SATB

Everlasting *Light*

The Promise of Christmas

Lorenz

Lloyd Larson, Mary McDonald,
Jay Rouse, Larry Shackley

Orchestration by Michael Lawrence

Review Only

Edited and Engraved by: Bryan Sharpe and Timothy P. Cooper
Cover Design: Ashley Donahue

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Foreword

Light is synonymous with the Christmas season. As we gaze upon the decorated homes and trees, we see symbols of hope that *light* will battle darkness, heal, and restore. It is only *light* that can counter that darkness. The lights on homes and trees are eventually taken down and packed away until next year, but the meaning of those lights last throughout the year. The birth of one Child brought a *light* that does *not* fade; a *light* that was desperately needed in a world of darkness, pain, and loss. A *light* that would live on eternally… an *Everlasting Light*.

This work, carefully crafted by the collaborative creative efforts of Lloyd Larson, Mary McDonald, Jay Rouse, and Larry Shackley, aims to profoundly present the significance of the *light* of Christ come to earth. Rose Aspinall's insightful narration beautifully ties the work together with a combination of scripture reading and personal reflection. Mary McDonald's celebratory opener, *Everlasting Light*, weaves through carols in an exciting instrumental overture before developing into a powerful original song that functions as the cornerstone theme of the work. Next, Larry Shackley's *Longing for the Light* beautifully portrays the feeling of expectation and the yearning for restoration as opportunities for readings are accompanied by a pensive underscore. Jay Rouse continues with a stirring original musical setting with words inspired by Mary's Song of Praise found in *Luke 1:44-56*. Lloyd Larson's energetic and rhythmic *Shepherds and Angels* depicts the telling of Christ's birth with scripture-based text while incorporating familiar carol melodies. The work concludes with a celebratory medley of carols arranged by Jay Rouse that ultimately concludes by revisiting the opening song, *Everlasting Light*.

"He is the Light, Everlasting Light; born a Savior, born this night. He is the One, the Everlasting Son; Child of heaven, He is the Light!"

Performance time: approximately 35 minutes

— *The Publisher*

From the Publisher

Narrations throughout may be recited by one narrator or divided among multiple narrators by paragraph. Narration 4, however should be recited by two narrators. Additional readings occur during *Longing for the Light*. These passages can be divided up as specified in the music or recited by one individual.

Some of the cover-art images and graphics from this work are available as free downloads. We hope that you can use them to assist in the making of your bulletins, posters, flyers, website and email announcements, and in any other way that's within your organization and in conjunction with performances of this work.

To access these files, please visit www.lorenz.com/downloads and navigate to the desired folder. PC users should right click and choose "Save Target As…" and Macintosh users should click and hold the link, then choose "Save Target As…" We have provided standard file formats that should be usable in most page layout or word processing software.

Due to the vast number of differences in computer system setups, we are unable to provide technical support for downloadable images/graphics by either phone or email.

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Orchestration by Michael Lawrence for 2 Fl, Ob, 2 Cl, Bsn (sub Bs Cl), 2 Hn (sub 2 A Sax), 3 Tpt, 2 Tbn (sub 2 T Sax), Tba, 2 Perc, Timp, Harp, Pno, 2 Vln, Vla, Cello, Dbl Bass, Keyboard String Reduction

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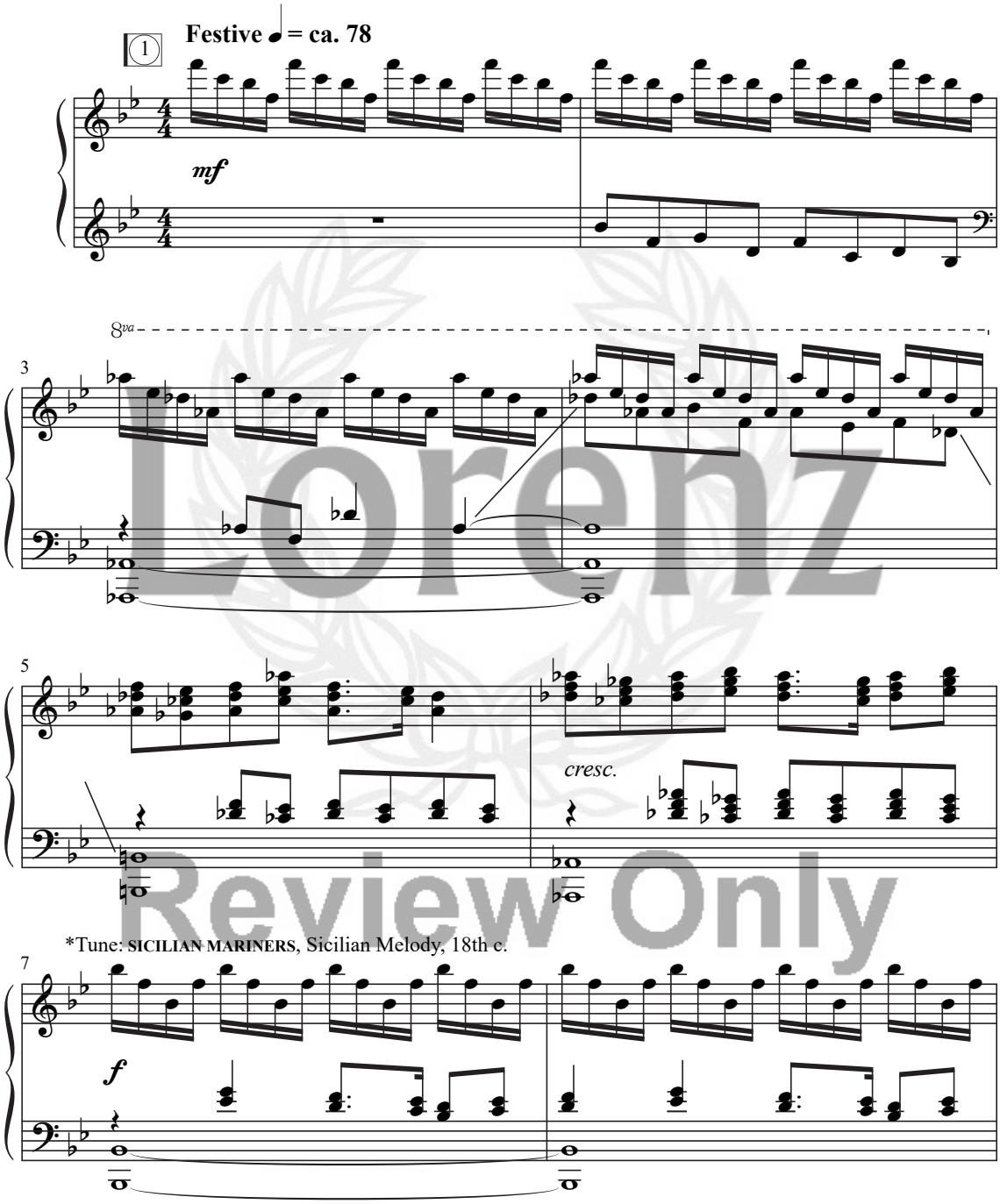
Overture

1. Everlasting Light

Words by **Mary McDonald**
adapted from **Isaiah 60:1-2**

Music by
Mary McDonald



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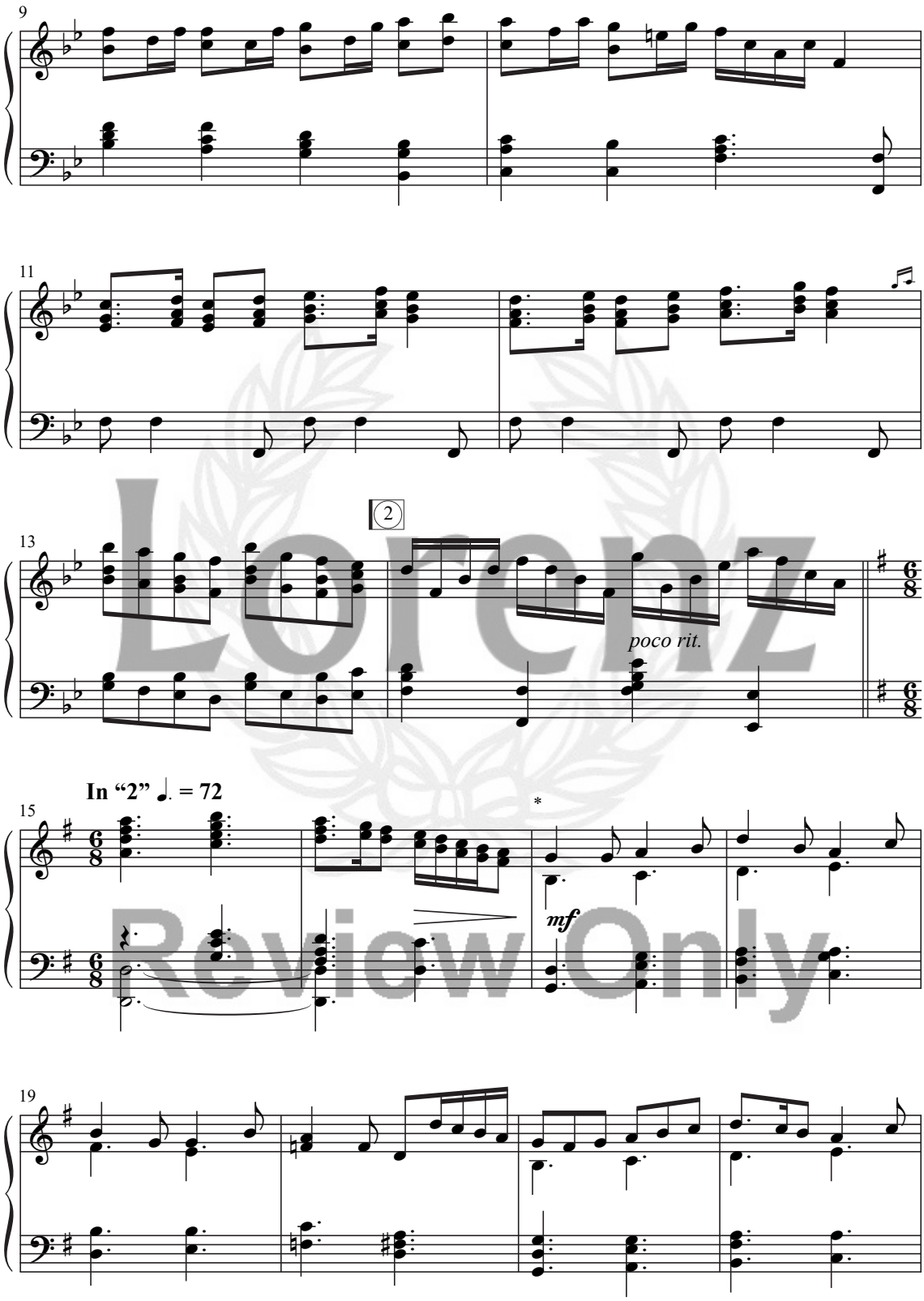

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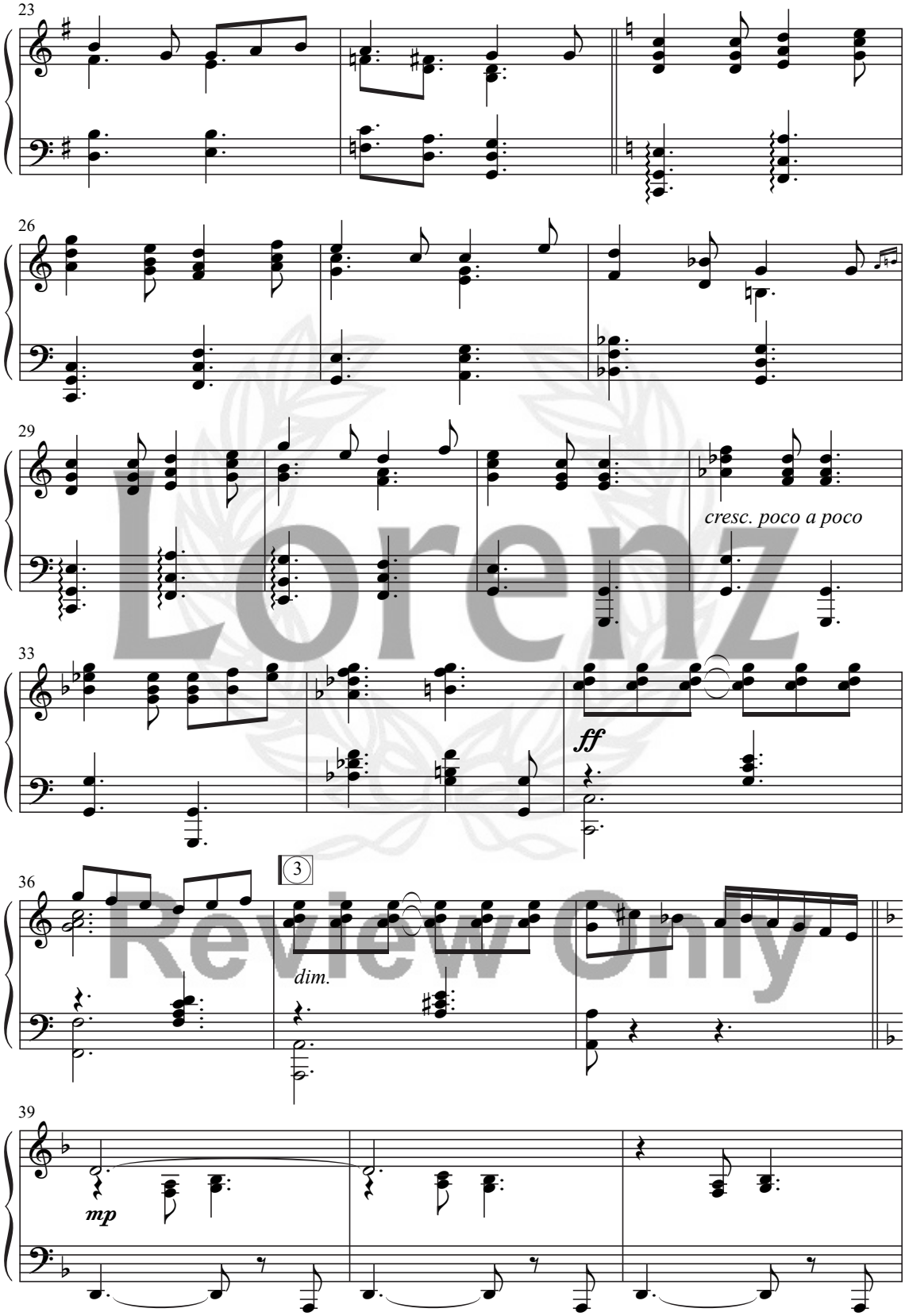
*Tune: **I SAW THREE SHIPS**, Traditional English Carol



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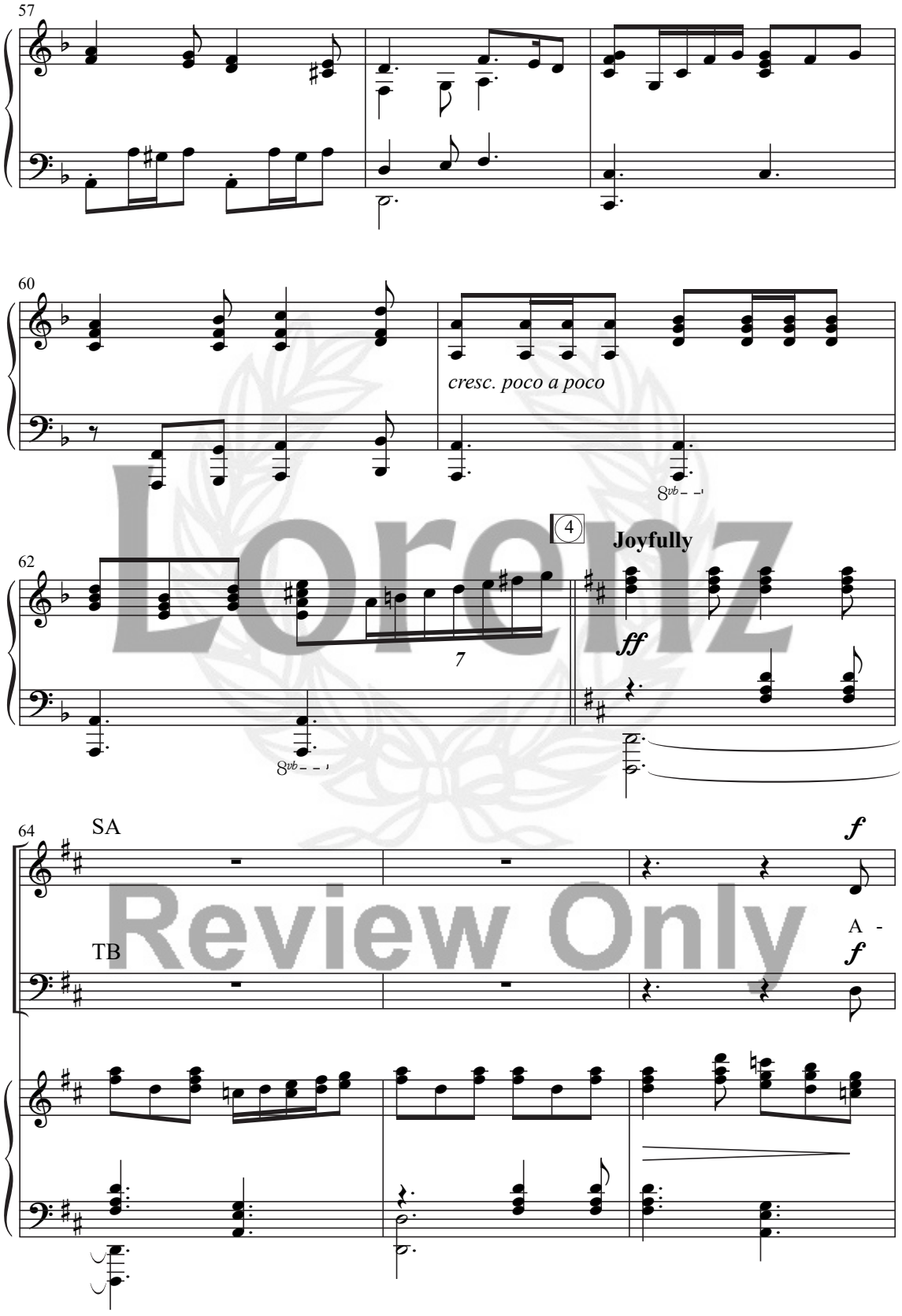
*Tune: **GOD REST YOU MERRY**, English Carol, 18th c.



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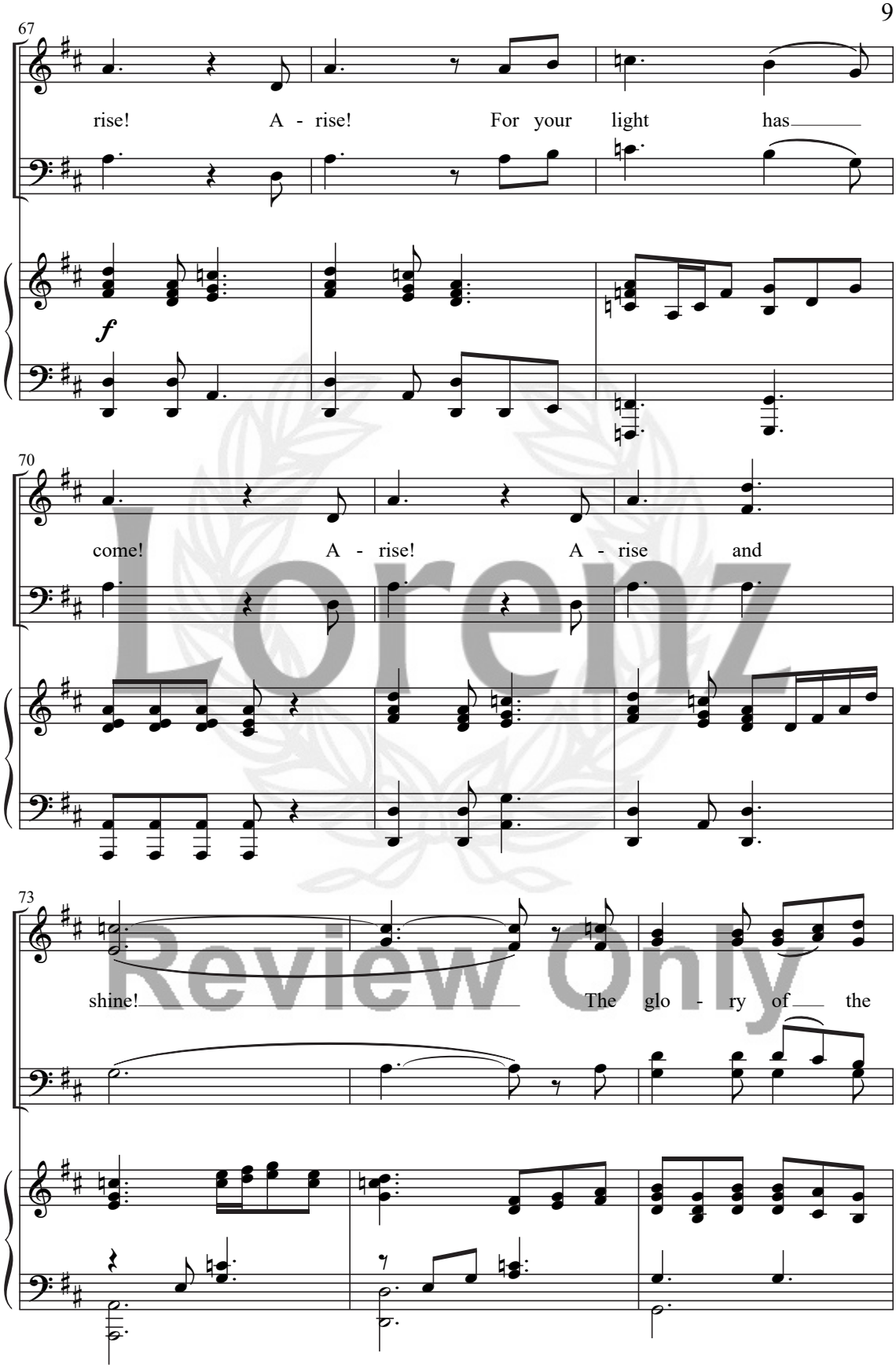

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Narration 1

From eternity past, God writes His story across the heavens and now in our deepening darkness, a light shines!

Here is the visible image of the invisible God. In Him is life and His life is the light of men. The One Who existed before all things comes to us as a helpless child.

Oh, Word eternal, in You there is no darkness at all! Your light is shining from a stable in Bethlehem!

The Kingdom of God has come to us at last.

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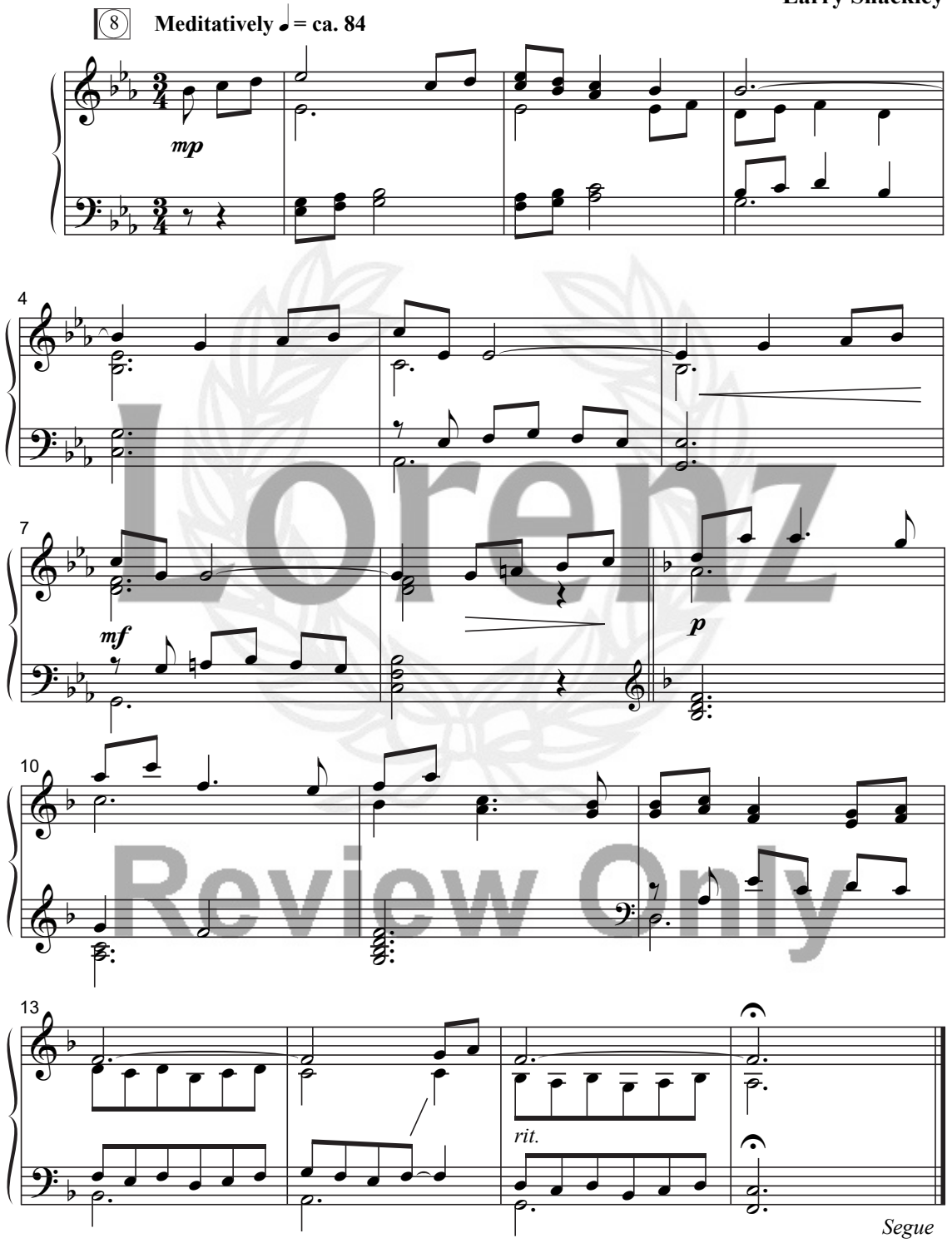
He Is the Light
(Underscore)

Music by
Larry Shackley



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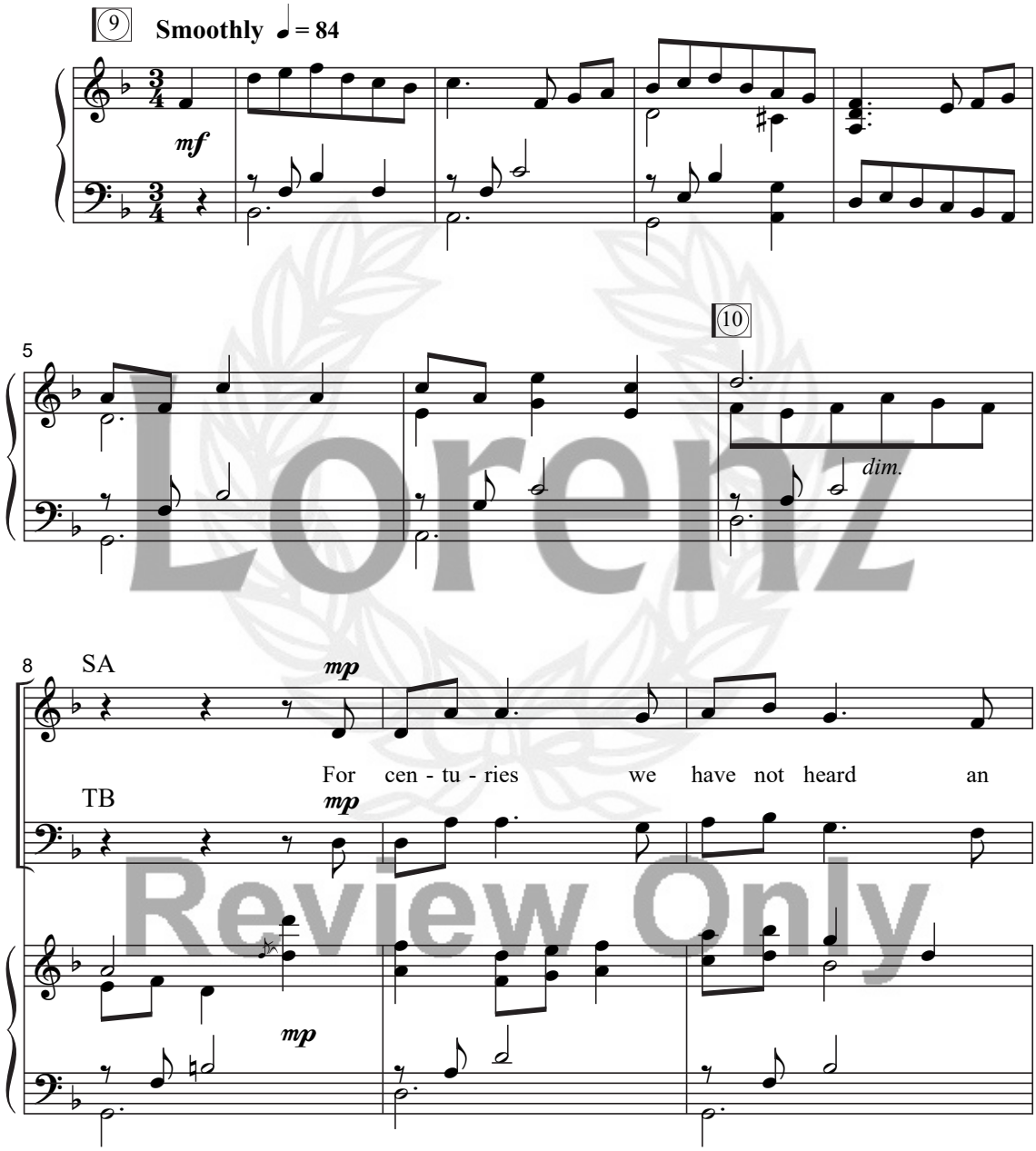
2. Longing for the Light

Words and Music by
Larry Shackley



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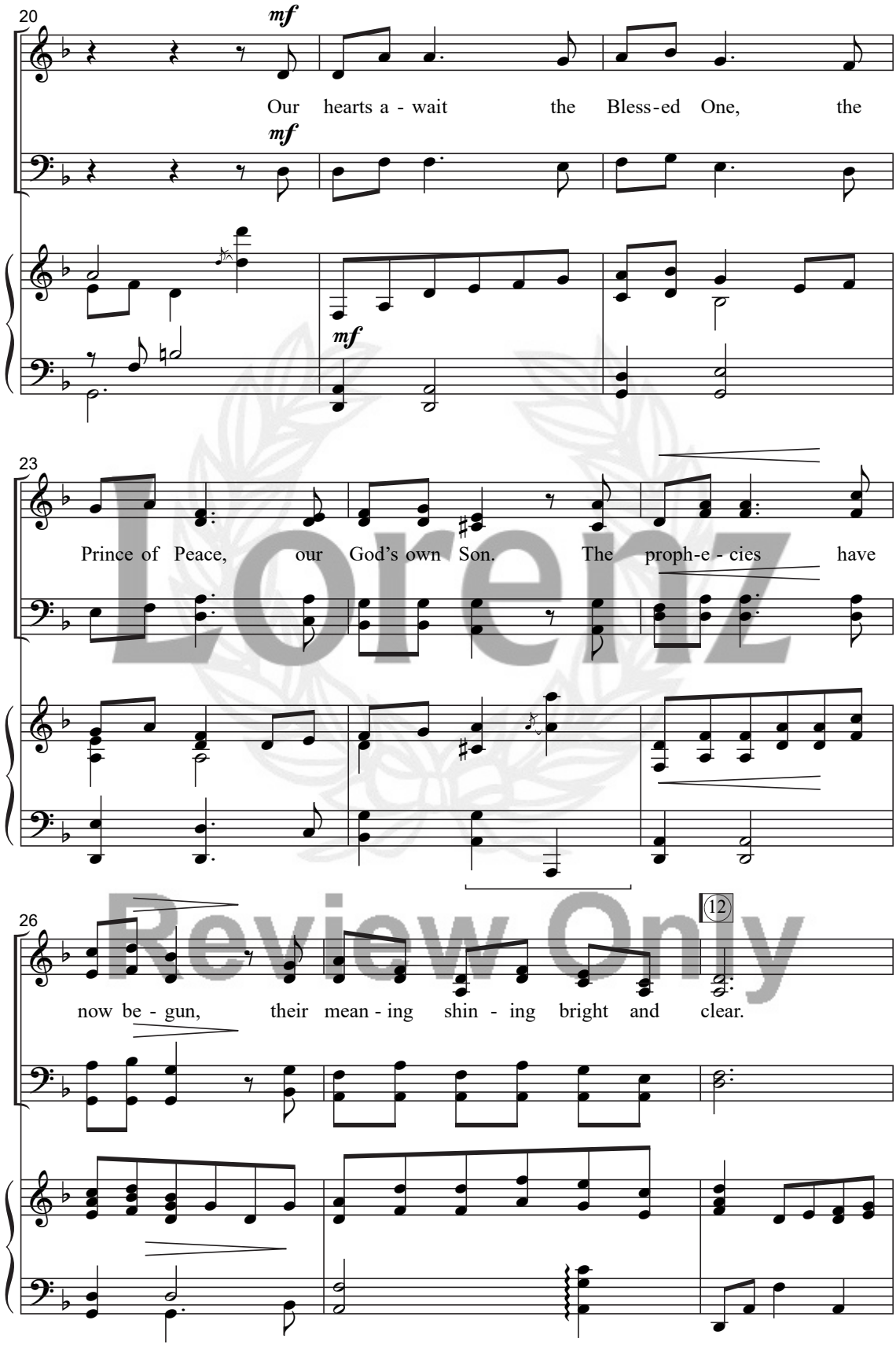

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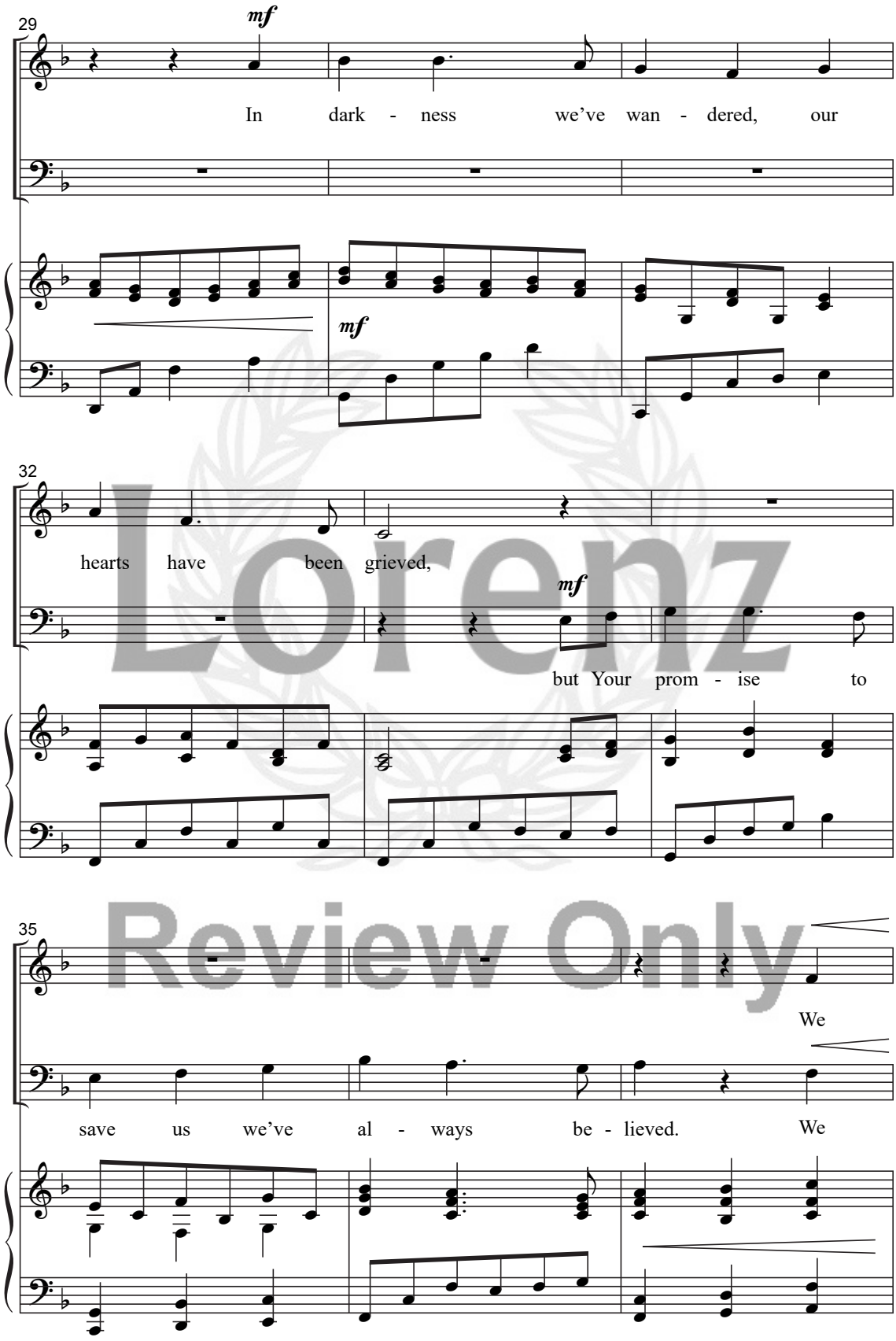

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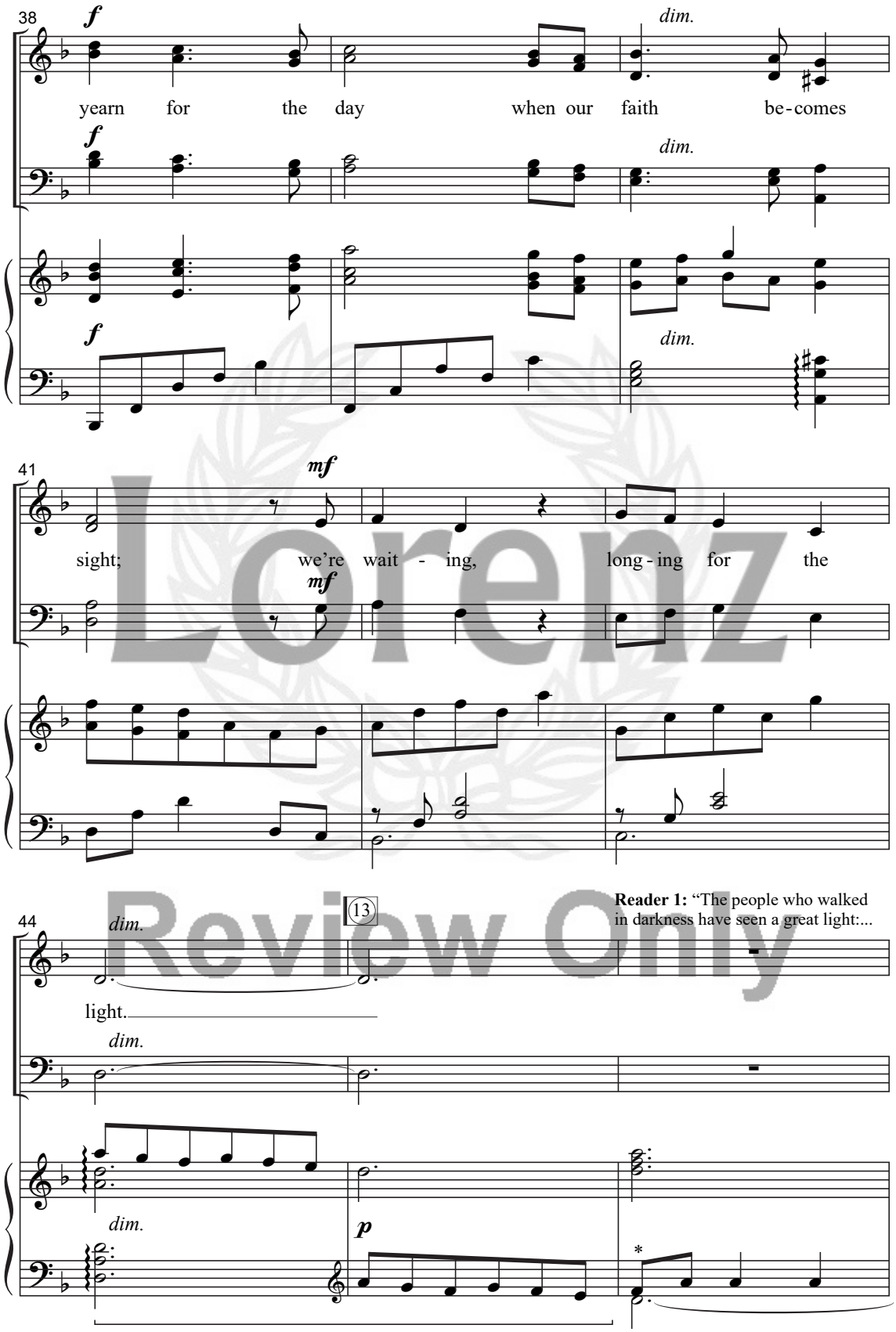

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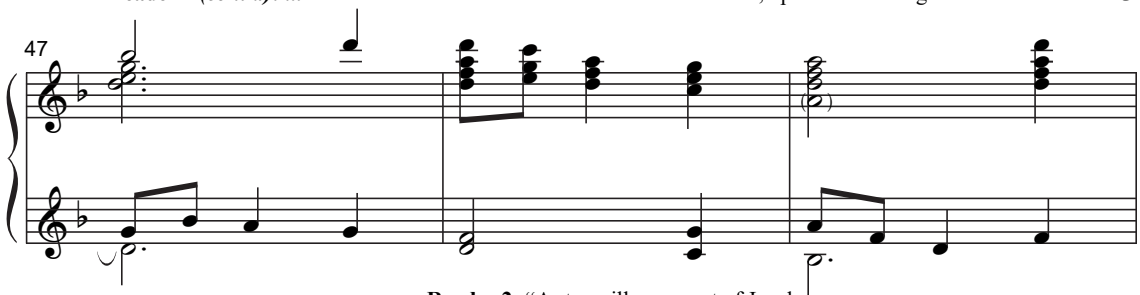
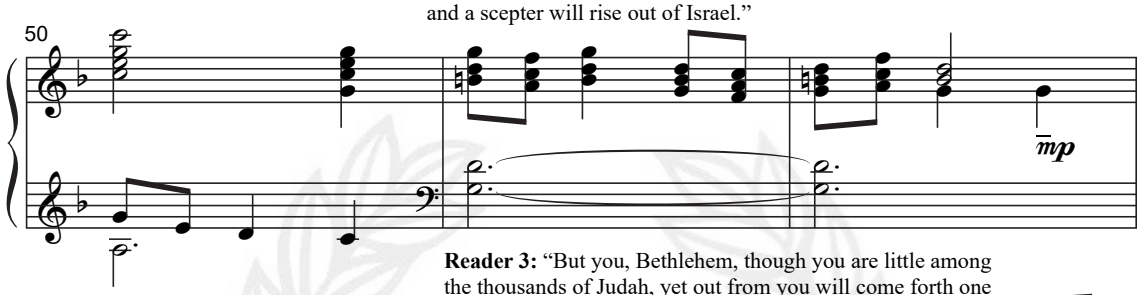
* Tune: **VENI EMMANUEL**, 13th c. plainsong

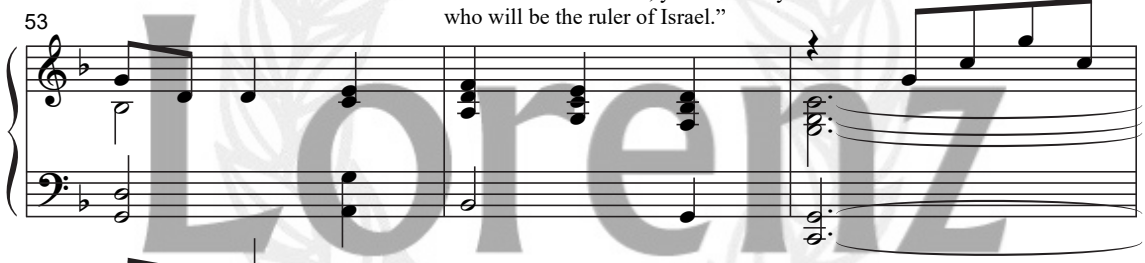
Reader 1 ***(cont'd)*****: ...**those who dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them the light has shined."

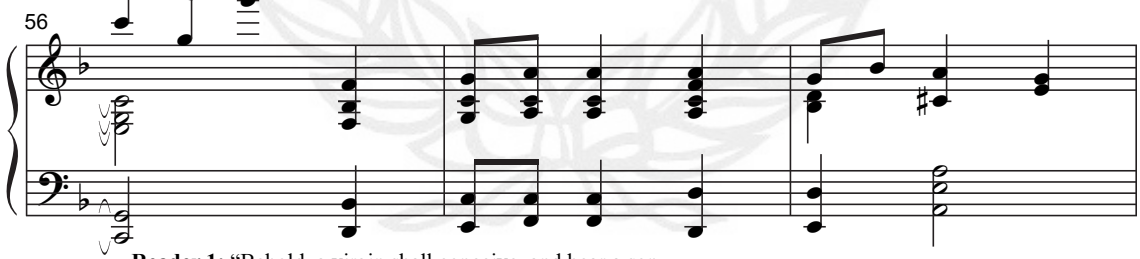


Reader 2: "A star will come out of Jacob,
and a scepter will rise out of Israel."

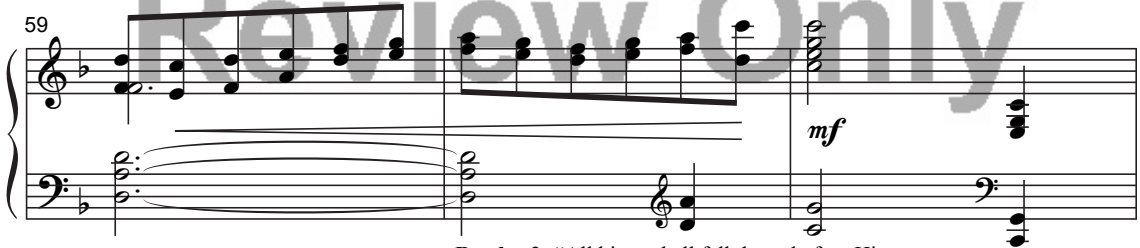


Reader 3: "But you, Bethlehem, though you are little among
the thousands of Judah, yet out from you will come forth one
who will be the ruler of Israel."

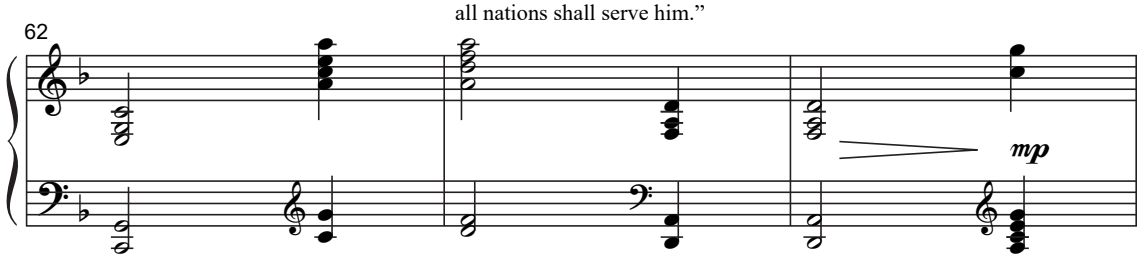




Reader 1: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and shall call his name Emmanuel."



Reader 2: "All kings shall fall down before Him:
all nations shall serve him."



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Narration 2

Chosen—chosen to bear the Son of the Most High, the light of the Holy One inside me. I rejoice for God has seen me! I have been empty but now I'm filled. I have been poor but now I'm rich. The proud cannot boast for this Gift has come to the humblest of God's servants.

The unchanging One has changed me. Oh, I am fearfully and wonderfully made. I have been carried by you all my days. How can it be that I carry you?

Now, I am truly alive—alive with longing for you, my Lord, my King, my Savior, my Child.

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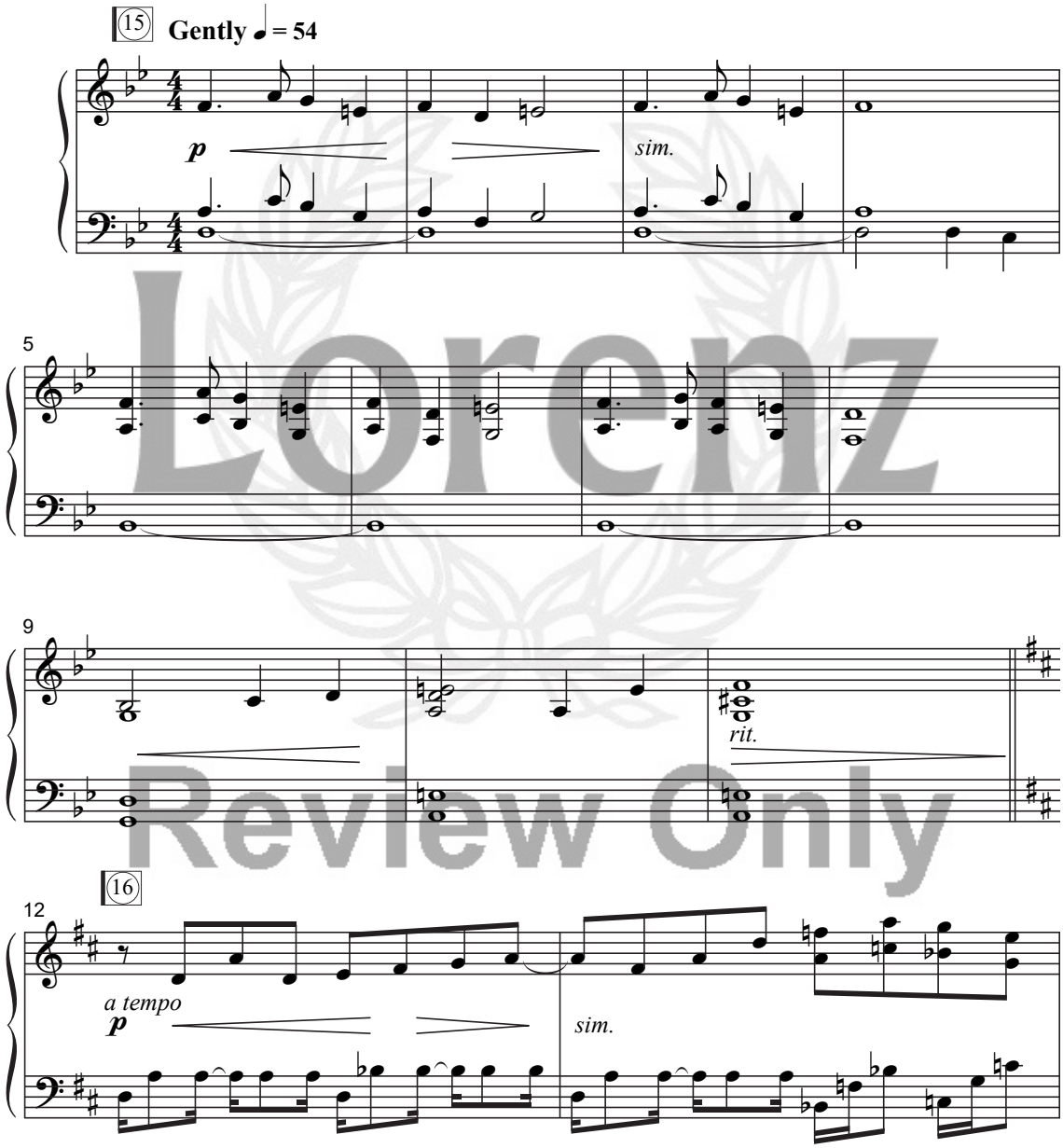
3. My Soul Proclaims

Words by **Jay Rouse**
inspired by **Luke 1:44-56**

Music by **Jay Rouse**



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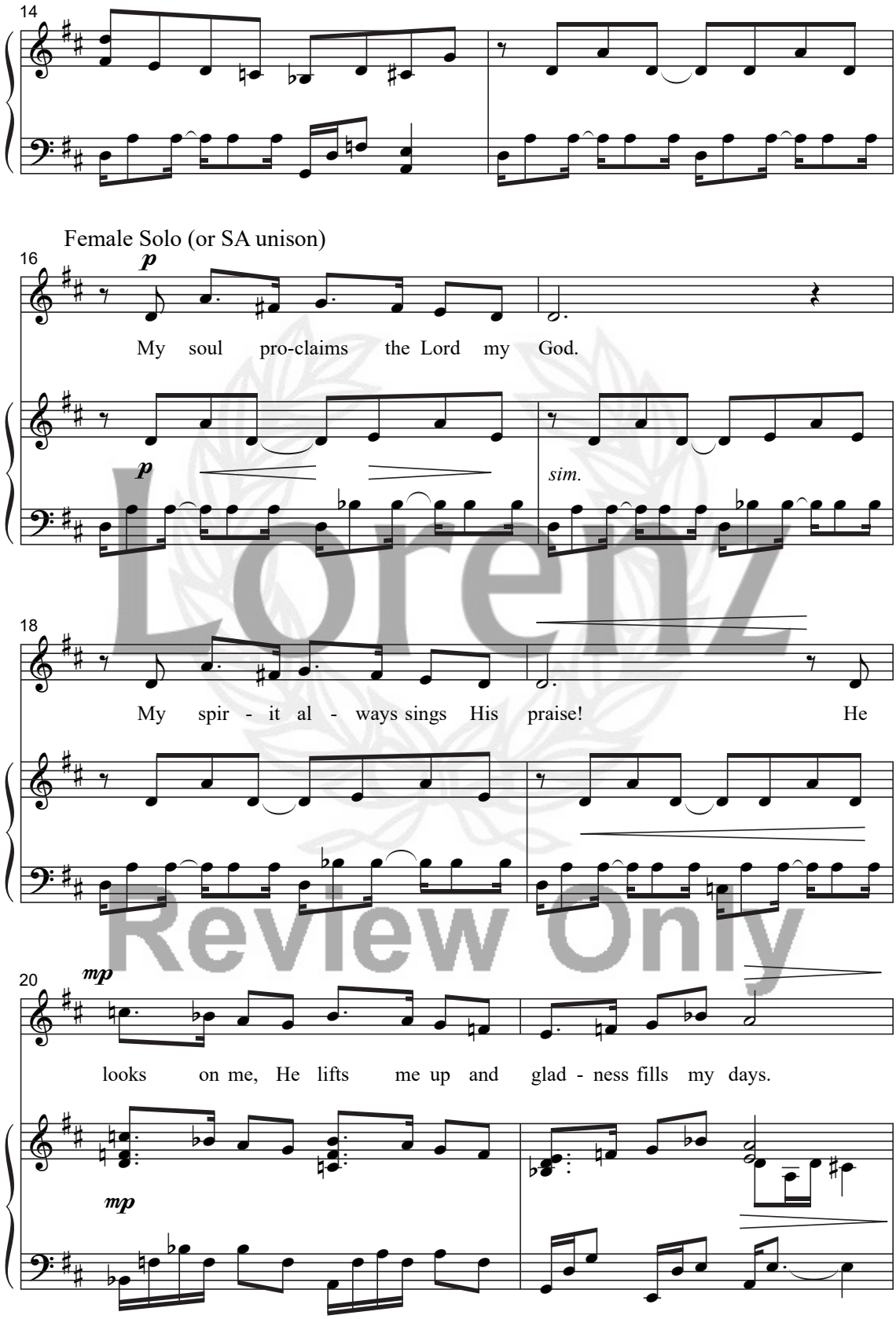

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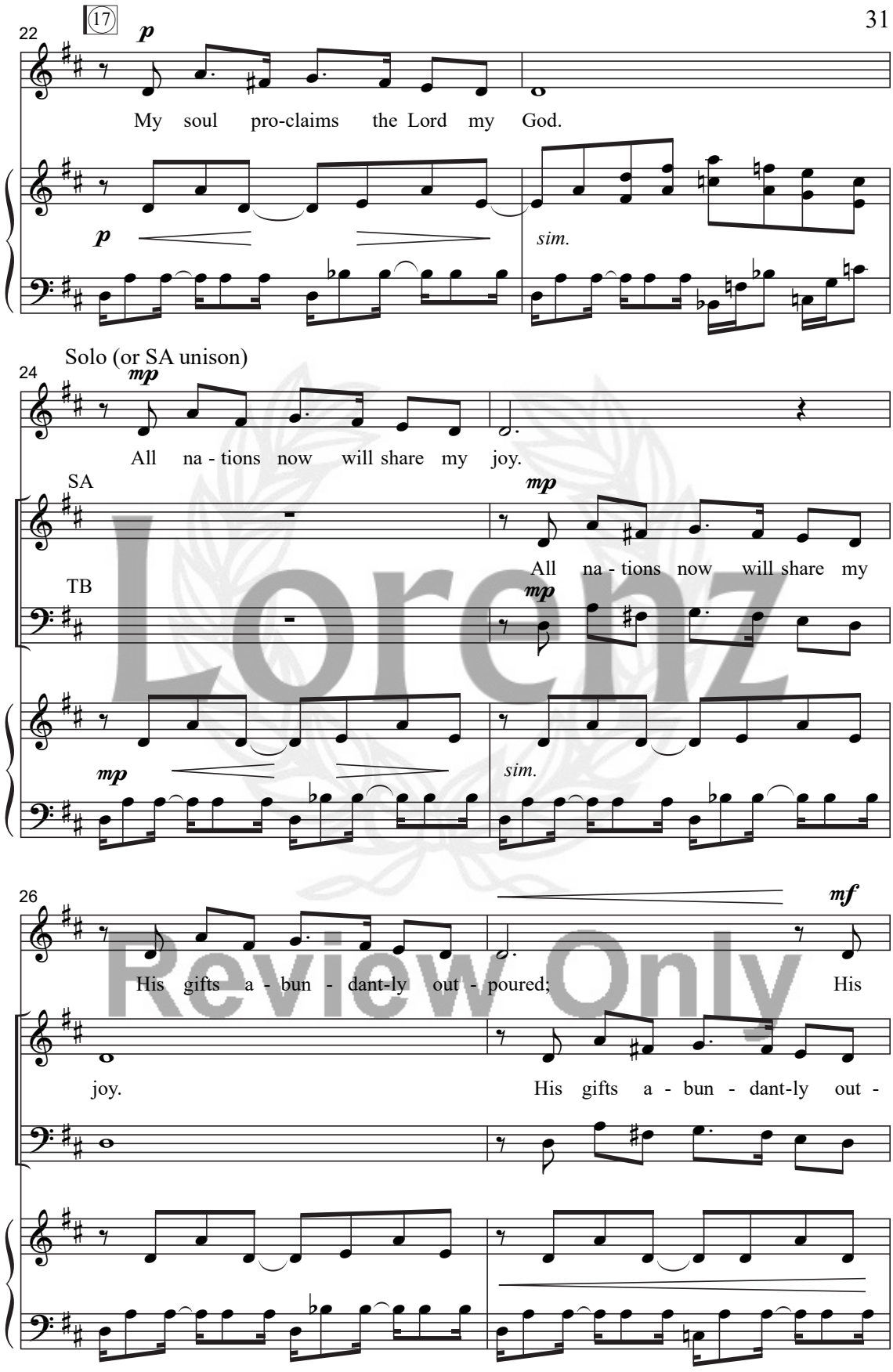

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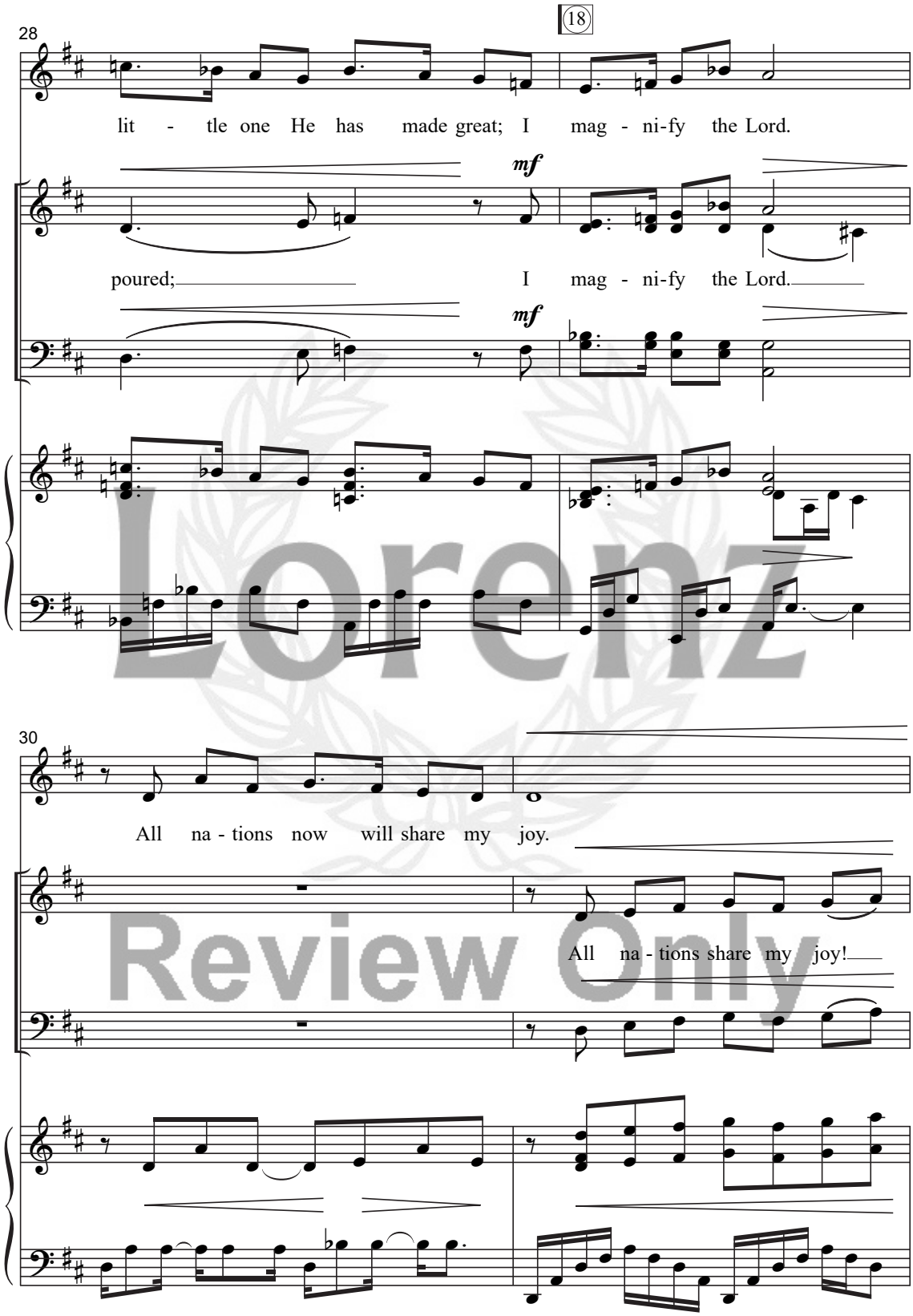

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Narration 3

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. (Luke 2:4-7 NIV) (music begins)

Oh blessed are you Bethlehem, city of David. Though you are small among the thousands, you alone have provided shelter for the King of all kings.

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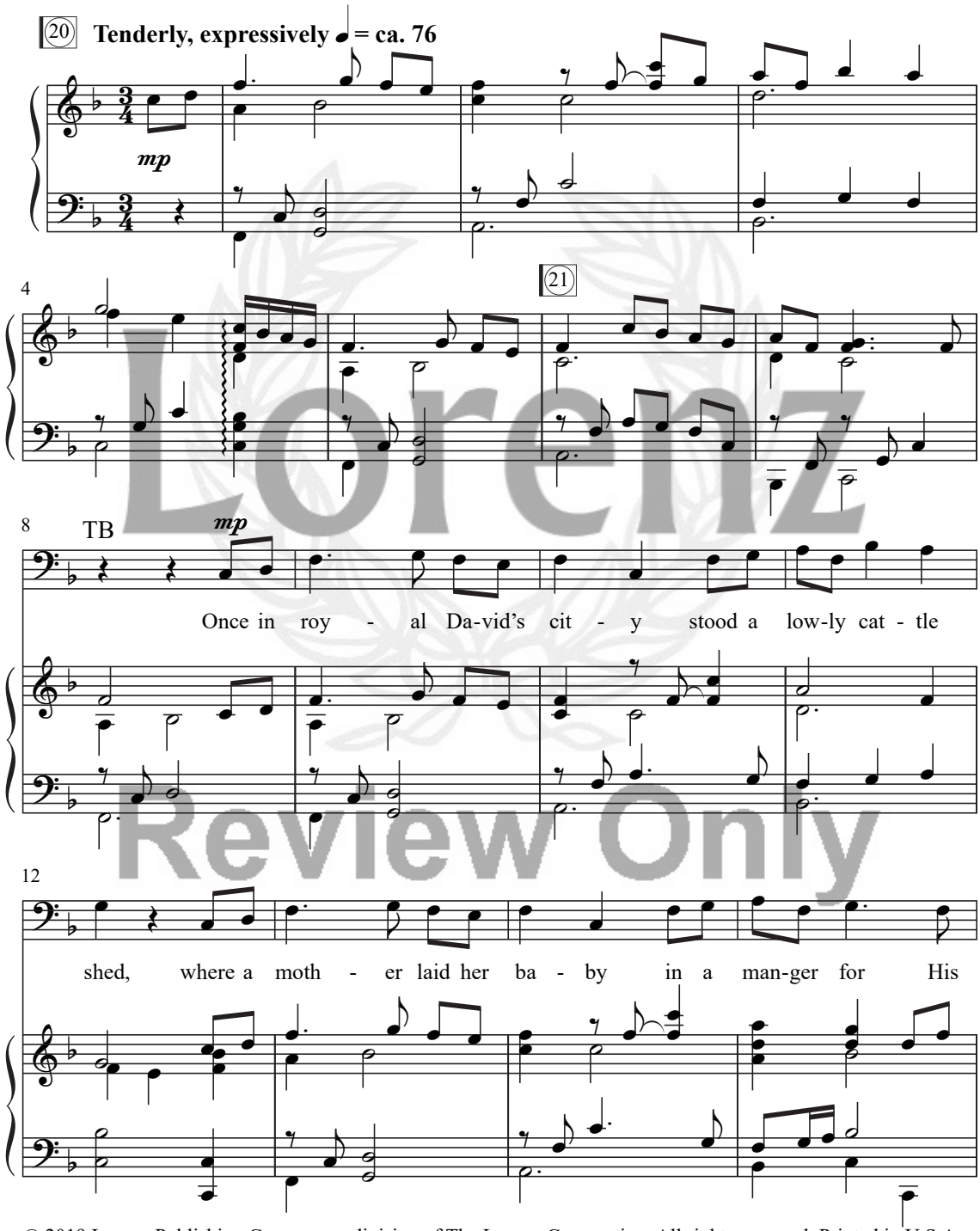
4. Bethlehem, O Bethlehem

Words by **Carl F. Alexander, Phillips Brooks,** and **Lloyd Larson**

Music by **Lloyd Larson**
Quoting **FOREST GREEN,**
Traditional English Melody



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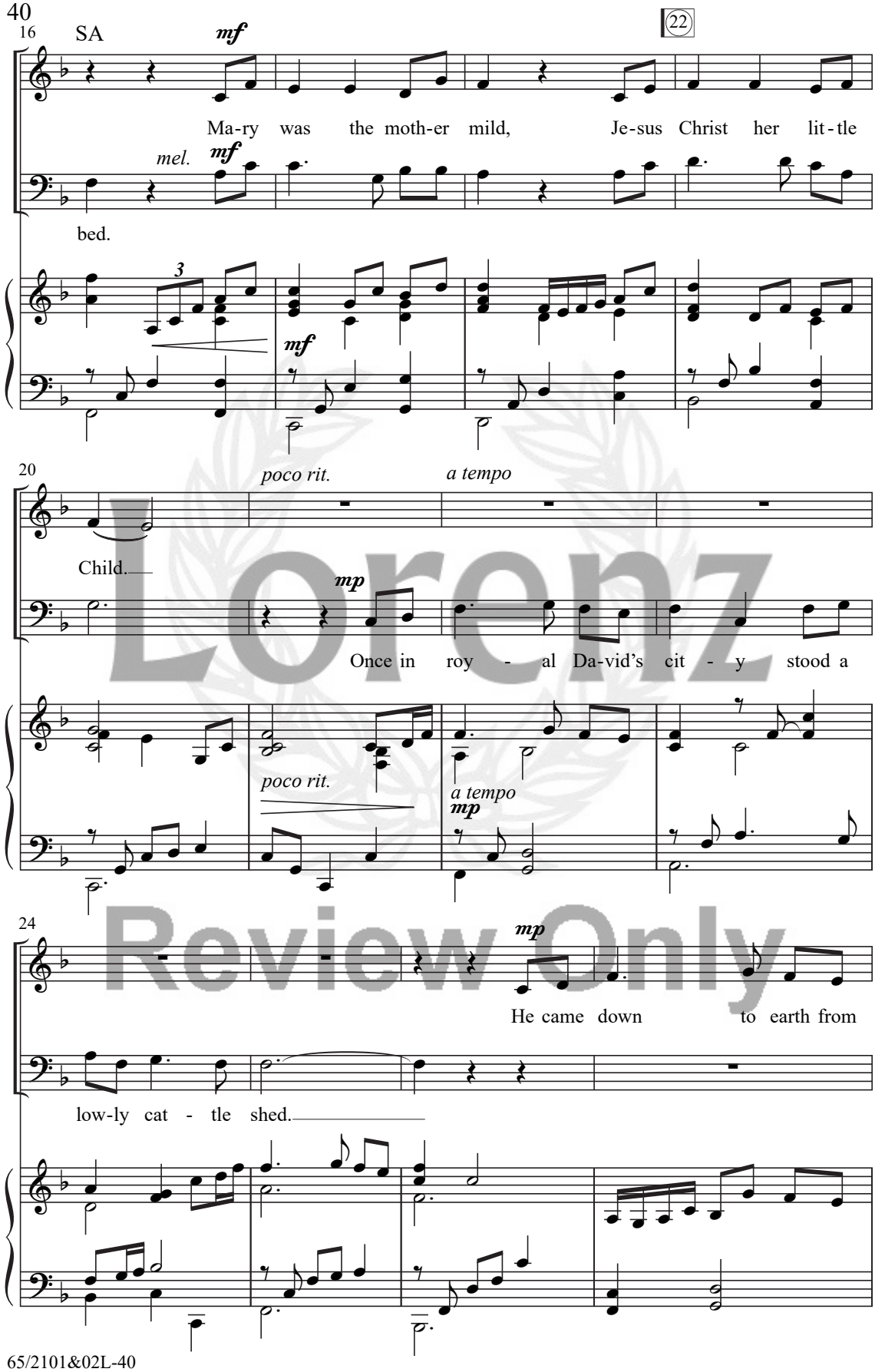

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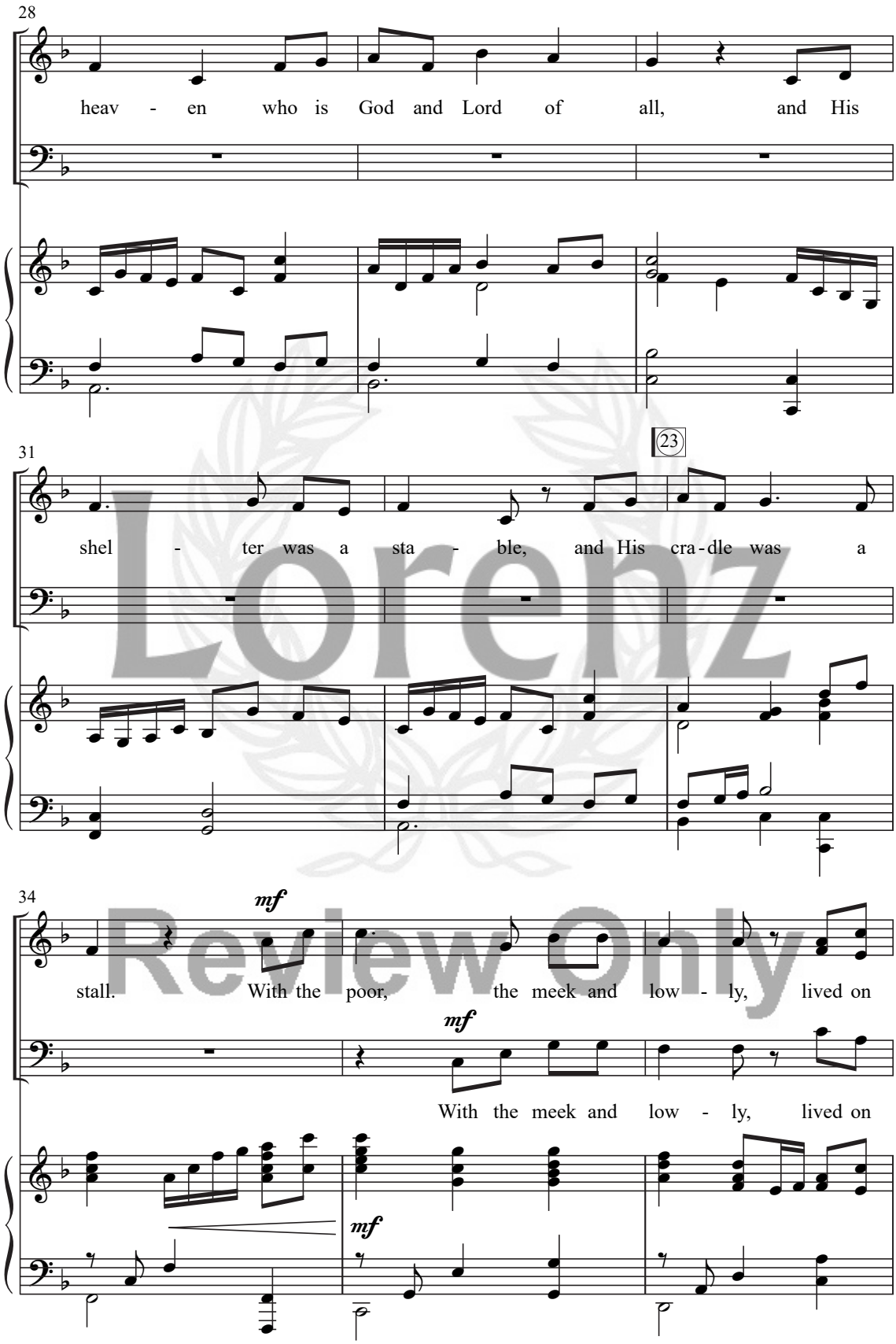

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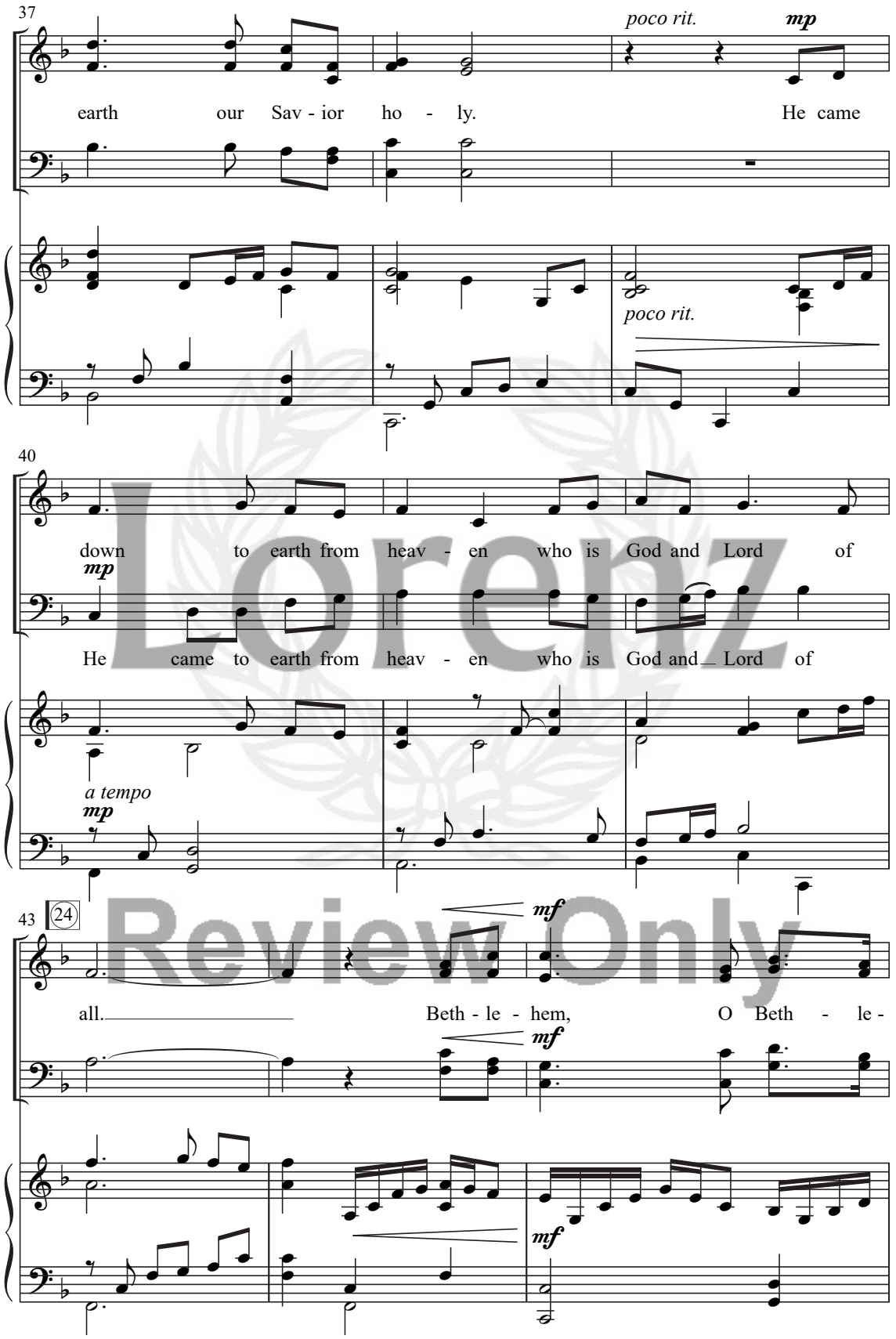

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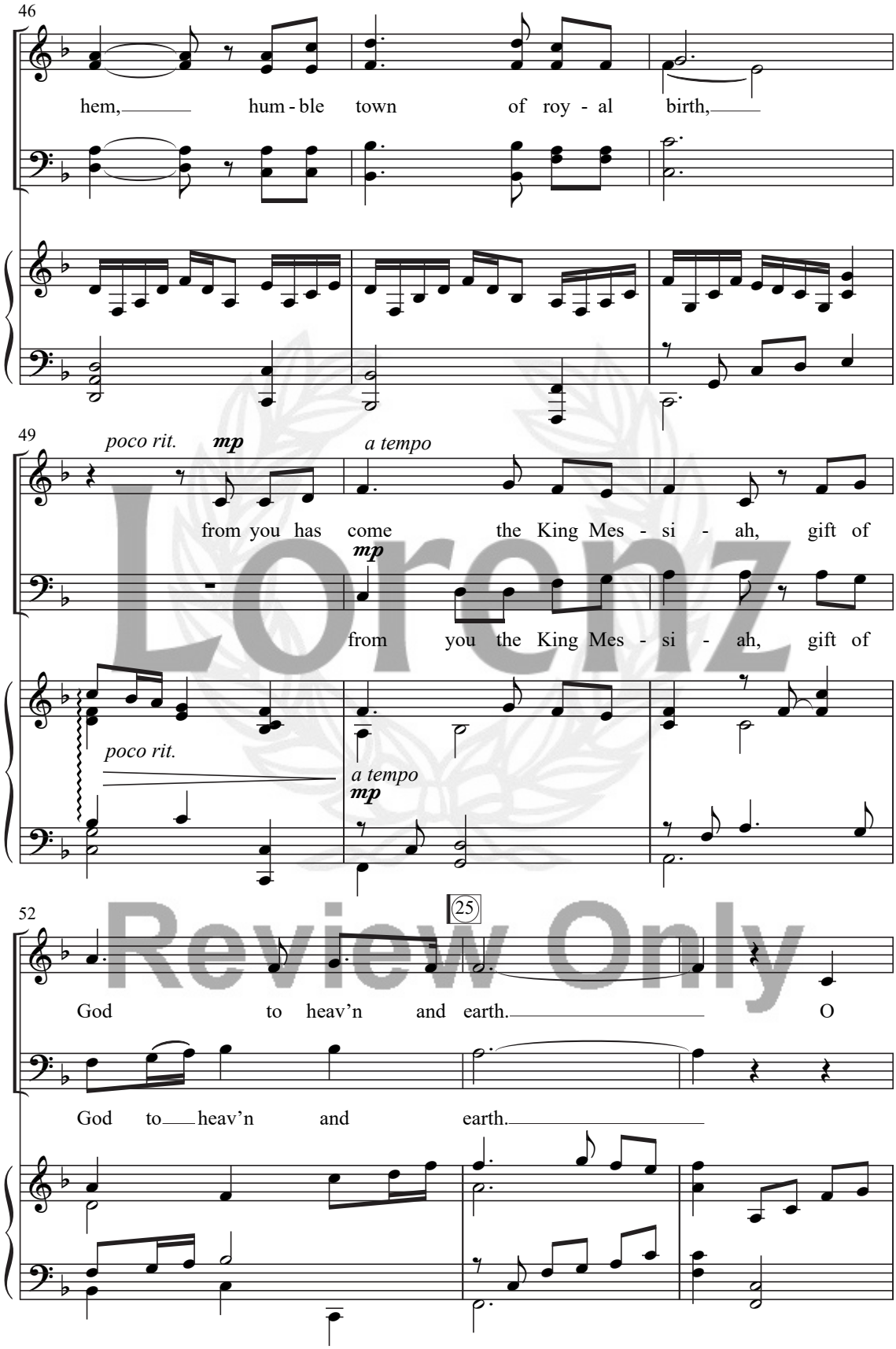

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Narration 4

Narrator 1: There were shepherds out in the fields that night. They were keeping watch over their flocks. Suddenly, the sky split wide with light and a thousand stars seemed to fall into the darkness.

Narrator 2: *Unto you is born this day, a Savior—*

Narrator 1: Stars, announcing a Savior? No—not stars, angels blazing their light into the sky!

Narrator 2: *—Who is Christ the Lord.*

Narrator 1: The Christ?! How can this be?

Narrator 2: *This will be a sign for you: you will find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.*

Narrator 1: A sign—from God?

Narrator 2: *Yes, from God! Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth, peace—peace to the people with whom He is pleased!*

Narrator 1: And there between the darkness and the light, they found Him. The Baby, the Christ, the Savior.

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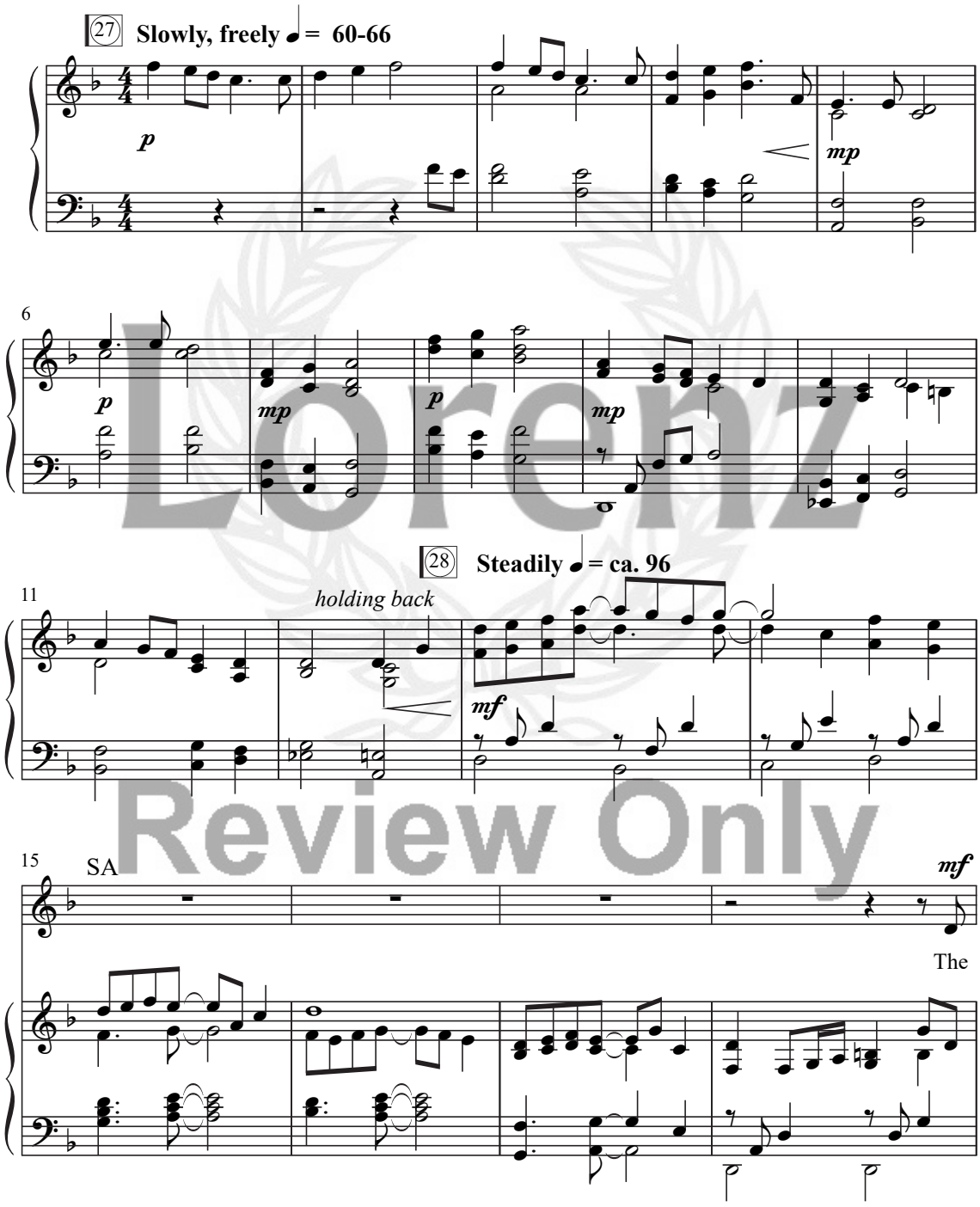
5. Shepherds and Angels

Words by **Lloyd Larson**
based on **Luke 2:8-14,**
and **Traditional French Carol**

Music by **Lloyd Larson**
Incorporating: **JÜNGST**, Traditional German Carol,
and **GLORIA**, Traditional French Carol



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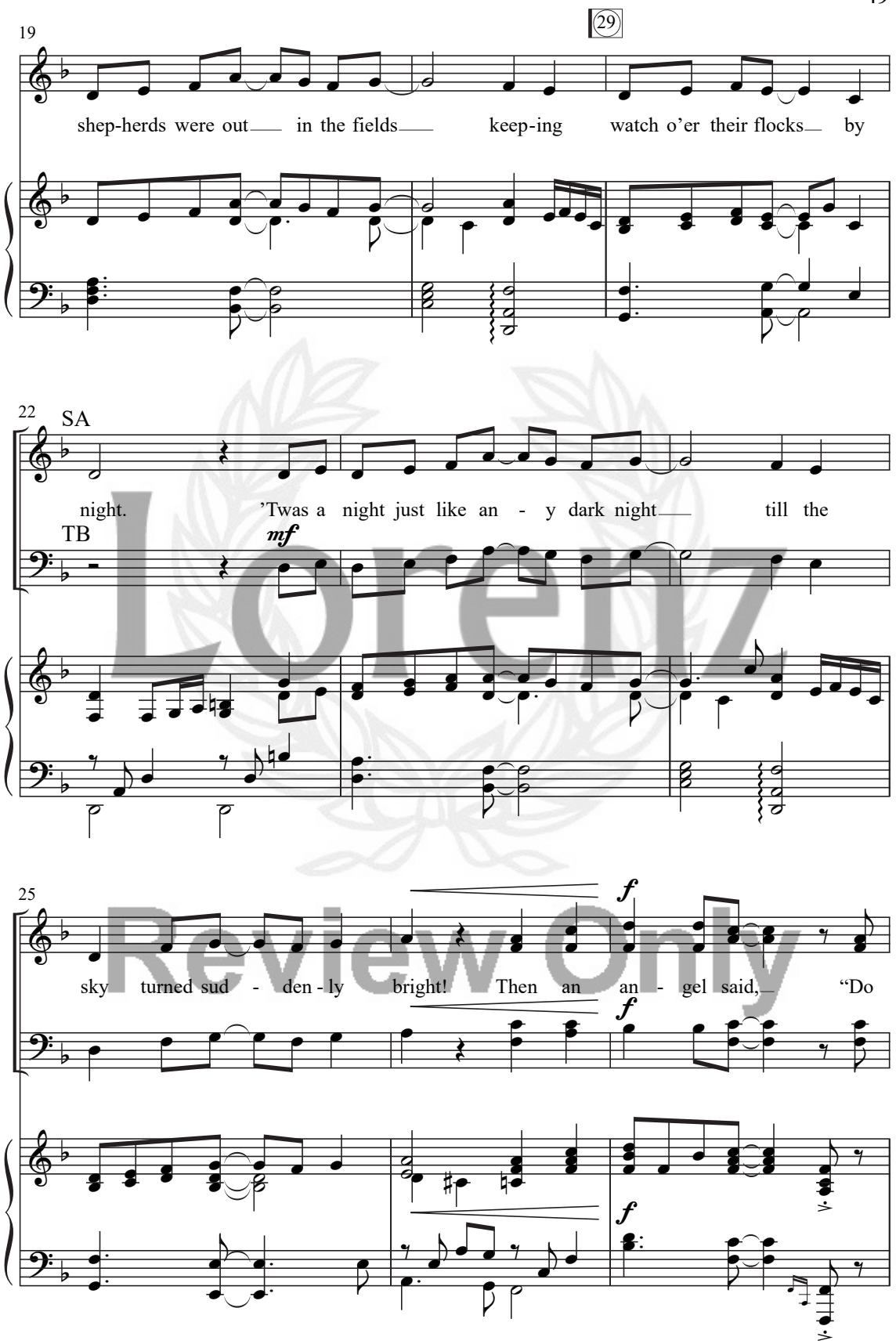

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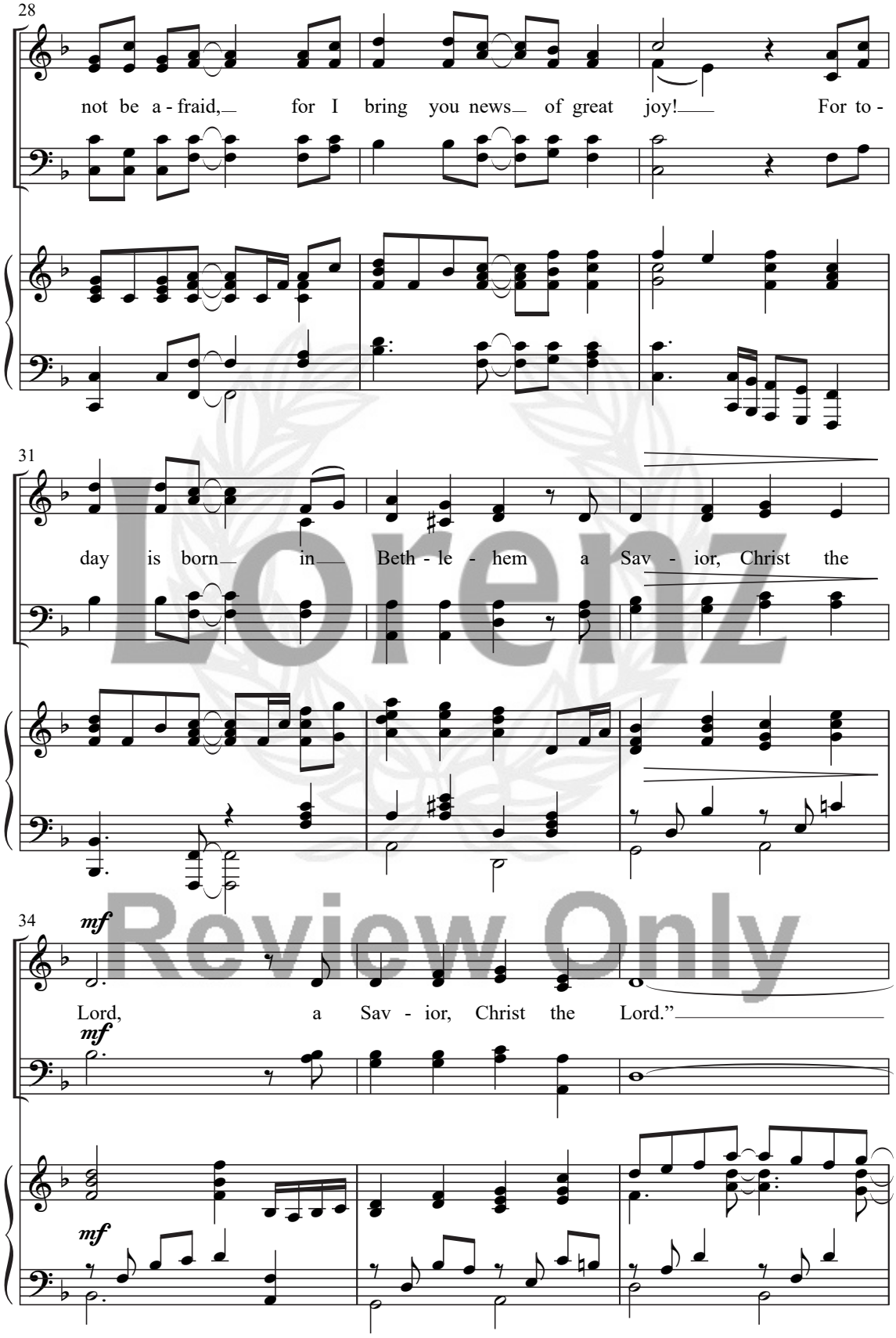

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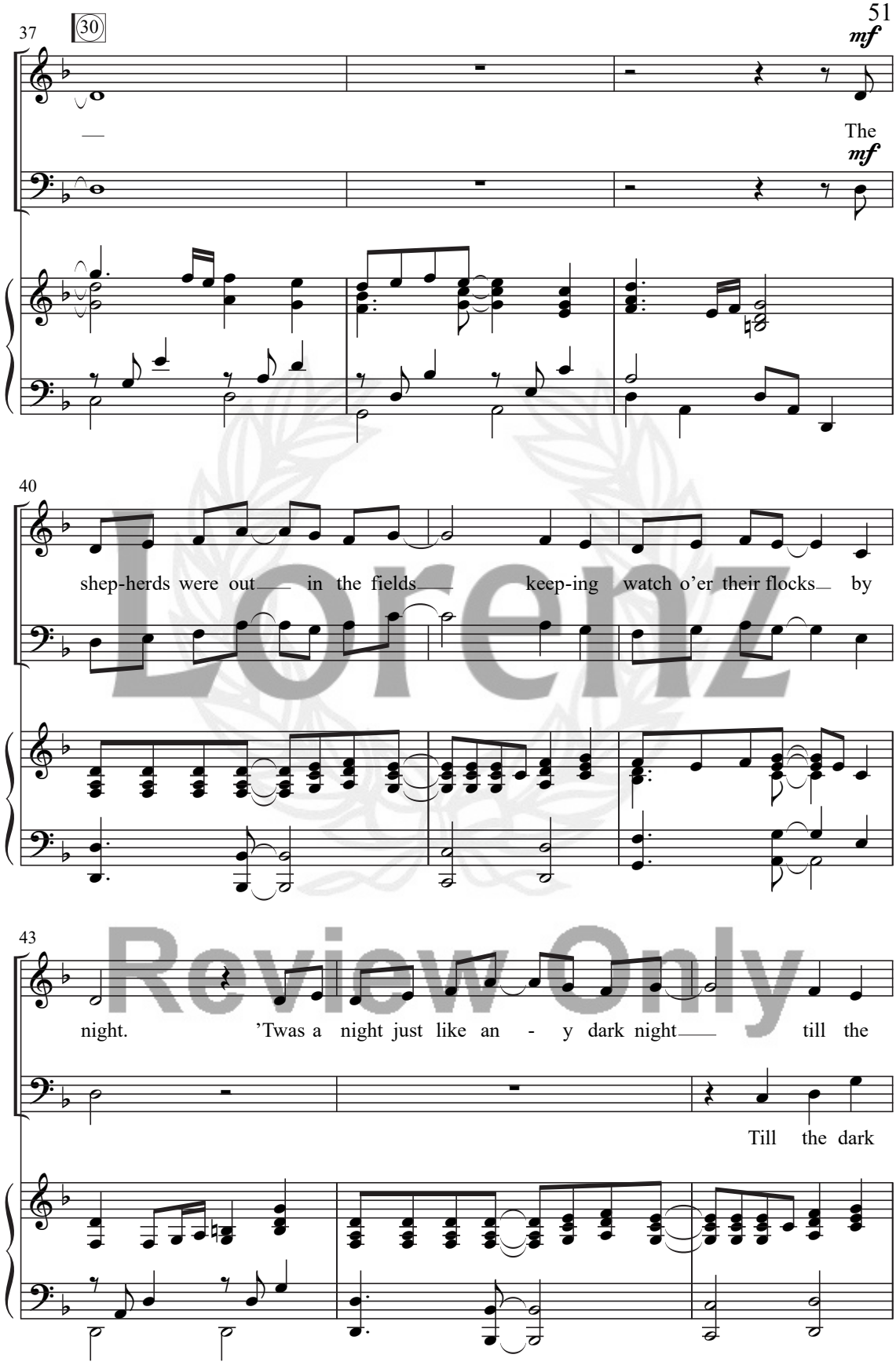

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Narration 5

God is born on earth tonight. Hush, do not awaken Him. His journey has been so long. See His mother, how she gazes at Him, uncommon Child, so very common.

A spark of light surrounds them, the flame pushing against the dark. So, this is how the light comes into the world. One Child alone brings it. All of God's promises are kept in Him, this Child of Light.

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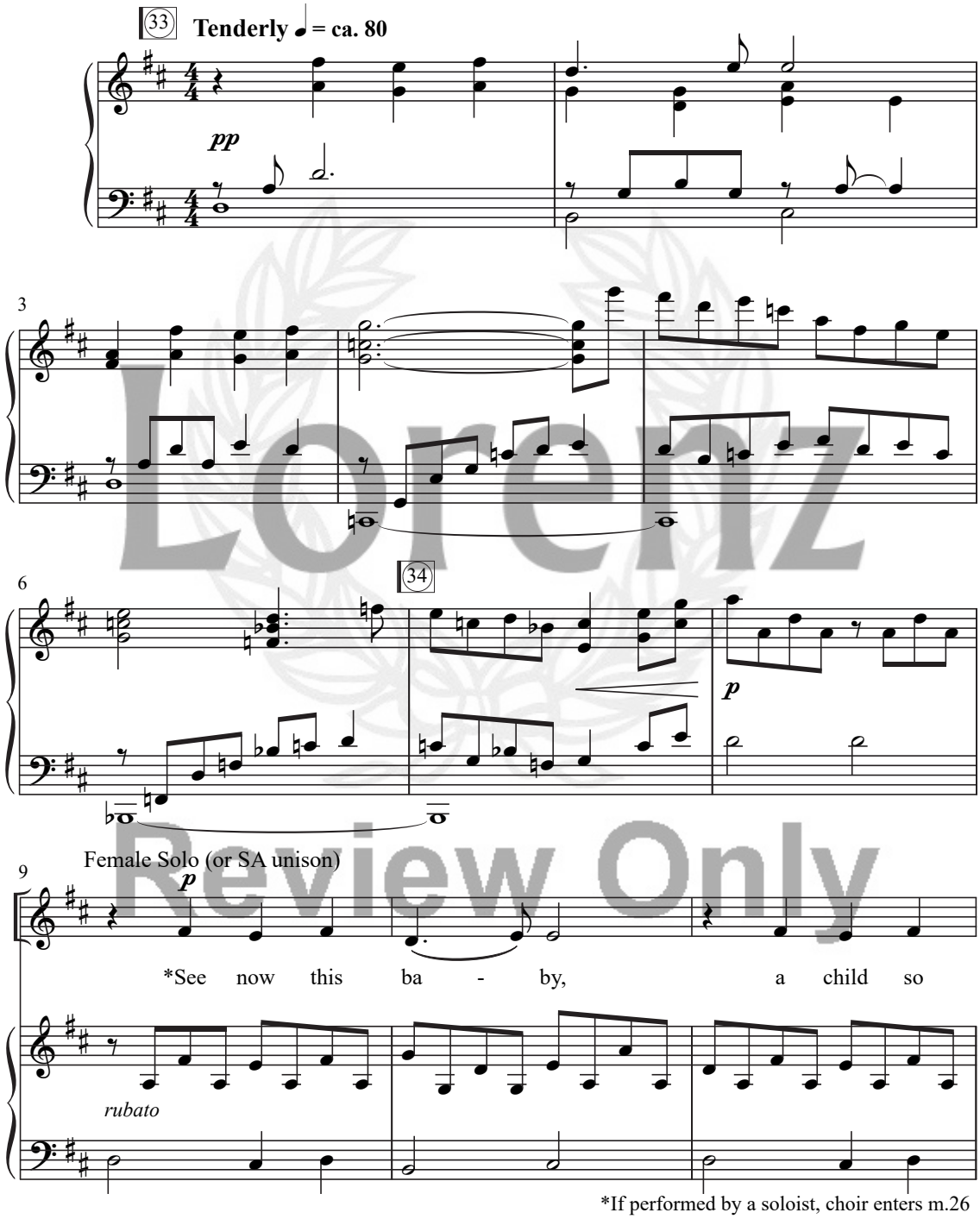
6. This Child of Light

Words and Music by
Mary McDonald



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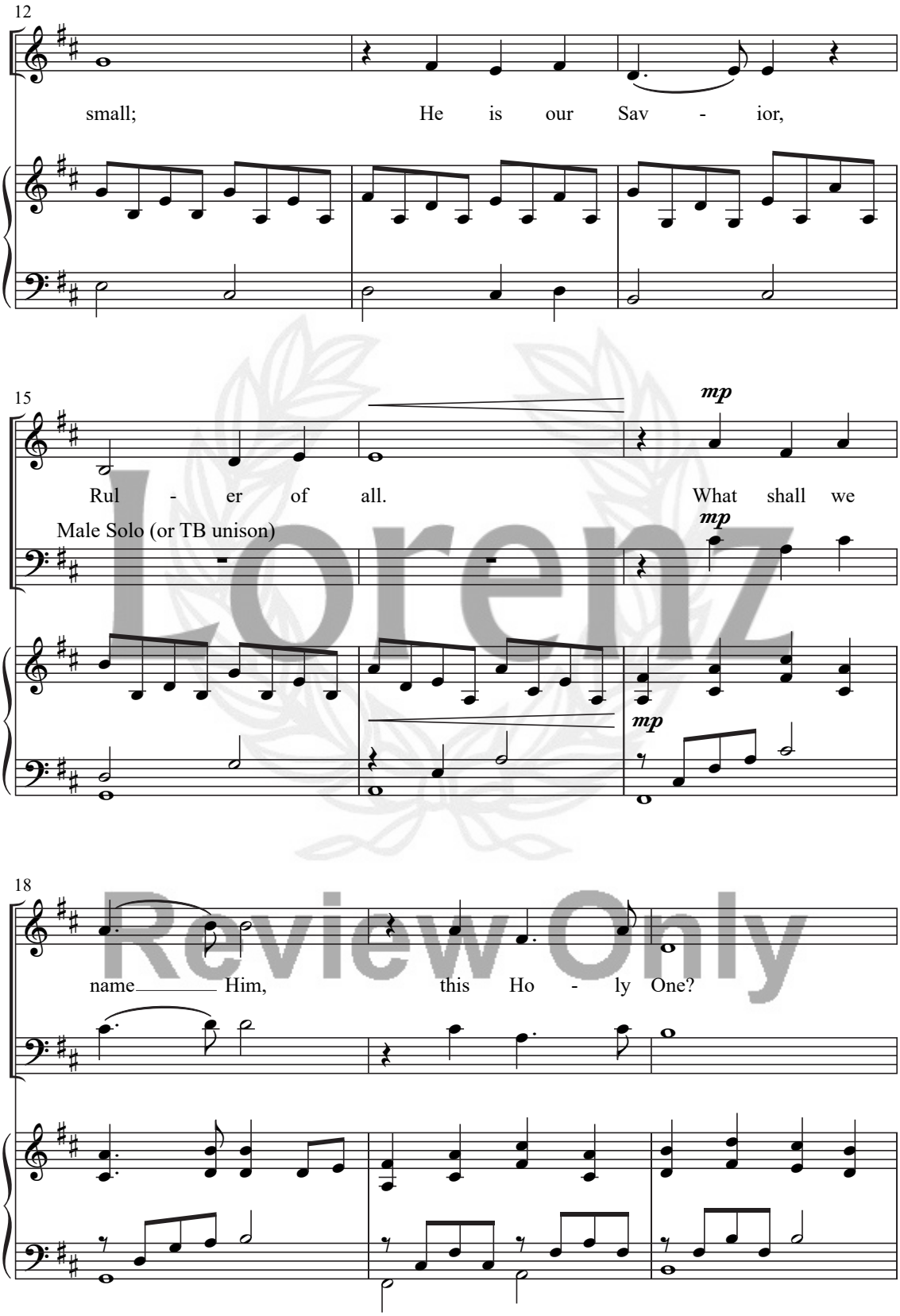

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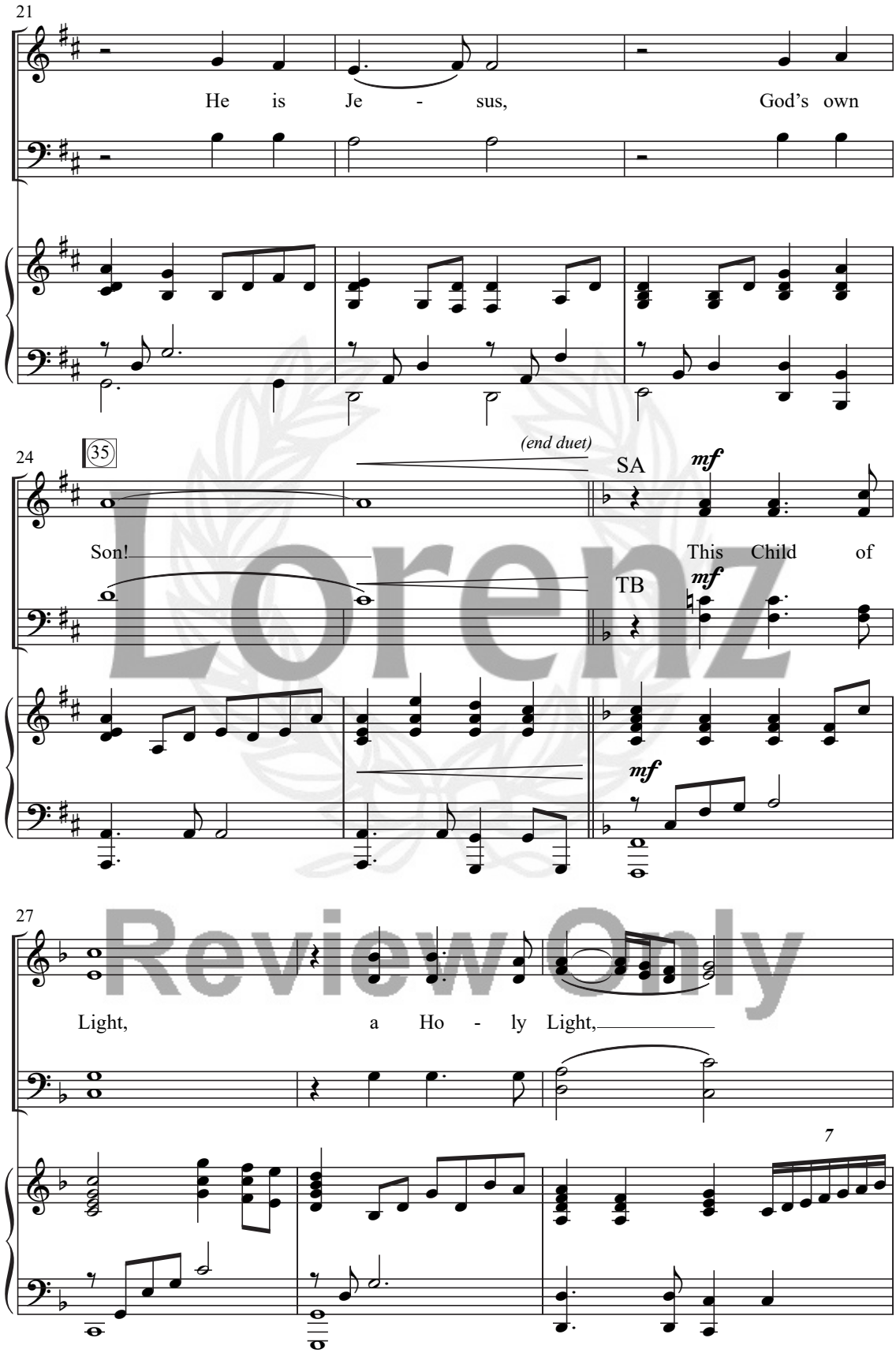

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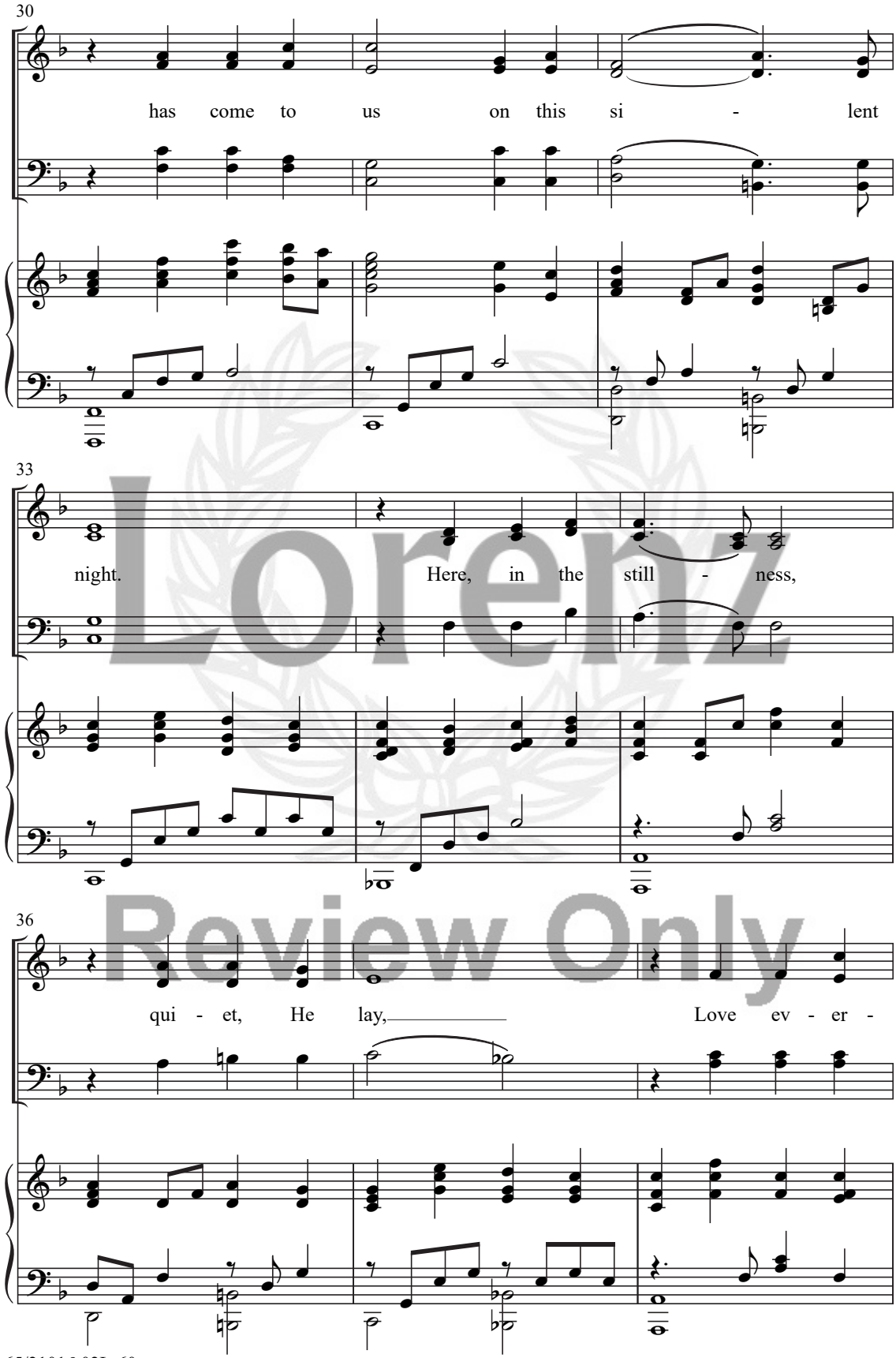

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Narration 6

In love and obedience, Mary and Joseph offer back to God the promise He gave. This Child, holy unto the Lord!

And so, it begins. Those who long for the Savior will find Him. Like old Simeon, they will cry, my eyes have seen Your salvation!

He is a light to reveal God to the nations! God does not forget our prayers!

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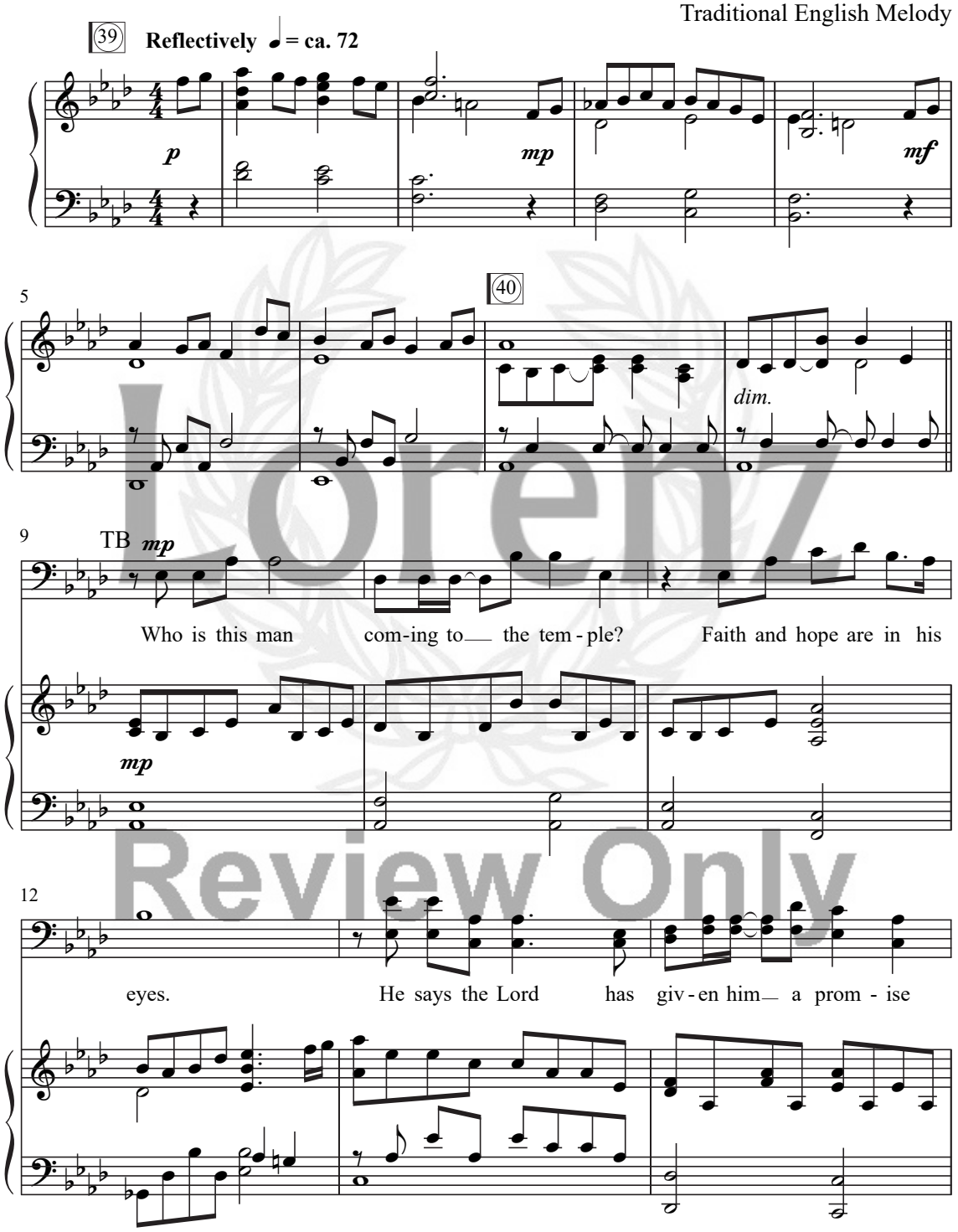
7. This Is Christ the King

Words based on
Luke 2:21-35

Words and Music by
Larry Shackley
Incorporating **GREENSLEEVES**
Traditional English Melody



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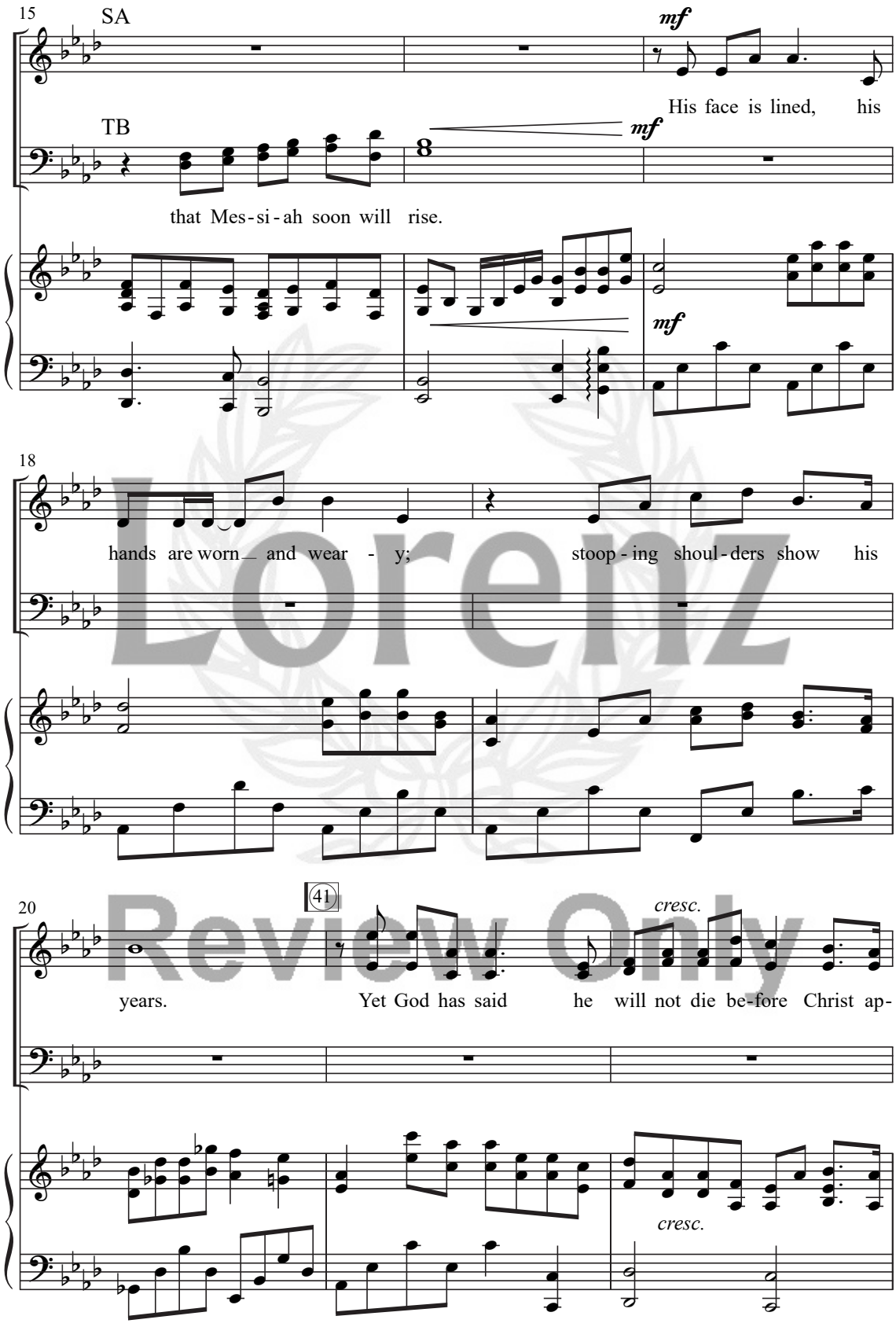

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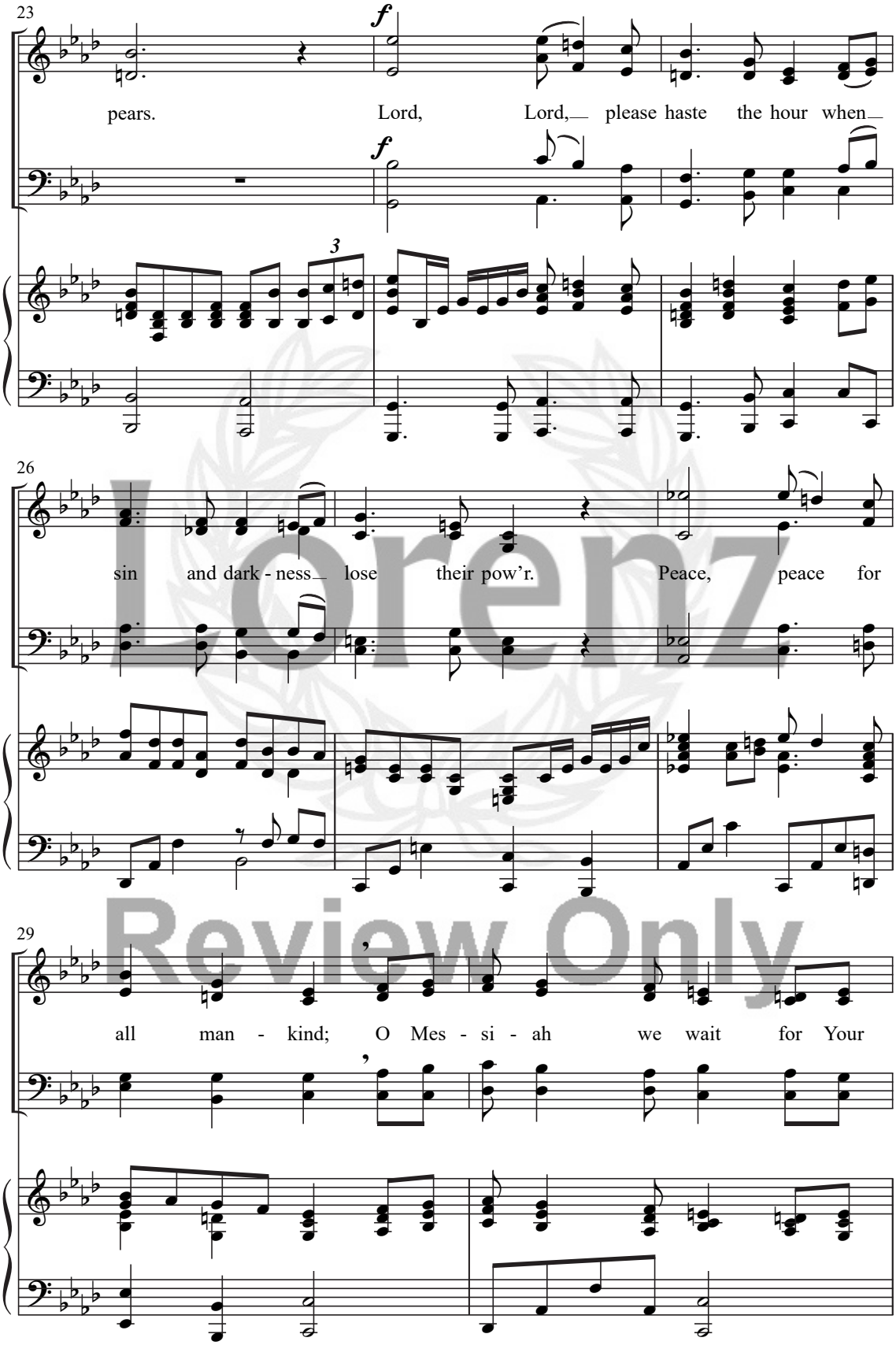

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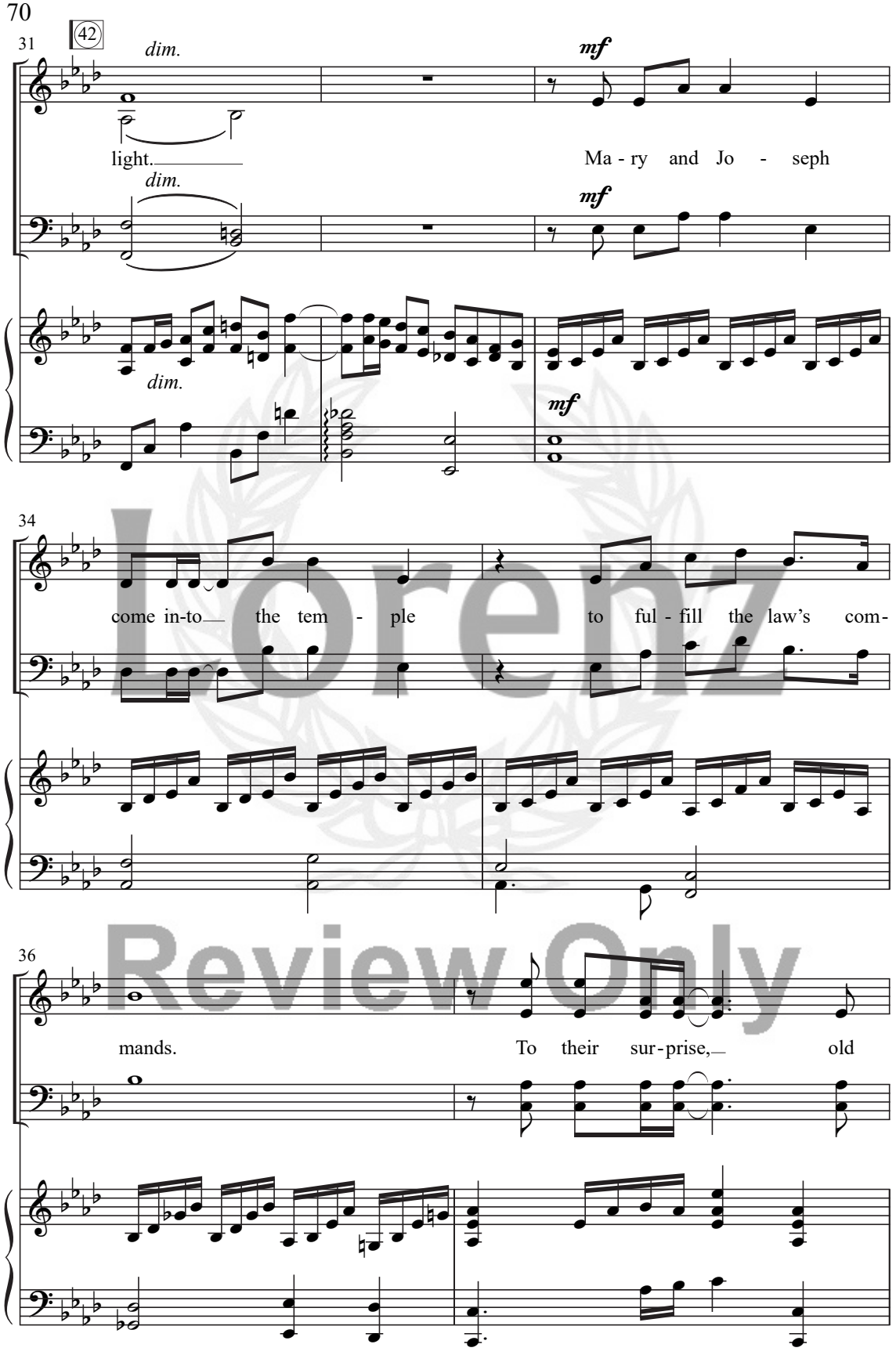

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Narration 7

Rejoice! Rejoice greatly! Though we were once wrapped in darkness, the bright light of God's glory has risen on us!

Shout and be glad! Welcome the Savior born for us this day. Worship Him with loud praises and singing. Joyfully, rise with all the nations and adore Him, the Everlasting Light!

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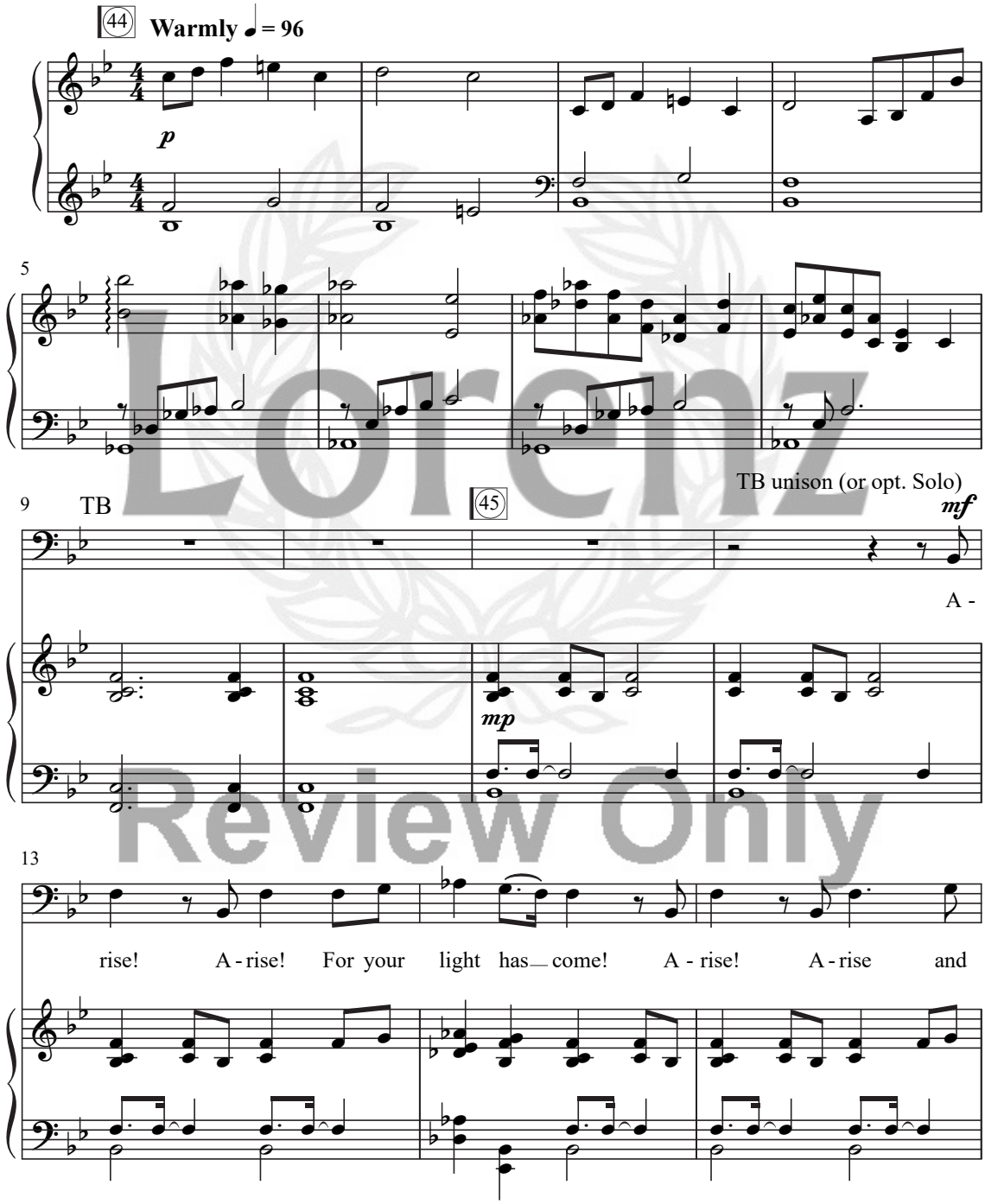
8. Everlasting Light

(Finale)

Words by **Mary McDonald**
adapted from **Isaiah 60:1-2**,
Charles Wesley, alt. George Whitefield,
John Francis Wade,
trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841

Music by **Mary McDonald**
Arranged by **Jay Rouse**
Incorporating **MENDELSSOHN**,
Felix Mendelssohn, 1840,
ADESTE FIDELES, John Francis Wade, c. 1743



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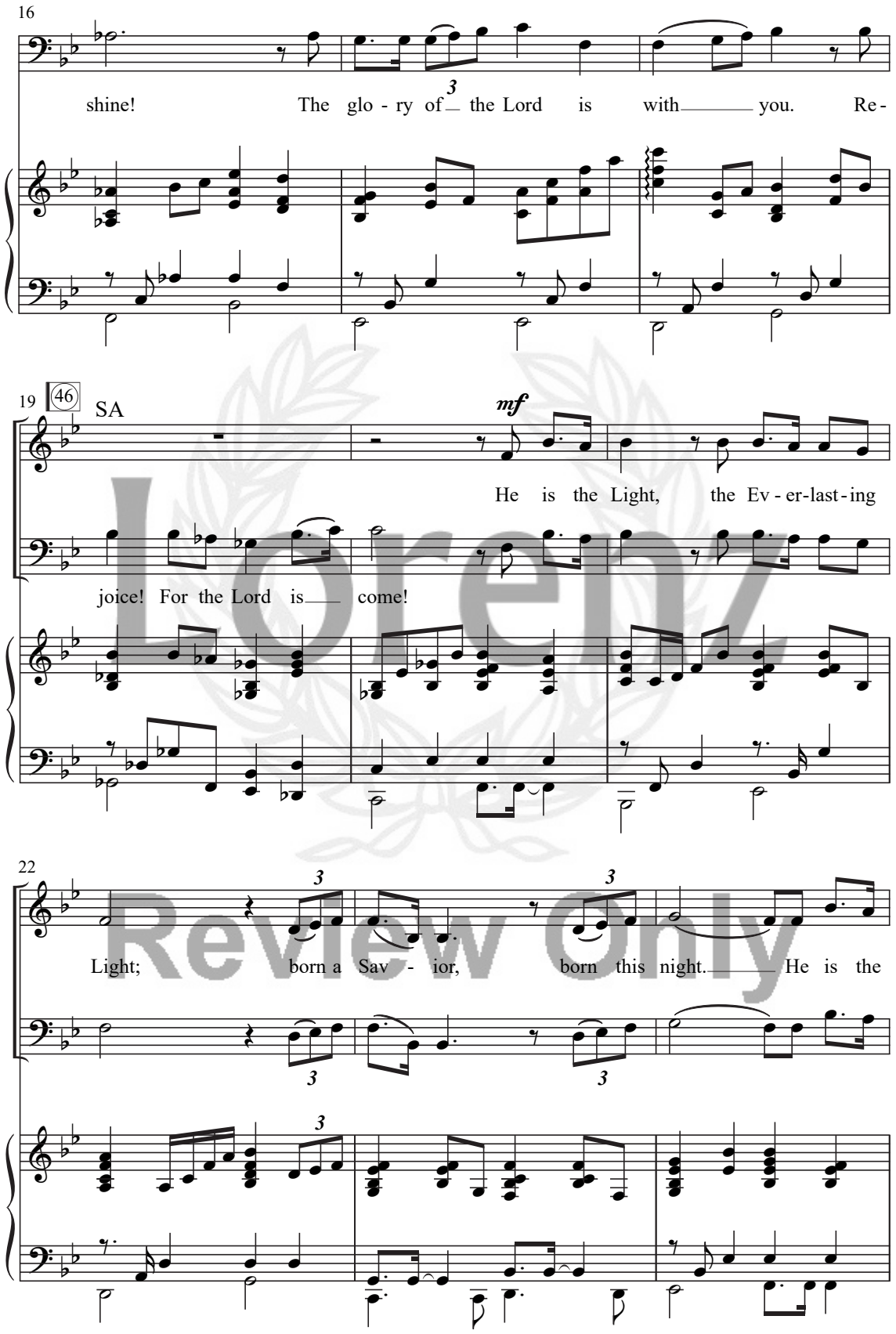

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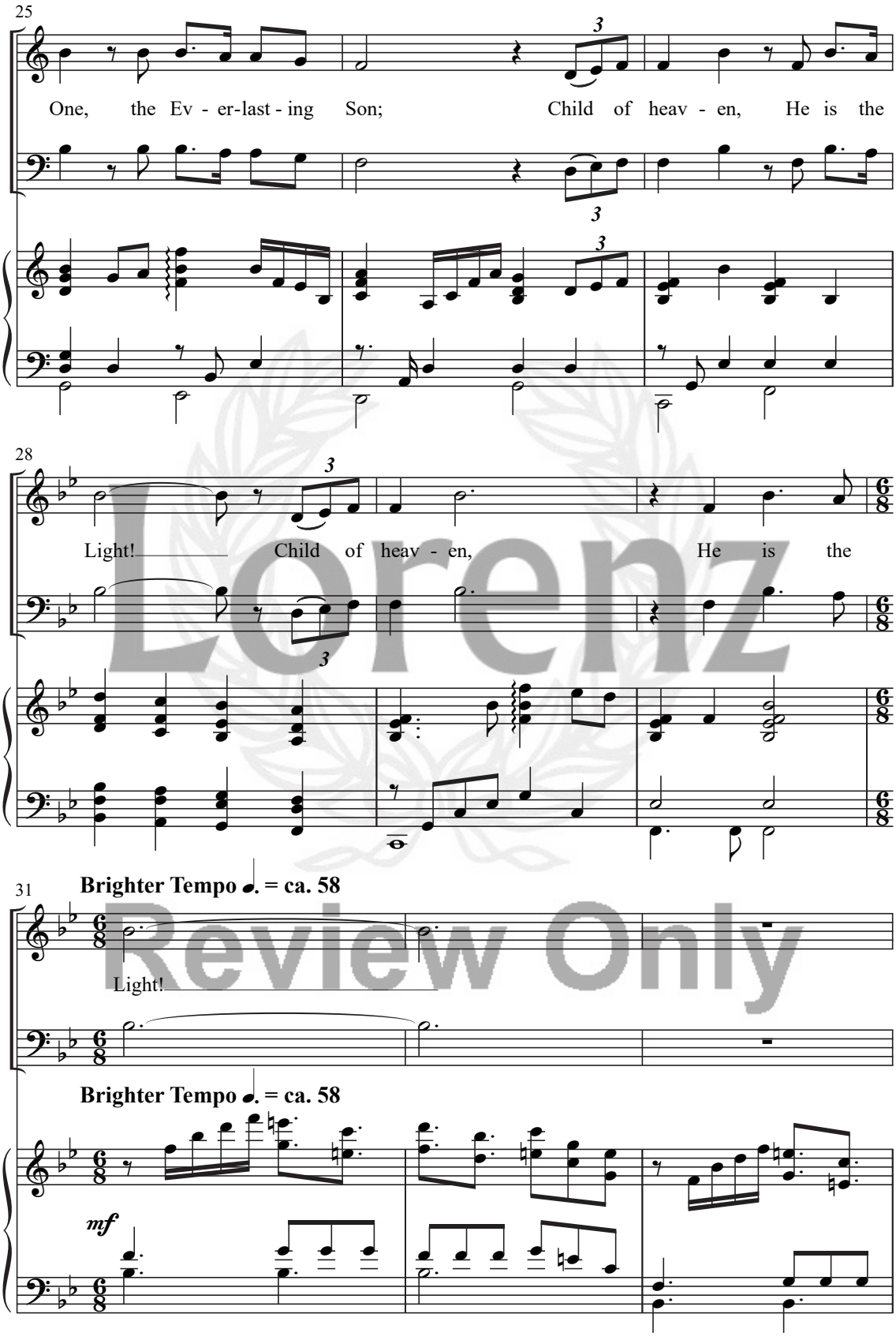

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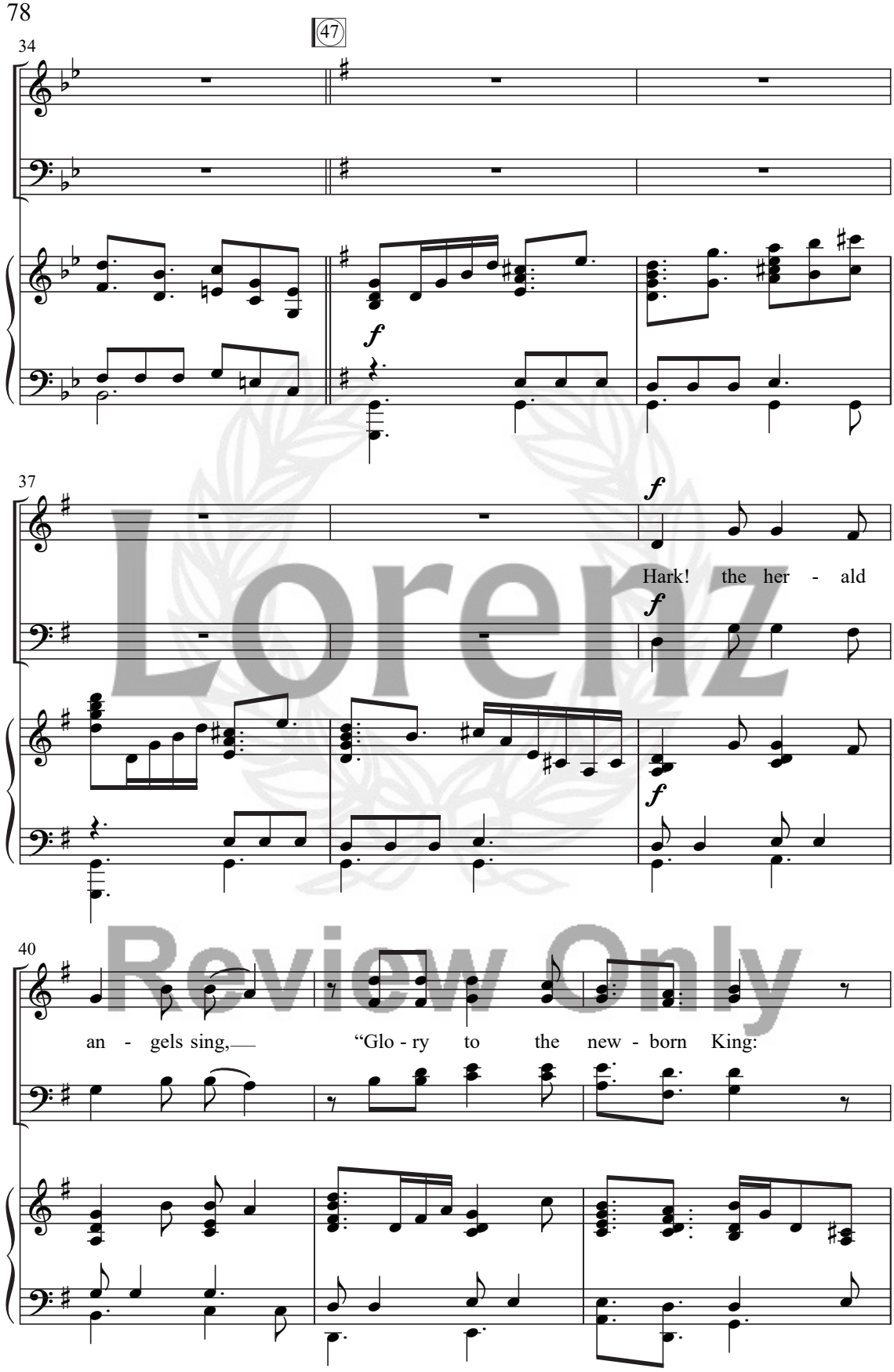

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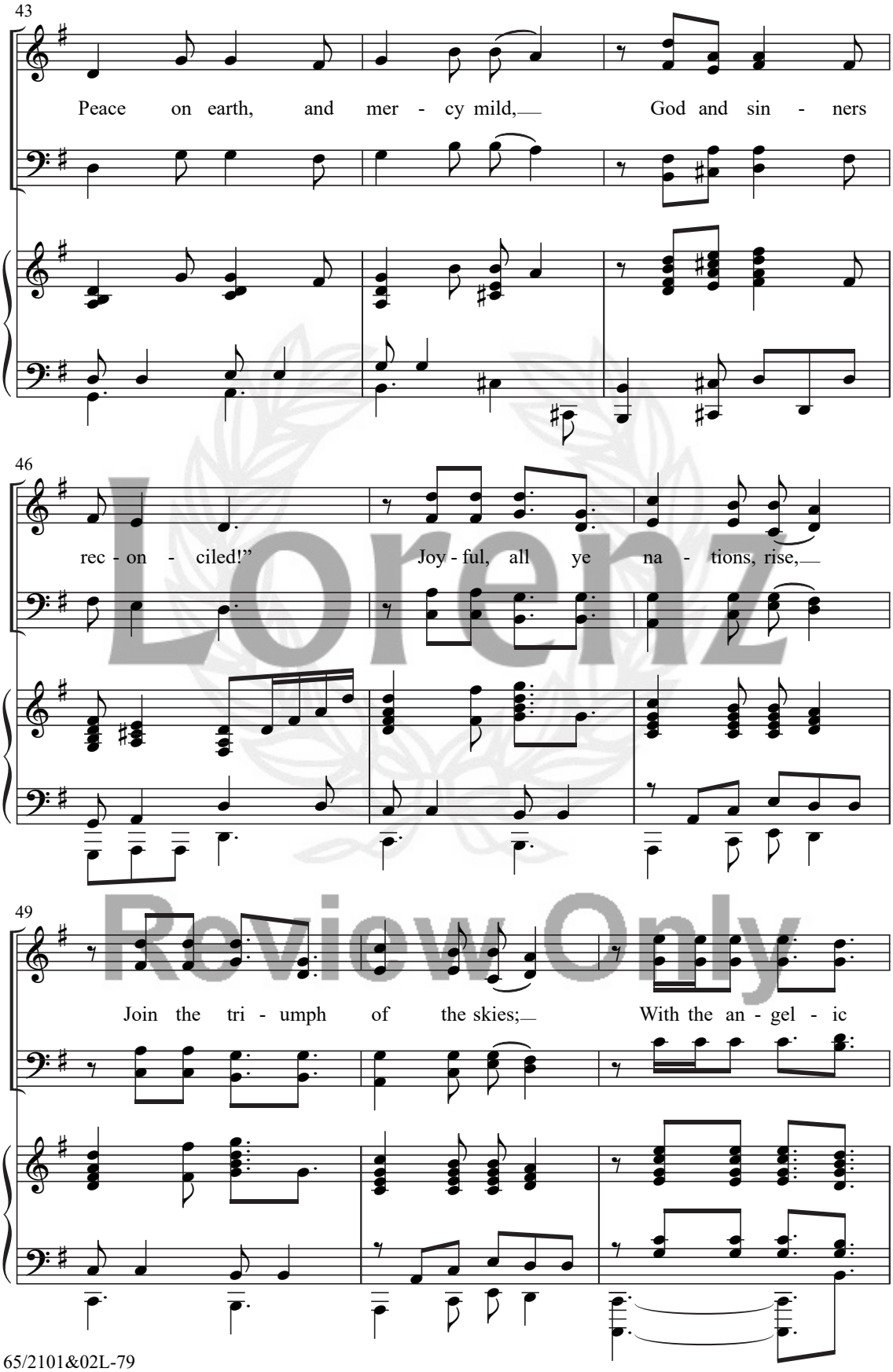

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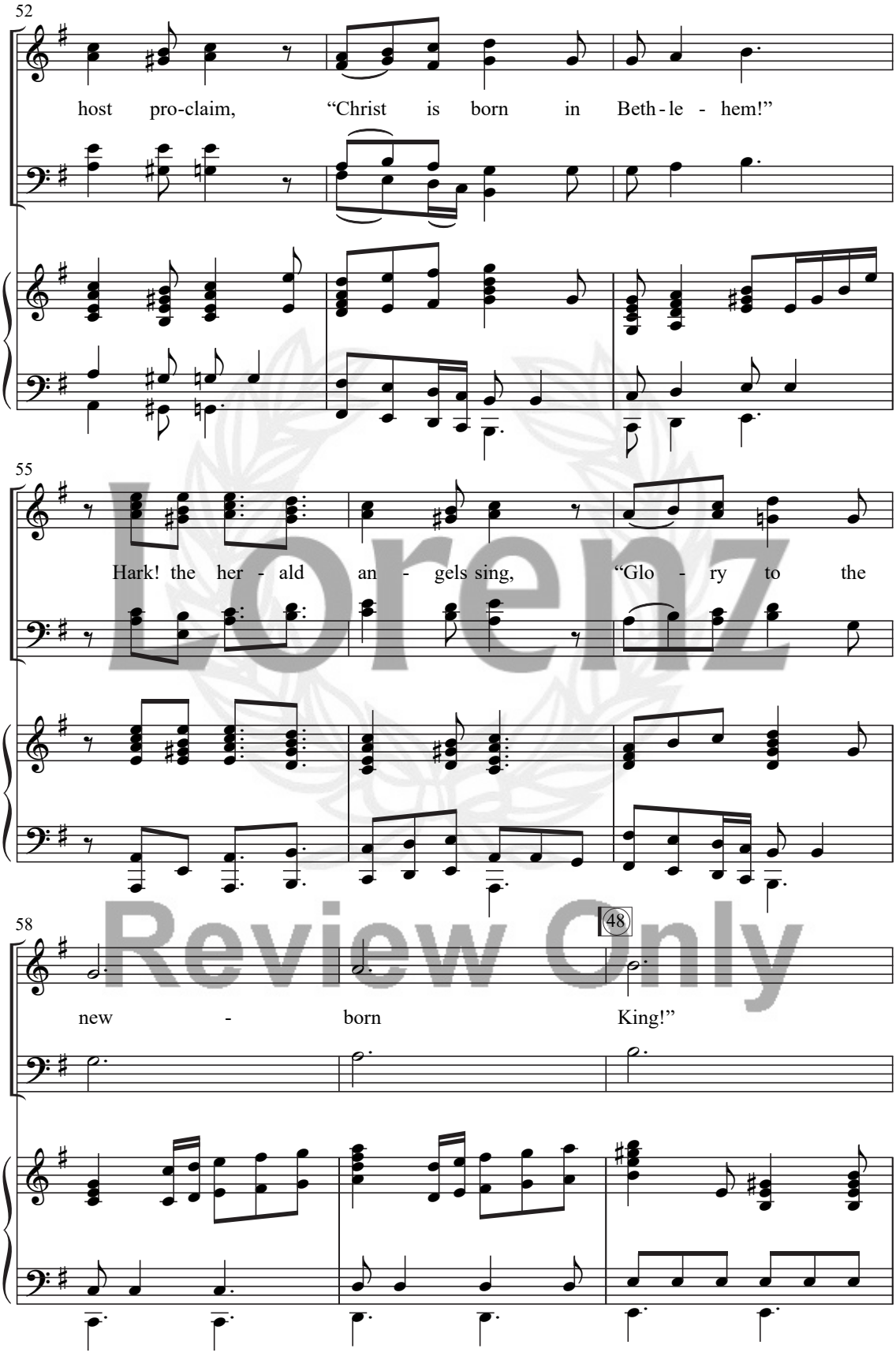

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