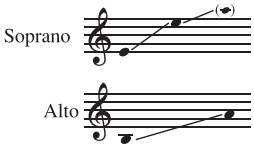
Veni, Veni Emmanuel

ERO CRAS (I WILL COME)

MICHAEL JOHN TROTTA

SA Voices with Optional Descant, Optional Piano and Percussion

Duration: 3:35



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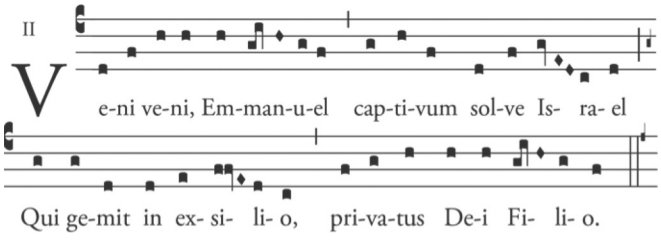


The text for the hymn *Veni, Veni Emmanuel* first appears in the eighteenth century in the Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum (Cologne 1710). It is based on the much older "O" Antiphons which have their origins in the ninth century. When the antiphons are placed in the reverse chronological order, the first letter (after the "O") forms the acrostic ERO CRAS, literally "tomorrow, I will be" translated here as "I will come!" This piece was conceived as a dialogue between the supplicants and the creator, a combination of old and new, juxtaposing a personal longing for something still to come, with the steadfast assurance of something ever-present, yet not always seen. While the original theme is associated with the Christmas season, the wider theme of longing for something greater is universal to the human condition and allows this piece to be programed throughout the year. While the tune used is a variant of the original chant tune, based on my childhood memory of the singing the melody that is true to my experience, the existence of the third scale degree in the choral ostinato ensures that the tune's familiar contour will be instantly recognized.

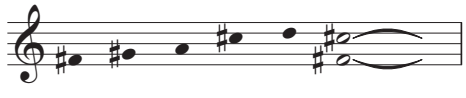
The "O" Antiphons

December 23: O Emmanuel (O With Us is God)
December 22: O Rex Gentium (O King of the nations)
December 21: O Oriens (O MorningStar)
December 20: O Clavis David (O Key of David)
December 19: O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)
December 18: O Adonai (O Lord)
December 17: O Sapientia (O Wisdom)

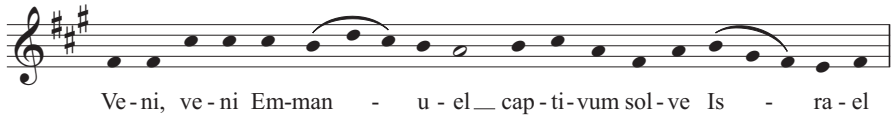
VENI, VENI EMMANUEL! CAPTIVUM SOLVE ISRAEL! QUI GEMIT IN EXSILIO, PRIVATUS DEI FILIO.	O COME, O COME, THE "I AM" THAT IS WITH US BREAK THE BOND OF THE CAPTIVE PEOPLE! WHO MOURN IN EXILE DERIVED OF THE INCARNATION OF THE FATHER.
REFRAIN: GAUDE, GAUDE, EMMANUEL NASCETUR PRO TE, ISRAEL.	REJOICE! REJOICE! THE GREAT "I AM" WILL BE BORN FOR YOU.
VENI, VENI, REX GENTIUM, VENI, REDEMPTOR OMNIUM, UT SALVAS TUOS FAMULOS PECCATI SIBI CONSCIOS	O COME, GATHERER OF ALL NATIONS, COME TO MAKE ALL WHOLE, TO SAVE YOUR SERVANTS FROM THEIR SEPARATENESS,
VENI, VENI O ORIENS, SOLARE NOS ADVENIENS, NOCTIS DEPELLE NEBULAS, DIRASQUE MORTIS TENEBRAS.	O COME THOU LIGHT OF LIFE (MORNINGSTAR) TO SHINE ON US BY YOUR COMING, DISPEL THE CLOUDS OF NIGHT, DRIVE AWAY THE SHADOWS OF DEATH.

Optional Introduction

The director may wish to use a cascading handbell and wind-chimes introduction using the following notes repeated at random for ca.10 seconds ending with F♯ and C♯, this can easily be followed by the chant incipit from which the rest of the work can continue as notated. When handbells are not available, the piece may start with the chant or begin as notated.



VENI VENI EMMANUEL CHANT



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Veni, Veni Emmanuel

ERO CRAS (I Will Come)

for SA Voices* with Optional Descant, Optional Piano and Percussion**

18th century Latin hymn
9th century origin

MICHAEL JOHN TROTTA

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* Also available for SATB Voices (CM9418) SSAA Voices (CM9436), Three-Part Mixed Voices (CM9546) and TTBB Voices (CM9564).

** The part for optional Percussion may be found on pp. 17-19.

*** an "x" notehead = foot stomp

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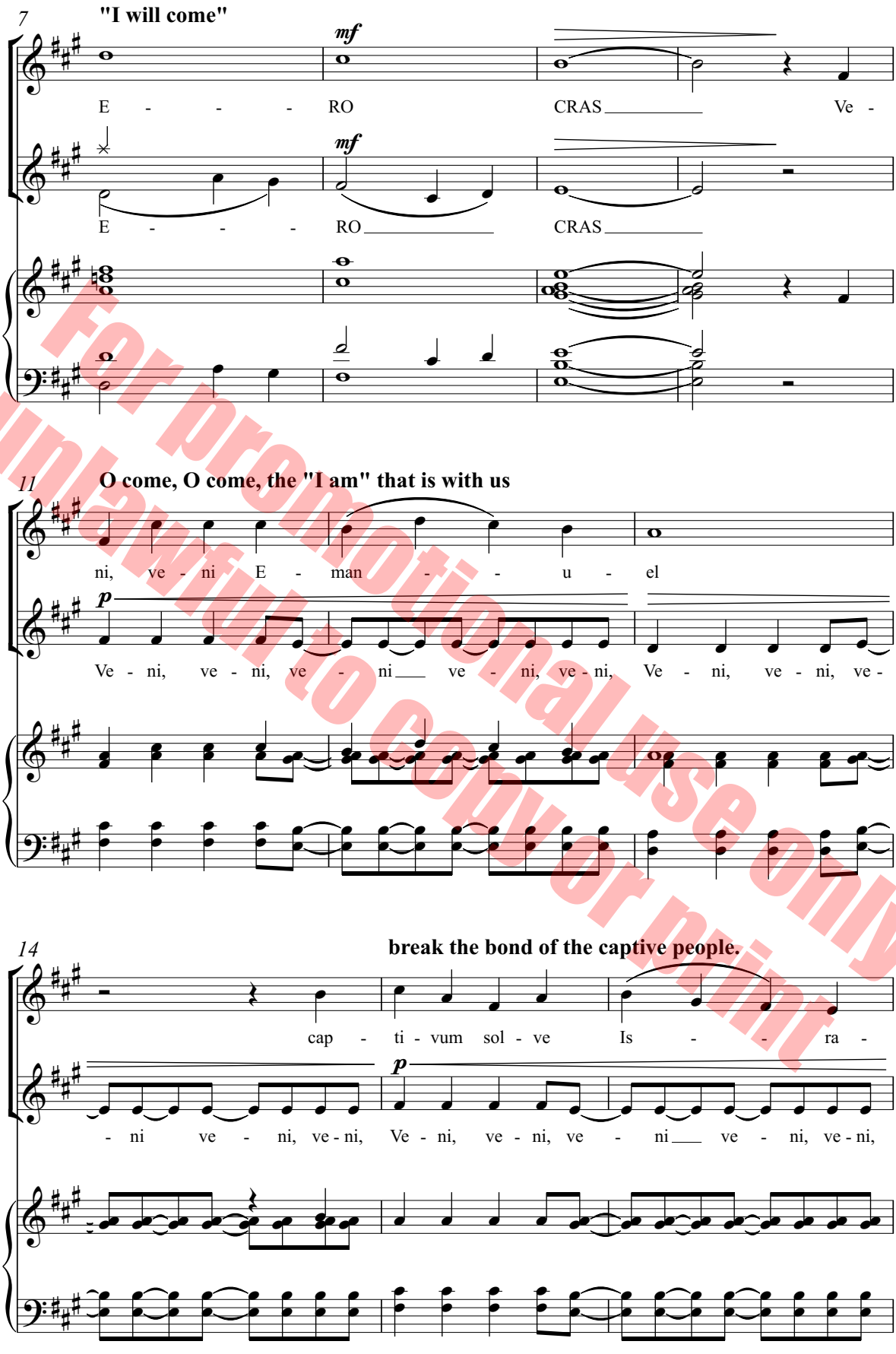

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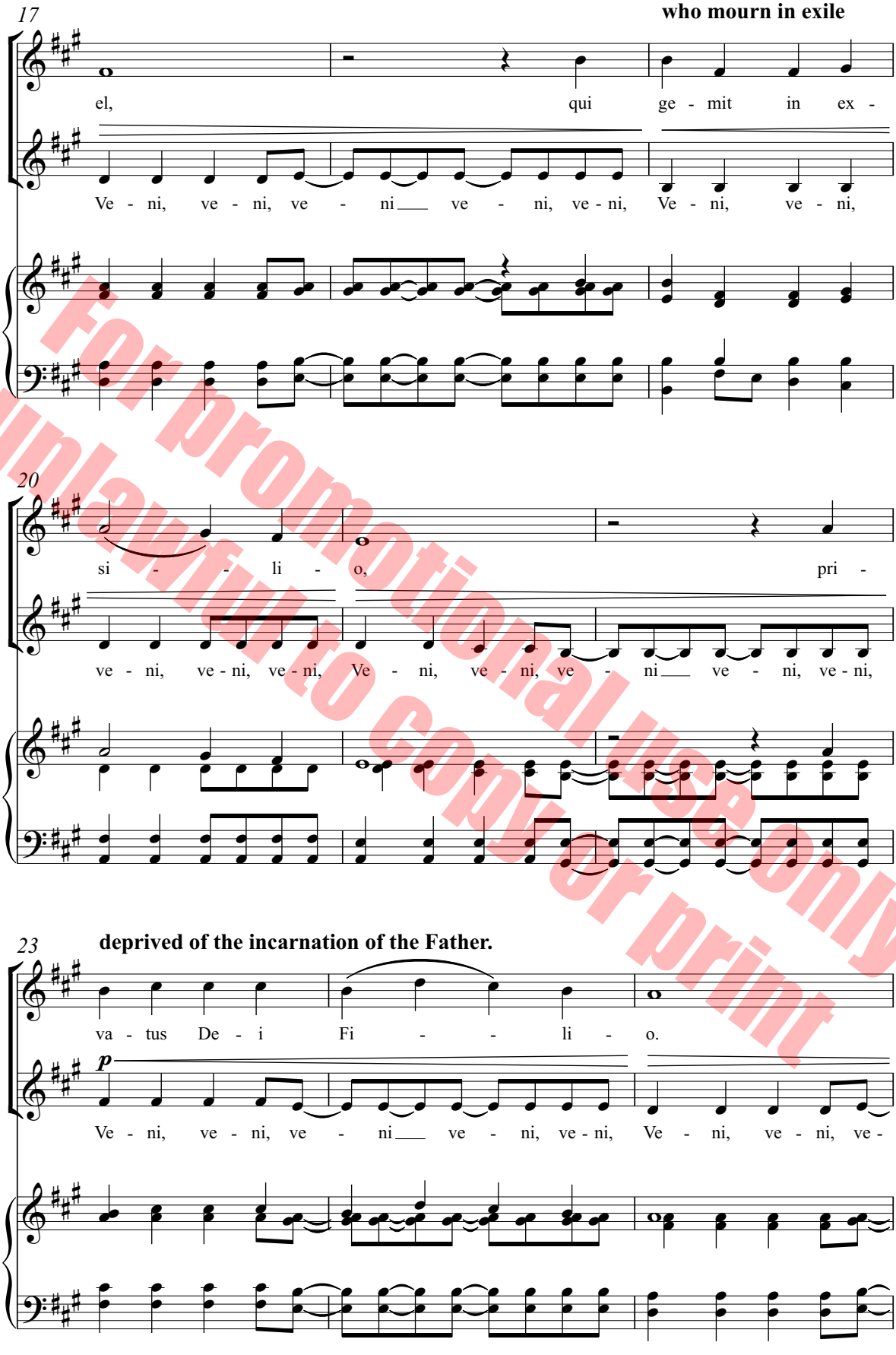

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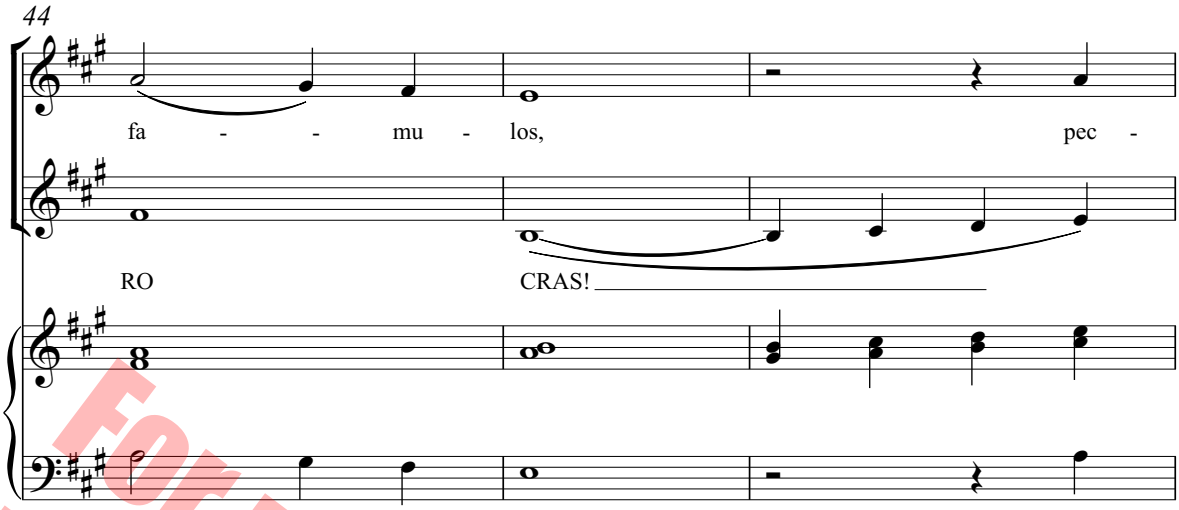

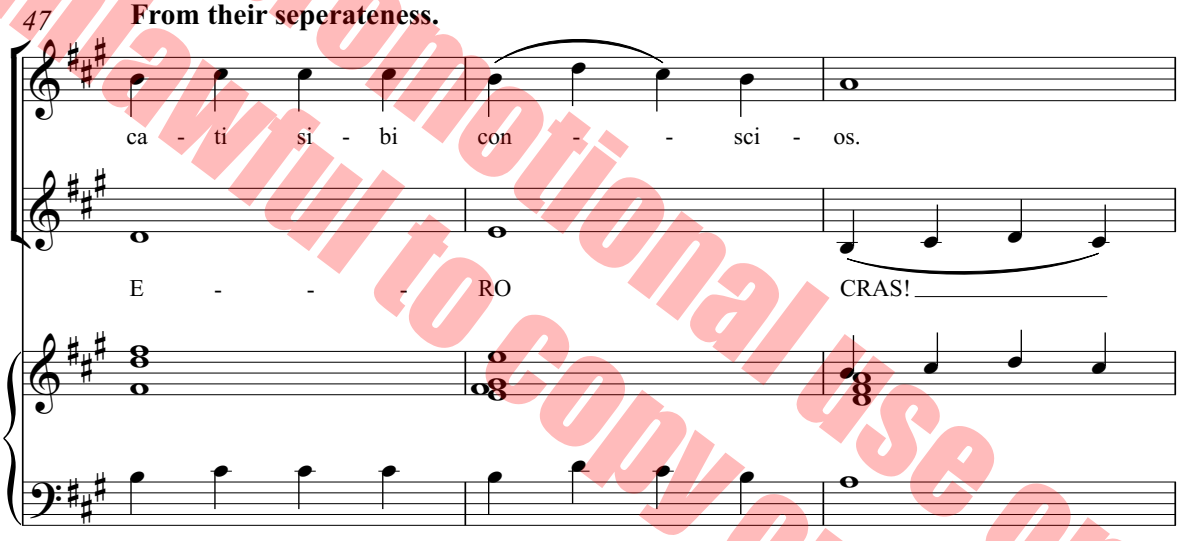

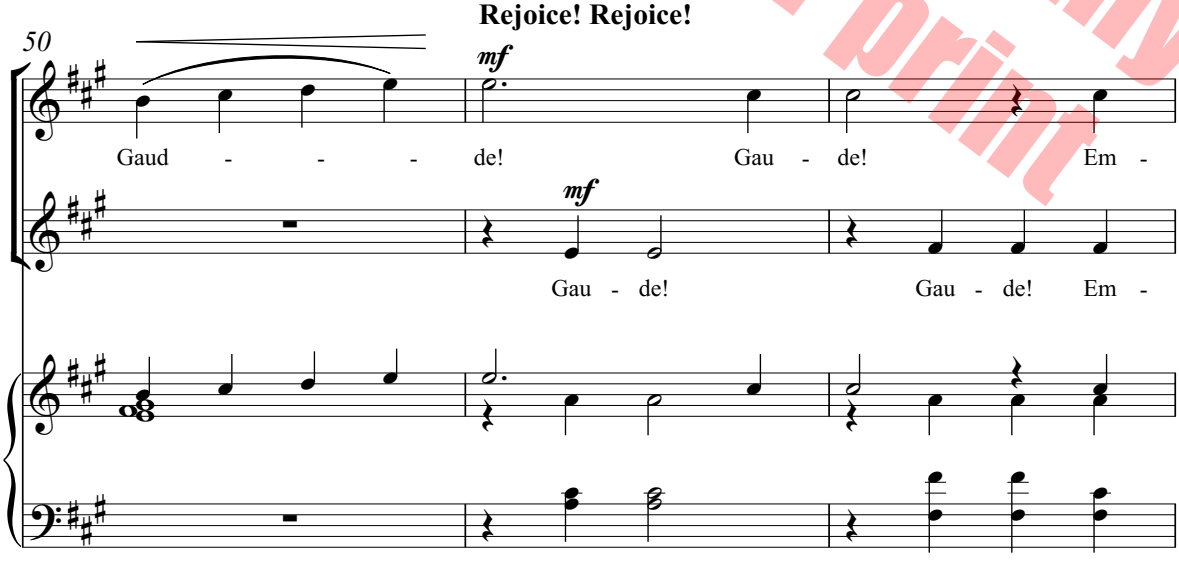

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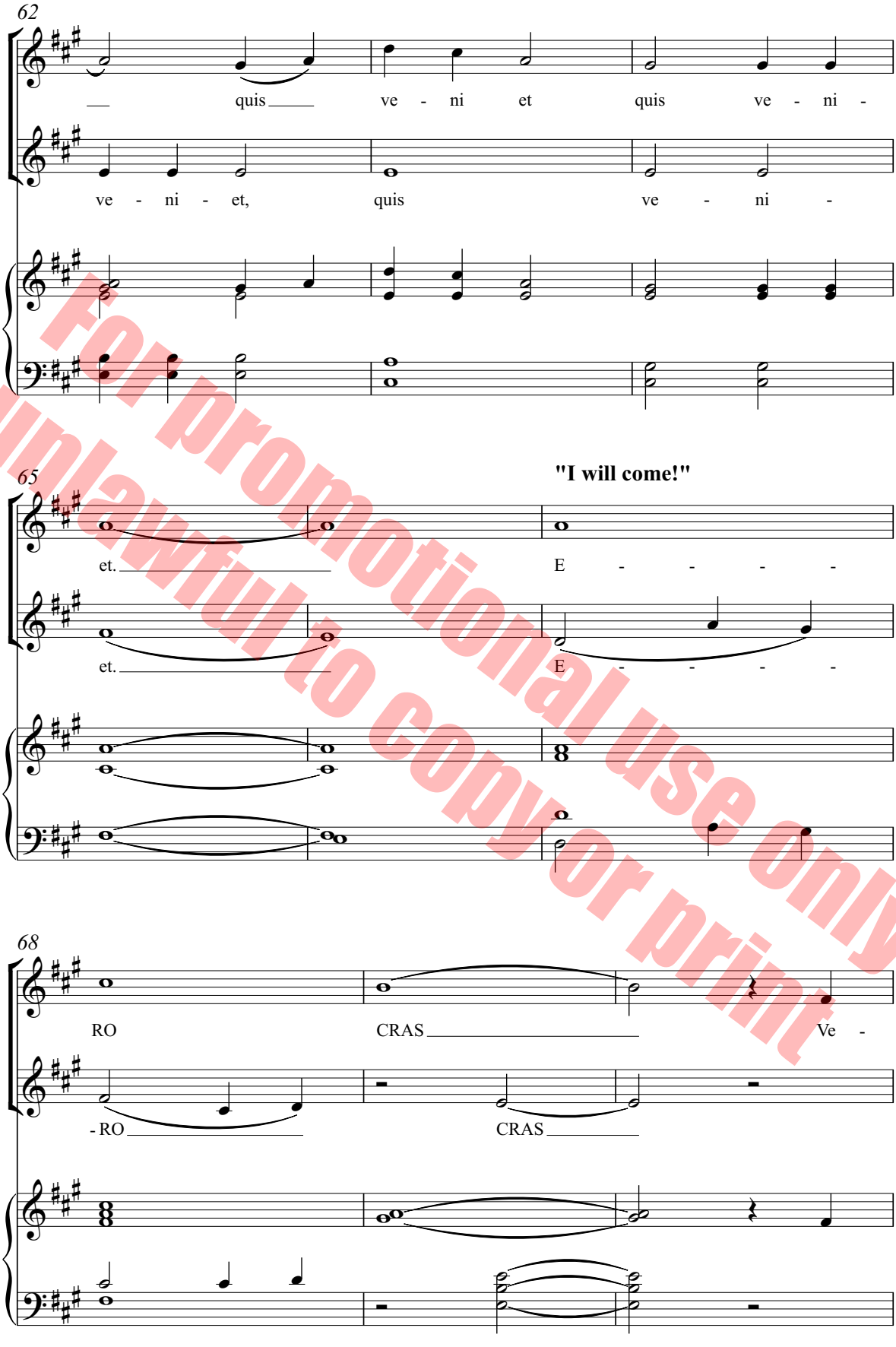

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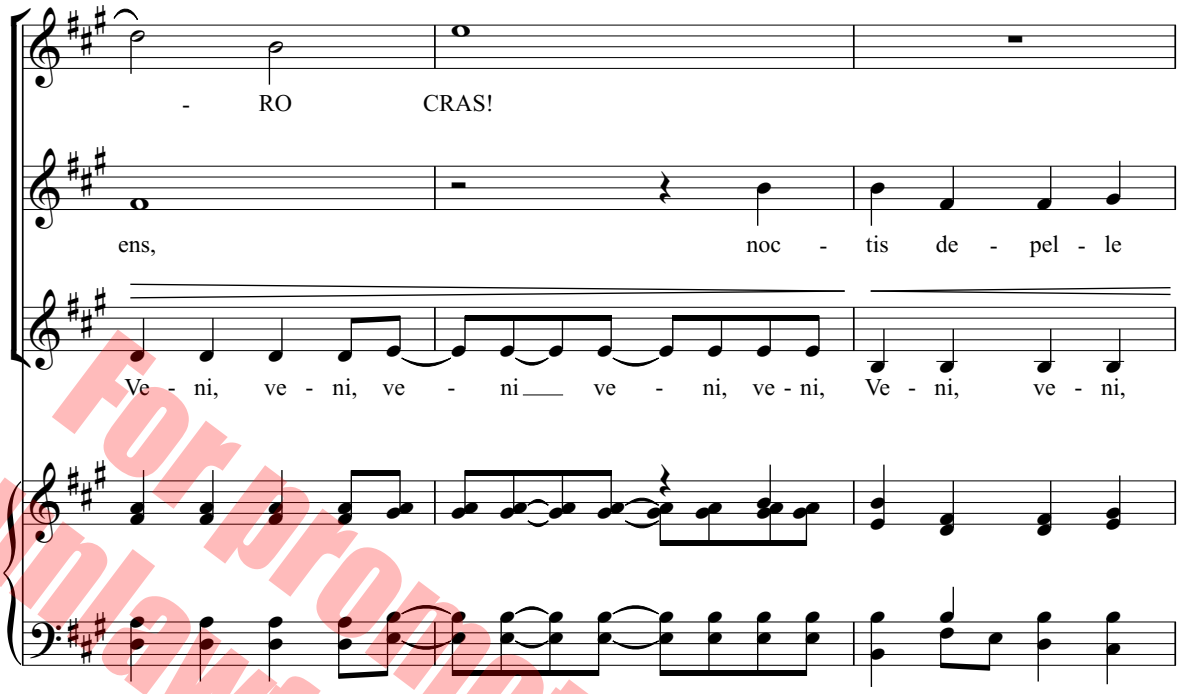
Dispel the clouds of night



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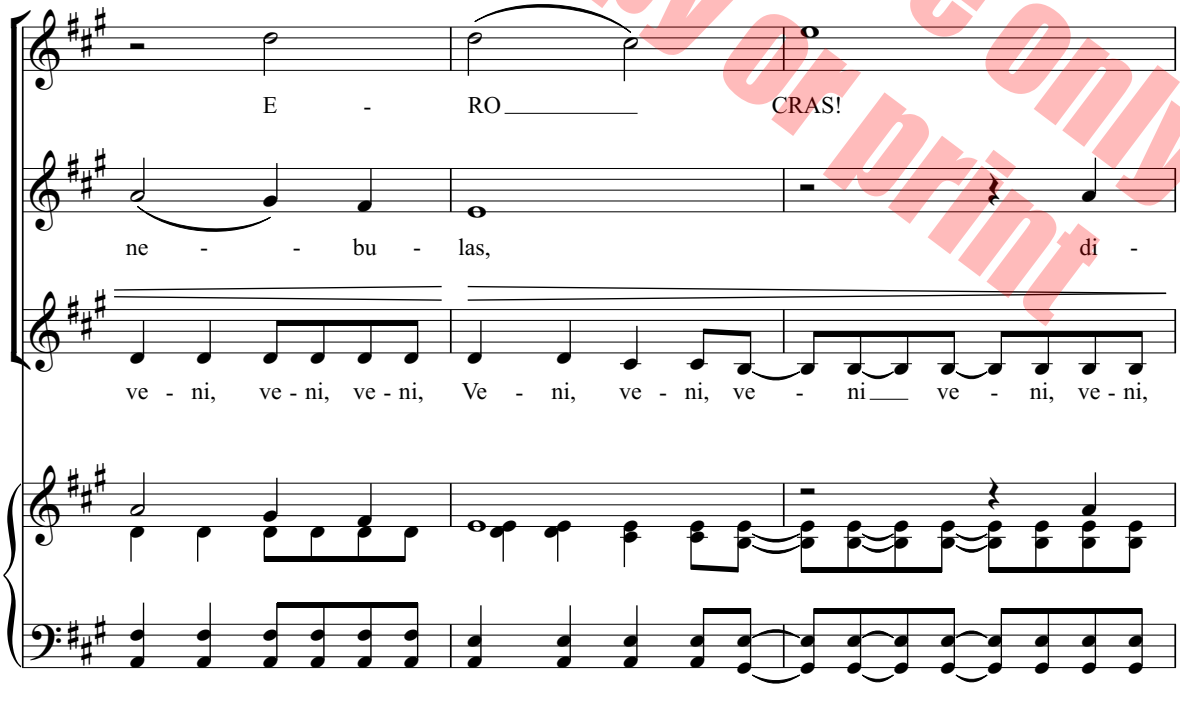

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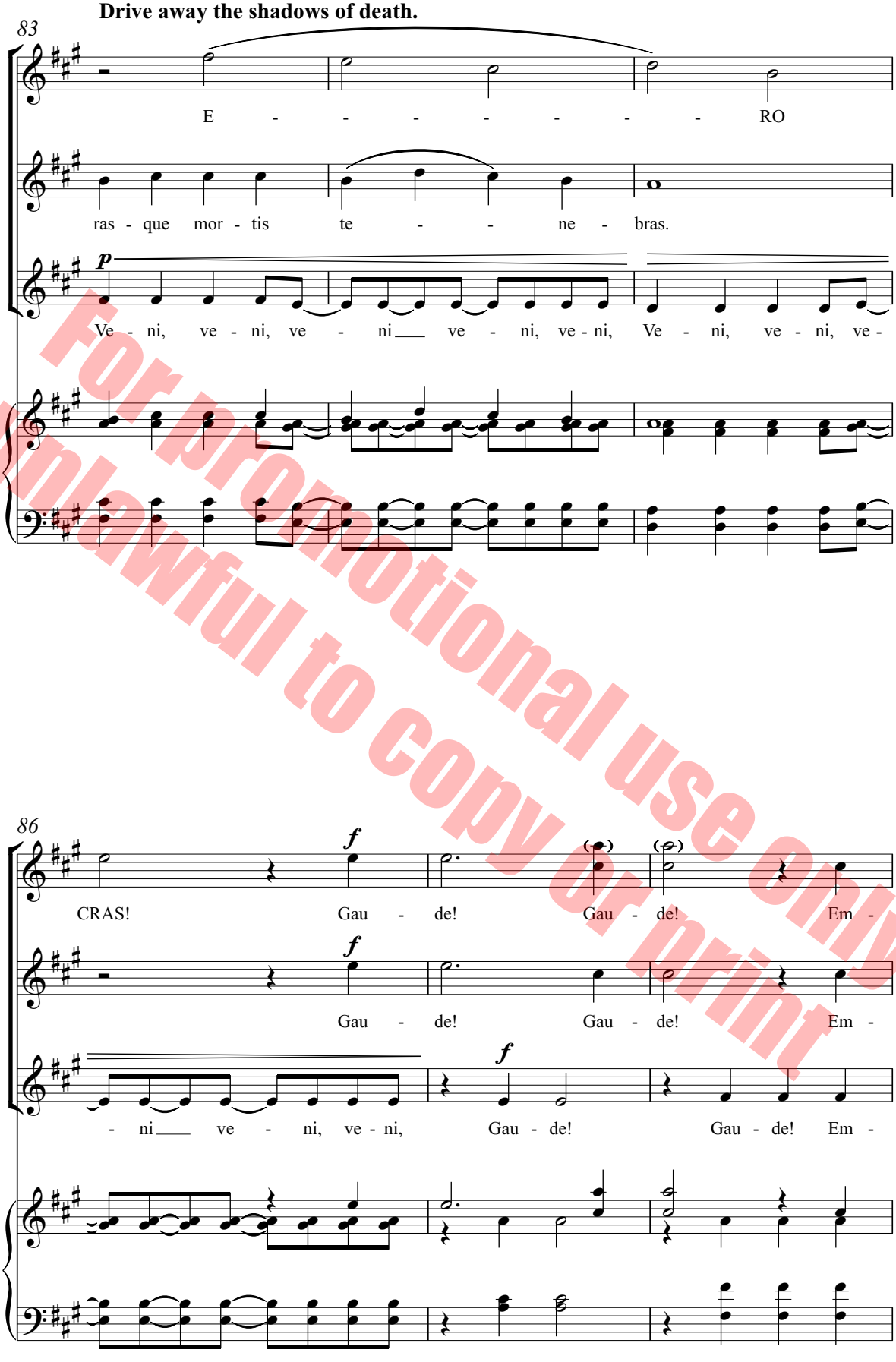
Drive away the shadows of death.



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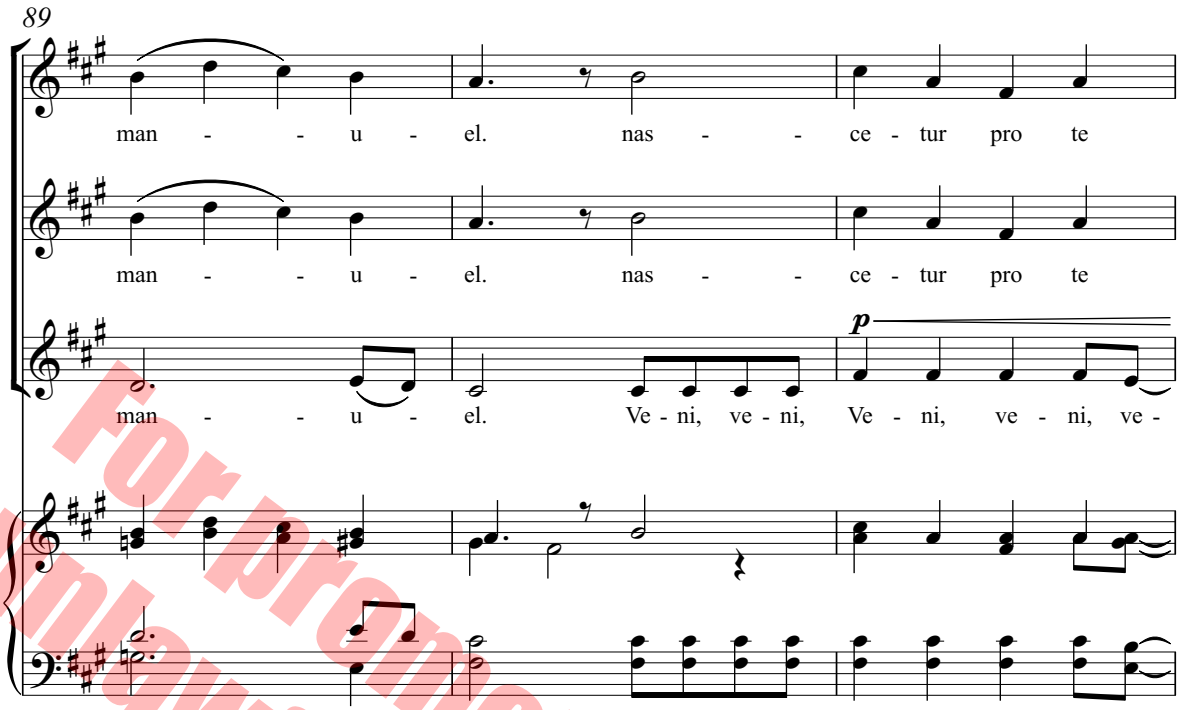

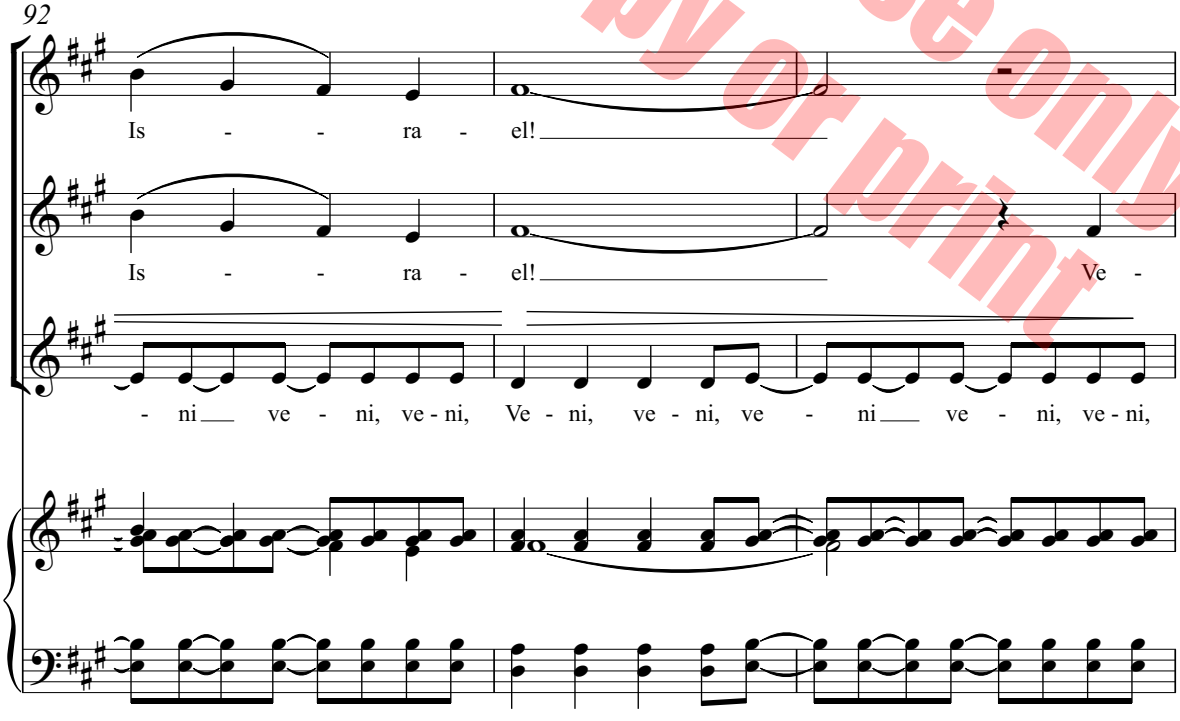

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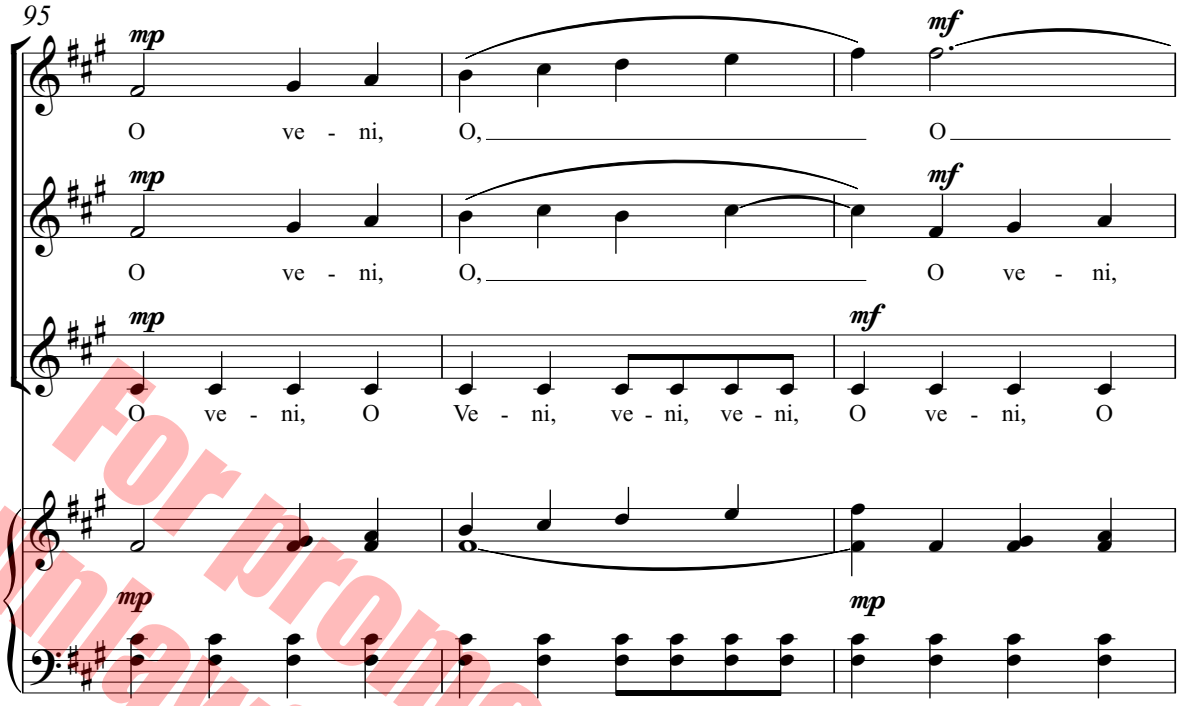

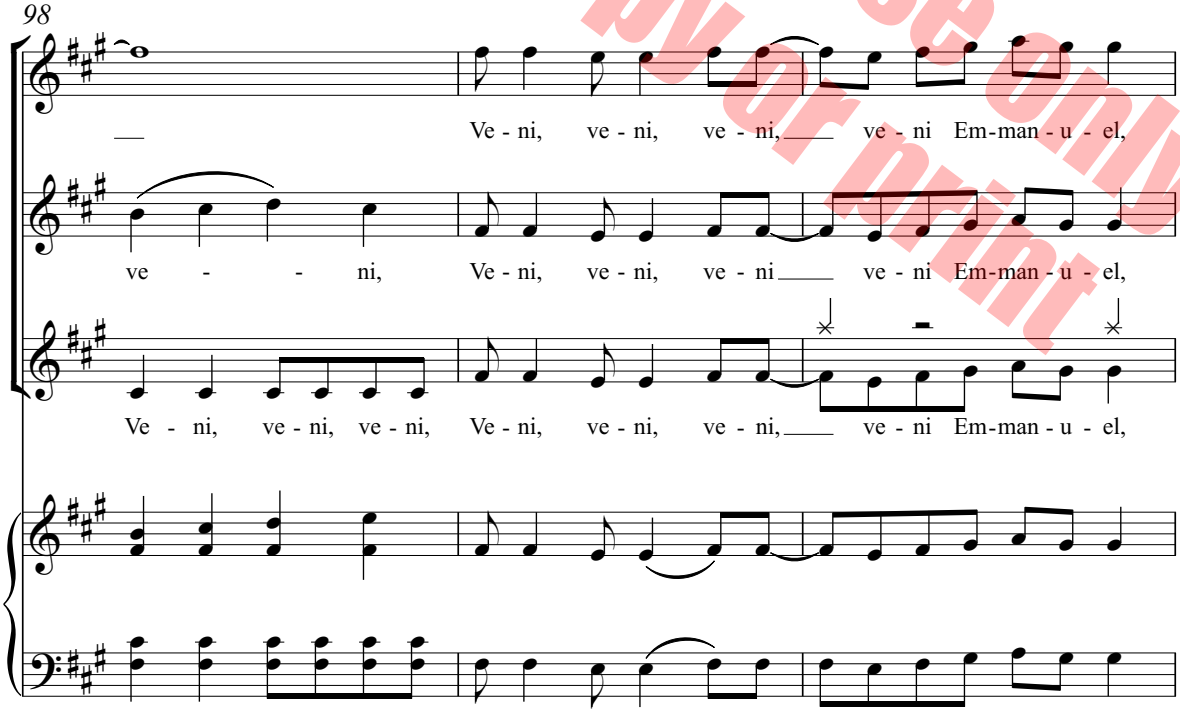

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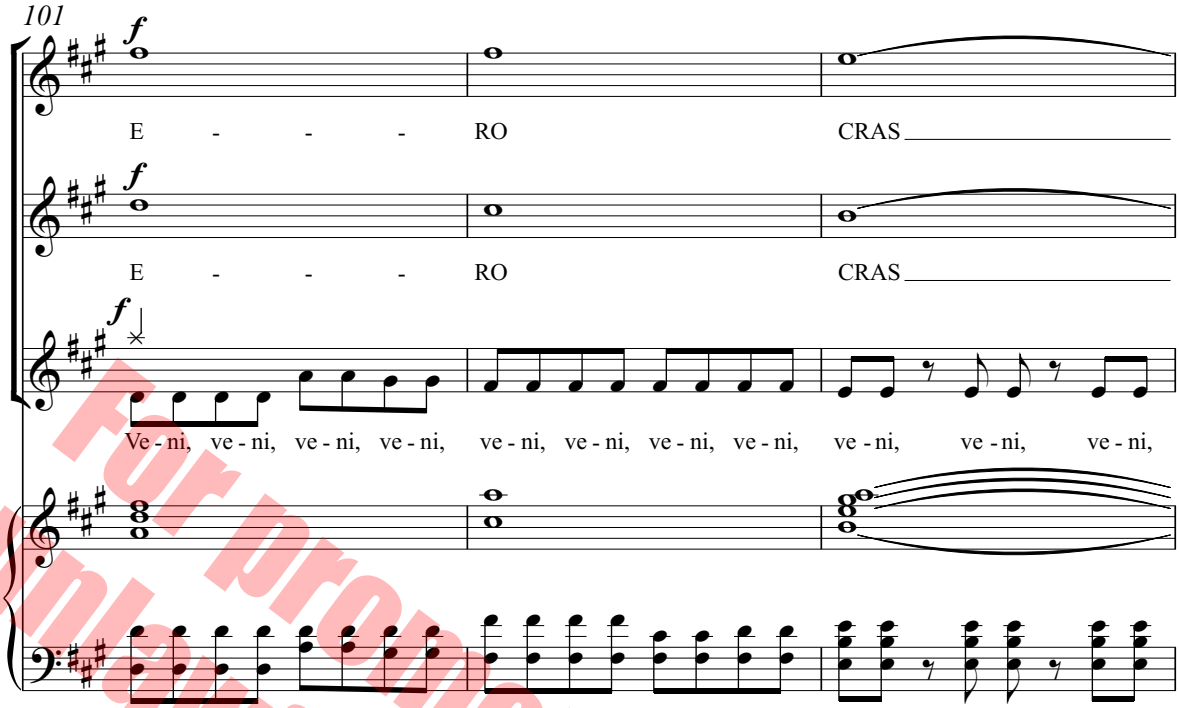

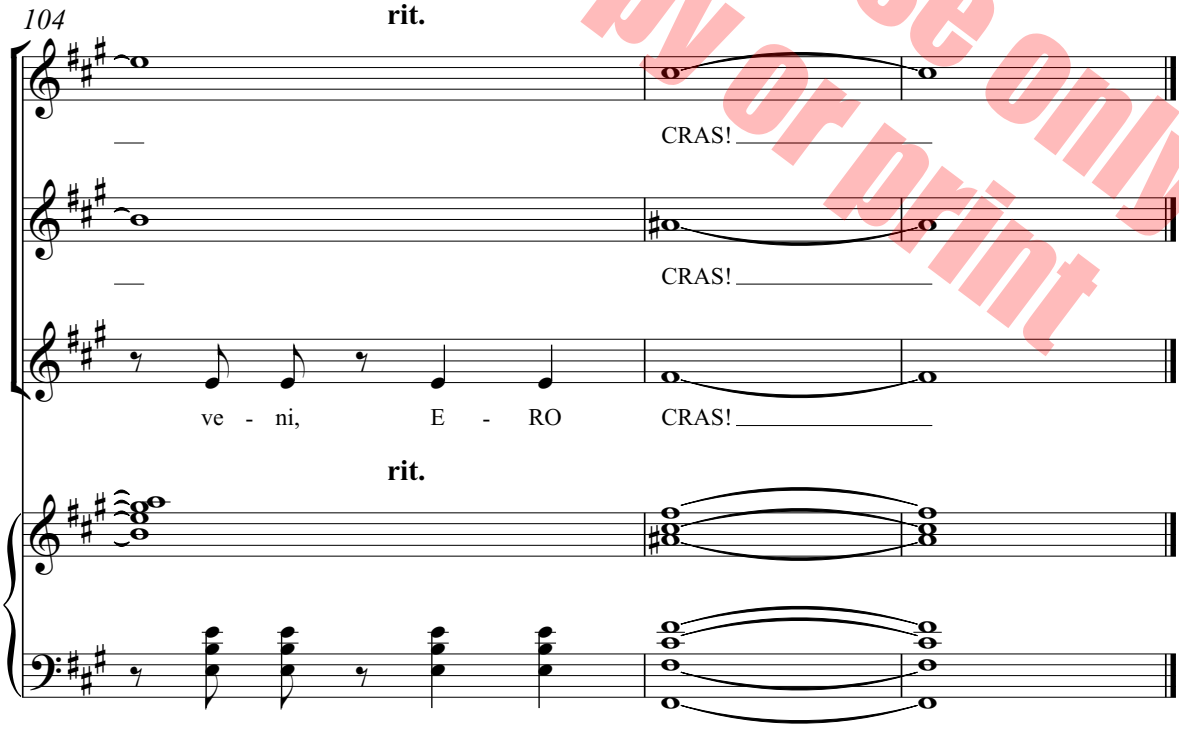

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18th-century Latin hymn
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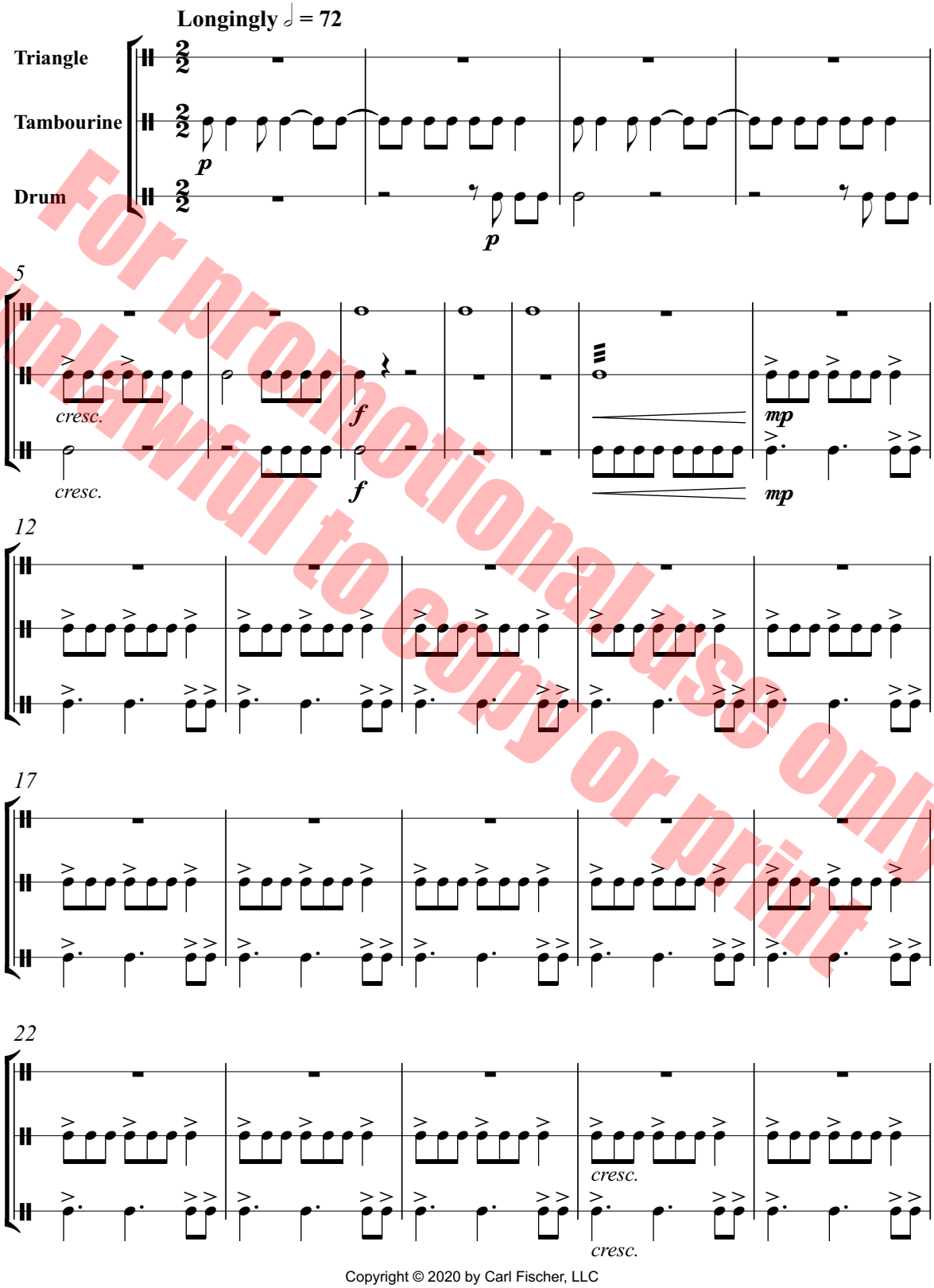

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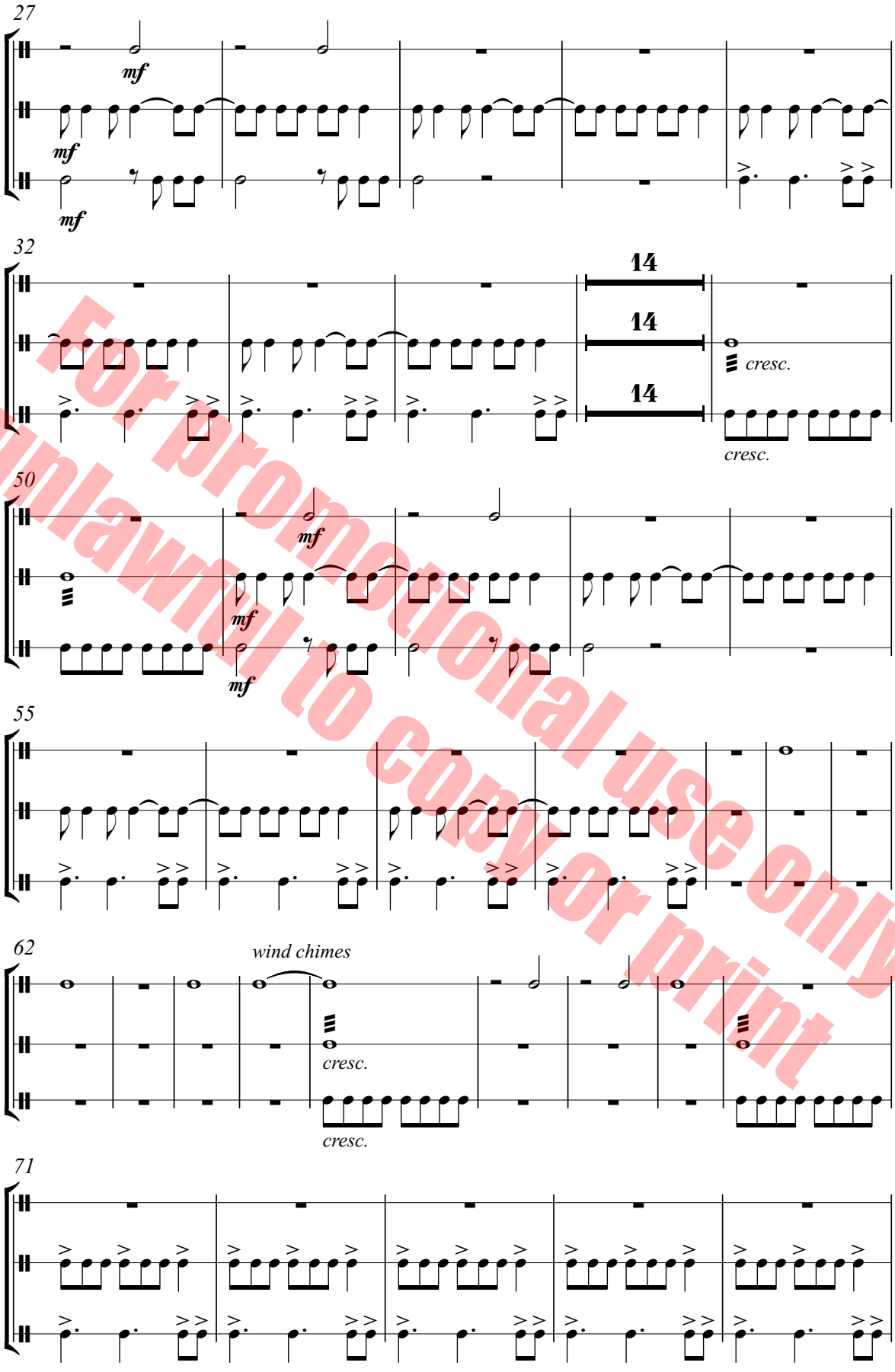

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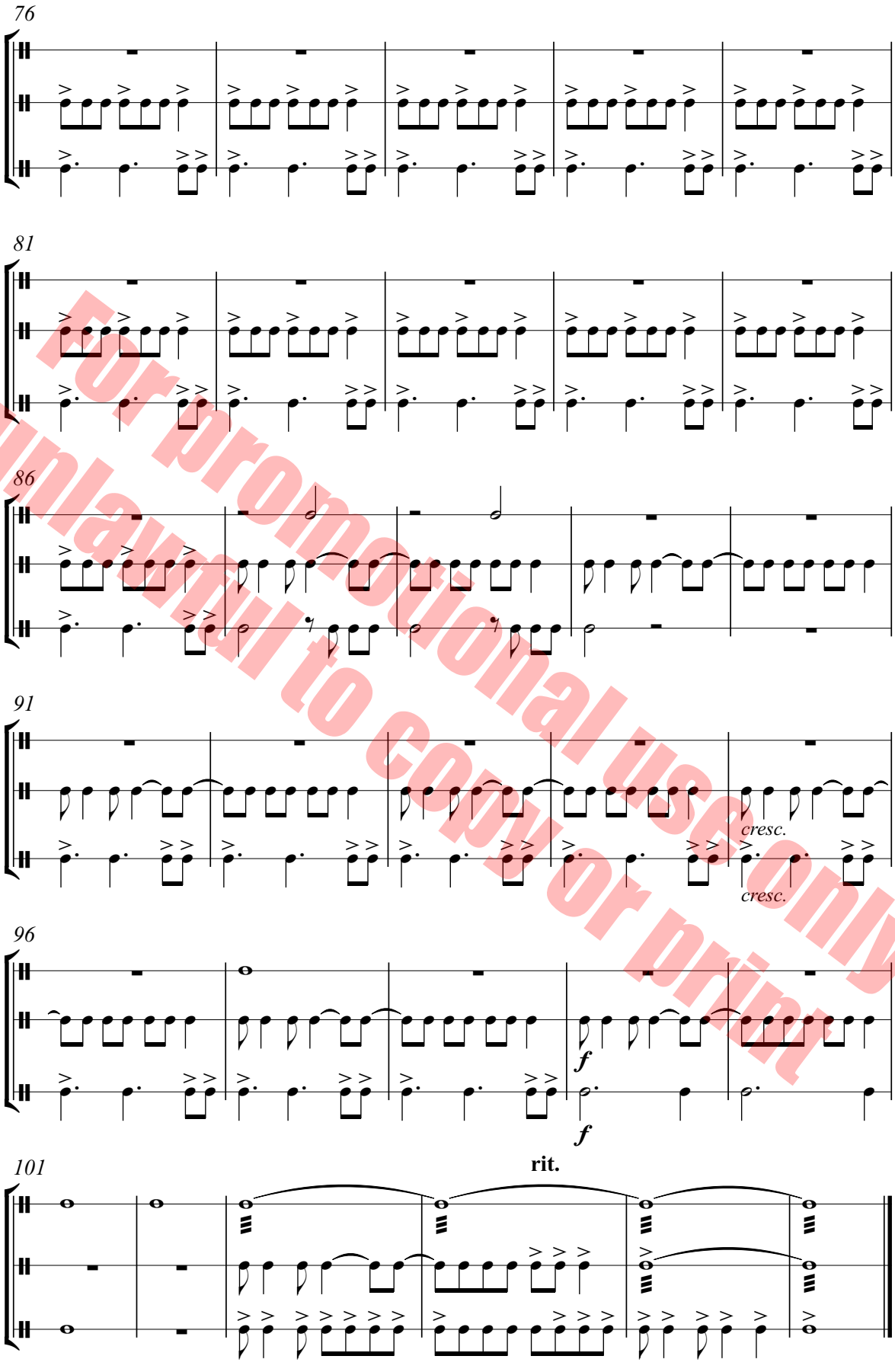

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