Please note that not all pages are included. This is purposely done in order to protect our property and the work of our esteemed composers.

If you would like to see this work in its entirety, please order online or call us at 800-647-2117.

Contents

I. Bones, Be Good 1

II. Turning 10

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IV. Homage to My Hair 22

V. The Thirty-eighth Year 25

Total Duration: 14 minutes

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Notes

These songs might have been subtitled "Songs of Self Reflection," for they present the poet musing about her own life, and specifically her physical appearance. One imagines the poet looking in the mirror with amusement, horror and a strong sense of her own history. Thus, the songs range from an energetic first impression ("Bones, Be Good!") to philosophical reflection ("Turning") to humor and pride in the body itself ("Homage to my Hips/Hair") to a more serious summation ("The Thirty-Eighth Year"). A strong and colorful woman emerges.

No Ordinary Woman! was commissioned by soprano, Denise Walker, and pianist, Estrid Eklof, for premiere at Brown University, Providence, RI in December 1997. The songs were composed at the composer's home in Vermont during the summer of 1997.

About the Composer and Poet

Widely performed throughout the country, the music of American composer **Gwyneth Walker** is beloved by performers and audiences alike for its energy, beauty, reverence, drama, and humor. Dr. Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947) is a graduate of Brown University and the Hartt School of Music. She holds B.A., M.M. and D.M.A. degrees in Music Composition. A former faculty member of the Oberlin College Conservatory, she resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. For nearly 30 years, she lived on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont. She now divides her time between her childhood hometown of New Canaan, Connecticut and the musical communities of Sarasota, Florida and Randolph, Vermont.

Gwyneth Walker has been a proud resident of Vermont for many years. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Vermont Arts Council as well as the 2008 "Athenaeum Award for Achievement in the Arts and Humanities" from the St. Johnsbury (VT) Athenaeum. In 2012, she was elected as a Fellow of the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences.
Walker's catalog includes over 300 commissioned works for orchestra, chamber ensembles, chorus, and solo voice. A special interest has been dramatic works that combine music with readings, acting, and movement. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E. C. Schirmer (choral and vocal music) and Lauren Keiser Music (orchestral and instrumental music).

Lucille Clifton (poet) was born in 1936 in Depew, New York and educated at Howard University and the State University of New York at Fredonia. Formerly the Poet Laureate of the State of Maryland, she has taught at Goucher College and the American University in Washington, DC.

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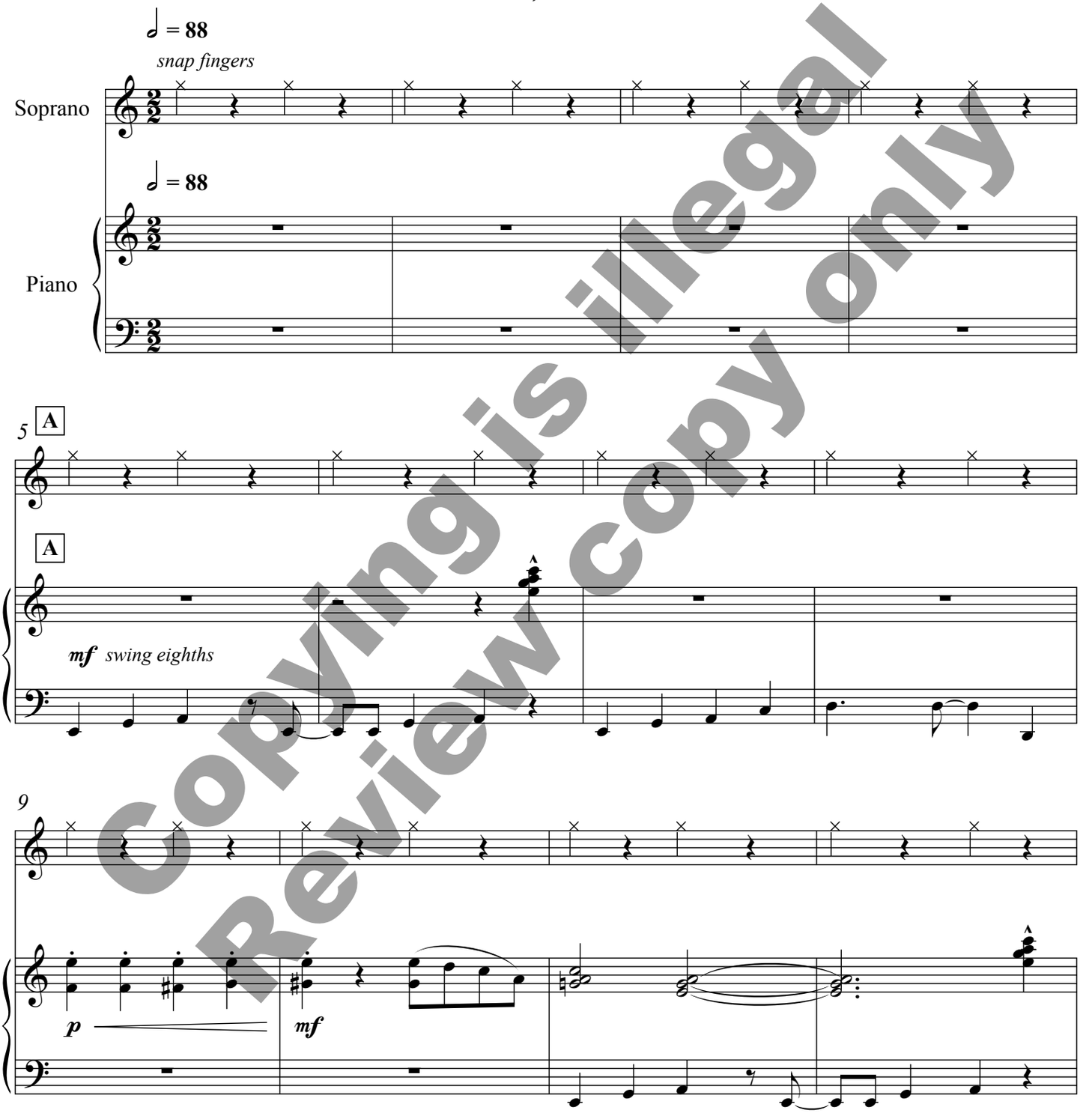
Catalog No. 5728
Commissioned by Denise Walker (Soprano) and Estrid Eklof (Pianist)
Premiered at Brown University, Providence RI, December 5, 1997

No Ordinary Woman!

for Soprano and Piano

Lucille Clifton — Gwyneth Walker

I. Bones, Be Good!



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13

B

mf

I beg my bones to be good but

B

p

17

they just keep click-in' mu - - - - - sic,

mf

21

p *mf*

click, click. click, click, click - in' mu - sic.

p

mf

25

C

p *mf*

Bones, be good!

C

p

mf

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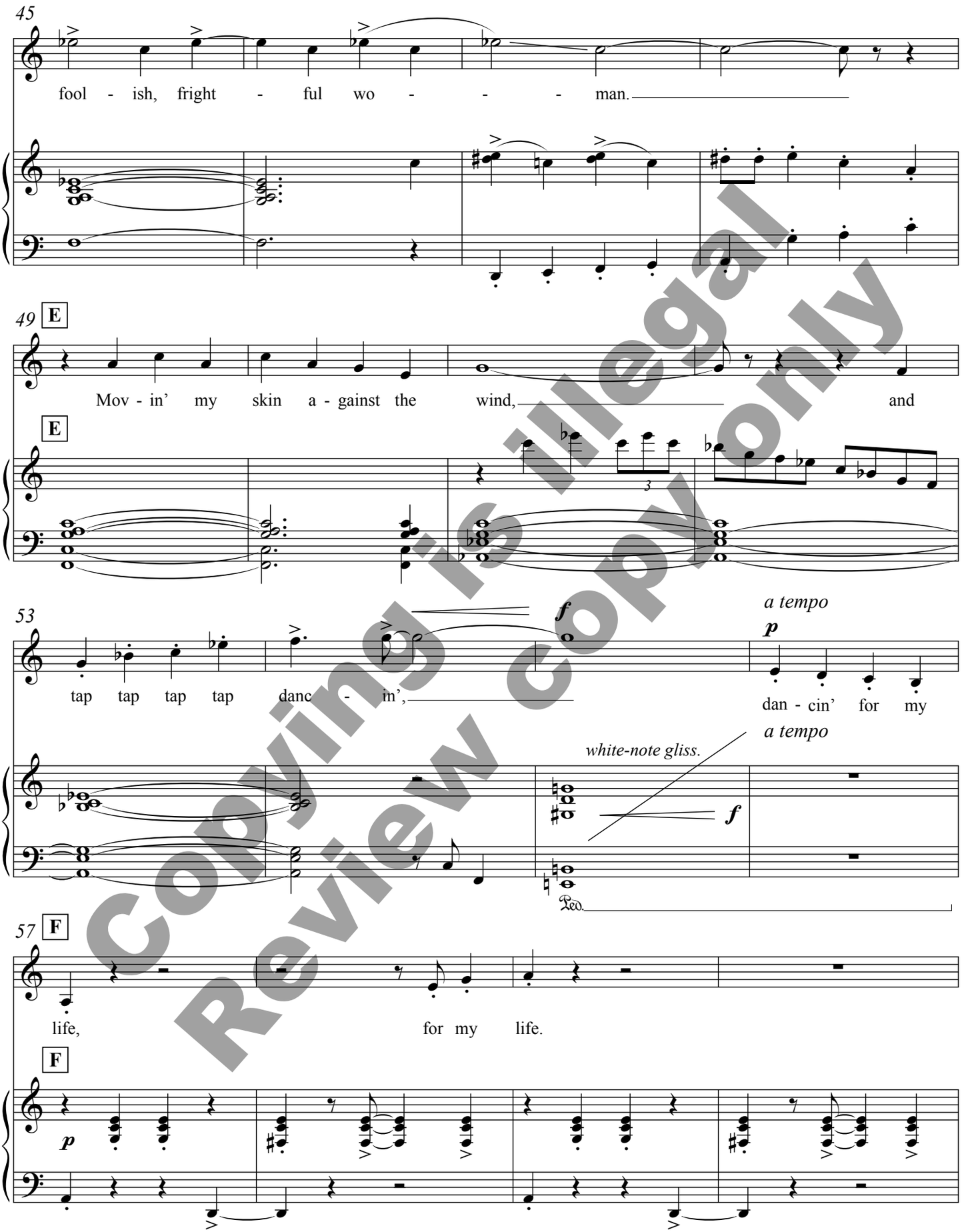

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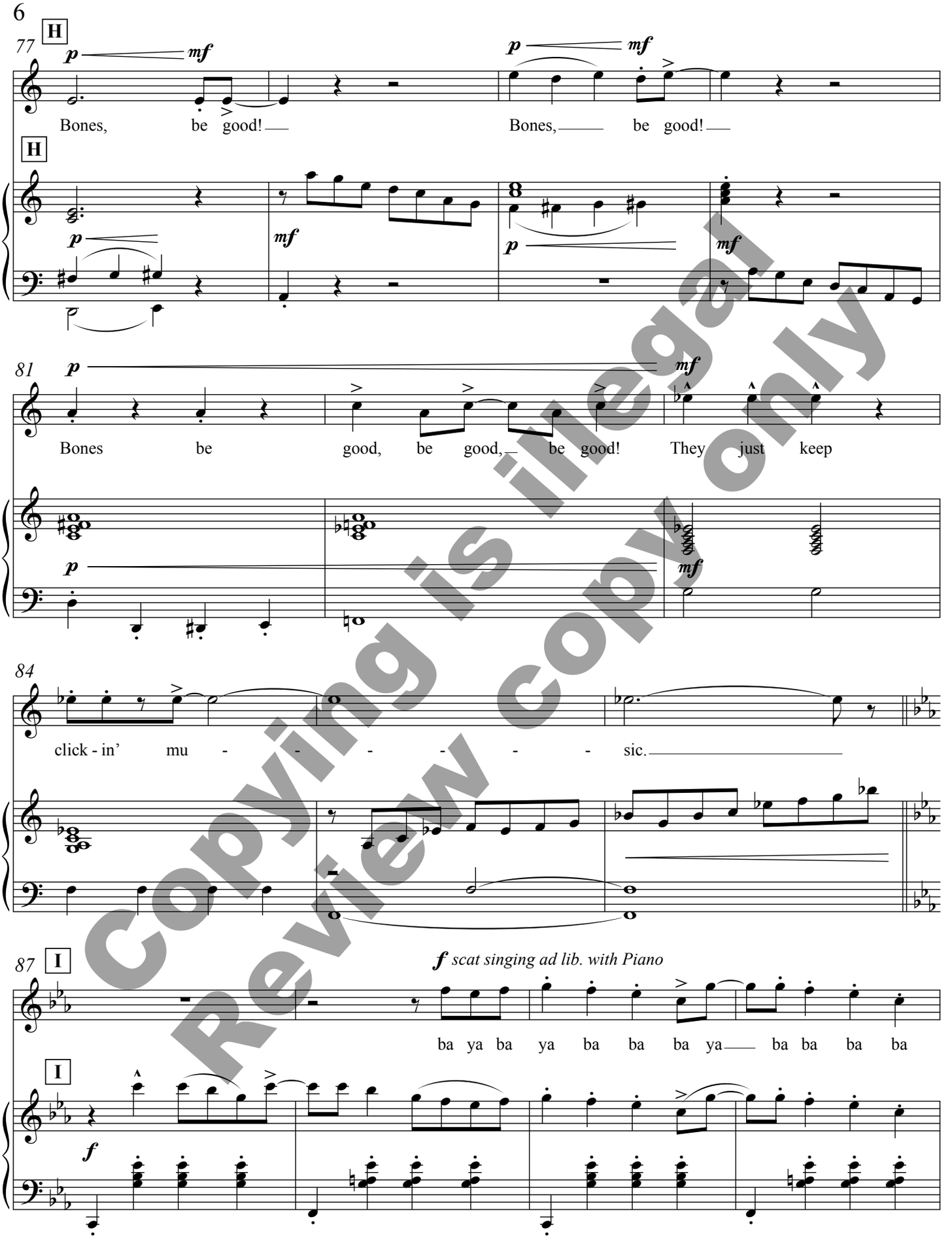

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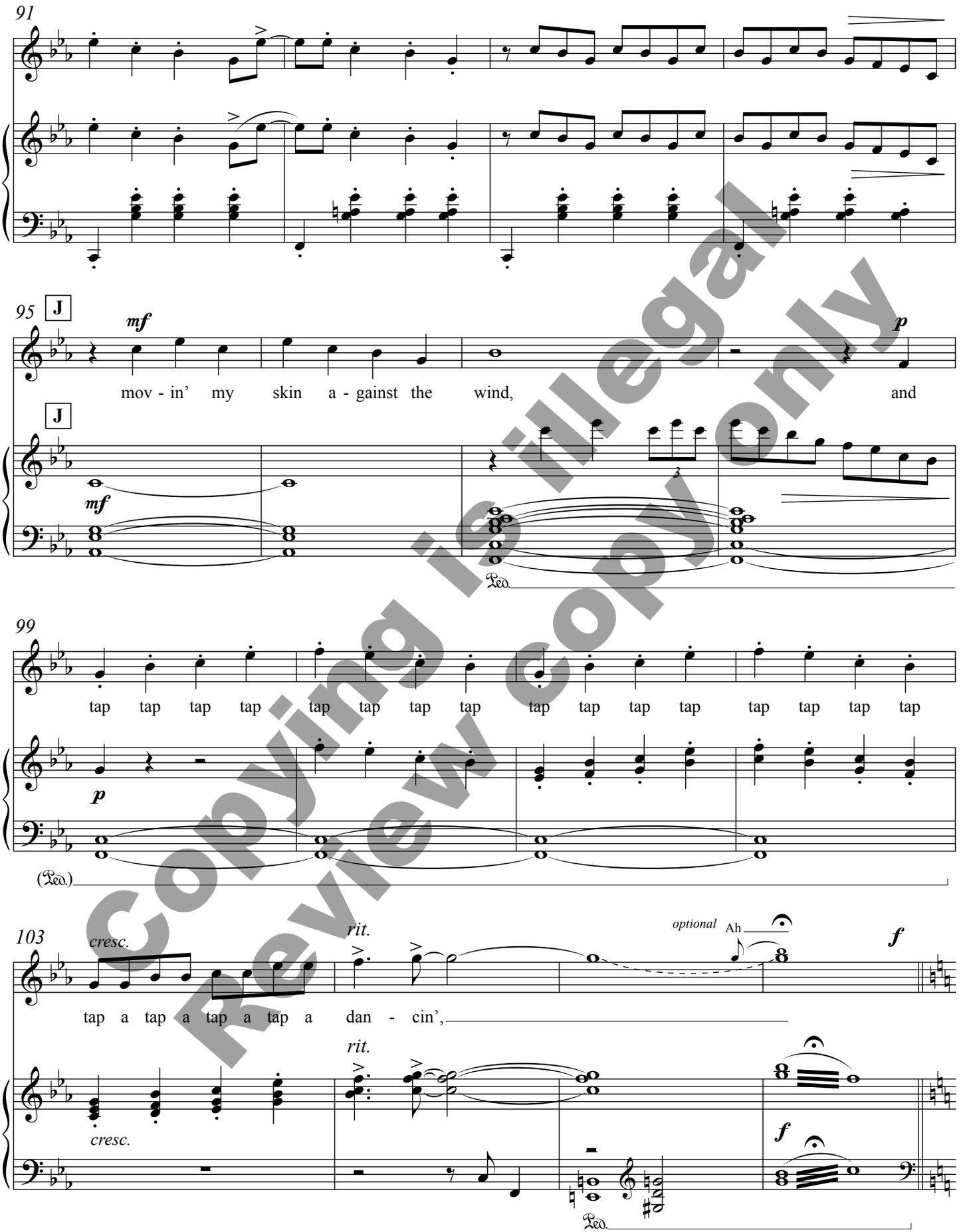

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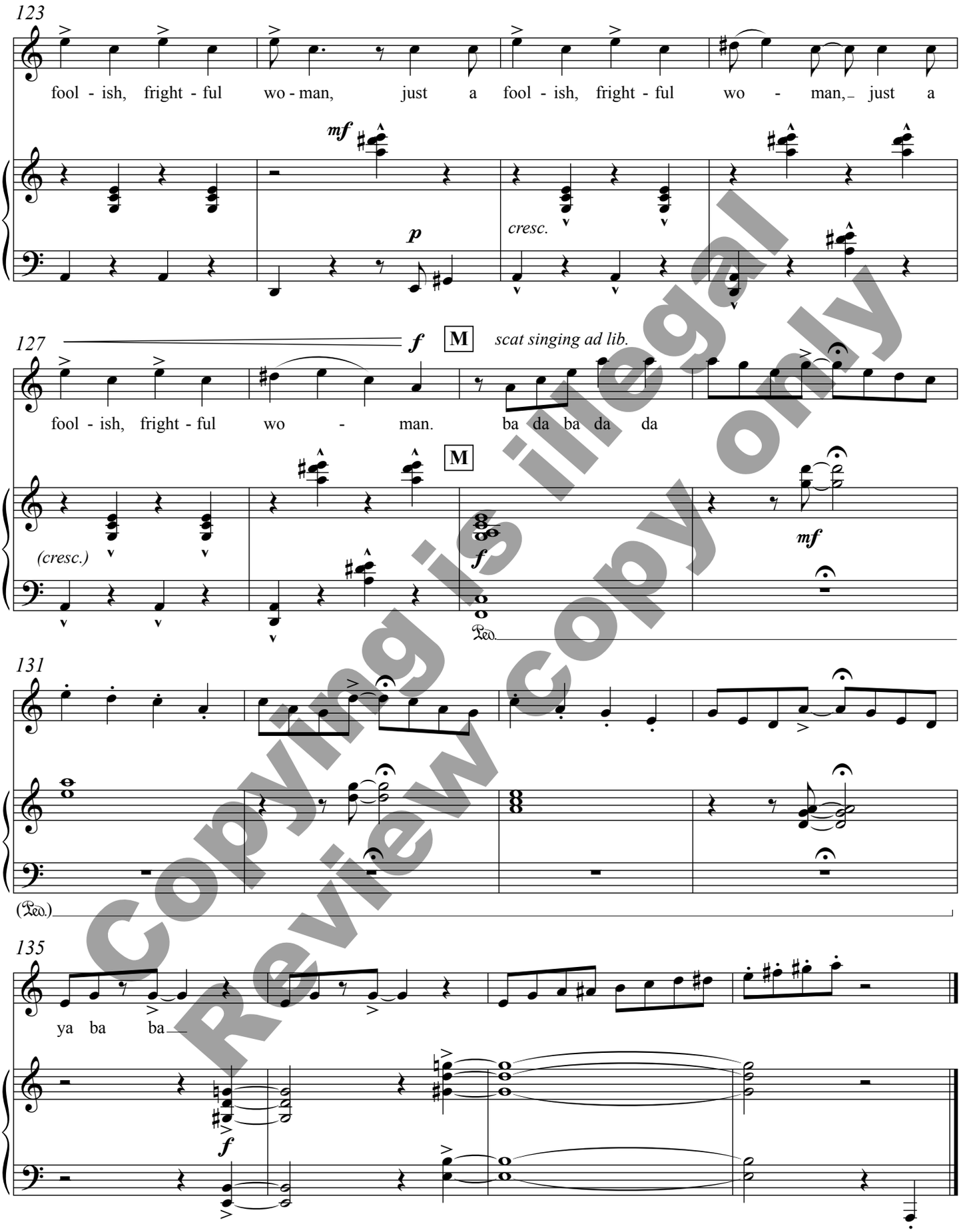

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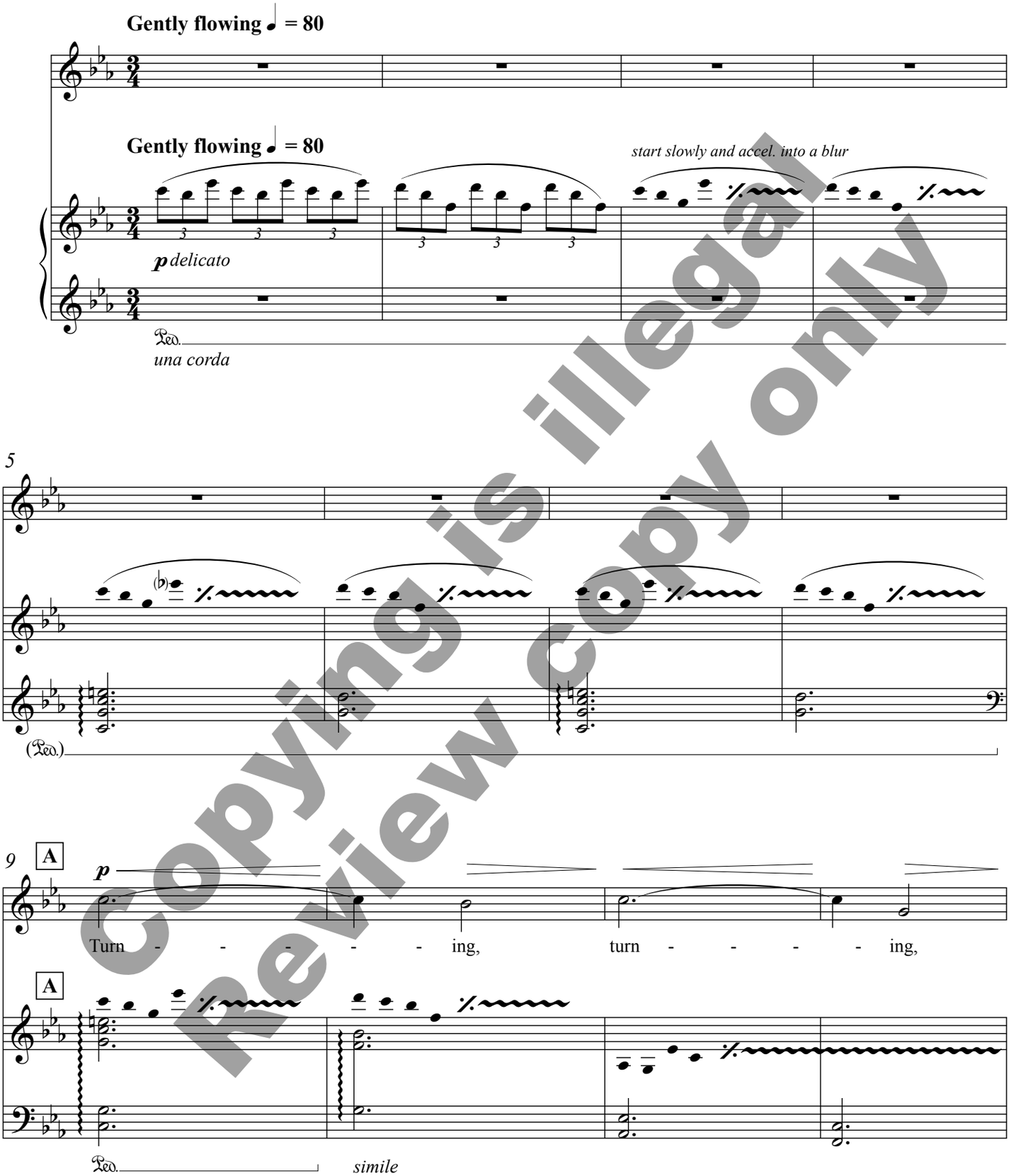
II. Turning



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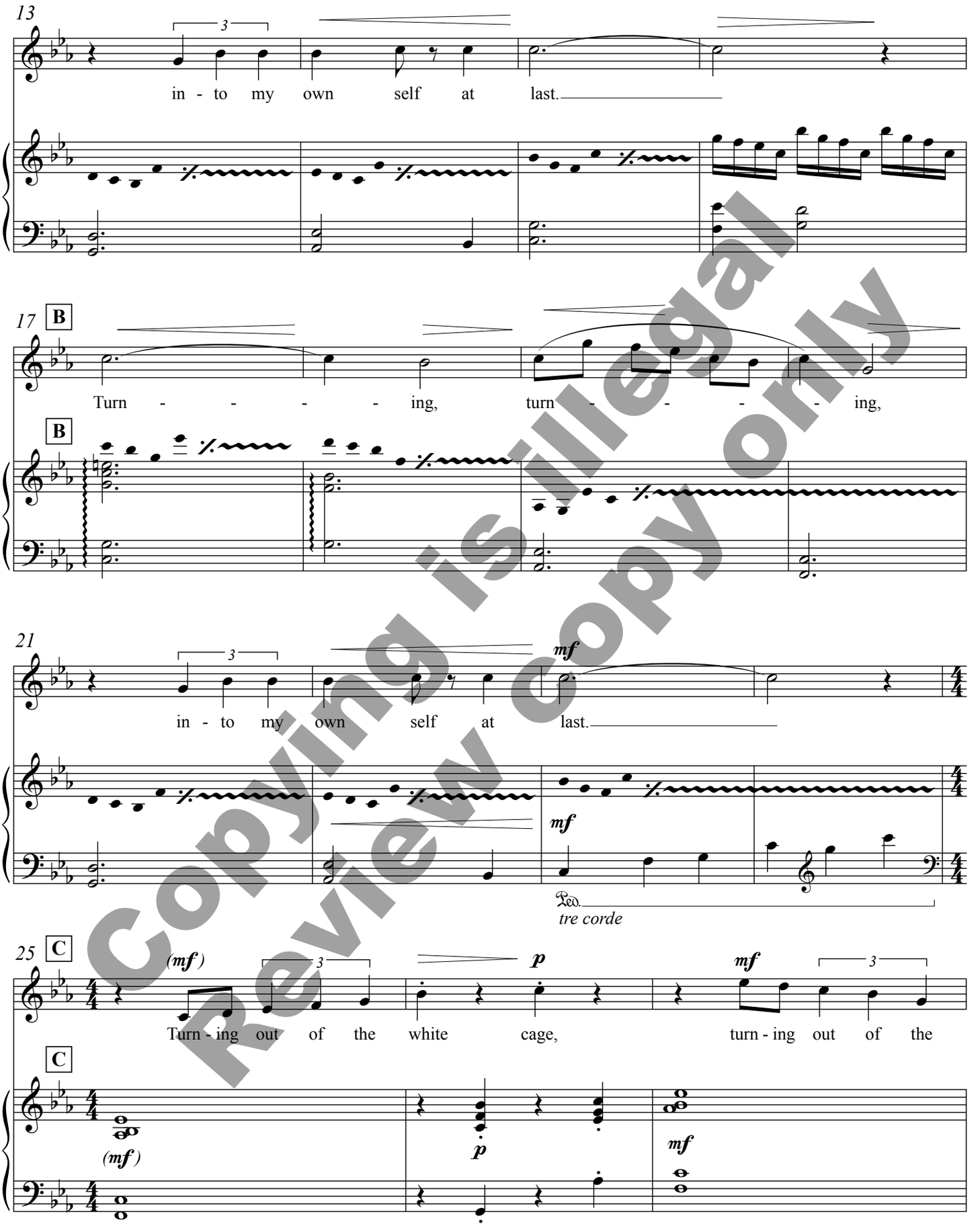

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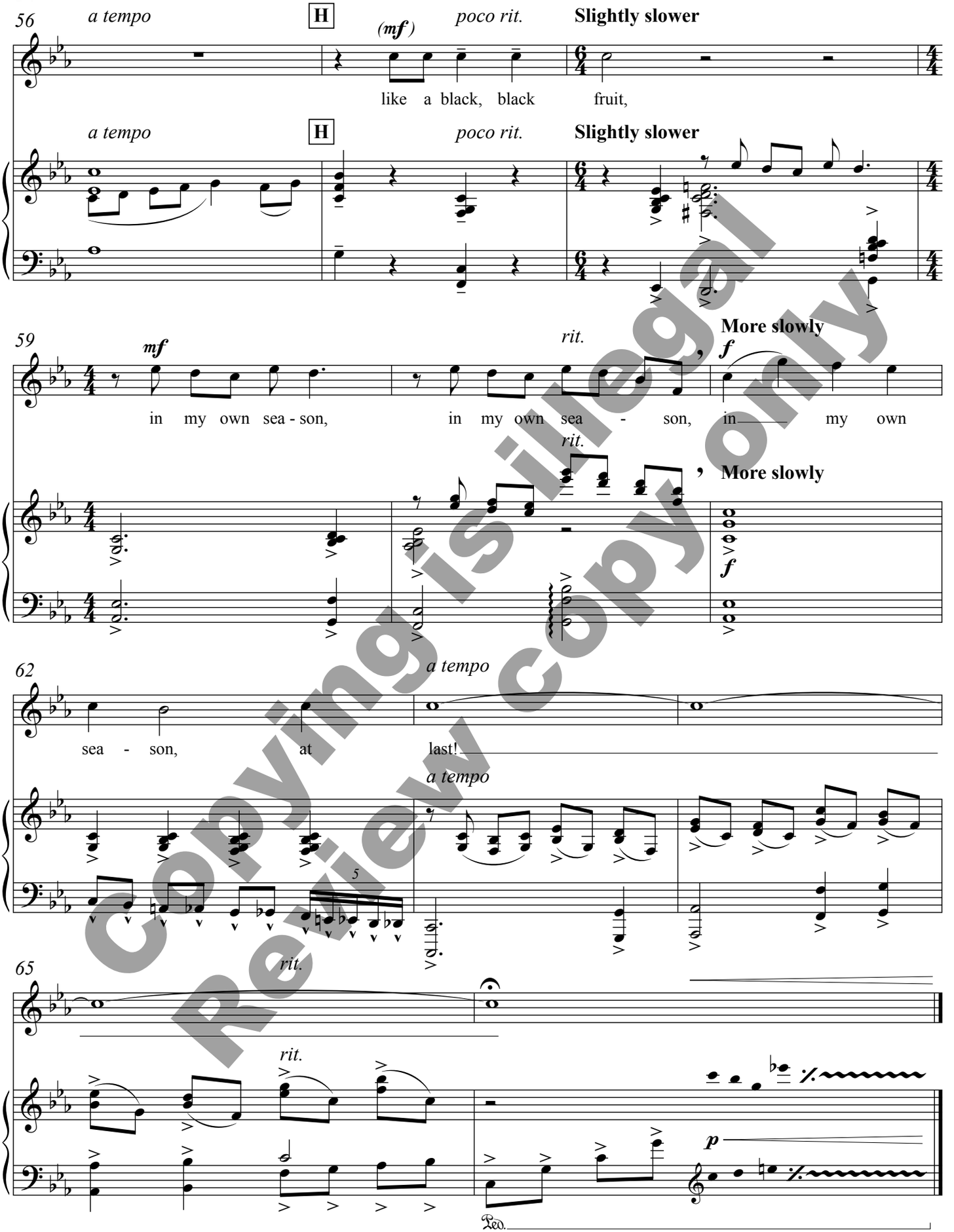

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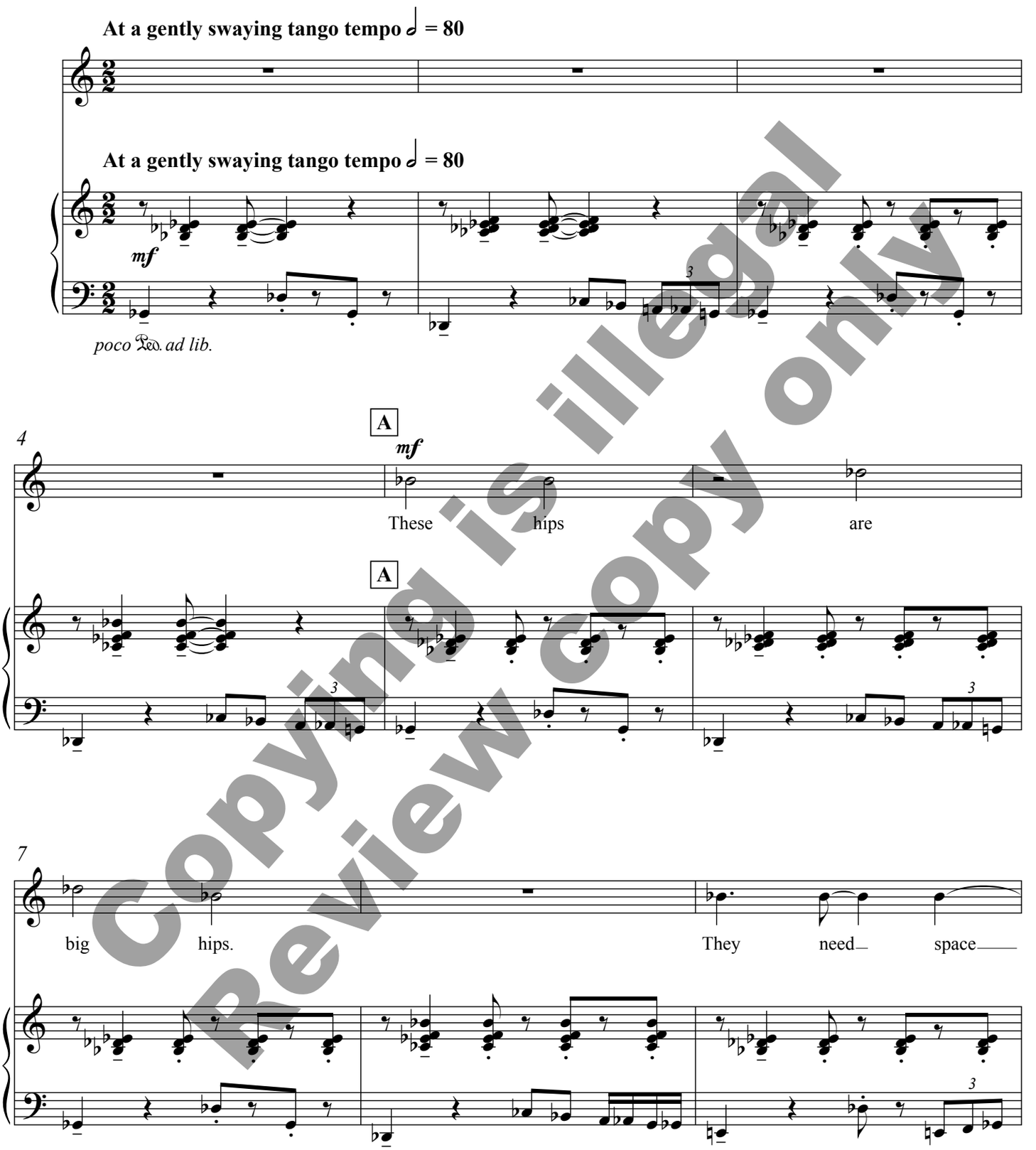
III. Homage to my Hips



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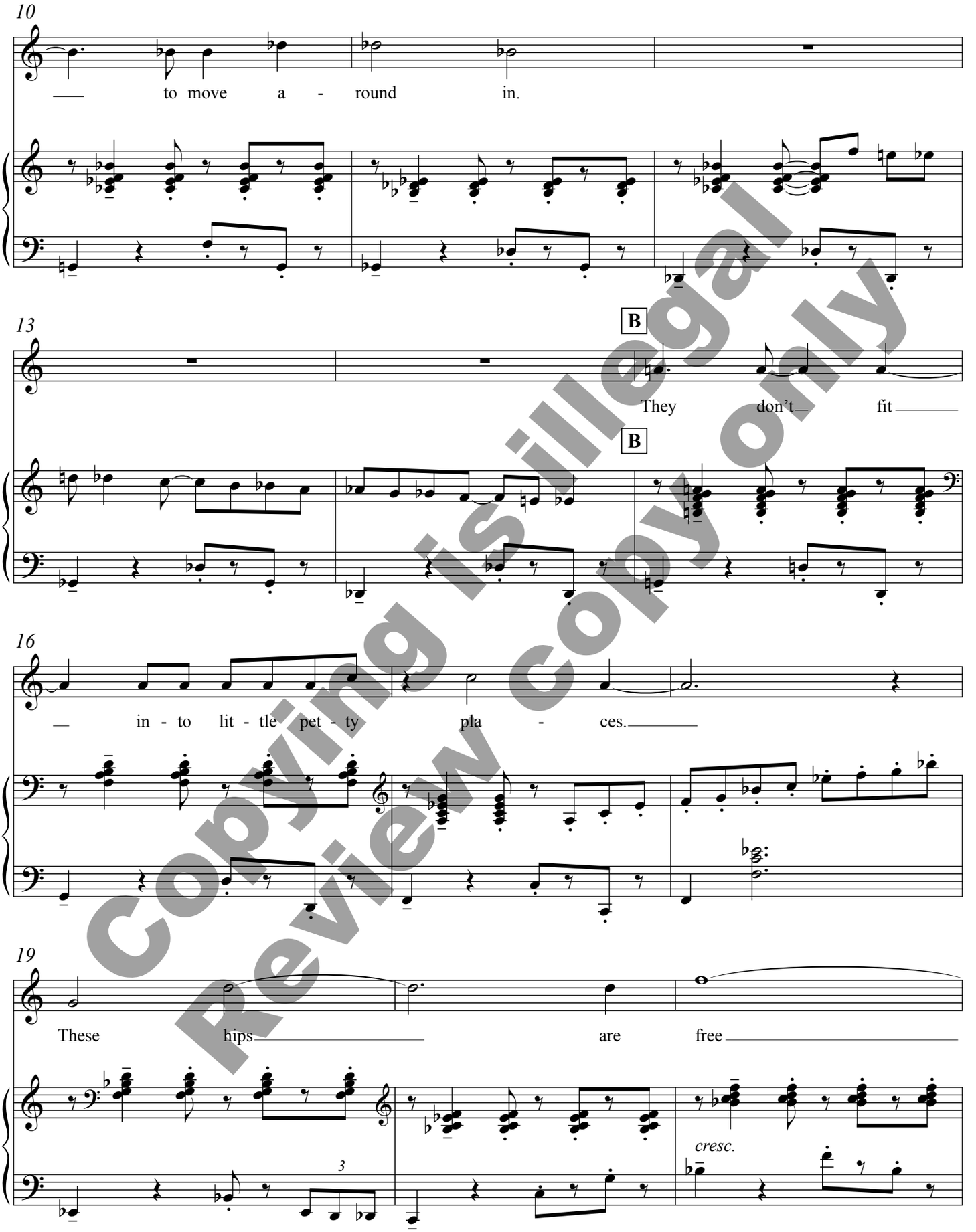

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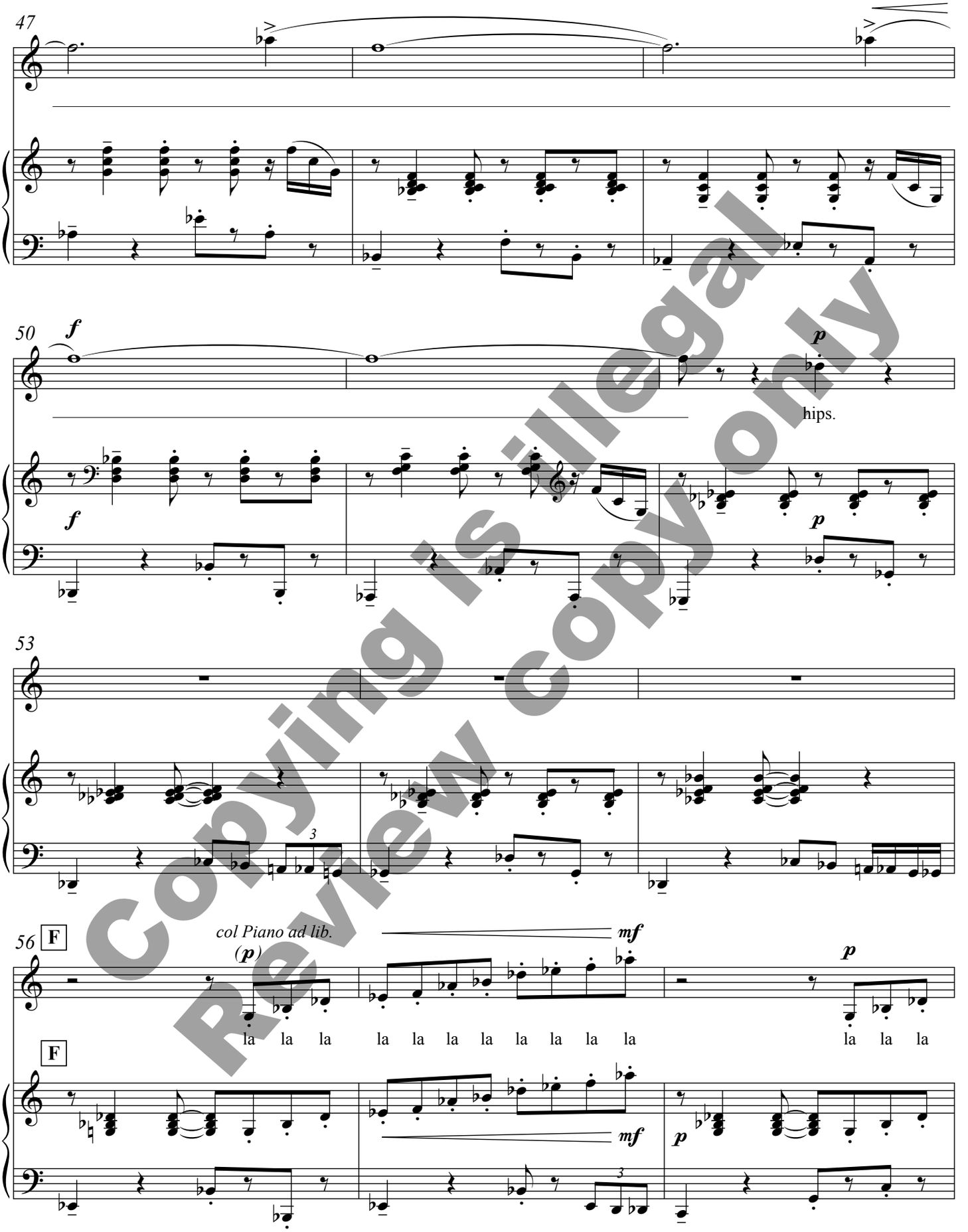

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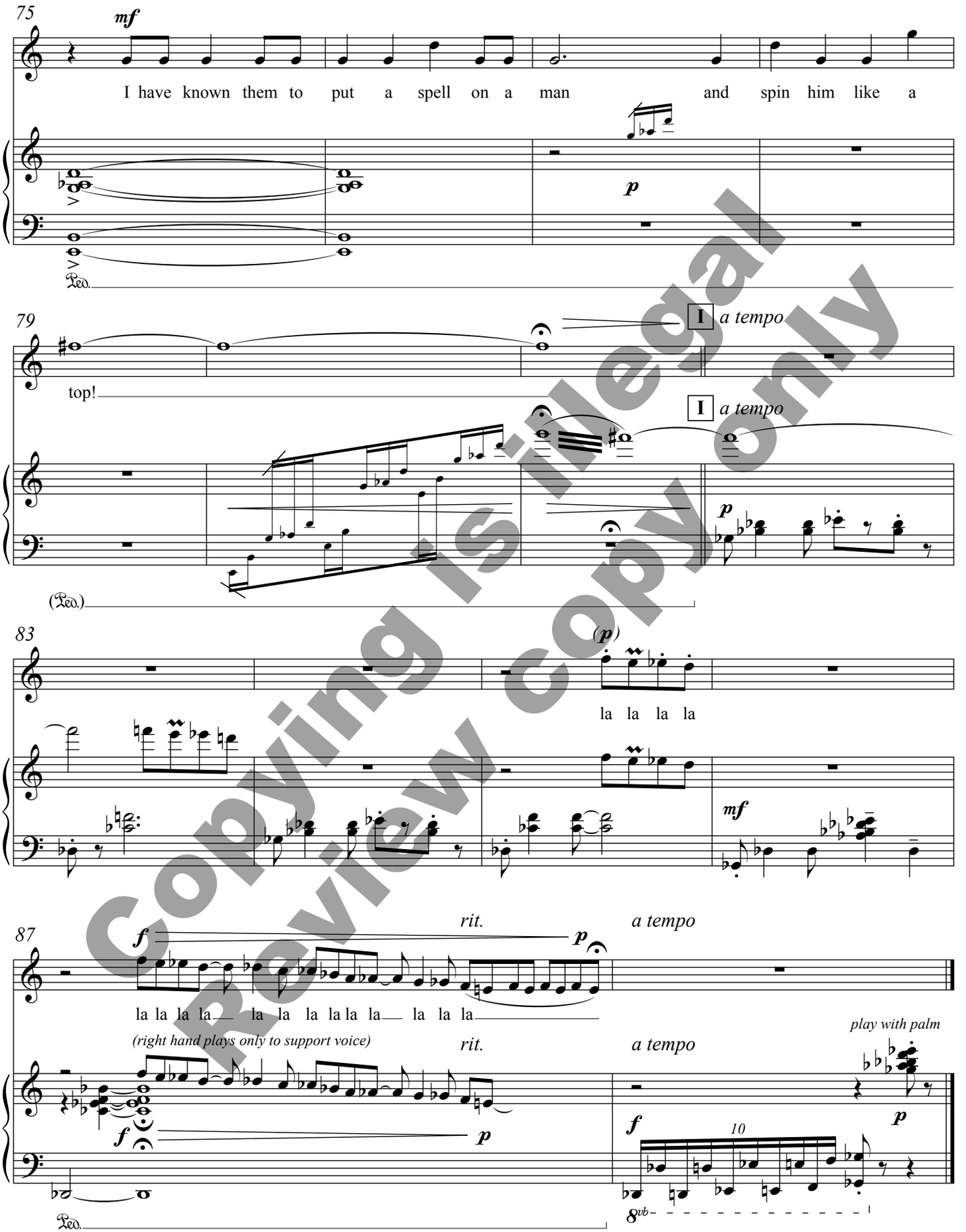

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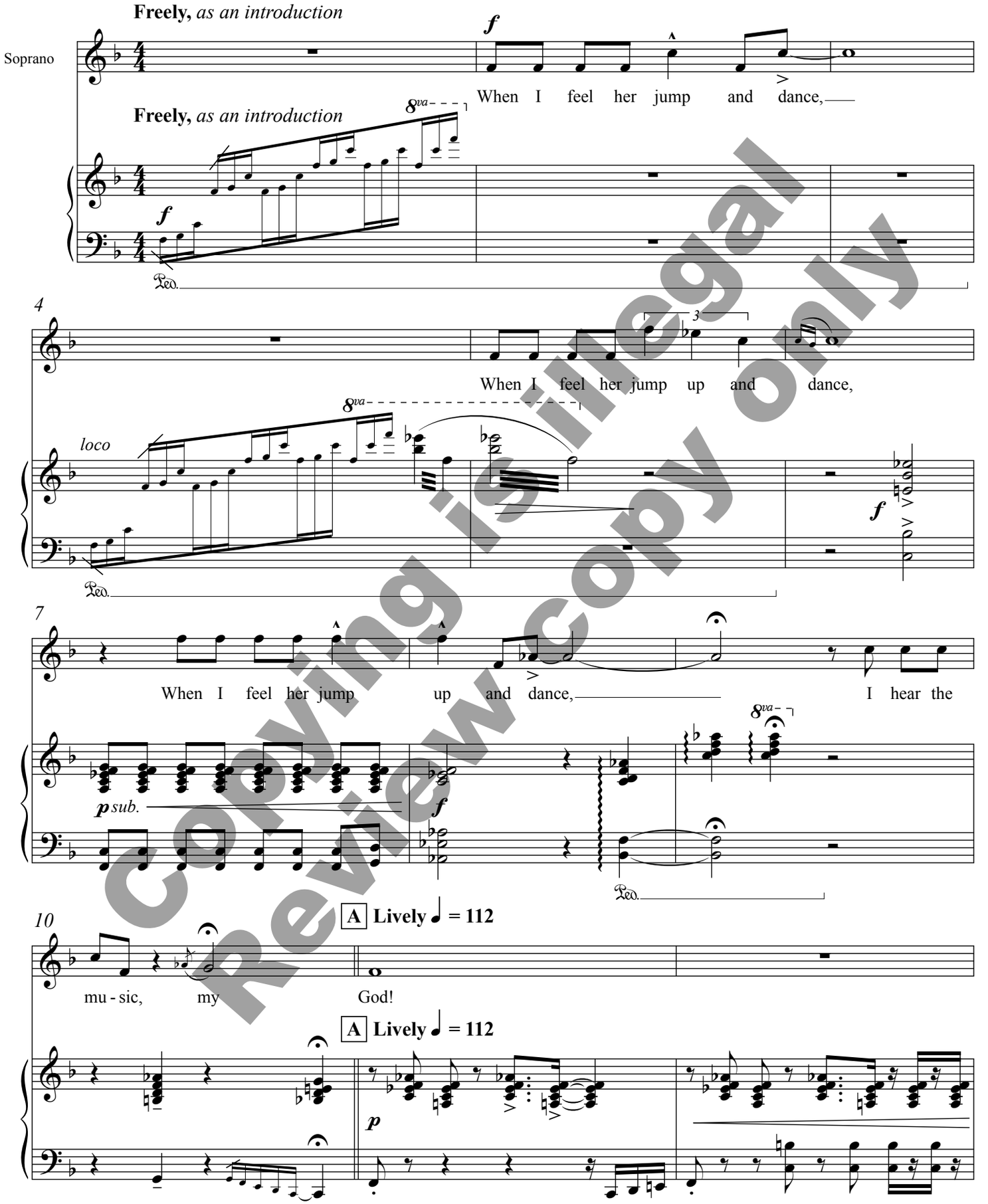
IV. Homage to My Hair



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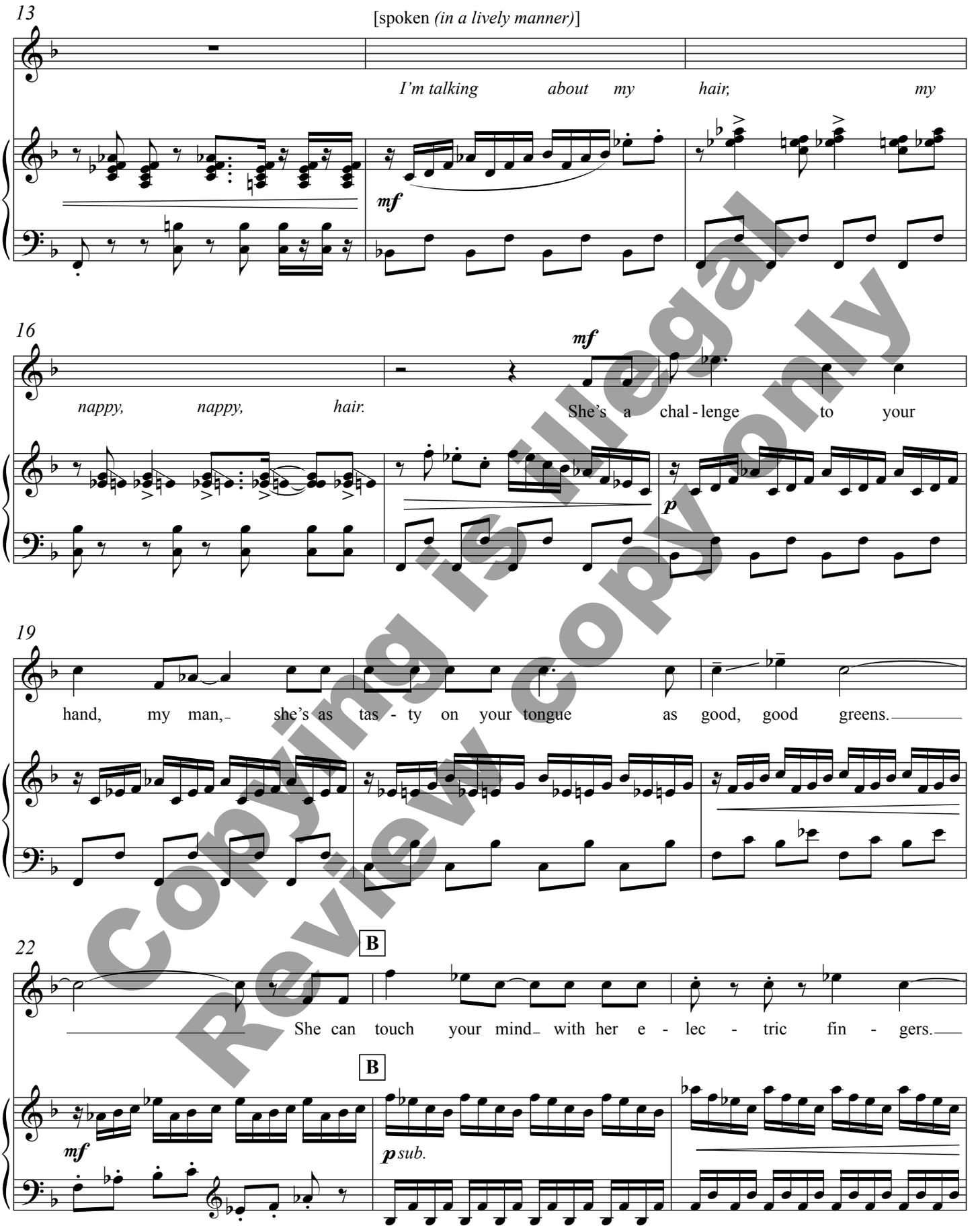

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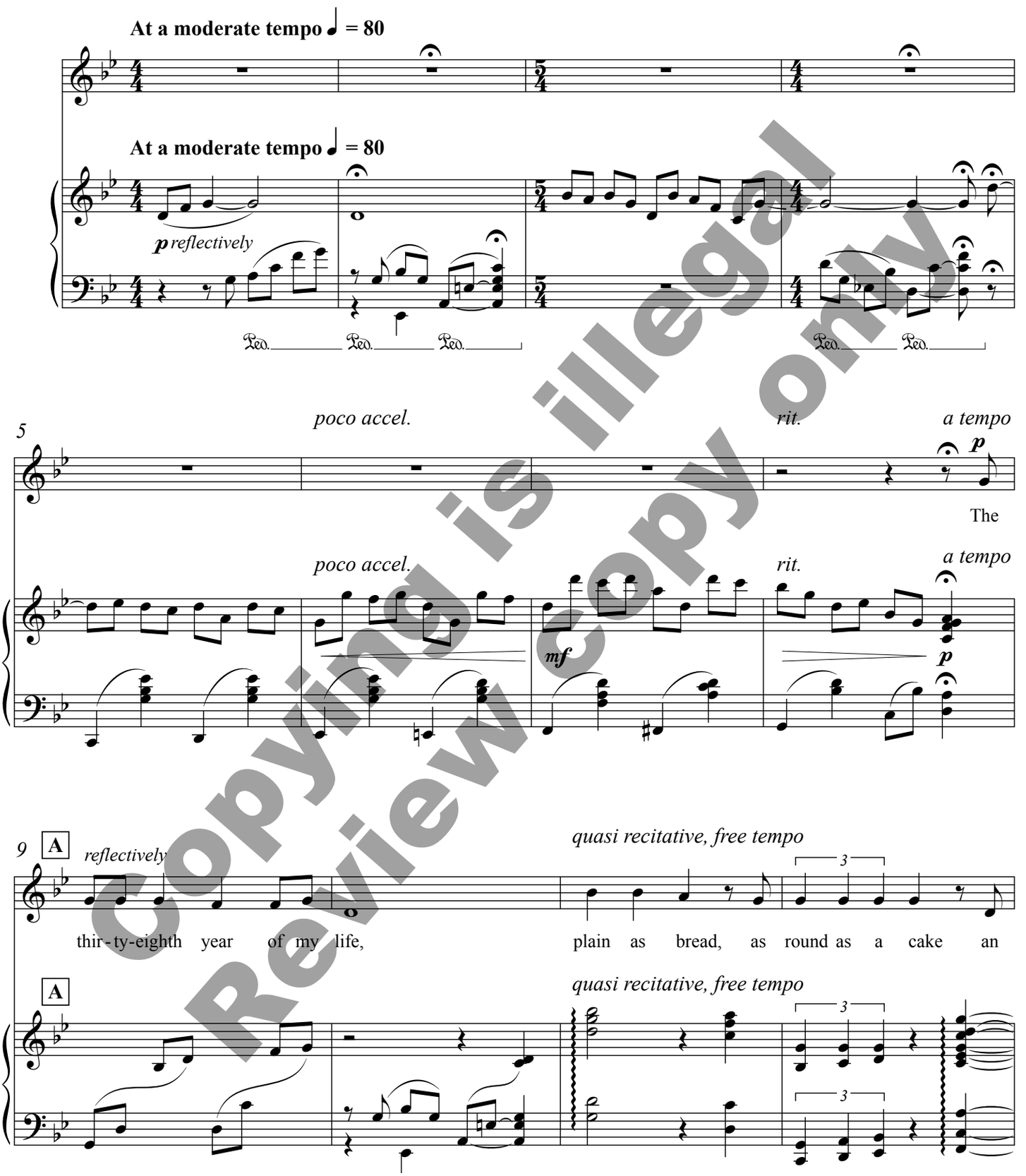

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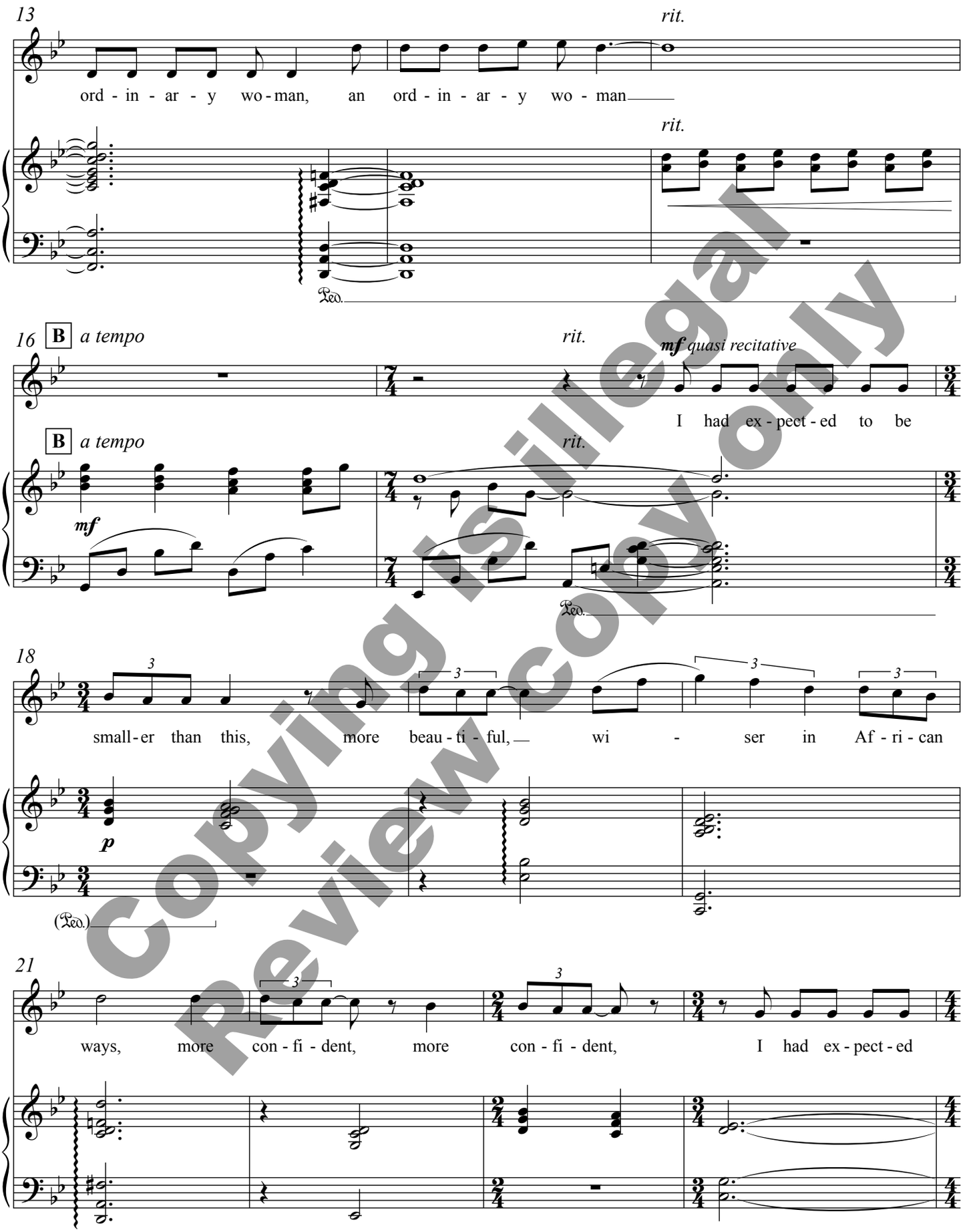

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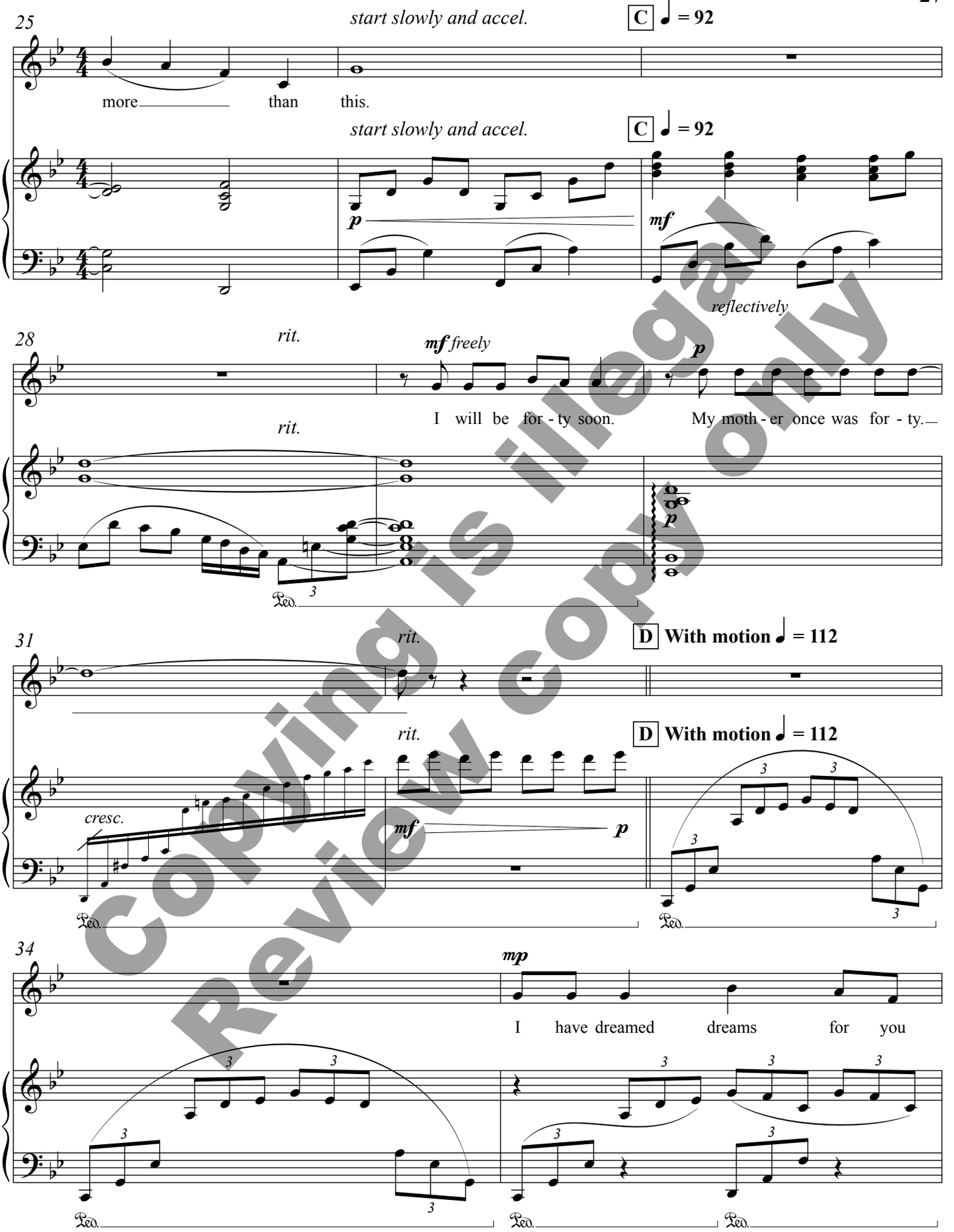

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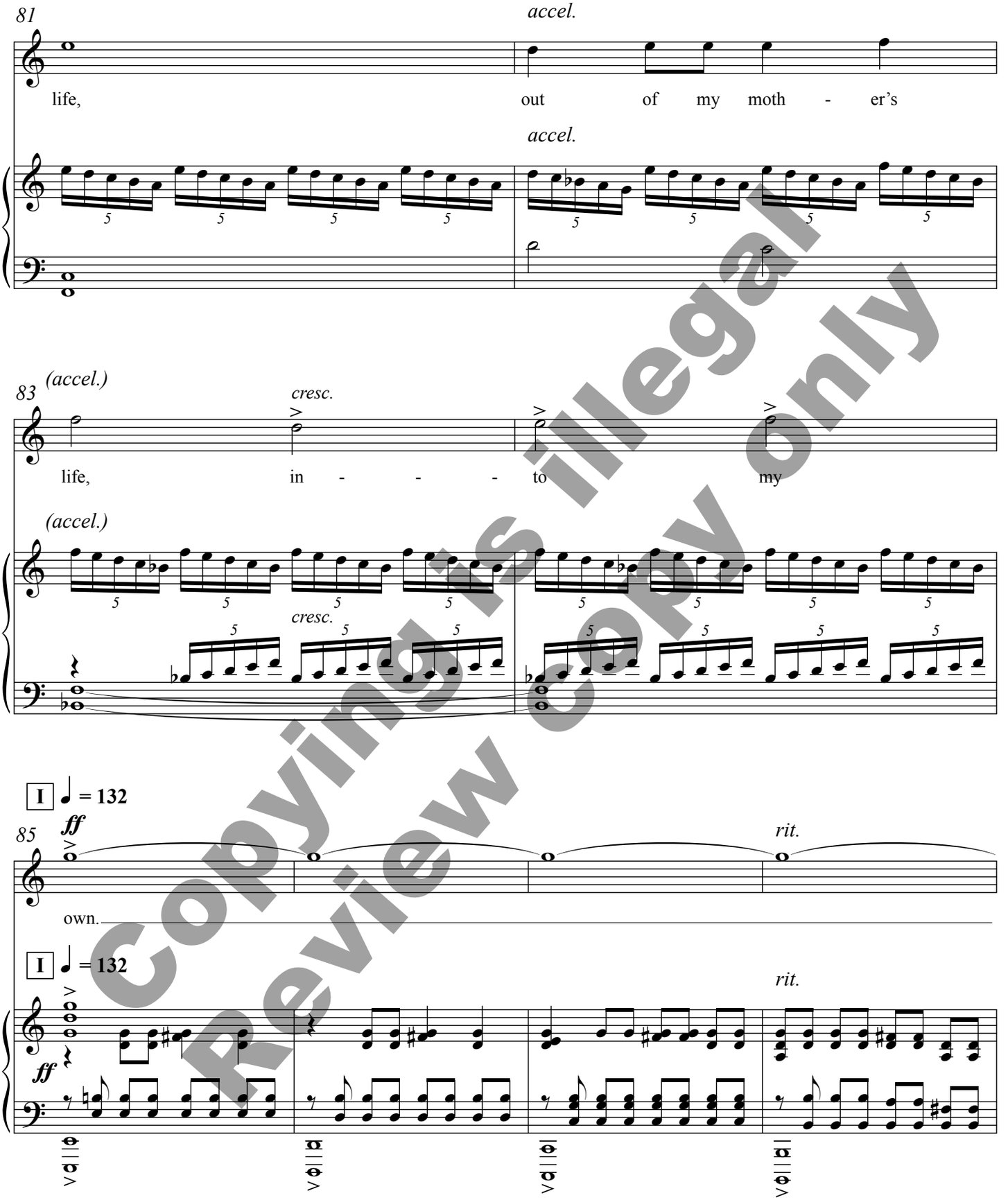

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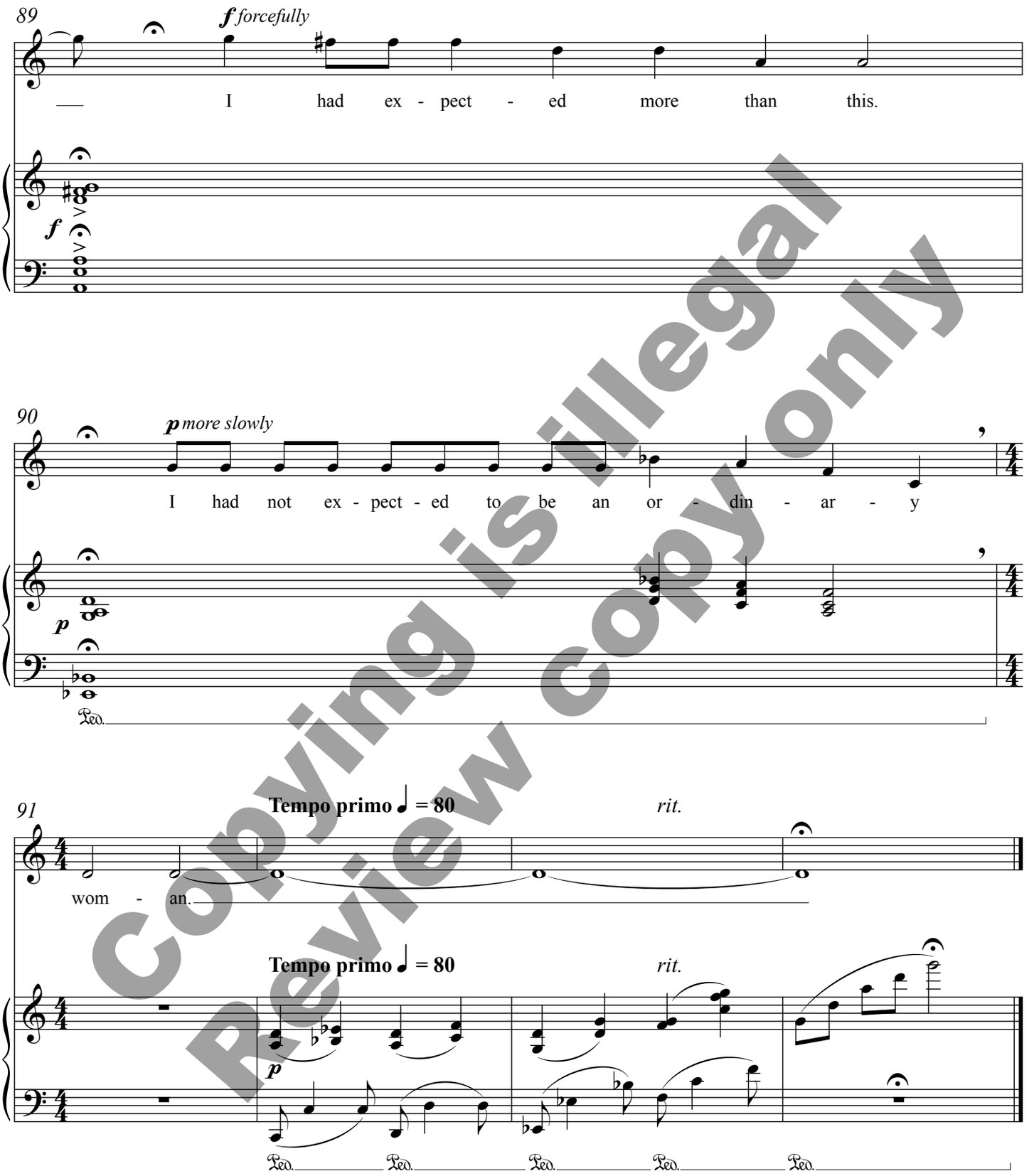

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