Robert Oganovic

If Ye Would Hear

Christmas Carol ~ Words by Dora Greenwell (1821-1882)

SATB a cappella with brief treble/semichorus solo

FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY

2020

Swirly Music
www.SwirlyMusic.org

About the Tune

This is a tuneful, contemporary setting of a multi-verse carol for choir *a cappella* using an original melody. It starts with a statement by the alto section and gradually adds parts and harmonic variations. The unusual time signature of 5/4 provides a lilt and propels the piece forward. All parts sing the melody along the way. A few climactic measures split into more than 4 parts; otherwise the writing is SATB throughout. The final verse can be performed by treble/female solo or semi-chorus.

About the Poet

The poet and essayist Dora Greenwell was born on December 6, 1821 near Durham, England. She devoted much of her life to helping the local poor and visiting convicts in Durham prison. She was an advocate of better education for women and their right to vote. She was a friend of Christina Rossetti, another great poet of this time; they both shared an interest in theology. Two of her poems serve as texts for the Methodist hymn book although she herself was an Anglican (her brother, William Greenwell was canon at Durham Cathedral). She died on March 29, 1882 near Bristol, England.

About the Composer

Robert Oganovic (b. 1953) retired in 2015 after more than 30 years in the software industry. Since then he has devoted more time to his life-long avocational passions – singing, playing bassoon, and composing. In the summer of 2018 as a member of the Minnesota Orchestra's symphonic chorus he was part of the first ever tour of Africa by a major American orchestra.

Robert studied composition at the University of Minnesota under Dominic Argento and Paul Fetler. His pieces have been performed in the Twin Cities (MN) area, Ft Collins (CO), Arlington (VA), and Milwaukee (WI). The piece Orientis Partibus ("*From the East*") was commissioned and performed in 2016 by the Bethel University Wind Symphony of St Paul, MN. It was published by Grand Mesa Music in summer 2019.

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If Ye Would Hear

Text by Dora Greenwell (1821-1882) from the Oxford Book of Carols

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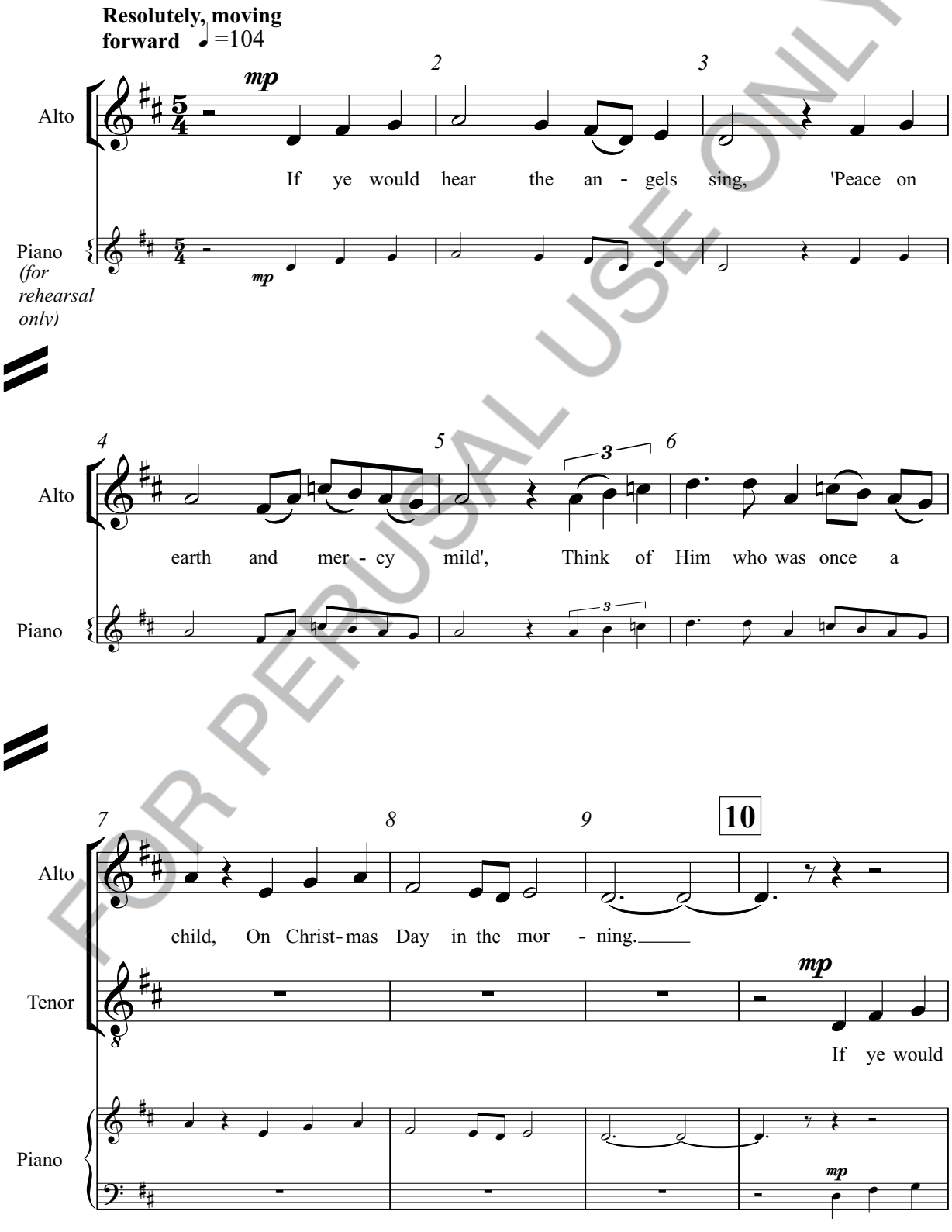
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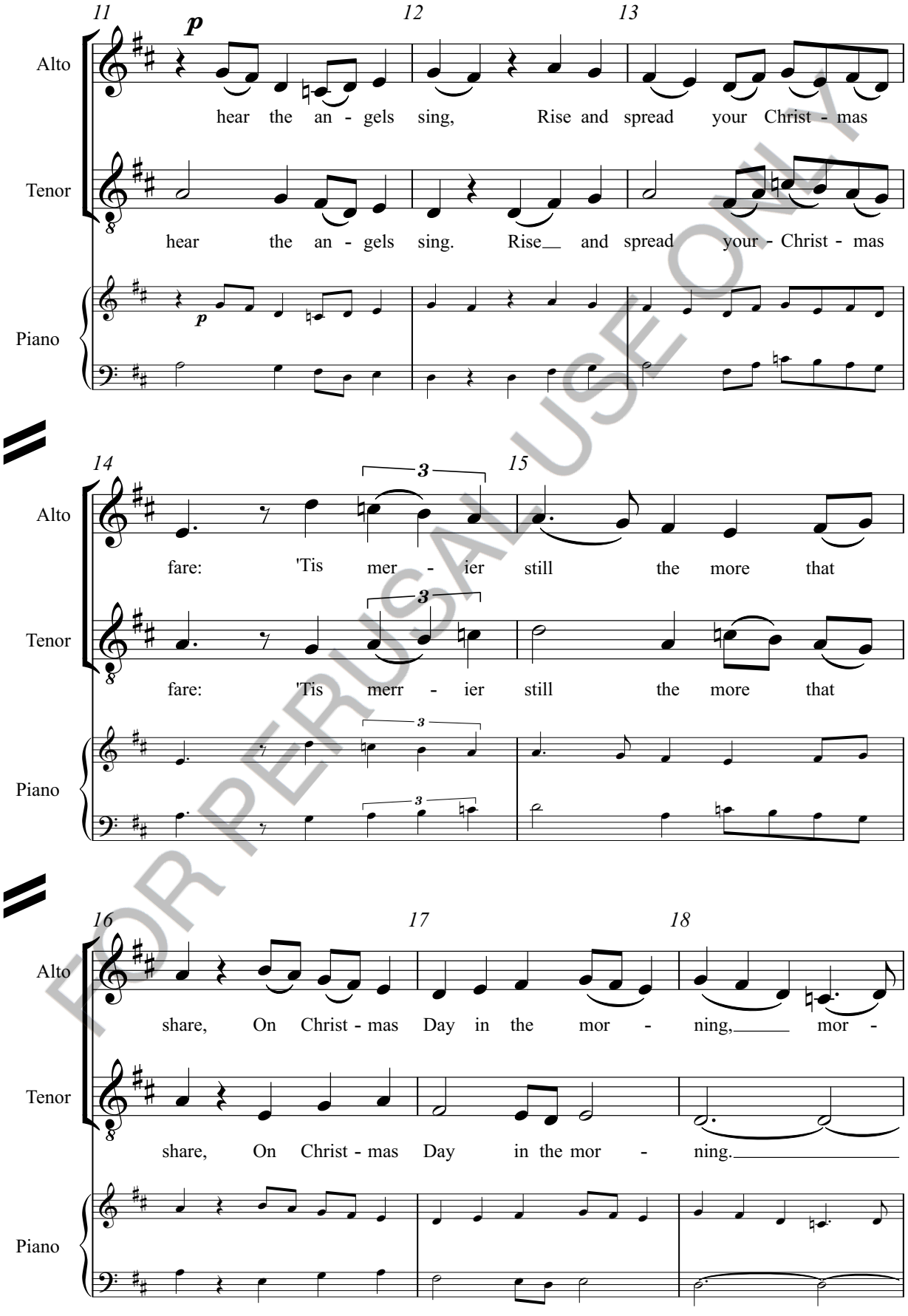
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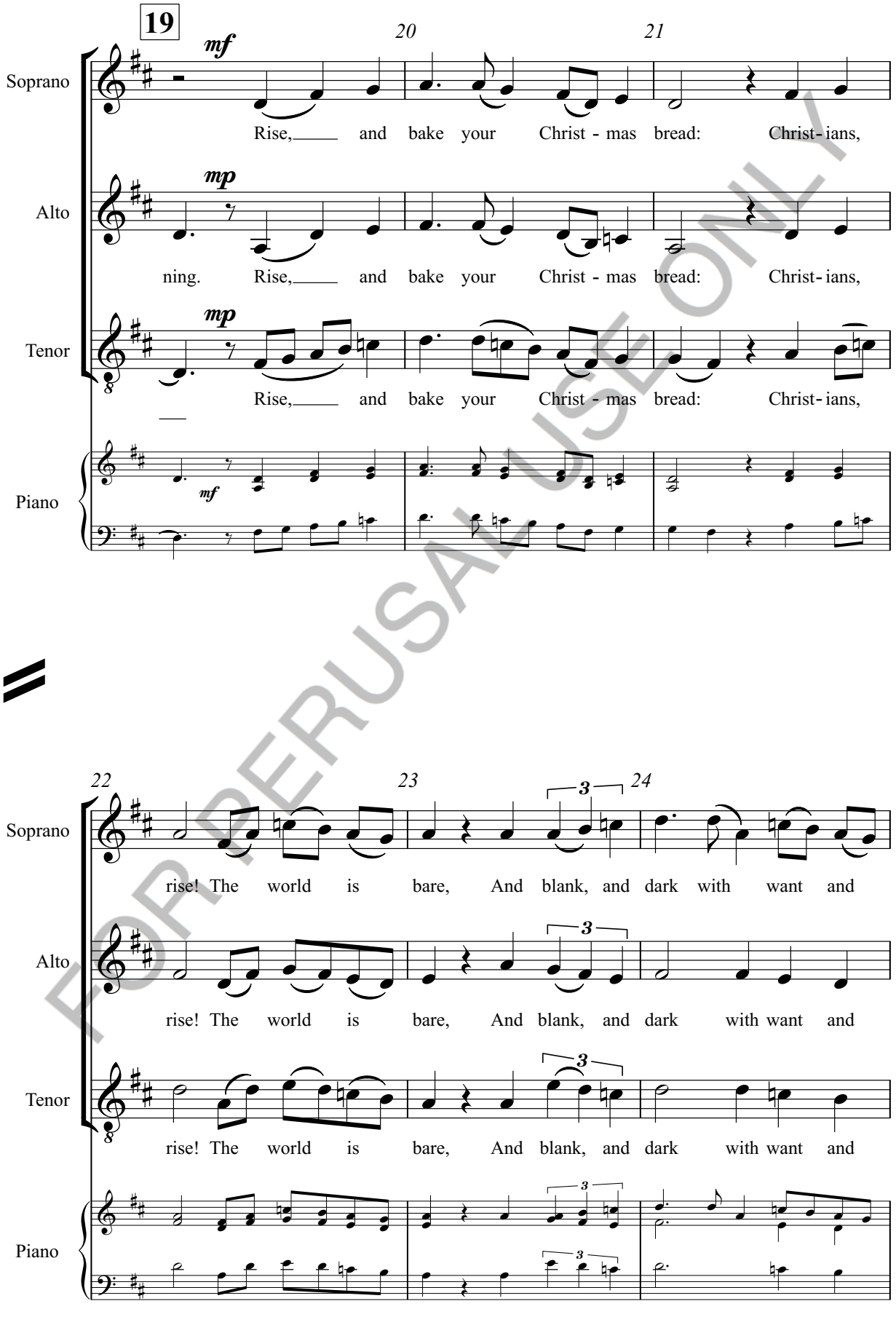
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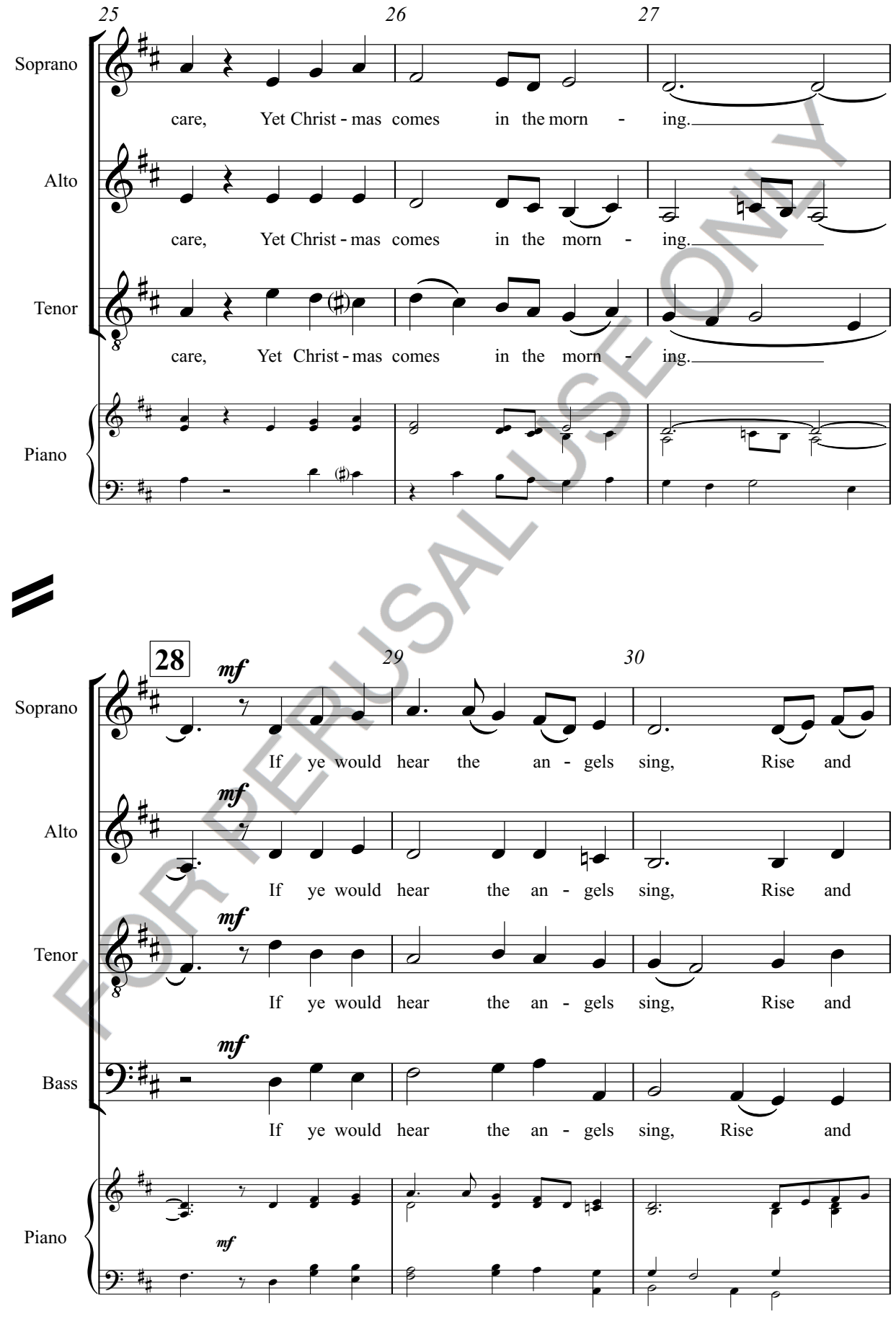
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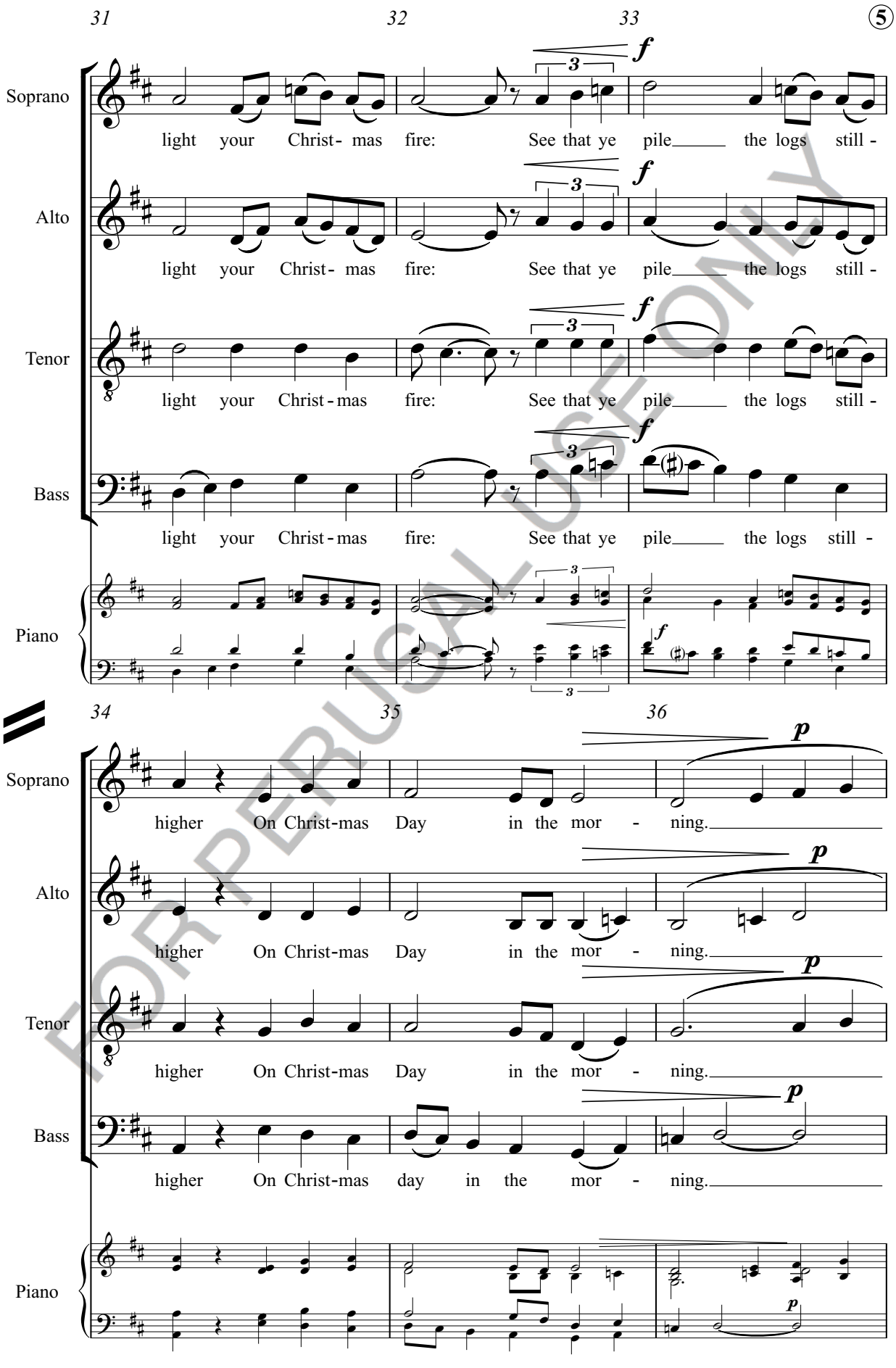
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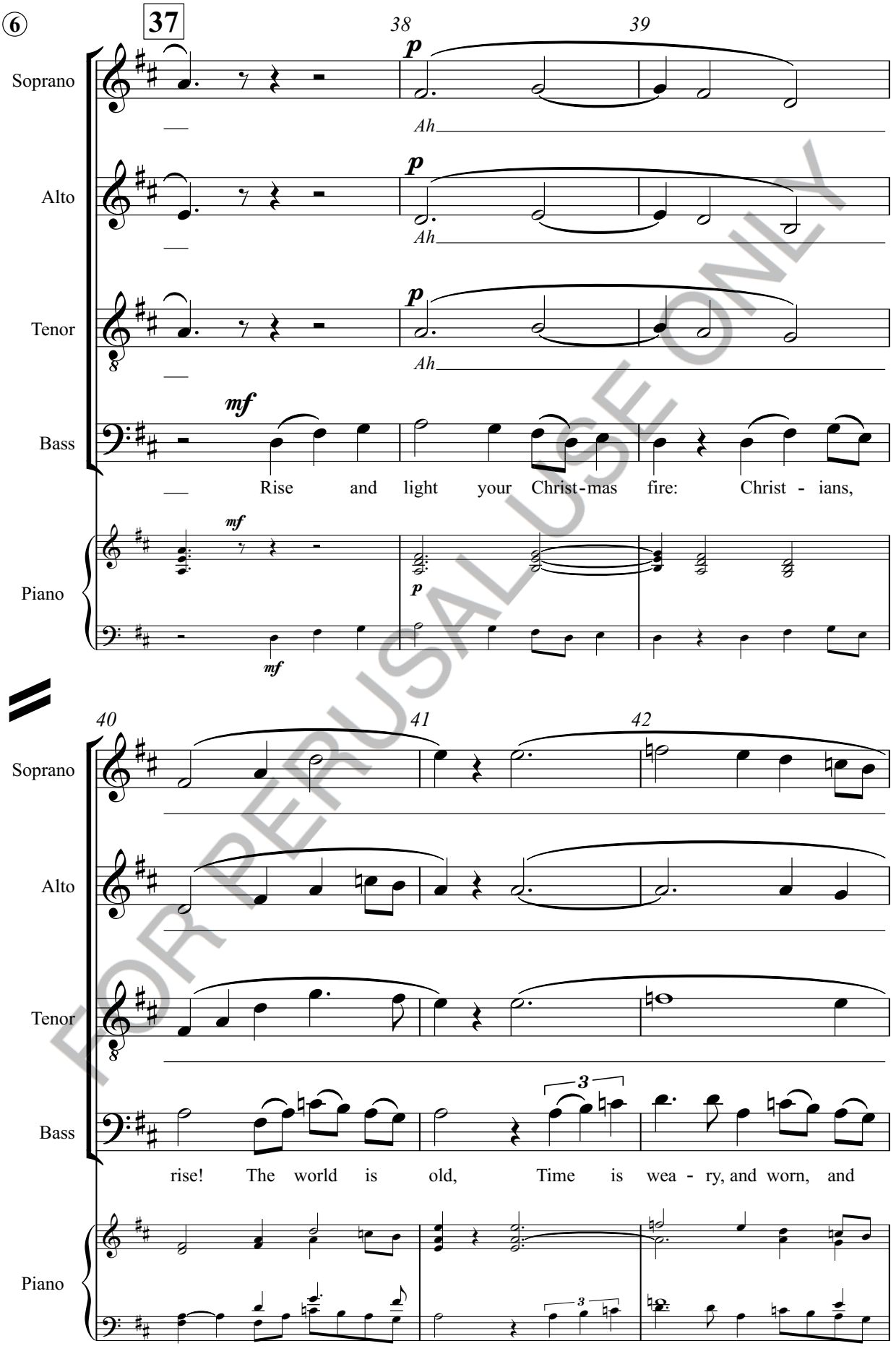
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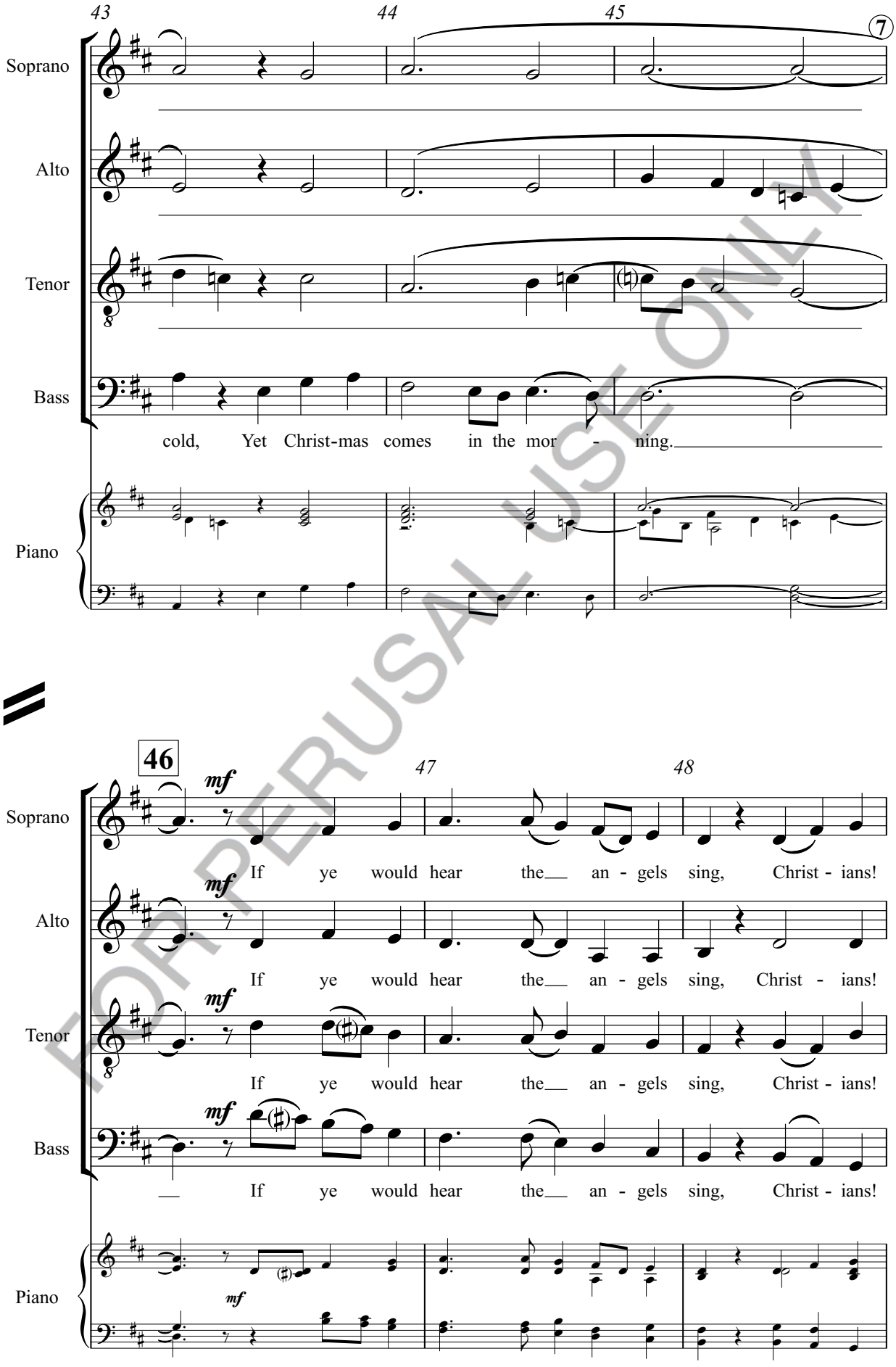
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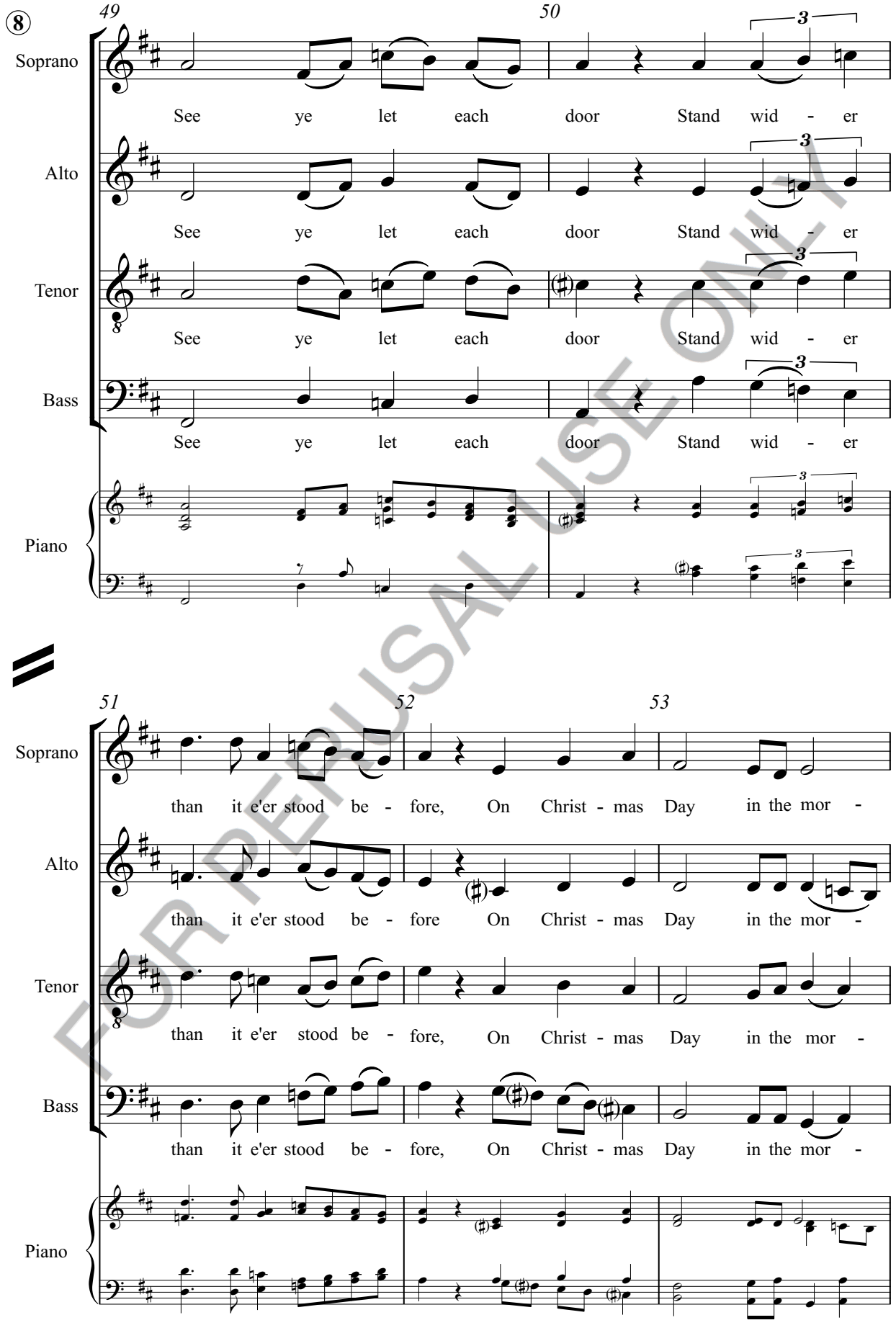
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Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass
Piano

f *Broadly & poco marcato*

rit. ning. *Ah.* O - pen wide the

rit. - ning. *Ah.* Rise and O - pen wide the

rit. - ning. *Ah.* O - pen wide the

rit. - ning. *Ah.* Rise and O - pen wide the

rit *f* *Broadly & poco marcato*

57 58 59

door: Christ - ians, rise! The world is wide,

door: Christ - ians, rise! The world is wide, And ma - ny there

door: Christ - ians, rise! The world is wide,

door: Christ - ians, rise! The world is wide, And ma - ny there

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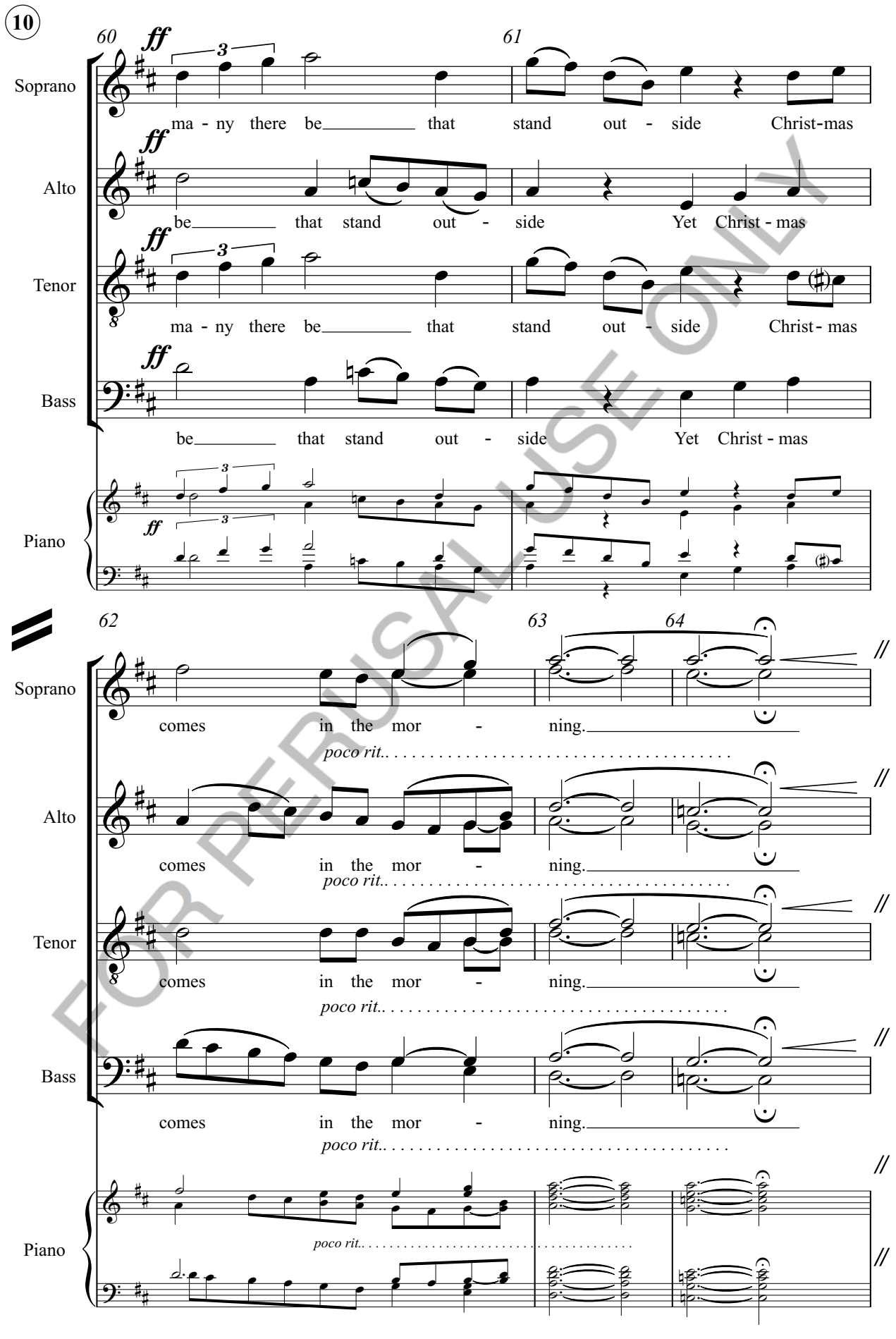

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65 **Declamatory**

mf 66 67

Solo* If ye would hear the an - gels sing, 'Peace on

Soprano *mp* ("oo" or other neutral syllable)

Alto *mp* ("oo" or other neutral syllable)

Tenor *mp* ("oo" or other neutral syllable)

Bass *mp* ("oo" or other neutral syllable)

Piano 65 (solo line here written 8va above sounding pitch) *mp*

68 69 70

Solo earth and mer - cy mild', Him who was once a

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

*May be performed by soprano, alto, or youth solo or semi-chorus

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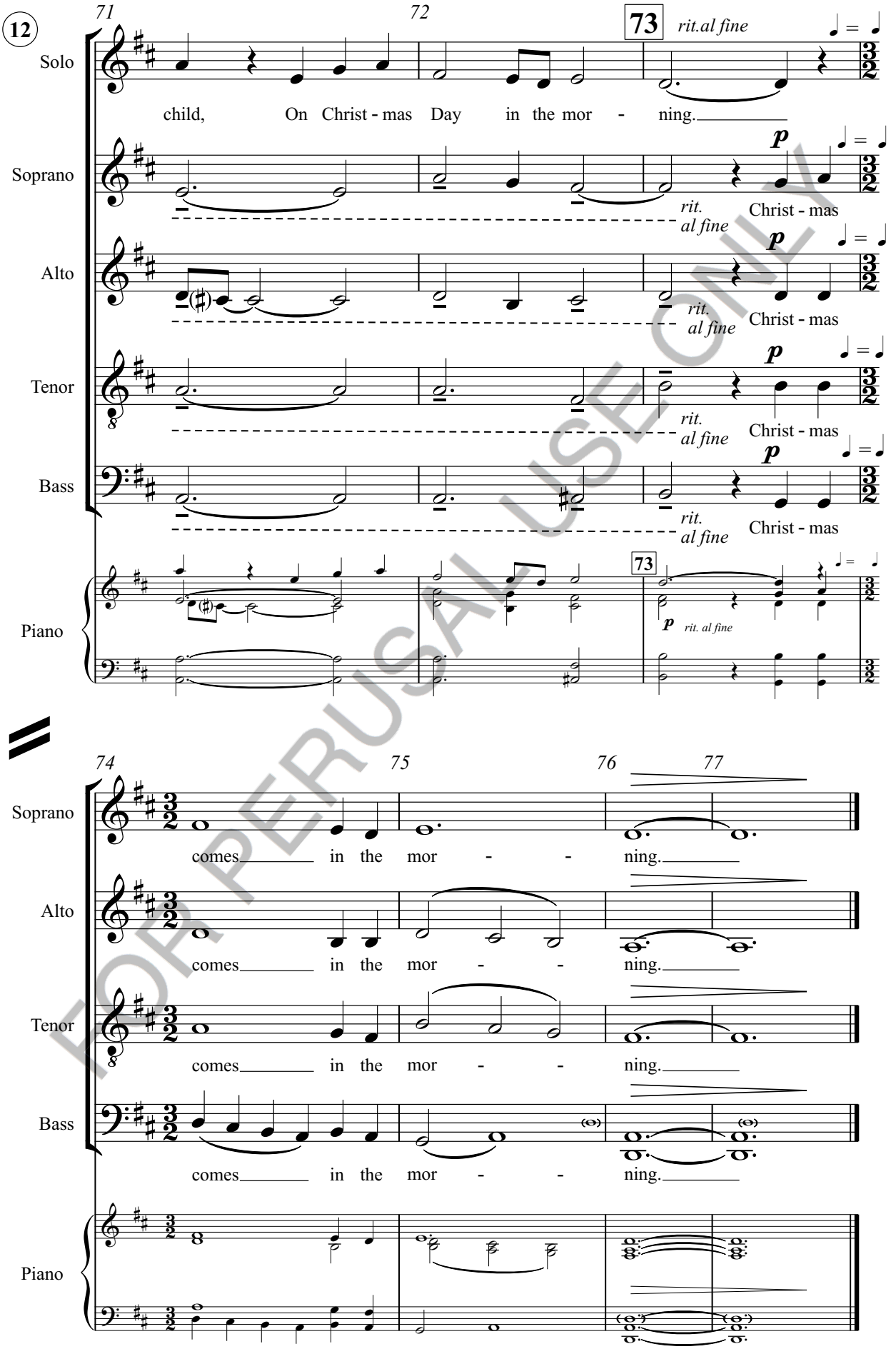
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