An Artist-In-Residence

The Glacier National Park Artist-in-Residency program houses three to 4 artists per year in a beautiful, historic cabin overlooking Lake McDonald. There is are two journals (June, 2018) rich with the writings of all of the past artists who embarked on a metaphorical sabbatical from everyday life. Here is an excerpt from my contribution to that journal….

What a special month it was in this place of unique beauty. As a high school choir director, I remain humbled to be selected to embark on the first choral-centric residency in National Park System history. And what an amazing club to be a member of as demonstrated by these incredibly rich journals. I read them twice - once at the beginning of my residency as their spirits kept me company on those quiet first nights, and once as my fleeting time came to a close. After my month here, I understand better my predecessors' sentiments, but each experience is so unique and it is our task to maintain and contribute to the positive legacy that AiRs (Artist-In-Residence) have within the park system.

I am left struck by the abundant flora and fauna at GNP (Glacier National Park): black bears (and blonde black bears) with cubs, grizzly bears (one on Sperry Trail and one from the car), five moose in one day (apparently they all come out at once), beaver, owls chasing mice on Going to the Sun Road at night, snow shoe hares, fox, countless mule and white tail deer, the bat festival every night over the ever-changing waters of Lake McDonald, ducks, bald eagles, osprey, snakes, plentiful mountain goats, and big horn sheep.

After close to 100 miles of hiking and paddling, and many hundred of miles of driving (mostly to find internet…unsuccessfully), I feel like I am just now beginning to understanding this landscape. It is amazing to me how fast the weather changes and how you can experience four seasons in one eight mile hike (80 and sunny at Apgar Lookout trailhead, and hail and snow at the top). June ushers in the busy season as visitors exponentially increase in this place. June also marks the yearly road opening tease, and I was thankful that it opened on Friday, June 22nd at 9:47PM. Snow impacted my hiking and camping aspirations. Snow fields blocked my way to Grinnell Glacier, and most of the epic hikes around Logan Pass were understandably closed because of dangerous snow conditions. I guess that means that I'll have to come back.

Thank you to past and future artists who champion the incredible beauty in this place and help to spark a spirit of wonder in those who have never visited, and in those who have grown up here. Let us not take for granted the gifts that we have been given, and let us continue to see this beautiful, evolving world with empathy, light, and love. Breathe, ponder deeply, and create fearlessly. Each moment here is a gift. Rarely in this life is our only responsibility to drink in the world and allow it to restore and recharge our souls.

With deep gratitude,
Matthew Harrison

For Review Only

About the work

As an educator, I believe that the heart of any music curriculum is the repertoire. It was my hope to create a multi-movement work that allowed singers to explore close harmony and non-traditional vocal production (whispers, exhalation, aleatoric singing, overtone singing). My first real encounter with Glacier National Park was through elementary school poetry. I was struck by their poignant simplicity. These kids told the truth! Filterless, honest, creative, and unencumbered by political ideals, these students provided me a unique lens to look through as we consider the magnificent lands that we should all work to conserve. I wrote the texts to these pieces while I was in the artist cabin at GNP.

These landscapes continue to evolve and change both through natural and unnatural means. Our natural parks are treasures, and we are all stewards of this great inheritance. Each movement represents a small musical snapshot of Glacier National Park. When you visit any of our national parks, remember to take only photographs, and leave only footprints (always walking on the designated trails!). Through the power of our imaginations, we can all experience these national treasures by engaging in choral music.

Help Support A National Treasure

In 2017 alone, more than 3 million people visited Glacier National Park's majestic, glacier-carved peaks and valleys. As park visitation continues to rise, donations help bridge the gap in support and funds.

Glacier National Park Conservancy - the park's official fundraising nonprofit partner - support world-class research, education, and wilderness preservation projects. Its mission is to guarantee that the park remains a national treasure for generations to come.

Visit glacier.org/Overland to learn more about the Conservancy, their 2019 initiatives, and ways to help.

For Review Only

A portion of the sales of this piece will be donated to the Glacier Conservancy

The demonstration recording was completed at
Hamden Hall Country Day School (Hamden, CT)
Mixing completed by Alex Koutzoukis (Boston, MA)
Mastering completed by Bill Hare (Milpitas, CA)

Soprano 1, Octavia McAloon (Yale MM), Rachel Aliwalas HH'19
Soprano 2, Maggie Lieberman (NEC MM), Isabel Dunlap HH'21
Alto, Evanna Chiew (Yale MM), Katalina Baehring HH'19

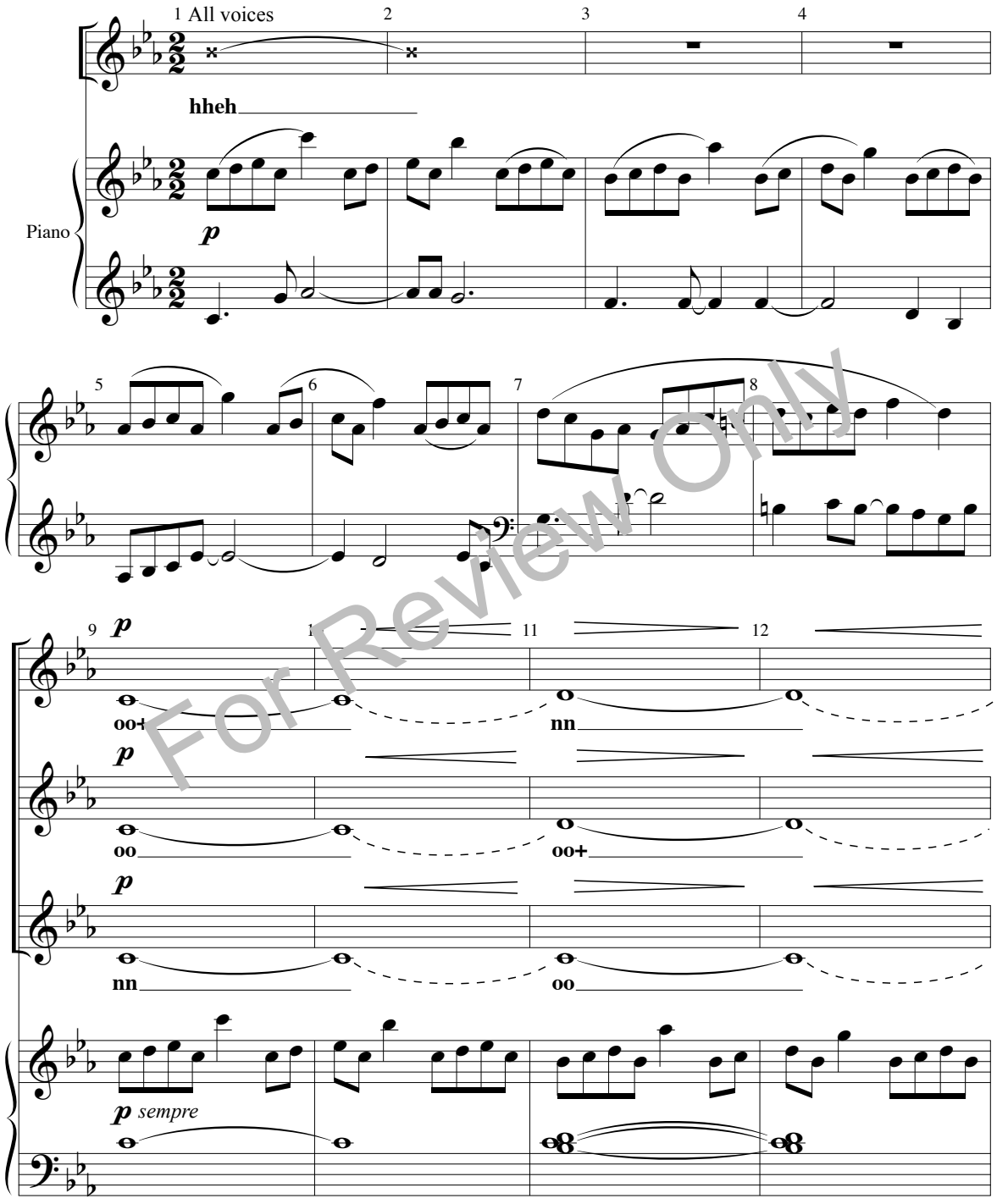
Glacier Suite

S.S.A. Voices and Piano

Text inspired by children's poetry **Music by Matthew Harrison**

I. Glacier

Perpetual Motion ♩= 78



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* hheh - like blowing warm breath on a window in cold weather
* oo+ = aleatoric overtone singing - [u] + [i] - singers moving between vowels should create harmonics with strong forward resonance

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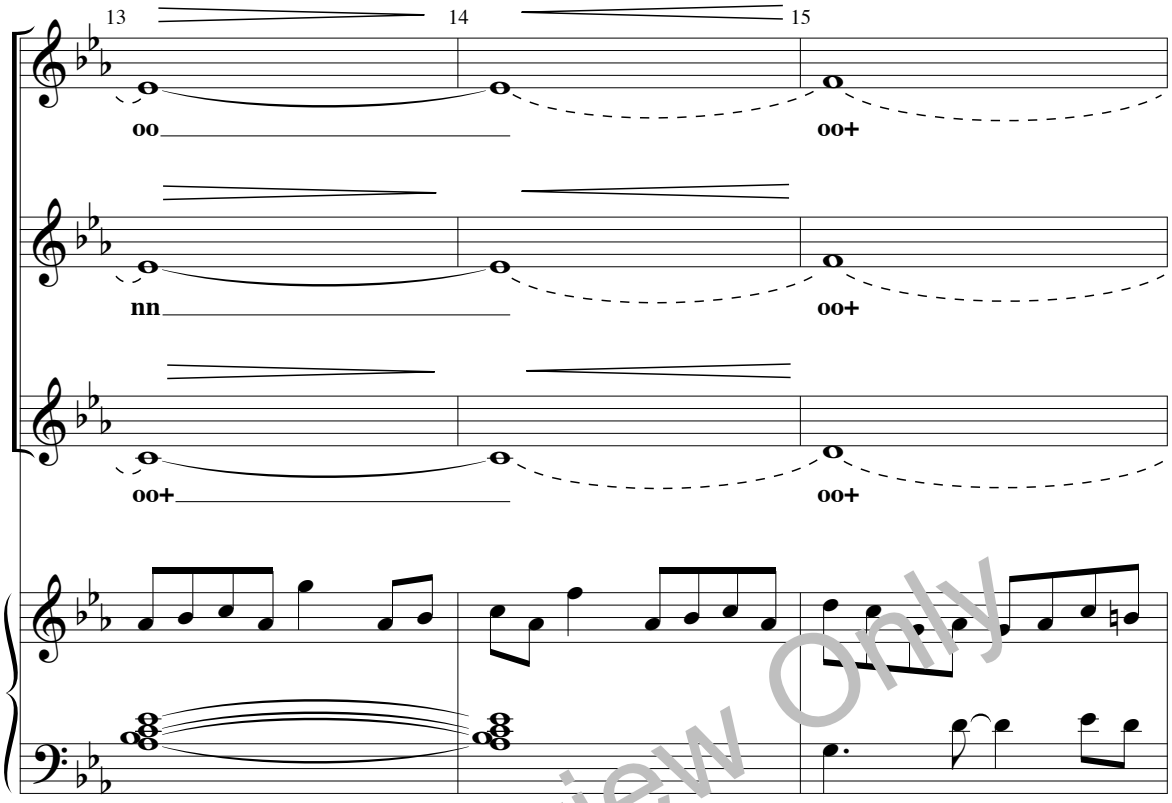

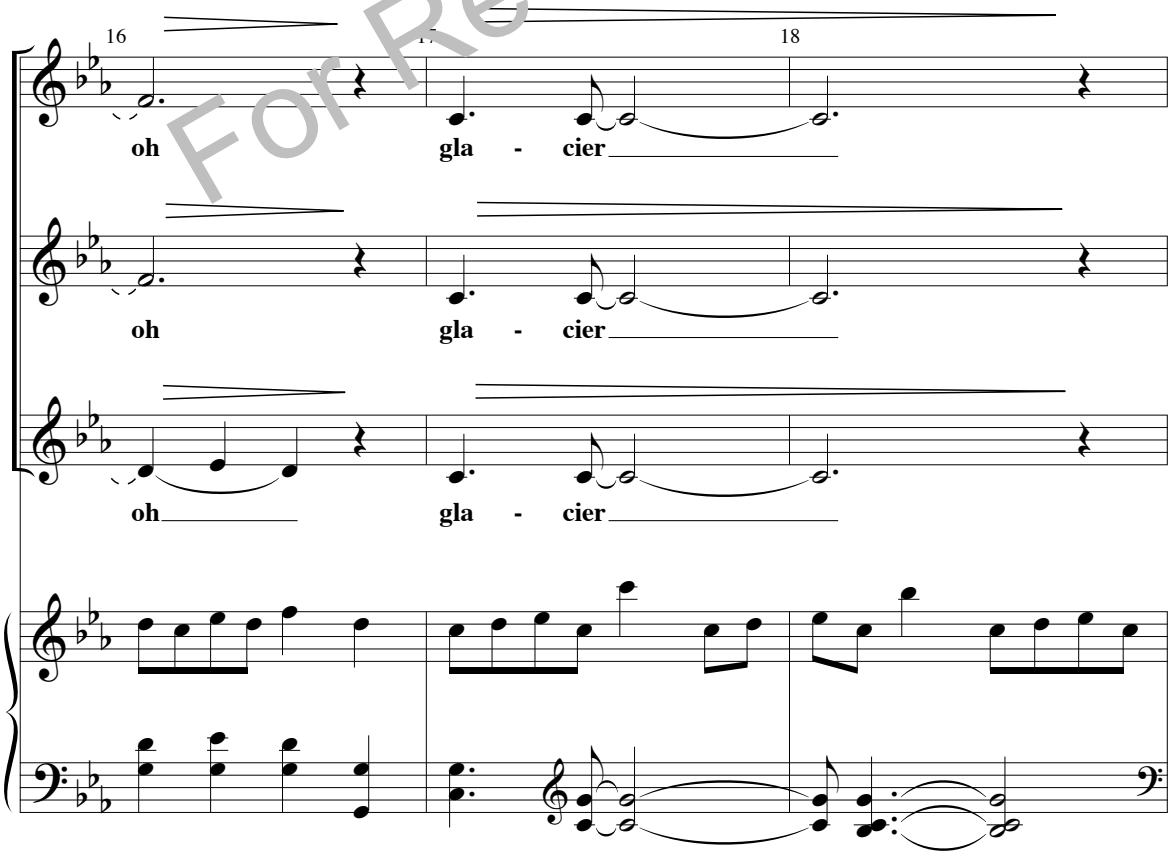

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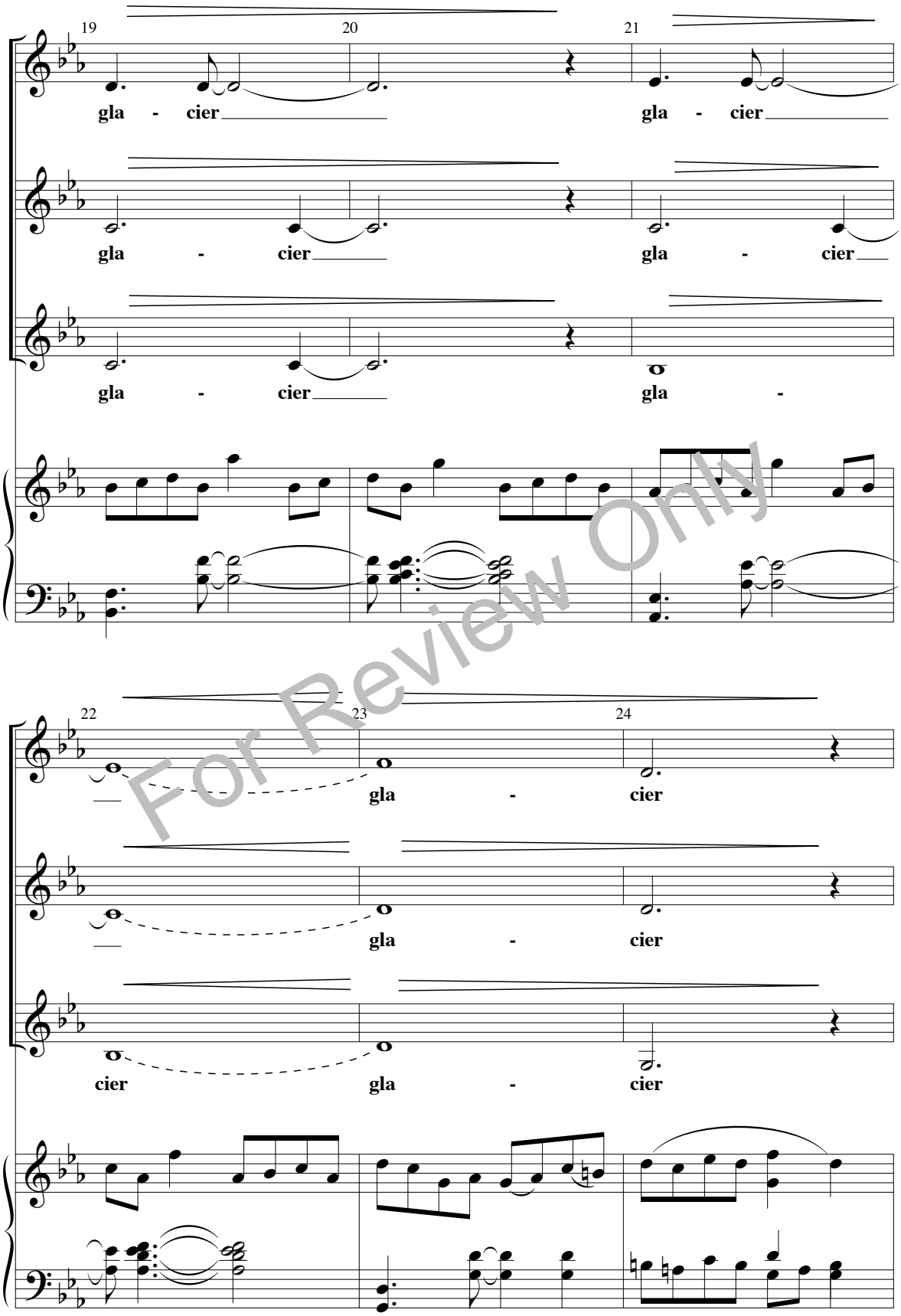

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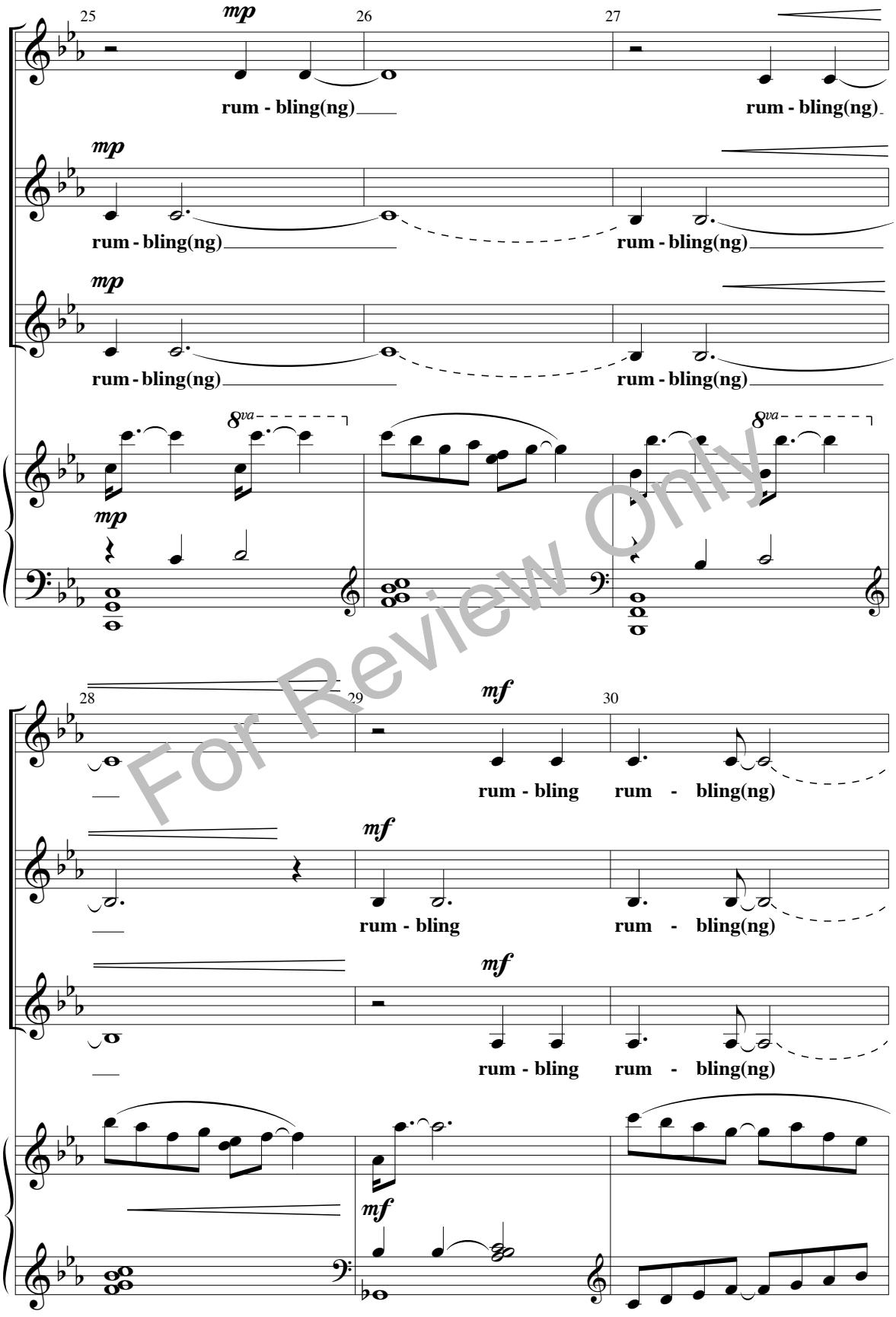

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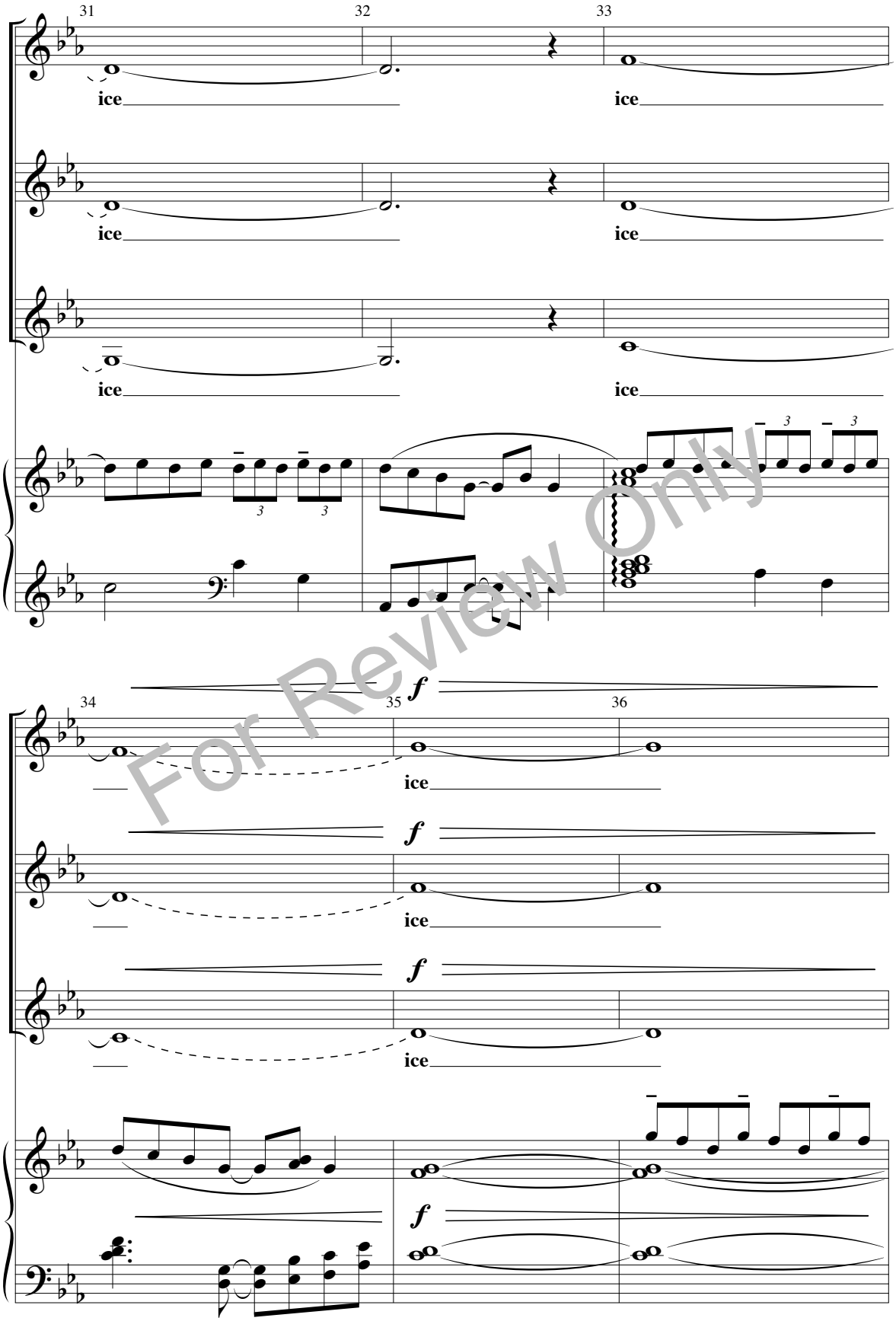

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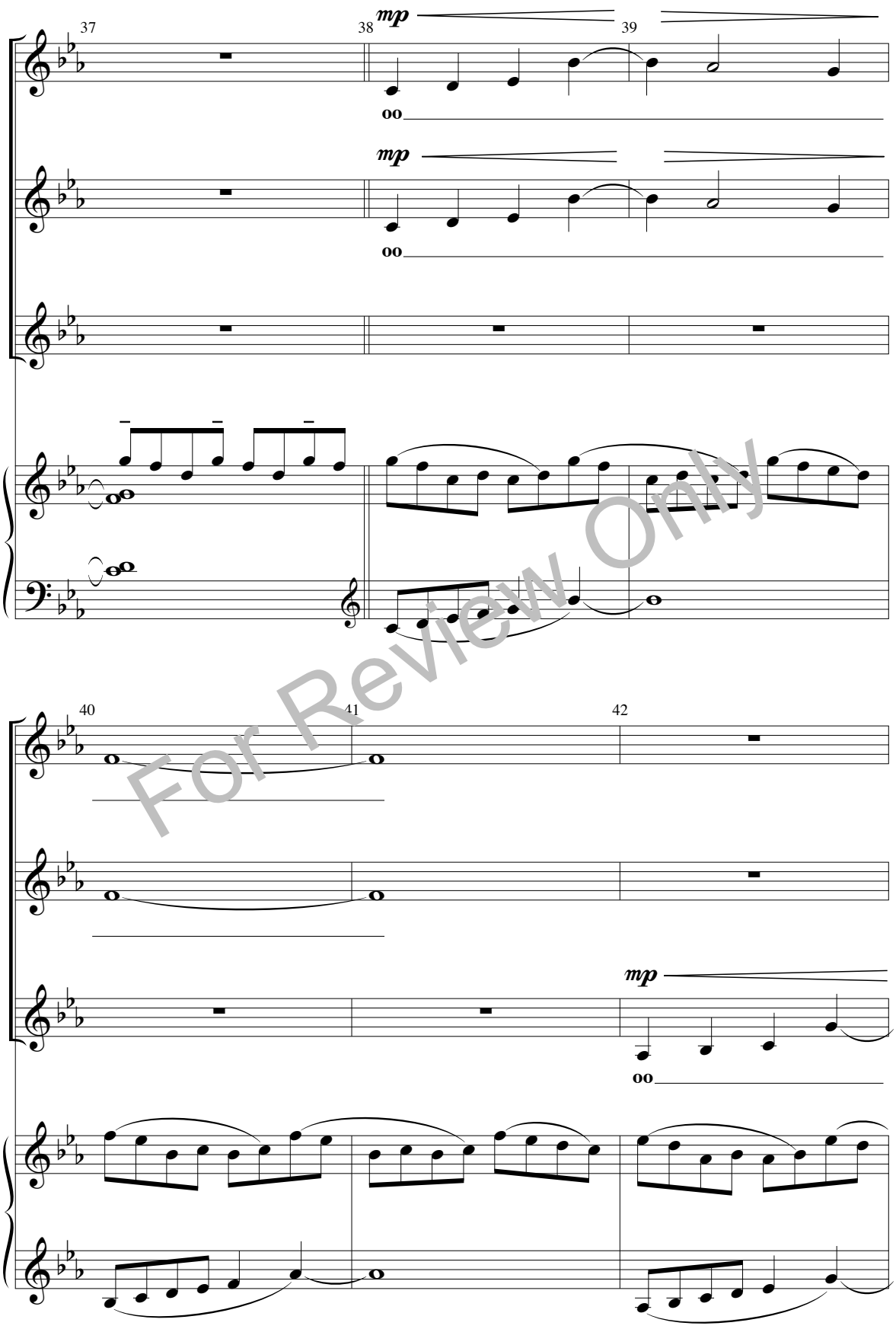

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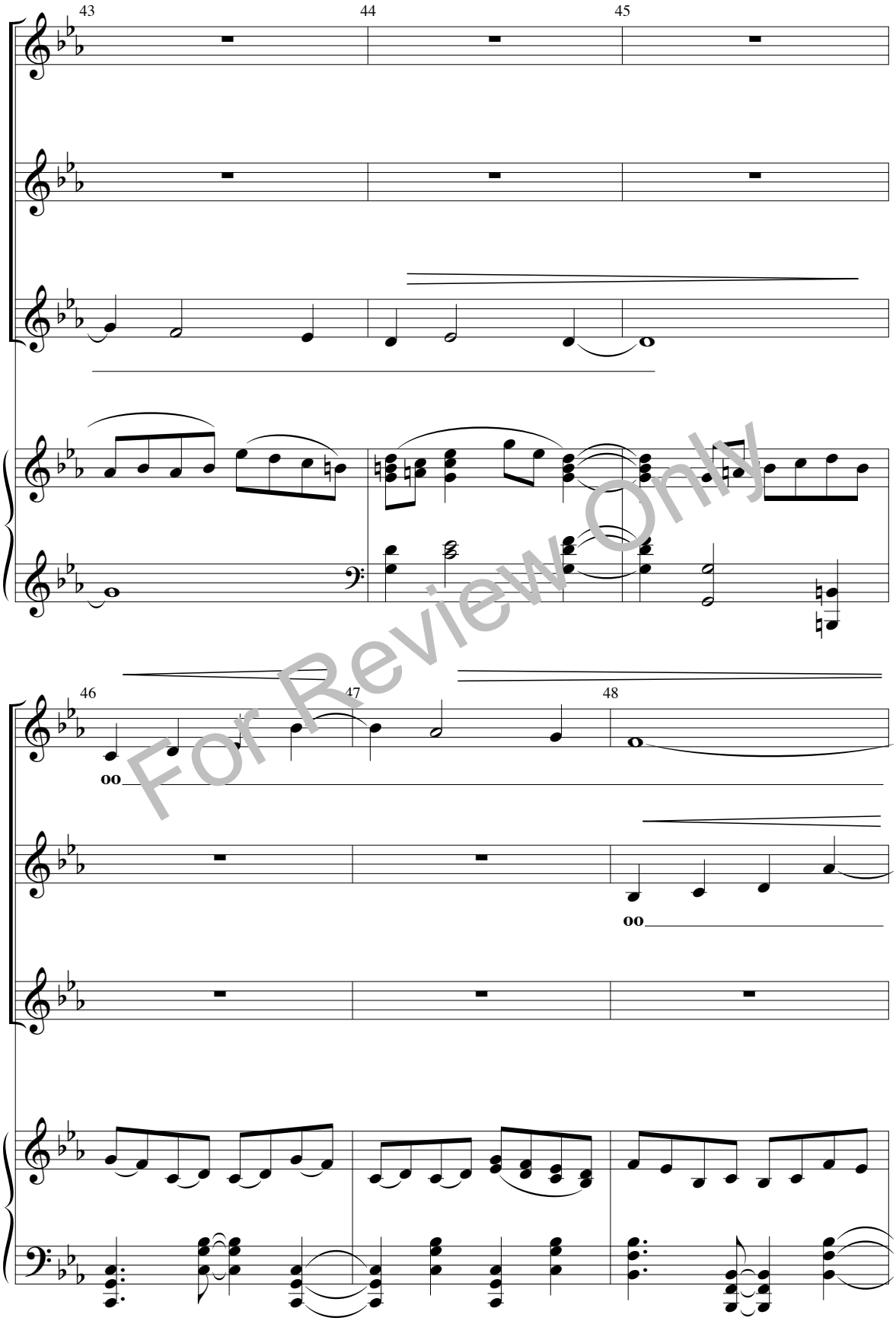

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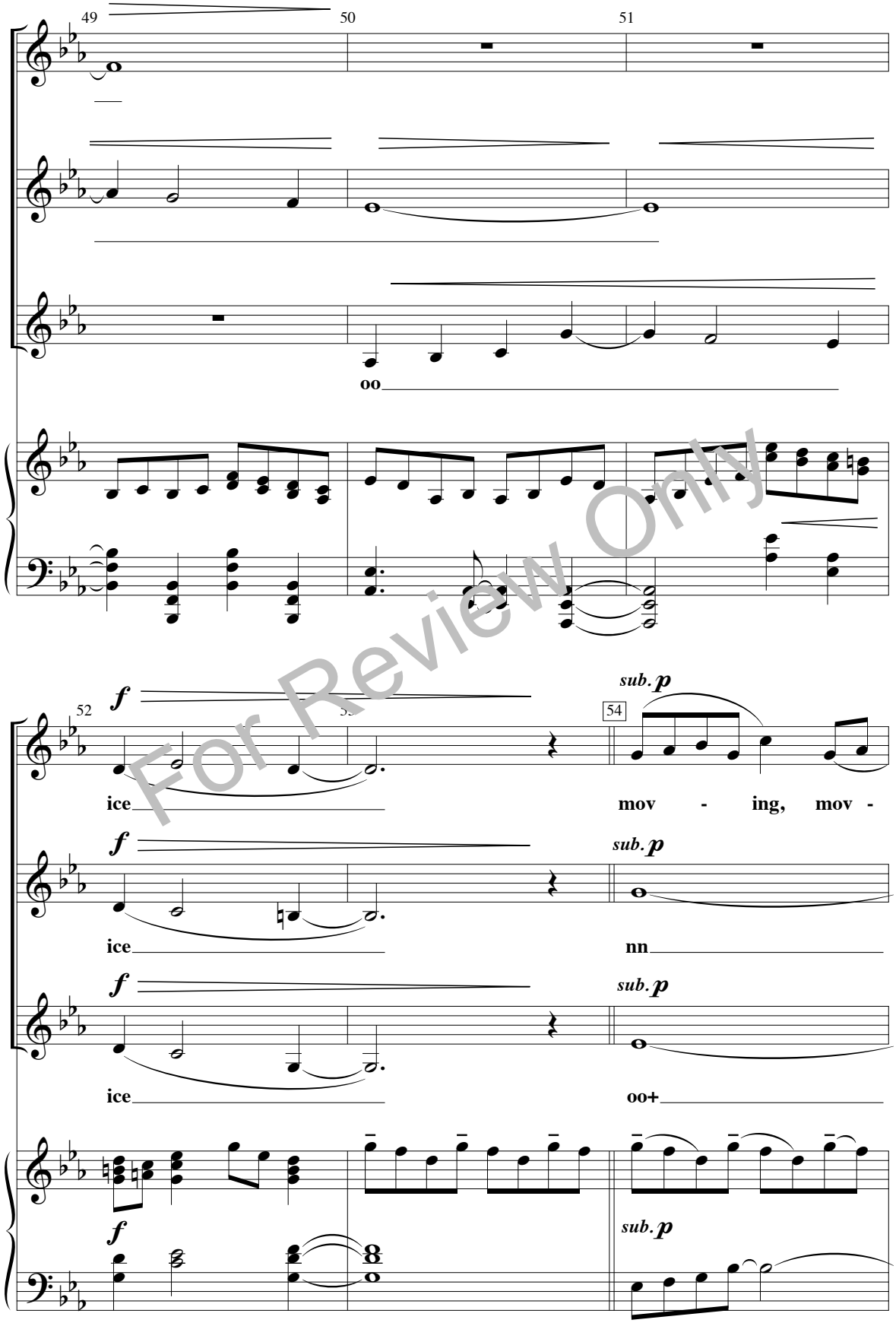

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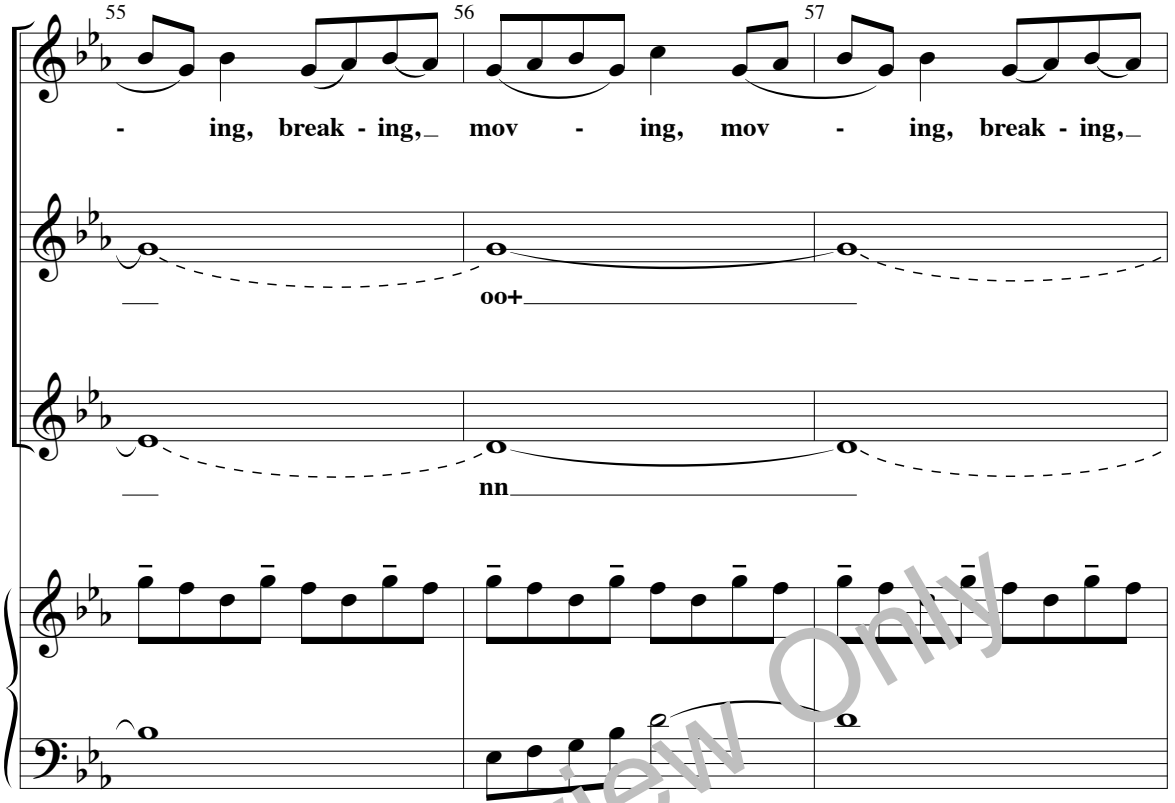

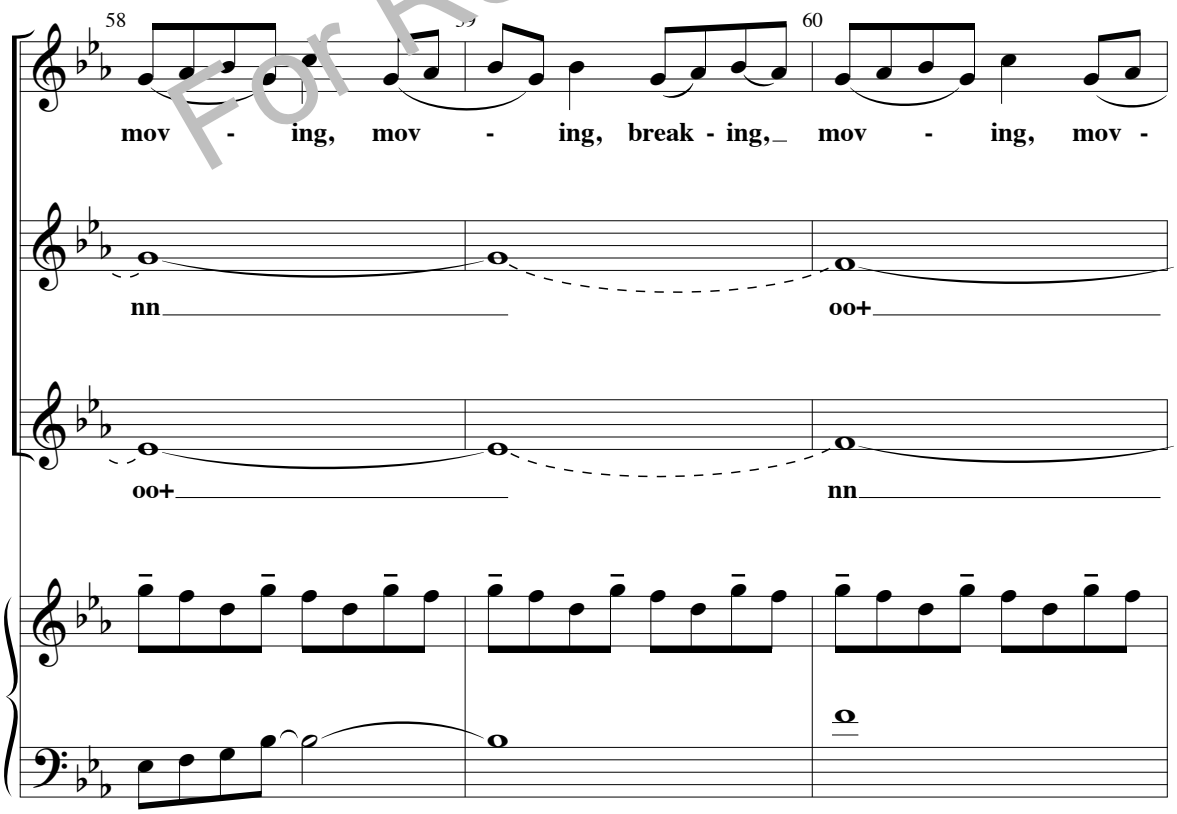

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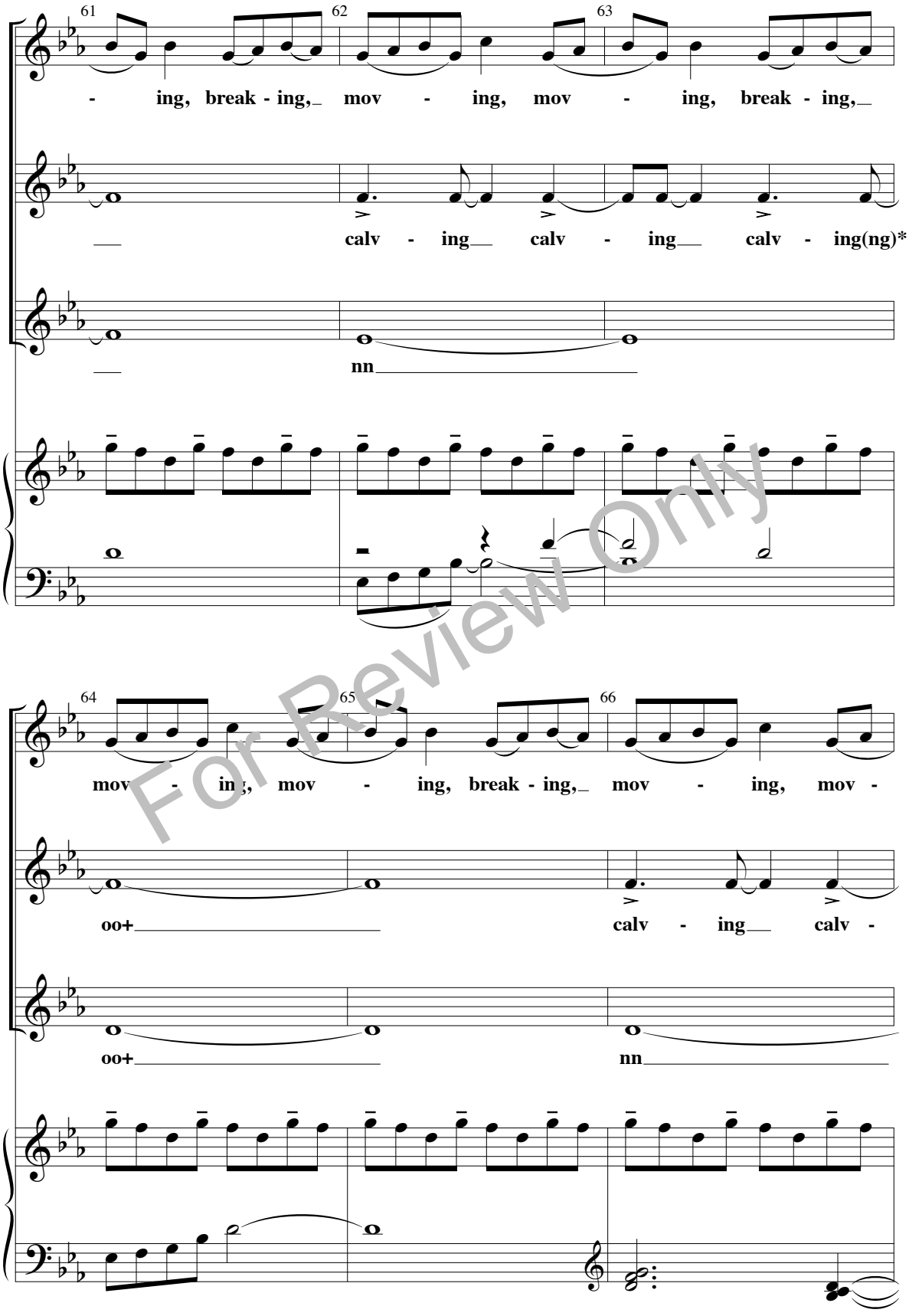

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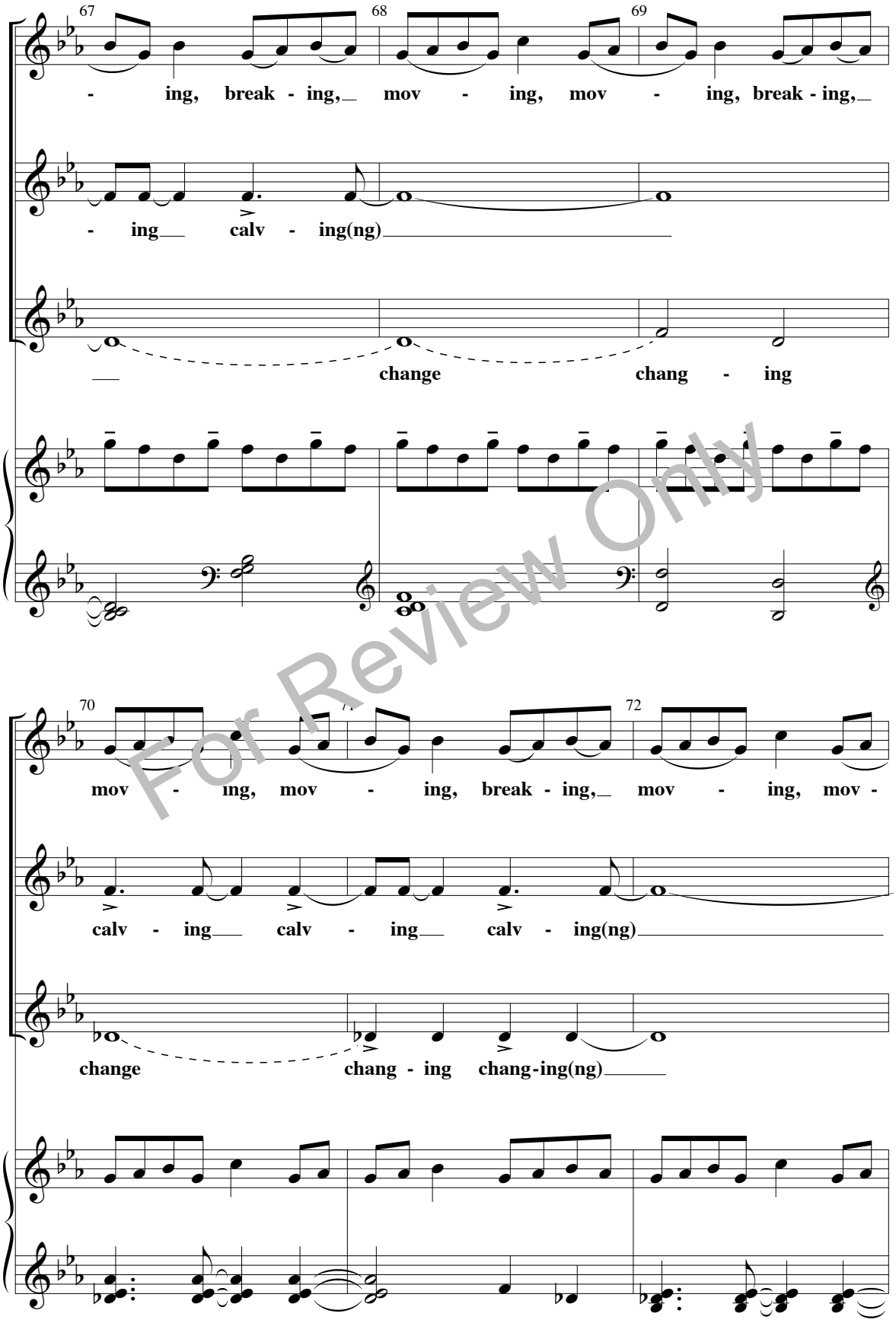
* ng = close directly and sustain “ng” sound: calving [kæ viŋ]



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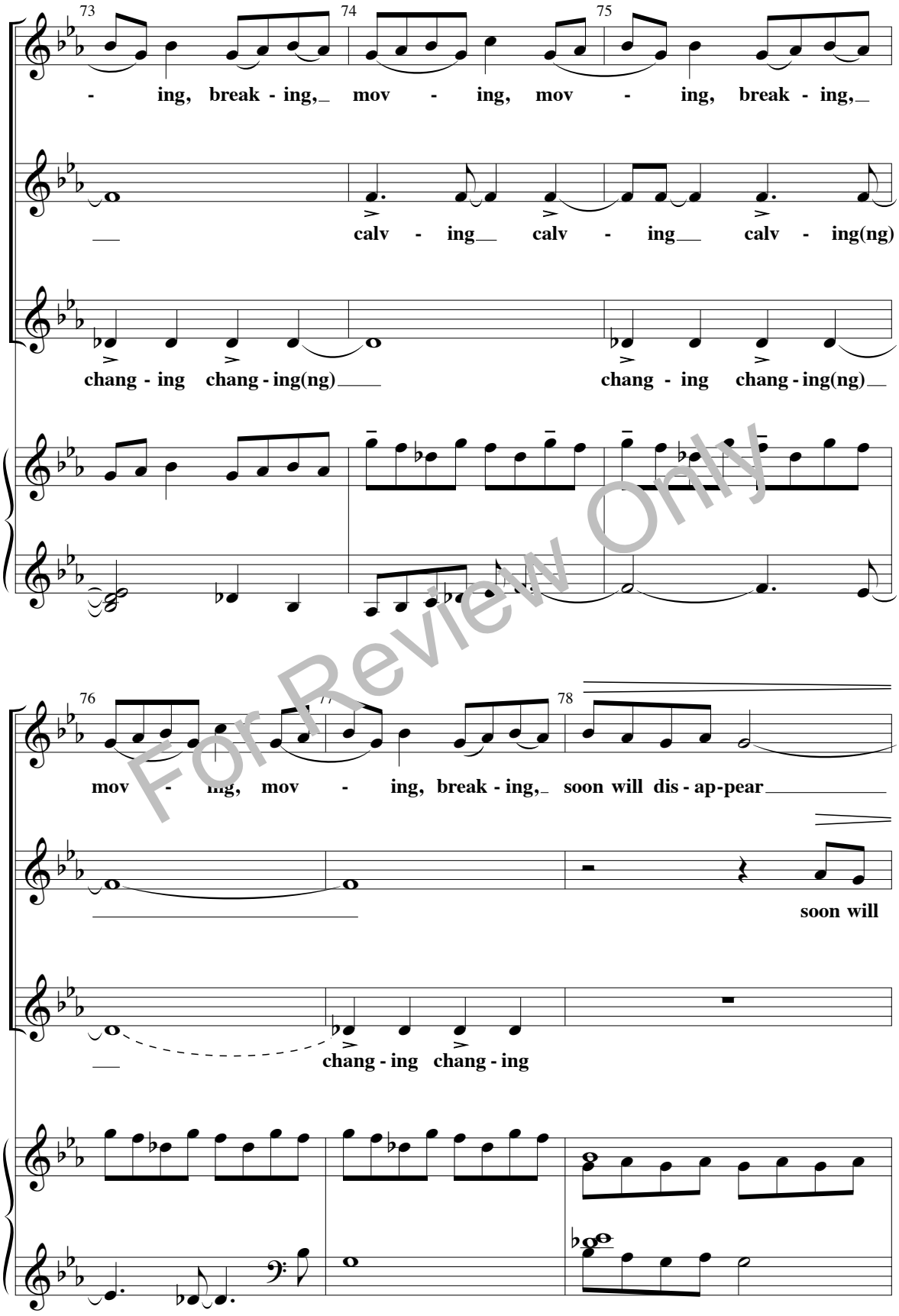

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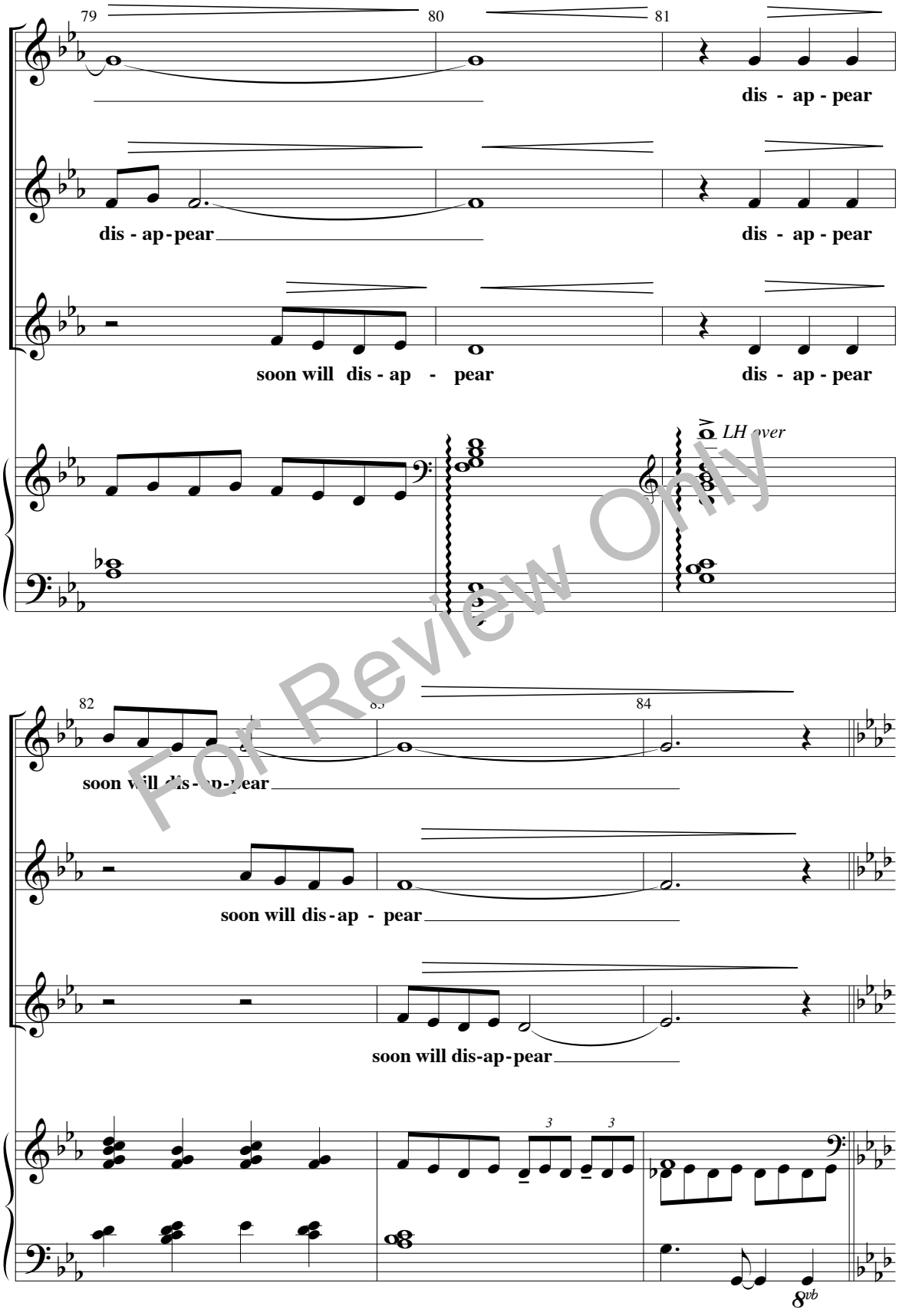

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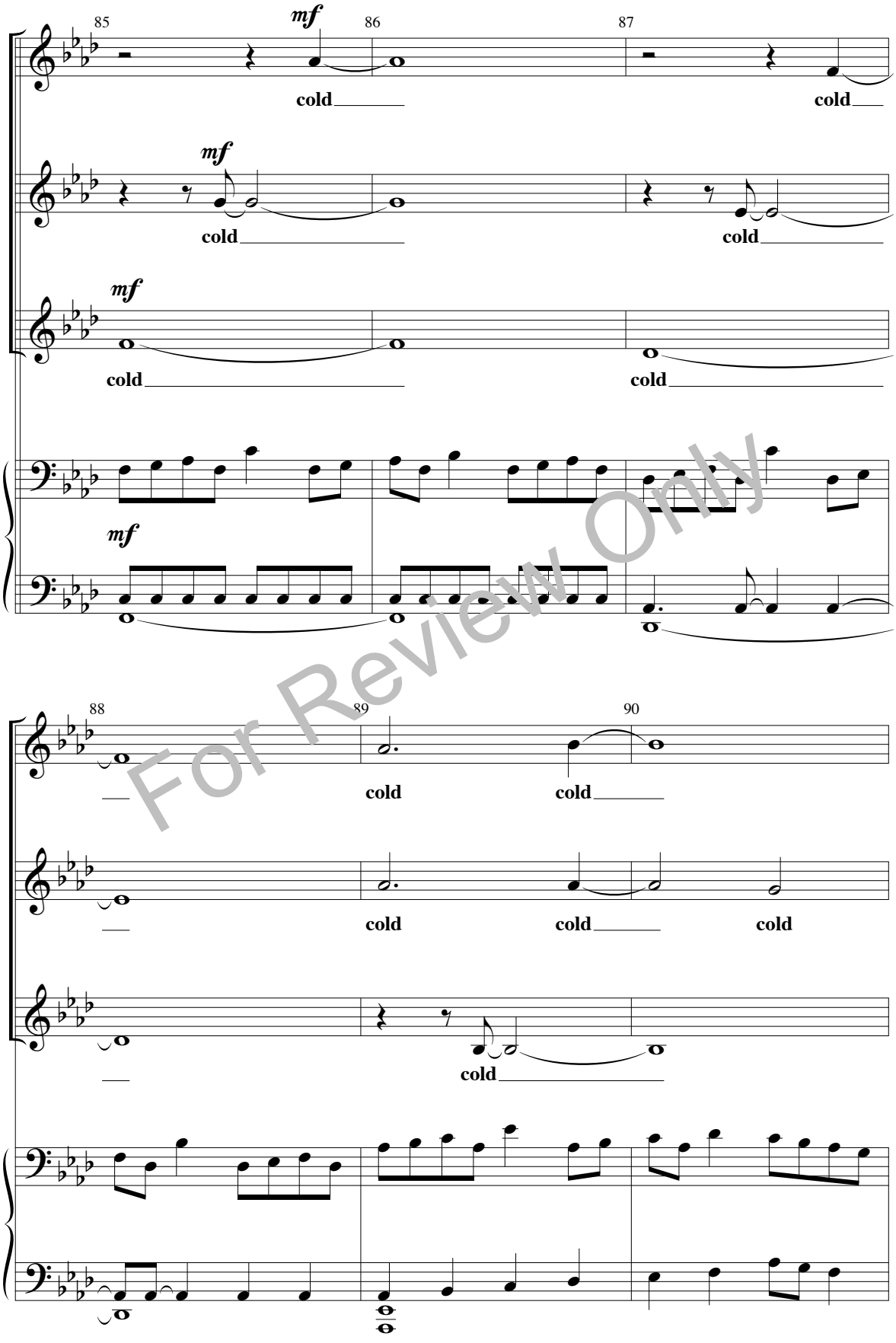

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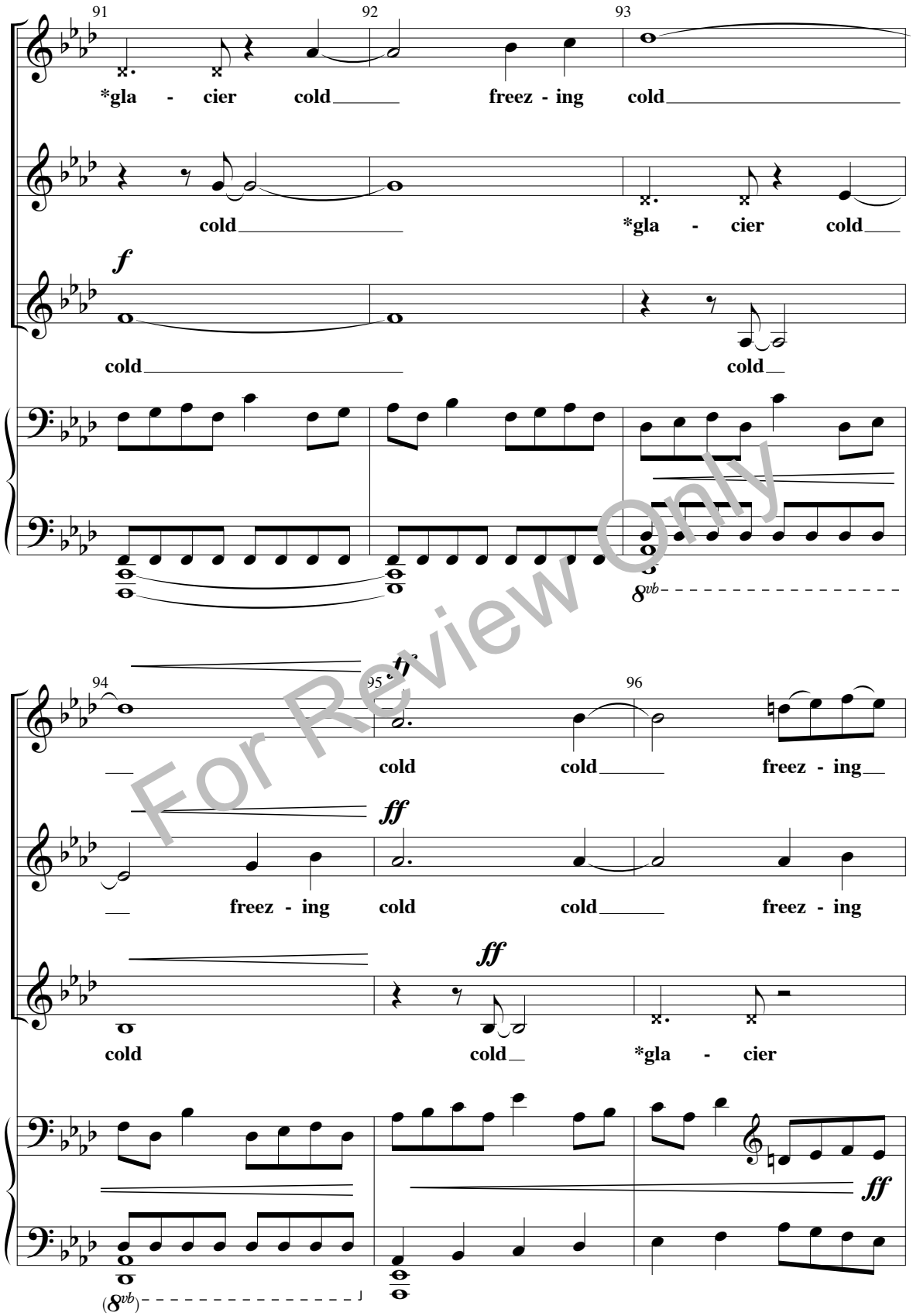

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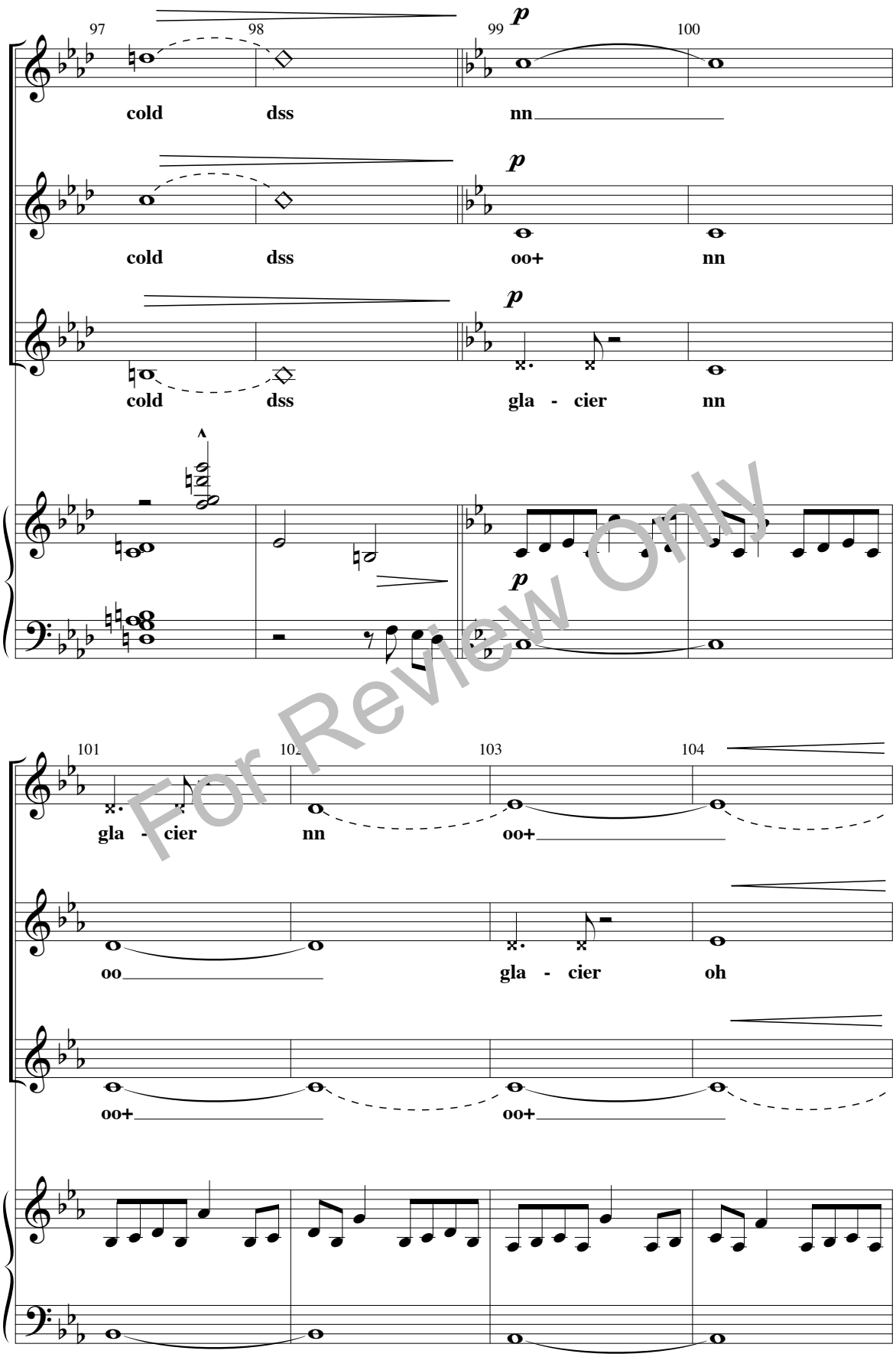
* glacier with x noteheads = whisper



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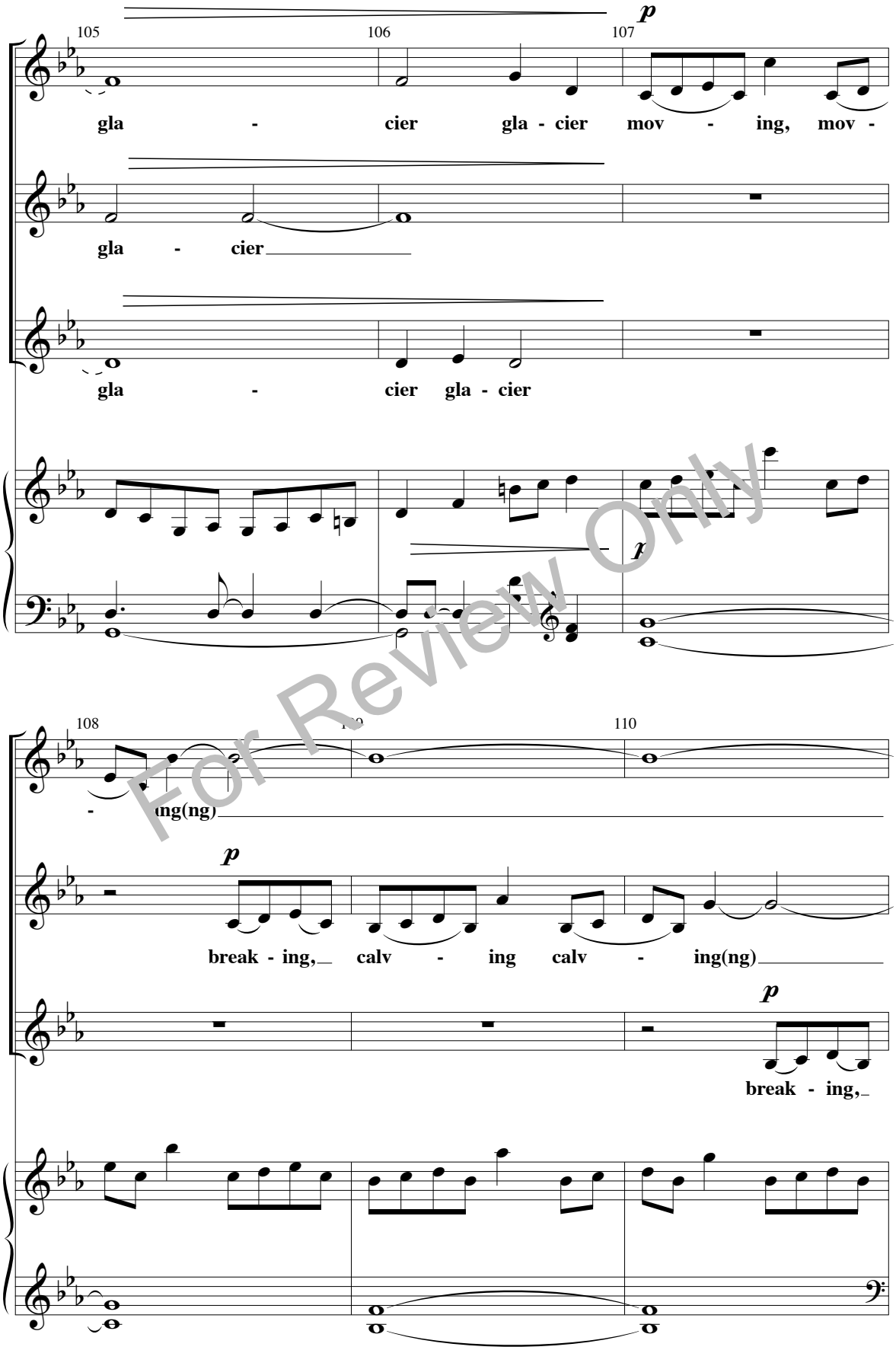

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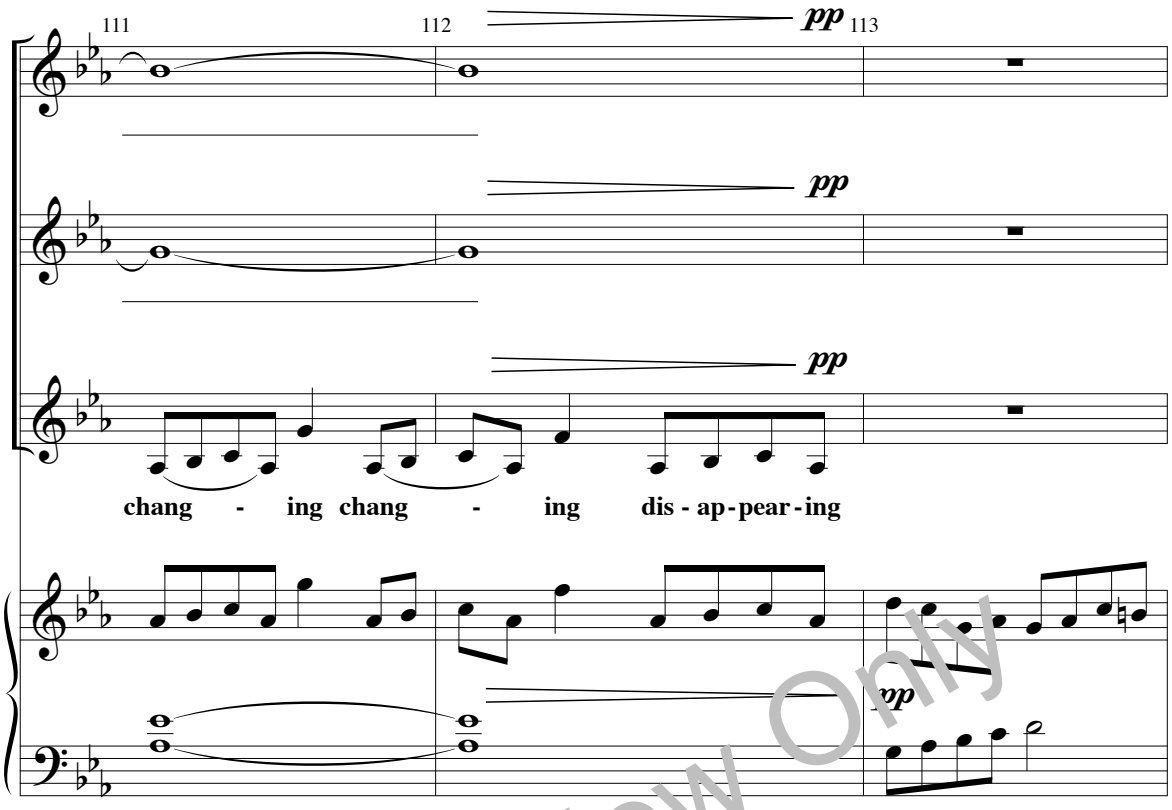

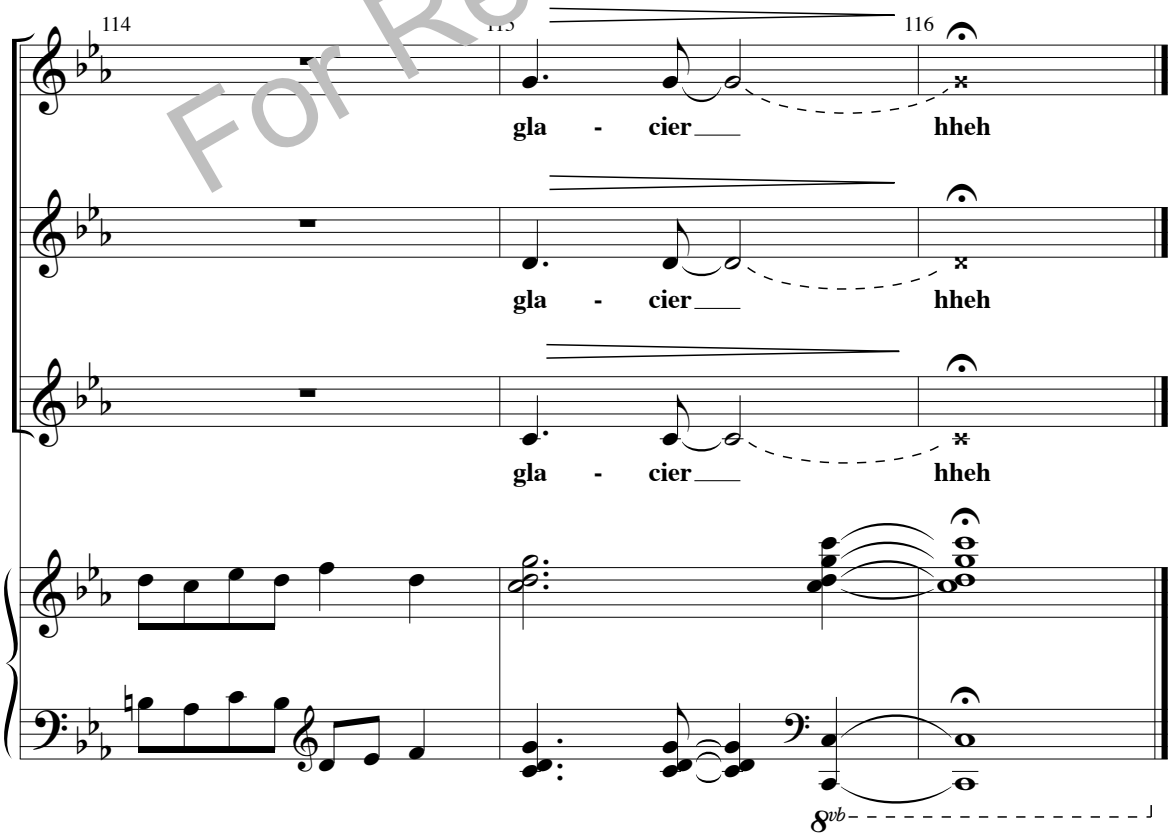

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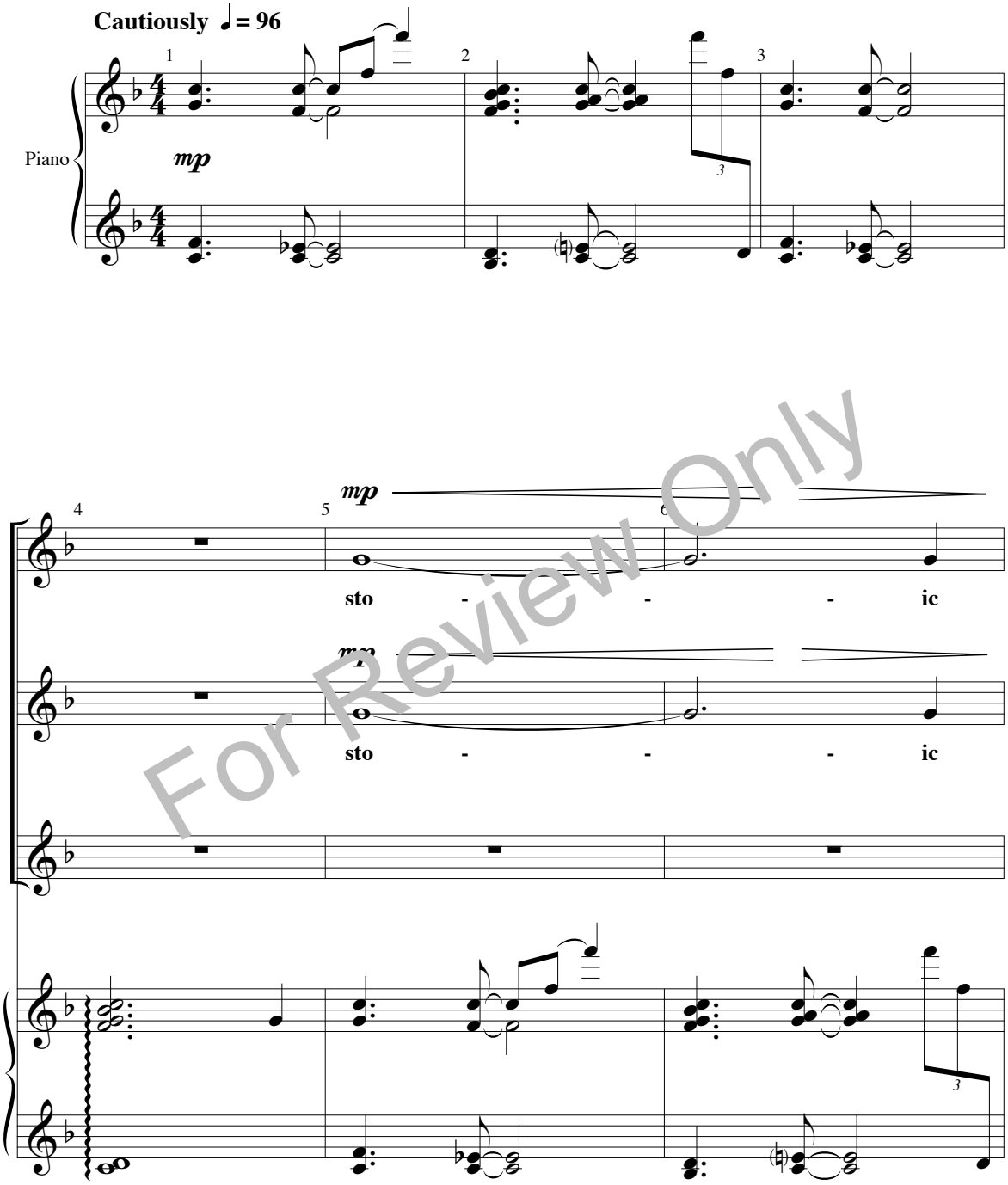
II. Stag

Text inspired by children's poetry **Music by Matthew Harrison**



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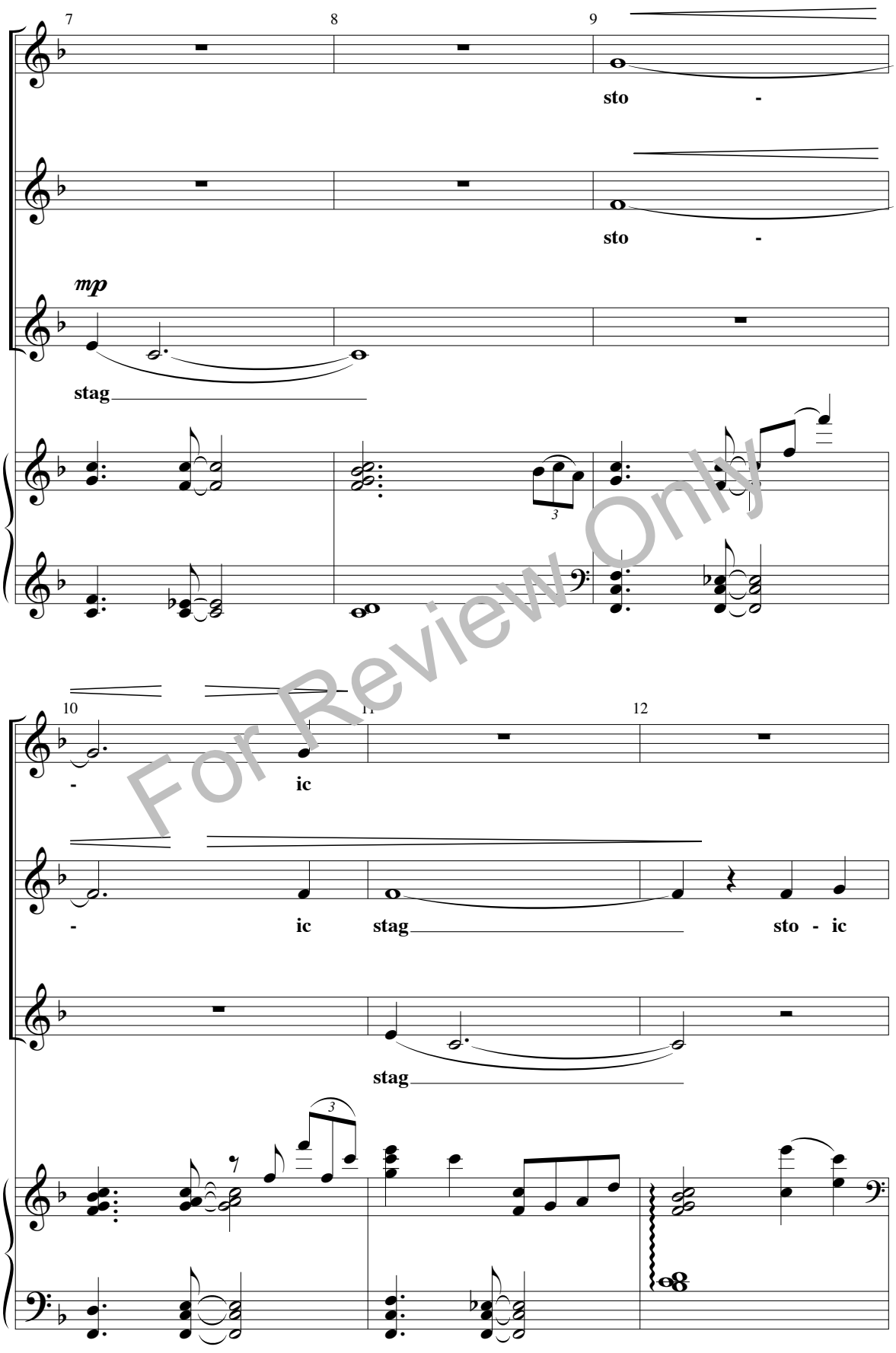

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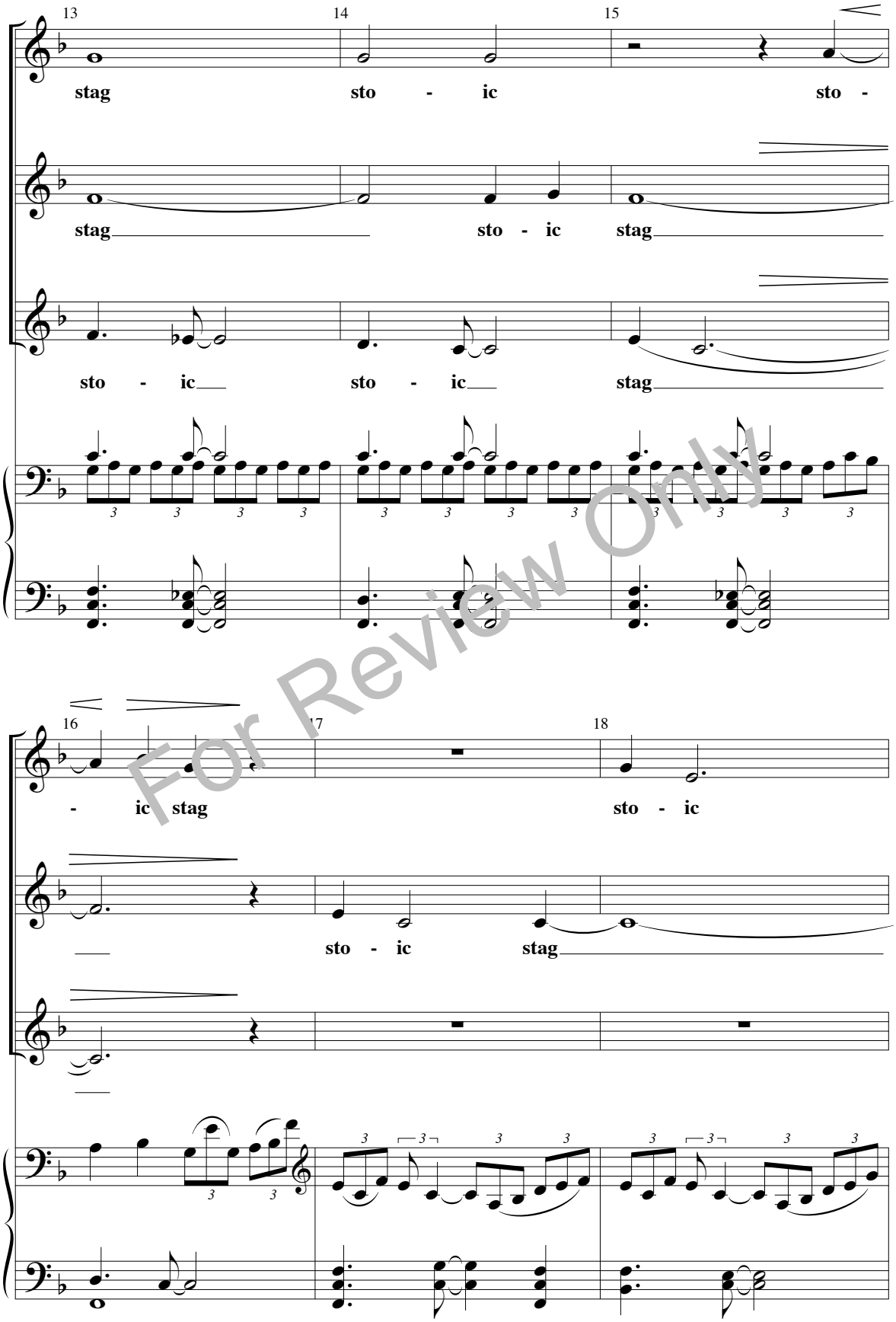

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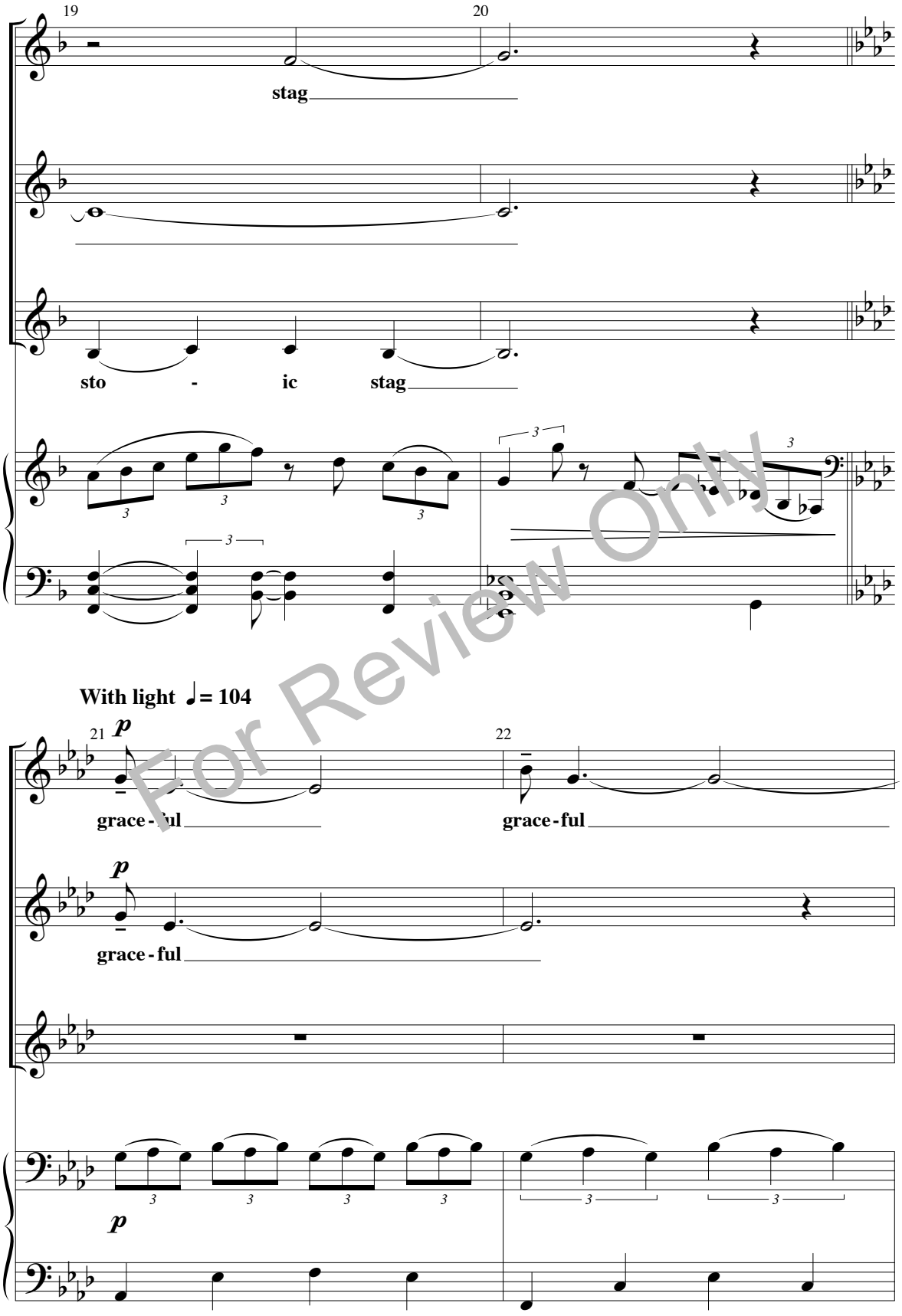

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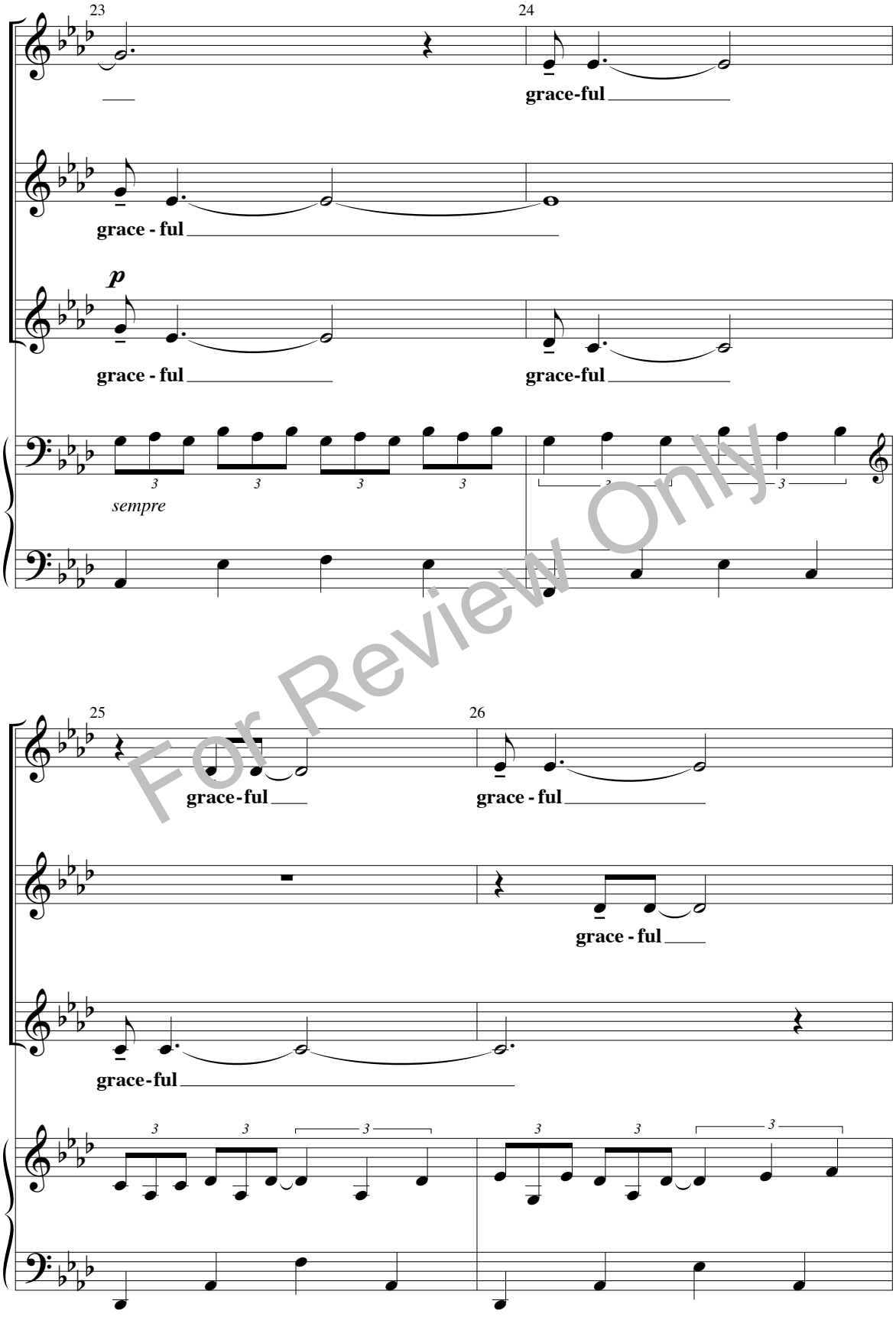

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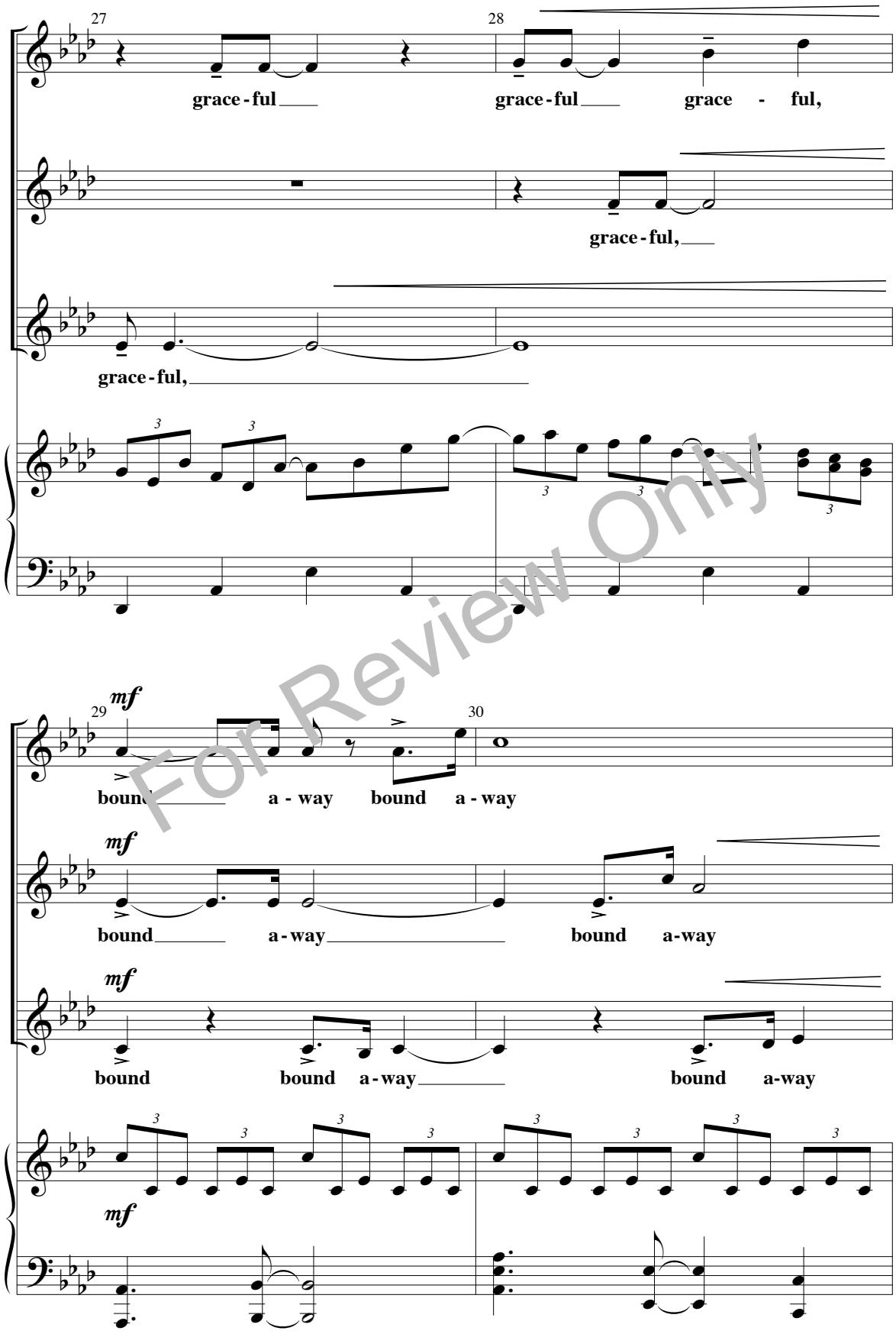

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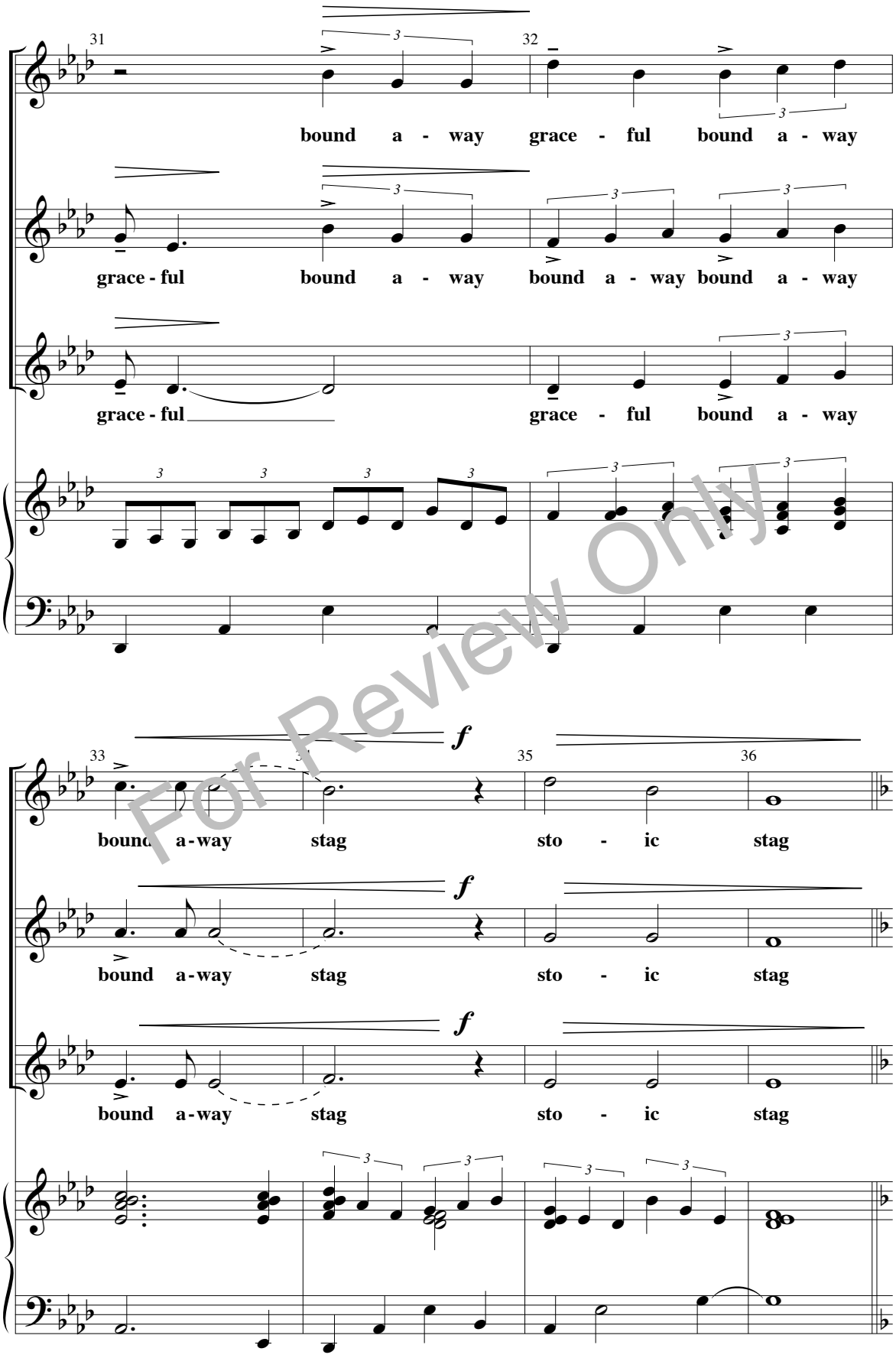

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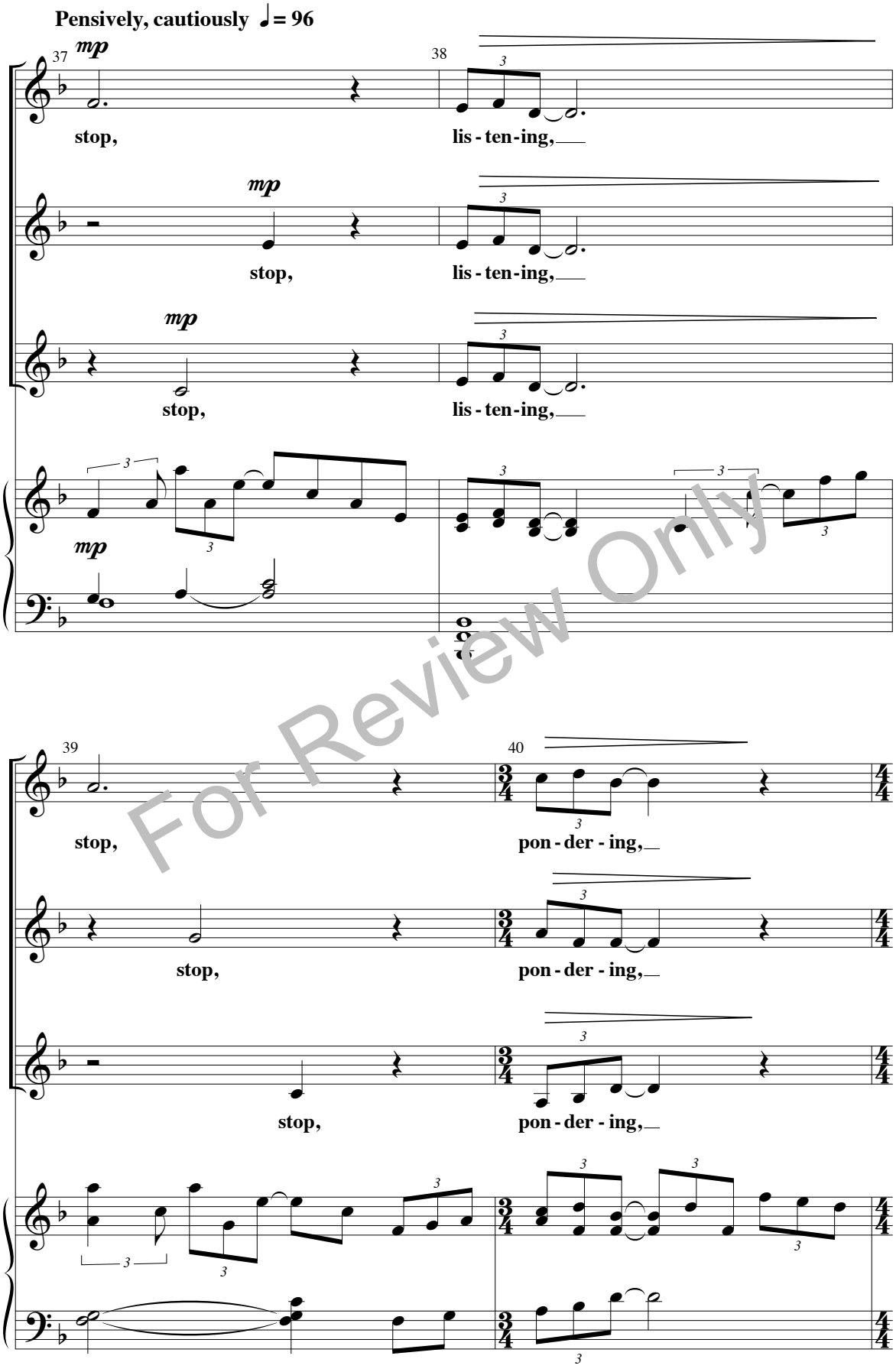

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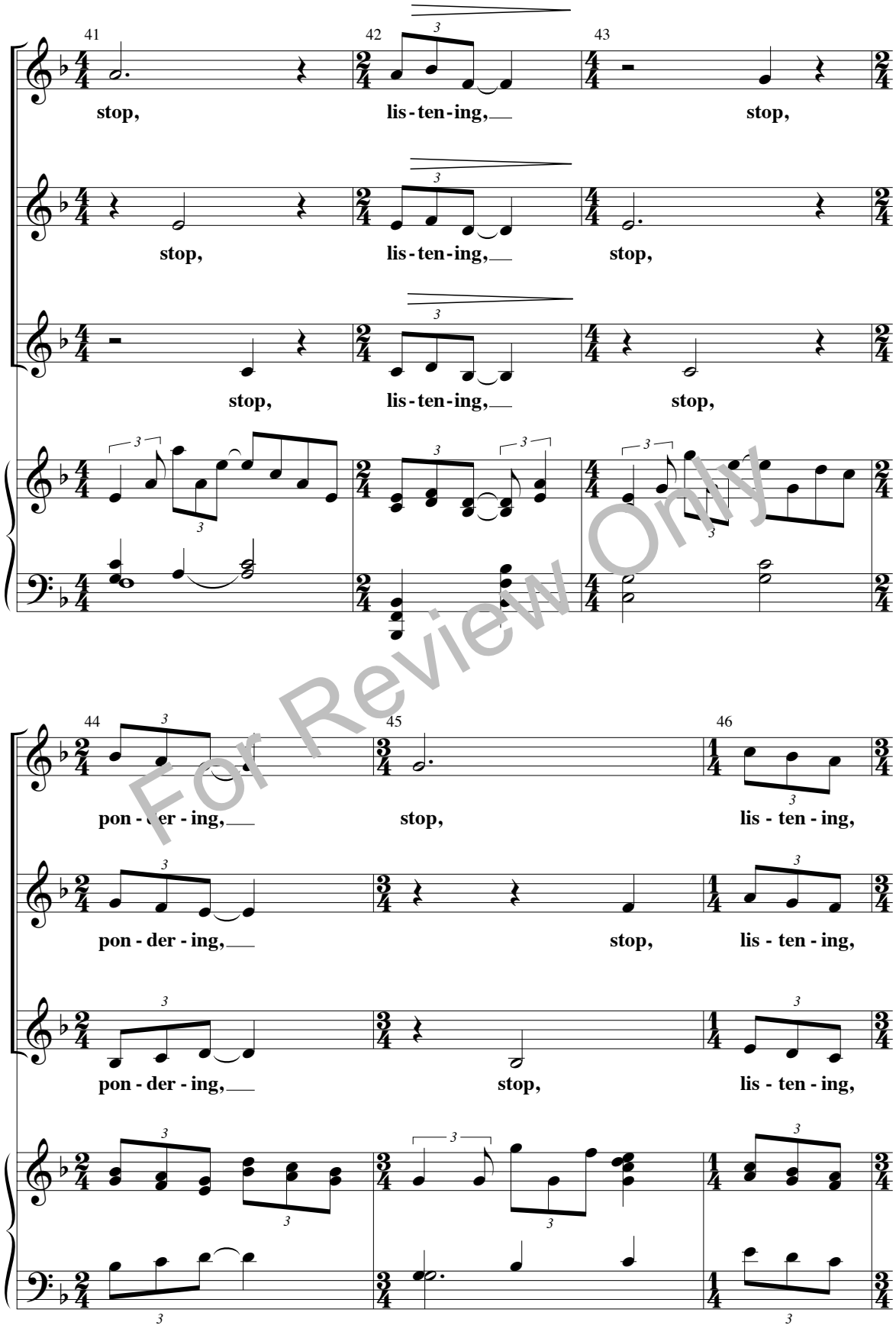

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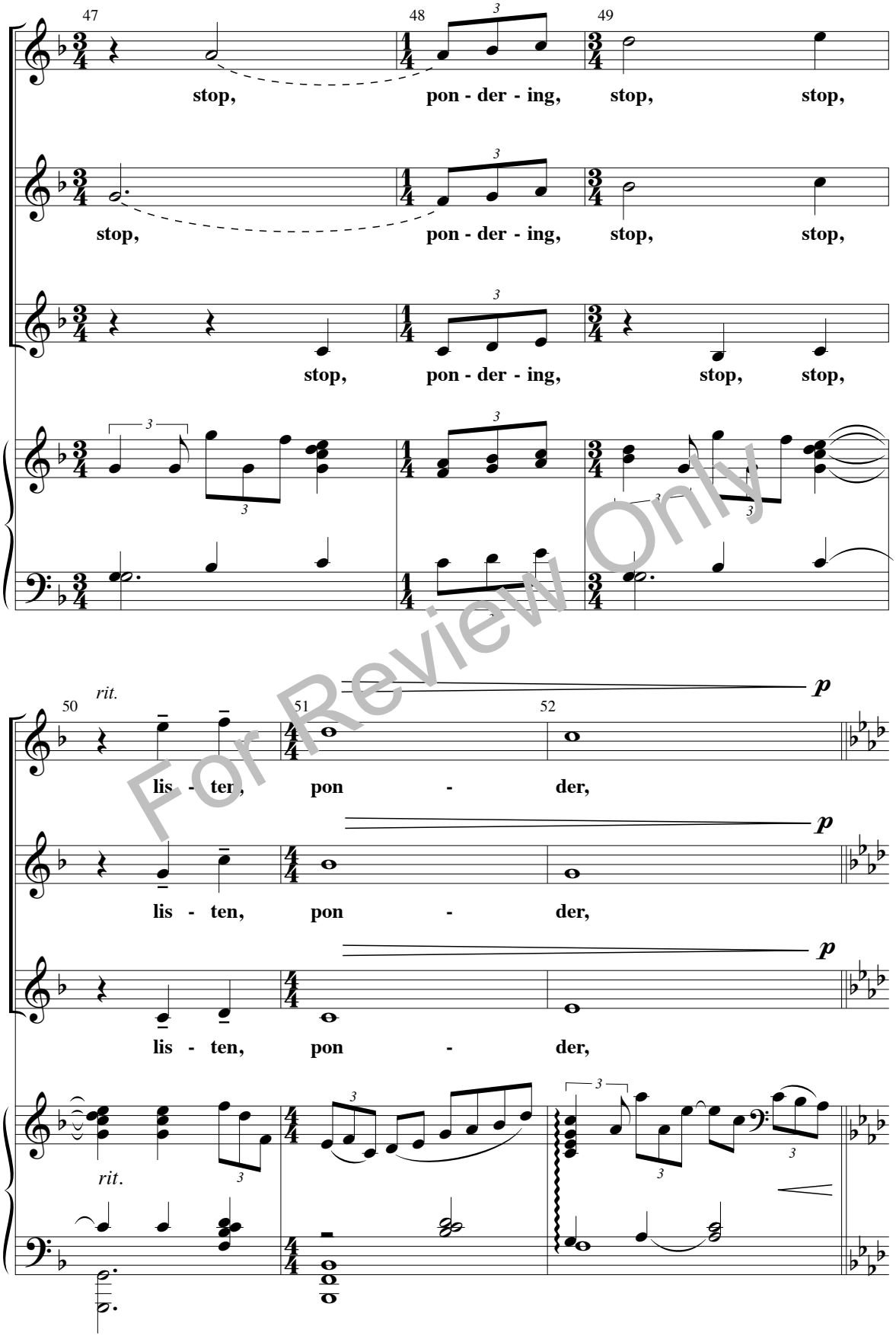

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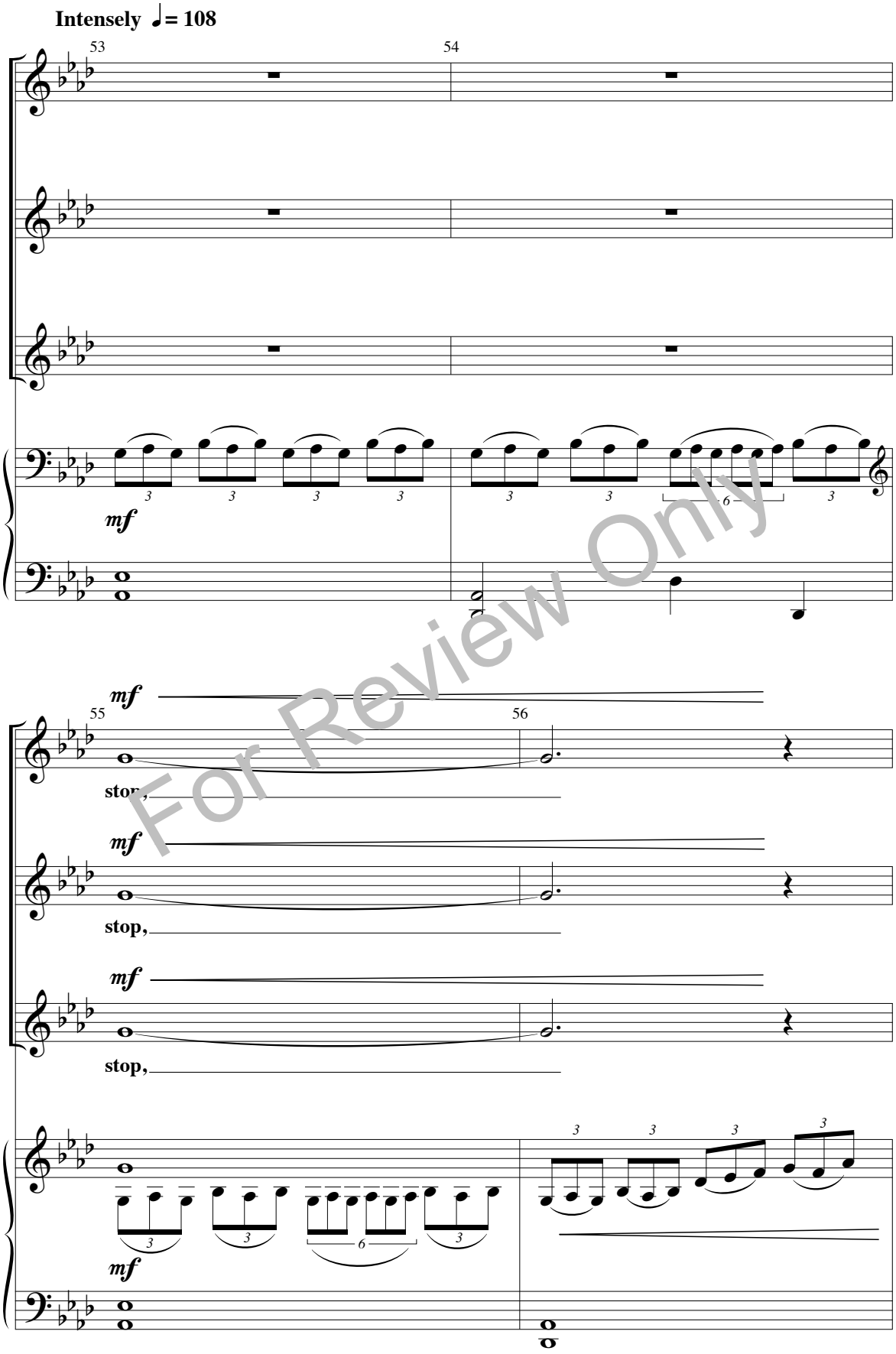

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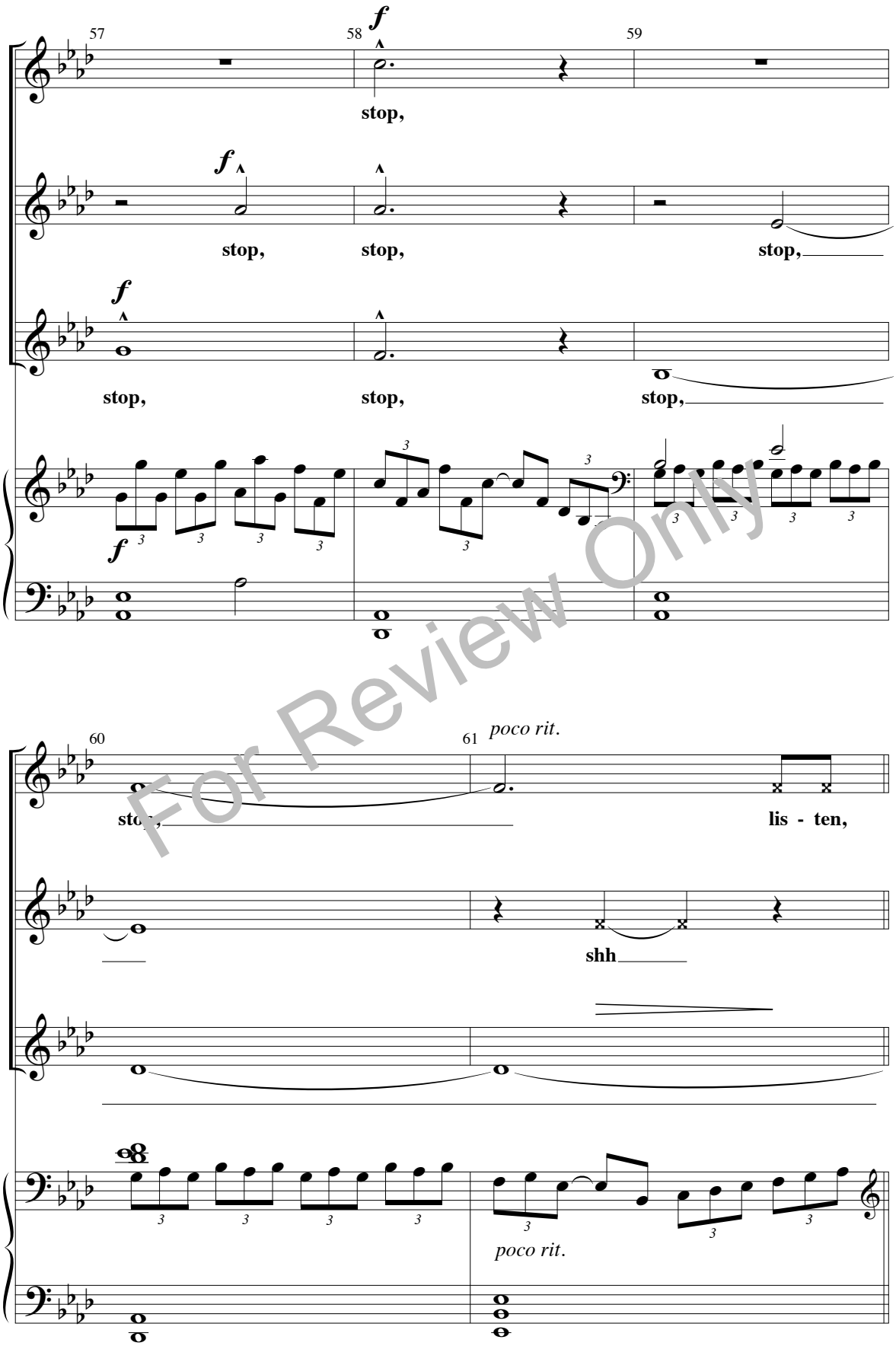

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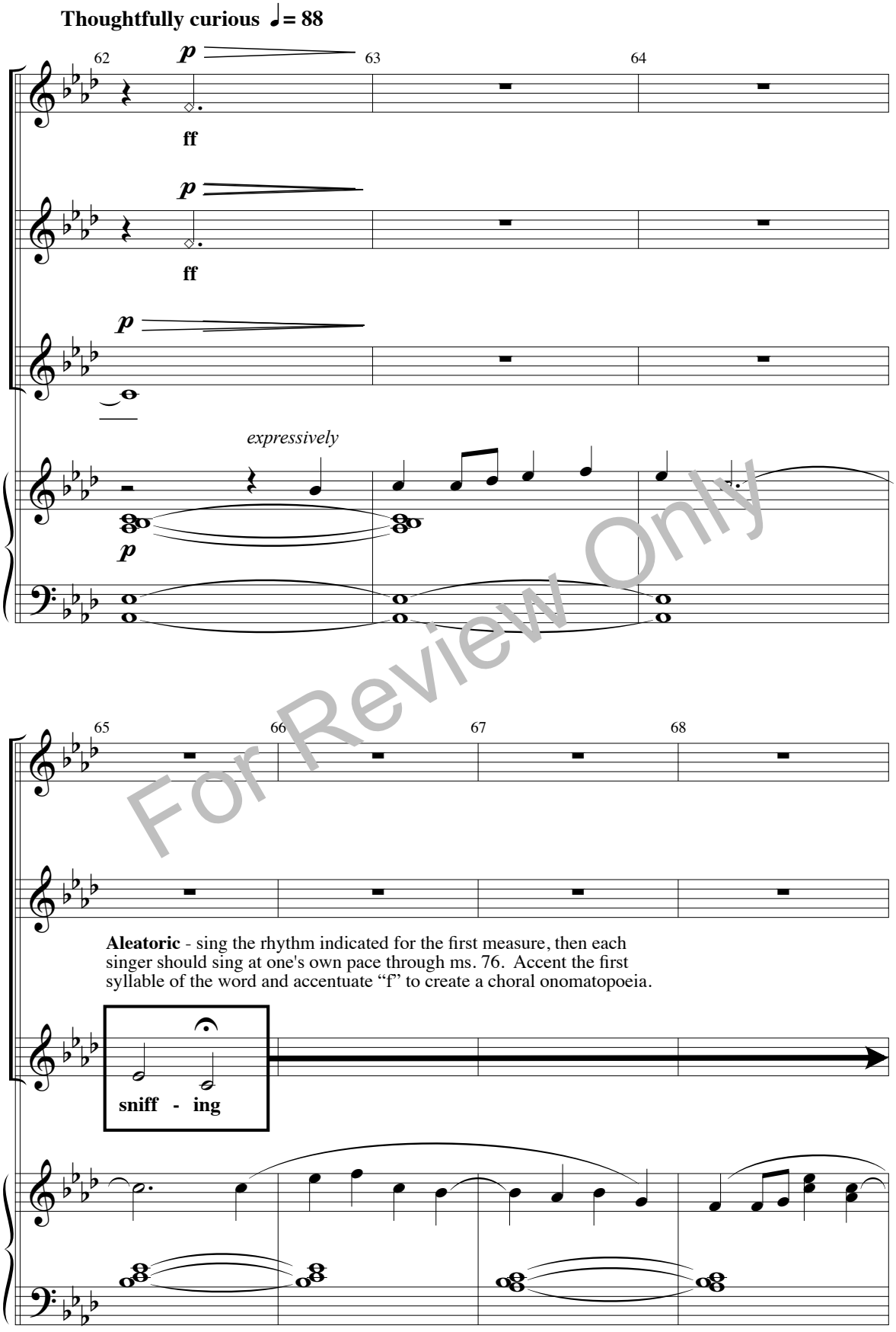

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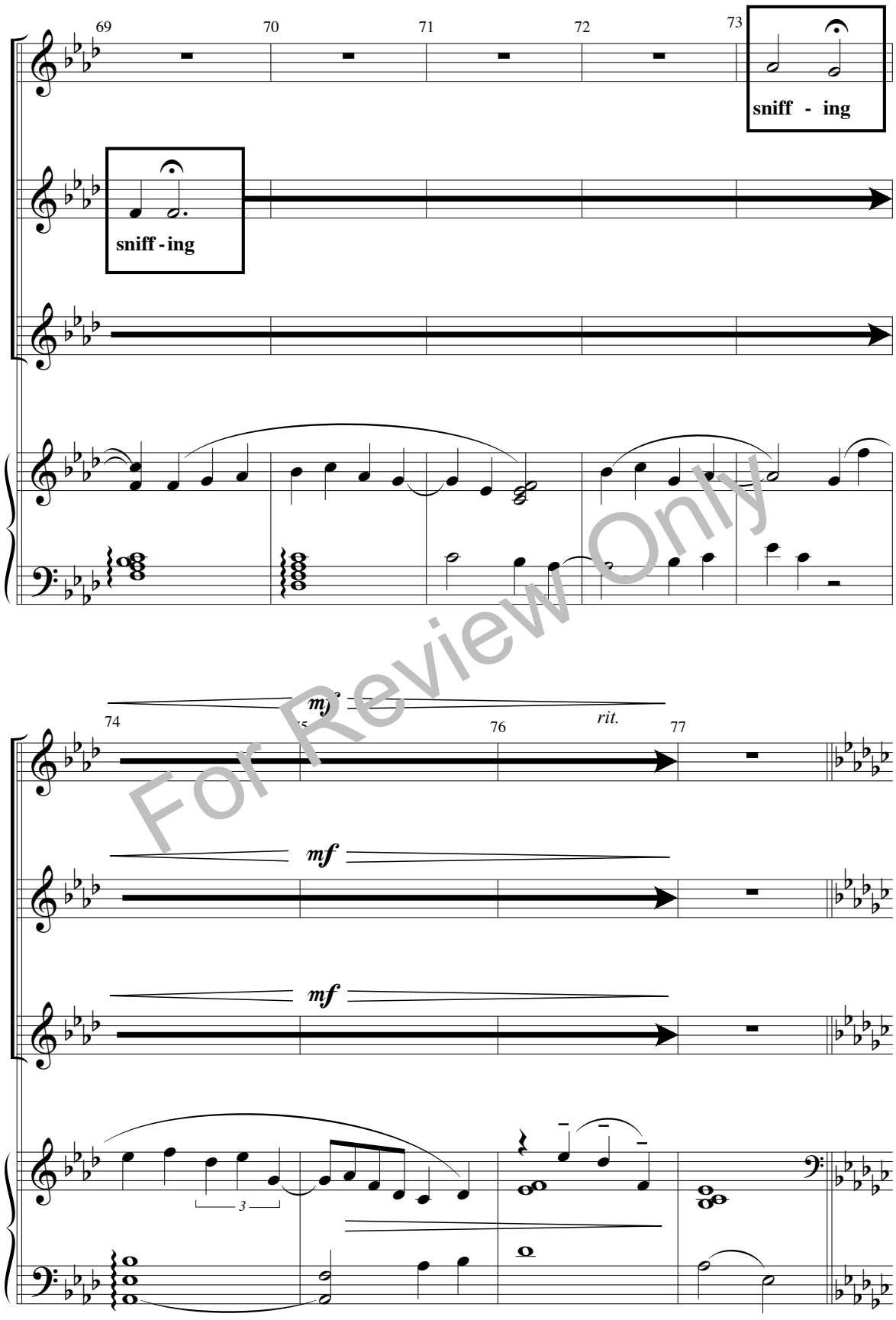

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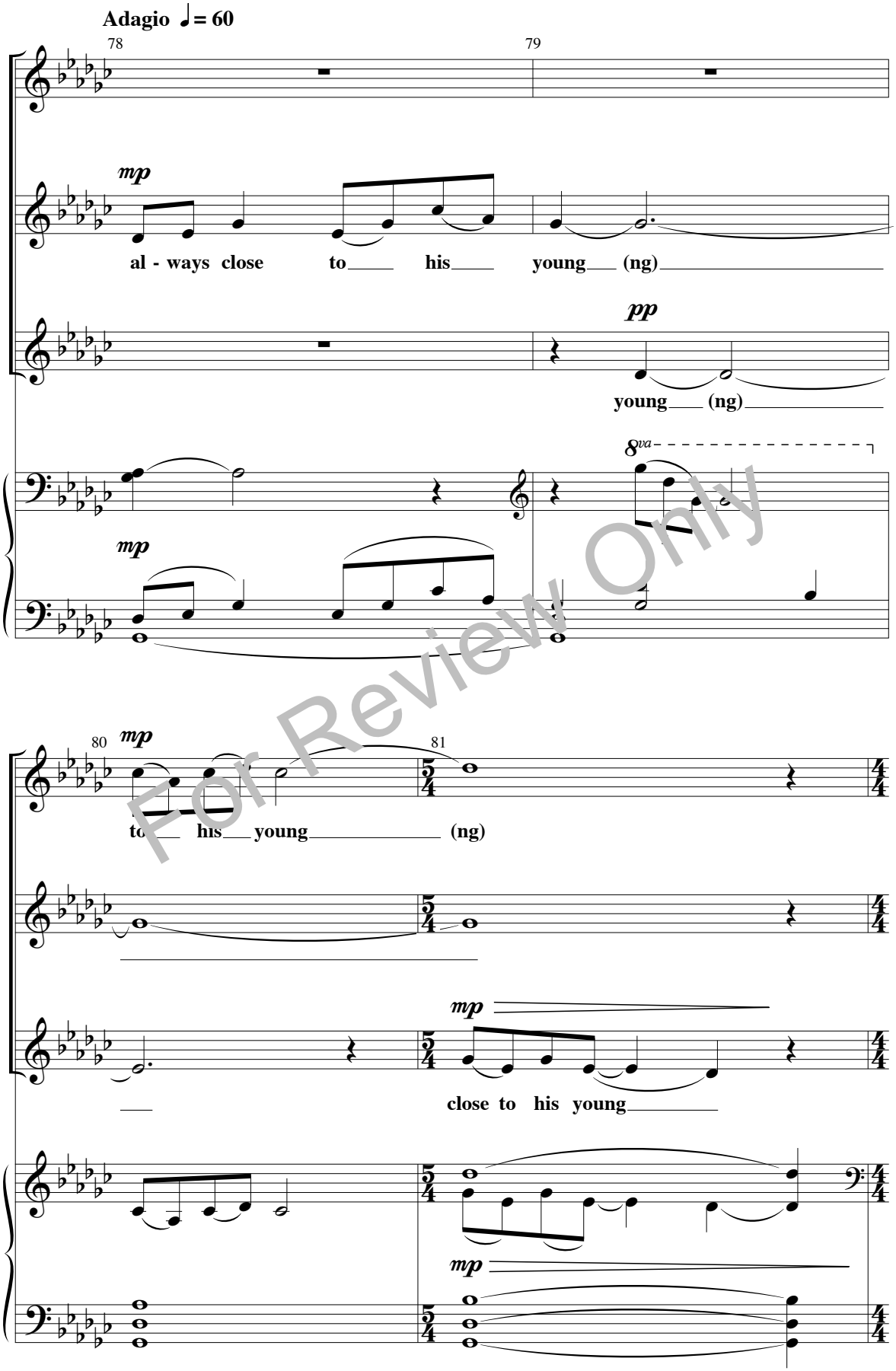

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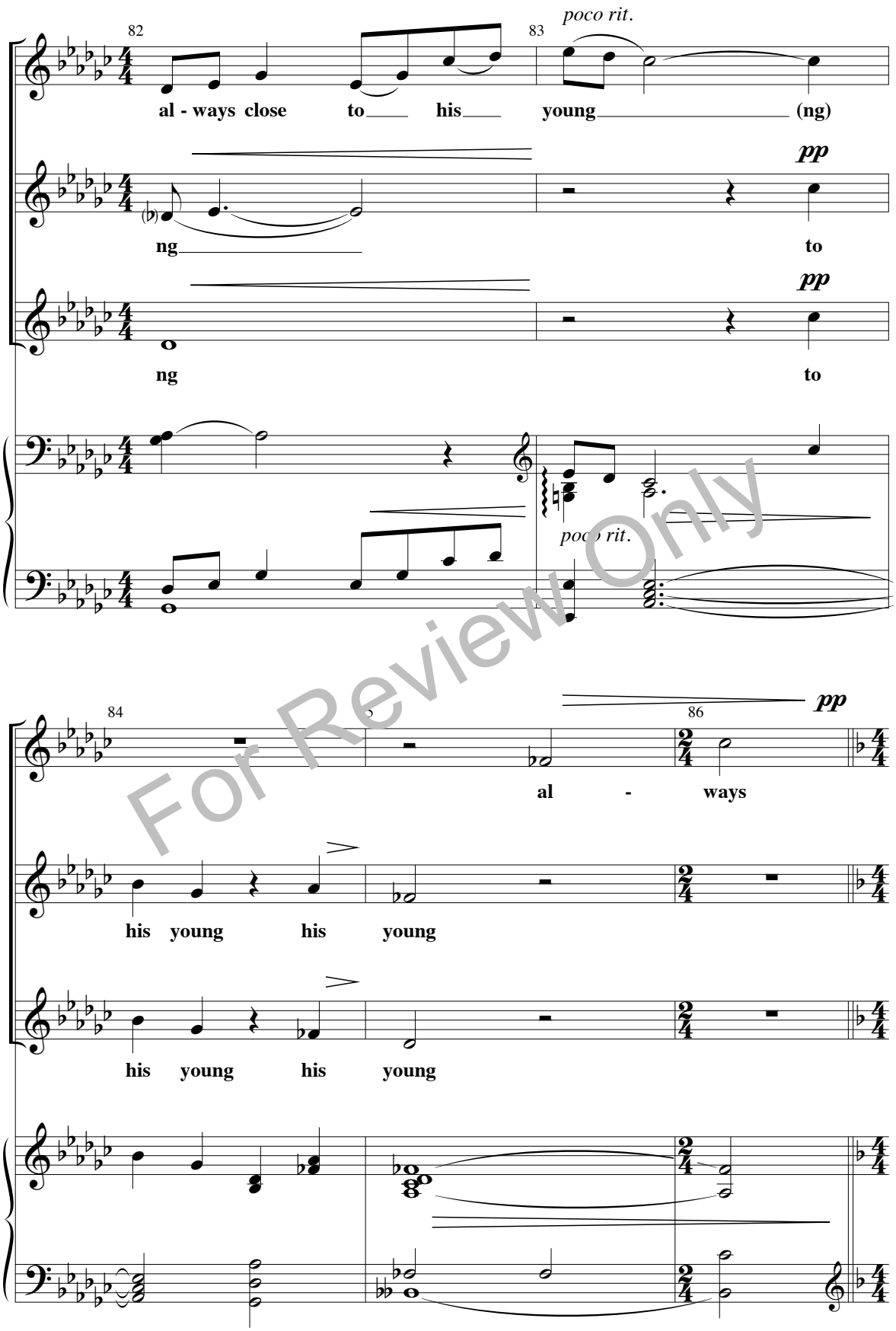

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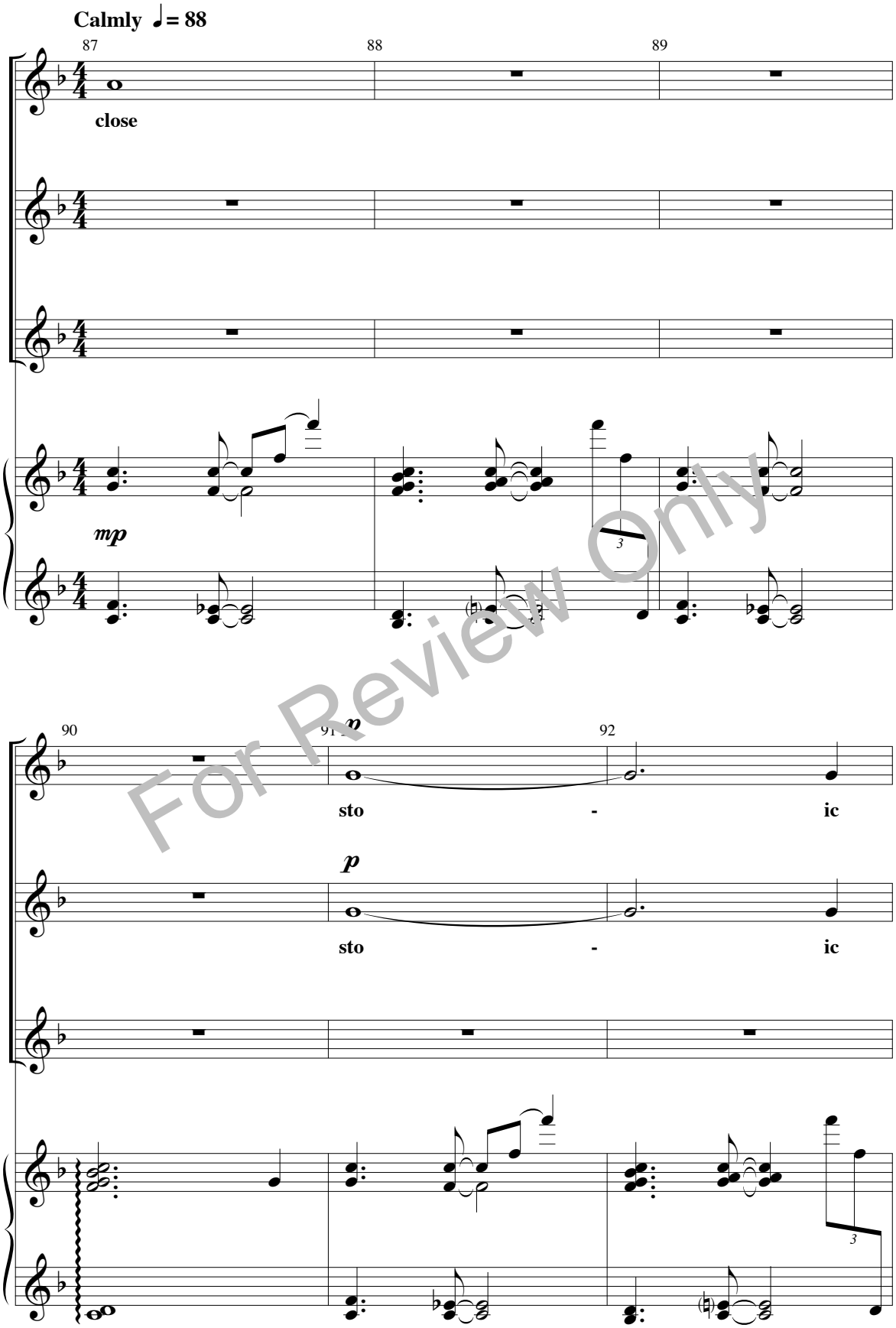

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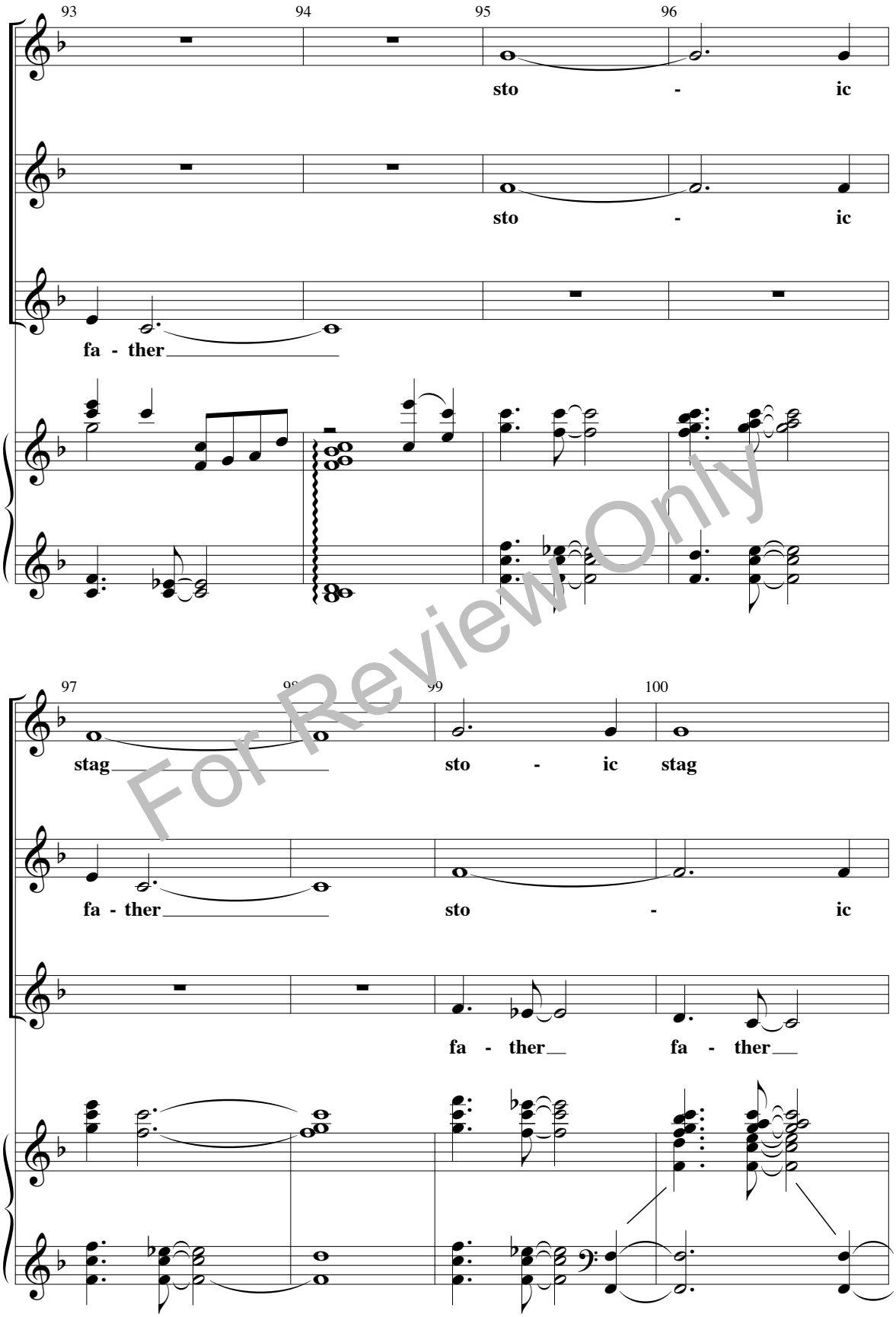

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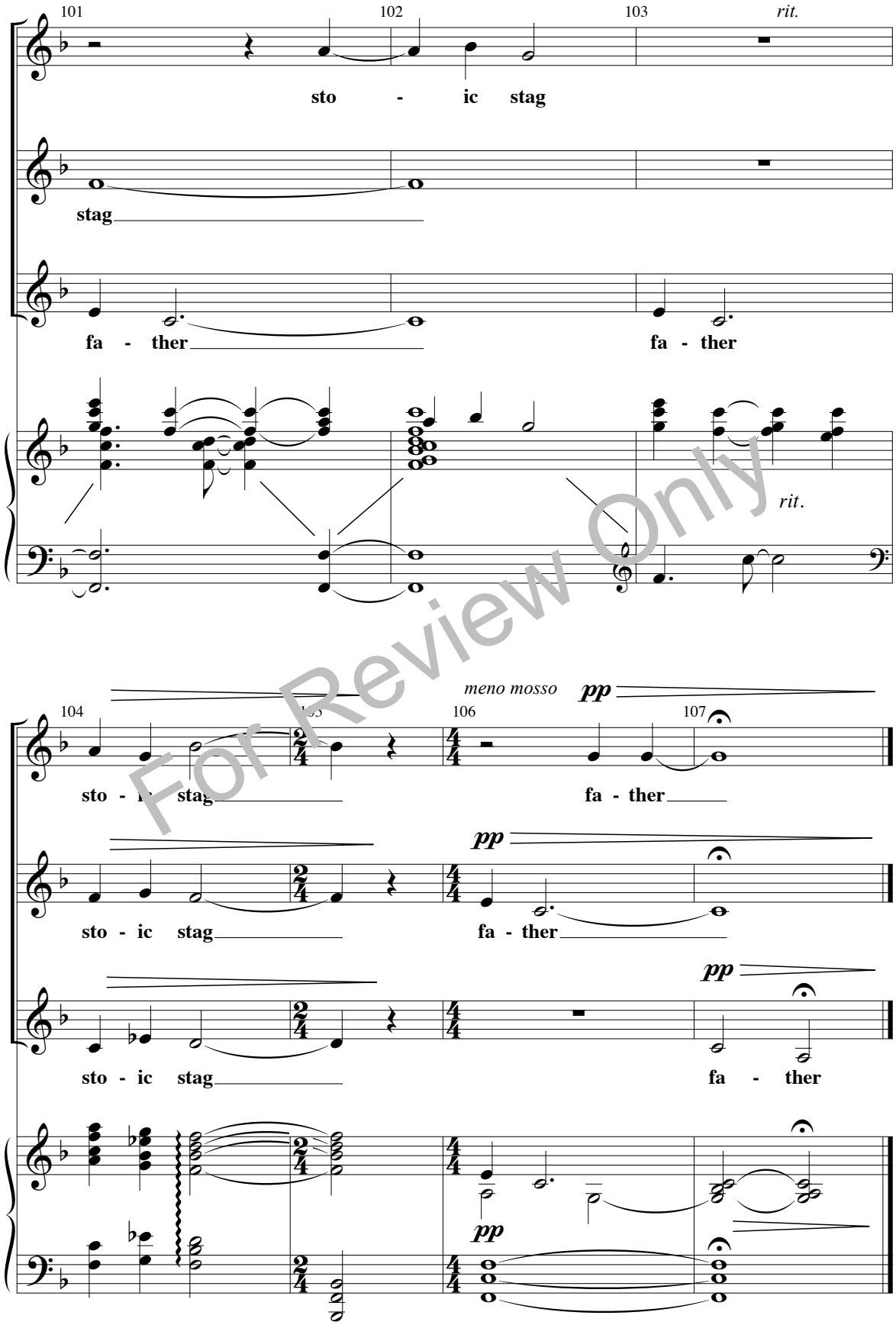

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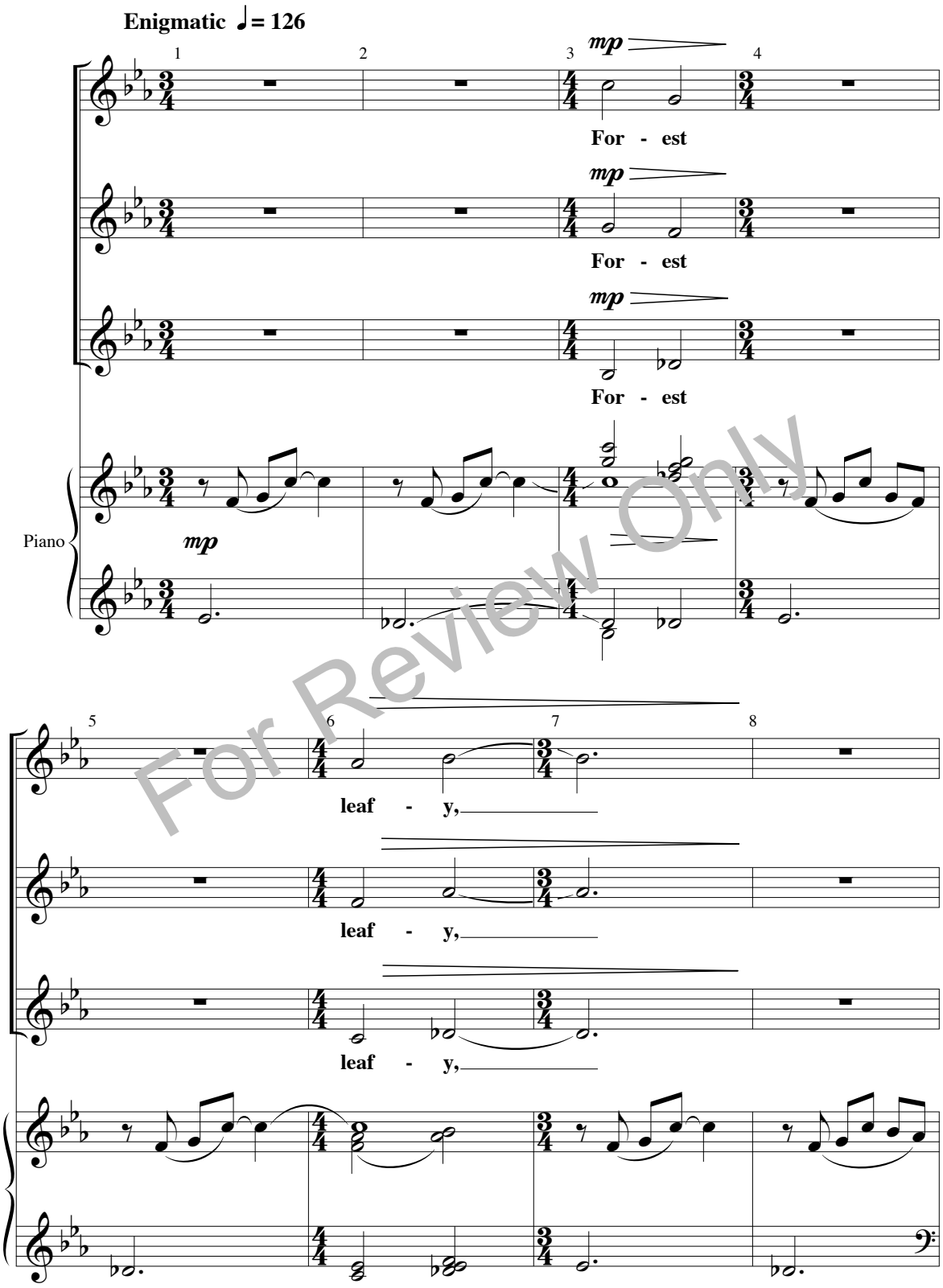

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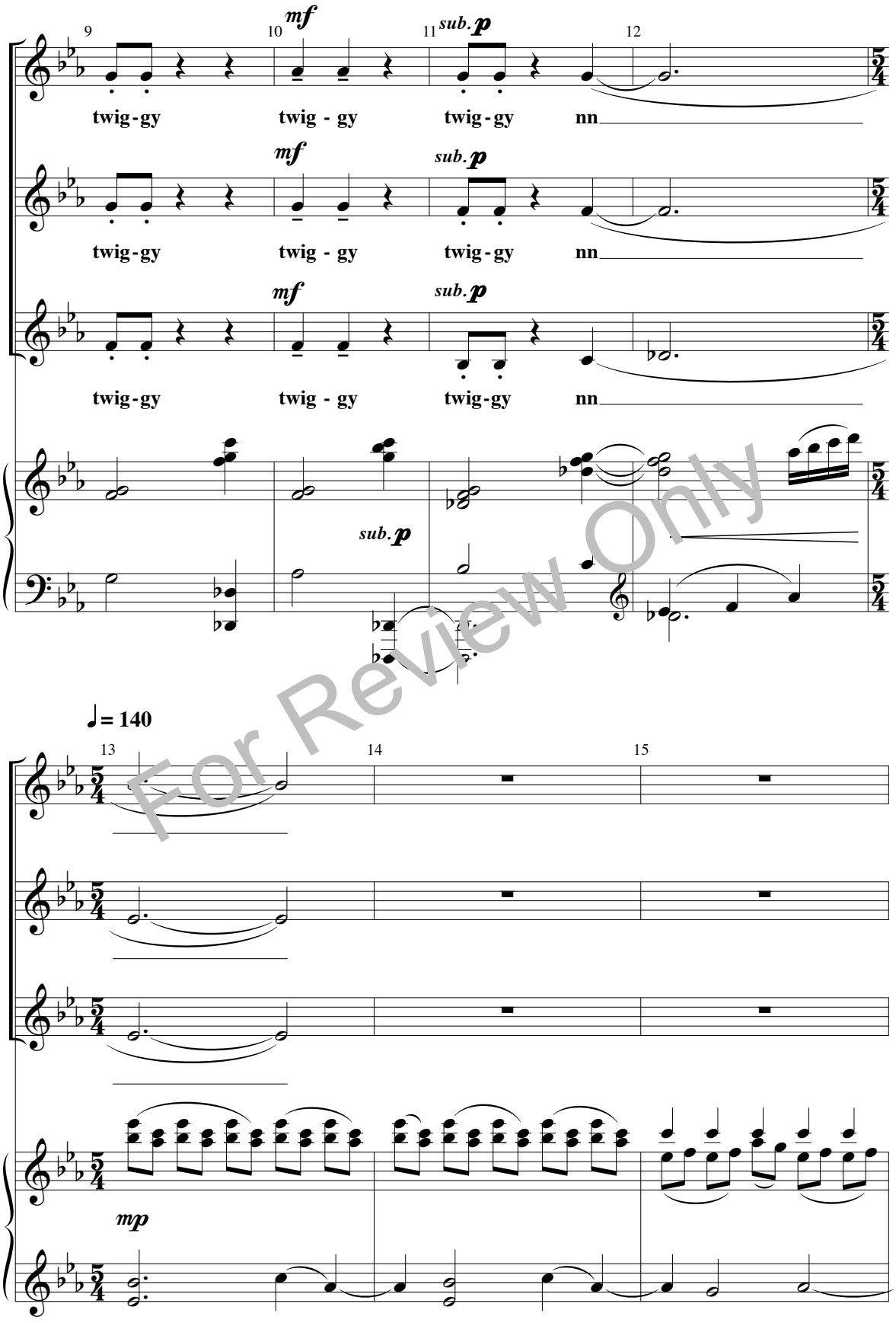

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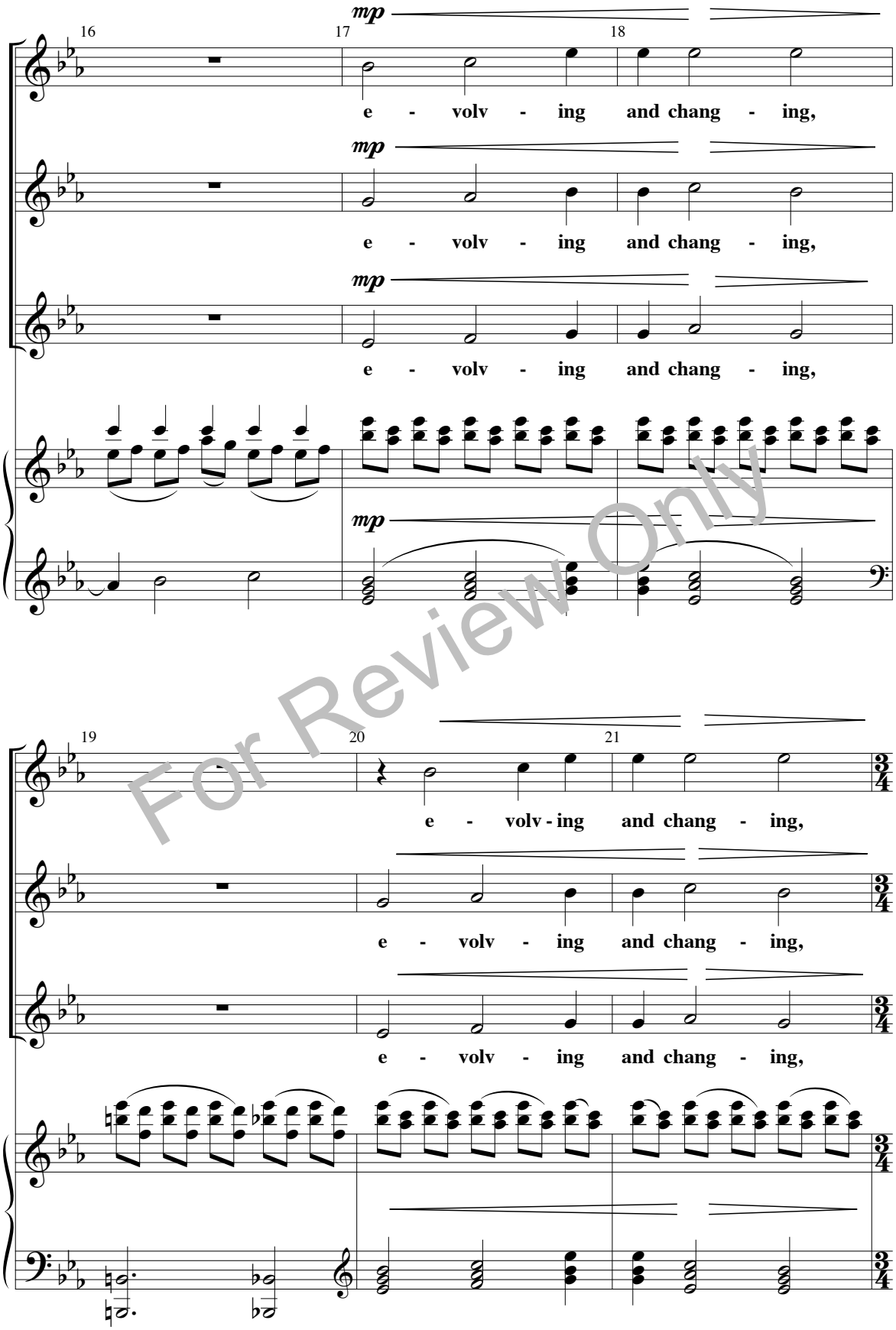

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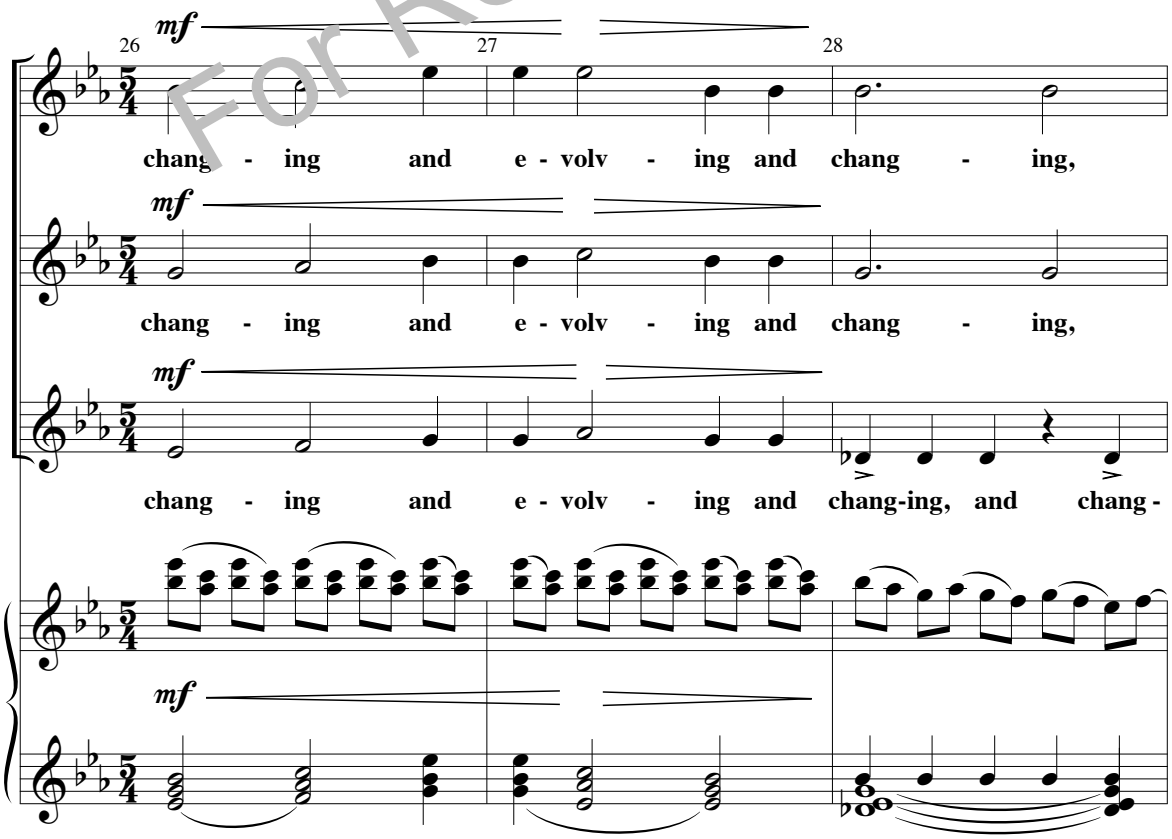

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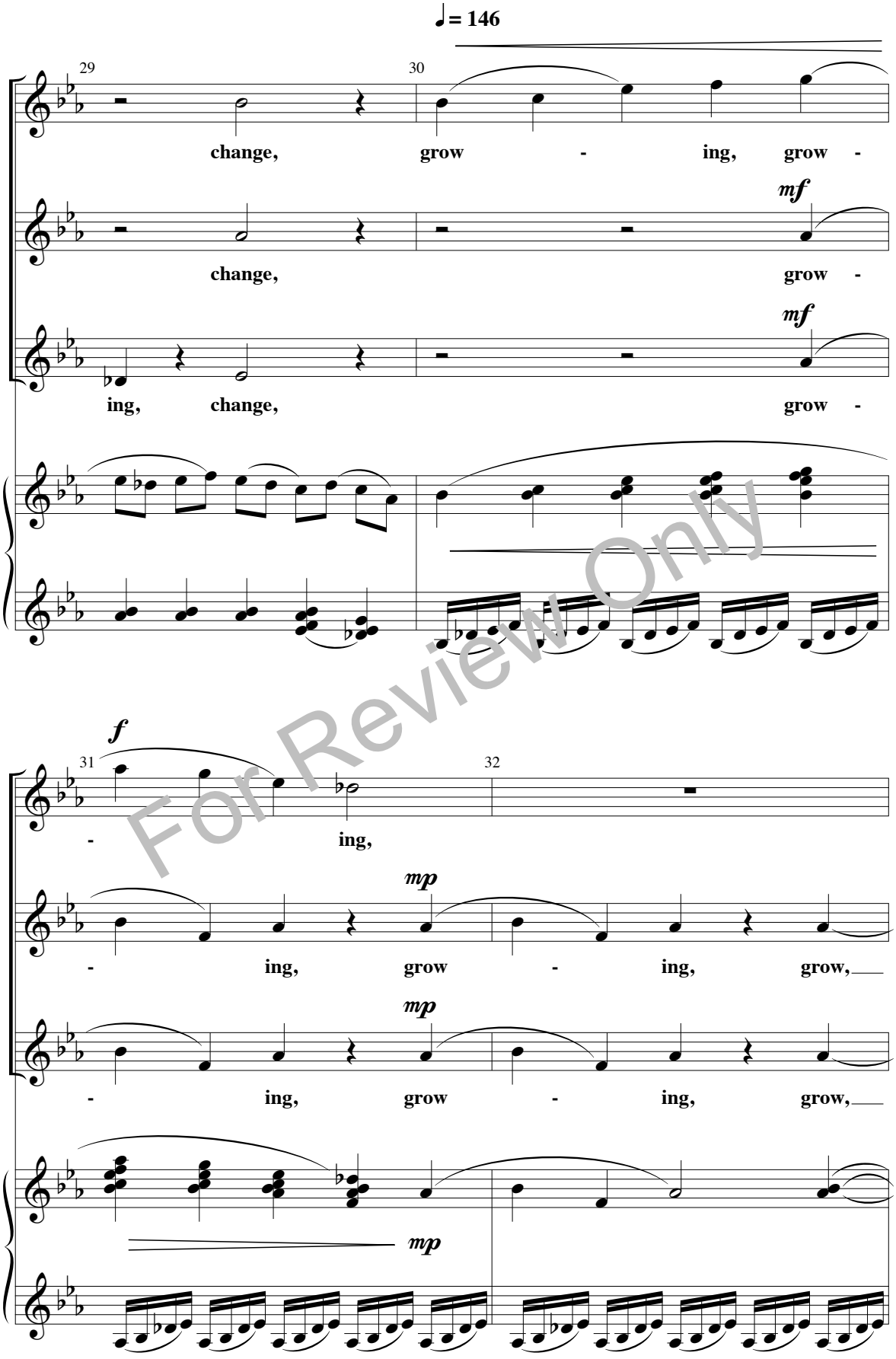

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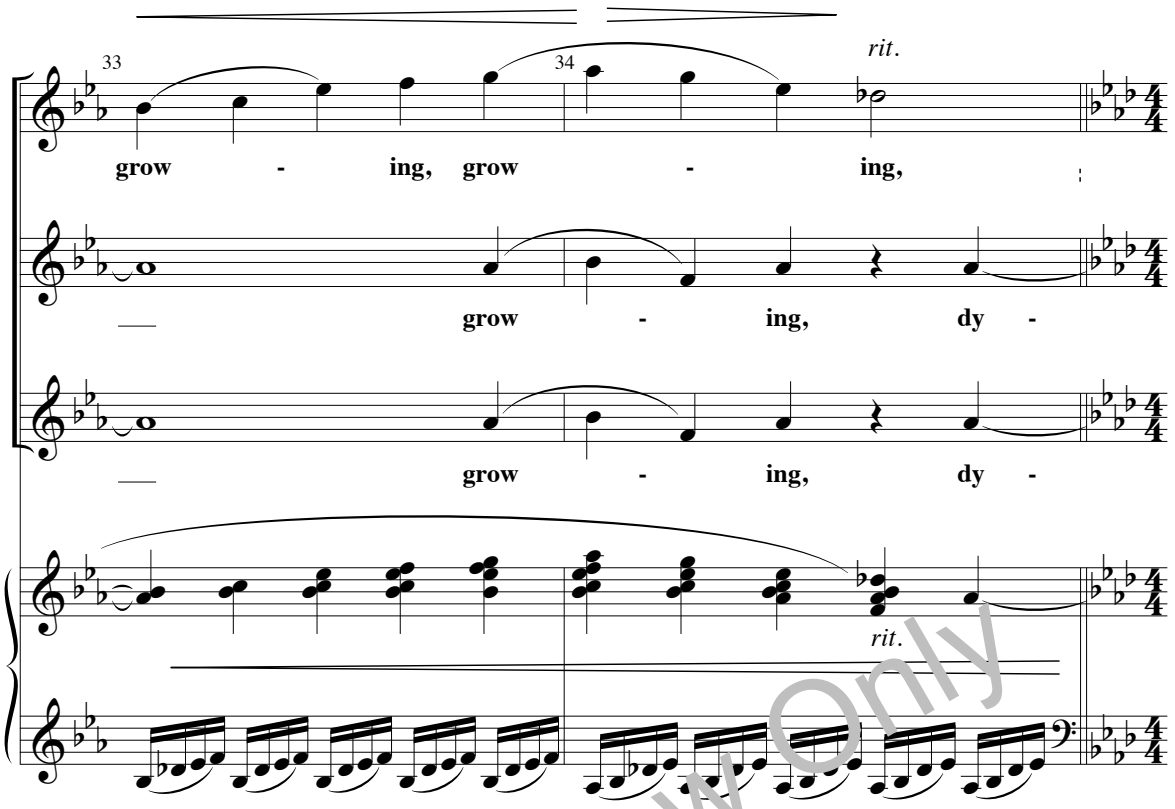

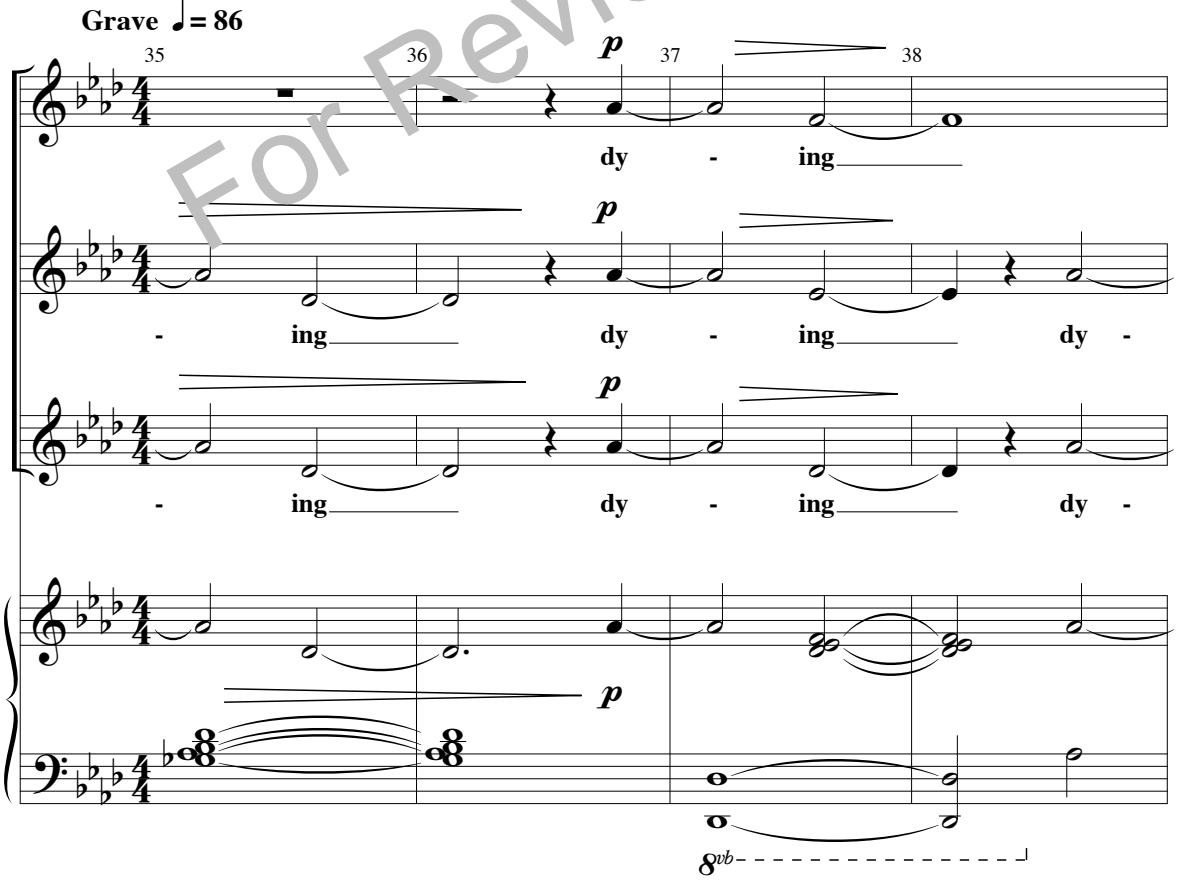

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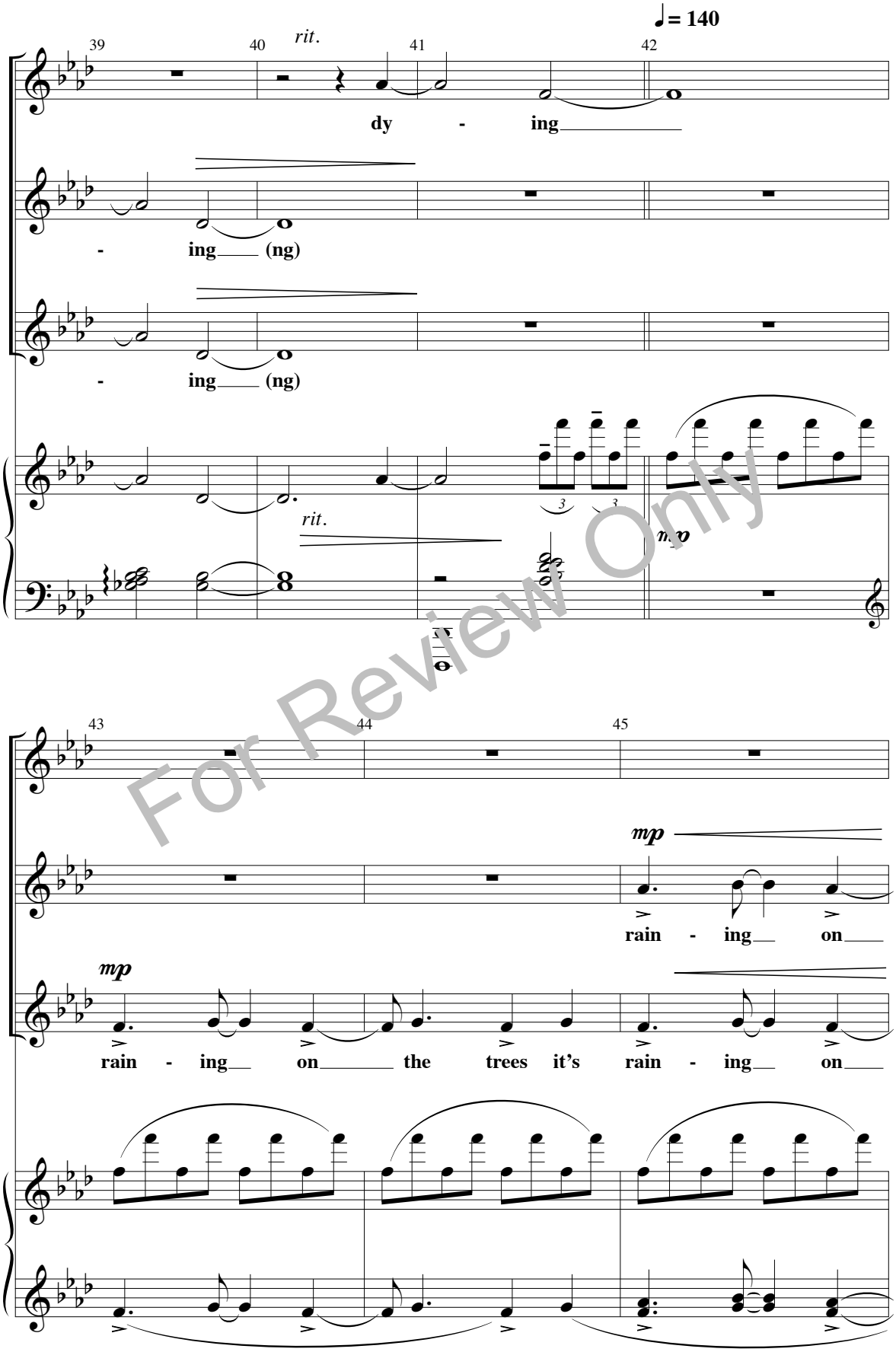

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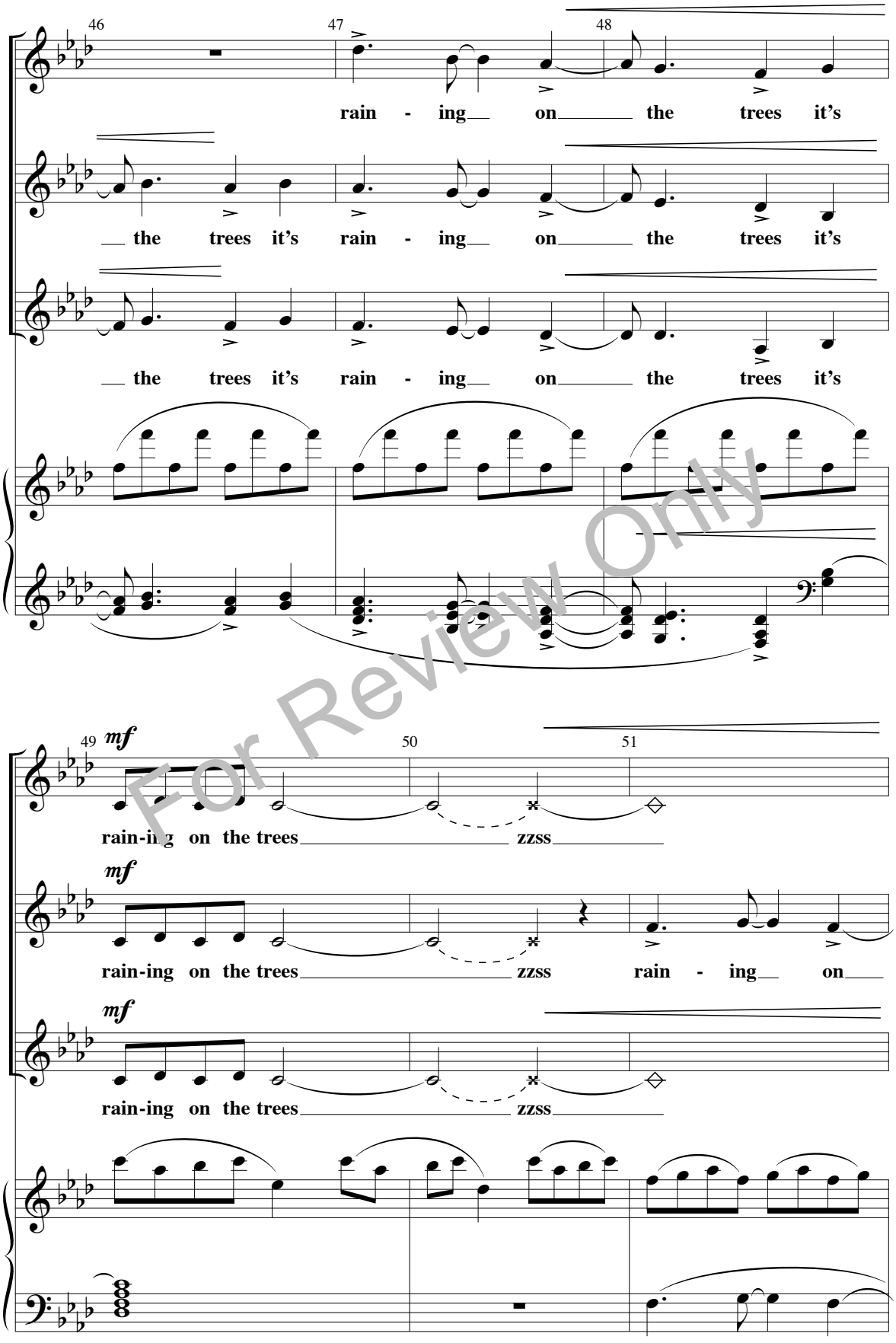

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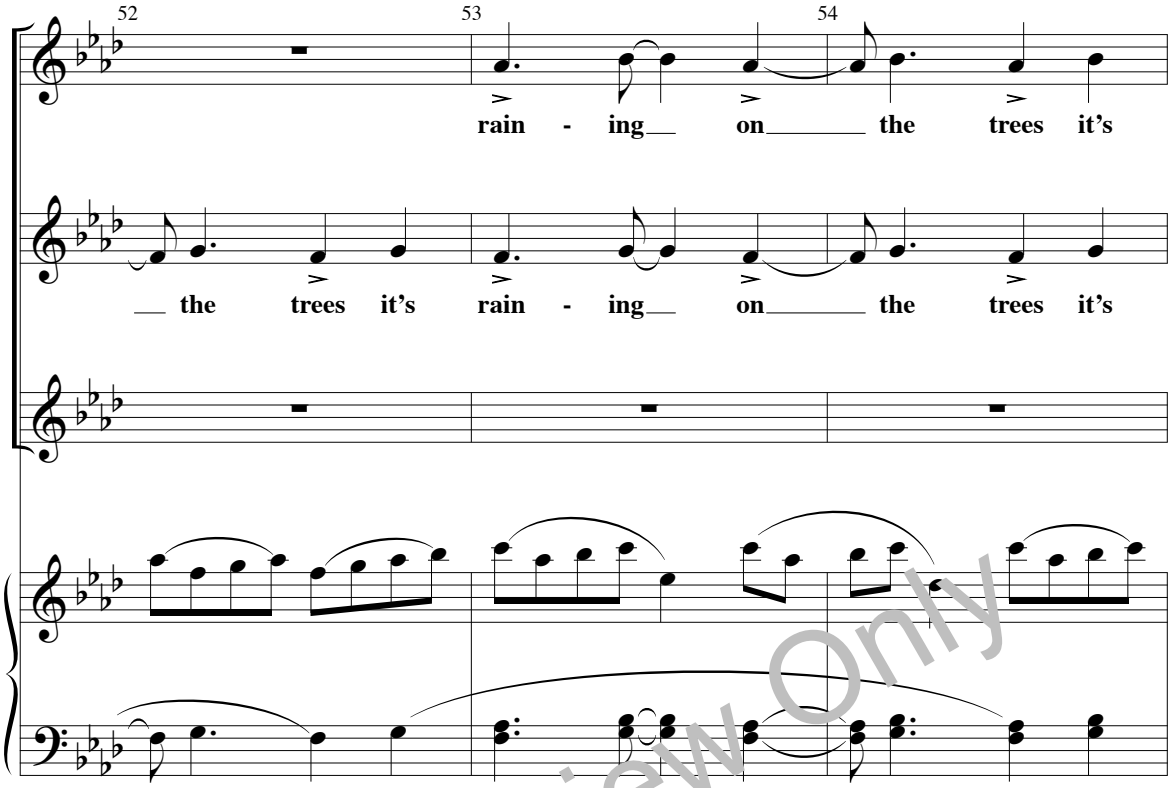

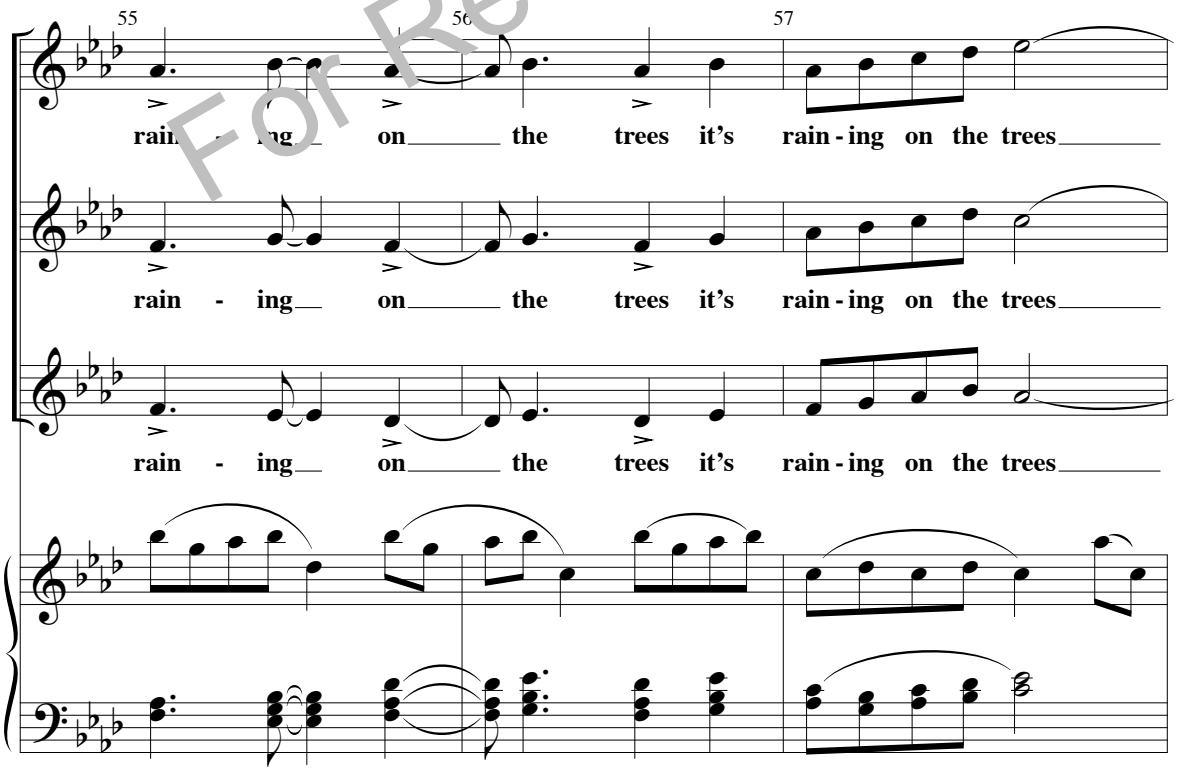

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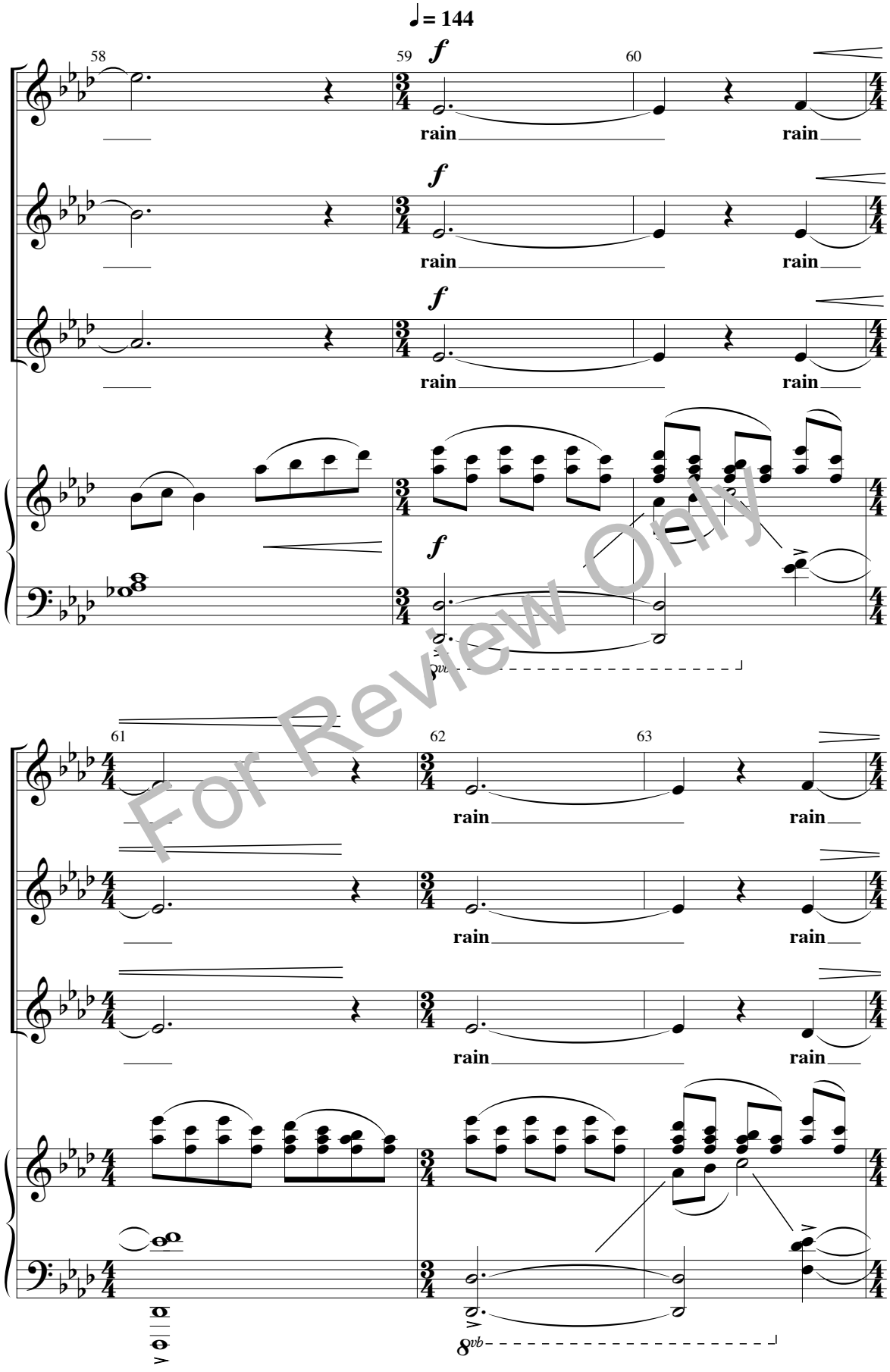

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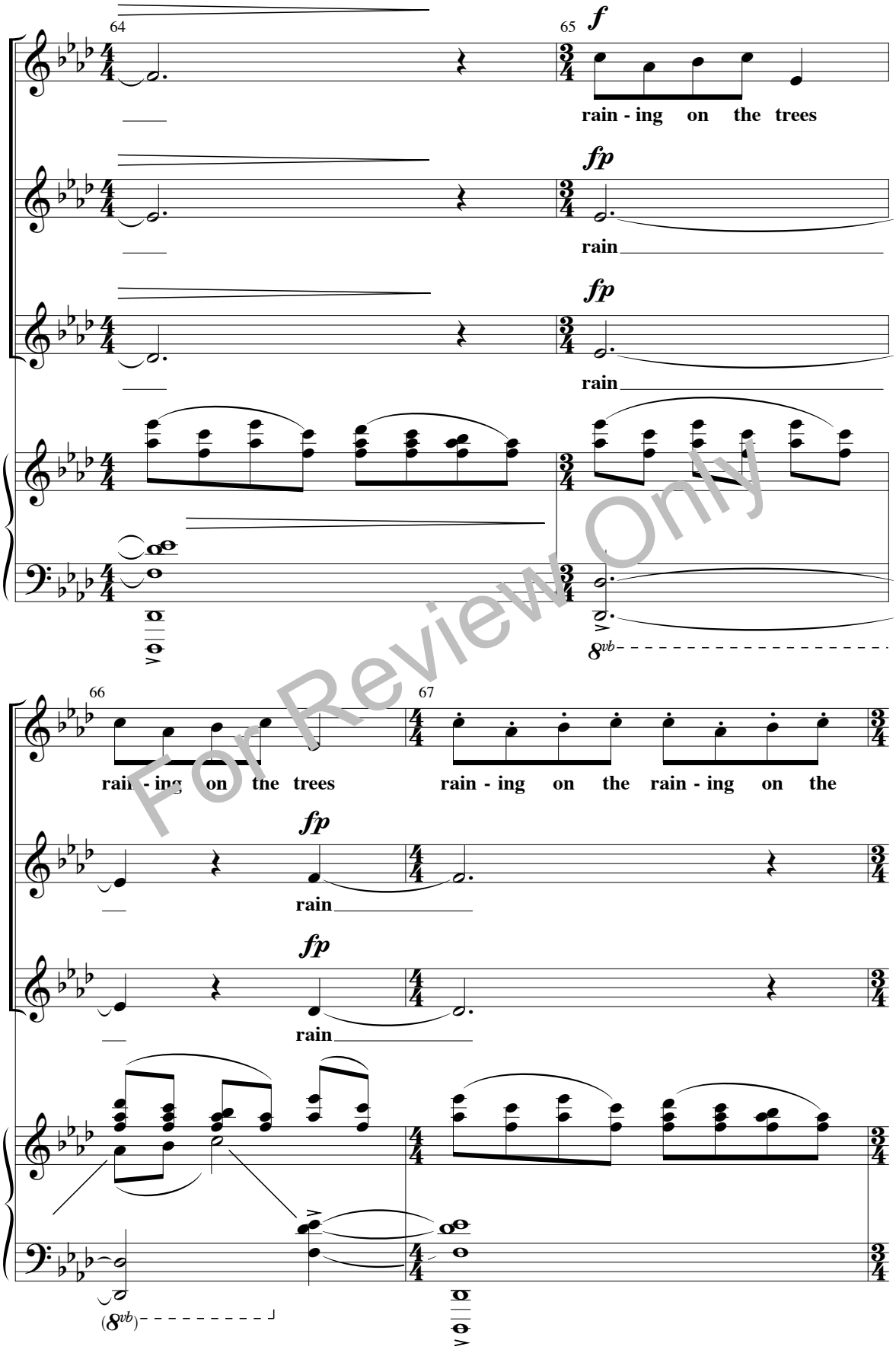

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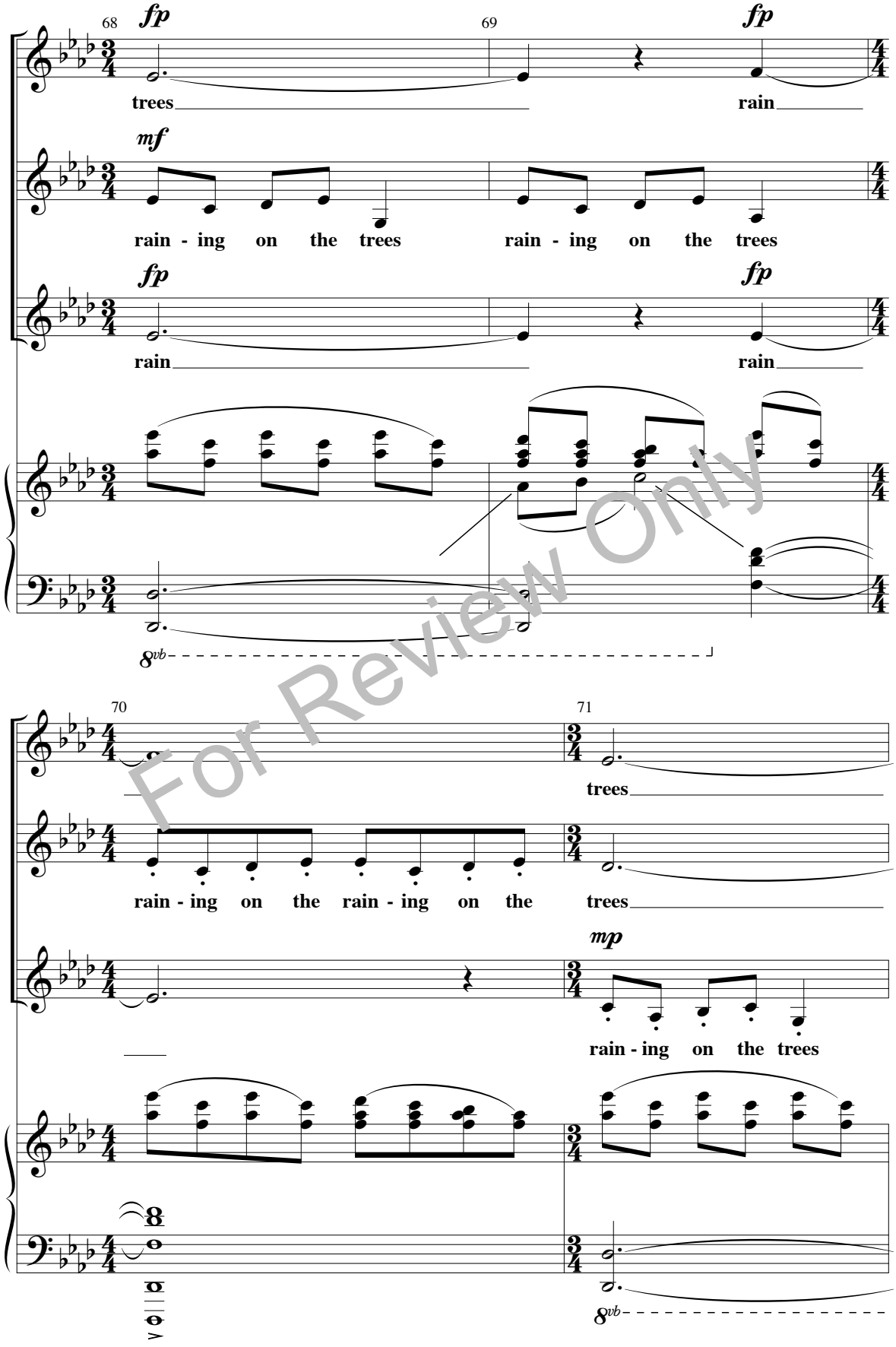

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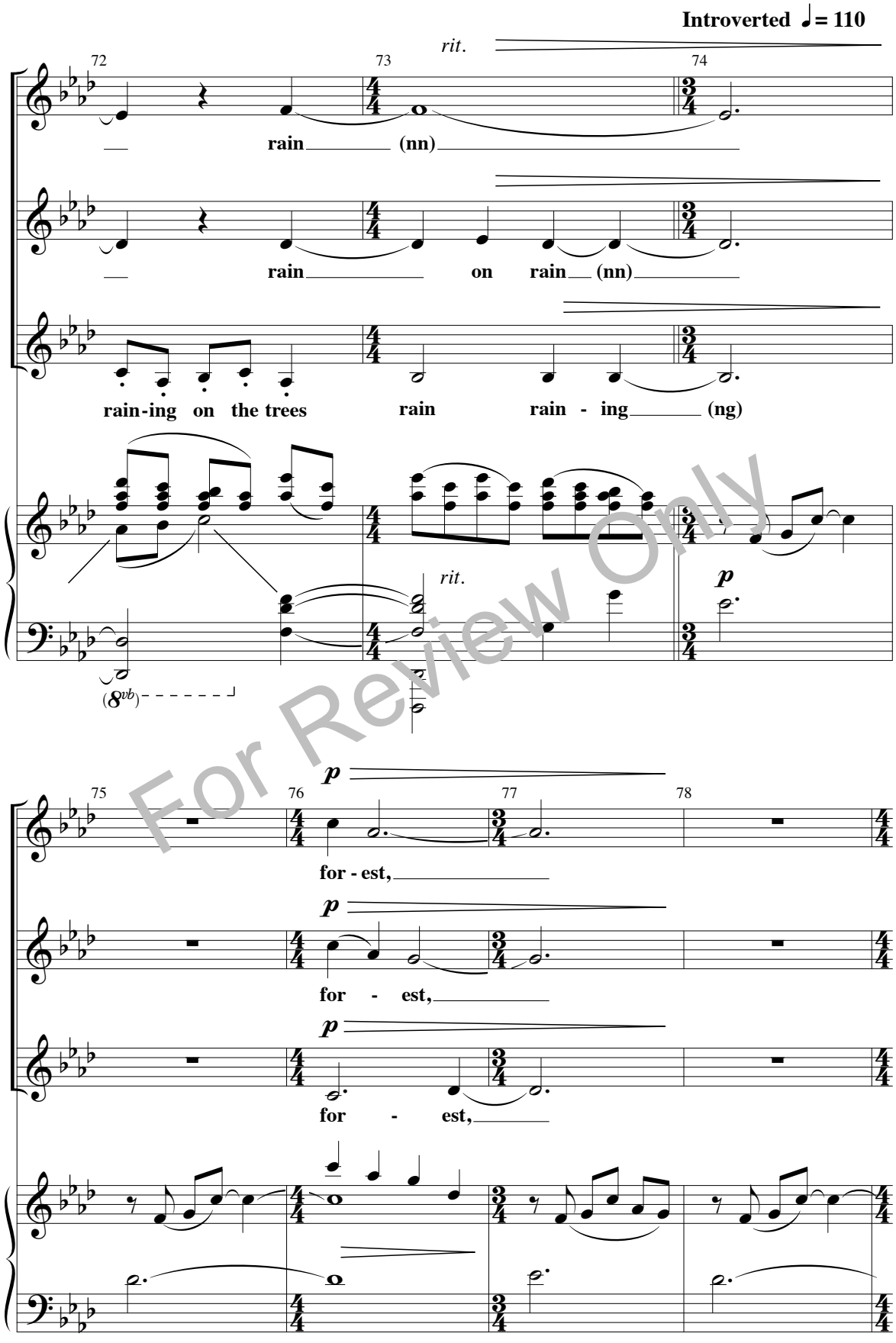

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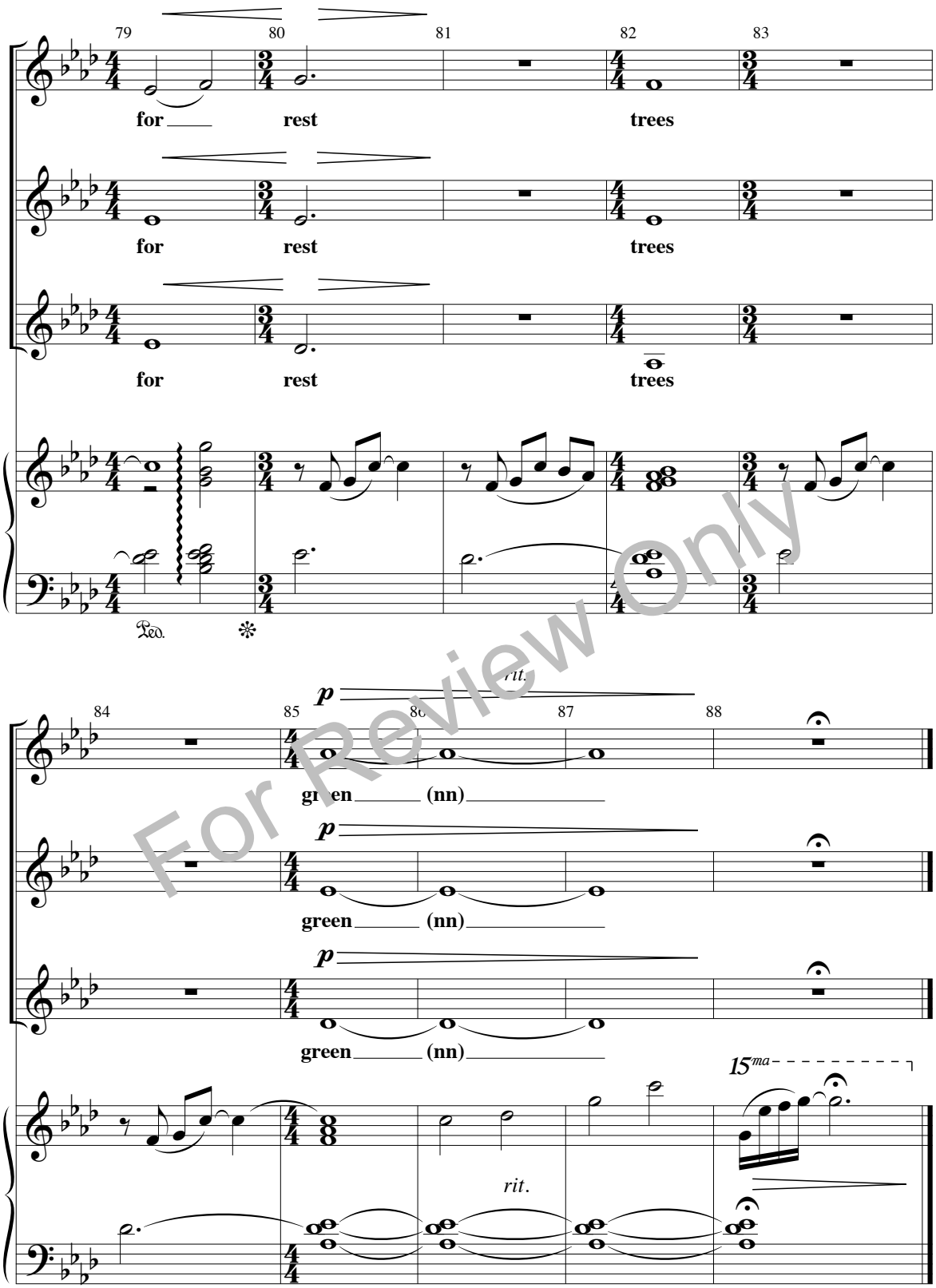

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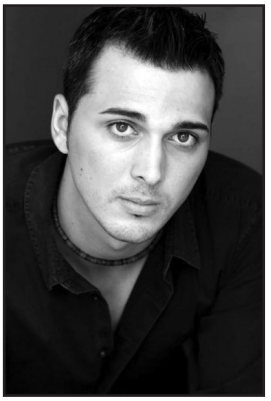

Matthew Harrison was the Artist-In-Residence at Glacier National Park in June of 2018. To his knwoledge, he is the first choral-centric artist to earn a residency in our National Park System in its 100 year history of existence.

He teaches middle and high school choral music in Connecticut. He holds a Bachelors of Music from James Madison University (Harrisonburg, VA) with a focus in piano and music education. He also holds a Masters of Music from the New England Conservatory (Boston, MA) with a focus in vocal performance.

GLACIER SUITE Performance Background Video is available separately, P3017M [Hal Leonard # 00291938].

During his time at Glacier Park, Matthew took pictures and videos of the beauty that surrounded him and inspired the music he composed. After his month-long residency, he teamed with Camilla Tassi to create flexible performance background projections to accompany each movement. This multimedia component helps transport audiences to Glacier National Park, bringing a beautiful dimension to the entire experience.

Camilla Tassi has a unique blend of talents. She has performed operatic roles as a soprano and also directed and produced numerous classical projects and operas. She holds a B.S. in Computer Science and a B.A. in Music from the University of Notre Dame, and a M.A. in Digital Musics at Dartmouth College. She is a fellow in Projection Design at the Yale School of Drama.

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Glacier's Artist-in-Residence Program works to stimulate and foster artistic exploration and communication of the park's natural and cultural values through the arts. The program seeks professional artists whose work is related to the park's interpretative themes, supports the mission of the National Park Service and conservation of these public lands. The program continues a long tradition of interaction between artists and the Glacier landscape. The park's first artists were Jack Reid of Brampton, Ontario, the park's 1997 International Peace Park Artist-in-Residence, and Grant Fuller of Victoria, British Columbia. Glacier National Park's Artist-in-Residence Program officially started in 1998 by Superintendent (and artist) Dave Mihalic. Seven artists were chosen as participants this year to live and work in the park for two week sessions. Today we offer a month long residency to 3-4 artists every season. We have hosted artists working in a wide variety of mediums, including photography, print, videography, theatre, writing, music, painting, sculpture and others.

Not only did Matt engage park staff and visitor through his presentations, but connected with members of our local community. By reaching out to the Glacier Chorale and other local singers to perform his work created while at Glacier, he broadened the focus of our program to include this greater Flathead Valley community. Matt exemplifies what we are looking for in our artists, as he came with a unique focus for his project that connected well with the mission and interpretive themes of the park, and was passionate about sharing his love of music and he creative process with people of all ages.

Sonja Hartmann
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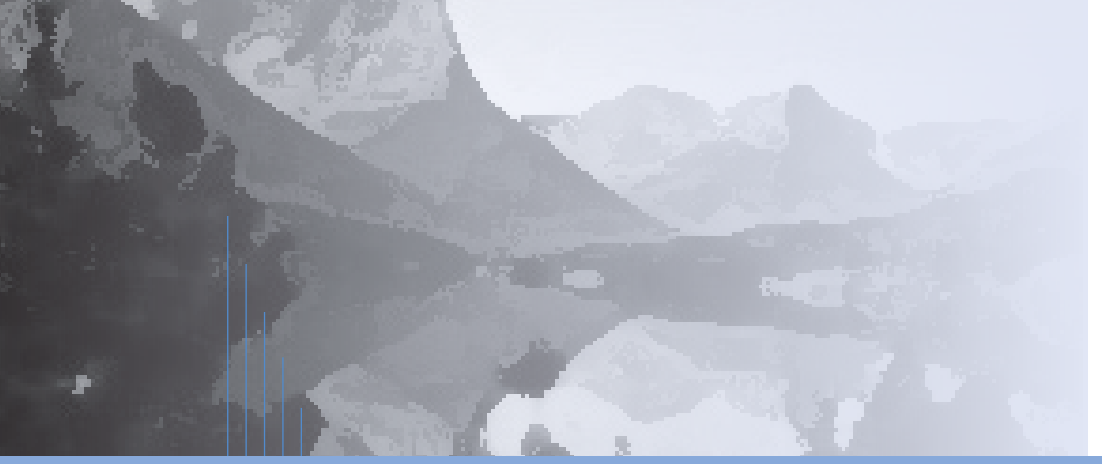

Glacier Suite

Text inspired by
children's poetry

Music by

Matthew Harrison

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK
CONSERVANCY

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