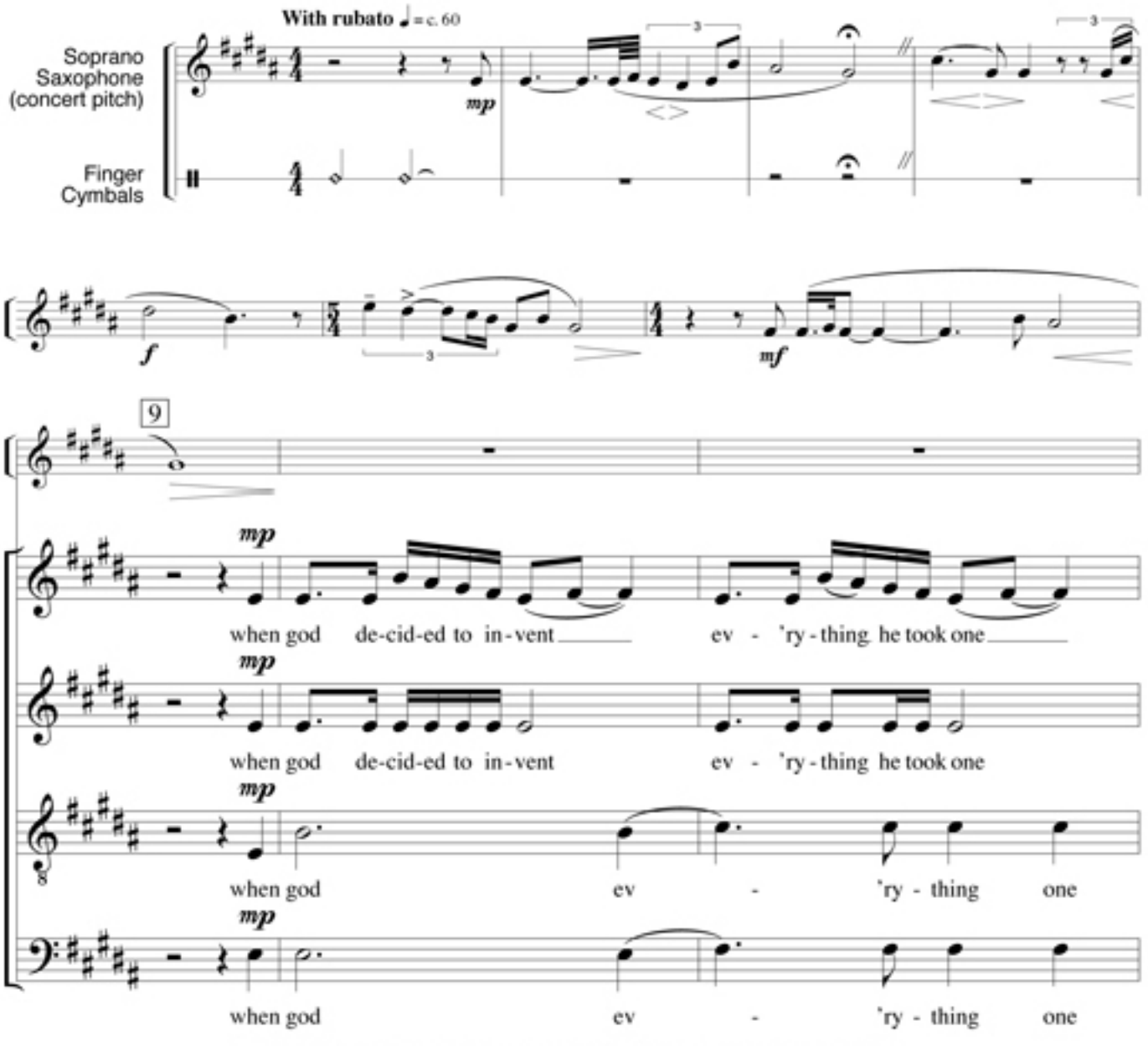
Commissioned by the Flower Mound High School Jaguar Chorale
Dr. Mark Rohwer, Conductor

when god decided to invent

For Keith Koehlmoos and Dagan Hanson

E.E. Cummings — Joshua Shank



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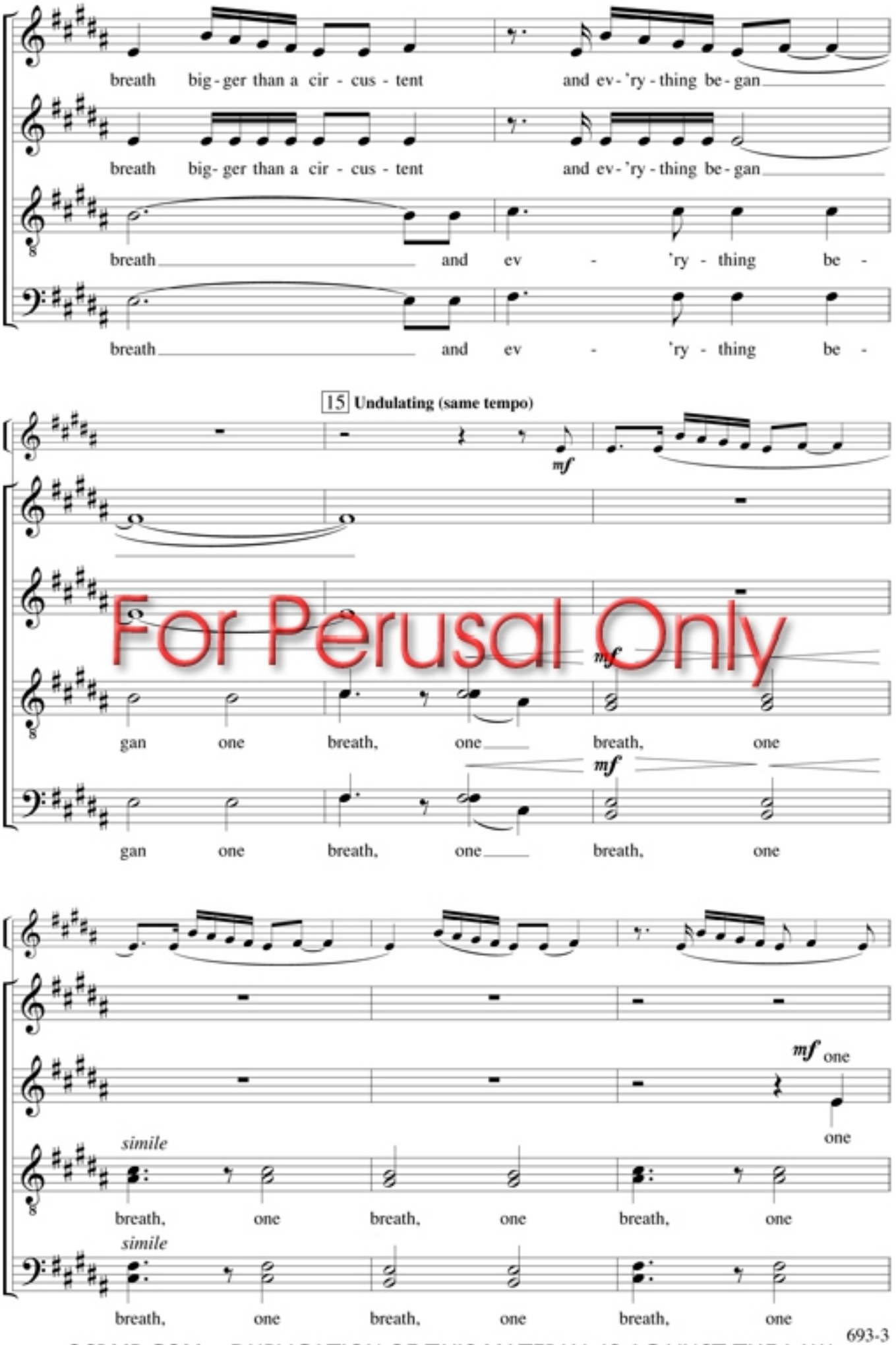

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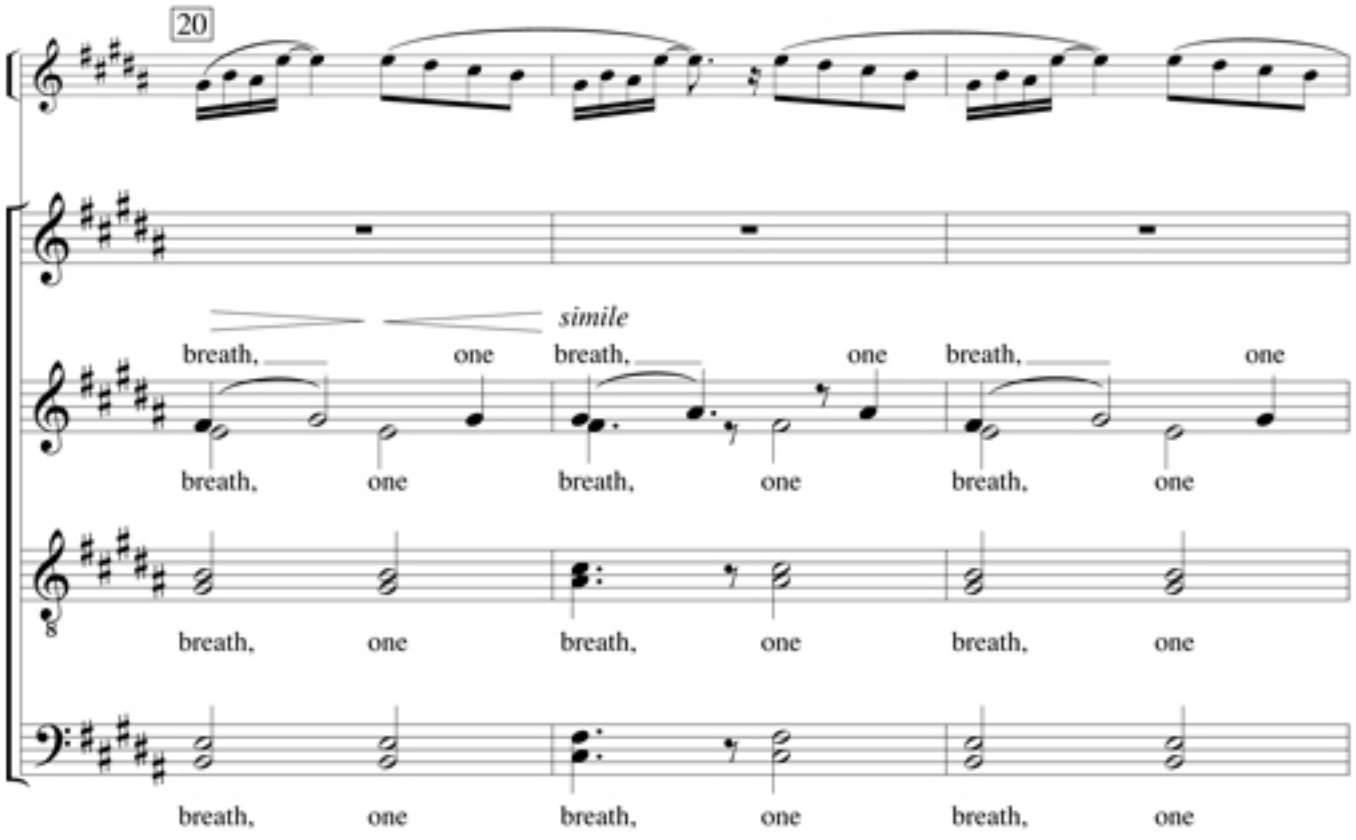

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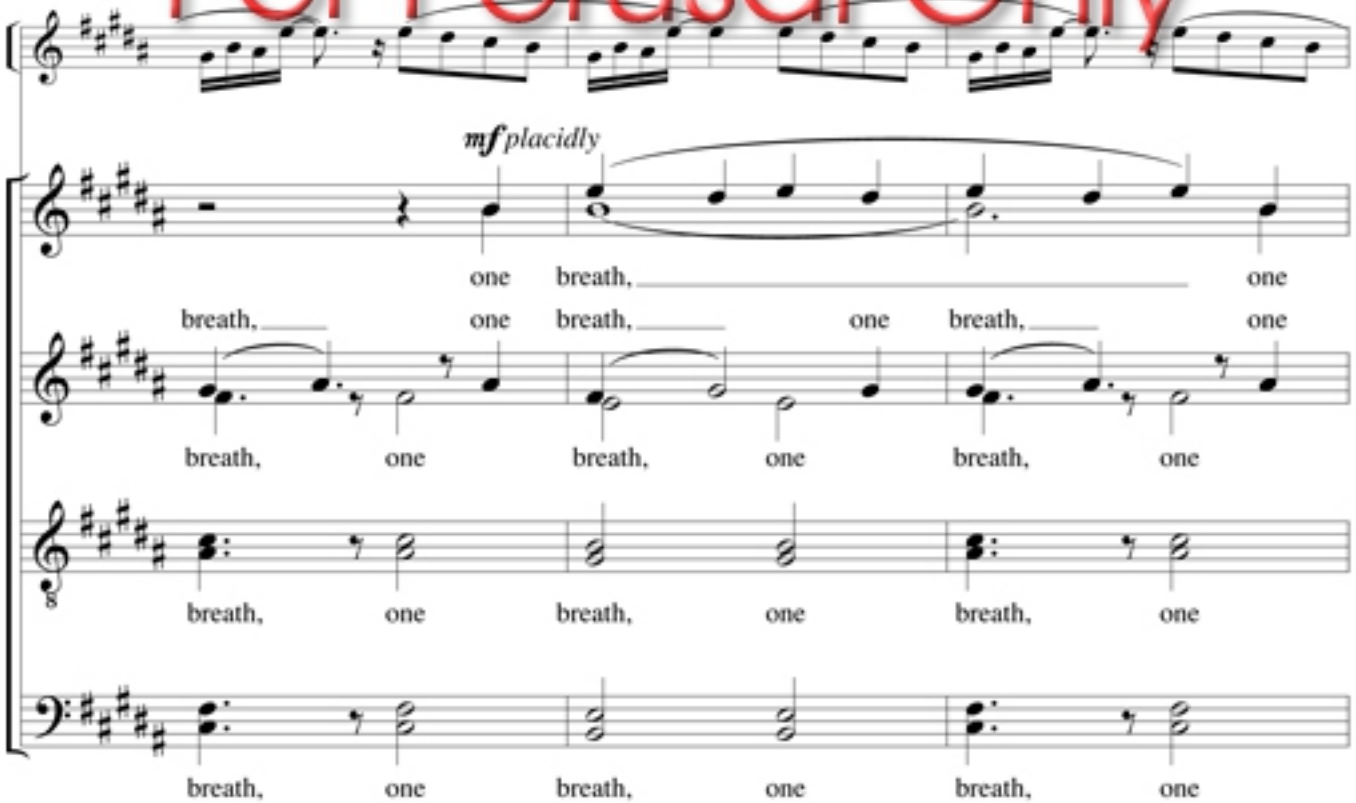

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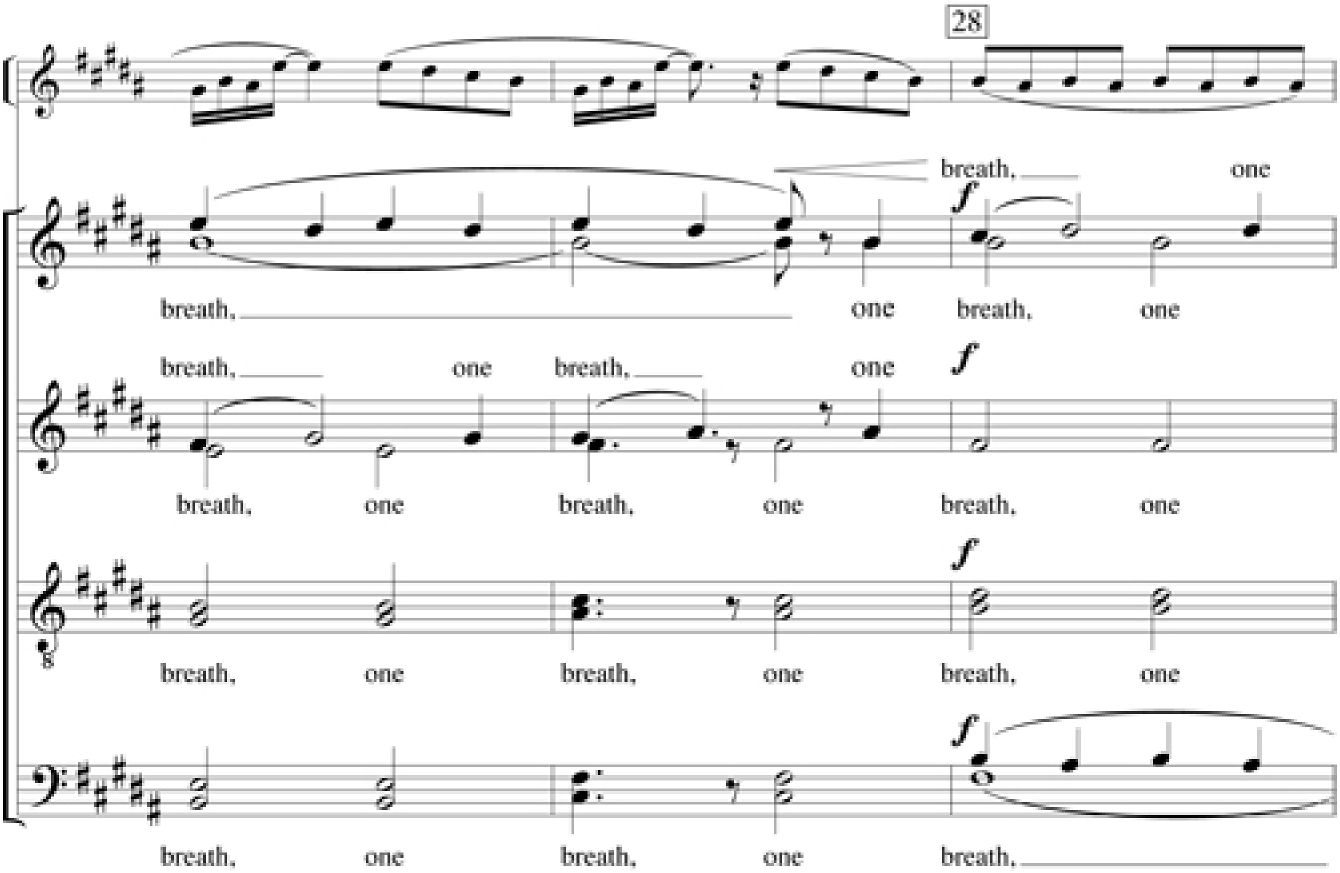

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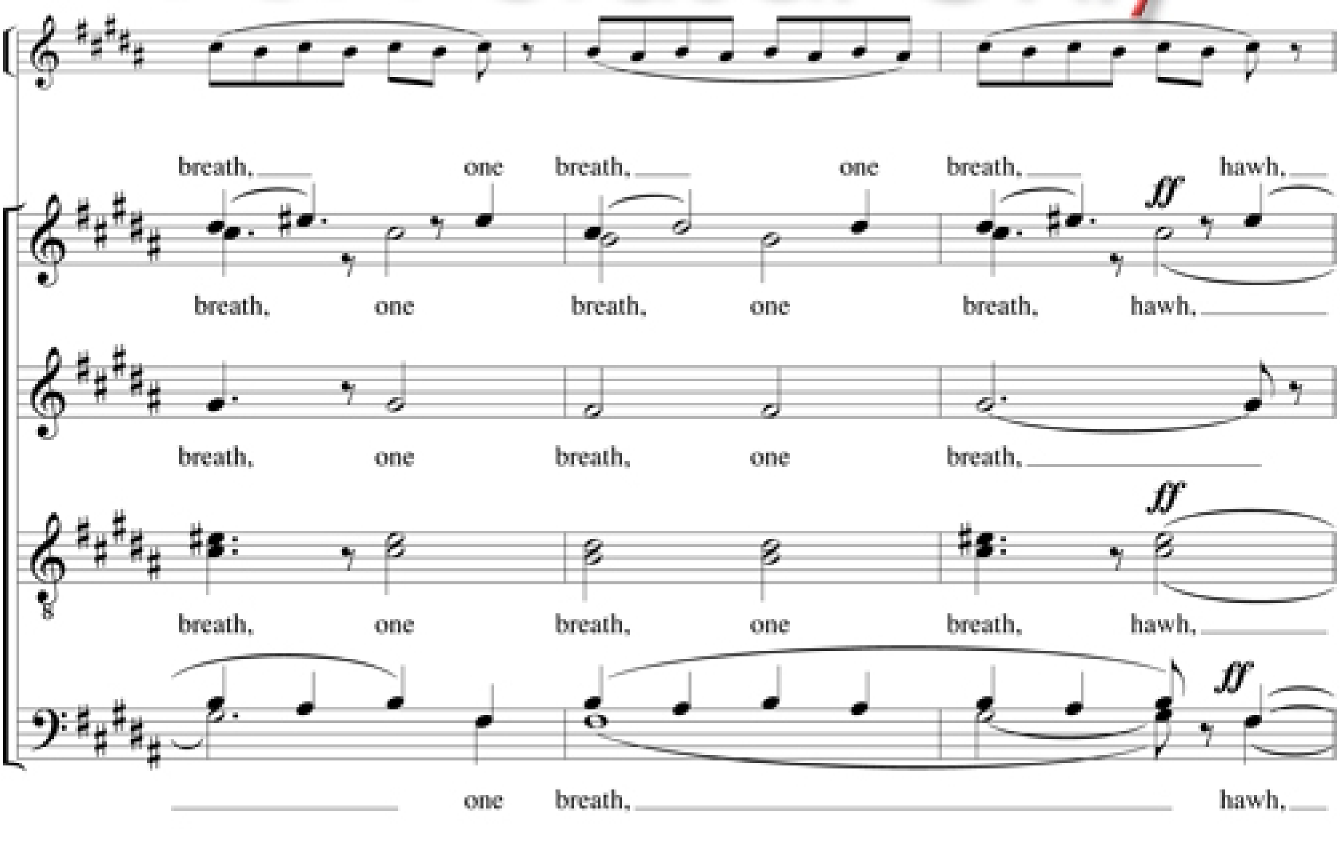

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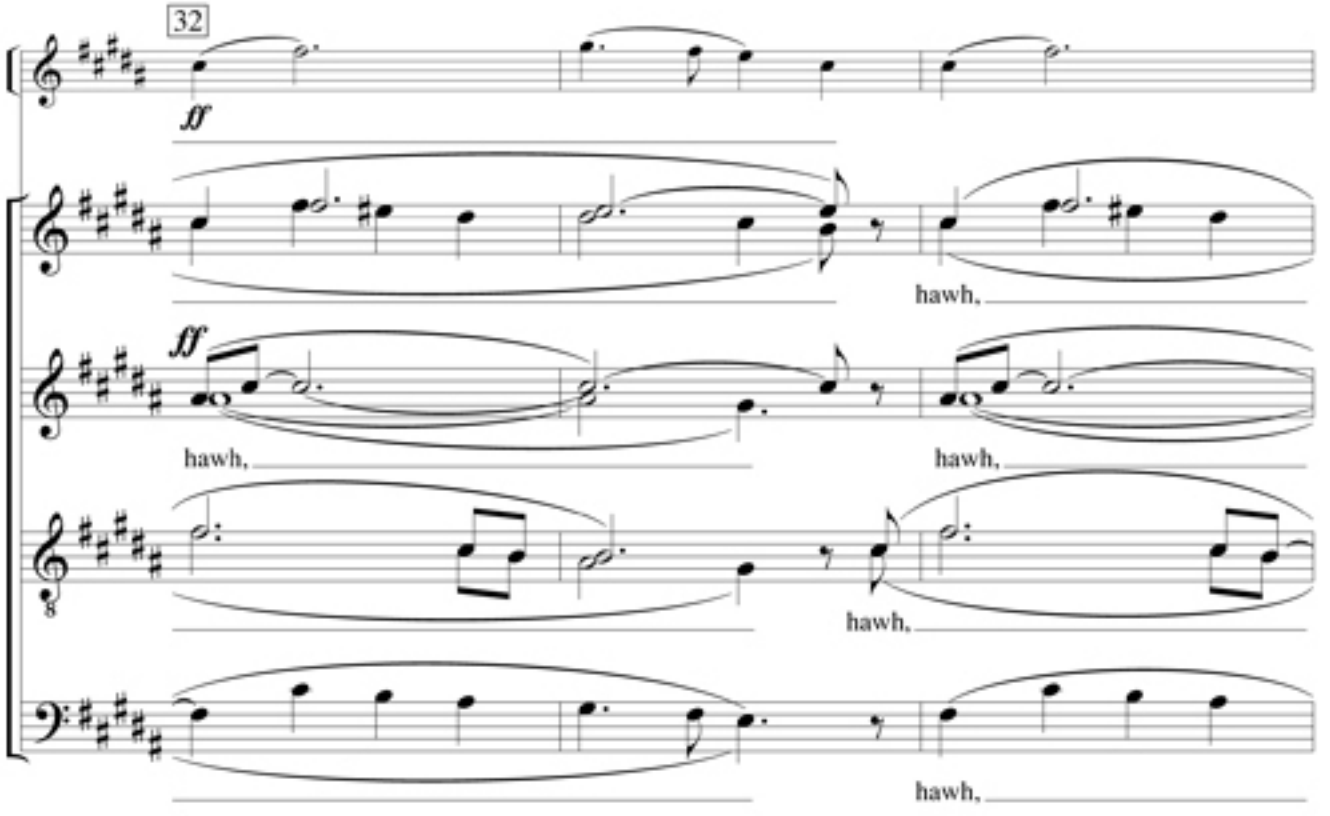

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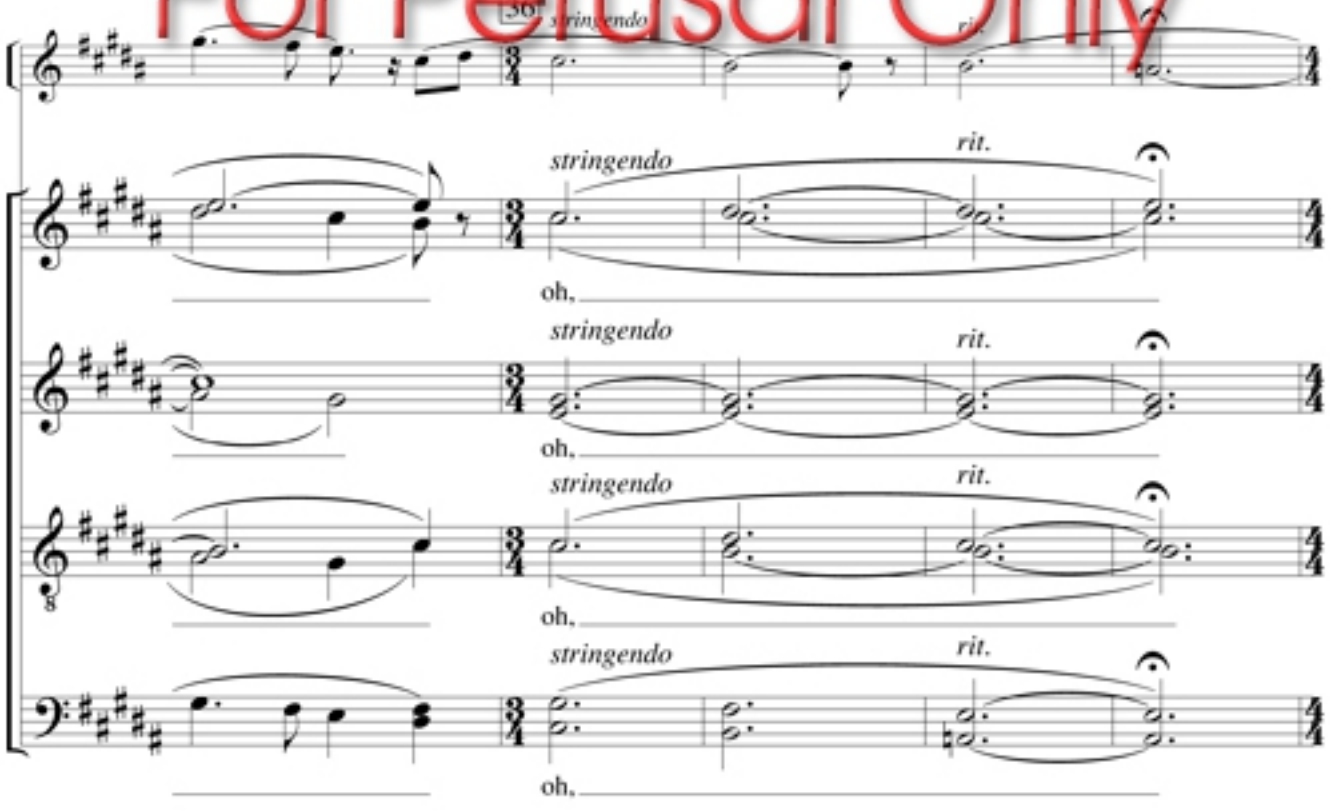

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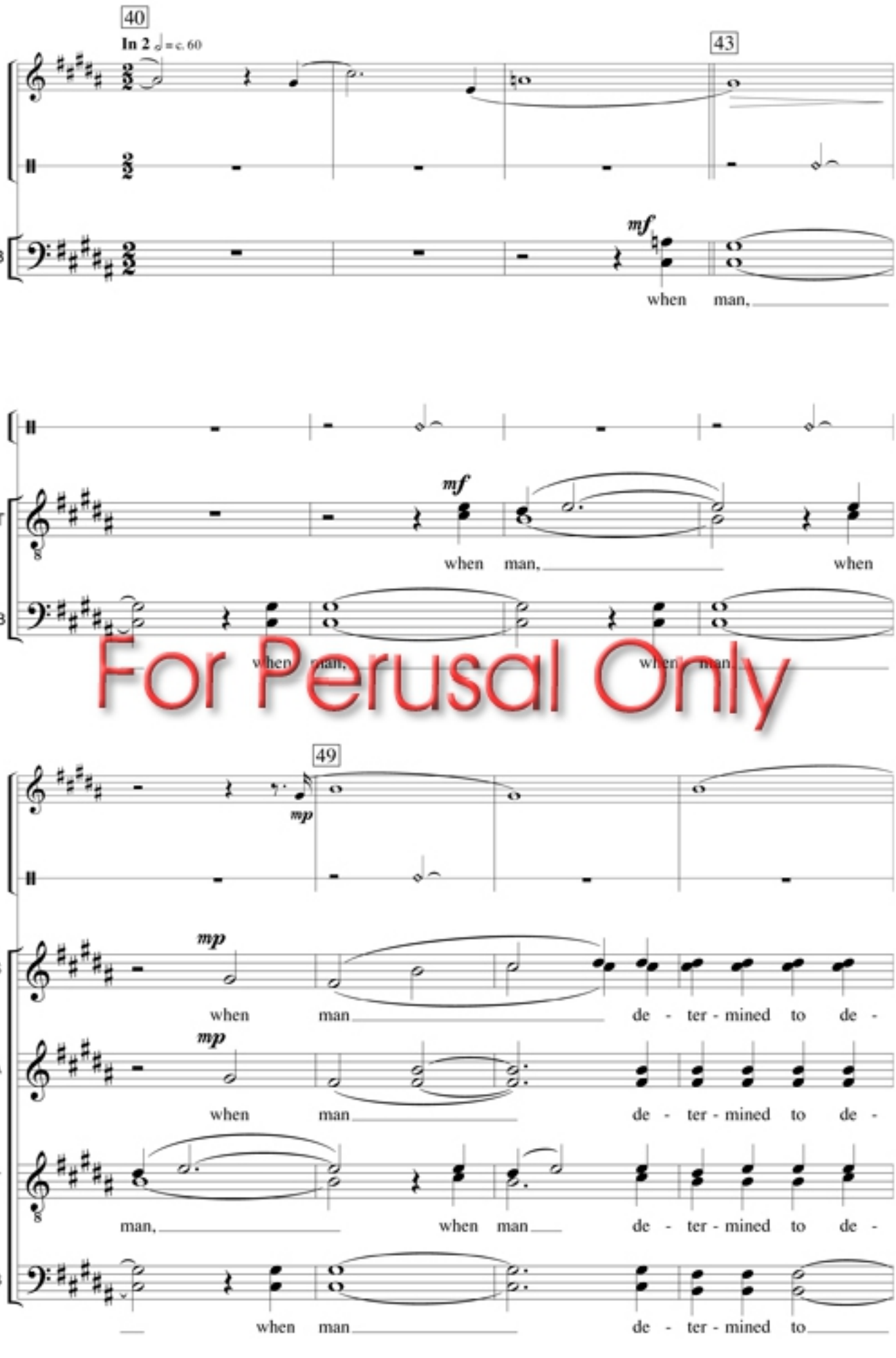

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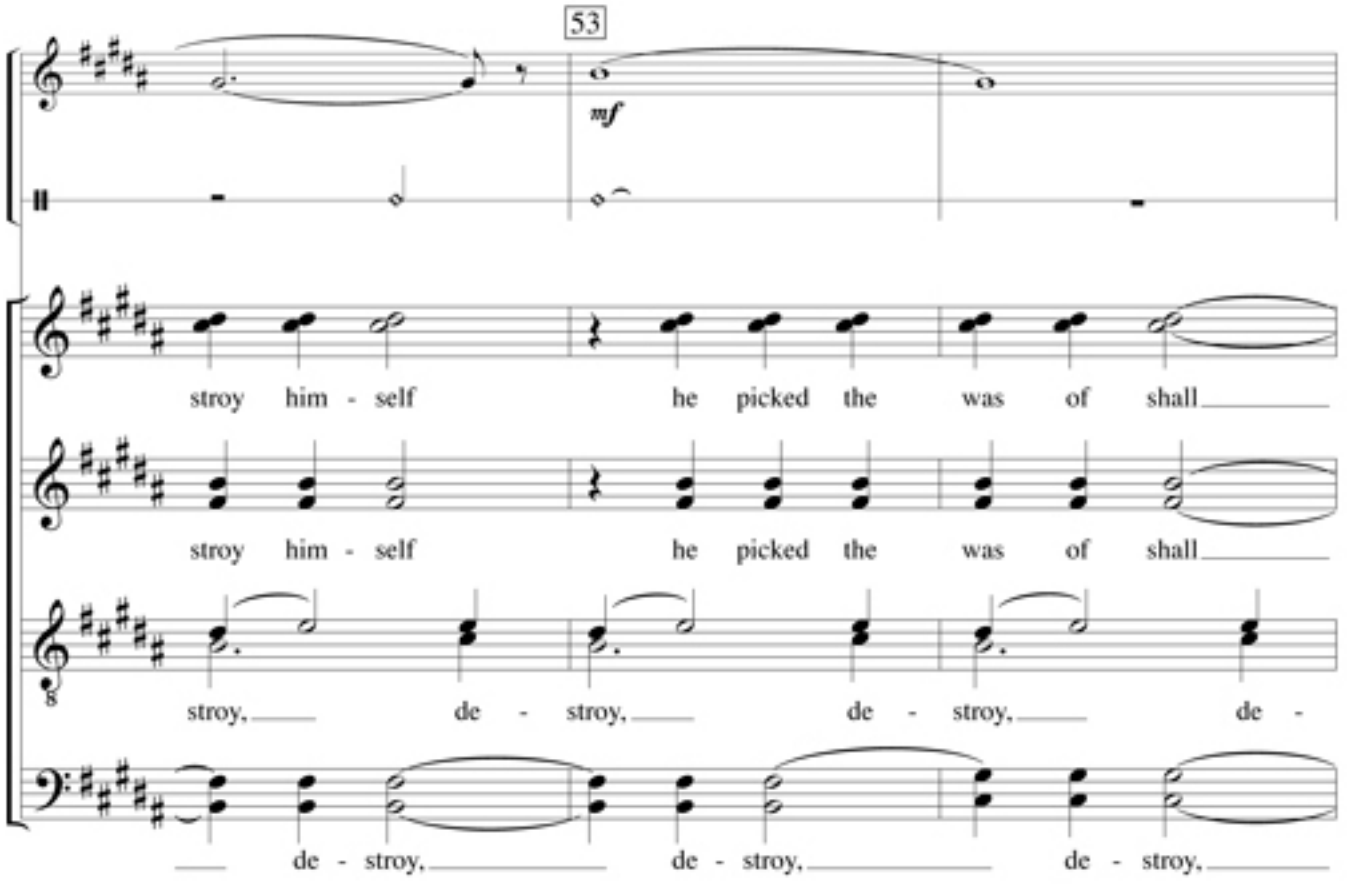

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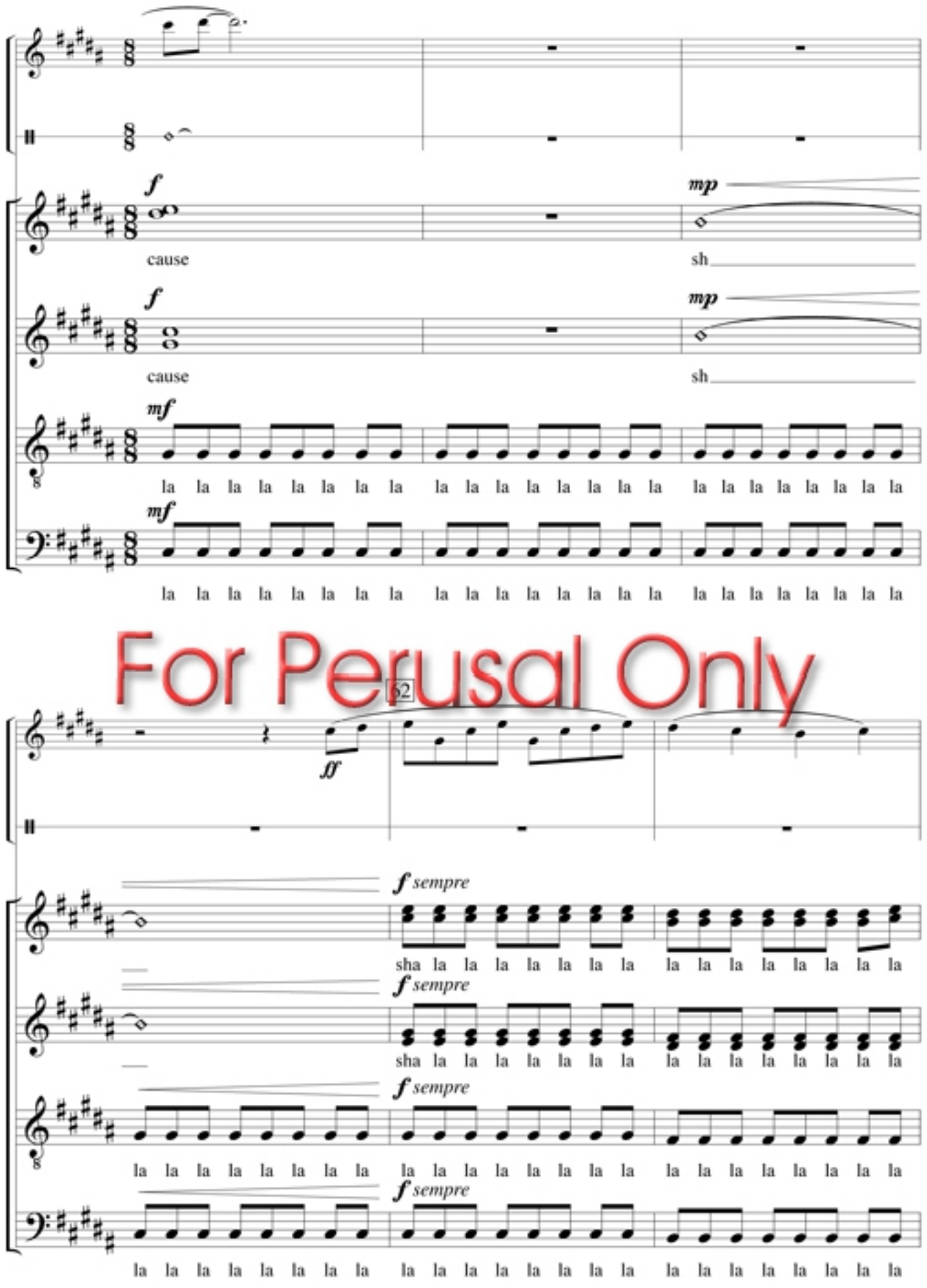

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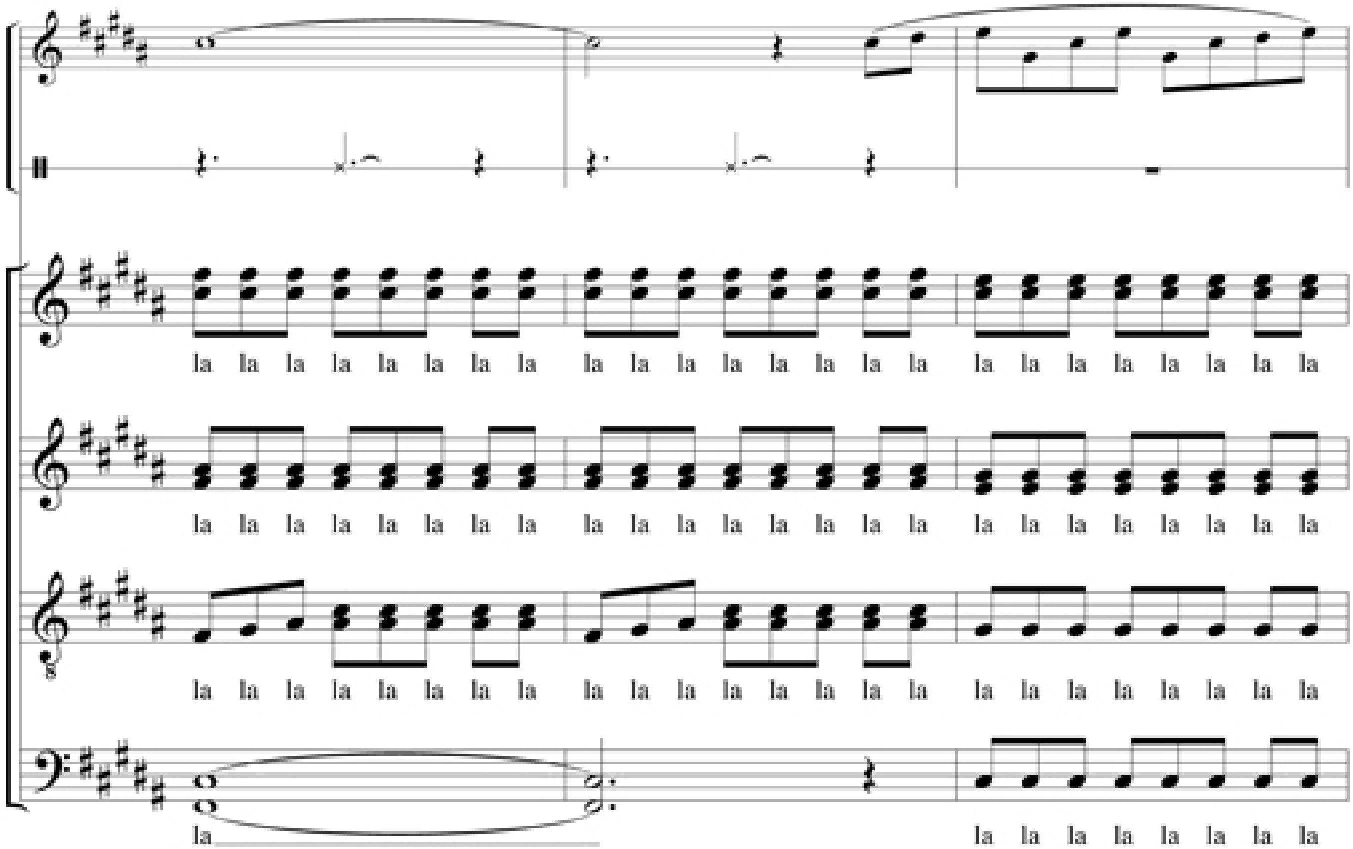

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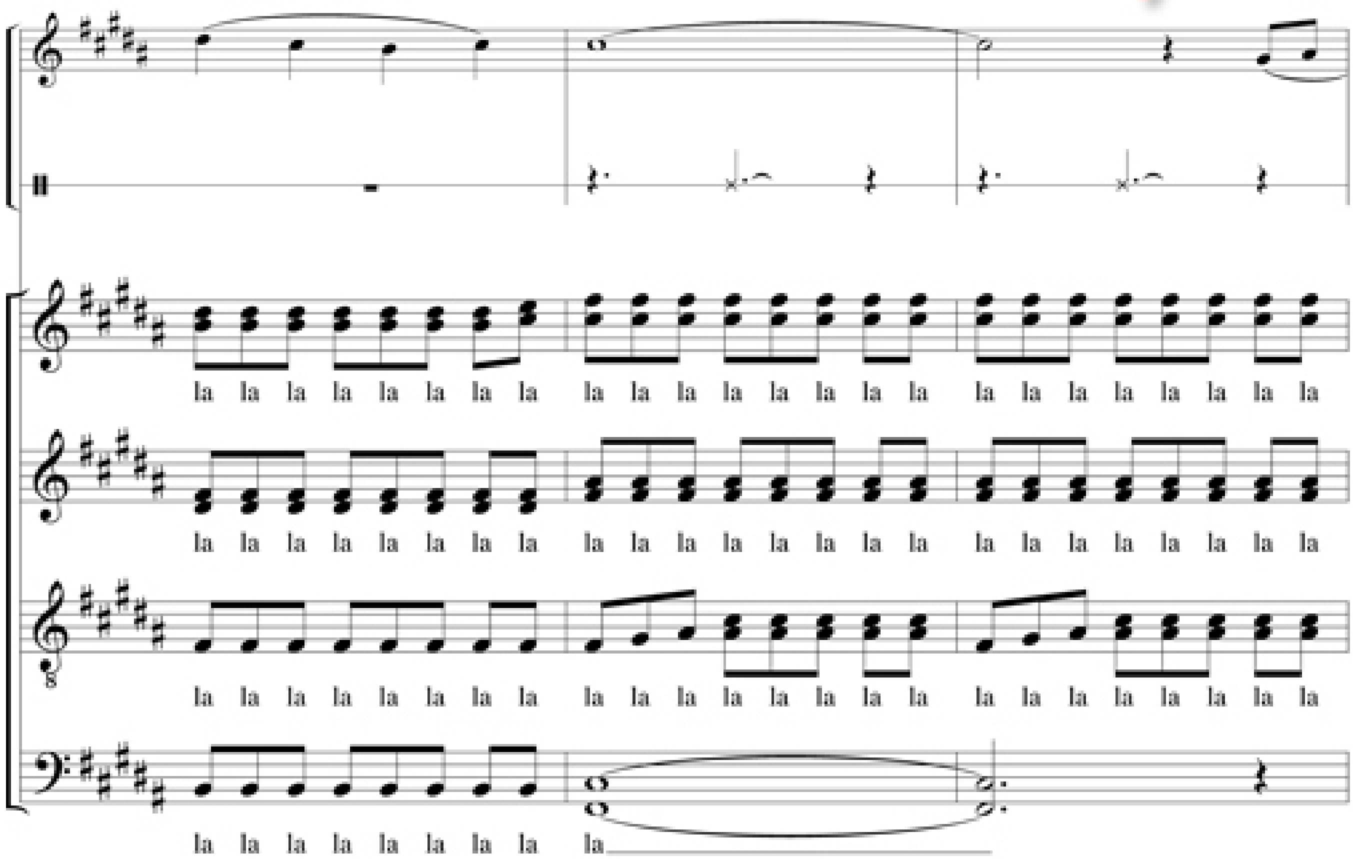

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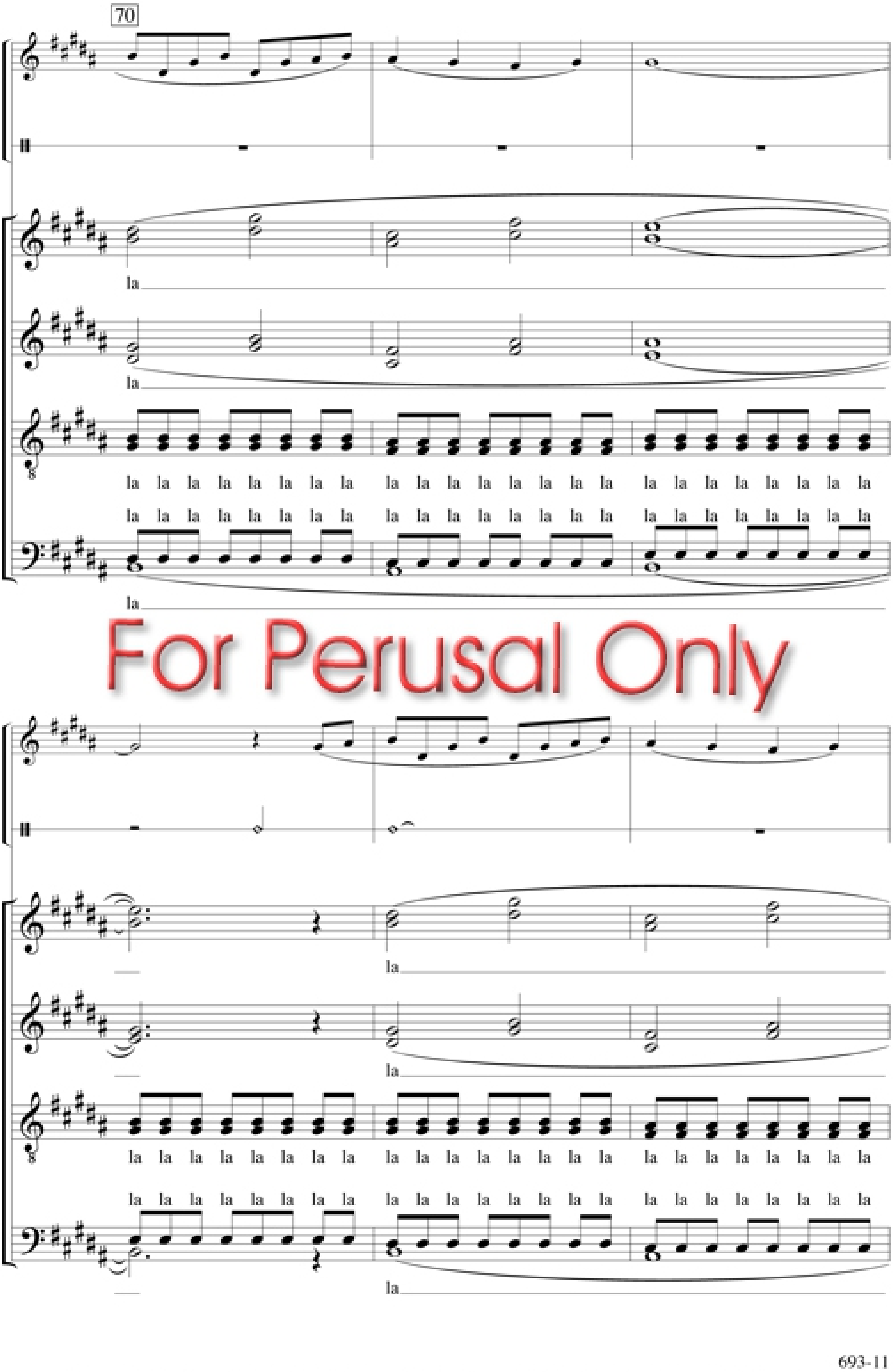

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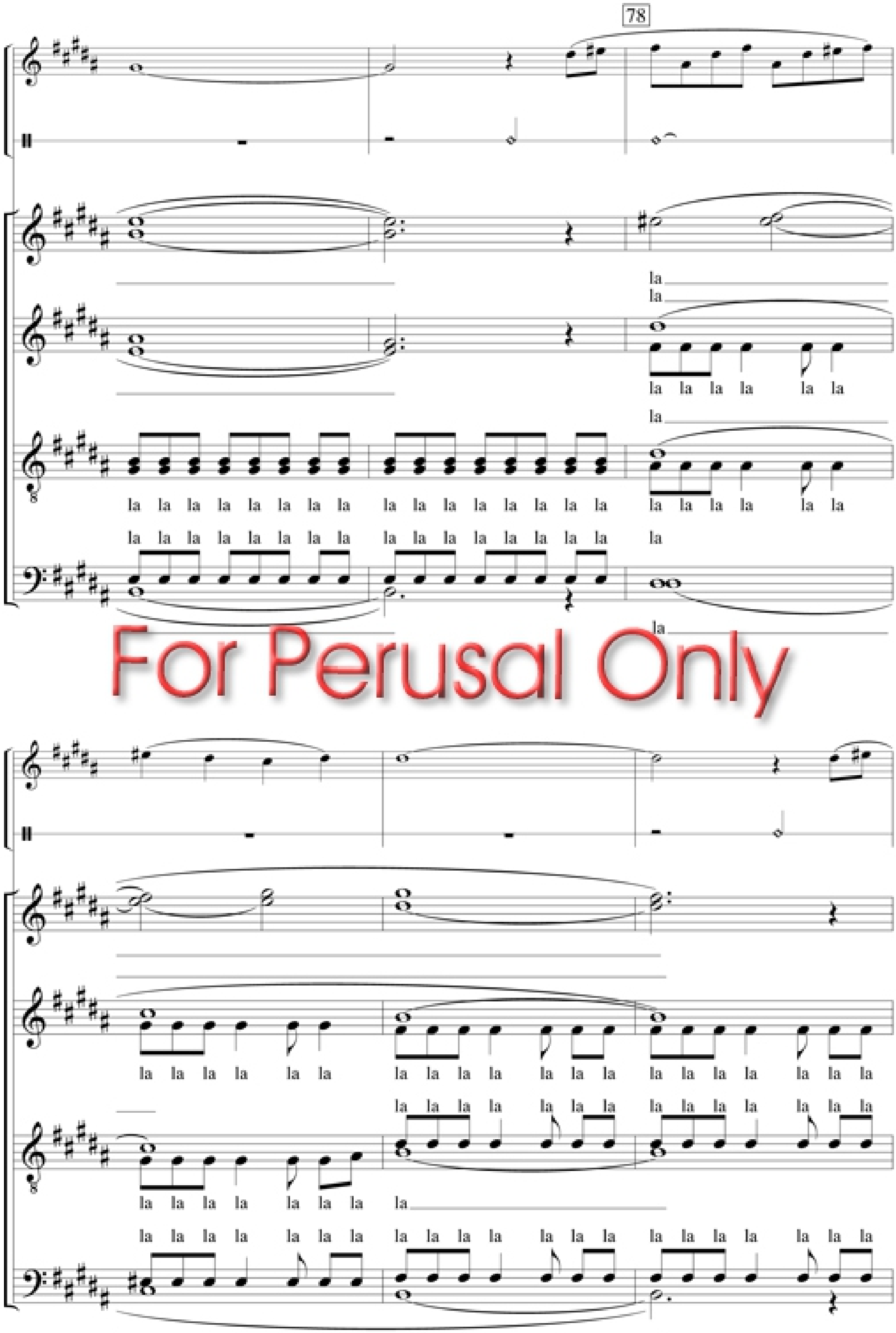

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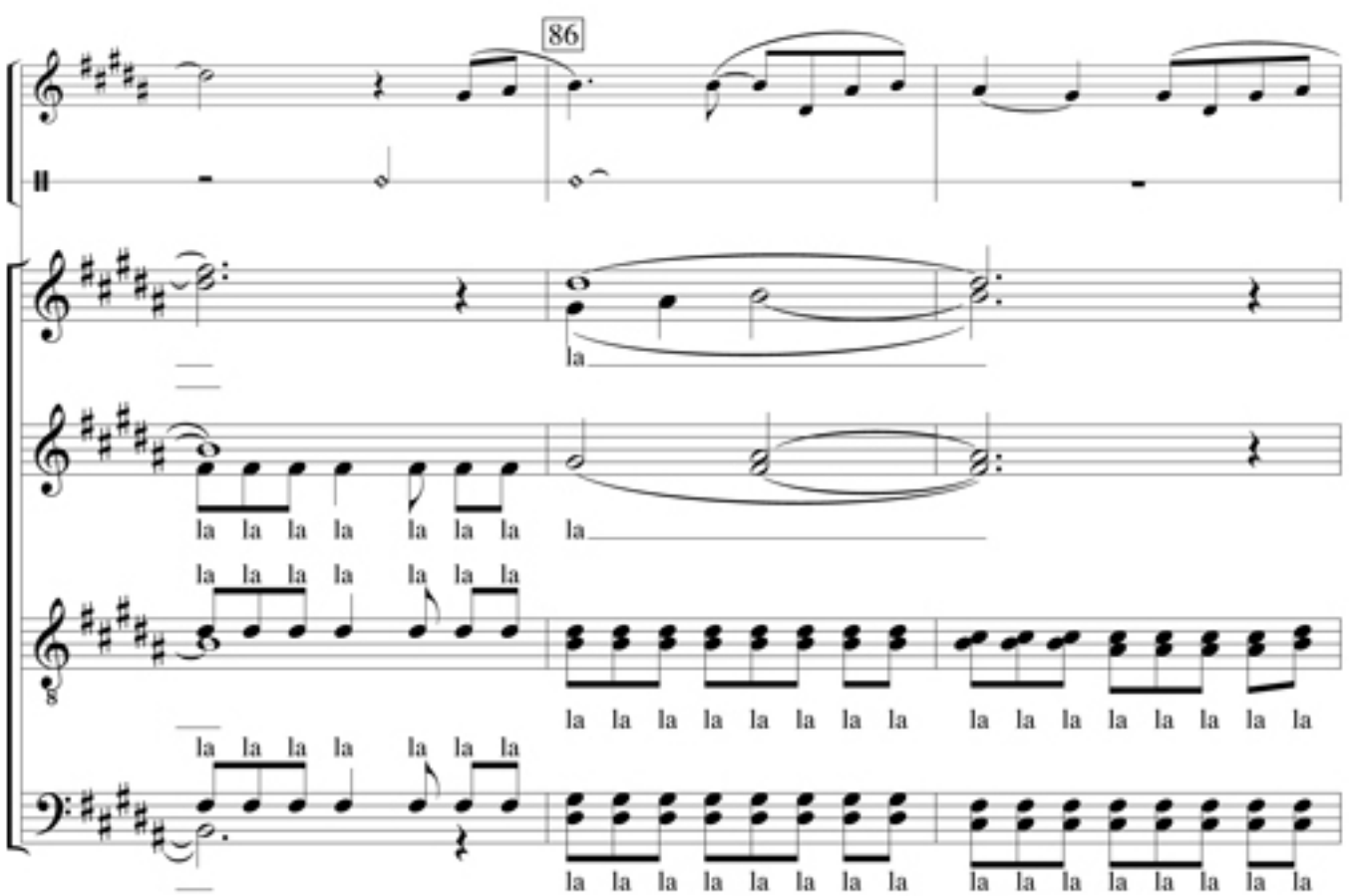

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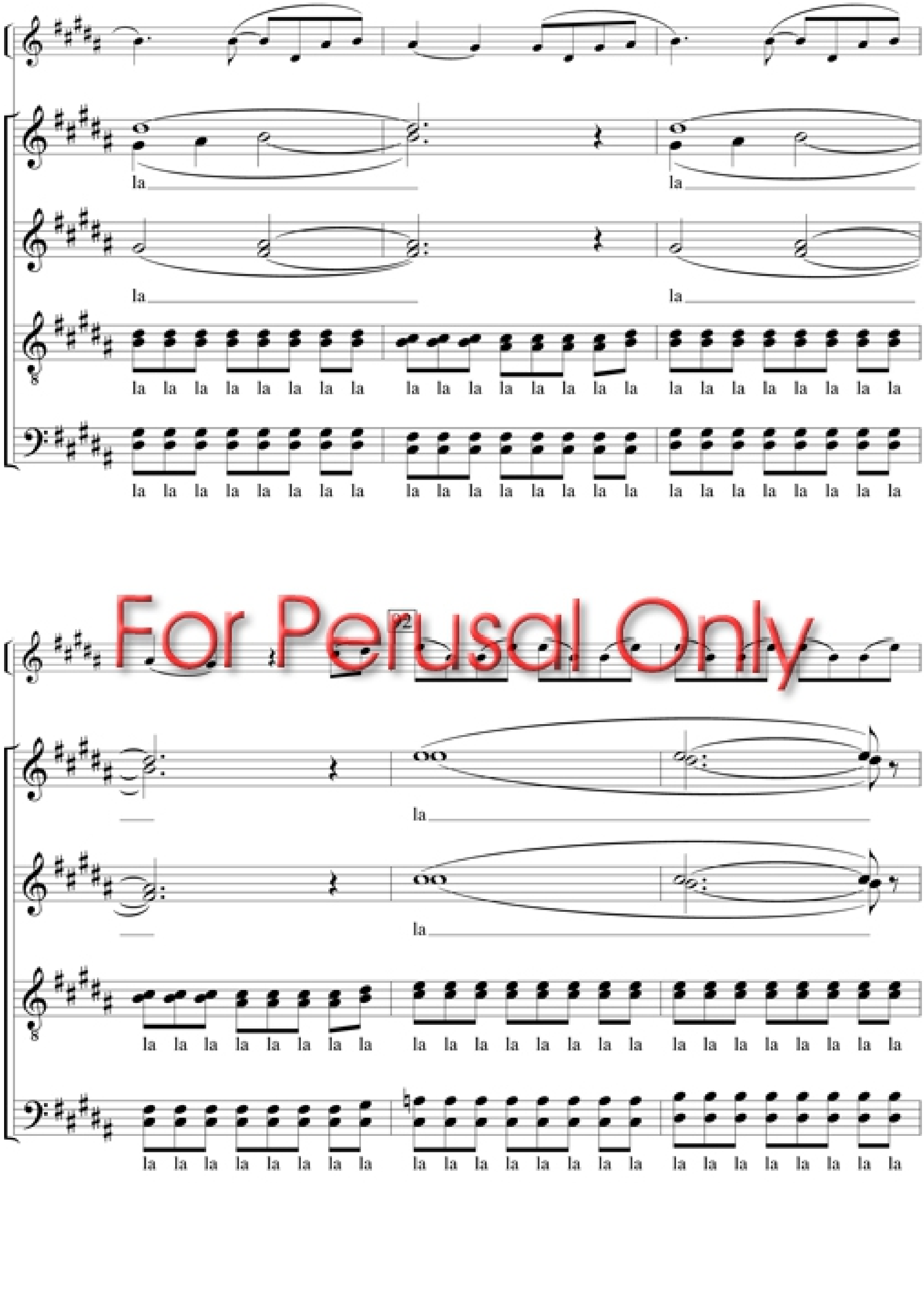

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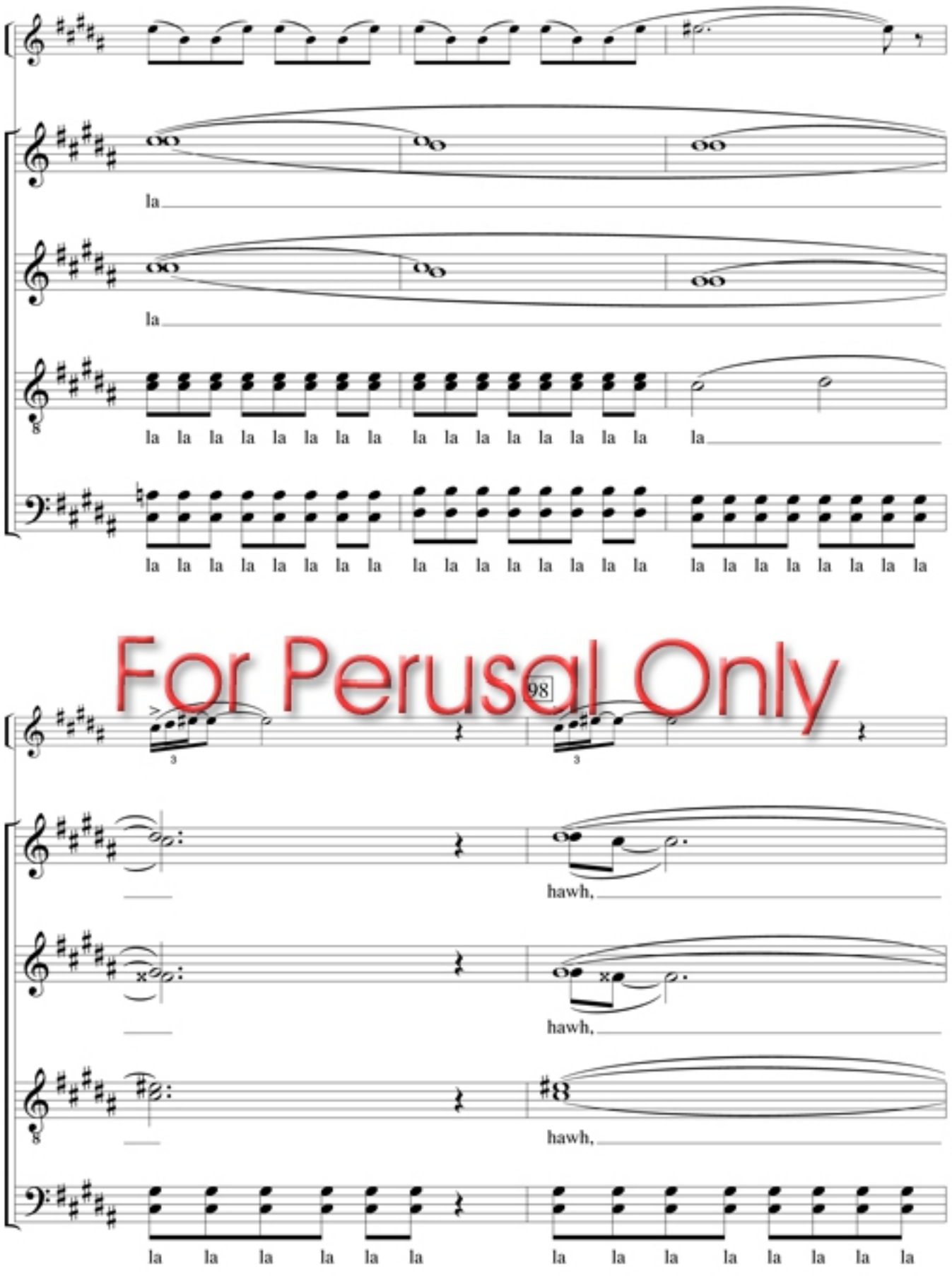

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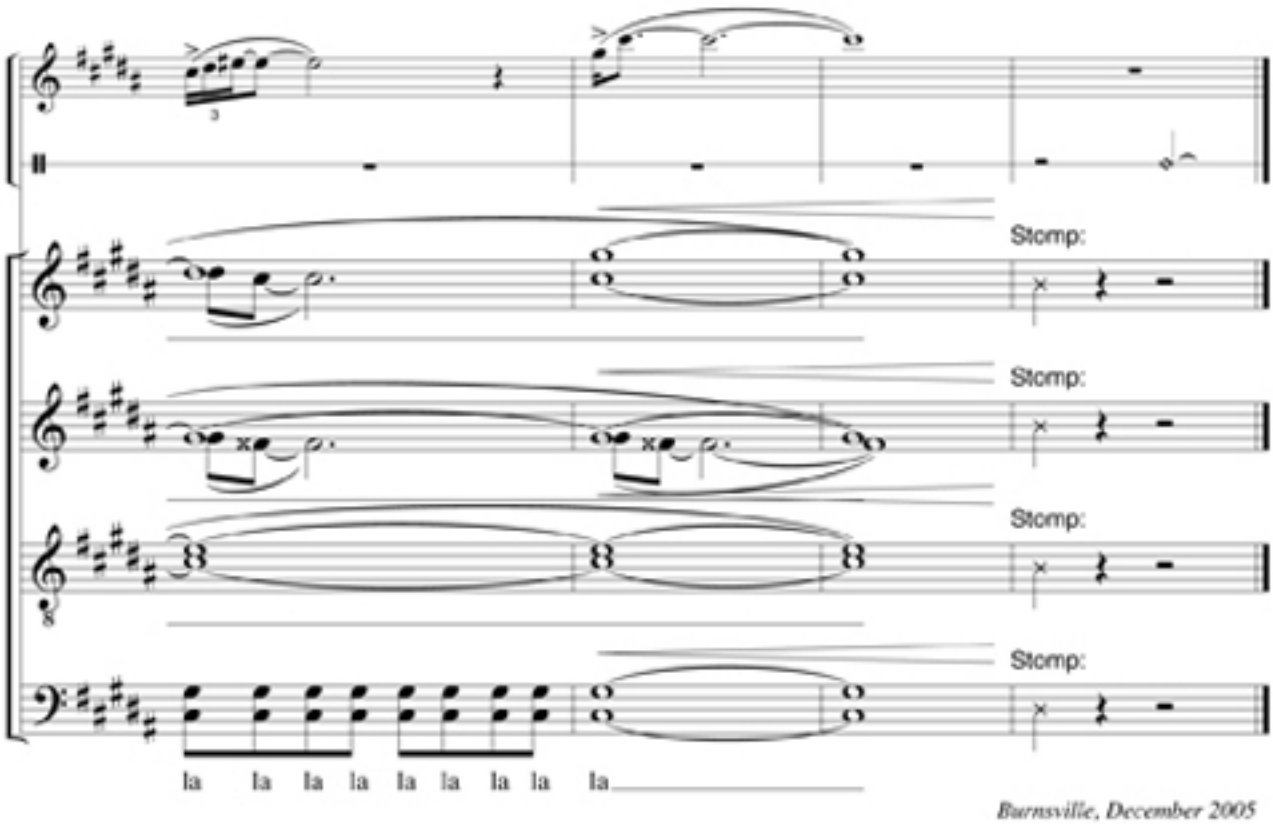

Burnsville, December 2005

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About the composer

Born in 1980, Joshua Shank is quickly becoming recognized as a talented and innovative young composer whose music has been widely performed by high school and professional ensembles alike. He received his undergraduate degree in Vocal Music Education from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

In 2002, Joshua became the youngest composer ever awarded the Raymond W. Brock Student Composition Award by the American Choral Directors Association. The winning piece, *Musica animam tangens* (written at the age of 20), was premiered at the 2003 ACDA National Convention.

Visit *www.sbmp.com* to listen to a recording of this piece and to see *and* hear additional titles by Joshua Shank.

The Text

By E.E. Cummings (1894-1962)
From *1 x 1 [One Times One]*

when god decided to invent
everything he took one
breath bigger than a circustent
and everything began

when man determined to destroy
himself he picked the was
of shall and finding only why
smashed it into because

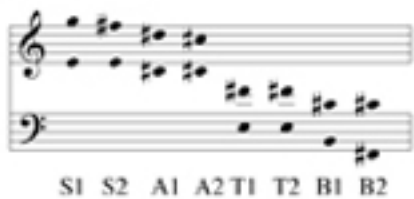
Note from the composer

I thought a lot about what the creation of the world would actually be like. Would it be something so vast and epic that it might be perceived with some degree of violence? Or would it be meticulously planned and lovingly, playfully executed? I chose the latter and, because of that, my "creation" music is more intimate than larger-than-life. The last chord (and what comes after it) is meant to sound "transformative." For some reason, the ending is always the last thing I write and by the time I got there the arc of the piece was "creation/destruction/re-creation." This final chord is the creator taking control of the creation again.

Performance notes

The closer the harmonies, the less vibrato should be used. Staggered breathing should be employed throughout with no apparent break in the musical line unless specified.

Range



Soprano saxophone part: SBMP 693.1

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