Editor's Note

George Frideric Handel was born in Halle, Germany in 1685 and died in London in 1759. He was one of the most prolific composers of the Baroque period, generally defined by the years 1600 to 1750. He composed hundreds of pieces of music, from solo and chamber instrumental works to oratorios and operas. Handel's most famous work is the oratorio *Messiah.*

"Lascia ch'io pianga" is a solo soprano aria from Handel's opera *Rinaldo*, written in 1711. He had used the aria's memorable melody in previous works; however, its popularity has certainly come from *Rinaldo* and the famous modern-day singers who have recorded the piece. It is sung in the second act by the character Almerina, who is being held captive and longing for her lover, Rinaldo, who has been kept from her. (They are later reunited!) The English translation of the text is loosely: "Let me weep over my cruel fate, and sigh for liberty. May sorrow break the torture of my sufferings, for pity's sake." The Italian text should be sung with pure vowels and syllabic stress as the text would dictate.

This arrangement attempts to capture the beauty of the solo, with unison and choral parts throughout the piece. It also retains the simplicity of the accompaniment, which is a major characteristic of the work.

Italian Pronunciation Guide

Lascia ch'io pianga mia cruda sorte,
Láh-shah kee‿oh pjáhn-gah mee‿ah kr̲óo-dah sáwr̲-tay,

e che sospiri la libertà!
ay kay soh-spée-ree lah lee-behr̲-táh!

Il duolo infranga queste ritorte
eel dwáw-loh‿een-fráhn-gah kwáy-stay ree-táwr̲-tay

de' miei martiri, sol per pietà.
day mjeh‿ee mahr̲-tée-ree, sohl payr̲ pjay-táh.

Pronunciation Suggestions:

An "r" which is underlined should be rolled. An "r" which is not underlined should be flipped.

The "j" in the transliteration should be pronounced like the "i" in the English word "onion."

The "ng" of "pianga" and "infranga" should be pronounced like the "n" in the English word "finger."

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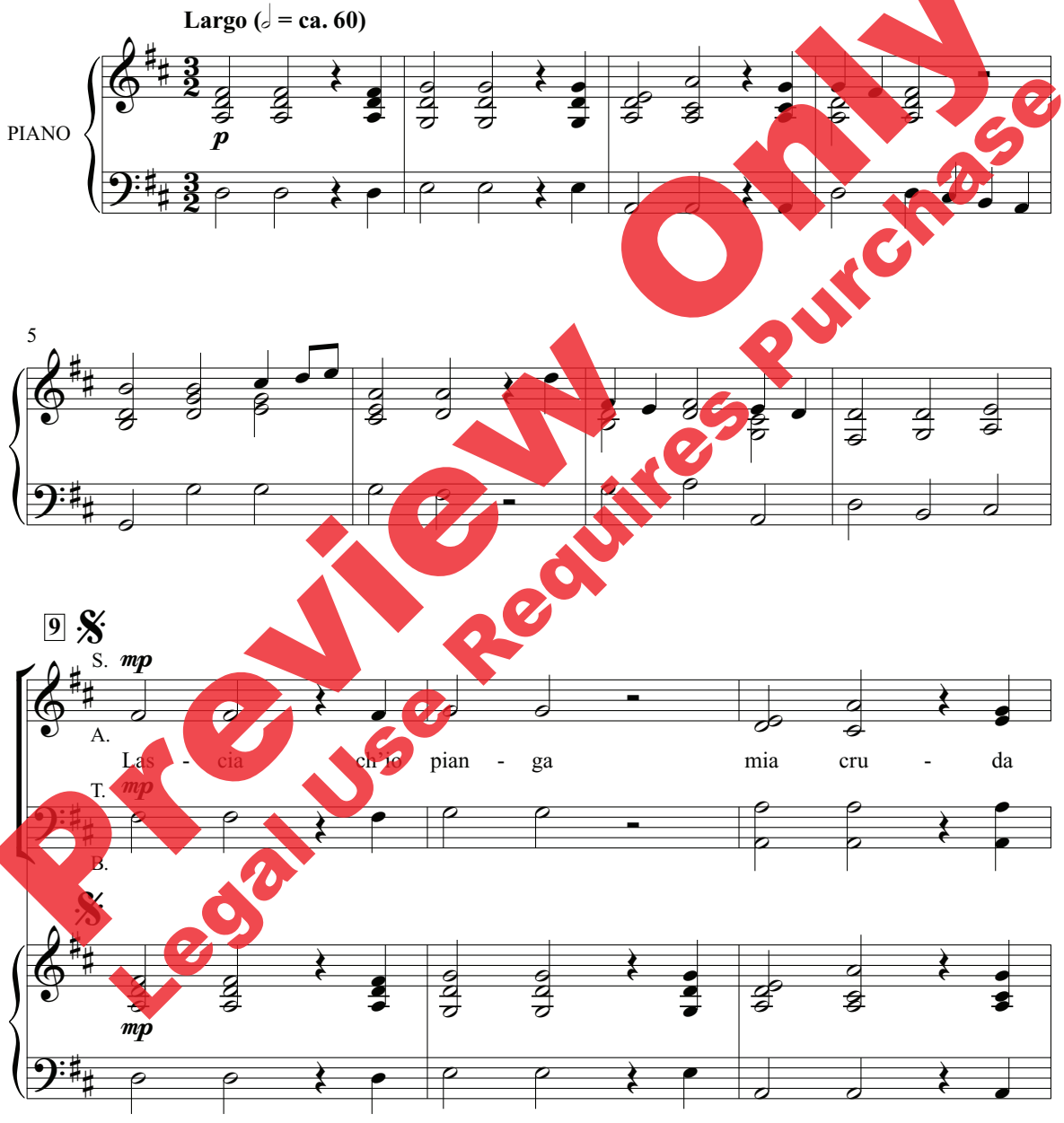
LASCIA CH'IO PIANGA

from *Rinaldo*

for S.A.T.B. voices and piano
with optional PianoTrax CD*

Words and Music by
GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL (1685-1759)
Edited and Arranged by **RUSSELL ROBINSON**



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* Also available for 3-part mixed (41563) and S.S.A. (41565).
PianoTrax 6 Accompaniment CD available (40036).

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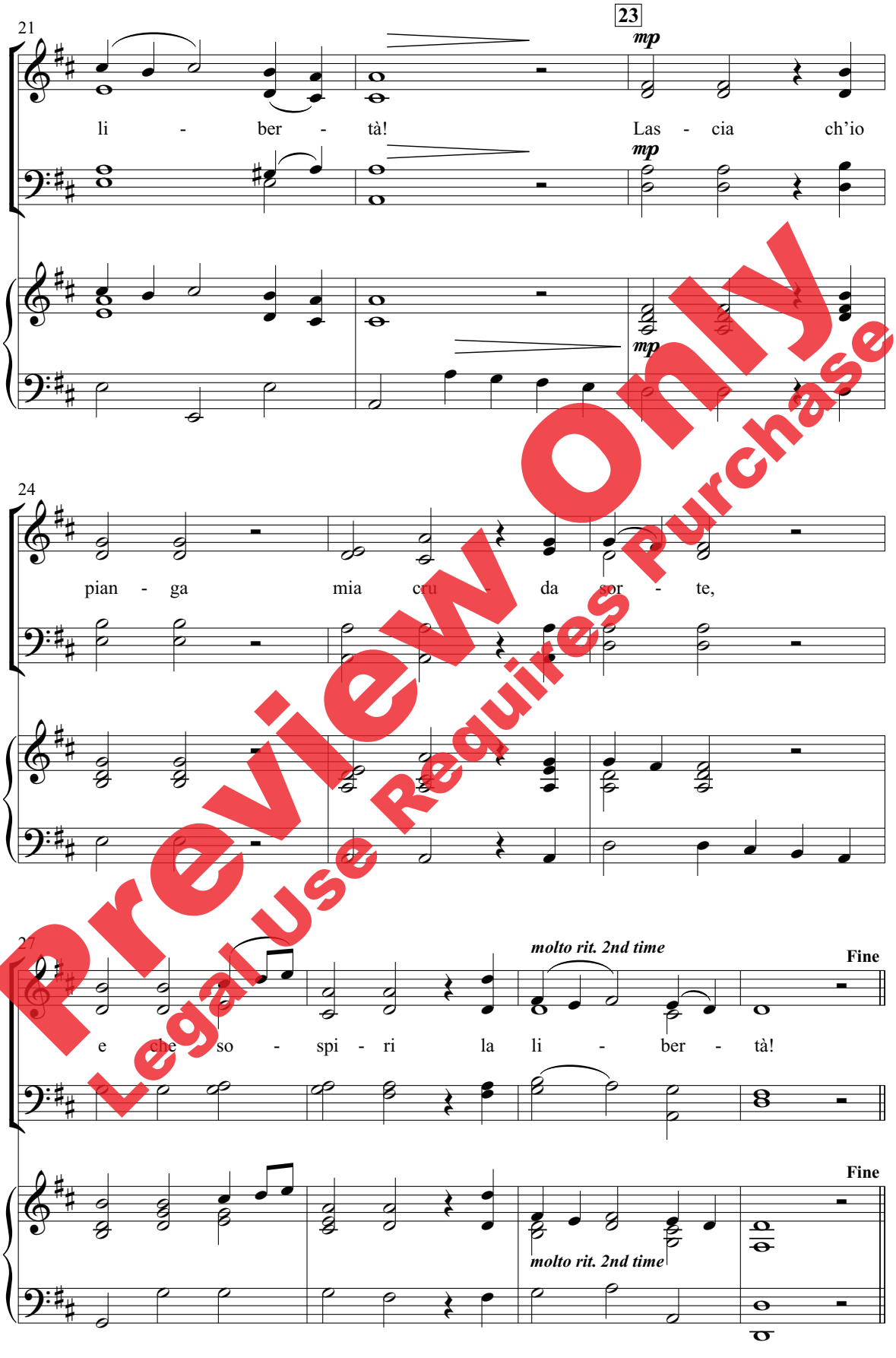

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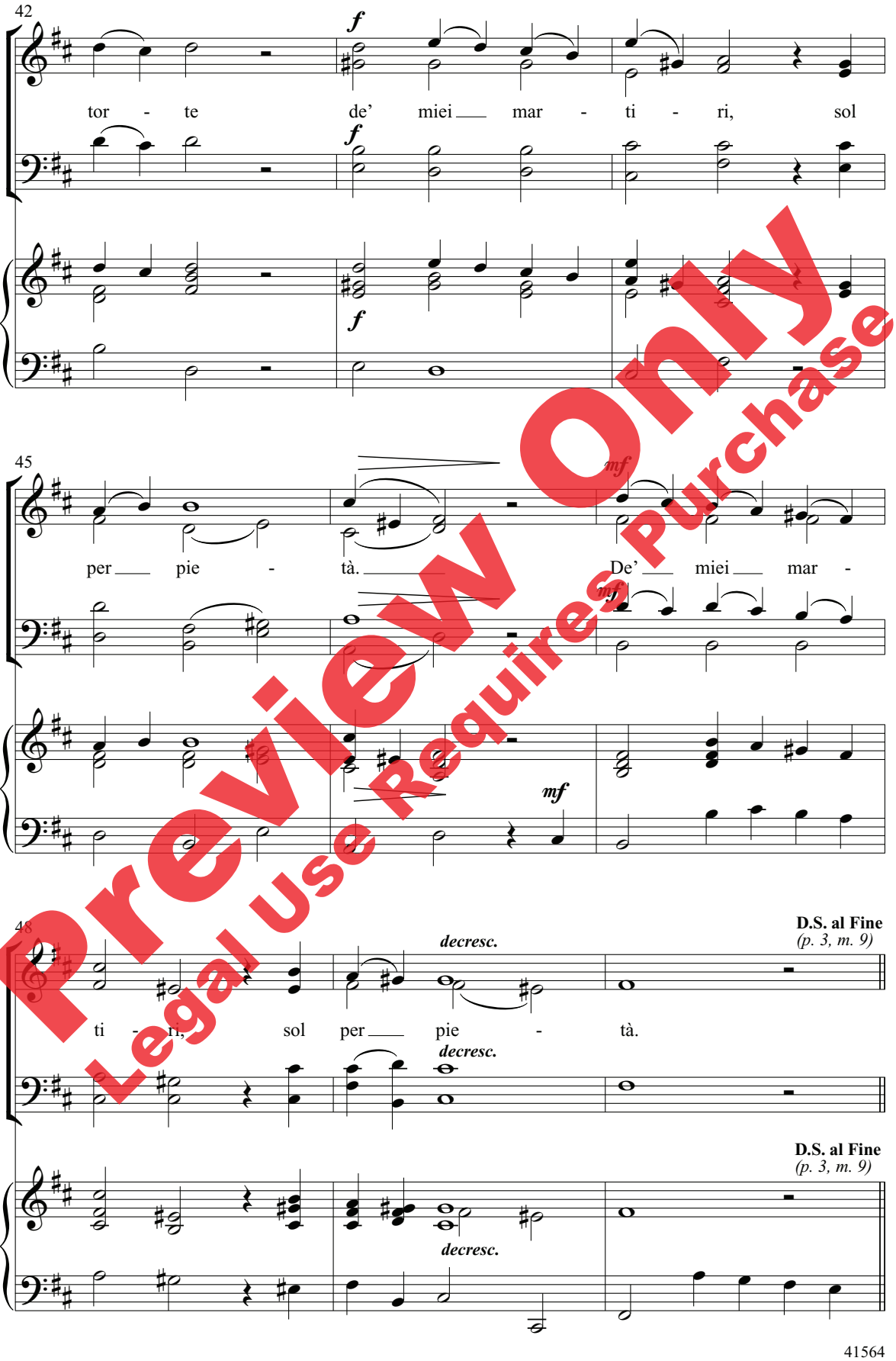

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