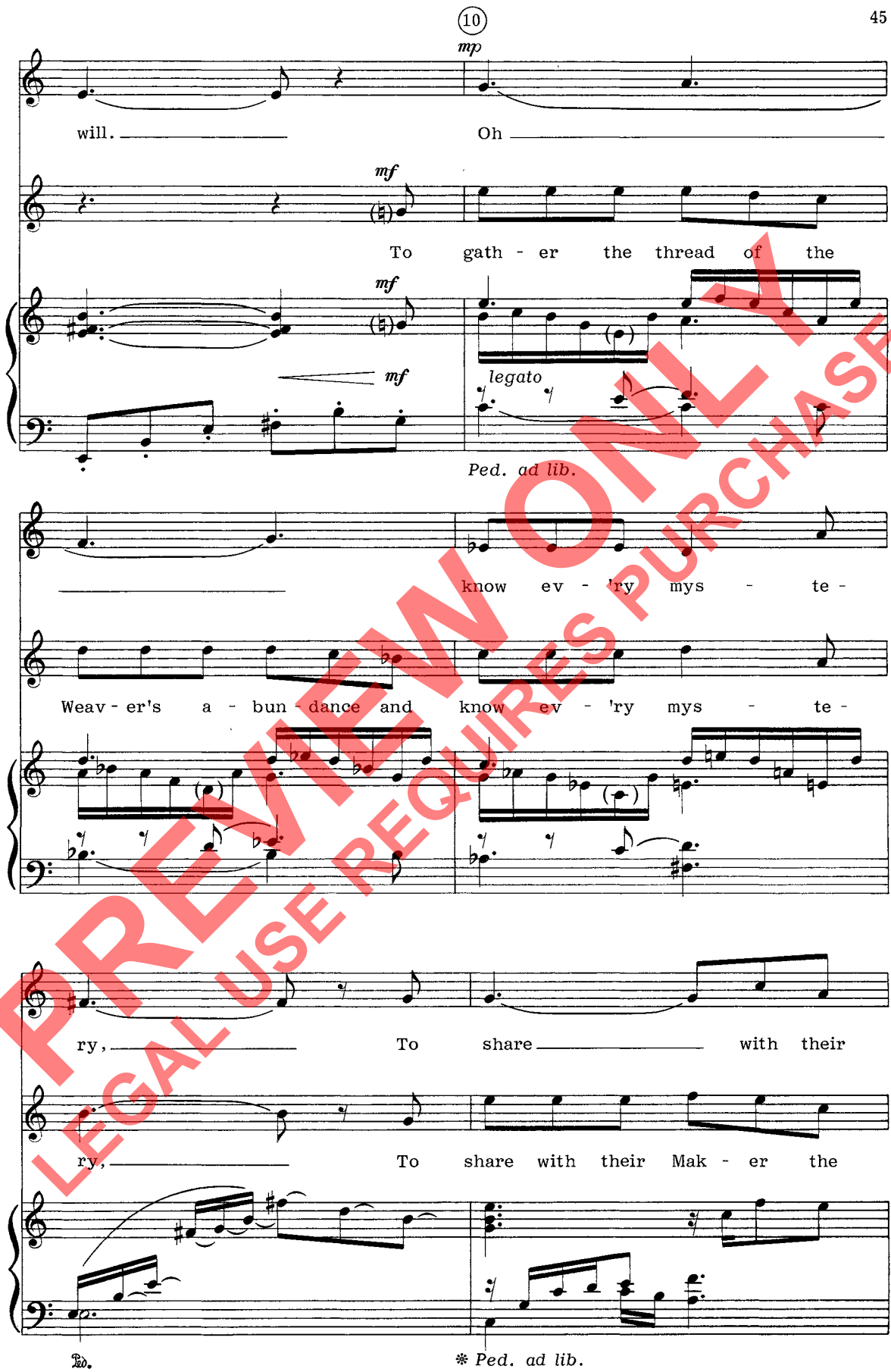

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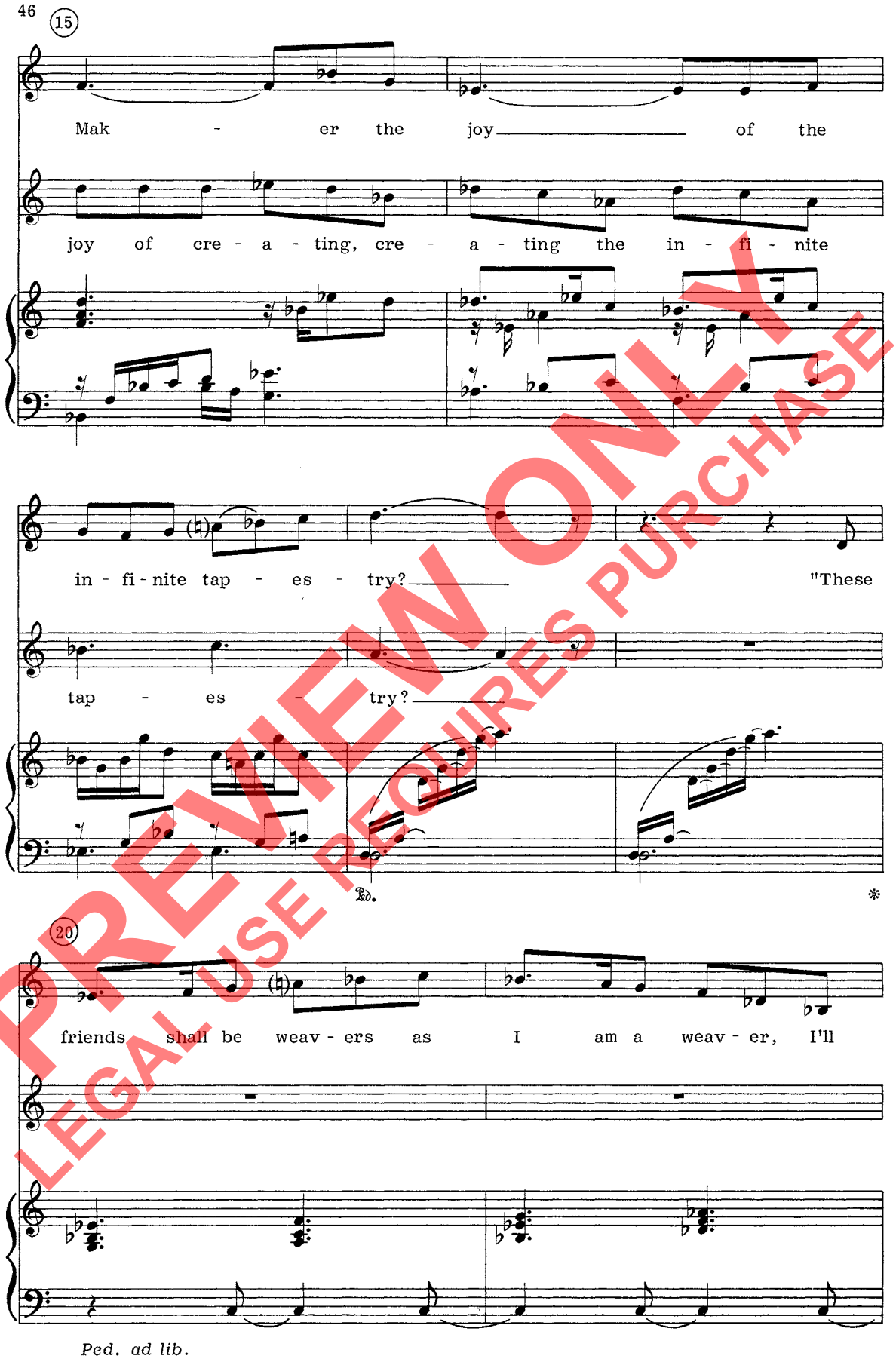

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I See You

(Duet)

Gently, with great tenderness (♩=80)

MALE SOLO

mp

I see you, I

mp

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

5

hear you, I speak to you, I

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

10

know you. And the sound of your voice can bring

Ped. * Ped. *

tears to my eyes, and the sight of your face can bring mu-sic to my breast, for I

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

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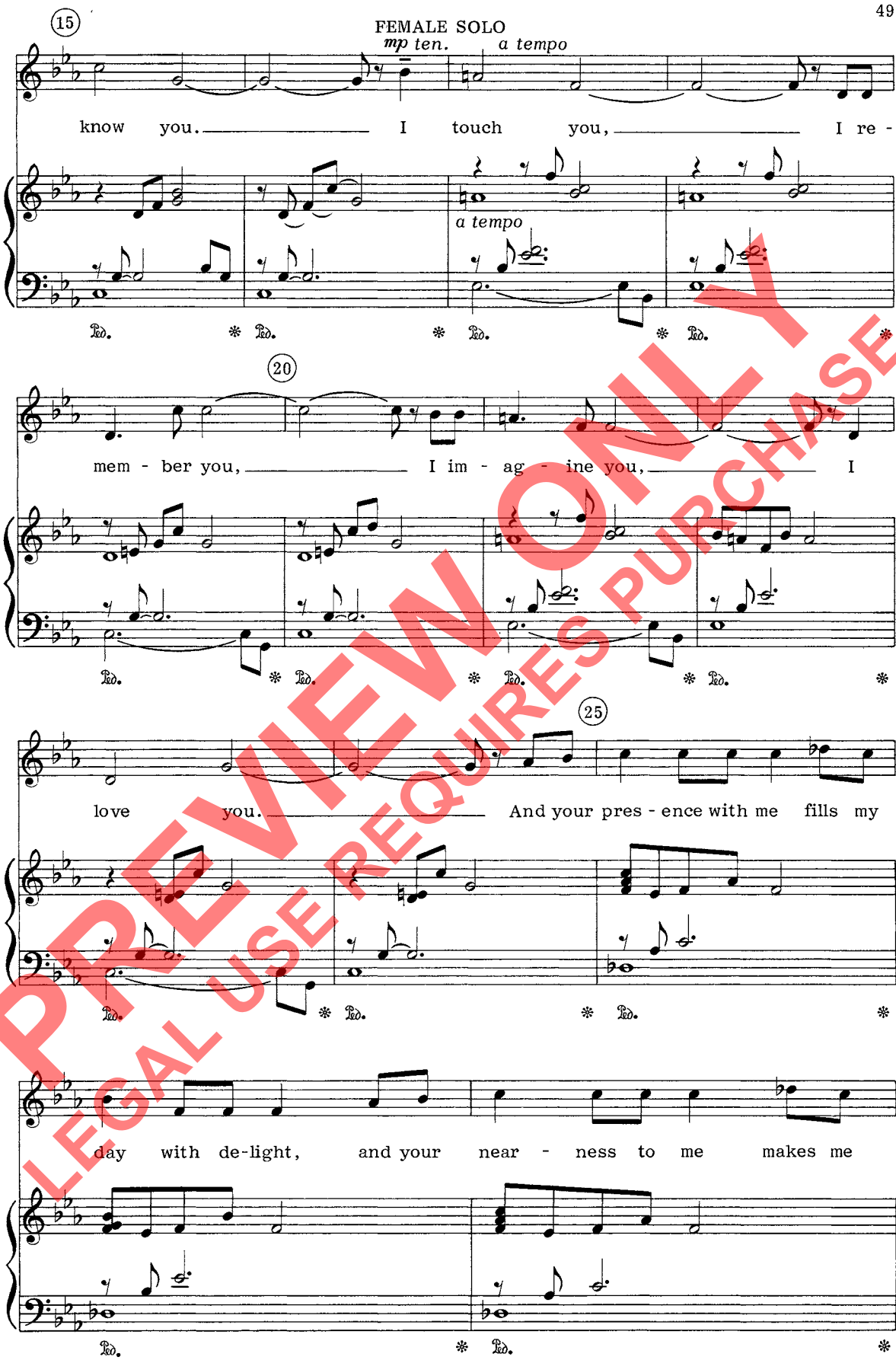

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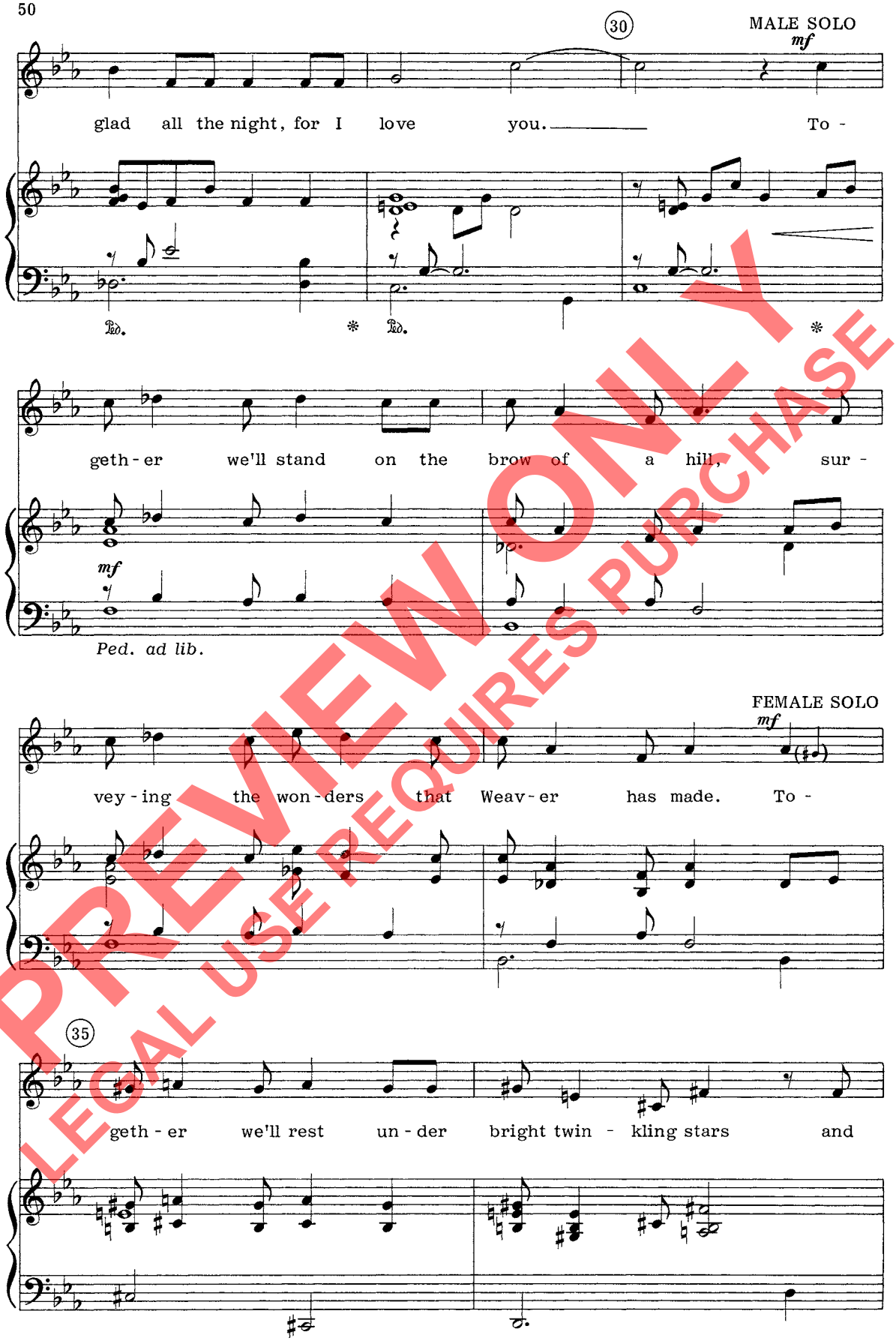

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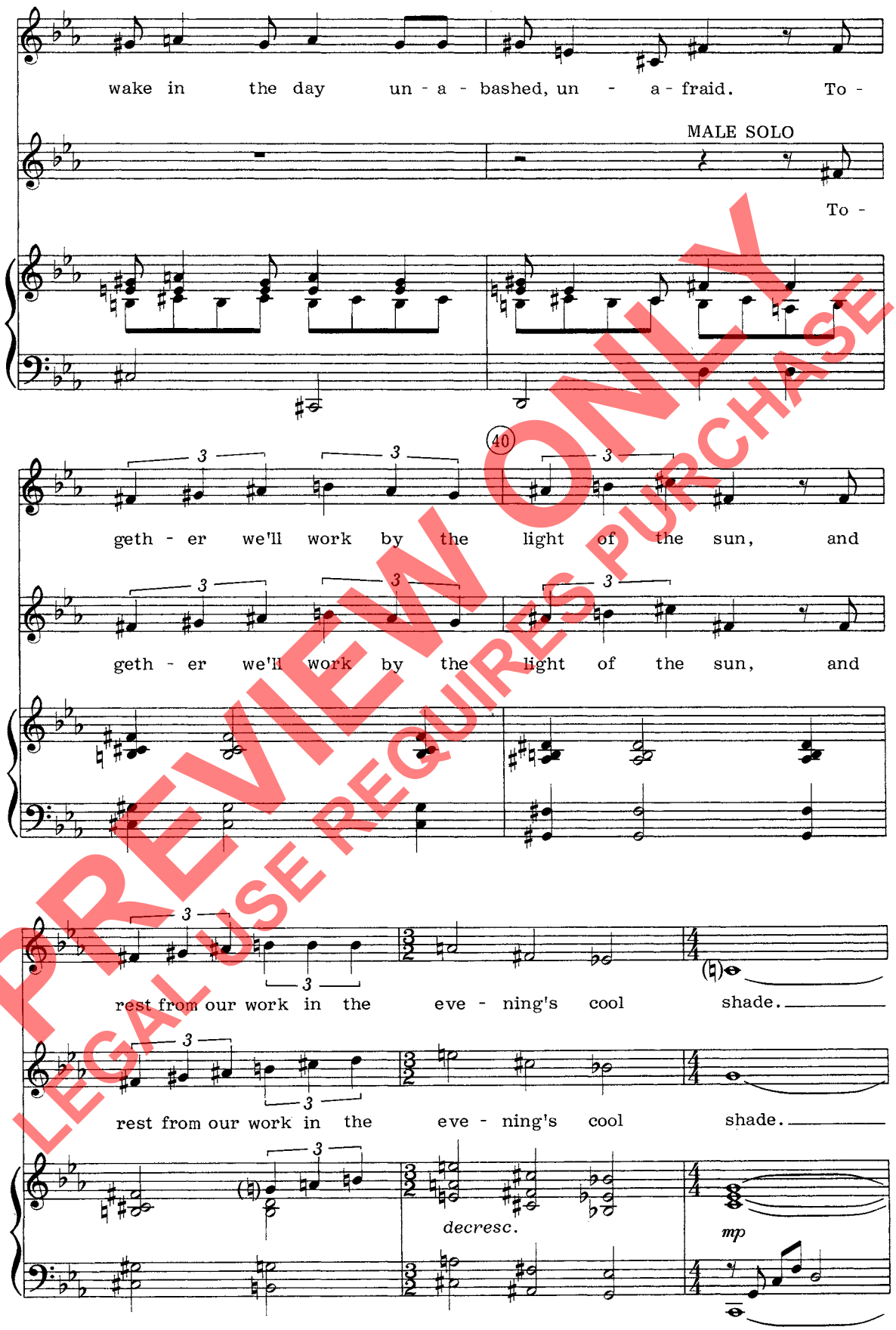

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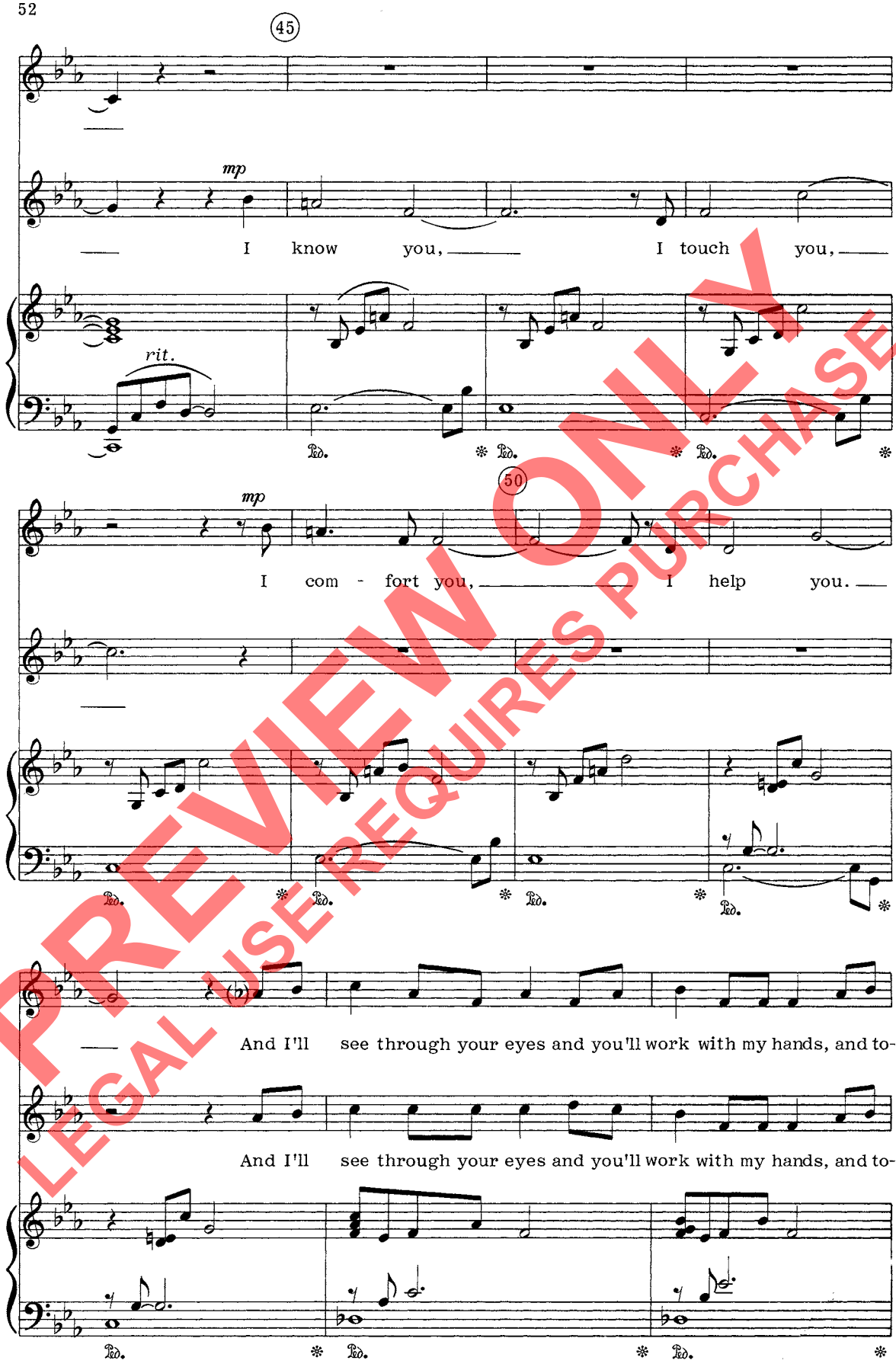

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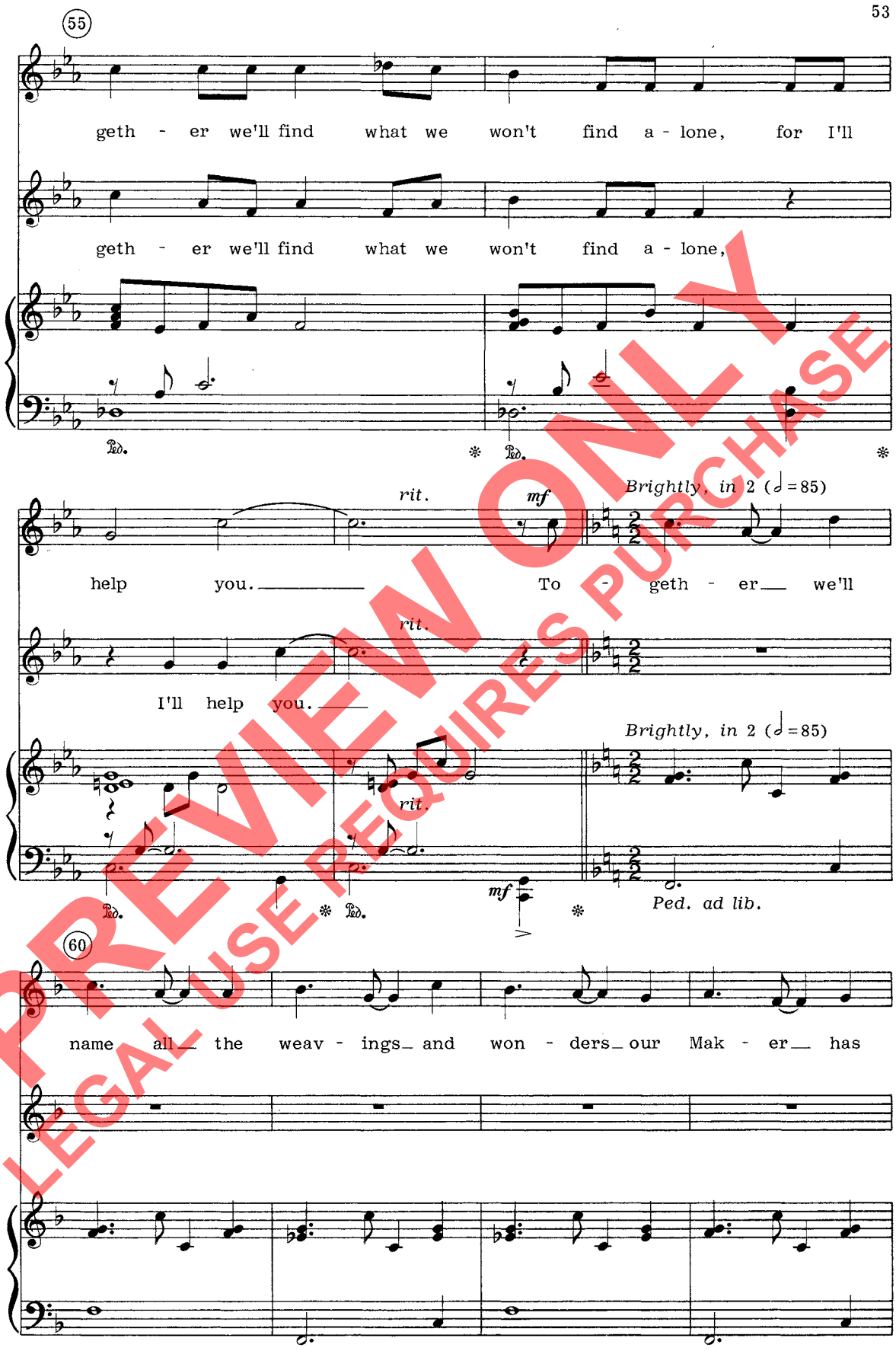

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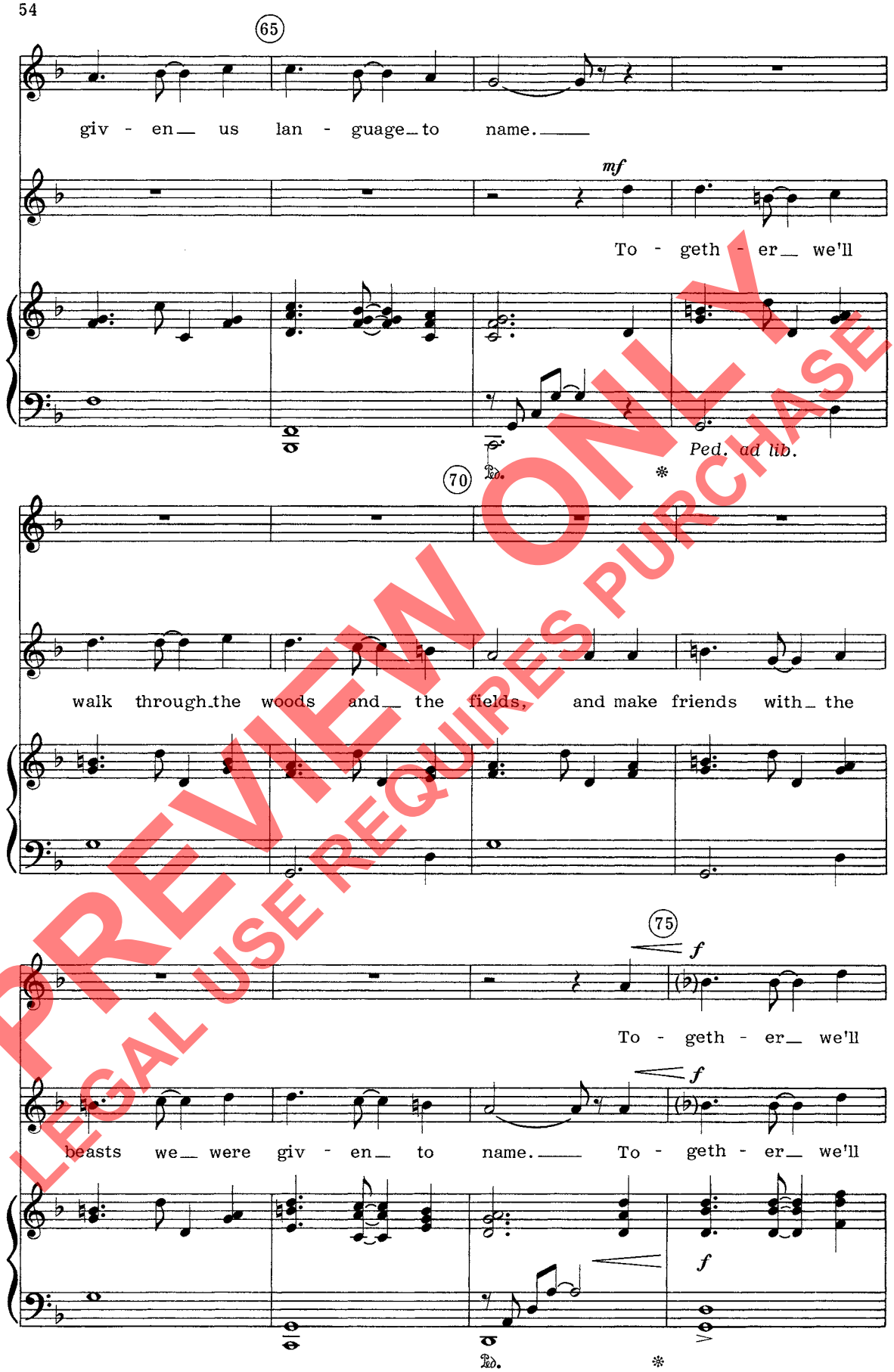

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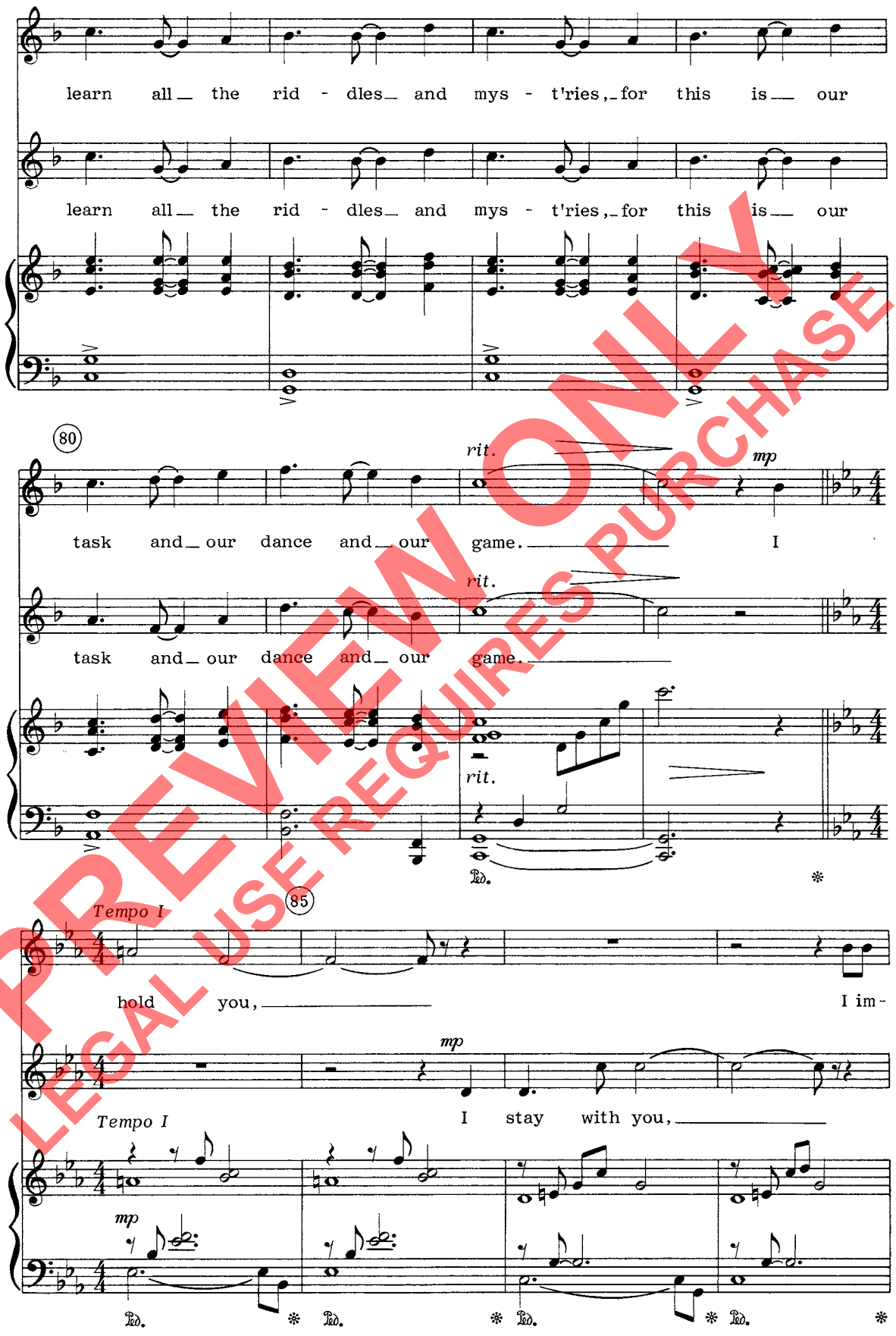

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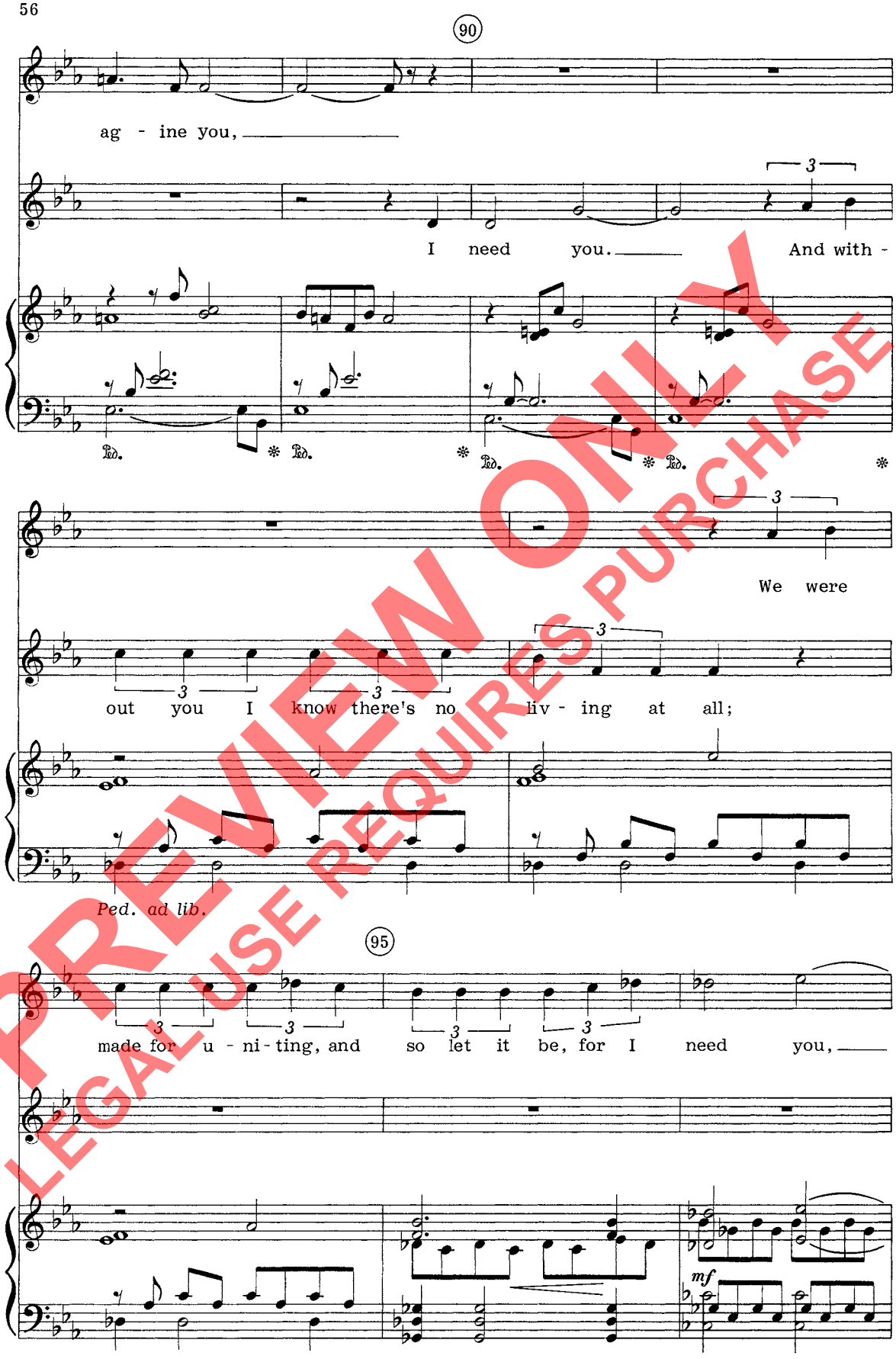

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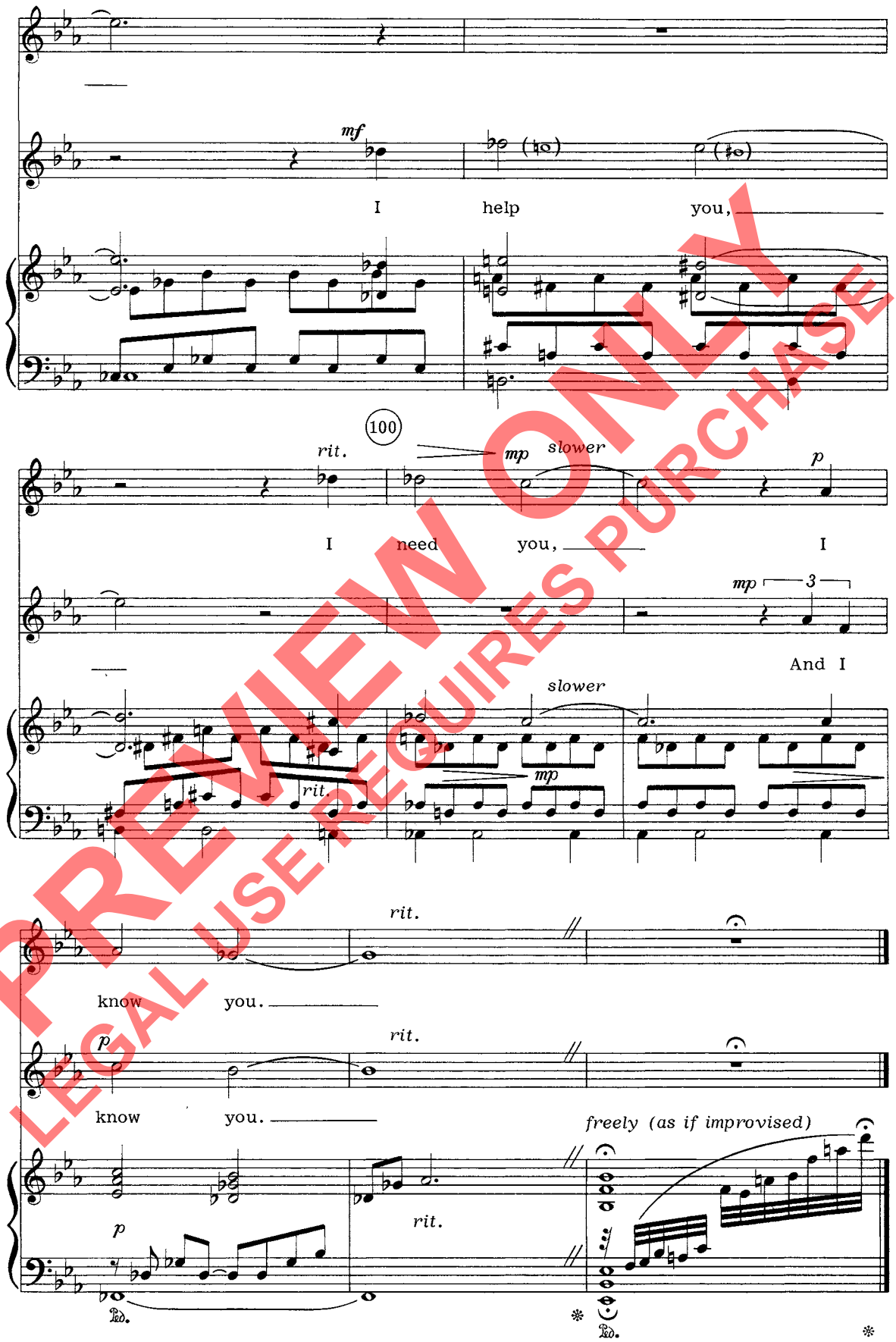

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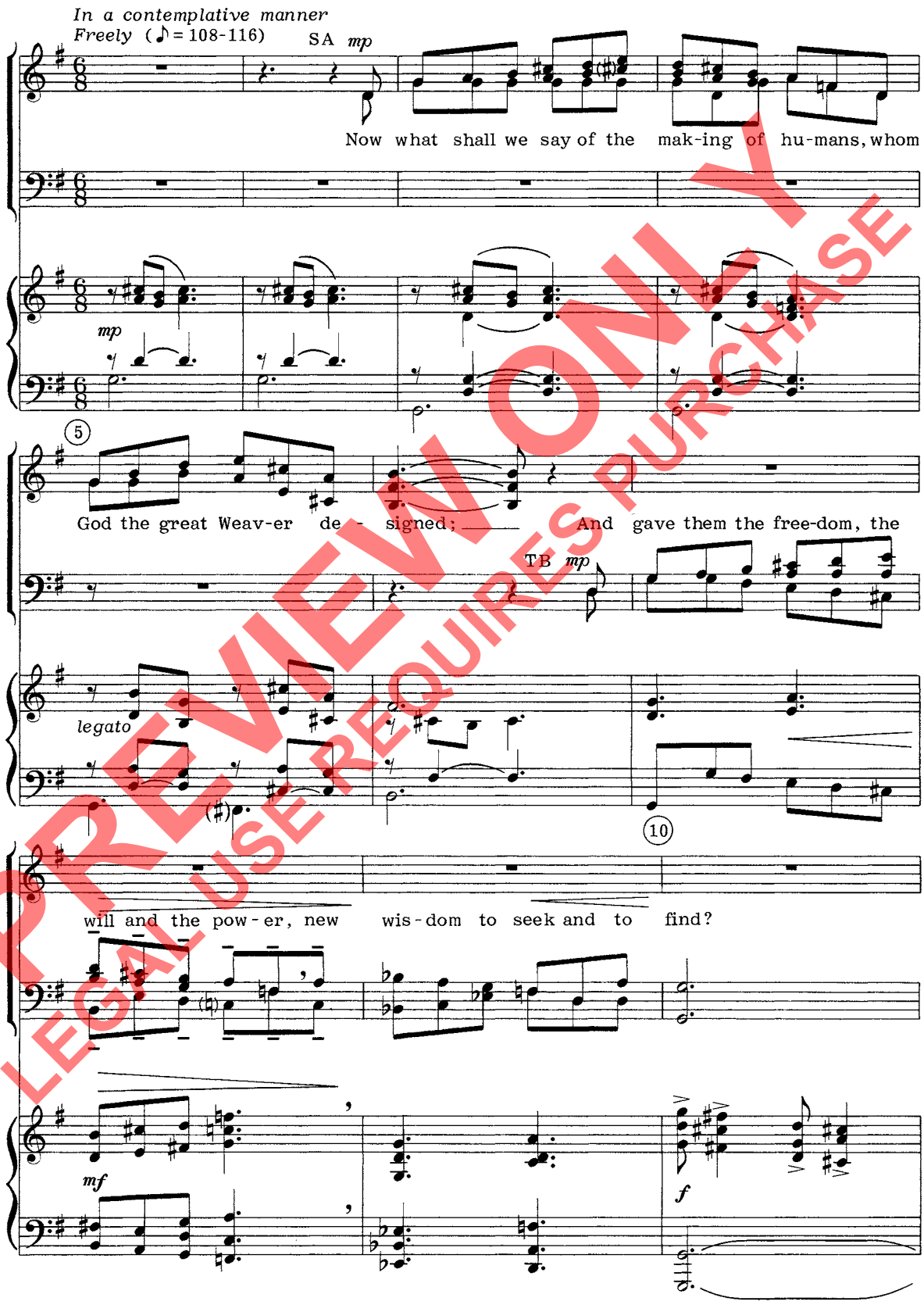
Ballad III



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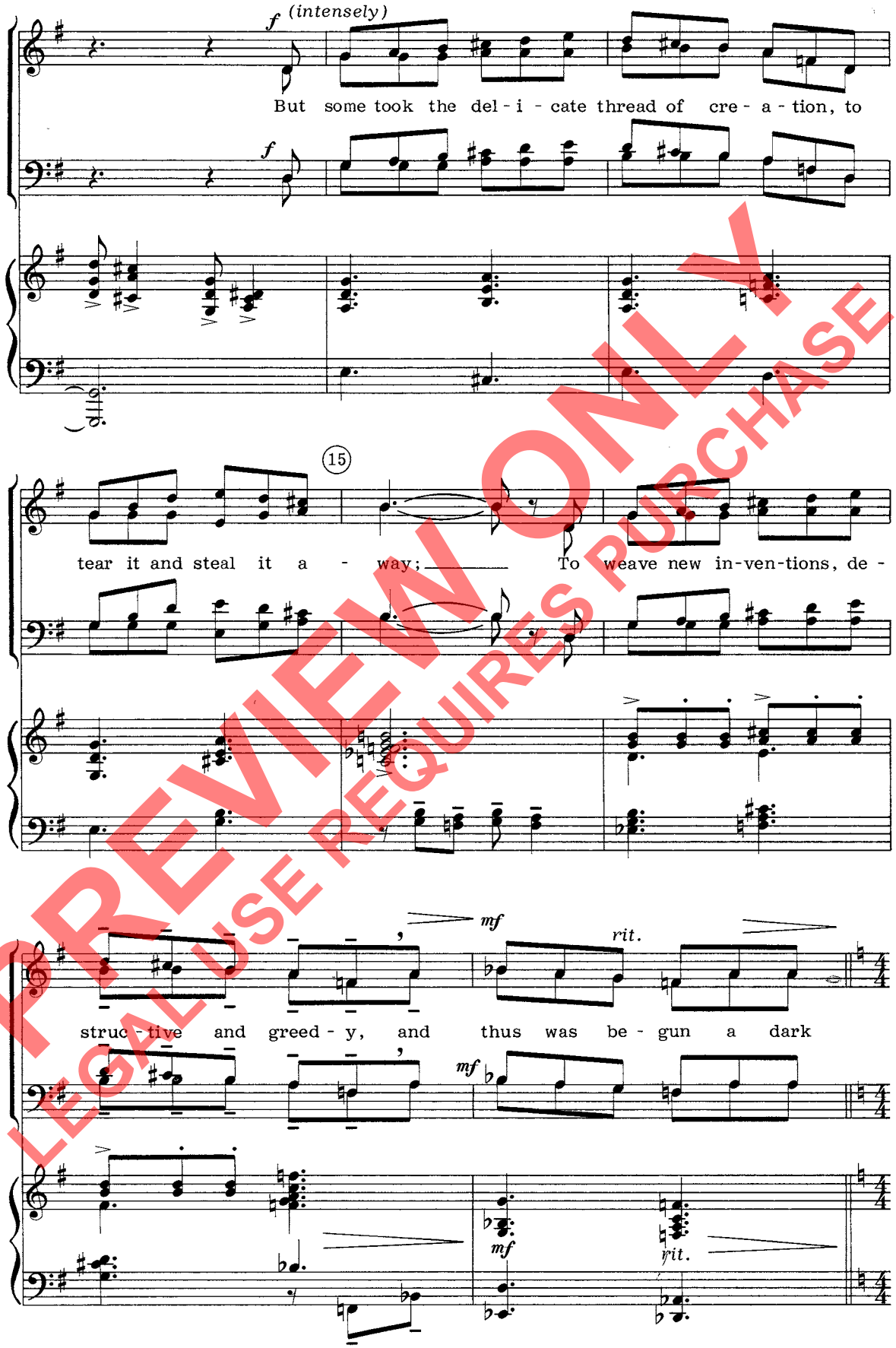
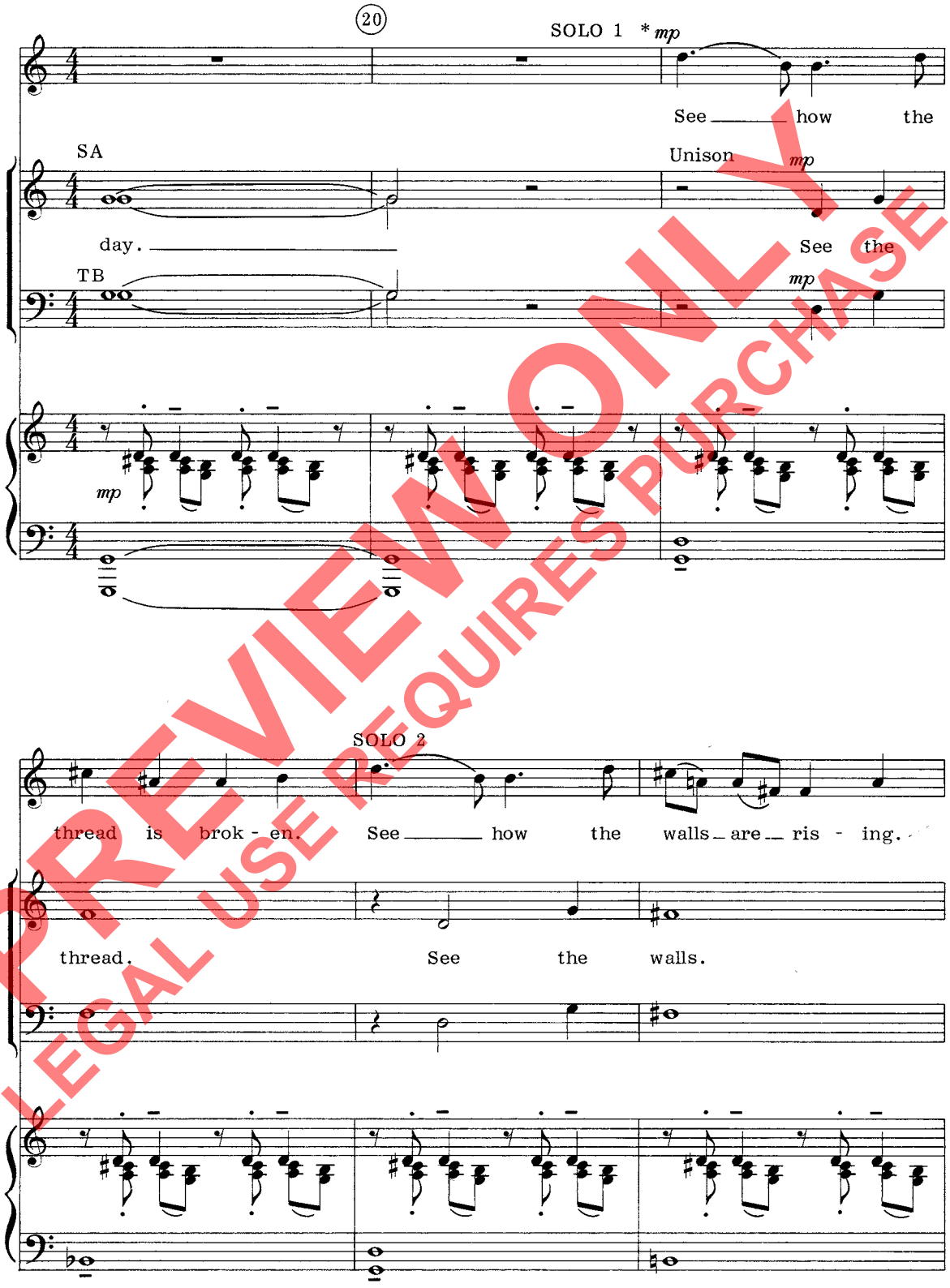


PREVIEW ONLY
LEGAL USE REQUIRES PURCHASE

See How the Thread Is Broken



*Solos (male or female) are voices from the choir.

PREVIEW ONLY
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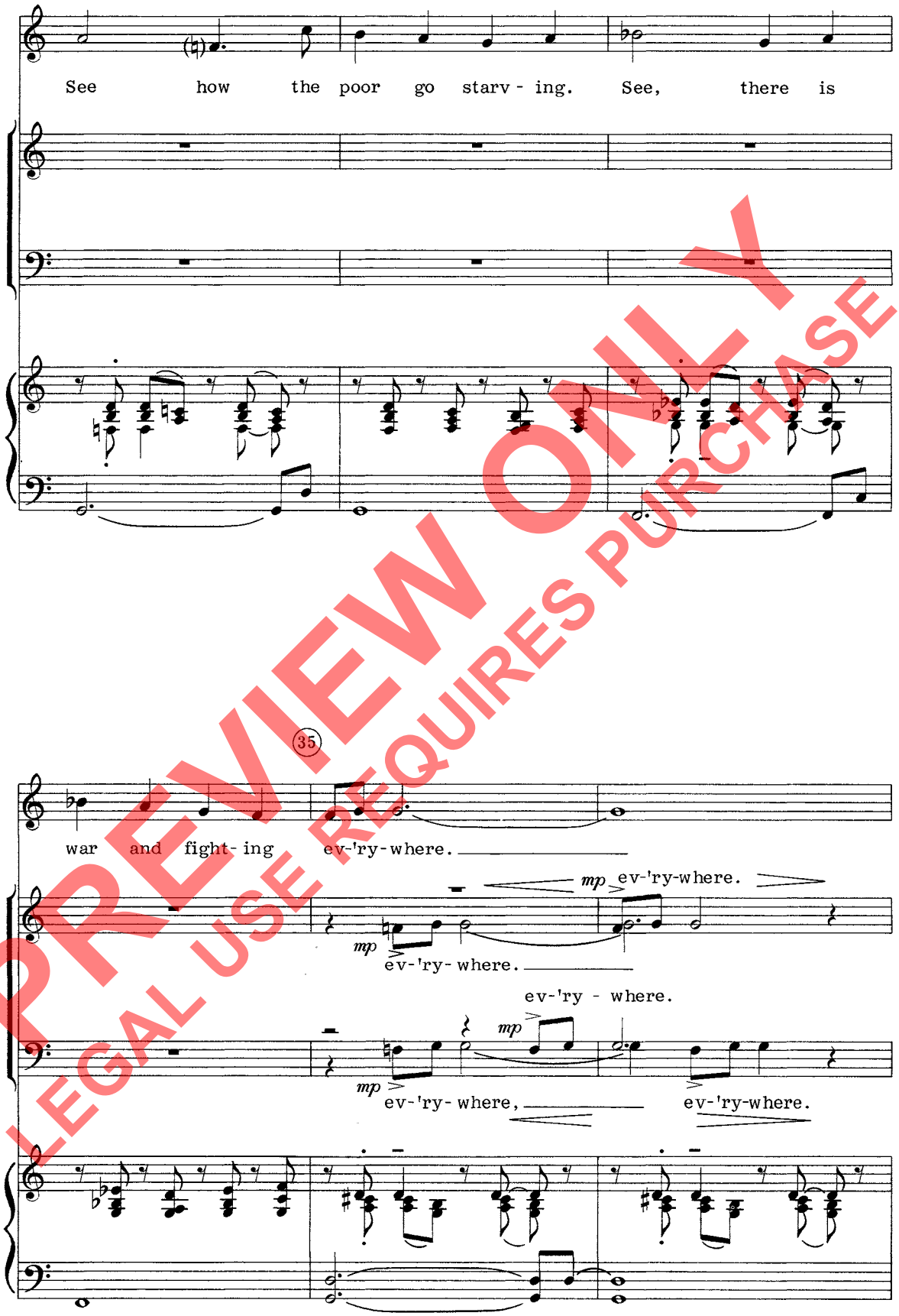

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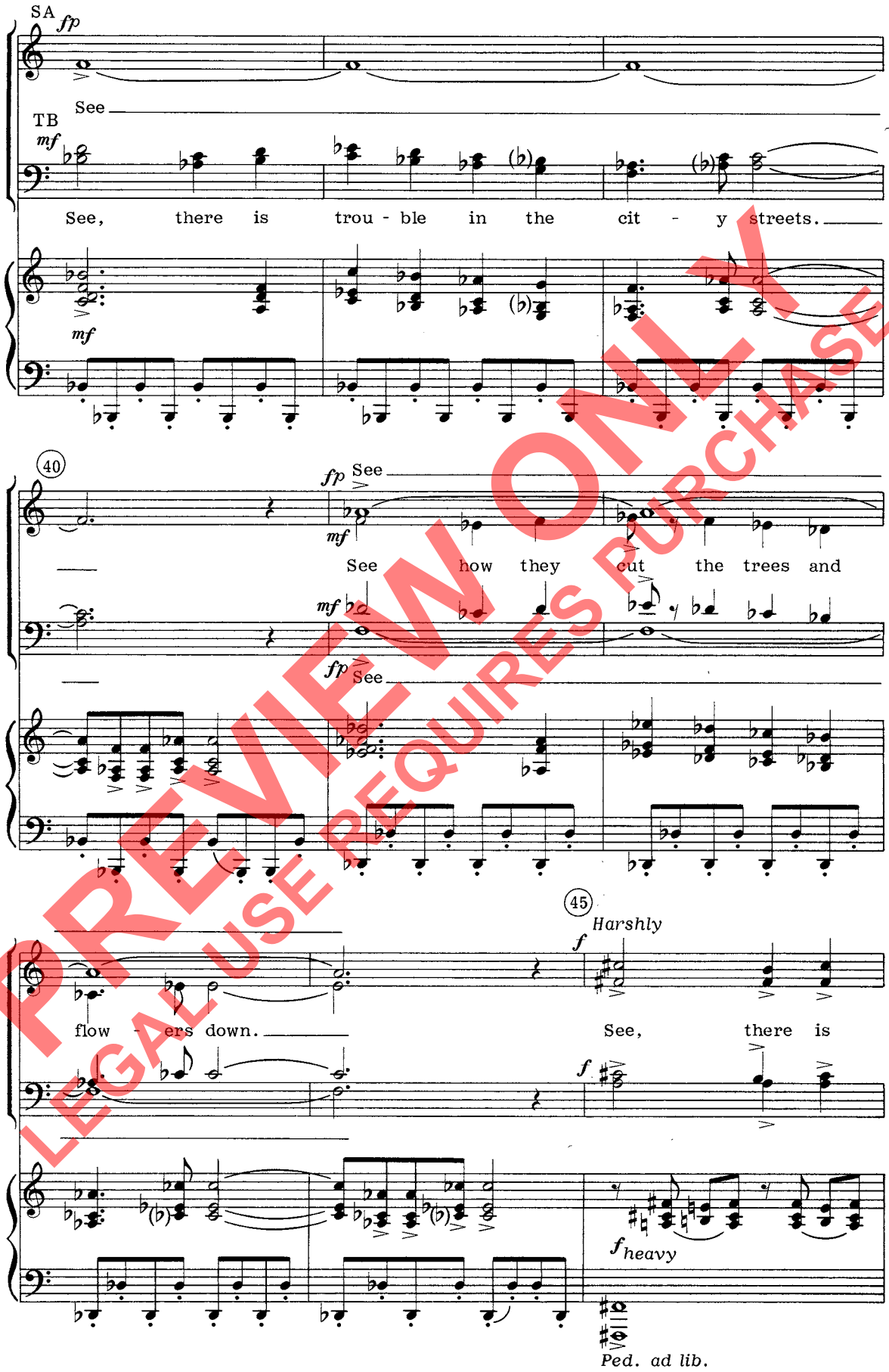

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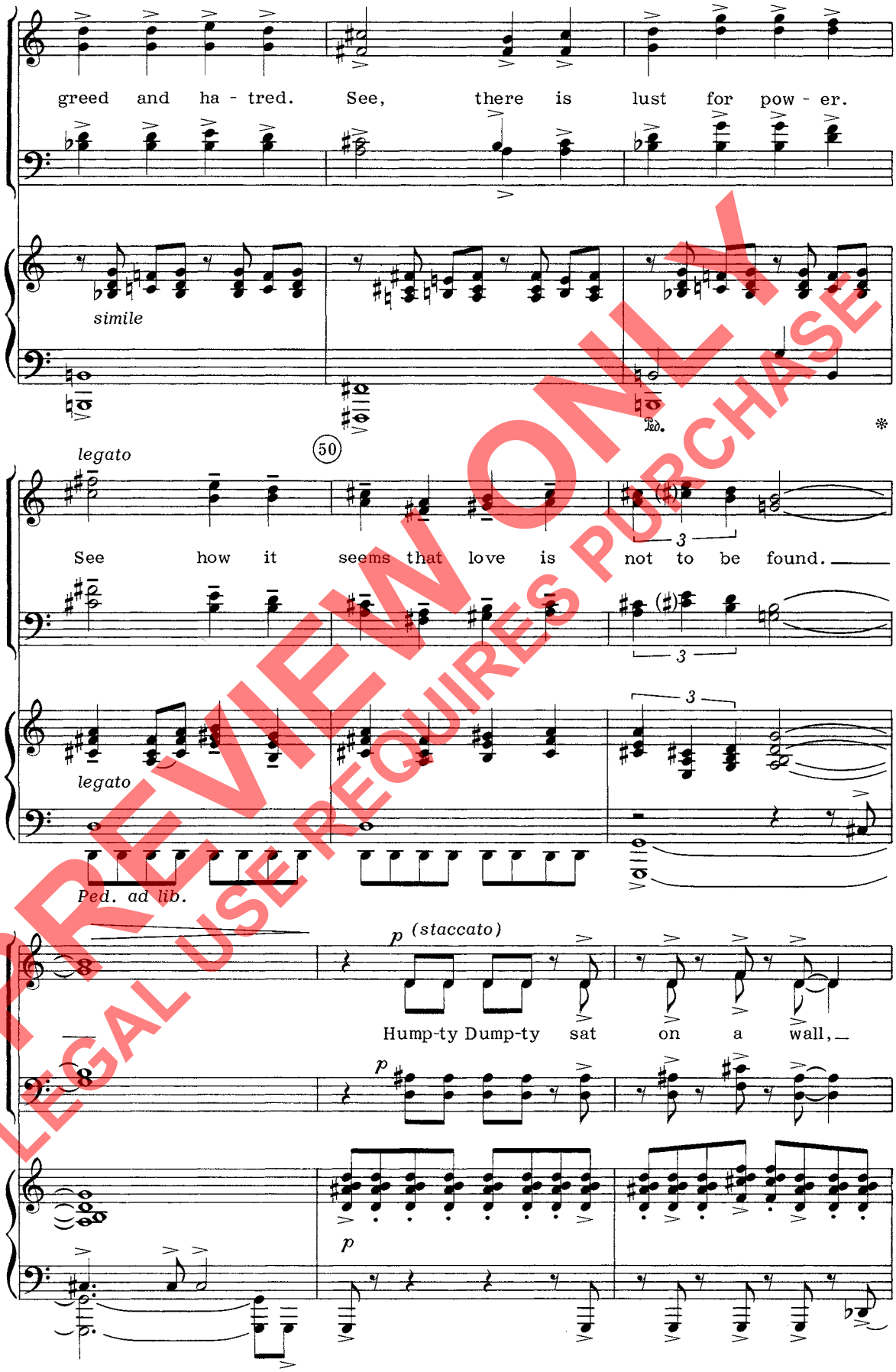

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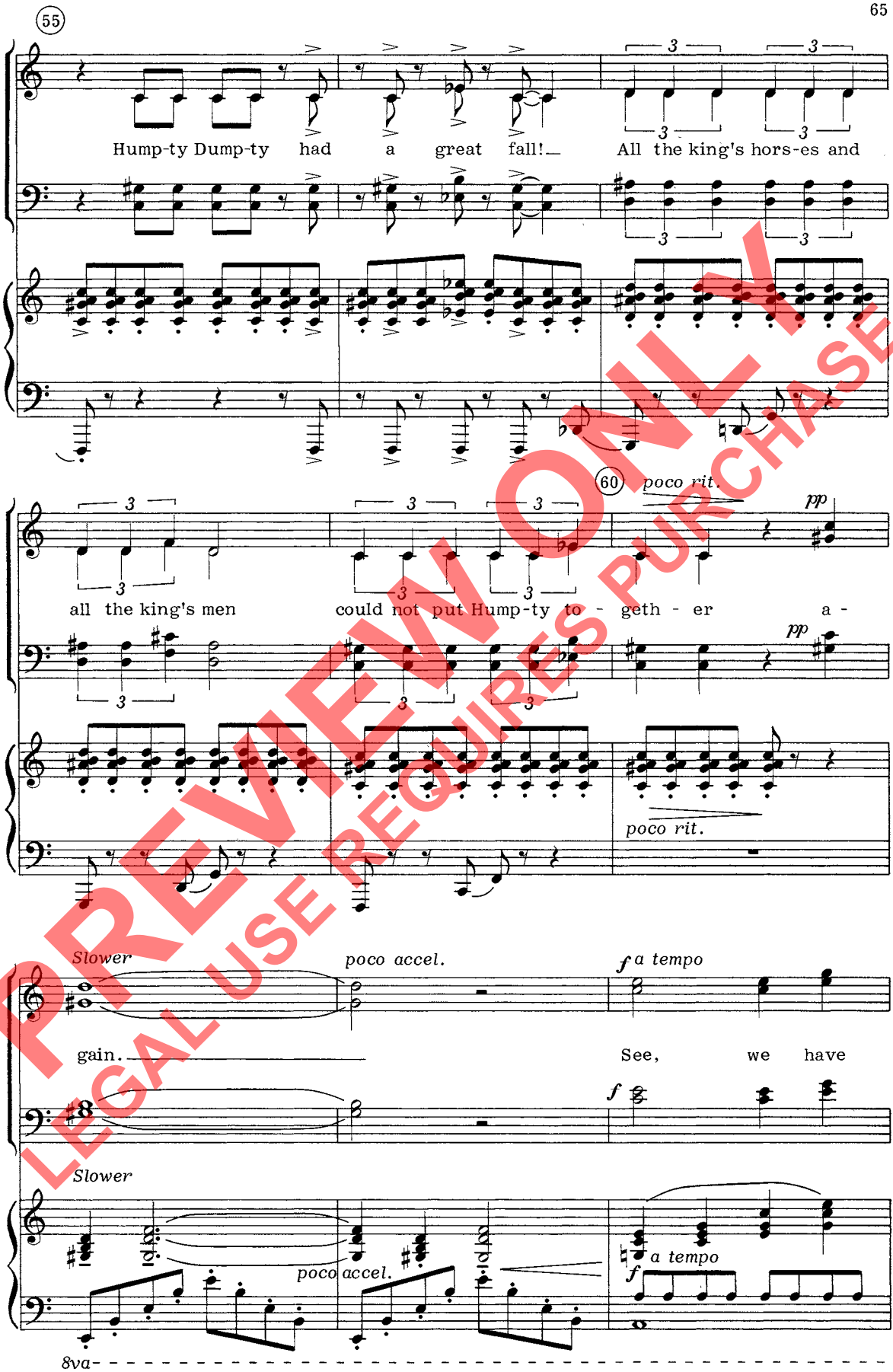

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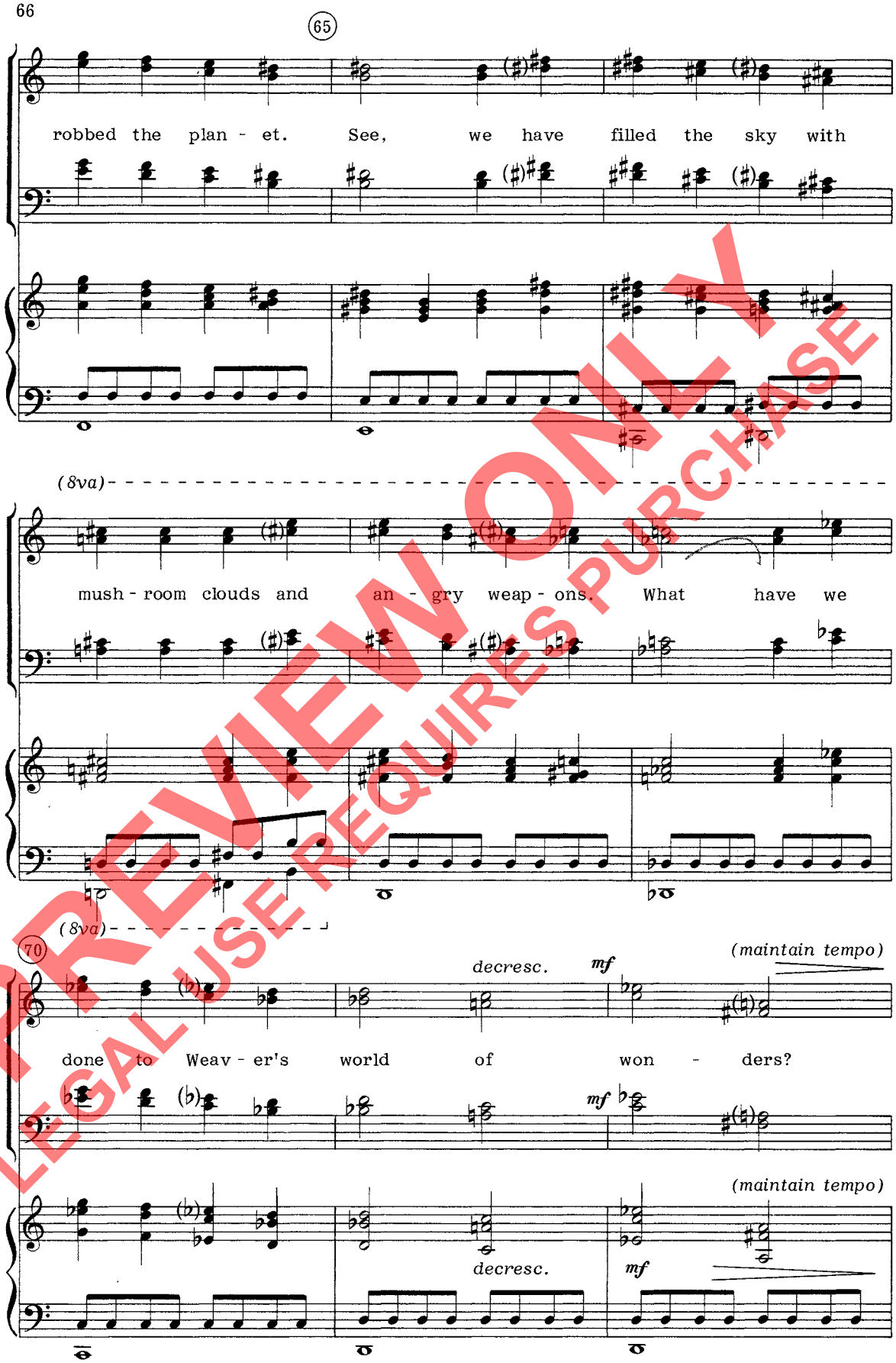

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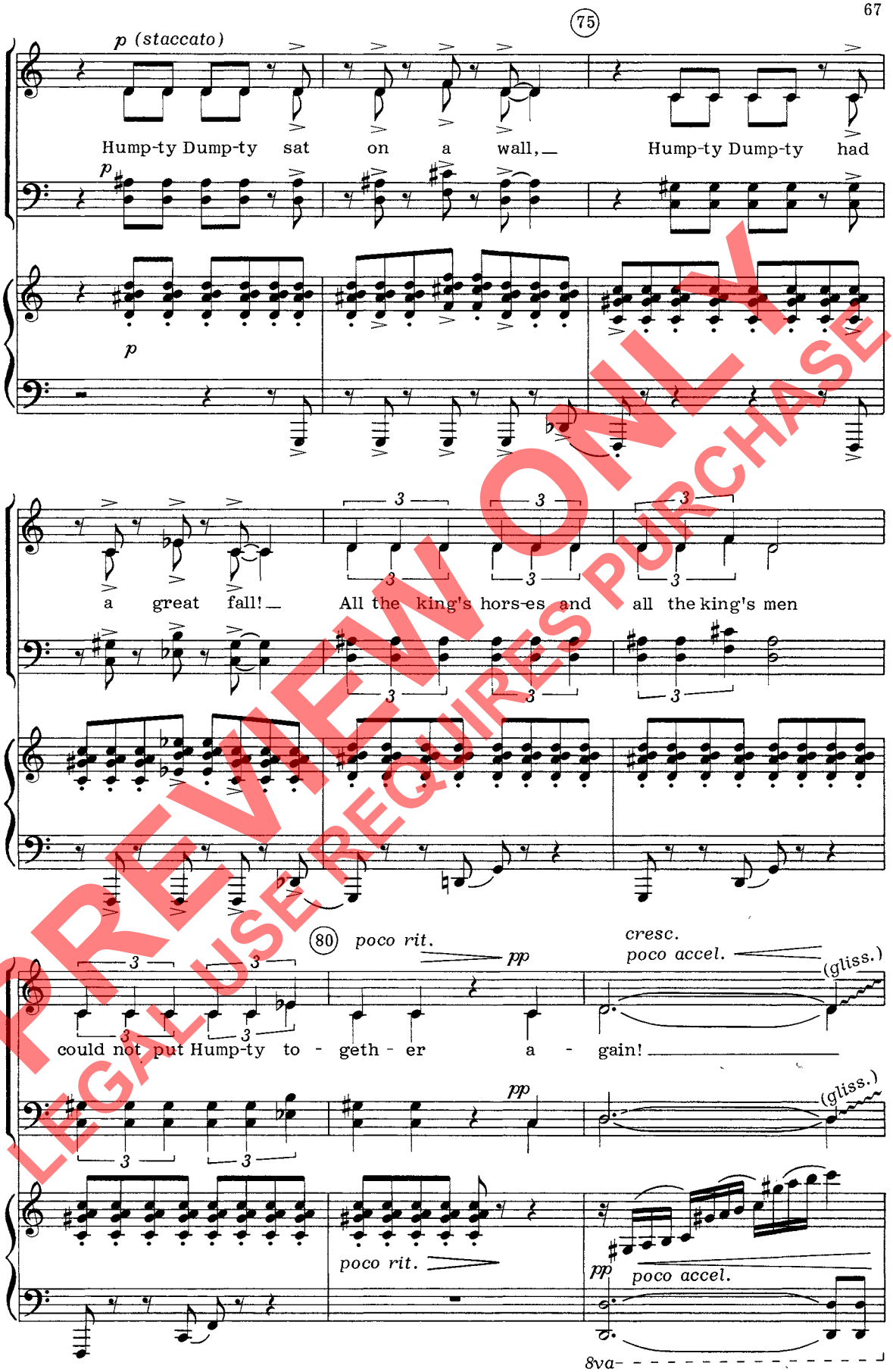

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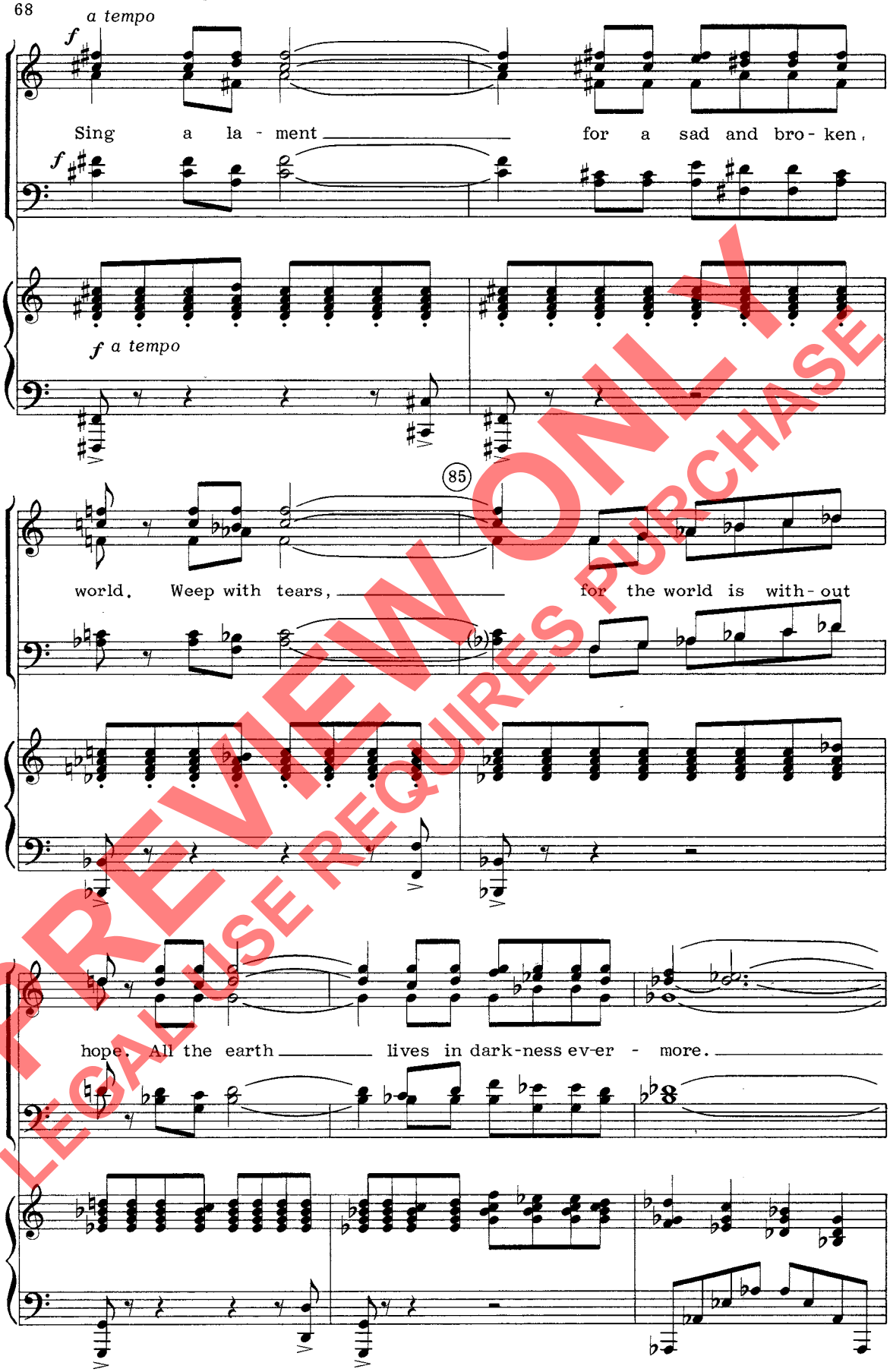

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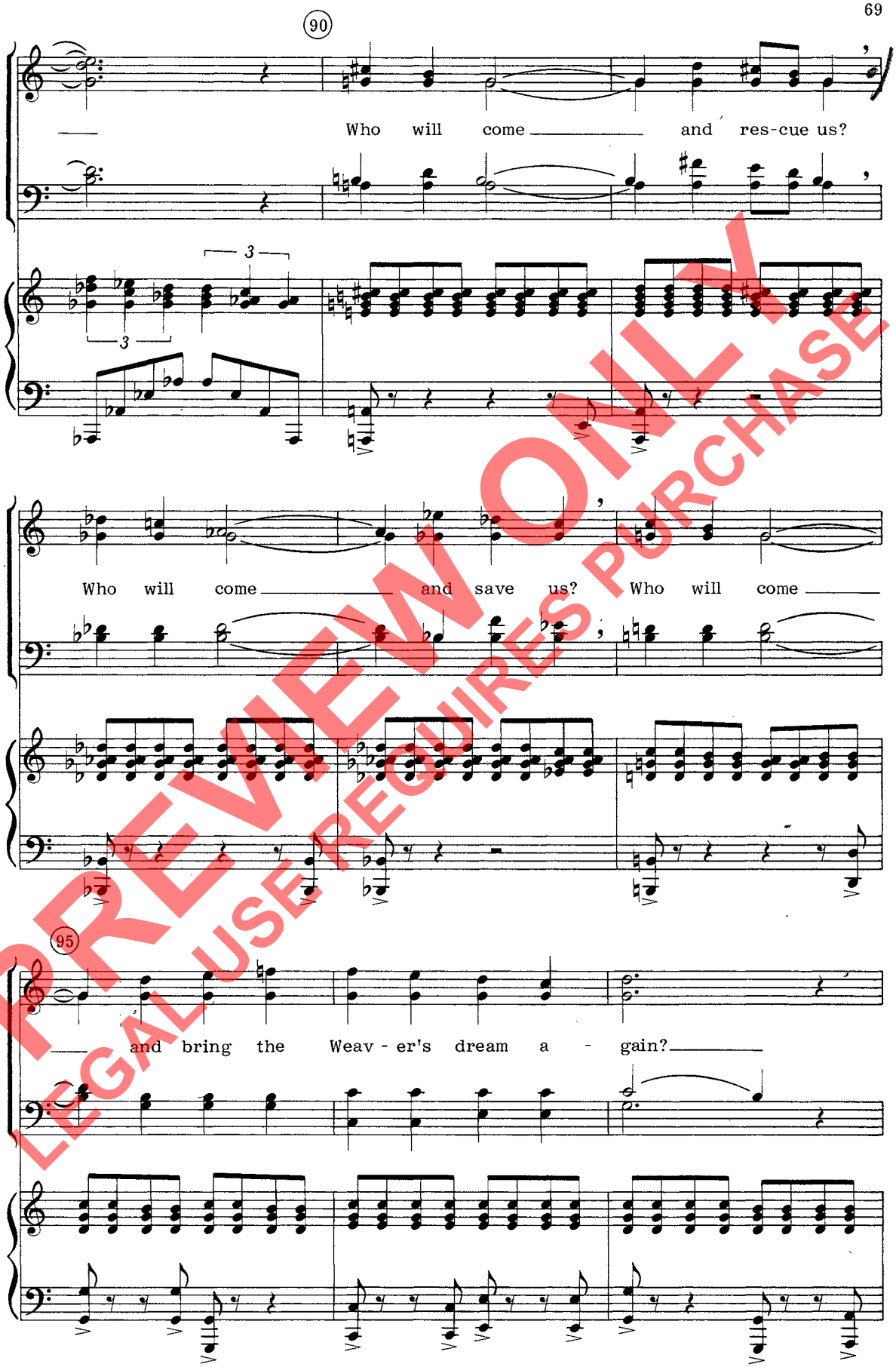

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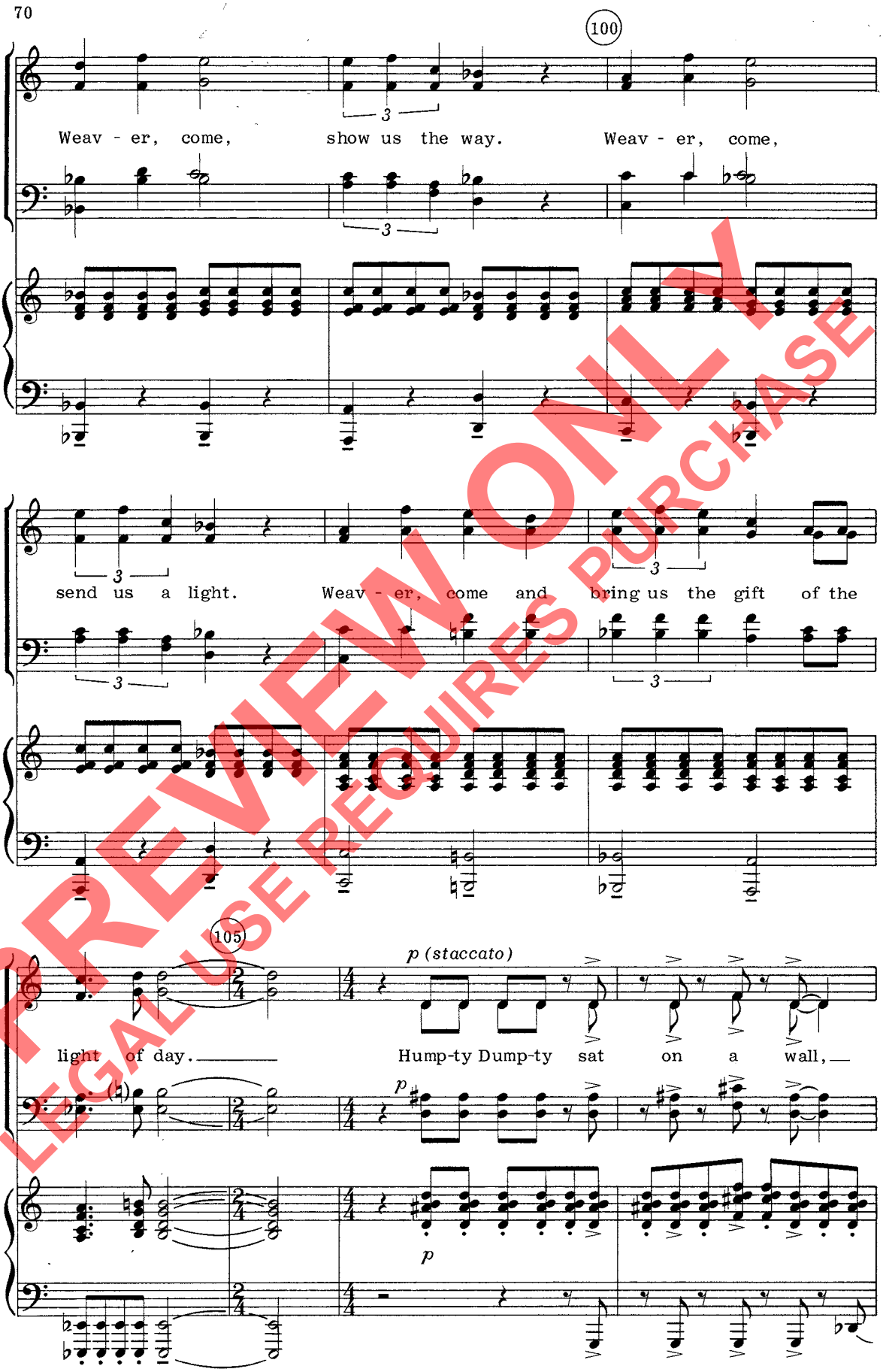

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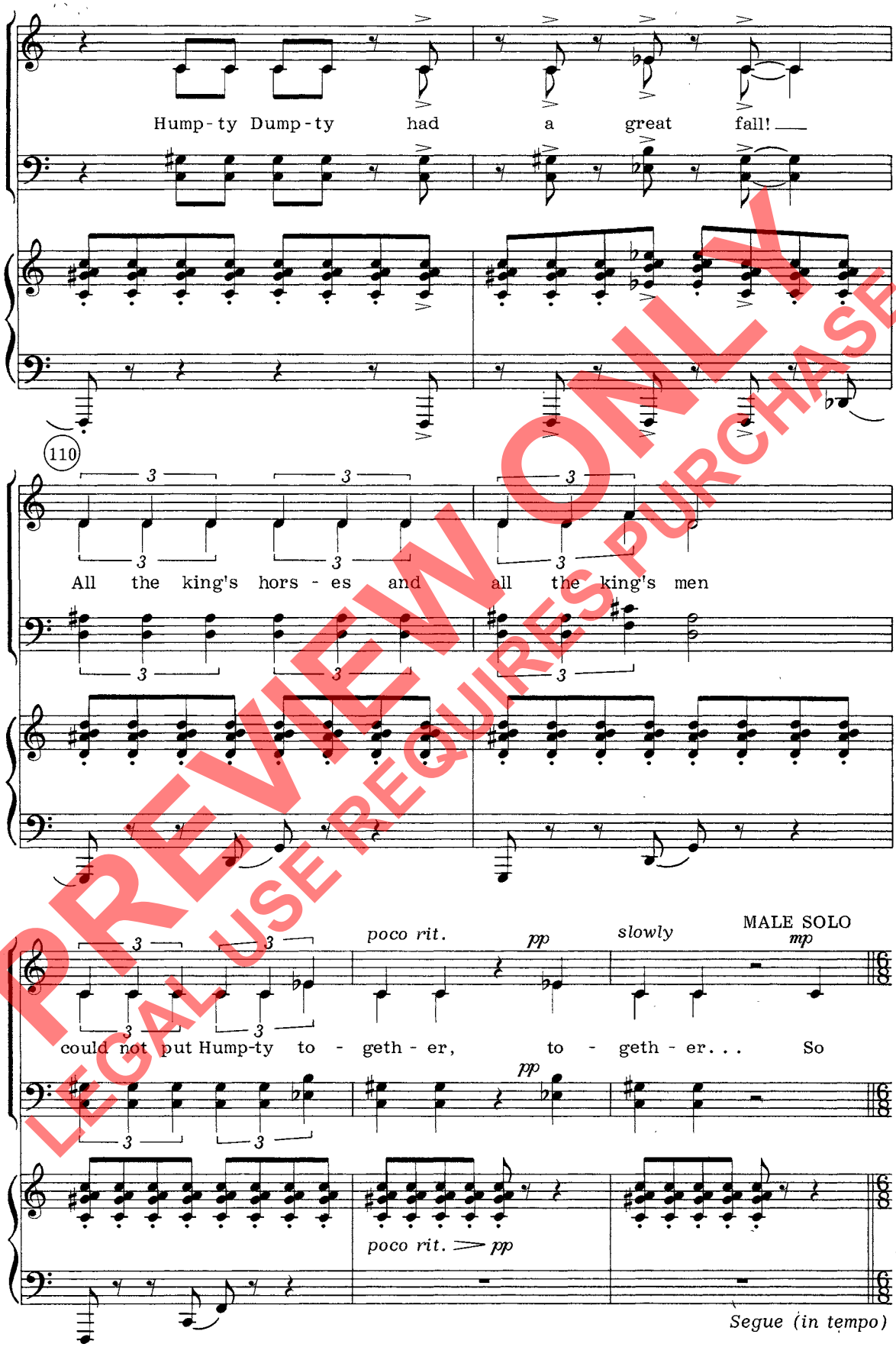
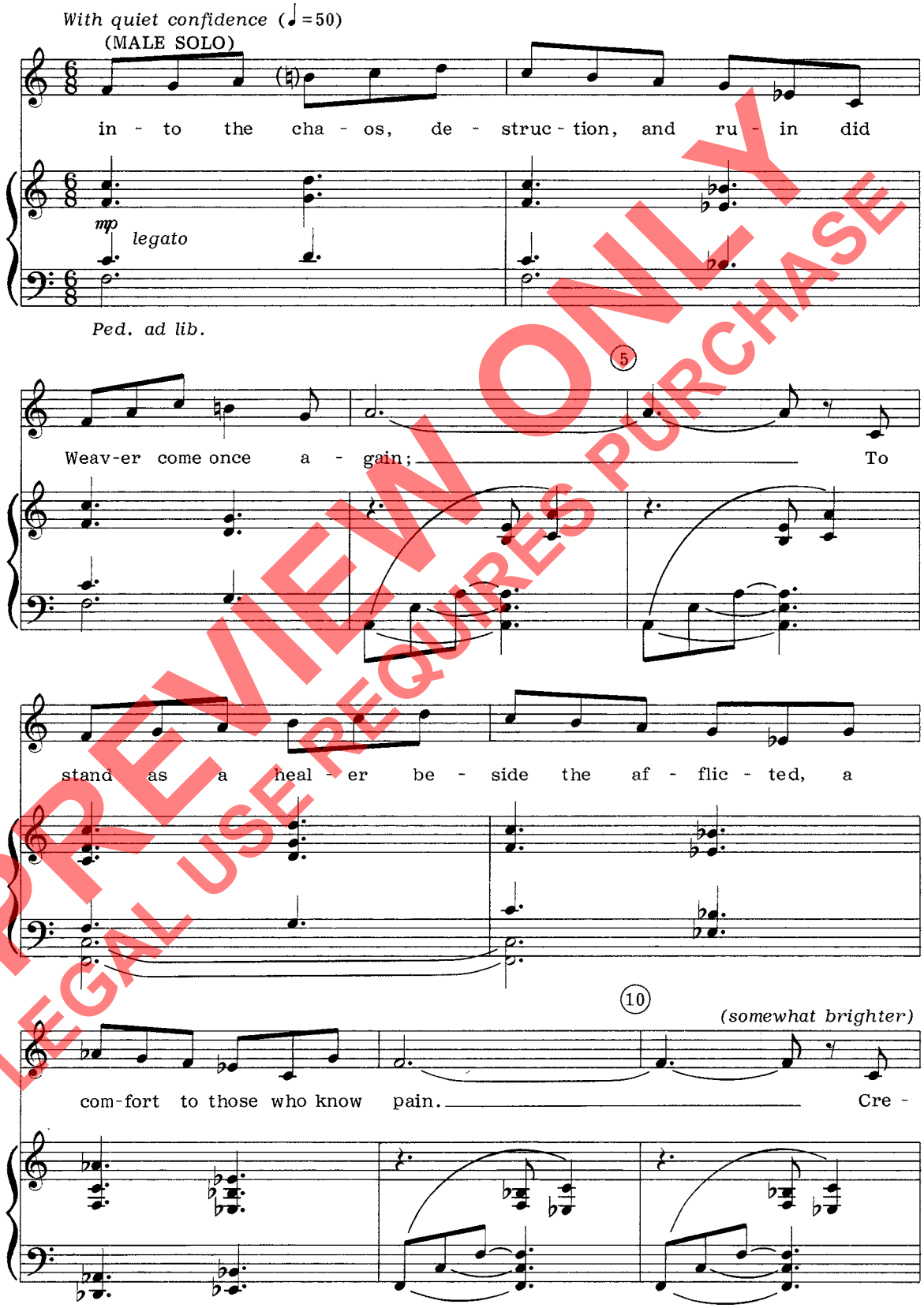


PREVIEW ONLY
LEGAL USE REQUIRES PURCHASE

Ballad IV



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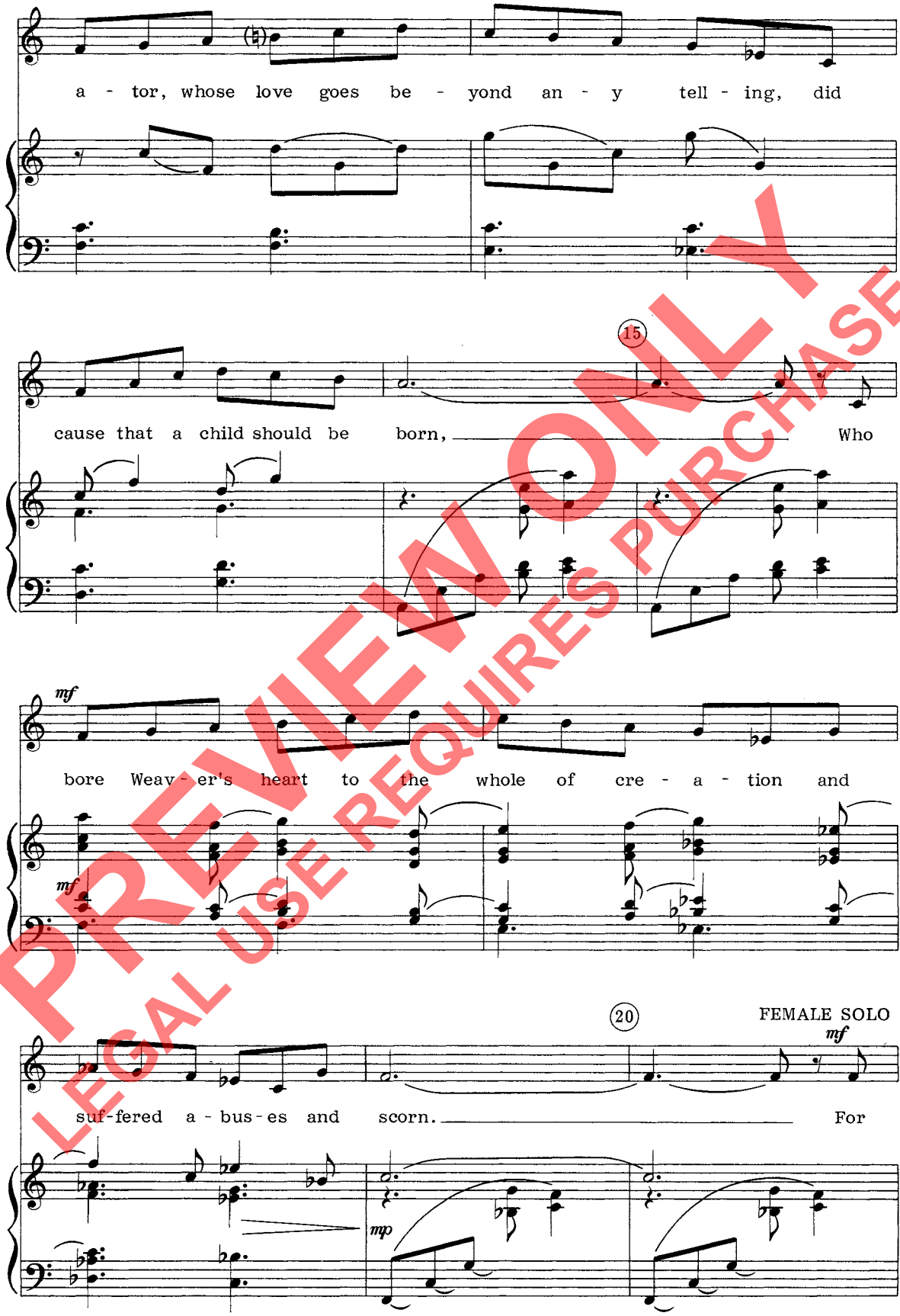

PREVIEW ONLY
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MALE SOLO

rit. mp a tempo

world will its lov-ers des - pise. But love is not con-quered by

(legato)

rit. mp a tempo

35

an - ger and ha - tred, and this is the mys - te - ry:

40

molto rit. Deliberately, (slower, ♪ = c. 94) rit.

That Weav-er is al - ways re - mak-ing and mend-ing the

molto rit. rit.

slowly

in - tri-cate tap-es - try.

Segue

PREVIEW ONLY
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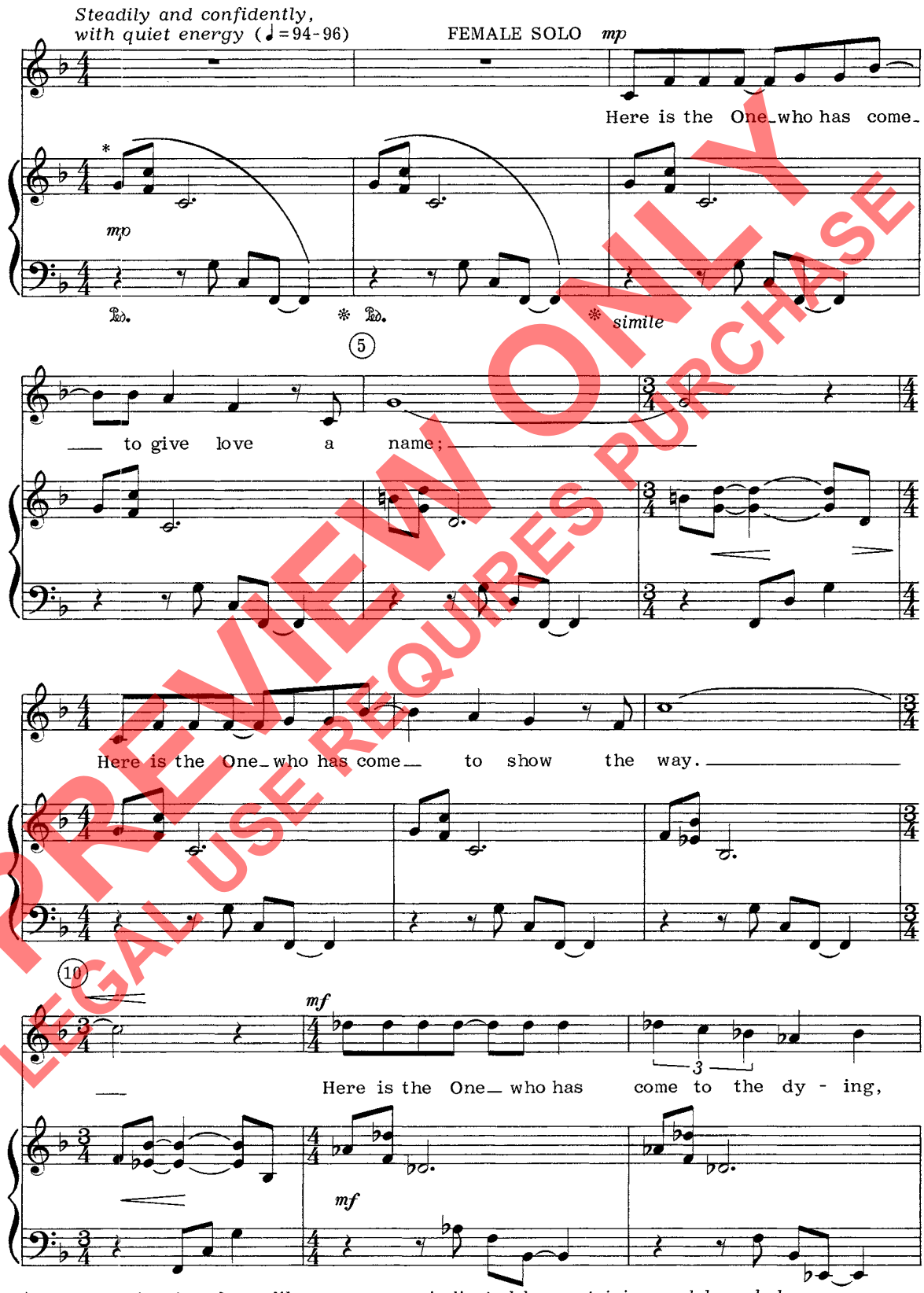
Here Is the One



*Let notes ring in a harp-like manner, as indicated by sustaining pedal symbol.

PREVIEW ONLY
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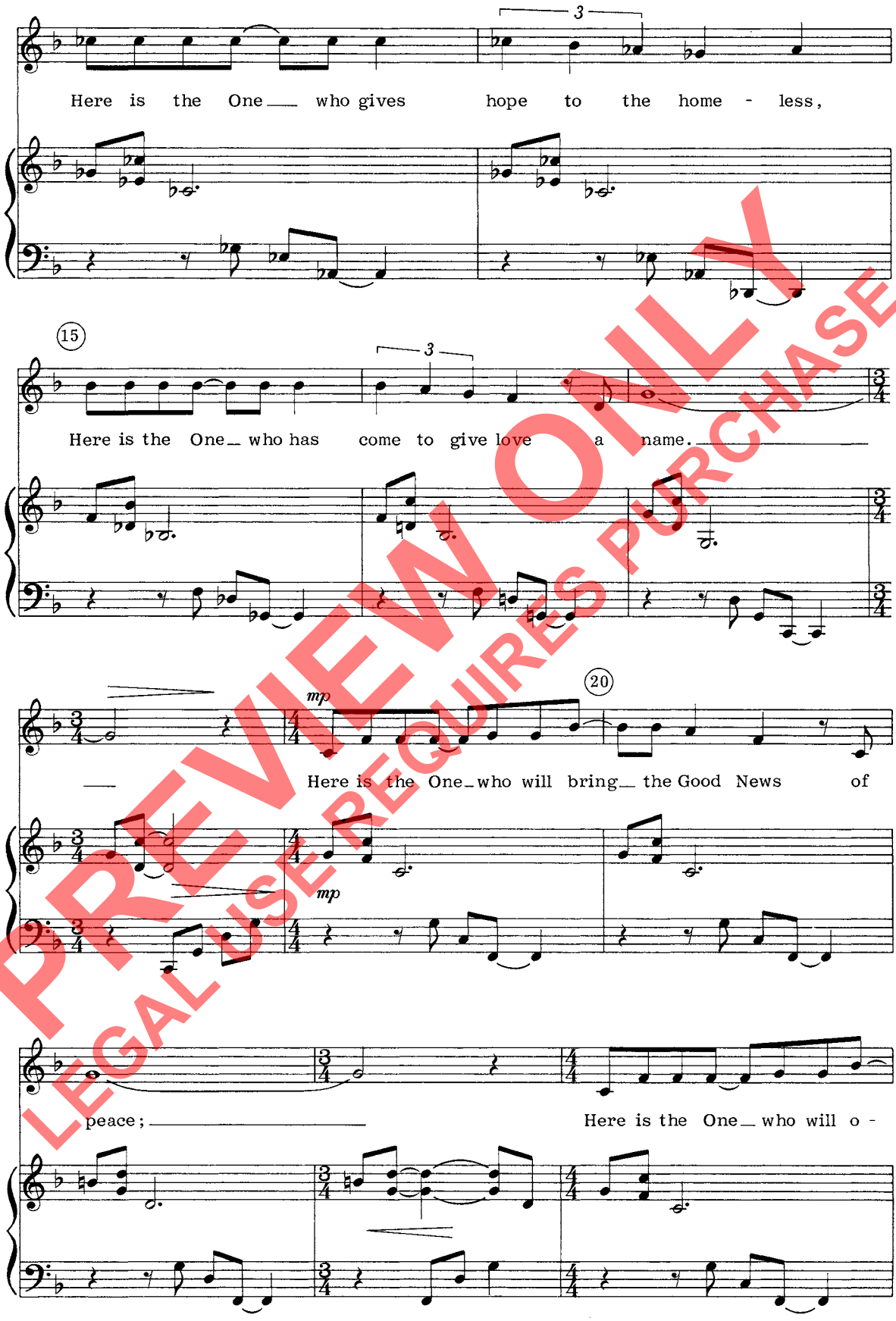

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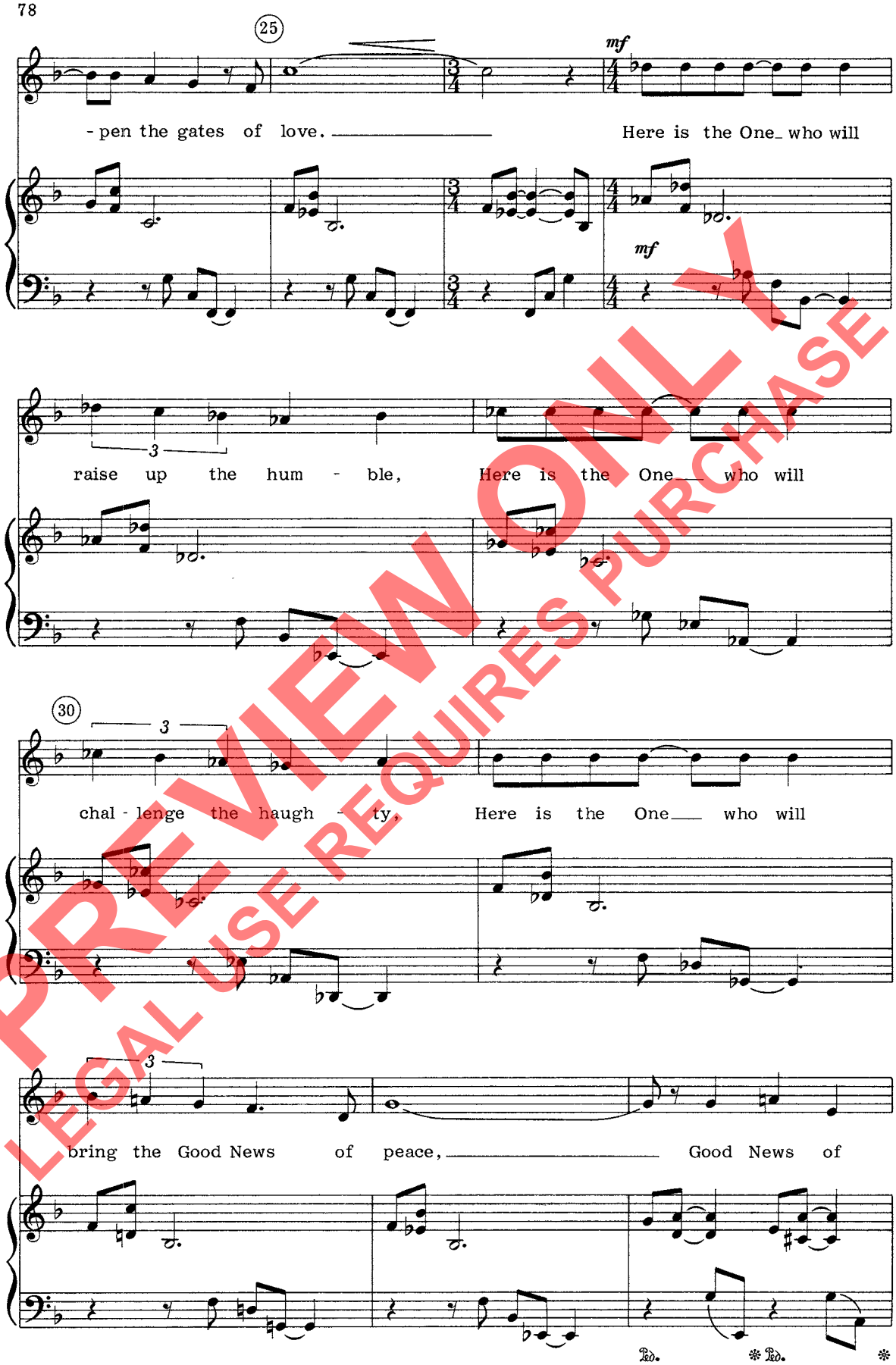

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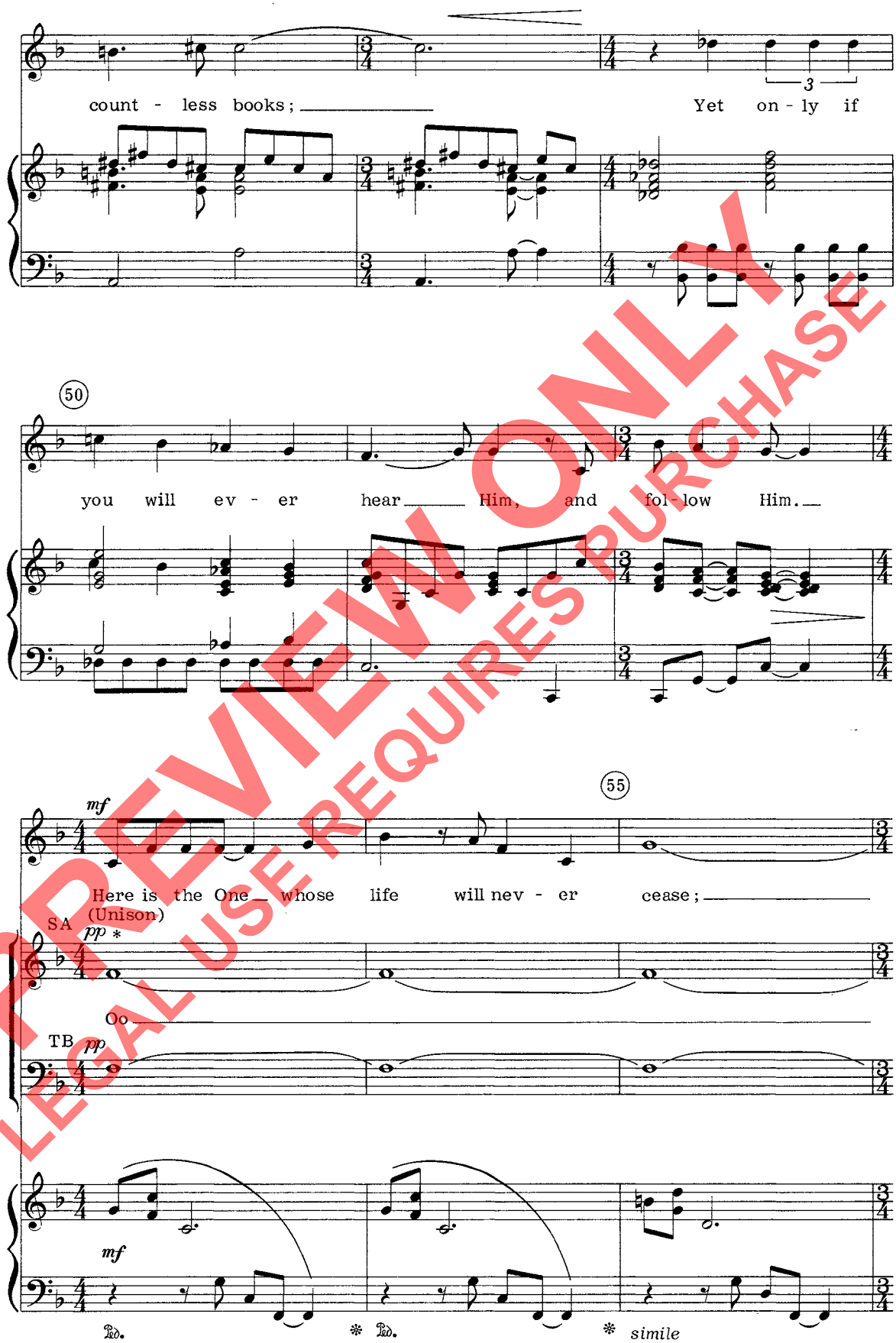

*stagger breathing throughout (no break in sound).

PREVIEW ONLY
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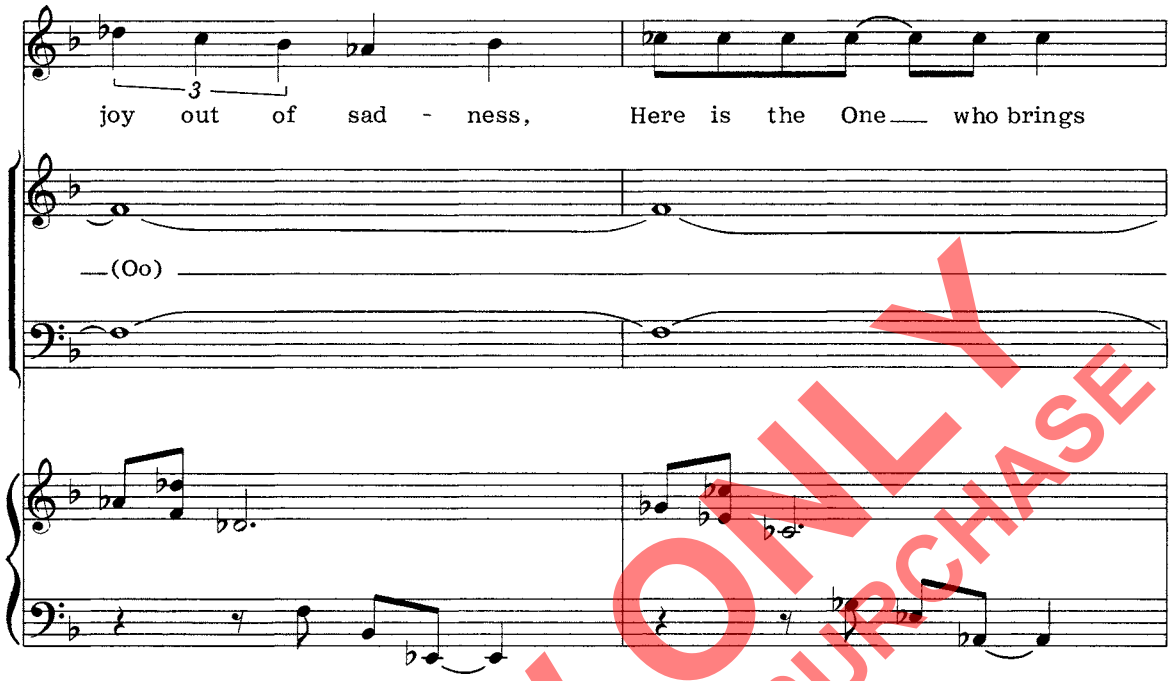

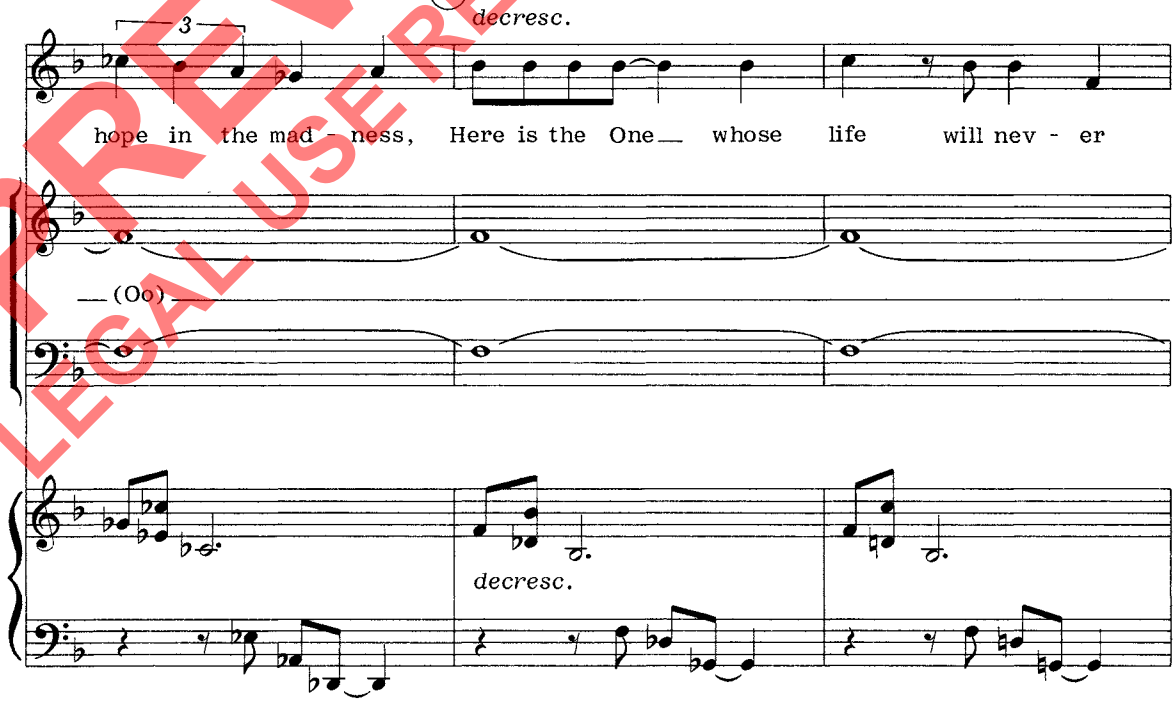

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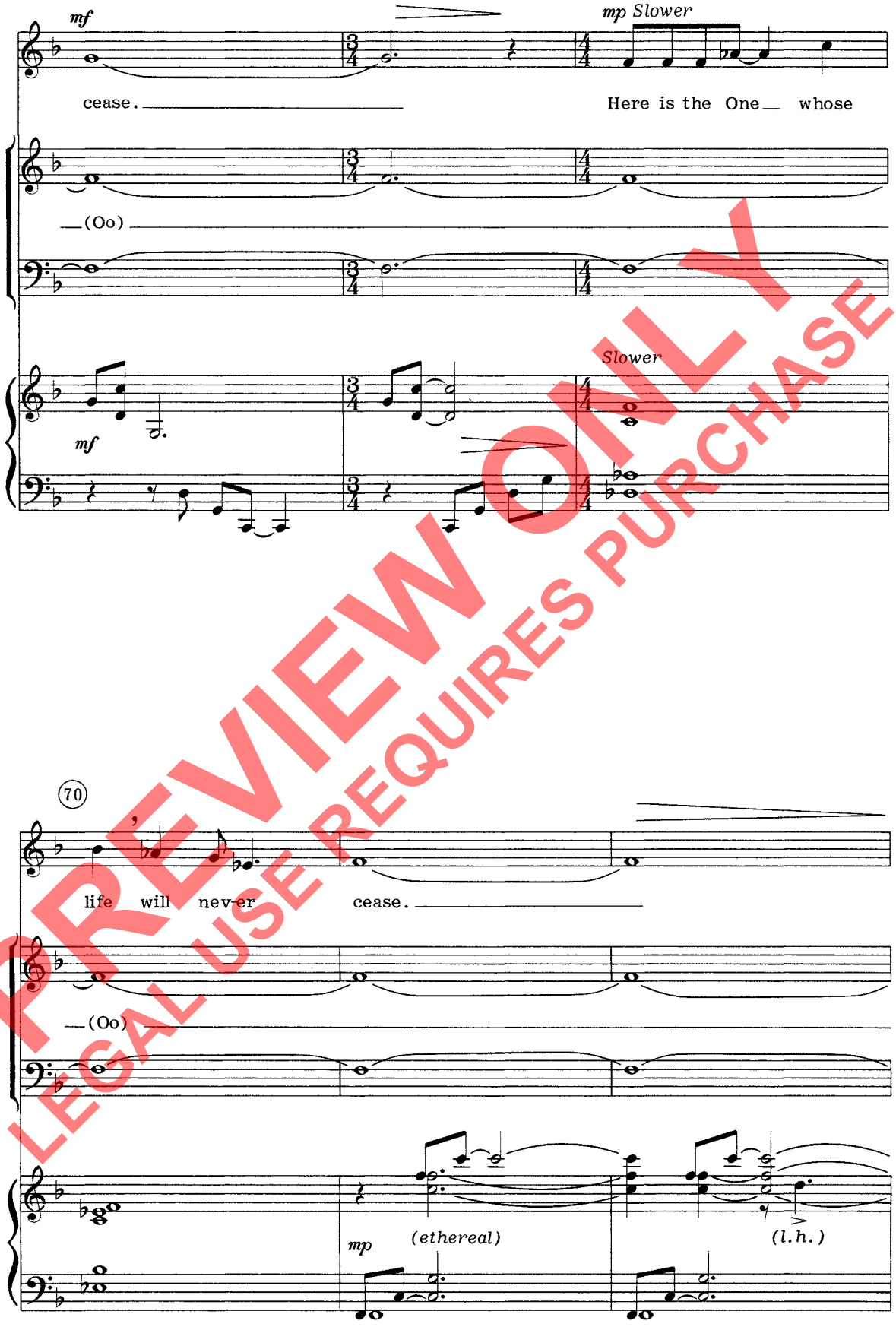

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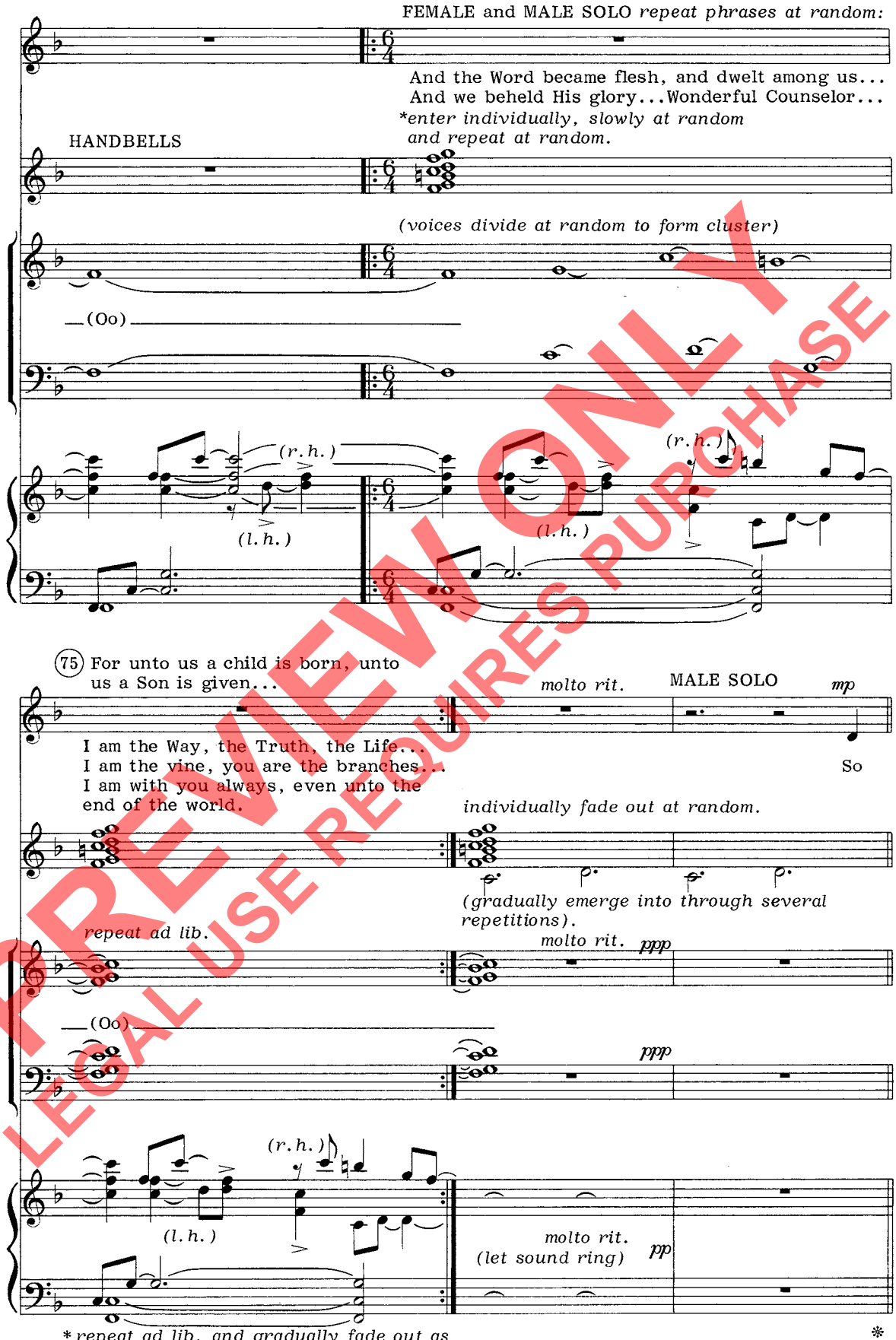

PREVIEW ONLY
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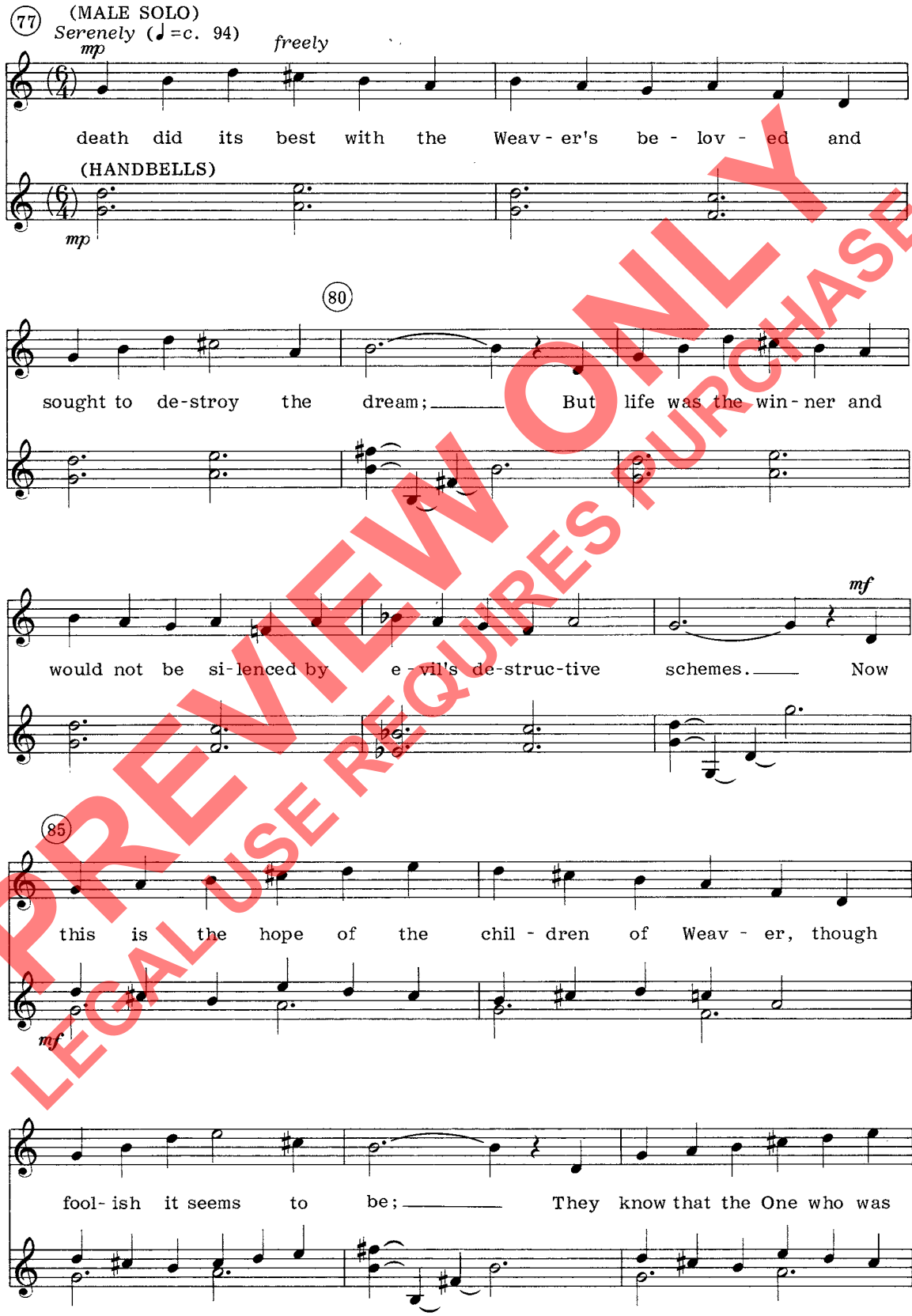
Ballad V



PREVIEW ONLY
LEGAL USE REQUIRES PURCHASE

90 *poco rit.*

Joyously (♩.=c. 102)

dead is a - live, and is weav-ing a tap - es - try.

poco rit.

Joyously (♩.=c. 102)

ORGAN

mp

95

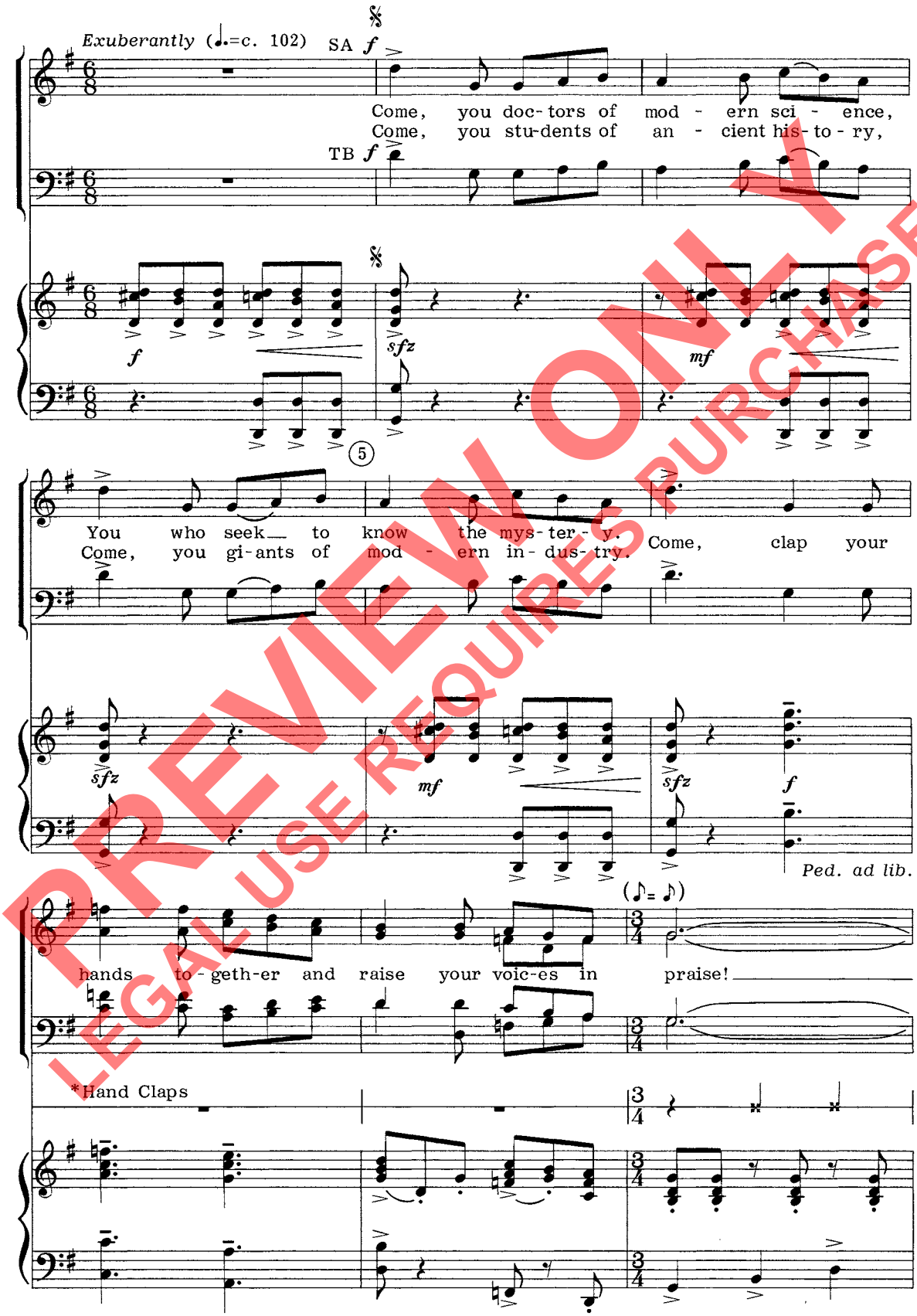
f

ff

Segue (in tempo)

PREVIEW ONLY
LEGAL USE REQUIRES PURCHASE

Raise Your Voices in Praise



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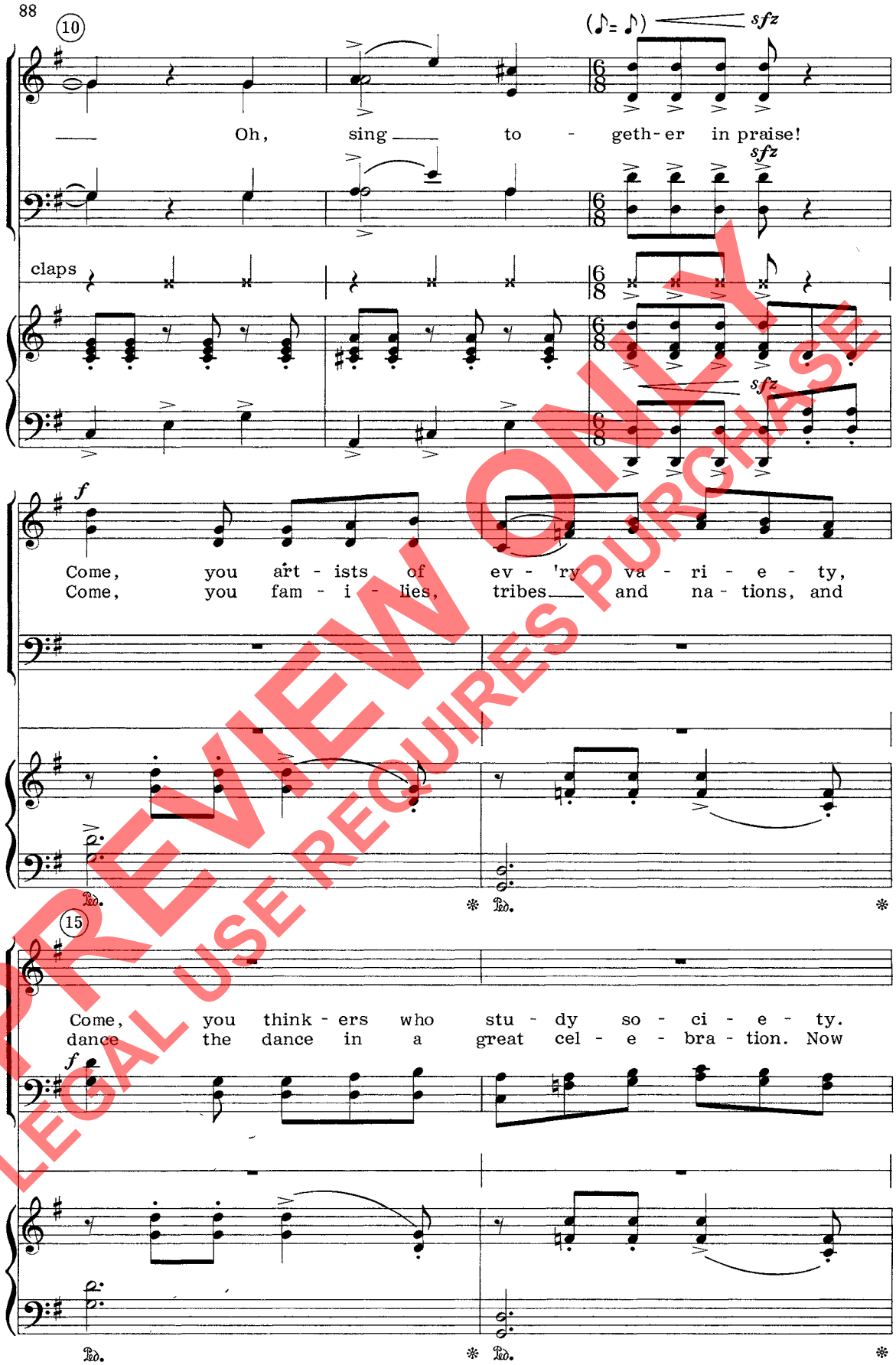
* 'o al un il easures 102–105.



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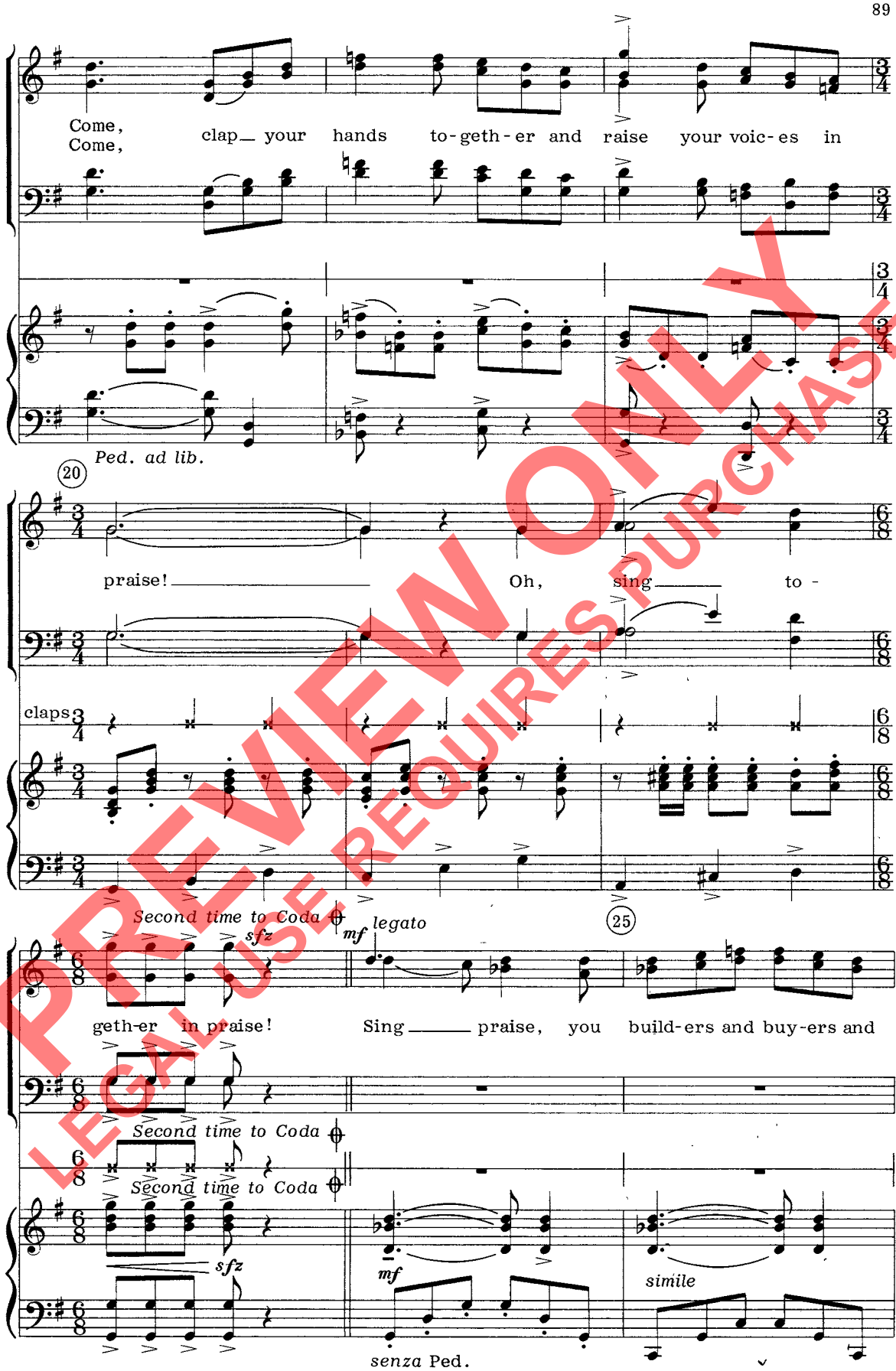

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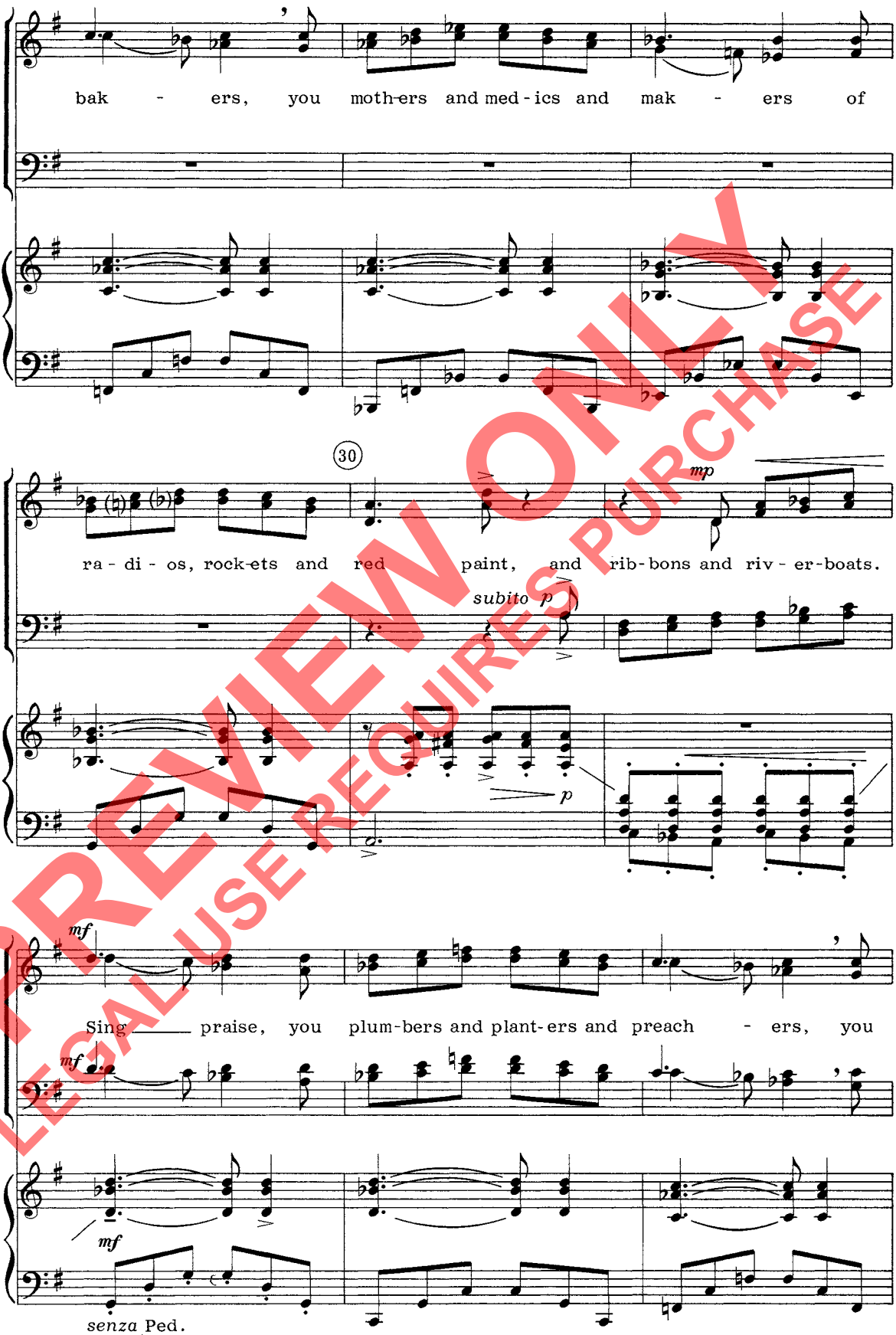

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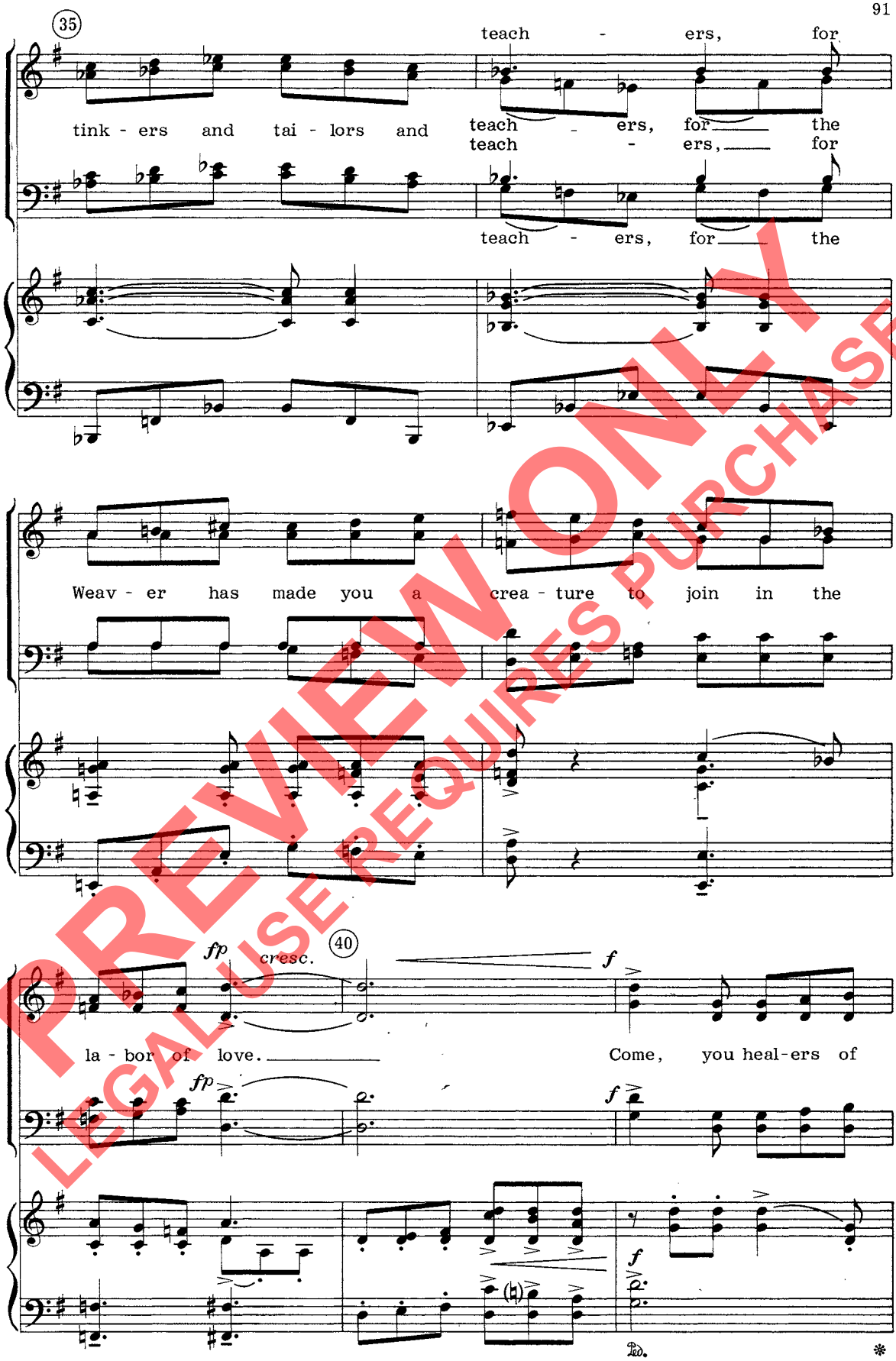

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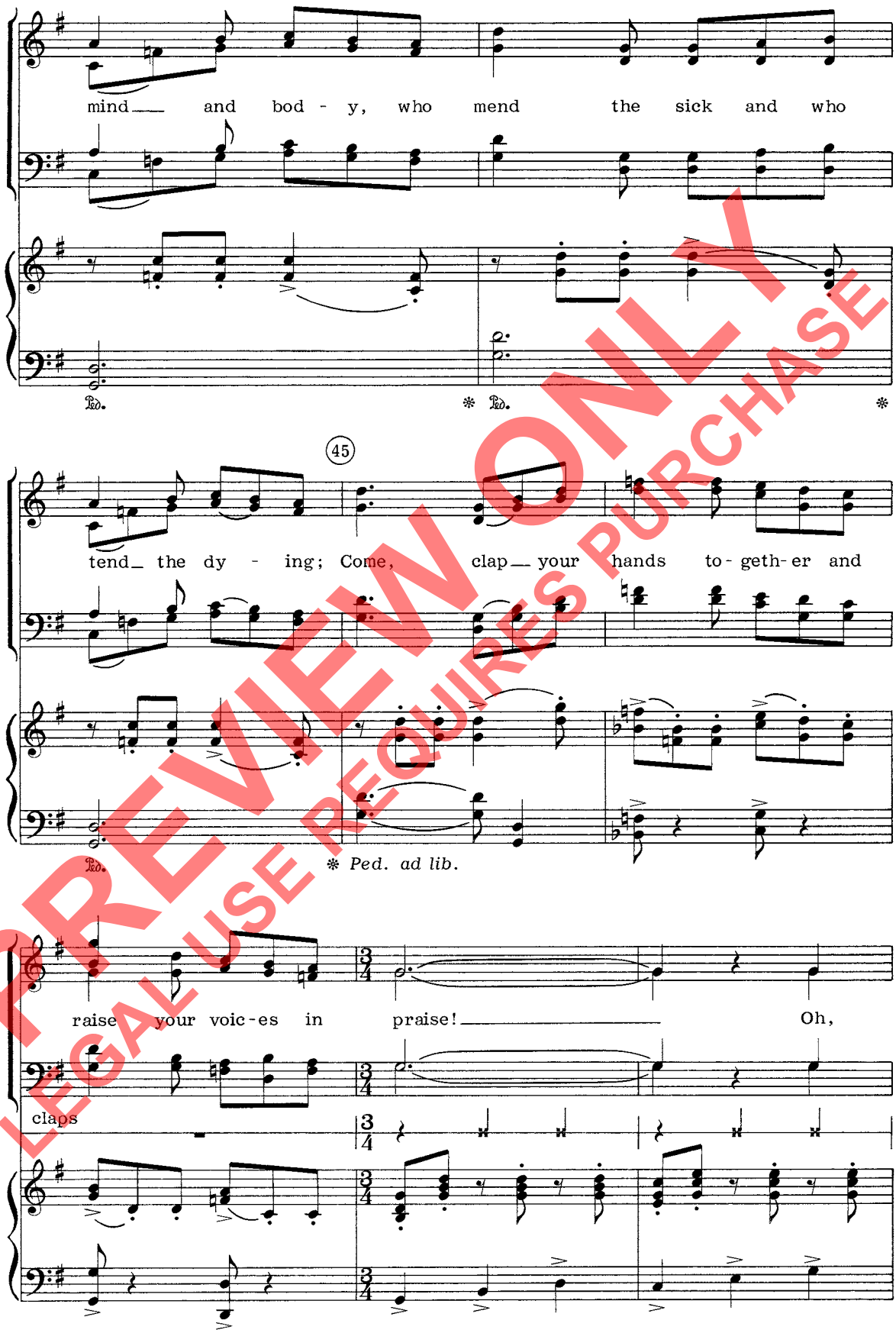

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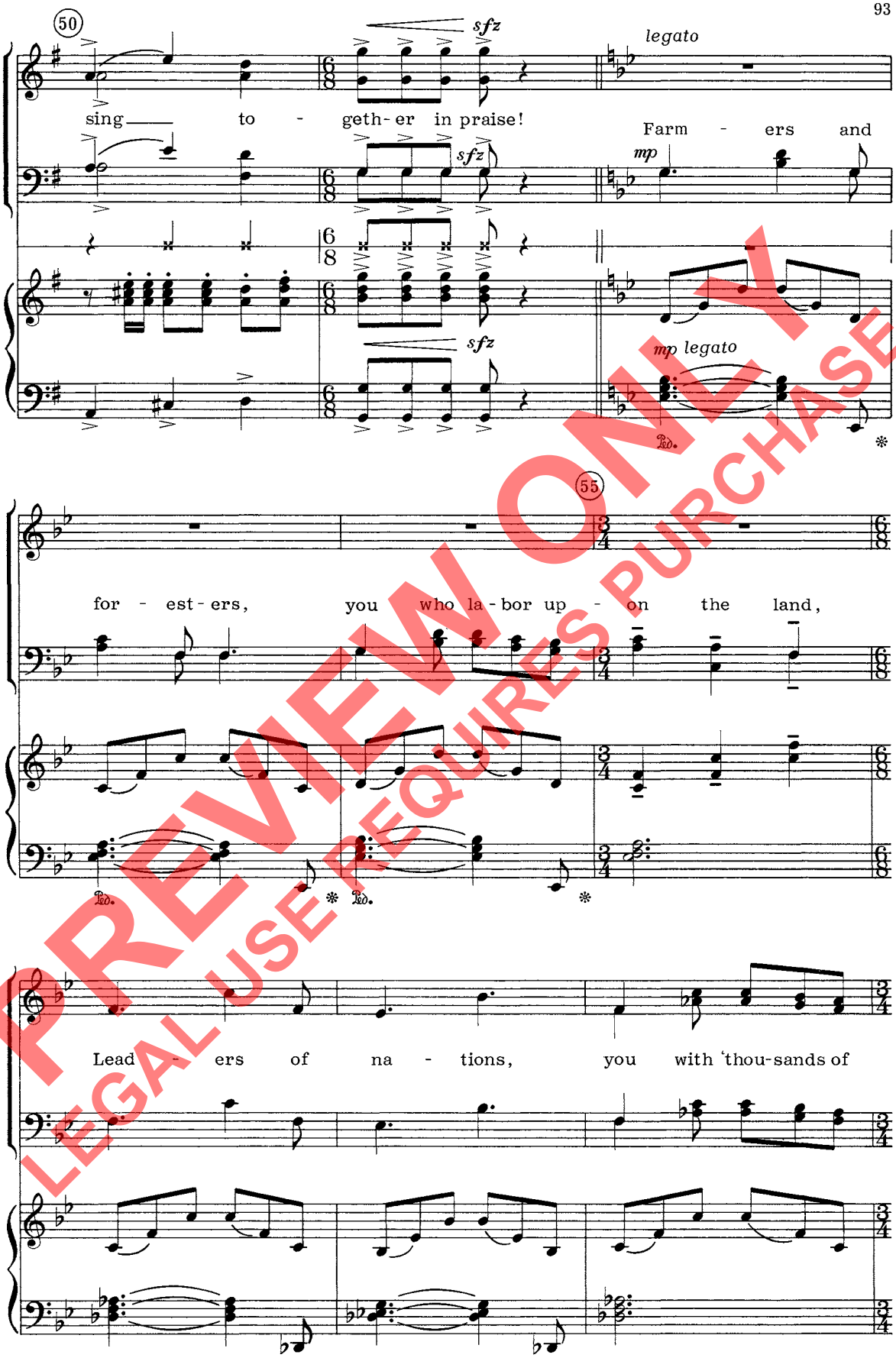

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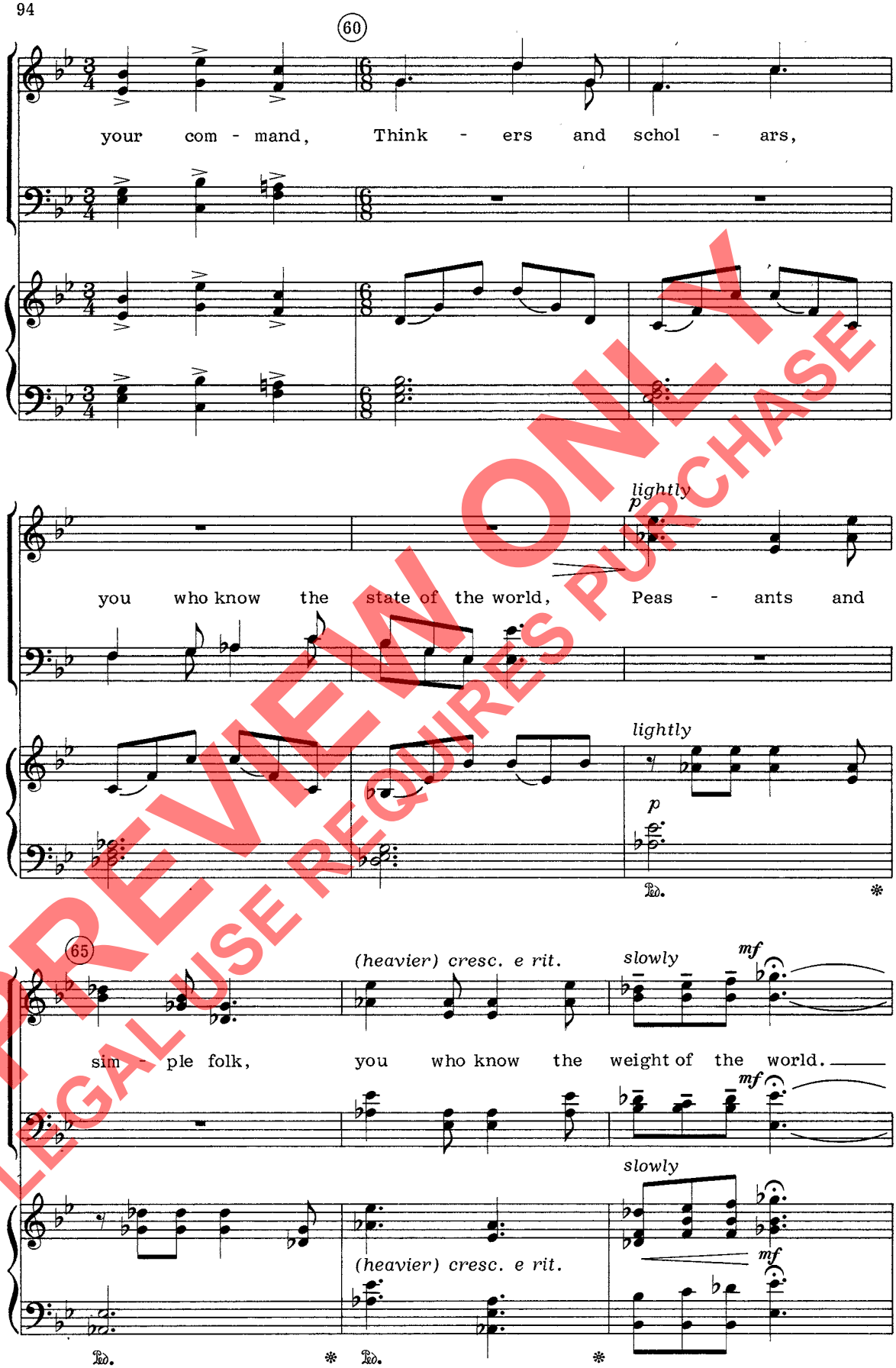

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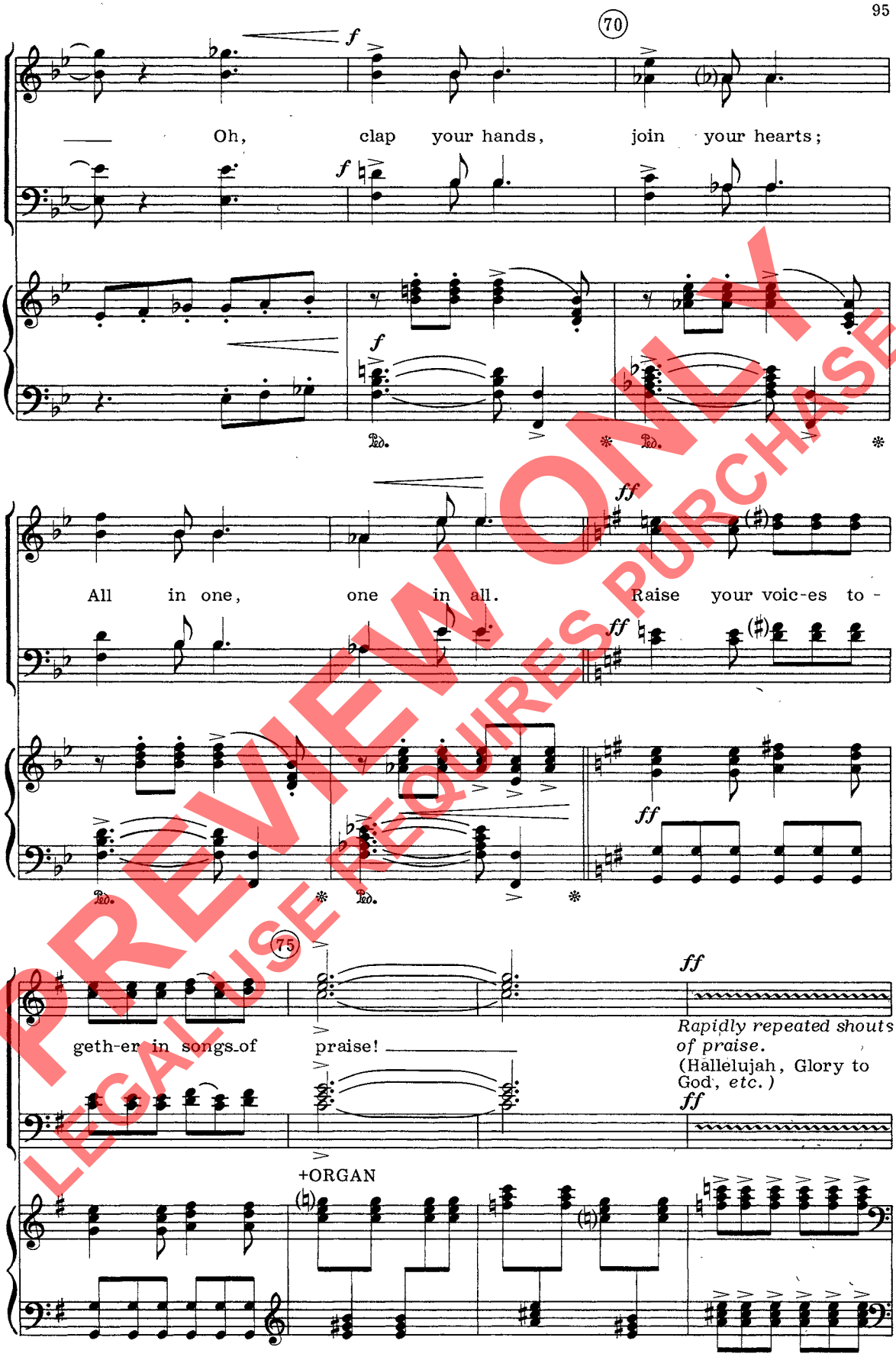

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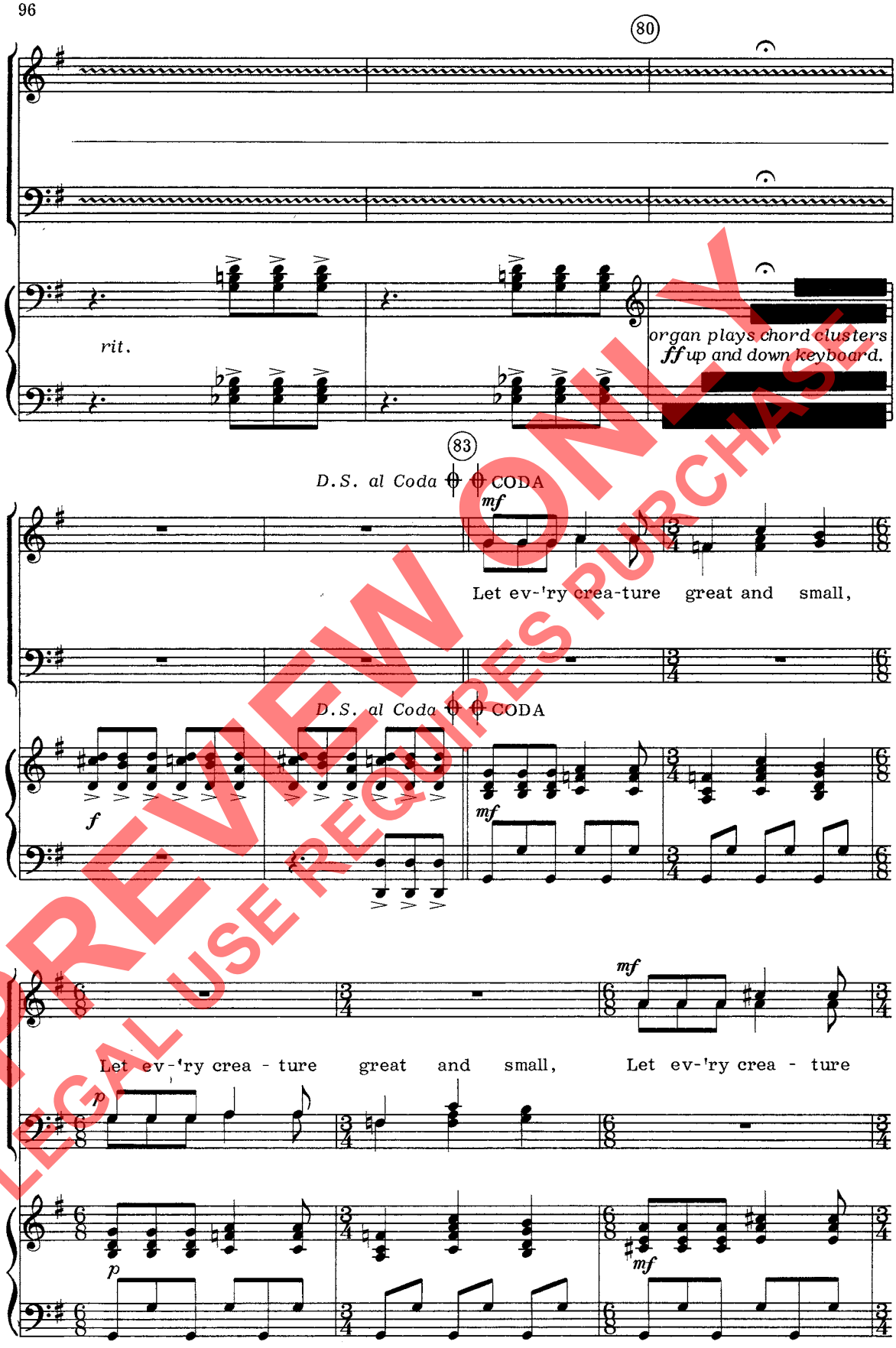

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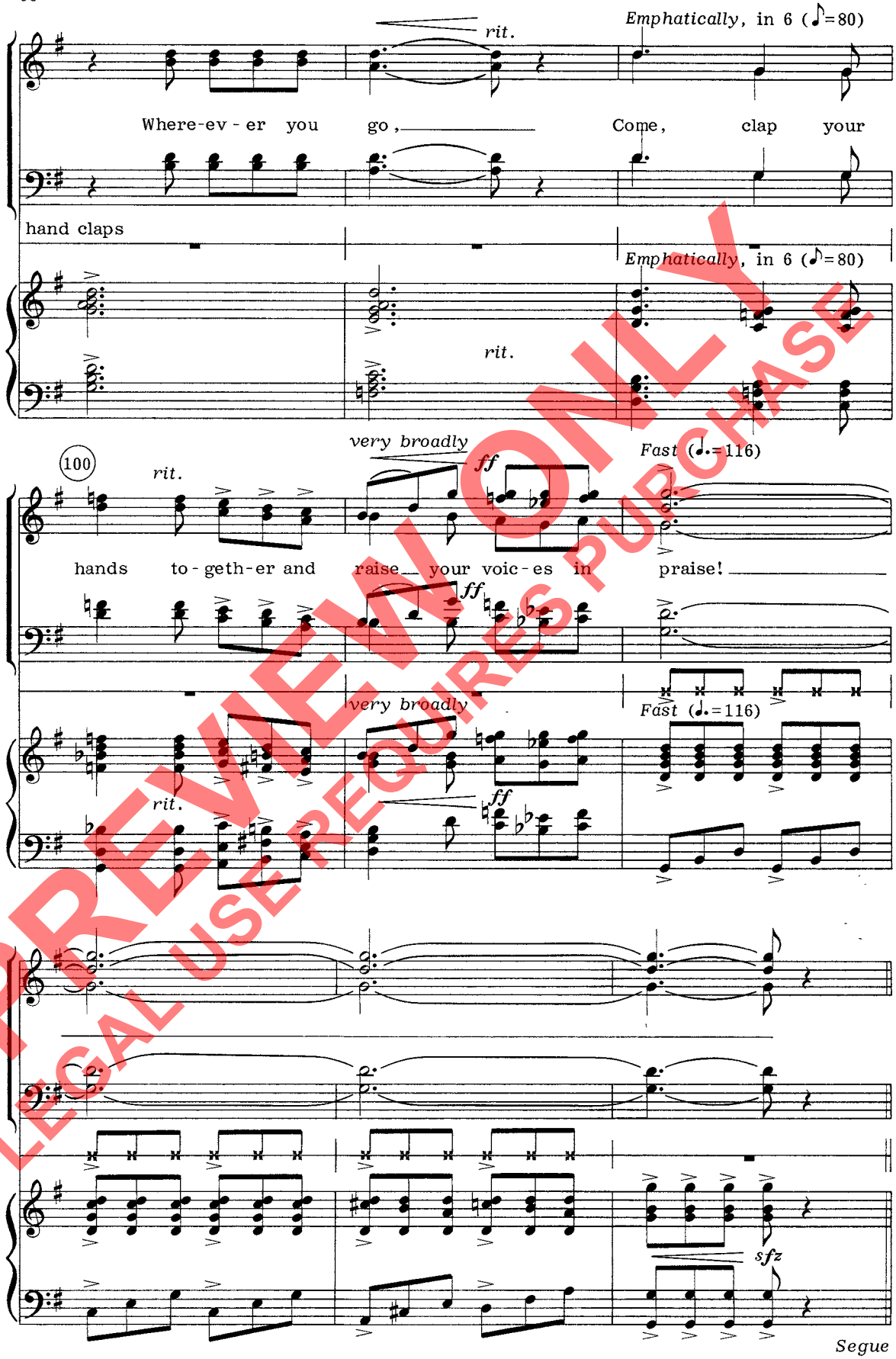
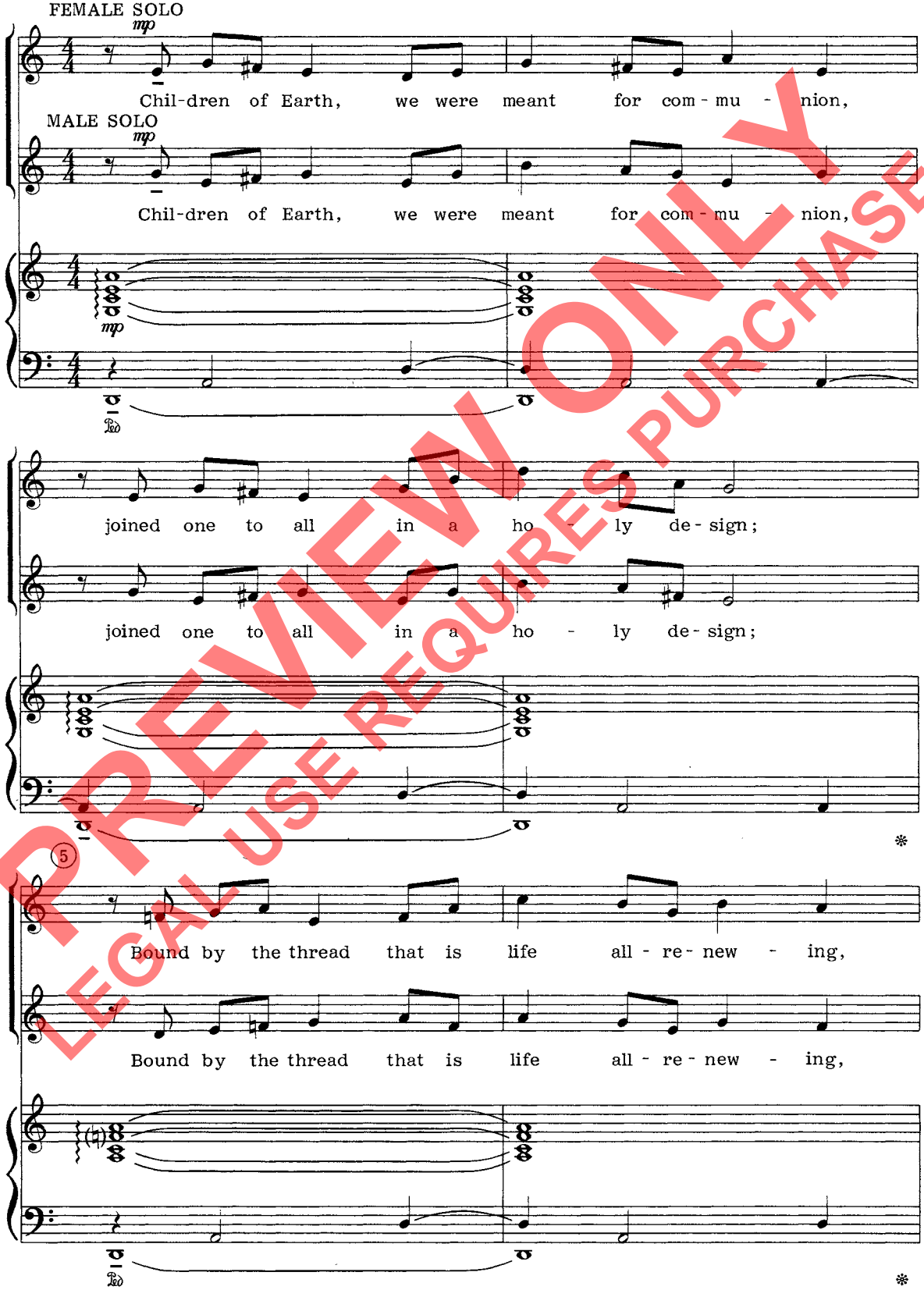


PREVIEW ONLY
LEGAL USE REQUIRES PURCHASE

Children of Earth

Slowly, with a feeling of awe and reverence (♩ = c. 58)



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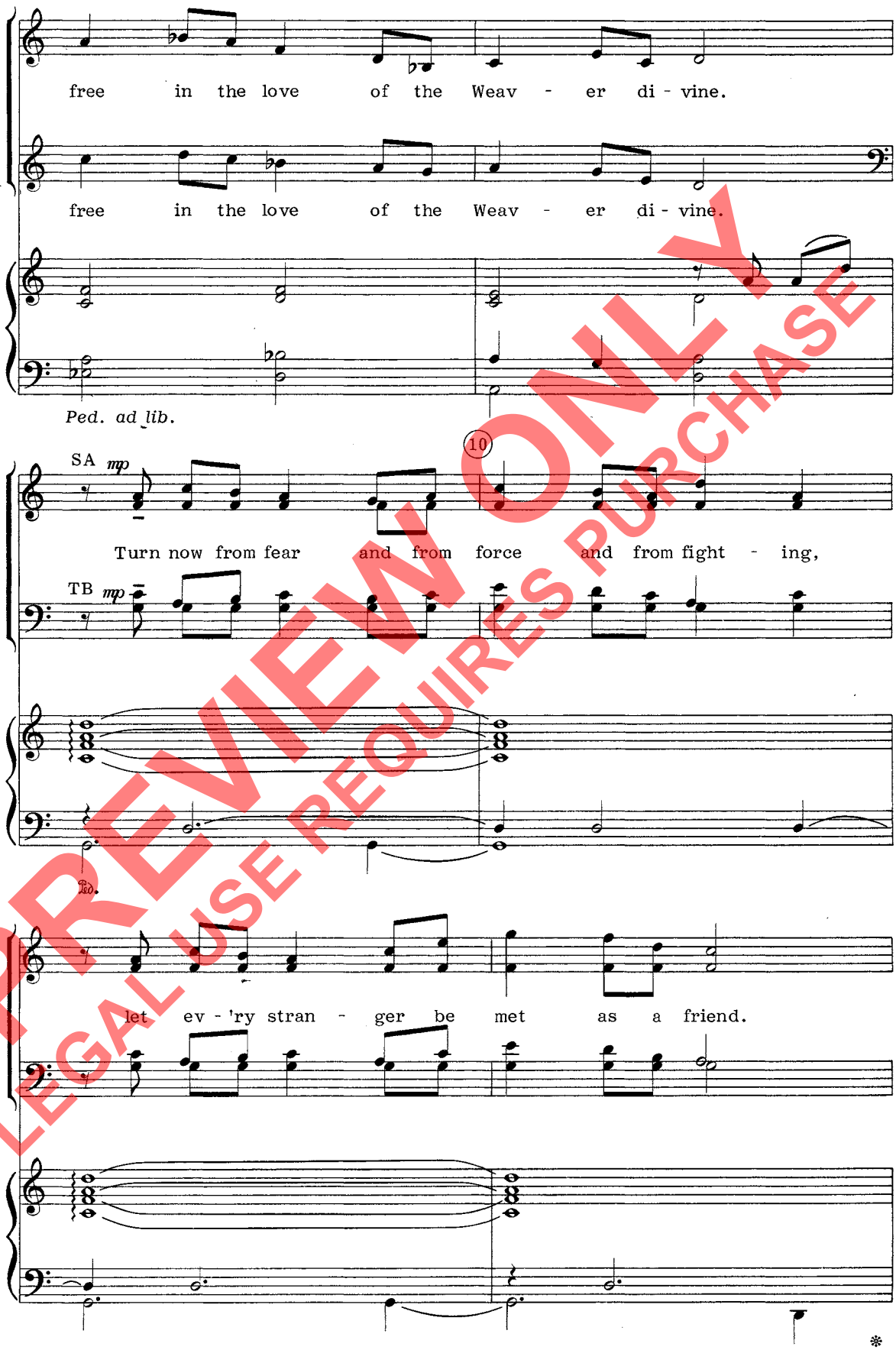

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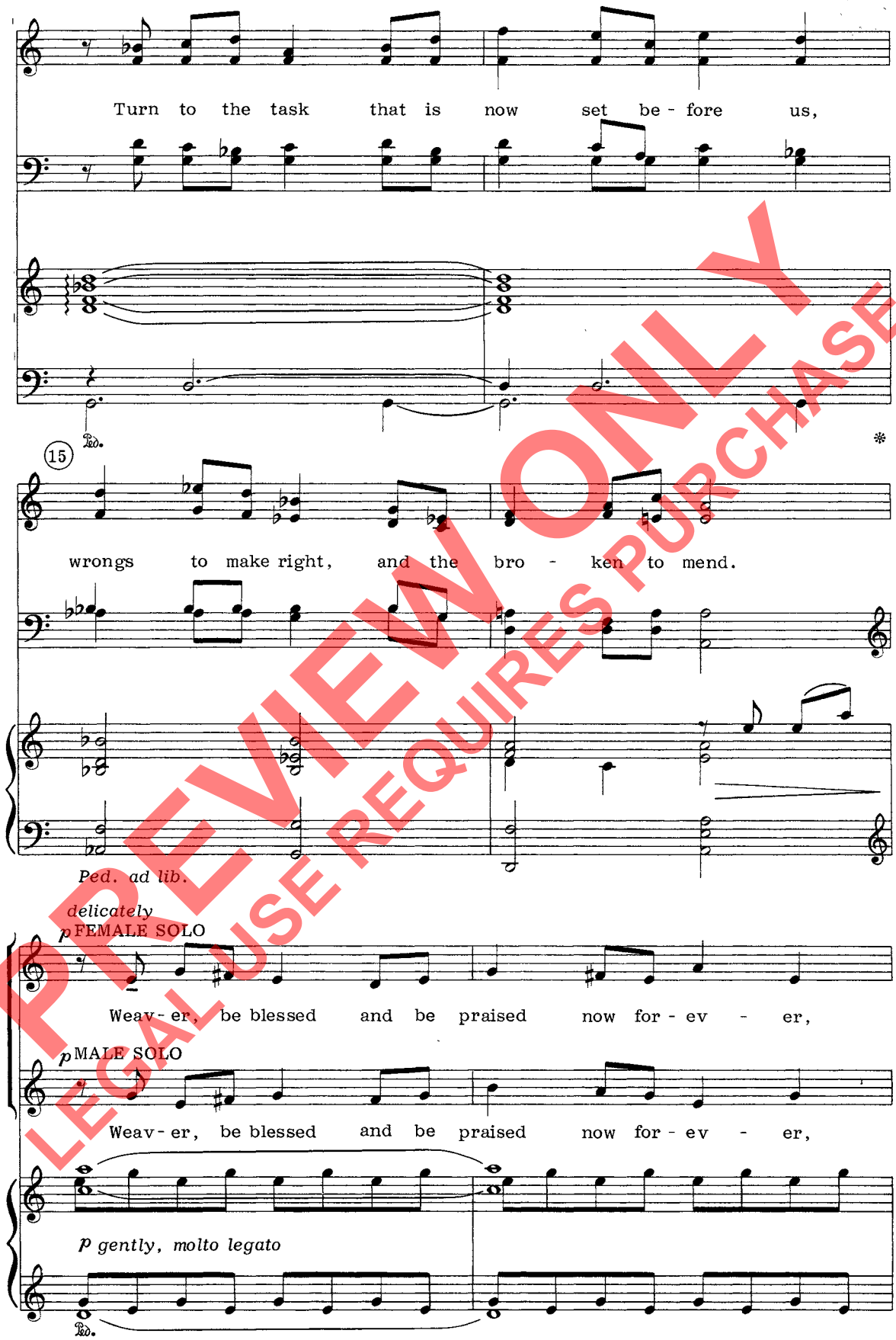

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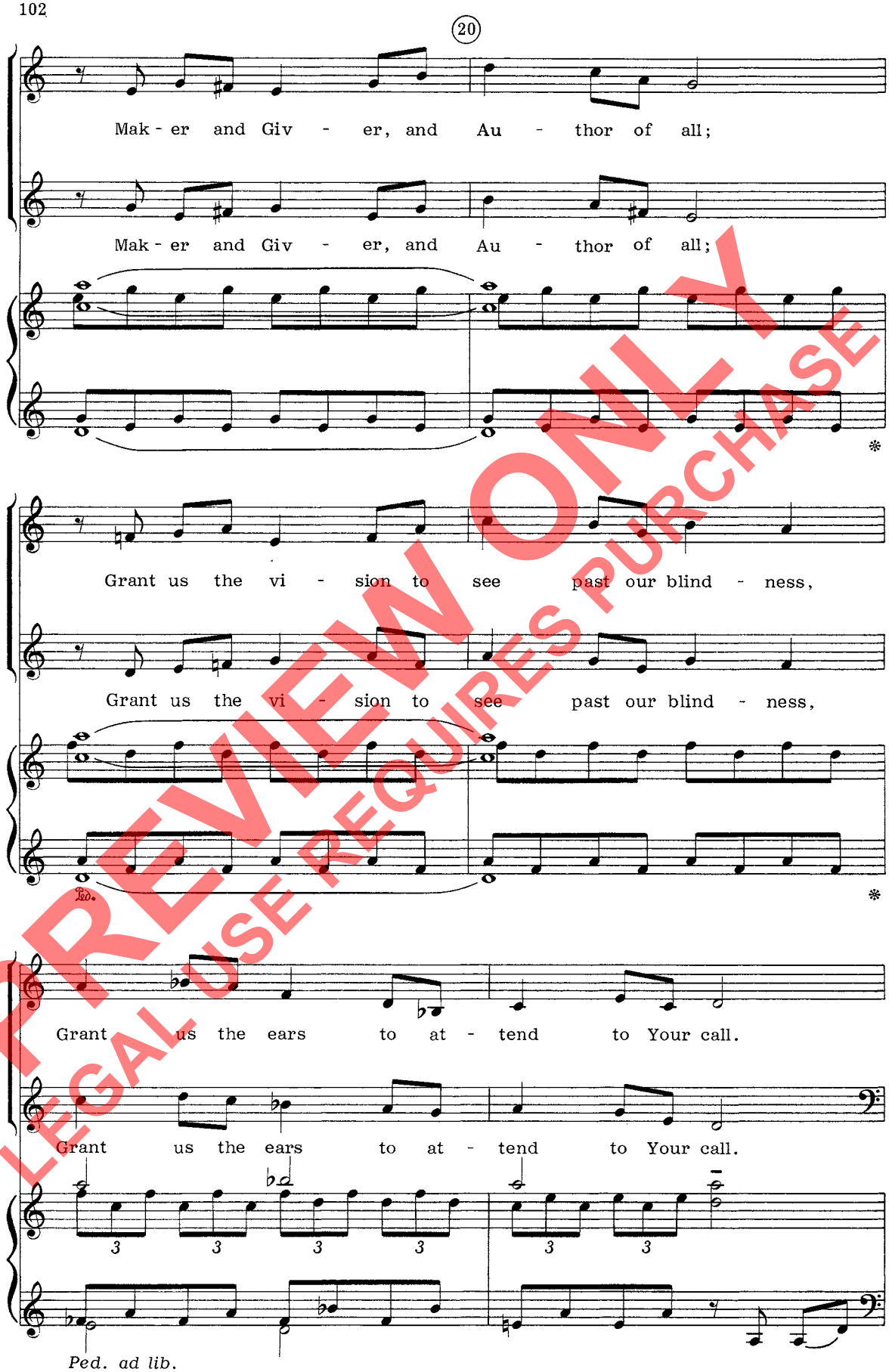

PREVIEW ONLY
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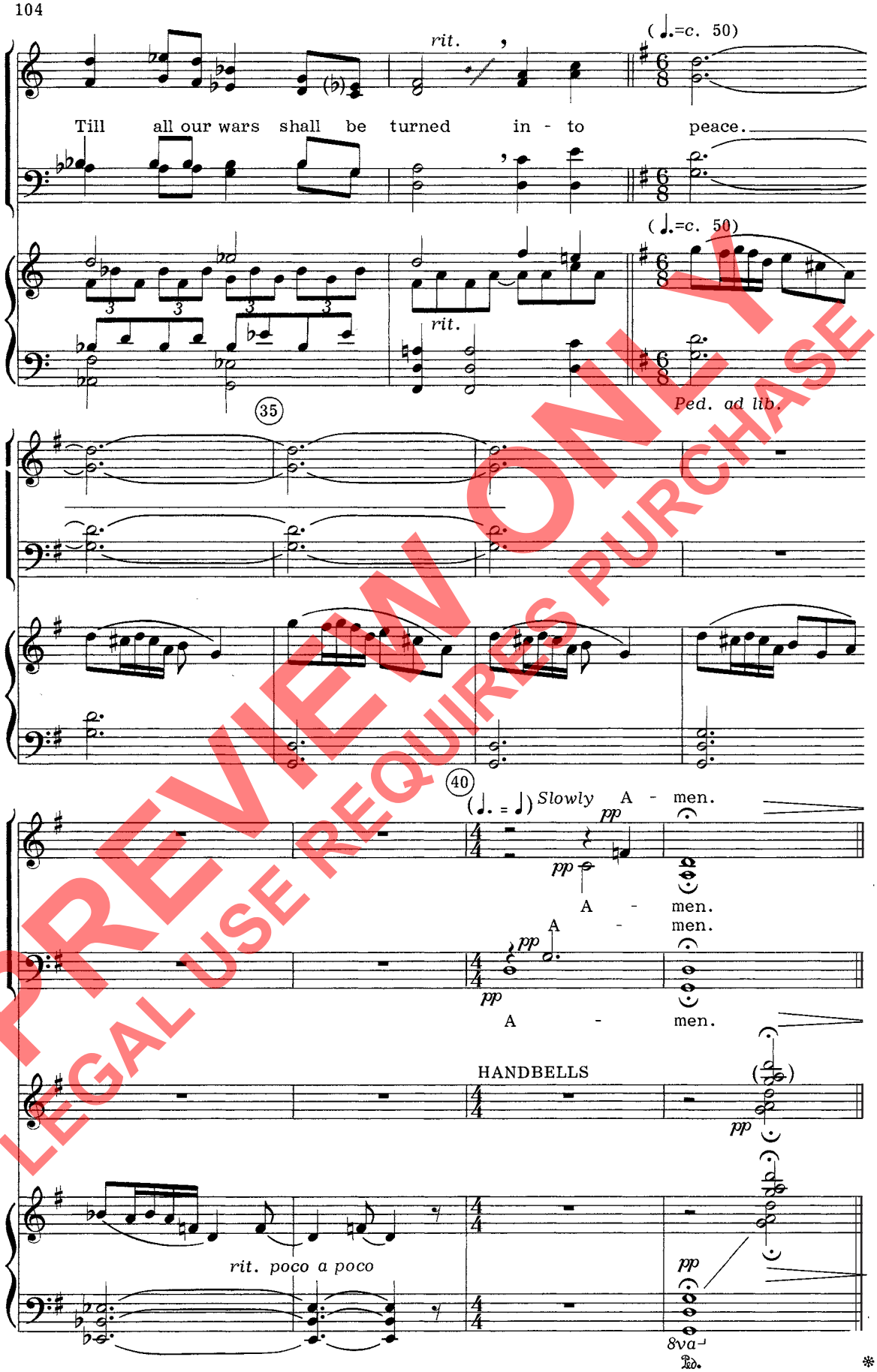
*Eighth notes should be entirely unaccented and constantly remain in the background.



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