Kyle Pederson

Can We Sing the Darkness to Light?

SATB divisi with
piano accompaniment

Sample

Text:

What if instead of more violence
We let our weapons fall silent?
No more revenge or retribution
No more war or persecution.

It could be beautiful.

What if instead of our judgement
We soften our hearts that have hardened?
Instead of certainty and pride
We love and sacrifice.

It could be beautiful.

Can we see the other as our brother?

Can we sing the darkness to light?
Sounding chords of compassion and grace
Set the swords of judgement aside
Let mercy's eyes
See the other human face.

Kyle Pederson, 2016

Program Note:

The text of this piece invites the listener to imagine a world without weapons or war--where the human experience is defined not through continued judgement of others, but through the lens of mercy and compassion. It could be beautiful.

Performance Notes:
If performed with a smaller choir, the director may be interested in taking advantage of the following simplifications:

1. Measures 49-52: Keep only the tenor line, and have altos join in singing that line. Eliminate bass and soprano lines for those four measures.
2. Measures 53-56: Eliminate the baritone line and have all baritones and basses sing the Bass 2 line up an octave. (Of course, uber low basses are welcome to double that part an octave lower as written.)
3. Measures 72-73: Altos join the tenors.

Sample

Can We Sing the Darkness to Light?

SATB divisi,
piano accompaniment

Text and Music by Kyle Pederson

Sample

©Kyle Pederson 2016

With inner intensity
♩ = 70-75

A

S: What if in-stead of more vio-lence, we let our weap-ons fall si-lent?

A: What if in-stead of more vio-lence, Hmm

T: Hmm

B: Hmm

16

Pno.

Pedal harmonically throughout

20

S: No more re-venge or re-tri-bu-tion; no more war or per-se-

A: No more re-venge or re-tri-bu-tion; hmm

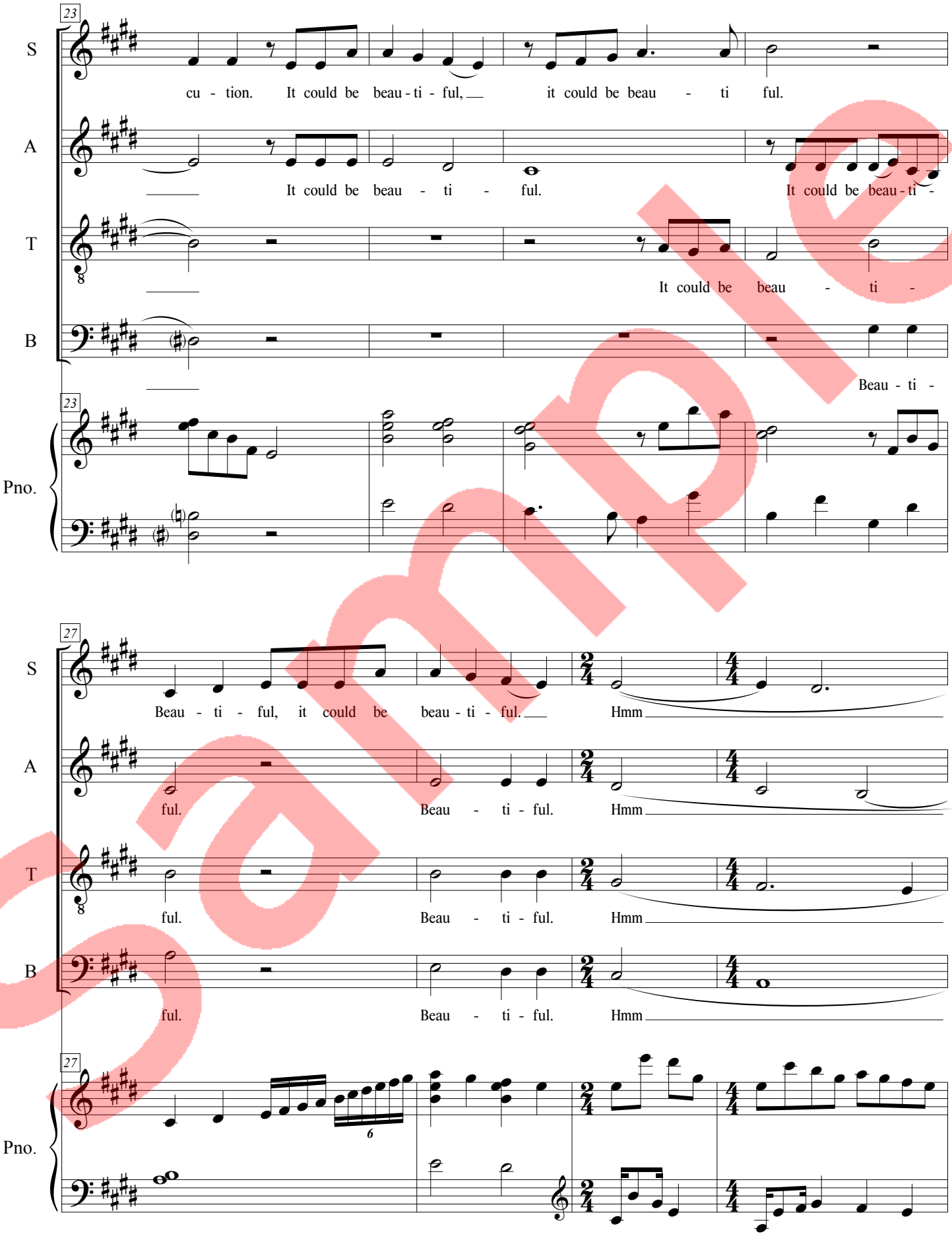
T: Hmm Hmm

B: Hmm

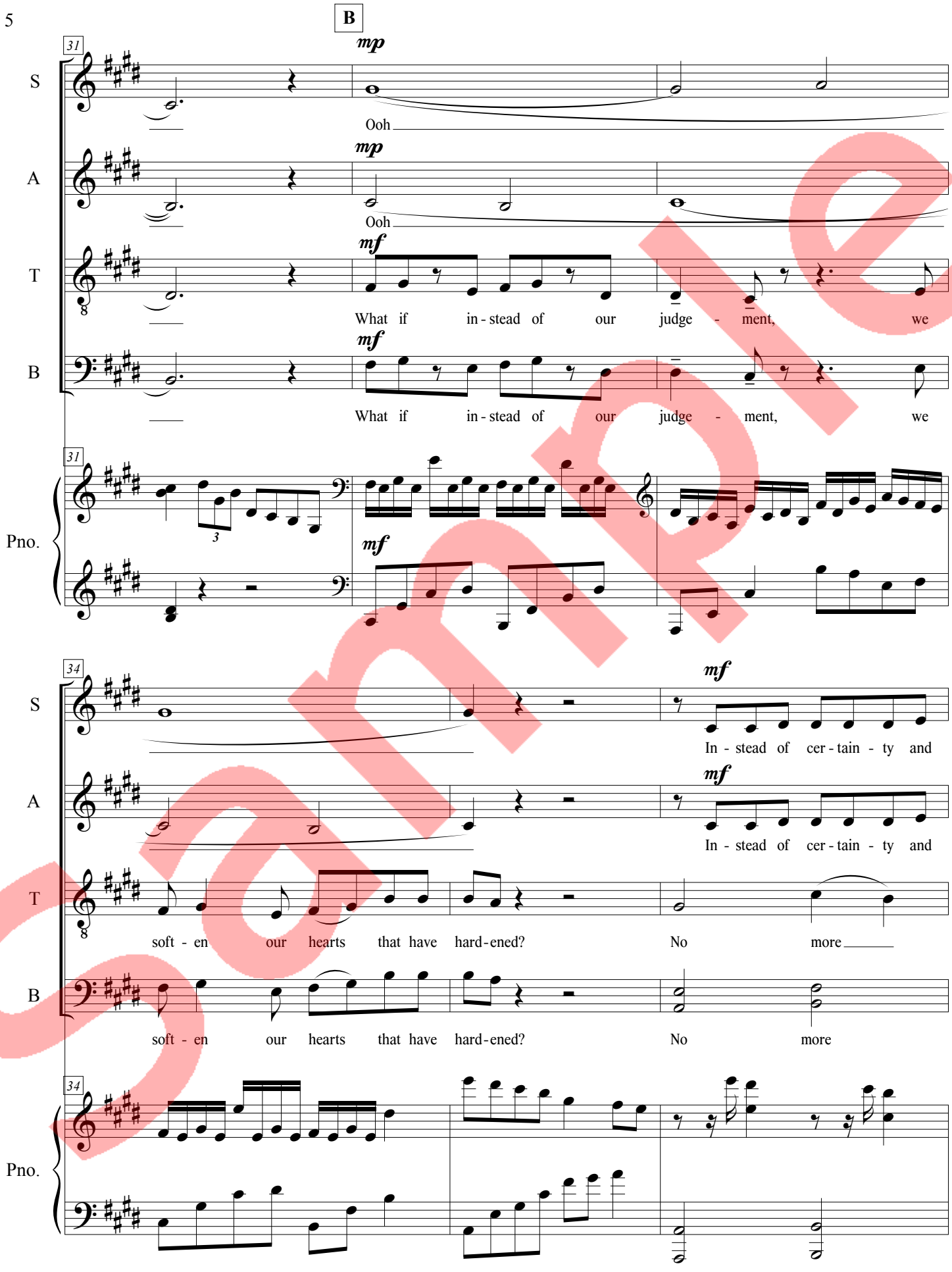
20

Pno.

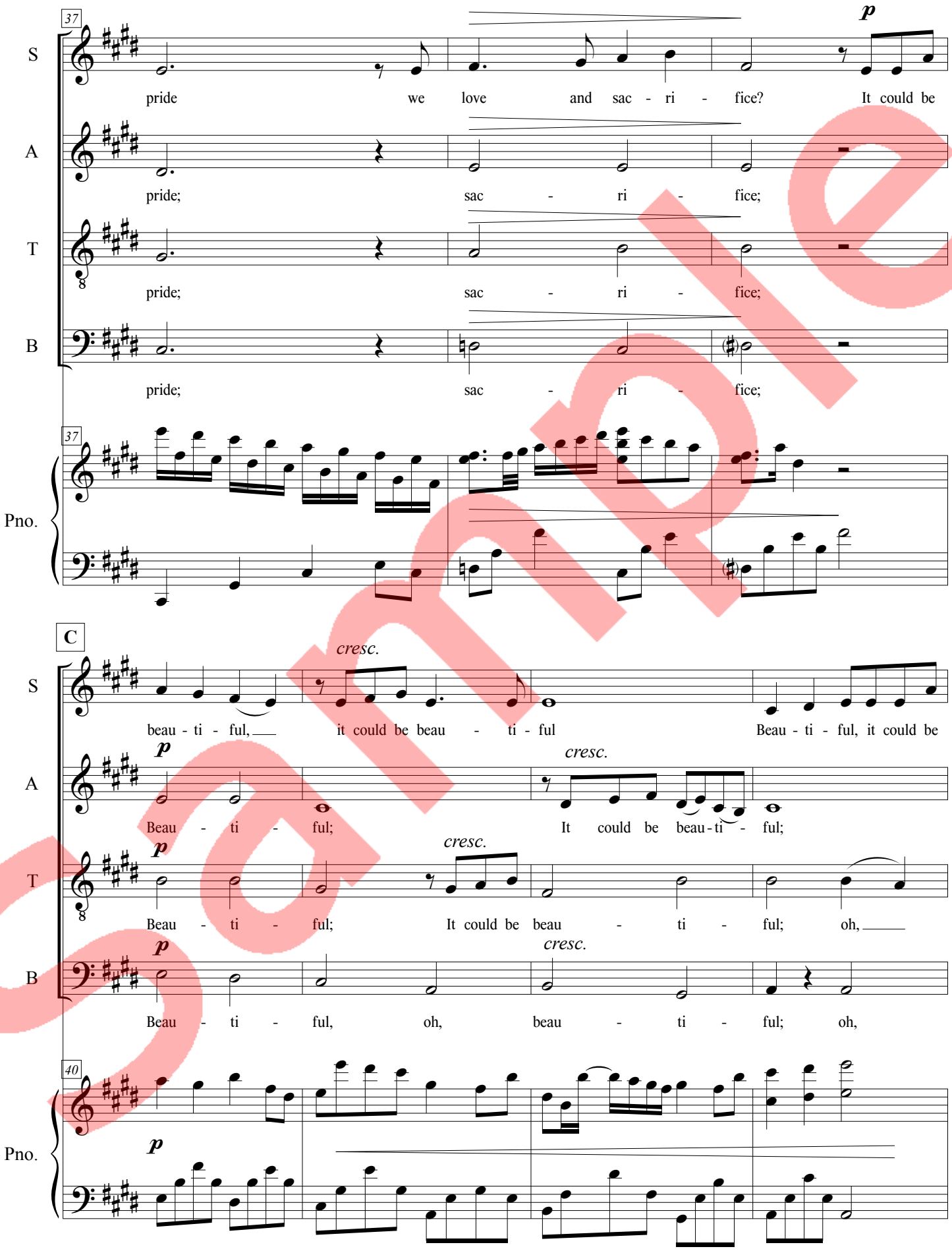
Sample


23
S
cu - tion. It could be beau - ti - ful, it could be beau - ti ful.
A
It could be beau - ti - ful. It could be beau - ti -
T
It could be beau - ti -
B
Beau - ti -
Pno.
27
S
Beau - ti - ful, it could be beau - ti - ful. Hmm
A
ful. Beau - ti - ful. Hmm
T
ful. Beau - ti - ful. Hmm
B
ful. Beau - ti - ful. Hmm
Pno.

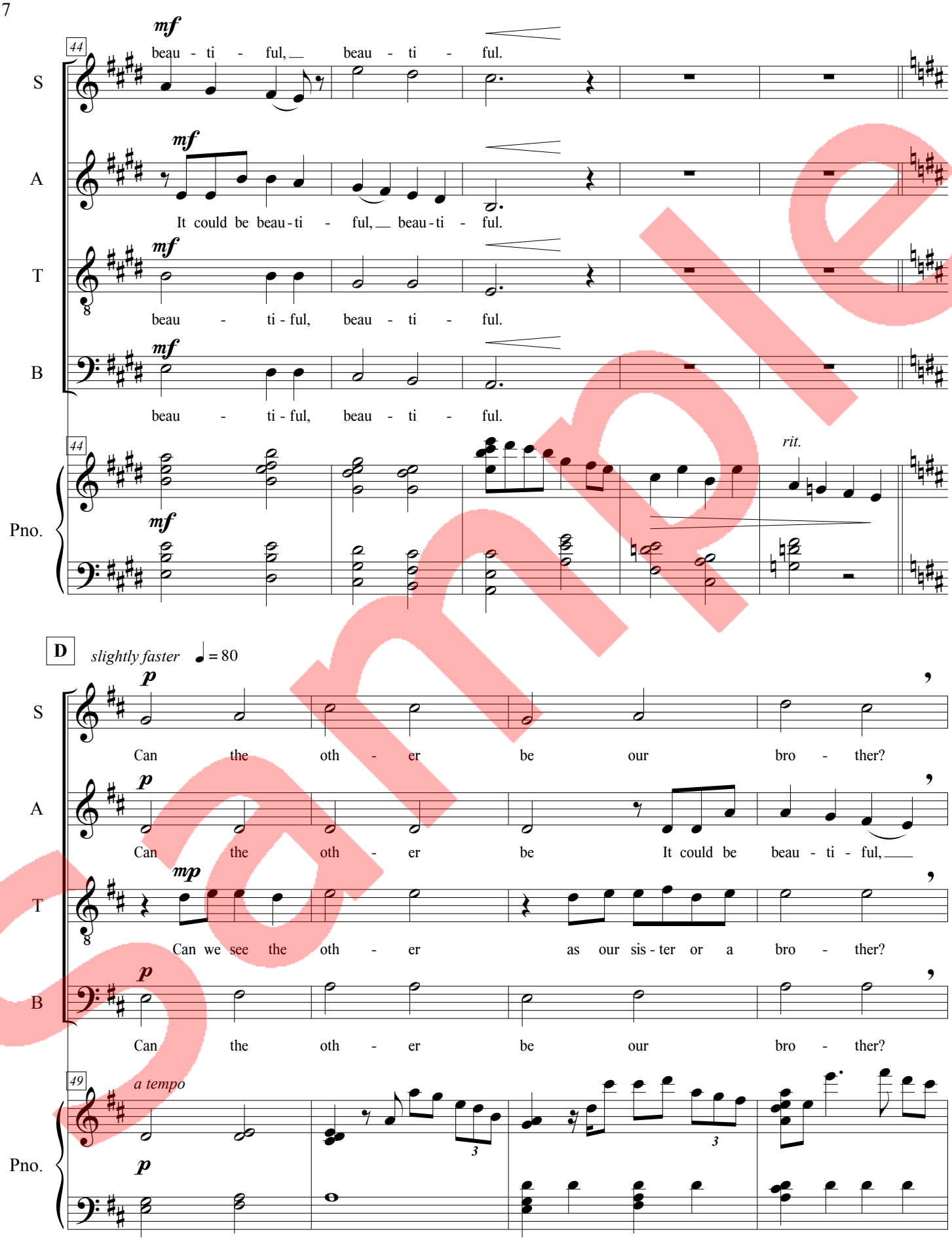
Sample


B
31
mp
S
Ooh
mp
A
Ooh
mf
T
What if in - stead of our judge - ment, we
mf
B
What if in - stead of our judge - ment, we
31
Pno.
mf
34
mf
S
In - stead of cer - tain - ty and
mf
A
In - stead of cer - tain - ty and
T
soft - en our hearts that have hard - ened? No more
B
soft - en our hearts that have hard - ened? No more
34
Pno.

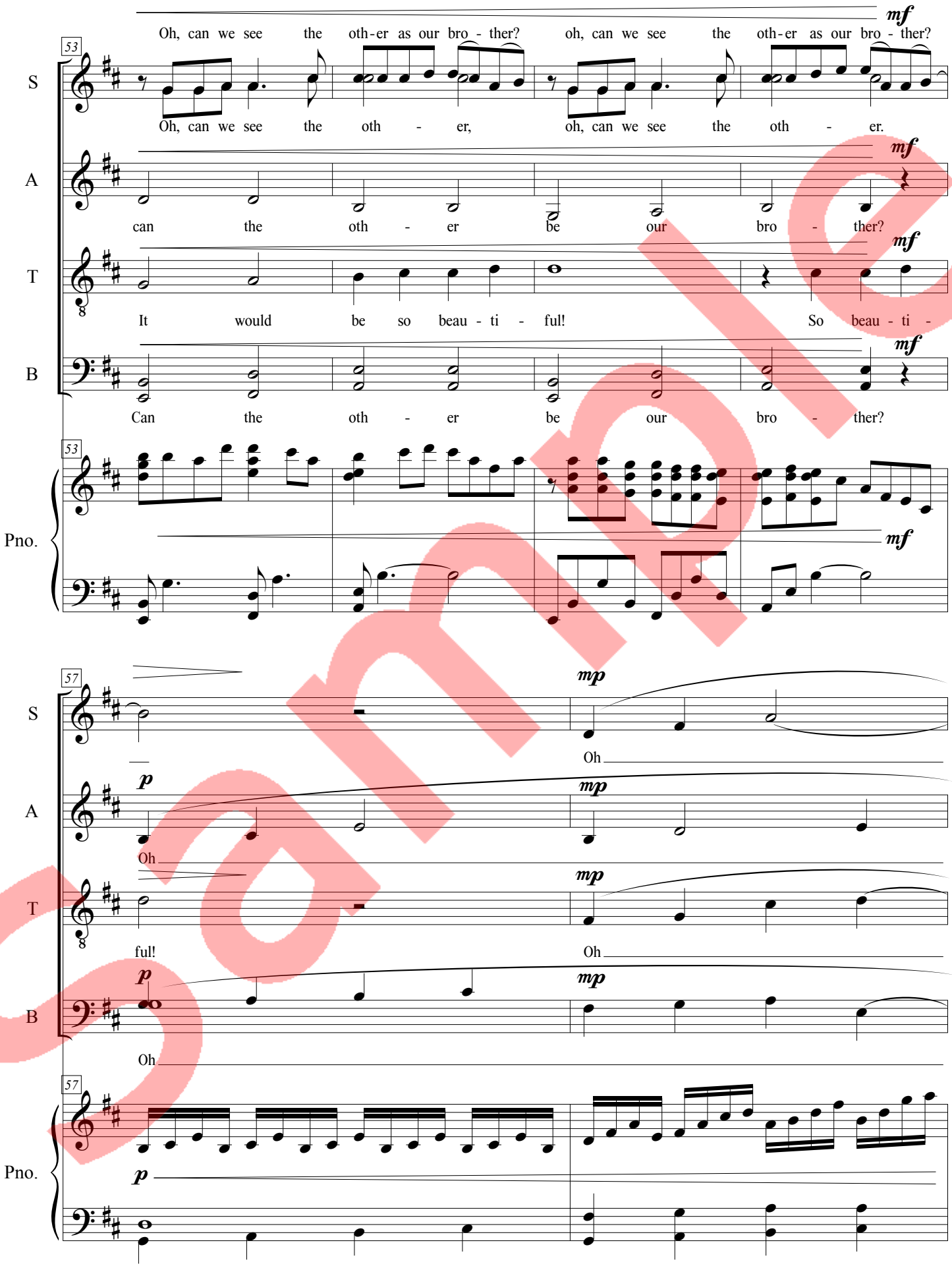
Sample


37
S
pride we love and sac - ri - fice? It could be
A
pride; sac - ri - fice;
T
pride; sac - ri - fice;
B
pride; sac - ri - fice;
Pno.
C
cresc.
beau - ti - ful, it could be beau - ti - ful Beau - ti - ful, it could be
Beau - ti - ful; It could be beau - ti - ful;
Beau - ti - ful; It could be beau - ti - ful; oh,
Beau - ti - ful, oh, beau - ti - ful; oh,
40

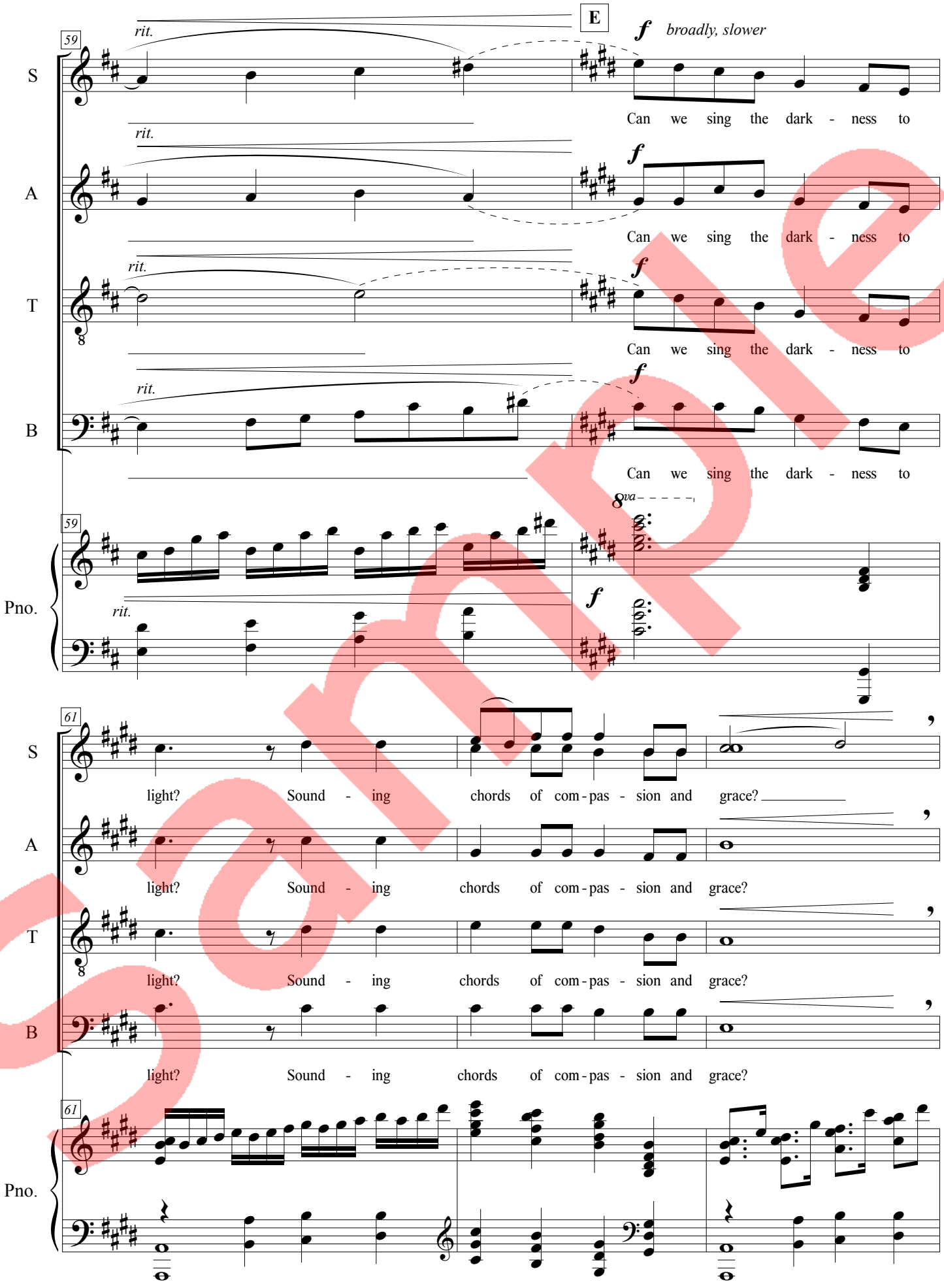
Sample


mf
beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful.
It could be beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful.
beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful.
beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful.
S
A
T
B
Pno.
44
rit.
D
slightly faster
♩ = 80
p
Can the oth - er be our bro - ther?
Can the oth - er be It could be beau - ti - ful,
mp
Can we see the oth - er as our sis - ter or a bro - ther?
Can the oth - er be our bro - ther?
49
a tempo
3

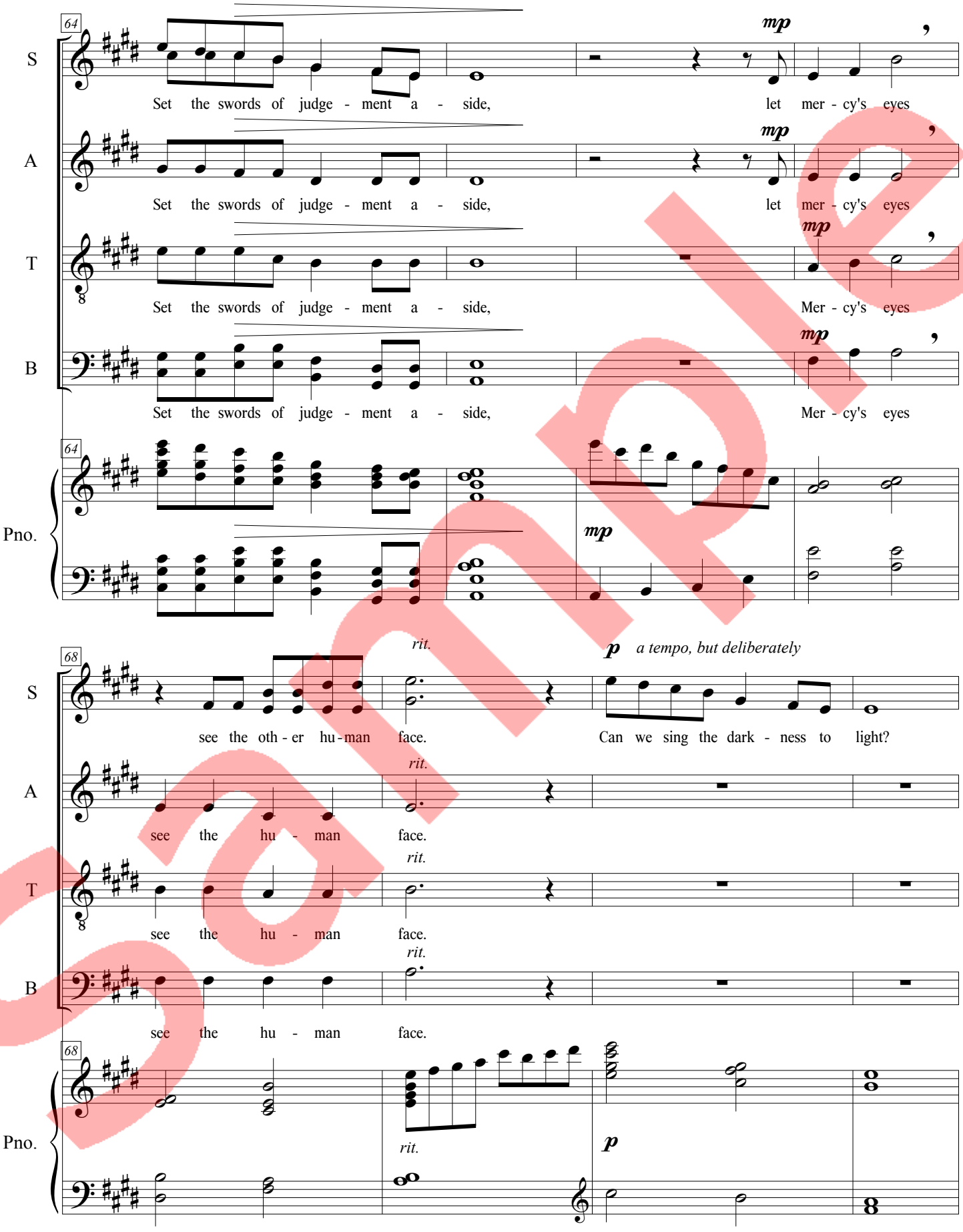
Sample


53
S
Oh, can we see the oth-er as our bro - ther?
oh, can we see the oth-er as our bro - ther?
Oh, can we see the oth - er,
oh, can we see the oth - er.
A
mf
can the oth - er be our bro - ther?
T
It would be so beau - ti - ful!
So beau - ti -
B
Can the oth - er be our bro - ther?
Pno.
57
mp
Oh
p
ful!

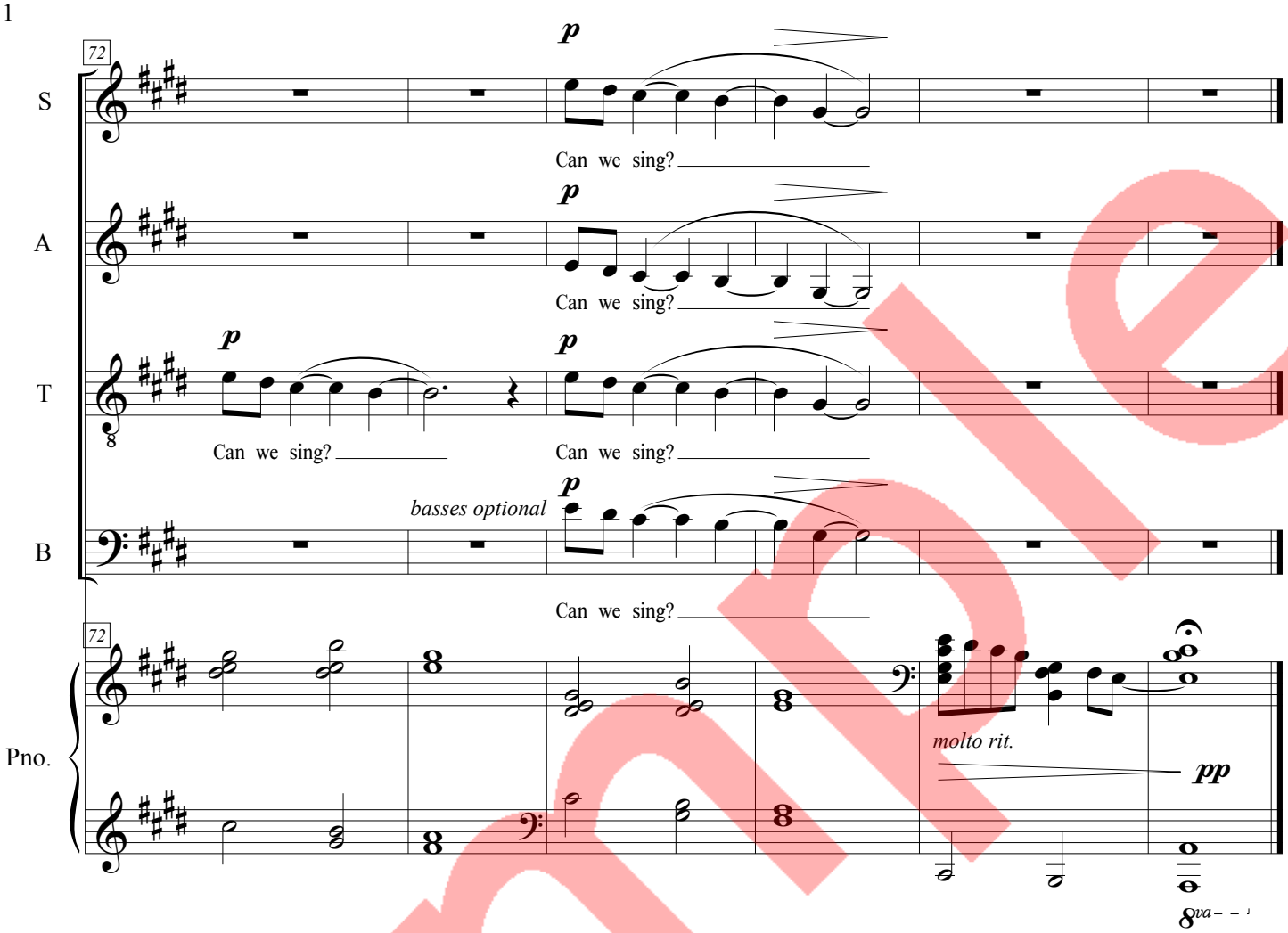
Sample


59
E
rit.
f
broadly, slower
S
Can we sing the dark - ness to
A
Can we sing the dark - ness to
T
Can we sing the dark - ness to
B
Can we sing the dark - ness to
Pno.
8va
61
light? Sound - ing chords of com - pas - sion and grace?
light? Sound - ing chords of com - pas - sion and grace?
light? Sound - ing chords of com - pas - sion and grace?
light? Sound - ing chords of com - pas - sion and grace?

sample


64
S
Set the swords of judge - ment a - side, let mer - cy's eyes
A
Set the swords of judge - ment a - side, let mer - cy's eyes
T
Set the swords of judge - ment a - side, Mer - cy's eyes
B
Set the swords of judge - ment a - side, Mer - cy's eyes
mp
Pno.
64
mp
68
S
see the oth - er hu - man face. Can we sing the dark - ness to light?
rit.
p a tempo, but deliberately
A
see the hu - man face.
rit.
T
see the hu - man face.
rit.
B
see the hu - man face.
rit.
68
Pno.
rit.
p

Sample



sample