A Star, a Stable, a Song

A Christmas Musical for Children

By Ruth Elaine Schram

ALSO AVAILABLE:

JMG1623 . . . . . .Director's Kit
JMG1624 . . . . . Listening CD
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A STAR, A STABLE, A SONG

A "Musical in a Moment" for Children

By Ruth Elaine Schram

CAST

Mary – older female
Joseph – older male
Stable Animals (the choir) – all dressed in various animal costumes.

COSTUMES

There are several online sources for children's animal costumes, or you can decorate ballcaps or headbands with ears of various barn animals. You can use the full costumes or wear matching tee shirts and jeans. Feel free to use costumes as simple or as authentic as you desire.

SCENE / SETTING / STAGE DIRECTIONS

Singers in animal costumes progress to the stage / platform and assemble around a manger in a "Stable" setting. Mary and Joseph should sit on either side of the manger, with a baby (doll) on the hay or in Mary's arms. If possible, a light should be shining on the baby in the manger, or on Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus. Hay may be scattered about or just implied. If you have a balustrade, you could drape it with burlap or use it to support cardboard or particle board partitions to make it look like the stalls of the animals. Feel free to make the set as simple or as authentic as you desire.

For further set decoration, you can hang a large star where the singers can look at it, point to it, etc. Or you can project a star on the wall. Or the choir may simply imagine a large, bright star at a determined point.

DIALOGUE

The phrases of dialogue may be divided among the singers as suggested, or you may divide the lines as you desire among the singers. It could also be done by a narrator as the animals pantomime motions in reaction to the narrator (such as pointing to the star and whispering or motioning to one another).

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FANFARE

Incorporating "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

Words by **CHARLES WESLEY**

Arranged by **RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM** (ASCAP)
Tune: **MENDELSSOHN**
by **FELIX MENDELSSOHN**

Voice 1: I've never seen a night like this!

Voice 2: Or a star as bright as this!

Voice 3: The shine, the sparkle, and the size – Can we really believe our eyes?

Voice 4: In the ancient book of Numbers, the prophet said a Star will come.*

Voice 5: A Scepter will rise – that means a King! Do you think that's what is happening?

Voice 6: The Psalmist said, "The heavens declareThe glory of God." ** It's everywhere!

Voice 7: This star must surely be a sign.

ALL: This star must surely be a sign!



* Numbers 24:17
** Psalm 19:1

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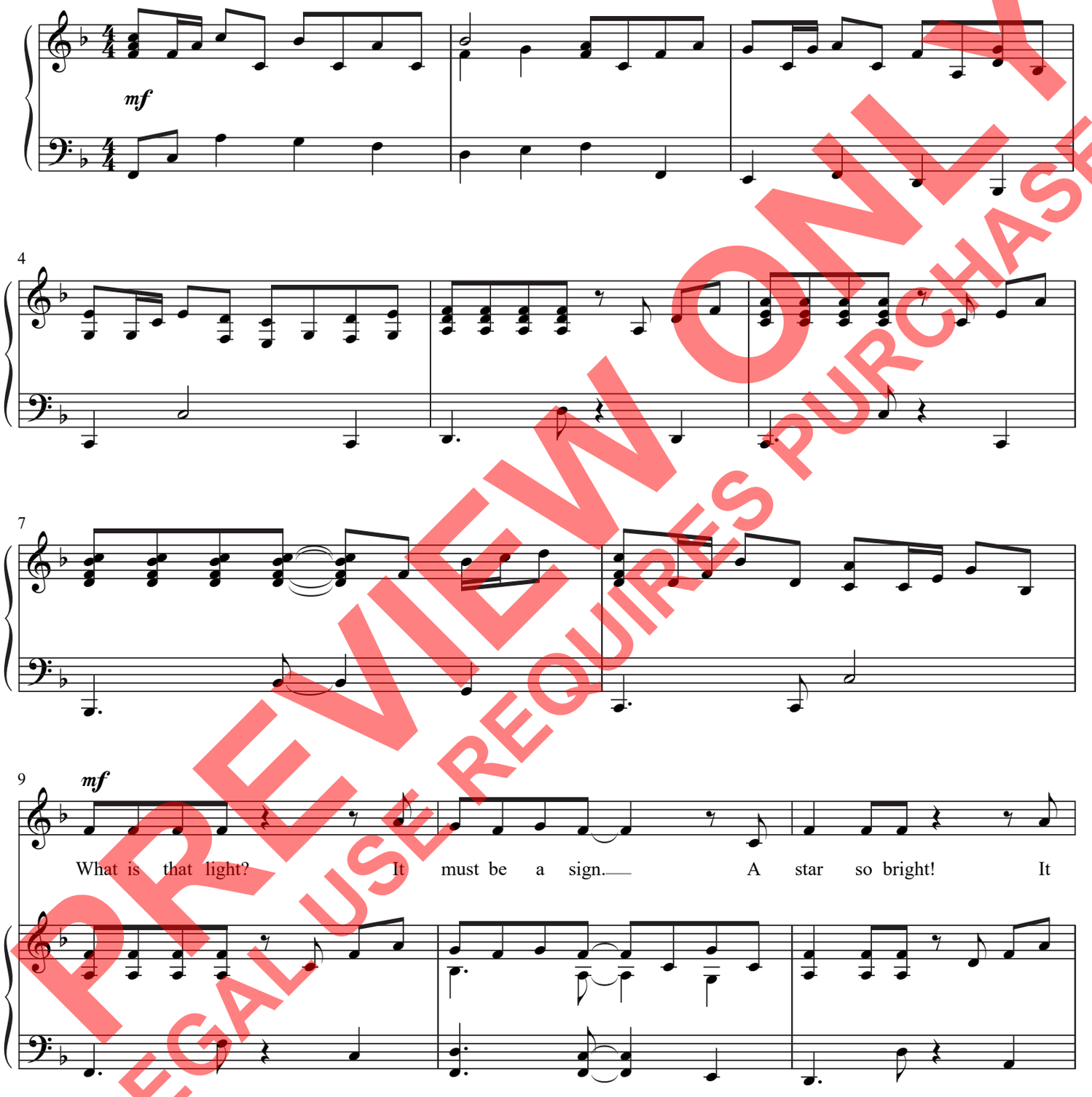
WHAT IS THAT LIGHT?

Incorporating "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Words by **JOHN F. WADE**
Translated by **FREDERICK OAKELEY** *and others*

Words and Music by **RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM** (ASCAP)
Tune: **ADESTE FIDELES**
by **JOHN F. WADE**

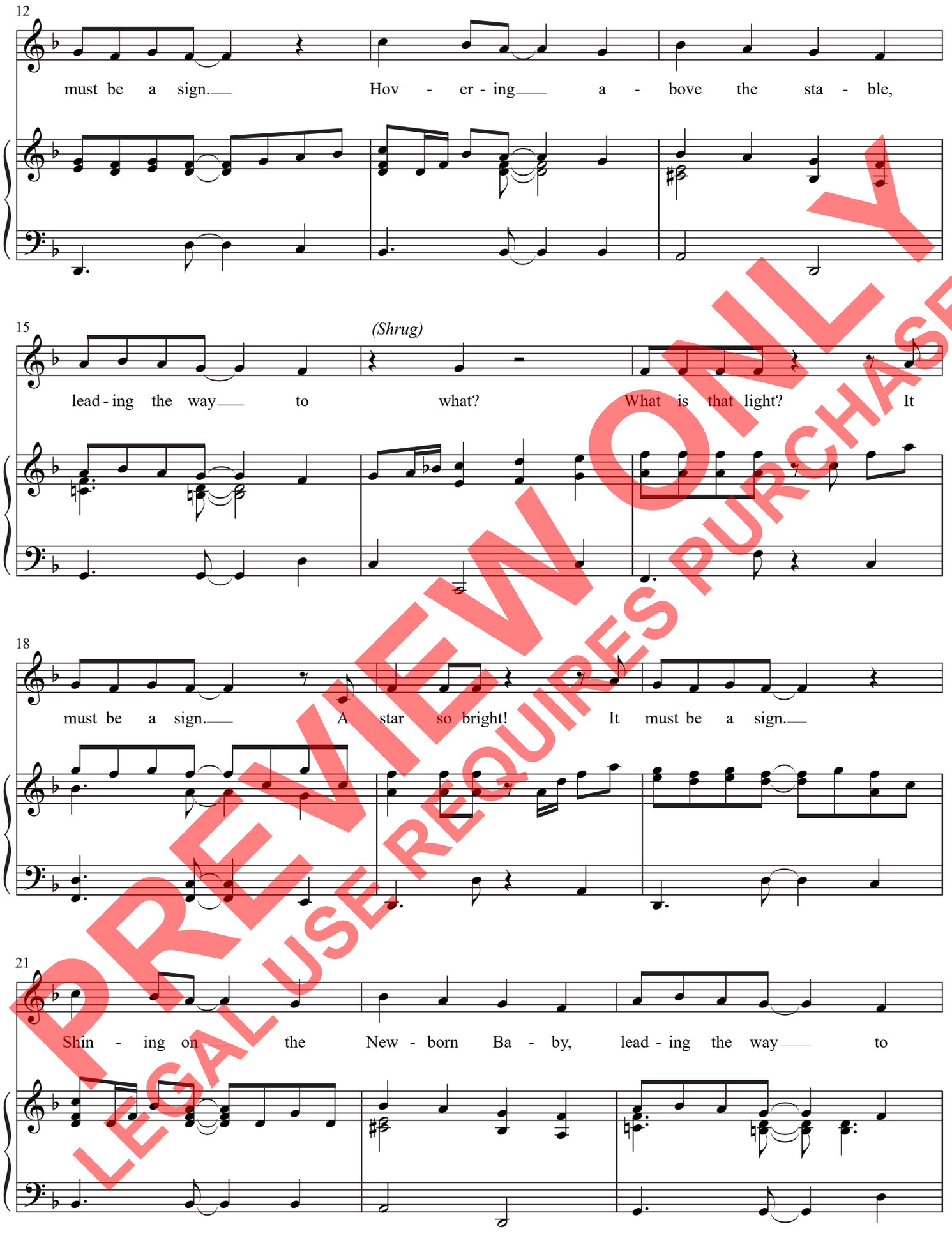
With excitement (♩ = 124) (Island Feel)



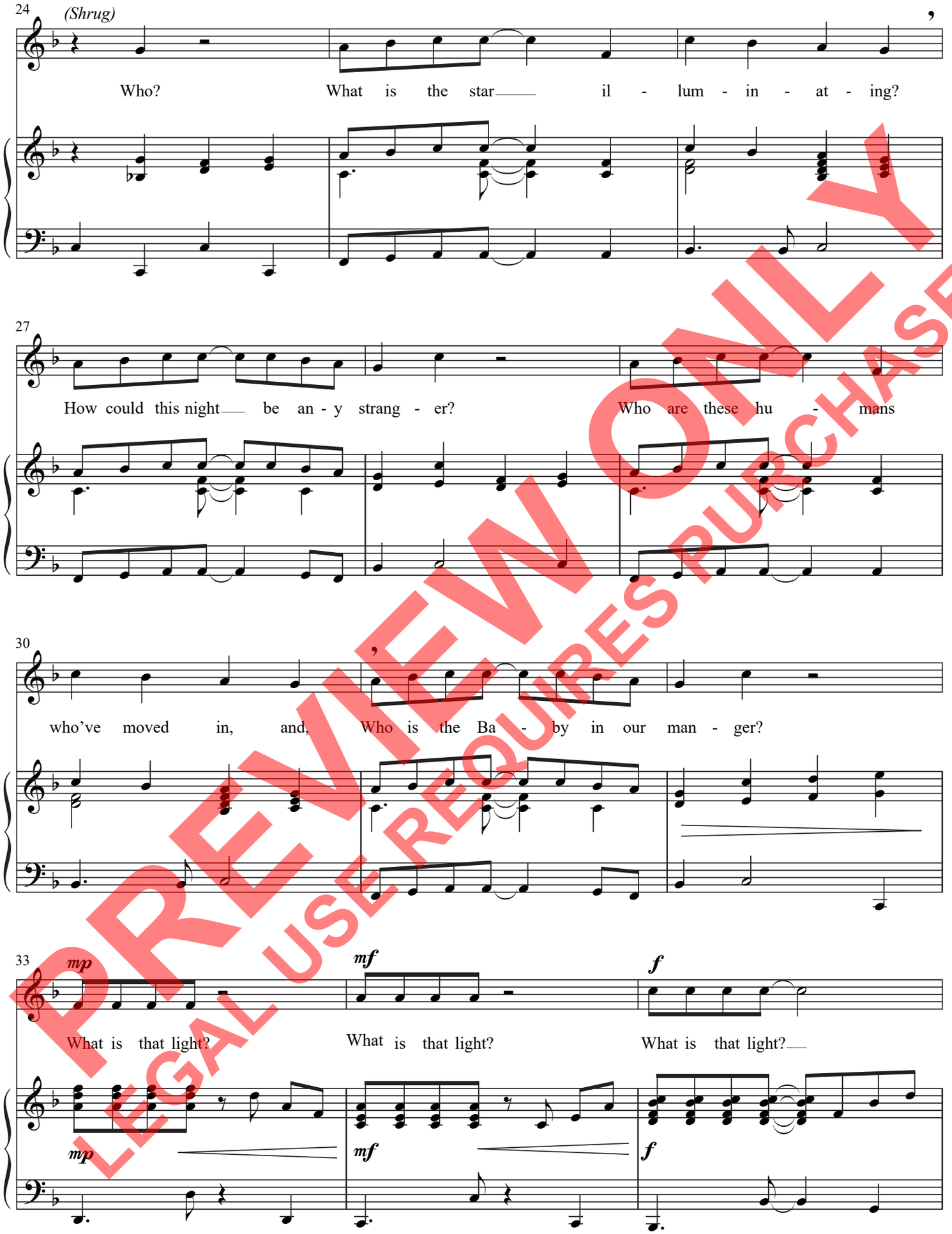
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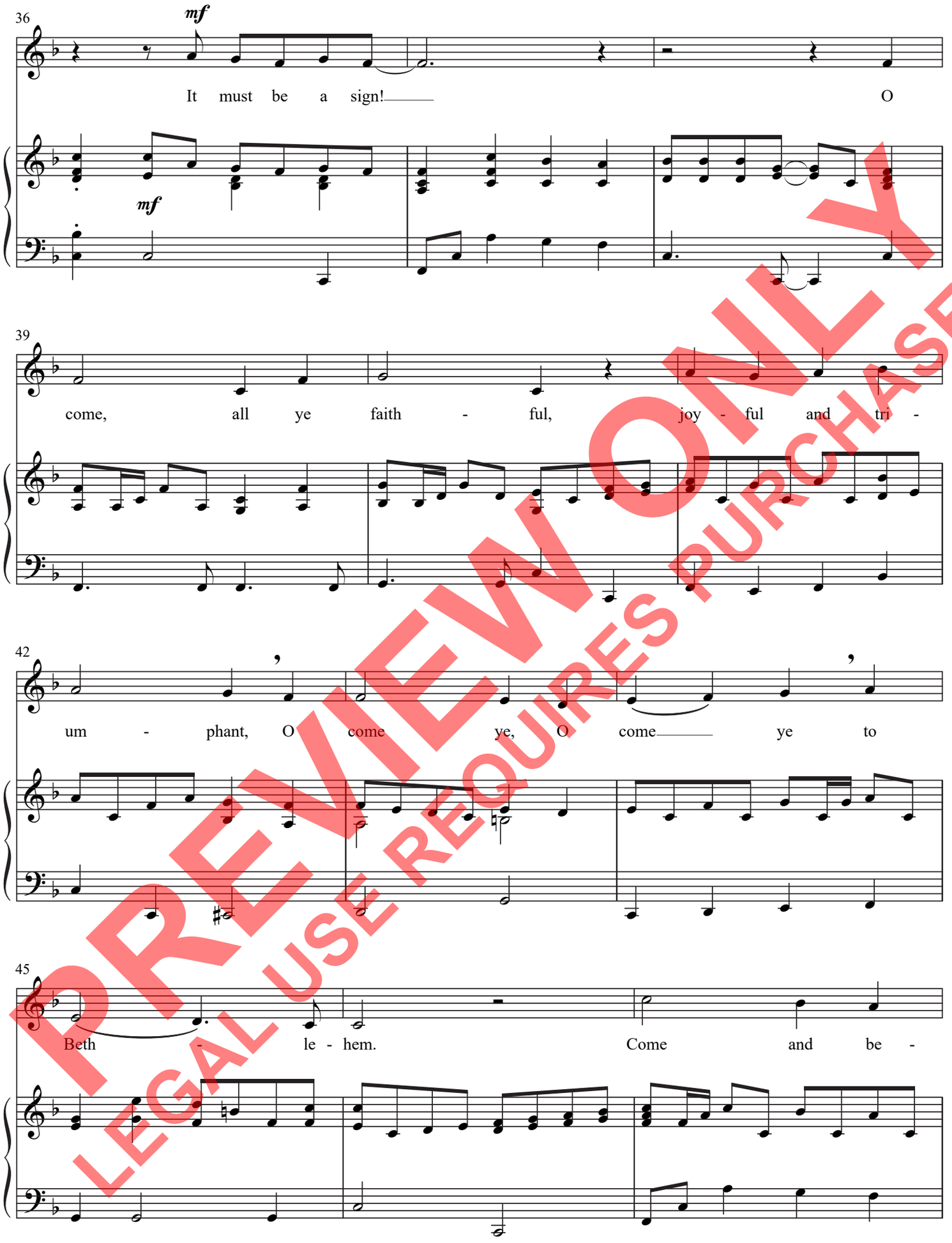
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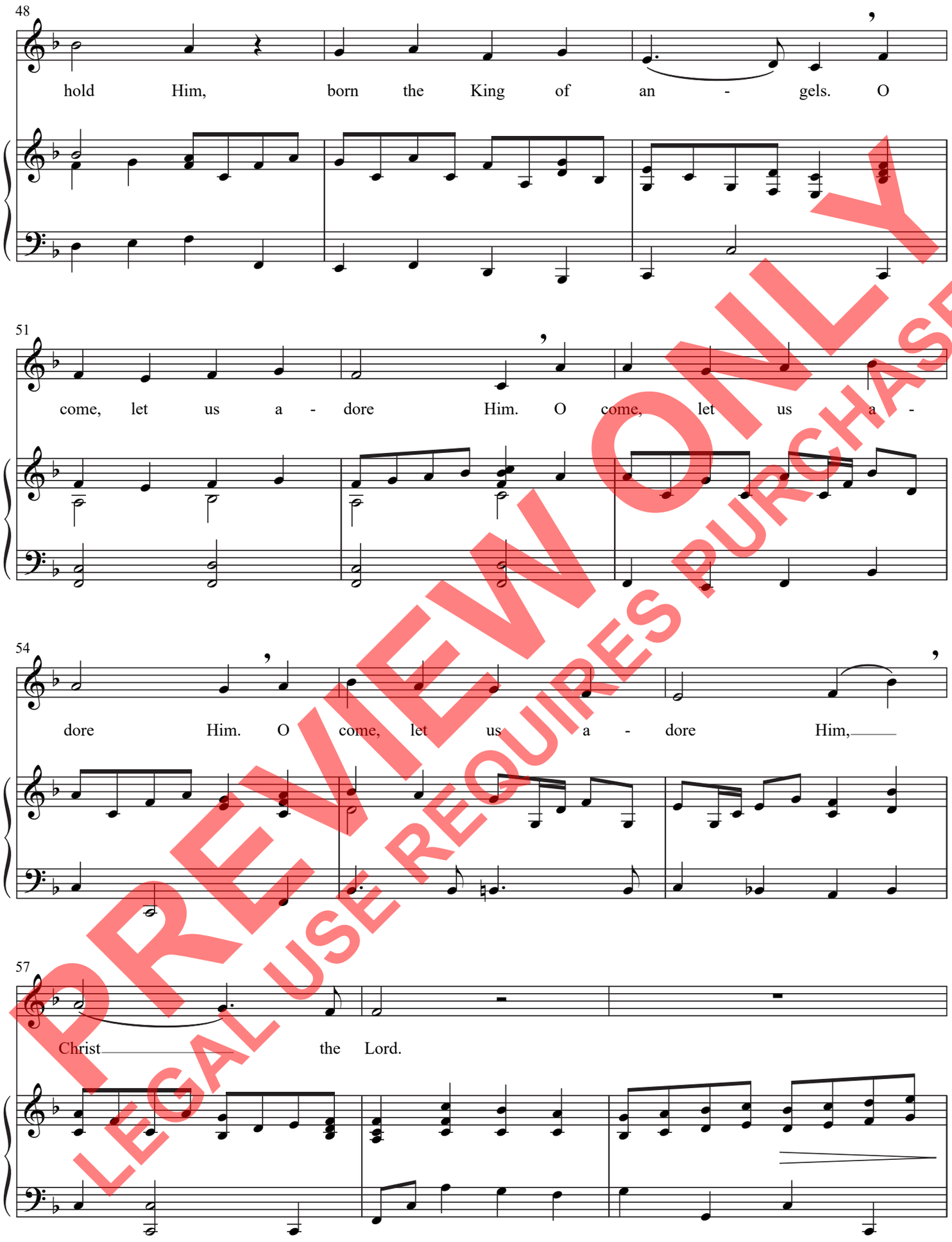
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Voice 1: Angels are singing the glorious news, of peace, good will to all.
Shepherds are crossing the dusty hills to greet this Child so small.

Voice 2: People are coming from near and far to see this Tiny Boy,
kneeling to worship and welcome Him; their faces are full of joy!

Voice 3: People are praising the Lord above, for Jesus is God's own Son.
Here in OUR stable, in OUR humble home, the Savior, the Promised One!

Voice 4: The star is shining up above, so beautiful, big and bright.
But this Baby sent from heaven; HE is the Real, True Light.

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ON THEIR WAY TO BETHLEHEM

Incorporating "The First Nowell"

Words: **Traditional English Carol**

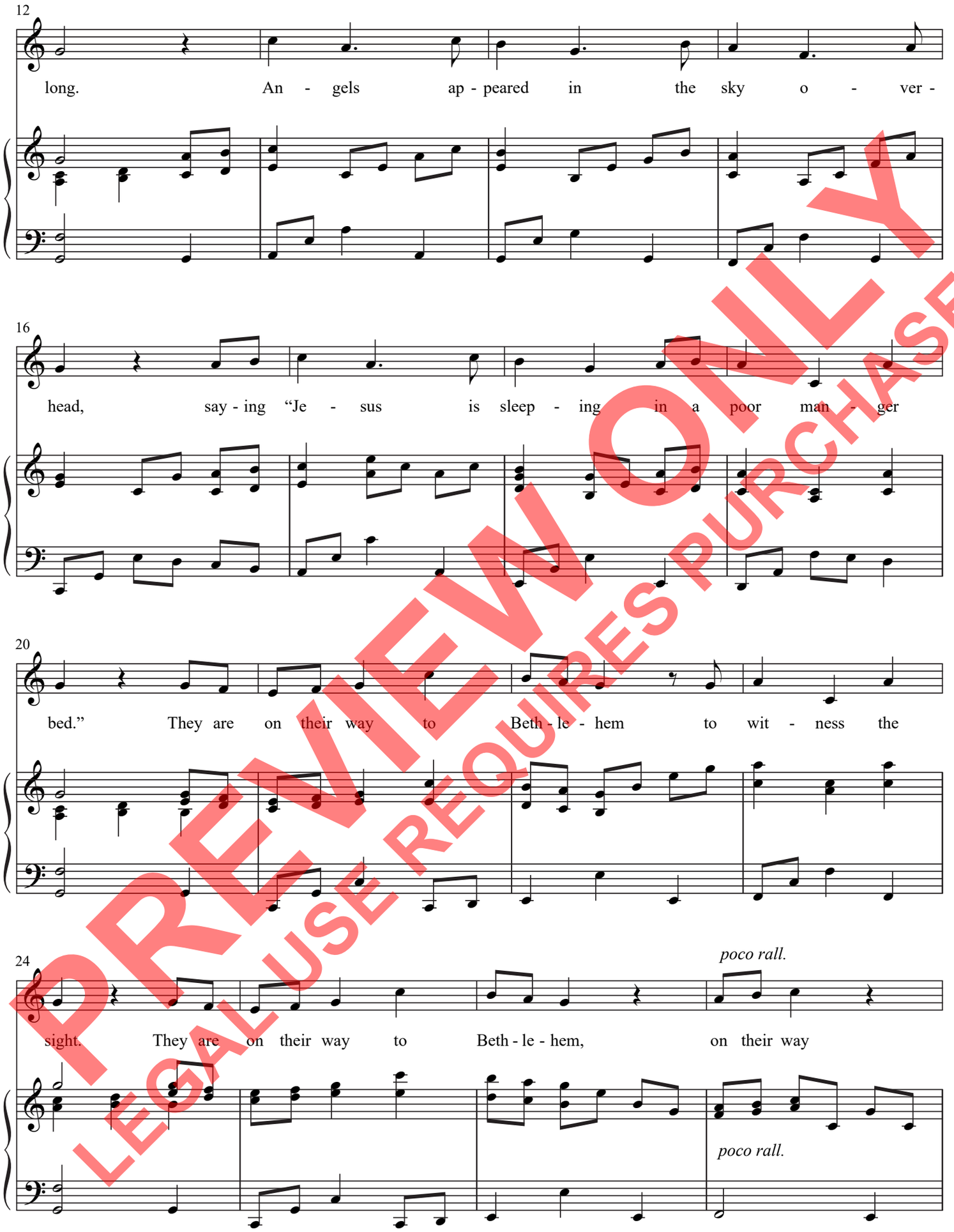
Words and Music by **Ruth Elaine Schram** (ASCAP)
Tune: **THE FIRST NOWELL**
(Traditional English Melody)



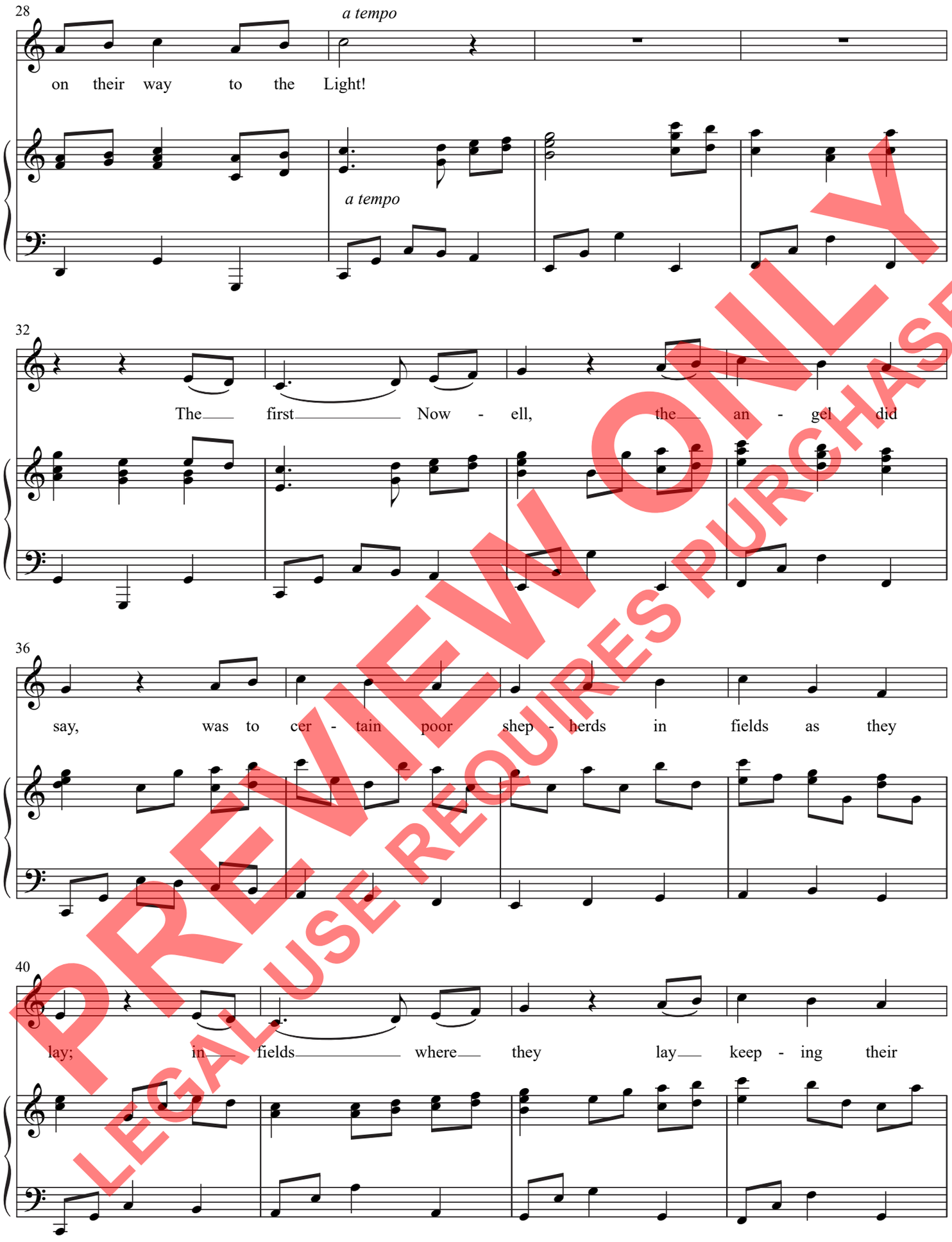
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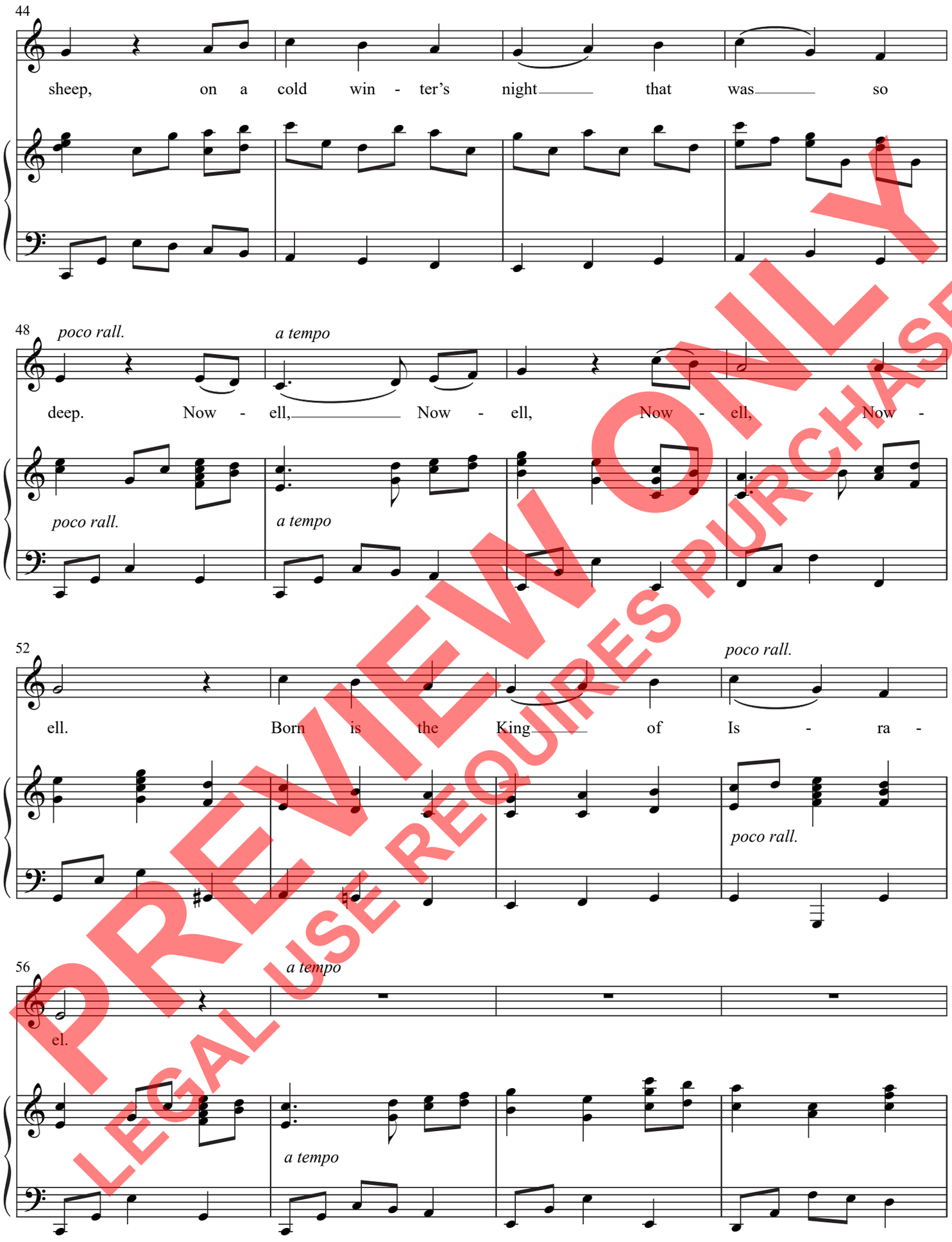
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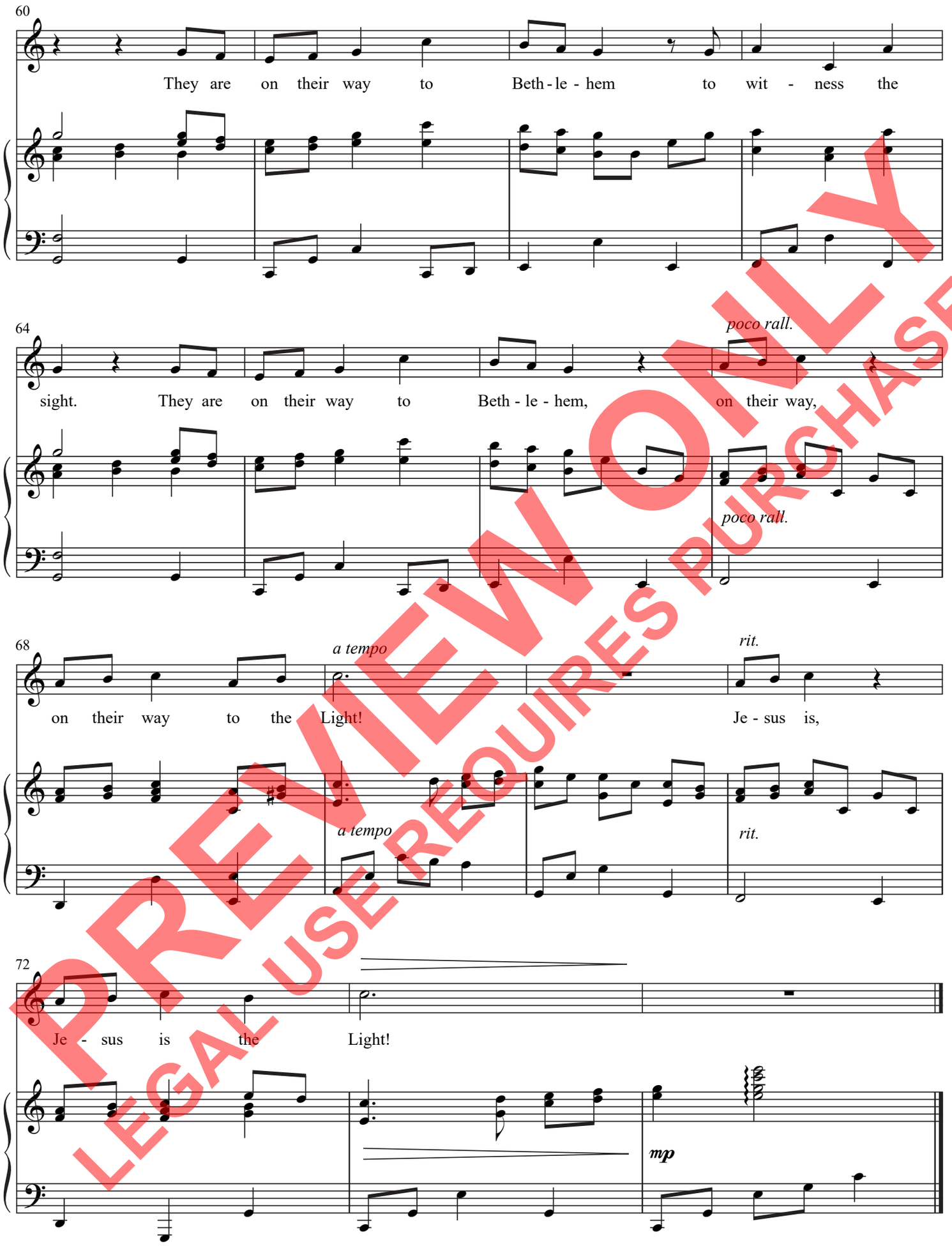
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Voice 1: I wonder why God chose THIS place, this home to lambs and sheep,
This home to donkeys and an ox where critters crawl and creep?

Voice 2: I wonder why God chose THIS place, that's filled with scratchy hay,
Where gentle Mary laid her Child, and Joseph knelt to pray?

Voice 3: I wonder why God chose THIS place, that shines with starry light,
To be the birthplace of the King this wondrous, holy night.

Voice 4: Perhaps it was to make it clear that Jesus came to be
our Savior, sent for ALL the world, for you, for us - for me.

(If desired, have animals remove their headdresses.)

Voice 5: *(Shyly)* I'm really not a lamb*, you know…

Voice 6: *(Sheepishly)* And I'm really not a sheep.

Voice 5 & 6: Jesus came for everyone!

ALL: For you, for us – for me!

**Or however this child is dressed.*

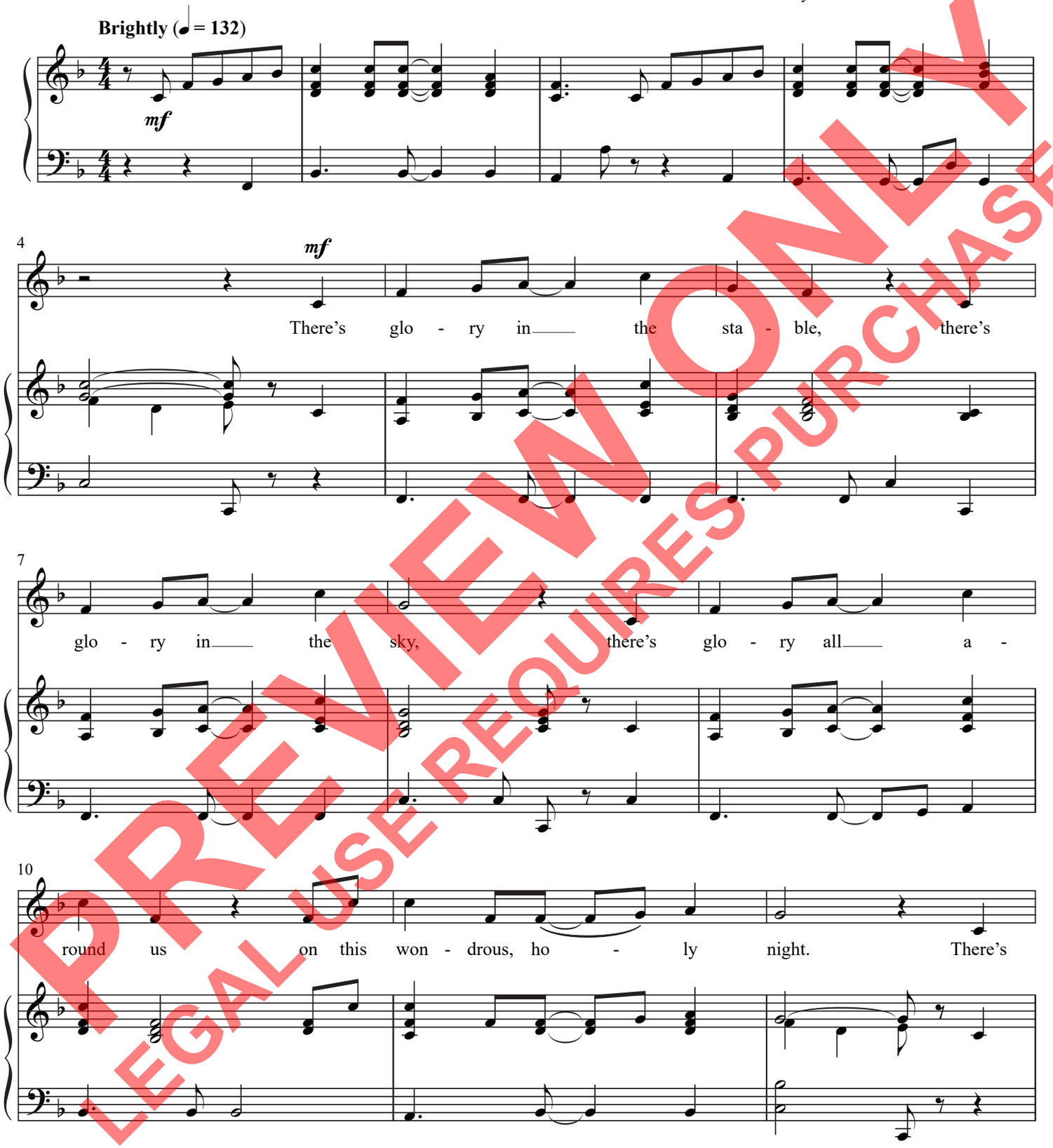
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GLORY IN THE STABLE

Incorporating "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

Words by **CHARLES WESLEY**

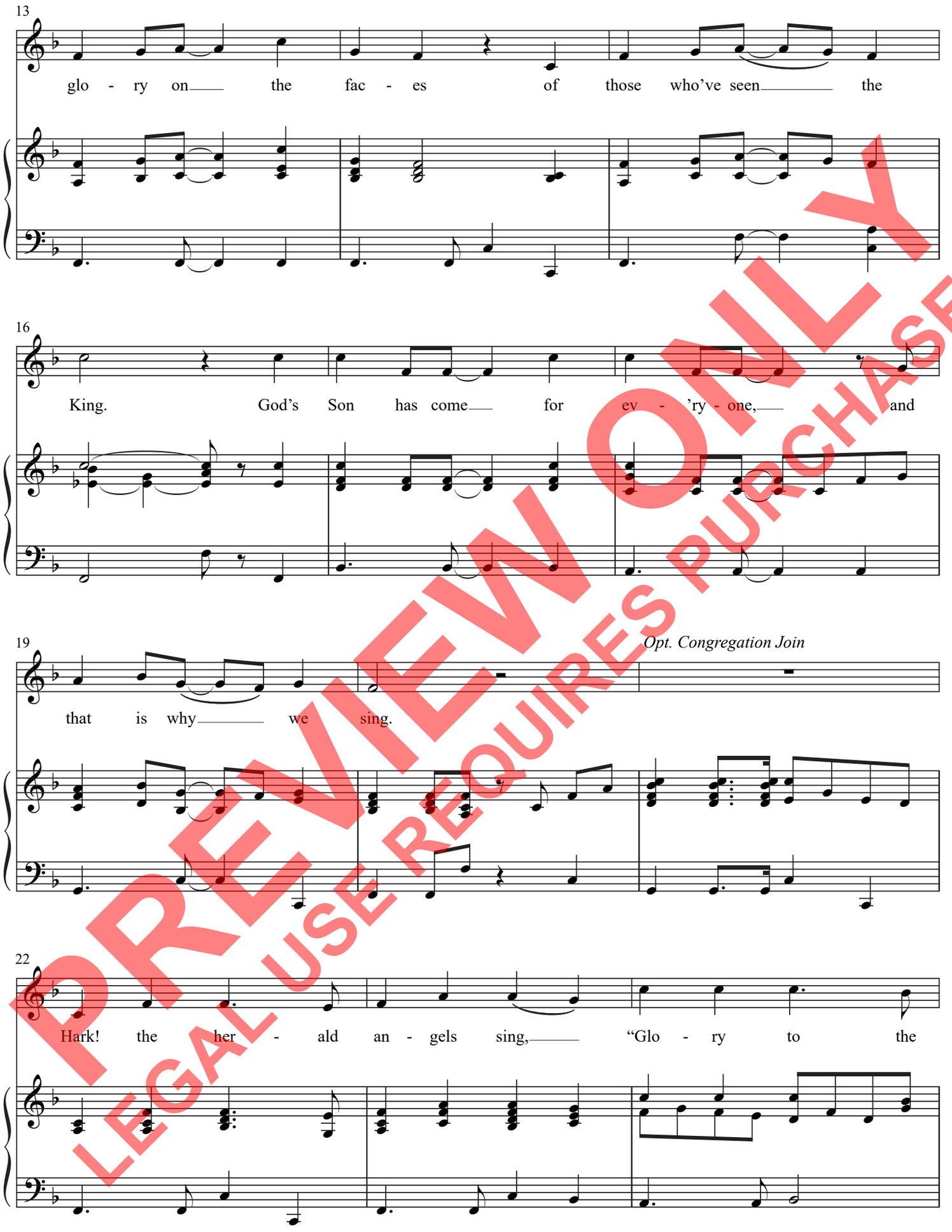
Words and Music by
RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM (ASCAP)
Tune: **MENDELSSOHN**
by **FELIX MENDELSSOHN**



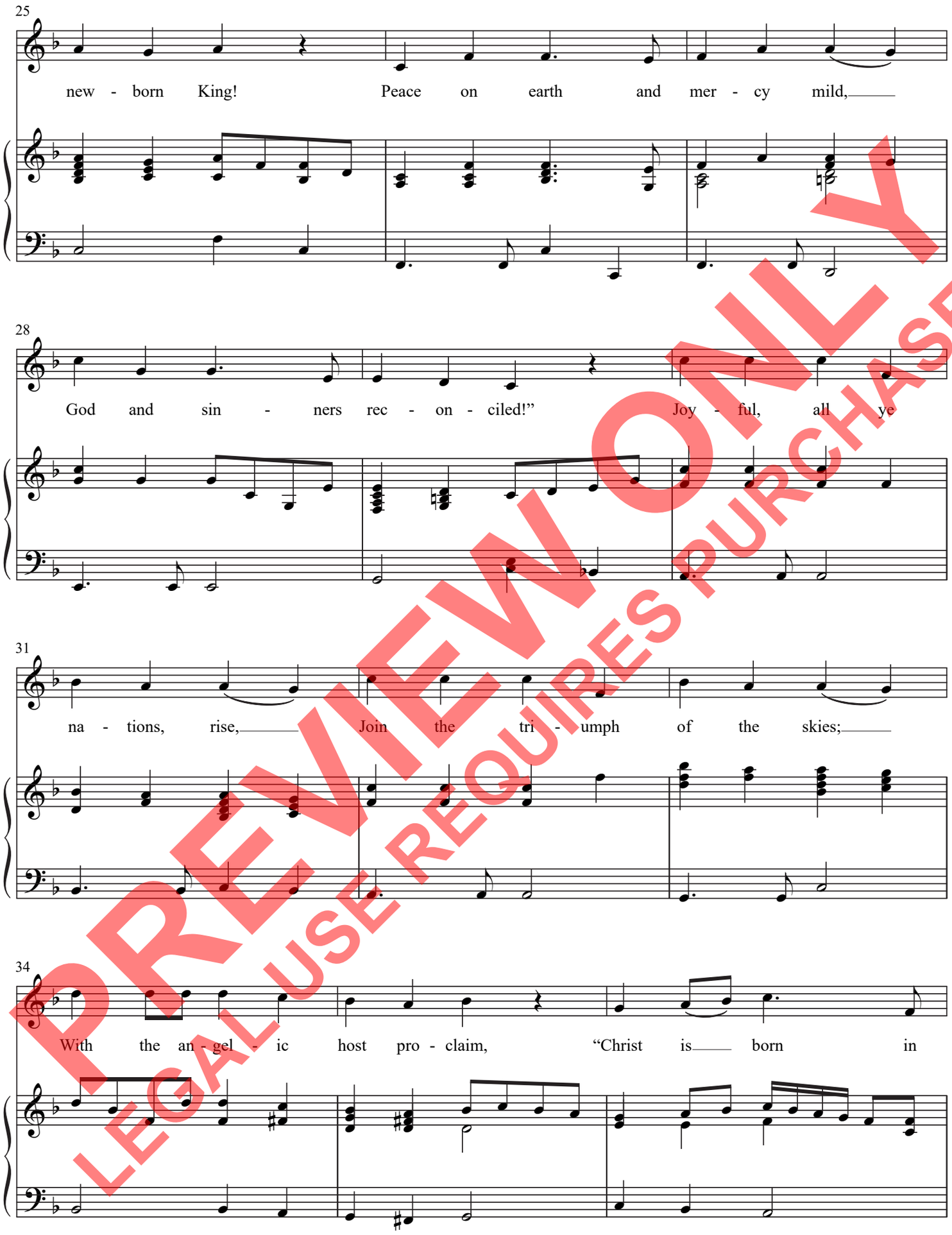
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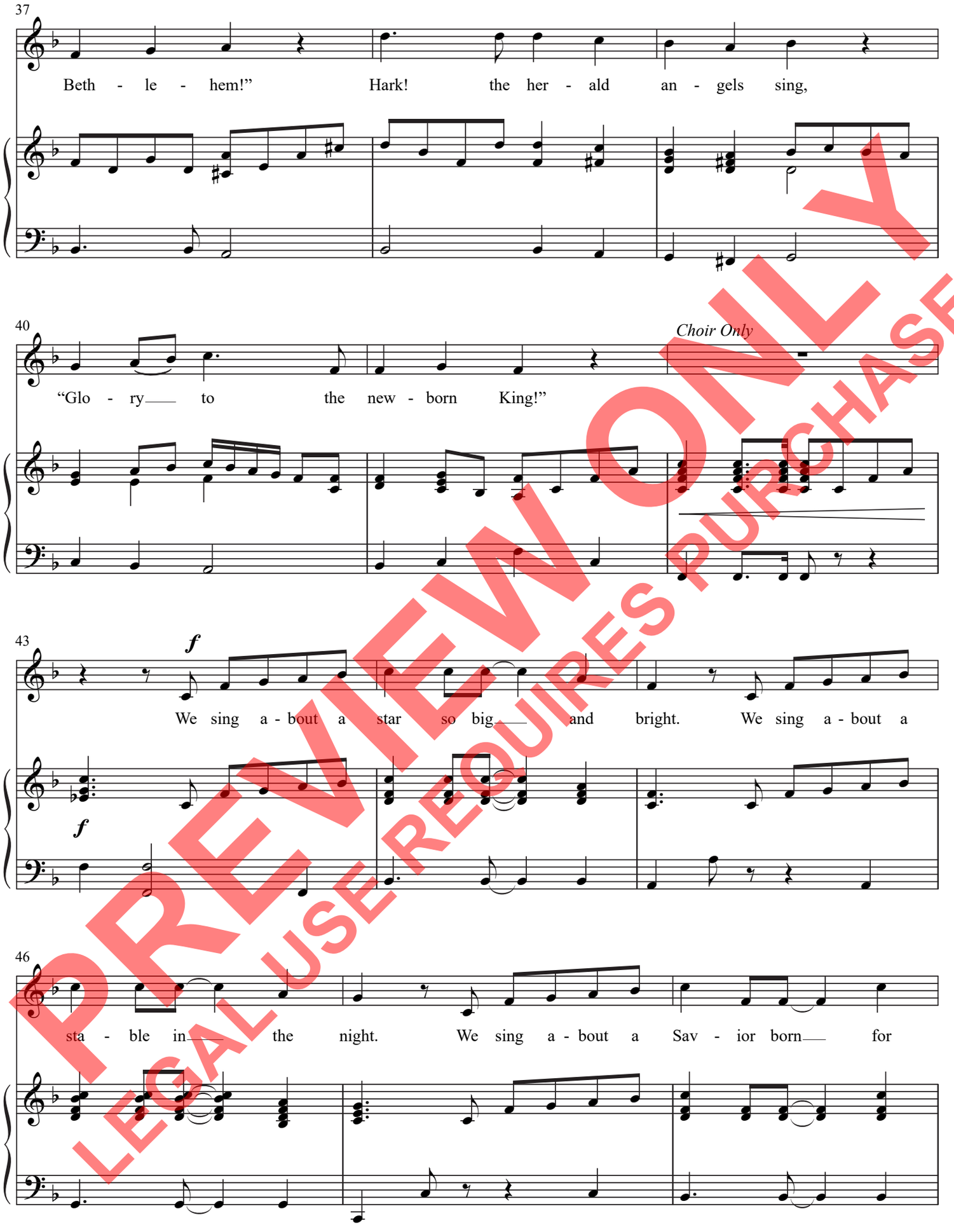
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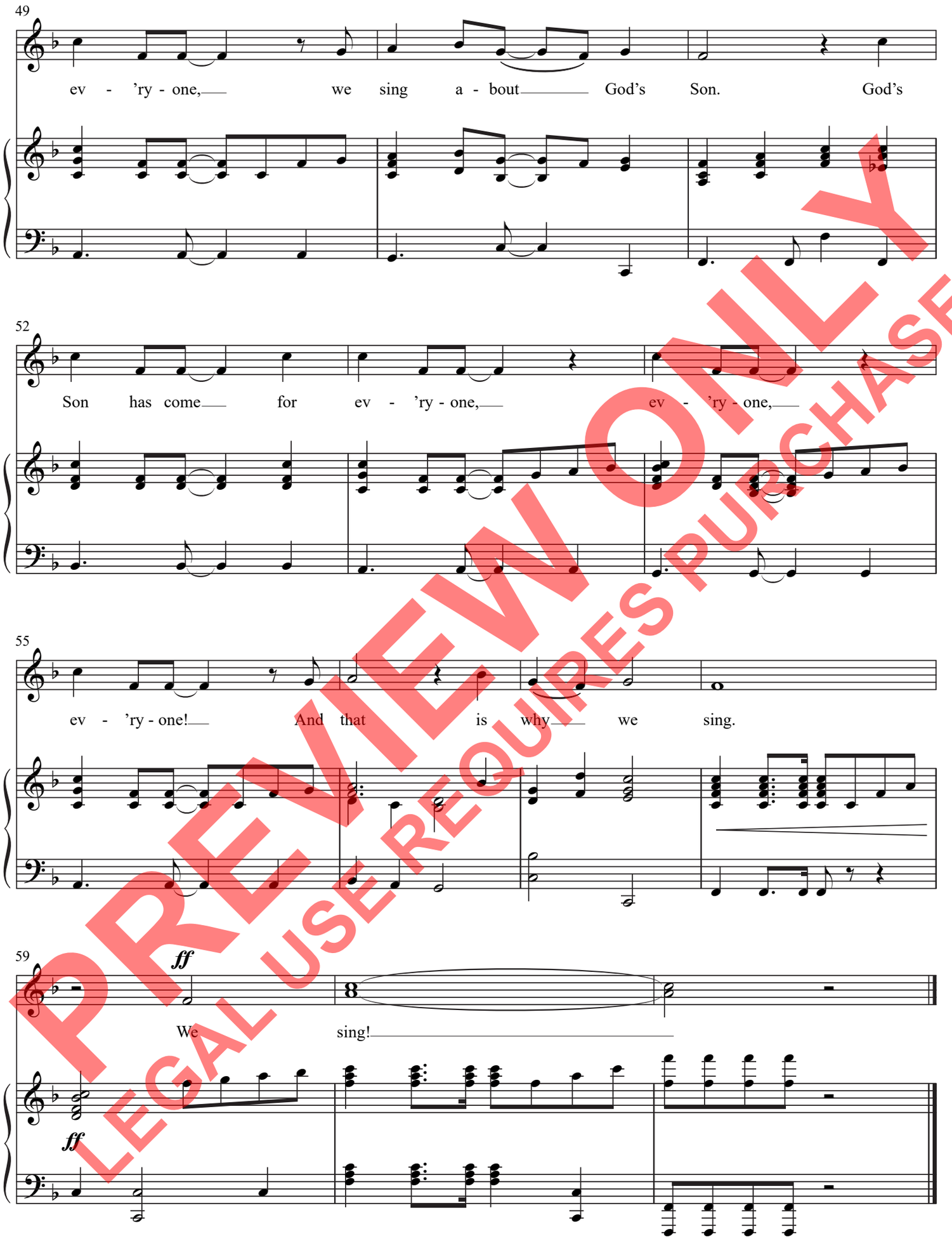
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