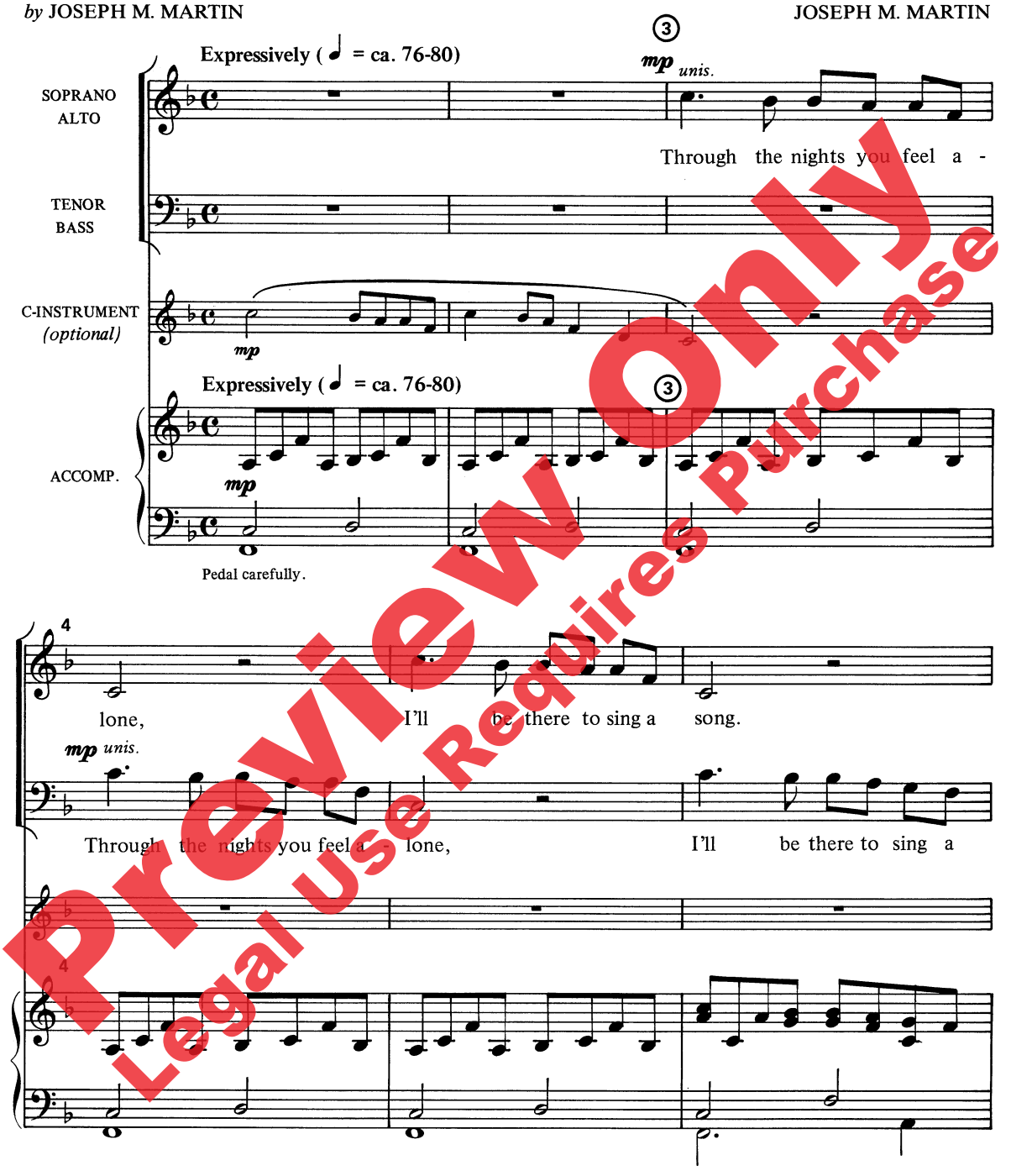
for the Rev. Charles Stewart
in honor of his years of faithful service

I WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU

for S.A.T.B. or two-part mixed voices,*
accompanied, with optional C-instrument**

Adapted from JOHN 14:15-31
by JOSEPH M. MARTIN

Music by
JOSEPH M. MARTIN



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* Two-part mixed voices should omit the alto and tenor parts.
** Part for optional C-instrument may be found on page 12. Flute may play one octave higher.

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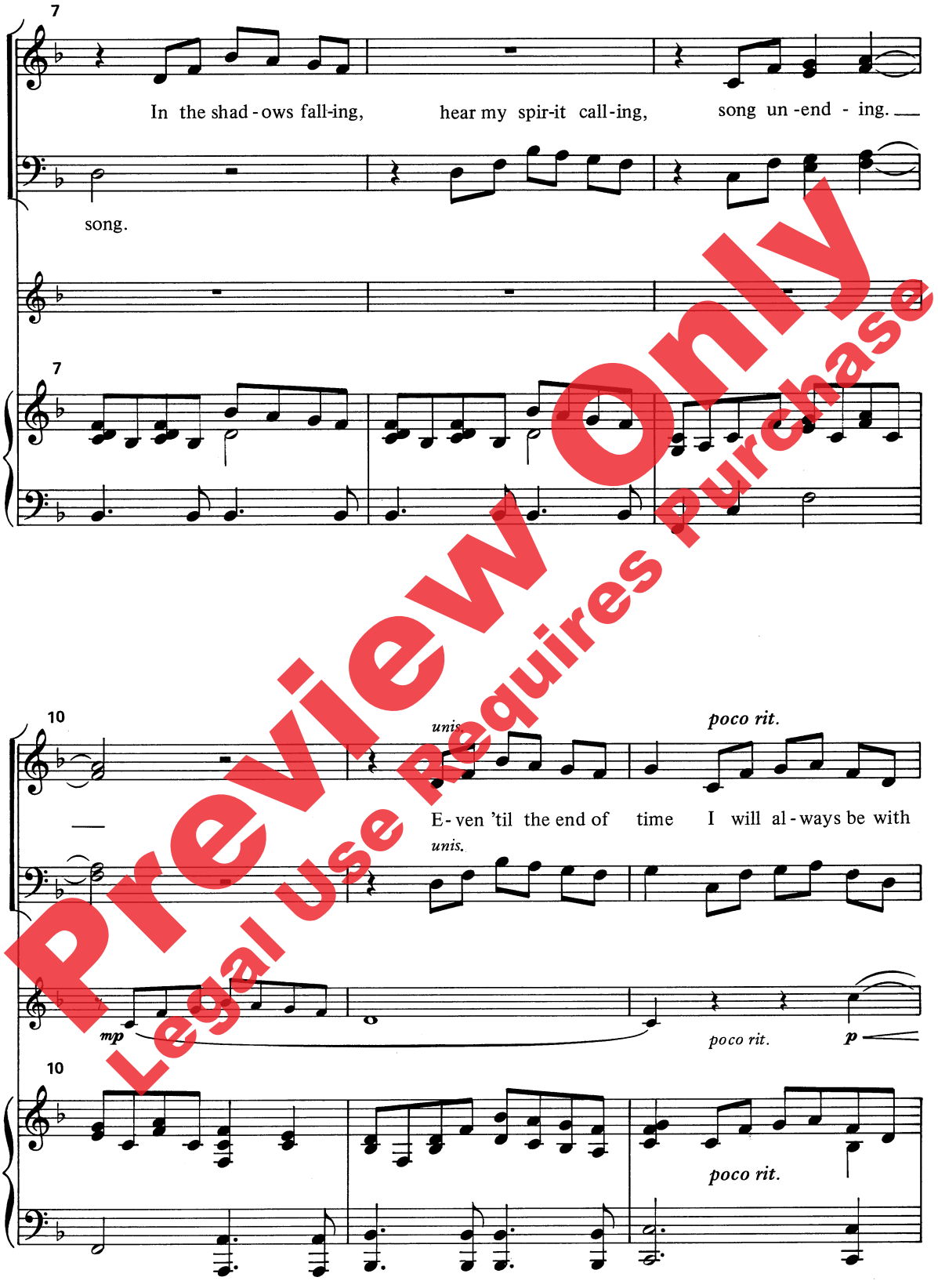

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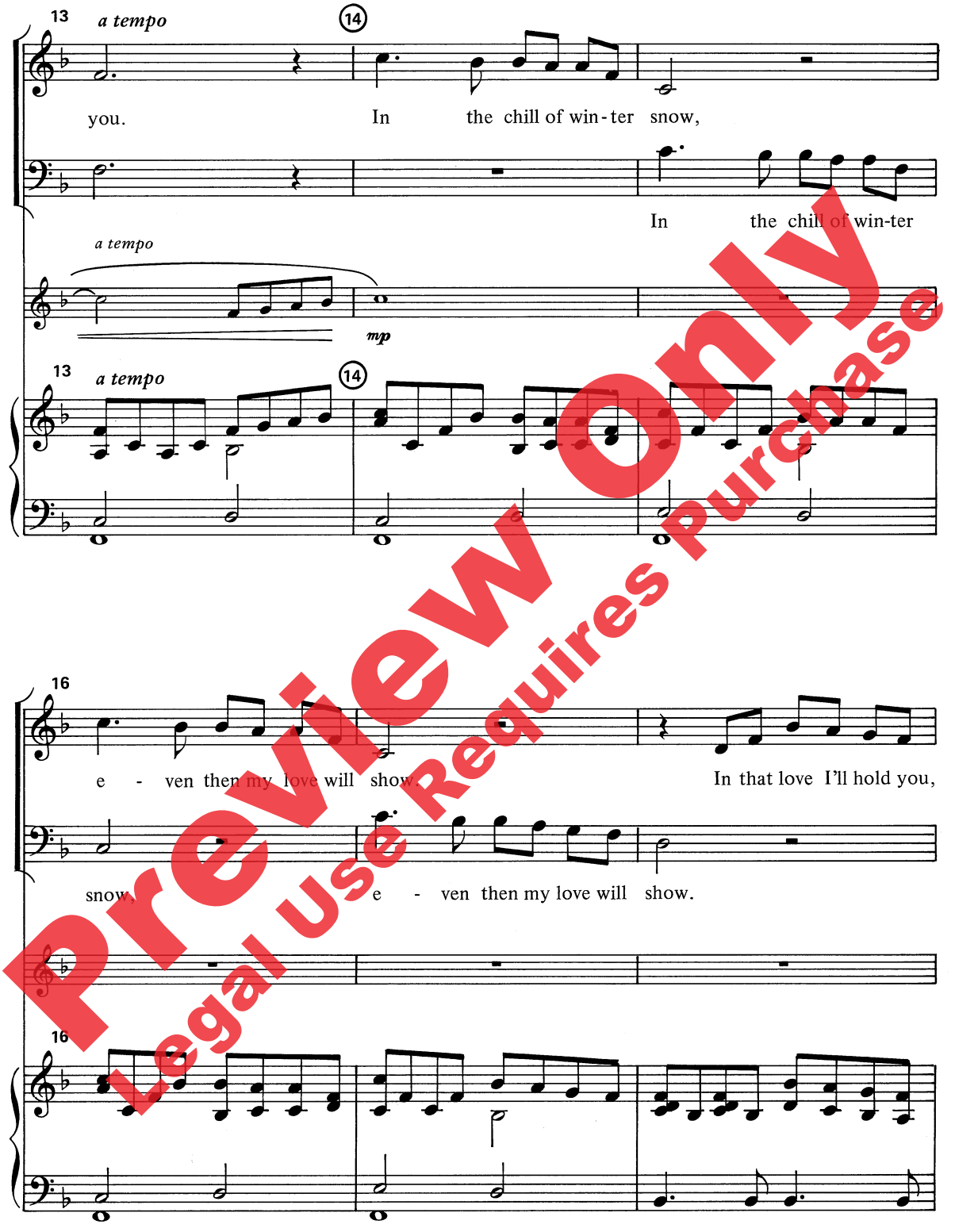

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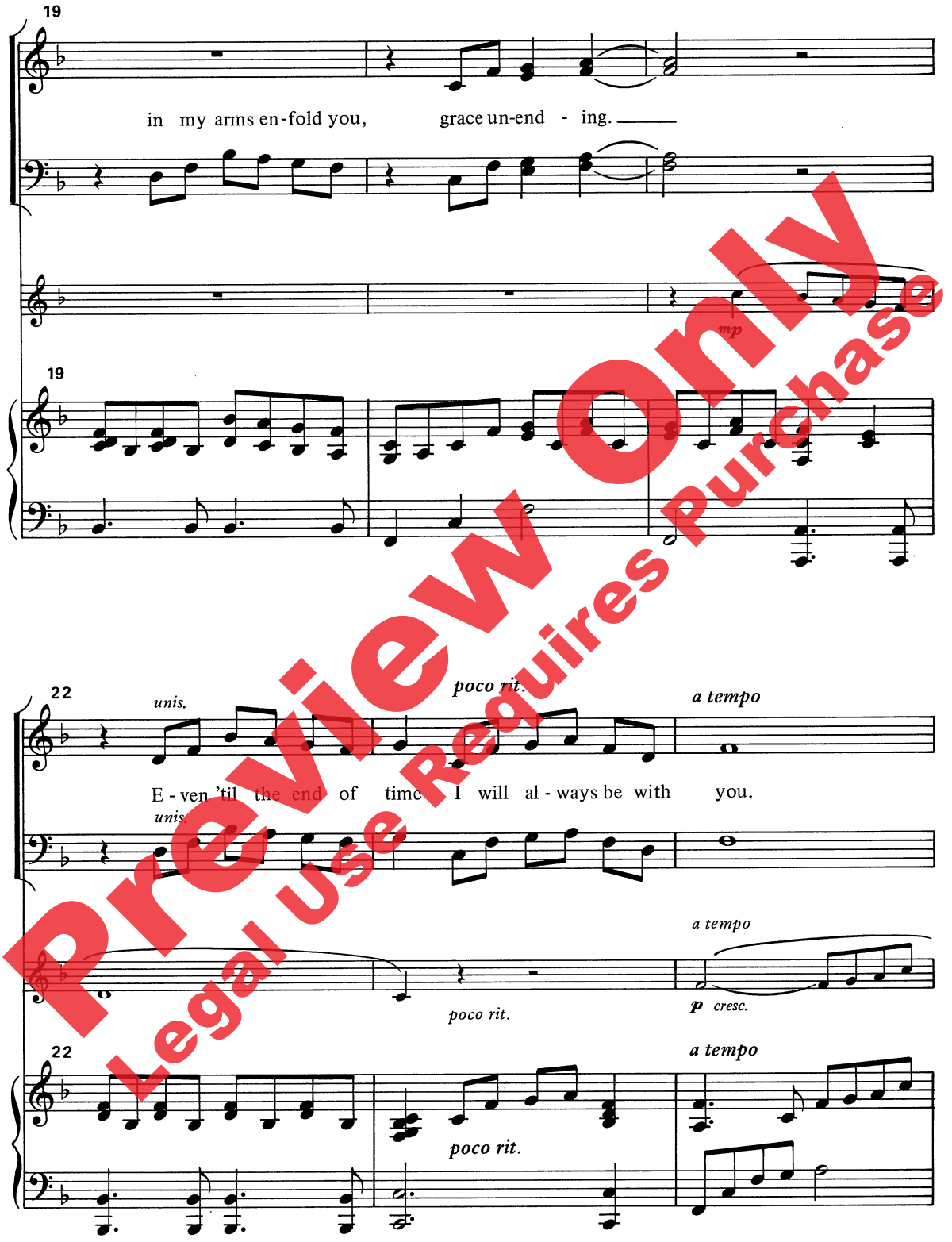

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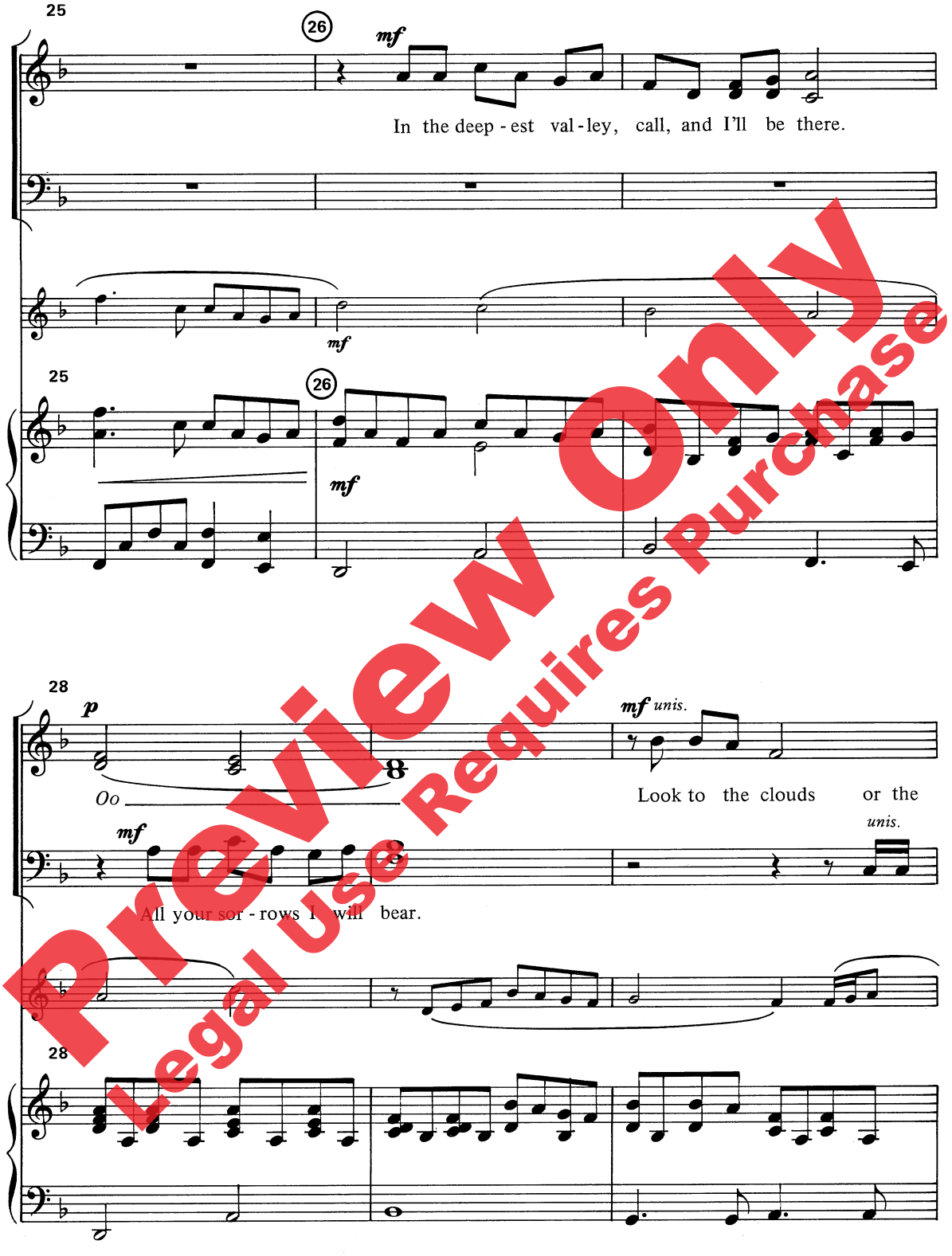

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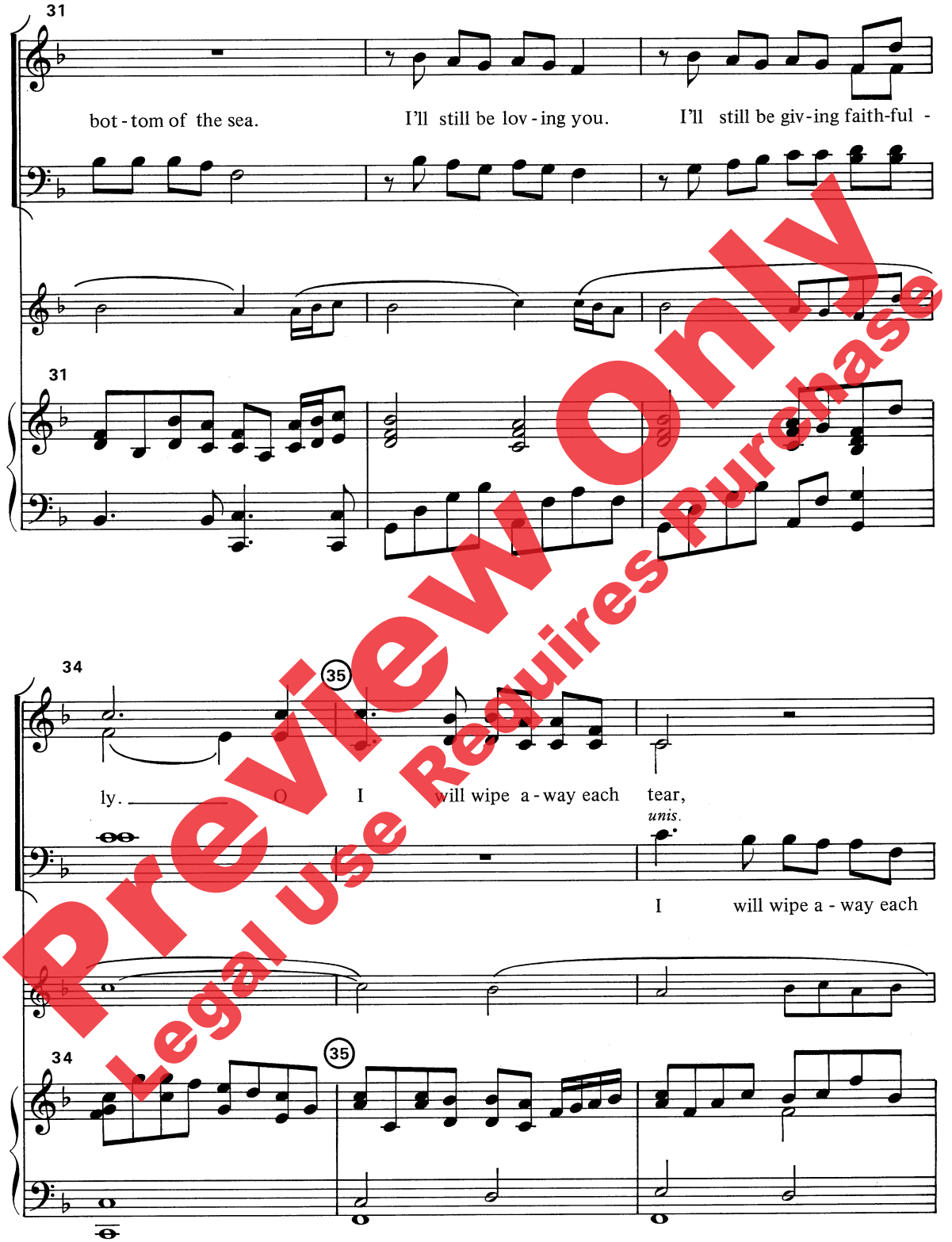

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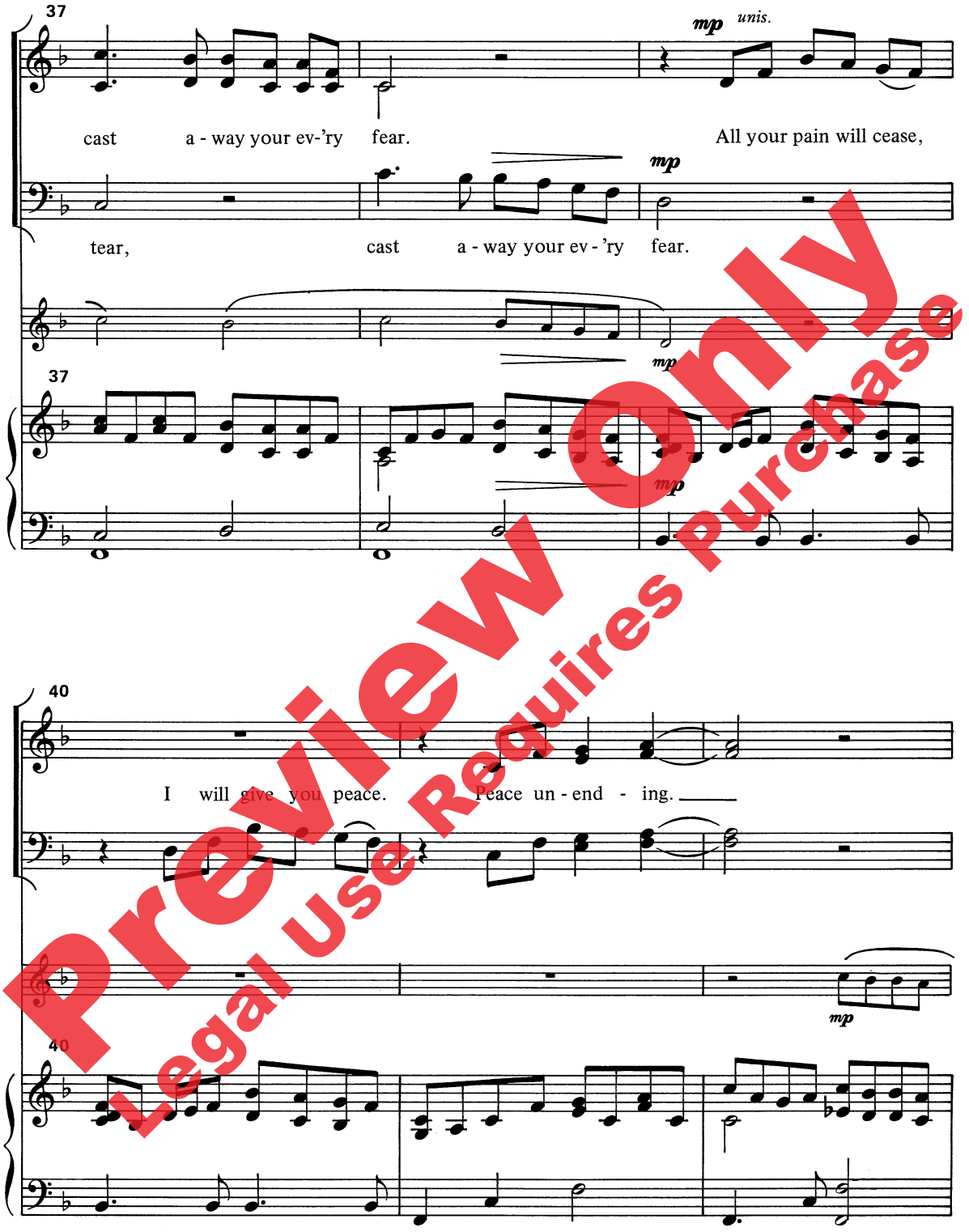

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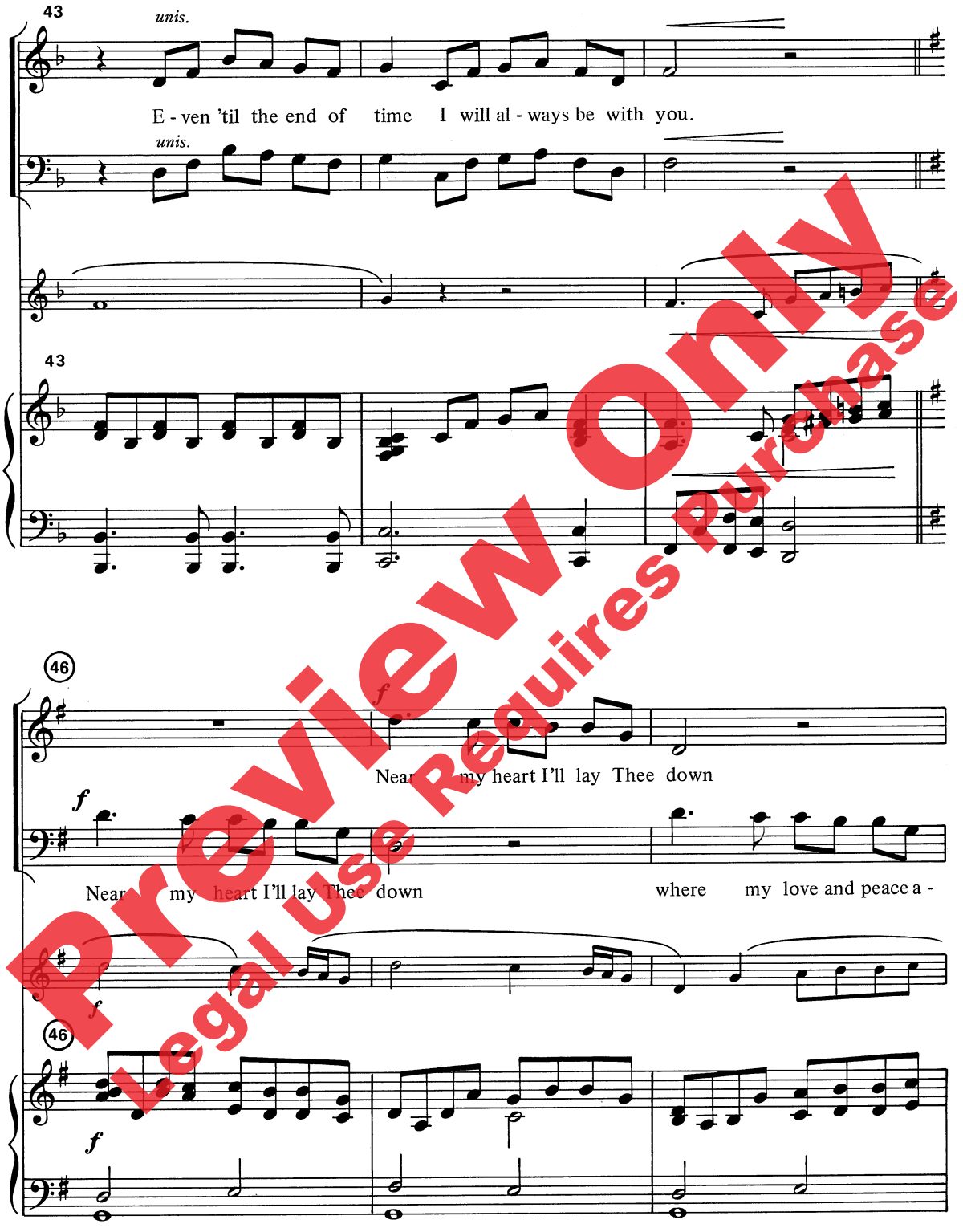

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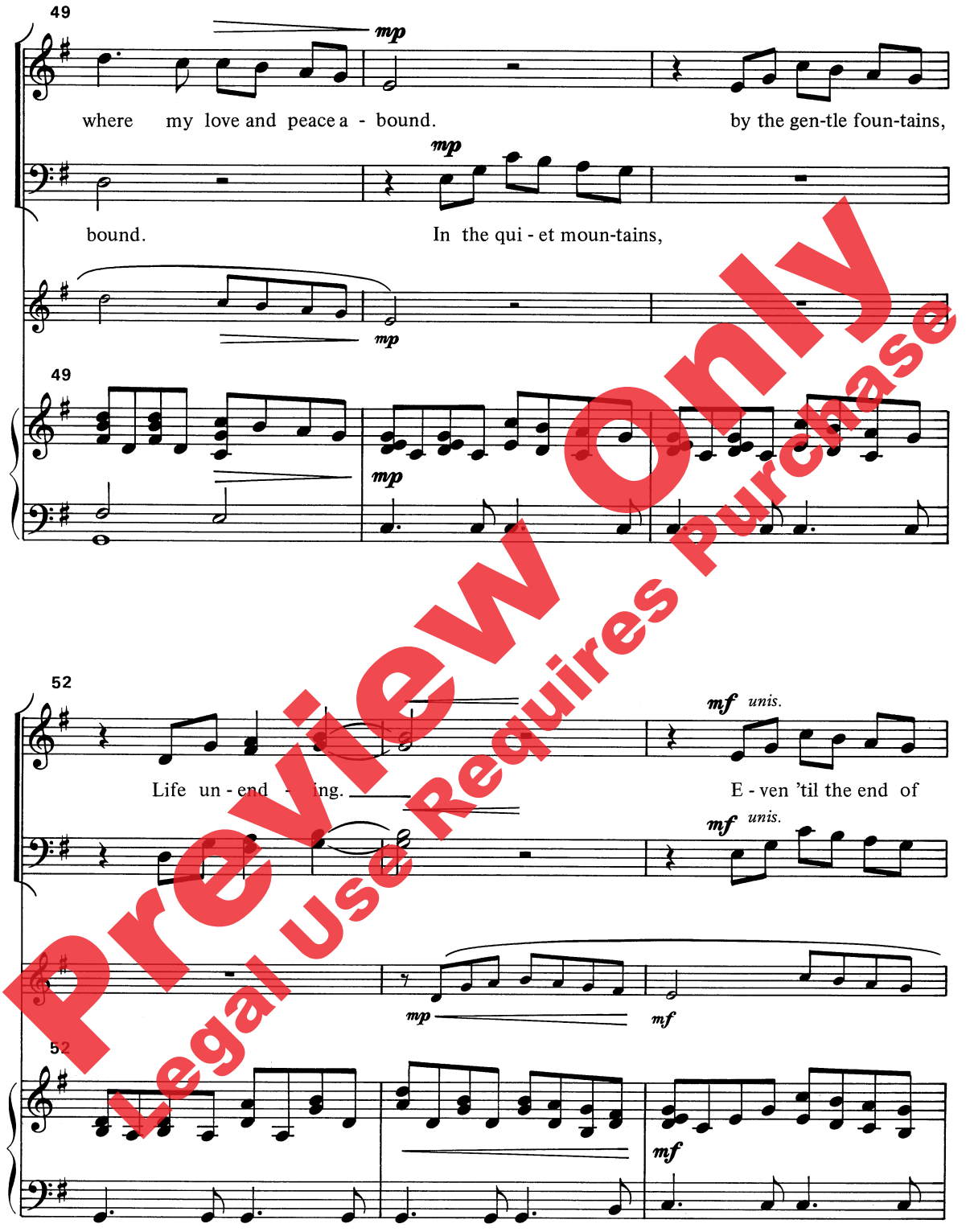

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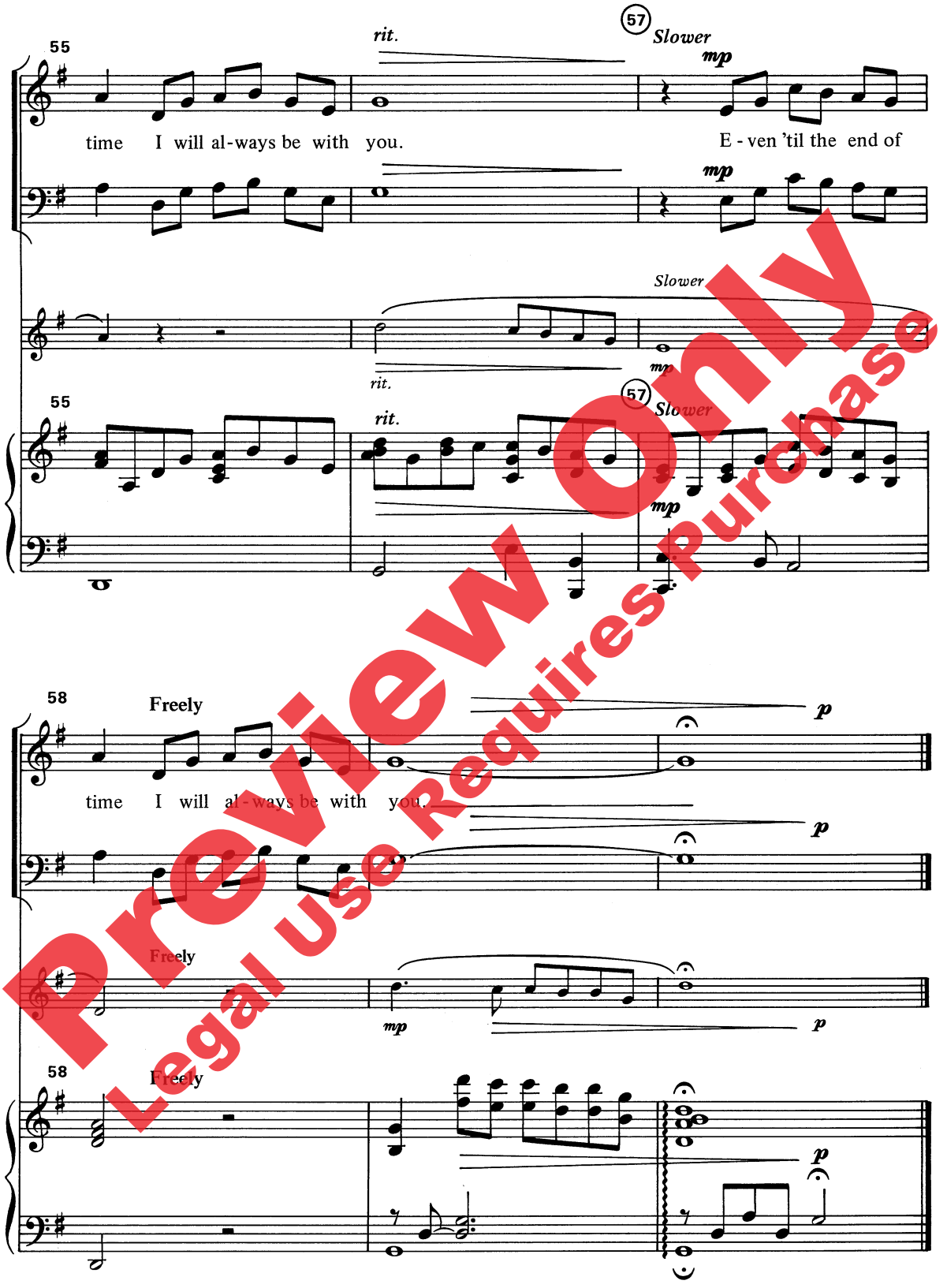

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I WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU

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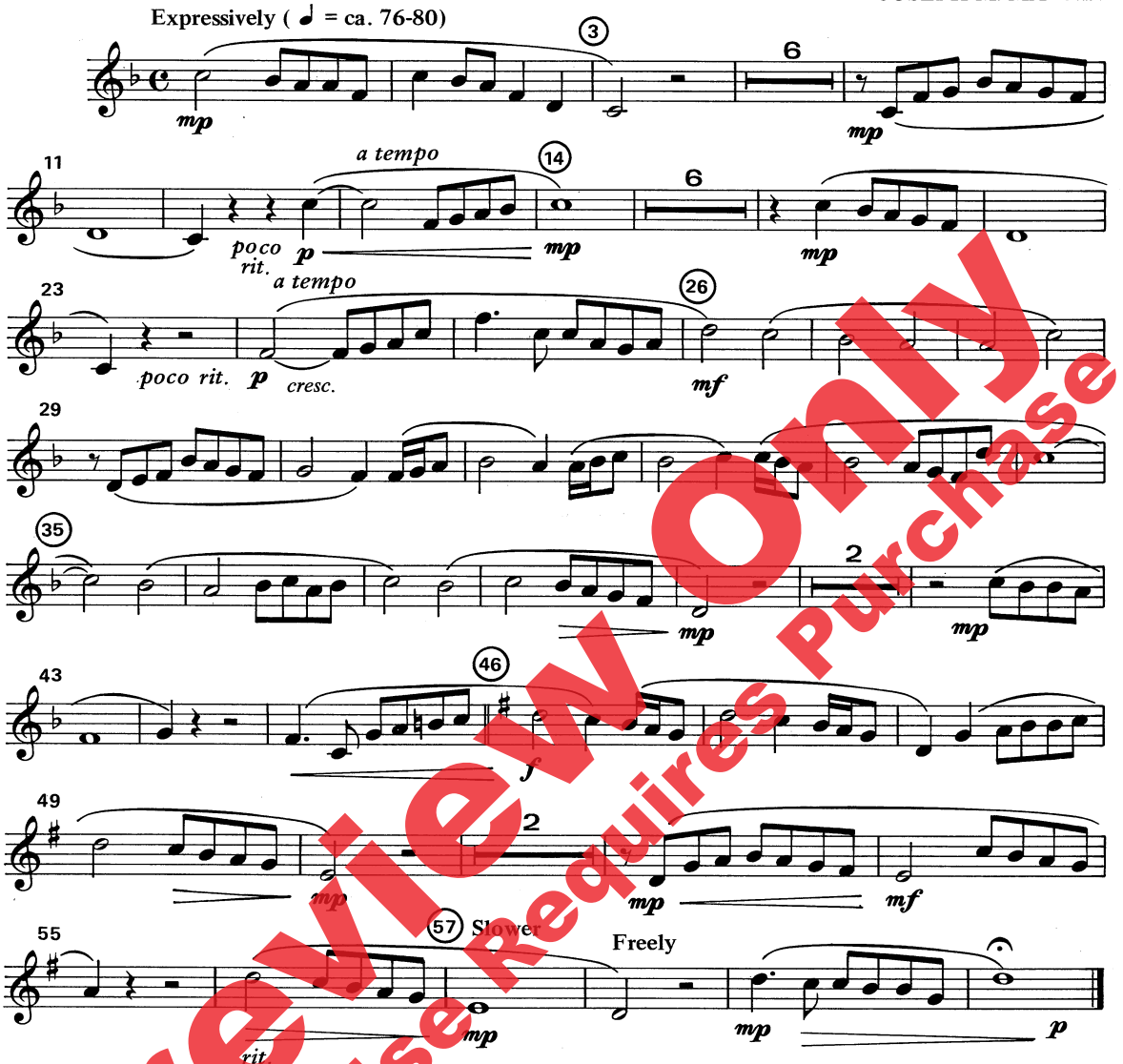
C-INSTRUMENT *(Flute play one octave higher.)*



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I Will Always Be with You is a general anthem based upon Jesus' Last Supper discourse with his disciples, found in the famous passage in John 14:15-31. In His farewell promise, Jesus explains the concept of the Trinity and pledges peace and grace to all who know the love of God through the Holy Spirit. This anthem is especially appropriate for Eastertide, Ascension, the Day of Pentecost, weddings, baptisms, funerals, and farewell services (retirements, graduations, etc.). Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Genesis 11:1-9, Psalms 67 and 104:24-34, John 14:15-31, Acts 2:1-21 and 15:1-2, 22-29, and Revelation 21:10, 22-27.

To effectively perform the call-and-response vocal texture upon which this anthem's formal structure is based, rehearse the choir in unison, striving for uniform timbre and intonation. Begin with a vocalise based upon a descending 8-note major scale, carrying the color of the "head voice" down into the lower register. Do not add weight or volume on the descent, rather brightness and intensity. Similarly rehearse the descending motive found in the opening measures (m. 3-4). Next, rehearse m. 3-7 as written: convey the image of the baton pass in a relay race, in which the women "pass middle C" to the men. Thus, the men's entrance in m. 4 on middle C, sung in unison with the women, should be perfectly matched in timbre and intonation, in order that the relay be smooth and seamless! A focused vocal tone, relatively free of vibrato, best serves this lyric duet. Strive also for sensitive text declamation and a basic feeling of two pulses per measure.

Joseph M. Martin is Minister of Music at Bee Cave Baptist Church in Bee Cave, Texas, an accomplished pianist and a widely published composer. With music degrees from Furman University and the University of Texas at Austin, he is the owner of MusiKids, a national preschool music education program.