ALL THAT THRILLS MY SOUL

Arranged by
STAN PETHEL

Tune: **HARRIS**
by **THORO HARRIS** *(1874-1955)*

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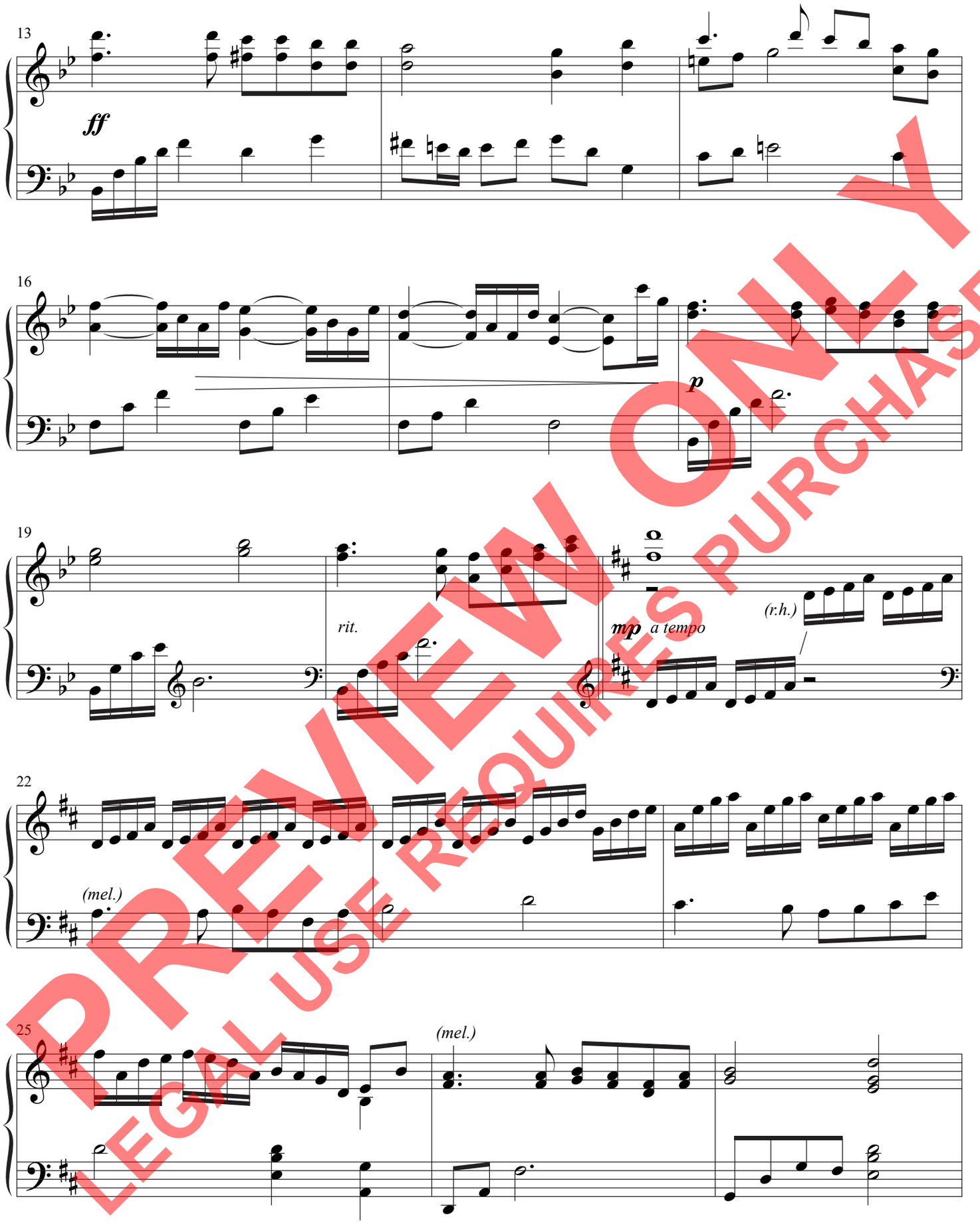

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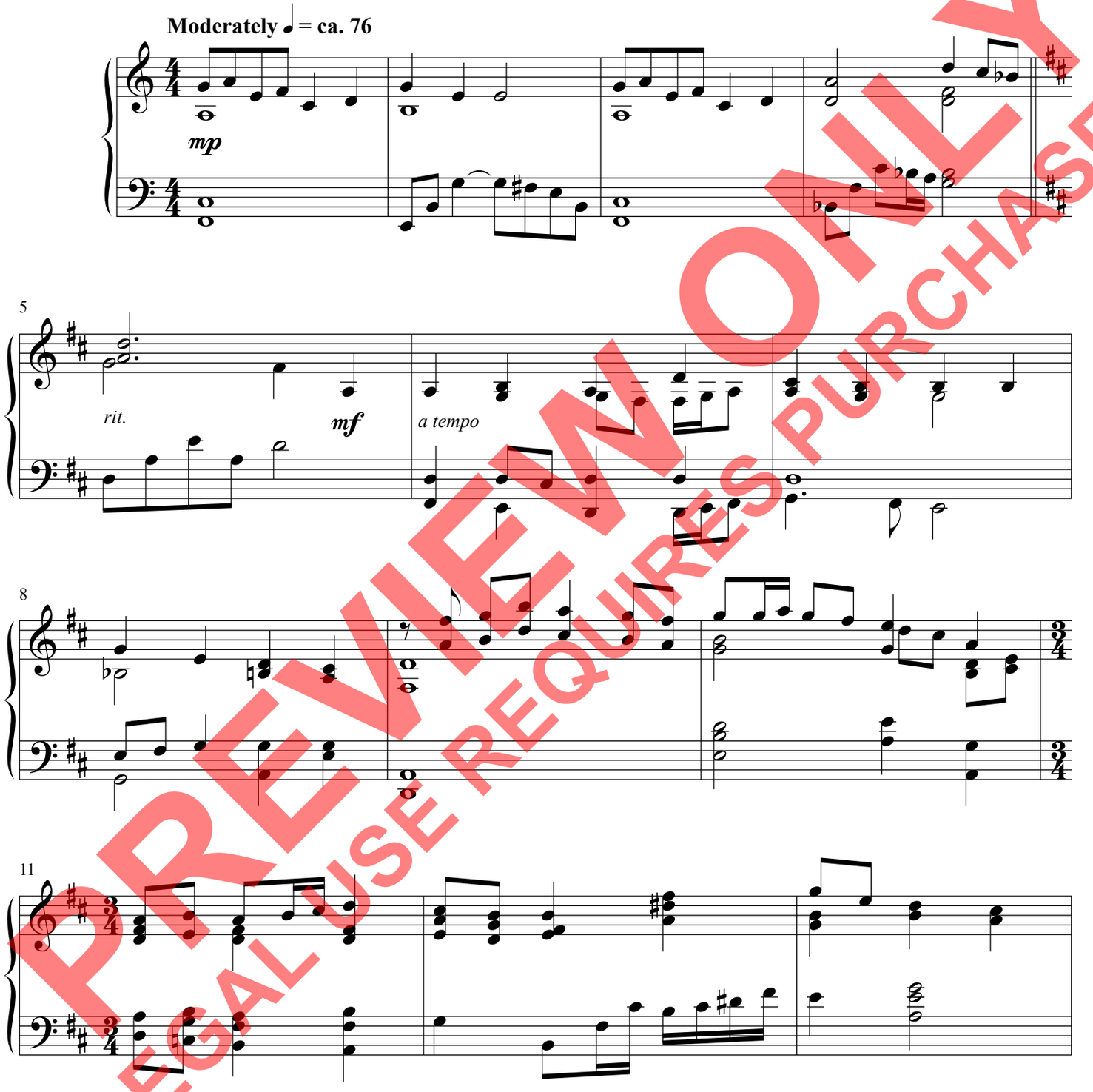
MY FAITH HAS FOUND A RESTING PLACE

Arranged by
STAN PETHEL

Tune: **LANDÅS**
by **WILLIAM J. KIRKPATRICK** *(1838-1921)*



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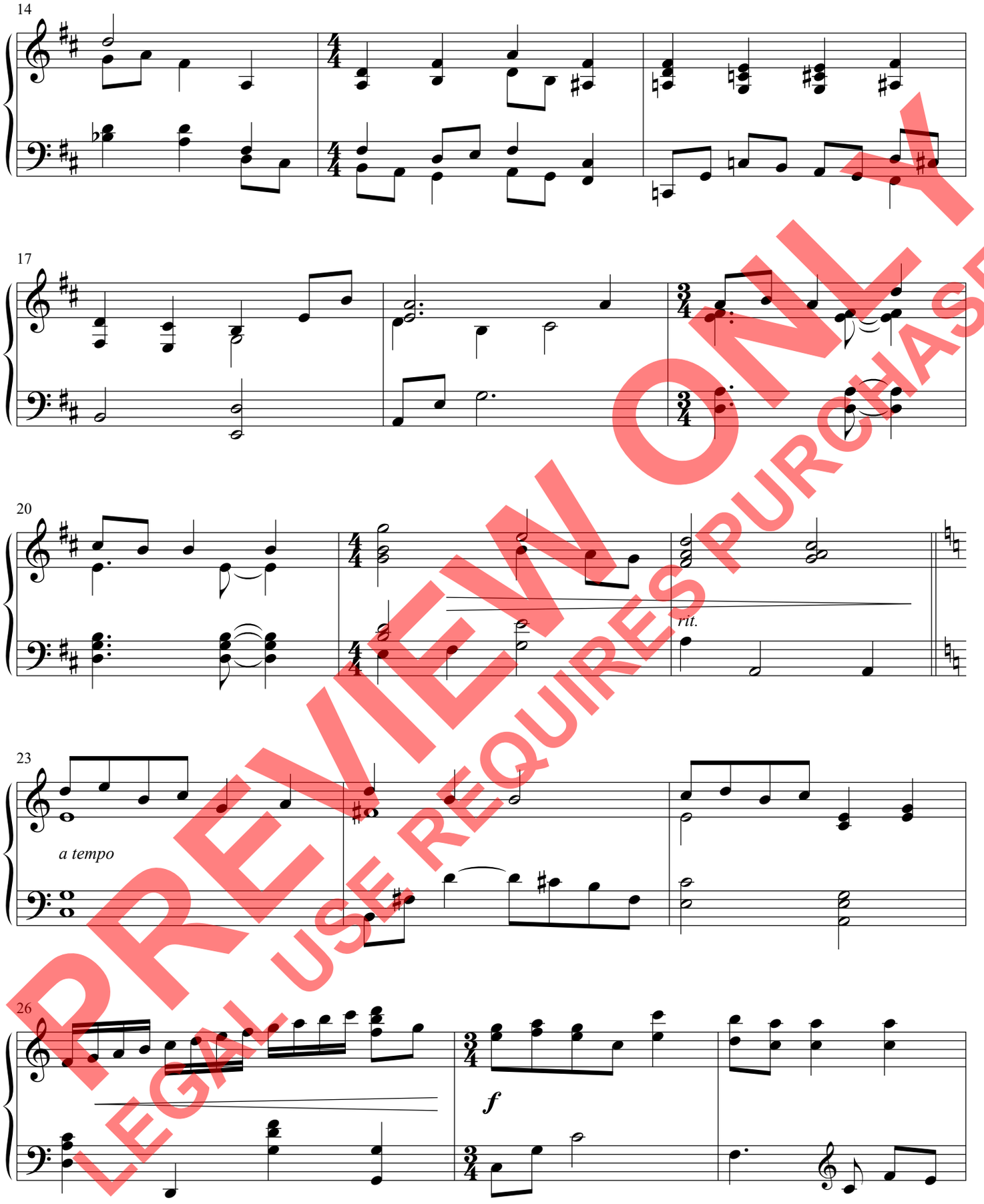

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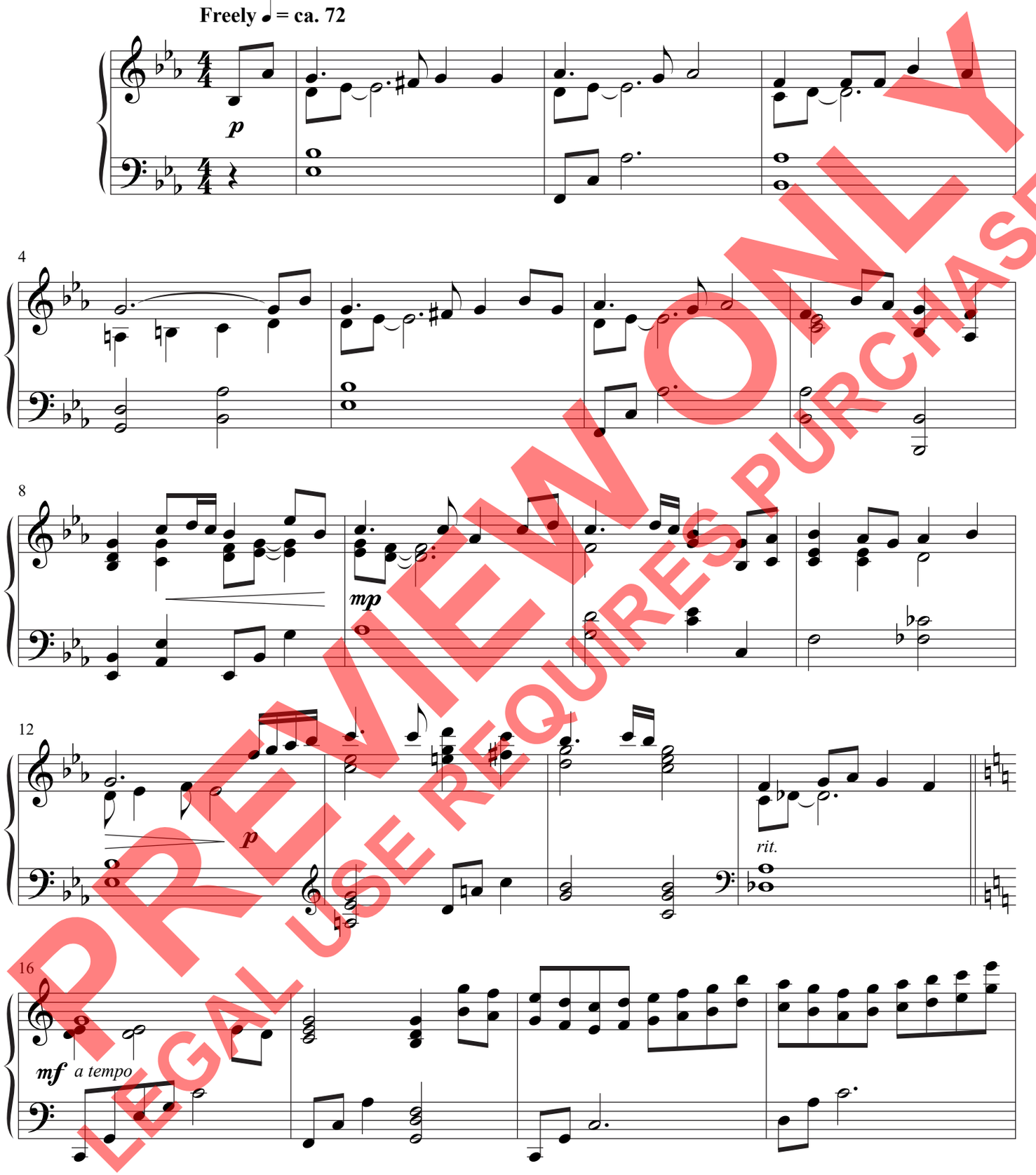
NEAR TO THE HEART OF GOD

Arranged by
STAN PETHEL

Tune: **McAFEE**
by **CLELAND B. McAFEE** *(1866-1944)*



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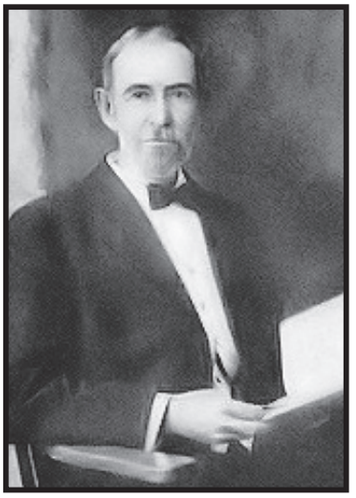
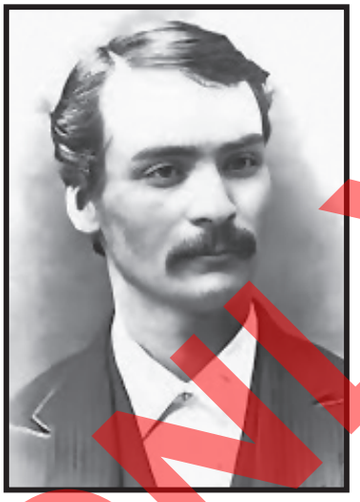
HIGHER GROUND

Words by Johnson Oatman, Jr. (1856-1922) ***Music by Charles H. Gabriel (1856-1932)***





I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining every day;
Still praying as I'm onward bound,
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

Refrain:

Lord, lift me up and let me stand,
By faith, on Heaven's tableland,
A higher plane than I have found;
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

I press toward the mark for the high calling of God in Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:14). This is the scriptural basis for the text of *Higher Ground.*

Johnson Oatman, a native of New Jersey, was ordained by the Methodist Episcopal Church and licensed to preach, though he never officially pastored a church. After working for his family's mercantile store, he decided to strike out on his own in the insurance business.

In his mid-thirties Johnson began writing gospel hymn lyrics with four or five texts per week. Reportedly he sold his written works for $1.00 each, which is about $37.00 (2024). Given the going rate at that time, Johnson wisely kept his day job.

From the coast to the heartland, Charles H. Gabriel was born and raised in Iowa. He remains one of the most popular church composers of the early 1900s. Charles was a gifted, prolific, and well-known composer and songwriter during the Billy Sunday-Homer Rodeheaver evangelistic crusade era from 1910 to 1920. In his autobiography *Sixty Years of Gospel Songs,* Charles stated that he sold this hymn, including the lyrics, for $5.00! We'll never know if Johnson Oatman received his $1.00 cut.

Higher Ground was first published in 1898 in a collection *Songs of Love and Praise* and the use of the hymn, especially in evangelistic settings, continues.

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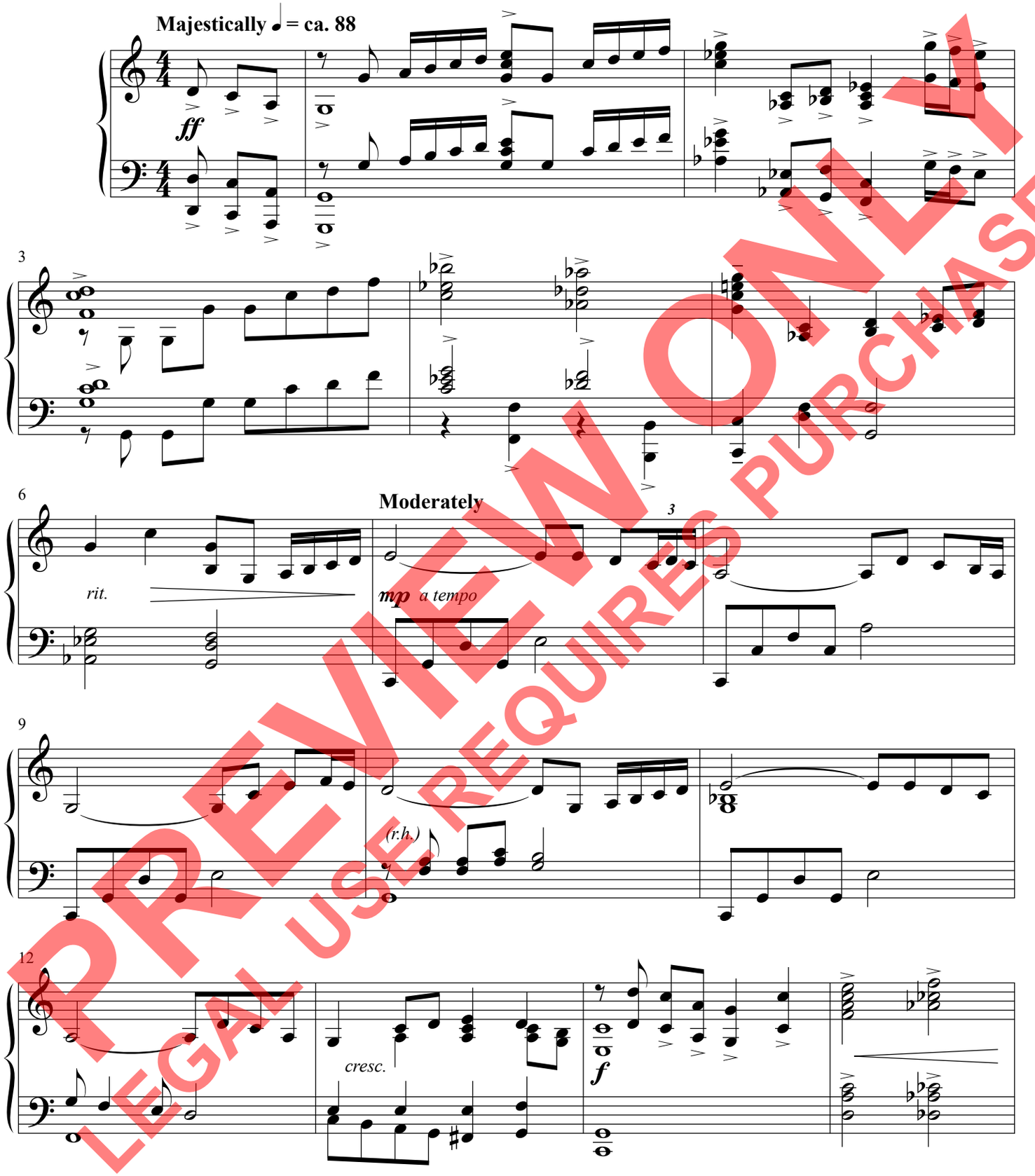
HIGHER GROUND

Arranged by
STAN PETHEL

Tune: **HIGHER GROUND**
by **CHARLES H. GABRIEL** *(1856-1932)*



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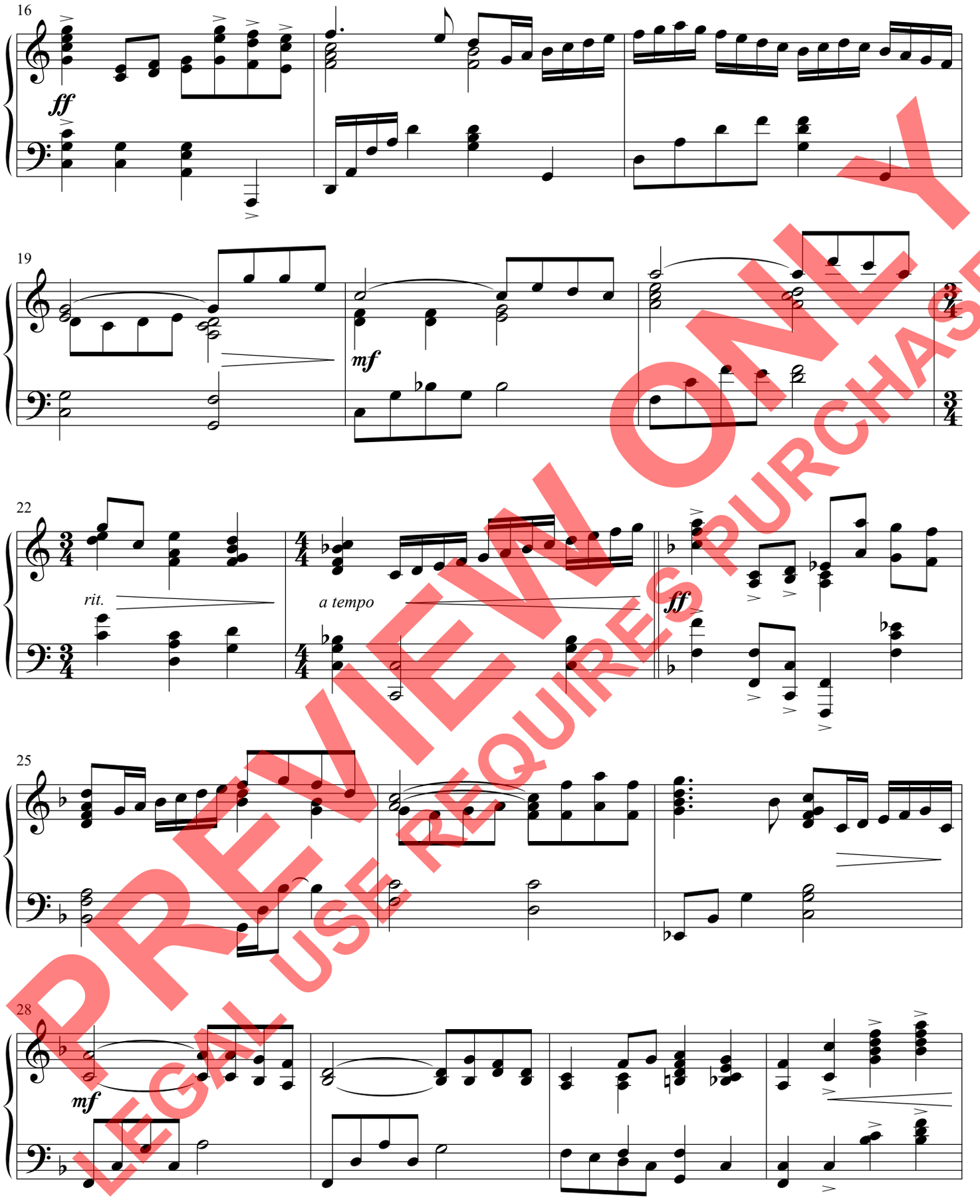

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BREAK THOU THE BREAD OF LIFE

Arranged by
STAN PETHEL

Tune: **BREAD OF LIFE**
by **WILLIAM F. SHERWIN** *(1826-1888)*

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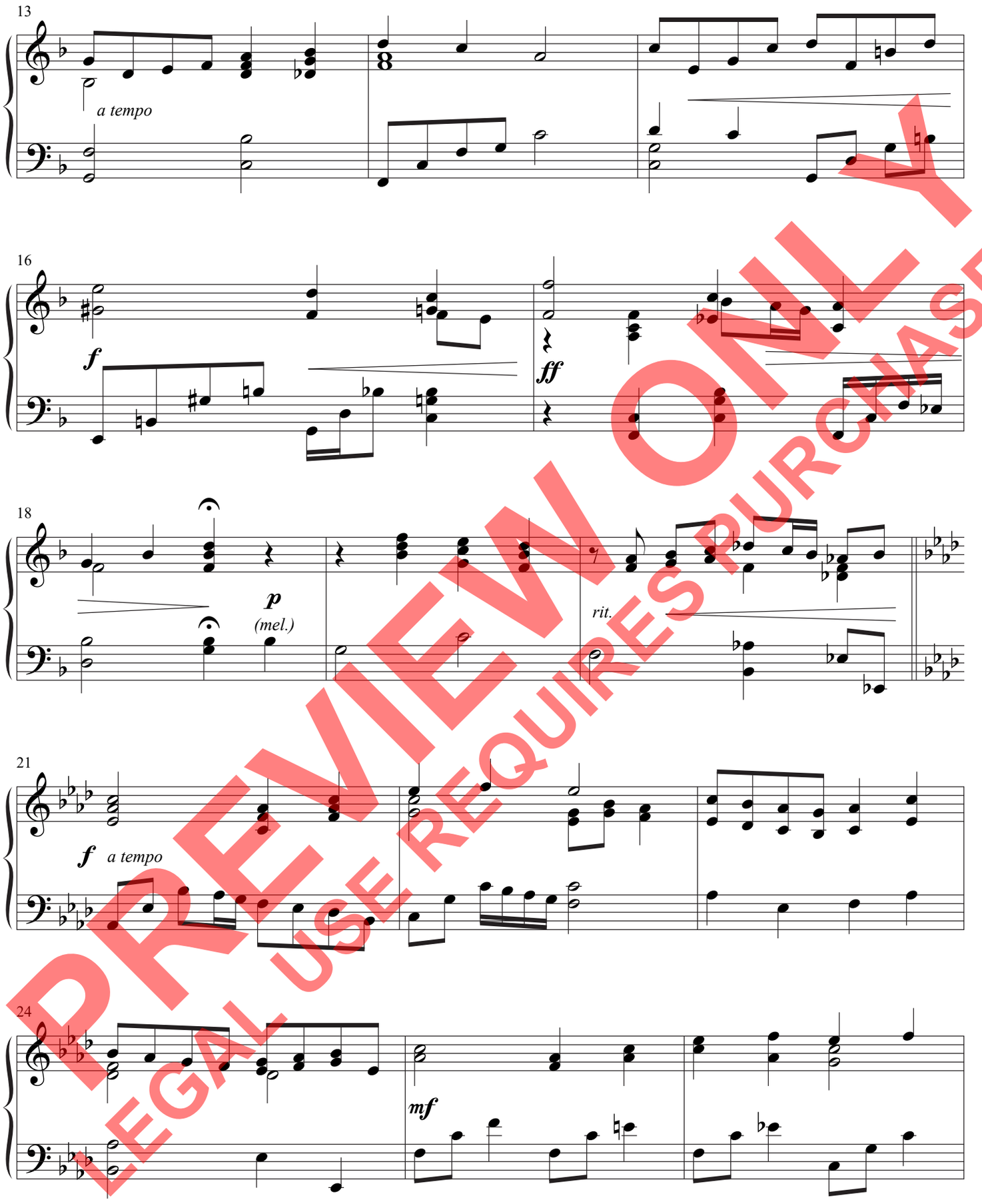

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HE LIFTED ME

Words and Music by Charles Gabriel (1856-1932)

In loving kindness Jesus came, My soul in mercy to reclaim,
And from the depths of sin and shame, Thro' grace He lifted me.

From sinking sand He lifted me,
With tender hand He lifted me,
From shades of night to plains of light,
O praise His name, He lifted me!

Charles H. Gabriel grew up in a prairie shanty in Iowa with a dream and a song in his heart. As a boy, he once told his mother he wanted to write a song that would make him famous. She replied, "My boy, I'd rather you write a song that helps someone than for you to become President of the United States."

That wish came true. Though he had no formal musical training, Gabriel became one of the most prolific and influential hymn writers of his time. His father, a church music leader, likely shaped his early love of worship music—a passion that would define his life's work.

Gabriel's songs, including "He Lifted Me," found national prominence through Billy Sunday's evangelistic crusades, led musically by Homer Rodeheaver. Rodeheaver, founder of the era's leading church music publisher, helped bring Gabriel's work into churches across the country. So prolific was Gabriel that he occasionally wrote under the pseudonym Charlotte G. Homer—perhaps a playful nod to his collaborator.

Beyond writing hymns, Gabriel edited numerous songbooks for Sunday schools and choirs, including anthems and seasonal cantatas. Though self-taught, his music continues to uplift hearts and voices more than a century later—just as his mother hoped it would.

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HE LIFTED ME

Arranged by
STAN PETHEL

Tune: **HE LIFTED ME**
by **CHARLES H. GABRIEL** *(1856-1932)*

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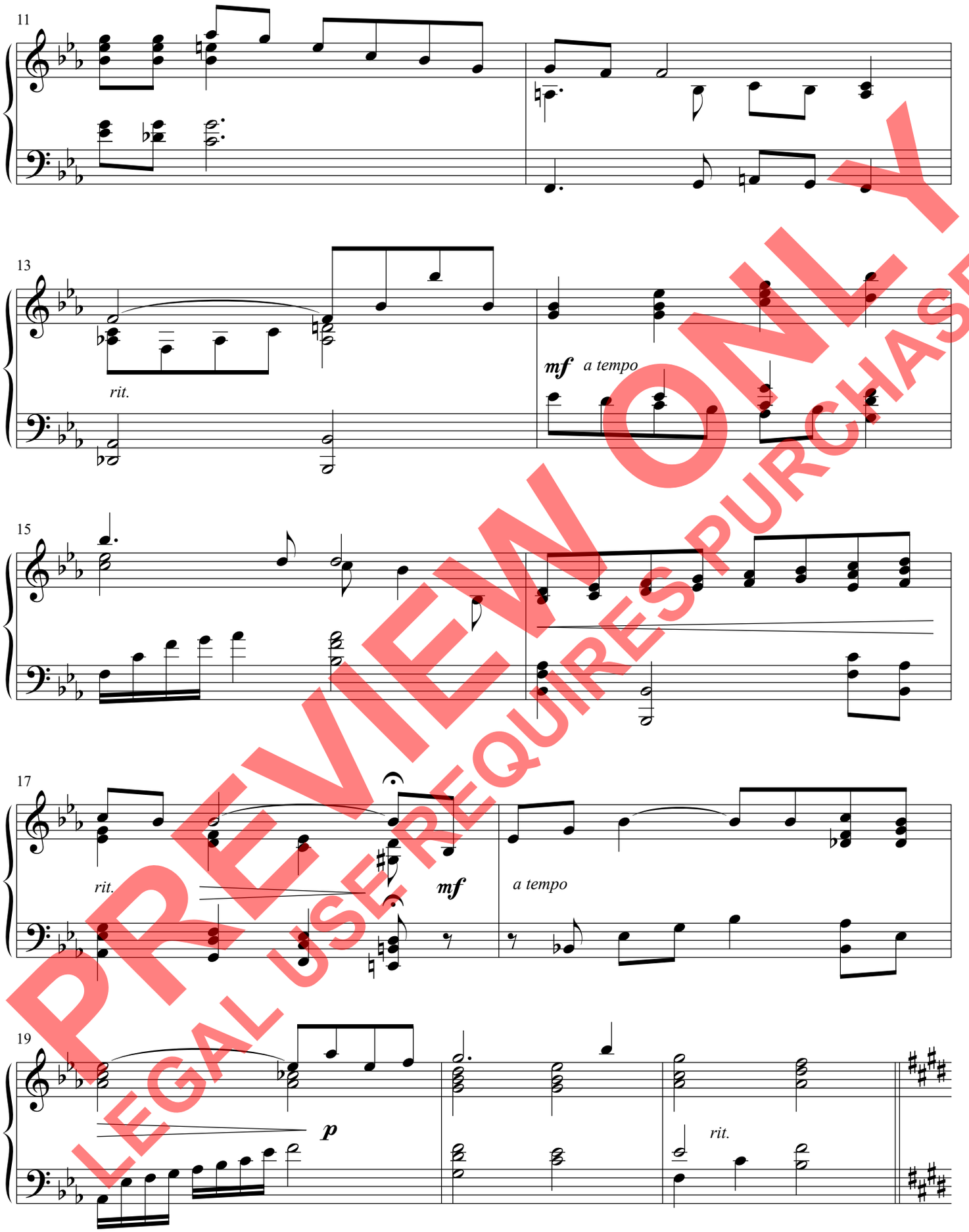

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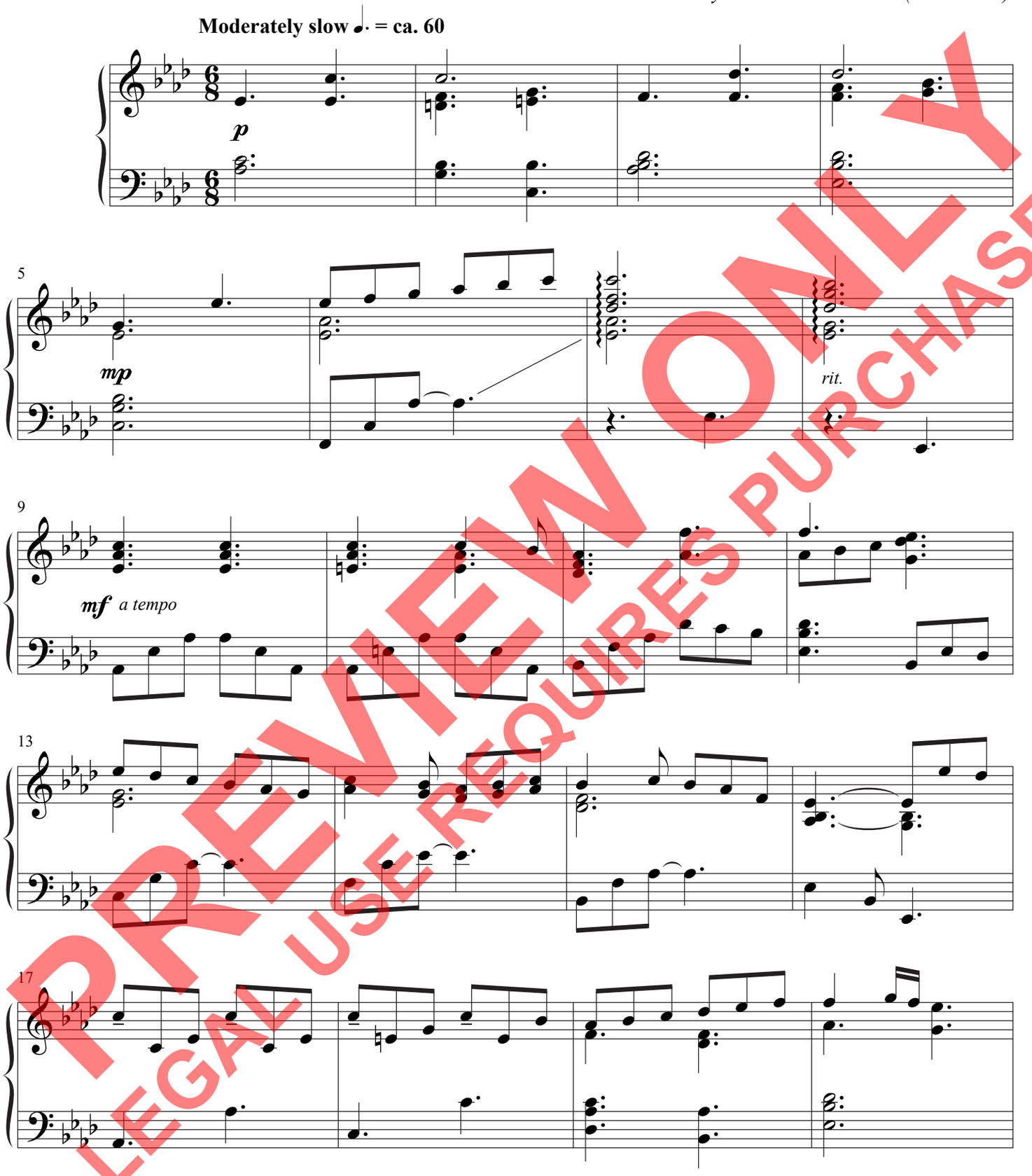
FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

Arranged by
STAN PETHEL

Tune: **FOOTSTEPS**
by **ASA B. EVERETT** *(1828-1875)*



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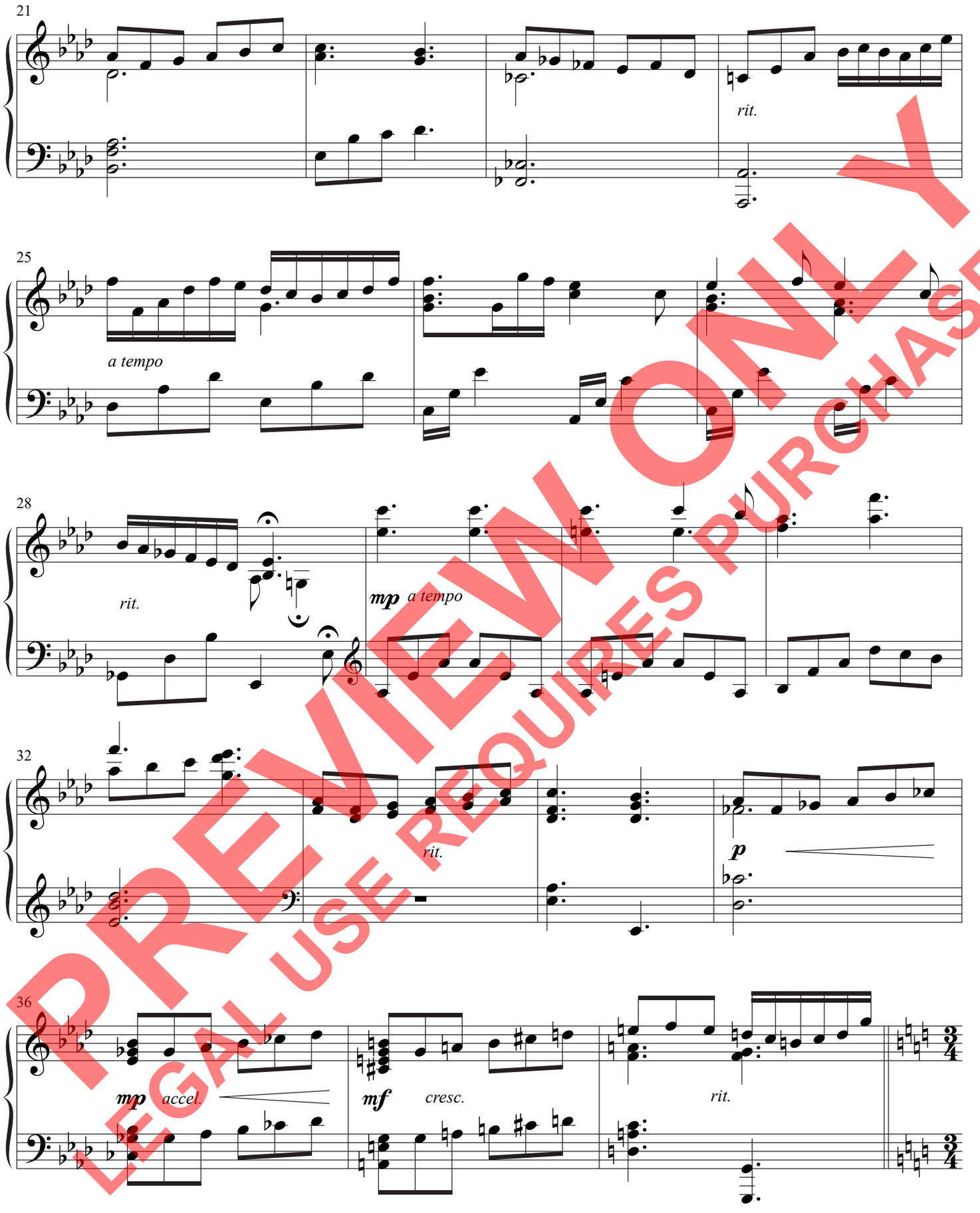

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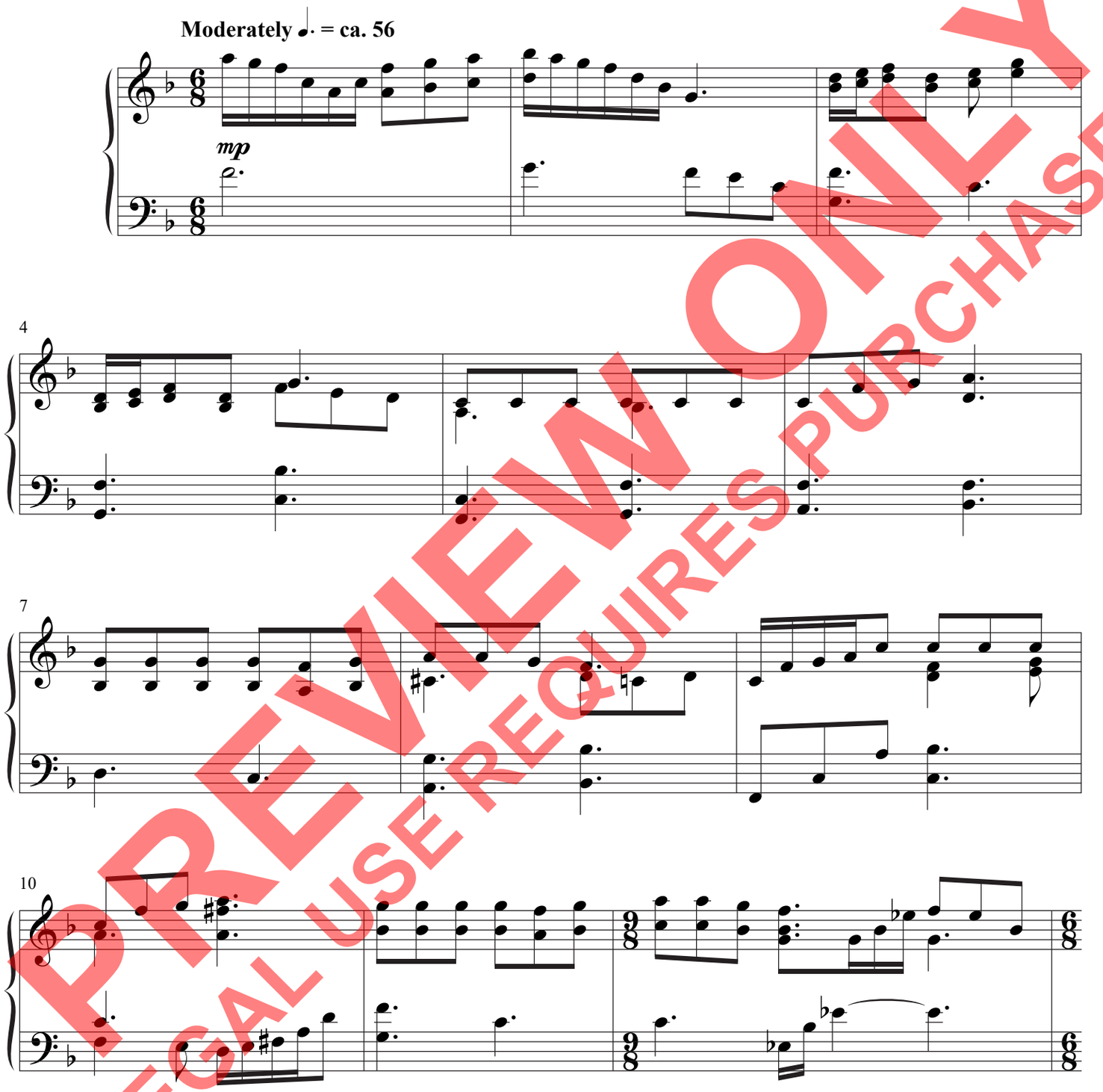
JESUS LOVES EVEN ME

Arranged by
STAN PETHEL

Tune: **GLADNESS**
by **PHILLIP P. BLISS** *(1838-1876)*



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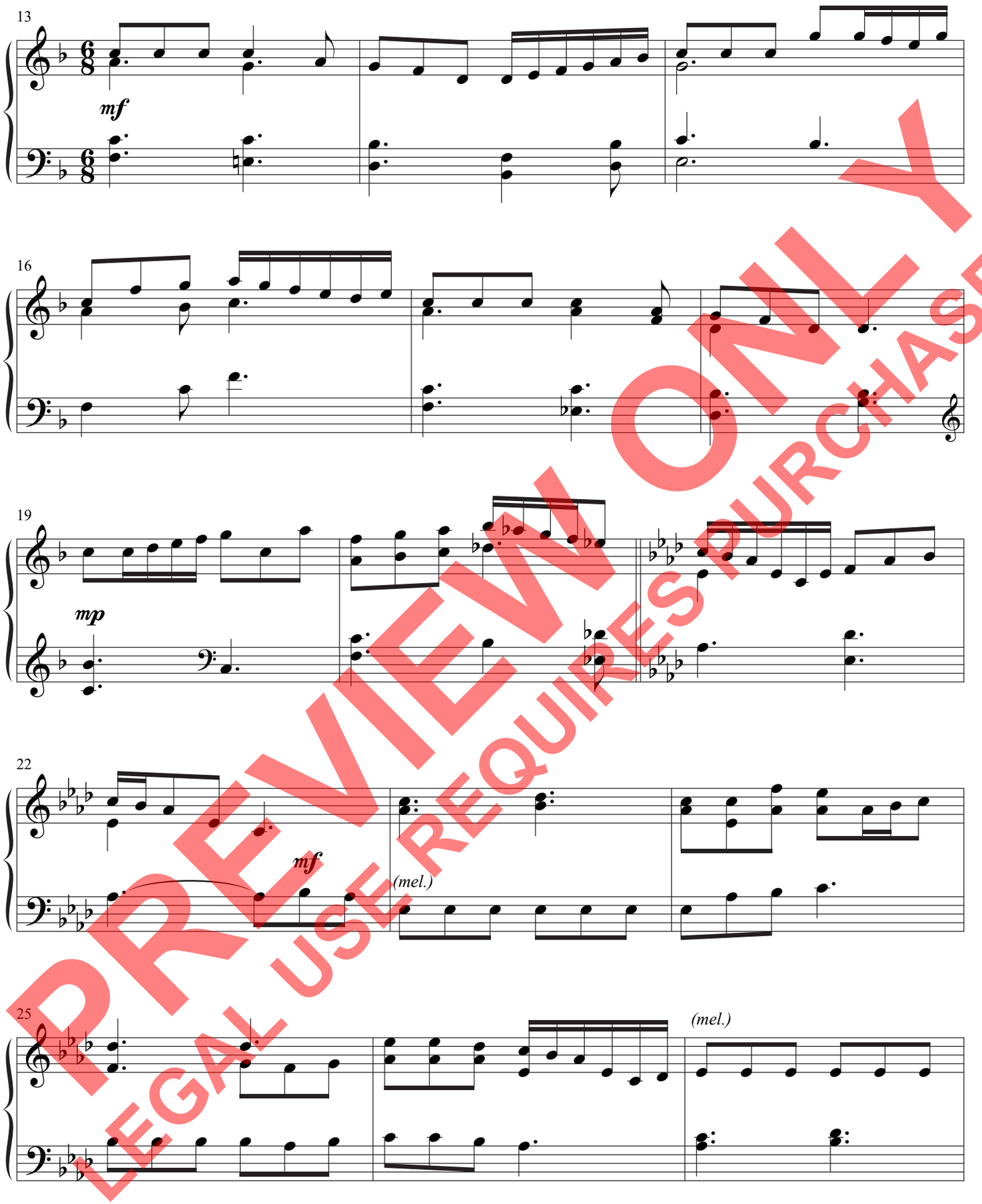

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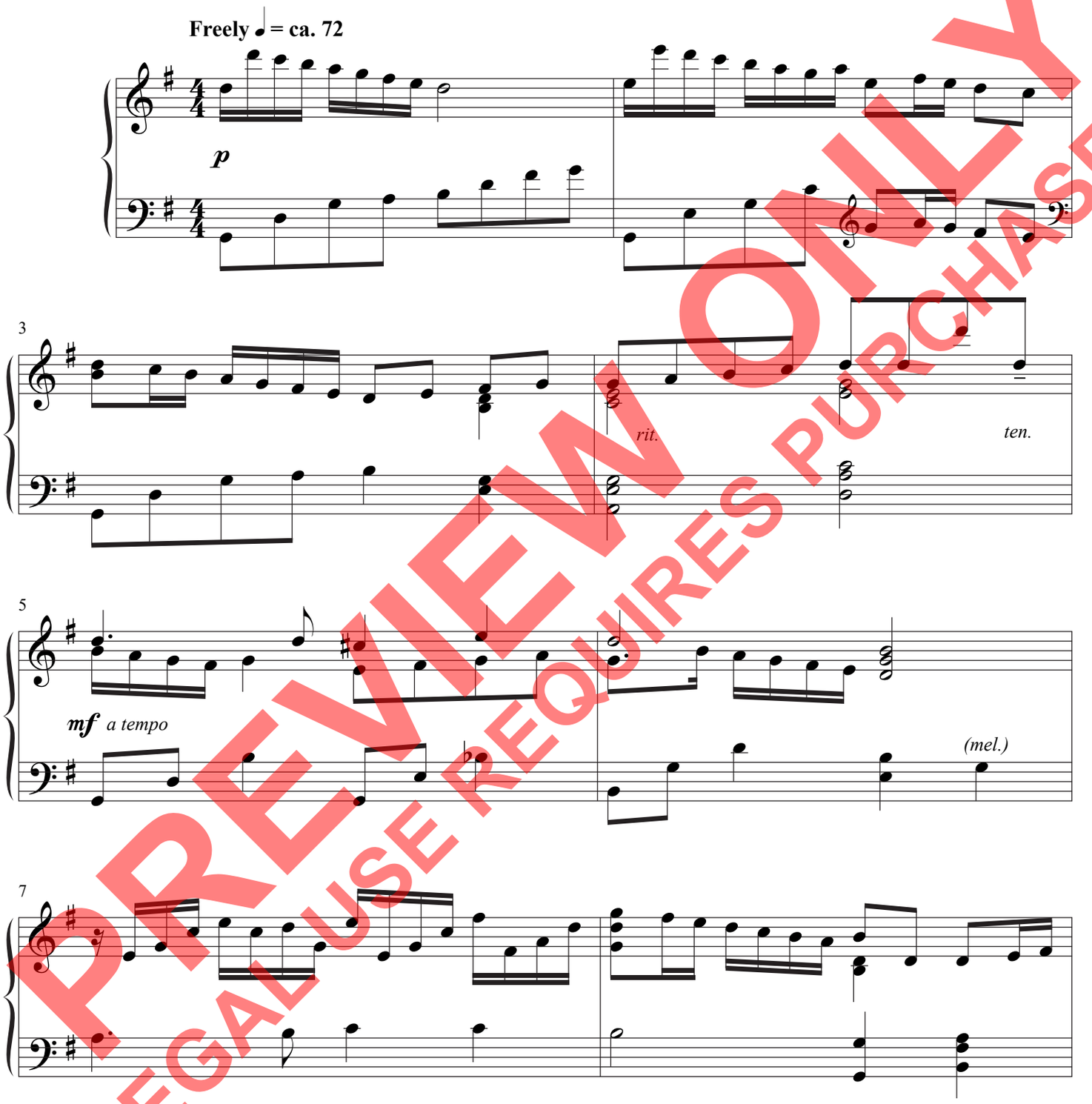
BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS

Arranged by
STAN PETHEL

Tune: **ST. CHRISTOPHER**
by **FREDERICK C. MAKER** *(1844-1927)*



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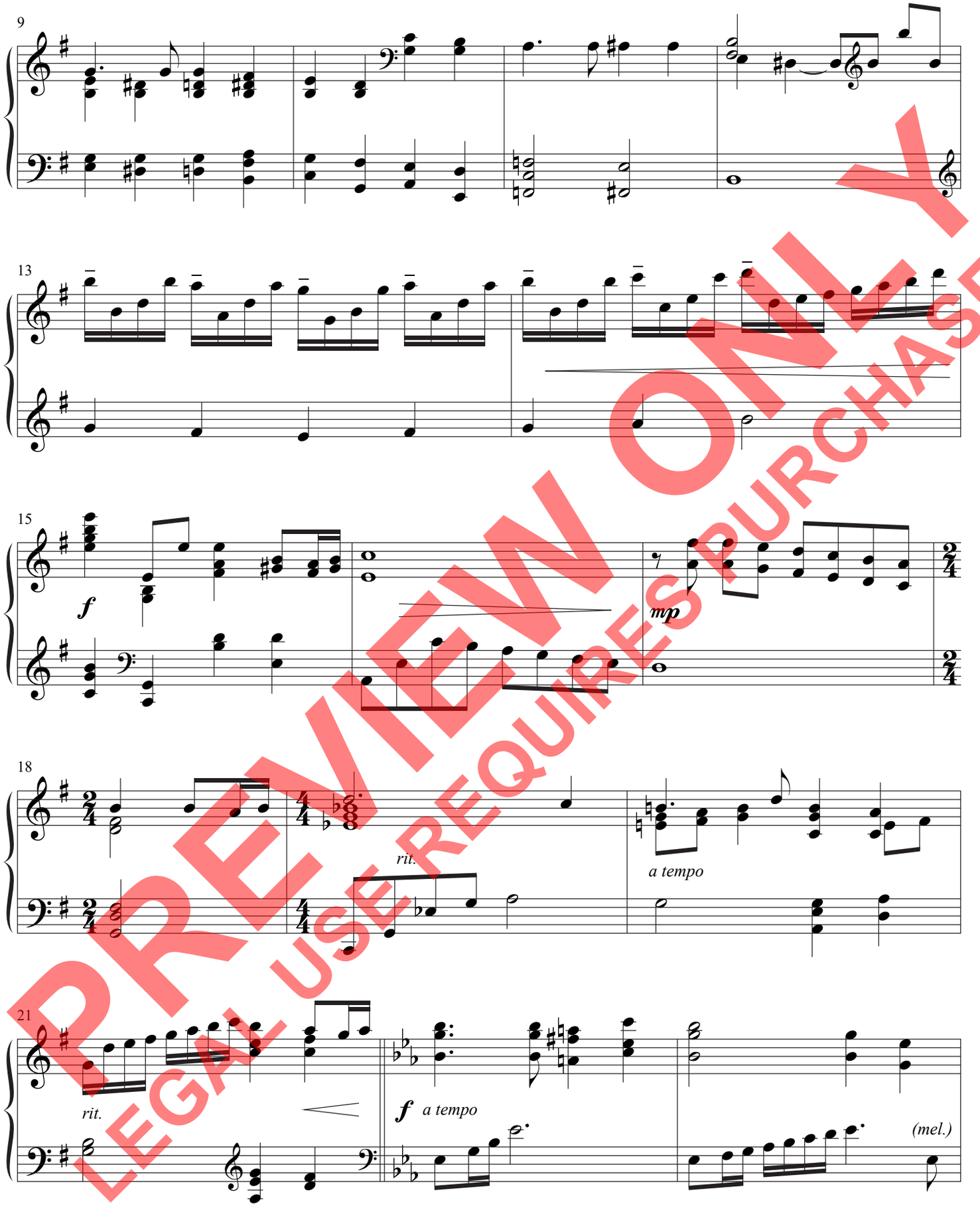

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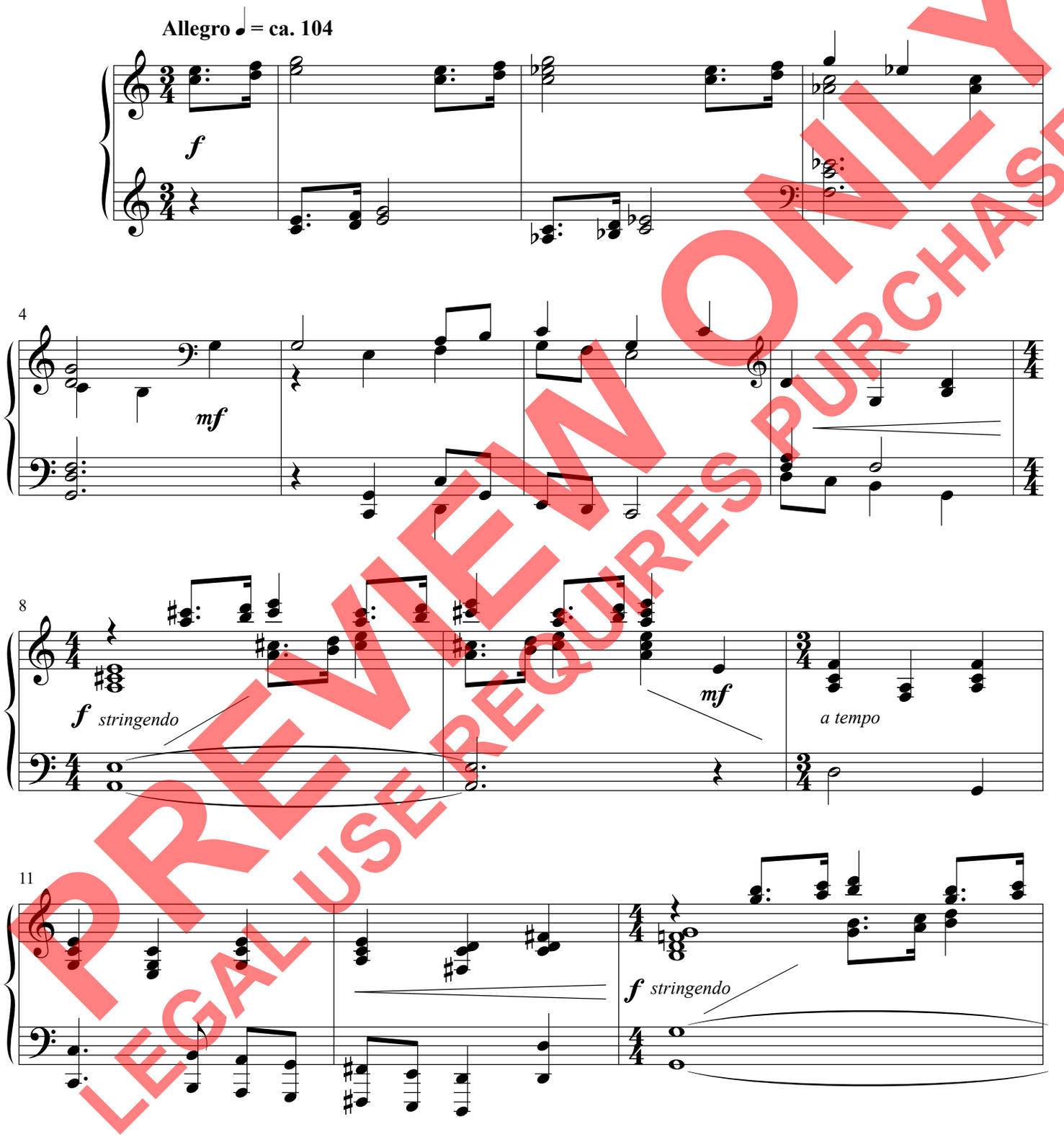
TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Arranged by
STAN PETHEL

Tune: **TO GOD BE THE GLORY**
by **WILLIAM H. DOANE** *(1832-1915)*



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