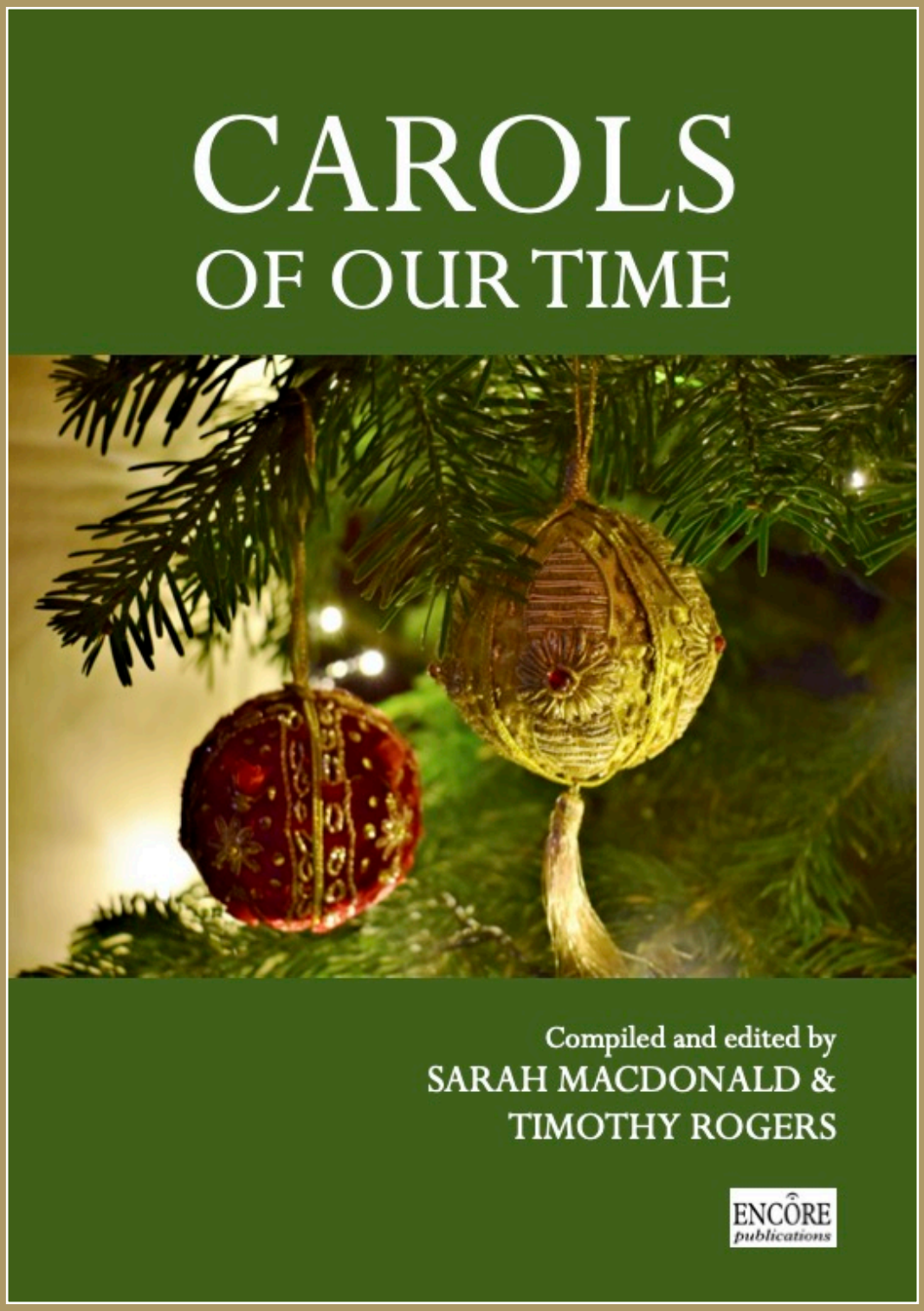
Announcing the publication of




Find out about the new descants & carols, all by women composers

# Carols of Our Time

Hymns and Carols
for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany & Candlemas
for mixed-voice choirs
compiled and edited by Sarah MacDonald and Timothy Rogers

At the heart of this collection is a set of well-known hymns, arranged with thrilling descants and imaginative harmonisations by Sarah MacDonald. They will enhance the singing of hymns at carol services and Christmas concerts.

All of the carols are composed by women, including Charlotte Baskerville, Esther Bersweden, Kerry Boyle, Eleanor Daley, Tamsin Jones, June Nixon, Sarah MacDonald, Sasha Johnson Manning, Stephanie Martin, Yshani Perinpanayagam, Electra Perivolaris, Ghislaine Reece-Trapp, Lucy Walker and Alison Willis. The range of styles is distinctive and diverse with a mix of accompanied and unaccompanied works.

Women authors represented in the edition include Sharon Grenham-Thompson, Frances Harper, Edith Nesbit, Christina Rossetti and Yshani Perinpanayagam.

The anthology contains original pieces and appealing arrangements of classic carols. Most of the items are newly composed and published for the first time. Overall, the music will enrich and enliven the Christmas experience, providing rewarding repertoire for choirs of all abilities.

*Carols of Our Time* also includes a listing of readings and repertoire relevant for A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, as well as suggestions for seasons other than Christmas.

## The editors

**Sarah MacDonald** is Fellow and Director of Music, Selwyn College, Cambridge. She is also the University Organist at the University of Cambridge, as well as Director of the Girl Choristers, Ely Cathedral. She is a Patron of the Society of Women Organists, an Honorary Patron of the Herbert Howells Society, and President of the School Organists' Association.

**Timothy Rogers** is a music publisher and composer. He founded Encore Publications in 1992 and works as its Head of Publishing. He is also the author of *Christmas Eve at King's: 100 Years of Nine Lessons & Carols*.

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arr. Sarah MacDonald: O come, O come, Emmanuel
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arr. Sarah MacDonald: It came upon the midnight clear
arr. Sarah MacDonald: While shepherds watched their flocks by night
arr. Sarah MacDonald: O come, all ye faithful
arr. Sarah MacDonald: Hark! the herald-angels sing

## Carols

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Sasha Johnson Manning: Balulalow (O my dear heart)
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Sarah MacDonald: Love has come
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Sasha Johnson Manning: What sweeter music
Yshani Perinpanayagam: When God made Eve

# More information

The singing of Advent and Christmas hymns is enjoyed by many people in church services and concerts. Often, well-known hymns are enhanced with descants and re-harmonisations, giving choirs and listeners a truly exhilarating musical experience. However, to keep the tradition of hymn-singing alive, there is a need not only for familiar hymn arrangements, but also for effective new repertoire.

*Carols of Our Time* provides a fresh set of descant arrangements that will ensure exciting and spirited performances for eight commonly sung hymns. Indeed, this ground-breaking anthology emerged from the 'last verses' that Sarah MacDonald composed for Harry Christophers and The Sixteen in 2022. Having grown up with Sir David Willcocks' seminal Christmas descants, Sarah approached the task with a fair amount of trepidation. She was delighted to find that there are other notes to be written, even in the iconic 'Word' chord.

Tim Rogers suggested using the hymn arrangements as the basis for a broader anthology in which every piece is either written or arranged by a living female composer. In recent years, there has been an obvious, concerted, and laudable effort for choirs deliberately to diversify their repertoire. *Carols of Our Time* will assist in this important task of giving more prominence to composers who are women.

The composers and arrangers sourced for this collection have a wide age range and come from Britain, Canada, and Australia. While some will be familiar names associated with the publisher, others are new to the catalogue of Encore Publications. Words by women authors have also been carefully commissioned or chosen and set to music in some carols.

This volume brings together well-crafted compositions of differing styles which display good musical instincts. There is a practical mix of accompanied and unaccompanied pieces, and a variety of levels of difficulty. The carol repertory in this publication is broadly aimed at competent choirs, but also includes irresistible items for more accomplished performers in churches, schools, and communities. Overall, the musical content is convincing, useful, and functional.

We have provided a liturgical list which indicates where each piece fits thematically in a traditional Christmas service of Nine Lessons and Carols. There are suggestions too for seasonal services such as those for Advent, Epiphany, Candlemas, Joseph of Nazareth, and the Annunciation.

Christmas is a time of year when choirs really commit to their music making and wish to connect to their listeners. As such, they are open to suggestions for refreshing repertoire that captures a particular mood or focuses on a specific moment in the Christmas story. With this situation in mind, we commend this anthology to you as an invaluable resource, containing some simply wonderful musical works, which will make a strong impression in carol services or concerts.

We hope you will use the music and love it as much as we do, as these are truly *Carols of Our Time*.

Sarah MacDonald and Timothy Rogers
Cambridge and Matfield
July 2023

## Publishing details

(subject to change without notice)

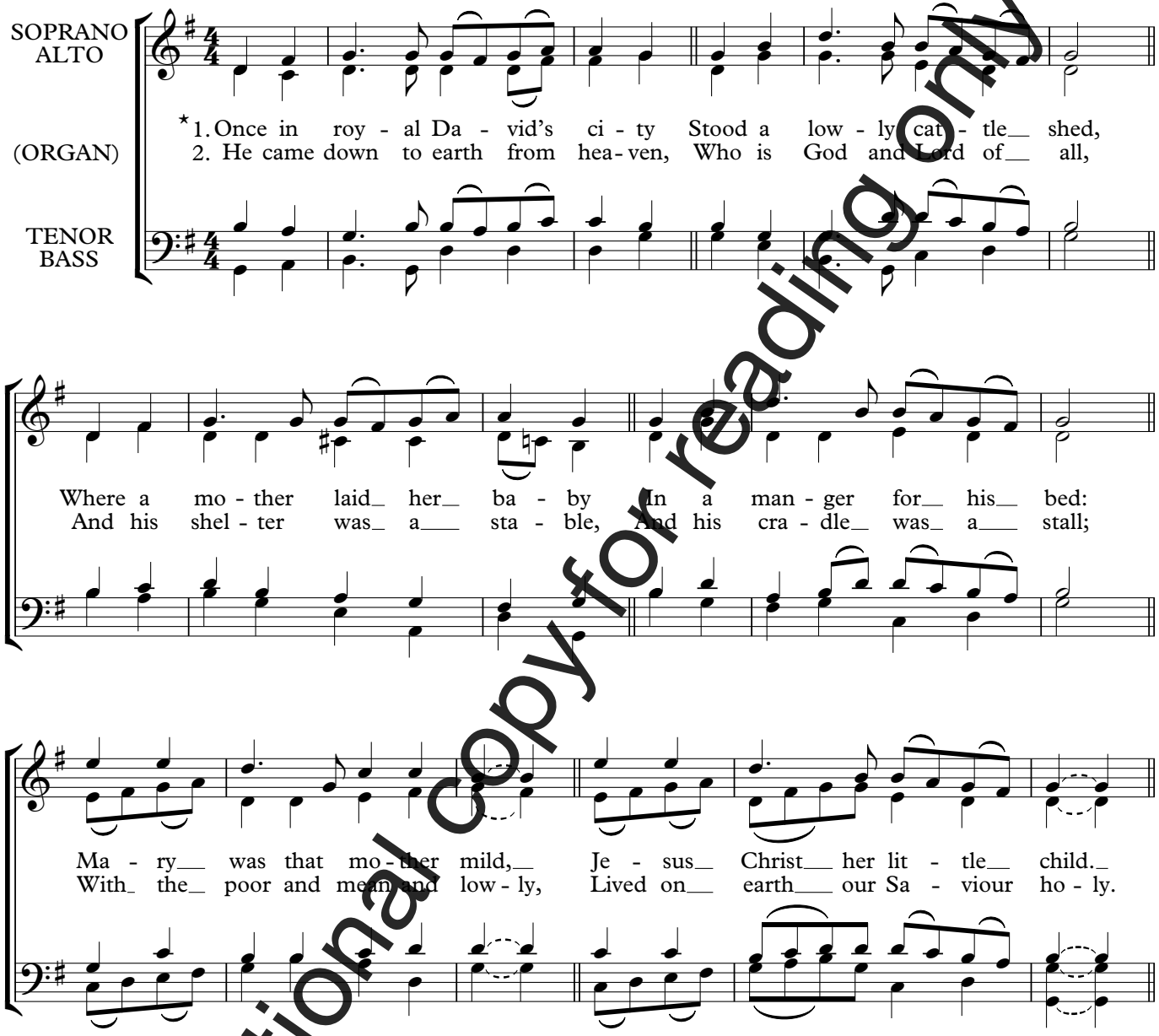
Title: Carols of Our Time
Editors: Sarah MacDonald & Timothy Rogers
Scoring: SATB, accompanied & unaccompanied
Edition type: Vocal score
Publisher: Encore Publications
Catalogue number: 020764
ISMN: 979-0-9002518-1-7
Size: 270 x 190mm
Extent: 160 pages (vocal score)
Date of first publication: July 2023
Retail selling price: (GBP) £18.95

**Sample pages are set out below.**

# 4. Once in royal David's city

Words: C. F. Alexander (1818–95)

Music: H. J. Gauntlett (1805–76)
Vv. 1-5 harmonised by A. H. Mann (1850–1929)
V. 6 arranged by Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968)




3. And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.

4. For his is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.

5. And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

* The first verse may be sung by a solo treble / soprano.

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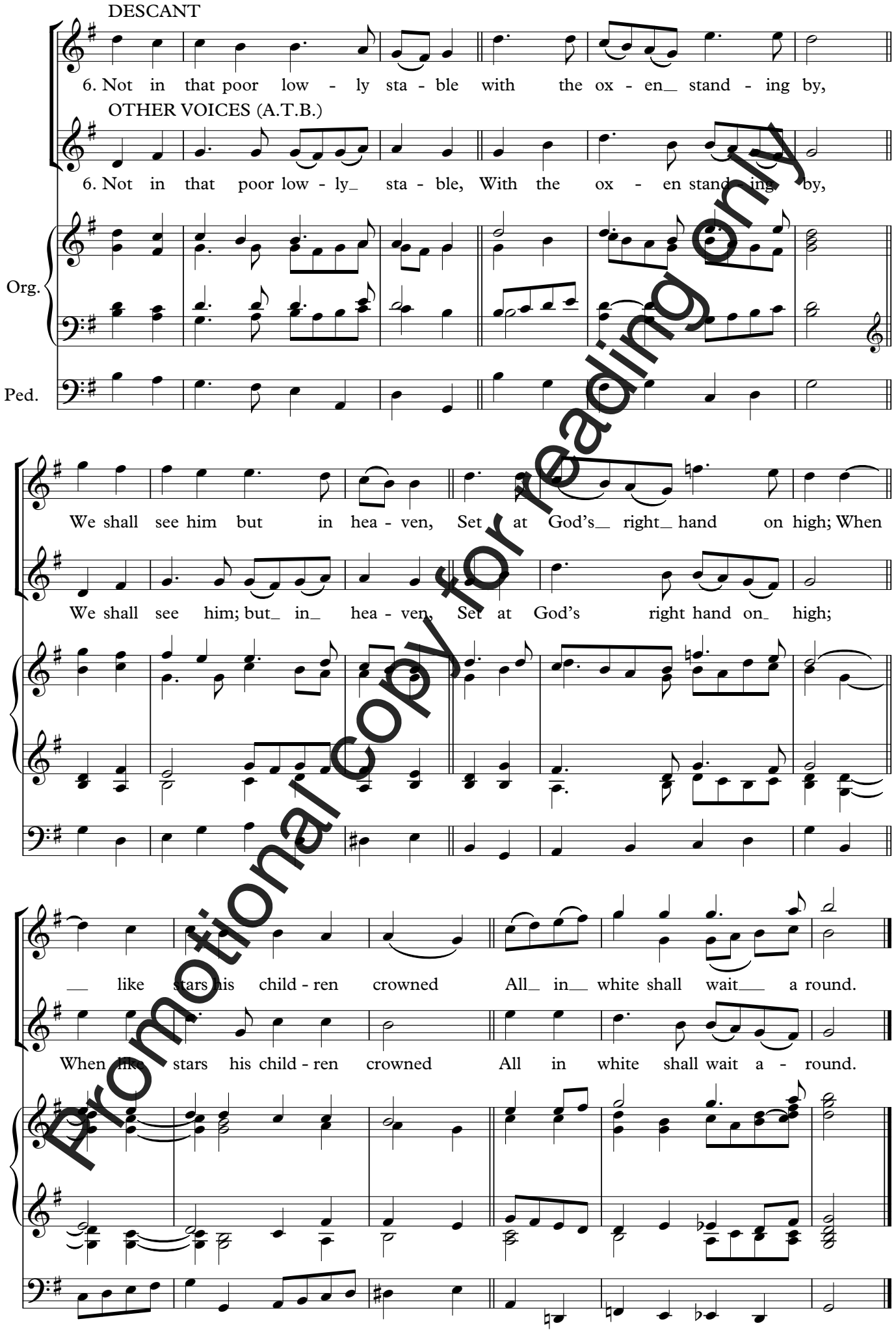


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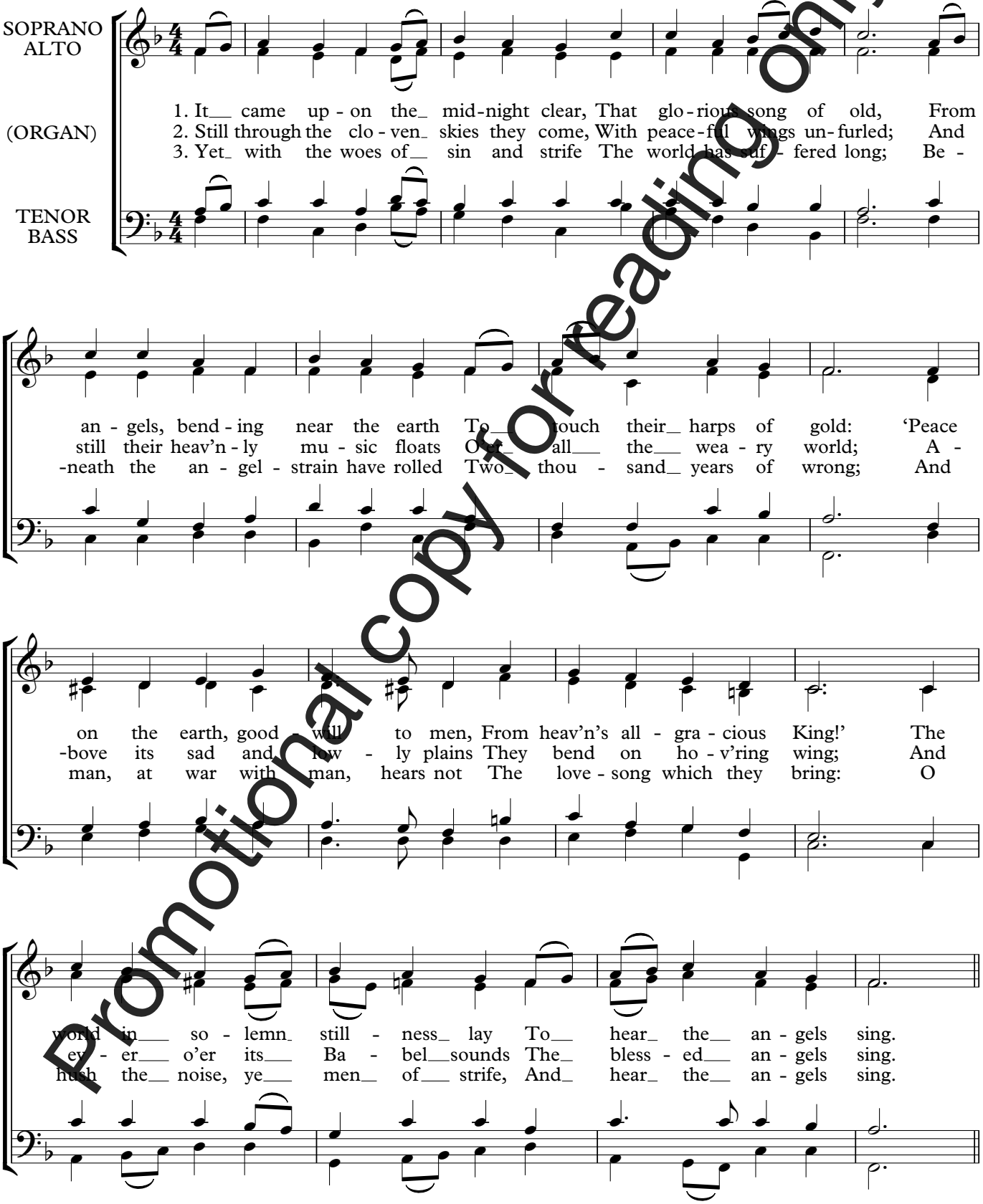
# 5. It came upon the midnight clear

Words: Edmund Sears (1810–76)

Music: Traditional English melody,
adapted by Arthur Sullivan (1842–1900),
V. 4 arranged by Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968)

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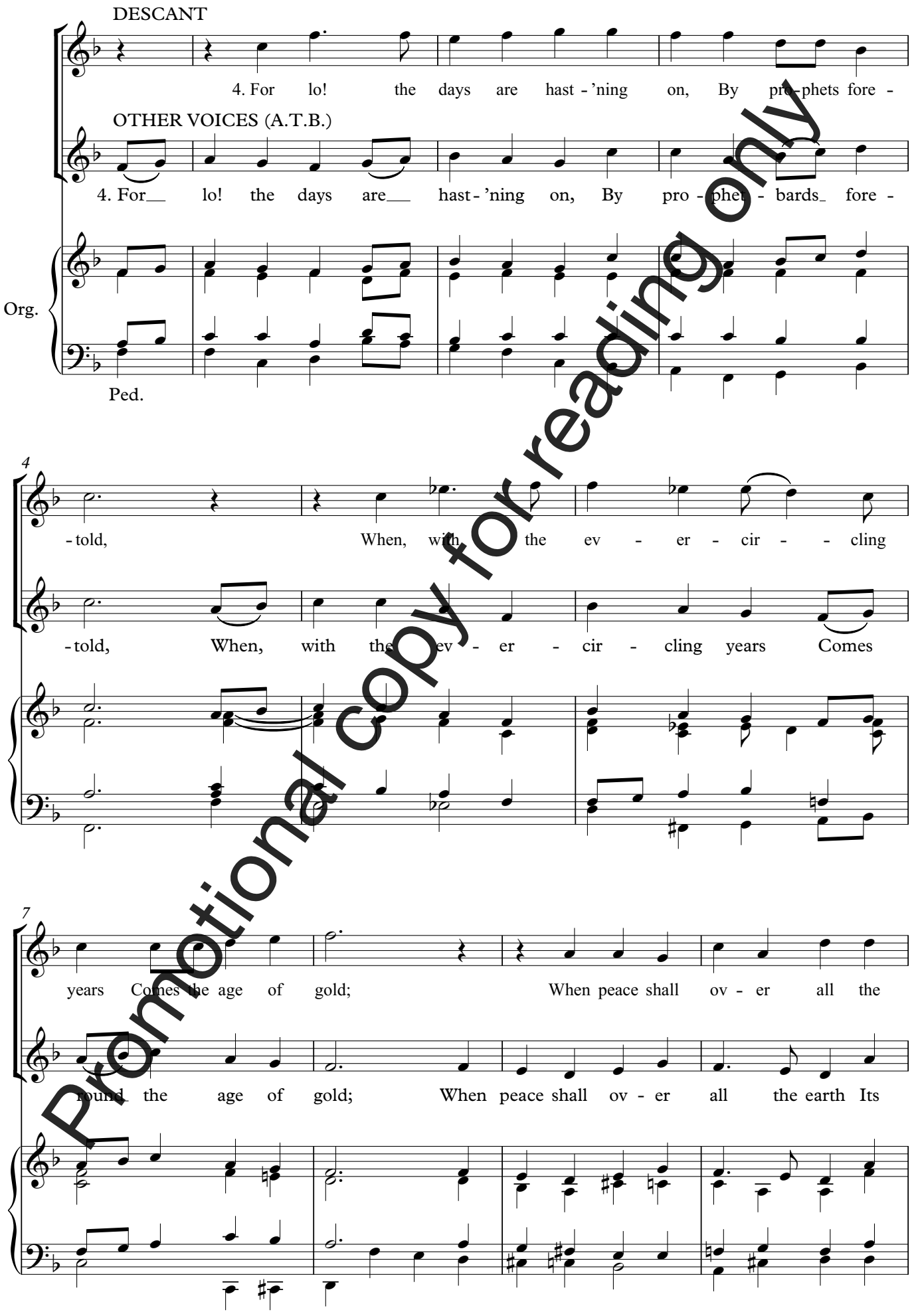


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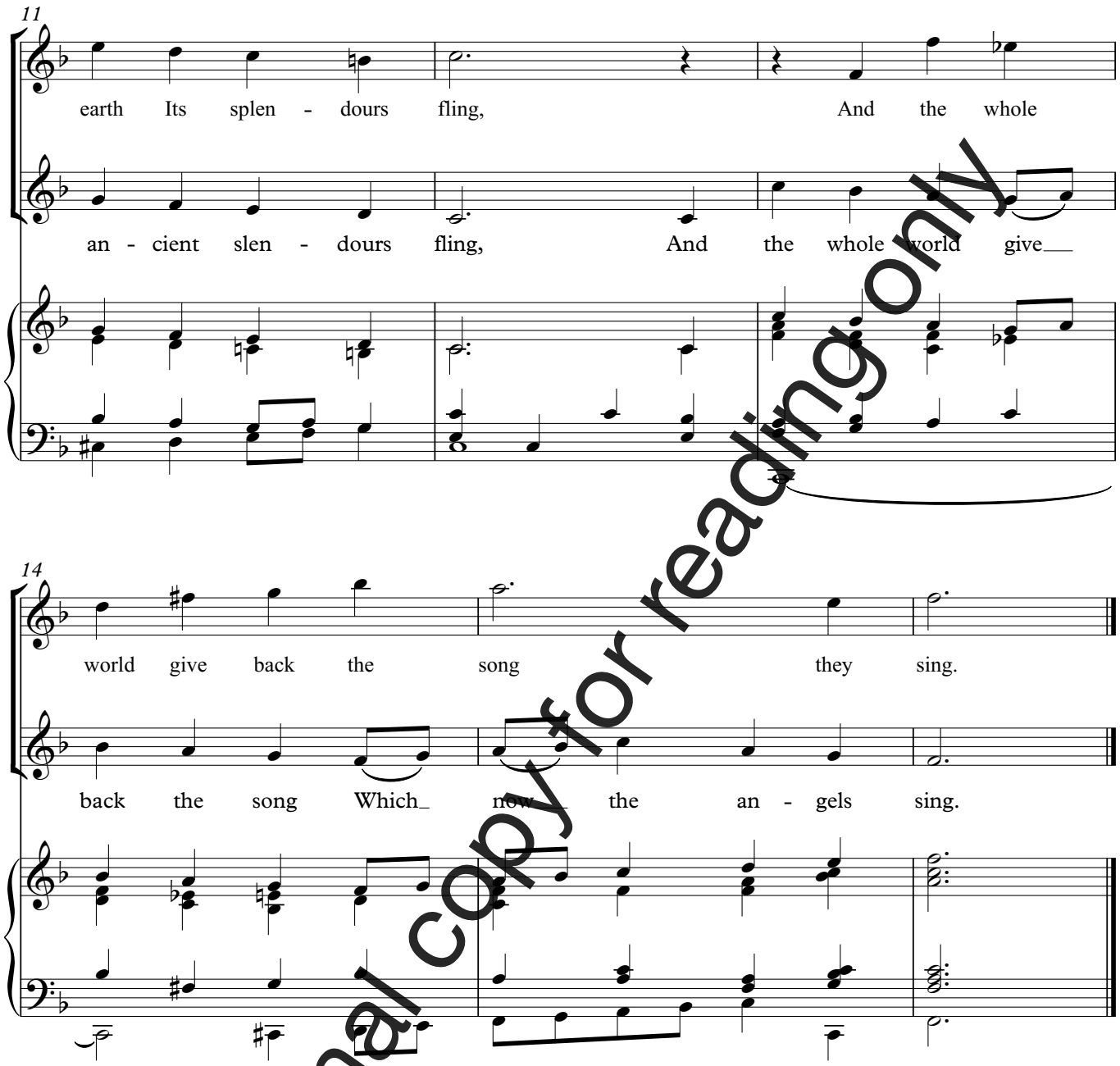


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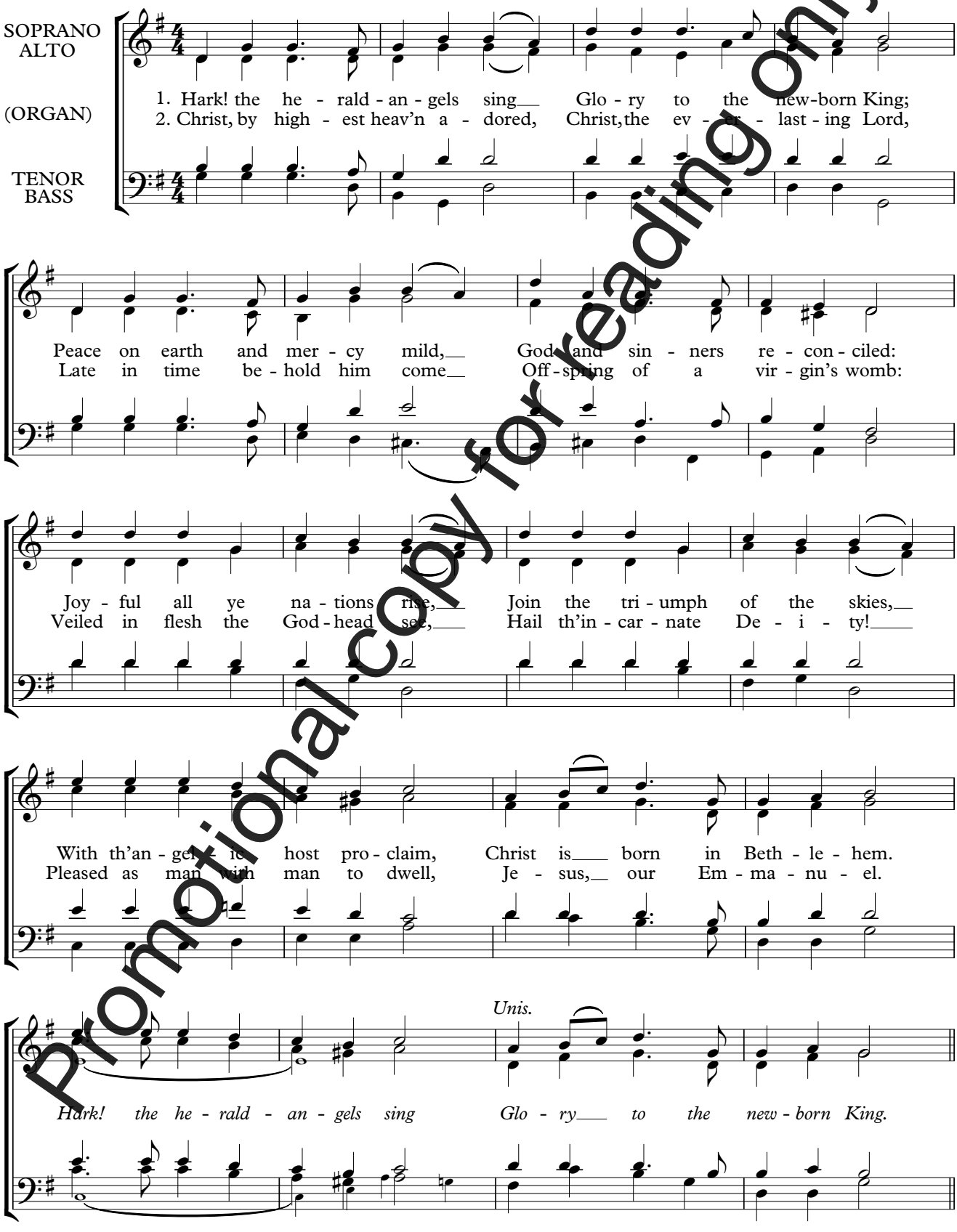
*V. 3 for Harry Christophers and The Sixteen*

# 8. Hark! the herald-angels sing

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–88)
and others

Music: F. Mendelssohn (1809–47)
adapted by W. H. Cummings (1831–1915)
V. 3 arranged by Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968)

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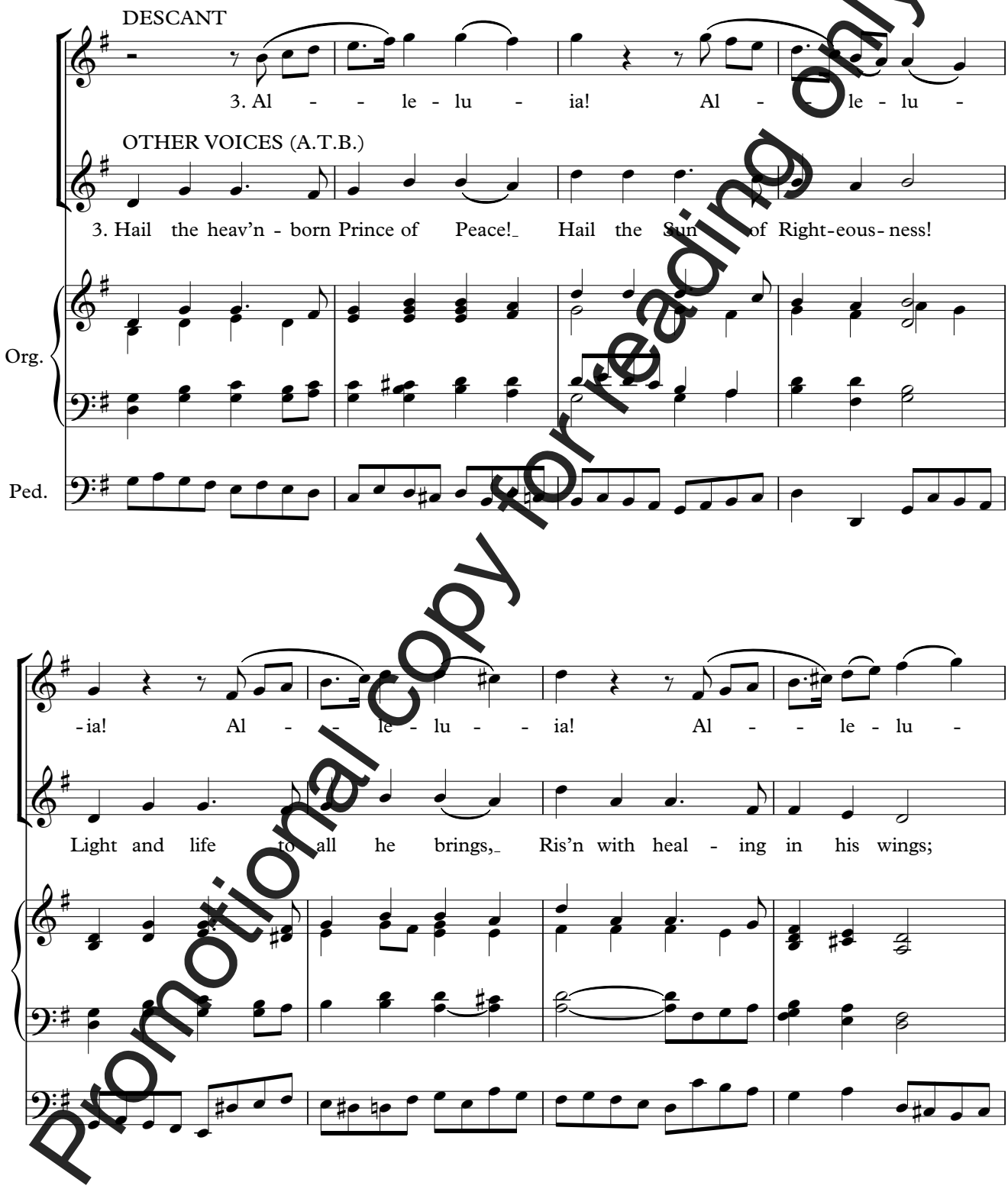


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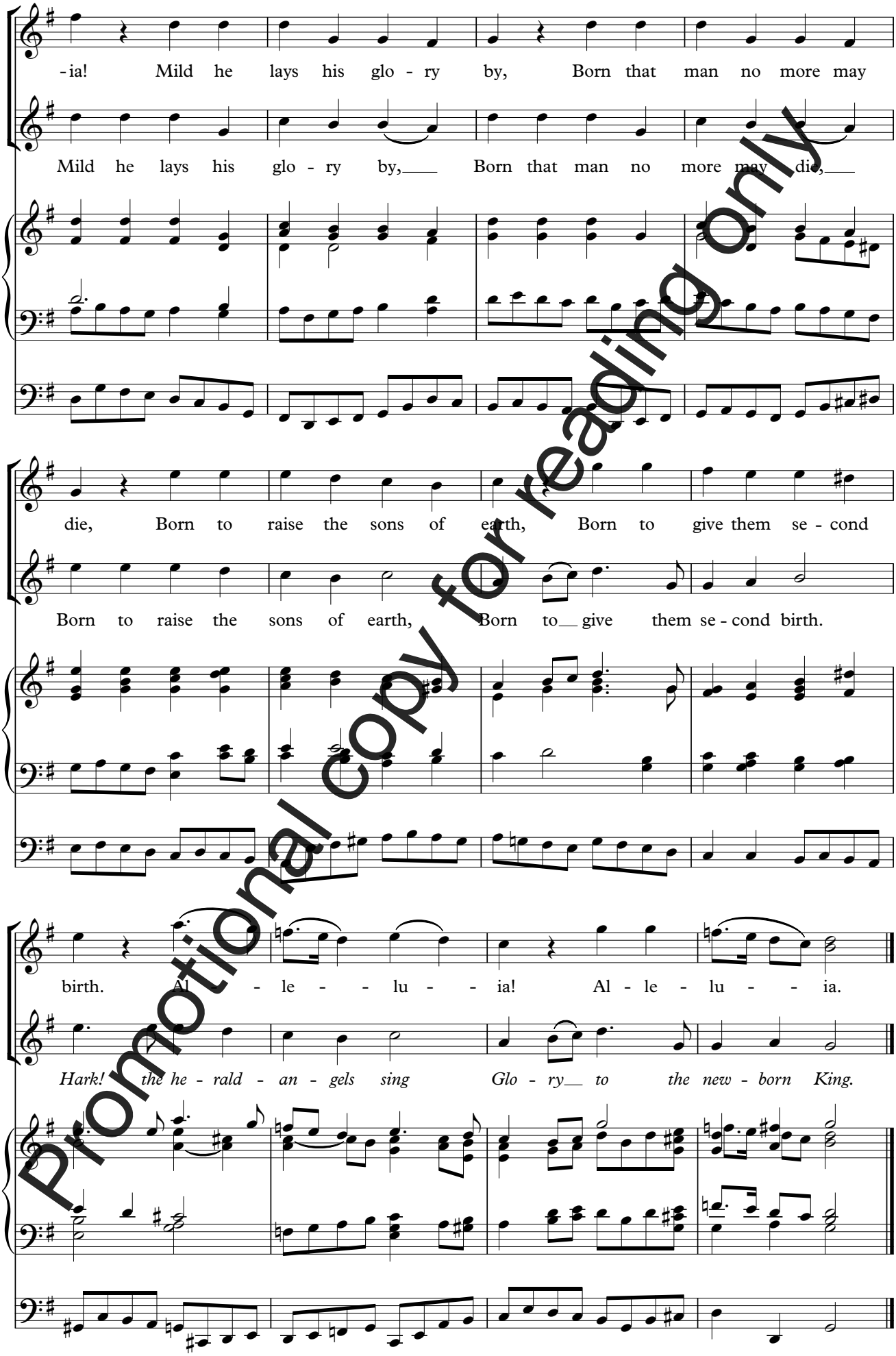


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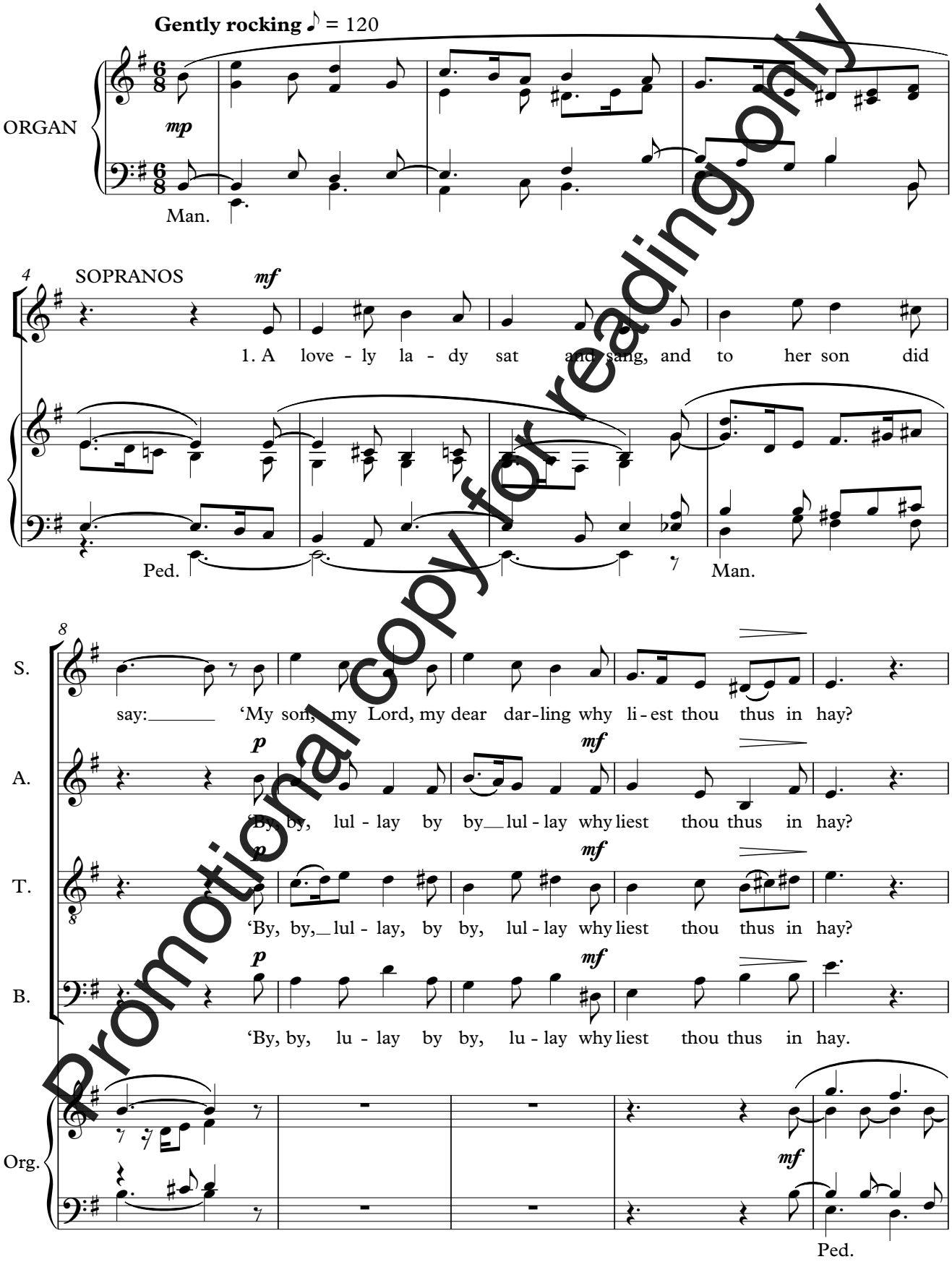
# 9. A lovely lady sat and sang

Words: anon., Medieval

Music: Swedish folksong
arranged by June Nixon (b. 1942)

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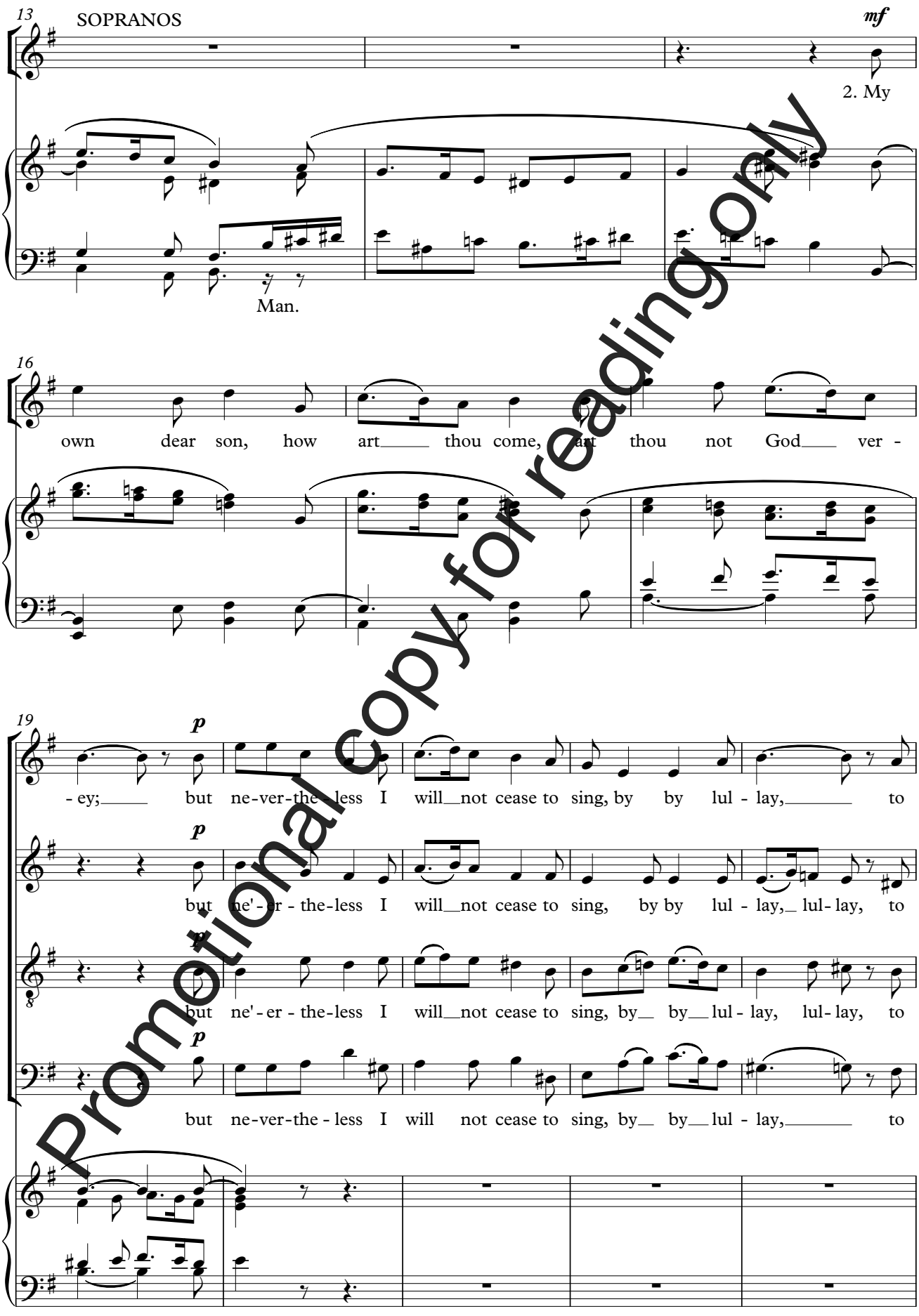


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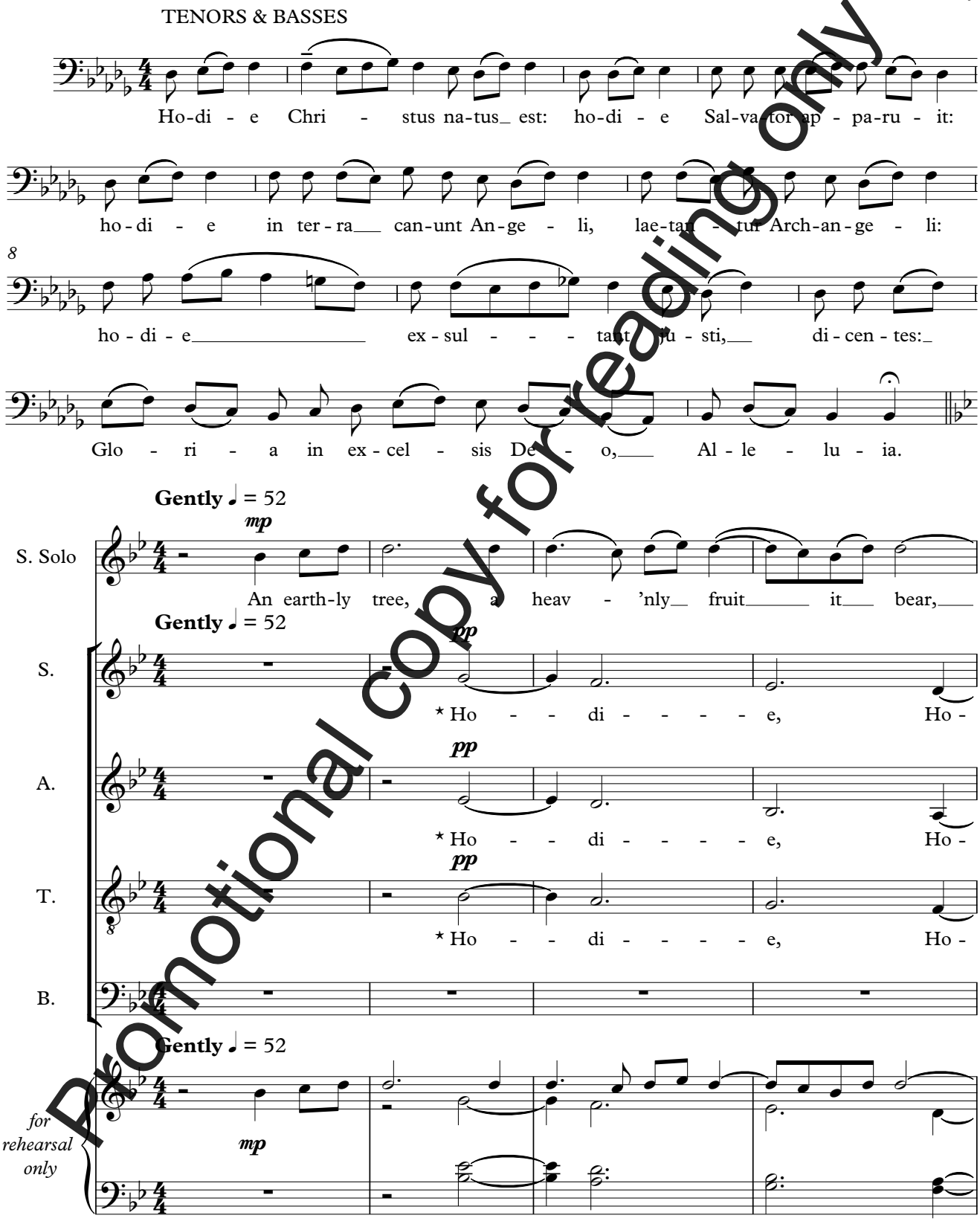
# 10. An earthly tree

Words: Anon., 16th-century English

Music: Stephanie Martin (b. 1962),
set to a Plainchant antiphon
for Christmas Day




* Note: First verse text in accompanying voices sung hushed, secretly, without distinct consonants. If this is unmanageable or impractical, the lower voices may sing a neutral syllable until Alleluia in this verse.

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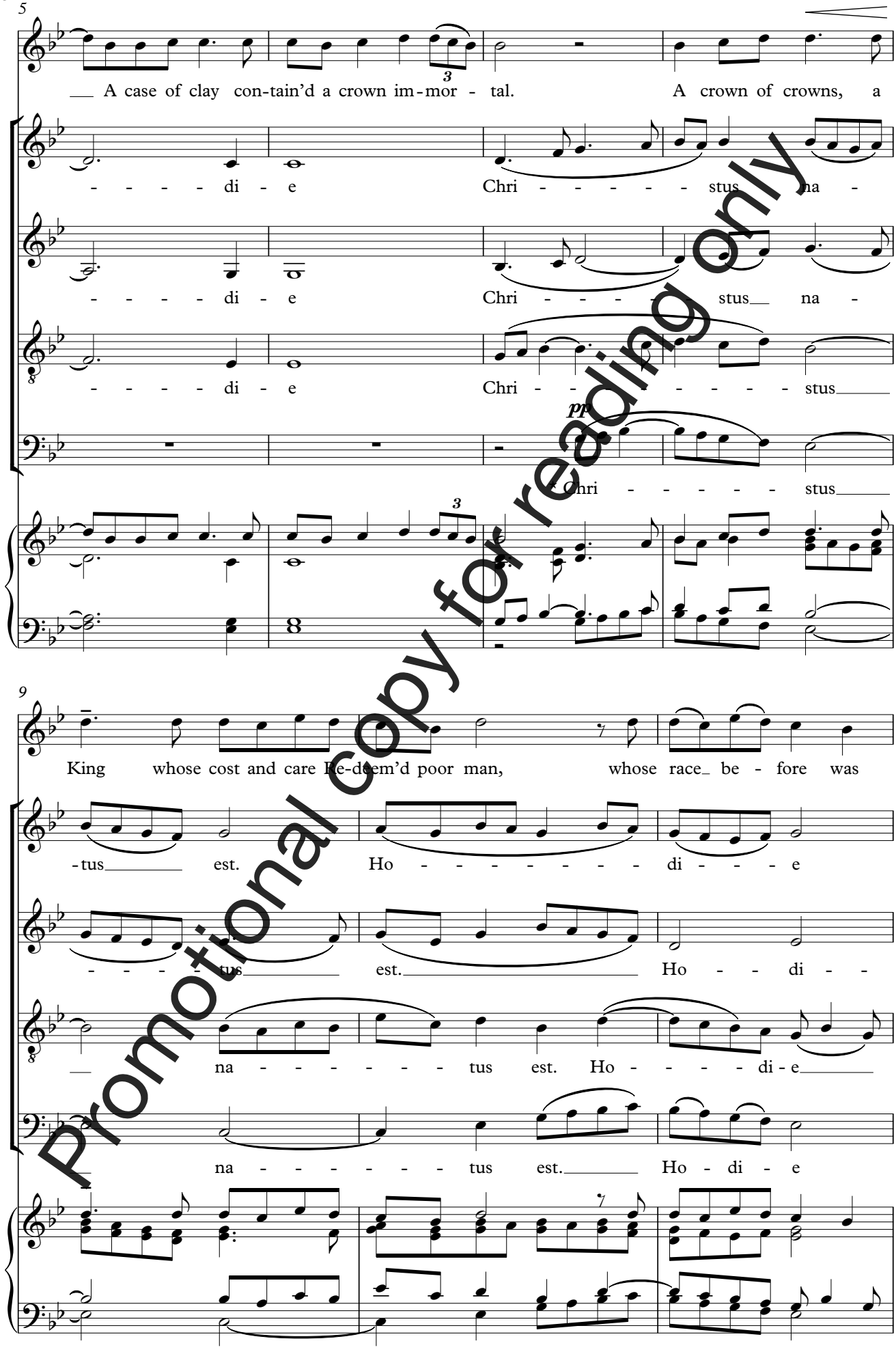


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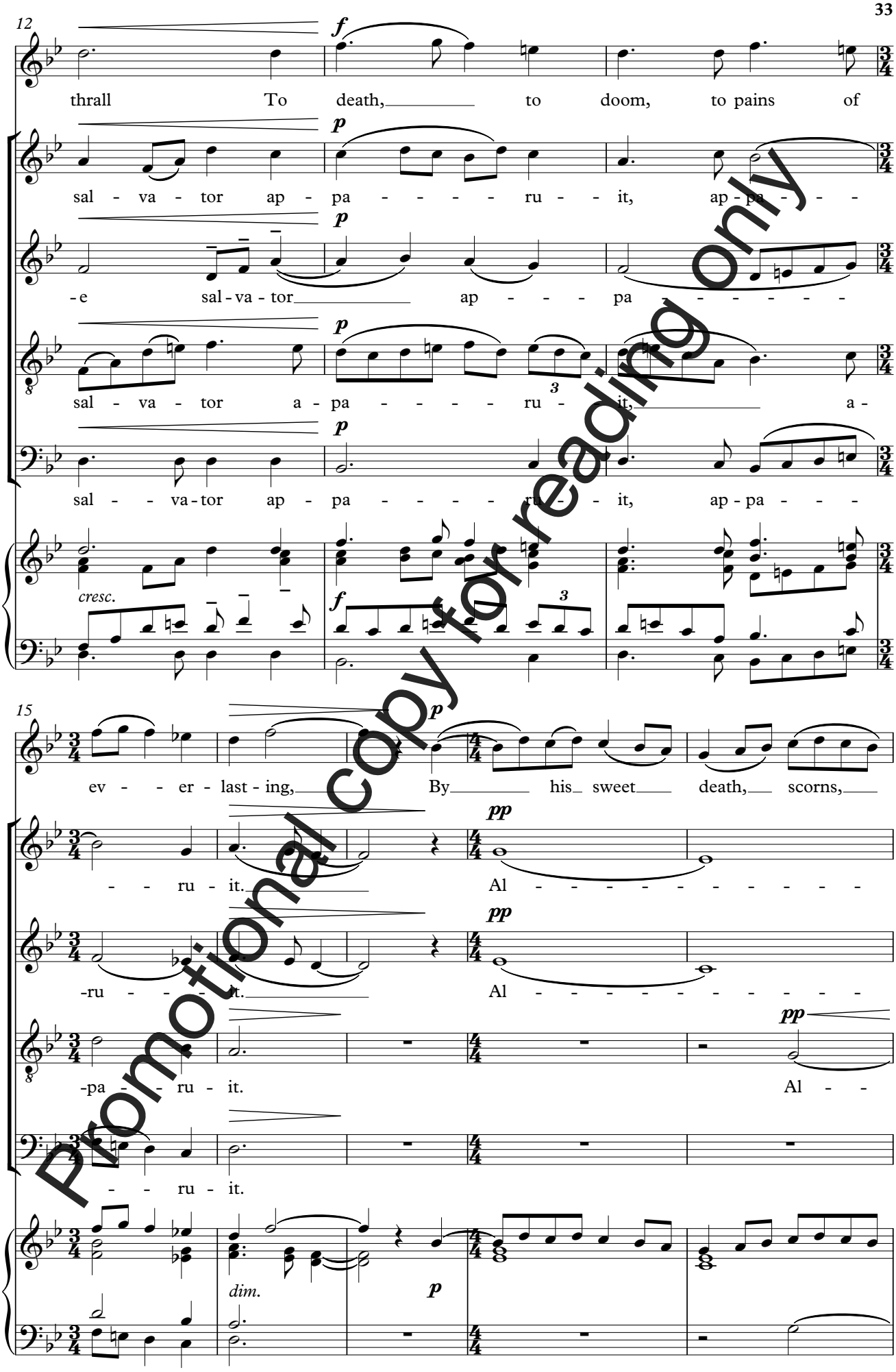


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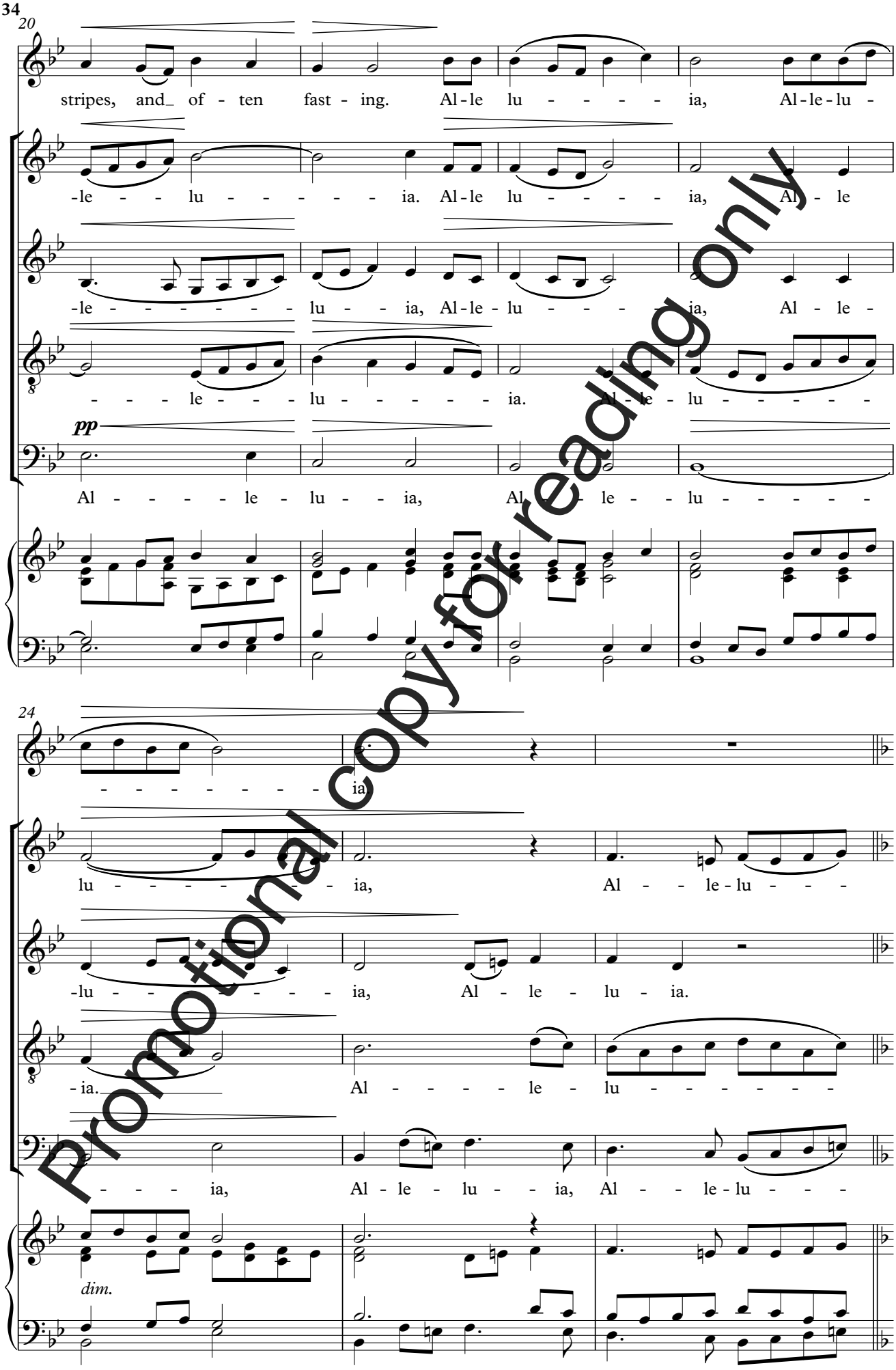


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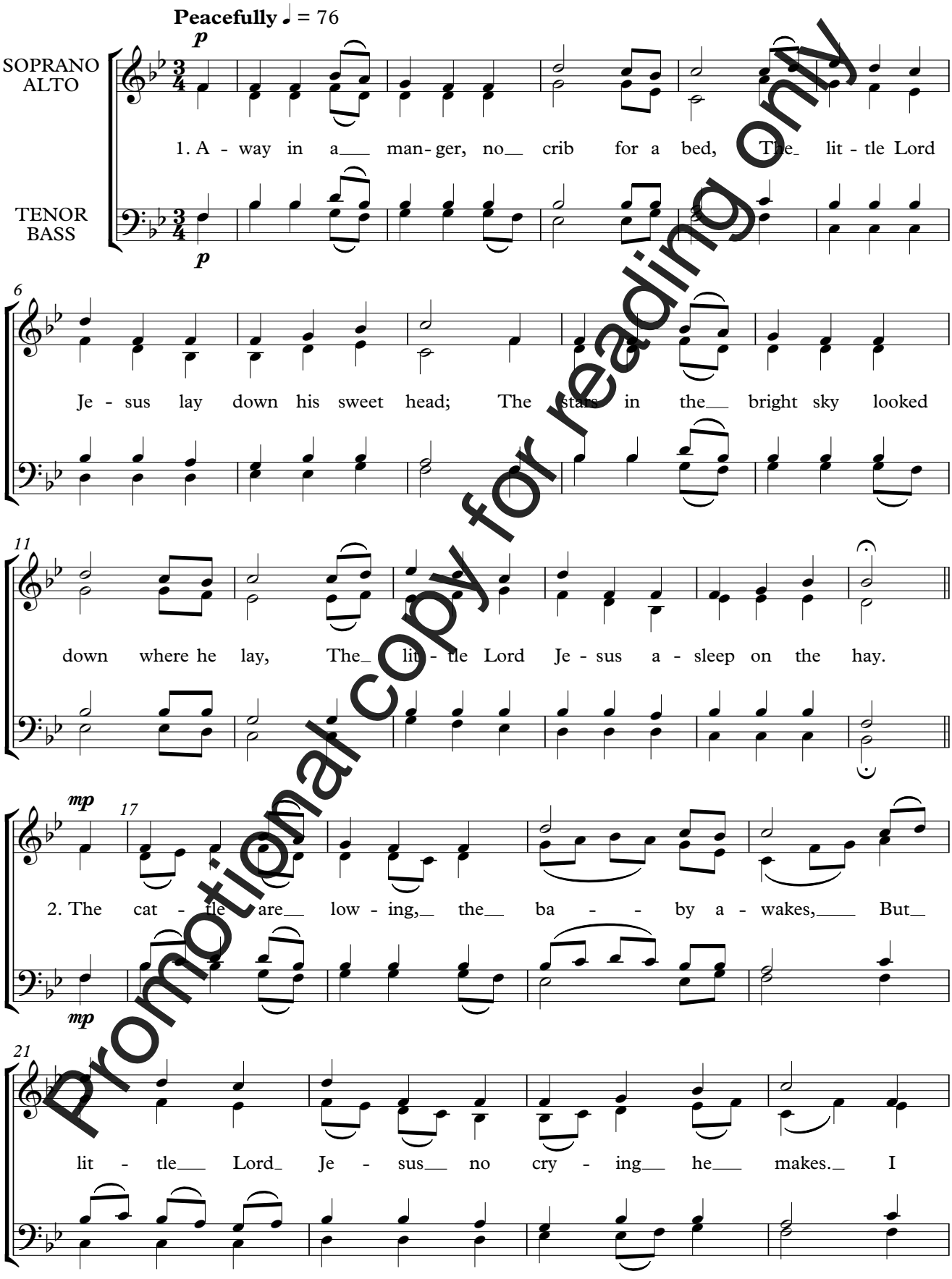
# 11. Away in a manger

Words: anon.
(19th-century American)

Music: Esther Bersweden (b. 1996)

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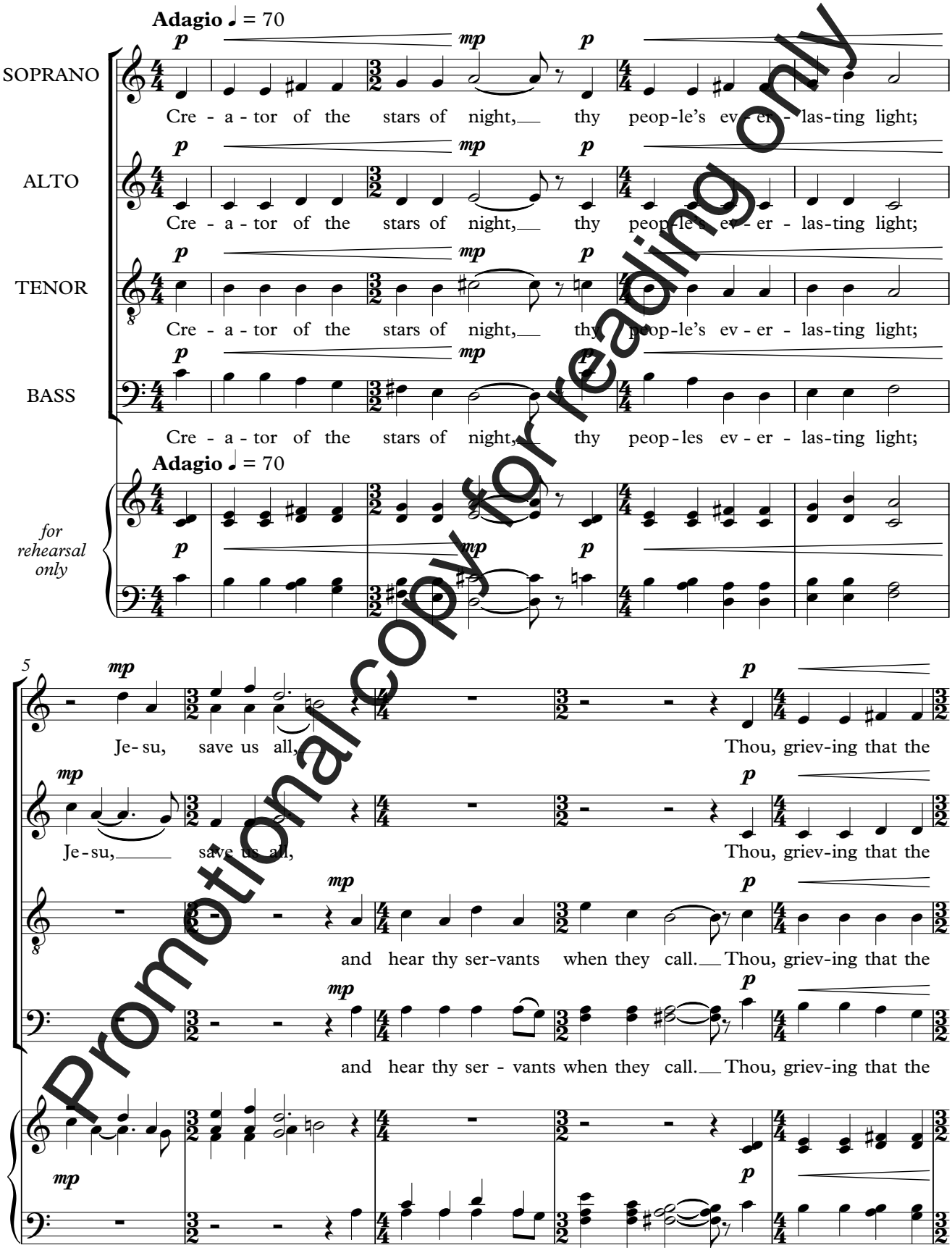
# 13. Creator of the stars of night

Anonymous 7th century Latin hymn, *Ambrosian*,
translated by Revd. John M. Neale (1818–66)

Charlotte Baskerville (b. 1994)

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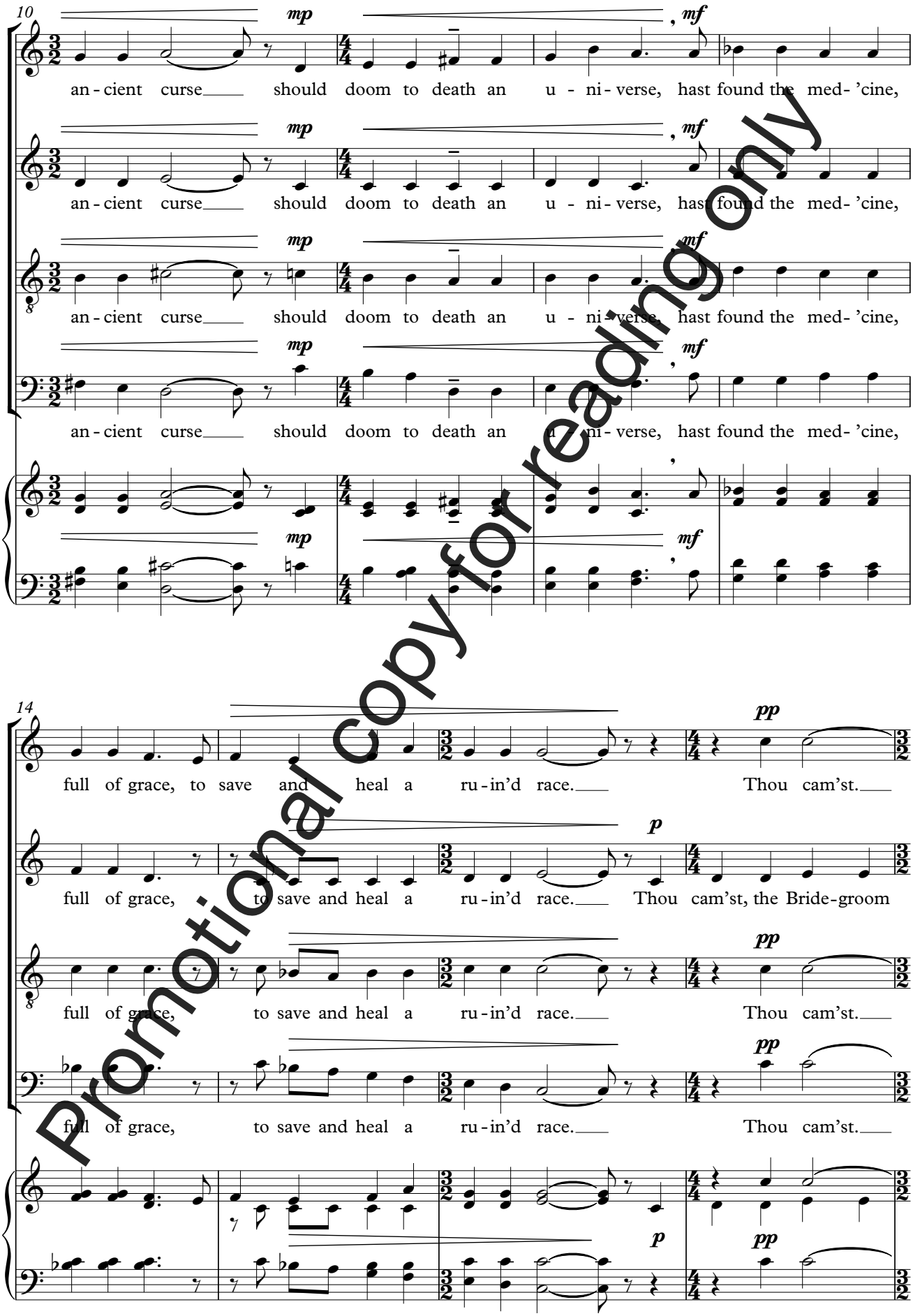


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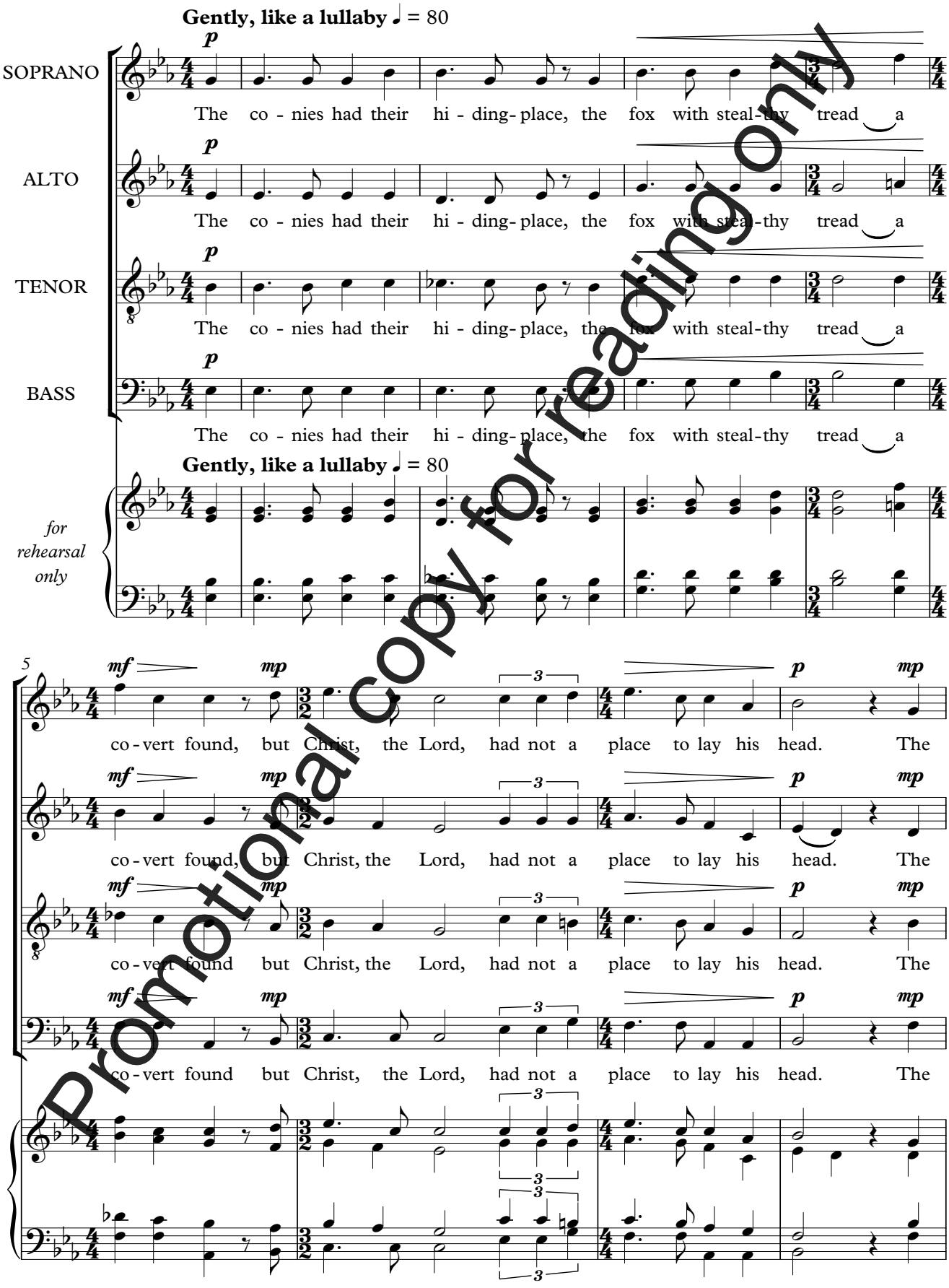
# 14. He had not where to lay his head

Words: Frances Ellen Watkins Harper (1825–1911), based on Matthew 8.20

Music: Alison Willis (b. 1971)

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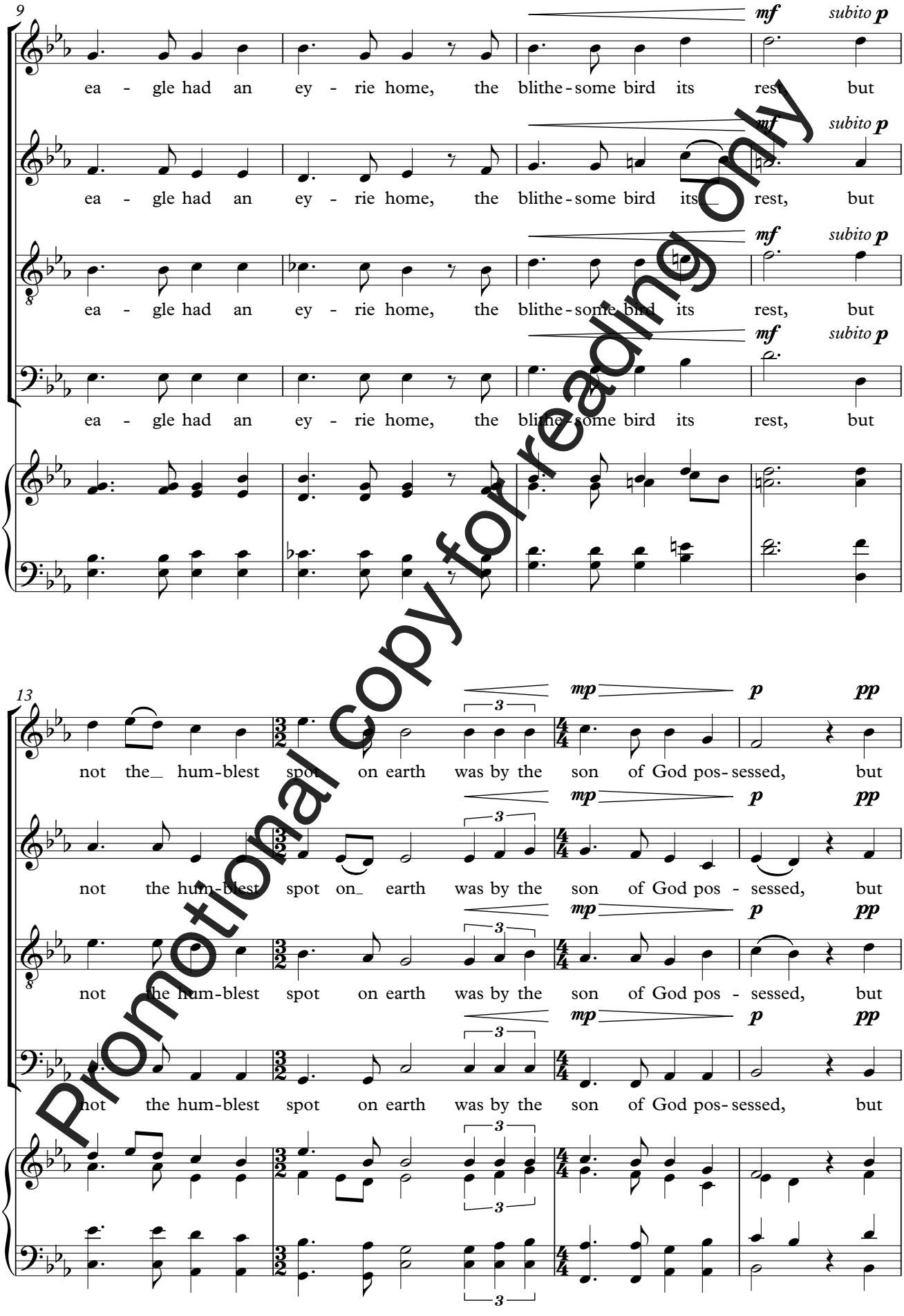


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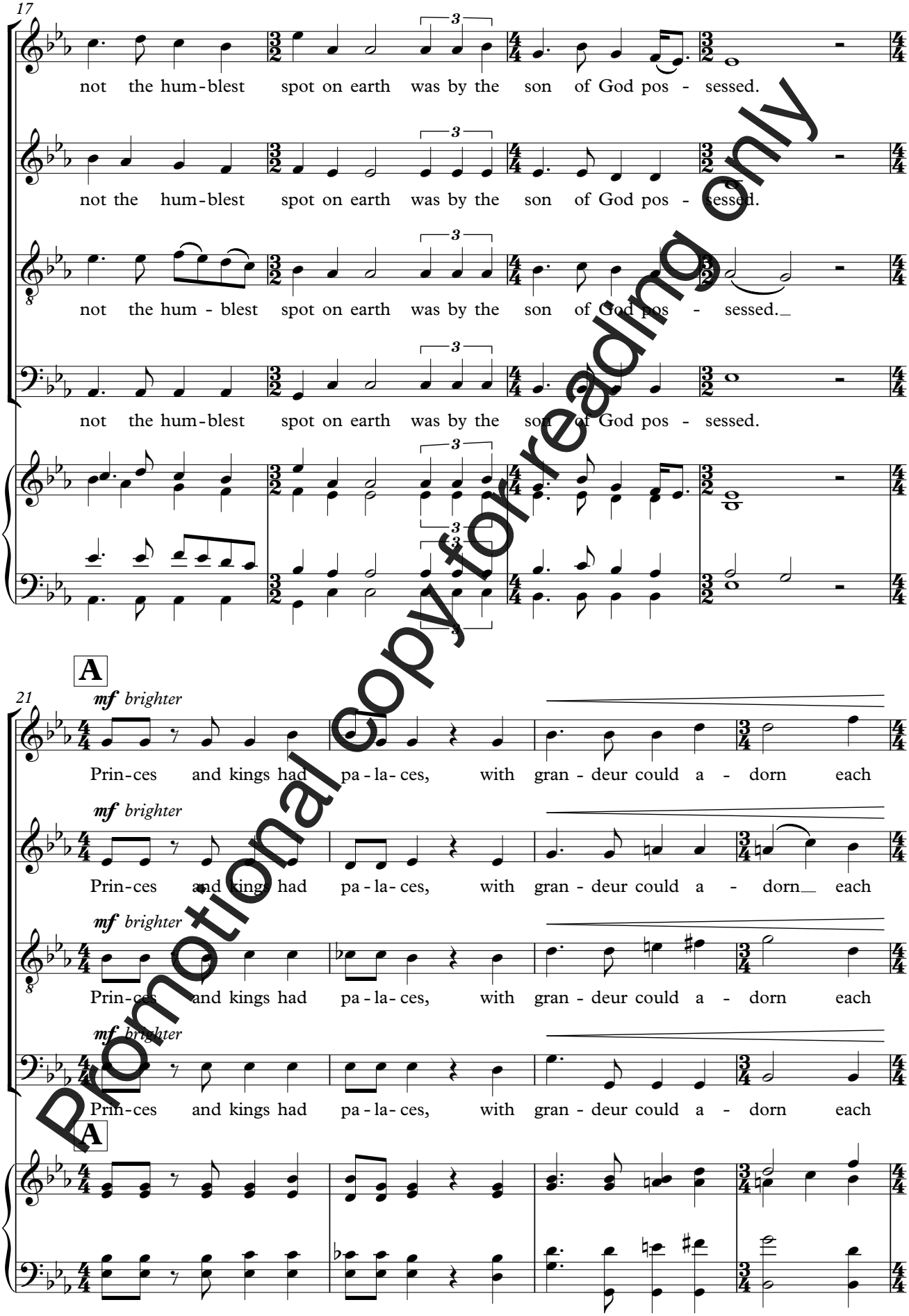


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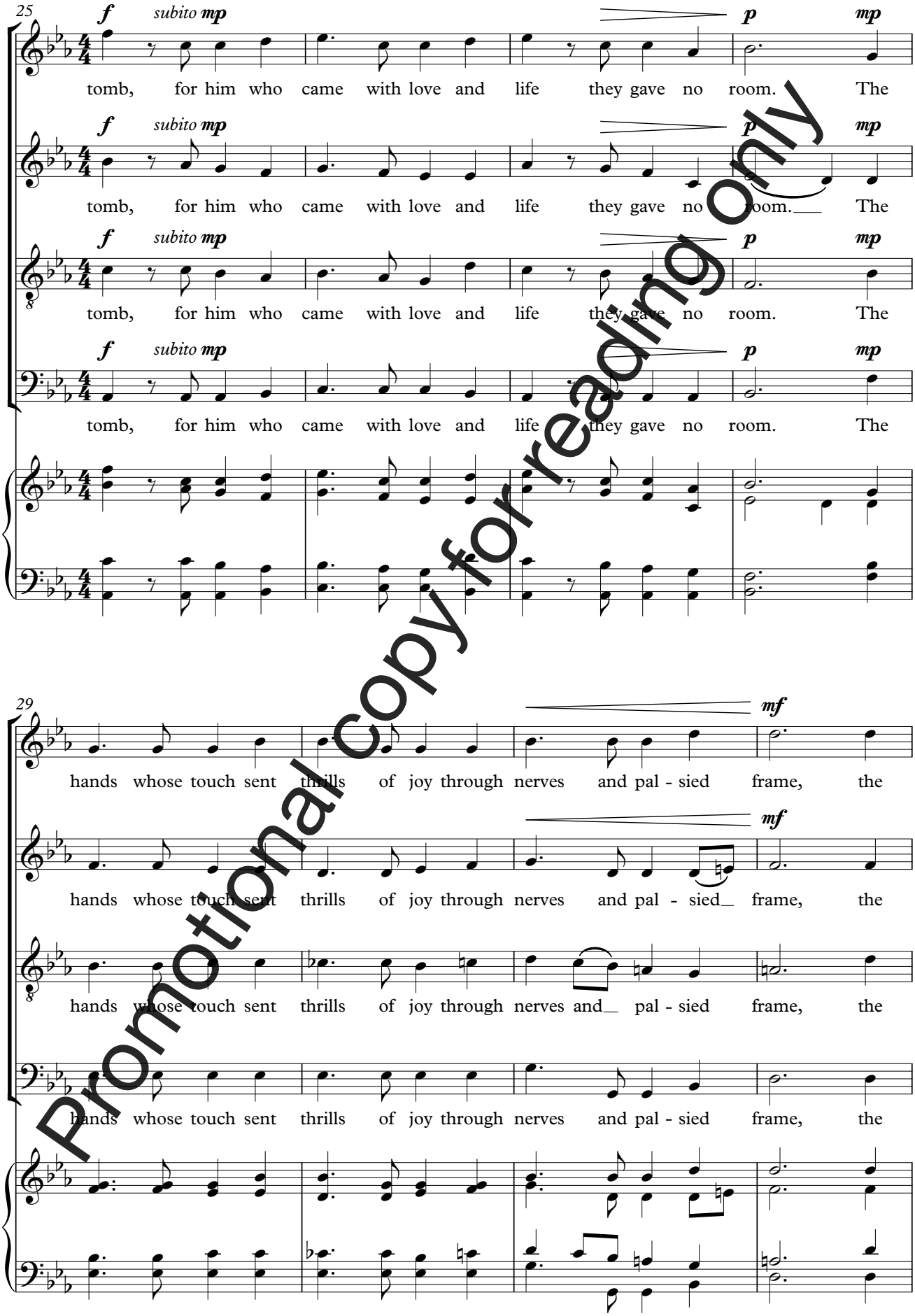


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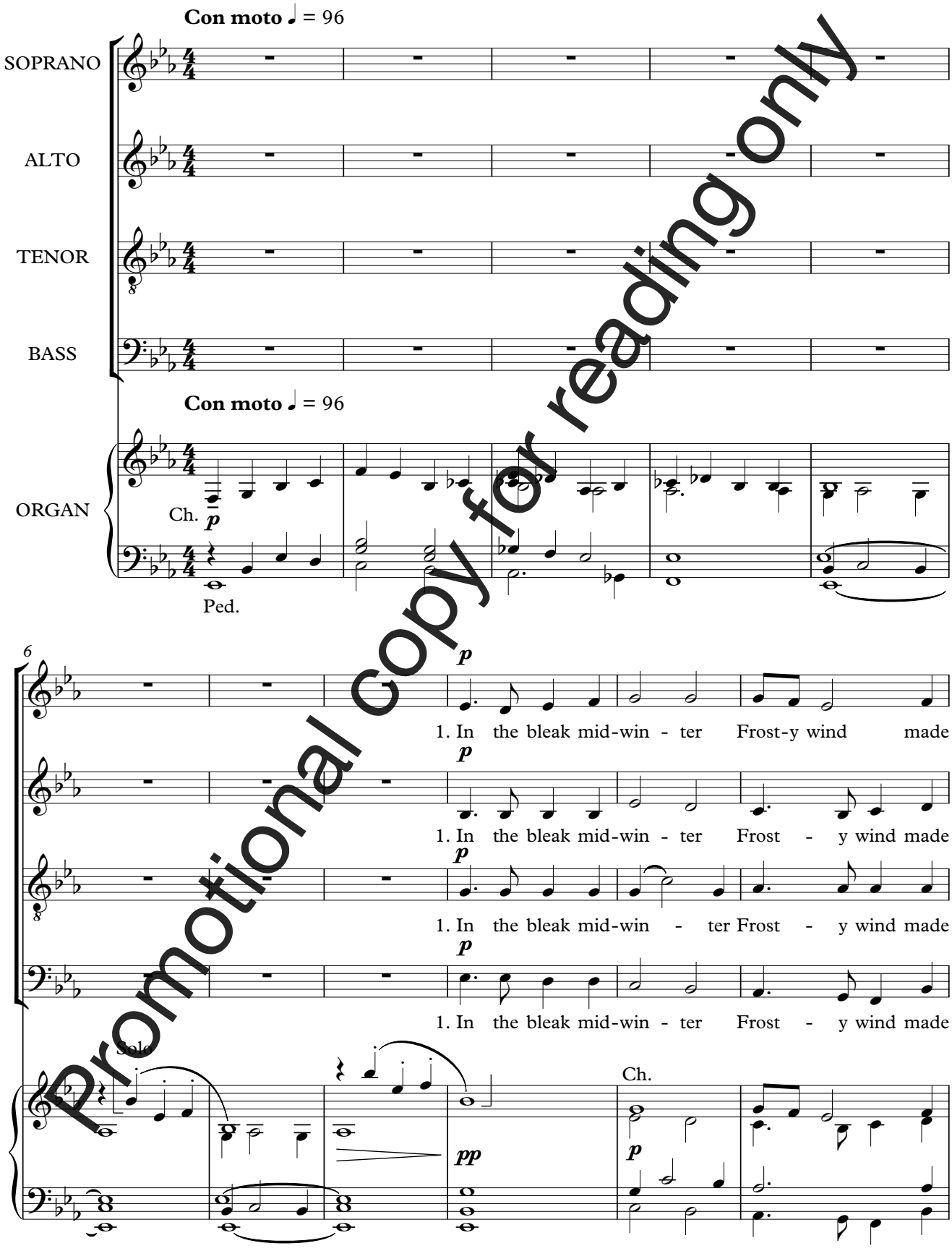
# 15. In the bleak mid-winter

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830–94) Music: Lucy Walker (b. 1998)

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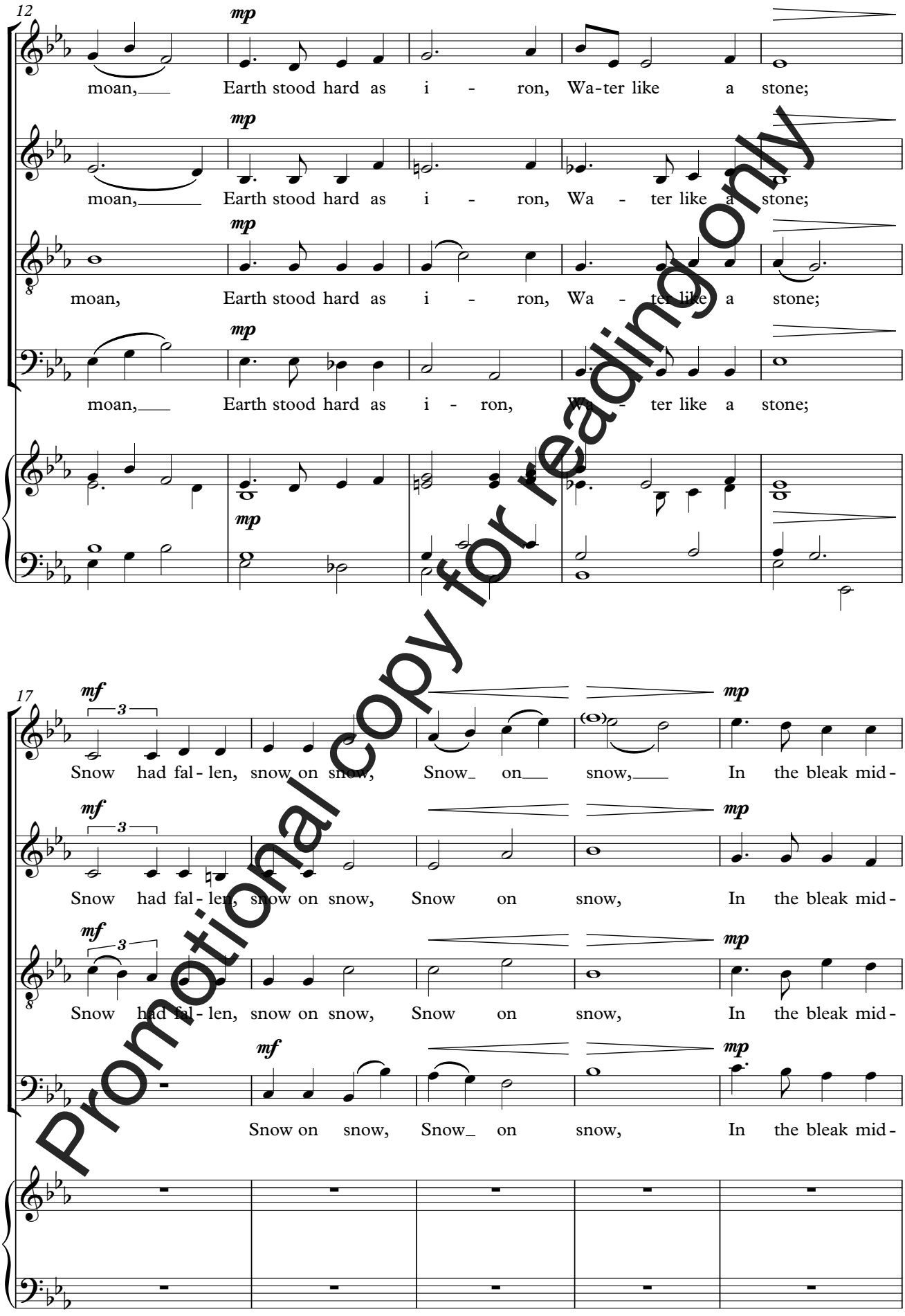


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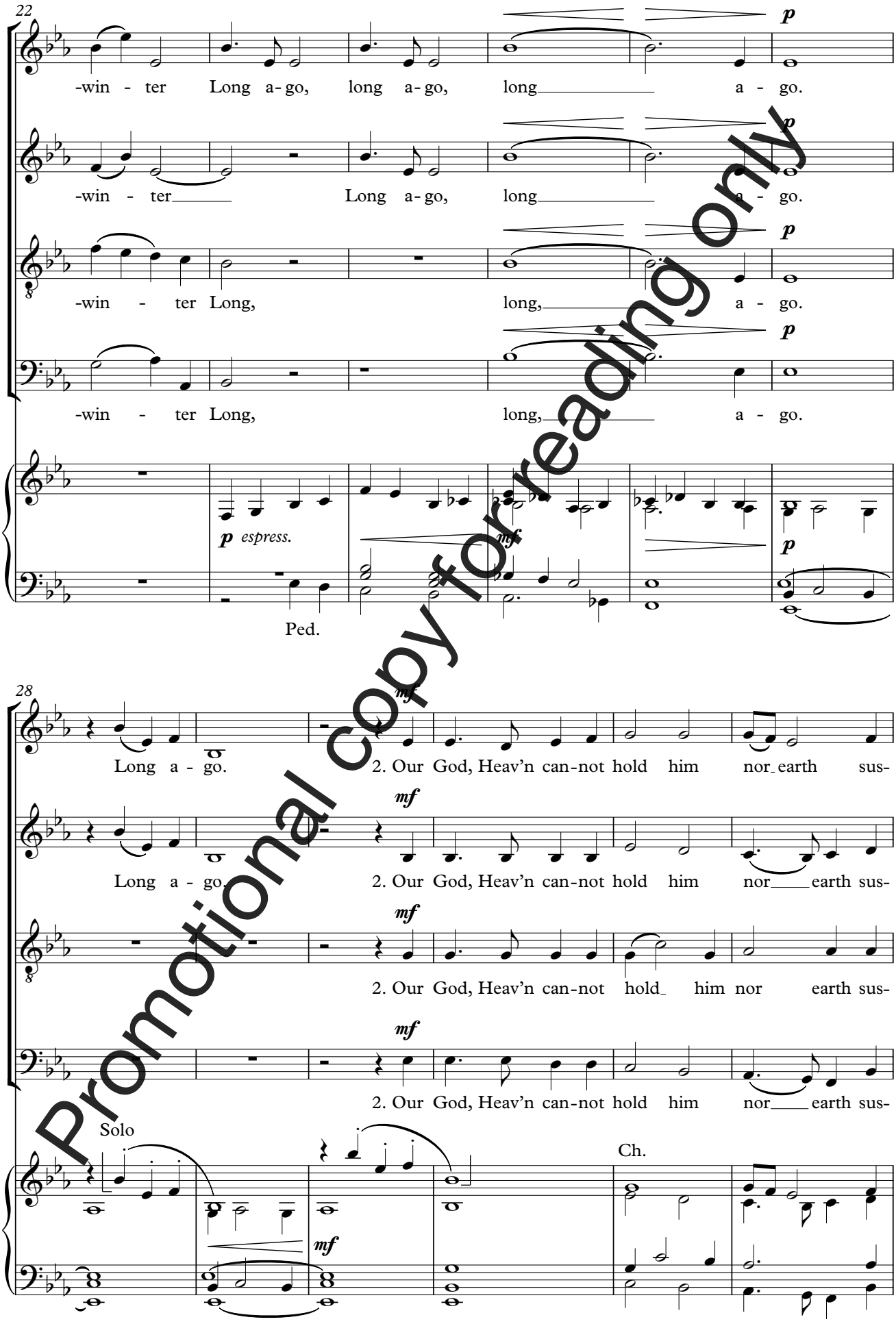


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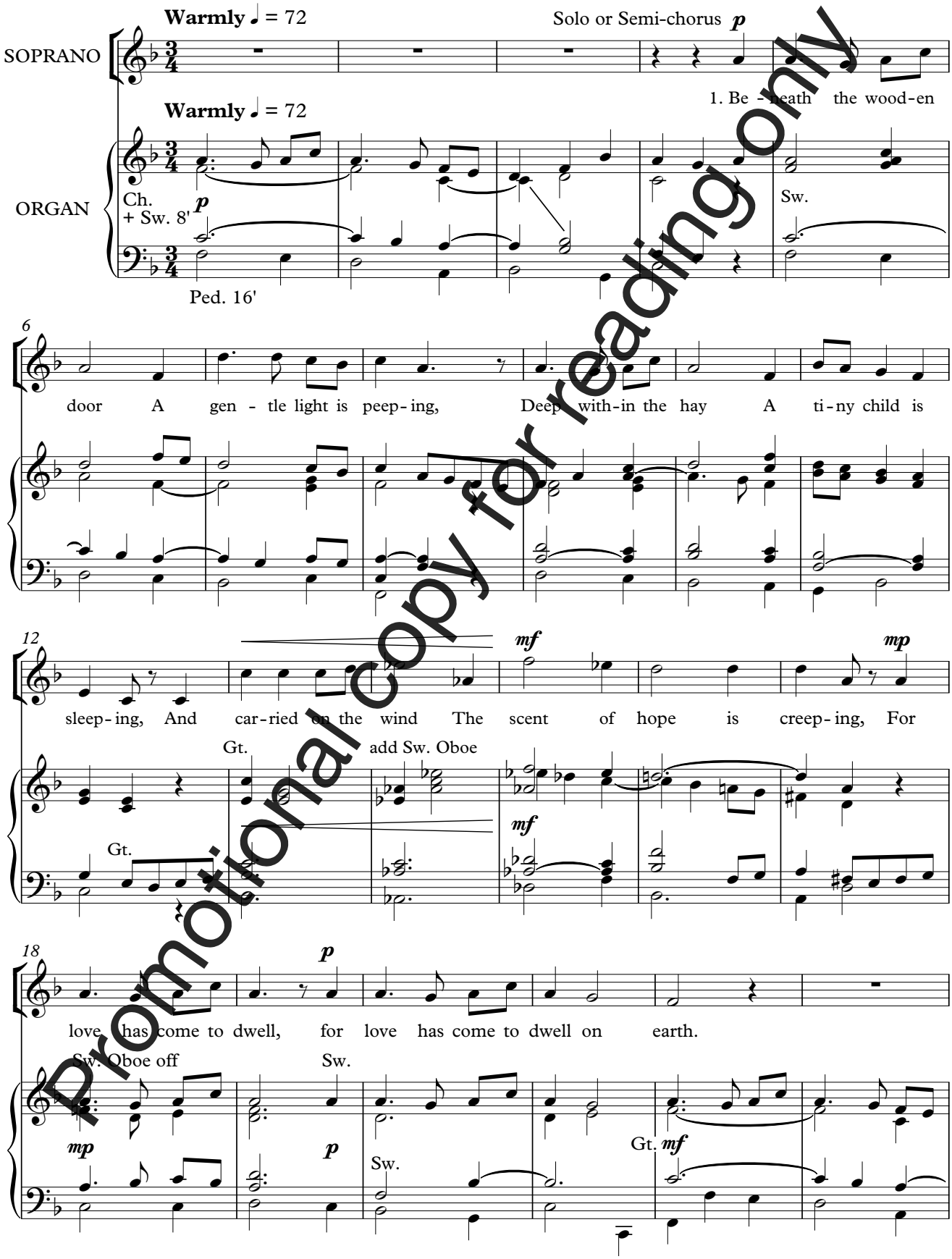
# 16. Love has come

Words: Sharon Grenham-Thompson (b. 1966) Music: Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968)

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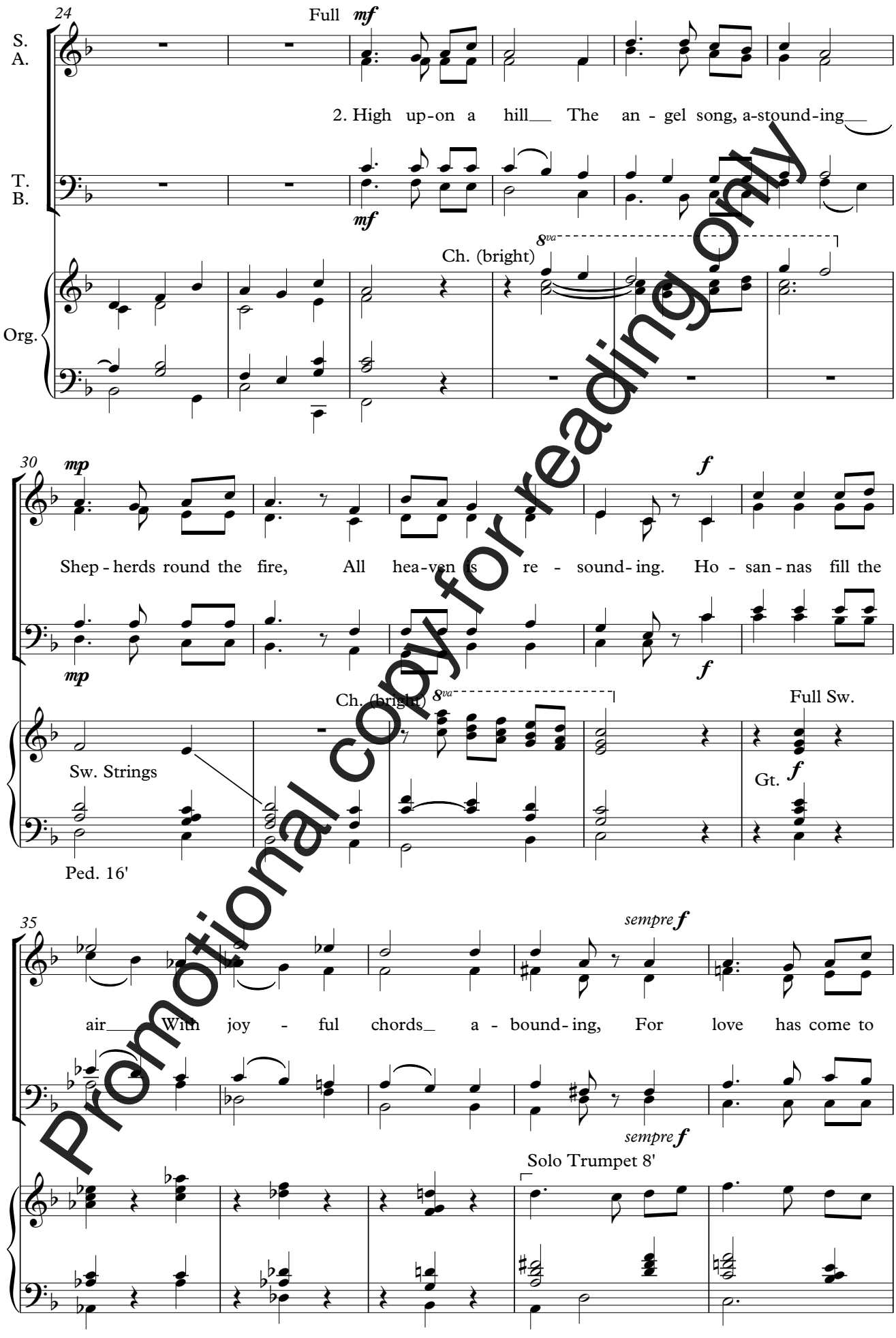
Words © 2022 Sharon Grenham-Thompson, exclusively licensed to Encore Publications
Music © 2022 Encore Publications

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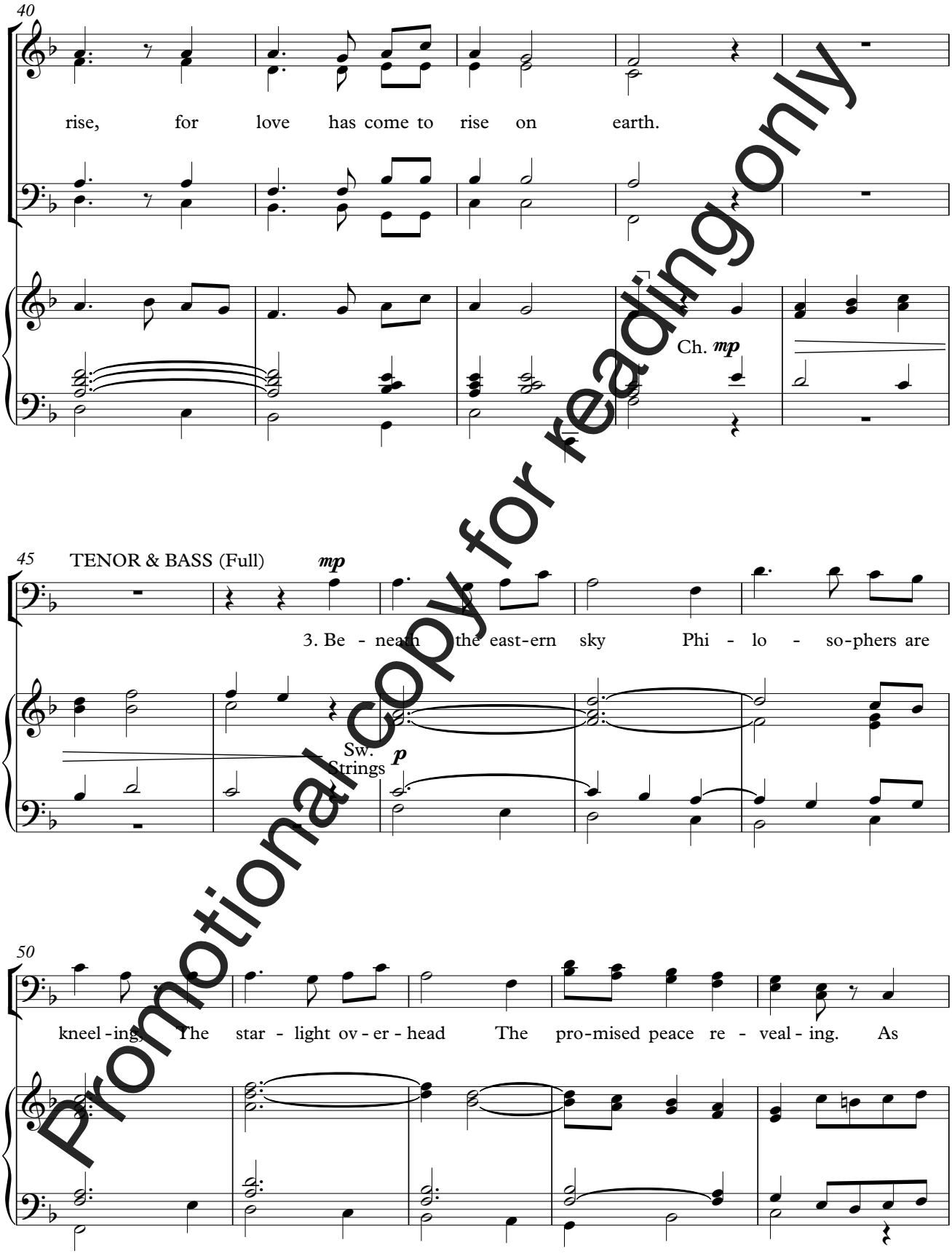


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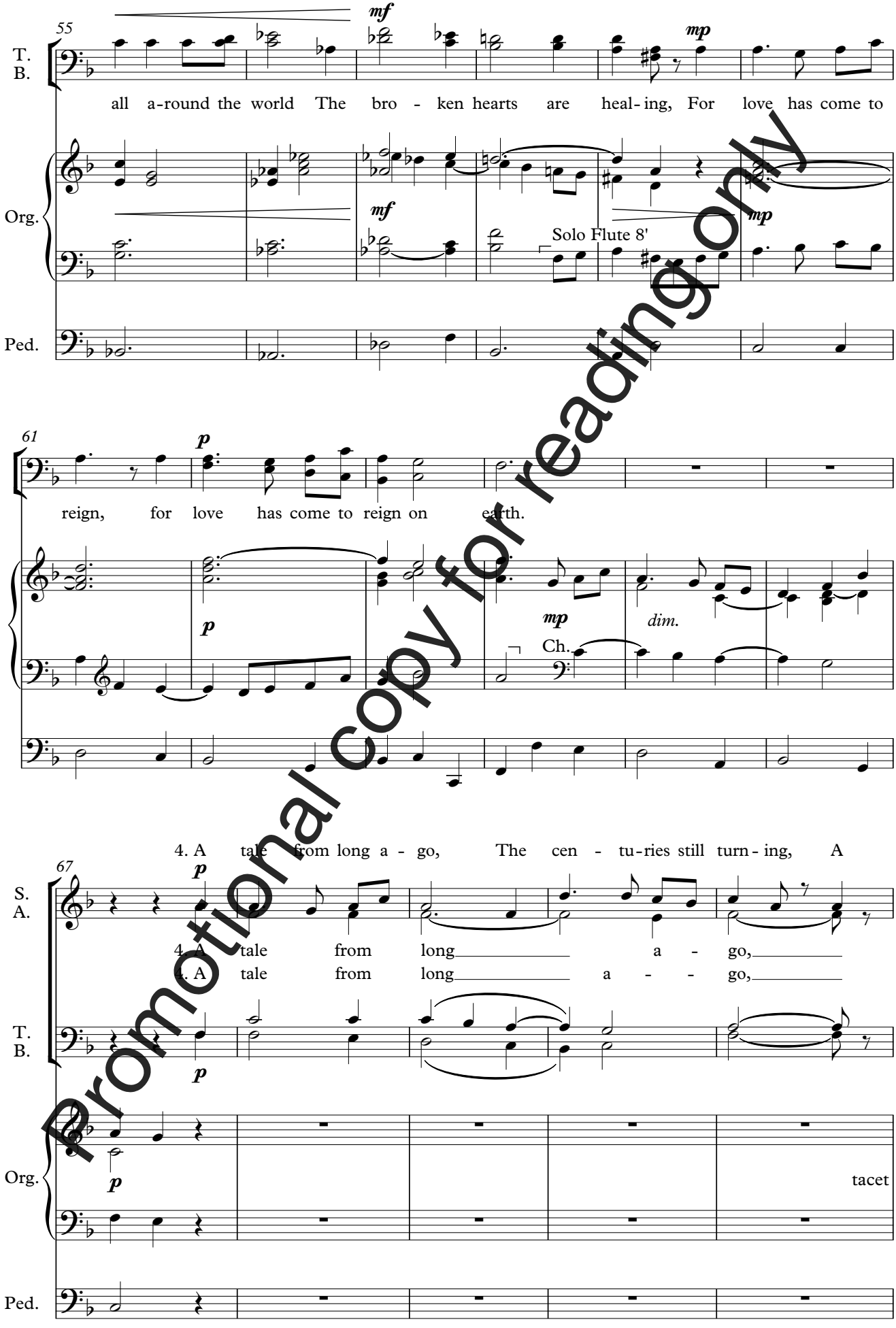


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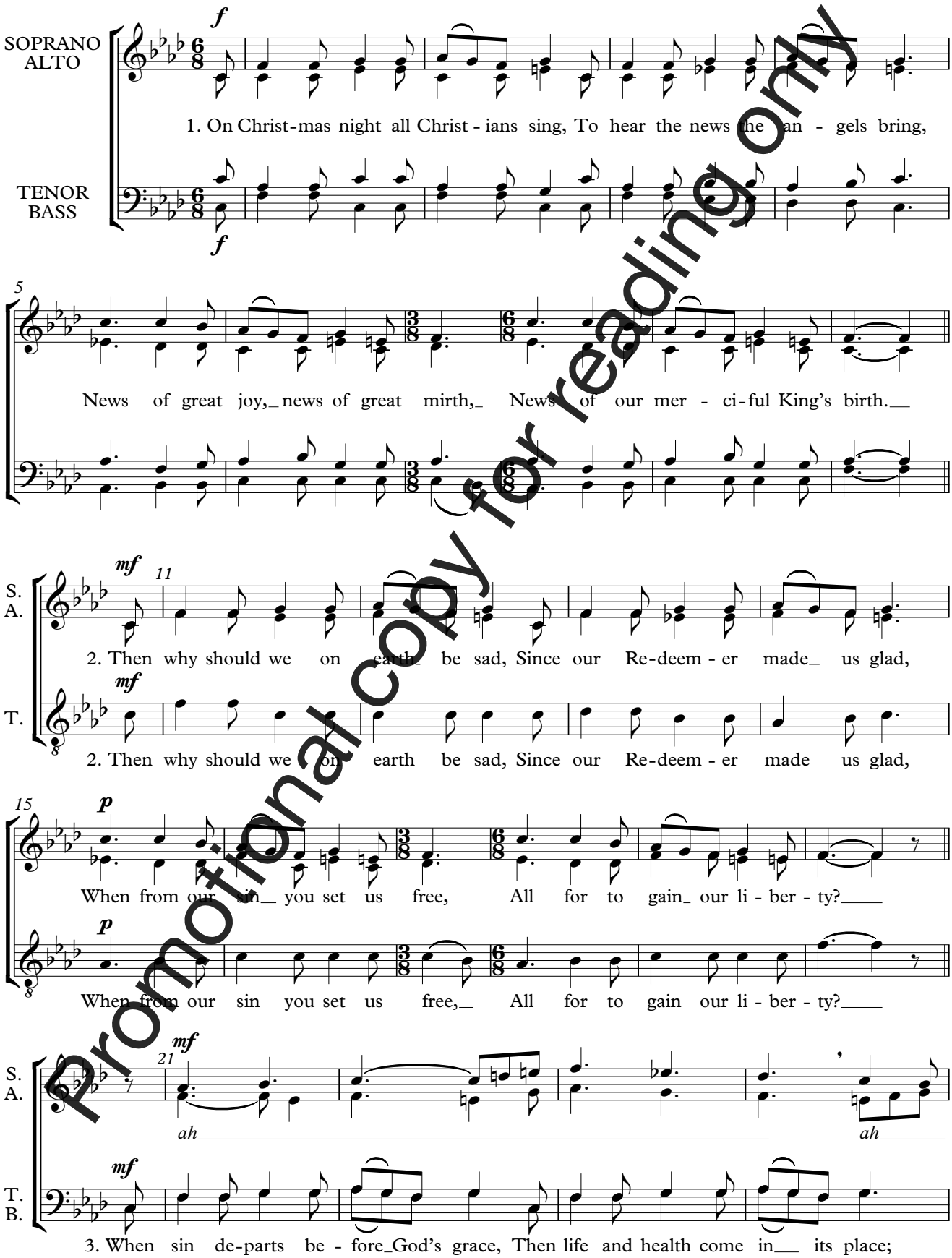
# 17. On Christmas night

Words: English traditional, altd. Music: Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)

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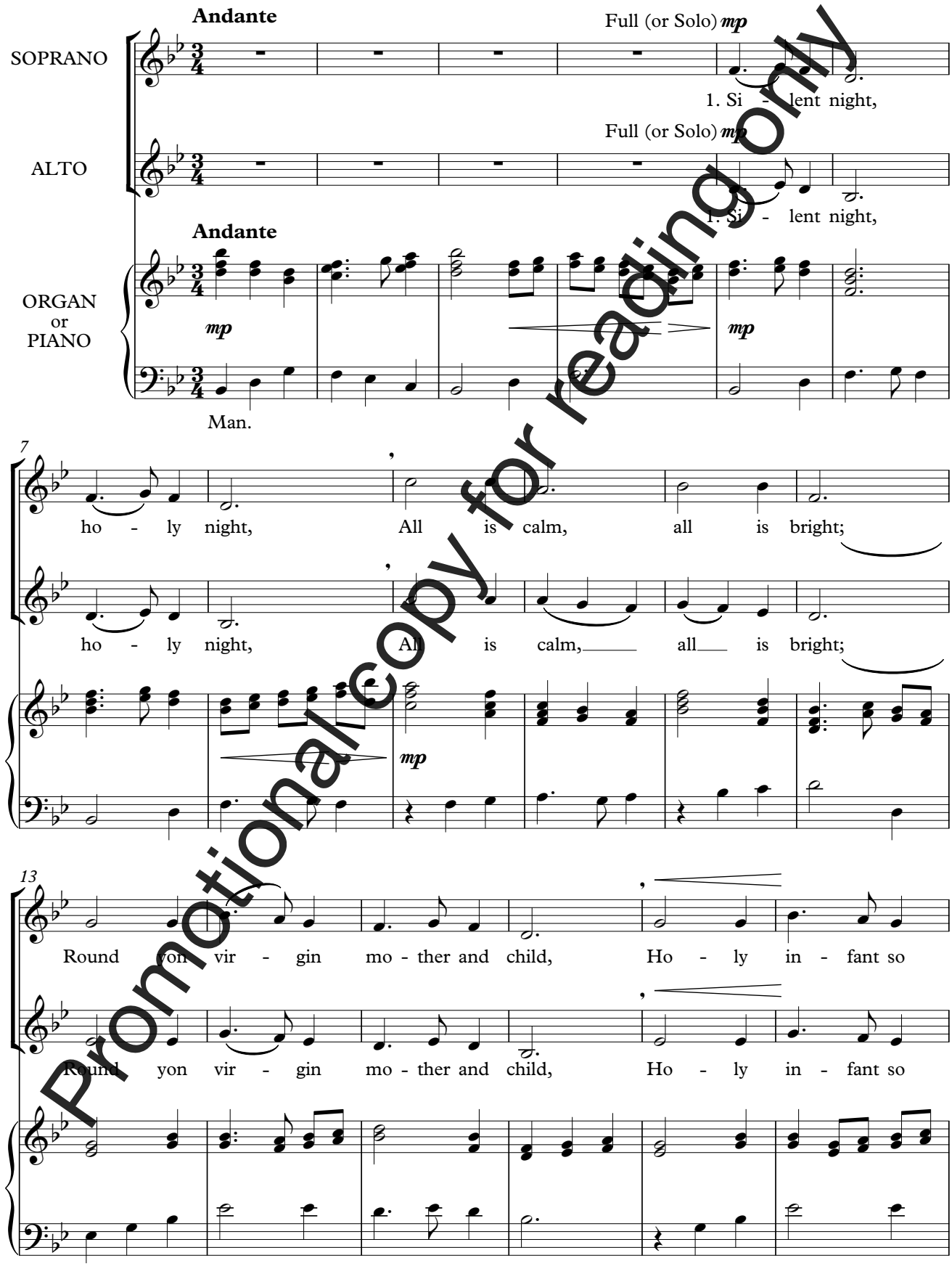
# 18. Silent night

Words: Josef Mohr (1792–1848)
tr. anon.

Music: Franz Gruber (1787–1863)
arranged by Kerry Boyle (b. 1964)

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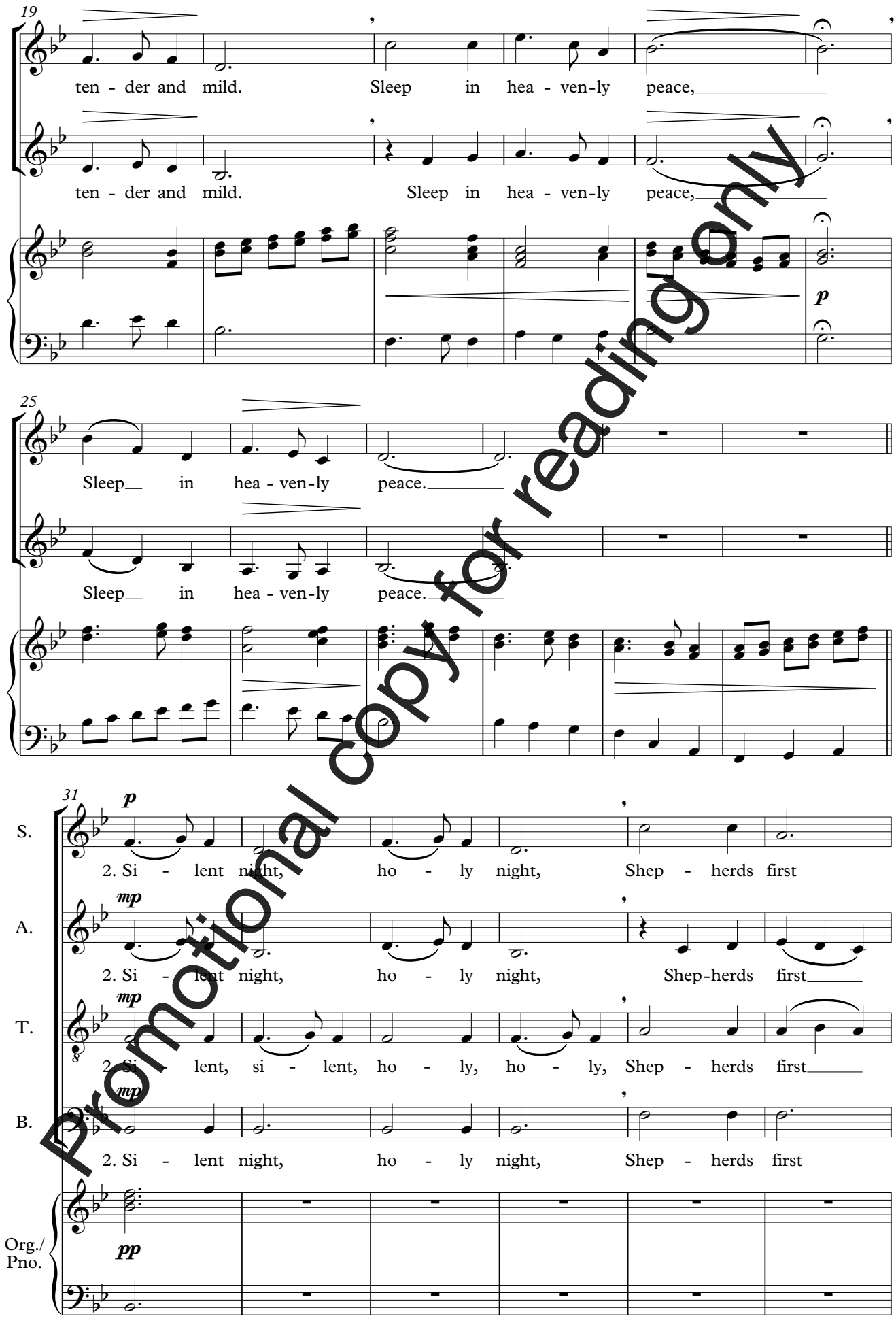


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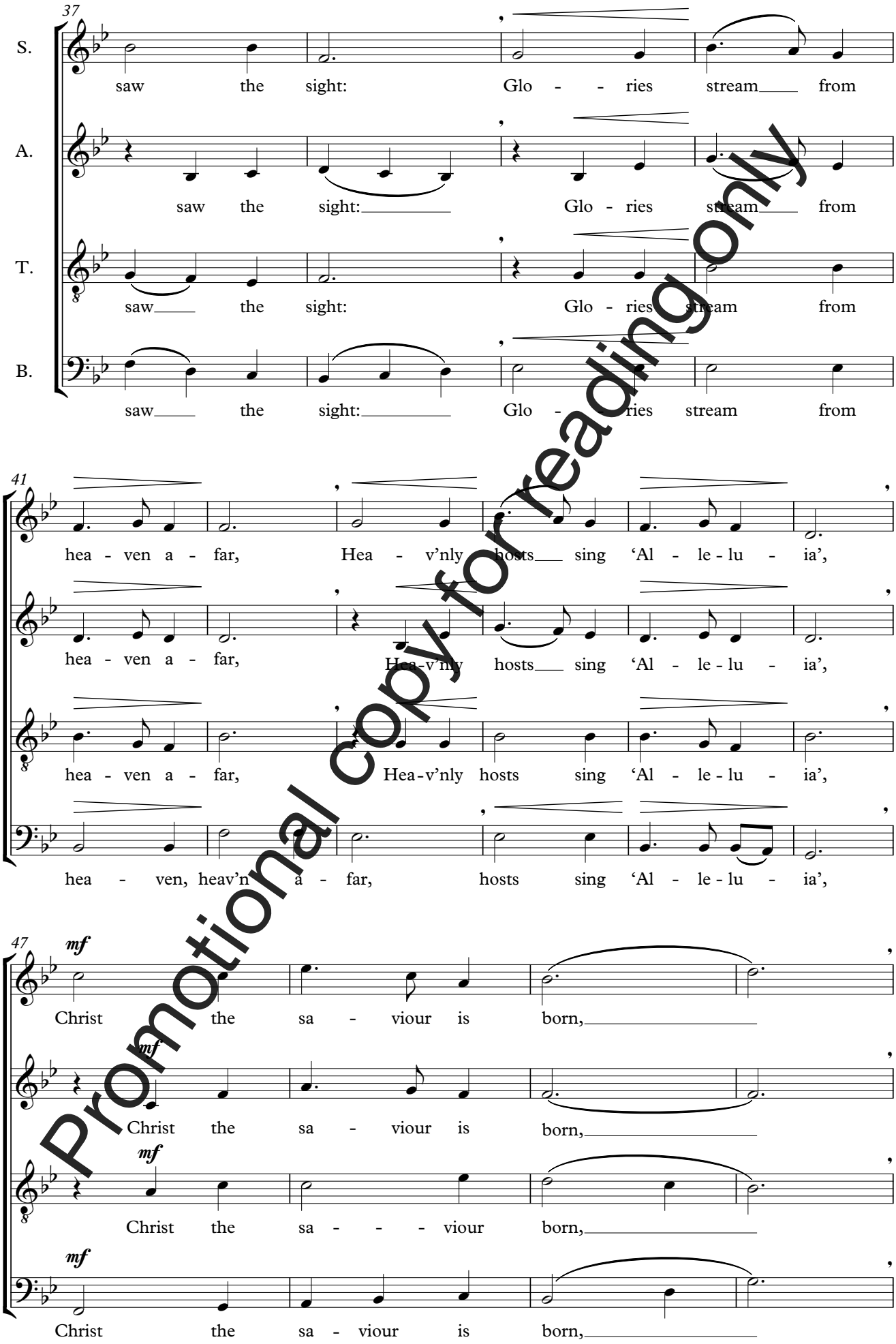


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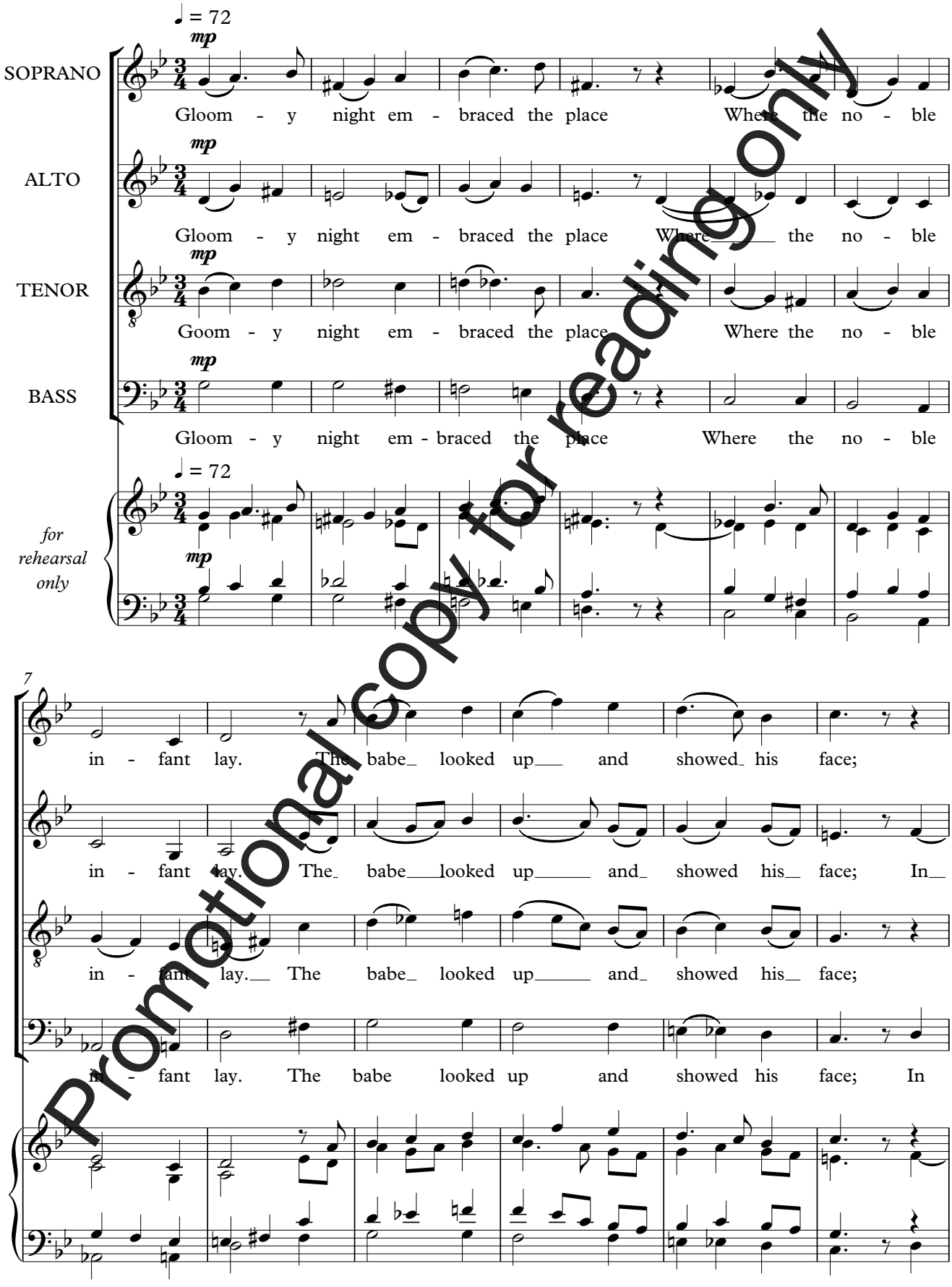
# 19. Summer in Winter

Words: Richard Crashaw (1613–1649)

Music: Sasha Johnson Manning (b. 1963)

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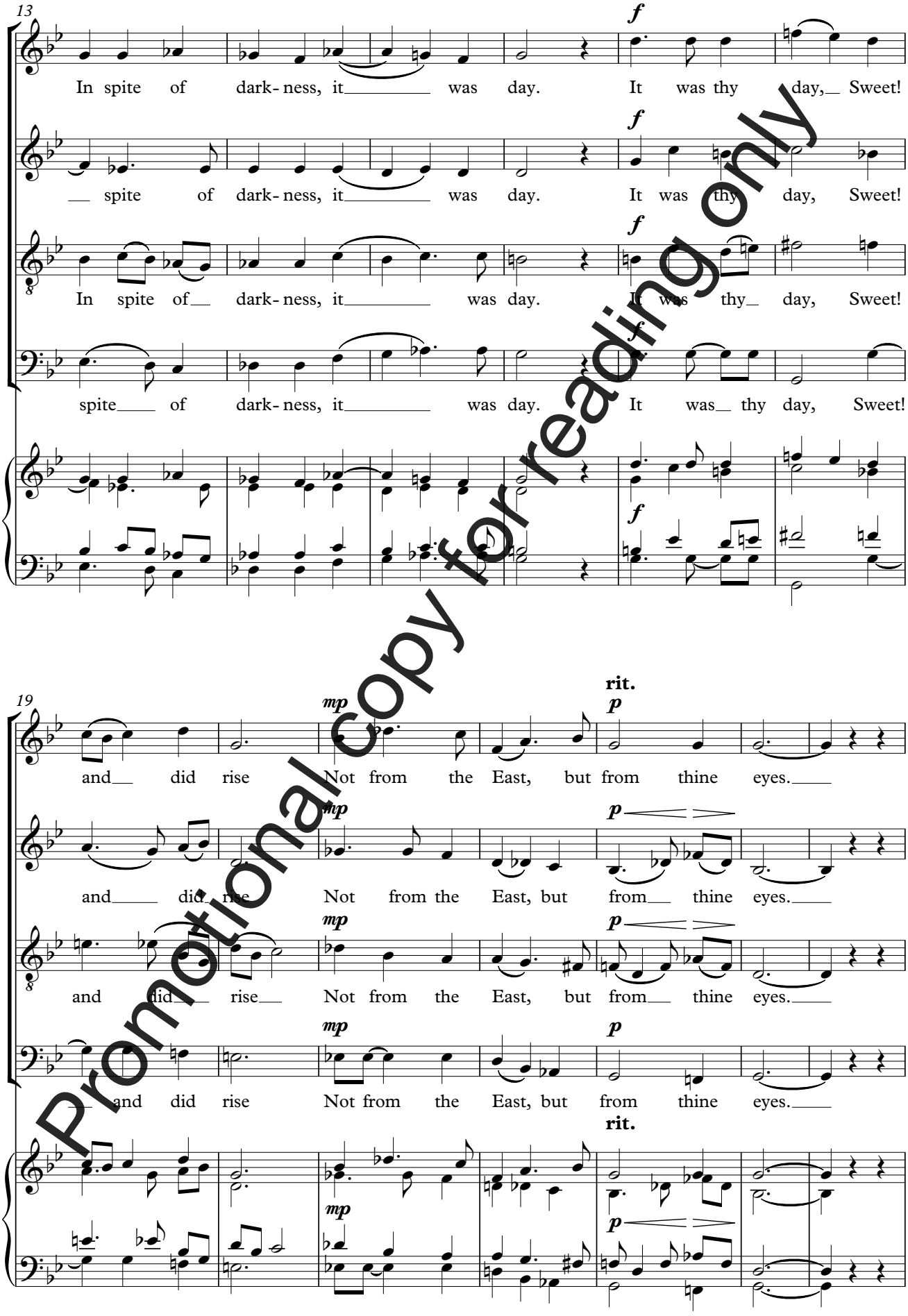


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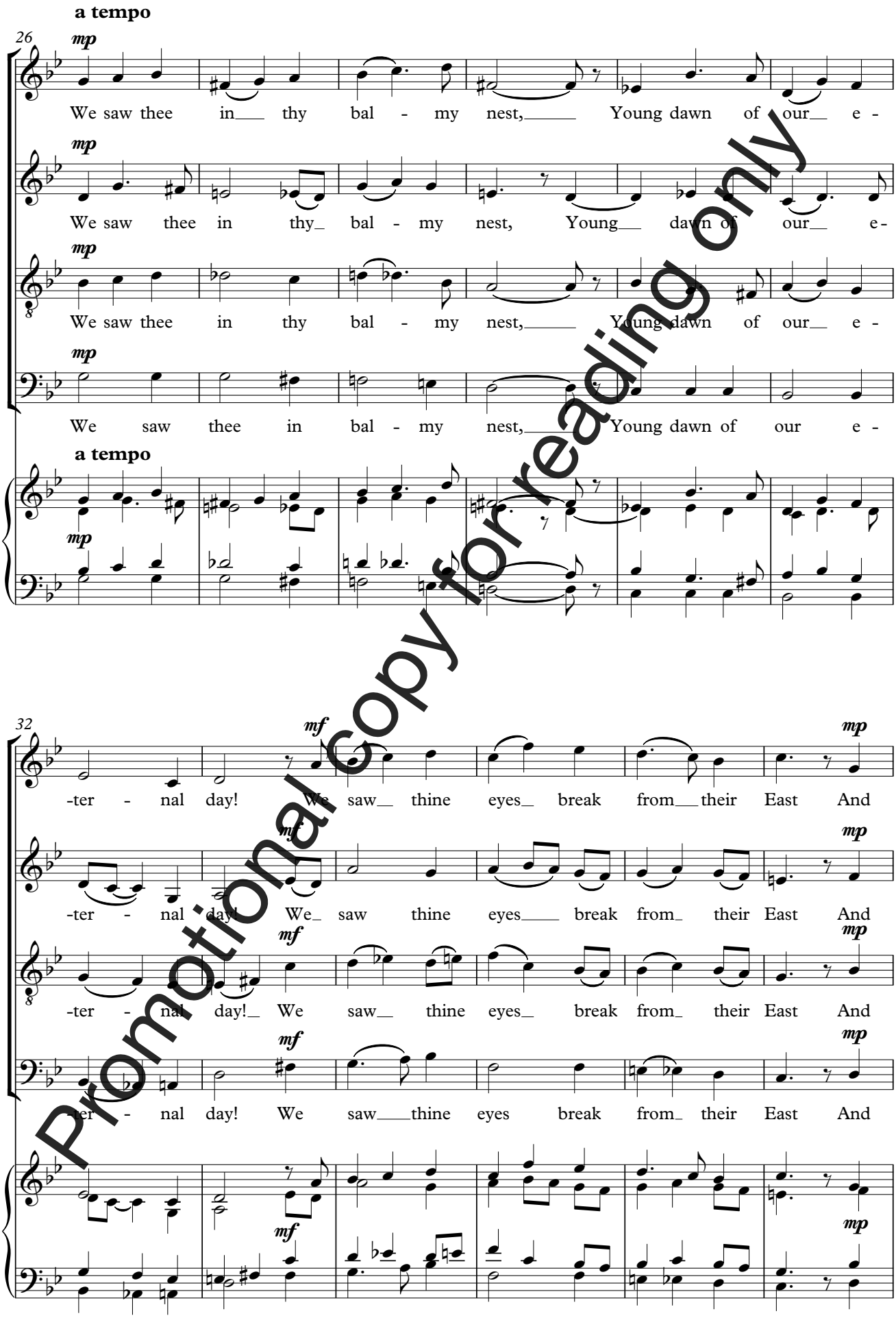


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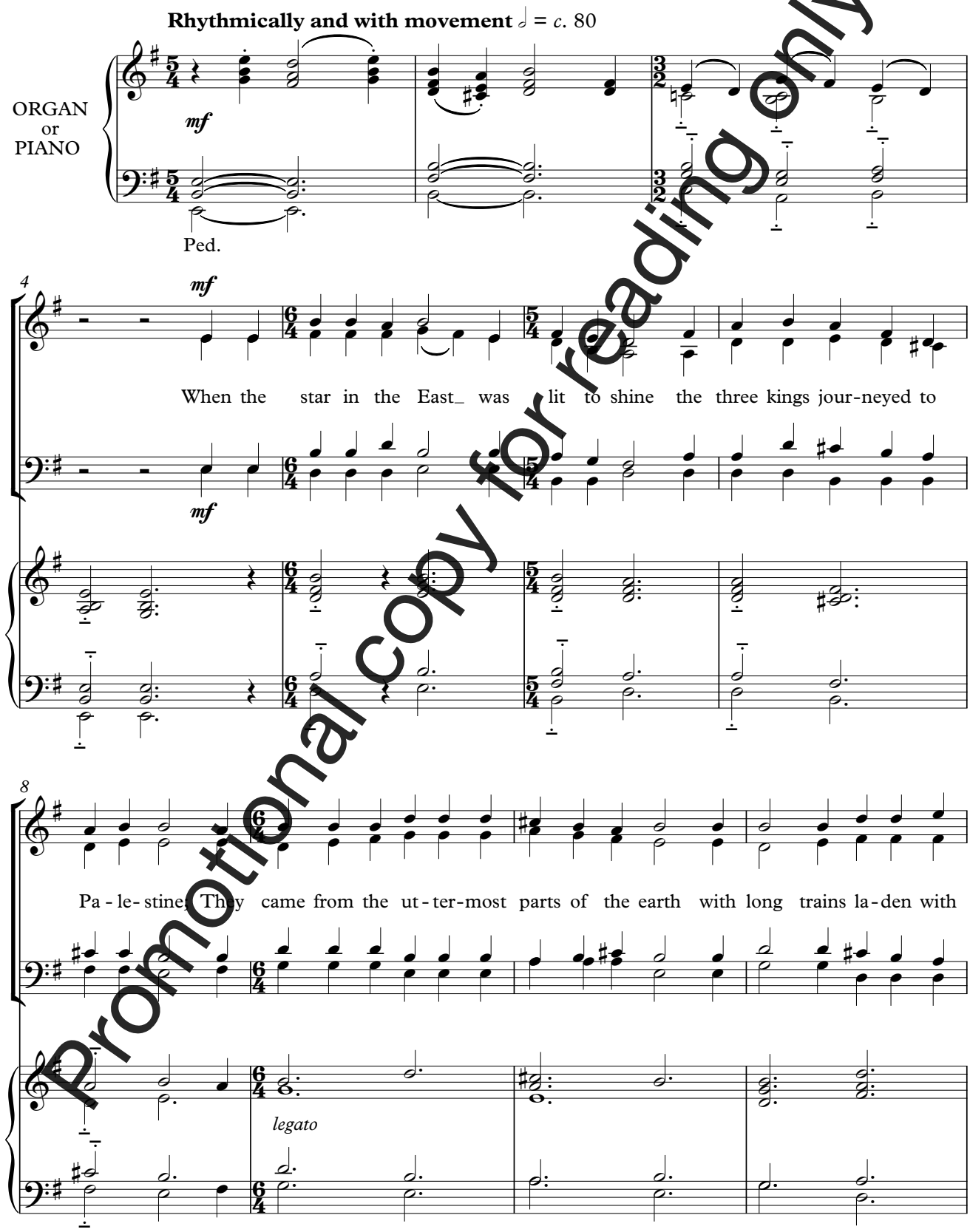
# 21. The three kings

Words: from a poem, *The Three Kings*
by Edith Nesbit (1858–1924), altd.

Music: Alison Willis (b. 1971)

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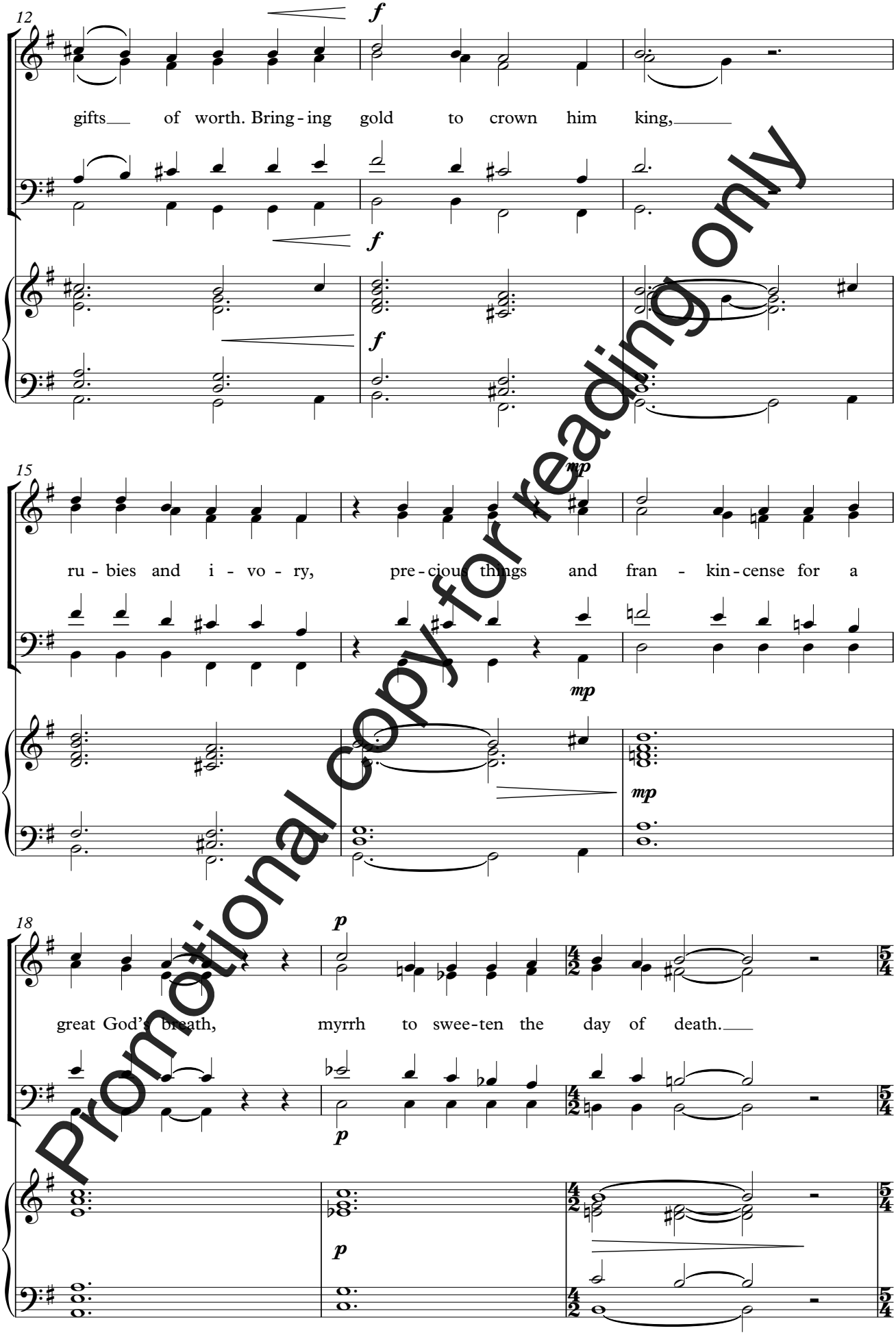


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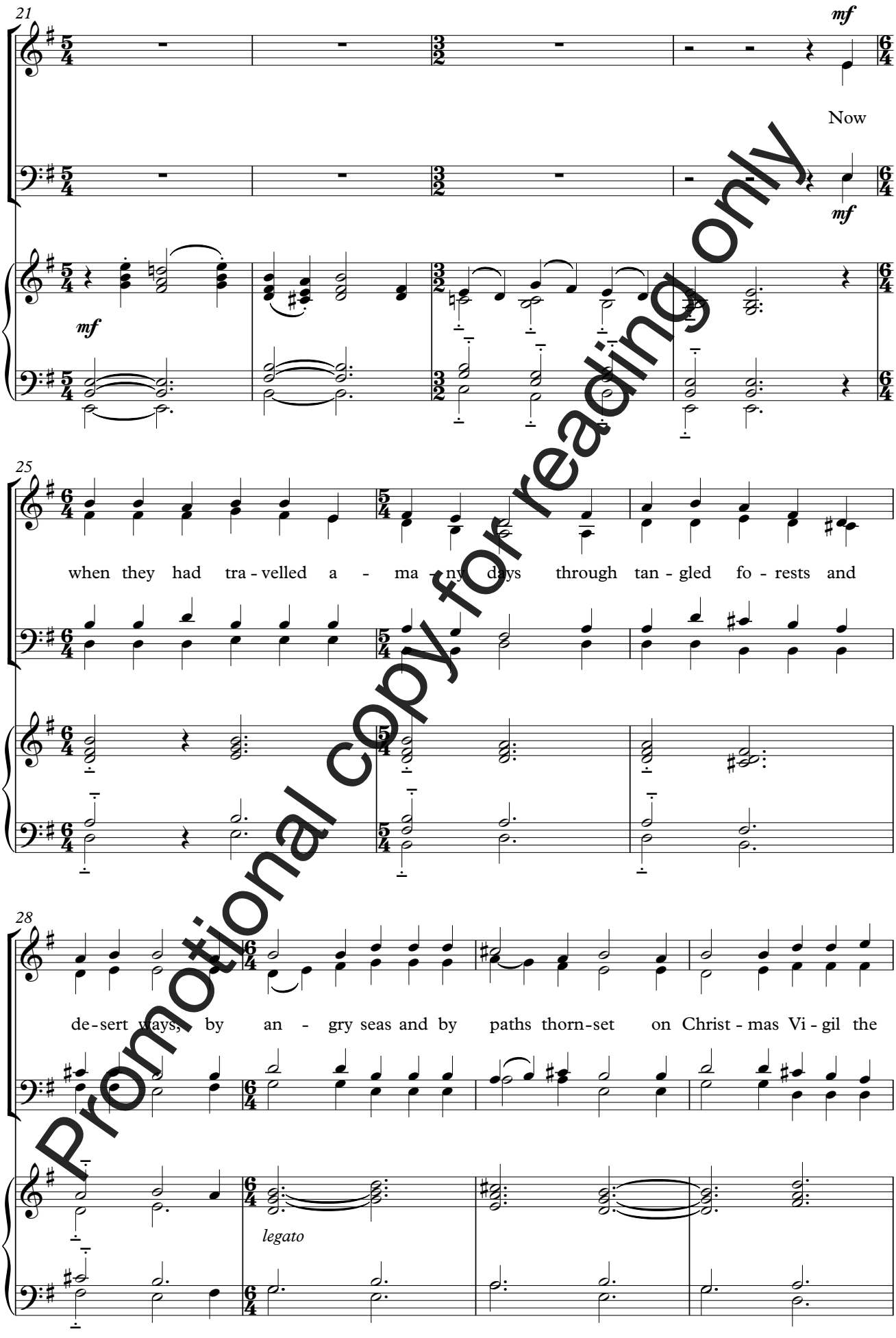


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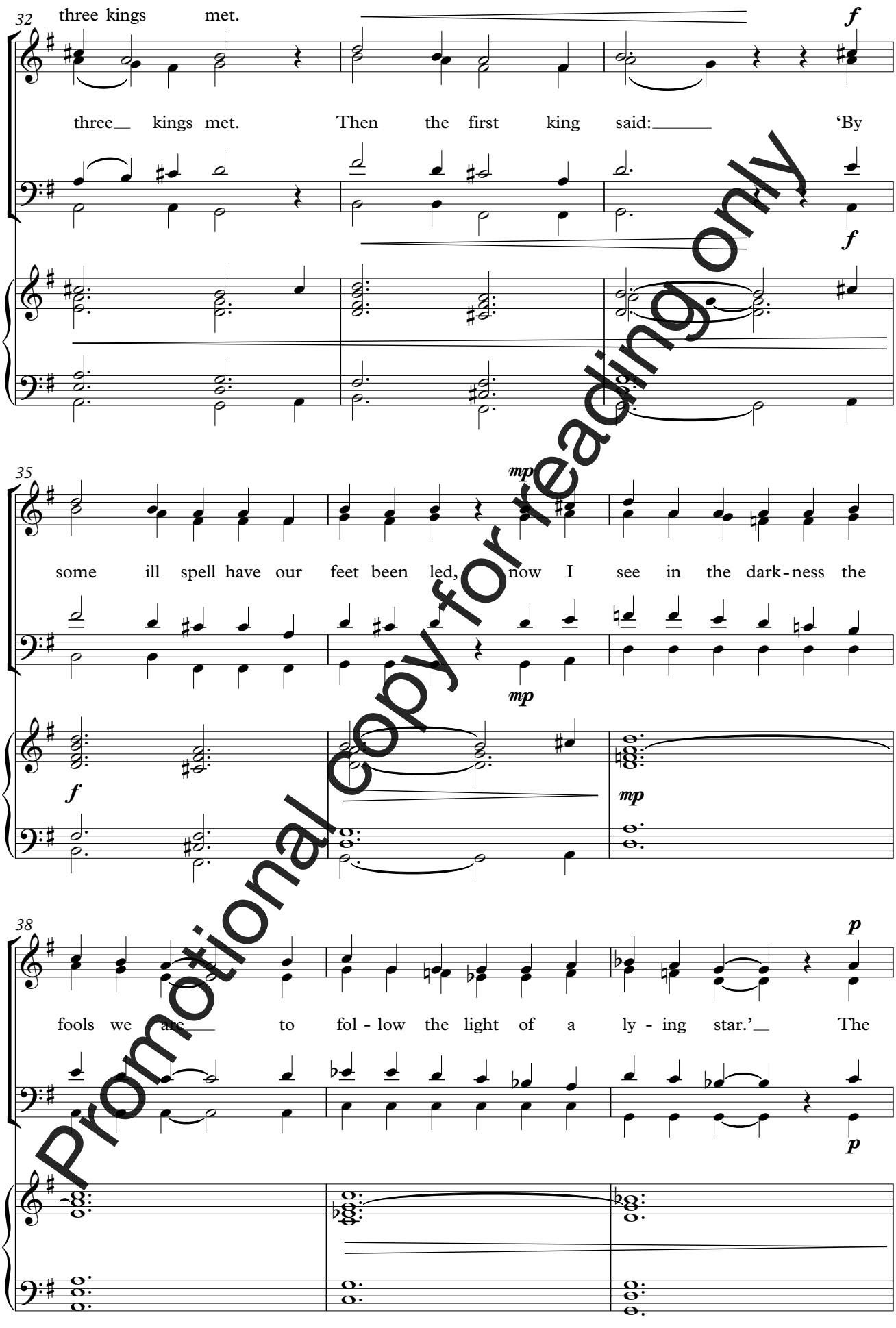


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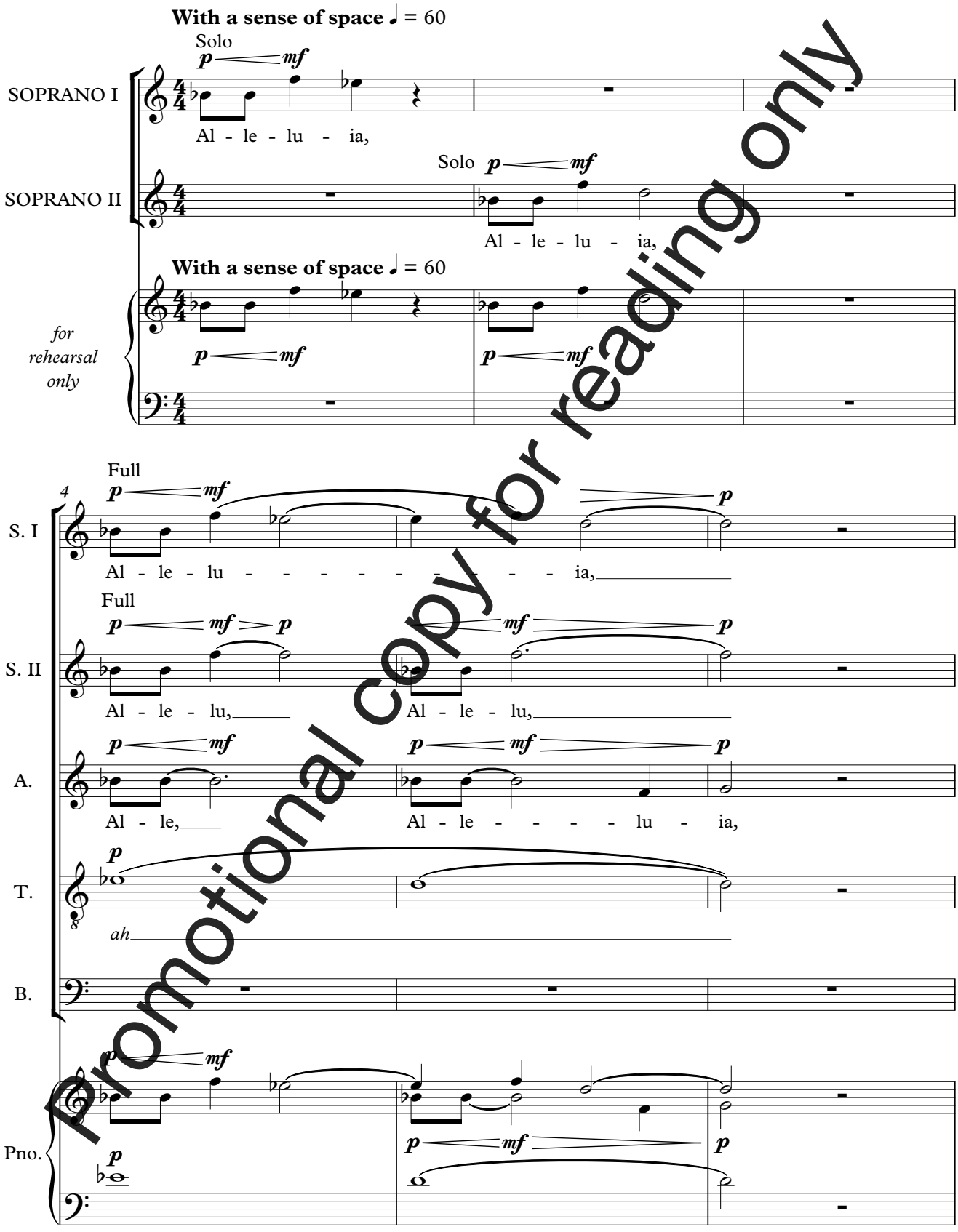
# 22. There is no rose

Words: Anon., 15th century

Music: Electra Perivolaris (b. 1996)

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Note: All grace notes should be sung before the beat.

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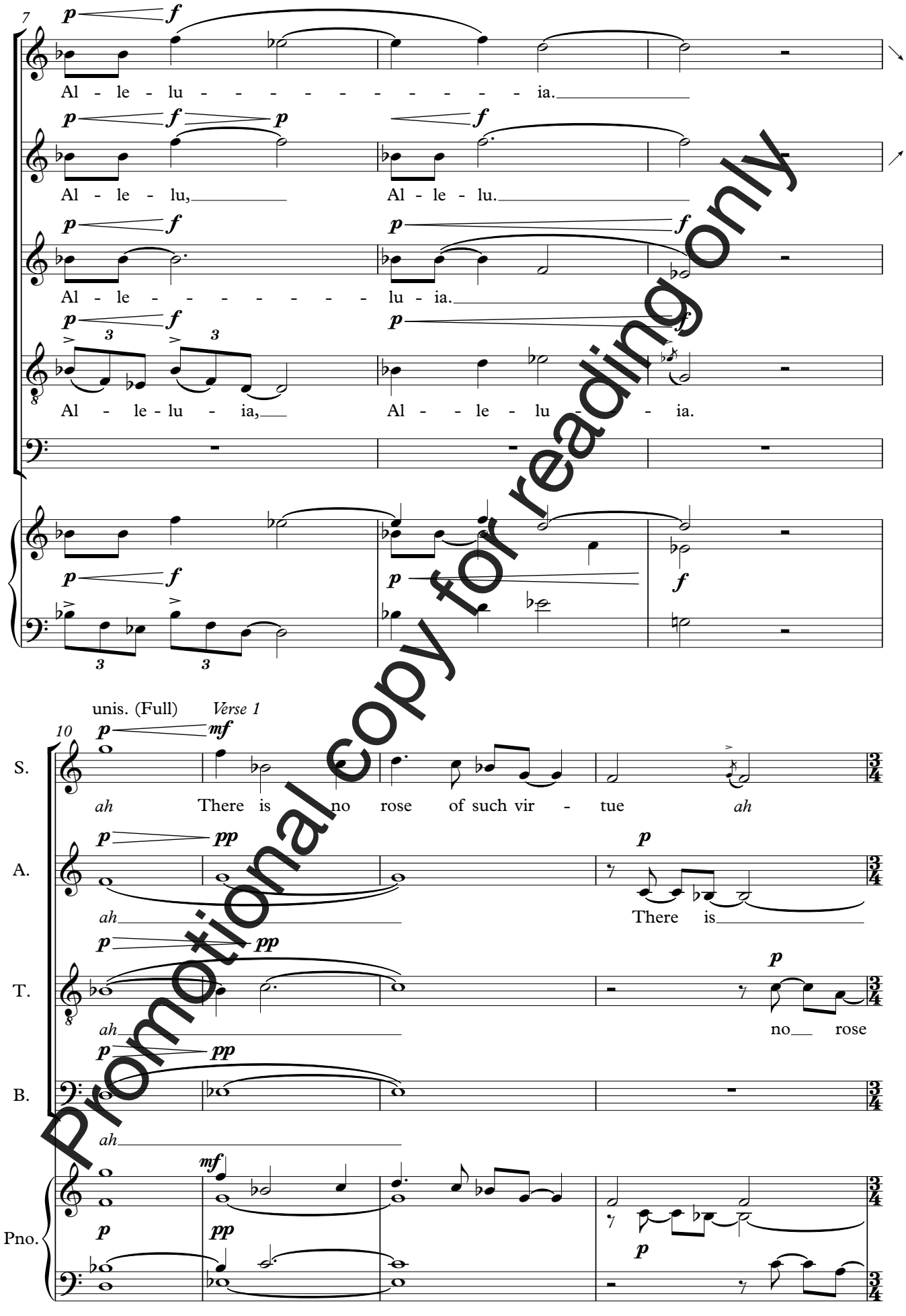


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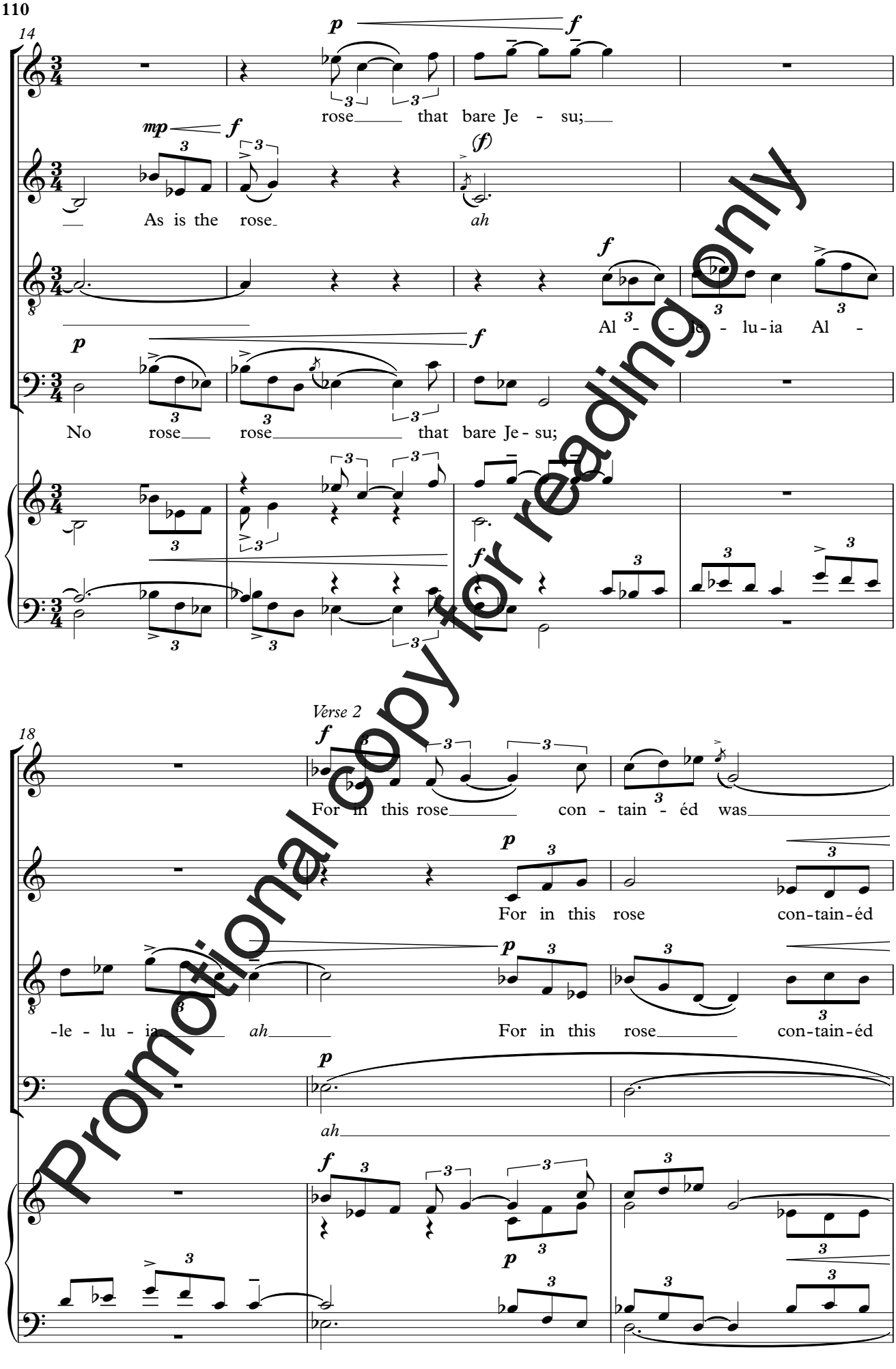


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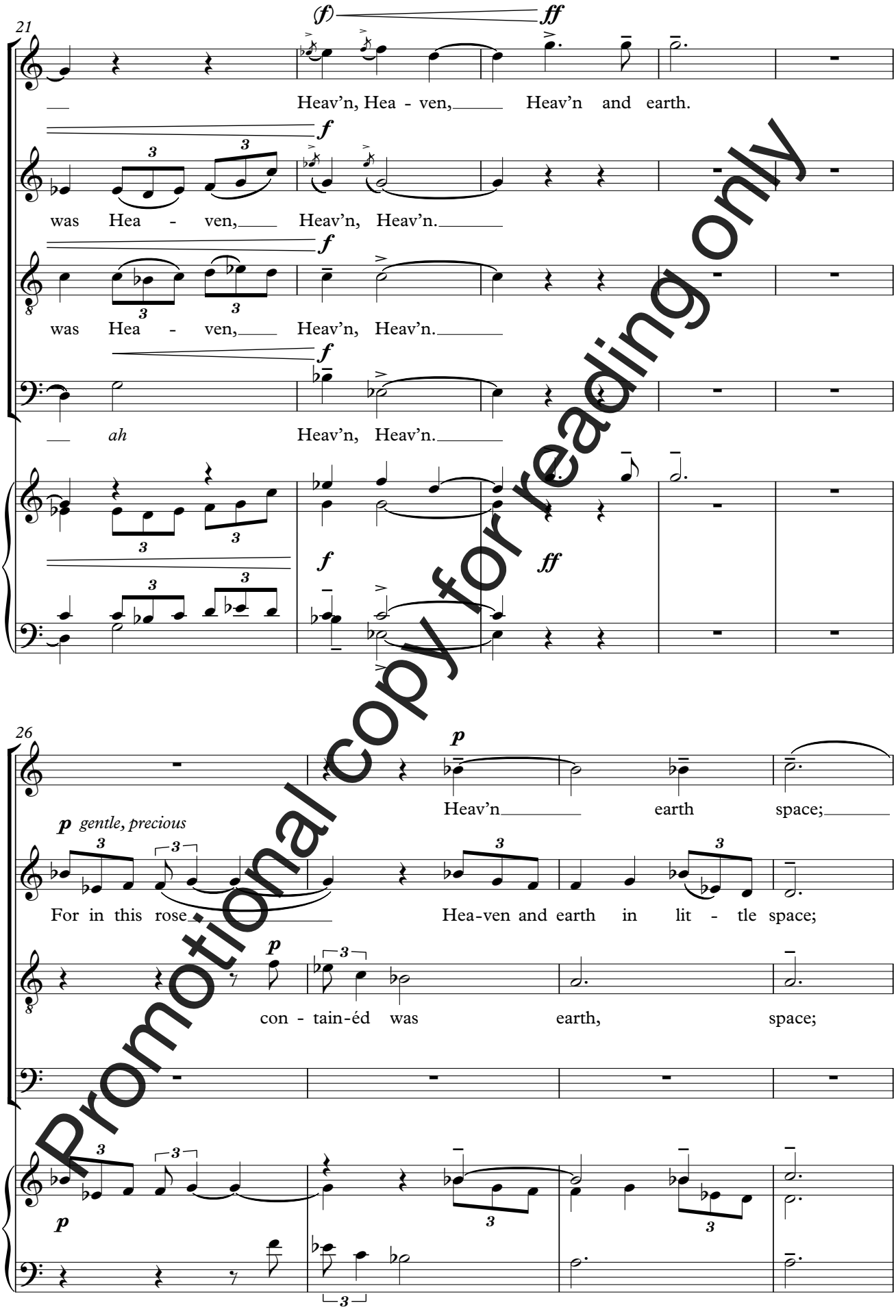


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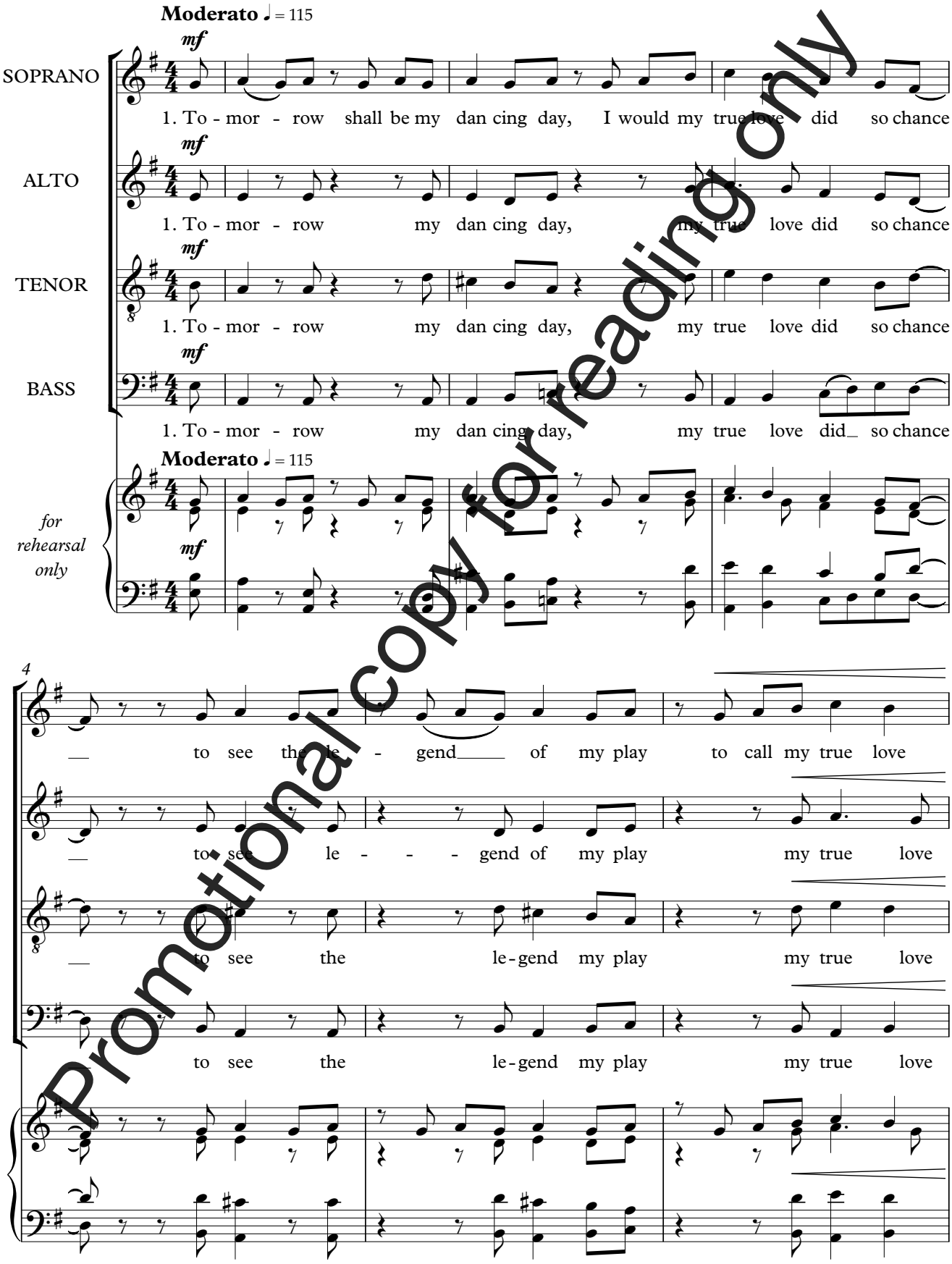
# 24. Tomorrow shall be my dancing day

Words: Traditional

Music: Tamsin Jones (b. 1972)

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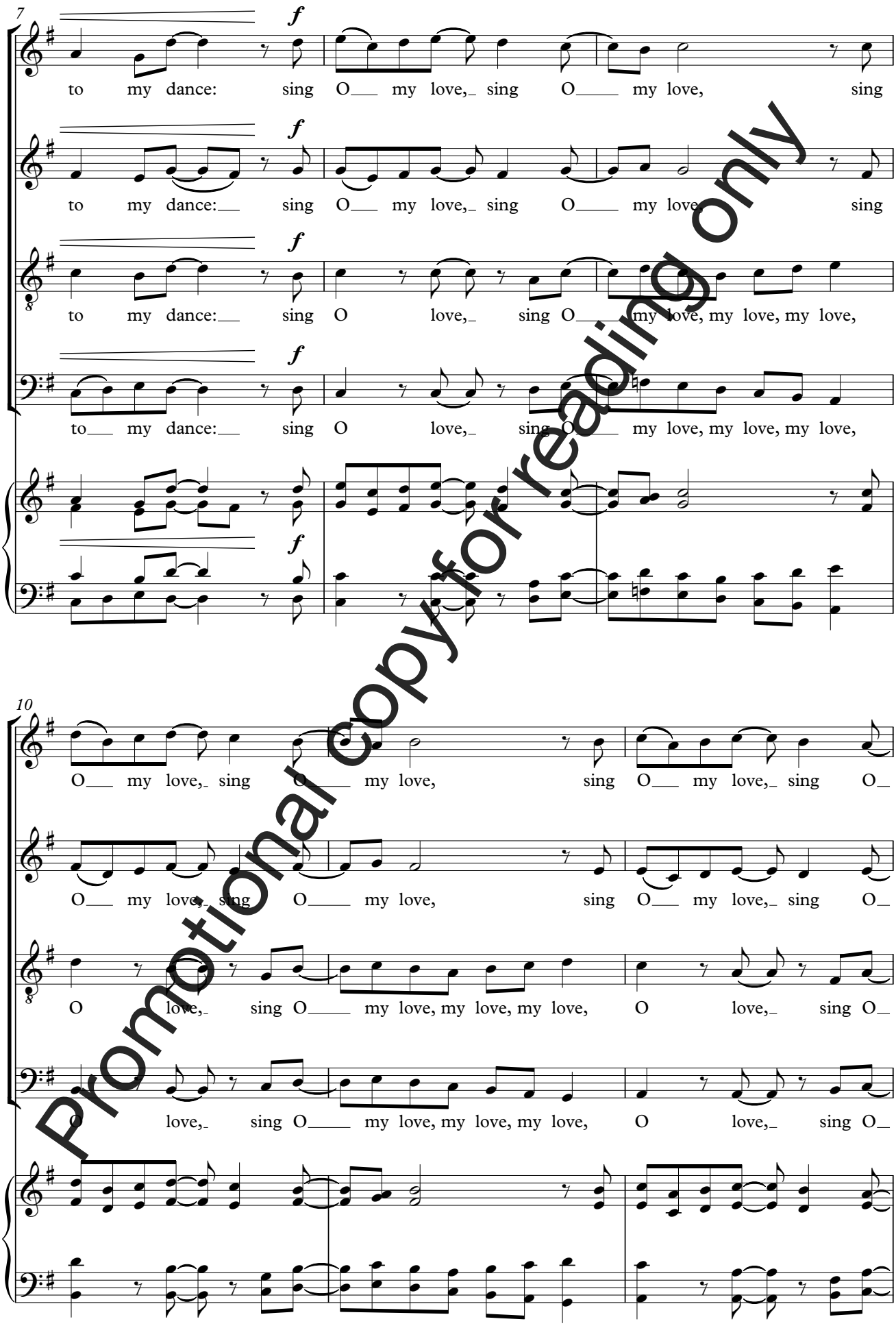


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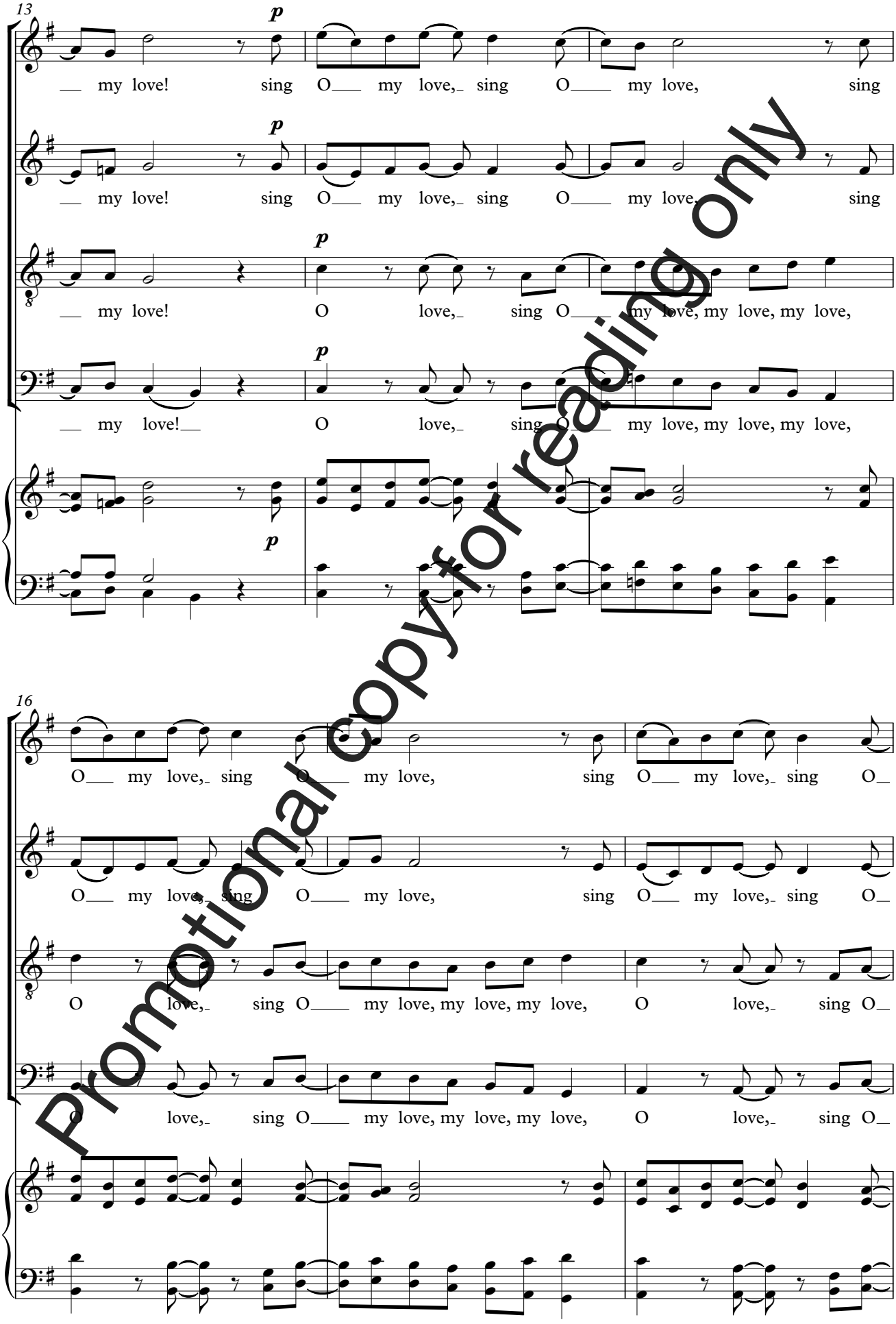


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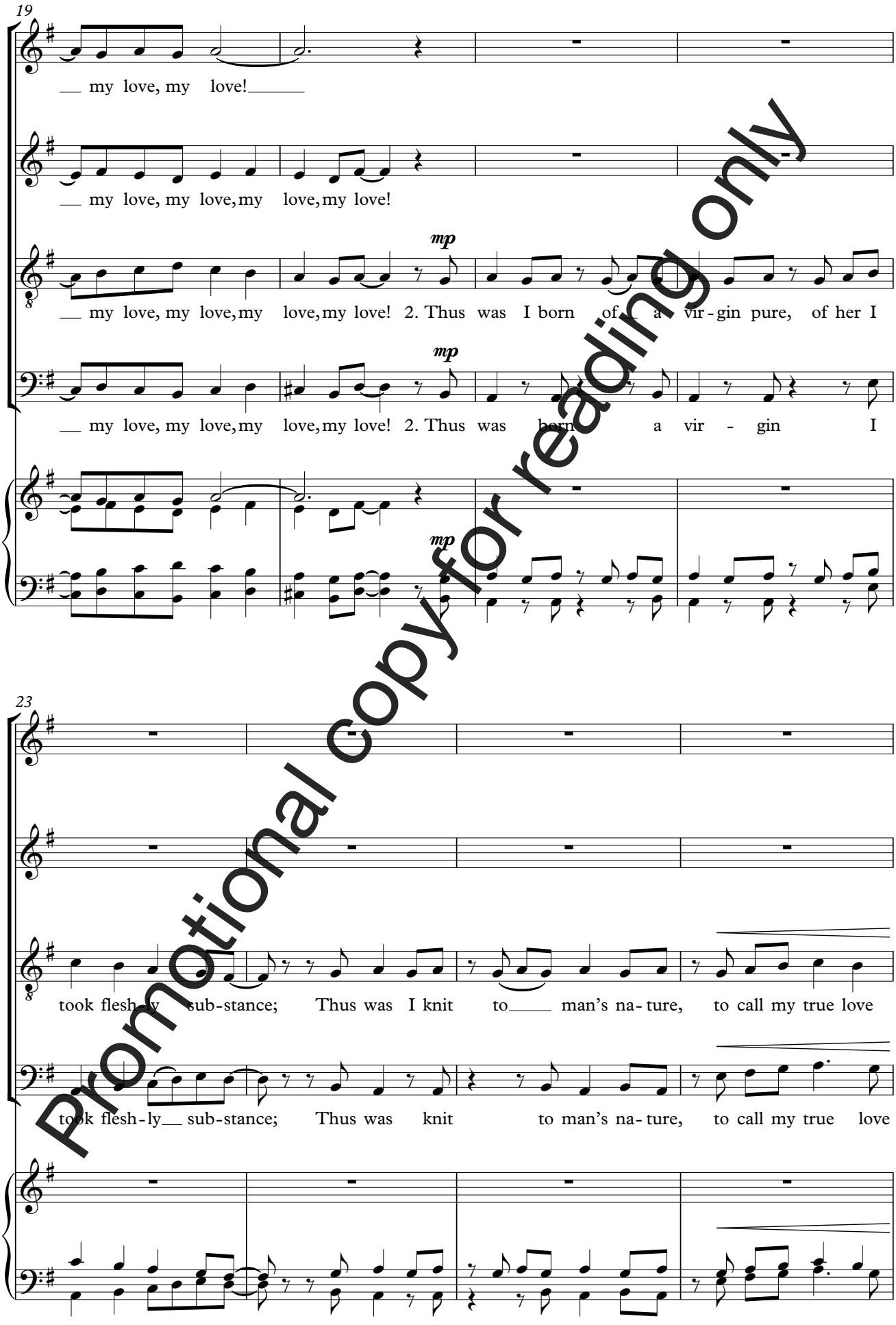


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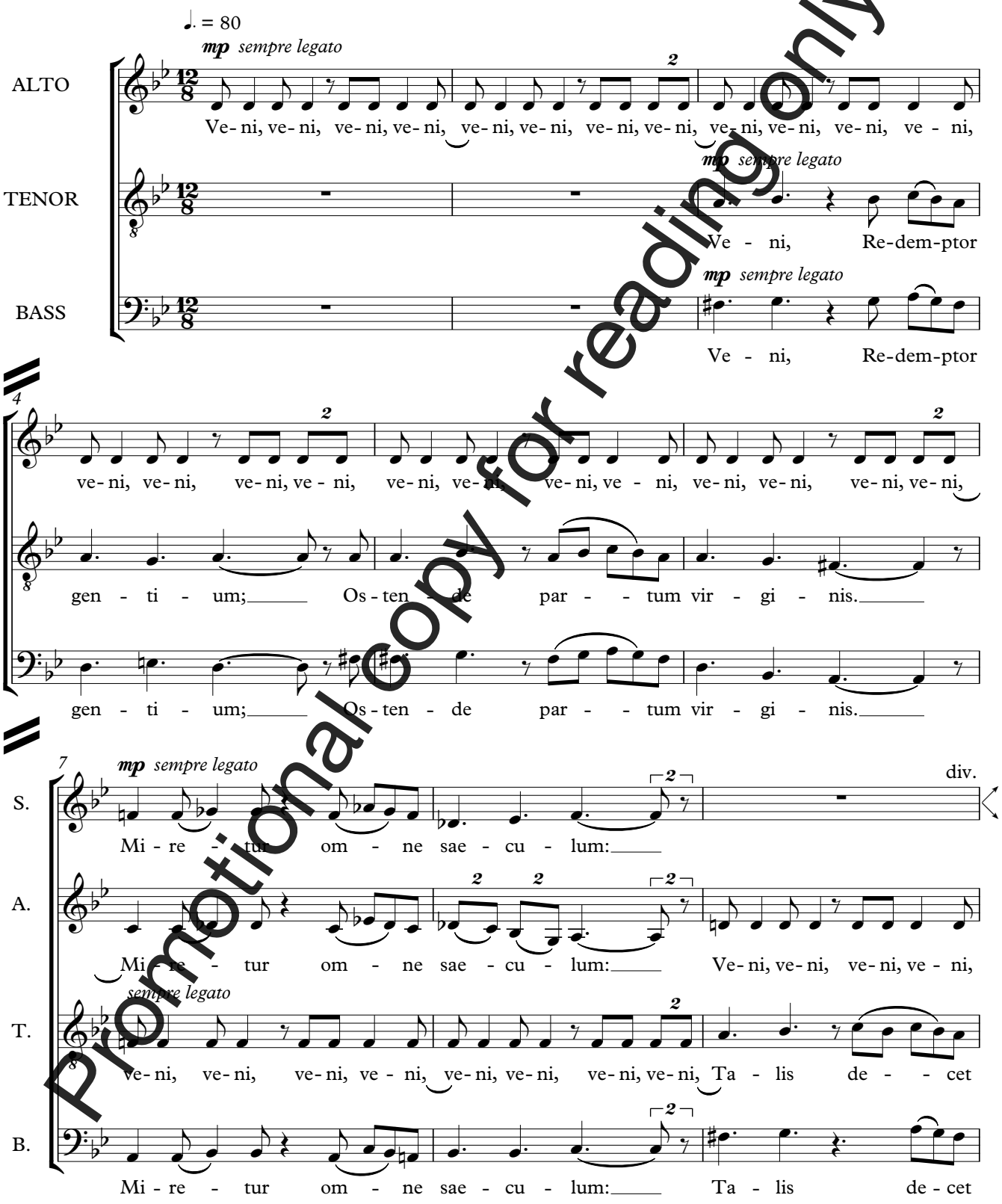
*Commissioned by the Musicans' Company for its annual carol service in December 2022*
*with support from the Catherine Butcher Memorial Fund*

# 25. Veni, Redemptor gentium

Words: Ambrose of Milan (*c.* 339–*c.* 397) Music: Ghislaine Reece-Trapp (b. 1992)




Note: The elision sign (indicating where not to breathe) in the alto part between bars 1 and 2, and also between bars 2 and 3, should be applied to all subsequent iterations of the 'veni' ostinato, not only in the alto part, but also in all other vocal parts.

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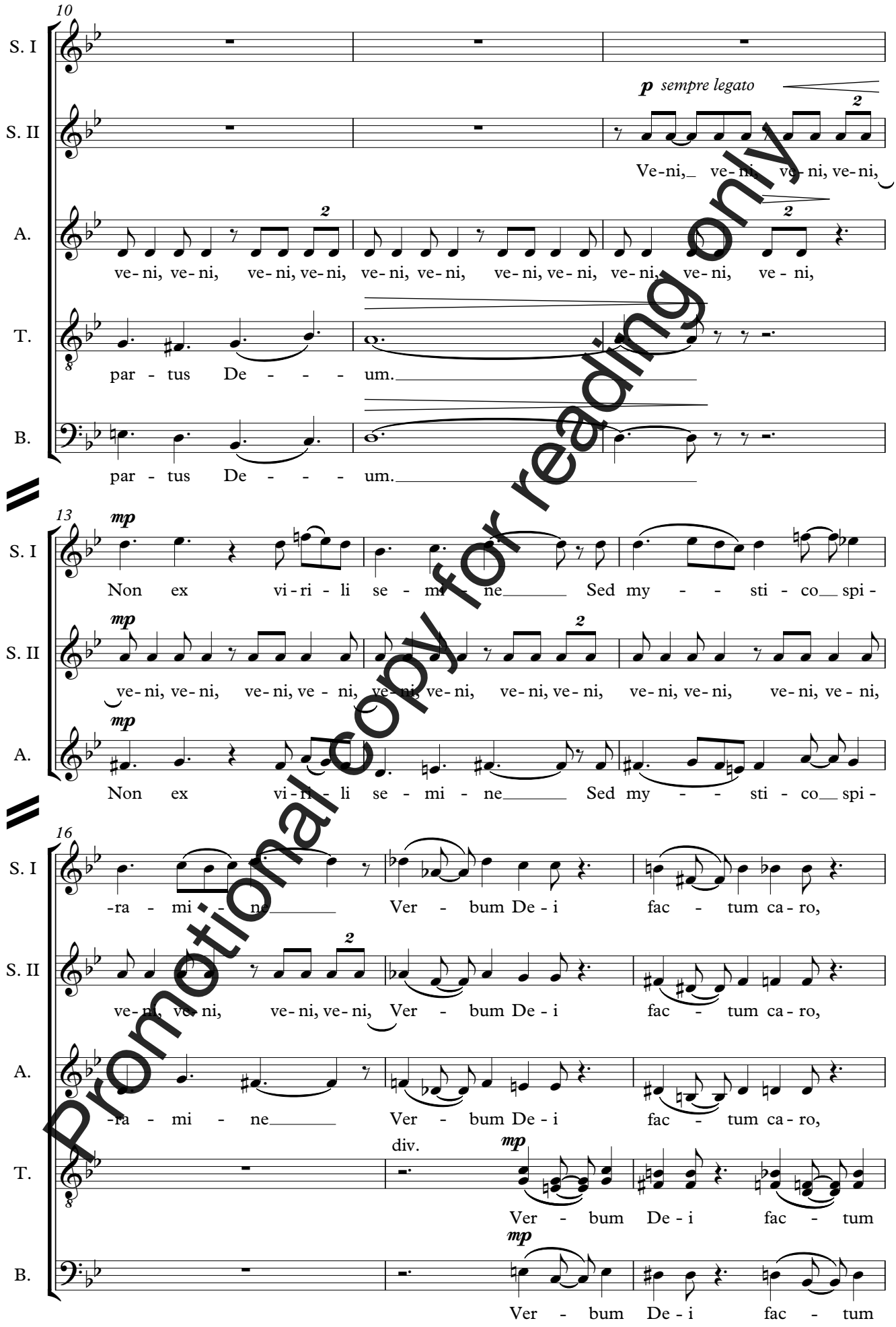


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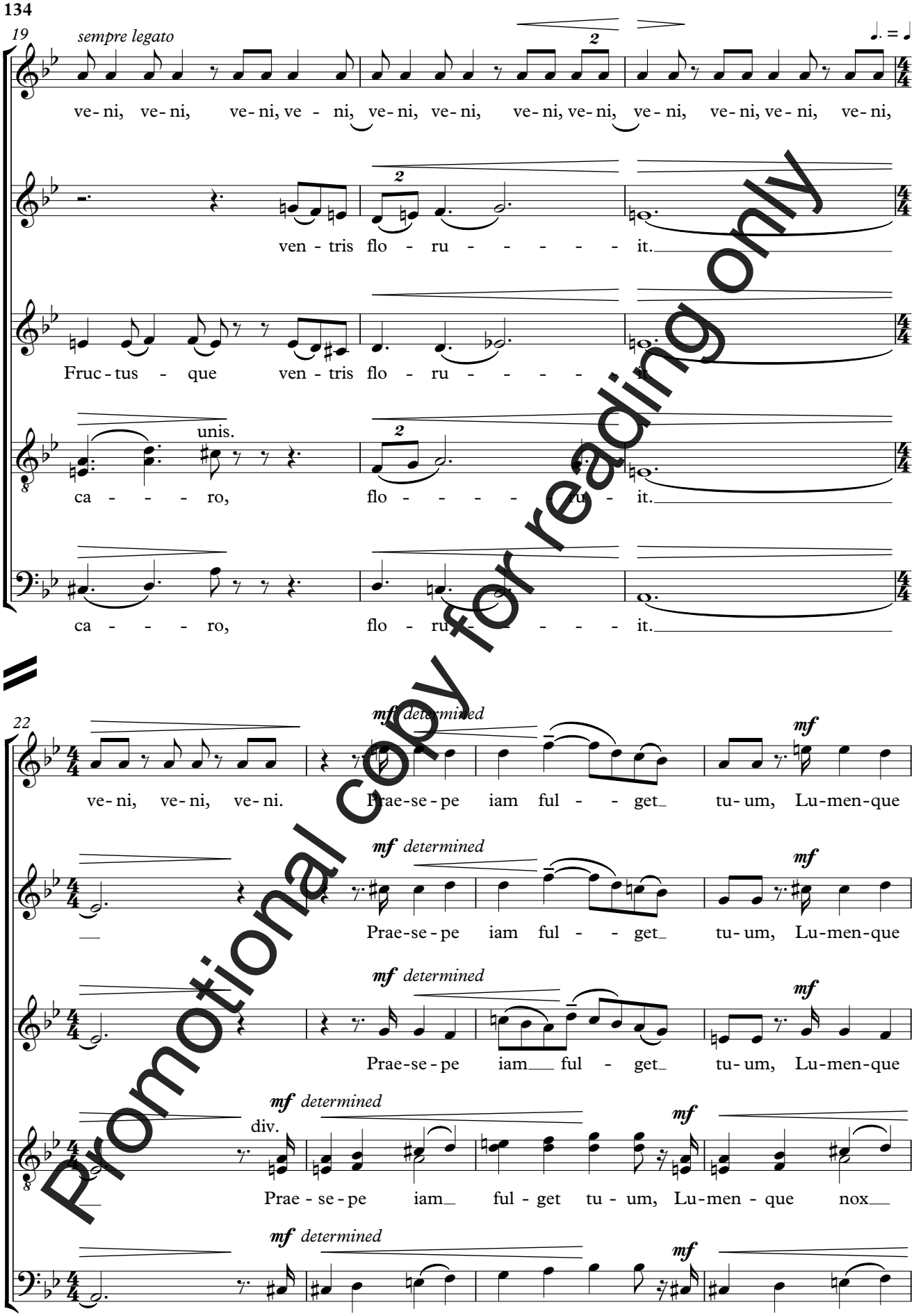


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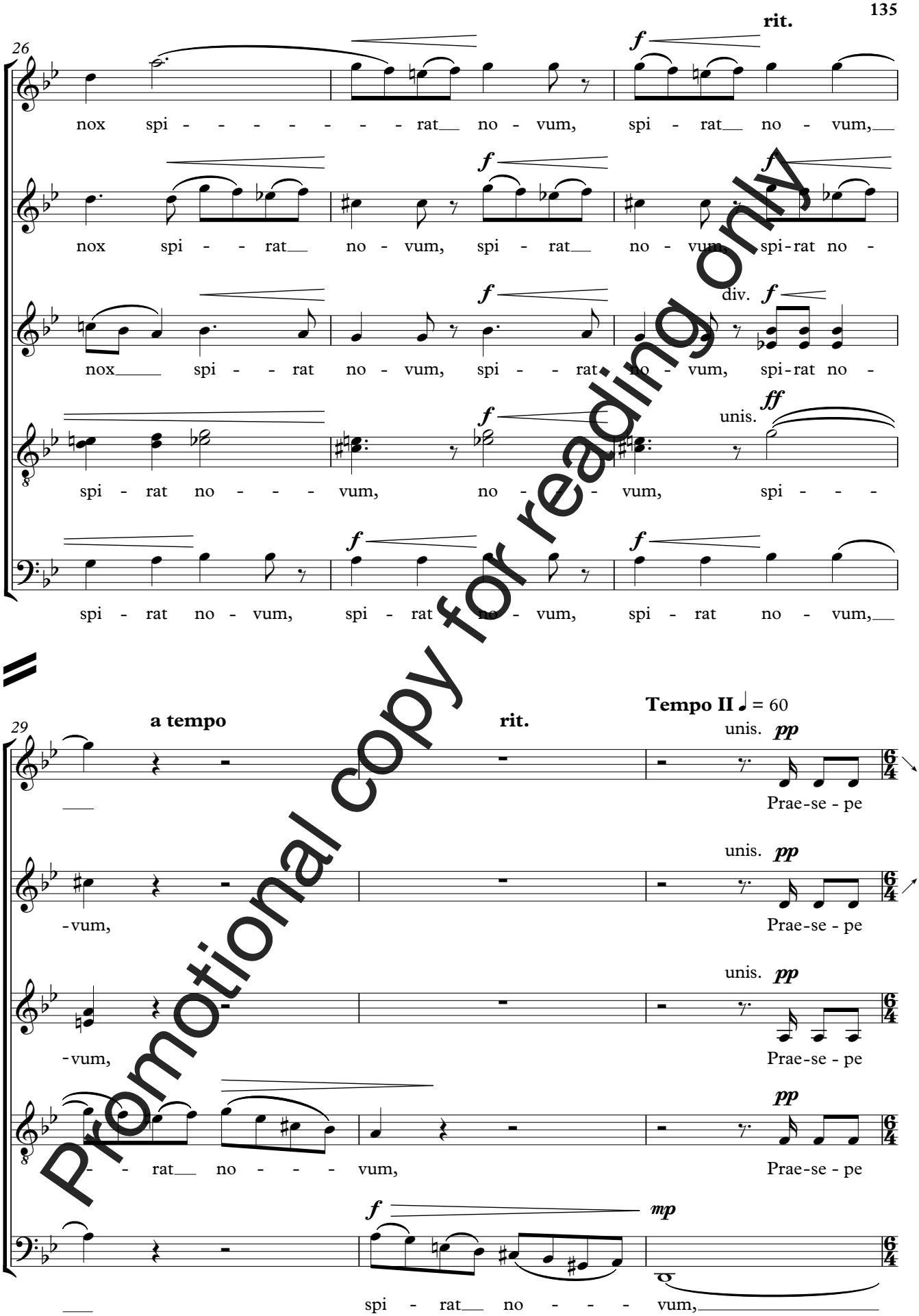


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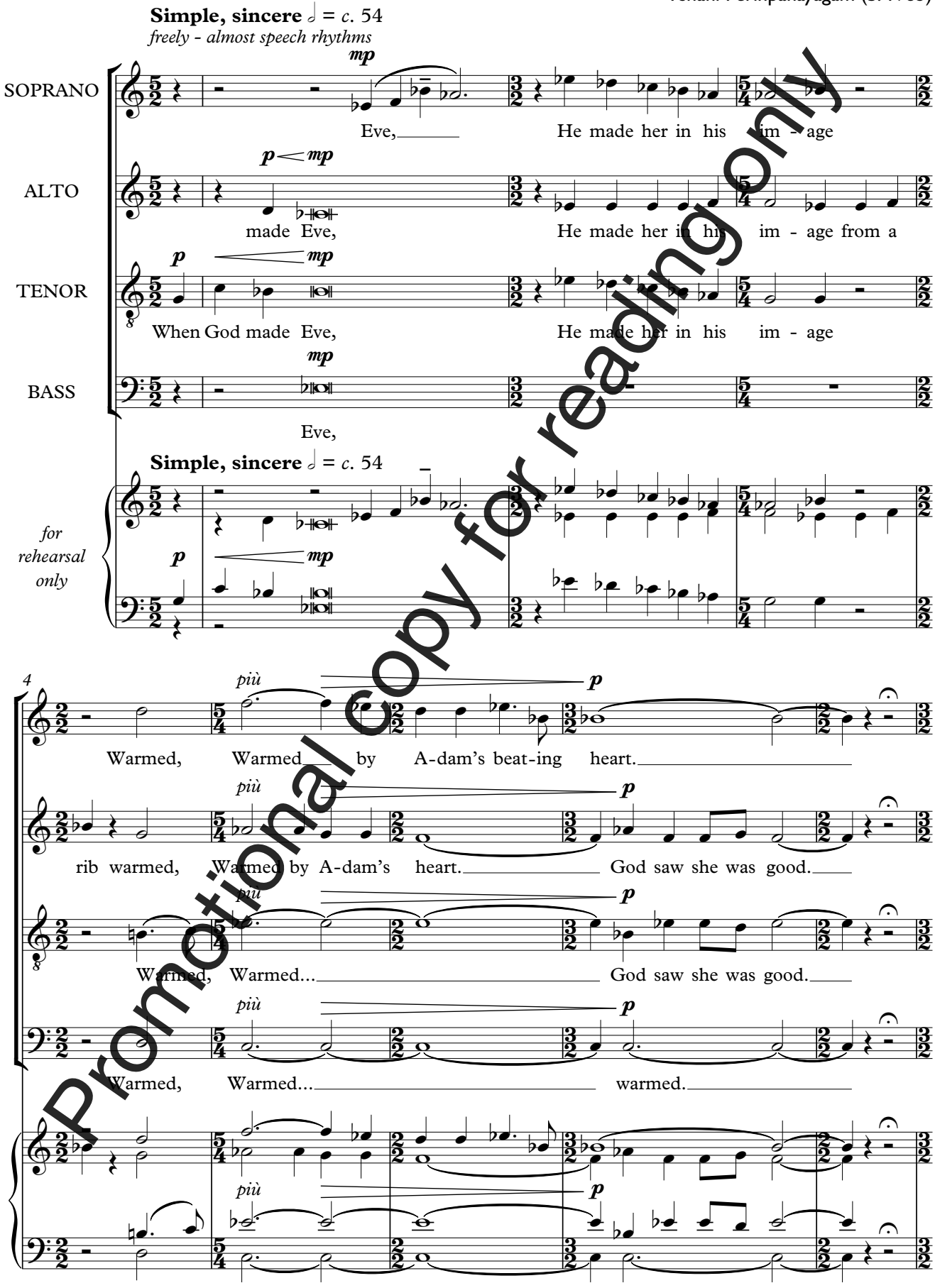
# 27. When God made Eve

Words and music:
Yshani Perinpanayagam (b. 1983)

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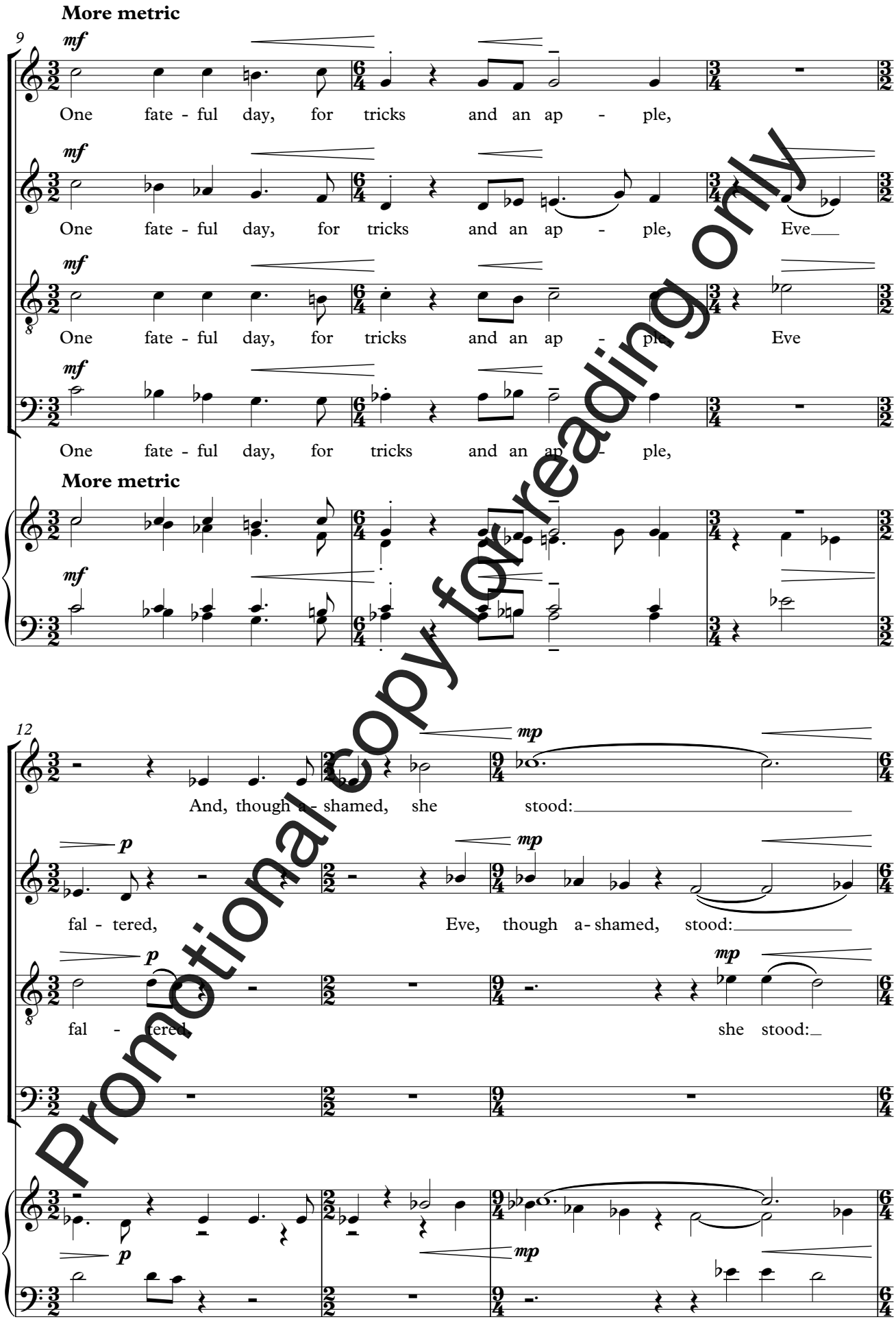


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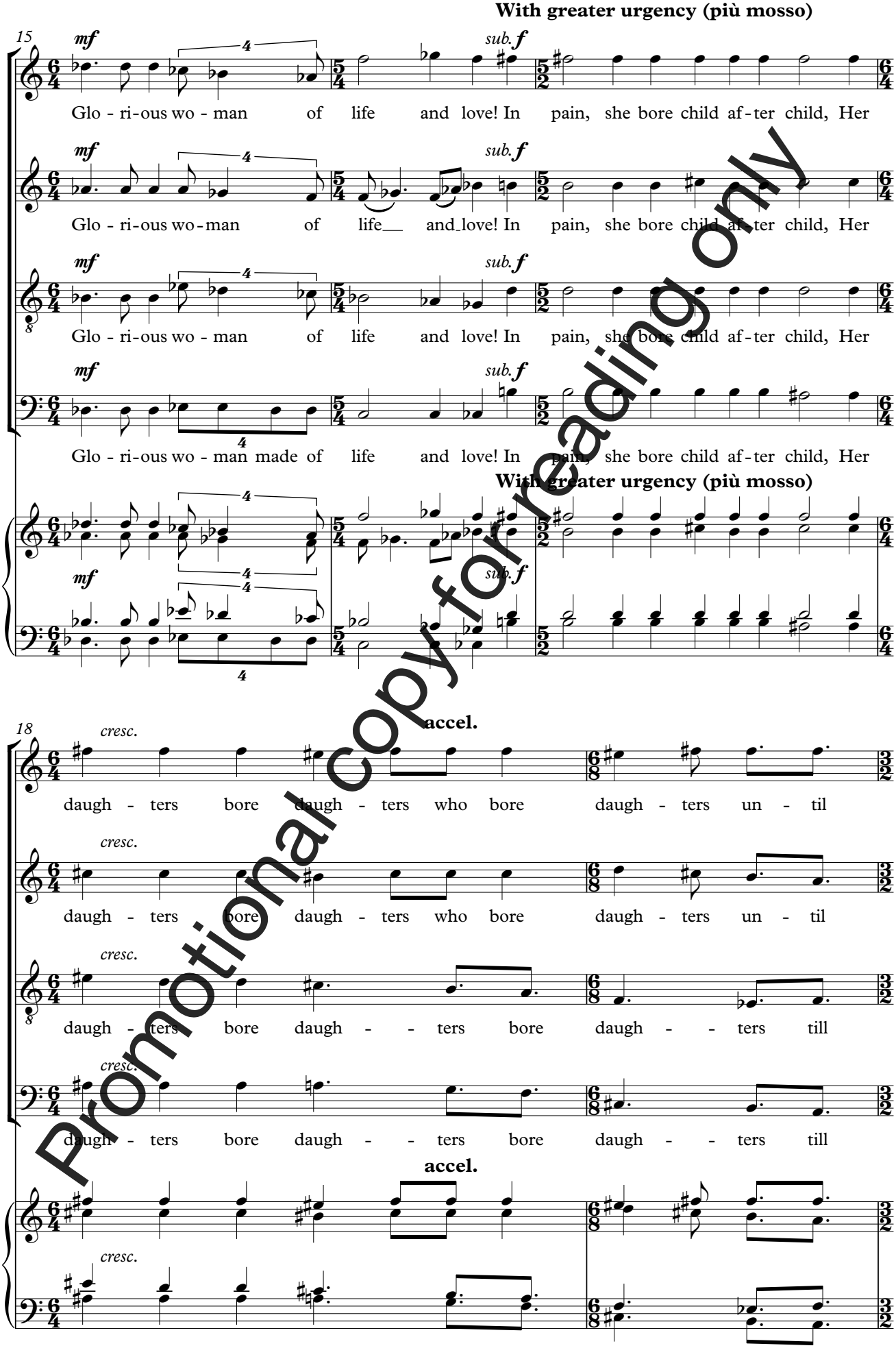


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# Readings and repertoire for A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

* Asterisk indicates congregational

Processional hymn
Once in royal David's city * arr. Sarah MacDonald

BIDDING PRAYER
*Beloved in Christ…*

O come, O come, Emmanuel * arr. Sarah MacDonald
Of the Father's heart begotten * arr. Sarah MacDonald

On Christmas night Eleanor Daley

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3: 8–15; 17–19
*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

An earthly tree Stephanie Martin
On Christmas night Eleanor Daley
Tomorrow shall be my dancing day Tamsin Jones
What sweeter music Sasha Johnson Manning
When God made Eve Yshani Perinpanayagam

SECOND LESSON: Genesis 22: 15–18
*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*

On Christmas night Eleanor Daley
Tomorrow shall be my dancing day Tamsin Jones

THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 9: 2; 6–7
*The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.*

Love has come Sarah MacDonald
It came upon the midnight clear * arr. Sarah MacDonald

FOURTH LESSON: Isaiah 11: 1–3a; 4a; 6–9
*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

An earthly tree Stephanie Martin
Balulalow (O my dear heart) Sasha Johnson Manning
Silent night arr. Kerry Boyle
There is no rose Electra Perivolaris

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1: 26–35; 38
*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

An earthly tree Stephanie Martin
The cherry tree carol arr. June Nixon
There is no rose Electra Perivolaris

SIXTH LESSON Luke 2: 1; 3–7
*St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Away in a manger | Esther Bersweden |
| He had not where to lay his head | Alison Willis |
| In the bleak mid-winter | Lucy Walker |
| Silent night | arr. Kerry Boyle |
| This endris night | arr. June Nixon |
| Tomorrow shall be my dancing day | Tamsin Jones |
| What sweeter music | Sasha Johnson Manning |

SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2: 8–16
*The shepherds go to the manger.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Away in a manger | Esther Bersweden |
| Balulalow (O my dear heart) | Sasha Johnson Manning |
| Creator of the stars of night | Charlotte Baskerville |
| In the bleak mid-winter | Lucy Walker |
| Love has come | Sarah MacDonald |
| Silent night | arr. Kerry Boyle |
| Summer in Winter | Sasha Johnson Manning |
| While shepherds watched their flocks by night * | arr. Sarah MacDonald |

EIGTH LESSON: Matthew 2: 1–12
*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Love has come | Sarah MacDonald |
| The three kings | Alison Willis |
| What sweeter music | Sasha Johnson Manning |

NINTH LESSON: John 1: 1–14
*St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

| | |
|---|---|
| O come, all ye faithful * | arr. Sarah MacDonald |

THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE
or CHRISTMAS DAY

| | |
|---|---|
| Hark! the herald-angels sing * | arr. Sarah MacDonald |

The following items may be considered for use at seasons other than Christmas:

ADVENT

| | |
|---|---|
| Come, thou Redeemer of the earth * | arr. Sarah MacDonald |
| Creator of the stars of night | Charlotte Baskerville |
| O come, O come Emmanuel * | arr. Sarah MacDonald |
| Of the Father's heart begotten * | arr. Sarah MacDonald |
| There is no rose | Electra Perivolaris |
| Veni, redemptor gentium | Ghislaine Reece-Trapp |
| When God made Eve | Yshani Perinpanayagam |

EPIPHANY – 6 January

| | |
|---|---|
| In the bleak mid-winter | Lucy Walker |
| Love has come | Sarah MacDonald |
| The three kings | Alison Willis |

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST
TO THE TEMPLE (Candlemas) – 2 February

| | |
|---|---|
| He had not where to lay his head | Alison Willis |
| There is no rose | Electra Perivolaris |
| What sweeter music | Sasha Johnson Manning |

JOSEPH OF NAZARETH – 19 March

| | |
|---|---|
| The cherry tree carol | arr. June Nixon |

THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD
TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – 25 March

| | |
|---|---|
| There is no rose | Electra Perivolaris |

* Asterisk indicates congregational