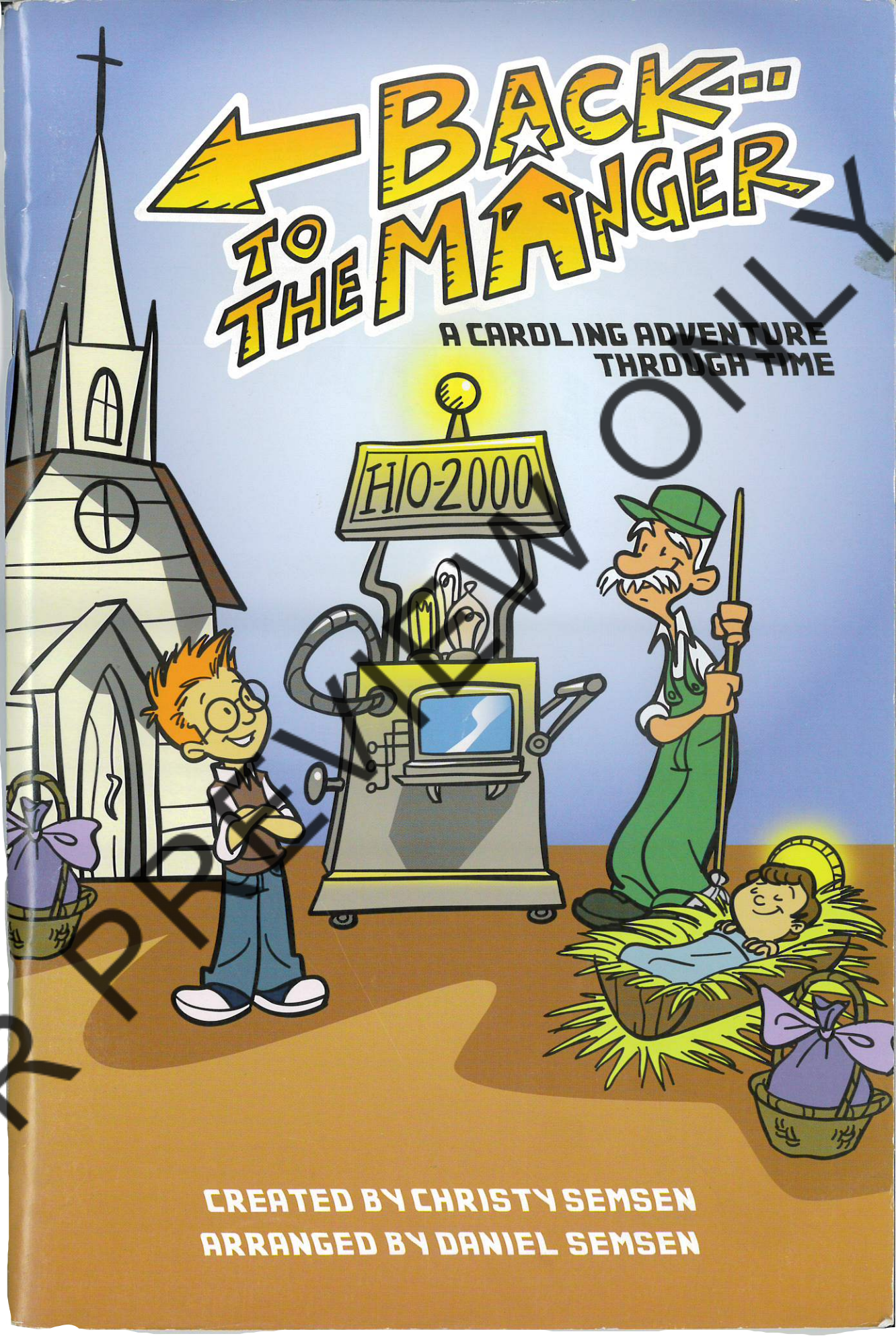


FOR PREVIEW ONLY

BACK TO THE MANGER

A CAROLING ADVENTURE THROUGH TIME

CREATED BY CHRISTY SEMSEN
ARRANGED BY DANIEL SEMSEN

Approximate Performance Time: 45 minutes full length, approx. 41 minutes with optional cut

COMPANION MATERIALS

Choral Book	0 80689 44117 2
Compact Disc	0 80689 79922 8
CD Trax (Split)	0 80689 83712 8
Digital Teacher Resource Kit	0 80689 34497 8
Instructional DVD	0 80689 43709 0
Bulk CDs (10 pak)*	0 80689 72772 6
CD Preview Pak	0 80689 52536 0

*This package of 10 Compact Discs provides an inexpensive way for your choir members to have their own copy of the recording.

Edited by Kristin Heckman, Mark McClure and Paul Nelson
Art Design by Kirsten Howard
Illustrations by Tod Carter
Music Transcribed and Engraved by Brent Roberts
Production Coordination by Mandi Jones

WORD MUSIC

1 This symbol indicates a track number on the Accompaniment Compact Disc. Selecting a given CD track number will start the accompaniment track at the corresponding musical section indicated in the choral book.

Possession of a CCLI license does not give you permission to make any copy of the music contained in this book. If you are unsure as to what rights you do have to copy under a CCLI license or if you want information about CCLI, please call 1-800-234-2446.

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

FOREWORD

It is with great joy that I have the honor of introducing you to our friends Christy and Daniel Semsen. They are just an awesome couple! David and I have worked with them on several projects and we can tell you firsthand of their great love for our Lord and His church body.

For the last seven years they have been serving faithfully at Midway Baptist Church in San Diego, California. They are dearly loved by their congregation. Christy directs the children's choir and Daniel is the worship and choir director. Their children's choir has done several of my videos for Word. One of the things I dearly love about Christy is her exuberant and contagious personality, which is reflected in her children's choir when they sing.

Back to the Manger is their very first original children's musical and I'm so very proud of them!! It is a very creative time travel project with a wonderful story line. The songs are great! (It does make me feel older though…as I can personally remember all these different styles of music.)

I'm sure your children will have an incredible journey as the they travel "Back to the Manger" this Christmas. Again, great job, Christy and Daniel. I pray this is the first of many, many more musicals to come!

To God Be the Glory!!

Celeste Clydesdale

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

A NOTE FROM THE WRITER

What an exciting opportunity it has been to write my first musical, and to share with kids everywhere the truths that God has put on my heart! I am continually grateful for the friendship and amazing example of Celeste Clydesdale, whose musicals I have directed and admired for the past 8 years!

It is my deepest conviction that the songs that are planted in the hearts of children will stay with them into adulthood, which is one of the reasons I chose to used Bible verses as the lyrics to many of these songs. The setting of "Back to the Manger" is a Caroling Outreach, where the people in a community church show tangible tastes of God's love to people in their community. In a variety of time periods (and some very unique musical styles) the children learn that the greatest commandment is to love God with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength, AND our neighbor as ourselves.

Because the time machine malfunctions, the children are tossed around in time through the 1970s, 1990s, 1980s, 1950s, 1940s, and eventually all the way back to the birth of Christ. I hope you all have a LOT of fun embracing the very different musical styles and costumes of these decades, while ultimately traveling back to the reason we celebrate Christmas – a holy child born in a manger.

I would like to dedicate this musical to the memory of my childhood Kids Choir Director, Mindy Worthington (1960-2010), who modeled how to passionately direct kids musicals with excellence.

May God bless you and the children in your ministries with His presence,

Christy Semsen

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

FOR PREVIEW ONLY



YOU MAY OBTAIN CLIP ART FROM OUR
WEBSITE AT WWW.WORDMUSIC.COM.

© 2010 Word Music, a division of Word Music Group, LLC
All Rights Reserved. Printed in U.S.A.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Printed by Davis Brothers Printing, Waco, Texas

CONTENTS

in order of performance

BACK TO THE MANGER 8

CAN YOU HEAR THE BELLS? *WITH*
ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH 22

LET US LOVE 35

COME, LET US ALL ADORE HIM *WITH*
O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL *AND*
AWAY IN A MANGER 48

RING, RING-A-LING 56

SONG OF THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS 71

PEACE ON EARTH *WITH*
I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY 82

RING THE BELLS 98

BACK TO THE MANGER [REPRISE] 111

CURTAIN CALLS 120

PRODUCTION NOTES 123





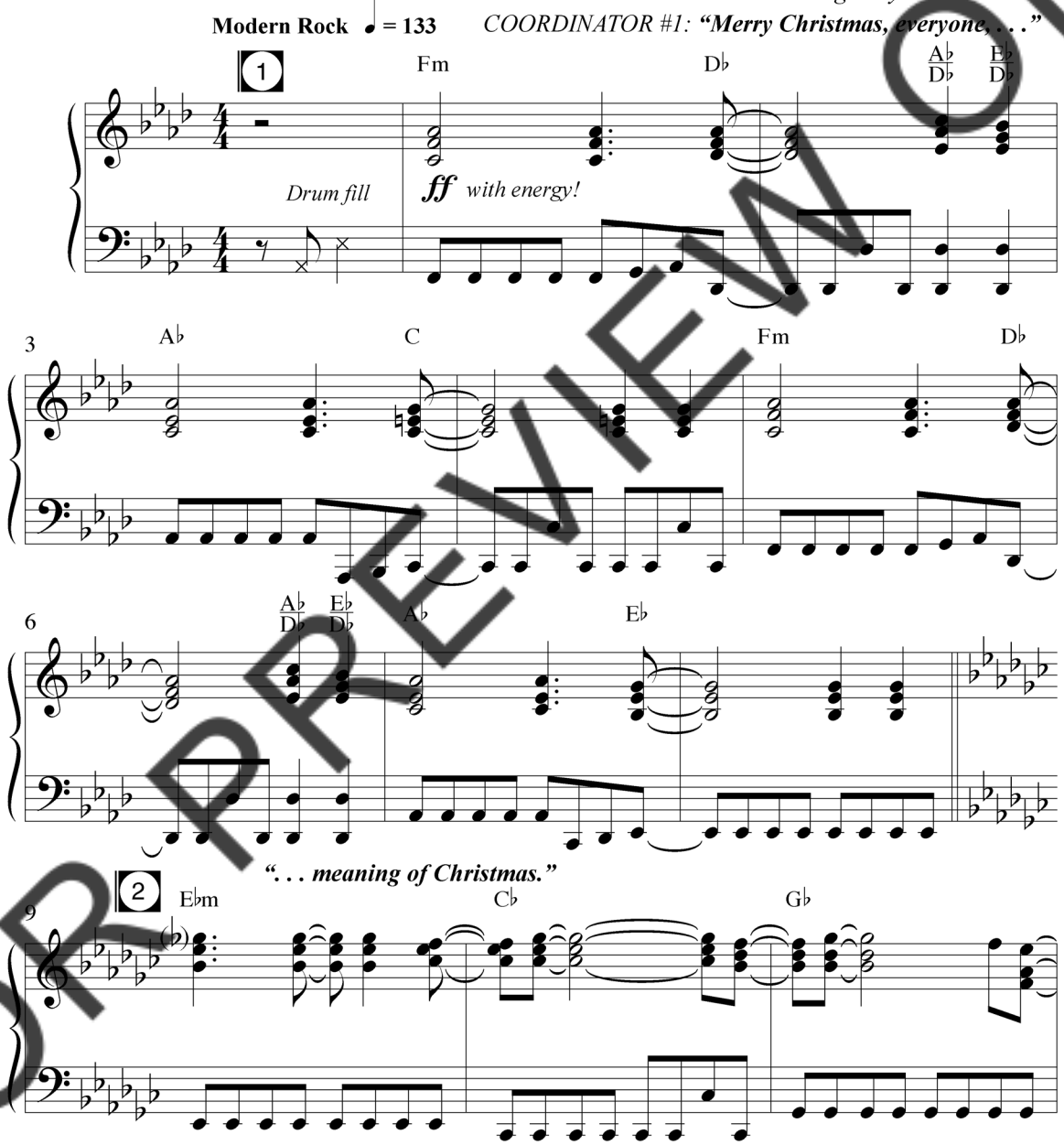
FOR PREVIEW ONLY

(music begins to "Back to the Manger")

OUTREACH
COORDINATOR #1: **Merry Christmas, everyone, and thank you for joining us at our annual caroling outreach! By giving people a tangible taste of God's love, we are really getting back to the *true* meaning of Christmas.**

Back to the Manger

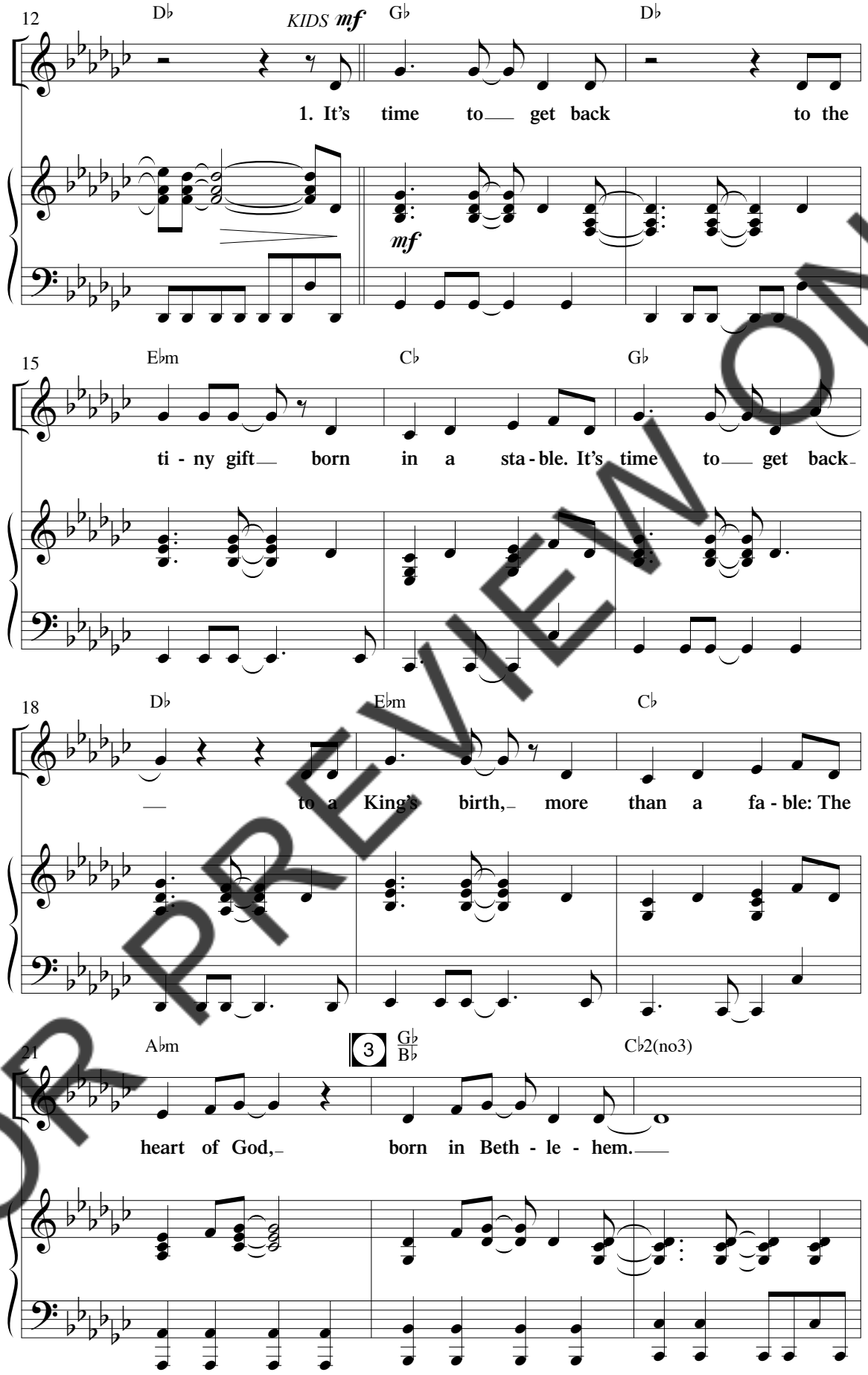
Words and Music by
CHRISTY SEMSEN
Arranged by Daniel Semsen



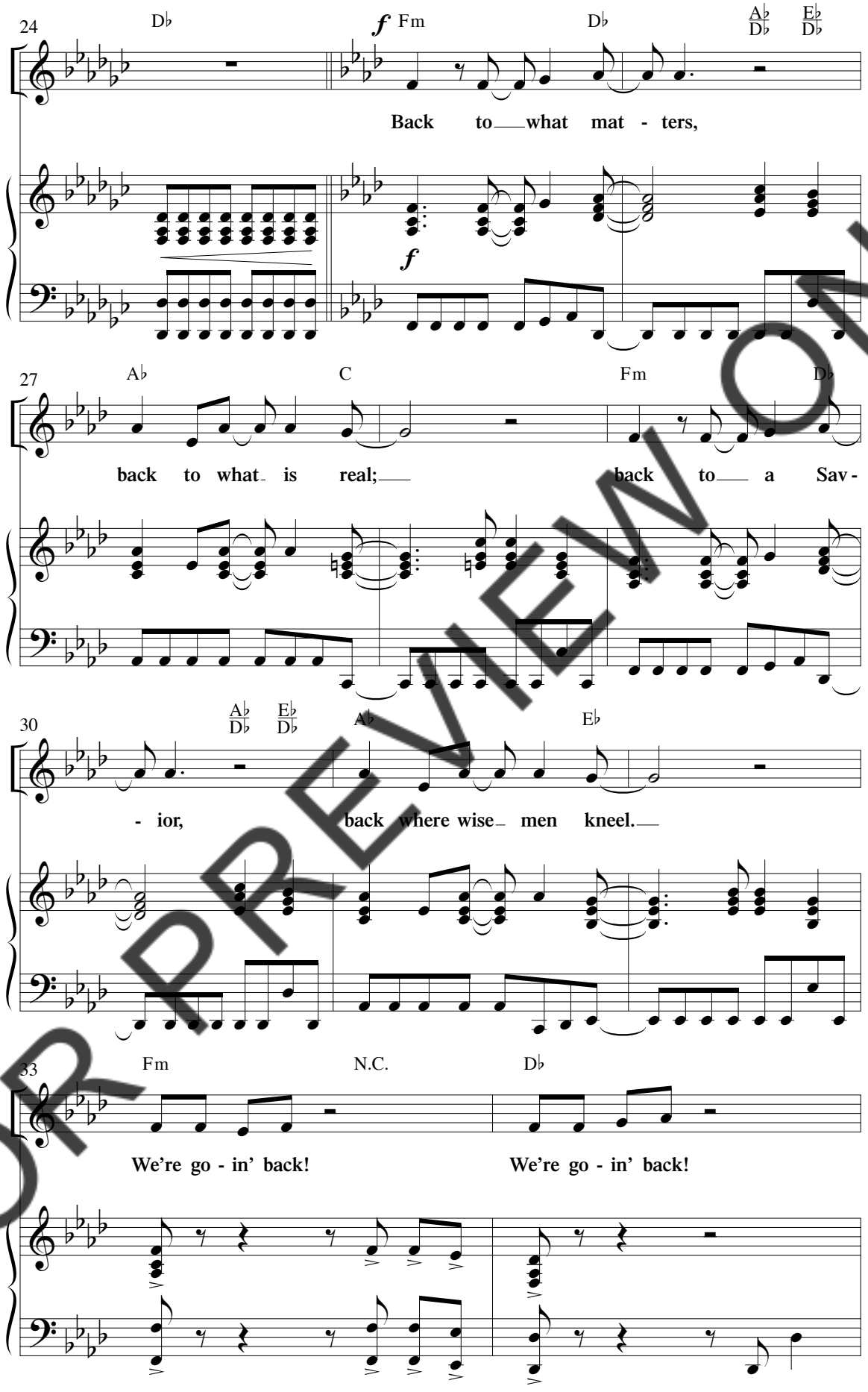
© 2010 Word Music, LLC (ASCAP)
All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

EVEN IF YOU POSSESS A **CCLI** LICENSE, YOU MAY NOT COPY ANY MUSIC FROM THIS BOOK.
If you have questions about CCLI, please call 800/234-2446.

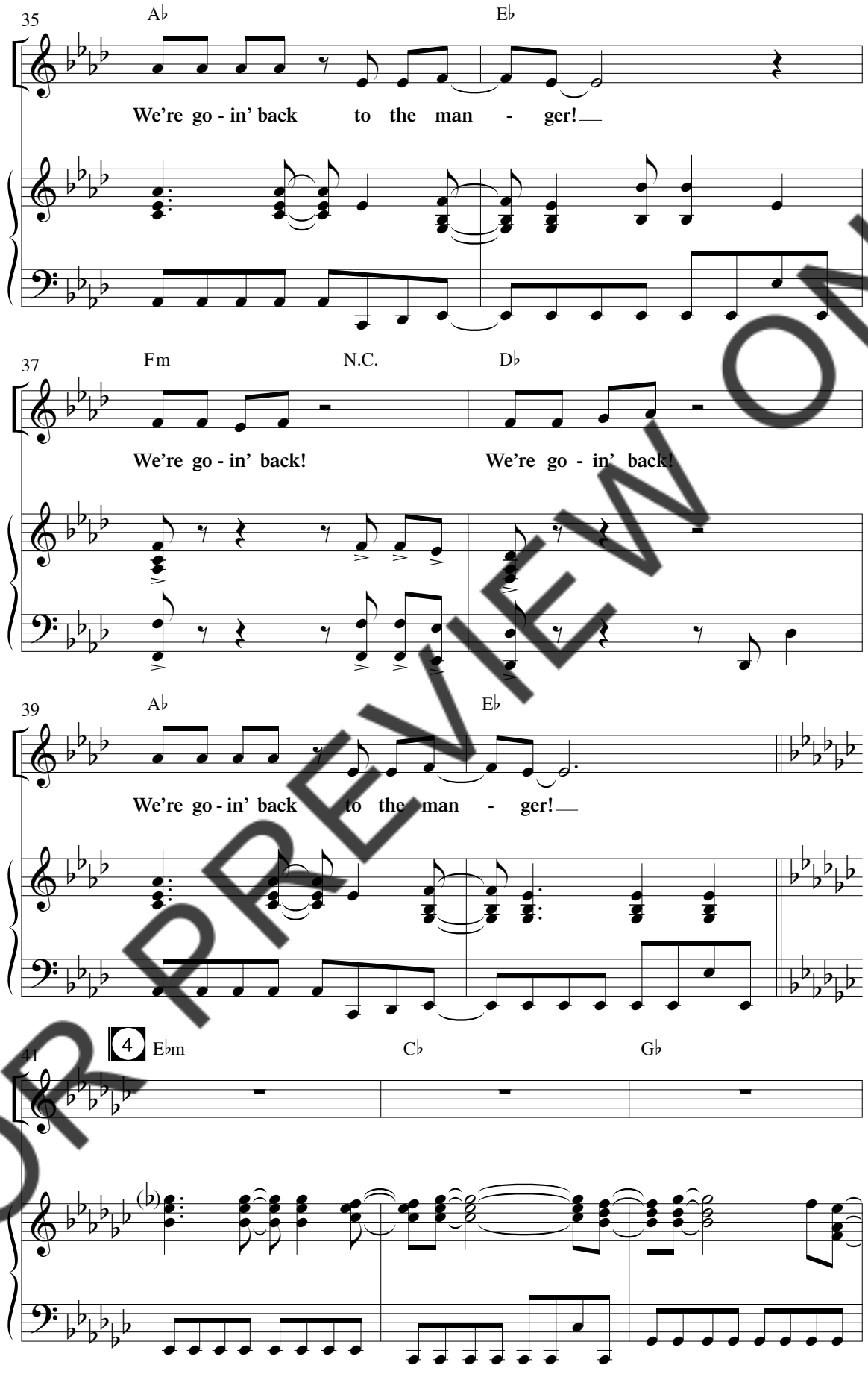
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



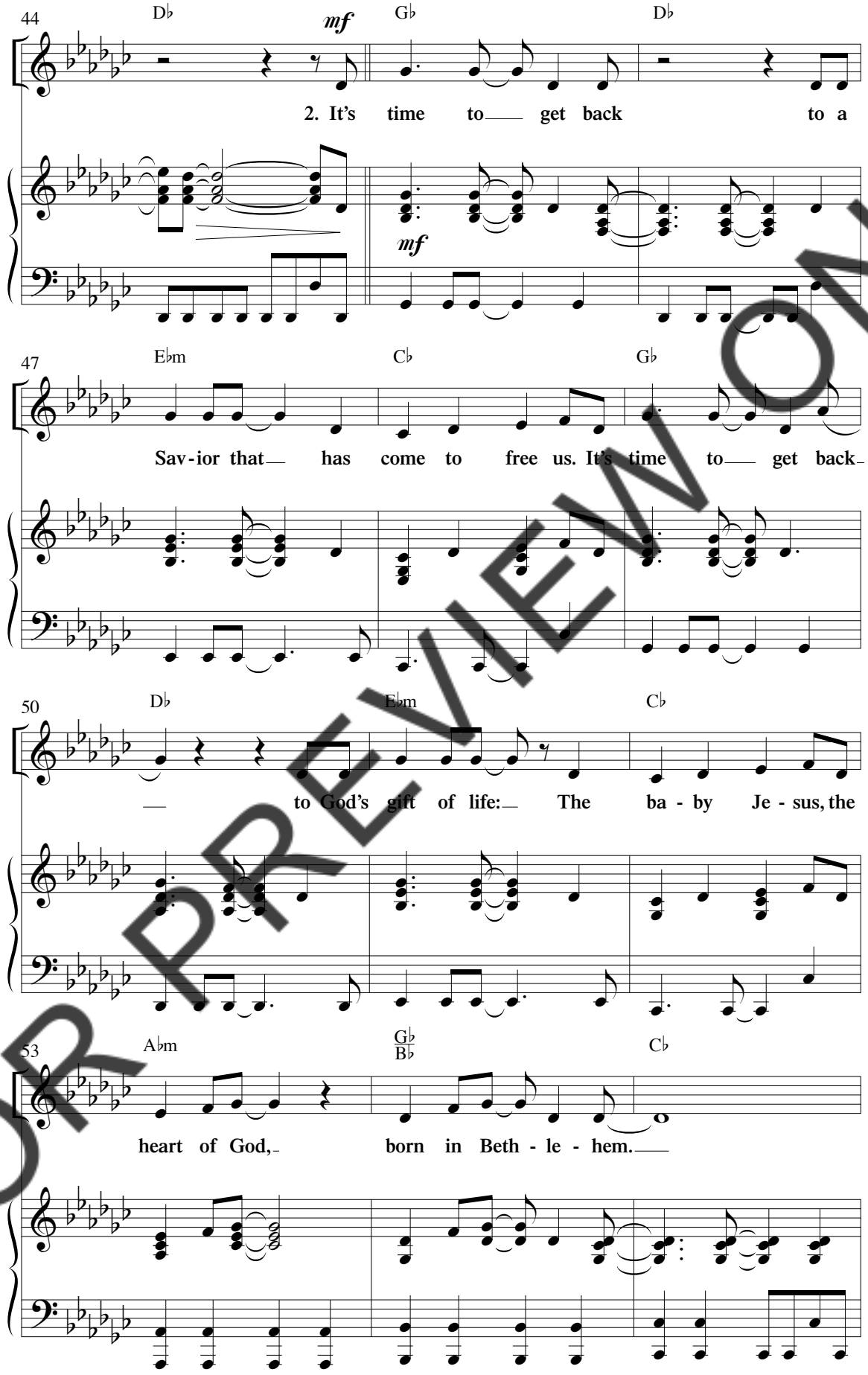
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



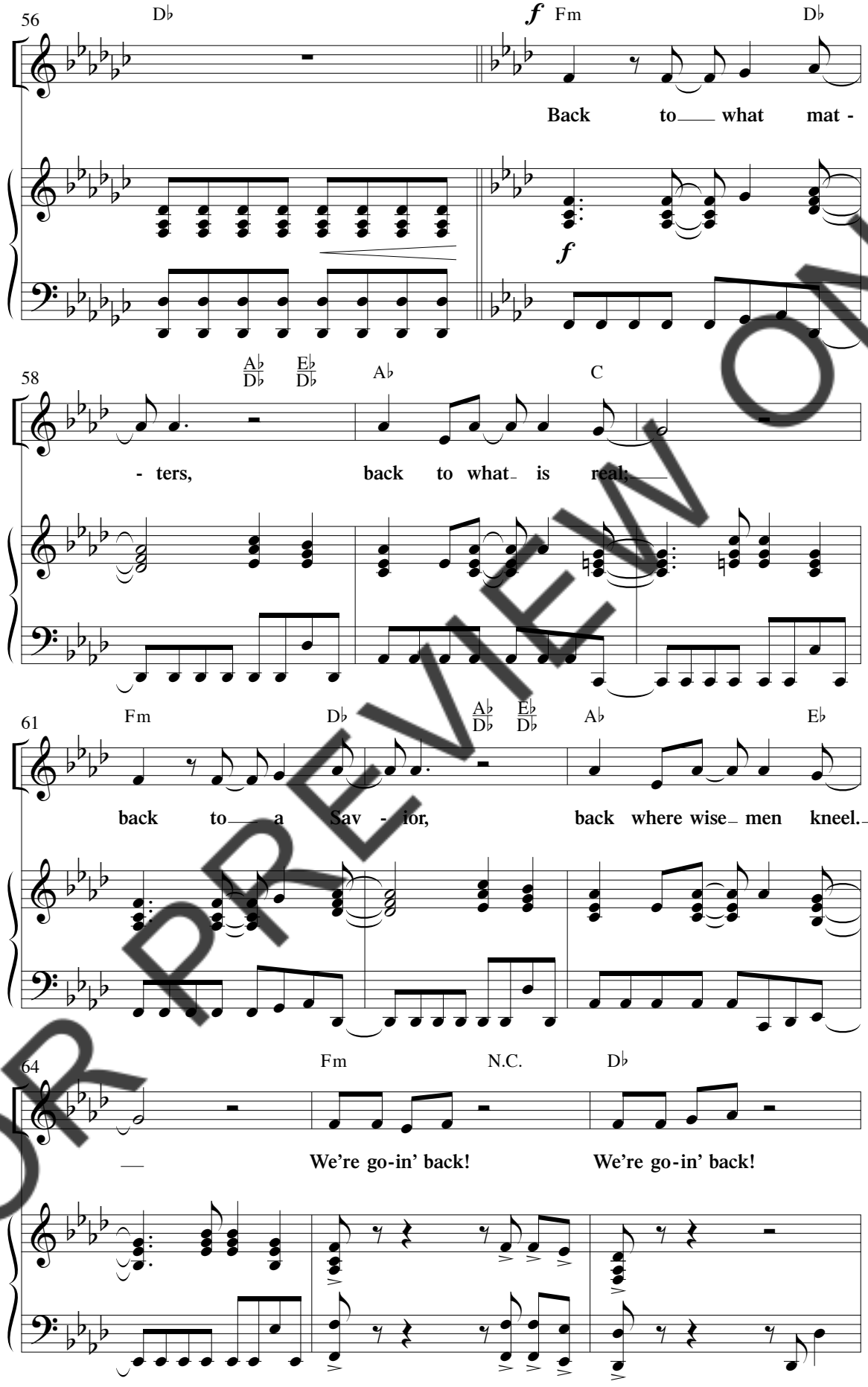
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



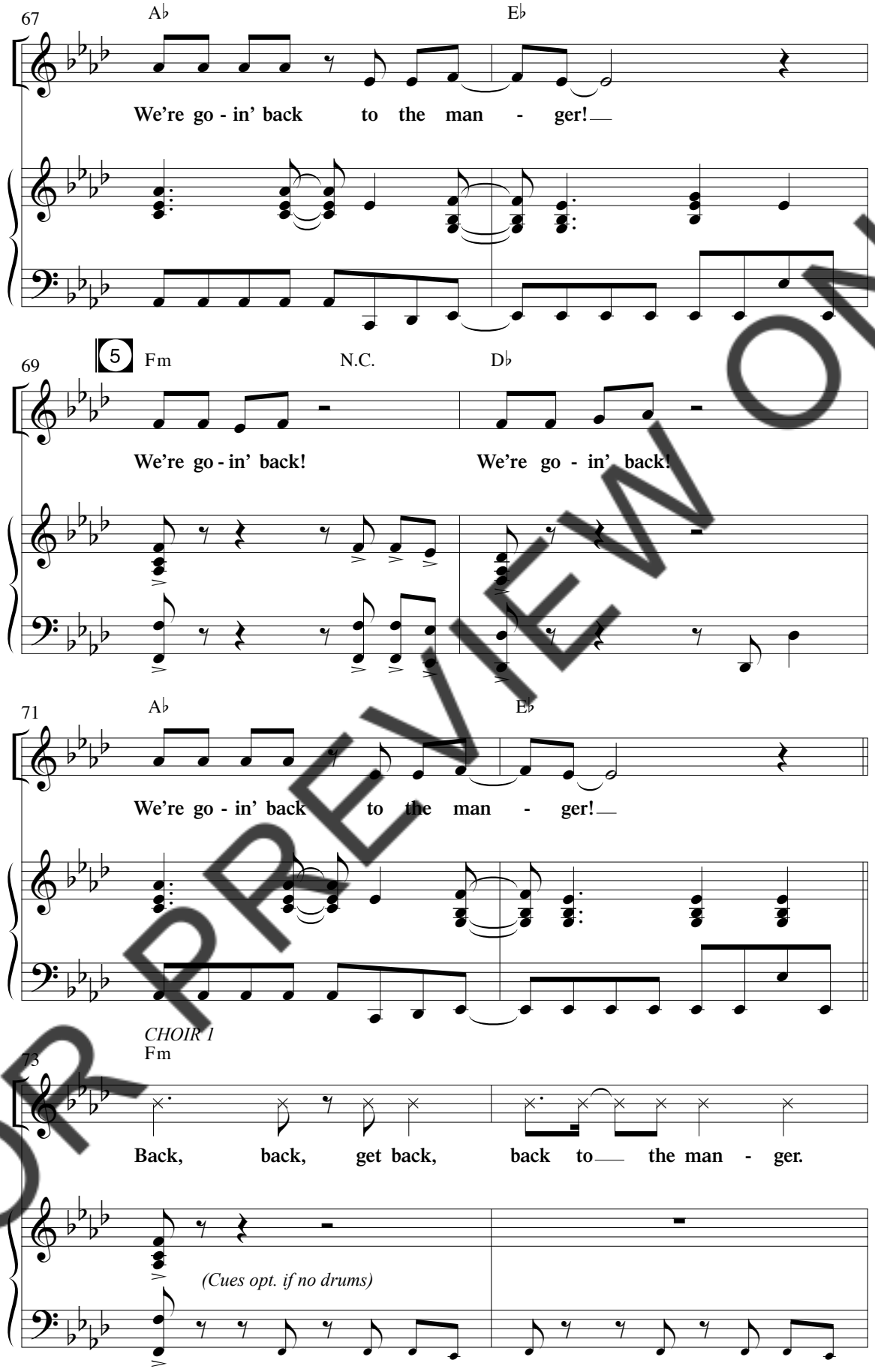
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



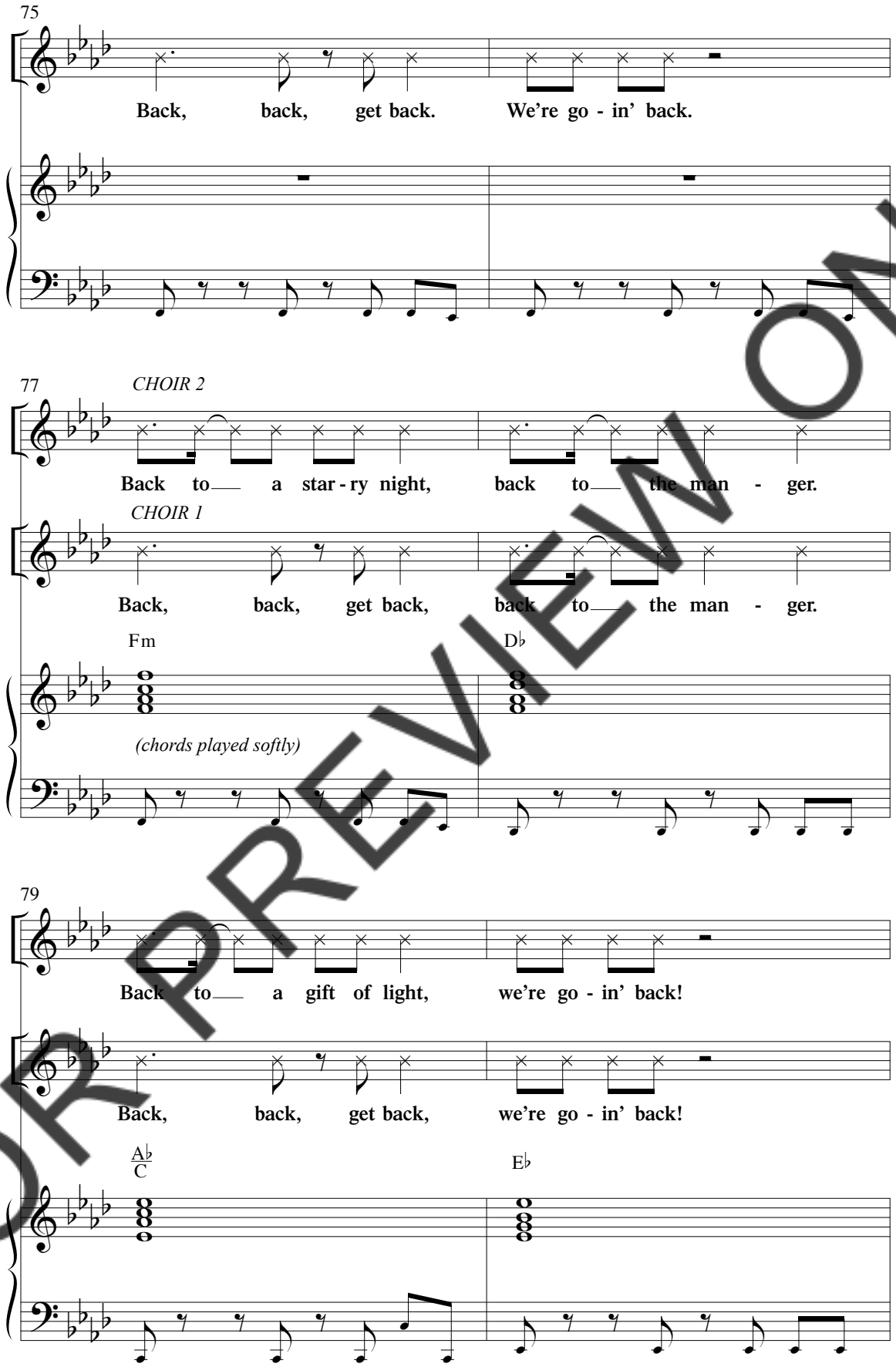
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



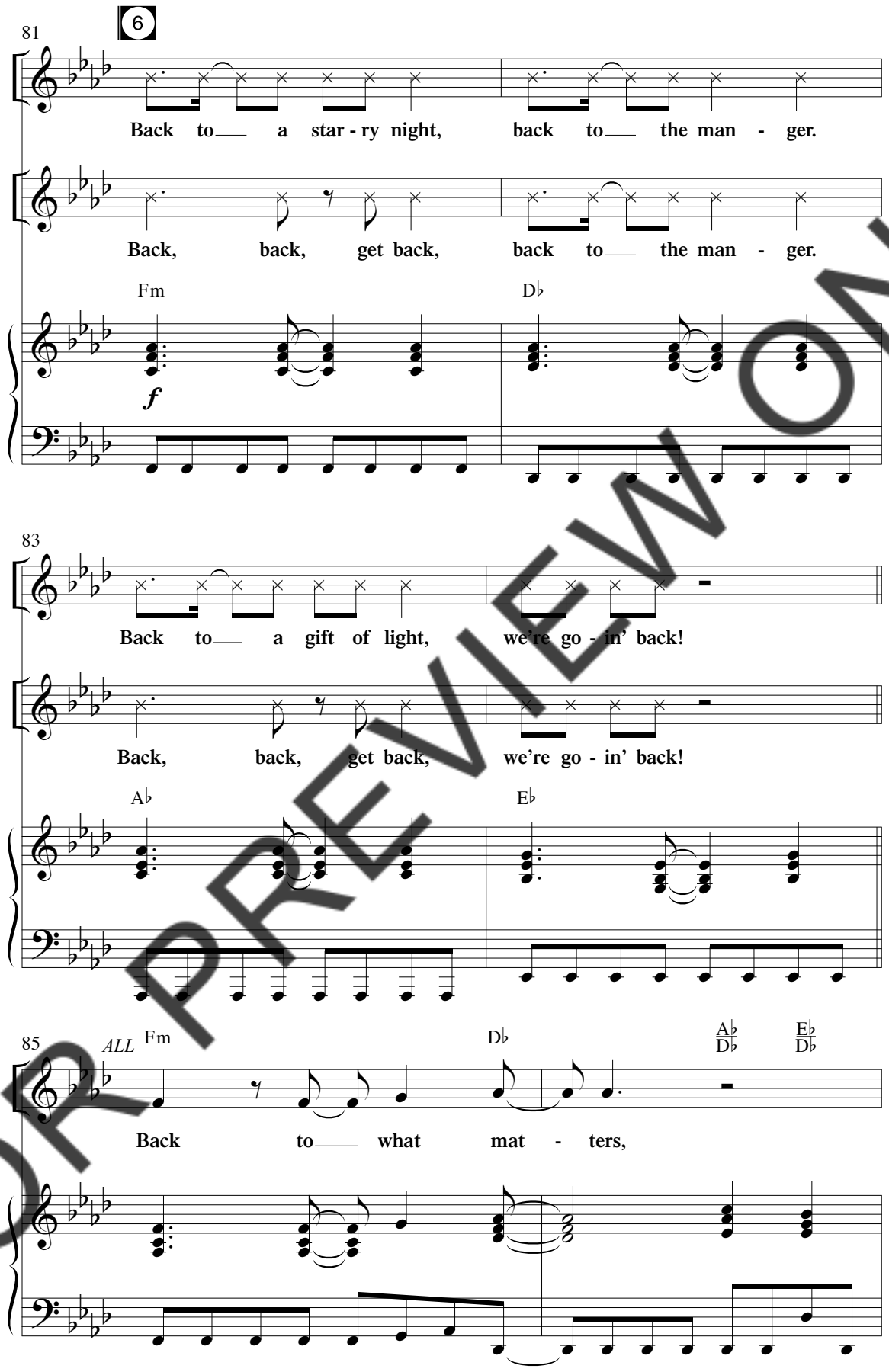
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



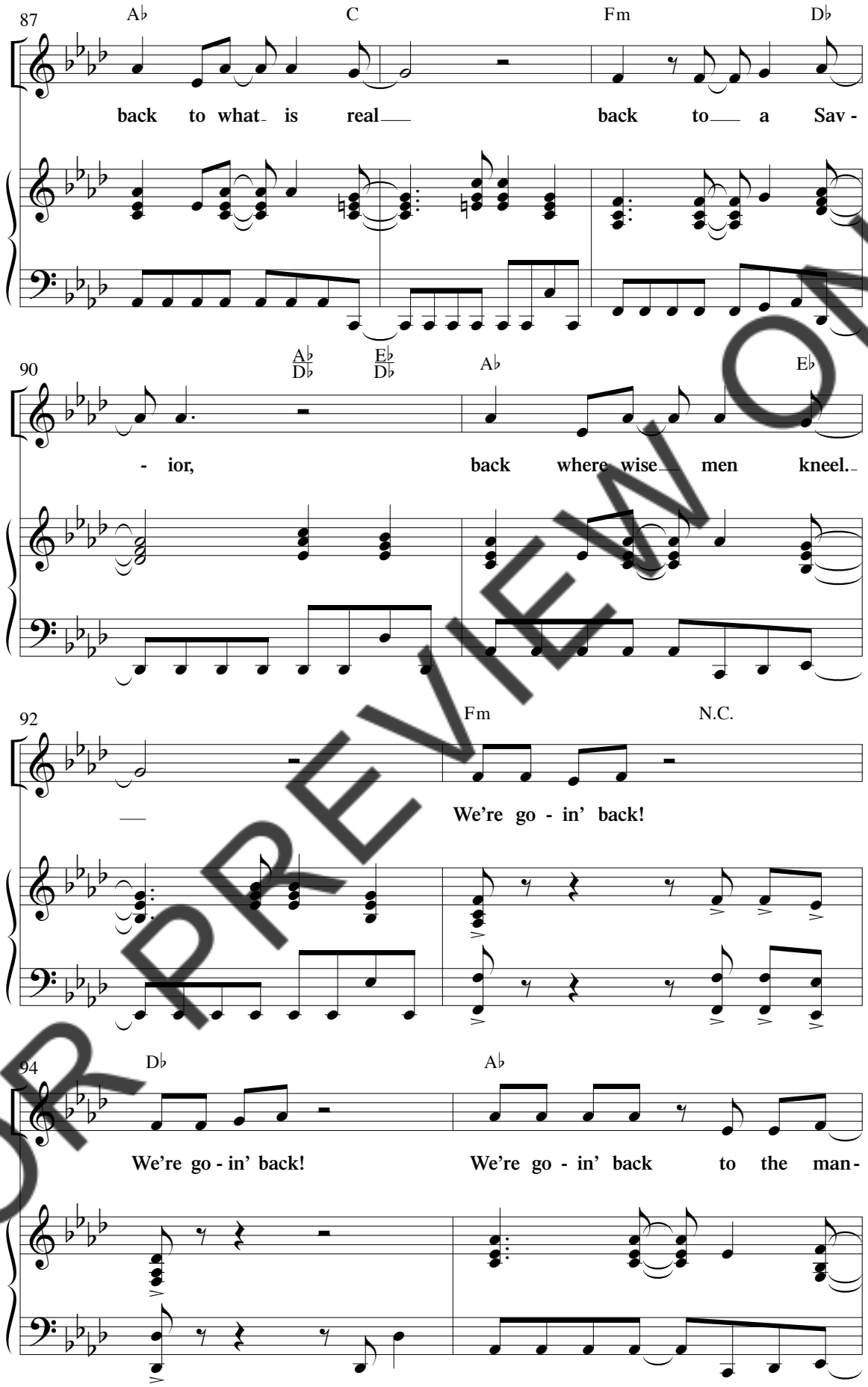
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



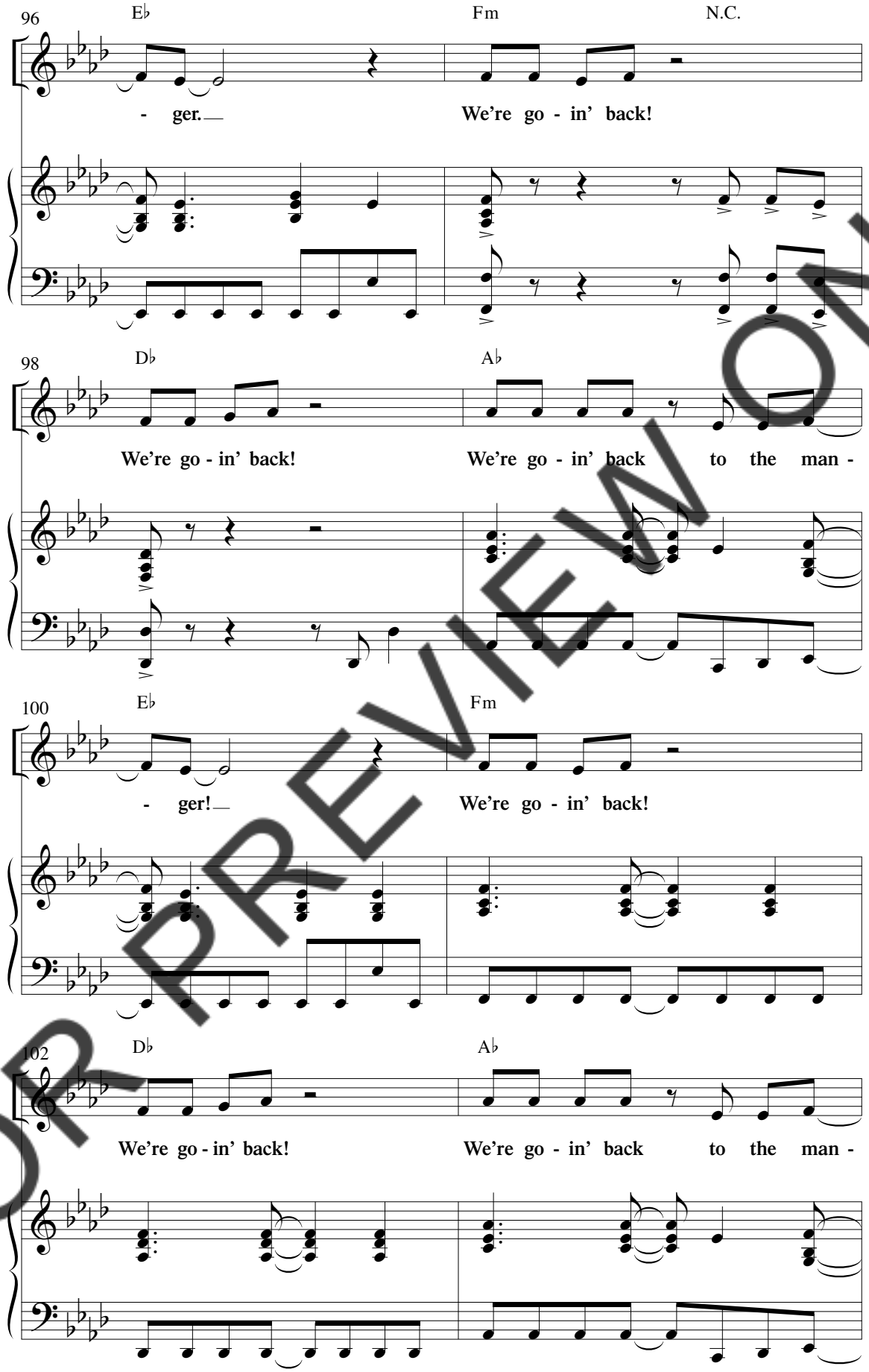
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



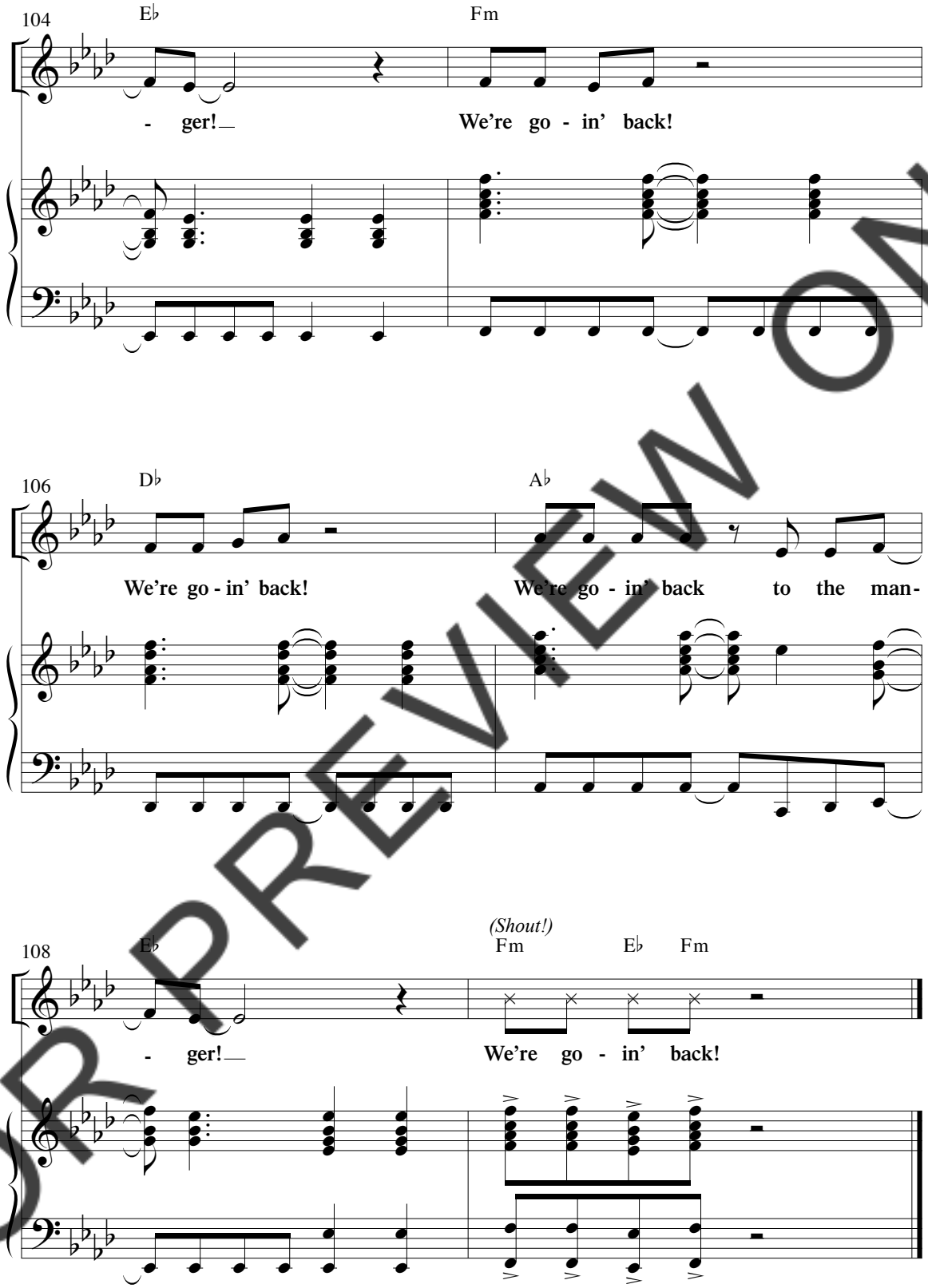
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY

Scene 1

(Lights slowly fade up outside Midway Community Church. The church's bell tower is visible in the background. A banner is draped across it, and reads, "66th Annual Caroling Outreach. December 24, 2010." The crowd is gathered center stage, excitedly awaiting the outreach coordinator's instructions. Jackson and his grandmother enter the stage walking toward the crowd.)

GRANDMA: **Come on, Jackson, we'll be late for the Caroling Outreach!**

JACKSON: **Aw, Grandma! I don't want to go. Do I look like a singer?**

GRANDMA: **Now dear, you know this church has been giving Christmas gift baskets to those less fortunate for more than 60 years. I've been at this outreach since I was a little girl. Will you give it a chance?**

JACKSON: **Can we just stay home? I want to go spend the money I've been saving on a new Wii game!** *(He waves his allowance envelope in front of Grandma.)*

GRANDMA: **Holy guacamole, Jackson! I think you'll be surprised.**

JACKSON: **Why do you always say that, Grandma: "Holy guacamole!"?**

GRANDMA: **Well, I suppose I've said it since I was young. It's a good memory.**

JACKSON: **From back in the "olden days?"**

GRANDMA: **Yes, from back in the "olden days". I just call it the past.**

JACKSON: **Things from the past don't count. The future is cool.**

GRANDMA: **But Jackson, the past is a valuable part of who we are today.**

JACKSON: **Huh?**

GRANDMA: *(sees Jasmine)* **Oh, hello, Jasmine! How's your grandmother doing? I haven't seen Carol lately.**

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

JASMINE: **Oh, she's great, Mrs. Worthington. She's over helping set up the baskets in the fellowship hall.**

GRANDMA: **Well, I think I'll go help her. Jasmine, this is my Grandson, Jackson. He's staying with me for the holidays. I'll be back in a few!** *(she leaves)*

JASMINE: **Hi!**

JACKSON: *(unenthusiastically)* **Hey.**

JASMINE: **This is my cousin, Gloria.**

GLORIA: **Hi!**

JACKSON: *(long pause)* **Hey.**

JASMINE: *(Trying again)* **I love coming to this outreach! Do you like music?**

JACKSON: **Music? Yeah. Caroling? *No!*** *(music begins to "Can You Hear the Bells?")* **Real music—mostly Hip Hop, some Rap.**

GLORIA: *(excitedly)* **Well, I *love* caroling!**

JASMINE: **Me, too . . . and whenever I hear our church bells it just puts me in the Christmas spirit.**

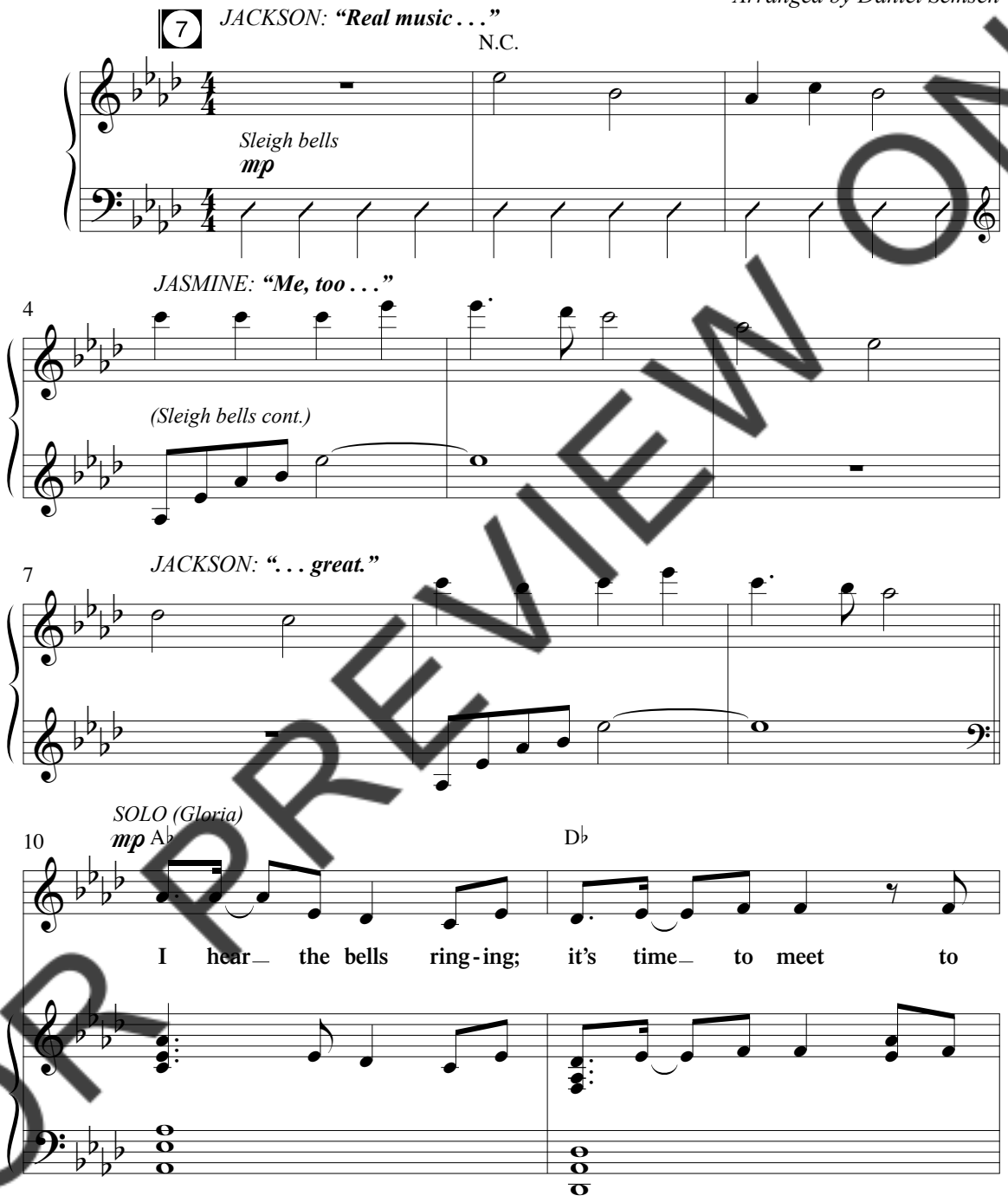
JACKSON: *(sarcastically)* **They're going to sing . . . *great.***

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

Can You Hear the Bells?
with Angels We Have Heard on High

Words and Music by
CHRISTY SEMSEN
and DANIEL SEMSEN
Arranged by Daniel Semsen

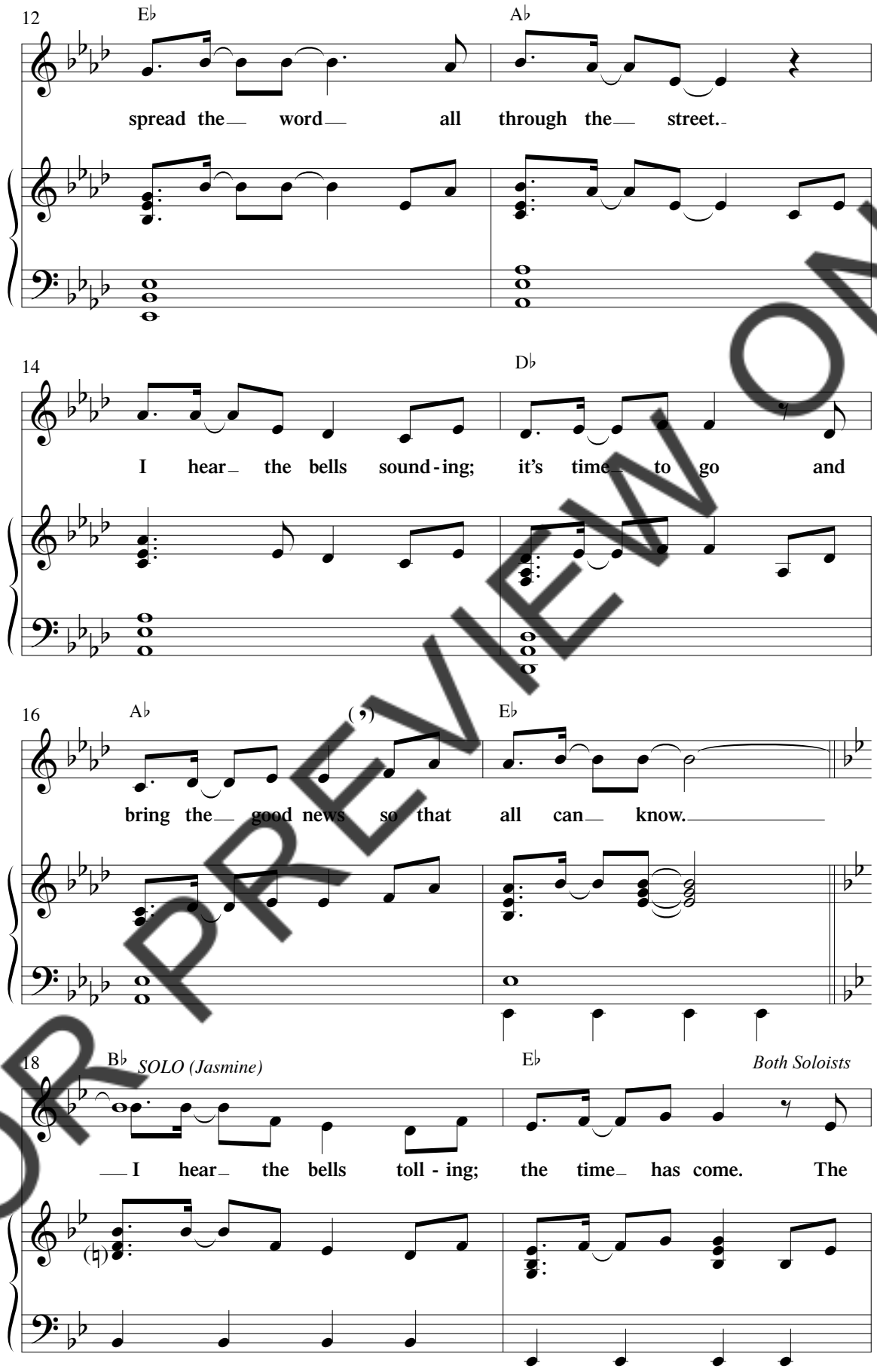
With eager anticipation ♩ = 113



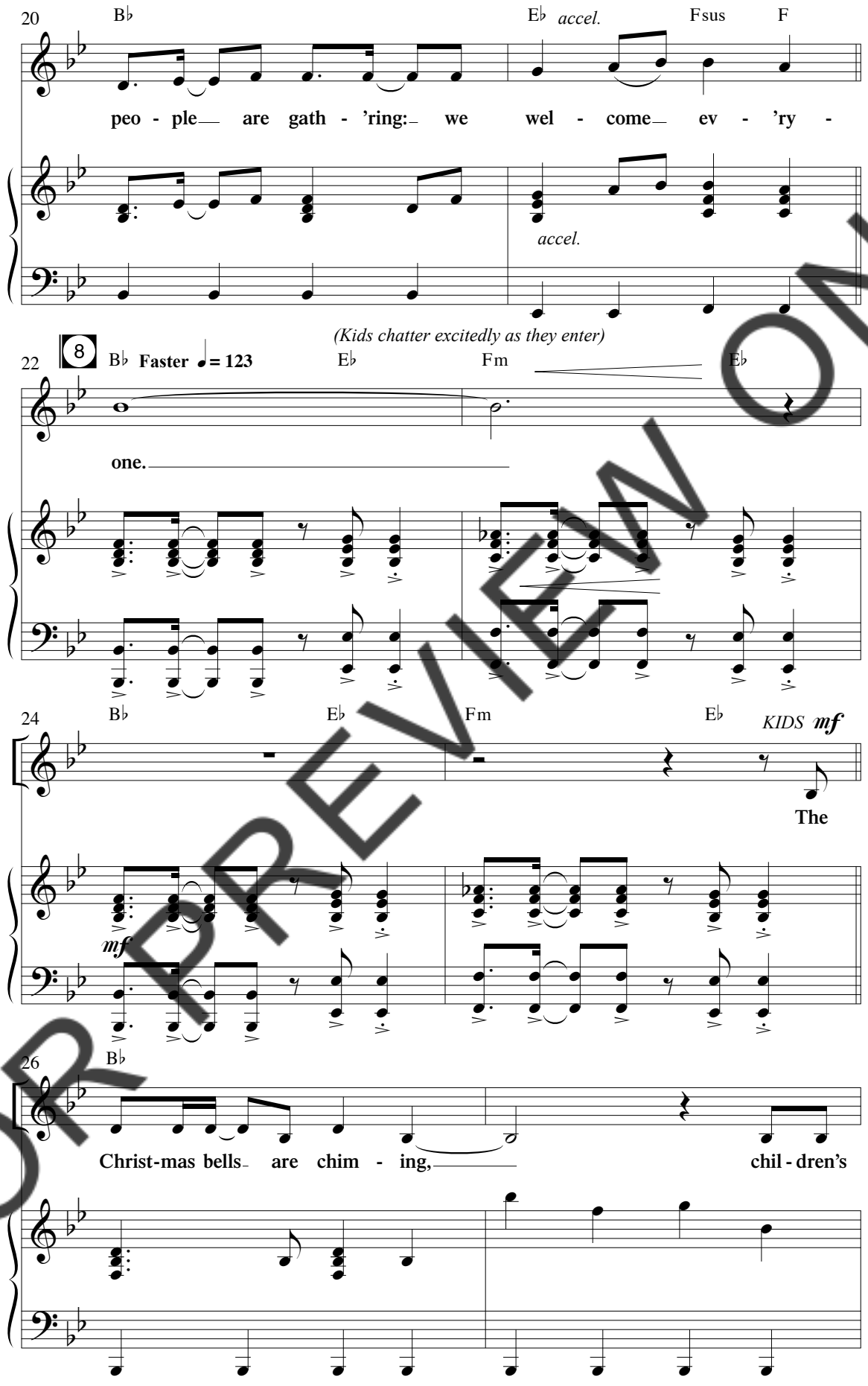
FOR PREVIEW ONLY

© 2010 Word Music, LLC (ASCAP)
All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

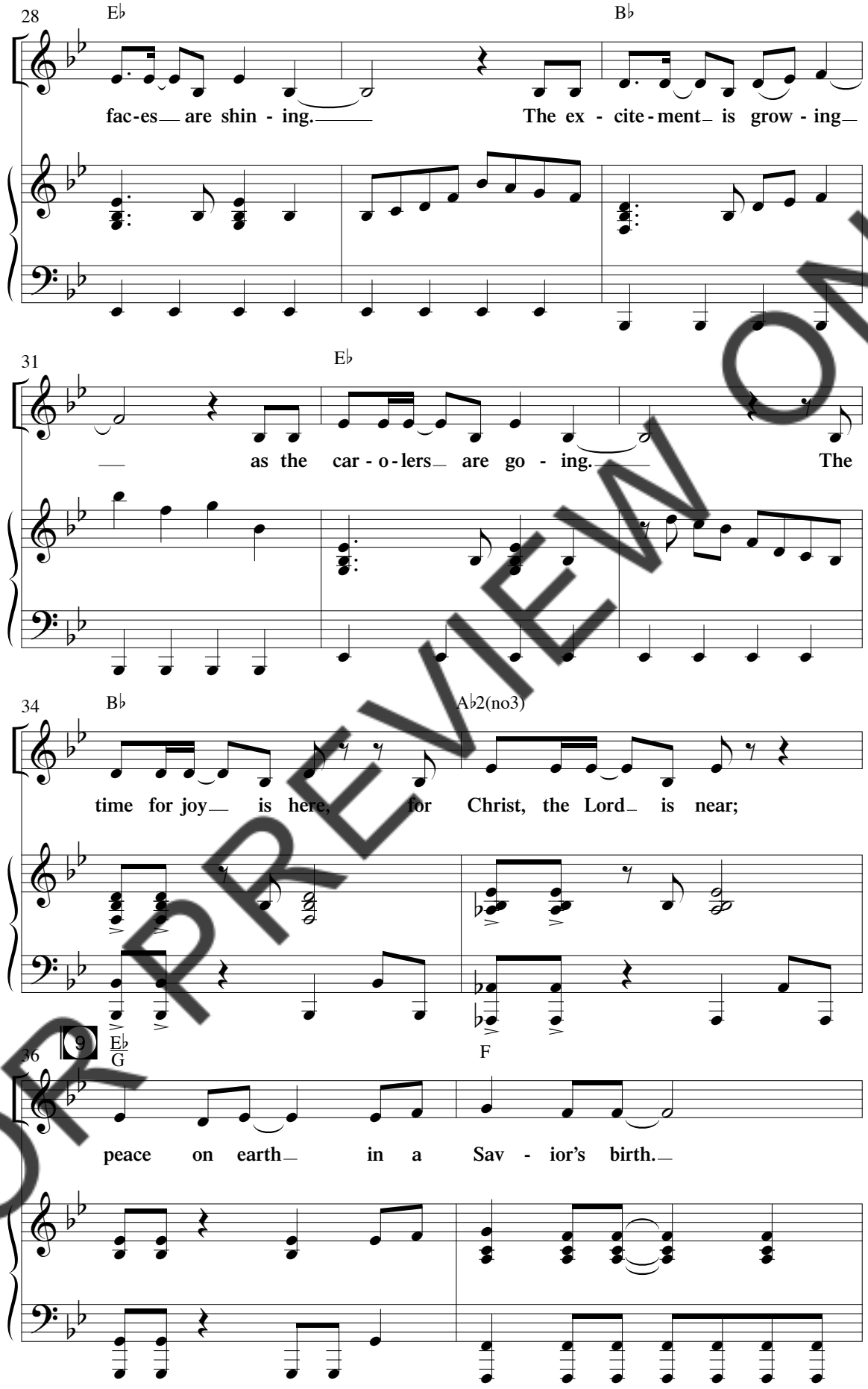
EVEN IF YOU POSSESS A **CCLI** LICENSE, YOU MAY NOT COPY ANY MUSIC FROM THIS BOOK.
If you have questions about CCLI, please call 800/234-2446.



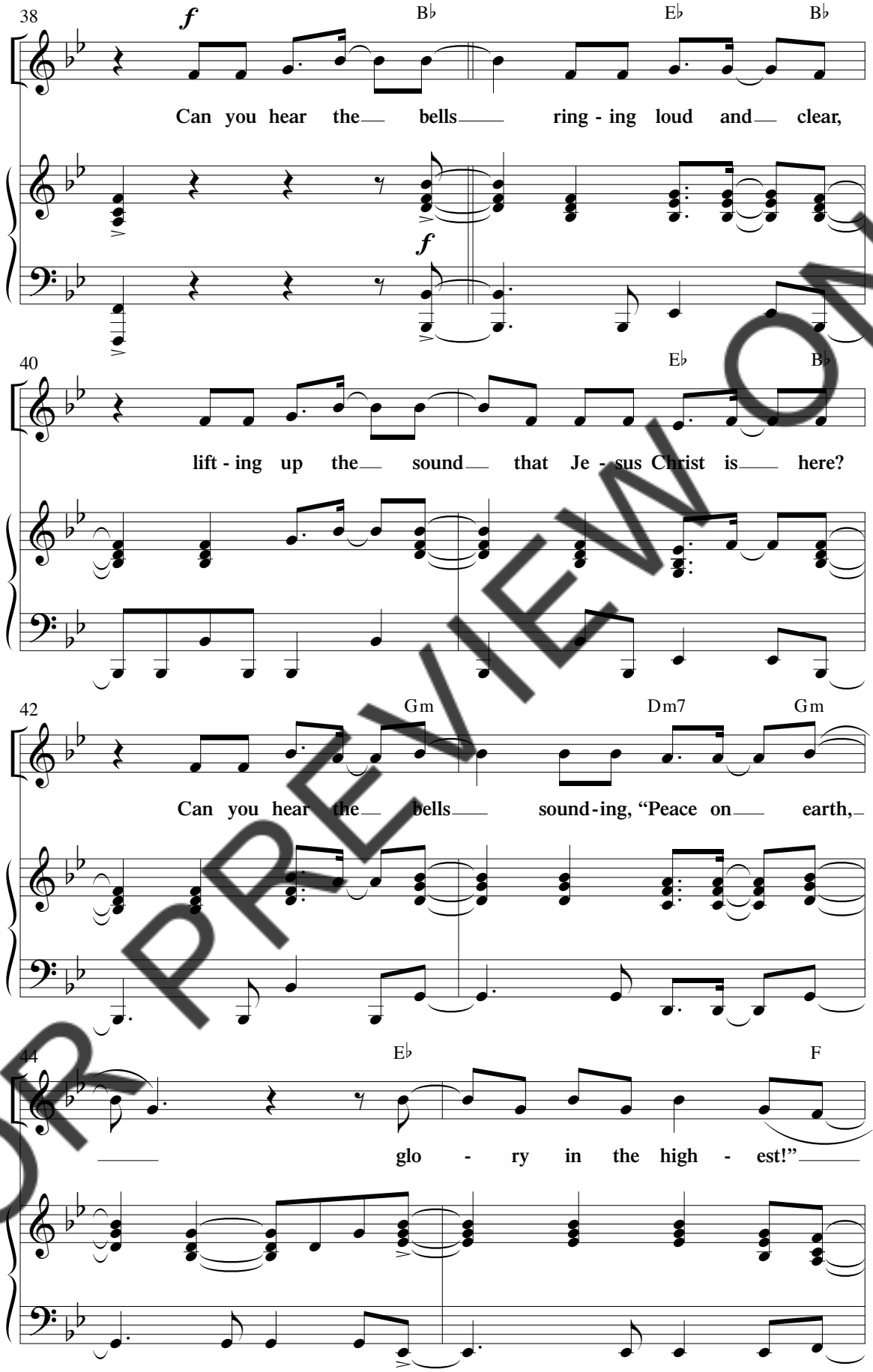
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



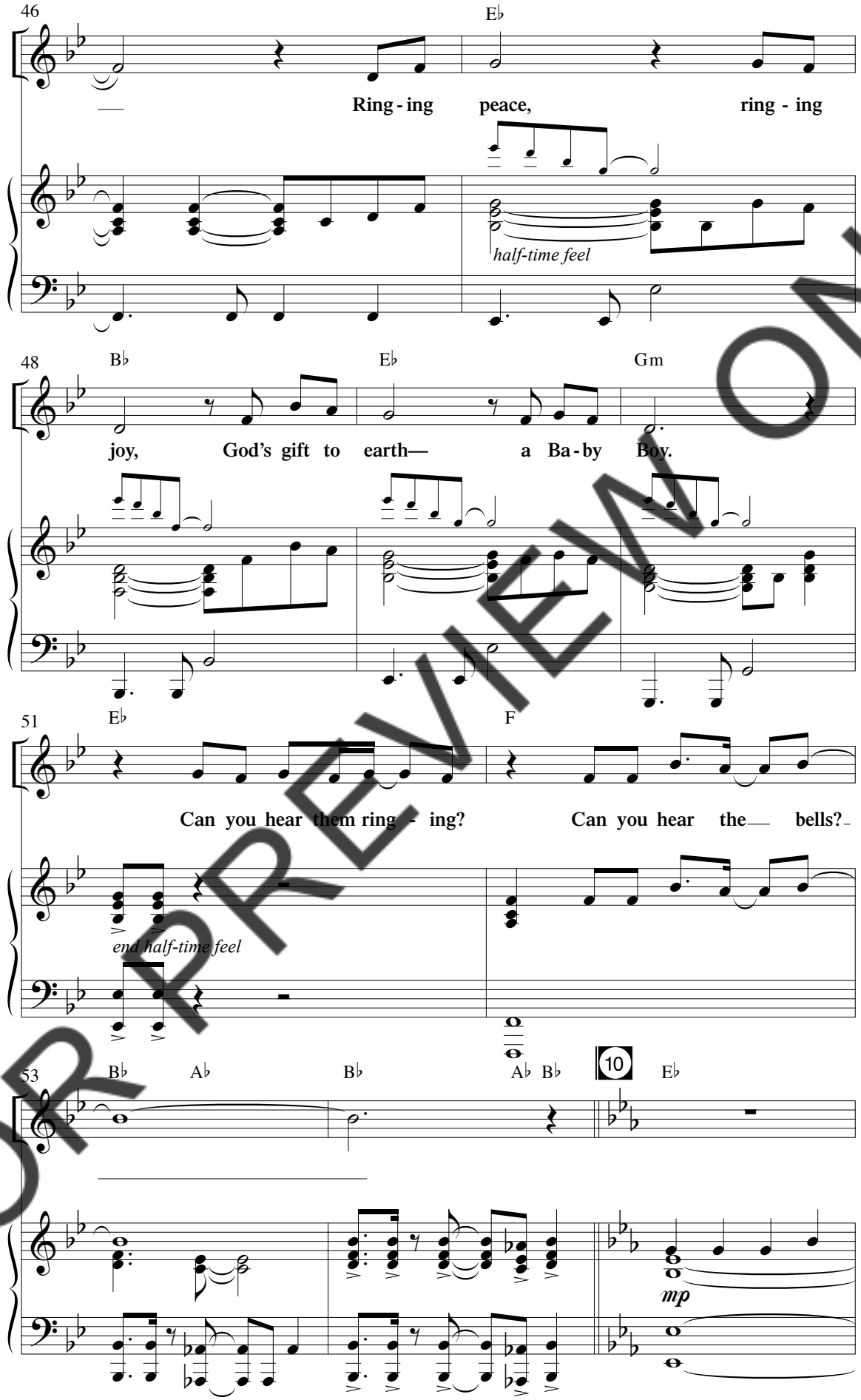
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



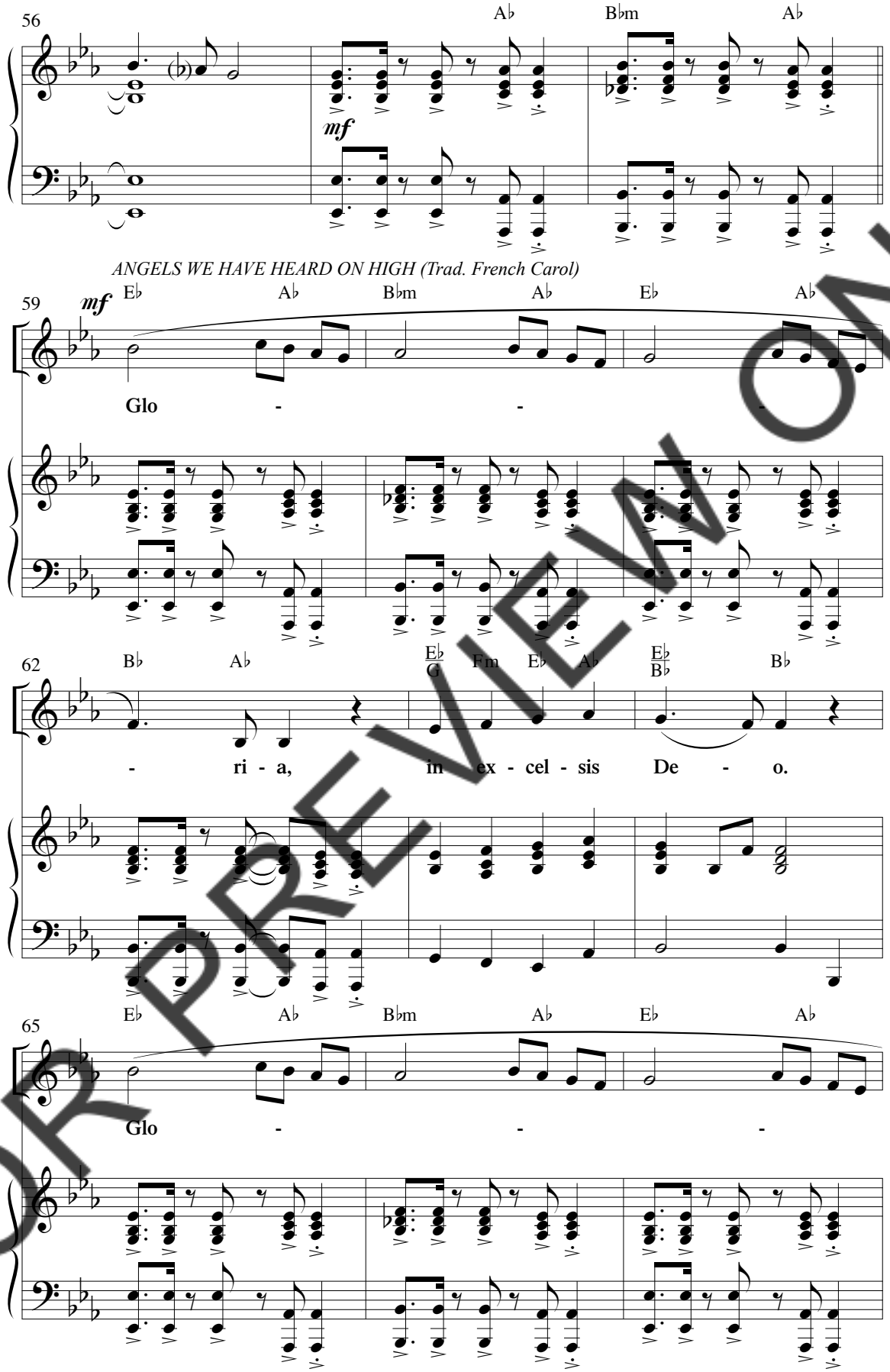
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY

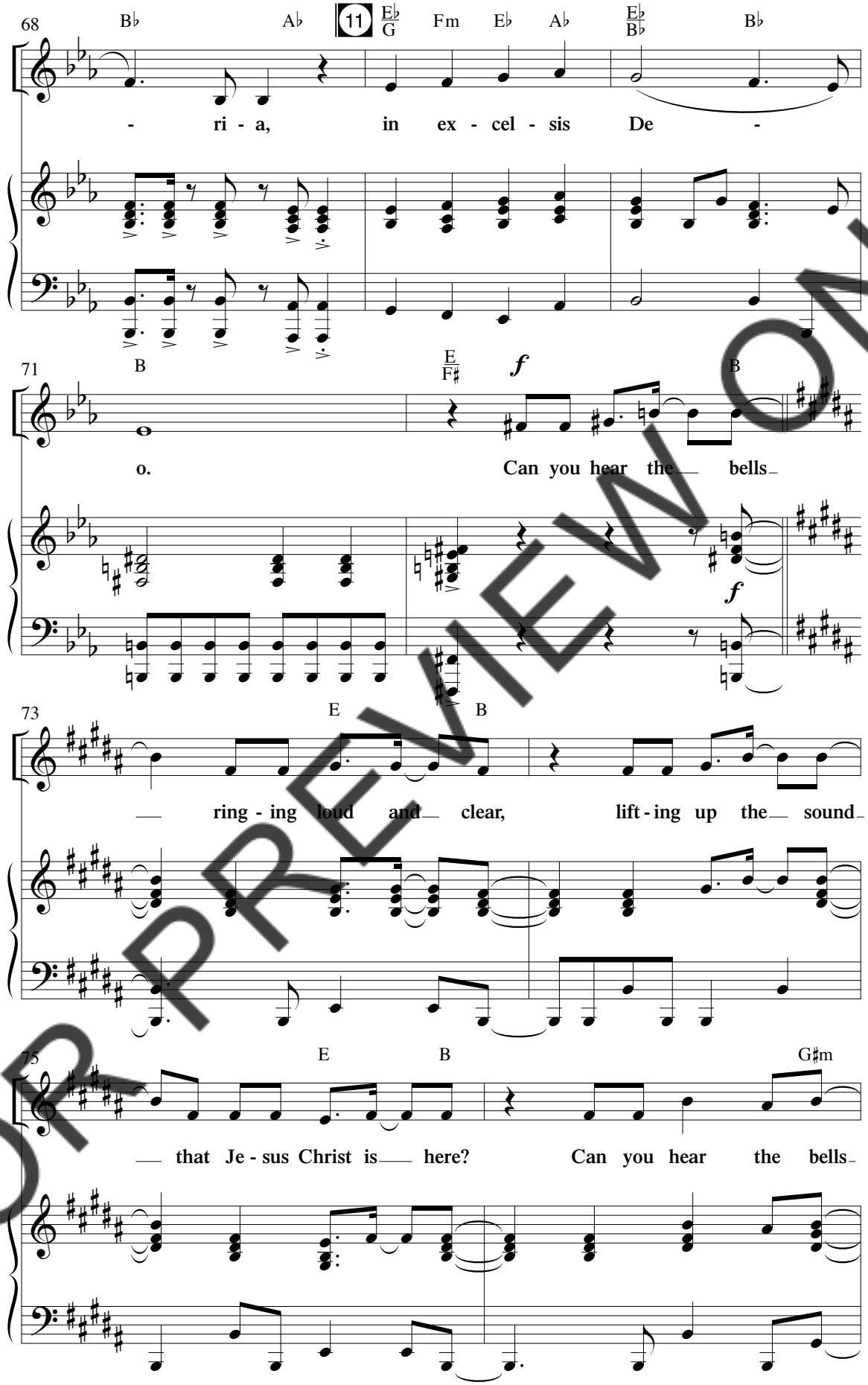


FOR PREVIEW ONLY

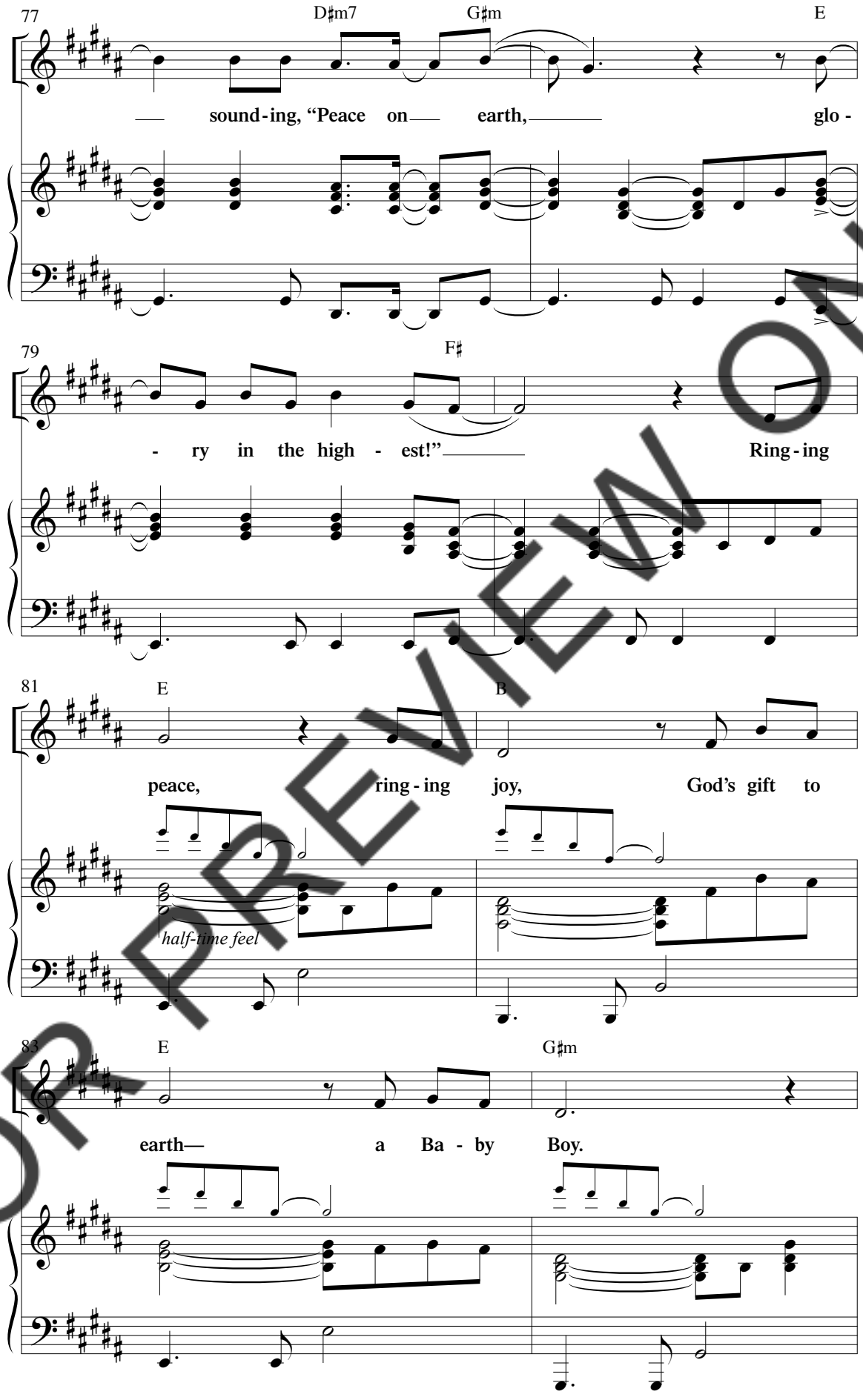


FOR PREVIEW ONLY

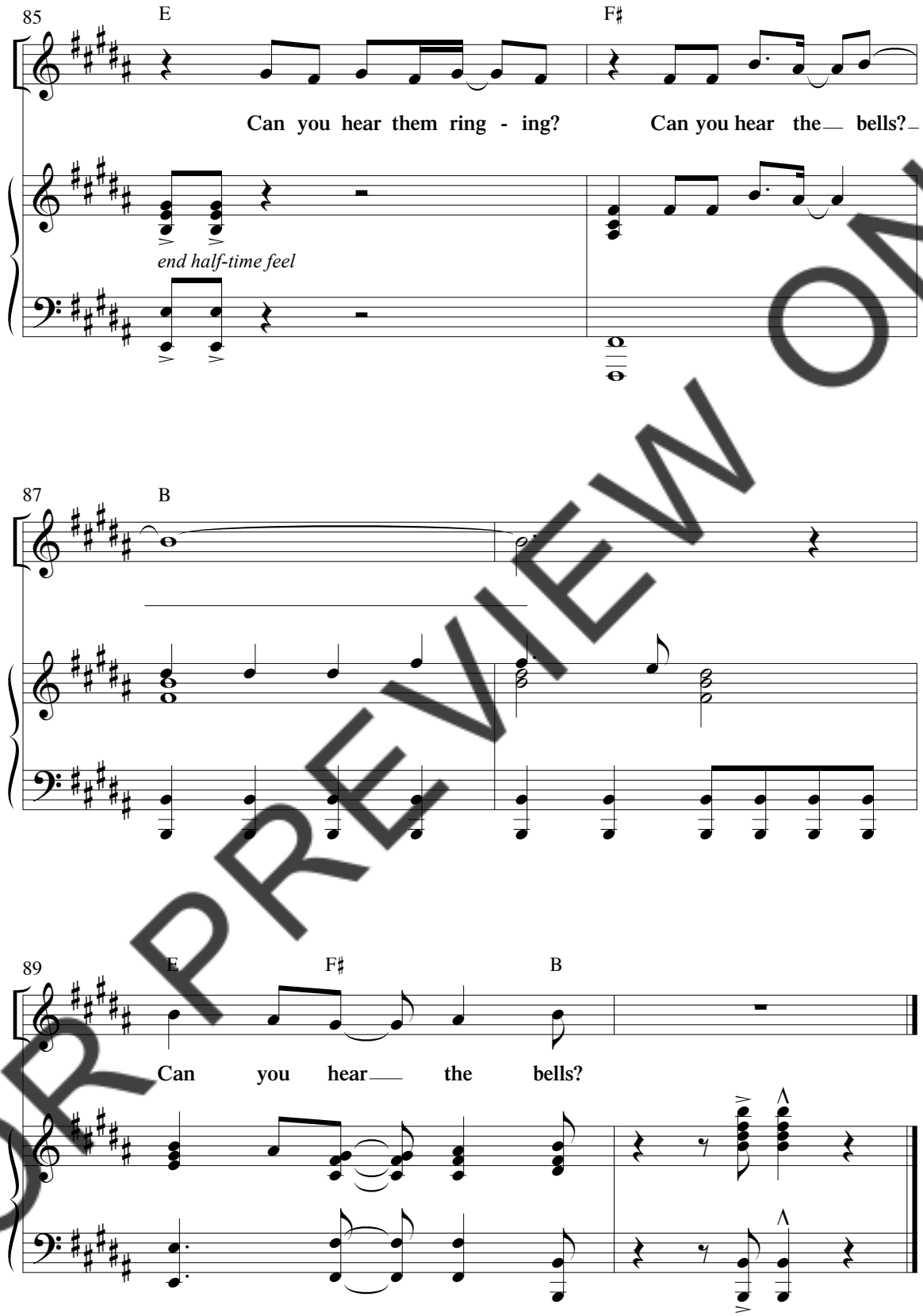
Arr. © 2010 Word Music, LLC (ASCAP)
All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.



FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY

Scene 2

NORMAN: *(stage whisper)* **Hey, guys! Guys! Come here! I've got to show this to someone!** *(Gloria and Jasmine walk toward Norman; Jackson does so, but somewhat hesitantly.)*

JASMINE: **Hey, Norman! What is it?**

NORMAN: *(smart, geeky manner)* **The most amazing invention of my short, but illustrious career as an inventor! WAIT until you see this!**

MR. OLSON: *(backing out, turning machine around from Lost and Found area)* **I can't believe this day has finally come!** *(turns around and is startled upon seeing the group)* **Aah! Who are they?**

NORMAN: **These are my friends. Guys, you know Mr. Olson, the church Custodian.** *(Kids warmly greet Mr. Olson.)*

JACKSON: *(wearily)* **Hey.**

MR. OLSON: *(absent-mindedly)* **Henry Olson. Nice to meet you.** *(under his breath to Norman)* **Norman! I told you, this is top-secret! My invention can't be revealed to anyone!**

JACKSON: *(snidely)* **His invention? I thought you said it was yours.**

NORMAN: *(flustered)* **Well, it's partly mine. I thought of . . . that lever over there. And, and . . .** *(trailing off)* **the name.** *(He is met by blank stares)*

JASMINE: *(dryly)* **What's the name?**

NORMAN: *(proudly)* **The H/O-2000 Temporal Displacement Modulator!** *(Pauses for excitement with a "tada!" motion. Clearing his throat, he tries again.)* **The H/O-2000 Temporal Displacement Modulator!** *(Whispering excitedly)* **It's a time machine!**

GROUP: *(expressions of disinterest)* **We've got to get going . . . It's going to be a long day . . . Good luck!**

GLORIA: **Awesome! What's a time machine?**

NORMAN: **Thank you, Gloria.** *(glaring at others)* **A time machine, my doubting friends, can transport you anywhere in the past or future.**

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

JACKSON: *(sarcastically)* **I'd rather be caroling.**

GLORIA: **I think it's exciting! You could use it to visit the future!**

JACKSON: **The future? Cool! That's a lot better than going backwards!**

JASMINE: **What are you going to do, Mr. Olson?**

MR. OLSON: *(jubilantly)* **I'm going to be *rich!* I'm going to go start a new life! I'll buy stock in Microsoft in 1978. I'll become best friends with Walt Disney in 1930. Maybe pick up a few historical artifacts on the cheap. Let me tell ya, kids—whoever said money can't buy happiness was just trying to keep us all from knowing the *secret* to happiness.**

Now, I just punch in the date, *(Time Machine SFX 1* 12 *begins)* **ahh, December 24 . . .**

KID 1: **Excuse me, Mr. Olson. There's a big eggnog spill in the fellowship hall. Can you please help us?**

MR. OLSON: *(distracted, stammering)* **Yes, yes, yes, of course.** *(emphatically whispers)* **Kids, don't touch anything!**

(Mr. Olson leaves)

NORMAN: *(getting inside the machine)* **Ah, isn't she a beauty?**

GLORIA: **We're not supposed to touch it.**

JACKSON: *(Sarcastically, as he leans on one of the levers)* **Yeah, what could happen?** *(Time Machine SFX 2* 13 *begins, lights flash wildly, opt. strobe effect, smoke machine, etc.)*

NORMAN: **Jackson, what did you do?!**

ALL: **What was that? What is going on? Do you hear that?**

NORMAN: **I dunno, but I think it's working!** *(As Time Machine SFX 2 winds down, lights blackout.)*

(The kids slowly take in their "new" surroundings, except for Norman, who continues staring at the time machine. The

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

lights slowly fade up to reveal Midway Community Church. The banner across the bell tower now reads, "34th Annual Caroling Outreach. Dec. 24, 1978.")

JASMINE: **Whew! We're still here at the church. Sorry, Norman!** *(music begins to "Let Us Love")*

NORMAN: *(continues staring at the time machine, oblivious to his "new" surroundings)* **That was weird. I don't know what happened . . .**

JACKSON: **Hey, what is wrong with that bro's hair?** *(Someone dressed in vintage 70s clothes, complete with outrageously long or frizzy hair, walks by, downstage of the group.)*

NORMAN: **Something definitely happened . . .**

JACKSON: *(another "70s person" walks by)* **Seriously, what is *up* with the hair!?**

GLORIA: **Um, guys. I think something happened.**

OUTREACH COORDINATOR #2: **Merry Christmas, everyone! And welcome to our 34th Annual Caroling Outreach!** *(He continues talking in pantomime as dialogue continues.)*

NORMAN: **Did you hear that? 34 years instead of 66! If this is the 34th Annual Outreach, it must be . . .**

GLORIA: **1978!**

ALL: *(pointing to the sign)* **1978!?**

(During "Let Us Love", Norman tinkers with the machine, trying to determine how to return to "the present.")

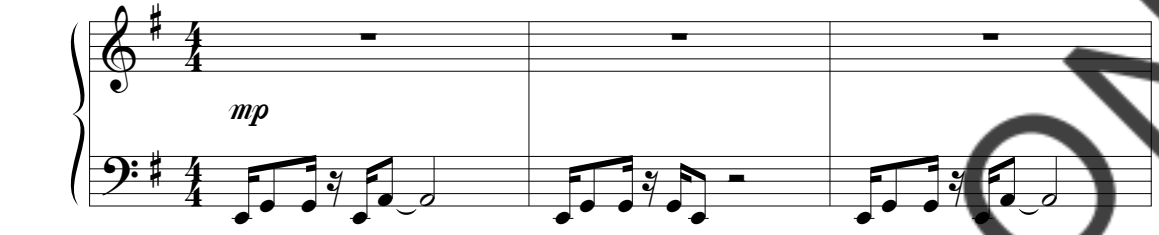
FOR PREVIEW ONLY

Let Us Love

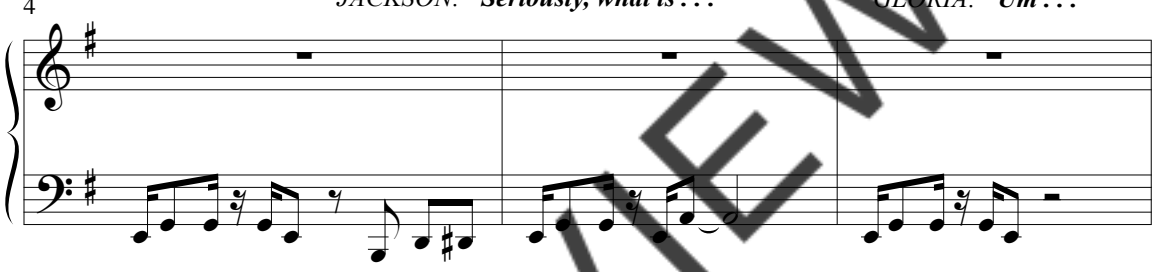
Words and Music by
CHRISTY SEMSEN
Arranged by Daniel Semsen

Disco! ♩ = 116

14 *NORMAN:* ***"That was . . ."***
N.C.

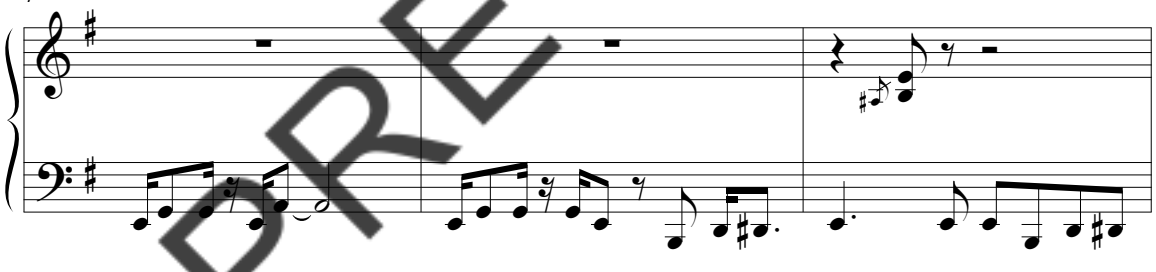


4 *JACKSON:* ***"Seriously, what is . . ."*** *GLORIA:* ***"Um . . ."***

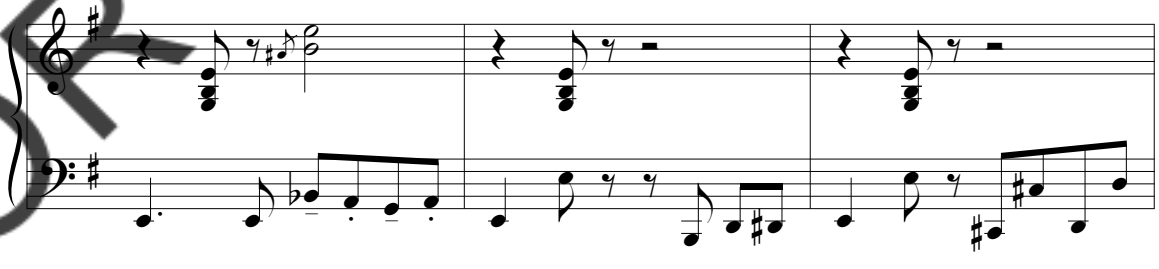


COORDINATOR #2: ***". . . our 34th Annual Caroling . . ."***

7 Em



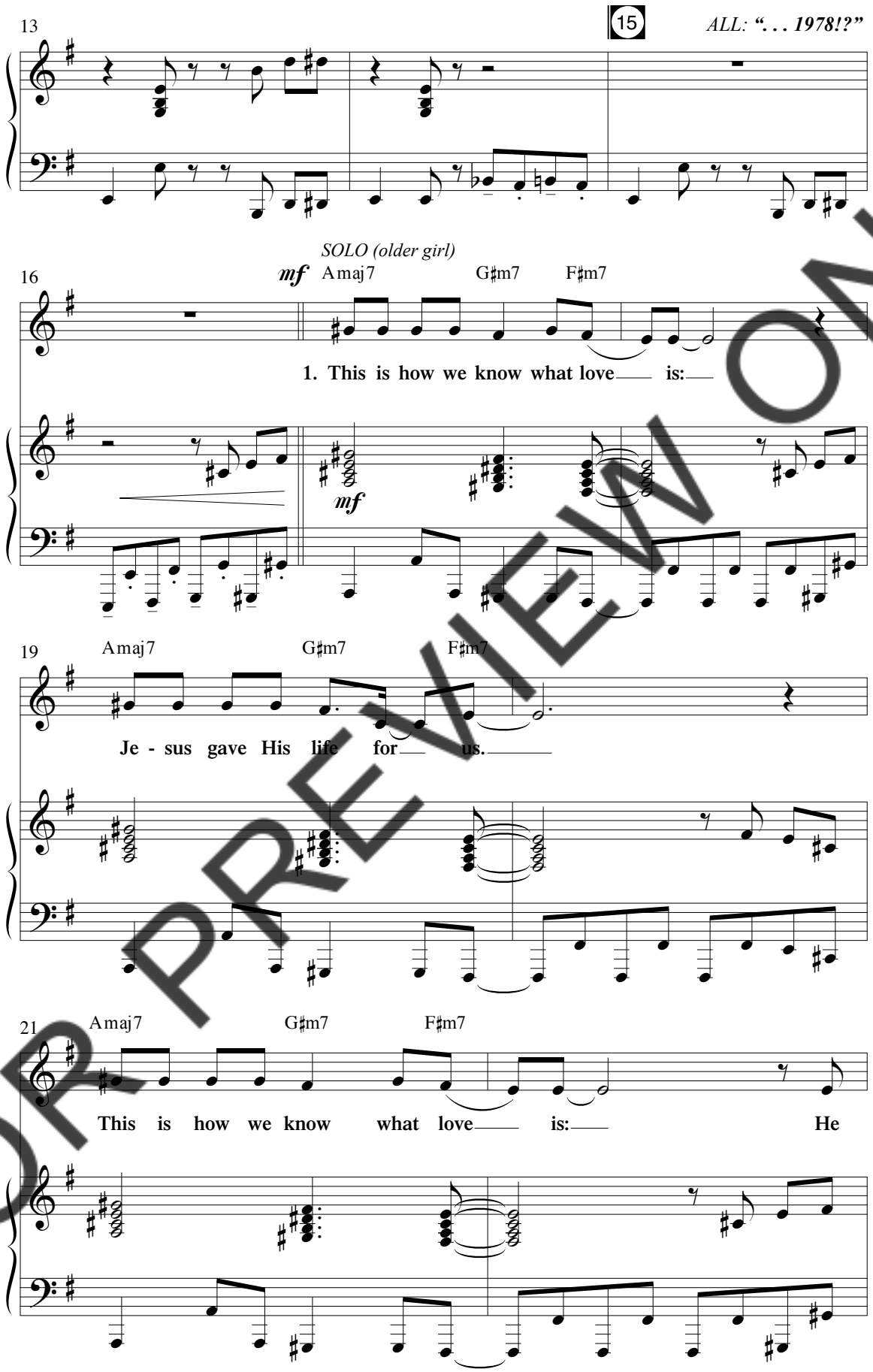
10



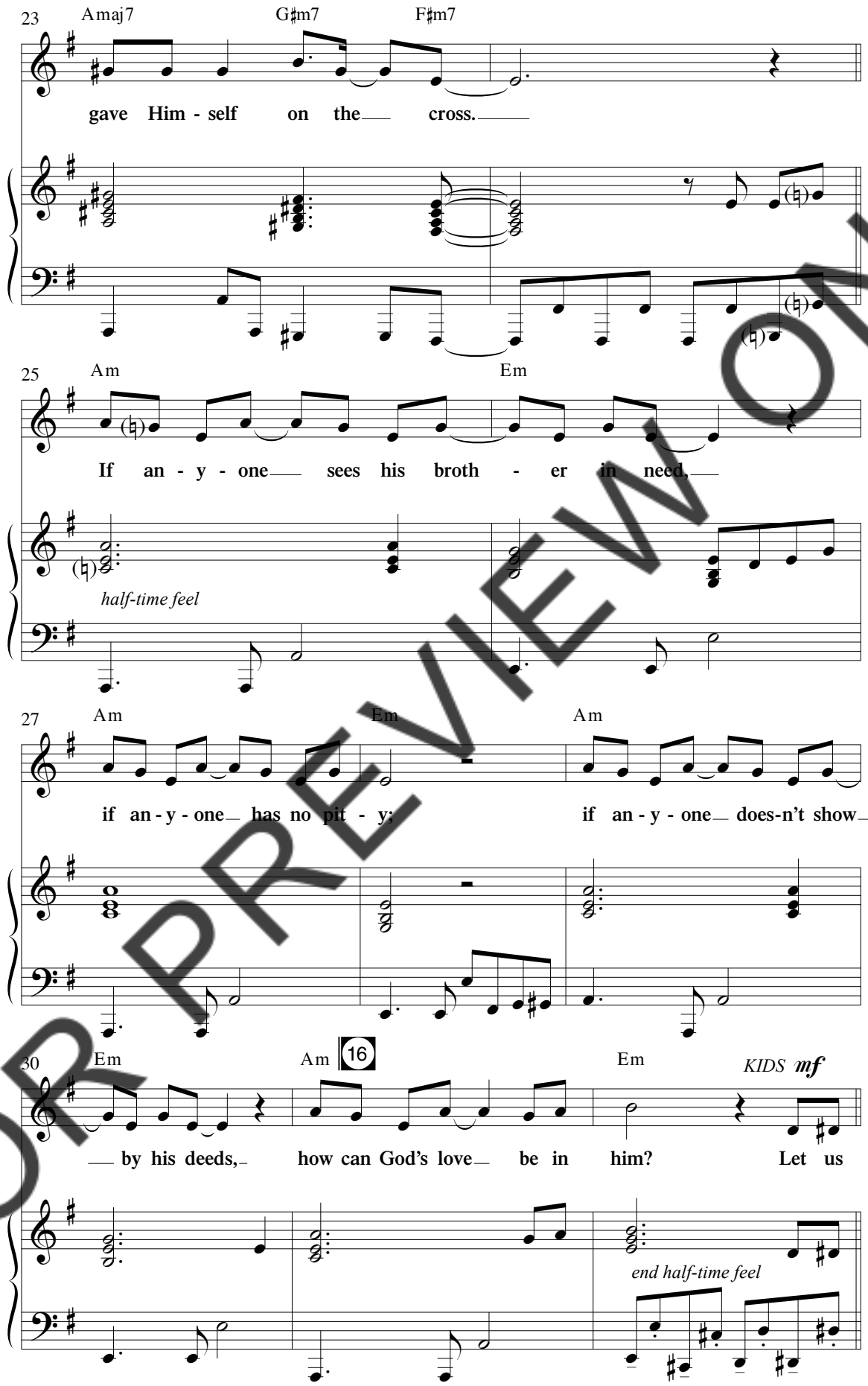
FOR PREVIEW ONLY

© 2010 Word Music, LLC (ASCAP)
All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

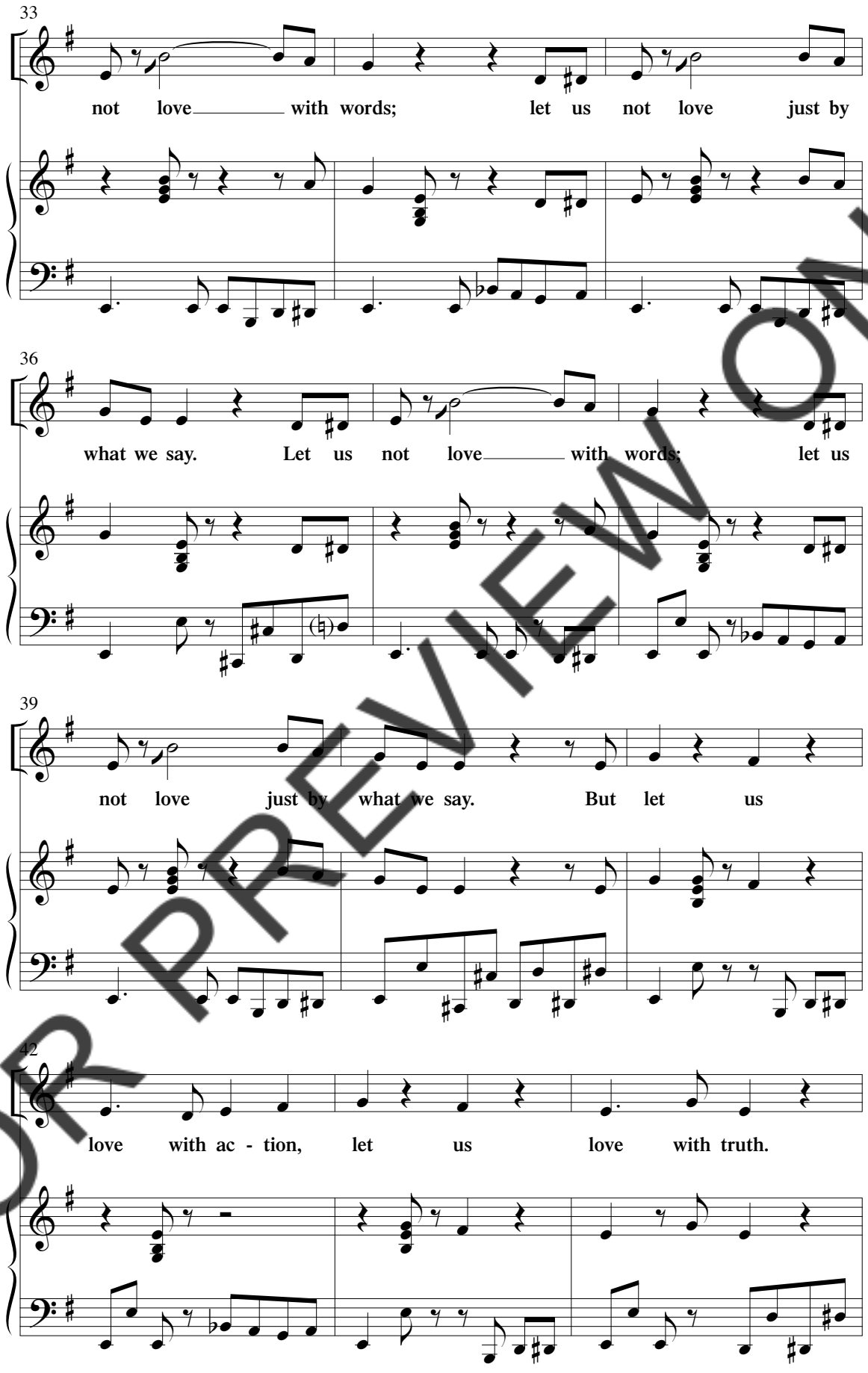
EVEN IF YOU POSSESS A **CCLI** LICENSE, YOU MAY NOT COPY ANY MUSIC FROM THIS BOOK.
If you have questions about CCLI, please call 800/234-2446.



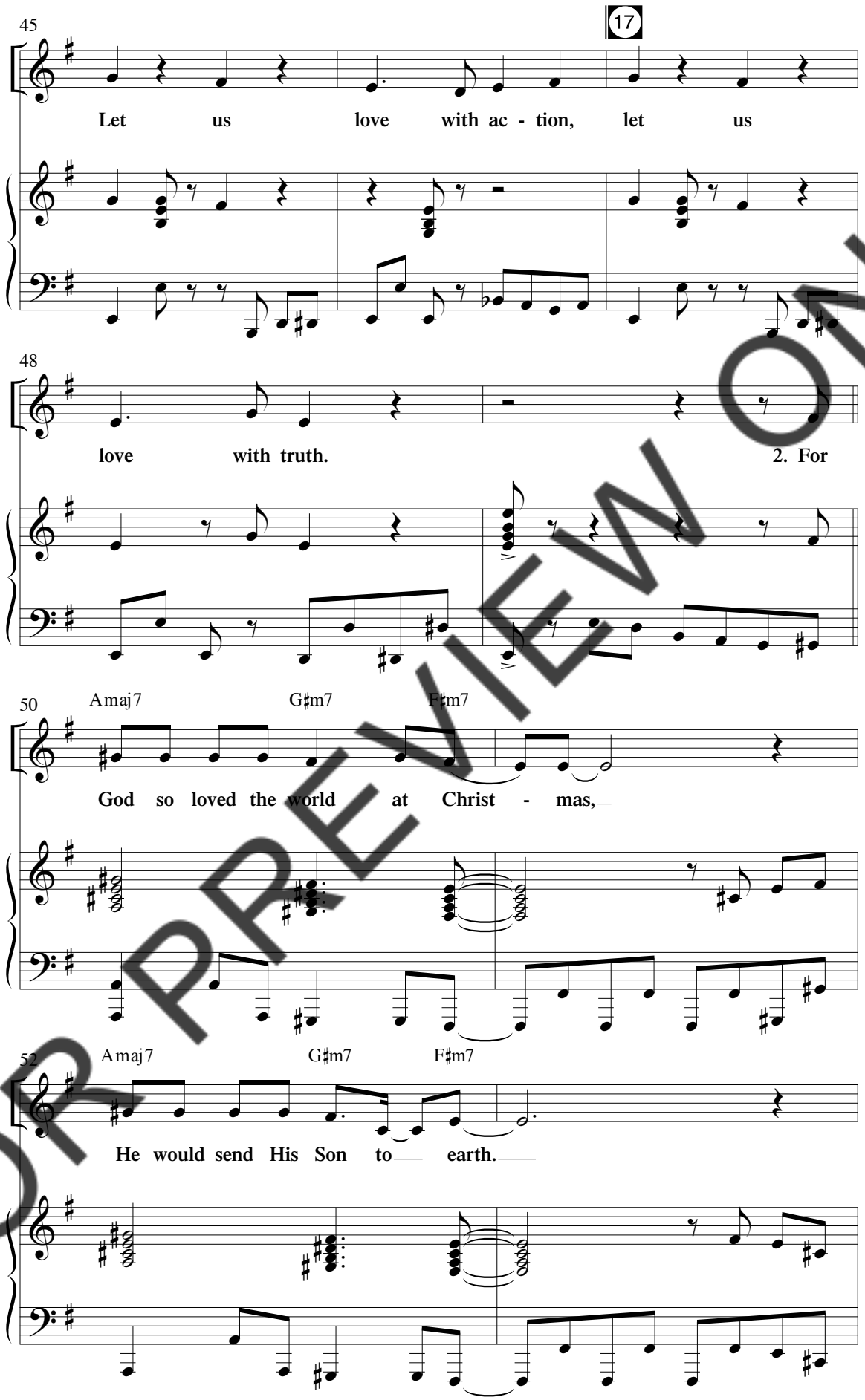
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



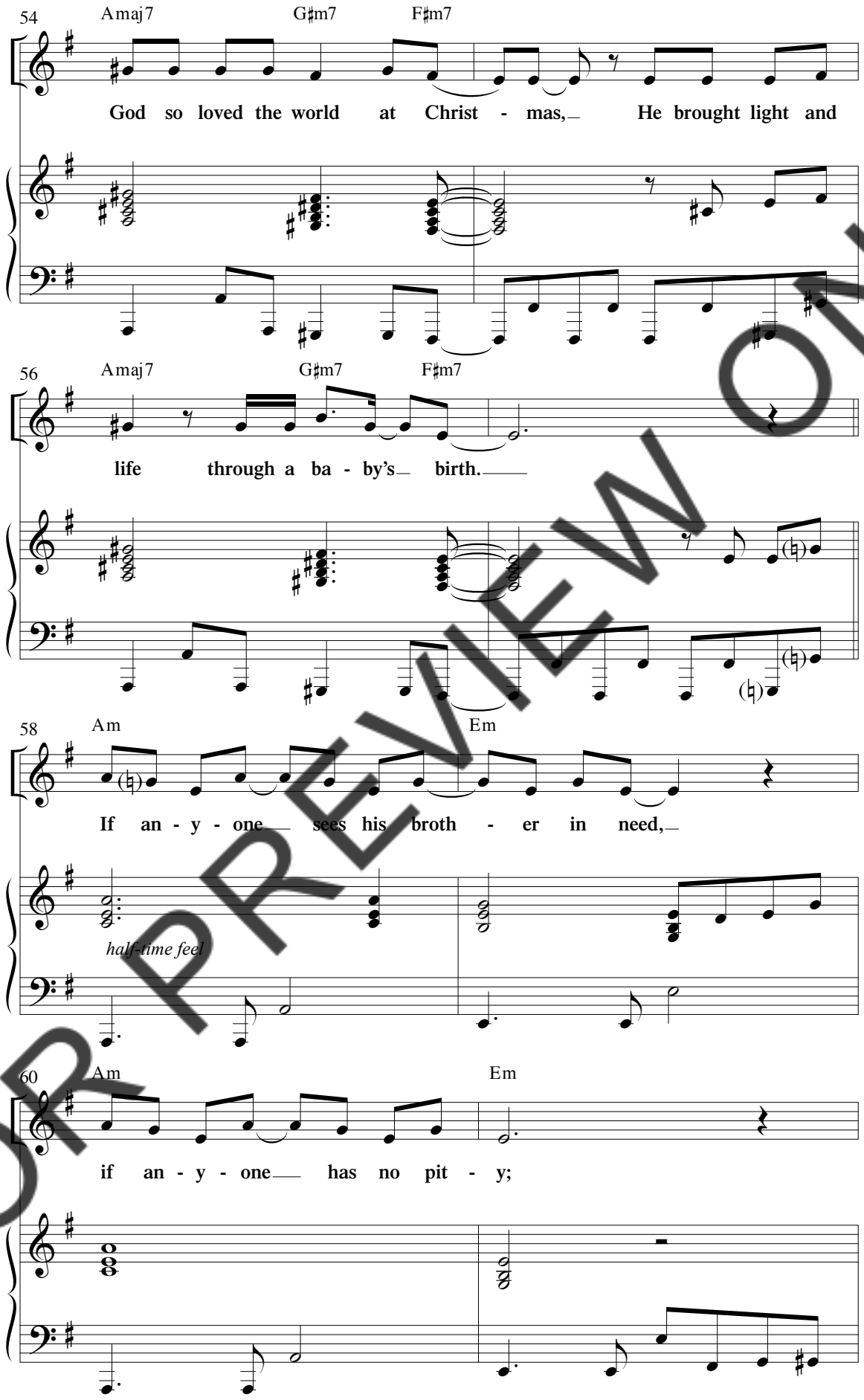
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



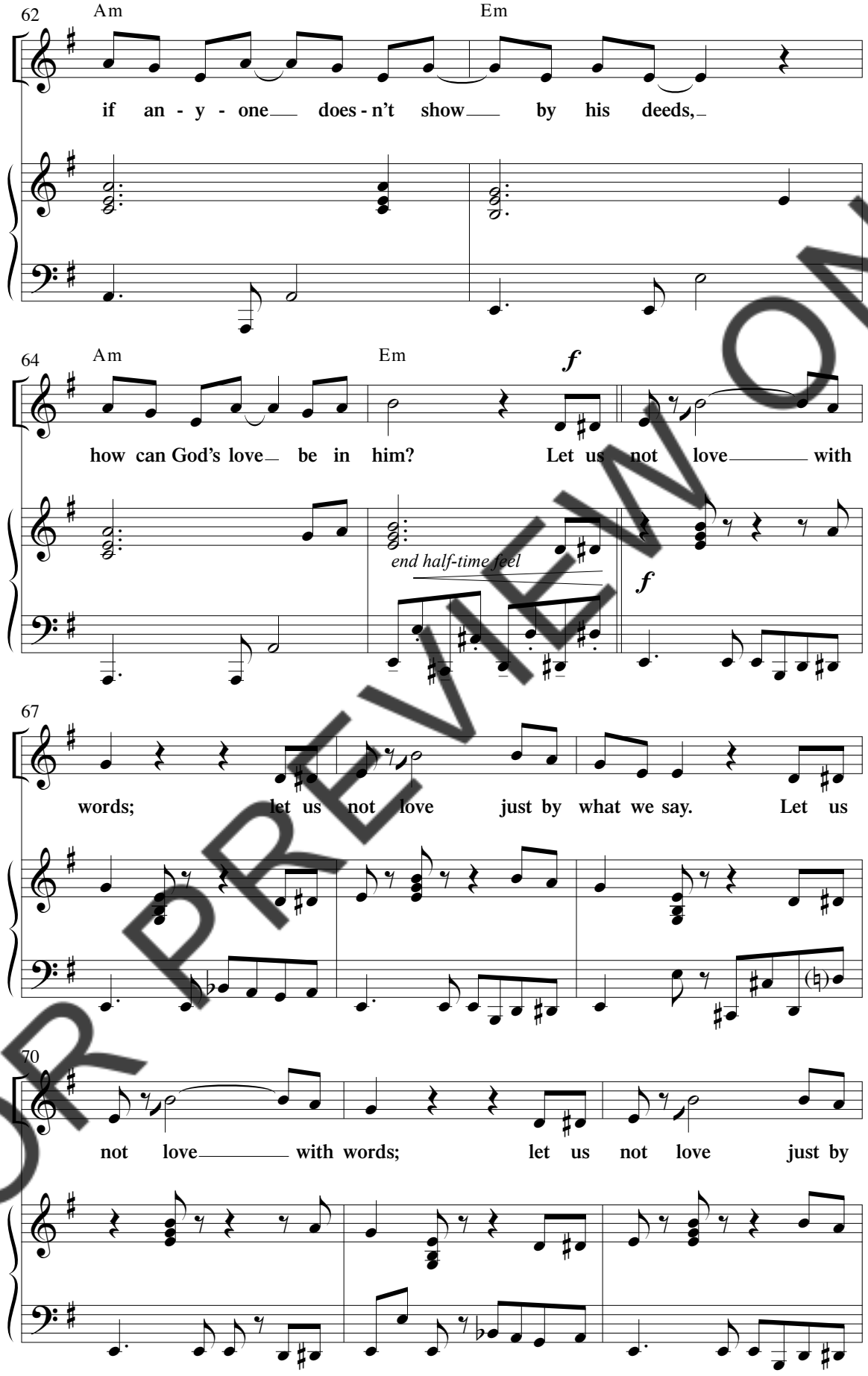
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



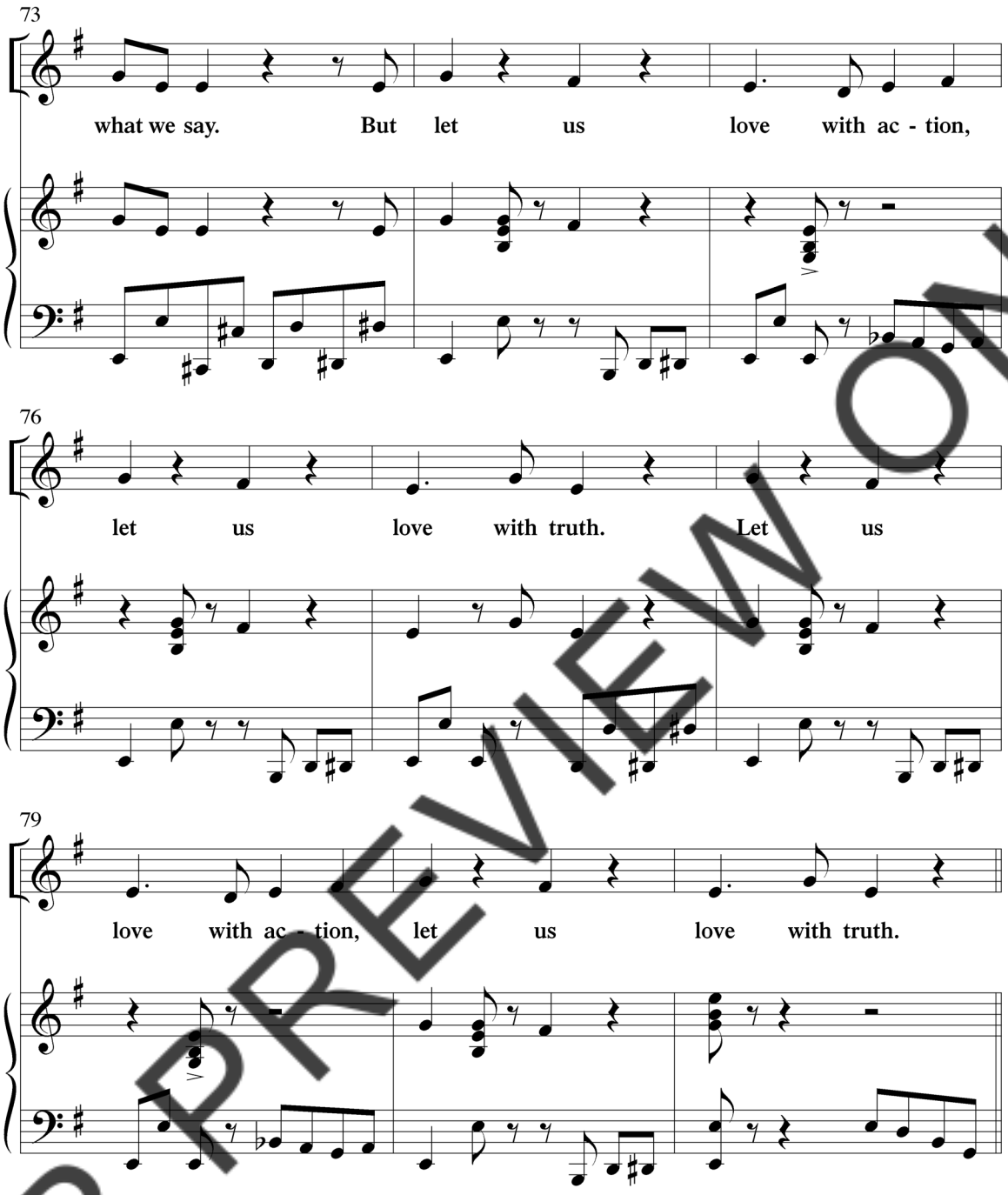
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY



OUTREACH COORDINATOR 2: *(ms. 84)* **Before we go into the fellowship hall, I would like to remind you of our theme verse, 1 John 3:16 and 18: "We know what real love is because Jesus gave up His life for us. Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let's show the truth by our actions."**

KIDS: *(react)* **Yeah! Alright!** *(etc.)*

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

COORDINATOR 2: ***"Before we go . . ."***

82

Drums continue

(Bass enters)

85

(sim.)

18

88

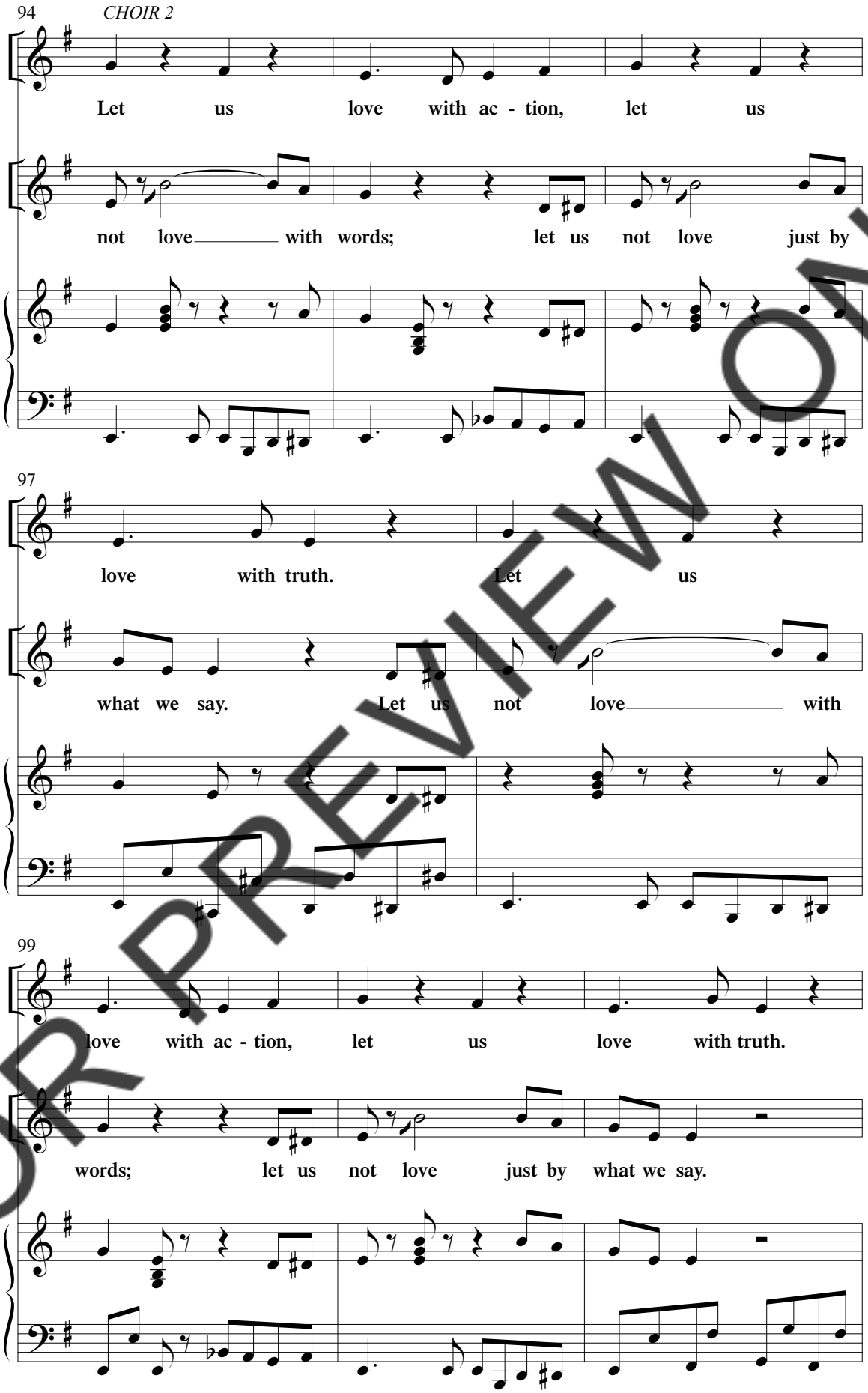
". . . by our actions."

91

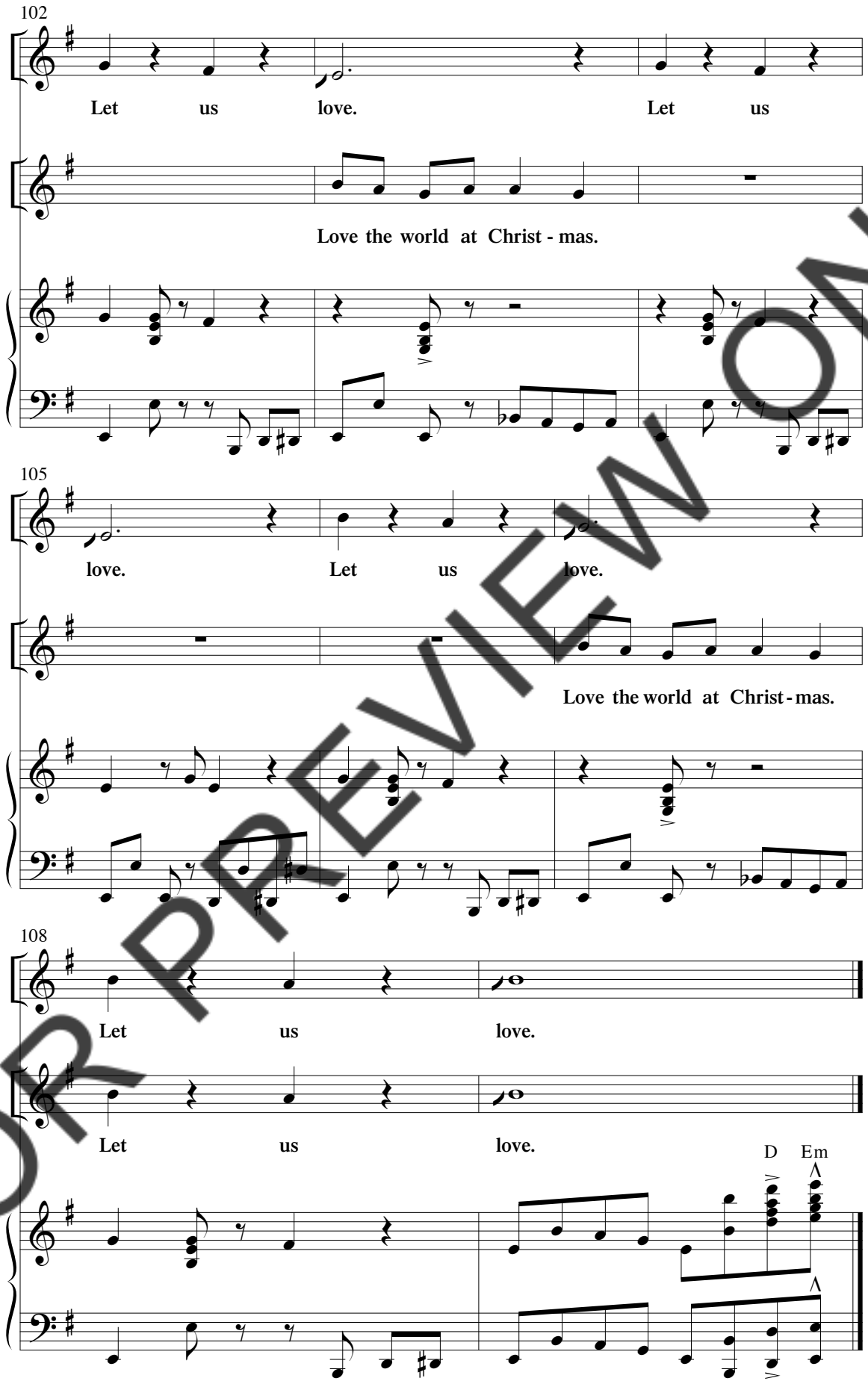
CHOIR 1

Let us

FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY

(After "Let Us Love", Outreach Coordinator #2 and a few people exit to the fellowship hall)

NORMAN: **I think we have a problem.**

JASMINE: **You are not joking—I am simply not dressed for this time period. I need to go shopping!**

JACKSON: **And I never thought I would be caught dead listening to *disco!***

NORMAN: **No—I mean, the time machine is operating on its own. Mr. Olson didn't finish programming it, and the controls must have been disconnected.**

(Time Machine 2 SFX 3 19 *begins)*

GLORIA: *(nervously)* **Guys? It's making that sound again . . .**

NORMAN: **That's the sound it made before it jumped through time! Quick everyone- get inside!** *(kids react)*

JACKSON: **Gloria! Take my hand!**

(Jackson grabs Gloria and pulls her inside at the last second.)

JACKSON: **How do we know where we're going?**

ALL 3: **We don't!** *(kids brace for impact, look frightened, etc., as the time machine hurtles through time)*

(As Time Machine SFX 3 winds down, lights blackout. Lights fade up slowly, again revealing Midway Community Church. Gingerly, the group surveys their newest destination. The new banner now reads, "41st Annual Caroling Outreach. December 24, 1985.")

GLORIA: **You saved me from 1978! Thank you!**

NORMAN: **Sadly, no one was there to save our parents from 1978.**

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

Scene 3

GLORIA: **Are we home?**

JASMINE: **Is everyone alright?**

JACKSON: *(mumbling)* **Well, if you can call a toxic exposure to disco "alright" . . .**

NORMAN: *(looking at sign)* **We're not home—looks like it's 1985!*** *(if using optional cut, Norman says, "1959", instead)*

JACKSON: **This is, like, the Dark Ages! They didn't even have computers in 1985.**

NORMAN: **Actually, the first freely-programmable computer was invented in 1936. Of course, it was the size of my bedroom . . . and of course, there was no internet.**

GLORIA: **No internet?!** *(Kids react)*

JACKSON: **Or cell phones!** *(Kids react)*

JASMINE: *(dramatically)* **How did people *live*?!**

(optional cut to Scene 4 if desired)*

JACKSON: **And why do we keep going back to this lame outreach? Why would anyone want to waste their Christmas Eve doing something like this?**

GLORIA: **I like sharing God's love at Christmas. My mom says that Christmas is about giving!**

JACKSON: *("Church Bells Cue #1,"* 20 *)* **That's what my grandma says too, but I don't get it. You're giving food and gifts to people who have no way to pay you back! You won't get rich in life by doing that!**

OUTREACH COORDINATOR #1: **I couldn't help overhearing you, young man.** *(music begins to "Come, Let Us All Adore Him* with *O Come, All Ye Faithful")* **Christmas is a time when we remember the greatest gift God gave to us: Jesus! He gave without expecting anything in return—just because He loved us so much. Why don't you join us as we practice a few Christmas Carols?**

KIDS: **Okay!** *(Jasmine, Gloria, agree; Jackson sits and watches)*

**See production notes for an option to omit the 80s segment and travel directly to 1959 (Scene 4)!*

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

Come, Let Us All Adore Him

with O Come, All Ye Faithful
and Away in a Manger

Words and Music by
CHRISTY SEMSEN
and DANIEL SEMSEN
Arranged by Daniel Semsen

80s Pop ♩ = 120

COORDINATOR #1: ***". . . He gave without . . ."***

21 N.C.

KIDS: ***"Alright . . ."***

4

f

7

KIDS
mf

B♭ F

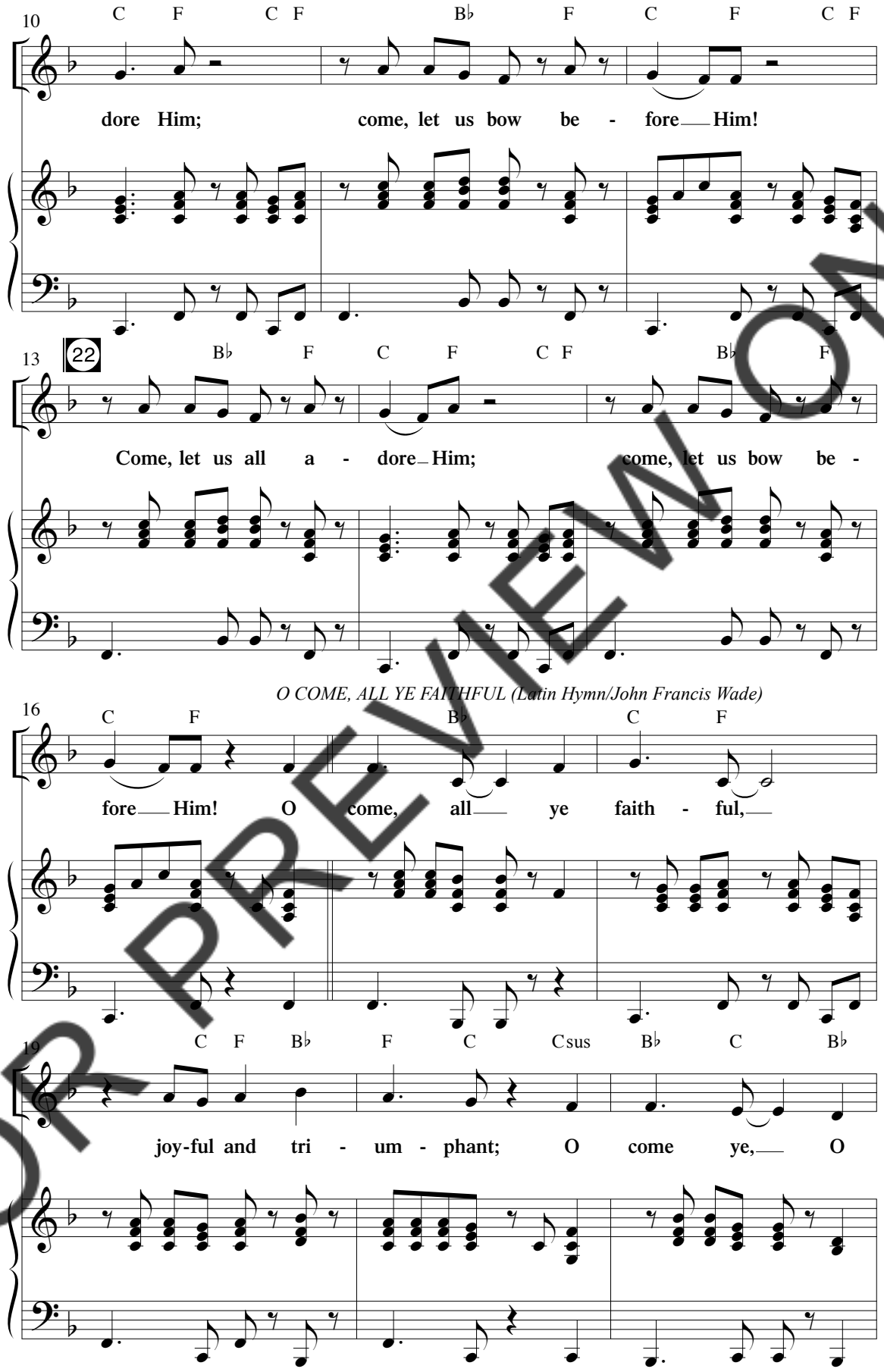
Come, let us all a -

mf

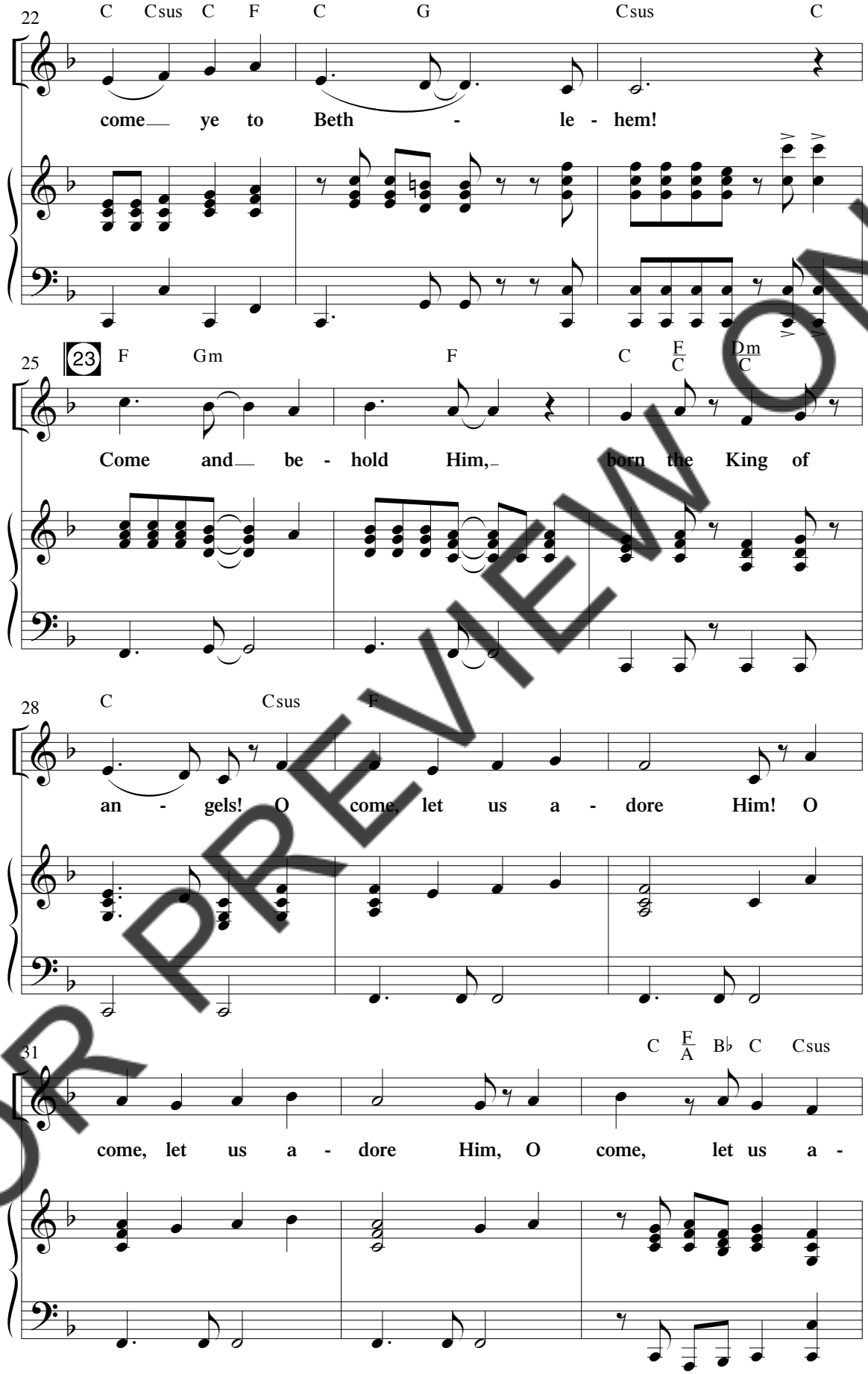
FOR PREVIEW ONLY

© 2010 Word Music, LLC (ASCAP)
All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

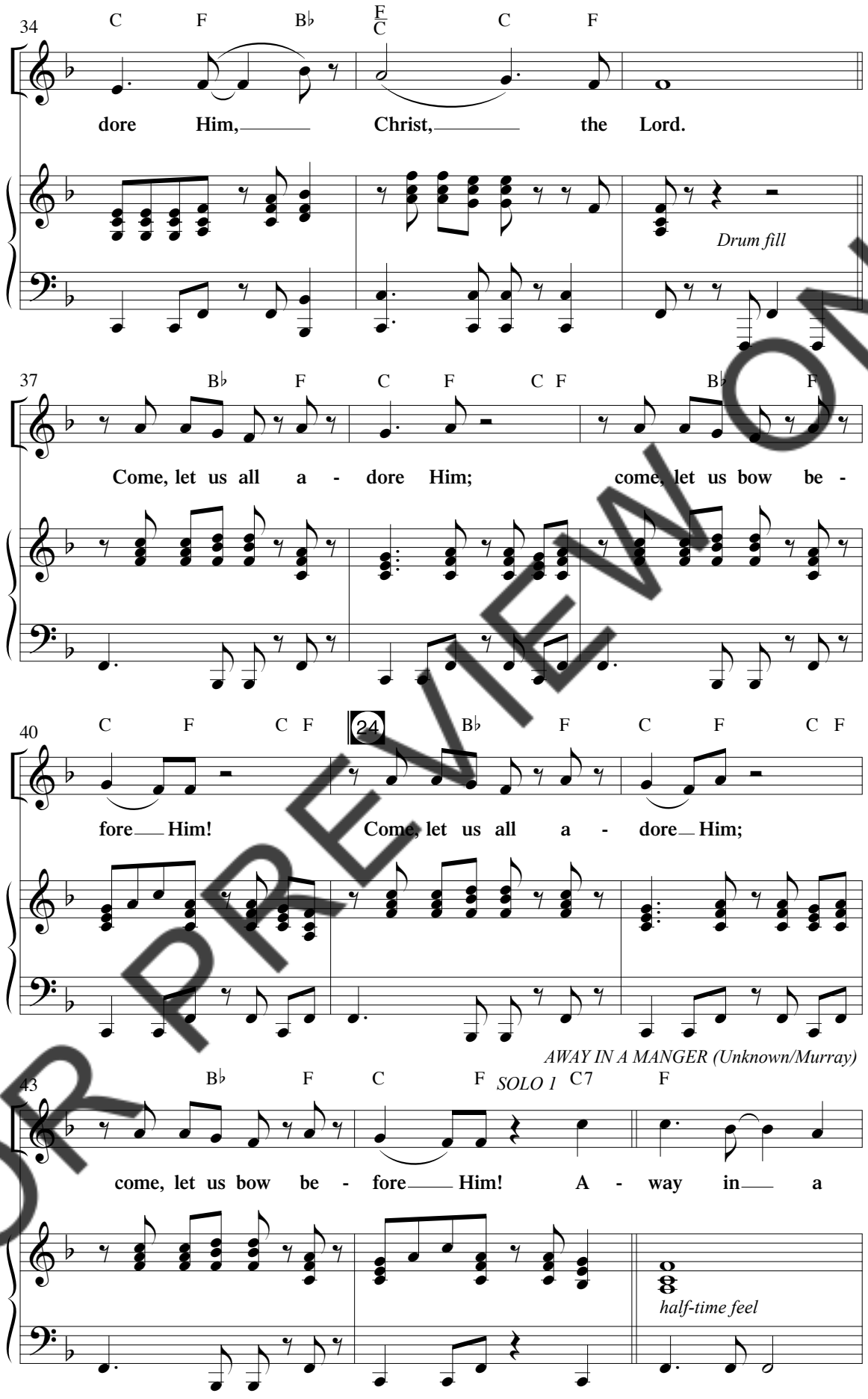
EVEN IF YOU POSSESS A **CCLI** LICENSE, YOU MAY NOT COPY ANY MUSIC FROM THIS BOOK.
If you have questions about CCLI, please call 800/234-2446.



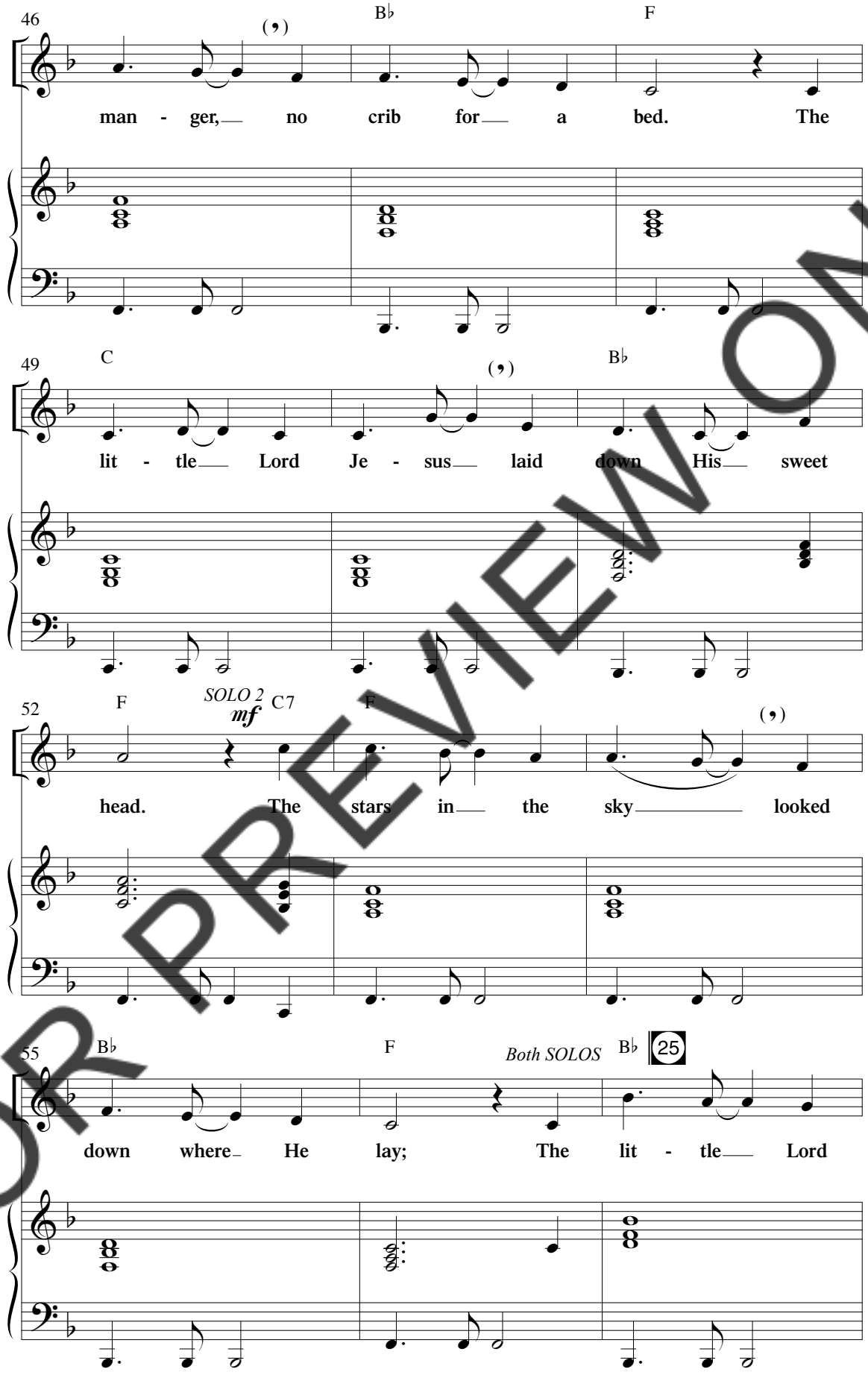
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



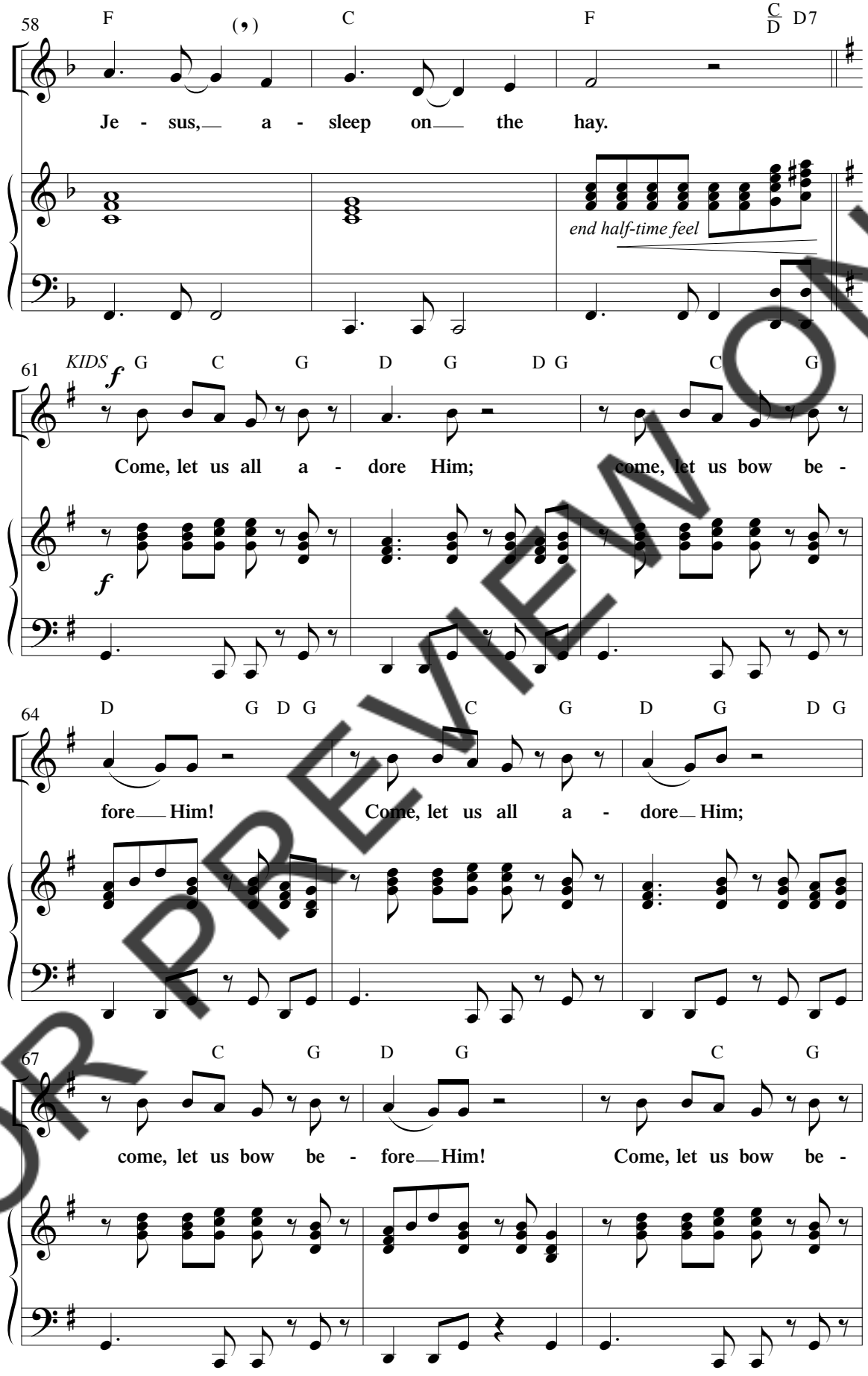
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



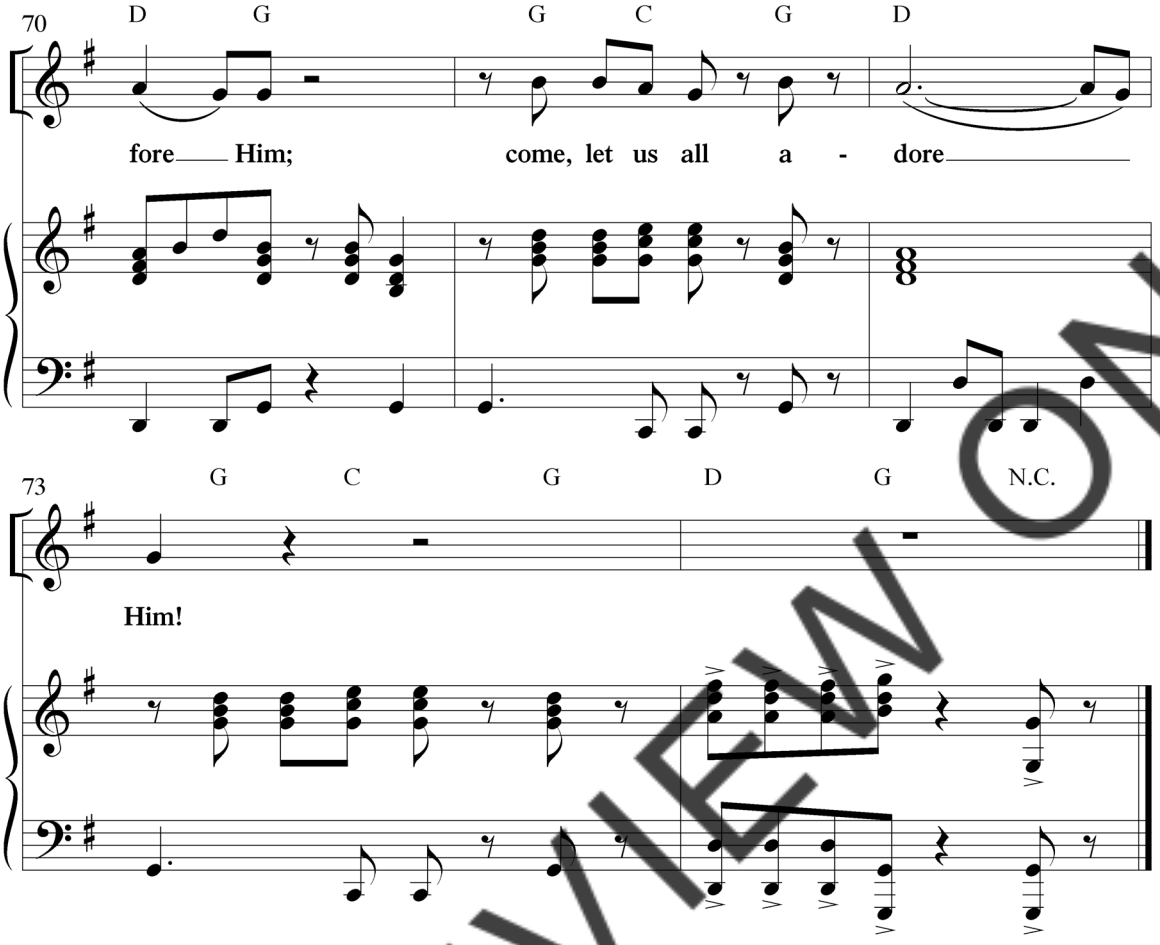
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY



JASMINE: **Norman, have you figured out how to fix the machine so we can go home?**

NORMAN: **Not yet. We keep jumping between Christmas Eves. But the years seem to be skipping randomly!**

JASMINE: **At least there's a warning sound before the machine jumps. I would hate to be stuck in a place with no cell phones!**

JACKSON: **Or decent music!**

ALL: **Yeah, me too.** *(general agreement)*

GLORIA: *(cheerfully)* **At least we're not lost. We're still at church.** *(everyone stares at her) (Time machine SFX 4* 26 *begins)*

JACKSON: **Are you kidding me?**

NORMAN: **There's the sound again! Everybody get in!**

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

(As the time machine winds down, lights blackout.)

Scene 4

(Lights fade up. Betty and her friend are walking by, dressed in 50s clothes. The church banner reads, "14th Annual Caroling Outreach. December 24, 1959.")

BETTY: *(walking by)* **You guys going to the Caroling Outreach?**

JACKSON: **Ugh—this outreach AGAIN. You'd think we could at least travel somewhere more exciting.**

GLORIA: **If we don't get home soon, I think I'm going to have to call my mom.**

BETTY: **I have a dime, if you want.**

GLORIA: *(politely)* **Why, thank you!** *(puzzled)* **Why would I need a dime?**

BETTY: **For the phone, silly!**

GLORIA: **Oh, thank you.** *(clearly confused)*

NORMAN: *(whispering)* **No cell phones in 1959, Gloria! People used pay phones when they were away from home!**

GLORIA: **Ohhhhhh.**

JACKSON: *(Jackson has noticed Betty, and is staring at her intently)*

JASMINE: *(Notices Jackson staring at Betty. She waves her hand in front of his face to grab his attention.)* **Hello, Jackson? Anybody home?**

JACKSON: *(Suddenly notices Jasmine)* **That's weird; does she look familiar to you?**

JASMINE: *(Sarcastically)* **Oh, yeah. Last time I was in 1959, she and I went to the mall together.**

NORMAN: **That's impossible! There were no malls in 1959.**

JASMINE: *(Rolls her eyes dramatically)* **Thanks, trivia-saurus.** *(other kids laugh)*

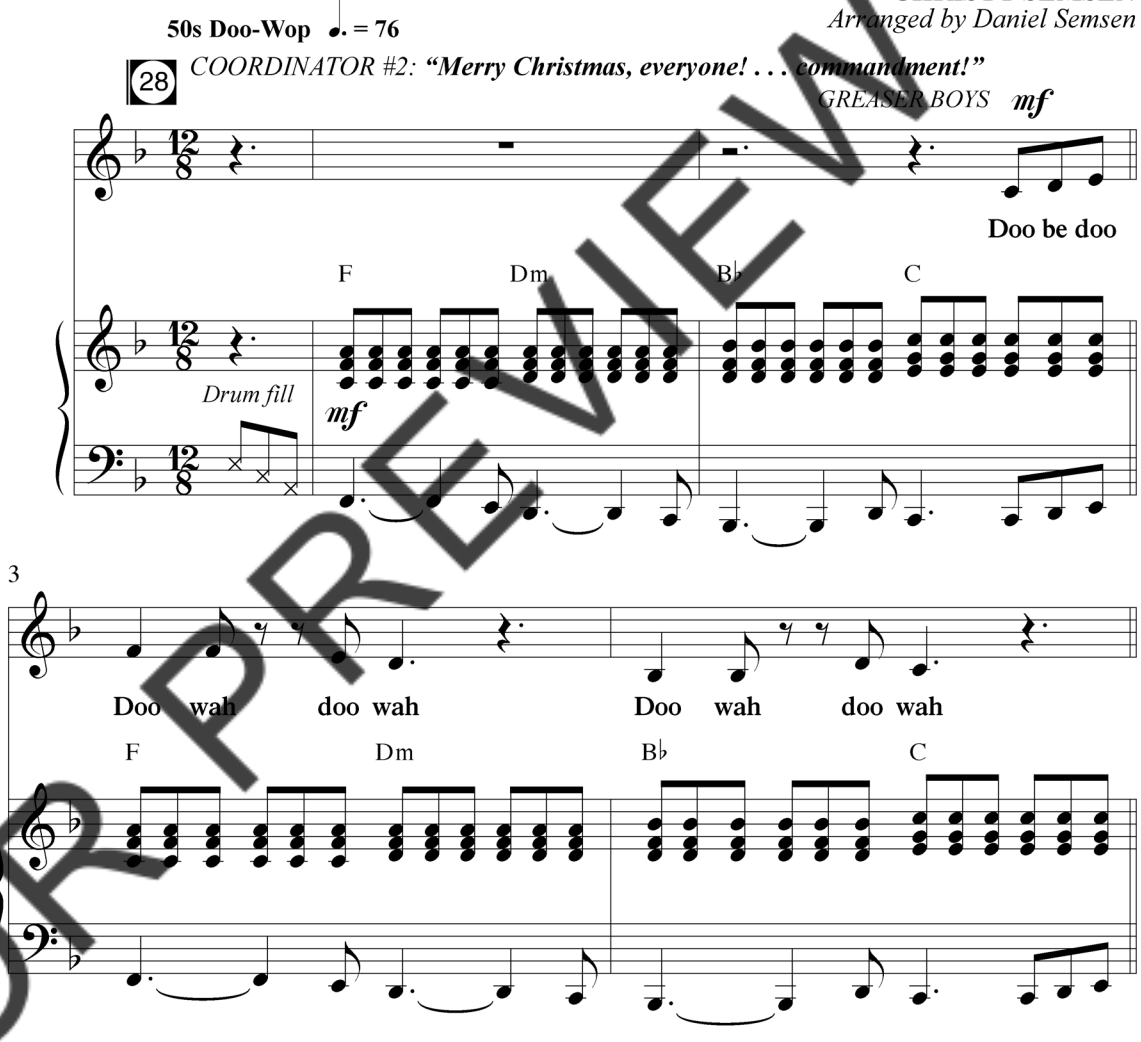
FOR PREVIEW ONLY

BETTY: *(Church Bells Cue #2* 27 *)* **Hey guys, we're just about to get started. Why don't you join us?**

OUTREACH COORDINATOR #2: **Merry Christmas, everyone! Those beautiful bells you are hearing signal the start of our 14th Annual Caroling Outreach. You know, the Bible says that one of the greatest commandments is to love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves!** *(music begins to "Ring, Ring-a-Ling")* **By reaching out to our friends and neighbors in our community, you are fulfilling that great commandment!**

Ring, Ring-a-Ling

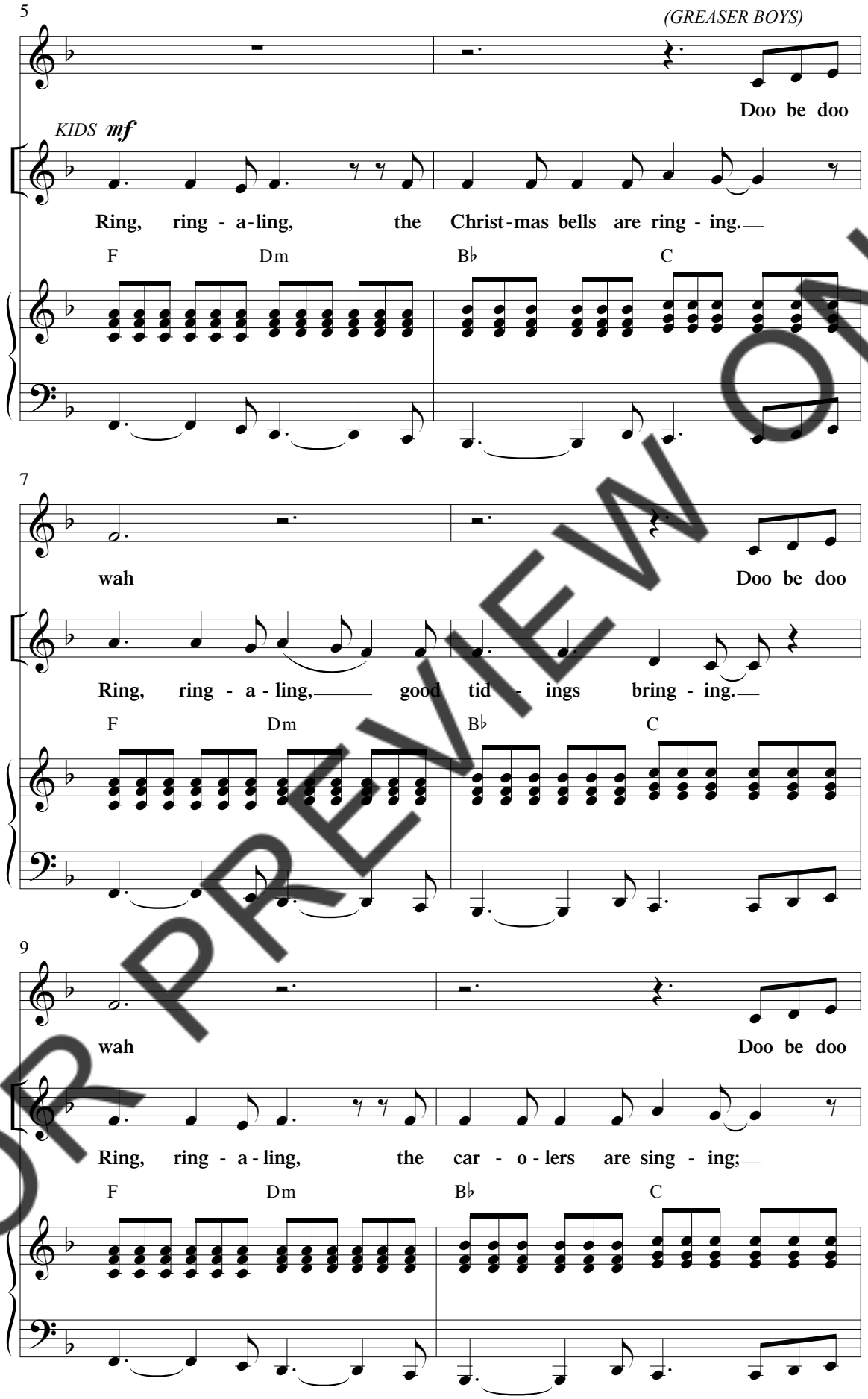
Words and Music by
CHRISTY SEMSEN
Arranged by Daniel Semsen



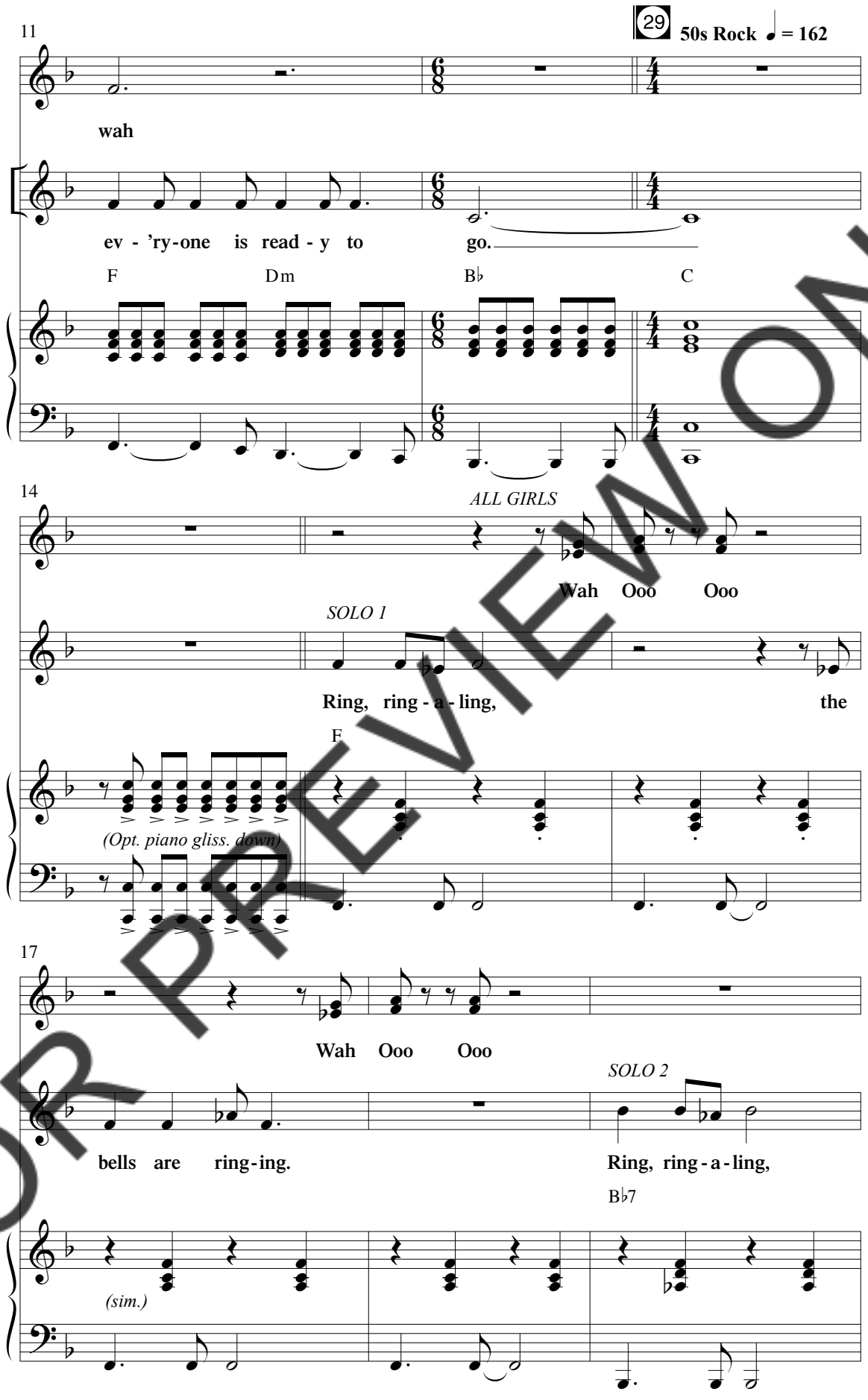
© 2010 Word Music, LLC (ASCAP)
All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

EVEN IF YOU POSSESS A **CCLI** LICENSE, YOU MAY NOT COPY ANY MUSIC FROM THIS BOOK.
If you have questions about CCLI, please call 800/234-2446.

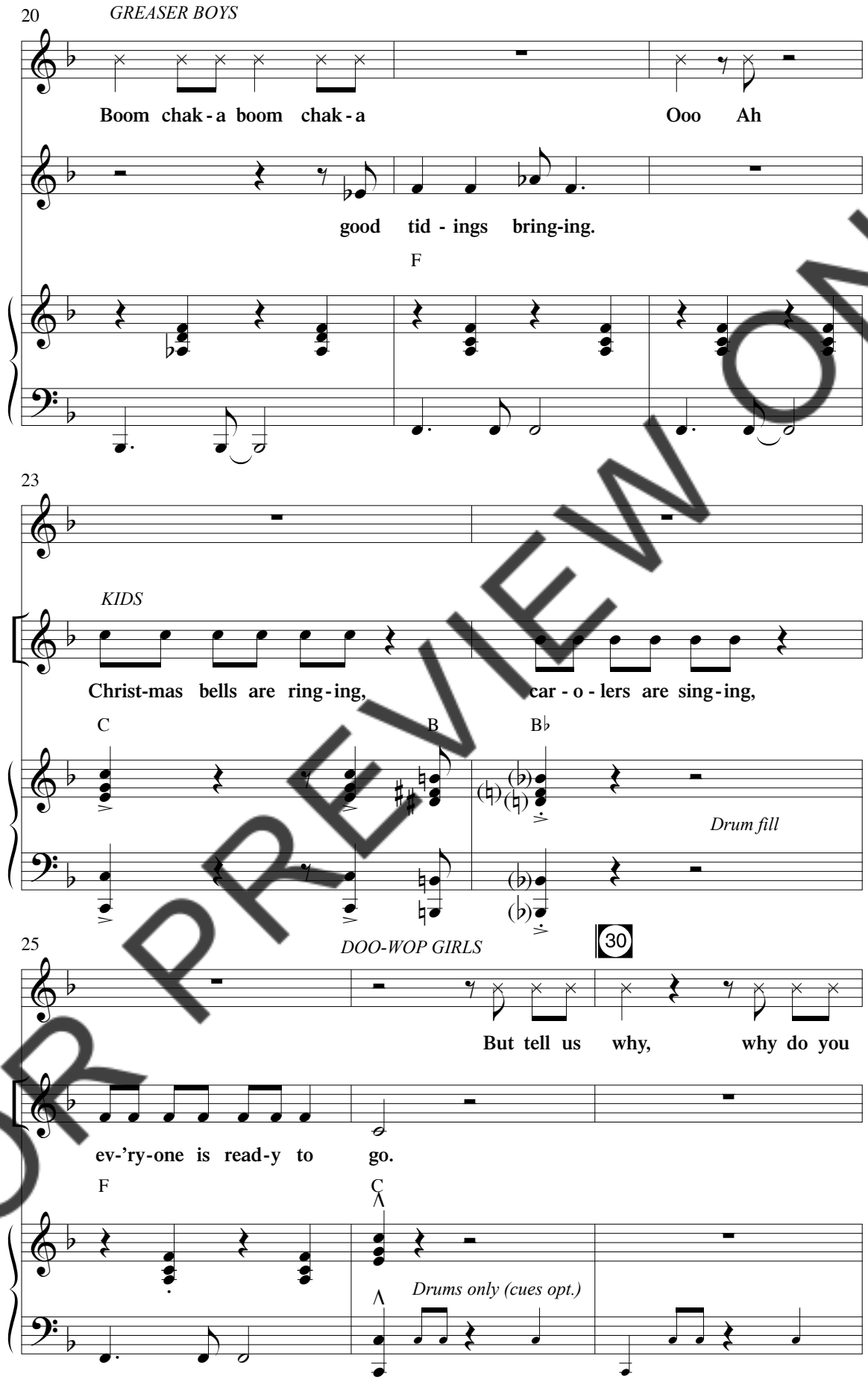
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



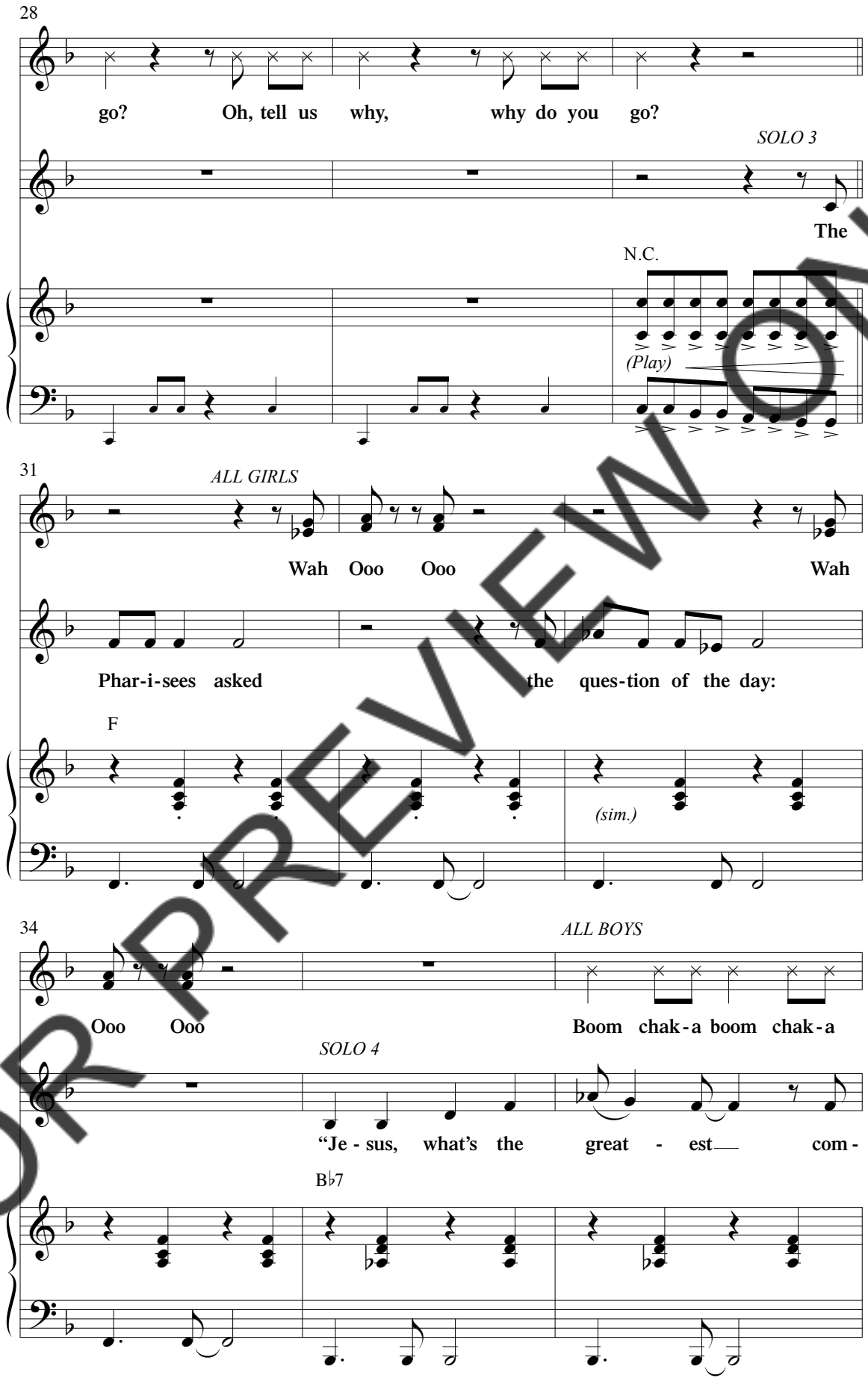
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



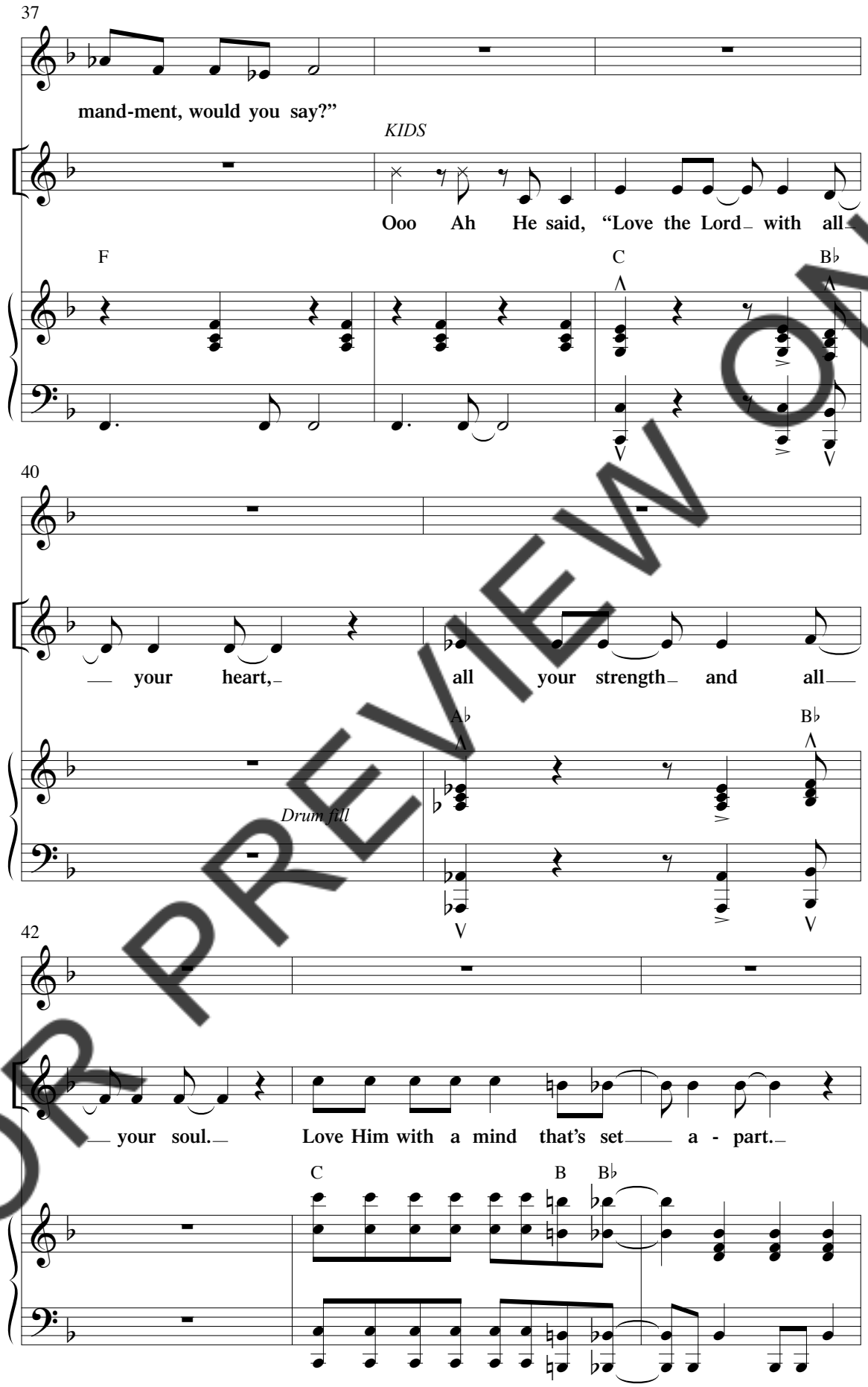
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



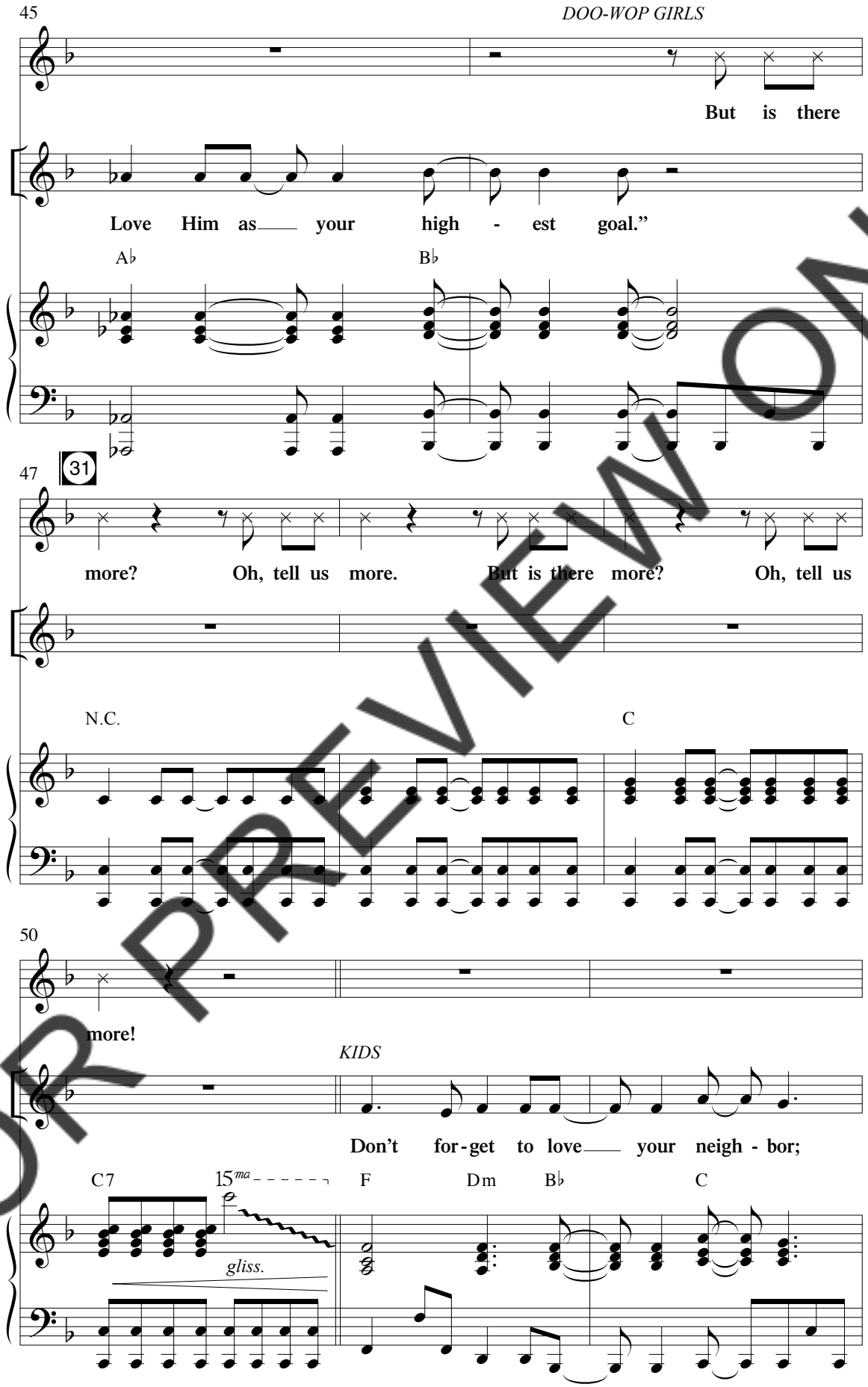
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



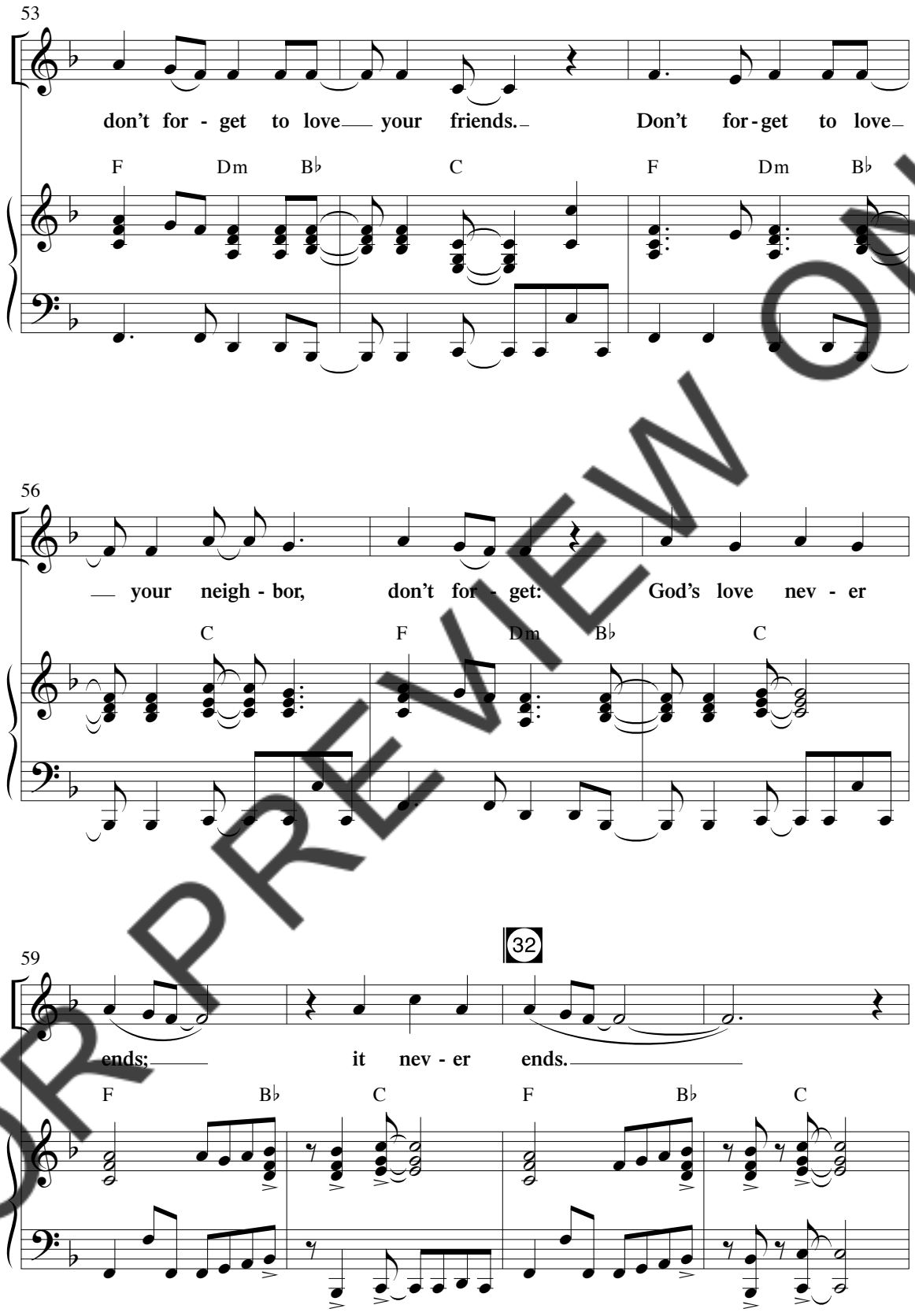
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



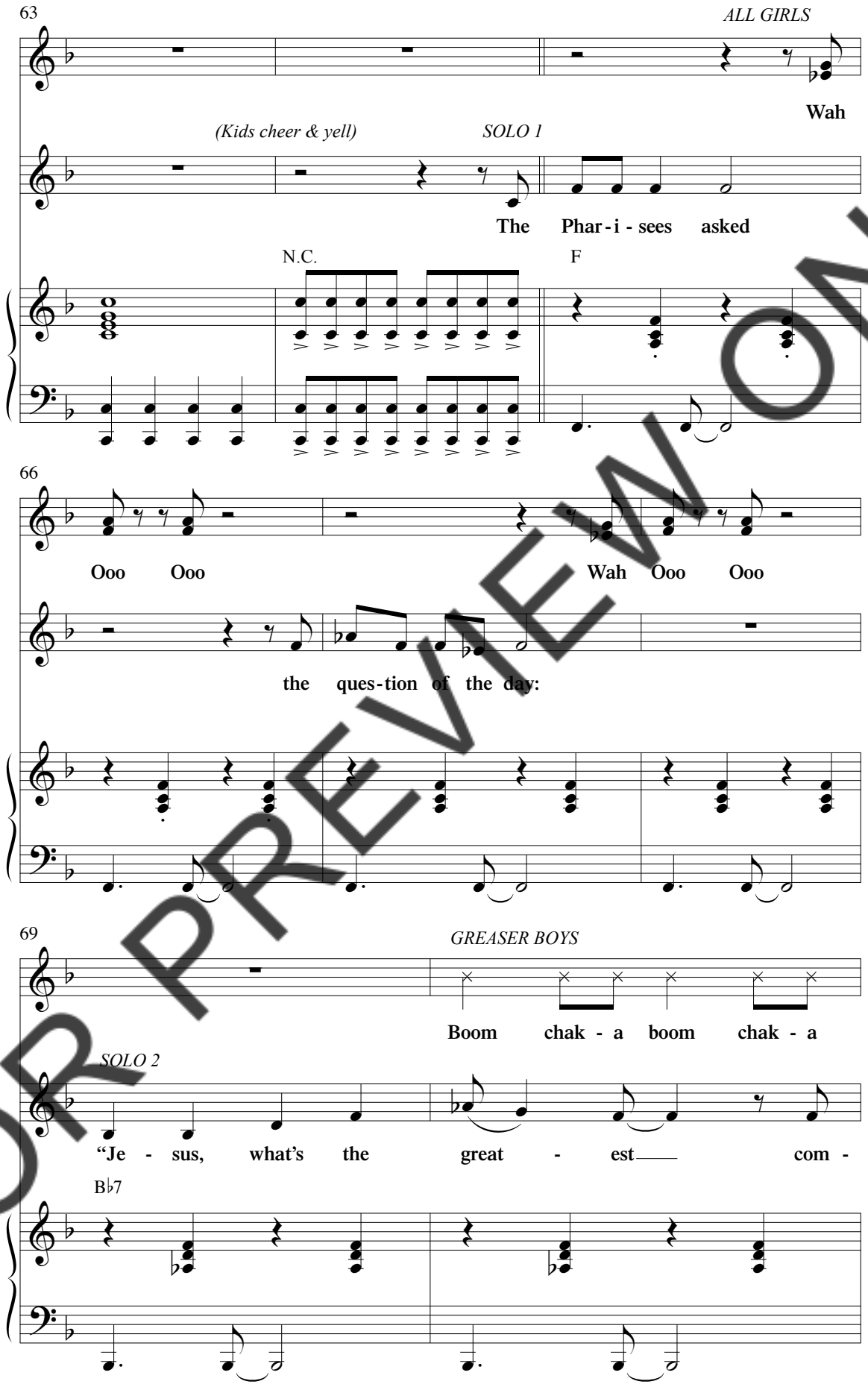
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



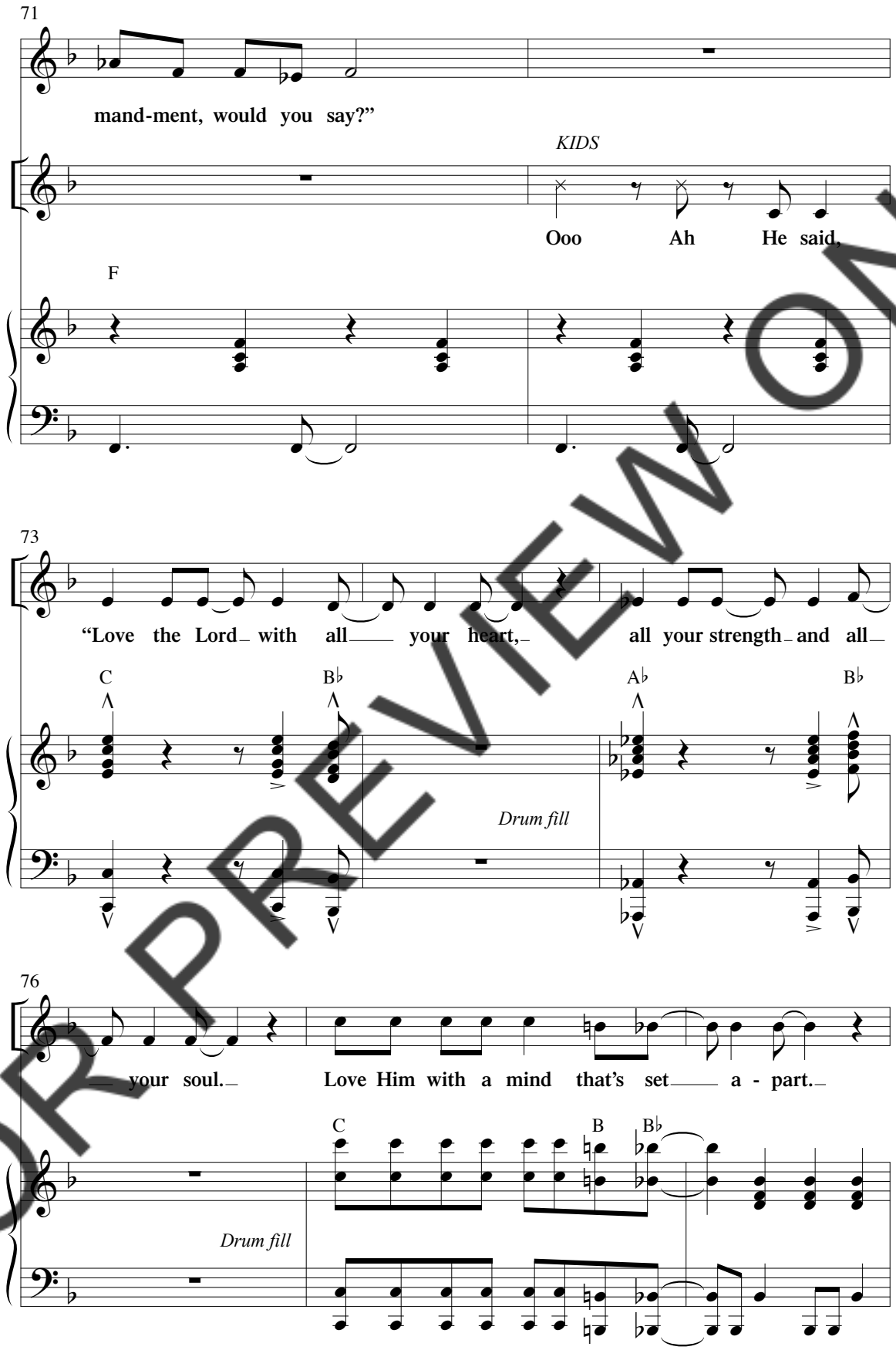
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



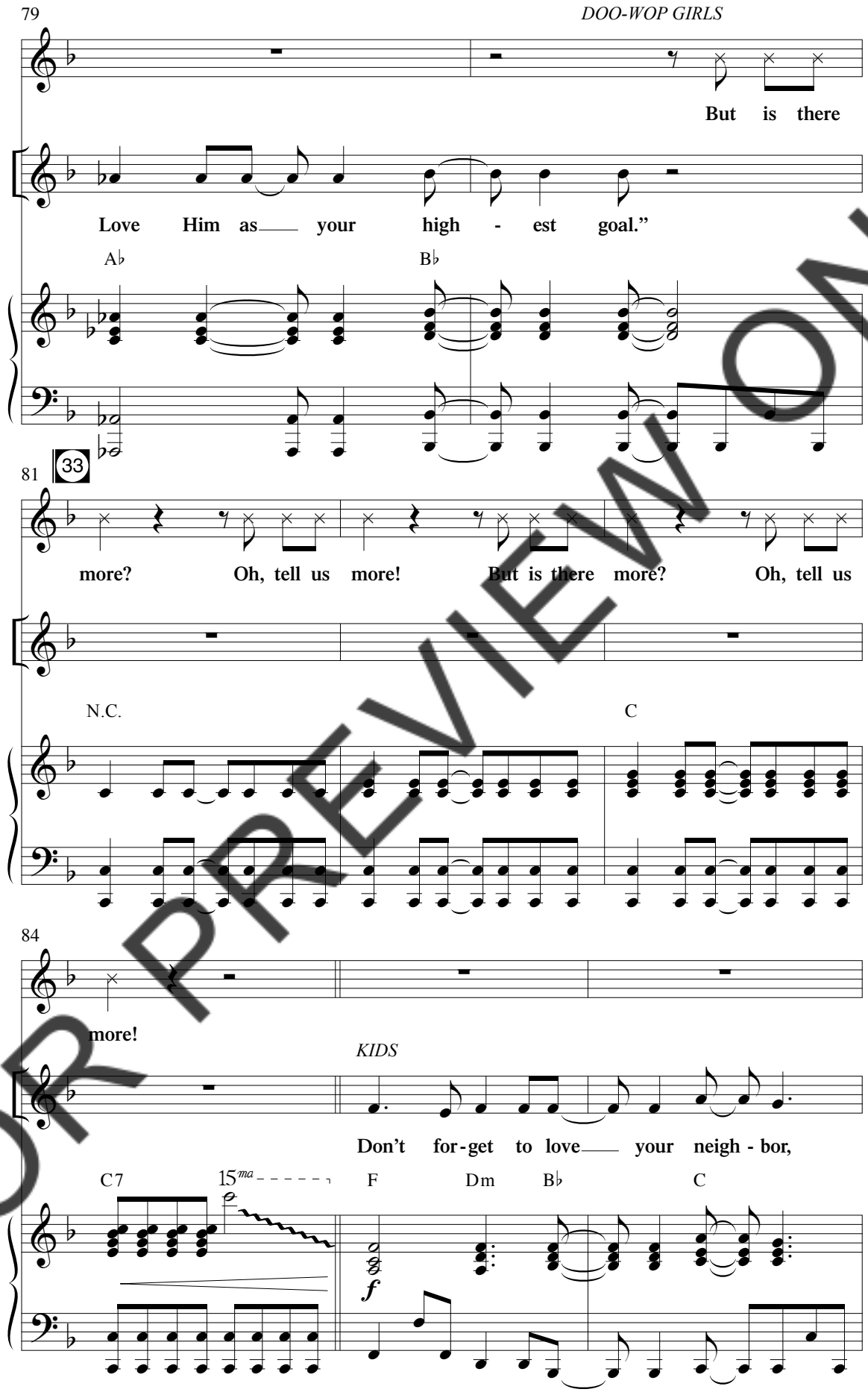
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



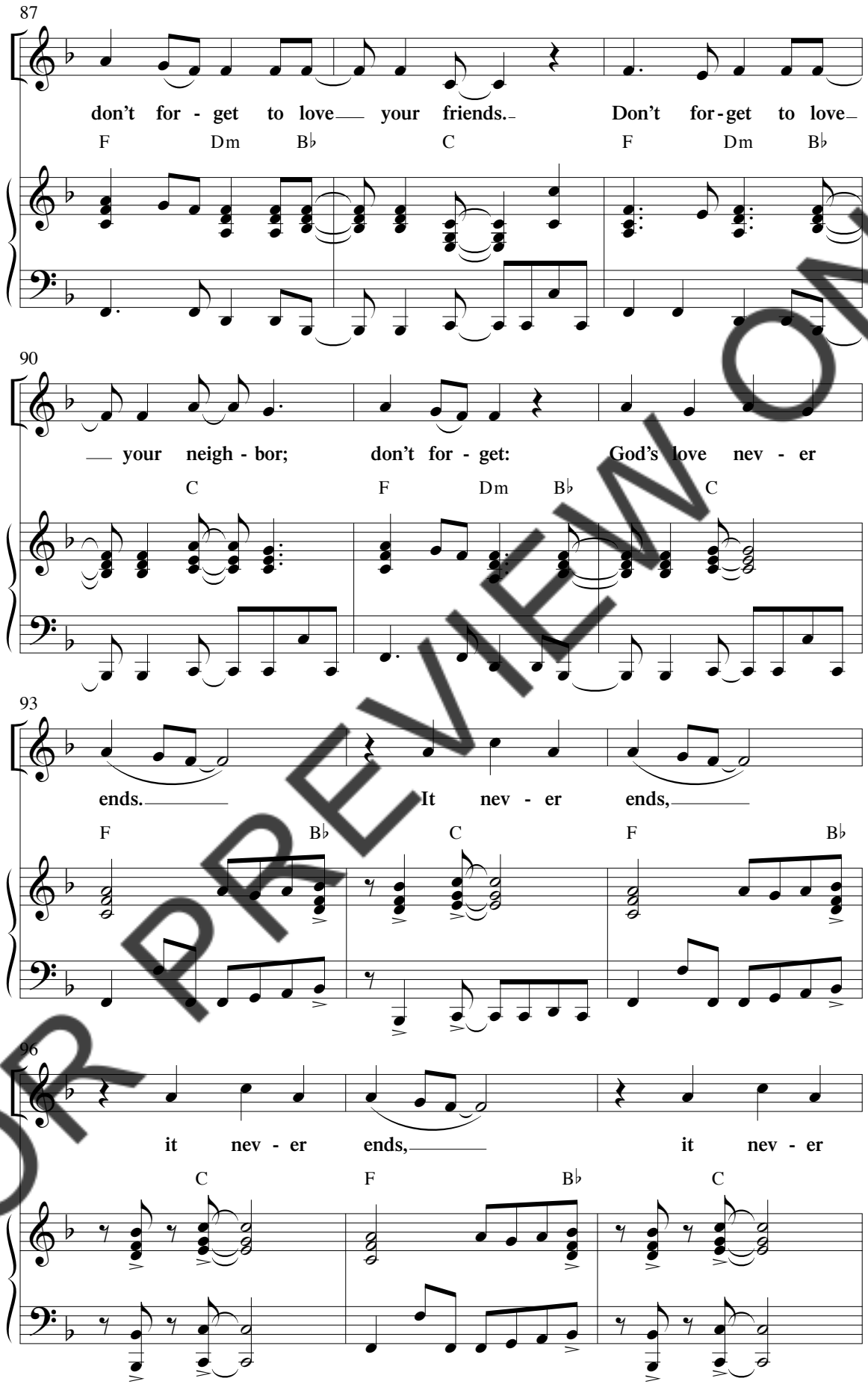
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



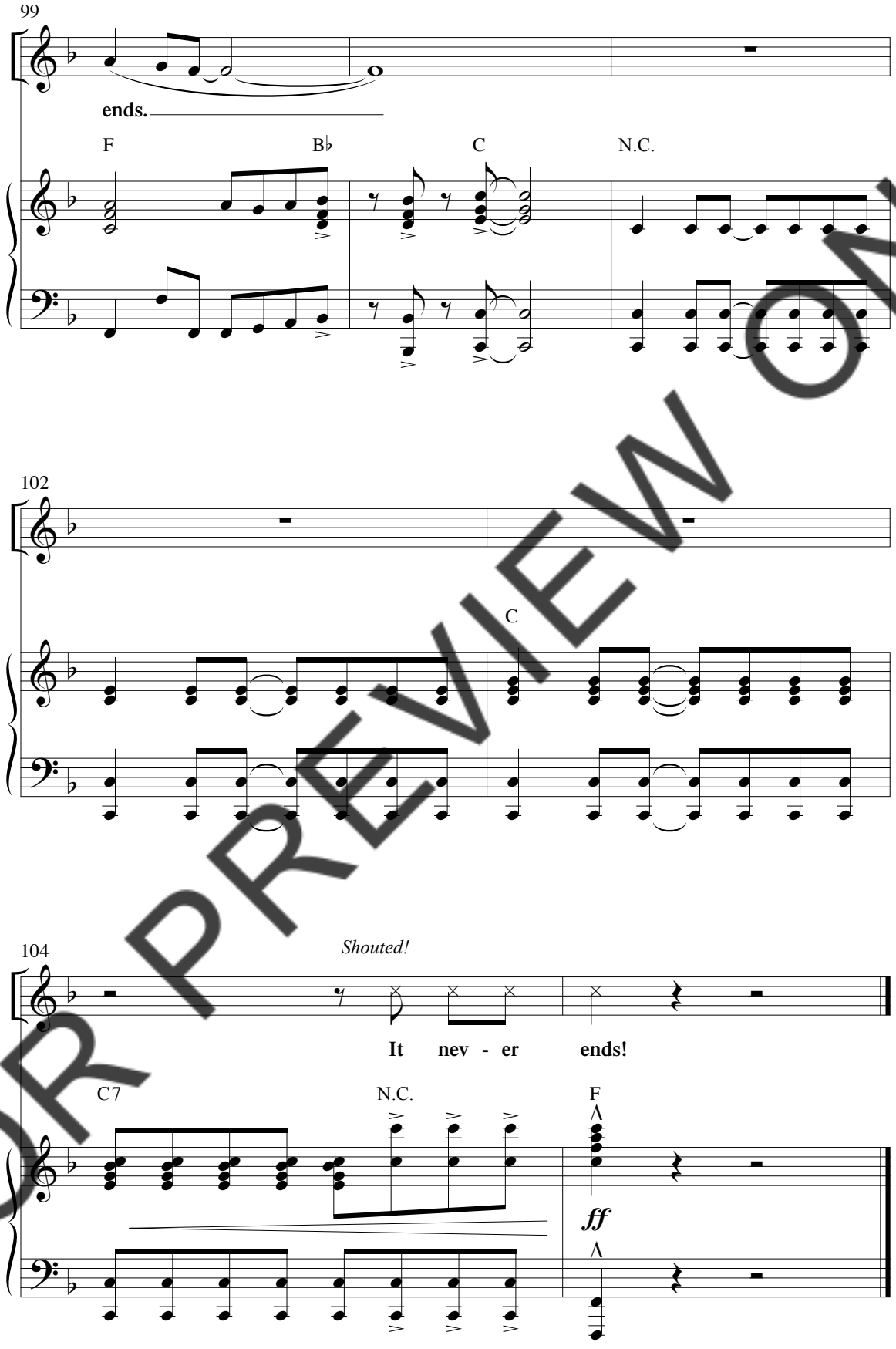
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY

JACKSON: **Okay, I understand about loving your neighbor, I guess. But it doesn't seem practical! If you're always thinking about someone else, who takes care of you?**

BETTY: **Well, God has supplied all my needs so far. I have so much—a loving family, a place to live, swell friends—I can't help but want to share with others.**

JACKSON: **You know, you *really* remind me of someone from school or something.**

BETTY: *(shrugs)* **I have one of those faces, I guess.**

OUTREACH COORDINATOR 2: **I see you've met our little bundle of inspiration. You know, her family is one of the families this outreach helps—her dad has been out of work for 9 months and they have had a hard time making ends meet. But she is always thinking of others before herself!**

JACKSON: *(still with an attitude, but warming up)* **Oh, wow. That's really cool.**

OUTREACH COORDINATOR 2: **How rude of me! Let me introduce you to . . . Betty!**

JACKSON: *(offhandedly)* **Hey, Betty.**

JASMINE: *(knowingly)* **Hey, Jackson, isn't your Grandma's name Betty?**

JACKSON: **I guess . . .** *(starting to realize who she might be)* **wait . . . Betty?!**

BETTY: **Holy guacamole, there's no need to yell!**

JACKSON: **Holy guacamole?!! Aaaaahhh!!**

BETTY: **Are you okay?**

JACKSON: *(freaked out)* **Yeah! Hey, I gotta go!** *(running over to Norman)* **Oh, my gosh—I think Betty's my grandma!** *(kids react with a collective gasp of disbelief)*

NORMAN: **That could be a possibility. In the 1950s, our grandmas were probably around our age!** *(Kids ad lib. surprises: "What?" "No way!")*

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

GLORIA: *(taking it in stride)* **You're lucky, your grandma is so cool!** *(Time Machine SFX 5* 34 *begins)*

JASMINE: **Quick, get in, everyone!**

Scene 5

(As the time machine winds down, the lights blackout. Lights fade up, revealing the banner in front of MCC, which reads, "54th Annual Caroling Outreach. December 24, 1998")

JASMINE: **Jackson, I can't believe that girl was actually your-**

JACKSON: *(seeing his grandma at approximately age 50 walking toward them)* **Grandma!**

NORMAN: *(not seeing her)* **No need to yell, Jackson. I'll admit, it was weird that we met her when she was young, but there's no need to—**

JACKSON: **No! She's over there!**

NORMAN: **Boy, has she had a growth spurt!**

JASMINE: **Oh, no! She can't see us here! She might remember us from when she was a little girl!** *(They comically drag a few choir kids to stand in front of them center stage, and try to hide behind them. Grandma sees Jackson, anyway, and approaches him, while the rest of the group scatter.)*

GRANDMA: **My, do you look familiar. Do I know your parents?**

JACKSON: *(anxious to escape, sarcastic)* **Oh, you know them. Especially my mom.**

GRANDMA: **Point them out for me!**

JACKSON: *(trying to cover)* **I'm not sure I would recognize them. I mean . . . they've changed a lot . . . from how they look today . . .** *(suddenly serious)* **Ma'am?**

GRANDMA: **Yes?**

JACKSON: **Do you have any grandchildren?**

GRANDMA: **Why, yes. Little Jackson is over in the nursery.**

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

JACKSON: **Oh, I was afraid of that. Well, if he ever, like, drops his dad's favorite fishing pole in the lake on the Fourth of July when he's, like, nine years old, tell his dad to go easy on him. It was an accident—I promise!** *(Jackson runs away).*

GRANDMA: **He's a strange young man, isn't he?**

(Church Bells Cue #3 35 *)*

NORMAN: **Yes, yes, he is.**

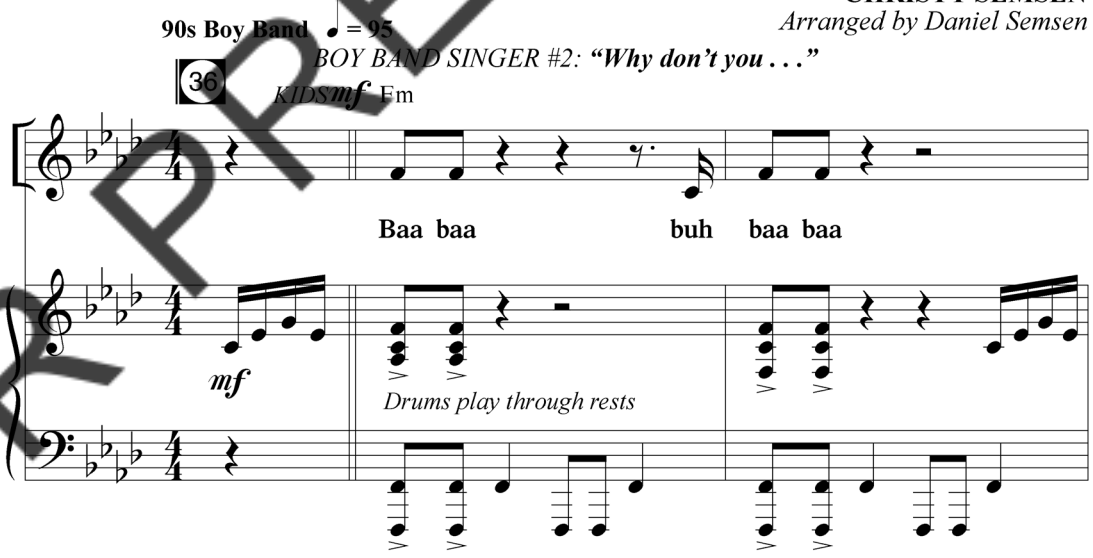
GRANDMA: *(addressing those gathered for the outreach)* **Merry Christmas, everyone! Pastor Joe asked me to introduce our special guests to you. They have come a long way to play for our 54th Annual Outreach. Will you please welcome The Manger Boys!** *(girls giggle and cheer for the band)*

BOY BAND SINGER #1: **Merry Christmas, everyone! I understand you're about to go serve those in need!** *(everyone cheers)*

BOY BAND SINGER #2: **We want to encourage you in what you're doing this Christmas. This song is a Bible story about some sheep and some goats.** *(music begins to "Song of the Sheep and Goats")* **Why don't you listen and see what happened?**

Song of the Sheep and the Goats

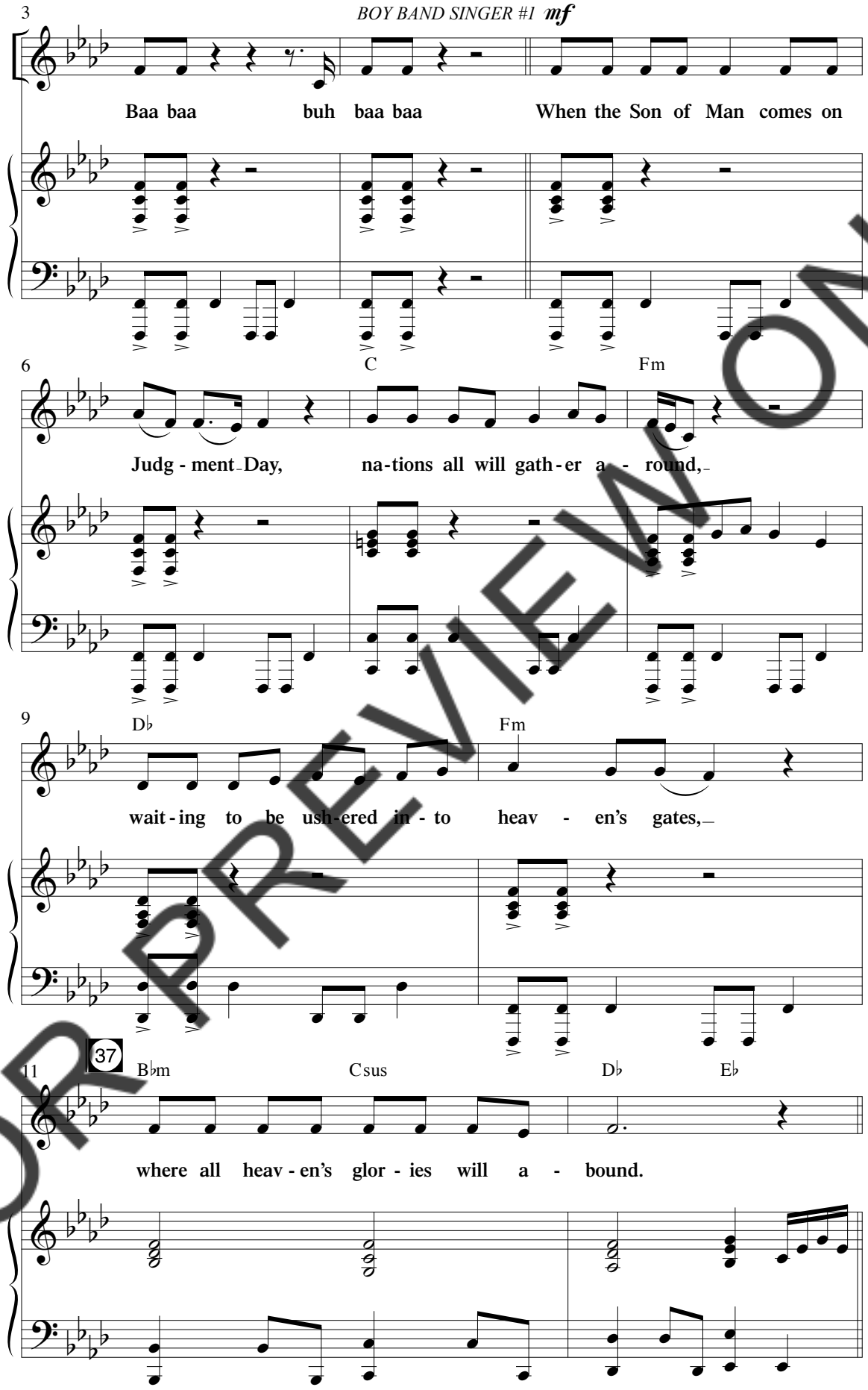
Words and Music by
CHRISTY SEMSEN
Arranged by Daniel Semsen



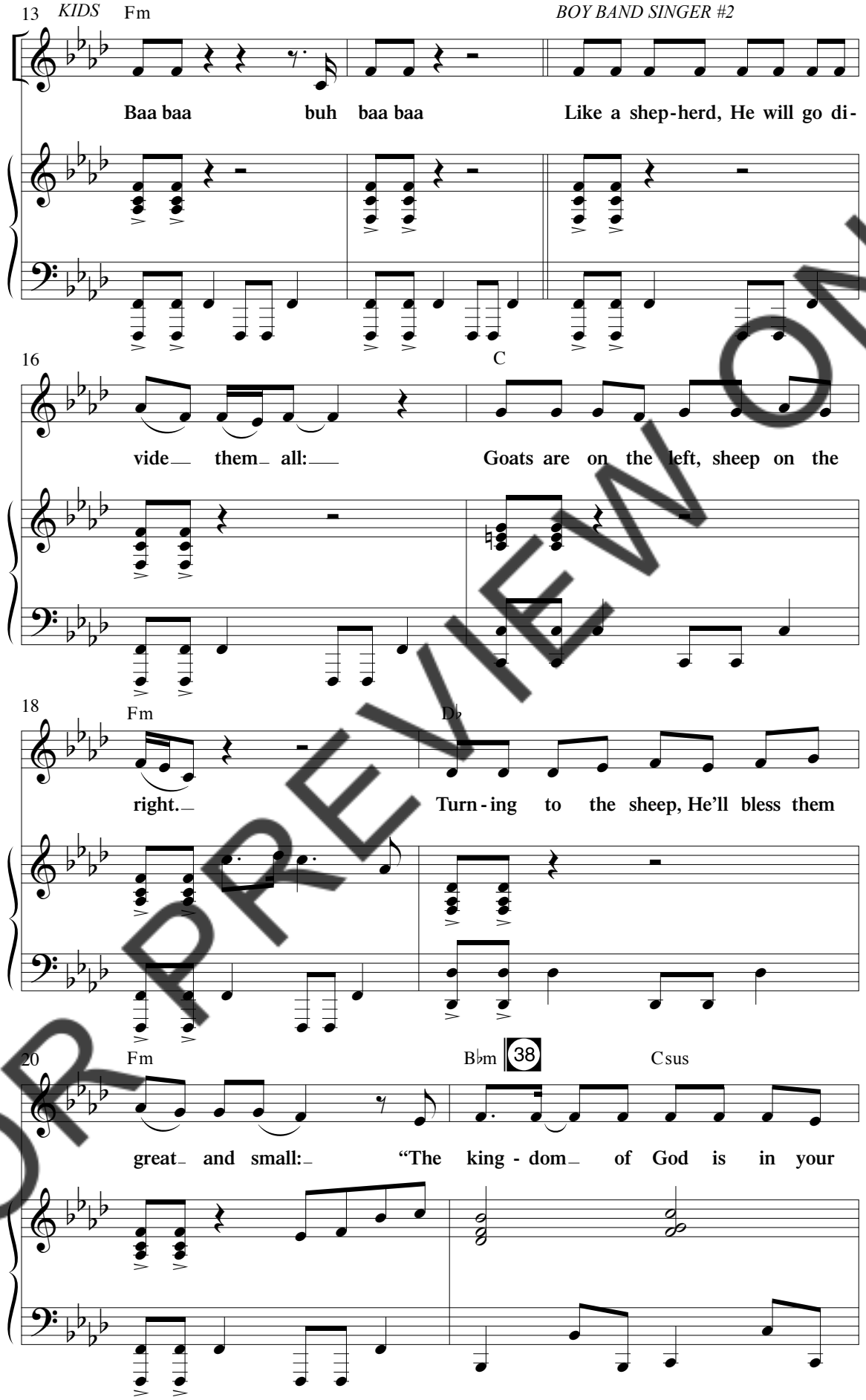
© 2010 Word Music, LLC (ASCAP)
All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

EVEN IF YOU POSSESS A **CCLI** LICENSE, YOU MAY NOT COPY ANY MUSIC FROM THIS BOOK.
If you have questions about CCLI, please call 800/234-2446.

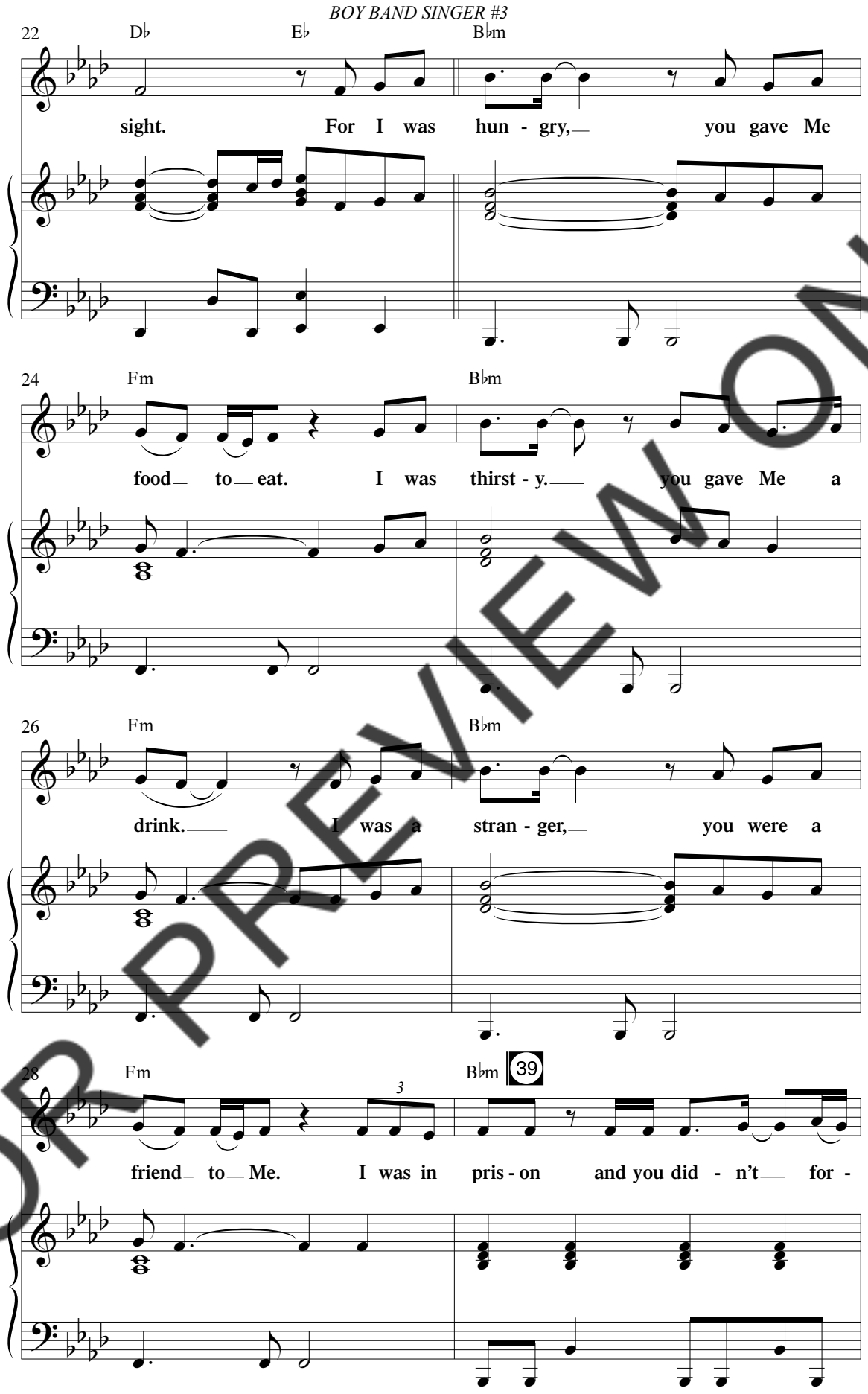
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



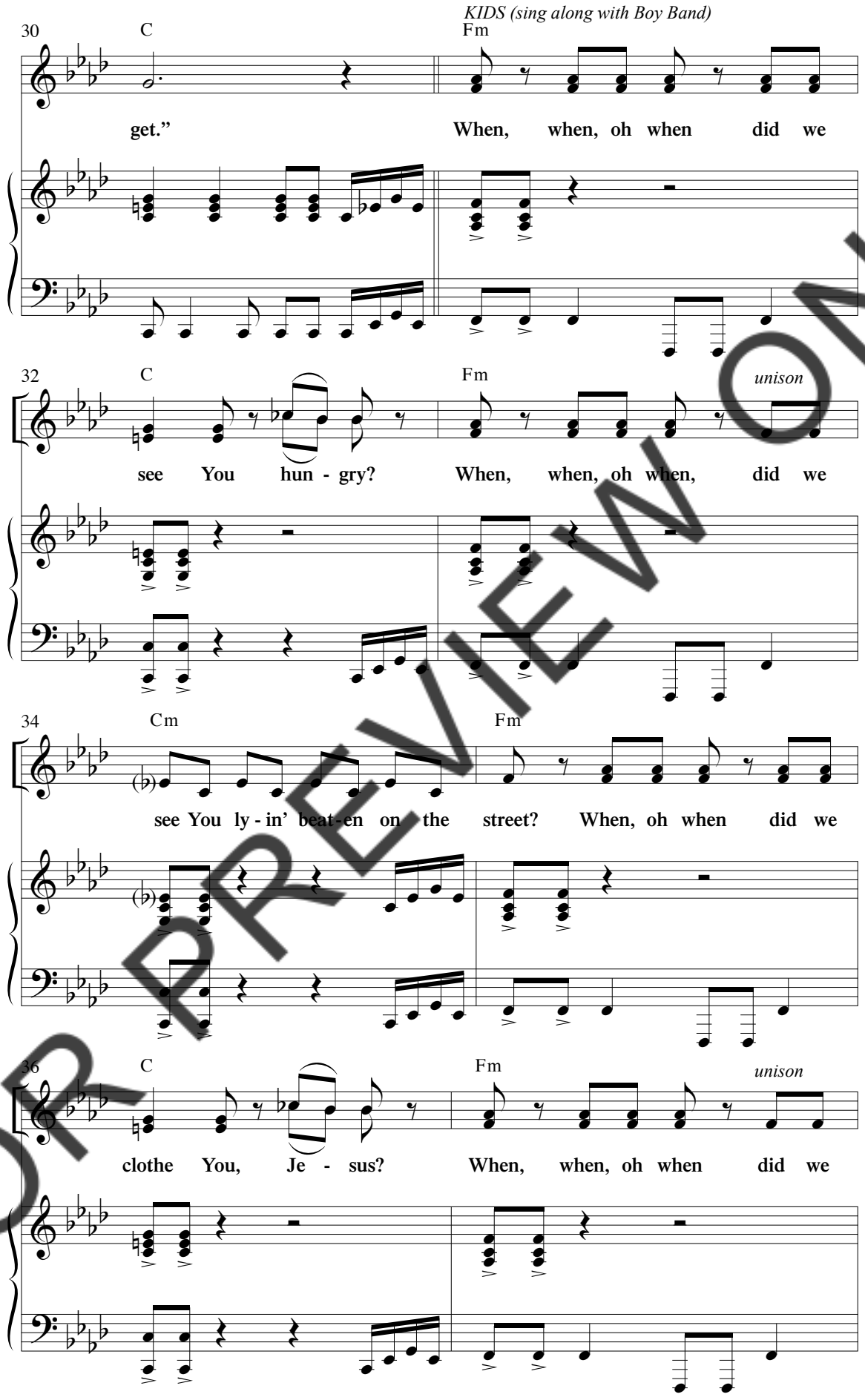
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



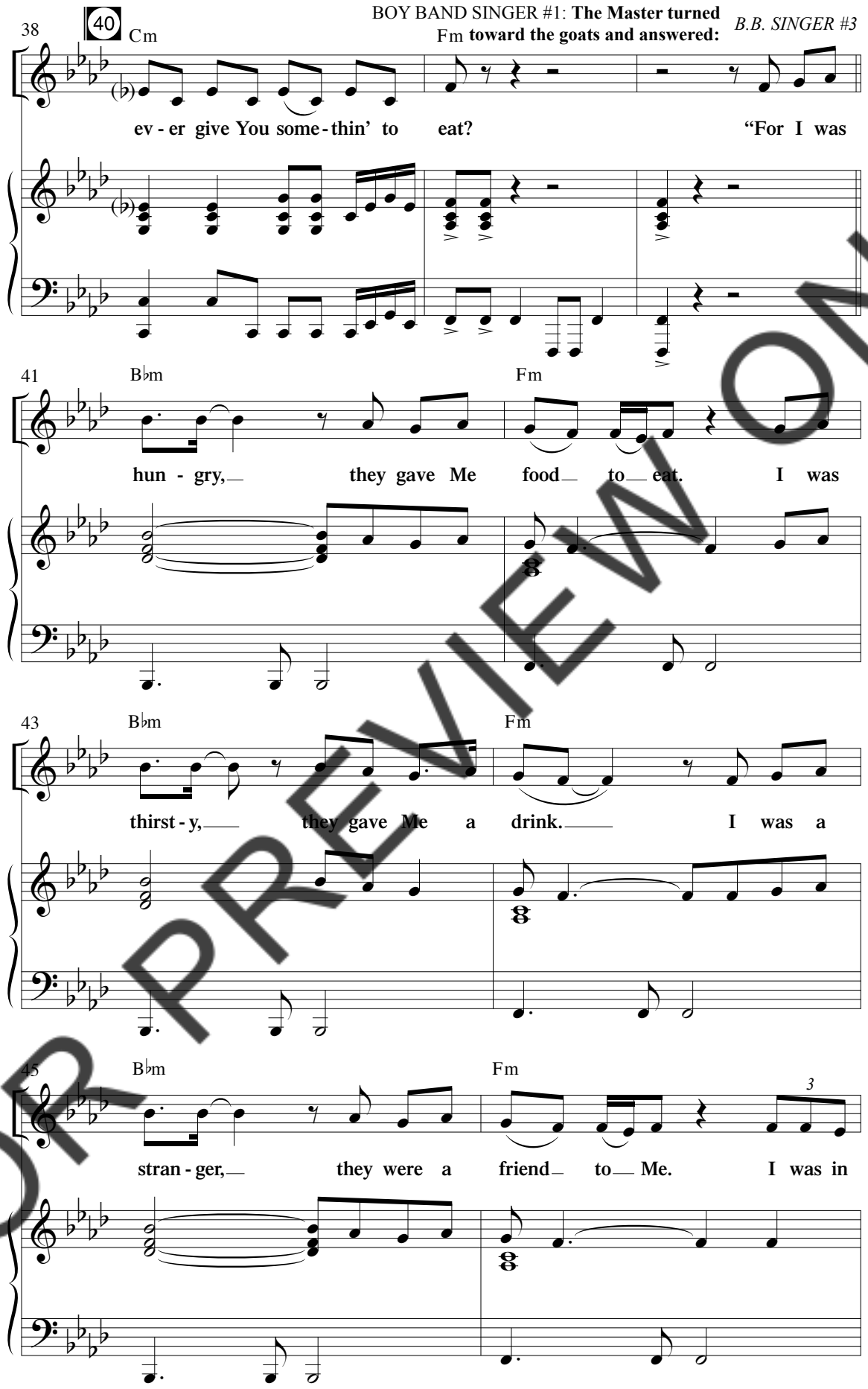
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



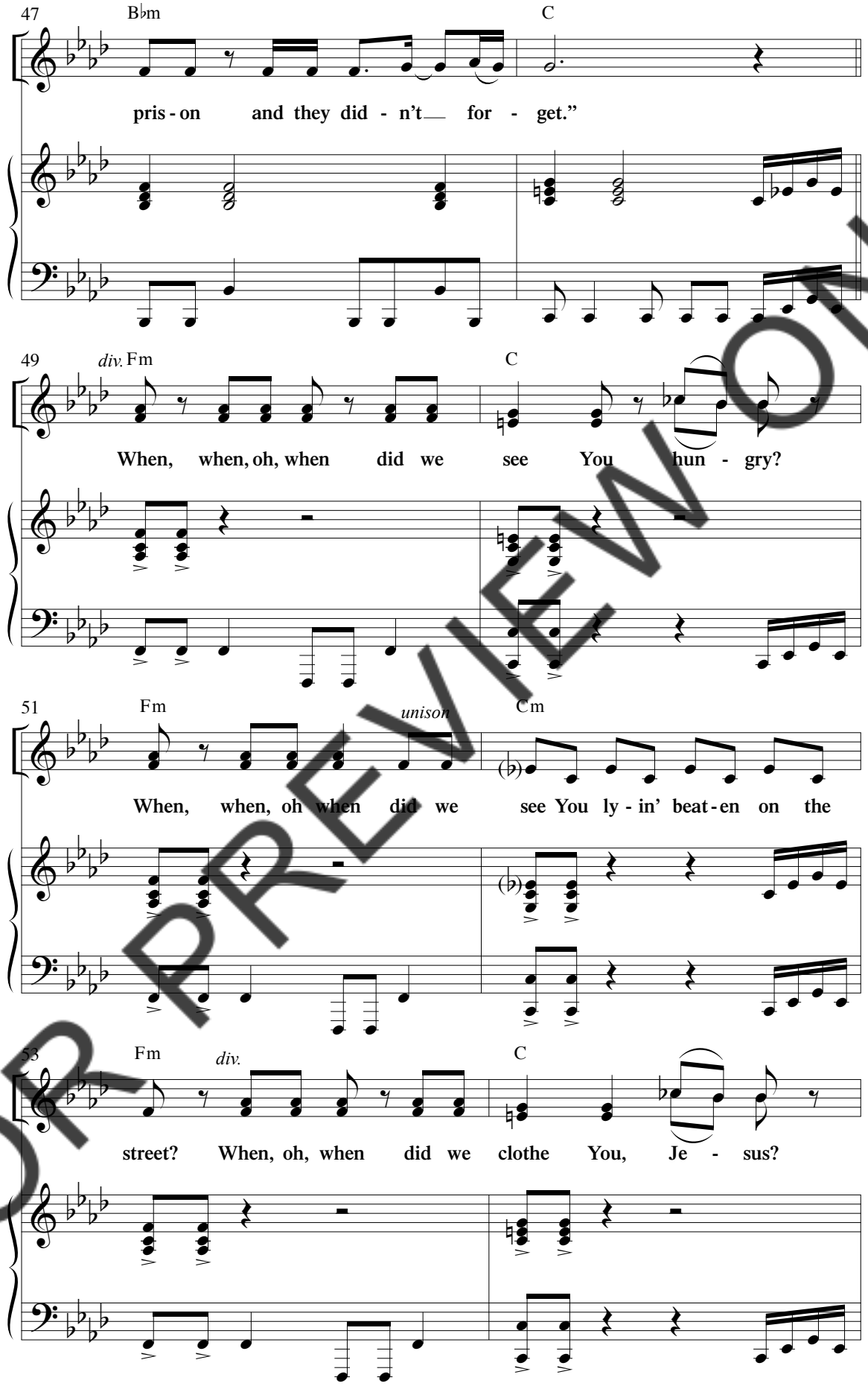
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



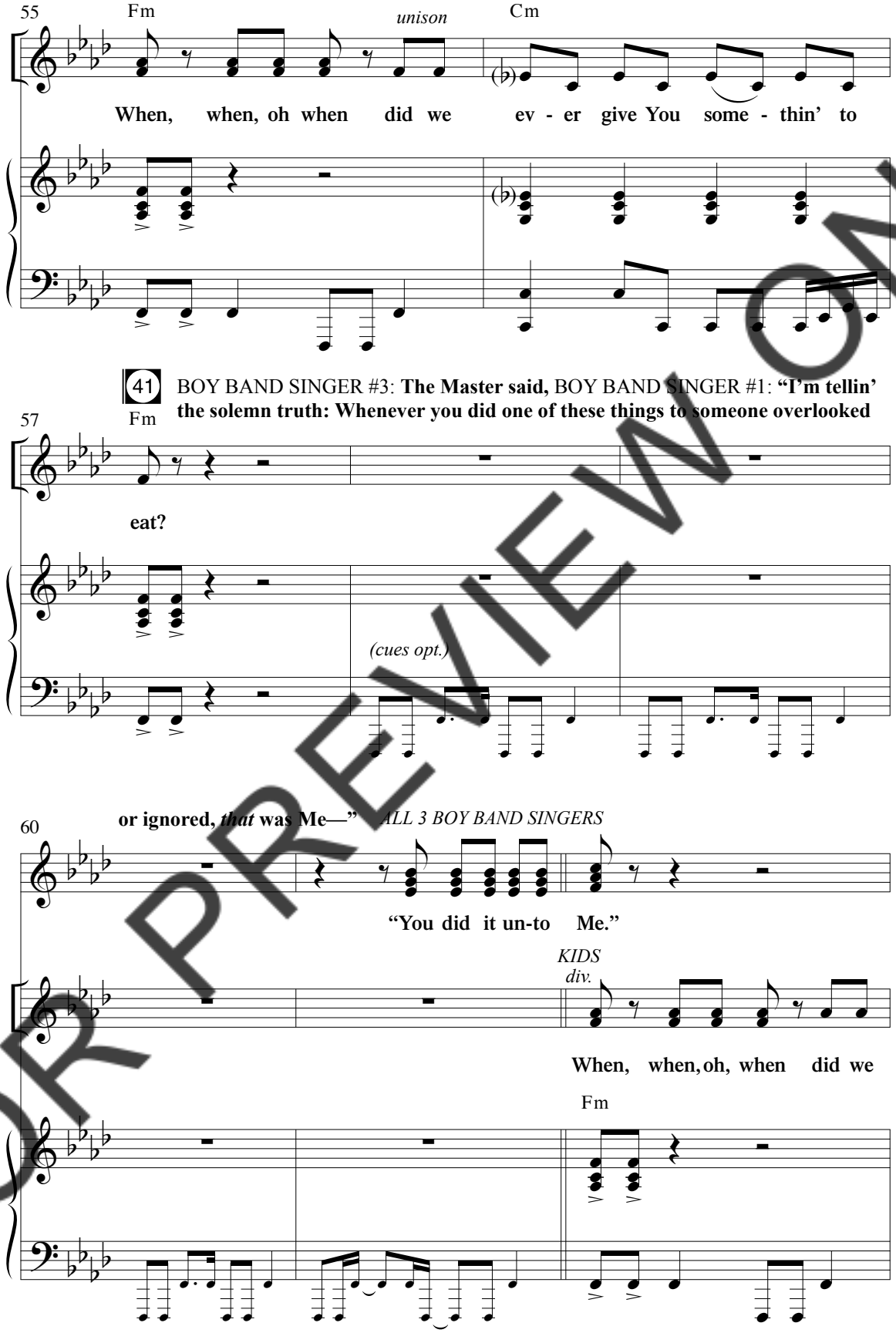
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



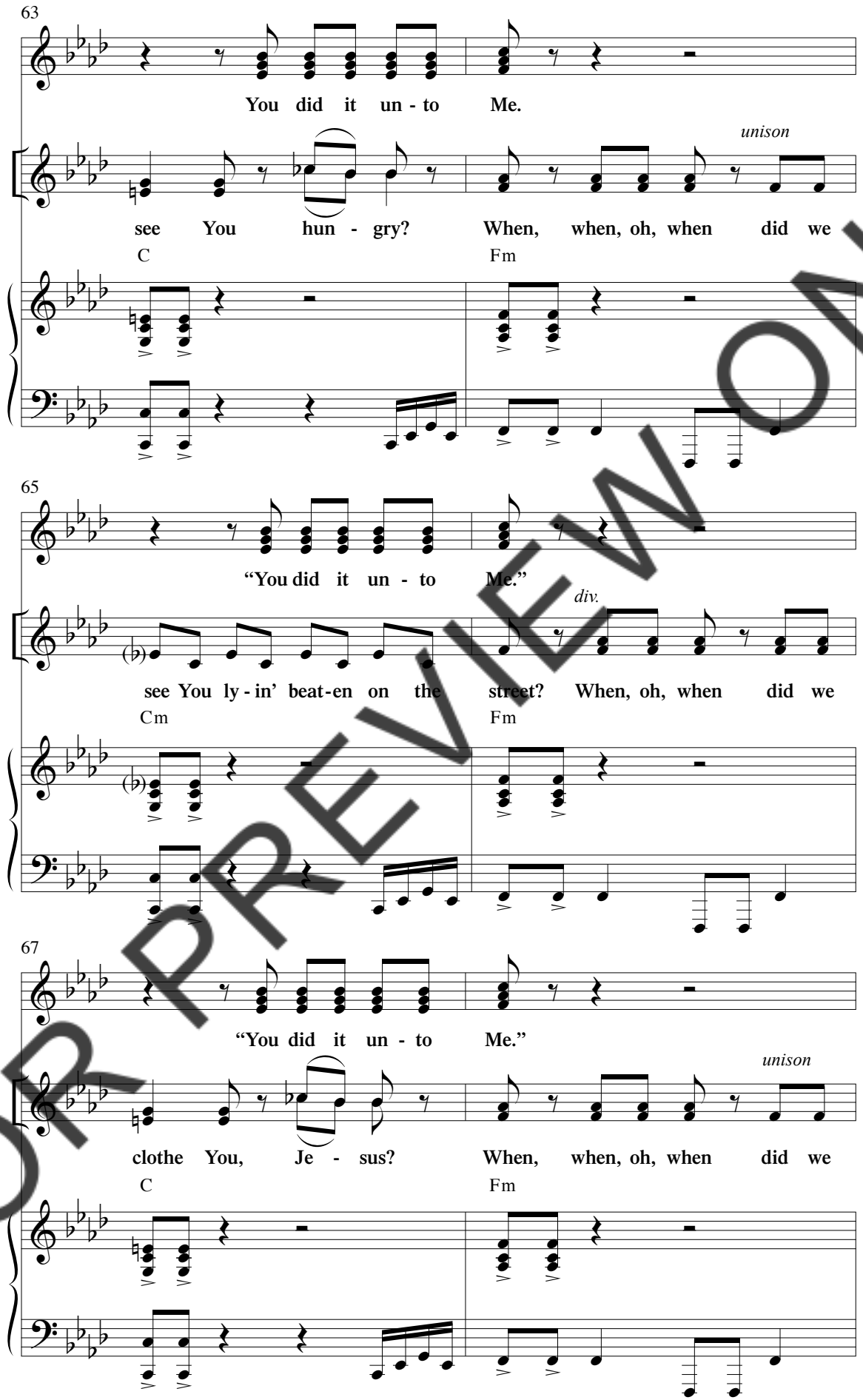
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



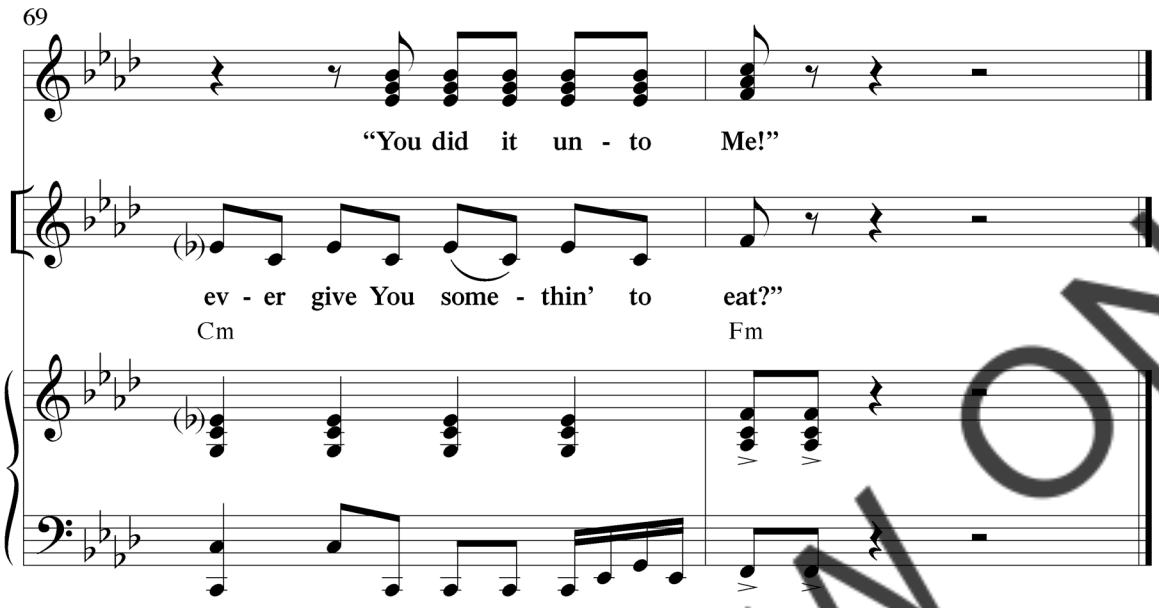
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY



Scene 6

(Mr. Olson walks by with a broom, muttering to himself while sweeping. In this scene, he appears to be about 60 years old.)

NORMAN: **I have an idea.** *(runs over to Mr. Olson)* **Um, excuse me . . . Mr. Olson?**

MR. OLSON: *(absent-mindedly)* **Yes? Can I help you, young man?**

NORMAN: **Mr. Olson, my name is Norman, and, um, I'm wondering if you could help us with something. Our machine is broken.**

MR. OLSON: **What kind of machine?**

NORMAN: **Um, well, let me just show you.**

MR. OLSON: **Alright, I suppose I can try.** *(Norman and the other kids lead him back to the time machine. Mr. Olson reacts with shock and quickly pulls out and unfolds a piece of paper from his pocket.)*

MR. OLSON: **IMPOSSIBLE! It's just the way I dreamed it!**

NORMAN: **It's The HO-2000 Temporal Displacement Modulator. You invented it!**

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

MR. OLSON: *(surprised but jubilant)* **I did?!** *(takes a beat)* **I must be rich!** *(dances a jig)* **I can quit my job, travel the world, become even *richer!***

JASMINE: *(apologetically)* **Actually, Mr. Olson, we kinda, sorta, accidentally took your machine. So you haven't even gotten a chance to use it yet!**

GLORIA: **But it's broken and now we can't get home!**

MR. OLSON: **Now, that is a problem! There should be . . .** *(As Mr. Olson examines the machine, Jackson is casually leaning in front of the time control lever)* **a lever that would control the direction you would go in time. But I don't see anything like that . . .**

JACKSON: **Hey! I think I saw something like that.**

GLORIA: *(looking behind him)* **I think you're *leaning* on it!**

NORMAN: **Yes! And he was leaning on that when the machine went off the first time.**

ALL: **Jackson!**

JACKSON: **Ahh, sorry, guys . . .** *(steps away from the lever)*

MR. OLSON: **Yes, there it is, but it's been disengaged from the Hydraulic Evaporators. That explains why you've been jumping through time!** *(fidgets with machine)* **Here you go—that should fix it. BUT, be careful not to push the lever too far!** *(Time Machine SFX 6* 42 *begins)* **If you push it too far in any direction, there's no telling how far you would travel. It could be catastrophic!**

JACKSON: *(yelling over machine)* **Don't push it too far—got it! But Mr. Olson, now all we need to know is which way to re-engage the lever to point the machine toward home. Is down the right way? Mr. Olson?!** *(As time machine winds down, lights blackout.)*

Scene 7

(Lights fade up on MCC once again. The church banner reads, "1st Annual Caroling Outreach, December 24, 1944.")

40s WORKER: *(carrying boxes)* **Can you fellas give a girl a hand?** *(boys help her)*

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

GLORIA: **Jasmine, look at the sign! This is the FIRST Annual Outreach!**

NORMAN: **Uh oh—I'm guessing the lever was supposed to point *up*, not down. We went even *further* back in time!**

40s WORKER: **Thanks, boys- it's great to know we can count on you to support the cause.**

JACKSON: **No problem—wait, what cause?**

40s WORKER: *(laughs)* **The war effort, of course. Merry Christmas!**

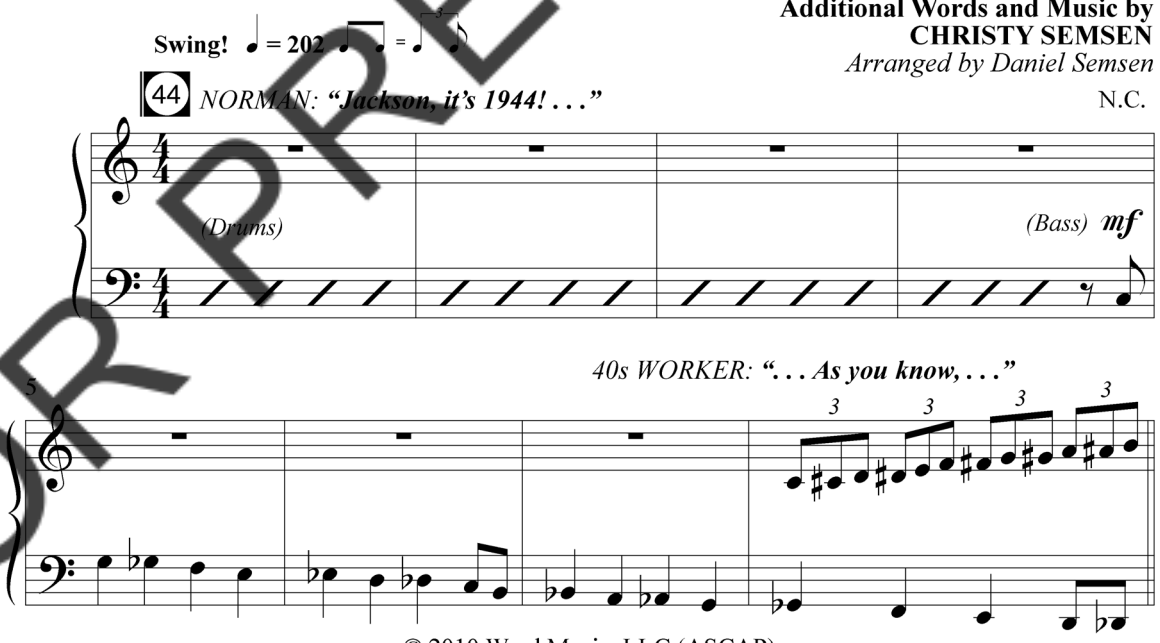
JACKSON: **What's going on?** *(Church Bells Cue #4* 43 *)*

NORMAN: *(music begins to "Peace on Earth")* **Jackson, it's 1944! It's World War 2!**

40s WORKER: *(addressing the outreach workers)* **Thank you all for coming to the First Annual Caroling Outreach. As you know, there are many in our community that could use a hand this Christmas. I hope and pray this can be an annual tradition for many, many years to come.**

Peace on Earth
(I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day)

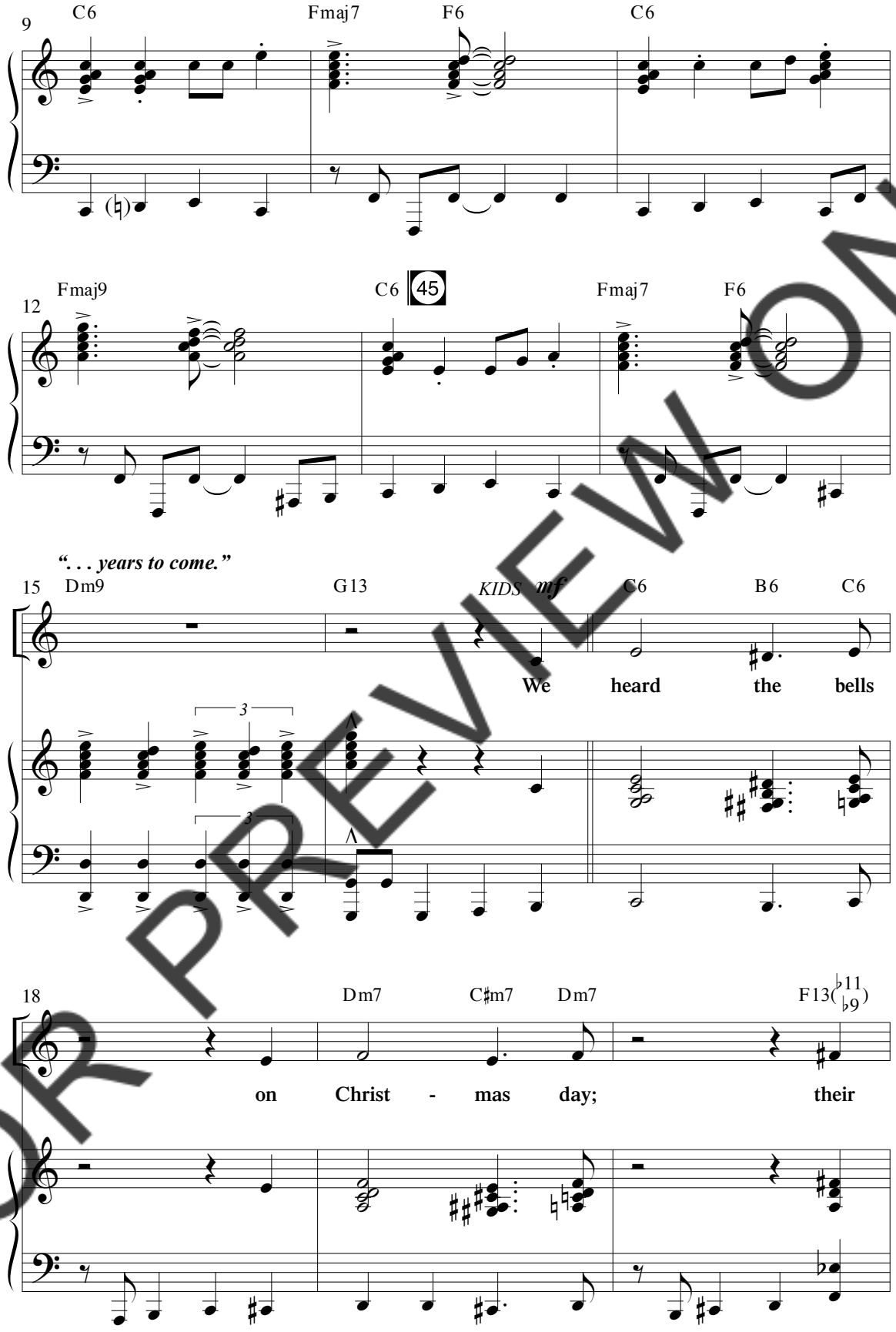
Words by H.W. Longfellow
Music by J. B. Calkin
Additional Words and Music by
CHRISTY SEMSEN
Arranged by Daniel Semsen



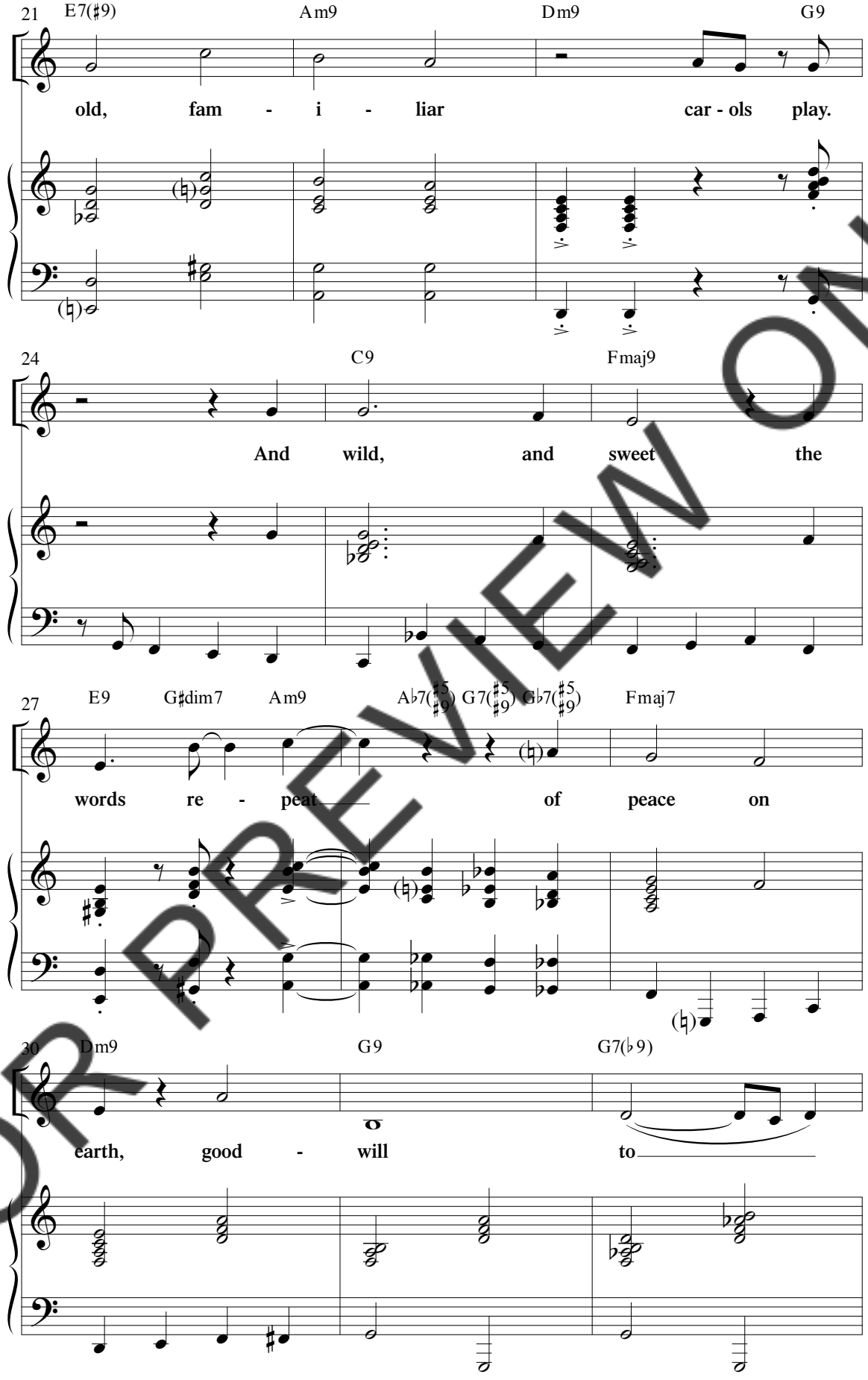
© 2010 Word Music, LLC (ASCAP)
All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

EVEN IF YOU POSSESS A **CCLI** LICENSE, YOU MAY NOT COPY ANY MUSIC FROM THIS BOOK.
If you have questions about CCLI, please call 800/234-2446.

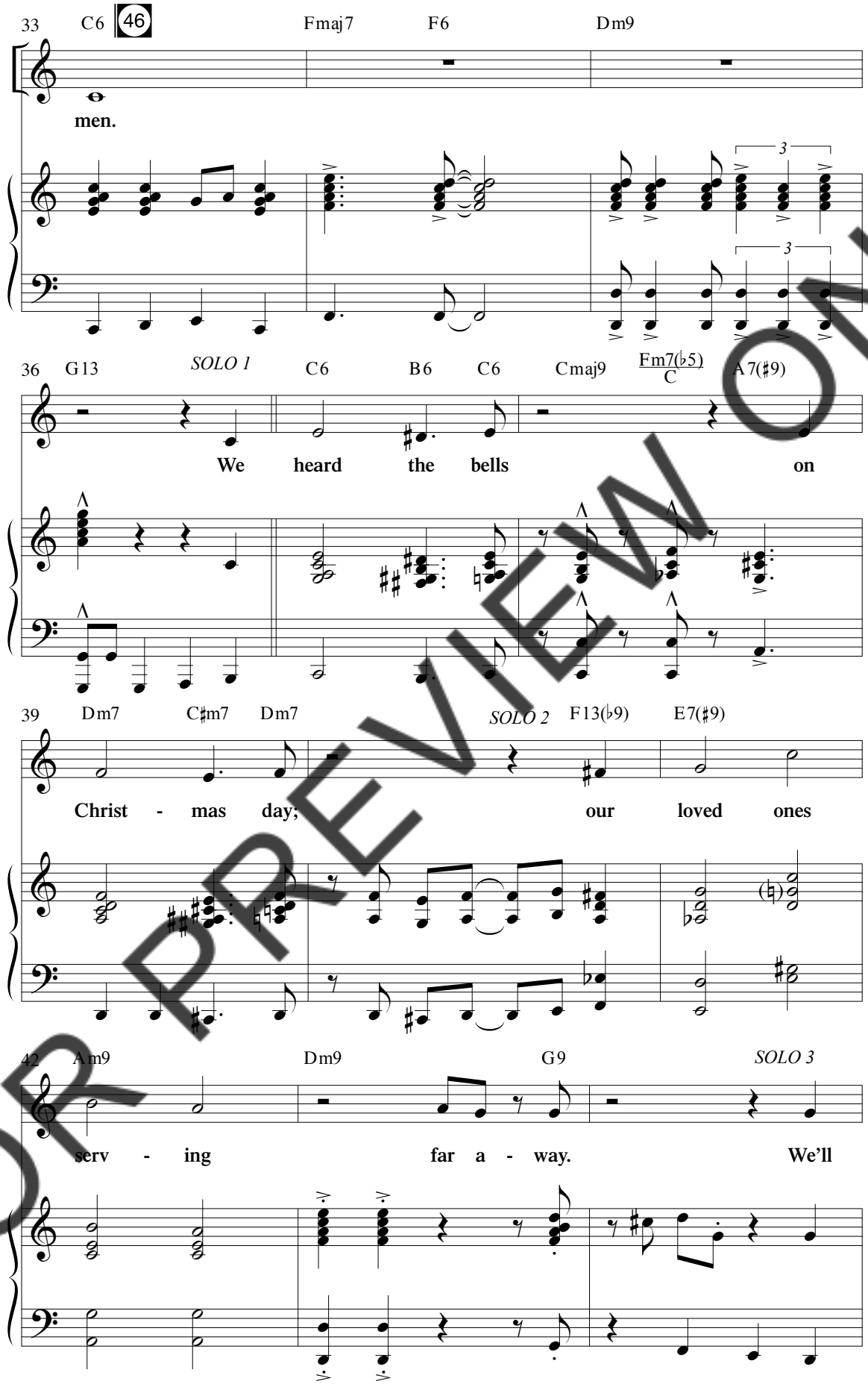
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



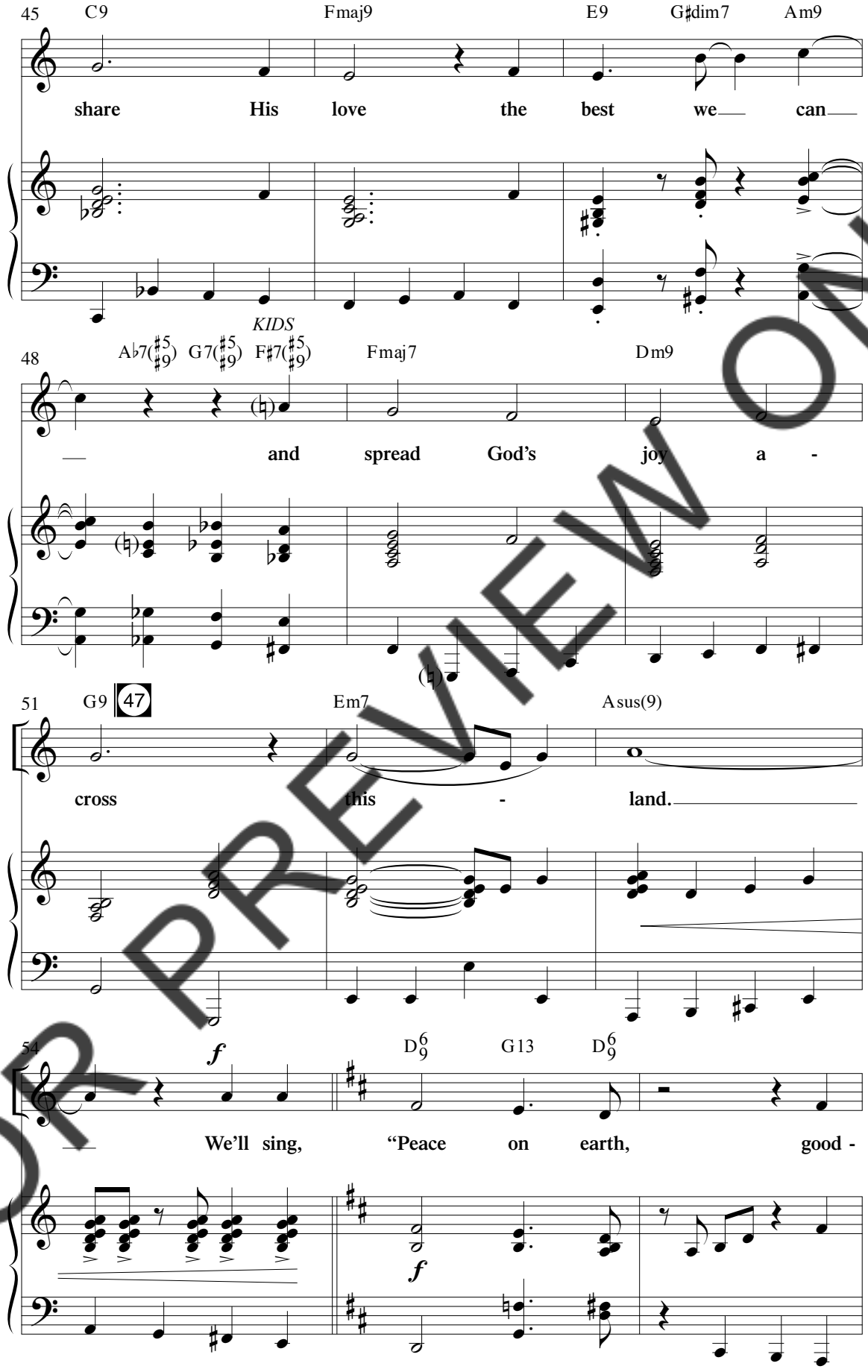
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



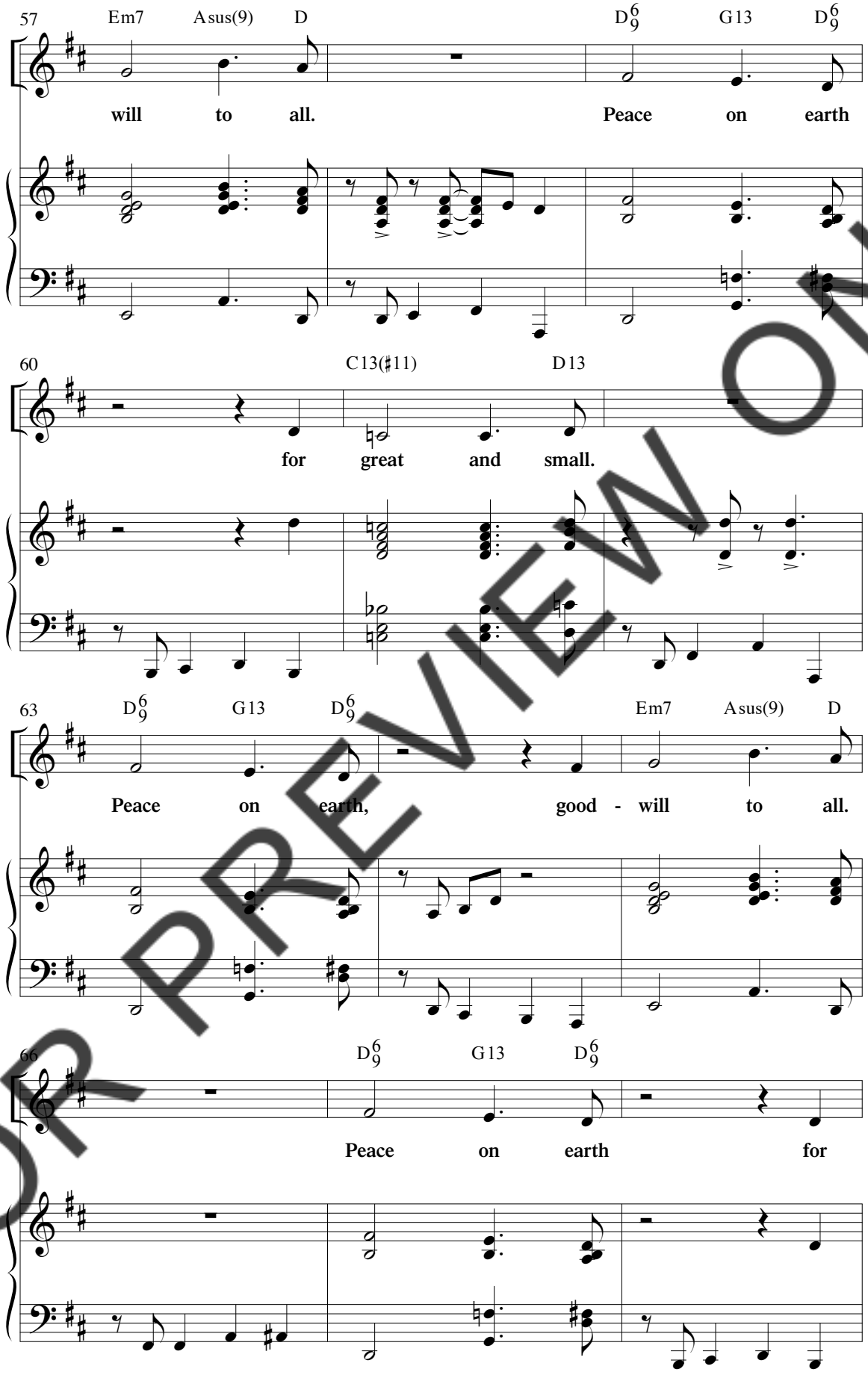
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



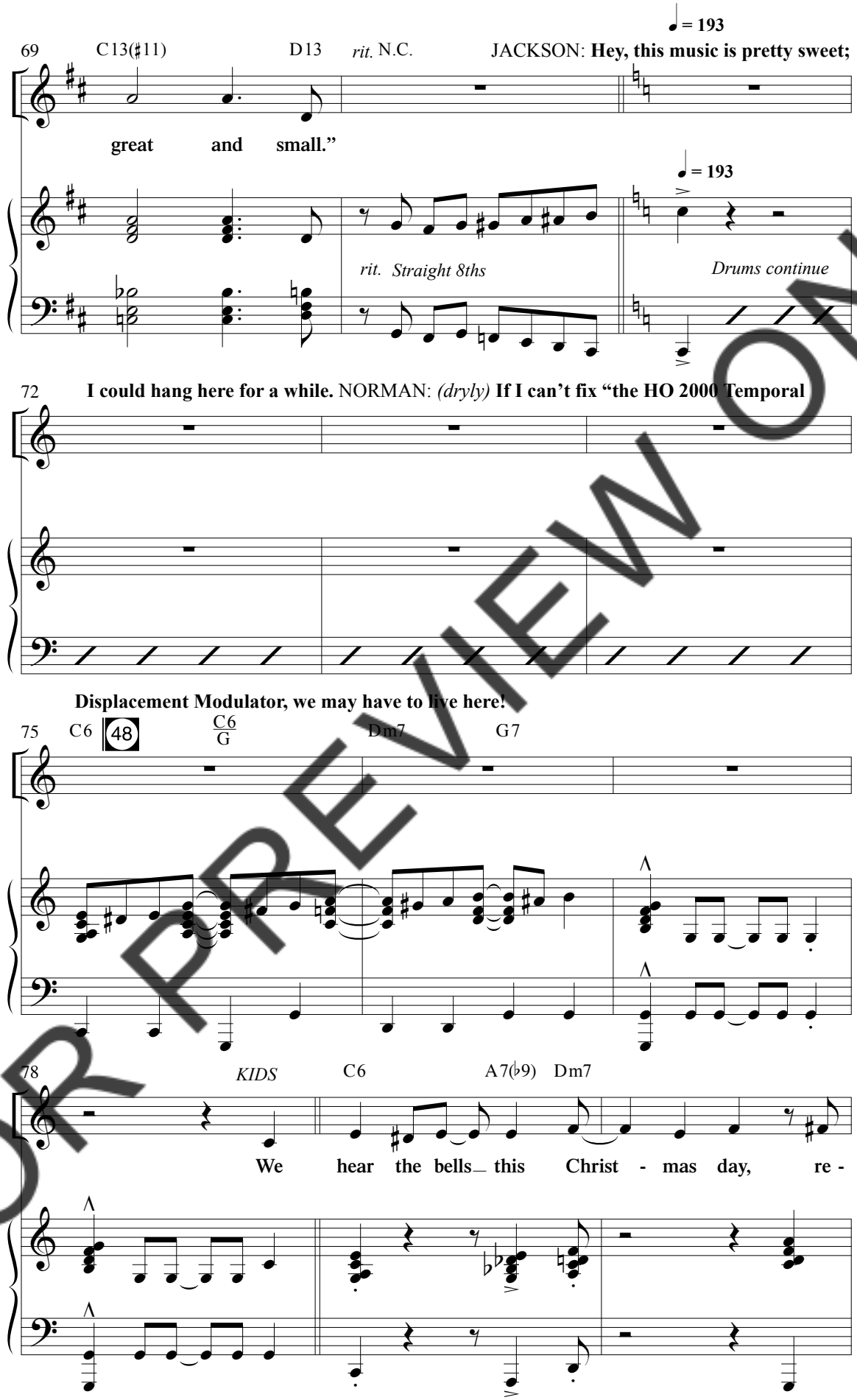
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



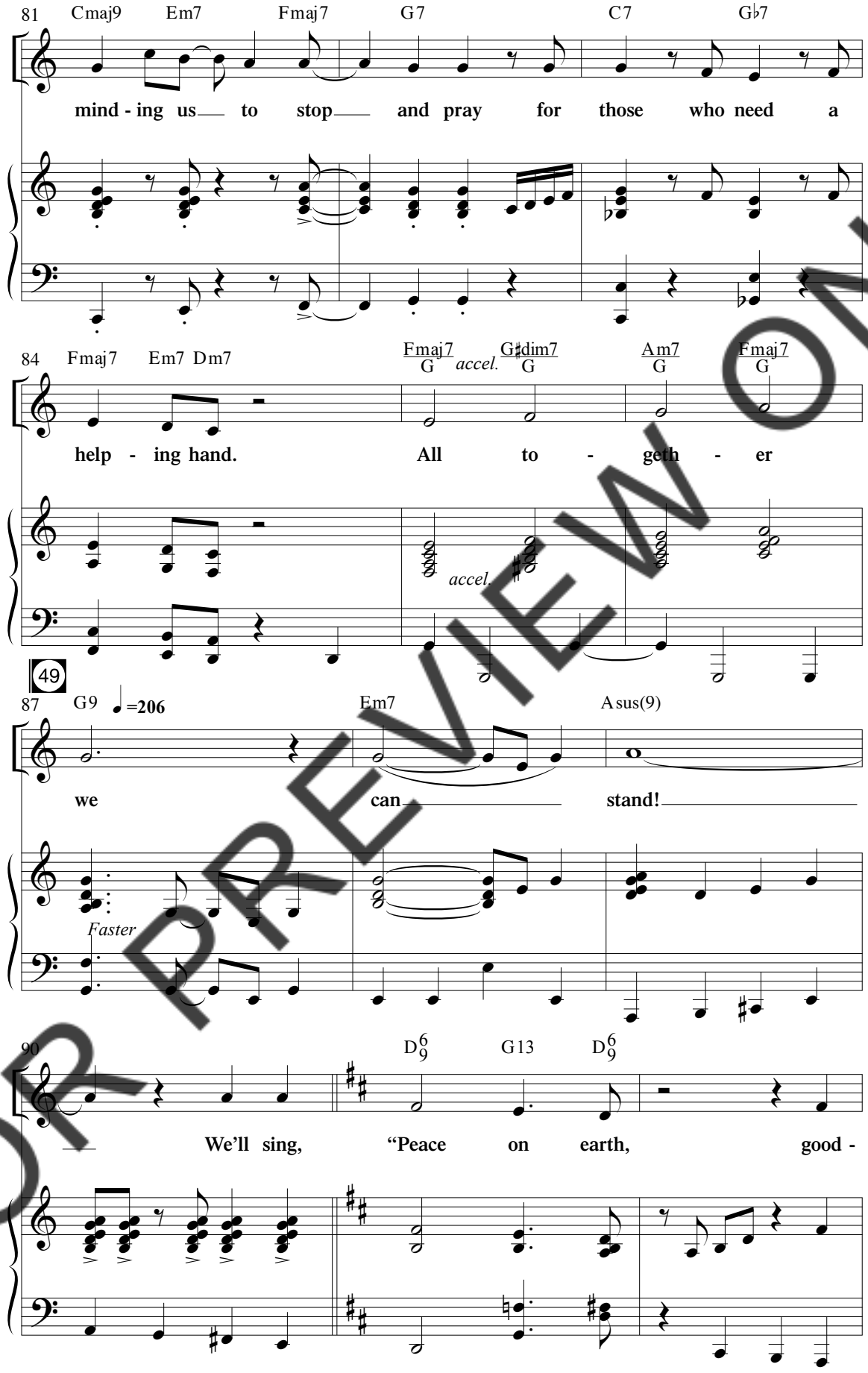
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



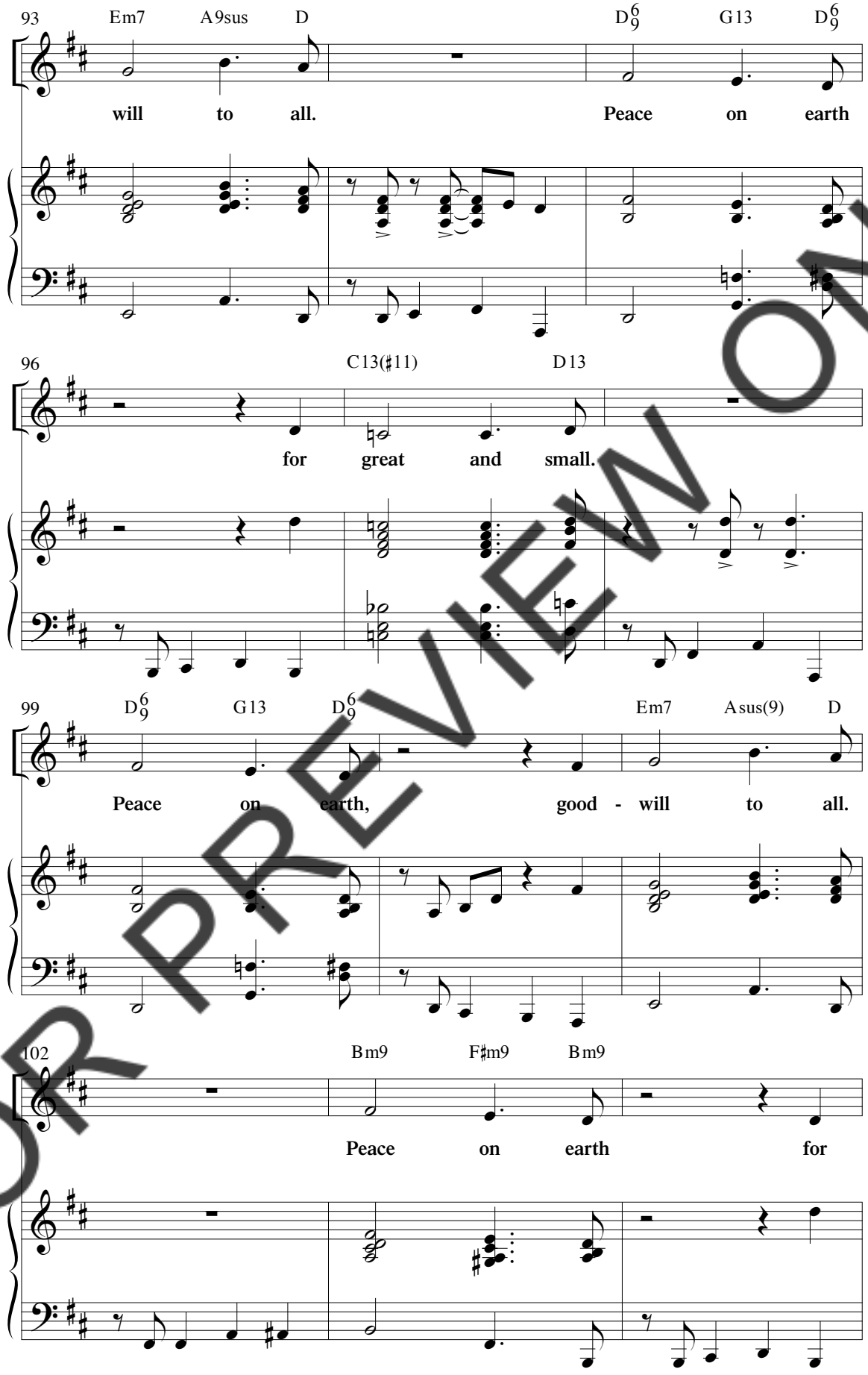
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



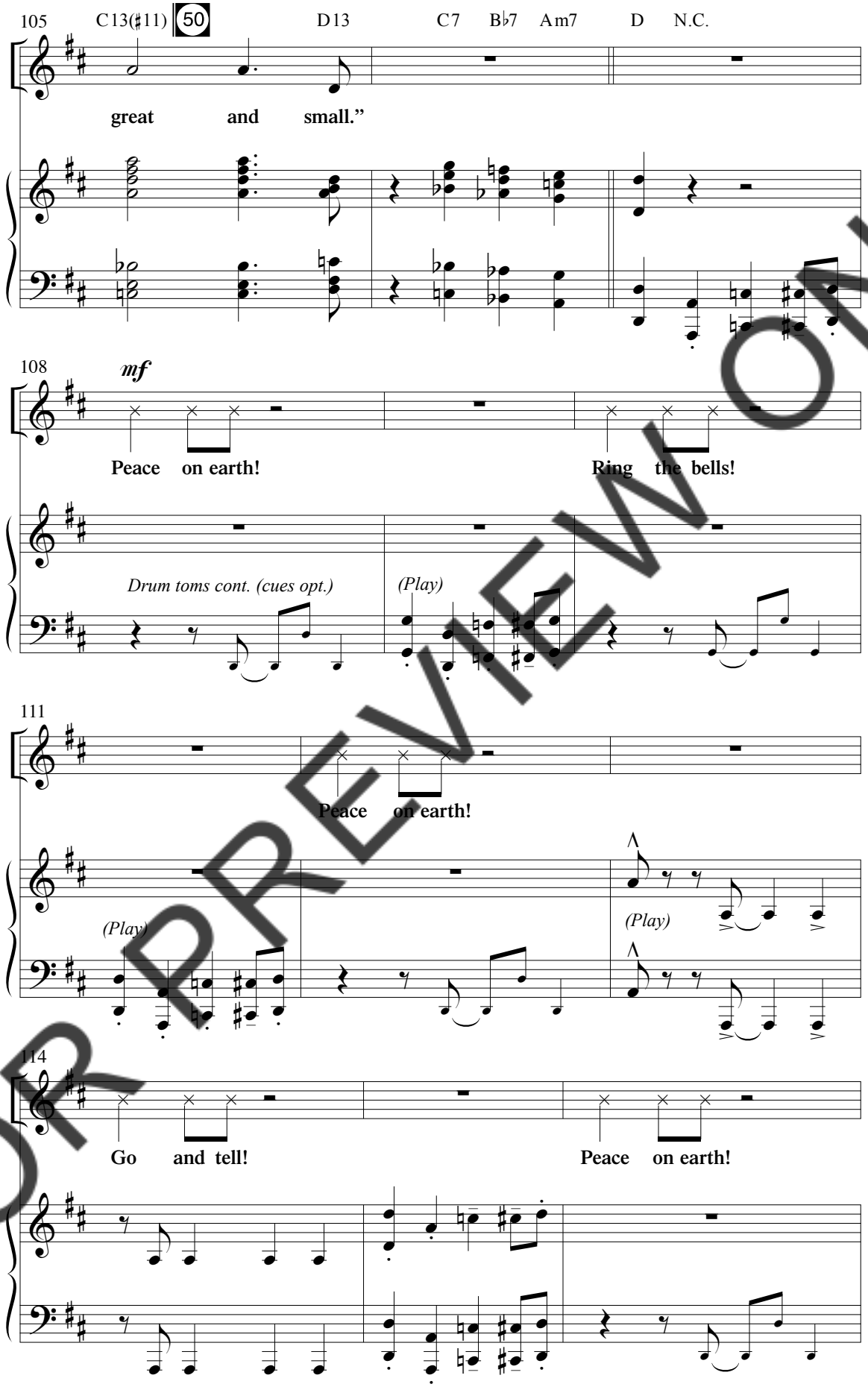
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



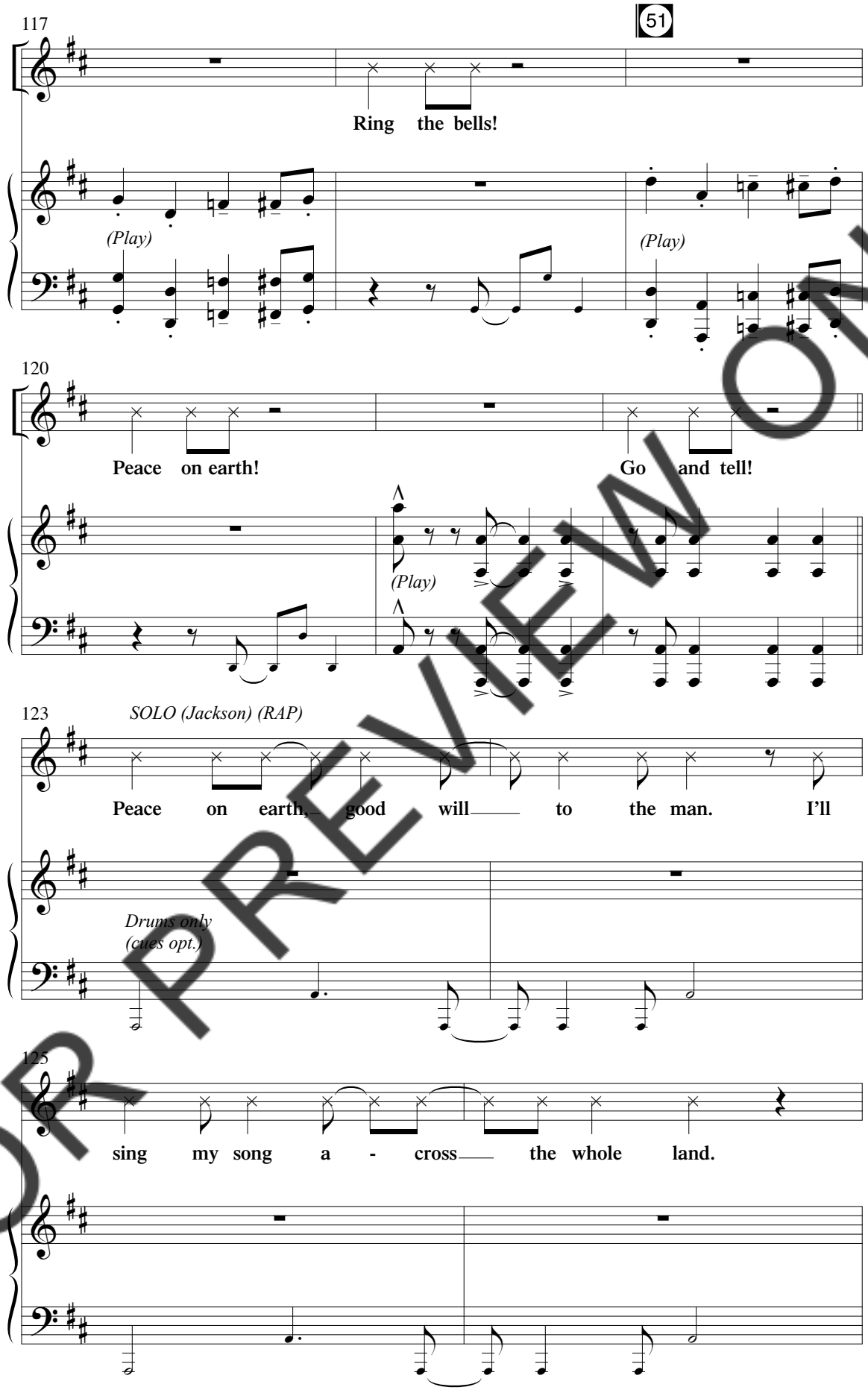
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



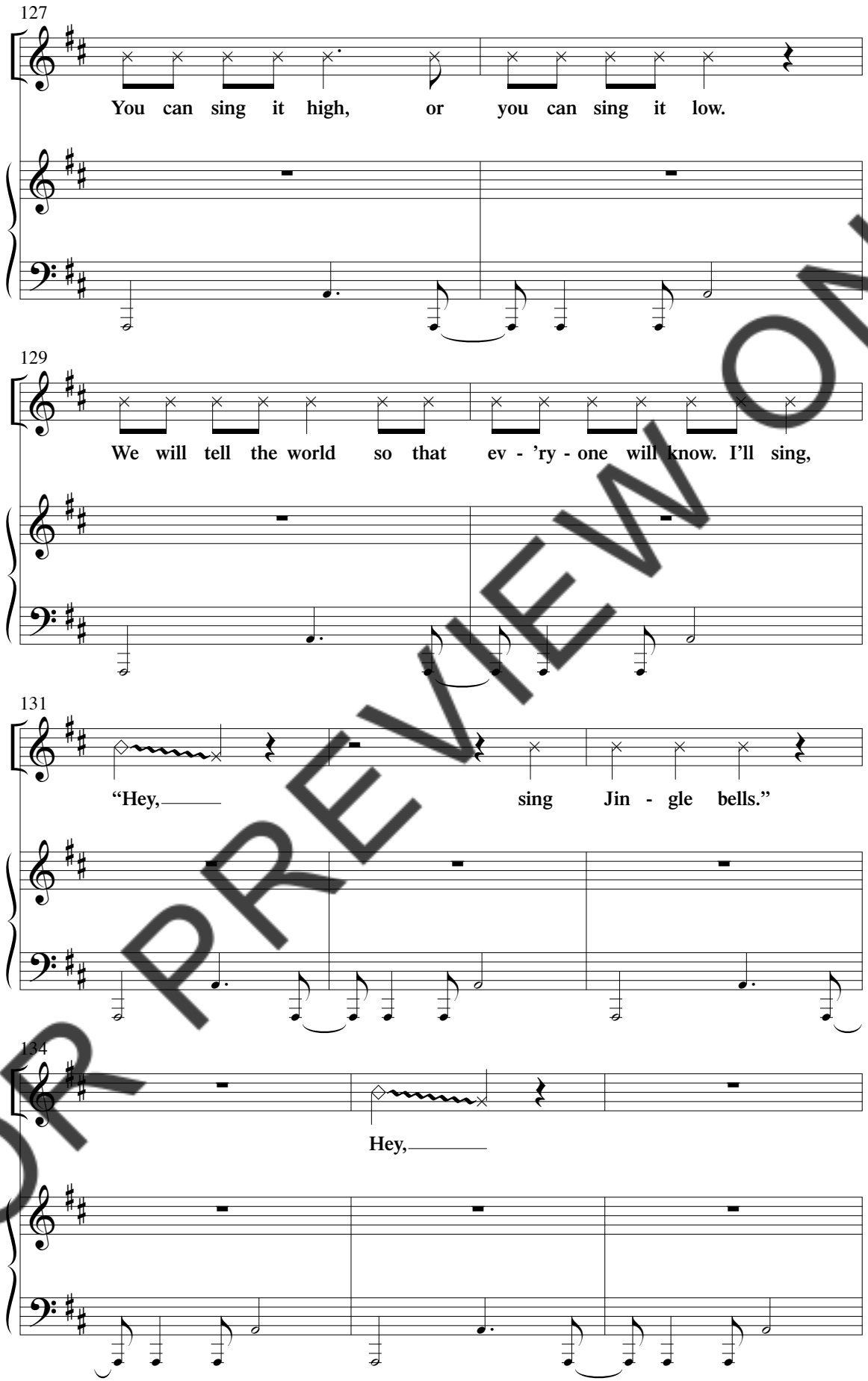
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



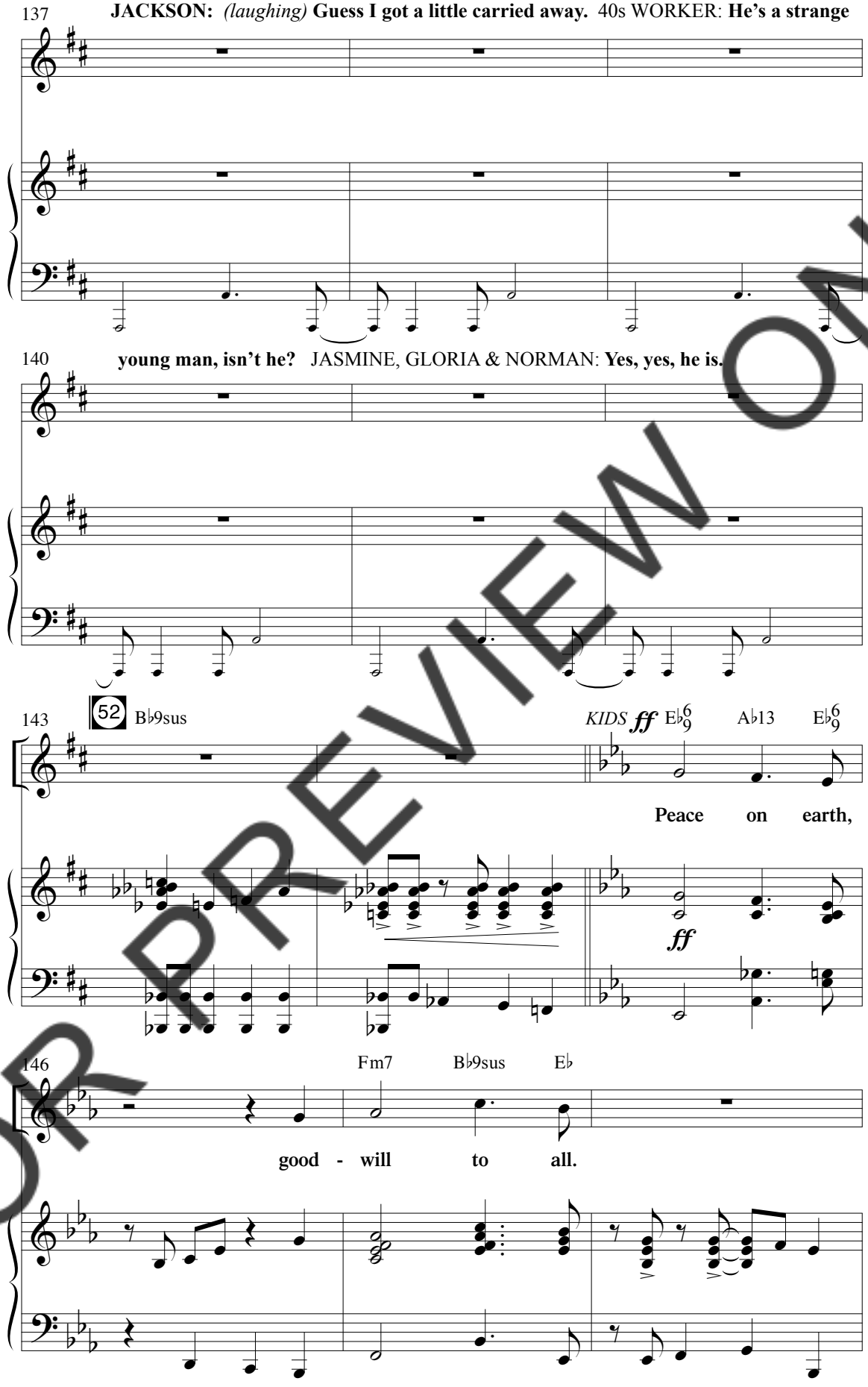
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



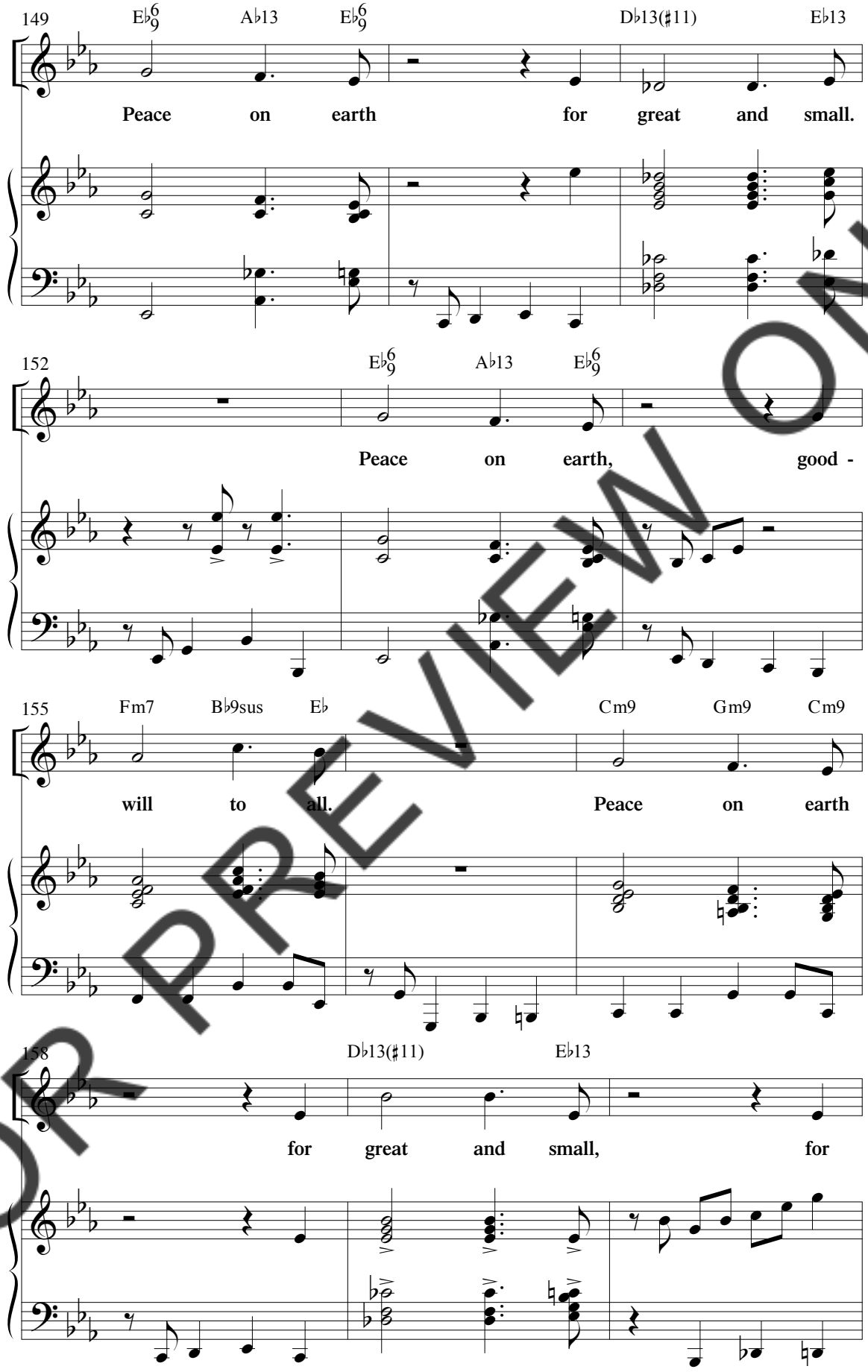
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



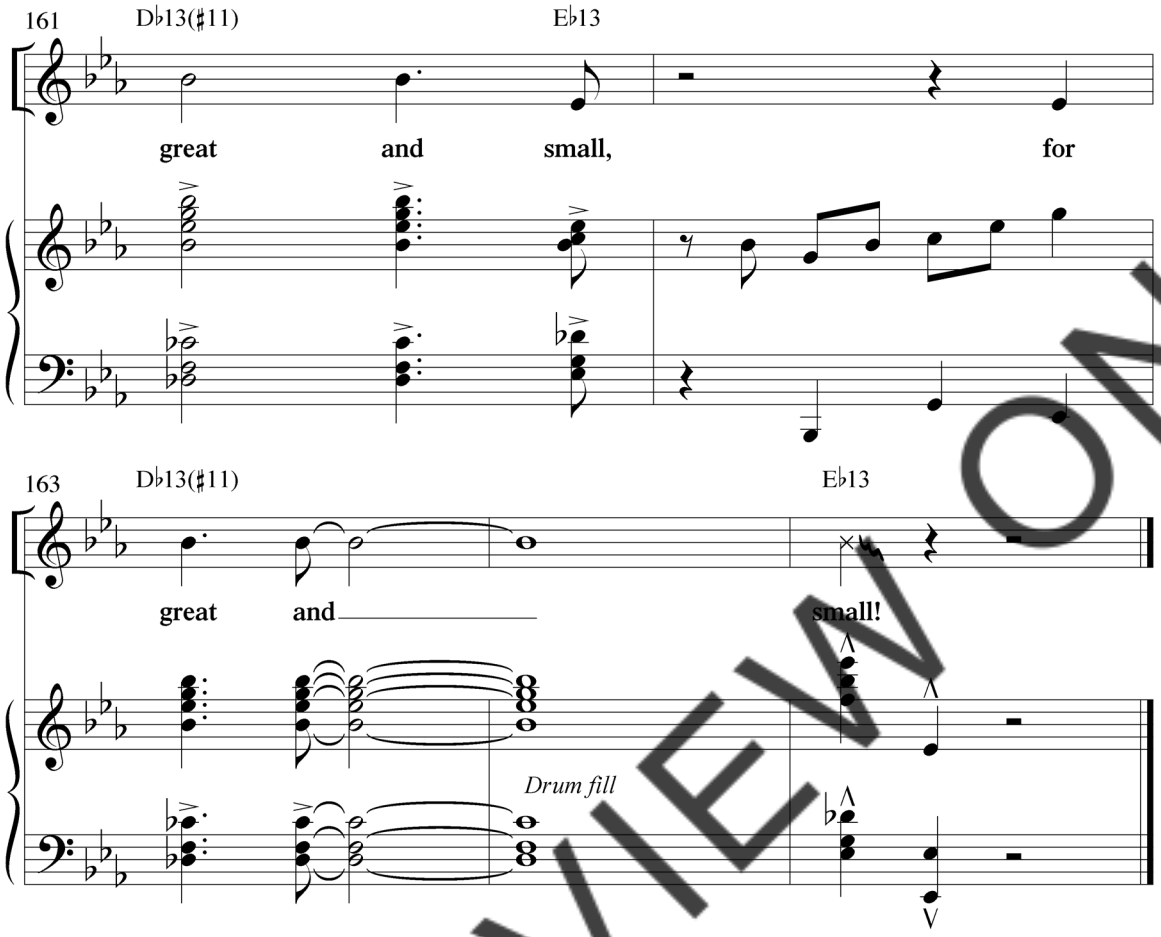
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY



HANK: *(approaching Jackson)* **Want to play marbles with me? I just traded for three Steelies and a Butterfly Agate!**

JACKSON: **Sure, kid. Are you looking forward to Christmas?**

HANK: **You bet! My mom's over there getting a basket.**

JACKSON: *(uncomfortable)* **Oh. That's great. You want to see something cool?**

HANK: *(wide-eyed)* **How cold is it?**

JACKSON: **No, kid, not cold, cool . . . oh, never mind. Just follow me. We're gonna try and fix our—**

NORMAN: **Car!**

(The three boys approach the time machine.)

HANK: **That's a mighty strange car. Can I help you, fellas?** *(Hank comes in and starts pushing with them)*

NORMAN: **Oh, that's not necessary.** *(Before Norman can react, Hank*

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

eagerly brushes by him and pushes the time control lever enthusiastically. [Optionally, Jasmine or Gordon could drop a large wrench on the floor, out of sight, to simulate the sound of a lever popping loose.] Time Machine SFX 7 (53) begins)

HANK: **I did it!**

NORMAN: **Oh, no, he sure did! He just pushed it all the way down!**

JACKSON: **You pushed it down? That'll take us even further back in time!**

JASMINE: **All the way? I thought we weren't supposed to push it all the way!?**

HANK: **What's going on?**

JACKSON: **Just hold on, buddy. I'll take care of you!**

(As the time machine winds down, lights blackout)

Scene 8

(Lights fade up on the manger scene in Bethlehem—the first Christmas. The manger is placed down center stage, kids can gather some distance away stage left, "out of earshot" of Mary and Joseph. The stable wall should separate the kids from the manger. All lines in this scene should be half-whispered.)

HANK: **Wow!**

ALL: *(quickly whisper and motion for him to be quiet)* **Shh!**

HANK: **That's some car!** *(music begins to "Ring the Bells")* **What *is* this place?**

GLORIA: **The birth of Jesus!**

ALL: *(Hushed words of amazement)* **Wow.**

JACKSON: **He's so . . . tiny!**

JASMINE: **Can you believe that God would send His Son to this earth as such a helpless baby?**

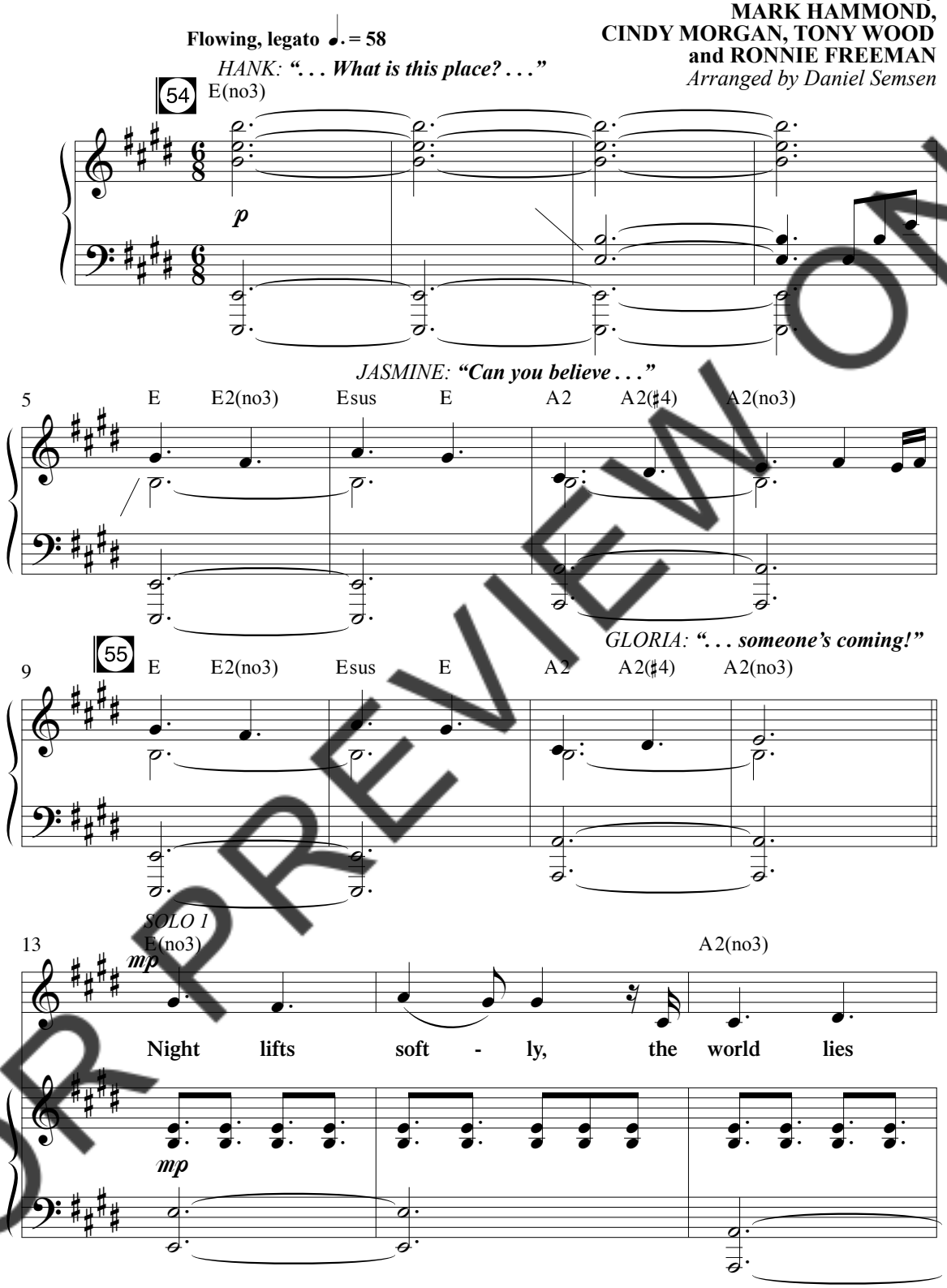
NORMAN: **Shh! We can't disturb them.**

GLORIA: **Look, someone's coming!** *(Shepherds begin processing slowly, walking toward the manger)*

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

Ring the Bells

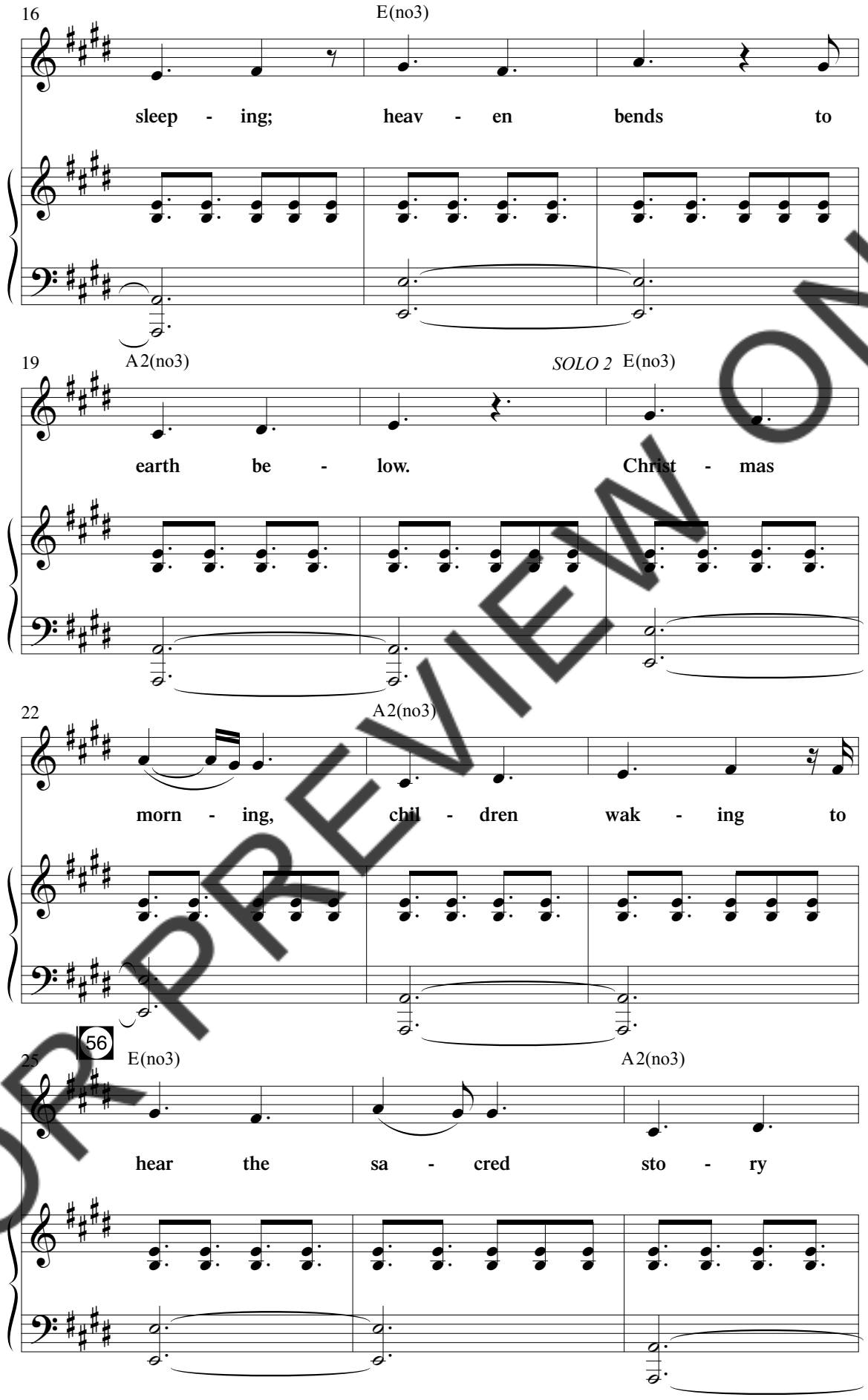
Words and Music by
MARK HAMMOND,
CINDY MORGAN, TONY WOOD
and RONNIE FREEMAN
Arranged by Daniel Semsen



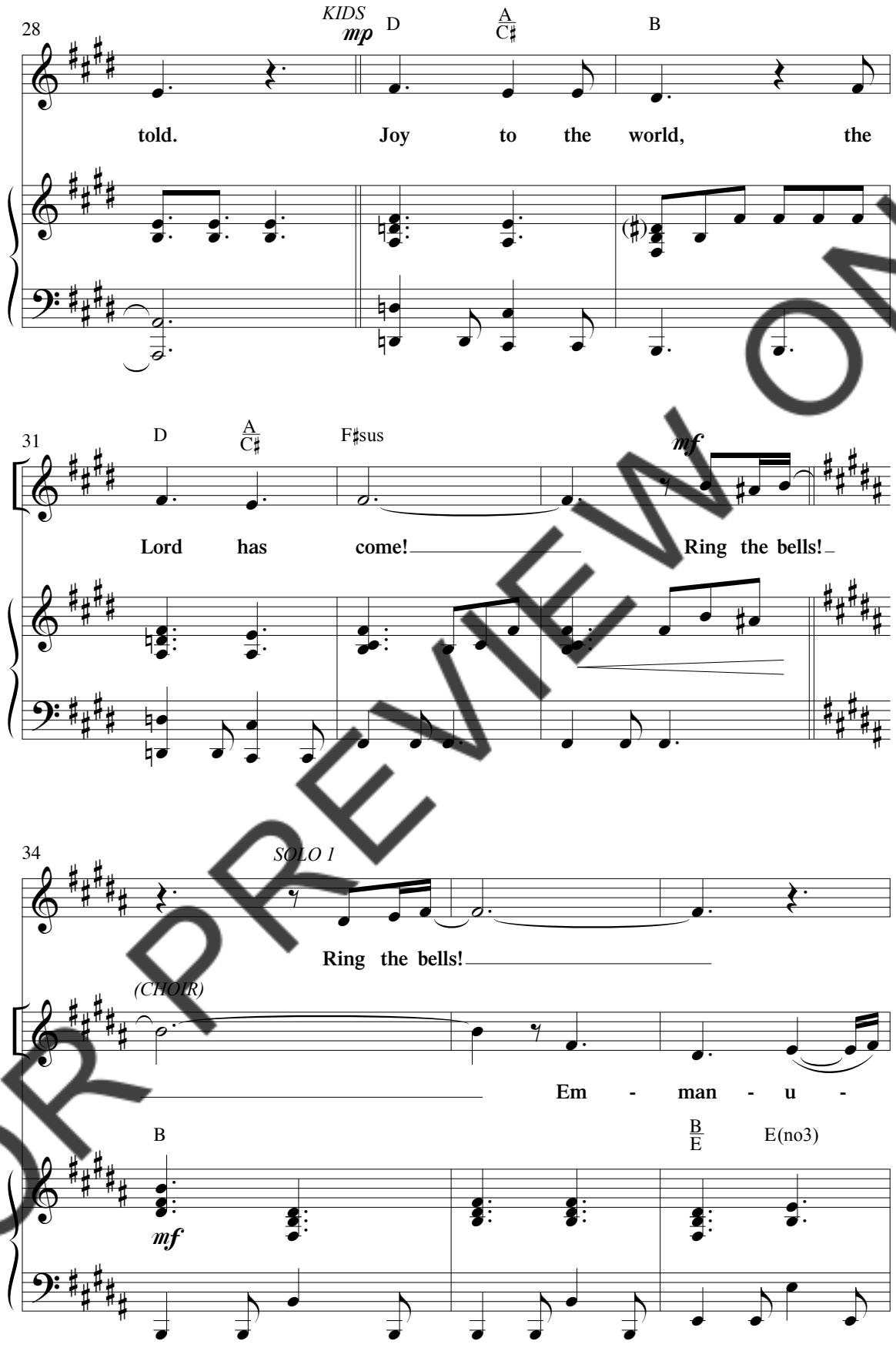
FOR PREVIEW ONLY

© 2008 Mark Hammond Music (admin. by EverGreen Copyrights)/New Spring/
Lehajoes Music/Row J, Seat 9 Songs/Solivia Music (all admin. by Music Services) (ASCAP)
All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

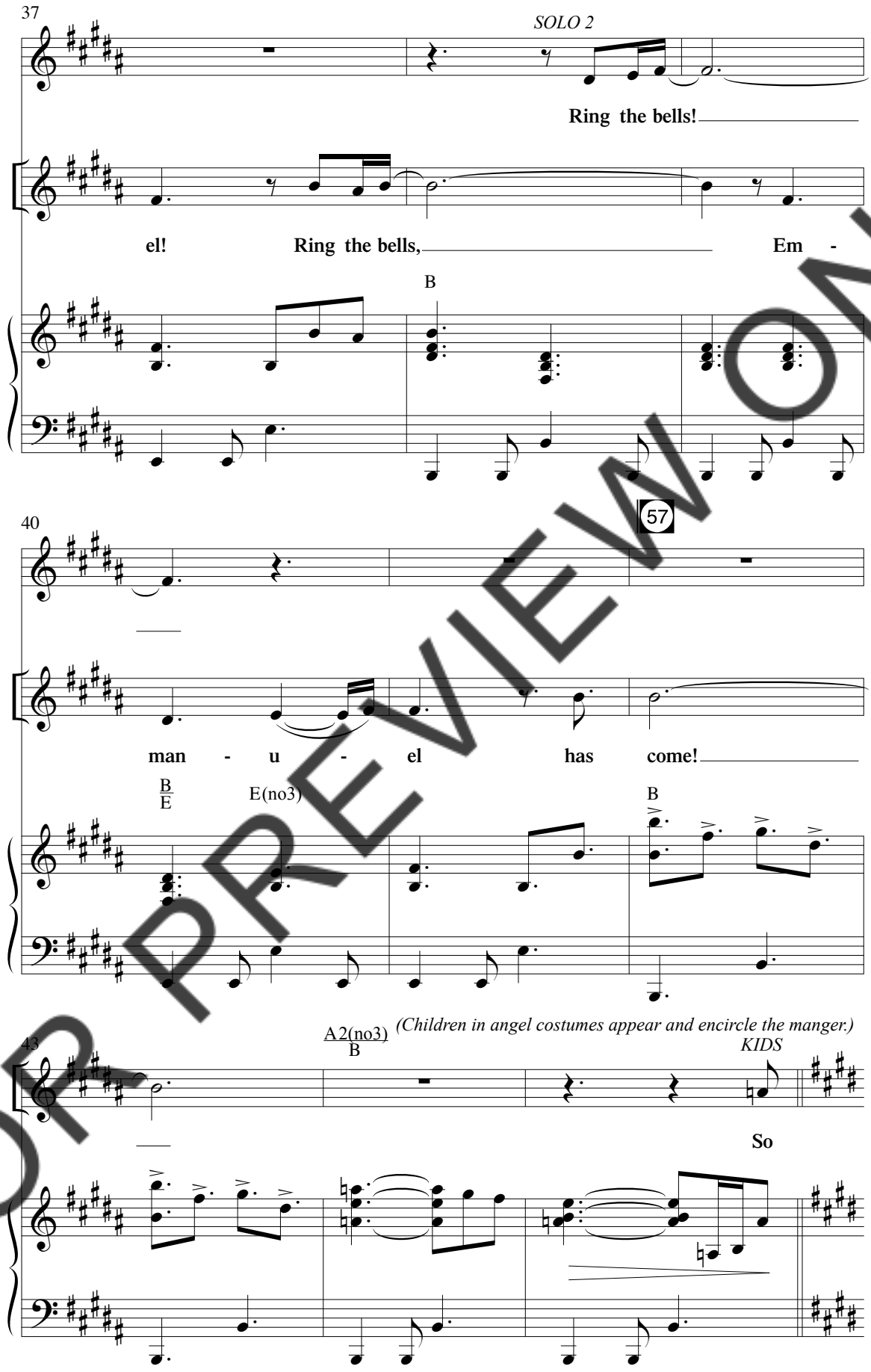
EVEN IF YOU POSSESS A **CCLI** LICENSE, YOU MAY NOT COPY ANY MUSIC FROM THIS BOOK.
If you have questions about CCLI, please call 800/234-2446.



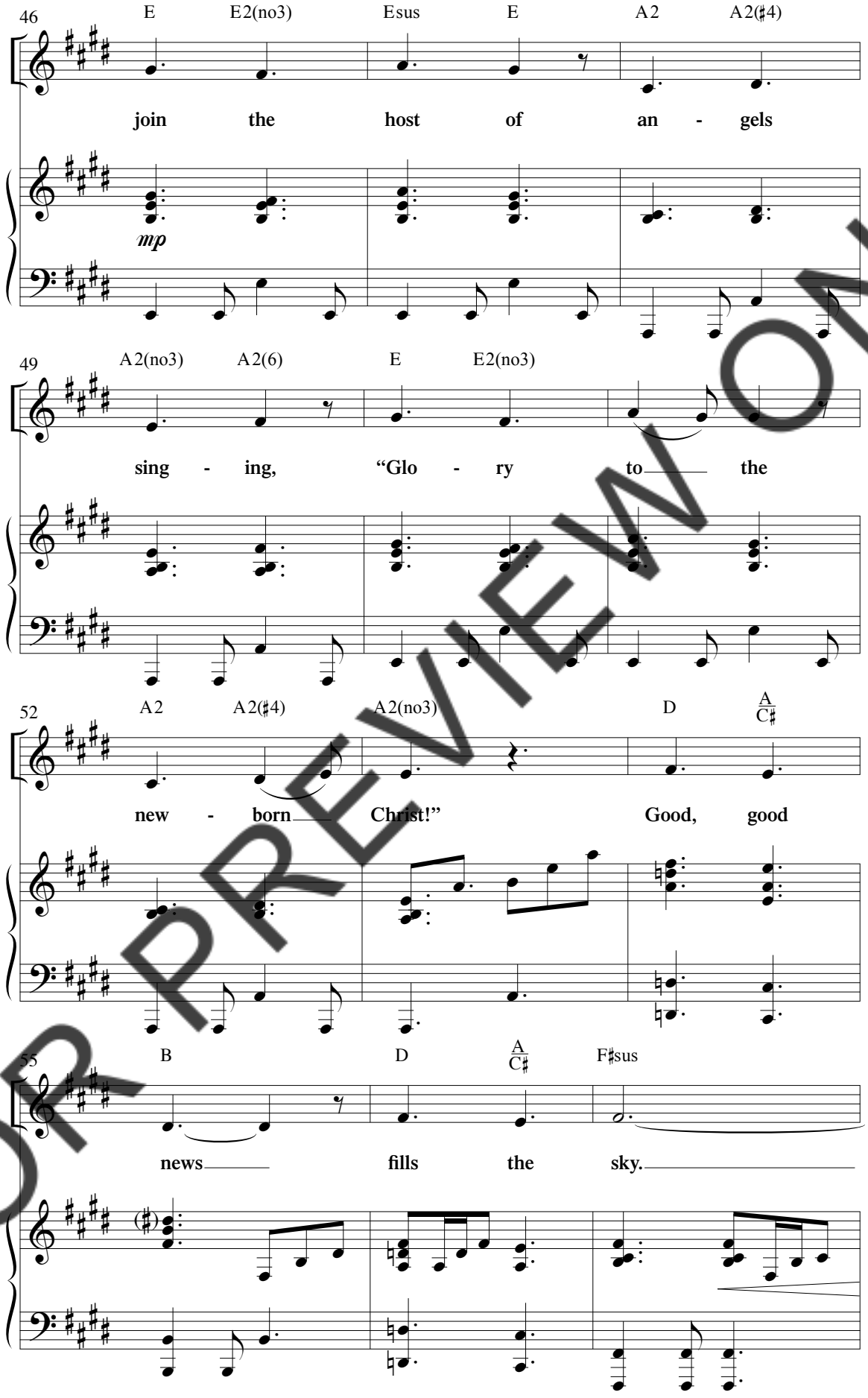
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



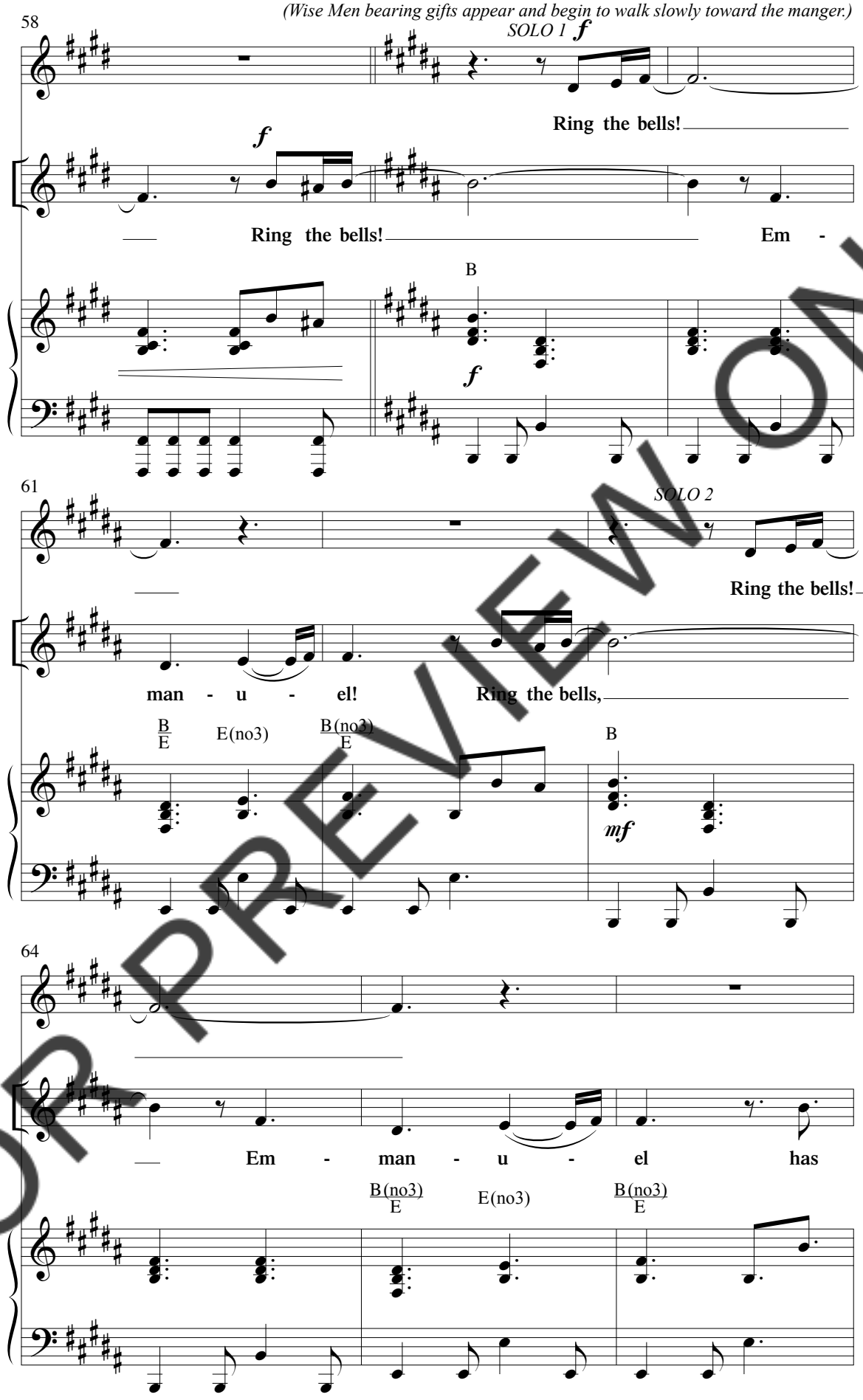
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



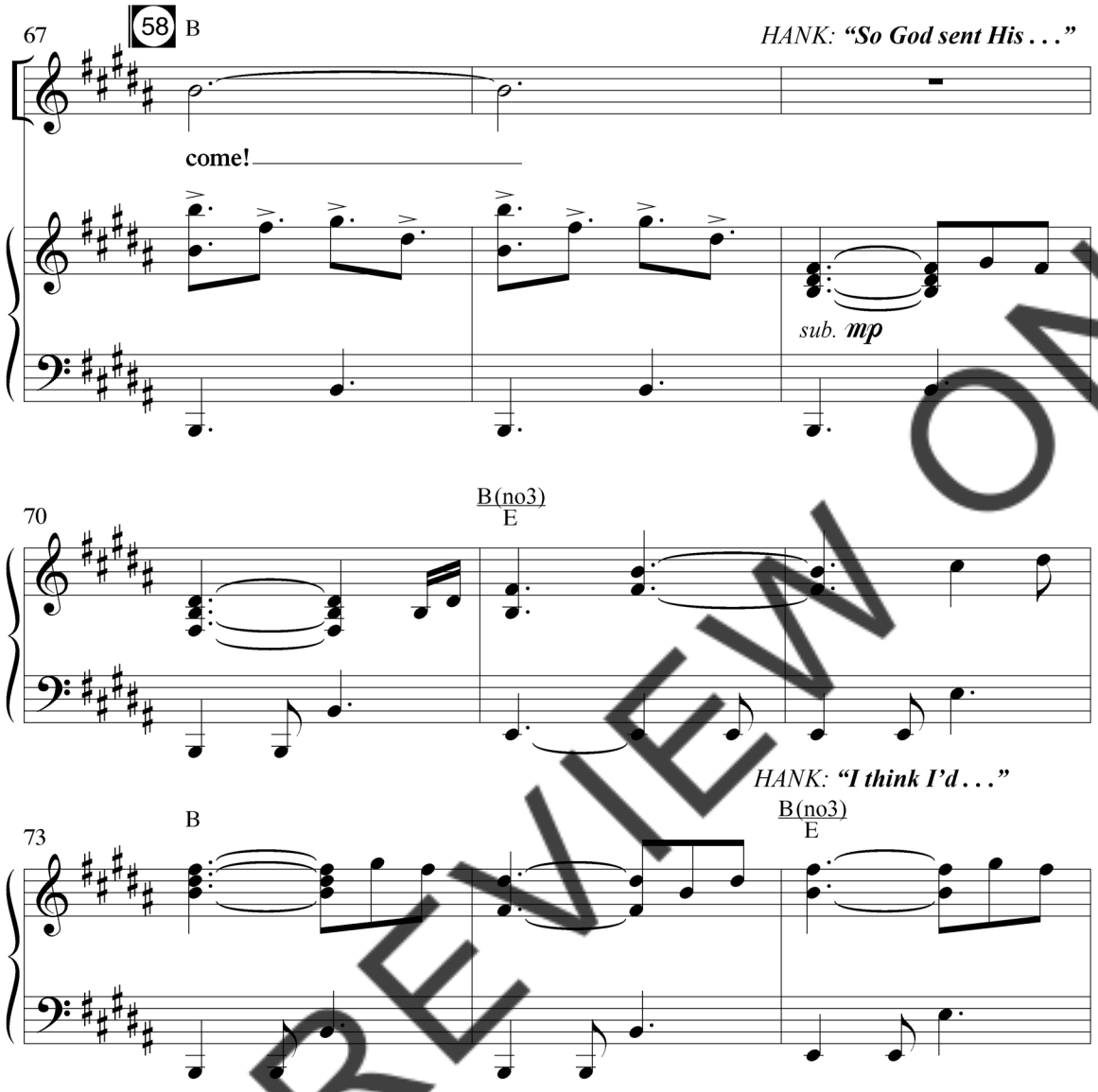
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY



HANK: *(ms. 69)* **So God sent His Son as a baby—for us?**

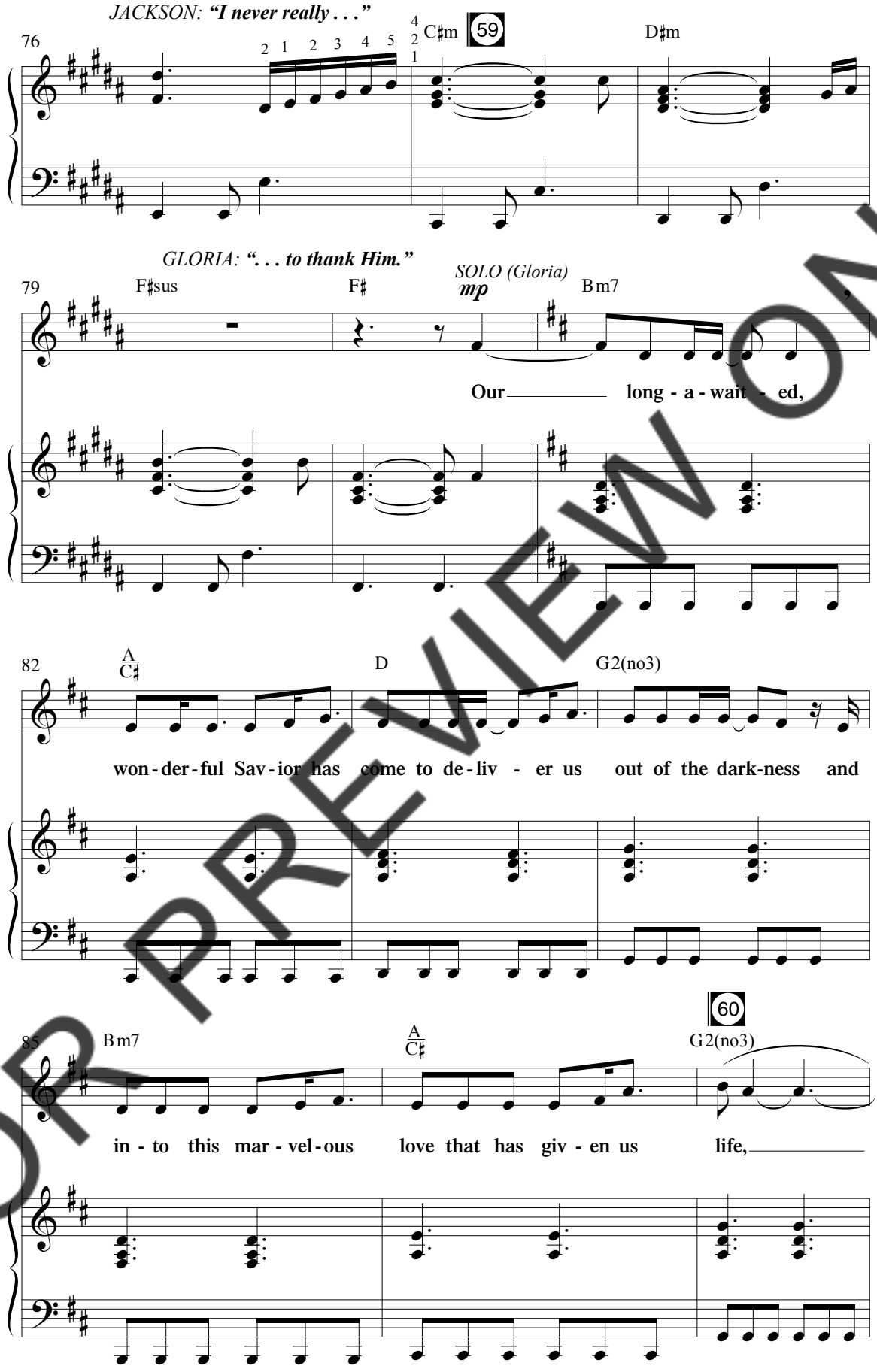
GLORIA: **God gave His Son because He loves us so much. All of us! God gave His best gift to us at Christmas!**

HANK: **I think I'd like to give Him a gift.** *(takes out his marbles and walks to the manger, kneeling beside the Wise Men)*

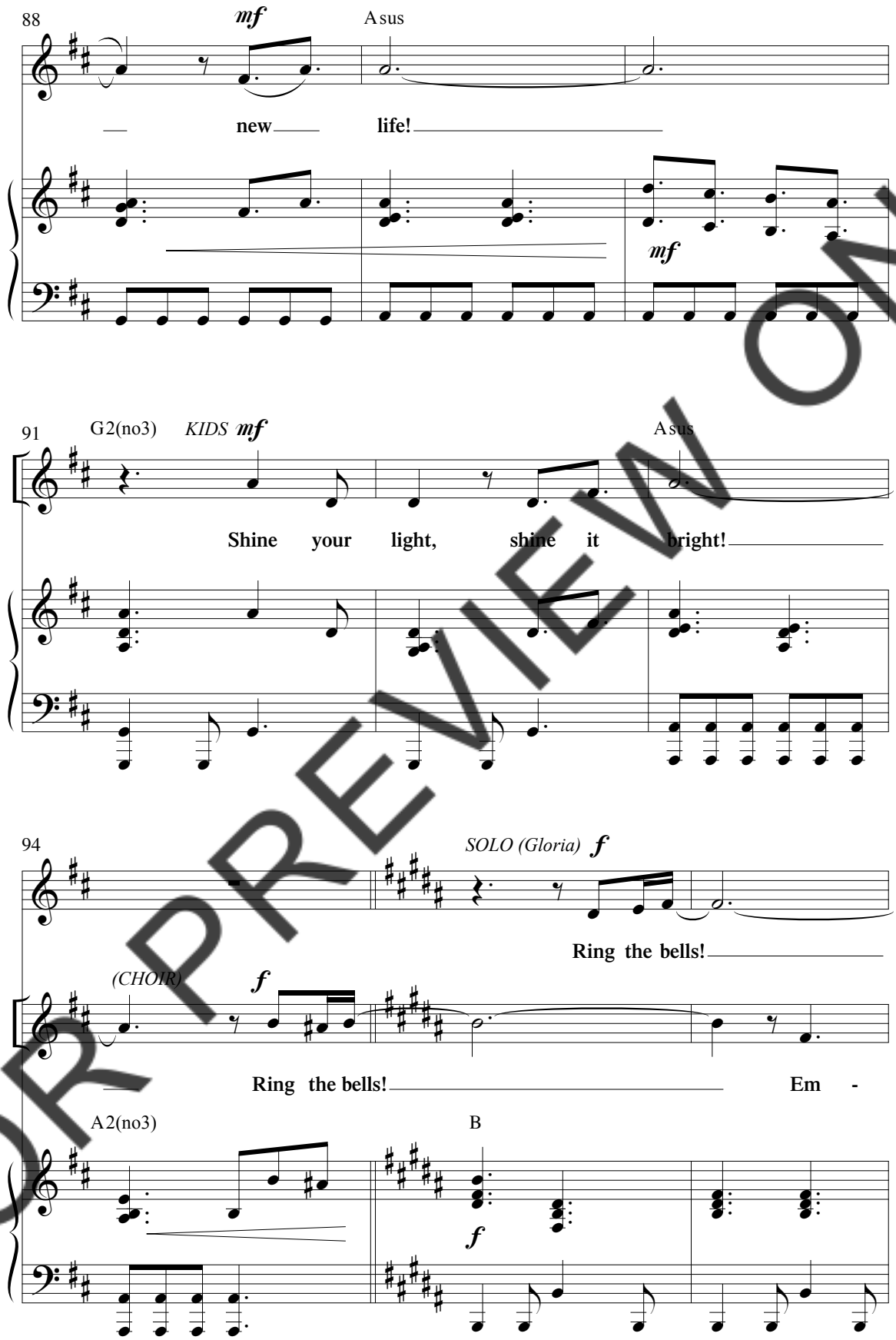
JACKSON: **I never really stopped to think about what a sacrifice God made. I've been really ungrateful, I think.**

GLORIA: **It's never too late to thank Him.** *(Jackson slowly walks to the manger, kneeling beside Hank and the Wise Men.)*

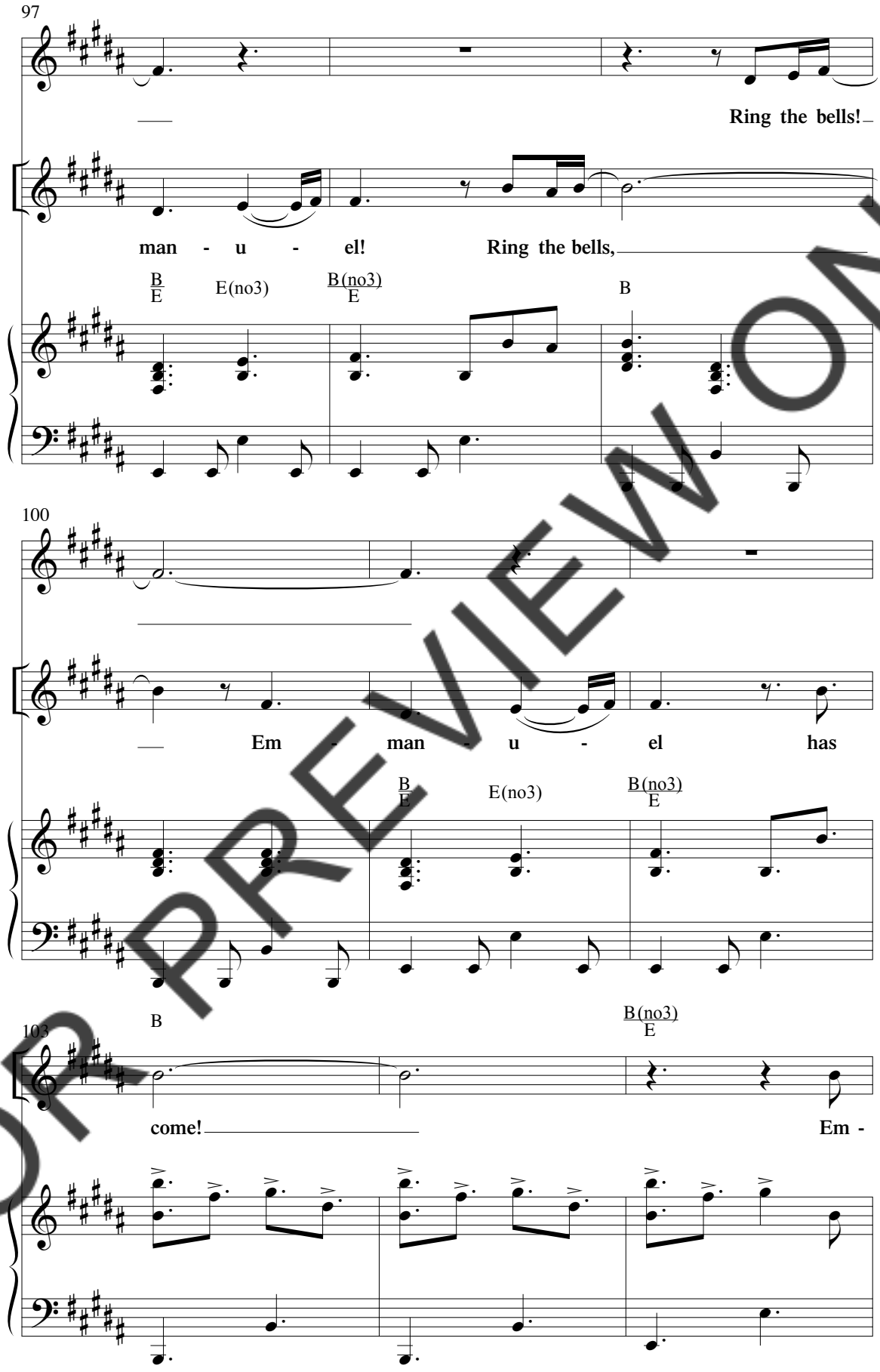
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



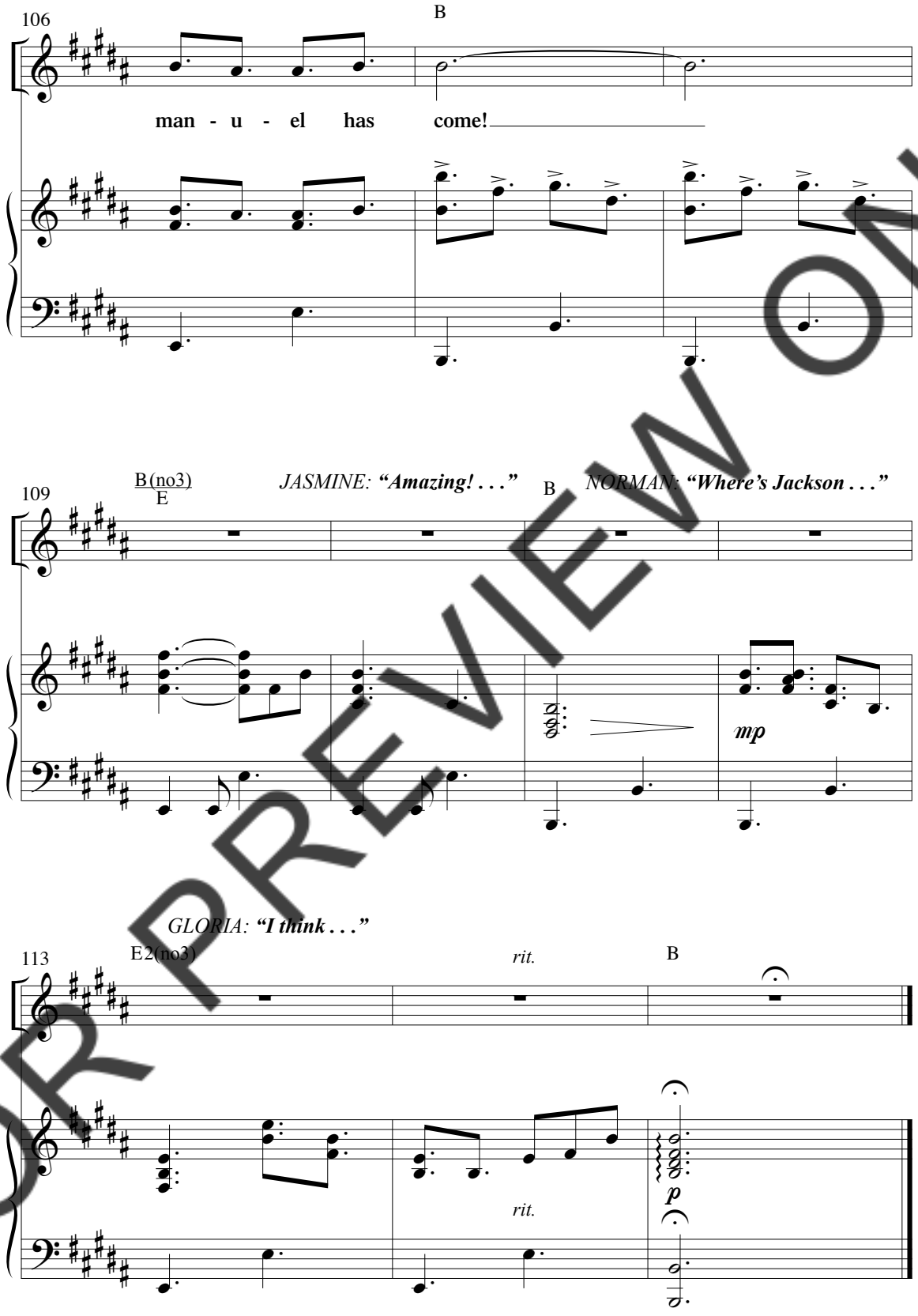
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY

(Choir continues to kneel throughout the remainder of the scene.)

JASMINE: *(ms. 110)* **Amazing!**

NORMAN: **Where's Jackson? And his little friend?**

GLORIA: *(pointing toward them as they continue to bow by the manger)* **I think they just realized what Christmas is about.** *(music ends)*

NORMAN: *(Jackson and Hank return to the Group)* **Let's get this little guy home to 1944!** *(Time Machine SFX 8* 61 *begins)* **When the machine reset to 0, the lever must have unlocked. I can program the machine to go where we want now!** *(Machine works, taking them back to 1944. Spot dimly up on side of stage, illuminating Hank's house.)*

HANK: *(sleepily)* **There's my house!**

NORMAN: **It finally worked! Here we are on Christmas Eve, 1944!**

ALL: *(excited cheers)*

JACKSON: **Hey, Hank. I think you and your family might need this more than me. Consider this a Christmas present.** *(Waves his allowance envelope, and, with a flourish, hands it to Hank.)*

HANK: **Wow, thanks! I won't forget this. Cross my heart, or my name's not Hank Olson.** *(he exits)*

ALL: **Olson?**

NORMAN: *(realizes and gasps)* **Hank is a nickname for Henry! I think little Hank was Mr. Olson as a kid!** *(kids react)*

JACKSON: **Wow! I didn't know Mr. Olson was from one of the needy families the outreach helped.** *(Time Machine SFX 9* 62 *begins)*

GLORIA: **I don't think any of us will ever be the same.** *(ad lib., "Me, neither", "Yeah.") (As the time machine winds down, lights blackout.)*

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

Scene 9

(Lights fade up to reveal Midway Community Church. The banner reads, "66th Annual Caroling Outreach. December 24, 2010. Happy Retirement, Pastor!)

GRANDMA: **There you are, Jackson! We're just about ready to go.**

JACKSON: *(running up and hugging her)* **Grandma, it's so great to see you!**

GRANDMA: **Jackson, what has gotten into you?**

JACKSON: **Holy guacamole, Grandma! Let's just say . . . I feel like I finally understand how special this outreach is. I mean, God gave us His own Son! How can we not share His love at Christmas?**

GRANDMA: *(hugging him)* **Well, that's wonderful! Pastor Olson wants to talk to everyone before we go out.**

JASMINE: **Wait! Pastor who?**

GRANDMA: **Pastor Olson, of course! This *is* his retirement celebration—45 years as the Pastor of Midway Community Church.** *(music begins to "Back to the Manger Reprise")*

NORMAN: **Henry Olson?! Pastor for 45 years!?**

JASMINE: **Retirement celebration?!**

JACKSON: **You were right, Grandma—the past really does matter.**

PASTOR OLSON: **Thank you all for this display of love at this outreach that has always been so dear to my heart. As you know, I was one of the recipients of the blessings of this outreach when I was just a little boy, and it changed my life. You know, some people think that money can buy happiness. But true joy comes from serving others, and remembering God's gift to us in a little Baby Boy. Once you go back to the manger and recognize God's greatest gift, you are never the same!**

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

Back to the Manger Reprise

Words and Music by
CHRISTY SEMSEN
Arranged by Daniel Semsen

Gently, flowing ♩ = 133

63

GRANDMA: ***". . . Pastor of . . ."***

NORMAN: ***"Henry . . ."***

E♭m C♭

(underscore)

mp

JASMINE: ***"Retirement . . ."***

3

G♭ D♭ E♭m

JACKSON: ***"You . . ."***

6

C♭ G♭ D♭

PASTOR OLSON: ***"Thank you . . ."***

9

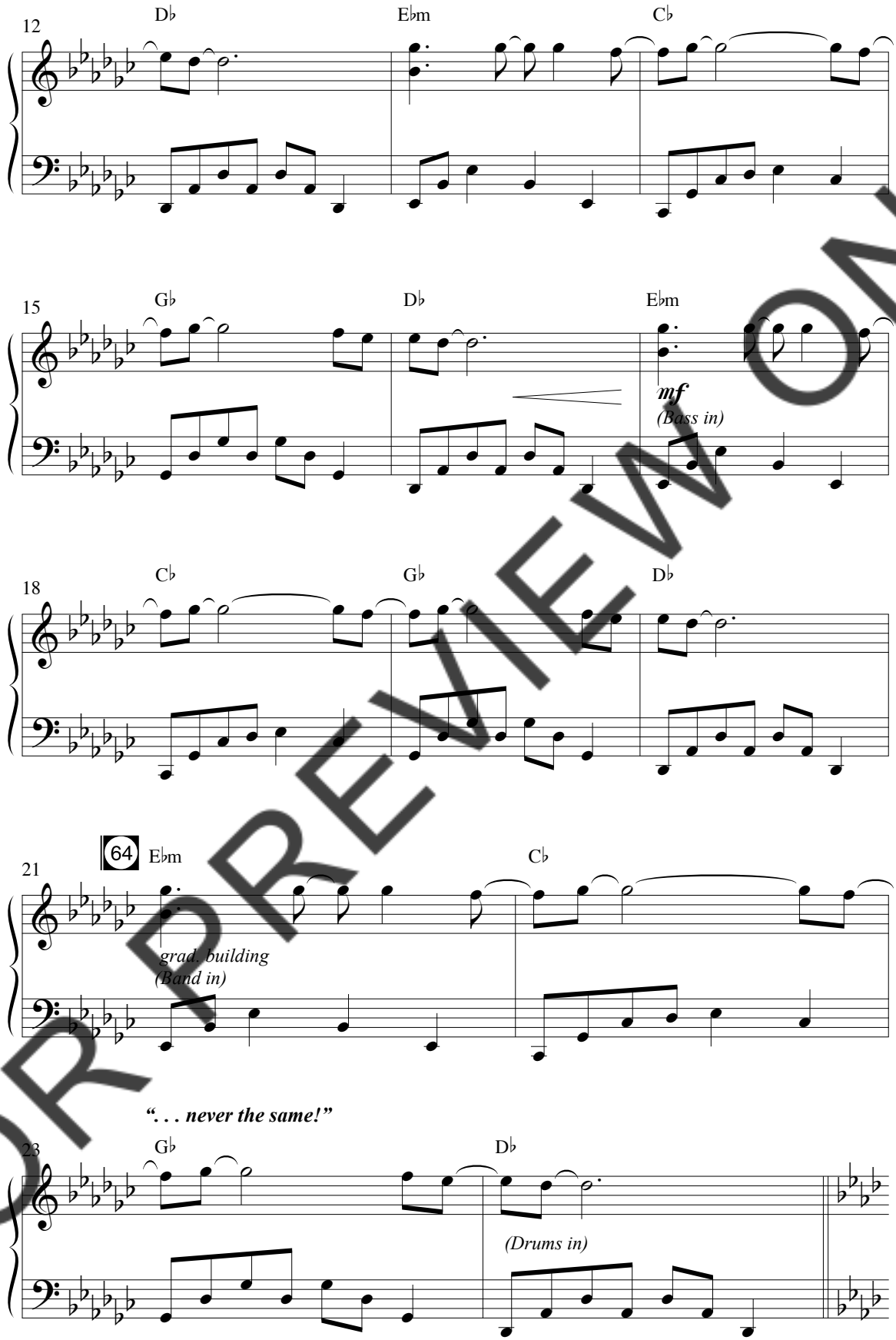
E♭m C♭ G♭

mf

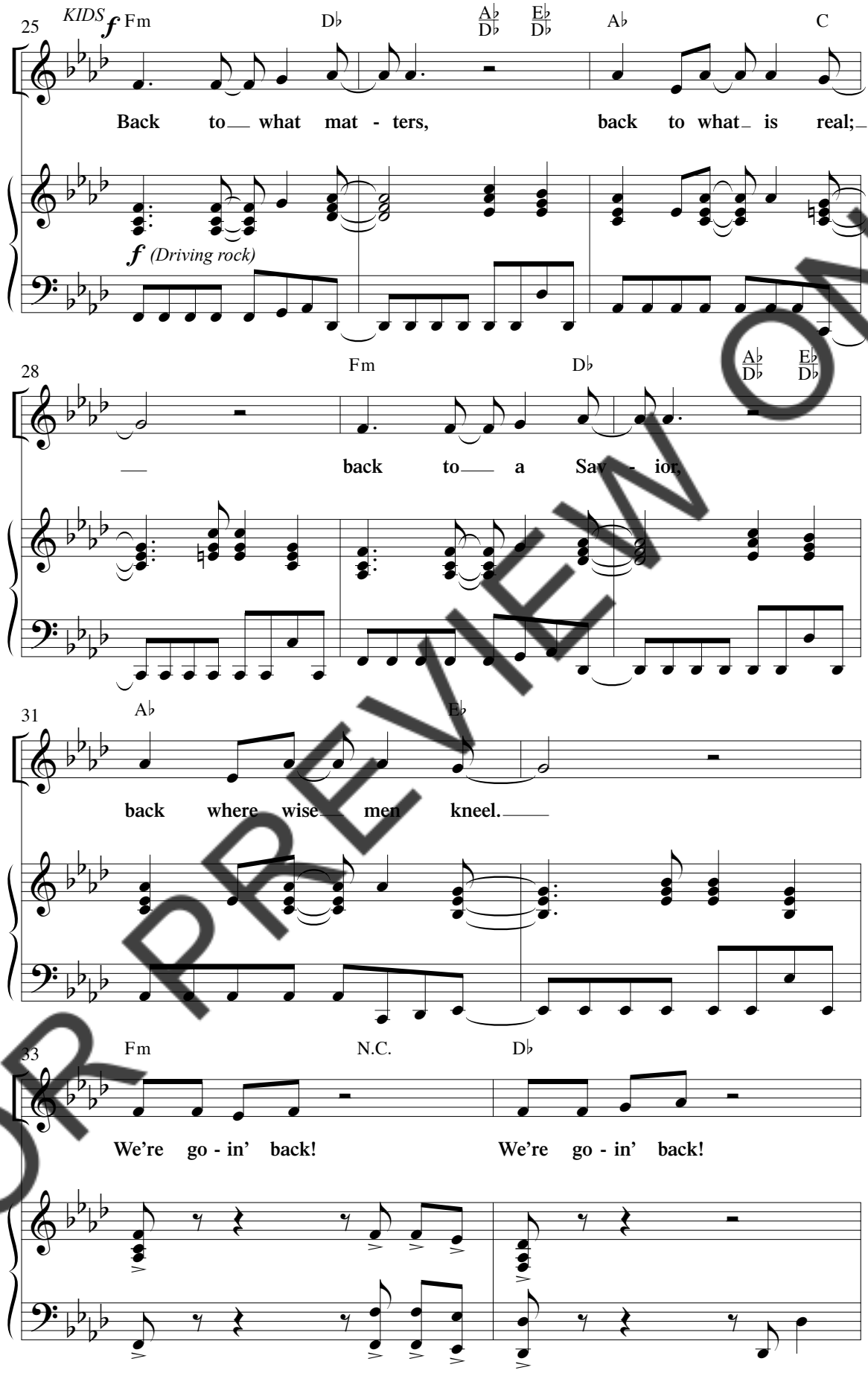
FOR PREVIEW ONLY

© 2010 Word Music, LLC (ASCAP)
All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

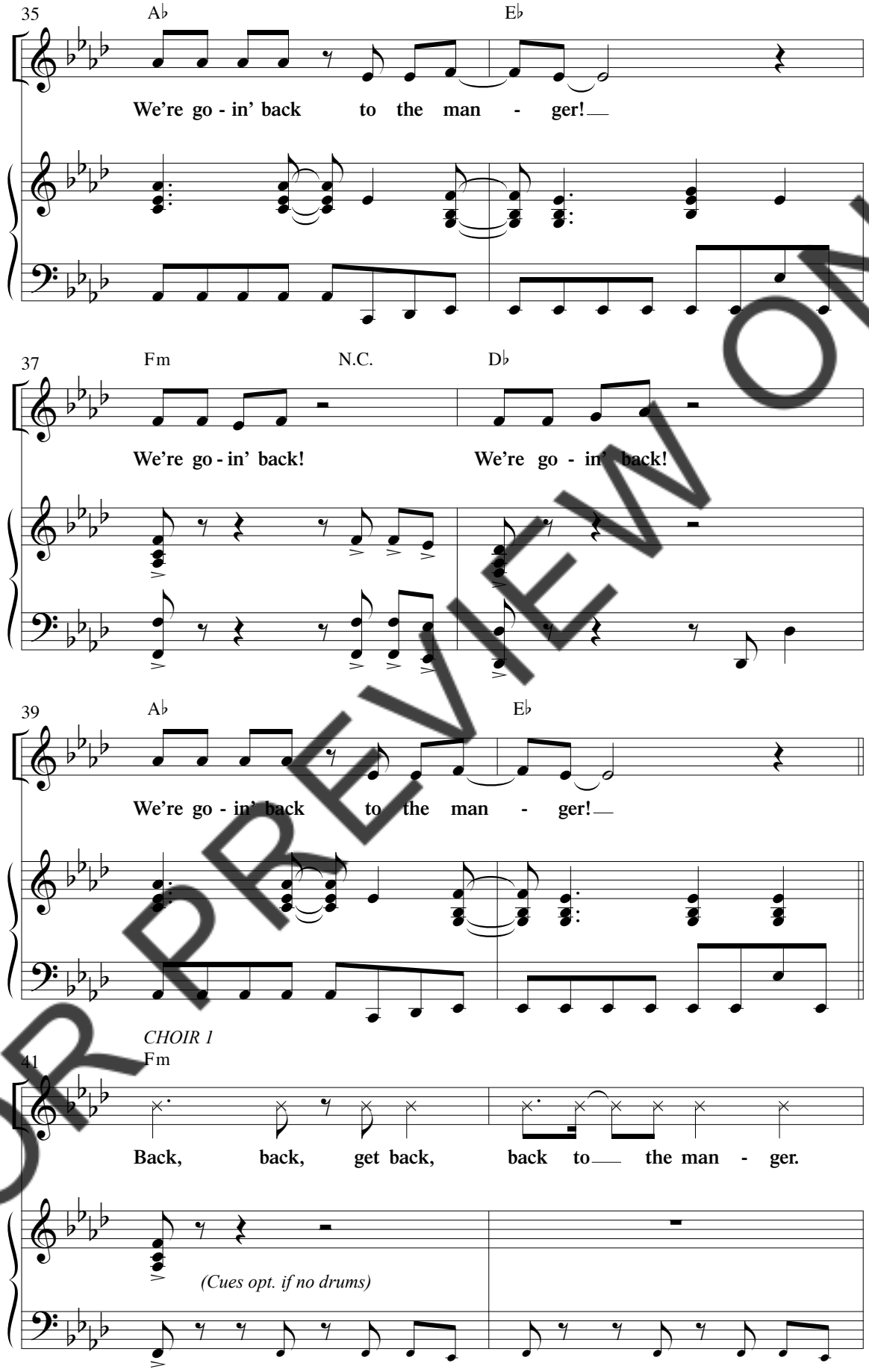
EVEN IF YOU POSSESS A **CCLI** LICENSE, YOU MAY NOT COPY ANY MUSIC FROM THIS BOOK.
If you have questions about CCLI, please call 800/234-2446.



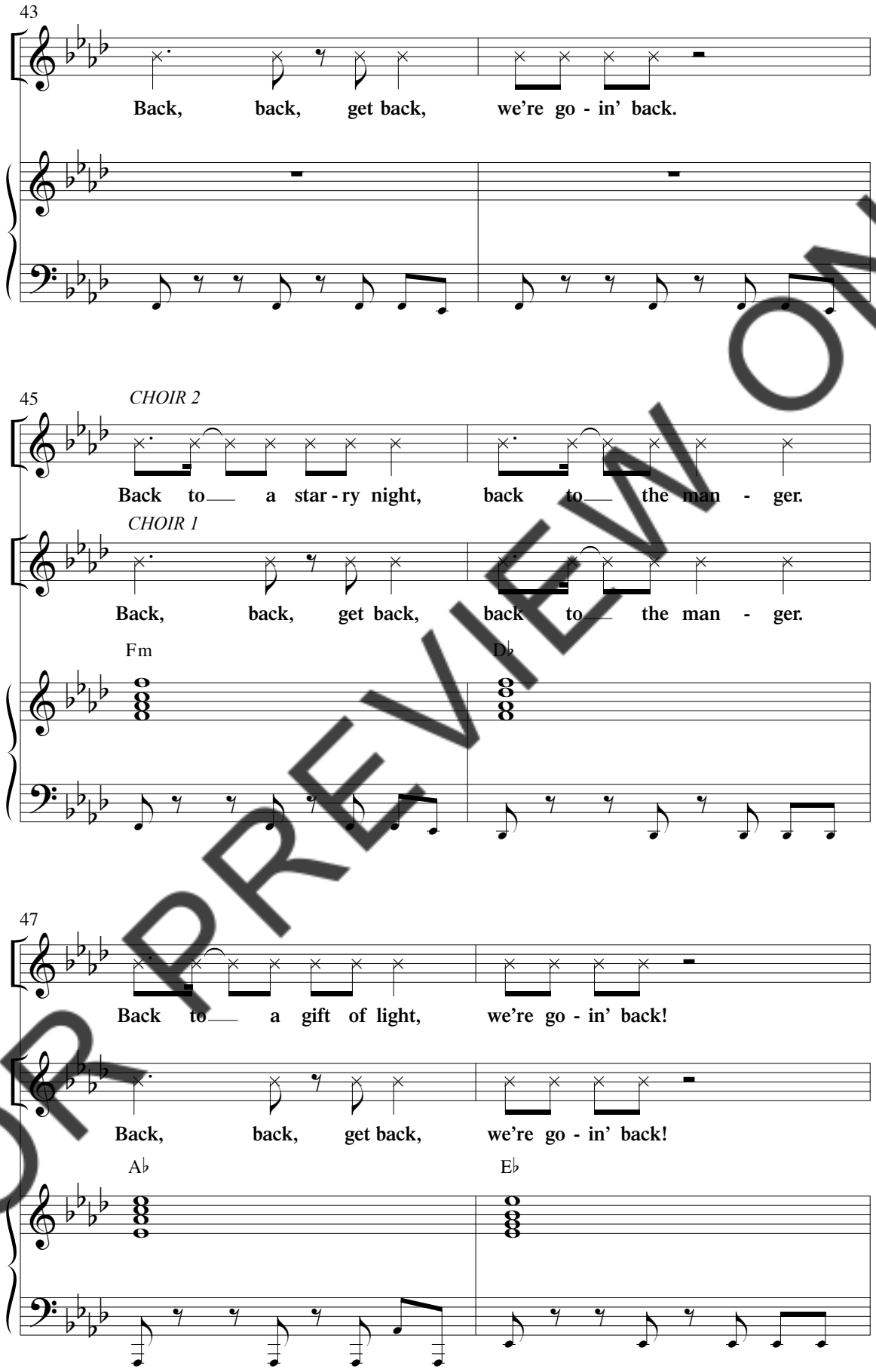
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



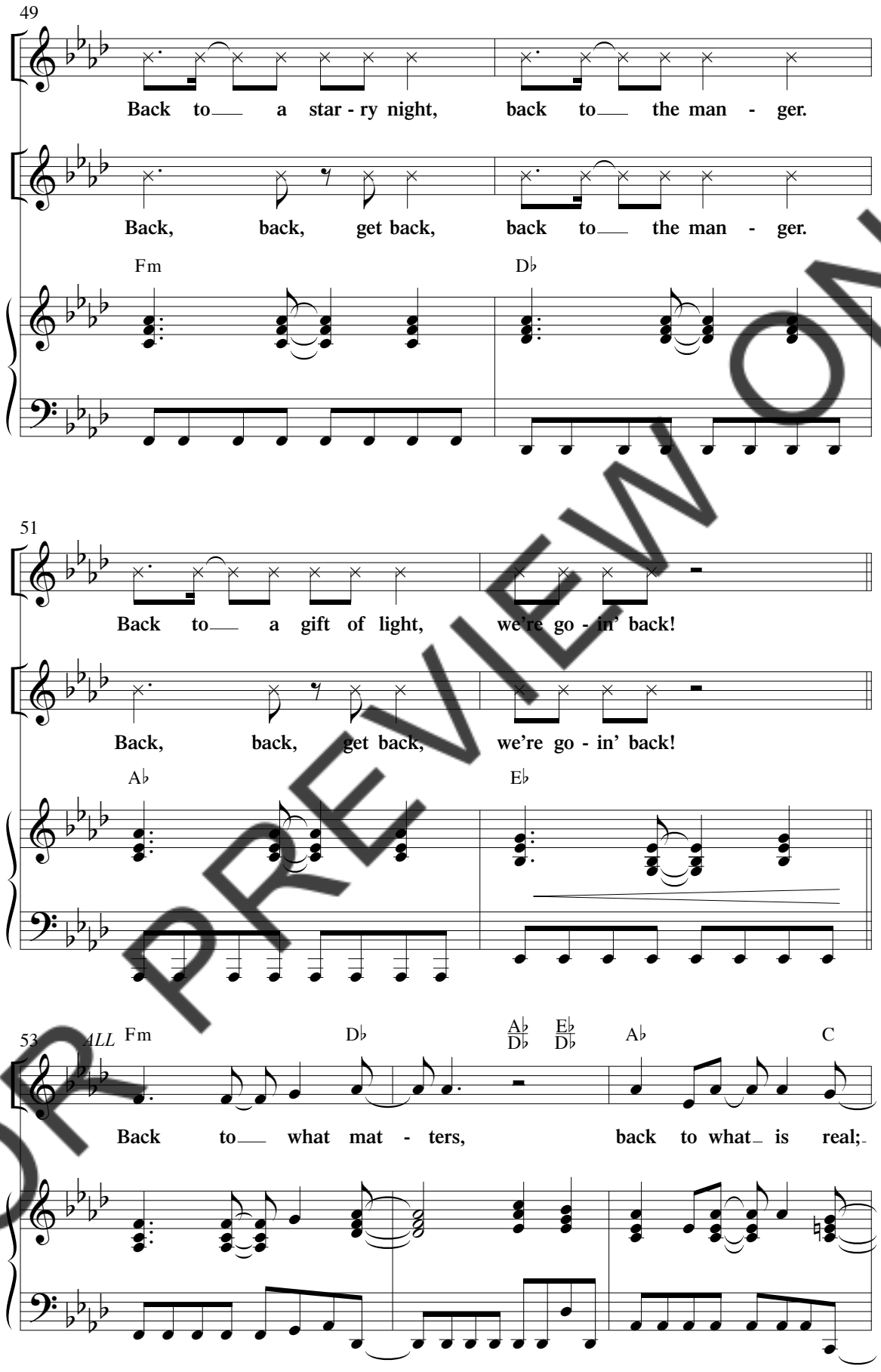
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



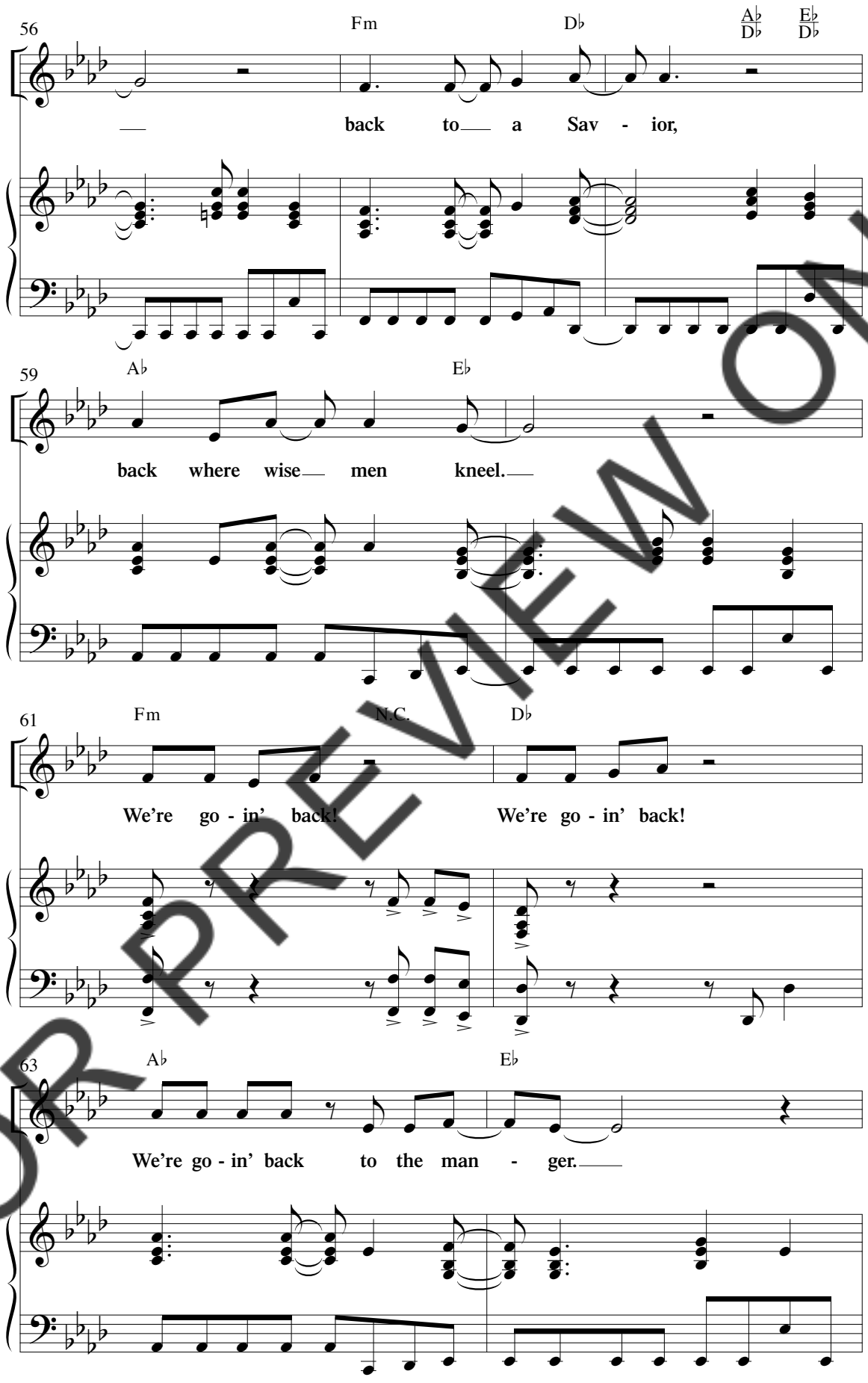
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



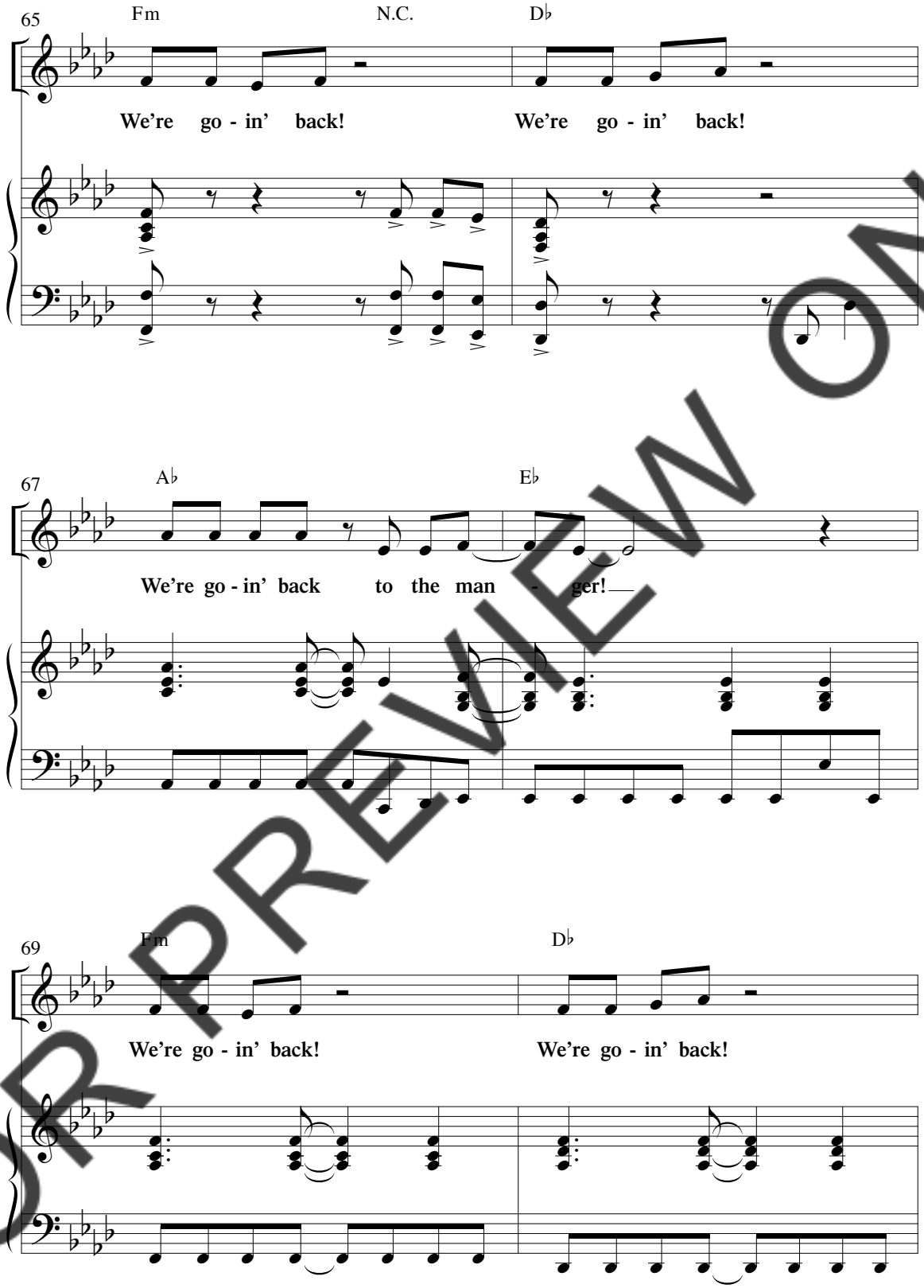
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



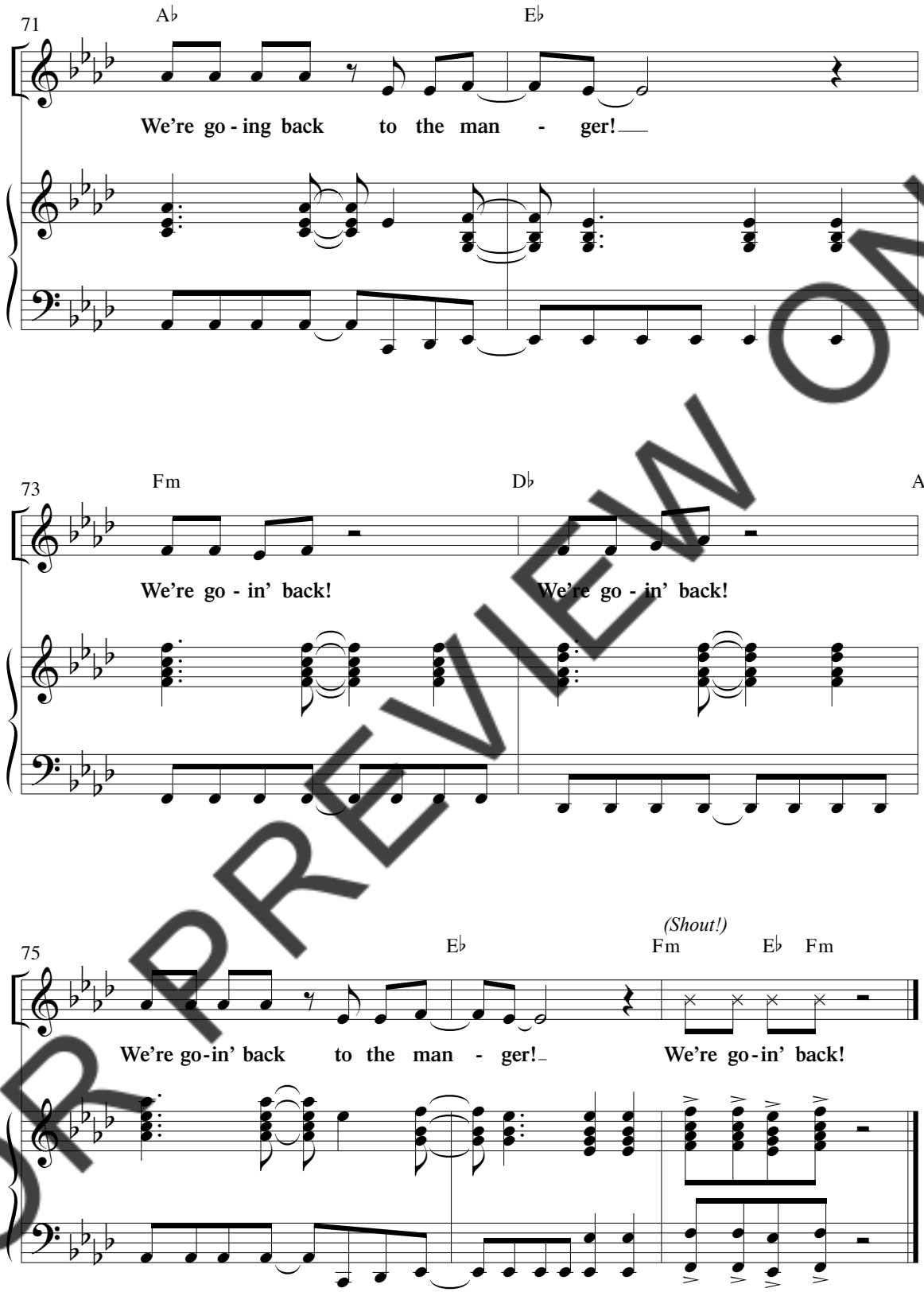
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY



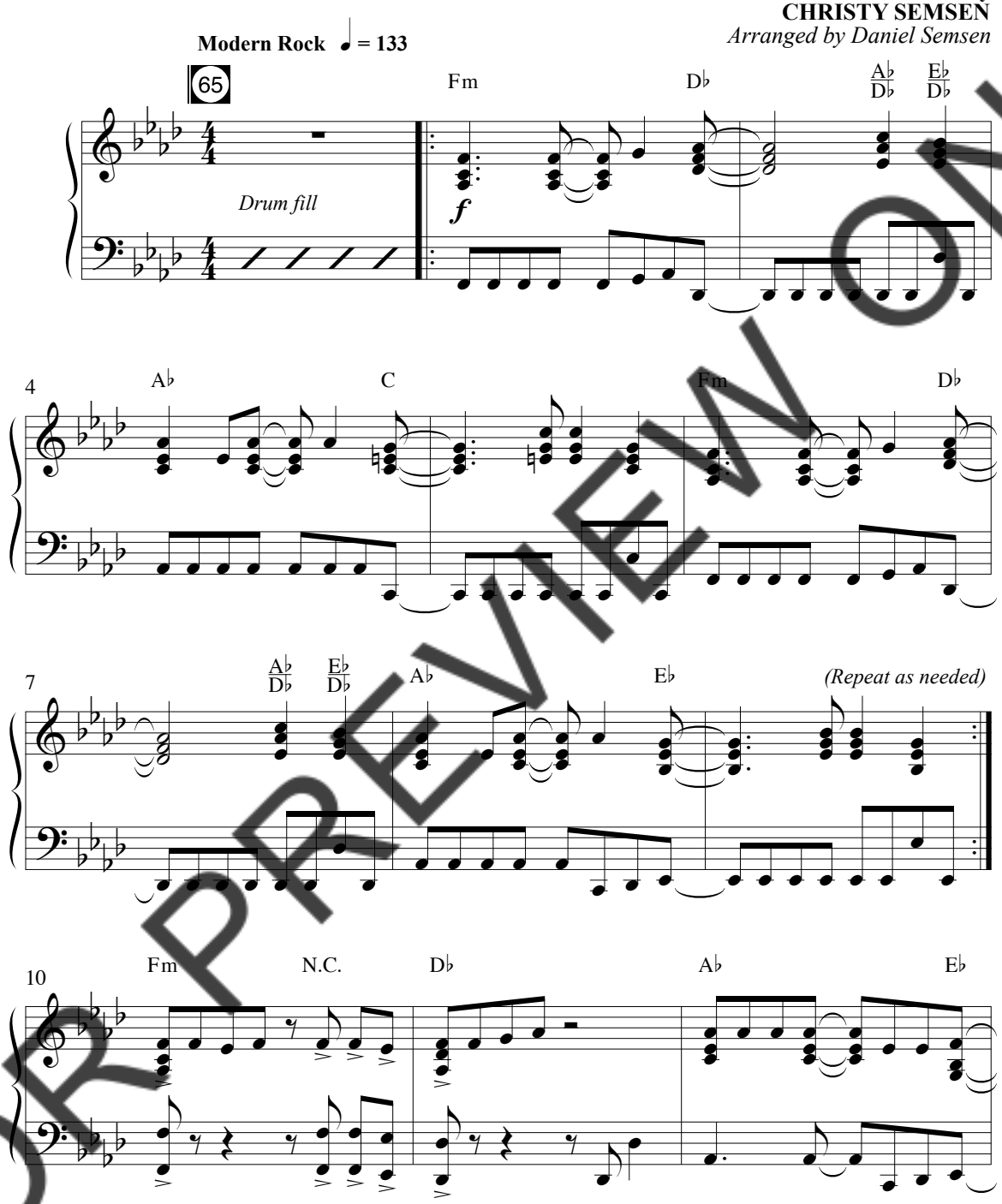
FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY

Back to the Manger
(Curtain Calls)

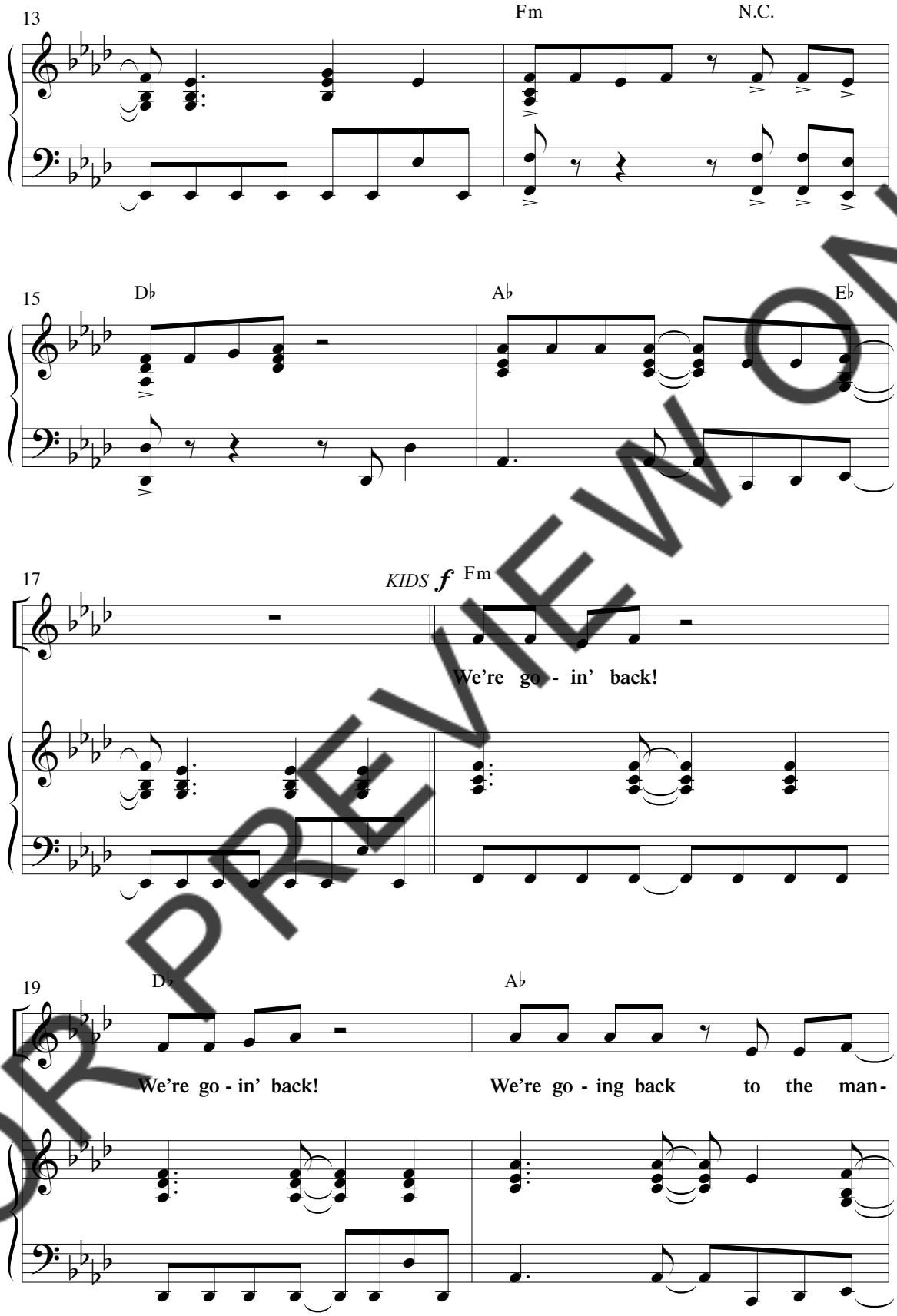
Words and Music by
CHRISTY SEMSEN
Arranged by Daniel Semsen



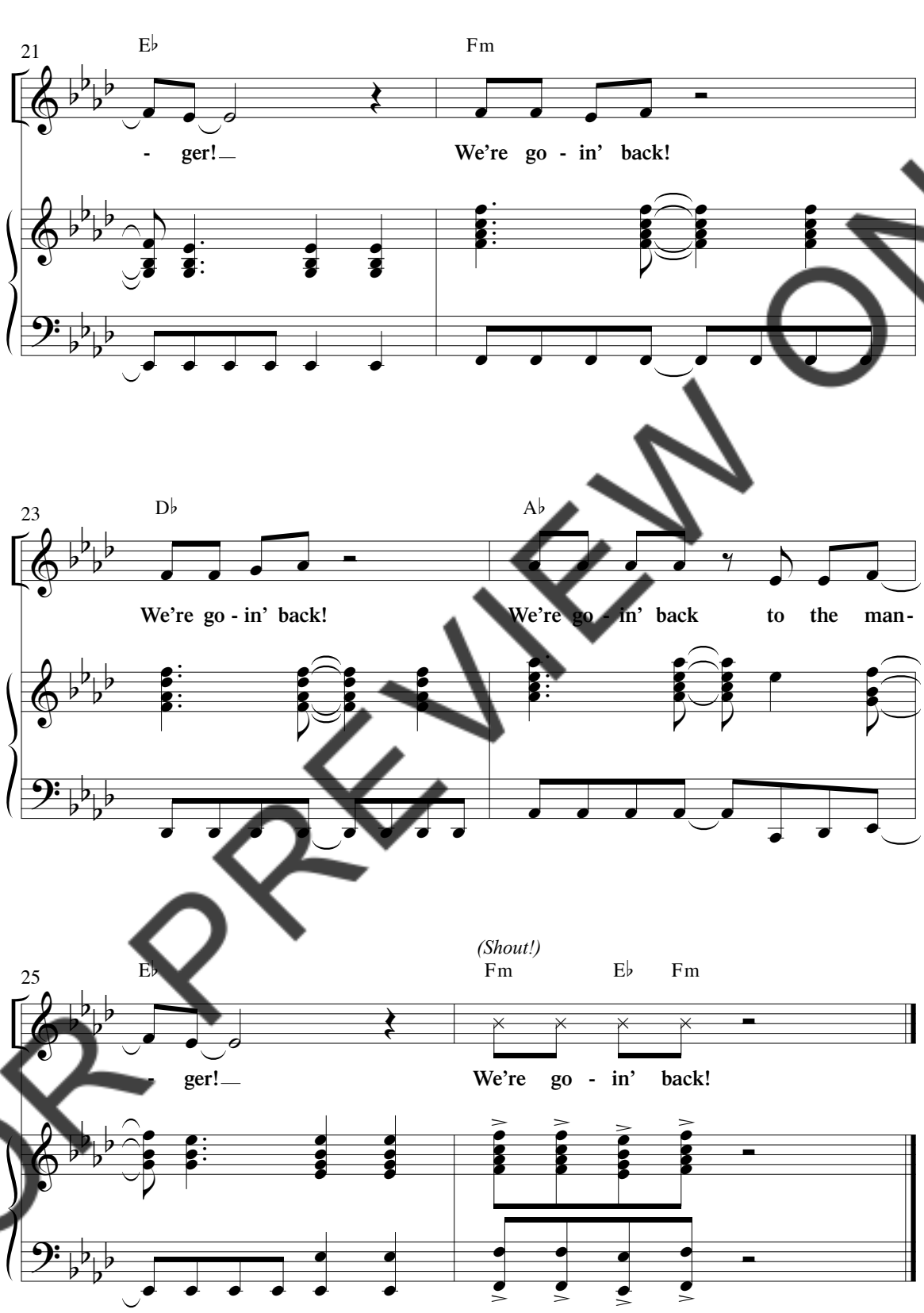
FOR PREVIEW ONLY

© 2010 Word Music, LLC (ASCAP)
All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

EVEN IF YOU POSSESS A **CCLI** LICENSE, YOU MAY NOT COPY ANY MUSIC FROM THIS BOOK.
If you have questions about CCLI, please call 800/234-2446.



FOR PREVIEW ONLY



FOR PREVIEW ONLY

PRODUCTION NOTES

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Grandma Betty:	Adult, 61 years old. Born in 1949.
Henry Olson:	Adult Janitor, 72 years old. Creator of the time machine Absentminded and kooky; initially hopes to become rich.
Jackson:	Grandson of Grandma Betty. Unenthusiastic, wears headphones and raps.
Norman:	Geeky, smart sidekick of Mr. Olson's.
Jasmine:	Friend of Norman, fashionista; sings.
Gloria:	Young friend of Norman and Jasmine; sings.
Outreach Coordinator 1:	Older kid in "first present" (80s) who announces the Caroling Outreach.
Outreach Coordinator 2:	Older kid in later decades (70s and 50s) who announces the Outreach.
Boy Band 1,2,3:	Boys to perform at Outreach (in a manner like NSync).
Young Betty:	Grandma at age 10.
Hank:	Little kid in 1940s, later discovered to be 6-year-old Henry.
40s War Worker:	Outreach Coordinator in the 1940s.
Mary	non-speaking
Joseph	non-speaking
Shepherds	non- speaking
Wise men	non-speaking
Angels	non-speaking (younger children)



SOLOS

"Can You Hear the Bells *with* Angels We Have Heard on High"	2 Solos (Gloria/Jasmine)
"Let Us Love"	1 Solo
"Come Let Us All Adore Him *with* O Come All Ye Faithful	2 Solos
"Ring, Ring a Ling"	4 Solos, Doo Wop Girls, Greaser Boys
"Song of the Sheep and the Goats"	3 Boy Band Solos
"Peace on Earth *with* I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"	3 Solos
"Ring the Bells"	2 Solos, Gloria solo

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

COSTUMES

For the larger choir:

The director can choose to make the costumes as minimal or involved as desired. If you have a large choir, you can choose to enhance the setting by using "Decade Kids." These are kids from the choir that will help set the scene once the time machine arrives by wearing a period costume. They can enter and sing the song while serving as a "set piece." You may also wish to put an adult or prominent person from the church in a funny costume as a set enhancer (ex. pastor in disco clothes etc.) The larger choir can also add simple choir accessories that can be stored in each child's pockets until the appropriate time.

DECADE KIDS:

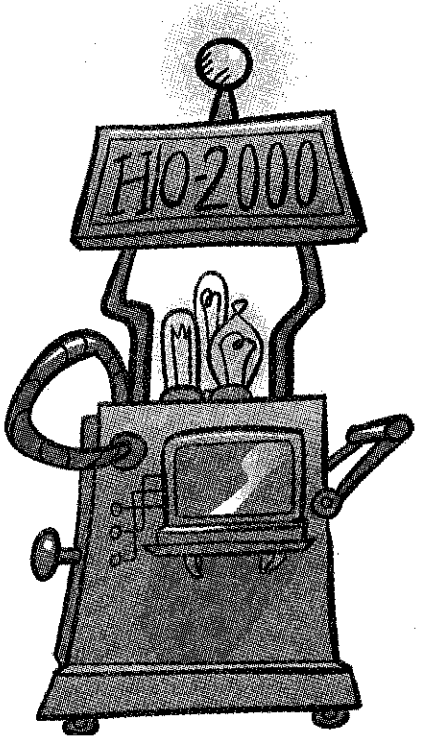
70s: 2-4 kids in 70s garb
80s: 2-4 kids in 80s hair and clothes
40s: 2-4 kids in 40s clothes (can double as the soloists in "Peace on Earth"

CHOIR ACCESSORIES

1970s: 70s colorful bead necklaces (can be worn under regular shirt and taken out for 70s)
1980s: Fluorescent sweat and head bands, "scrunchies" in girls hair
1950s: Boys in 3D plastic glasses (or other 50s type of sunglasses), girls in cat eye sunglasses and/or scarfs around neck
1990s: Boy band signs and groupie clothing; 90s era sunglasses and hats
1940s: White gloves, black brimmed hats

For the smaller choir:

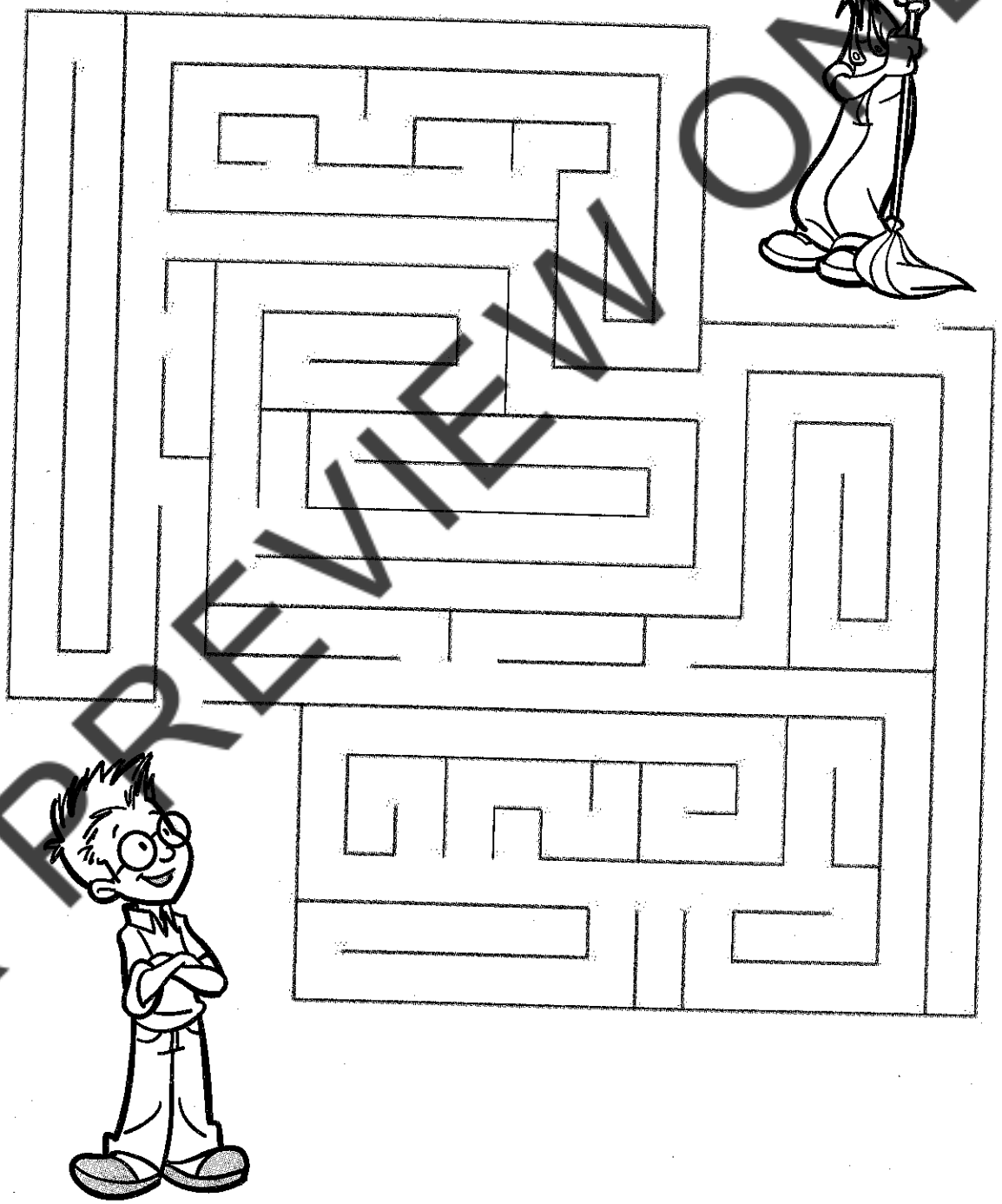
If you have a small choir, you can choose to eliminate all elaborate costumes and the "Decade Kids" and simply add an accessory to the Choir members when the time machine travels to each time period. I would suggest either putting a small box behind each choir member with these items or simply have the kids put things in their pockets to be taken out for each time period.



FOR PREVIEW ONLY

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

maze



FOR PREVIEW ONLY

word search

Back to the Manger activity pages

FIND THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

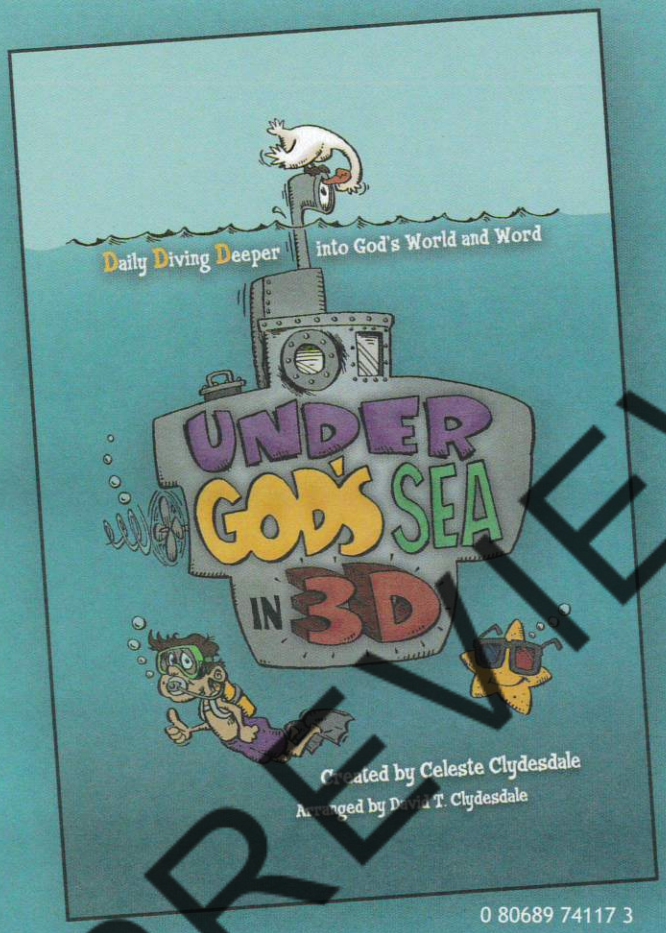
ANGEL
BIRTH
GOAT
GOOD
KING
MANGER
NEWS
SAVIOR
SHEEP
STABLE

R	L	X	C	S	Q	X	R	Q	C	D	K	J	D	L	H	J	M	P	T
O	E	M	C	U	I	Z	O	Z	C	S	H	D	X	U	X	W	E	V	M
N	C	G	L	T	R	O	U	I	P	U	A	C	X	E	F	U	M	V	J
H	K	D	N	O	P	G	L	G	V	G	Y	U	M	W	S	T	T	N	L
V	B	D	I	A	N	G	E	L	A	T	O	G	J	N	Y	B	T	A	S
F	K	V	B	A	M	D	W	U	W	T	T	X	N	N	G	I	L	P	G
W	A	M	R	I	Q	Z	I	T	B	F	M	Z	M	I	W	C	T	H	D
S	N	A	J	R	R	Z	P	P	Z	Z	E	S	N	F	K	E	X	S	M
A	K	J	L	U	G	T	R	I	N	T	F	K	L	S	M	L	S	W	F
U	M	S	R	O	U	O	H	M	N	W	V	M	Q	O	S	M	X	F	E
L	D	S	O	L	M	M	M	W	G	K	G	D	D	Z	Y	E	X	K	W
Y	C	D	D	X	S	N	J	S	H	T	E	E	J	L	G	Y	H	Y	D
O	T	W	V	I	H	K	I	E	H	A	L	S	W	E	N	N	B	Z	A
D	F	Z	C	X	E	B	E	J	Z	O	B	L	K	Z	J	U	G	D	D
A	A	Q	J	I	E	E	B	Y	L	G	A	S	Y	U	U	I	I	I	J
D	M	G	N	G	P	A	K	A	E	B	T	Y	Q	V	U	X	Q	M	F
V	R	D	D	S	B	A	P	H	Z	P	S	C	J	G	M	P	Q	F	U
O	N	T	U	X	M	V	S	Y	L	C	S	U	M	R	K	P	Q	M	G
T	M	K	L	I	E	D	C	A	K	Y	L	Y	G	X	J	A	L	D	L
O	S	R	V	X	S	C	P	L	Q	Y	N	Y	T	U	O	D	Q	G	G

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

make a splash

with Clydesdale and Clydesdale...



0 80689 74117 3



Under God's Sea in 3D

Daily Diving Deeper into God's World and Word

Created by Celeste Clydesdale
Arranged by David T. Clydesdale
Script by Deborah Craig-Claar

- Dramatic script and staging direction by Deborah Craig-Claar
- Accompaniment DVD features background visuals for select titles, plus 3D animation for the song "Joyful Noise"
- Allows for flexible cast size and costuming
- Teacher Resource Kit available in digital/CD-ROM format and includes lesson plans, activities and pre-planning material
- 3D Glasses and T-Shirts available!

Order today from your favorite Christian retailer

Visit **wordmusic.com** for complete product details!

Clydesdale & Clydesdale

FOR PREVIEW ONLY

Back to the Manger

Can You Hear the Bells?
***with* Angels We Have Heard on High**

Let Us Love

Come, Let Us All Adore Him *with*
O Come, All Ye Faithful *and* Away in a Manger

Ring, Ring-a-Ling

Song of the Sheep and the Goats

Peace on Earth *with* I Hear the Bells
on Christmas Day

Ring the Bells

Back to the Manger
(Reprise)

Curtain Calls



0 80689 44117 2

WORD MUSIC®

FOR PREVIEW ONLY