EW0018

Ethan Watts

GOD GIVES LOVE

acapella SSATB quintet

Text

'Dead Love' (1907)

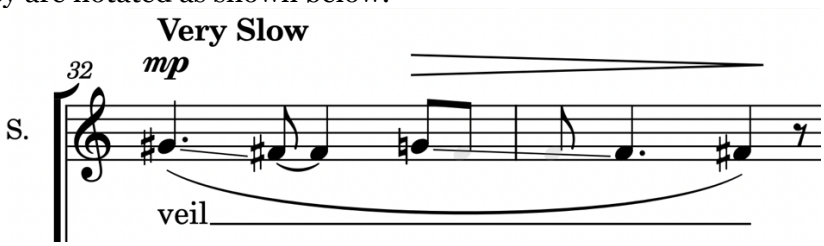
God let me listen to your voice,
And look upon you for a space —
And then he took your voice away,
And dropped a veil before your face.
God let me look within your eyes,
And touch for once your clinging hand,
And then he left me all alone,
And took you to the Silent Land.
I cannot weep, I cannot pray,
My heart has very silent grown,
I only watch how God gives love,
And then leaves lovers all alone.

– Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

(performance time c. 4'30")

Notes

- Consonants in parentheses should be left off, both at the beginning of a word (e.g. S1&2 m.14) and at the end (e.g. S1&2, alto m. 35)
- Glissandi occur for the whole duration of the note that they begin on; when a note is tied, they occur for the duration of the last note in the tie chain; when they cross a barline, they are notated as shown below:



  - These two glissandi have the same length (S1 m. 32)
- When glissandi are tied to a note in parentheses (e.g. 35), the singer should barely touch that note as the ending note – just enough to sound, but not to be lingered on
- At m. 68, S1, S2, and A should gradually brighten their tone (following the crescendo markings) to a stark, bright nasal tone at m. 73, then gradually darken it (following the decrescendo markings) to an ordinary tone the *pp* marking at m. 76
- Open circles above notes (e.g. bass m. 4) in the tenor and bass denote falsetto

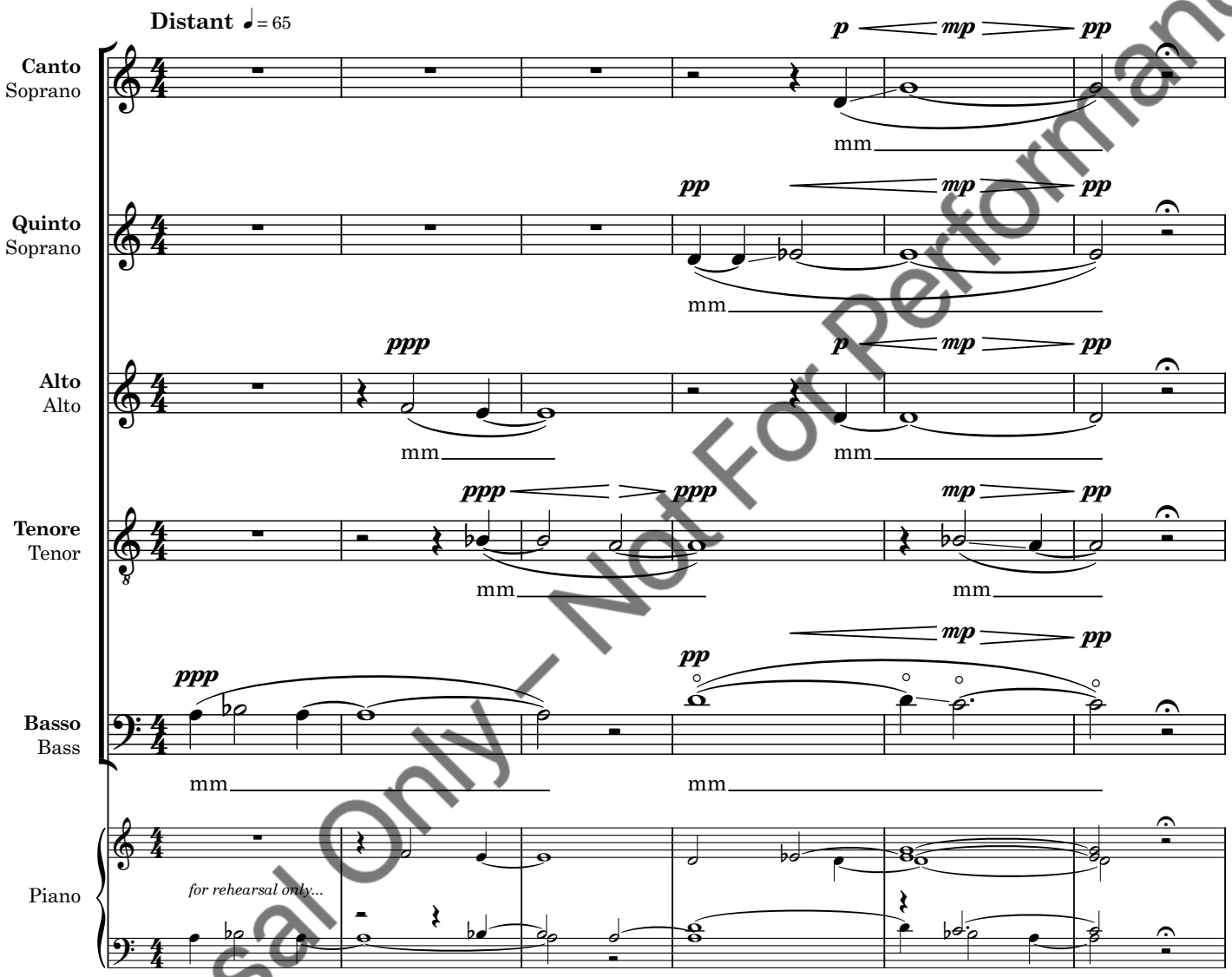
for Dr. Beth Willer and the Peabody NEXT Ensemble, with gratitude

God Gives Love

Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

after Monteverdi: 'Darà la Notte il Sol'

Ethan Watts (b. 2003)



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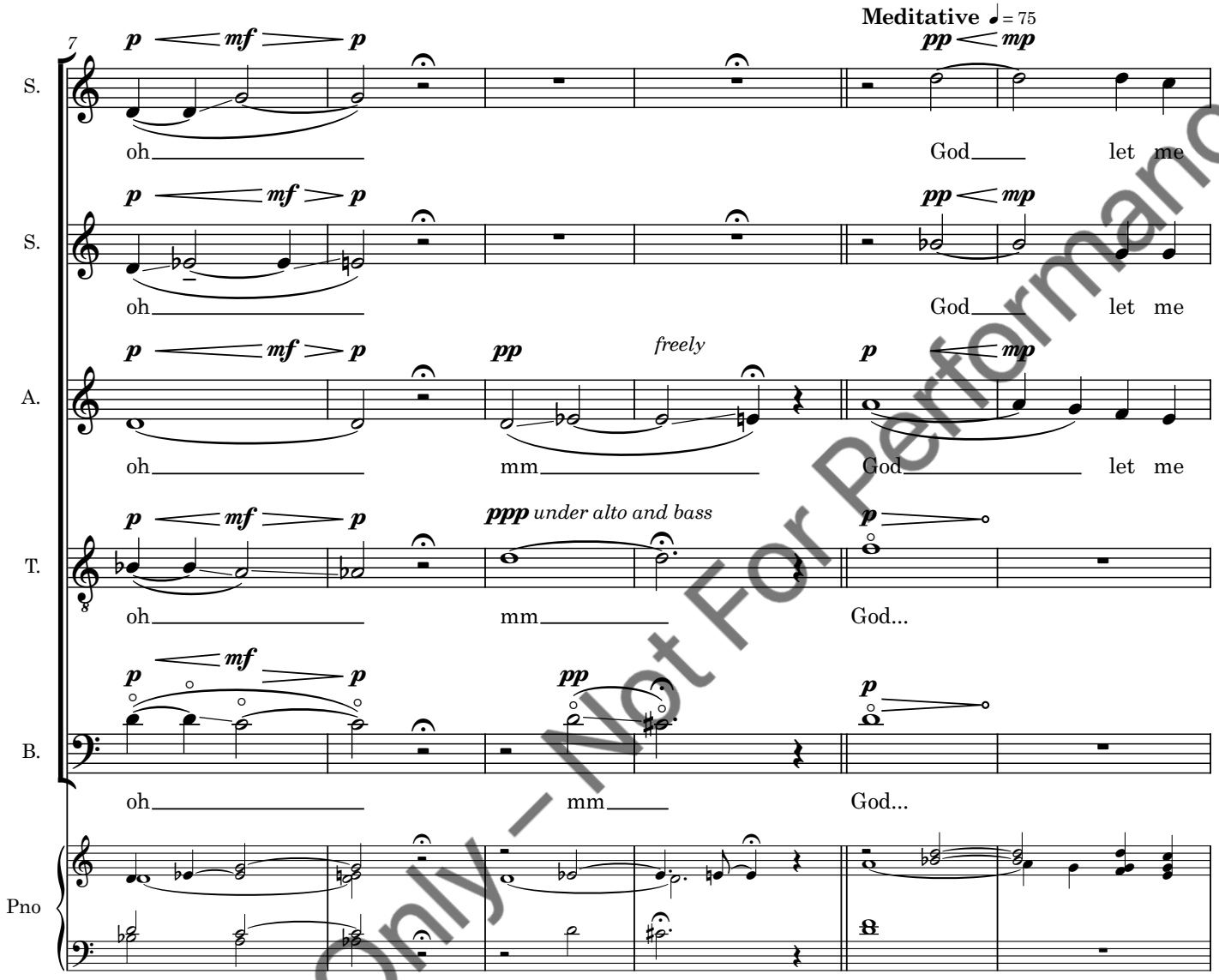

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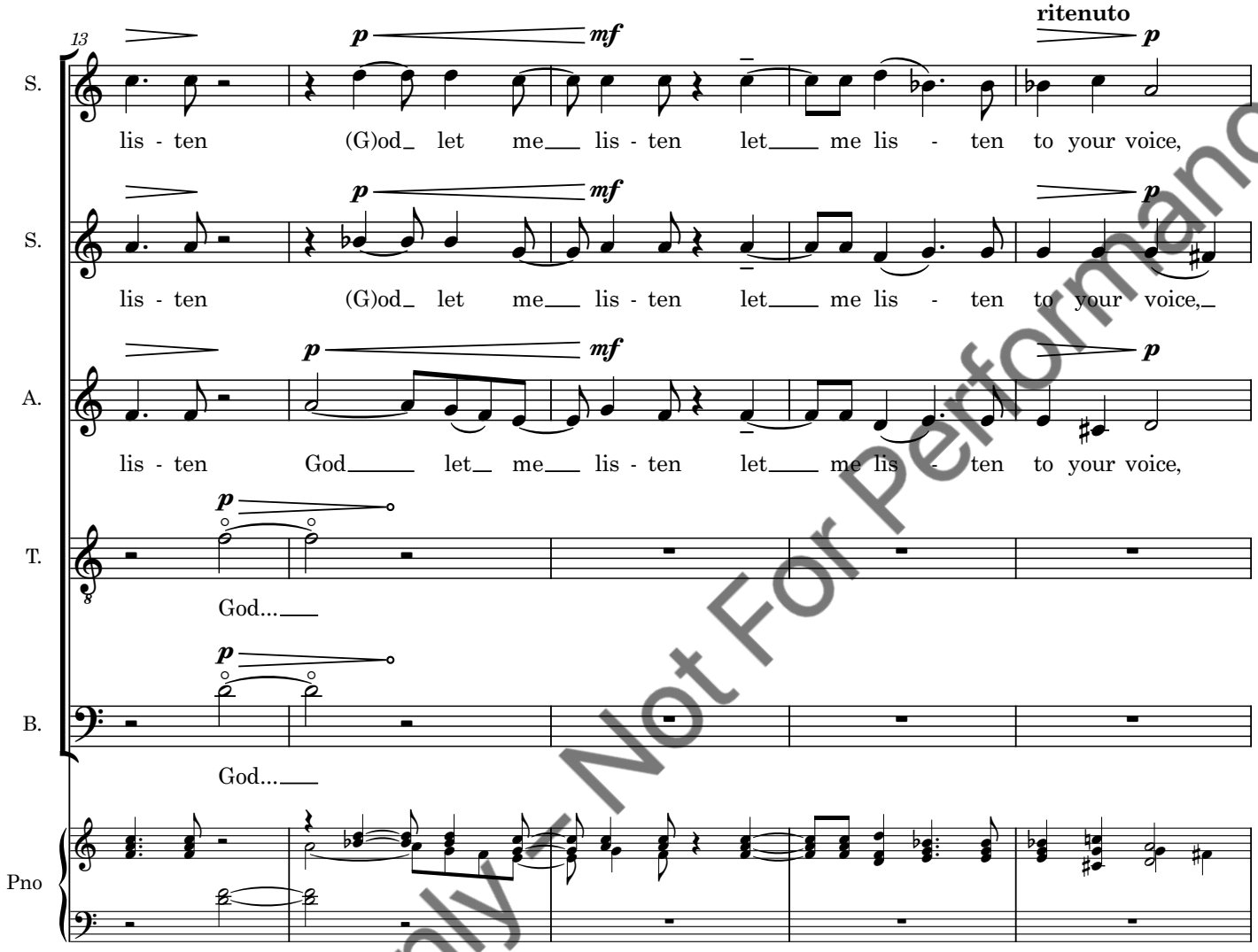

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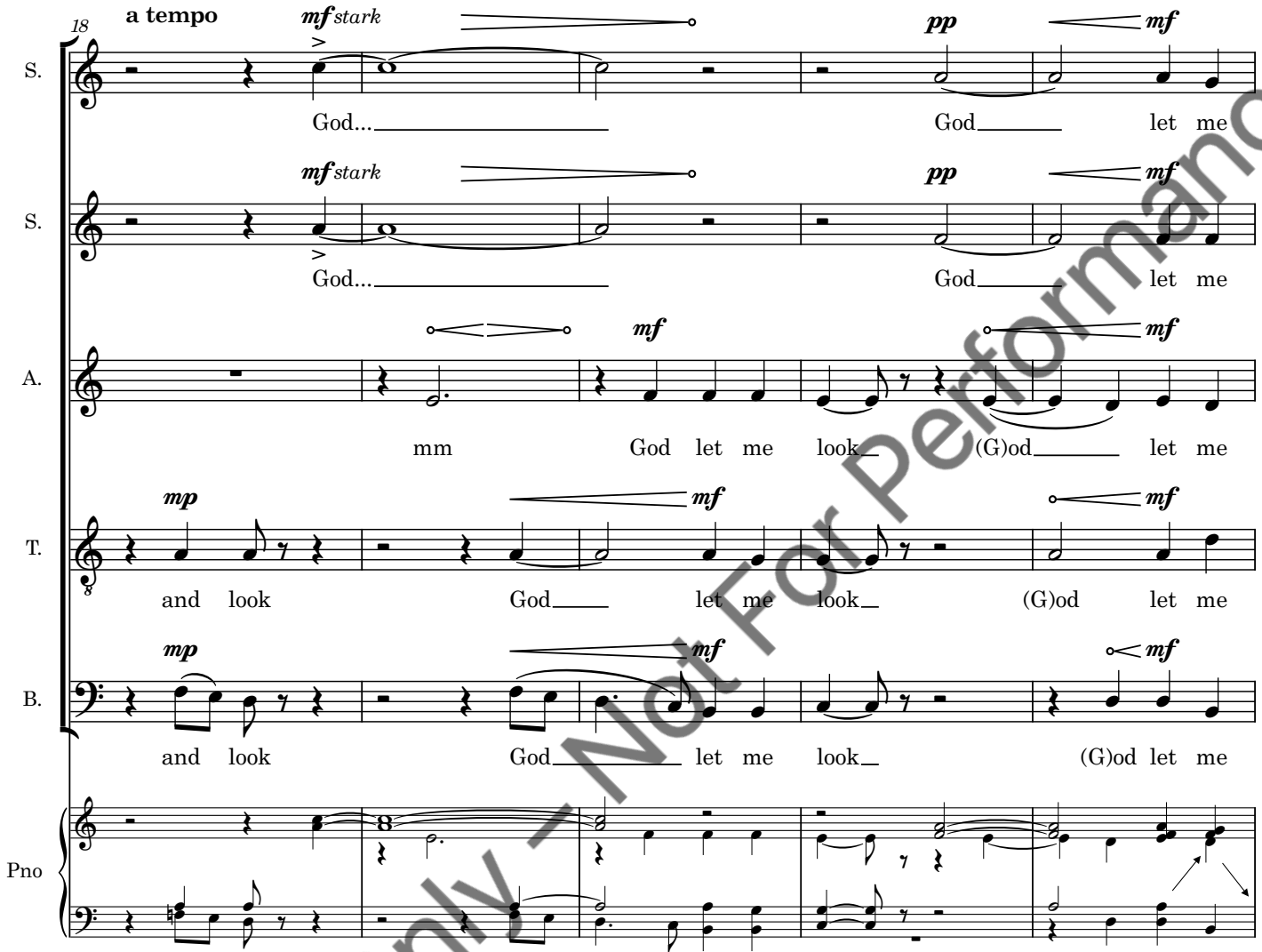

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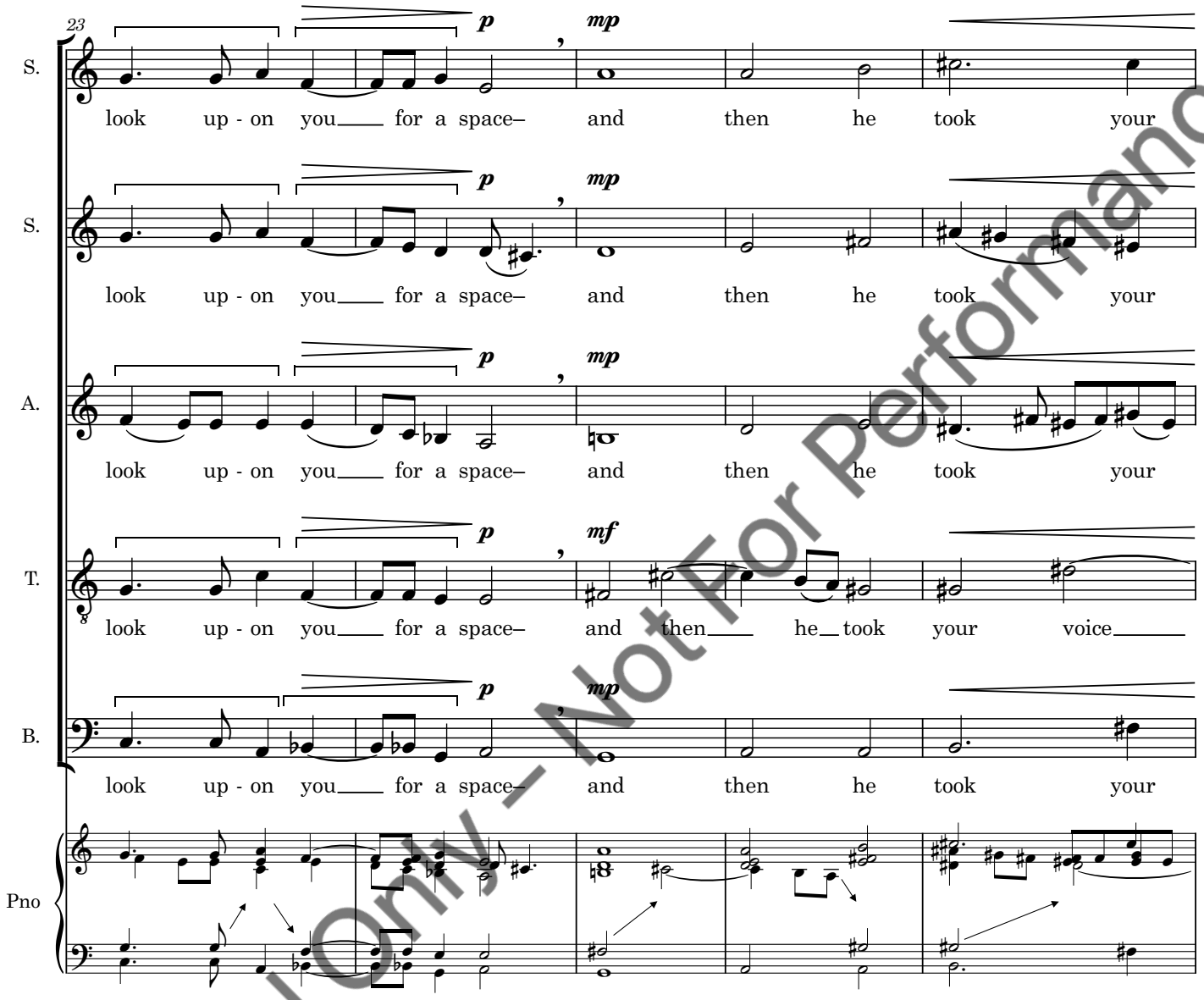

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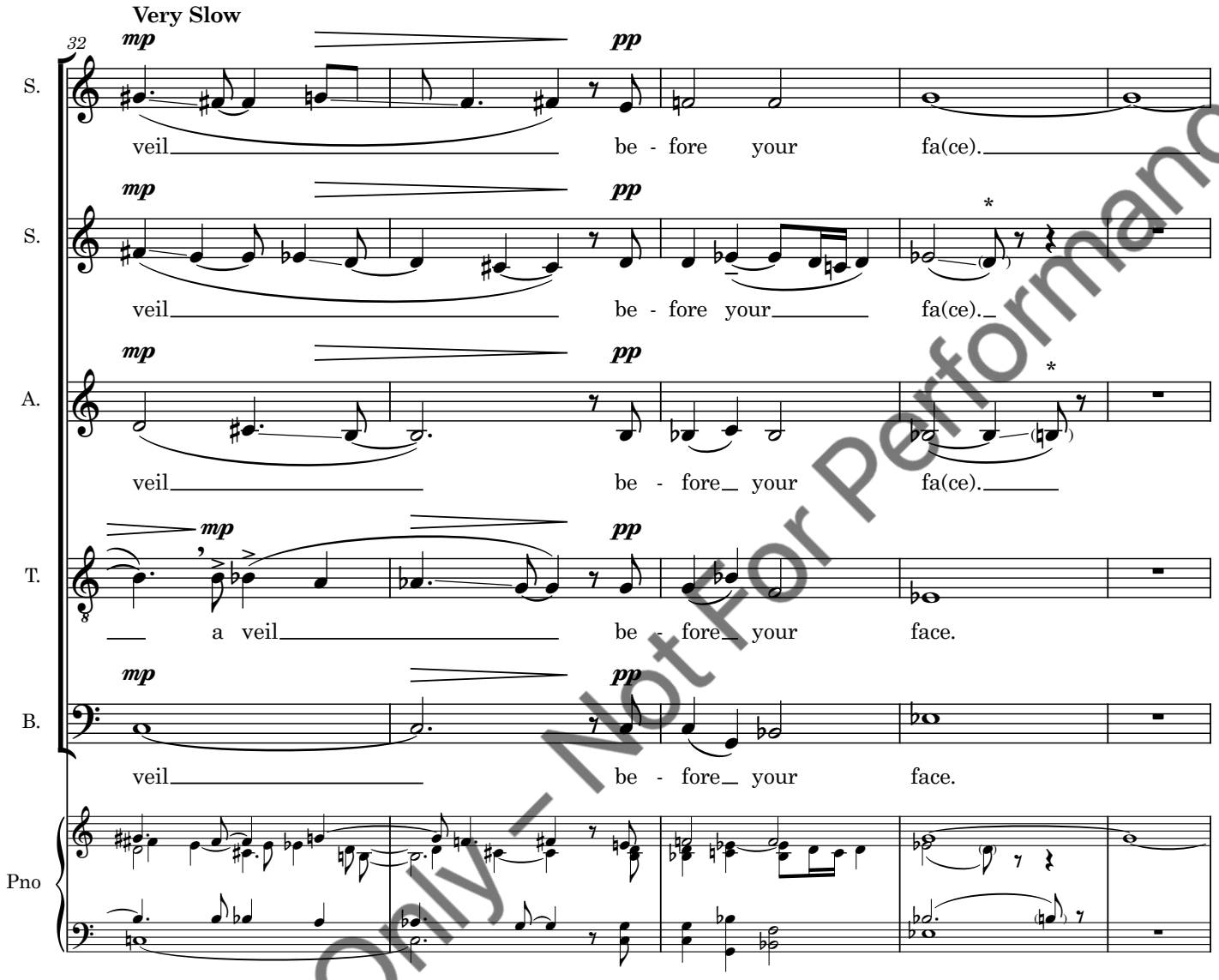

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* The singer should barely touch the note in parentheses as the ending note of the glissando – just enough to sound, but not to be lingered on.

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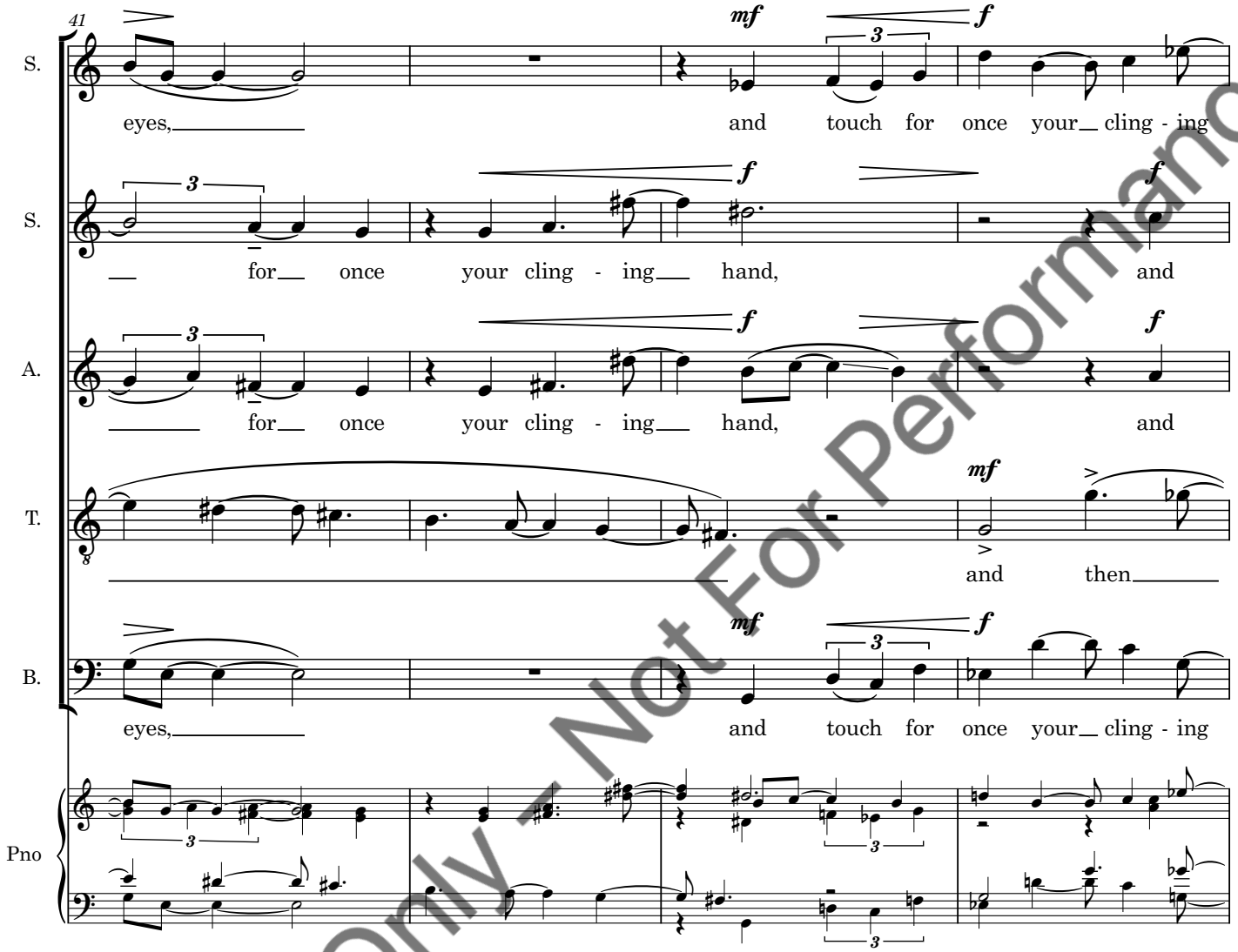

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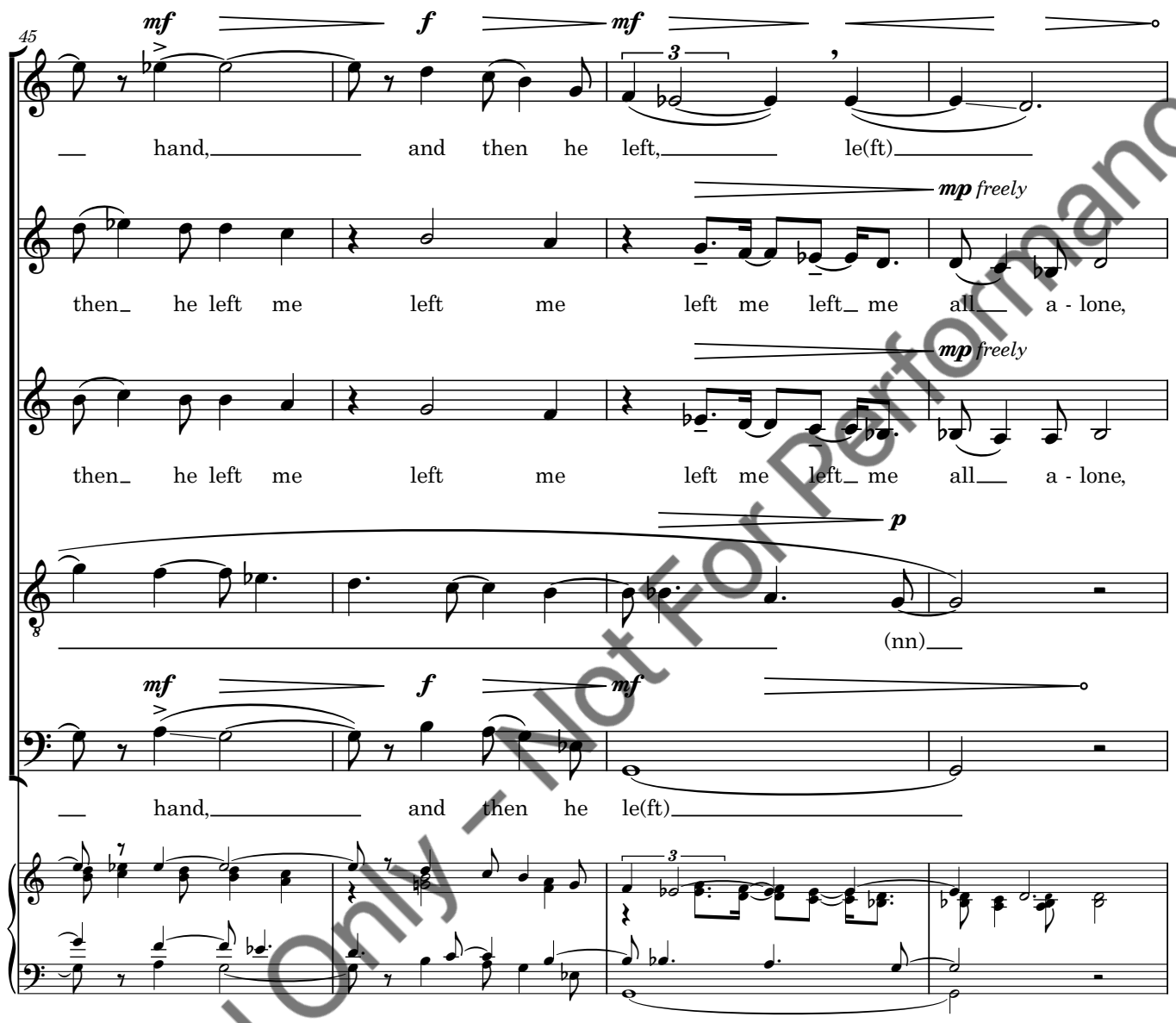

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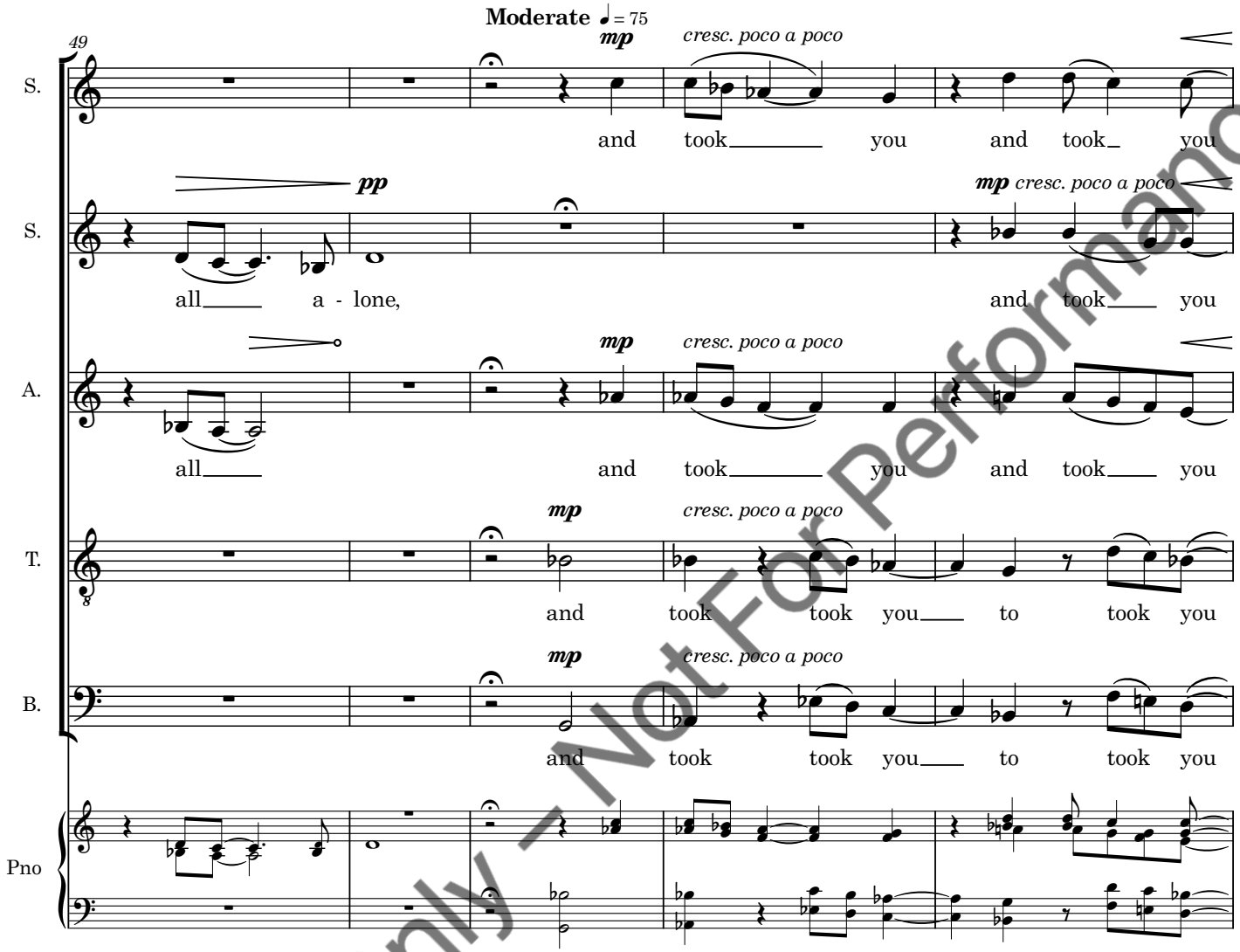

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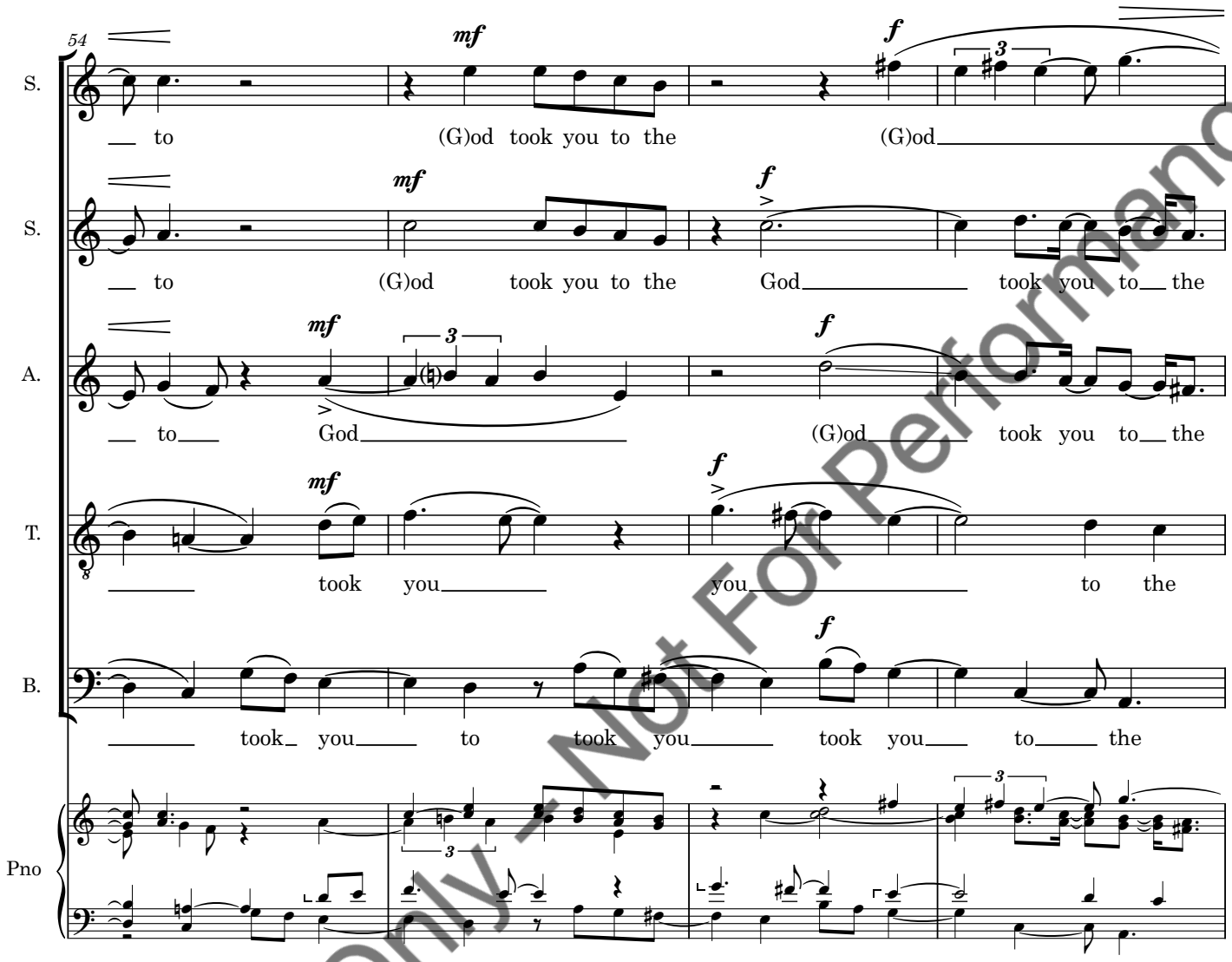

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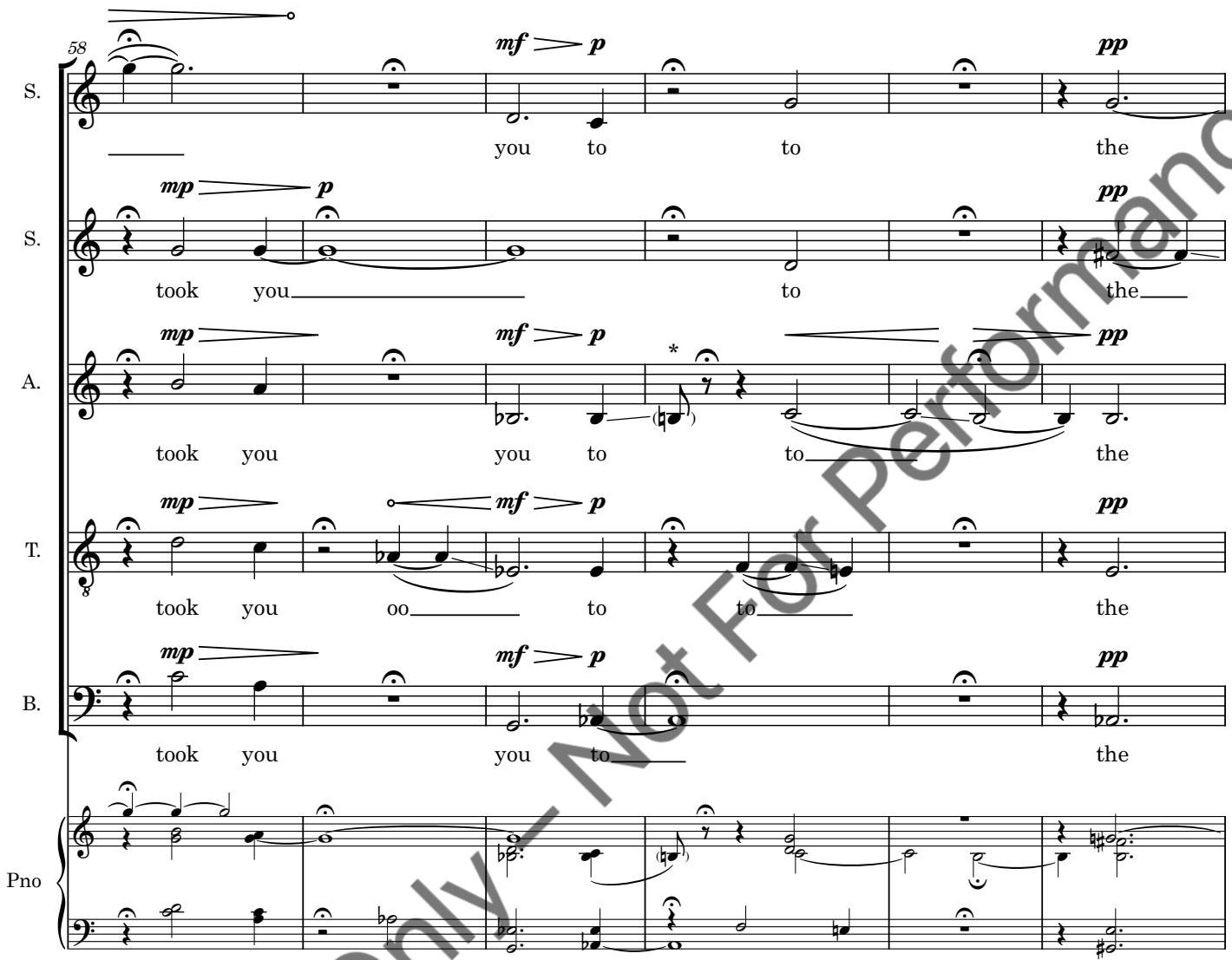

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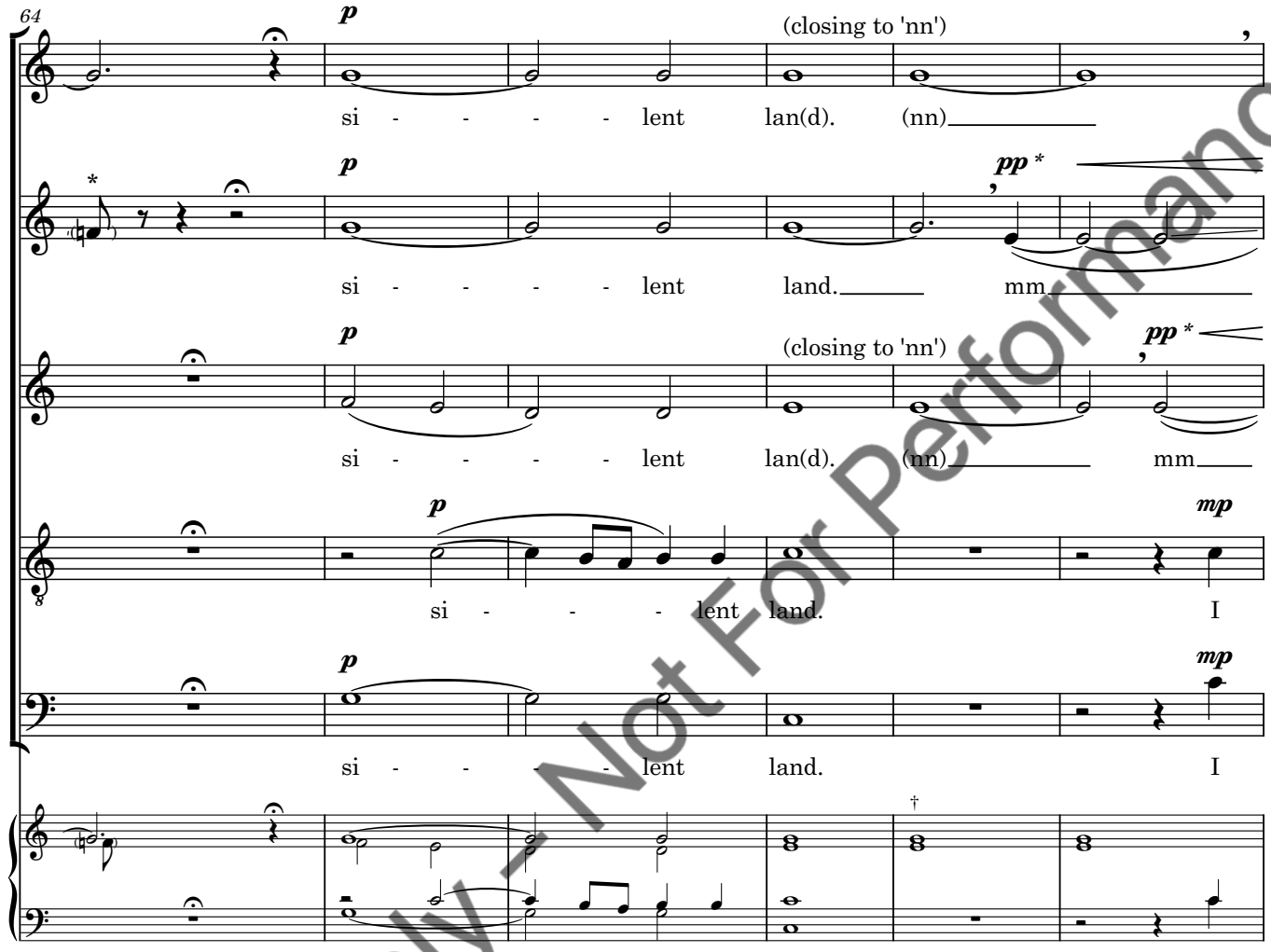

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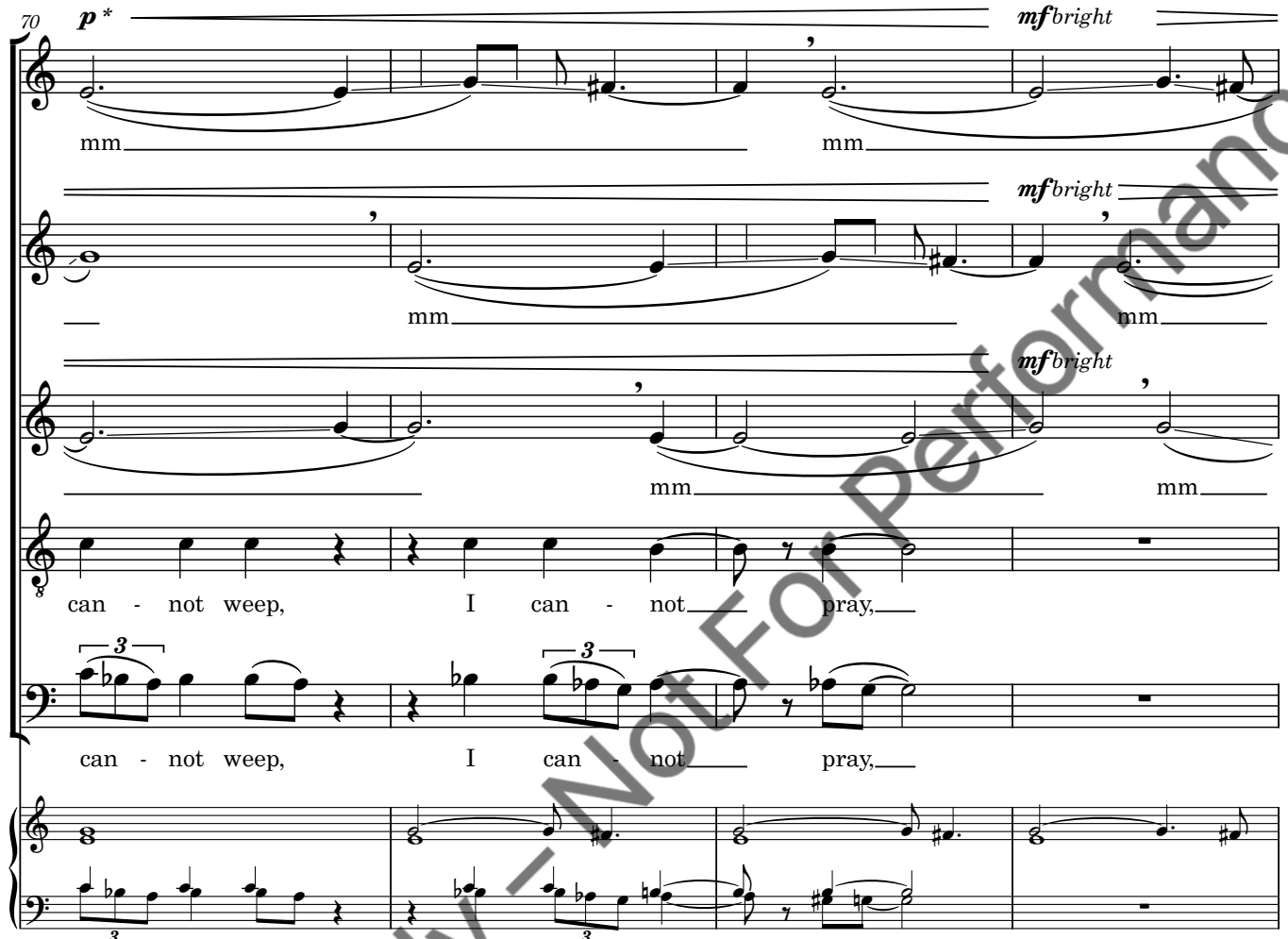
* S1, S2, and A should gradually brighten their tone (following the crescendo markings) to a stark, bright, nasal tone at m. 73, then gradually darken it (following the decrescendo markings) to an ordinary tone the pp marking at m. 76. Singers may choose to brighten to an 'ng' sound.
† Due to the nebulous rhythms and sliding pitches in the upper three parts, the piano reduction shows reference pitches for the singers in each measure, not necessarily in the exact places they fall



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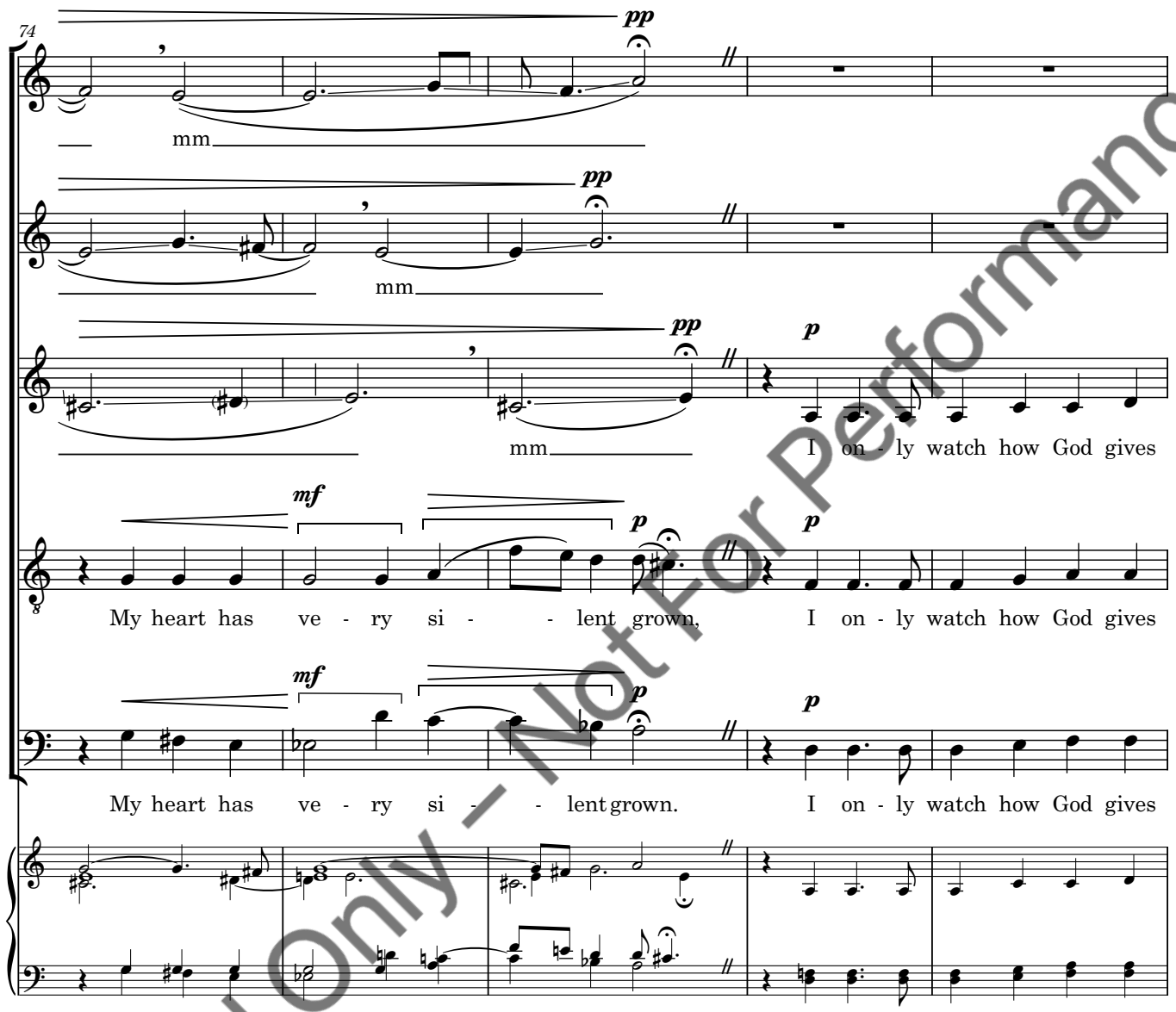

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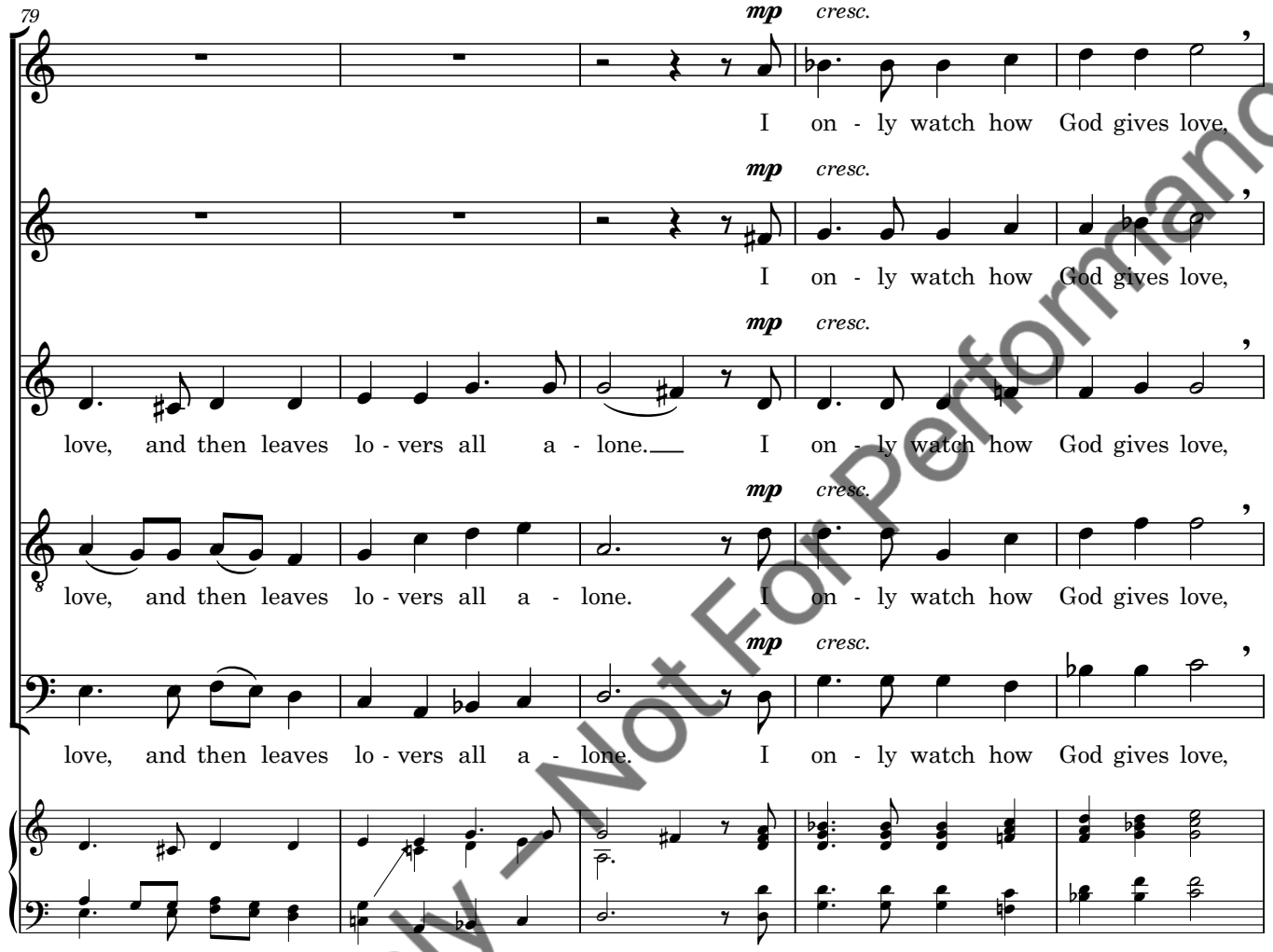

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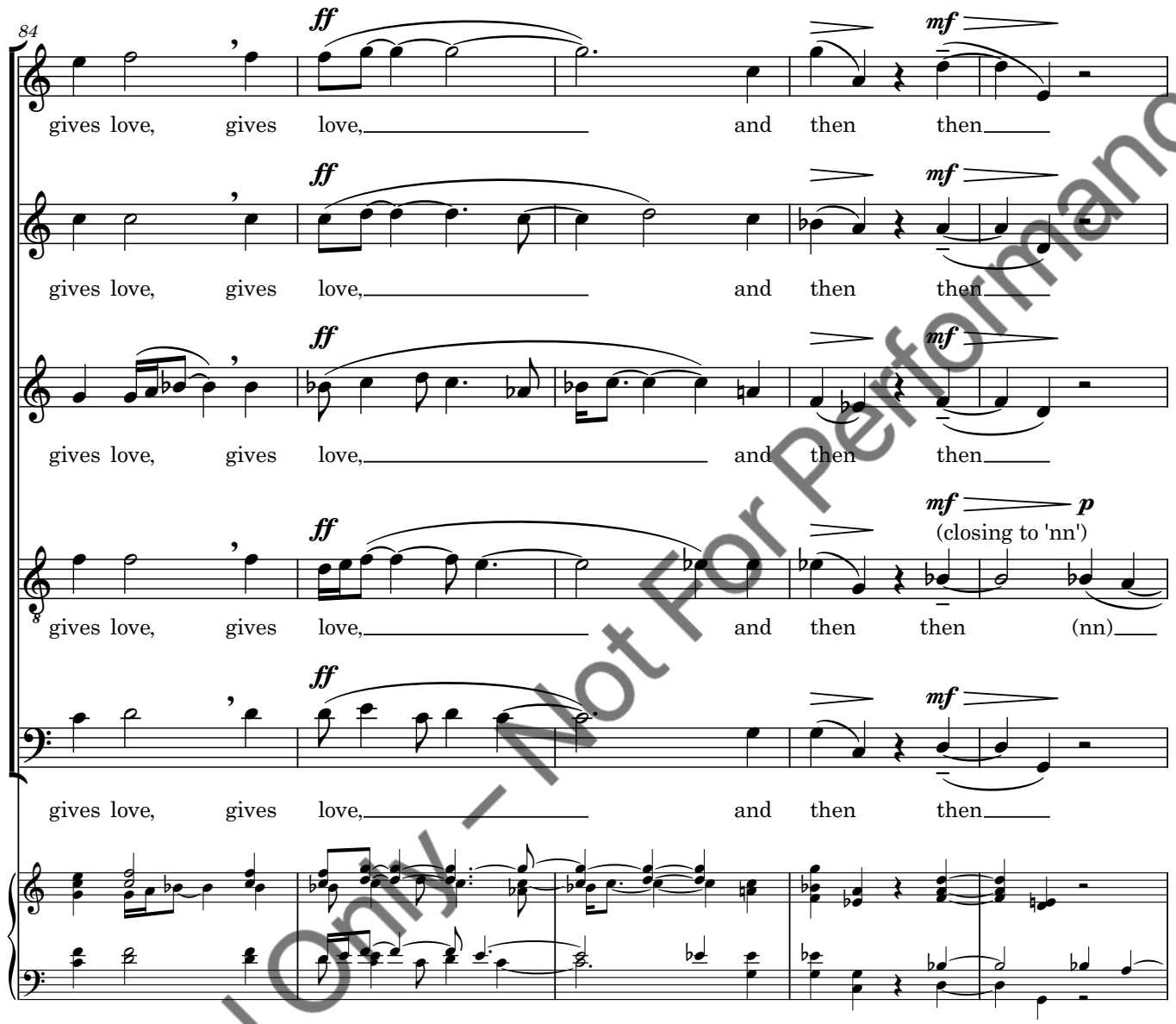

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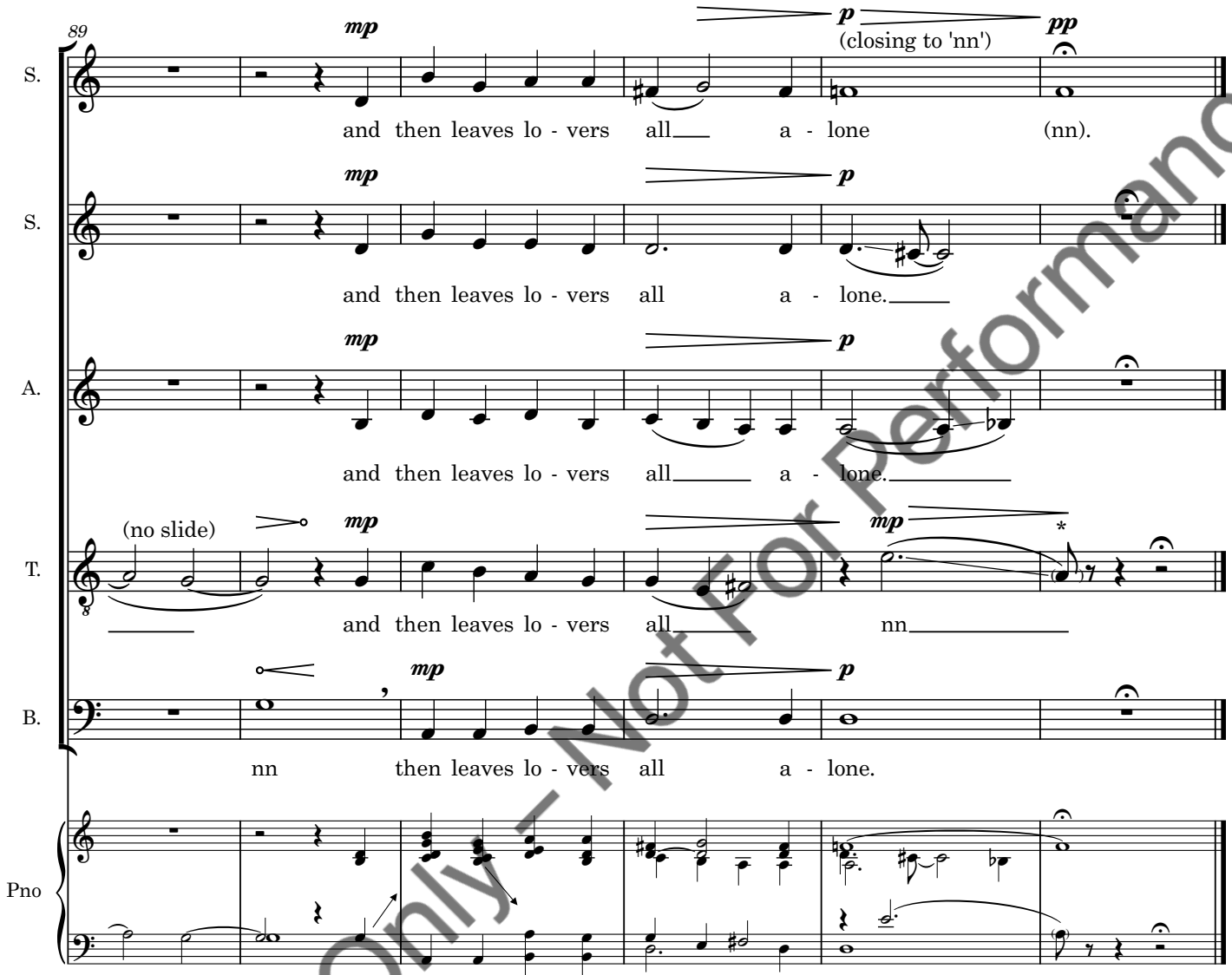

Baltimore, MD
August 2025
Soli Deo Gloria

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