Songs for the People

Let me make the songs for the people,
  Songs for the old and young;
Songs to stir like a battle-cry
  Wherever they are sung.

Not for the clashing of sabres,
  For carnage nor for strife;
But songs to thrill the hearts of all
  With more abundant life.

Let me make the songs for the weary,
  Amid life's fever and fret,
Till hearts shall relax their tension,
  And careworn brows forget.

Let me sing for little children,
  Before their footsteps stray,
I would sing for the poor and aged,
  When shadows dim their sight;
Of the bright and restful mansions,
  Where there shall be no night.

Our world, so worn and weary,
  Needs music, pure and strong,
To hush the jangle and discords
  Of sorrow, pain, and wrong.

Music to soothe all its sorrow,
  Till war and crime shall cease;
And the hearts of all grown tender
  Surround the world with peace.

—Frances Ellen Watkins Harper (1825–1911),
alt. Brooke Joyce

Brooke Joyce's music has been described as "vividly pictorial" (San Francisco Chronicle) and "exceptionally gripping" (Los Angeles Times) and has been performed by soloists and ensembles around the world, including the Indianapolis Symphony, the Cincinnati Symphony, the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic, the Brentano Quartet, the Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, the Nash Ensemble, and tenor James Gilchrist. He is the recipient of the Joseph Bearns Prize, the Wayne Peterson Prize, the Darius Milhaud Award, and many citations from the National Federation of Music Clubs and ASCAP. Brooke is the Composer-in-Residence at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, past chair of the Iowa Composers Forum, and a founding faculty member of the International Music Festival of the Adriatic.

Brooke Joyce (b. 1973)

For biographical information visit:
www.ecspublishing.com

Please inform the composer of all performances
[brookejoyce.com/about/contact]

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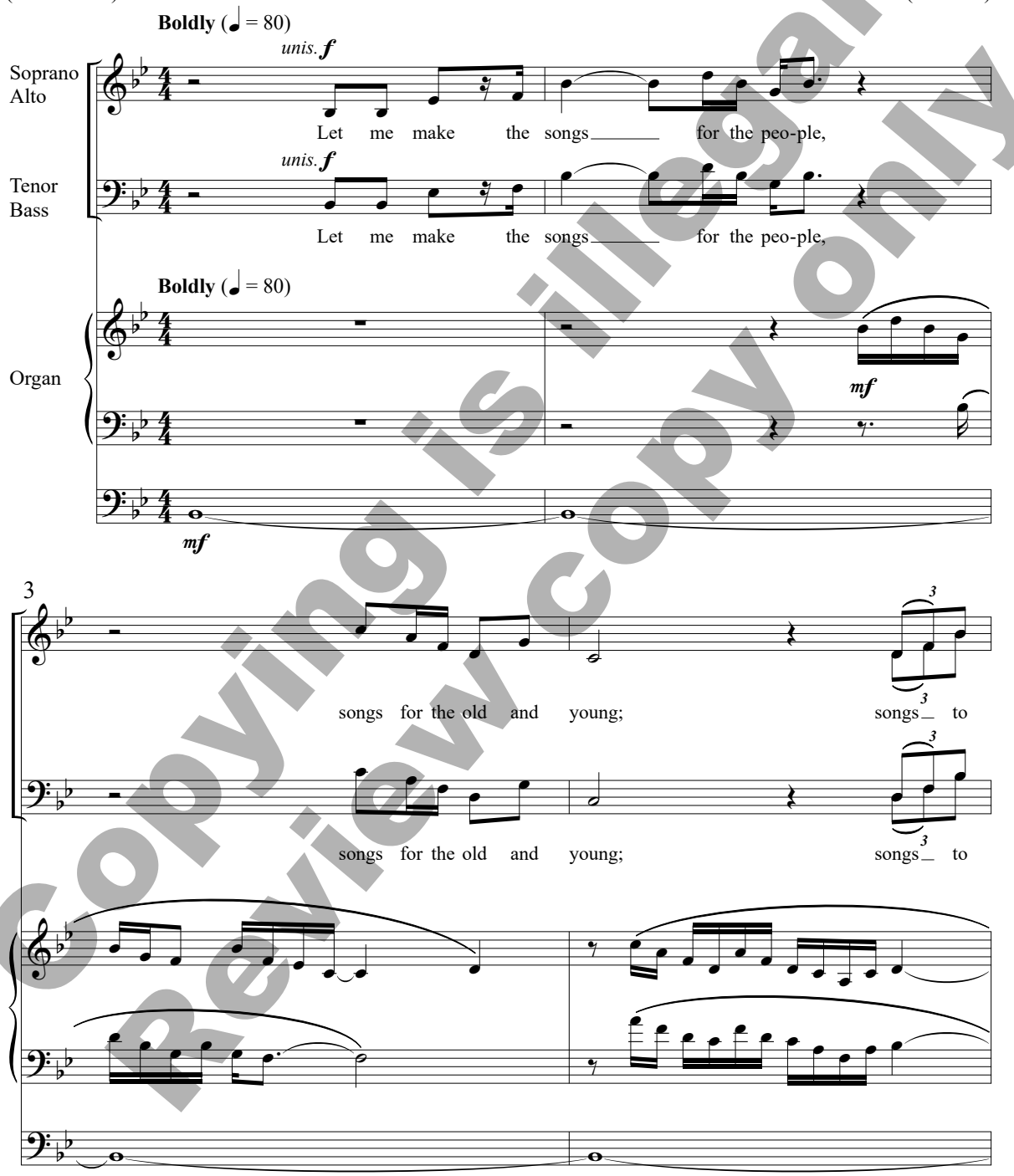
for the 2024 AGO/ECS Publishing Award in Choral Composition

Songs for the People

for SATB Chorus (divisi) and Organ

Frances E. W. Harper
(1825–1911)

Brooke Joyce
(ASCAP)



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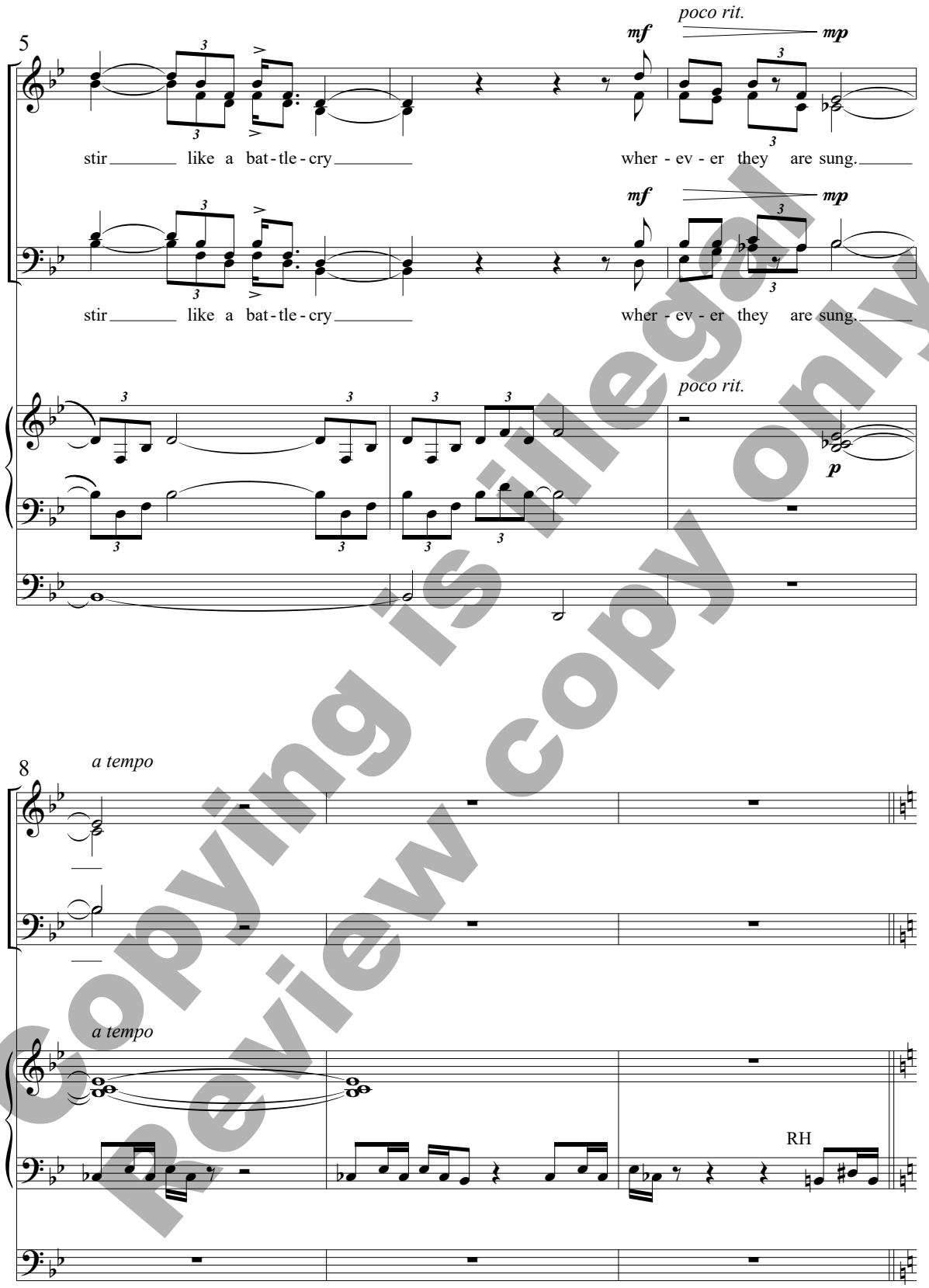

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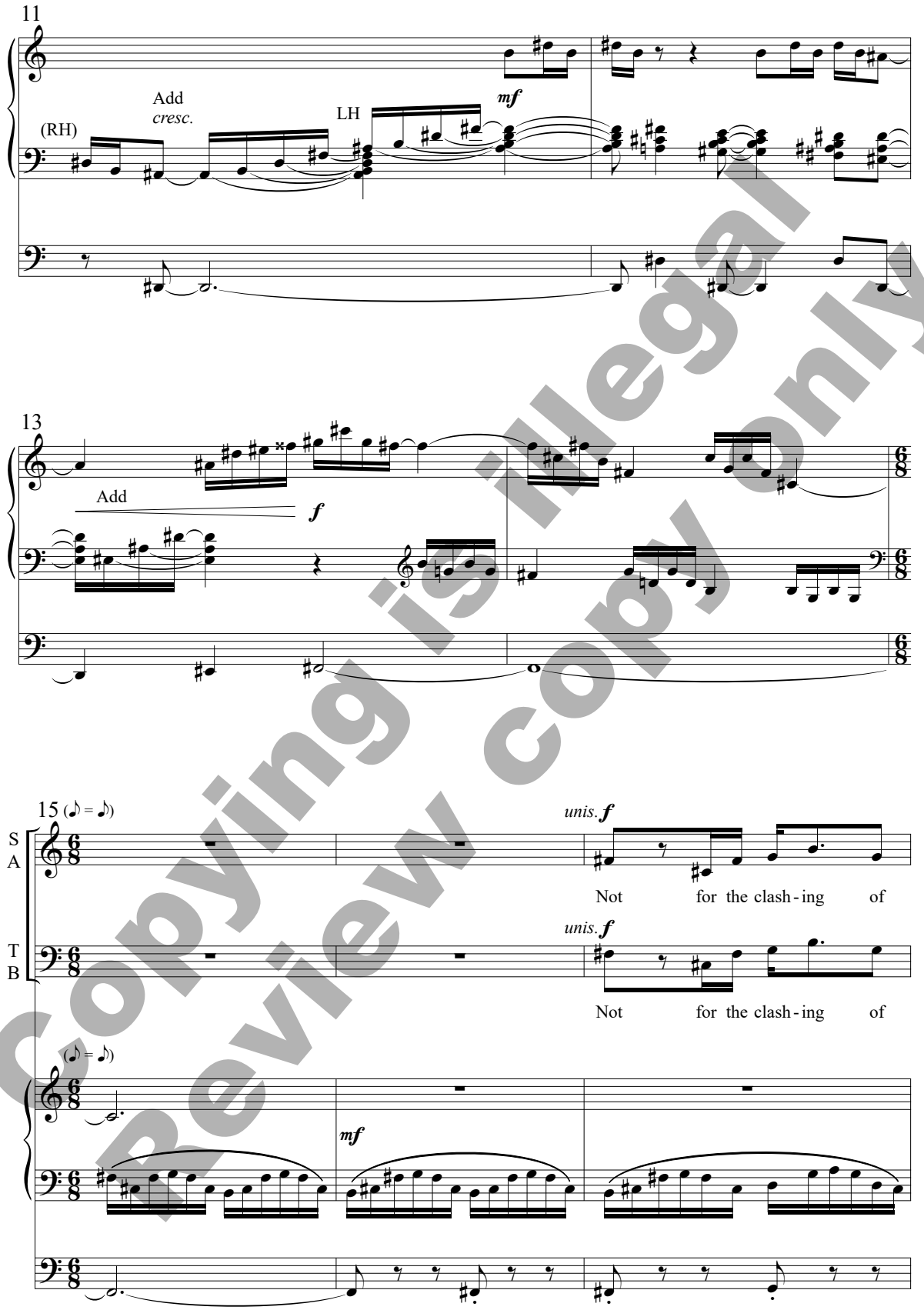

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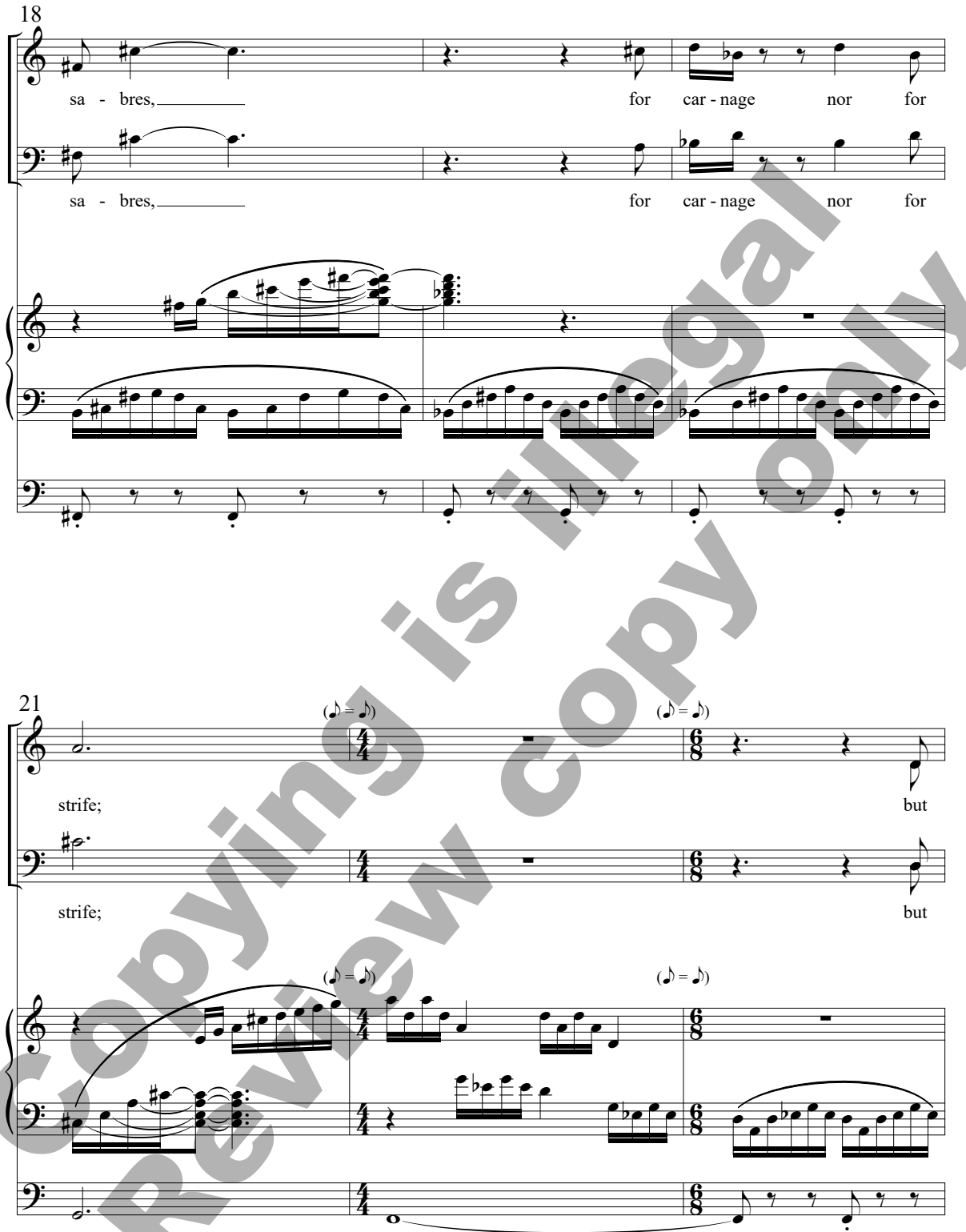

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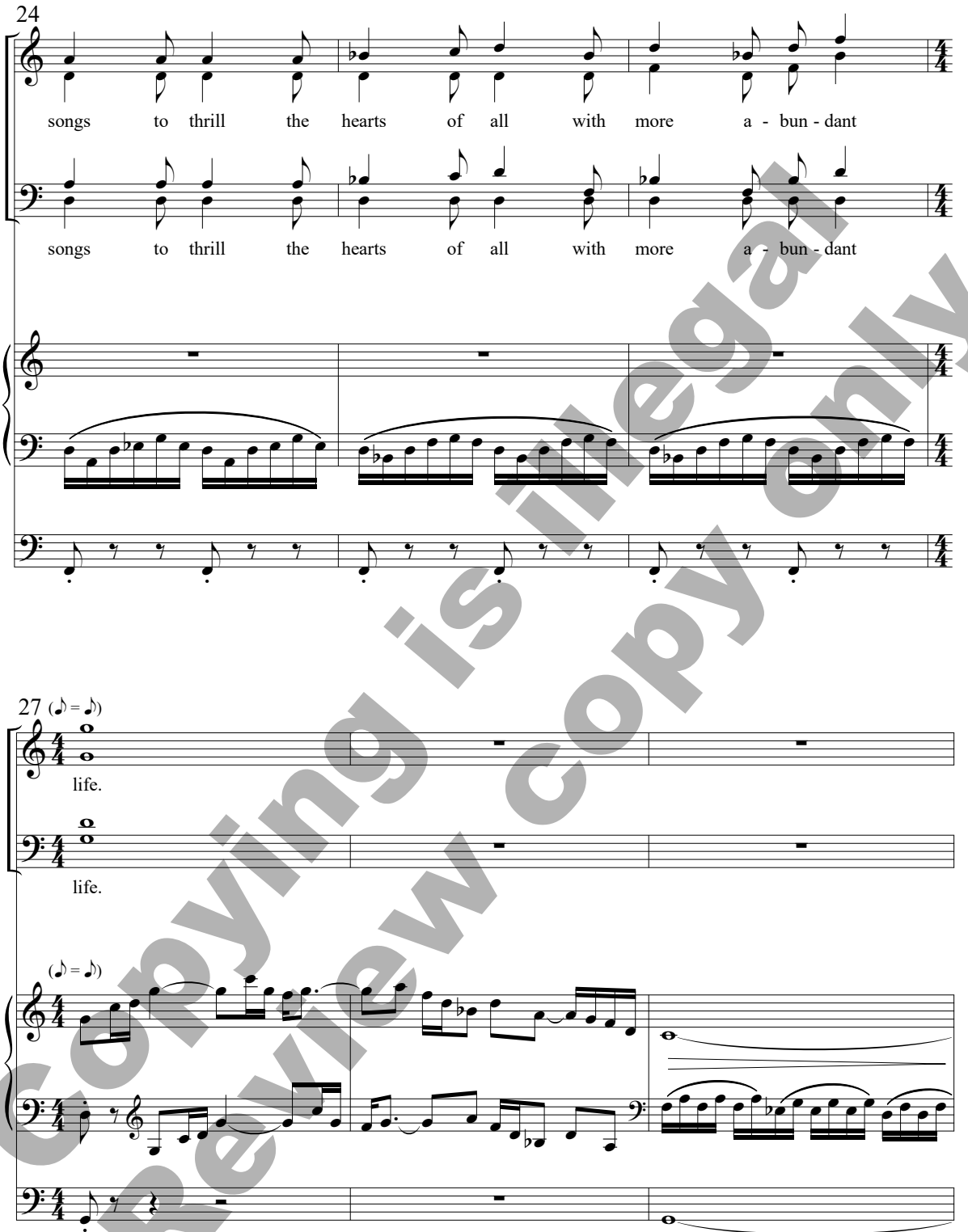

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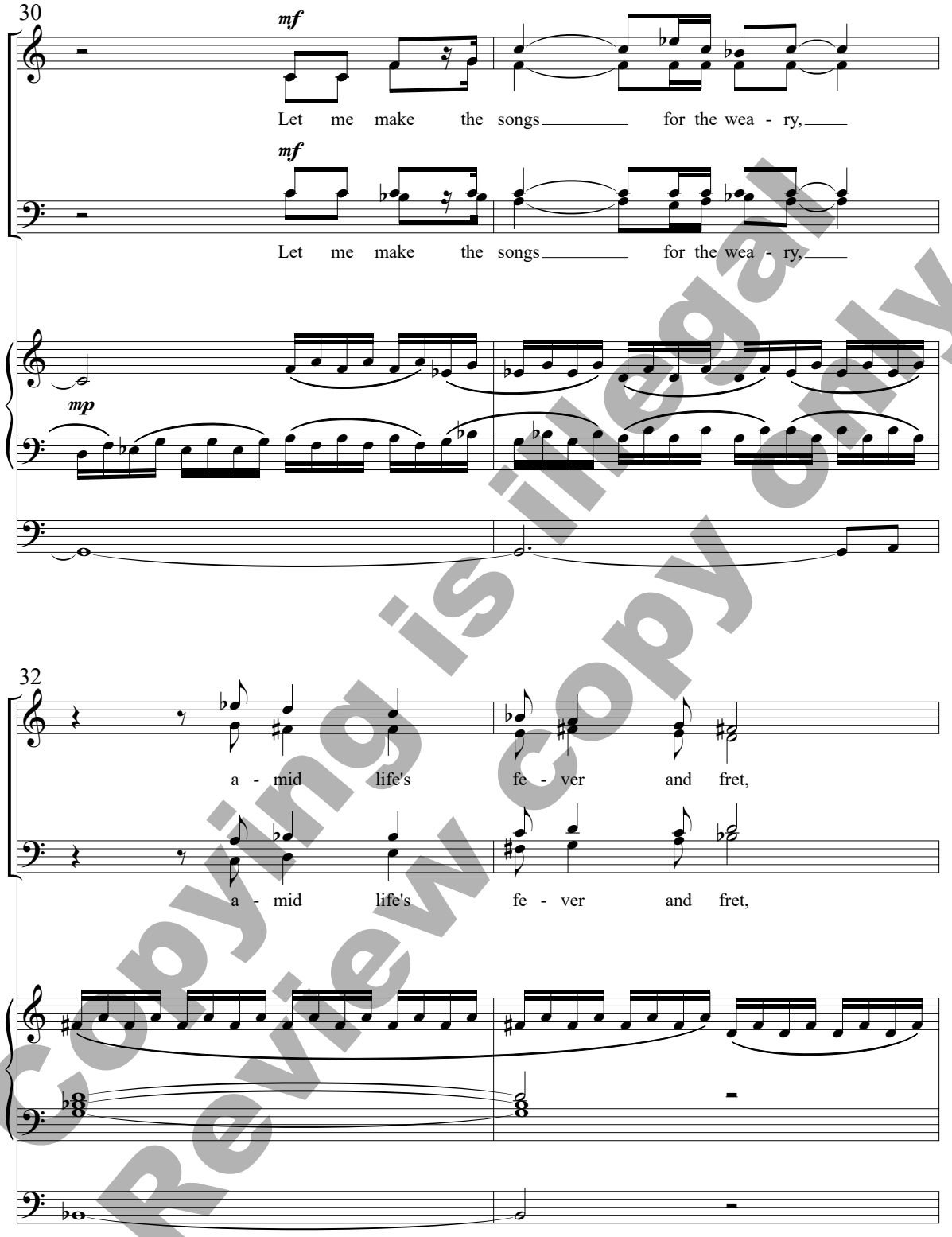

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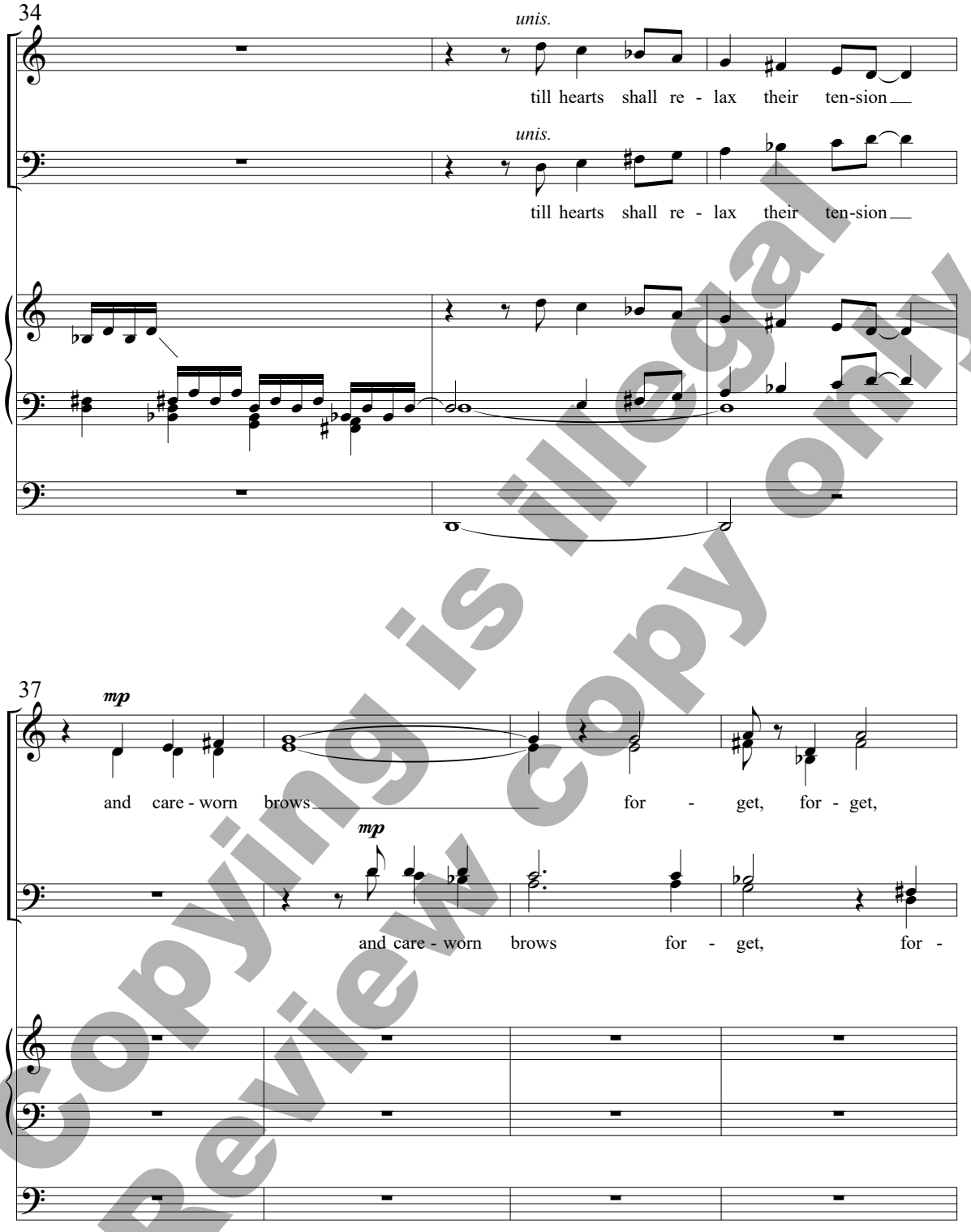

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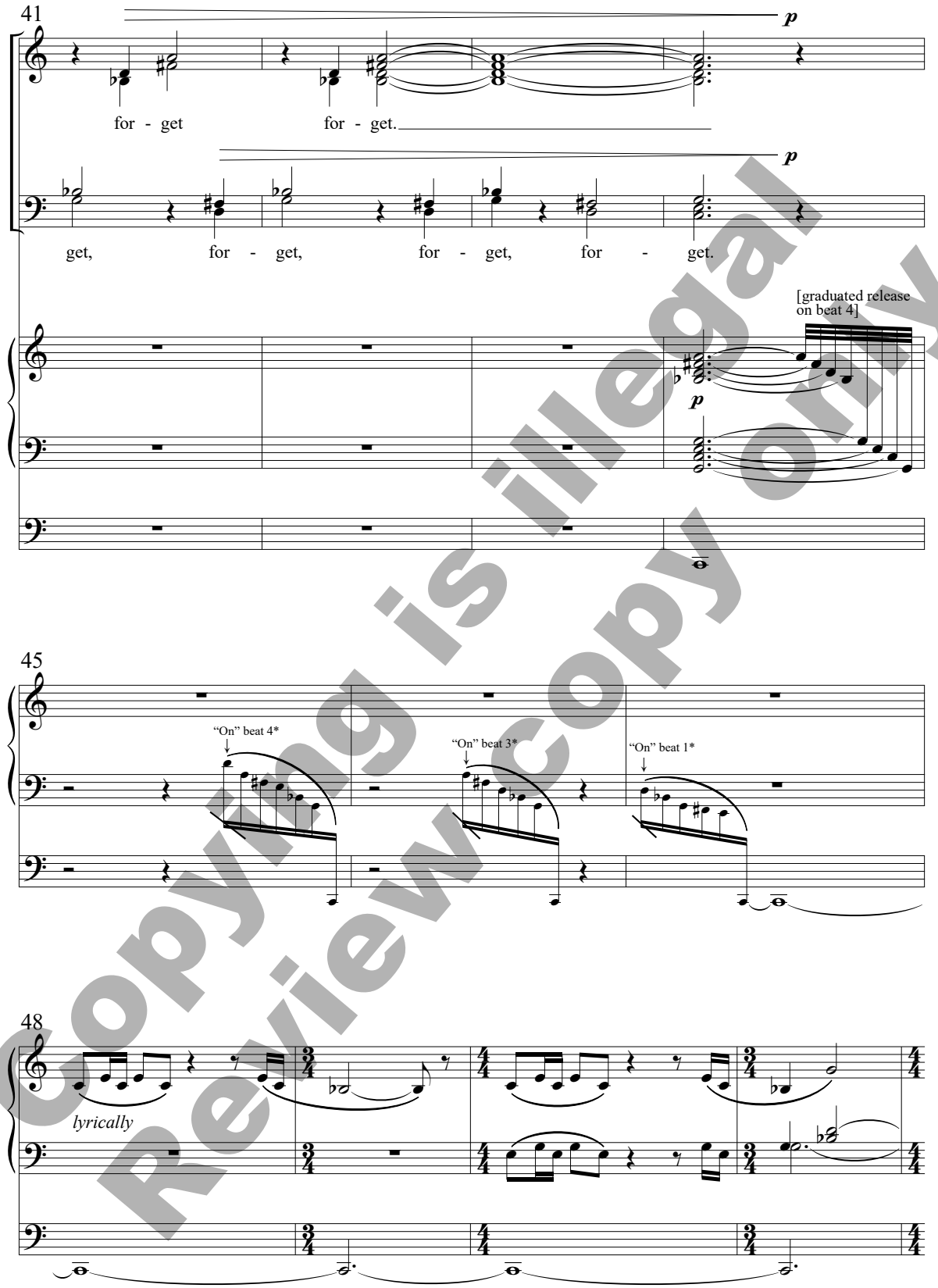

*Play as "on the beat" grace notes where indicated.

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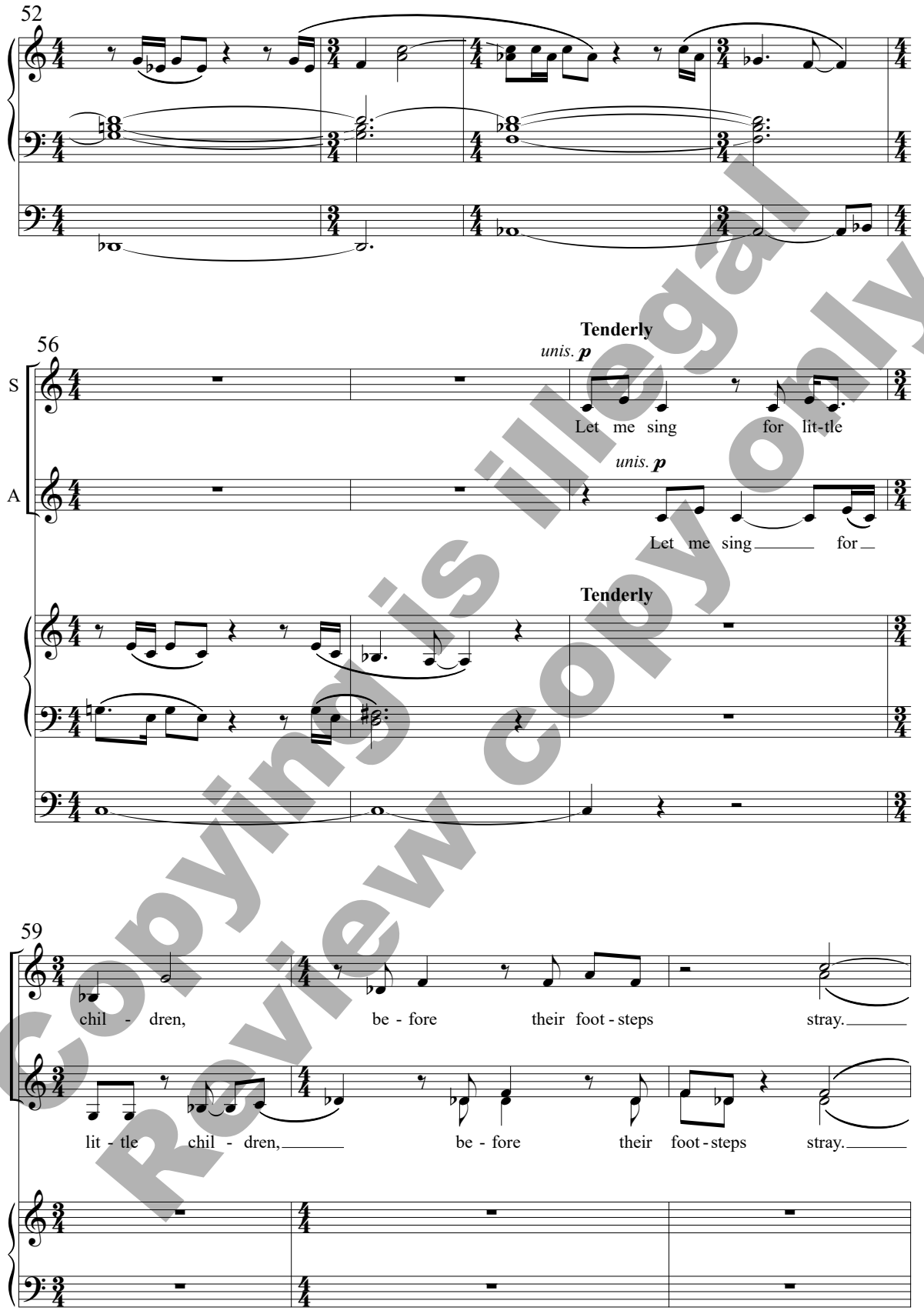

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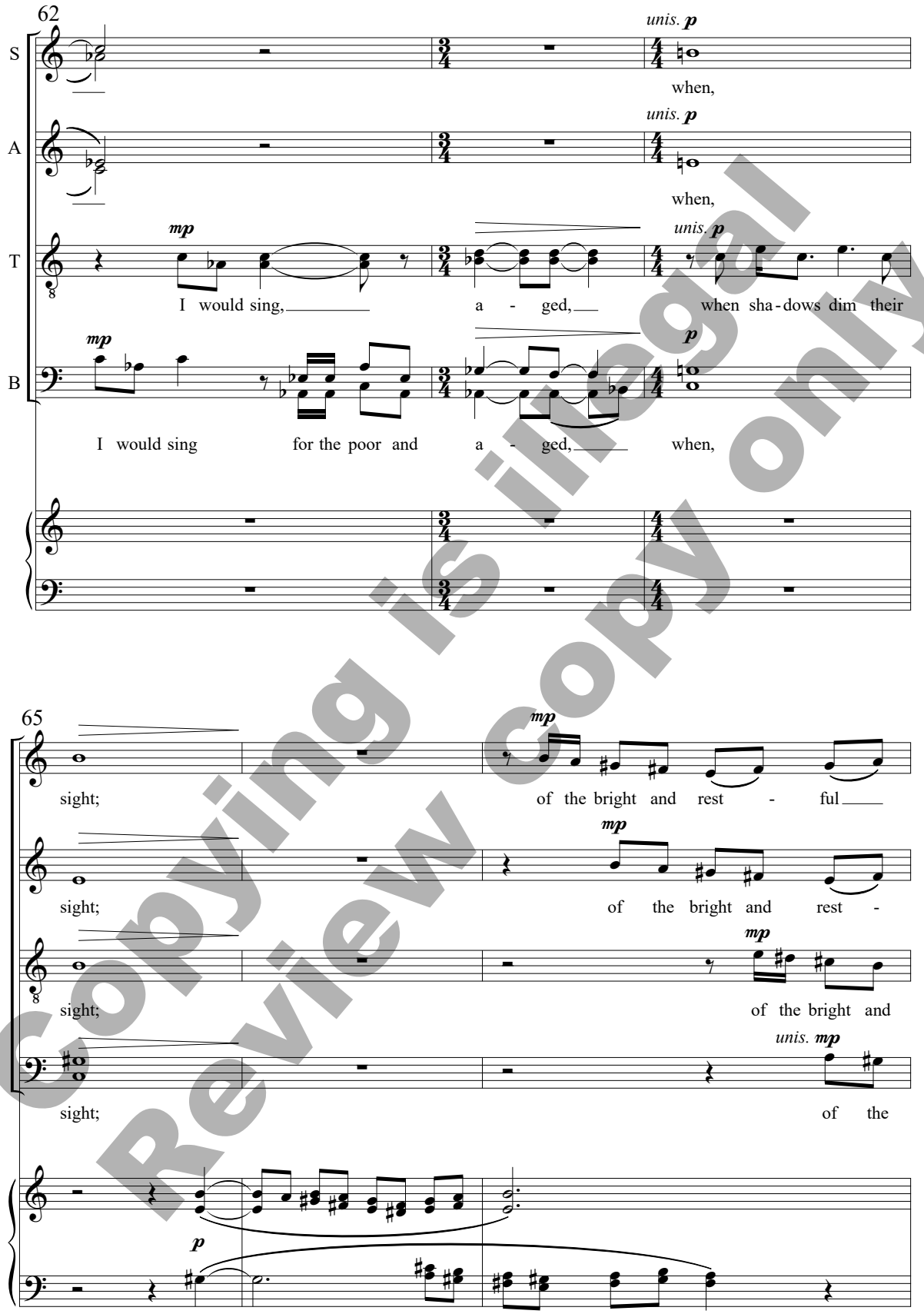

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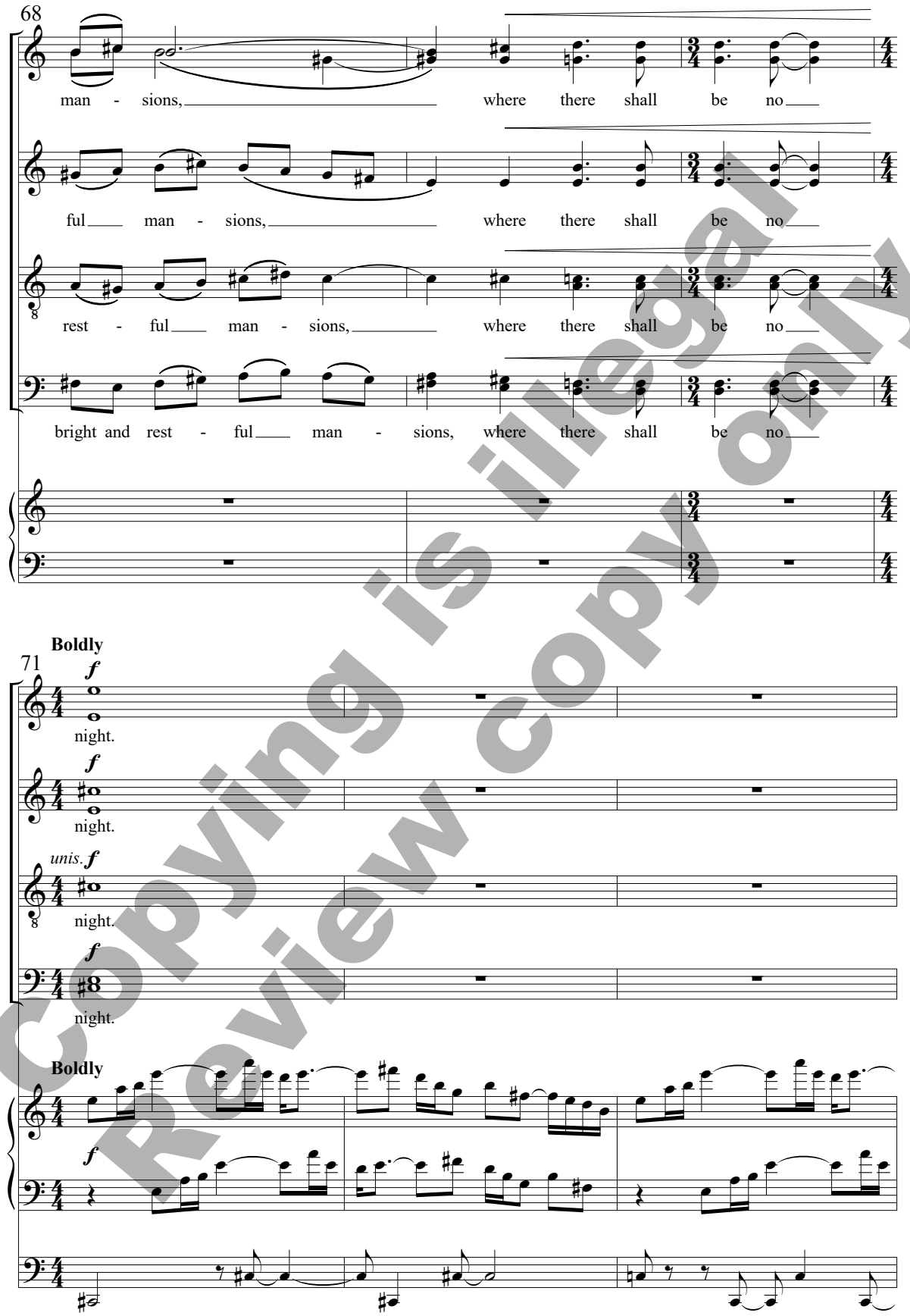

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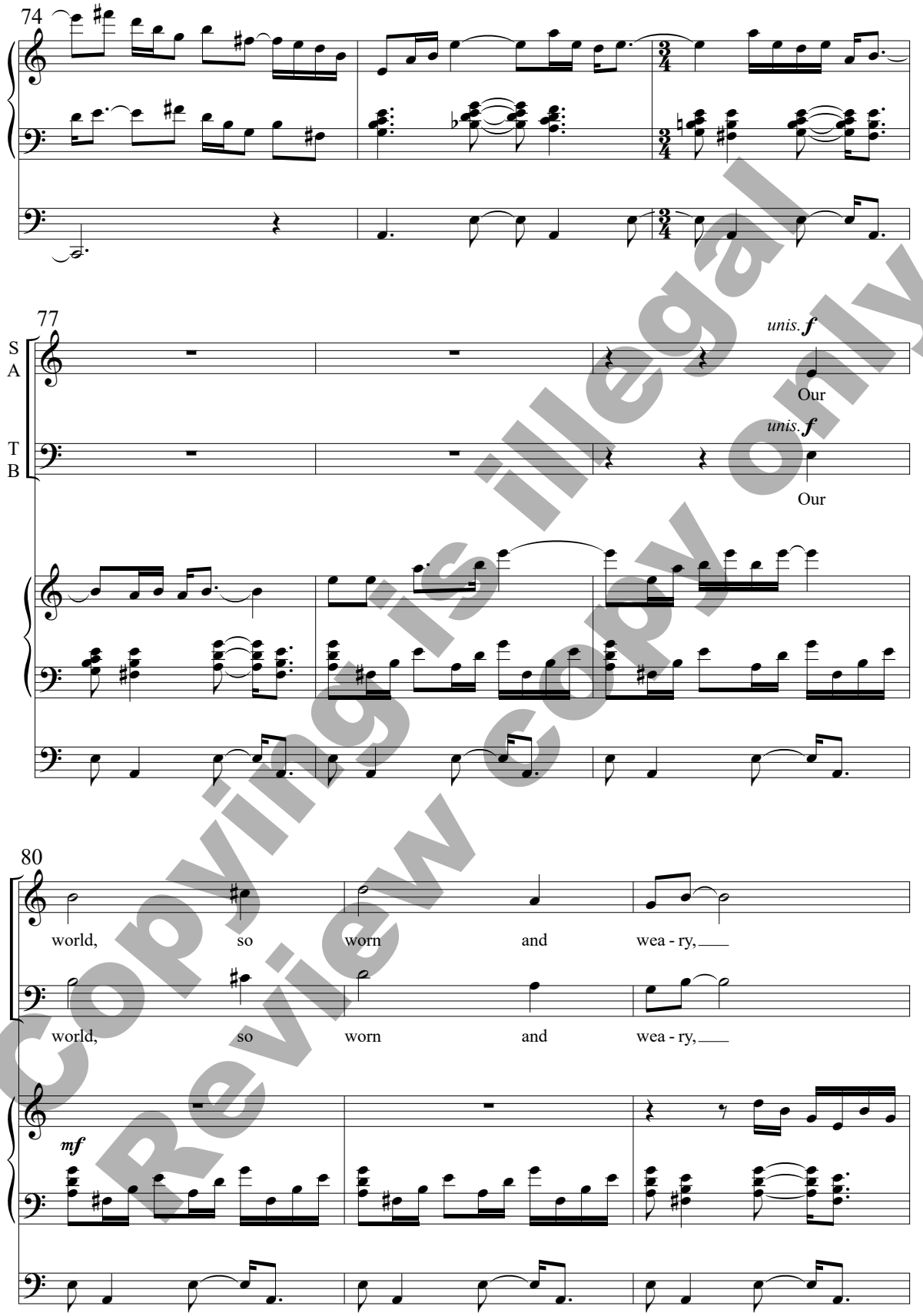

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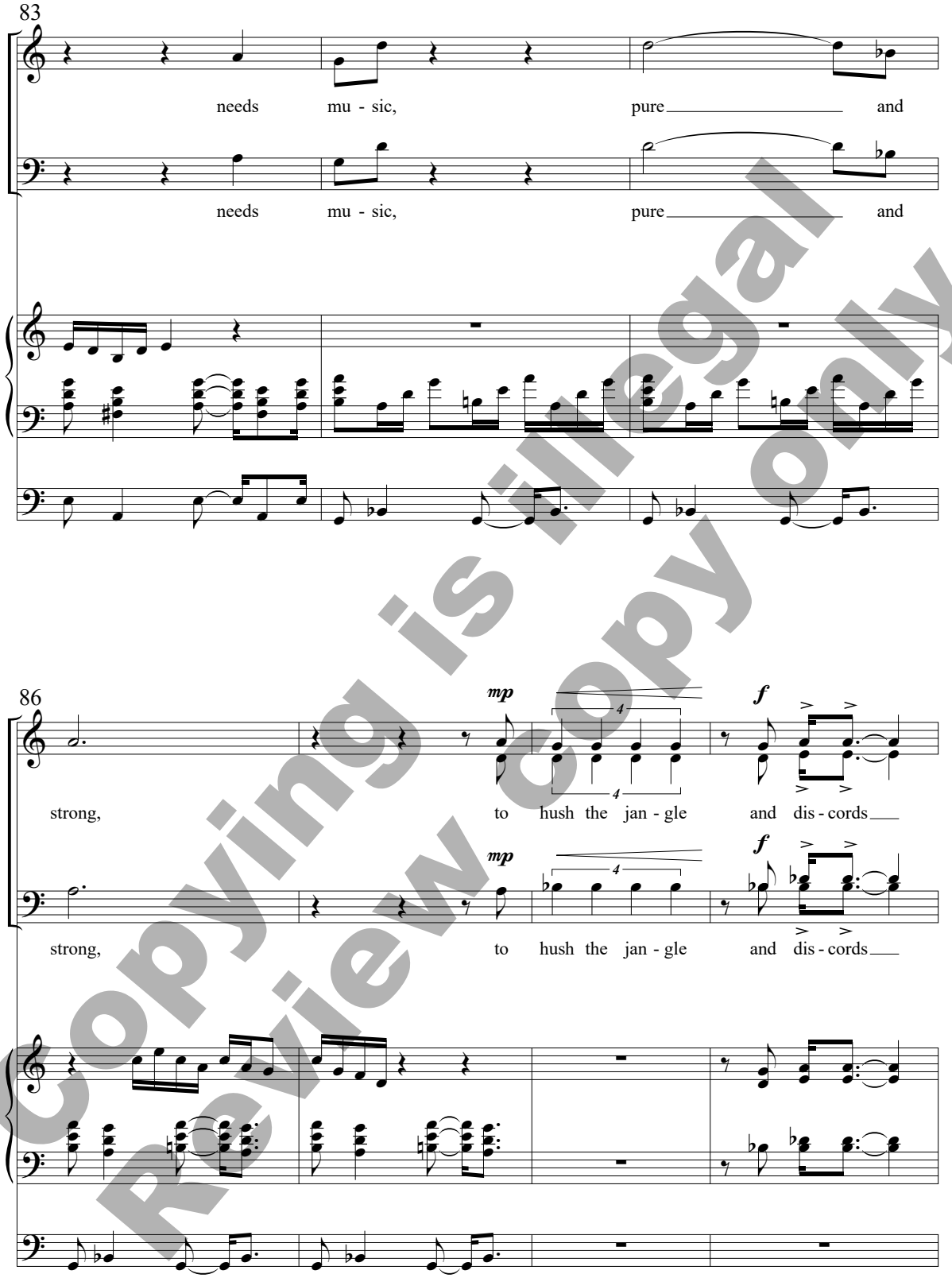

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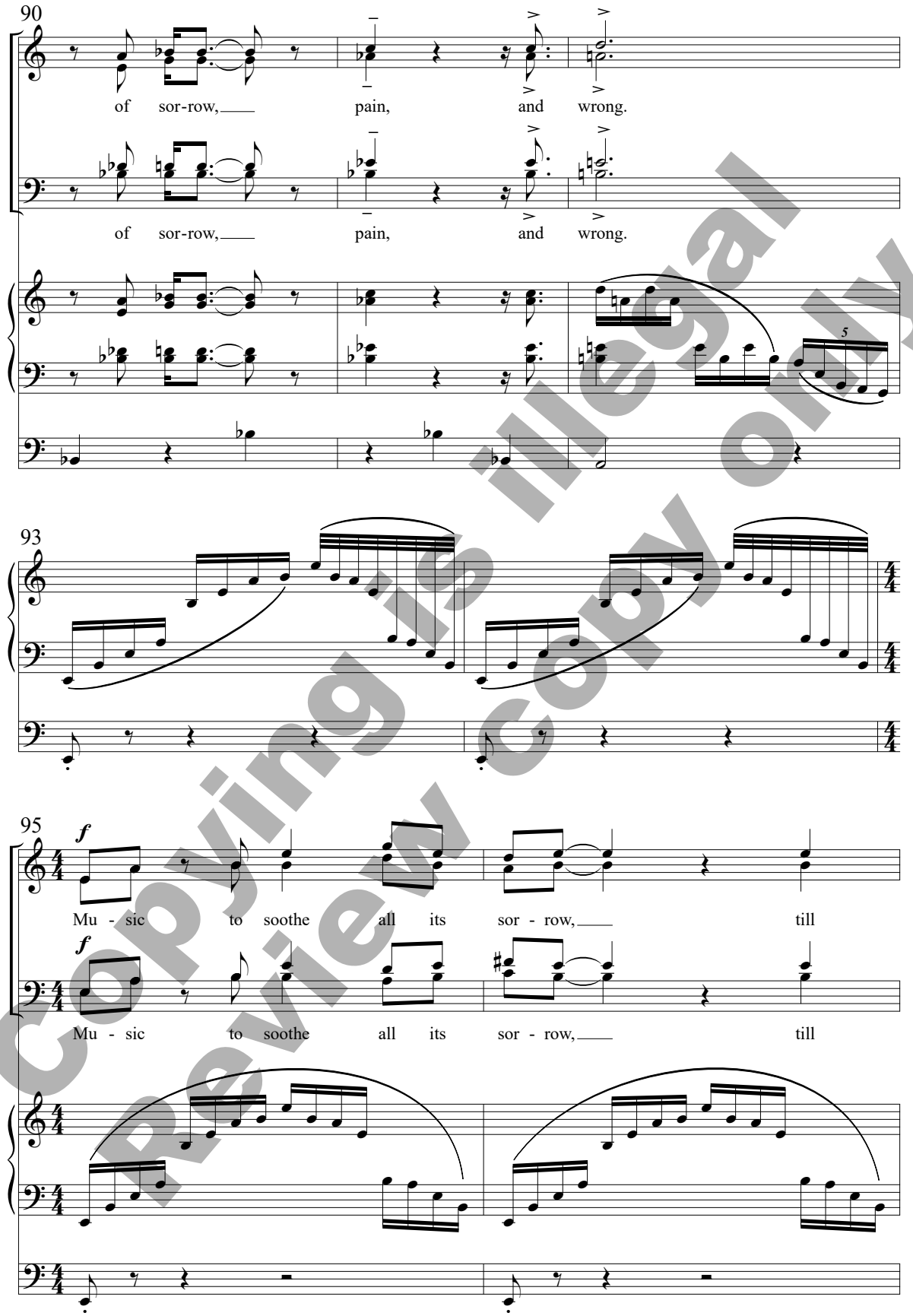

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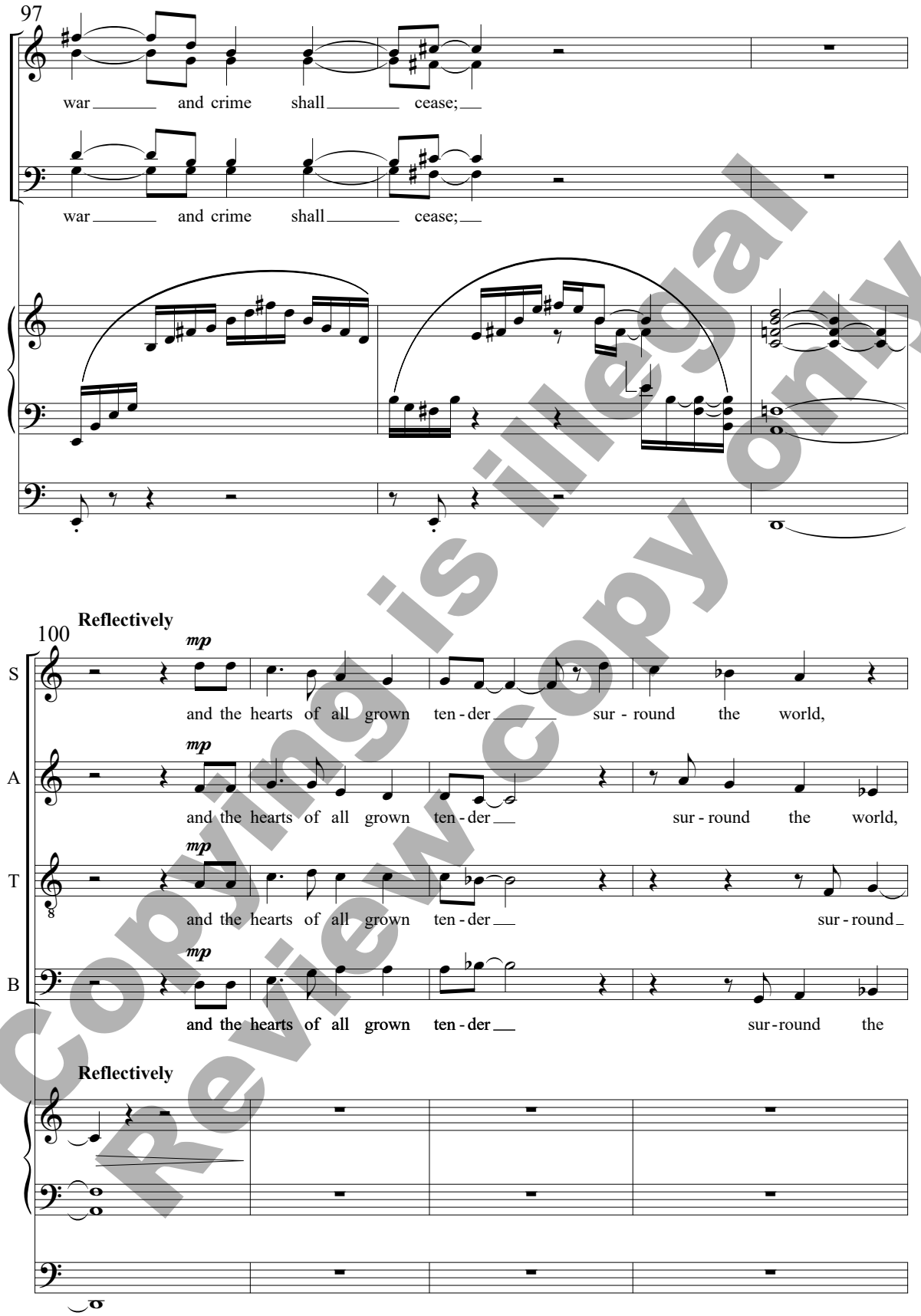

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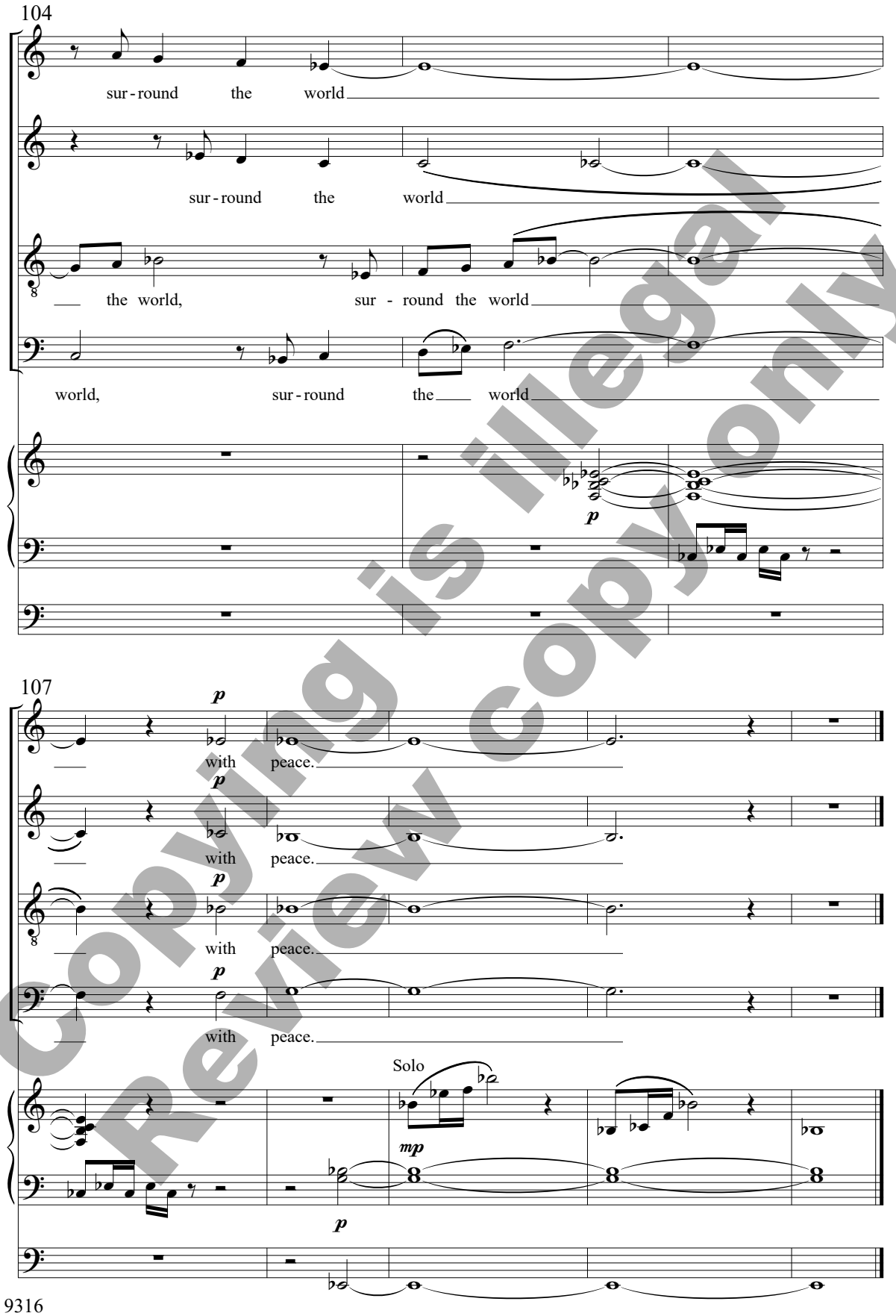

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