TWO ART SONGS

on text by e. e. cummings and William Wordsworth

JOHN WILLIAM BRINK

PERUSAL SCORE

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TEXT

1. *[love is more thicker than forget]*
by e. e. cummings

love is more thicker than forget
more thinner than recall
more seldom than a wave is wet
more frequent than to fail

it is most mad and moonly
and less it shall unbe
than all the sea which only
is deeper than the sea

love is less always than to win
less never than alive
less bigger than the least begin
less littler than forgive

it is most sane and sunly
and more it cannot die
than all the sky which only
is higher than the sky

2. *A Complaint*
by William Wordsworth

There is a change—and I am poor;
Your love hath been, nor long ago,
A fountain at my fond heart's door,
Whose only business was to flow;
And flow it did; not taking heed
Of its own bounty, or my need.

What happy moments did I count!
Blest was I then all bliss above!
Now, for that consecrated fount
Of murmuring, sparkling, living love,
What have I? shall I dare to tell?
A comfortless and hidden well.

A well of love—it may be deep—
I trust it is,—and never dry:
What matter? if the waters sleep
In silence and obscurity.
—Such change, and at the very door
Of my fond heart, hath made me poor.

Duration: ca. 6'

PERUSAL SCORE

Premiered on
20 February, 2025 by
Nazmee Kamal, mezzo-soprano;
John Makara, piano.

Kresge Theatre, College of Fine Arts
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA

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PREFACE

Two Art Songs brings a British romantic-era poem and an early 20th-century work together in a short collection of vocal pieces. E. E. Cummings (1894 – 1962), a quintessential American poet, describes love in abstract terms along with familiar images, adding layers of complexity and beauty to his brief work, *[love is more thicker than forget]*. The ambiguity is complemented by the varying definitions of love, with Cummings describing it as "more thinner than recall", "most mad and moonly", and many more. The second piece, set on the early 19th-century poem, *A Complaint,* by William Wordsworth (1770 – 1850), similarly dwells on themes of love. The poem is often regarded as a reaction to the author's falling out with fellow British poet, Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772 – 1834). In this way, the poem captures the despair of losing love not just for these two literary figures, but for all who encounter love's fragility.

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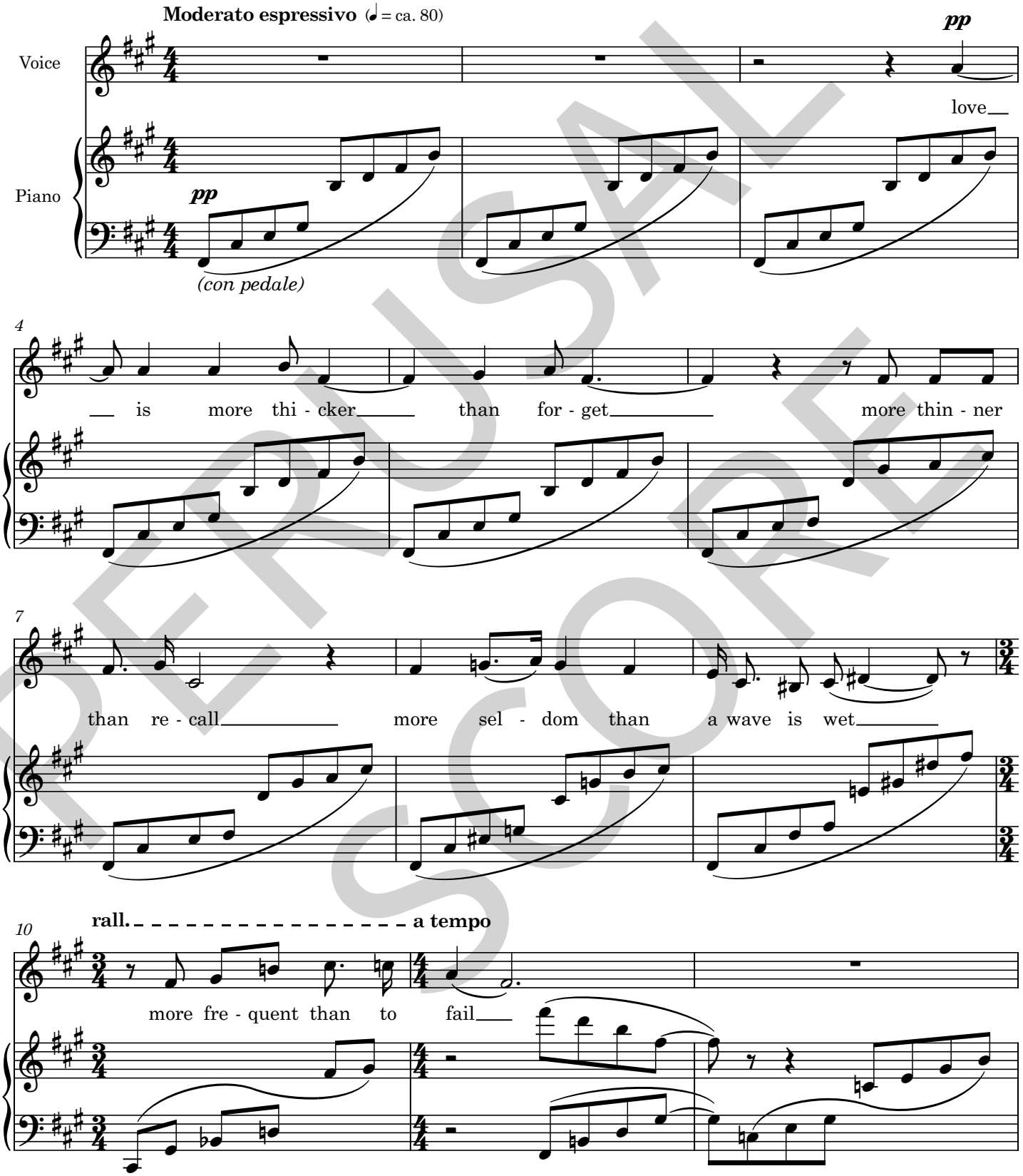
TWO ART SONGS

for Nazmee Kamal

Text by
e. e. cummings
(1894 – 1962)

1. [love is more thicker than forget]

John William Brink (2024)



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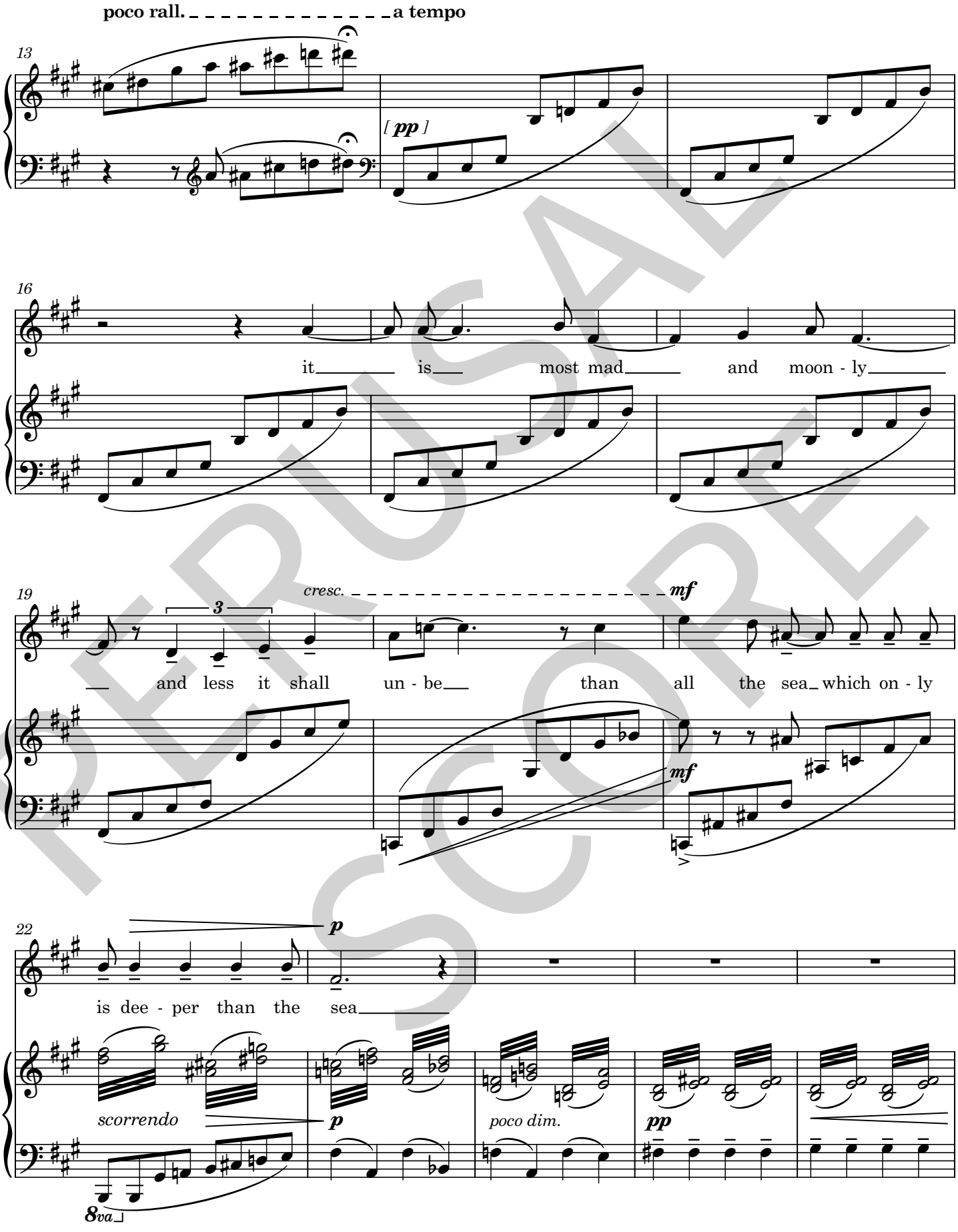

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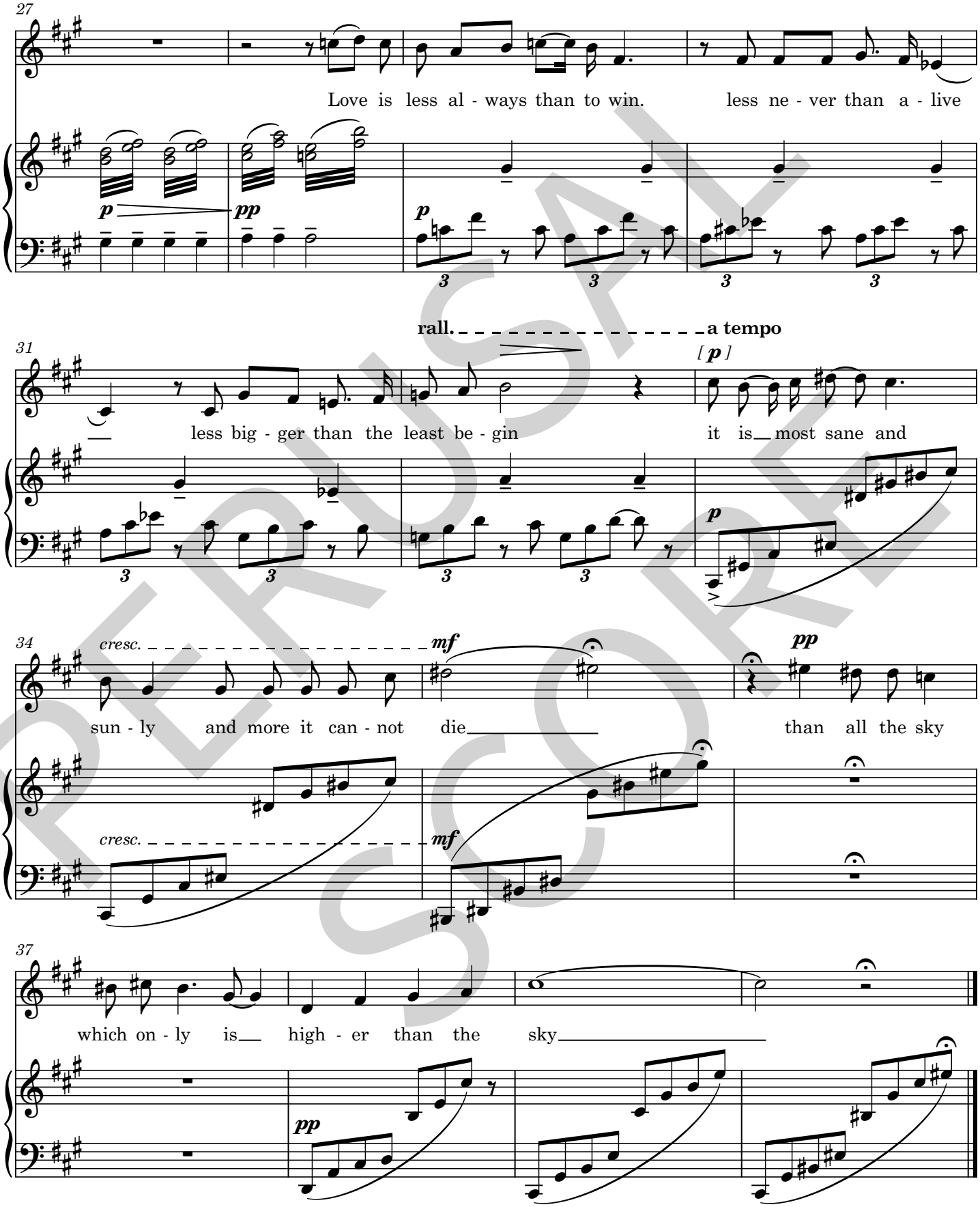

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Text by
William Wordsworth
(1770 – 1850)

2. A Complaint

Maestoso (♩ = ca. 70)

pp

Voice

There is a change and I am poor; Your love hath been, nor long a - go,

Piano

pp

sim.

(con pedale)

5

A foun - tain at my fond heart's door, Whose on - ly bus - iness was to flow; And flow it did;

8va

9

not ta - king heed Of its

p

8va

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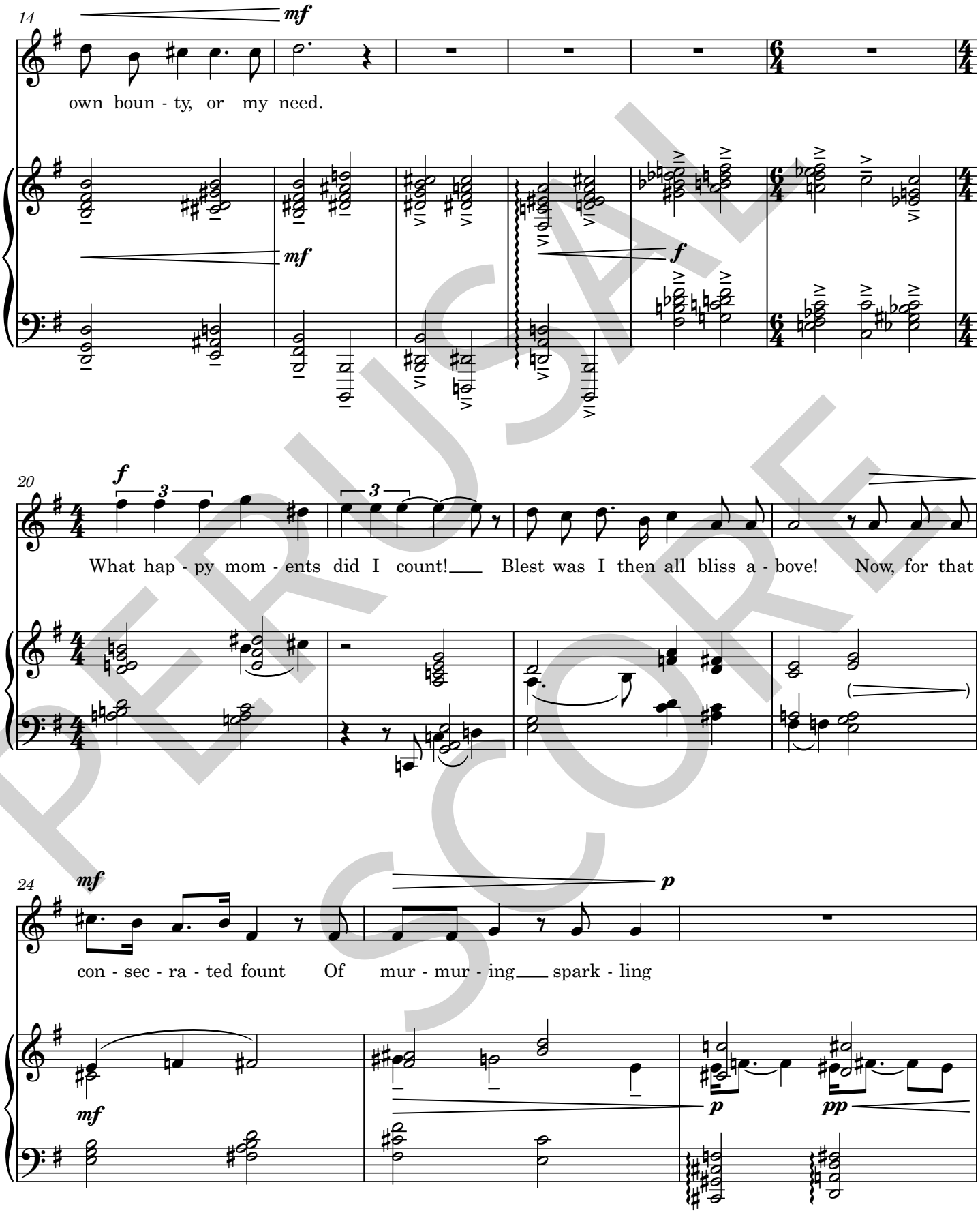

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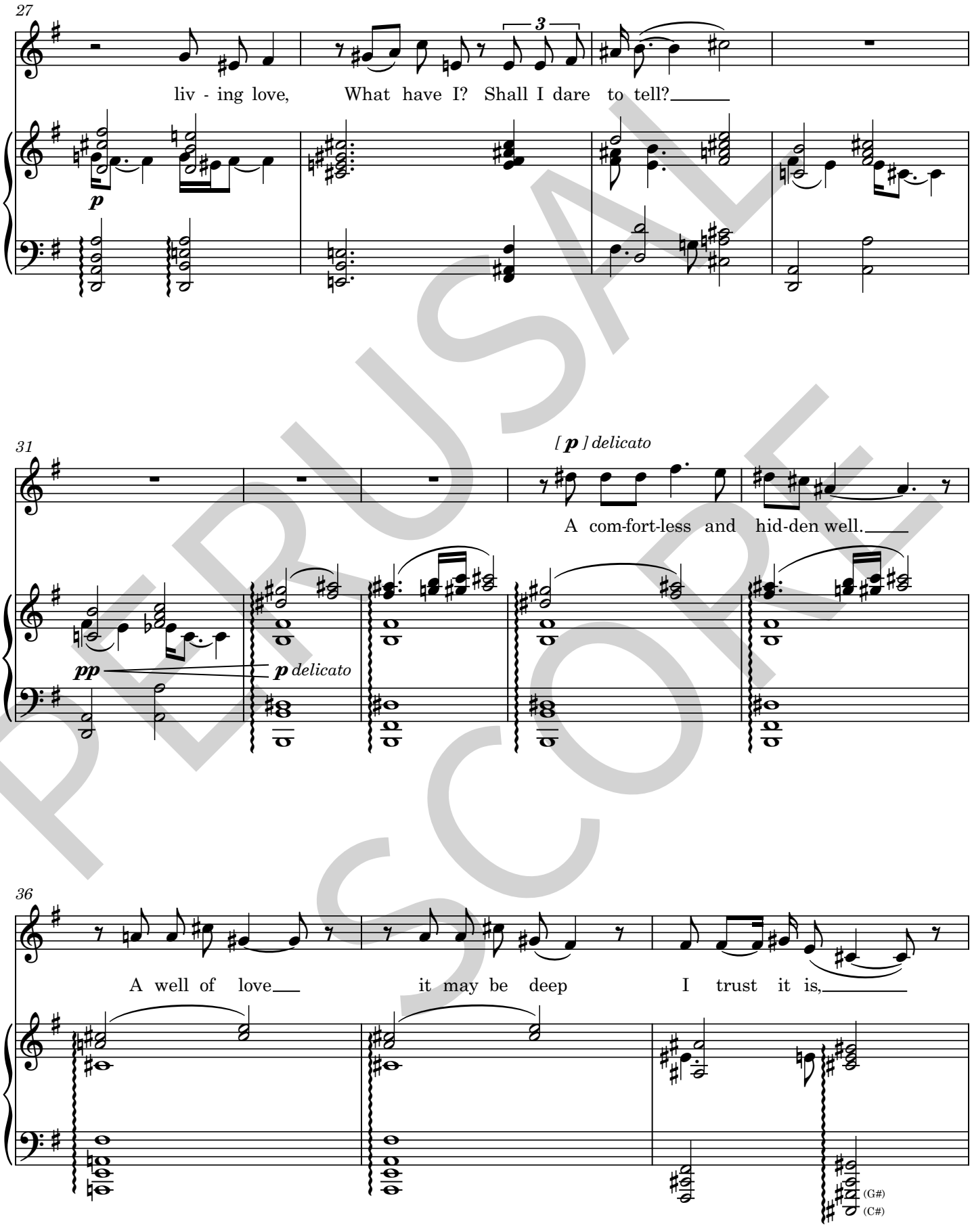

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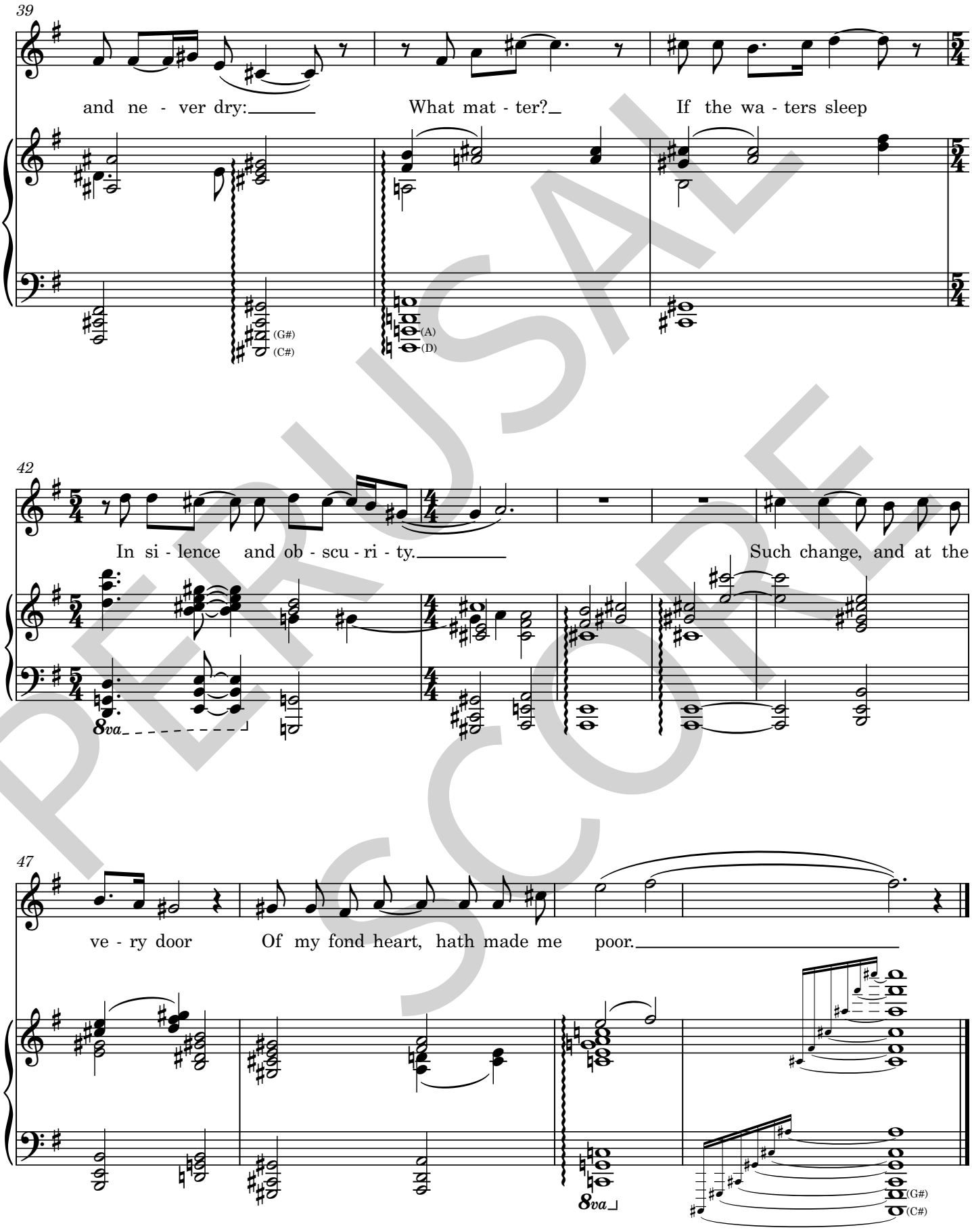

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