Through Love's Eyes

For Baritone and Piano

Text by William Shakespeare

Music by Donald M. Skirvin

Selected lines from plays by William Shakespeare

Ay me! For aught that I could ever read,
Could ever hear by tale or history,
The course of true love never did run smooth.
A Midsummer Night's Dream, Lysander, Act 1 Scene 1

Love looks not with the eyes but with the mind.
And therefore is winged Cupid painted blind.
A Midsummer Night's Dream, Helena, Act 1 Scene 1

But love is blind, and lovers cannot see
The pretty follies that themselves commit
The Merchant of Venice, Jessica, Act 2 Scene 6

For when would you, my liege, or you, or you,
In leaden contemplation have found out
Such fiery numbers as the prompting eyes
Of beauty's tutors have enrich'd you with? . . .
A lover's eyes will gaze an eagle blind;
A lover's ear will hear the lowest sound,
When the suspicious head of theft is stopp'd.
Love's feeling is more soft and sensible
Than are the tender horns of cockled snails.
Love's tongue proves dainty Bacchus gross in taste.
For valour, is not Love a Hercules,
Still climbing trees in the Hesperides?
Subtle as Sphinx; as sweet and musical
As bright Apollo's lute, strung with his hair;
And when Love speaks, the voice of all the gods
Make heaven drowsy with the harmony.
Love's Labour's Lost, Berowne, Act IV Scene 3

Love is a smoke raised with the fume of sighs;
Being purged, a fire sparkling in lovers' eyes;
Being vexed, a sea nourished with loving tears.
What is it else? A madness most discreet,
A choking gall, and a preserving sweet.
Romeo and Juliet, Romeo, Act 1 Scene 1

Love, Madness, and Mystery

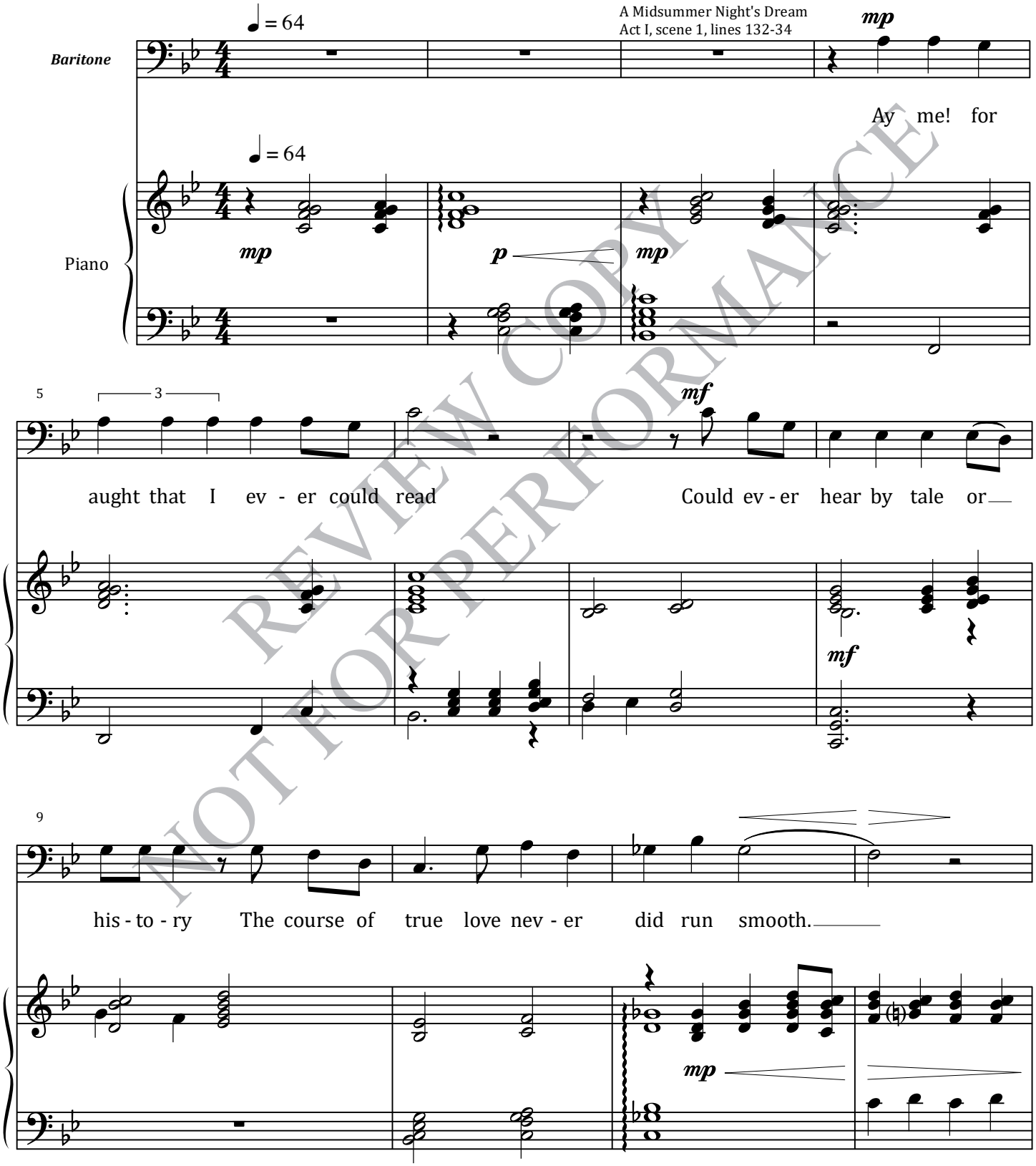
For Baritone and Piano

Donald M. Skirvin

William Shakespeare,
lines from *A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Merchant of Venice, Love's Labour's Lost,* and *Romeo and Juliette*

No. 1
Through Love's Eyes

Dedicated to Scott Kovacs



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A Midsummer Night's Dream,
Act I, scene 1, lines 234 - 235.

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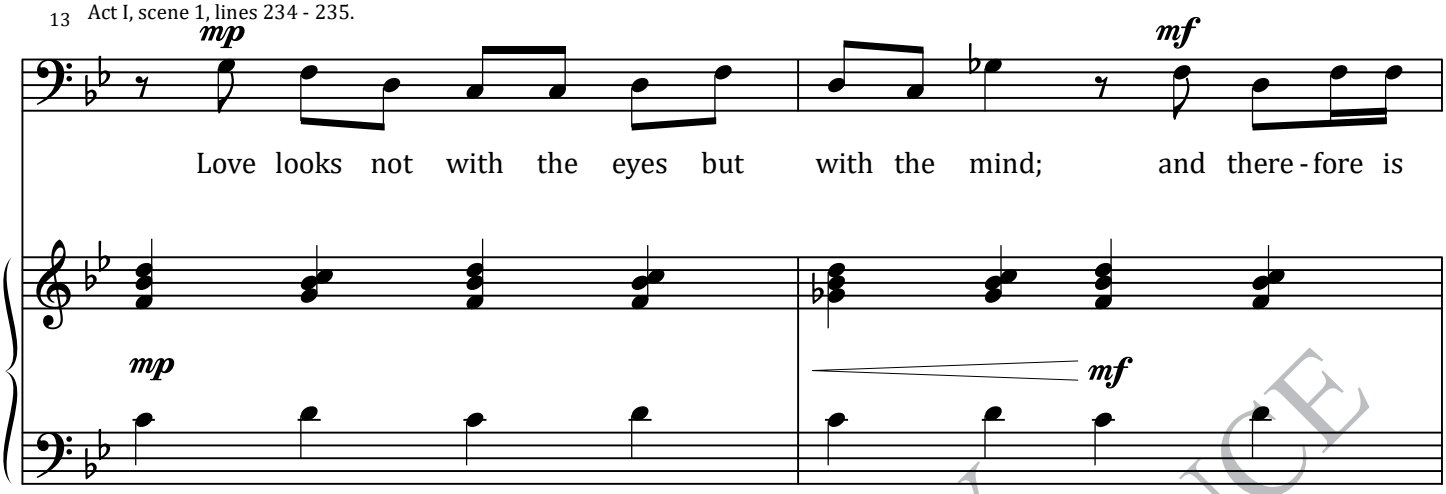

The Merchant of Venice:
Act II, scene 6, lines 36 - 37

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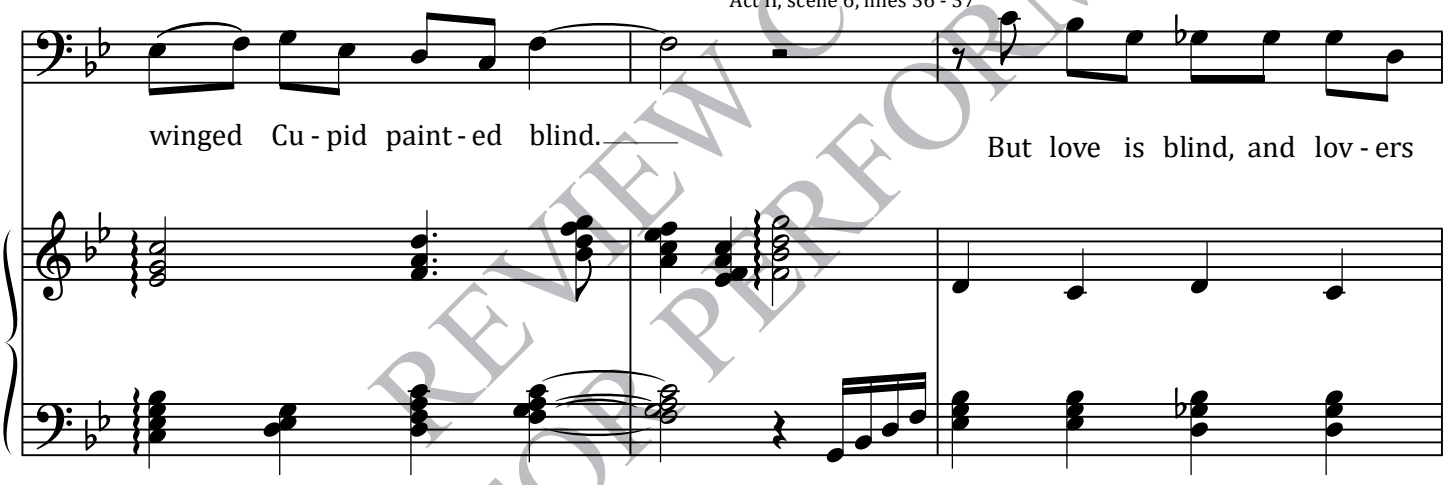

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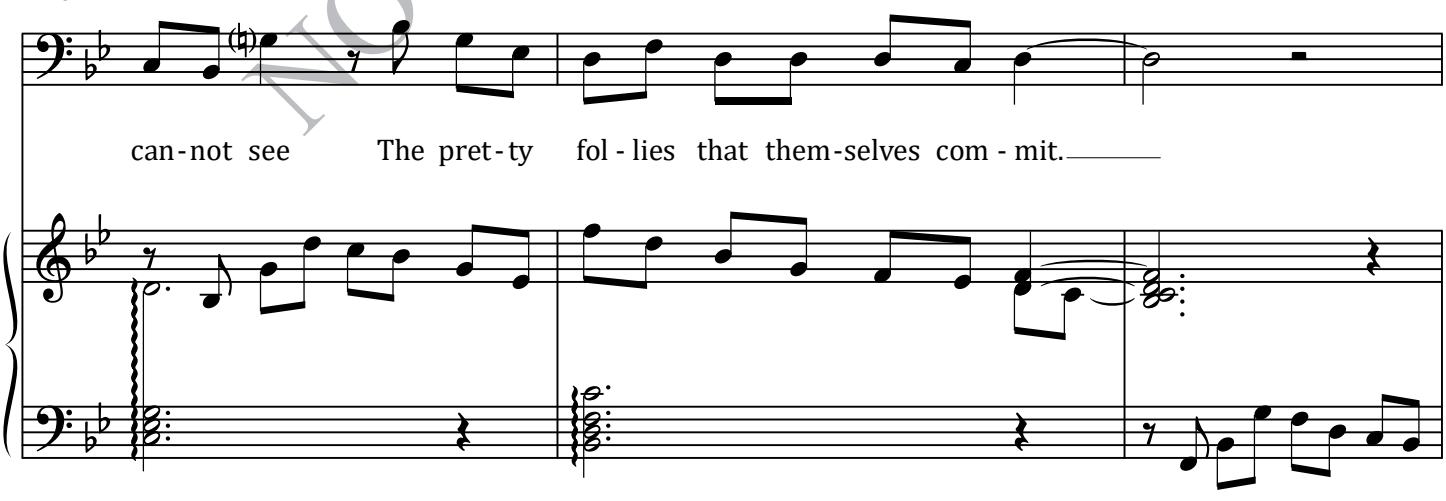

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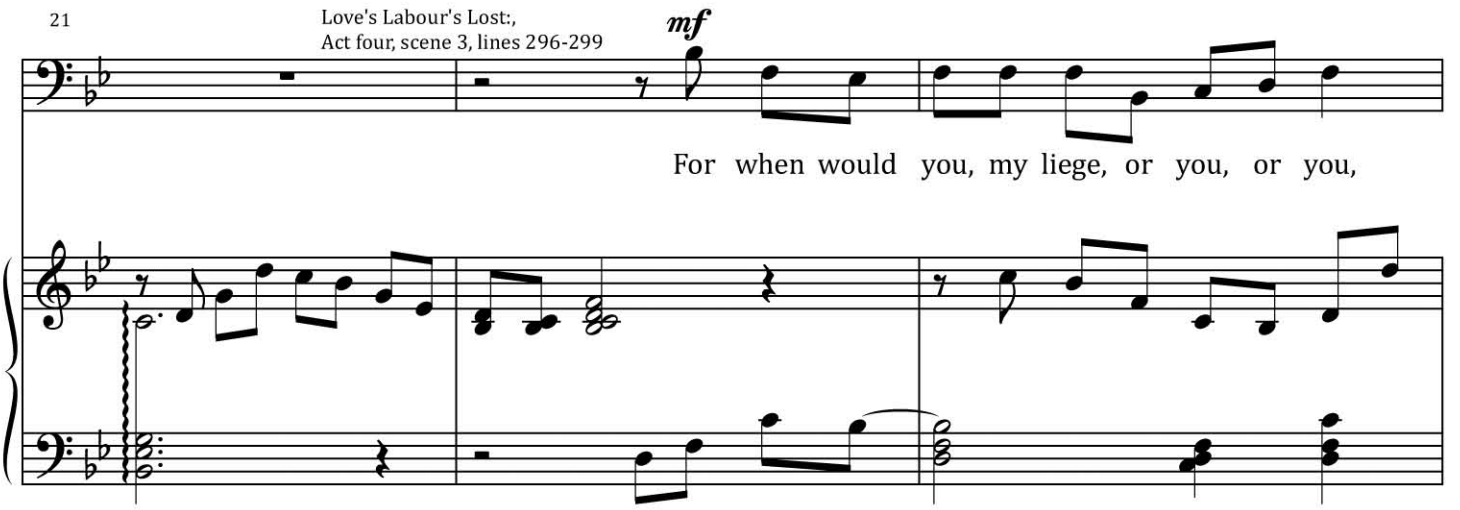

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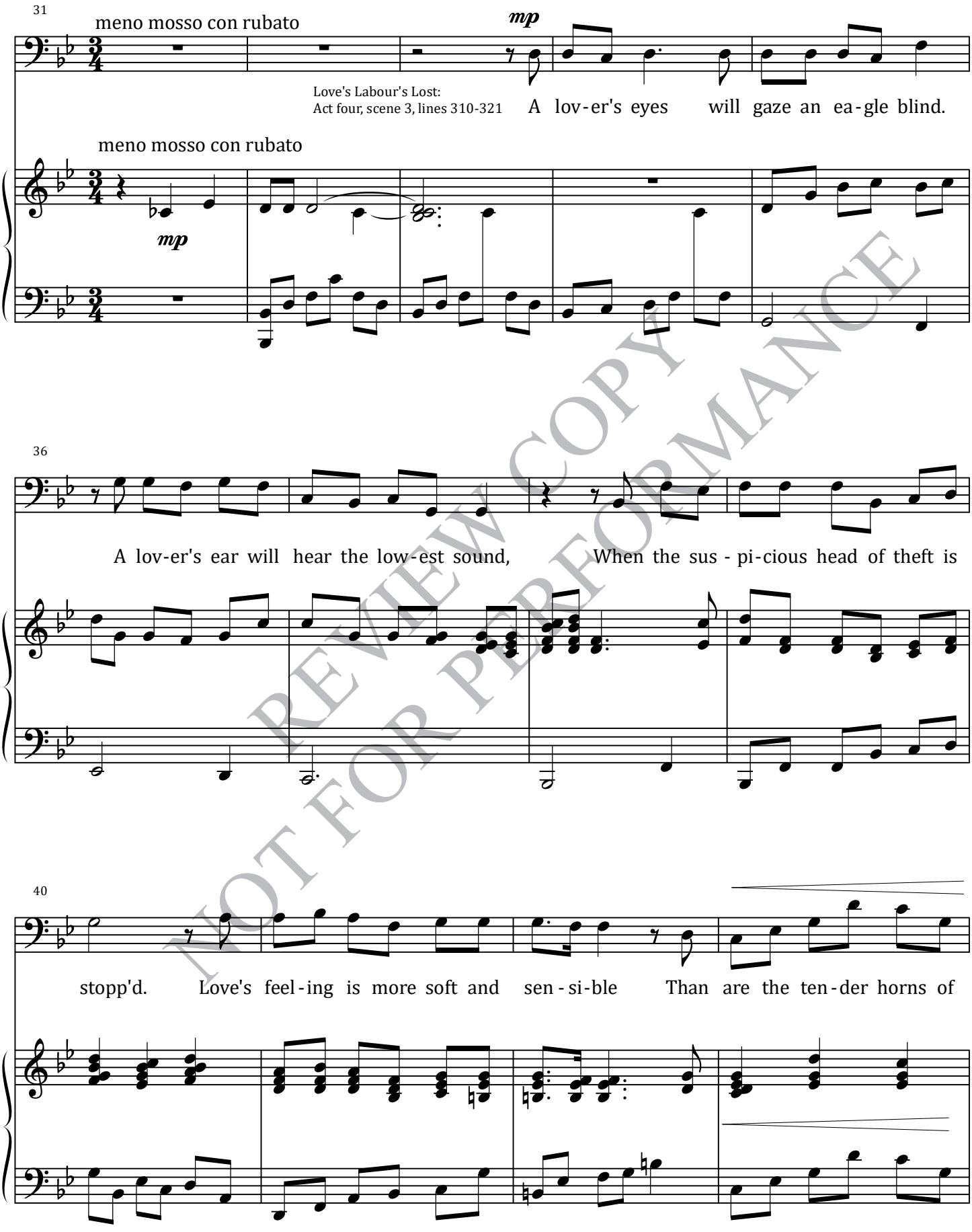

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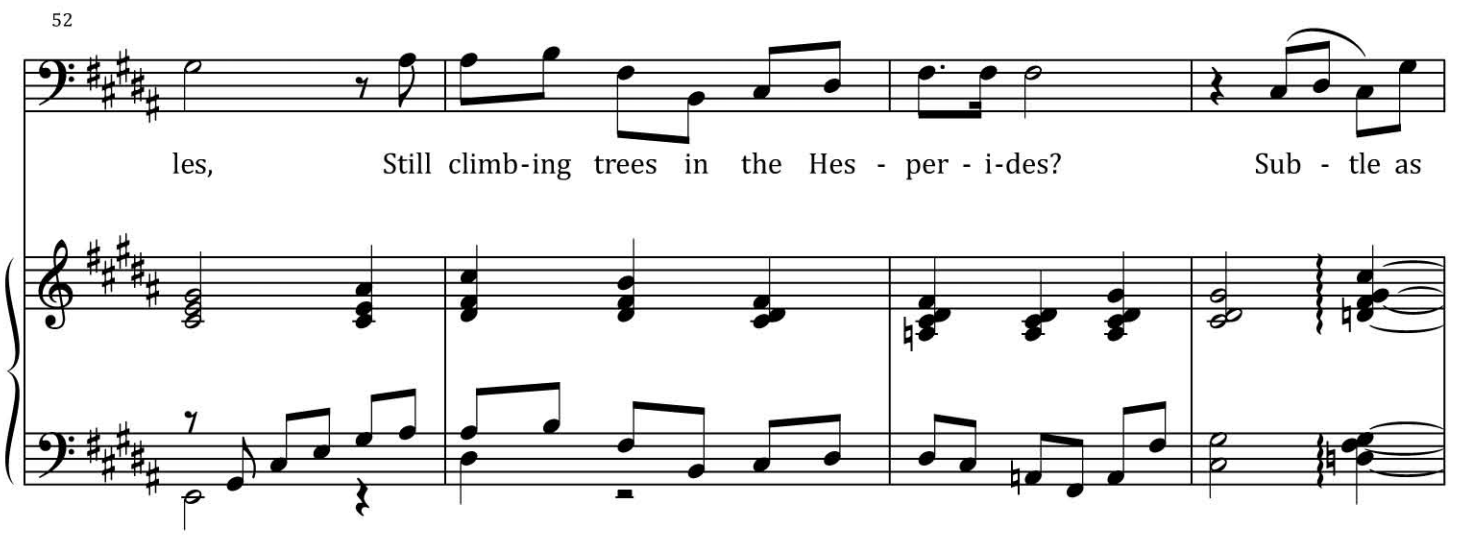

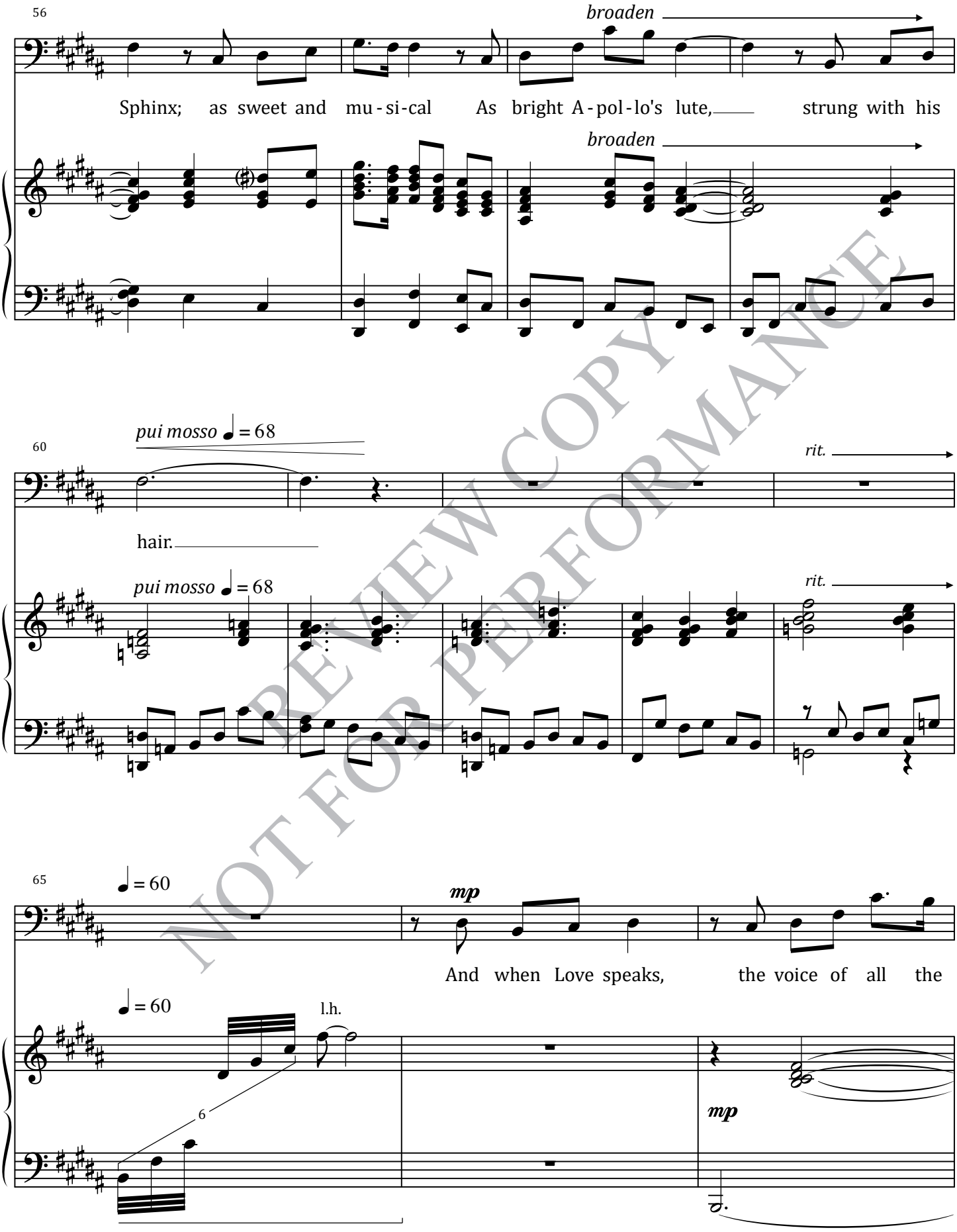

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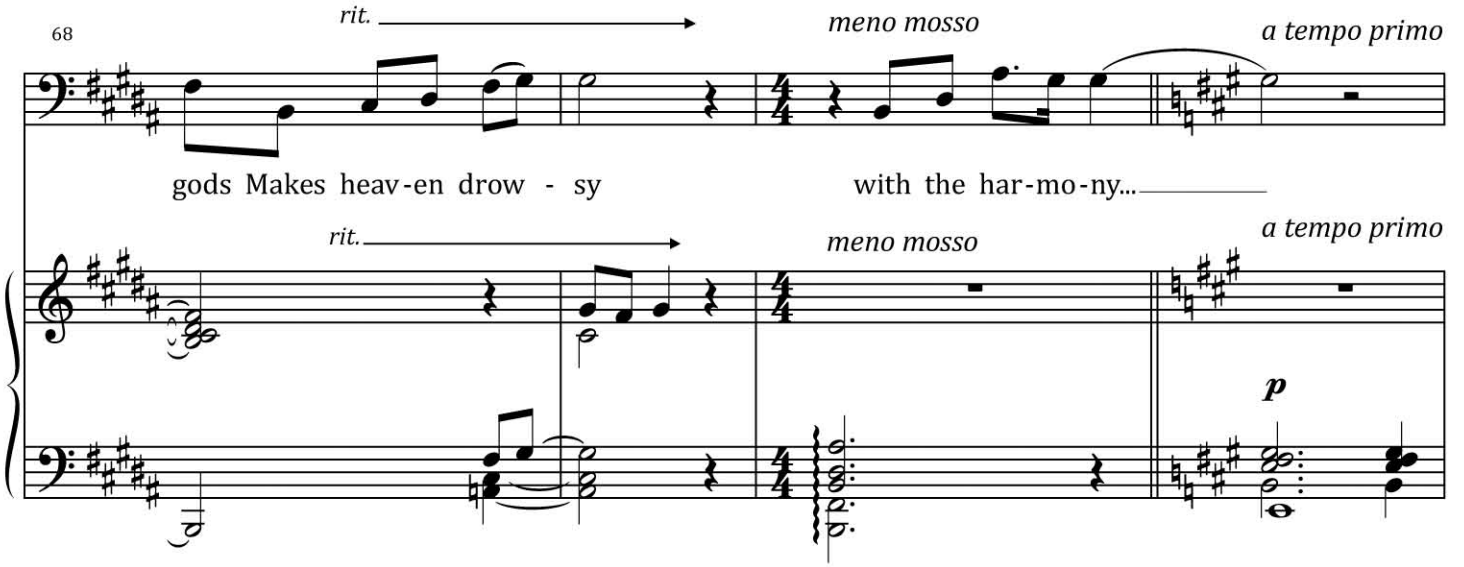

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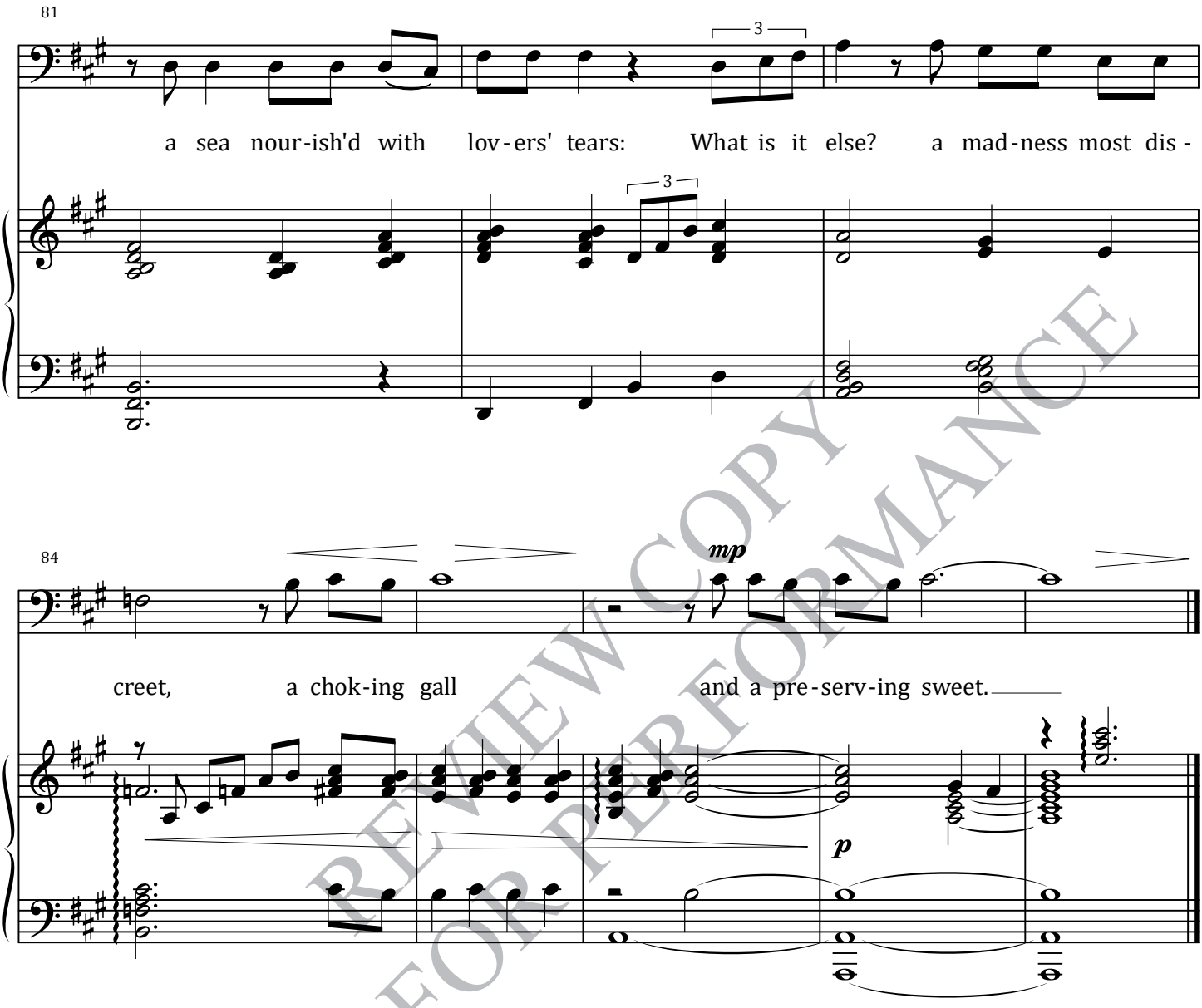

Seattle, May 1999
Revised November 2017

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