CAROL BARNETT

FOUR E.E. CUMMINGS SONGS

for Mezzo-Soprano and Chamber Ensemble

PIANO REDUCTION

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www.carolbarnett.net

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FOUR E.E. CUMMINGS SONGS

for Mezzo-Soprano and Chamber Ensemble

Premiered May 24, 1974 at the Walker Arts Center, Minneapolis, MN
by the Minnesota Composers Forum:

Carol Barnett, piccolo
Eileen Strandlof, clarinet
Bruce Bissonett, clarinet
Janice Murray, bass clarinet
Elaine Marks, bassoon
Joni Sutton, orchestra bells
Kevin Gustafson, percussion
Libby Larsen, soprano
Steve Barnett, conductor

c. 11:30

PROGRAM NOTE:

Four E. E. Cummings Songs was written in 1972, while I was at the University of Minnesota. Inspired by Mr. Cummings' whimsical poetry, the work was one of my "pet projects" for Paul Fetler's composition seminar.

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FOUR E.E. CUMMINGS SONGS

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Spring is like a perhaps hand
(which comes carefully
out of Nowhere)arranging
a window,into which people look(while
people stare
arranging and changing placing
carefully there a strange
thing and a known thing here)and

changing everything carefully

spring is like a perhaps
Hand in a window
(carefully to
and fro moving New and
Old things,while
people stare carefully
moving a perhaps
fraction of flower here placing
an inch of air there)and

without breaking anything.

the Cambridge ladies who live in furnished
souls
are unbeautiful and have comfortable minds
(also, with the church's protestant blessings
daughters, unscented shapeless spirited)
they believe in Christ and Longfellow, both
dead,
are invariably interested in so many things—
at the present writing one still finds
delighted fingers knitting for the is it Poles?
perhaps. While permanent faces coyly
bandy
scandal of Mrs. N and Professor D
. . . . the Cambridge ladies do not care,
above
Cambridge if sometimes in its box of
sky lavender and cornerless, the
moon rattles like a fragment of angry candy

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Thy fingers make early flowers of
all things.
thy hair mostly the hours love:
a smoothness which
sings, saying
(though love be a day)
do not fear, we will go amaying.

thy whitest feet crisply are straying.
Always
thy moist eyes are at kisses playing,
whose strangeness much
says; singing
(though love be a day)
for which girl art thou flowers bringing?

To be thy lips is a sweet thing
and small.
Death, Thee i call rich beyond wishing
if this thou catch,
else missing.
(though love be a day
and life nothing, it shall not stop kissing).

a pretty a day
(and every fades)
is here and away
(but born are maids
to flower an hour
in all,all)

o yes to flower
until so blithe
a doer a wooer
some limber and lithe
some very fine mower
a tall;tall

some jerry so very
(and nellie and fan)
some handsomest harry
(and sally and nan
they tremble and cower
so pale:pale)

for betty was born
to never say nay
but lucy could learn
and lily could pray
and fewer were shyer
than doll. doll

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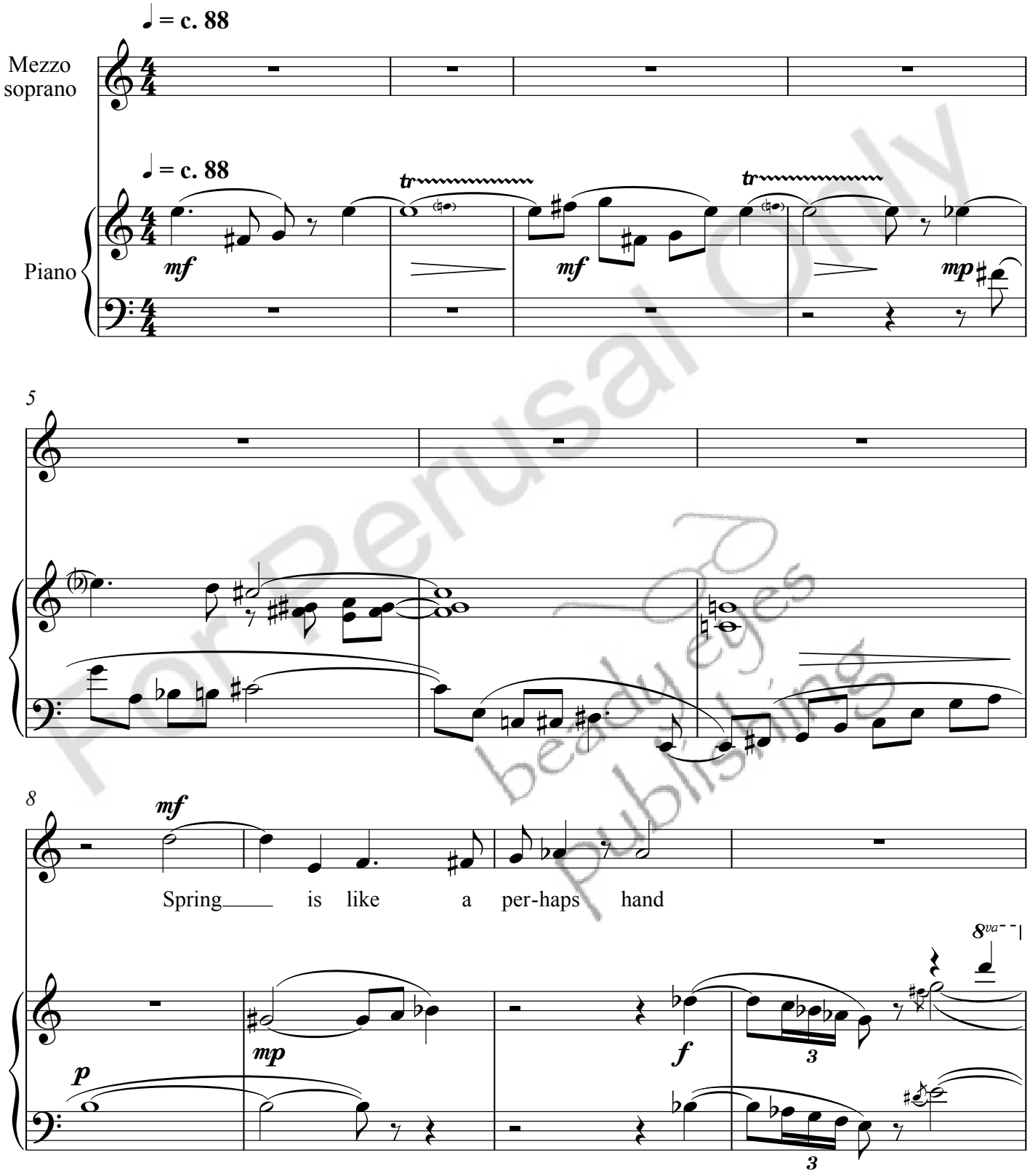
Four E.E. Cummings Songs

I. Spring is like a perhaps hand

Carol Barnett



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"a pretty a day", "Spring is like a perhaps hand",
"the Cambridge ladies who live in furnished souls",
"Thy fingers make early flowers of" from
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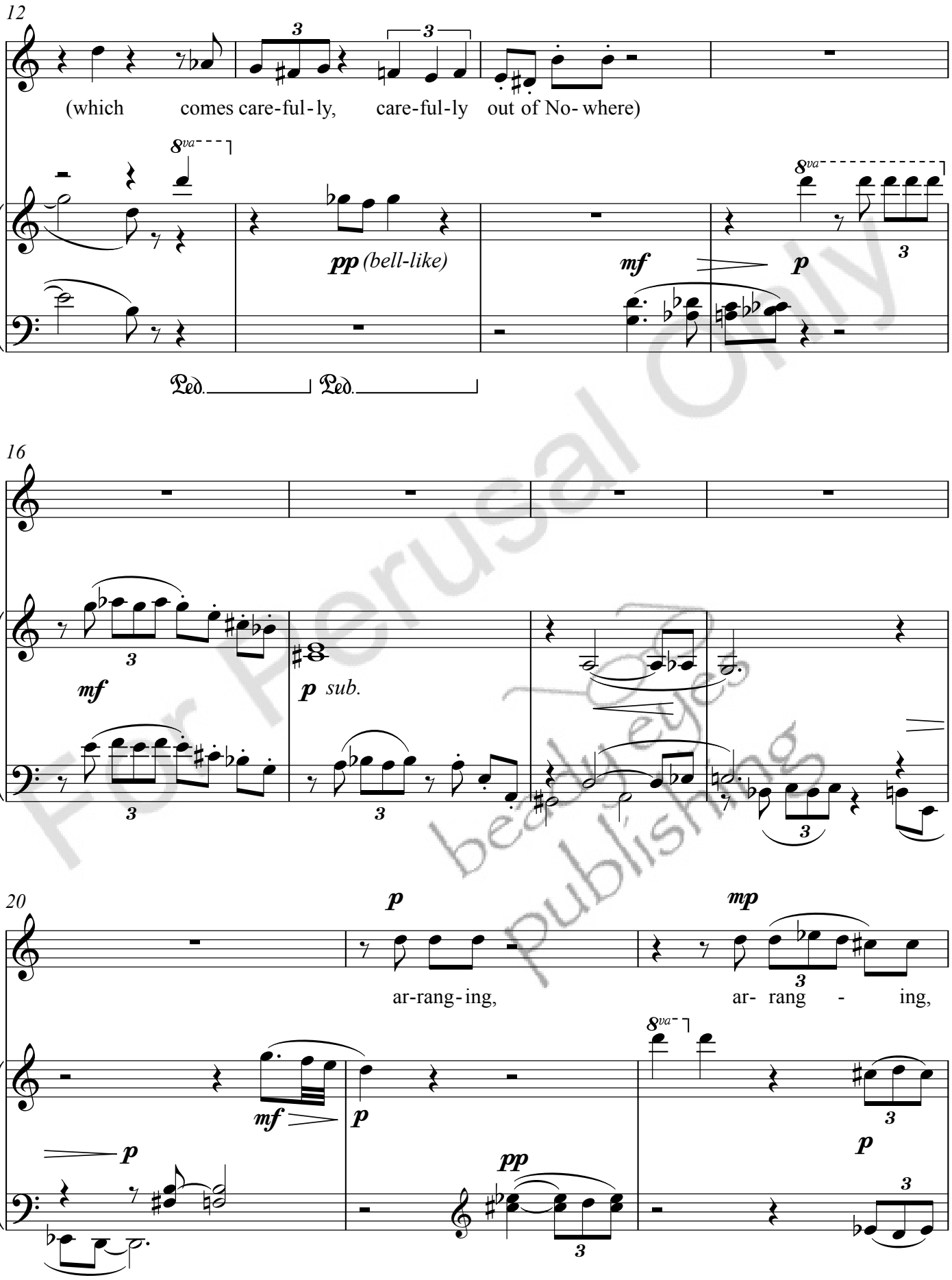

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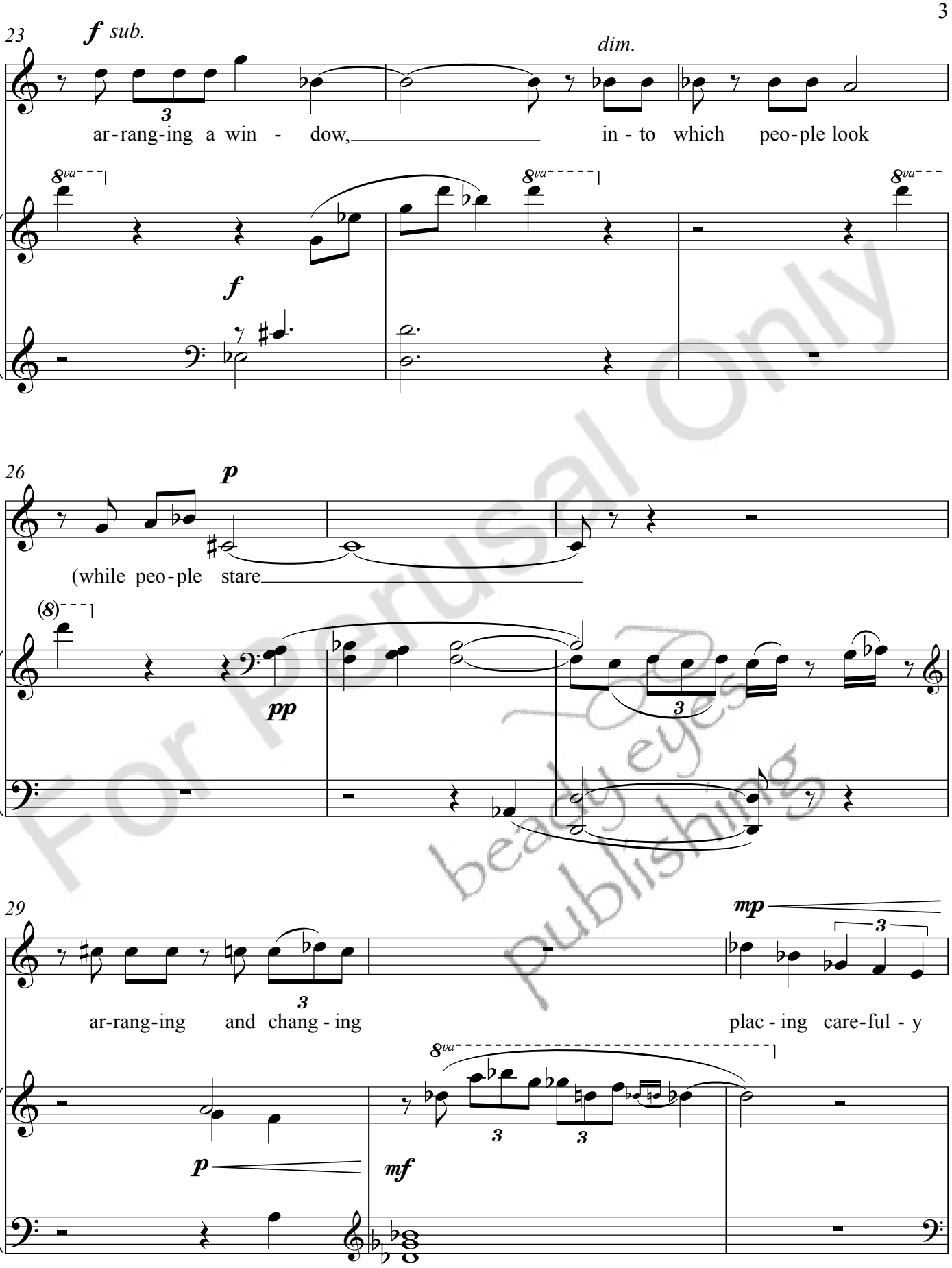

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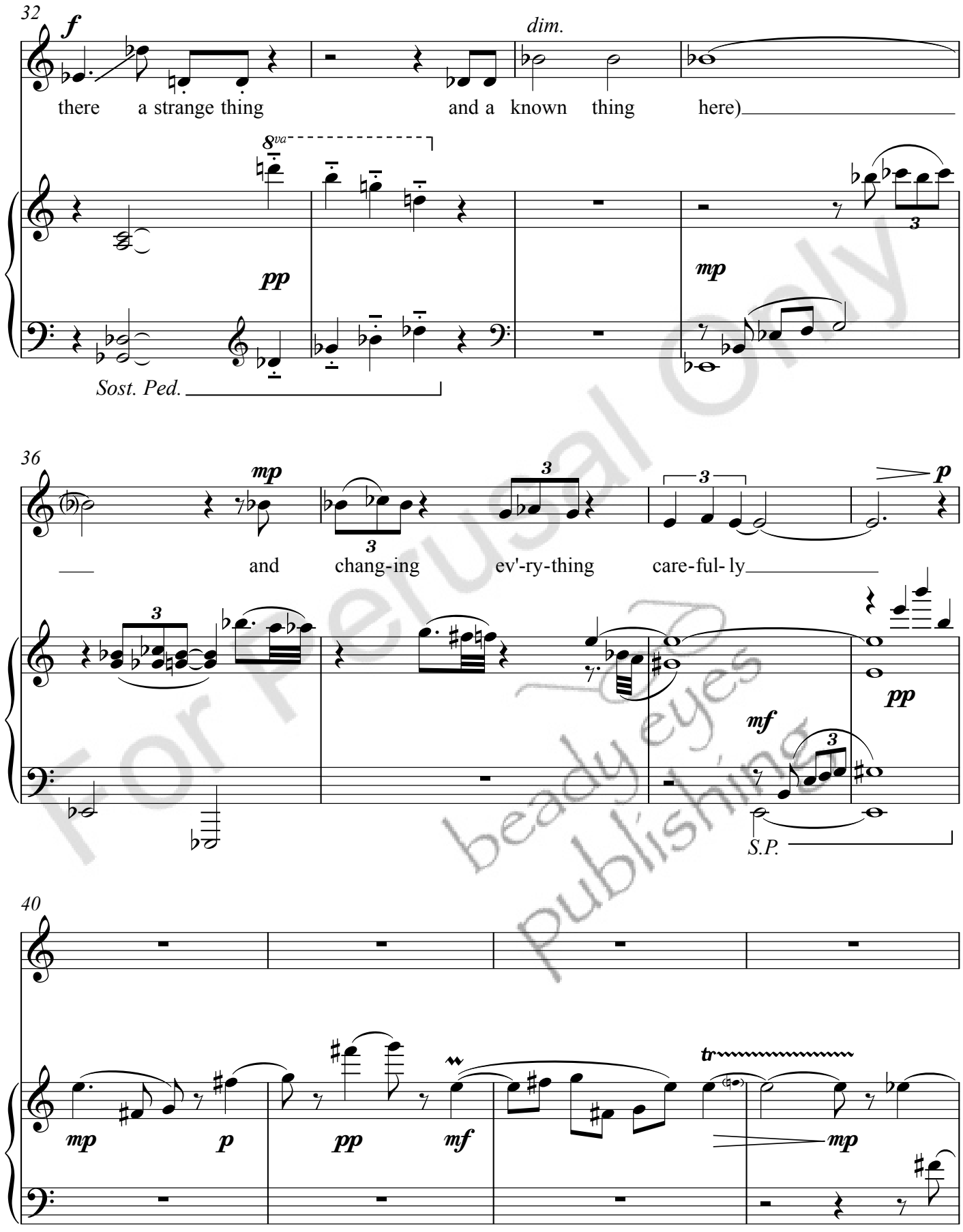

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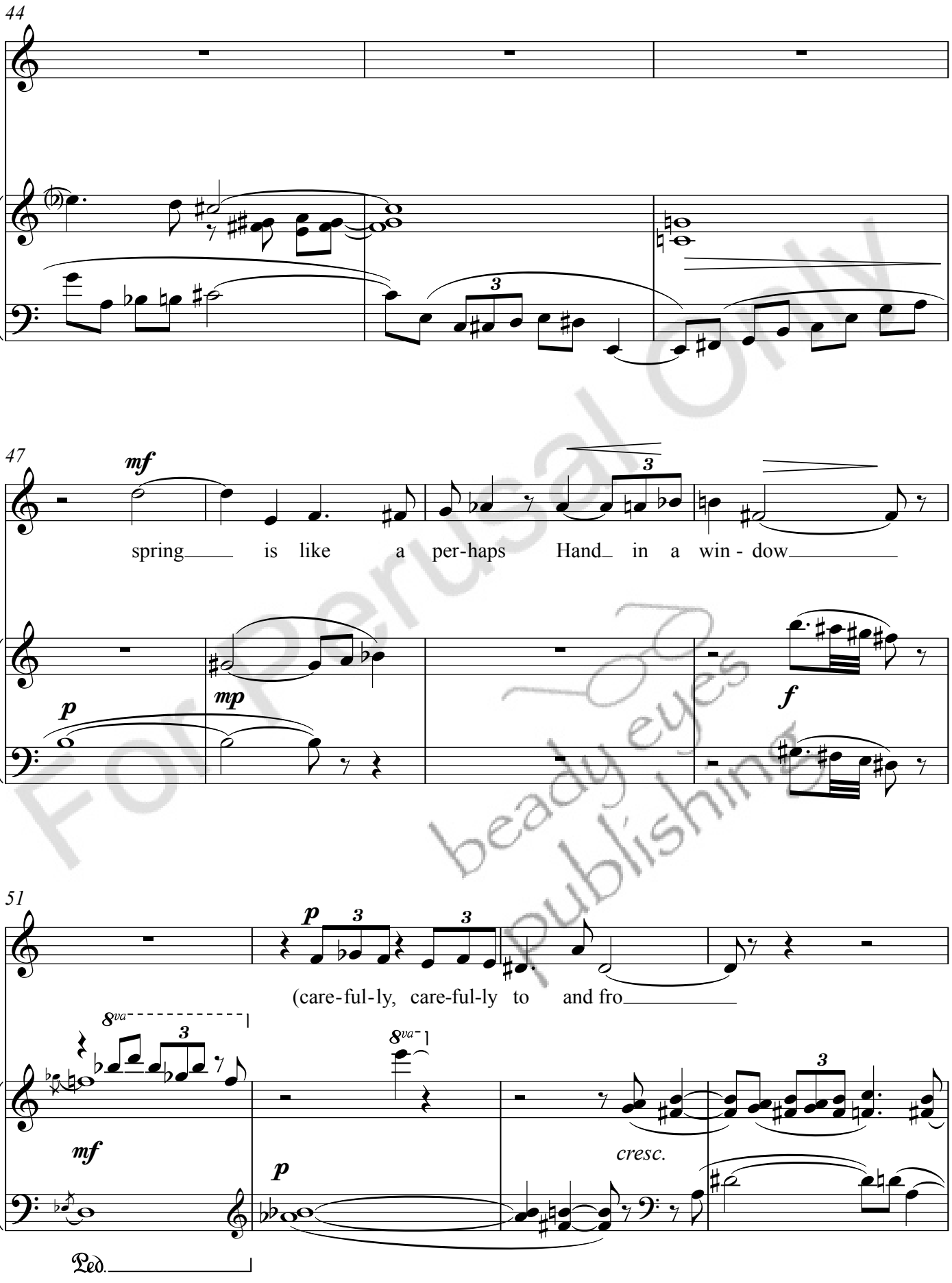

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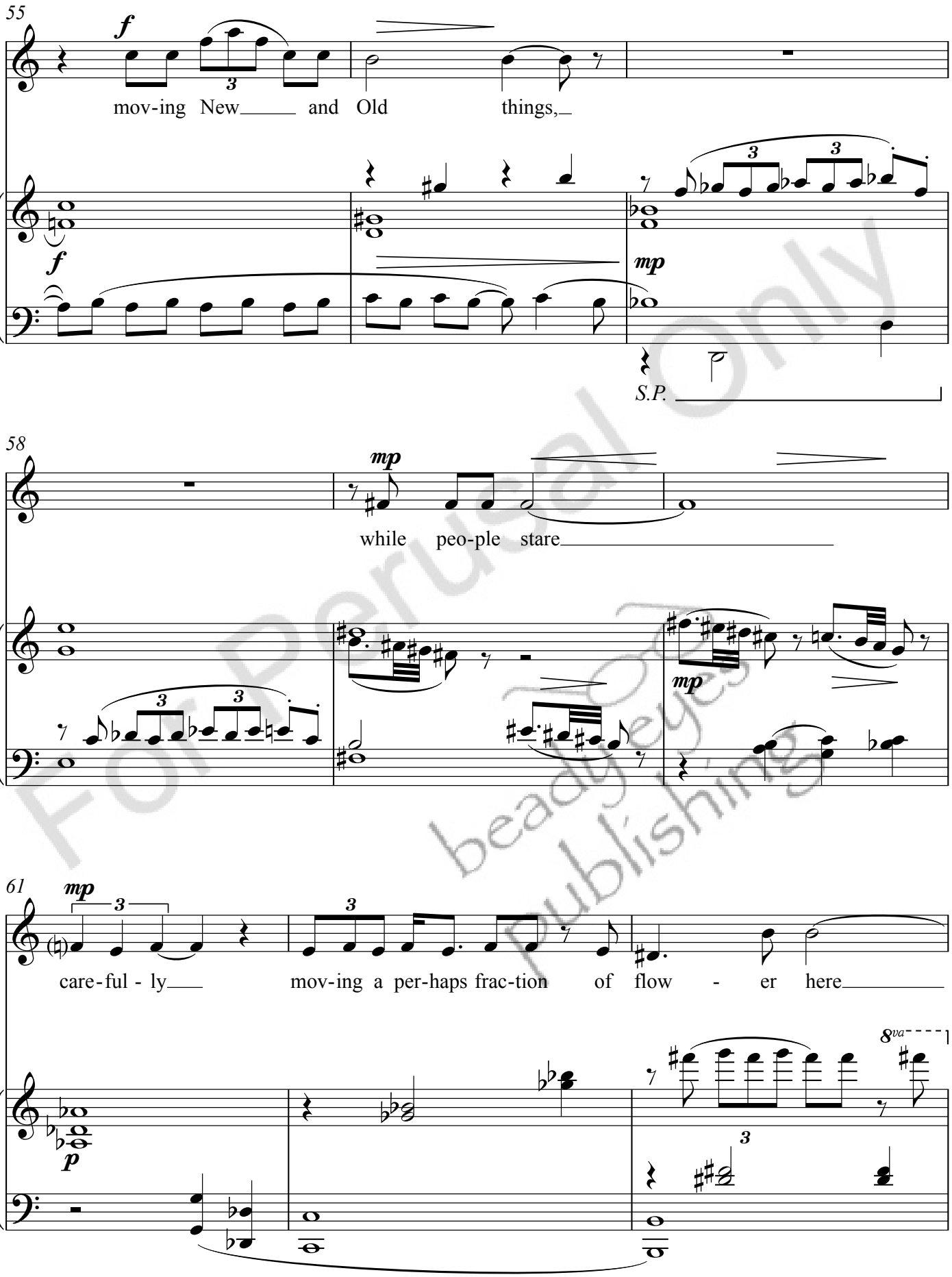

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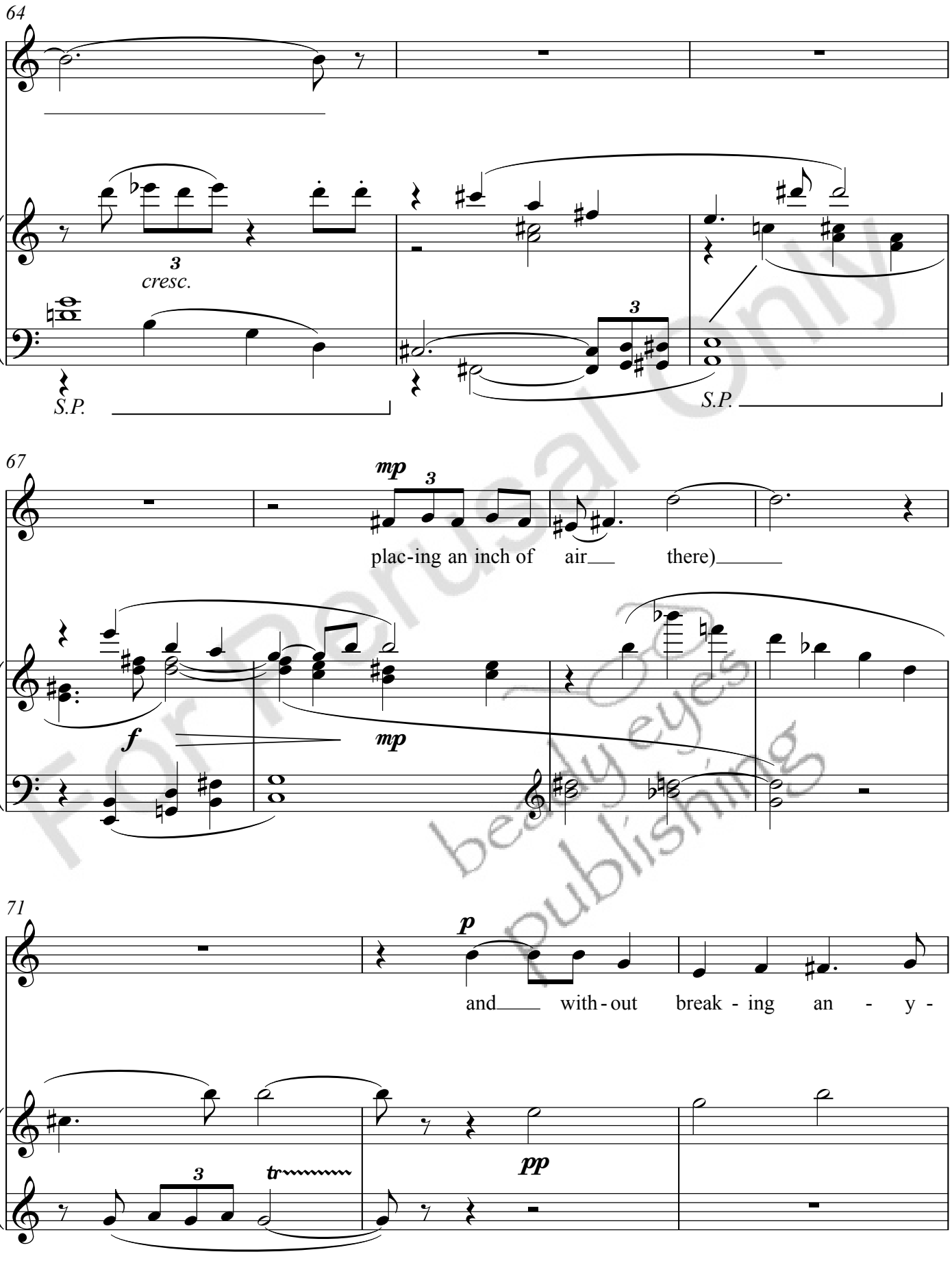

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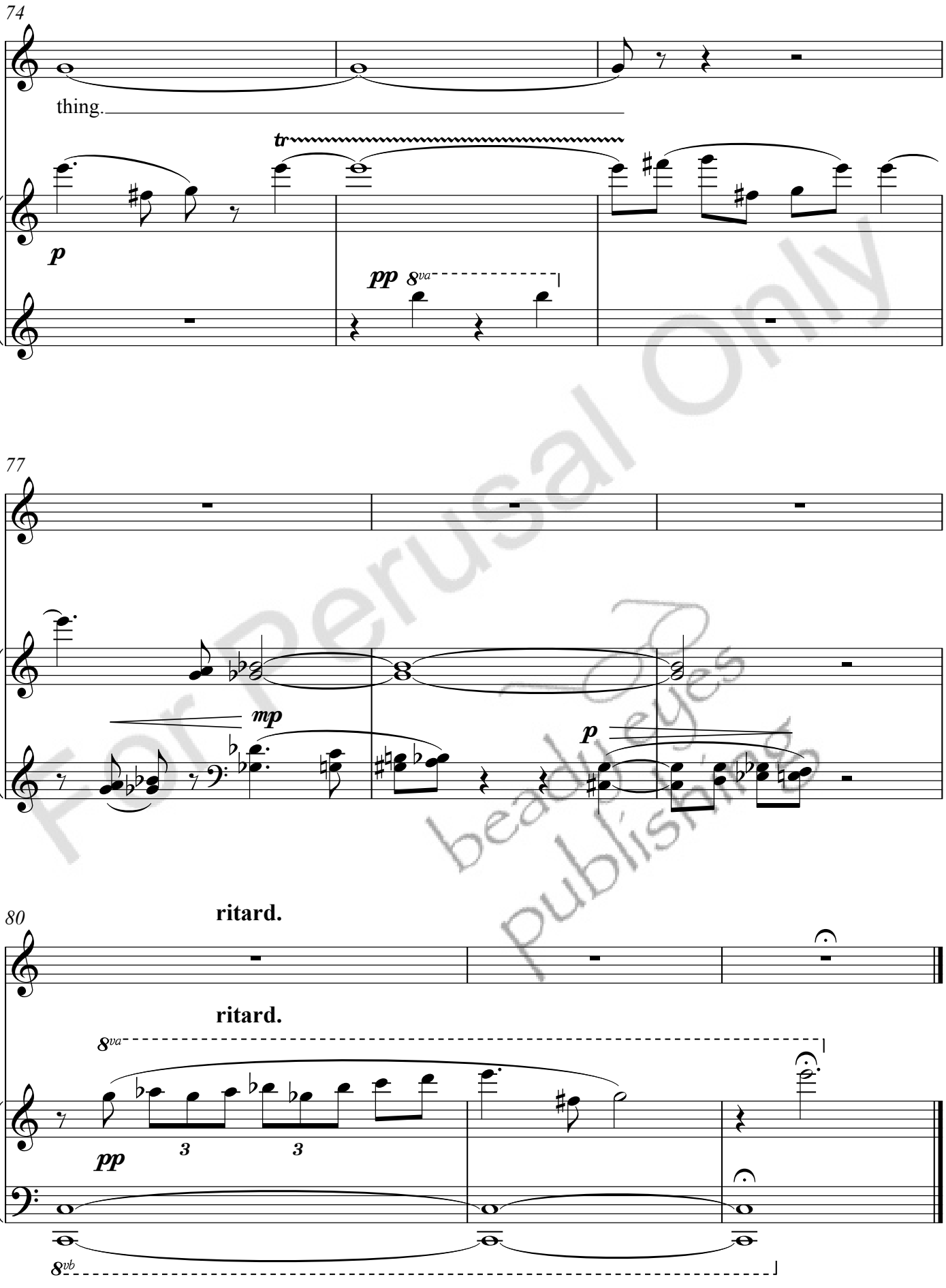

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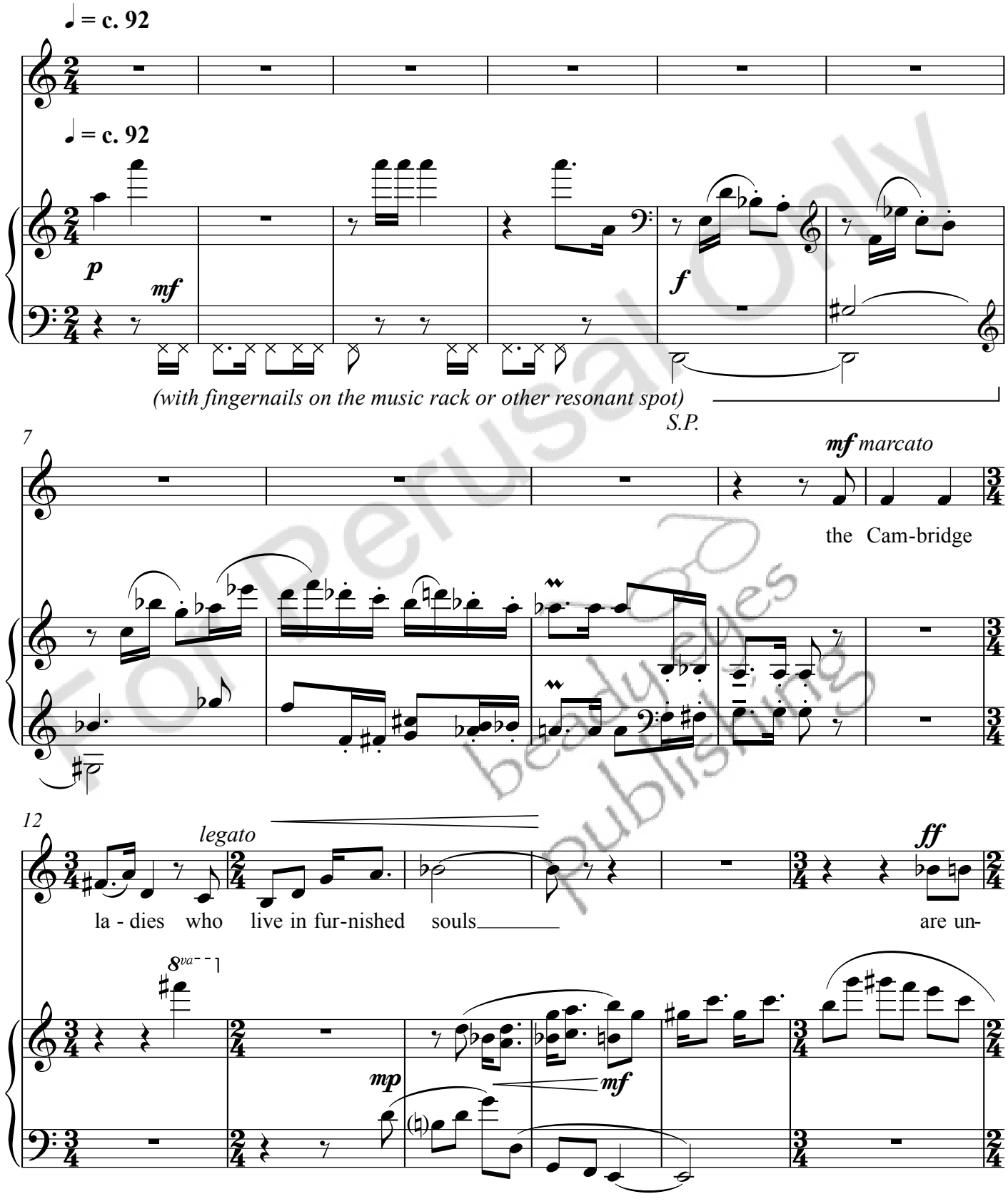
II. the Cambridge ladies



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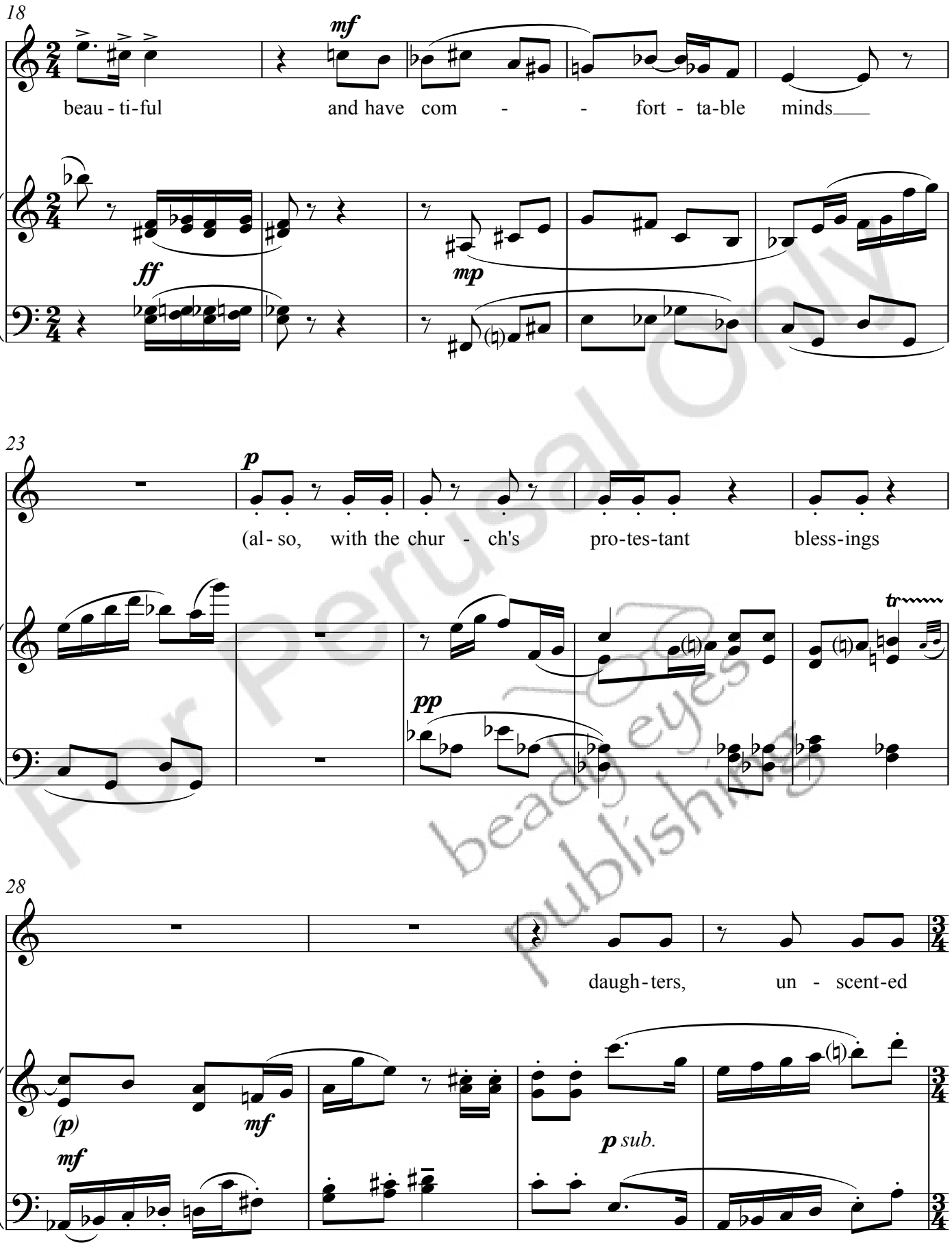

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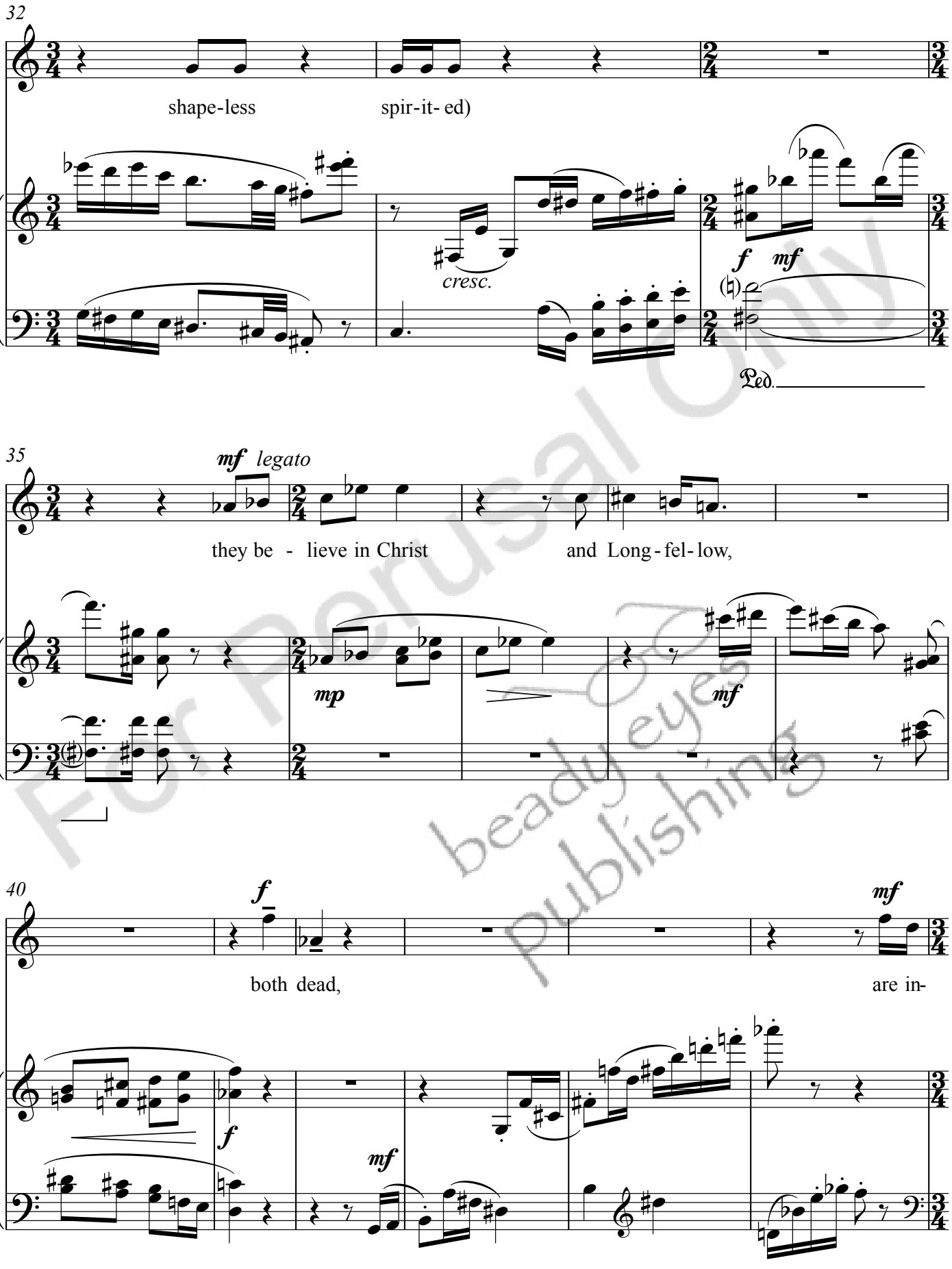

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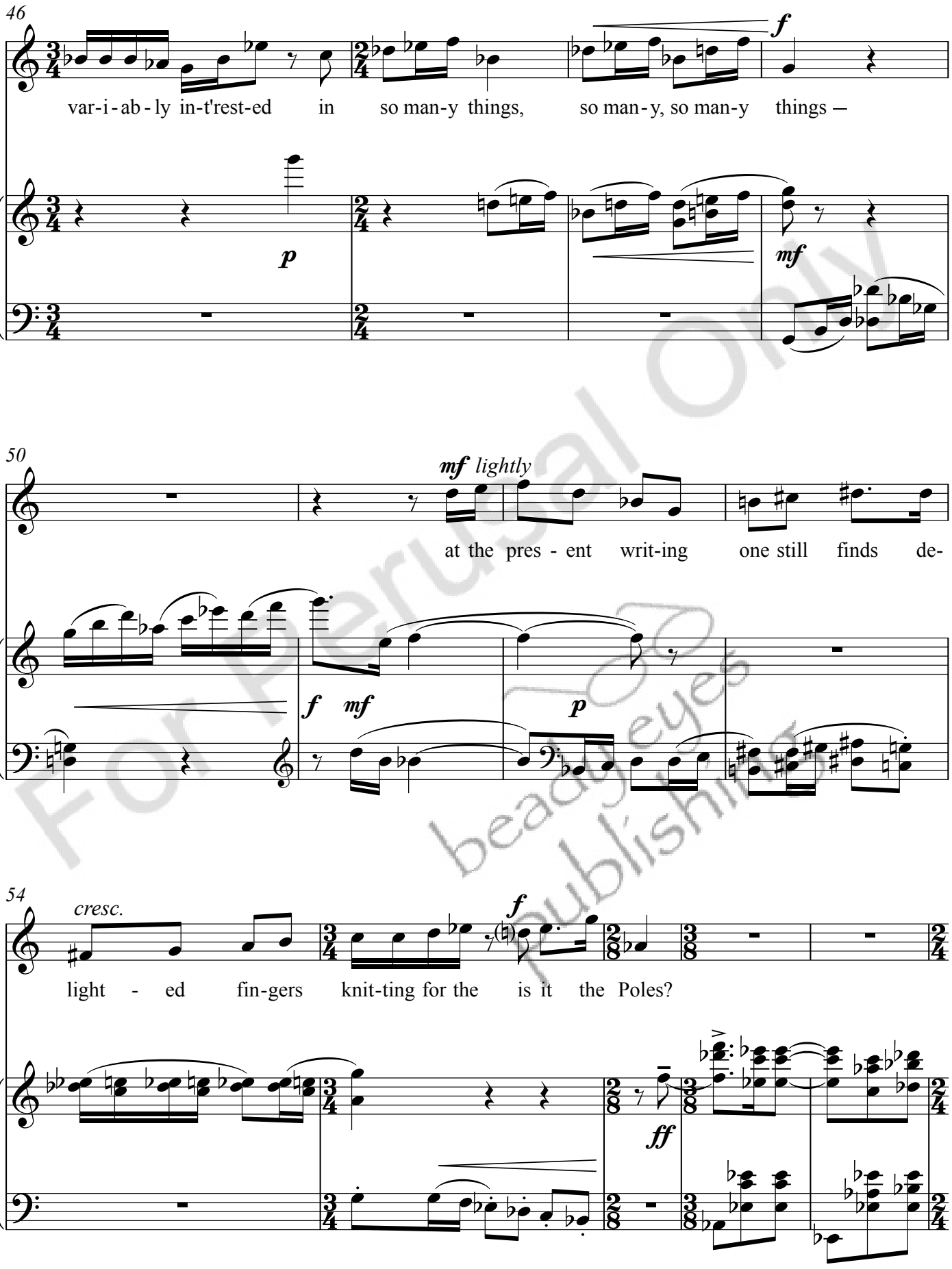

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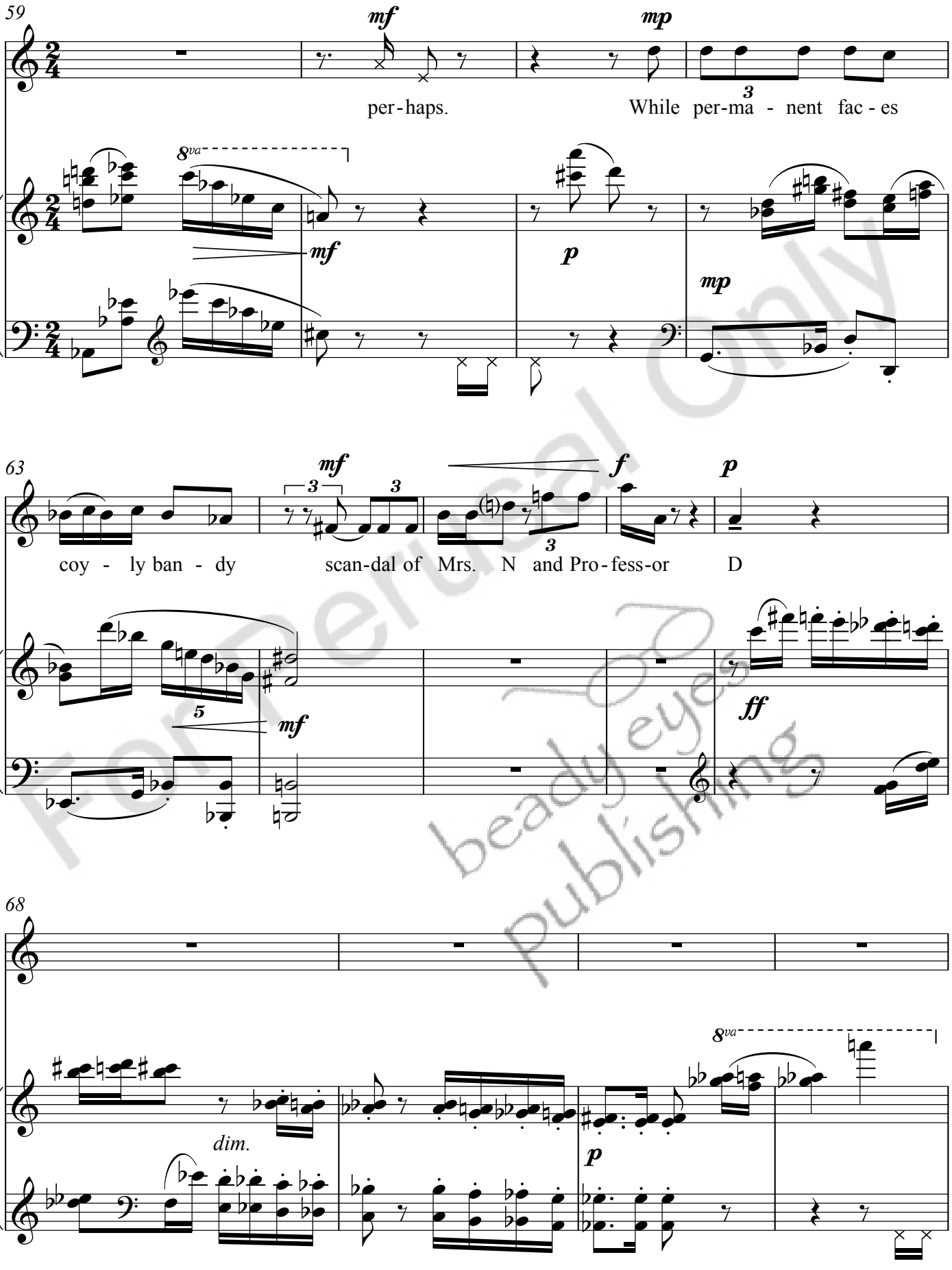

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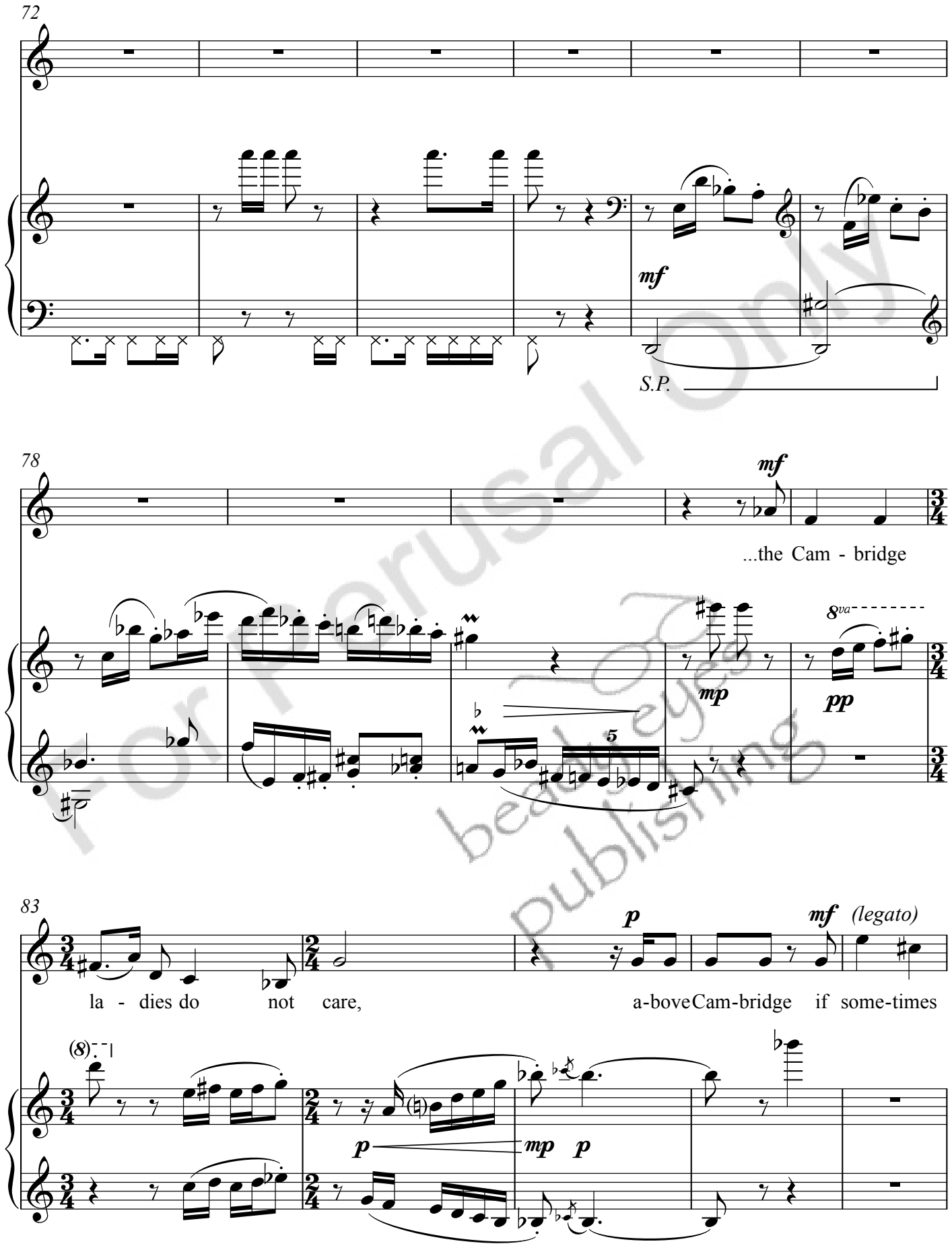

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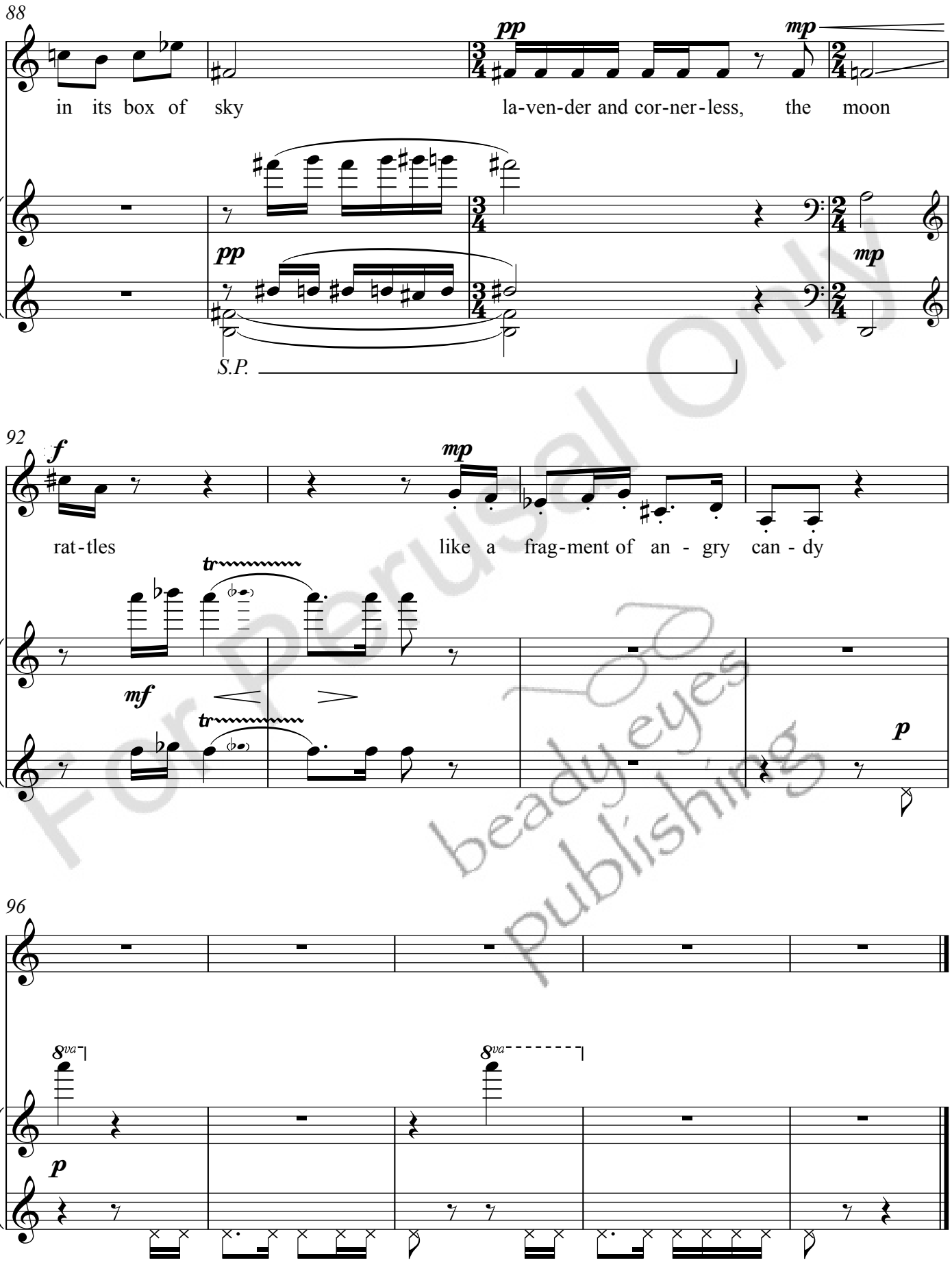

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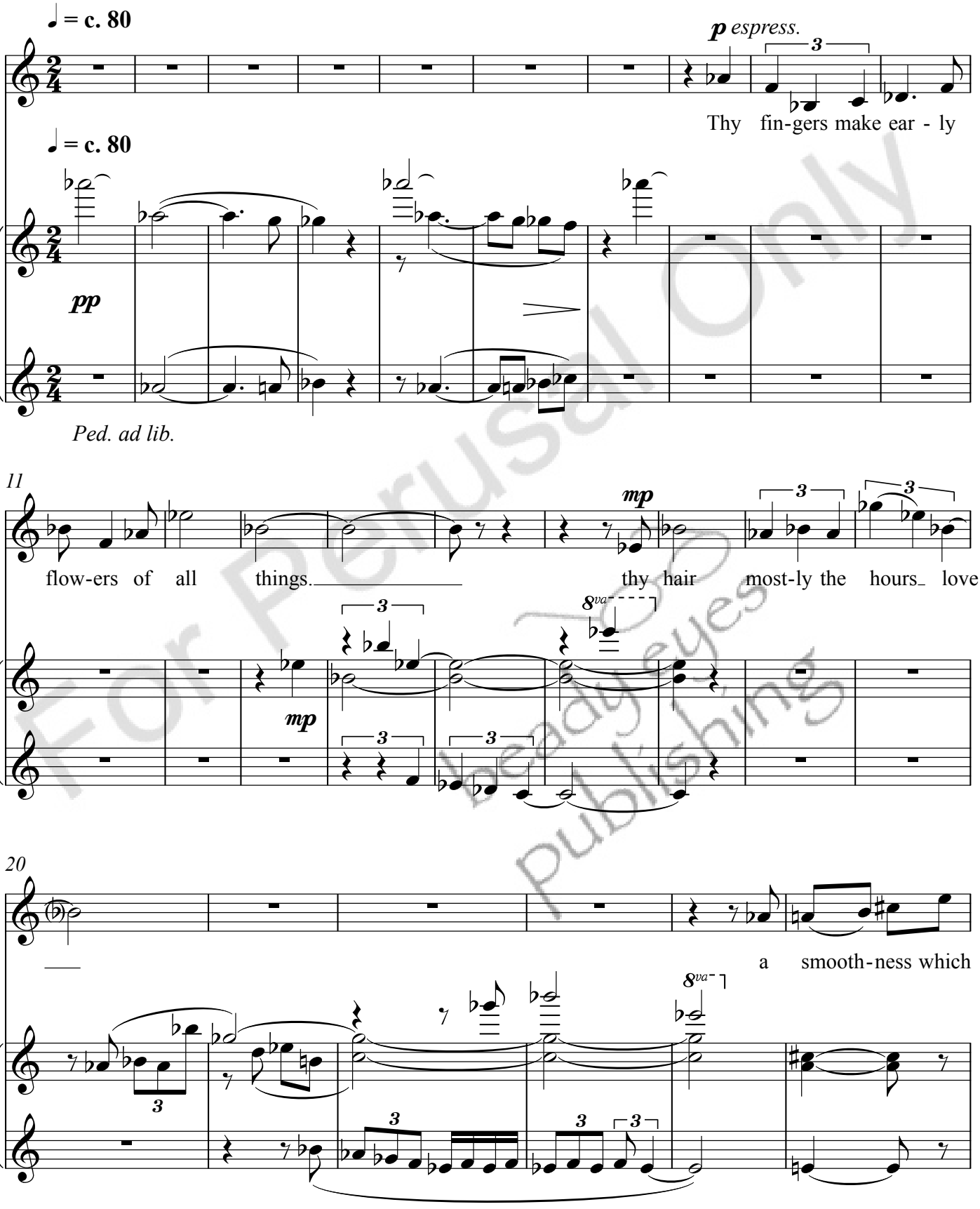
III. Thy fingers make early flowers



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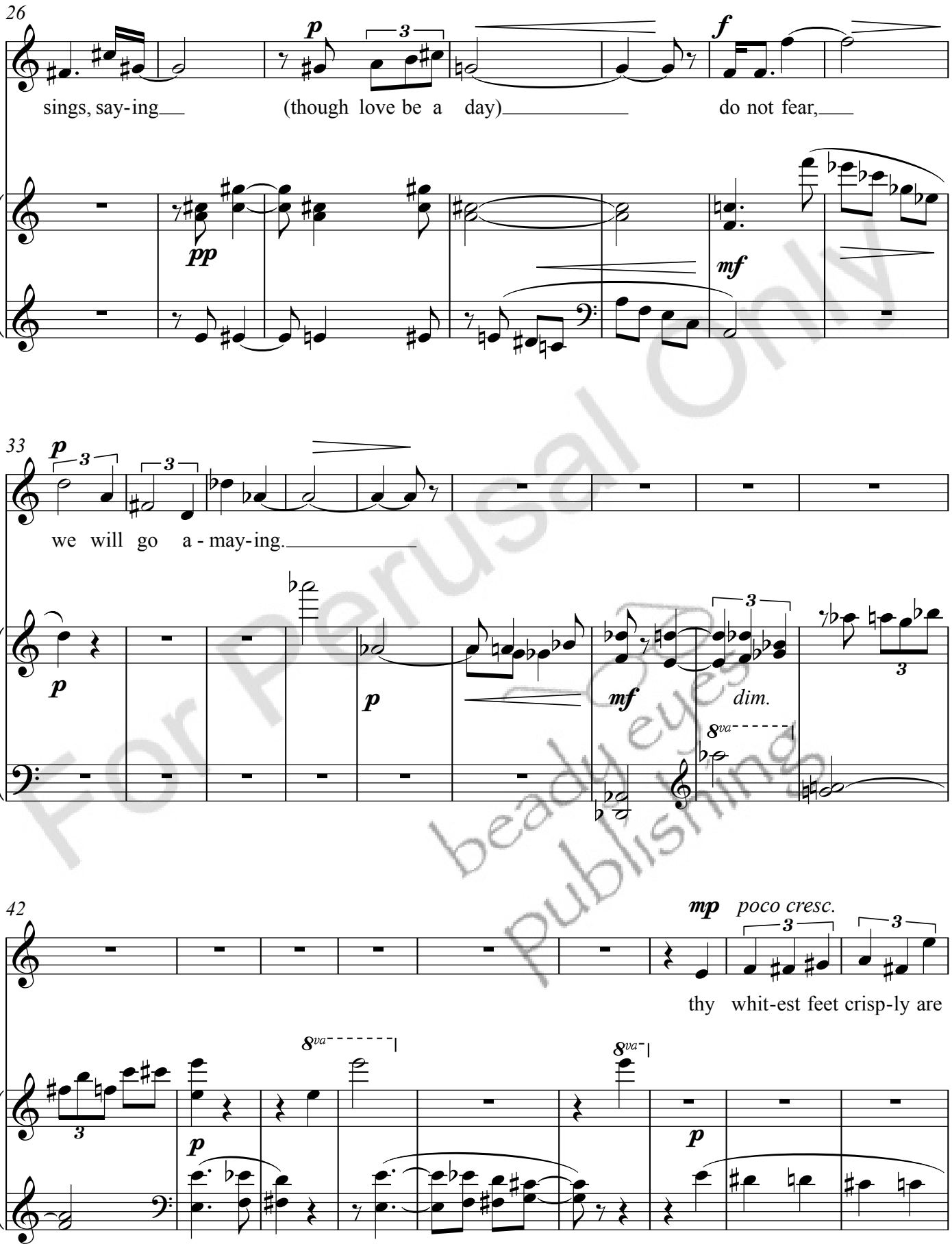

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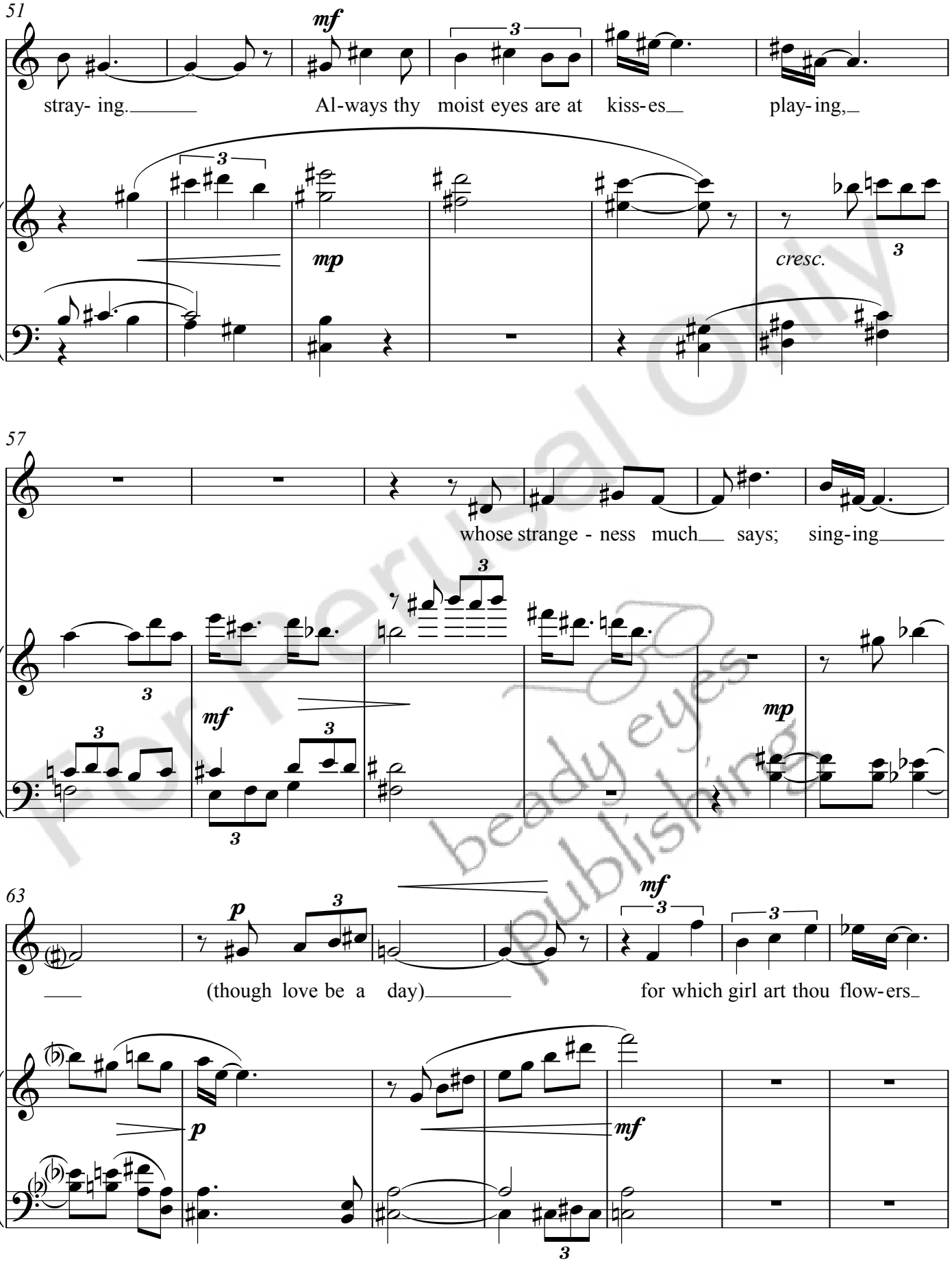

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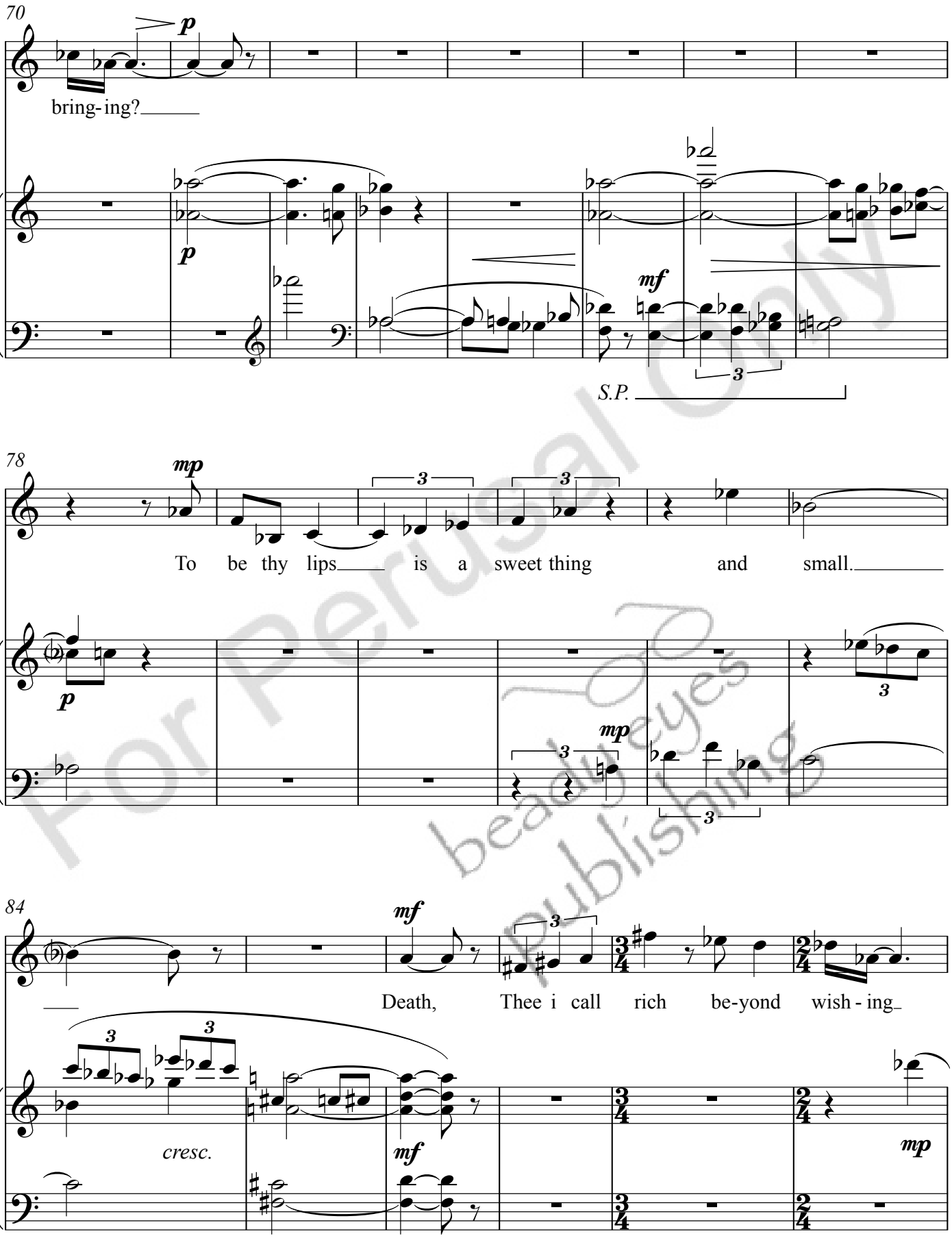

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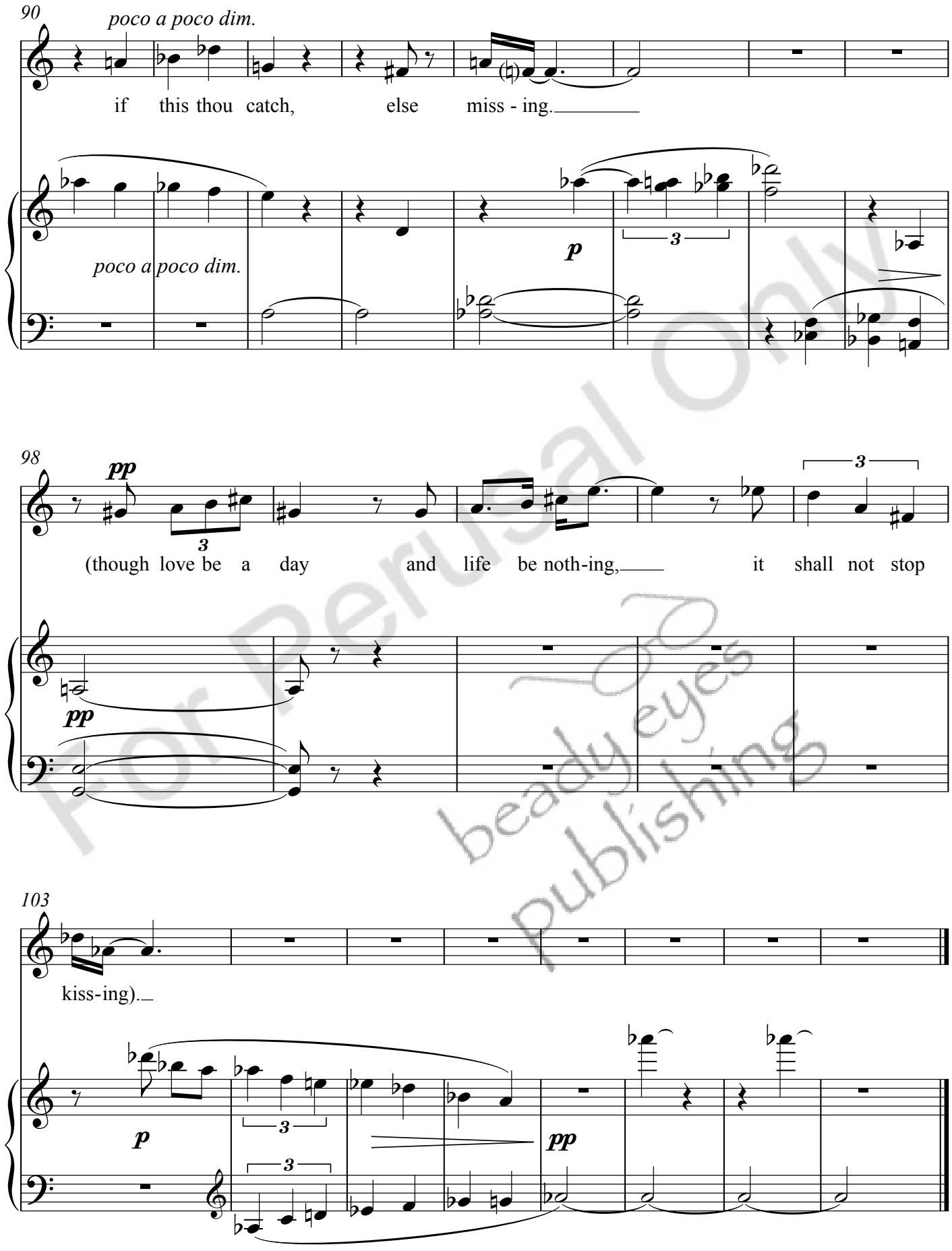

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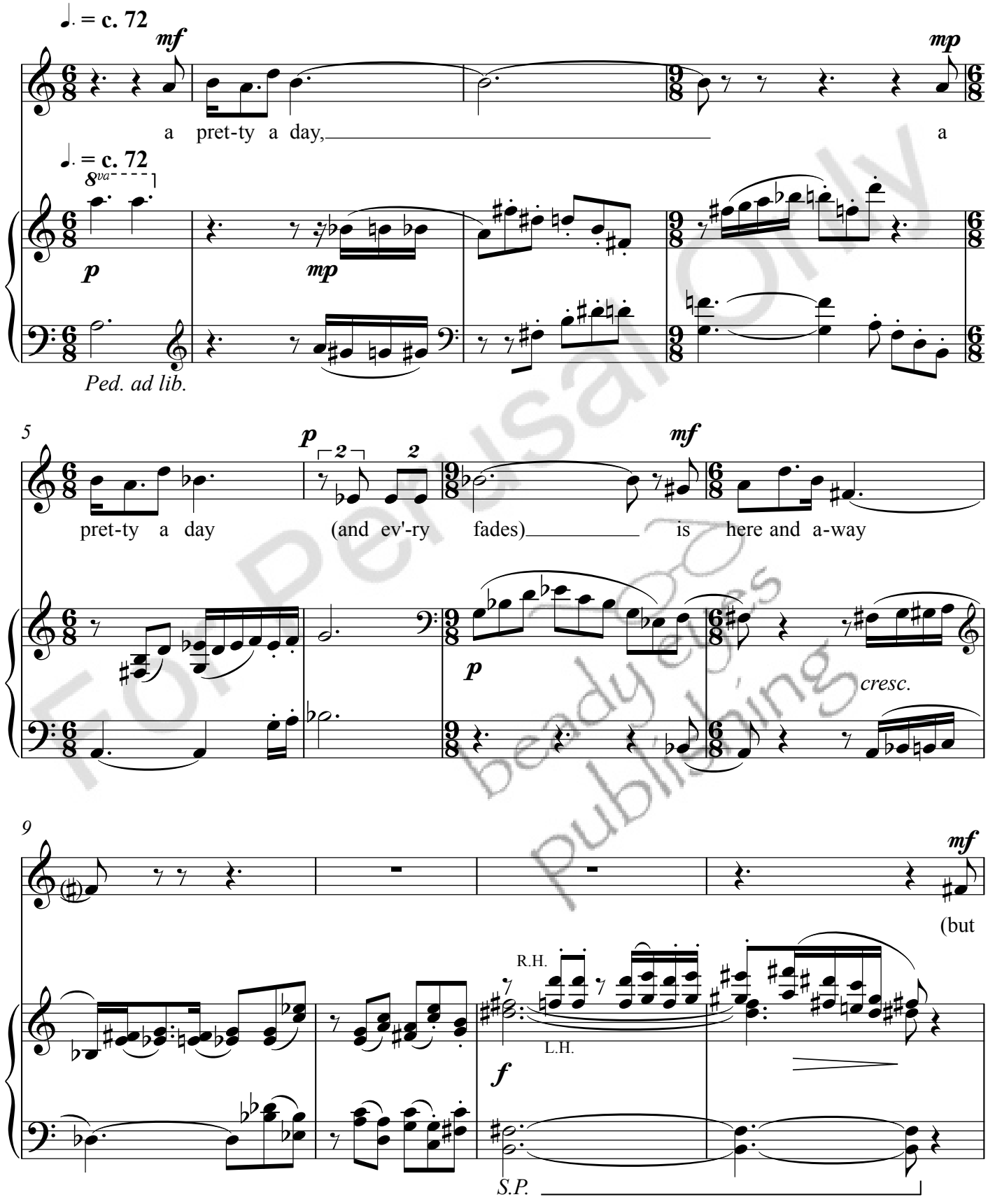
IV. a pretty a day



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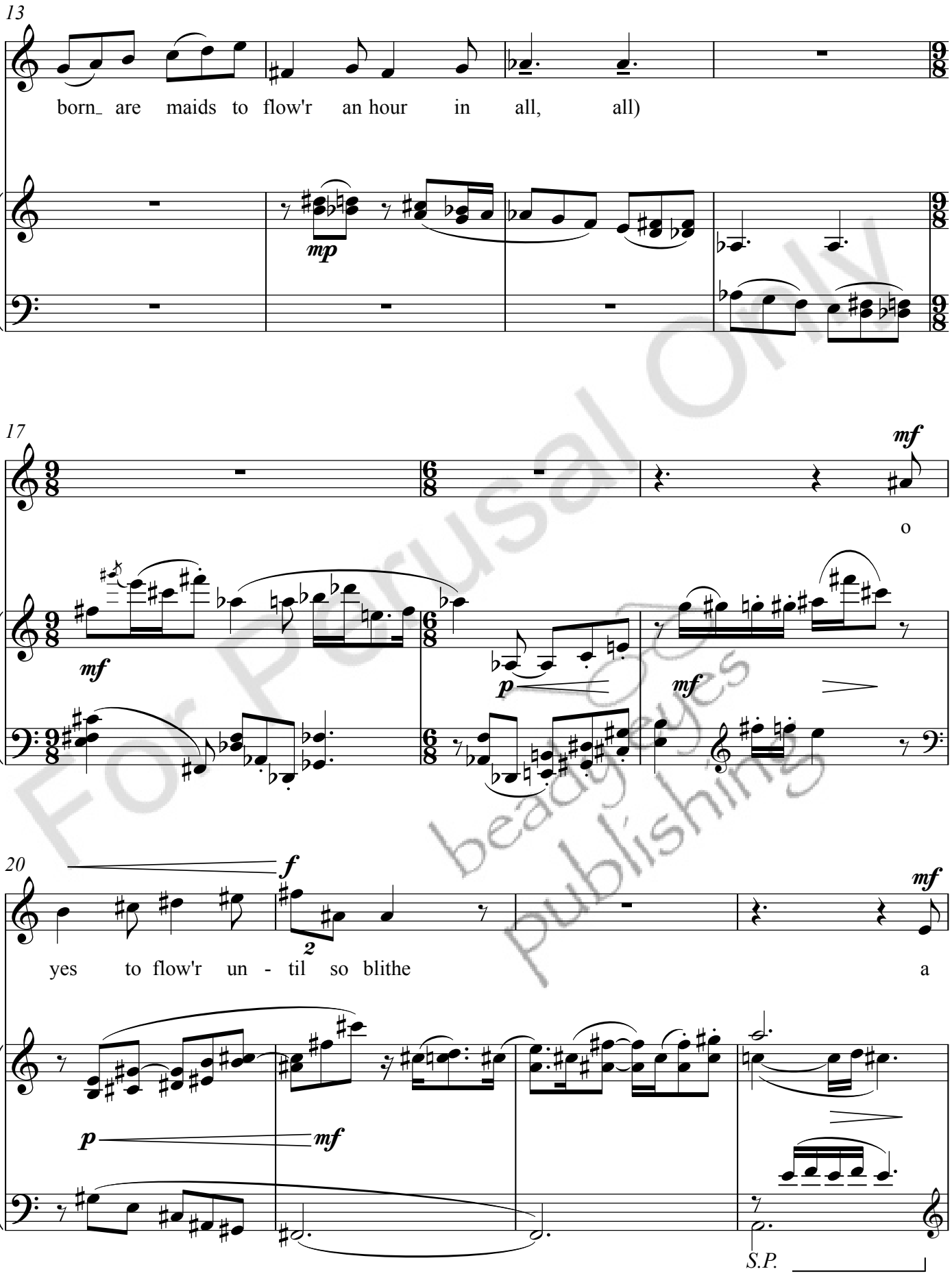

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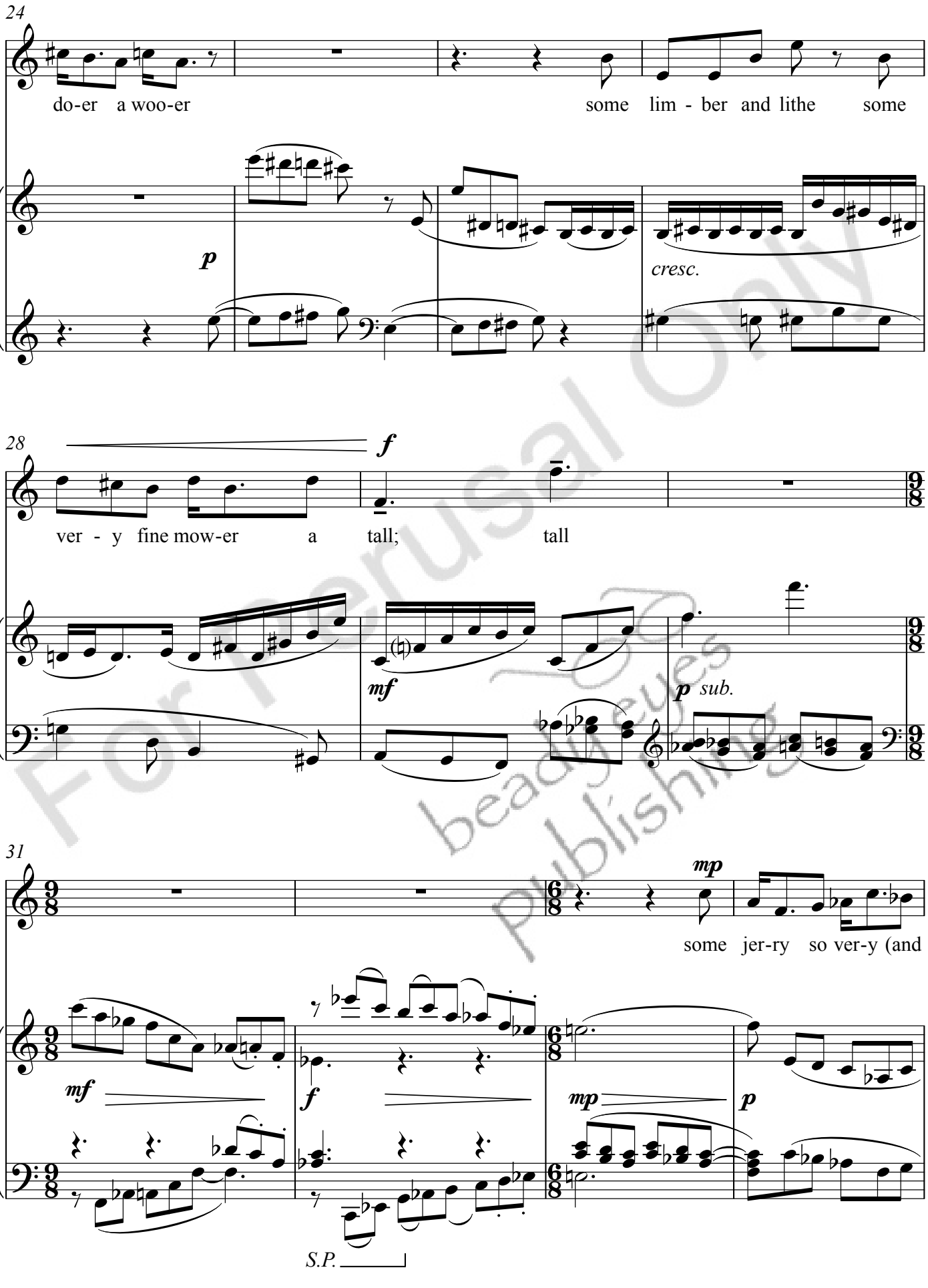

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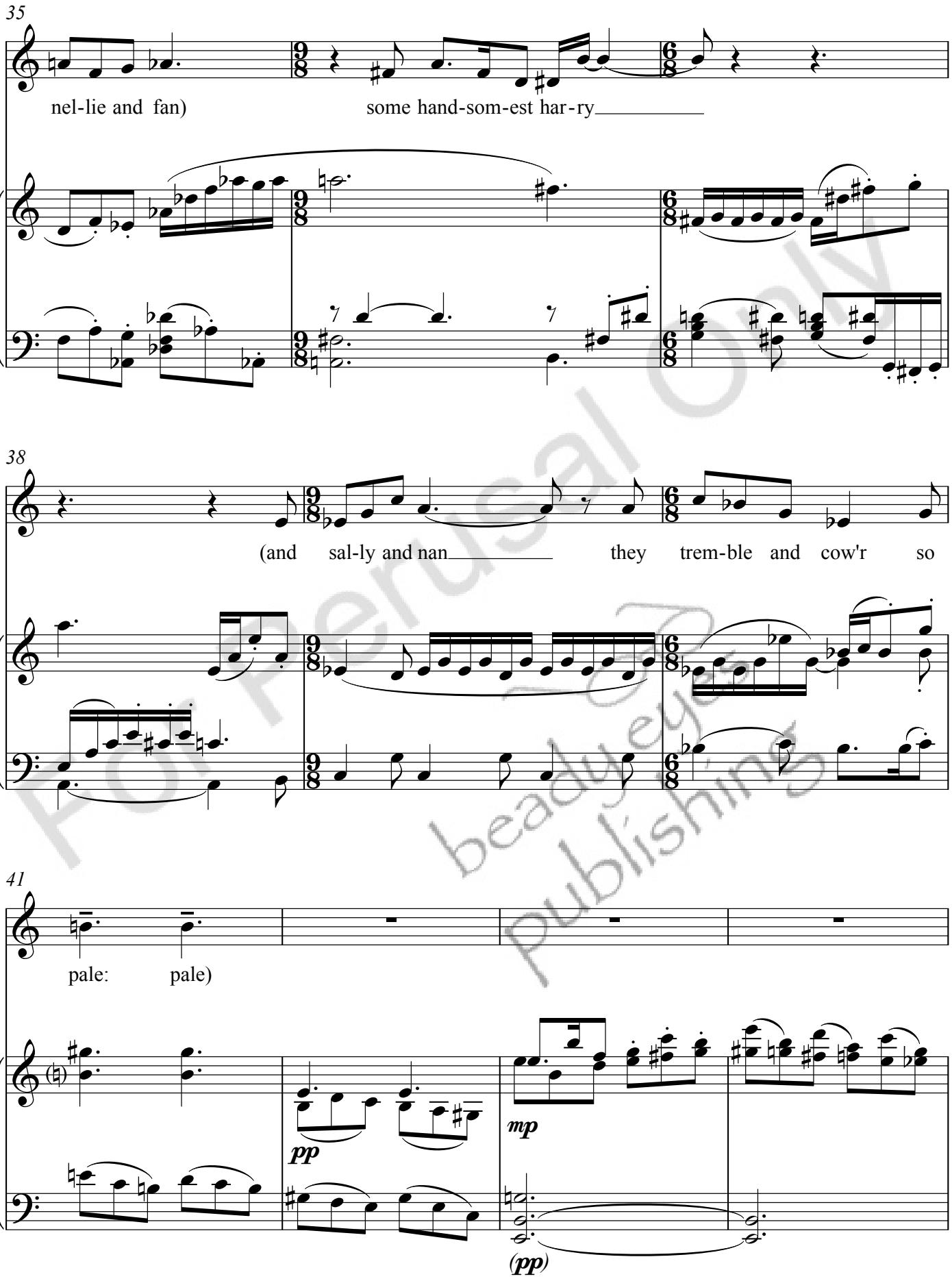

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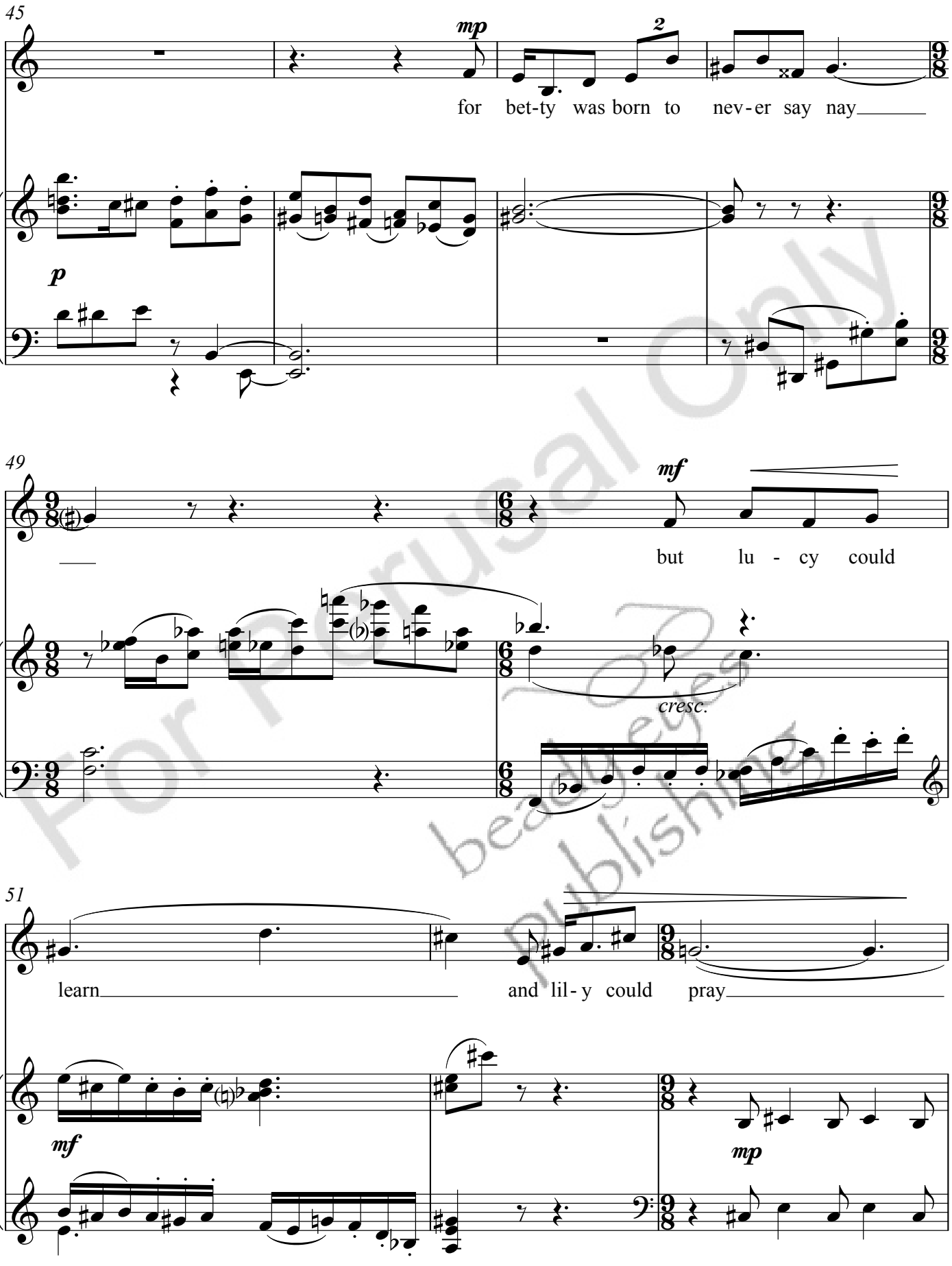

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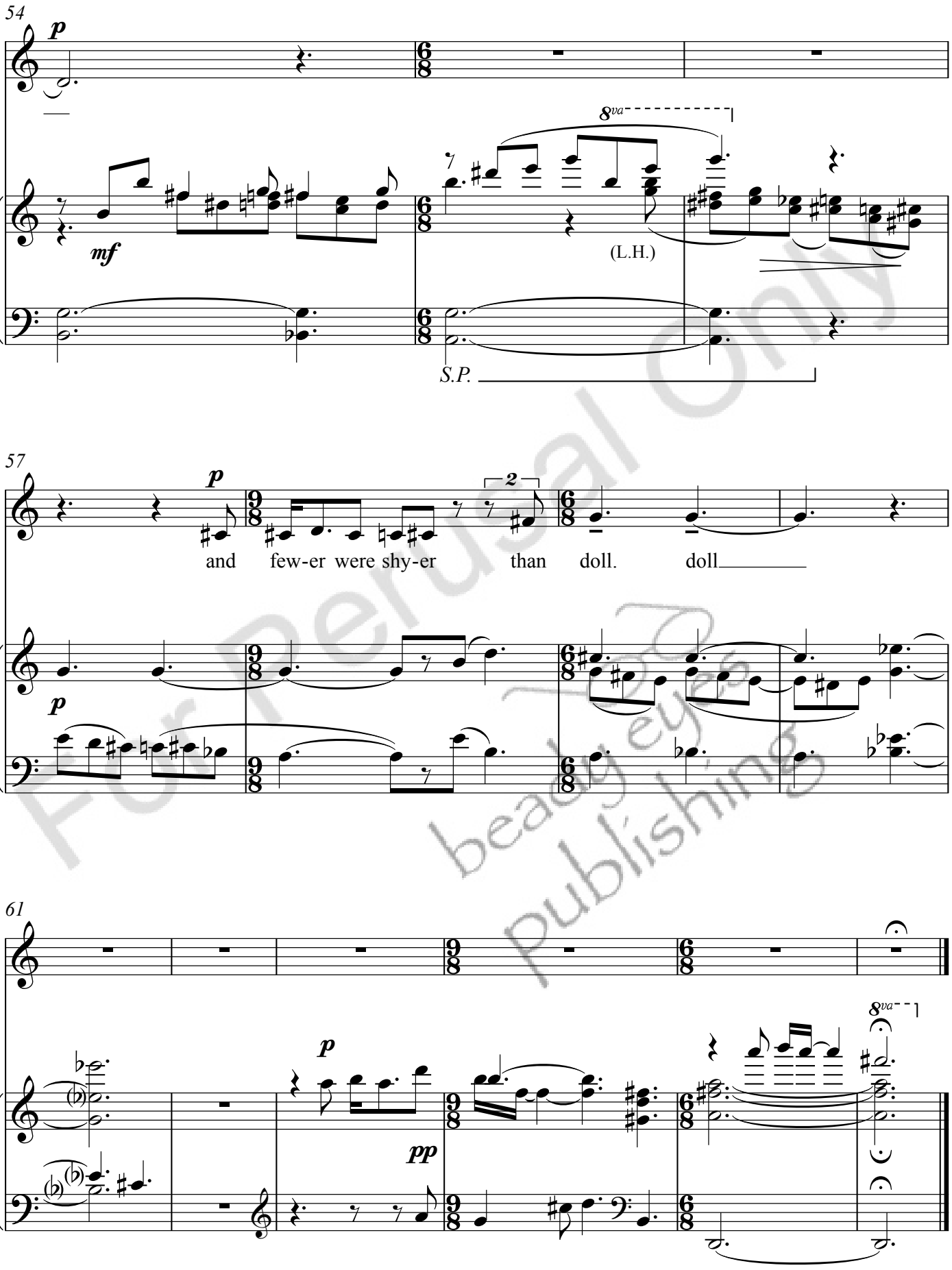

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