PROGRAM NOTES

This piece pairs the iconic melody of Gustav Holst's *In the Bleak Midwinter* with a lesser known, but equally beautiful, melody by Bruce Becker, originally set to the text of *The Tree of Life*. In this arrangement, the composer weaves both melodies together, and integrates Christina Rossetti's classic text with newly crafted lyrics which speak to the anticipation and meaning of Christmas.

—Kyle Pederson

TEXT

Into the pall of winter's day
when dark descends and daylight fades;
into the cold of wint'ry night
when breath will hang as heavy ice;
into the bleak December land
where earth is fixed—and frozen stands;
into a world of dark and gloom
a child will come in manger soon.

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan.
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow.
In the bleak mid-winter long, long ago.

—Christina Rossetti

Into the bleak of my own soul
You gently lay a seed to grow,
and soon the seed becomes a tree
that offers shade through Christ in me.
What right should I share in this gift
of perfect love, Who was, Who is?
No right at all, but simply grace:
Your seed turned tree—now holy space.

Come quickly, come, Oh Spirit breath,
and all creation may you bless.
Our mangers wait—just wood and dust,
Oh Spirit breathe—enliven us.
Even the heav'ns cannot contain
the hope and joy which has a name.
Into our manger hearts we gaze
where God in flesh has now been laid.

In the bleak midwinter, Christ, Emmanuel.

—Kyle Pederson

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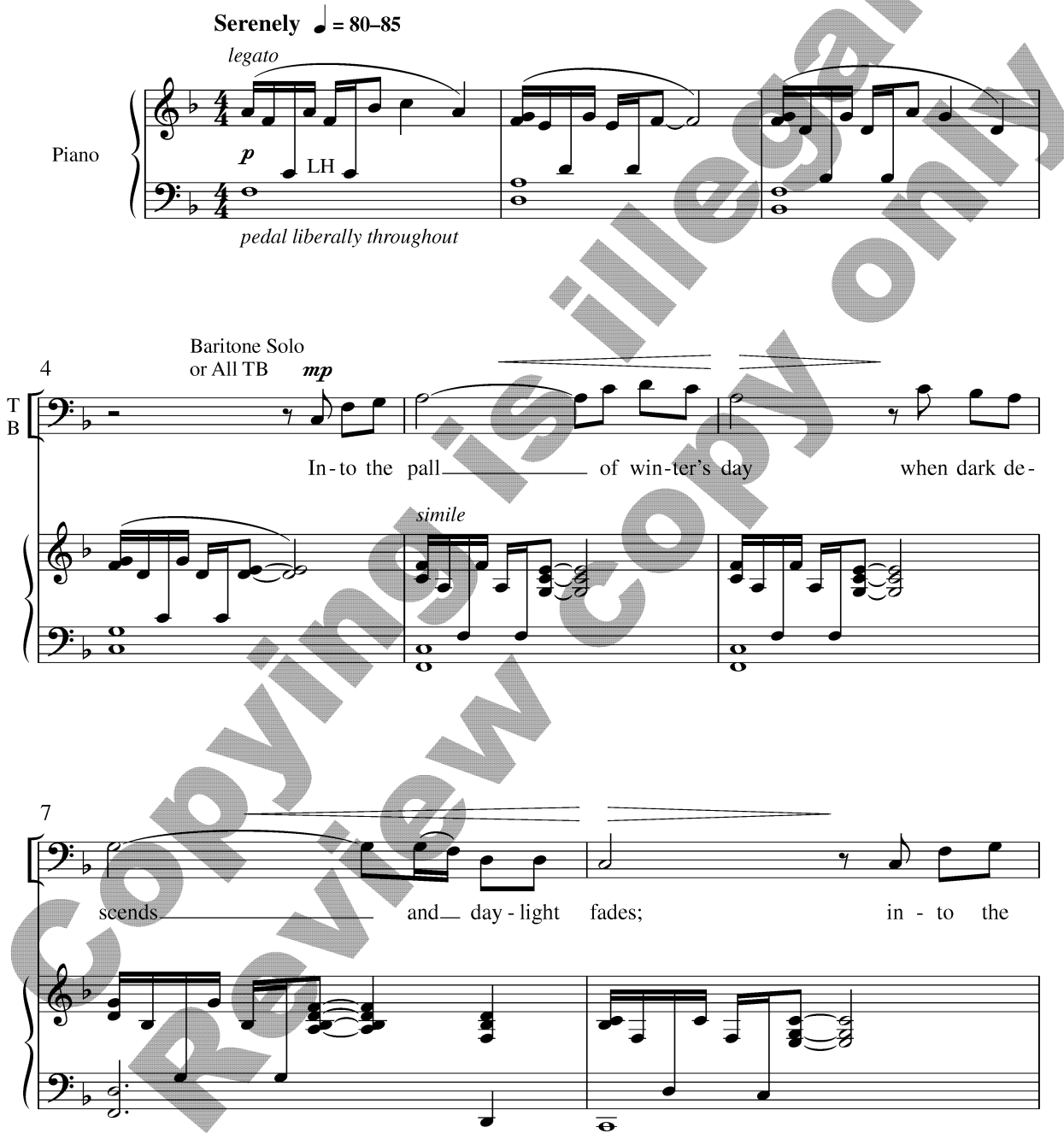
Catalog No. 1.3667

In the Bleak Midwinter

for opt. Baritone Solo, SATB Chorus, and Piano

Texts by Kyle Pederson
and Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)

Tree of Life by Bruce W. Becker
Cranham by Gustav Holst (1874–1934)
Arranged by Kyle Pederson (ASCAP)



Words: "In the Bleak Midwinter" by Christina Rossetti, ca. 1872 (PD).
Tune: *TREE OF LIFE,* Copyright © 1995 Bruce W. Becker. Used by permission.

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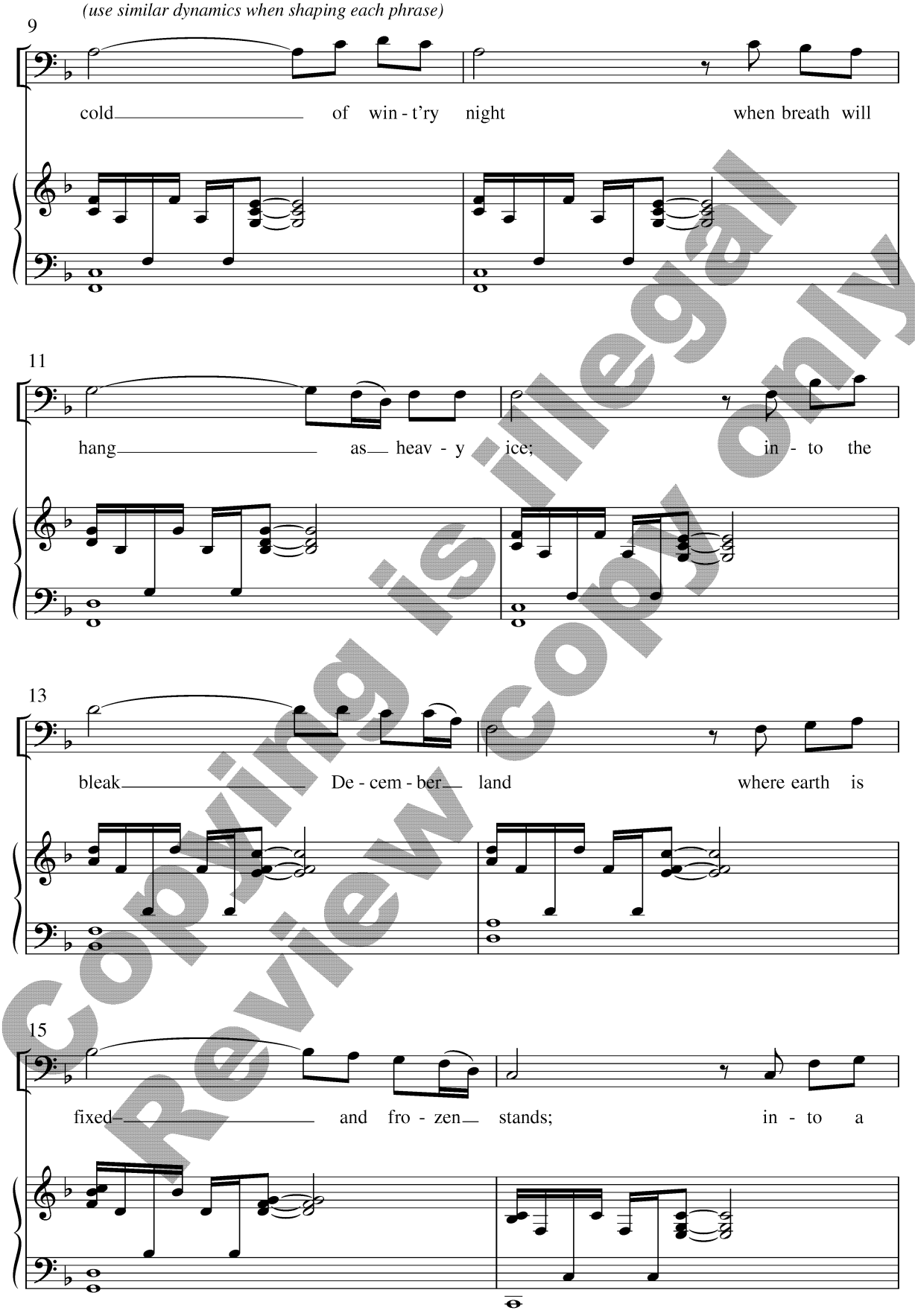
(use similar dynamics when shaping each phrase)



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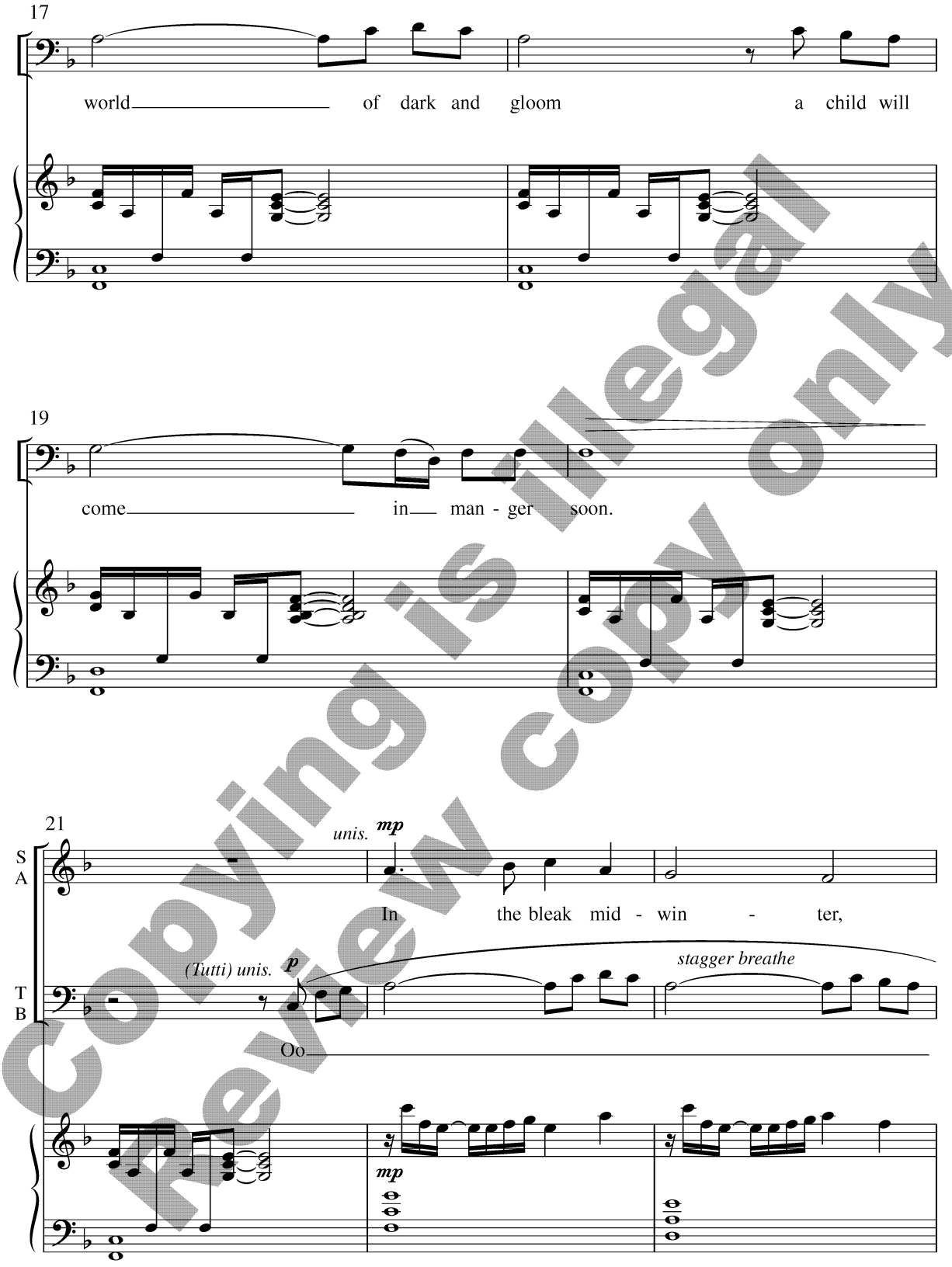

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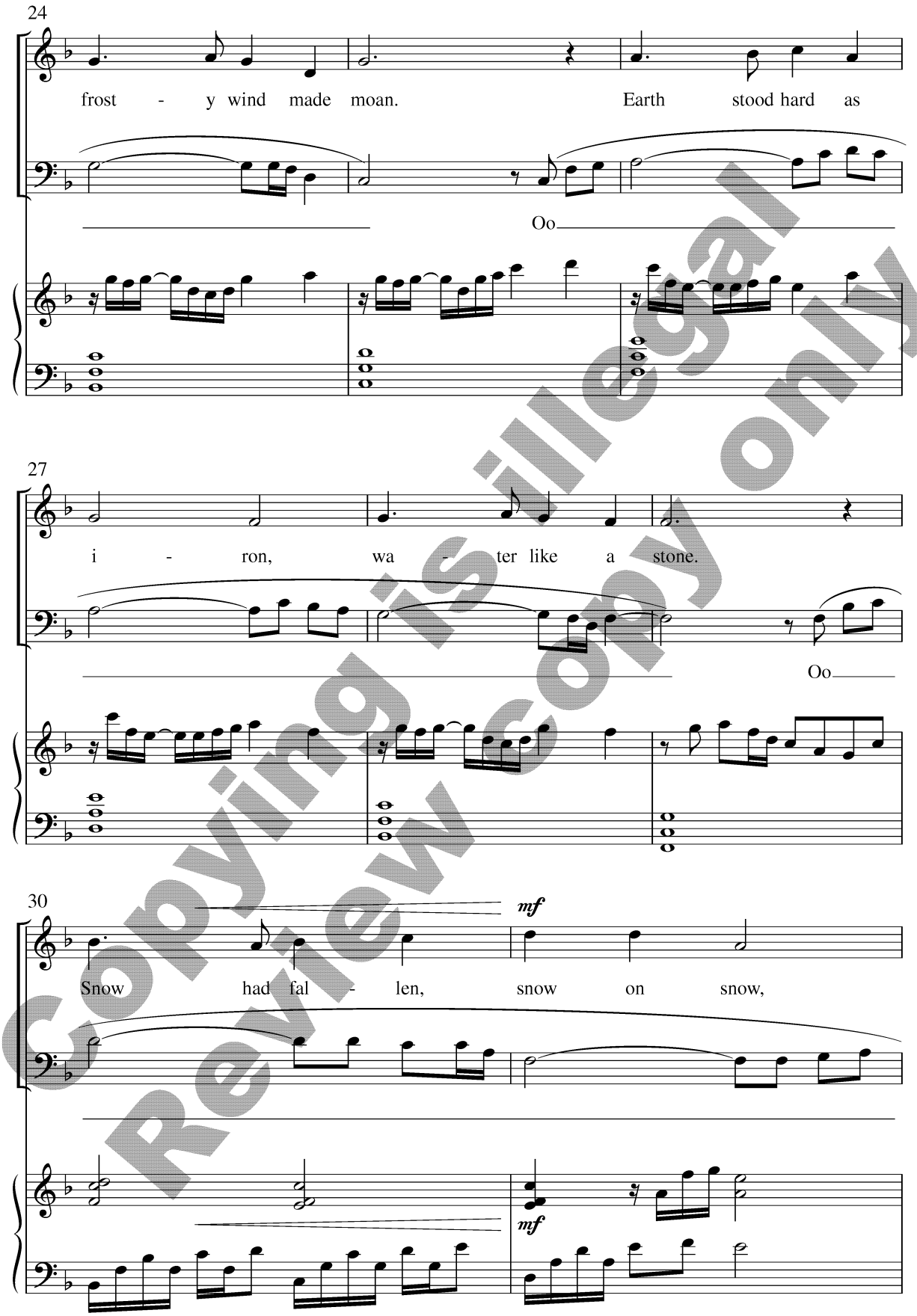

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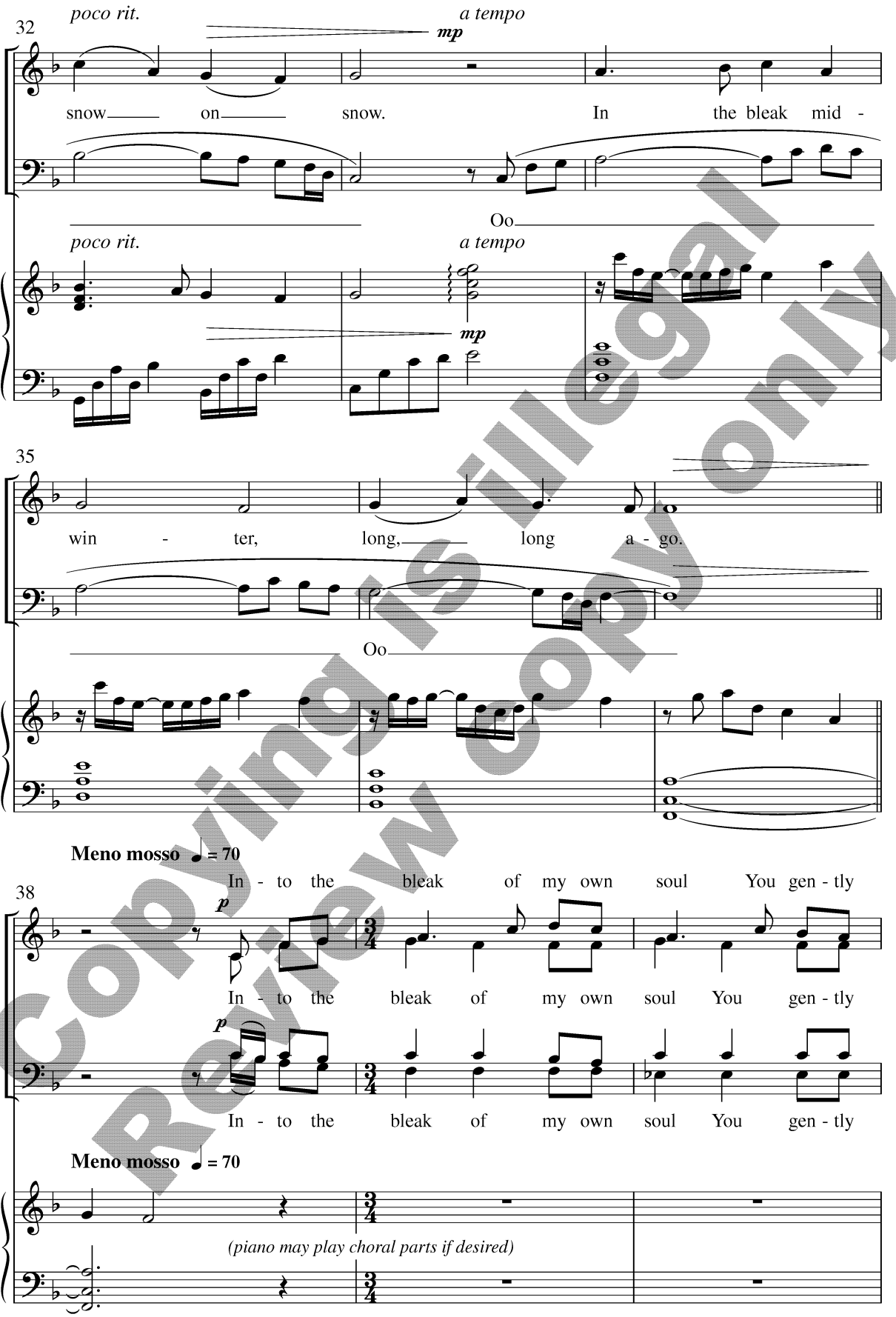

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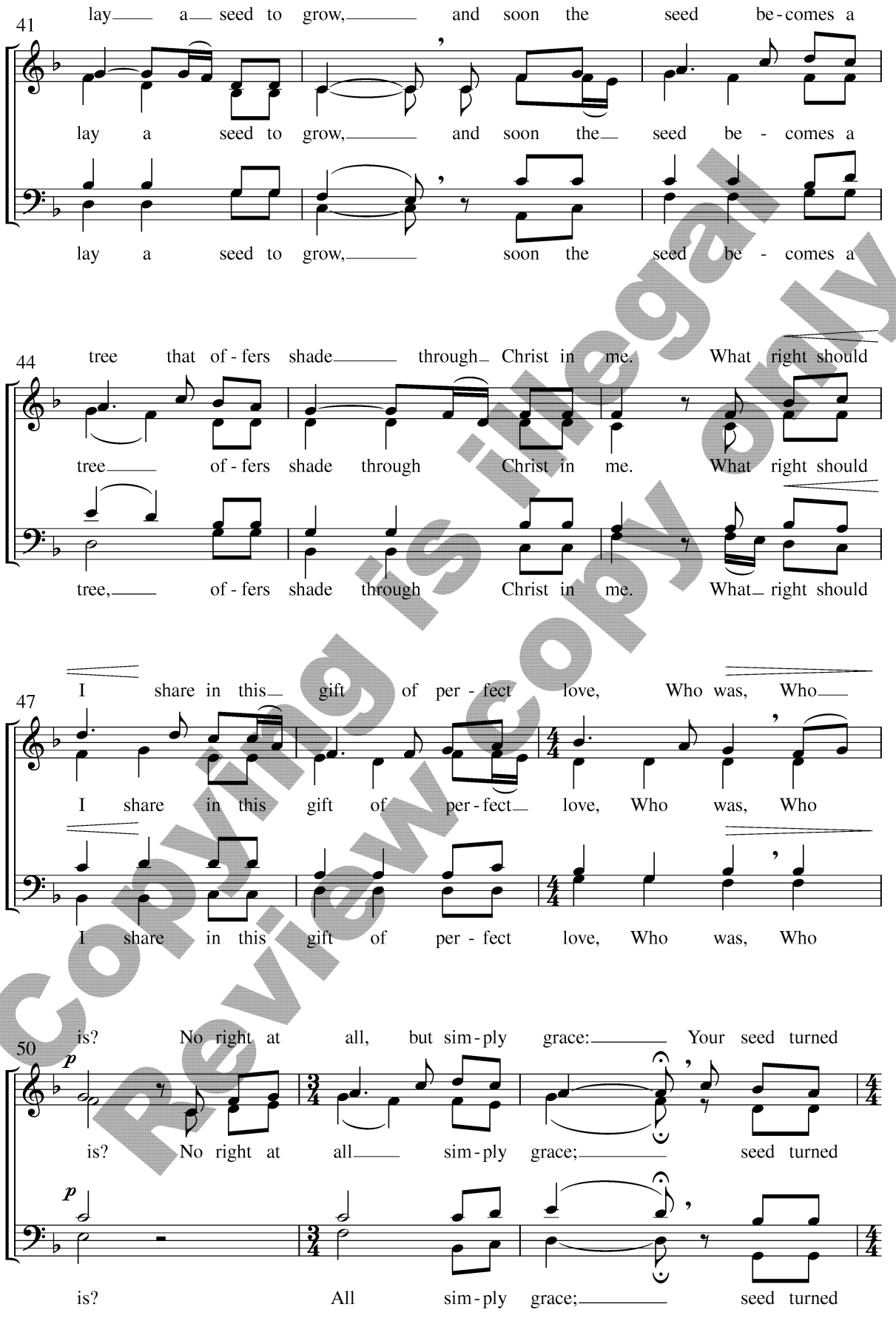

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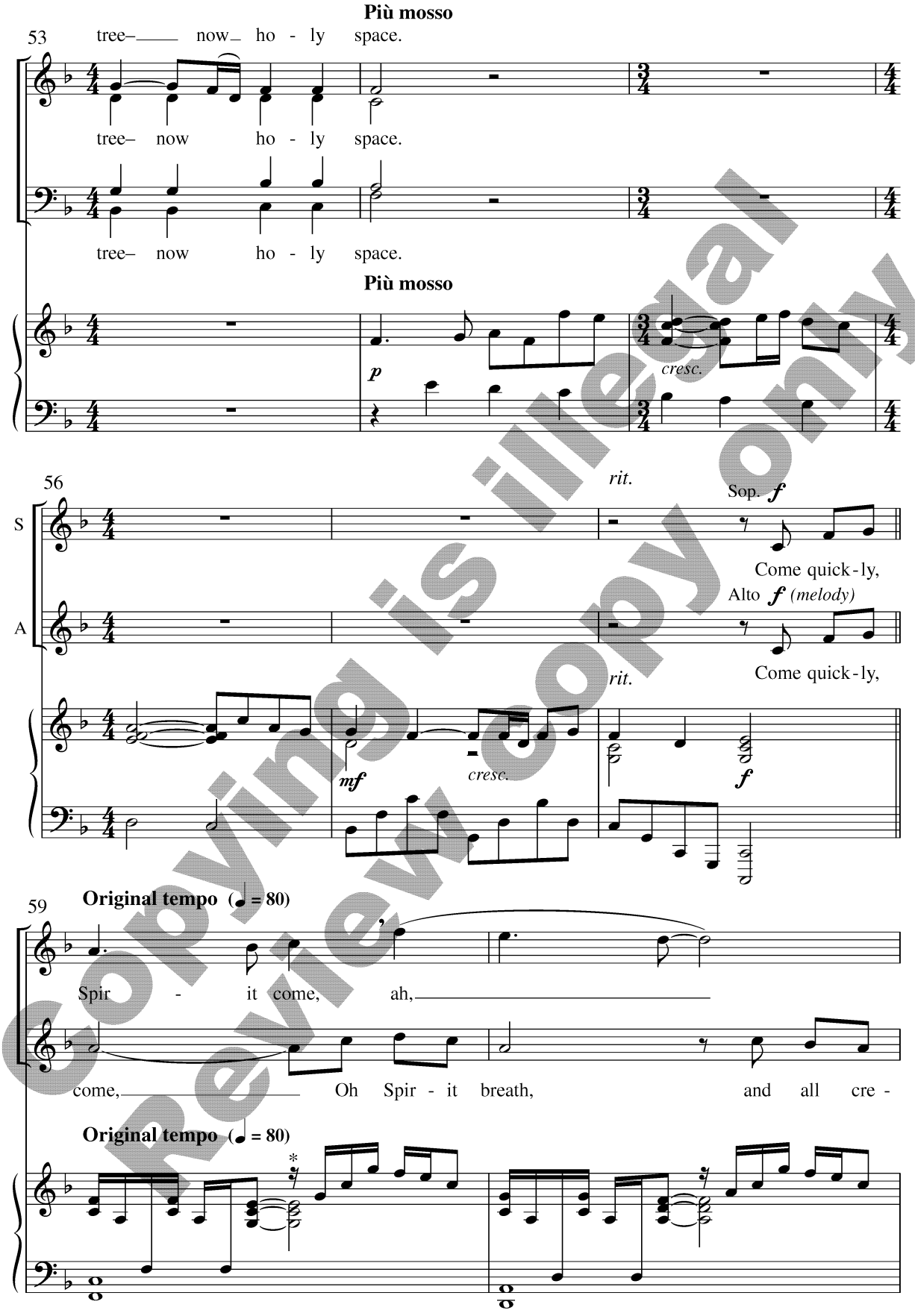

*RH releases to play figure while pedal sustains the half-note.

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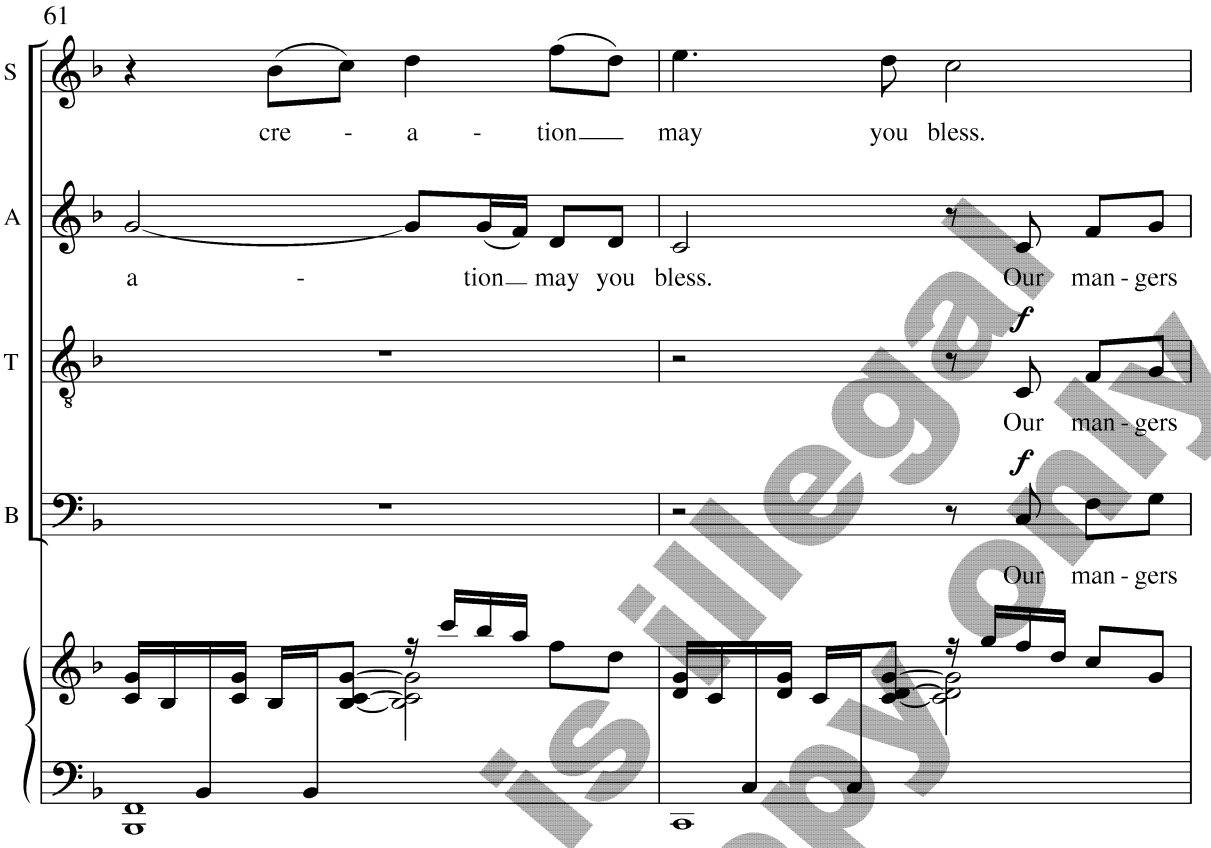

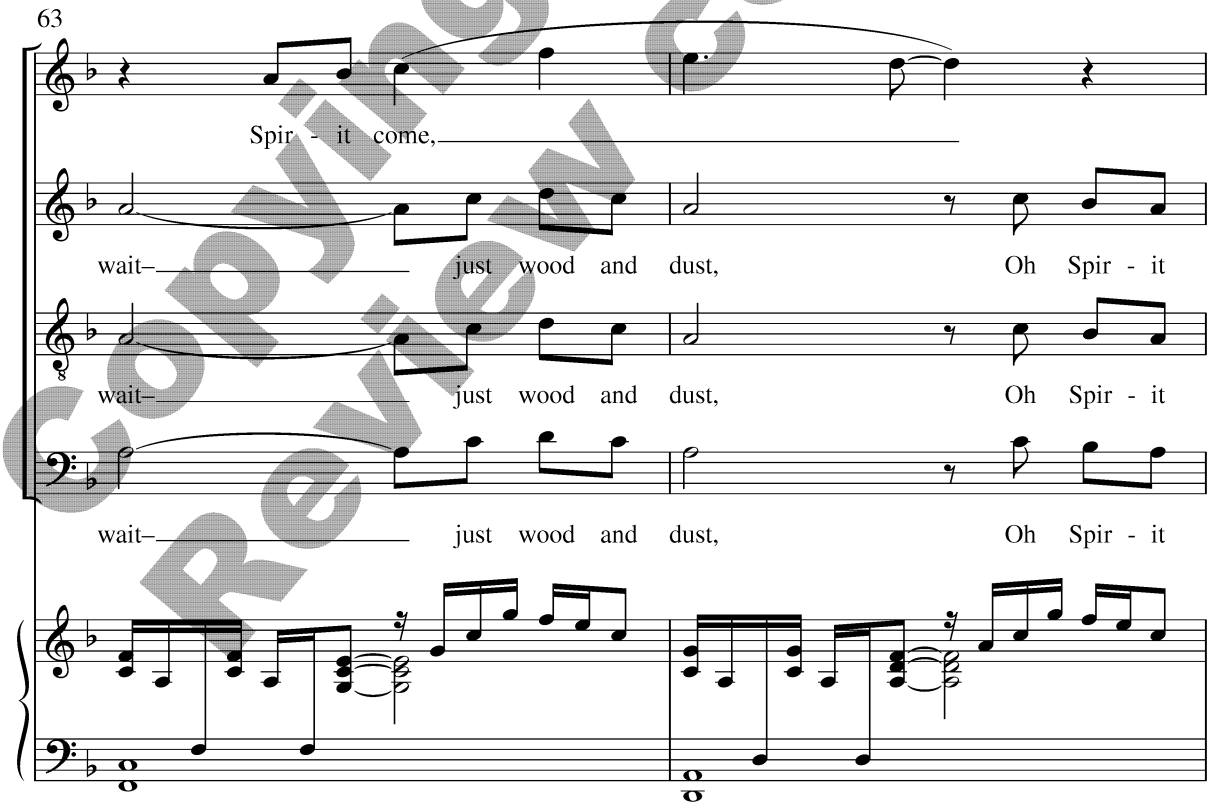

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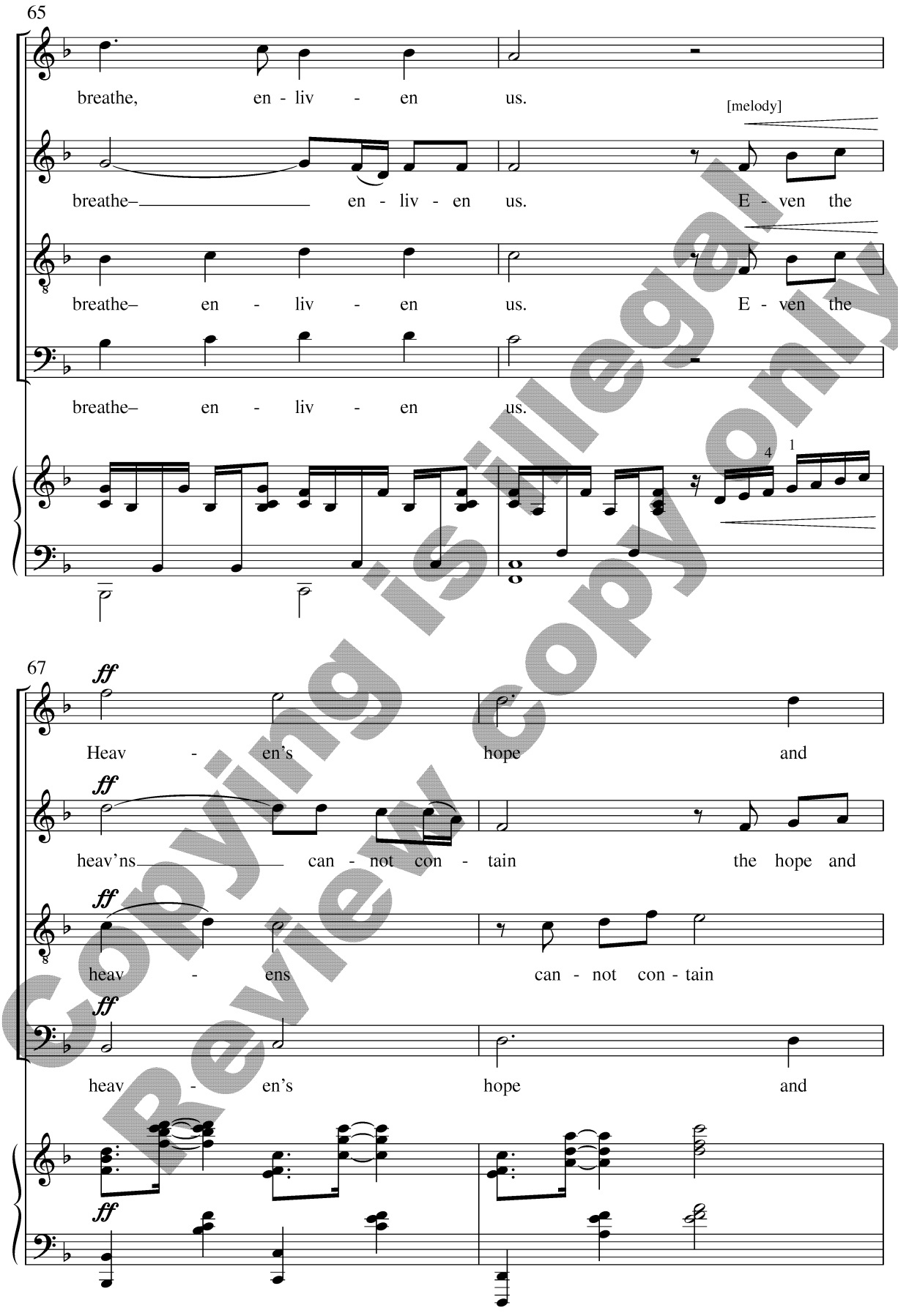

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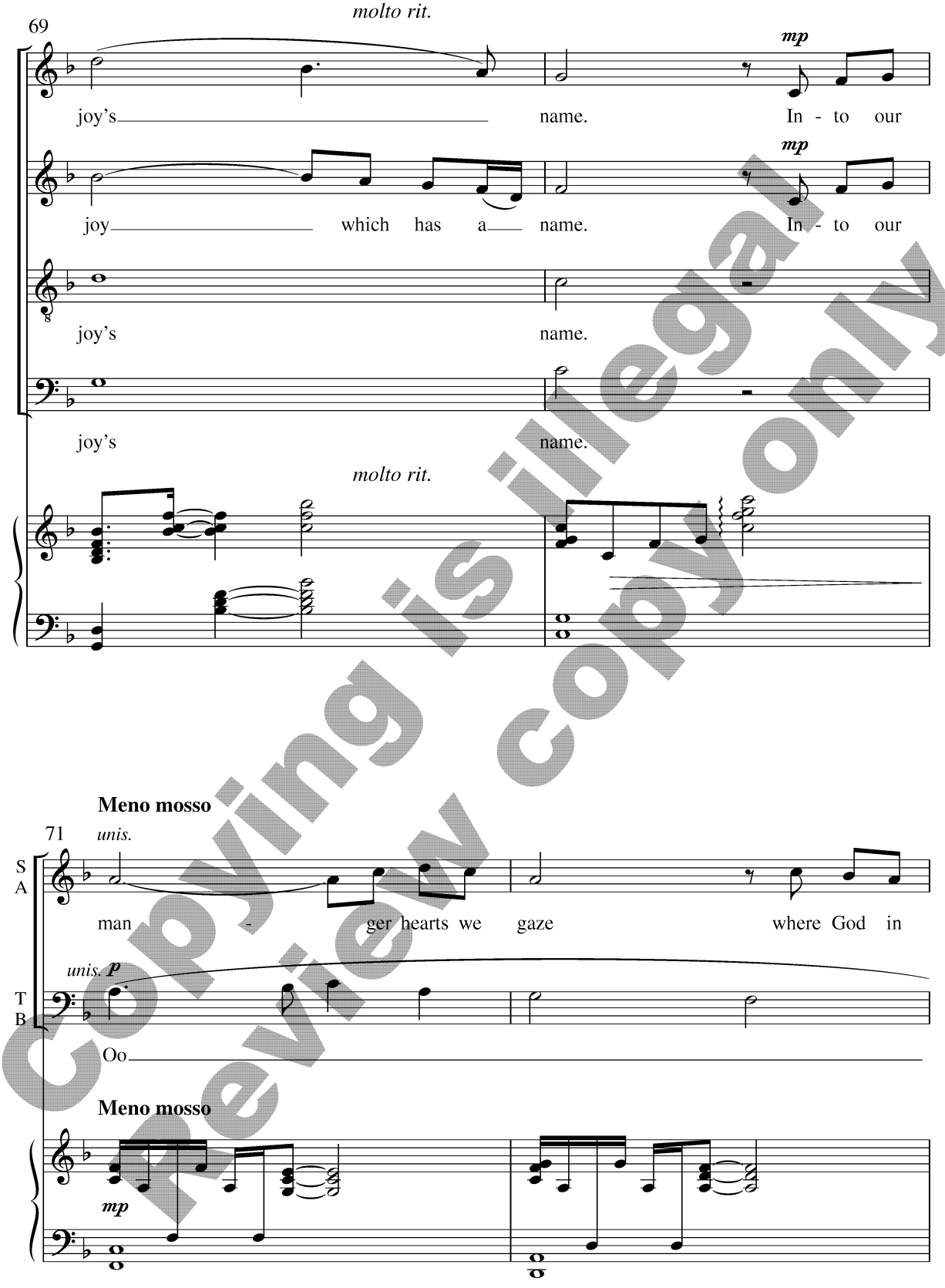

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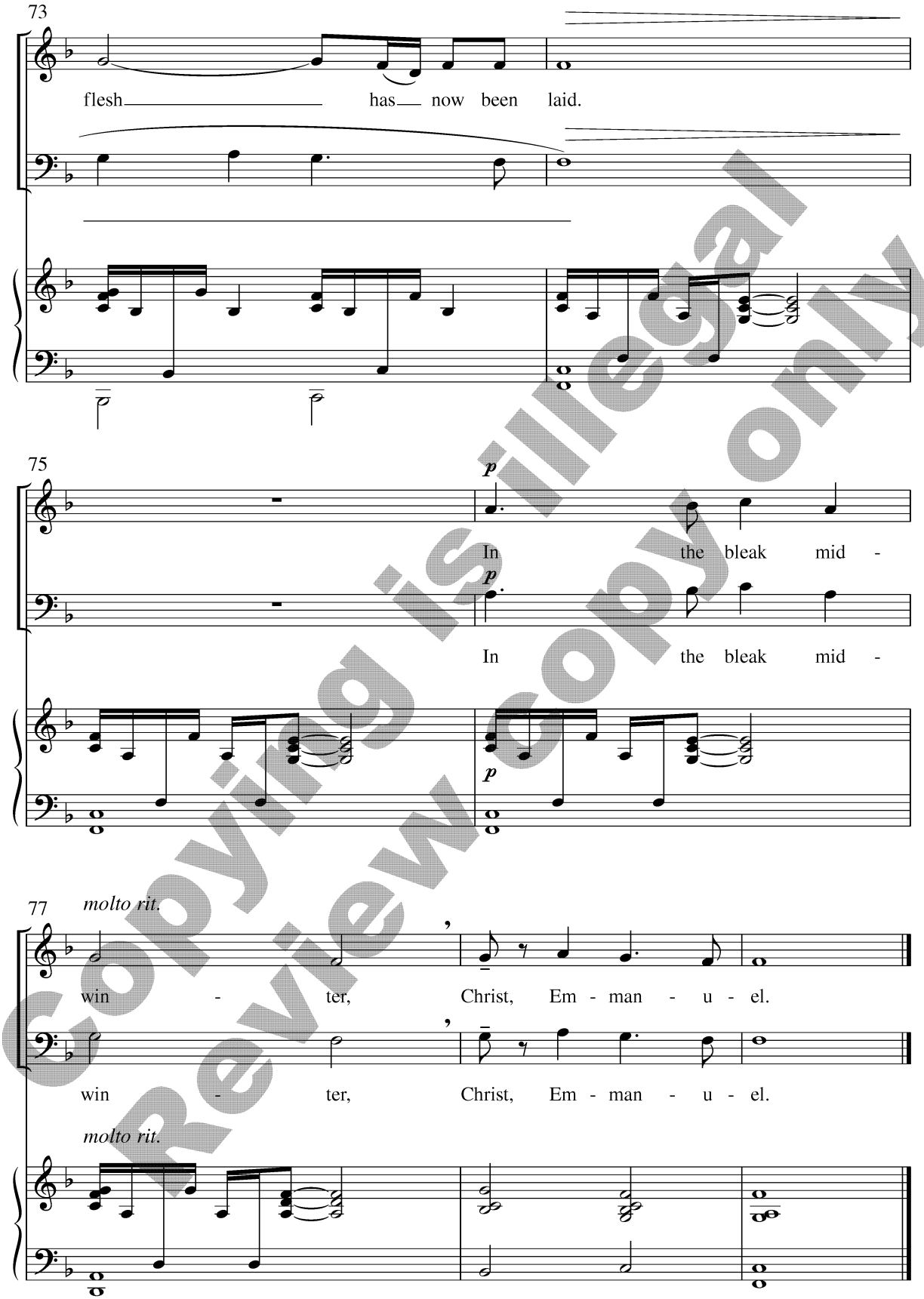

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