NOTES

Echo was composed in celebration of a storied career on behalf of Susan Ihnen. Susan was the accompanist at Valley High School (West Des Moines, IA) for twenty-five years. She came to be known as a symbol of vocal music education in central Iowa as she dutifully served the choirs at the secondary level with grace and poise. Students often spoke of her mothering compassion and her ability to make the choir room a place of kindness, warmth, and light in an otherwise trepidatious and confusing four years of high school. *Echo* by Christina Rossetti is one of Susan's favorite poems. The work seeks to capture the essence of the human memory. We often use memory to evoke a feeling and to be transported to a bygone time in our lives. Our ability to remember is that which keeps us human. Ever present, it reminds us of who we are at our very core. May you use this piece to distinguish that which is sacred in our lives; love, human presence, and one's own experience.

—Connor Koppin

ECHO

Come to me in the silence of the night;
Come in the speaking silence of a dream;
Come with soft rounded cheeks and eyes as bright
As sunlight on a stream;
Come back in tears,
O memory, O hope, O love of finished years.

O dream, how sweet,
Whose waking should have been in Paradise,
Where souls of love abide and meet;
Where thirsting longing eyes
Watch the slow door
That opening, letting in, lets out no more.

Yet come to me in dreams,
That I may live my life again.
Come back to me in dreams, that I may give
Pulse for pulse, breath for breath:
Speak low, lean low,
As long ago.

—Christina G. Rossetti (1830–1894)
Adapted by Connor Koppin

Connor Koppin (b. 1991)

For biographical information visit:
www.connorkoppin.com

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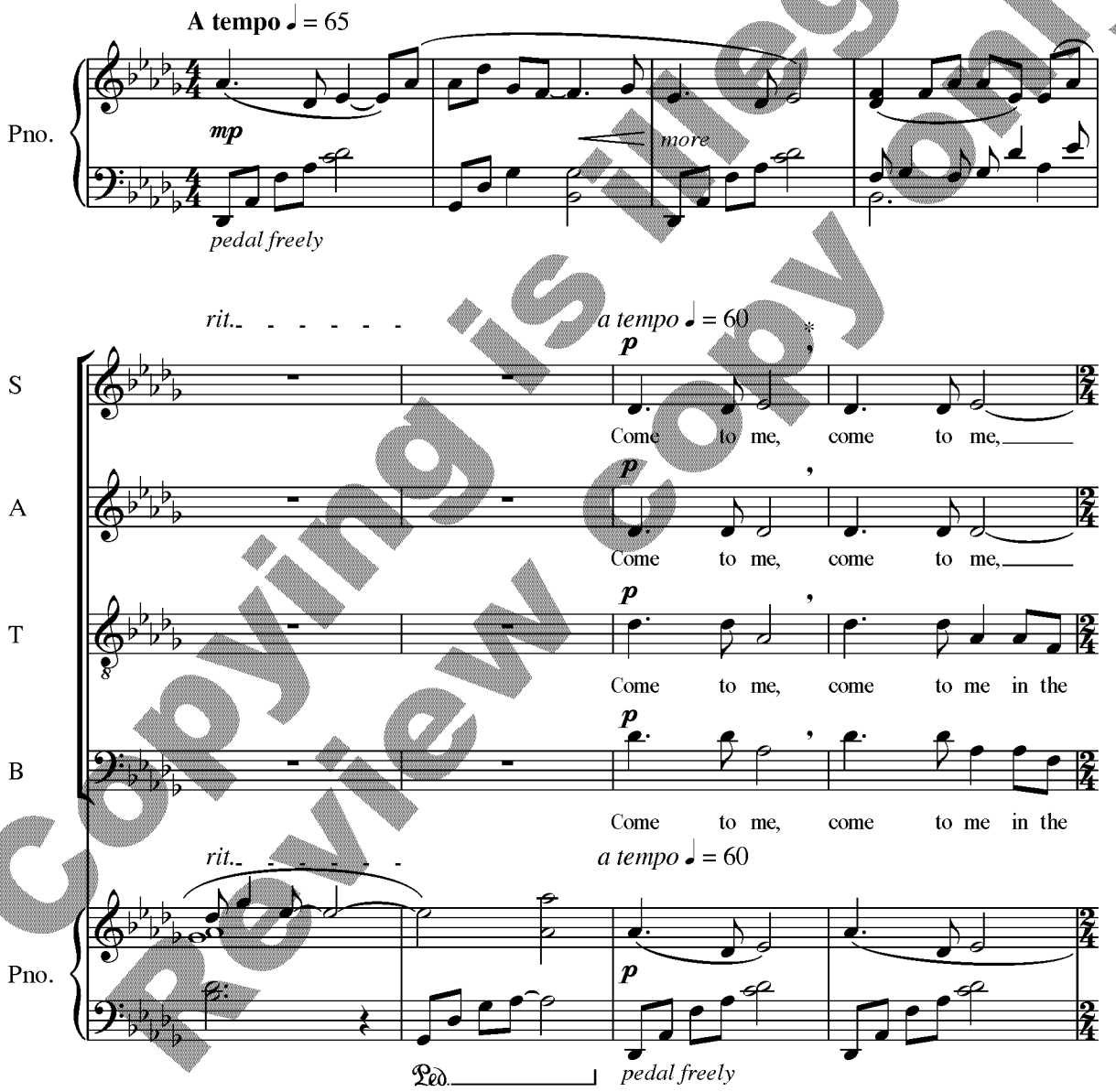
Written for the Valley High School A Cappella Choir.
In honor of the wonderful Susan Ihnen's retirement from Valley High School.

Echo

for SATB Chorus (divisi) and Piano

Christina G. Rossetti (1830–1894)
C. K., alt.

Connor Koppin



* Anywhere these breath marks appear in the score, a brief alteration of the given tempo should ocur.

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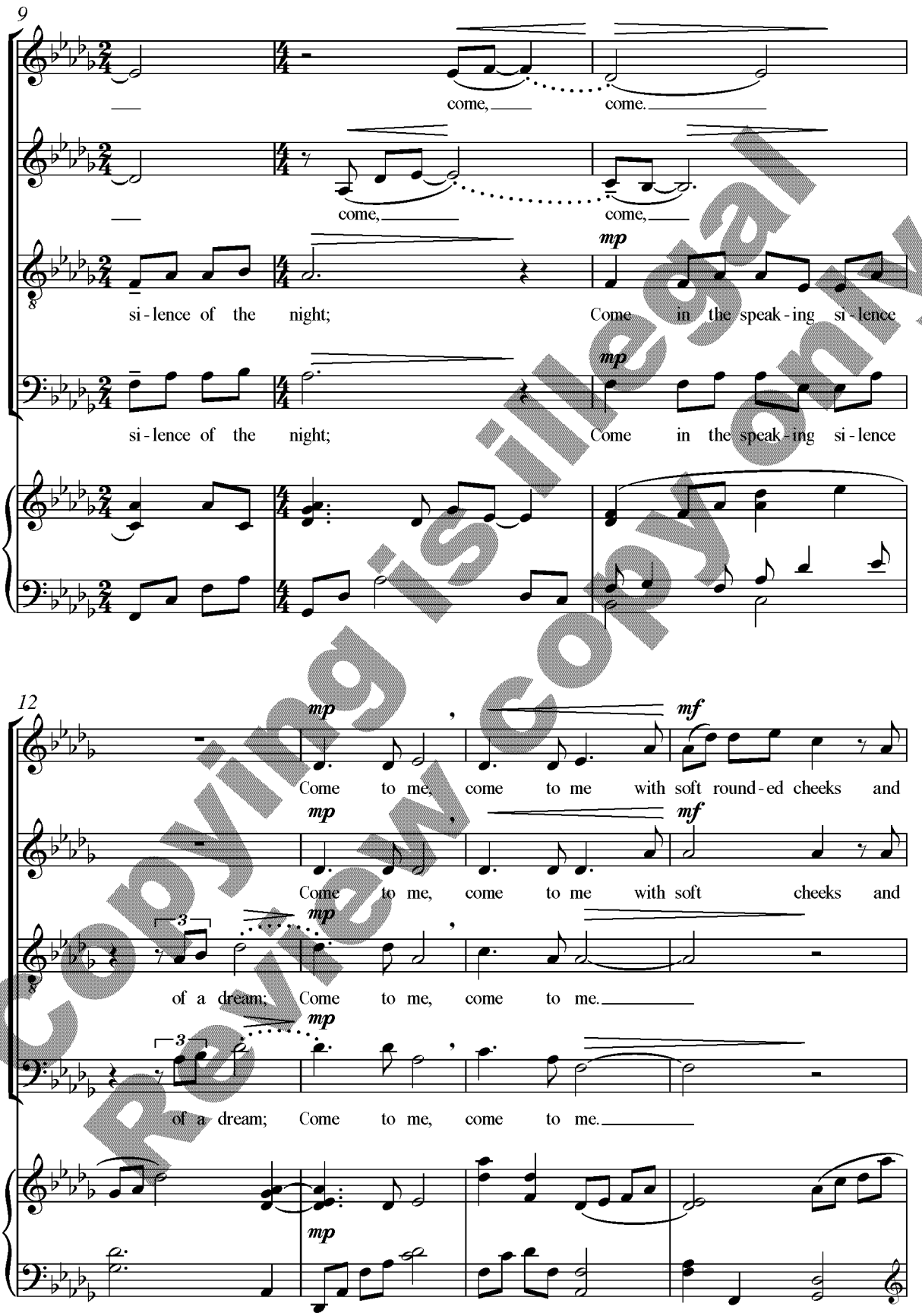

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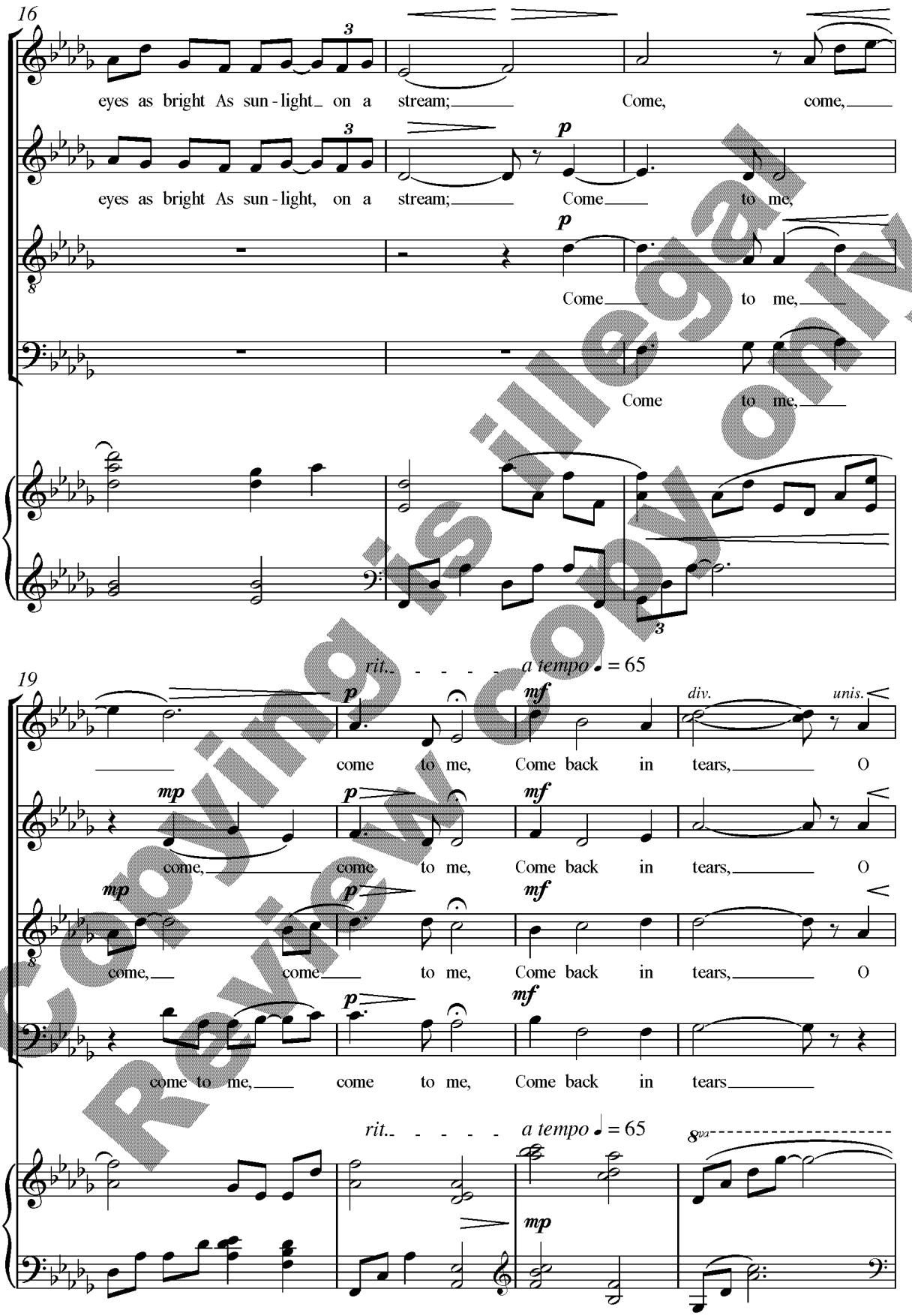

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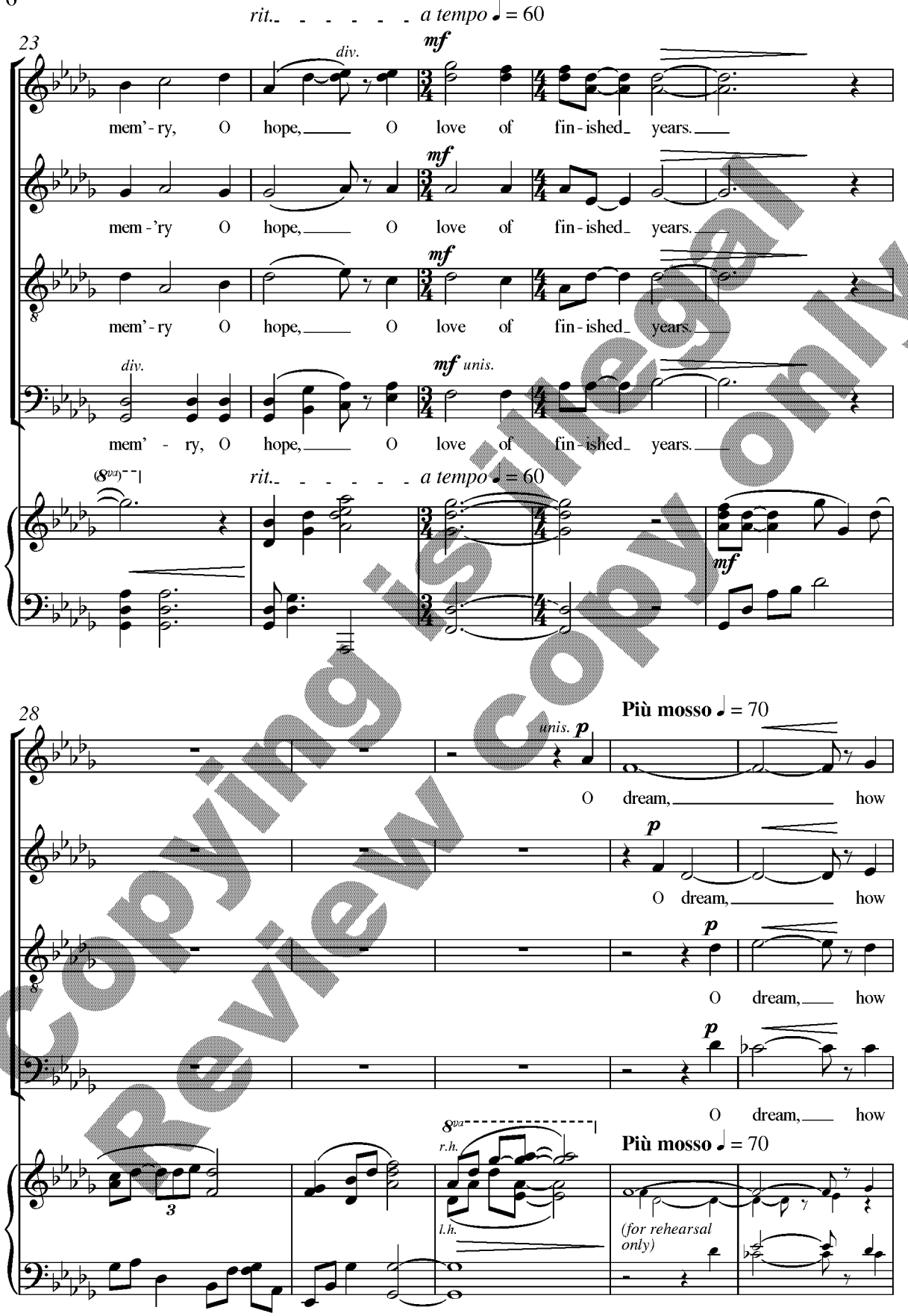

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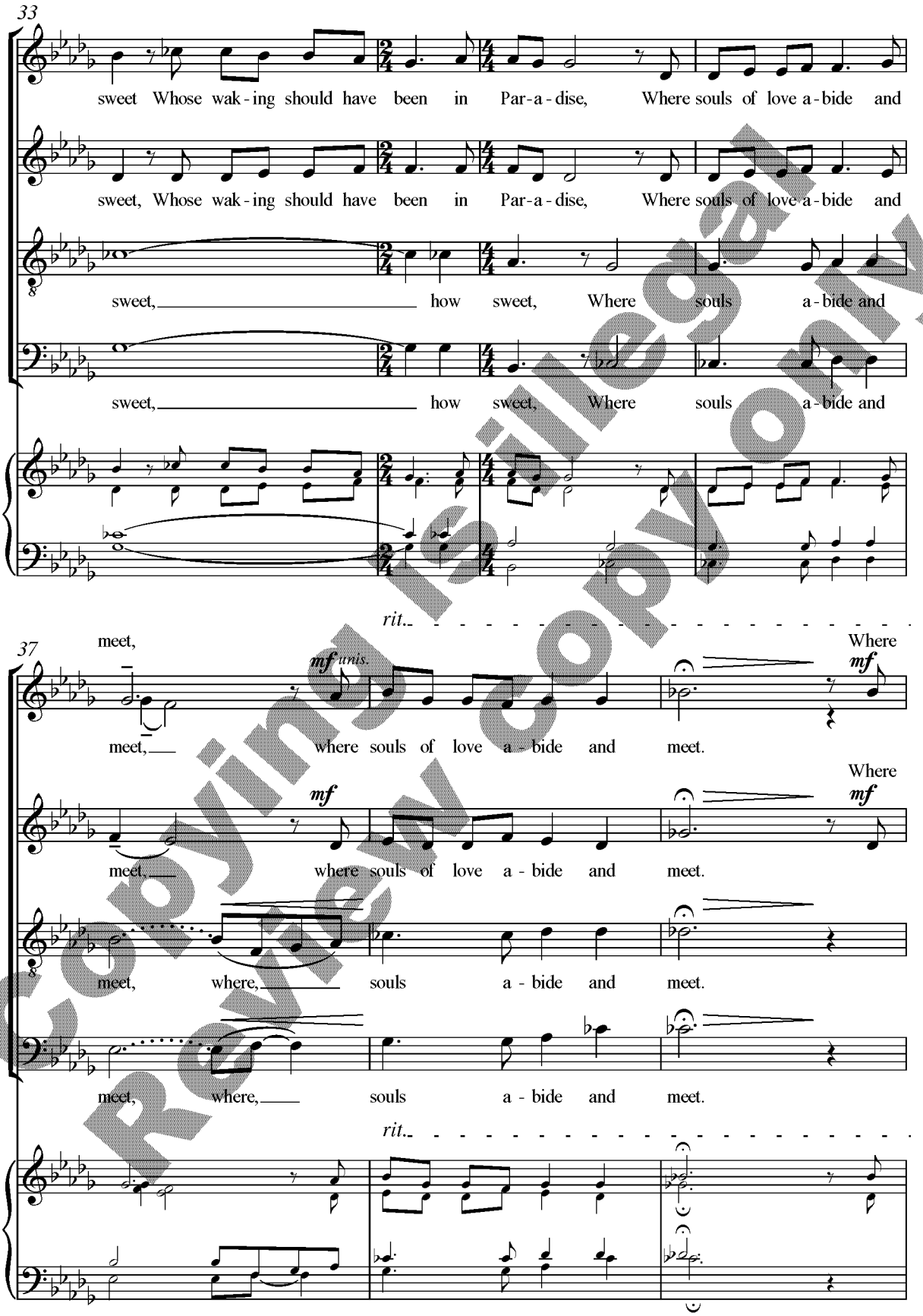

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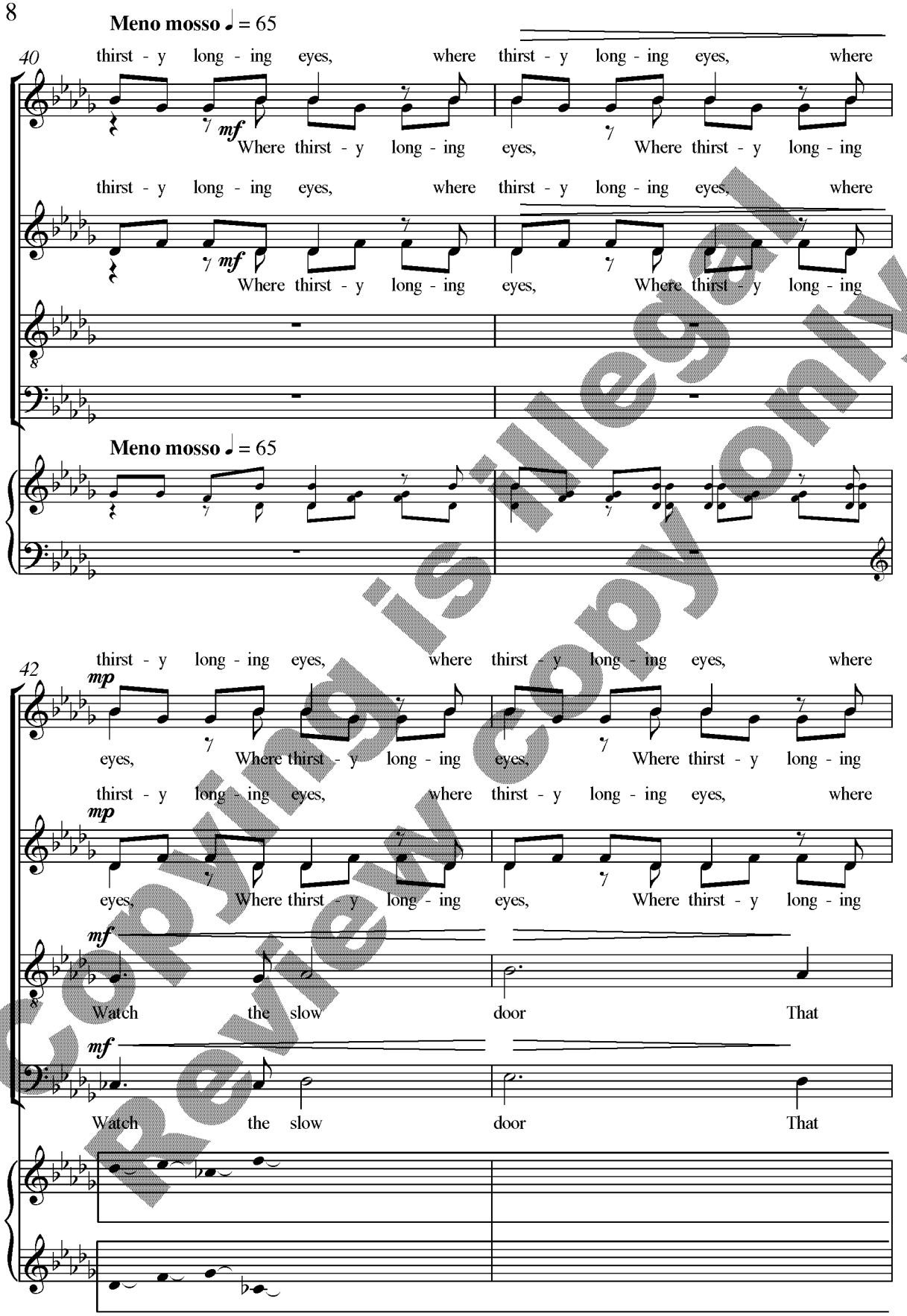

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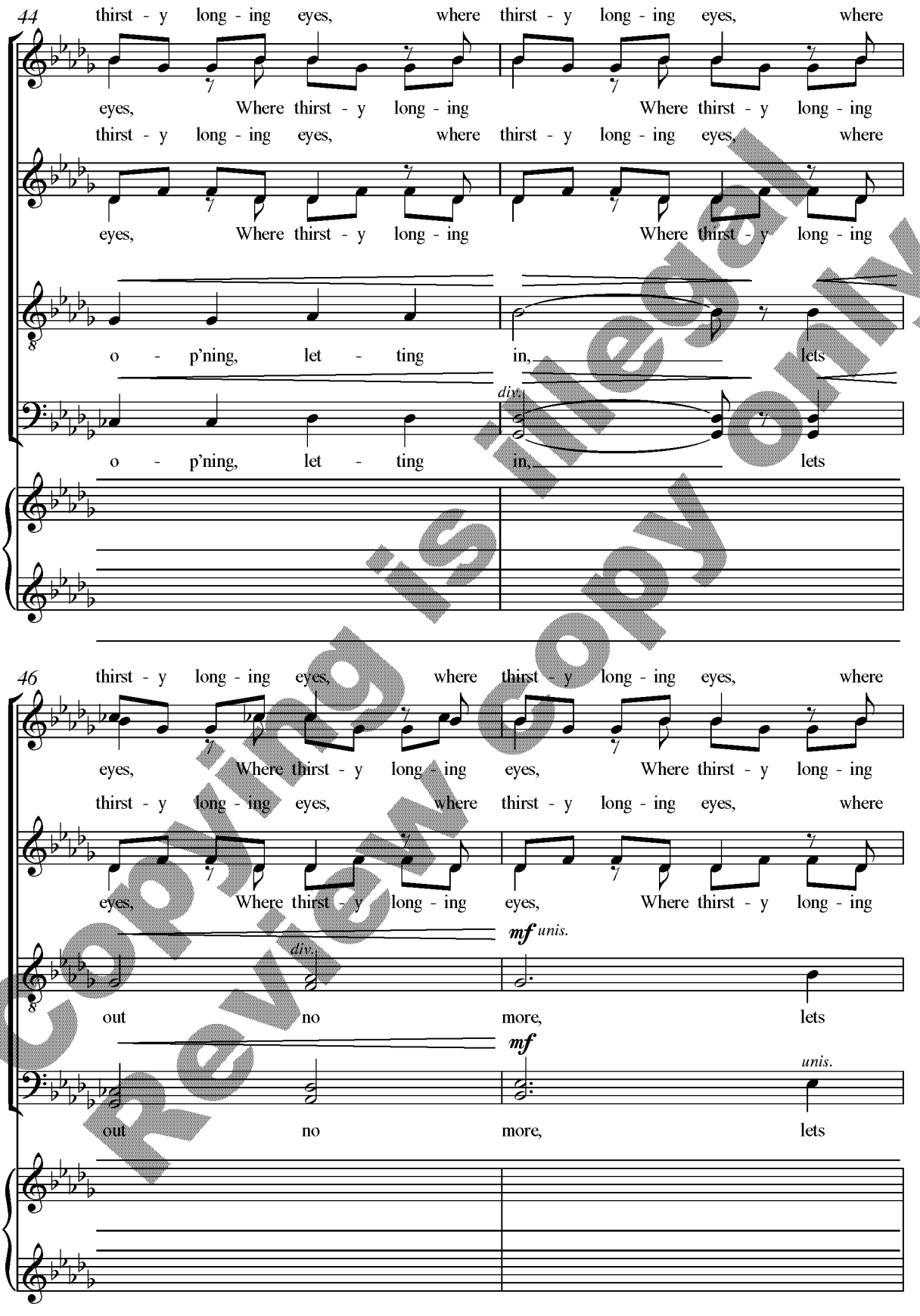
* To be played at random, start with less movement and quicken as this section develops. Relax into the closing of m. 46.



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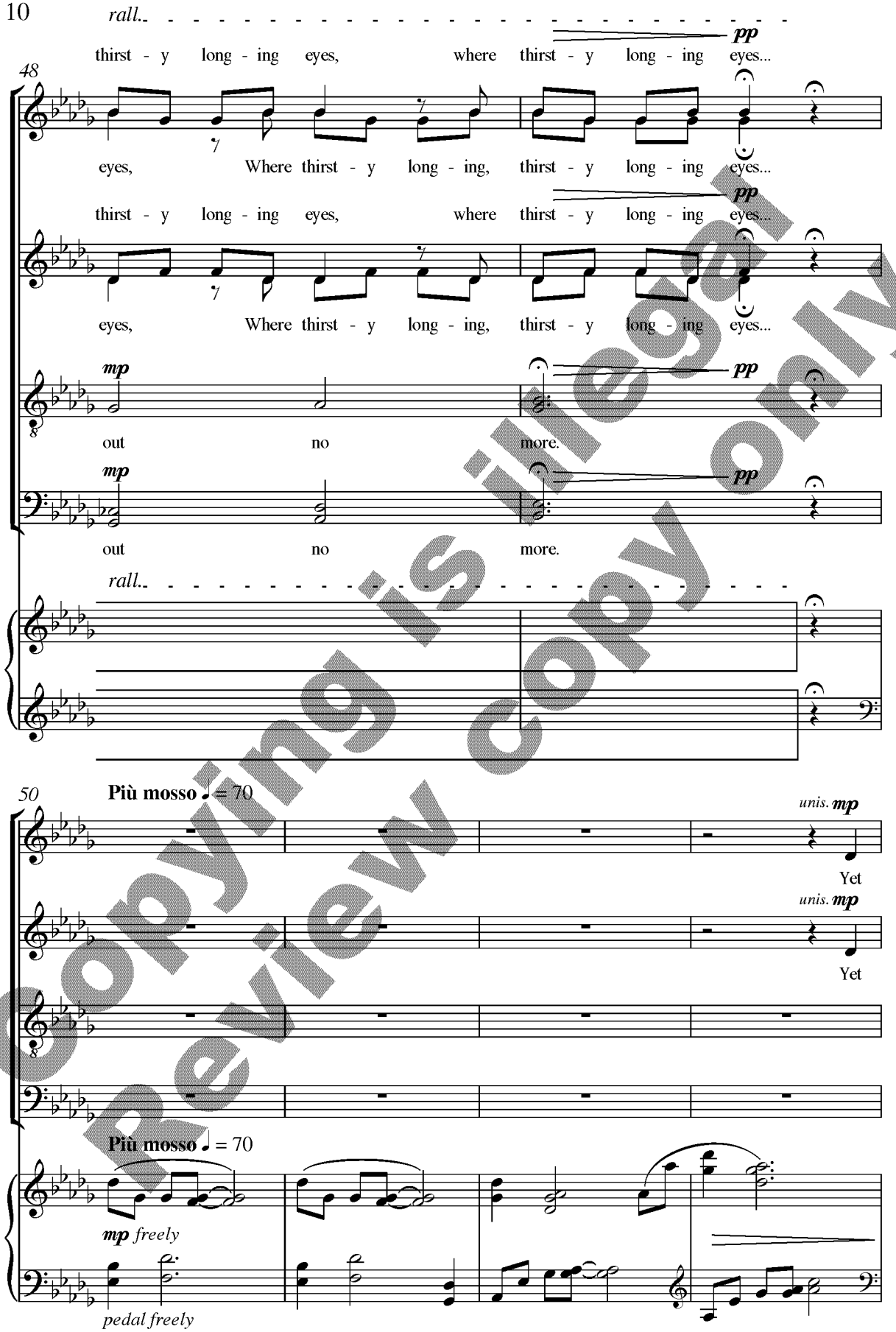

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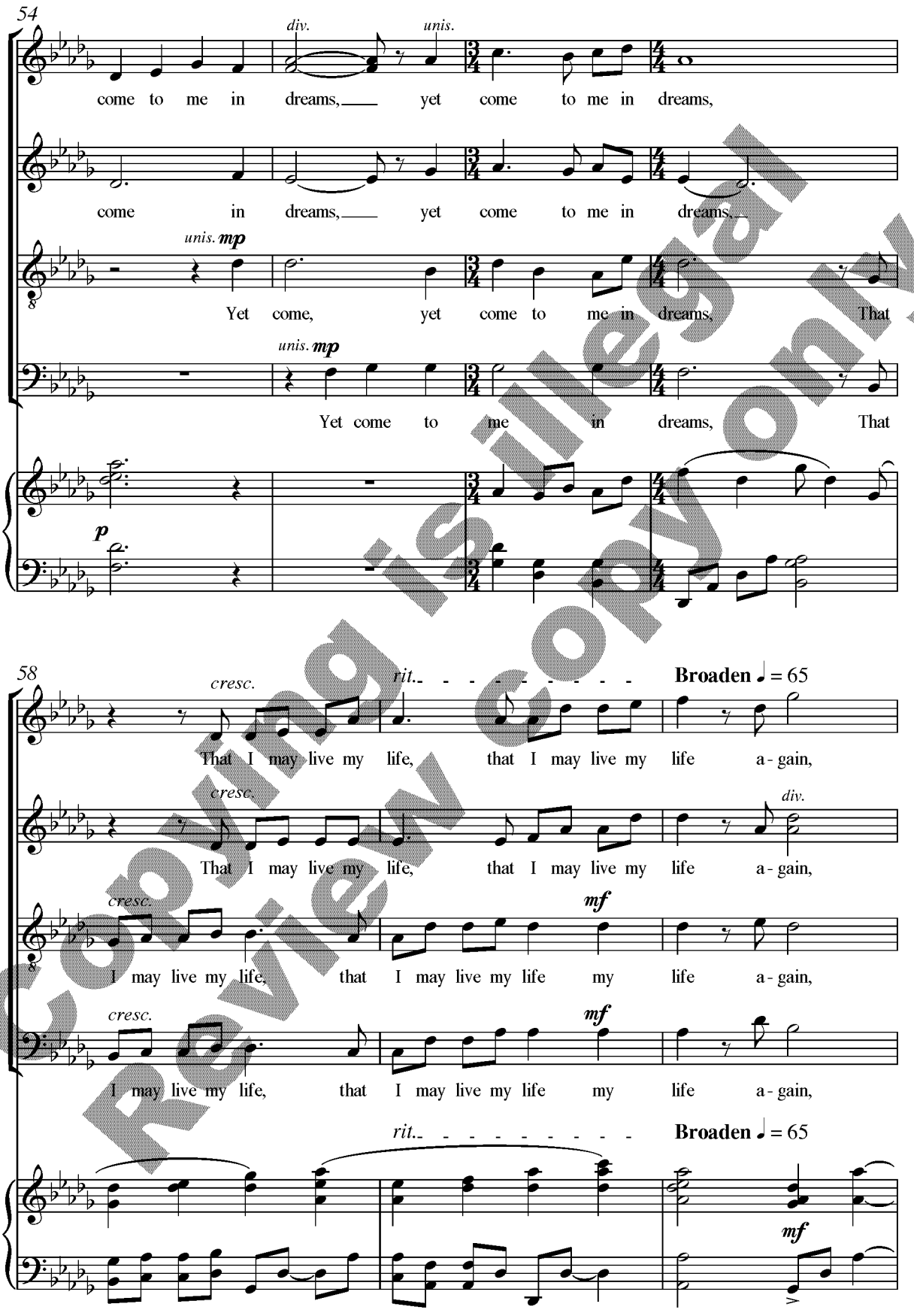

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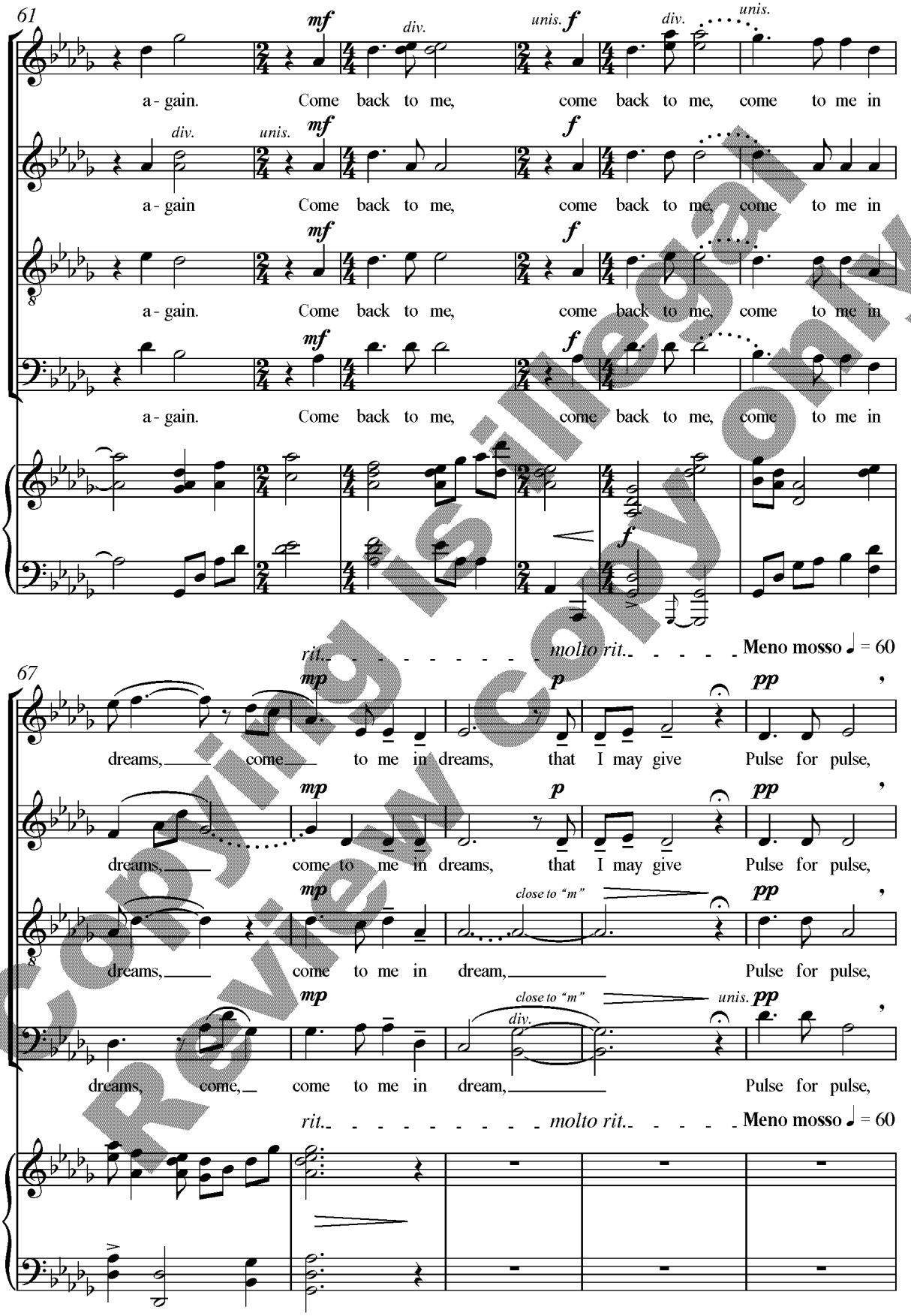

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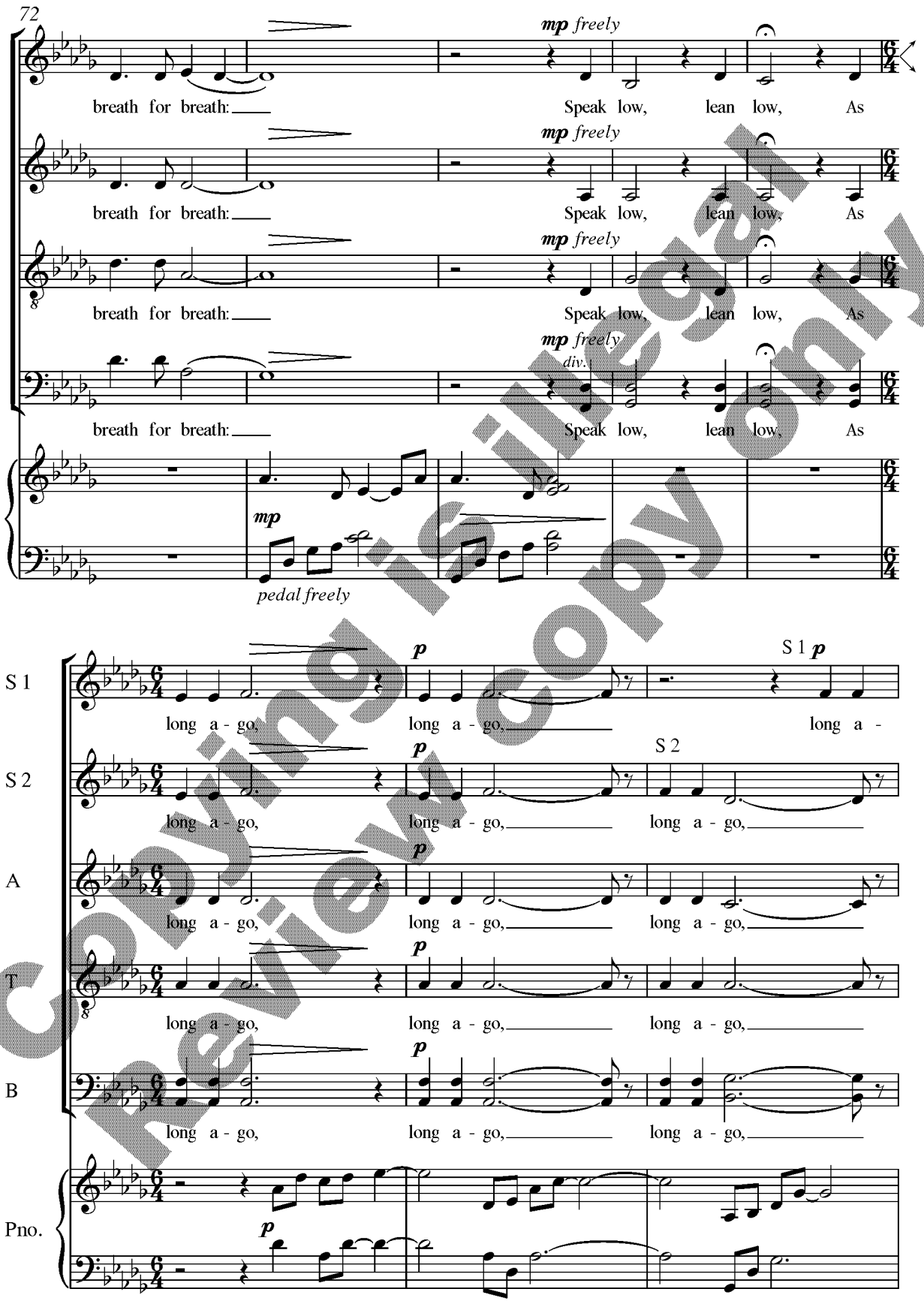

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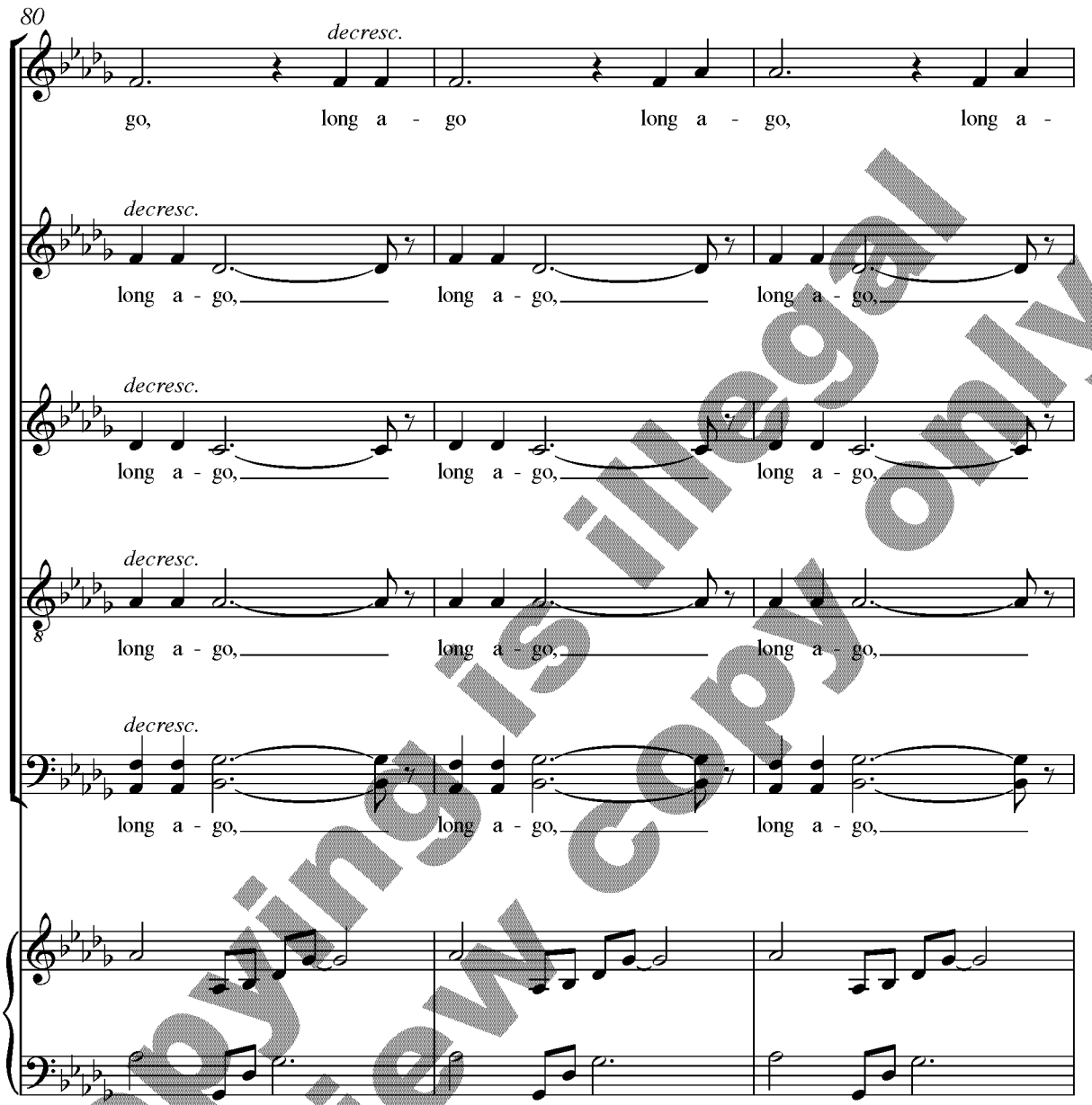

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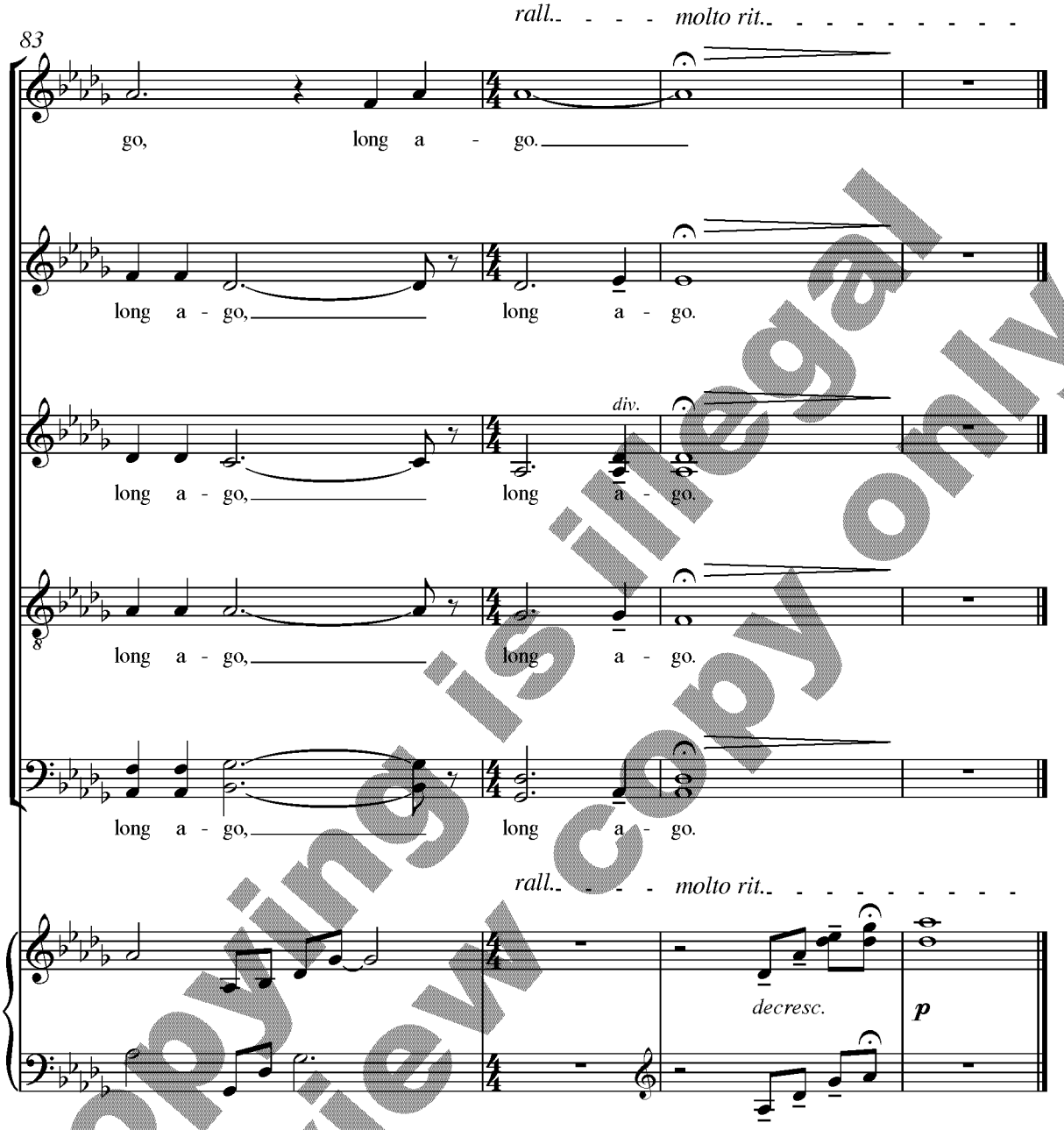

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