The *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God) is a prayer sung between the Breaking of the Bread and the Communion antiphon of the Roman Catholic Mass. It is the fifth and final portion of the Ordinary of the Mass, those sections of the Mass which remain mostly unchanged throughout the Liturgical Year.

In early times, the *Agnus Dei* was used in the Litanies at the end of the Mass but was later incorporated into the liturgy by Pope Sergius I (687-701). The petition "miserere nobis" was originally unchanging but during the 10th — 12th centuries, the three part form (AAB) which is used today, was established when "dona nobis pacem" replaced the third "miserere nobis."

In Latin, all vowel sounds should be pure and unchanging. Below is a pronunciation and translation guide for use with this piece.

Agnus Dei
Ah-nyus Deh-ee
(Lamb of God)

qui tollis peccata mundi
kwee tawl-lees pehk-kah-tah moon-dee
(who takest away the sins of the world)

miserere nobis
mee-seh-reh-reh naw-bees
(have mercy on us.)

Agnus Dei
Ah-nyus Deh-ee
(Lamb of God)

qui tollis peccata mundi
kwee tawl-lees pehk-kah-tah moon-dee
(who takest away the sins of the world)

dona nobis pacem
daw-nah naw-bees pah-chehm
(grant us peace.)

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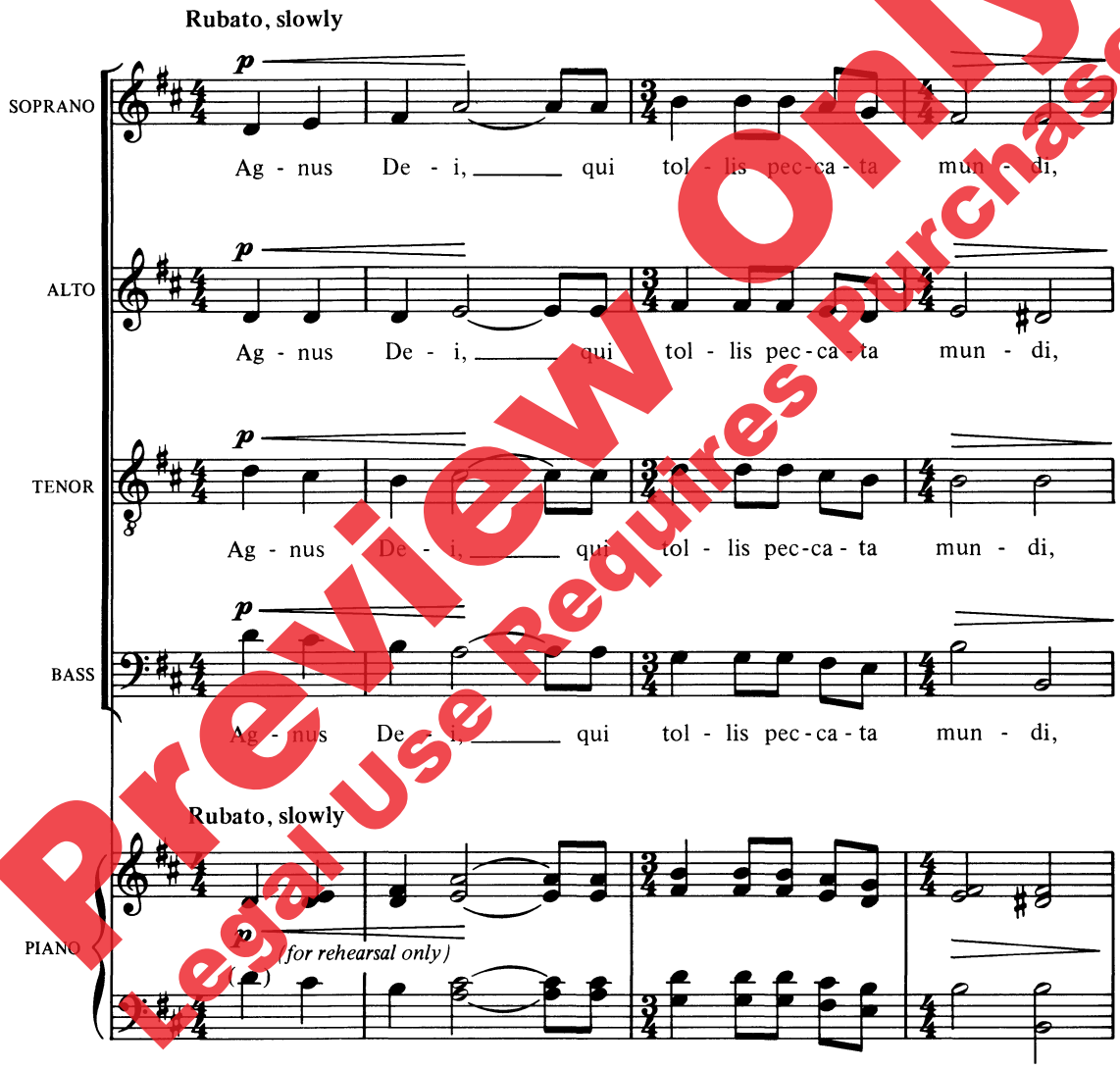
Sherri Porterfield currently teaches junior high vocal music at Frontier Trail Junior High in Olathe, Kansas. She received the B.S.E. in music education from Memphis State University and is completing the Master's in Choral Conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Her choirs have won many awards and she is in demand as a guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator. She has been composing music since 1987 and to date has 14 published choral compositions.

For further information on Latin pronunciations, translation, and usage, see *Translations and Annotations of Choral Repertoire, Volume 1: Sacred Latin Texts* by Ron Jeffers (1988, Earthsongs).

AGNUS DEI

for S.A.T.B. voices, a cappella*

by
Sherri Porterfield



*Also available for 3-part mixed voices, Level Three (16222).

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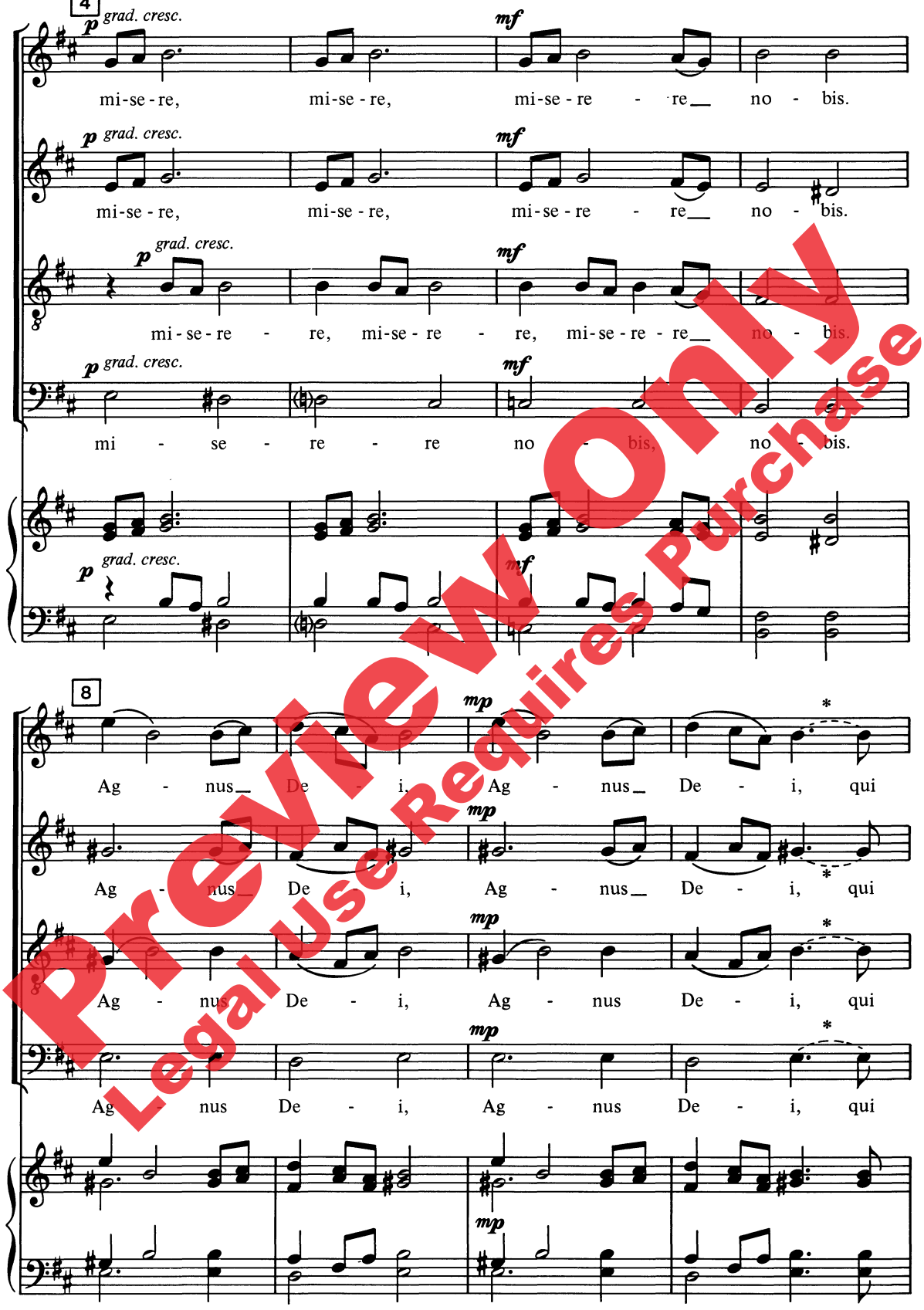

*no breath

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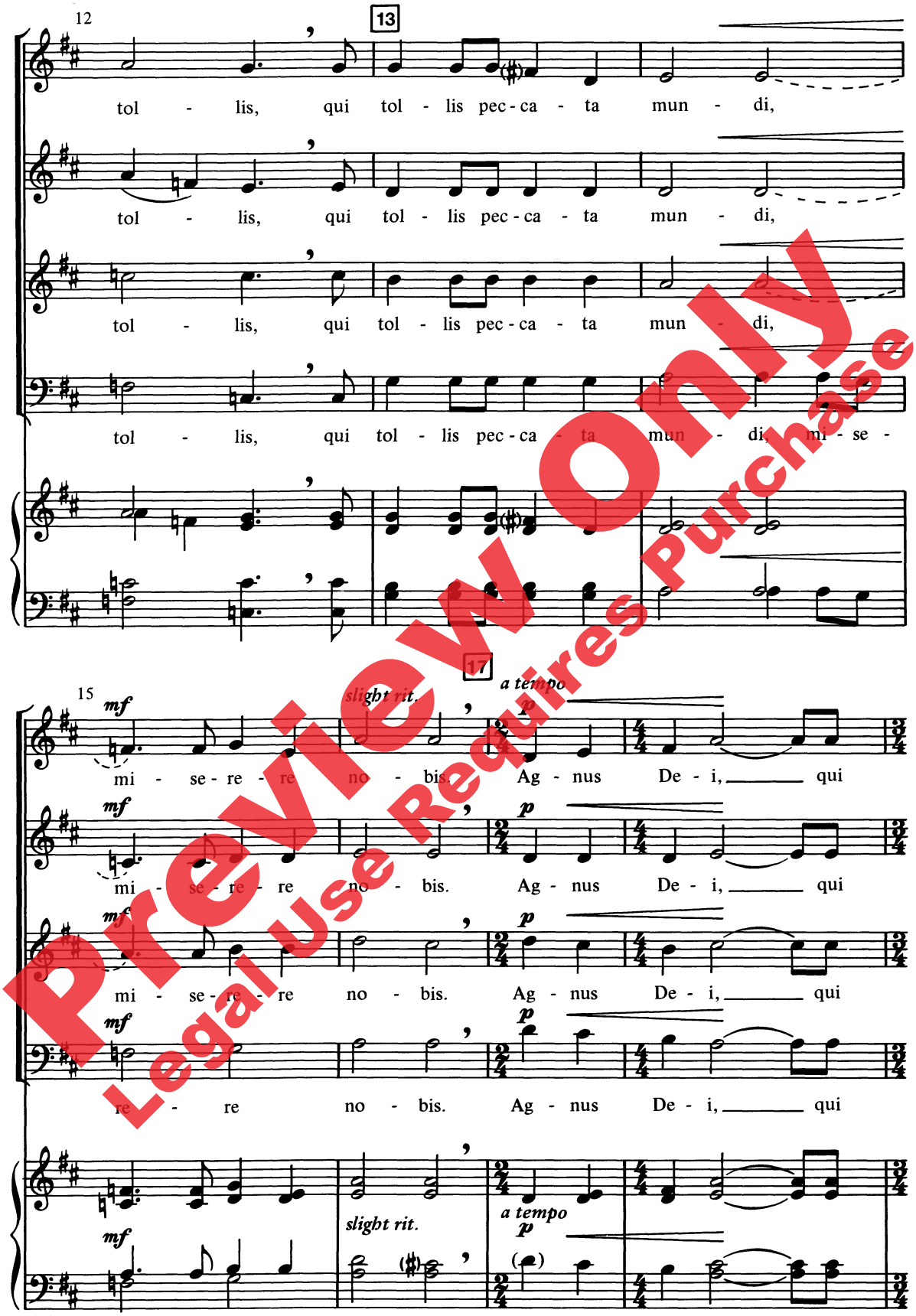

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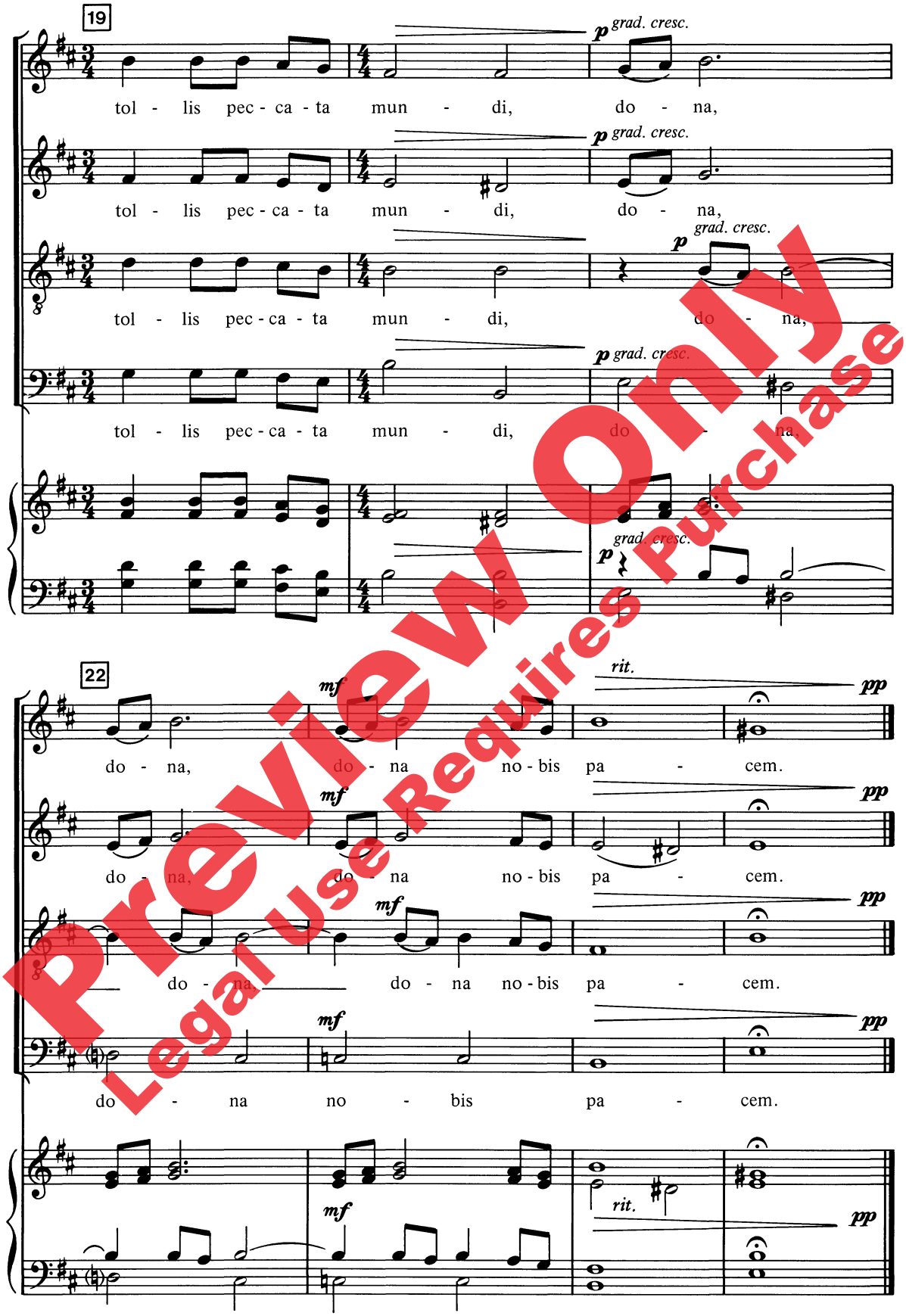

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