In Sweet Music

music for SATB voices

David Archer

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Text

(From the play Henry VIII, Act III, Scene I. A song sung by Queen Katharine.)

Orpheus with his lute made trees,
And the mountain tops that freeze,
  Bow themselves when he did sing:
To his music plants and flowers
Ever sprung; as sun and showers
  There had made a lasting spring.

Every thing that heard him play,
Even the billows of the sea,
  Hung their heads, and then lay by.
In sweet music is such art,
Killing care and grief of heart
  Fall asleep, or hearing, die.

- William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Program Notes

Music holds a strange power. It speaks to the extreme conditions of life - to joy and gladness, grief and sorrow. In that strange, unknowable way, music is our companion, and a gift we can freely give to others. So go and make music!

Performance Notes

* Measures 1-16, and similar passages: Flow smoothly between each "Orpheus", lifting only where rests are indicated.
* Ensure that the long "Or" syllable in "Orpheus" doesn't close to the "r" until the last possible moment. It should sound like "Oh".
* Exaggerate the hairpins. Shape the phrases like waves on the sea. Bring them to life!

Duration: ~ 4'45"

See, hear, purchase, and read about more choral music at **www.soundstone.ca.** You can contact me at **david@soundstone.ca**. I'd love to hear from you!

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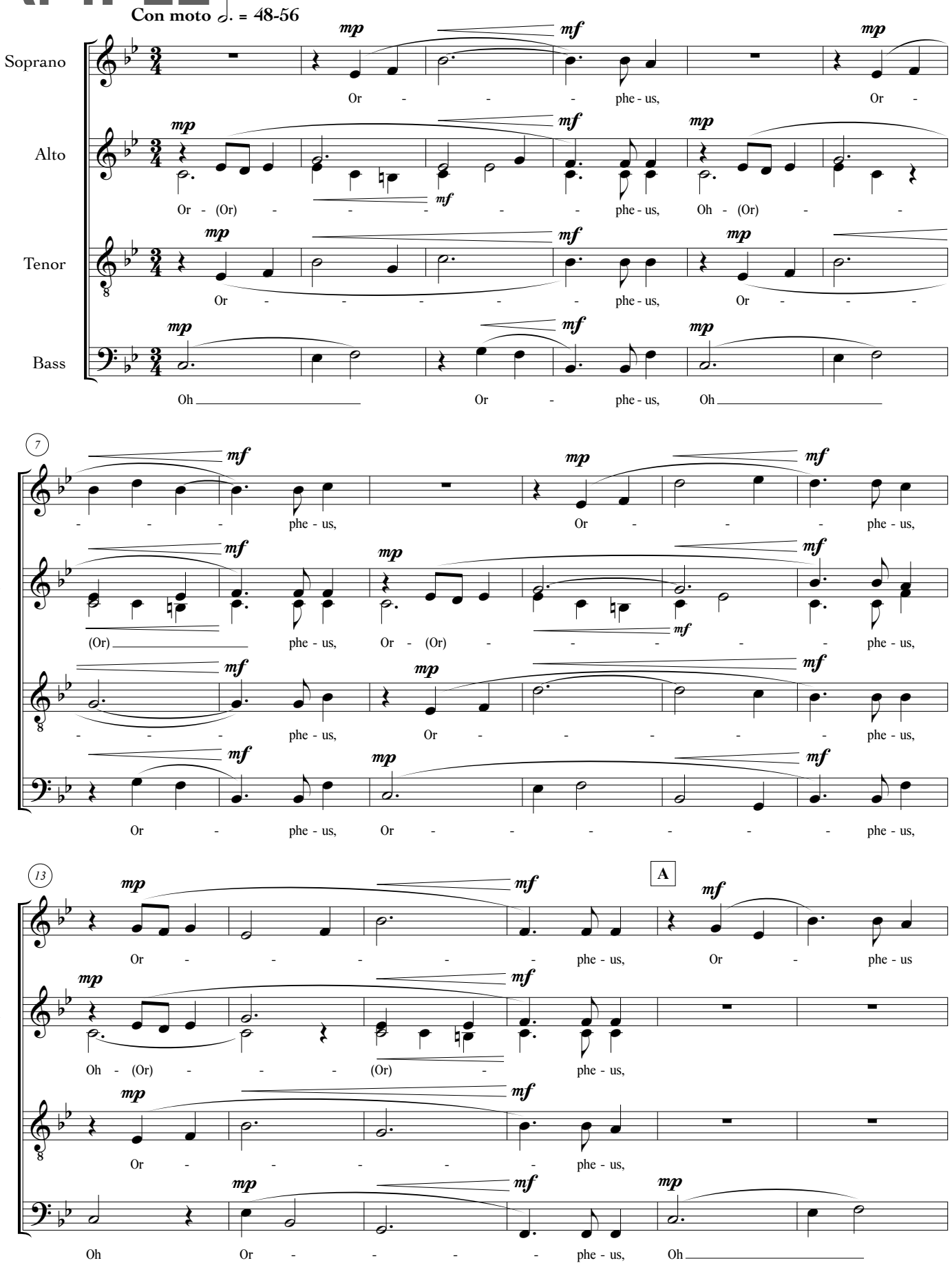
SAMPLE

In Sweet Music

music for SATB voices

music by David Archer (1985)
text by William Shakespeare (1564-1616)



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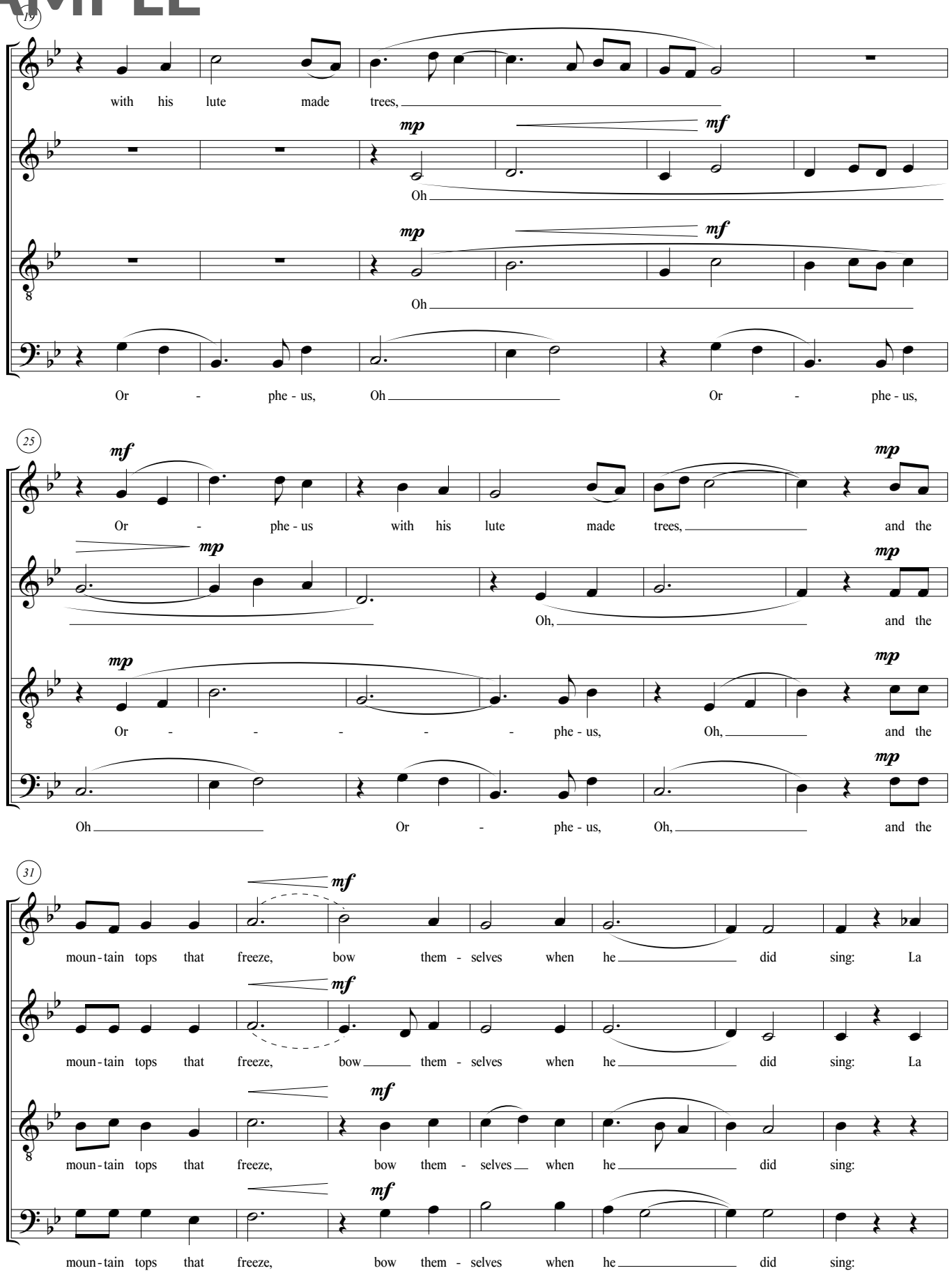

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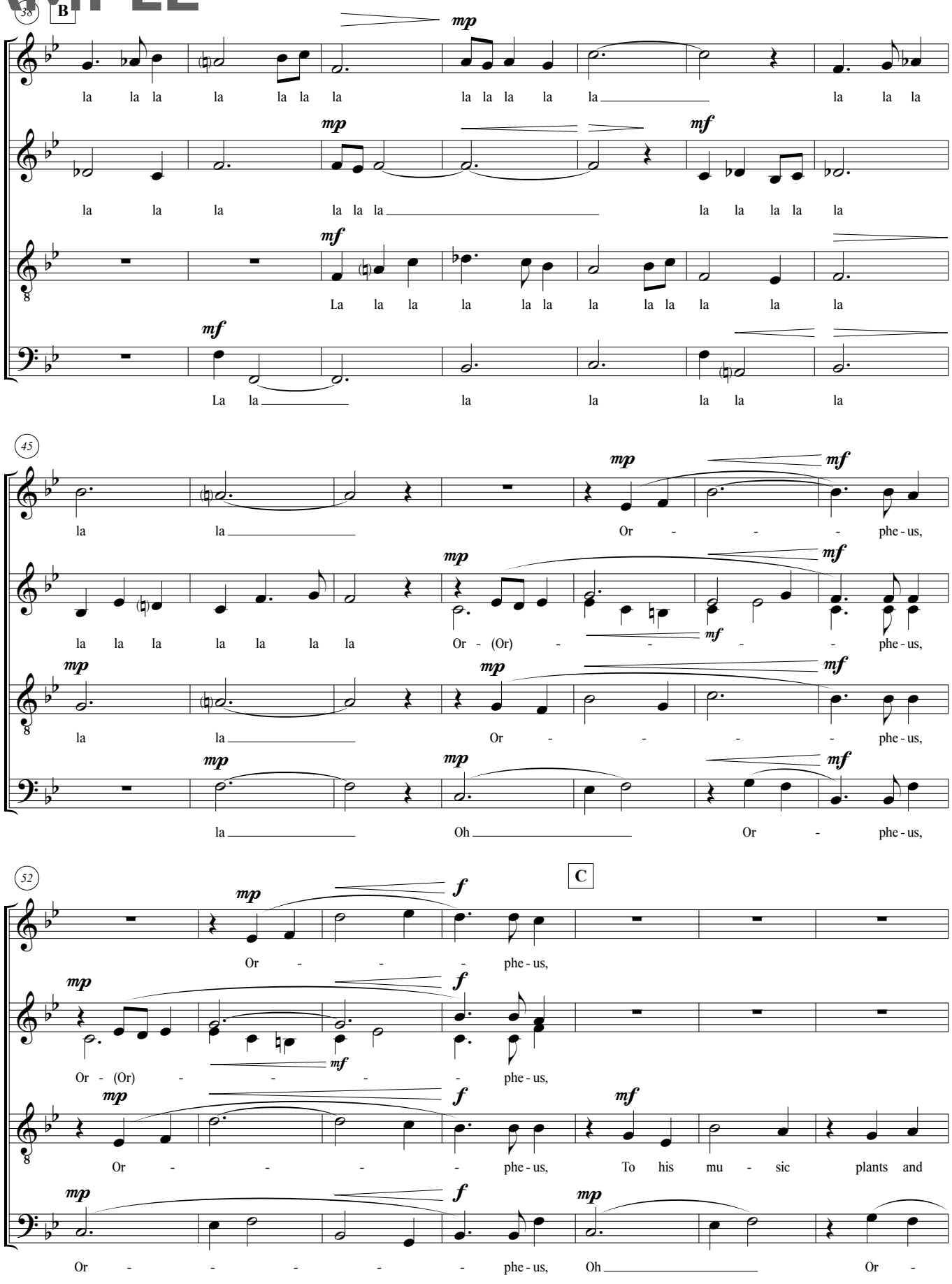

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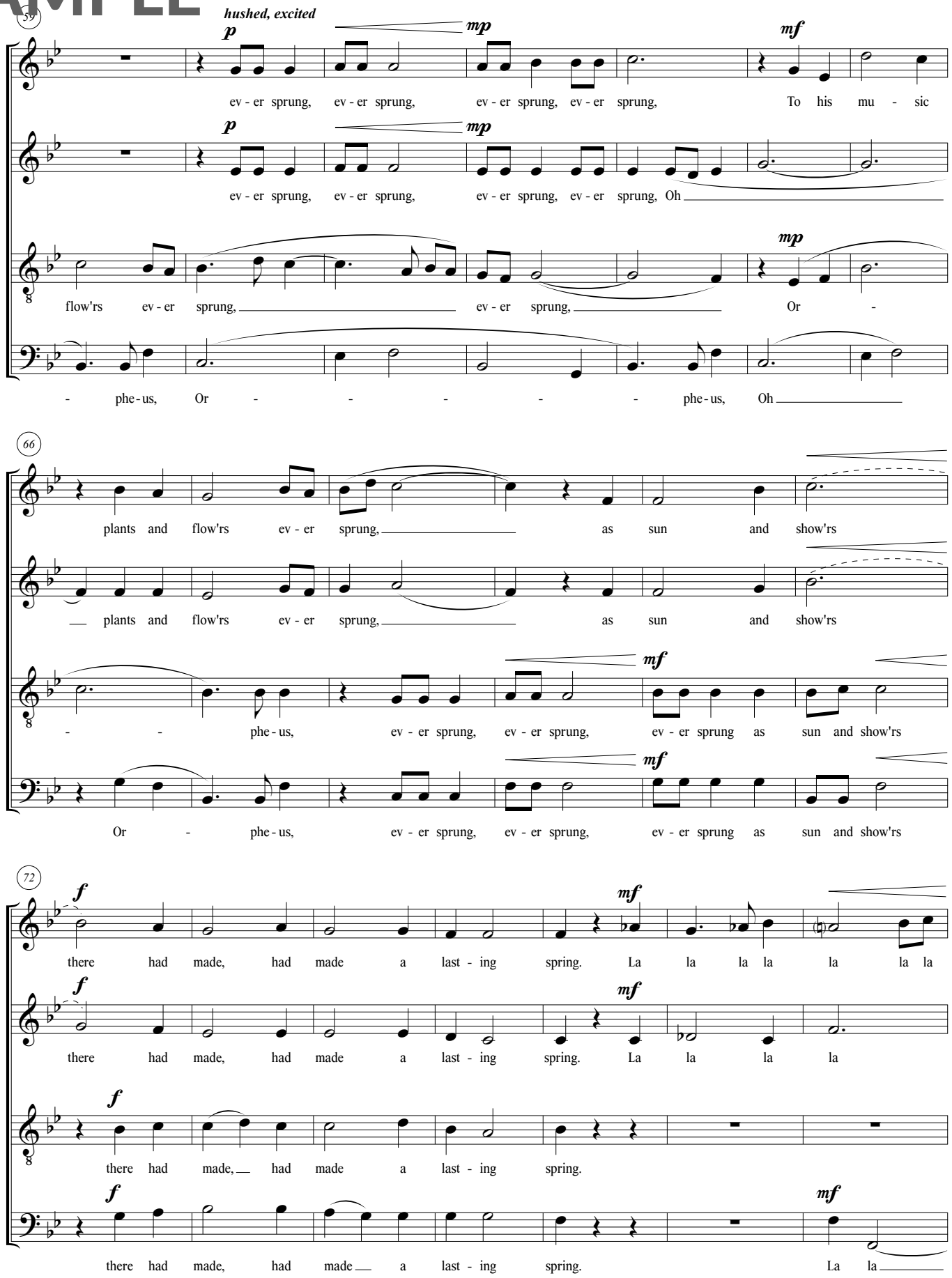

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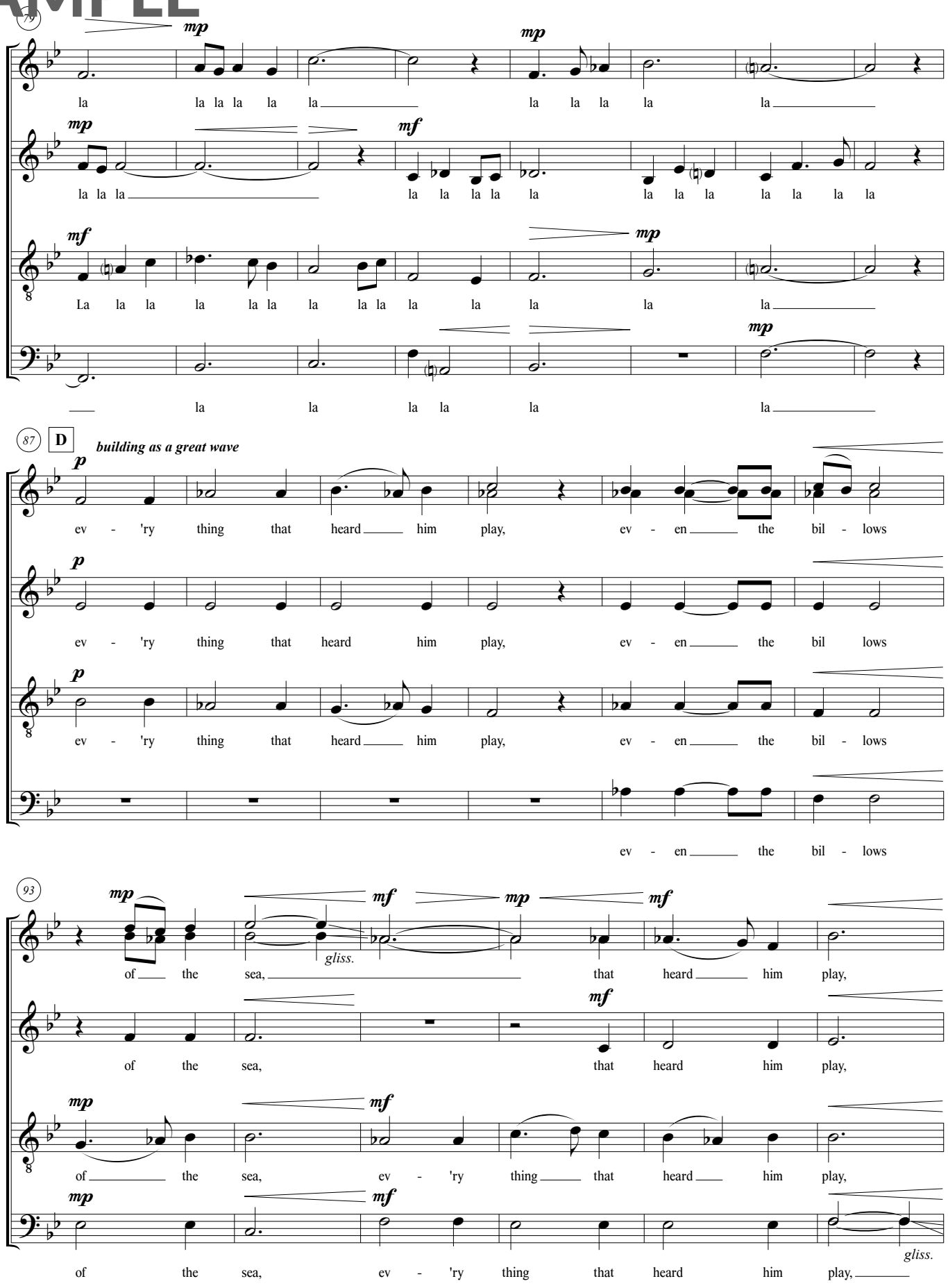

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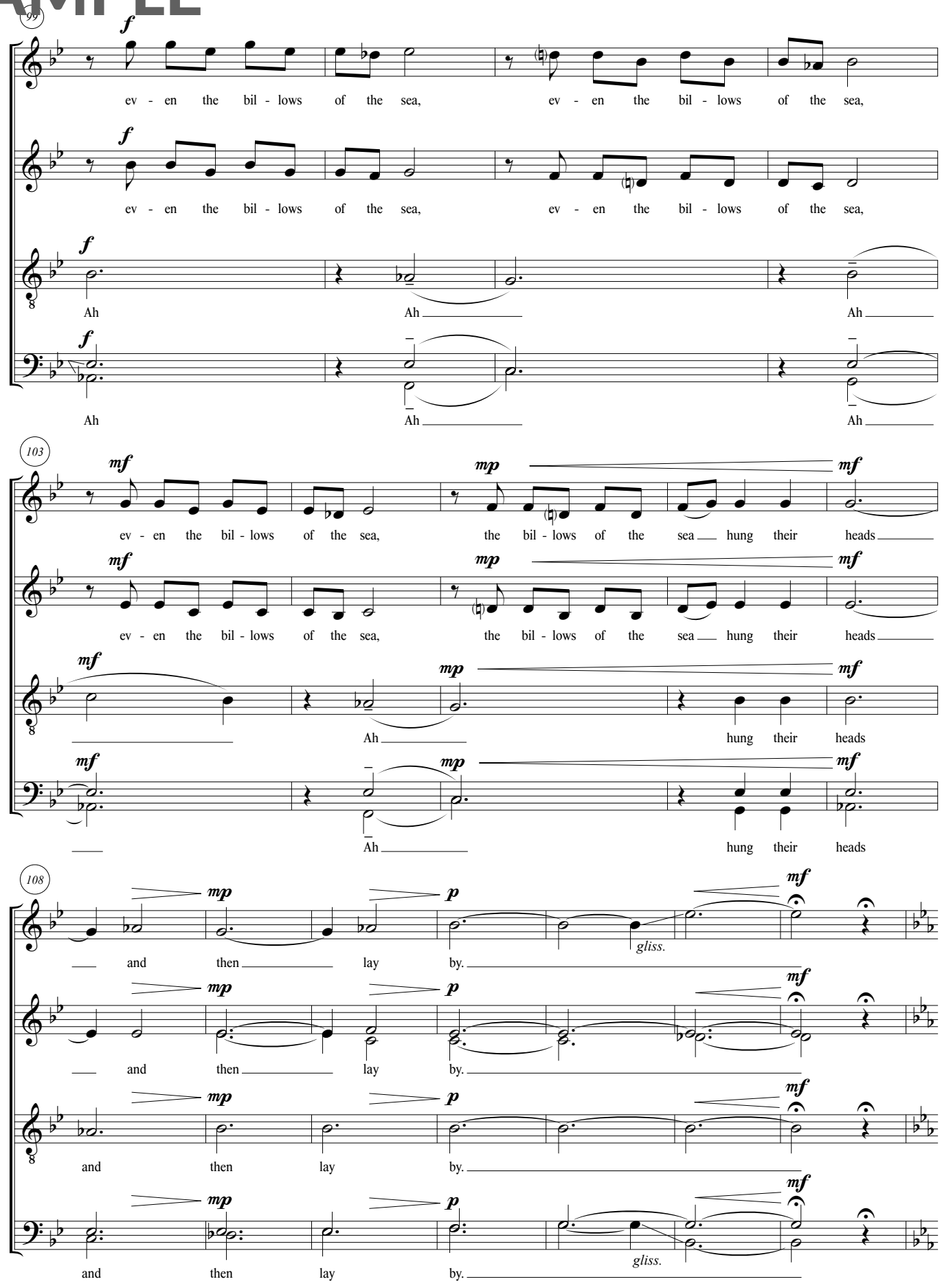

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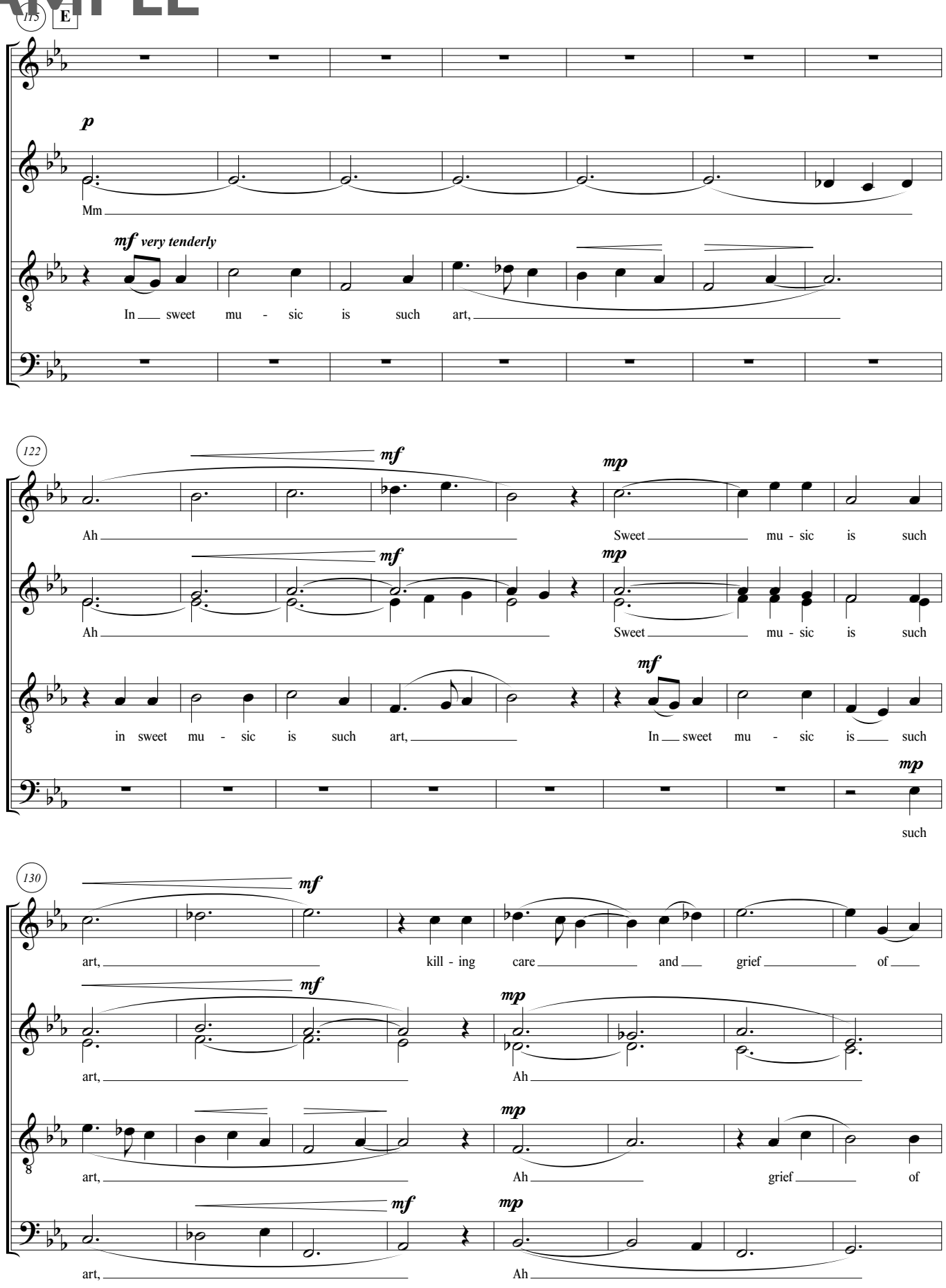

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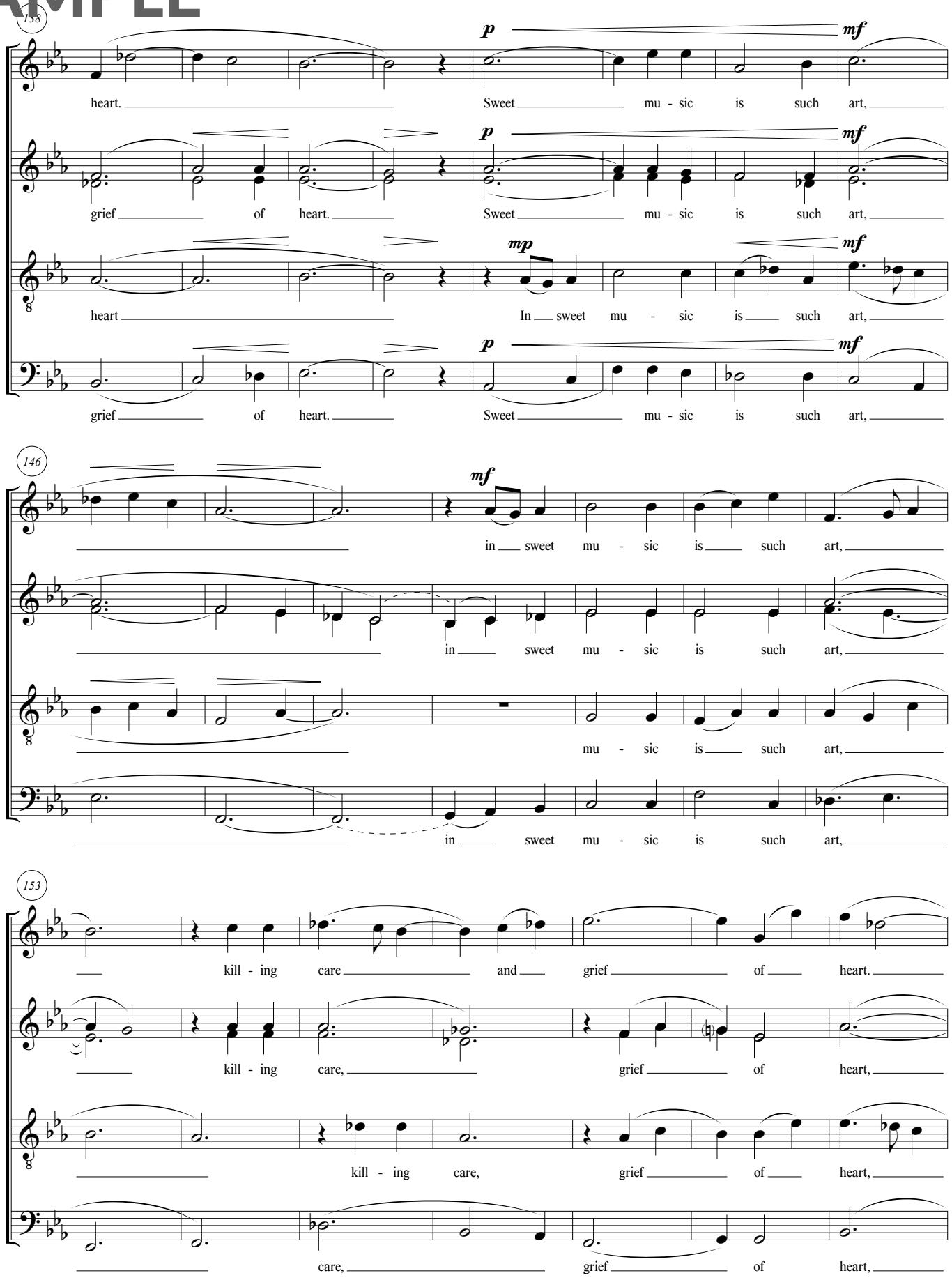

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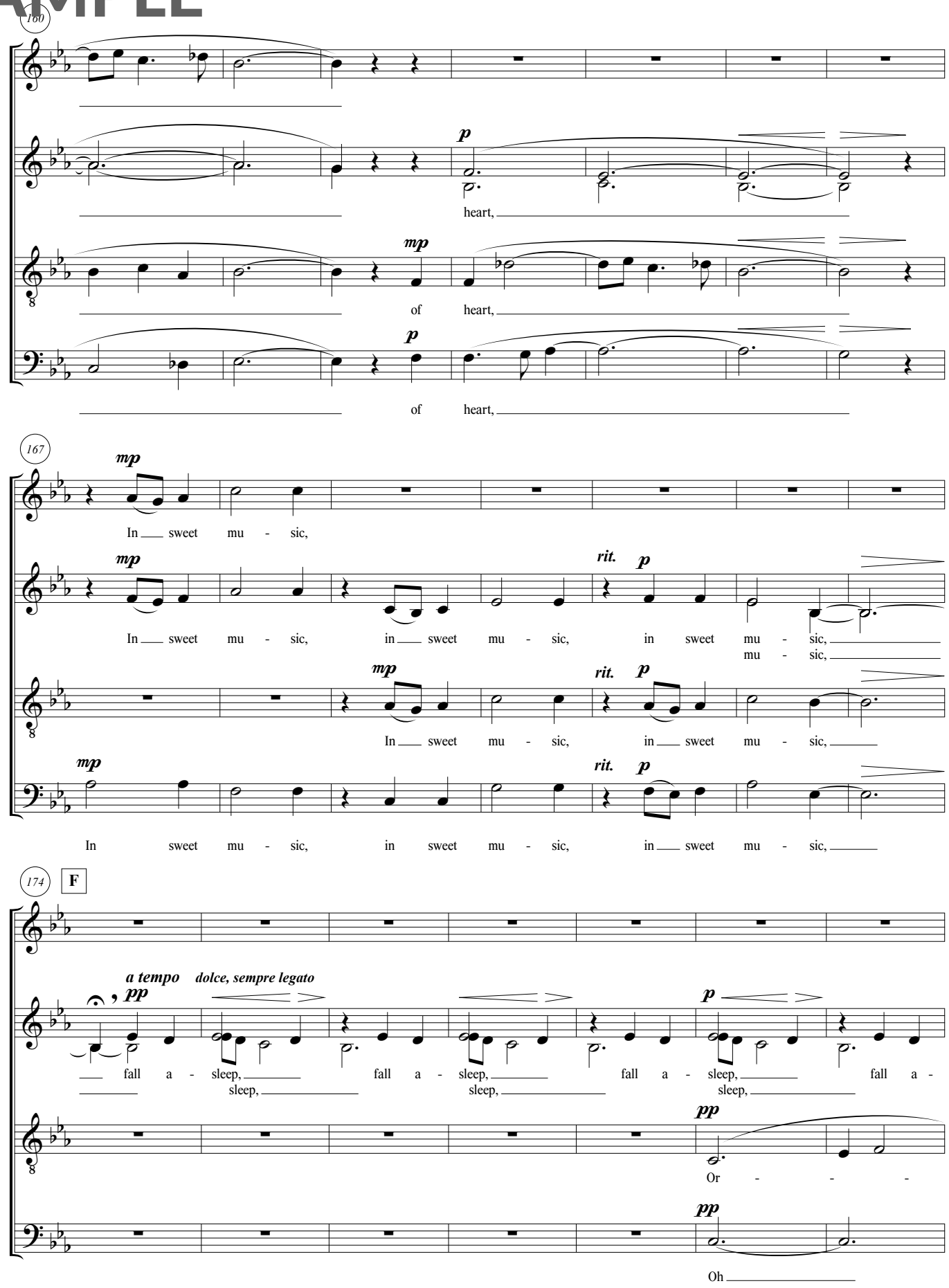

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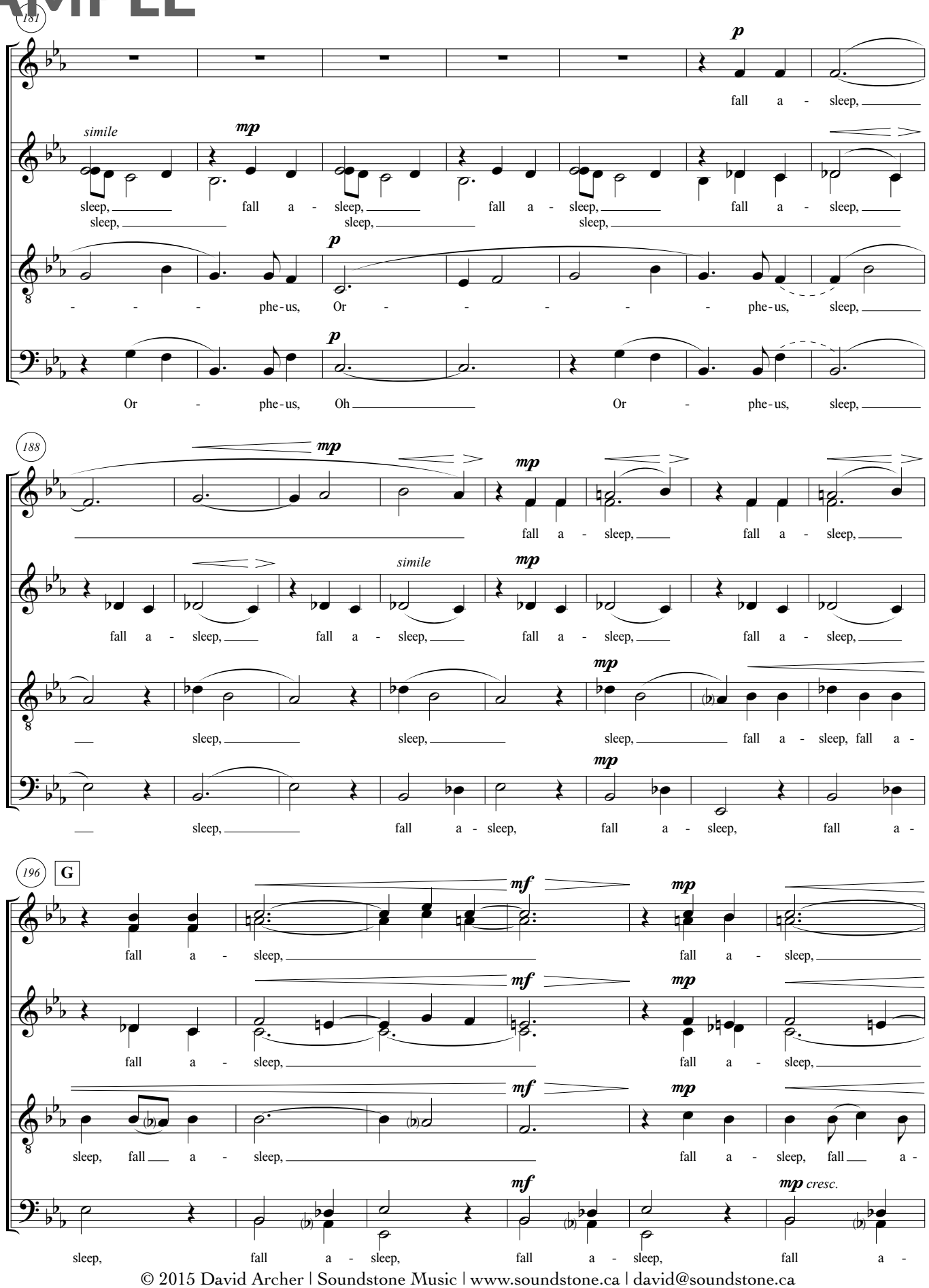

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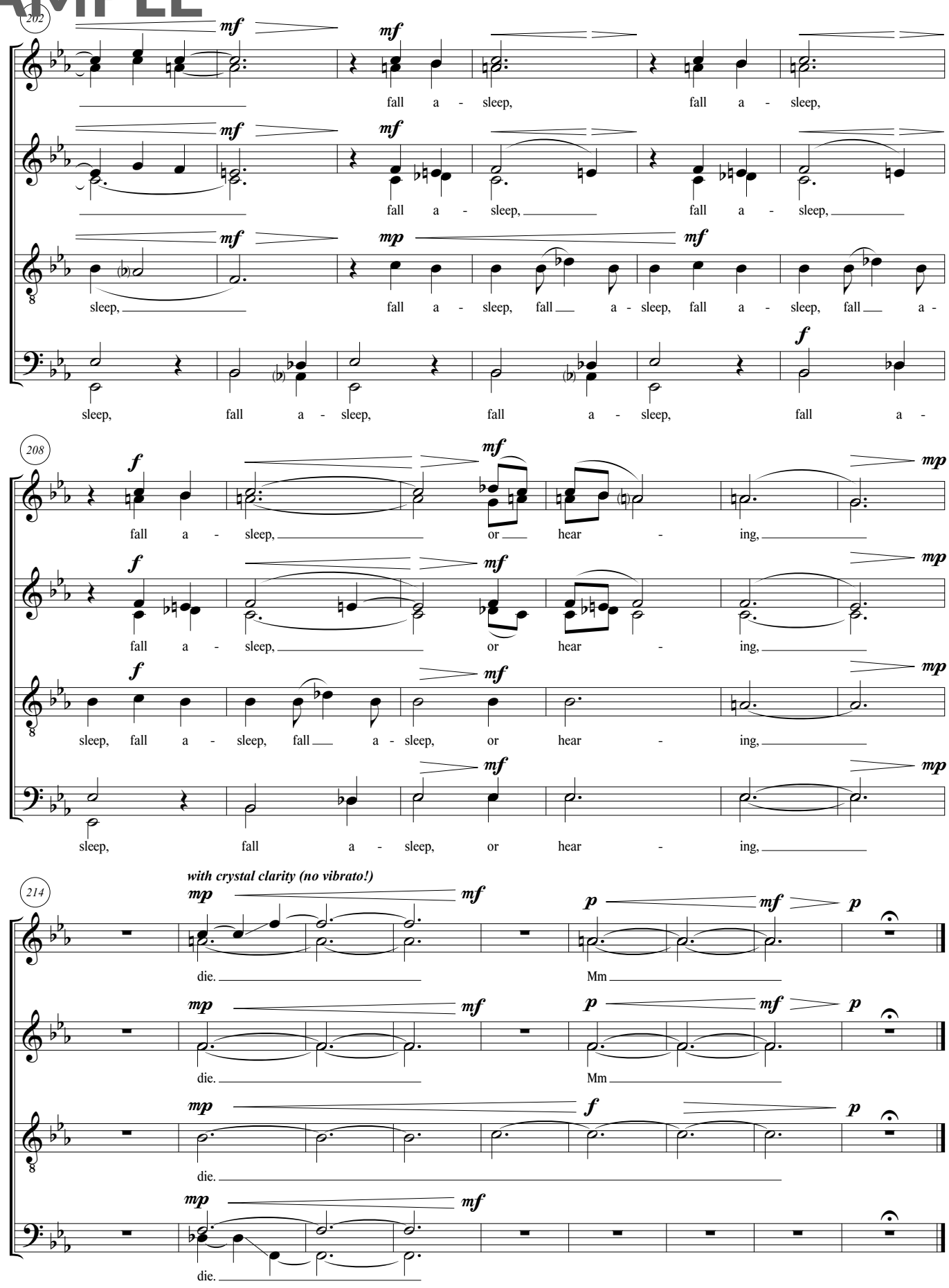

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