031.A0

Shara Nova

Winter Hymns

for SSA choir (with divisi) and piano (2025)

Blue Sword Publishing

Perusal

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Music and lyrics by
Shara Nova, 2024.

Instrumental arrangements and
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Perusal

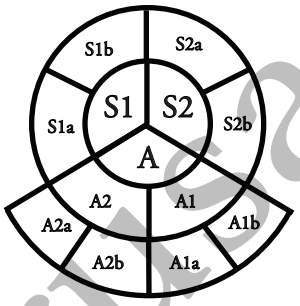
Winter Hymns

for SSA choir (with divisi) piano

Shara Nova, 2024 — Instrumentals arr. J. Clay Gonzalez — Duration ca. 15'00"

Divisi
The choir has is divided into three main sections; Soprano 1, Soprano 2, and Alto. Each of these is also subdivided in two (S1a, S1b, S2a, S2b, A1, A2). The piece also calls for a soloist from the Soprano 1 section.

Briefly, in the final movement, each alto part has two part divisi for a bar or two. It may help to designate A1a, A1b, A2a, and A2b.



Commissioning Information
Commissioned by iSing Silicon Valley, conducted by Jennah Delp. Premiered December 2, 2023 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church featuring harpist Jieyin Wu and violist Lesley Roberston.

Movements
1. Come 'Round the Evergreen (2'53")
2. Owl Song (3'46")
3. The Last Light (3'10")
4. When Cardinals Appear, Spirits are Near (5'09")

Instrumentation
For this piece, the choir is accompanied by piano.

Editions
The original version of this work is written for SSA choir, harp, and viola.

The following edition contains all four movements:

[031.00] Winter Hymns, for SSA choir, harp, and viola

Additionally, each movement is available as stand-alone works.

[031.10] "Come 'Round the Evergreen," from Winter Hymns, for SSA choir, harp, and viola
[031.20] "Owl Song" from Winter Hymns, for SSA choir, harp, and viola
[031.30] "The Last Light" from Winter Hymns, for SSA choir, harp, and viola
[031.40] "When Cardinals Appear, Spirits Are Near", for SSA choir, harp, and viola

An edition that substitutes the harp for a piano, rewriting various passages to be more idiomatic for the piano, is also available.

[031.50] Winter Hymns, for SSA choir, piano, and viola

Additionally, each movement with viola and piano is available as a stand-alone work.

[031.60] "Come 'Round the Evergreen," from Winter Hymns, for SSA choir, piano, and viola
[031.70] "Owl Song" from Winter Hymns, for SSA choir, piano, and viola
[031.80] "The Last Light" from Winter Hymns, for SSA choir, piano, and viola
[031.90] "When Cardinals Appear, Spirits Are Near", for SSA choir, piano, and viola

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Editions, continued.

This edition is arranged for choir and piano (only.)

[031.A0] Winter Hymns, for SSA choir and piano

As with the other arrangments, the individual movements arranged for choir and piano are also available as stand-alone editions.

[031.B0] "Come 'Round the Evergreen," from Winter Hymns, for SSA choir and piano
[031.C0] "Owl Song" from Winter Hymns, for SSA choir and piano
[031.D0] "The Last Light" from Winter Hymns, for SSA choir and piano
[031.E0] "When Cardinals Appear, Spirits Are Near", for SSA choir and piano

Program Note
As midwinter approaches, many people slow down a bit to reflect, and to listen to the world around them. The internality of the season invites us to take stock of what we have, and grieve what we've lost. For many, it's a time to pay attention to the relationships that give our lives meaning.

"Winter Hymns" brings us into the emotional world that characterizes these end-of-year reflections, often using nature as a lens.

Winter is a time of profound changes in the natural world, where the colors of fall give way to the austerity of December. These changes affect us deeply, shaping our moods and outlook. Within winter's gloom, though, are hints of abundance. The vibrancy of an evergreen in snow. A glimpse of a silent barred owl. Stars emerging from a brilliant winter sunset. A flash of red as a cardinal flies by.

In "Winter Hymns," these images lead us into a space of celebration and reflection, where we consider what connects us to loves ones, to nature, and to home.

LYRICS

I. Come 'Round the Evergreen

Come 'round the evergreen,
Come 'round and sing;
"Oh, joy to see you,
Oh joy, joy!
All the birds gather at the evergreen
In its boughs, we fold our winds,
And in the rush of gathering, (Ah, ah,)
And in the rush of reuniting at the evergreen, (Ah, ah,)
Come round and sing;
"Oh, joy to see you,
Oh joy, joy!"

II. Owl Song

(Who, who, who, who,
Who, who, who, who,)

Listen long enough,
And the wind will tell a tale
of the goings and comings of the creatures,
Of the movements of the fox upon the rabbit's trail.

I hear all the laughter and confusion,
I hear all their hopes and illusions
By listening quietly,
Listening so quietly
to the falling snow,
The world I know,
The world I know,
The world I know,

(Who, who, who, who,
Who, who, who, who).

III. The Last Light

The last star, ah
The last starlight, ah,
The last star, ah,
The last starlight, ah.

To appear in the night sky,
above the top of the trees,
Shines to tell me,
I have made it the long way home.

The last light, ah,
Light, ah.

IV. When Cardinals Appear, Spirits Are Near

Ah, ah, ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah,
Ah, ah, ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah-ah,

(continued on next page)

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Lyrics continued
(IV. When Cardinals Appear, Spirits Are Near)

Amid the winter's muted palate
The cardinal in it's bright red cape
Is radiance, radiance.

Hope flashing color,
The sadness of the season will not last.
The sadness, the sadness,
The sadness of the season will not last.

Yet I weep!
This winter of weeping for love,
lost from the body.
Weep, weep, weep,
For love, lost from the body,
The sorrow is equal to love's magnitude.

The cardinal bright appears
Even in this winter's gloom,

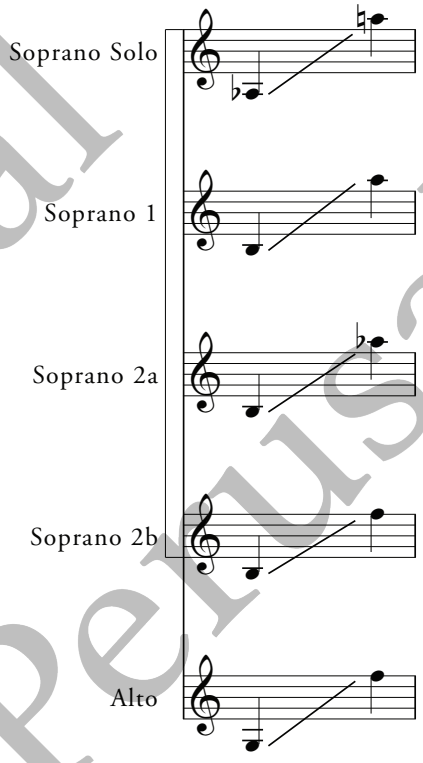
Amid the winter's muted palate,
The cardinal in it's bright red cape
Is radiance, radiance.

Hope, flashing color,
Hope, flashing color,
And at its bright appearance, I know
the spirit of my love is near,
The spirit, the spirit,
The spirit of my love is near,
The spirit, the spirit,
The spirit of my love is near,
So near, so near,
Radiant, radiant!

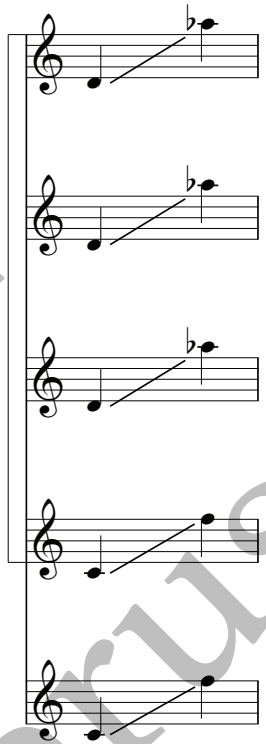
Perusal

VOCAL RANGES

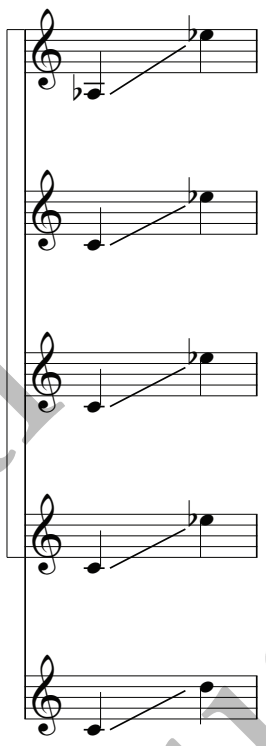
WINTER HYMNS
(Full Piece)



1. Come 'Round the Evergreen



2. Owl Song



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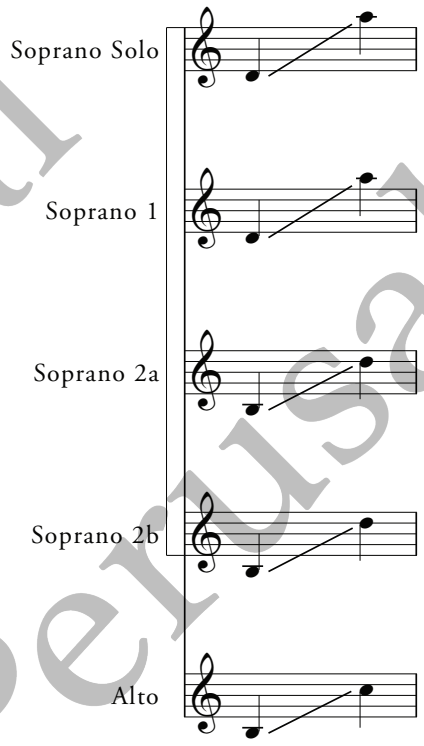
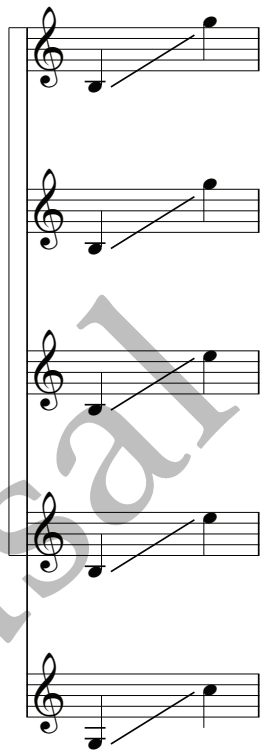
VOCAL RANGES

3. The Last Light



4. When Cardinals Appear, Spirits Are Near



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Perusal

Full Score

January 17, 2025

Commissioned by iSing Silicon Valley, conducted by Jennah Delp.
Premiered December 2, 2023 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church featuring harpist Jieyin Wu and violist Lesley Roberston.

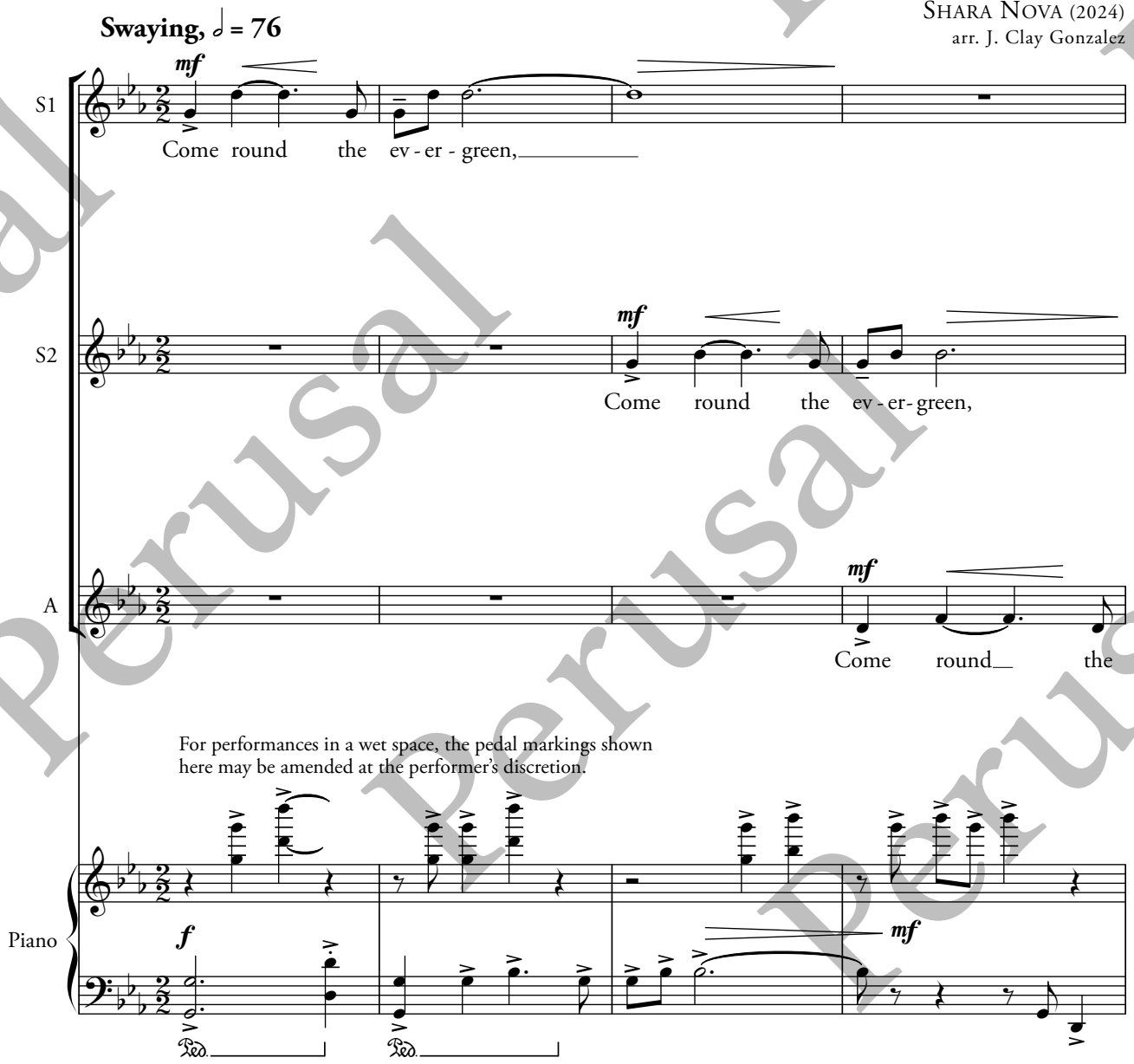
Winter Hymns

for SSA voices, viola, and piano

Shara Nova

I. Come Round the Evergreen

Shara Nova (2024)
arr. J. Clay Gonzalez



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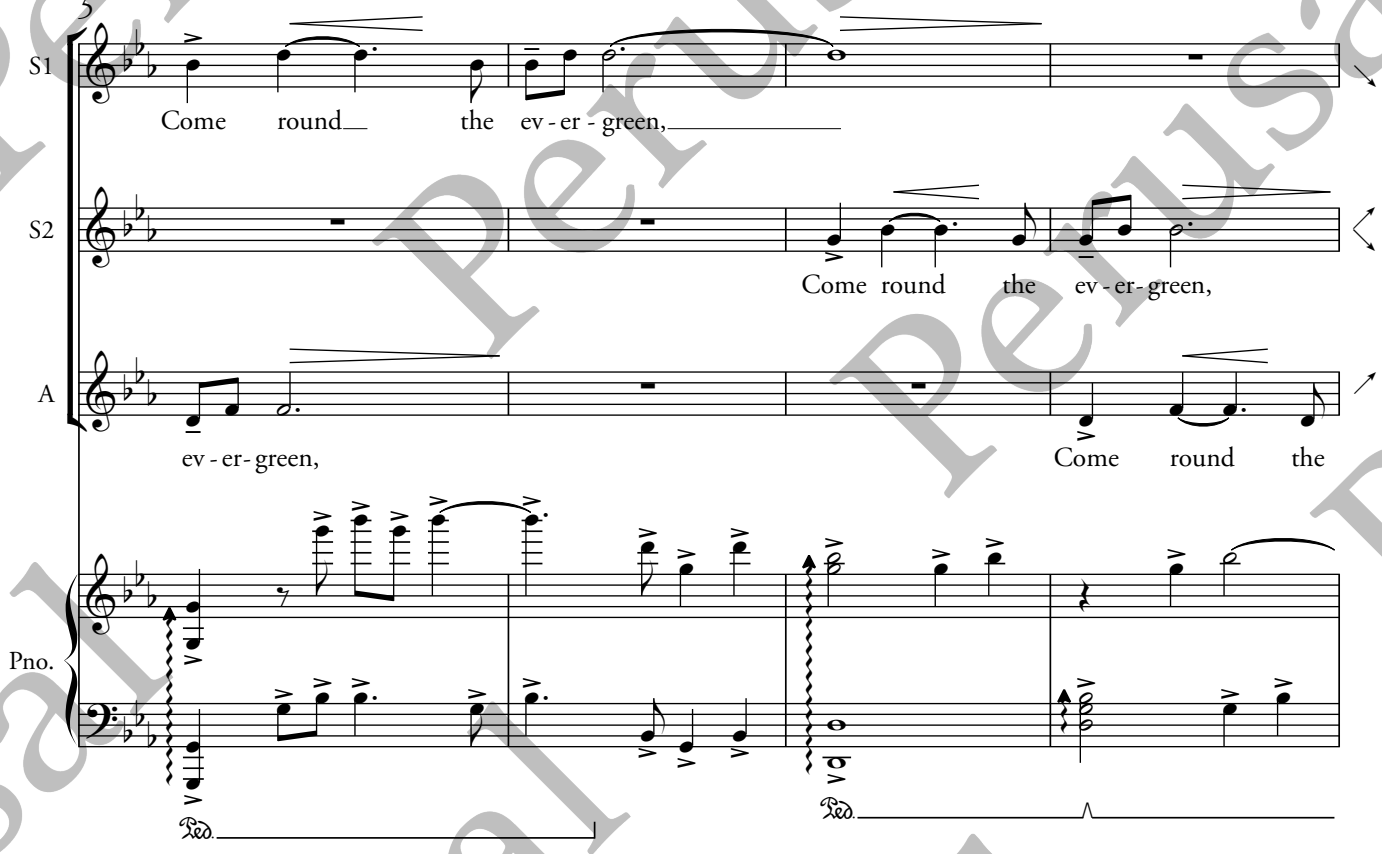
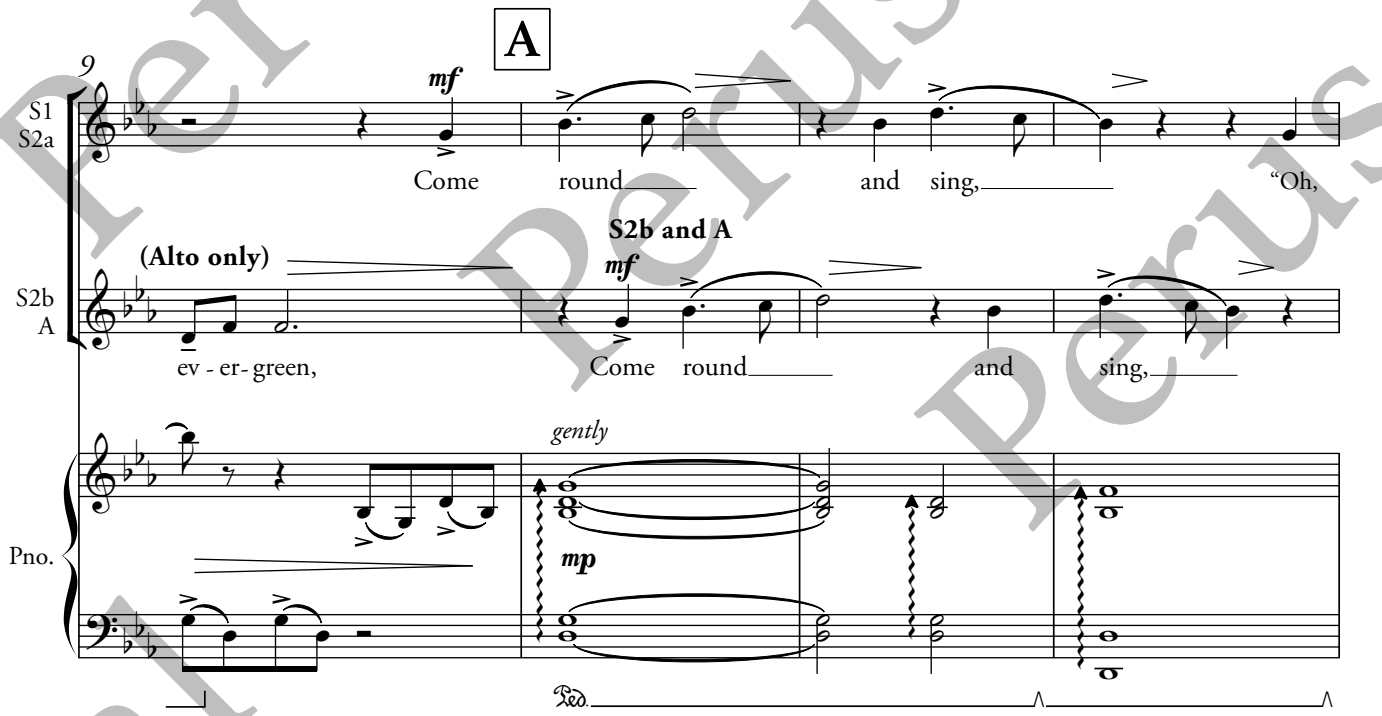
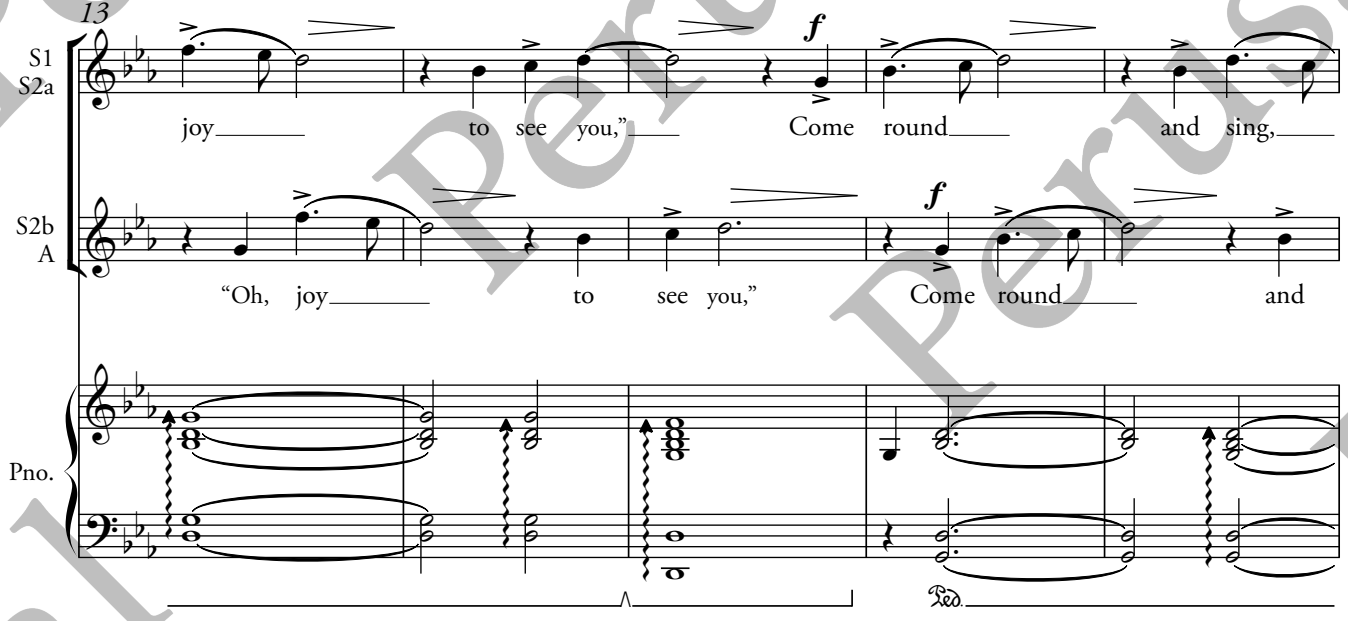
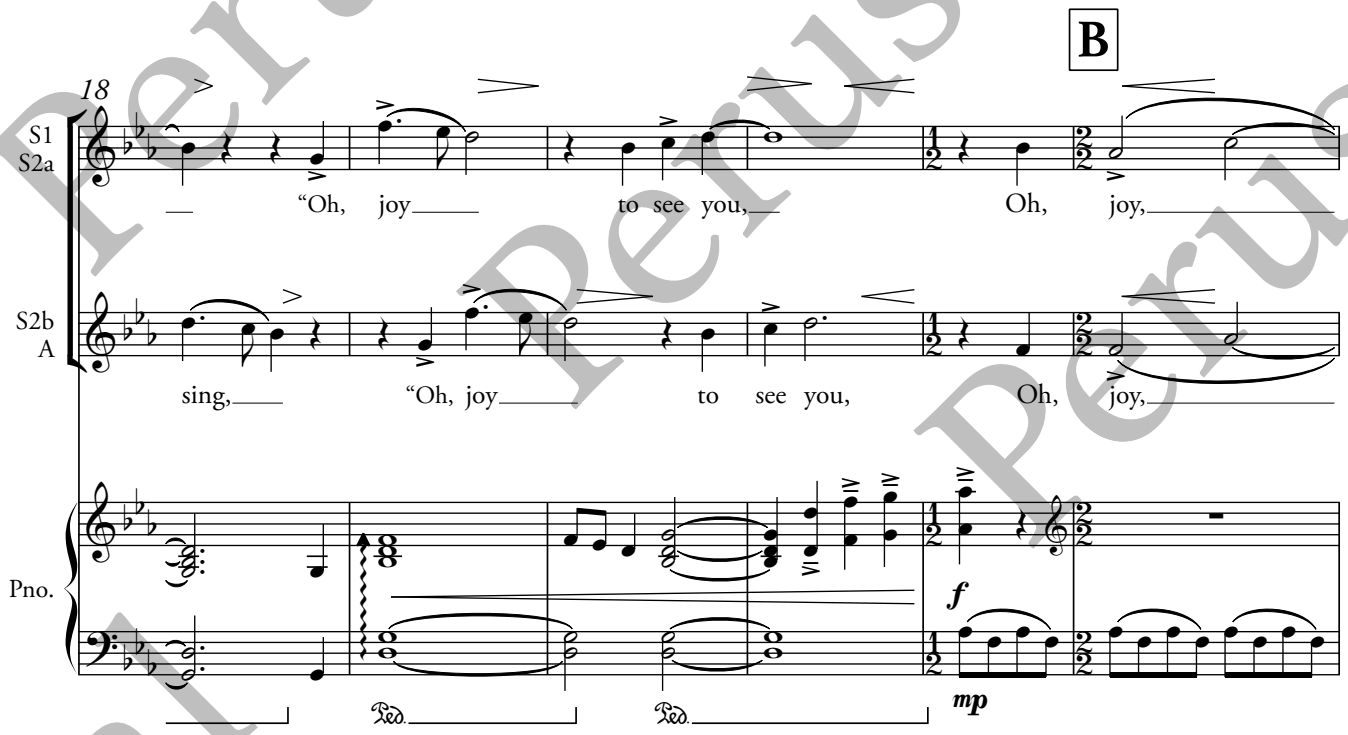

5
S1
Come round the ev - er - green,
S2
Come round the ev - er - green,
A
ev - er - green,
Come round the
Pno.


A
9
S1
S2a
mf
Come round and sing, "Oh,
S2b and A
(Alto only)
S2b
A
mf
ev - er - green,
Come round and sing,
gently
Pno.
mp

Perusal





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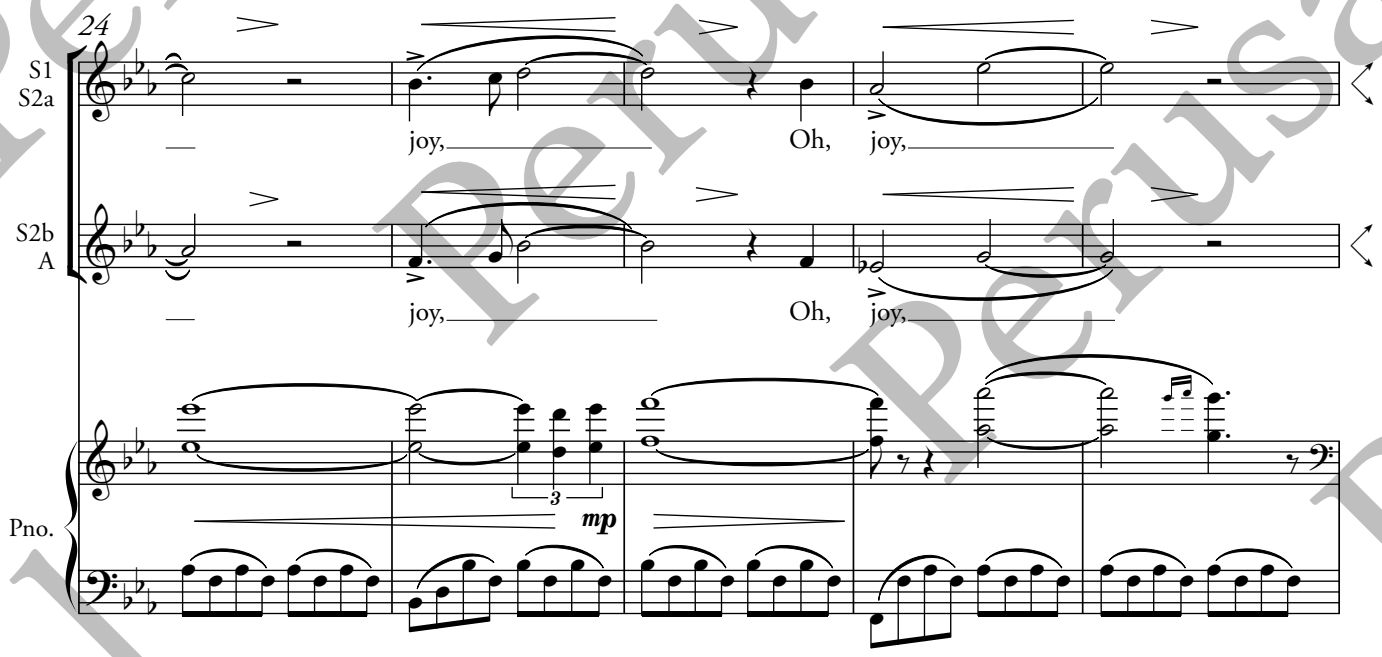

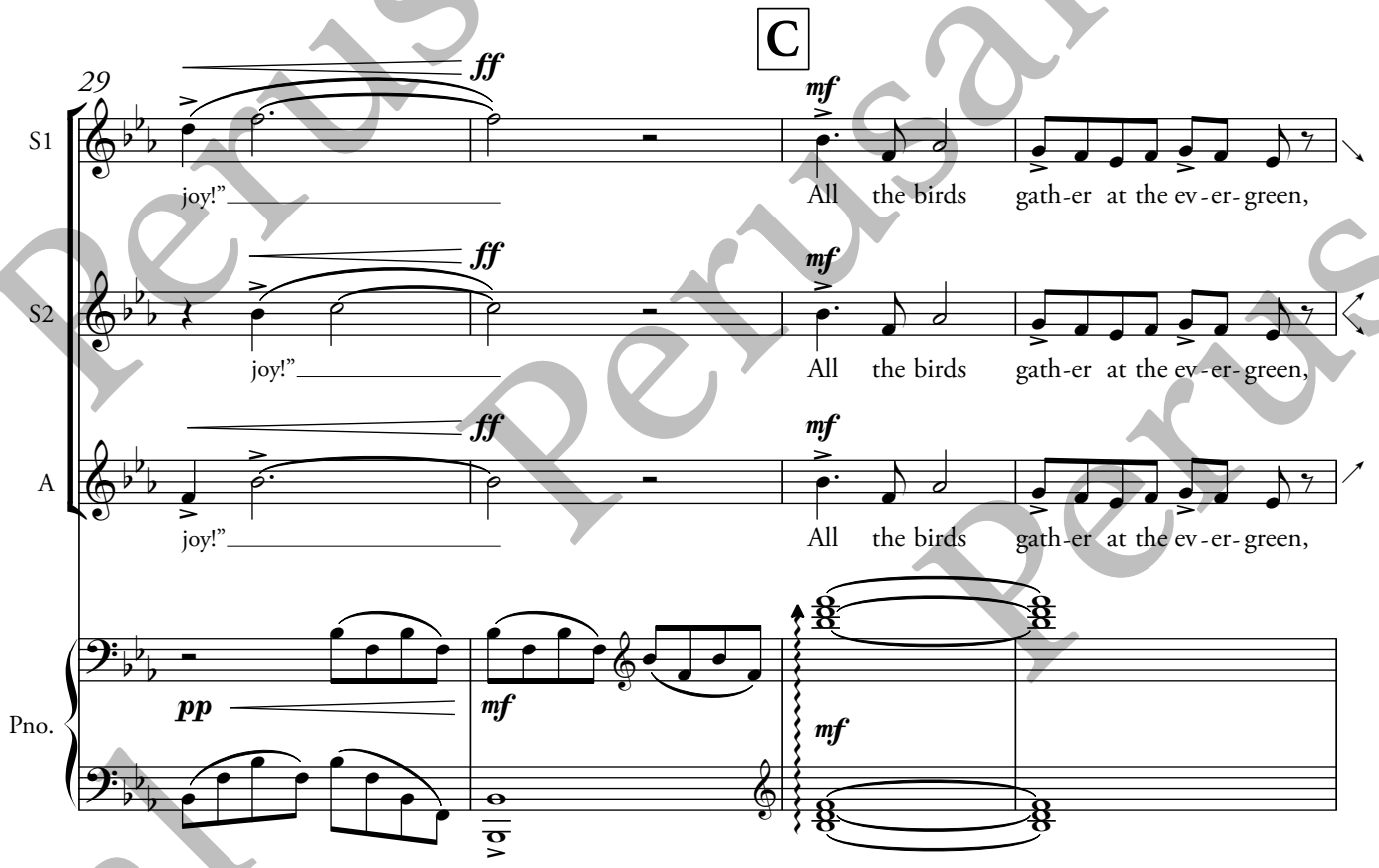

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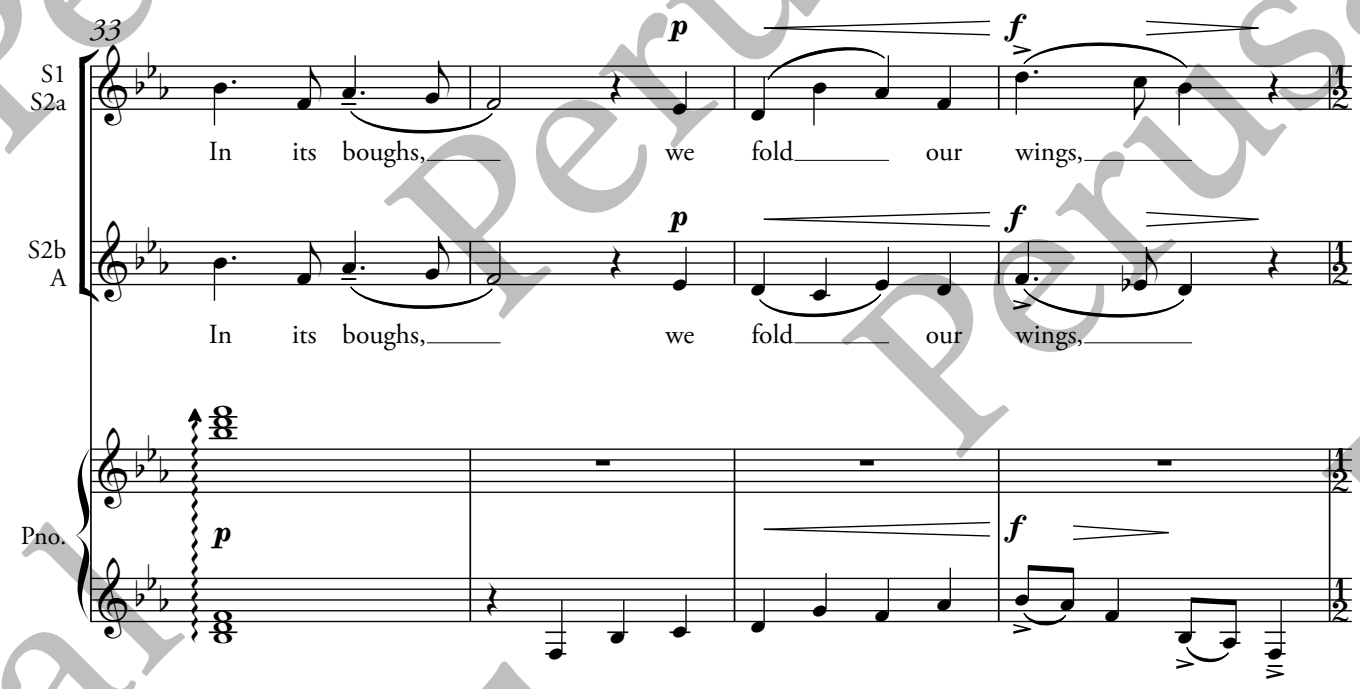
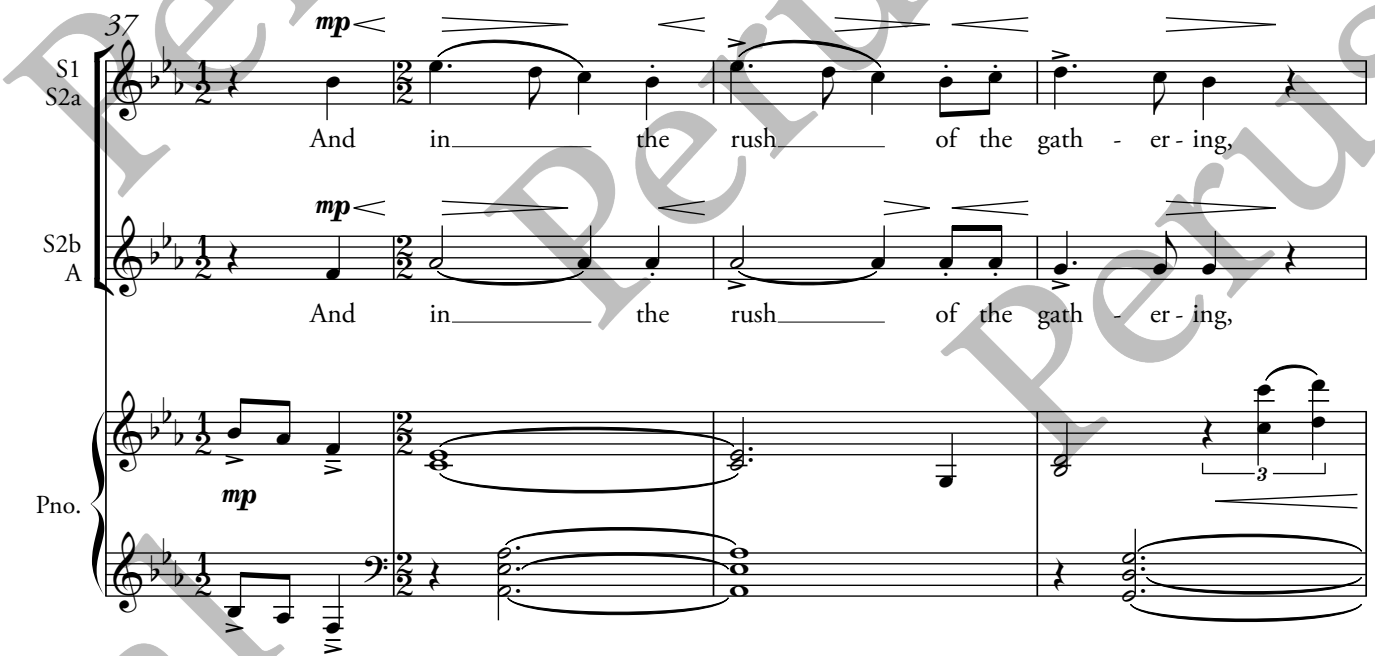
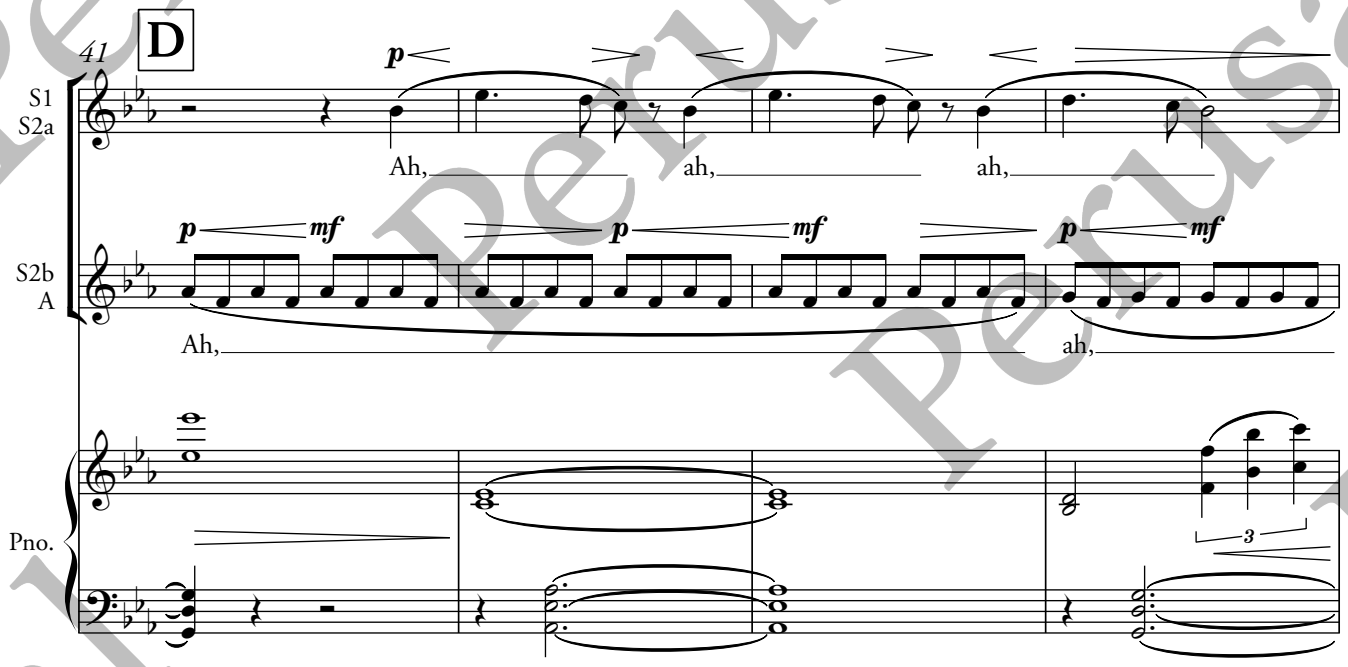
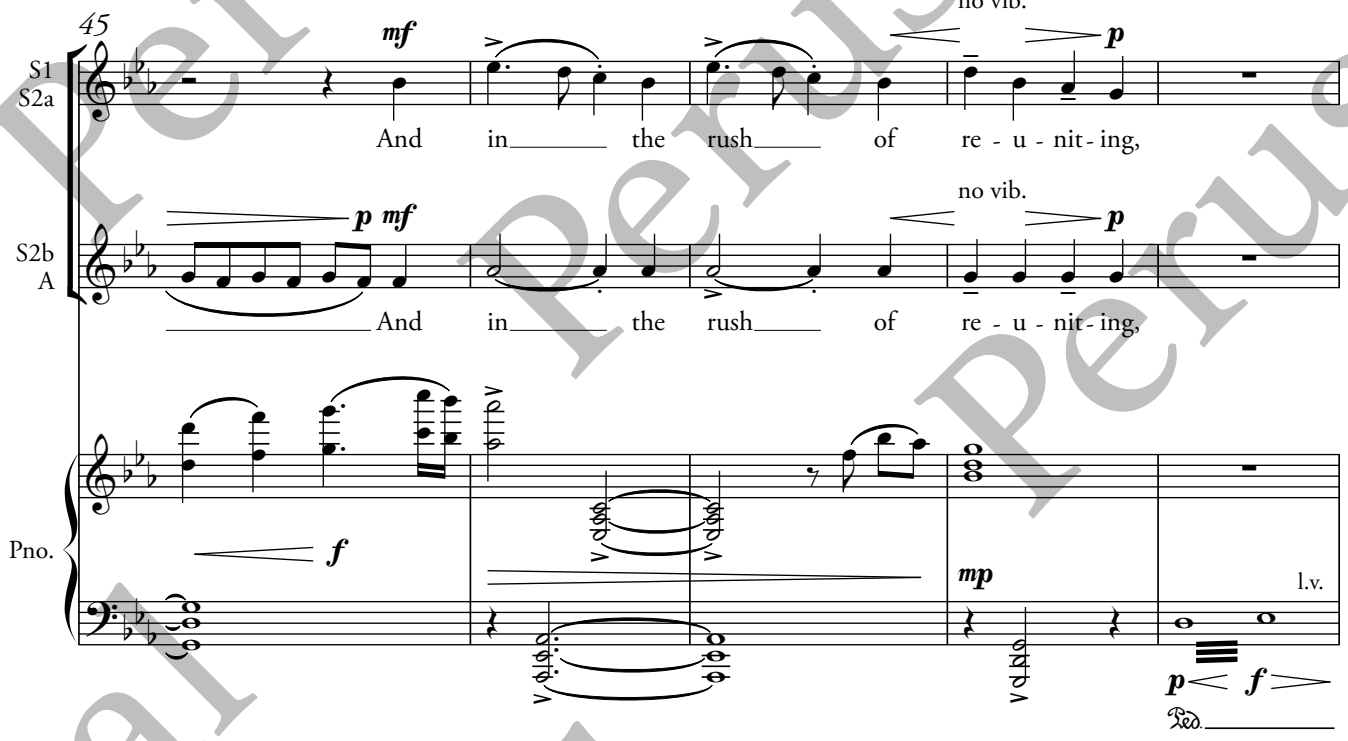

33
S1
S2a
p
f
In its boughs, we fold our wings,
S2b
A
p
f
In its boughs, we fold our wings,
Pno.
p
f


37
S1
S2a
mp
And in the rush of the gath - er - ing,
S2b
A
mp
And in the rush of the gath - er - ing,
Pno.
mp
3

Perusal





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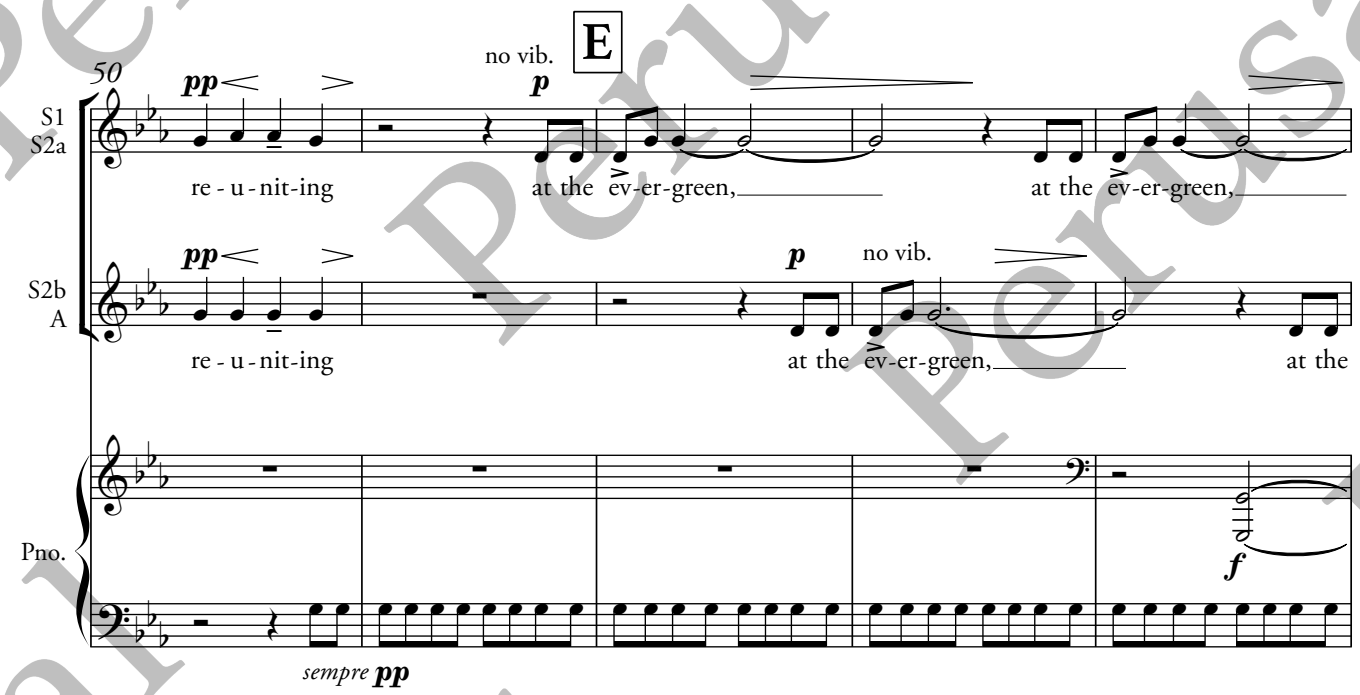

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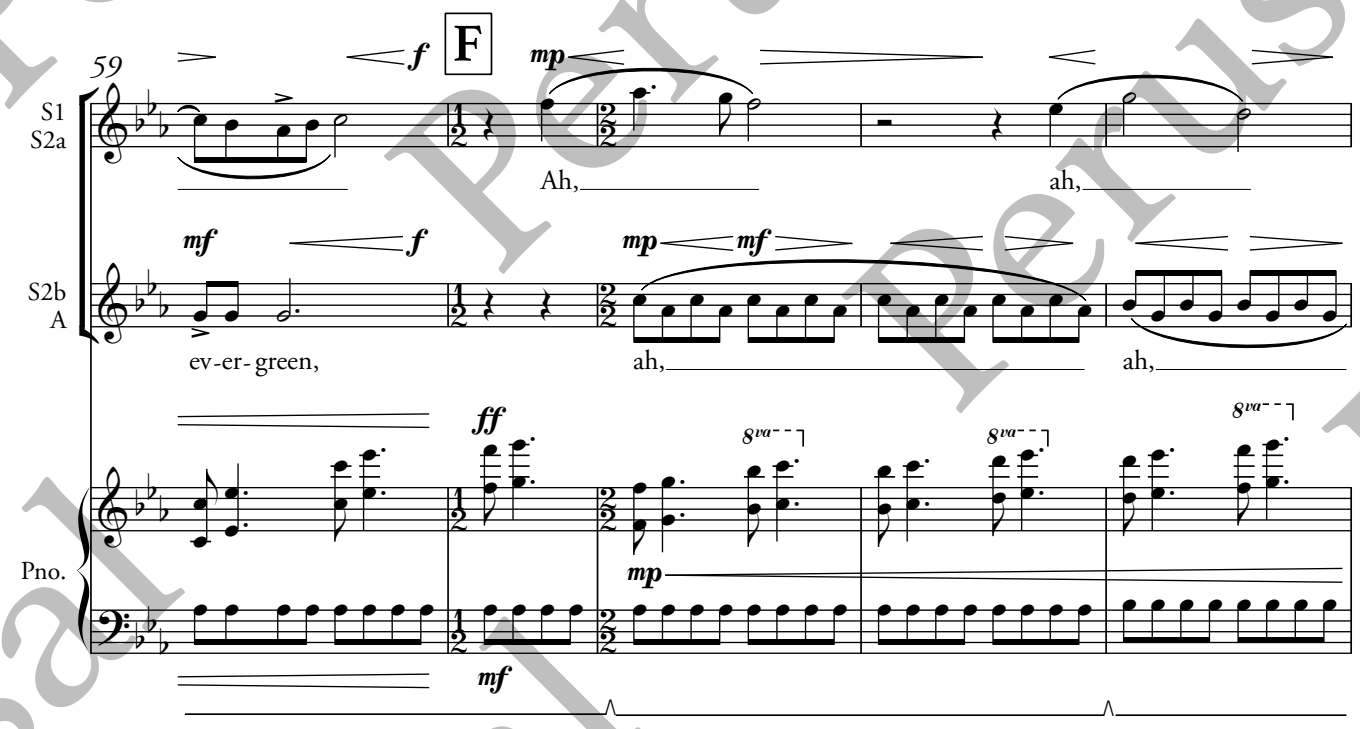
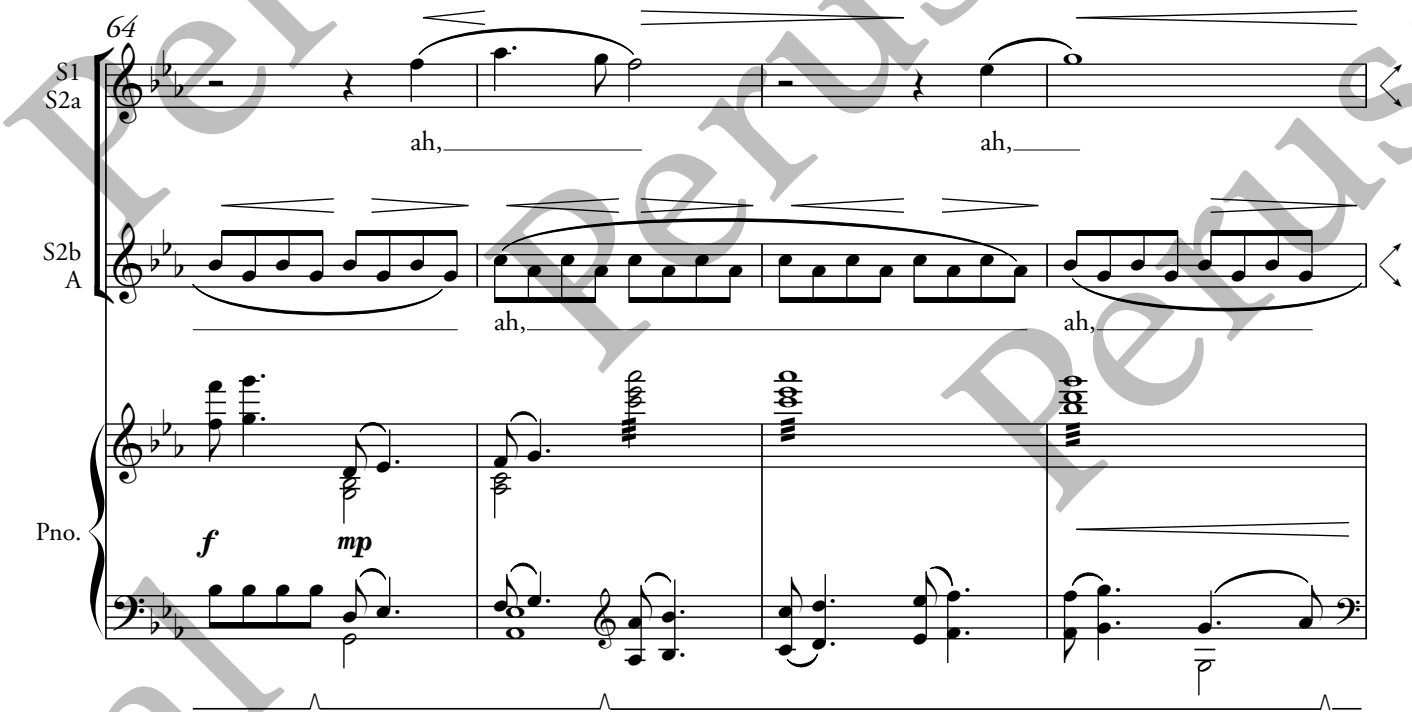

59
F
S1
S2a
S2b
A
Pno.
Ah,
ah,
ev-er-green,
ah,
ah,


64
S1
S2a
S2b
A
Pno.
ah,
ah,
ah,
ah,

Perusal

January 17, 2025

II. The Owl's Song

♩. = 66, swinging

Solo
as a Barred Owl

mf

*shaky gliss.

S: Who, who, who, who, Who, who, who,

Piano

4

A

p

S: who, Lis - - ten long e-nough,

sotto voce

p

Pno.

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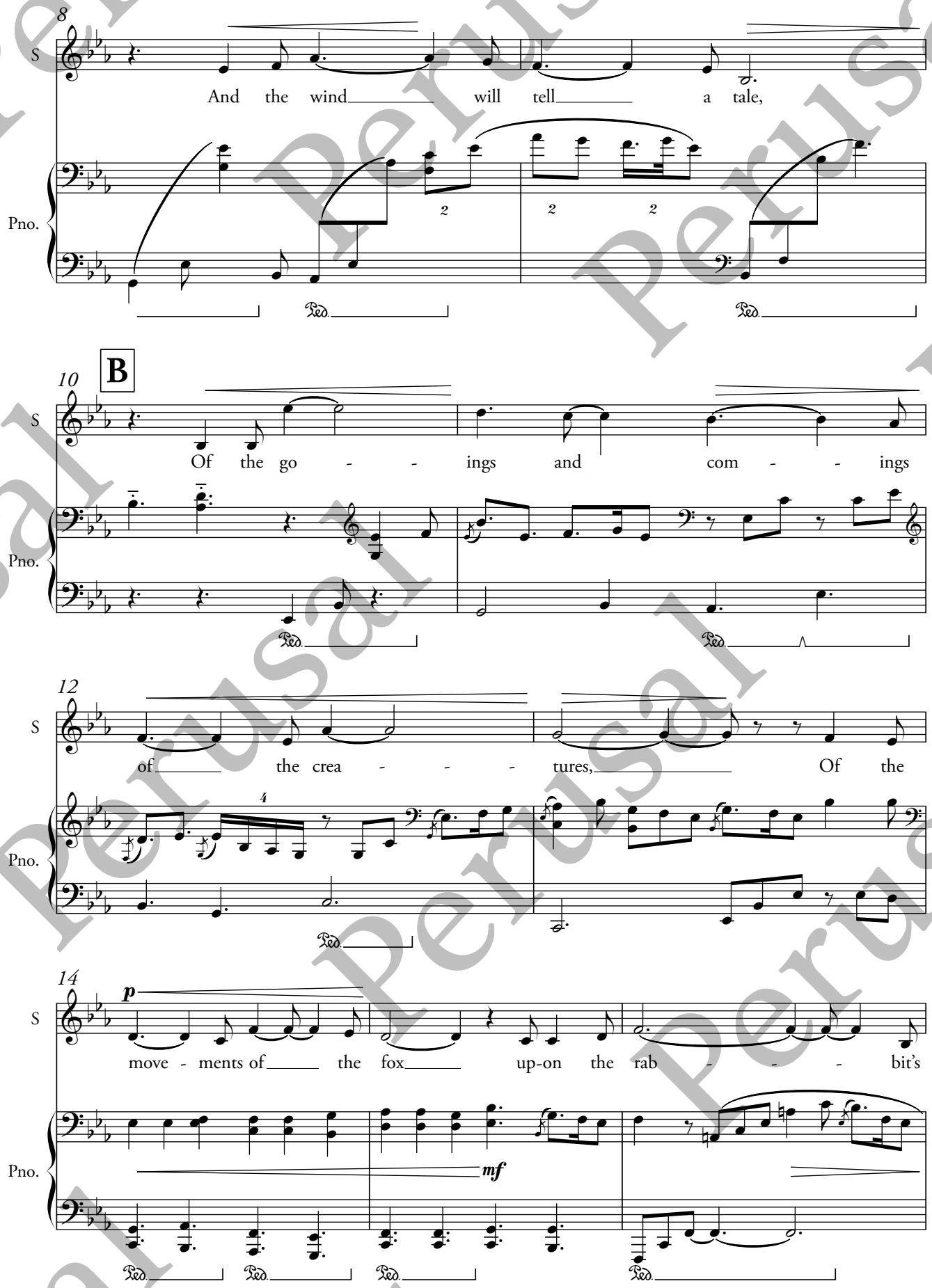
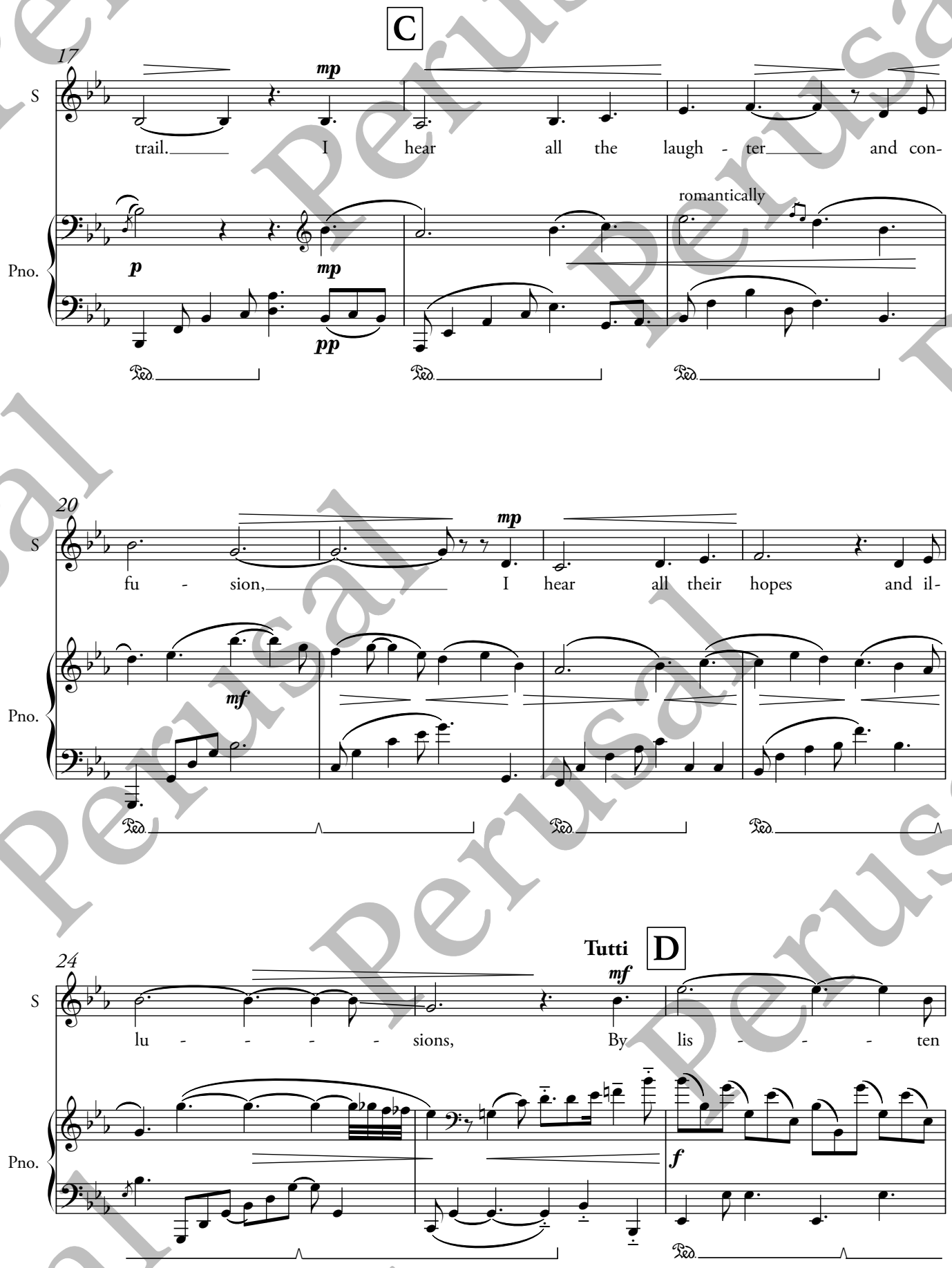

8
S
And the wind will tell a tale,
Pno.
B
10
Of the go - - ings and com - - ings
12
of the crea - - - tures, Of the
14
p
move - ments of the fox up-on the rab - - - bit's
mf

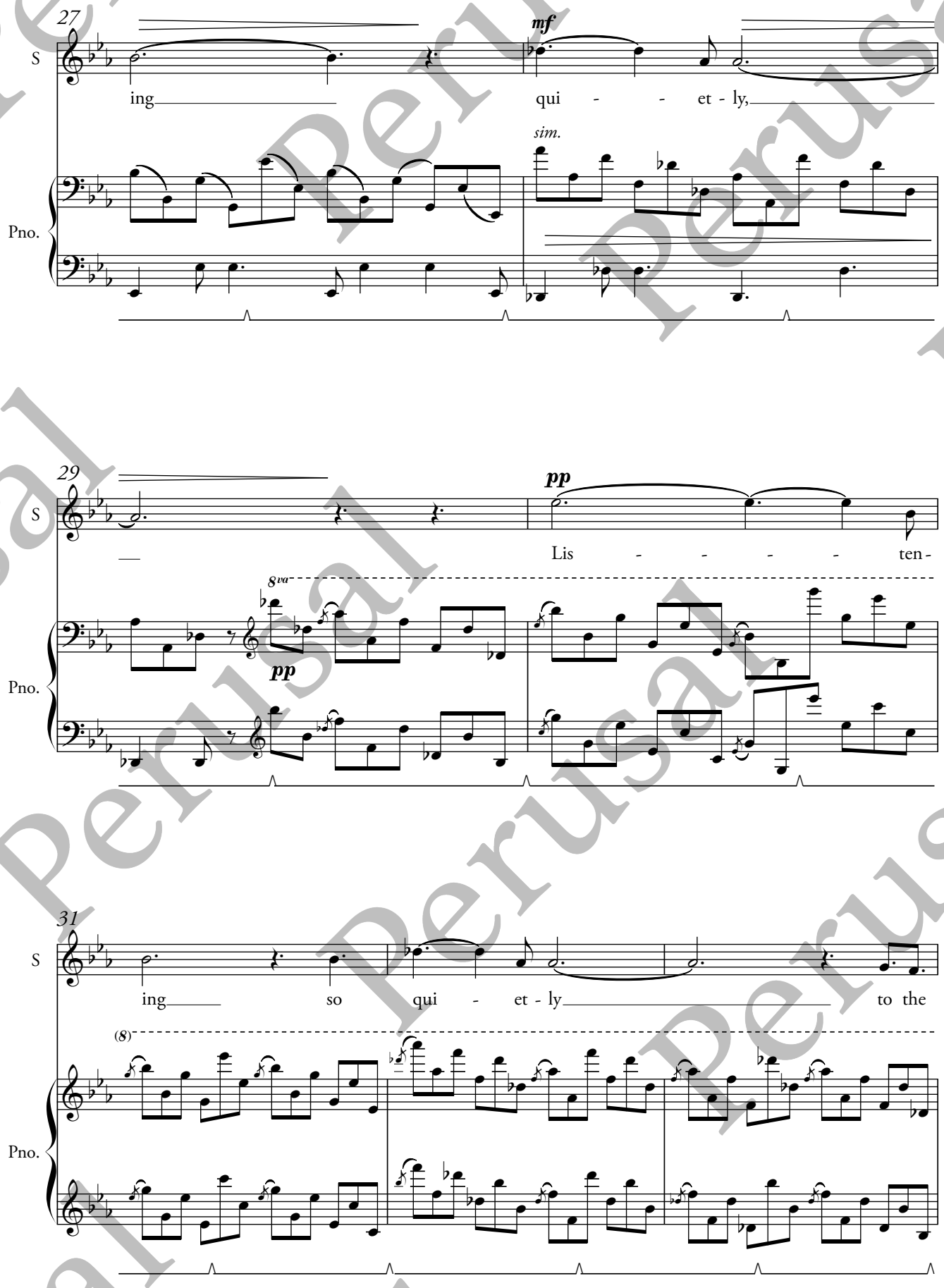
Perusal


C

S
trail. I hear all the laugh - ter and con-
romantically
Pno.

S
fu - sion, I hear all their hopes and il-
Pno.

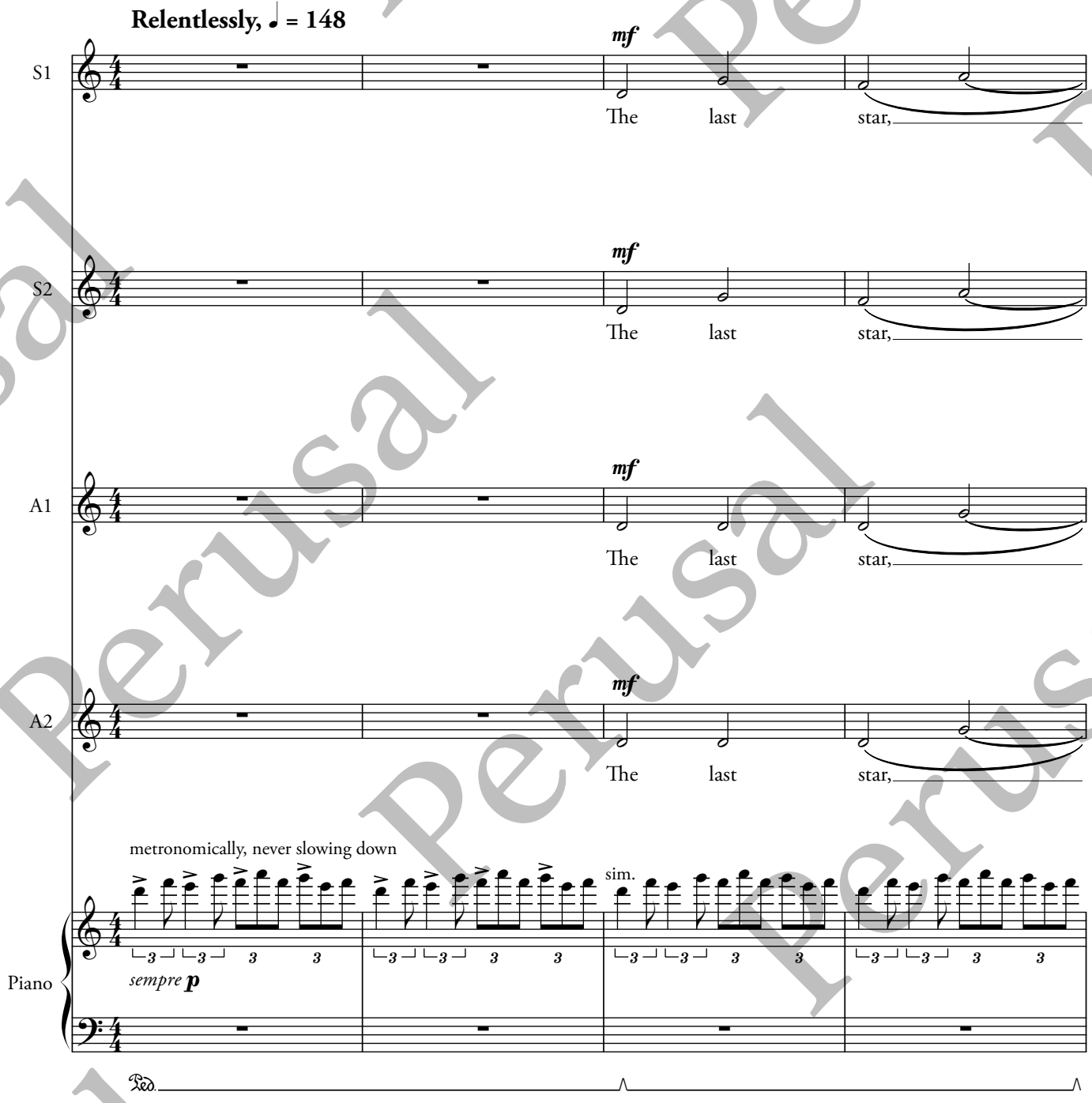
Tutti
D
S
lu - - - - sions, By lis - - - ten
Pno.


27
S
mf
ing
qui - - et - ly,
sim.
Pno.
29
S
pp
Lis - - - - ten -
8va
pp
Pno.
31
S
ing
so qui - et - ly
to the
(8)
Pno.

Perusal

January 17, 2025

III. The Last Light



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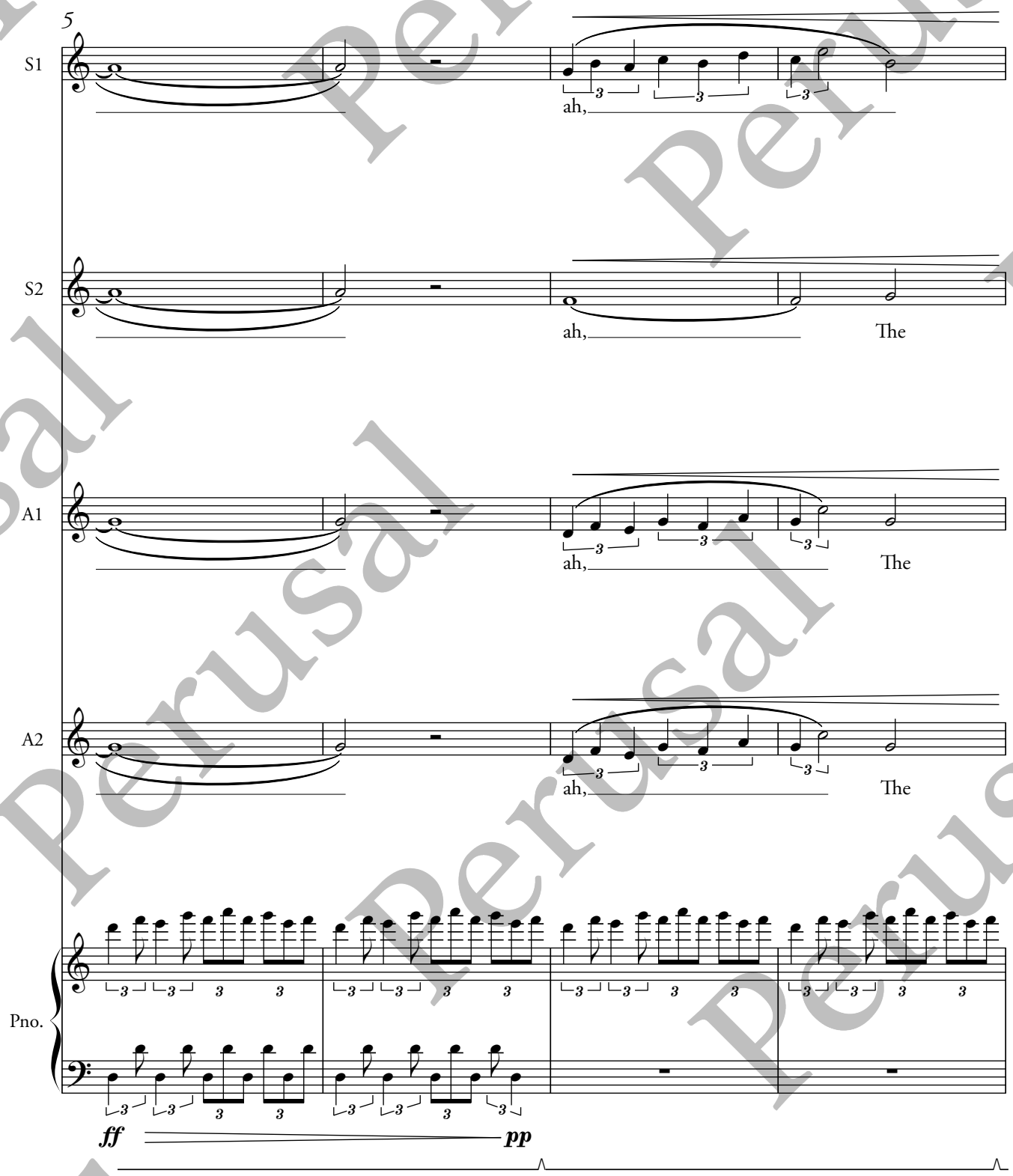

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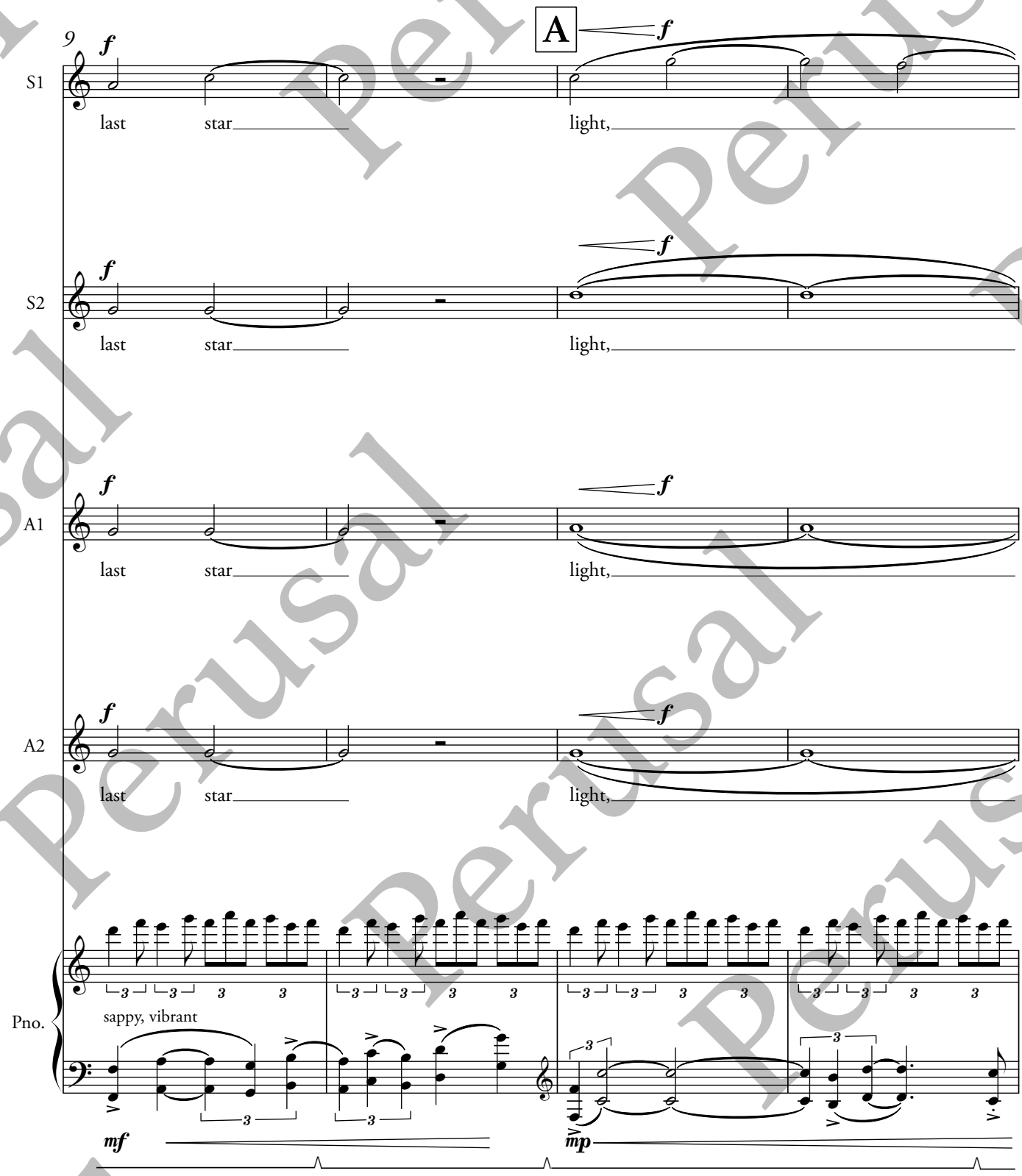

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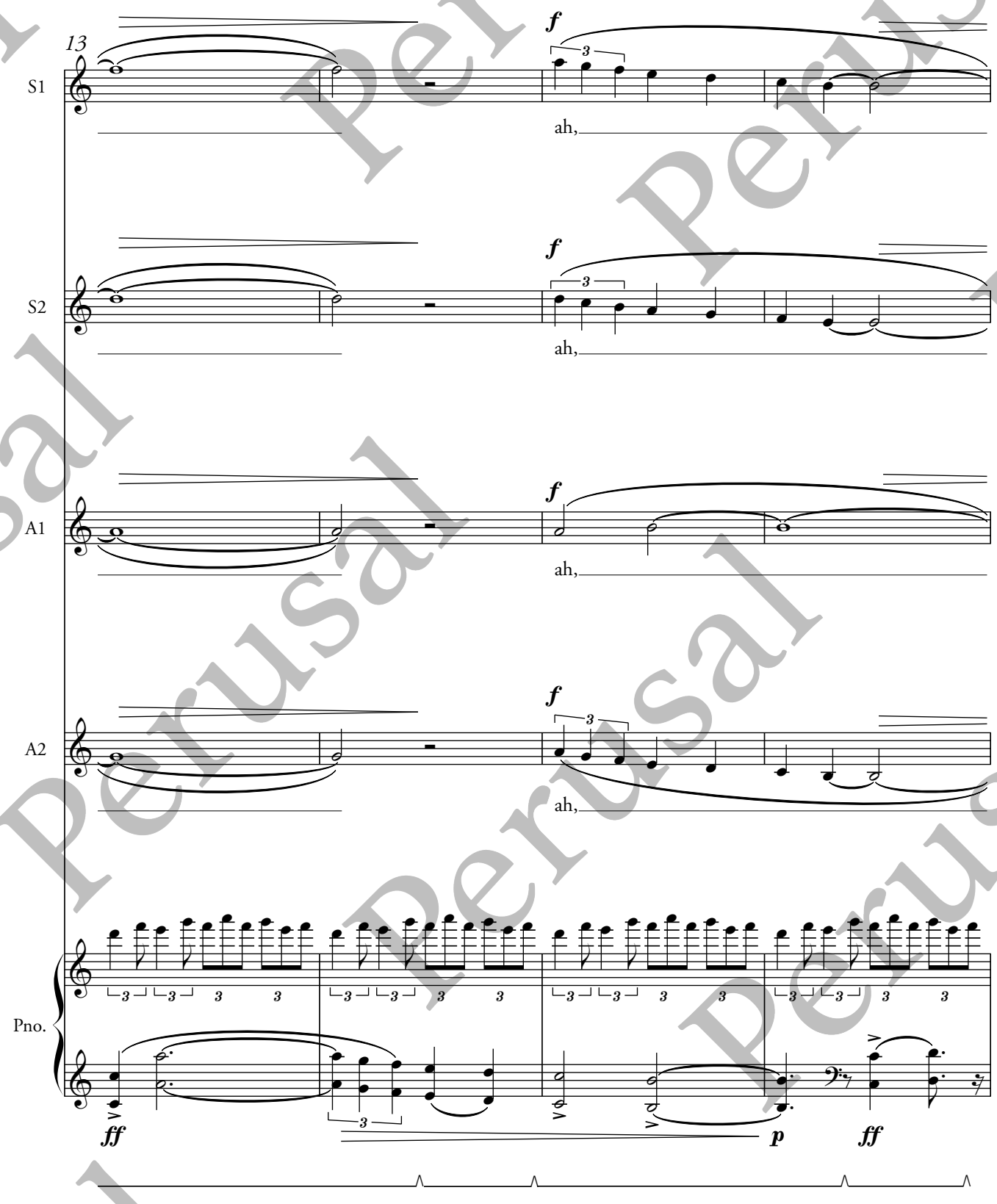

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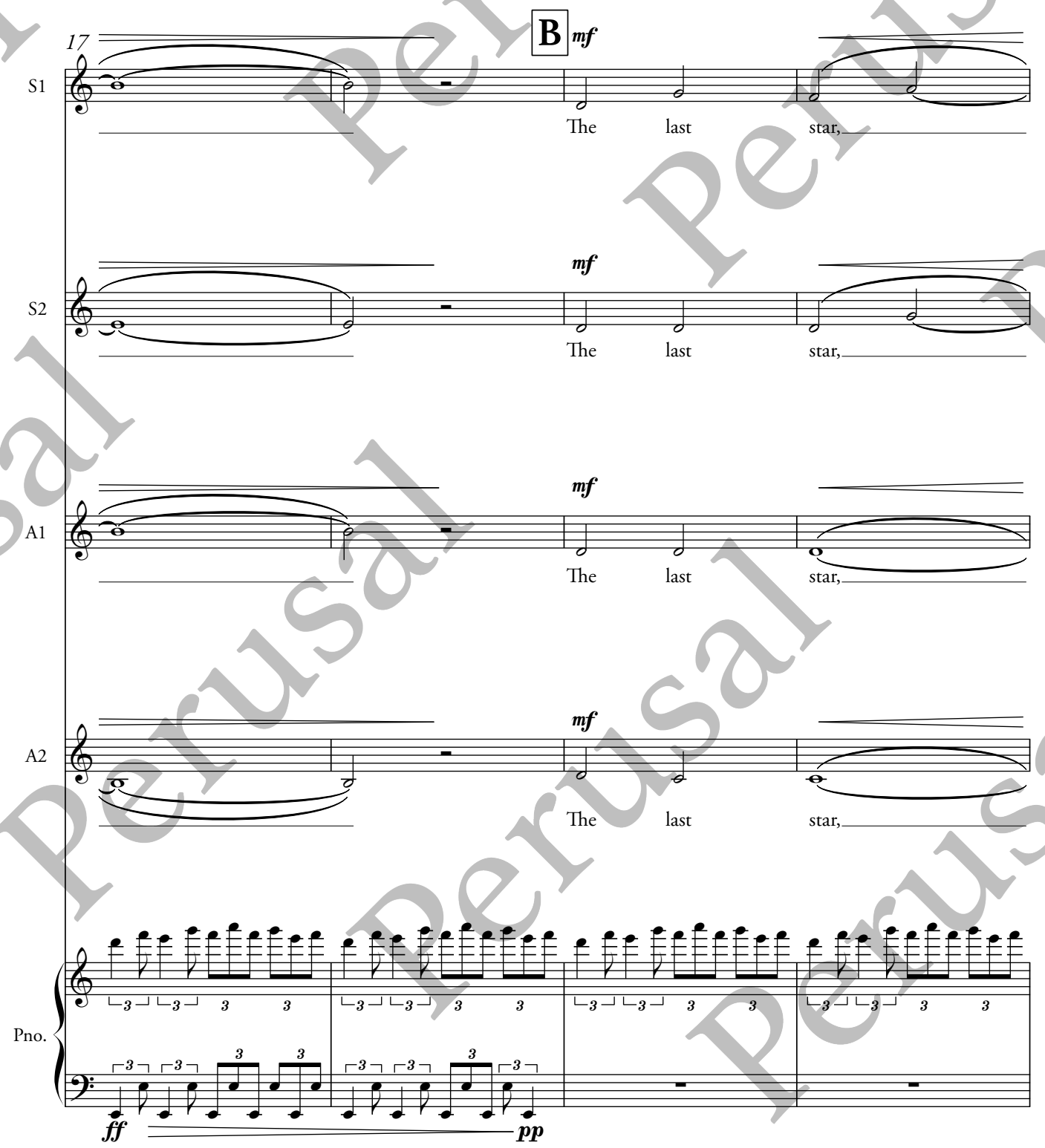
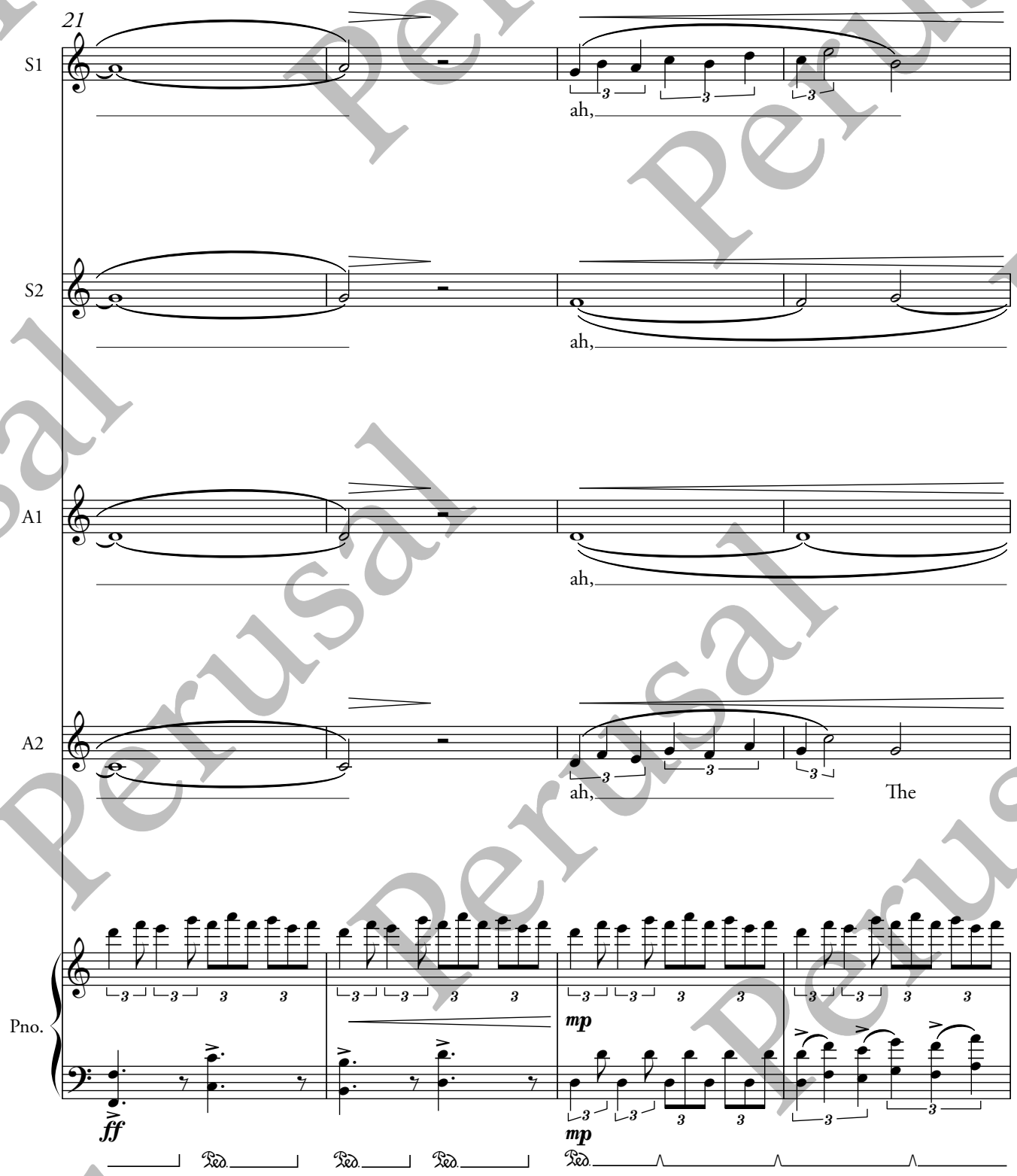

17
B
mf
S1
The last star,
S2
The last star,
A1
The last star,
A2
The last star,
Pno.
ff
pp

Perusal



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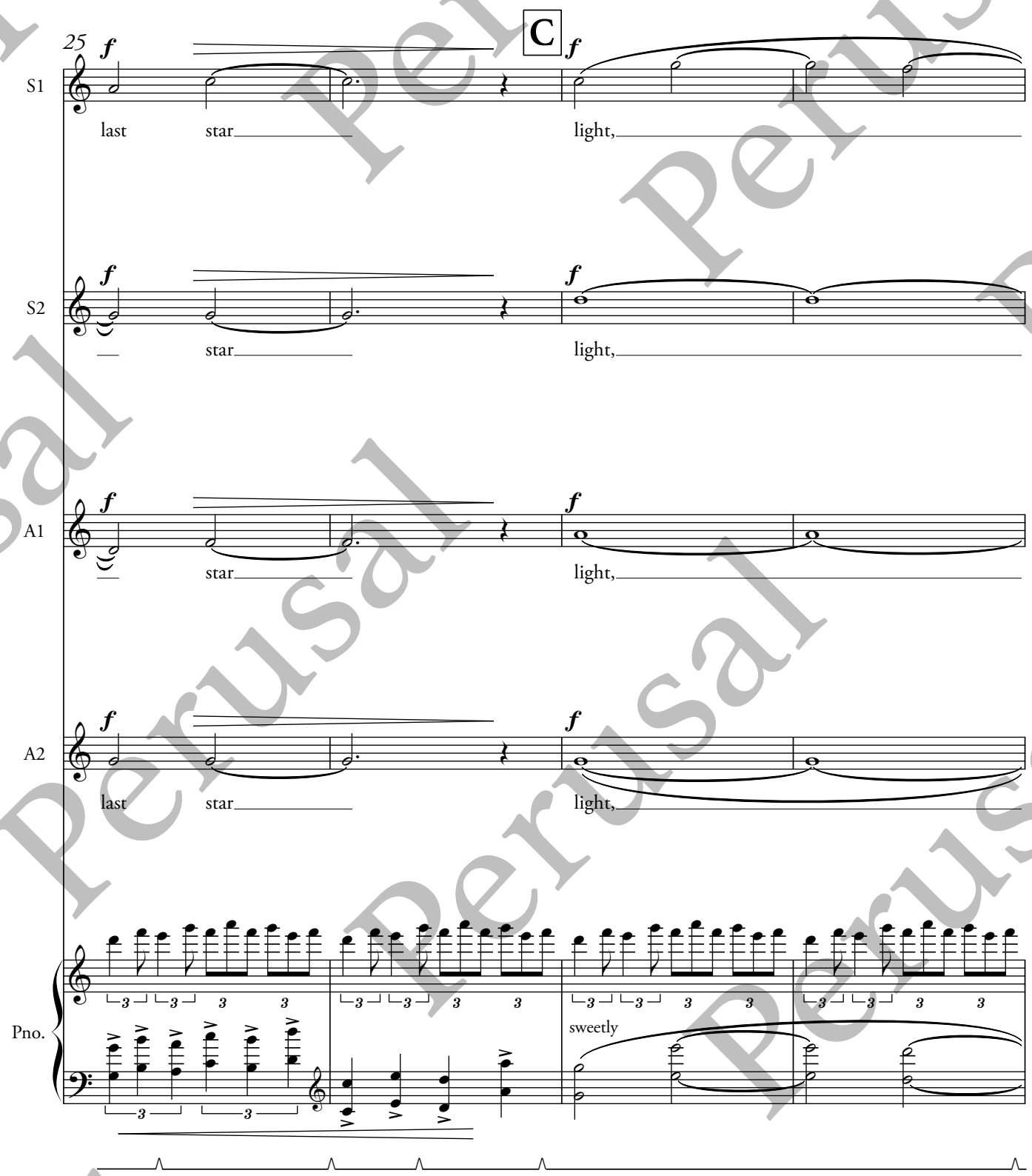
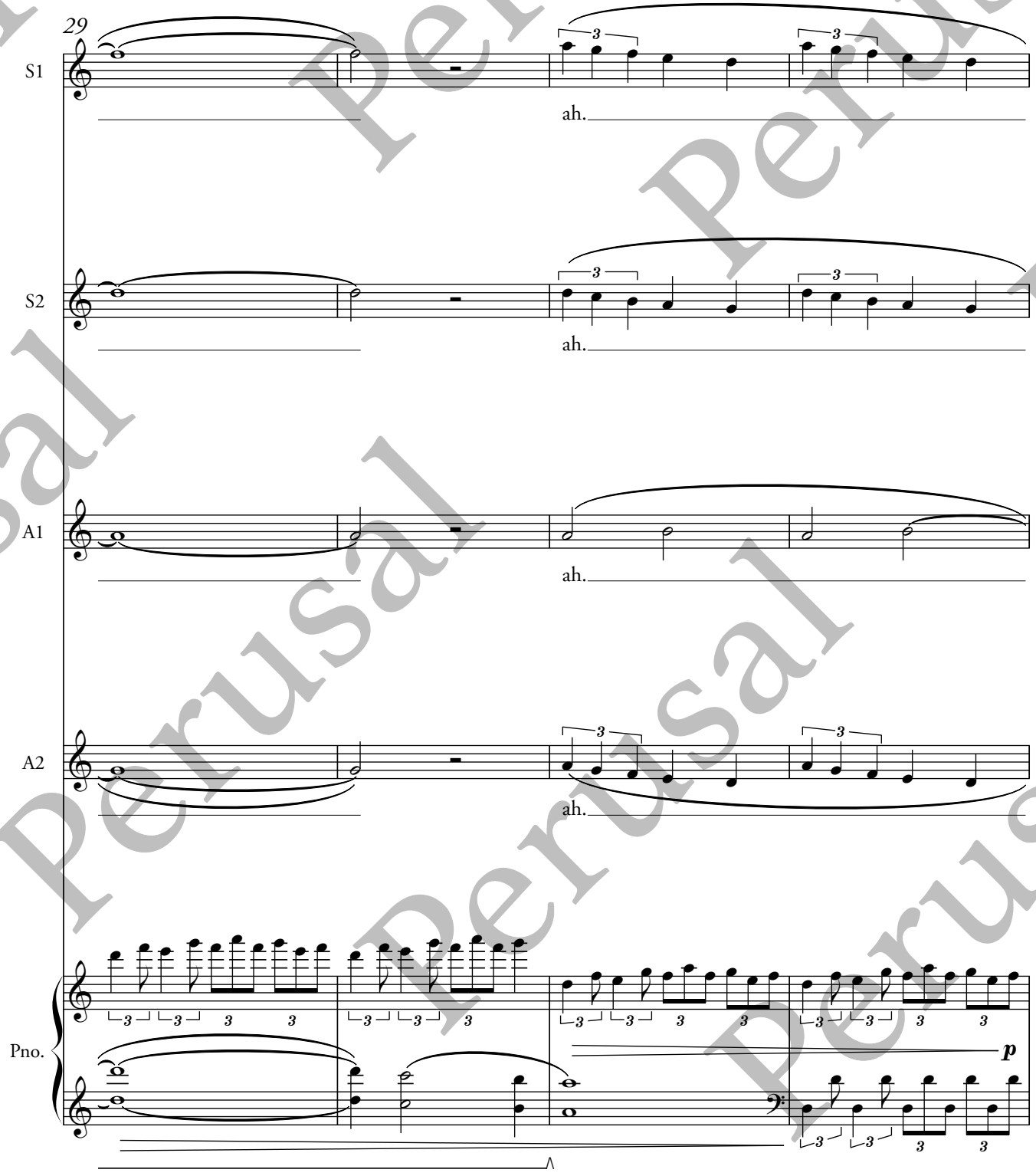

25
C
S1
last star light,
S2
star light,
A1
star light,
A2
last star light,
Pno.
sweetly

Perusal



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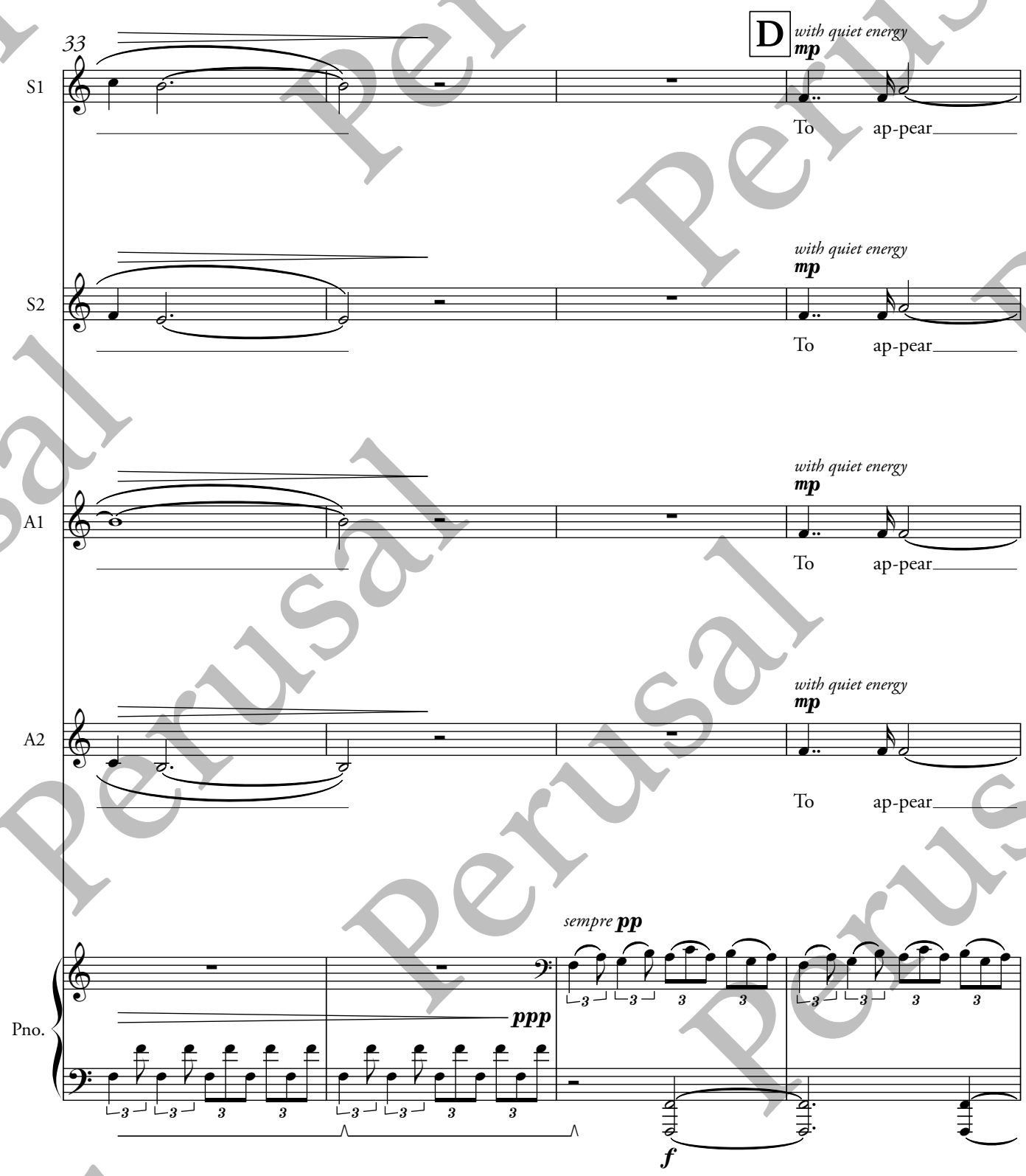
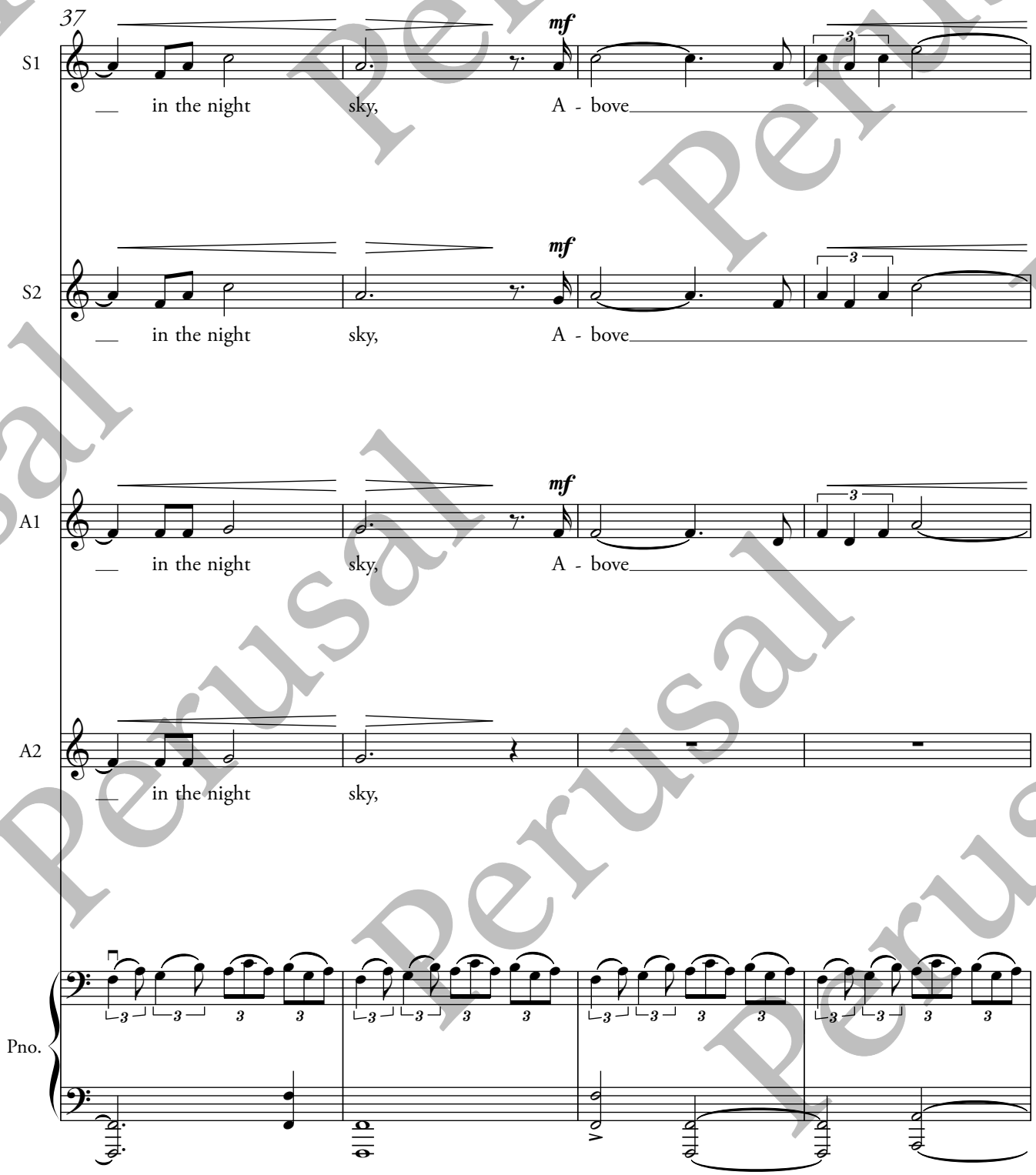
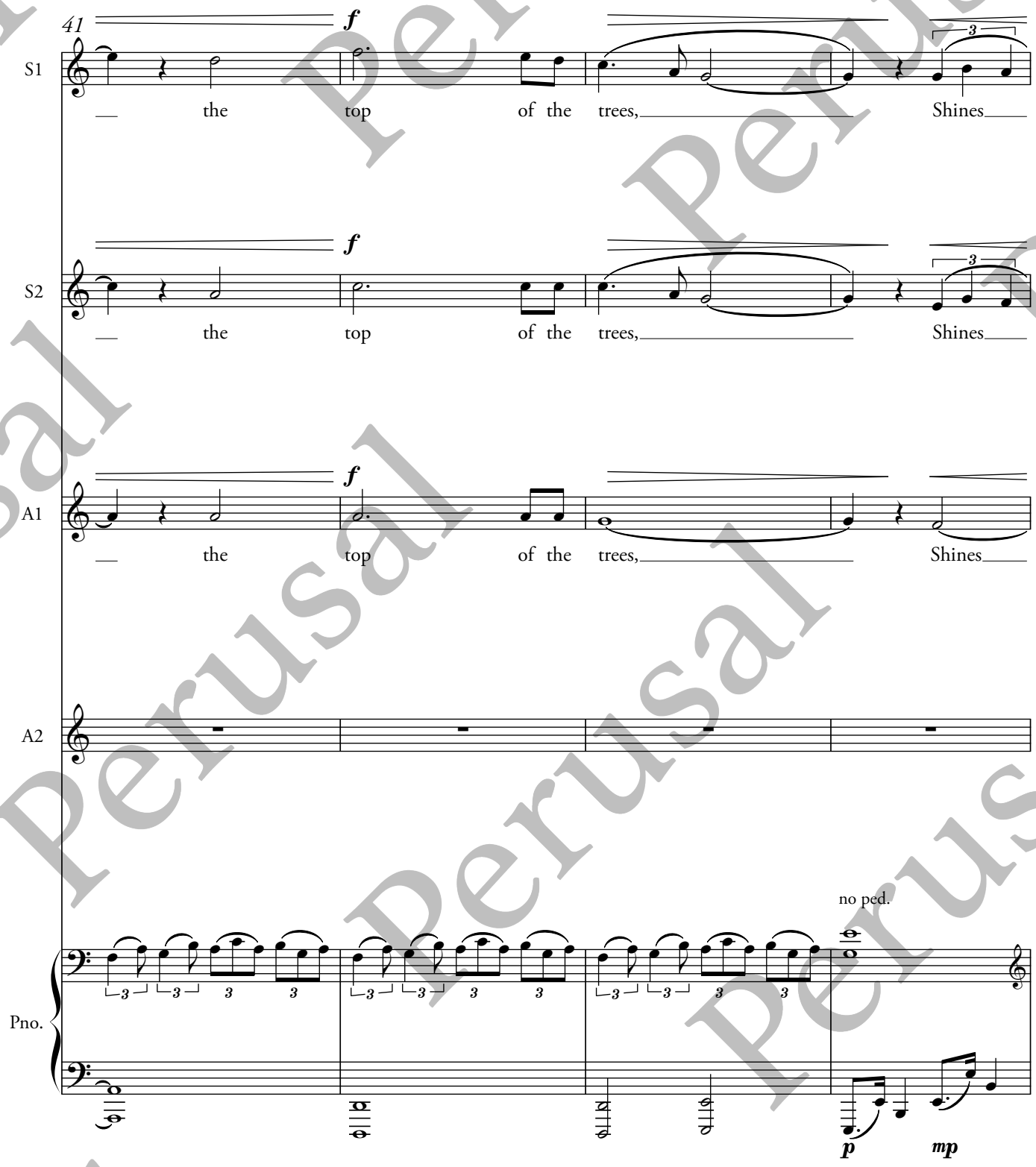

33
D
with quiet energy
mp
S1
To ap-pear
with quiet energy
mp
S2
To ap-pear
with quiet energy
mp
A1
To ap-pear
with quiet energy
mp
A2
To ap-pear
sempre pp
ppp
Pno.
f

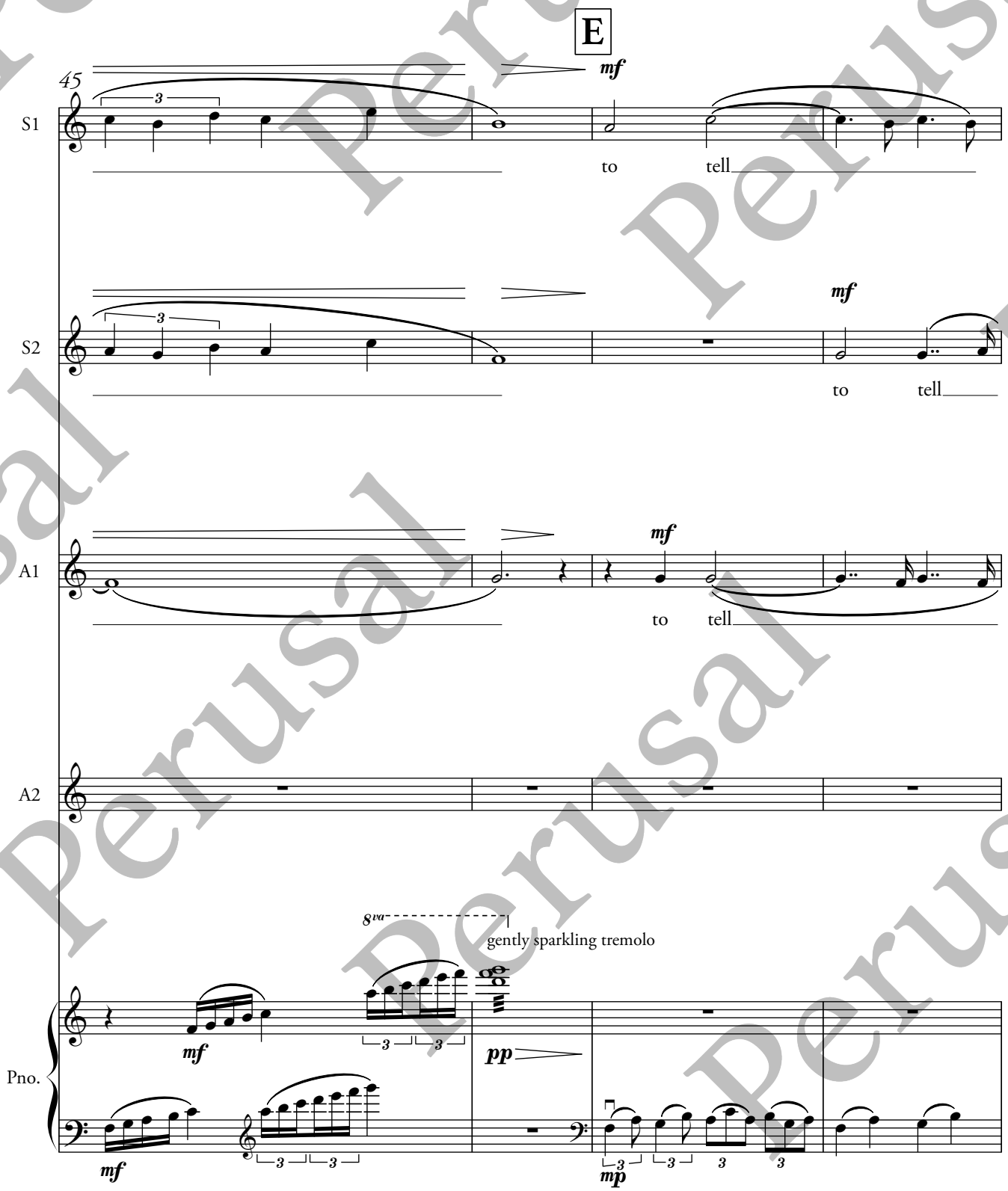
Perusal


37
S1
mf
in the night sky, A - bove
S2
mf
in the night sky, A - bove
A1
mf
in the night sky, A - bove
A2
in the night sky,
Pno.

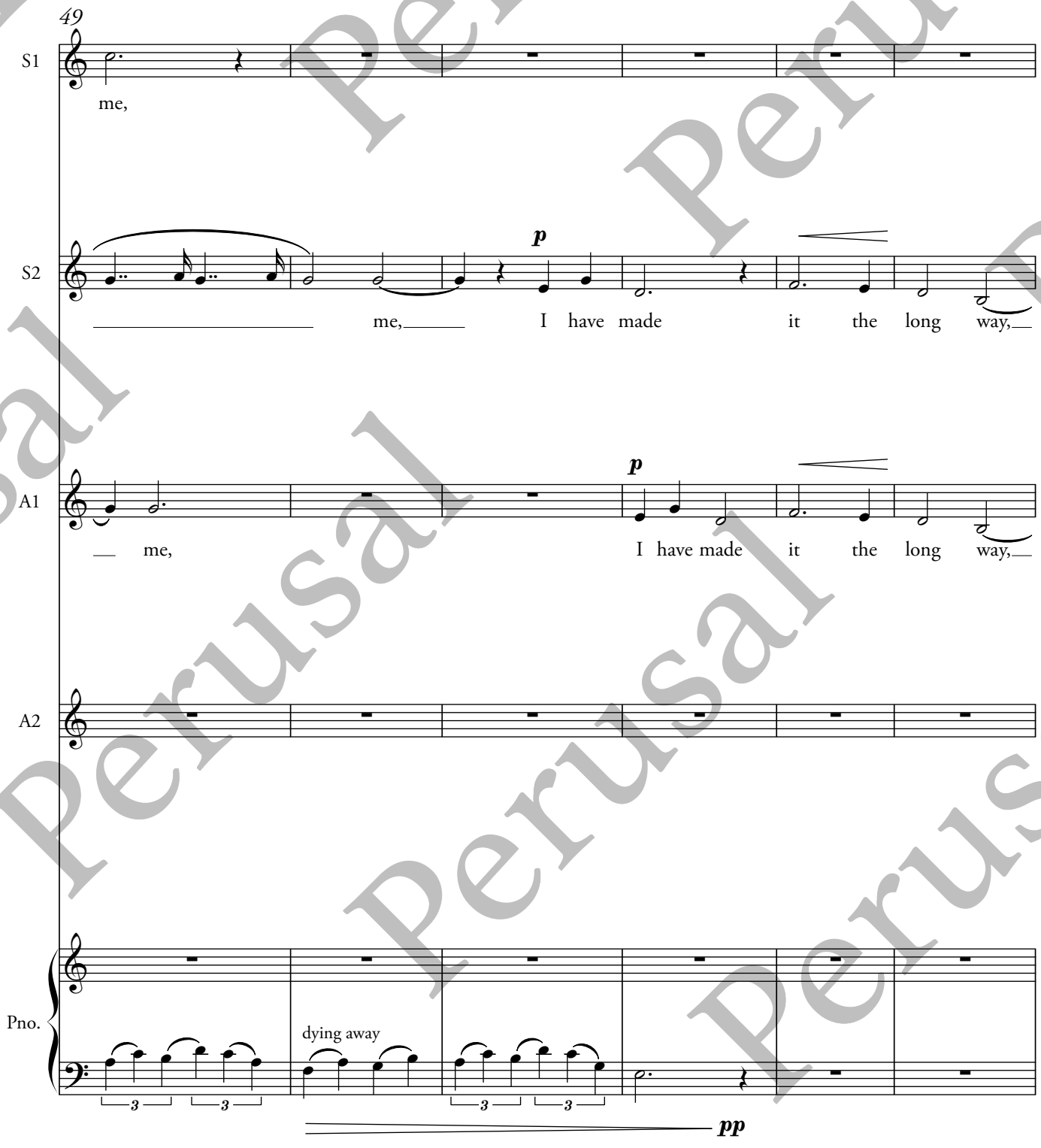
Perusal



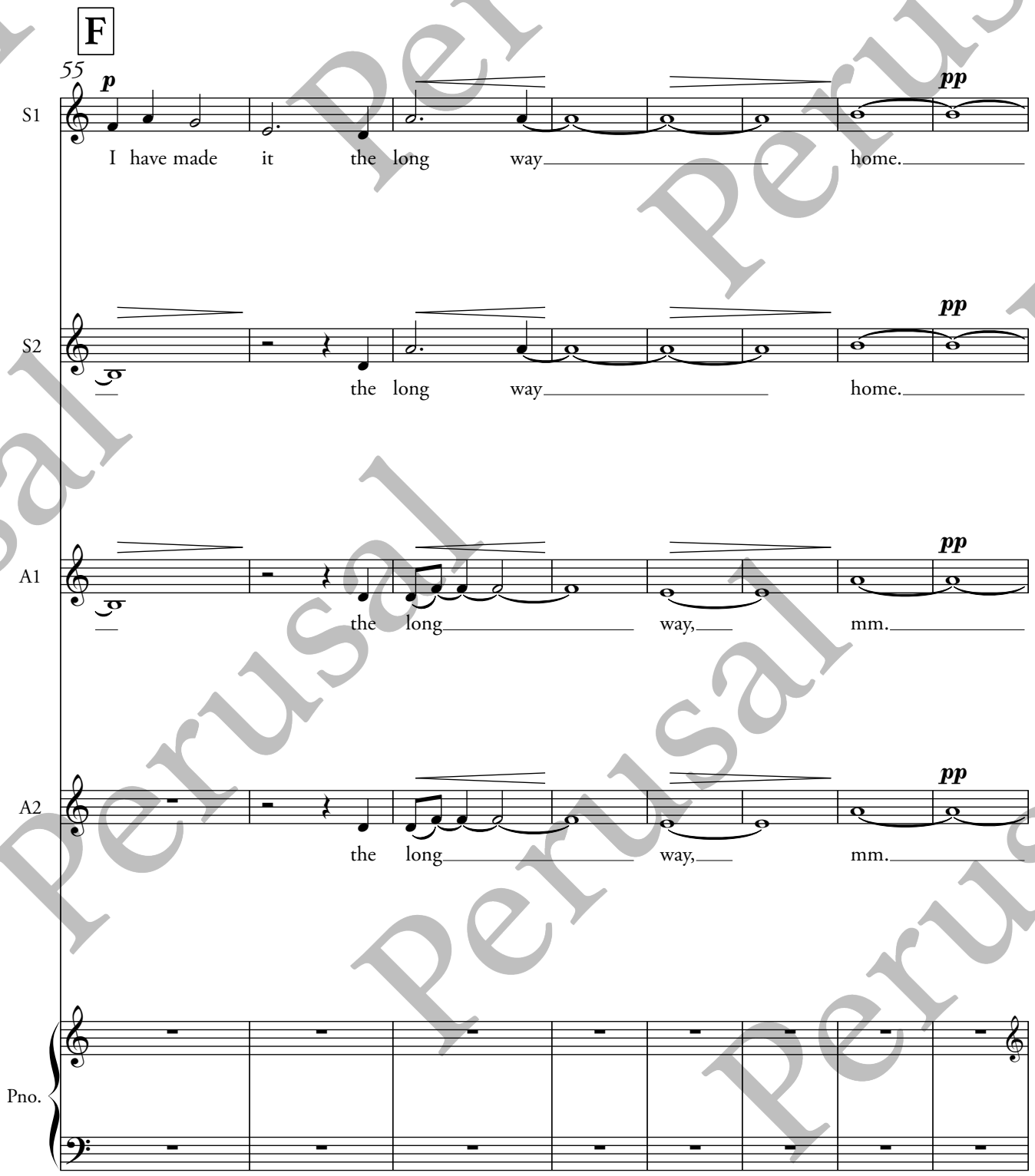
Perusal


E
45
S1
mf
to tell
S2
mf
to tell
A1
mf
to tell
A2
8va
gently sparkling tremolo
Pno.
mf
pp
mf
mp

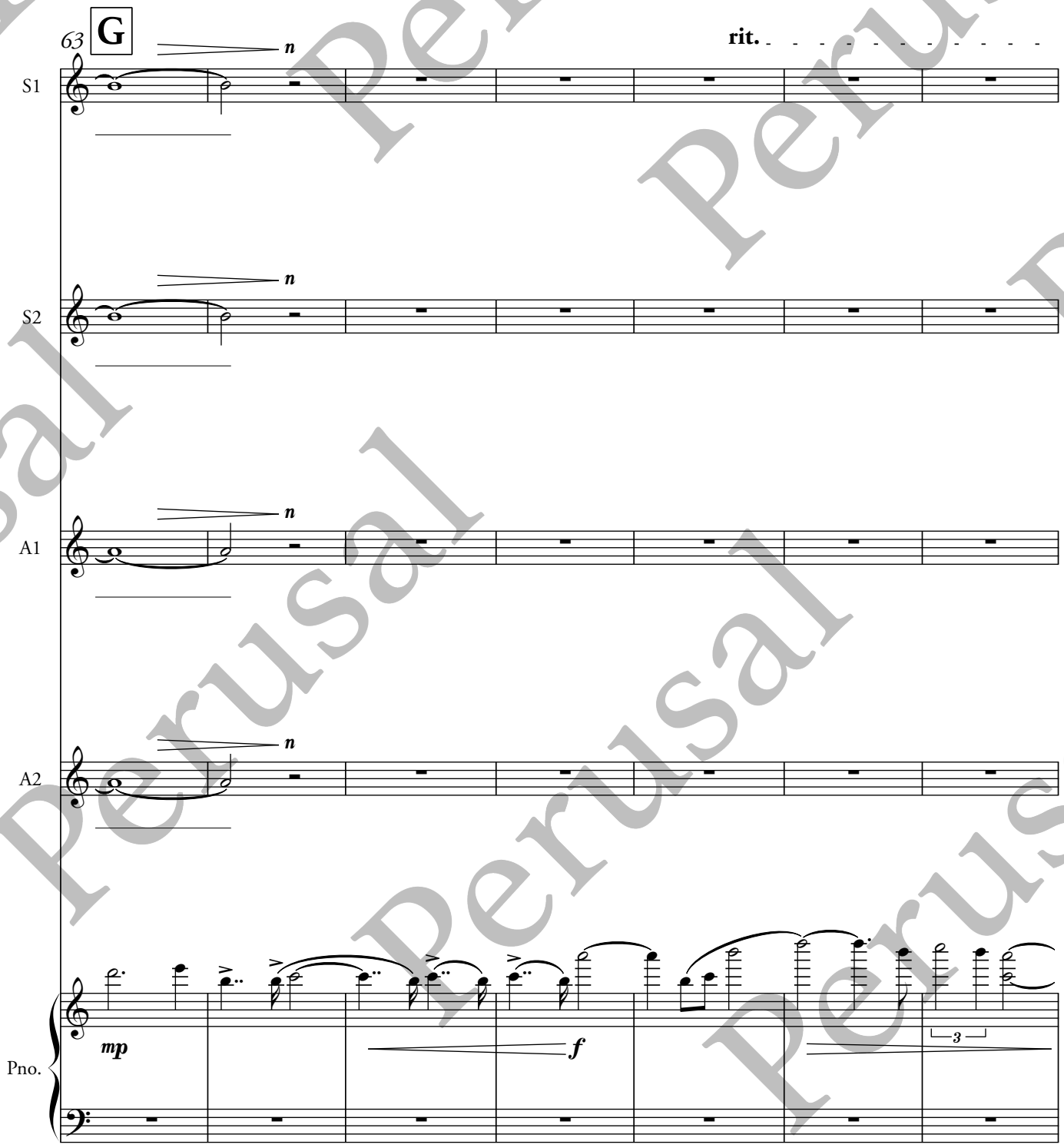
Perusal



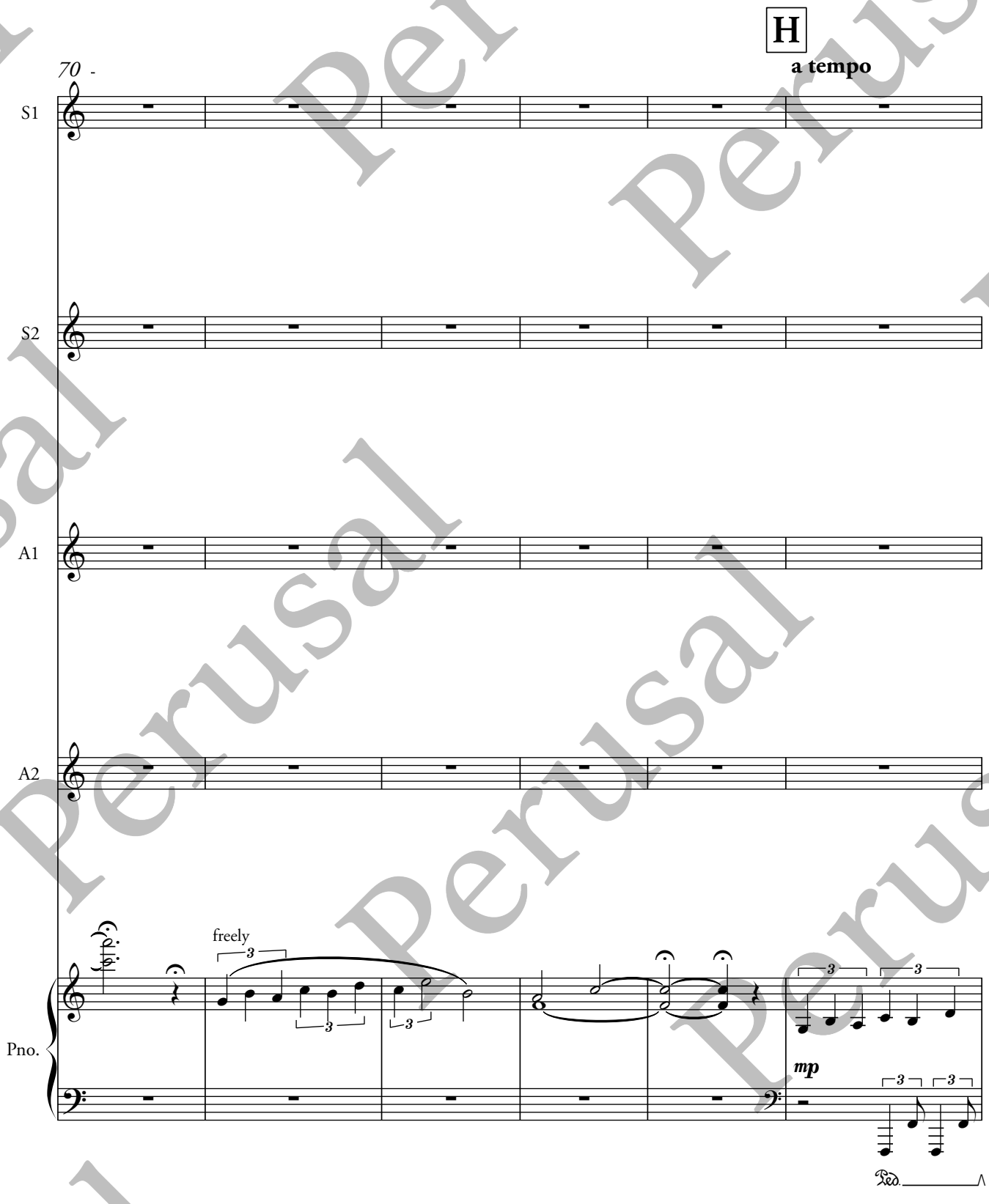
Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal


F
55
p
pp
S1
I have made it the long way home.
S2
the long way home.
A1
the long way, mm.
A2
the long way, mm.
Pno.

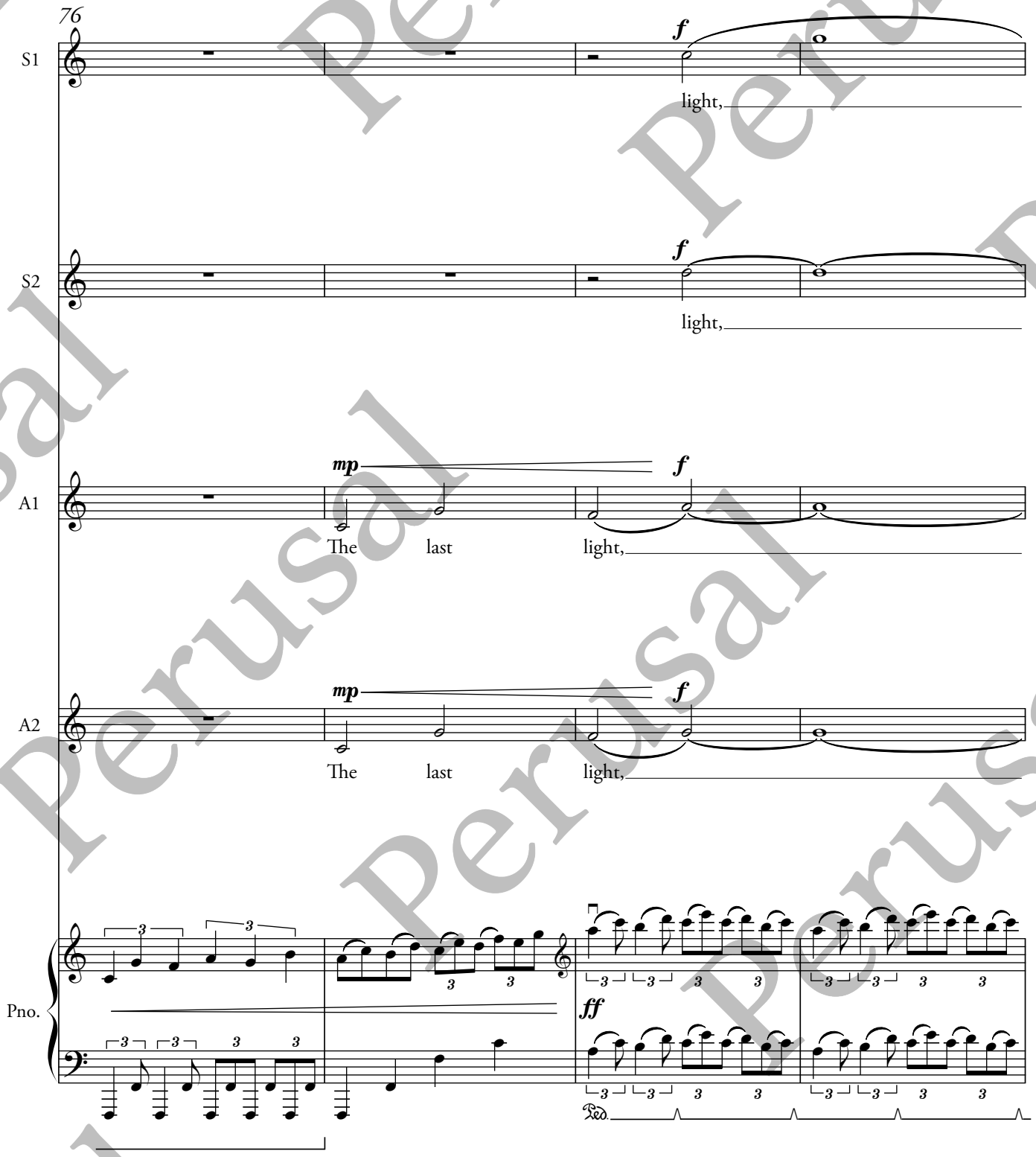
Perusal



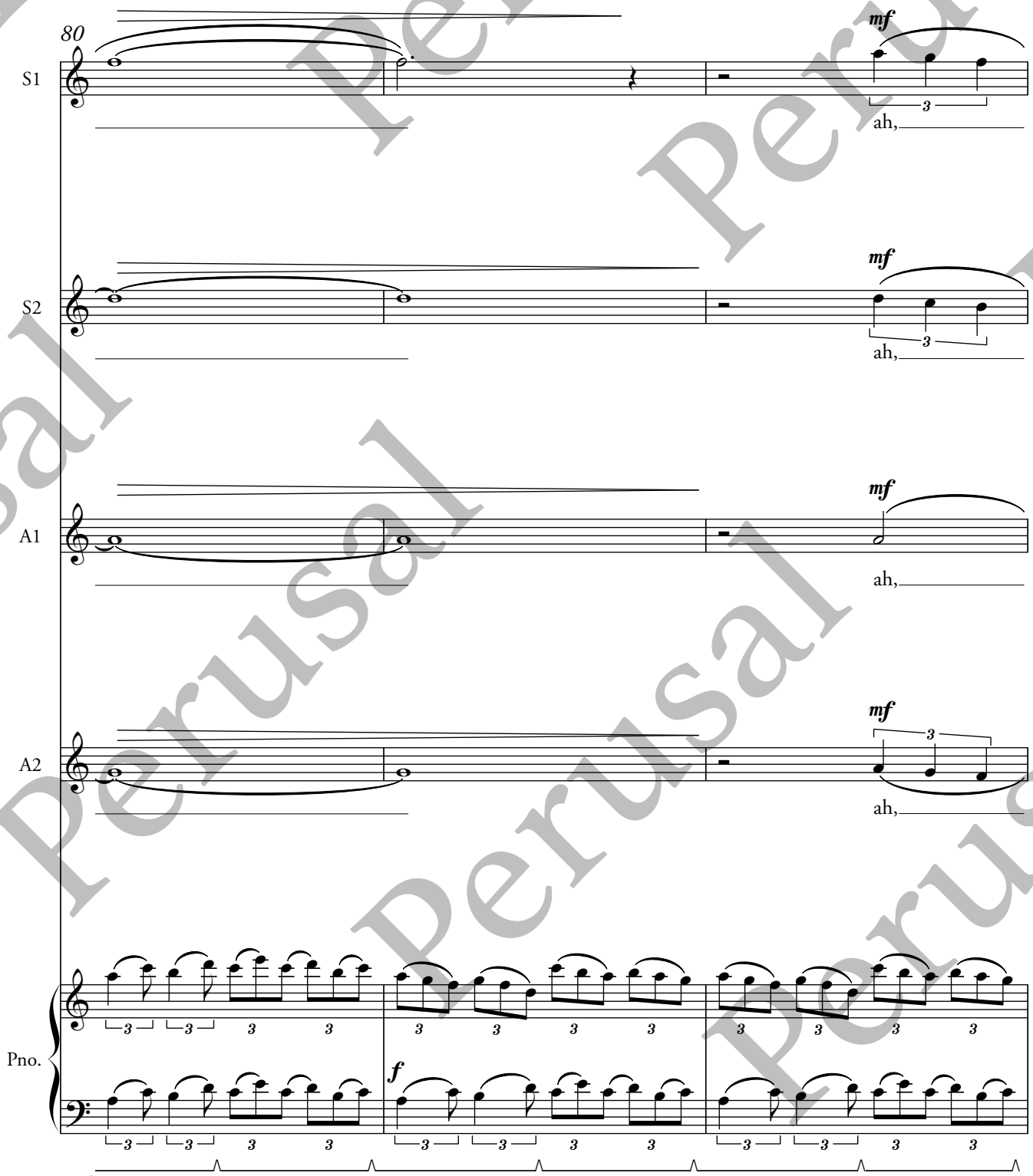
Perusal



Perusal


76
S1
f
light,
S2
f
light,
A1
mp
f
The last light,
A2
mp
f
The last light,
Pno.
ff

Perusal

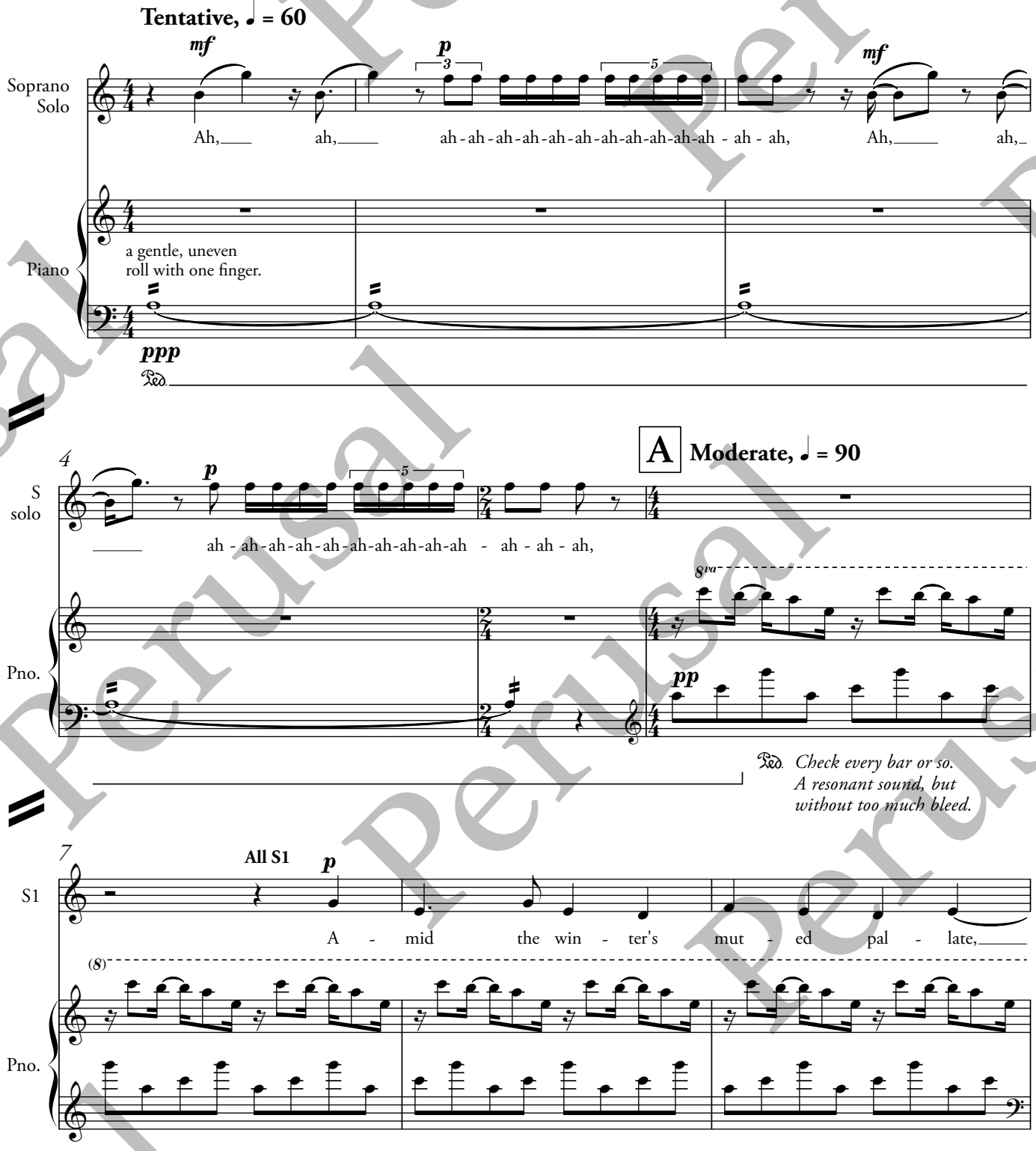


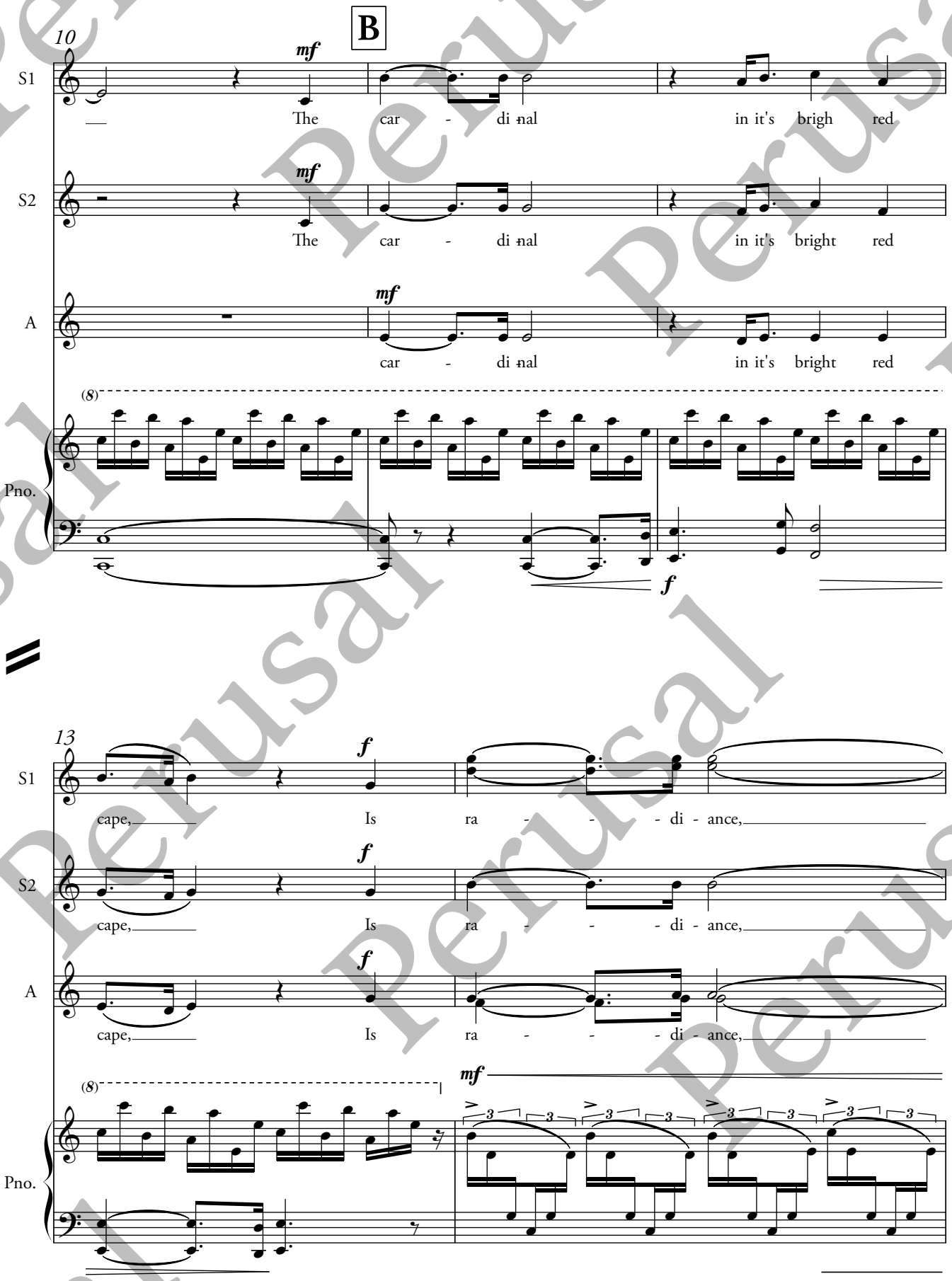
Perusal

January 17, 2025

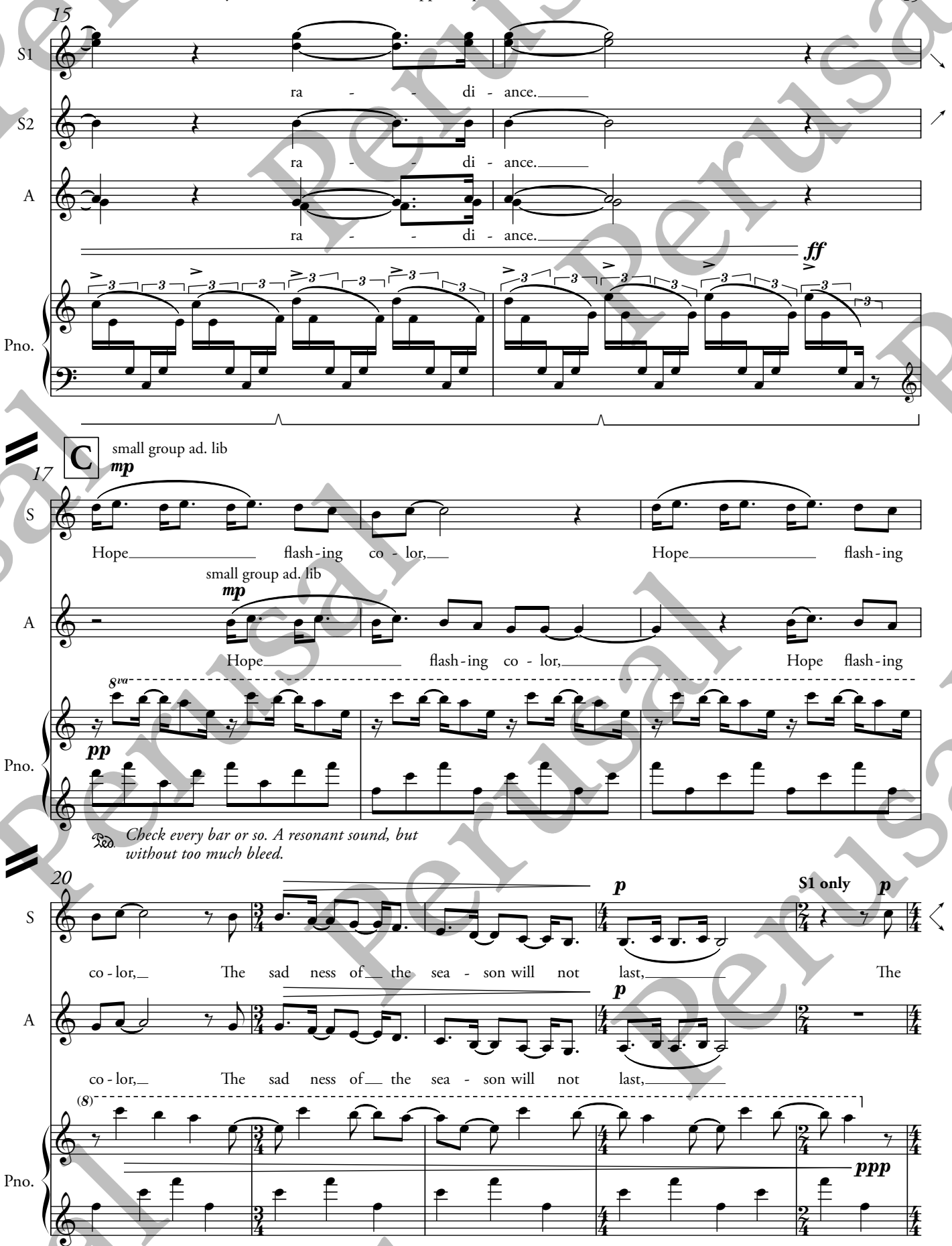
IV. When Cardinals Appear, Spirits Are Near

Dedicated to sculptor Ginger Geyer who taught me to recognize Spirit.

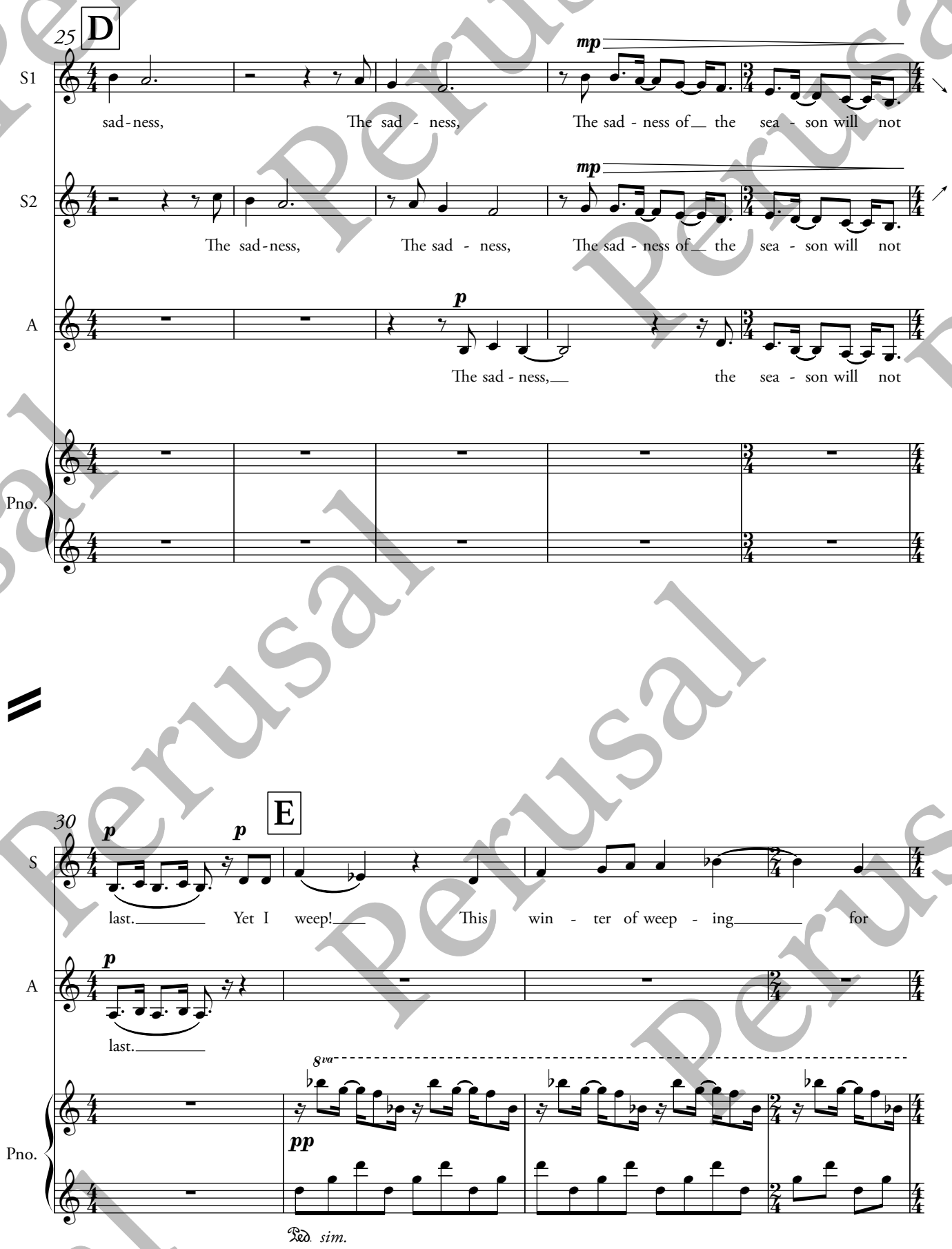



B
10
S1
mf
The car - di nal in it's brigh red
S2
mf
The car - di nal in it's bright red
A
mf
car - di nal in it's bright red
(8)
Pno.
f
13
S1
f
cape, Is ra - - - di - ance,
S2
f
cape, Is ra - - - di - ance,
A
f
cape, Is ra - - - di - ance,
(8)
mf
Pno.

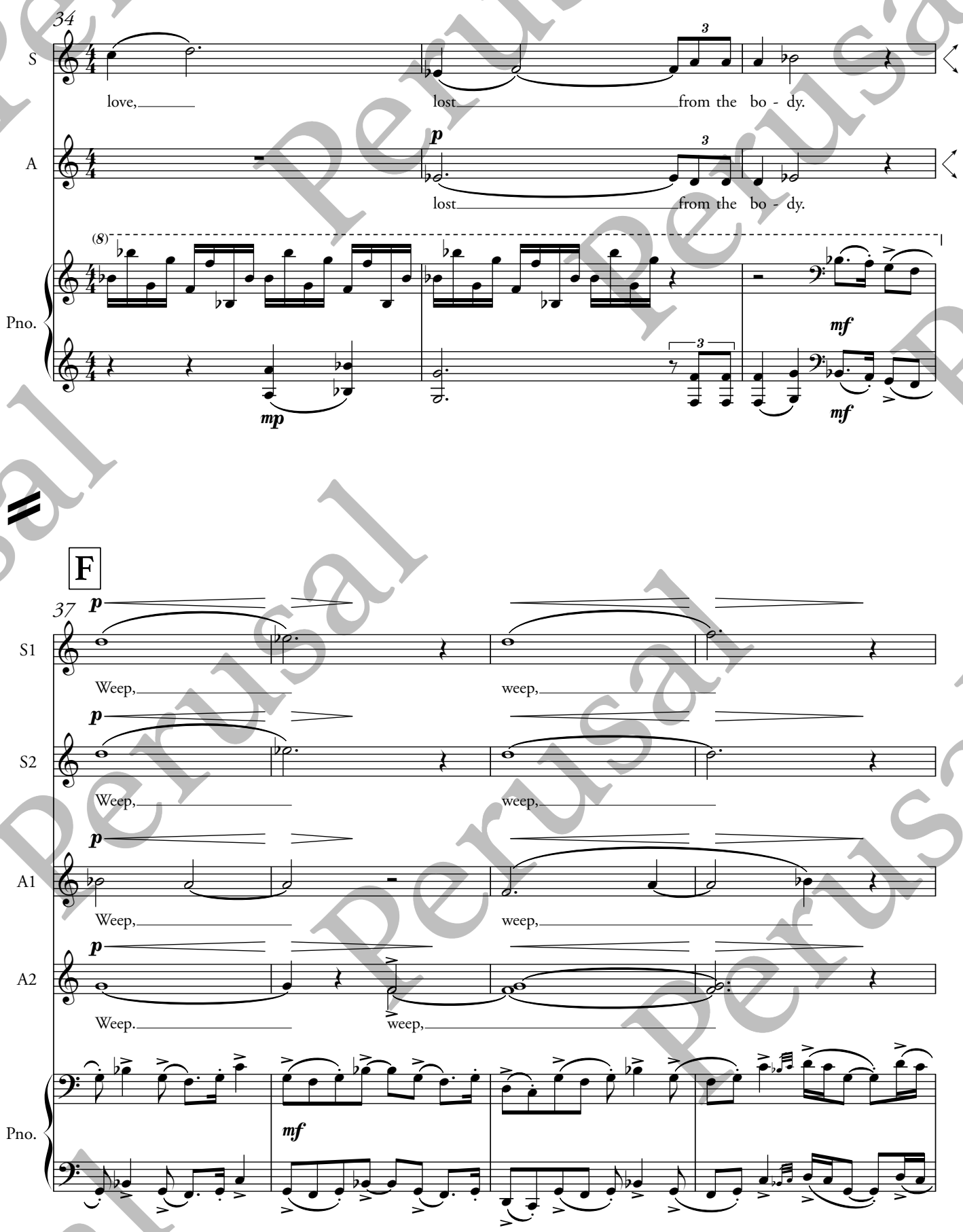
Perusal


15
S1
ra - - di - ance.
S2
ra - - di - ance.
A
ra - - di - ance.
ff
Pno.
C
small group ad. lib
mp
17
S
Hope flash-ing co - lor, Hope flash-ing
small group ad. lib
mp
A
Hope flash-ing co - lor, Hope flash-ing
8va
pp
Pno.
Ped.
Check every bar or so. A resonant sound, but without too much bleed.
20
S
p
S1 only
p
co - lor, The sad ness of the sea - son will not last, The
A
p
co - lor, The sad ness of the sea - son will not last,
(8)
ppp
Pno.

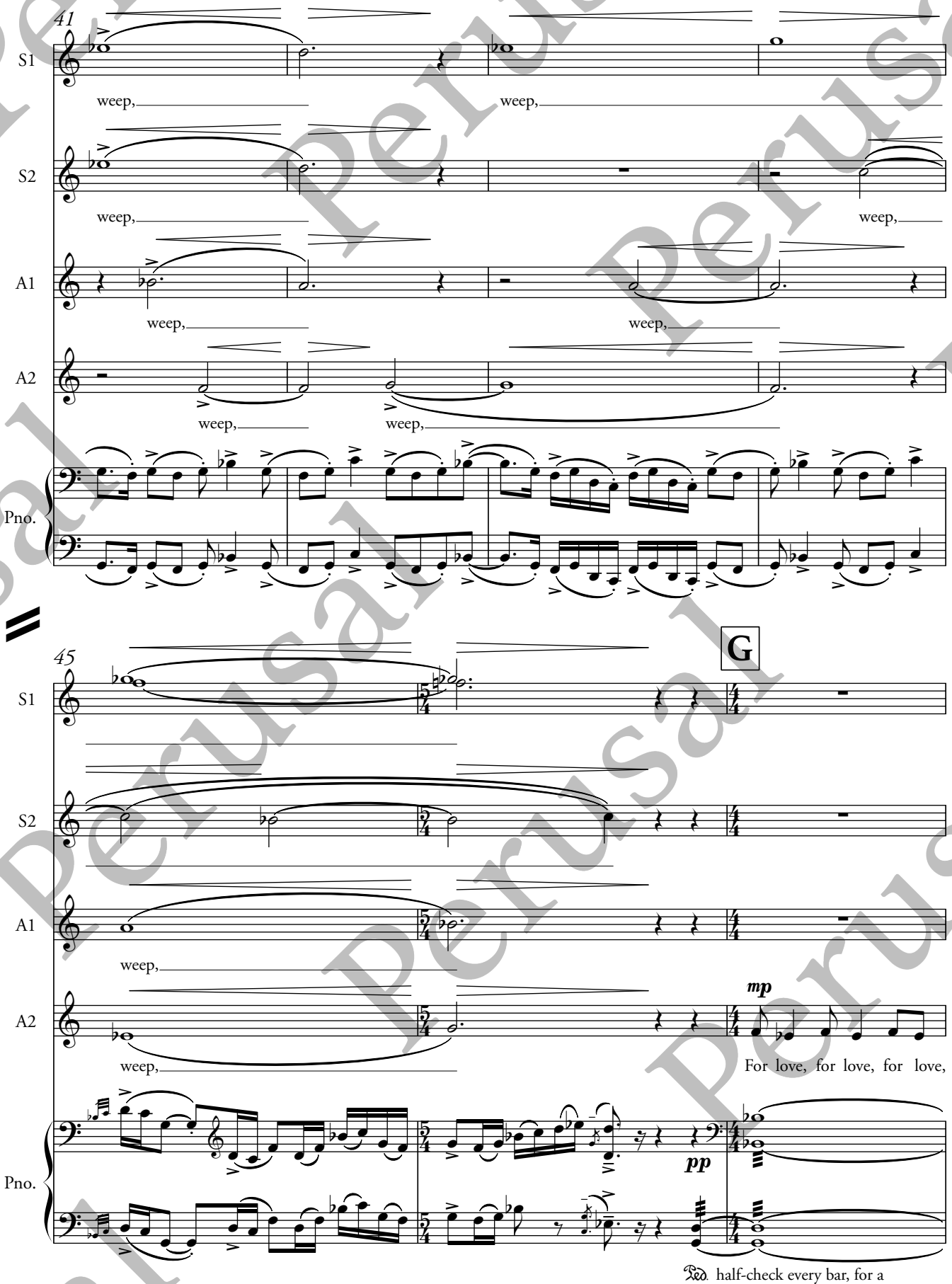
Perusal


25
D
S1
mp
sad-ness, The sad - ness, The sad - ness of the sea - son will not
S2
mp
The sad-ness, The sad - ness, The sad - ness of the sea - son will not
A
p
The sad - ness, the sea - son will not
Pno.
30
E
S
p
p
last. Yet I weep! This win - ter of weep - ing for
A
p
last.
8va
pp
Pno.
Ped. sim.

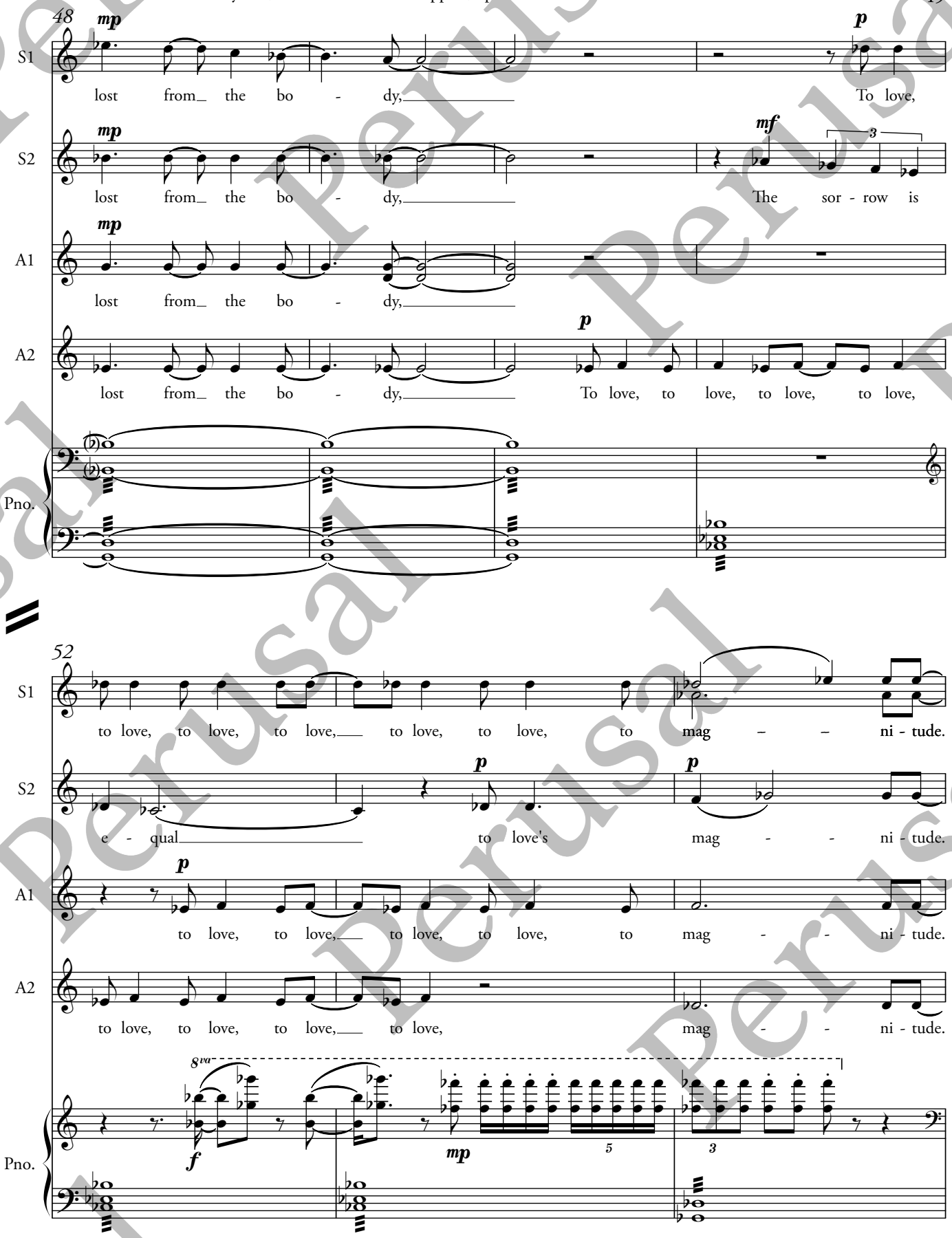
Perusal


34
S
love, lost from the bo - dy.
A
p
lost from the bo - dy.
(8)
Pno.
mp
mf
mf
F
37
p
S1
Weep, weep,
p
S2
Weep, weep,
p
A1
Weep, weep,
p
A2
Weep. weep,
Pno.
mf

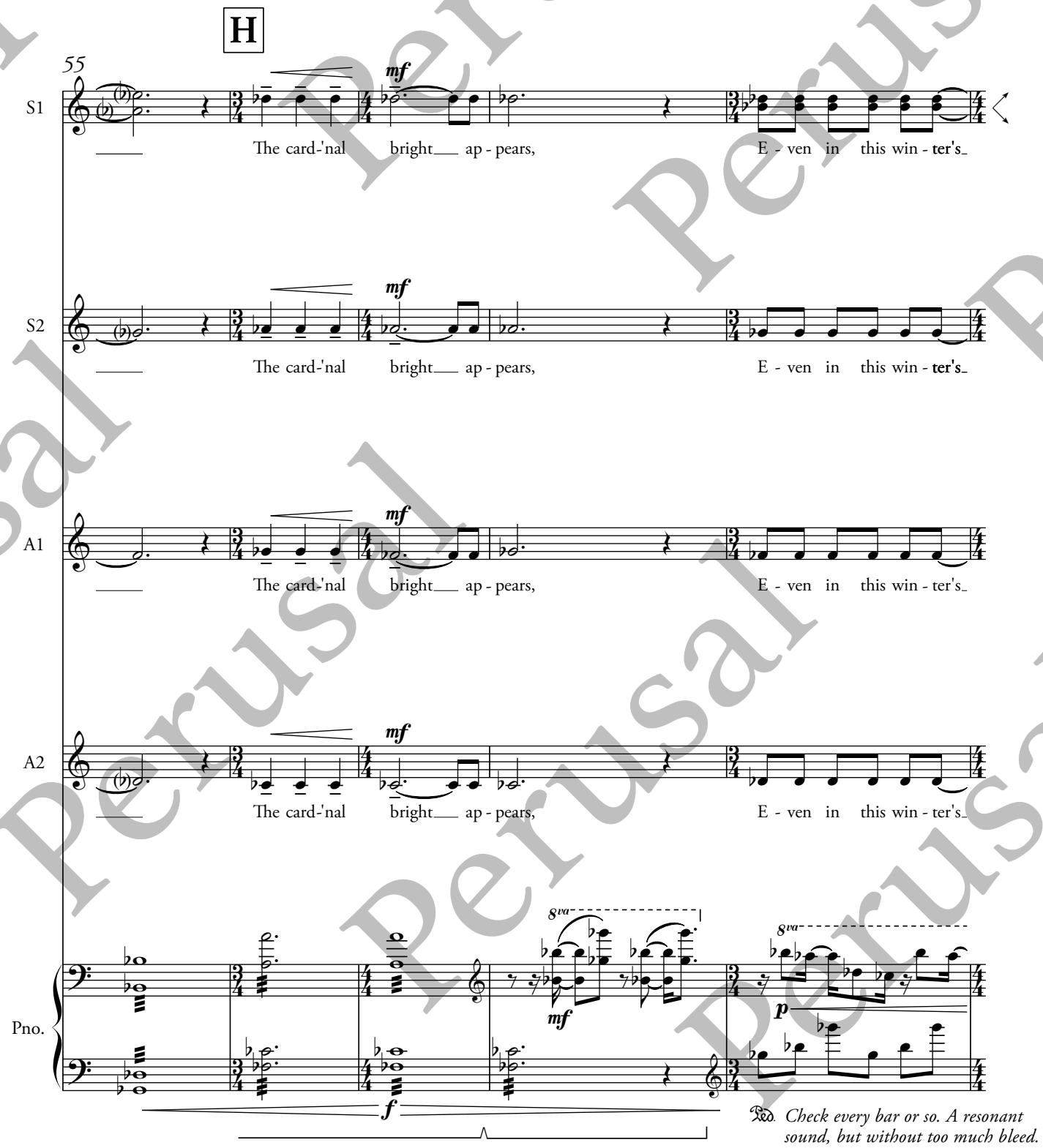
Perusal


41
S1
weep,
weep,
S2
weep,
weep,
A1
weep,
weep,
A2
weep,
weep,
Pno.
45
G
S1
S2
A1
weep,
A2
weep,
mp
For love, for love, for love,
Pno.
pp
Ped. half-check every bar, for a rumbly, dark sound

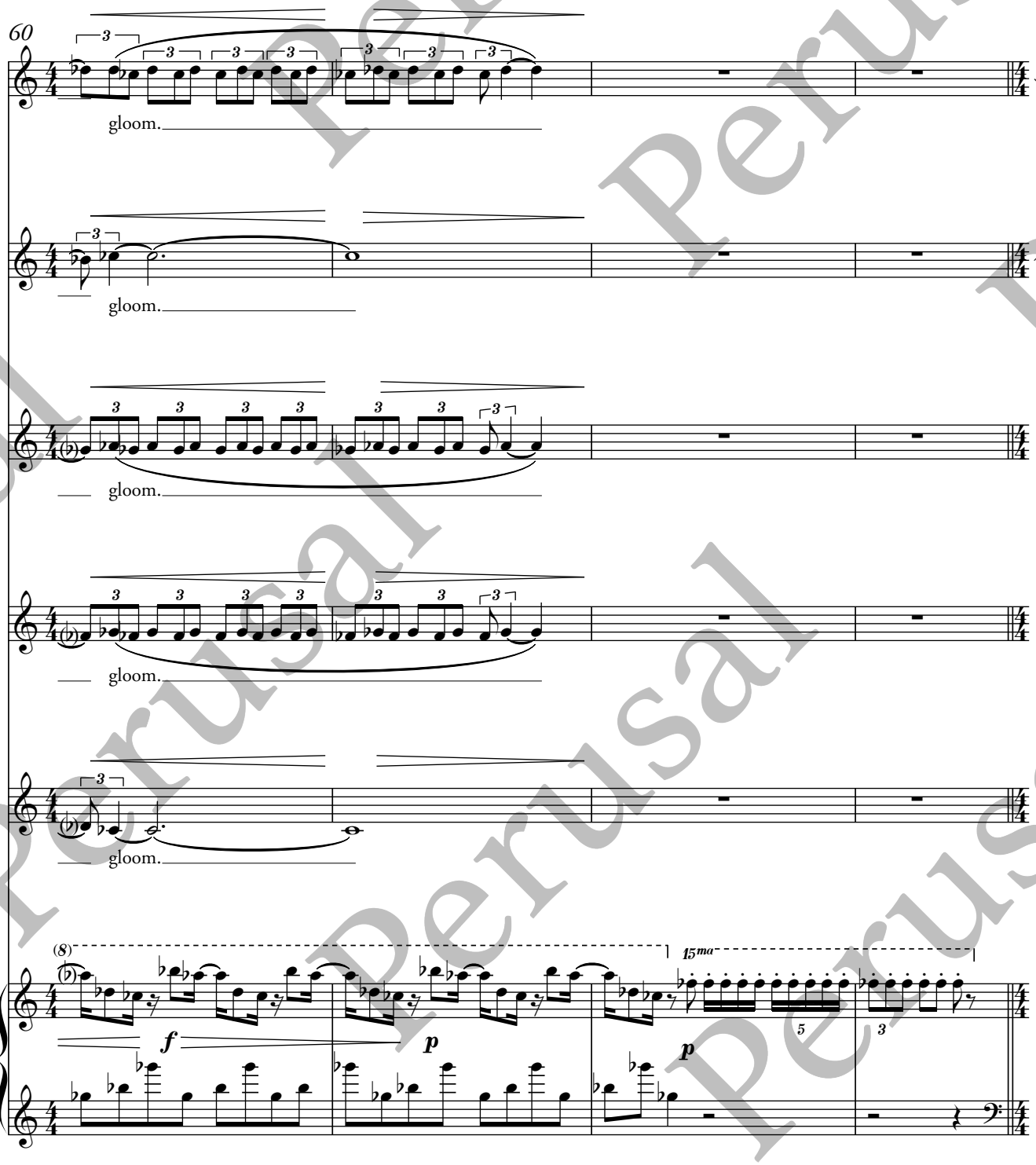
Perusal



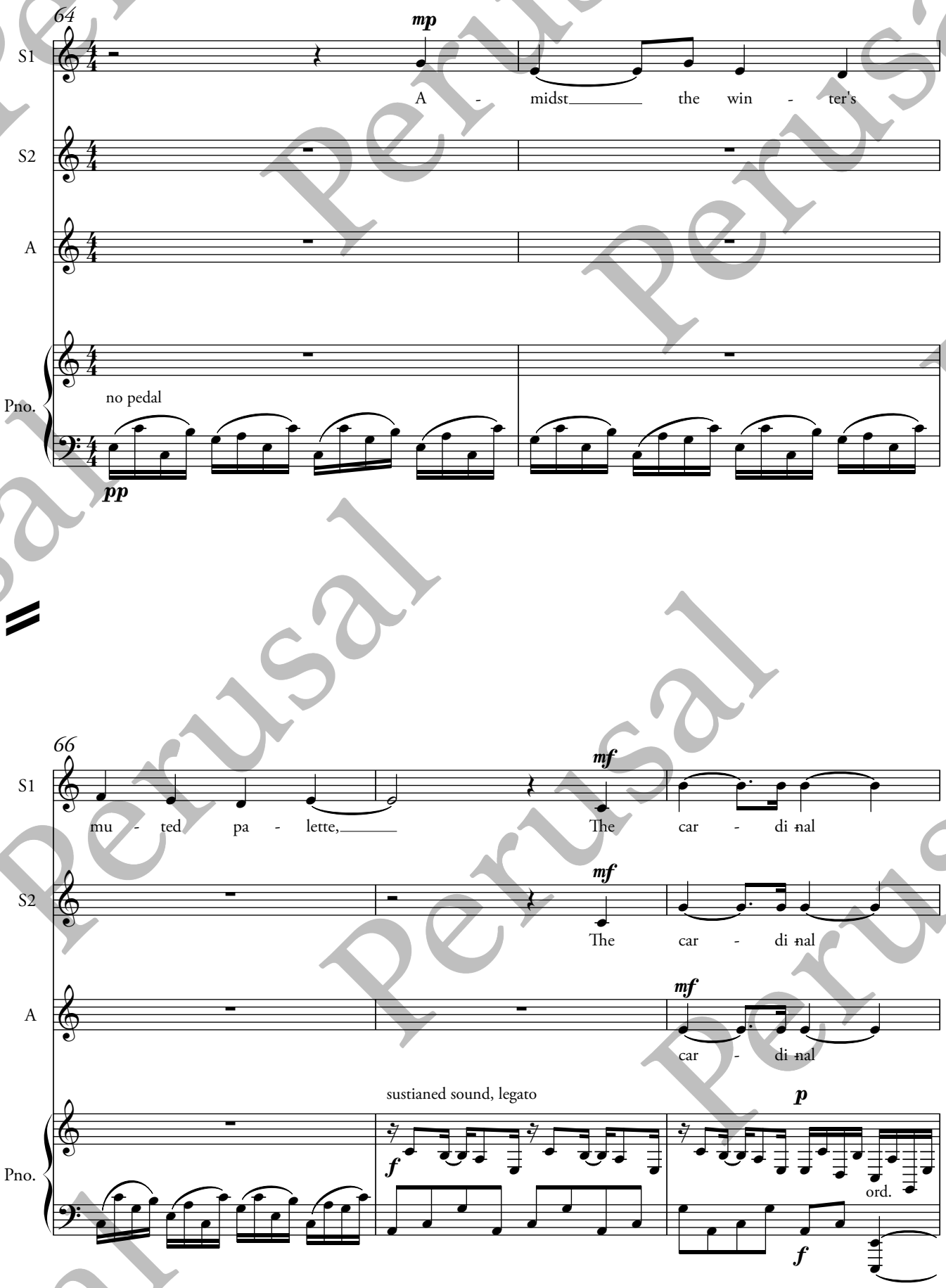
Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal


H
55
S1
S2
A1
A2
Pno.
mf
The card-'nal bright ap - pears, E - ven in this win - ter's
8va
p
f
Ped.
Check every bar or so. A resonant sound, but without too much bleed.

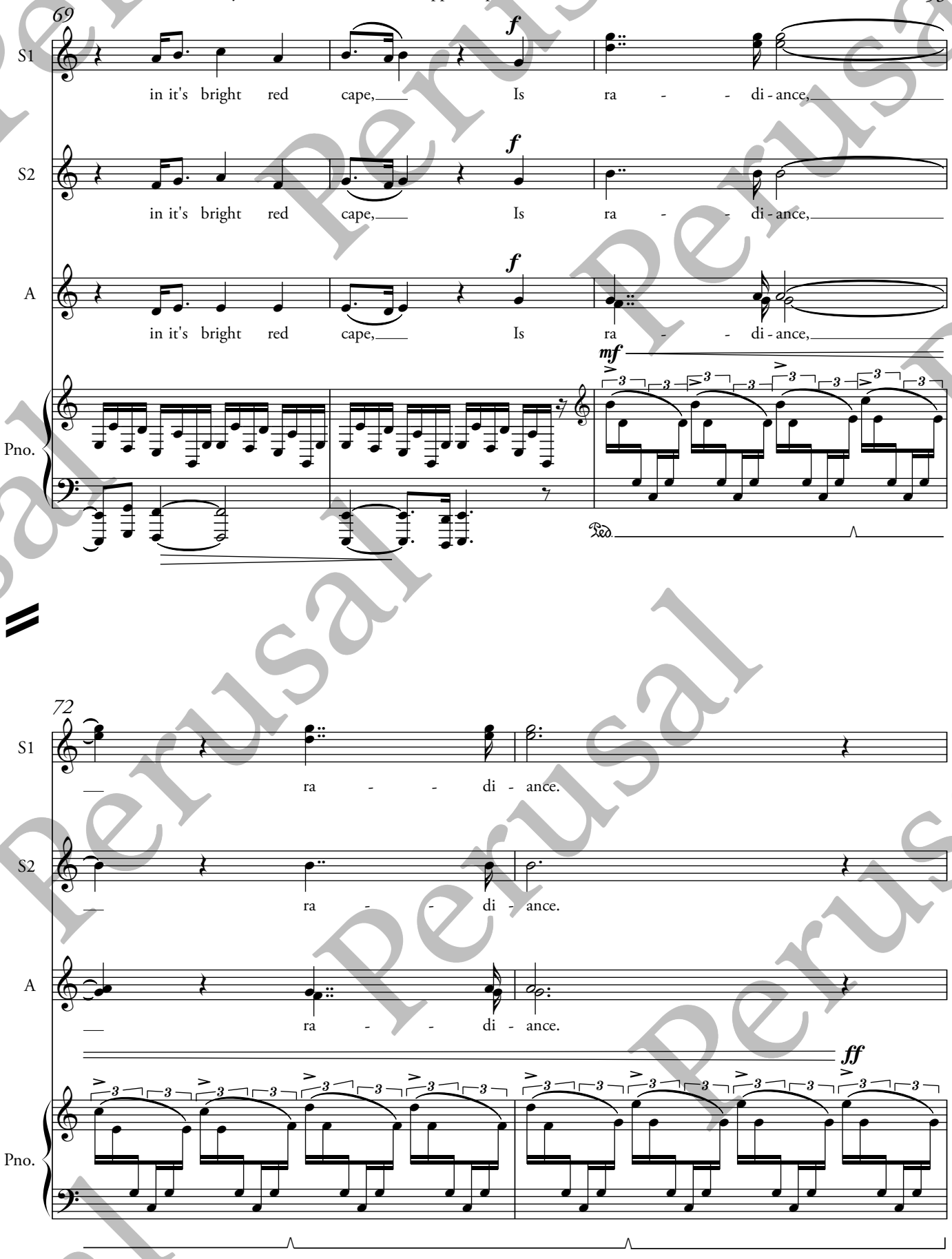
Perusal



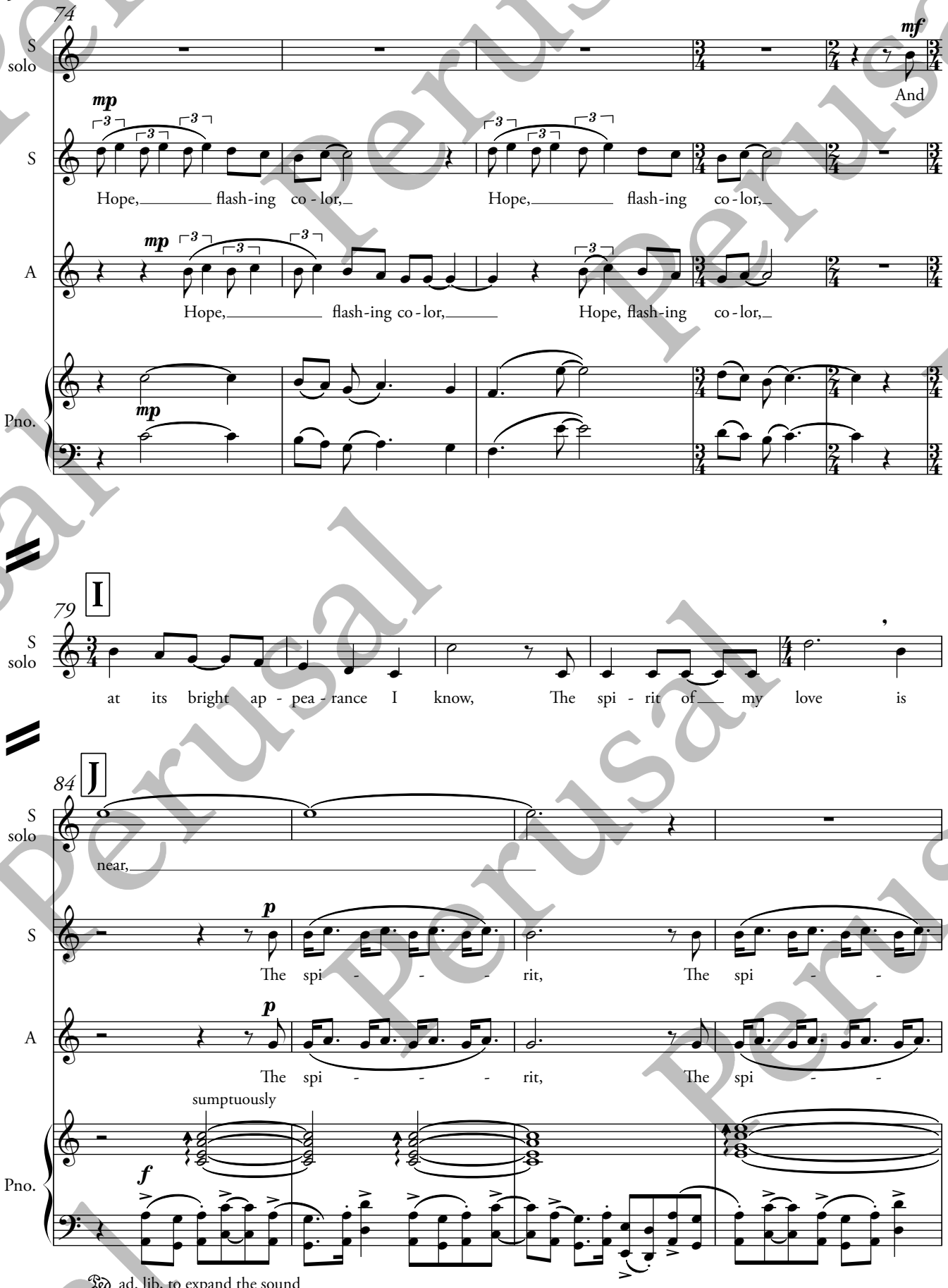
Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal


64
S1
S2
A
Pno.
mp
A - midst the win - ter's
no pedal
pp
66
mu - ted pa - lette,
mf
The car - di nal
sustianed sound, legato
f
p
ord.

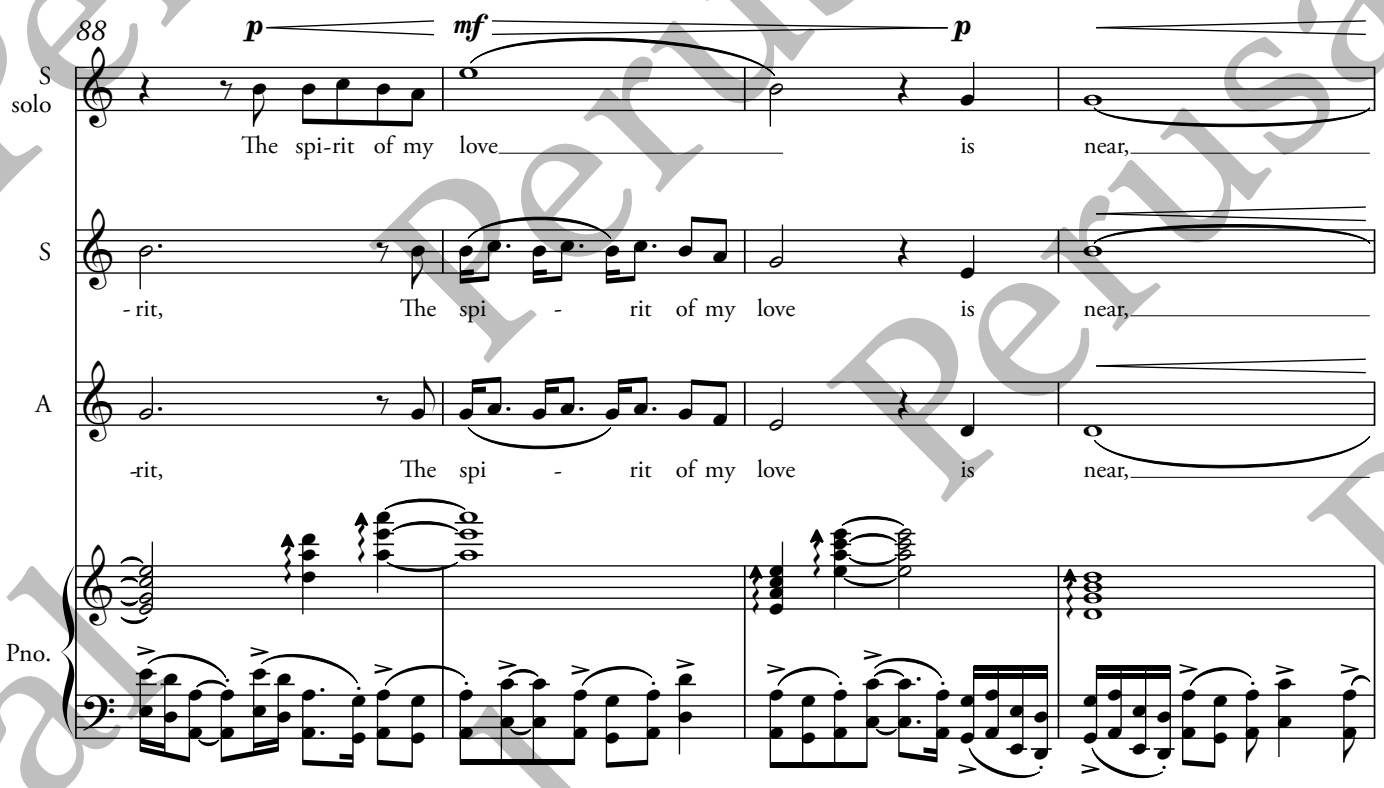
Perusal

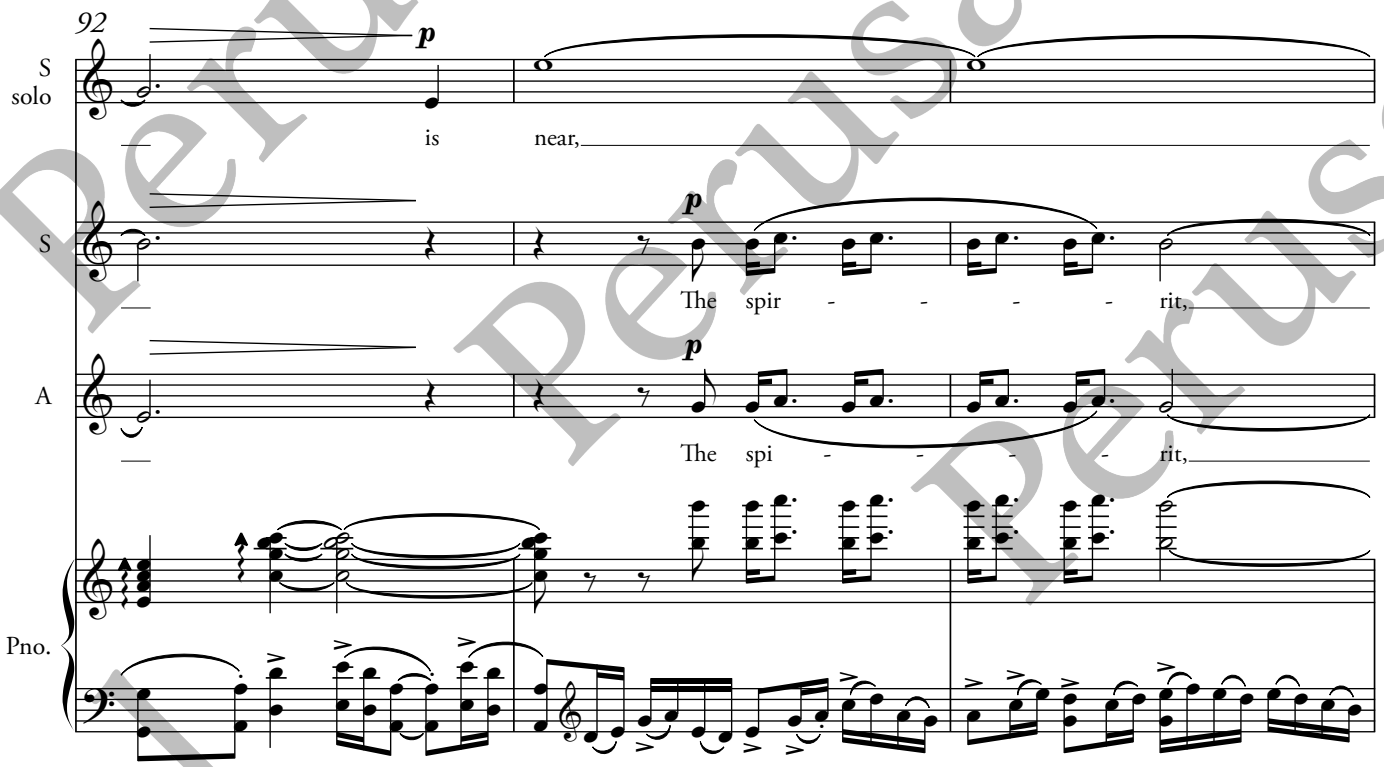

69
S1
in it's bright red cape, Is ra - - di - ance,
S2
in it's bright red cape, Is ra - - di - ance,
A
in it's bright red cape, Is ra - - di - ance,
Pno.
72
S1
ra - - di - ance.
S2
ra - - di - ance.
A
ra - - di - ance.
Pno.

Perusal



Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal





Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal Perusal