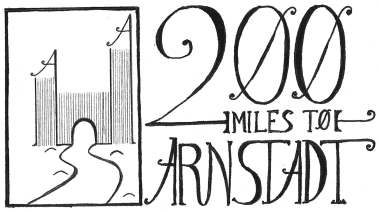
The Dream of the Rood

PREVIEW

Douglas Buchanan

PREVIEW



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www.dbcomposer.com

The Dream of the Rood

Dedicated to the Choir of St. David's, Baltimore

A Choral Cycle in Four Movements
for SSAATTBB Choir (accompaniment *ad libitum*)

Premiered March 30, 2018 at St. David's Episcopal Church, Baltimore, Maryland

Music by Douglas Buchanan
Text c. 8th-century Old English

Duration ca. 11'

PREVIEW

Program Notes

The Dream of the Rood is the earliest extant instance of Old English, appearing in a 10th-century manuscript now located in Vercelli, Italy. An earlier instance of the text, however appears on the Ruthwell cross, a stone cross from the 8th century located in Ruthwell, Scotland. Upon the cross is carved four runic passages which are excerpts from this narrative, written in an epic style similar to *Beowulf* and other Old English narrative poems. The four movements of the present work correspond to these four passages carved into the Ruthwell cross. The passages relate portions of the Biblical Passion narrative, taking the point of view of the cross itself, and utilizing metaphors which reveal the unique perspective of the Anglo-Saxon warrior culture from which the poem emerged.

Texts and Translations

I. Ongyrede hine þa geong hæleð

Ongyrede hine þa geong hæleð, (þæt wæs god ælmihtig), modig on manigra gesyhðe, þa he wolde mancyn lysan. Bifode ic þa me se beorn ymbclypte. Ne dorste ic hwæðre bugan to eorðan, feallan to foldan sceatum, ac ic sceolde fæste standan.

He stripped himself then, the young hero – that was God almighty – strong and resolute; he ascended on the high gallows, brave in the sight of many, when he wanted to ransom mankind. I trembled when the warrior embraced me; even then I did not dare bow to earth, but I had to stand fast.

II. Rod wæs ic aræred

Rod wæs ic aræred. Ahof ic ricne cyning, heofona hlaford, hyldan me ne dorste. þurhdrifan hi me mid deorcan næglum. On me syndon þa dolg gesiene, opene inwidhlemmas. Ne dorste ic hira nænigum sceðdan. Bysmeredon hie unc butu ætgædere. Eall ic wæs mid blode bestemed, begoten of þæs guman sidan siððan he hæfde his gast onsended.

I was reared a cross. I raised up the powerful King, the Lord of heaven; I did not dare to bend. They pierced me with dark nails; on me are the wounds visible, the open wounds of malice; I did not dare to injure any of them. They mocked us both together. I was all drenched with blood poured out from that man's side after he had sent forth his spirit.

III. Crist wæs on rode

Crist wæs on rode. Hwæðere þær fuse feorran cwoman to þam æðelinge. Ic þæt eall beheold. Sare ic wæs mid sorgum gedrefed, hnag ic hwæðre þam secgum to handa, eaðmod elne mycle.

Christ was on the cross. Yet there eager ones came from afar to that noble one; I beheld all that. I was all drenched with sorrow; nevertheless I bowed down to the hands of the men, humble, with great eagerness.

IV. Genamon hie þær ælmightigne god

Genamon hie þær ælmihtigne god, ahofon hine of ðam hefian wite. Forleton me þa hilderincas standan steame bedrifenne; eall ic wæs mid strælum forwundod. Aledon hie ðær limwerigne, gestodon him æt his lices heafdum, beheoldon hie ðær heofenes dryhten, ond he hine ðær hwile reste, meðe æfter ðam miclan gewinne.

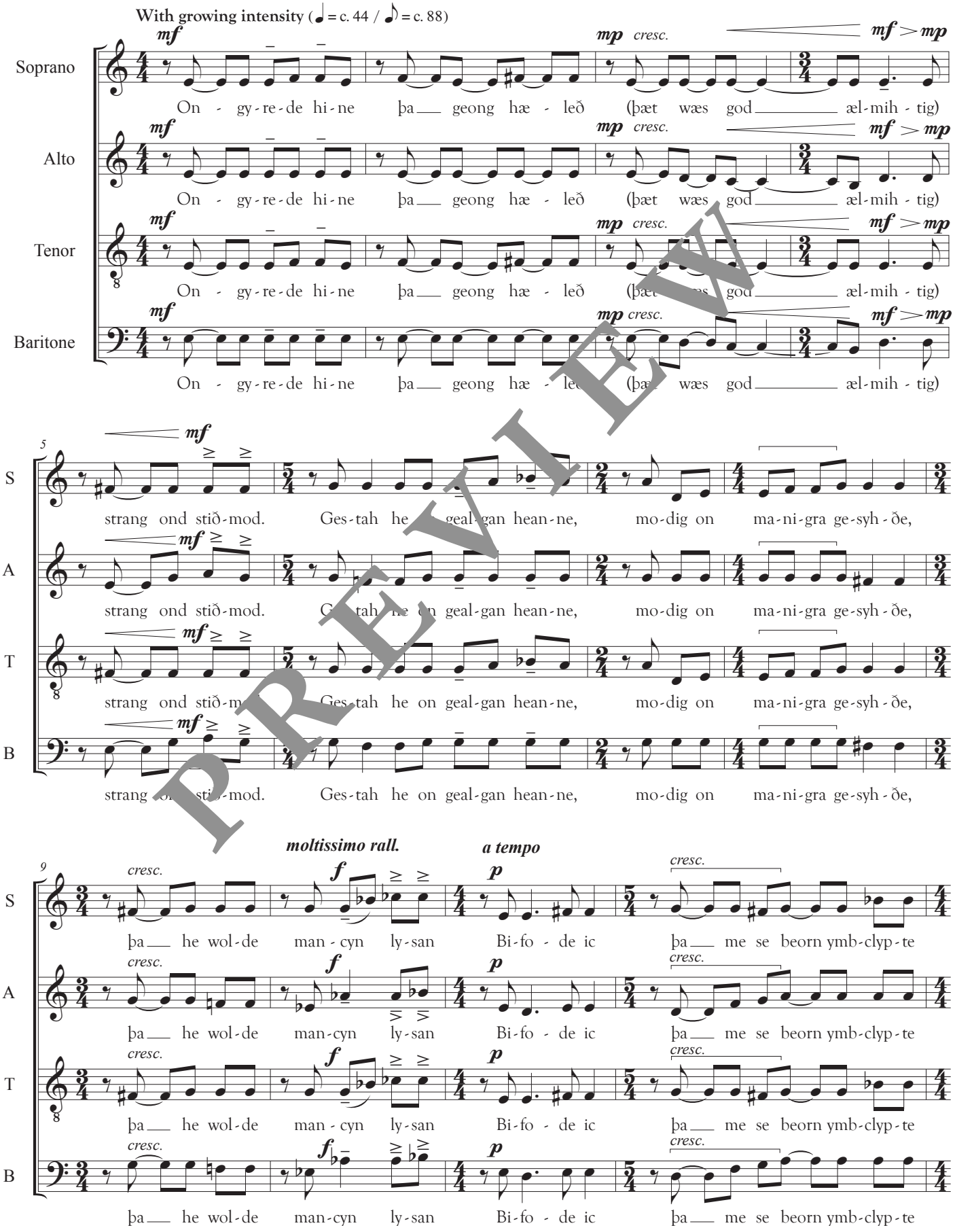
There they took almighty God, lifted him from that oppressive torment. The warriors forsook me then, standing covered with moisture; I was all wounded with arrows. They laid the weary-limbed one down there, they stood at the head of his body, they beheld the Lord of heaven there, and he himself rested there a while, weary after the great battle. - Translations © Elaine Treharne

PREVIEW

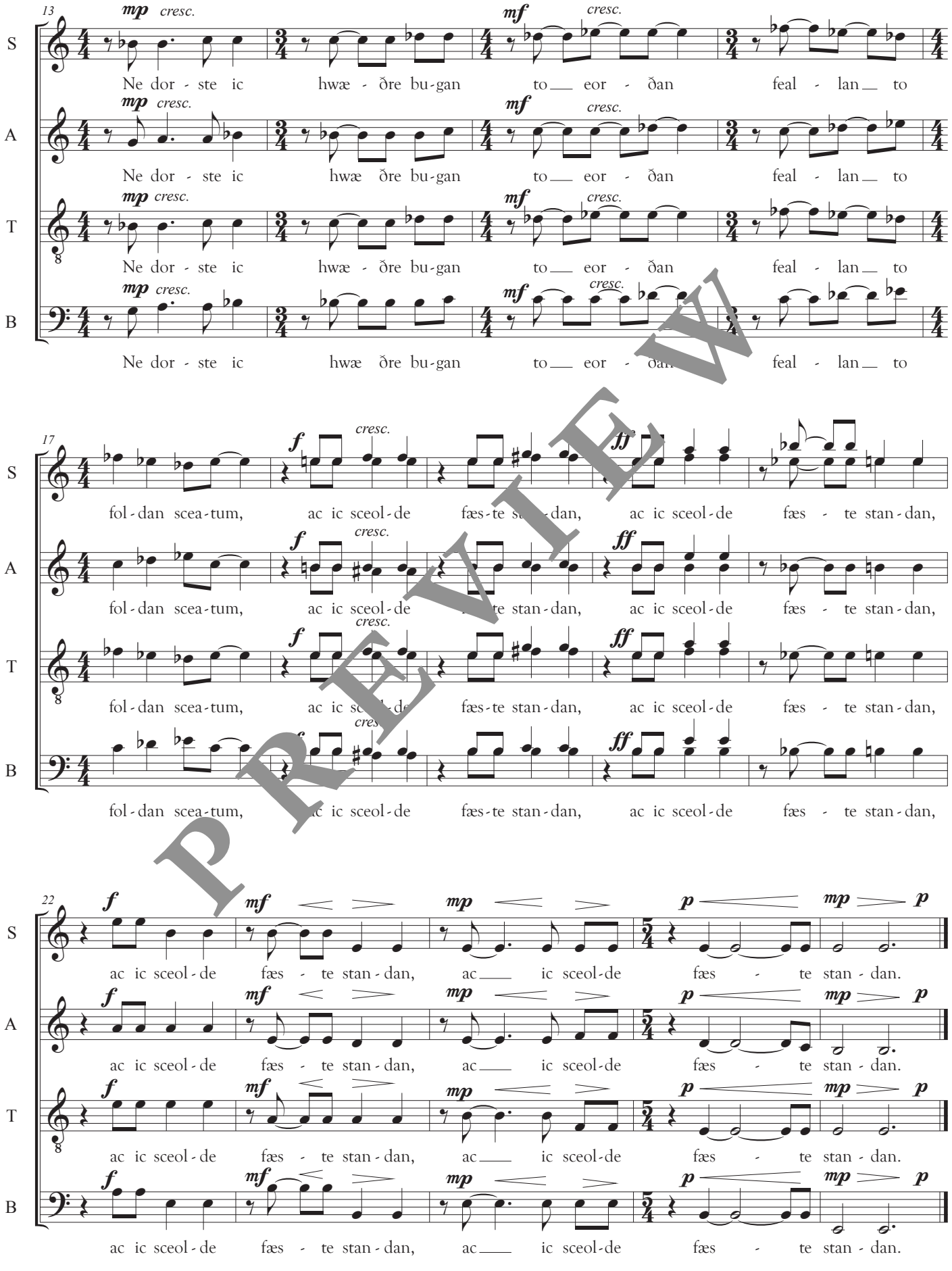
The Dream of the Rood

I. Ongyrede hine þa geong hæleð

Douglas Buchanan (b. 1984)

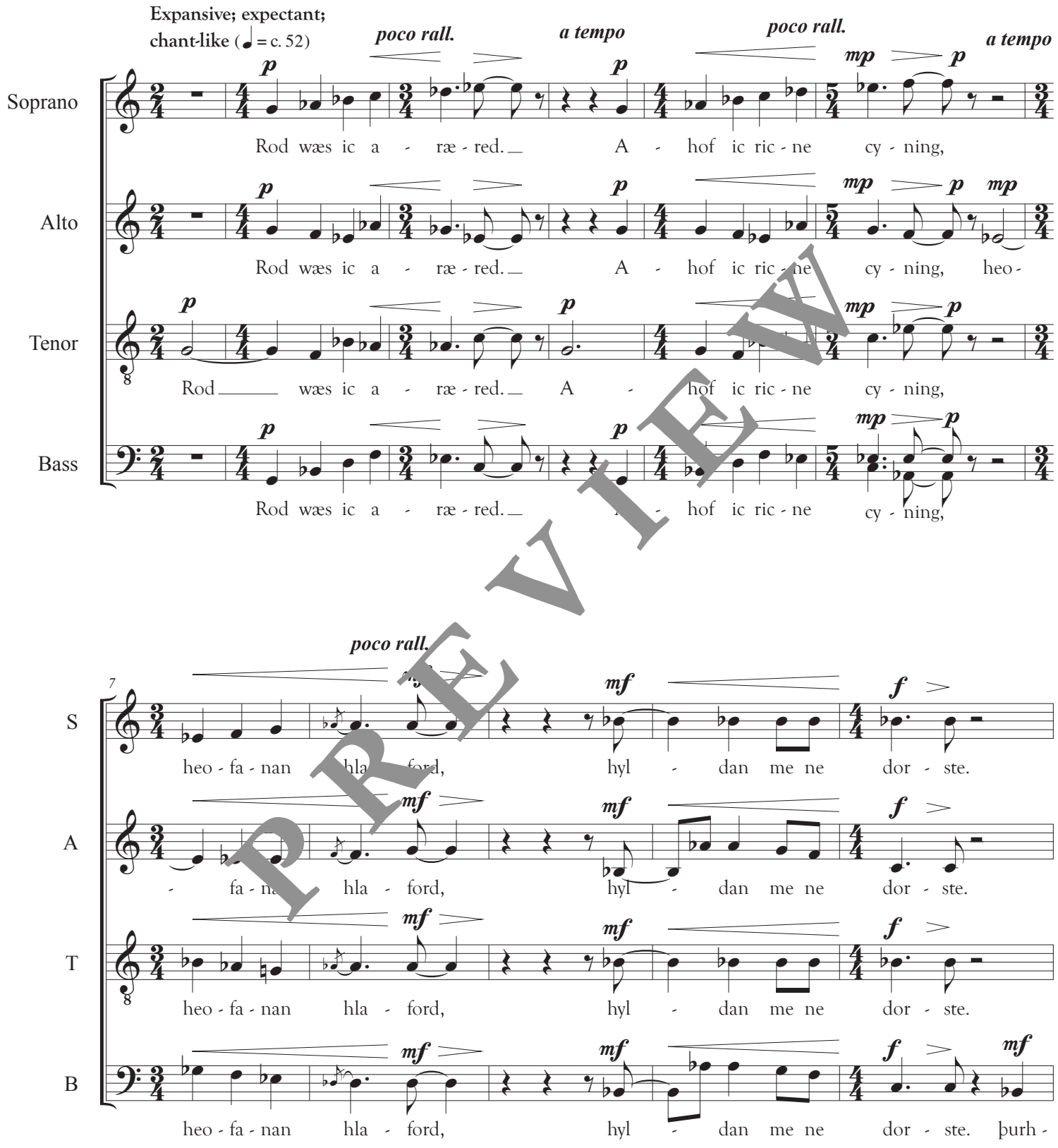


PREVIEW


13
mp cresc.
mf cresc.
S
A
T
B
Ne dor - ste ic hwæ - ðre bu-gan to eor - ðan feal - lan to
17
f cresc.
ff
fol-dan scea-tum, ac ic sceol-de fæs-te stan-dan, ac ic sceol-de fæs - te stan-dan,
22
f
mf
mp
p
ac ic sceol - de fæs - te stan - dan, ac ic sceol-de fæs - te stan - dan.

PREVIEW

II. Rod wæs ic aræred



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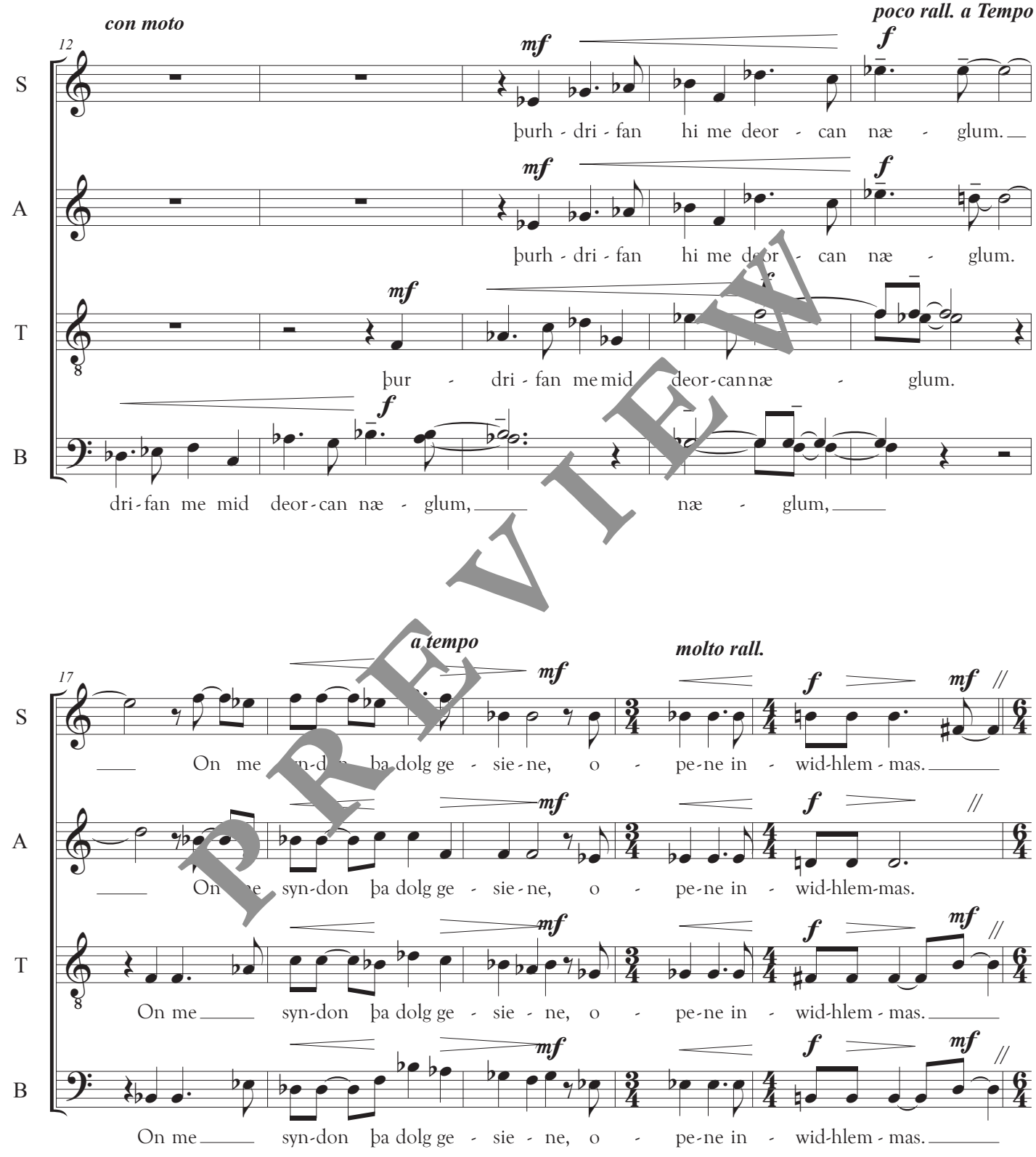
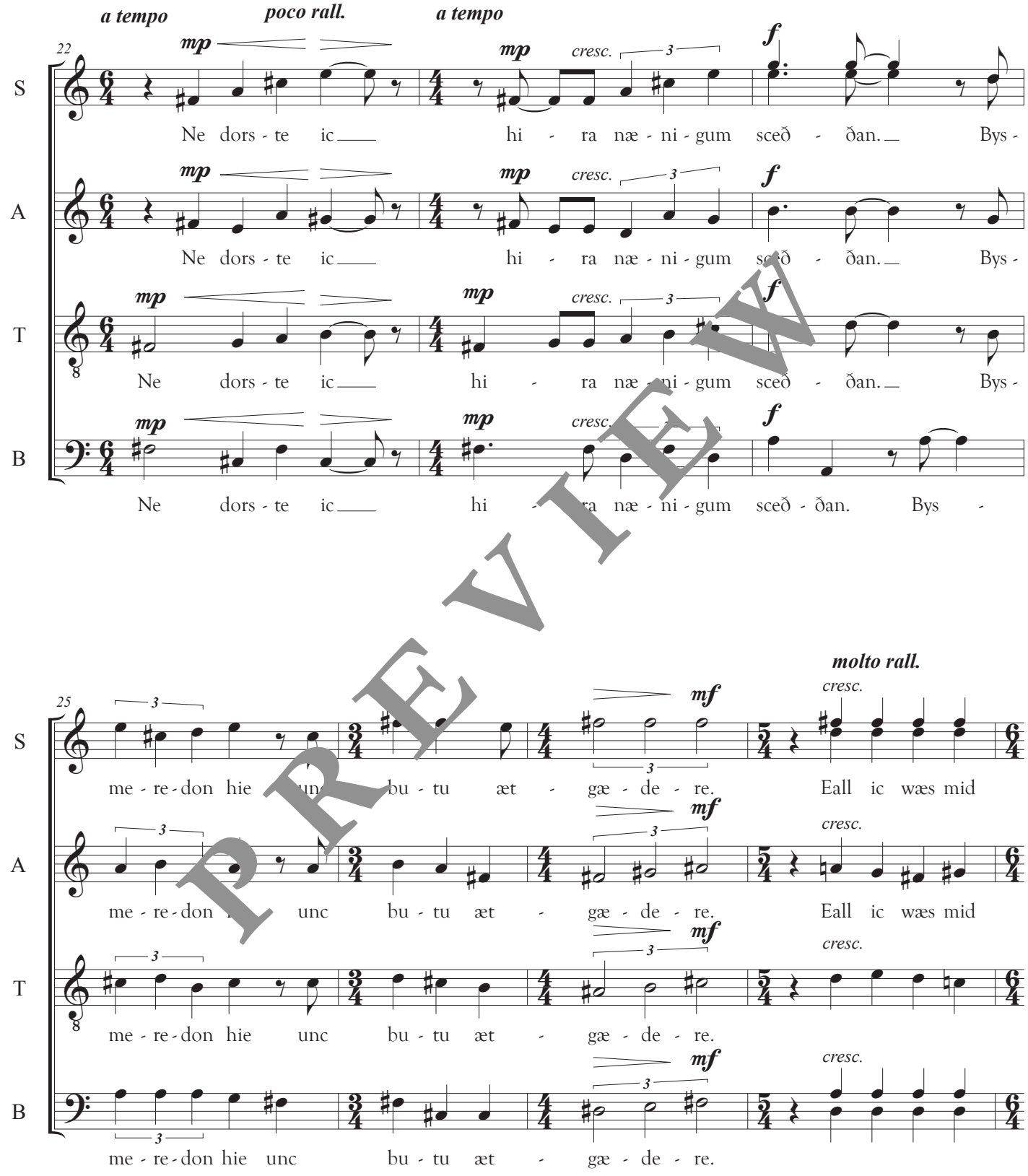
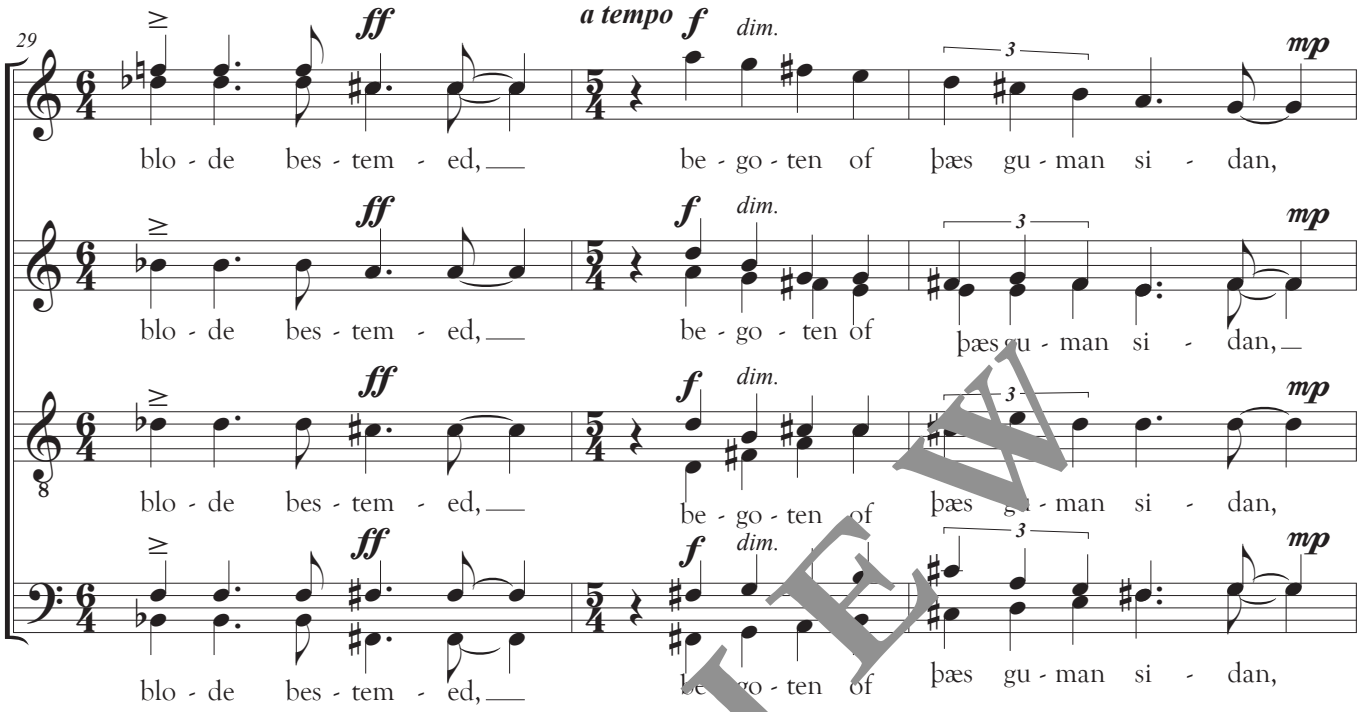
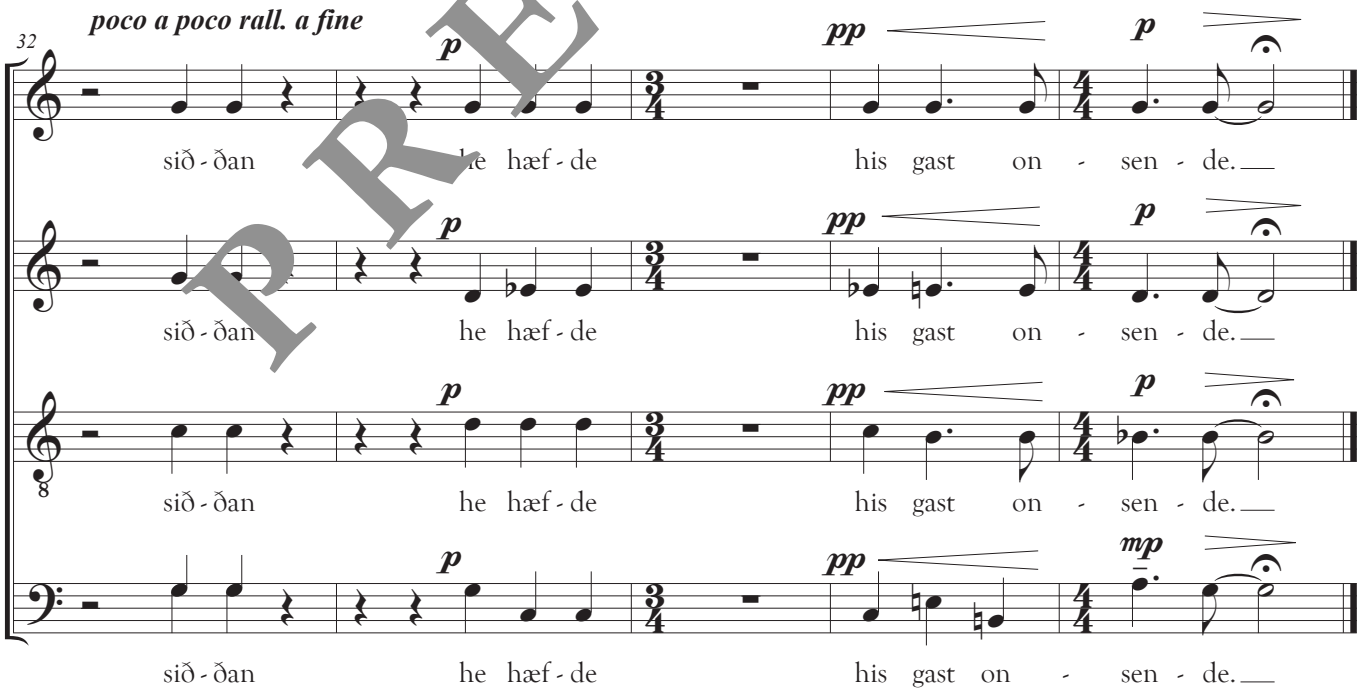

con moto
poco rall. a Tempo I.
12
S
A
T
B
mf
f
þurh - dri - fan hi me deor - can næ - glum.
þur - dri - fan me mid deor-can næ - glum.
dri-fan me mid deor-can næ - glum, næ - glum,
a tempo
molto rall.
17
On me syn-don þa dolg ge - sie - ne, o - pe-ne in - wid-hlem - mas.
On me syn-don þa dolg ge - sie-ne, o - pe-ne in - wid-hlem-mas.

PREVIEW


a tempo
poco rall.
a tempo
molto rall.
22
25
S
A
T
B
mp
cresc.
f
mf
Ne dors - te ic hi - ra næ - ni - gum sceð - ðan. Bys -
me - re - don hie unc bu - tu æt - gæ - de - re. Eall ic wæs mid

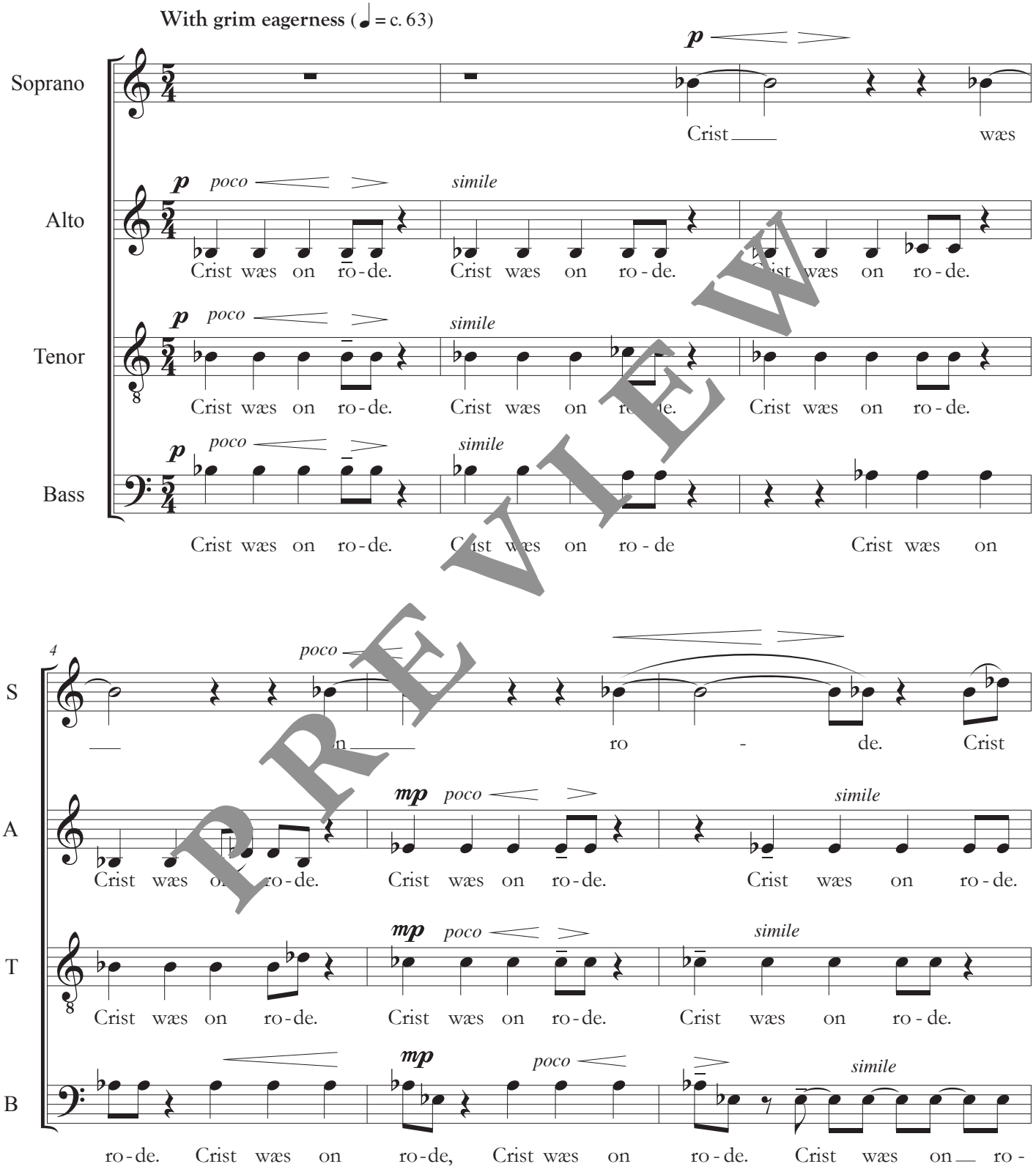
PREVIEW


29
S
A
T
B
ff
a tempo
f
dim.
mp
blo - de bes - tem - ed,
be - go - ten of
þæs gu - man si - dan,


32
poco a poco rall. a fine
S
A
T
B
p
pp
mp
sið - ðan
he hæf - de
his gast on - sen - de.

PREVIEW

III. Crist wæs on rode



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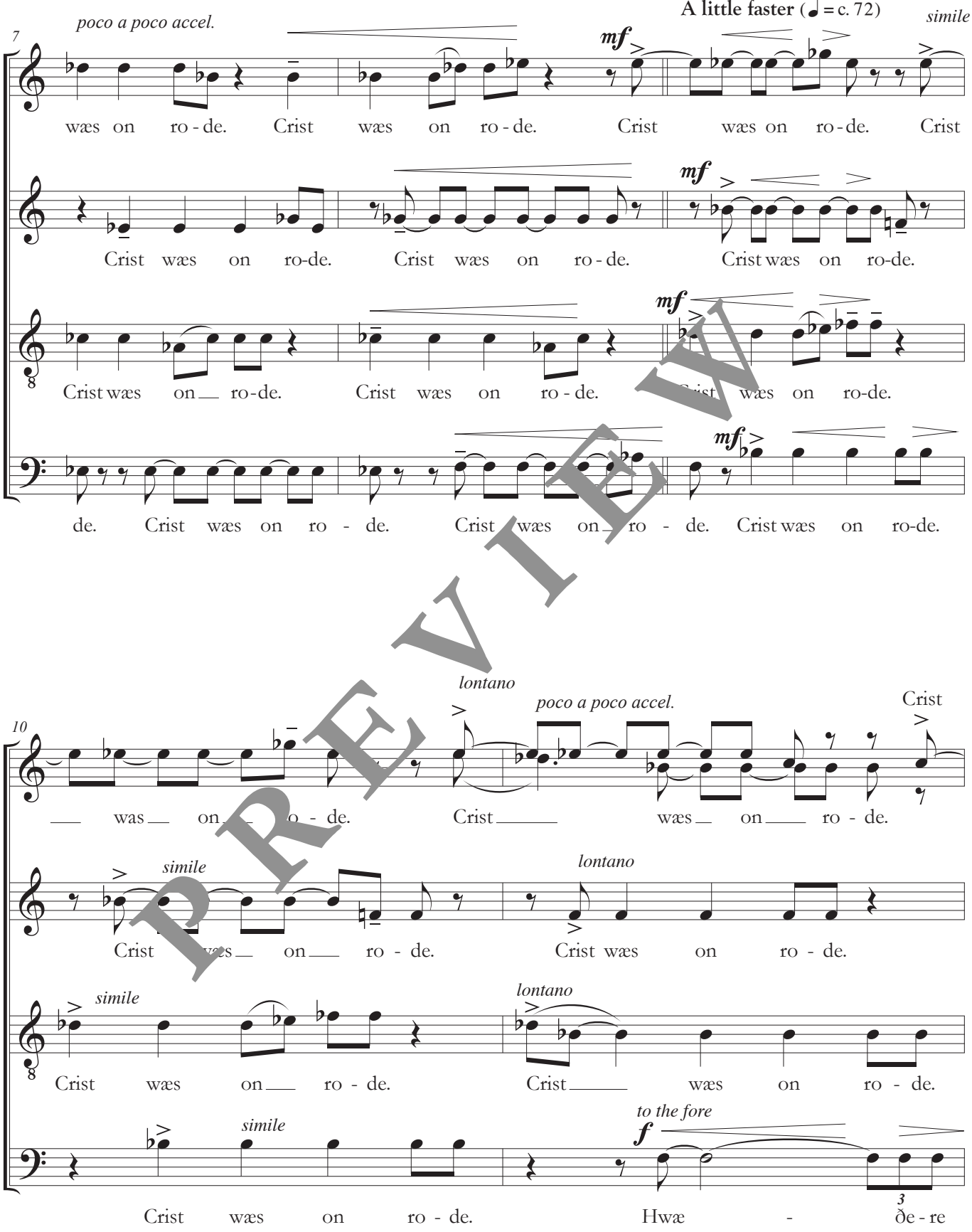
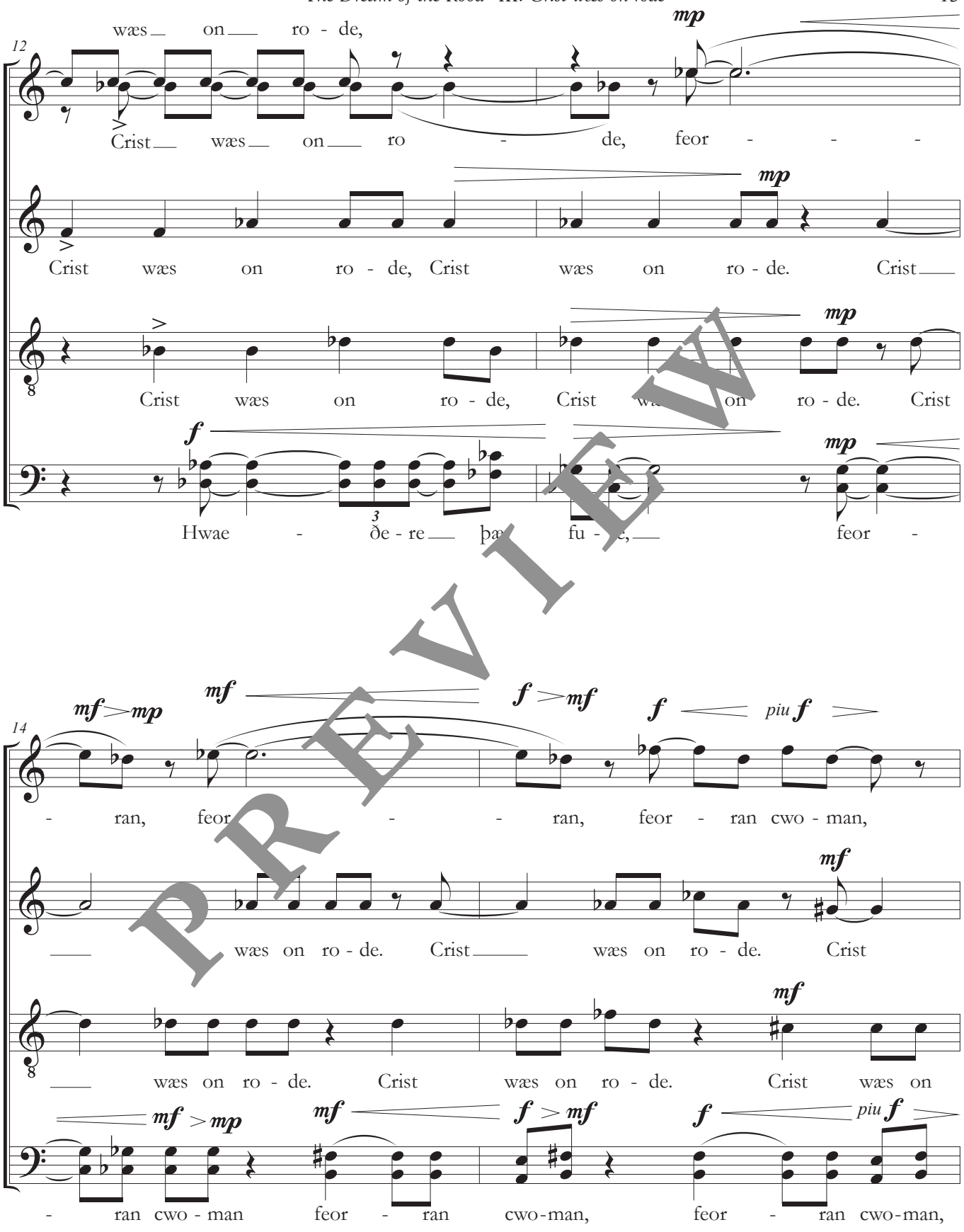
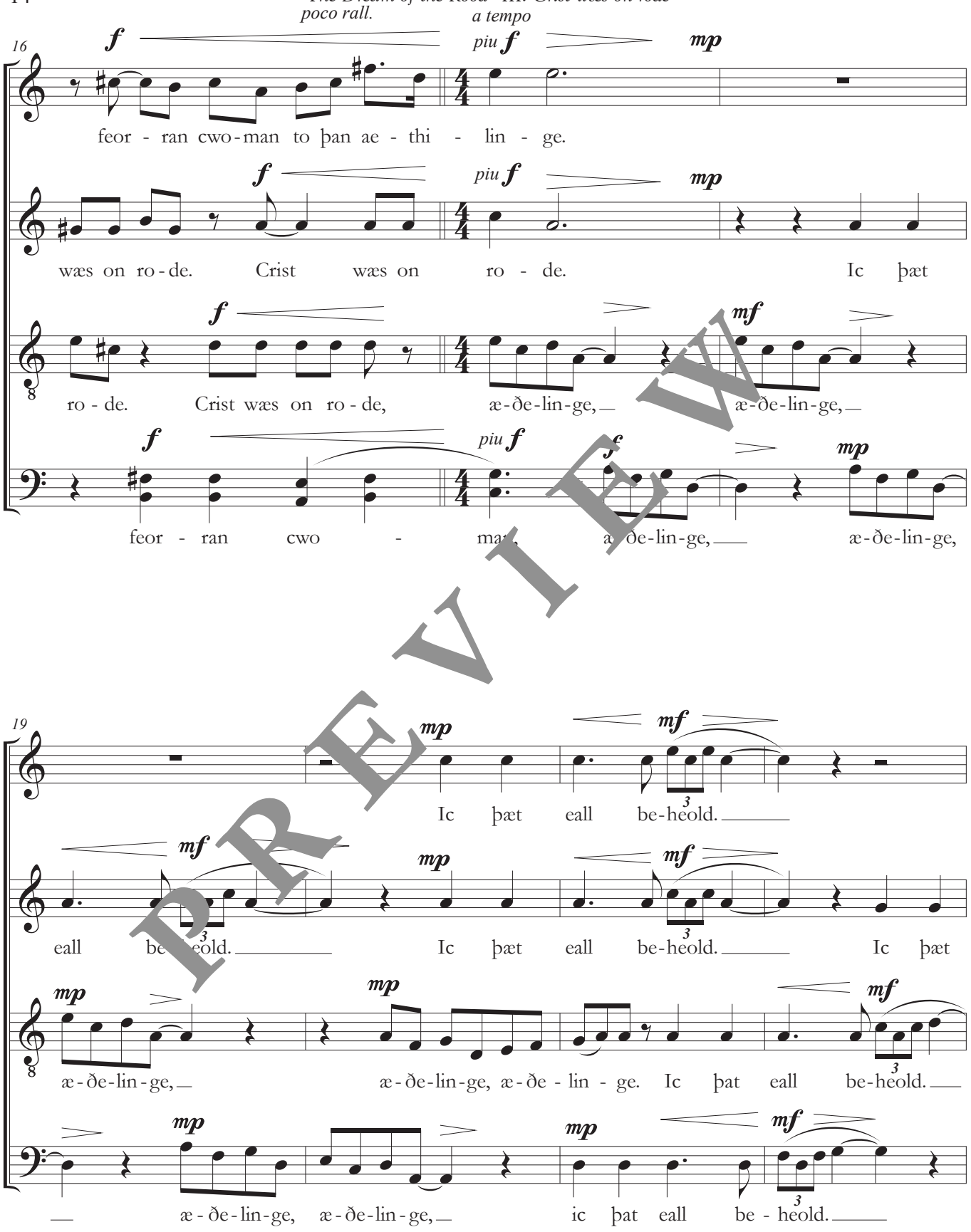

A little faster (♩ = c. 72)
poco a poco accel.
simile
mf
S
A
T
B
wæs on ro - de. Crist wæs on ro - de. Crist wæs on ro - de. Crist
Crist wæs on ro-de. Crist wæs on ro - de. Crist wæs on ro-de.
Crist wæs on ro-de. Crist wæs on ro - de. Crist wæs on ro-de.
de. Crist wæs on ro - de. Crist wæs on ro - de. Crist wæs on ro-de.
lontano
poco a poco accel.
Crist
was on ro - de. Crist wæs on ro - de.
simile
lontano
Crist wæs on ro - de. Crist wæs on ro - de.
simile
lontano
Crist wæs on ro - de. Crist wæs on ro - de.
simile
to the fore
Crist wæs on ro - de. Hwæ - ðe - re

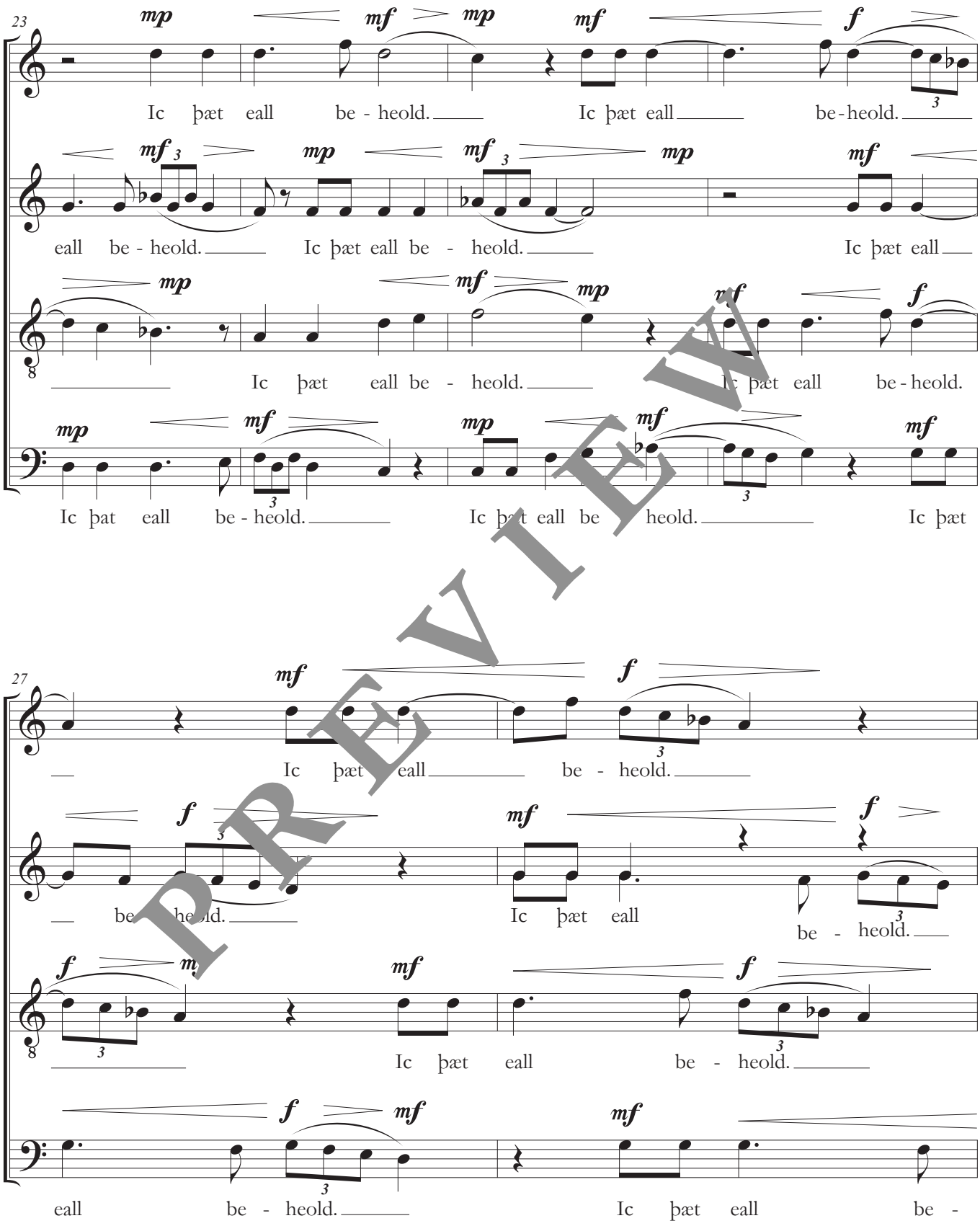
PREVIEW


12
S
A
T
B
wæs on ro - de,
mp
Crist wæs on ro - de, feor - - -
Crist wæs on ro - de, Crist wæs on ro - de. Crist
Crist wæs on ro - de, Crist on ro - de. Crist
f
3
Hwae - ðe - re þæ fu - e, feor -
14
mf > mp
mf
f > mf
f piu f
- ran, feor - - ran, feor - ran cwo - man,
wæs on ro - de. Crist wæs on ro - de. Crist
wæs on ro - de. Crist wæs on ro - de. Crist wæs on
- ran cwo - man feor - ran cwo-man, feor - ran cwo-man,

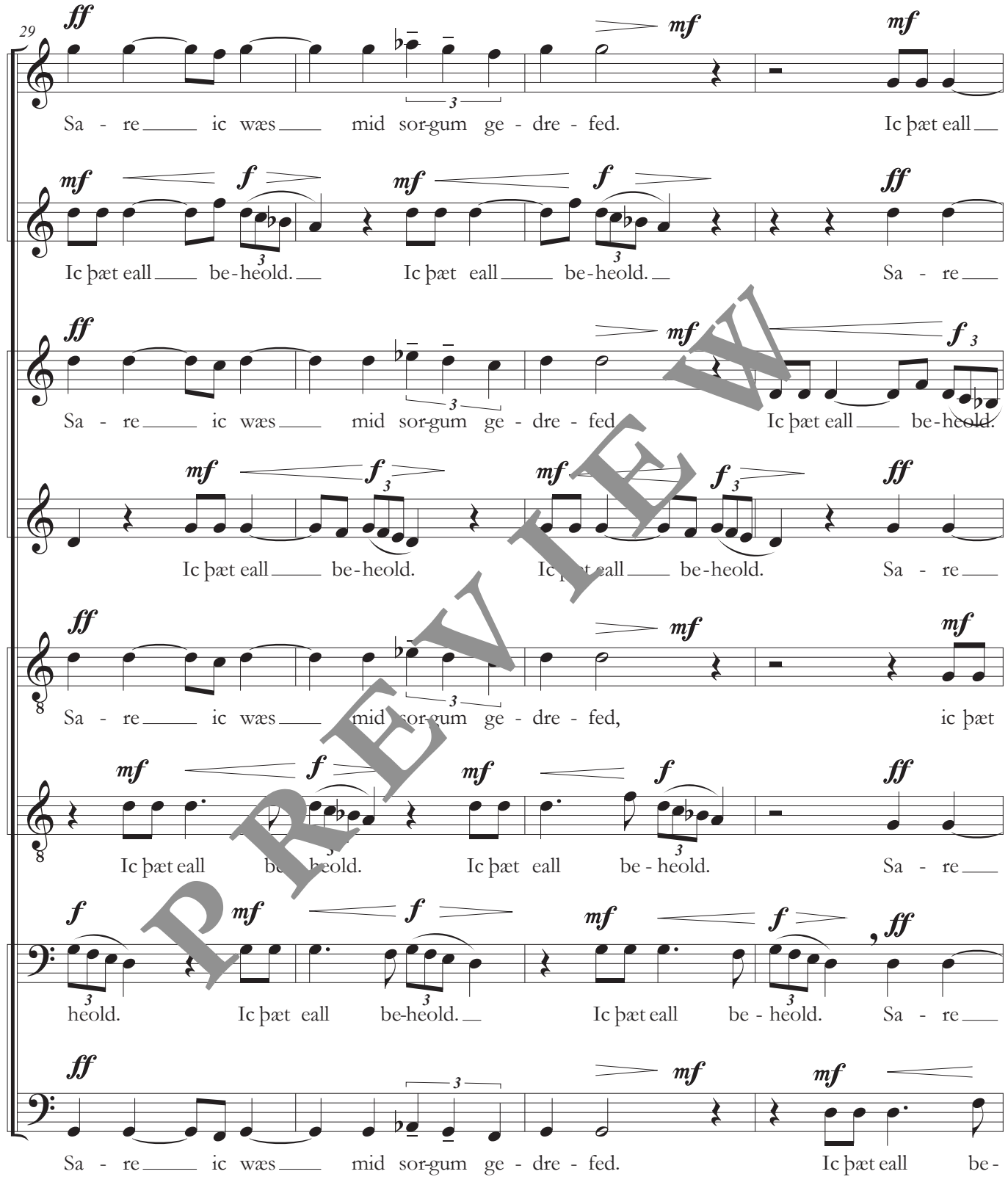
PREVIEW


poco rall.
a tempo
16
S
feor - ran cwo-man to þan ae - thi - lin - ge.
A
wæs on ro-de. Crist wæs on ro - de. Ic þæt
T
ro - de. Crist wæs on ro - de, æ-ðe-lin-ge, æ-ðe-lin-ge,
B
feor - ran cwo - æ-ðe-lin-ge, æ-ðe-lin-ge,
19
S
Ic þæt eall be-heold.
A
eall be-heold. Ic þæt eall be-heold. Ic þæt
T
æ-ðe-lin-ge, æ-ðe-lin-ge, æ-ðe - lin - ge. Ic þat eall be-heold.
B
æ-ðe-lin-ge, æ-ðe-lin-ge, ic þat eall be - heold.

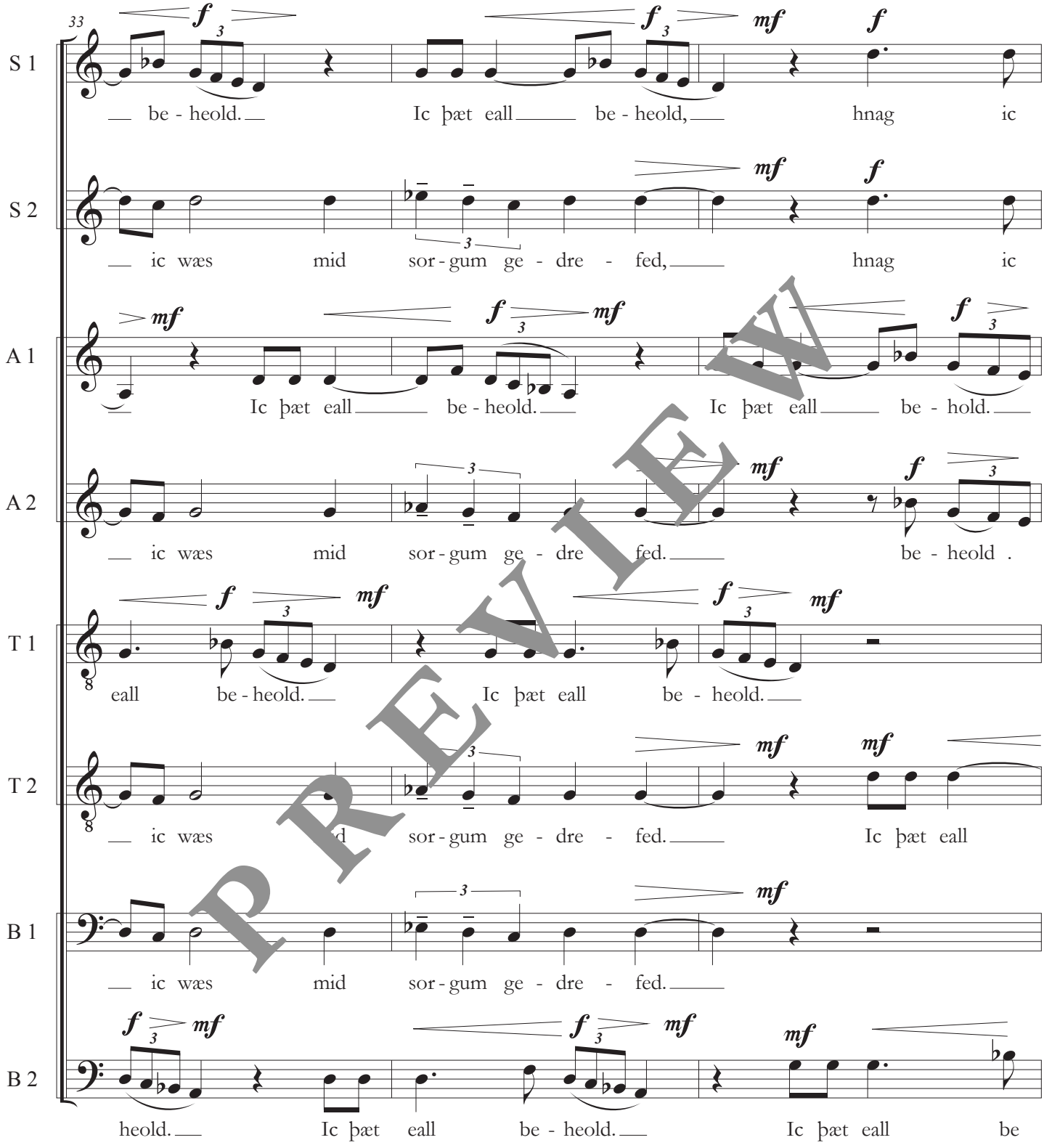
PREVIEW


23
S
A
T
B
mp mf mp mf f
Ic þæt eall be - heold. Ic þæt eall be - heold.
mf mp mf mp mf
eall be - heold. Ic þæt eall be - heold. Ic þæt eall
mp mf mp mf f
Ic þæt eall be - heold. Ic þæt eall be - heold.
mp mf mp mf mf
Ic þat eall be - heold. Ic þæt eall be heold. Ic þæt
27
S
A
T
B
mf f
Ic þæt eall be - heold.
f mf f
be heold. Ic þæt eall be - heold.
f mf f
Ic þæt eall be - heold.
f mf mf
eall be - heold. Ic þæt eall be -

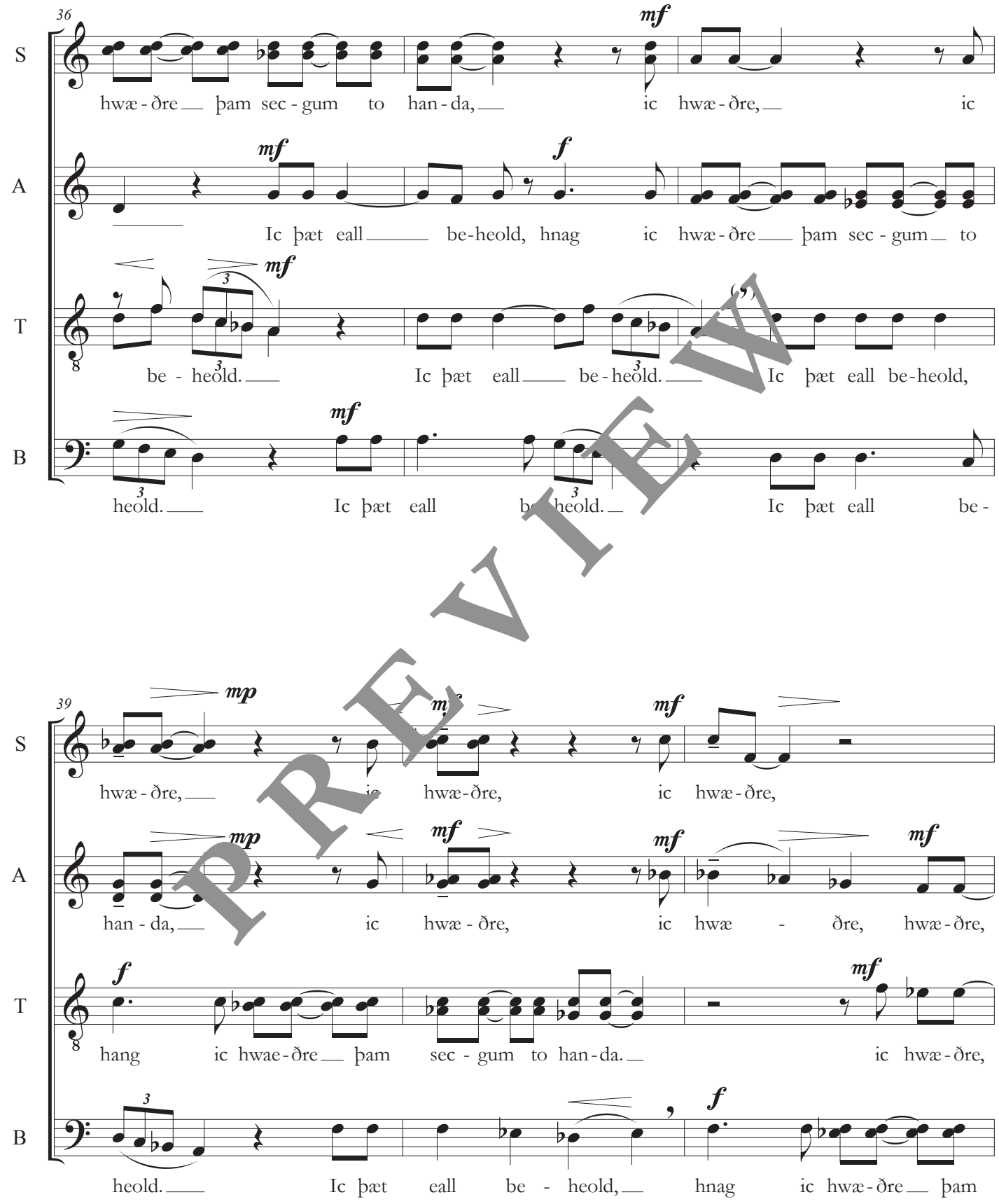
PREVIEW


29
S 1
Sa - re ic wæs mid sor-gum ge - dre - fed. Ic þæt eall
S 2
Ic þæt eall be-heold. Ic þæt eall be-heold. Sa - re
A 1
Sa - re ic wæs mid sor-gum ge - dre - fed. Ic þæt eall be-heold.
A 2
Ic þæt eall be-heold. Ic þæt eall be-heold. Sa - re
T 1
Sa - re ic wæs mid sor-gum ge - dre - fed, ic þæt
T 2
Ic þæt eall be-heold. Ic þæt eall be - heold. Sa - re
B 1
heold. Ic þæt eall be-heold. Ic þæt eall be - heold. Sa - re
B 2
Sa - re ic wæs mid sor-gum ge - dre - fed. Ic þæt eall be-

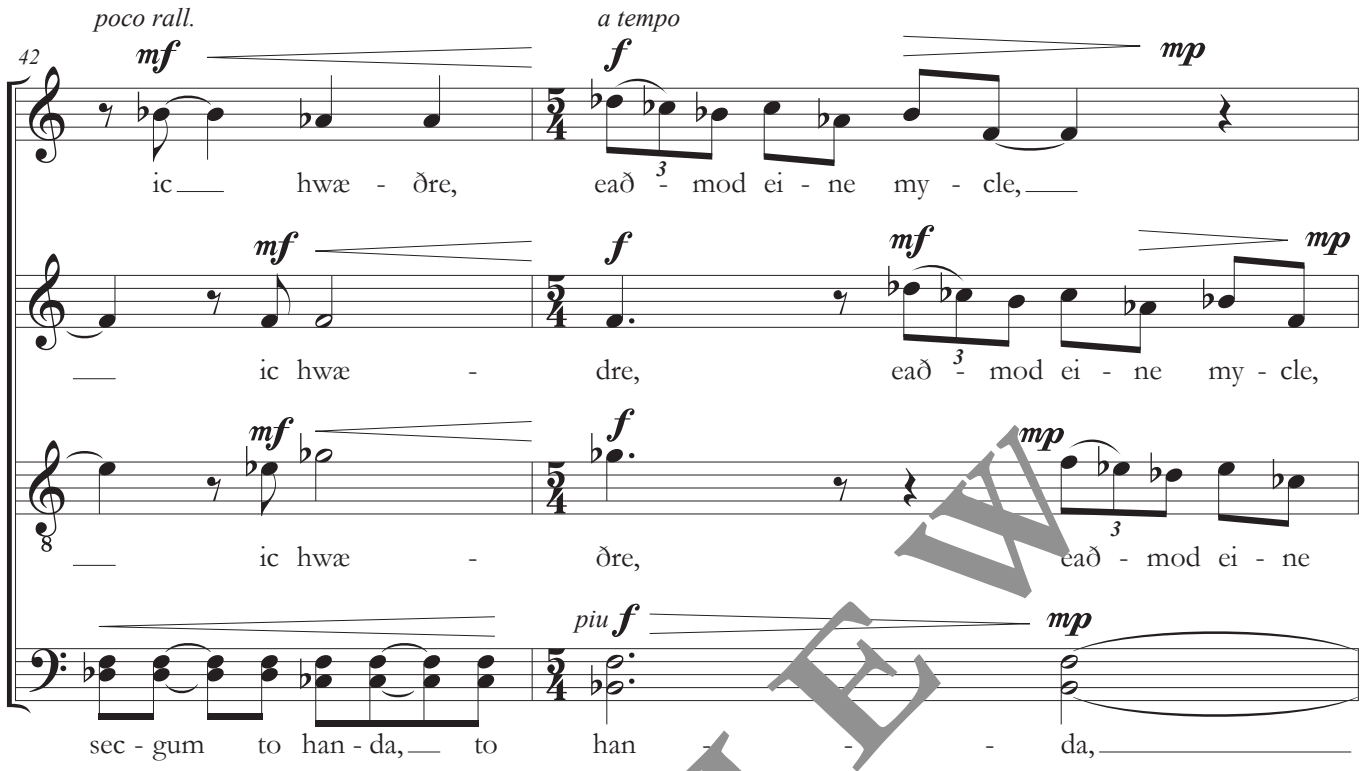
PREVIEW

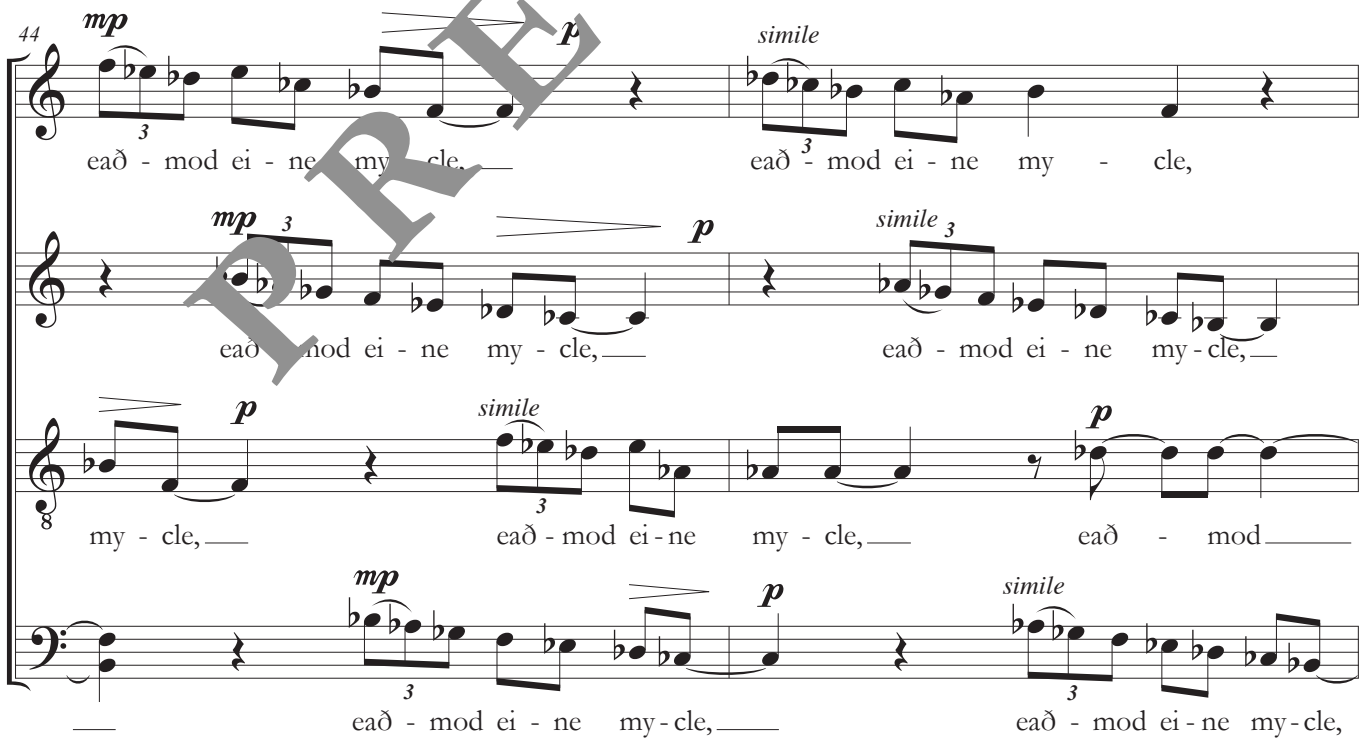

33
S 1
be - heold.
Ic þæt eall
be - heold,
hnag
ic
S 2
ic wæs
mid
sor - gum ge - dre - fed,
hnag
ic
A 1
Ic þæt eall
be - heold.
Ic þæt eall
be - hold.
A 2
ic wæs
mid
sor - gum ge - dre fed.
be - heold .
T 1
eall
be - heold.
Ic þæt eall
be - heold.
T 2
ic wæs
sor - gum ge - dre - fed.
Ic þæt eall
B 1
ic wæs
mid
sor - gum ge - dre - fed.
B 2
heold.
Ic þæt
eall
be - heold.
Ic þæt eall
be

PREVIEW

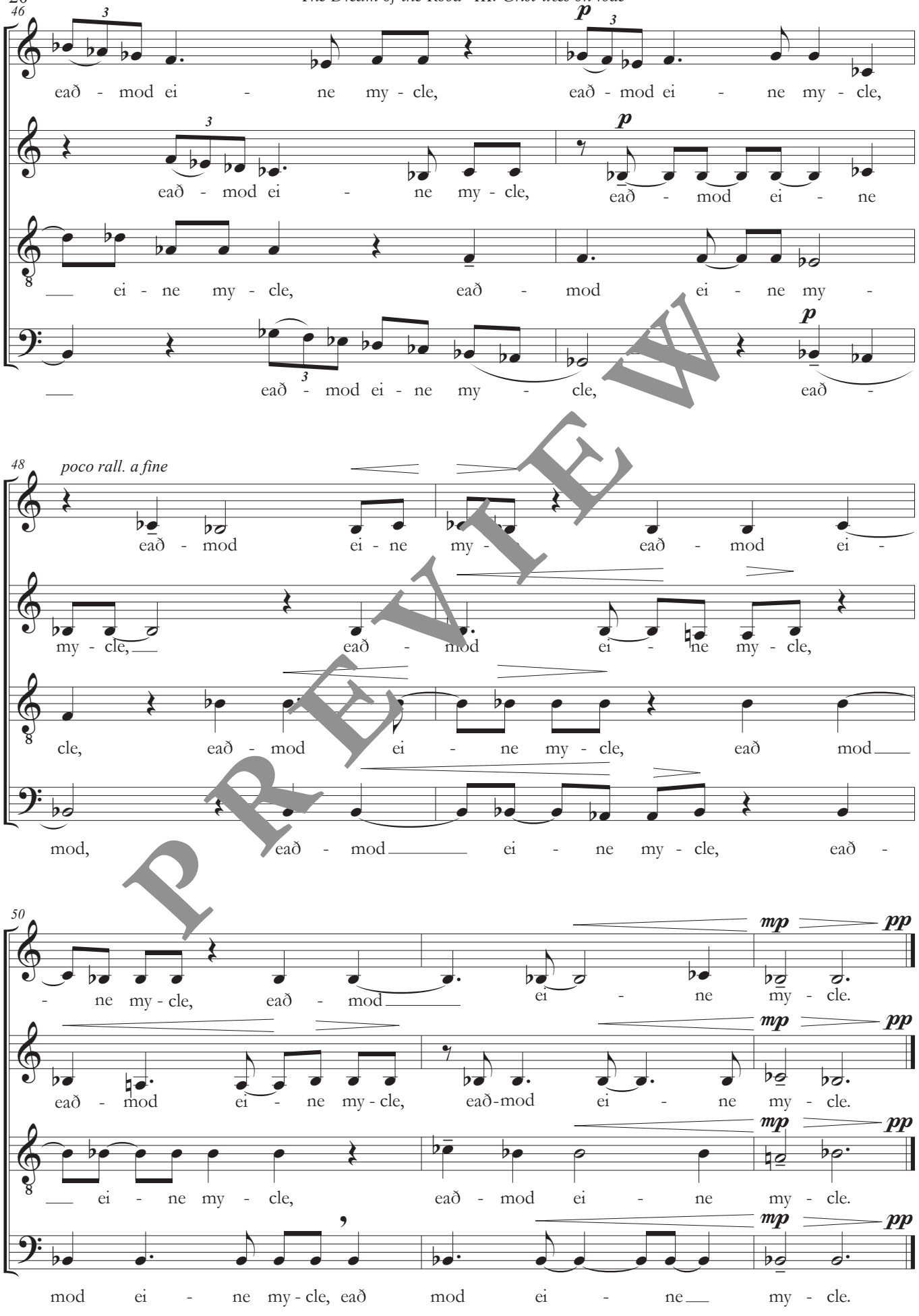

36
S
A
T
B
mf
hwæ - ðre þam sec - gum to han - da, ic hwæ - ðre, ic
f
Ic þæt eall be-heold, hnag ic hwæ - ðre þam sec - gum to
be - heold. Ic þæt eall be - heold. Ic þæt eall be-heold,
heold. Ic þæt eall be - Ic þæt eall be -
39
mp
hwæ - ðre, ic hwæ - ðre, ic hwæ - ðre,
han - da, ic hwæ - ðre, ic hwæ - ðre, hwæ - ðre,
hang ic hwae - ðre þam sec - gum to han - da. ic hwæ - ðre,
heold. Ic þæt eall be - heold, hnag ic hwæ - ðre þam

PREVIEW


poco rall.
a tempo
42
S
A
T
B
ic hwæ - ðre, eað - mod ei - ne my - cle,
ic hwæ - dre, eað - mod ei - ne my - cle,
ic hwæ - ðre, eað - mod ei - ne
sec - gum to han - da, to han - da,

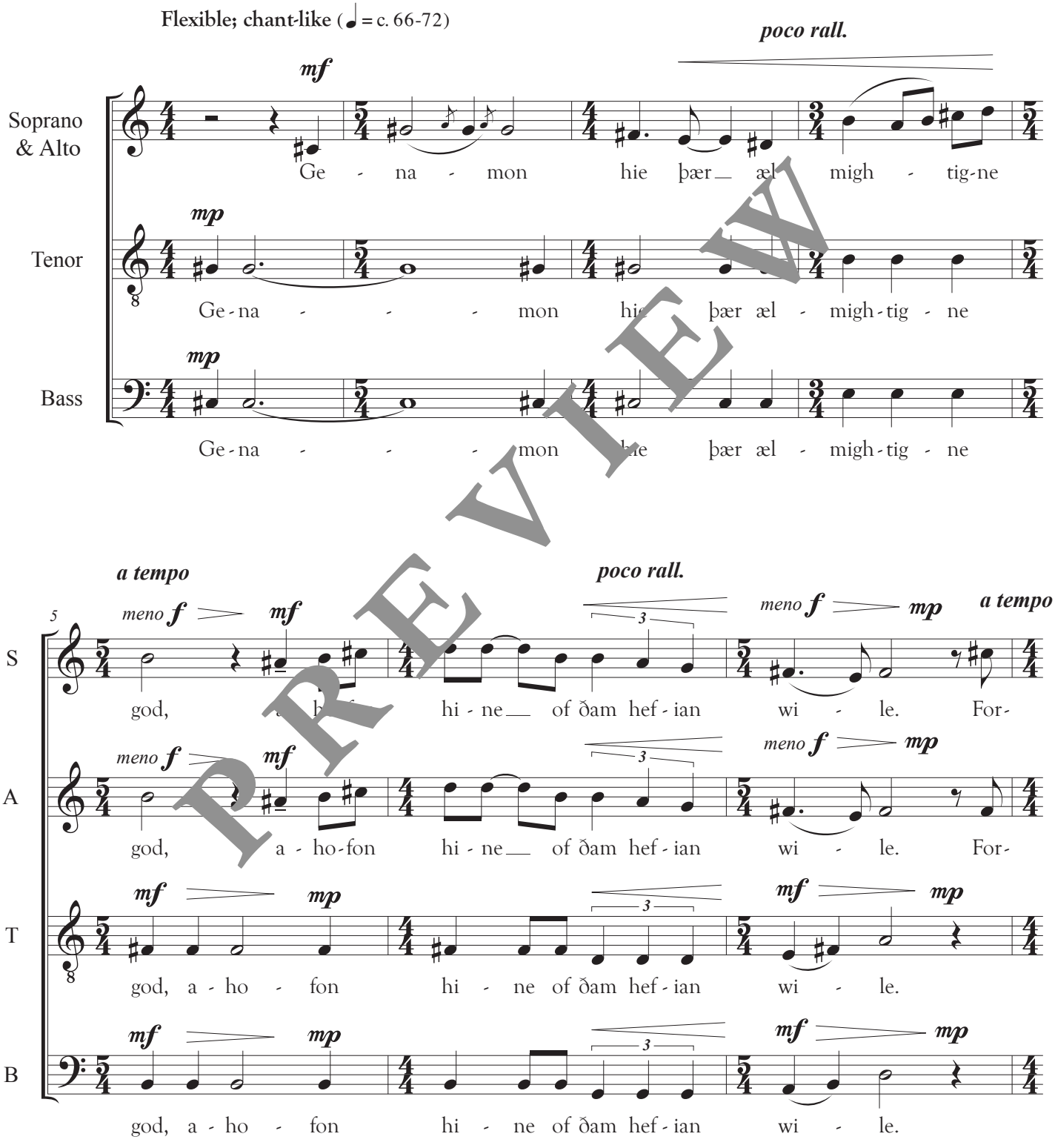

44
S
A
T
B
eað - mod ei - ne my - cle, eað - mod ei - ne my - cle,
eað - mod ei - ne my - cle, eað - mod ei - ne my - cle,
my - cle, eað - mod ei - ne my - cle, eað - mod
eað - mod ei - ne my - cle, eað - mod ei - ne my - cle,

PREVIEW


46
S
eað - mod ei - ne my - cle, eað - mod ei - ne my - cle,
A
eað - mod ei - ne my - cle, eað - mod ei - ne
T
ei - ne my - cle, eað - mod ei - ne my -
B
eað - mod ei - ne my - cle, eað -
48
poco rall. a fine
S
eað - mod ei - ne my - eað - mod ei -
A
my - cle, eað - mod ei - ne my - cle,
T
cle, eað - mod ei - ne my - cle, eað mod
B
mod, eað - mod ei - ne my - cle, eað -
50
S
- ne my - cle, eað - mod ei - ne my - cle.
A
eað - mod ei - ne my - cle, eað-mod ei - ne my - cle.
T
ei - ne my - cle, eað - mod ei - ne my - cle.
B
mod ei - ne my - cle, eað mod ei - ne my - cle.

PREVIEW

IV. Genamon hie þær ælmightigne god



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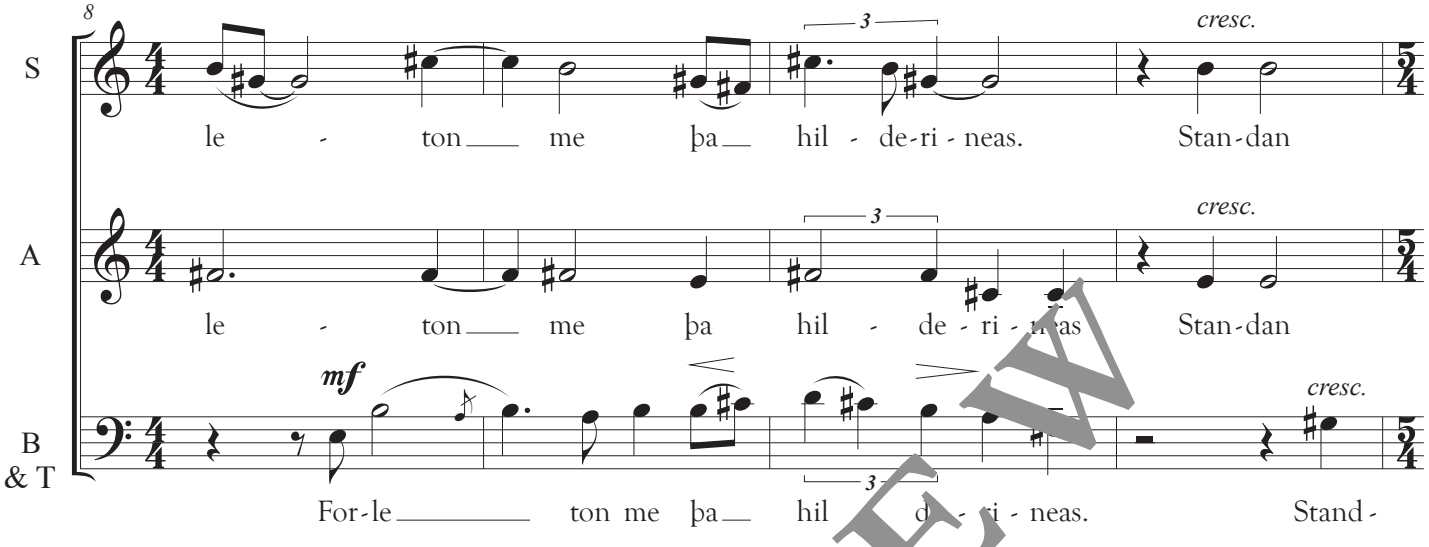
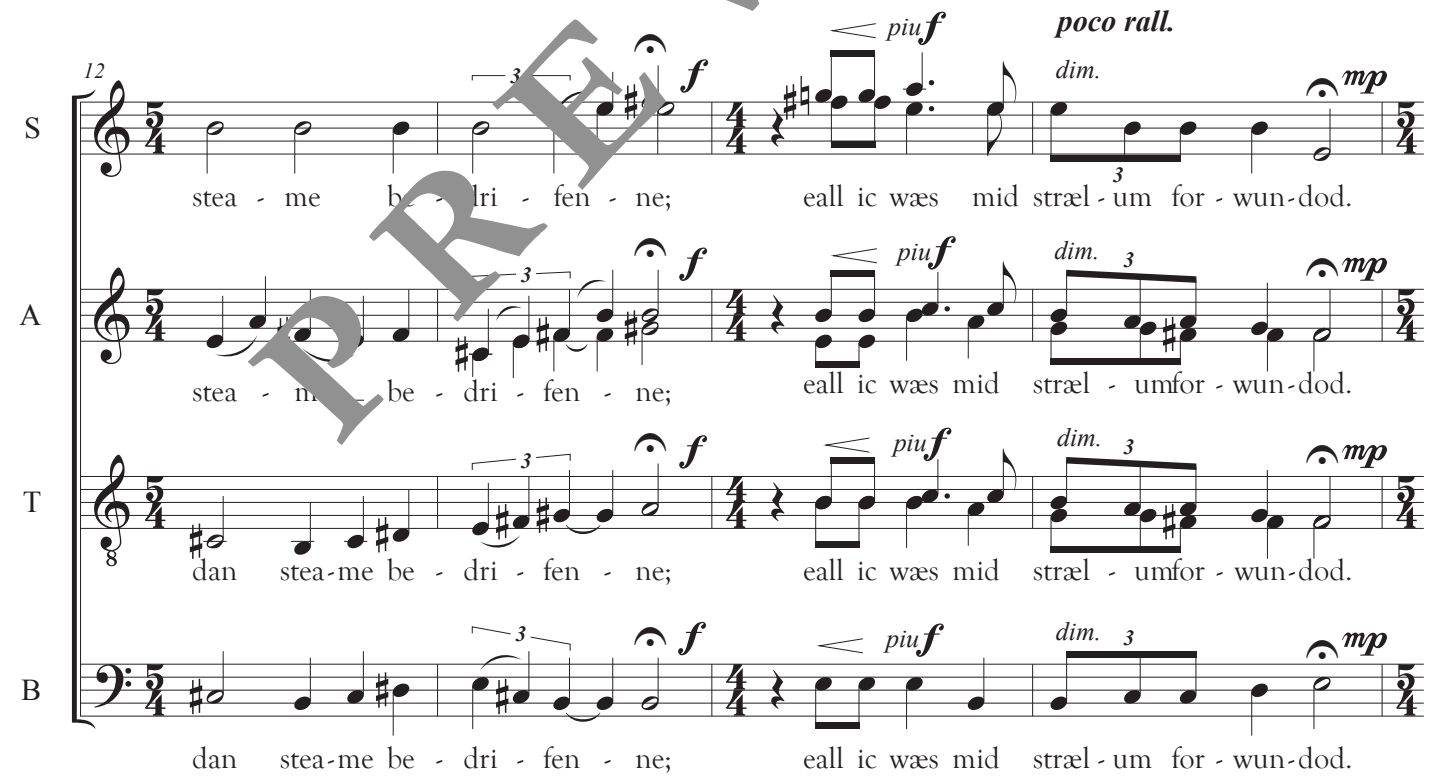
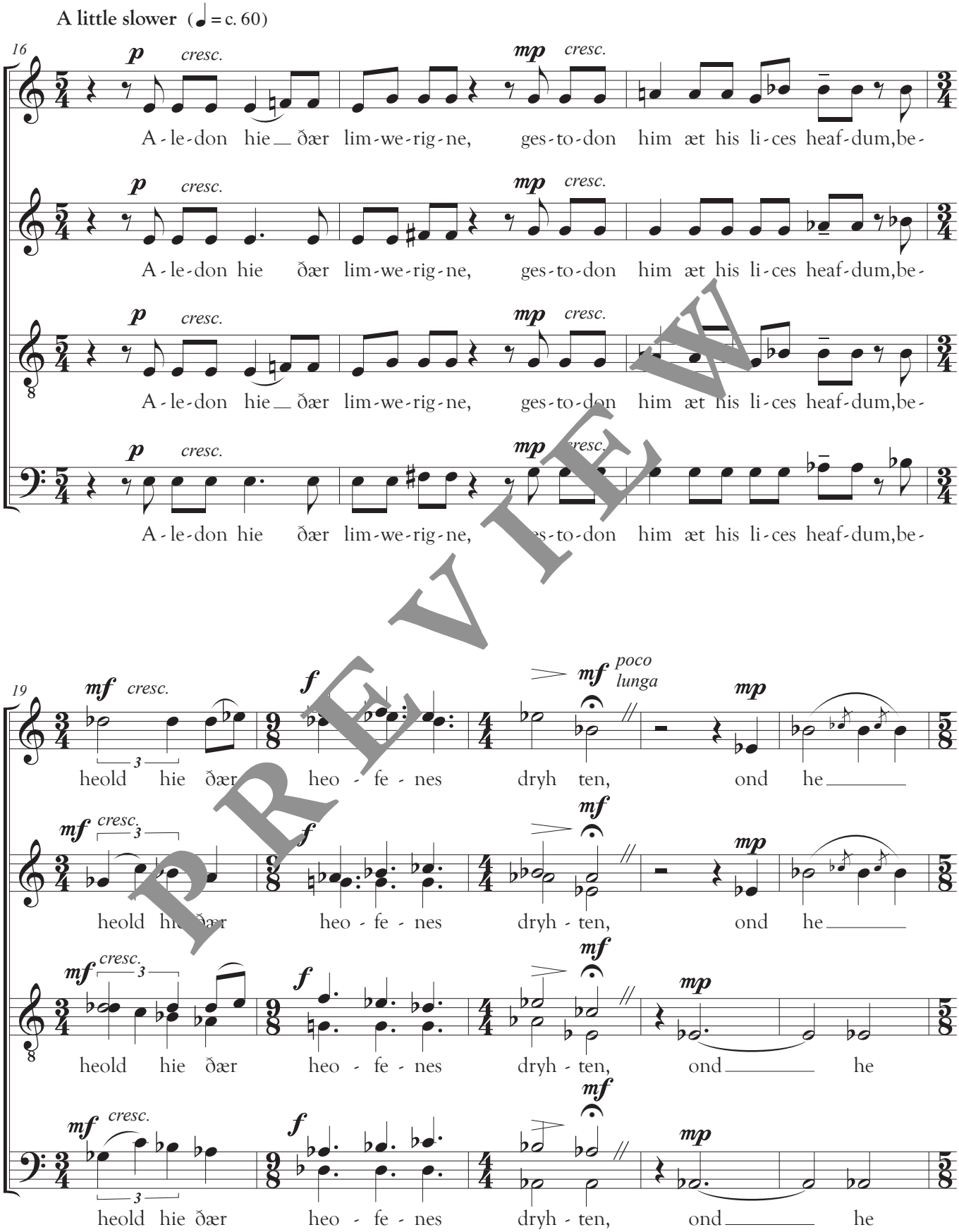
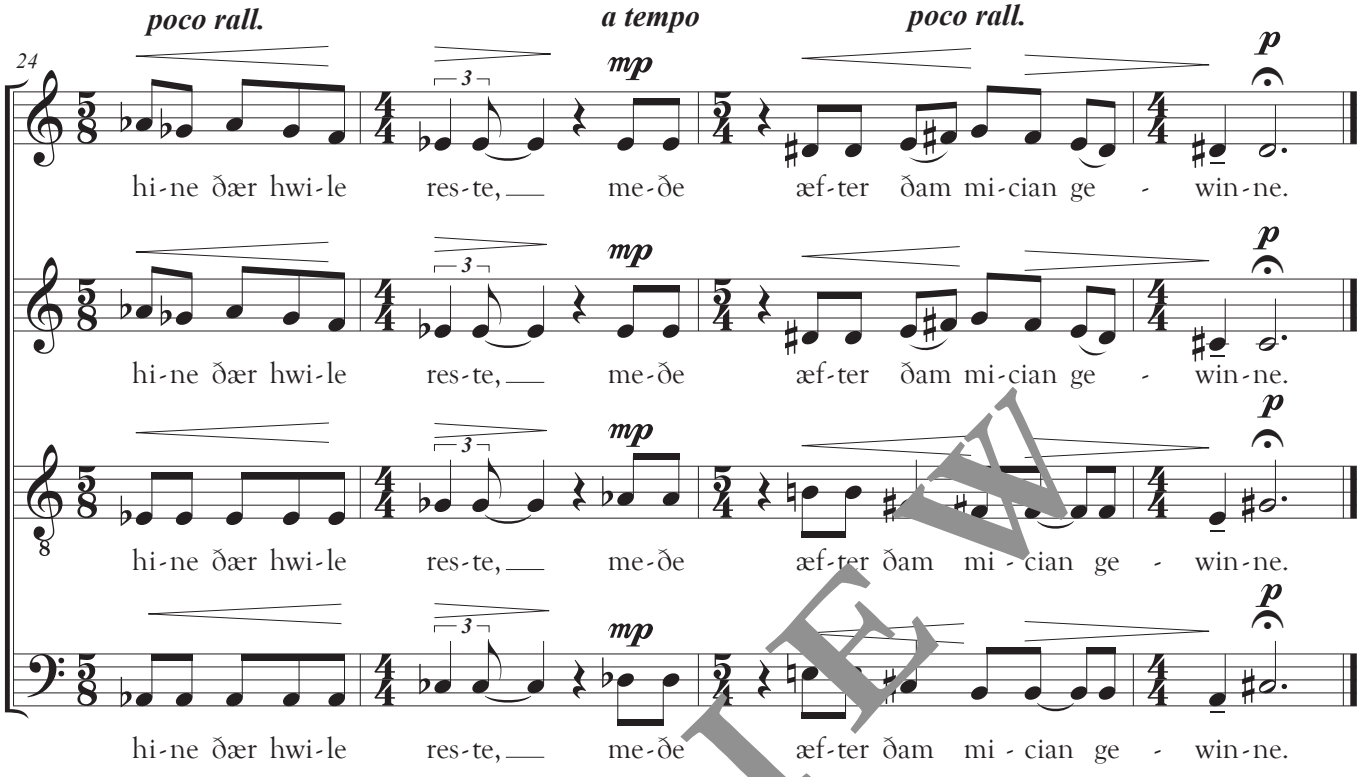

8
S
A
B & T
cresc.
mf
le - ton me þa hil - de-ri - neas. Stan-dan
le - ton me þa hil - de - ri - neas Stan-dan
For-le ton me þa hil - de - ri - neas. Stand-


12
S
A
T
B
piu f
f
poco rall.
dim.
mp
stea - me be - dri - fen - ne; eall ic wæs mid stræl - um for - wun-dod.
dan stea-me be - dri - fen - ne; eall ic wæs mid stræl - umfor - wun-dod.

PREVIEW


A little slower (♩ = c. 60)
16
S
A
T
B
p cresc.
mp cresc.
A - le - don hie ðær lim - we - rig - ne, ges - to - don him æt his li - ces heaf - dum, be -
19
mf cresc.
f
mf poco lunga
mp
heold hie ðær heo - fe - nes dryh - ten, ond he

PREVIEW


poco rall.
a tempo
poco rall.
24
S
A
T
B
mp
p
hi-ne ðær hwi-le res-te, me-ðe æf-ter ðam mi-cian ge - win-ne.

PREVIEW