Anne-Marie O'Farrell

Eden's Joy

for SATB & harp, piano or organ

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They leave the land of gems and gold,
The shining portals of the East;
For Him, the woman's Seed foretold,
They leave the revel and the feast.

To earth their sceptres they have cast,
And crowns by kings ancestral worn;
They track the lonely Syrian waste;
They kneel before the Babe new born.

O happy eyes that saw Him first;
O happy lips that kissed His feet:
Earth slakes at last her ancient thirst;
With Eden's joy her pulses beat.

True kings are those who thus forsake
Their kingdoms for the Eternal King;
Serpent, her foot is on thy neck;
Herod, thou writhest, but canst not sting.

He, He is King, and He alone
Who lifts that infant hand to bless;
Who makes His mother's knee His throne,
Yet rules the starry wilderness.

Notes for adaptation of accompaniment:

If performed with piano, play harmonics loco; if played on organ, a softer stop for harmonics should be selected.
Arpeggiated chords are to aid clarity and audibility when played on harp, but these need not be arpeggiated on piano or organ. However, use of sustaining pedal on piano for arpeggiated chords will facilitate larger stretches on some chords (e.g. bar 27).
Where low left hand notes are notated in a separate voice, it is intended that organists use pedals here (e.g., bars 59-60 and 74-80).
Choices of organ stops are left to the player, and should ideally reflect the timbre suggested by dynamics and textural density.

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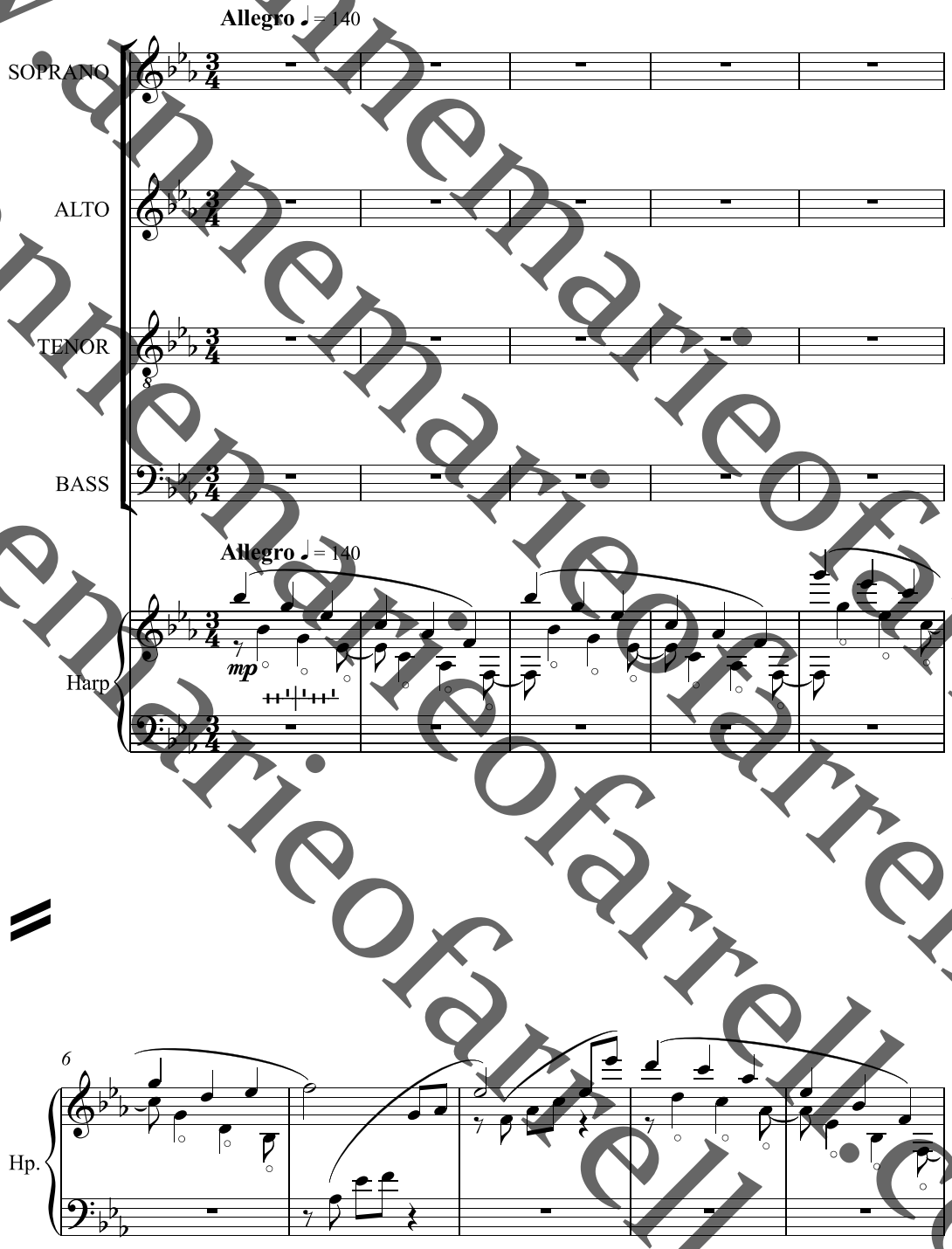
Eden's Joy

for Paul Collins and the Mary Immaculate College Community Choir

composed as part of the AEPE Residency in Composition at MIC in association with the Lime Tree Theatre & funded by the Arts Council of Ireland

Aubrey De Vere (1814-1902)

Anne-Marie O'Farrell (2014)

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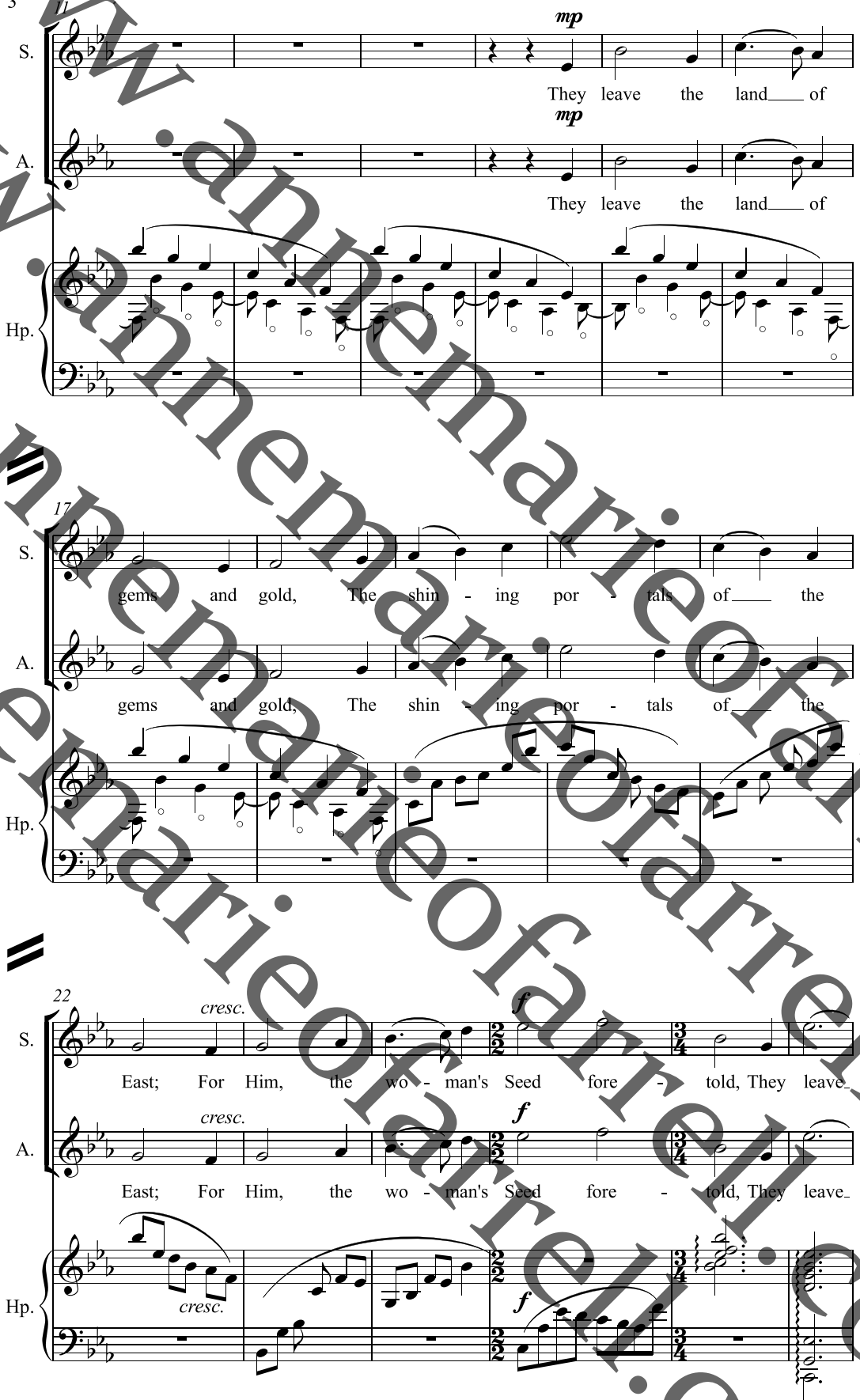
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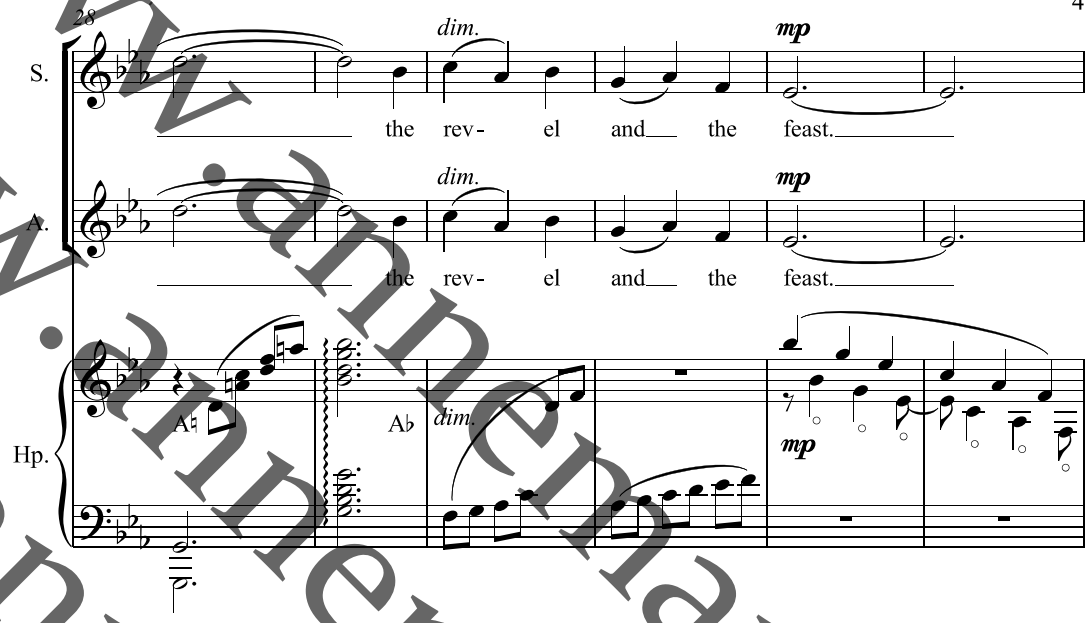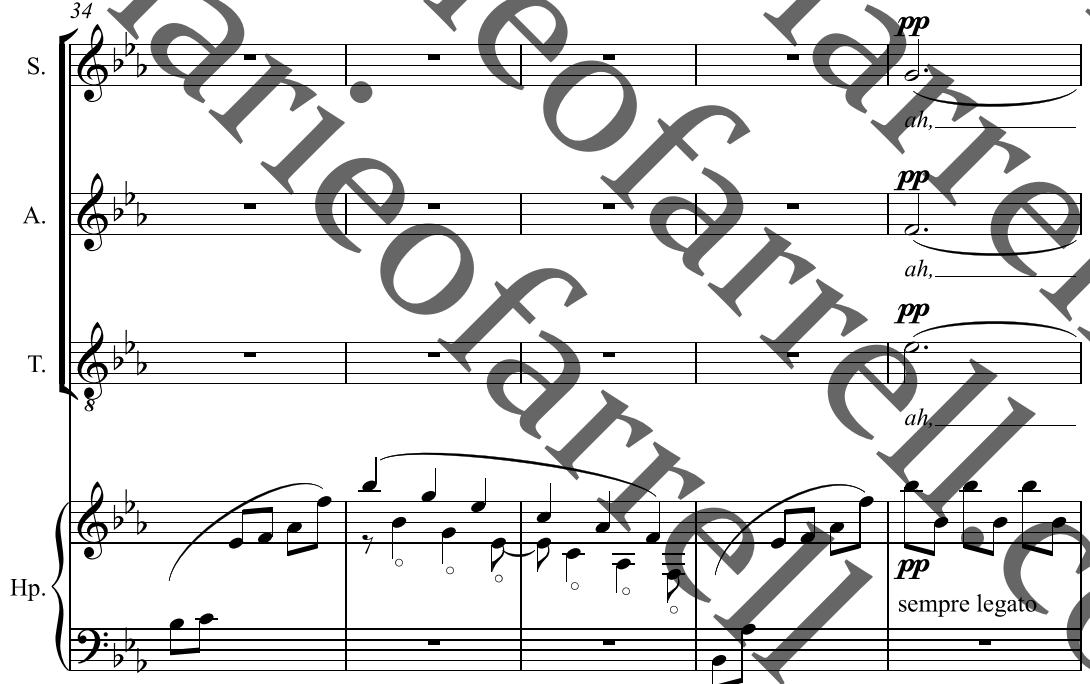
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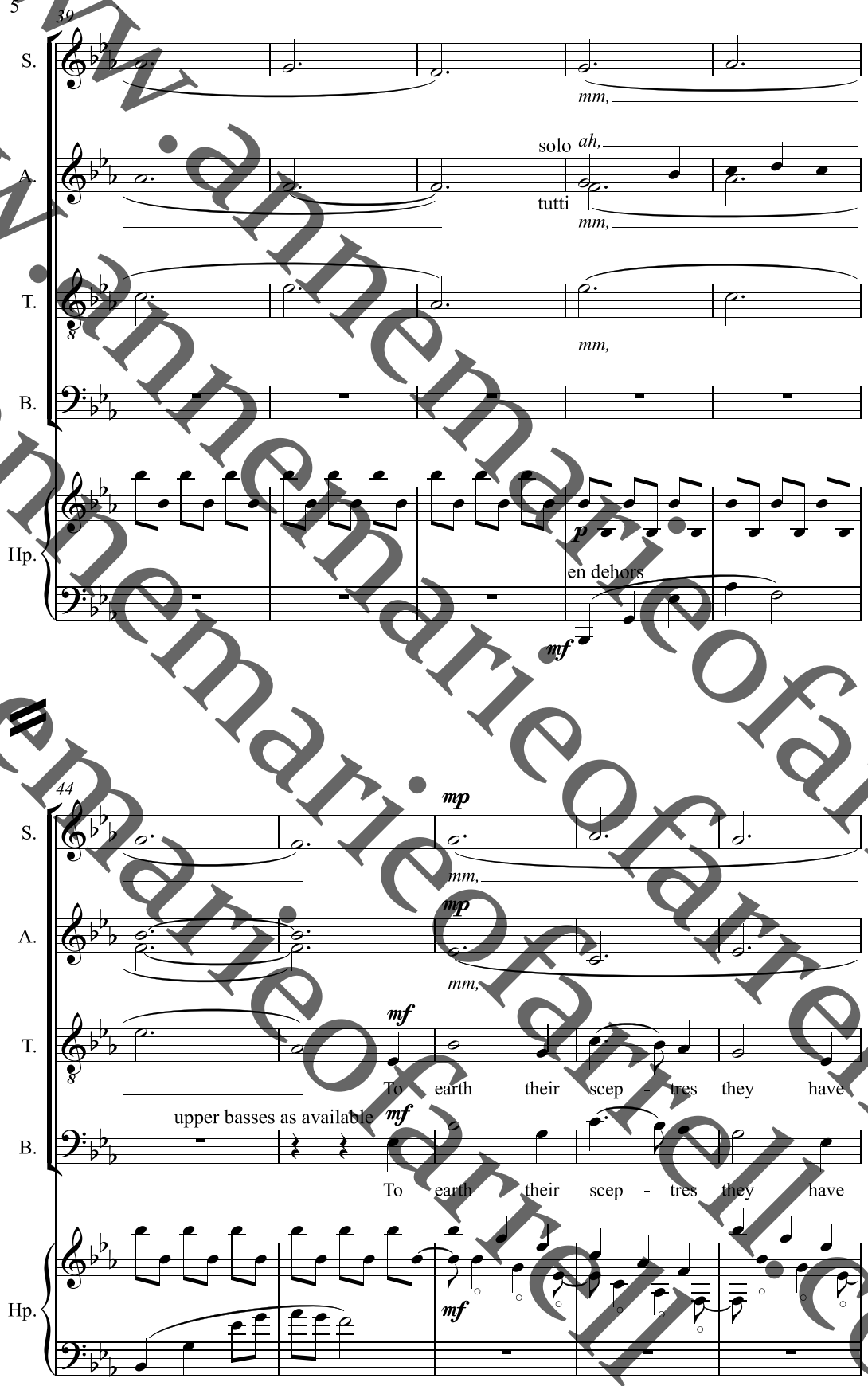
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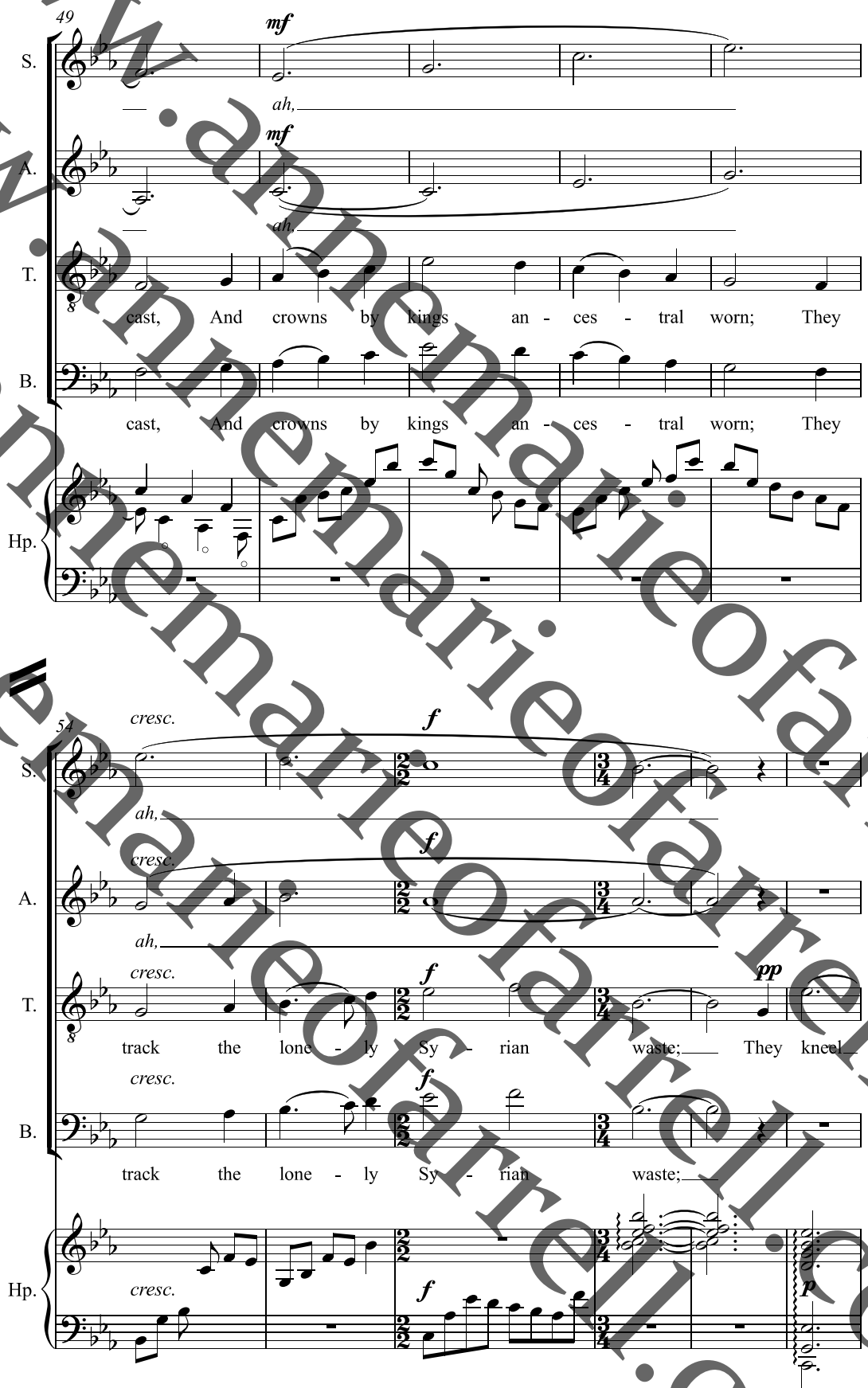
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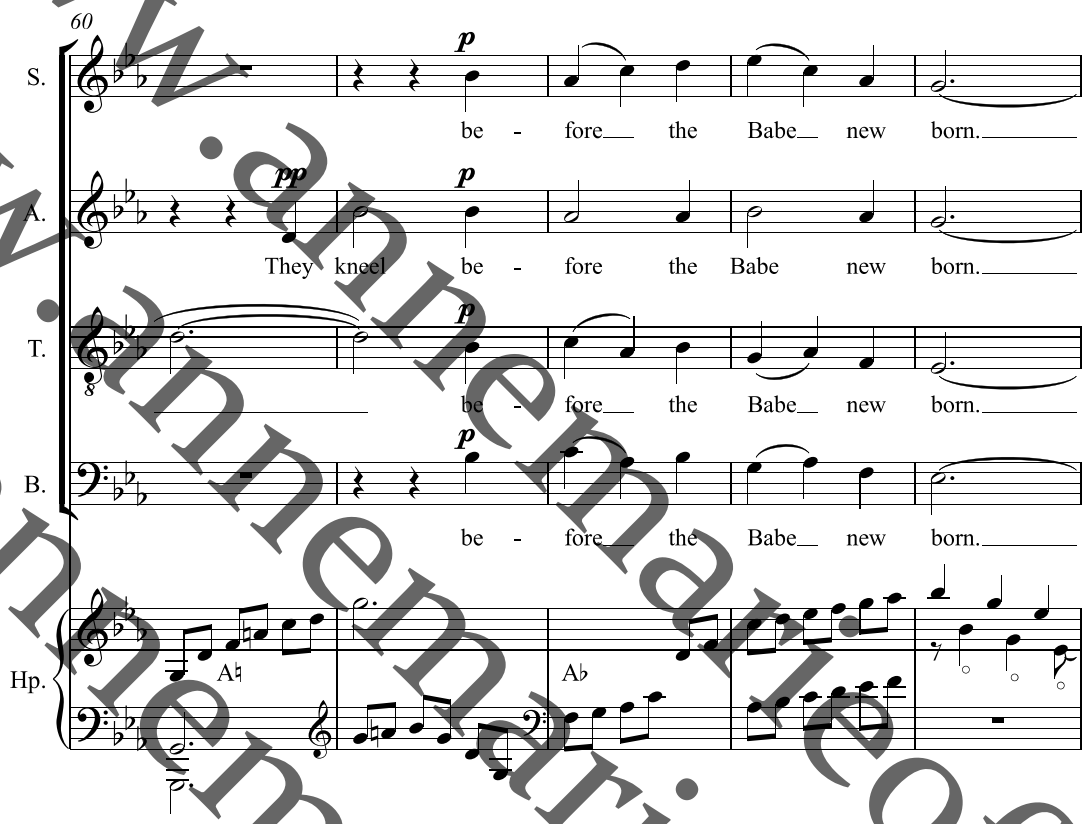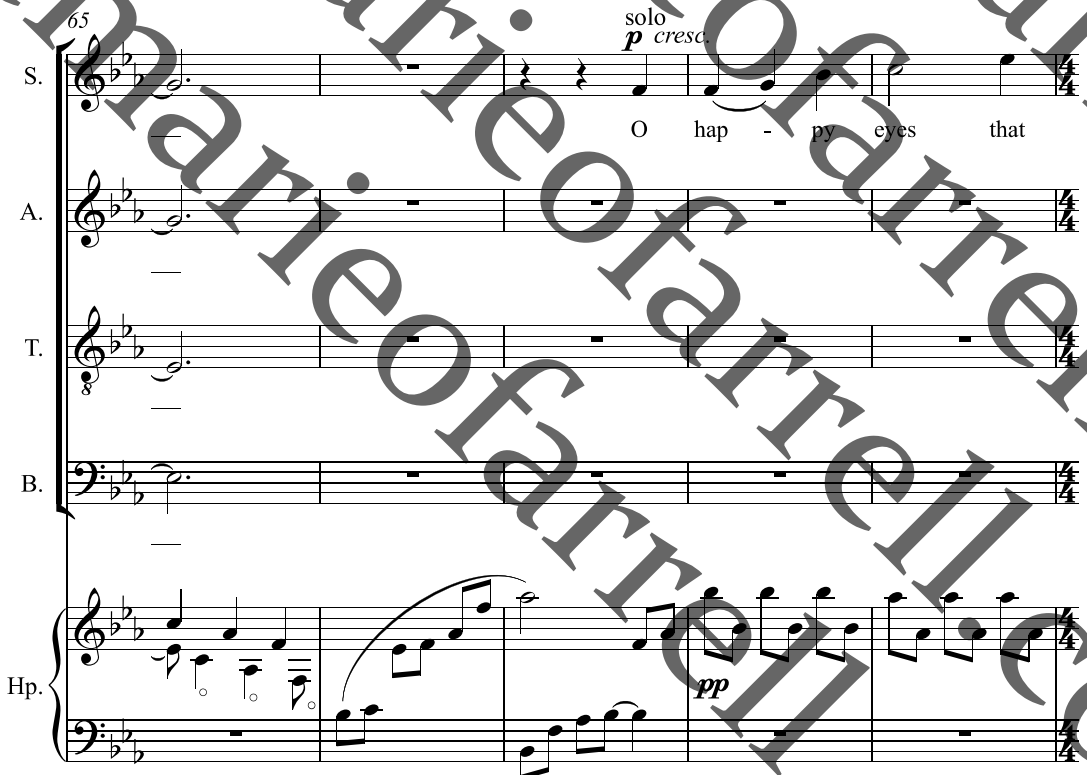
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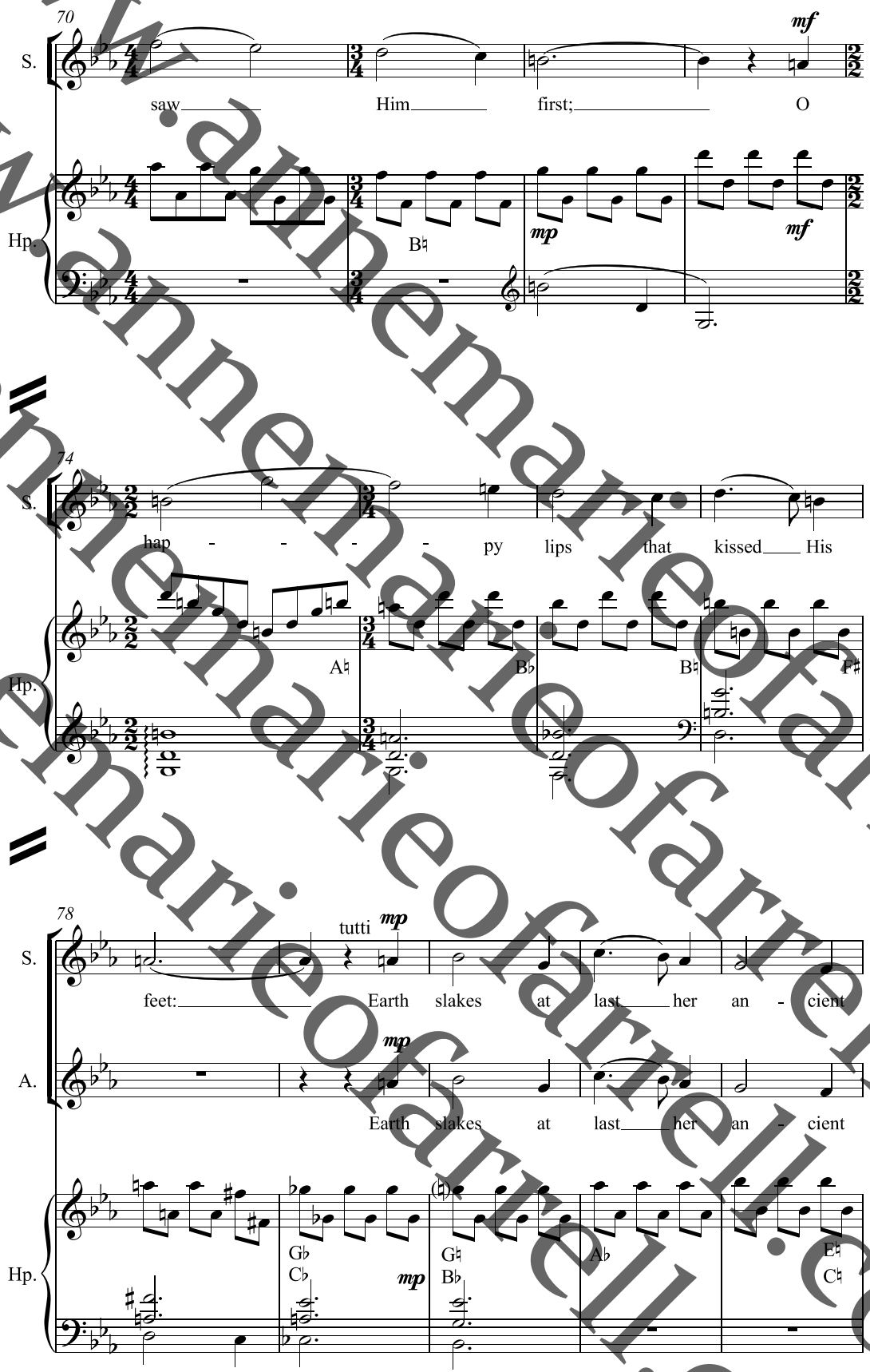
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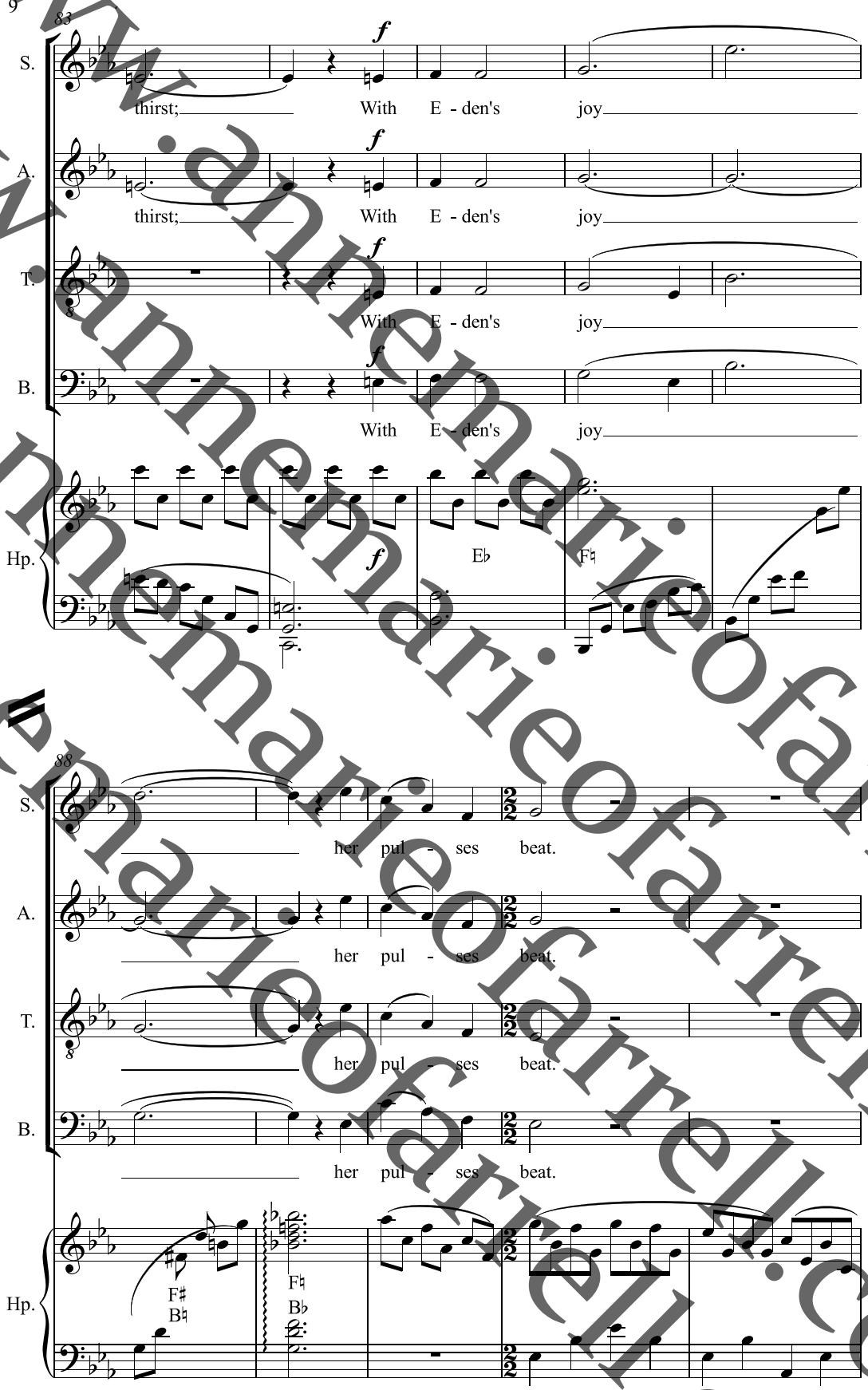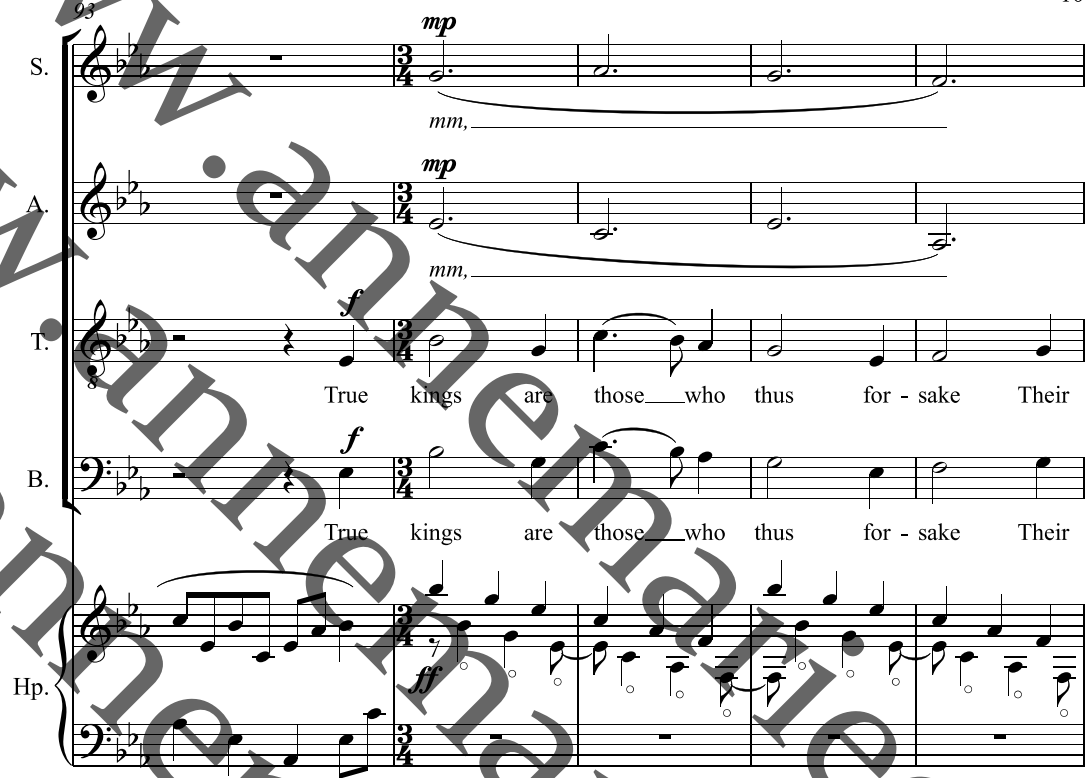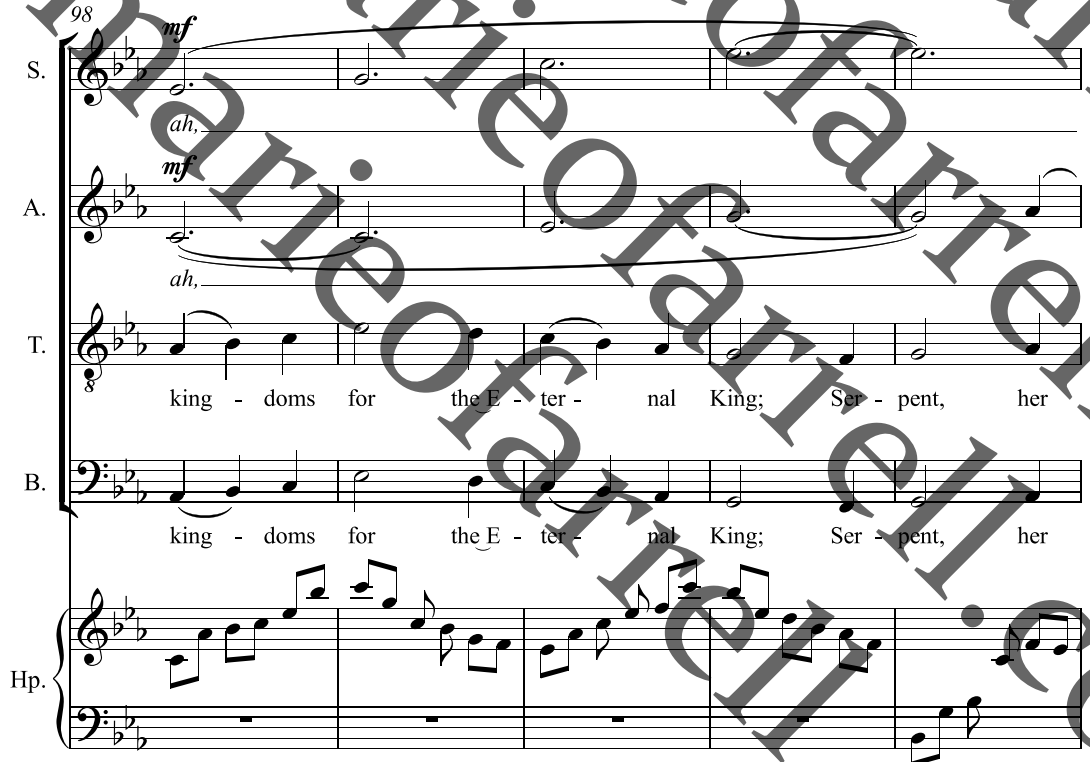
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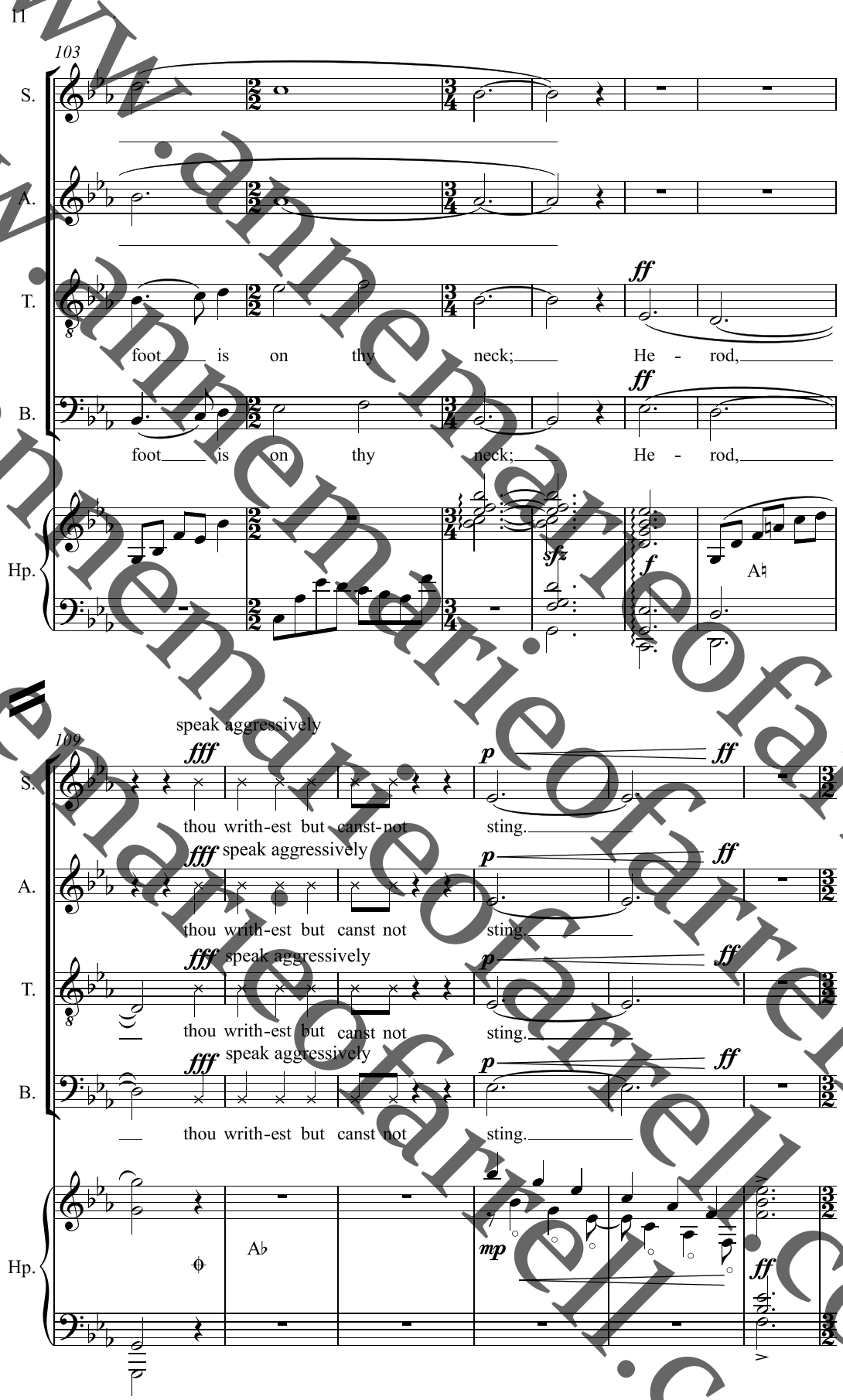
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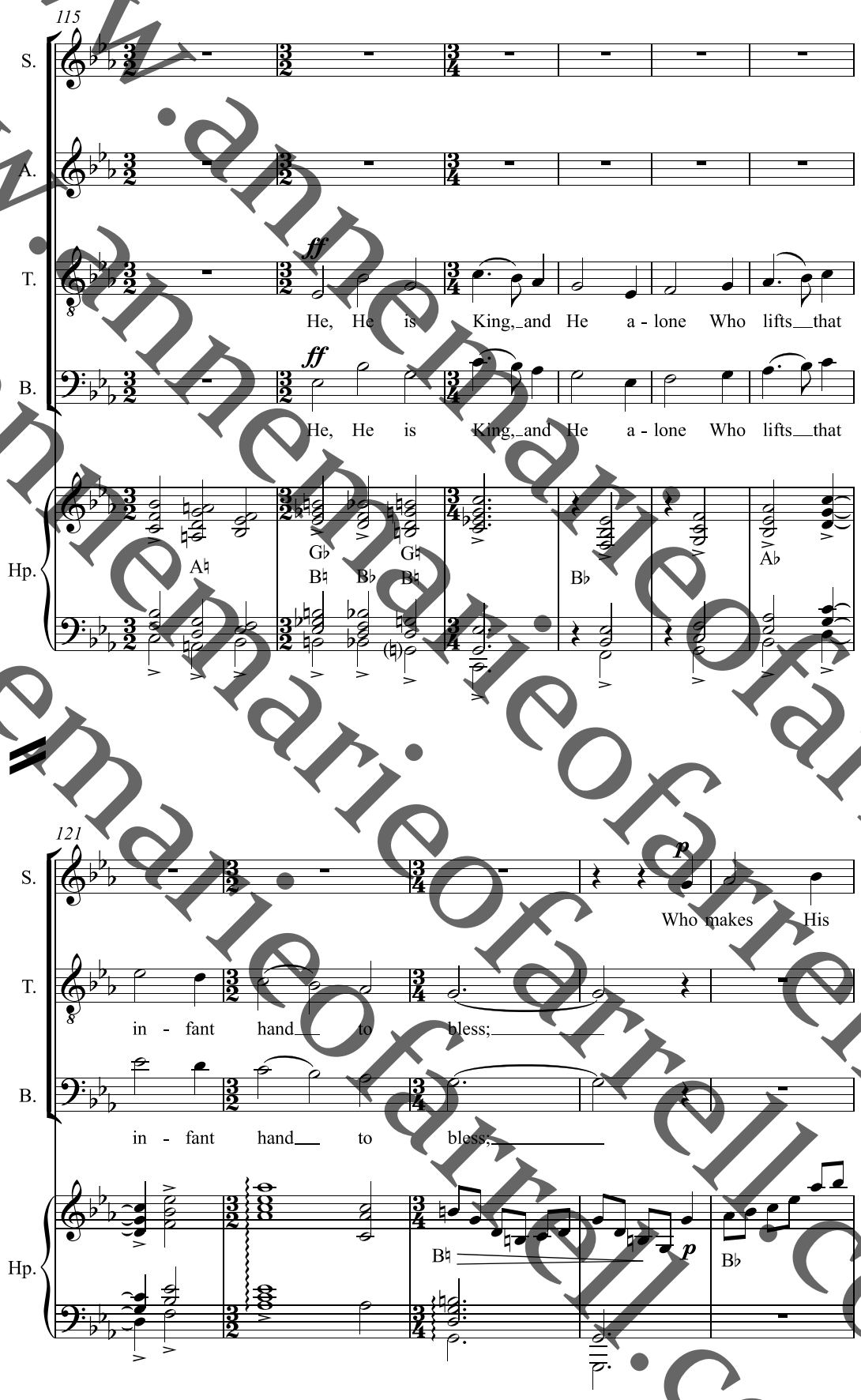
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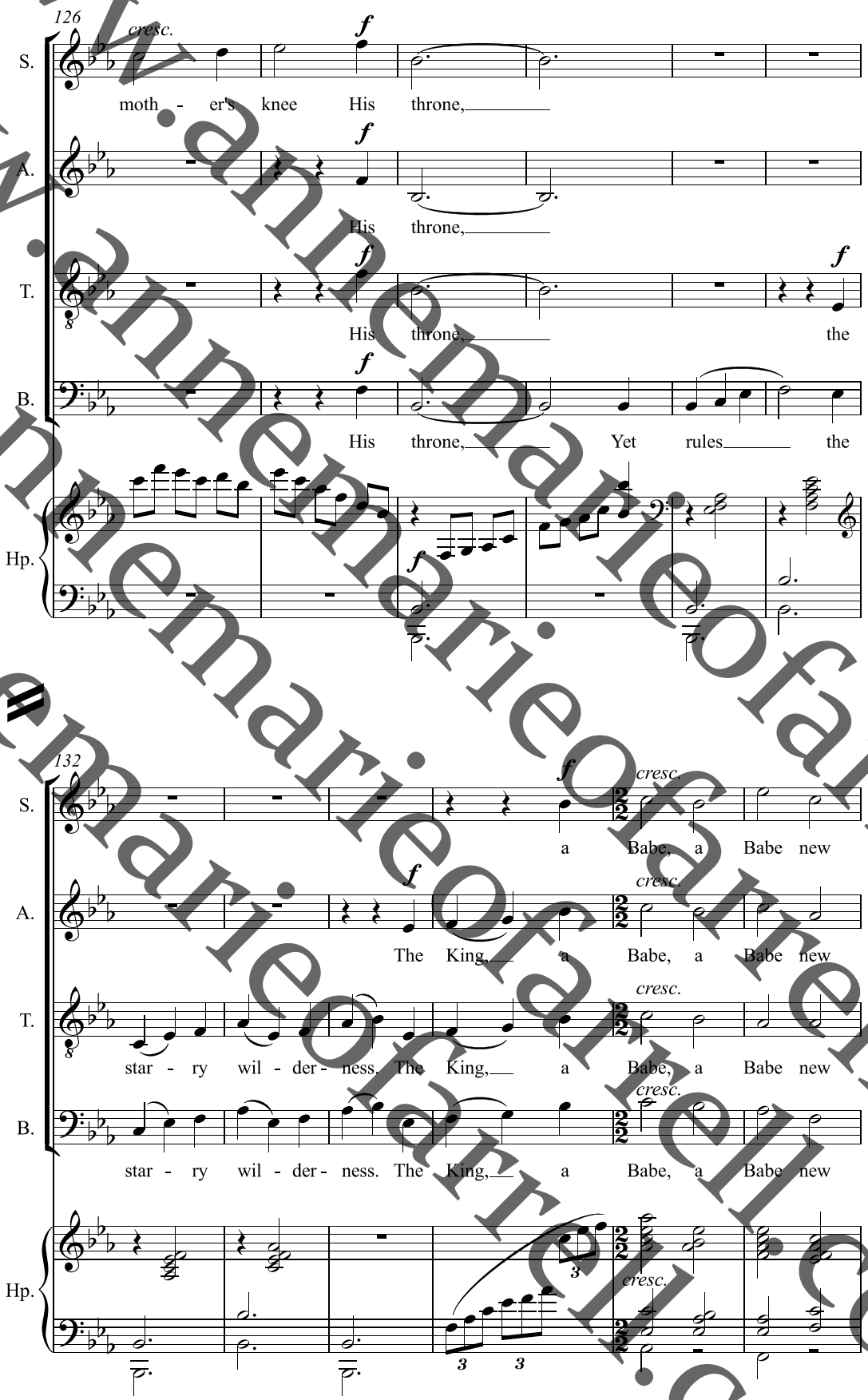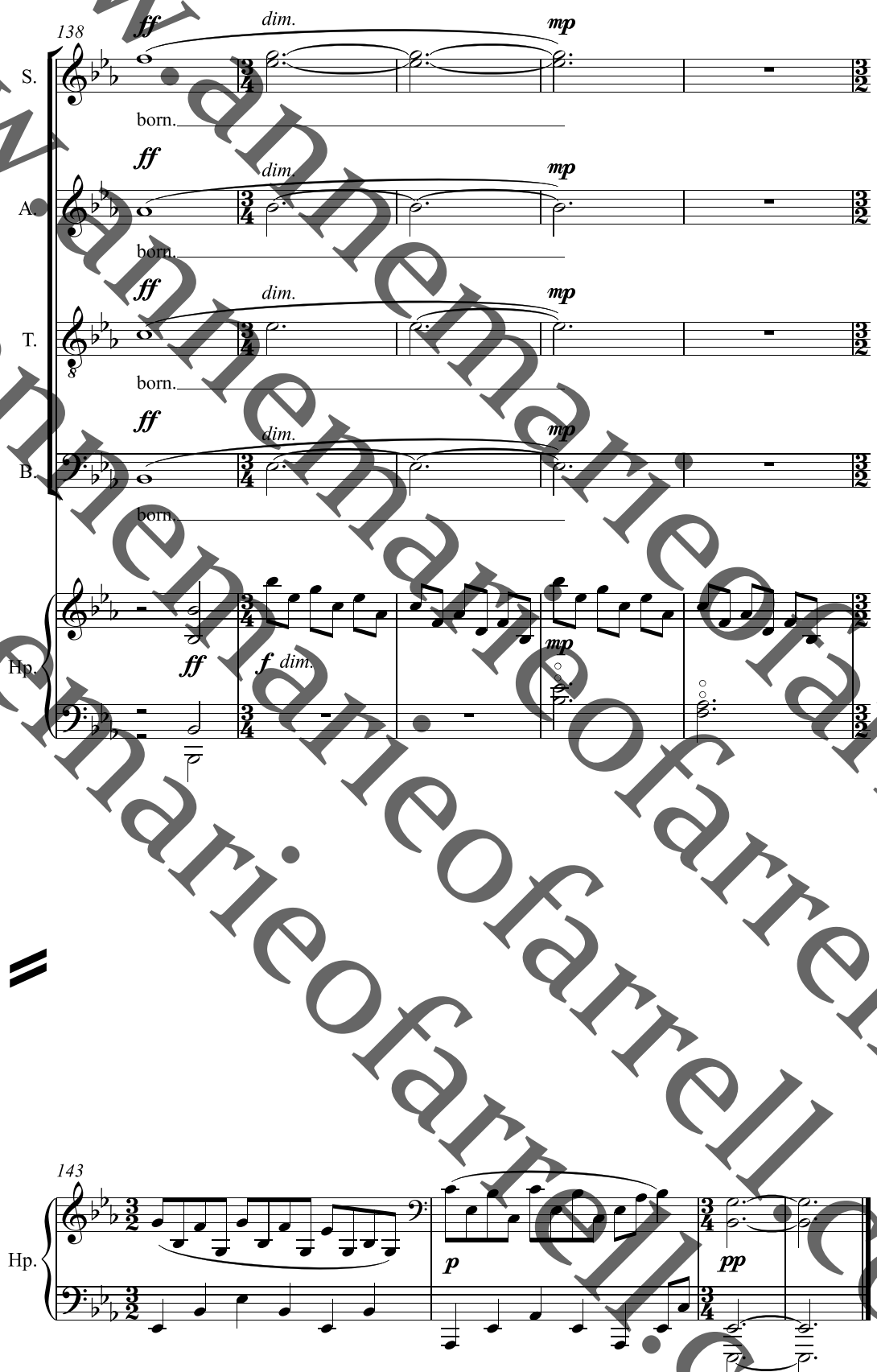
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