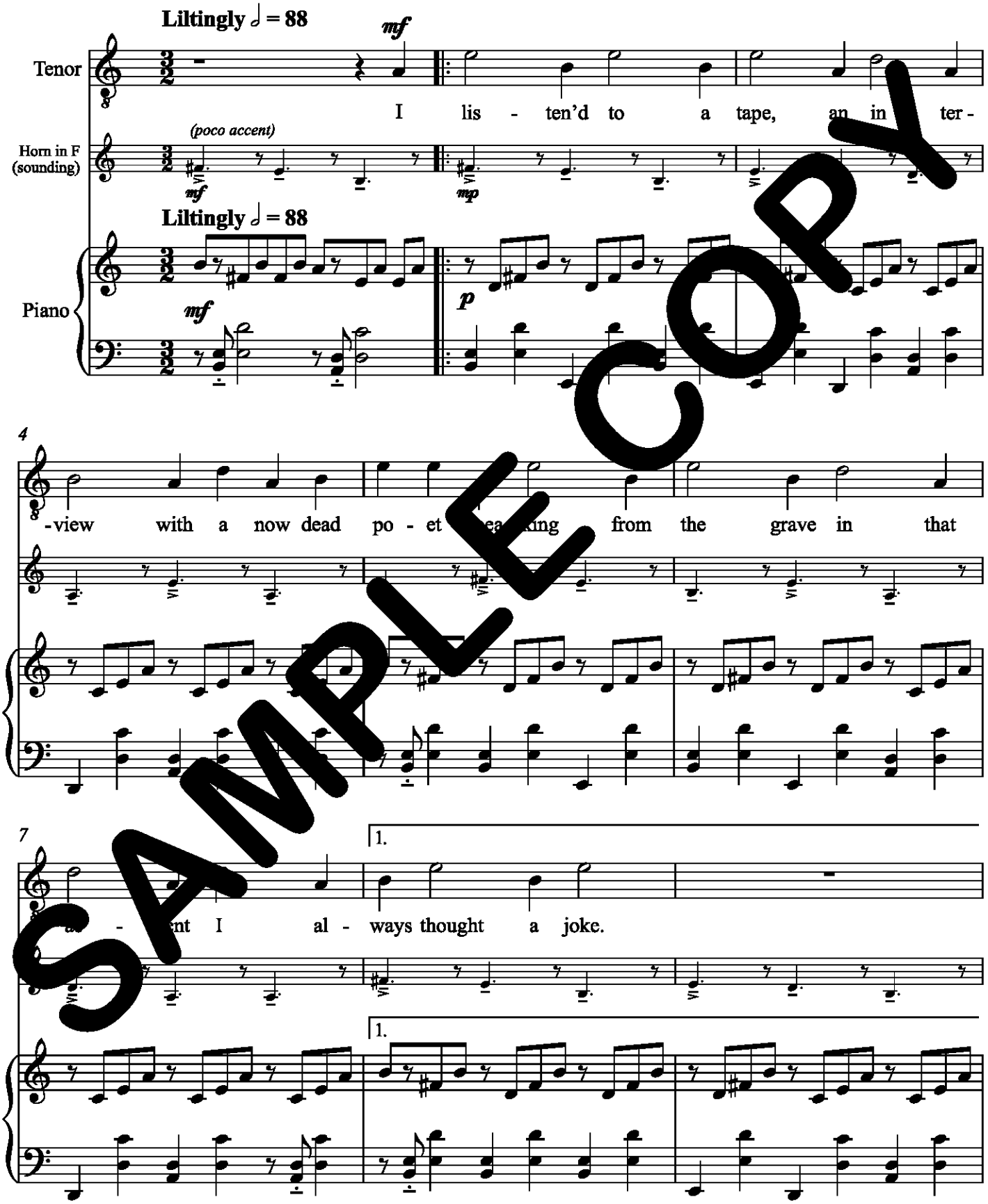
To Don and Musa

Solstice

Seven Poems of Don Maclennan

Michael Blake

1. The Well



SAMPLE COPY

Copyright © 2025 by Bardic Edition for all countries
All rights reserved by the publisher
The copying of any part of this work in any way is illegal and unfair

10

mf

I -ways thought a joke.

2.

13

Molto meno mosso ♩ = 44

mp < *mp* < *mp* <

"The well is

mf > *p*

Molto meno mosso ♩ = 44

16

mp

da he croaked.

SAMPLE COPY

19 Tempo primo ♩ = 88

mf

Then last night I dreamed that he and I

p match piano rh

Tempo primo ♩ = 88

mf

p match horn

22

were walk - ing the slopes of a gen - tle hill.

24

A swarm of bees en -

SAMPLE COPY

27

-closed us, mi - ra - cu - lous - ly lea - ving us un - stung.

30

33 Molto meno mosso ♩ = 66

mp *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *f*

"But - ton up your shirt", I yelled, as they

p *f* *p*

Molto meno mosso ♩ = 66

SAMPLE COPY

37 Tempo primo ♩ = 88

mf

swarm'd a - gain. They were not bees but fea - the - ry yel - low

p *f* *mp*

Tempo primo ♩ = 88

mf *p*

40

seeds fil - ling the hill - side with a s[illegible] hiss - ing sound.

43 Molto [illegible] mosso [illegible] = 44

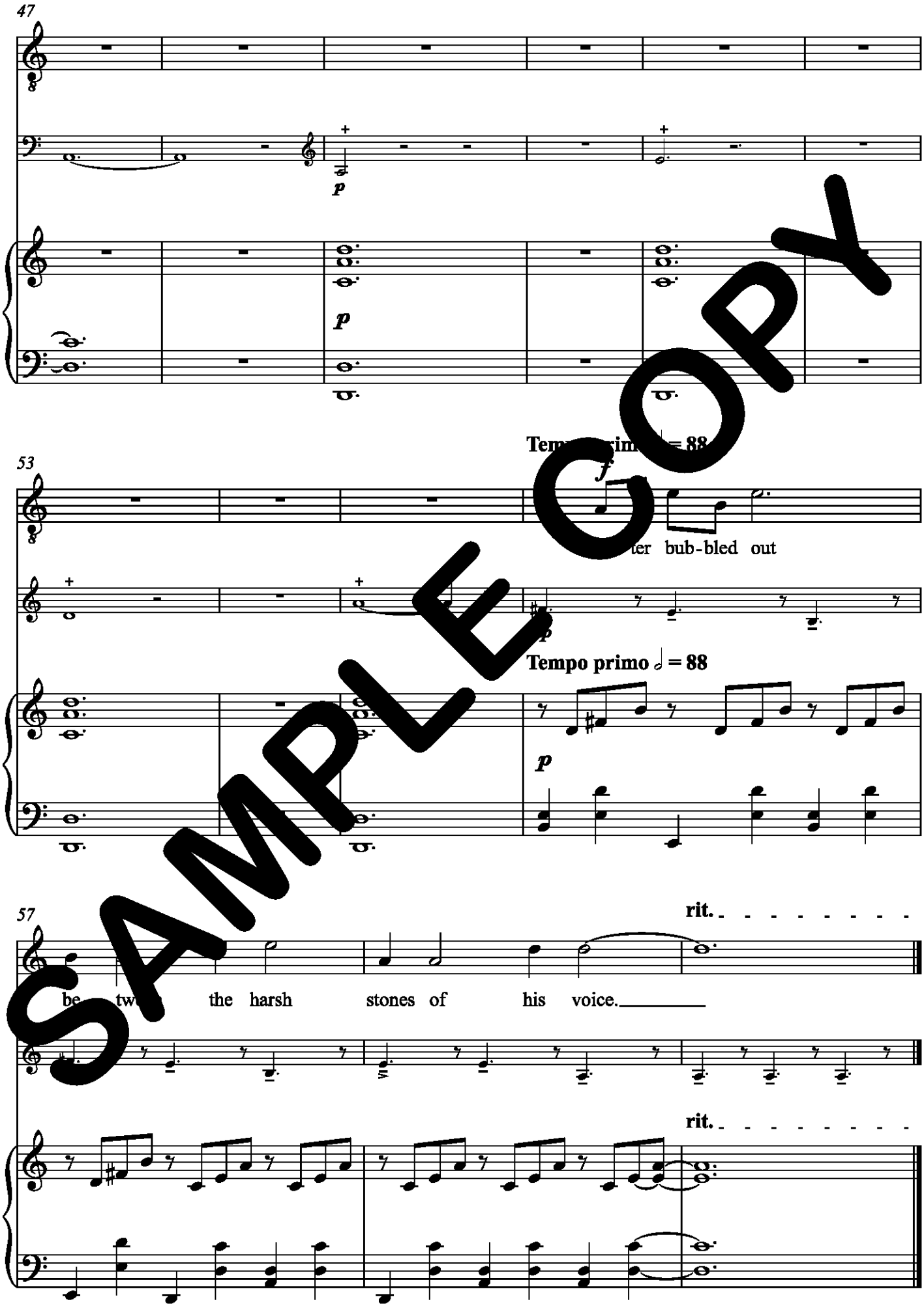
mp *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

The well is nev - er dry.

p *f* *p*

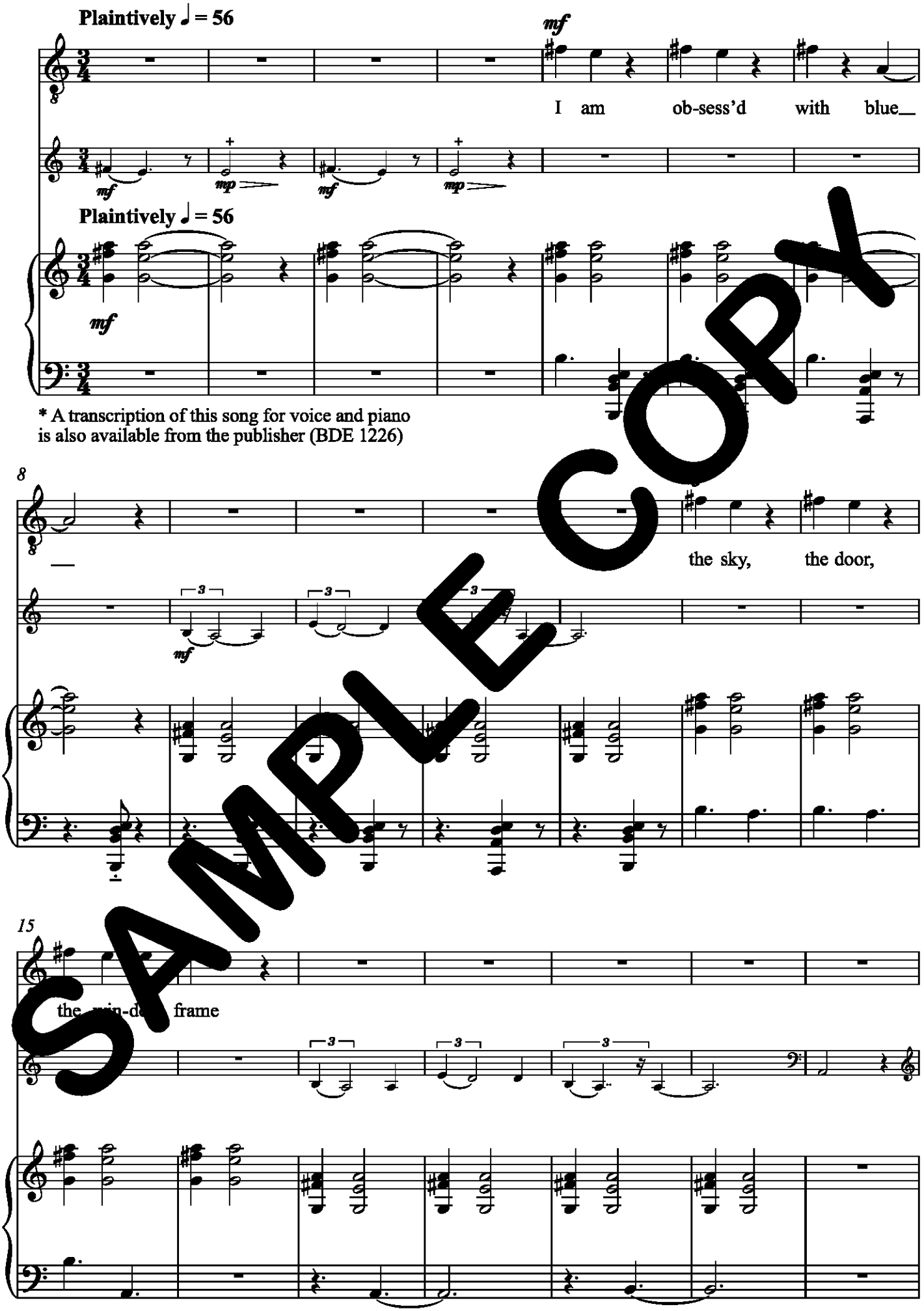
Molto meno mosso ♩ = 44

SAMPLE COPY


47
p
p
53
Tempo primo ♩ = 88
f
ter bub-bled out
p
Tempo primo ♩ = 88
p
57
rit.
be tw the harsh stones of his voice.
rit.

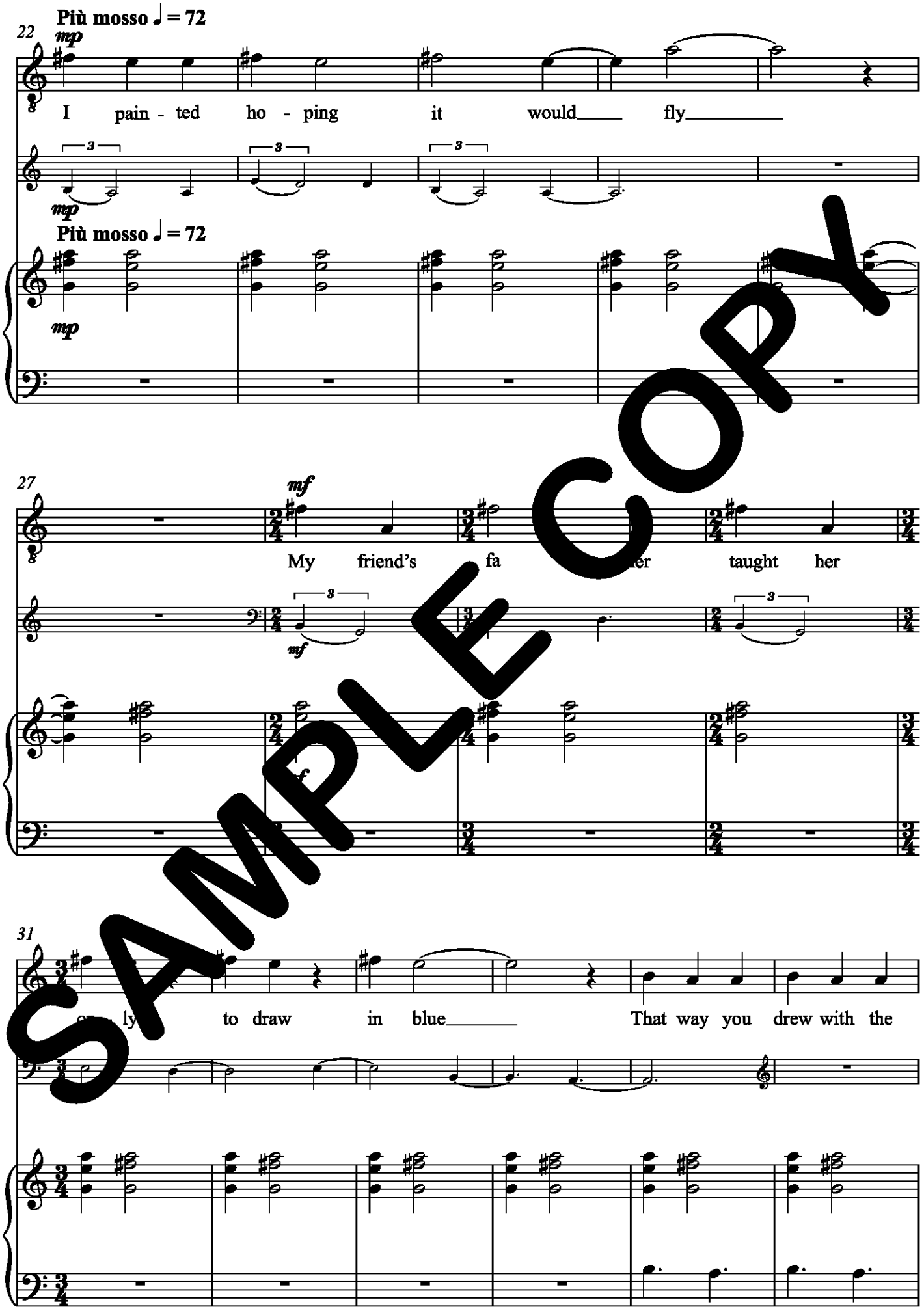
SAMPLE COPY

2. Blue*

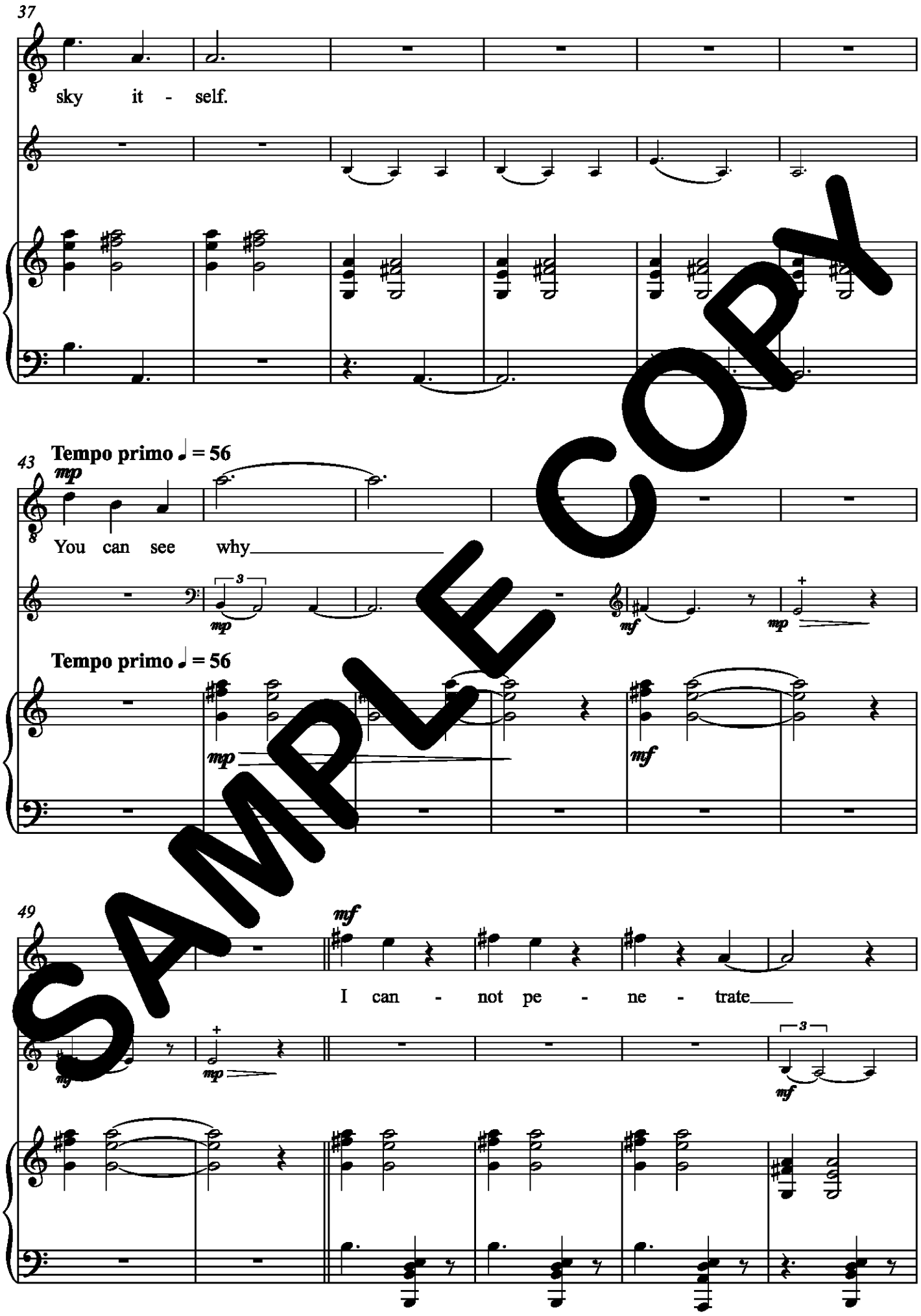


* A transcription of this song for voice and piano is also available from the publisher (BDE 1226)

SAMPLE COPY


Più mosso ♩ = 72
mp
I pain - ted ho - ping it would fly
Più mosso ♩ = 72
mp
mf
My friend's fa er taught her
mf
f
ly to draw in blue That way you drew with the

SAMPLE COPY


37
sky it - self.
43
Tempo primo ♩ = 56
mp
You can see why
mp
mf
mp
Tempo primo ♩ = 56
mp
mf
49
mf
I can - not pe - ne - trate
mf
mp
mf

SAMPLE COPY

55

the in - sult of the u - ni - verse

61

Più mosso ♩ = 72

mp

eap'd on

mp

Più mosso ♩ = 72

mp

67

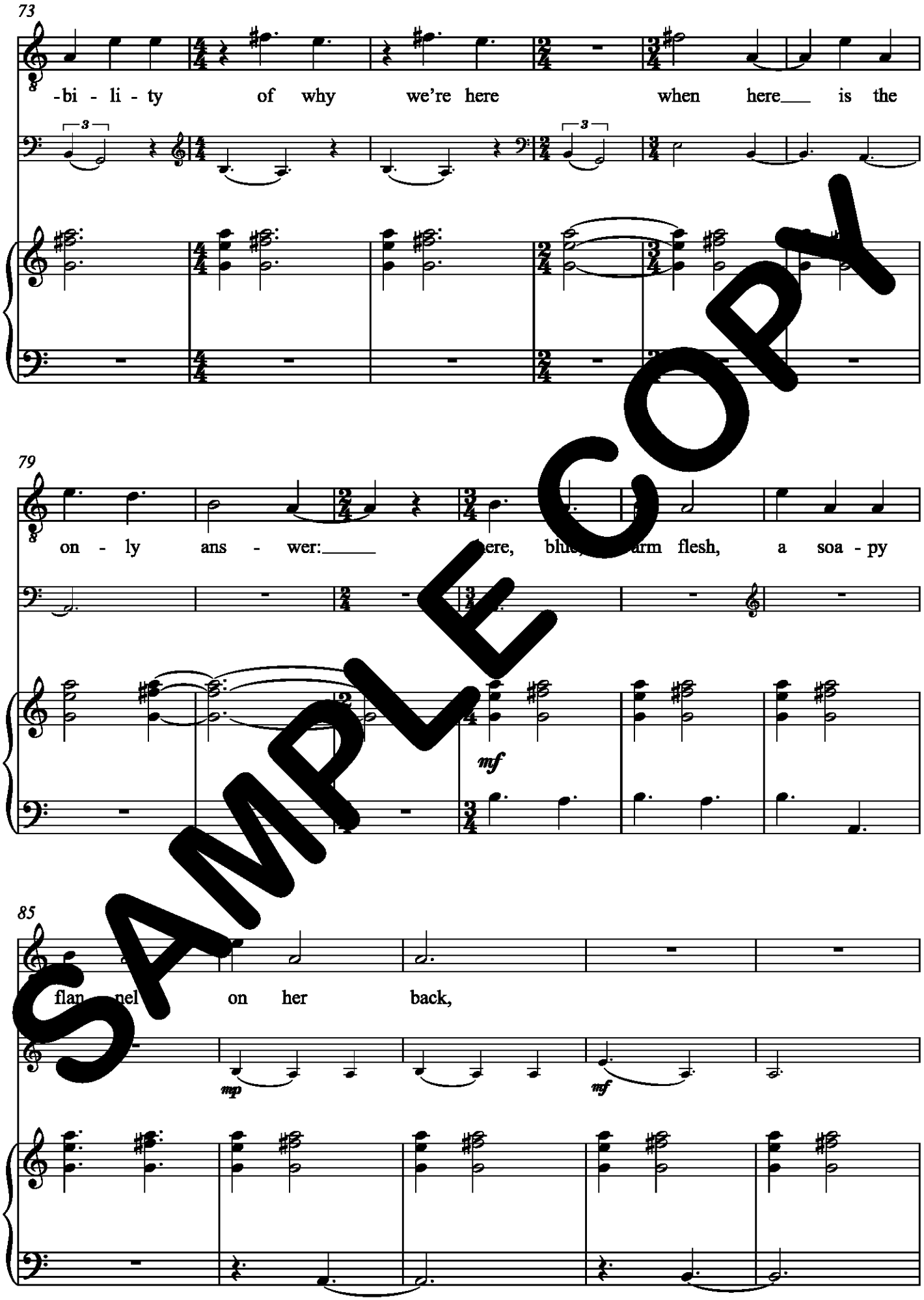
mf

my im - its, the in - ex - pli - ca -

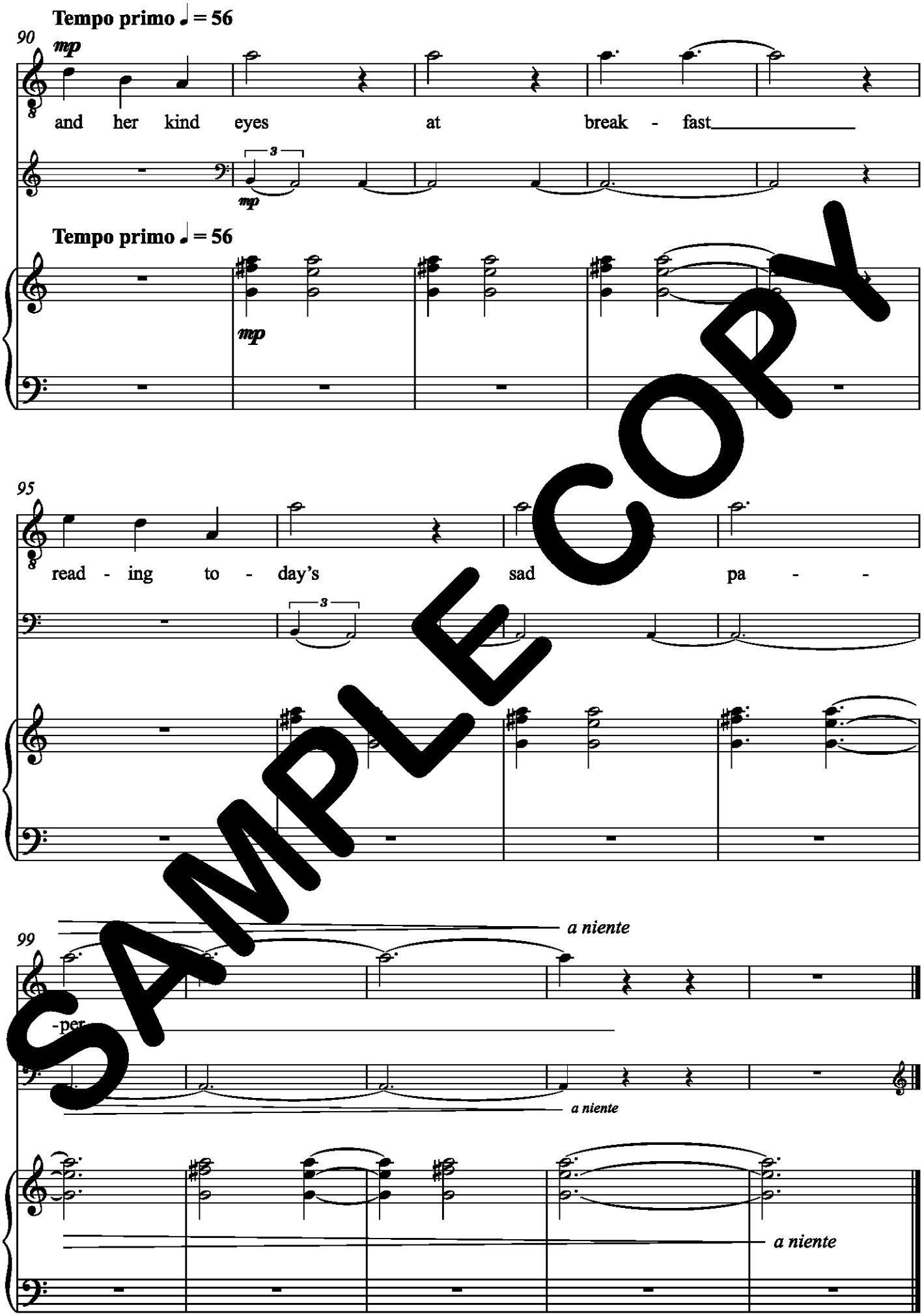
mf

mf

SAMPLE COPY


73
-bi - li - ty of why we're here when here___ is the
79
on - ly ans - wer:_____ here, blue, warm flesh, a soa - py
mf
85
flan - nel on her back,
mp
mf

SAMPLE COPY


Tempo primo ♩ = 56
90
mp
and her kind eyes at break - fast
mp
Tempo primo ♩ = 56
mp
95
read - ing to - day's sad pa - -
99
a niente
-per
a niente
a niente

SAMPLE COPY

3. Self Knowledge

Languido ♩ = 52

p

Love in a nar-row bed a - bove the har - bour,

pp

Languido ♩ = 52

pp

4

(Hum)

p

pp

7

mp

mp still bur - ning when the first light

p

pp

mp

pp

pp

SAMPLE COPY

10

wind stirs the cur- tain, And a book kept o -pen

14

with a wine glass de - m strates with-out false rhe- to - ric

17

tha we live in Pa - ra - dise.

SAMPLE COPY

4. Poetry

♩ = 132

mp

In in - no - cence I groom'd my - self,

♩ = 132

pp *detached*

5

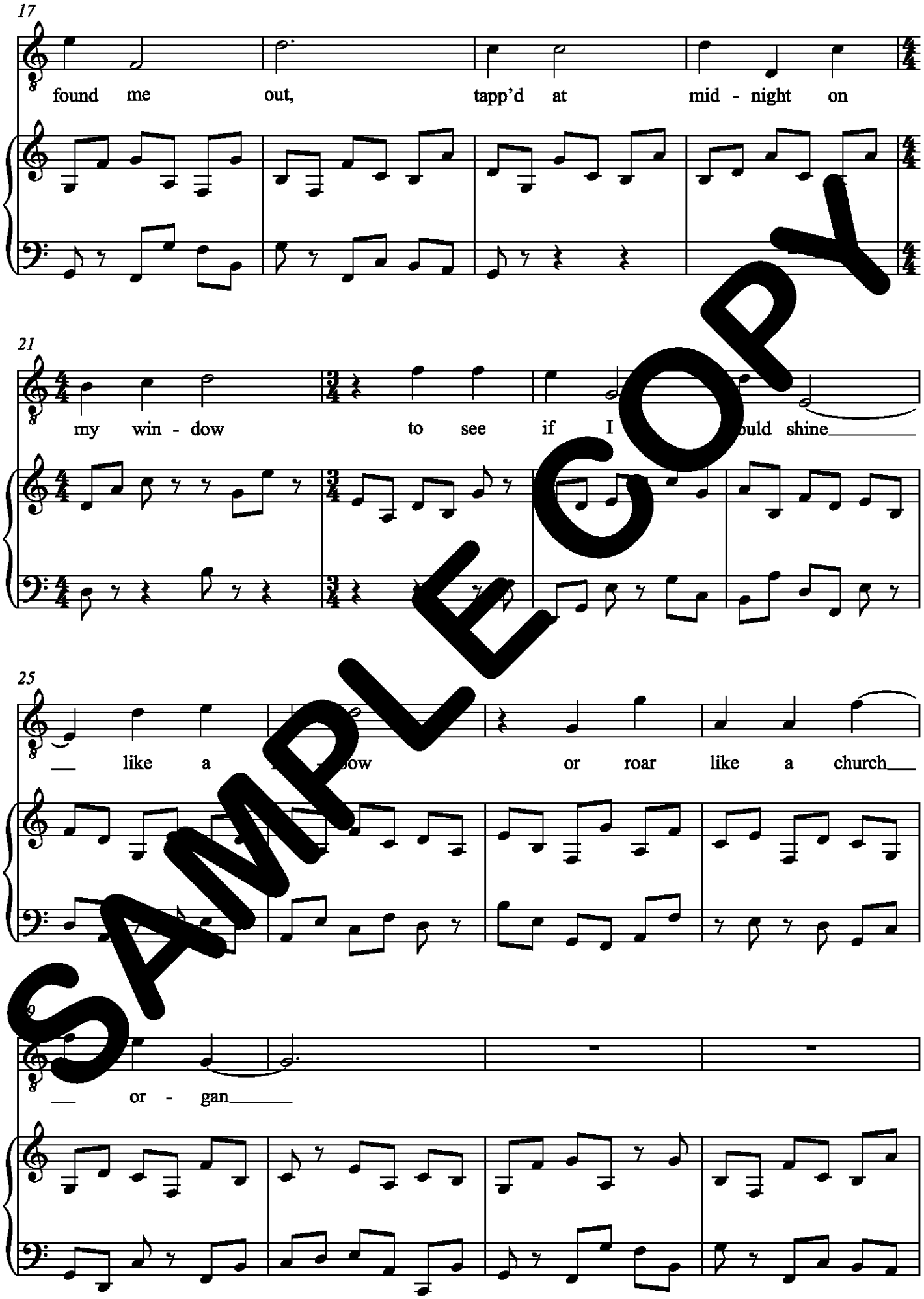
learn'd care - f'lly he[illegible] the

9

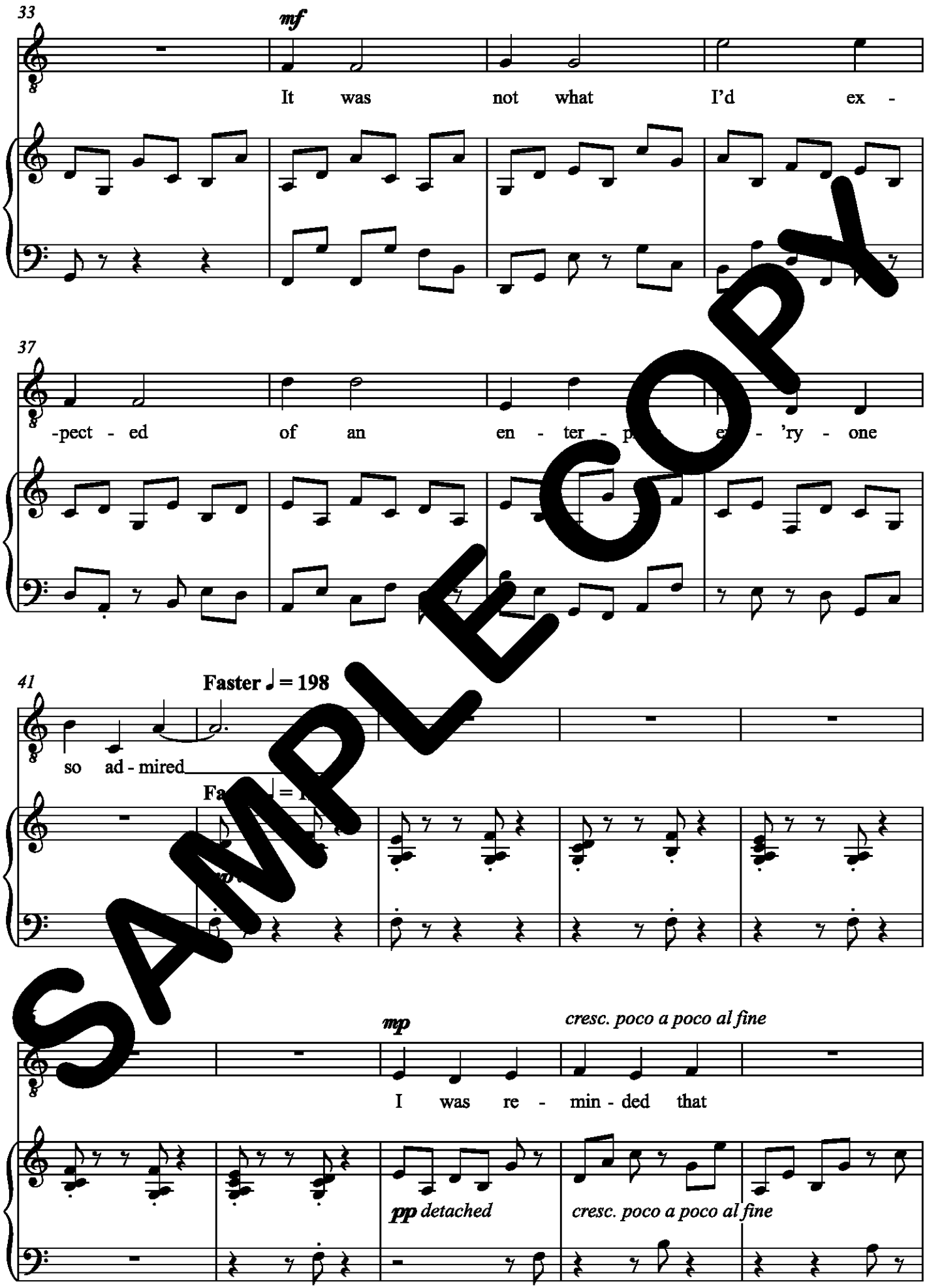
rich lines of p[illegible] - di - gals.

Then po - e - try

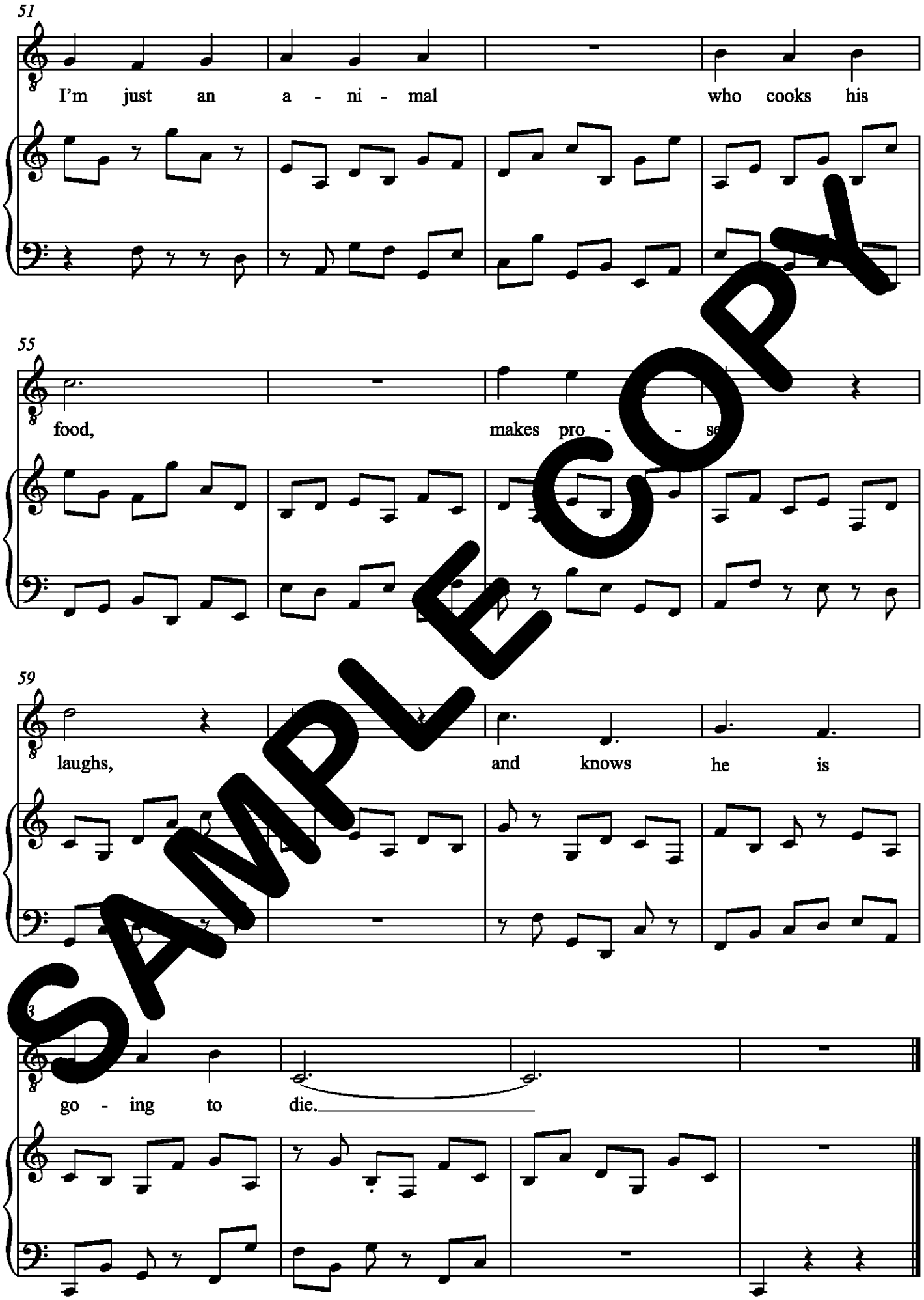
SAMPLE COPY


17
found me out, tapp'd at mid - night on
21
my win - dow to see if I uld shine
25
like a ow or roar like a church
29
or - gan

SAMPLE COPY

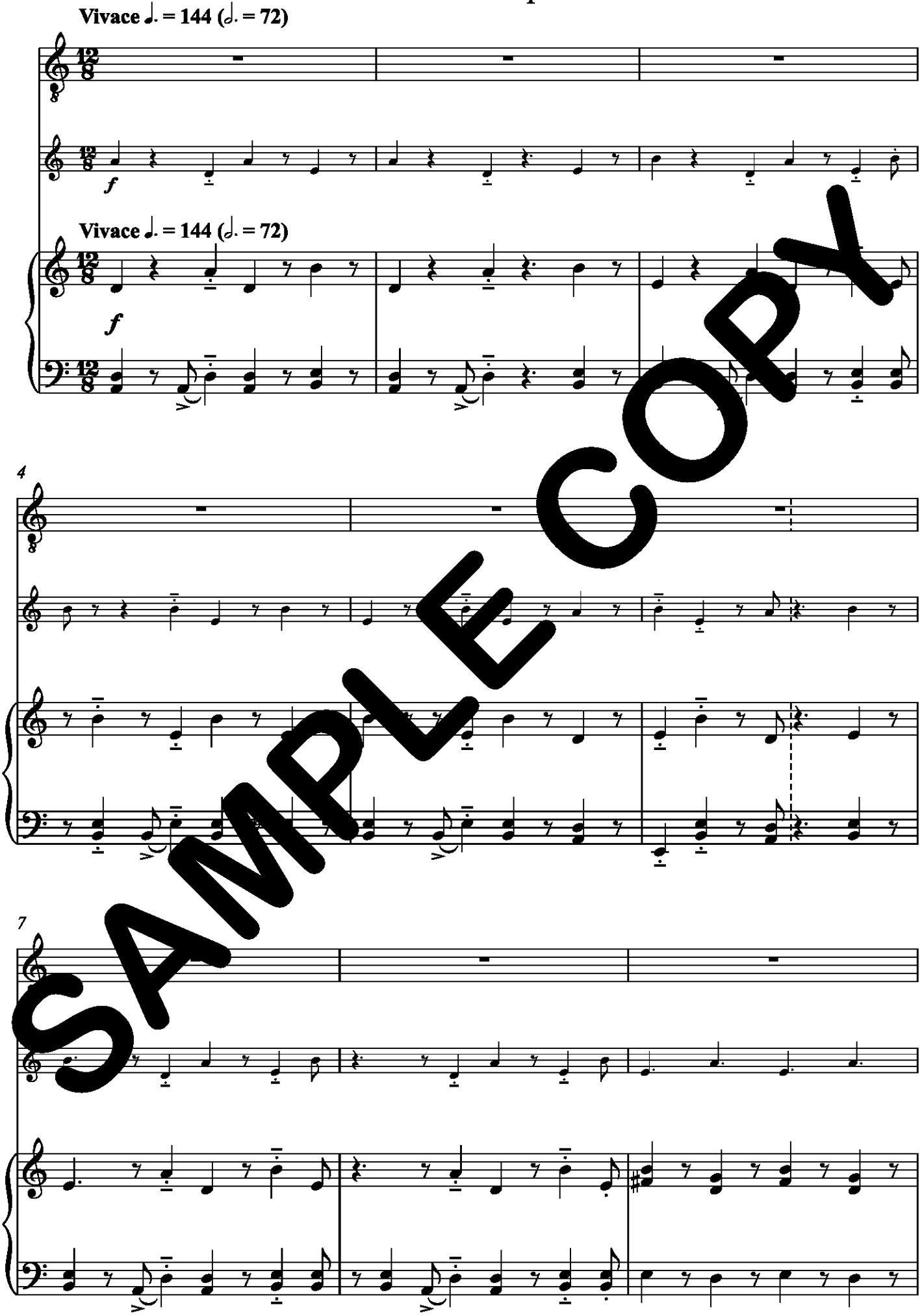

33
mf
It was not what I'd ex -
37
-pect - ed of an en - ter - p e - 'ry - one
41
Faster ♩ = 198
so ad - mired
mp
cresc. poco a poco al fine
I was re - min - ded that
pp detached
cresc. poco a poco al fine

SAMPLE COPY

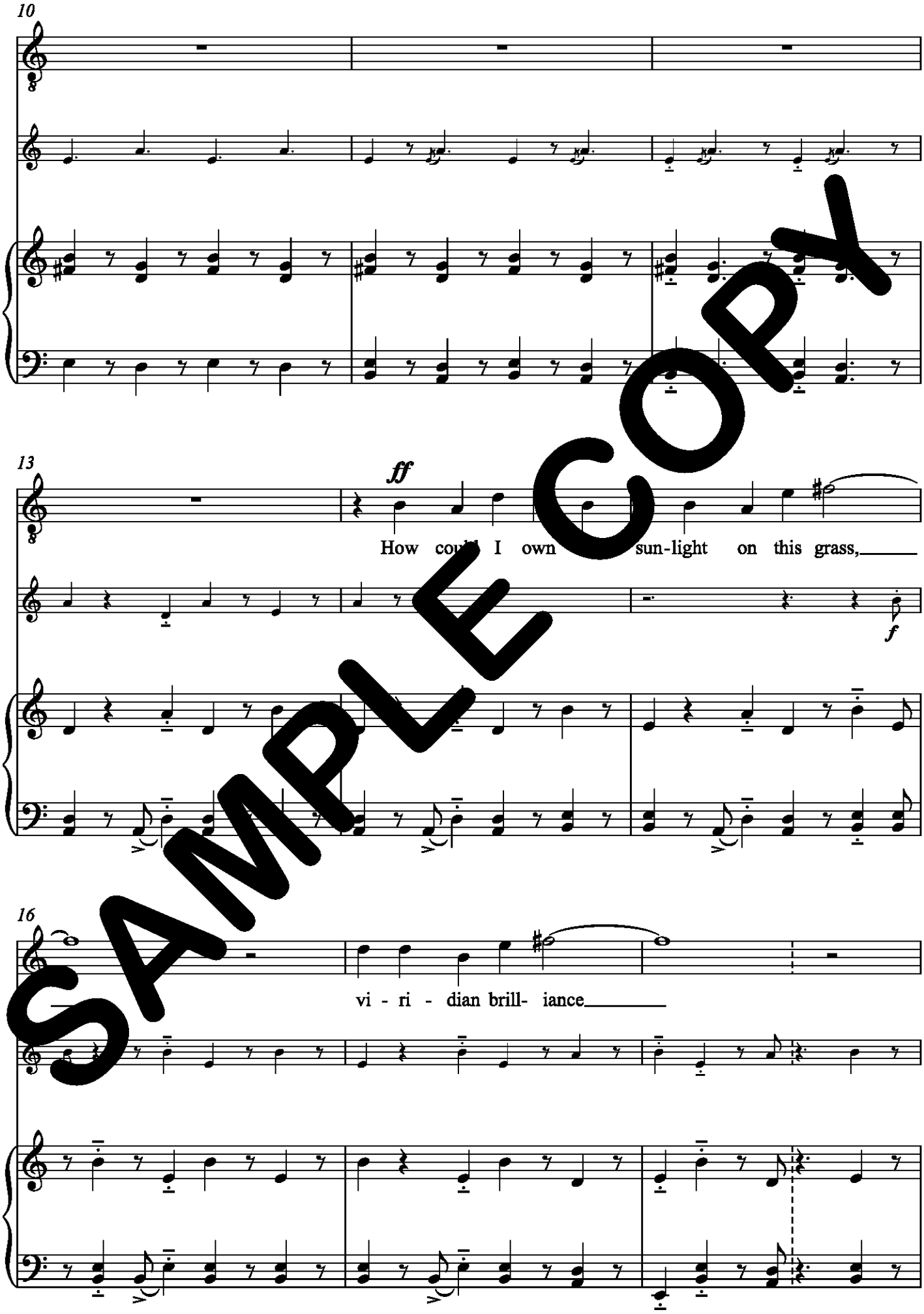

51
I'm just an a - ni - mal who cooks his
55
food, makes pro - - se
59
laughs, and knows he is
63
go - ing to die.

SAMPLE COPY

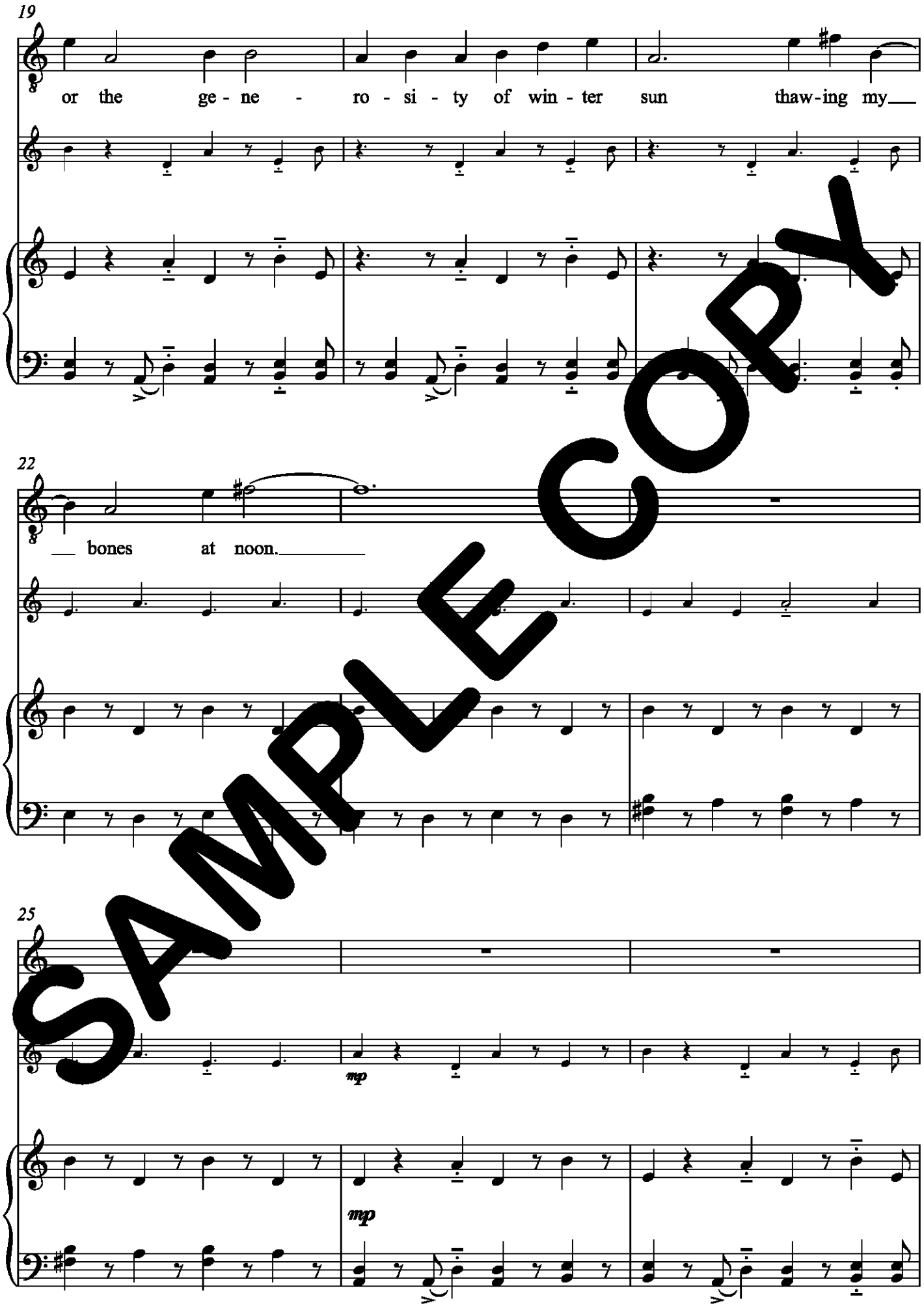
5. Ownership



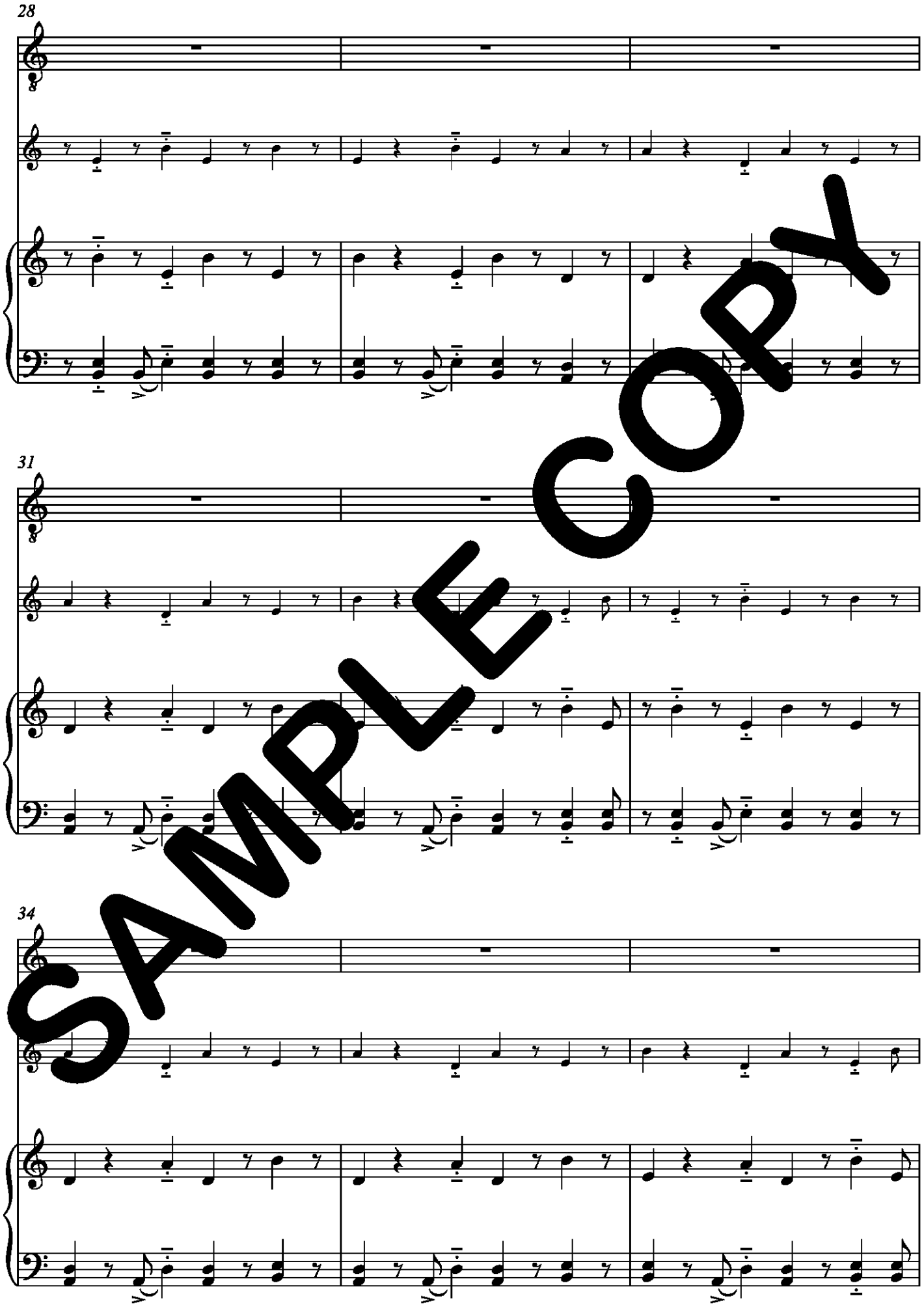
SAMPLE COPY


10
13
ff
How could I own sun-light on this grass,
f
16
vi - ri - dian brill- iance

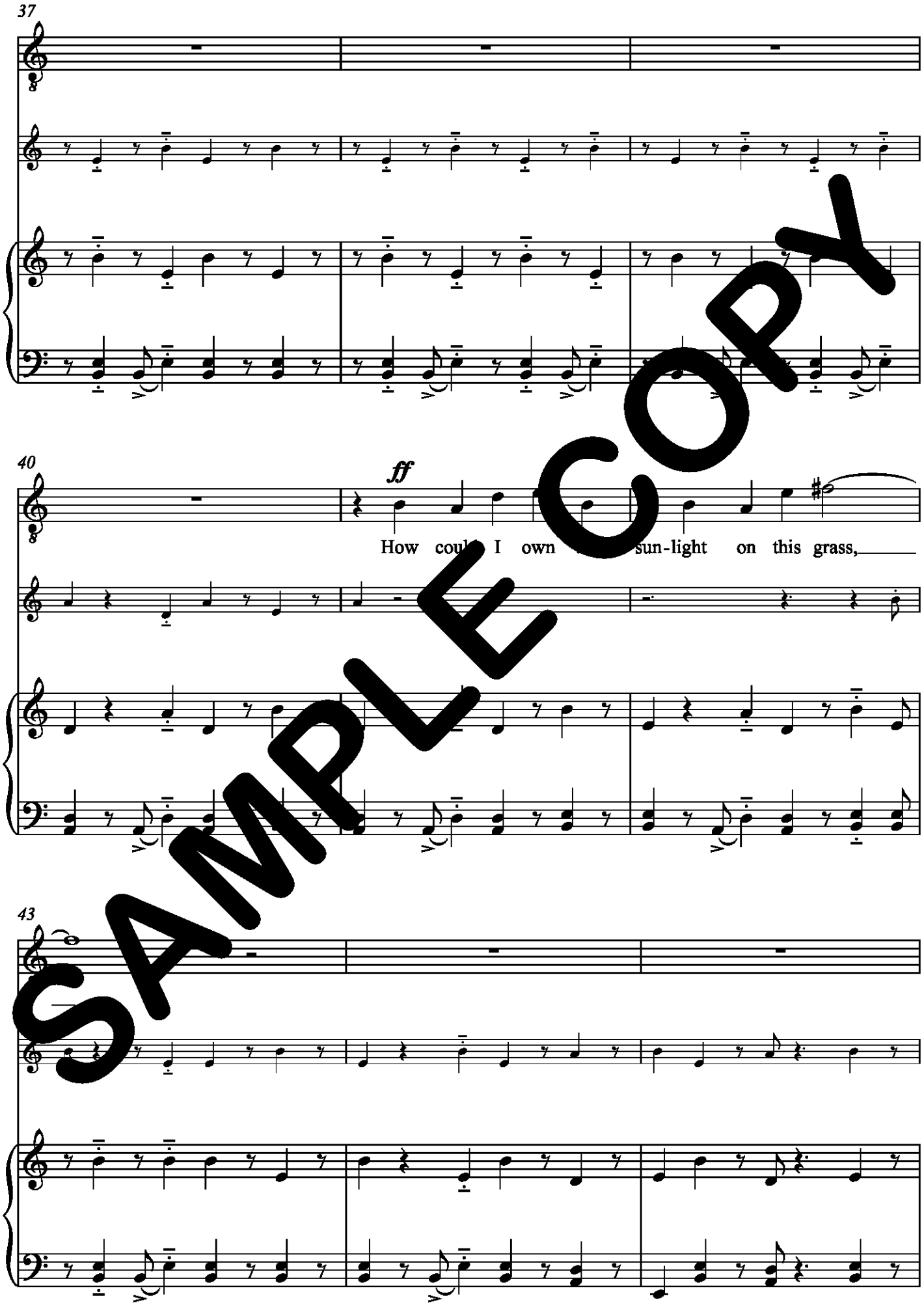
SAMPLE COPY


19
or the ge - ne - ro - si - ty of win - ter sun thaw-ing my
22
bones at noon.
25
mp
mp

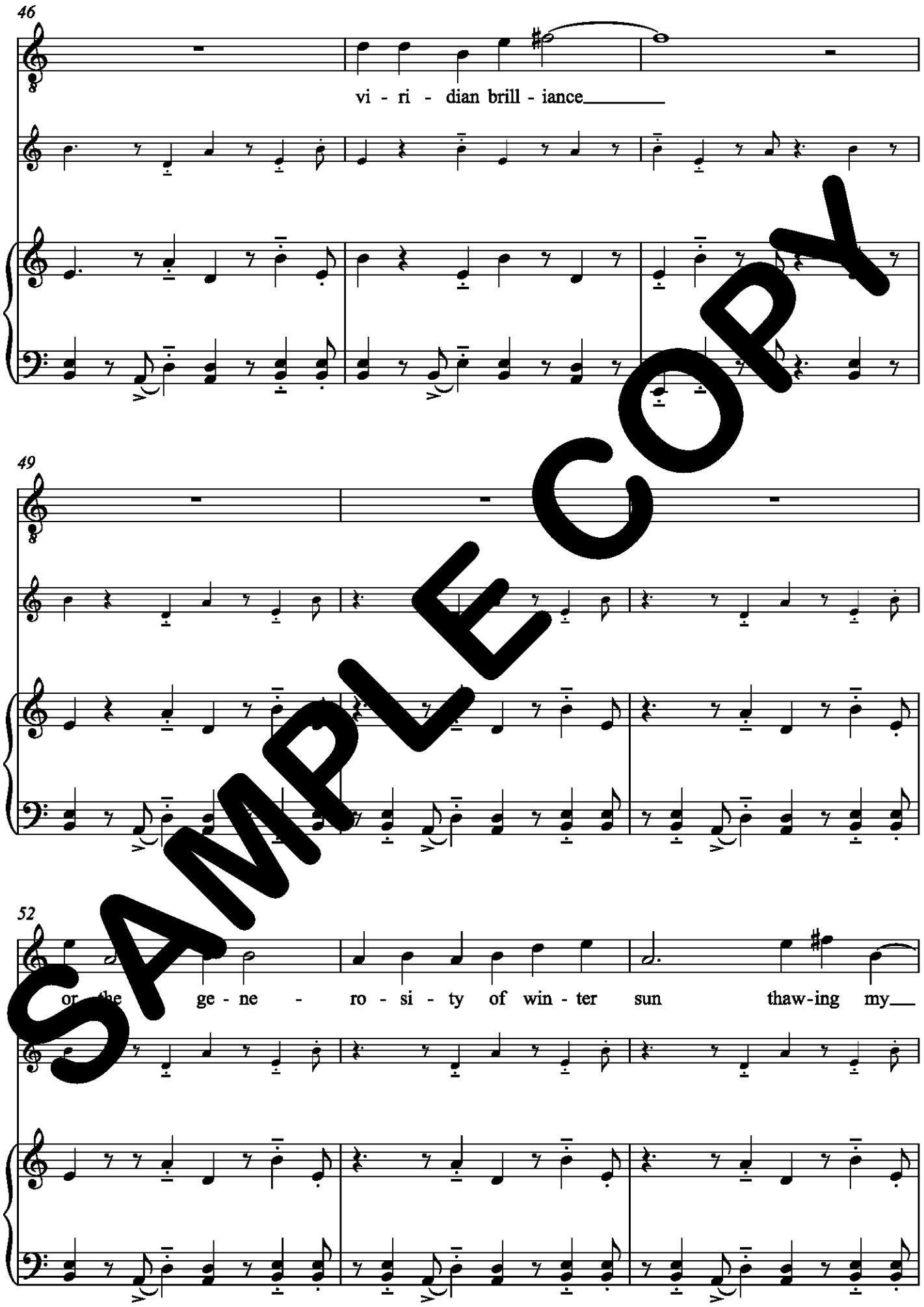
SAMPLE COPY



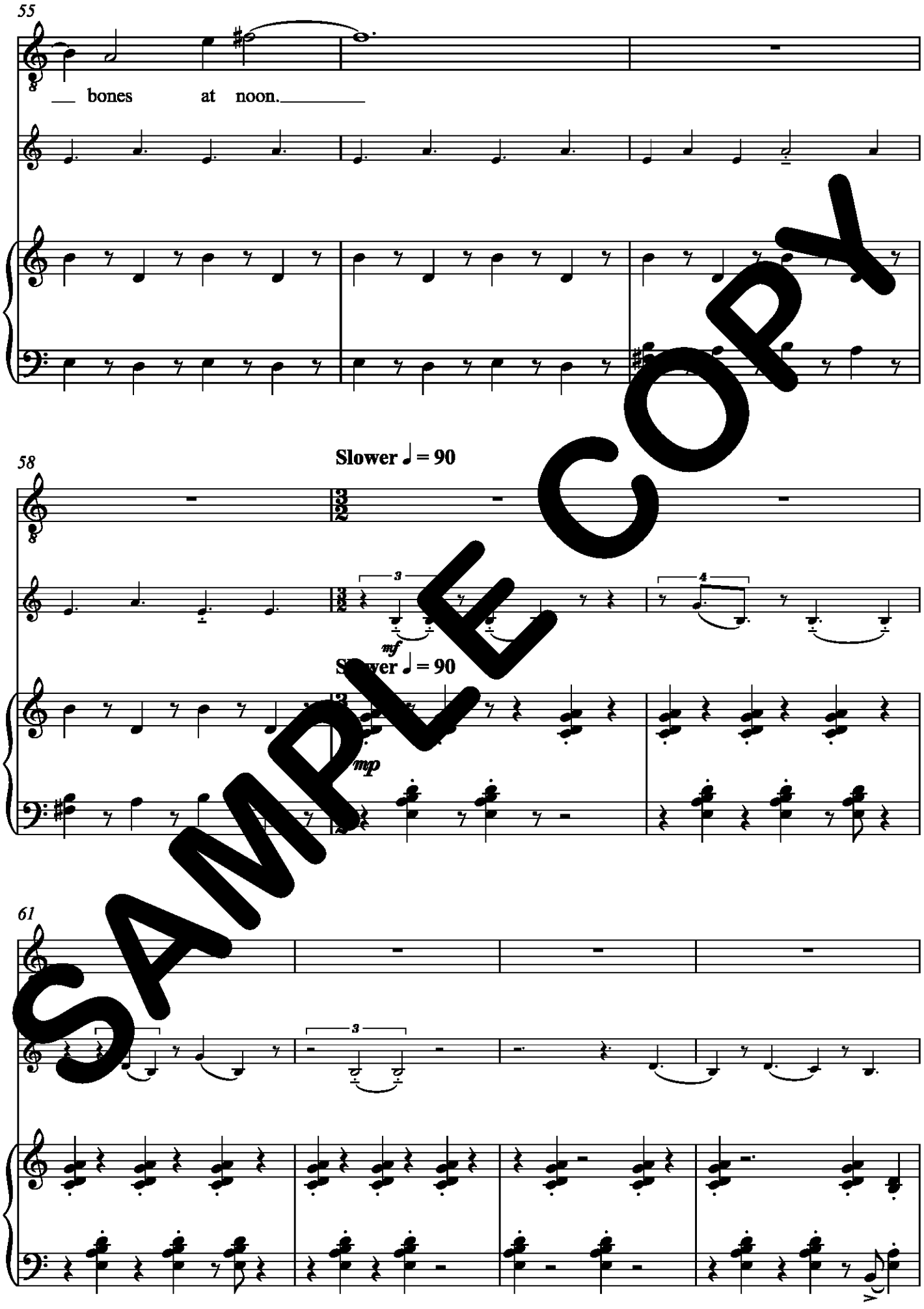
SAMPLE COPY



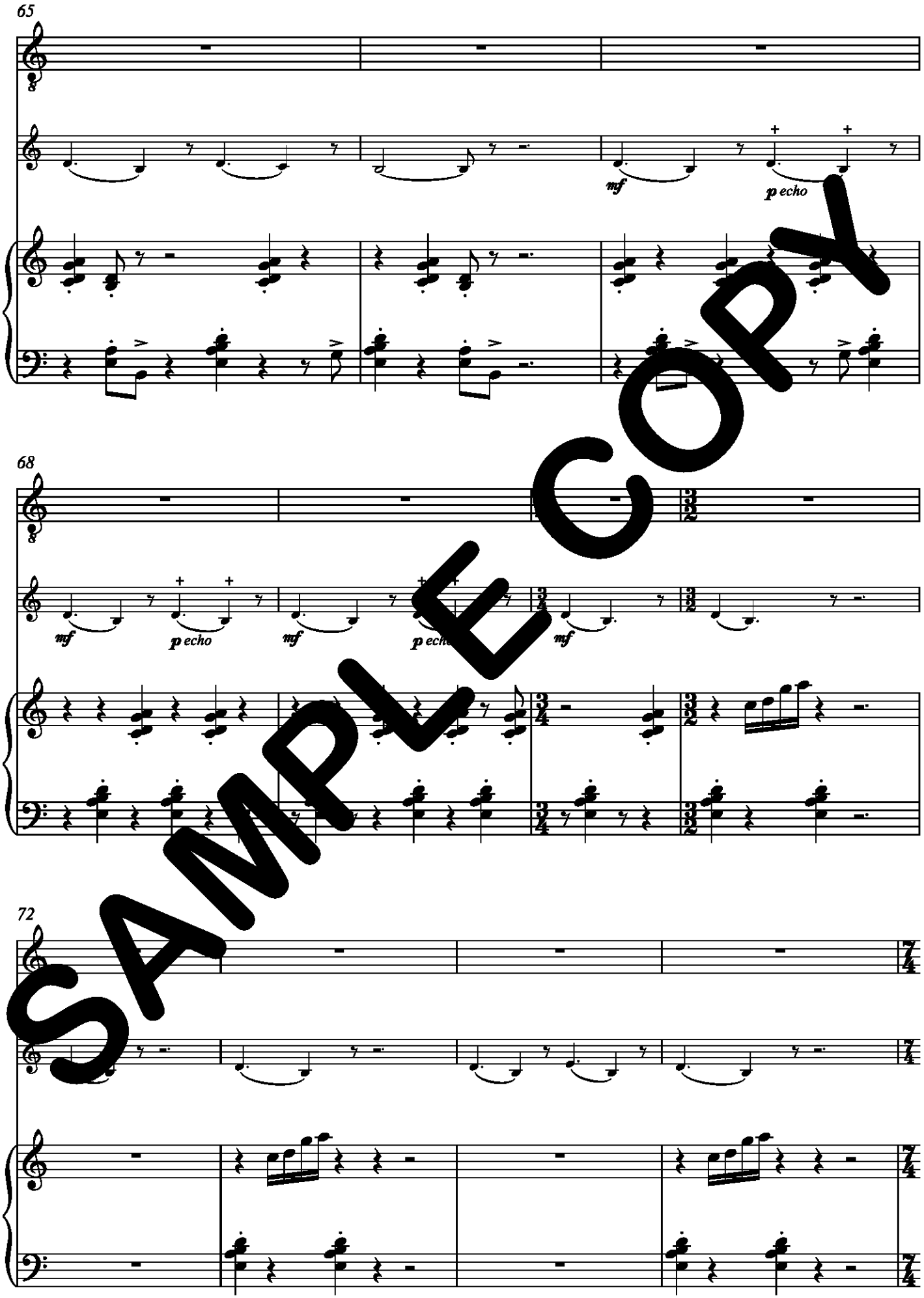
SAMPLE COPY


46
vi - ri - dian brill - iance
49
52
or the ge - ne - ro - si - ty of win - ter sun thaw-ing my

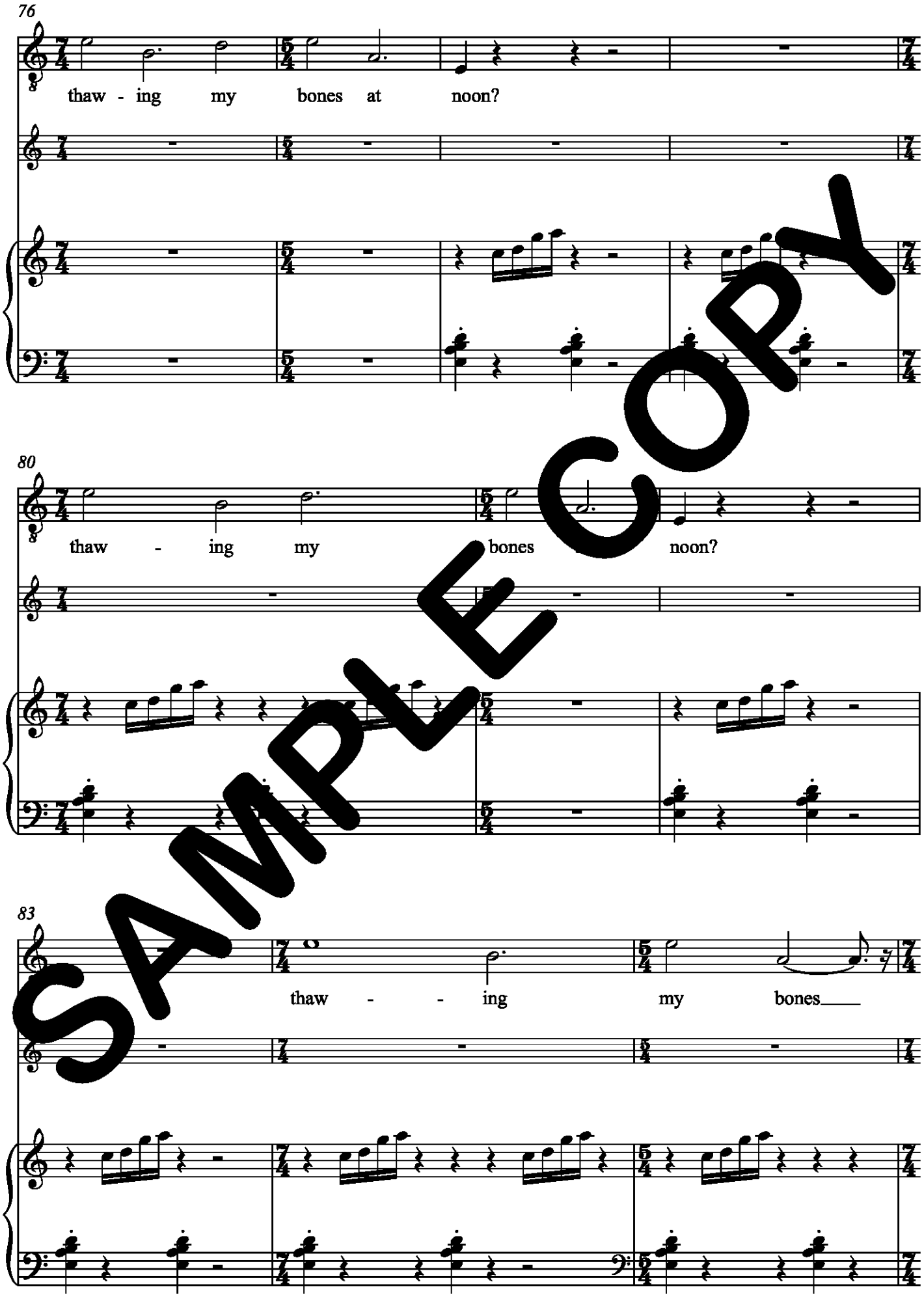
SAMPLE COPY



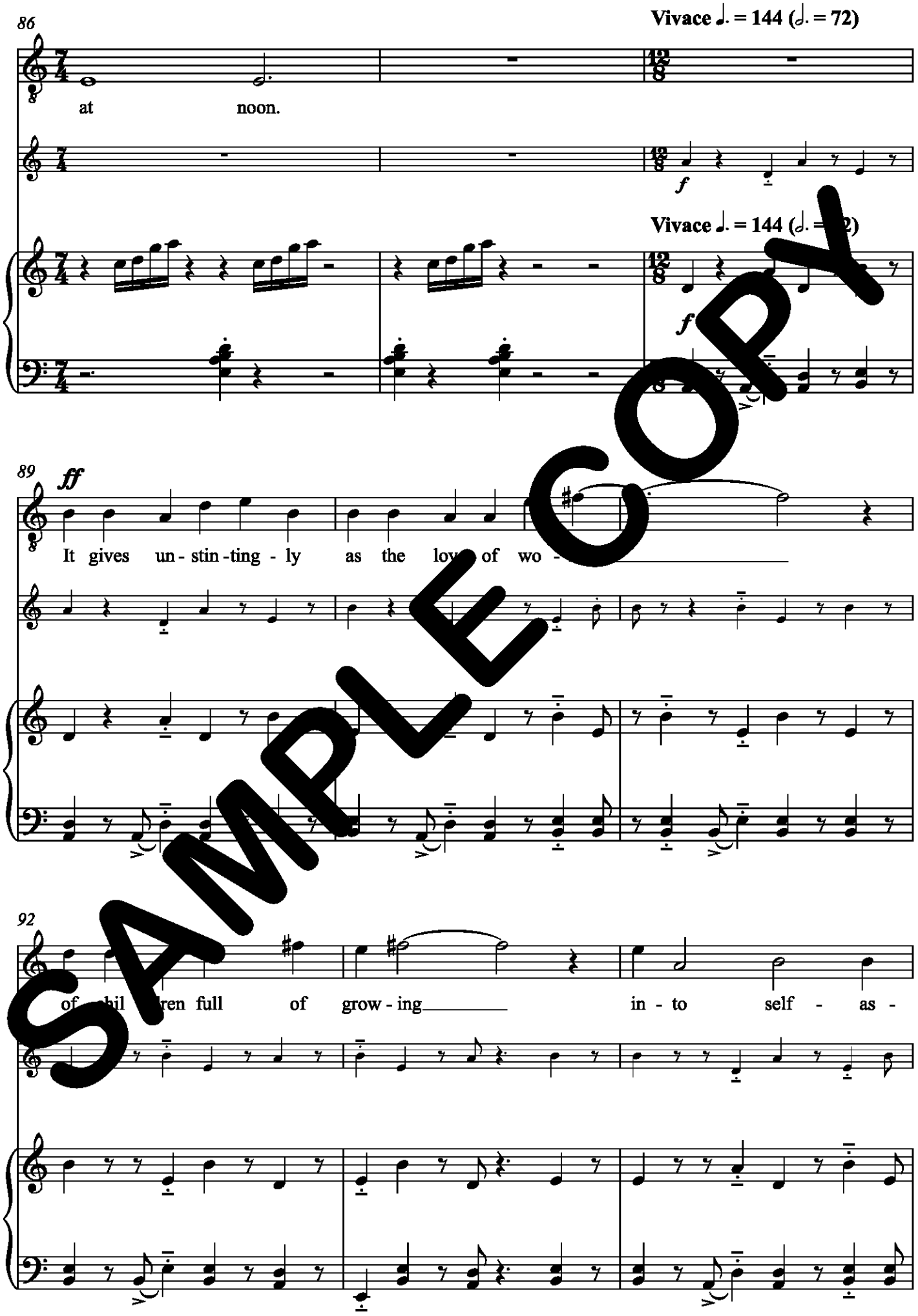
SAMPLE COPY



SAMPLE COPY


76
thaw - ing my bones at noon?
80
thaw - ing my bones noon?
83
thaw - - ing my bones

SAMPLE COPY


86
Vivace ♩. = 144 (𝅗𝅥. = 72)
at noon.
f
Vivace ♩. = 144 (𝅗𝅥. = 72)
f
89
ff
It gives un - stin - ting - ly as the love of wo -
92
of chil ren full of grow - ing in - to self - as -

SAMPLE COPY

95

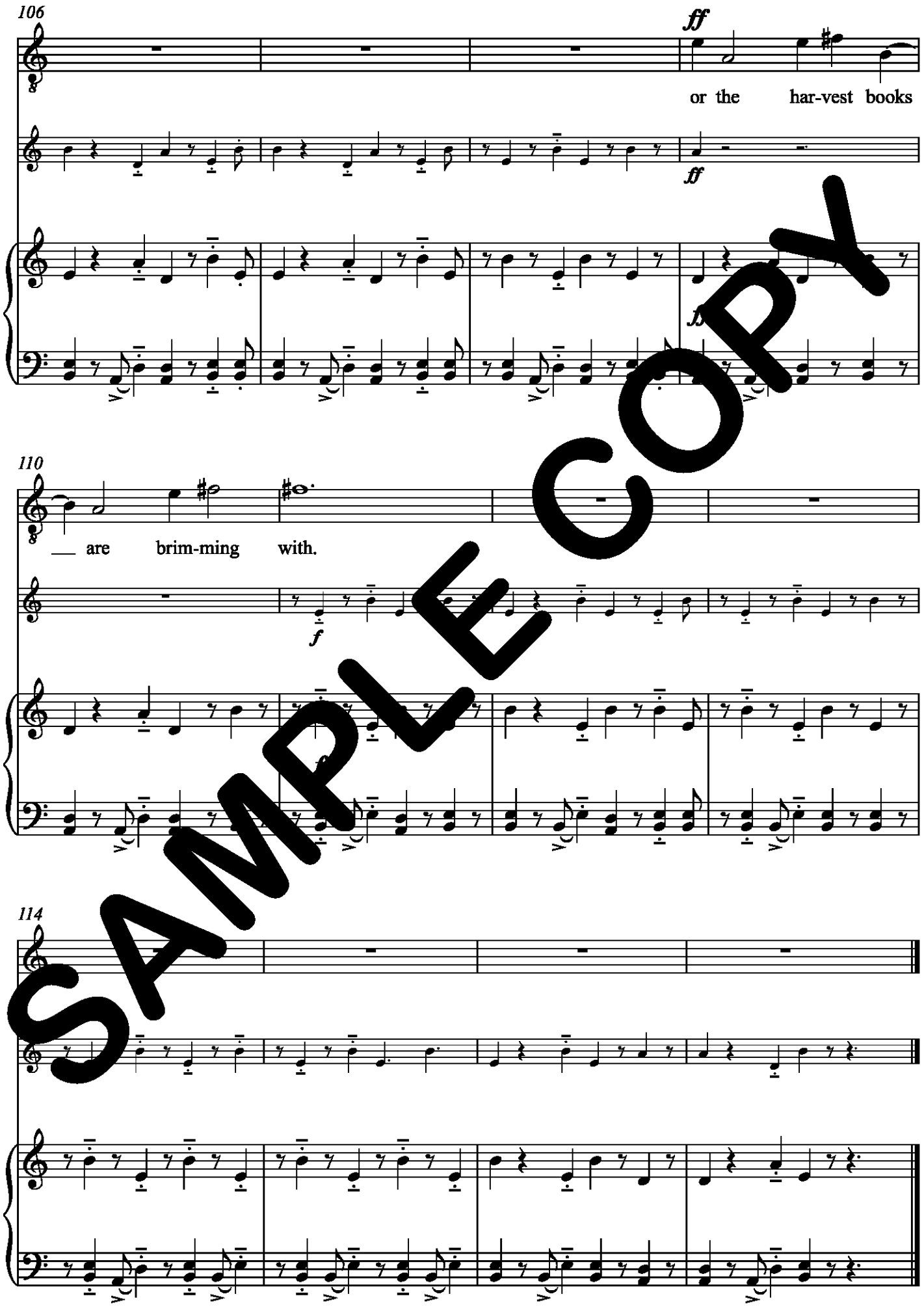
-sur - ance, op - en - ness, or the har - vest books___ are brim - ming

98

with.

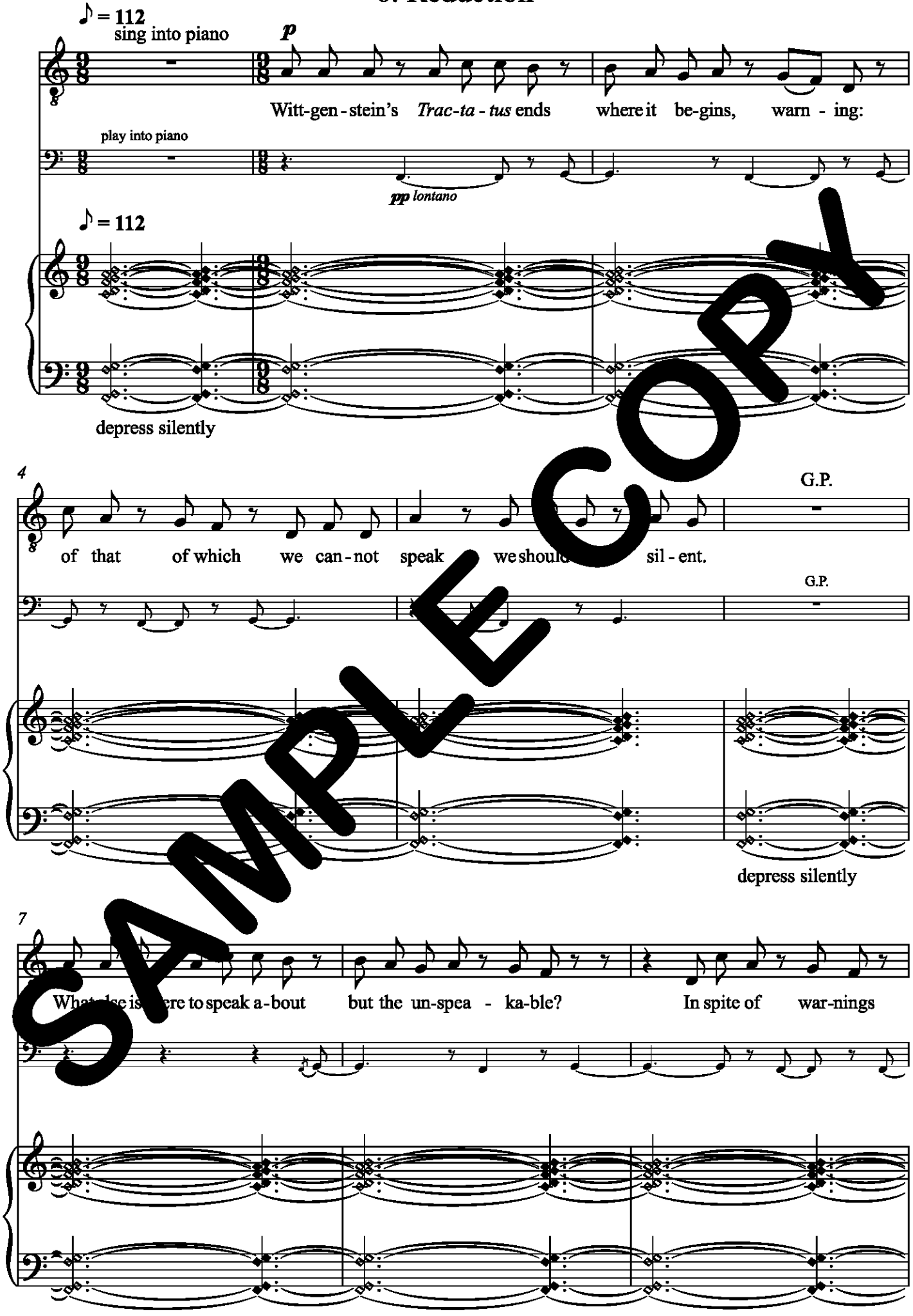
102

SAMPLE COPY



SAMPLE COPY

6. Reduction



SAMPLE COPY

10

to de-fine our terms no-bo-dy can de-fine what mat-ters. Why art as-pires to the con-

13

-di-tion of mu-sic we can-not say.

Meno mosso ♪ = 96

16

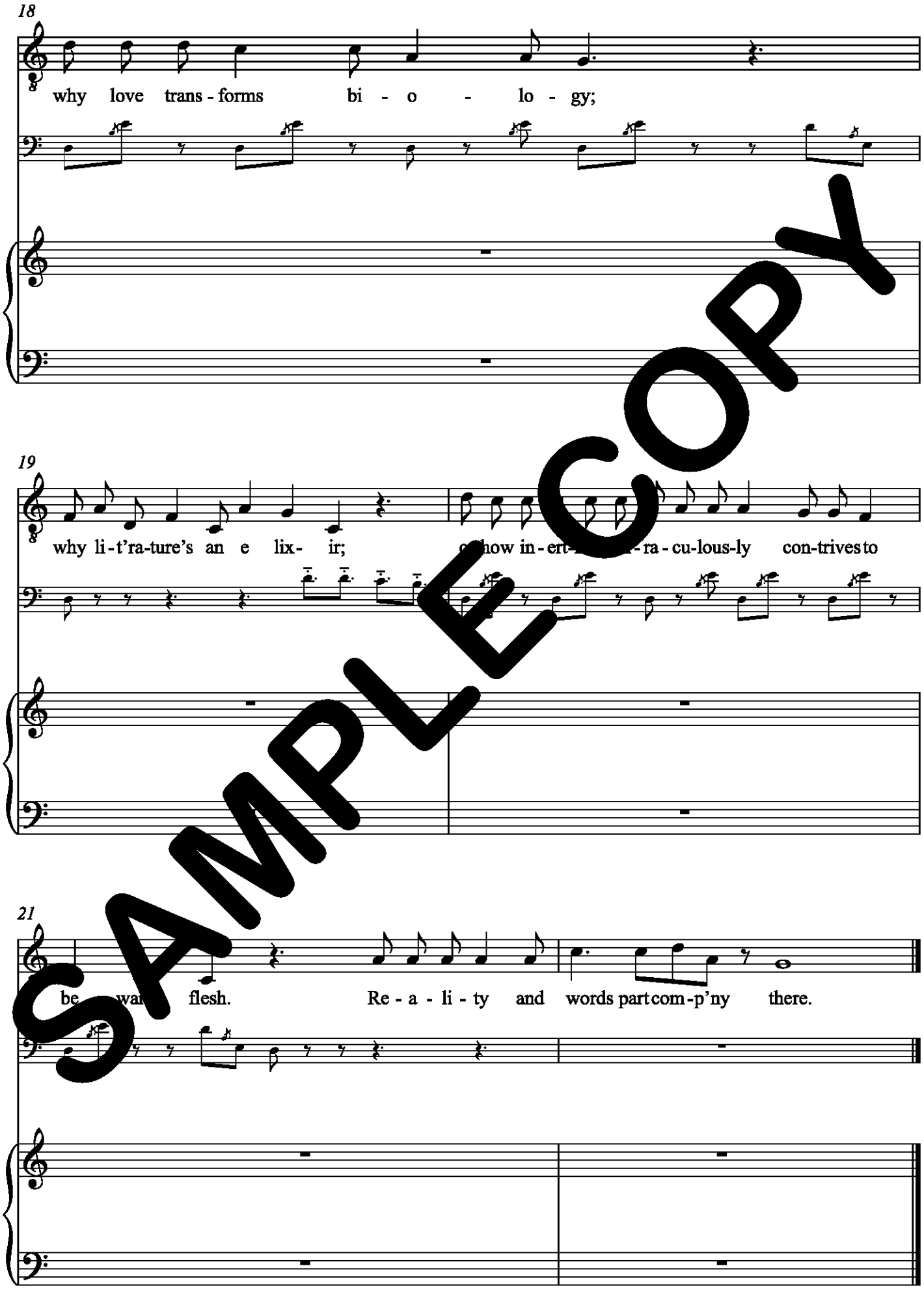
f

Try to ex-plain the Mo-zart a - ria that drifts in to the spring gar-den

mf

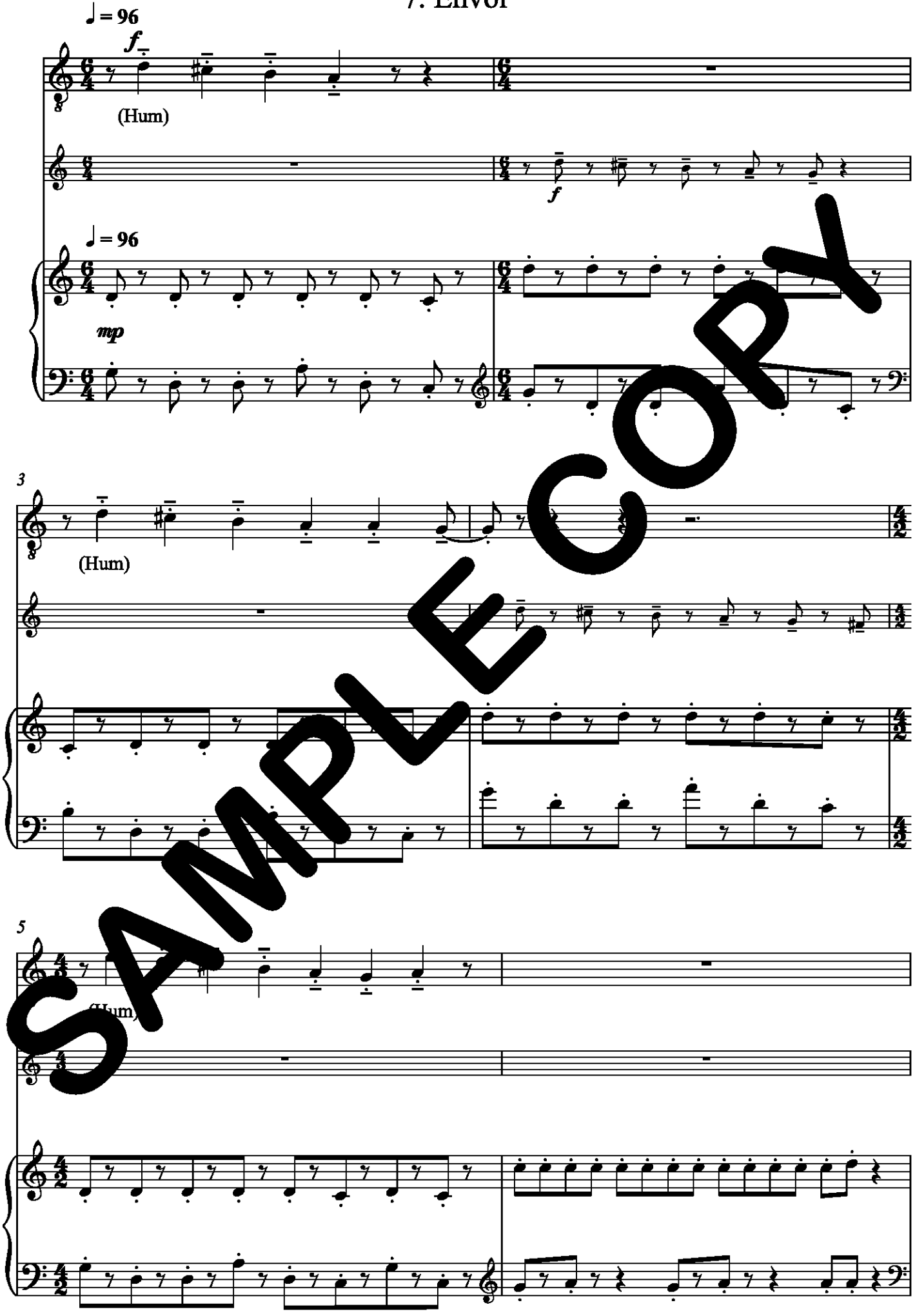
Meno mosso ♪ = 96

SAMPLE COPY

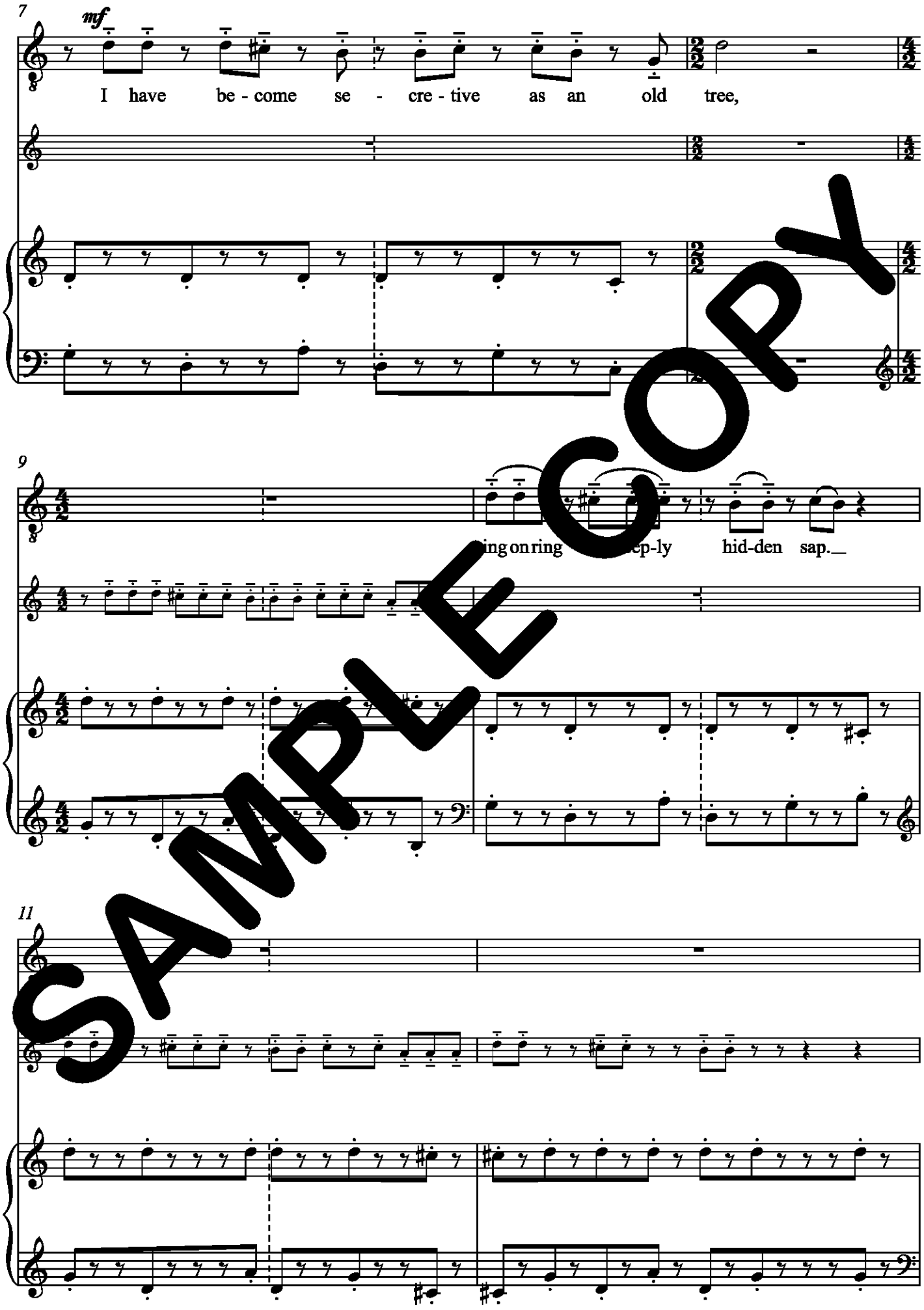

18
why love trans - forms bi - o - lo - gy;
19
why li - t'ra-ture's an e lix- ir; how in - ert- ra - cu-lous-ly con-trives to
21
be war flesh. Re - a - li - ty and words part com - p'ny there.

SAMPLE COPY

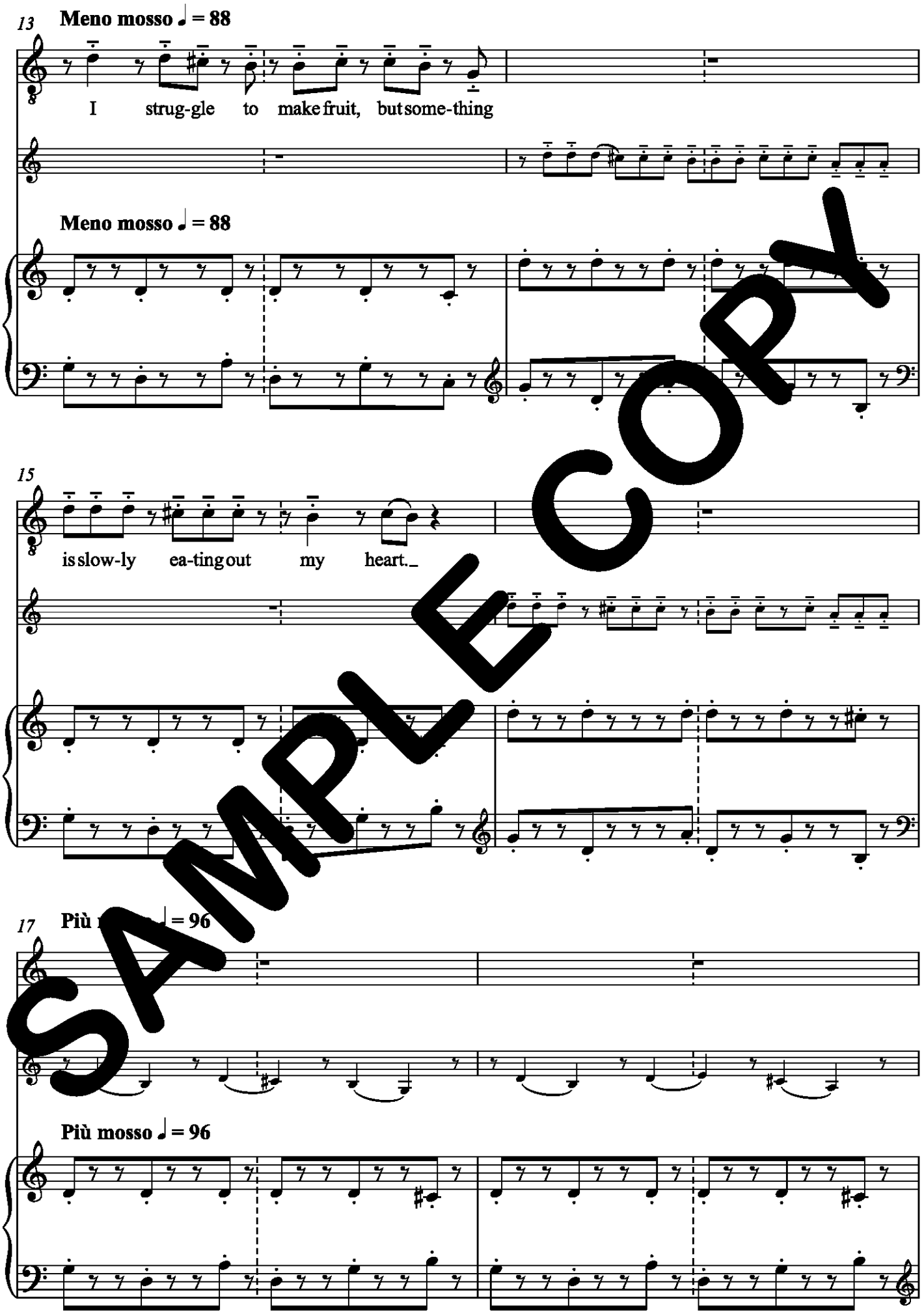
7. Envoi



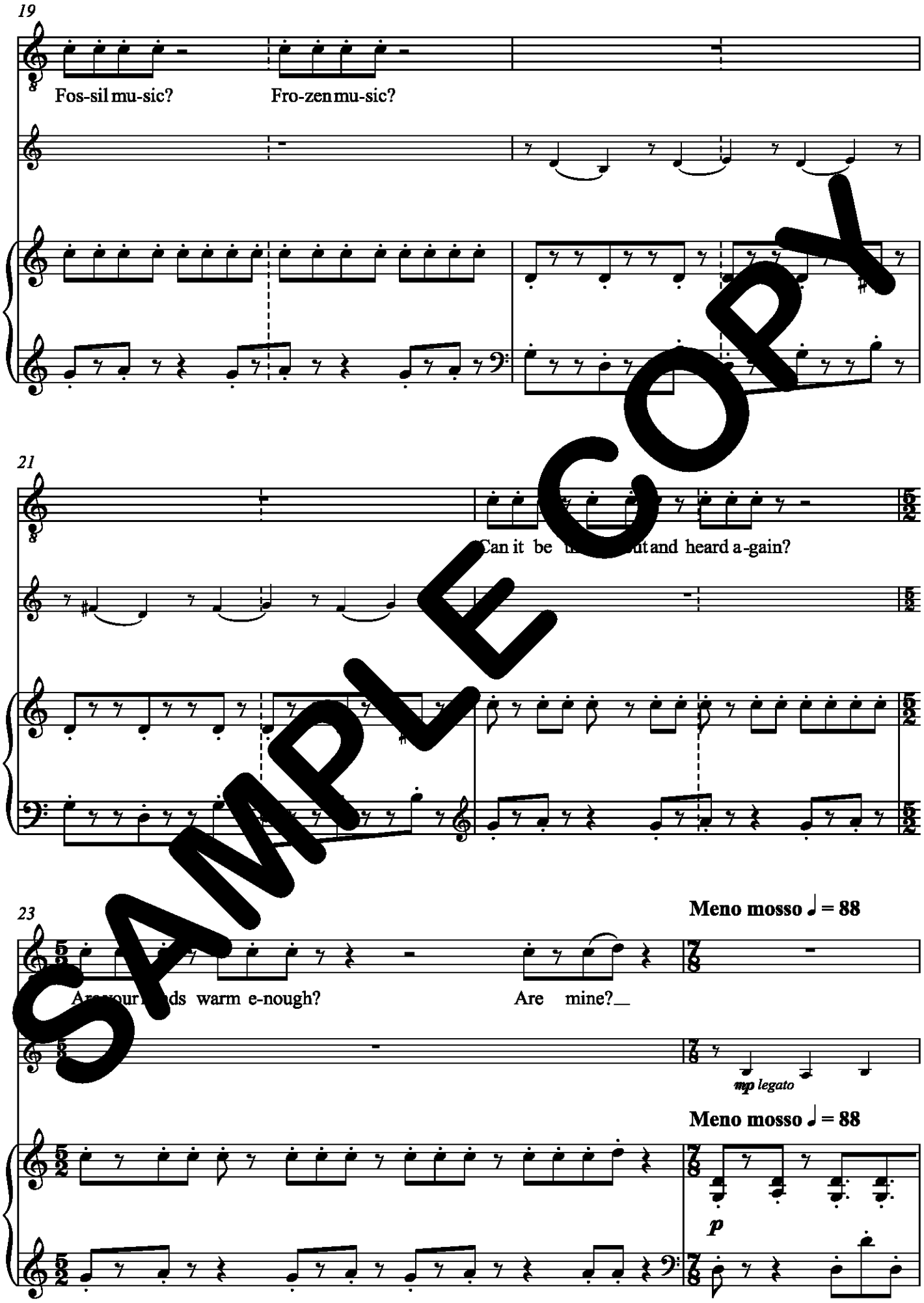
SAMPLE COPY


7
mf
I have be - come se - cre - tive as an old tree,
9
ing on ring
ep-ly hid-den sap.
11

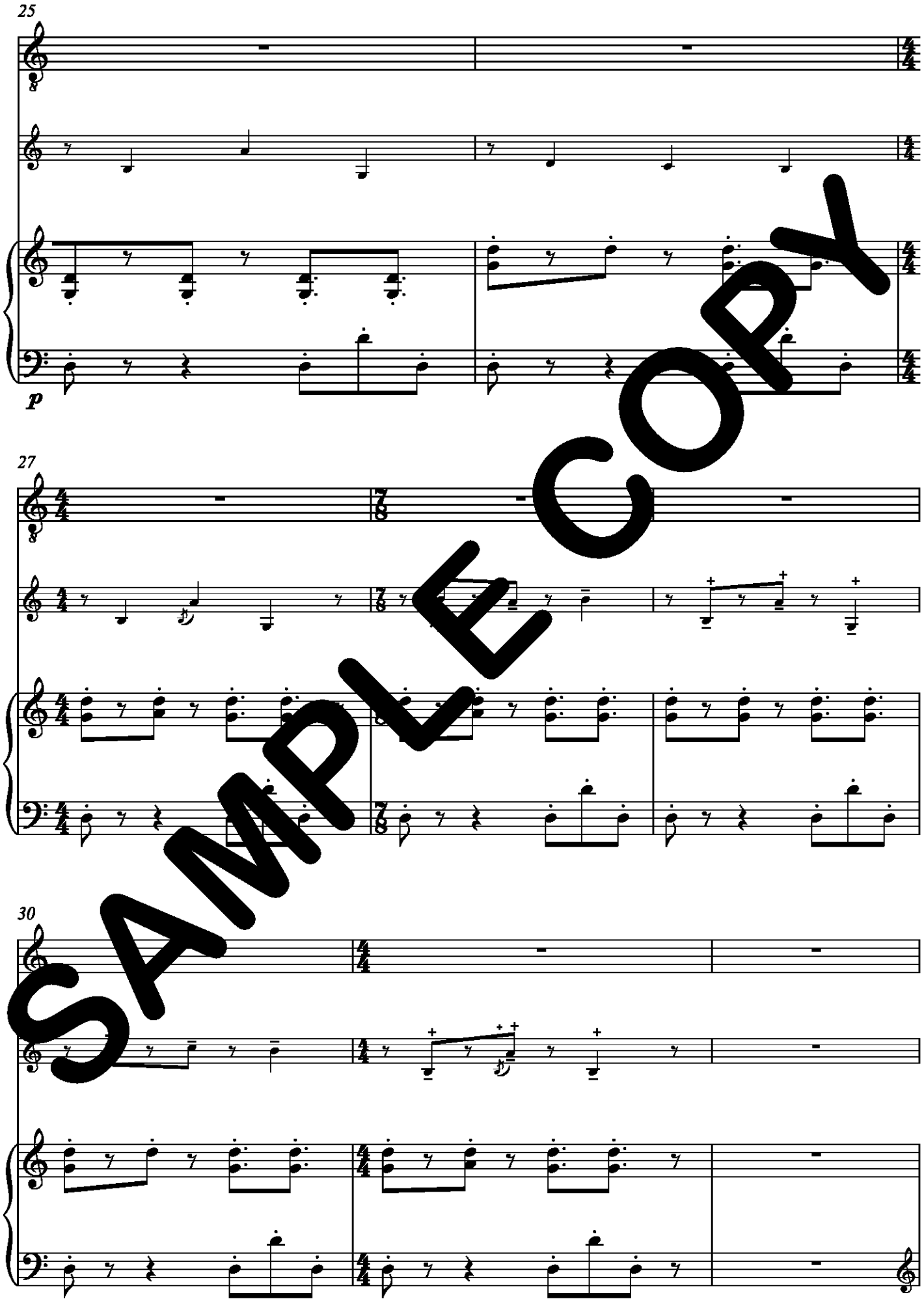
SAMPLE COPY


13
Meno mosso ♩ = 88
I strug-gle to make fruit, but some-thing
Meno mosso ♩ = 88
15
is slow-ly ea-ting out my heart.
17
Più mosso ♩ = 96
Più mosso ♩ = 96

SAMPLE COPY


19
Fos-sil mu-sic?
Fro-zen mu-sic?
21
Can it be
ut and heard a-gain?
23
Are your
ds warm e-nough?
Are mine?
Meno mosso ♩ = 88
mp legato
Meno mosso ♩ = 88
p

SAMPLE COPY



SAMPLE COPY

33

Can it be thawed out and heard a - gain? Are your hands

pp

35

warm e-nough? Are mine?_

pp lontano

ppp lontano

38

SAMPLE COPY