Michal Dawson Connor

There is a Balm in Gilead

FOR SATB CHOIR WITH SOPRANO AND BARITONE SOLOS

SWIRLY MUSIC
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for SATB choir with soprano and baritone solos

An indomitable sense of hope, and unvarnished sorrow, permeate each line and melody of these unforgettable songs- forged in the anvil of abject misery and despair, aching for freedom's light.

Humiliated beyond all human reckoning, and given no respite from the daily drudgery of endless toil- these fiercely resilient souls somehow persevered, despite the harshest obstacles- leaving behind a true golden legacy of words and music to cherish.
In his famous autobiography, Frederick Douglass wrote:

> "*Slaves sing most when they are most unhappy. The songs of the slave represent the sorrows of his heart; and he is relieved by them, only as an aching heart is relieved by its tears.*"

I am deeply honored to present these musical footprints of my proud ancestors- and hope that by singing them, we pause to remember the undaunted courage and grit of the men and women who originally composed them.

— MICHAL DAWSON CONNOR

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for President Barack Obama

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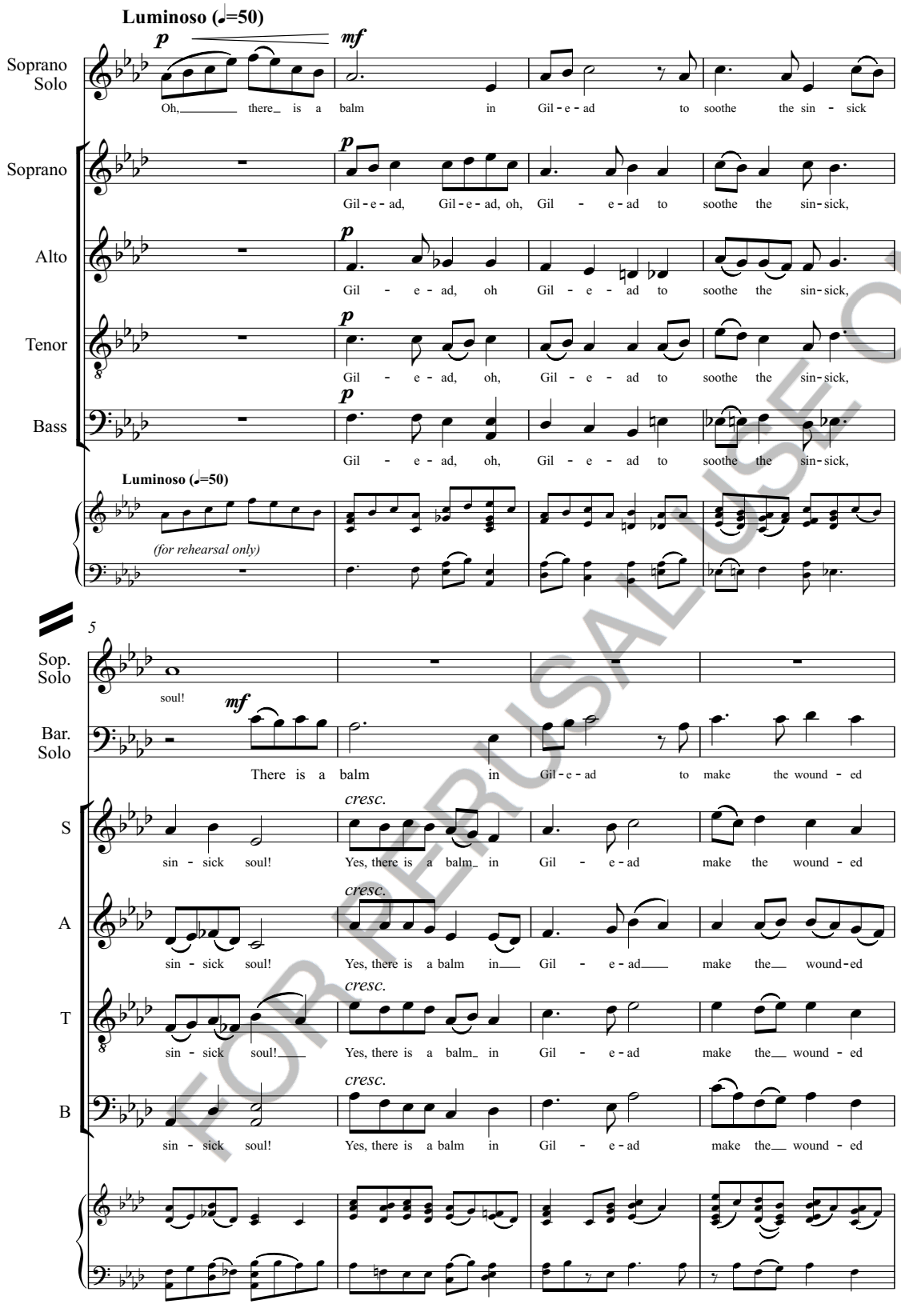
Spiritual

for SATB choir with soprano & baritone solos

Arr. Michal Dawson Connor

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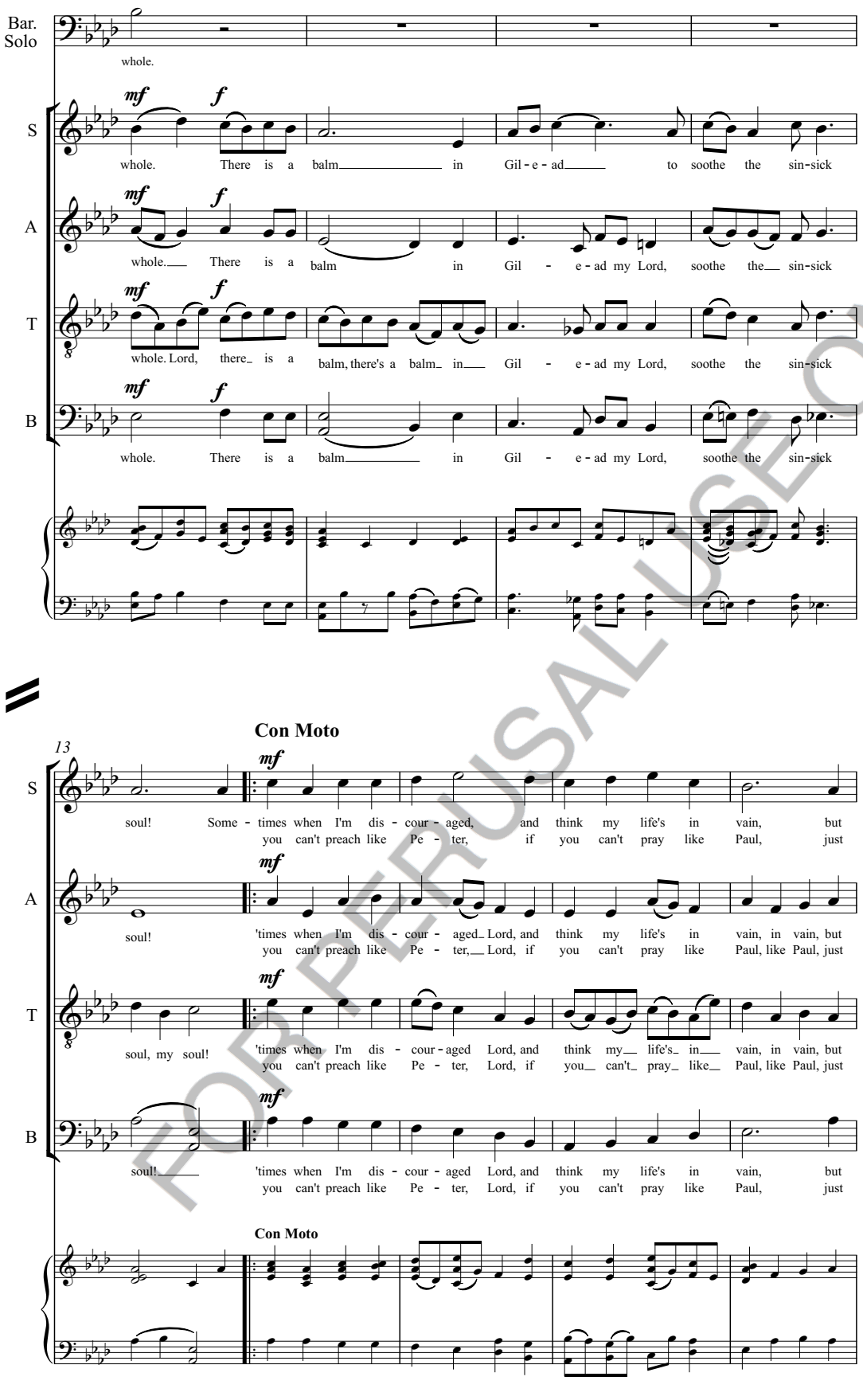
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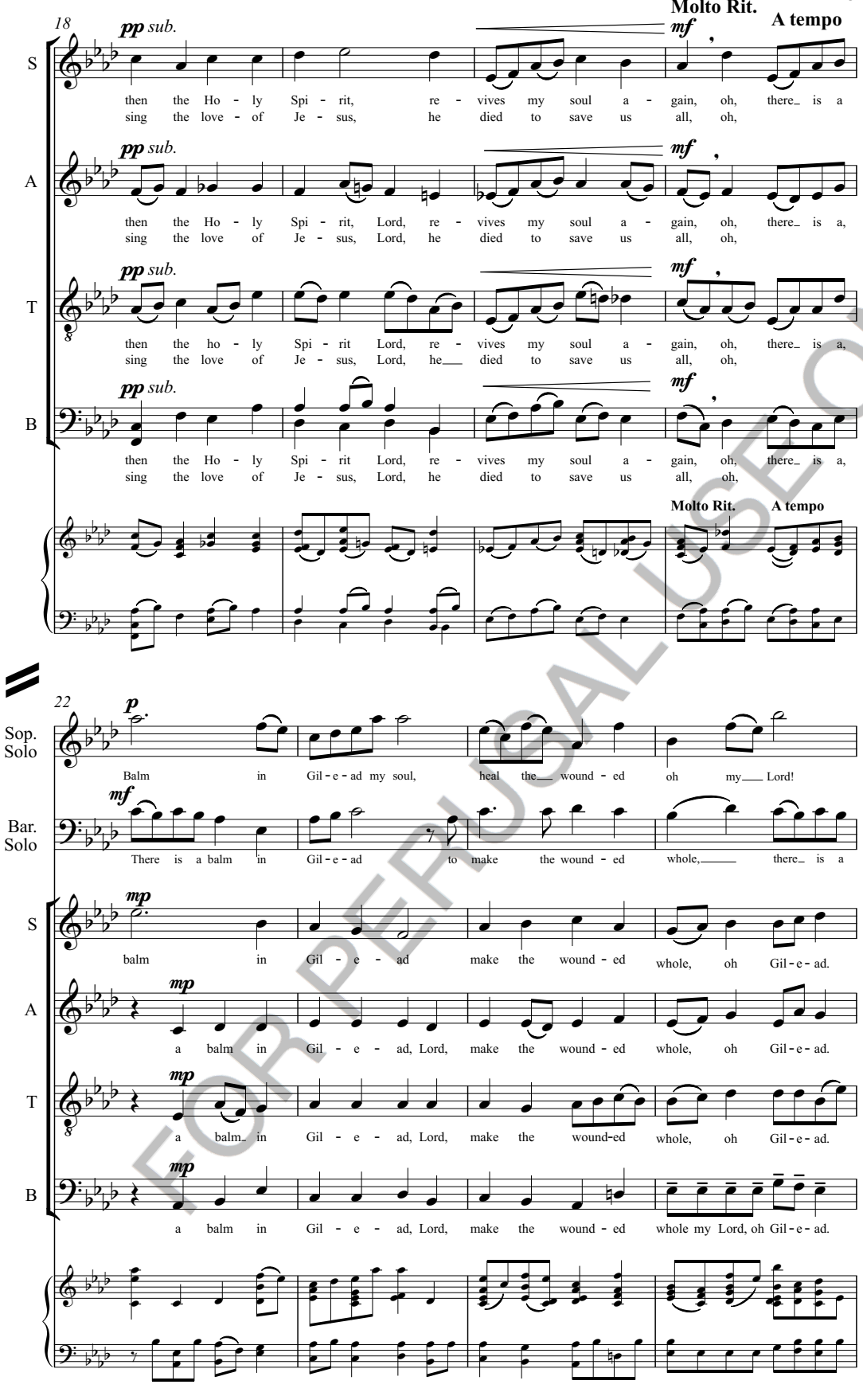
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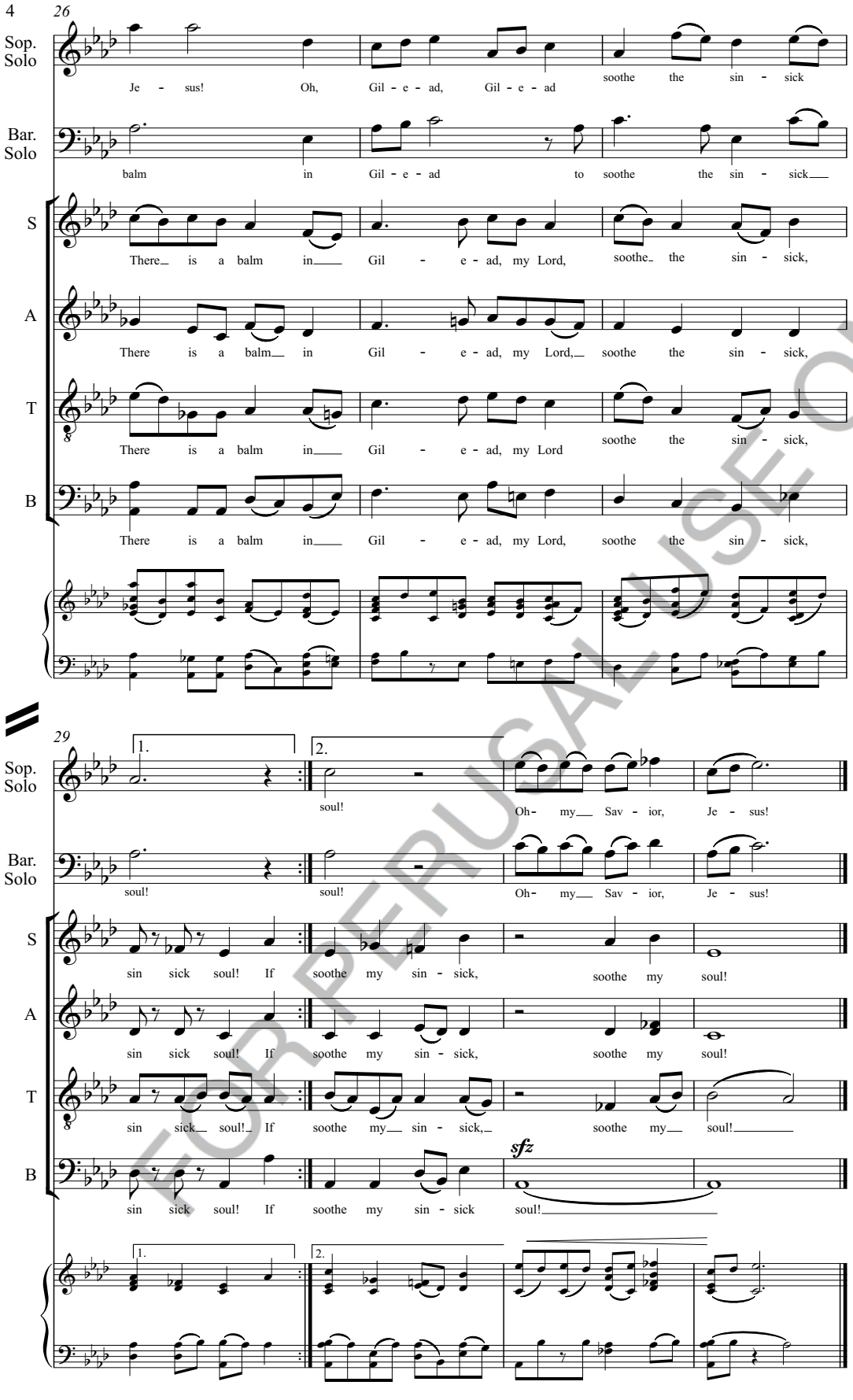
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