HP04-09

EDIE HILL

AN ILLUMINATED TRANSIENCE

for SATB *a cappella chorus*

I. Light

that precise, fleeting mosaic of reflection impossible to catch

II. Water Lilies

The flowers are just the accompaniment. The essence of the motif is the mirror of water.

III. Opticks

All the Colours in the Universe are made by Light

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

An Illuminated Transience

Composing *An Illuminated Transience* was a wonderful journey into light color, and perception. Each movement opens a small window from which we can see a poet, a painter and a scientist observe, ruminate on, create and experiment with – LIGHT. Ultimately, the piece is a celebration of curiosity, passion and love of learning.

A special thanks to Robert Cowles and Cantori for commissioning and performing this piece on Hobart and William Smith Colleges Spring Tour Concert, April 2004

I. Light

No wonder scientists
and painters are drawn
to light – that precise
fleeting mosaic of reflection
impossible to catch:
Newton's prism colors
contracted, disappearing
into whiteness
Monet's water lilies
illumined by transparent mist.

Poets, too, can be light-obsessed,
watching how a sudden
thought, like a shadow
from a passing cloud,
falls across a bright page.

Joan Wolf Prefontaine *

II. Water Lilies

The Flower,
The Flowers
are just the accompaniment.
The essence of the motif
Is the mirror of water,
Changing at every moment
thanks to patches of sky,
reflected in it,
giving it light and movement.

Passing Cloud,
Refreshing breeze,
The light growing dim
And bright again,
transform the color,
the place of water,
the mirror of water.

after Claude Monet

III. Opticks

The sun shining into my darken'd room,
Through a small round hole,
Made in a plate of Lead,
I placed a Prism to refract the Light,
And form on the opposite wall
The Spectrum of Colours.

All the Colours in the Universe
Are made by Light.

Newton
Fortunate Newton,
Happy childhood of science,
Nature to him was an open book,
Beautiful Experiments,
Joy in Creation.

The Sun Shining into my darken'd room,
I turned two prisms
About their common axis.
There arose many slender Arcs of Colour:
White, blue, violet;
Black, red, orange, yellow.

All the Colours in the Universe
Are made by Light.

Sir Isaac Newton
Albert Einstein (italics) †

* Commissioned especially for this piece, "Light" is used with permission from the author, Joan Wolf Prefontaine.

† Grateful acknowledgement is due to the Albert Einstein Archives, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel for permission granted to set a portion of Einstein's Foreward to Newton's Optiks, 1929.

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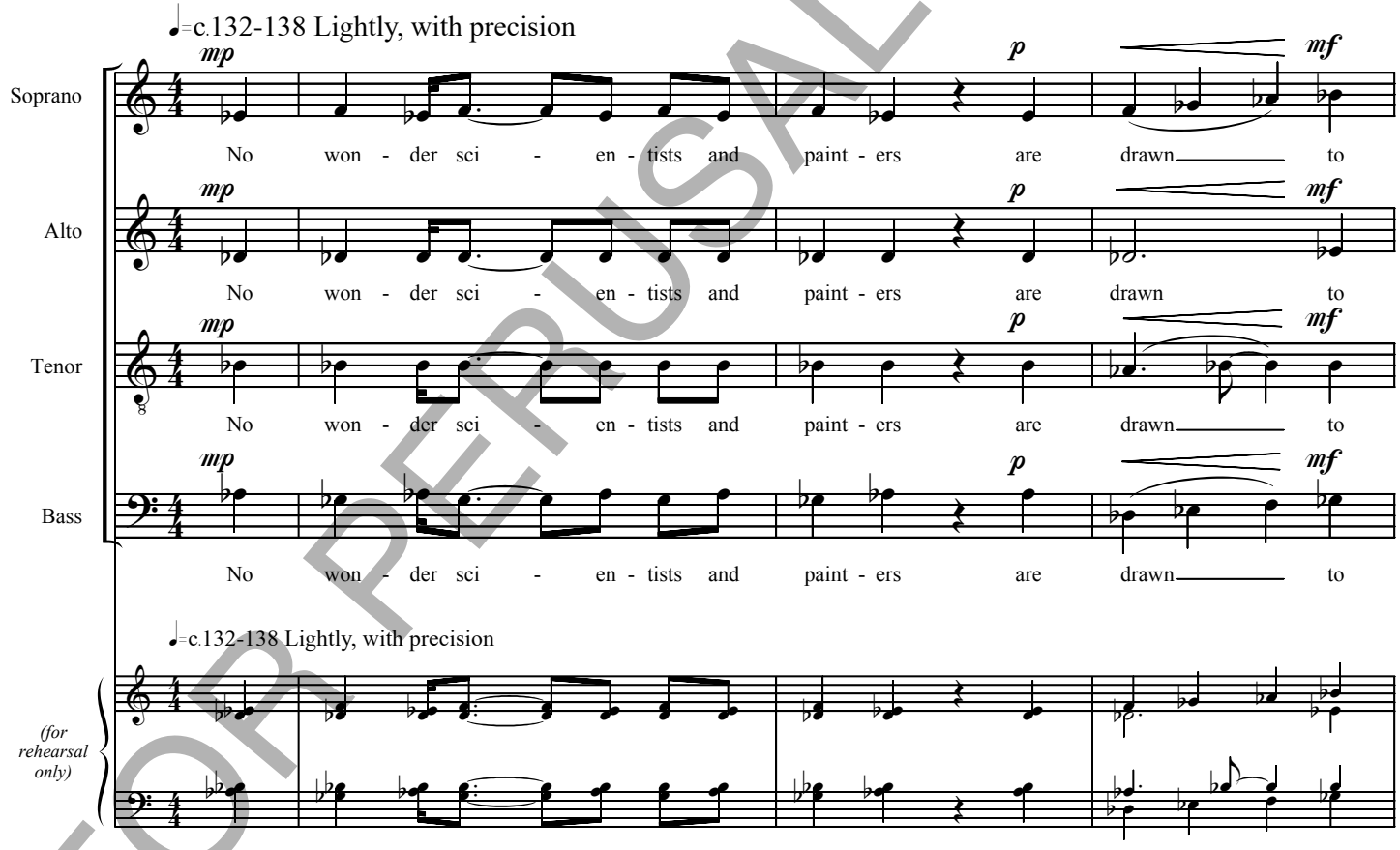
Commissioned by Cantori, Robert Cowles, Director
Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, New York

I. Light

from
"An Illuminated Transience"

Joan Wolf Prefontaine

Edie Hill



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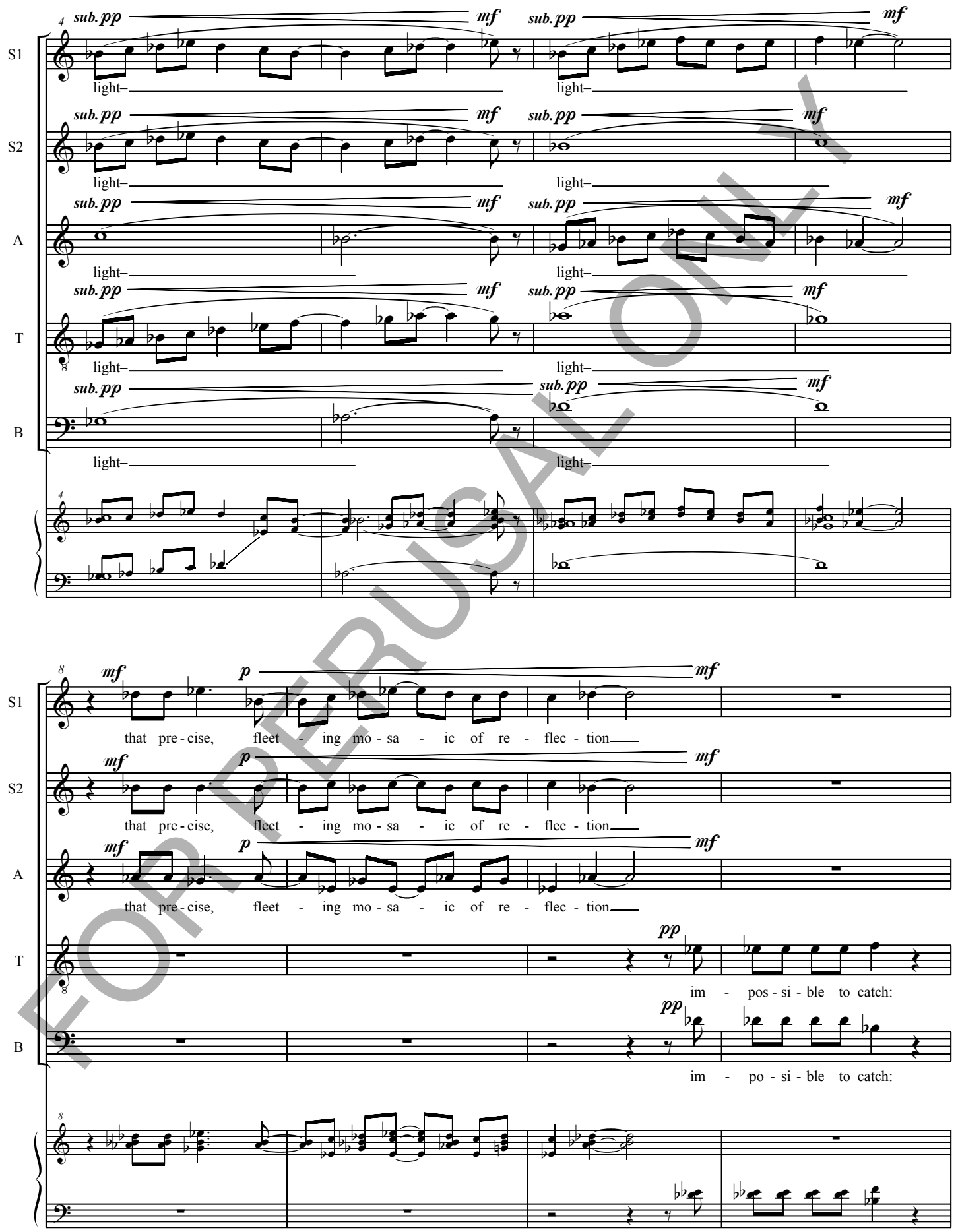

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12

cantabile *p* — *rall.* — *mf* — *mp*

A ♩=c.116 More legato

S: light– New - ton's pris - m

A: light– New - ton's pris - m

T: light– New - ton's pris - m

B: light– New - ton's pris - m

16

accel. ♩=96-100 — *Dreamy, very expressive*

mf — *p* — *mp* — *pp*

S: col - ors con - tract - ed dis - ap - pear - ing in - to white - ness;

A: col - ors con - tract - ed dis - ap - pear - ing in - to white - ness; Mo - net's wa - ter lil - ies

T: col - ors con - tract - ed dis - ap - pear - ing in - to white - ness; Mo - net's wa - ter lil - ies

B: col - ors con - tract - ed dis - ap - pear - ing in - to white - ness; Mo - net's wa - - ter lil -

★ should be a delicate *mf*

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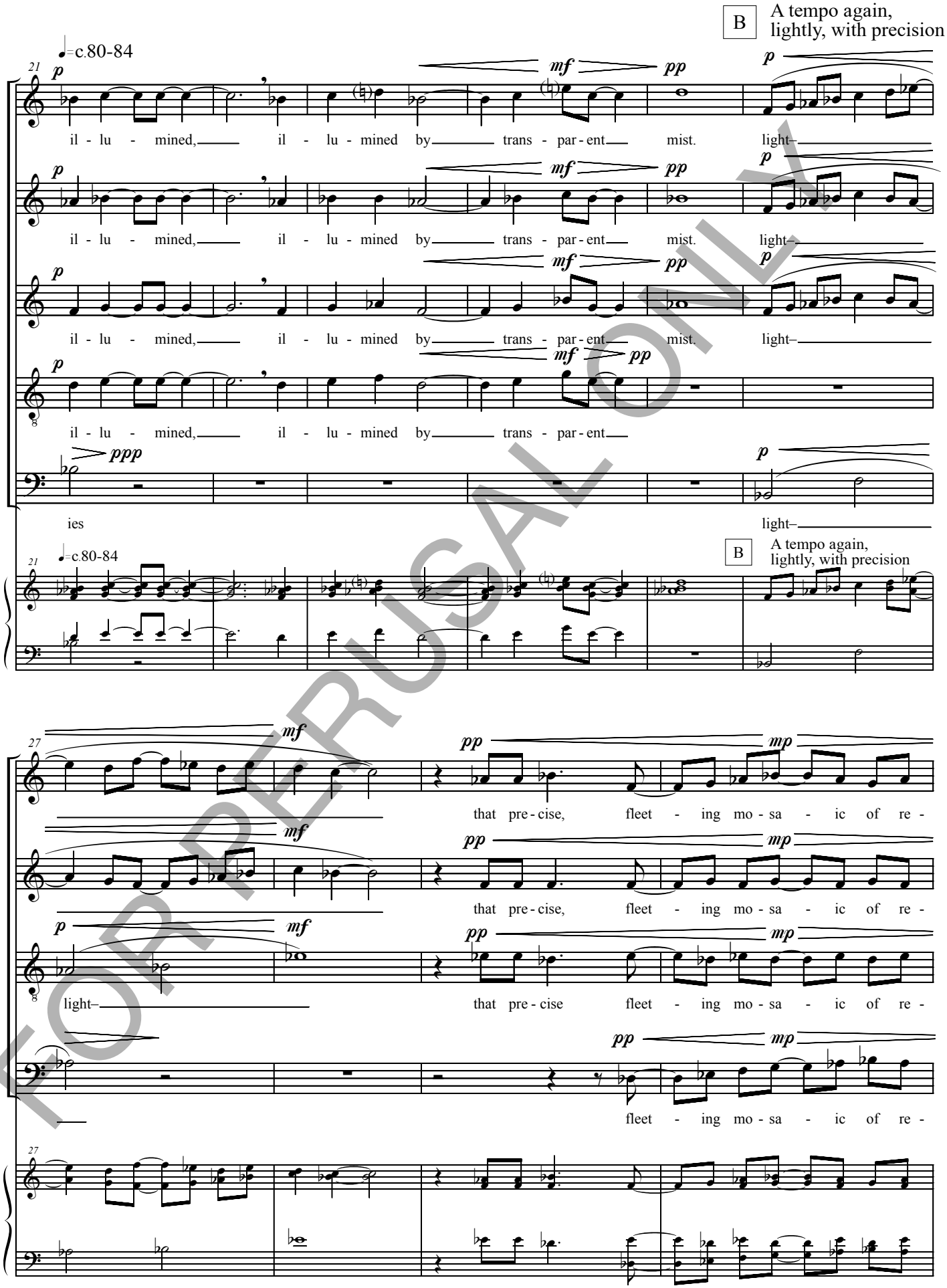

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31

S: *pp* — flec - tion

A: *pp* — flec - tion

T: *pp* — flec - tion im - pos - si - ble to catch:

B: *pp* — flec - tion im - pos - si - ble to catch:

rall.

pp *cantabile* — oo — *mp*

p — oo

p — oo

rall.

C ♩=c.66, very freely

35

S1: *p* **Solo** — Po-ets, too, Po-ets, too, can be light - - - - ob - *mf*

S2: *pp* — oo - - - - - - - -

A: *niente* — *pp* — oo

T: *niente* — *pp* — oo

B: *niente*

C ♩=c.66, very freely

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S: dee dum dee dum dee dum dee dum dee dum dee dum dee dum dee dum

A: (pass to tenors) *ppp* — *ppp* — *p*
dee da da dee da da dee da da dee da da dee da da

T: *mf* — *p* *delicately, like lapping water (background)* — *ppp* *mp*
flow'rs dee da da dee da da dee da da dee da da dee da da The

B: *mp* — *mf* — *mp*
The flow'rs, the flow'rs are just the ac - com - pa - ni - ment. The

S: *ppp* — *mp* — *mf*
dee dum dee dum dee dum dee of the mo - tif is the

A: dee da da dee da da dee da da dee dum dee dum dee dum dee dum

T: *mf*
es - sence of the mo - tif, the es - sence of the mo - tif is the

B: *p* *delicately, like lapping water (background)*
es - sence, the es - sence da da dee da da dee da da dee da da dee da da

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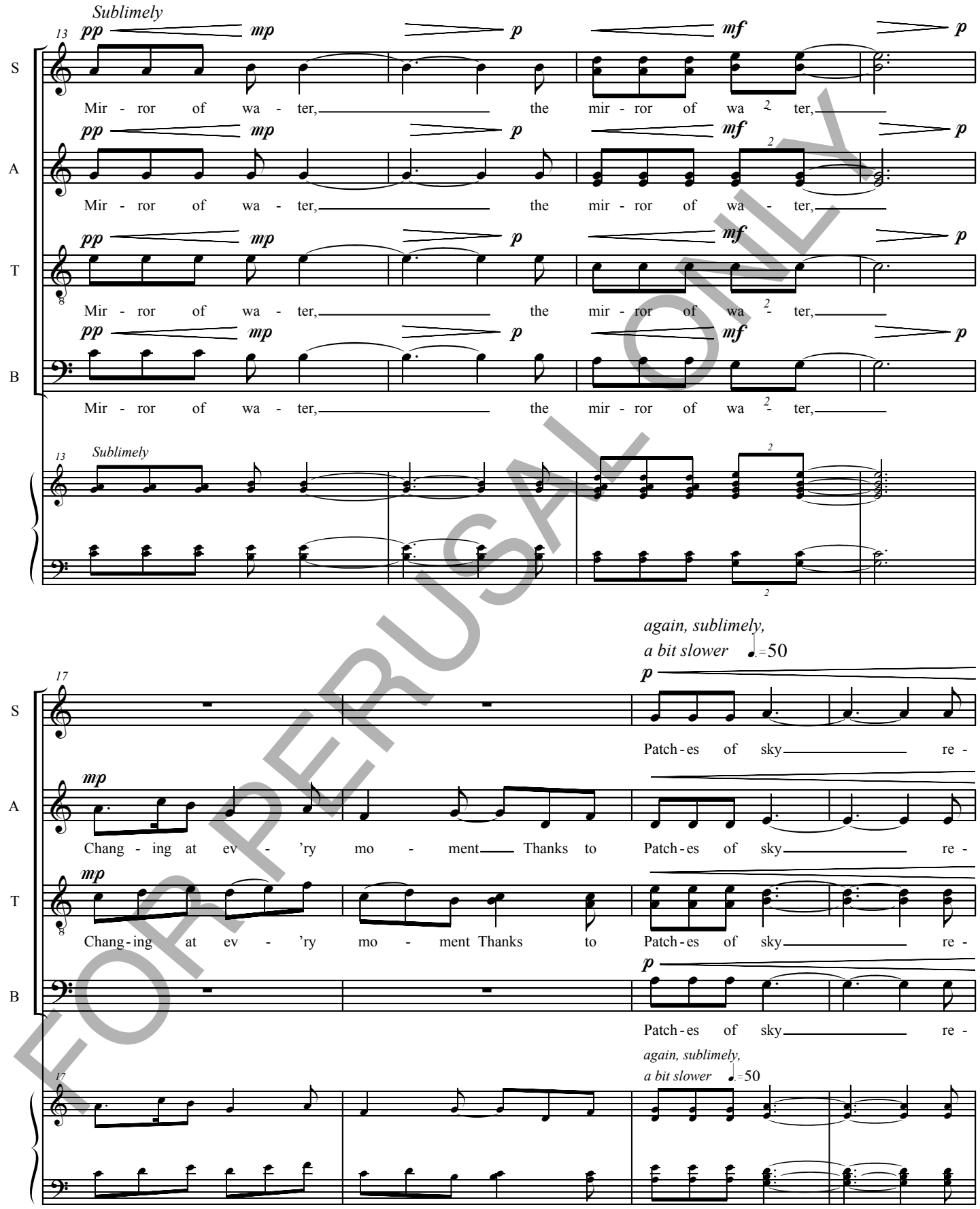

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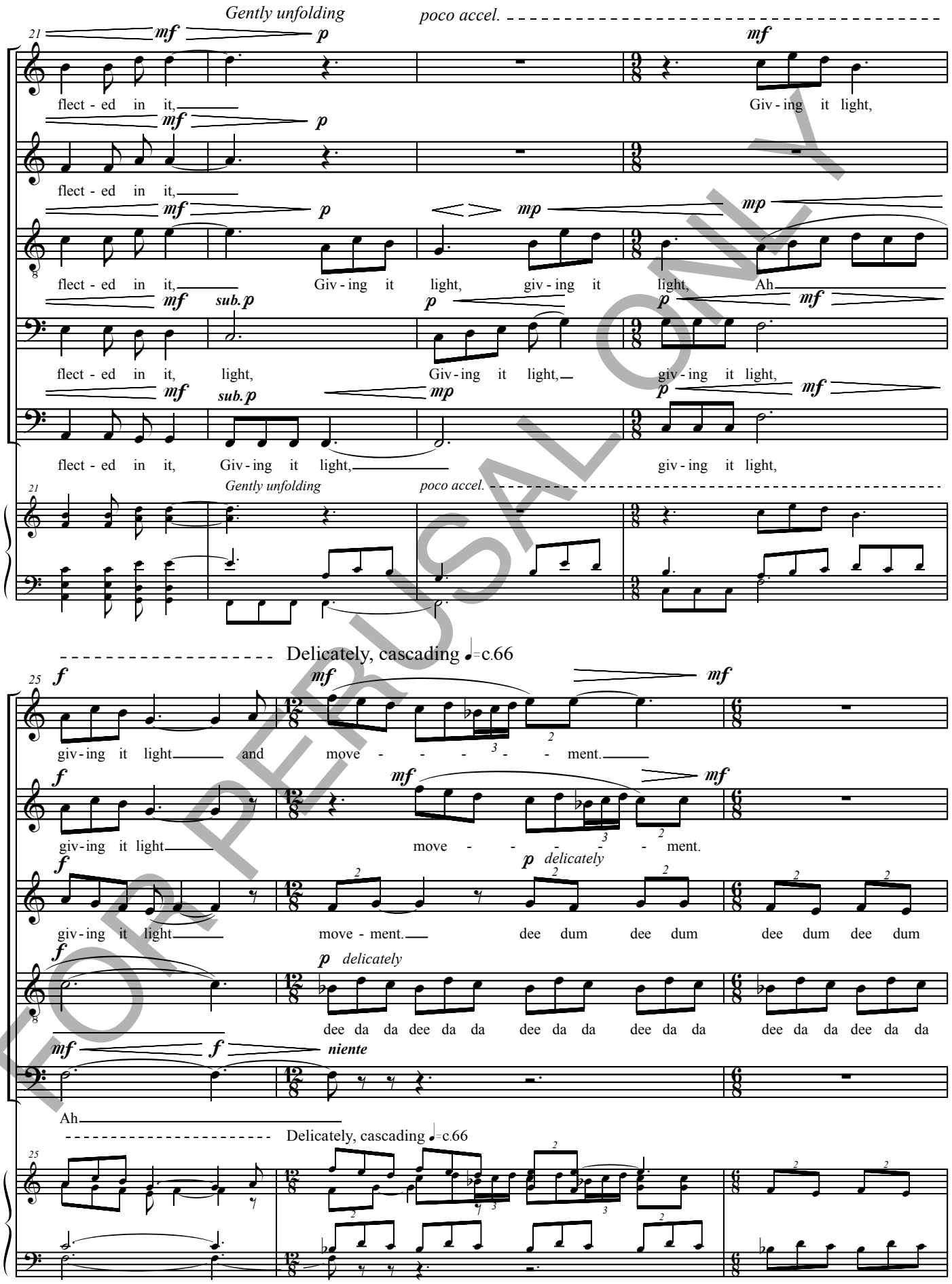

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28

a little slower, floating ♩=c.56-58

S: Pass - ing cloud, Re - fresh - ing

A: dee dum dee dum dee dum dee dum dee dum dee dum dee dum dee dum

T: dee da da dee da da dee da da dee da da dee da da dee da da dee da da dee da da

B: Pass - ing cloud, Re - fresh - ing breeze,

28 a little slower, floating ♩=c.56-58

32

S: breeze, The light grow - ing dim And bright a - gain, Trans -

A: dee dum dee dum dee dum dee da (ah) dee da (ah) Trans -

T: dee da da dee da da dee da da (ah) dee da da (ah) Trans -

B: The light grow - ing dim And bright

32

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Again, sublime (♩.=c.50)

35

S: sub.p mf p mp mf p f p

form the col - or, The plane of wa - ter, The mir - ror of wa - ter, the

A: sub.p mf p mp mf p f p

form the col - or, The plane of wa - ter, The mir - ror of wa - ter, the

T: sub.p mf p mp mf p f p

form the col - or, The plane of wa - ter, The mir - ror of wa - ter, the

B: mp mf p f p

plane of wa - ter, The mir - ror of wa - ter, the

Again, sublime (♩.=c.50)

35

38

S: mp p pp mp pp ppp p niente

mir - ror of wa - ter. * oo oo

A: mp p pp mp pp ppp p niente

mir - ror of wa - ter. * oo oo

T: mp p pp mp pp ppp p niente

mir - ror of wa - ter. * oo oo

B: mp p pp mp pp ppp p niente

mir - ror of wa - ter. * oo oo

38

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* singing with lips barely separated.

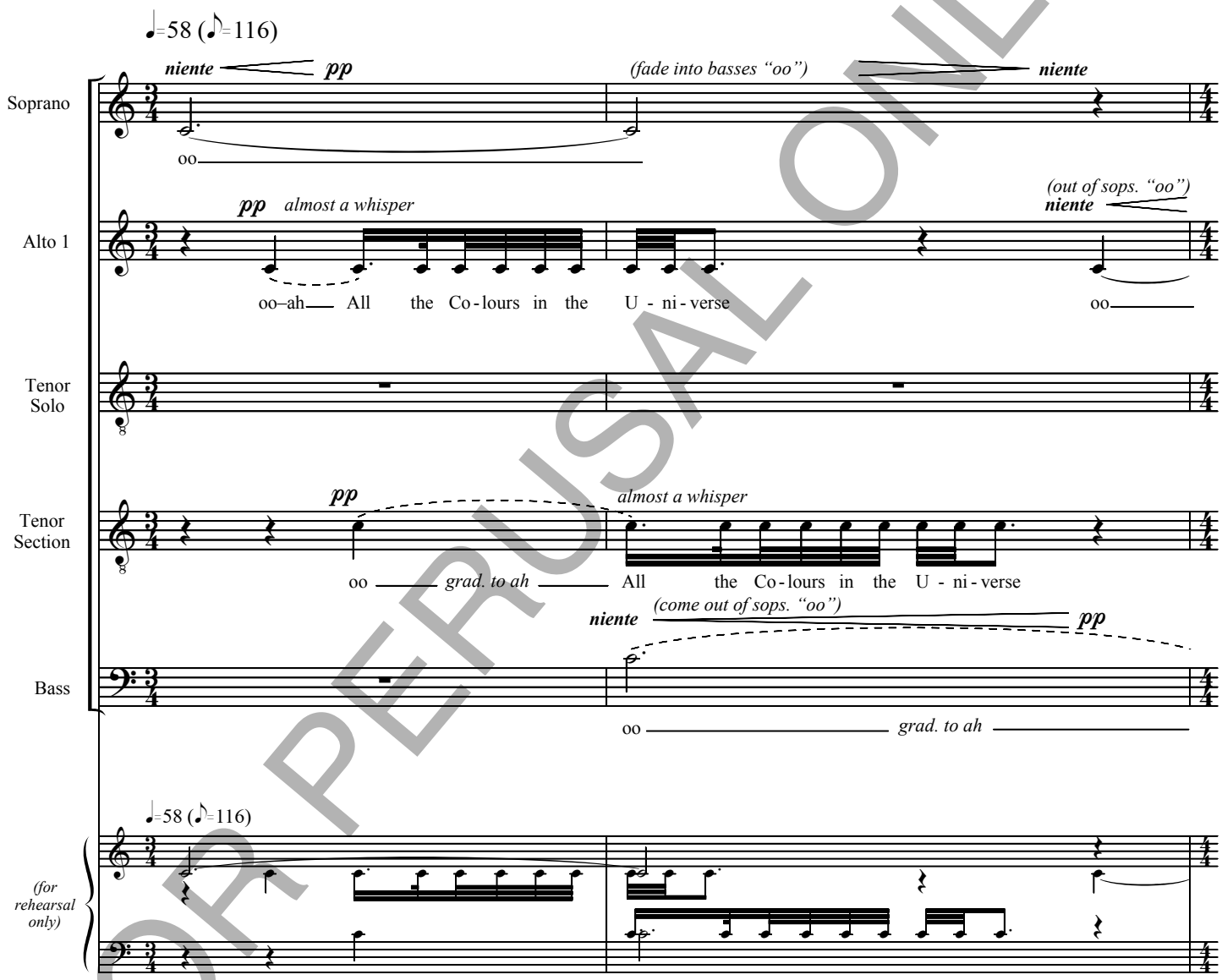
Commissioned by Cantori, Robert Cowles, Director
Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, New York

III. Opticks

from
"An Illuminated Transience"

Sir Isaac Newton
Albert Einstein

Edie Hill



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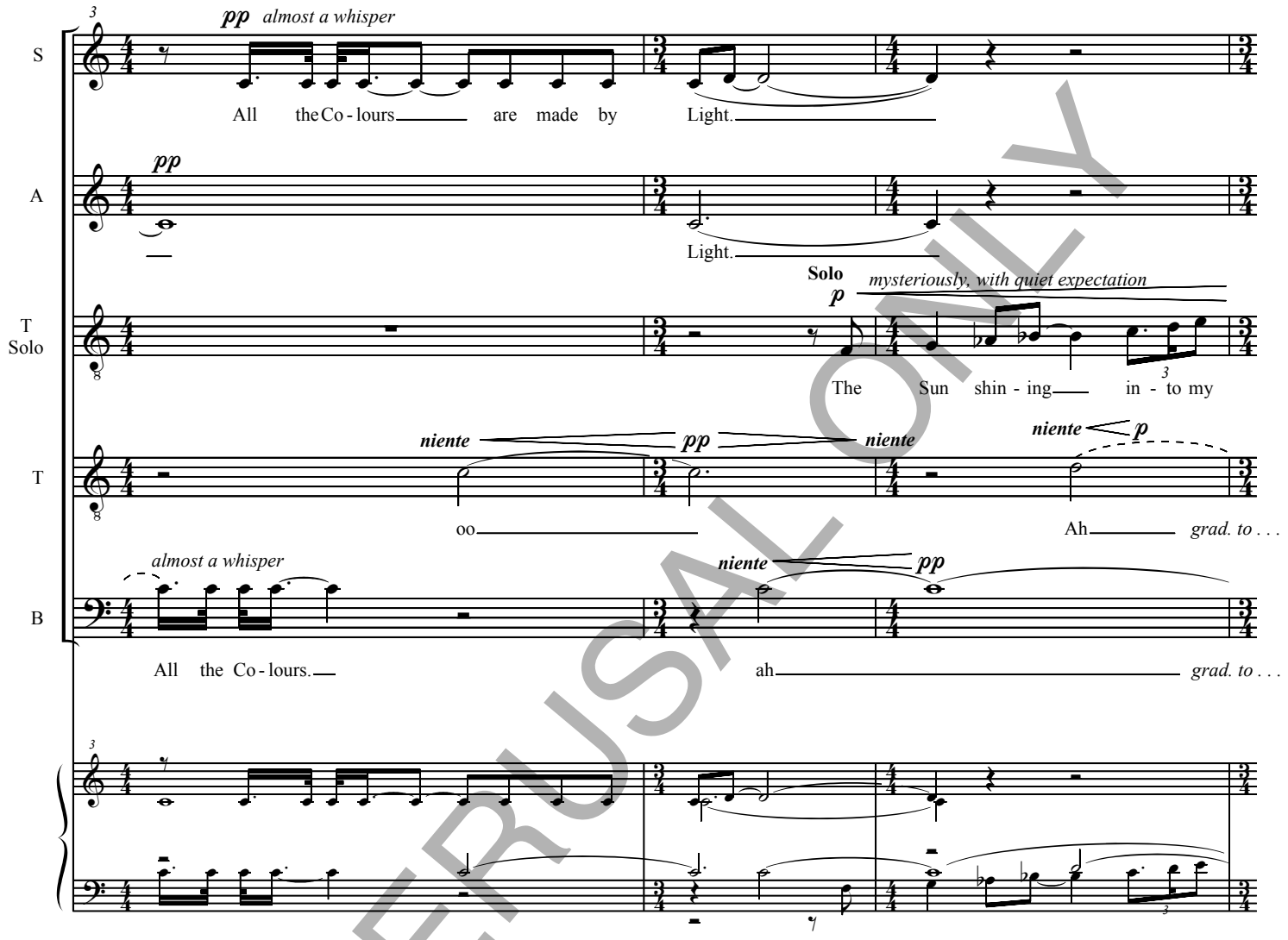

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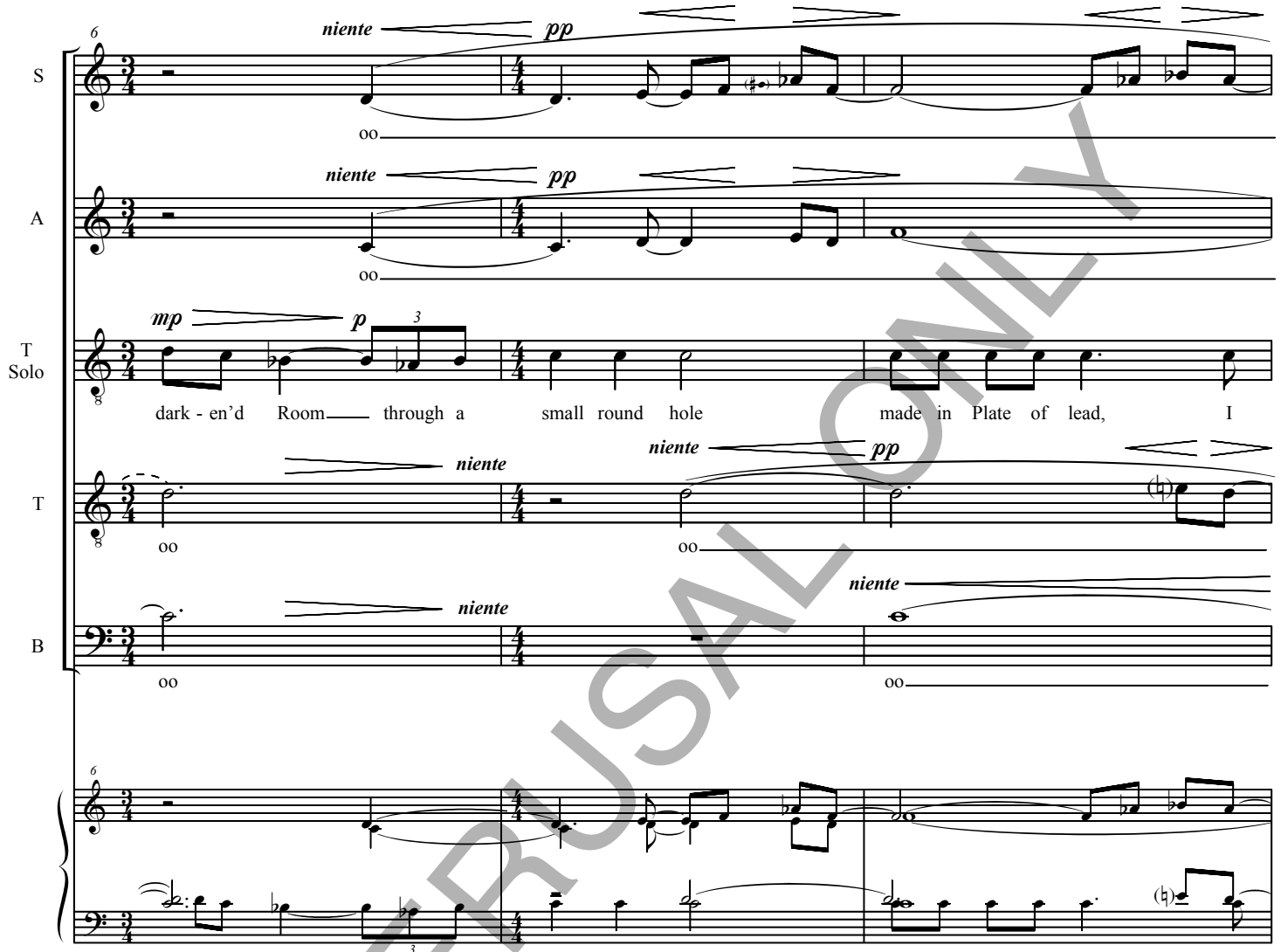

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♩=c.100 ♩=80 *rall.*

16

S1

mf *mp* *mp*

Ah All the Co-lours Ah

S2

mf *mp* *mf*

All the Co-lours in the U-ni-verse, All the Co-lours in the U-ni-verse are made by

A1

mf

Ah

A2

mf *mp* *niente* *mf*

Co - lours. All the Co-lours Ah

T1

mf *mp* *niente* *mf*

Spec-trum of Co-lours. All the Co-lours Ah

T2

mf *mp* *niente* *mf*

Spec-trum of Co-lours.

B

mf *mp* *niente*

Ah

♩=c.100 ♩=80 *rall.*

16

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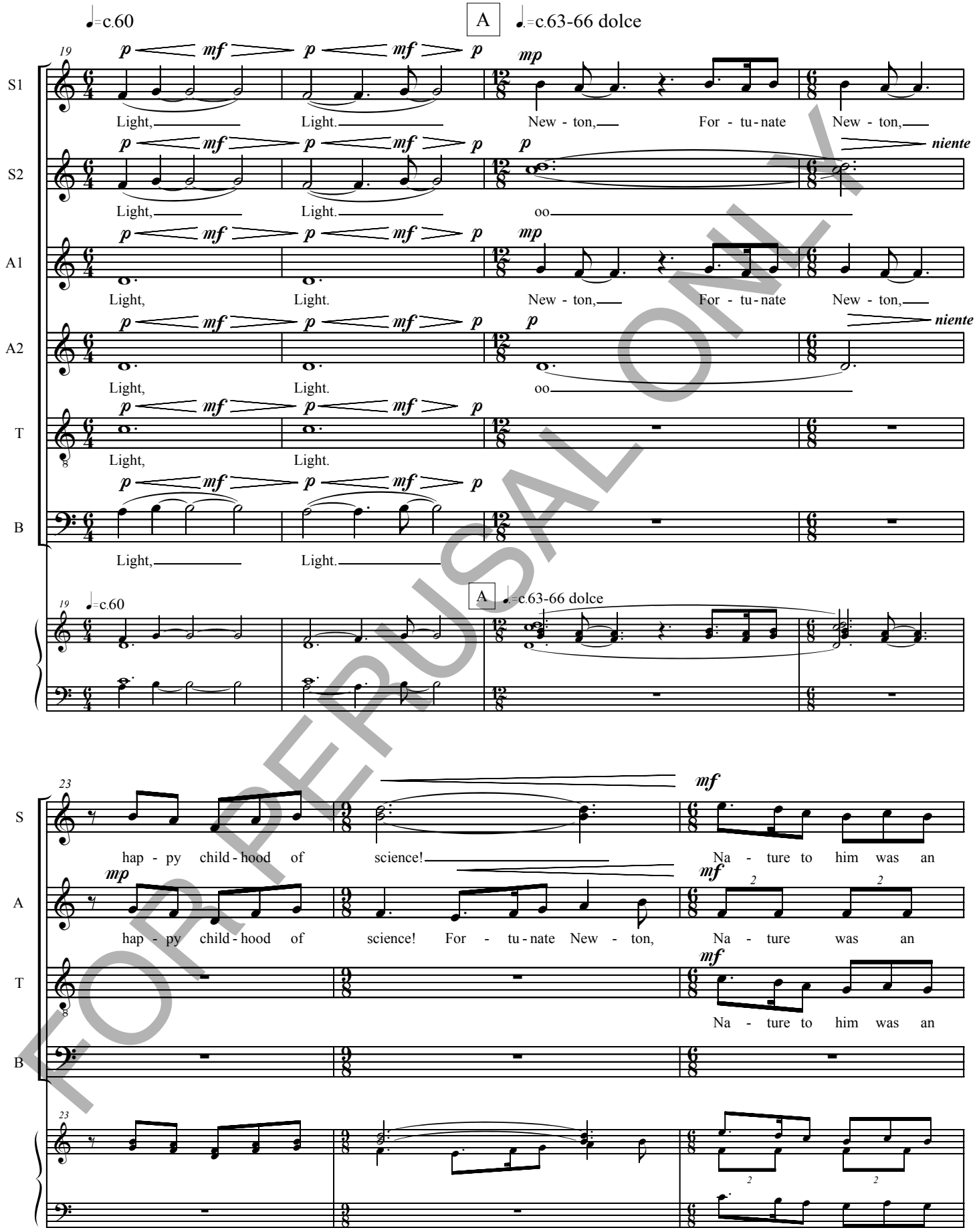

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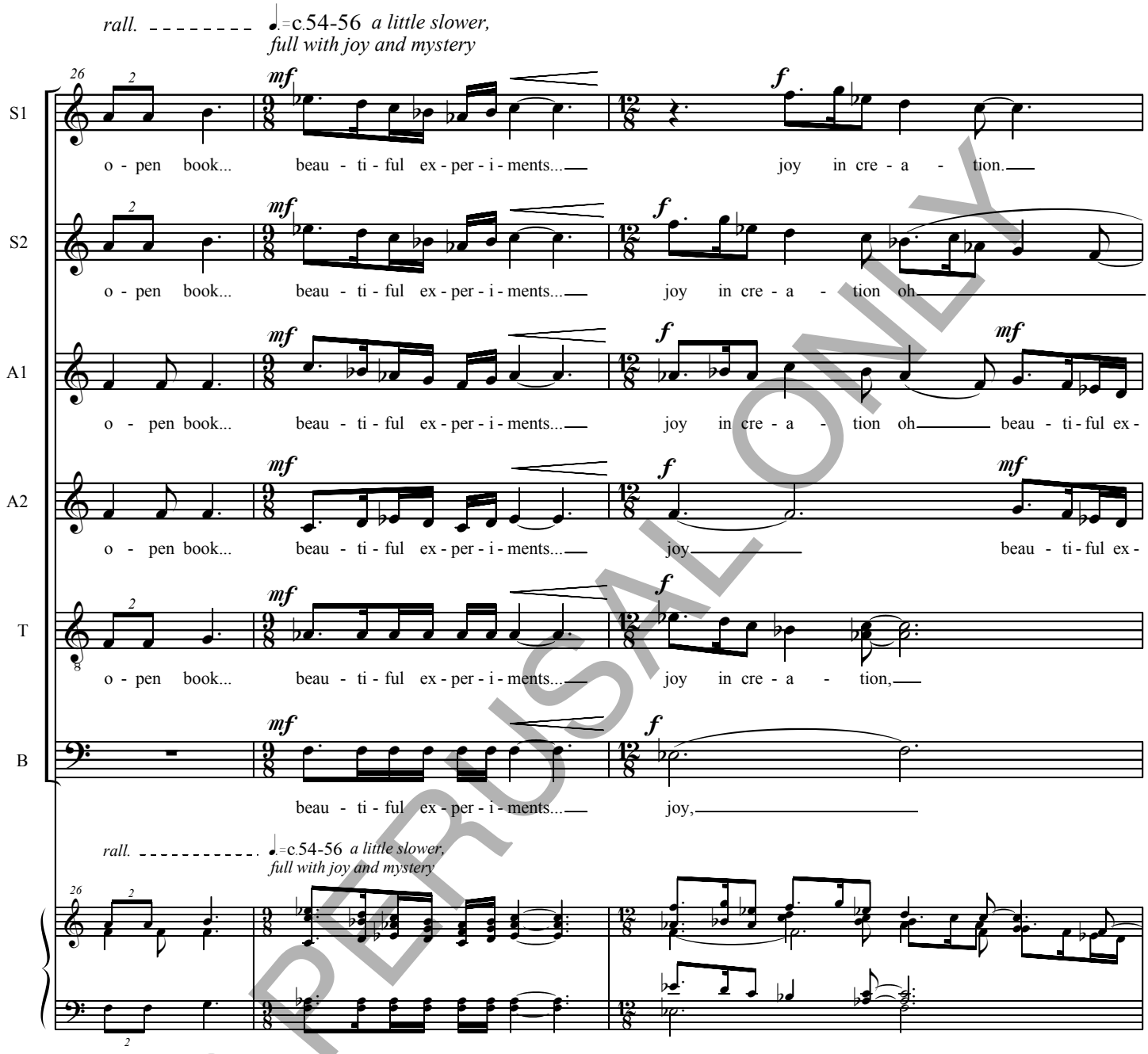

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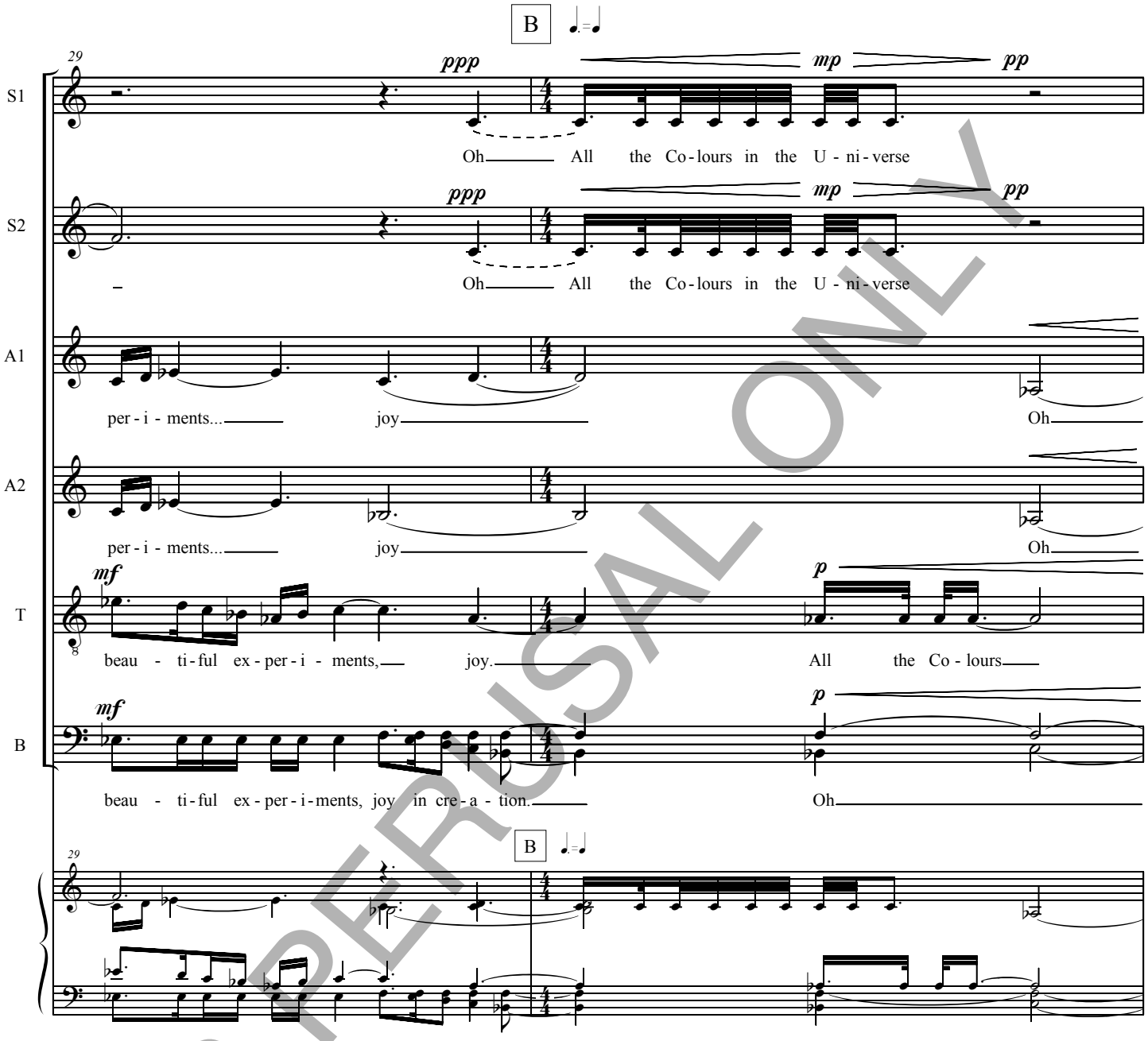

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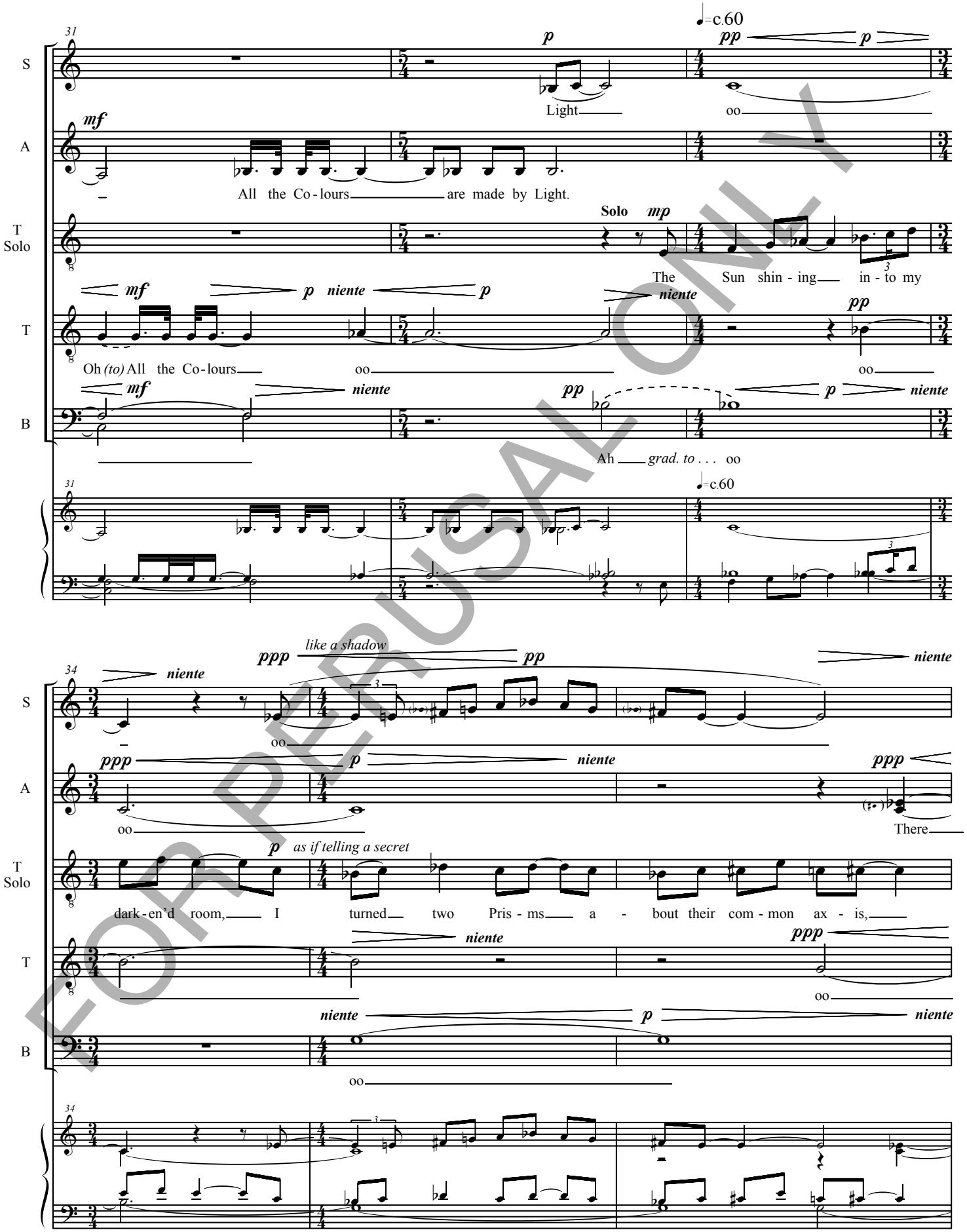

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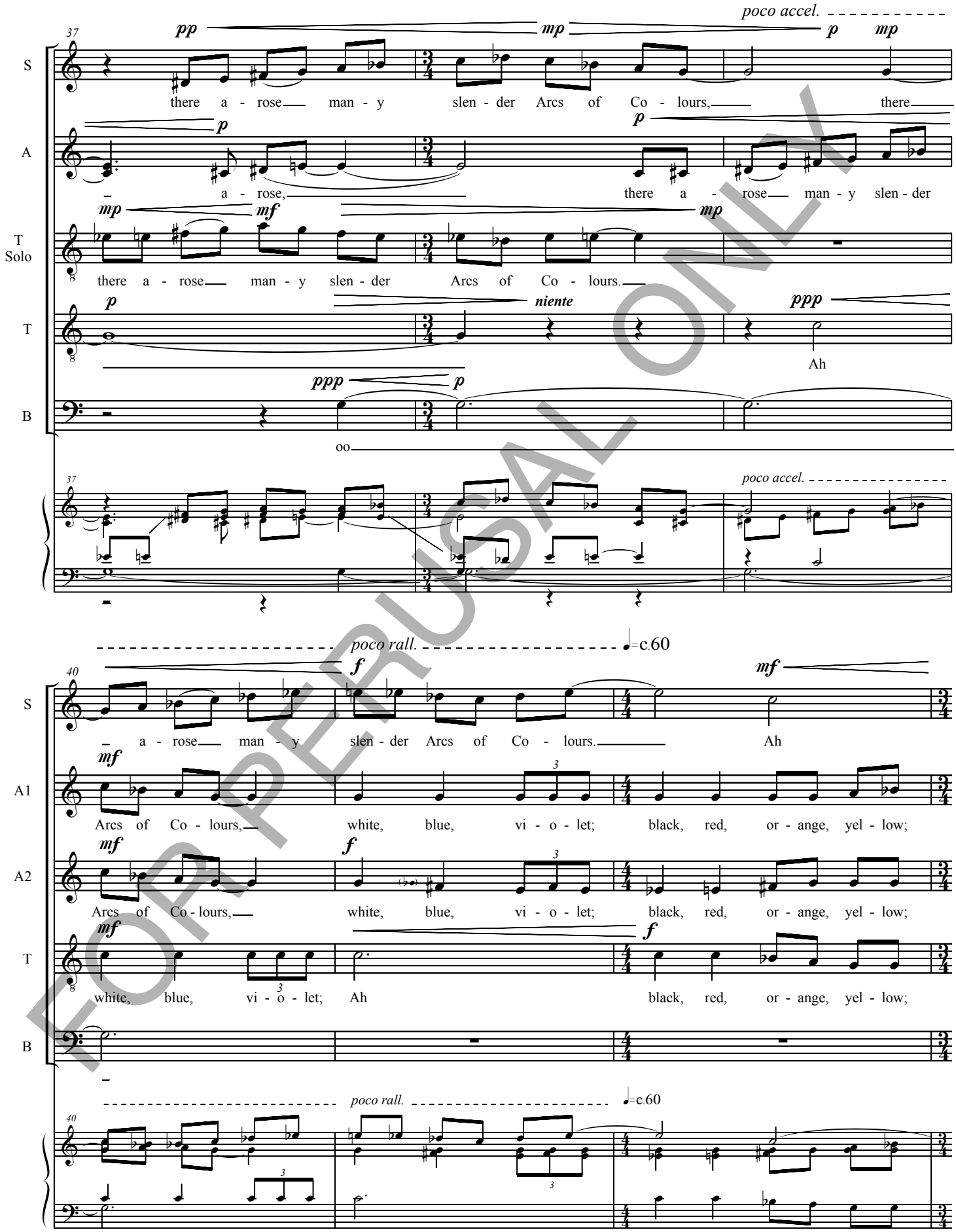

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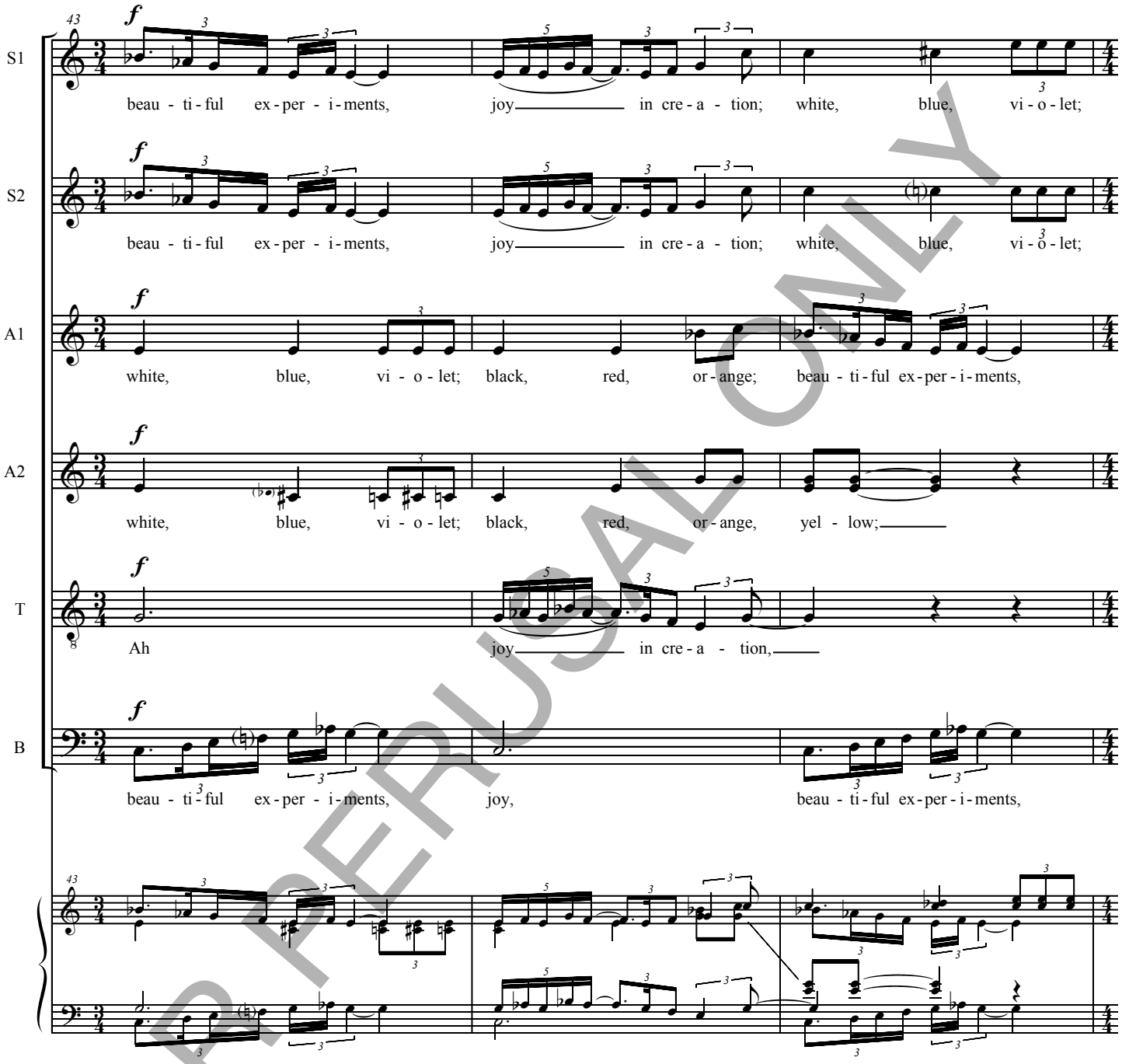

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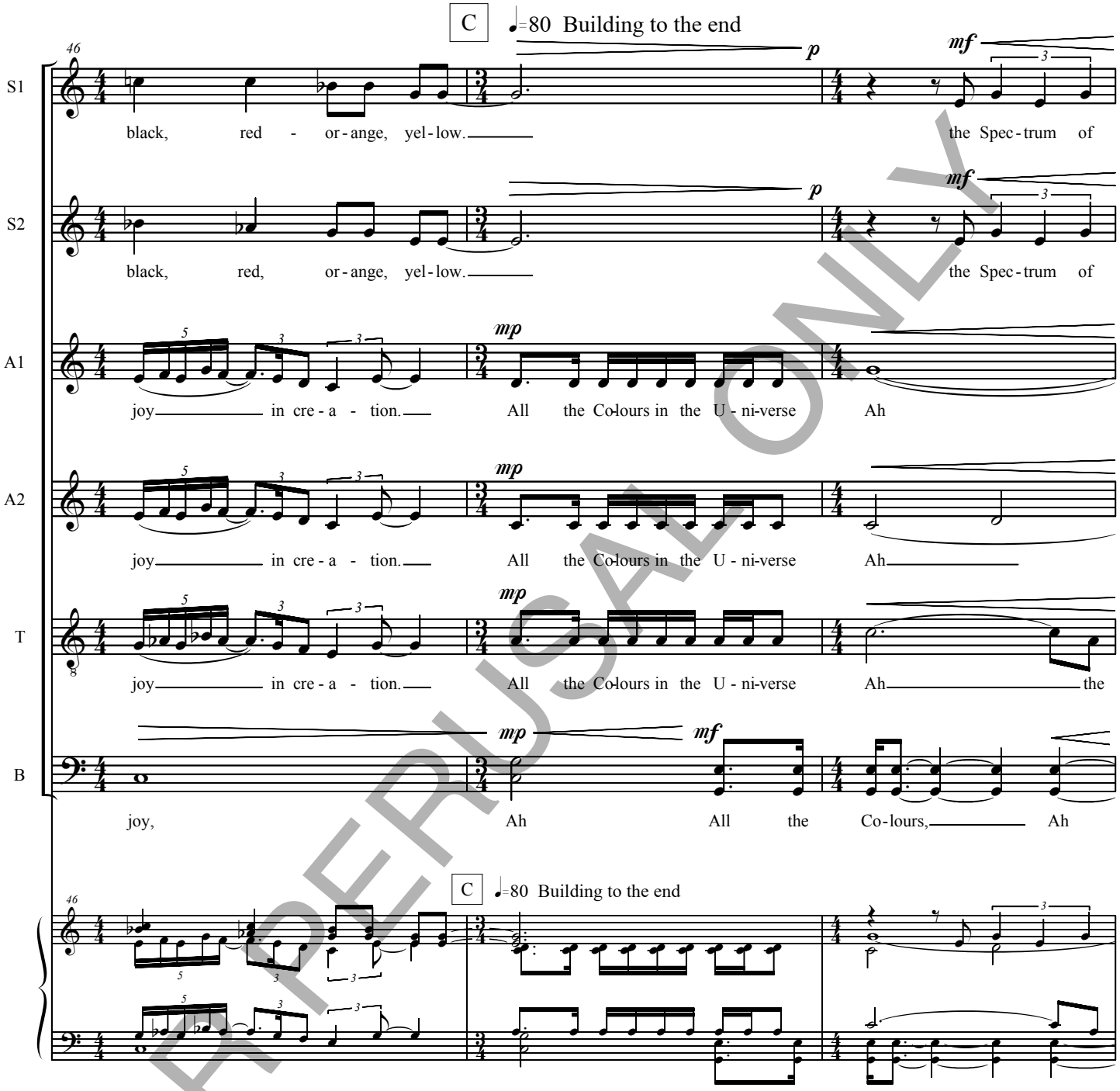

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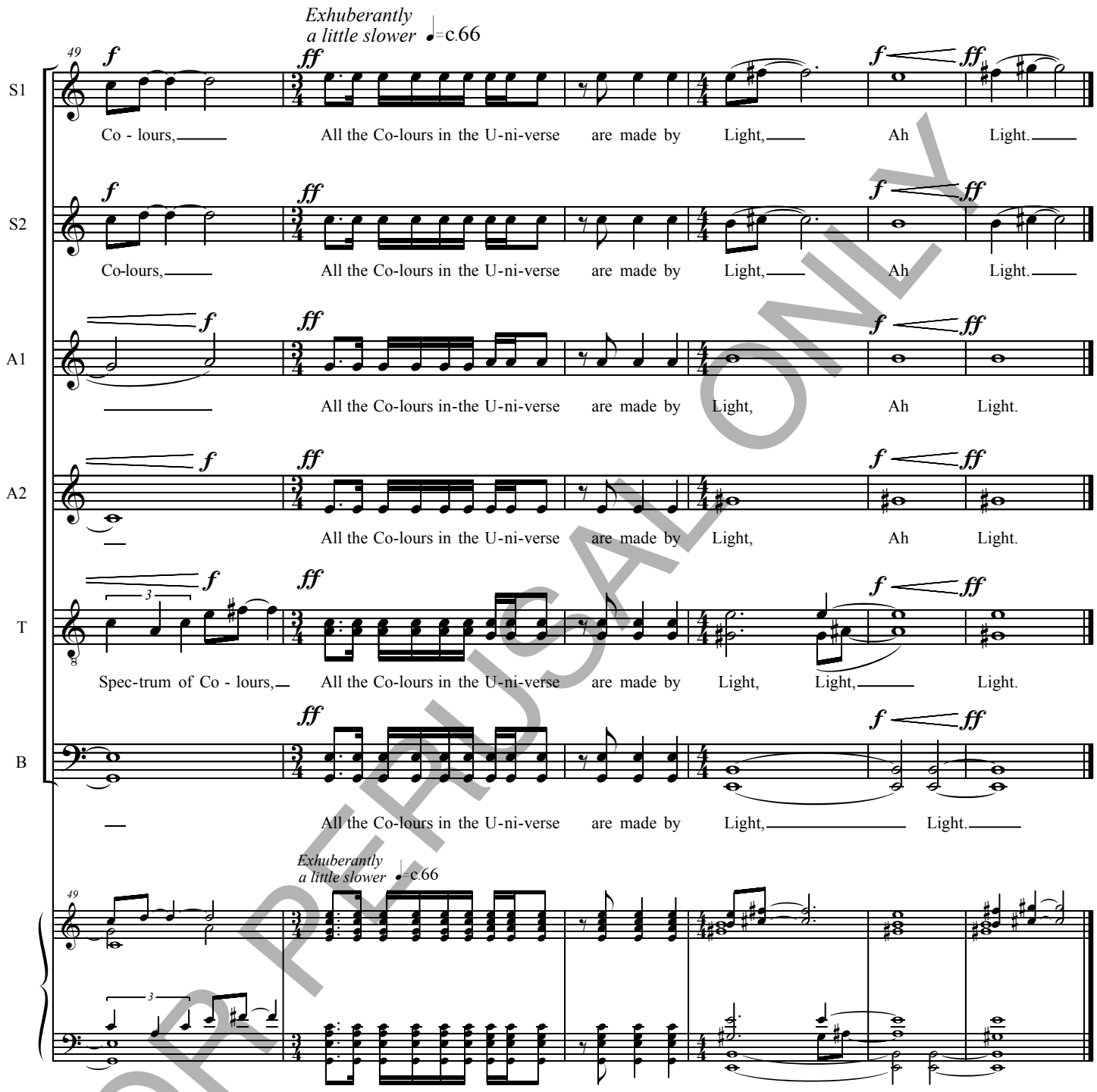

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Described as "...bold...radiant, deftly crafted..." (Musical America), Edie Hill's music is performed all over the world. Venues have included Lincoln Center, Met Cloisters (NYC), Carnergie's Weill Recital Hall (NYC), Musis Sacrum in Arnhem, Holland, LA County Museum of Art, Library of Congress, Minneapolis' Walker Arts Center, St. Paul's Schubert Club, Berwald Hall (Stockholm Sweden), Liviu Cultural Center (Romania), Feszek Müvészklub (Budapest), St. Peter's Basilica (Vatican City).

A three-time McKnight Artist Fellow and a two-time Bush Artist Fellow, Hill has received grants from the Jerome Foundation, ASCAP, New Music USA, Meet The Composer, Minnesota State Arts Board, Chamber Music America, and was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. The album, *Born: music of Edie Hill and Michael Gilbertson* won the 2023 GRAMMY® for "Best Choral Performance" for The Crossing (Donald Nally, conductor). She has a B.A. from Bennington College and earned her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Minnesota.

Composer in Residence at Schubert Club from 2005-2017, she ran and grew the Mentorship Program for high school composers. She was Composer Mentor for MN Varsity for composers 14-18 years of age co-sponsored by The American Composers Forum and Classical Minnesota Public Radio. She has lectured at colleges, universities and various institutions in the States and abroad.

For Hill, writing music is an opportunity to research, learn, muse, reach down deep, and allow inspiration to come from the stuff of life. Her compositions are fueled by her experiences, passions and curiosities.

for complete biography as well as works for perusal and sale, visit ediehill.com

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3324 Grand Avenue South • Minneapolis, MN 55408 • USA
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